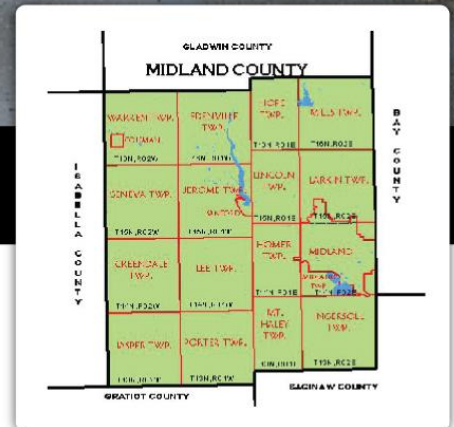


MIDLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

DRAFT June 2022

TOWNSHIP OF MILLS FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027



Prepared for:
Township of Mills
3480 East Shearer Road
Midland, MI 48642



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Appendices

Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
Public Input Summary for Mills Township Recreation Plan
MDNR Forest Management Summary and State Wildlife Management Area Map
Birding Guide Excerpt

Approval Documentation

- Public Notice for Input Meeting
- Public Notice for 30-Day Notice
- Public Notice for Public Hearing
- Resolution
- Meeting Minutes
- Transmittal to County Planning
- Transmittal to Regional Planning
- Checklist
- Post Completion Forms

Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
EGLE	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
MNRTF	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
NMFC	North Midland Family Center
USGS	United States Geological Survey

Community Description

Regional Location

Mills Township is in the northeast corner of Midland County, approximately 6 miles north of Midland. It is bounded on the north by Gladwin County, on the west by Hope Township, and on the east by Bay County.

Natural Features

Significant natural features include those characteristics which serve to “shape the community”, in some instances discouraging development, in others accommodating the location of land uses. A study of a community’s natural features is necessary to provide a basis for determining areas most suitable for recreation and conservation.

Topography

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Quadrangle Maps, the topography of Mills Township is generally flat or low land. Land elevations range from a height of 660 feet above sea level in the eastern portion of the Township to 700 feet above sea level in the northeast part of the Township.

Water Resources

Water, by its very nature, provides a natural resource suitable for certain recreational purposes. Drainage in Mills Township is accomplished by a system of natural drainage ways which include Kawkawlin Creek, Herner Drain, Gunn Drain, Boyle Drain, Morris Drain, and Torrey Drain.

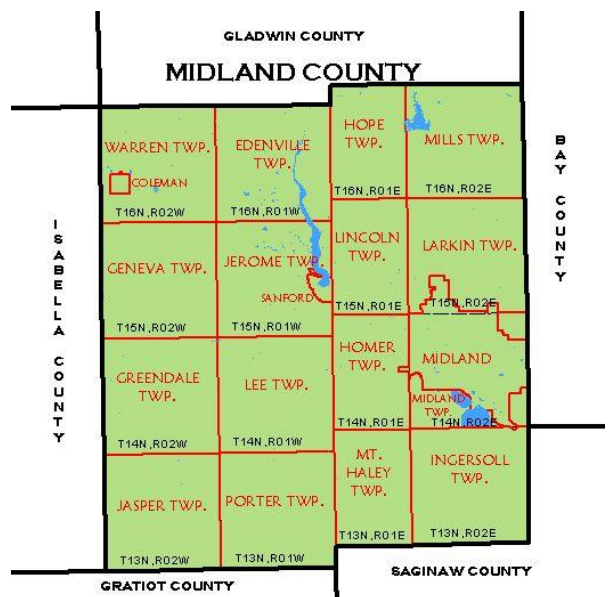
These watercourses are prone to flooding during major wet weather events. Development in and around these watercourses should be carefully managed. Floodplain management involves balancing the economic gain from floodplain development against the resulting increase in flood hazard.

Wildlife Habitat

Based on reference from “A Birder’s Guide to Michigan” by Allen T. Chartier and Jerry Ziarno, the impoundment of the Kawkawlin River, is a fairly large wetland area with surrounding mixed deciduous forest. The impoundment to the west provides a feeding and resting place for numerous waterbirds, especially during spring migration, including large numbers of Canada Geese, as well as Wood Duck, many Ring-necked Ducks, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and Pied-billed Grebe. A few nesting Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets may



Map 1: State of Michigan Map



Map 2: Midland County Map

be joined by dozens of post-breeding birds in late summer. In spring, American Bittern can be heard. An Osprey pair has been observed in mating rituals, but nesting has not been confirmed. Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, and Black Tern breed in the area.

The trails through the wooded areas provide opportunities to find resident Ruffed Grouse, while nesting species include both cuckoos, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, Veery, Wood Thrush, Song and Field Sparrows, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole. During migration, a variety of warblers, including Cerulean, pass through, and Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Ovenbird breed here. Golden-winged Warbler nests in the second-growth areas to the northeast of the pond

Woodlands

USGS data show the existence of large and heavy forested lands throughout Mills Township. A largest portion of these woodlands exist within the State-protected Tittabawassee River State Forest, in the northwest portion of the Township. The woodlands provide many aesthetic and recreational benefits to the area. They also serve as habitats for wildlife and unique plants, moderate the effects of flooding and high winds, protect watersheds from siltation and soil erosion, purify the air by absorbing air pollutants, and provide a buffer from excessive noise or light. Mills Township Park provides access for bird watching that draws people from across the State.

Climate

Temperature extremes during December, January, and February range from highs in the mid-50s to lows of below zero. Variations during the summer months of June, July, and August range from highs in the upper-90s to lows averaging in the mid-40s.

The wettest periods occur in early and late spring and early summer, with the driest period normally during mid-summer to autumn. Snowfall usually occurs as frontal winter storms and snow showers.

Wetlands

The State of Michigan is a leader in the protection of wetlands. These areas are regulated through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Not only do wetlands serve to recharge groundwater and filter surface waters, but also serve as wildlife habitats. The Kawkawlin Wildlife Flooding and Refuge Area in Mills Township is one of the County's largest wetlands.

Transportation

There are three Michigan highways that run through Midland County (M-18, M-20, and M-30) and one highway (US-10). Residents in Mills Township drive using their own methods of transportation throughout the County; there is also public transportation that is provided by County Connection.. The closest airport to Mills Township is in Saginaw County (Freeland, MI) which is MBS International Airport.

Demographics

The purpose of this examination is to identify the characteristics of the population, income, and employment to reveal what trends are occurring and, based on the identified trends pertinent to recreation within Mills Township, what opportunities may exist for future recreational development activities.

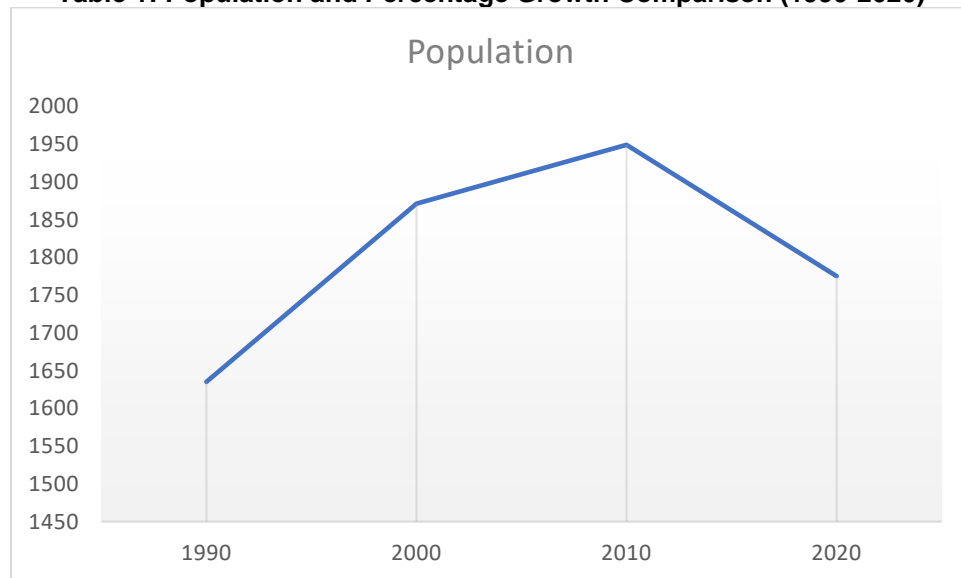
Population Analysis

General Population Characteristics

While an evaluation of the community's current situation provides insight to immediate needs and deficiencies the population, projections provide a basis for determining future recreational requirements. A younger population demands active recreation, while an older population will place different demands upon the community. For these reasons, an analysis of a community's population base is the logical place to start.

