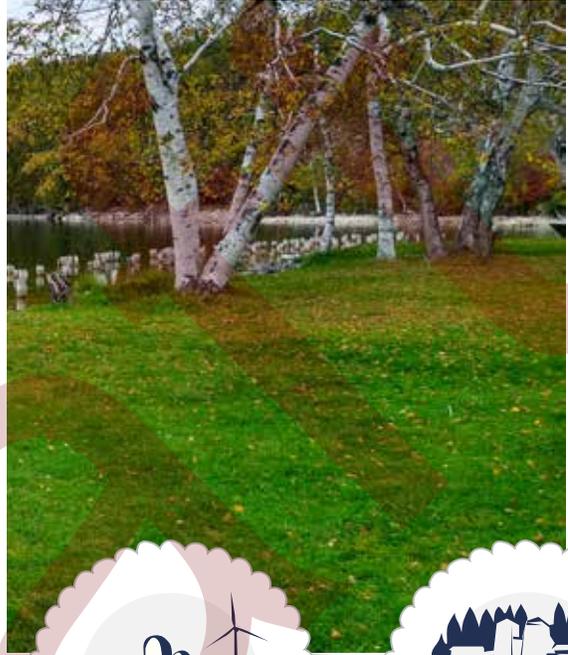
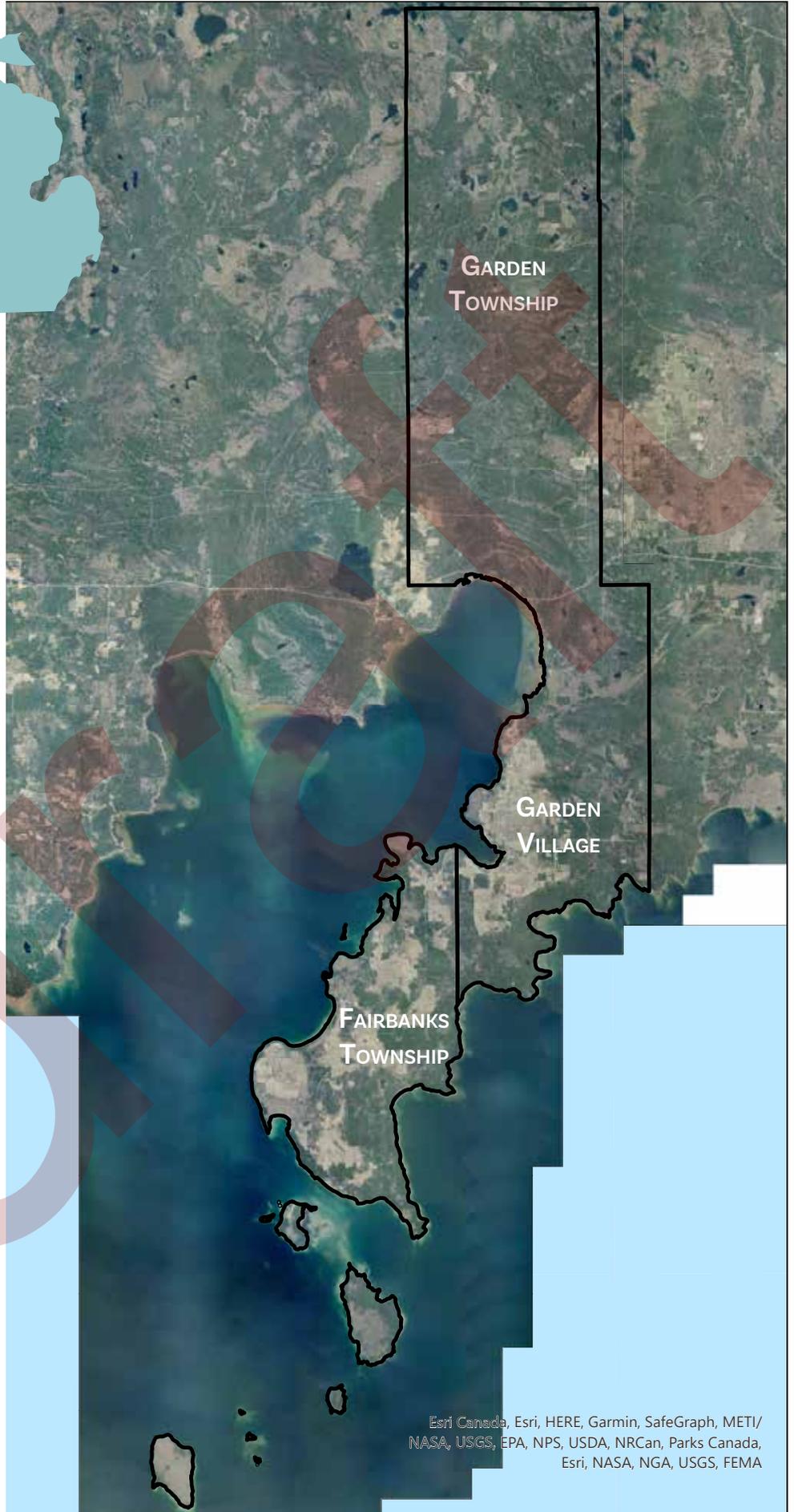


# GARDEN PENINSULA

## REGIONAL RECREATION PLAN 2022-2027





Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/  
NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, NRCAN, Parks Canada,  
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

# GARDEN PENINSULA

## RECREATION PLAN OUTLINE

- 1 INTRODUCTION** | WHY A 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN + COVID AND RECREATION
  - 2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION** | DESCRIPTION, DEMOGRAPHICS + DATA
  - 3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** | LANDSCAPE FEATURES, SOILS, VEGETATION, + WILDLIFE
  - 4 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**
  - 5 RECREATION INVENTORY**
  - 6 COMMENTS + ISSUES SCOPING**
  - 7 VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES**
  - 8 ACTION PLAN** | PRIORITY PROJECTS
- APPENDIX A** | PUBLIC NOTICE + COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS
- APPENDIX B** | GRANT HISTORY
- APPENDIX C** | UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN GUIDELINES

garden



CUPPAD

# GARDEN PENINSULA

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### Michigan DNR Recreation Planning

Every 5 years communities throughout Michigan update their recreation plans to ensure qualification for annual Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) funding opportunities.

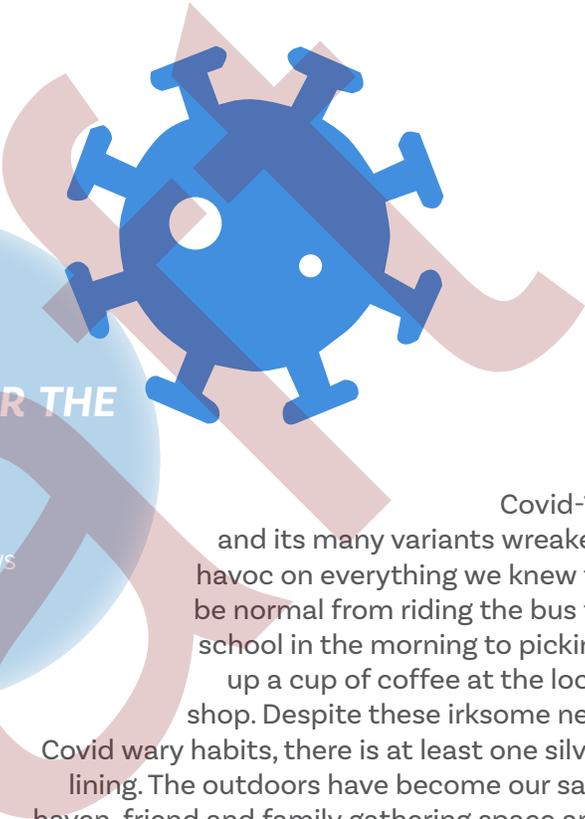
The 5 year recreation plan must adhere to a format defined by the MDNR and outline priority goals, objectives, and projects with the potential to be completed within the 5-year window and beyond.

The MDNR provides financial assistance to communities through its grant programs. The community parks and recreation plan opens the door for eligibility to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and waterways grants. For the Recreation Passport grant program, an approved parks and recreation plan or capital improvement plan may be used for eligibility.

This document synthesizes data on natural resources, community demographics, existing recreation assets, operational management, citizen input, and community partnerships to generate an all-inclusive map for recreation in the community. It describes community values, highlights common goals and objectives, and outlines strategies to achieve these goals.

Looking beyond the 5-year window, this document will serve as a road map for future endeavors improving parks for decades to come. The 2022-2026 Recreation Plan will assist community officials in determining priority projects to nurture an already expansive parks system. It will outline strategies for making parks accessible to all and provide park designs that allow future generations to grow and prosper within.

“A  
BILLBOARD FOR THE  
U.P.”  
-DAN B. JONES  
THE DETROIT NEWS



Covid-19 and its many variants wreaked havoc on everything we knew to be normal from riding the bus to school in the morning to picking up a cup of coffee at the local shop. Despite these irksome new Covid wary habits, there is at least one silver lining. The outdoors have become our safe haven, friend and family gathering space and vacation destination. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan tourism industry has exploded, boosting local economies.

