

**Garfield Township
Recreation Plan**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....3

Community Description.....3

Administration Structure and Organizational Chart.....10

The Planning Process.....11

Current Funding Sources.....11

Recreation Inventory.....13

Recreation Needs and Deficiency.....14

Recreational Research in The Township.....14

Goal and Objectives.....14

The Action Plan.....15

Resources.....17

INTRODUCTION

The Garfield Township Recreation Plan is the second plan that has been developed for the Township in the past 10 years. In 1998 a Recreation Plan was developed in order for the Township to proceed with developing recreation opportunities in the community, mainly developing the Mill Pond Park. As off the present the 1998 plan was severely outdated and as stipulated by the Department of Natural Resources, a community needs to update its recreation plan every five years in order to be eligible for a variety of recreational grant programs. Garfield Township has not been eligible for any recreation grants in approximately 5 years.

SINCE THE LAST PLAN

In the past 10 year the Township has turned the old Mill Pond into the Mill Pond Park. This park has come to include a wooden pathway with two bridges going from the main land to an island with a gazebo and back to the mainland. A graveled pathway follows alongside the pond, and a picnic area and pavilion area are also present. The pond was stocked with small trout but has since been emptied by cormorants. These improvements were greatly needed.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

1. To identify and organize the recreational facilities and opportunities that are available for the existing and future populations of Garfield Township and its visitors.
2. To maintain the certification necessary for obtaining financial aid from grant sources that can help keep this plan implemented.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location – People – Economy:

Garfield Township is located in the western part of Mackinac County along Lake Michigan. The township lies within the area described T43-44N, and R9-10W. This township has a common boundary with Newton and Portage Townships in the west, Luce County in the North, and Hudson Township in the east. The southern side of the township is Lake Michigan's shoreline. The Township has two well-established communities in Engadine and Naubinway and the smaller community of Gilchrist.

In 1960, the total population of the township was 1,017, which slightly decreased to 1,013 in 1970. By 1990, the population had increased to 1156. The 2000 U.S. Census gave a figure of 1251. However, the estimated population for 2005 gave a figure of 1,155. This indicates a negative population growth for the Township.

Garfield Township Population			
	1990	2000	2005 Estimate
Garfield Township	1,156	1,251	1,155

Age distribution analysis shows that the Township is clearly aging. The number of children in the area has decreased slightly while the number of people of retirement age and above has increased. However, the most troublesome statistics on the population chart shows the serious loss of people in their twenties and early thirties. The most serious decline in population is in the age groups from 20-34. However, it should be noted that while the population of this age group seriously declined, the age group of 80 to 84 almost doubled. It becomes obvious that due to a lack of major industry, Garfield Township is currently tending to export youths and import retirees.

Garfield Township: Population Composition by Age		
Age	1990	2000
00-04	66	61
05-09	70	62
10-14	79	75
15-19	75	75
20-24	50	36
25-29	59	47
30-34	82	54
35-39	61	80
40-44	71	100
45-49	81	84
50-54	75	76
55-59	62	102
60-64	89	106
65-69	71	82
70-74	68	89
75-79	54	62
80-84	25	40
85+	18	20
Total	1156	1251

Economically speaking, agriculture, commercial fishing, and lumbering have been the mainstay of the Garfield Township economic base of the area since the first days of the township. However, over the last few decades, recreation and tourism played a more significant role in the local economy.

Out of the Township's total area of 138 square miles, about 25 square miles are under agriculture, which constitutes approximately 55% of the total Mackinac County agricultural land. Although farming as a whole has experienced some problems in recent years, this land is the most productive agricultural land in the county. Agriculture consists of primarily dairy farming, beef cattle raising, small grain cultivation and forage. In Naubinway, commercial fishing is still the biggest employer. Whitefish is the primary

fish caught off the shores. In addition, there is still some logging in the area. However, in recent years, the number of people involved in logging has declined. Something that has helped the Township in recent decades is recreation and tourism. These are playing a much bigger part in the economic vibrancy of the township. The biggest aspect of this in the Township is the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club (HSC), which owns approximately 35,000 acres, with roughly 1200 members along with their spouses and family. Obviously, the HSC has a large impact on the Township as a whole.

As the following chart shows, the average household in Garfield Township is above the poverty line. However, there are considerably more people on the bottom of the chart than at the top.

