

# PEAINE TOWNSHIP

Charlevoix County, Michigan

## **Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan**

**2024-2028**

Adopted: (mo, day, yr)



Prepared for

# Peaine Township

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Beaver Island, MI 49782

<https://www.peainetwp.org>

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# INTRODUCTION

The Peaine Township Board of Trustees has recognized a need for improving the community's parks and recreation options and promoting the Township as a quality, sustainable place to live and play. This stems from the growing trends in recreation and the desire to be active, healthy, and conscious of the environment regardless of age, abilities, or disabilities. A comprehensive and sustainable parks and recreation system is vital to a community's physical and mental health, social interaction, protection of natural resources, and economic growth.

As part of this effort, they have chosen to develop an updated Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. This document is intended to serve as a planning tool over the next 5 years for Township Officials to make decisions related to future park and recreation amenities and improvements. It identifies attainable goals and objectives as well as an action plan that can then be used to focus on key areas for more specific design and budgetary purposes. When used with the St. James Township Harbor, Parks, and Recreation Plan, it will provide a comprehensive recreation plan for all of Beaver Island. It has been created under the guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Grants Management for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans. As a Five-Year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the government entities to pursue MDNR-administered grants, it can be a tool to aid in future funding of recreational projects.

This plan begins with a **community description** to better understand the demographics of the Township of Peaine. This is based on the population, age, ability, and density of the community. The **administrative structure** is then outlined which describes the governmental and jurisdictional methods by which future decisions will be made. This is followed by the existing **recreation inventory** which describes all existing Township owned parks as well as other Beaver Island recreation opportunities. This section is followed by the **natural resource inventory** with any relevant landscape, water, and plant/animal information. Then a description of the **planning and public input process**, public notifications, survey, and workshop which were used in determining where improvements are needed. This is followed with a series of **goals and objectives** that were established using recommended planning methods. The goals and objectives are followed by an **action program** describing recommended improvements and proposed projects in the form of narratives, charts, and maps. And lastly, the **appendix** holds the support documentation of the survey, public notices, and local adoption which includes minutes and resolutions by the approving bodies.

Due to its unique relationship with neighboring St. James Township, as well as unique island-based stakeholder groups (such as, but not limited to, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Little Traverse Conservancy and the MDNR), many of the goals and objectives outlined in the plan impact the entire island and will require extraordinary cooperation. Furthermore, this plan is intended to integrate with and complement the planning processes, information, and objectives of the *Beaver Island Master Plan*, which was originally adopted by both St. James and Peaine Township in 2017 and was re-adopted in October 2023.

Peaine Township is a recreation and tourism-based community, which is the Township's (and Island's) main economic driver. Therefore, it's imperative that the Township's recreational assets, especially its natural features and sensitive natural areas, be protected and retained now and into the future. The Island will be at risk of losing its essence and distinctive sense of place if they are lost or destroyed.

This master plan will be used to guide growth and development in the park system and was shaped by community input. The feedback received from the public helped guide the Board of Trustees to prioritize where and how to make investments in the parks, facilities, and programs.

## Community Description

### Township Location & History

Peaine Township occupies the southern portion of Beaver Island, with its northern boundary running through the lower portion of Font Lake. Beaver Island is the largest island in The Beaver Island Archipelago in Lake Michigan, totaling (14) islands. Beaver Island is the only island in the archipelago home to a permanent population (with the exception of staff at Mirada Ranch on South Fox Island), with a scheduled ferry and two airline services having scheduled, daily flights. Eleven of the islands fall within St. James Township, which is also the most northern one-sixth of Beaver Island. They include Garden Island, Hog Island, Ojibwa Island (formerly known as Squaw Island), Whiskey Island, High Island, Gull Island, and the Islands of Trout, Pismire, Grape, Shoe, and Hat. The remaining two islands, North Fox Island and South Fox Island, are part of Leelanau County, while all of the others are within Charlevoix County. The islands vary in size, biodiversity, and ownership. This unique island environment is what creates a distinctive relationship between Peaine Township and Beaver Island (includes St. James Township), along with the Beaver Island Archipelago.

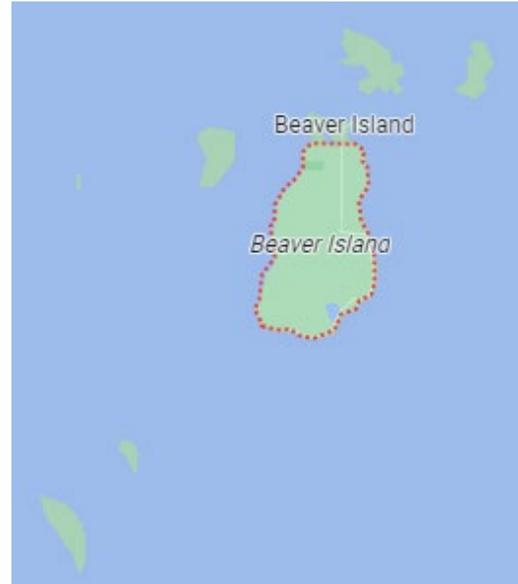


Figure 1.1 - Township Map

Beaver Island, known as “America’s Emerald Isle” and more recently as the “Great Lakes Jewel”, is located in northern Lake Michigan. It is the most remote inhabited island in the Great Lakes and is located about 32 miles offshore from the City of Charlevoix. It is the largest island in Lake Michigan with approximately 56 square miles of land, and the third largest island in Michigan after Isle Royale and Drummond Island. French Explorers called it Isle du Castor, for the castors (beavers) found there. A French settlement (abandoned in 1603) was one of the earliest European settlements in the area. Beaver Island has a beautiful natural environment with plentiful dunes, beaches and wetlands, a distinctly diverse ecology and a close-knit community with a proud island heritage.

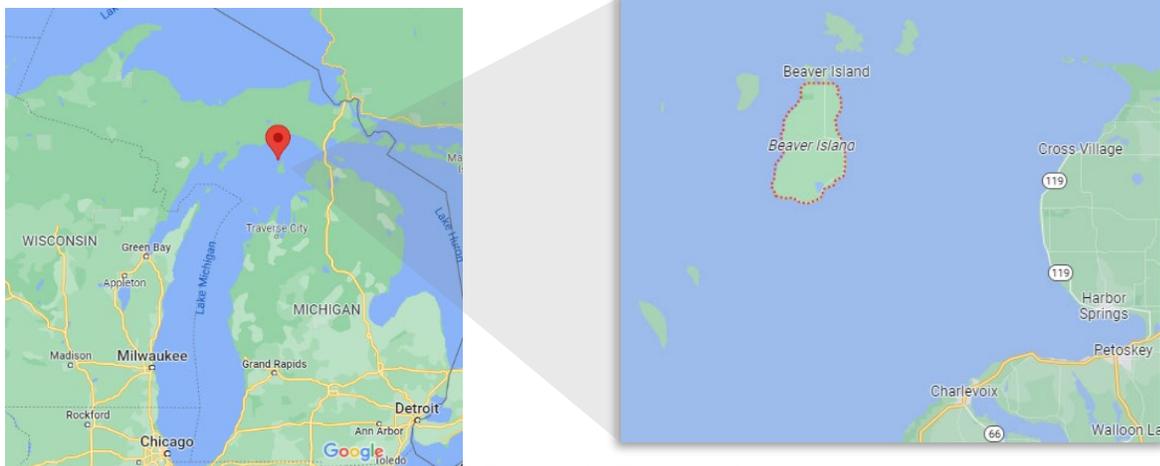


Figure 1.2 - Township Location

Peaine Township has a total area of 73.03 square miles, of which 52.35 square miles is land and 20.68 square miles (28.32%) is water. It is one of only seven municipalities in the state of Michigan to consist entirely of islands. Access to the island's natural resources, including its forest, lakes, beaches, and Lake Michigan itself, is certainly a major factor in drawing visitors to the island. The well-being of the community depends on its natural resources as it has since the days when Native Americans and early settlers were living on the islands. Tourism is the backbone of Beaver Island's economy and has historically been a great family vacation destination, and still is.

Oral accounts show that Native American tribes passed through Beaver Island on journeys through the Great Lakes and left many archaeological artifacts behind. In the mid-1700s, the Anishinaabeg migrated westward and permanently settled on Beaver Island. The Anishinaabeg are a group of culturally related Indigenous peoples present in the Great Lakes region. It refers to a much larger group of tribes. Two of the distinct tribes that fall under this group and known to be present on Beaver Island include the Ottawa and the Ojibwe tribes. Native American artifacts dating back 1000 years have been found in the area of Angeline's Bluff. It's known that in 1905, a group of Natives from the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians settled at the bottom of Angeline's Bluff in a village they named Peshabestown, along what is now Mrs. Redding's Trail. Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians have ancestral ties and trust lands within the BI Archipelago.



European settlers arrived on the Island in the early 1800s and trapped, fished, and logged on the Island. By 1850, settlers were flourishing on the Island. James Strang led a faction of Mormon settlers to Beaver Island in 1848. Producing mysterious brass plates from the ground, and purportedly receiving directives from God, Strang formed a colony on Beaver Island in 1848 called St. James, naming it after himself. The colony contributed to the Island's infrastructure by building roads and homes and cultivating ground. James J. Strang, claimed to be appointed by Joseph Smith Jr., presided over the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Strangite) from 1844 to 1856, when he was assassinated.

Irish fishermen and their families began to settle the Island in the mid-1800s. The population of the Island began to grow steadily, and the Island was called "America's Emerald Isle". These Irish families brought with them the Irish culture of their homeland, specifically Arranmore Island, the sister island to Beaver Island in Ireland. This Irish culture still exists today on Beaver Island. Fishing and logging remained the mainstays of the Island's economy while the Island accepted new groups of immigrants and entered the industrial age. Tourism began in earnest on the Island in the late 1800s, when local merchants began promoting the Island as a pristine yet rustic destination. Vacation cottages were built in the early 1900s and sold to families from Chicago and other Midwestern cities.



Photo Credit: Beaver Island Historical Society

Beaver Island faced serious economic challenges in the mid-1900s, when fish population decreased causing the commercial fishing industry to decline. The Island struggled to maintain population until the 1970s, when tourism emerged as the economic anchor of the community, and a new generation of cottages and vacation homes were built. Today, the Island remains among Michigan's most beloved and unique communities. The Island community is a mix of newcomers and long-standing families, each bringing a unique perspective.



The State of Michigan and the United States Federal Government have ownership over many islands in the Archipelago due to the variety of threatened, endangered, and rare plants and animals that live on them. Following is a map of the Archipelago. The Beaver Islands State Wildlife Research Area is a networked set of insular properties of the U.S. state of Michigan. The Research Area is approximately 23,154 acres in size. Properties in the Research Area include much of the southern half of Beaver Island (located in Peaine Township), Garden Island, High Island, Hog Island, North Fox Island and most of the northern half of South Fox Island, of which all are located in Lake Michigan and overseen by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative (NLMIC), a partnership between the state, island community, and other stakeholders, first came together in 2015 and within two years produced a final plan, *Management Plan for State-owned Lands on Northern Lake Michigan Islands*, which covers the seven Archipelago islands with state land holdings. A step-down implementation plan was finalized for Beaver Island in 2022.

Figure 1.3 - Beaver Island Archipelago



## Social Characteristics

### Population

Most of Peaine Township's population reside in the agriculture inland rural area with some along the east side and the inland lakes. The population of Peaine Township decreased by 26 persons to 266 between 2010 and 2020. That is a decrease of 9.1%. The County as a whole has experienced only a very slight increase from 2010-2020 of 0.40%. The Peaine Township estimate for 2022 is 271, showing an increase.

Table 1.1 – Peaine Twp Population, 2010-2020			
	2010	2020	% Change 2010-2020
<b>Peaine Twp</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>-9.1%</b>
St James Twp	365	259	-29.04%
Charlevoix County	25,949	26,054	0.40%
Michigan	9,883,640	10,050,811	1.7%

*Source: 2010 & 2020 US Census Data*

### Seasonal Population

Being a recreation and tourism-based community, the seasonal influx of cottage owners, visitors, and boaters is estimated to drastically increase these numbers over the permanent population. While it is difficult to be precise on the seasonal population, the magnitude of increase during the spring, summer and fall seasons should be noted and considered when looking at the recreational needs of the areas as a whole. According to the 2020 Census, Peaine Township had 358 seasonal/vacation homes, which is 67.7% of the housing units total, meaning that a majority of the island's housing units are occupied for only part of the year, and greatly increasing the population during three-quarters of the year. Also, day visitors traveling via ferry or plane on summer weekends are estimated to add another 20,000 or more to the population of Beaver Island as a whole.



### Median Age

While the overall population is the most important consideration, there are other characteristics to consider when planning for a community’s recreation. The age distribution of a community influences the types of facilities and programs needed. Table 1.3 shows that the Township’s median age (68.2) is higher than both the County and the State average. This would indicate that the Township has an older age base than the rest of the County due to a higher percentage of persons in the 18 and over age groups. It is over 90%. Of course, the Township should not ignore the other age groups since they still comprise about 10% of the overall population, but this indicates that the Township has fewer young, growing families as full-time residents than it once did.

Table 1.2 - Median Age, 2010-2020		
	2010	2020
Peaine Twp	58.6	68.2
St James Twp	53.1	59.7
Charlevoix County	44.2	49.2*
Michigan	39.0	40.2

Source: 2010 & 2020 US Census Data & \*2021 ACS 5-yr est.

### Household Size

The size of households in Peaine Township shown in Table 1.4 follows the Charlevoix County and Michigan trend of decreasing, but at a higher rate. The general trend toward smaller household size may be due to many factors including end of the baby boomer generation, divorce, widowed older persons and young people waiting longer to get married.

Table 1.3 - Average Household Size in Peaine Township, 2010-2020			
	2010	2020	% Change 2010-2020
Peaine Twp	2.16	1.84	-14.8%
Charlevoix County	2.26	2.21	-2.2%
Michigan	2.53	2.45	-3.2%

Source: 2010 & 2020 US Census Data

### Income, Poverty and Employment

Peaine Township households had a **median income of \$61,875 in 2021 estimates**. This compares with \$63,508 for Charlevoix County and \$63,498 for the State of Michigan. There are 8.8% of the people in Peaine Township that are below the poverty level and 7.7% are without health insurance.

Table 1.4 - Peaine Township Income, Poverty and Employment, 2021				
	Median Household Income	Poverty Level Rate	Employment Rate	Without Health Insurance
Peaine Township	\$61,875	8.8%	30.4%	7.7%
Charlevoix County	\$63,508	9.0%	57.5%	6.9%
State of Michigan	\$66,986	13.1%	48.5%	10.7

Source: 2021 ACS 5-yr Estimates

### Physically Challenged

The disability status of a population may be especially significant when considering recreational needs for a community. With 13.7% of the total Township population affected by some form of disability, compared to 14.4% disabled at the county level. These individuals may have difficulty participating in recreational programs, accessing facilities, or even getting to designated public areas. Understanding the disability status of the Township’s population may assist decision-makers in determining adequate programs and appropriate locations for recreational activities. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs.

**Table 1.5 – Peaine Township Michigan, 2021**

Label	Total		With a Disability		% With Disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population</b>	284	±60	39	±17	13.7%	±5.1
<b>Age</b>						
Under 5 Years	8	±4	2	±3	25.0%	±5.3
5 To 17 Years	19	±10	0	±11	0.0%	±62.6
18 To 34 Years	15	±8	3	±3	20.0%	±17.9
35 To 64 Years	75	±21	3	±3	4.0%	±4.3
65 To 74 Years	94	±19	20	±8	21.3%	±7.6
75 Years and Over	73	±44	11	±8	15.1%	±12.8
<b>Disability Type</b>						
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	16	±6	5.6%	±2.3
With a vision difficulty	(X)	(X)	6	±7	2.1%	±2.4
With a cognitive difficulty	(X)	(X)	11	±8	4.0%	±2.9
With an ambulatory difficulty	(X)	(X)	15	±10	5.4%	±3.2
With a self-care difficulty	(X)	(X)	6	±5	2.2%	±1.8
With an independent living difficulty	(X)	(X)	8	±8	3.1%	±3.0

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

## Physical Characteristics

### Location & Transportation Network

Beaver Island, and therefore Peaine Township, can be reached by either ferry or plane from Charlevoix Michigan. The Beaver Island Boat Company with assistance from the Beaver Island Transportation Authority currently owns two ferries that run from April to December making around 367 trips to the island.

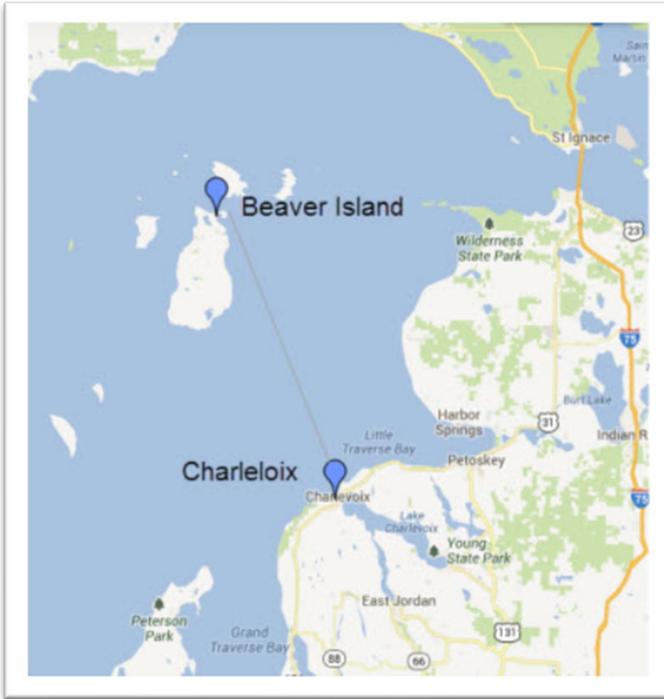


Figure 1.4 - Ferry location

St. James Harbor in Paradise Bay is where most of the day-to-day commerce of the island takes place, especially boating and the transportation of goods, services, freight, and passengers by water.

Two airlines currently serve Beaver Island year-round including Island Airways and Fresh Air Aviation, flying daily when weather permits. Island Airways flies from Charlevoix into Welke Airport and Fresh Air Aviation flies from Charlevoix into Beaver Island Airport. Both airports are located within Peaine Township.

