

RECREATION PLAN



LOVELLS TOWNSHIP

CRAWFORD COUNTY, MICHIGAN

2023-2027

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Introduction

Lovells Township has a vast number of natural resource opportunities supporting a distinct set of features and facilities that attract visitors to the area. Township facilities along with other County, state forest lands, campgrounds, and privately owned recreational facilities offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. This Recreation Plan is intended to enable Lovells Township to work toward implementing the documented recommendations and continue to apply for available funding assistance. Lovells Township works closely and cooperatively with several public and private agencies and volunteer groups that provide recreation opportunities for the citizens of the Township. The jurisdiction of this Parks and Recreation Plan includes only Lovells Township-owned, leased, and operated recreation facilities and programs.

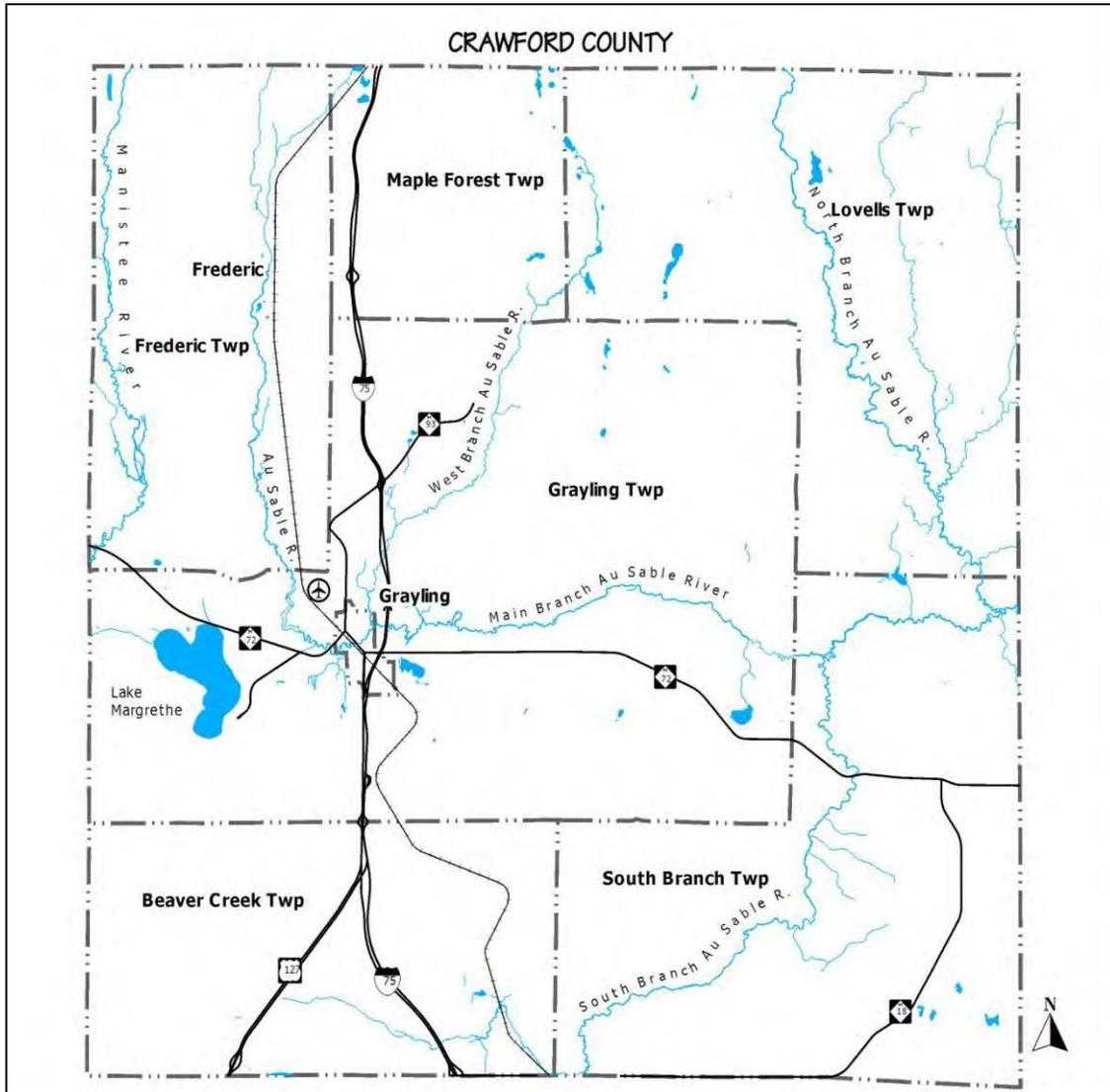
Lovells Township, with the assistance of MC Planning & Design, prepared a recreation plan in 2014. The recreation plan was a component of the County's 2014 Master Plan. Lovells Township has decided to update their 2014 recreation plan and is creating a stand-alone Lovells Township Recreation Plan with the assistance of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. This plan intends to continue providing recreation services to its residents and visitors but also plans to make improvements at the existing facilities, including compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Universal Design standards, to improve accessibility for all. As a recreation service provider, the Township recognizes the importance of planning for future recreation services and facilities. A major factor in the provision of any service is obtaining funding for projects. Recreation Plans that have been approved by the Department of Natural Resources allow the Township to be eligible for State of Michigan recreational grant funding.

Community Description

Location and Geographic Context

Lovells Township is located in the northeast portion of Crawford County, which is situated in the northeast region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Lovells Township comprises 101.73 square miles of the County's 558 square miles of land. Lovells Township consists of three government survey townships T28N-R02W, T28N-R01W, and T27N-R02W. Lovells Township is bordered by the following; Maple Forest Township, Graying Charter Township South Branch Township, Oscoda County, and Otsego County.

Map 1.1: Regional Setting



Population and Housing

The 2020 Census showed that Lovells Township had a population of 567, which equated to a 10.4% decline in population from the 2010 US Census. Before this, the township had experienced 30 years of population gains. According to the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS), the median age of the Township was 60.0 years. By comparison, the median age in Michigan was 29.7 years and in the United States, the median age was 38.1 years according to 2019 ACS. The higher median age means there is a higher percentage of the population over the age of 45 years than in the state and country. The Township should consider an aging population when planning for recreation facilities. The 2020 Census shows there were 942 housing units within the Township of which 69.4 percent are seasonal or vacant units or 654 units. With high percentages of seasonal housing units, the Township shall plan recreational services for an influx of seasonal visitors.

