

5-Year Park and Recreation Plan 2023-2027



St.
James
Township
MICHIGAN

Charlevoix County, Michigan



PREPARED FOR

St. James Township

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Community Description

Introduction, Location & Township History

This Parks and Recreation Plan is an update of the St. James Township Recreation Plan, which was originally approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in 2018. The purpose of this Plan is to provide a clear direction to decision makers regarding the future development of recreational facilities controlled by St. James Township. In addition, to remain eligible for state and federal funds, the MDNR requires that an updated plan be submitted every five years. This five-year plan update covers the years 2023 through 2027.

Before any recreation plan is adopted and enacted, it is first important to understand the needs of the Community and its residents, what recreational opportunities already exist and what future projects and programs are relevant to the residents of the Community. This input is a critical component of this plan, and the Community has united to develop a recreation plan to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the Community.

The foundation for the development of the St. James 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 St. James Township recreational facilities.
- Build a strong foundation of St. James Township area stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs and priorities of the Community.
- Enable St. James Township to be eligible for funding 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 St. James Township area parks.
- Consistency with and expansion upon goals and objectives set forth in existing planning documents that deal partially or wholly with recreation.
- 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. 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.

The newly revised Recreation Plan's intended use is to guide St. James Township officials on all future recreational and parks projects within the Township. Specifically, this plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the government entities to pursue MDNR-administered grants. This plan is written for St. James Township, and it covers all aspects of park facilities and recreation within the community.

Due to its unique relationship with neighboring Peaine 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 set to be re-adopted in 2023.

St. James Township is the northernmost area of the Beaver Island Archipelago, which consists of the northern portion of Beaver Island, making up about one-sixth of it, along with the outer islands, except North

and South Fox Island. This includes Garden Island, Hog Island, Ojibwa Island (formerly known as Squaw Island), Whiskey Island, High Island and Gull Island. Also included in the Township are the Islands of Trout, Pismire, Grape, Shoe, and Hat. This unique environment is what creates a distinctive relationship between Beaver Island (includes Peaine Township), along with St. James Township's neighboring islands that it has jurisdiction over.

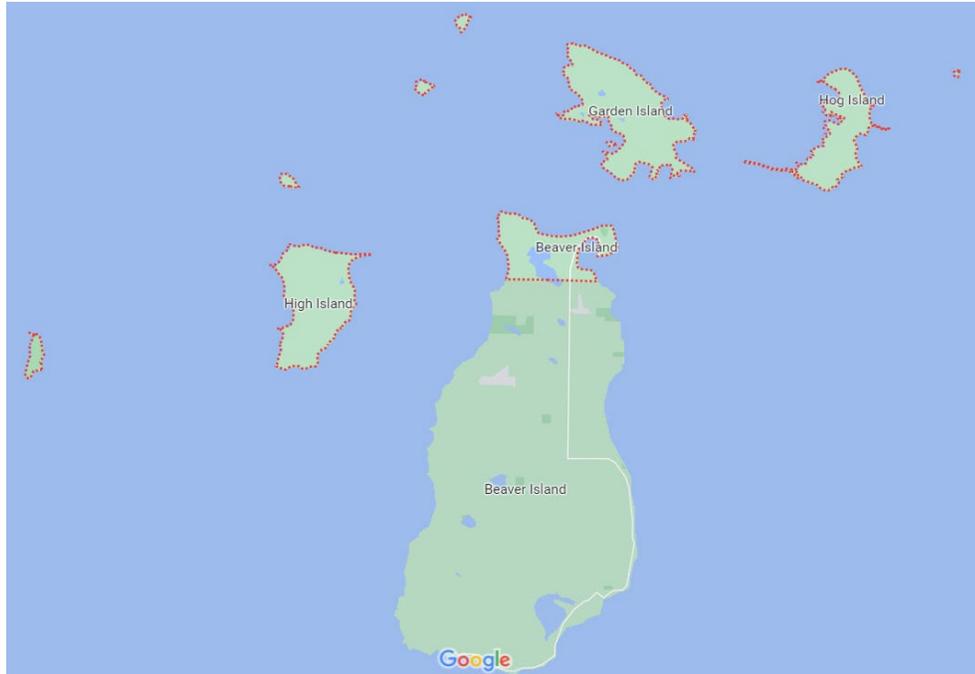


Figure 1.1 - Township Map

Beaver Island, known as “America’s Emerald Isle” and mor 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.

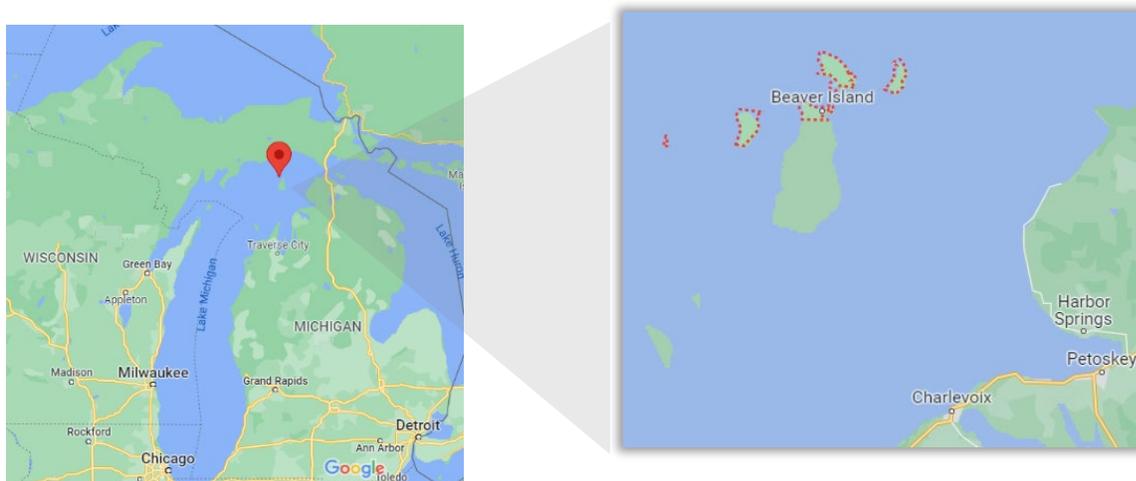


Figure 1.2 - Township Location

St. James Township has a total area of 315.90 square miles, of which 20.35 square miles is land and 295.55 square miles (93.56%) 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 undoubtedly 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. Beaver Island has historically been a great middle-class family vacation destination, and it still is.

Oral accounts show that Native American tribes passed through Beaver Island on journeys through the Great Lakes, leaving many archaeological artifacts behind. In the mid-1700s, the Anishinaabeg migrated westward and permanently settled on Beaver Island. 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. • 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.

The township was named for James Strang, who led a faction of Mormon settlers to Beaver Island in 1848. Producing mysterious brass plates from the ground, and 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.



Photo Credit: Beaver Island Historical Society

Irish fishermen and their families began to settle the Island in the mid-1800s. The population of the Island began to grow steadily. Calling the Island "America's Emerald Isle," these families created an Irish culture that 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.

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 and a chart of those Islands located in St. James Township, along with some more specific information on their history. 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, 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.



Beaver Island Archipelago



Figure 1.3 – Beaver Island Archipelago Location

Beaver Island

According to data of the US census, it has 55.773 square miles of land. The more densely populated part, which comprises a mere 6% of total insular land, is within St. James Township on the northern part of the island. 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. The islands of the Beaver Islands Archipelago are listed on Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 – St. James Township Islands					
Island:	Size:	Inhabited / uninhabited:	Ownership:	Overseen by:	As part of:
Garden Island	4,990 acres	uninhabited	98% by the state	MDNR	Beaver Islands State Wildlife Research Area
High Island	3,495 acres	uninhabited	100% by the state	MDNR	Beaver Islands State Wildlife Research Area
Hog Island / Grape Island	2,075 acres	uninhabited	100% by the state	MDNR	Beaver Islands State Wildlife Research Area
Whiskey Island	3/8 of a square mile	uninhabited	100% by the state	MDNR	Beaver Islands State Wildlife Research Area
Ojibwa Island (Formerly Squaw Island)	75 acres		privately owned		
Trout Island	80 acres		privately owned		
Gull Island	230 acres	uninhabited	US Fed. Gov't	US Fish & Wildlife Service	MI Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Pismire Island	2.5 acres	uninhabited	US Fed. Gov't	US Fish & Wildlife Service	MI Islands National Wildlife Refuge & MI Islands Wilderness Area
Shoe Island	3 acres	uninhabited	US Fed. Gov't	US Fish & Wildlife Service	MI Islands National Wildlife Refuge & MI Islands Wilderness Area
Hat Island	10 acres	uninhabited	US Fed. Gov't	US Fish & Wildlife Service	MI Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Garden Island

The name of the island, *Minis Gitigaan*, is from the Native American Ojibwe language, Anishinaabemowin, which translates to Garden Island. Once fished, farmed, and logged by the Anishinaabeg and other groups, Some of these native Islanders lived on the island year-round, and others lived there during the warmer months. An increasing number of Anishinaabeg from the mainland and Beaver Island owned farms on Garden Island after the treaties of 1836 and 1847, planting corn and squash. Other Anishinaabeg worked as fishermen. This Native settlement shrank during the early 1900s as most of its members moved away. Much of the land reverted to the state of Michigan as a result of the nonpayment of property taxes. The state never properly explained property tax law to the islanders. Other patches of land were abandoned. The last Garden Island resident, Peter Manatou, died in the 1940s. Most of the old-growth timber on Garden Island was cut and sawn by a short-lived sawmill that operated on the island in 1912-1913. A small town, now a true ghost town, was built near the mill and named "Success", Michigan.

High Island - was originally named after a perched sand dune on its western edge. In the past, Native Americans and settlers lived on the island in small numbers. High Island was the home of a timber-cutting and truck farm operation run in 1912-1927 by the House of David, a millenarian sect based in Benton Harbor, Michigan. The High Island farm grew large quantities of potatoes and other root crops much



Beaver Island
High Island

valued by the House of David congregation, who were vegetarians. Before, during, and after the House of David era, High Island was the home of several extended families of Anishinaabeg Native Americans, who were fishermen. The island supported a public school as late as 1936. However, fish yield in the Beaver Island archipelago began dropping sharply in the 1930s, and after the Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940, the remaining Anishinaabeg moved to Beaver Island. The island is used by researchers and the DNR owns several cabins currently in disrepair. High Island is currently being used by state and tribal researchers for endangered Piping Plover studies and preservation of threatened nesting areas.

Whiskey Island (also 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.

Squaw Island Light is a privately owned lighthouse located on the north point of Ojibwa Island (formerly Squaw Island), 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.

Pismire Island- the word pismire means ant, referring to the island's tiny size.

Hog Island, whose origin of name is still debated, is the most eastern island of the Beaver Island Archipelago consisting of a little over 2,000 acres. One of the least disturbed islands within the Beaver Island Archipelago, Hog Island is a natural, scenic and scientific gem as it has had no known permanent human settlement due to its extensive Great Lakes marshes, wetlands and difficulty to access, even by boat. However, before airplanes, the island served as a resting place for mail carriers in the winter that traveled over the ice from Beaver Island to Cross Village.



Photo credit: Denny Albert

Hog Island provides important spawning grounds for perch, lake trout and smallmouth bass along with habitat for the state threatened common tern and four Great Lakes endemic plant species: Lake Huron Tansy, Pitcher's Thistle, Houghton's Goldenrod and Dwarf Lake Iris.

Grape Island -is the southwestern most portion of Hog Island and when the connecting land submerges, it appears as a separate island.

Shoe Island - When it's not submerged, the island can be seen about a half mile south of Hat Island.

Hat Island - is roughly four-sided, with an SSE-pointing forepeak that is said to look like the upturned brim of a hat. During WWII it was used as a practice bombing site by the US Navy.

Trout Island - is an island in Lake Michigan and is part of the Beaver Island archipelago. The island is 80 acres in size and is privately owned. There is an airstrip on the island that extends across the whole island to both shorelines. Trout Island is a little under two miles from High Island, and a little over six miles from Beaver Island.

Social Characteristics

Population

Beaver Island is the only Island in the Township that has a permanent population. Most of the township's population lives in the unincorporated community of St. James at the northeastern end of Beaver Island. The population of St. James Township decreased by 106 persons to 259 between 2010 and 2020. That is a decrease of 29.04%. The County as a whole has experienced only a very slight increase from 2010-2020 of 0.40%.

Table 1.2 - Population, 2000-2020			
	2010	2020	% Change 2000-2020
St James Twp	365	259	-29.04%
Peaine Twp	292	266	-9.1%
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

A 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, St. James Township area has rough 280 seasonal/vacation homes and 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 (59.7) 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 80%. Of course, the Township should not ignore the other age groups since they still comprise almost 20% of the

overall population, but this indicates that the Township has fewer young, growing families as full-time residents than it once did.

