



# RECREATION MASTER PLAN

## 2024 - 2028



ADOPTED DECEMBER 11, 2023





## WITH THANKS

This document is a replacement to the previous Recreation Master Plan. It is a direct result of the efforts of the Steering Committee and is based on the ideas, opinions, and vision shared by the many Township residents and other public and private sector stakeholders who provided input during the planning process. Their input was invaluable in forming this guide which will help to guide the future of Howell Township Parks & Recreation.

## PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

- Joe Daus
- Martha Haglund
- Jonathan Hohenstein

## HOWELL TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

- Wayne Williams, Chairman
- Matthew Counts, Board Representative
- Denise Markham
- Tim Boal
- Mike Newstead
- Paul Pominville
- Robert Spaulding
- Bob Wilson, Board Alternate
- Joe Daus, Zoning Administrator

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- Mike Coddington, Supervisor
- Sue Daus, Clerk
- Jonathan Hohenstein, Treasurer
- Matthew Counts, Trustee
- Harold Melton, Trustee
- Jeff Smith, Trustee
- Bob Wilson, Trustee

With Assistance Provided By:







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# CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION





*Image Source: Flickr/Tudor Apmadoc*

# INTRODUCTION

The **2024 - 2028 Howell Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan (PRMP)** is an update to the Township's 2019 - 2023 Recreation Plan. This revised and updated plan will guide the community's recreation planning and development efforts over the next five years, taking into account the expressed desires of residents and community leaders. The Plan meets state standards for community recreation planning and will make the Township eligible to apply for state funded grant programs.

## PLAN CONTENTS

The PRMP follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR, 2021) in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans.

- The PRMP begins with a brief overview of the plan as well as a **Description of the Planning Process** used to develop the plan.
- The plan then presents a **Community Description**, providing information on both the social and physical characteristics of the community.
- The **Administrative Structure** is described next, including information on funding and budget.
- A detailed **Recreation Inventory** describes the existing parks and recreational facilities of the community as well as those of the state and the region.
- The **Public Participation** portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents.
- The information gathered in the previous sections helped to formulate the plan's **Goals and Objectives**.
- The **Action Program** then provides an action plan and strategies for implementation.
- Finally, the **Supporting Documents** include detailed accounts of the public input received as well as the resolutions and notices documenting the plan's adoption by the Howell Township Board of Trustees.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The process used to generate the plan consists of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development.

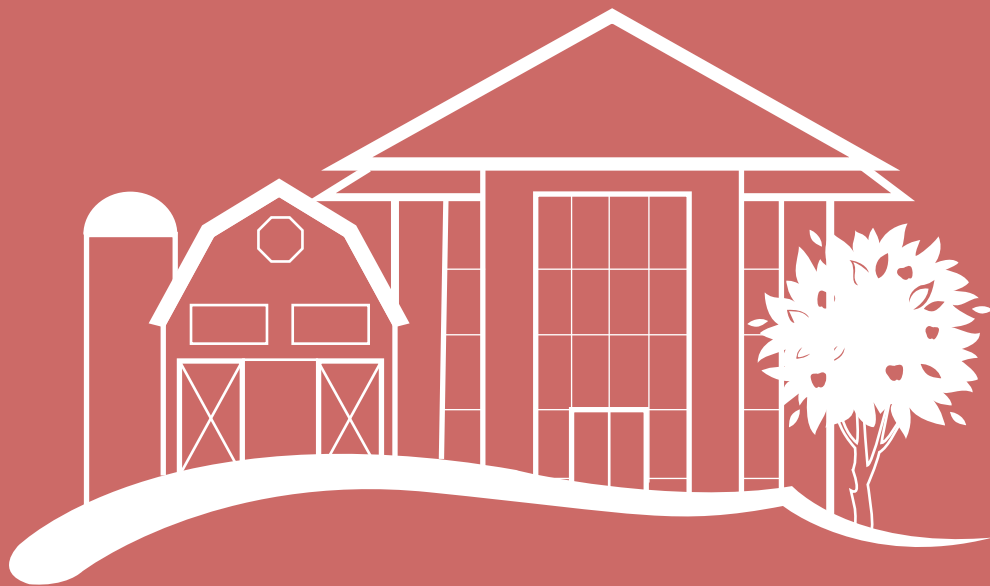
- 1. Background Studies.** This phase involved gathering and updating data from census data, existing documents, plans, and field observations. The information is organized into three chapters: community description (Appendix A), administrative structure, and recreation inventory.
- 2. Evaluation.** The second phase in the planning process includes an evaluation and analysis of gathered data as well as community input to determine recreation facilities and program needs. A public input session was conducted to receive residents' opinions, input, and ideas for the park and recreation system. Input from local officials and the members of the Recreation Plan Steering Committee was also used.
- 3. Plan Development.** The last phase in the process involves plan development and adoption. Based on the deficiencies and needs, goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan developed. Strategies to implement the plan are also discussed.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier.



## CHAPTER 2

# COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION



# COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

For purposes of this report, “Howell” and “the Township” will refer to Howell Township. The adjacent city will be referred to as “the City of Howell”.

Howell is centrally located between Ann Arbor and Lansing, which sit approximately 25 miles to the southeast and west respectively, and is roughly 50 miles northwest of Detroit. The Township lies in the northwest quadrant of Livingston County. The City of Howell lies in sections 25 to 27 and 35 to 36 in the southeast corner of the Township.

Livingston County is located on the northwestern edge of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) planning region. SEMCOG is the regional planning agency that conducts planning studies and maintains a comprehensive database of information about the counties of Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Wayne, Washtenaw, and Monroe. It is a source for some of the population and land use related data included in this report.

In planning for the future recreation needs of Howell Township, it is essential to understand both the community of people to be served and the recreation resources which the community offers. The first part of this document provides an overview of the population, physical, and recreation resources of the Township with the goal of understanding the unique features and opportunities the community offers.

## CLIMATE

Howell Township receives an average annual rainfall of 32 inches plus 32 inches of snow. The average high temperature in July is 83 degrees Fahrenheit, and the average low in January is 15 degrees. Both precipitation and temperature could be significantly impacted in the future by climate change. According to the Michigan Environmental Council, temperatures will grow significantly warmer. Overall, precipitation is forecasted to increase, but the majority of the increase will occur in the spring months, with prolonged drought periods possible in summer months. Rain events will be “flashy” with heavy downpours, and storm events will grow more severe. The Great Lakes, which act to moderate temperature extremes across the state, could face a significant decrease in volume.

## TRANSPORTATION

Despite the highly rural nature of the community, Howell is well connected to surrounding communities and to the larger urban centers of Ann Arbor, Lansing, and metro Detroit. I-96 runs through the southeast corner of the Township, connecting with interstates and US-23 to the east. Grand River Avenue runs parallel to I-96, less than one mile north, and serves as a primary connector between the Village of Fowlerville and the City of Howell.

The Township is located approximately 40 miles from Lansing’s Capital Region International Airport and 60 miles from Detroit Metropolitan Airport, both of which offer direct flights to a number of national and international cities.

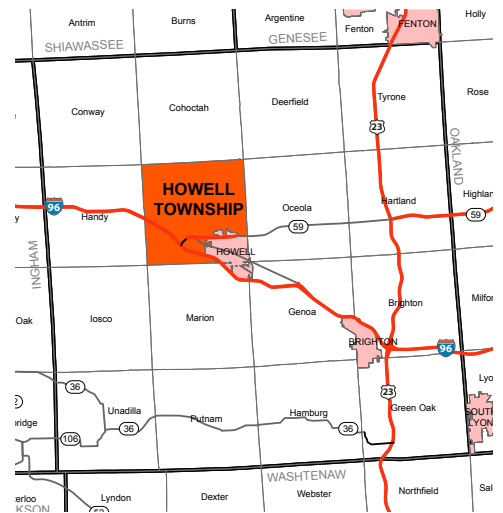


FIGURE 1: LIVINGSTON COUNTY



FIGURE 2: SEMCOG REGION

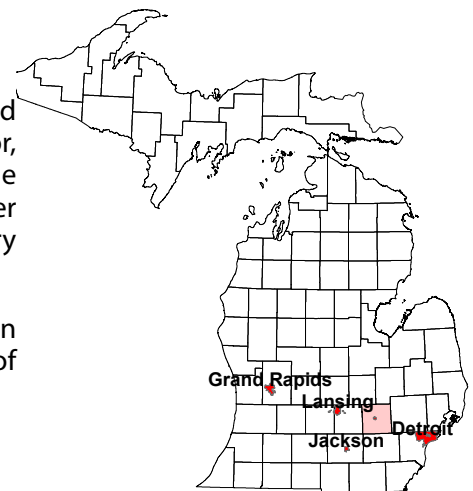


FIGURE 3: STATE OF MICHIGAN

## POPULATION

Table 2 presents the population, household, and housing characteristics of Howell Township according to the U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG Forecast information.

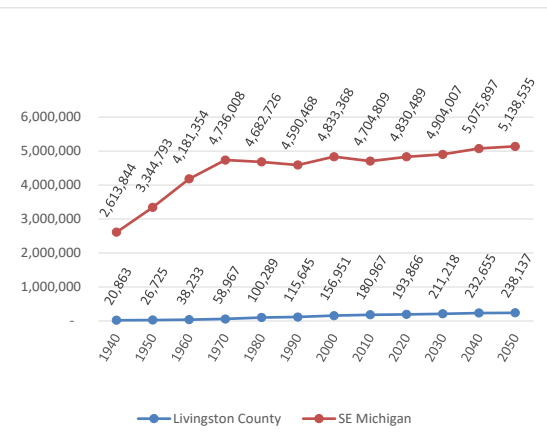
Livingston County saw a strong 24% growth rate from 2000 to 2020, making it the fastest growing Southeast Michigan county during that time period. Most of the Howell area communities exceeded that growth rate, with Oceola Township seeing the highest percentage increase at 75%. Southeast Michigan as a whole, however, saw its population stay essentially flat, with gains in smaller communities largely offset by losses in metro Detroit and many downriver communities.

The Township is somewhat unusual in that the median age decreased slightly from 2010 to 2021. According to SEMCOG data, Howell's median age fell from 40.9 in 2010 to 39.2 in 2021. In contrast, Michigan and the country as a whole trended towards an increasing median age (Michigan's median age increased from 38.1 to 39.8, while the US increased from 36.9 to 38.4).

**TABLE 1: HISTORICAL POPULATION COUNTS - HOWELL REGION**

	1990	2000	2010	2020	% change 2010 - 20
Howell Township	4,294	5,679	6,702	7,893	17.8%
Cohoctah Township	2,693	3,394	3,317	3,246	-2.1%
Conway Township	1,818	2,732	3,546	3,608	1.7%
Deerfield Township	3,000	4,087	4,170	4,166	-0.1%
Genoa Township	10,820	15,901	19,821	20,692	4.4%
Handy Township	2,840	4,032	5,120	5,651	10.4%
Iosco Township	1,567	3,039	3,801	3,870	1.8%
Marion Township	4,918	6,757	9,996	11,245	12.5%
Oceola Township	4,866	8,362	11,936	14,623	22.5%
City of Howell	8,147	9,232	9,489	10,068	6.1%
Fowlerville	2,648	2,972	2,886	2,951	2.3%
Livingston County	115,645	156,951	180,967	193,866	7.1%
Region	4,590,468	4,833,368	4,704,809	4,830,489	2.7%

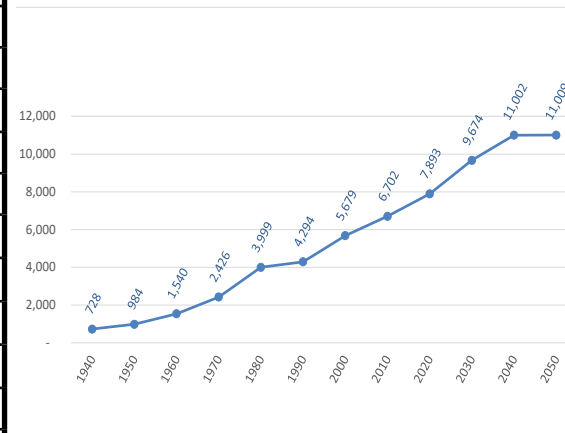
**FIGURE 4: POPULATION TRENDS IN SE MI & LIVINGSTON COUNTY**



**TABLE 2: POPULATION PROJECTIONS - HOWELL REGION**

	2010	SEMCOG estimate 2020	SEMCOG estimate 2050	% change 2020 - 50	Total change 2020 - 50
Howell Township	6,702	7,893	11,009	39.5%	3,116
Cohoctah Township	3,317	3,246	3,308	1.9%	62
Conway Township	3,546	3,608	4,324	19.8%	716
Deerfield Township	4,170	4,166	4,592	10.2%	426
Genoa Township	19,821	20,692	26,429	27.7%	5,737
Handy Township	5,120	5,651	8,022	42.0%	2,371
Iosco Township	3,801	3,870	4,154	7.3%	284
Marion Township	9,996	11,245	14,043	24.9%	2,798
Oceola Township	11,936	14,623	19,493	33.3%	4,870
City of Howell	9,489	10,068	10,802	7.3%	734
Fowlerville	2,886	2,951	3,074	4.2%	123
Livingston County	180,967	193,866	238,137	22.8%	44,271
Region	4,704,809	4,830,489	5,138,535	6.4%	308,046

**FIGURE 5: POPULATION TRENDS IN HOWELL TOWNSHIP**



The number of residents 45 and older increased significantly from 2010 to 2021, with the population 65 and older nearly doubling in that time. There was also a notable increase in the residents under 44, suggesting that younger families may be moving into the Township.

It will be important to take into consideration the needs of an aging population and additional young residents as the Township plans its park and recreation system. Ideally, any new recreation facilities will be able to accommodate a wide variety of age groups and abilities.

### Racial Characteristics

Howell Township's racial composition is quite homogeneous, with non-Hispanic whites making up over 90% of the population. There has been a gradual trend towards more diversity in recent years, with the predominant group decreasing from 97.0% in 2000 to 90% in 2020. In 2021, the Township's Hispanic population was 4.0% and the Multi-racial population was 4.3%.

### Socio-Economic Characteristics

#### Educational Achievement

About 40% of Howell Township residents have attained a college level education (Associate degree or higher). From 2010 to 2021, the percentage of residents who had attained a Bachelor's degree rose by 2.5%, and those with Graduate/Professional degrees rose by 2.6%. Overall, Howell Township educational levels are slightly behind the Livingston County average (Bachelor's - 25.7%, Graduate / Professional - 12.1%).

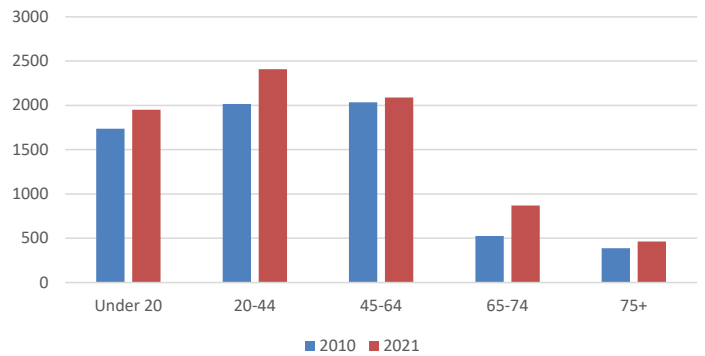
#### Income

The median household income in 2021 in Howell Township was \$77,422, an 11.1% decrease from 2010. The per capita income amounted to \$34,704, down 4.6% from 2010. During that same time period, however, the American Community Survey reports a significant decrease in the number of persons living at or below the poverty level (from 10.2% in 2010 to 3.4% in 2021) and a significant decrease in the number of family households living in poverty (from 9.3% in 2010 to 3.1% in 2021.)

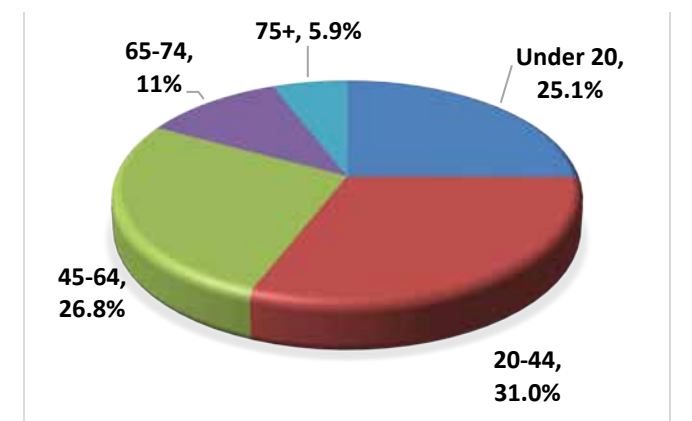
#### Employment

The largest employment sector in Howell Township in 2020 was Manufacturing (22.5%), with Retail Trade (20.5%) a close second. Healthcare Services came in third at 12.1%. SEMCOG predicts major increases in the Professional and Technical Services (64%) and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (53.2%) sectors by 2050.

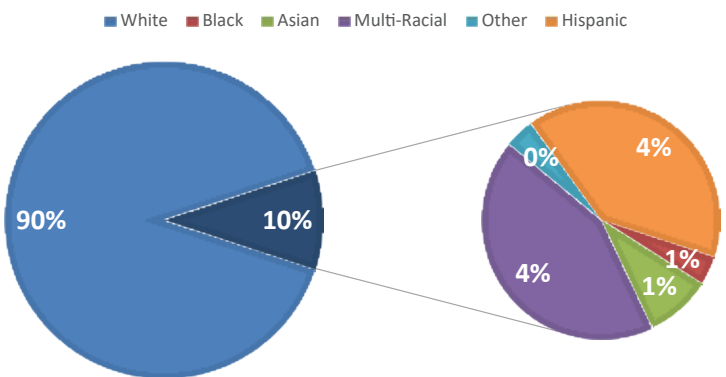
**FIGURE 6: AGE DISTRIBUTION COMPARISON 2010 and 2021**



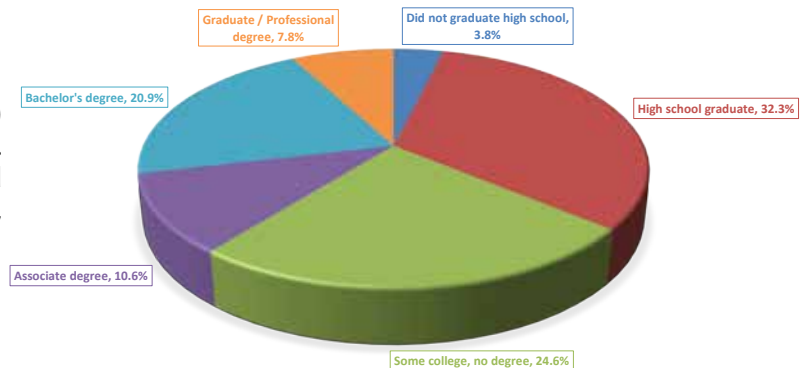
**FIGURE 7: AGE DISTRIBUTION 2021**



**FIGURE 8: RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS 2020**



**FIGURE 9: HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL 2021**





## HOUSING

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, there are 2,866 total housing units in the Township, an increase of 150 units since 2010. Howell Township's housing consists primarily of single-family detached units.

99% of the Township's housing units are occupied, with 88% owner-occupied and 11% renter-occupied. Vacant units decreased from 185 units in 2010 to 29 vacant units in 2021. Residential property values declined from 2010 to 2021. According to the American Community Survey, the median housing value in 2021 was \$215,300: a 2.9% drop from 2010. Gross rent increased by 39% during the same period, with the median gross rent at \$1,446 in 2021.

Building permits for the Township rebounded from the Great Recession in 2013, with an average of 60 new single-family units built each year between 2013 and 2023.

**TABLE 3 : HOUSING TENURE**

	2010 Census	ACS 2021	Change 2010 - 2021
Owner Occupied Units	2,274	2,530	256
Renter Occupied	257	307	50
Vacant Units	185	29	-156
Total Units	2,716	2,866	150

Source: United States Census Bureau, SEMCOG

**TABLE 4: HOUSING TYPES**

	ACS 2010	ACS 2021	Change 2010 - 2021
Single Unit	1,877	1,955	78
Multi-Unit	527	647	120
Mobile homes or other	350	264	-86
Total Housing Units	2,754	2,866	112

Source: United States Census Bureau, SEMCOG

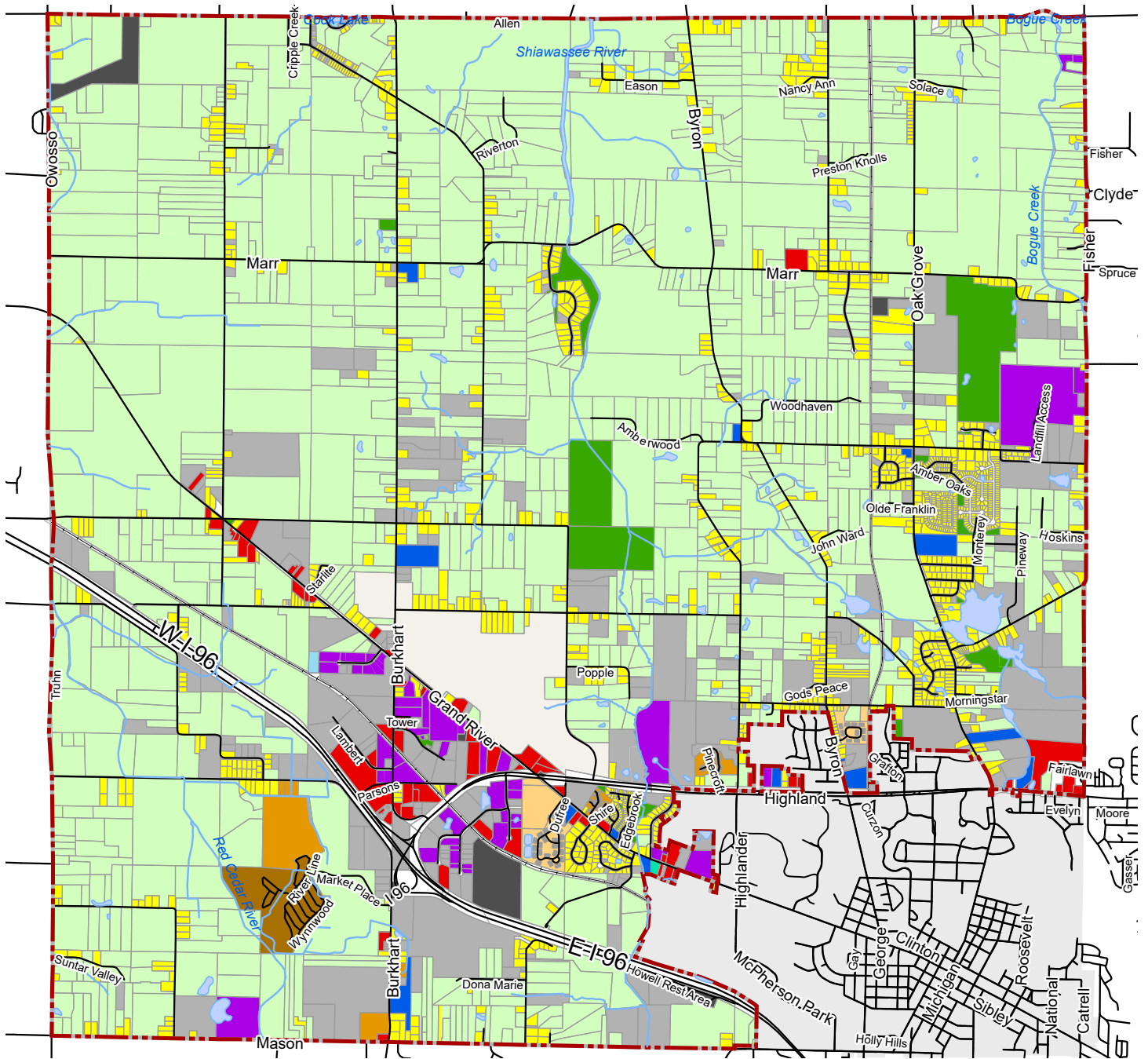
**TABLE 5: BUILDING PERMITS 2000 - 2021**

Year	Single Family	Attach Condo	Multi Family	Total Units	Total Demos*	Net Total
2000	33	0	0	33	1	32
2001	28	0	0	28	1	27
2002	18	132	12	162	4	158
2003	12	120	0	132	1	131
2004	15	116	0	131	6	125
2005	12	68	0	80	7	73
2006	13	6	0	19	2	17
2007	26	0	0	26	2	24
2008	10	0	0	10	0	10
2009	7	0	0	7	1	6
2010	6	0	0	6	1	5
2011	8	0	0	8	0	8
2012	12	0	0	12	0	12
2013	34	0	0	34	0	34
2014	37	0	0	37	0	37
2015	52	0	0	52	0	52
2016	41	0	0	41	0	41
2017	36	0	0	36	1	35
2018	21	0	20	41	0	41
2019	19	0	0	19	4	15
2020	31	0	86	117	3	114
2021	24	0	68	92	0	92
2022	30	0	84	114	4	110
2023	4	0	16	20	1	19
TOTAL	544	442	350	1,336	39	1,297

Source: SEMCOG

\*Total Demos = Total housing units demolished

MAP 1: EXISTING LAND USE

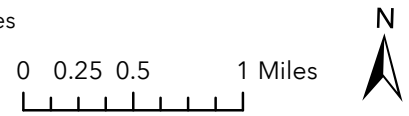


# Existing Land Use

Howell Township

Livingston County, Michigan

- ++ Railroad
- Roads
- ▭ Township Boundary
- ▭ Agricultural / Rural Residential
- ▭ Single-Family Housing
- ▭ Attached Condo Housing
- ▭ Multi-Family Housing
- ▭ Mobile Home
- ▭ Mixed Use
- ▭ Commercial
- ▭ Industrial / Extractive
- ▭ Institutional / Medical
- ▭ Recreation / Open Space
- ▭ Vacant
- ▭ Transportation / Communications / Utilities
- ▭ Airport
- ▭ Water



Data: Howell Township, Livingston County GIS  
11/6/2023



## LAND USE

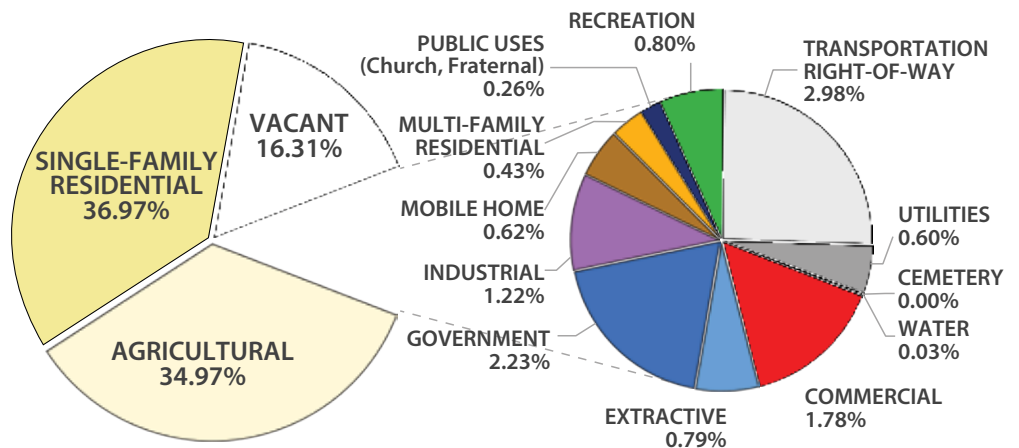
Howell Township is a rural community dominated by agriculture and low density residential development. A stretch of commercial and industrial usage runs northwest from the western edge of the City of Howell along Grand River Avenue. Denser multi-family housing and single-family developments are located close to the City borders as well, primarily in the southeast quadrant of the Township.

Over 3,300 acres, or roughly 16% of the Township's land area, is categorized as vacant. Some of these parcels are located near relatively dense residential neighborhoods or commercial nodes, and many contain distinctive environmental features.

Residential development in Howell Township includes mostly (41%) low density single family dwellings on parcels 2 to 10 acres or more in size. Approximately 30% are less than 1 acre and are clustered in developments near the City. Another 16% of residential lots are between 1 and 2 acres, while less than 14% are on parcels greater than 10 acres.

Commercial and industrial land uses in Howell Township are limited and fall between Grand River Drive and I-96. The Livingston County Spencer J. Hardy Airport forms the northern edge of the primary commercial and industrial district in sections 21 and 28.

FIGURE 10: EXISTING LAND USE PERCENTAGES



## NATURAL FEATURES

Like much of Michigan's southern lower peninsula, the area's landscape is characterized by gently rolling topography formed through glacial action. As the glaciers retreated, the outwash of sand, soil, and debris created an irregular pattern of hills and depressions that collected water, creating the region's many lakes and wetlands.

Howell's topography is somewhat less varied than communities further to the north and east in southeast Michigan. According to the USDA Soil Survey, over 75% of the grades in the Township have a slope between 0 and 6 percent. The highest point in the Township, at 985 feet, is located in Section 13 on the eastern side of the community. Generally speaking, the ground slopes down to the Shiawassee River basin, which runs north-south through the Township. The lowest point in the Township is in Section 3, at 850 feet.

The Shiawassee River basin covers 1,201 square miles in Oakland, Genesee, Livingston, Shiawassee, Midland, and Saginaw counties. It flows 110 miles in a northerly direction before emptying into Saginaw Bay. The river supports over 61 species of fish, 14 species of mussel, and a number of rare plant and animal species. It is a major stop for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

The river historically suffered from improper disposal of industrial and sewage wastes and other forms of misuse, to the point where a section of the river in Livingston County was declared a Superfund site by the EPA in 1983. The declaration was the result of PCB contamination in a wastewater lagoon. According to the Friends of the Shiawassee River, the river has recovered significantly since the mid-80s, with major point sources of pollution reduced or removed. It is still, "...negatively impacted by dams and runoff contaminated by excess sediment, fertilizer, city storm drainage, and trash." Despite these issues, the river has become a major recreation amenity for communities located downstream from Howell Township.