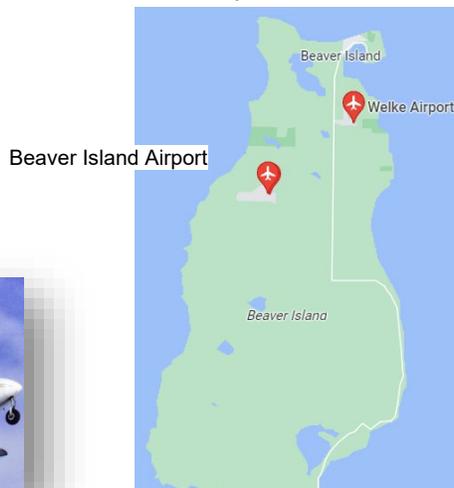


Figure 1.5 - Airport locations

Beaver Island has a road system going almost completely around the island. King's Highway is the main County Primary Road running north and south, along with some offshoots, totaling about 10 miles. Then there are about 80 miles of County Local Roads, along with several other roads, some being private. There is a Taxi and Delivery Service along with rental cars to enable you to travel on the island. Buses, bicycles, and snowmobiles are other means of transportation. This gives Peaine Township a very rural and peaceful character.

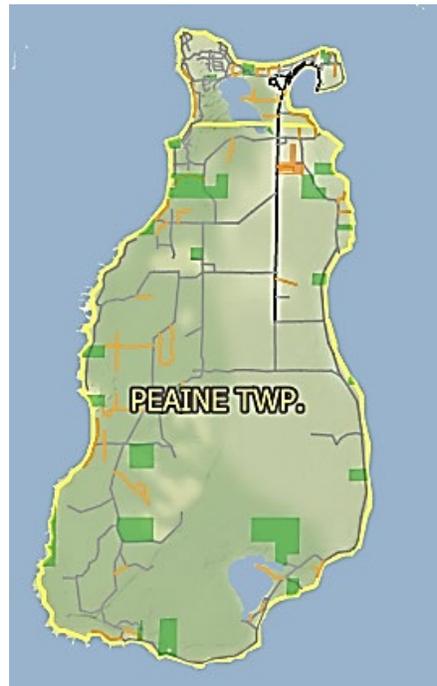


Figure 1.6 - Beaver Island Road Map

## Climate

Peaine Township's weather, like all of West Michigan's, influences the recreational opportunities available throughout the year. The area supports a variety of activities in all four seasons of the year. Generally, January and February are the coldest months (14°F & 13°F average daily temperatures respectively) with January having the highest snowfall (23.5 inches). July and August are generally the warmest months in the Township (76°F & 75°F average daily temperatures respectively). September and October usually have the highest average precipitation (3.6 inches) and February generally has the lowest average (1.4 inches). On average, there are 163 sunny days per year in Peaine Township and prevailing winds are from the west.

## Utilities Services

### Electric Company

Electricity is provided by Great Lakes Energy, the third-largest electric provider in Michigan. Great Lakes Energy provides power to most of Emmet, Charlevoix, and Antrim Counties as well as Beaver Island. The Island is fed through its main underwater line extending from Cross Village in Emmett County. The Island's electric infrastructure is capable of operating entirely on generated power. An island-based generator is capable of providing power throughout the island if the underwater cable is undergoing maintenance.

### Water Supply

Property owners and businesses on the Island rely on private wells for drinking water supply. No comprehensive testing of the water supply on Beaver Island has been conducted in recent years, although

EGLE has done some sampling in the past. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan requires that new septic systems and water wells meet certain requirements. All Township properties with public water, and public recreational facilities, such as campgrounds, are tested as required by EGLE.

### Wastewater

Waste throughout Peaine Township is treated through privately-owned septic systems on individual properties. Particular soils on the Island may or may not tolerate traditional septic tanks. See the soil discussion in the Natural Resources section for more information on the Island's soil types.

The downtown businesses in St. James, and several homes nearby, are on a shared community septic system. This system allows downtown businesses to grow with less concern for expanding individual septic tanks. If properly maintained, the community septic system reduces the risk of septic failure of the systems elsewhere in the coverage area.

### Waste Management

The Beaver Island Transfer Station and Recycle Center offers residents, non-residents and commercial customers a safe, clean and environmentally friendly location to dispose of all solid waste and recyclables. It is jointly operated by St. James Township and Peaine Township and is open year-round.

## Community Services

### Police Department

The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office provides an on-island deputy, year-round. **(231) 448-2700; Emergencies: 911**

### Fire Department

Beaver Island has a volunteer Fire Department that is well-equipped, professionally trained and possesses two fire stations: one on Back Highway in town and a second south of Hannigan's Road on East Side Drive. In addition, they're responsible for Beaver Island Burn Permits, EMS Fire Number and Green Property Emergency Identifier Signs, and Fire Danger Signs. **(231) 448-2733; Emergencies: 911**

### Emergency Medical Services

Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services provides 24-hour Advanced Life Support coverage to the residents and visitors of Beaver Island working with the on island Rural Health Center and Island Airways for air evacuations. BIEMS is primarily staffed by part-time and full-time trained members, a full-time, EMS licensed director and assistant director as well as trained volunteers. **(231) 448-2578; Emergencies: 911**

### Beaver Island Post Office

The last operating and commissioned post office within the Beaver Island Archipelago with its harbor location since 1923 offers friendly, conscientious service working with Island Airways as their airmail carrier. **(231) 448-2251.**

### Public Library

The Beaver Island District Library has served the community of Beaver Island and its many visitors since September 3, 1988. It is open year-round. Library patrons and visitors enjoy an extensive and current catalog of print and multimedia resources, along with fax and copying services, WiFi, public computers, and a variety of programming for adults and children alike. **(231) 448-2701; beaverisland.michlibrary.org**

### Historical Society

The Beaver Island Historical Society was founded in 1957 to collect and share the fascinating history of Beaver Island. Beaver Island has witnessed many interesting and unique historical events and has been home to various groups including Native Americans, a Mormon branch known as the Strangites, Irish immigrants, fisherman, lumberjacks, and many more. The Historical Society operates two museums on the Island, the Print Shop Museum and the Marine Museum, as well as lighthouses and two additional historical sites, Heritage Park and the Protar Home. Several resources and services are offered by the Historical Society to visitors, including genealogical research, copies of archival photos, and a series of historical journals and other books for purchase. The museums are open daily in the summer and upon request year-around. **(231) 448-2254; beaverislandhistory.org**



*Photo credits: LTBB Archives*

### Beaver Island Rural Health Center

The health center is located south of the town of St. James and provides on-site medical services by appointment during business hours. A medical practitioner can be reached 24/7. The center's mission is to provide high-quality, cost-effective patient treatment and wellness services and to serve as a primary care facility to the Beaver Island Community. Constructed in 2002, this center replaces the island's first clinic which was built in 1953. **(231) 448-2275; biruralhealth.org**

### Beaver Island Community Center

The BIC Center is the heart of the Beaver Island Community and is where our visitors' adventures begin, and residents can be informed and entertained. Located in town, across from the Beaver Island Boat Dock, it is a center filled with information, entertainment, events, public meetings, activities, workstations, food and beverages, and a hang out. The Center hosts the Chamber of Commerce and the island's own award winning radio station, WVBI. The BIC Center serves as the Trail Head for the Water Trail, the Birding Trail and provides information on all the island's trails and how best to access the outer islands. **(231) 448-2022; biccenter.org**



## Land Use

The future land use plan depicts the general preferred organization of land uses in the community. This plan for Beaver Island was developed with careful consideration of several factors, including existing land use patterns, demographic trends, the location of environmental features, desired community character, public input from the planning process, and the availability of utilities and road infrastructure. The future land use plan guides the development of the zoning plan and ultimately influences changes that may be made to the Zoning Ordinance.

The following map identifies the land use patterns within Beaver Island as part of the 2017 Master Plan. As can be seen on the map below, Peaine Township, the large main portion of the Island almost entirely south of Font Lake, consists largely of public open space, woodland residential, and agricultural. This is followed by low-density residential, medium-density residential, and commercial development.

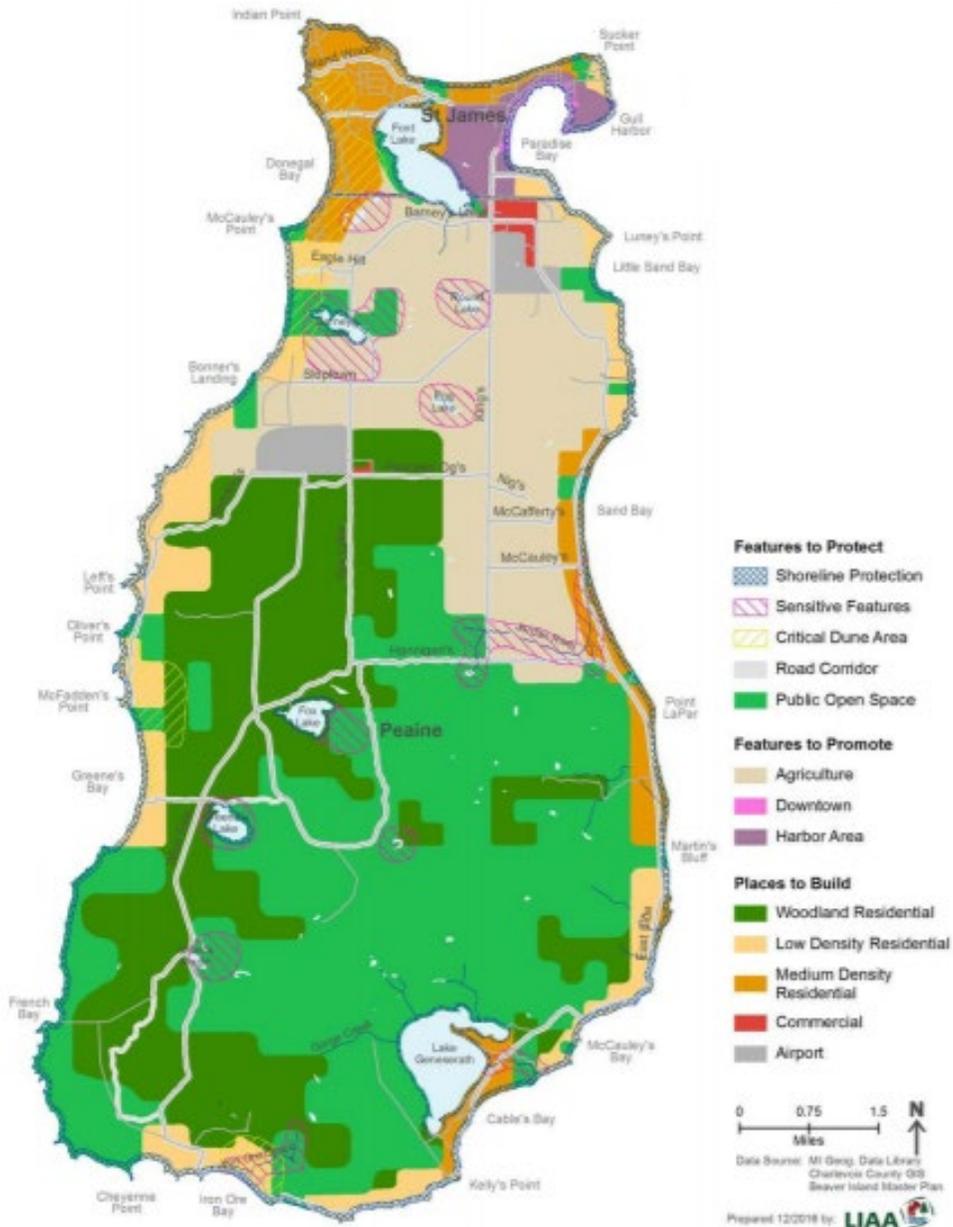


Figure 1.6 - Future Land Use Map  
 Source: Beaver Island Master Plan, 2017

## Administrative Structure

### Township Administration

Peaine Township is governed by an elected Township Board consisting of five members: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Trustees. The Board is directly responsible for the policies and operation of its Township-owned recreation assets. It also shares in the costs of recreation assets owned jointly with St. James Township. Paid services such as maintenance are performed by employees or contracted out.

### Parks and Trails Budget

The Township Board adopts the annual levy and budget of the Township. The current Peaine Township budget (April 2023 - March 2024) allocated approximately \$52,705.00 for Parks and Trails. A detailed breakdown of budget expenditures is provided in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 - Parks and Trails Budget for Three Fiscal Years			
Fiscal Year	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Expenditure Item			
<b>Parks &amp; Trails Budget</b>	<b>\$80,115.00</b>	<b>\$90,416.00</b>	<b>\$52,705.10</b>
Campground & Hall Wages	\$21,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$2,905.10
Operating Supplies	\$2,525.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,700.00
Contracted Services	\$3,200.00	\$9,300.00	\$500.00
Maintenance-Grounds	\$356.00	\$3,456.00	\$600.00
Miscellaneous Exp	\$460.00	\$460.00	
Capital Outlay	\$52,574.00	\$52,200.00	\$45,000.00

### Collaborations

Many recreational activities are implemented by other island organizations. Active organizations and citizens play an important role in supplementing recreational activities and facilities. These organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Beaver Island Association
- Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce
- Beaver Island Community School
- Beaver Island Dark Sky Committee
- Beaver Island Historical Society
- Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association (BIATA)
- Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance
- Beaver Island Wildlife Club
- Sports boosters
- Central Michigan University's Biological Station
- Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative (NLMIC)
- Patrons of the Arts in Rural Communities
- Preservation Association of Beaver Island
- St. James Township
- Tribal Governments
- Various state and federal agencies

Of note, the chamber and historical society collaborated to create a free Beaver Island App through a grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. This app shares recreational facilities and opportunities on the Island.



## Township Recreational Facilities – Expanded Descriptions

### Angeline's Bluff Lookout

Native American artifacts dating back 1000 years have been found in the area of Angeline's Bluff. In 1905, a group of Natives from the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians settled southwest of here at the bottom of Angeline's Bluff in a village they named Peshawbestown, along what is now Mrs. Redding's Trail.

The bluff was named for Angeline Wabanimkee, one of the leaders of these Peshawbestown Natives. Angeline remained in the area long after other Natives left the Island. She worked for the Beaver Island Lumber Company. Mrs. Redding's Trail is named for Mrs. Ina Redding, who came to the Island to work at the Wildwood Inn. When the inn failed, she returned to Chicago. After two years in Chicago, Mrs. Redding returned to the Island in 1923 to homestead near Lake Michigan at the end of 'her' trail. She became known as a seamstress. Ina and Angeline were friends.



One of the major features of the approximately 112-acre park is the Vincent Rice Memorial Observation Deck overlooking Angeline's Bluff. This escarpment, including Bonner's Bluff and Angeline's Bluff, indicates both a higher water level and isostatic rebound. The bluff was formed during the Nipissing stage, at this time Barney's Lake and Lake Geneserath would have been bays of Lake Michigan.



### Bill Wagner Campground

The Campground is located on the east side of Beaver Island. It is seven miles south of the St. James Harbor, accessed via the East Side Drive. The campground is on the shore of Lake Michigan with a view of the west coast of mainland Michigan. It costs \$15 per night per campsite or \$20 for lake view sites. There are twenty-four campsites in the park. All sites are rustic/primitive in nature. There are no showers or electricity. There are pit toilets and a hand pump.



This is the largest campground on the island and was formerly under the auspices of the State of Michigan. The township decided to rename the campground, to its current name, in honor of our DNR officer that passed away. The Township has a current lease agreement with the MDNR for the use and management of the 19.5-acre property.



### Cable Creek Park

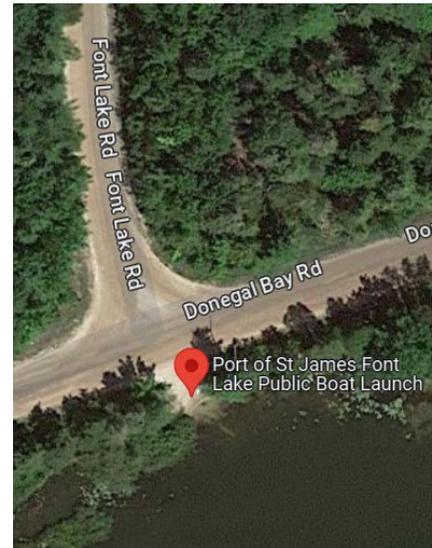
Not far from the Lake Geneserath boat landing, we find a small road leading off through the woods. Here is where we can find a picnic area and walking trail to Lake Michigan. The trail begins by crossing Cable's Creek by way of a wooden bridge. This bridge spans the creek and then a trail leads off winding through the woods. It's a beautiful hike on a nice day that ends at Cable's Bay. In the spring this is another of the island creeks to be checked for the running of smelt and/or suckers.



## Font Lake Park & Boat Launch

Font Lake Park offers a children's playground, ADA picnic tables and outdoor grills. On the lower end of the park there are two pickle ball courts and two bocce ball courts and are located behind the Peaine Township Hall. Access to Font Lake can be found just past the courts with a path leading to an observation deck. This area is noted for bird watching.

The Font Lake Boat Launch is located on Donegal Bay Road roughly two miles from St. James Harbor - directly across from Font Lake Road. Font Lake boating is limited to small, slow speed crafts due to shallow waters, loon nesting and floating vegetative mats. All vehicles and trailers are to be parked on Font Lake Road in a widened berm area.



### Fox Lake Public Access & Boat Launch

Fox Lake is 75 acres in size and is located near the center interior of Beaver Island. Fox Lake supports a variety of fish as well as a bog towards its eastern shores. Peaine Township access to Fox Lake is via an easement off of Fox Lake Road on the north end of the Lake. The public access site is well known for successful fishing and its proximity to the “Big Birch,” one of the oldest birch trees in Michigan.

The approximately 20-acre site at the SE corner of the lake was purchased by the Township in 2016 for \$200,000 with \$150,000 of the total being funded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program. It is accessible by boat only.



### Greene’s Lake Park

Green’s Lake receives its name from "Big Neil" Greene, one of the early settlers on the island. There is also a Green’s Bay on the Lake Michigan shore of the island just across from the entrance to this lake. Green’s Lake boasts some huge oak trees near the edge of the water. This lake can be accessed by turning off the West Side Road onto the Green’s Lake Road. A very shallow lake, about 4 feet, Green’s Lake freezes to the bottom during the winter. Snapping turtles, bullheads and frogs can be found here along with thousands of water lilies. Even the beavers have produced a lodge on this lake.



### Iron Ore Bay Beach

Peaine and St. James Townships jointly own the approximately 11.6-acre parcel known as Iron Ore Beach located on the south end of Beaver Island. A day trip drive to this beautiful sandy beach rewards you with views of the Fox Islands, has a nice beach walk and a place to enjoy a picnic lunch. Pit toilets are available across the road from the parking area. There is also an emergency phone tower prominently located at this site. There are no provisions for fires or camping.



