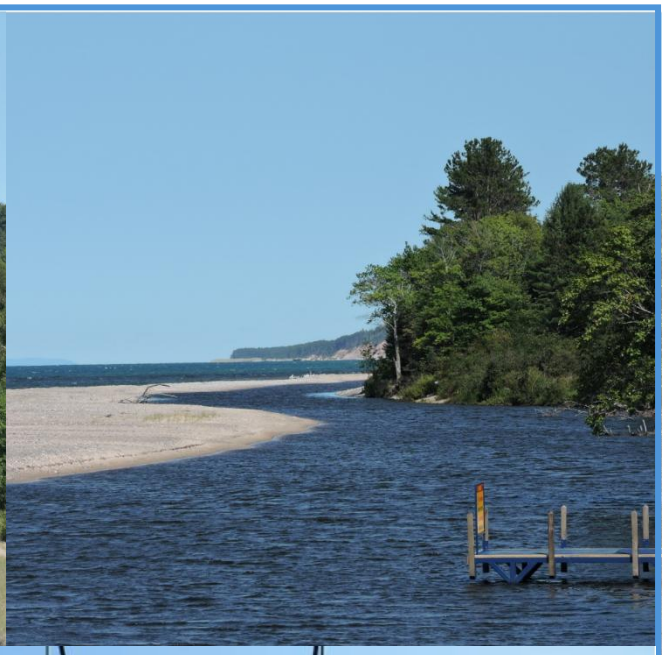
McMillan Township Recreation Plan

2026 - 2030



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McMillan Township, Luce County, Michigan

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Introduction

McMillan Township is known as the largest township in Michigan being just over 600 square miles in surface area, and home to miles of ORV/Snowmobile trails available for use. Parks to the north coast of the township are favorites of anglers all over the country. The famous Two-Hearted River is known for its native trout species and many other named trout streams in the area. Visitors could travel through beautiful northern woods to see the Crisp Point Lighthouse on the Lake Superior coast.

The intent of a community park and recreation plan is to create an inventory of existing facilities and resources, identify community recreation and open space needs and set a plan of action for a 5-year plan of action over a 5-year period. The plan is meant to be a functioning plan that can be amended to address the changing needs of the township and act as a guide to further development and enhancement of current township recreational facilities. This plan is intended to meet the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant programs

Community Description

Location

McMillan Township encompasses the entire length of the Lake Superior shoreline in northern Luce County, Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The township is bordered by three other municipalities to the south: Columbus, Pentland, and Lakefield Townships. The Luce County seat, the Village of Newberry, also resides within its borders. One of McMillan's unique qualities are its size. It's as large as 604 square miles and is known as the largest township in the state. A Location map on the next page provides a graphic representation.

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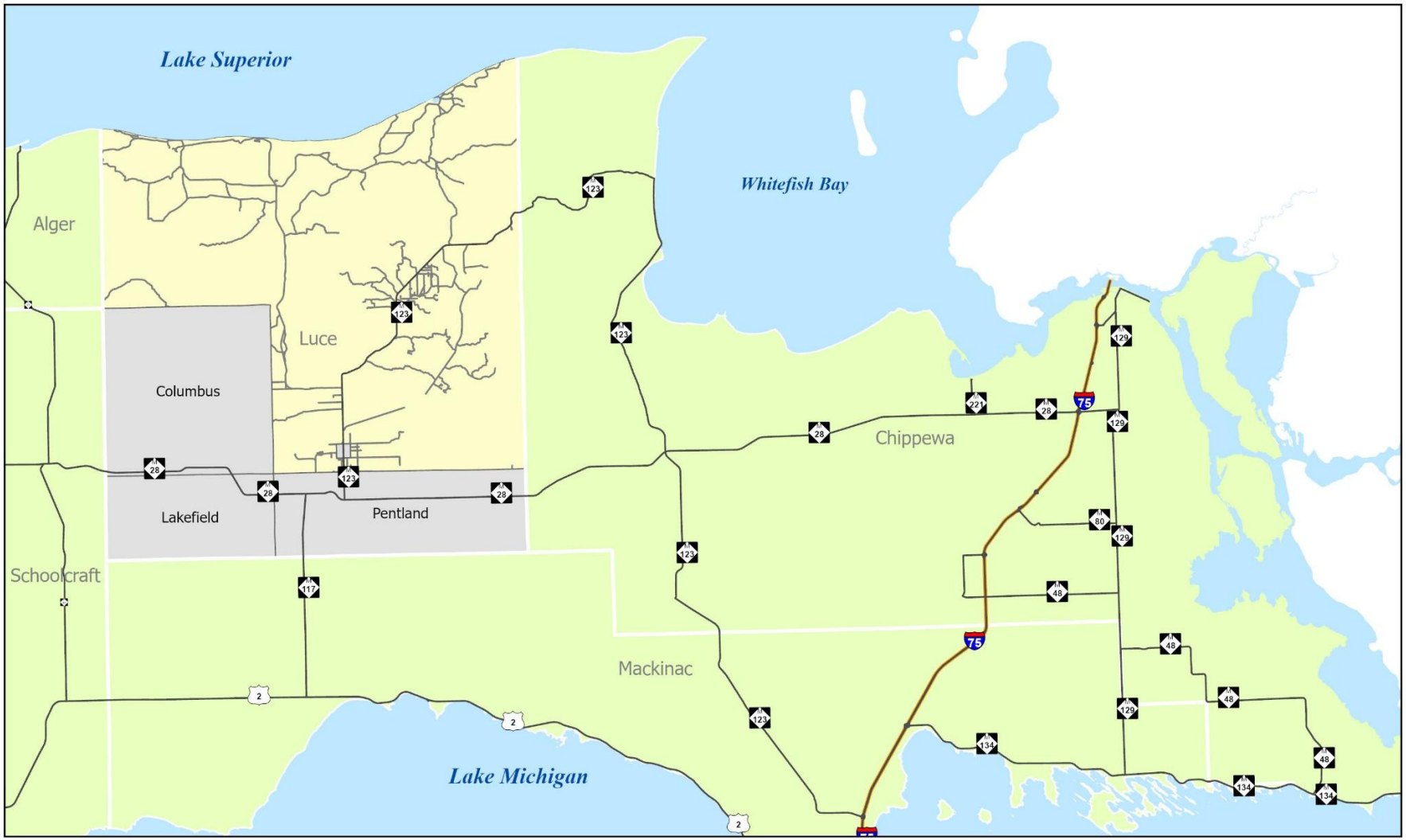

