

Moran Township Parks & Recreation Plan

2024

MORAN TOWNSHIP, MACKINAC COUNTY,
MICHIGAN

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Moran Township Parks & Recreation Plan 2024

Mackinac County, Michigan

Prepared for:

Moran Township Board

Prepared by:

Moran Township

and

EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission

2345 Meridian St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Adopted : xx/xx/xxxx

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PURPOSE

The purpose of a recreation plan is to guide future recreational improvements within Moran Township. This Plan acts as a general guide for the continuing enhancement of recreational amenities within Moran Township. This Plan provides a concise description of the Township's plans and policies for current and future recreational opportunities and is meant to be a dynamic document that can evolve and respond to changing conditions.



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Moran Township is a rural community located in the lower portion of Mackinac County in the Upper Peninsula. It is bordered by Hendricks Township on the west, Trout Lake Township (Chippewa County) on the north, Brevort and St. Ignace Townships on the north and east, and by Lake Michigan on the south. The southeastern portion of the Township is adjacent to the City of St. Ignace. Moran Township is unusual in that it encompasses 125 square miles of land area and is more than three times the size of a traditional township. Another unique feature is that 80% of the township land is in public ownership. The population of the Township is relatively low and is widely distributed throughout the area.

1. Social Characteristics

Population

The US Census reports that, in 2020, the population count of Moran Township was 763. The population of Mackinac County was 10,781 and Moran Township contained approximately 10% of the County's residents. Population growth in Moran Township has been relatively steady in the past decades and it is expected to continue this growth pattern.

MORAN TOWNSHIP POPULATION TRENDS	
Year	Population
2021	812
2020	1,029
2018	972
2017	972
2016	972
2015	972
2014	987
2013	987
2012	995
2011	990
2010	991

It is likely that Moran Township will continue to be about 10% of the total population of the County. The State Demographer's Office projects that the 2020 population for Mackinac County to be 10,781. Therefore, Moran Township's projected 2020 population will approximately be 1,078.

The median age for Township residents in 2020 was 58.4 years. It was 49 for Mackinac County. Approximately 18% of the population was 18 and under, while 31.8% was above 65. The largest age cohort is between ages 65-74, which represented 21.9% of the township population. These individuals are the dominant age group and recreation facilities should reflect their desires. It should be noted that a younger population is also prominent in the Township, and its needs ought to be addressed as well. In the 18 years and older age range, the Township has more males than females as 43.4% are female and 56.6% are male. It is estimated that there are 356 males over the age of 18 and 273 females. There are more males than females over the age of 65 (151 males and 92 females).

Age Group	Township	County (includes Township)
Under 5	22	402
5-9	16	433
10-14	61	495
15-19	49	472
20-24	22	550
25-34	33	1,052
35-44	67	1,035
45-54	70	1,337
55-59	72	966
60-64	108	1,004
65-74	167	1,754
75-84	63	977
85 and Over	13	304
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>58.4</i>	<i>531</i>

Ethnic Distribution

The population of Moran Township is racially homogeneous with 70 residents (71%) being white. Five persons are black, none are of Asian descent, and 151 are of Native American descent (Chippewa Tribal Grouping). Hispanic or Latino (of any race) have 17 residents. The US 2020 Census classified 77 individuals as being of mixed race.

Persons with Disabilities

According to the US Census, 167 persons in the Township have a disability. Types of disabilities listed are sight, hearing, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, and independent living difficulty. Eight (8) of these listed are under the age of 17, while 68 are between the ages of 18 to 64, and 91 are over the age of 65. Moran Township is making every effort to ensure that recreational facilities are accessible to everyone in the Township and in surrounding areas.

Household Characteristics

According to the US 2020 Census, there are an estimated 373 households in the Township. The percentage of households that have individuals under 18 years of age is 16.1% and households that have individuals over 65 years of age is 64.1%. The average household size is 2.05. There are 90 nonfamily households in the Township.

Economic Levels

The median household income in 2020 was \$64,583 (inflation-adjusted). Approximately 5.6% of the households had income less than \$25,000, while 42% had incomes between \$25,000 and \$74,999, and 34% had incomes over \$75,000.

Regional Influences

It is significant to note that the Census tally, taken in April, does not count residents who winter elsewhere. The figures presented by the 2020 Census do not reflect the actual number of persons residing in the Township during the summer months. According to the Census, there are a total of 810 housing units in the Township. There are 429 year-round housing units, 321 seasonal housing units, and 32 vacant housing units. Using this information, it is estimated that the seasonal population could be an additional 600 residents (using a household size of 2 as a guide).

One very pressing recreational issue involving population groups is the influx of tourists and summer residents. The Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission estimates that there is an average of 1,600 tourists per day during the summer months. Since this Township is located in the County that is considered the "gateway" to the Upper Peninsula, it is subject to high amounts of tourist activity.

The economic base of the Township is dependent mainly upon tourism, forest-related activities, and government (mainly the Mackinac Bridge Authority). Highway US-2 is along the Lake Michigan shoreline and is an important resort and tourist-oriented development area. The motels along the highway provide lodging for travelers and visitors to the Township.

The sand dunes and public beaches along the lakeshore are a popular tourism attraction. The large amounts of forested land provide opportunities for hiking, biking, and camping. Winter activities include snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing in the forest. These tourism-related activities are crucial for the Township's economic wellbeing.

Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park is another popular winter attraction in the Township. This facility provides services for skiing, snowboarding, and tubing. The park usually operates from December to March. The total number of visits to the Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park before the Pandemic was 5,000, approximately half of the users were Township residents. Tubing usually operates from December to March when snowfall is adequate. The Township purchased a new groomer in 2021 at a cost of \$140,000 which will allow the hill to open. The Township hopes to purchase snow making equipment in the coming years. In November of 2021, a two-mile fat tire bike and walking trail called Silver Mountain Bike Trail was constructed in the area at a cost of \$75,000. The township contributed \$15,000, the St. Ignace Visitor's Bureau \$30,000, and Enbridge Energy \$30,000. During the summer months, the facility also provides a 24-hole disc golf course.

The large amount of fixed land provides the resources for the majority of the recreation described earlier. In addition, timbering of the forest also provides economic revenue to the Township.

Physical Characteristics

Topography and Surface Drainage

A township of this size (125 square miles) has great variations in topography. Along the shoreline, there are slopes in excess of 21% intermixed with sand dunes. Wetlands are spread throughout the Township. Interestingly, that majority of the lands that are in private ownership and not along the shoreline or having wetlands, have gentle grades, and are suitable for development.

Water Resources

Major lakes in the area are Brevort, Little Brevort, Chain, and Hay. The largest rivers include the Carp and Brevort. Lake Michigan and the Straits of Mackinac lie on Moran Township's southern boundary.

The climate is similar to other parts of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Snowfall averages 80"-100" per year, and precipitation yields approximately 30"-36" annually. Relief from freezing and above freezing temperatures usually lasts over four months, from May 15 to October 1.

The soils in the southern area of the Township tend to be poorly drained. The majority of which have a loamy and sandy loam nature. The central area of the Township, between Martin Lake and Chain Lake, has wetland characteristics with a higher degree of peat and muck. Soils in the northern portion of the Township are characterized by well-drained loamy sands and are more supportive of development than soils in the southern area.

Vegetation

Forested areas make up 85% of the Township. Most of the Township can be classified according to two covers, forested and marsh lands. While open grasslands exist, they are limited to those immediate areas where houses have been established and other small scale randomly cleared areas. They do not represent a significant land cover with respect to quantity or location.

Swamp forests include hemlock, northern white cedar, balsam fir, white spruce, trembling aspen, balsam, poplar and scattered white pine are evident throughout the swale areas. The drier ridges associated with these areas are characterized by Dry Northern Forest and Dry-Mesic Northern Forest, including jack pine, red pine, red oak, big tooth aspen. and paper birch.