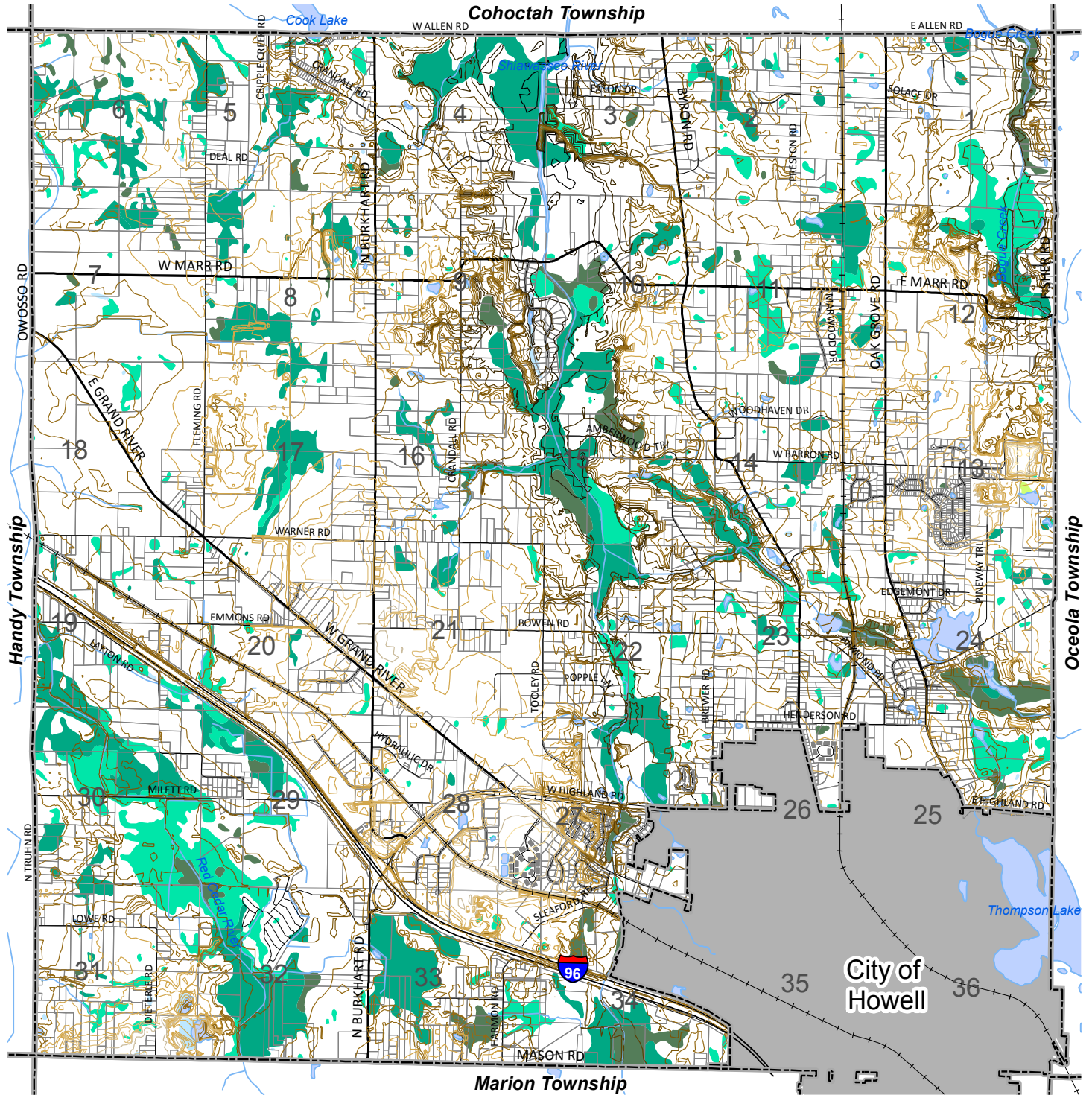
There are only 18 lakes in the Township, and most are relatively small. The largest body of water is found just east of Oak Grove Road and encompasses approximately 35 acres. Howell Township has an abundance of wetlands which provide important habitat, stormwater management, and other ecosystem services for the community. Nearly 4,000 acres of wetlands are scattered across the Township, ranging from seasonally flooded forested wetlands to permanently flooded open water. Howell Township is also crossed by a number of streams and drains, the majority of which empty into the Shiawassee River. Over 350 miles of streams, drains, and shorelines can be found in the Township.

According to the USDA Soil Survey, the vast majority of the Township soils can be classified as loamy with low to moderate slopes. This soil profile is ideal for farming, but the high water tables and periodic flooding can cause issues for recreation development. The USDA describes 60% of the Township area as having very limited potential for camping, picnic, and playground development. They are much more optimistic about trail development, with 46.5% of the area considered suitable for trails, although 41.6% is still categorized as having very limited potential. It should be noted that these numbers are based on a broad picture evaluation of the Township's geography, and a ground-level analysis would provide a more accurate reading of any property's development potential.



MAP 2: WETLANDS & TOPOGRAPHY

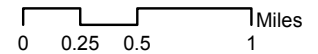
Cohoctah Township



**WETLANDS & TOPOGRAPHY**

Howell Township, Livingston County

- Aquatic Bed
- Emergent
- Forested
- Open Water/Unknown Bottom
- Scrub-Shrub



October 2, 2018  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.



## RELATED PLANNING INITIATIVES

While change is inevitable and growth in both population and housing will occur, Howell Township is committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for all its residents. Maintaining the rural character of the community is considered critical by residents and Township leaders alike.

A variety of planning efforts have had important roles in helping to shape the character of Howell Township. The Livingston County and Howell Township's comprehensive master plans in particular have played important roles in shaping the Township's future, and each had a significant influence on this plan.

### Howell Township Master Plan

Howell Township last updated its master plan in 2023. The Township envisions a number of goals and strategies that will affect its role in providing non-motorized transportation facilities, parks, natural areas, open space, and recreation uses. The Plan's goals and policies relevant to parks and recreation include:

**GOAL:** Provide additional usable, accessible parks and recreation space and opportunities.

**STRATEGY:**

- Identify areas fit for public recreation use.

**GOAL:** Increase residents' opportunities to walk or bike.

**STRATEGY:**

- Provide pedestrian facilities to connect existing neighborhoods to amenities.
- Continue to use the non-motorized plan for sidewalks, pathways, and bike lanes.

**GOAL:** Encourage the use of open space in all developments for a useful purpose and preserve or conserve natural open space, including wetlands, woodlands and flood plains.

**STRATEGY:**

- Update regulations to explicitly require usable open space in new development.
- Incentivize the protection of natural features in new developments.

**GOAL:** Preserving existing natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas.

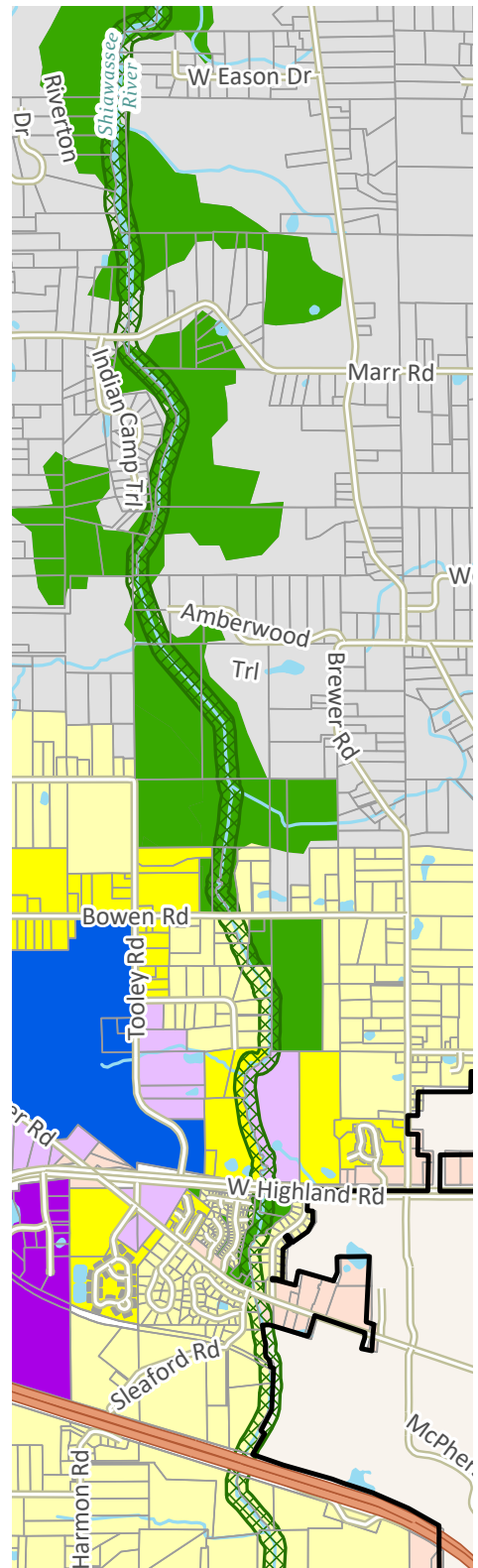
**STRATEGY:**

- Protect wetlands, woodlands, and scenic vistas.
- Get environmentally sensitive areas into permanent preservation.


The plan also discusses a Shiawassee River Overlay, which would provide a 200 foot natural buffer to development along either side of the Shiawassee River. The proposed buffer would protect the water quality of the river by filtering out pollutants through vegetation and wetlands and is envisioned as an important recreational opportunity for the community. The Plan specifically describes installation of a pathway along the river.

A Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is also detailed in the Master Plan. It envisions east-west pathways along Marr Road, West Grand River Ave, and

FIGURE 11: SHIAWASSEE RIVER OVERLAY



The Shiawassee River Overlay from the Future Land Use Plan indicated by blue cross hatching.



Highland Road. Potential north-south connections are shown along Burkhardt Road, Oak Grove Road, along the Shiawassee River, and along an existing rail corridor on the eastern edge of the Township. The Non-Motorized Plan was used to develop the trail system detailed later in this report.

### **Livingston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

Livingston County operates two facilities: Fillmore County Park in Genoa Township and Lutz County Park in Deerfield Township. A third parcel known as the Kenney Property in Deerfield Township is not operational at this time. Lutz and Fillmore County Parks total just under 500 acres. More detailed descriptions of the two parks are included in the Recreation Inventory section of the plan. The Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (LCPOSAC) oversees activities in the parks and reports to the Livingston County Board of Commissioners. The twelve-member committee was formed in 2005 in response to the land acquisition for Lutz Park. It is comprised of two County Commissioners, the County Drain Commissioner and Building Services Director, an at-large member with park experience, an attorney, and representatives from the Historical Advisory Committee, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Livingston Land Conservancy, Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority, Livingston County Planning Commission, and Handy Township.

LCPOSAC has partnered with the Livingston Land Conservancy (LLC) and the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) on planning efforts and grant applications for Fillmore and Lutz developments. Their expertise has been utilized to evaluate natural features and to identify priority natural areas within the Huron River watershed. Howell Township falls just outside of the watershed area, and therefore is not included in the database, but the LLC remains a valuable resource for preservation planning.

Livingston County has recently developed a public recreation area map which is available on the County's website. The map shows all recreation properties in Livingston County and separates them into municipal, county, metropark, state, and non-profit facilities and further offers the ability to search by common activities such as playgrounds, soccer, hunting, and so on. The map is similar to one developed by SEMCOG which covers the seven-county planning region.

The LCPOSAC is in the process of updating their 5-Year Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The previous plan outlined five overarching goals. These goals are:

- Carry out the directives of Livingston County Board of Commissioners resolution number 105-039, which authorized the creation of the Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee.
- Coordinate parks planning with the Livingston County Foundation Board.
- Preserve rural character, wildlife habitat, water quality, biodiversity, and environmentally sensitive areas when grant or other funding opportunities allow.
- Prepare a County Parks & Open Space Plan that is coordinated with the County Master Plan and supports potential recreation grant applications.
- Build mutually beneficial relationships with public and private park, recreation, open space, agriculture, community service, or other appropriate groups to improve and protect parks and open spaces county-wide.
- Consider additional land for parks and open space through grants and through donations by those desiring to leave a permanent public legacy, for the benefit and enjoyment of County residents and guests.

## **Livingston County Master Plan 2018**

Livingston County updated the County Master Plan in 2018. The Plan includes a number of references that correlate directly to park and recreation planning in the County. Notable highlights include:

- **Pathway Connections Along Roadways:** Provide recreational connections along transportation corridors such as Grand River Avenue, Oak Grove Road, and Byron Road;
- **Trail Connections:** Regional trail system connections including connecting the cities of Howell and Brighton and between the Lakelands Trail State Park and the City of Howell;
- **Buffers Around Waterways:** Create and maintain buffers around the Shiawassee River, tributaries, and agricultural drains;
- **Waterway Recreation Opportunities:** Create future recreation opportunities along river corridors.

## **Livingston County Transit Master Plan 2019**

While primarily focused on vehicular traffic and mass transit options, the Livingston County Transit Master Plan does offer some valuable insight on perceptions of existing non-motorized transportation options in the region. The plan notes that, "Many of the County's core services like schools and grocery stores are currently inaccessible by foot or bicycle, and those who do not drive must travel unsafely to reach their destination or are prevented from traveling entirely." Over 60% of their survey respondents indicated that they would like to see non-motorized improvements or solutions, while 57% indicated they were "unsatisfied or very unsatisfied" with existing bike and pedestrian systems in the County (as opposed to 29% who were satisfied or very satisfied).

## **SEMCOG 2045 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan**

The SEMCOG Plan is a joint effort between Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The plan provides recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities across 10 regions and incorporating 60 different action items. SEMCOG's larger regional focus places more emphasis on existing non-motorized transportation options. The 2050 Plan is currently being developed and is scheduled for adoption in June of 2024.

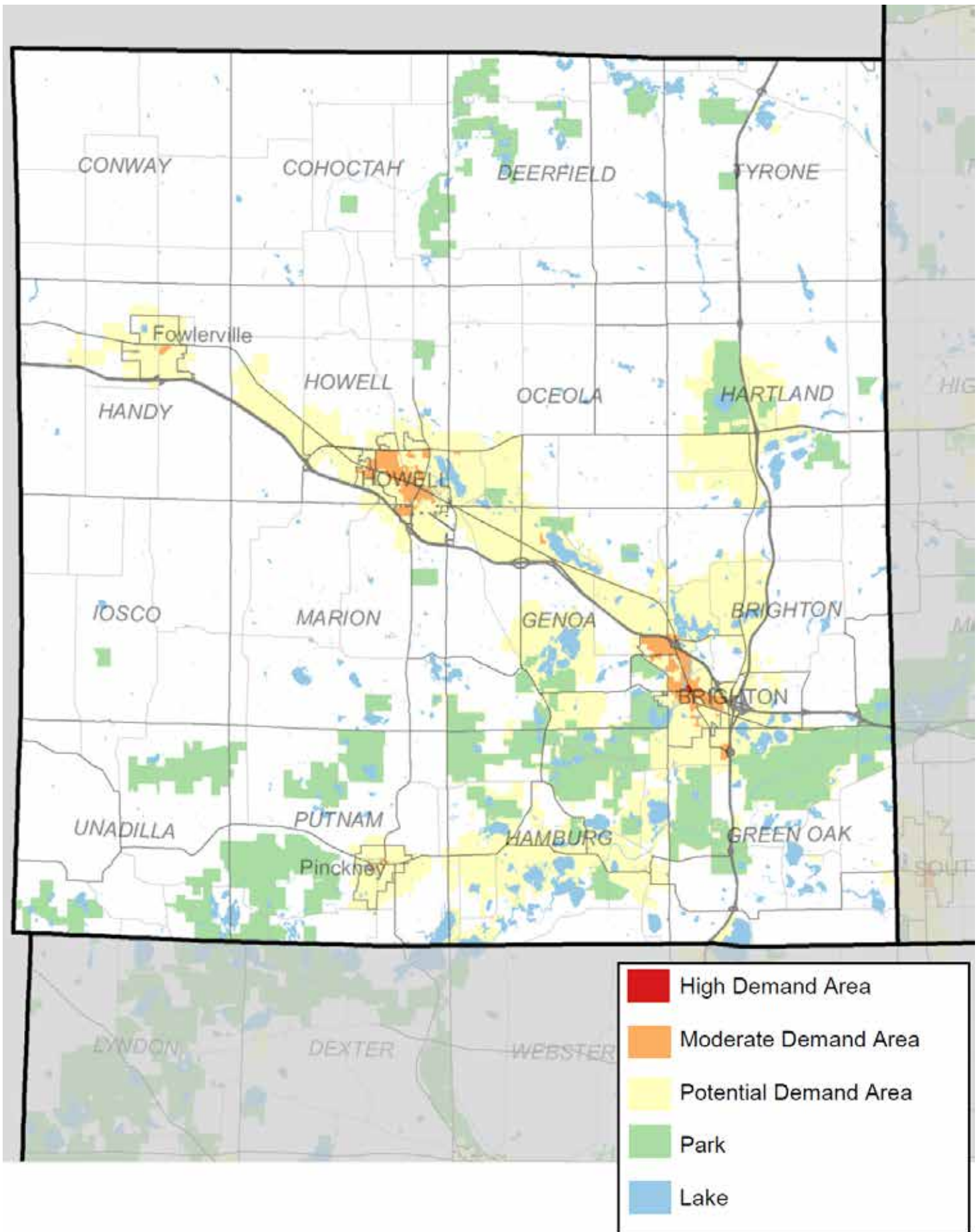
The 2045 Plan indicates a gap along Grand River Drive and a secondary gap on Michigan Avenue in the City of Howell continuing south to Pinckney and the Lakelands Trail State Park. The existing Crosstown Trail and smaller trails in the City are also highlighted on the plan.

## **SEMCOG 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for Southeast Michigan**

The SEMCOG Plan creates a regional bicycle and walking vision for southeast Michigan, offering guidance to increase connectivity, use, and safety of proposed networks. The plan builds off of the 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel Plan, evaluating social justice and equity issues in addition to traditional traffic and safety data included in the earlier Plan. The new plan highlights a "potential to moderate" demand corridor running between Grand River Avenue and I-94 from the City of Howell to the western Township border. A map of regional bicycle and pedestrian corridors is also provided, suggesting a non-motorized corridor running from Fowlerville to Detroit.



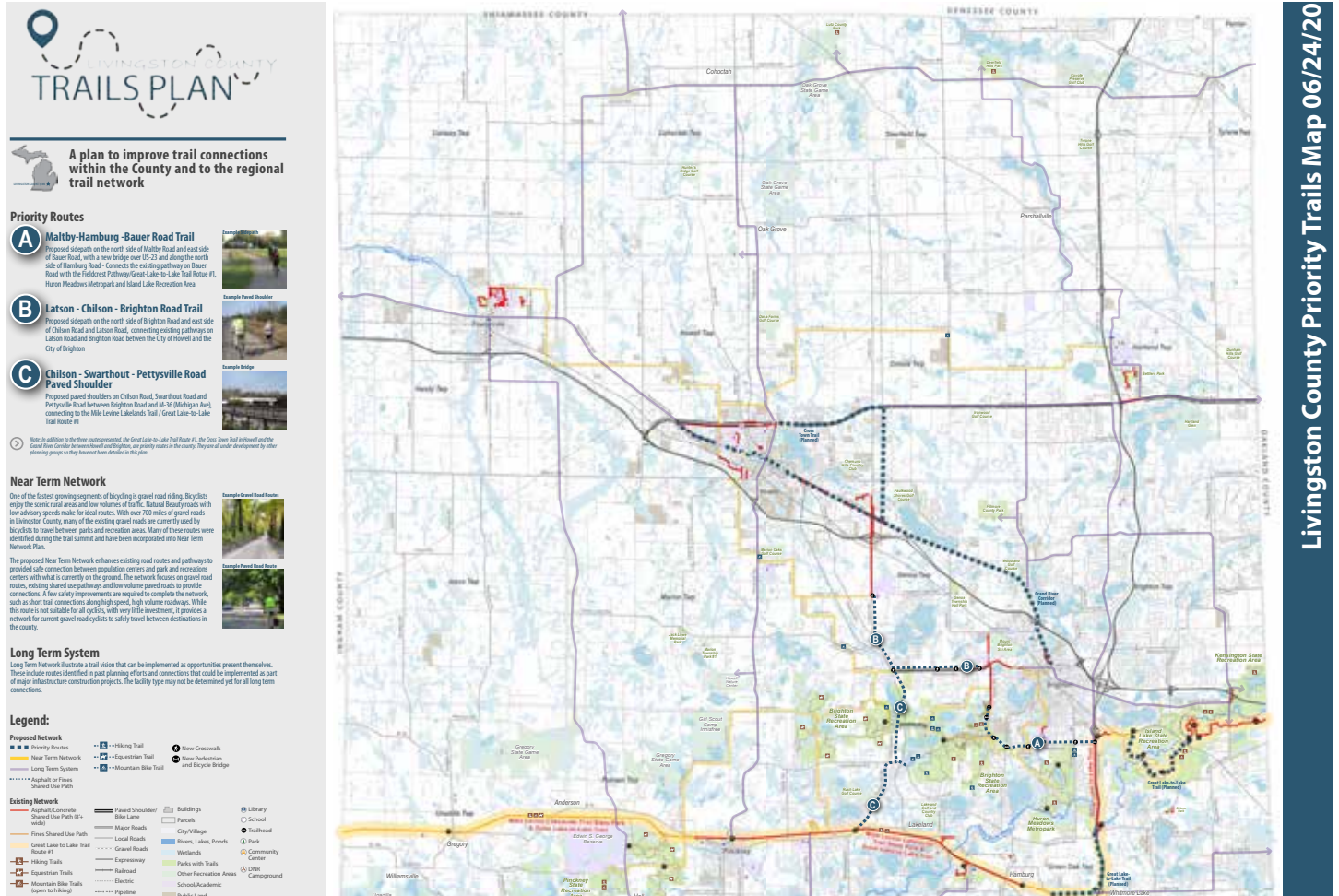
FIGURE 12: LIVINGSTON COUNTY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN DEMAND AREAS



# Crosstown Trail: Howell Area Non-Motorized Trail Study

The 2003 Crosstown Trail Study proposed a trail utilizing existing road right-of-ways to form a rough loop in the Howell area. The primary route would be formed by Highland Road, Grand River Avenue, and North Latson Road. The route along the south side of Highland Road has been developed west of Oak Grove Road; a small section of the north side between Byron and Town Commons has also been completed. Sidewalks and paths have also been built along the north side of Grand River Ave from Edgebrook Drive east to Latson Road, although gaps exist in the sidewalks on the south side of the road. A limited amount of sidewalks along Latson Road have been completed, although significant gaps existing.

FIGURE 13: CROSSTOWN TRAIL ALIGNMENT



Livingston County Trails Map 06/24/20

## City of Howell 2024-2028 Master Plan

The 2024-2028 City of Howell Master Plan repeatedly emphasizes a desire for safe, non-motorized transportation alternatives. Development of the Crosstown Trail is referenced throughout the plan, as is the need to maintain recreation and entertainment components in the various neighborhoods. Like the Township, City residents place a high value on preservation of existing natural areas, and the plan notes the need to effectively manage and connect these amenities via a robust network of non-motorized transportation facilities.

## State of Michigan Iron Belle Trail

The ambitious project by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) would connect a series of trails from Detroit's Belle Isle to Ironwood in the far west of the Upper Peninsula. The Iron Belle Trail (IBT) includes a 1,273 mile long hiking route which winds along the west side of the Lower Peninsula and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. The 791 mile long biking trail uses existing multi-use trails on the east side of the state and follows US-2 in the Upper Peninsula. The IBT has had a tremendous impact on trail development in Michigan in recent years; since 2012, over \$68 million in grant and local funds and \$155 million in private donations have been collected. Over 200 miles of trails are scheduled to be completed in the next few years.

While the trail will not directly pass through the Howell Township, current plans show the IBT connecting to the Lakelands Trail in Stockbridge. At this point, the trail forms a piece of "The Loop", a triangle connecting the cities of Pinckney, Stockbridge, and Dexter via Washtenaw County's **Border-to-Border Trail**. Howell Township residents could potentially connect to the route via a potential path along Pinckney Road/Michigan Avenue/Oak Grove Road.

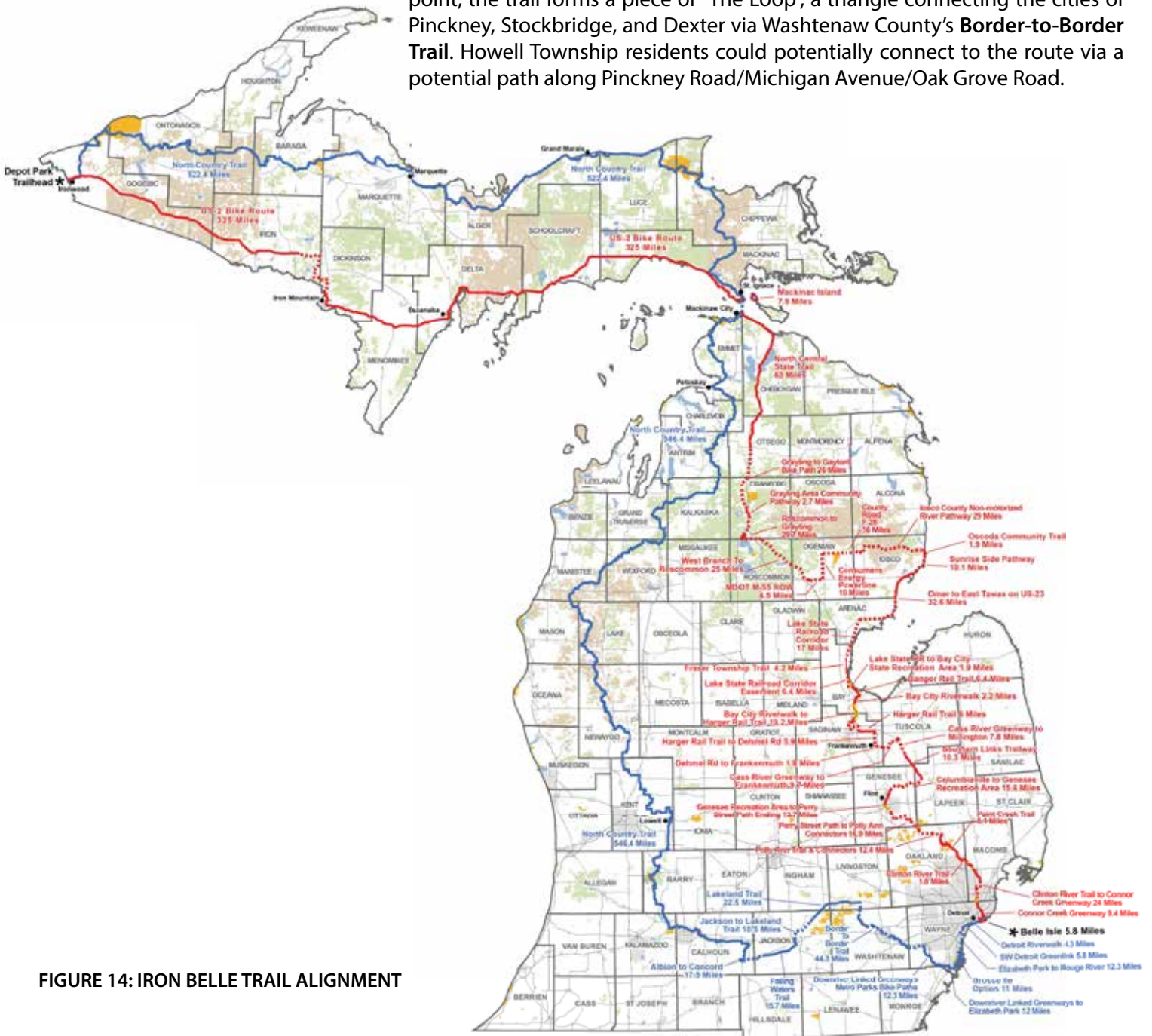


FIGURE 14: IRON BELLE TRAIL ALIGNMENT

The **Great Lake-to-Lake Trail** follows many of the same trails as the Iron Belle Trail as it crosses southern lower Michigan. The primary differences are the western spur from South Haven to Kalamazoo which utilizes the Kal-Haven Trail State Park, and the eastern section which turns north at Pinckney to utilize trail networks throughout Oakland County. As with the Iron Belle Trail, connection from Huron Township would be from the Lakelands State Trail.

The **North Country National Scenic Trail** travels from eastern New York to central North Dakota. The trail passes through the seven states along the way, with the longest stretch found in Michigan. At approximately 4,600 miles, it is the longest of the eleven National Scenic Trails. It utilizes large portions of the western Iron Belle Trail as it winds north through Michigan.

FIGURE 15: GREAT LAKE-TO-LAKE TRAIL



Source: MichiganTrails.org

FIGURE 16: NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



## Michigan Blueways & Water Trails

The State of Michigan currently boasts more than 3,000 miles of water trails along the Great Lakes and inland lakes and rivers. Like traditional land-based trails, water trails bring visitors to the community and offer recreational and educational opportunities for residents. By improving the overall quality of life for residents, these trails make the community more desirable place to live, work, and play.

Unfortunately, the Shiawassee River in Howell Township is generally considered too shallow to allow development of a water trail. Residents can access the **Shiawassee River Trail** in Holly, however. The trail winds 85.4 miles north from Holly to Chesaning. With a fairly slow-moving current, the water trail is suitable for families in a canoe or groups of novice kayak paddlers.





## CHAPTER 3

# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The administration of parks and recreation in Howell Township is the responsibility of the Township Board of Trustees, as established under the Michigan Enabling Act 157 of 1905, Township Parks and Places of Recreation. A Recreation Plan Steering Committee was appointed to lead the recreation planning efforts and act as an advisory body to Board of Trustees. They also may seek guidance from the Planning Commission as necessary.