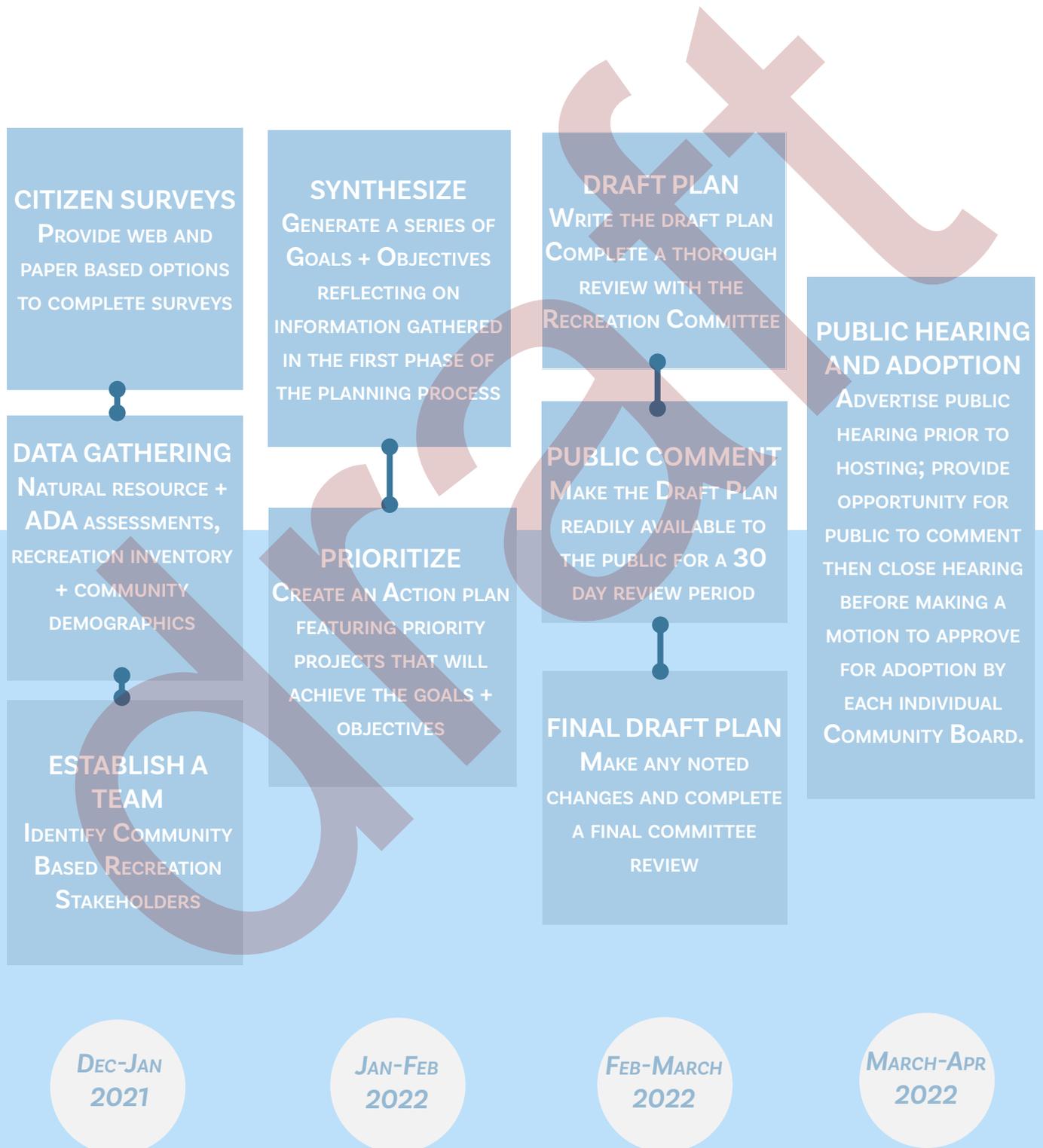
The Covid-19 stimulated spike in socially distanced outdoor tourism and surge in work from home options, paired with the expansion of our U.P. broadband grid has added to a rise in home and property sales.

A report prepared by the MEDC by Tourism Economics in 2014, found direct spending by leisure travelers equated to \$16.6 billion—nearly 73% of all visitor spending in Michigan. As this report demonstrates, local economies are stimulated by access to recreation opportunities in addition to improving a community’s health and vitality.

*Let’s keep this momentum going!*

# PLANNING PROCESS

## RECREATION PLAN



# 2

## GARDEN PENINSULA

### COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Garden Peninsula consists of three separate governing bodies including: Garden Village, Garden Township, and Fairbanks Township. This region juts out into Lake Michigan with Big Bay De Noc and the Nahma Township to the west and Inwood and Thompson Townships to the east. Garden Township extends north of the peninsula to the Alger County line. With small populations and a vast area these three small communities chose to pool their resources and develop a comprehensive parks, recreation and conservation plan that considers the entire region. These communities will focus on their current parks and recreation assets and develop a strategy to improve access to the abundance of spectacular scenery that makes the Garden Peninsula so special.



#### GARDEN VILLAGE

Garden Village is tucked along Garden Bay on the northwest edge of the peninsula. It contains 640 acres or one square mile and is the largest population concentration on the peninsula. The community hosts traditional community services, a community center, bank, bar and an art gallery.



#### GARDEN TOWNSHIP

Garden Township extends from about halfway down the peninsula north to the Alger County line. It encompasses 104,832 acres or 163.8 square miles. Its northern edge hosts mixed forested areas dotted with lakes while the southern portion has rolling farm fields.



#### FAIRBANKS TOWNSHIP

Fairbanks Township includes the southern portion of the peninsula and is 29,811 acres or 46.58 square miles. The Fayette Historic State Park is located here and draws an audience of tourists all year round.

# GARDEN PENINSULA

## DEMOGRAPHICS

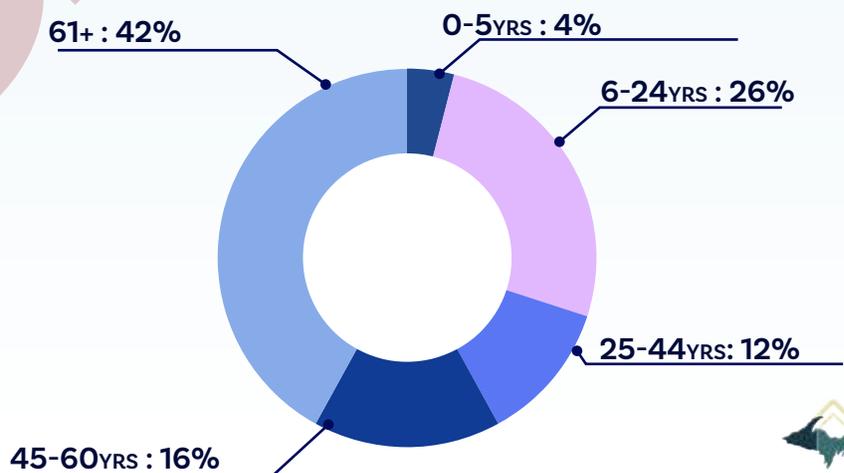
Communities are defined by the people that occupy their landscape. Although the footprint of the Garden Peninsula is vast in comparison to its small population, the sense of community is witnessed in the close knit connections each community member has to this place they call home and the friends they have come to know and love. From the hand carved Monarch bench at the Garden Township Park to the Halloween decorations on the Fayette Historic State Park monument sign, and the murals beautifying the Township Community Center, the evidence of people’s love for their community is clear.

The Garden Peninsula as with much of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula has seen slight fluctuations in populations with a general decrease over time. The chart below illustrates the population distribution over the decades.

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
 DELTA COUNTY	34,298	35,924	38,947	37,780	38,520	37,069	36,903
 Garden Village	380	336	296	269	240	221	174
 Garden Township	771	713	812	783	817	750	772
 Fairbanks Township	319	309	358	309	321	281	297

### POPULATION TRENDS | 1960-2019

### GARDEN PENINSULA AGE DISTRIBUTION



# 3

## GARDEN PENINSULA

### THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT Landscape Typologies



LIMESTONE CLIFFS



GREAT LAKE WETLANDS



UPLAND CONIFER FOREST



YOUNG NORTHERN MESIC FOREST



INLAND LAKES



NORTHERN MESIC HARDWOOD FOREST



SANDY LAKEFRONT



MAINTAINED TURF



CROP LAND

# garden

# GARDEN PENINSULA

## GEOLOGY + SOILS

The surface topographic features in the Garden Peninsula are glacial in origin, with sandstone-limestone underneath. The most noticeable geologic feature is the accessible segment of the Niagara Escarpment at Fayette Historic State Park in Fairbanks Township. It is the largest exposed section of the Middle Saurian Burnt Bluff and Manistique groups within the Niagaran series. The Burnt Bluff Group and portions of the Manistique Group can be viewed in the abandoned quarries and along the western shore of the Garden Peninsula south of Fayette.<sup>1</sup>

A wide variety of soils are found within the region. The dominant soil types are as follows:

21% Kalkaska Sand

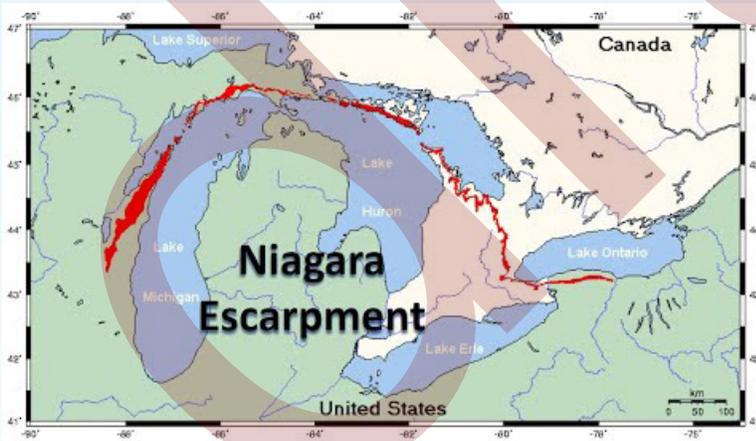
22% Rubicon Sand

19% Rubicon-Sultz complex

18% Islandlake sand

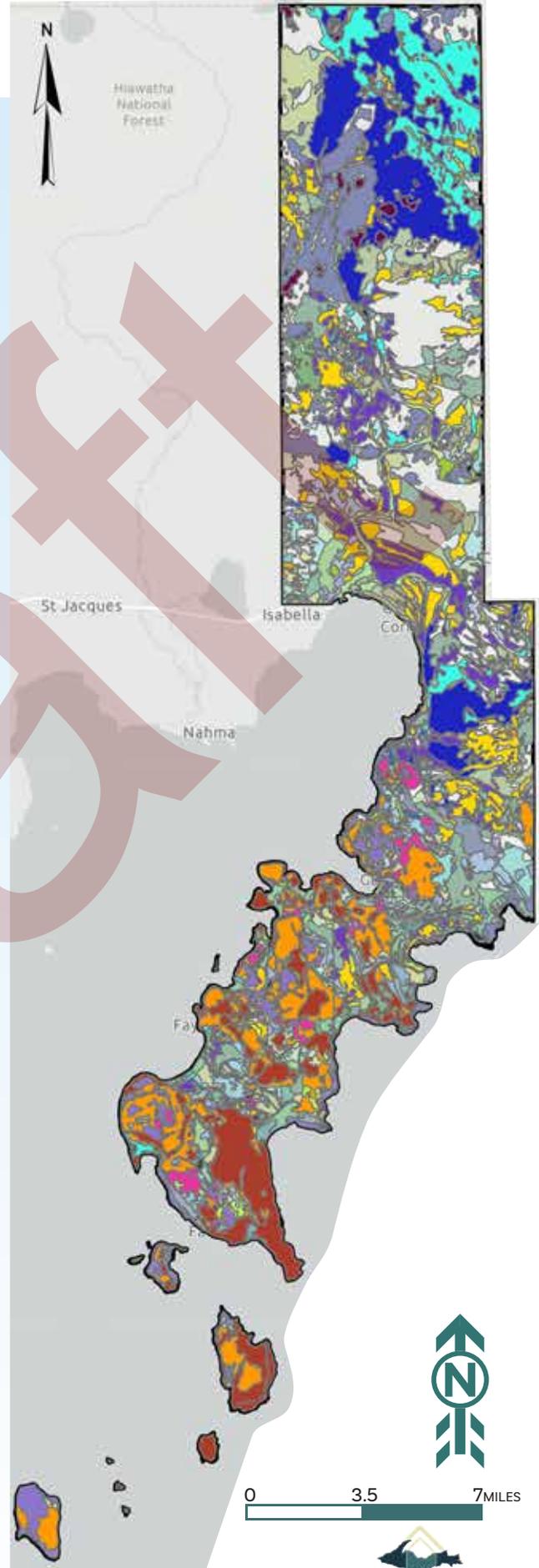
As present in the title of each, the predominantly sandy soil on the peninsula is characterized as being excessively drained, not prime farmland, and has minimal runoff potential. Sands of course, make for spectacular coasts and provide excellent drainage.

<sup>1</sup>Dellapenna, Timothy M., 1987, Geological Society of American Centennial Field Guide---North Central Section, The Geology of the Niagara Escarpment, Fayette, Michigan, pg 1.



# GARDEN PENINSULA GEOLOGY + SOILS

Soil	
Mapunit Name	
Algonquin silt loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Kiva sandy loam, 6 to 20 percent slopes
Alluvial land	Limestone rock land
Alpena gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 12 percent slopes	Longrie and Summerville sandy loams, 6 to 18 percent slopes
Au Gres sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Longrie sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
Battlefield loamy sand, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Longrie sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
Blue Lake sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Marsh
Bohemian fine sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Melita sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Borrow pits	Menominee loamy sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Brevort mucky loamy sand	Menominee loamy sand, 6 to 18 percent slopes
Brimley fine sandy loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Nahma muck
Bruce mucky fine sandy loam, coarse variant	Nester silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
Carbondale, Lupton, and Rifle soils	Nester silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
Cathro and Tacoosh mucks	Onaway fine sandy loam, moraine, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded
Cathro muck	Onaway-Ossineke fine sandy loams, moraine, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Charlevoix sandy loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Pickford silt loam
Croswell sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Roscommon mucky loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
Dawson peat	Rousseau fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Duel loamy sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Rubicon sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Eastport sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Rubicon sand, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Eastport-Roscommon sands, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Rubicon sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Ensign fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Ruse silt loam
Ensley muck, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Summerville fine sandy loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes
Fairport silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Sundell fine sandy loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes
Fairport silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Sundell loamy fine sand, sandy variant, 0 to 4 percent slopes
Iosco sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Tawas muck
Kalkaska sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Trenary fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
Karlin sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Wainola fine sand, 0 to 4 percent slopes
Kawkawlin silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Water
Kiva sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Wheatley mucky loamy sand



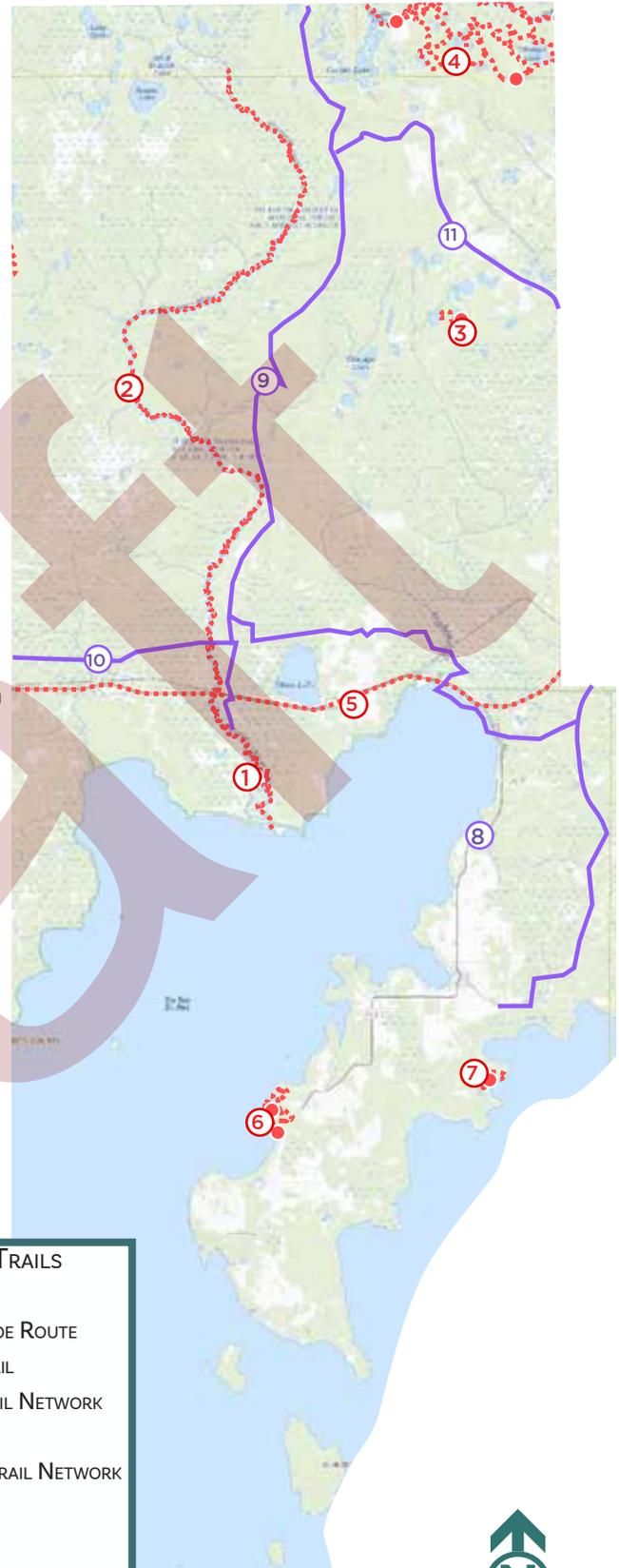
# GARDEN PENINSULA TRAILS

Ranking as the top priority within the Garden Peninsula, trails and trail development are integral to the community's recreation scene. There are several regional non-motorized trails that run through and skirt the perimeter of the Garden Township including the Sturgeon River Canoe Route and the Iron Belle Trail. There are also smaller trail networks within the greater region, but in comparison to other Upper Peninsula regions, very few located within the Garden Peninsula.

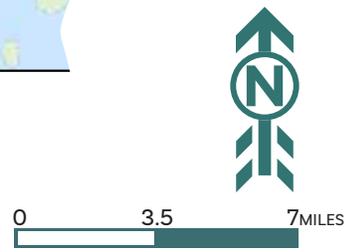
Several motorized trails also run through the peninsula including the Garden Grade, Nahma Trail, Town Trail, and Big Spring Trail.

One frequently requested non-motorized trail route within the community surveys was an off highway route along 183 south to the tip of the peninsula. Another requested route was a water trail that would follow the peninsula's coastline from Sac Bay to Garden Township Park.

Each of these requests was given consideration and have been integrated into the community goals and action plan.



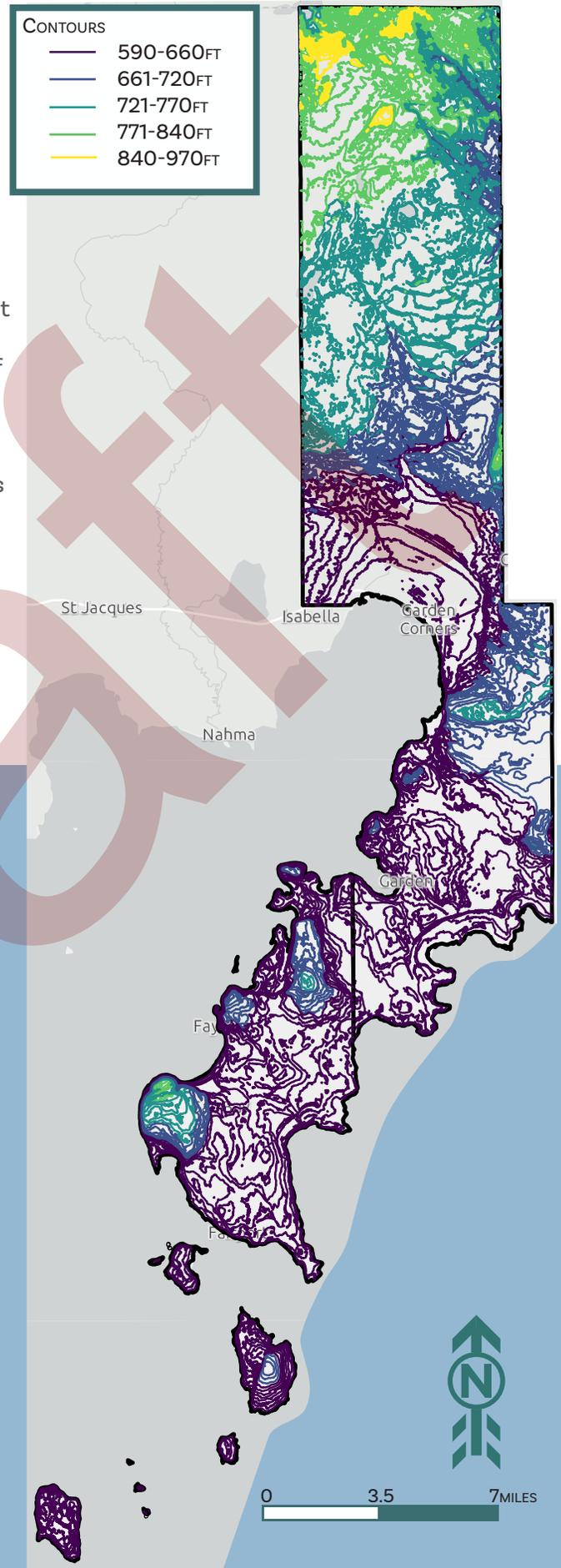
- | NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| ①                    | NAHMA MARSH TRAIL                |
| ②                    | STURGEON RIVER CANOE ROUTE       |
| ③                    | VAN WINKLE LAKE TRAIL            |
| ④                    | PINE MARTIN RUN TRAIL NETWORK    |
| ⑤                    | IRON BELLE TRAIL                 |
| ⑥                    | FAYETTE STATE PARK TRAIL NETWORK |
| ⑦                    | NINGA AKI PATHWAY                |
| MOTORIZED TRAILS     |                                  |
| ⑧                    | GARDEN GRADE TRAIL               |
| ⑨                    | NAHMA TRAIL                      |
| ⑩                    | TOWN TRAIL                       |
| ⑪                    | BIG SPRING TRAIL                 |