The lands along the Lake Michigan coastline associated with the extensive sand dunes are characterized by Northern Hardwoods. Forest vegetation includes beech, sugar maple, hemlock, black cherry, and red oak; however, areas of the low foredunes have herbaceous and shrub vegetation only. The interior lands have forests of bigtooth aspen, red pine, and white pine.

Fish and Wildlife Resources

Habitat for populations of wolves, waterfowl, eagles, shorebirds, muskrat, mink, and raccoon are located in the wetland areas. The predominant fauna in the Township consists of deer, squirrel, rabbit, grouse, walleye, northern pike, perch, bass, black crappie, and bluegill. The Township works with local sportsman's clubs on enhancing fisheries and wildlife.

Land Use Patterns/Zoning

The Hiawatha National Forest and Lake Superior State Forest encompass 80% of the land use; thereby, reducing development potential. The Master Plan for Moran Township describes land use policies for the Township. These policies include:

- To maintain the special Upper Peninsula rural environment in the Township;
- To preserve and protect the Township's natural and special environmental features;
- To preserve and protect the scenic quality of the Township;
- To promote tourism and the tourist trade in the Township; and
- To regulate land development in the Township without being unreasonably restrictive towards private property owners

The Master Plan focuses on preserving the critical natural and scenic features of the area such as the sand dunes and coastal areas. The master plan designations were translated into zoning districts with the intent of having development that is compatible with the natural features. The zoning designations include Primary Open Space and Public Lands District, Secondary Open Space and Public Lands District, Secondary Coastal Growth District, Secondary Inland Growth District, Primary Coastal Growth District, Primary Inland Growth District, Visual Corridor and Recreation Coastal District, Transitional Use District, Ozark Community District, Recreation Lands District, and the Prime Coastal Growth Commercial District.

Special Natural Areas

Driving through Moran Township, one could easily view the entire region as a "special natural area" due to the extensive expanses of woodlands, marshes, shoreline, and other features. These resources are very special due to the wildlife habitats they provide, the scenic quality they present, and the critical role they play in shaping the overall character of the Township.

The Master Plan describes six locations of the Township that are considered "Special Natural Areas" as they are extraordinarily unique and require more attention when protecting the future of the community. These areas contain habitat for plant communities and specific species that are generally not found in many areas. The federal and state governments have acted to protect these areas. These areas are as follows:

Lake Michigan Great Lakes Marsh

Located along Boulevard Drive. This is the largest and most significant Great Lakes Marsh on this part of Lake Michigan. It is a critical habitat for many species of birds and other wildlife. It is also a major stopover for many species of raptors and other migratory birds.

Pointe Aux Chenes Research Natural Area

The United States Forest Service has designated this area for long-term preservation for scientific research purposes. The Forest Service owns and manages most of this land.

Carp River Wild and Scenic River

The River and a mile-wide corridor on each side are protected as a wilderness area to remain in its natural state. This area is within the Hiawatha National Forest and there are no adjacent privately owned lands.

North Country National Scenic Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail was established by Congress to create a national hiking trail extending from the State of New York to the State of North Dakota. The trail is patterned after the Appalachian National Trail. This initiative provides for a hiking trail with a 1000 ft buffer zone of natural habitat along the side of the trail. This hiking corridor is to be protected in its natural state for future generations. In Moran Township, the US Forest Service and a system of volunteers oversee the North Country Trail. The trail starts in St. Ignace, follows an old railroad grade along the north side of Chain Lake, crosses through the southwest corner of St. Ignace Township to re-enter Moran Township south of Castle Road, then follows along the south side of the road and exits Moran Township after crossing the Brevort River to cut across the center next to southwest corner of Brevort Township. The trail re-enters Moran Township, skirts the south and west shores of Big Brevort Lake, then angles northeasterly to cross the Carp River before exiting the Township to continue its way towards Lake Superior and eventually North Dakota. It should be noted that the trail impacts private lands only along the north side of Chain Lake in Moran Township.

Brevort Lake/Lake Michigan

The area of sand dunes between Brevort Lake and Lake Michigan is protected under the State Critical Dunes Act. This designated area starts at the west end of Point Aux Chenes Subdivision and extends to the Ozark Road right-of-way in the Village of Brevort. While the majority of the dunes are within public ownership, a significant area immediately east of the Village of Brevort is privately owned.

Little Brevort Lake State Scenic Area

The area surrounding Little Brevort Lake is designated as a protected scenic area under the State Natural and Scenic Areas Act. This area is owned and regulated by the State of Michigan.

St. Helena Island

In addition, local land conservancies have acted to protect sensitive areas in the Township by purchasing them. Recently, the Little Traverse Conservancy purchased the 266-acre St. Helena Island. This island is located in the Straits of Mackinac six and one-half miles west of the Mackinac Bridge. There is a two-acre light station that has been in use since 1873 on the Island. This light station is owned and was restored by the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association. The island contains many environmental features, including a Great Blue Heron rookery and diverse plant life with three threatened species. Although the majority of the island is in its natural condition, there was a small village settlement in the 1850s and remains of the village exist today. This island is a key visual feature of the area for individuals crossing the Mackinac Bridge and driving along US-2.

Township Property-Moran Township Fishing Heritage Park

The Township decided at the July 2022 meeting to sell this property due to extensive wetlands and endangered wildflowers.

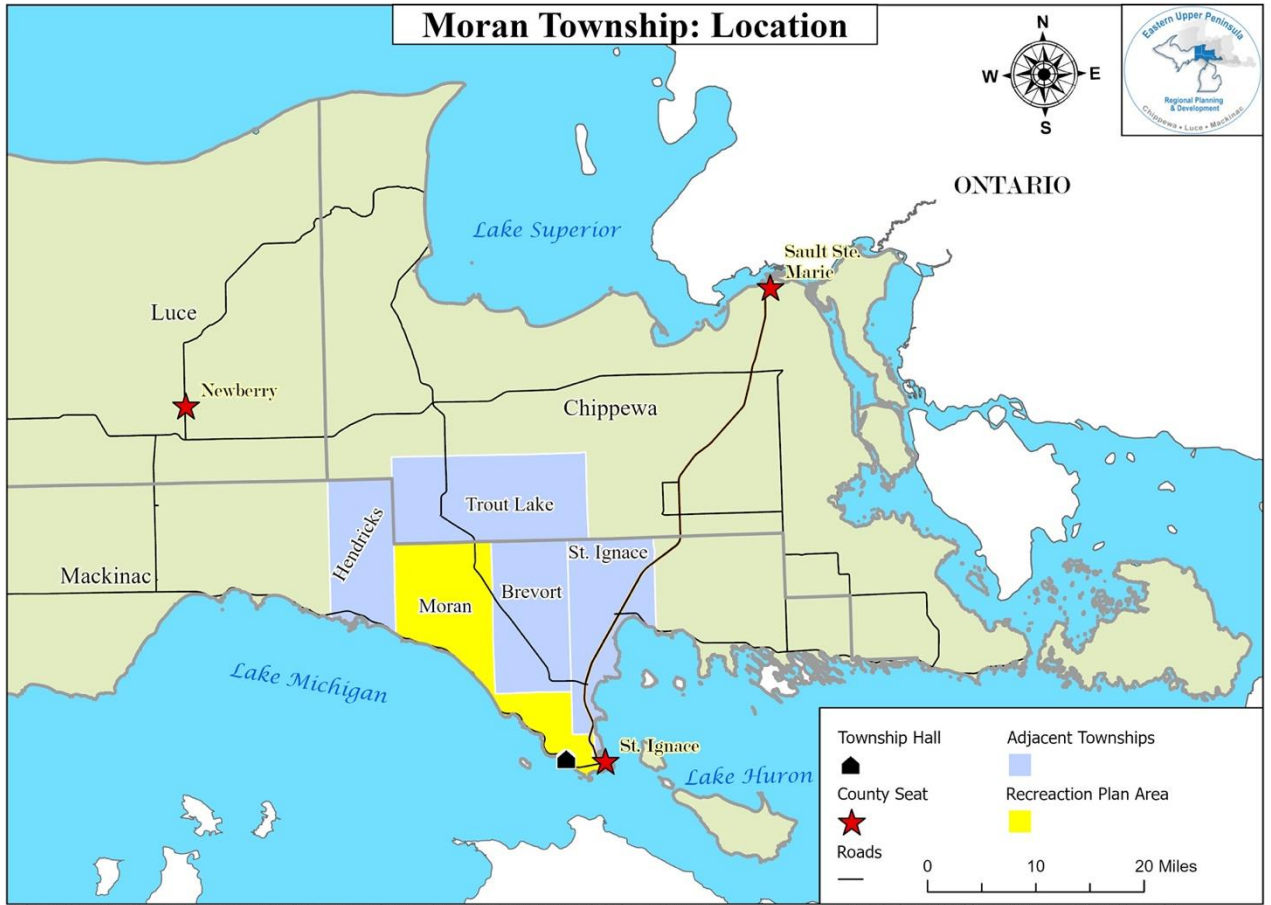
Chain Lake Property

The Township decided to sell this property at the May 2022 meeting because of the extensive cost of the dock and the condition of the lake.