FIGURE 17: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



## FUNDING & BUDGET

Funding for recreation activities and general maintenance is provided from the Township’s General Fund. Current expenses are related to membership dues for the Howell Area Park and Recreation Authority (HAPRA).

TABLE 6: BUDGET SUMMARY

	2020 - 21 Amended Budget	2020 - 21 Activity	2021 - 22 Amended Budget	2021 - 22 Activity through 4/13/22	2022 - 23 Approved Budget	2022 - 23 Activity through 4/11/23
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Rec Fund Interest Income	\$ 500	\$ 222.95	\$ 100	\$ 241	\$ 100	\$ 1,281
Rec Fund Operating Transfer In	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 160,500</b>	<b>\$ 160,222.95</b>	<b>\$ 160,100</b>	<b>\$ 160,241</b>	<b>\$ 175,100</b>	<b>\$ 176,281</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>						
Rec Fund Contracted Services	\$ 120,000	\$ 108,750	\$ 120,000	\$ 84,250	\$ 125,000	\$ 88,375
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>	<b>\$ 108,750</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>	<b>\$ 84,250</b>	<b>\$ 125,000</b>	<b>\$ 88,375</b>
<b>NET OF REVENUES/ APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 40,500</b>	<b>\$ 351,472.95</b>	<b>\$ 40,100</b>	<b>\$ 75,991</b>	<b>\$ 50,100</b>	<b>\$ 87,906</b>



## VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERSHIPS

As the Township moves forward with recreation planning, it will be important to develop relationships with community organizations to help provide essential services. Volunteers can be helpful in providing basic maintenance for park and trail facilities, organizing and facilitating events, raising funds, and providing other necessary services for a newly developed recreation department.

Some groups that Howell Township could begin discussions with include:

Local service clubs:	Michigan Kiwanis Club Rotary Club of Howell The American Legion Livingston County 4-H Howell Lions Club Elks Lodge #2168 Howell Mason Lodge #38
Scouting Groups:	Boy Scouts Girl Scouts
Recreation Use Groups:	Howell Underground Running Team (H.U.R.T.) Michigan Mountain Biking Association Howell Area Junior Baseball Association Howell Area Junior Football League Howell Area Soccer Association
Land Conservancies:	Legacy Land Conservancy Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
Other Organizations:	Howell Area Chamber of Commerce

“Friends of” groups are another important source of volunteer support. These groups are collections of local residents who pool resources to support and improve conditions at local parks and trails. Friends of groups can range from fairly informal collectives to formal organizations with 501(c)(3) status. Howell Township can encourage group formation by providing meeting space on a regular basis and asking for regular participation in Township Board and Planning Commission meetings.



## HOWELL AREA PARKS & RECREATION AUTHORITY

Howell Township is a member of the Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority (HAPRA). HAPRA is a regional recreation authority formed and financed by the City of Howell and Howell, Genoa, Marion, and Oceola Townships. Howell Township became a full participating member of HAPRA in 2017.

HAPRA manages classes, leagues, and similar programming in the region's parks and community centers. It also is charged with organizing a number of special events throughout the year. HAPRA is managed by a five-person board comprised of representatives from each member community. The board positions are unpaid. The authority employs a full time executive director, 10 full-time staff members, 7 part-time staff members, and seasonal employees used for various programs throughout the year.

Howell Township residents can participate in programs at a special resident-only rate.

HAPRA receives \$100,000 per year from each participating community's general fund. Additional funds are generated by participation fees and donations. HAPRA's 2023 budget was \$1,211,450. HAPRA floated a 0.75 mill proposal in 2016 which would have allowed the authority to operate independently of the five communities, and would also have funded construction of a large community center. The proposal did not pass. HAPRA constructed a recreation facility at 1661 N. Latson Road in Oceola Township in 2021.

A further description of facilities operated by HAPRA are included in the recreation inventory in Chapter 4.

## CHAPTER 4

# RECREATION INVENTORY



# RECREATION INVENTORY

While Howell Township currently only maintains a minimal recreation system, residents still have access to a tremendous network of parks and recreational facilities in adjacent communities and nearby state, county, and recreation authority-run properties. This section describes the recreational resources available to Township residents within and outside Howell Township.

Parks and facilities can be loosely broken into categories based on size and function; the categories are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The categories are meant to aid in determining the primary purpose and uses for each facility.

**Mini Parks:** Mini parks serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, approximately less than one-quarter mile away and are typically less than one acre in size. The park at Township Hall would be classified as a mini park. The only other mini parks located in the Township are private, subdivision run properties.

**Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. There are no neighborhood parks in Howell Township.

**Community Parks and Facilities:** Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents in the Township. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve residents within one-half to three miles of the park. There are no community parks in the Township.

**Nature Preserves & Specialty Parks:** Specialty parks provide a unique service and are generally intended to serve the entire community. Preserves, stand-alone splash pads, community centers, and dog parks could fall into this category. There are currently no specialty parks or preserves in Howell Township.

**Regional Parks:** Regional Parks may be 200 acres or more in size and service an area up to one hour's drive away (typically 45 or 60 miles). These types of parks are usually operated by a larger governmental body, such as the county or state, or by another recreation authority. There are no regional parks in Howell Township.

## LOCAL RECREATION FACILITIES

### Park and Recreation Facilities Within Howell Township

While not traditionally labeled a park facility, Howell Township Hall does offer amenities that would be considered appropriate in a mini-park. The Hall is located on a 3.67-acre parcel in the heart of the community. Built in 1859, the building was originally operated as Howell School. It was renovated in 2001 and has acted as the Township Hall since 2002. Roughly half of the property is preserved as open space. A 0.25 mile walking trail, small pavilion, and exercise equipment sits to the north and west of the parking lot.

MAP 3: PARK AT TOWNSHIP HALL



### THE PARK AT TOWNSHIP HALL

- ~1.5 Acres
- Passive use
- Walking path, gazebo, & exercise equipment



# REGIONAL PARKS AND FACILITIES

## County Parks

Livingston County operates two facilities: Fillmore County Park in Genoa Township and Lutz County Park in Deerfield Township. A third parcel known as the Kenney Property in Deerfield Township is not available for public use at this time.

- Owen Lutz County Park**

Bequeathed to Livingston County in 2005, the 300-acre property includes 100-acres of public-use space. The park includes a 1.3 mile long trail through high-quality natural areas, as well as picnic tables, benches, interpretive signs, parking, and a restroom.

- Fillmore County Park**

Located roughly 8.5 miles east of the Township, this nearly 200-acre park is under development and currently only offers rustic hiking. The County received a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to further develop the facilities. Long term plans include playing fields, trails, parking, and restrooms.

FIGURE 18: FILLMORE COUNTY PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional park district that encompasses the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Livingston. Since its inception in 1940, the HCMA has obtained over 20,000 acres of parkland, all located in the metro Detroit region. Huron Meadows is the only Metropark located entirely in Livingston County. Kensington Metropark straddles the Livingston/Oakland County borders.

- The nearly 1,600-acre **Huron Meadows Metropark** features an 18-hole golf course and over 15 miles of trails that are available for use throughout the year. The park is well known for its winter activities including skiing and skating. A barrier-free fishing pier on Maltby Lake also provides excellent fishing for bluegill, sunfish, and smallmouth bass.
- **Kensington Metropark** offers over 33 miles of trails on its 4,500 acres of rolling hills and woodlands. The park surrounds 1,200-acre Kent Lake, which offers swimming, fishing, and boating opportunities. A splash park, boat tour, 18-hole regulation golf course, 27-hole disc golf course, and a nature area can also be found at this park.

## State-Owned Facilities

The MDNR operates a number of recreation areas, state game areas, and a state trail in Livingston County. These facilities include:

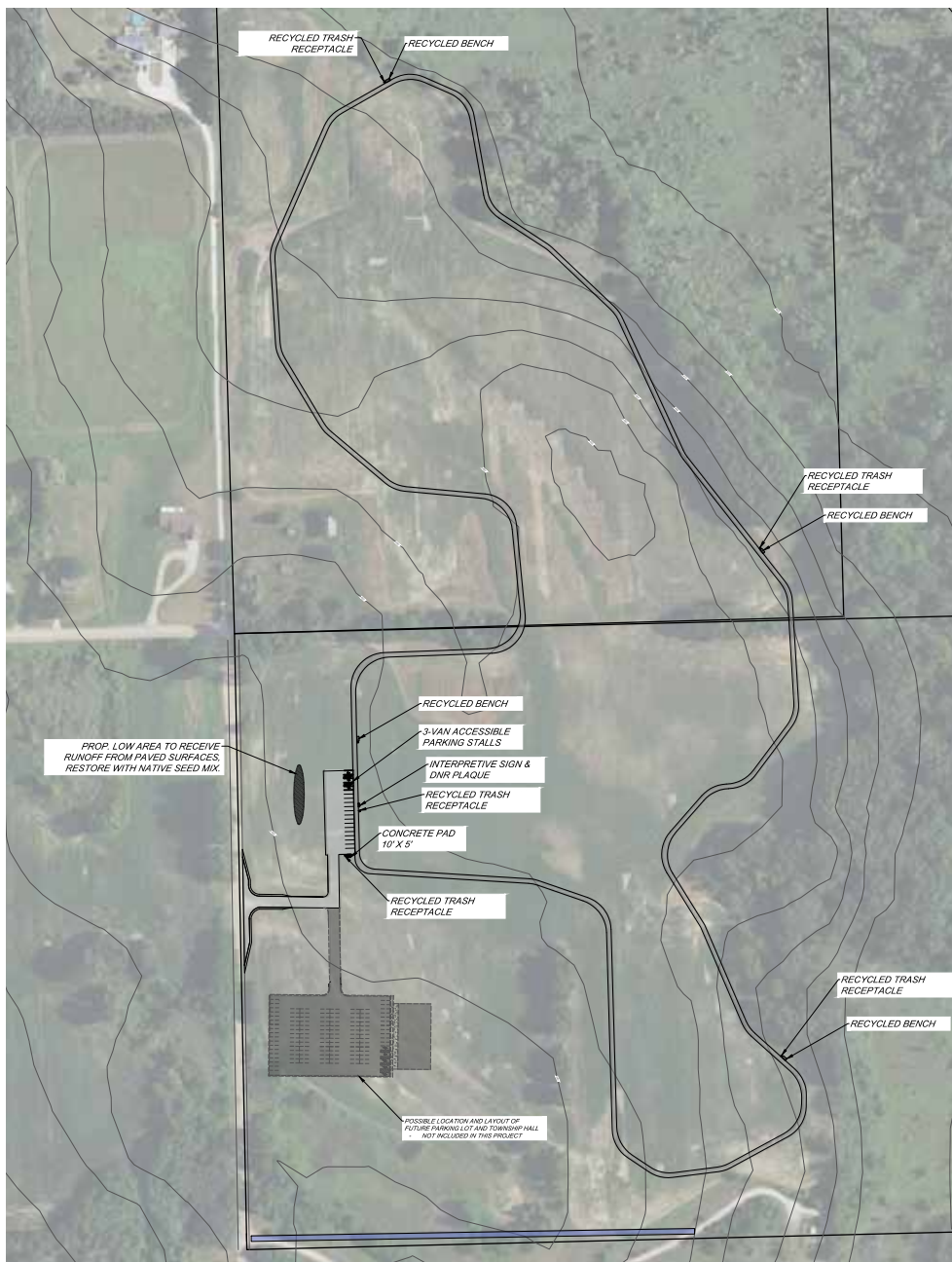
- **Brighton Recreation Area** includes almost 5,000 acres of hill ranges with a number of lakes. Skiing, horseback riding, camping, hunting, and fishing are just some of the activities available at this park.
- The 4,000-acre **Island Lake Recreation Area** is the only balloon port in Michigan's state park system. It contains one of the nation's safest shooting ranges and provides a wide variety of passive and active recreation options.
- **Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park** is a 22-mile long linear trail stretching between Stockbridge to Hamburg. It is part of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail detailed on page 20. The trail accommodates cyclists, hikers, skiers, and horseback riders.
- Four state game areas, **Gregory** (2,687 acres), **Hillcrest** (257 acres), **Oak Grove** (2,048 acres), and **Unadilla** (1,106 acres), offer outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities. Camping is allowed on all forest land as long as the site is located more than one mile from a state forest campground.



## NEW TOWNSHIP-OWNED PARK

Howell Township owns two contiguous 80 acre parcels (160 acres total) near the center of the Township which has been designated for park space. The majority of the 160 acres will be dedicated solely to recreation, save for an area in the southwest corner that will host the new Township Hall. Five to ten acres of space will be developed with this new municipal building and parking for park patrons.

Over the next five years, in addition to the parking and Township Hall, the Township is seeking to install trails. Since trail use — be it walking, jogging, running, hiking, or bicycling — is the overwhelmingly most common outdoor recreation activity as expressed in the Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan data, the NSGA Sports Participation data, and the Township survey conducted for this Recreation Plan update, development of a trail system will support much of the Township's outdoor recreation needs.





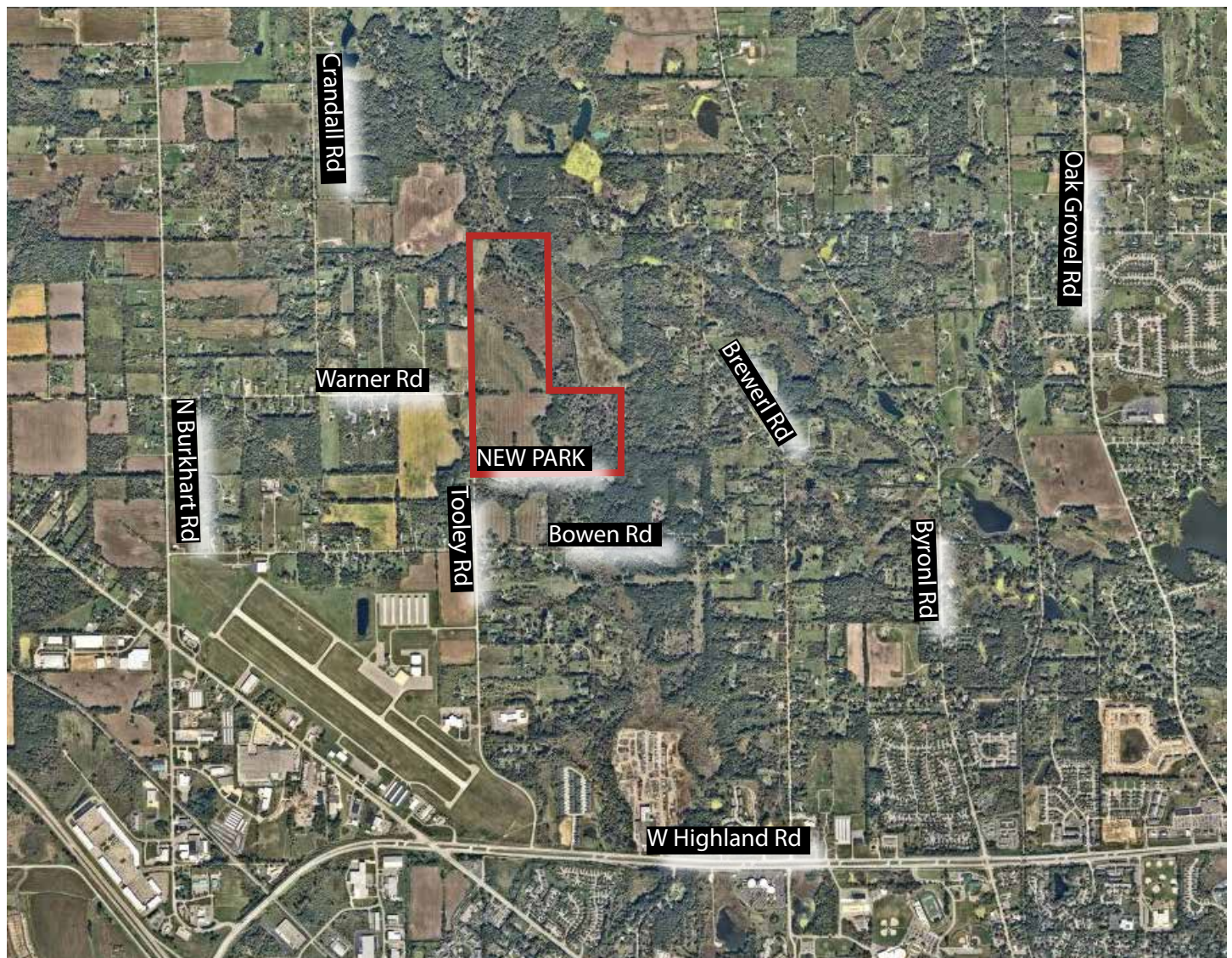
## Concept Plan

The concept plan for the park includes ample paved parking, a rain garden to mitigate stormwater runoff from paved surfaces, a trail throughout the property, and trash receptacles and benches made from recycled materials placed in three locations along the trail. An interpretive sign will be placed at the trailhead.

After five years, recreation development at this new Park will be reevaluated. At that time, the Township will explore the possibility of additional recreation facilities in the new Township-owned park. Public engagement activities, including a charette, can garner insight from the public on what facilities are desired within the boundaries of that which is feasible for the Township.

## Cost Estimate

Construct parking lot	\$ 60,000 - 100,000
Install signage	\$ 3,000 - 5,000
Create internal rustic trails	TBD
Construct picnic shelter	\$ 20,000 - 30,000
Install playground equipment	\$ 100,000 - 200,000



## Facilities in Neighboring Communities

Howell Township residents benefit from the proximity of neighboring communities' parks and recreation facilities. These parks and facilities provide Howell Township residents with offerings such as active recreation, athletic fields, educational programs, golf, nature centers, playgrounds, and swimming. The City of Howell, in particular, offers resident access rates to City-owned parks and facilities. The following local parks and facilities are located within a short distance of the Township:

### City of Howell

- Argyle Park
- Baldwin Park
- Paul Bennett Field
- Bennett Recreation Center
- Countryside Veterinarian Dog Park
- Howell Aquatic & Fitness Center
- Howell Boat Launch
- Dr. Louis May Park
- Don Miller Park
- Page Field / Barnard Community Center
- West Street Park

### Village of Fowlerville

- Centennial Park
- Fowlerville Community Park
- Fowlerville Fairgrounds

## School Facilities

School facilities play an important recreation role by providing both indoor and outdoor recreation space for residents. Howell Township is split between the Howell Public Schools and Fowlerville Community Schools districts. Neither district maintains any facilities within the Township boundary. While school-operated buildings and grounds are available for public use in a limited capacity, distance to the facilities generally requires residents to drive to the property. As such, the traditional role as a neighborhood play area is limited.

### Marion Township

- Jack Lowe Memorial Park
- Marion Township Park

### Cohoctah Township

- Cohoctah Township Park

### Deerfield Township

- Deerfield Hills Nature Area

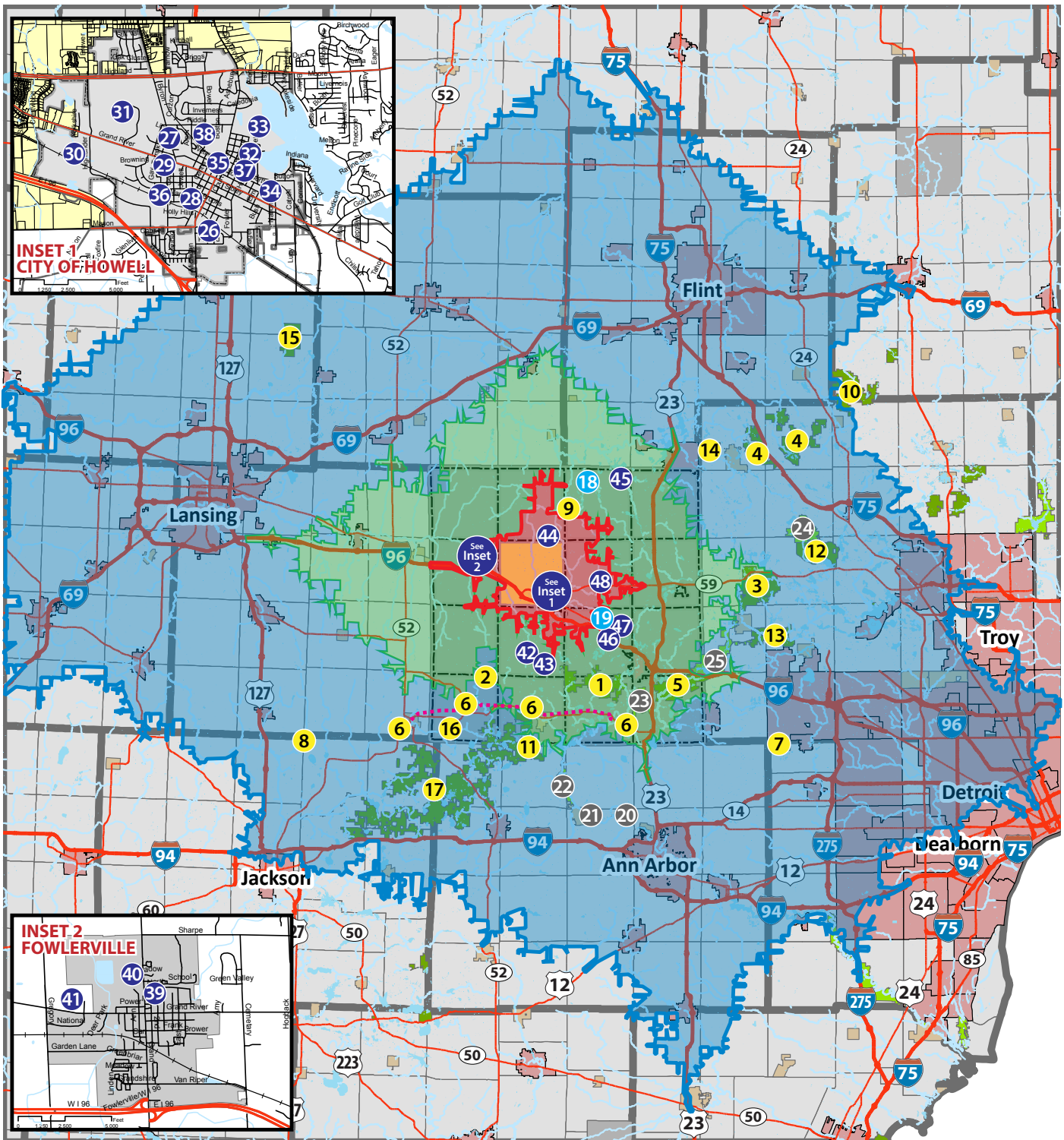
### Genoa Township

- Genoa Township Park
- New Genoa Park

### Oceola Township

- Oceola Township Park

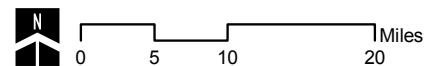




## RECREATION PROPERTIES WITHIN ONE HOUR DRIVE OF HOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL

Howell Township, Livingston County

- 15 minutes or less
- 30 minutes or less
- 60 minutes or less
- 17 State Parks
- 18 County Parks
- 22 Metroparks
- 44 Local Parks



July 13, 2018  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.





TRAILS			WATER / BOATING			WINTER SPORTS			CAMPING AMENITIES						HUNTING																
Hiking	Biking	Bike Rental	Mountain Biking / BMX Course	Equestrian	Swimming / Beach	Splash Pad / Pool / Water Slide	Paddlesports	Boat Rental	Boat Launch	Snowshoeing	Cross Country Skiing	Snowmobiling	Ice Skating / Hockey	Sledding	Equestrian Camping	Electrical Service	Winter Camping	Concession Store / Food	Cabins And Lodges	Rustic Site	Group Use Area	Walk-In / Paddle-In Sites	Yurt	Vault Toilet	Modern Restrooms	Sanitation Station	Shooting Range	Hunting / Archery	Fishing	Fishing Pier	
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Genoa Township Park



Fowlerville Community Park



Pinckney State Recreation Area



Kensington Metropark



Hudson Mills Metropark

## Recreation Programs and Services / HAPRA

As discussed on page 26 of this plan, Howell Township is part of the Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority (HAPRA). HAPRA offers a variety of programs and operates in a number of facilities across the City. The facilities include:



**Howell Area Aquatic & Fitness Center** is home to a number of fitness and aquatic-related classes. The facility can also be rented for private gatherings.

**Howell Recreation Pre School & Learning Center** is a play-based program with an emphasis on interaction with adults, other children, and the environment. Classes run September - May.

**Howell Senior Center** provides a space for socialization, fitness, and reference for the area's senior citizens. Annual membership is \$25 and provides a number of free benefits.

**The Hive Youth Services Center** provides a place for teens to gather with friends, take classes, and gain valuable skills. Membership is free, although additional costs can apply to special events.

**The Oceola Community Center** was constructed in 2020 and provides spaces for indoor programming, fitness classes, exercise equipment, a gymnasium, and an indoor walking track. Annual membership is \$300 and day-use options are also available.

A sample of programs available to Howell Township residents includes:

### SENIOR SERVICES

- Food pantry
- Medicare counseling
- Computer assistance
- Book club
- Card playing
- Crafts & card making
- Pickleball
- Walking club

### DAY CAMPS

- Summer Day Camps 5-10 yr olds
- Teen camps for 11 - 17 yr olds

### AQUATICS

- CPR Certification Classes
- Learn to Swim & Dive
- Snorkeling 101
- Open Swims
- Water Aerobics
- Deep Water Exercise

### FITNESS

- Group Cycling
- Piloxing Barre
- Yoga
- Senior Fit

### SPORTS

- Archery
- Tennis
- Soccer
- Teeball
- Golf
- Softball

### TRAVEL

- Eastern Market
- Lansing Lugnuts
- Little Caesar's Arena
- Artprize Grand Rapids
- Hampton Beach

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Flip-n-Flop Fishing Tournament
- Howell Independence Aquathlon
- Howell Melon Festival & Melon Run
- Doc May's Memorial Melon Ride

### INSTRUCTIONAL

- Kids Painting & Art Camp
- Tap & Ballet Combo
- Developmental Gymnastics
- Martial Arts
- Boater Safety

HOWELL RECREATION  
**Pre School**  
& LEARNING CENTER





## Local Trails

Howell Township currently maintains minimal non-motorized facilities, including a section of trail along M-59. Relatively low traffic levels on many streets allow residents to feel comfortable walking or riding bikes on local roads, especially in the more scenic rural areas. Closer to the City of Howell, however, traffic levels and speeds can jump dramatically, leading to unsafe road conditions for cyclists and pedestrians alike.

Several City-owned trails run adjacent to the Township and are planned to continue across the border, notably along Grand River Avenue and M-59. Of particular importance is the Crosstown Trail, which has largely been implemented in the City of Howell. The Township currently maintains a part of the trail along M-59 from Crestwood to just before Grand River Avenue. As the Township investigates trail opportunities within its borders, it will be critical that it look at connections to the City and other neighboring communities. A full description of regional trails is included on pages 16 - 20.

## Barrier Free Accessibility

The American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. As Howell Township moves forward with park development, it will be critical for the community to continue to make every effort to comply with the ADA requirements.

A five-point evaluation system is typically used to rank a facility's accessibility. A system commonly used to evaluate facilities was developed using New England ADA Center and Michigan Recreation and Parks Association guidelines, and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Facilities are assigned a score from 1 to 5, where 1 = none of the elements meet 2010 ADA Standards, and 5 = the facility meets universal design principals.

- Level 1. The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes few paved areas and facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are not easily accessible.
- Level 2. The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are not easily accessible.
- Level 3. The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are accessible but may not be completely barrier free.
- Level 4. The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are easily accessible.
- Level 5. The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

The park at Township Hall was evaluated using this system. While there is sufficient compliant parking at the site, the gravel surfacing is not considered stable and slip free, and routes to site amenities are therefore not compliant. Upgrading the surface to crushed limestone, asphalt, or concrete, and providing an access point to the gazebo surface would greatly increase the accessibility of the property. Additionally, the barrier-free parking spaces are placed next to the Township Hall, far from the park facilities; an additional barrier-free space would improve accessibility for visitors.

The planned Township Park on Tooley Road will be designed to be ADA compliant.



**TABLE 13: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessment**

Park	Rank	Description
Township Hall Park	2	Gravel surface is not compliant. No access ramp is provided for gazebo entry. A third accessible parking space parking spot could be considered next to the gazebo with signage that complies with updated ADA requirements for Reserved parking spaces. The trail is over 6 feet wide.

## Grant Assisted Projects

Howell Township has not received any MDNR grant assistance for recreation-related projects.





## CHAPTER 5

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & NEEDS ASSESSMENT



# Public Participation & Needs Assessment

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community to formulate an action plan for parks and recreation improvement. Needs provide the rationale for goals and objectives and identify areas for capital improvements. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends and an online survey was conducted to receive opinions and desires from residents. In addition, several input sessions took place to allow Township officials, community stakeholders, staff, and residents to come together on the issues and arrive at strategic solutions to meet the Township recreation needs.

## Comparison to National Standards

According to a 1996 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) study, parks and open spaces are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are the close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. The Park at Township Hall is considered a close-to-home park. According to NRPA standards, the amount of close-to-home park land recommended is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area (one hour drive or about a 45 mile radius) than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. In Howell Township, they include county, state, and HCMA-owned parks and recreation areas described in the preceding pages. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of park land per 1,000 people.

According to these standards, local parks fall well short of the recommended acreage for close-to-home park land and, based on population estimates for 2050, will fall further behind for future uses unless recreation properties are developed. The lack of schools, conservancy sites, subdivision parks, and other private facilities within the Township borders heightens the need for local park development. Fortunately, Township residents are well-served by the regional park facilities provided by the state and other recreation providers that are located in adjacent communities. Furthermore, the planned development of a Township-owned property at Warner Road and Tooley Road for parks use will increase the amount of parks lands available to residents.