### Lake Geneserath Boat Launch

Lake Geneserath is the largest of the Island's lakes with over 489 acres. With depths reaching 55 feet, the lake provides many opportunities for fishing species such as bass, northern pike, perch, and bluegill. A public access site and boat launch is available on the north arm of the lake. Some old cottages and new residential homes dot the shoreline, primarily along the eastern side of the lake. The property is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and managed by Peaine Township.

Sites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservations. There are 3 or 4 sites for tent and small trailer use. Rustic campground includes vault toilets and potable water from well hand pump.



### Martin's Bluff

This high outcropping along East Side Drive allows for a splendid Lake Michigan view and a place to picnic. Access to the beach is provided by a tow rope down a steep slope. In the early 1990s, a portion of Martin's Bluff fell into Lake Michigan, leaving a steep sandy cliff. This cliff is now undergoing succession. The Wicklow Beach Access Road runs along the top of the sandy cliff, affording easy access. It is also the highest viewpoint of Lake Michigan on the east side of the Island, overlooking the Village of Goodhart in Emmett County.



## Regional Recreational Facilities

**Beaver Harbor Light Park** - is located at Whiskey Point, on the mouth of the harbor. By far its most notable feature is the Beaver Island Harbor Lighthouse, the current iteration of which was built in 1870 and is still active. The park also contains a small monument to Beaver Islanders who have been lost at sea, and a few park benches. The St. James Township Hall is located near the property, as well as the Central Michigan University Biological Station's boathouse—a former United States Coast Guard Lifesaving Station—from which Great Lakes research is conducted. The hall, itself a former Coast Guard building, also has on display the fourth-order Fresnel lens that was once installed in the lighthouse. The lens is viewable from the outside of the building, via an access ramp. Most of the property of the park is an open, grassy field. Although there is lake frontage, there is no development for any marine activity, and the beach is not particularly sandy or welcoming for bathers but offers instead an optimal rock hunting area and view of the boats entering/leaving the harbor, particularly the Beaver Island ferries. It is a stop on the Beaver Island Water Trail. In the future, it is possible that the township may wish to increase the beach or maritime recreation capacities of the park. There is also a need for a public restroom at this property, as there are no such facilities on this part of the harbor, despite being a popular destination for tourists. Whiskey Point Lighthouse is open to the public by the BI Historical Society through tours offered throughout the week during certain posted times.

### Beaver Island Municipal Marinas (North & South)

Boaters in the harbor are served by the two Township owned marinas. Both of these sites need to be upgraded to meet growing demand. With a renewed focus on tourism island-wide, it is in the utmost interest of both St. James Township and the island at large to capitalize on the harbor's natural beauty and shelter by making sure that its supporting facilities are the best that the island can offer, and on par with the expectations of modern boaters.



*Marina North*



*Marina South*

The Beaver Island Municipal Marina is located on Paradise Bay right in the heart of downtown St. James, just a few minutes' walk from many of Beaver Island's most popular destinations. The Municipal Marina includes two locations. The South Marina is located next to the ferry dock and is open from June 3-September 5. The South Marina has twenty-five slips, of which twenty-three are for transient boaters and two are seasonal slips. Sixteen of these slips have no minimum length for boats: five of these have a maximum length of 25', two have a maximum of 30', and nine have a maximum length of 35'. The remaining nine slips have a minimum length of 35' and a maximum of 60'. All of the slips have water and power.

The South Marina docks are barrier-free and handicap accessible. No wheelchair lifts are available for loading/unloading from boats to the dock at this time. The harbormaster building, including the restrooms, showers, laundry, and lounge are all barrier-free and ADA compliant.

The JA Woollam Foundation purchased the north marina property from the Anderson family in 2019, and generously donated the marina to St. James Township. The 50-slip North Marina features public green space, parking area, a public boat launch and fuel dock. The North Marina with fuel dock is open May 15 - September 30. Both locations offer WIFI, lounges, restrooms with showers, ice, and laundry facilities.

The conservation easement, which is part of the gifting agreement, allows St. James Township to operate the marina, provide for boat fuel sales, opens up land for public access to greenspace and boat launch, including an area for a kayak launch, creates greenspace on both sides of the road and adds additional boat trailer parking and limits car parking on the harbor side of road to enhance the view.

Paradise Bay, sometimes known as Beaver Harbor, St. James Harbor or simply “The Harbor,” is a remarkable example of a natural, sheltered harbor. It is extremely popular with boaters, as is evidenced by the many public and private docks that dot its shores, as well as the many boats that pepper its waters throughout the summer months. The harbor is a cornerstone of the island’s economy, as the transportation of freight and passengers both depend on its shelter. The town of St. James and the majority of the island’s retail and commercial businesses are all located on its shores.

Beaver Island’s economy depends on recreational tourism. Paradise Bay is undeniably the hub of recreational boating on the island. It is one of the only places to launch a boat. It is the destination of anyone boating to the island on private vessels. It is the staging point to get to anywhere else around the island, and to the outer islands—such as Garden Island or High Island. The harbor is also an extremely important point of refuge for boaters—both recreational and commercial—during poor weather.

Annual Maintenance Schedule - The harbormaster building, and docks are closed down each fall, and reopened every spring. A bubbler system is in place throughout the winter months. Although much of the maintenance and upkeep of the Beaver Island Municipal Docks is performed on an as-need basis by the St. James Township Maintenance Director, thorough inspection of the docks, property, and building are performed each spring, and any major repairs (winter damage, etc.) are carried out at that time. Lawn and landscaping maintenance, as well as tightening or any other maintenance of the dock boards, are all performed as needed throughout the spring and summer. Licensed plumbers and electricians perform any needed maintenance or repairs of those systems as needed. Various items, such as the loaner bicycles, washers/dryers, and handheld marine radios are replaced infrequently, but as needed.

Dredging – History. In 2013, St. James Township was approved for \$1 million for dredging under the Michigan State Waterways Commission’s emergency dredging plan. Due to the subsequent rise in lake levels, however, no actual dredging took place.

Future Dredging - St. James Township will consider future dredging needs at both marinas to continue safe operations. As an example, the fuel dock at Marina North needs dredging to allow larger vessels access to the fuel pump.

**Donegal Bay Beach** - is one of St. James Township's premiere beaches and is located on the west side of the Island. This stretch of beach has a beautiful sandy shore with great swimming and stunning views of High Island. This beach is also known as SUNSET BEACH or Sunset Corner and offers truly magnificent sunsets. Located three miles west of St. James Harbor on Donegal Bay Road, the Donegal Bay Bike Trail project is projected to one day end here as an easy bike-to destination.

### **Gull Harbor Natural Area**

The Gull Harbor Natural Area was made possible by a consortium of grants and supporters: St. James Township, Central Michigan University Biological Station, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Coastal Management Program.

The Preserve is a coastal wetland that is accessed via the Gull Harbor Road (locally known as Car Wash Road) between Whiskey Point and Sucker Point. Trails and seating areas are in place while the landscape is constantly changing due to Lake Michigan flux of high/low water levels along this coastal shoreline. The

signage is down due to high water and ice damage. A new sign is proposed to be placed out of the high-water area further to the west, near the Little Traverse Conservancy Stanhope Nature Preserve.

**Harbor View Park and Public Restrooms** - is located on Main Street of St. James across from the Beaver Island Municipal South Marina. Restrooms, baby changing station, picnic tables, solar charging station for phones and laptops, drinking water and bottle dispenser are located here for public use at all hours.

**Heritage Park** - is leased to the Beaver Island Historical Society and has many exhibits of trains and carriages used on the Island in its past. It is also a great picnic area and is located across from the Beaver Island Public Library on Donegal Bay Road.

**Jewell Gillespie Park and Beach** - is a public beach and playground on the harbor. Two of the four lots that make up the park are co-owned by Peaine Township. The park is a fairly small, sandy beach with a variety of playground equipment located in downtown St. James. Jewell Gillespie Park is an extremely popular swimming beach during the summer months, especially during the peak of the island's tourist season in July and August. The park contains a sandy beach, with playground equipment, as well as a small grassy area with picnic tables and seasonal port-a-johns. An additional beach area and a paved parking lot were all added to the park in 2001, but the beach and the adjacent road remain very crowded during peak season. Due to its popularity, the township needs to upgrade to a restroom/changing room with running water, tied into the municipal sewer. Drinking fountains, or some other means for beachgoers to fill water bottles, are also needed. The township would also be interested in increasing the size of the park, if the adjacent properties were to become available.

**LaFreniere Park** - is a very small park located in the heart of downtown St. James, directly adjacent to the Beaver Island Boat Company dock. The park has a paved walkway and patio area, with benches, all surrounded by flower gardens, bushes, and a few small trees. The park does include some sandy lake frontage. Due to its small size and proximity to commercial properties on either side, the park is not advertised as a beach, and use of the park is mostly limited to the garden area. Although its size may preclude it from becoming a public beach, it is possible that the property could be a launching site for paddlers of kayaks, paddleboards, and other portable boats.

**Mt. Pisgah** – 37420 Lake Shore Rd. It is an overgrown sand dune in the island's northwest corner. It rises to 730 feet just a quarter mile from shore. The highest dune on the Island, 150' of elevational change to the top, Mt Pisgah is a favorite climbing spot. 175 acres of this area is owned by the Port of St. James Association as well as 1.0 acre owned by **St. James** Township. It's claimed to be the best place to watch sunsets and planes flying in and out of the two island airports.

**St. James Township Campground** - located at the end of the Donegal Bay Trail and Bike Path. It is a little over a mile from the Ferry Dock in St. James to the Campground. Tent and RV camping is available at the St. James Township Campground There are 12 rustic sites and 6 electric sites. 2 of the 6 electric sites are ADA compliant. Recently installed outdoor showers and portable restrooms are available free for all campers. The campground is run under the supervision of a Camp Host located on site and is available to assist campers as needed.

### Beaver Island Water Trail

The Beaver Island Water Trail is a 42-mile (68 km) paddling trail that circumnavigates the entire Island. While some parts of the Island (such as Paradise Bay and inland lakes) are more family-friendly areas to paddle, most of the Water Trail is geared toward adventure paddlers who are comfortable paddling in the unpredictable conditions of Lake Michigan and accustomed to rustic access sites and overnight beach camping. If you are a novice paddler, consider a trip to the Island's harbor or inland lakes, or consider hiring a paddling guide. A detailed guide of the water trail is included in the appendix of this 5 year plan.

### Lake Michigan Boat Launches

St. James Township has public boat launching at two separate locations in the harbor. One of these is at the aforementioned Beaver Island Municipal Marina North.

St. James Township also maintains an easement on another boat launch, located at the end of Gallagher Street, just to the west of Beaver Island Municipal Marina North. Although this area is usually somewhat less crowded, there are still limiting factors to its usefulness as a public boat launch. As with Beaver Island Municipal Marina North, there are no existing parking facilities, forcing vehicles and trailers to park along Gallagher Street. Not only does this cause the road to be narrower, but it also blocks the line of site of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. On particularly busy days, it also can lead to the blocking of private driveways, as well as of the nearby St. James' Episcopal Church. In addition to the parking problems, the adjacent property is a tug and barge shipping business. This could cause safety concerns for both the shipping crew as well as the public.

### Beaver Island Dark Sky Sanctuary

Multiple Island organizations and their members helped to establish the Beaver Island Dark Sky Committee in 2019 to pursue a designated Dark Sky Sanctuary on Beaver Island through the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). An application is in process with the IDA as of 2022 to designate 12,734 acres, located near the southern end of Beaver Island within portions of the State Wildlife Research Area, as Michigan's first International Dark Sky Sanctuary. Obtaining this distinction will not only aid in the protection of the night sky, our heritage, and other natural resources, but in the Island's low-impact tourism goals as well.

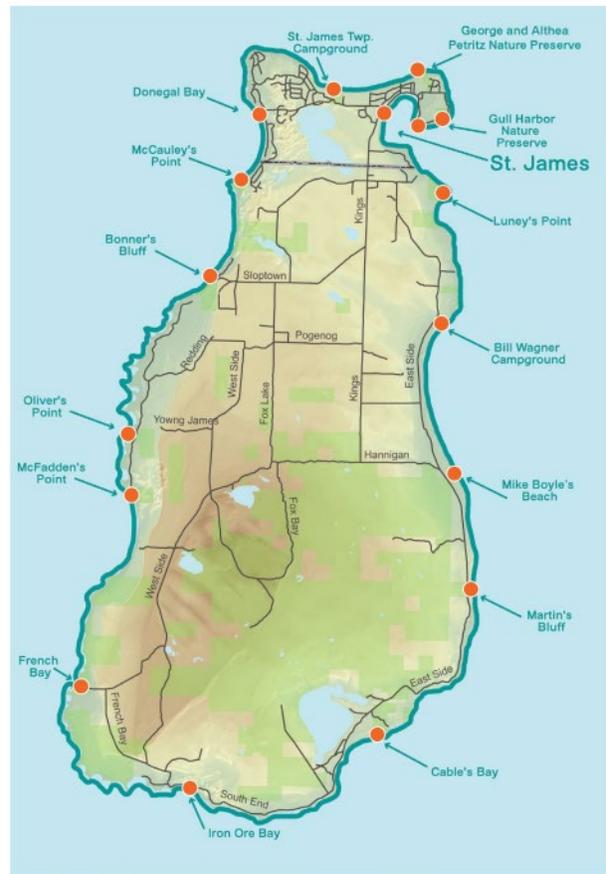


Figure 3.2 - Beaver Island Water Trail



View from inside the sanctuary to the NW reveals Northern Lights in a starry sky, Photo by Taffy Raphael

Dark Sky viewing can be done throughout the Archipelago, including several recreational sites that the Dark Sky Committee host educational and entertainment events at such as Donegal Bay, Whiskey Point, Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve and many more. More information of the Beaver Island Dark Sky can be found online.

## Non-profit Recreational Facilities

**Little Traverse Conservancy** – Following is a list of nature preserves located on Beaver Island, six are in Peaine Township, and the last two are in St. James Township. In general, these preserves offer hiking, bicycling, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing and similar low-impact, non-motorized activities. Please refrain from snowmobiling, camping, fires, dumping or littering, removal of vegetation, off-road vehicles. Hunting is allowed only on designated preserves and with written permission only. Contact the Conservancy office at 231.347.0991 for more information. Dogs are allowed at the preserves below; however, they MUST be on a leash.

### Barney's Lake Nature Preserve

The 337 acres is located in the north-central part of Beaver Island, in **Peaine** Township and about 3 miles southwest of St. James. It includes open bog, sedge meadow, cedar swamp, old farmstead, and loons nest on this lake. There is 4,900 feet frontage along Barney's Lake and 1,770 feet along Lake Michigan. Has trails and parking and is open to waterfowl hunting only but must obtain permission from Conservancy.



### Conn's Cove Addition

These 226 acres located in **Peaine** Township have 1,360 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline on the east side of the island. No restrictions on types of hunting but must obtain permission from Conservancy.

### Erber Nature Preserve

This small natural area (0.5 acres) in **Peaine** Township, is located on the southeast shoreline of the island. It has 450 feet on Lake Michigan and is managed by the Conservancy. A short trail from East Side Drive leads through a mixed hardwood/conifer area to a beach of sand and stone. Warbler species inhabit trees at the edge of the beach, and the beach itself affords long-range view of Lake Michigan where various waterbirds may be observed foraging.

### Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve

This preserve has 118 acres, with 3,500 feet on Lake Michigan in **Peaine** Township. It is a mix of conifer forest, thick cedar swamp, and duen habitats. Lake Huron Tansy and other threatened or endangered species thrive here. Has parking, a short trail, and boardwalk with public access to the lake and a shallow, marshy beach.



### Miller's Marsh Natural Area

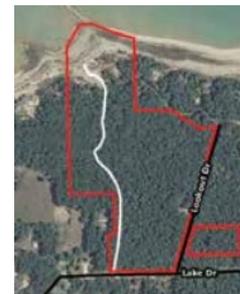
With 230 acres, it is the largest and most diverse true marsh found on the island. This wetland's diversity consists of a combination of open shallow water, extensive sedge (to the west) and sphagnum mats (to the east) surrounded by a mature second growth beech-maple forest. The preserve is home to frogs, migratory birds, and waterfowl. It is located in the southwestern part of the island (**Peaine** Twp) with a small parking area that leads to a one mile trail providing easy access around the marsh. Purchased by Little Traverse Conservancy in 1997, this property was conveyed to the **Central Michigan Biological Station in 1998**.

### Sarah A. Martin Nature Preserve

It is situated southeast of the hamlet Bonner Landing in **Peaine** Township and encompasses 106 acres. Two access strips off of Mrs. Reddings Trail and West Side Road. Walter's Road meets the west boundary. There are no restrictions with regards to type of hunting, but you must obtain permission from Conservancy.

### George and Althea Petritz Nature Preserve

Located at the northeast end of Beaver Island, in **St. James** Township. This 27-acre preserve is within walking distance from Paradise Bay and town. It has trails and parking. A trail from the road takes you to the beach. It is a natural habitat for deer, wild turkey, and other animals and the state threatened Pitcher's Thistle and Lake Huron Tansy.



### Stanhope Family Nature Preserve

Comprised of 13 acres of mixed upland hardwood forest, in the northeast corner of **St. James** Township, Beaver Island. The property lies adjacent to the township owned property, the Gull Harbor Nature Preserve, along Gull Harbor Road and parallels the shore, encompassing 200 feet of shoreline on Lake Michigan. A section of road east of the preserve parking is currently flooded (2022). The purchase of this land was funded by Ray and Ann Stanhope in 2020.