Transportation

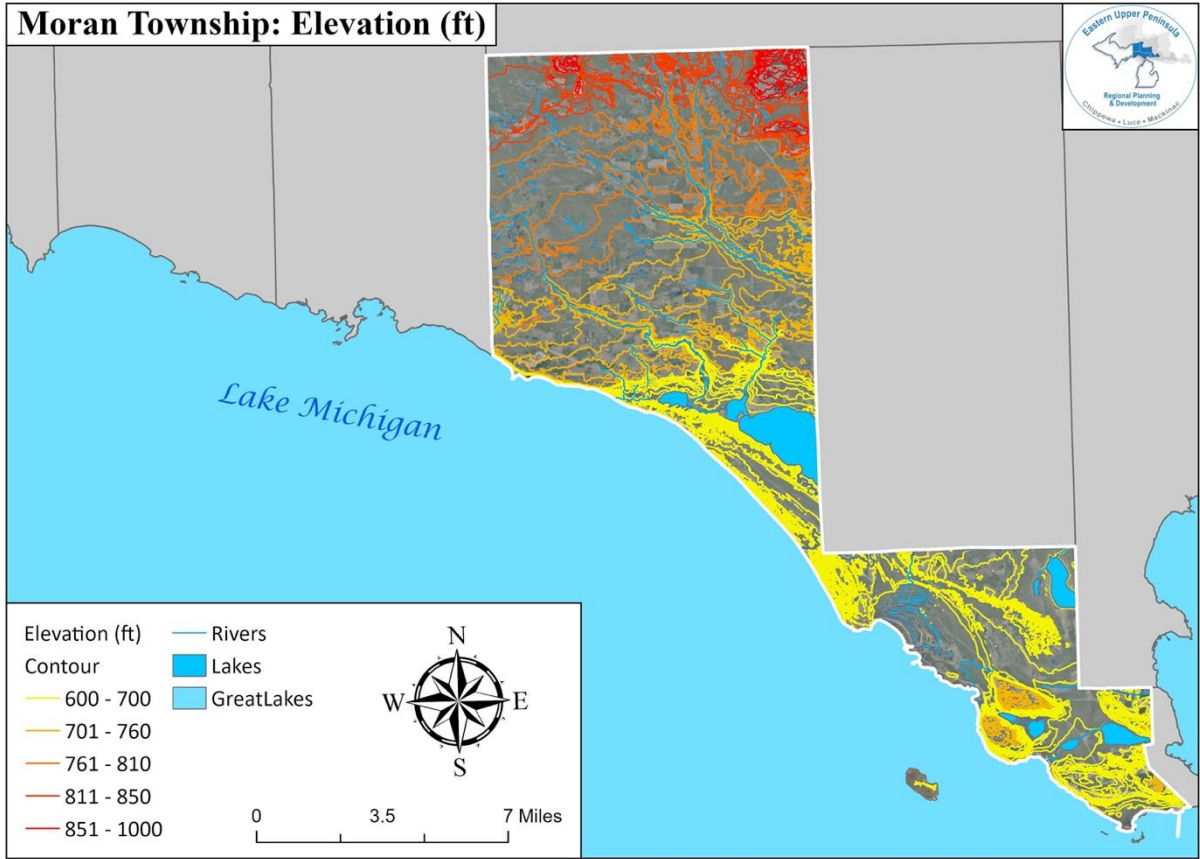
Transportation systems include a paved and graveled road network. Highway's US-2 and M-123 provide excellent access to the Township.

MAP 1 – LOCATION



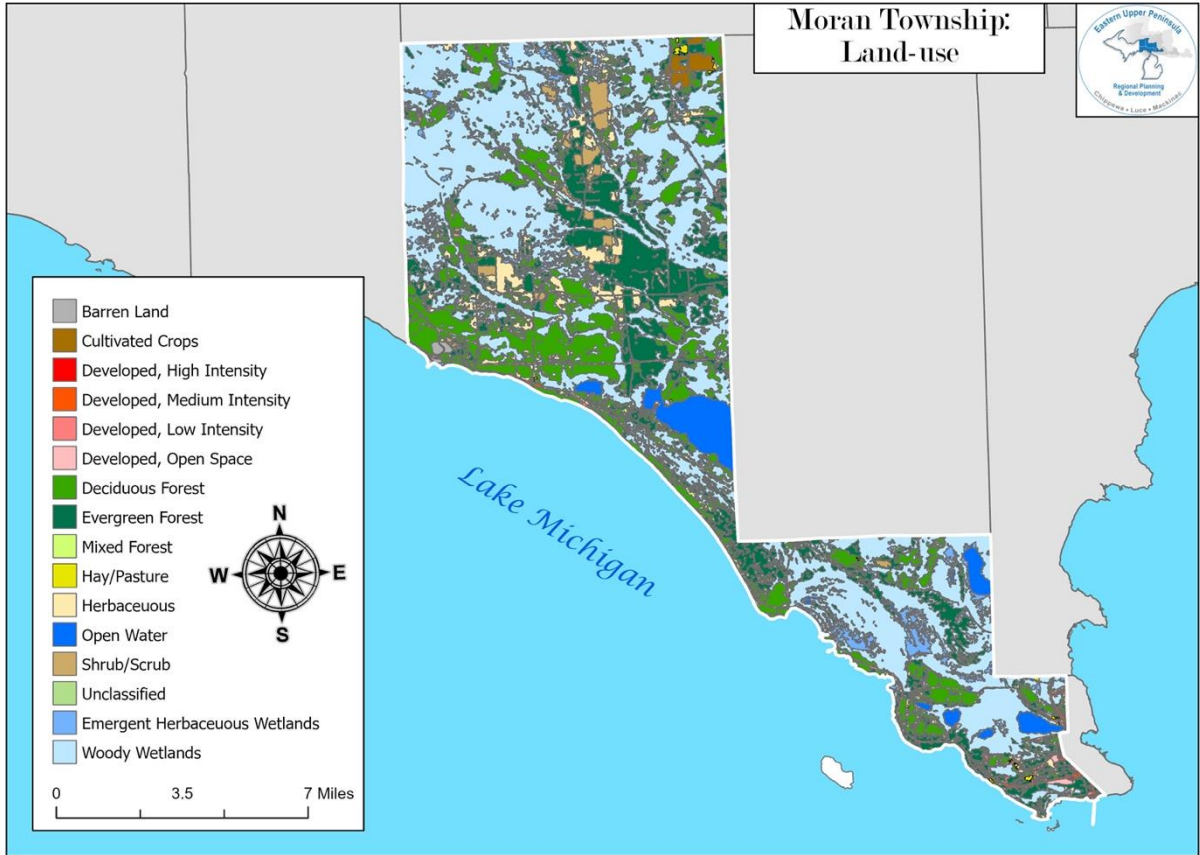
The information and data provided herein has been compiled from various sources, and is used by the EUPRDC Commission for its own general purposes. EUPRDC does not warrant or guarantee that this information and data is accurate or current, nor does EUPRDC warrant or guarantee that this information and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