Garfield Township: Household Income					
Household Income	Number of Households			Percent of Households	
	1989	1999		1989	1999
Less than \$10,000	99	66		21.1	11.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999	71	59		15.1	10.5
\$15,000 to \$24,999	122	76		26.0	13.5
\$25,000 to \$34,999	90	82		19.1	14.6
\$35,000 to \$49,999	41	121		8.7	21.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	34	102		7.2	18.1
\$75,000 to \$99,000	9	36		1.9	6.4
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2	19		0.4	3.4
\$150,000 or more	2	2		0.4	0.4
Total Households	470	563		100	100
Median Household Income	19,535	34,712			

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP

Engadine

During the late 1800's Engadine evolved into a village populated mainly with immigrants from Europe. Originally named Kennedy's Siding, its name was later changed to Engadine, after a valley in Switzerland. At first, logging was the main industry and this attracted many settlers. Shortly after, farming developed in the area just north of town and Engadine became the center of this farming community. During the mid-1900's tourism became more of a factor and turned into an industry, which is still growing.

Today, Engadine's infrastructure consists of two major roadways consisting of US-2, which runs one mile south of the town and M-117, which runs directly through the town center. Engadine also has natural gas, the railroad, and DSL Internet. Other resources, which are contained in the community or are adjacent to it, are Agricultural Land, Forests, and Dolomite. Retail services in Engadine include an auto parts store, a

feed store, a hardware store, a lumberyard, a gas station, a grocery store, a bar, and a restaurant. Professional services include a bank, an insurance agent, a cabinetmaker, an automotive repair garage, two wrecker services, carpenters, a health clinic, and a dentist office. Engadine also has one active lumber mill. The Top of The Lake Communities Association also offers public services to Engadine.

Engadine is the center of Garfield Township Government and hosts the majority of Township services, which include a fire department, an ambulance corps, a new ambulance garage, a beautiful park, and a museum. Engadine is also home to a State Highway Garage and a Mackinac County Road Commission Garage. Both are bases for snow removal and road maintenance. The town also boasts a post office, two denominations of churches, a shared VFW and American Legion Posts, and a Lions Club. Engadine is home to Engadine Consolidated School System, which is a K-12 system serving not only Garfield Township, but the surrounding townships of Newton, Hudson, and Hendricks. During the mid-1990s, the school had over \$2 Million in improvements implemented, which include a modern library that is open to the public. In 2007 a two year sinking fund-millage was approved by the voters for facility updates at the school as well.

Naubinway

Naubinway began life back in the early to mid-1800s as a fishing camp. Later, around 1854, the first permanent settlers arrived when William and Catherine Boucha opened a fur trading post. They did well trading with local Indians and other settlers soon followed. Towards the end of the century, Naubinway became a logging boomtown.

With its deep-water harbor, it became a major shipping port for lumber. Mills lined the shore and the town had a population in excess of 3000. However, during the early 1900s, the logging bubble burst and Naubinway just about became a ghost town, with only a few commercial fishermen remaining.

After US-2 came through in the 1940s, Naubinway began to see more tourists and once again, people started moving into the area. During the years after the highway came through, Naubinway experienced another smaller boom in construction. Namely, the business corridor along US-2 that is visible today came into existence.

Today, Naubinway has a relatively stable economy. There are still three active fish processing companies in town. Naubinway's marina refurbished in 2004 and dredged in 2009 and is again a modern working marina. Other businesses in town include one gas station, a grocery store, five restaurants, a pastry shop, a bar, a motel, a hotel, two real estate offices, and a small engine repair shop. Public services include two churches, a fire hall, a post office, a medical clinic, a Michigan DNR Field Office, and a large pavilion, that is partially enclosed for use as a meeting hall. Naubinway like Engadine also benefits from the Top of The Lake Communities Association .

Naubinway's main attraction as a tourist destination is its natural resources. However, the fact that Naubinway is one of the few active commercial fishing villages left in the State draws many people to the town in search of locally caught, fresh fish.

Hiawatha Sportsman's Club

"The Club", as it is locally known, has been a fixture in the Township for as long as most of the residents of this area have been alive. With over 35,000 acres, it represents over 40% of the total land area in the Township. The HSC land contains approximately six miles of Lake Michigan Shoreline, most of the shoreline of Millecoquin's Lake, all of the lower Millecoquin's River, and numerous other lakes and streams.

With the exception of the residential areas, access to the interior of the Club is through locked gates. The residential areas where Club members may construct homes or cabins include: East Beach Road, Middle Beach Road, West Beach Road, West River Road, Middle River Road, East River Road, Riverview Road, and Millecoquin's Lake Road. Both seasonal and year round residences are located in these areas. While small cabins sites are historical to the Club, over the past 20 years the most common construction is of 1000 to 3000 sq ft homes capable of being year round residences. The HSC is the largest private sportsman's club in the eastern U.P and one of the largest in the State.