Table 1.3 - Median Age, 2010-2020		
	2010	2020
St James Twp	53.1	59.7
Charlevoix County	44.2	49.1
Michigan	39.0	40.2

Source: 2010 & 2020 US Census Data

Household Size

The size of households in St. James Township shown in Table 2-3 follows the Charlevoix County and Michigan trend of decreasing slightly. 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 1.4 - Average Household Size in St James Township, 2010-2020			
	2010	2020	% Change 2010-2020
St. James Twp	2.37	2.22	-6.33%
Charlevoix County	2.26	2.21	-2.21%
Michigan	2.53	2.45	-3.16%

Source: 2010 & 2020 US Census Data

Income, Poverty and Employment

St. James Township households had a median income of \$68,500 in 2020 estimates. This compares with \$60,433 for Charlevoix County and \$63,498 for the State of Michigan. There are 4.1% of the people in St James Township that are below the poverty level and their unemployment rate is 5.6%.

Table 1.5 - St. James Township Income, Poverty and Employment, 2020			
	Median Household Income	Poverty Level Rate	Unemployment Rate
St James Township	\$68,500	4.1%	5.6%
Charlevoix County	\$60,433	9.7%	4.8%
State of Michigan	\$63,498	13.1%	6.9%

Source: 2010 & 2020 US Census Data

Physically Challenged

The disability status of a population may be especially significant when considering recreational needs for a community. With 21% of the total Township population affected by some form of disability, 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 1.6 - St. James Township Michigan, 2020						
Label	Total		With a Disability		% With Disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population	319	±58	67	±20	21.0%	±5.5
Sex						
Male	136	±36	29	±12	21.3%	±7.4
Female	183	±38	38	±13	20.8%	±7.2
Race And Hispanic or Latino Origin						
White Alone	317	±58	65	±20	20.5%	±5.7
Black Or African American Alone	0	±11	0	±11	-	**
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	2	±3	2	±3	100.0%	±100.0
Asian Alone	0	±11	0	±11	-	**
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	0	±11	0	±11	-	**
Some Other Race Alone	0	±11	0	±11	-	**
Two Or More Races	0	±11	0	±11	-	**
White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	317	±58	65	±20	20.5%	±5.7
Hispanic or Latino (Of Any Race)	0	±11	0	±11	-	**
Age						
Under 5 Years	52	±25	0	±11	0.0%	±37.8
5 To 17 Years	17	±9	0	±11	0.0%	±66.2
18 To 34 Years	27	±22	0	±11	0.0%	±52.5
35 To 64 Years	102	±24	16	±9	15.7%	±7.5
65 To 74 Years	73	±23	25	±12	34.2%	±12.1
75 Years and Over	48	±16	26	±11	54.2%	±15.4
Disability Type						
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	29	±11	9.1%	±3.4
With a vision difficulty	(X)	(X)	5	±4	1.6%	±1.2
With a cognitive difficulty	(X)	(X)	14	±8	5.2%	±2.9
With an ambulatory difficulty	(X)	(X)	39	±17	14.6%	±5.3
With a self-care difficulty	(X)	(X)	4	±4	1.5%	±1.4
With an independent living difficulty	(X)	(X)	19	±10	7.6%	±4.1

Source: US 2020 Census Data

Physical Characteristics

Location & Transportation Network

Beaver Island, and therefore St. James 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 400 trips to the island. Two airlines currently serve Beaver Island year-round including Island Airways and Fresh Air Aviation, flying daily when weather permits. Trout Island in St. James Township has an operational airstrip but is privately owned.

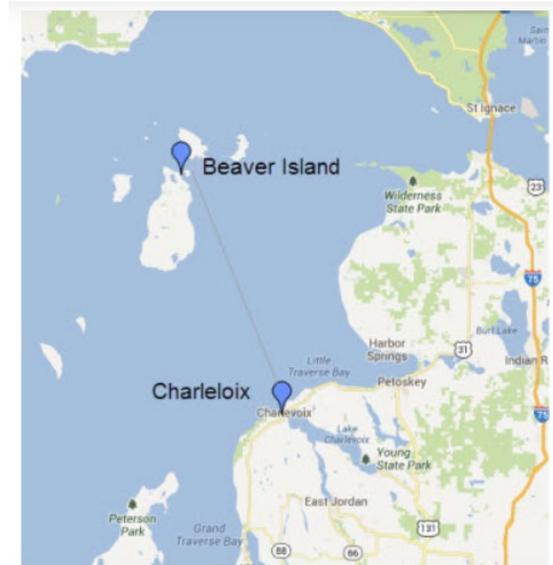


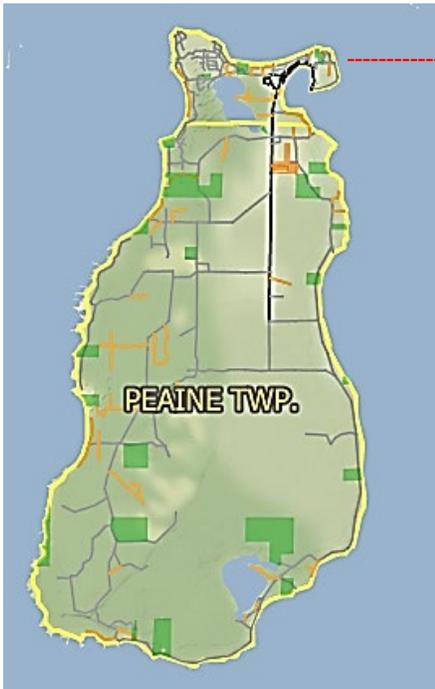
Figure 1.4 - Ferry location

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



Figure 1.5 – St. James Harbor in Paradise Bay

Beaver Island has a road system going almost completely around the island. King's Highway is the main County Primary Road 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 car rentals to enable you to travel on the island. Buses, bicycles, and snowmobiles are other means of transportation. This gives St. James Township a very rural and peaceful character.



ST. JAMES TWP.

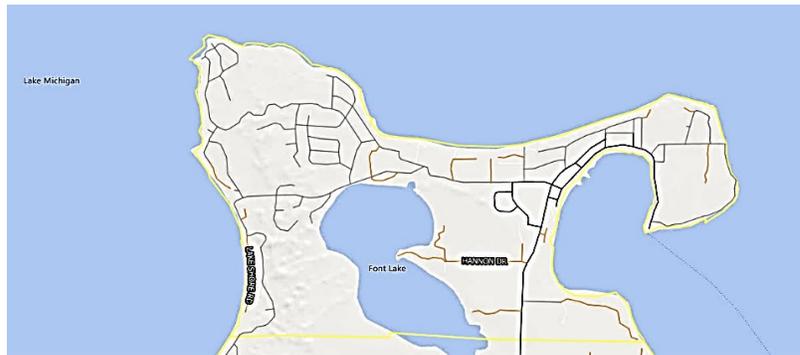


Figure 1.7 – St. James Twp Road Map

Figure 1.6 - Beaver Island Road Map

Climate

The St. James 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, the area can support a variety of four-season activities throughout 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 St. James 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 are tested as required by EGLE.

Wastewater

St. James Township owns and operates a small sanitary sewer system on Beaver Island in Charlevoix County, Michigan. As an enterprise fund, the sanitary system costs are funded through user fees in the absence of grants or other outside assistance. Enterprise fund accounting establishes a separate financial reporting mechanism for municipal services when a fee is charged in exchange for goods or services.

The downtown businesses and several homes near downtown St. James are on a shared community septic system. In 2001, the Township secured a bond to construct the 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. The maintenance and inspection of this septic system is managed by St. James Township. Parcels connected to the community septic system paid additional taxes in order to repay the municipal bond issued to construct the septic system. The septic system has required some significant maintenance, including the repair of a major pipe freeze event in 2014.

Where the sanitary system is not available, waste is treated through privately-owned septic systems on individual properties for most of the Island. 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.

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 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 Road. **(231) 448-2595; 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**

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 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**



Photo credit: LTBB Archives



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, St. James Township, the northern portion of the Island, is comprised largely of the harbor area, downtown, medium-density residential and low-density residential development. Peaine Township, the larger southern main portion of the Island, is slated to be mostly agriculture, public open space, woodland residential, low-density residential, medium-density residential, and commercial development.

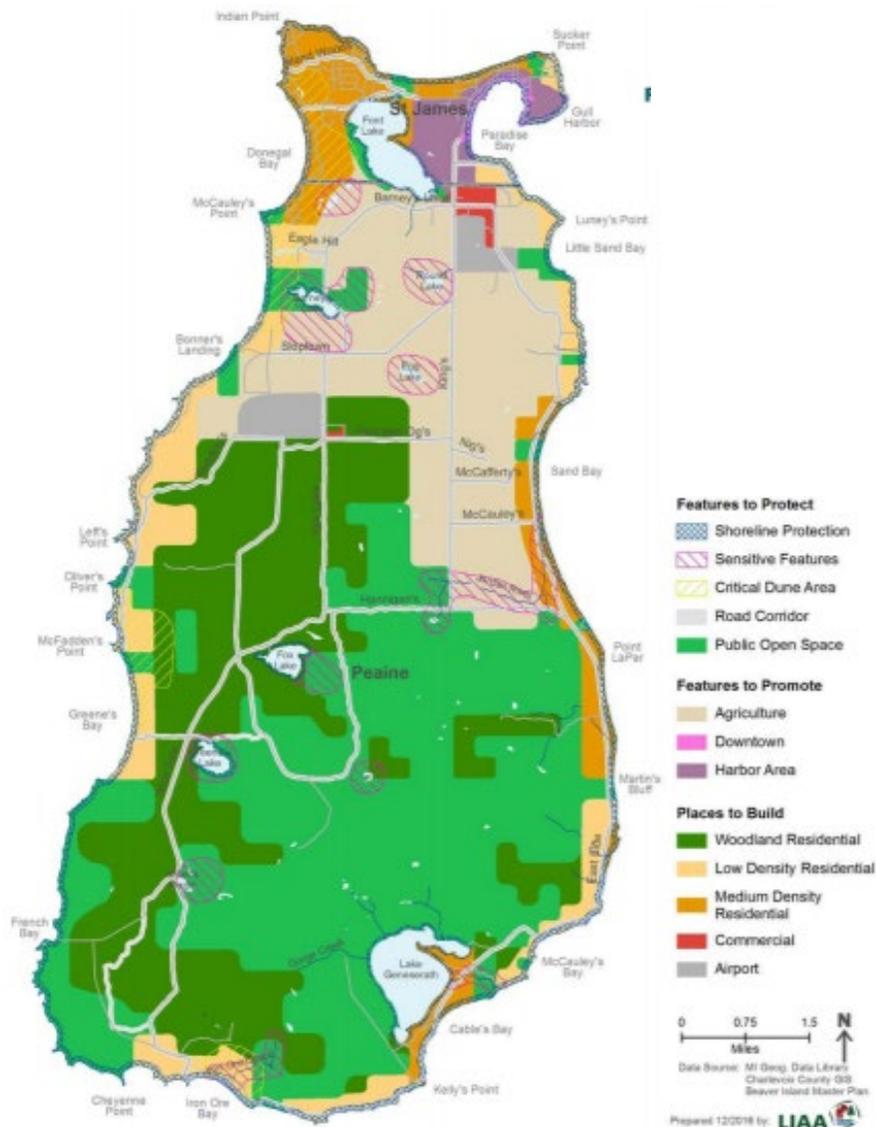


Figure 1.8 - Future Land Use Map
 Source: Beaver Island Master Plan, 2017

Administrative Structure

St. James 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 operation of its recreational assets. Township staff are responsible for much of the day-to-day maintenance of those assets. St. James Township now has its own Maintenance Director who oversees all St. James Township properties as well as the septic system and marinas. The Harbor Master is entrusted with the responsibility to oversee the proceedings of the marinas and is a vital role for the Township.

The Township Board adopts the annual levy and budget of the Township. The current St. James Township budget (April 2022 - March 2023) allocated approximately \$78,200.00 for Parks and Recreation. A detailed breakdown of budget expenditures is provided in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 - Parks and Recreation Budget for Three Fiscal Years			
Fiscal Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Expenditure Item	Approximate Amount		
Wages	\$17,200	\$15,200	\$18,000
Supplies & Equipment	\$2,200	\$5,500	\$16,400
Professional & Contractual Services	\$14,000	\$7,000	\$4,700
Planning for Special Projects	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Fireworks	\$500	\$5,000	\$7,500
Capital Outlay	\$100	\$180,100	\$10,100
Portable Toilet Pump Out	\$4,000	\$5,700	\$6,000
Repair & Maintenance	\$1,500	\$1,700	\$2,600
Miscellaneous - Permits	\$3,100	\$2,500	\$2,700
Miscellaneous – Public Safety	\$100	\$200	\$200
Approximate Total	\$47,700	\$232,900	\$78,200
Approximate total GF Revenue	\$592,770	\$762,065	\$583,330
% Devoted to Parks & Recreation	8.0%	30.6%	13.4%

These expenditures support the following recreational areas: B. McDonough Ballpark, JF Gillespie Public Beach Playground Park, Public Restrooms in Village, Boat Launches, Township Campground, Gull Harbor Natural Area, Whiskey Point Lighthouse and Open Area, Township Tennis Courts, Waterways Trail, and several Pocket Parks around the Harbor.

Paradise Bay, sometimes known as Beaver Harbor, St James Harbor or simply “The Harbor” is a remarkable example of a natural, sheltered harbor. Numerous parks described within the Township Recreational Facilities section are located on the harbor. This list includes two township owned marinas, Marina North which has a fuel dock and boat launch, and Marina South. A second boat launch is located at the corner of Main St and Gallagher Ave. The harbor is a cornerstone of the island’s economy, as the transportation of freight and passengers both depend on its shores. The town of St James and much of the island’s retail and commercial businesses are all located on its shores.