In the year 1990, the Township had 1,635 residents that eventually would go up to 1,871 residents by 2000. The population continued to increase to 1,949 residents in 2010 before experiencing a decrease to 1,775 residents by 2020.

Table 1: Population and Percentage Growth Comparison (1990-2020)



Household Size

A relatively recent phenomenon, characteristic of today's population, is one of the declining household size. This gradual move toward a smaller household size is consistent throughout the region and the State. The trend has evolved due, to a considerable extent, to the declining family size and acceptance of one-person households.

Mills Township has been part of this trend over the past decade. Data in Table 2 also depict the persons per household ratio for the Township for the years 2000, 2010, and 2020.

Table 2: Persons per Household (2000-2020)

	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2010-2020
Mills Township	2.83	2.75	2.37	-13.8%
Hope Township	2.53	2.44	2.4	-1.6%
Larkin Township	3.00	2.90	2.71	-6.6%
Lincoln Township	2.72	2.46	2.33	-5.3%
Midland County	2.56	2.46	2.4	-2.4%
Source: 2000, 2010, and 2020 US Census				

Age Distribution

Mills Township's age distribution (shown in Table 3) is supported by a wide base comprised of people between the ages of 0 and 24 (24.0), narrows slightly between the ages of 25 and 44 (19.4%), more between the ages 45 and 59 (28.0%), and the remaining population, 60 and over, comprise 28.6 percent. This distribution is representative of the national average. Based on this analysis, the township's population 60 years old and older is the largest group.

Table 3: Age Distribution (2020)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	44	2.3%
5-9	74	3.8%
10-14	122	6.3%
15-19	111	5.7%
20-24	116	6.0%
25-34	151	7.7
35-44	228	11.7
45-54	390	20.0%
55-59	156	8.0%
60-64	208	10.7%
65+	349	17.9%
Total	1,949	100.0%
Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS)		

Administrative Structure

The Mills Township Board is responsible for the planning and implementation of recreation programs within the Township. The Board has designated the Planning Commission with the sole responsibility as the Township's Parks and Recreation Commission. The Township does not provide any recreation programs but has various partnerships that provide key services in the community. The organizational chart is as follows:



Maintenance

The Mills Township Board is currently responsible for maintenance of the Community Park. Future construction of recreation facilities and implementation programs need to address how maintenance and administrative demands are addressed due to limited staffing and budget available within the Township.

Parks and Recreation Budget

The 2012-2022 budgeted expenses for the Township, excluding fire and water services, is \$458,207.12. This includes a dedicated line item for the community building and park for \$45,300, pavilion concessions for \$800, and pole barn storage for \$400. Currently, there are no employees that are dedicated staff to the Parks and Recreation Department or for parks property.

Funding Sources/Grant History

Current funding sources are made available through the general fund of Mills Township. The Township has received funding in the past for recreational renovations to the Mills Township Park from the Midland Community Foundation. This grant includes a 50 percent match that can include in-kind services. No Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recreation grant funds have been awarded to the Township to date. The Township hopes to increase funding participation by MDNR through partnering and/or grant awards for future projects. The Township has been successful in administering a multi-million-dollar water improvement project utilizing grant funding as a testimony of its ability to be fiscally responsible for future grant opportunities.

Role of Volunteers

Volunteers have been extremely important to the success of the Parks and Recreation Department for Mills Township.

Relationships with School Districts, other public agencies or private organizations

All students in Mills Township attend Midland Public Schools; previously, Mills Elementary School was open for the students in the Township. The school was closed due to population decline in

2010. Students in Mills Township attend Siebert Elementary School, Jefferson Middle School, and H.H. Dow High School. The school district and Township continue to work together with various programs and projects that promote the vitality of the community.

North Midland Family Center (NMFC)

This is a facility run as part of the Midland Community Centers Inc. The Township leases 7 acres currently on a 50-year lease. The center provides a mix of youth and senior programs that draw users from Gladwin County and beyond. The center communicates directly with the Township Supervisor to coordinate promotion of activities, programs, and other shared needs. NMFC supports a staff of 25 to 30 people, including additional organizational support from Midland Community Centers Inc.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Township has a cooperative arrangement with MDNR to provide access to the Kawkawlin Dam, operated by MDNR, via the Township road. Funding is shared by the Township and the MDNR to maintain this road.

Midland to Mackinac Trail

A local volunteer has coordinated the efforts of local Boy Scouts of America troops in the Lake Huron Area Council to assist with trail maintenance, maintain trail identification signs, and distribute maps for the trail. This is completed in conjunction with the MDNR recreation trails manager based in Gaylord and the US Forest Service, Huron National Forest office based in Mio.

Recreation Inventory

Introduction

Mills Township has several recreation facilities located within and around the Township limits that serve the needs of those living in the area, including a Township Park, an athletic club, a center for the aging, and family center. Additional facilities found within a 7-mile radius include Sanford and Wixom Lakes which provide camping, swimming, boating, and fishing opportunities. In addition, the City of Midland, located 12 miles south of the Township, has several parks, a community center, soccer complex, museums, libraries, and other facilities. A brief description of some of the recreation facilities is given below.

Local Recreation Facilities

Township Park (accessibility ranking 3)

- Located adjacent to the MDNR Kawkawlin River flooding area, 160-acre facility (see map and narrative of Midland to Mackinac Trail). See also appendix information on MDNR Forest Management review of this unit completed in 2007.
- Three developed ball diamonds, soccer field, a playground, picnic pavilion and grills, restroom facilities, a concession stand, a historical schoolhouse, primitive walking trails and a 2-mile paved accessible path loop that is plowed in the winter. It is maintained by the Township; no programming.
- The Mills Community Building is used primarily by private groups.



Midland Council on Aging (Mills Center) (accessibility ranking 3)

- Located in the Mills Township Park Complex on Shearer Road.



North Midland Family Center (accessibility ranking 4)

- Located in the Mills Township Park Complex, current facility is a 4,000-square-foot building with one full indoor basketball court, computer center, commercial kitchen/dining room and fitness room, fenced toddler playground, and outdoor platform archery range.
- Programs include, but are not limited to, preschools, food pantry, youth programs (such as teen nights, basketball, gymnastics, football, batting cage, and hockey), educational programs, food and clothing pantry, before and after school programs, senior programs, Zumba and parents' night out. It is also a drop point for school busing to reduce length of time commuting for local students.
- Seniors meet at this facility 3 days per week.