The founding of the club began in 1927 with the formation of the Lansing Hiawatha Development Company. At that time, the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club actually owned no land. However, Dr. William McNamara and the LHDC were acquiring land, buying up small parcels through purchase or option. The larger parcels were bought on land contract. The Fiborn Land Company owned the largest parcel (29,000 acres), which makes up the majority of the present day HSC.

In 1930, the HSC bought its first 160 acres. The following year, it purchased an additional 1280 acres. And in the following years, additional purchases followed. Creation of buildings and facilities also began. Shortly after its first land purchase, construction began on a grand scale. With over 500 memberships already sold, the future of the HSC was already looking bright. Among other things, a clubhouse was planned and built. Construction of 25 rental cabins began with plans to eventually have 100. (They currently have 42 rental cabins.) An airport was built. Creeks were dammed. A trout pond was built. A sawmill was built and operated and a store in Engadine was bought and moved to Millecoquin's Lake and used as a commissary. Also, a golf course and tennis courts were built and opened to use by members along with other recreational accommodations. By the end of the 1930s most of the recreational facilities we see today were in place and operational.

At its conception and founding, the idea was to have 5,000 memberships owned by 5,000 members. However, on April 17th of 1976, the Board of the HSC voted to close the membership at 1763 memberships owned by 1439 members. The 1,439 members decided that there were enough memberships and further enrollment of new members

would be extremely limited. Today, memberships are given out only with the sale or transfer of property from current members. And then, only upon the approval of the membership committee of the HSC. At this time, there are currently 1721 memberships owned by 1170 members.

However, 31 years after the closing of its membership, the HSC is still alive and well. In 2002, "The Club" celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a grand celebration. This celebration made great note of the history of the HSC. However, it also made an even bigger note of the fact that the HSC is also looking forward to a long and prosperous future as it plans to continue to be one of the States largest and finest private sportsman's clubs.

Outlying Areas

Although most of the population of Garfield Township is centered around the aforementioned areas, there is a lot more to the Township that is of interest. First, on the east side of the Township is the small community of Gilchrist, which sits astride both H-40 and the railroad. Years ago, this made Gilchrist a viable community. However, these days, only a few residents live there. They have no commercial businesses,

Next, as mentioned earlier, the area north of Engadine is one of rich farmlands. Although recent years have proven hard on farming and made it increasingly tough on farmers to exist economically, many residents of Garfield Township still make farming their single occupation.

RESOURCE INVENTORY:

Full detailed maps of the resource inventory can be viewed in the Garfield Master Plan.

1. Land Cover

Land cover on Garfield Township consists of Urban, Agriculture, Grassland, Forest, Water, Wetlands, and Barren land. The majority of the township is covered by forests.

2. Bedrock Geology

Geology factors play a major role in land use analysis. The depth of bedrock from the land surfaces is very crucial for many of the land uses. Bedrock in the Township is either Engadine dolomite or limestone. Both of which are valuable.

3. Land Ownership

Land Ownership varies from State, Private, Township Schools, the Township, and the County. Of the total 138-square mile area, 45 square miles are

private, 40 square miles are public (state), and the remaining 53 square miles are under corporate ownership. Most of the corporate land belongs to the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club, which is located in the middle of the township around Millecoquins Lake. Most of the eastern end of the township and the southwest corner of the township is public property.

4. Transportation:

In Garfield Township there are two major highways US-2 and M-117, along with these two highways there are numerous other county roads in the Township.

5. Wetland Cover

With more and more importance given to wetlands and legal issues involved with the development of wetlands for either commercial or private purposes, the location of wetlands in the Township is very important.