The Township Board adopts an annual marina enterprise budget, funded through user fees, to operate the two Township owned marinas. The current St James Township budget (April 2022 – March 2023) allocated approximately \$262,264 for the Marinas. The Township expended approximately \$259,300 in the 2021/2022 budget year and approximately \$313,400 in the 2020/2021 budget year. The large expenditures in the 2020/2021 year were due to the Township acquiring a private marina in 2019 through a generous donor, with Township start-up expenses contributing to the greater costs in this fiscal year.

In 2013, a \$1 million project to dredge portions of the harbor was approved by the Michigan State Waterways Commission’s emergency dredging program. Due to the subsequent rise in lake levels, no actual dredging took place. Future consideration for dredging will need to be undertaken to operate each marina properly and safely.

Another harbor project concerns a Township goal to locate an appropriate site and construct a fishing pier thereby increasing accessibility to the harbor for those without a boat.

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 Dark Sky Committee
- Beaver Island Historical Society
- Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association (BIATA)
- Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance
- Central Michigan University's Biological Station
- Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative (NLMIC)
- Patrons of the Arts in Rural Communities
- Preservation Association of Beaver Island
- Peaine 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.

Recreational Inventory

An essential element of a recreation plan is the inventory of local and regional, public and private recreation facilities that are available to a community’s resident. Such an inventory provides a basis from which a comparison can be made of existing recreation opportunities with the community’s identified recreation needs. Involving advocate organizations and utilizing the knowledge of the Township staff will help facilitate this element of the inventory process. Further, this facility inventory establishes the foundation from which a recreational improvement program can be developed and implemented.

Township Recreational Facilities

St James Township has a mix of all types and sizes of park facilities ranging from small parks to special use parks. Beaver Island has many natural areas used for rustic tourism such as hiking and fishing, and emphasizes protection of natural resources such as woodlands, fish/wildlife, and plants. In addition, there are a number of more traditional recreational amenities such as playground, ballfields, and parks.

Following are properties that are owned fully or in part by St. James Township, although assets owned by non-profit organizations are also included. In addition, there are some that are not owned by the Township but are within its boundaries. Accessibility is further discussed after the inventory. Maps of recreational assets (including non-motorized trails, the birding trail and the proposed water trail) follow. The service area for all items on the list is all of Beaver Island, which includes both St. James and Peaine Townships.

Table 3.1 - St. James Developed Recreational Assets – Twp/Gov’t Owned						
Asset Name	Type	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access	Accessibility Rating - Public Facilities**
St. James Twp. Campground	Campground	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
Beaver Island Municipal North Marina	Marina	St. James Harbor, ~1 acre	SJT	50-slip dock, harbormaster building with restrooms, picnic	Open to boaters; public	3
Beaver Island Municipal South Marina	Marina	St. James Harbor, ~1 acre	SJT	25-slip dock, harbormaster building with restrooms, picnic	Open to boaters; public	3
Jewell Gillespie Park	Park	St. James Harbor, ~1 acre	SJT	Public beach, with playground equipment, parking lot, outhouses	Open to Public	2
LaFreniere Park	Park	St. James Harbor, 1 lot	SJT	Small park, benches, flower gardens	Open to Public	2
Heritage Park	Park	Donegal Bay Rd., across from	SJT ²	Outdoor historical displays	Open to Public	
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 3.1 - St. James Developed Recreational Assets – Twp /Gov’t Owned con’t

Asset Name	Type	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access	Accessibility Rating - Public Facilities**
Harbor View Park	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
Harbor Light Park	Park	Whiskey Point	SJT	Lighthouse, greenspace, lake frontage	Open to Public (tours by BIHS)	3
St. James Twp. Hall	Facility	St. James Harbor, 0.25 acre	SJT	Meeting Room	Limited Use	
Tennis Courts	Park	North of Donegal Bay Rd, ~.75 acres	SJT	2 tennis courts, picnic tables, small park	Open to Public	2
Bud McDonough Memorial Baseball Field	Park	Near St. James Harbor, over 2 acres	SJT & PT	Baseball/Softball Field	Open to Public	2
Gull Harbor Natural Area	Park / Trails	East of St. James Harbor, 14 acres	SJT	Trails, ponds, wetland lake frontage, woods	Open to Public	1
Beaver Island Veterans Memorial Park	Park	St. James Harbor, ~1/2 acre	SJT ¹	Monuments, benches, greenspace	Open to Public	3
Font Lake Boat Launch	Access	Northern shore, small strip of frontage	SJT & PSJA	Boat Launch	Open to Public	1
St. James Twp Gov’t Center & BIEMS Office	Facility	37830 King’s Hwy	SJT	Twp Offices, outdoor chimney swift education station, BIEMS office and ambulance garage	Open to Public	3
Boat Launch Site	Access	Gallagher Ave. & Main Street	CCRC	Boat ramp	Open to Public	
Iron Ore Bay Public Access	Park / Access	South End Rd., 22 acres and 600’ of lakefront	SJT & PT	Beach, picnic tables, pit toilets	Open to Public	2
Donegal Bay Bike Path	Trail	SE out of St. James Campground	SJT ³	Paved bike path	Open to Public	4
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 Recreational Assets – Non-profit or Private						
Asset Name	Type	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access	Accessibility Rating - Public Facilities**
Port of St. James Association (Mt. Pisgah, Donegal Bay Park	Assoc. Prop.	NW corner of the island, including ~500' of lake frontage	PSJA & SJT	Hiking trails, picnic pavilion, campground	Dunes open to public	
Beaver Island Marine Museum	Facility	St. James harbor	BIHS	Indoor and outdoor historical displays	Open to Public	
Beaver Island Print Shop Museum	Facility	St. James Village	BIHS	Indoor historical displays	Open to Public	
Beaver Island Community Center	Facility	Harbor area, ½ acre	PABI	Auditorium, kitchen, game area, radio station studio	Open to Public	
Beaver Island Water Trail	Water Trail	Various	Various	Various	Open to Public	
Beaver Island Birding Trail	Trail	Encompasses ~12,000 acres	Various	Nature trail (both hiking and driving) for bird viewing	Open to public	
Stanhope Family Nature Preserve	Nature Preserve	13 acres	LTC	Trails, forest	Open to Public	
George & Althea Petritz Nature Preserve	Nature Preserve	Northeast of town, 27 acres and 500' of lakefront	LTC	Trails, forest, lake frontage	Open to Public	
Angeline's Bluff Observation Deck	Park	SW of Twp Airport on Mrs. Reddings Trail	SJT & PT	Lookout area, memorial	Open to Public	
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 - St. James Recreational Assets – Vacant						
	Type	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access	Accessibility Rating - Public Facilities**
Edward. B Wojan Park	Park	St. James Harbor - 2.9 Acres	SJT	Beach – Undeveloped property currently under acquisition	Undeveloped	1
Resale Shop	Facility	North of Donegal Bay Rd	SJT & PT	Fire Department Auxiliary Resale Shop	Charitable Business	
Donegal Bay “Sunset Beach” Property 1	Open Area	Off Island Woods Rd. N, 1 lot	SJT	Vacant	Undeveloped	-
Donegal Bay” Sunset Beach” Property 2	Open Area	Off Island Woods Rd, 1 lot	SJT	Vacant	Undeveloped	-
Vacant Harbor Frontage Lot 1	Open Area	St. James Harbor, across the street in front of former DNR Bldg	SJT	Vacant, submerged dock	Open to Public with restrictions	
Vacant Harbor Frontage Lot 2	Open Area	St. James Harbor, next to Beaver Island Veterans Memorial Park	SJT	Natural Landscape	Open to Public with restrictions	
Font Lake Property 1	Open Area	Across from boat launch, ~2.3 acres	SJT	Vacant	Undeveloped	-
Font Lake Property 2	Open Area	South side of Font View Ct, ~1/2 acre	SJT	Vacant, Font Lake Frontage	Undeveloped	-
Former DNR Land and Building	Facility	Harbor Area, 3 acres	SJT	Harbor frontage with a house and garage, open area and forest		
Kings Highway Property	Open Area	West side of Kings Hwy, south of Hannon	SJT	Vacant lot	Undeveloped	-
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			

Township Recreational Facilities – Expanded Descriptions

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Iron Ore Bay Beach - is owned by both St. James and Peaine Townships and is located on the south end of Beaver Island. It is well worth the drive as it is a wonderful sand beach with views of the Fox Islands. Restrooms are across the road from the parking area and there is an Emergency Phone in the parking area.

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.

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 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. Marina North and Marina South 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 re-opened 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.

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.

Font Lake Boat Launch

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 craft due to shallow waters, loon nesting and floating vegetative mats. Font Lake boating is limited to small, slow speed crafts due to shallow waters. All vehicles and trailers are to be parked on Font Lake Road in a widened berm area.

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.



Figure 3.1 - Beaver Island Water Trail

Lake Michigan Boat Launches

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

The 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 sight 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.

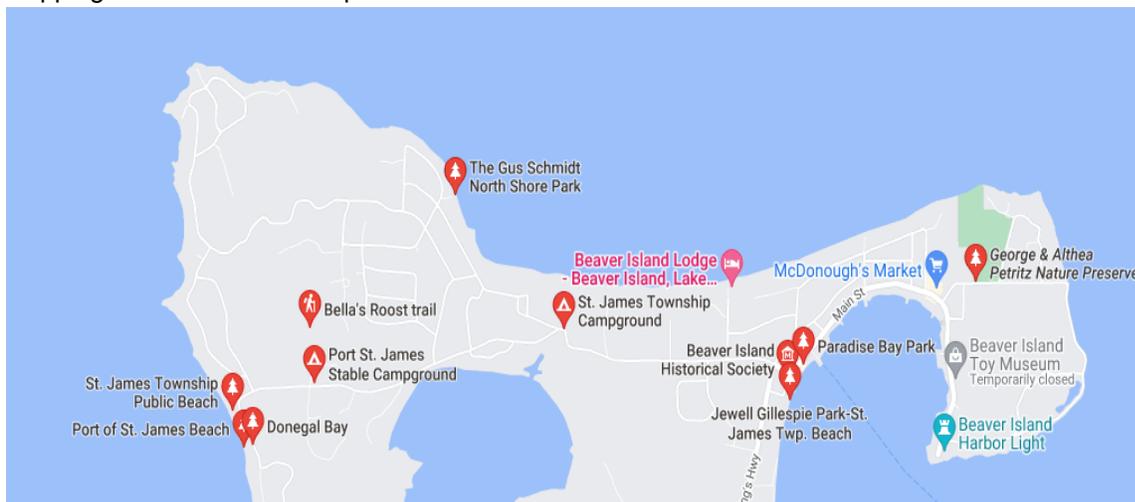


Figure 3.2 - Map of St James Twp Park Facilities

Township's Old DNR Property

Originally known as the "DNR Conservation Office and Dock" this property was owned by the MDNR between circa 1940 and 2001. The property was actively used until the 1980s for conservation work throughout the archipelago. In 2001, St James Township acquired this property from the MDNR in exchange for Whiskey Island. The Township had purchased Whiskey Island via a tax sale in 2001 prior to the property exchange. The DNR mandated property development restrictions on the Township.

Once Township-owned, this old DNR property became known as the "Sheriff Deputy's residence". Deputies used this residence until 2018. Since then, the township has used the facility for housing Township workers and contractors on an intermittent basis.

As an integral piece of the future of the harbor, this 3-acre property includes harbor access with a submerged dock, a water-view house and connected garage, a large back yard with over an acre that is wooded. With these property assets, many ideas regarding its use have been suggested and some were drawn up to efficiently use this site such as installation of a boat launch, fishing pier or even a small park, but these plans never came to fruition. A concern with this lakefront property, primarily with the harbor access, is the relatively industrial nature of the adjacent properties, many of which are used by fuel barges, fishing boats and other commercial maritime activities.

After negotiating a release of the MDNR established property restrictions, the Township split the property into harbor-side and land-side parcels. The harbor-side parcel, which includes the dock, is currently listed for sale. The land-side parcel, which includes the house, yard and woods remains in Township ownership. The Township is working to determine how best to utilize this property, which includes possibly selling the property to fund other needed projects.

Non-profit Recreational Facilities

George and Althea Petritz Nature Preserve– Little Traverse Conservancy

Located at the northeast end of Beaver Island, this 27-acre preserve is within walking distance from Paradise Bay and town. A trail from the road takes you to the beach.

In 2005, John Woollam started a vision of land protection for this beautiful corner of Beaver Island. Over the next several years, he made a series of six purchases to form the Petritz Preserve and then named it in honor of the family from whom he purchased the original 13 acres. In his description of the preserve, he wrote, "People, animals, plants, and trees allowed. All other human-made structures or objects are prohibited. I would like it to remain a place to appreciate nature quietly."

Stanhope Family Nature Preserve – Little Traverse Conservancy

Comprised of 13 acres of mixed upland hardwood forest, the property lies adjacent to the township owned property, the Gull Harbor Nature Preserve, along Gull Harbor Road and parallels the shore. 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.

Mt. Pisgah - 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 acres owned by St. James Township.



Angeline’s Bluff Observation Deck



School Recreational Facilities

Public Schools

In addition to the Township recreation facilities, there is a public school with recreation facilities located in the township. Beaver Island Community School serves the entire archipelago in Charlevoix County. It is one of only four insular school districts in the state.