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliant Park Development

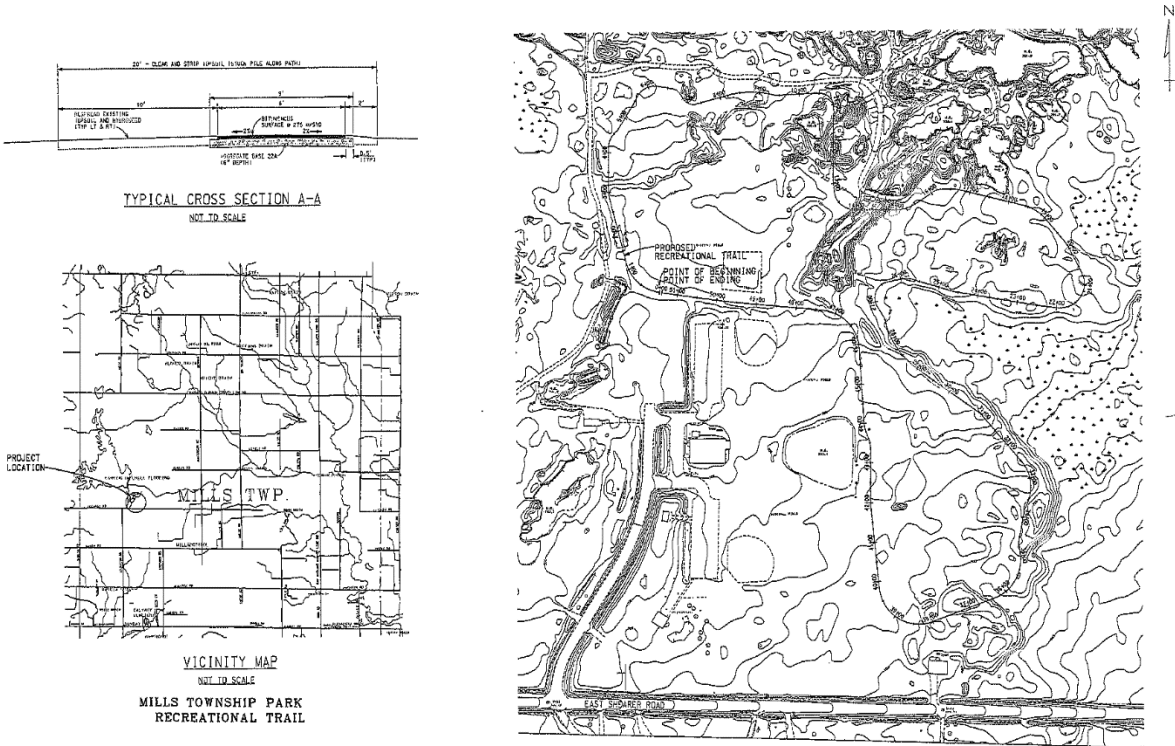
Currently, the Mills Township Park meets ADA-compliance standards with the need for some accommodations for access and use of the ballfields. The NMFC is ADA-accessible as well as the access drives and hiking trails throughout the park property. Mills Township recognizes the fact that it is extremely important to have an ADA-accessible park and will ensure that all future park development such as additional trailway, fishing areas, ball fields, restroom facilities, pavilions, and parking areas will be designed and built to ADA standards.

The summaries address the accessibility of parks and recreation facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). In general, all construction since 1991 was required to comply with these guidelines.

A general ranking for each park was determined through site visits as follows.

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Map 3: Mills Township Park



Map 4: North Midland Family Center



MILLS TOWNSHIP
NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

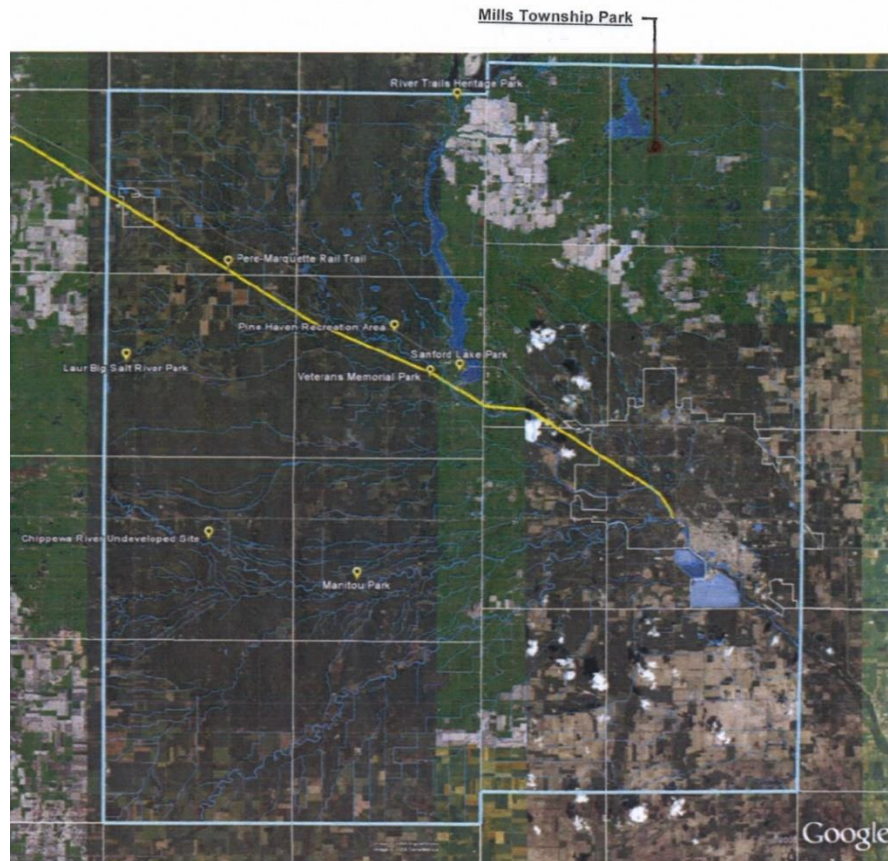


- LEGEND:**
- PROPOSED NON-MOTORIZED ROUTE
 - MIDLAND-MACK LINE TRAIL
 - TOWNSHIP LIMITS
 - MILLS TOWNSHIP LIMITS
- COUNTY RECREATION**
- 1. HOLT SMALL RUINED PARK
 - 2. SOUTHERN LAKE PARK
- CAMPGROUND/PRIVATE PROPERTIES:**
- 1. COMMUNITY OF FOREST
 - 2. BLACK CREEK & RAIL FOREST CAMPGROUND
- STATE-OPERATED PARK PROPERTIES:**
- 1. MIDLAND CITY FOREST PARK

Regional Recreation Facilities

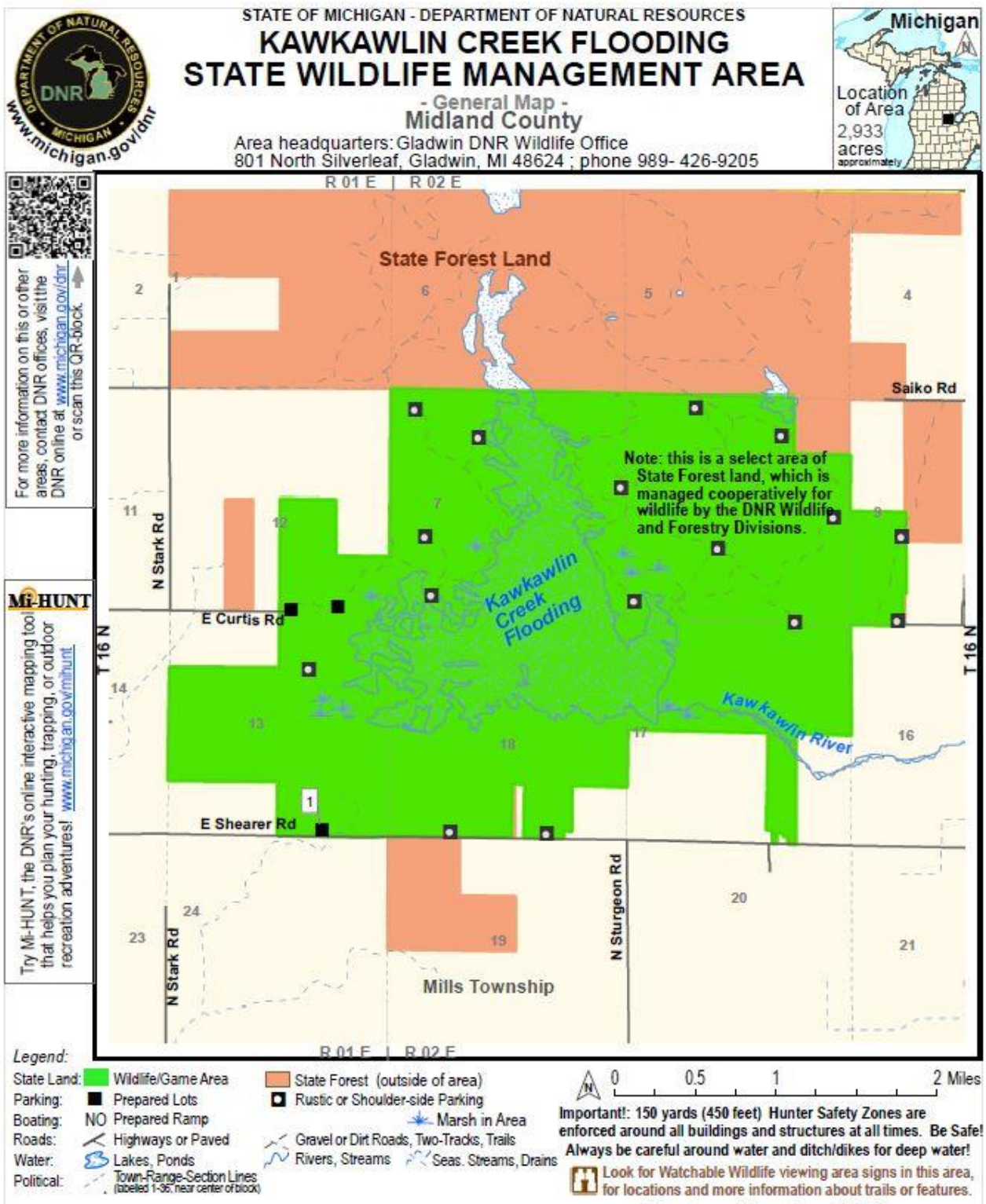
There are various County park facilities as shown in the following information provided within the Midland County Five-Year Parks Plan. Midland County also provides extensive services. Mills Township provides the primary park location and natural area access for the north end of the County. Major regional facilities include the Pere Marquette Rail Trail, City of Midland, and Midland County Park facilities. Sanford Lake and associated waterfront access has been severely impacted by flooding in 2020 and the restoration of these facilities will take several years.