Natural Resources

The woodlands, open spaces, wildlife, water, and rolling hills are several key resource values that draw people to both recreate and live in the Township. Abundant public lands offer access to thousands of acres of recreational lands for hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, and ORV riding. Lakes, creeks, and streams, especially the Au Sable River, provide opportunities for fishing, boating, and water sports.

A rural landscape, abounding with views of forestlands and wetlands, typifies the community character of Crawford County. Forestlands are important to the local economy; recreational use and production of forest goods bring dollars into the community. Many long-time visitors decide to move to the area upon retirement.

Typical of northern Michigan, the distinct four seasons offer an ever-changing landscape. Long snowy, cold winters and moderately warm summers are separated by a cool, green spring and a cool, colorful fall. The Township is approximately 35 linear miles inland from Lake Michigan and 55 linear miles inland from Lake Huron. Given this geographic location, the area is influenced by lake effect snowfall from Lake Michigan.

The common forest types are pine (mostly jack pine) and mixed oak forests. With the combination of sandy, droughty soils, and fire-prone species like jack pine, the area has been subject to wildfires for thousands of years. The Kirtland's Warbler requires young thick jack pine forests for nesting and raising their young. Uncontrolled wildfires once created needed habitat. Today, the US Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources manage the jack pine forest to create young forests for the warbler while also working to suppress wildfires. Lowland conifer and lowland hardwood forests can be found adjacent to streams and associated with Lake Margrethe.

The Au Sable River watershed drains approximately 1,932 square miles within portions of eight counties. The main branch enters the County in the northwest corner and flows out of the southeast corner. An eight-mile stretch of the Main Branch of the Au Sable, east of Grayling, from Burton's Landing downstream to Wakely Bridge, is designated flies-only, no-kill water. This segment is known as "the Holy Water." The East Branch, North Branch, and South Branch all flow into Crawford County and empty into the mainstream as it traverses the County. The Au Sable is rated as a "Blue-Ribbon" trout stream and is designated as a Michigan Natural River. Since 1947, the Au Sable River Canoe Marathon, a yearly 120-mile (190 km) pro-am canoe race, runs the river from the City of Grayling to Oscoda.

Administrative Structure and Funding

Lovells Township operates under an administrative structure consisting of a Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer, and two Township Trustees. These positions are elected by registered voters of the Township. The elected offices for Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustee are four-year terms. For issues that require a vote for making a determination, a simple majority of the Township Board present is required.

Parks and recreation facilities are under the direct control of the Township Board. The Planning Commission is responsible for creating the Recreation Plan.

Lovells Township Parks & Recreation Staff

Lovells Township does not employ any staff. Duties related to recreation properties are assigned to existing staff. Individuals typically involved in recreation activities at the township level include Township Board Members, Township Planning Commission, Township staff, and volunteer groups.

Table 1.1 Lovells Township Budget and Recreation Expenditures, 2023-2024

Lovells Township Budget and Recreation Expenditures, 2022-2023			
Budget			
FY Ending Sept 30	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Recreation	\$1,200	\$5,000	\$6,500
Expenditures			
Recreation	*\$6,800	\$5,000	\$6,500
Source: Lovells Township 2019-2022			
*Note: Expenditures on Recreation Improvements may include local donations and estimate the sum of all improvements.			

Relationships with Other Agencies

Numerous groups within Lovells Township are involved with the improvement and operation of the recreational facilities in Crawford County. The majority of these organizations are operated on a volunteer basis. The organizations and special interest groups that assisted to provide recreation opportunities within Lovells Township and Crawford County are:

1. Lovells Township Historical Society
2. Anglers of the Au Sable
3. Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation
4. Artisans of the Au Sable
5. Cheerful Givers Club
6. Hook & Trigger Club
7. Crawford County Trails Sub Committee
8. Crawford AuSable Soccer Association
9. Redskins Football
10. Little League Baseball
11. Crawford AuSable Athletic Director
12. Crawford County Commission on Aging (Grayling Senior Center)
13. Michigan State University Extension 4-H (MSUE 4-H)
14. Youth Scouting (Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts)
15. Hanson Hills Recreation Authority
16. Au Sable River Canoe Marathon
17. Fish Hatchery

Status Report of all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

The following is a summary of the grant assistance which has been received by Lovells Township. Post-completion certification reports for each of these projects are provided in the Appendix.



GRANTS MANAGEMENT
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

Lovells Township - Crawford County

Project No. 26-01104 F1 **Project County:** Crawford **Project Year:** 1980
Project title: Douglas Park
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$11,816.57

Scope Item

Project Description:

Project No. TF19-0059 **Project County:** Crawford **Project Year:** 2019
Project title: Lovells Access Site Development
Project Status: PA Executed **Grant Amount:** \$90,400.00

Scope Item

- Access Pathway 6' wide or more
- Canoe/Kayak Roller Transport System
- Bench(es)
- Canoe/Kayak Launch or Ramp
- Crushed Stone Parking Lot
- Entrance Drive
- Fence
- Signage

Project Description: Development of an improved public access point at the north branch of the Au Sable River located on County Road 612. The project consists of a gravel parking area, access pathway and elevated small-craft transport system to enable users to "walk" their kayaks, canoes and riverboats from the parking area to the bank of the river.

Total number of projects: 2

Total Amount of Grant Given \$102,216.57

Recreation Inventory

An inventory of existing recreation facilities located in Lovells Township is provided below. Sites are grouped according to jurisdictional ownership. Township-owned facilities are listed first, then other public sites, privately owned campgrounds, recreation trails, boat/fishing access sites, and canoe liveries.

Each listing is followed by a brief description of that location. Maps 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 illustrate the locations of the public recreation sites and trails.

Accessibility

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to easily identify those parks and facilities which are most and least handicap accessible and usable, based on ADA guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines) to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design).

An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance assessment of Lovells Township parks was conducted in the spring of 2022. The assessment consisted of a visual inspection of each park regarding access and circulation of the park facilities. As noted in Table 1.3 below, some of the parks do not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. Lovells Township is dedicated to continuing its efforts towards improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage.

MDNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities

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 principles of universal design.