6. Flood Plain

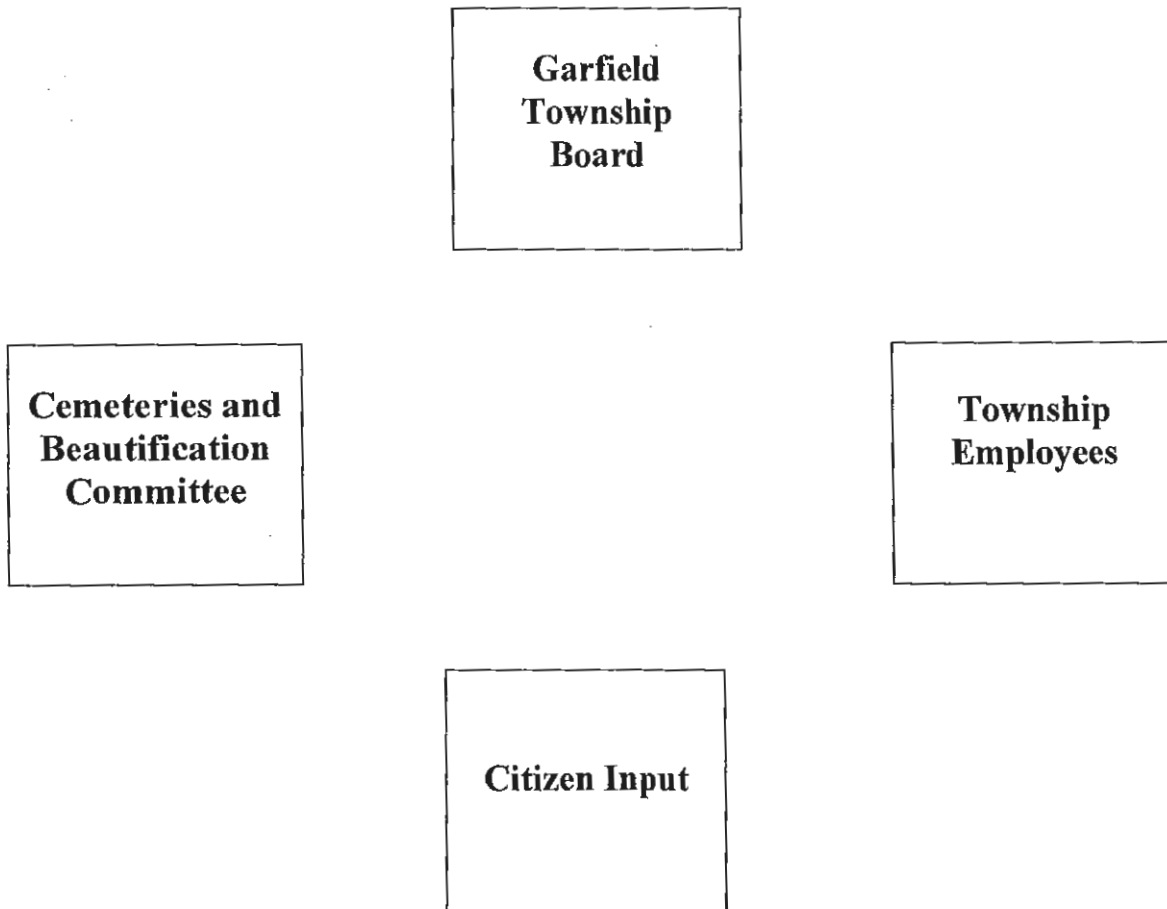
Another characteristic important to the use and development of land is the flood plain. Knowledge of the locations of various flood plains within the Township is important; whether it is for insurance purposes or knowing how prone a particular piece of land is to flooding.

7. Zoning

Township zoning must be know to the recreation plan in order to keep in accordance with zoning in any recreation projects being proposed or developed.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Currently the Township utilizes a volunteer based committee called Cemeteries and Beautification Committee. This committee meets to establish needed beautification, general maintenances of recreation areas and future recreation projects for Garfield Township. This committee works closely with the Township Board with the publics input.



THE PLANNING PROCESS

Community Surveys/Public Input

1. The Garfield Township Board sent out an advertisement in the Newberry News requesting for township citizen input regarding recreational opportunities and projects that they would like to see in the community.
2. Two Garfield Township Board members and a volunteer met to review suggestions from the Cemeteries and Beatification Committee as well as the results from the advertisement. They also established a rough draft of the Recreation Plan.

Adoption Process

1. Garfield Township Board: Will review the plan for approval and send it onto the Township Planning Commission for approval.
2. Garfield Township Planning Commission: The Recreation Plan will be reviewed for compliance to the Townships overall Master Plan and then make a recommendation to the Township Board to adopt the plan
3. A public hearing will be held and the Garfield Township Board will adopt the Recreation Plan.

CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES

There are a wide variety of funding sources that exist that will help with implementing the Recreation Plan for the Township. Many of these are State and Federal programs that are specifically targeted for recreation needs. There are also funding sources that help target the recreation needs from a transportation, economic development, or housing perspective. As of the present there are no current funding sources being used for recreation purposes in the Township.

Below is a list of possible funding sources for the Township. These are not the only funding sources; there are many more available.

STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF)

This fund is available for acquisition of land for future recreation and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Funding is based on a 25% match. For more information visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

Waterways Program

This program is funded through boating fees from across the state and available to communities to assist in programs for providing launch sites, mooring and marine facilities. Related services for the boating public including, electrical, toilets, parking, etc... can also be funded with this source. Funds are 50/50 local/state matched and can be used for planning/engineering as well as construction activities. For more information visit MDNR.