Table 3.4 – Beaver Island Community School				
School	Address	Grades	Enrollment*	Facilities
Beaver Island Community School	37895 Kings Hwy Beaver Island, MI 49782	Pre-K through 12 th grade	49 (2021)	multi-purpose field/Soccer field, basketball hoops, playground, gym

*Source: Munetrix

BI FIT ZONE



BI Fit is a unique community collaboration between Island residents and the Beaver Island Community School (BICS) that creates the opportunity for Island residents to exercise in the BICS gymnasium. In addition to walking the perimeter of the gym, members can work out on various exercise equipment, including a treadmill, exercise bike, and a rowing machine in the BI Fit Zone.

Regional Recreational Assets

Table 3.5 – Regional Recreational Assets				
Facility Name	Location / Size	Ownership*	Purpose / Use	Access
Peaine Township Hall	Kings Hwy	Peaine Twp	Meeting rooms and kitchen	Meetings, community events
Peaine Township Park and Font Lake Access	Behind Peaine Township Hall	Peaine Twp	Picnic tables, covered shelter, boardwalk to Font Lake, outdoor pickleball court	Public
Bill Wagner Campground	East side of Peaine Twp on Lake Michigan, 14.7 acres	Leased by DNR to Peaine Twp	Primitive campsites, outhouses, fire pits, beach access, boat ramp for small boats	Public; camping fee
Beaver Head Lighthouse and Buildings	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
CMU Biological Station	East Side Drive	Central Michigan University	Beach frontage, trail, guided nature tours	Public
Kuebler Trail	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
McCauley's Point	South end of Donegal Bay, 0.4 sq mi	DNR	Rocky beach access, shorebird habitat, Pitcher's thistle	Public
Barney's Lake Nature Preserve	Barney's Lake Rd, interior woods and 2,200 feet of lake frontage, 120 acres	Little Traverse Conservancy	Canoe, kayak and rowboat storage; fishing; hiking trail through woods	Public; no hunting or ORVs
Bonner's Bluff State Beach (Bonner's Landing)	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
Miller's Marsh Nature Area	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

Table 3.5 – Regional Recreational Assets con't				
Facility Name	Location/Size	Ownership*	Purpose/Use	Access
French Bay Road	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
Andy's Trail	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
Greene's Lake Public Access	Greene's Lake Rd	MDNR	Fishing	Public
Fox Lake Public Access and Boat-only Access Park	Fox Lake Rd	Peaine Twp	Inland lake, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, picnic table, outhouse, bog	Public
McFadden's Point	On Greene's Bay, 0.5 x 0.25 mi	MDNR	Ecologically important for rare parabolic dunes	Public; access over private land
Oliver's Point	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
Little Sand Bay	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
Martin's Bluff	East Side Drive	MDNR	Trail along bluff, picnic table, rope railing to beach below	Public
Lake Geneserath Public Access	Off of East Side Drive, south end of island	MDNR	Public boat launch, large fishing lake (489 acres), outhouse, trail	Public
Cable Creek Trail and Cable Bay Beach	0.2 miles of shoreline	MDNR	Scenic trail, picnic table, beach, bridge over creek	Public
Beaver Island Golf Course	Kings Hwy	Private	9-hole golf course, driving range, club and cart rental	Public; fee

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.

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 or at the Beaver Island Dark Sky Station located at the Harbor Bodega in town.



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

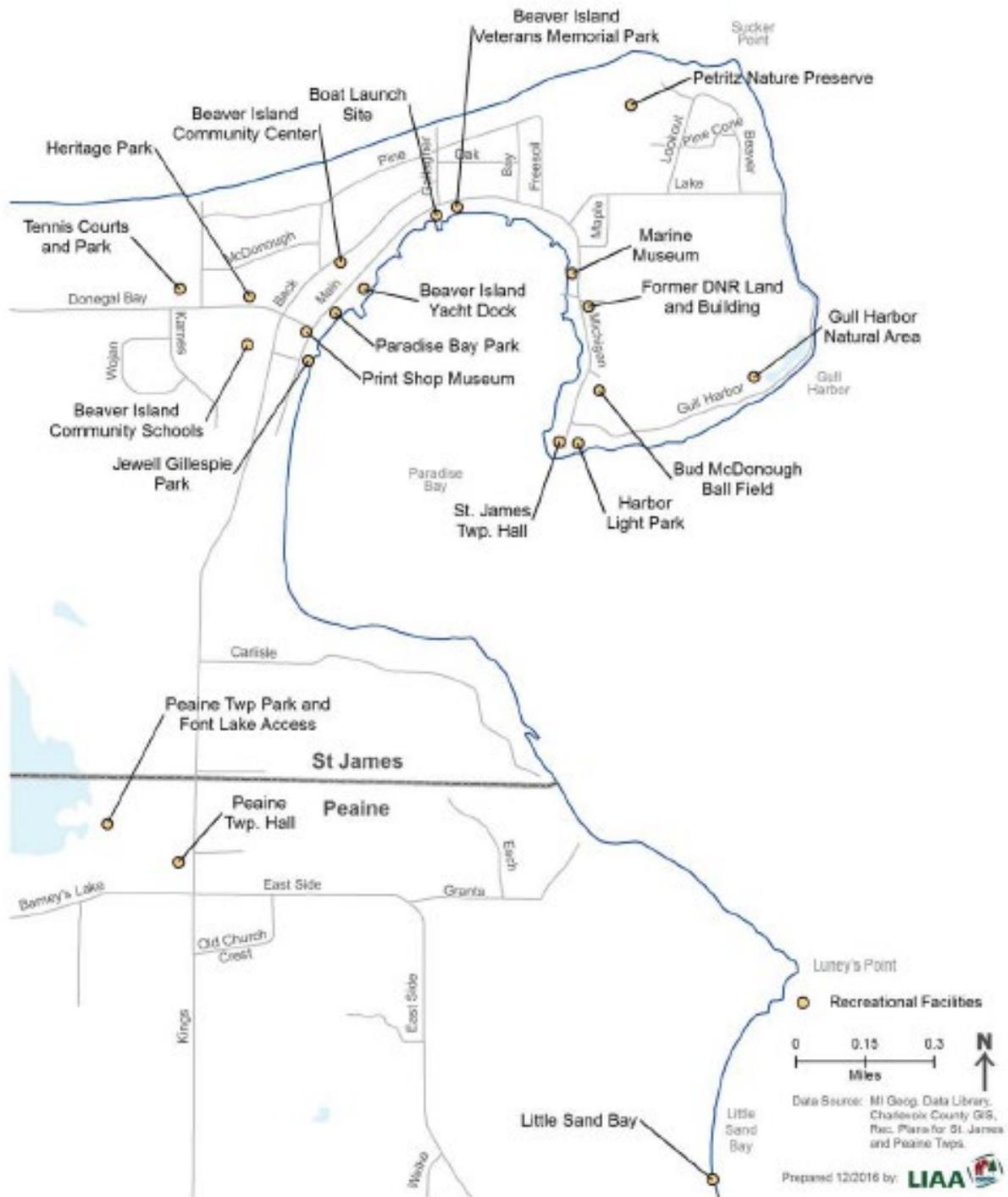


Figure 3.4 – Map of Recreational Facilities (Detail)