Roads
Greatlakes
Adjacent Municipalities
McMillan Township
I75

N
W E
S

0 5 10 20 Miles

McMillan Township Location Map

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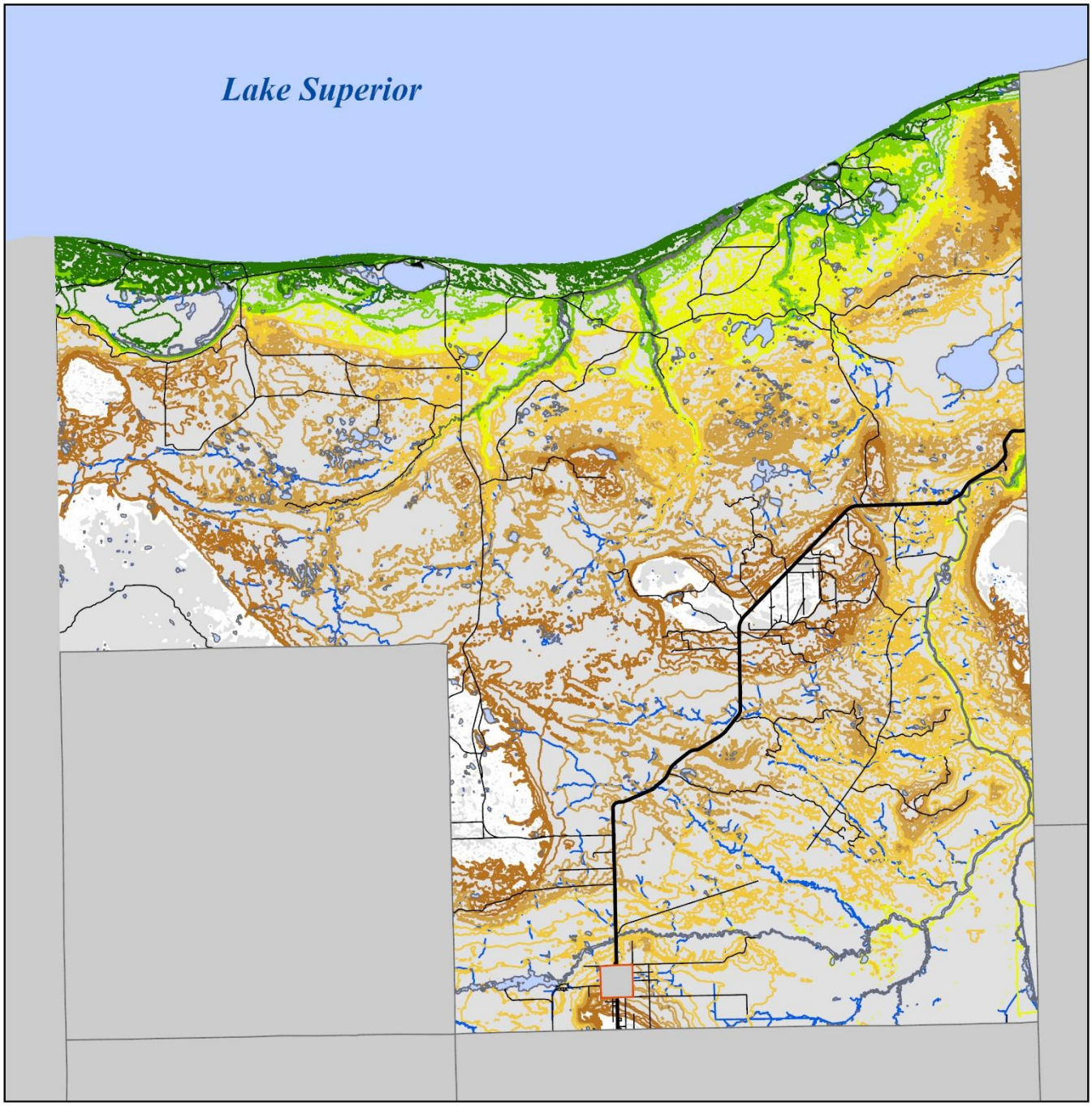
Natural Features

McMillan Township sports around 32 miles of sandy, rugged, and scenic Lake Superior shoreline, with features such as sandy beaches and plenty of opportunities for agate hunting. Much of the northern portions of the township are dominated by vast mixed forests including hard woods and conifers. These forests have mounds of wildlife that reside within them. Recreation opportunities for the area include hiking, bird watching, and hunting. The township also contains several notable rivers and streams, the most popular being the Tahquamenon River. This river is widely known for its reddish-brown tinted color in the water that's caused by the surrounding cedar swamps. The Two-Hearted River, an iconic and scenic waterway that's widely known for fishing, the Little Two Hearted which is also just as popular for anglers as the previously mentioned, and kayakers and canoers. Lastly the Carp and Blind Sucker Rivers are known widely for trout fishing and are another beautiful option for paddlers.

State parks and other recreation areas reside in the township as well. Tahquamenon National Forest is where tourists can visit and see the beautiful waterfalls that the river provides, as well as sports trails that span through the park and the surrounding area for hikers. Muskellunge State Park to the northern coast is another attraction that provides camping services, hiking and fishing opportunities for recreators. McMahon Lake Preserve is a conservation area with over 4,000 acres of land that's protected by its natural landscapes and recreation. The famous North County Trail passes through the township which offers hikers longer routes through the forests and waterways of the area and beyond.



Contour
- 610 - 650
- 650.01 - 680
- 680.01 - 710
- 710.01 - 750
- 750.01 - 790
- 790.01 - 840
- 840.01 - 910

- State Trunkline
- Lakes
- Local Roads
- Rivers

N
W E
S

0 2 4 8 Miles

McMillan Township Elevation Map

Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development
Chippewa • Luce • Mackinac