**TABLE 14: Park Comparison to National Standards**

Type of Park	NRPA standard acres/1000 population	Suggested acres per 2022 pop. - 8,372	Existing
Close to Home Parkland	6.25 - 10.5 Acres	52 - 88 acres	1.5 acres
Regional Parks	15 - 20 Acres	125 - 168 acres	89,500 Acres+
Howell & Fowlerville Community Schools	-	-	-

## National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends on a national and regional level provide insights into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. Table 9 lists the top seven outdoor activities persons aged seven years and older participated in at least once in 2020.

The 2020 study shows a continued trend towards individual-based outdoor activities, with open water sports, and outdoor activities all showing increases in participation. Team related sports, with the exception of soccer and lacrosse, have showed a steady decline in popularity in recent years, while trail related sports continue to grow in popularity. The top growing outdoor activities between 2006 and 2020 were exercise walking (87.5 to 106.1 million), running/jogging (28.8 to 44.2 million), and hiking (31.0 to 46.4 million).

**TABLE 9: NATIONAL SPORTS PARTICIPATION, 2020**

Activity	Participation (National)	Overall Rank	Participation (East North Central Region)	Overall Rank
Exercise walking	106.1 million	1	16.4 million	1
Exercising w/ equipment	56.5 million	2	8.1 million	2
Hiking	46.4 million	3	6.2 million	6
Swimming	47.1 million	4	6.4 million	5
Aerobic exercise	46.2 million	5	7.3 million	3
Running / jogging	44.2 million	6	6.0 million	7
Camping	40.7 million	7	5.9 million	9

Source: NSGA Sports Participation in the United States 2020

These trends are consistent with trends observed in Michigan. According to a survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2018-2022 Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the top ten outdoor recreation activities in Michigan were identical to those listed in the NSGA study, with hunting, boating, and visiting playgrounds added to the list.

Some key findings from the Detroit Metro region include:

- Nearly 75% of residents feeling that outdoor recreation is very important or moderately important to their household.
- Walking outdoors, including dog walking, was identified as the most important outdoor activity.

**TABLE 10: TOP 10 OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN MICHIGAN, 2018-2022**

Activity	% Participating	Activity	% Participating
Relaxing outdoors	75	Swimming	54
Walking outdoors	74	Picnicking	53
Visit parks or playground	67	Fishing	41
Sightseeing and/or driving for pleasure	64	Team or individual outdoor sports	37
Visit nature center of historic sites	56	Wildlife viewing and/or photography	36

Source: Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. The implication of the trends noted above along with the demographic and physical characteristics of the area can be summarized as follows:

- Recreation facilities should respond to the expected increase of seniors.
- Development of pathways to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian recreation use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable community should be a priority. An emphasis should be placed on connections to multi-use pathways between communities.
- Development of collaboration and partnerships between public, private, and non-profit agencies as well as with adjacent local municipalities for the provision of parks and recreation programs and facilities will be critical to the future success of recreation in Howell Township.

*"I recently visited a community rec center in Silverthorne Colorado. It had many options for recreation at the facility. Something to look into. The Howell area continues to grow. Our community would benefit from something similar."*

*- Survey respondent*

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

### **RESIDENT SURVEY**

An online survey was made available to residents from August 3 to September 5, 2023. The survey was advertised via flyers and the Township website. A copy of the survey results is included in the Supporting Documents in appendix F to this report. A total of 76 responses were compiled.

### **GENERAL RECREATION FACILITIES**

Respondents indicated that protecting natural resources and developing trails is a priority for the community. When asked, "How important are the following items to you?," 91% of respondents indicated that protection of natural resources was important or very important. 83% felt the same about access to paths and trails within the Township.

Access to active use facilities, i.e. sports fields, scored relatively low, with only 49% of respondents rating that category important or very important. Access to recreation programming scored slightly higher, at 51%.

#### **TOP 5 ANSWERS TO "WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY REGULARLY PARTICIPATE IN?"**

- Walking & trail sports 74%
- Water activities (swimming, etc.) 67%
- Nature activities (birdwatching, etc.) 63%
- Outdoor park / playground 62%
- Farmers' Market 57%

"I have to drive 20 minutes to get to a place that has sand volleyball courts or pickleball courts. There is nothing in my community for me. Pickleball is HUGE. It's time this community sees that. You have facilities and space - lets use them."

- Survey respondent

"Finally having an inviting park for residents to enjoy will better meet my recreation needs. Genoa & Oceola Twownships have great offerings. Howell Township is growing in population and should also have something great to offer."

- Survey respondent

The vast majority of respondents (95%) typically drive to recreation facilities. The most frequently visited park of those surveys was the Kensington Metropark in Millford Charter Township, with 72% of respondents reporting visting within the past 12 months and 29% of respondents reporting visting at least 6 times during that period. When asked if Howell Township has too few, too many, or the right amount of recreation properties, 20% indicated that there are the right amount, no respondents indicated that there were too many or far too many, and the remaining respondents (80%) indicated that there were too few or far too few recreation properties.

## NEW TOWNSHIP PARK

When asked about the importance of the Township acquiring and developing new parks and recreation facilities, 71% of respondents indicated that this is important or very important with only 11% of respondents indicating this priority as not important. Survey respondents were notified that the newly acquired Township property on Tooley Road is intended for a new park. Based on survey respondent feedback, the desired recreation facility would be primarily passive use; properties that preserved natural areas and open spaces would be the most appropriate. Trails, play structures, and picnic facilities were some of the top requested amenities to include in the park, all of which work well in a park/preserve scenario. As these types of amenities are relatively low cost and require only basic maintenance, as opposed to active-use facilities with sports fields which require significant ongoing maintenance, they are also appropriate for a community with little to no park operation experience.

The most requested amenity was bathrooms. Construction and maintenance costs for bathrooms is substantial, but the public support of bathrooms is worth noting in any park development plan.

The only "big ticket" items suggested by respondents were swimming pools and splash pads. These facilities require significant up-front capital and have high ongoing operation expenses. They would be better suited for a regional facility operated by larger recreation authority such as the county, state, or HCMA. The Township may want to consider investigating opportunities for these larger groups to own and maintain a facility within the Township borders.

### TOP 8 ANSWERS TO "WHAT KIND OF AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN AT THIS NEW PARK?"

- Bathrooms 75%
- Multi-use walking/biking path 71%
- Playground structures 66%
- Natural areas 62%
- Picnic areas and pavilions 59%
- Splash pad 58%
- Outdoor swimming pools 53%
- Rustic walking paths 51%

## TRAILS

Howell Township residents love to walk, hike, and run, with 75% of survey respondents indicating that they do so at least once per week. Over 82% of respondents indicated a desire to see non-motorized pathway development in Howell Township. Respondents indicated that new trails would significantly impact their daily activity levels; 70% suggested that new trails would lead to a “moderate” to “dramatic” increase in activity. Many roads were deemed unsafe for walking and biking. Suggested routes included Burkhart, Highland, Byron, and Oak Grove Roads. These routes are consistent with the non-motorized locations indicated in the Township’s Master Plan.

**“I hate the intersections along M-59: cars are not looking out for pedestrians.”**

*- Survey respondent*

### TOP 5 ANSWERS TO “WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED ON THE NETWORK?”

- |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| • Walking / hiking | 97% |
| • Bicycling        | 83% |
| • Running          | 72% |
| • Dog walking      | 70% |
| • Rollerblading    | 34% |

Survey participants were asked to identify areas where they would like to see non-motorized pathways developed. The following areas were frequently identified.

- Along Oak Grove, connecting to the City of Howell
- Along Byron Road
- Pedestrian crossings over M-59
- Along Grand River Avenue
- Routes separate from vehicle roadways



## PROGRAMMING

Participants were not as interested in seeing the Township provide recreation programming. 62% of respondents indicated that they do not take advantage of programming provided by HAPRA or neighboring communities. However, there was notable support for certain programs. 57% of respondents indicated an interest in family programs. 79% indicated that youth sports and fitness are somewhat important or very important, and 76% indicated that adult sports and fitness are somewhat important or very important. 82% of respondents indicated that special events and events and festivals are very important or somewhat important. These survey results might suggest that residents are supportive of programming, but the current offerings in the region are not attractive to them.

## SUMMARY OF PARKS AND RECREATION ISSUES

The following items encompass the opinions and desires expressed by residents and Township officials during the entire public input process. They also consider the observed deficiencies in the parks, demographics, current growth and forecasted development, the area's physical resources, and national recreation trends.

### Trail Development

There is a desire to increase non-motorized accessibility within the Township. Detailed studies of potential routes will be necessary. Trail development requires significant capital investment and will likely require grant awards to ensure their fruition.

### Park Development

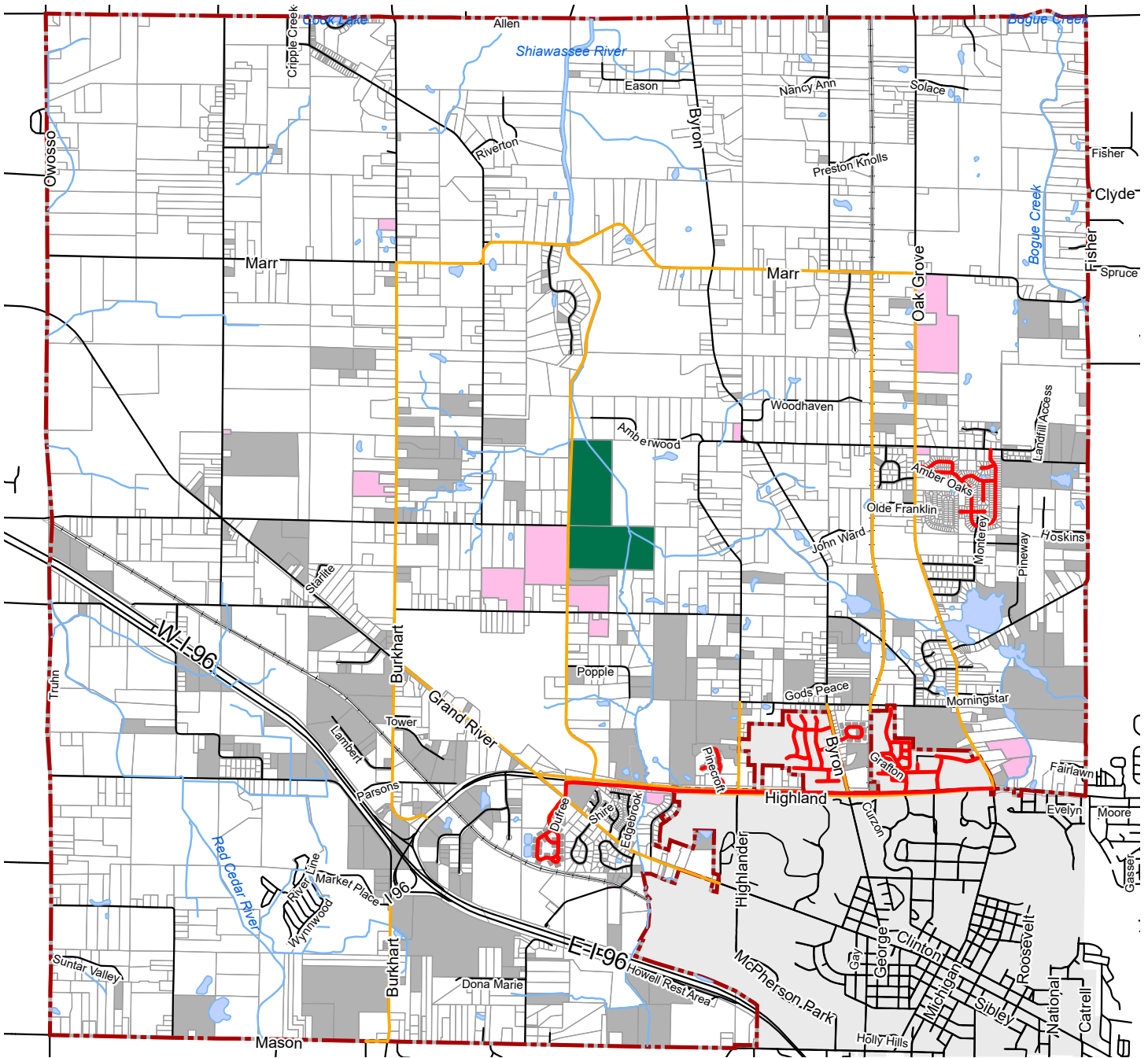
There is a clear demand and need for the new Township Park on Tooley Road to include bathrooms and passive use recreation facilities. With a limited budget, it will be important to plan for low-cost, easily maintainable facilities. The high desire for natural area protection suggests that a preserve with limited passive-use facilities would be the most appropriate solution for the Township.

### Partnership and Communication

Improved coordination and alliances between the various public and private recreation providers (HAPRA, Townships, County, schools, churches, and private recreation providers) in and around Howell Township can yield more effective services that maximize the area's recreation potential. At the same time, improving communication and resident awareness would increase support for parks and recreation projects in the Township.

These issues served to formulate the goals and objectives of the 2023 Howell Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

MAP 5: TOWNSHIP-OWNED VACANT/OPEN SPACE PARCELS



# Township-Owned & Vacant/Open Space Parcels

Howell Township

Livingston County, Michigan

- New Township Park 2023
- Existing Non-Motorized Pathways
- Potential Non-Motorized Connections
- Township Owned Parcels
- Vacant/Open Space Land
- Roads
- Railroad
- Township Boundary

0 0.38 0.75 1.5 Miles



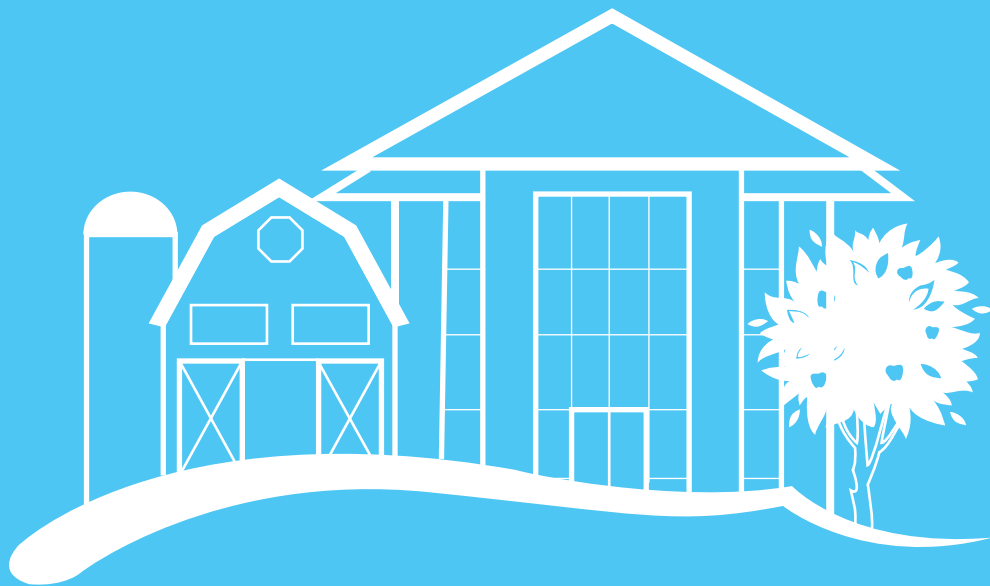
Data: Howell Township, Livingston County GIS  
11/6/2023





## CHAPTER 6

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES



# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To provide a guideline for decision-making, the Recreation Plan Steering Committee, with the assistance of Carlisle / Wortman Associates, has developed a set of comprehensive goals and objectives. The following goals and objectives are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation for Howell Township. These goals and strategies should be reviewed continually and modified as necessary.

## GOALS

Howell Township should provide outdoor recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and all abilities that are well-maintained and safe.

Howell Township should consider the future needs of the community and take actions to dedicate parkland in order to meet current as well as future recreational needs of the community.

## OBJECTIVES

### 1. Improve Existing Park Facilities

In keeping with the goal of making park facilities accessible for persons of all ages and abilities, barrier free paths to park amenities should be incorporated at the Park at Township Hall including:

- Provide an accessible surface for the walking trail
- Add a ramp to the existing gazebo
- Install permanent seating in the gazebo

### 2. Develop preserved parcel located on Tooley Road (160 acres)

- Phase 1: Utilize best practices to install accessible pathways, parking spots, and restrooms.
- Phase 2: Gather public input for future amenities such as multi-use playing fields, playground equipment, picnic shelters, mountain biking trails, disc golf, etc.

### 3. Develop Park Facilities

Utilizing the park and trail matrix developed by the Steering Committee, investigate opportunities for park development on Township-owned land. Parks should be designed for passive use, and incorporate items that do not negatively affect the character of the surrounding community, such as rustic trails, picnic shelters, and playground equipment.



#### 4. **Acquire and develop new recreation facilities**

Potential land acquisition and parkland dedication should focus on preserving and protecting high quality natural areas, local rural, historic and educational opportunities as well as providing open space for active recreation use and community gathering.

Coordination with the Township Board and Planning Commission will be necessary to preserve open space and dedicate parkland in new developments.

#### 5. **Administration, finance and funding**

Coordination with regional and adjacent local recreation providers maximizes the community's recreation potential. Park and trail improvements are covered by a combination of disbursements from the Township's general fund and a variety of grant funding and other donations. The Township must continue efforts to generate revenue through grants and fundraising to provide necessary capital for improvement projects and parkland acquisition.

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## CHAPTER 7

# ACTION PROGRAM



# ACTION PROGRAM

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific projects as well as a schedule with suggested capital improvement projects, time frame, and strategies for implementation.

## ACTION PLAN

The following plan outlines the list of specific projects and actions which are recommended for the next five years.

### I. Develop Non-Motorized Trail Along Oak Grove Roadway

Trail development is a high priority for the community, and a feasibility study was conducted in 2021. Improvements will best be accomplished through coordination with the MDNR and the Livingston County Road Commission. Recommended development includes:

- Prepare engineering drawings and obtain permits, easements, and necessary documentation for trail construction;
- Construct an 8 to 10'-wide asphalt multi-use trail which best meets the character of the surrounding community;
- Provide safe crossings, wayfinding signage, and pedestrian amenities such as benches and dog waste facilities where feasible along the trail;
- Utilize the Trail Matrix to identify future development phases for Oak Grove and future trail connection locations.
- Ensure that the Sidewalk & Pathway Ordinance — a goal outlined in the previous Recreation Plan — is applied during site plan review of new developments and expansion of existing developments.
- Evaluate and update the Non-motorized Facility map to reflect ongoing efforts in the Township.

Justification: This action is a significant need identified by survey respondents and responds to national and regional trends.

### II. Develop Park and Preserve Facilities at Tooley Road Property

Development of a dedicated recreation property is a priority for the Township. Proposed actions include:

- Install parking lot, interpretive signage, benches, trash receptacles, and an internal rustic loop trail, as indicated on the concept plan for the property.
- After 5 years, re-evaluate the impact of the park development and gather public input on other recreation opportunities, including sports fields, a nature study preserve, a natural playscape, a picnic shelter, mountain bike trails, and playground structures as appropriate.

Justification: These items were identified by survey respondents and respond to observed deficiencies as well as environmental and social trends identified in the previous section. They also expand upon the goals set during the 2019 Recreation Plan.

### III. Improve the Park at Township Hall

As the Township's first recreation property, it is important to ensure that the park accommodates users of all abilities. Proposed actions include:

- Assign a formal name to the park and hold a dedication ceremony to recognize its role in the community;
- Develop and install signage identifying the park and usage regulations;
- Upgrade surfacing on the trail and around the exercise equipment to crushed limestone or other accessible surface type;
- Ensure that one parking spot near the gazebo is barrier free accessible; and
- Provide an access ramp to the gazebo platform.

Justification: These items respond to observed deficiencies as well as social trends identified in the previous sections.

### IV. Administration, finance, and maintenance

- Create a Parks and Recreation Committee which reports to the Township Board to oversee recreation activities and development in the Township;
- Support the creation of a "Friends of" group to assist with maintenance, fundraising, and other recreation efforts;
- Facilitate communication and partnerships to promote the shared use of the area's parks and recreation resources including the state, schools, land conservancies, and private recreation providers as well as the Township facilities by community groups;
- Aggressively seek grants and other forms of financial support; and
- Promote and advocate the social, economic, and environmental value and benefits of parks and recreation by reaching out to the community and the region.

Justification: This action is recommended to implement the current Master Plan goals.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Table 19 lists the individual capital improvement projects along with the specific tasks to be accomplished, the project goal/objective reference, a cost estimate, and potential funding sources. In addition, a time frame for completion has been assigned. Short-term projects (ST) are recommended for completion within one to two years, medium-term (MT) within two to five years while long-term projects (LT) may take longer to complete, within five to six years. There are also tasks that are on-going (OG).

**TABLE 19: Project Schedule**

Project / Location	Cost Estimate	Funding Source*	Time Frame
<b>Oak Grove Trail Development - 2.9 miles</b>			
Obtain easements for trail development	\$ 399,822.38	LF, G	ST
Prepare engineering study	\$ 150,000	LF, D, G	ST
Construct an 8 - 10' wide asphalt trail	\$ 1,299,000	LF, D, G	MT
Install pedestrian amenities	\$10 - 15,000	LF, D, G	MT - LT
<b>Develop Park Property</b>			
Construct parking lot	\$ 60,000 - 100,000	LF, D, G	ST - MT
Install signage	\$ 3,000 - 5,000	LF, D, G	ST - MT
Create internal rustic trails	TBD	LF, D, G	MT
Construct picnic shelter	\$ 20,000 - 30,000	LF, D	LT
Install playground equipment	\$ 100,000 - 200,000	LF, D, G	LT
<b>Improve the Park at Township Hall</b>			
Install signage	\$ 3,000 - 5,000	LF, D	ST
Upgrade trail and equipment surface	\$ 15,000	LF, D	ST - MT
Add handicapped signage & striping near gazebo	\$ 500 - 800	LF, D	ST
Add access ramp to gazebo	\$ 1,000 - \$1,500	LF, D	ST - MT
Perform ongoing weeding and patching as necessary	\$ 5,000	LF	OG

\* LF = Local Funds, G = Grants, D = Donations

Note that based on preliminary evaluation of potential trail sites, the Oak Grove corridor is recommended as the first location for trail development in the Township. The project schedule specifically reflects this recommendation.



## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a limited amount of funds for park development and improvements. The amount is well short of the projected expenses involved in the project schedule. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended to proceed as planned.

### Apply for Federal Funding

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) funds Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the TE activities. Activities which may apply to the Howell Township include:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles such as walkways, curb ramps, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges, and underpasses;
2. Educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets, and signage; and
3. Preservation, conversion, and use of abandoned railway corridors for acquisition, development, planning, design, and construction of multi-use trails, as well as purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.

A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis.

The ***Safe Routes to School*** program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for a healthy lifestyle. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's Safe Routes to School program made schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program, as defined in the federal legislation, is to:

1. Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
2. Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
3. Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in schools' areas.

The program authorizes \$612 million over the five fiscal years which began in 2005. The Michigan Department of Transportation estimates that Michigan's total apportionment over the five years will be roughly \$19 million. Schools must be registered, attend a day-long training session and develop a Walking Audit in order to be eligible to apply. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required. Seventy percent of the funding must be used for infrastructure projects, 10 percent for non-infrastructure projects, and 20 percent for either.

### **Apply for State Funding**

At the state level, the *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)* and the *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)* continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development.


The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource based preservation and recreation. Goals of the program are to:

1. Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use, and enjoyment;
2. Provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes and facilitate their recreation use;
3. Meet regional, county, and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities;
4. Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas; and
5. Stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April only for development projects.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields, and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$150,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be submitted by April 1 to be considered for the following years grant funds.

The *Recreation Passport* grant program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$75,000. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Applications are typically due on April 1st.



Local units of government may use the Forest Stewardship program to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of \$2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Non-game Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

**The Detroit Edison Tree Planting program** began as DTE joined the US Department of Energy's voluntary Climate Challenge Program to address greenhouse gas emissions. Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in the Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to \$4,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50 percent local match. Applications are typically due in February.

### **Apply for Other Grant Funding**

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities such as **Bikes Belong Coalition**. The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: Facility, Education, and Capacity Building. Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

**Access to Recreation** is a grant program available for universal access of people of all abilities to a wide variety of recreation opportunities, such as nature viewing and photography areas, hiking trails, scenic outlooks, waterfalls and water activities of all kinds, beaches, fishing and boating, playgrounds, picnic areas, campgrounds, and much more. There are two primary grant programs under this source of funding:

1. *Recreation Access Matching Grant* provides up to 50 percent matching funds (up to \$10,000) for the purchase of universally accessible recreation equipment and materials such as all terrain hiking wheelchairs, pool lifts, accessible playground surface, transfer systems, beach access mats, trail surface enhancements, and accessible picnic tables that enhance recreation participation by people with disabilities; and
2. *Accessible by Design Awards* is designed to stimulate the development of creative universally designed recreation experiences that invite, welcome, and support the inclusion of people of all abilities. Winning designs demonstrate how going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act can create greater access and usability for people of all abilities in the community. Winning designs are awarded cash prizes to build the projects up to \$250,000 with 25 percent minimum match.

### **Increase Support for Parks**

Public support for parks and recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services the Township will be able to provide in the future. A specific park or project millage over a limited period could be considered in the future for particular projects such as park or trail acquisition, development, or maintenance.

### **Seek Other Sources of Funding**

Howell Township should continue to search for additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund-raising events, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.





# CHAPTER 8

# APPENDICES



**Howell Township**  
 3125 BYRON ROAD, HOWELL, MI 48855  
 (517) 546-2617

WATER EMERGENCY: 1.888.461.0439      SEWER EMERGENCY: 1.888.461.0439

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**HOWELL TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
 3125 BYRON ROAD, MI 48855, (517) 546-2617

Please be advised that the Howell Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Howell Township office, at 3125 Byron Road, Howell MI 48855, to hear and consider an Application for Special Use Permit.

**APPLICANT:** Howell-Mason, LLC, 194 WYOMING, 3918 MYERS RD, HOWELL, MI 48855-1308-001 & 4736-33-80-018, Located on the corner of Mason and Buckhart Roads, Target development available upon request.

**REQUEST:** For a Special Use Permit to allow for a Gas Station.

The public is invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed zoning appeal to the Zoning Administration at [inspectors@howelltownship.org](mailto:inspectors@howelltownship.org) by the 4:00 PM on Monday, August 21, 2023.

Howell Township,  
 Planning Commission Chair

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**MHOG Utility Department Notice - Survey**

**NOTICE:** For customers served by the MHOG water system, please complete our online survey regarding the type of material used before and after your water meter. We are required to provide the State of Michigan an inventory of all discarded materials and we need your help to complete this requirement for our Drinking Water License with the state. The same as with this survey as a much more convenient, lower cost, and more private method to document materials that will have to enter homes in order to meet this regulatory requirement. To thank you for your time, when your completed survey is received, you will receive a \$10.00 credit on your next utility bill. The link to this survey is: [www.mhogs.org/survey](https://www.mhogs.org/survey)

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**Howell Township Board Vacancy - Clerk**

Howell Township will be accepting applications to fill the vacancy of Township Clerk. Applicants must be registered to vote, 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, have lived in Howell Township at least 30 days, and be able to fulfill the duties of the office. Appointee will hold the position for the remainder of the current term through November 2024. Appointee will be required to serve the duty of office and must appoint a deputy. Please submit applications no later than August 21, 2023 to the Township for name by mail: 3125 Byron Rd, Howell, MI 48855 or by email at: [township@howelltownship.org](mailto:township@howelltownship.org). The 4th Commissioner will contact applicants for interviews. All applications submitted will be taken to the Board for a consideration at a special board meeting to be held on August 28, 2023. See attached PDF for job duties of the Clerk.

[Download PDF](#)

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**Howell Township Park and Recreation Master Plan**

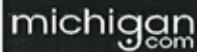
Howell Township is working on its Park and Recreation Master Plan and we would like your input. You can click the link below or stop in to scan the QR code. The survey will close on September 30th.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/20230557620000>

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The building is being located through Thursday 02 of a.m. 1:00 p.m. our DORSEY is being and all related facilities. For the better. Thank you, I believe it is all area 100% but

Howell Township was founded in 1836 and was originally established in what we now call Township of Clinton and Mason and the City of Howell in 1963, the population has 1,000 residents. The 2020 census revealed a record low rate. The population has been steadily growing with the birth of growth of 4,000 between 1970-1980.



LIVINGSTON DAILY PRESS & ARGUS NEWSPAPERS  
323 East Grand River Avenue, Howell MI 48843

BE IT MADE KNOWN THAT THE FOLLOWING LEGAL AD APPEARED IN

RECEIVED

NOV 16 2023

HOWELL TOWNSHIP

HOWELL TOWNSHIP  
3525 BYRON RD  
HOWELL, MI 48855

REFERENCE: 3002471  
FILE NO: 0008791674  
THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE

LIVINGSTON DAILY PRESS & ARGUS a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news, which is a duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published on the date indicated below

*Heitner*

LEGAL CLERK PRINTED NAME

*[Signature]*

LEGAL CLERK SIGNATURE

*Nancy Heyrman*

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNTY OF BROWN

5.15.27

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

Subscribed and sworn to before me on  
NOVEMBER 9TH, 2023

PUBLISHED ON:  
11/9/2023

FILED ON: 11/9/2023

# of Affidavits: 1  
THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Howell Township is seeking public input regarding the Township's 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A hearing will take place as part of the regularly scheduled Township Board meeting at Howell Township Hall, 3525 Byron Road, on December 11 at 6:30 p.m.