# GARDEN PENINSULA TOPOGRAPHY

The Garden Peninsula is largely flat with the most pronounced coastal terrain located within Fayette Historic State Park. The generally low elevations adjacent to Lake Michigan make for a large swath of woody wetland and emergent wetland. The northern section of Garden Township rises several hundred feet providing a mix of deciduous and evergreen forest cover.

The potential for recreation is great with flat, quiet roads that can often double as bike routes and vast coastal beaches to explore. The northern section of Garden Township is dotted with lakes and provides excellent opportunity for camping and utilizing woodland trails.



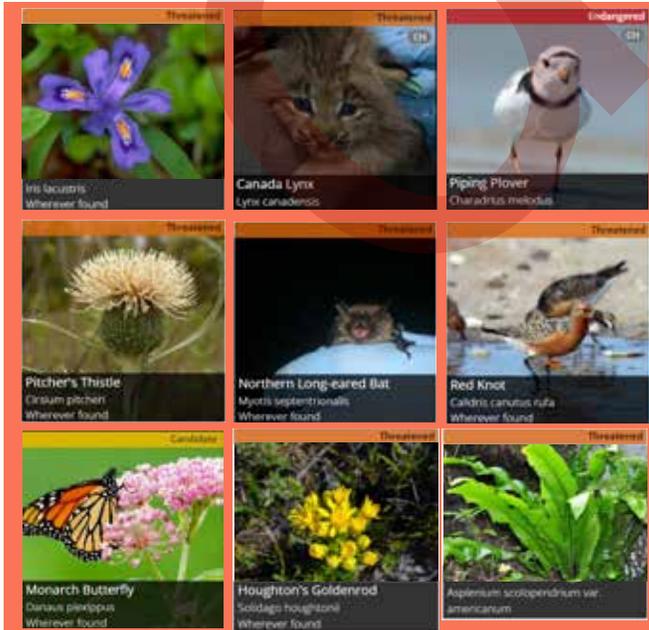
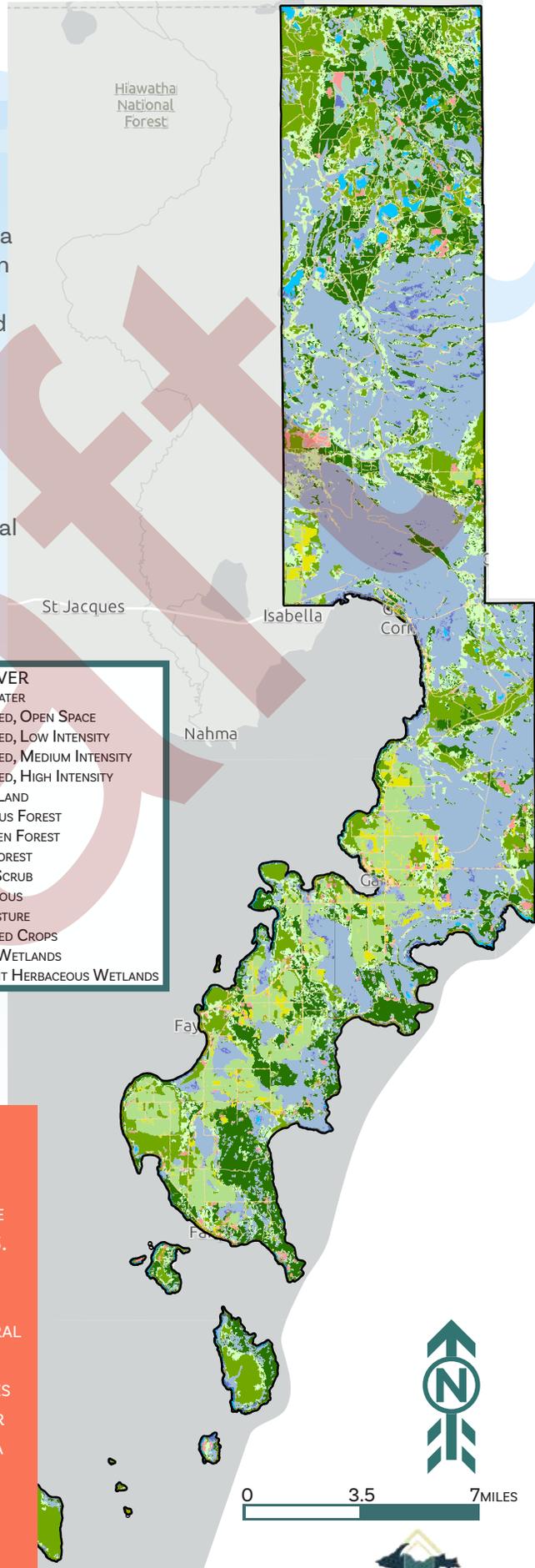
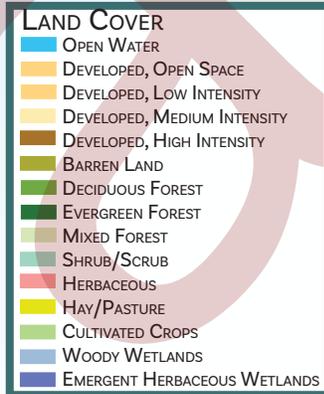
# GARDEN PENINSULA

## LAND COVER + WILDLIFE

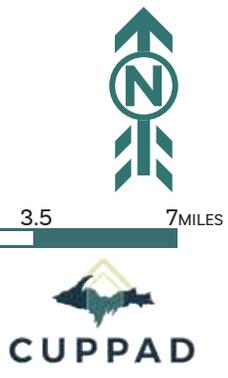
The vast majority of the Garden Peninsula is forested with a mix of temperate or mesic hardwood, mixed, and evergreen forests. The Garden Township is roughly 91% forested and shrub/scrub or herbaceous lands with 3.5% agriculture and the remaining a mix of open water, residential, commercial and industrial use. The many lakes in the northern section of the Township make beautiful sites for camping and recreating such as the Camp Seven Lake Campground.

The Fairbanks Township is roughly 70% forested with 23% agriculture and the last 12% a mix of residential, commercial and industrial. The Garden Village is primarily developed land with some agriculture as well.

The Information for Planning and Consultation site hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes the potential existence of several threatened and endangered species within the Peninsula. Measures taken to preserve habitat and accommodate these species are critical to maintaining their existence. Water levels along the coastline can impact nesting sites for Piping Plover and Red Knot. Lynx live in boreal forests that often receive heavy snowfall and are home to snowshoe hares. White nose syndrome threatens the Northern Long-eared Bat. The biggest culprit threatening the Monarchs seems to be the disappearance of milkweed. It is critical communities consider these threatened and endangered species when planning for development.



THE IPAC (INFORMATION FOR PLANNING AND CONSULTATION) SITE HOSTED BY THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NOTES THE POTENTIAL OF SEVERAL THREATENED + ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHIN THE GREATER GARDEN PENINSULA REGION.



# GARDEN PENINSULA FLOOD FACTOR

Fluctuating water levels within the Great Lakes have become the new normal for the upper Midwest. This includes unusually high water levels and increased intensity and frequency of storm events leading to flooding, erosion, and saturated soils.

The Garden Peninsula is largely undeveloped as noted in the values listed by community participants in the survey. This is excellent as existing soils and vegetation help reduce detrimental effects such as erosion.

Considerations that must be made when planning development, including recreation amenity development, near waterways is the potential for flooding and erosion. Trails, if not properly aligned, designed and constructed can develop deep ruts and become impassible due to erosion. These impacts are exacerbated if the trails are utilized by off road vehicles.

Ice out in the spring and high lake levels often impact installations such as fishing piers and boardwalks as well. Although access to the waterfront is a necessary and arguably the most important experience along the Garden Peninsula's long coastline, the community must proceed with careful planning and design when implementing project upgrades and enhancements.

Access to water can provide unlimited opportunities for recreation. From Lake Michigan's undulating coastline to the various rivers and inland lakes that dot the Peninsula, water plays a crucial role in the everyday enjoyment of Garden Peninsula residents and visitors. We must continue to nurture the connection between the community and this liquid asset that makes life on the Peninsula so special.