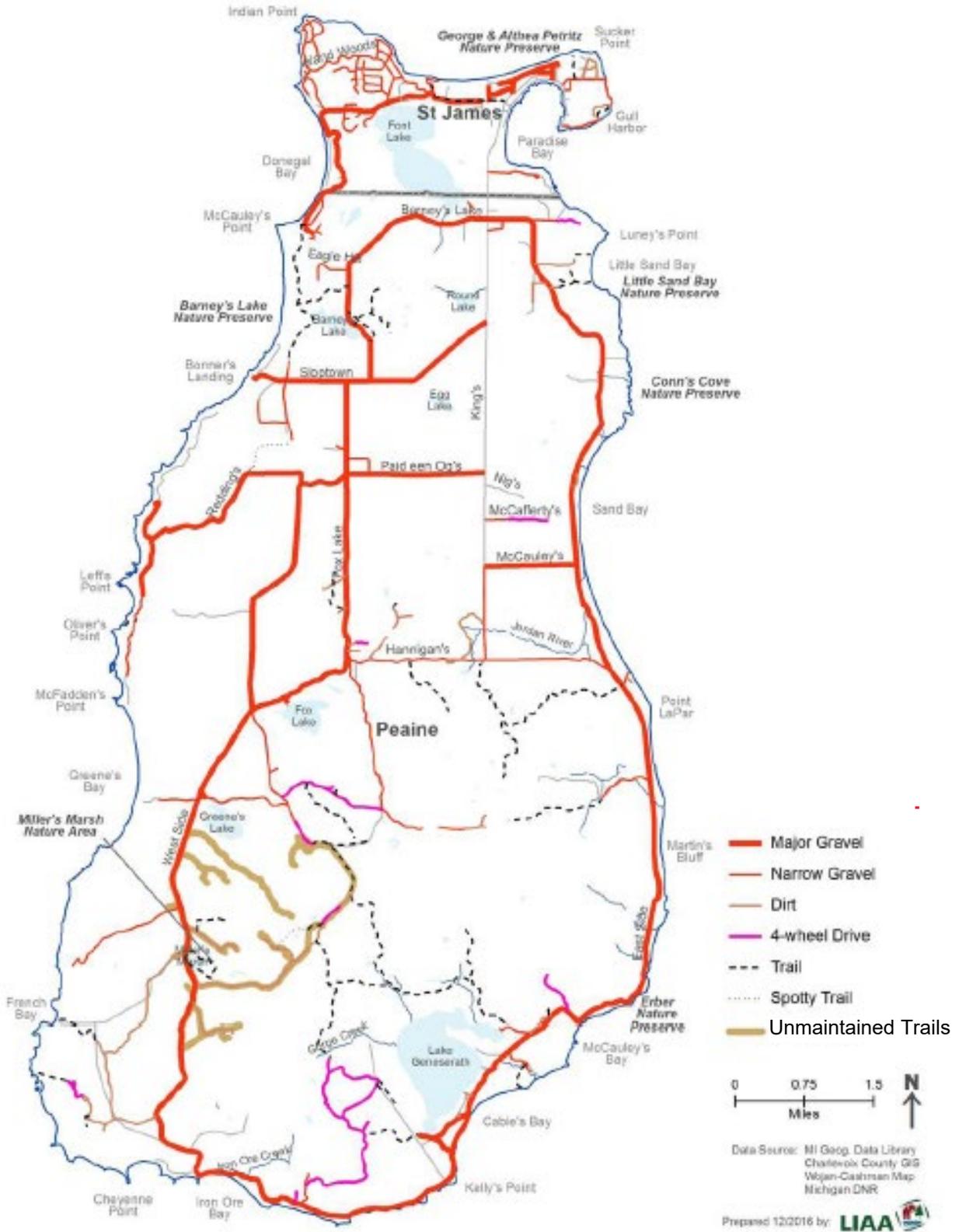


Figure 3.5 – Trails Map

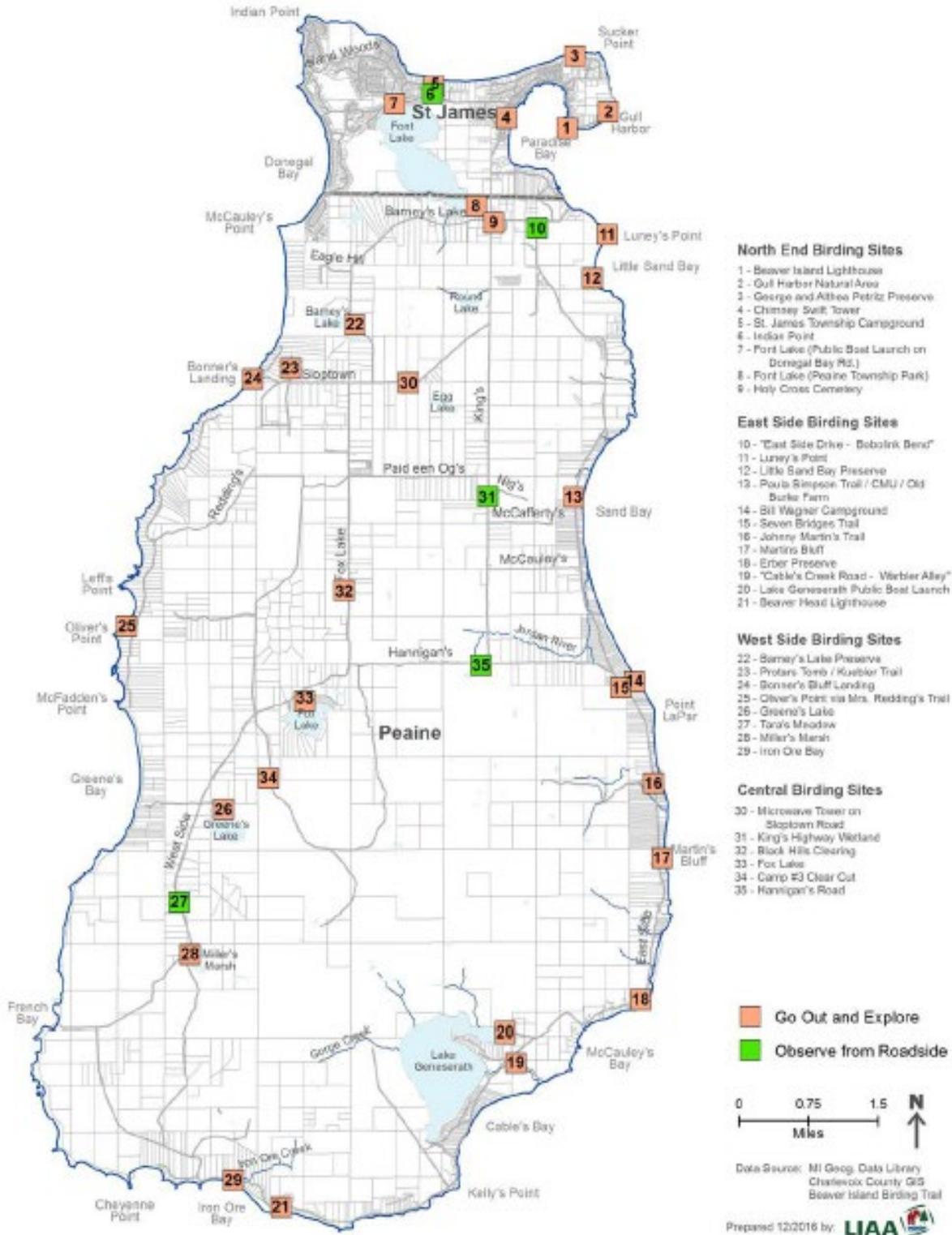


Figure 3.6- Birding Trail Map

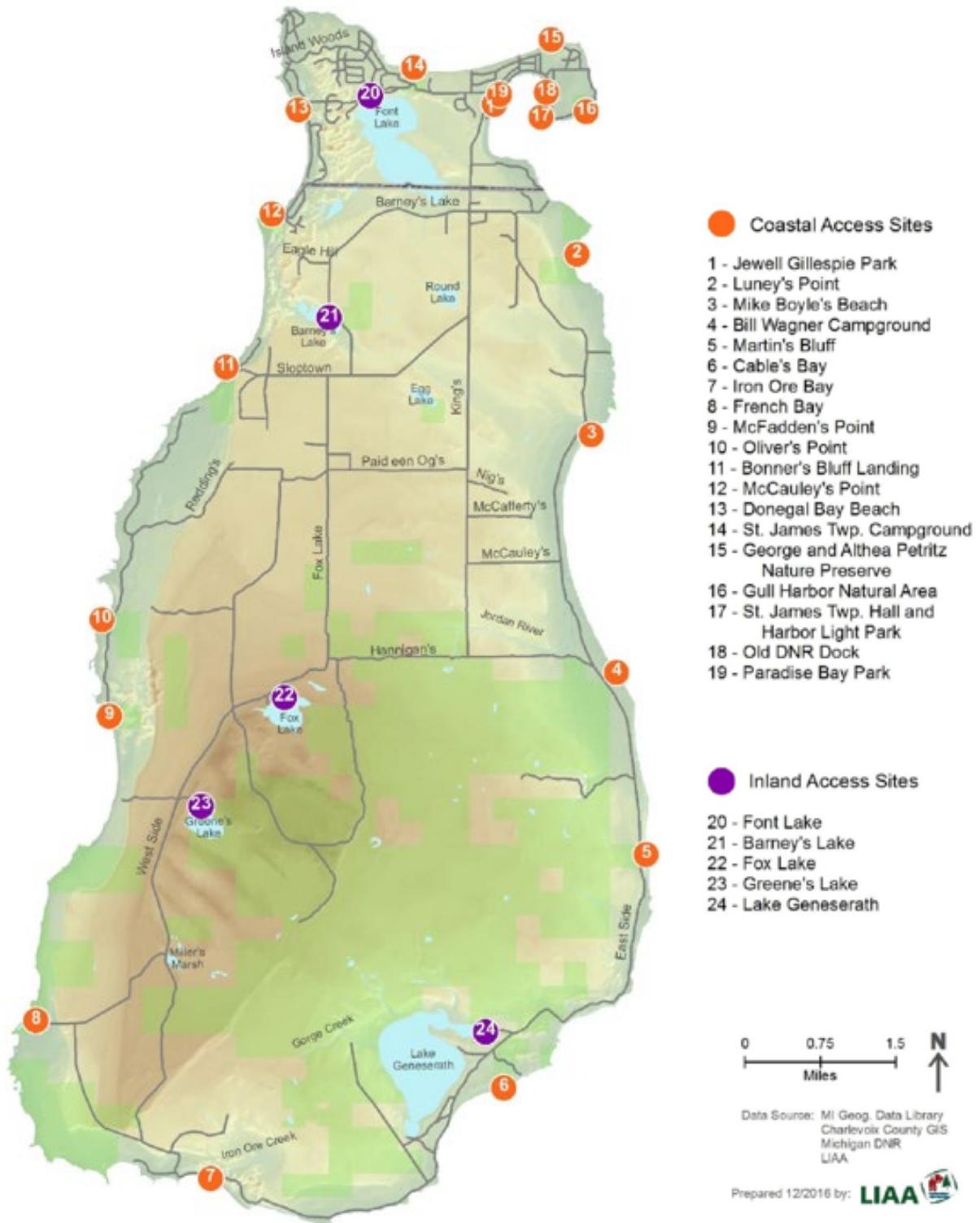


Figure 3.7 – Water Trail Access Sites



Figure 3.8 – Historical Driving Tour

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 St James Township have been conducted by the township supervisor and deputy supervisor as part of the recreation planning process. In planning for the water trail and for recent campground improvements, the advice of Access Recreation Group, LLC, of Jenison, MI was sought. The township anticipates working further with Access Recreation Group for a more complete assessment of its sites and certainly in any new project planning.

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.

Table 3.6 – Universal Access	
Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
Archery range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stations ▪ Route to retrieval area for each target ▪ Targets also usable with cross bows ▪ Arrow back stop to limit retrieval distance ▪ Larger maneuvering spaces to accommodate archers with shooting assistants
Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 ▪ Wide enough for side-by-side walking/passing ▪ 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 ▪ With a transfer system at the water's edge so people can get down to the ground level and into the water
Boardwalk wetland and water access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 feet minimum width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass ▪ Edge treatment to prevent roll/step off ▪ If side rails are used, more than 25% must lowered for easy viewing in various places along the boardwalk ▪ Interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.
Campgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All sites and amenities ▪ Accessible surface on all sites, including rustic sites ▪ Larger spaces to accommodate side lifts on campers and vehicles ▪ Accessible tables, grills (15" minimum, 34" maximum height), and fire rings on all sites ▪ Centrally located restrooms on easy routes from each site
Camping Cabins and Yurts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.) ▪ Larger clear space thoughtfully located for typical portable items such as coolers, luggage, equipment/food bins/tubs, etc.
Canoe/kayak/boat launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 ▪ Accessible surface to water's edge and into water at launch ▪ More gentle slopes for easier entry and exit when hand wheeling a boat ▪ 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

Table 3.6 – Universal Access	
Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some type of wench system to help pull boat out of water back into the rack to exit/transfer out. ▪ 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 ▪ Adaptive kayaks available for use ▪ 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
Fishing dock/pier and observation/viewing decks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 ▪ Sitting benches (all with backs and arm rests) scattered about so anglers can choose to sit or stand to fish ▪ 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 ▪ A variety of fish landing cutaways strategically placed ▪ Variety of accessible opportunities—over-water fishing, shore fishing, in-water fishing, etc. ▪ Transition plates between access route and deck/pier
Nature center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc. ▪ 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 ▪ All displays at lowered heights for sitting or standing viewing ▪ All operating mechanisms that are operable with one hand and do not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than minimum number of accessible spots ▪ Each connected directly to an accessible route to the park elements and NOT into the traffic flow ▪ Thoughtfully located nearest the activity entrance, which might require multiple lots (some near the beach, some near the playground, some near the bathhouse, etc.)
Picnic areas and elements: Pavilions, picnic tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All located on accessible routes ▪ all tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc. accessible ▪ Level routes onto pavilions with no changes of level from path to pavilion surface ▪ 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.) ▪ A variety of table styles, some with clear sitting space on the side, some with extended tabletops on the end

Table 3.6 – Universal Access	
Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some fixed tables to ensure they remain accessible (not moved off into a grassy or sandy area, etc.) ▪ Clear space all around each element so people can approach and use the grill, fire ring, etc. from the front, back and either side ▪ Grills you can lower/raise the cooking surface with one hand ▪ Raised fire building surfaces so you can place wood without leaning too far over from a standing or seated position
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ramps and transfers ▪ Has both ramp and transfer access to all play components ▪ Ramps to every “getting on spot” or “sit/stand & do it spot” of every play component ▪ 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 ▪ 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 ▪ On deck transfer platform at the entry point of every slide ▪ 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 move to another component, as they may have left an assistive device at the ground ▪ 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) ▪ Different high contrast colors for decks versus transfers so kids with low vision can perceive a change in level ▪ Play panels are located at heights so they can be used from a seated position or standing
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than the minimum number of accessible units ▪ 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 ▪ Thoughtfully located near areas of activity such as play areas, beaches, fishing piers, etc. ▪ Accessible door pulls and water faucet handles - all accessible port-a-johns, again big enough for individual use or care giver/parental assistance.
Skiing/sledding hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible route to top (no steps), possibly using a “magic carpet” lift

Table 3.6 – Universal Access	
Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Level surface for sled mounting at hilltop ▪ If staffed, provide ATV transport, or have policy that allows personal ATV use Transfer at hill bottom to help transfer
<p>Sports fields/courts</p> <p>Fields: soccer, football, baseball, etc. Courts: tennis, basketball, bocce, horseshoes, etc. Other: skate parks, frisbee golf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Routes to both sides of all fields and courts, not just end zones ▪ Accessible seating spaces both ground level and elevated if risers/bleachers are provided ▪ Accessible seating spaces scattered throughout all viewing areas and levels with companion seating on both sides of the space ▪ All lowered service windows at all concession areas ▪ Wider gate openings into court areas (tennis, bocce, basketball) and skate parks to accommodate wider sports wheelchairs ▪ Routes to both horseshoe pits and along both sides of the route between pits ▪ Level routes onto bocce courts with sitting benches at both ends
<p>Trail: nature trail, walkway, pathway, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-use trail - 8 feet, with slopes under 2%, wider width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass ▪ Walkways within a site – at least 6 feet wide and have slopes under 2% ▪ Regional trail system - at least 10 feet wide, with 1-foot buffers on either side, with slopes under 2% ▪ Unitary surface like concrete, boardwalk or asphalt, crushed aggregate/screenings that have been “stabilized” or natural soils enhanced with soil stabilizers ▪ Transition plates between trail and pedestrian bridges, decks, etc. ▪ 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 ▪ 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 ▪ Thoughtfully laid out on the site to maximize the experience with minimal difficulty ▪ Accessible amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, etc.

Recreational Programs

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

Past MDNR MNRTF, Passport or LWCF Grant Status

Acquisition - Gull Harbor Nature Preserve	
Project No.	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund TF92-319
Project Year	1992
Cost	\$30,000 grant \$30,00 match
Status	Grant Closed
Provided for purchase of 13.4 acres, 1,374 feet of Lake MI frontage.	

St. James Campground Improvement Project	
Project No.	Passport Grant Program RP18-0049
Project Year	2018 (To be completed in 2023)
Cost	\$150,000 Grant \$50,000 local match
Status	Ongoing
Add restroom/shower facilities, utilities & campsites as well as parking to support day use and trail system.	

Acquisition - Karnes Beach Property	
Project No.	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund TF22-0215
Project Year	2022
Cost	\$525,000.00 + \$210,000 local match
Status	PA pending
The property, once acquired will be designated the Edward B. Wojan Park.	

Other County, State & Federal Grant funding

- **U. S. Fish and Wildlife Grant** - 2021 Beaver Island Archipelago Terrestrial Invasive Species Support 2022/2023 In Process
- **DNR Fish and Wildlife Memorandum of Agreement** - 2021, 2022 Terrestrial Invasive Species Support
- **DNR Waterways Grant** - 2021 Upgrade St. James Municipal Marinas - Completed 2021
- **Grand Traverse Band of Odawa and Chippewa Indians** - 2021 Upgrade North Marina Fuel Dock - Completed 2021
- **John A. Woollam Foundation** - 2021, 2022 Upgrade St. James Municipal Marina- Completed 2022
- **Charlevoix County Parks Millage Grant** - 2021 Harbor View Park Improvement - Completed 2022
- **Charlevoix County Parks Millage Grant** - 2022 St. James Campground Improvement - In Process
- **Federal Coastal Management (through MDNR)** - 2000 Gull Harbor Nature Preserve Trail. \$5,000 of installation of benches and paths – Completed
- **MDNR Harbor Development Program** – 2003 Beaver Island Municipal Dock (aka St James Mooring Facility or Beaver Island Yacht Dock). \$1,100,000 - Completed

Natural Resource Inventory

Dark Sky

One of the greatest natural resources to Beaver Island, the dark sky landscape has been appreciated and utilized by all people within this Archipelago for cultural, educational, navigational, and scientific purposes. Beaver Island, in its uniquely isolated location, can offer night sky observers deep and vast views of constellations, galaxies including our own Milky Way, occasional meteor showers and comets, the Northern Lights and phases/cycles of the moon and other planets. This is in part thanks to the lower levels of light pollution surrounding the islands, but light pollution still poses a threat to the viewable night sky within the Archipelago.