A draft copy of the plan has been available for review since November 10, 2023 and will remain available through the date of the hearing. The plan can be viewed at the following locations:

- Howell Township Hall, 3525 Byron Road, Howell
- Howell Carnegie District Library, 314 West Grand River Ave, Howell
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at <https://howelltownshipmi.org>

LV-0008791674

NANCY HEYRMAN  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin





LIVINGSTON DAILY PRESS & ARGUS NEWSPAPERS  
323 East Grand River Avenue, Howell MI 48843

BE IT MADE KNOWN THAT THE FOLLOWING LEGAL AD APPEARED IN

RECEIVED

NOV 16 2023

HOWELL TOWNSHIP

HOWELL TOWNSHIP  
3525 BYRON RD  
HOWELL, MI 48855

REFERENCE: 3002471  
FILE NO: 0008791675  
THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE

LIVINGSTON DAILY PRESS & ARGUS a newspaper published in  
the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted

**NOTICE OF  
30-DAY REVIEW PERIOD**

Howell Township is seeking public input regarding the Township's 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan DNR requires a 30-day public review period prior to plan adoption. A draft copy of the plan is available for review and will remain available through the date of the hearing. The plan can be viewed at the following locations:

- Howell Township Hall, 3525 Byron Road, Howell
- Howell Carnegie District Library, 314 West Grand River Ave, Howell
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at <https://howelltownshipmi.org>

A Public Hearing will take place as part of the regularly scheduled Township Board meeting at Howell Township Hall, 3525 Byron Road, on December 11 at 6:30 p.m.

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LEGAL CLERK F

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NOTARY PUBLIC

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## APPENDIX B: MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

### HOWELL TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

3525 Byron Road Howell, MI 48855  
December 11, 2023  
6:30 P.M.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Coddington      Supervisor  
Jonathan Hohenstein      Treasurer  
Jeff Smith      Trustee  
Harold Melton      Trustee  
Bob Wilson      Trustee

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sue Daus      Clerk  
Matthew Counts      Trustee

#### **Also in Attendance:**

Jacob Witte - Township Attorney  
Tom Landa – Township Attorney  
Eighteen people were in the audience.

Supervisor Coddington called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The roll was called. Supervisor Coddington requested members rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### CALL TO THE BOARD:

No additions

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

December 11, 2023

**Motion** by Melton, **Second** by Hohenstein, “**To accept the agenda.**” Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 13, 2023

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, “**To accept the minutes from November 13<sup>th</sup> as presented.**” Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, “**To accept the closed session minutes as presented.**” Motion carried.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

One addition was placed on the board table. No questions.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Special Use Permit Request, PC-2023-04

Howell-Mason, LLC. 4706-33-300-001, 4706-33-300-018

Todd Leekander gave an overview of Mugg and Bopps and the proposed site plan. Brent LaVanway from Boss Engineering gave an overview of the site plan. Greg Buchoveckey from Mannakin Smith gave an overview of the geological conditions in the area. Charlie Burns from Oscar W. Larson gave an overview of the proposed 20,000 gallon tank, piping and pumping system. Paul LeBlanc from PLB Planning gave an overview of the previous Planning Commission meeting and the Township's ordinances. Discussion followed. Clarification from Treasurer Hohenstein regarding the Planning Commission's action on the Special Use Permit request for a gas station in the NSC zoning district and that no action was taken by the Planning Commission on the Special Use Permit required for a drive-thru restaurant nor was the site plan itself sent to the Board for a decision.

**Motion by Hohenstein, Second by Smith, "To accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and deny the application for a special use permit in the NSC zoning district based upon the following:**

**1. Section 16.11 (C-8) of the zoning ordinance prohibits the establishment of a gas service station within 300 feet of a wellhead protection area and the property is located in the MHOG wellhead protection area. 2. The proposed use violates section 16.06 (A) as an establishment of a gas station in the area would not be harmonious with the general objectives, purpose, and intent of the zoning ordinance, as the dispensing of gasoline can create noise, smoke, fumes, and odors – which can negatively impact persons and the general welfare of the surrounding area. 3. The proposed use violates section 16.06 (D) and (F) of the zoning ordinance, as the state has designated the area in which the gas station is located as a wellhead protection area. Because a wellhead protection area constitutes an area which supplies a public water supply as deemed by EGLE, placement of a gas station within that area has the potential to be hazardous to existing or future neighboring uses and have a substantial adverse impact to natural resources in the area, including wells and watersheds. 4. Permitting a gasoline station in the wellhead protection area does not conform to the Master Plan, which seeks to protect existing natural resources and preserve the quality of the Township's water resources. 5. Information contained in the Township Planner's Report. 6. Comments from the Public and, 7. Information provided by the Planning Commission as reflected in their minutes." Roll call vote: Hohenstein – yes, Melton – yes, Coddington – yes, Wilson – yes, Smith – yes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Hohenstein, Second by Smith, "To deviate to agenda item 13. Closed session for Burkhart Road Associates v. Howell Township." Motion carried.**

B. Griffith Realty – Contract Renewal

Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the current contract with Griffith Realty and his opinion of the quality of service being provided by Scott Griffith. **Motion by Smith, Second by Hohenstein, "To approve the listing extension agreement as presented to extend Griffith Realty as the Howell Township realtor, term ending no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> 2026. Motion carried.**

C. Property Sale – 8.08 Ac. Bowen Rd., 4706-22-300-047

Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the offer for the property. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Smith, **"To accept resolution 12.23.533 for sale of property 4706-22-300-047 as presented."** Roll call vote: Wilson – yes, Hohenstein – yes, Melton – yes, Smith – yes, Coddington – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Smith, **"To open the public hearing for the Park and Recreation Master Plan."** Roll call vote: Coddington – yes, Melton – yes, Smith – yes, Hohenstein – yes, Wilson – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the Recreation Master Plan prepared by Carlisle and Wortman. Park and Recreation Committee member Martha Haglund discussed the survey results.

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **"To close the public hearing."** Motion carried.

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Smith, **"To approve the Township Park and Recreation Master Plan as presented."** Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Guardian Alarm

Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the revised quote from Guardian Alarm. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Board to take no action at this time.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

None

**REPORTS:**

A. SUPERVISOR:

B. TREASURER:

Reported on Tribar's delinquent taxes and past due water payments. Treasurer Hohenstein reported on Tribar's delinquent IFT bills and that he is moving forward with sending a demand letter for payment of the IFT, which if not paid within 60 days the IFT will automatically terminate on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. It was the consensus of the Board to send the IFT demand letter, stay on top of Tribar's water bills, and use the water shut-off process as necessary.

C. CLERK:

Treasurer Hohenstein reported on Sue's request for education for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Smith, **"To approve the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to attend the MAMC Institute in March of 2024 plus accommodations as presented."** Discussion followed. Motion was amended **"To approve the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to attend the MAMC Institute in March of 2024 plus accommodations not to exceed \$3,600.00 as presented."** Motion carried.

Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the changes to the voting precincts allowed due to the change in state voting laws and that Resolution 12.23.534 was approved by the Election Commission reducing Howell Township from 3 voting precincts to 2 voting precincts.

D. ZONING:

No zoning report was included from Zoning Administrator Joe Daus. Treasurer Hohenstein discussed education opportunities for the Planning Commission and ZBA. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **"To approve Planning Commission members and ZBA members to attend the class, The Roles and Responsibilities of a Planning Commission, put on by Michigan State University Extension as presented."** Motion carried.

- E. ASSESSING:  
See Assessor Kilpela's report
- F. FIRE AUTHORITY:  
Supervisor Coddington reported on the Fire Authority
- G. MHOG:  
Supervisor Coddington reported on MHOG
- H. PLANNING COMMISSION:  
Supervisor Coddington reported on the Planning Commission
- I. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA):  
No meeting to report
- J. WWTP:  
See Treasurer Hohenstein's report
- K. HAPRA:  
See Clerk Daus's report
- L. PROPERTY COMMITTEE:  
Treasurer Hohenstein reported on the Property Committee. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **"To accept the recommendation from the Property Committee and deny the request for an extension of the investigation period."** Motion carried.
- M. PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE:  
No report

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **"To go into closed session to discuss Burkhart Road Associates v. Howell Township."** Roll call vote: Melton – yes, Wilson – yes, Smith – yes, Coddington – yes, Hohenstein – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **"To enter back into regular session."** Motion carried.

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **"To approve the non-binding term sheet as presented in closed session for the Burkhart Road Associates v. Howell Township litigation and authorize counsel to finalize the settlement agreement."** Motion carried.

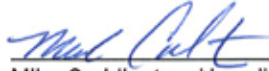
**DISBURSEMENTS: REGULAR PAYMENTS AND CHECK REGISTER:**

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, "To accept the disbursements as presented and any normal and customary payments for the month." Motion carried.

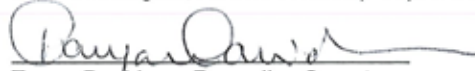
**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Melton, **Second** by Smith, "To adjourn." Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.



Sue Daus, Howell Township Clerk



Mike Coddington, Howell Township Supervisor



Tanya Davidson, Recording Secretary

HOWELL TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

3525 Byron Road Howell, MI 48855

January 8, 2024

6:30 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mike Coddington	Supervisor
Sue Daus	Clerk
Jonathan Hohenstein	Treasurer
Matthew Counts	Trustee
Harold Melton	Trustee
Bob Wilson	Trustee

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jeff Smith	Trustee
------------	---------

**Also in Attendance:**

Six people were in the audience.

Supervisor Coddington called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The roll was called. Supervisor Coddington requested members rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO THE BOARD:**

No additions

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

January 8, 2024

**Motion** by Melton, **Second** by Hohenstein, **“To approve the agenda as presented.”** Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

December 11, 2023

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **“To accept the December 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes as presented.”** Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **“To accept the closed session minutes from December 11<sup>th</sup> as presented.”** Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

No additions, no questions.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Andrew Hamm, 14 Santa Rosa Drive: inquired as to the status of the complaint filed by Bob Wilson for a camper in the front yard of a property on Bowen Road. Mr. Hamm was ticketed for violating the Township's ordinance with his camper.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. LESA Collection Agreement

Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the agreements between the schools and the Township to collect their millages on the summer tax bills. Treasurer Hohenstein has been working with the schools to amend the agreements so that the Township will receive the schools information in a timely fashion.

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To accept the agreement with LESA for the summer school tax collection as presented."** Motion carried.

B. Howell Public Schools Collection Agreement

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **"To accept the collection agreement for Howell Public Schools as presented."** Motion carried.

C. Shipping Containers – as requested by Michael Dietz

Michael Dietz requested the Township look into an ordinance for shipping containers. Mr. Dietz discussed the situation on his property with his neighbor's shipping containers. Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the issues brought to the Township's attention regarding shipping containers and the Township's zoning ordinance, section 14 that regulates storage units under 200 square feet. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Daus, **"To approve having the Planning Commission work on either creating an ordinance or amending the existing ordinance to deal with shipping containers."** Motion carried 4-2.

D. Request by Mason & Burkhart LLC to amend Heritage Square PUD, Parcel 4706-32-400-013, PC2023-13

Trustee Counts discussed the history of the Heritage Square PUD. Engineer Kevin McDevitt, Monument Engineering, discussed the history of the PUD and the changes that have been made since the original application in 2021, including the reduction in the number of housing units, driveway changes, and changes to the storm water collection system. Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the project having two developers on this PUD and the issues with green space and infrastructure that this creates. Treasurer Hohenstein also discussed the sidewalks and how to remediate the traffic created by this development. Trustee Wilson discussed the storm water system. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To approve the preliminary PUD with the condition of reaching a written PUD agreement between the developer and the Township."** Motion carried.

E. Sewer and Water District #12

Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the history of sewer and water district #12 dating back to 2005 and the maps and sections of the Township Master Plan that were included in the Board packet along with the engineers rough cost analysis for construction of the sewer system as designed in 2005. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To approve the Township staff to work with engineering and the attorneys to gather preliminary information regarding sewer and water**



**district #12.**” Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Board that the fees for engineering and from the attorneys be paid by the sewer and water fund. Motion carried 5-1.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Andrew Hamm, 14 Santa Rosa Drive: discussed the Heritage Square PUD, storm water, and traffic. Kevin McDevitt answered questions on the storm water system and the site plan.

Rob Spaulding, 3500 Crandall Road: inquired on sewer and water district #12.

Doug Helzerman, County Commissioner: discussed the County Board’s Chairmanship and Surf Internet.

**REPORTS:**

A. SUPERVISOR:

B. TREASURER:

Treasurer Hohenstein reported on the sidewalk project with the City along Grand River, informed the Board that the Pineview Village property sale closed, encouraged the Board to read the Township’s PUD ordinance for future discussion on sending to the Planning Commission to be redone, informed the Board that Deputy Supervisor Kilpela left the Township’s audit on the Board table for review and will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

C. CLERK:

Clerk Daus gave an update on the upcoming elections.

D. ZONING:

No zoning report was included from Zoning Administrator Joe Daus. Treasurer Hohenstein discussed education opportunities for the ZBA. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **“To approve any ZBA member and the Zoning Administrator to attend the ZBA online certificate course put on by MSU Extension paid for by the Township.”** Motion carried.

E. ASSESSING:

See Assessor Kilpela’s report

F. FIRE AUTHORITY:

Supervisor Coddington reported on the Fire Authority

G. MHOG:

Trustee Counts reported on MHOG

H. PLANNING COMMISSION:

Trustee Counts reported on the Planning Commission

I. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA):

No report

J. WWTP:

See Treasurer Hohenstein's report. Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the Committee's recommendations. **Motion** by Counts, **Second** by Hohenstein, **"To approve the wastewater treatment plant projects as presented."** Motion carried.

K. HAPRA:

Clerk Daus reported on HAPRA

L. PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

No report

M. PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Treasurer Hohenstein discussed the Park and Recreation Master Plan that was approved by the Board at the previous Board meeting. **Motion** by Melton, **Second** by Hohenstein, **"To approve resolution 1.24.535 as presented."** Roll call vote: Coddington – yes, Counts – yes, Wilson – yes, Daus – yes, Hohenstein – yes, Melton – yes. Motion carried 6-0.

**DISBURSEMENTS: REGULAR PAYMENTS AND CHECK REGISTER:**

**Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Melton, **"To accept the disbursements as presented and any normal and customary payments for the month."** Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** **Motion** by Counts, **Second** by Melton, **"To adjourn."** Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Daus, Howell Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Coddington, Howell Township Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tanya Davidson, Recording Secretary

**HOWELL TOWNSHIP  
LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION TO ADOPTING  
THE 2024-2028 RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
RESOLUTION NO. 1.24.535**

At a regular meeting of the Howell Township Board, held at the Township Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Coddington, Daus, Hohenstein, Counts, Melton, Wilson

ABSENT: Smith

The following resolution was offered by Melton and supported by Hohenstein:

**WHEREAS**, Howell Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a four year period covering the years 2024-2028, and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Board began the process of developing a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

**WHEREAS**, residents were provided with an opportunity to express opinions and ask questions during the drafting of the plan and was given a well-advertised period of at least 30 days to review and comment on the draft plan, and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on December 11, 2023 at the Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents to discuss all aspects of the Howell Township Recreation Master Plan, and after the public hearing the Board of Trustees voted to adopt the 2024-2028 Howell Township Recreation Master Plan

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Board of Howell Township, Livingston County, Michigan, hereby adopts the 2024-2028 Howell Township Recreation Master Plan.


Yeas: Coddington, Counts, Wilson, Daus, Hohenstein, Melton

Nays:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN            )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON    )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk for the Howell Township, Livingston County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Howell Township Board at a meeting held on the 8th day of January 2024, and further certify that the above Resolution was adopted at said meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Daus, Township Clerk  
Howell Township



**Carlisle | Wortman**  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

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January 16, 2024

Scott Barb  
Planning Director  
Livingston County  
304 East Grand River  
Suite 206  
Howell, Michigan 48843

Dear Mr. Barb:

The Howell Township Board of Trustees adopted the attached Parks & Recreation Master Plan at a meeting held on January 8, 2024, following a Public Hearing held on December 11, 2023. The plan has been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

**CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.**

**Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA**

**Landscape Architect**

cc. Jonathan Hohensten, Howell Township Treasurer

Benjamin R. Carlisle, *President* John L. Enos, *Vice President* Douglas J. Lewan, *Principal*  
David Scurto, *Principal* Sally M. Elmiger, *Principal* R. Donald Wortman, *Principal* Craig Strong, *Principal*  
Paul Montagno, *Principal*, Megan Masson-Minock, *Principal*, Laura Kreps, *Principal*  
Richard K. Carlisle, *Past President/Senior Principal*



**Carlisle | Wortman**  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

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January 16, 2024

Jaylyn King  
Regional Review Office  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mr. King:

The Howell Township Board of Trustees adopted the attached Parks & Recreation Master Plan at a meeting held on January 8, 2024, following a Public Hearing held on December 11, 2023. The plan has been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

**CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.**

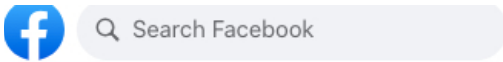
**Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA**

**Landscape Architect**

cc. Jonathan Hohensten, Howell Township Treasurer

Benjamin R. Carlisle, *President* John L. Enos, *Vice President* Douglas J. Lewan, *Principal*  
David Scurto, *Principal* Sally M. Elmiger, *Principal* R. Donald Wortman, *Principal* Craig Strong, *Principal*  
Paul Montagno, *Principal*, Megan Masson-Minock, *Principal*, Laura Kreps, *Principal*  
Richard K. Carlisle, *Past President/Senior Principal*

APPENDIX F: PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY NOTICES



**Howell MI Happenings**  
Private group · 22.2K members

Joined ▾

Community home  
1 photo, 4 posts

**Howell MI Happenings**



**Martha Haglund**

Just now · 🌐

Howell Township is seeking input on their 5-Year Recreation Plan. Thanks for your input Howell City Neighbors 😊

<https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/G3jUsh>

Howell Township recently preserved 160 acres and hope to start to develop it into a park in the next 5-10 years. The area is located on the corner of Tooley & Warner Rd. The input we receive here will help us guide our vision for recreation opportunities in our community. Thank you!

Howell Township Recreation Committee

sogolyt

SURVEY.SOGOLYTICS.COM



Please provide feedback for Howell Township's  
Park and Recreation Management Plan

Thank You!



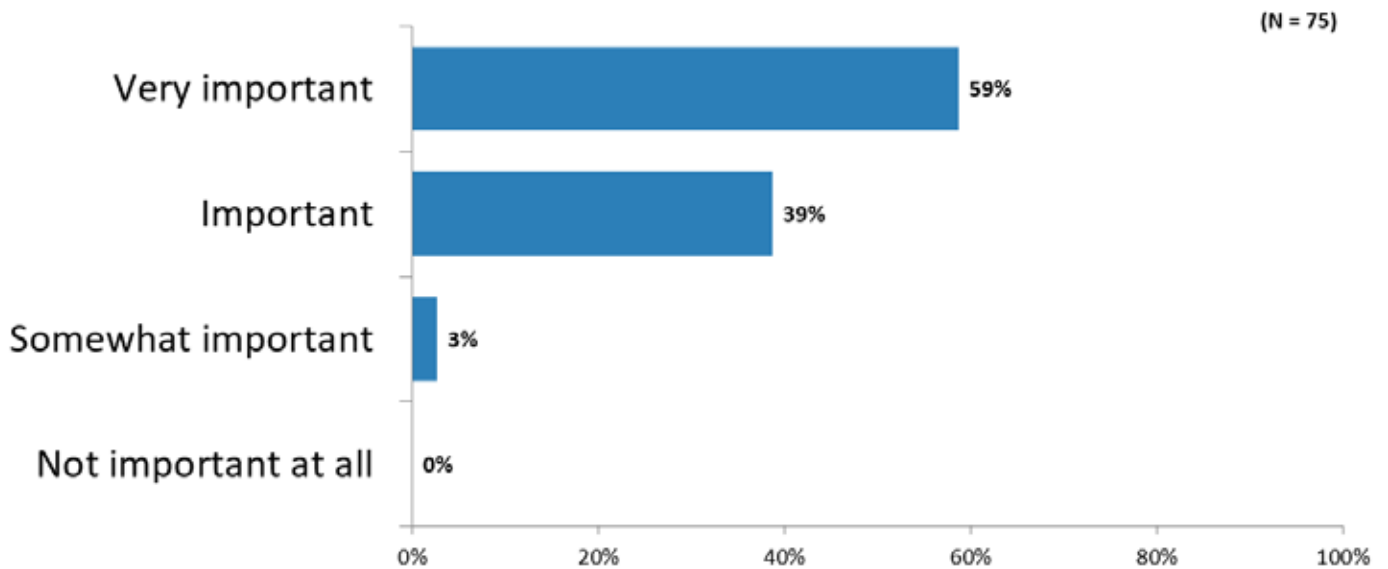
Please provide feedback for Howell Township's  
Park and Recreation Management Plan

Thank You!

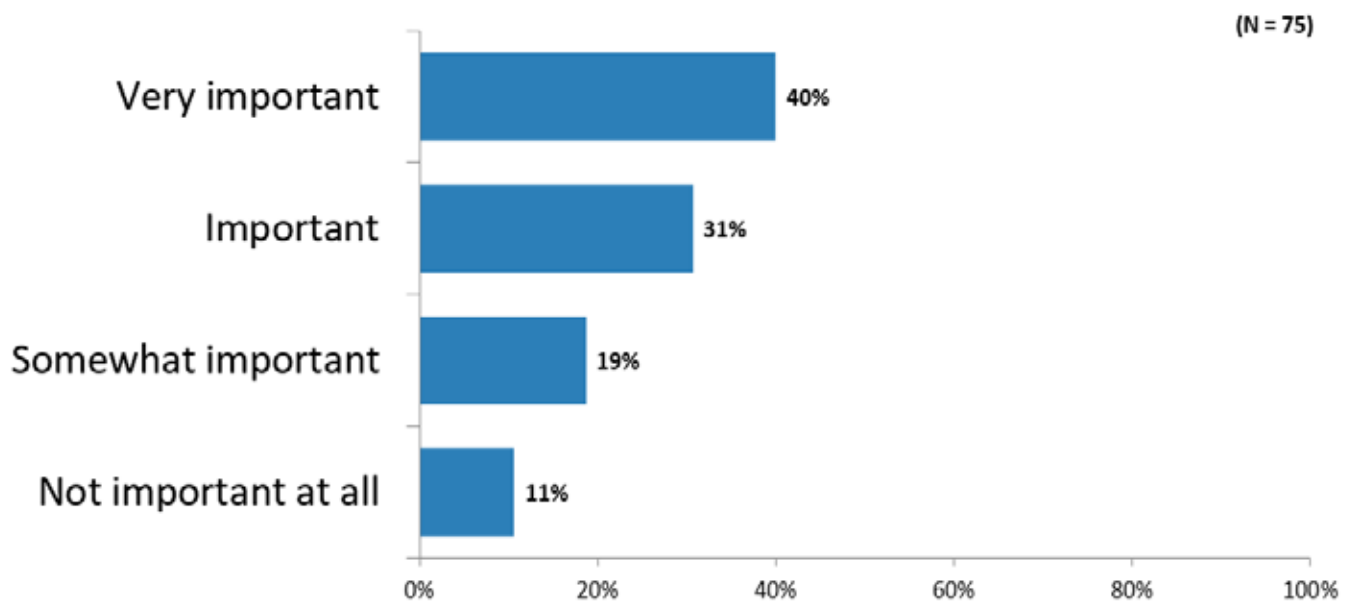




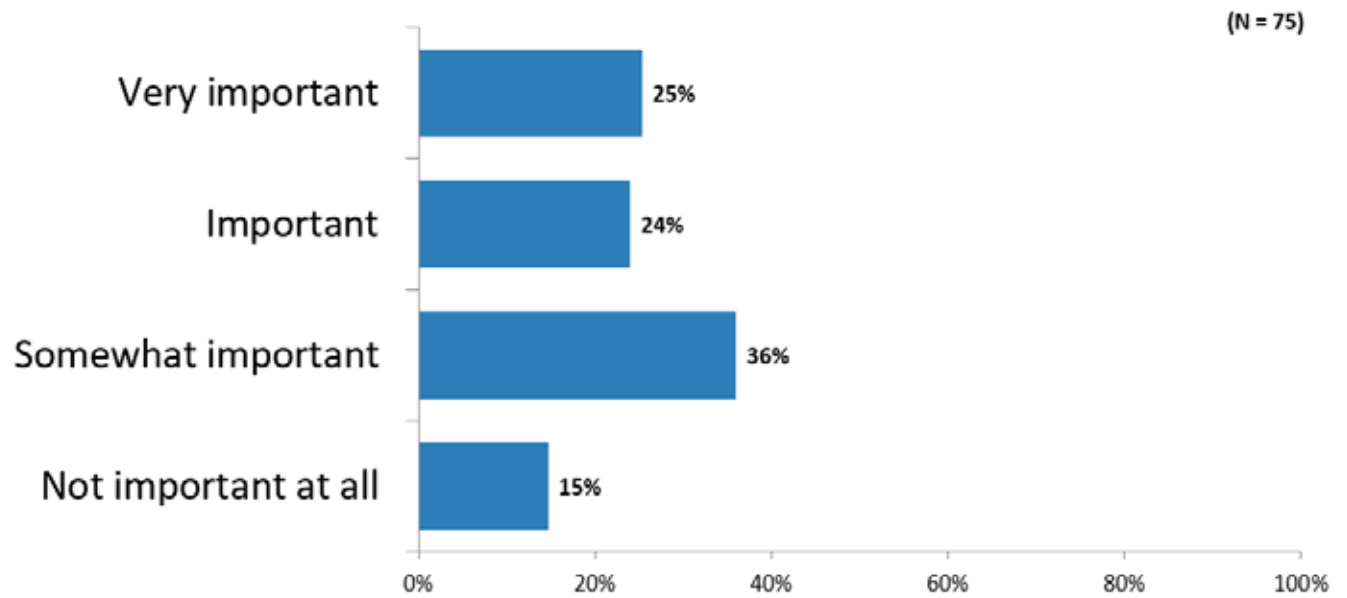
How important are the following items to you and your family?:  
**Maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities**



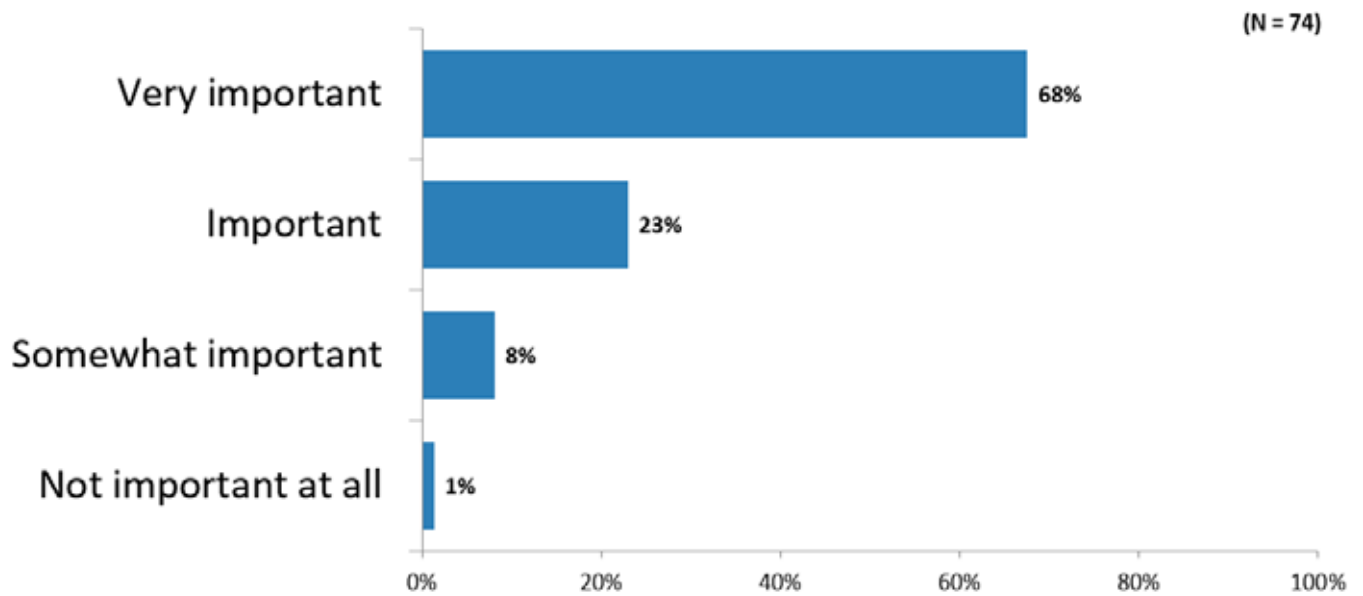
How important are the following items to you and your family?:  
**Acquiring and developing new parks and recreation facilities**



How important are the following items to you and your family?: **Access to active use facilities (e.g. soccer, football, pickleball, baseball, tennis, etc.)**

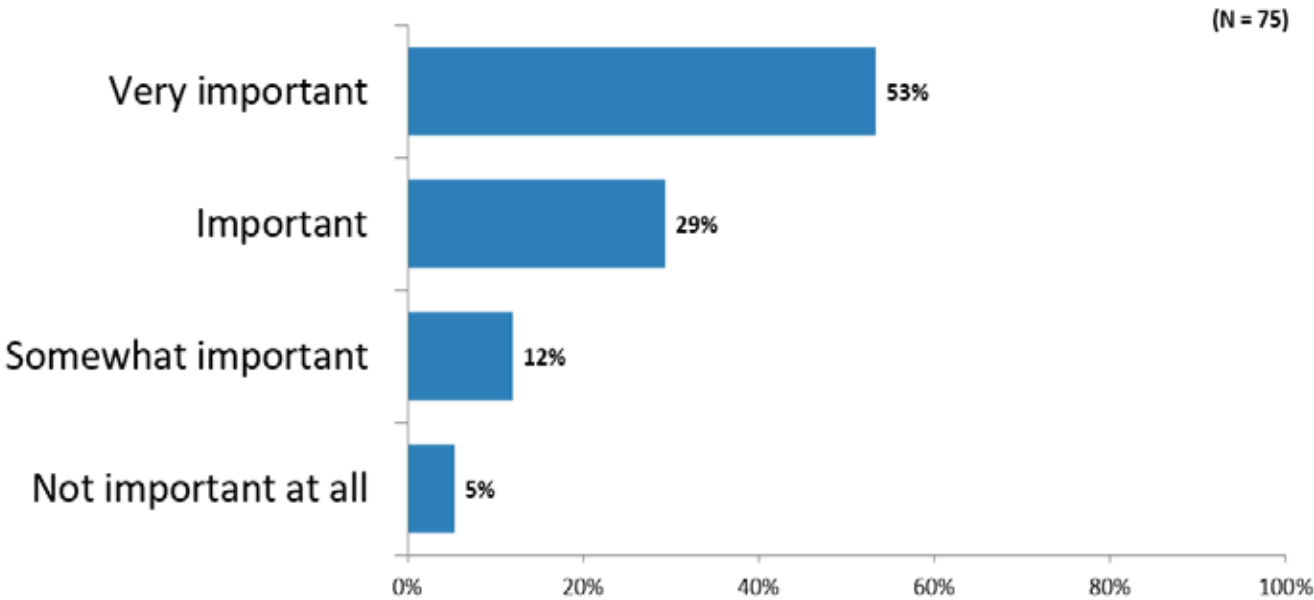


How important are the following items to you and your family?: **Protecting natural resources**