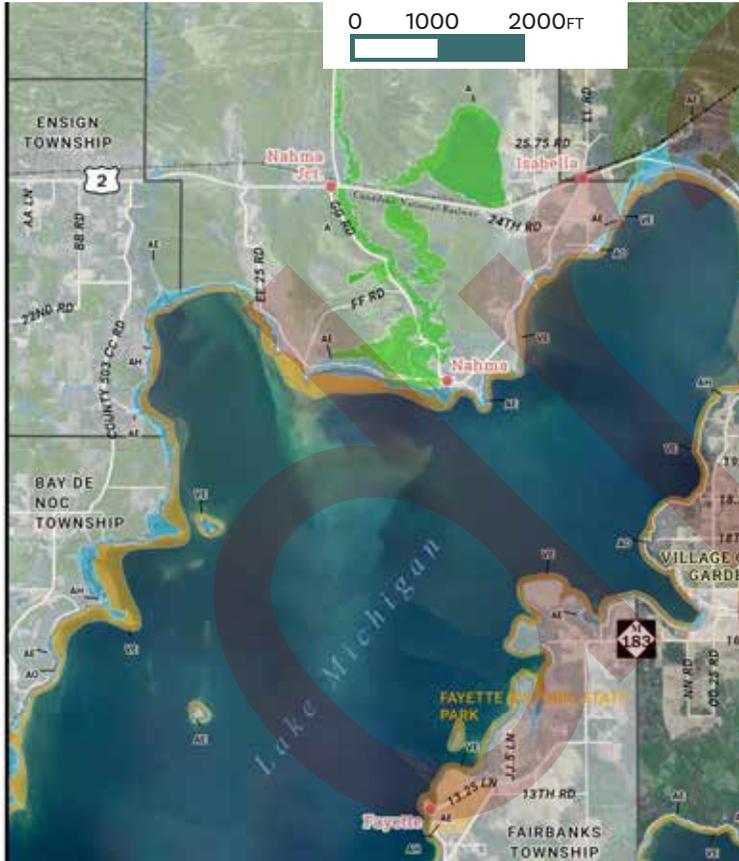


Fairbanks Township - Flood Hazard Zones		2022
Flood Hazard Zone	Unincorporated Place	DNR State Forest Land
AE	Contour (33 ft. Interval)	Village Boundary
AH	State Thruway	Nature Conservancy Land
AO	Major Road	State Park Boundary
VE	Local Road	
	Township Boundary	
	County Boundary	



GARDEN VILLAGE INSERT

0 1000 2000FT



Garden Township - Flood Hazard Zones		2022	
Flood Hazard Zone A	Unincorporated Place	Railroad	U.S. Forest Service Land
Flood Hazard Zone AE	Contour (10 ft. Interval)	Township Boundary	City/Village Boundary
Flood Hazard Zone AH	State Trunkline	County Boundary	DNR State Forest Land
Flood Hazard Zone AD	Major Road	State Park Boundary	
Flood Hazard Zone VE	Local Road		

0 1 2 3 4  
Miles

Central UP Planning and Development Commission  
2950 College Avenue, Escanaba, MI 49829  
P. (806) 786-9234 | W. www.cuppad.org

This map and data are to be used for reference and display purposes only. The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Commission (CUPPAD) is not responsible for damages or other liabilities due to the accuracy, availability, use, or misuse of the map and data provided.

# 4 GARDEN PENINSULA

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE + BUDGET



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
 Village of Garden	\$1,400	\$1,100	\$1,350	\$1,600	\$1,900
 Garden Township	\$4,850	\$7,150	\$4,483	\$4,800	\$4,200
 Fairbanks Township	\$1,000	\$915	\$315	\$750	\$1,000

**PARKS + RECREATION SPENDING | 2016-2021**



### GARDEN VILLAGE

The Board maintains responsibility for Village recreational activities and development. The Board holds the responsibility of committing funds to recreation programming, maintenance and development.



### GARDEN TOWNSHIP

The Board is responsible for overseeing the operations and maintenance of the Township’s recreation facilities. Two part-time employees provide maintenance. The Board is the authority responsible for dedicating funds to parks and recreation priorities within the Township.



### FAIRBANKS TOWNSHIP

The Board is responsible for overseeing recreational development in the Township. The Township Board is the authority responsible for committing funds to parks and recreation projects, programming and maintenance.

### GARDEN PENINSULA PARKS AND REC COMMITTEE



The Garden Peninsula Recreation Committee consists of 6 members who meet monthly or on an as needed basis. They meet to discuss needs and priorities for peninsula wide parks and recreation. The Recreation Committee functions as an advisory group in which they make recommendations to the appropriate Township or Village body to commit funds for parks and recreation projects and acquisitions. The current members include:

- Janet Daasch
- Kathryn Denholm
- Meghan Kelly
- Gerry Tatrow
- Randall Brown
- Gary Sporer

# GARDEN PENINSULA

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Garden Township, Fairbanks Township, and the Village of Garden have had a long and successful relationship with community organizations. When certain projects arise for the Townships and the Village, community organizations often donate funds to the project.

The Village Artisans of Garden, a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers, sponsor and provide community art classes, music programs, and other enrichment programs. Much of this has been put on hold due to Covid. A children's reading program at the library, hosts brown bag lunch programs as well as classes and workshops featuring various topics. The Friendship Quilters met weekly, prior to Covid, assisting those with sewing projects as well as creating quilts for the Department of Human Services and Bay Cliff Camp.

Local volunteers participate in Friends of Fayette Historic Townsite providing activities for the public as well as assisting with obtaining funds for restoration of the park. Friends of Portage Bay Campground and Fayette Historic State Park is another group of local volunteers who assist with obtaining project funds for both Portage Bay and Fayette Historic State Parks. The American Legion volunteers support the community in a variety of ways from event sponsorships to local breakfasts. They also maintain the Veteran's Park in the Village of Garden. Prior to Covid, the Congregational Church hosted an annual Lord's Acre Auction.

The Big Bay de Noc School library is open to the public Monday-Friday 3-4:15PM as well as the track, playground, soccer fields, and nature trail. The Garden Township has loaned graduation day equipment as well as rented out their hall to the school. The local farmer's market is held in the Village pavilion and Garden and Fairbanks Townships contribute to the Village or (Community) park. The township hall is utilized for various meetings, community breakfasts, sporting events, weddings and family gatherings. The Fairbanks Township Hall is also rented for family gatherings and events. The community has



IMAGE SOURCE: VILLAGEARTISANSOFGARDEN.ORG

# 5

## GARDEN PENINSULA

### STANDARDS FOR RECREATION OPEN SPACE

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a scale to help measure an existing recreation system’s park facilities and provide a baseline standard for equitable park access within a community.

A typical park and recreation system offers one park for every 2,277 residents served, with 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Due to its lower density population Michigan’s Upper Peninsula trends toward having a much greater number of parks per 2,277 residents. Here is a chart illustrating the different open space typologies defined by NRPA and the desired minimum amount of park space per community.

The Garden Peninsula has an abundance of public lands but Garden Village, Garden Township, and Fairbanks Township manage very few recreation facilities. As a result the properties managed by these three communities would all be considered community park destinations as they each offer the only option for each form of recreation within the community.

The requests within community surveys did not indicate a desire to acquire additional property included many suggestions for improvements on existing properties. A description of each property managed by Garden Village, Garden Township, and Fairbanks Township is included in the following pages and the comments from community members are noted in the chapter feature community values and recreation goals.

The inventory of recreation facilities and programs within the Peninsula was completed via site visits, reviewing previous recreation plans, and discussions with the Recreation Committee.



PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	SIZE (ACRES)	ACRES/1,000 POP	PENINSULA MANAGED PARKS	USES
Mini-Park	<1/4mi	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	1.25 to 2.5 <b>Currently:</b> 0	Specialized facility serving a concentrated or limited population
Neighborhood Park	1/4 to 1/2mi	15+	1 to 2	5 to 10 <b>Currently:</b> 0	Hosts intense recreation activities: Play, sports fields/courts, picnicking etc.
Community Park	1 to 2mi	25+	8 to 10	25 to 40 <b>Currently:</b> 21.8	Diverse environmental quality; may include sports complexes or more natural forms of outdoor recreation
Regional Park	1 hr drive	200+	5 to 10	25 to 50 <b>Currently:</b> 0	Area of natural quality for outdoor recreation; boating, swimming, camping, trail use etc.
School Park					Park associated with an educational institution

# GARDEN PENINSULA

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The community hosts a variety of recreation programs primarily through the Big Bay de Noc School System. The Big Bay de Noc Youth Basketball program has over 50 young athletes learning the fundamentals of basketball over 10 structured sessions. This program is offered free of charge. In addition to the 10 structured sessions for grades K-8, 5 youth tournament travel teams are also managed by this group. Each team has a minimum of 10 after school practices and competes in several tournaments throughout the upper peninsula. Through the youth basketball program, participants can prepare for Middle School and High School basketball while also learning teamwork, responsibility, and dedication.

The Peninsula Area Baseball League is a non-profit organization. This program teaches players baseball fundamentals, rules and regulations of the game. Players may start at Tee Ball level and play up to the age of 16. The Peninsula Area Baseball League is paired with the Manistique Little League and the Gladstone Little League, which allows participants to play the surrounding area teams. The league raises funds primarily through donations and concession profits. The Peninsula Area Little League also pays the fee required to the little league for each player to play. This program is run strictly by volunteers. This includes; managers, coaches, assistant coaches, and umpires. Home games are played at Garden Community Park.