MAP 2 – ELEVATION



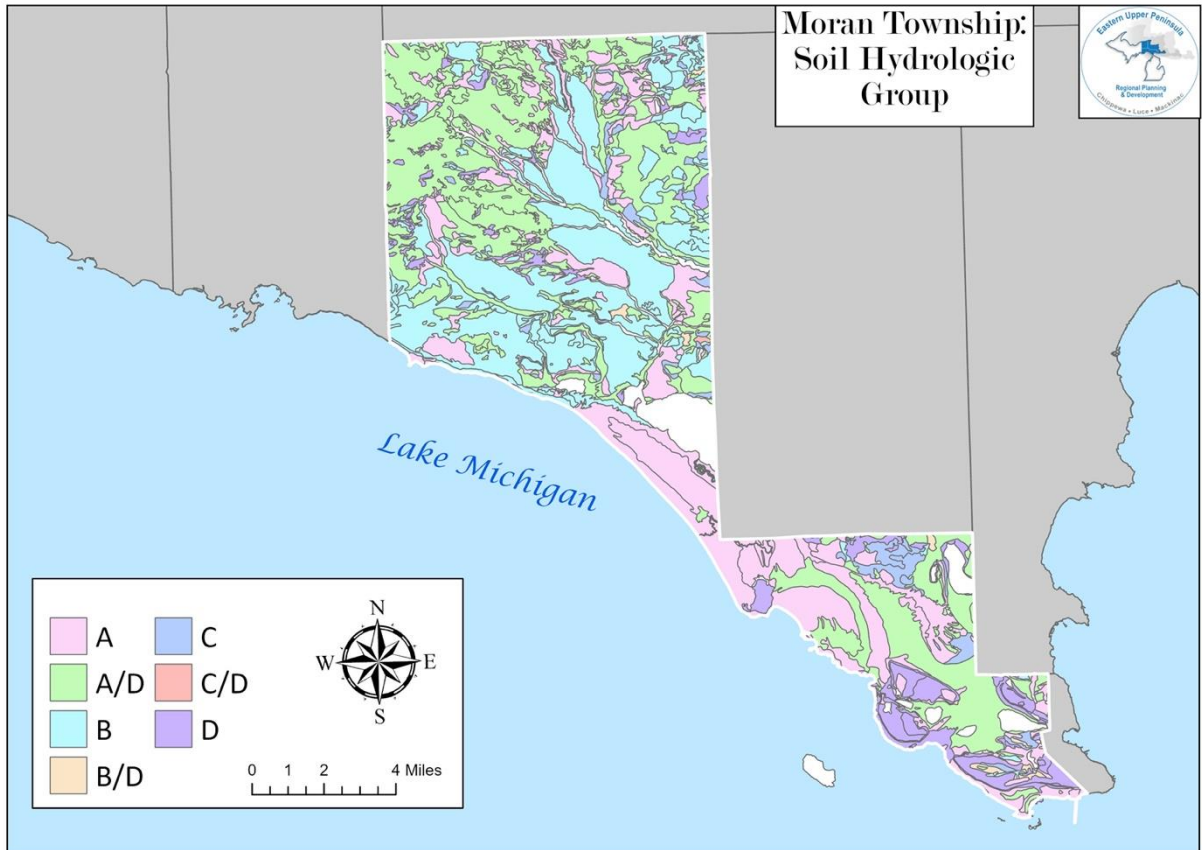
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MAP 3 – LAND USE



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MAP 4 – SOILS



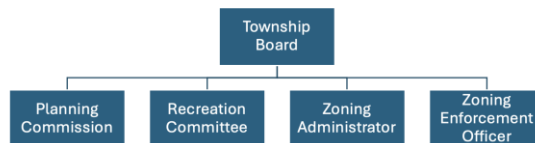
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Administration

As a small rural community, the administrative structure is fairly simple. The Moran Township Board of Trustees (Township Board) has the responsibility of providing recreational facilities for Township residents. As the legislative body, the Township Board is directly responsible for maintaining the recreational facilities within the Township. To assist in carrying out a successful recreational program, the Township Board allocated the responsibilities of developing a recreation plan to the Township Planning Commission.

Members of the Planning Commission are very active in the community and interested in developing activities for all age groups. The Planning Commission has held public meetings to determine what additional recreational facilities are needed and how to prioritize them. The Planning Commission meets once a month.

Administrative Chart



Planning Commission

Chris Kittell – Chair
Mark Spencer
Skip Schmidt
Randy Velie

Susan Tamlyn-Massaway – Secretary
Chuck Cullip
Harold Kriesche
Sharon MacDonald

Finances/Parks and Recreation Funding

In May of 2020, Moran Township residents passed a recreation millage of 0.25 mills annually for four years. The Township receives approximately \$36,000 per year from this millage to provide for general recreational activities in the area. The recreational facilities available for this program include the McCann Athletic Field, Little Bear East Arena, ball fields located along Portage Street adjacent to LaSalle High School and various other parks and recreation areas. The St. Ignace Golf and Country Club and Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park are not included.

A separate millage is dedicated for the operation and maintenance of Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park. The Township receives approximately \$36,000 per year for this purpose. The Township operates Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park which is under the supervision of the Moran Township Board of Trustees.

In December of 2016, an agreement was made between Moran Township and the City of St. Ignace to pay Little Bear East Fitness Center \$6,000 per year for free memberships to Moran Township Residents fifteen years of age and older.

Moran Township and the St. Ignace Golf Course entered into an agreement in July of 2018 to provide a 10% reduction in annual golf dues and free golf to children between the ages of eight and sixteen for a maximum of ten rounds of golf per year for \$6,000 per year.

In November of 2021, a two-mile fat tire bike and walking trail called Silver Mountain Bike Trail was constructed in the area of Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park at a cost of \$75,000. The township contributed \$15,000, the St. Ignace Visitor's Bureau \$30,000, and Enbridge Energy \$30,000.

Current Fund Balances:

04/09/2024 10:37 AM
 User: CLERK
 DB: Moran Township

BUDGET REPORT FOR MORAN TOWNSHIP
 Fund: 208 RECREATION FUND

Page: 28/33

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2024-25 ORIGINAL BUDGET
Dept 000 - NONE		
ESTIMATED REVENUES		
208-000-402.000	Current Real Property Taxes	88,000.00
208-000-411.000	Delinquent Real Property Taxes	
208-000-412.000	Delinquent Personal Property Taxes	
208-000-604.000	Local Comm STAB Authority	2,000.00
208-000-665.000	Interest	2,000.00
208-000-673.000	Sale of Fixed Assets	
208-000-676.000	Reimbursements	
208-000-678.000	Local Comm Stabilization Reimburse	
208-000-679.000	Other Revenue	
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		92,000.00
APPROPRIATIONS		
208-000-702.000	Salaries	1,000.00
208-000-714.000	Fringe Benefits - SS & MC	100.00
208-000-727.000	Supplies	5,000.00
208-000-728.000	Supplies - Golf	
208-000-801.000	Professional & Contractual Service	100,000.00
208-000-850.000	Communications (Phone, Radio, etc.	1,500.00
208-000-900.000	Printing and Publishing	800.00
208-000-920.000	Utilities	4,000.00
208-000-930.000	Repairs	1,000.00
208-000-950.000	Father Marquette Park Expenses	
208-000-955.000	Miscellaneous	100.00
208-000-971.000	Capital Outlay	100,000.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		213,500.00
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - 000 - NONE		(121,500.00)

04/09/2024 10:37 AM
 User: CLERK
 DB: Moran Township

BUDGET REPORT FOR MORAN TOWNSHIP
 Fund: 208 RECREATION FUND

Page: 29/33

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2024-25 ORIGINAL BUDGET
Dept 751 - PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT		
APPROPRIATIONS		
208-751-801.000	CONTRACT CITY OF SI	25,000.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		25,000.00
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - 751 - PARKS & RECREA		(25,000.00)
ESTIMATED REVENUES - FUND 208		92,000.00
APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 208		238,500.00
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 208		(146,500.00)
		-159.24%
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		
ENDING FUND BALANCE		

RECREATION INVENTORY

Inventory Procedures

The methods used by EUPRPDC staff to compile this recreational inventory include verification of compilation of information from previous recreation plan, site visits, research of internet resources including Google, Michigan DNR, and additional Geographic Informational Systems possessed by EUPRPDC. Staff took site visit photos and compiled information to compare with previous plan to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Assets that are inventoried serve residents of Moran Township and many visitors each year.