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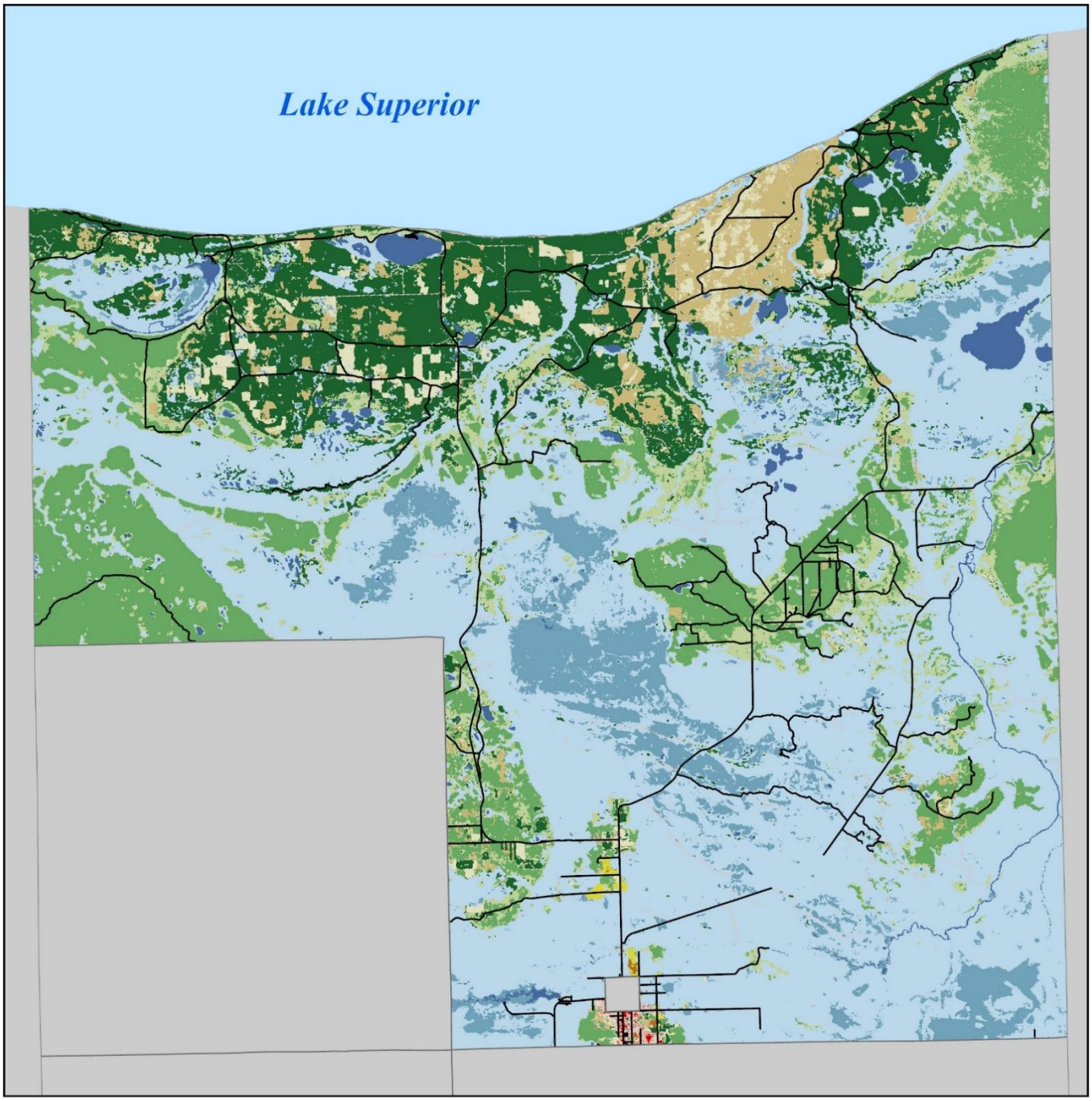

2024 NLCD Landcover

- 11 Open Water
- 12 Perennial Ice/Snow
- 21 Developed, Open Space
- 22 Developed, Low Intensity
- 23 Developed, Medium Intensity
- 24 Developed High Intensity
- 31 Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)
- 41 Deciduous Forest
- 42 Evergreen Forest
- 43 Mixed Forest
- 51 Dwarf Scrub
- 52 Shrub/Scrub
- 71 Grassland/Herbaceous
- 72 Sedge/Herbaceous
- 73 Lichens
- 74 Moss
- 81 Pasture/Hay
- 82 Cultivated Crops
- 90 Woody Wetlands
- 95 Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands

0 2 4 8 Miles

McMillan Township Land-Cover Classification

N W E S

Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Chippewa • Luce • Mackinac

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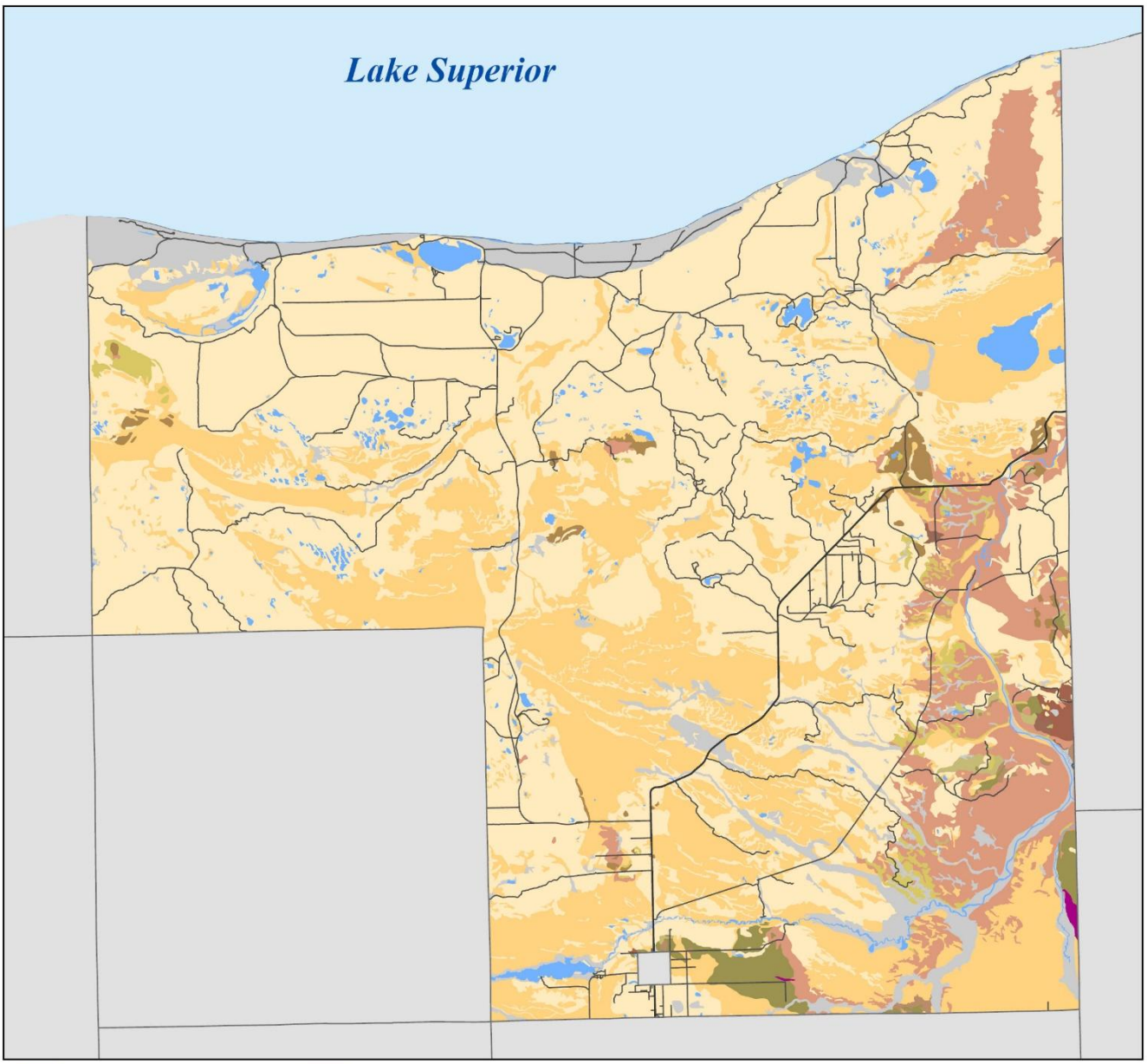