### RECREATION ACTIVITY KEY



### PARK/FACILITY ACTIVITY

GARDEN COMMUNITY CENTER				
GARDEN COMMUNITY PARK				
OZZIE HAZEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP PARK				
FAIRBANKS TOWNSHIP HALL				

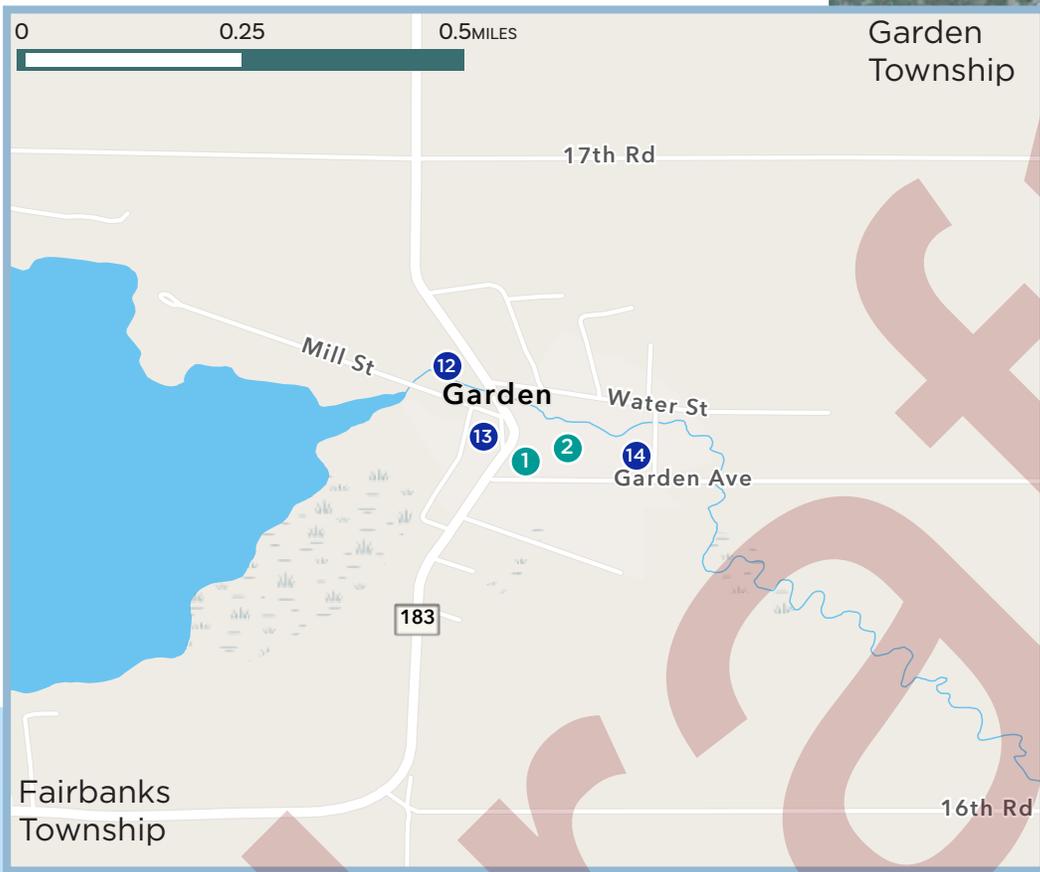
### ACCESSIBILITY

The facilities were evaluated for accessibility via site visits by CUPPAD on October 4th, 2021. Tools utilized in conducting the assessments included the ADA Checklist found at ADAchecklist.org and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. Each facility was graded according to the scale featured below with more detailed descriptions of the facility's accessibility features and shortfalls in Appendix C. The recommended accessibility improvements were integrated into the action plan and priority project lists for the community.

### DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM

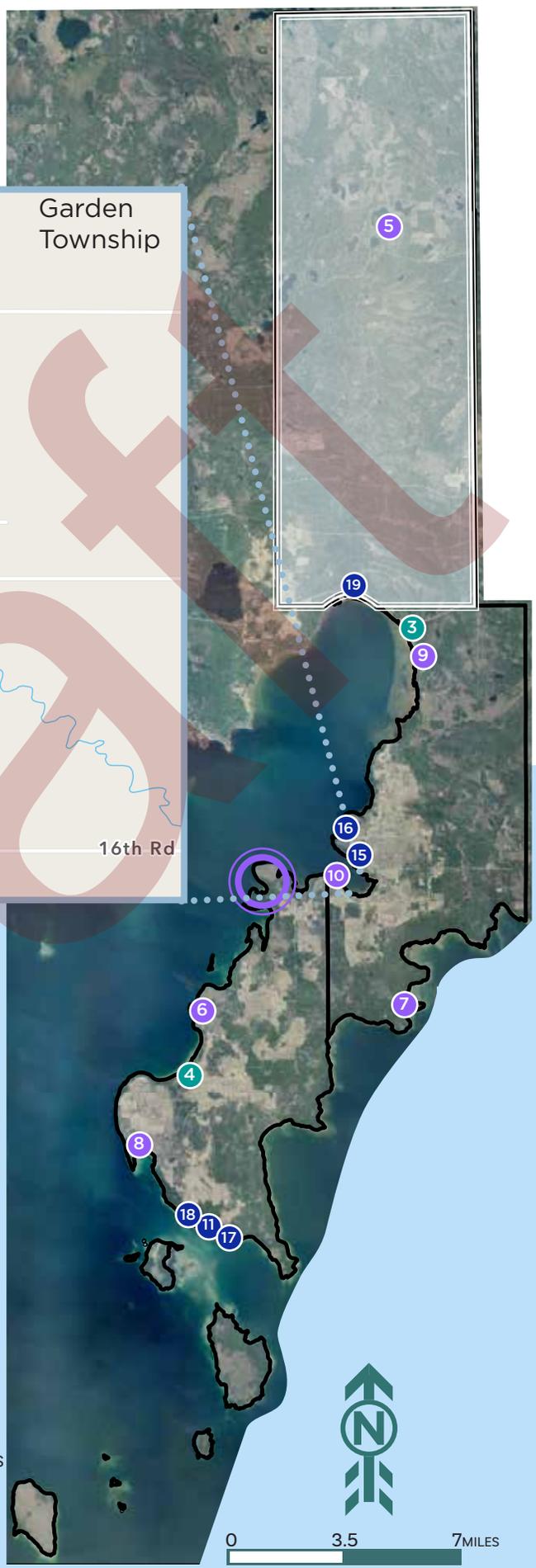
1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5. The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

# GARDEN PENINSULA RECREATION MAP



- 1 GARDEN COMMUNITY CENTER
- 2 GARDEN COMMUNITY PARK
- 3 OZZIE HAZEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP PARK
- 4 FAIRBANKS TOWNSHIP HALL
- 5 CAMP SEVEN
- 6 FAYETTE HISTORIC STATE PARK
- 7 PORTAGE BAY CAMPGROUND + TRAILS
- 8 SAC BAY COUNTY PARK
- 9 BIG BAY DE NOC SCHOOLS
- 10 GARDEN BAY BOAT LAUNCH
- 11 RANGUETTE DOCKS BOAT LAUNCH
- 12 VILLAGE ARTISANS INC.
- 13 GARDEN PENINSULA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
- 14 VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK
- 15 VAN HARBOR BOAT LAUNCH
- 16 BAY RIDGE CAMPGROUND
- 17 PETERSON DOCKS BOAT LAUNCH
- 18 SEAMAN DOCKS
- 19

- GARDEN PENINSULA RECREATION FACILITIES
- PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES
- PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES
- HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST
- NATURE CONSERVANCY PROPERTY



# GARDEN PENINSULA

## RECREATION PLAN

1

### GARDEN COMMUNITY CENTER

The Garden Community Center features an indoor basketball court, kitchen, restrooms, and offices. Community events are often hosted here as well as recreation classes. Accessibility: 4

1 ACRE



2

### GARDEN COMMUNITY PARK

This Community park is located in Garden Village behind the community center. It hosts a pavilion, basketball court, baseball field, concessions stand, small play area, and vault toilets.

4.2 ACRE

The Community survey requested input for future functions within the park receiving broad support for a playground update, amphitheater, and sport courts or a mixture of several options. Accessibility: 2



3

### OZZIE HAZEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP PARK

This Community park is located right off of Hwy 183 and hosts vault toilets, picnic tables, parking, and easy access to Lake Michigan. Accessibility: 2

17.6 ACRE



# GARDEN PENINSULA

## RECREATION PLAN

4

2 ACRES

### FAIRBANKS TOWNSHIP HALL

The Fairbanks Township Hall on 11th road does not specifically offer any recreational amenities but serves as a community gathering space. Recent upgrades include an accessible ramp to the entry.

Accessibility: 4



5

60 ACRES

### CAMP SEVEN

This USDA Forest Service Campground is a “hidden gem” as described by one visitor on site. The park features lake access with a beach and play area, restrooms, a camp loop, boat launch, picnic area and trail access.



6

711 ACRES

### FAYETTE HISTORIC STATE PARK

Fayette is a destination for many within the U.P. It is a famous site showcasing a historical industrial town with the spectacular backdrop of Lake Michigan. It hosts a visitor center with interpretive exhibits, a overnight mooring space within the harbor, campsites, picnic areas, a playground, a swimming beach, hiking trails, and a boat launch.



# GARDEN PENINSULA

## RECREATION PLAN

7

### PORTAGE BAY CAMPGROUND + TRAILS

Michigan DNR owned Portage Bay is a sleepy campground at the end of a very rugged 5 mile road. The 23 rustic sites are roomy and host spectacular view of Lake Michigan. There is a boat launch on site as well as vault toilets, potable water, trails and access for paddling and para-sailing.



8

### SAC BAY COUNTY PARK

Sac Bay County Park is also located at the end of a dead end road. It hosts a vault toilet, a few play elements, beach access, and a picnic area. This is one site that was mentioned many times within the survey comments regarding potential upgrades and a priority destination for a future water trail along Lake Michigan's coastline.

68.75  
ACRES



9

### BIG BAY DE NOC SCHOOLS

Big Bay De Noc Schools host a variety of community and recreational amenities including soccer fields, a track, playground, and nature trails. The school library can also be accessed by the public Monday through Friday between 3-4:15PM.



# GARDEN PENINSULA

## RECREATION PLAN

### GARDEN BAY BOAT LAUNCH

10

1 ACRE

This public boat launch is located Southwest of Garden Village and features parking, a fishing dock, vault toilet, and boarding pier.



### BAY RIDGE CAMPGROUND

Bay Ridge is a 41 site private RV Park and Campground. It hosts full hook up sites, restroom and shower buildings, laundry, and access to the boat dock.

11

1 ACRE

### RANQUETTE DOCKS BOAT LAUNCH

This private boat launch is primarily used for commercial and sports fishing boats.

16

### PETERSON DOCKS BOAT LAUNCH

This launch is also used for fishing.

12

### VILLAGE ARTISANS INC.

The Village Artisans, located in Garden Village hosts a variety of community art workshops and displays/sells local artist's work.

17

### SEAMAN DOCKS BOAT LAUNCH

A private boat launch.

13

### GARDEN PENINSULA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A former one-room school house. This facility features displays on community history including logging, fishing, historic classroom display, and a genealogy library.

18

### FISHDAM BOAT LAUNCH

A public access site for small boats. It includes a gravel parking lot and vaulted toilets. The Michigan DNR has a lease with Delta County.

14

### VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK

The American Legion's Memorial Park is located adjacent to the Garden Community Park and is open to the public.