A Map of Inventory Sites (Map 5) is located on Page 29.

Township Owned Park and Recreation Facilities

Facility: Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park

Location: Five miles west of St. Ignace adjacent to US-2 West

Description: Operated by Moran Township. This facility is a very popular and inexpensive attraction. The ski hill provides skiing, tubing, and snowboarding. A warming shack with food and beverages is located on the site. During the summer months, the facility also provides a 24-hole disc golf course. A maintenance/parking garage was added for the groomer. A two-mile fat tire bike and walking trail called Silver Mountain Bike trail was constructed in the area.

Condition: Good

Barrier Free/Compliance: All of the provided facilities are handicap accessible.

Needs: Residents would like skating improved at this location.

Facility: Gros Cap School Playground and Gymnasium

Location: Gros Cap School

Description: Playground and gym are generally used for the school programs and activities but may be made available for public use through arrangements with the school.

Condition: Adequate

Barrier Free/Compliance: All of the school's facilities are handicap accessible.

Needs: N/A

Facility: Golf Course / Golf Club

Location: Hwy US-2; City of St Ignace

Description: This nine-hole golf course consists of starter house, clubhouse renovated in 1995, and other supporting buildings.

Condition: Overcrowded

Barrier Free/Compliance: This facility is open to all individuals. Facilities and the restrooms serving the golf course are handicap accessible.

Needs: Acquire additional property and add nine more holes. There is a preliminary design for additional holes.

Facility: Lake Michigan Sand Dunes

Location: Along north shore of Lake Michigan; Hwy US-2

Description: Several miles of sand dunes and beaches located along the north shore of Lake Michigan are available to the public for swimming, sunbathing, and hiking. The dunes and beaches, located adjacent to US-2 West, are accessible from several pull-off parking spots. The area is also noted for beautiful summer sunsets over Lake Michigan.

Condition: Excellent

Barrier Free/Compliance: The dunes are accessible to everyone. Restrooms nearby at Lake Michigan Campground are handicap accessible.

Needs: N/A

Trails and Routes

Facility: Snowmobile Trails

Location: Throughout the Township

Description: Snowmobile trails are available throughout the Township. The Department of Natural Resources maintains the trails. This activity is very popular in this area. Motels and restaurants are busy in the winter serving these visitors. Road right-of-way and old railroad and railway lines are popular routes.

Condition: Good

Barrier Free/Compliance: The trails are accessible to all individuals. All restrooms from the trail are handicap accessible.

Needs: More stringent safety rules

Facility: Cross Country Ski Trails

Location: Brevort Road

Description: The U.S. Forest Service, custodians of the Hiawatha National Forest, provides several cross-country ski trails throughout the Upper Peninsula. The seven-loop Sand Dunes Trail is located nearest to St. Ignace on Brevort Road about 0.4 miles north of US-2. The Cross-Country Ski Club grooms the trail. The trail is closed to motorized vehicles, but it may be used for hiking in the off-season months

Condition: Excellent

Barrier Free/Compliance: The ski trails are available for use by everyone. Restrooms serving the trails are handicap accessible.

Facility: North Country Trail

Location: Starts at Straits State Park and continues through the Hiawatha National Forest.

Description: Walk, hike or backpack through miles of forested hills and valleys; places where the beautiful work of nature's hand appears undiminished, and places where our rich and diverse cultural heritage can be understood, enjoyed, and relived. Other non-motorized uses, including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and jogging, are generally permitted. A few segments allow bicycling or horseback riding is allowed.

Facility: Railroad Corridor – North Section

Location: North of Marquette Street

Description: 63 acres of the Wisconsin Central Railroad right-of-way lying generally north of Marquette Street. This site is referred as the "Round House", and it has been developed into a basketball court and skateboard park.

Facility: Railroad Corridor – South Section

Location: South of Marquette Street

Description: This former railroad right-of-way, lying south of Marquette Street, consists of a long narrow section of land running generally parallel to and west of the downtown business district. Except for the "Round House" site mentioned earlier, this property was purchased with city funds. During the winter months, the former railroad bed of the South Section, along with the Railroad Corridor-North Section, is used for snowmobiling. connecting to MDNR trails. The corridor is also used as an alternate vehicular route and overflow parking for the downtown business district.

Surrounding Areas

Facility: Mackinac Island

Location: Straits of Mackinac.

Description: This site is a very popular vacation spot. It has the famous Grand Hotel. The Island attracts thousands of people during the summer season with historical and beautiful attractions.

Facility: Little Bear Forest Arena and Community Center

Location: Railroad Corridor-North Section, Marquette St.; St. Ignace

Description: This is a large facility that houses a NHL-size ice rink and arena seating for 400 people. There also is a large conference meeting room with seating that can accommodate up to 400 people, which can be divided into two smaller rooms. Other features include four locker rooms/showers, full concession, caterer's kitchen, restrooms, offices, and weight training/aerobics equipment. There is a small pond with a small fishing pier that will be stocked. There is also a staging area and trailhead for ATVs and snowmobiles with connection to the MDNR trail system. It also contains two baseball/softball fields, a concession stand, bathrooms, walking paths, and green space.

Facility: Dock #1 Community Park/Boat Launch

Location: Lake Huron, State Street; Downtown City of St. Ignace

Description: This Park contains picnic tables, grills, restrooms, and walkways on two piers. In 1975, the city added a picnic shelter, unprotected boat launch, interpreted signs, and memorial gardens. In 1988, new playground equipment was added. Landscaping, lighting, pier railing, and benches were added in spring of 2001.

Facility: Dock #2

Location: North End of State Street

Description: This marina is in the process of being improved. When complete, there will be two new break walls, 136 boat slips with electric hookups, shower house, and gasoline pumps. For planning purposes, the Chief Wawatam dock (train-car ferry) is included with this site

Facility: Basketball Court and Skateboard Park

Location: Ellsworth Street–Railroad Corridor South; City of St. Ignace

Description: Built in fall of 2000 and was funded by donations.

Facility: Lake Street Basketball Court

Location: On Lake Street, NW area of City of St Ignace

Description: Constructed 1974 and restored in 1991. The facility has 30' x 50' blacktop surface, lighting, parking area, and basketball boards.

Facility: Double Tennis Court and Practice Board

Location: Corner of Truckey St and Cambers St; City of St Ignace

Description: Updated fencing, lighting, and double set of practice boards. New metal nets added in 1994.

Facility: McCann Field

Location: Corner of McCann and Chamber St.

Description: This site contains one football field with large home team and visitor's bleachers, dressing room/field house, restrooms, and scoreboard. The fields are used for both St. Ignace School and City athletic programs.

Facility: Huron Boardwalk – Downtown Development

Location: Along Lake Huron Shoreline by Kiwanis Beach

Description: Shoreline boardwalk along Lake Huron's East Moran Bay includes seating/resting areas and interpretive displays along the route. There is 4,500 linear feet of handicapped accessible walkway from Kiwanis Beach to American Legion Park which was recently constructed.