Michigan Coastal Management Program

Federal program that's administered through the MDNR and provides a 50/50 match for project that protect sensitive coastal zones like sand dunes or wetland. Funds can be directed to help with the control and development of erosion and flood hazard areas as well as creation/enhancement of public access in coastal area. Program can fund site design and planning, low cost construction projects such as boardwalks, interpretive displays or stairways.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)

Created by US Congress and provides funds to by land and develop facilities for outdoor recreation. This is a 50/50 local/federal match that is through the MDNR and is based on a competitive process including federal and state criteria. Funding is dependent upon Congressional allocation.

MCACA Cities, Townships and Villages Program

This program is through the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and provides funding for arts and cultural projects and institutions, historical organizations and projects, etc. This grant is a 50/50 matching grant.

Trails Program

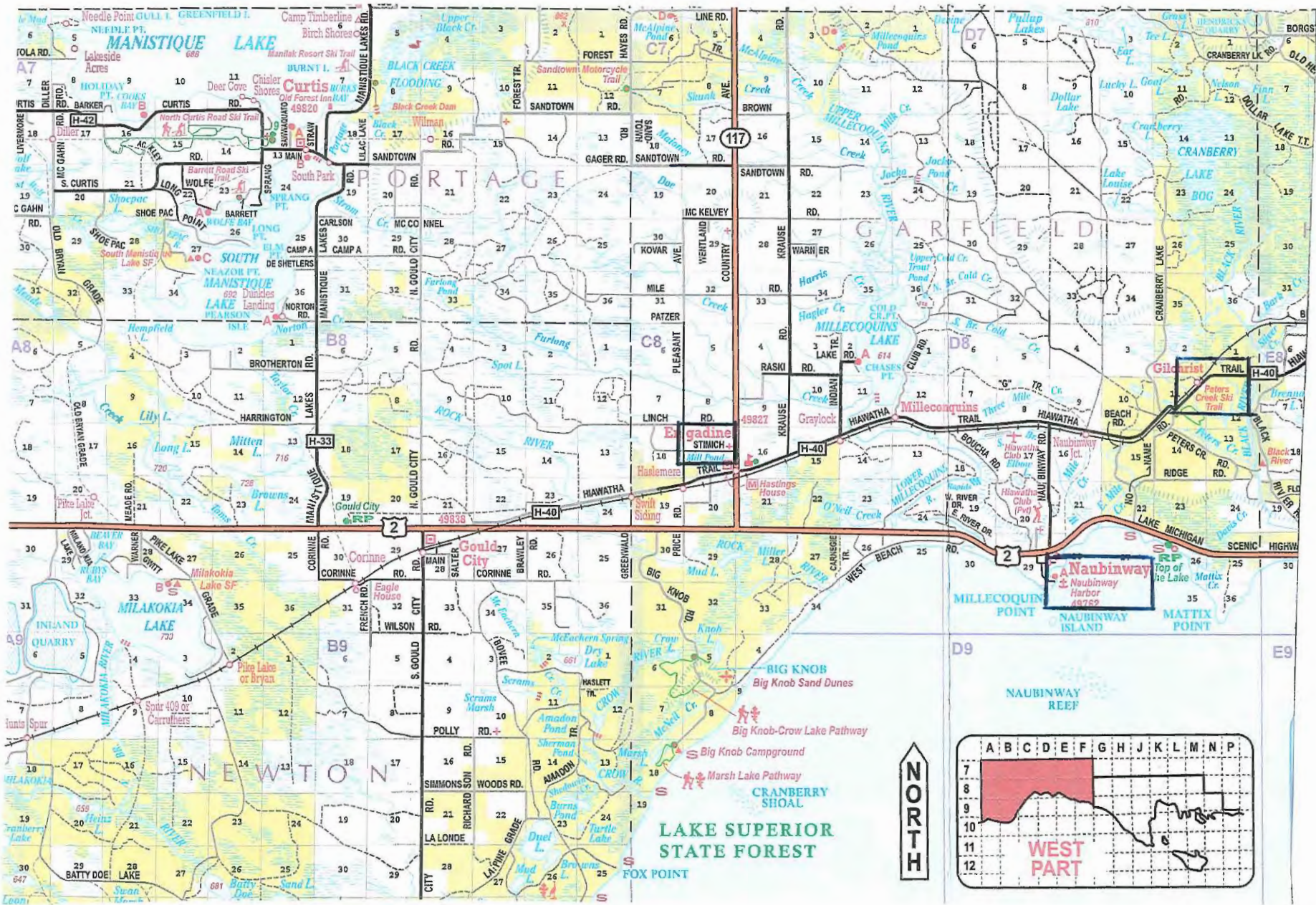
This program is through the Recreation Division of the DNR, a statewide trail system using internal DNR funds. The funds can be combined with other funds to accomplish trail projects of both state and local interests.