Recreation Inventory																			Comments
	Acreage	Classification*	Accessibility Assessment**	Ice Skating	Playground Equipment	Playfield (open)	Pavilion/Shelter	Fishing Area/Opportunity	Swimming	Bathhouse	Concessions	Cross-Country Skiing	Nature Trail	Nature Study	Mountain Bike Trails	Horseback Riding	Canoe Launch	Restrooms	
Laur Big Salt River Park	40	NRA	1																
Manitou Park	154	NRA	1																
Pere-Marquette Rail-Trail	278	PT	4																Access to a pavilion at Duck Hunter's Memorial
Pine Haven Recreation Area	325	LP	2																323 acres is leased from State of Michigan
River Trails Heritage Park	93	NRA	1																
Sanford Lake Park	90	LP	4																
Veterans Memorial Park	130	LP	2																Bird watching, boat launch
Chippewa River & Fishing Access Site	20	NA	NA																Undeveloped park land

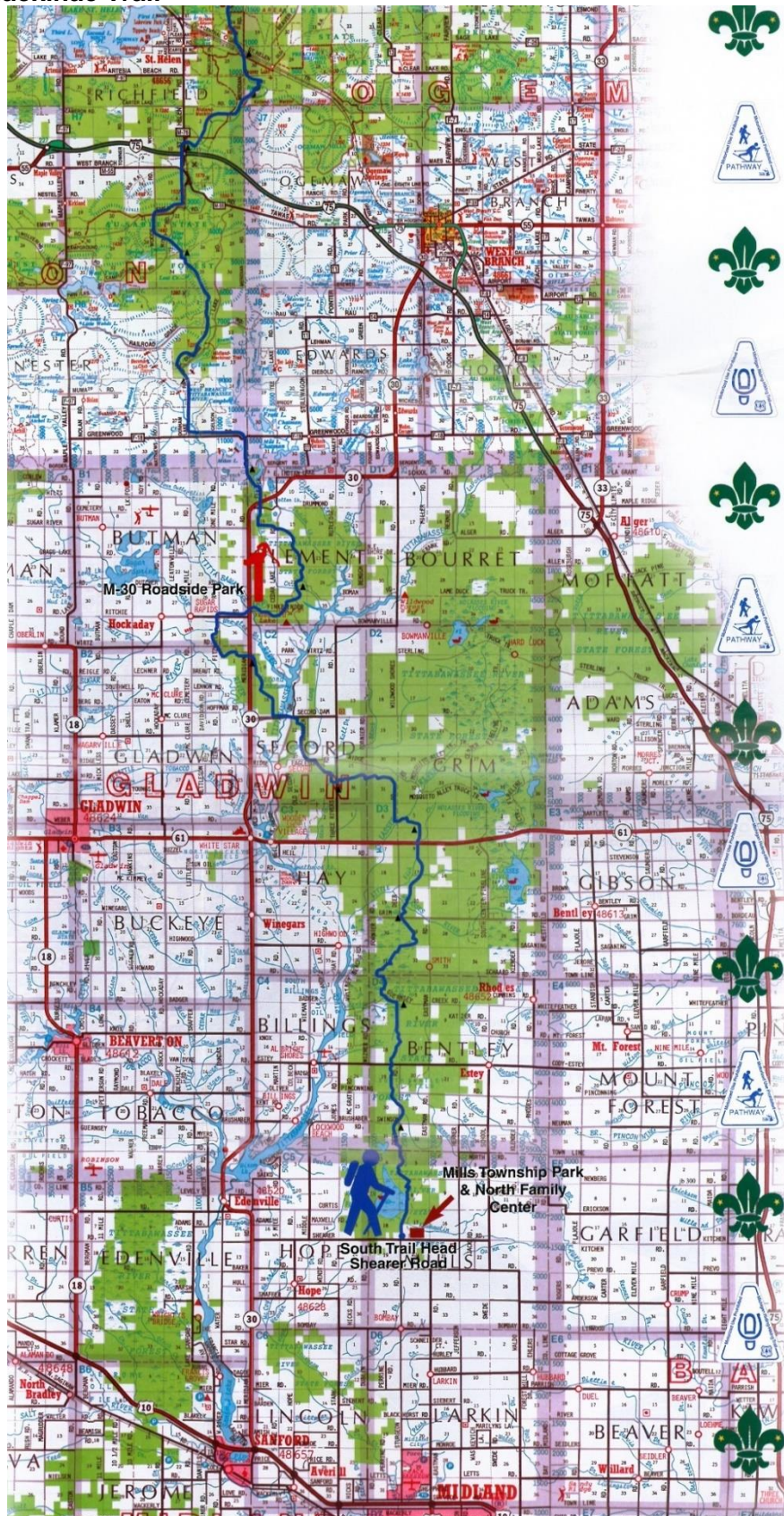


Midland County Parks Location Map

Kawkawlin Creek Flooding State Wildlife Management Area



Midland to Mackinac Trail



In addition to being near the east-west State connector Pere-Marquette Rail Trail, Mills Township Park services as the southern trailhead for the 210-mile hiking trail that connects to Mackinaw City. This is a rustic trail located mainly in primitive state and national forest land. The trail is marked and accommodates equestrian use. There are only two formal camps along the trail (Rainbow Bend on the Au Sable near McMaster Bridge and Aloha State Park south of Cheboygan. Rustic camping is available along 90 percent of the route requiring free permits on State property. Fourteen miles of the trail is located within Huron National Forest.

The trailhead at the south end is located adjacent to Mills Township park, located at the end of a Township access drive that ends at the Kawkawlin Dam. There is also an unimproved boat launch at this location and gravel parking for five to six vehicles. The location provides access to over 100 acres of birding and hunting on the flood waters.

Description of Planning Process

Mills Township has recognized a need for recreational facilities in the community to provide overall guidance for the development of recreation facilities and programs and to meet eligibility requirements for the MDNR for grants from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The Township authorized ROWE Professional Services Company to assist with updating this community recreation plan. ROWE met with the Planning Commission on May 19, 2022 to discuss the plan. A public notice was posted by the Township on the website and at the Township Hall requesting public input at this meeting. Priorities, goals, and objectives for recreation were discussed at this meeting.