Table 1.2 Public Recreational Properties – Lovells Township

LOVELLS TOWNSHIP			
Name	Classification	Description	Accessibility
Douglas Park	Neighborhood Park	Children’s playground, picnic pavilion, ball diamond, basketball hoop, museum	2
Neumann’s Landing/Lovells Bridge Access Site	Access Site	The Neumann’s Landing/Lovells Township Bridge Access Site can be found adjacent to the Lovells Bridge and has recently received grant funding for parking with an area to access the river. The park also includes a small kayak and canoe launch.	2

Crossroads Park	Neighborhood Park	The property was purchased in 2021 and was purchased with donations from the community. The property had chain link fencing surrounding the park which was removed and split rail fencing was installed shortly after purchase. In the late summer of 2022, the park had electric ran to the site along with the beatification of the park along Lovells Road.	1
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Table 1.3 State Parks, State and Federal Forest Campgrounds in Lovells Township

STATE & FEDERAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES		
Facility	Amenities	Location
Jones Lake State Forest Campground	42 campsites, boating, swimming, fishing, small-boat ramp	T28N, R2W, Section 31, Lovells Township
Shupac Lake Campground	30 campsites, boating, boat ramp, swimming, fishing	T28N, R1W, Section 18, Lovells Township
Walsh Road Equestrian Campground	Horseback riding, large group use area available by permit only, (7) sites	T28N, R1W, Section 25, Lovells Township

Table 1.4 Private Recreational Campgrounds & Facilities

PRIVATE RECREATIONAL CAMPGROUNDS		
Facility	Amenities	Location
Sno-Trac Village	60 campsites, 10 mobile homes, cabin rentals, ORV & ATV storage, Snowmobile Service Center.	T27N, R1W, Section 16, Lovells Township
PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES		
North Branch Outing Club	Fly Fishing Trips, Casting Lessons, Full-Service Fly Shop, Wingshooting Trips.	T28N, R1W, Section 19, Lovells Township
Warbler’s Hideaway	Campsites, Pool, Shooting Range, Clubhouse.	T27N, R1W, Section 23, Lovells Township

Map 1.2 Crawford County Recreational Opportunities

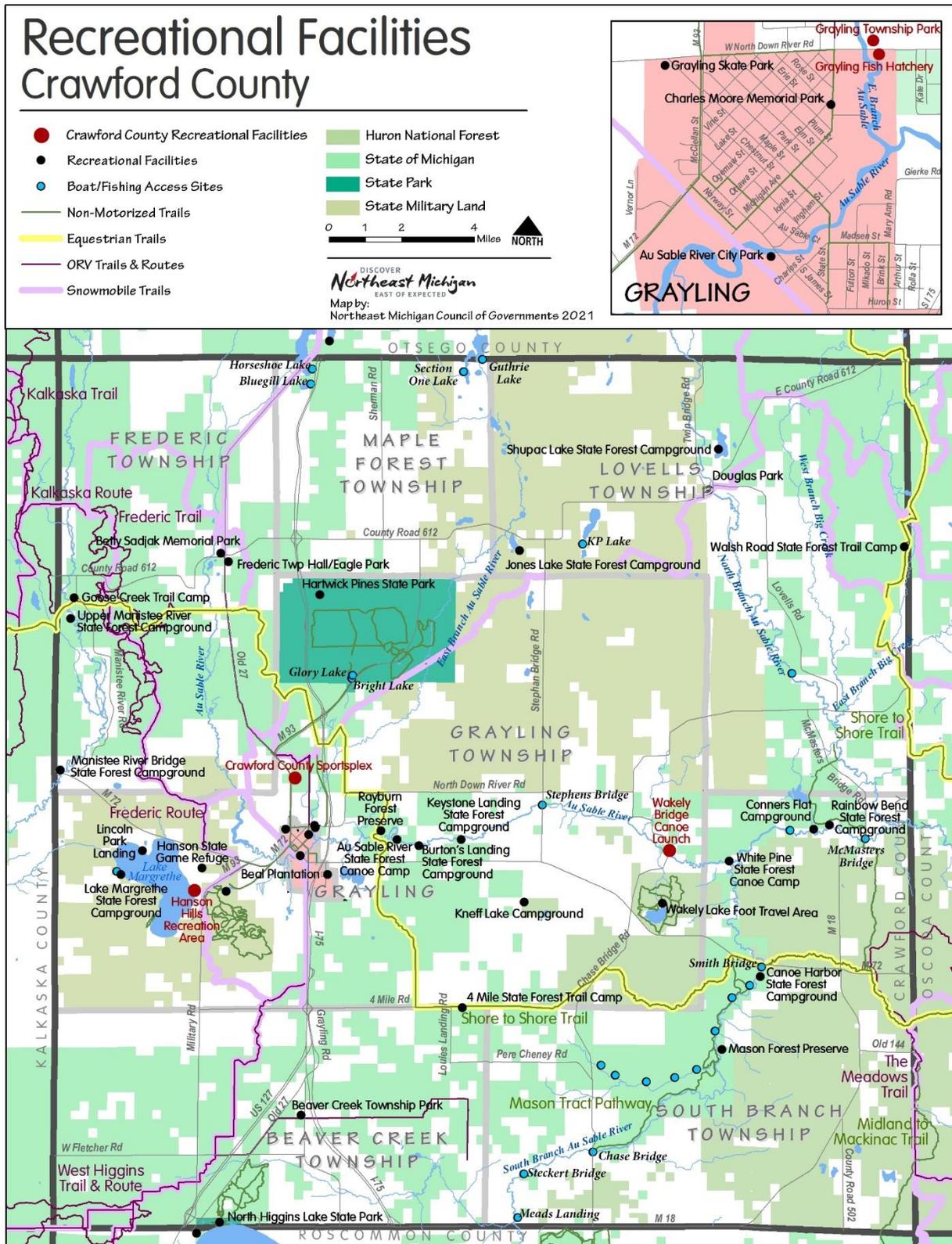
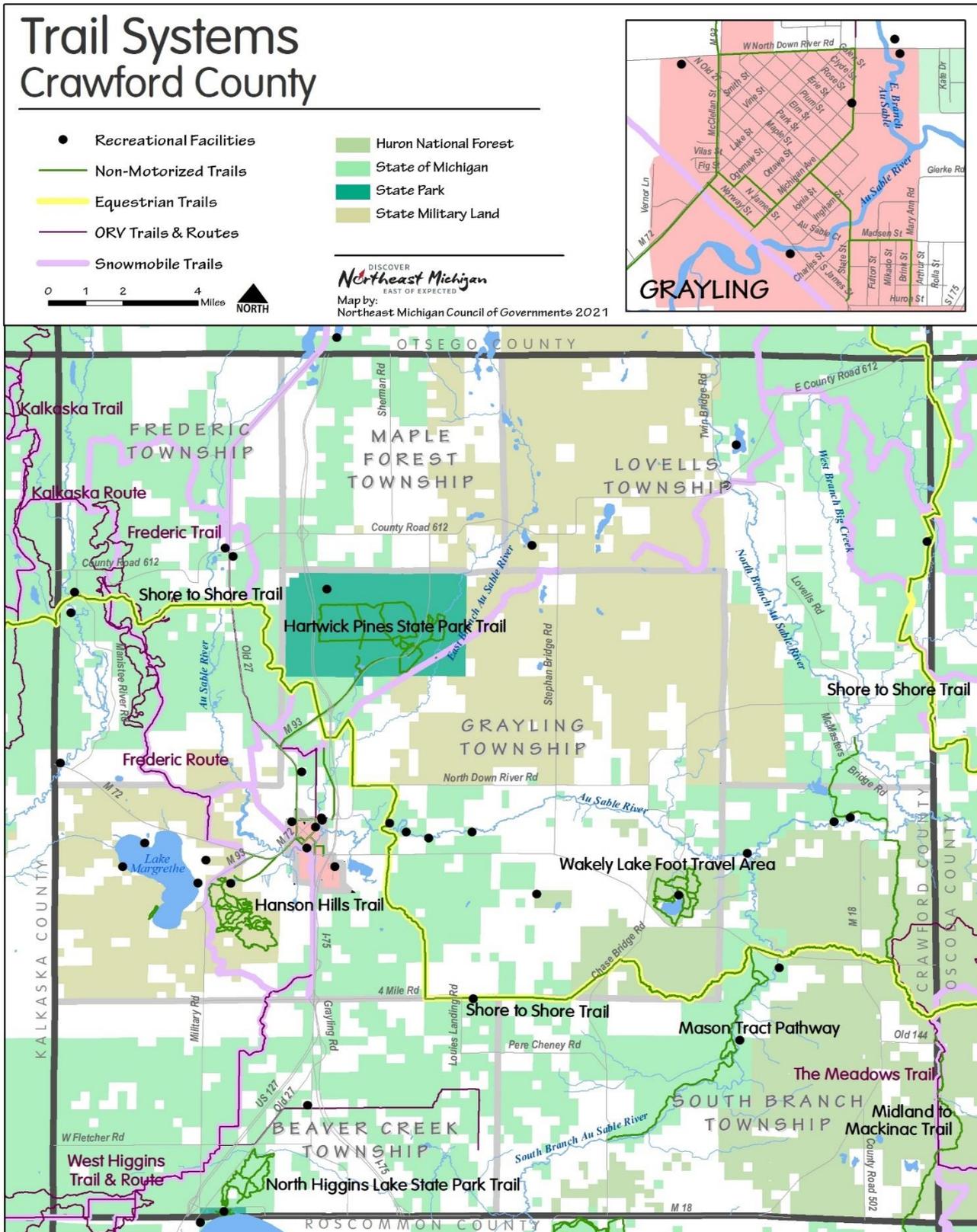