**Table 3.1 – Peaine Township Developed Recreational Assets – Twp/Gov’t Owned**

Asset Name	Type	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access	Accessibility Rating - Public Facilities**
<b>Angeline’s Bluff Observation Deck</b>	Park	SW of Twp Airport on Mrs. Reddings Trail	SJT & PT	Lookout area, memorial	Open to Public	1.5
<b>Bill Wagner Campground</b>	East side of Peaine Twp on Lake MI	14.7 acres	MDNR leased by PT	Primitive camping, fire pits, beach access, boat ramp for small boats	Public; camping fee	1.5
<b>Bud McDonough Memorial Baseball Field</b>	Park	Near St. James Harbor, over 2 acres	SJT & PT	Baseball/Softball Field	Open to Public	2
<b>Cable Creek Trail &amp; Cable Bay Beach</b>	East Side Drive	.2 miles	MDNR leased by PT	Scenic trail, picnic tables, beach, bridge over creek	Public	1.5
<b>Fox Lake Public Access &amp; Boat Launch</b>	Inland Lake – 2 sites	16 acres	MDNR leased by PT	Fishing, kayaking, canoeing, picnic table, outhouse	Public	1.5
<b>Font Lake Access</b>	Inland Lake	Behind Peaine Township Hall	PT	Picnic tables, covered shelter, boardwalk t lake, outdoor court pickleball	Public	1.5
<b>Greene’s Lake Public Access</b>	Inland Lake		MDNR leased by PT	Fishing	Public	1.5
<b>Iron Ore Bay Public Access</b>	Park / Access	South End Rd., 22 acres and 600’ of lakefront	SJT & PT	Beach, picnic tables, pit toilets	Open to Public	1.5
<b>Lake Geneserath Public Access</b>		Off East Side Drive – south end of Island	MDNR leased by PT	Public boat launch, large fishing lake (489 acres), outhouses, trail	Public Access	1.5
<b>Martin’s Bluff</b>		East Side Drive	MDNR leased by PT	Trail along bluff, picnic tables, rope railing to beach below	Public	1.5
<b>Peaine Township Hall</b>	Kings Hwy		PT	Community events, meeting rooms and kitchen		2.5
Ownership & Ownership Notes* SJT = St. James Twp PT =Peaine Twp BI = Beaver Island CCRC = Charlevoix County Road Commission BIHS = Beaver Island Historical Society PSJA =Port of St. James Association				LTC = Little Traverse Conservancy PABI = Preservation Association of Beaver Island SJT1= Leased from Wolverine Power Cooperative SJT2 = Leased BI Historical Society SJT3 = Controlled by SJT through easement rights with private property owners		
Accessibility Rating** 1 = None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 2 = Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 3 = Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 4 = The entire park meets accessibility guidelines 5 = The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design						

**Table 3.2 - St. James Township Developed Recreational Assets – Twp/Gov't Owned**

Asset Name	Type	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access	Accessibility Rating - Public Facilities**
<b>Beaver Island Municipal North Marina</b>	Marina	St. James Harbor, ~1 acre	SJT	50-slip dock, harbormaster building with restrooms, picnic tables, greenspace	Open to boaters; public access	3
<b>Beaver Island Municipal South Marina</b>	Marina	St. James Harbor, ~1 acre	SJT	25-slip dock, harbormaster building with restrooms, picnic tables, greenspace	Open to boaters; public access	3
<b>Beaver Island Veterans Memorial Park</b>	Park	St. James Harbor, ~1/2 acre	SJT <sup>1</sup>	Monuments, benches, greenspace	Open to Public	3
<b>Boat Launch Site</b>	Access	Gallagher Ave. & Main Street	CCRC	Boat ramp	Open to Public	
<b>Donegal Bay Bike Path</b>	Trail	SE out of St. James Campground	SJT <sup>3</sup>	Paved bike path	Open to Public	4
<b>Font Lake Boat Launch</b>	Access	Northern shore, small strip of frontage	SJT & PSJA	Boat Launch	Open to Public	1
<b>Gull Harbor Natural Area</b>	Park / Trails	East of St. James Harbor, 14 acres	SJT	Trails, ponds, wetland lake frontage, woods	Open to Public	1
<b>Jewell Gillespie Park</b>	Park	St. James Harbor, ~1 acre	SJT	Public beach, with playground equipment, parking lot, outhouses	Open to Public	
<b>LaFreniere Park</b>	Park	St. James Harbor, 1 lot	SJT	Small park, benches, flower gardens	Open to Public	2
<b>Heritage Park</b>	Park	Donegal Bay Rd., across from library	SJT <sup>2</sup>	Outdoor historical displays	Open to Public	
<b>Harbor View Park</b>	Park	St. James Harbor, Main St. across from Boat Dock - 0.5 acres	SJT	Restrooms with changing stations, picnic tables, solar charging station	Open to Public	2.5
<b>Harbor Light Park</b>	Park	Whiskey Point	SJT	Lighthouse, greenspace, lake frontage	Open to Public (tours by BIHS)	3
<b>St. James Twp. Hall</b>	Facility	St. James Harbor, 0.25 acre	SJT	Meeting Room	Limited Use	
<b>St. James Twp. Campground</b>	Camp-ground	Northern Shore, - 40 acres	SJT & CCRC	18 campsites - 12 rustic, 6 elec w/ 2 ADA, water pumps, outdoor showers, pit toilets	Open to Public	3
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	Park	North of Donegal Bay Rd, ~.75 acres	SJT	2 tennis courts, picnic tables, small park	Open to Public	2
Ownership & Ownership Notes*				LTC = Little Traverse Conservancy PABI = Preservation Association of Beaver Island SJT1= Leased from Wolverine Power Cooperative SJT2 = Leased BI Historical Society SJT3 = Controlled by SJT through easement rights with private property owners		
Accessibility Rating**			1 = None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 2 = Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 3 = Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 4 = The entire park meets accessibility guidelines 5 = The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design			

**Table 3.3 – Peaine Township Recreational Assets – Non-profit or Private**

Asset Name	Type	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access	Accessibility Rating - Public Facilities**
<b>Beaver Island Marine Museum</b>	Facility	St. James harbor	BIHS	Indoor and outdoor historical displays	Open to Public	
<b>Beaver Island Print Shop Museum</b>	Facility	St. James Village	BIHS	Indoor historical displays	Open to Public	
<b>Beaver Island Community Center</b>	Facility	Harbor area, ½ acre	PABI	Auditorium, kitchen, game area, radio station studio	Open to Public	
<b>Beaver Island Water Trail</b>	Water Trail	Various	Various	Various	Open to Public	
<b>Beaver Island Birding Trail</b>	Trail	Encompasses ~12,000 acres	Various	Nature trail (both hiking and driving) for bird viewing	Open to public	
<b>Barney's Lake Nature Preserve</b>	Nature Preserve	Barney's Lake Road	LTC	Fishing, hiking trail through woods, canoe, kayak, rowboat storage	Public – no hunting or motorized vehicles	2
<b>Conn's Cove Addition</b>	Nature Preserve	East Side Drive near Pebble Beach, 226 acres	LTC	No formal parking or trail; 1,360 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline.	Open to Public	
<b>George &amp; Althea Petritz Nature Preserve</b>	Nature Preserve	Northeast of town, 27 acres and 500' of lakefront	LTC	Trails, forest, lake frontage	Open to Public	
<b>Port of St. James Association (Mt. Pisgah, Donegal Bay Park)</b>	Assoc. Prop.	NW corner of the island, including ~500' of lake frontage	PSJA & SJT	Hiking trails, picnic pavilion, campground	Dunes open to public	
<b>Stanhope Family Nature Preserve</b>	Nature Preserve	13 acres	LTC	Trails, forest	Open to Public	
Ownership & Ownership Notes* SJT = St. James Twp PT =Peaine Twp BI = Beaver Island CCRC = Charlevoix County Road Commission BIHS = Beaver Island Historical Society PSJA = Port of St. James Association				LTC = Little Traverse Conservancy PABI = Preservation Association of Beaver Island SJT1= Leased from Wolverine Power Cooperative SJT2 = Leased BI Historical Society SJT3 = Controlled by SJT through easement rights with private property owners		
Accessibility Rating** 1 = None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 2 = Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 3 = Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines 4 = The entire park meets accessibility guidelines 5 = The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design						

## Regional Recreational Assets

Table 3.4 – Regional Recreational Assets				
Facility Name	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access
<b>Andy's Trail</b>	Off of S. French Bay Road from West Side Road, Peaine Twp.	MDNR	Trail known for presence of Dwarf Lake Iris, rocky 0.45mi beach	Public
<b>Beaver Head Lighthouse and Buildings</b>	South End Road, Peaine Twp, 172 acres	County of Charlevoix and Networks Northwest	52 steps to tower, steps to beach, walkway to Old Signal Station and School Buildings	Public with restrictions
<b>Beaver Island Golf Course</b>	Kings Hwy	Private	9-hole golf course, driving range, club and cart rental	Public; fee
<b>Beaver Island Retreat</b>	34195 Kings Hwy	Private	Safari Tents, Private bath houses, guest kitchen/bar/laundry & Pavilion	Public; fee
<b>Bonner's Bluff State Beach (Bonner's Landing)</b>	At the end of a private road off Sloptown Rd, 0.5 x 0.2 mi	DNR	1,500 feet of public beach on Lake Michigan	Public; access over private land
<b>CMU Biological Station</b>	East Side Drive	Central Michigan University	Beach frontage, trail, guided nature tours	Public
<b>French Bay Road</b>	Off of N. and S. French Bay Road from West Side Road, Peaine Twp.	Part private ownership and part MDNR	Trail leads through a marsh and boreal forest to a Lake Michigan Bay	Public
<b>Kuebler Trail</b>	Access on Allen's Lakeview Rd, Sloptown Rd	Private ownership and Little Traverse Conservancy	4 miles of trail, old narrow-gauge railroad bed	Public for hiking
<b>Little Sand Bay</b>	Off of East Side Drive, 60 acres, 1,300 feet of lake frontage	Little Traverse Conservancy	Parking lot, trail, boardwalk, Lake Michigan beach, bench	Public
<b>McCauley's Point</b>	South end of Donegal Bay, 0.4 sq mi	DNR	Rocky beach access, shorebird habitat, Pitcher's thistle	Public
<b>McFadden's Point</b>	On Greene's Bay, 0.5 x 0.25 mi	MDNR	Ecologically important for rare parabolic dunes	Public; access over private land
<b>Miller's Marsh Nature Area</b>	West Side Drive, 230 acres	Central Michigan University	Diverse ecosystem includes a wetland dominated by sedges, turtles, and a beaver lodge; 1-mile walking trail, picnic table, outhouses	Public
<b>Oliver's Point</b>	West side off of Mrs. Redding's Trail, 0.5 x 0.4 mi	MDNR	Trail to Lake Michigan, public beach, 0.4 mi of shoreline	Public; access over private land
Ownership & Ownership Notes* SJT = St. James Twp PT =Peaine Twp BI = Beaver Island CCRC = Charlevoix County Road Commission BIHS = Beaver Island Historical Society PSJA = Port of St. James Association			LTC = Little Traverse Conservancy PABI = Preservation Association of Beaver Island SJT1= Leased from Wolverine Power Cooperative SJT2 = Leased BI Historical Society SJT3 = Controlled by SJT through easement rights with private property owners	
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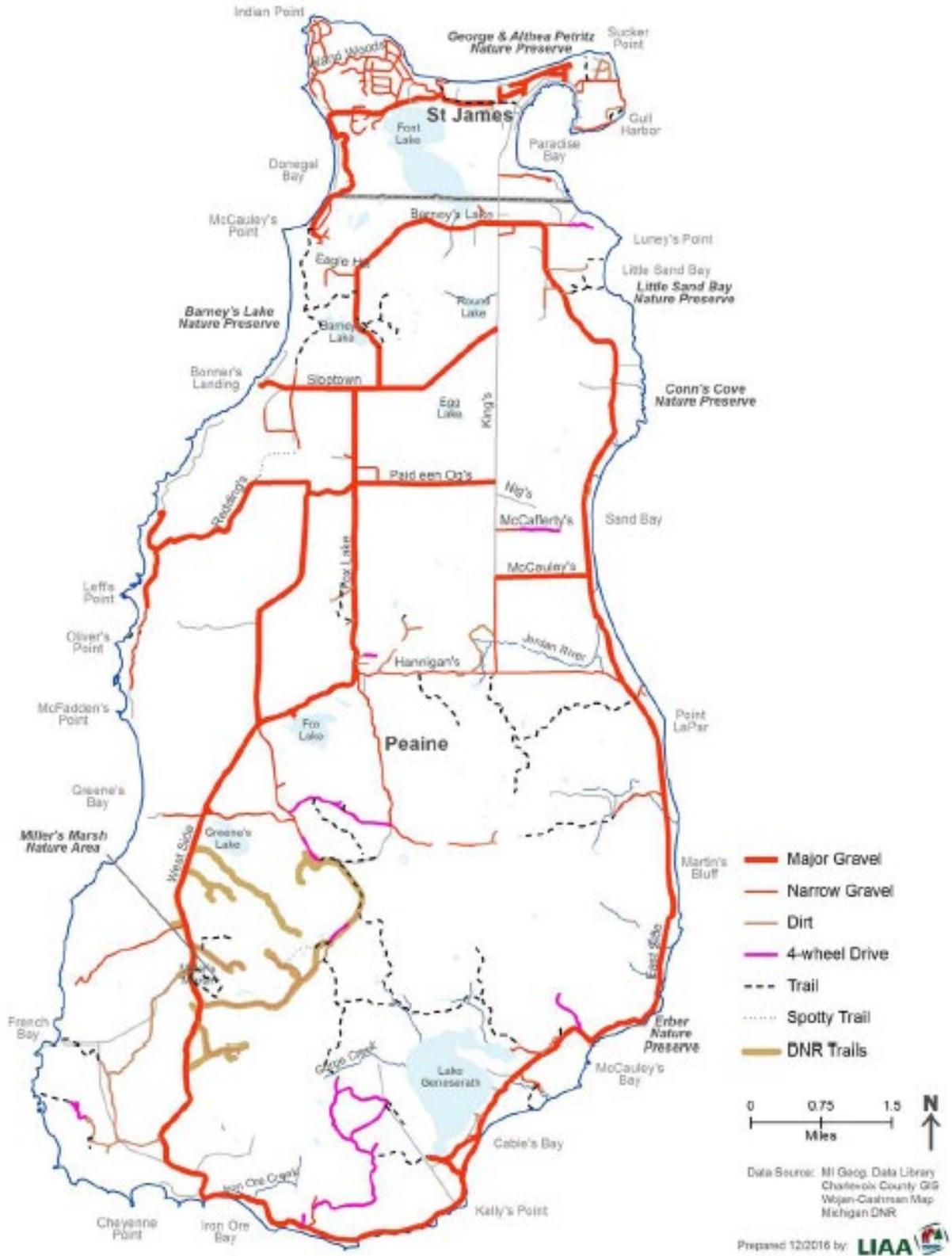