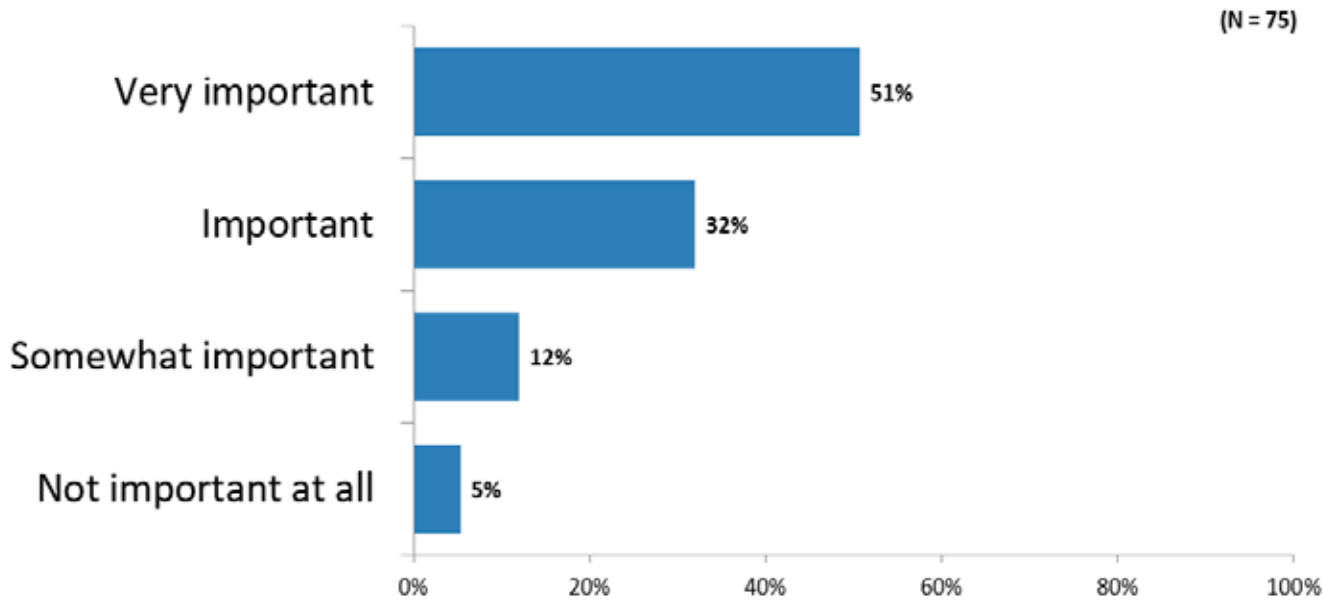




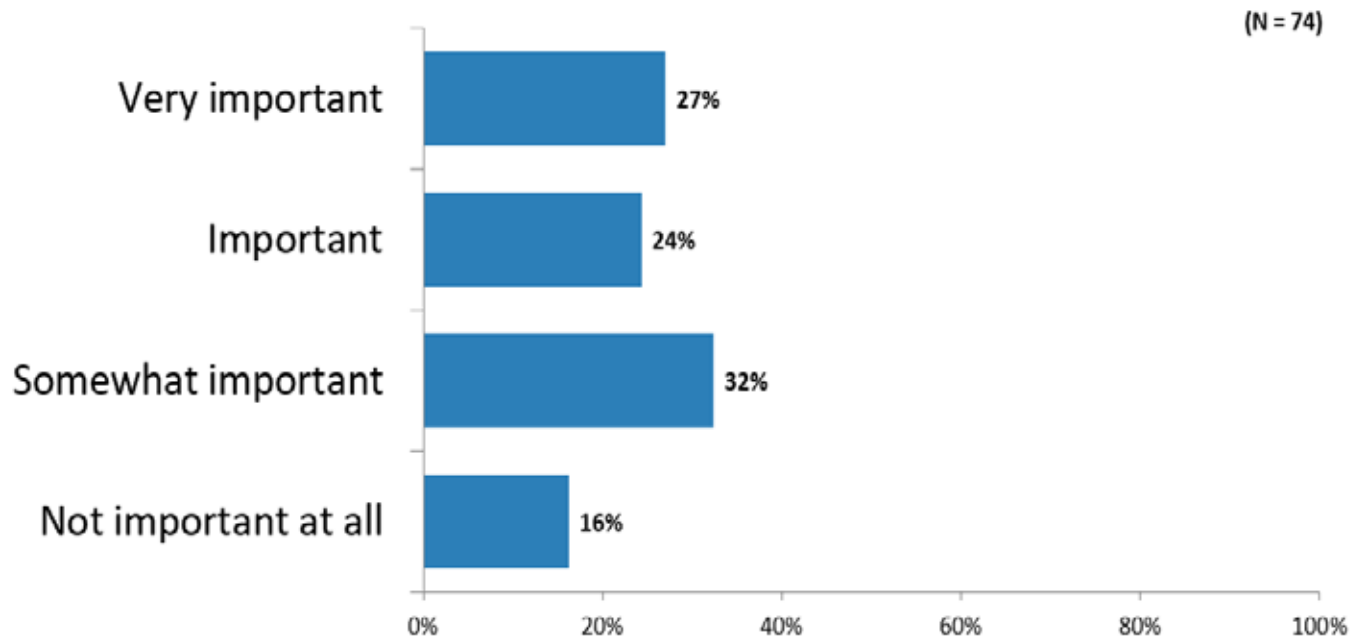
How important are the following items to you and your family?: **Access to passive use facilities (e.g. playgrounds, picnic shelters, walking paths, etc.)**



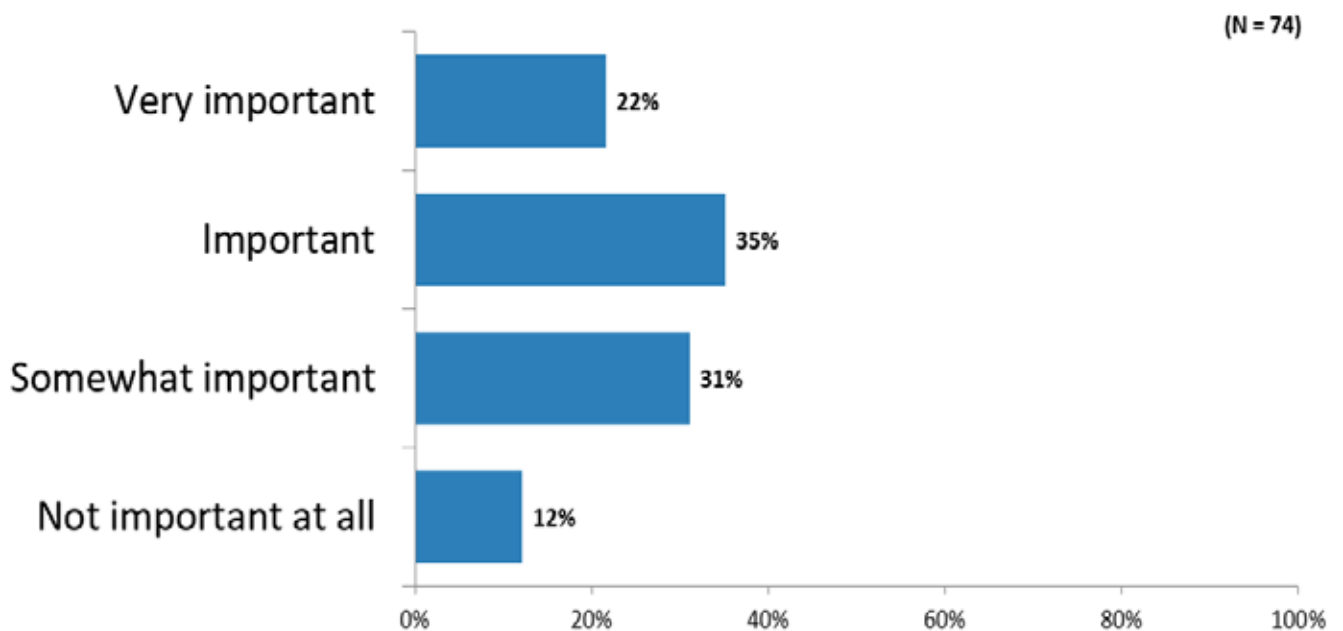
How important are the following items to you and your family?: **Access to paths and trails**



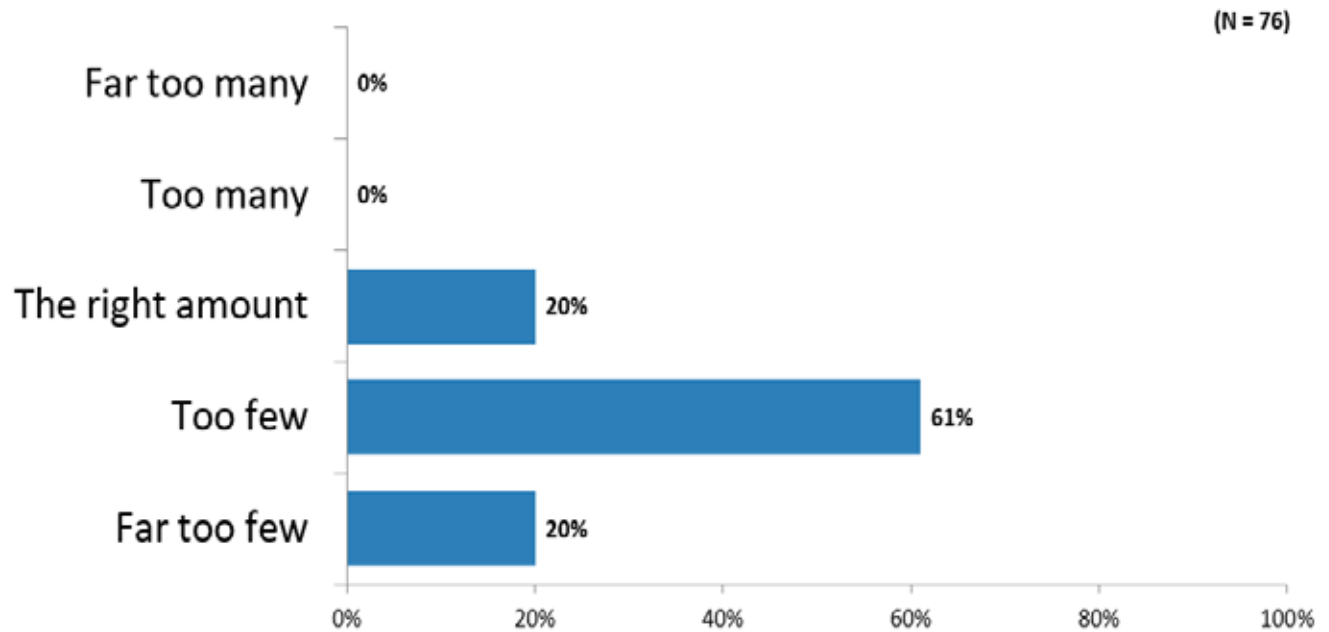
How important are the following items to you and your family?: **Access to recreation programming (e.g. special events, classes, sports leagues, etc.)**



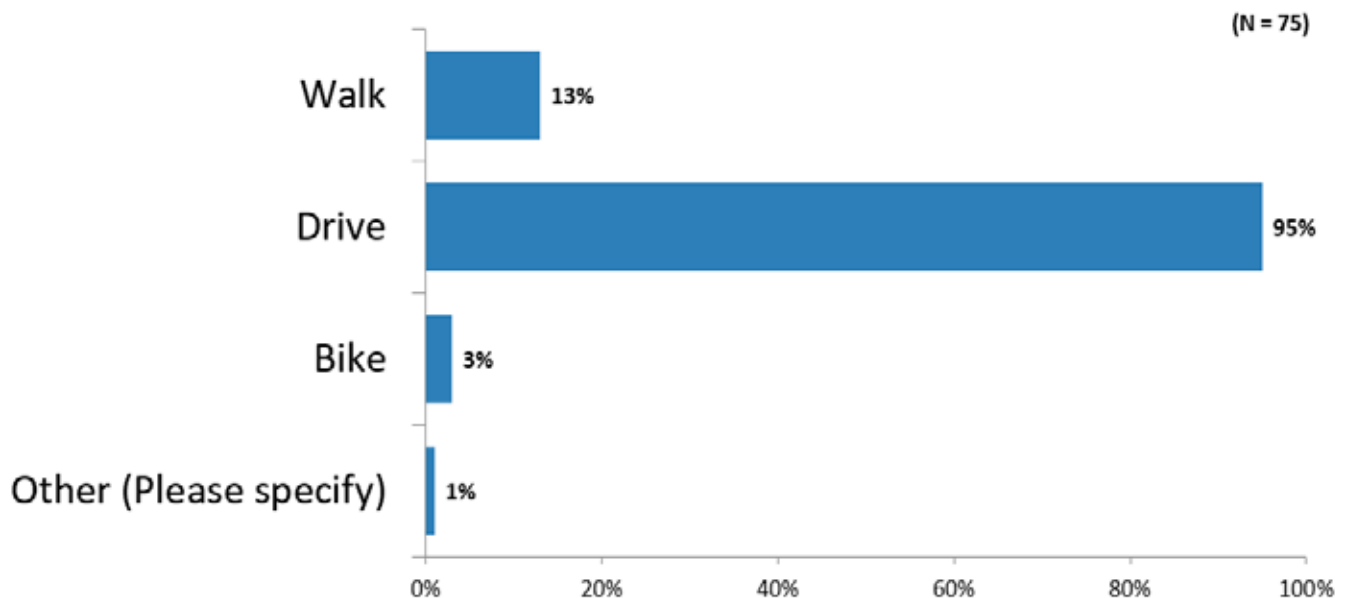
How important are the following items to you and your family?: **Improving facility accessibility (i.e. ADA compliance, handicap amenities)**



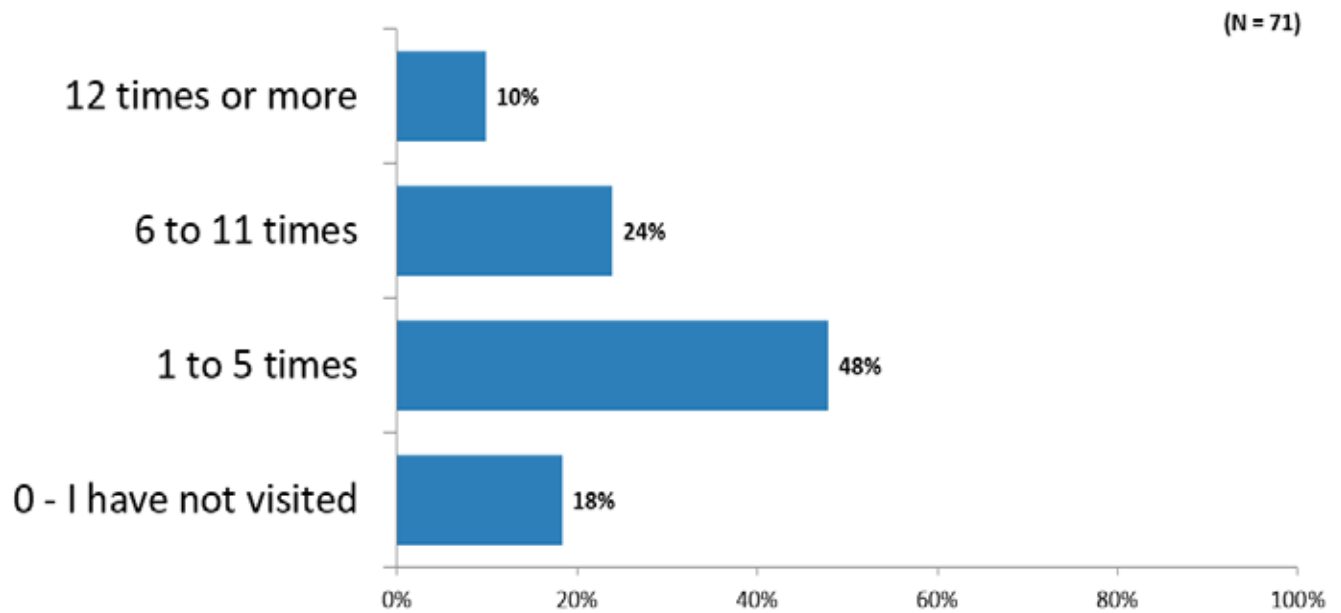
## Does Howell Township have too few, too many, or the right amount of recreation properties?



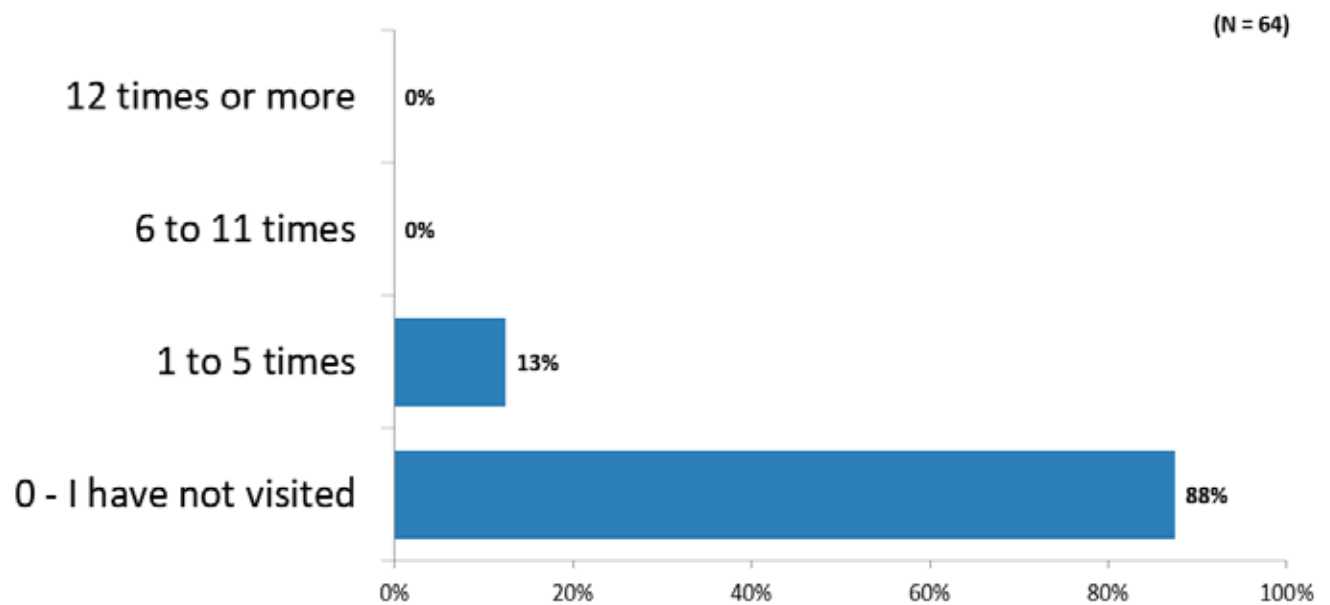
## How do you typically travel to the recreation facilities that you visit?



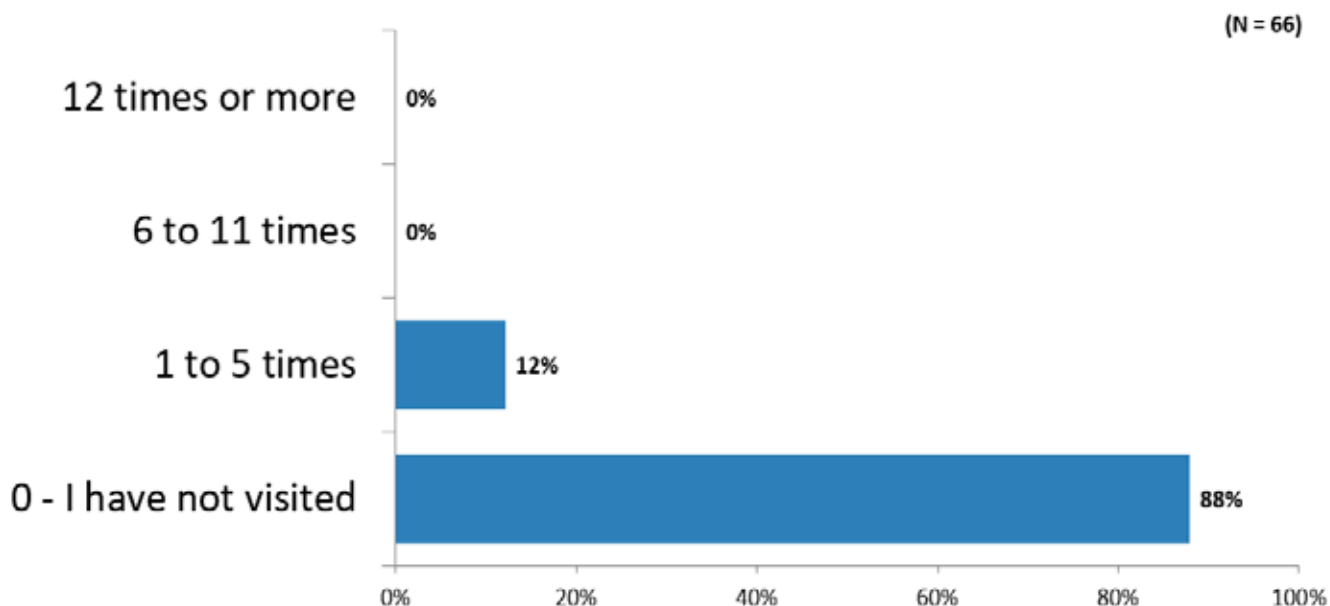
In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Howell City Parks**



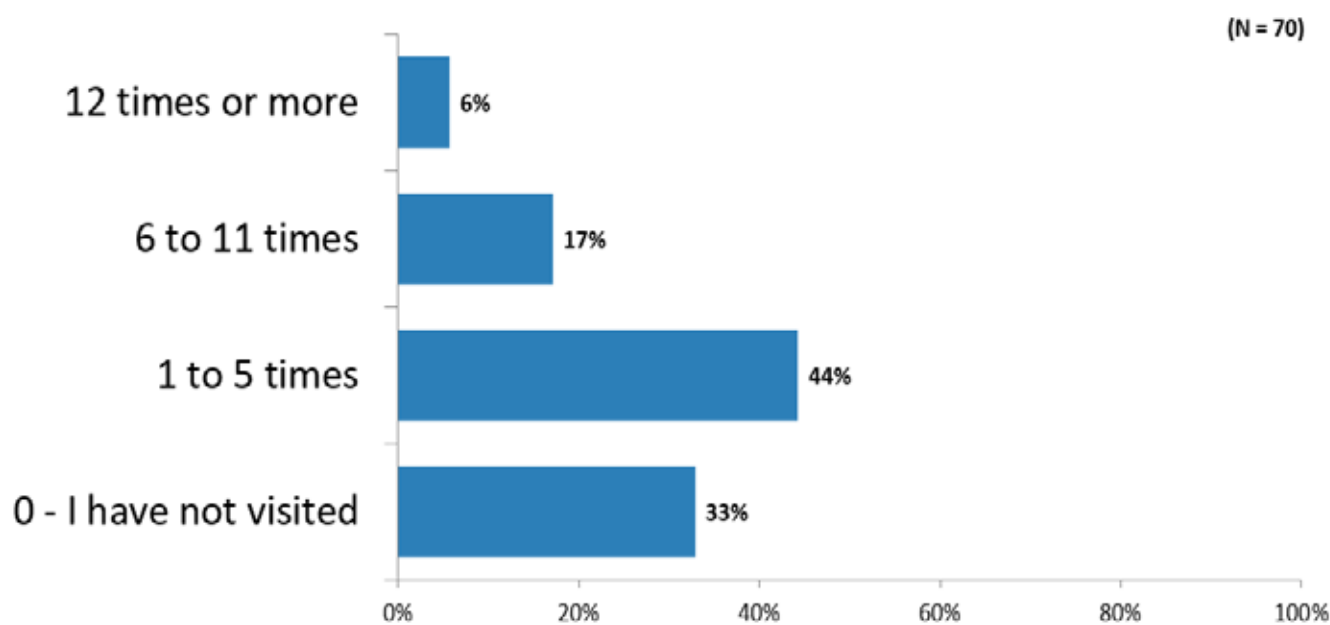
In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Lutz County Park**



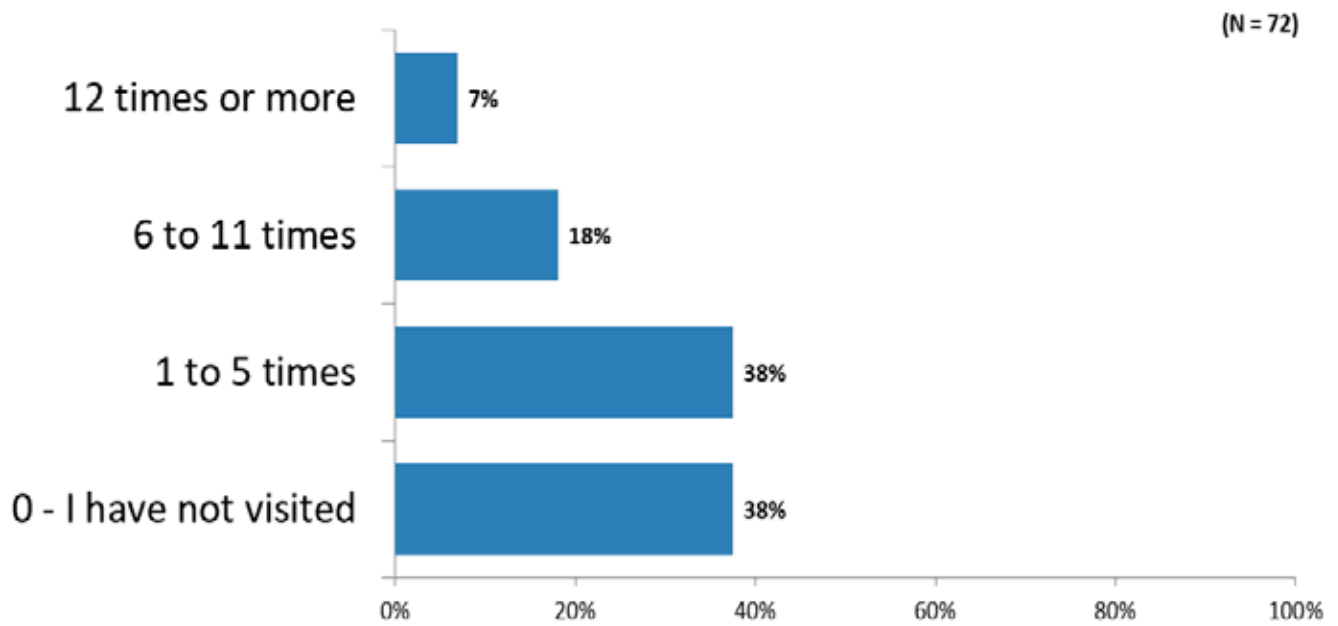
In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Fillmore County Park**



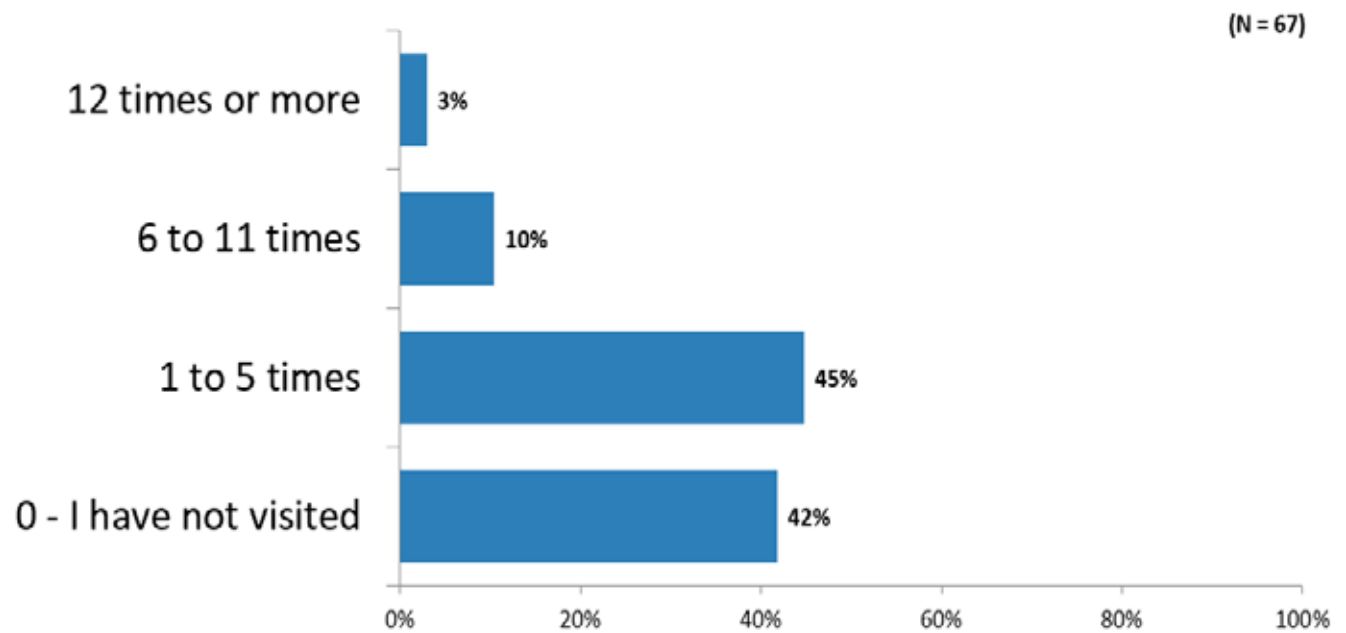
In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Genoa Township Parks**