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.

Beyond being a local point of interest, “The Big Rock” 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.

Hat Island and Shoe Island were formed during the Wisconsin glaciation when a melting glacier randomly dumped a large quantity of boulders and gravel in a spot that became part of the lakebed.

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.

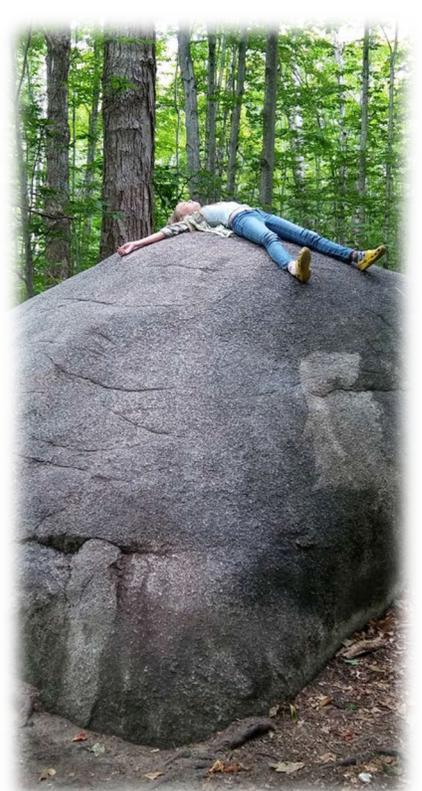




Photo credit: Binney Girdler

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 St. James Township Critical Dune Maps are shown below.

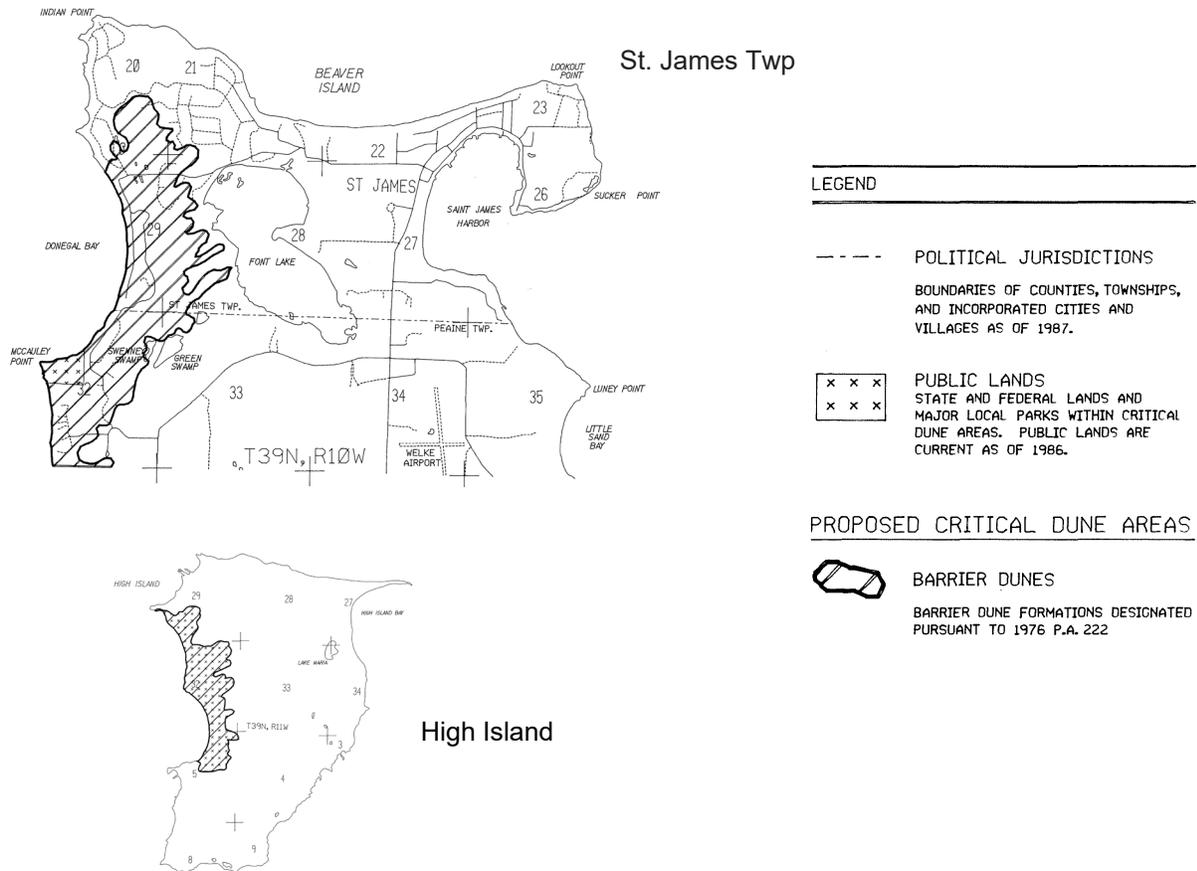


Figure 4.1 - St James Twp Critical Dunes

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.

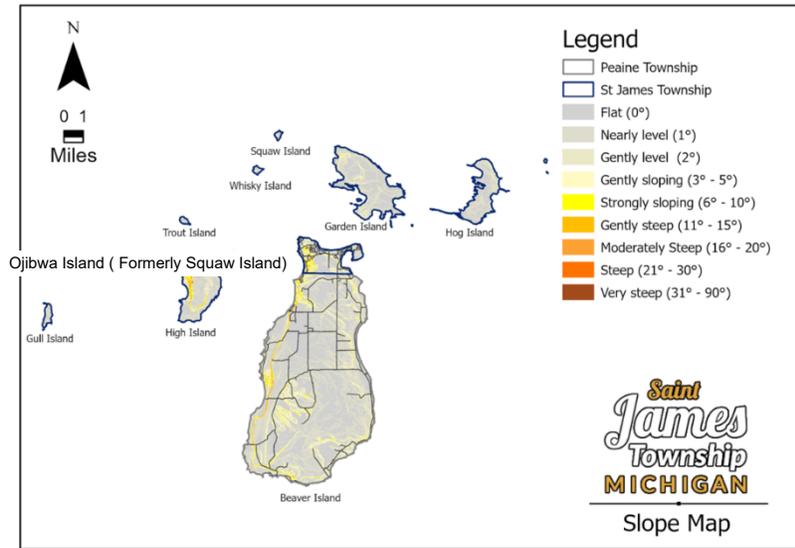


Figure 4.2 - Slope Map

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.



Most of the old-growth timber on Garden Island was cut and sawn by a short-lived sawmill that operated on the island in 1912-1913. However, some old-growth northern hardwood and boreal softwood groves still exist on Hog Island despite a small logging operation in the 1950s. Gull Island is the only island to have a substantial forest ecosystem. Balsam fir and northern white cedar grow in the island's humid, boreal climate.

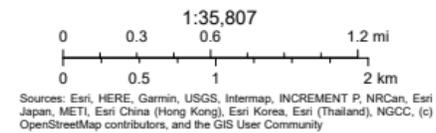
Wetlands Map Viewer



December 26, 2022

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 4.4 Wetlands Map B

Soils

The soil composition of the Island can help inform land use and identify where particular management practices are most appropriate. Some soils are better for development, some are better for farming, and others are best suited to remain undeveloped and unfarmed. There are four main soil classifications, or associations, on Beaver Island (see Map 4.3):

The **Deer Park-Dune Land Eastport Association**, which is well-drained, nearly level to very steep sandy soils on beach ridges and dunes. This soil type is found along the coastline and is difficult to farm or build on.

The **Kalkaska-Mancelona Association**, which is well-drained to moderately well-drained, nearly level to gently sloping sandy soils on lake plains and valley trains. Much of this soil is forested. This soil type is difficult to farm.

The **Roscommon-Charlevoix-Mackinac Association**, which is poorly to moderately poorly drained, nearly level to gently sloping sandy and loamy soils on lake plains. This soil type is conducive to wetland areas and poorly suited to farming.

The **Emmet-Leelanau Association**, which is well-drained, nearly level to very steep loamy and sandy soils on moraines. This soil type may be suitable for construction and farming.

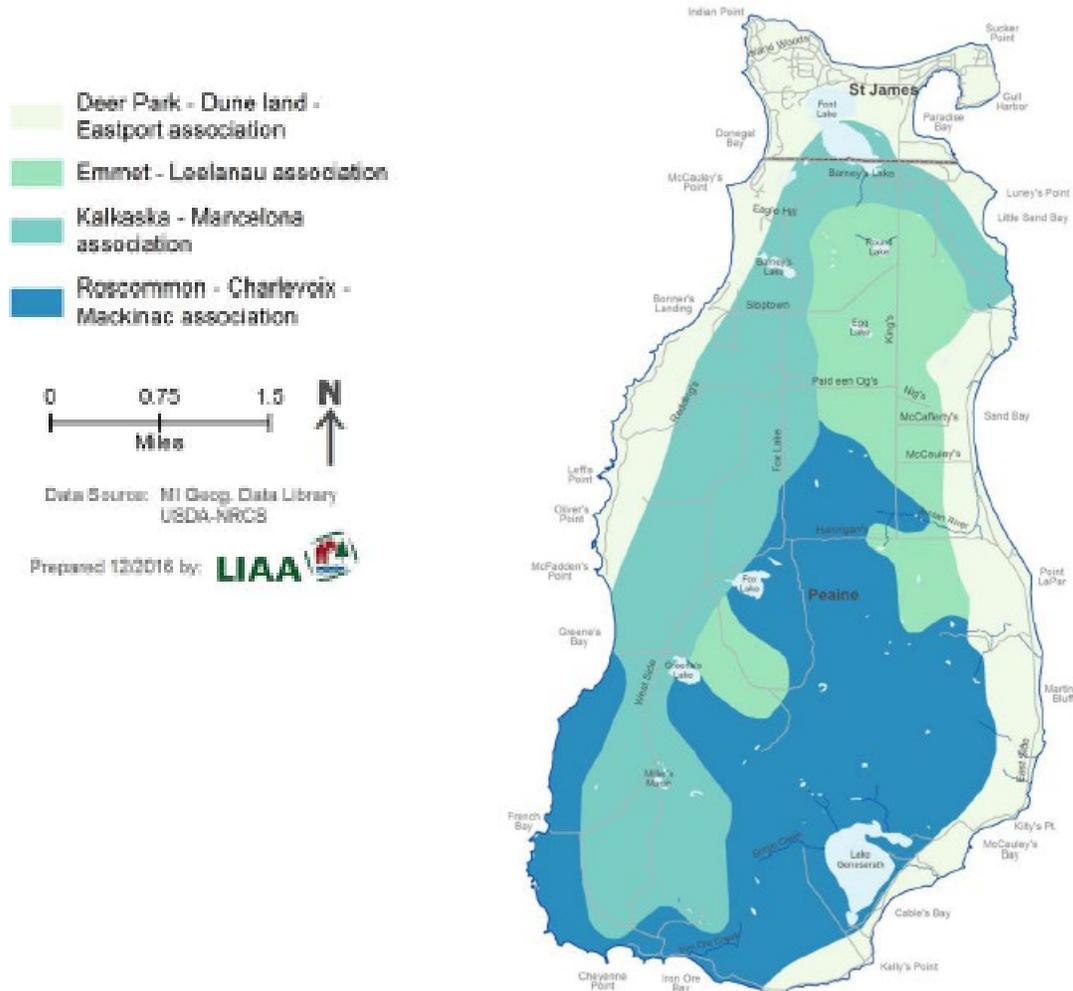


Figure 4.5 – Soils Map

Water Resources & Drainage

The most notable resource in St. James 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.

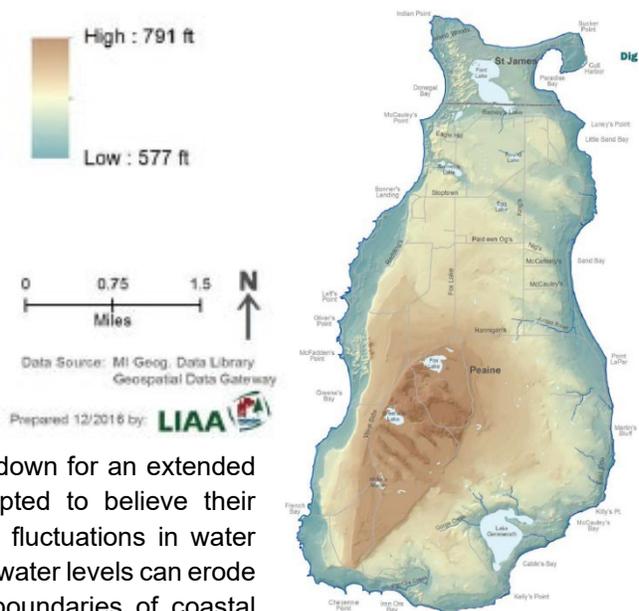
Many types of wetlands surround the inland lakes, including fens and bogs. Each of the Island's wetland communities support unique species of plants and animals. In the past, wetlands were once seen as "swamps" with a negative connotation. Many wetlands were drained and filled for use as agricultural 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. Install culvert 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 put human safety in danger. 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 1/2miles of shoreline owned by the Port of St. James Association (PSJA) with common land trails that oversee the lake.