Table 1.5 Crawford County Trails

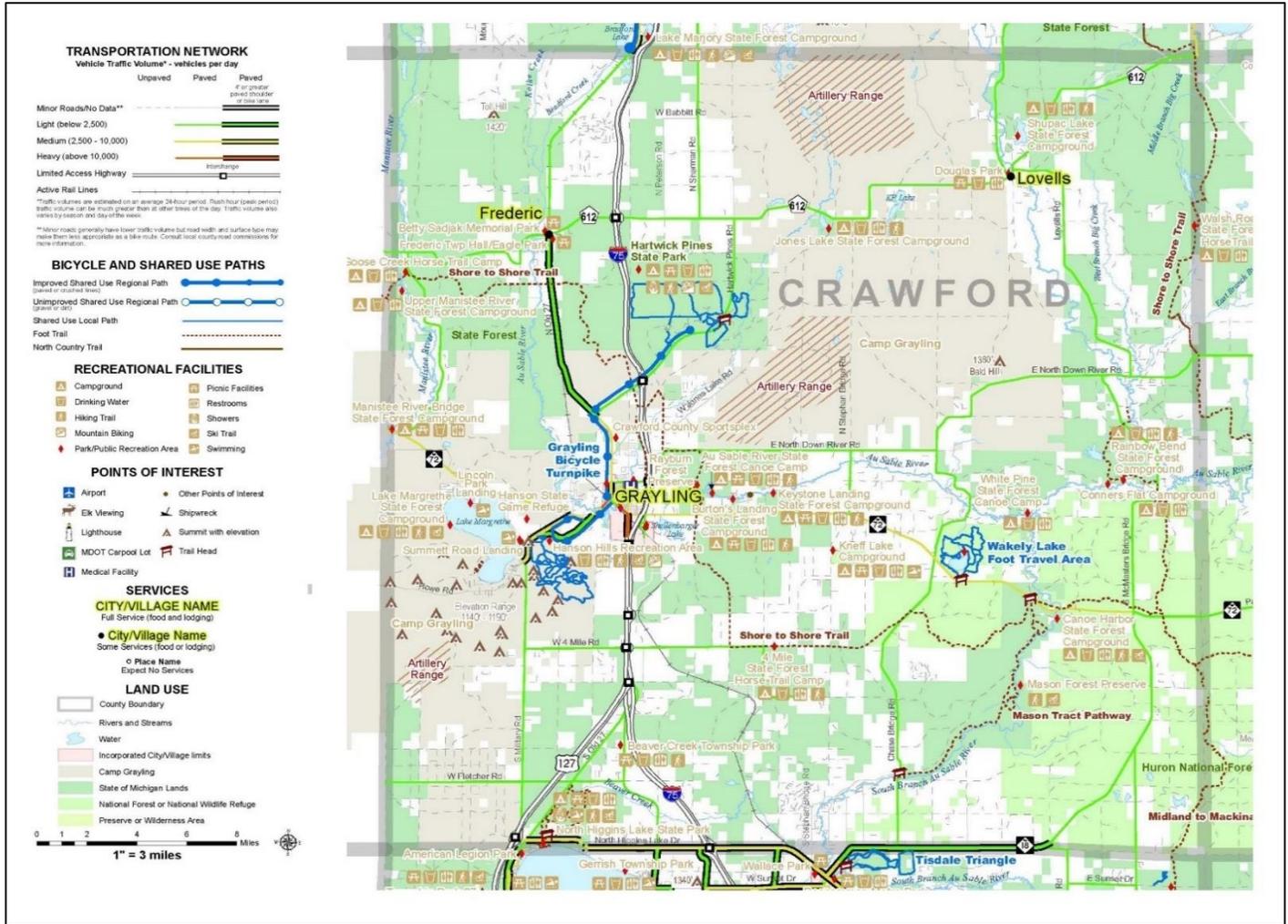
RECREATION TRAILS		
Trail	Description	Location
MULTI-USE TRAILS		
Iron Belle Trail	Statewide multi-use non-motorized trail	State of Michigan
Mason Tract Trail	Point-to-point hiking and cross-country skiing trail along the South Branch AuSable River	Between Chase Bridge and M72, 14 miles east of Grayling
Michigan Shore-to-Shore Hiking and Riding Trail	Point-to-point trail hiking and riding trail from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan	Parallels M-72, South Branch Twp.
Midland to Mackinac Hiking Trail	Point-to-point hiking and backpacking trail that extends from Midland to Mackinac City	Parallels F97, South Branch Twp.
Hanson Hills Trails	Skiing, biking, hiking	Hanson Hills Recreation Area
Hartwick Pines	Skiing, biking, hiking	Hartwick Pines State Park
Grayling Non-motorized Pathway (<i>Grayling Bicycle Turnpike</i>)	Biking, walking, running	M-93
Wakeley Lake Trail	Skiing, hiking	National Forest Service System
ORV TRAILS		
Cycle Conservation Club ORV Trail	Motorized off-road vehicle trail	Pioneer Rd, to South of Hunters Trail in Beaver Creek Twp.
West Higgins ATV Trail	Motorized off-road vehicle Trail	South of Hunters Trail in Beaver Creek Twp.
The Meadows ORV Trail	Motorized off-road vehicle trail	Pioneer Road, South Branch Twp.
Frederic ORV Loop	Motorized off-road vehicle Trail	Frederic Twp.
Frederic ORV Route	Motorized off-road vehicle Trail	Batterson Road to M 93 along N Old 27
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS		
Trail #4	Snowmobile Trail	Lovells Twp.
Trail #7	Snowmobile Trail	Frederic to Beaver Creek