Figure 3.3 – Trails Map

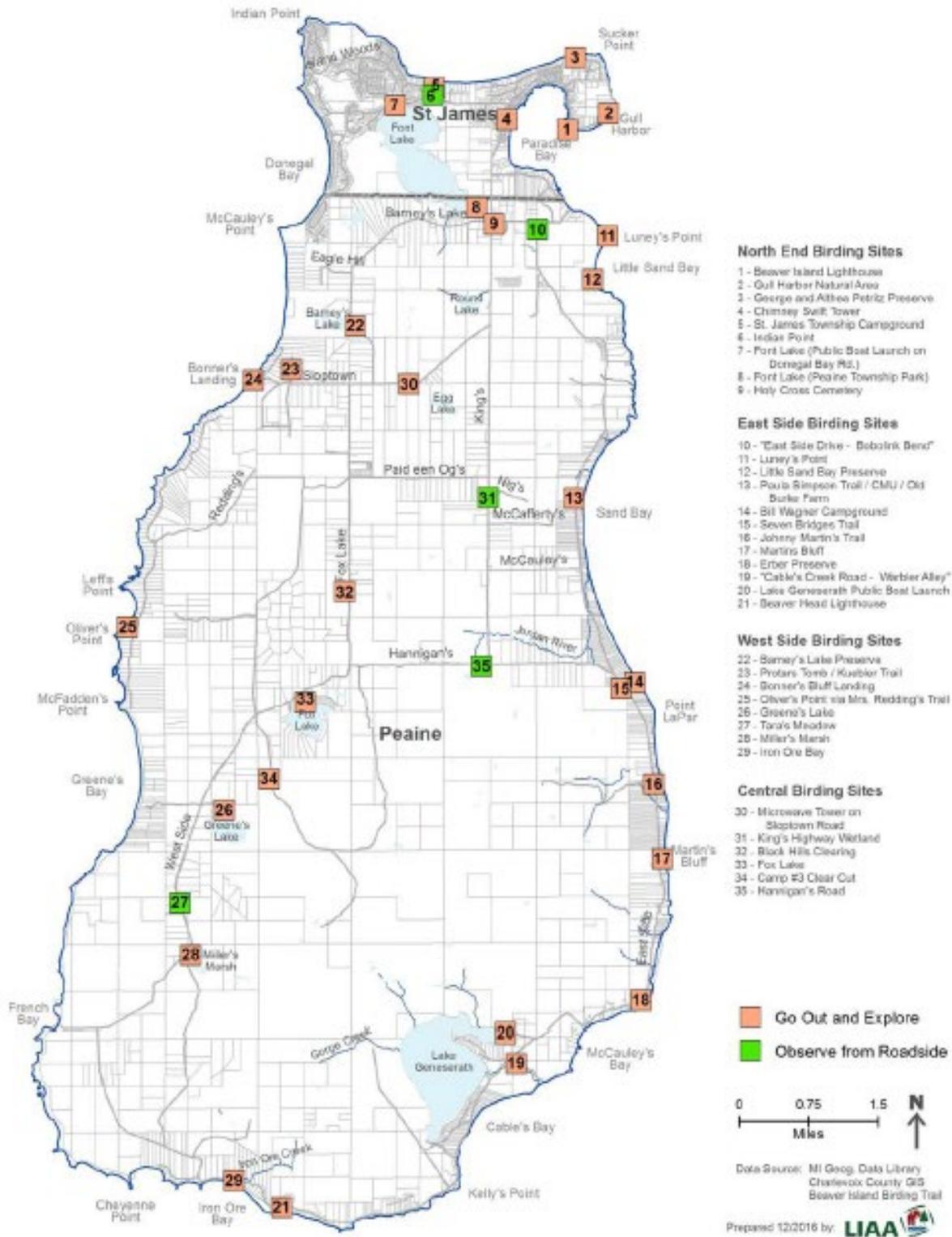


Figure 3.4- Birding Trail Map

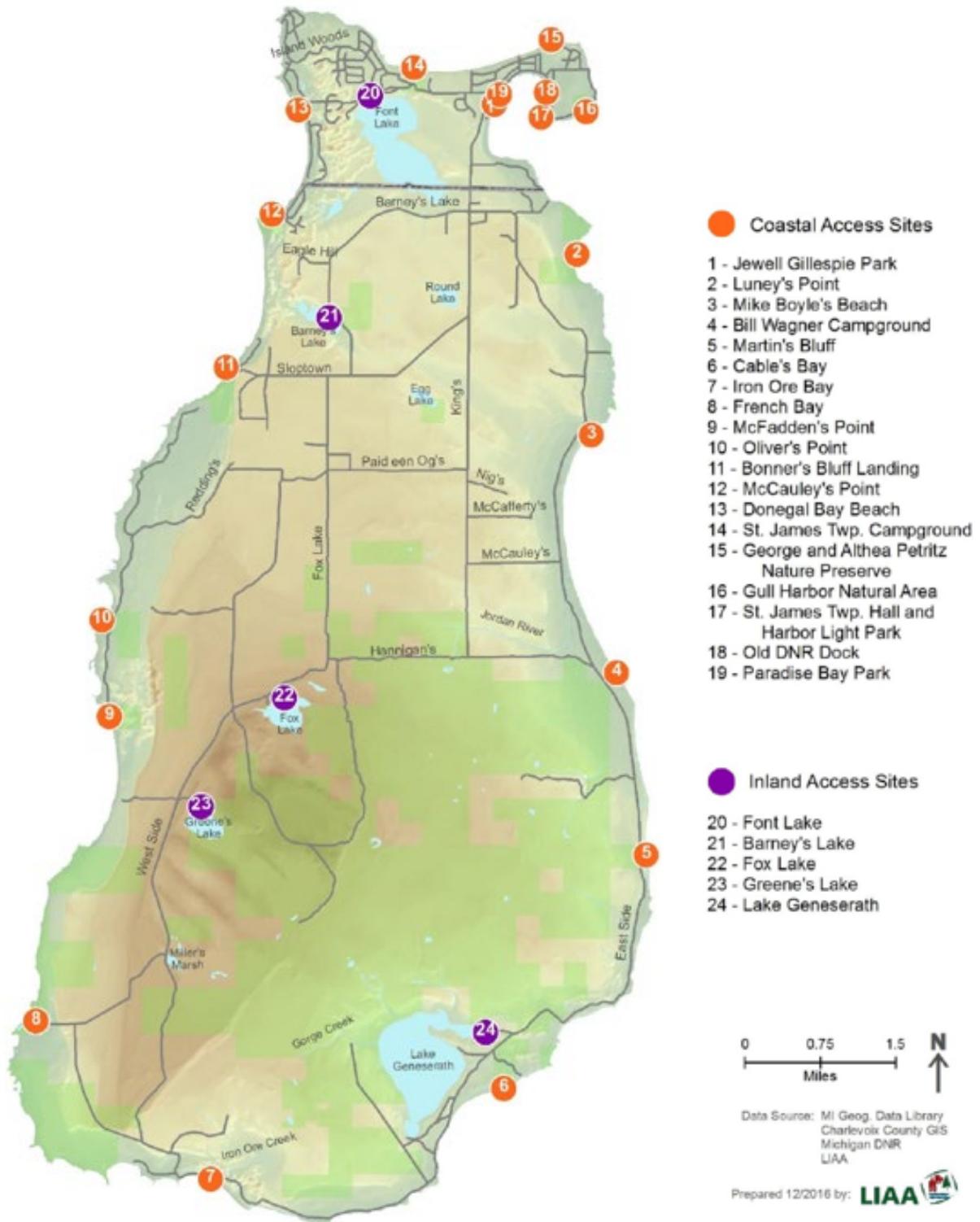


Figure 3.5 – Water Trail Access Sites



## Recreation on other islands

**Whiskey Island** (also spelled Whisky Island) - is part of the Beaver Island Archipelago, is about 3/8 of a square mile. Whiskey Island is home to one of the most visible shipwrecks in the archipelago; the wreck of the *Chandler J. Wells* that was lost after running aground on the Whiskey Island shoal during a storm on November 20, 1884, carrying lumber from Manistique, MI to Buffalo, NY.

**Ojibwa Island** (formerly Squaw Island) - is an island in Lake Michigan and is part of the Beaver Island archipelago. The island is about 75 acres in size and is privately owned. It is located a little under two miles northeast of Whiskey Island, and a little over three miles west of Garden Island.

Located on the north point of Ojibwa Island is Squaw Island Lighthouse, about six miles (10 km) north of Beaver Island. Views of the lighthouse from the water are limited due to vegetation. It was constructed in 1892 at a height of 49 feet, expanded in 1894 and was deactivated in 1928 due to being obsolete because of the construction of the Lansing Shoals Light Station offshore. A work crew from Beaver Island performed significant preservation work on the lighthouse in 2016.



Photo credit: US Coast Guard Archives

**Gull Island** - is the largest of approximately one dozen islands bearing this name in Michigan. Gull Island also has beaches and sand dunes on its north and east sides. On November 18, 1958, the SS Carl D. Bradley, a cargo vessel that specialized in the transport of limestone for steel mills, foundered and sank 12 miles southwest of Gull Island. The incident included the loss of 33 of the 35 men aboard.

## Barrier Free Evaluation & Universal Design

The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation are subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. This planning process should include methods to ensure that the Township park and recreation system is accessible to persons with disabilities. The accessibility evaluations for Peaine Township have been conducted as part of the recreation planning process. As a general rule, the Township park facilities lack ADA accessible parking, walkways to link park facilities to parking, accessible seating/tables and access to the water. A statement can be made that with the exception of the Township Hall, the Township parks are an average ranking of 1.5 due to the lack of basic amenities.

### Accessibility Assessment

The evaluations were based loosely on the United States Access Board's Section 15 – Recreation Facilities, the Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Americans with Disabilities Act, and used the ranking criteria suggested by MDNR's Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (2016). These criteria are based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

The criteria are as follows: ADA Ranking System Rank Interpretation

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
2. Some of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines.
3. Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines.
4. All the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines.
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

When looking to determine an area’s accessibility to all people, start by asking these simple questions:

*Can a person who has a sight or hearing disability, uses a wheelchair, uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, has a mental disability that affects learning and understanding, safely and independently:*

1. *get from the arrival place to the activity area?*
2. *do what others do in the area?*
3. *move around the area?*
4. *How can barriers be removed?*
5. *What is getting in the way?*

Common components that need to be looked at to answer these basic questions include parking, paths of travel from parking, street or sidewalk to activity areas, the activity areas themselves, signage, support facilities such as restrooms, surfacing, and communications required for recreation programs and general use of a facility or area.

### Universal Access

Another often overlooked category is Universal Access. This practice goes way beyond typical Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations to practice “common and equal experiences for all.” The goal of universal access is, throughout concept and design phases, to incorporate technology, materials and other considerations that promote equal opportunities for people of varied abilities. These concepts should be kept in the forefront as a prime consideration in the 5-year Master Plan and individual parks or projects as they develop and progress.

<b>Type of Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Universal Access Design Considerations</b>
<b>Archery range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All stations</li> <li>▪ Route to retrieval area for each target</li> <li>▪ Targets also usable with cross bows</li> <li>▪ Arrow back stop to limit retrieval distance</li> <li>▪ Larger maneuvering spaces to accommodate archers with shooting assistants</li> </ul>
<b>Beach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Routes over the beach and into the water, can be portable/temporary matting if it needs to be taken in and out for beach cleaning/dragging or in the off season</li> <li>▪ Wide enough for side-by-side walking/passing</li> <li>▪ At beach route end have an accessible area at the water’s edge large enough to park multiple chairs while the owners are in the water</li> <li>▪ With a transfer system at the water’s edge so people can get down to the ground level and into the water</li> </ul>
<b>Boardwalk wetland and water access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6 feet minimum width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass</li> <li>▪ Edge treatment to prevent roll/step off</li> <li>▪ If side rails are used, <b>more than 25%</b> must lowered for easy viewing in various places along the boardwalk</li> <li>▪ Interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.</li> </ul>

<b>Table 3.5 – Universal Access</b>	
<b>Type of Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Universal Access Design Considerations</b>
<b>Campgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All sites and amenities</li> <li>▪ Accessible surface on all sites, including rustic sites</li> <li>▪ Larger spaces to accommodate side lifts on campers and vehicles</li> <li>▪ Accessible tables, grills (15“ minimum, 34“ maximum height), and fire rings on all sites</li> <li>▪ Centrally located restrooms on easy routes from each site</li> </ul>
<b>Camping Cabins and Yurts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Larger clear space and maneuvering spaces in between all furnishings, including when all are in use (beds, tables/chairs with people seated at the table, shelves within lowered reach ranges, lowered wall hooks, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Larger clear space thoughtfully located for typical portable items such as coolers, luggage, equipment/food bins/tubs, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Canoe/kayak/boat launch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wider route so someone can hand wheel boat on dolly to launch pulling boat next to them if they are in a wheelchair or two person carry down</li> <li>▪ Accessible surface to water’s edge and into water at launch</li> <li>▪ More gentle slopes for easier entry and exit when hand wheeling a boat</li> <li>▪ Some type of “rack” to stabilize boat at a transferable height then some type of mechanism/roller system to move, while seated in the boat, into the water Some means of transfer assistance such as overhead bars</li> <li>▪ Some type of wench system to help pull boat out of water back into the rack to exit/transfer out.</li> <li>▪ If there is a dock provide a transfer system on the dock so a person can be seated on the dock to transfer over to a boat in the water that is in some type of a stabilizer rack</li> <li>▪ Adaptive kayaks available for use</li> <li>▪ Shore station with a platform (instead of “V” rack) with a transfer system on the deck of the shore station, located next to a dock so someone could roll/get on the platform and lower it to the right level to transfer into a boat</li> </ul>
<b>Fishing dock/pier and observation/viewing decks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More than 25% of the rails are lowered in various locations or no rails at all with only an edge treatment to prevent roll off</li> <li>▪ Sitting benches (all with backs and arm rests) scattered about so anglers can choose to sit or stand to fish</li> <li>▪ Tackle box stands next to one bench end (not both) leaving one end clear space for sitting side by side with someone in a wheelchair</li> <li>▪ A variety of fish landing cutaways strategically placed</li> <li>▪ Variety of accessible opportunities—over-water fishing, shore fishing, in-water fishing, etc.</li> <li>▪ Transition plates between access route and deck/pier</li> </ul>

<b>Table 3.5 – Universal Access</b>	
<b>Type of Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Universal Access Design Considerations</b>
<b>Nature center</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.</li> <li>▪ Creative use of technology such as mp3 players for auditory descriptions (this gives the info. directly to the individual) closed loop assistive listening devices and closed-circuit captioning of all interpretive presentations</li> <li>▪ All displays at lowered heights for sitting or standing viewing</li> <li>▪ All operating mechanisms that are operable with one hand and do not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate</li> </ul>
<b>Parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More than minimum number of accessible spots</li> <li>▪ Each connected directly to an accessible route to the park elements and NOT into the traffic flow</li> <li>▪ Thoughtfully located nearest the activity entrance, which might require multiple lots (some near the beach, some near the playground, some near the bathhouse, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Picnic areas and elements: Pavilions, picnic tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All located on accessible routes</li> <li>▪ all tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc. accessible</li> <li>▪ Level routes onto pavilions with no changes of level from path to pavilion surface</li> <li>▪ Wider routes and clear space with firm surface around all elements so someone with mobility limits can easily move around the element (table, grill, etc.)</li> <li>▪ A variety of table styles, some with clear sitting space on the side, some with extended tabletops on the end</li> <li>▪ Some fixed tables to ensure they remain accessible (not moved off into a grassy or sandy area, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Clear space all around each element so people can approach and use the grill, fire ring, etc. from the front, back and either side</li> <li>▪ Grills you can lower/raise the cooking surface with one hand</li> <li>▪ Raised fire building surfaces so you can place wood without leaning too far over from a standing or seated position</li> </ul>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ramps and transfers</li> <li>▪ Has both ramp and transfer access to all play components</li> <li>▪ Ramps to every “getting on spot” or “sit/stand &amp; do it spot” of every play component</li> <li>▪ Transfer system from the ground up to the main deck located near the exits of slides and climbers furthest from the ramp onto the structure</li> <li>▪ Only unitary safety surface such as poured-in-place or rubber tiles NOT any loose fill materials like shredded rubber, wood chips, engineered wood fiber, or any other non-unitary surface material</li> <li>▪ On deck transfer platform at the entry point of every slide</li> <li>▪ On deck transfer platform with one open transfer side and one side with transfer steps to every entry/exit point of every climber, so kids climbing up can get down to the deck to</li> </ul>

Table 3.5 – Universal Access	
Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
<b>Playgrounds (con't)</b>	<p>move to another component, as they may have left an assistive device at the ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A good variety of things to manipulate that make noise or music, have high contrast/bright colors, games that two kids can play (to foster social interaction), Braille and sign language panels to teach awareness, easy to operate with just one hand with a whole fist (does not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate)</li> <li>▪ Different high contrast colors for decks versus transfers so kids with low vision can perceive a change in level</li> <li>▪ Play panels are located at heights so they can be used from a seated position or standing</li> </ul>
<b>Restrooms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More than the minimum number of accessible units</li> <li>▪ Multiple unisex/single user toilet rooms/units so opposite sex care givers can assist; also good for parents of young children of the opposite sex so kids aren't sent alone into the multi-user restroom</li> <li>▪ Thoughtfully located near areas of activity such as play areas, beaches, fishing piers, etc.</li> <li>▪ Accessible door pulls and water faucet handles - all accessible port-a-johns, again big enough for individual use or care giver/parental assistance.</li> </ul>
<b>Skiing/sledding hill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accessible route to top (no steps), possibly using a “magic carpet” lift</li> <li>▪ Level surface for sled mounting at hilltop</li> <li>▪ If staffed, provide ATV transport, or have policy that allows personal ATV use Transfer at hill bottom to help transfer</li> </ul>
<b>Sports fields/courts</b>  <b>Fields: soccer, football, baseball, etc.</b> <b>Courts: tennis, basketball, bocce, horseshoes, etc.</b> <b>Other: skate parks, frisbee golf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Routes to both sides of all fields and courts, not just end zones</li> <li>▪ Accessible seating spaces both ground level and elevated if risers/bleachers are provided</li> <li>▪ Accessible seating spaces scattered throughout all viewing areas and levels with companion seating on both sides of the space</li> <li>▪ All lowered service windows at all concession areas</li> <li>▪ Wider gate openings into court areas (tennis, bocce, basketball) and skate parks to accommodate wider sports wheelchairs</li> <li>▪ Routes to both horseshoe pits and along both sides of the route between pits</li> <li>▪ Level routes onto bocce courts with sitting benches at both ends</li> </ul>

Table 3.5 – Universal Access	
Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
Trail: nature trail, walkway, pathway, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-use trail - 8 feet, with slopes under 2%, wider width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass</li> <li>▪ Walkways within a site – at least 6 feet wide and have slopes under 2%</li> <li>▪ Regional trail system - at least 10 feet wide, with 1-foot buffers on either side, with slopes under 2%</li> <li>▪ Unitary surface like concrete, boardwalk or asphalt, crushed aggregate/screenings that have been “stabilized” or natural soils enhanced with soil stabilizers</li> <li>▪ Transition plates between trail and pedestrian bridges, decks, etc.</li> <li>▪ Contrasting color treatment of the surface and textured surface treatments such as brushed concrete at intersections or interpretive stations to cue people who have vision impairments that there is something to pay attention to at that spot</li> <li>▪ Close to level cross slopes (side to side) and very gentle running slopes, no steep sections, larger (greater than 60” X 60”) level areas at all turns and intersections</li> <li>▪ Thoughtfully laid out on the site to maximize the experience with minimal difficulty</li> <li>▪ Accessible amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, etc.</li> </ul>

## Recreational Programs

Numerous recreational activities are implemented by island organizations, such as the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce, the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association, sports boosters, and the Beaver Island Wildlife Club, with many island residents and visitors taking part. In addition, a number of recreation-related businesses are active (including kayak trips and rentals, charter fishing, diving and eco-tours). The Beaver Island Community School and Central Michigan University (CMU, which operates research and educational facilities on the island) often partner with the Township. CMU’s Biological Station conducts community field trips every summer, and CMU is creating a museum with an interactive Great Lakes education and outreach exhibit as part of its new research space at the boathouse on Whiskey Point. The Historical Society is working on plans for a new museum that will contain an exhibit on the island’s natural features.

The following programs are offered through the Beaver Island Community Center (BIC) calendar. They are not all done by the BIC Center; they are also done by private individuals and held at Peaine Hall and other common areas.

- Story Hour
- Dark Sky Events
- Tennis
- Chair Yoga
- Bible Study
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program
- Movie Night
- Time for Art
- Senior Tai Chi
- Trivia Night
- Lego Club
- Book Club
- Pickleball
- Games Galore
- Bingo
- Euchre Night
- Robotics Club
- Talking Threads

### Past MDNR MNRTF, Passport or LWCF Grant Status

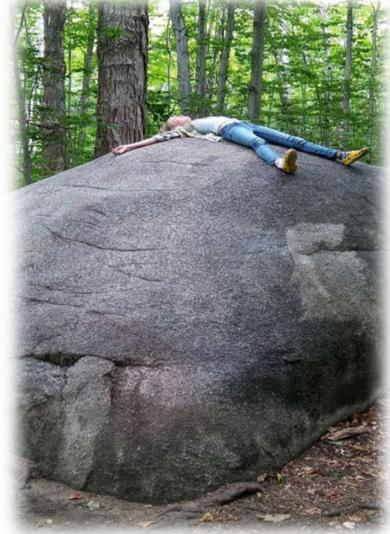
Acquisition – Fox Lake Park	
<b>Project No.</b>	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
<b>Project Year</b>	2016
<b>Cost</b>	\$150,000 grant from DNR Trust Fund; \$50,000 match
<b>Status</b>	Grant Closed
Provided for purchase of 20.0 acres, 2,000 feet on Fox Lake.	

## Natural Resource Inventory

### Topography & Landforms

The Beaver Island Archipelago is composed of erosion-resistant rock that protruded above the water after retreating glaciers had carved out the basin that holds Lake Michigan.

“The Big Rock” (pictured to the right) is a local point of interest and a tourist stop on the island. It is actually the largest known glacial erratic on Beaver Island. A glacial erratic is simply a rock that isn’t naturally found in the area. “The Big Rock” was carried by a glacier to Beaver Island from north of Lake Superior. It is a type of rock called igneous which is part of the Canadian Shield. Most of the rock’s mass is believed to be buried underground.



Healthy, ecologically diverse sand dunes surround the perimeter of Beaver Island, especially on its western side. These dunes are spectacular natural features, but also very fragile ecosystems susceptible to human and natural disturbances. Beaver Islanders have a strong commitment to managing dynamic coastal dunes to allow their natural processes to shape the landscape and to adapt as conditions change.



*Photo credit: Binney Girdler*

Michigan law provides for the protection and regulation of a subset of the coastal sand dunes in Michigan; specifically, those that are designated and mapped as Critical Dune Areas by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (EGLE). Beaver Island and High Island have portions of each designated Critical Dune Areas. Earthmoving, vegetation removal, and/ or construction activities within a Critical Dune Area require a permit under state law. St. James and Peaine Townships also each have locally administered Critical Dune Ordinances. The Peaine Township Critical Dune Maps are shown on the next page.