In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Oceola Township Parks**



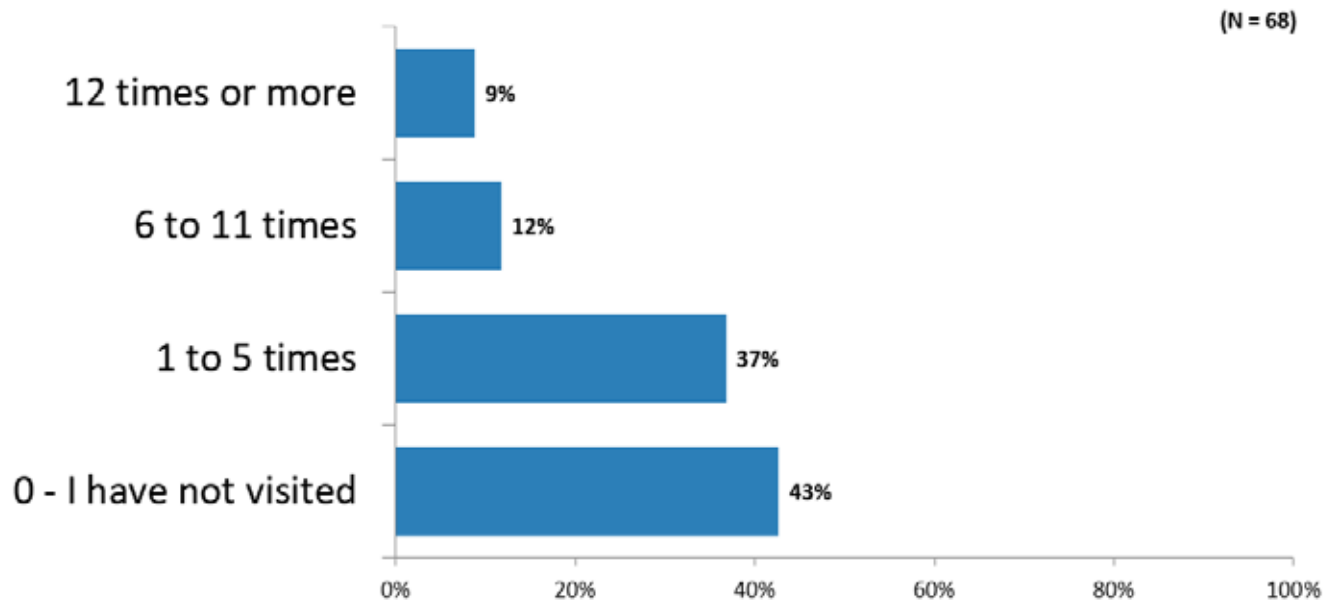
In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Brighton City Parks**



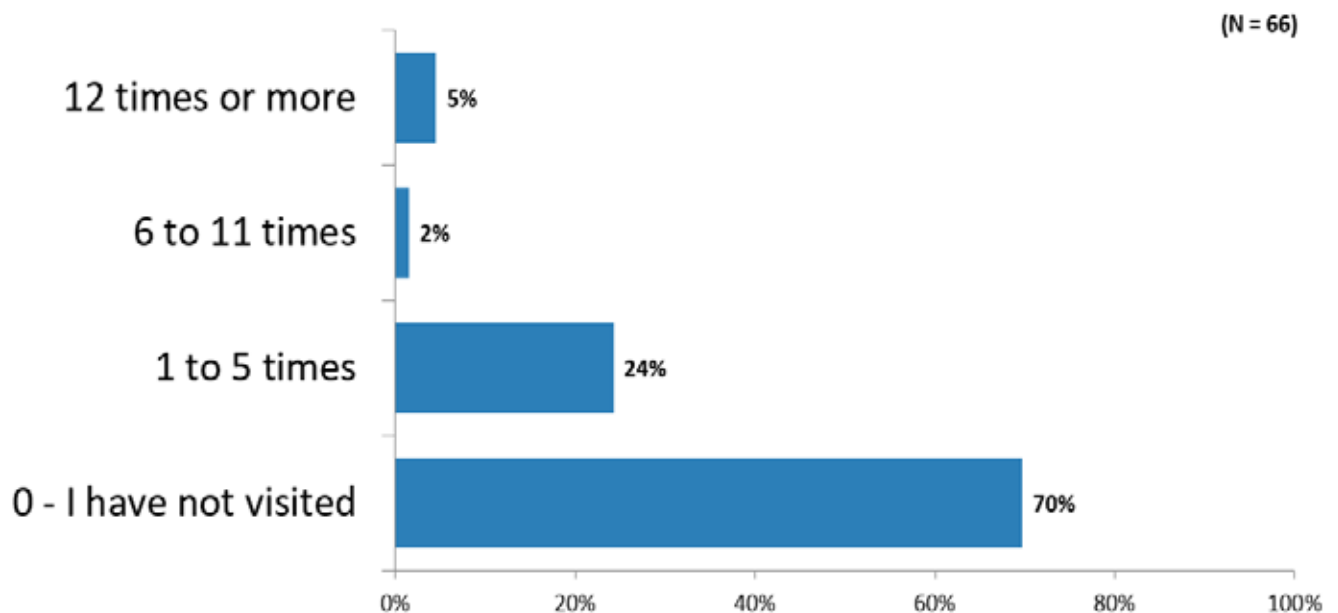




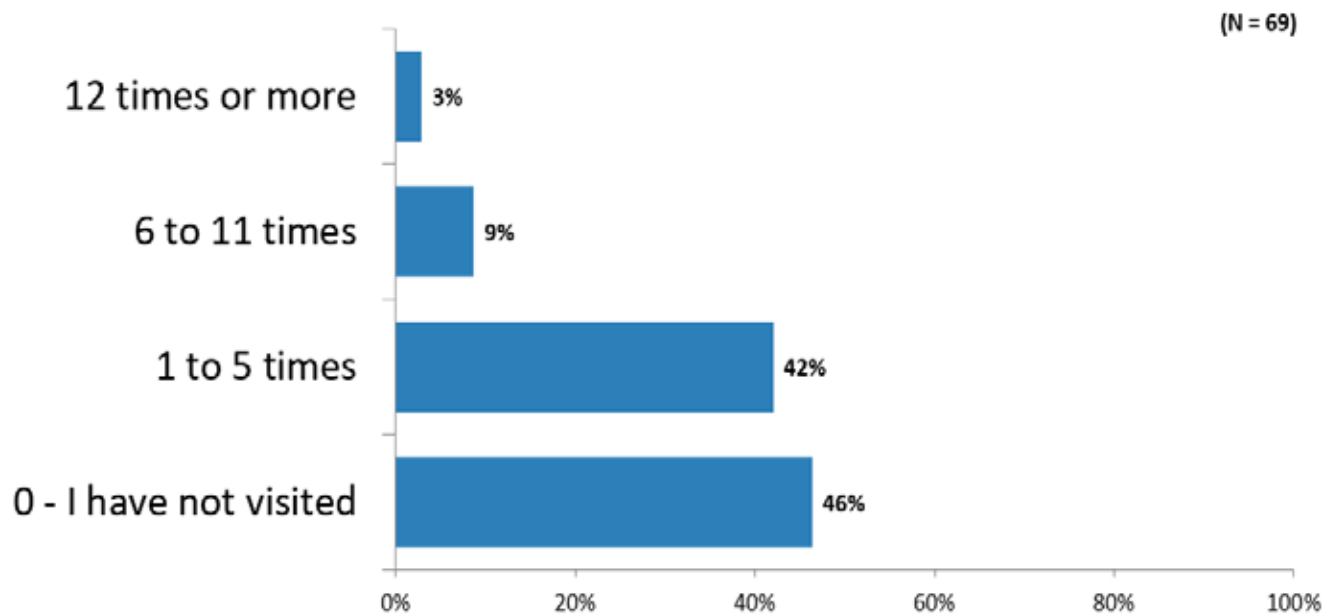
In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Brighton State Recreation Area**



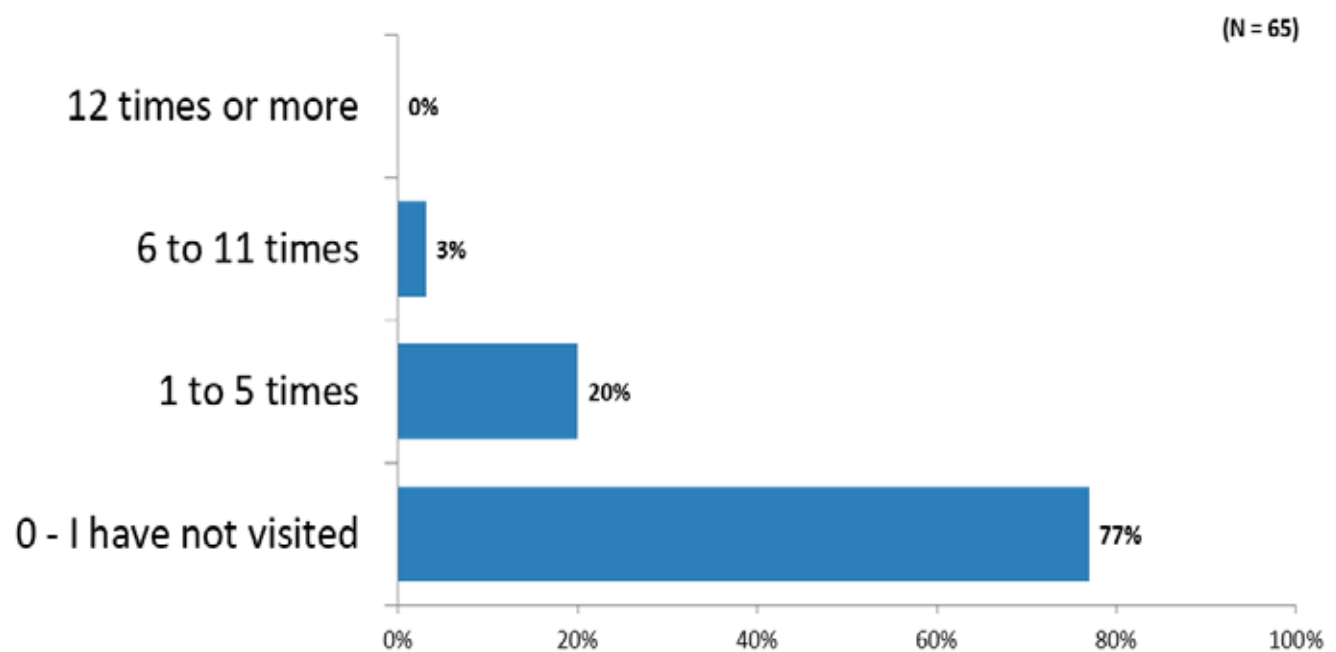
In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Pinckney Recreation Area**



In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Island Lake Recreation Area**

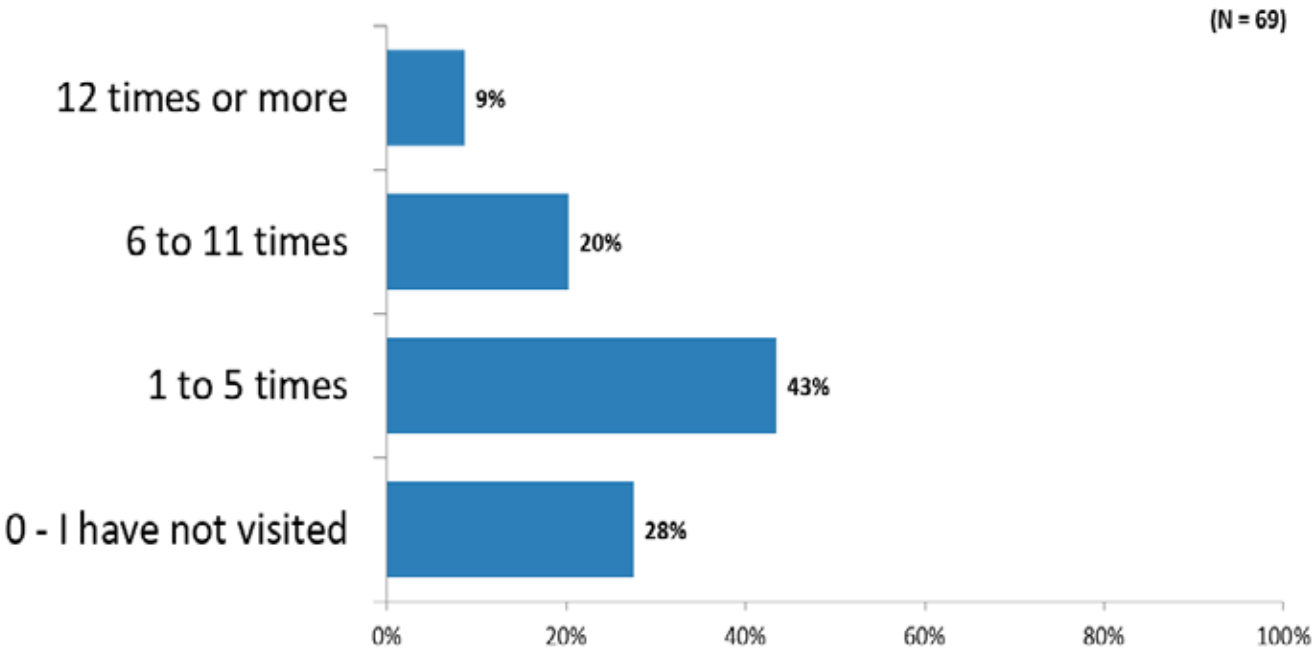


In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Huron Meadows Metropark**

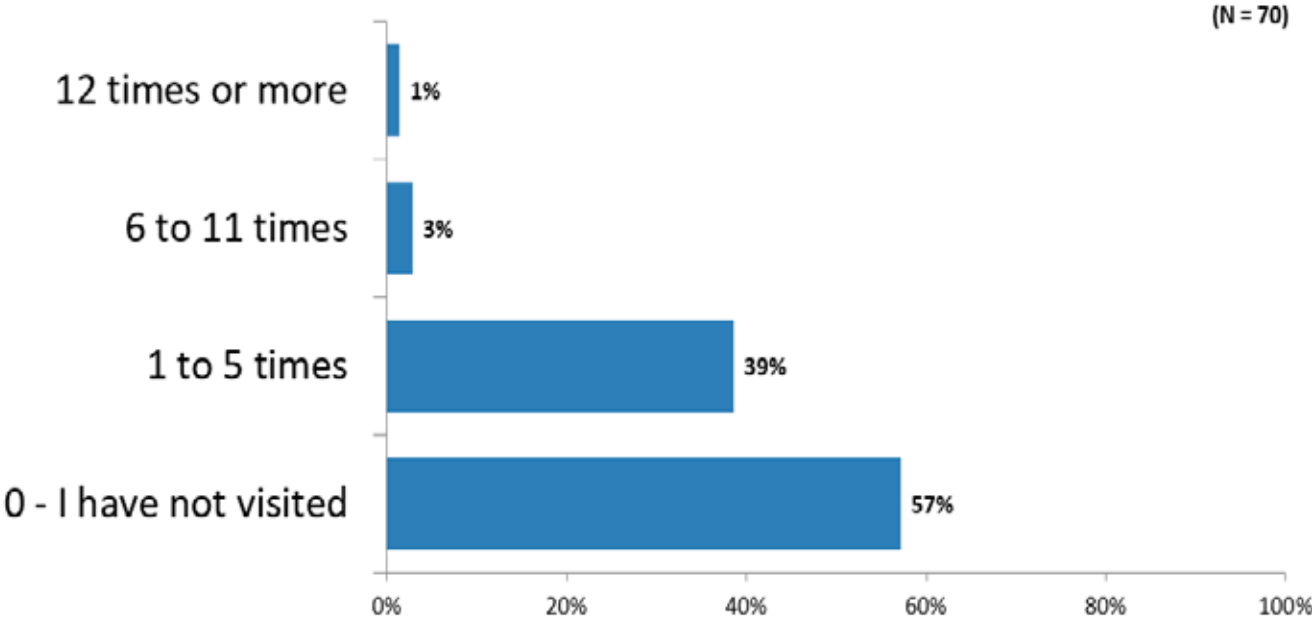




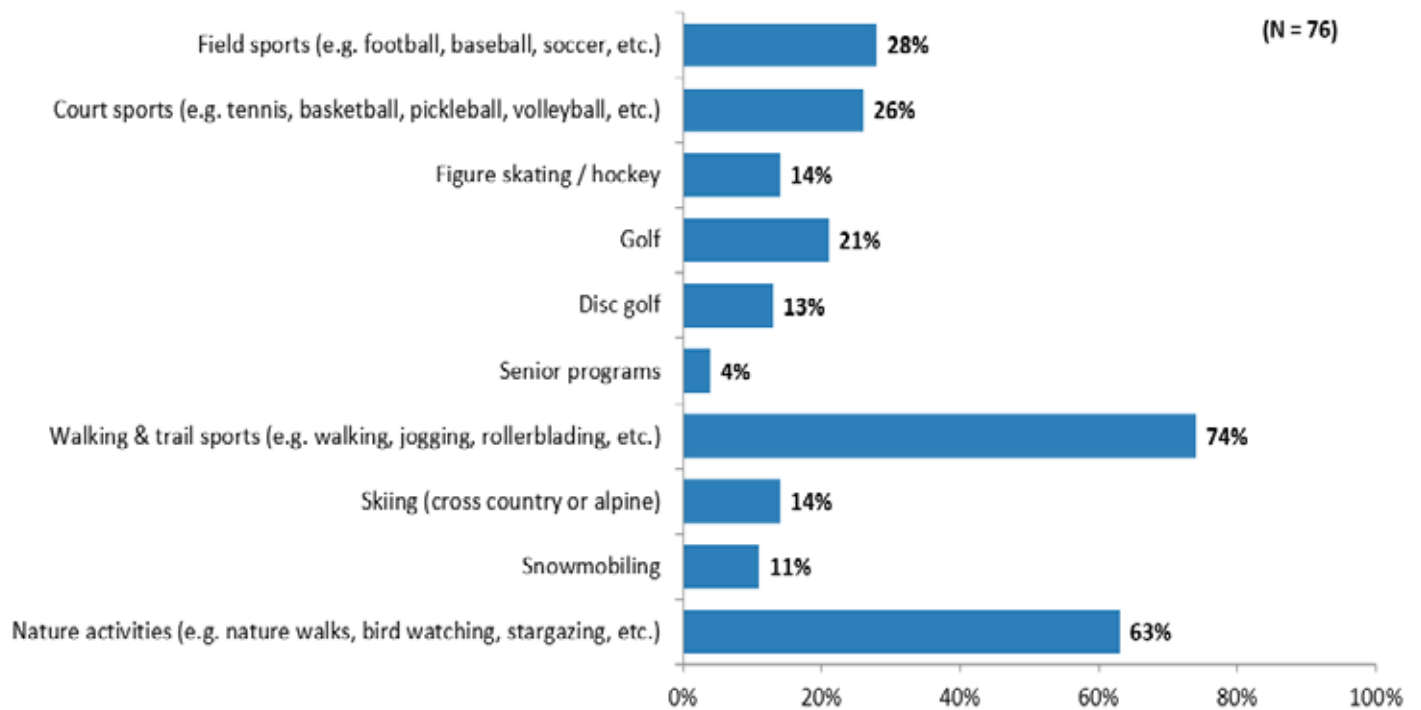
### In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Kensington Metropark**



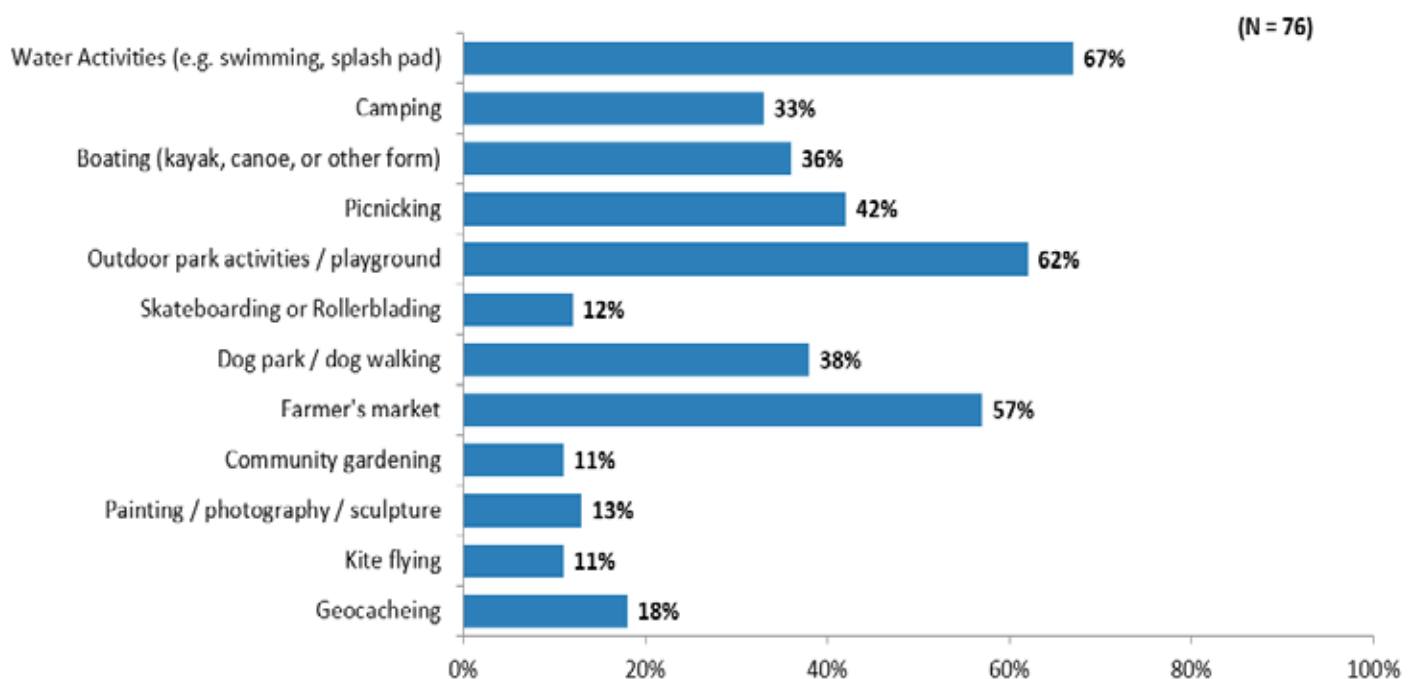
### In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited these area parks?: **Howell Township Park**



## What types of activities do you or your family members participate in at any recreation facility? Choose all that apply.

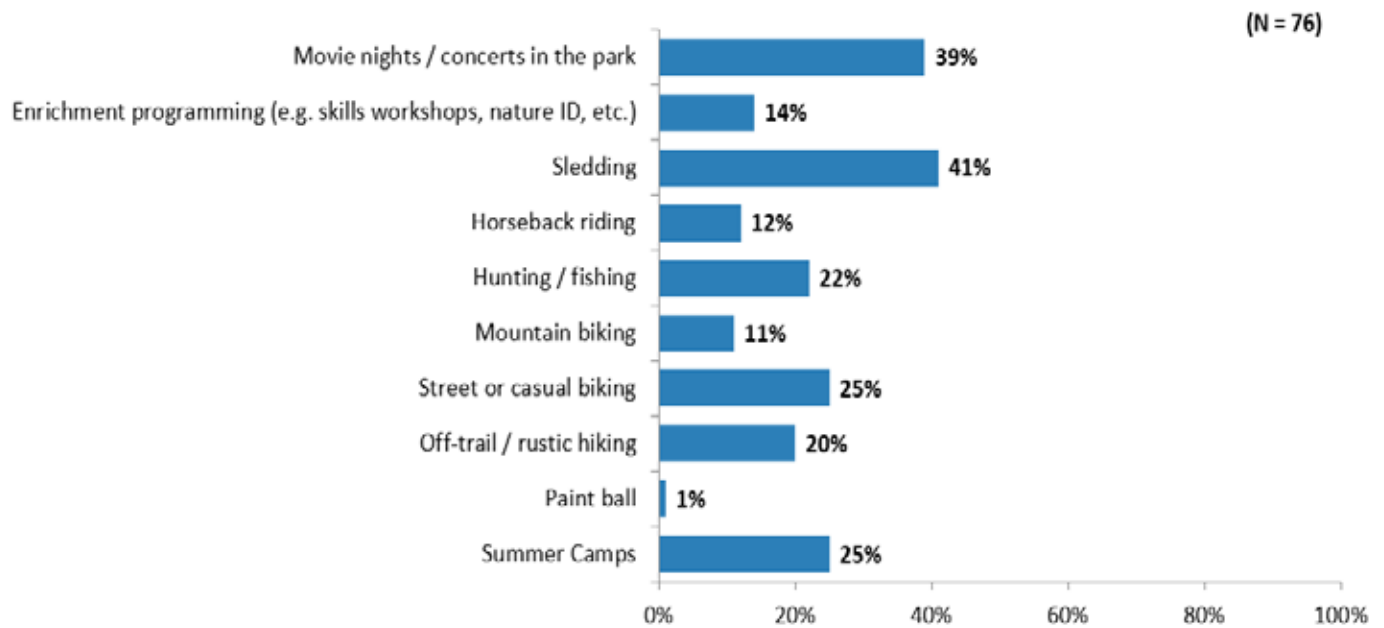


## What types of activities do you or your family members participate in at any recreation facility? Choose all that apply. (Continued)

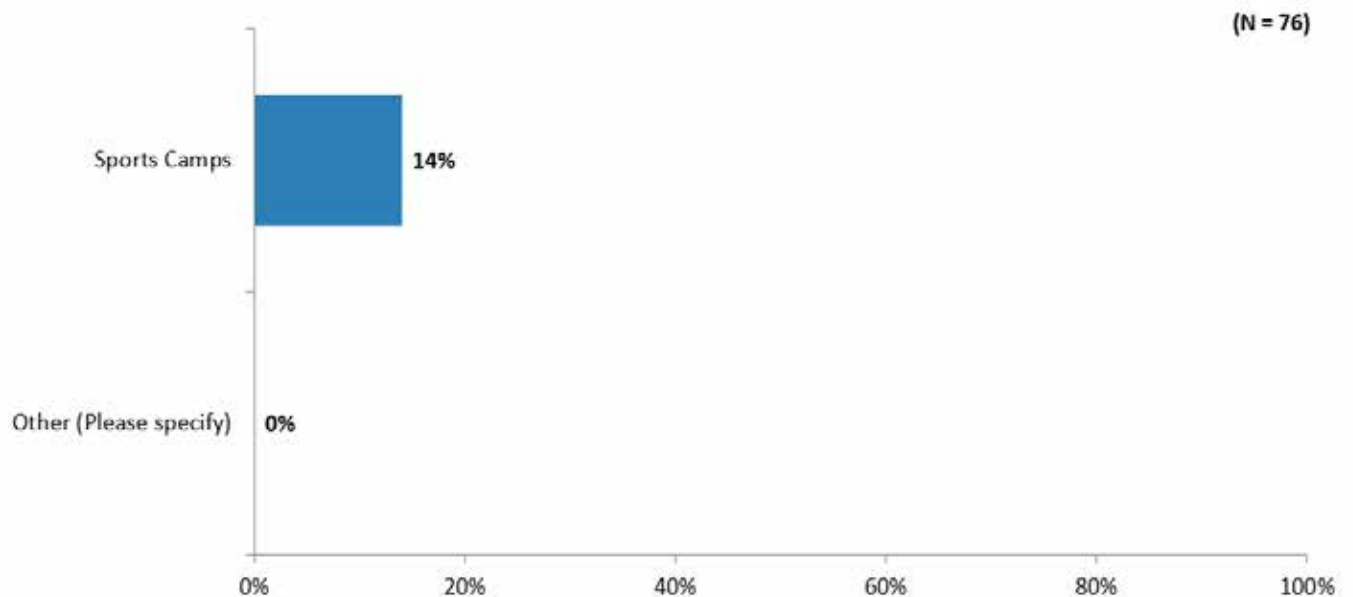




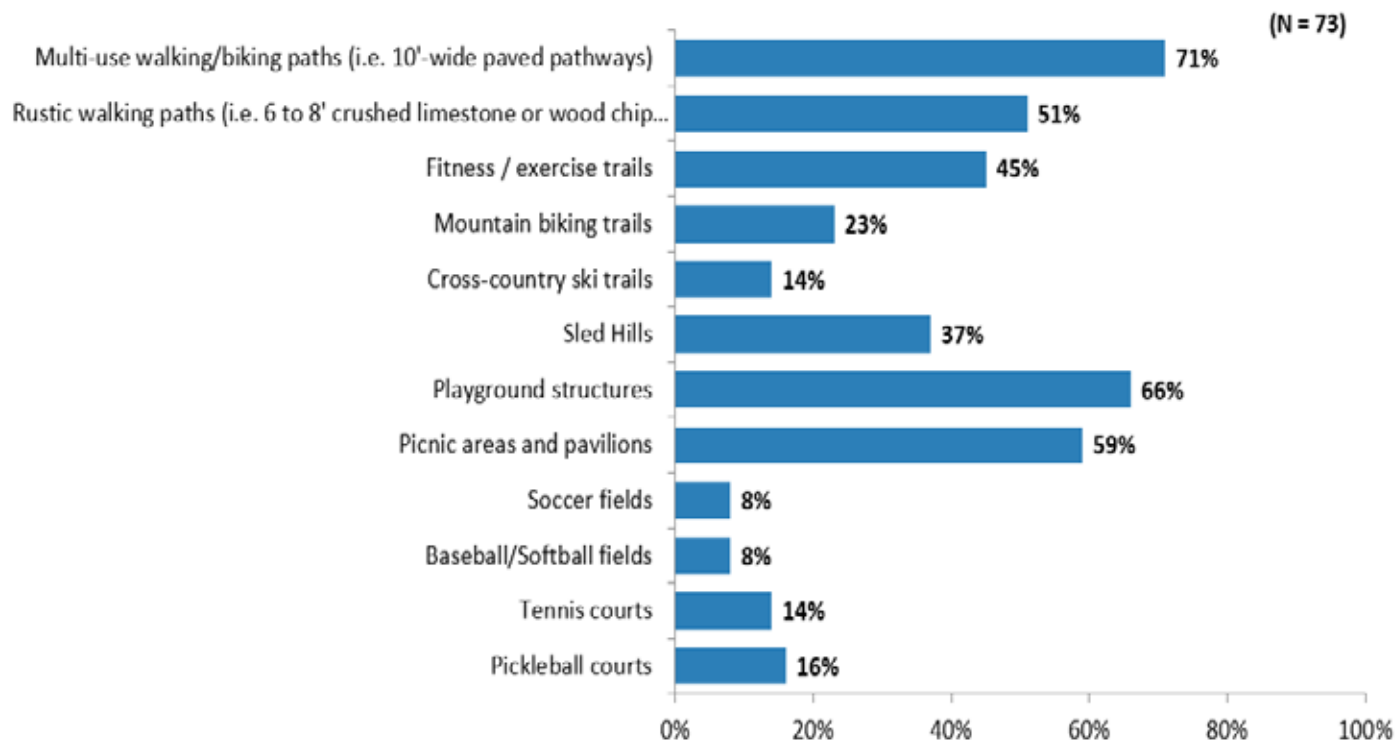
## What types of activities do you or your family members participate in at any recreation facility? Choose all that apply. (Continued)