Facility: Straits State Park Campground - MDNR

Location: Moran Township/City of St. Ignace on the Straits of Mackinac

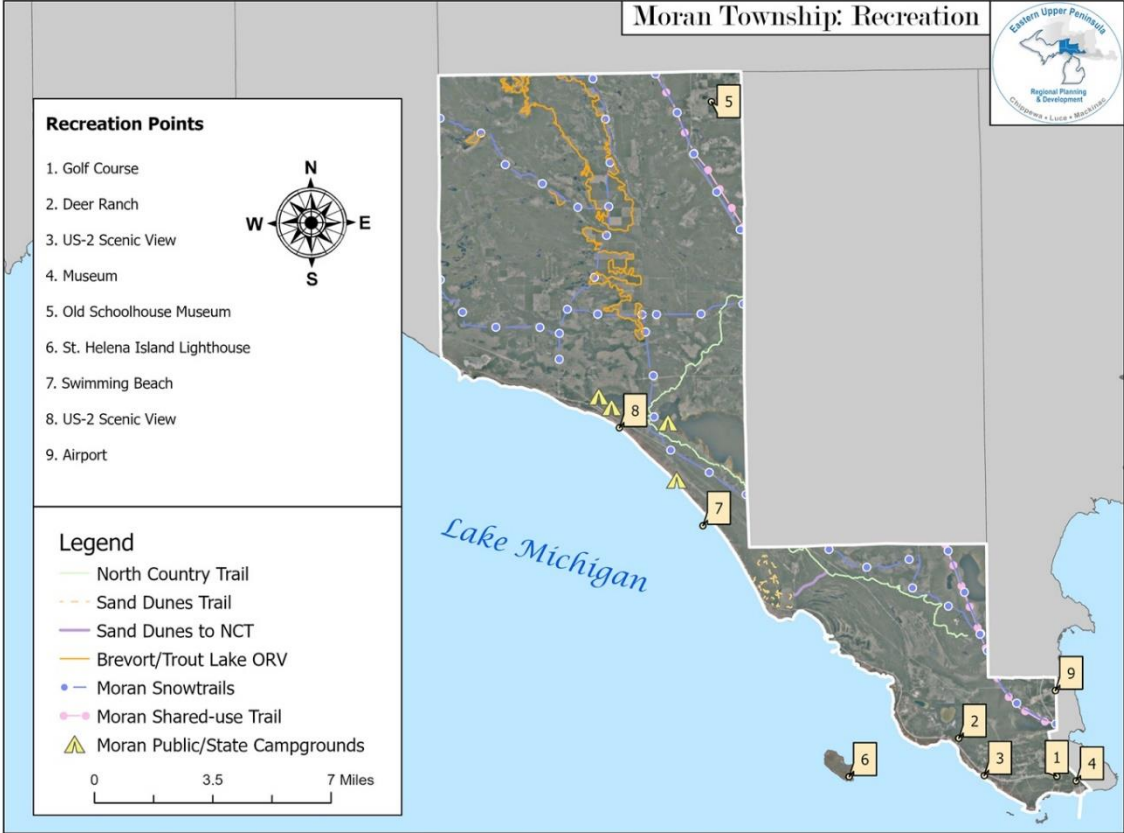
Description: The east unit of this park contains a campground with 275 modern camping sites (electricity, fire pit, and picnic tables), four restroom buildings with showers, toilets and sinks, picnic area with toilets, beach area, playground equipment, and two dumping stations. The west unit includes the Father Marquette National Memorial, hiking trails, and a 15-station interpretive trail. The park is designed to educate visitors about 17th Century Jesuit and explorer Jacques Marquette and the French and Native American cultures.

Facility: Straits Underwater Preserve - MDNR

Location: Straits of Mackinac

Description: This underwater preserve area encompasses the Straits of Mackinac, which connects Lakes Michigan and Huron at St. Ignace and Mackinaw City. The preserve contains unusual underwater geologic formations and numerous shipwrecks and is provided to the public for scuba diving and exploration.

MAP 5 – RECREATION



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

PLANNING PROCESS

The development of this township recreation plan involved interaction and input from the community, planning commission, and the township board. Moran Township appointed members to carry out necessary actions on behalf of the community to establish this recreation plan. Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission was contracted to work with members in the writing, surveying, and public review to submit an approved plan to MDNR. Several meetings and survey results were open to the public within allocated time for comments with accordance to MDNR requirements for recreation planning.

A time for development of the recreation plan is as follows:

March 2024	Moran Township contracts with EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission to update and develop recreation plan.
April 2024	EUP staff develops community survey for recreation plan. Survey used to gather community and public feedback on recreational facilities of the township. Posted on Regional Planning's website, Moran Township site, and sent to members.
June 2024	Survey is closed. Results are analyzed and added to recreation plan. EUPRPDC and Moran Township close out draft for public review.
August 2024	The draft plan is posted for a 30-day public review period at Moran Township's website and EUPRPDC's website. A notice for plan availability and public meeting after 30-day period was published XXXX.
Xxxx 2024	Public Hearing

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION PLAN

The purpose of this 5-year plan for Moran Township is to expand and improve the recreational facilities and opportunities for the visitors and residents. In order to continue with this plan as a base for community improvement, the community will focus on a few main goals, with objectives, to guide progress throughout the duration of this plan. The following will be an action program to specify when, where, and how the goals and objectives will be achieved.

Recreation/Issues/Needs by Priority

Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park: Replace/repair water pumps and purchase snow making equipment.

Priority: **High**

Rebuild the Father Marquette National Memorial Museum.

Priority: **High**

Build a Pedestrian Bridge across I-75 to connect the East and West Units of the Straits State Park.

Priority: **High**

Develop the Boulevard Drive Recreation Area. This scenic recreation area can be easily accessed by automobile and by walking/bicycling with road improvements and the development of bicycle trails from the Father Marquette National Memorial. This site offers exceptional birding along the Great Lakes marsh providing a unique ecological and educational experience. To the southwest, across the Straits of Mackinac, is a world-class dark sky park providing enhanced views of the night sky. Agreements between Moran Township and private utilities for public recreation must be approved. Purchase of private land along Boulevard Drive would safeguard portions of the shoreline and expand opportunities within the park.

Priority: **High**

Boat harbors are needed along the shoreline of Moran Township. These facilities will benefit local recreation and tourism and will provide increased boater safety. Possible areas considered for such harbors may include Brevort, Mackinac Bridge area, and Pt. Aux Chenes.

Priority: **Medium**

Boat launching sites are needed along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Possible locations of these sites may include Pt. Aux Chenes, Brevort, and areas immediately west of the Mackinac Bridge.

Priority: **Medium**

Providing active play areas in Brevort and Gros Cap.

Priority: **Low**

Expanding the natural scenic cross-country ski areas within the Township. Desirable sites for trail expansion may be the Little Brevort and Brevort Lake area.

Priority: **Low**

Expanding the existing snowmobile trail system.

Priority: **Low**

Providing bridle trails.

Priority: **Medium**

Providing a firearm target range.

Priority: **Low**

Providing a golf driving range.

Priority: **Low**

Need for bicycle trail along US-2. Work with MDOT to build trail when the Highway is being improved or expanded.

Priority: **Medium**

Increased development of land and facilities at Doc Holle's Winter Recreation Park. The current snowmaking capability needs to be increased.

Priority: **Medium**

Action Program

The Township's Action Plan is based on community needs and public input.

Capital Improvement Program:

2024 Repair or replace pumps and snow making equipment at Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park.

Cost: \$100,000.00+ Anticipated funding: LOCAL

2018 Conduct an assessment of parcels that could be used for play areas in Brevort and Gros Cap. Work with community groups to prioritize their acquisitions.