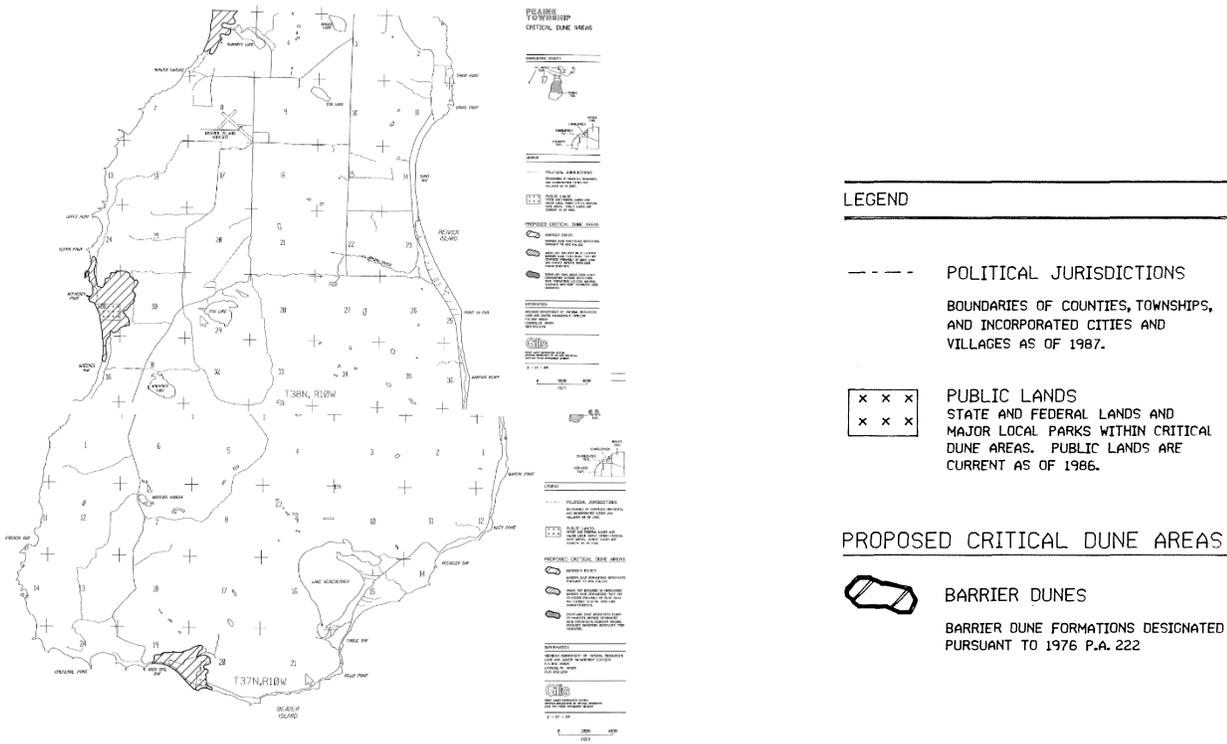
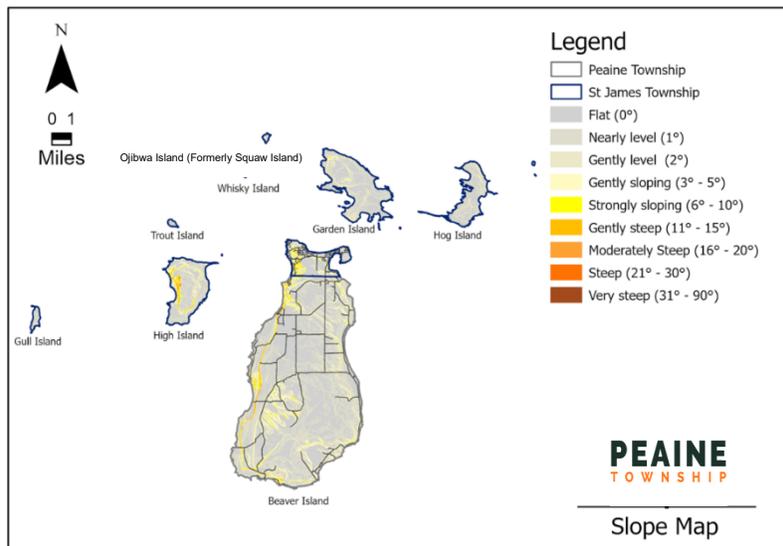


Figure 4.1 Peaine Twp Critical Dunes

The slope of land plays an important role in determining the suitable use and development of property. Moderate slopes (10% - 25%) and areas of extreme slope (25% or more) may limit higher density developments from occurring. These limitations include a heightened risk of erosion and the difficulty in installing private septic systems. However, areas consisting of moderate and extreme slopes are very sparse within the area. They are generally limited to portions of the west sides of Beaver Island and High Island. On High Island, the sand, blown by the lake's prevailing winds, has piled up into a sand dune elevated 780 feet above sea level, or 199 feet above the level of Lake MI. The remaining region consists of fairly level terrain which presents little to no restrictions for future development.



Atlas|USGS, NOAA, USGS, CGOAR, NCEAS, NLS, DSS, NMA, Gooddata/Esri/arcGIS, USGS, USGS and Esri GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS

Figure 4.2 - Slope Map

## Woodlands

Beaver Island has a number of forest types including boreal, dry-mesic northern, and mesic northern forests. Each of these hosts a unique mix of tree species. Major forest cover on the Island includes northern hardwoods, lowland deciduous forest, and lowland coniferous forests. Additional field work and surveys were conducted during the 2016 field season. MNFI conducted surveys of ten previously known element occurrences on state land and documented five new natural community element occurrences on state land. Nine different natural community types are represented in the 15 element occurrences surveyed. Surveys assessed the element occurrence ranking, classification, and delineation of these occurrences and detailed the vegetative structure and composition, ecological boundaries, landscape and abiotic context, threats, management needs, and restoration opportunities associated with each site. Additional information on the MNFI (Michigan Natural Features Inventory) reports from 2102 and 2016 are in the appendix of this 5-year plan.

According to Dr. Dave Ewert, Senior Scientist at The Nature Conservancy, “the interior forests of Beaver Island include mixed hardwood forests dominated by sugar maple, dotted with wetlands and small lakes



that are often ringed by tamarack, black spruce, white cedar, and other conifers. Small pockets of red and white pine contribute to the diversity of the interior forests. Forests near the immediate shoreline are frequently dominated by spruces, balsam fir, white cedar, pines, and eastern hemlock. Openings, including old fields, pastures, and clear-cuts, are scattered around the island.” Today, many acres of hunting lands are managed by the DNR and the Island’s Wildlife Club. Other areas are used for recreational trails, foraging, and peaceful residential neighborhoods. Fox Lake’s public access site is well known for its proximity to “Big Birch,” one of the oldest birch trees in Michigan.

## Wetlands

Coastal wetlands on Beaver Island comprise a vast portion of the interior of the island, near the many inland lakes and especially on the Island’s eastern side. Coastal wetlands are unique as they have hydrological connections to Lake Michigan and fluctuate with water level changes. Coastal wetlands provide a wide range of important ecosystem services, including filtering and cleaning water naturally; providing critical habitat to fish, reptiles, and amphibians; and reducing the impact of extreme rain events by absorbing flood waters. All coastal wetlands are regulated under state and federal law. Coastal wetlands are also great places for bird watchers to congregate during migration seasons and can be wonderful places for kayaking and other passive recreational activities. Much of the Island’s wetlands are under public ownership, though some are privately owned or for sale.



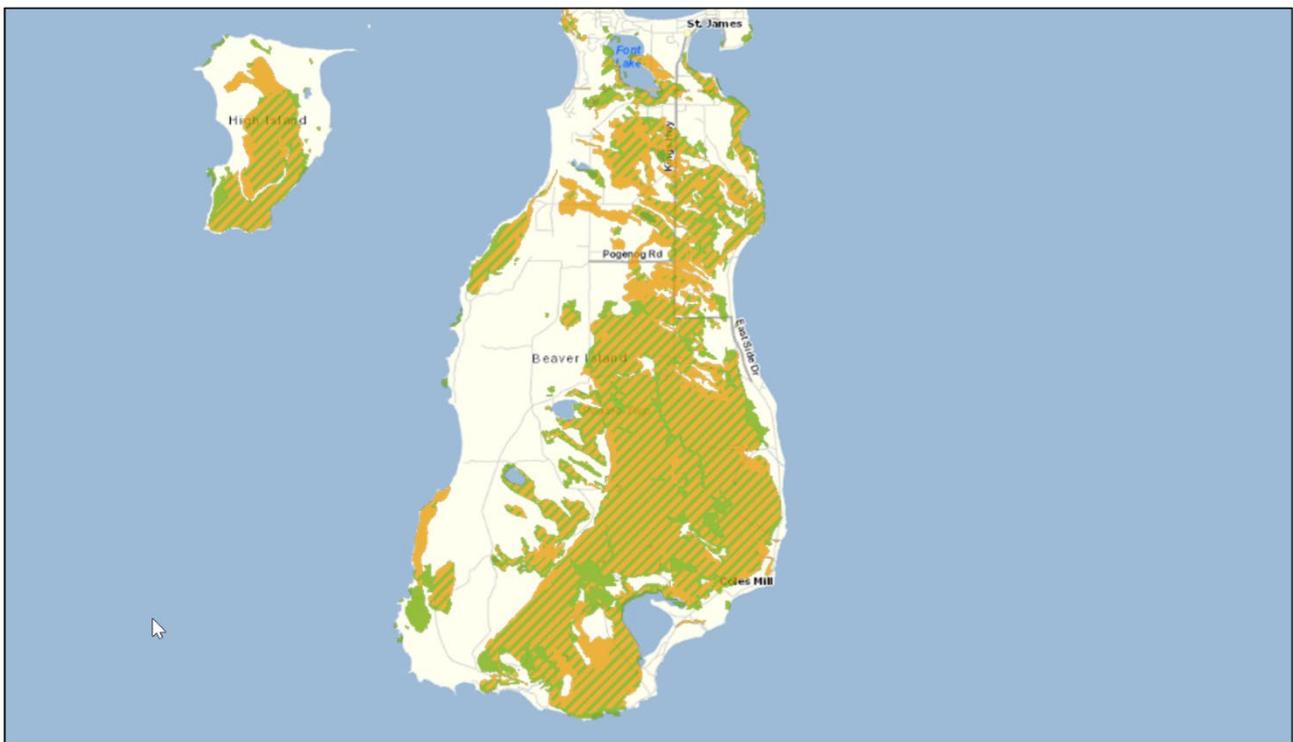
Coastal wetlands provide unique habitat to plants and animals. This photo is of a coastal wetland area in Paradise Bay.

Garden Island is surrounded by relatively cool, shallow water, making the area ideal for sport and commercial fishing. The island itself is relatively low and spotted with many ponds and wetlands. The island is well known as a place of endangered and rare herbs and wetland plants. Hog island is characterized by a number of wetland areas that are home to a variety of rare plants and animals. Its low, swampy terrain is

of significant interest to naturalists because it is one of the least-disturbed islands in Lake MI. It is very difficult to reach, even by boat.

Hydric soils are also identified. These are soils that have formed in the presence of water for sustained periods. They can be used to help locate wetlands, especially those that have been disturbed or altered by fill or excavation. Hydric soils may be unsuitable for certain types of development and can be an indicator of high groundwater levels.

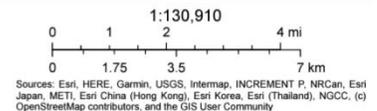
Prior to park & recreation development, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) should be consulted to review the results of a wetlands determination. The impacts of development within wetland areas should be carefully considered, and a permit from the MDNR should always be obtained if regulated wetlands are to be impacted.



November 19, 2023

Part 303 Final Wetlands Inventory

- Wetlands as identified on NWI and MIRIS maps
- Soil areas which include wetland soils
- Wetlands as identified on NWI and MIRIS maps and soil areas which include wetland soils



Disclaimer: This map is not intended to be used to determine the specific

**Figure 4.3 – Wetlands Map**



## Water Resources & Drainage

The most notable resource in Peaine Township is obviously Lake Michigan. Approximately 40 miles of Lake Michigan coastline help define the unique identity of the Island. Inland lakes and streams form a critical network of connected waterways in the interior of the Island, providing important habitat and a variety of recreational opportunities. The main inland lakes include, from north to south: Font Lake, Round Lake, Barney's Lake, Egg Lake, Fox Lake, Greene's Lake, Miller's Marsh, and Lake Geneserath.

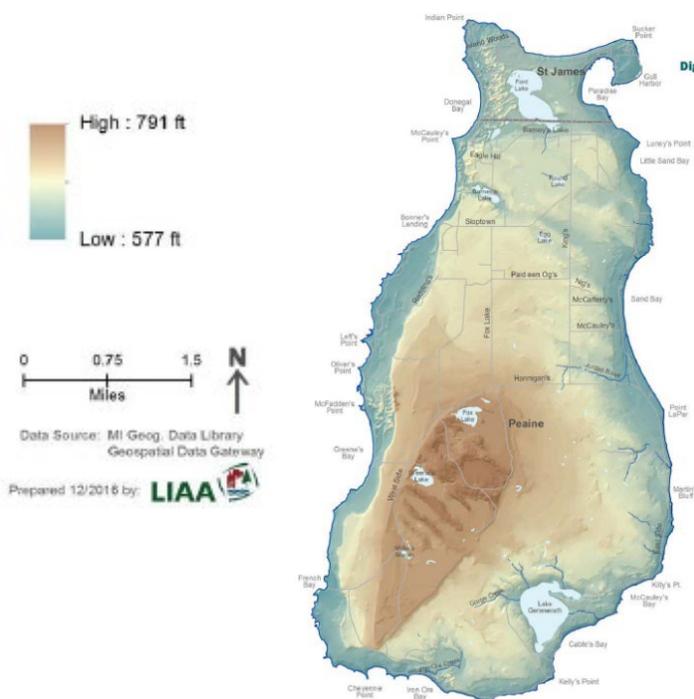
Prominent streams include Iron Ore Creek and Cable's Creek. The Jordan River, named by the Mormons in the mid-1800s, is actually a stream that serves as drainage from wetlands in the middle of the island near Hannigan's Road to Lake Michigan on the east side of the island. Along with Iron Ore Creek and Cable's Creek, fish such as Suckers and Steelheads can be seen "running" in all three waterways during spawning season in the Springtime.

Many types of wetlands surround the inland lakes, including fens and bogs. Each of the Island's wetland communities support unique species of plants and animals. In the past, wetlands were once seen as "swamps" with a negative connotation. Many wetlands were drained and filled for use as agricultural lands or residential development. Beaver Island has proactively preserved and maintained many of its natural wetland areas, allowing the Island to reap the many benefits of access to these unique landscapes.

While flooding is a natural process, aging infrastructure and infrastructure that is not properly sited can be severely damaged in the event of a heavy precipitation event, coastal storm, or heavy ice melt. Certain areas of Beaver Island experience recurrent flooding, particularly dirt roads. Culverts that restrict the flow of water, and pavement in areas that promote the speed of runoff can exacerbate the negative impacts of flooding. Placement of culverts should be near or within natural wildlife movement corridors and should be installed parallel to the stream flow and perpendicular to the road it crosses to allow for line of sight and minimize the length of culvert the animal or fish will have to pass through. The USFWS visited in Fall 2021 to begin study on our island's culverts for repair/updates.

## Floodplains

Just as living along Lake Michigan is beautiful, it can also be dangerous. In the short term, severe storms can cause high winds and powerful waves to envelop the shoreland. These waves are capable of damaging docks, boats, and piers and can jeopardize human safety. Evidence collected over the last several decades shows that severe storms in the Great Lakes region are increasing in both frequency and intensity due to changing weather patterns.



In the long term, decadal lake level changes can create a false sense of security and encourage unwise building practices. When water levels are down for an extended period, lakefront property owners might be tempted to believe their properties have permanently extended. However, fluctuations in water levels are a natural Great Lake process, and higher water levels can erode high bluffs, consume beaches, and stretch the boundaries of coastal wetland systems. It is important for property owners and local governments to understand the dynamic nature of the coastline to prevent development in unsafe areas. Using proper setbacks is one easy way to regulate this development.

## Fish and Wildlife

As the largest Island in Lake Michigan, Beaver Island is a critical stopover site for migratory birds. Some of the bird species found on Beaver Island are familiar residents like chickadees, woodpeckers and grouse, while others visit the archipelago as part of their annual cycle. In the winter, northern visitors such as snowy owls, horned larks, snow buntings and long-tailed ducks can be found. However, the greatest diversity of species can be seen during spring and fall migration, as well as during the summer breeding season. Large flocks of warblers, vireos, sparrows and thrushes feed along the coastal forests and dunes as they migrate in spring. Many of these birds take advantage of a plentiful food source in May: the large swarms of non-biting midges that emerge from Lake Michigan.



The Island's 35 birding locations can be easily located by the bright Birding Trail signs along the road. Bald eagles (species of concern), common loons (threatened), and osprey (species of concern) can be regularly seen on the Island.

All of Beaver Island's inland lakes are currently enrolled each year under the TIS Program with MSU Extension's MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.



**Font Lake** is approximately 382 acres and is the Island's second largest lake. Part of its western shore is dotted with homes, while a publicly accessible boat launch is available on the north end. The "floating islands" near the south edge of the lake are vegetative mats that move and are used as nesting sites by loons and other waterfowl. The western shore also has a ½ mile of shoreline owned by the Port of St. James Association (PSJA) with common land trails that oversee the lake.

**Fox Lake** is a 75-acre bowl shaped lake located on the southwestern interior of the island and the highest lake on Beaver Island with an elevation of 726'. This tannic lake supports a variety of fish including panfish, pike, perch, and walleye with the Fox Lake public access on the northwestern shore well known for successful fishing and its proximity to "The Big Rock" and the "Big Birch". An undeveloped, boat-only-access park owned by Peaine Township is directly across from this public access along with the Fox Lake Bog where cranberries and other bog plants and animals can be found and viewed.

**Round Lake** is connected to a wetland complex known as "Cornelius' Swamp" and serves as a stopping point for ducks and geese in the spring. This shallow lake, on the edge of a restricted pheasant preserve, provides a welcome splashdown in the spring, but by early July the water can be gone for the summer. This lake is a private lake on private property and not accessible to the public.