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 small mouth 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 www.landtrust.org



Barney's Lake Preserve, which consist of 337 acres, is located about three miles southwest of St. James. 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.

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.

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.

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.



Natural Resources, Rare Species, and Invasive Plants

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 Process

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 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 with community leaders and two visioning sessions on December 14, 2022 & December 21, 2022, that are incorporated into this document. Notice of the 30-day comment period was placed on the St. James Township website, the News on the Net website, WVBI Radio, the Beaver Island Community Calendar, the Beaver Island Forum, and the Beaver Island Message Board.

The previous recreation plan was developed through a set of planning and public input processes. The processes began in May of 2017, when the St. James Township board asked Deputy Supervisor Patrick Cull to research and develop a plan for public comment and board consideration by early 2018. In addition, the public input processes of the recent 2017 *Beaver Island Master Plan* and *Water Trail Development Plan* were major resources and guides, as both processes included extensive discussions and recommendations regarding recreation and were driven by community input. Additionally, other recent 5-year Recreation Plans were reviewed, such as the previous St. James and Peaine Township plans, as well 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 St. James 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.

On January 24, 2023, the Township facilitated a large public input meeting at Beaver Island Community School. Notice for the meeting was placed on the St. James Township website, the News on the Net website, WVBI Radio, the Beaver Island Community Calendar, the Beaver Island Forum, and the Beaver Island Message Board. Approximately 29 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 24, 2023. 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.

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 Edward B. Wojan Park and the adjacent Jewell Gillespie Park.
- Develop conceptual plans for any new or existing parks as need arises.

Goal 3

Develop a system of park and recreation facilities and events that promote four season 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.

Goal 4

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.

Goal 5

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 6

Provide for improvements to the Municipal Marinas and other waterfront assets.

Objectives

Provide for improvements at the Municipal North and South Marinas and other 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.
- Construct a boat washing station, install ADA launch at docks, improvement to Gallagher boat ramp/launch, improvement to docking systems.
- Improve and expand recreational opportunities to the Municipal Marinas.
- Designate areas for public and recreational parking, such as for boats and trailers.
- Build a fishing pier on the harbor.
- 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.
- Explore recreational facilities and uses at Edward B. Wojan Park and the adjacent Jewell Gillespie Park based on public input and workshops.

Goal 7

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 preserve and maintain in accordance with the U.S. Light House Society the Beaver Island Harbor Light Lighthouse on Whiskey Point with assistance from the Light House Sub-Committee, a committee who reports to the Harbor, Park & Registration Committee.

Goal 8

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.

Goal 9

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.

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 10

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.
- Enforce the TIS Eradication Zone Ordinance.

Goal 11

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

Developing designated hiking and biking trail infrastructure or trails available to motorized vehicles on Beaver Island offers greater access for island residents and visitors to experience exceptional natural areas and engage in physical activity in a safely 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.
- Lengthen bike trail to Donegal Bay, a part of Phase II extension of the Donegal Bay Bike Trail.
- Explore connection of trail system to Peaine Township.
- 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.

Goal 12

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

Several respondents indicated in the past that they were not aware of all the parks that were available in our local community. They also indicated that they were not aware of all the adult and youth recreational programs that we offered in our local recreation department.

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.
- Support the development of educational print, signage and web-based media to share information regarding the TIS Program and its goals.
- Continue to develop the Beaver Island Community Center as a hub of information for the island.

Goal 13

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

Objectives

It is important to 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.

Goal 14

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 Harbor, 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.
- Facilitate regular meetings of the Harbor, 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 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 (2023-2027) 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

Year	Project	Est. Cost	Justification	Funding Source
2023 - 2024	Edward B. Wojan Acquisition	\$875,000	Goal 1	\$525,000 MNTRF Grant \$200,000 Donor \$150,000 Twp match
2023 - 2024	Masini Beach Acquisition (Rename as park of JF Gillespie Park)	\$134,615	Goal 1	\$134,615 - Twp funds
2023 - 2024	Edward B. Wojan & Jewell F Gillespie Park Improvements	\$750,000	Goal 3, 4, 5	\$750,000 SPARK Grant or MNTRF/Twp Match
2023 - 2024	Municipal Marina North & South Master Plan	\$7,500	Goal 4, 5, 6	\$7,500 Marina Enterprise Fund
2023 - 2024	Harbor Walkway (benches)	\$10,000	Goal 4, 5, 11	\$10,000 Charlevoix Co Parks
2024 - 2025	Gull Harbor Park/Trails	\$15,000	Goal 4, 5, 11	\$15,000 Charlevoix Co Parks
2024 - 2025	Marina North Docks	\$300,000	Goal 4, 5, 6	\$300,000 Waterways
2024 - 2025	Harbor Walkway (benches)	\$10,000	Goal 4, 5, 11	\$10,000 Charlevoix Co Parks
2025 - 2026	Donegal Bay Path 2	\$200,000	Goal 4, 5, 11	\$200,000 MDOT
2025 - 2026	Fishing Pier & Access Ramp	\$80,000	Goal 4, 5, 6	\$80,000 GL Fisheries Trust / Tribes
2025 - 2026	Harbor Walkway (benches)	\$10,000	Goal 4, 5, 11	\$10,000 Charlevoix Co Parks
2026 - 2027	St James Twp Campground Bathhouse	\$100,000	Goal 3, 4, 5	\$100,000 Recreation Passport

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

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).

Appendix A

Public Notices



LOCALiQ

Petoskey News-Review
The Monroe News | Holland Sentinel
Gaylord Herald Times | Daily Telegram

PO Box 630491 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0491

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

St. James Township
Po Box 85
Beaver Island MI 49782-0085

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF EMMET, COUNTY OF CHARLEVOIX

The Petoskey News Review, a newspaper printed and published in the counties of Emmet and Charlevoix, in the State of Michigan, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspaper in the issue dated:

12/16/2022

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 12/16/2022

St. James Township Public Hearing

37830 Kings Highway
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2014

Notice of Public Hearing
To be held 5:30PM,
January 19th, 2023
Beaver Island Community Center
26215 Main Street
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2022

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that on the 19th day of January, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. the St. James Township will hold a Public Hearing to obtain feedback on a presented draft copy of the St. James Township 2023-2027 Five Year Park & Recreation Plan.

The draft copy of the St. James Township 2023-2027 Five Year Park & Recreation Plan is available for review and public comment for a period of 30 days at:

St. James Township Government Center
37830 Kings Hwy
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Interested persons may attend the public hearing. Written comments prior to this meeting may be addressed to St. James Township Supervisor, Roberta Welke, at the address noted below.

Dated: December 14, 2022
Posted: December 15, 2022

Submitted by:
Julie Gillespie, Clerk
St. James Township
P.O. Box 85
37830 Kings Hwy,
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2761

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$89.65
Order No: 8204507 # of Copies:
Customer No: 545273 -1
PO #:

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!

Please do not use this form for payment remittance.

SARAH BERTELSEN
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin



**ST JAMES TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT CENTER
37830 KINGS HIGHWAY, PO BOX 85
BEAVER ISLAND, MI 49782**

January 22, 2023

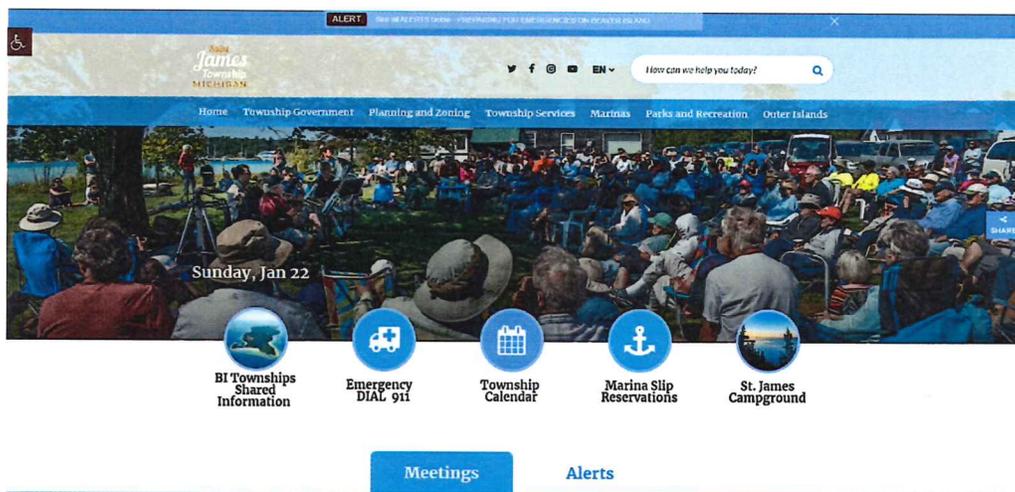
Alexandria McBride
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Lansing, MI

Dear Ms. McBride;

St James Township officials postponed the posted Thursday, January 19, 2023, Public Hearing/Special Board Meeting called to seek public comments on the draft township Parks and Recreation Plan. That day some 6" of snow fell and gale force winds caused drifted roads and low visibility making travel unsafe. Many island driveways were closed until Friday or Saturday. There were power outages affecting the east side of the Island. To allow safer access for public comment the Public Hearing/Special Board meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

Posted notices went out on January 19th to open public facilities, including the Township's Government Center and Post Office. Email notices went out to various committees and groups known to be interested in the event. Our website was updated with a new notice.

In accordance with your directions, screen grabs of the website are included herein to demonstrate our effort to notify the public of the rescheduled event.



Meetings

Alerts

JAN
24

Public Hearing - Recreation
Plan

FEB
7

Planning Commission

See all Meetings



Public Hearing - Recreation Plan
Rescheduled Public Hearing Agenda [here](#)



Close

ICS

Thank you for your consideration in our need to reschedule this Public Hearing/Special Board meeting.

Roberta (Bobbi) Welke, Supervisor
St James Township
Office: 231-448-2014
Mobile: 269-217-5901

Appendix B
Resolution of Plan Adoption



ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP, BEAVER ISLAND
CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Resolution 2023.01.24.23 #1

**Authorizing Approval of the St James Township
5-Year Park & Recreation Plan 2023-2027**

At a special meeting of the St James Township Board, held at the Beaver Island Community Center, located in St James Township, Michigan on January 24, 2023:

Present: McDonough, Gillespie, Welke, Cole, Fingerroot

Absent: NONE

The following resolution was made by Fingerroot and seconded by Cole.

WHEREAS St James Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its resident during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027, and

WHEREAS St James Township began the process of developing a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS residents of St James Township were provided with an advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

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

WHEREAS the public hearing was held on January 24, 2023, at the Beaver Island Community Center to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the St James Township 5-Year Park & recreation Plan 2023-2017 in person, and

WHEREAS St James Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resources conservation for St James Township, and

WHEREAS as after the public hearing, the St James Township Board voted to adopt said St James Township 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan 2023-2027.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the St James Township Board hereby adopts the St James Township 5-Year Park & Recreation Plan 2023-2027.

AYES: Gillespie, McDonough, Fingerroot, Cole, Welke

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

By: Julie Gillespie Date: 1-24-23

The above signed, Julie Gillespie, hereby certifies that she is the duly elected and acting clerk of the Township of St James and further certifies that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a special board meeting of the Township board held on January 24, 2023.

Appendix C

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of January 24, 2023 Special St. James Board Meeting
Beaver Island Community Center | 26215 Main St. | Beaver Island, MI | 4:00 pm

Present:

Cole, Fingerroot, Gillespie, McDonough, Welke

Absent:

None

Others:

Others present include:

Shelby Harris, Administrative Assistant, St James Township

Twenty members of the public were present.

Matt Biolette, Rick Stout, and Lori Hansen of Fleis & Vandenbrink (F&V), the consultant engaged to develop the township's 5 Year Parks & Recreation Plan, participated in the meeting via zoom.

A total of 26 people were present in person and 29 participated in the meeting.

Audience member Joe Moore streamed the meeting to his News on the Net website. Four members of the township's Harbor, Parks, and Recreation Committee were present.

Public Hearing

Supervisor Welke called the Public Hearing to order at 4:04 pm on January 24, 2023, 2022. Supervisor Welke presented information via a power point presentation that covered introductions, the agenda, the 5 Year Plan purpose, grant programs, plan content, and public comments and questions. Officials from F&V were responsive to some of the technical questions where necessary.

Public Comment

Community members asked questions and/or made comments regarding the five-year plan and recreation in general. Comments, questions, and answers covered:

The pending acquisition of the Karnes Beach Property through a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and its future park development (as the Edward B. Wojan Park) via a plan and grant proposal in collaboration with the existing Jewell F. Gillespie Park and a to-be-purchased private beach lot. Possible improvements could be a restroom, a picnic pavilion, a performing arts site, a trail, a rain garden if we are able to move the storm sewer retention system from the Gillespie Park to the Wojan Park, and a new ADA launch site for the water trail. These options, and more, will be considered with the development of a master plan. The recreation options that the Happy Paddle business offers was acknowledged as an important service and such amenities need to be provided to the public. It was pointed out that other recreational rental sites do exist.

After a question, the method of payment for the Karnes Beach Property was shared with the public.