Cost: \$7,000 Anticipated funding: LOCAL

2015 Create Friends of Straits State Park 501(c)3

Cost \$1,000 Anticipated funding: LOCAL

2015 Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study

Cost: \$50,000 Anticipated funding: MDOT/LOCAL

2015 Father Marquette Museum

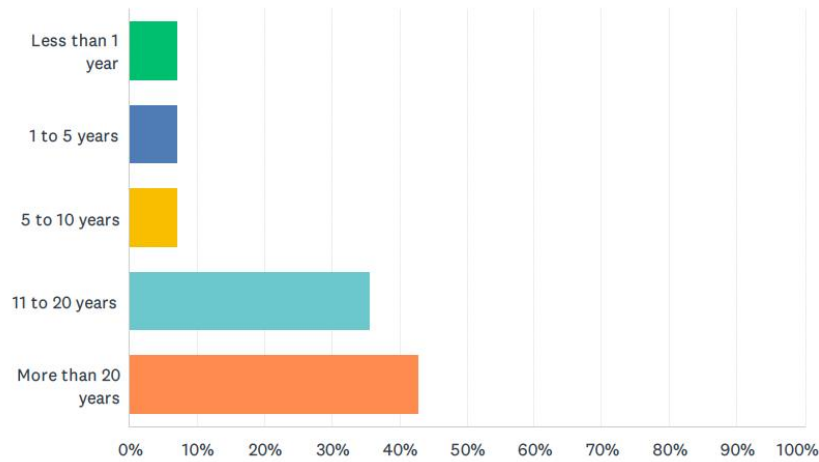
Cost: \$50,000 Anticipated funding: MNRTF

APPENDIX A – COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Moran Township Recreation Plan

Q1 How long have you been a part of Moran Township (living, working, or recreating in the community)?

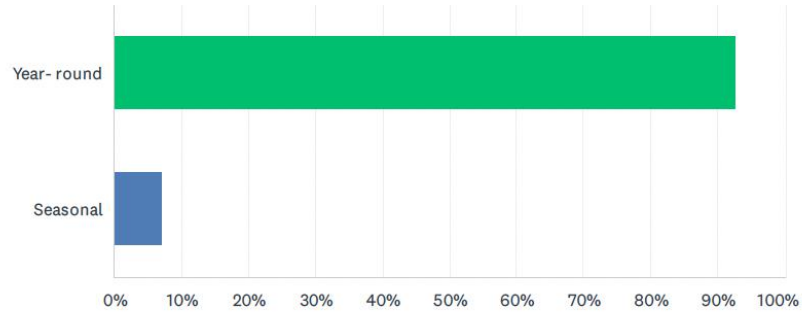
Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	7.14%	1
1 to 5 years	7.14%	1
5 to 10 years	7.14%	1
11 to 20 years	35.71%	5
More than 20 years	42.86%	6
TOTAL		14

Q2 Which kind of Township member are you?

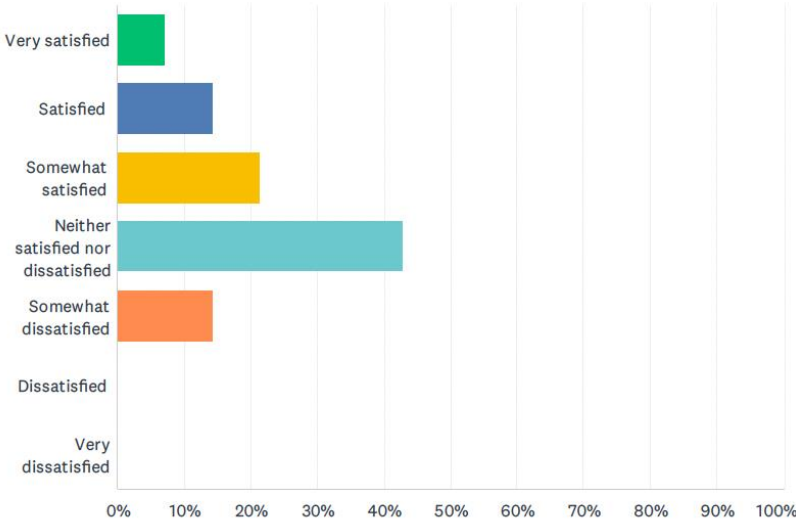
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Year- round	92.86%	13
Seasonal	7.14%	1
TOTAL		14

Q3 How satisfied are you with the present number of public parks and recreation facilities available in Moran Township?

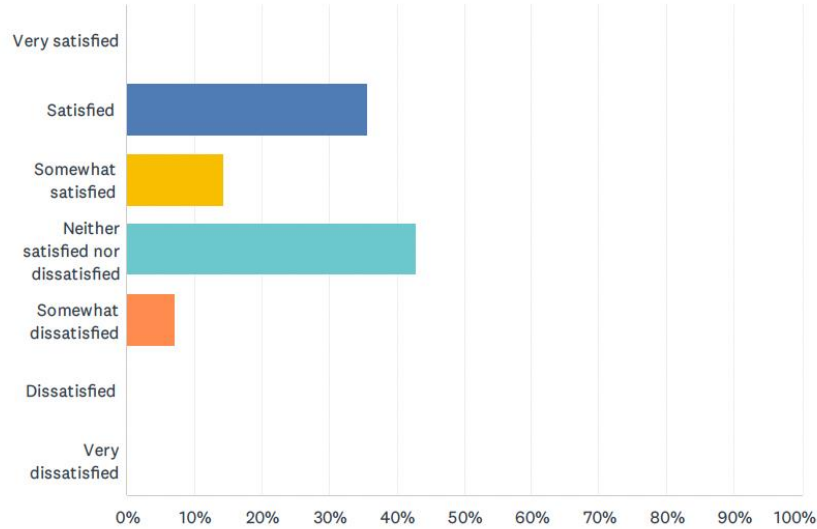
Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	7.14%	1
Satisfied	14.29%	2
Somewhat satisfied	21.43%	3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	42.86%	6
Somewhat dissatisfied	14.29%	2
Dissatisfied	0.00%	0
Very dissatisfied	0.00%	0
TOTAL		14

Q4 How Satisfied are you with the maintenance of public parks and recreation facilities available in Moran Township?

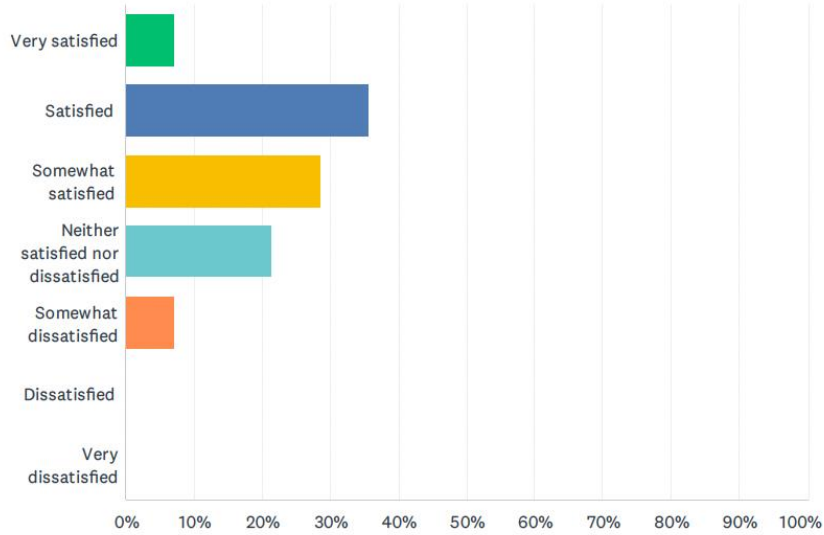
Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	0.00%	0
Satisfied	35.71%	5
Somewhat satisfied	14.29%	2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	42.86%	6
Somewhat dissatisfied	7.14%	1
Dissatisfied	0.00%	0
Very dissatisfied	0.00%	0
TOTAL		14

Q5 How satisfied are you with the amount of land that is set aside for recreation purposes in Moran Township?