**Barney's Lake** is about 45 acres in size and is a premier fishing location on the Island. The lake has been stocked in the past with largemouth and smallmouth bass and continues to provide habitat for bass, northern pike, and is home for native wildlife such as loons and beaver. An access site is available on the northeastern shore.



**Barney's Lake Nature Preserve**  
A property of Little Traverse Conservancy  
3264 Powell Rd Harbor Springs, Michigan  
231.347.0991 [ltc@landtrust.org](mailto:ltc@landtrust.org) [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)



Barney's Lake Preserve, which consists of 337 acres, is located about three miles southwest of St. James/Peaine Township line. The original preserve was donated to the Little Traverse Conservancy in 1988 by the heirs of Bernard and Margaret O'Donnell. Bernard O'Donnell (great-grandnephew) and Theresa Gacek (great-great-grand niece) were instrumental in carrying out the family's wishes that the land is kept in a natural state and available to the public. In 2007, a 173-acre addition to the preserve was donated by Terry and Beverly Scully. And in 2014, another 40 acres were purchased at a bargain sale from Jon and Sally Fogg with funding from the J.A. Woollam Foundation. The site has 4,900 feet along Barney's Lake and 1,770 feet along Lake Michigan.

**Greene's Lake** is 62 acres in size and is located in the southwestern interior of the Island. Greene's Lake is shallow and freezes totally most winters. Many rare bullfrogs, insects, and other animals live in the rich wetlands surrounding the lake.

**Miller's Marsh** is a small lake in a larger wetland complex that is owned by Central Michigan University. Many butterflies, plants, beavers, bullfrogs and waterfowl live in this unique natural landscape that can be viewed from an observation area with outhouses or along a trail that goes around and through the marsh area.

**Lake Geneserath** is the largest of the Island's lakes with an area of 489 acres and 5.3 miles of shoreline. With depths reaching 55 feet, the lake provides many opportunities for fishing species such as bass, northern pike, perch, bluegill, and walleye. It is remote yet publicly accessible and knowingly fishable. It is located in the southeast corner of Beaver Island and drains to Lake Michigan through Cables' Creek. The eastern shore of the lake is less than a half mile from Lake Michigan, while the western and northern shores have complexes of forested and unforested wetland. Deer and other wildlife frequent its shores.

**High Island's** Great Sand Bay, on the western side of the island, is one of the last suitable Great Lakes nesting sites for the Michigan-endangered Piping Plover. Many terns breed on a sandspit on the northeast corner of the island.

**Hog Island** also provides vital spawning ground for yellow perch and small-mouth bass and draws many rare and unique birds during migration. It is also home to common tern, which is listed as threatened within Michigan.





**Pismire Island** is a tiny triangle of glacial gravel. It contains almost no permanent vegetation and is best known as a breeding place for Lake Michigan birds.

**Hat Island** and **Shoe Island** are good nesting places for freshwater seabirds, including herring gulls, Caspian terns and other fish-eating birds. Hat Island supports one of the largest colonies of Caspian terns in Lake Michigan.

**Gull Island** supports nesting colonies of black-crowned night herons. Gull Island, like the other Lake Michigan islands within the Michigan Islands NWR, is managed as a satellite refuge of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge. It is the largest of the four Lake Michigan islands in the Michigan Islands NWR, and the only one to have a substantial forest ecosystem. Balsam fir and northern white cedar grow in the island's humid, boreal climate. Gull Island also has beaches and sand dunes on its north and east sides



Despite its name, **Egg Lake** functions more like a bog than a lake. The lake is hard to access but supports many of the rarest plant species in Michigan. Because of its plentiful biodiversity, many conservation groups have prioritized Egg Lake as an important natural area in need of greater protection from human disturbance. Sandhill Cranes visit Beaver Island at locations like Egg Lake and farm fields. This lake is a private lake on private property and not accessible to the public.

## Rare Species and Invasive Plants

The Beaver Island Archipelagos offers many beaches that provide habitat for some of Michigan's rarest plants, like the Lake Huron tansy, and pitcher's thistle.

Endemic riparian plant species such as Houghton's Goldenrod, Lake Huron Tansy, Pitcher's Thistle and Dwarf Lake Iris have been identified on various islands throughout the Beaver Island Archipelago. All four plants are listed as threatened within Michigan.



Much effort has been completed as part of past studies in identifying rare species and invasive plants by performing natural resources inventories in 2012 & 2016 by the Michigan State University Extension. These studies are:

- High Island Rare Species and Invasive Plant Survey - August 1, 2012  
The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians  
Report Number 2012-03
- Natural Community Surveys of Beaver Island  
Michigan Natural Features Inventory - December 31, 2016  
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Natural Resources Department  
Report Number 2016-25

These studies provide baseline information that is critical for facilitating site-level decisions about biodiversity stewardship, prioritizing protection, management and restoration, monitoring the success of management and restoration and informing landscape-level biodiversity planning efforts. This report summarizes the findings of MNFI's (Michigan Natural Features Inventory) ecological surveys and also presents a prioritization of stewardship and monitoring of the natural community element occurrences found on Beaver Island.

St. James and Peaine Townships have continued the important effort to build beyond these studies with the creation of the Terrestrial Invasive Species (TIS) Program. This program is a part of a community effort to curb and/or eradicate invasive species spread in the Beaver Island Archipelago, while promoting the knowledge, awareness, and protection of threatened & endangered species. This program is intended to create a local base of information and rapid response action plans towards invasive species management efforts with the assistance of the community and all groups currently working throughout the Islands towards the goal of protecting and valuing our native ecosystems.

The TIS Program has two main goals:

1. To provide educational outreach to private landowners on Beaver Island aimed at increasing landowner awareness and engagement in protecting threatened and endangered species and rare communities.
2. To monitor and manage invasive plant/insect species at priority locations and protect threatened and endangered species.

In order to increase awareness and engagement, the TIS Crew has been developing three different educational outreach events on the Island this year. Design educational content, such as fact sheets, monitor displays, and a guide on how to identify threatened, endangered, and invasive species that will be distributed. The TIS crew is also sending out survey letters to help gather an understanding of what Island residents already know about invasive, threatened, and endangered species that are found throughout the Islands.

The Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet (CAKE) Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) was established in 2015 as a joint effort between local conservation districts and various non-profits. Their mission is to protect the natural resources, economy, and human health of Northern Lower Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive species. The TIS works in concert with CAKE CISMA to further this shared vision.

## Description of Planning & Public Input Process

### Planning Methods

Community recreational facilities cannot be effectively provided without some basis from which the type, quantity, location, need, and priority for that facility has been determined. Several methods for determining a community's recreation needs and priorities have been identified. These include observed use levels for existing facilities, comparisons of recreational facilities between similar communities, unique opportunities for certain types of facilities, guidelines or standards based on quantity per population, and projected population growth, to identify a few methods.

Existing recreation opportunities can be compared to recreation standards to determine deficiencies. However, great care must be taken to apply common sense and knowledge of the community. These standards will be used only in conjunction with other methods to determine recreation deficiencies and priorities.

The foundation for the development of the Peaine Township Parks and Recreation Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community in the process to develop a Five-Year Recreation Master Plan.
- Inventory and map existing Peaine Township recreational facilities.
- Build a strong foundation of Peaine Township area stakeholders in addressing the future Recreational needs and priorities of the Community.
- Enable Peaine Township to be eligible for financial assistance based upon the Recreation Plan.
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreation goals objectives and actions.
- Continue to support and implement improvements for barrier-free Universal Access to Peaine Township area parks.
- Consistency with and expansion upon goals and objectives set forth in existing planning documents that deal partially or wholly with recreation.

### Public Input

The purpose of the strategic planning process was to receive direct input from key individuals within the community relative to the identification and ranking of the community's current recreation needs. The issues and needs were identified and discussed at Peaine Township Public Input Day August 10th from 11AM to 2PM and again at 4PM to 7PM as well as a planning commission meeting on October 9, 2023, and are incorporated into this document.

A notice was placed on the Peaine Township website, stating the location and time for the public comment sessions, along with announcing the Planning Commission meeting.

The previous recreation plan was also developed through a set of planning and public input processes. Additionally, other recent 5-year Recreation Plans were reviewed, such as the previous St. James and Peaine Township plans, as well as several Recreation Plans from other townships in Charlevoix County.

Community survey results from the 2017 Beaver Island Master Plan were extremely helpful in creating the goals and objectives found in the past plan and carried over into this update. Throughout 2017, the Peaine Township Board reviewed all of these survey results, especially those related to their three special areas

of concern: blight, access to high-speed internet, and recreation. After reviewing these survey results and several rounds of discussion at its public meetings, the Township Board drafted preliminary goals for the Township. Those goals that dealt with recreation were used as the starting point for the goals and objectives ultimately listed in this plan, and then updated with the current input.

### Survey Questionnaire

A survey questionnaire was developed to gain the public's thoughts related to current recreation facilities and improvements they would like to see. The survey also included questions related to where they live in the community, what type of activities they participate in, and what type of new facilities they would like. The survey was created in electronic format, along with a QR Code, for ease of tabulation and distributed by way of social media. In addition, a link to the survey was posted on the City's website and the QR Code was posted around town. It was available to the public from August 4, 2023, to September 8, 2023. Results of the survey are discussed in the Action Program section and provided in Appendix C.

On January XX, 2024, the Township facilitated a large public input meeting at Peaine Township Hall. Notice for the meeting was placed on the Peaine Township website, WVBI Radio, the Beaver Island Community Calendar, the Beaver Island Forum, and the Beaver Island Message Board. Approximately XX people were in attendance, and those unable to attend in person were able to view the meeting over a livestream on the Internet. The bulk of the discussion was related to the preliminary goals and objectives developed by township officials. A review of the comments from the public input meeting can be found in Appendix C. In response to comments and suggestions provided during and after the 30-day public comment period, Township officials worked to develop a *final* parks and recreation plan. The *final* plan was then formally adopted following a formal public hearing on January XX, 2024. A copy of the notice for the public comment period, a notice for the public hearing, the resolution for adoption and the meeting minutes can be found in the appendix of this five-year plan.

## Goals and Objectives

In defining the action program, the formulation of community goals and objectives for the provision of recreation is a vital component. The goals and objectives represent the purposes for a community's role in providing recreation to its residents as well as outlining the direction that the community's effort should take in the long term. Goals are the general targets for which a community aims while objectives are the specific steps that can be taken towards that goal. A recreation plan identifies those actions that can be undertaken to implement the objectives and fulfill the community's goals. The goals and objectives for the Township in meeting the recreation needs of residents are outlined below.

### Goal 1

**Acquire and retain Public Lands for future generations.**

#### Objectives

As the Township continues to grow, local officials need to be conscious of the need to acquire additional park land as it becomes available.

#### Potential Actions

- Retain existing parkland and acquire new public lands to meet the future recreational needs of the community.
- Preserve and protect open space as well as other important natural features in the township.
- Develop programs for evaluations of future land acquisitions.
- Preserve floodplains and wetlands for recreation and conservation purposes whenever possible.
- Acquire property adjacent to existing park properties whenever possible to allow for the greatest flexibility and offer economy of sharing infrastructure when expanding or adding recreation activities to existing dedicated parklands.
- Prioritize acquisition of property to support access to inland lakes for fishing and boating.
- With lease limitations by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Township may need to evaluate acquisition of park property of more active recreational uses.

### Goal 2

**Develop schematic development plan for various township properties as need arises.**

#### Objectives

Provide framework for park development with a planning process that is built on community input and consensus as well as protection of its natural resources.

#### Potential Actions

- Review all currently township-owned properties to create development plans.

- Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population to improve resident's health and fitness.
- Add recreational facilities based upon recreation trends and input from the community.
- Explore options for additional non-motorized trail development on a regular basis with the assistance of the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association (BIATA), the Michigan DNR, Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce and others that may present themselves.
- Explore options for the development of a conceptual site plan for the Bill Wagner Campground.
- Develop conceptual plans for any new or existing parks as need arises.
- Follow through on commitments to fund and make improvements to parks resources.

### Goal 3

**Increase the number of recreational assets/services of Beaver Island and the archipelago that attract tourists, seasonal residents, and new full-time residents.**

#### Objectives

Explore trail and recreational opportunities that are unique to the island and will attract tourists.

#### Potential Actions

- Develop a plan to create a world-class mountain bike trail system on the island.
- Develop a guide to shipwrecks around the island.
- Promote diving within the Beaver Island archipelago.
- Investigate the possibility of securing a marine sanctuary designation.
- Continue to promote the island as a destination for both serious birding and casual bird watching.
- Establish an online reservation system and evaluate shower facilities at the Bill Wagner Campground.
- Develop brochures and online maps of the island's historical sites and recreational assets.
- Develop signage that addresses safety, 911 service, emergency call systems and the limitations of cellphone service.
- Expand the current transportation system to include connections to all recreational facilities all year round.
- Develop a formal boat ramp at Bill Wagner Campground.
- Establish small access sites with benches at scenic locations around the island.
- Develop a central guide for all of the island's recreational components for citizens and visitors.
- Improved restrooms, pavilions and pathways/walkways at existing parks.

## Goal 4

**Develop a system of park and recreation facilities and events that promote four seasons use.**

### Objectives

Provide residents with opportunities for recreation that provide multiple seasons of use within the Township and the respective park facilities.

### Potential Actions

- Construct compatible yet diverse uses within the parks that promote spring, summer, fall and winter uses.
- Explore options for all-season facilities such as warming shelters and restrooms in the parks as appropriate.
- Support the use of park and recreation facilities as well as public open lands where acceptable, for seasonal fishing, hunting, gathering and trapping.
- Develop more opportunities for winter sports.
- Develop a new shelter with a fire pit in the park area behind the Township Hall.
- Build an outdoor ice-skating rink in a central location.
- Identify and groom certain trails for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and fat-tire biking during the winter months.
- Identify and maintain certain trails exclusively for snowmobiles.
- Develop a fitness and recreation center for the island that includes unique features such as a pool, running track, climbing wall, etc.
- Continue to contribute financially to the Community Center, as it houses many recreational activities in the winter months.
- Continue to support traditional outdoor sporting activities such as fishing and hunting.

## Goal 5

**Continue the improvement and development of Universal Design Concepts at any and all township park locations in accordance with the park's development master plan.**

### Objectives

Develop new and expanded facilities and programs at the parks including new accessible restrooms, picnic facilities, paved parking, walking paths, play equipment, fitness equipment and appropriate lighting.

### Potential Actions

- Continue to add amenities and support facilities to the current township park facilities based upon community input and current needs of the community.
- Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

- Ensure that improvements and upgrades to existing park facilities are handicap accessible, where feasible.
- Construct or improve existing recreational facilities to fulfill the needs of township residents more effectively and to encourage regular use of these facilities.
- Look at options for improving educational and interpretive signage in all the parks including signs for persons of various disabilities.
- Provide universally accessible play area, picnic facilities and shelters.
- Provide paved parking areas and trails to provide barrier-free access to all areas.
- Provide play areas that are in conformance with the “Playground Equipment Safety Act”.
- Make island’s recreational assets more easily accessible to its own citizens.
- Provide access for wheelchairs at the Iron Ore Creek by maintaining an all-terrain beach mat to the water's edge.
- Support efforts in St. James Twp. to get the St. James Public Marina certified as handicapped friendly.
- Obtain adaptive recreation equipment for use by the school, residents and visitors, including all-terrain wheelchairs for beach access or a "duet" bicycle, which is a wheelchair tandem bike.
- Explore opportunities for accessible kayak launches at inland lakes.

## Goal 6

**Maximize the recreational opportunities afforded by the township’s existing assets and its natural resources.**

### Objectives

Natural resources and habitats are preserved by acquiring, managing, and restoring valuable resources such as open space (rivers, streams, greenways, view sheds, forests and other habitat areas).

### Potential Actions

- Provide superior and unique recreational activities and facilities, which emphasize the natural environment.
- Plan improvements that offer both active and passive recreation opportunities.
- Work with other surrounding communities to revive initiatives that promote each other’s natural features and cross promote so people can better learn about the natural resources, ecological values, and history.
- Work with surrounding communities to revive initiatives, programs, and funding to protect the area’s existing assets and natural resources.
- Promote low water and native planting restoration whenever practical, especially in the addition of bioswales, rain gardens and stabilization plantings in areas of erosion.
- Ensure local residents have connections and opportunities related to outdoor assets to foster community pride, good stewardship, and local economic benefits.

## Goal 7

### Provide for improvements to waterfront assets.

#### Objectives

Provide for improvements at waterfront assets that are up-to-date, reliable, accessible and meet the needs of the boating/fishing/water-related recreation. community.

#### Potential Actions

- Increase and improve accessibility to Lake Michigan.
- Increase and improve accessibility at Greene Lake Park.
- Designate areas for public and recreational parking, such as for boats and trailers.
- Enhance fishing, canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking opportunities as opportunities present themselves.
- Promote stormwater run-off quality control measures to improve water habitat for fish and aquatic plants.
- Assist in the expansion and upkeep of the Beaver Island Water Trail.
- Build public canoe/kayak storage racks at all inland lakes. Collaborate with the DNR or other managing entities on feasibility.
- Increase parking access for paddle craft and explore opportunities for a boat ramp at Iron Ore Park.
- Develop a formal plan for boat launches around the island.

## Goal 8

### To continually foster the unique history of the island and protect those properties and resources that contribute to the identity of the community.

#### Objectives

Strive to preserve and respect the cultural and natural heritage of the community and focus on the importance for achieving sustainable development.

#### Potential Actions

- Work with Charlevoix County, tribal governments, and other property owners of historical sites in management plans suited for said property(ies).
- Continue the efforts to partner with the Beaver Island Historical Society to preserve and share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.
- Continue the efforts to work with historical offices such as the local Amik Circle Society, Preservation Association of Beaver Island and Arts, the State Historical Preservation Office, the Tribal Historical Preservation Offices, and others that may present themselves.
- Continue to work with and support Charlevoix County, the Historical Society or other entities in their efforts to restore and develop the old camping site area at the lighthouse as a park with trails.

## Goal 9

**Protect the valuable community asset that the natural communities and native biodiversity offer while promoting the education of each to the public.**

### Objectives

Many past survey respondents commented on the surrounding natural features as a focal point of the Archipelago. They strongly responded that they felt it was important to protect and preserve these natural resources as well as to develop educational opportunities to better appreciate and aid the natural community.

### Potential Actions

- Develop opportunities with other agencies in our community to educate our residents about our local natural resources.
- Create additional educational opportunities through the Terrestrial Invasive Species (TIS) Program.
- Encourage the participation of volunteers in the management of our local natural resources.
- Encourage the participation of area youth in management and outreach of our local natural resources.
- Continue to support efforts of the Northern Lake Michigan Island Collaborative around decisions related to ecological management.