Since the completion of the last recreation plan, the Township has been successful in maintaining the pathway with crack-sealing and maintenance of the play equipment at Mills Township Park. The Township has allowed use of the ballfields, along with Edenville, Homer, and Lee Townships, to support the Sanford Youth League due to the flooding impact at their home facility.

In June 2022, a draft of the community recreation plan was submitted by ROWE to the Township for review and comment and to gain approval to begin the required 30-day public review and comment period.

The recreation plan was made available for the required 30-day public review and comment period from June 27, 2022 to July 26, 2022. The plan was on display at the Mills Township offices. An advertisement was published in the local newspaper along with the information for the public hearing date for the plan adoption. Proof of publication is included in the appendix.

On August 25, 2022, a public hearing was called to review and discuss the final draft recreation plan document. It was formally adopted, subsequent to public comment by Township Board members at the conclusion of the meeting. A copy of the resolution is included in the appendix. Copies of the plan have been transmitted to the Midland County Planning Commission and the East Central Michigan Planning and Development Agency. Copies of the Letters of Transmittal are included in the appendix.

Goals and Objectives

Introduction

The following describes Mills Township's proposed program to maintain and improve recreational opportunities in the Township. Factors considered for this recreation planning program are: 1) community attitude; 2) goals and objectives; and 3) funding sources.

Community Attitude

While recreation standards may indicate deficiencies relative to State and/or National standards, it is those involved on the local level that are in the best position to assess the community's attitude toward particular recreational activities. This was the basis for defining the recreation needs for Mills Township.

Goals and Objectives

Before designing a recreation planning program, the Township must first establish goals and objectives that define its need and aspirations. By establishing goals, the community is making a statement and taking a position as to what it wishes to provide for its citizens in the short and long-term time period. Many goals will need additional funding to make them a reality and this process identifies a need to pursue opportunities as they are available.

The following goal statement and objectives were determined to drive the focus for the Township's recreation planning program.

Goal 1: To meet the recreation needs of all components of the Mills Township population, including preschool and elementary school children, teenagers, the senior, and the disabled.

Objectives

- Encourage the continued development the recreation center in the Township to provide for social interaction of various age groups.
- Design recreation facilities to provide recreation opportunities and contribute to the aesthetic quality and ecological balance of the Township.
- Develop future recreation facilities on sound fiscal policy.
- Encourage improved design of recreation facilities and equipment to reduce on-going maintenance costs.

Goal 2: Pursue grants and develop partnerships and advocates to serve park needs.

Objectives

- Continue to seek partnerships with other recreational providers and agencies and with neighboring communities to share ideas and provide non-competing programs and facilities. Examples include but are not limited to civic groups, community groups, church, schools, MDNR, etc.)
- Apply for grants to develop park facilities.
- Build on existing programs and private funding sources (ie: North Midland Family Center [NMFC] summer camp).
- Coordinate with NMFC on shared items in their strategic planning.

Goal 3: Increase development of park facilities.

Objectives

- Develop Township Park leveraging multiple grants.

- Use sponsorship opportunities with local businesses, service clubs, or volunteers.

Goal 4: Increase awareness of Township park facilities.

Objectives

- Cross promote with Midland Community Centers Inc., Pere Marquette friends group, Birding societies, hunting organizations etc.
- Use the trailhead of the Midland to Mackinac trail as an extension of the Township Park.
- Develop better internal wayfinding in park, maps, smart-phone links, online map.

Goal 5: Support Bay Region Trail System.

Objectives

- Utilize bike lanes to provide linkages from Mills Township Park to other trail systems as a way to provide access to other destinations and recreation opportunities

Action Plan

It will be important in the years ahead to apply two important principles of plan implementation. The first is flexibility. Social and economic conditions are changing rapidly. An improvement which was clearly necessary at one point in time may lose its priority due to unpredicted changes in conditions. Likewise, a project may have to be elevated in priority staging because of other unforeseen circumstances. The implementation program will require continual updating to assure that needs are being met and that public and private resources are being wisely invested.

Second, it is most important that highest priority be given to the easier to accomplish projects or projects of urgent need. This will establish confidence in the ability of the community to produce results, thereby generating enthusiasm for additional work.

Although several projects that can result from the goals and objectives, there are a few projects that the Township believes are key projects. These projects are as follows (not listed in priority).

Short Term (within 5 years)

1. Coordination with MDNR on limiting timber clearing along Township roads due to aesthetic concerns. Negotiate road drainage and grading improvement as part of logging process so road can be more accessible throughout the year. Improve signage at entrance to provide a more welcoming gateway to the Midland to Mackinac Trail and Floodwaters.
2. Sturgeon Road Non-Motorized Route: Coordinate with Road Commission to complete bike lanes that connect to Township Park and North Midland Community Center and develop signage and other amenities as a trailhead.
3. Additional Signage: Wayfinding, interpretive information, and location maps would assist users and help promote more use at the park.
4. Pavilion Roof: The pavilion roof needs replacement / new shingles due to age.
5. Dog Park: There is decreasing demand for ballfields, but a steady use of the trails and other passive recreation. The addition of a fenced off-leash dog park would complement other activities on the site.

6. **Community Center Maintenance:** The building was built in the early 1990s and requires preventative maintenance. A comprehensive list and priority items should be identified for the building and site for maintenance and future renovations.
7. **Kawkawlin Dam Access:** A coordinated effort with MDNR should be explored to develop a connection from the Township Park lot to the access drive to the Kawkawlin Dam (¼-mile) to serve as a trailhead. This will also provide improved access to the Kawkawlin Creek Flooding area for fishing and hiking

Long Term (beyond 5 years)

1. **ADA-Accessible Fishing Deck, Boat Launch and Amenities:** This project will provide better fishing access to the Kawkawlin Creek flooding area to all users including those that have limited mobility. Further, the Township would like to improve the boat launch, add signage, a shelter, and other site features to encourage use of the water access.
2. **Playground Updates:** Playground equipment and surfacing updates are needed due to lack of accessibility and age of equipment.
3. **Future Trail Replacement:** The current pathway is aging and will require funding to replace the surface.
4. **Pickleball:** Activities associated with the NMFC may include the addition of pickleball as a growing trend. A test indoor court can be set up in the NMFC to see if demand would support a permanent outdoor court(s).
5. **NMFC Renovations:** Improvements will be needed based on previous report findings.

Funding Sources

There are many ways recreation proposals can be financed. The availability of funds affects the priority of projects and as funding sources will likely to be reduced in future years, eligible projects should be prioritized first before funds are diminished.

Michigan Department of Transportation

The **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** provides funding for numerous types of projects that support the enhancement of transportation facilities and promote safe and efficient multi-modal transportation methods. This is a reimbursement program that originally comes from the federal level and is administered by Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). A minimum of 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants

The **Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** Grant provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition and development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. These are grants between \$15,000 and \$300,000 with a required minimum local match of 25 percent. Final engineering and construction services are covered at a maximum of 15 percent.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** provide grants to local units of government to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS), which grants final approval.

The **Michigan Recreation Passport Grant** program is funded by sales of 'passport' opt in participation for those wishing to access or support Michigan parks as part of their license renewal. Eligible projects are targeted for renovation and improvement to existing parks. Grants range from \$7,500 to \$75,000 with a minimum 25 percent local match, with the anticipation that the maximum grant amount will increase as revenue from sales of the Recreation Passport also increases.

The **Michigan Invasive Species Grant** Program is funding that deals with the issues of prevention, detection, eradication, and control for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in Michigan. The scope of the grant must prevent new invasive species from being introduced, strengthen state-wide invasive species early detection and response network, limit the dispersal of recently confirmed invasive species and manage and control widespread, long-established invasive species. These grants are between \$25,000, with a maximum grant amount between \$60,000 and \$400,000.

Clean Vessel Act – Boat Pumpout Grants are available for funding upgrades to marine sewage disposal facilities or new pumpouts and dump stations. These grants are available to public and private facilities; pending that they are open to the public. Funding that is made available for this grant are approximately \$200,000.