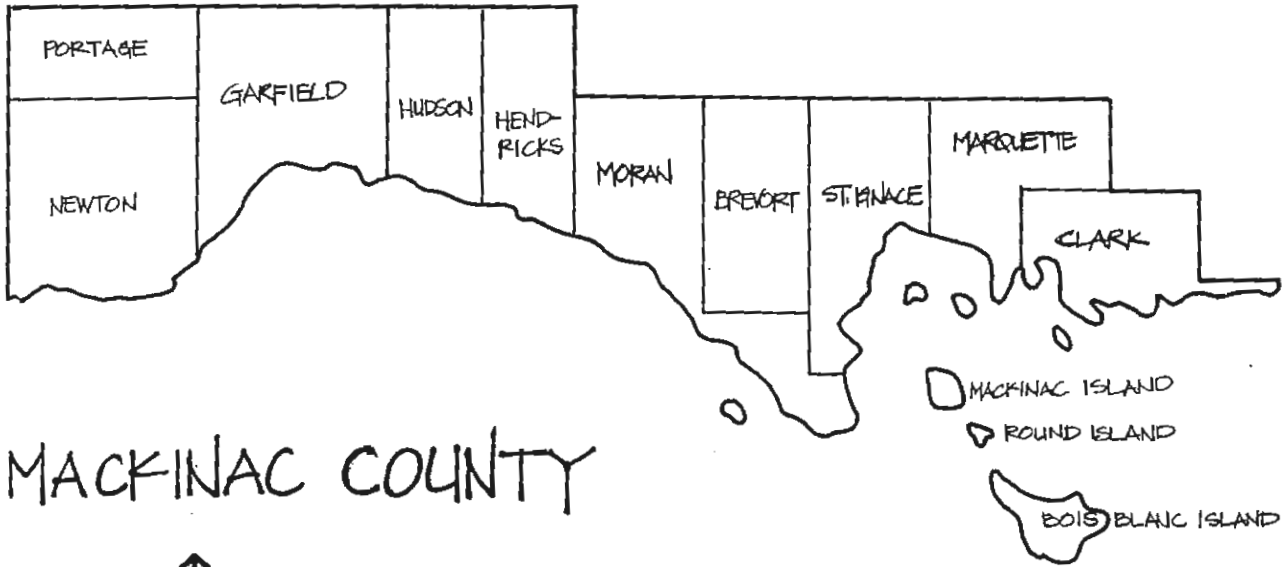
TEA-21 Transportation Enhancement Activities Program

Administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation to provide funding for motorized facilities, transportation aesthetics, and historic preservation. A minimum of 20% local match is required for this grant.