## Goal 10

**Support the creation of a Dark Sky Sanctuary on Beaver Island that includes certain designated sites on publicly held lands.**

### Objectives

The Beaver Island Dark Sky Committee currently has an application pending with the International Dark Sky Association to designate certain public lands as a Dark Sky Sanctuary which has the potential to expand tourism interest for the Archipelago as well as following the Dark Sky Initiative to protect one of the greatest natural resources on the island. Should this pending application be approved, support to be given to establish the Dark Sky Sanctuary.

### Potential Actions

- Support the protection of the night sky for cultural, educational and scientific heritage as part of the community's natural resources.
- Continue to work with and support the Beaver Island Dark Sky Committee, the Beaver Island Association and other organizations related to the Dark Sky Initiative.
- Promote recreational and educational opportunities for the night sky such as but not limited to the yearly Beaver Island Dark Sky Awareness Week.
- Follow practices that protect the night sky against the threat of light pollution.

## Goal 11

**Reduce the impact of invasive species on public lands, help other landowners manage invasive species on their lands, and educate the public about this environmental problem.**

### Objectives

Reduce adverse impacts from invasive species to the community's biodiversity, economy, and recreational assets.

### Potential Actions

- Continue the partnership with the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) serving Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmett Counties (CAKE).
- Continue the partnership with government entities such as the Michigan DNR, Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), tribal governments and others as opportunities present themselves in research, management, and funding acquisition.
- Work with partner communities under the Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA).
- Create additional educational opportunities through the Terrestrial Invasive Species (TIS) Program.

## Goal 12

**Continue in the improvement and development of trail systems for recreational and transportive use, including providing additional non-motorized trails for recreational and transportive use.**

### Objectives

Develop designated hiking and biking trail infrastructure or trails available to motorized vehicles on Beaver Island to offer greater access for island residents and visitors to experience exceptional natural areas and engage in physical activity in a safe and respectful manner. In turn this helps protect residents and visitors along with areas of special concern that can be threatened from motorized vehicle use, as well as support the tourism economy, which is significant to the community, its natural resources and the state's economic health.

### Potential Actions

- Expand the accessible trail system in the Township with a focus on continuing to connect our existing parks, neighbors, and destination points.
- Explore cooperative efforts to promote, manage, oversee, plan and seek joint funding for trails in the regional area and to avoid duplication of efforts to enhance the connect ability of the trails and ensure the best regional outcomes.
- Install pathways, wayfinding signs, interpretative kiosks, and respite stations within greenways.

- Install educational signs, boot scrapers and other preemptive measures to reduce negative impacts and threats to our natural resources often introduced through trailways.
- Work to establish a separated bike trail on King's Highway.
- Develop a comprehensive non-motorized trails master plan for the island.
- Continue to work with the DNR to develop a water trail around the island with proper support amenities, including primitive camping stops, a boat launch at Bill Wagner Campground and an access site on the west side of the island suitable for quick emergency response.
- Work with the DNR to finish the bridges on the Seven Bridges Trail.

## Goal 13

**Create community awareness of the township's recreation opportunities and promote them to our local citizens as well as to visitors of the community.**

### Objectives

To make local citizens more aware of all the parks that are available in our local community, along with all of the adult and youth recreational programs that are offered.

### Potential Actions

- Develop additional print and web-based media to describe existing recreational opportunities available to the residents and visitors of our service area.
- Develop additional print and web-based media to describe and highlight our existing park facilities.
- Develop mapping for identifying and communicating which trails are non-motorized and open/closed to ORV's.
- Develop mapping and information for identifying public lands open/closed to recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, gathering, and trapping.
- Develop an island-wide sign assessment and development plan that addresses signage aesthetics, consistency and readability.

## Goal 14

**Continue to foster ongoing partnerships/collaborations and create new ones as opportunities arise.**

### Objectives

Take advantage of collaborations and partnerships as a cost-effective way to offer recreational programs in the community and continue to work and create positive relationships with our community's partners/collaborators.

## Potential Actions

- Encourage the cooperation and participation of adjacent communities in the formation of a regional recreational advisory board in an effort to combine resources and avoid duplications of facilities and services.
- Encourage the participation of volunteers in the development of recreational facilities.
- Encourage the participation of area youth in planning and maintenance of recreational facilities.
- Utilize public and private sector cooperation in the promotion of recreation and improvement of recreational opportunities with available local, state, tribal and federal governments, local organizations and non-profits as the opportunities arise.
- Work with the Beaver Island Historical Society to develop additional natural and historical signage throughout the island.
- Improve access and recreation opportunities on island lakes and beaches.
- Continue to support St. James Twp. in its efforts to develop a public boat launch at St. James Harbor.
- Continue to support St. James Twp. in its efforts to work with the Wildlife Club, the USFWS and the DNR to increase healthy habitat for fish in St. James Harbor.
- Consider new ways to better collaborate with St. James Twp. on recreational and natural and cultural resource initiatives and projects, including the creation of a Recreational Authority.
- Continue to work with and support Charlevoix County, the Historical Society or other entities in their efforts to restore and develop the old camping site area at the lighthouse as a park with trails.

## Goal 15

**To continually improve the quality of and the opportunities for recreation in the Township by reassessing community recreation needs, trends and characteristics.**

### Objectives

As the majority of Beaver Island's population are seasonal residents or visitors, efficient communication and gathering of data, input and potential shortfalls is critical in assessing the community's ideas, support and needs for recreation and accessibility.

### Potential Actions

- Periodically update this Recreation Plan.
- Develop an expanded survey to ensure public needs and desires in areas of parks and recreation are being met.
- Utilize design, construction and maintenance practices that maximize the benefits provided for the resources expended.
- Expand and develop community advocates through the ongoing efforts of the existing parks and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

- Provide opportunities for involvement of Township residents in the identification, selection, and development of recreational facilities.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Township's efforts in fulfilling identified goals and objectives by providing opportunities for township residents to evaluate the progress of recreational development.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the township's efforts in providing fully accessible opportunities for township residents. Explore the possibility of hiring a full-time recreation administrator and grant writer who also focuses on natural and cultural resources.
- Facilitate regular meetings of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

## Action Program

### Recommended Actions

A variety of factors, including community characteristics, population trends, existing recreation facilities, and identified recreation needs, contribute to the formulation of specific recommendations for plan implementation. These specific recommendations represent the actions that can be undertaken to achieve the objectives that have been directed towards a community's recreation goals. These recommended actions also represent the substance and purpose of a recreation plan - the development of a strategy for effectively closing the gap between existing recreation opportunities and recreation needs.

The community on-line survey residents indicated that 64% identified passive recreational activities as their primary mode of recreation. This correlates strongly with the philosophy of preservation and protection of environmental resources is a strong trait with all the island residents. The three most visited park facilities in the township are:

- Iron Ore Bay Public Beach Access – 33.6%
- Lake Geneserath Public Access – 18%
- Bill Wagner Campground – 17%

The three park facilities that are believed by the public, to be the most under-utilized are:

- Martin's Bluff – 13%
- Greens Lake Public Access – 12%
- Cable Creek Park – 11%

The top 4 facilities that most respondents identified that improvements would be most desired at are:

- Iron Ore Bay Public Beach Access – 48%
- Bill Wagner Campground – 41%
- Lake Geneserath Public Access – 33%
- Fox Lake public Access – 33%

The respondents targeted the flowing activities, that improvement would be needed to meet the community's growing needs. They are in order:

- Outdoor fitness – 65%
- Modern restrooms – 62%
- Frisbee/Disc Golf – 59%
- Seating areas – 56%
- Dog Park – 55%

Consideration for improving water access with boat launch improvements, fishing pier improvements, general ADA access and accessible kayak launches were mentioned repeatedly in the write-in comments section of the survey. Due to the limitations on park properties currently leased from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources which limit development to more natural, rustic, or low impact activities, development of a dog park or frisbee/disc golf would likely require acquisition of additional park property specifically to accommodate their uses. It should also be stressed that defining development opportunity for recreation must be kept in balance with the resident's overall desire to protect and preserve the unique natural resources and habitat that Beaver Island possesses.

The following recommendation and capital improvement schedule outlines and assigns relative priorities to activities and projects that can be implemented in both the short-term and long-range future to improve recreational opportunities in the Township. Those activities and projects that can be undertaken during the five-year planning period (2024-2028) have been summarized in a Capital Improvement Schedule (Table 8-1). This schedule includes cost estimates as well as possible funding sources for each suggested project.

While these projects are recommended for implementation during the planning period, they are highly dependent upon financial and administrative feasibility. It is also suggested that the Township take advantage of any unscheduled opportunities that may arise. Such opportunities can be evaluated and included in this plan as an amendment to the schedule.

**Please note:** The capital improvements are listed in no particular order. The matrix provides a target year, the project location, a description, an estimated range of likely costs, revenue sources, and goals. It is intended to be used as a guideline for planning.

## Capital Improvement Schedule

Table 8.1 - Capital Improvement Schedule				
Year	Project	Est. Cost	Justification	Funding Source
2024	Bill Wagner Campground Improvements	\$600,000	Goal 1	\$300,000 MNRTF Grant \$150,000 Donor \$150,000 Twp match
2026	Miscellaneous modern restroom and ADA accessibility upgrades at multiple parks	\$275,000		\$150,000 passport Grant \$75,000 Donor \$50,000 Twp match
2028	Iron Ore Bay Beach Access Improvements	\$600,000	Goal 1	\$300,000 MNRTF Grant \$150,000 Donor \$150,000 Twp match

Abbreviations

MDNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund  
TAP - Transportation Alternatives Program  
CCPM-Charlevoix County Parks Millage Grants

MDOT – Michigan Department of Transportation  
MNRTF- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Waterways - Michigan Department of Natural Resources Waterways Program  
CCCF- Charlevoix County Community Foundation

## Financing Mechanisms

The following paragraphs briefly outline existing sources of funds for financing the future recreational improvements in the Township.

### 1. General Funds

The Township's general fund has been the primary source of funds for operating and maintaining its current facilities. Future site improvements, acquisition, and development will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds, as will the continued operation and maintenance of these facilities. Consequently, recreation planning has to be coordinated with the yearly budgeting process for the Township's general funds.

### 2. Donations and Gifts

The availability of donated land, labor, equipment, and funds from individuals and organizations is an attractive and effective way to improve recreational opportunities in The Township. Over the past few years, several groups and individuals have contributed significantly. Such support should be encouraged to continue.

### 3. Non-Local Financial Assistance

Many communities seek outside sources of funds to supplement their local sources when providing recreational improvements. There are several programs administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that can provide some financial assistance to local recreation projects. Funding amounts available to communities vary from year to year depending on Federal support and State legislative agendas.

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation that funds projects such as nonmotorized paths, streetscapes, and historic preservation of transportation facilities that enhance Michigan's intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. These investments support place-based economic development by offering transportation choices, promoting walkability and improving the quality of life. The program uses Federal Transportation Funds designated by Congress for these types of activities. Some key information on the TA program is as follows:

- Funding will be reduced from the current \$23 million a year to \$14-16 million a year. Project funding will be more competitive than previously with the average per capita award in the \$44-50 per person range.
- Minimum match is still 20%, however historic average is 34% and the 2011 average was 44% local match to grant. Any project request for over \$2,000,000 total project cost must be 50%-50%. The most favorable grant request will likely be in the \$500,000 range.
- Regional Trails will still be a priority, as will urban area streetscapes. Museums and historic preservation projects will be phased out for funding consideration.
- Preliminary grant application review with regional staff is encouraged to determine competitive nature of project and gather suggestions from TE staff. Project narratives should focus on intermodal transportation opportunities as they relate to the larger picture in the community, traffic calming, improving safety and improving water quality through best management practices.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** is administered by the MDNR. The MNRTF program utilizes the royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned lands to help finance the acquisition and the development of outdoor recreation facilities. The CMI program is the result of the passage of Proposal C of 1998.

Any unit of government, including school districts, may apply for grants to develop or acquire land(s) for public recreation or resource protection purposes. Application forms are available on February 1 of each year. The application deadlines are April 1 and September 1, of each year. The MDNR submits a list of recommended projects to the legislature the following January and funds are available after legislative appropriation, usually the following fall.

All local units of government must provide a local match of at least 25 percent of total project costs. For **MNRTF** development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000, and the maximum is \$300,000. Proposals must be for outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. Outdoor recreation support buildings and other facilities are eligible for development funding, as is the renovation of existing recreation facilities.

All applicants must have a current DNR-approved community recreation plan, documenting the need for project proposal.

In addition, any private individual may nominate land for public acquisition under this program. All nominations are reviewed by the MDNR for possible acquisition and the landowner is not required to be the person nominating a parcel of land for public acquisition. Nomination forms are available at any time from the DNR Recreation Division and may be submitted to the Department year-round.

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (**LWCF**) program makes money available to the States for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. From 1965 to 1996, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received over \$100 million in LWCF assistance for more than 1,500 projects, over 1,100 of which have been grants to local governments. The objective is to provide grants to local units of government and to the State to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation.

Applications are evaluated on established criteria including project need, capability of applicant, and site and project quality. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants with a \$30,000 minimum and \$100,000 maximum funding limit. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS), which grants final approval. Criteria are spelled out in the "Recreation Grants Selection Process" booklet given to all applicants.

PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the **Recreation Passport** which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. The passport will be required for entry to state parks, recreation areas and boating access sites. Ten percent of the remaining revenue will be used to fund the **Recreation Passport local grant program**. A 25% minimum local match is required for the Passport grant program with a maximum grant amount of \$150,000 and a minimum of \$7,500.

The grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but the development of new parks is eligible. In addition, projects must fulfill the following requirements in order to be eligible:

- Current annual capital improvement plan (CIP) plan must include the proposed project. If your community does not have a CIP, you must have a current approved recreation plan on file with the DNR.

Organizations with an interest in developing fishing conditions in their areas may be able to get financial assistance from a program established through the **State Game and Fish Protection Fund**.

This fishing development grant is offered through the MDNR and can be as much as \$200,000 annually, in cash or in-kind services. Projects eligible for funding include culvert modifications for improved stream flow; livestock or sheet erosion control projects; the development of spawning riffles, fish cover structures, or spawning reefs; and the construction of fishing piers and rough fish barriers.

The MDNR accepts grant proposals from organized fishing groups and local units of government. In all cases, projects are able to approach other sources such as the federal government for additional matching funds.

The **Historic Preservation Grant Program** is administered by the Department of State with funds made available through the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. The intent of the program is to conduct surveys of architectural, engineering, archaeological, and historic resources, to identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and to plan for the protection of those cultural/recreational resources.

The funds for this program are apportioned by the National Park Service directly to the State, which, in turn, allocates funds on a project-by-project basis to local governments, organizations, and individuals.

In Michigan the Historic Preservation Grant program is administered by the Michigan Department of State. The amount of assistance is up to 50% of the project expenses. Grantees are reimbursed at the completion of the project for work done within the days of a contract between the Department of State and the grantee. EXPENSES INCURRED PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT ARE NOT ALLOWABLE PROJECT COSTS AND WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED.

The **Inland Fisheries Grant Program** offers grants up to \$30,000 for projects that enhance the state's aquatic resources. This program may be applicable to the scenic overlook fishing platforms and educational kiosks.

The Township is committed to reviewing all available funding sources and preparing the necessary plans, reports, cost estimates, and funding applications, to achieve the goals of this recreation plan.

**Waterways Program Grants** are funded through the Michigan State Waterways Fund from state marine fuel tax and watercraft registrations. By law, administration of the Waterways Program is through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and overseen by the Department's Parks and Recreation Division.

Grants provide funding assistance for design/engineering and construction of public recreational harbor/marina and boating access site/launch facilities throughout the state. Only local units of government (city, township, or county) and public universities are eligible. Applicants may cooperate with community/sports organizations in the implementation of projects. On-site investigation by DNR, Parks and Recreation Division staff may be required to determine the suitability of proposed work. Applicants may also be required to document area boating demand. Greater priority may be given to projects for which a local applicant documents match capabilities equal to or greater than the percentage of project cost they are required to provide. The local match can include in-kind expenses as long as they are well-documented.

Applications, and all required information, must be received by 5:00 p.m., **April 1st**. If April 1st falls on a weekend, the deadline would be the last State working day prior to April 1st. The application review and

funding process for projects is from April 1st until an appropriation is approved by the Legislature. This can take up to 18 to 24 months. Notification of approval for engineering and smaller sized construction projects

may occur within six months after completed application form and proper documentation are received. Funding for construction is not released until permits are secured.

Communities, non-profits, and municipalities can submit projects by applying for a **Patronicity crowdgranting campaign**. Crowdgranting is the effort of leveraging broad based crowdfunding against a sponsor's matching grant to improve communities.

Public Spaces Community Places projects include:

- *Public Plaza & Green Space Development*
- *Access to Public Amenities*
- *Farmer's Markets, Community Kitchens, Pop-Up Retail/Incubator Space*
- *Alley Rehabilitation*
- *Any other place based (or public space improvement) project.*

The Public Spaces, Community Places program is a public placemaking initiative created by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Projects that meet the program's parameters and successfully crowdfund their goal will receive a matching grant from the MEDC of up to \$50,000.

#### 4. Charlevoix County Parks Millage Grant

##### Who can apply?

Any Charlevoix County MUNICIPALITY (village, township, or city) may apply.

##### What can be applied for?

Parks and Recreation development projects that demonstrate a DIRECT recreational benefit.

##### How Much Can We Apply for?

Preference will "typically" be given to project requests of \$10,000 and under, but all complete application packets will be evaluated based on their benefit to the county as a whole.

##### How Often will Appropriations be Awarded?

Parks Millage Fund Appropriations will be awarded once annually. The process will typically allow for project approvals no later than June 1, but announcements may come earlier.

##### Do We need a "Rec Plan" to be Eligible?

NO! There are no requirements for Charlevoix County municipalities to apply outside of the application process guidelines. It is NOT based on municipal plans, tax base, or criteria other than the stated requirements in the application process: ALL of the county townships, village, and cities are ELIGIBLE TO APPLY. More information is available by contacting [administration@charlevoixcounty.org](mailto:administration@charlevoixcounty.org)

#### 5. Charlevoix County Community Foundation

In 2023, the Community Foundation is offering 5 community grant cycles, and two ongoing grant cycles. This includes a new grant cycle specifically for Arts & Culture needs. Organizations are encouraged to reach out to the foundation grants staff anytime to discuss upcoming needs and grant ideas. The foundation staff will help to determine eligibility for the available grant cycles. More information can be found by emailing Ashley Cousens ([acousens@c3f.org](mailto:acousens@c3f.org)).