Waterways Program Grant is available for communities to provide both financial and technical assistance for design and construction of public recreational boating facilities (including state-sponsored harbors and mooring facilities). Information that is collected deals with traffic for the harbor and the last three financial summaries for the harbor. The amount depends on the base amount for the project; the grant normally provides 50 percent of the estimated project cost.

Boating Infrastructure Grant is also offered from the MDNR providing federal assistance for the design and construction of public recreational harbor facilities. Grant funds are used to cover 75 percent of the total approved project costs for construction of infrastructure improvements.

Other DNR grants include specialized opportunities such as the **Urban and Community Forestry (UCF)** program, funded through the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program and the Water Trail Designation Program. Local units of government, nonprofit organizations and schools are eligible to apply. Projects include street and park tree management and planning activities; urban forestry training and education events; tree plantings; and Arbor Day celebrations.

Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) Grants

Grants are accepted from the **Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)** that deals with land use, water resources, wildlife stewardship, communication/regional marketing, agriculture, and pollution prevention. The basis is to integrate economic goals with environmental and social goals based on the premise of meeting humans needs for residents.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Grants:

Funding sources in the EGLE are available through the **Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)** program. Funding is used to secure and provide protection for water and coastline areas to prevent contamination and erosion control. Some of the grants available include the **Waterfront Redevelopment Grant**, which deals with increasing public access to the waterfront and supporting economic development in areas. Another grant through the EGLE is the **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)** Grant which deals with coastal areas, protecting rare and threatened species and natural communities. Maximum grants are capped at \$1,500,000 with no minimum grant requirement.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Projects eligible for **CDBG** funding must be in a low-moderate income service area and/or provide access to the disabled to qualify. Investments using CDBG funds must provide a documented benefit to low-moderate income households. Projects eligible for funding include public infrastructure improvements and those that provide ADA accessibility.

Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan

The Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan has initiated the **Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Trails Maintenance Fund Grant** for the purpose of renovating and creating trails and greenways that connect people and communities throughout the regional trail corridors. These corridors are the Joe Louis Greenway, Iron Belle Trail (Detroit Riverfront and West Riverfront Park), Great Lake to Lake Trail, Bridge to Bay Trail, Downriver Linked Greenway, I-275 Trail, and Belle Isle Loop Trail on Belle Isle. Grant awards range from \$50,000 to \$400,000 and any public 501 (c)3 charity, governmental agency, trail commissions, municipality, or governmental unit (including school systems) are eligible to apply.

MEDC Patronicity Crowd Funding

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has developed an additional way of securing funding for community development projects by using crowd-funding to support developments. Communities, non-profits, and municipalities can submit projects by applying to the Patronicity campaign. The projects that meet the programs parameters and successfully crowd-fund their goal will receive a matching grant from the MEDC of up to \$50,000.

Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Michigan Natural Resources Tree Planting Grants

Through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, there are three tree planting, grant programs that will assist in funding landscape enhancements at the park and reforestation projects. Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project cost.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. Rather than obtaining fee simple or complete ownership, an organization or community can purchase or acquire by gift an 'easement' to the property.

Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships

Reduced funding at the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities, as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands.

Foundations

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity established as a mechanism through which land, cash and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

These grant funding opportunities can be accessed through the *Michigan Foundation Directory*.

General Fund

Continue to allow for re-investment in facilities to avoid future increased maintenance costs and ensure revenue streams when possible.

User Fee

Continue to charge reasonable fees to participants of recreation programs and key facilities. Evaluate the fees annually to ensure they are providing the appropriate amount of funding to allow the programs to continue.

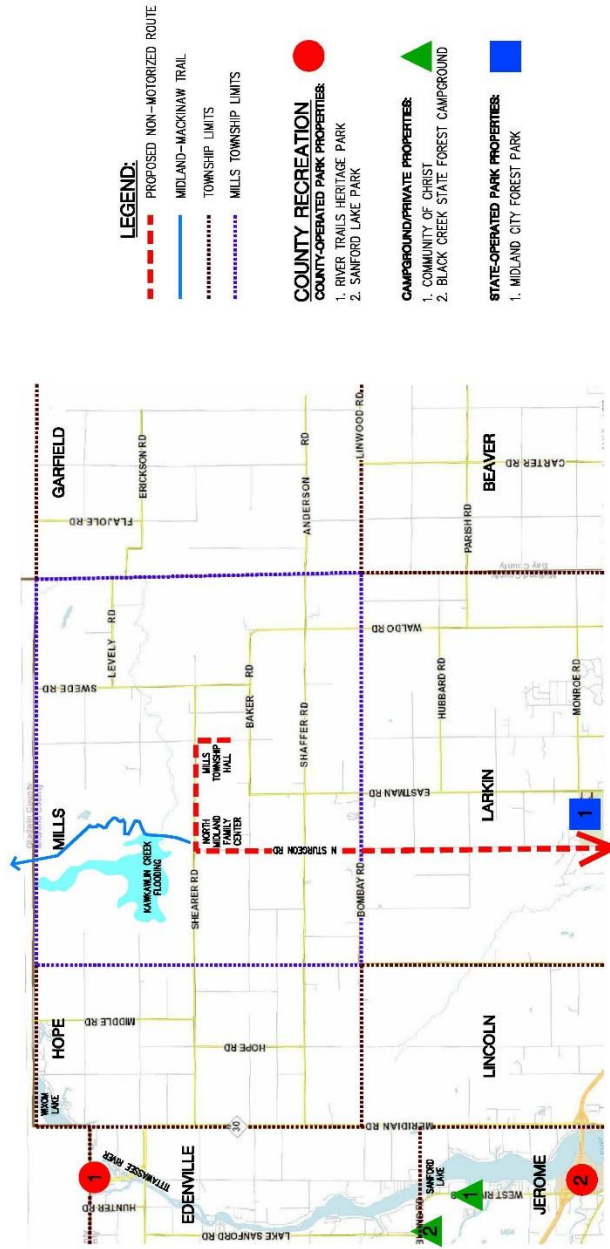
Special Millage

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades. A millage is an effective method to divide costs over time among all the taxpayers in the community to provide matching grant funds or finance projects out-right. A millage allows more flexibility in how the money is used than a bond.

Bonds

Several bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. Revenue bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project.

MILLS TOWNSHIP NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Public Input Summary for Mills Township Recreation Plan

Comments received from May 19, 2022 meeting include:

- No splash pad due to maintenance
- Add dog park to replace north ball diamond (very little use once Sanford is done using them)
- Do not add lighting to parks, reinforce dawn to dusk operation
- Community center needs maintenance and future improvements
- Enhance connection to the dam and provide a trailhead from the park for non-motorized vehicles.



**GLADWIN FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT
COMPARTMENT REVIEW PRESENTATION**

COMPARTMENT # 93 ENTRY YEAR: 2007

Compartment Acreage: 1209 County: Midland

Revision Date: 5-09-2005, 8-01-2005, 8-17-2005

Stand Examiner: Kelly Standerfer

Legal Description: T16N-R2E, Sections 17, 18, 19 & 20

RMU (if applicable):

Management Goals:

This year of entry (YOE) treatments will be focused on flattening the aspen age class distribution. There is an abundance of aspen in the 30-40 and 40-50 age class' so stands that were in these age brackets were identified for a slightly early final harvest. There is also one land locked aspen stand that is in the 70-80 age class. This stand was identified for treatment last YOE however it never occurred due to no access. Contact has been made to an adjacent landowner and access looks very likely for this YOE however property line locations will be tricky. Overall, 129 acres of aspen have been identified for treatment this YOE. Of these 129 acres, 82 are factor limited due to the need of a survey. Approximate stand boundaries are a possibility however due to trespass issues in some areas a survey is needed.

Soil and Topography:

Soils within this compartment are comprised of the Kingsville-Pipestone-Covert association. These soils are nearly level and gently sloping, poorly drained to moderately well drained soils that have a sandy subsoil. They were formed in outwash of glacial lake deposits.