A request was made to add to the plan additional information regarding recreation safety for the outer islands as well as information about access to and use these islands. Township officials responded with an in-motion plan to make an outer island access and

use ordinance which would allow enforcement if poor behavior occurred. In addition, it was acknowledged that the outer island access expectations could be posted at the launching sites and on flyers at the Trail Head (Beaver Island Community Centers) and through the recreation equipment rental businesses. Ms. Harris pointed out that multiple organizations would prefer that the outer islands not be discussed or referenced as 'recreational' in this plan.

An audience member asked if the plan discussed other recreational opportunities. In response Ms. Welke referenced current page 61 of the plan and its capital improvement plan section. Multiple projects are being considered over the next five years, including, subject to available funding and confirmation of priorities:

- Benches at township green spaces around the harbor (in a later question from the public, the Font Lake landing site would be added to the list of sites needing a bench).
- Work, such as new docks and a boat washing station at Marina North are a need as is a master plan for both marinas to understand what is needed at both facilities.
- The extension of the Donegal Bay Bike Path is listed. It was noted that if the Airport Commission is able to implement their current 5-year plan, an Asphalt plant would be needed to be brought to the Island and various projects could be undertaken.
- The need for a fishing pier was discussed. This discussion included an option of where to place it – in collaboration with the Beaver Island Historical Society.
- Building the campground bathhouse is listed as a possible future project.

In response to this "limited" list, members of the audience questioned/suggested:

- A question regarding constructing additional parking at Font Lake was asked. Ongoing negotiations with the Port St James Association continue.
- A request to consider the opportunity to complete the trail (close the loop) around the north beach (Pine St area) was made. The township is concerned about the strong opposition on the part of private property owners for this portion of the 'loop'. Furthermore, it was shared that the township is focusing on the portion of this 'loop' that would connect the LTC's Petritz Nature Preserve with the township's Gull Harbor Park. The only open portion of this "loop" is on the public portion of the beach. This higher priority route requires discussions with multiple property owners. A major portion of the so-called existing route between Petritz and Gull Harbor is on private property without permission and another location/permitted solution is needed.

It was pointed out to the audience that the plan is a living document, while it will continue to be edited before its submittal and in the future (refer to page 3).

A question was asked about the posting time for this public hearing. The reply affirmed a 30-day notice as published in the newspaper, for the township this notice is published in the Petoskey paper and via postings at public buildings throughout the area and within our website. The newspaper posting was done on December 15, 2022. The changed date (Jan 19 to Jan 24 due to extreme weather) was publicly posted, albeit, not in the newspaper.

A request was made to include Dark Sky language given its economic benefit for the Island. It was pointed out that there were two sections discussing Dark Sky, likely there only needs to be one and there is a goal with objectives and a series of action items specifically discussing Dark Sky.

An audience member brought up interest in having a ball toss machine that users could rent for the tennis court. The township would like to consider this request. The purchase of such a machine is less an issue than the logistics for where to store it/mobilize it from.

The property owner of the Big Birch Tree, a significant cultural and natural resource on the island was willing to offer the property to the two townships and/or another appropriate entity. Little Traverse Conservancy may be an interested party. Further discussion is necessary to consider this generous and appreciated offer. It is understood another party owns much of the driveway area and would need to be involved with such a plan.

It was suggested that the basketball court at the school needs work. It was acknowledged that this is a school issue, not a township issue. However, we are cooperating with the school to encourage their development of a five-year capital improvement plan (especially given the timing of an asphalt plant on the island, something that happens infrequently; the last time a plant was here was 2001/2002.). We are working on such a plan for the Transfer Station and Recycling Center.

A member of the public asked if an indoor pool could be included in the township's recreational considerations. Others in the audience supported this request. Ms. Welke responded that given the concerns with funding such a project, plus the costs associated with maintaining and operating a pool that benefactors would have to be involved in funding all aspects of such a facility.

There were no further comments or questions.

Moved by Welke to close the Public Hearing at 4:49 pm with McDonough providing support.

Motion Carried-Unanimous

Special Meeting

Supervisor Welke called the Special Meeting to order at 4:49 pm.

Discussion regarding the comments and questions from the public were well received and appreciated. The 5-year plan document and intentions of the board, within funding availability, to deliver on the public's expectations were understood.

Resolution 2023.01.24.23 #1 authorizing approval of the St James Township 5-Year Park & Recreation Plan 2023-2027. Resolution by Fingerroot and seconded by Cole. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Five

Nay: None

The Resolution was declared adopted by Welke with Gillespie charged to certify the Resolution.

Resolution 2023.01.24.23 #2 authorizing that an application be submitted for a Charlevoix County Parks Millage Grant to fund the purchase of benches to be placed on Township Property throughout the harbor area and at Font Lake. Resolution by Gillespie and seconded by McDonough. Roll Call Vote.

Ayes: Five

Nay: None

The Resolution was declared adopted by Welke with Gillespie charged to certify the Resolution.

Motion #1

Moved by Cole and seconded by Welke to engage Fleis & Vandenbrink at total cost of \$15,000 to 1) create a Master Plan for the development of the Edward B Wojan Park and the Jewell F Gillespie Park in the amount of \$9,500 (refundable via an awarded grant) and 2) create an application for a grant to provide this development via the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' SPARKS Grant, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Passport Grant, as applicable, in the amount of \$5,500. No further board members comments.

Motion Carried-Unanimous

Motion #2

Moved by Welke and seconded by Fingeroot to engaged Fleis & Vandenbrink to perform an evaluation and initial assessment of the Township's Sewer (Septic) System in the amount of \$3,906.

Board Members Comments: McDonough is concerned about spending this money. She reports that the engineer's annual reports document the sewer is operating appropriately and all due monitoring is completed by the township's maintenance director.

Fingeroot asked Fleis and Vandenbrink how this assessment would be completed? Matt Biolette of F&V responded that the two grinder and pump assembly would be inspected to determine a life expectancy, that the lift stations, septic tanks and field would be assessed. There would be no unnecessary camering of the system. The evaluation would consider the operations of the system, recommendations would be made. This would be a health and wellness check.

Fingeroot responded that this is a very important action to take, as any failure would result in catastrophic consequences.

Cole described that the operations of the sewer system was one of the most important responsibilities of the township.

Welke reported that there was an older five-year plan for the sewer that needs to be updated so we have a new plan moving forward. She reported that the Sewer Fund will pay for these services. In addition, she shared that there were ELGE issues that need to be addressed.

Gillespie shared her concern with the township funding this cost.

Motion Carried-4 to 1 vote

Public Comment

A member of the audience noted that properly managing the township sewer was step 1, that the next step would be to extend the sewer around the harbor to protect Lake Michigan from water and septic issues. Welke responded that the township board has yet to consider the future of any sewer extension but given its major cost for construction and operation, that establishing regulations associated with private property septic systems needs to be considered first, to protect Lake Michigan and Font Lake as well as our ground water and soils.

An example was shared that would be to require mandatory inspections of the septic system when a home is sold rather than use the current 'preference' system. Harris shared that EGLE officials are determining when they could come to the island to test the water quality of the harbor. We should know more about this schedule in June.

A member of the audience asked for confirmation that taxpayers would not be responsible for this cost. Welke responded that the Sewer fund is an enterprise fund, with all property owners who use this sewer paying monthly fees to operate and maintain the sewer.

No further comments were made.

Moved by Fingerroot, supported by McDonough to adjourn this Special Meeting at 5:09 pm.

Motion Carried-Unanimous

Submitted by:

Julie Gillespie, Clerk
St. James Township
COUNTY OF CHARLEVOIX

Appendix D

Post Grant Completion Reports





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [X] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: St. James Township

PROJECT NUMBER: RP18-0049 PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: St. James Township Campground Improvement

PROJECT SCOPE: Addition of utilities, electric campsites, parking area, signs

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: St. James Township, Bobbi Welke, Township Supervisor, P.O. Box 85, 231 448-2014, Beaver Island, MI 49782, supervisor.stjamestownship.bi@gmail.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [] No

Six electric sites added

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
\$20/day primitive campsite, \$30/day electric campsite

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

May 15th to October 31st - 7:00 am to 11:00 pm except for camping which is 24 hours

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

This project is undergoing final review by the MiGrants Staff to declare the project is completed.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Roberta S. Welke

Please print

Roberta Welke

Grantee Authorized Signature

1/18/23

Date

Shelby Harris

Please print

Shelby Harris

Witness Signature

1/18/23

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: St James Township, Charlevoix County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF92-319

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Gull Harbor Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquire Gull Harbor to create a park

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: St James Township, Roberta (Bobbi) Welke, Supervisor, 37850 King's Highway, PO Box 85, 269-217-5901, Beaver Island, MI 49782, supervisor.stjamestownship.bi@gmail.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [] No

High water from Lake Michigan has caused the loss of 1/3 of the trail constructed after the acquisition. Winter storms and ice caused the lost of the sign in April 2022

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

April 2022, high Lake Michigan, Winter Storms and shoving ice destroyed the sign at the Park. We have ordered a replacement Trust Fund sign.

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

As we are able to do so, where Lake Michigan has not flooded portions of the park.

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

Large Boulder have been placed along the trail installed post the acquisition to prevent motorized access.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes No

Trail clean up is scheduled as needed

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

24/7/365

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Note that the county road into and around the outer edge of the park has frequently been underwater. The Road cCommission has posted that the road is closed due to high water. During the summer of 2022 the water receded from the park site but was still over the road further north of the site continuing to cause this road to official be closed to traffic. Many in the public ignore this closure and have been stuck and therefore required assistance in getting their vehicle free.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Roberta S (Bobbi) Welke
Please print


Grantee Authorized Signature

1/24/23
Date

Shelby Harris
Please print


Witness Signature

1/24/23
Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



**Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management
Recognition Sign Request for the MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST
FUND, LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND and Recreation Passport Fund
Required Under Authority of Part 19, 1994 PA 451, as amended.**



Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Plaque/Medallions

12 x 18 plaque (REQUIRED)	qty wanted	<u>1</u>	@ \$ 219.50 each =	<u>\$219.50</u>
12" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 380.00 each =	<u> </u>
8" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 345.00 each =	<u> </u>
6" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 320.00 each =	<u> </u>

Land and Water Conservation Fund

12 x 18 plaque (REQUIRED)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 275.50 each =	<u> </u>
12" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 380.00 each =	<u> </u>
8" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 345.00 each =	<u> </u>
6" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 320.00 each =	<u> </u>

Michigan Recreation Passport Fund

12 x 18 plaque (REQUIRED)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 330.00 each =	<u> </u>
12" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 395.00 each =	<u> </u>
8" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 360.00 each =	<u> </u>
6" dia medallion (optional)	qty wanted	<u> </u>	@ \$ 335.00 each =	<u> </u>

The Department of Natural Resources requires that each Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Recreation Passport project has suitable permanent public acknowledgement of Trust Fund assistance. Such permanent acknowledgement shall be in the form of a metal sign.

Ship to: (physical address where sign will be delivered <u>can not</u> be a PO Box)		Bill To:	
Name of Contact <u>BOBBI WELKE, SUPERVISOR</u>	Telephone <u>269-217-5901</u>	Name of Contact <u>JULIE GILLESPIE, CLERK</u>	Telephone <u>231-448-2761</u>
Address <u>37830 KING'S HWY</u>		Address <u>37830 KING'S HWY, PO BOX 85</u>	
City, State, ZIP <u>BEAVER ISLAND, MI 49782</u>		City, State, ZIP <u>BEAVER ISLAND, MI 49782</u>	
Date to Deliver by <u>AS SOON AS PRACTICAL</u>		Local Unit <u>ST JAMES TOWNSHIP</u>	
Grant/Project number(s) <u>TF 92-319</u>			
Park name where sign(s) will be located <u>GULL HARBOR PARK</u>			

Please mail completed form and payment to:
Rotary Multiforms Inc
1340 E. Eleven Mile Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071
 Telephone (586) 558-7960 or (800) 762-5644
 Fax (586) 558-7959

Purchase Approved By:

Bobbi Welke
 Authorized Signature

1/24/23
 Date

Appendix E

Transmittals of Plan to County/Regional Planning Agencies





TRANSMITTAL

To: Charlevoix County Planning Dept.
301 State St.
Charlevoix, MI 49720

Date: January 30, 2023
Project No.: 858700
Project Description: Notice of Intent

Delivery: *Via email: planning@charlevoixcounty.org*

Quantity	Description
1	St. James Township MDNR Notice of Intent

Remarks

Per MDNR guidance, we are forwarding the recently adopted community 5-year park & recreation plan for your file. Thank you in advance.

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Approval / Signature
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Field Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Your File
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

**Rick Stout, Senior LA, Land Development
Fleis & VandenBrink**

TRANSMITTAL



To: Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
PO Box 506
Traverse City, MI 49685-0506

Date: January 30, 2023
Project No.: 858700
Project Description: Notice of Intent

Delivery: Via email - rob.carson@networksnorthwest.org

Quantity	Description
1	St. James Township MDNR Notice of Intent

Remarks

Per MDNR guidance, we are forwarding the recently adopted community 5-year park & recreation plan for your file. Thank you in advance.

- For Approval / Signature
- For Field Use
- For Your File
- Other:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Stout', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

**Rick Stout, Senior LA, Land Development
Fleis & VandenBrink**