Trail #9	Snowmobile Trail	Meridian Road at the east boundary of South Branch Twp.
Trail # 47	Snowmobile Trail	Grayling to Lovells
Trail #79	Snowmobile Trail	M-72 to Kalkaska Co.
Trail #409	Snowmobile Trail	Lovells Twp. to Oscoda Co.
Trail #482	Snowmobile Trail	4 Mile Road to Grayling along I-75 Corridor
Trail #487	Snowmobile Trail	Southeast corner of Grayling Twp.
Trail #489	Snowmobile Trail	Beaver Creek Twp

Map 1.3 Crawford County Trails



Map 1.4 Northeast Region Road and Bicycle Guide 3rd Edition



Bike Trails (excerpt Northeast Region Road and Trail Bicycle Guide-3rd edition—used with permission)

Table 1.6 Recreational Boat and Fishing Access Sites in Lovells Township

Recreational Boat and Fishing Access Sites in Lovells Township		
Access site	Amenities	Location
County Line Access	General Access, Walk Down Site,	Via Twin Bridge Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Black Hole Access	General Access, Walk Down Site	Via Twin Bridge Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Sand Trap Access	General Access, Walk Down Site	Via Twin Bridge Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Sheep Ranch Access	General Access, Walk Down Site	Via Twin Bridge Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Twin Bridge Access	General Access, Walk Down Site	Via Twin Bridge Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River.
Sach's Access	General Access, Walk Down Site	Via Twin Bridge Road to Campgrounds Road to Sachs Trail, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Powerline Access	General Access, Walk Down Site, Roadside parking (3-4 spaces)	Via Twin Bridge Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Copper Fisherman Access	General Access, Walk Down Site	Via Twin Bridge Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Neumann's Landing Access	Parking, General Access, Walk Down Site	Via County Road 612, Lovells Bridge, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Dam Four Access	General, Walk Down Site	Via Lovells Road to Dam Four Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
State Land Access	General Access, Walk Down Site	Via Hi Banks Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Sheep Pasture Boating Access	6 parking spaces, toilets, Recreational Passport are required.	Via Lovells Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Kelloggs Bridge River Access	General Access, Walk Down Site, Parking (6-7 spaces)	Via East North Down River Road, Lovells Township, North Branch Au Sable River
Morley Road Access	General Access, Walk Down Site, Circle Drive Parking (6-7 spaces)	Via East North Down River Road to Morley Road, North Branch Au Sable River
Jones Lake Boating Access	20 parking spaces, toilets, Recreational Passport are required.	Via County Road 612 to Jones Lake Rd, Lovells Township, Jones Lake
Shupac Lake Boating Access	10 parking spaces, toilets, a loon habitat, and a Recreational Passport are required	Via Twin Bridge Road to Campgrounds Road, Lovells Township, Shupac Lake

K.P. Lake Boating Access	5 parking spaces, toilets, a loon habitat, and a Recreational Passport are required.	Via County Road 612, K.P. Lake Rd, Lovells Township, K.P. Lake
Various Au Sable River boat launches		All along the Au Sable River

Table 1.7 Canoe Liveries in Crawford County

Canoe Liveries	
Borcher's AuSable Canoeing	AuSable River, Grayling
Jim's Canoe Livery	Ausable River, Grayling
Long's Canoe Livery	Manistee River, Frederic Township
Penrod's	AuSable River, Grayling
Carlisle Canoe Livery	AuSable River, Grayling
Shel-Haven Canoe Rental	Manistee River, Frederic Township
Bear Paw Canoe Livery	AuSable River, Grayling

Privately Owned Recreational Public Facilities

In addition to the above-listed recreational opportunities, Lovells Township is host to many other private recreational facilities including recreation clubs, historical recreation sites, bird watching, fishing expeditions, and museums. Lovells Township also has numerous resorts, cabins, and motels that are utilized by fishermen, bird watchers, and other sports enthusiasts for overnight accommodations.

Regional Recreational Opportunities

The amounts and types of recreation opportunities, which are available in neighboring counties, are highly variable. All neighboring counties have an ample supply of state and/or federal lands, much of which can be used for recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, etc. The closest neighboring community to the major population center of Crawford County is Roscommon (Roscommon County). Roscommon has a variety of recreational facilities including a community recreation/fitness center. They also have an outdoor ice rink, a soccer field, and tennis courts.

Roscommon is approximately 15 miles from Grayling. Higgins Lake and Houghton Lake both provide recreational water opportunities.

To the north, Gaylord (Otsego County) has several recreational facilities that are open to the public. The Sportsplex offers an indoor ice rink and swimming pool. There are several ski lodges, groomed cross-country ski trails, golf courses, a bowling alley, and a theatre complex. The travel distance from Gaylord to areas in Crawford County varies from about 20 minutes to close to one hour.