- Water
- Clayey
- Coarse-loamy
- Coarse-loamy over clayey
- Coarse-loamy over sandy or sandy-skeletal
- Coarse-silty
- Coarse-silty over clayey
- Coarse-silty over sandy or sandy-skeletal
- Fine
- Fine-loamy
- Fine-silty
- Loamy
- Loamy-skeletal
- Not used
- Sandy
- Sandy or sandy-skeletal
- Sandy over clayey
- Sandy over loamy
- Sandy-skeletal
- Sandy-skeletal over loamy
- Very-fine

0 2 4 8 Miles

N W E S

McMillan Township Soils Map

Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Chippewa • Luce • Mackinac

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Elevation

The elevation in McMillan Township varies throughout the township, while the northern shore to Lake Superior is 610 feet, the central region of the township and the east side are extremely high in elevation topping out at 910 feet above sea level. These regions are where the famous Tahquamenon River flows. The township also has a higher elevation height compared to the rest of the EUP.

Landcover

Looking at Map 3, we can see how sparse the development is in the township. The most developed areas are the Village of Newberry and its surroundings. The township is mostly made up of state-owned forests with several named campgrounds throughout the township. For planning purposes this identifies a corridor where people will be funneled through and gives the opportunity for roadside development around the Newberry area along M-123.

Soils

The region is predominantly sandy/ fine-sandy classification. This is true for much of the region surrounding McMillan Township and those that border the Lake Superior shoreline. Surrounding the river to the east there is loam present with clayey soils mixed in around it.

Population

The following tables of data describe the resident population in McMillan Township and its surrounding area; some compared with Luce County and Michigan state statistics. These tables were derived from 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year datasets that reflect the resident population within McMillan Township. Tables will be shown and compared to adjacent townships and municipalities to provide additional context to the area and help guide planning efforts. *Please Note: Margins of error exist in the data and in some cases, can be quite large.

Table 1. Population Distribution

Population Distribution	Newberry Village	McMillan Township	Luce County
2013	1,673	2663	6550
2023	1,463	2554	6325
% Change	-13	-4	-3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

Table 1 above describes the current relevant statistics about residents inhabiting the township. The 2023 estimated population of McMillan Township is 2,554 residents. Ten years prior the population was estimated to be 2,663. The data is based on full-time occupancy; the Decennial Census and the ACS do not include seasonal or temporary residents in their estimates. McMillan saw a 4% decrease in the last 10 years based on these findings. Similarly, adjacent townships like the Village of Newberry, and the county itself experienced loss in population.

Table 2. Race and Ethnicity population.

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Total	2,554	100%	332,387,540	100%
American Ind. or Alaskan Native Alone	193	7.60%	2,924,996	0.90%
Asian Alone	2	0.10%	19,352,659	5.80%
Black Alone	43	1.70%	41,070,890	12.40%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	0	0.00%	629,292	0.20%
White Alone	2,140	83.80%	210,875,446	63.40%
Two or More Race Groups	163	6.40%	35,593,721	10.70%
Hispanic or Latino				
Total Hispanic or Latino	46	1.80%	63,131,589	19.00%
Mexican	37	1.40%	37,442,491	11.30%
Cuban	0	0.00%	2,467,799	0.70%
Puerto Rican	5	0.20%	5,932,219	1.80%
Other	4	0.20%	17,289,080	5.20%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

Residential population in McMillan Township is composed of a majority white population at 83.8% of the township being Caucasian, however there is a significant Native (or Alaskan) population that makes up 7.6% of the population in the township. Latino/Hispanic presence is also significant and makes up about 2% of the population.

Education

Majority of the residents in McMillan reported to have obtained their high school diploma as their highest attainment (30.7%). Second highest reported was an associate's degree (20.7%), then the third highest has some college level completion but no degree (16.7%). Compared to the national average, residents who graduated with an associate's degree is a fair bit higher, same with residents who obtained a high school diploma.

Table 3. Education Attainment

Educational Attainment, 2023	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Total Population 25 and Older	1,864	100%	228,434,661	100%
Less Than 9th Grade	25	1.30%	10,732,389	4.70%
9th to 12th, No Diploma	71	3.80%	13,497,828	5.90%
High School Graduate (incl. equiv.)	573	30.70%	59,836,489	26.20%
Some College, No Degree	311	16.70%	44,354,396	19.40%
Associate Degree	386	20.70%	20,059,257	8.80%
Bachelor's Degree	191	10.20%	48,591,540	21.30%
Graduate or Professional Degree	307	16.50%	31,362,762	13.70%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates				

Households and Housing

Below is Table 4 which lists the different types of households and housing units in McMillan Township. Several households exist in the township, 1,170 is the total amount, this is significant since the township is extremely large in comparison to the other township and this table can show it accounts for almost half of the households in Luce County – 2,404 households. Same with the total housing units is almost half the amount as the Luce County total.

It is interesting to also note that the number of seasonal homes that exist for recreational use is important for planning purposes. This does imply there is already a lot of traffic during certain times of year which could be built on by developing some more avenues for recreation which would bring in more tourism and ultimately revenue for the township.

Table 4. Households in McMillan Township compared to the National Average.

Households in 2023	McMillan Township	Luce County, MI
Total Households	1,170	2,404
Family Households	630	1,496
Married with Children	92	268
Married without Children	309	856
Single Parents	145	216
Other	84	156
Non-family Households	540	908
Living Alone	448	735
Total Housing Units	2,044	4,081
Owner Occupied	823	1,891
Renter Occupied	347	513
Vacant For Seasonal or Recreational Use	874	1,677
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates		

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Age

Traditionally Luce County has typically had an older population, with an aging population with already a higher-than-average number of retired residents than the state average. Table 5 below shows the median ages of Luce County, Newberry, and McMillan Township. Luce County's median age is 44.6 years old with McMillan's median age is 39.3 and Newberry's age being 35.5.

Table 5. Median Age

Median Age	Age
Luce Co	44.6
McMillan Twnshp	39.3
Newberry Village	35.5

From the perspective of recreation planning, it should be said that with an aging population they may tend to choose more low-intensity recreational activities and facilities should have proper ADA accessible pathways at those facilities. People who are older are more prone to having disabilities so creating as much accessibility as possible would likely draw in more tourism to certain areas.