Ownership Patterns, Development, and Land Use in and Around the Compartment:

The State holdings are mostly in large contiguous blocks with some exceptions along Shearer Road and one eighty acre block that is landlocked. Lands surrounding the compartment are mostly forested wild land with numerous seasonal and residential dwellings along county roads.

Unique, Natural Features (include only non-site specific and non-sensitive information):

This area has the potential to provide habitat for Blanding's turtle, spotted turtle, great blue heron rookery, eagle and osprey. It also has Potential for marsh birds: common moorhen, least bittern, yellow rail, king rail, marsh wren, American bittern, black tern, and Forster's tern.

Archeological, Historical, and Cultural Features (include only non-site specific and non-sensitive information):

None known to exist.

Special Management Designations or Considerations:

None

Watershed and Fisheries Considerations:

The KawKawlin flooding is the headwaters for the KawKawlin River. This area has been designated as High Conservation Value Area due to its uniqueness to the region and its ability to support a wide variety of game and non-game wildlife species. There is an abundance of beaver activity in many of the drains throughout the compartment.

Wildlife Habitat Considerations:

The KawKawlin Flooding makes up a large portion of this compartment. The rest of the Comp. contains a large amount of wetland areas and beaver ponds. Black turns, a species of concern nest in the flooding. The primary wildlife goal of this comp. should be to compliment the flooding and associated wetlands. This area is heavily used by deer hunters as well as hikers and bird watchers. The flooding should be considered for designation as a HCVA.

Mineral Resource and Development Concerns and/or Restrictions:

There is some evidence of well sites and pipelines on adjacent private lands however no development has occurred on State ownership.

Surface sediments consist of lacustrine (lake) sand, gravel, clay and silt and dune sand. The glacial drift thickness varies between 200 and 400 feet. Beneath the glacial drift are the Pennsylvanian Grand River and Saginaw Formations. The Saginaw Formation is used for clay/shale in other areas of the State. A gravel pit is located in Section 17 and potential is good on the uplands. There has been sparse oil and gas exploration in this area. Bentley Field is located five miles to the northeast. The field has produced over 3 MBO from the Richfield since 1952. There are no current oil and gas leases in the compartment.

Vehicle Access:

Vehicular access is limited due to relatively few roads and many areas of wet soils throughout the compartment

Survey Needs:

Numerous survey corners are needed to help identify the proper location of property lines. Survey corners would help with both current forest treatments as well as establishing firm trespass cases.

Recreational Facilities and Opportunities:

The trail head for the Midland to Mackinac Boy Scout trail is within this compartment.

Fire Protection:

No Significant control problems foreseen due to lack of explosive fuels and an abundance of natural fire breaks, such as low wet stands of timber, beaver ponds, and the KawKawlin flooding.

Additional Compartment Information:

Visual management concerns are critical along Shearer Road due to the heavy volume of daily traffic. There is no significant tree mortality in the area except in areas flooded by beaver.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Operations Inventory System
Individual Compartment Report

08/29/2005 10:43:23 AM

COMPARTMENT: 93

MIDLAND COUNTY

GLADWIN FOREST MGT UNIT

AUSABLE STATE FOREST

Table 3

(acres shown in boxes)

COVER TYPE	Not Coded	STAND AGE CLASS															All Aged	Total	
		(acres shown in boxes)																	
		0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100-109	110-119	120-129	130-139	140-149	150-159		
Aspen		62	134	31	247	103			33										610
Grass	10																		10
Lowland Brush	47																		47
Lowland Poplr									7										7
Marsh	107																		107
Non Stocked	8																		8
Swamp Hrdwds					25				57	4									86
Water	334																		334
Total	506	62	134	31	272	103			97	4									1209

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Operations Inventory System
Individual Compartment Report

08/29/2005 10:43:29 AM

COMPARTMENT: 93

MIDLAND COUNTY

GLADWIN FOREST MGT UNIT

AUSABLE STATE FOREST

Table 3A

(acres shown in boxes)

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE TYPE

COVER TYPE	A	S	V	C	G	H	J	I	L	P	N	Q	X	O	B	R	K	Y	F	E	T	D	U	M	Z	W	Total
A Aspen	597																			13							610
G Grass					10																						10
L Lowind Brush									47																		47
P Lowind Poplr										7																	7
N Marsh											107																107
X Non Stocked													8														8
E Swamp Hrdwds																			86								86
Z Water																									334		334
Total	597				10				47	7	107		8							99					334		1209

Table 10 - COMPARTMENT VOLUME SUMMARY - ALL STANDS

Entry Year: 2007

Total Acres	47
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Entry Year: 2007

TREATMENT LIMITING FACTORS: Land survey needed

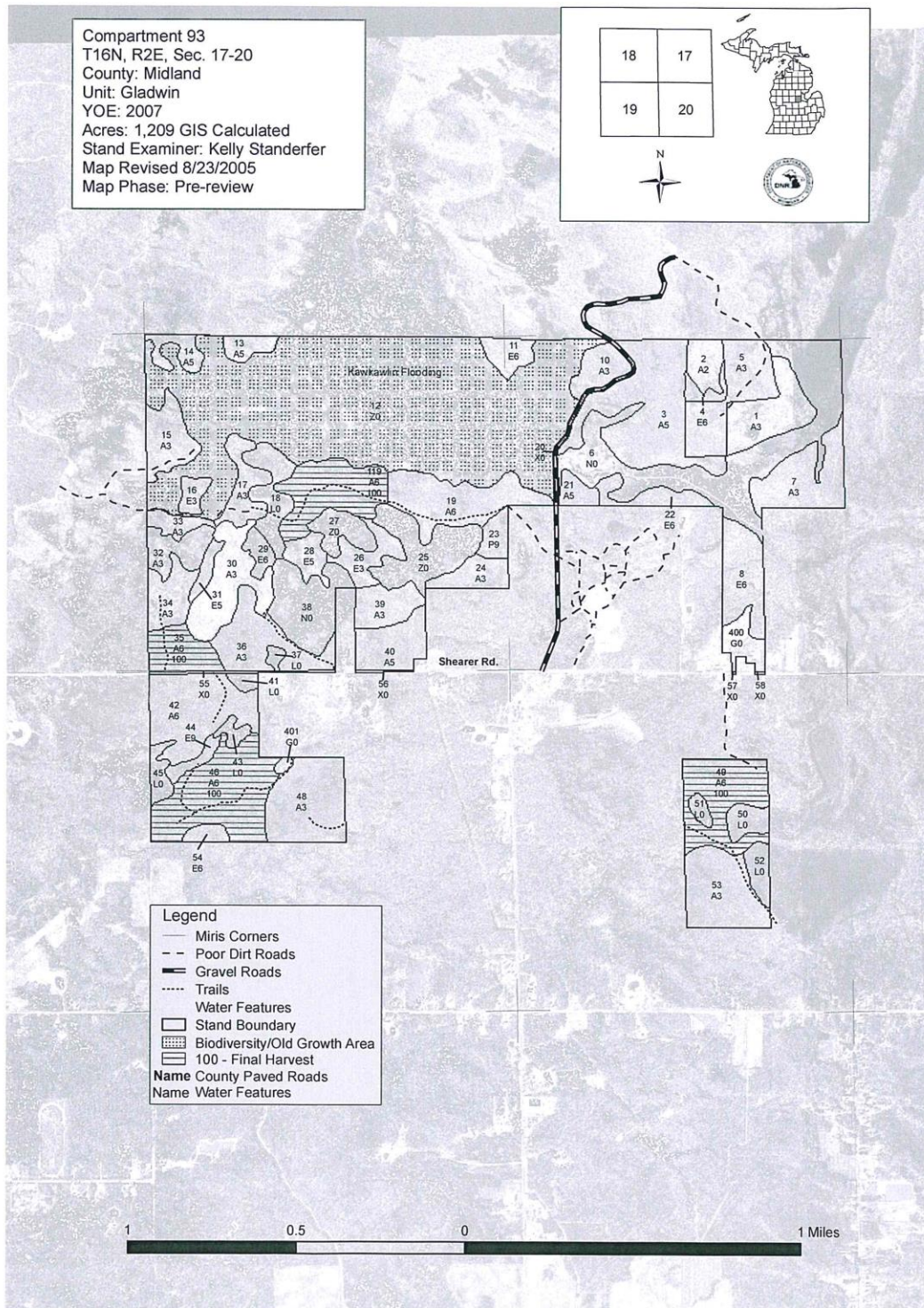
comnts Fmd : Harvest this portion of the old stand 12 this YOY to break up the age class dist. SW private corner and south end of stand runs along a new road on the private property. West edge is barb wired along private...seemed to be running accurately. Couldn't find Corner evidence at north end of stand. May need a survey to cut. Survey would also help with obvious trespass in stand 47. Cut into E-type as much as possible if there is an abundance of Aspen. Access will be tricky but it should be feasible in a good winter. Landing may have to be in stand 42 and freeze a skid trail across the stand 44. Stand could also be accessed from private to the south, or through private where the trespass is occurring. AT THE PRE-REVIEW IT WAS AGREED THAT A LOGGER MAY NEED TO PUT IN A PERMANENT TUBE OFF OF SHEARER FOR HUNTING ACCESS TO THIS AREA