Oscoda County, to the east, is a very rural county with few recreational facilities beyond state and federal lands, campgrounds, and the AuSable River. The area does offer a major golf/cross-country ski resort. The travel distance from Crawford County to Oscoda County ranges from 30 minutes to more than one hour.

Kalkaska County is located to the west of Crawford County. Located within the City of Kalkaska are a variety of recreational opportunities. The area has a roller skating rink, an archery course, and a sportsplex called “Kaliseum”. They also have an assortment of sports teams such as Little League, soccer, and softball. Kalkaska is a 30-minute drive from Grayling but is over an hour from other portions of the county.

Description of the Planning and Public Input Process

Planning Process

The update of the Recreation Plan began in the winter of 2021. The planning process included a series of public meetings with the Lovells Township Planning Commission. The preliminary draft plan was posted on the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments website and a physical draft was made available at Lovells Township Hall and at the library on July 14, 2022, 30 days prior to the public hearing to allow citizens and surrounding municipalities ample time to review and comment on the draft plan. (Appendix). The posting on the web and notice to the township boards helped announce the availability of the draft plan.

Lovells Township held a public hearing on October 11, 2022, at 10 am. A legal notice was published in the Crawford County Avalanche on September 22, 2022, announcing a public hearing will be held on October 11, 2022, for the adoption of the final Plan. The Recreation Plan was adopted by the Lovells Township Board on October 11, 2022.

Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. Lovells Township chose to have a public input session to gather initial input. A notice was posted on the Lovells Township website and posting board outside Township Hall on April 4, 2022, for a public input session held on April 29, 2022. Additional comments were submitted via e-mail after the public input session and during the 30-day draft review. The subject of the recreation plan update was recreational development, with additional projects discussed through several Lovells Township meetings. Throughout the development of this recreation plan, members of key groups of the Township and citizens have been involved. Lovells Township Planning Commission discussed the coordination of multiple agencies surrounding access points throughout the Township, grant funding sources, and park improvements, at their April 29, 2022, public input session. The Planning Commission reviewed additional public comments on the Plan, included in the Appendix.

Scheduled Timeline

December 16, 2021	Township Officials contract with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) to assist in drafting a recreation/master plan for Lovells Township.
January 14, 2022	NEMCOG reviewed the past plan and made updates to the community description, administrative structure, and recreation inventory.
February 16, 2022	NEMCOG staff met with the Planning Commission to discuss public input options.
February 23, 2022	NEMCOG staff review updated information with the Planning Commission on community description, administrative, structure, resource inventory, etc.
April 2021	NEMCOG staff conducts on-site visits to each recreational facility in the County and conducts a barrier-free assessment.
April 4, 2022	A public notice appeared on the Lovells Township website and posting board outside Township Hall advertising a public input session for the Lovells Township Recreation Plan to be held on April 29, 2022.
April 29, 2022	A public input session is held on the Lovells Township Recreation Plan.
July 11, 2022	The Planning Commission voted to approve the draft of the Lovells Township Recreation Plan and to put the plan out for the 30-day review period.
July 14, 2022	The Recreation Plan was available for review. A public notice appeared on the NEMCOG website, with additional postings at the Township Hall.
September 22, 2022	A public notice appeared in the Crawford County Avalanche advertising a public hearing to be held on October 11, 2022, at 10 am.
December 13, 2022	The Lovells Township Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the Recreation Plan. Any comments received from the public through e-mail, mail, or in person were incorporated into the plan. The Lovells Township Board of Trustees passed a Resolution of Adoption.

Goals and Objectives

In the review of past goals and recent input, the following overall goal and component goals were developed and apply at the Township level.

Recreation and Public Lands

Preserve and improve access to public lands and water, recreation trails, public parks, and recreation facilities for the safe enjoyment of residents, visitors, and future generations.

ADDITIONAL COMPONENT GOALS:

1. *Pursue improvements to recreational opportunities within Lovells Township.*
2. *Educate the public to preserve and protect the natural environment to leave it better than when they arrived.*
3. *Ensure public recreational facilities and activities are open and accessible to all.*
4. *Work cooperatively with appropriate agencies and units of government to develop and maintain an extensive network of trails and the necessary support facilities for each, including hiking, biking, horseback riding, x-c skiing, snowmobiling, ORV, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, alpine skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, and hunting.*
5. *Work cooperatively with appropriate agencies and units of government to establish and maintain access sites for canoe/kayak use, and fishing access and promote the local water trails.*
6. *Work cooperatively to promote recreational opportunities in the area and the related economic benefits for the region.*

Lovells Township – Recreational Goals & Objectives

Goal 1. Pursue improvements to future and current recreational opportunities available within the township.

Objectives

- a. Expand recreational property within the township.
- b. Construct multi-use recreation facilities on township park property.
- c. Develop a walking/jogging trail around the township park.
- d. Maintain and improve current recreational facilities and parks to improve the community level of service.
- e. Seek additional funding opportunities to reach community recreation goals.

Goal 2. Ensure township-sponsored recreational facilities and activities are open and accessible to all members of the public.

Objectives

- a. Encourage participation in township-sponsored recreation activities.
- b. New construction will meet barrier-free accessibility requirements for parks.

Action Program

The following action program is presented by jurisdiction including the proposed projects and rationale for each. These lists were developed by each jurisdiction in consideration of input received from the recreation stakeholders group and other public input received. The public input summaries are available under separate cover.

Table 1.8 Lovells Township Capital Improvement Schedule

LOVELLS TOWNSHIP CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE			
Project #	Project	Priority	Funding Source(s)
1	Yearly maintenance	1	Township
2	Professional Services; Land Surveying Services, Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Planning Services, etc.	As Needed	Township
3	Identify and prepare current land for future recreational use(s).	2	Township
4	Install drinking fountains, bike racks, benches, picnic tables, kiosks, etc.	3	Township
5	Parking lot improvements	3	Township
6	Township-supported recreational events.	1	Township, Local, and Private
7	Purchase outdoor adult fitness and park equipment.	3	Township
8	Trail encompassing Township facility	3	Township, Local, and Private
9	Work with county and state agencies to connect non-motorized recreational areas and larger trail networks.	4	Township, Local Foundations, MDOT, and DNR

10	Universally accessible River and Lake access for swimming, fishing, kayaking, launching of boats, etc., and work with county and state agencies to assure sites are accessible for all.	3	Township, Foundations, DNR, and County
11	Investigate additional boat launch locations within the township based on community needs.	4	Township, DNR, and County

Project Priorities are prioritized with 1 being the highest priority and 4 being the lowest priority.