Below is Table 6 which shows the population of McMillan Township characterized by their age range. Courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau and the American Community Survey, latest 5-year estimates database, it can be seen here as well that most of the residents in McMillan Township are young adults and up. Over 28% are classified as young adults (25-44), 23% are classified as adults (45-64) and nearly 21% are older adults (65+). Not that there aren't any children in McMillan Township, but it seems the young people tend to move away or have high thoughts. It could benefit from more appealing recreational features that could arise some of the younger crowd.

Table 6. Population in McMillan Township by age range.

Population by Age, 2023	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Total	2,554	100%	332,387,540	100%
Preschool (0 to 4)	154	6.00%	18,939,899	5.70%
School Age (5 to 17)	327	12.80%	54,705,339	16.50%
College Age (18 to 24)	209	8.20%	30,307,641	9.10%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	729	28.50%	88,990,519	26.80%
Adult (45 to 64)	600	23.50%	83,474,095	25.10%
Older Adult (65 plus)	535	20.90%	55,970,047	16.80%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

People with Disability

Since a 5-year recreation plan is provided through the DNR, this plan is intended to abide by their Grant Funding guidelines. This includes evaluating township parks and facilities for ADA accessibility and would give insight into where to improve. Below is a table that provides a list of residents who reported that they were disabled. Data is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau and ACS latest 5-year estimates.

Table 7. Population with disabilities in McMillan Township characterized by age.

Population with disabilities	McMillan township, Luce County, Michigan
Total:	2510
Under 18 years:	477
With one type of disability	**20**
With two or more types of disability	**19**
No disability	438
18 to 64 years:	1530
With one type of disability	**183**
With two or more types of disability	**119**
No disability	1228
65 years and over:	503
With one type of disability	**69**
With two or more types of disability	**153**
No disability	281
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates	

Each age group has three subcategories: With one type of disability, With two or more types of disability, and no disability at all. The three main age groups are 18 years or less, 18-64 years, or 65 years or more. Most of the residents with disabilities in general are the general adult group, which for planning purposes could be a large group that would like to see more accessible recreational facilities in the township. Older residents correlate with this as well since 153/503 reports say they have two or more disabilities. Development of some more low-intensity recreational facilities could benefit the township.

Income

The village of Newberry is home to one of the largest employers in the area: Helen Newberry Joy Hospital and the Newberry Correctional Facility. Also, a Louisiana-Pacific mill was also found in McMillan Township. Being a large township in surface area, the largest employers for the area lie

within the village of Newberry. Employment opportunities outside of the village are sparse for residents.

Table 8. Occupations in McMillan Township and employment rates compared to national average.

Resident Occupations, 2023	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Employed civilian pop. 16 years and over	1,039	100%	159,808,535	100%
Management, professional, and related	422	40.60%	67,078,603	42.00%
Service	268	25.80%	26,378,165	16.50%
Sales and office	172	16.60%	31,858,939	19.90%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	12	1.20%	931,499	0.60%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	92	8.90%	12,786,176	8.00%
Production, transportation, and material moving	73	7.00%	20,775,153	13.00%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

The most abundant occupation mentioned by residents in McMillan Township includes management and professional related jobs, which account for 40.6% of the population. While the minority of the population works in Natural Resources (Farming, fishing, forestry) at 1.20% of the population. In comparison to the United States as a whole, a larger population of McMillan residents are service workers, which is higher than the national average. Similar comparison to construction, extraction, or maintenance (8.9%) occupations are reported greater than the national average (8%) by a small margin.

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Transportation

Commuting to Work, 2023	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Workers 16 years and over	1,020	100%	157,645,183	100%
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	704	69.00%	110,653,318	70.20%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	132	12.90%	13,405,895	8.50%
Public transportation (including taxicab)	3	0.30%	5,528,841	3.50%
Walked	55	5.40%	3,785,388	2.40%
Other means	18	1.80%	3,004,368	1.90%
Worked at home	108	10.60%	21,267,373	13.50%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

ACS 2023 Survey estimates show that the primary use of transportation in the township is driving alone (69%) which is just under the national average of 70.2%. Second most used mode of transportation is carpooling (12.9%), which is higher than the national average (8.5%). This township being as large as it is, it can be easy to see people who may want to save gas by carpooling rather than driving a personal vehicle. Very few individuals in the township have reported commuting to work via public transportation (Buses, Taxi's) (0.3%). It should be noted that there are services lacking that pertain to that type of transportation. However, a significant number of people work from home in McMillan Township (10.6%) which is less than the state average but top three out of the total percentage.

Climate

Luce County and McMillan Township often have cooler weather during the summer months due to Lake Superior's presence on the northern shoreline of the township. Making the region comfortable to visit during the peak of the tourist season. Temperatures on average range between high 70's and low 60's degrees (F) and receive a comfortable amount of rain in the spring/summer months (about 33 inches).

However, the winter months can be extremely rugged. On average this area receives about 120 inches of snowfall annually. This is due to Lake Superior generating lake-effect snow. The area also falls on the path of the Jet-Stream which tends to funnel storms coming out of the North-East into its direction. Temperatures can frequently dip into subzero categories during the winter.

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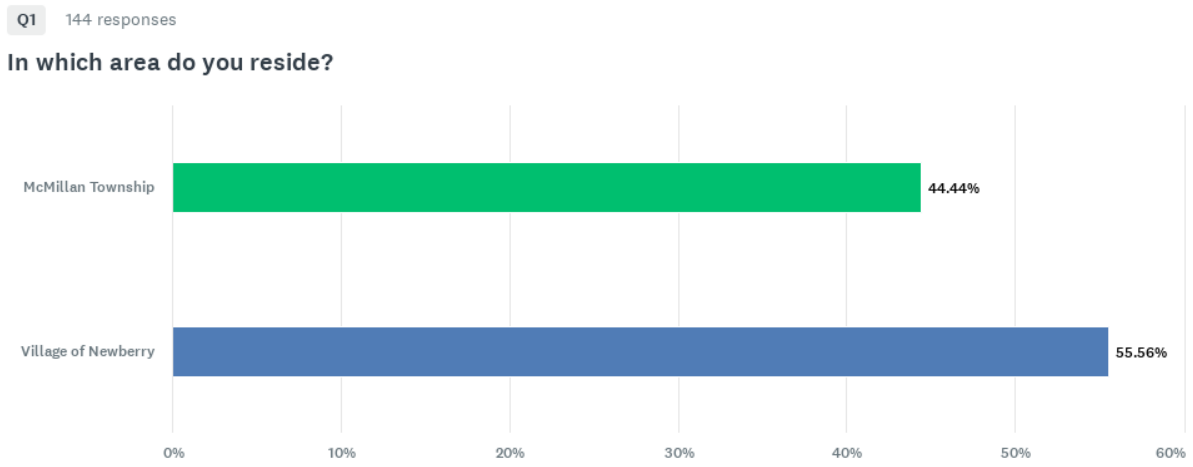
Description of Planning & Public Input Process

McMillan Township Board (Trustees/Local Officials) appointed a group of volunteers as the recreation committee who will be carrying out any actions required when creating any recreation plan materials and survey results. This committee, in conjunction with Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission has collected responses from the residents in both McMillan Township and the Village of Newberry.