TREATMENT LIMITING FACTORS: Land survey needed

comnts Fmd : Stand prescribed for cutting last YOY, wasn't cut due to access problems. 2" spec all species this YOY but leave all oak and pine for diversity. Some areas have nice oak in the understory, try to protect this as much as possible. East side of the stand is staked by private owner.. Seems accurate with declination and all. There is a survey done to the west of this 80 that would make it feasible to approximate the northwest corner of this stand fairly accurately. Also the west end of the stand had some old blaze marks. I think it is feasible to establish fairly accurate cutting lines but a survey would definitely be best. Winter harvest only to help increase chance of good regen as the aspen is old and to help protect wet area within the stand. Two access opportunities exist both of which are from private. I talked with John Brown (private owner to the north) and he had mentioned that he may let a logger across his property although he would likely not let just anyone across, so a negotiated sale may be best with a reputable contractor. See the green sheet for phone#. I was unable to talk with the landowner to the south.

Total Acres.....	82
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Field Map



Birding Guide Excerpt

ABA BIRDFINDING GUIDE

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO MICHIGAN

ALLEN T. CHARTIER AND JERRY ZIARNO



AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

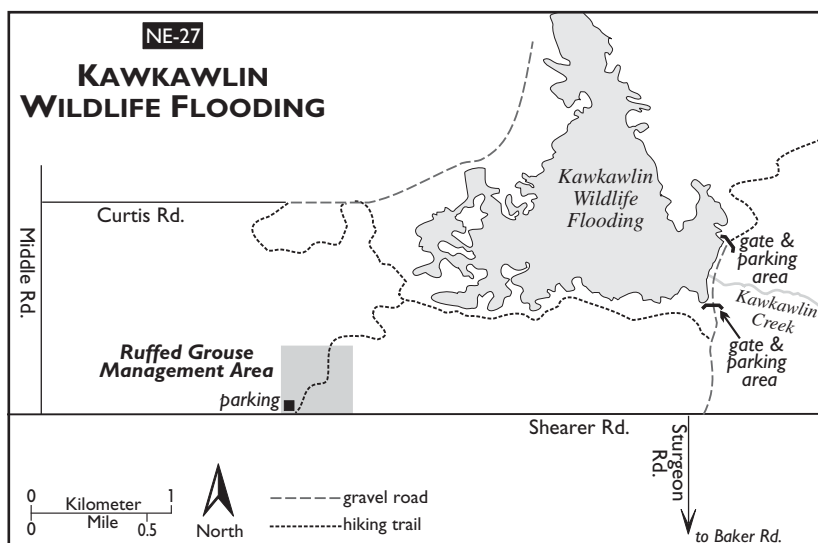
NE-27 Kawkawlin Wildlife Flooding

Spring*** Summer** Fall** Winter

DeLorme p. 59, B6, 43°48' N, 84°17' W

Directions: There are several ways to reach this area, but the easiest is to take Eastman Road from its exit off US-10, on the north side of Midland, and go north for 7.5 miles to Baker Road. Turn left (west) onto Baker Road for 1.0 mile to Sturgeon Road and then go north for 1.0 mile to Shearer Road. The entrance into the area is only about 100 yards to the right (east) on the north side of Shearer Road and is just west of the North Midland County Community Center Complex.

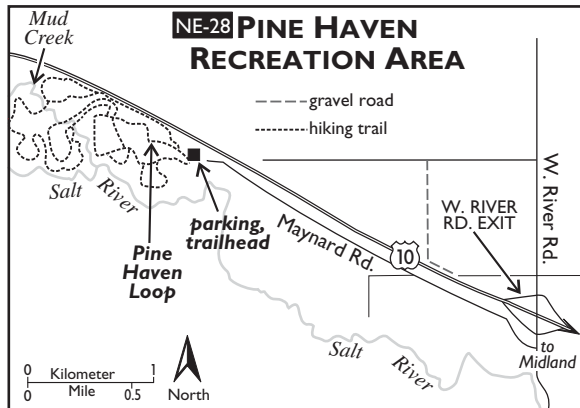
This impoundment of the Kawkawlin River, located north of the city of Midland, is a fairly large wetland area with surrounding mixed deciduous forest. Follow the entrance road north for about 0.3 mile to a foot trail that heads west along the south side of the impoundment. The trail turns north to eventually meet up with the end of Curtis Road on the west side of the pond. Stay to the north on the entrance road until you come to a gate just south of the earthen dam, where there is a parking area. The road is closed at this gate during the spring and summer. The impoundment to the west provides a feeding and resting place for numerous waterbirds, especially during spring migration, including large numbers of Canada Geese, as well as Wood Duck, many Ring-necked Ducks, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and Pied-billed Grebe. A few nesting Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets may be joined by dozens of post-breeding birds in late summer. In spring, American Bittern can be heard. An Osprey pair has been observed in mating rituals but nesting has not been confirmed. Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, and Black Tern breed in the area.



The trails through the wooded areas provide opportunities to find resident Ruffed Grouse, while nesting species include both cuckoos, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, Veery, Wood Thrush, Song and Field Sparrows, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole. During migration, a variety of warblers, including Cerulean, pass through, and Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Ovenbird breed here. Golden-winged Warbler nests in the second-growth areas to the northeast of the pond.

A **Ruffed Grouse Management Area** to the west of the impoundment is reached by going west from the intersection of Shearer and Sturgeon Roads for 1.3 miles to the entrance on the right (north). The two-track trail into the area is usually not passable except by foot. To reach the western portion of the Kawkawlin Flooding from the Grouse Management entrance, continue west on Shearer Road for another 1.7 miles to Middle Road. Go north for 1.0 mile to Curtis Road and then east for 1.5 miles to the end of the paved road. Trails that lead from here may be drivable in drier years, but caution is recommended. Expected birds at these latter two sites are the same as those mentioned above.

Pine Haven Recreation Area (DeLorme p. 59, C5, 43°42' N, 84°26' W) is a county park with several loop trails managed for cross-country skiing in winter and for hiking and biking in summer. Situated along the banks of Mud Creek, the area offers excellent opportunities for woodland birding. Go west on US-10 from the Eastman Road Exit in Midland for 7.8 miles to the exit for West River Road. Exit here and go left (south) over the expressway to the first possible right turn (northwest) onto Maynard Road, which parallels the expressway. Follow the road for 1.8 miles to its end, where there is a parking area for the trailheads and a detailed map of the trails. This is one of



the better places in this part of Michigan to find nesting Cerulean Warblers. Singing males, usually easier to hear than to see, can often be found high in the oaks at the far end of the Pine Haven Loop near intersection K on the park map. Other breeding species of note that may be seen here include Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Warblers migrate through in good numbers in early May though early June.

Public Notice for Input Meeting

Public Notice for 30-Day Notice

Public Notice for Public Hearing

Resolution

Meeting Minutes

Transmittal to County Planning

Transmittal to Regional Planning

Checklist

Post Completion Forms