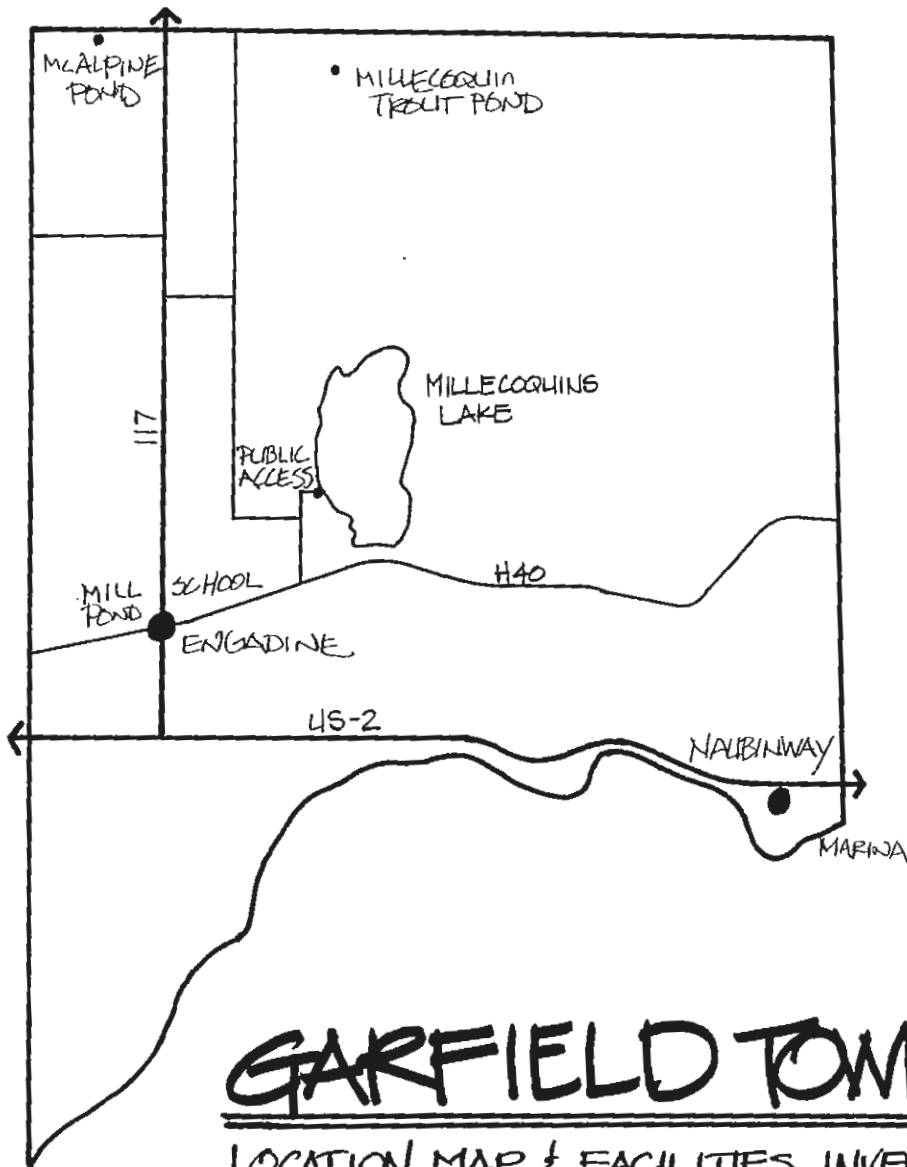
LOCAL FUNDS

For the present the township does not have any local funding sources in use to assist implementing the Recreation Plan.





MACKINAC COUNTY



GARFIELD TOWNSHIP

LOCATION MAP & FACILITIES INVENTORY

RECREATION INVENTORY

Increasingly over the years tourism has been becoming more important to the economical well being of the Township. To that end, it must be mentioned that Garfield Township has a wide range of recreational activities. In the southwest corner of the Township is the **Big Knob State Forest Campground**. The campground has 23 campsites, many located directly on the shore of Lake Michigan, and three different trail systems. Also, visitors heading to Big Knob State Campground will pass over one of the few Karst areas in the State. In other words, they will be passing over an underground river, which has cut its way through the area's limestone.

Garfield Township also hosts numerous inland lakes and streams. The biggest of which is **Millecoquin's Lake** and the **Millecoquin's River**, which empties into Lake Michigan. Both the lake and river are rich with fish of many species. The lake has a boat launch facility that is maintained by the State and the river can be easily accessed via canoe.

In addition to the excellent fishing found in the Township, there are also excellent opportunities for the hunter. Along with an abundance of deer, the area also has an excellent population of native small game and many migratory birds such as ducks and geese. There also is a large amount of state owned land in the Township.

A park is located in the town of Engadine. **Mill Pond Park**, a small 4.6-acre lake that host small minnows and is home to snapping turtles of all sizes. The pond has a small island that is connected to the main land by a bridge. There is also a larger island that is undisturbed. There is a pavilion that is available for use and also cooking grills. Included at the park are benches and a Veterans Memorial. During the winter the snow is shoveled off the pond and the community youth use the pond for skating.

Naubinway also holds a pavilion and basketball court along with the **Harbor of Refuge Marina and Park**. The marina facilities includes 14 boat slips, water, power, restrooms, and sanitary holding tank pump out service. The marina was dredged in 2009. The park includes a beach and place to picnic.

Along with these natural features, there are numerous man-made recreational features in the Township. Most notably, a State sanctioned snowmobile trail runs the entire width of the Township, approximately 15 miles worth giving snowmobilers access to Township businesses and Township businesses access to snowmobilers. Also, there is a **cross-country ski trail** located on State land. Located directly on Lake Michigan a roadside modern park on US-2, east of Naubinway gives access to a beautiful sand beach and makes for an excellent picnic and swimming spot.

The **Hiawatha Sportsman Club** with over 35,000 acres, represents over 40% of the total land area in the Township. The Club owns a golf course, archery range, and firearm shooting range that are all open to the public as well as numerous private streams and ponds for use by members only.

As mentioned before the Township is home to the **Engadine Consolidated School system**, which owns and maintains recreation facilities on school property in Engadine. These include a gymnasium, playground, ballfield, an athletic field, football field, and a 40-acre school forest. These facilities are used primarily in school-related programming but are available for community use. Garfield Township has worked cooperatively with the school system on the development of recreation facilities.

RECREATION NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

In order for Garfield Township to develop a sound Recreation plan it is necessary for the Township to determine the recreational needs for the present and future populations of the Township. Listed below are several methods that can be utilized to obtain this information.