Due to the unique scenario in which the village is landlocked within McMillan Township, the survey was developed to include both locations. Residents may frequently travel between the village and McMillan, as such it was advised that we include both for the best accessibility and efficiency in collecting responses. This was done in the following ways:

2026 Community Survey

This questionnaire was made available online on April 28th, 2026. The survey was formatted as a flyer that could be printed/sent virtually which can make the survey more accessible for users and offers versatility when distributing to residents. On May 2nd, McMillan Township held an event that highlighted the local cycling community as "Bike Fest" and the opportunity was taken to distribute the flyer to eventgoers. The township also had the flyer posted in their township hall, additionally, EUPRPDC shared a link to the survey on their Facebook page when it was opened and promoted it one final time before closing the survey on June 2nd. Residents that live in McMillan Township accounted for 44% of the responses and the Village of Newberry accounted for 55%.



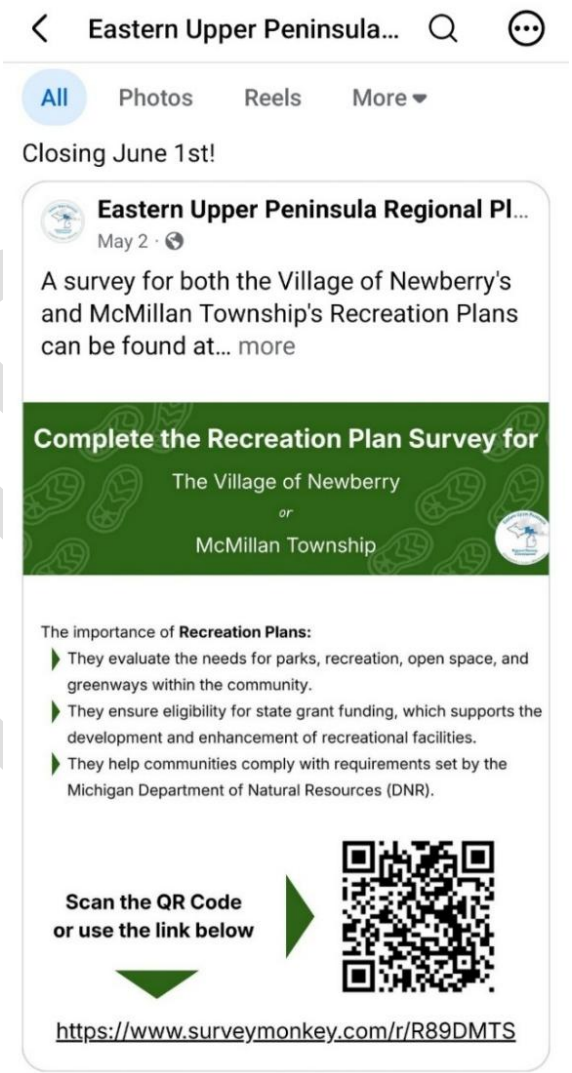
Having at least one open text response offered the residents an opportunity to see what they would like to see developed or re-developed in their township. Surveyors were asked where their preferred activities were.

Most activities residents responded with the open comment question (Q18) on the survey was predominantly hiking/walking activities. Biking activities were also largely mentioned by several users with fishing falling close behind. The word cloud below shows the responses by how large the key phrase is on the image.

Q18 What is your preferred recreation activity?

Public Comment Period

The survey was released on April 28th and was closed on June 2nd, during this time, the survey collected 148 responses from both the village and the township. The survey flyer was made available online through Facebook on the EUPRPDC page and was also handed out in person through various means including being handed out physical flyers with QR Codes at the recreation event held that highlighted cyclists and trail-goers.



Public Hearing

Township Board Approval and Adoption

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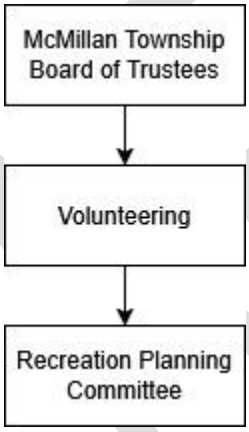
Administrative Structure

In McMillan Township the board has allocated all tasks that are related to operations consisting of recreational facilities and events to a small committee of volunteers that handles and maintains current recreation assets and planning in conjunction with the EUPRPDC.

Currently, the township does not employ any boards for recreation. Any funds that are committed to any property or for park renovations are handled by the Luce County Commission or the Village of Newberry for parks that lie within its limits. Currently there are no direct or official relationships with the school district or any organizations. Below is a flow chart describing the administration structure of the township.



The group that is leading the township in the recreation planning was banded to help develop a trail that connects the T.O.R.C. to the trailhead at Duffy's Motel. This committee consists of 3 members, respectively.

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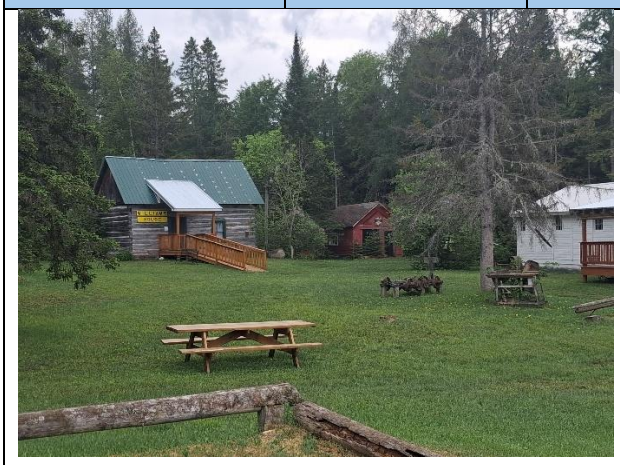
Parks and Facilities Owned by the Township

Asset Name	Location	Size	Purpose/Use	ADA Accessibility
McMillan Township Hall/ Fire Dept.	401 Newberry Ave, Newberry, MI, 49868	0.32 Acres	Township Hall has restrooms, wheelchair accessible, Events are held here/Fire Hall next to the building	**3**
Tahquamenon Logging Museum	M-123, Newberry, MI	28.3 Acres	Museum highlighting the logging history of the area, contains nature trail and access to view Tahquamenon River	**3**
				

Recent Improvements

Township hall has had its interior renovated to accommodate a basketball court that residents can use for recreational purposes.