Final project costs will be determined by the Township Board.

Table 1.9 Lovells Township Rationale

Project #	Justification
1	Maintain facilities and properties every year to provide a level of service desired by the community.
2	Professional service contracts will be done on an “as needed” basis based on project specifications.
3	Identifying future recreational uses will help in future planning and budgeting process and possibly cut down on unnecessary expenditures.
4	Drinking fountains, bike racks, picnic tables, kiosks, and benches will make the facilities more user-friendly.
5	Improve parking lot facilities, accessibility, signage, and capacity.
6	Support local events for the community
7	Improves overall community health and activity within the community and shall be accessible to all.
8	Improves the overall attractiveness surrounding the township facilities and improves general health, well-being for the community, and creates community
9	Improving non-motorized recreational opportunities within the township benefits businesses, recreational enthusiasts, and community relationships.
10	Work with multiple agencies to improve additional boating services and current services based on the community’s desired level of service.
11	Investigating and working with multiple agencies can help the township and community achieve their overall goals.

Lovells Township Basis for Action

Lovells Township has 55 residents under 18 based on the 2020 Census Data, accounting for nearly 9.7 percent of the total population. Based on the 55 younger residents, a need is shown for expansion and

improvements of recreational facilities throughout the Township. Expansion and improvements of recreational opportunities can serve the youth and nearly 567 people living in Lovells Township.

Ambulatory disability is any impairment that prevents or impedes walking. Lovells Township has 19.7% of its population having ambulatory difficulty with 21.5% of residents having some sort of disability. Lovells Township will continue to provide ADA-compliant parks, trails, and recreational areas to assure that the need of all residents is met.

Almost 80% of Lovells Township is publicly-owned land. Many of the more than 500 people that live in the Township do so because of the abundance of public land. Certainly, many of the visitors to Lovells Township throughout the year are here for that very reason. It is for this purpose that the Township must make the most of its recreational activities. The more the Township improves its recreational activities for those that live here and those that visit, the more it will grow as a community, economically and culturally. Lovells Township already boasts many hunting and fishing opportunities. However, for its size, the Township also has excellent snowmobile trail opportunities to go along with canoeing, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, equestrian trails, and biking excursions waiting to be experienced. There exists a county-wide voted millage to preserve and enhance the prospects of our recreational challenges.

Douglas Park

Douglas Park is named after Thomas E Douglas who worked as a bookkeeper and opened one of the first lumber mills and general stores in Lovells Township around the early 1900s. The park surrounds the Township Hall offering a one-stop shop for recreation and additional amenities the township has to offer such as Lovells Township Reading and Media Center, exercise groups, and Township Hall rental. The park is a neighborhood park covering 5.5 acres and offers many amenities including, a children's playground, a picnic pavilion area, a basketball hoop, a baseball diamond, and museums.

Neumann's Landing/Lovells Township Bridge Access Site

The Neumann's Landing/Lovells Township Bridge Access Site is located adjacent to the Lovells Township Bridge. The site has received recent grant funding and has expanded parking and access to the North Branch Au Sable River.



Crossroads Park

Crossroads Park was purchased in 2021 with donations from the community. Shortly after the park was purchased, split rail fencing was installed on the west side of the park. Although the park has been recently purchased, the future development of the park has been a topic of many public meetings and community events by both officials and residents. During the late summer of 2022 beautification was completed along Lovell's Road and additional electric services were provided to the site.



Lovells Bridge Walk

Each year in August people gather to celebrate the famous Lovells Bridge Walk. The event has been going on for over three decades. For a town with a population of approximately 567 people, the Lovells Bridge walk has hundreds of attendees each year. The Bridge walk includes the Fireman's Pancake Breakfast put on by volunteer fire and EMS staff and includes donations. Past Bridge Walk events have raised approximately \$10,000. The Bridge Walk has accepted generous donations that have helped with community improvements.

Appendix Crossroads Park Future Proposed Improvements



Public Input

The Lovells Township Planning Commission

is currently working on an updated

RECREATIONAL PLAN

Come participate in planning your community's future!

Your input is needed!

Get involved in your community!

Please plan to attend a

Public Input & Goal Setting Session

Lovells Township Planning Commission Meeting

5:00 PM, Friday, April 29, 2022

Lovells Township Hall

8405 Twin Bridge Road

For more information contact:

Lovells Township Clerk, Cynthia Infante-Inman (989) 348-9215, lovellostownship@gmail.com

Or email Lovells Township Planning Commission Chair,

Denny Inman; dennis.inman2014@gmail.com

Notice of Availability of Recreation Plan for at least 30 days

Not secure | www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/article.asp?ait=nv&nid=575

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MICHIGAN WORKS! PROSPERITY COLLABORATIVE DOCUMENT LIBRARY

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[Home](#) / [About](#) / [Lovells Township Recreation Plan 30-Day Review](#)

Lovells Township Recreation Plan 30-Day Review
 Lovells Township Recreation Plan 30-Day Review
 Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties that Lovells Township is seeking public comment on the Five-Year 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Plan.

Electronic copy of the Plan can be viewed on the NEMCOG website:
http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/downloads/lovells_township_recrea

A physical copy of plan is available at the **Lovells Township Hall and Reading Center**, 8405 Twin Bridge Road, Grayling, MI, 49738.

The required 30-day public review and comment period will begin on July 14, 2022, and will end on August 13, 2022.

Lovells Township residents are asked to submit comments in writing via email to eszymanski@nemcog.org or via mail to Denny Inman, Lovells Township Planning Commission, at 8405 Twin Bridge Road, Grayling, MI, 49738.

A follow-up public hearing will take place at Lovells Township Hall, 8405 Twin Bridge Road, Grayling, MI, 49738 for the Lovells Township Planning Commission meeting on September 12, 2022, at 5pm. Any and all input is greatly appreciated.

Created on Thursday, July 14, 2022

8996 N. Snerman Road • Grayling, MI 49738 (99)22, 29, 6)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Deadline for submission of Legal, Public & Bid Notices is 5 p.m. the Friday prior to publication.