1. **Public Opinion Surveys:** A way of gathering information from the residents of the Township. Their needs and opinions will be a valuable resource in guiding the Township in developing recreation opportunities for the community.
2. **Targeted Research:** This is a good way to target specific user groups in the community such as senior citizens or youth.
3. **State Analysis:** Using a series of recommendations from the State's Recreation Plan, which identifies specified facility deficiencies on a county-by-county basis.
4. **Recreation Standards:** The National Recreation and Parks Association has standards for municipalities about recreation space and facilities. These standards generally state that a city should provide 10 acres of recreation for every 1,000 person in the community.

RECREATIONAL RESEARCH IN THE TOWNSHIP

In 2009-2010 a survey was sent out to residents of the Township. The survey and research was completed by a community volunteer. This survey was designed to answer 3 research questions: how community members felt about recreational opportunities in their Township, the recreational activities that they participate in, and recreational activities they would like to see in their Township. The data and results from this study will be shared with the Township Board and will be on file by the end of year 2010.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

For Garfield Township to provide the appropriate recreational opportunities to the community members and its visitor, the Township must have a clear statement of the

goals and objectives that they would like to achieve in the community. The goals will help provide direction for action toward the end product. Whereas the more specific objectives represent the means and direction to accomplish these recreational goals.

Goal 1

Enhance and maintain Township park and recreation assets.

Objectives:

- Keep Recreation Plan updated annually as needed with a major update every 5 years.
- Promote community stewardship for outdoor recreation within the Township.
- Develop additional “green spaces” on unoccupied Township property.

Goal 2

Anticipate the recreational needs of the changing community.

Objectives:

- Keep Recreation Plan updated and relevant to the needs of the community.
- Partner with Engadine Consolidated Schools or other businesses to provide recreational needs to the community.
- Identify a range of ages, abilities and interests toward recreation in the Township through surveys or public forums.
- Identify recreational opportunities for the growing senior citizen population.

Goal 3

Preserve and maintain the Townships natural resources for future generations and visitors.

Objectives:

- Promote community stewardship for natural areas.
- Coordinate with Engadine Consolidated School on Arbor Day or Earth Day.
- Coordinate a Neighborhood Clean Up Day.
- Develop and implement sustainable practices: using native plants, low impact development techniques, etc...

Goal 4

Enhance Township’s arts, historical and cultural assets.

Objectives:

- Continued maintenance on Engadine Historical Museum
- Continue and expand arts and craft shows.

ACTION PLAN

The action plan prioritizes the future projects that the Township would like to implement. The plan should be reviewed annually if needed and updated as projects are completed or as priorities in the community change over the next five years. As projects start to develop and additional or larger projects are brought to the table a long range plan will need to be put into place to make sure projects stay on course and are prioritized.

Engadine	
Project	Description
Pavilion Wind Curtains	Attach wind curtains or another type of barrier onto pavilion to block weather elements.
Mill Pond Ice Rink	Develop an ice rink on the Mill Pond for community use. Include lighting. (Volunteer based)
Mill Pond	Covered bridge connecting the west island to the mainland. Additional picnic tables and benches. Paved pathways.
Landscaping	Continued landscaping around pavilion, park and other Township properties.

Naubinway	
Project	Description
Pavilion Wind Curtains	Attach wind curtains or another type of barrier onto pavilion to block weather elements.
Basketball Courts and Baseball Fields	General updating of courts and field.
Lake Michigan Boardwalk	Construct a boardwalk along Lake Michigan from Mariana to town.
Harbor of Refugee and Marina	Continued dredging and updating.
Ice Rink	Develop an ice rink next to the pavilion (Volunteer based).
Ski Trail	Keep state ski trailed groomed. Possible partnership with MDNRE
Landscaping	Continued landscaping around pavilion, park and other Township properties.

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ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

MILL POND PARK: ADA ramps to bridges, sidewalks available, ADA bathrooms and parking lot.

NAUBINWAY PAVILION: ADA access to pavilion, ADA bathrooms and parking lot.

MARINA: ADA bathrooms and parking lot.

GARFIELD TWP. HALL: ADA accessible and ADA bathrooms and parking lot.

HIAWATHA SPORTSMAN'S CLUB: ADA accessible.

BIG KNOB CAMPGROUND: ADA accessible.

Resources

Garfield Township Master Plan.

Garfield Township Recreation Plan

February 18, 2009. Board members Don Butkovich and Linda Bennett along with volunteer Kelly Gribbell worked on The Recreation Plan rough draft.

August 2009. Board members Linda Bennett and Cleo Smith worked along with Volunteer Kelly Gribbell Worked on The Recreation Plan rough draft.