Other Parks and Facilities Located in Township

McMillan Township is home to many parks and facilities that have seen much tourism for their trout fishing and beautiful landscapes. Much of the northern coast of the township is dominated by remote, state-owned forest on the Lake Superior shoreline. This includes a light house (Crisp Point), several clean lakes, rivers, and streams to choose from for fishing or an afternoon on the water. Home to several campgrounds and trails owned by the State of Michigan and Luce County. The following is a list of several locations within McMillan Township.

- **Two Hearted River State Park & Campground -** This location has been widely popularized by the famous writer Ernest Hemingway in his short story titled *"The Big Two Hearted River"*. The river itself flows through the entirety of Luce County before flowing out into Lake Superior. Anglers will come from all over the country to experience its world class steelhead trout and salmon fishing. Visitors can cross a long, picturesque suspension bridge to reach sandy beaches off Lake Superior. Campers are also welcome as this facility also features a campground for overnight stays. Location is approximately 32 miles northeast of Newberry, Michigan.

- **Blind Sucker State Forest Campgrounds (#1 &2) –** Rustic campsites situated on the Blind Sucker Wildlife Flooding in McMillan Township, Luce County, Michigan. Situated along Co Road 407, approximately 33-34 miles northwest of Newberry. Just southwest of Deer Park.
- **Upper Falls – Tahquamenon River State Forest** – One of the access points to the park falls within McMillan Township boundary. This is another widely known spot for tourists in the U.P. Known for its red-tinted water brought on by all the tannins that are produced by the conifer and cedar trees in the surrounding area. Tahquamenon is known as one of the largest waterfalls that lie east of the Mississippi River. Waterfall is 50 feet tall and 200 feet wide. The park does not offer camping but does have natural scenic trails that hikers may partake in. The location recently finished construction on a large boardwalk that allows ease of access to the views of the waterfall and surrounding forest for anyone.

- **Crisp Point Lighthouse** – On the northern shore of McMillan Township, through several miles of dense forest and back roads stands Crisp Point Lighthouse. Open every hour of the day to visitors. Roads leading to it are seasonal and only open in the summer.

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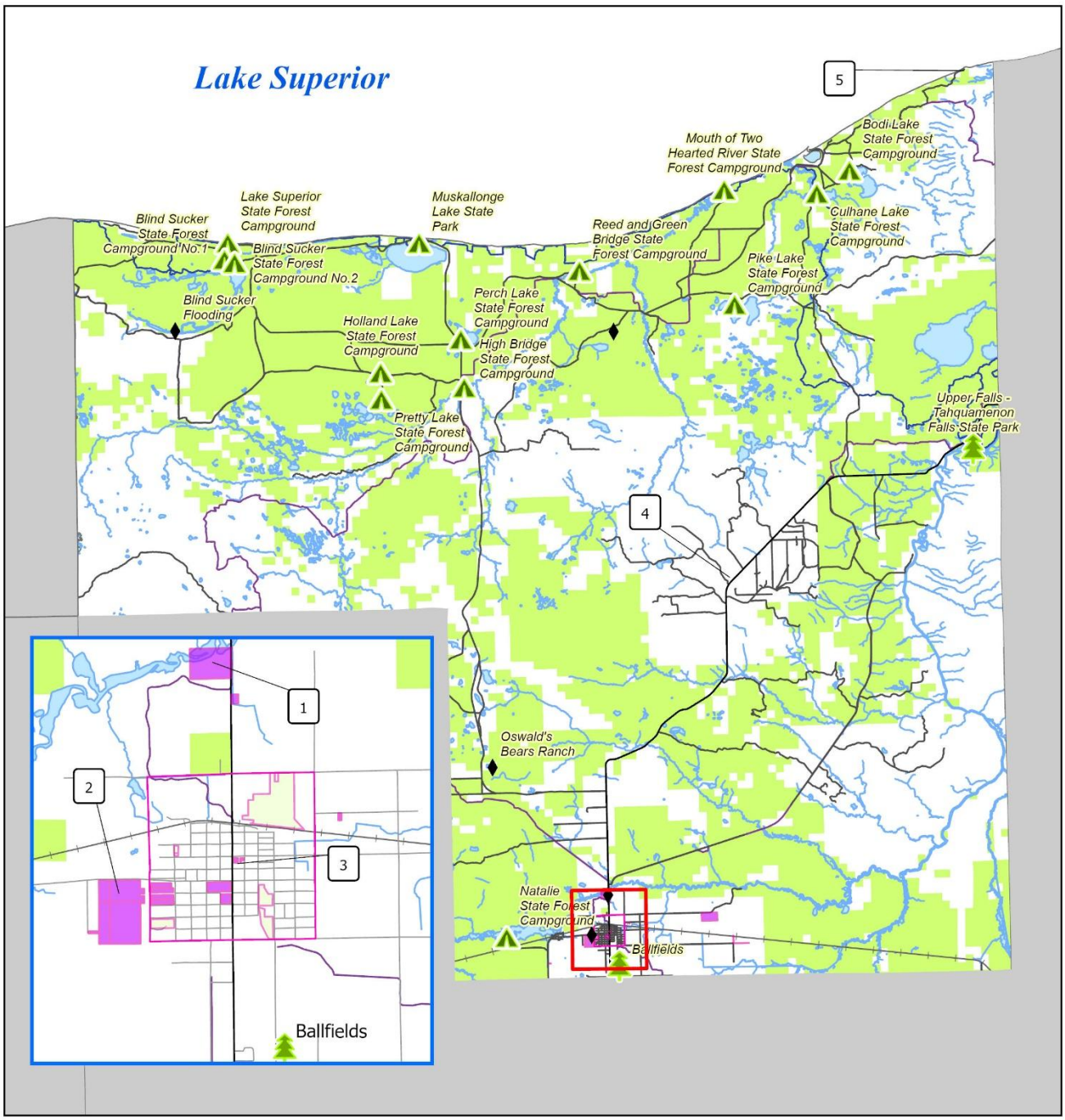
- **Oswald's Bear Ranch -** Unique opportunity to view the only (Bear Only) Bear Ranch just located north of Newberry. With 40 live North American Black Bears with enough space to roam with two large habitats.
- **North Country Trail** – Famous trail that spans 6 different states, including through Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The trail passes through McMillan Township on its northern coast, hugging Lake Superior for beautiful coastal hikes.
- **MI DOG – Michigan's Summer Sled Dog Center** – Educational kennel and tourist attraction located near Newberry, Michigan, north of town and 10 miles south of Tahquamenon Falls
- **Various OTV/Snowmobile Trails** – As McMillan Township and the rest of Luce County is known for their vast snowmobiling and ORV trails that span through the township.