Please submit all notices via email to legals@crawfordcountyavalanche.com

**Public Hearing Notice
Lovells Township Recreation Plan**

Lovells Township Board will hold a public hearing on the Lovells Township Recreation Plan 2023-2027 Plan. The meeting will take place at Lovells Township Hall, located at 8405 Twin Bridge Road, Grayling, MI, 49738 on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 10am. The draft plan is available for review at the Lovells Township Hall and Northeast Michigan Council of Governments website: http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/downloads/lovells_township_recreation_plan_draft_final_v1.pdf
 Written comments may be submitted to:
 Eric Szymanski – eszymanski@nemcog.org or 8405 Twin Bridge Road, Grayling, MI, 49738 (9/22)

Thursday, September 22, 2022 – CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE – 7B

Notice of Public Hearing for Lovells Township

Phone: (989) 348-2281 - Fax: (989) 348-6933

Public Hearing Notice Lovells Township Recreation Plan

Lovells Township Board will hold a public hearing on the Lovells Township Recreation Plan 2023-2027 Plan. The meeting will take place at Lovells Township Hall, located at 8405 Twin Bridge Road, Grayling, MI, 49738 on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 10 am. The draft plan was posted for a 30-day review in the Crawford County Avalanche on September 22, 2022, and expired on October 22, 2022. The draft plan is available at the Lovells Township Hall and Northeast Michigan Council of Governments website:
http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/downloads/lovells_township_recreation_plan_draft_final_v7.pdf
 Written comments may be submitted to:
 Eric Szymanski – eszymanski@nemcog.org or 8405 Twin Bridge Road, Grayling, MI, 49738 (8/1/22)

Deadline for submission of Legal, Public & Bid Notices is 5 p.m. the Friday prior to publication.

Please submit all notices via email to legals@crawfordcountyavalanche.com

Thursday, November 24, 2022 – CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE – 7B

Resolution of the Lovells Township Planning Commission Resolution of the Lovells Township Board

Recreation Plan Resolution of Adoption Lovells Township

WHEREAS, Lovells Township has developed a five-year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the five-year period that begins in 2023 and ends on December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the plan has been developed in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for a Community Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, a notice of a public input session was posted on April 18, 2022, on the Lovells Township website, and door. The public input session was held on April 29, 2022, to provide an opportunity for citizens to share ideas and express opinions regarding the future of parks and recreation in Lovells Township; and

WHEREAS, a draft Recreation Plan was made available for review and public comments for 30-days at the Lovells Township Hall and Northeast Michigan Council of Governments website:
http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/downloads/lovells_township_recreation_plan_draft_final_v1.pdf

WHEREAS, a public hearing with the Lovells Township Board was held on December 13, 2022, at 10 am, at Lovells Township Hall, 8405 Twin Bridge Road, Grayling, Michigan, 49738 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on December 13, 2022, that the Lovells Township Board hereby adopts said Parks and Recreation Plan as a guideline for recreation improvements for Lovells Township.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing Resolution was adopted at a Lovells Township Board meeting held on December 13, 2022.

Date: 12/13/2022

Signature:

Printed Name:

Cynthia Inman
CYNTHIA INFANTE-INMAN

Copies of Submittal Letters



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

January 6, 2023

Cris Jones, Crawford County Planning Commission
ATTN: Crawford County Planning Commission
C/O Paul Compo
Via Email: pcompo@crowfordco.org; xcjones@charter.net

Dear Mr. Jones & Mr. Compo:

On behalf of the Lovells Township, we are pleased to inform you that the Township has approved and adopted a 5-year Recreation Plan. This plan received public input from online surveys and a public hearing.

Please see the FINAL Adopted Recreation Plan attached to this email.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Eric Szymanski
Regional Planner
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG)

Regional
Cooperation
Since
1968

Alcona * Alpena * Cheboygan * Crawford * Emmet * Montmorency * Oscoda * Otsego * Presque Isle

An
Equal Opportunity
Employer



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

January 6, 2023

Doug Baum
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
Via Email: dbaum@nemcog.org

Dear Mr. Baum:

On behalf of the Lovells Township, we are pleased to inform you that the Township has approved and adopted a 5-year Recreation Plan. This plan received public input from online surveys and a public hearing.

Please see the FINAL Adopted Recreation Plan attached to this email.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Szymanski".

Eric Szymanski
Regional Planner
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG)

Regional
Cooperation
Since
1968

Alcona * Alpena * Cheboygan * Crawford * Emmet * Montmorency * Oscoda * Otsego * Presque Isle

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Post Completion Self Certification Forms (MDNR)



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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

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

GRANTEE: Lovells Township

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01104 F1

PROJECT TYPE: Park Development

PROJECT TITLE: Douglas Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Park improvements & installation of playground equipment.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) <u>Lovells Township</u>	Contact Person <u>Gary Neumann</u>	Title <u>Township Supervisor</u>
Address <u>8405 Twin Bridge Road</u>	Telephone <u>989-348-9215</u>	
City, State, ZIP <u>Grayling, Mi, 49738</u>	Email <u>lovellstowship@gmail.com</u>	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. Yes No
Park equipment is past its useful life.
Equipment is not ADA compliant.

SITE QUALITY

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

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

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

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
General mowing of the area facility and yearly inspection of park equipment are done.

GENERAL

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

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

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
No, the Site is open to the public year-round 24/7

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Empty box for comments.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

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

Gary Neumann
Please print


Grantee Authorized Signature

1-12-2023
Date

Cynthia Infante-Inman
Please print


Witness Signature

1-12-2023
Date

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



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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

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

GRANTEE: Lovells Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF19-0059 PROJECT TYPE: Access Site Development

PROJECT TITLE: Lovells Access Site Development

PROJECT SCOPE: See comments for more details

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, Email. Row 1: Lovells Township, Gary Neumann, Township Supervisor, 8405 Twin Bridge Road, 989-348-9215, lovellstownship@gmail.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

SITE QUALITY

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

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

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

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
General grass and weed control of the area facility is done frequently
Roller and launch system is inspected in the spring, summer, and fall.

GENERAL

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

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

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
No, the Site is open to the public year-round 24/7

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Access Pathway 6' wide or more
 Canoe/Kayak Roller Transport System
 Bench(es)
 Canoe/Kayak Launch or Ramp
 Crushed Stone Parking Lot
 Entrance & Exit Drive
 Fence
 Signage

Project Description: Development of an improved public access point at the north branch of the Au Sable River located on County Road 612. The project consists of a gravel parking lot area, access pathway, and elevated small-craft transport system to enable users to "walk" their kayaks, canoes, and riverboats from the parking area to the bank of the river.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

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

Gary Neumann
Please print

Gary Neumann
Grantee Authorized Signature

1-12-2023
Date

Cynthia Infante-Inman
Please print

Cynthia Infante-Inman
Witness Signature

1-12-2023
Date

Send completed report to:

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