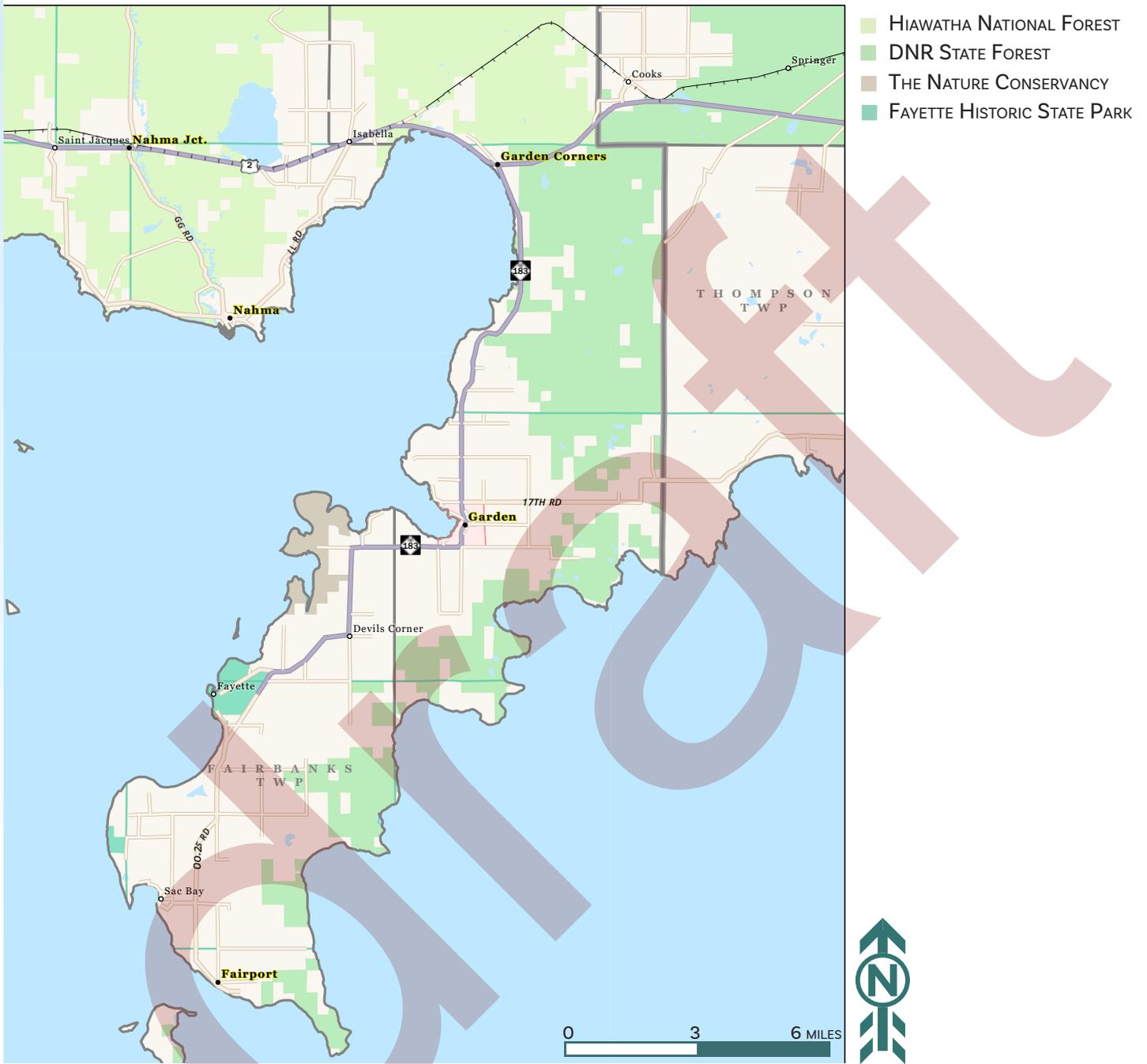
19

15

### VAN HARBOR BOAT LAUNCH

This private boat launch is a deep channel launch.

# PROPERTY OWNERSHIP + MANAGEMENT



## HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST

Hiawatha National Forest covers the majority of the northern half of the Garden Peninsula. This property is relatively undeveloped for recreation opportunities featuring Camp Seven and a few trails. There is great potential for the forest service to create additional trail and recreation opportunities.

## DNR STATE FOREST

Much of the eastern Lake Michigan coastline within the Garden Peninsula is owned and managed by the Michigan DNR. This land includes Portage Bay State Park as well as a motorized trail. Dispersed public recreation activities including hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and dispersed camping may occur on this property as well. A few new property acquisitions by the DNR within the Fairbanks Township will soon provide access to the sand dunes on the eastern Garden Peninsula coast. The Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan and Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan each promote the careful expansion and connection of local and regional trails within state lands. The Garden Peninsula community whole heartedly supports the development of additional recreational trails within these public lands.

## THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy owns and manages a series of small peninsulas jutting out into Lake Michigan just to the west of Garden Village in the Fairbanks Township. The community would love to see a trail network developed on this property.

# 6

## GARDEN PENINSULA

### COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING

Initial public input was gathered via community surveys. These were shared in paper and online format and distributed through the school and also via local businesses. A link to the survey was advertised on Facebook and posted on community websites. There were 92 responses collected.

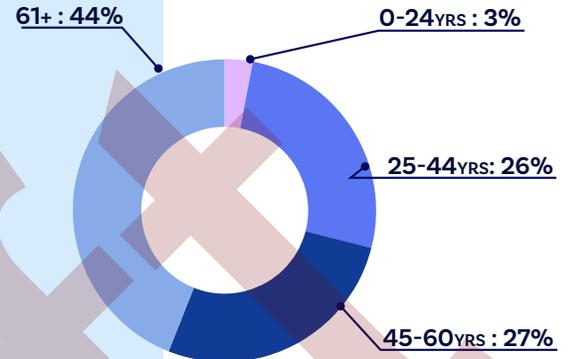
The feedback garnered was extremely informative and helped in generating recreation values, goals and priority improvements for the community. The pie charts on the upper right hand corner of the page illustrate the age distribution of survey participants and the community in general. A larger percent of 45-60 year olds and much lower percent of the 0-24 year olds participated. It is assumed parents and grandparents responded with their child's interests in mind.

Females out participated males and year round residents provided the most input.

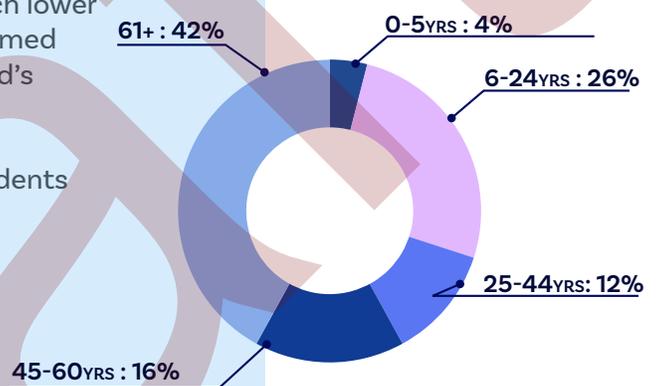
The most frequently visited site within the Garden Peninsula was Fayette Historic State Park with the Garden Bay Boat Launch following not far behind. The Garden Community Park Pavilion and Portage Bay Campground also received relatively high visitation numbers.

All Public input was thoroughly integrated into the plan. The community survey responses directly informed the recreation values and goals defined within the plan. The changes proposed in the surveys also informed the project priorities for the community. Once this information was processed the draft plan was assembled and released for public comment.

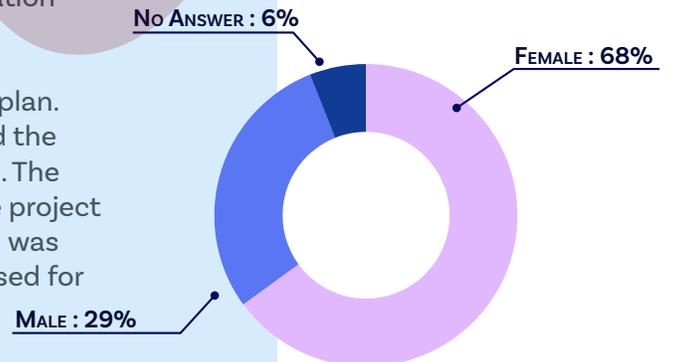
**SURVEY RESPONSE AGE DISTRIBUTION**



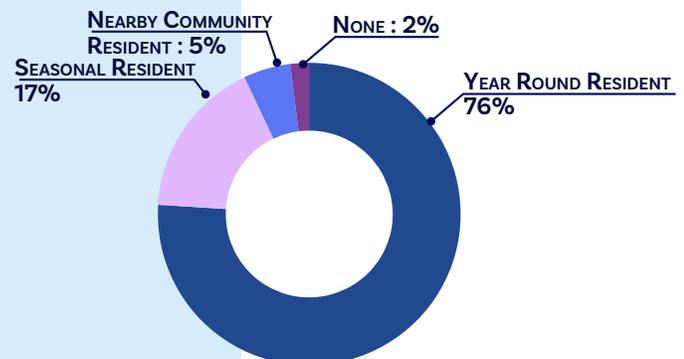
**GARDEN PENINSULA AGE DISTRIBUTION**



**SURVEY RESPONSE GENDER**



**SURVEY RESPONSE RESIDENCY**



# GARDEN PENINSULA

## RECREATION ACTIVITIES



Single Mentions: Skating, Community Clean Up, Maple Syrup Making, Horseback Riding, Target Shooting

# GARDEN PENINSULA COMMUNITY VALUES

“CLEANLINESS,  
BEAUTY,  
HISTORY...”  
-LOCAL RESIDENT



VALUES  
 “PRISTINE  
 LANDSCAPE, FISH  
 SPECIES IN ABUNDANCE,  
 No TOURISTS...”  
 -LOCAL RESIDENT

When presented with the question **What do you VALUE about the Garden**

**Peninsula’s recreation opportunities?** a unique set of responses were received. Yes Lake Michigan, the most spectacular natural resource the Peninsula has to offer was mentioned with great frequency, but participants also emphasized finding peaceful places with ‘Nature in abundance.’ They often indicated the lack of tourists in the region as a definite bonus.