Snow-Trails
North Country Trail
Roads
Railroad
Township Owned Property

Parks
Campgrounds
Points of Interest

1. Tahquamenon Logging Museum
2. Forest home Cemetery
3. McMillan Township Hall
4. MI-DOG Summer Sled Dog Center
5. Crisp Point Lighthouse

N W E S

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

McMillan Township Recreation Inventory

The information and data provided herewith has been compiled from various sources, and is used by the EUPRPDC for its own general purposes. EUPRPDC does not warrant or guarantee that this information and data is accurate or current, nor does EUPRPDC warrant or guarantee that this information and data is fit for any particular use or purpose other than intended. More specifically, EUPRPDC warns that this information and data is not intended to be, and should not be, used to determine individual ownership, lot lines, or lines of occupation with respect to real estate. Any receipt of this information and data should independently verify its accuracy before relying on it for any purpose. EUPRPDC and its officers, agents, employees, boards, and commissions shall not be liable for any inaccuracy or error in this public

Goals and Objectives

The purpose of this 5-year plan for McMillan Township is to expand its recreational facilities and opportunities for the township residents and visitors. To achieve this, this plan will include several goals and a list of objectives to guide progress through various initiatives and projects.

The rationality for each of the goals and objectives are rooted in insights that were captured by the community survey and discussions with the township recreational committee and their board of trustees.

Goal 1: Develop and establish the "Tahquamenon Trail" which is a non-motorized trail that can accommodate bikers and hikers/ snowshoers off the side of Northbound M-123 from the village of Newberry's T.O.R.C. leading to the trailhead near Duffy's motel.

Rationale: Public comment heavily implied that residents prefer hiking/walking activities in the township, in which this trail could be utilized greatly by residents or tourists and used to promote the rich history of the area as well as local attractions and businesses or events.

Objectives:

1.1. Coordinate with the village of Newberry and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure the m-123 pathway seamlessly connects with existing and planned village sidewalk networks, local parks, and key destinations (such as schools, downtown businesses, and community facilities)

1.2. Design a paved or hard-surfaced multi-use path separated from vehicular traffic where feasible, incorporating MDOT-approved safety measures at major intersections and road crossings (High vis-crosswalks, pedestrian refuge islands, proper sightlines, and warning signage)

1.3. Identify ways to link this trail to other surrounding regional recreation networks, including the North Country Trail, local DNR forest trails and non-motorized cross-trail staging areas- providing safe physical separation between pedestrian and ORV/Snowmobile traffic.

1.4. Develop a phased engineering and construction schedule to pursue competitive state and federal grants, including MDOT Transportation alternatives program (TAP) funds, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Funds (MNRTF), and Recreation Passport grants

1.5. Incorporate user-friendly amenities along the corridor such as trailhead parking, benches, trash receptacles, informational wayfinding and signage highlighting local history and natural features, and bicycle repair stations.

Goal 2: Enhance water access and water-based recreation

Rationale: Geography in the township features several inland lakes and river, creating natural attractions that lure outdoorsman and water recreation enthusiasts. Public input from the community survey suggests residents may also benefit from developing/enhancing water recreation related facilities

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Objectives:

2.1. Modernize and maintain township and water access points and boat launches with improved launching ramps, docks, and gravel/paved parking

2.2. Expand non-motorized water access (kayak/canoe launches) along key waterways like the Two Hearted River and inland lake chains

2.3. Partner with county and state agencies to ensure clean, accessible beach-front areas with proper amenities (e.g., trash receptacles, restrooms, life-jacket loaner stations)

Goal 3: Support Motorized Recreation & Enhance Trail System Connectivity

Rationale: There is a strong presence of seasonal ORV/Snowmobiling community that visits McMillan Township annually and enhancing connectivity through communities could bring a larger volume to the township which could offer more revenue.

Objectives:

3.1. Partner with DNR, county, and local trail groups to map and develop non-motorized connector trails, linking residential nodes to surrounding public lands

3.2. Install clear wayfinding, safety, and speed regulation signage where motorized trails intersect township roads or non-motorized zones

3.3. Collaborate with DNR Forest Resources and Parks Division to support staging areas and trail maintenance along state forest roads

Goal 4: Upgrade Community Facilities & Universal Accessibility (ADA)

Rationale: There are several recreational facilities in the township, however most are under the ownership of the State of Michigan. There is a need for McMillan township to take advantage of grant funding to develop/upgrade current municipal recreation facilities and improving ADA compliance would increase accessibility and offer more activities for more individuals.

Objectives:

4.1. Jointly coordinate with surrounding local units (Village of Newberry, Luce County, neighboring townships) on regional recreation projects to increase grant competitiveness

4.2. Pursue state and federal recreation grants – such as the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Waterways Program, and SPARK grants, to leverage local matching funds

4.3. Practice sustainable site development (e.g., native landscaping, erosion control near water bodies, dark sky friendly lighting.

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Parks and Recreation Budget & Action Program

Monies invested in Parks and Recreation facilities in McMillan Township fundraising, grant awarded monies, and donations.

Funding Sources:

- MDOT
- TAP
- DNR Passport Grant
- DNR Trust Fund

Past, Present, and Projected Parks and Recreation Budget

Below is a table describing the budget that's allocated towards recreational operations in McMillan Township. Costs can include maintenance and workers composition and income for employment. The figures described were provided by the Luce County Parks and Recreation director and reflect the amount of money spent on facilities in McMillan Township. The township itself is unable to provide this information as they do not own any recreational facilities other than the Tahquamenon Logging Museum, which only receives funding from donors and private funders.

Past Year	**Current Year**	**Planning Years**			
2025	**2026**	**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**
Ice Rink					
$25,678	$19,090	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000
Little League Fields					
$38,969	$27,835	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000
Ski Hill					
$21,473	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000

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Recreation Planning Actions

The action plan for this five-year plan will be dictated by the monies available through grants, fundraising, donations, and general township funds. These projects can be realized through the cooperation, assistance, and expertise of county, state and federal governments. This recreation plan may be amended at any time during its five years to change priority or to add or change goals and objectives with public opinion and input. All development projects will be held to universal compliance and the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Year	Recreation Site	Project	Project Cost	Funding Sources
2027	**M-123 Trail/Walkways**	Safe Routes to School creates pathways for school commuters ADA Guidelines	TBD	Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
2027/2028	**M-123 Trail**	Implement trail design according to correct safety standards, work with MDOT, Local trail groups	TBD	TAP
2029	**Local trails**	Promote walkability by maintaining the most used trails/paths during winter season.	TBD	SRTS
2030	**M-123/Local Trails**	Include more wayfinding signage and promote connectivity between different paths/trails	TBD	TAP

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