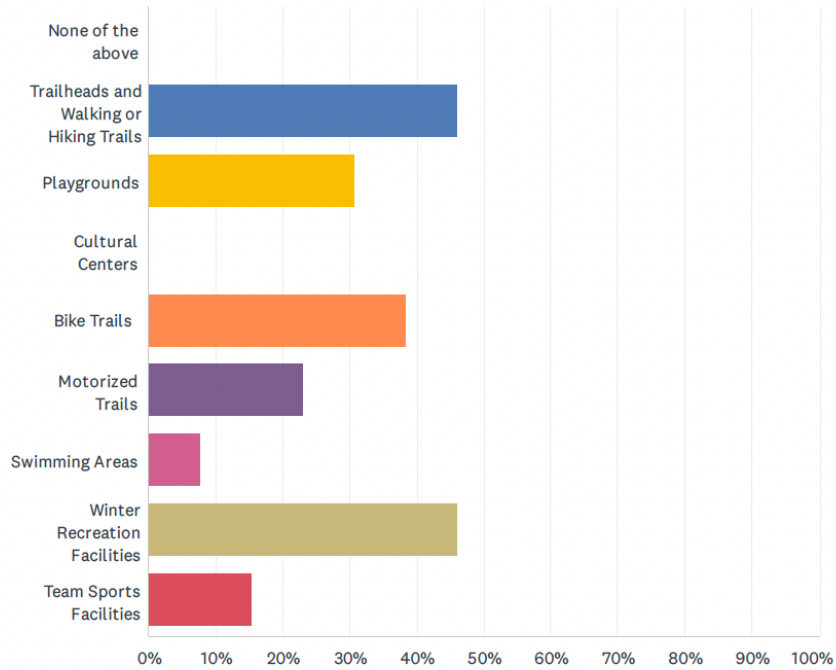
Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	7.14%	1
Satisfied	35.71%	5
Somewhat satisfied	28.57%	4
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.43%	3
Somewhat dissatisfied	7.14%	1
Dissatisfied	0.00%	0
Very dissatisfied	0.00%	0
TOTAL		14

Q6 What additional recreational facilities does your community need? (check all that apply)

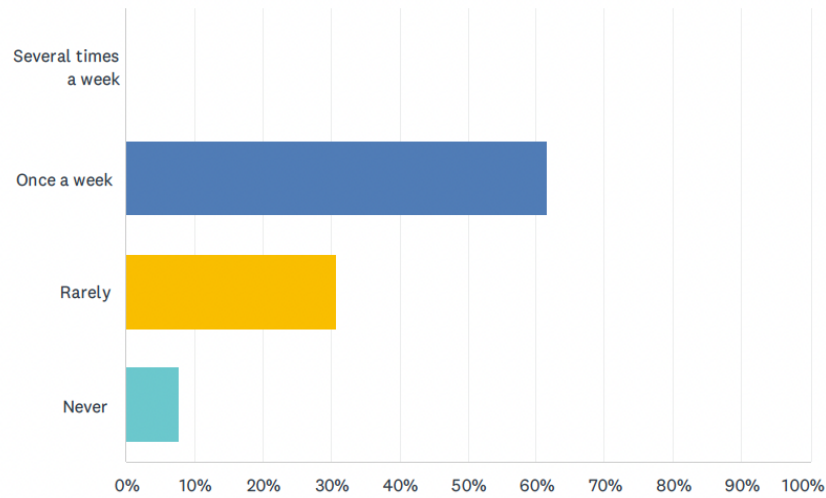
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0.00%	0
Trailheads and Walking or Hiking Trails	46.15%	6
Playgrounds	30.77%	4
Cultural Centers	0.00%	0
Bike Trails	38.46%	5
Motorized Trails	23.08%	3
Swimming Areas	7.69%	1
Winter Recreation Facilities	46.15%	6
Team Sports Facilities	15.38%	2
Total Respondents: 13		

Q7 Approximately how often during the past year did you, or members of your household use, or visit any public park or recreation facility located within Moran Township?

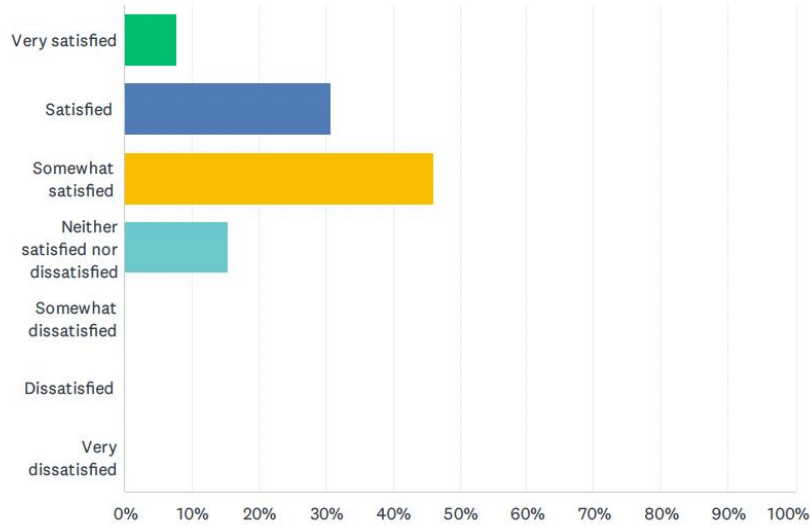
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Several times a week	0.00%	0
Once a week	61.54%	8
Rarely	30.77%	4
Never	7.69%	1
TOTAL		13

Q8 Please rate your impression of the facilities that you use most frequently.

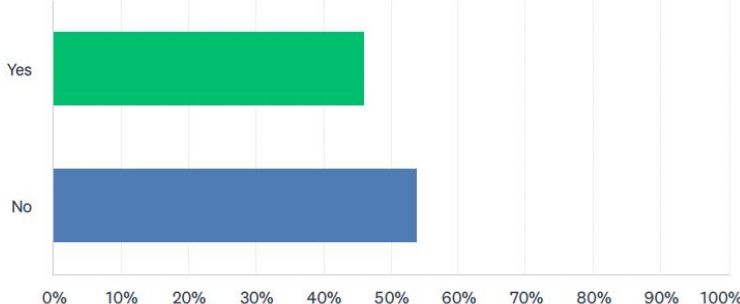
Answered: 13 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	7.69%	1
Satisfied	30.77%	4
Somewhat satisfied	46.15%	6
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15.38%	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	0.00%	0
Dissatisfied	0.00%	0
Very dissatisfied	0.00%	0
TOTAL		13

Q9 Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee for entrance to improved parks and recreational facilities?

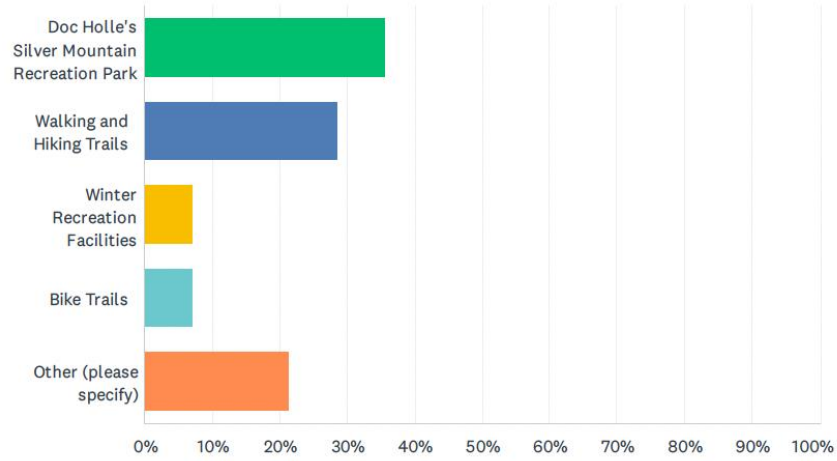
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	46.15%	6
No	53.85%	7
TOTAL		13

Q10 Where would you most like to see funds most allocated for recreation services?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Recreation Park	35.71%	5
Walking and Hiking Trails	28.57%	4
Winter Recreation Facilities	7.14%	1
Bike Trails	7.14%	1
Other (please specify)	21.43%	3
TOTAL		14

APPENDIX B – PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

APPENDIX C – COMMUNITY CHECKLIST