The community recreation values derived from the community survey responses are listed in the blue box on the right. Each speaks to creating and preserving access to nature and emphasizes a focus on promoting access to Lake Michigan. The process of rolling these concepts into a future vision for the community began by generating a community goal.

When presented with the question **What would you like to CHANGE about the Garden Peninsula’s recreation opportunities?** a great emphasis was placed on developing more trails. Pairing the community recreation values with a strong desire to see additional bikeway, ski, snowshoe, hiking, and ORV trails a primary recreation goal emerged.

Respondents were also asked to weigh in on what the future of the small play space in the Garden Community Park could be. An updated playground was the top choice with requests for

## RECREATION VALUES

- We VALUE the exquisite scenery and access to nature in its purest forms
- We VALUE Lake Michigan and the wealth of recreation opportunities it has to offer
- We VALUE the pristine landscape and quiet spaces that can be found within it

additional amenities such as a pickle ball court, amphitheater, pump track or splash pad. Each of these potential items were weighed within the next chapter of proposed projects and given priority rankings.

# GARDEN PENINSULA

## REQUESTED CHANGES

Opportunities for Youth<sup>(9)</sup> Trail Mapping<sup>(4)</sup>  
Biking/Walking Route<sup>(12)</sup> 4th of July<sup>(3)</sup>

More Hiking+Skiing Trails<sup>(15)</sup>

More Activities/Events<sup>(7)</sup> Less Congested Camping<sup>(3)</sup> More ORV Trails<sup>(8)</sup>

Boat Launch Improvements<sup>(5)</sup> Remove Turbines<sup>(3)</sup> No Change<sup>(7)</sup> Mountain Biking Trails<sup>(2)</sup>

Make a Cruise Ship Stop<sup>(4)</sup> Improve Parks + Recreation Funding<sup>(3)</sup> Pet Friendly<sup>(2)</sup>

Manage Fisheries<sup>(3)</sup> Improve Swimming Beaches<sup>(10)</sup>

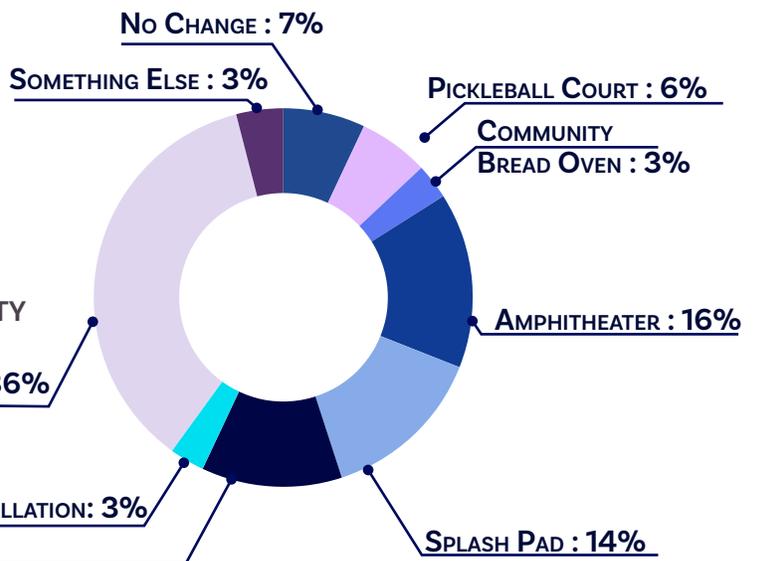


WHAT WOULD YOU PREFER THE GARDEN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND AREA BE?

UPDATED PLAYGROUND : 36%

INTERACTIVE ART INSTALLATION: 3%

PUMP TRACK : 12%



# 7

## GARDEN PENINSULA VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Parks provide a connection between natural places and people with the intent of creating meaningful outdoor experiences. The evidence of these experiences is validated in the recreation values and activities listed in the surveys submitted. In addition to the value regarding recreation opportunities and access there are the equally important values regarding exquisite scenery, pristine landscapes and quiet surroundings. This inherent tension between recreation and preservation helps shape how communities choose to pursue future parks and recreation opportunities.

The Garden Peninsula community has made this abundantly clear in the short statements they provided regarding values and proposed changes to parks and recreation. A few of these statements are featured in the blue bubbles on the surrounding pages. To the right is a chart featuring the Garden Peninsula's recreation goal and associated objectives for achieving it.

The next page features the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan goal, trends, and objectives. These recommendations can be paired with the Garden Peninsula's goal and objectives to encourage an even broader community direction and all inclusive scope.

“EMPHASIZE  
PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL BEAUTY +  
RESOURCES”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

### RECREATION GOAL

**Promote access to the natural resources the Garden Peninsula has in abundance while preserving their pristine qualities and quiet surroundings.**

### OBJECTIVES

- Determine priority areas within the Peninsula to preserve.
- Map out locations to provide improved access and trail development.
- Overlay potential areas for development with priority places to preserve.
- Promote partnerships within the community between those who may assist with education, preservation and developing recreation access to the Peninsula's natural resources.
- Pursue funding opportunities to complete priorities.

# STATEWIDE GOALS

## STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

Michigan's Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as the backbone for recreation planning within the state. Every five years new surveys are administered, sites studied and outdoor recreation habits mapped. Through developing a clear understanding of how people recreate within Michigan we can help define how to provide additional access and amenities for those utilizing the parks within our communities.

The main objectives outlined in the current SCORP plan:

- Foster stewardship and conservation
- Improve collaboration between stakeholders
- Raise awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities
- Improve recreational access for all
- Provide quality experiences
- Enhance health benefits
- Enhance prosperity via supporting economic prosperity, talent retention and high quality of life

### RECREATION TRENDS

Nationally, many of the more traditional recreation activities, such as camping and fishing, have seen a slight decrease while nature based and backcountry activities are on the rise. Some of these trending activities include:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Kayaking
- Cross-country skiing
- BMX/Mountain biking
- Stand-up Paddling

Many passive recreation activities are also very popular, as noted in the SCORP surveys including relaxing, walking, picnicking, and unstructured play.

### SCORP GOAL

**Protect and manage Michigan's diverse and abundant natural and cultural assets to provide relevant, quality experiences that meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors and support economic prosperity.**

-SCORP 2018-2022

# 8

## ACTION PLAN

### COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The Garden Peninsula has relatively few properties owned and managed by local government jurisdictions, but these facilities are valuable to their communities.

When survey participants were asked to list their three top priority projects many new ideas emerged. A list of identified projects is provided in the chart to the right. The next step is to see which proposals address the objectives listed in chapter 7 and move the community closer to achieving their overarching goal while weighing community input.

This Action Plan attempts to channel these many ideas provided via community input, recreation board and staff feedback and develop a prioritized list of park and recreation improvements within the coming years. By no means is this a comprehensive list as interests, demographics, and the environment are constantly evolving. The communities will continue to revisit their recreation plan within future years and amend these lists as needed.

#### BELOW IS A LIST OF RECREATION **NEEDS**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO IMPROVE, ENHANCE, OR INTRODUCE INTO THE GARDEN PENINSULA'S NETWORK:

#### **MOST FREQUENT REQUESTS**

- IMPROVEMENTS AT SAC BAY PARK (DELTA COUNTY FACILITY)
- IMPROVEMENTS AT GARDEN COMMUNITY PARK (SPECIFICALLY REPLACE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT)
- DEVELOP NEW SAFE BIKE PATHS AND WALKING ROUTES (SPECIFICALLY SOUTH ALONG M-183)
- ADDITIONAL HIKING/WALKING/BIKING/SKIING TRAILS (IDEALLY SOME ALONG THE LAKE)
- FAYETTE IMPROVEMENTS (STATE OWNED PARK)
- SWIMMING BEACH IMPROVEMENTS; ACCESS IN GARDEN VILLAGE

#### **RELATIVELY FREQUENT REQUESTS**

- UPGRADE BOAT LAUNCHES (PRIMARILY PRIVATE)
- MANAGE CORMORANTS
- DEVELOP TRAIL MAPS
- MORE ORV TRAILS (ORV ACCESS ALONG M-183 SHOULDER)
- MUSIC/MORE EVENTS IN GARDEN COMMUNITY PARK AND CENTER
- MORE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN
- KAYAK LAUNCHES

#### **LESS FREQUENT REQUESTS**

- PORTAGE BAY IMPROVEMENTS (STATE OWNED PARK)
- CAMPING AREAS ALLOWING ORVs
- REMOVE TURBINES
- WOLF MANAGEMENT
- OUTDOOR SHOOTING RANGE
- ENCOURAGE THE PENINSULA TO BECOME A U.P. CRUISE SHIP DESTINATION
- A SKATE POND
- GARDEN BASEBALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS
- MANAGE FISHERY
- SMALL PARK AT THE END OF THE PENINSULA

# GARDEN PENINSULA

## PRIORITY PROJECTS

Although the Garden Township, Garden Village and Fairbanks Township own and operate very few properties within the Peninsula, the community chose to look at the potential for parks and recreation improvements on a regional scale. The NEEDS listed in the blue box on the previous page encompass community desires for all public/private park and recreation facilities on the Peninsula. The list of proposed projects below features those NEEDS that have the potential to be realized with the right amount of community enthusiasm, available funding, property ownership and coordination.

### GARDEN COMMUNITY PARK

Playground Upgrade paired with other park improvements that could include a small amphitheater, splash pad, ice rink, or multi-sport court.

Host additional community events and music in the park

### GARDEN VILLAGE

Acquire property that provides access to Lake Michigan and a swim beach area

### COMMUNITY CONNECTOR MULTI-USE TRAIL

Develop a multi-use trail that connects bikers and walkers from Garden Corners to Garden Village, Fayette, and Fairbanks.

### OZZIE HAZEN GARDEN TOWNSHIP PARK

Provide Improvements to the swim beach area

### ICE SKATING RINK

Create a seasonal skating area within the Garden Peninsula

### PENINSULA WIDE SYSTEM

Develop a user friendly, comprehensive park and recreation map for the Garden Peninsula featuring parks and trails.

Develop a water trail along the Garden Peninsula's Lake Michigan coastline including kayak launches.

Develop additional hiking, biking, and cross country ski trails

Develop additional ORV trails

Manage fisheries

Provide an outdoor shooting range