## What types of activities do you or your family members participate in at any recreation facility? Choose all that apply. (Continued)

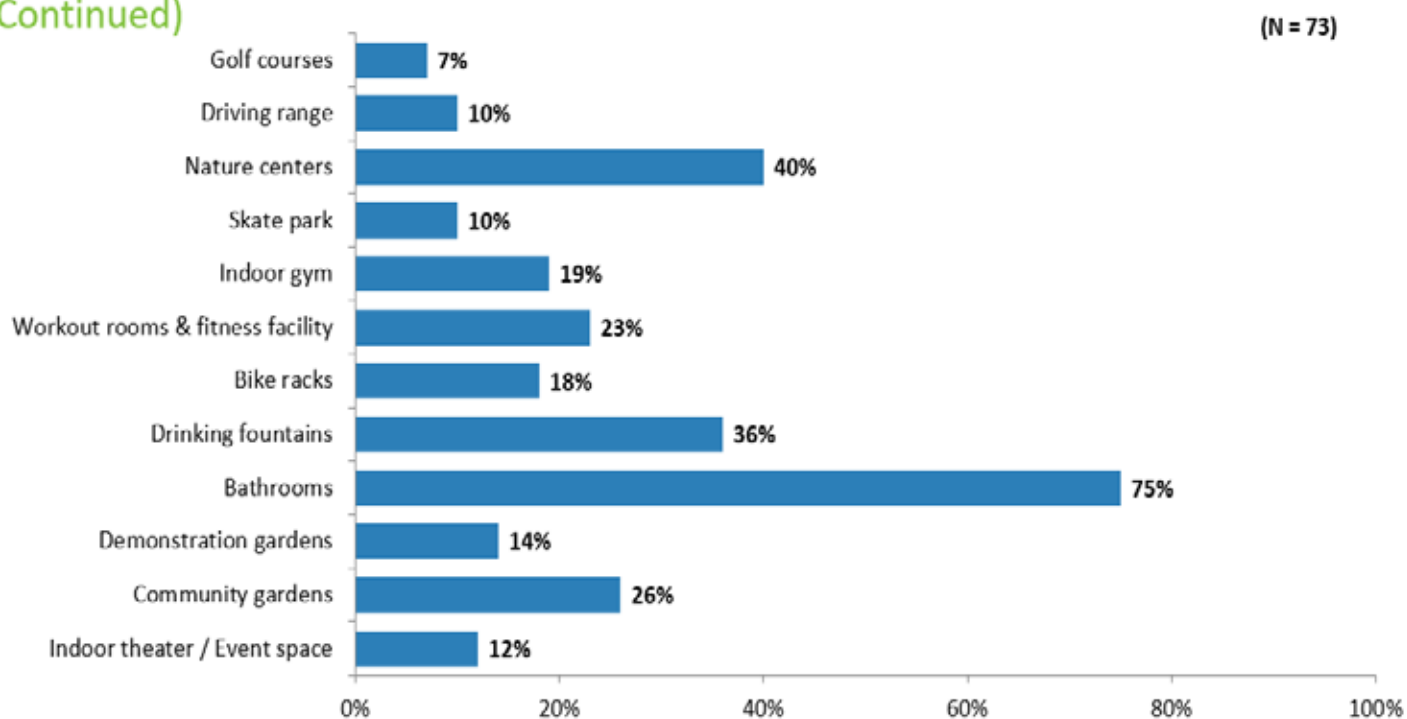


Howell Township recently acquired property on Tooley Road. Most of the property will be dedicated to park space, beginning with trail development. Which of the following amenities would you like to see at this new park? Choose all that apply.



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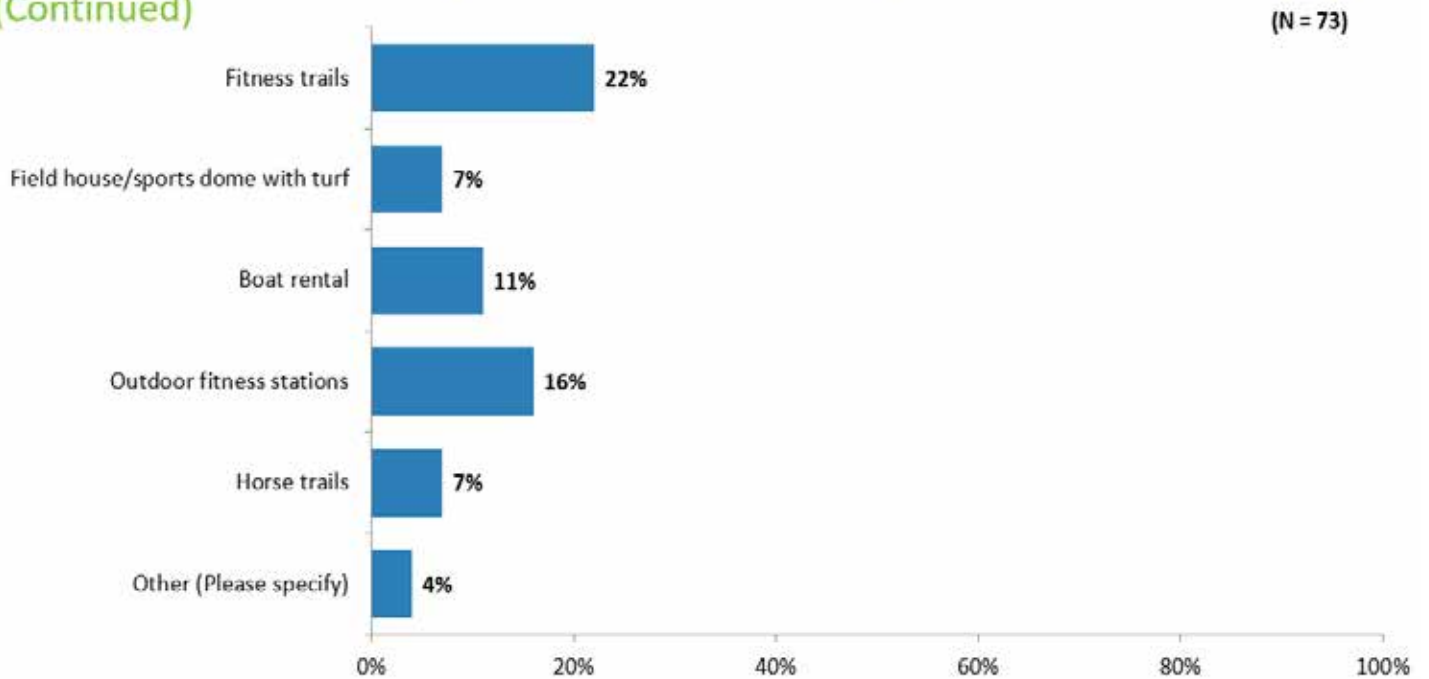
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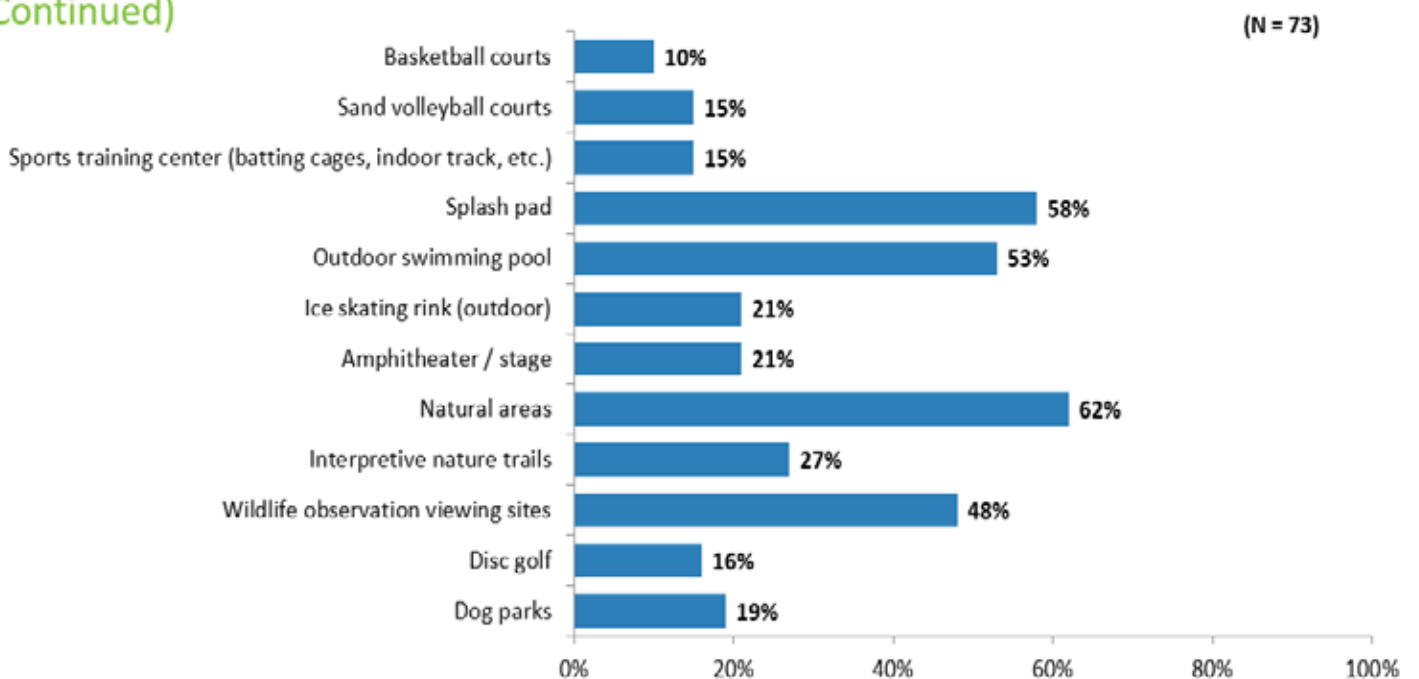
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(Continued)

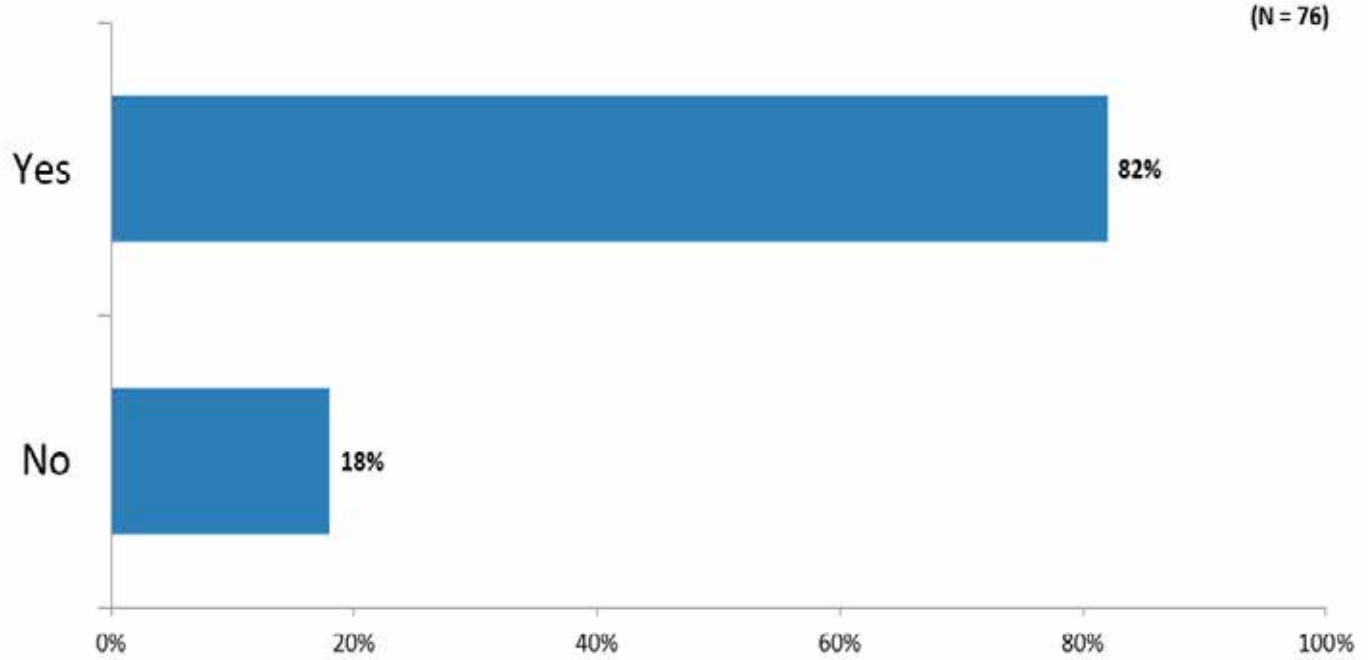


Howell Township recently acquired property on Tooley Road. Most of the property will be dedicated to park space, beginning with trail development. Which of the following amenities would you like to see at this new park? Choose all that apply.

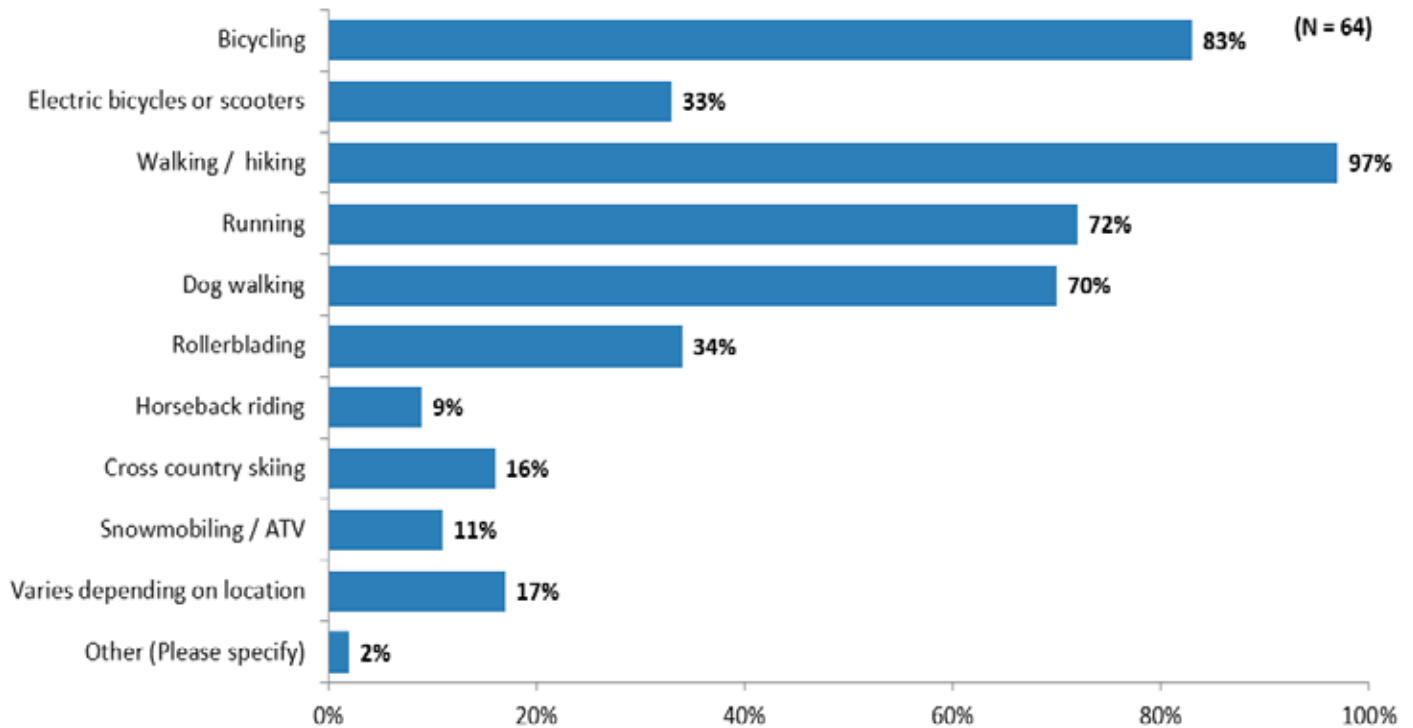
(Continued)



## Would you like to see Howell Township develop a non-motorized pathway system?



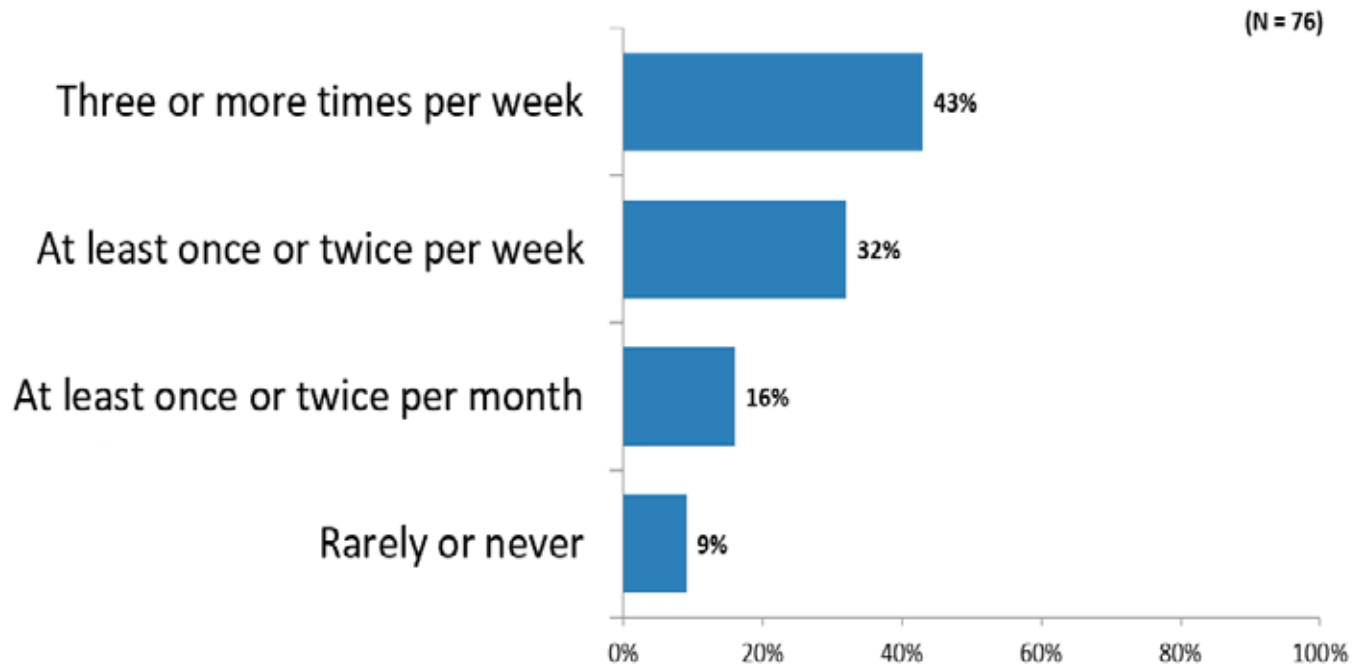
## If yes, what types of activities should be accommodated on the network? Choose all that apply.



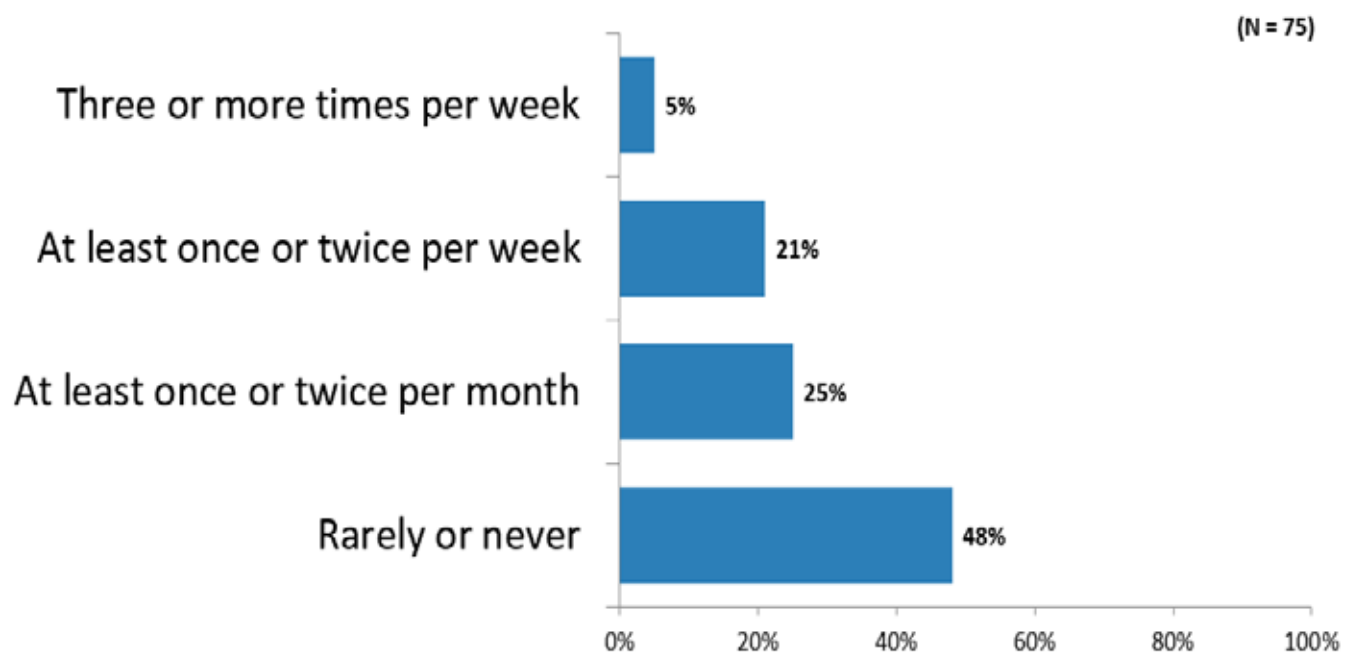




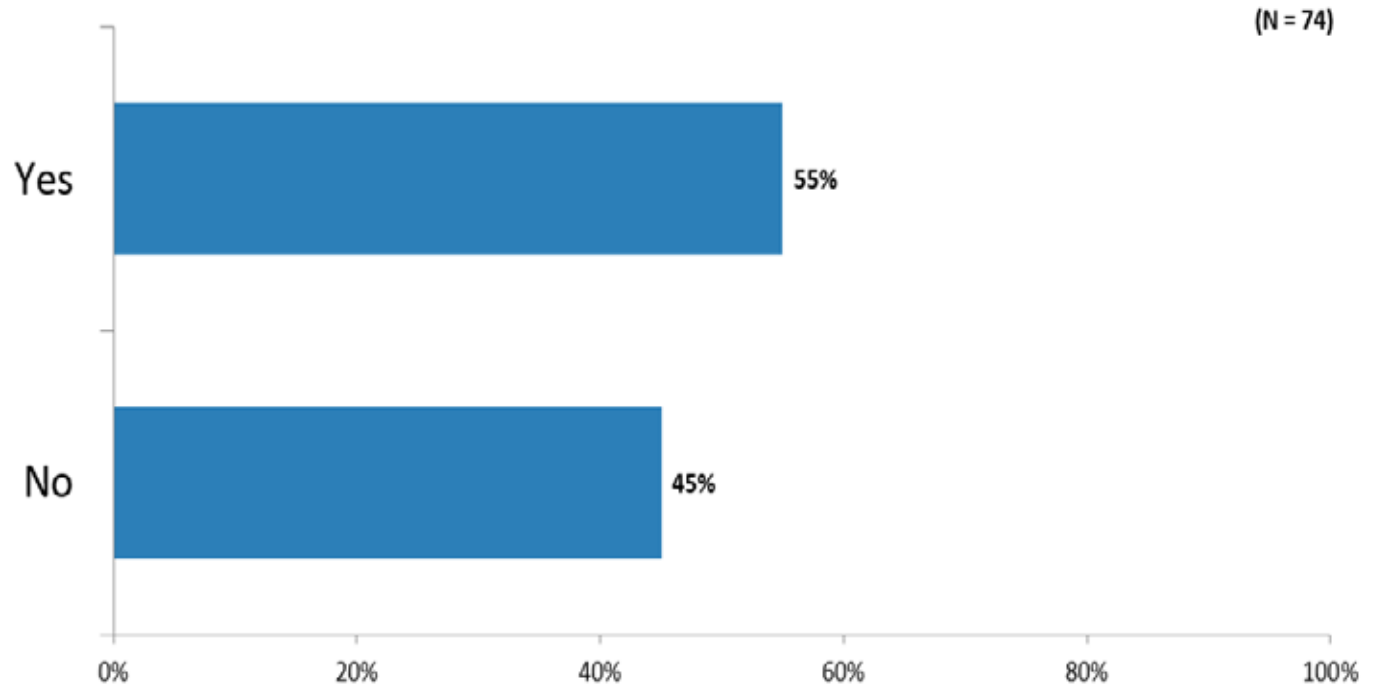
## How frequently do you walk, run, or hike for exercise or recreation?



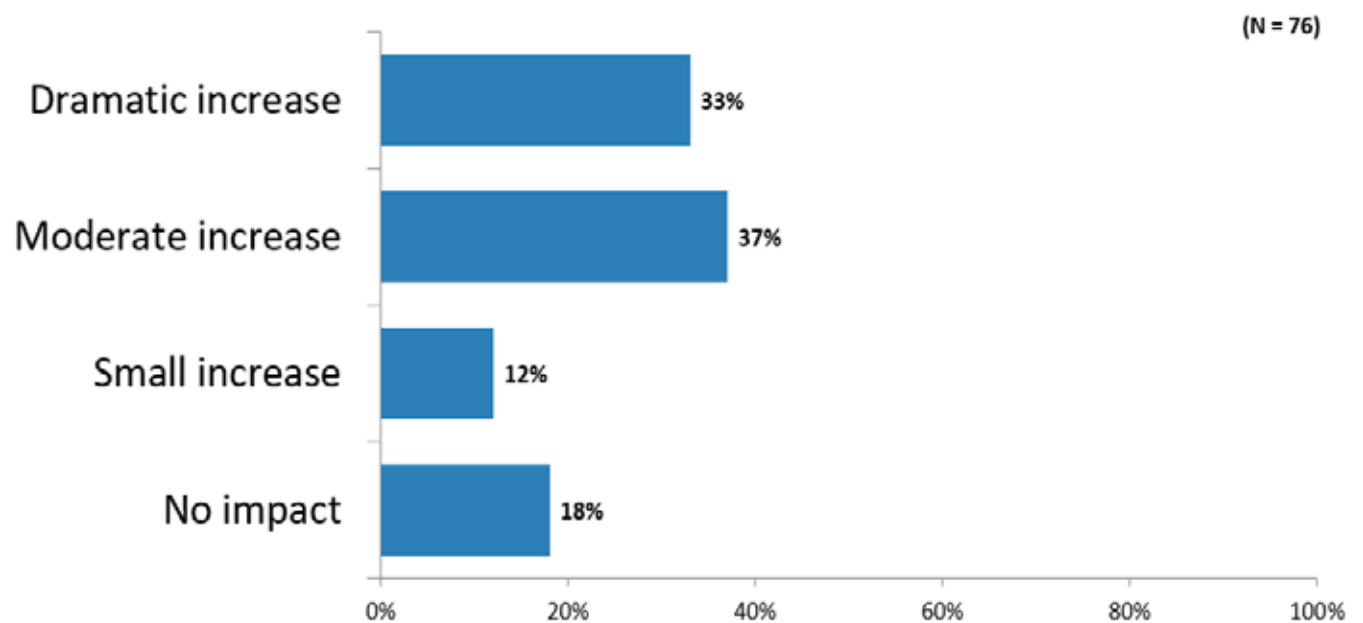
## How frequently do you bicycle for exercise or recreation?



## Do you use regional trails or trails in neighboring communities?

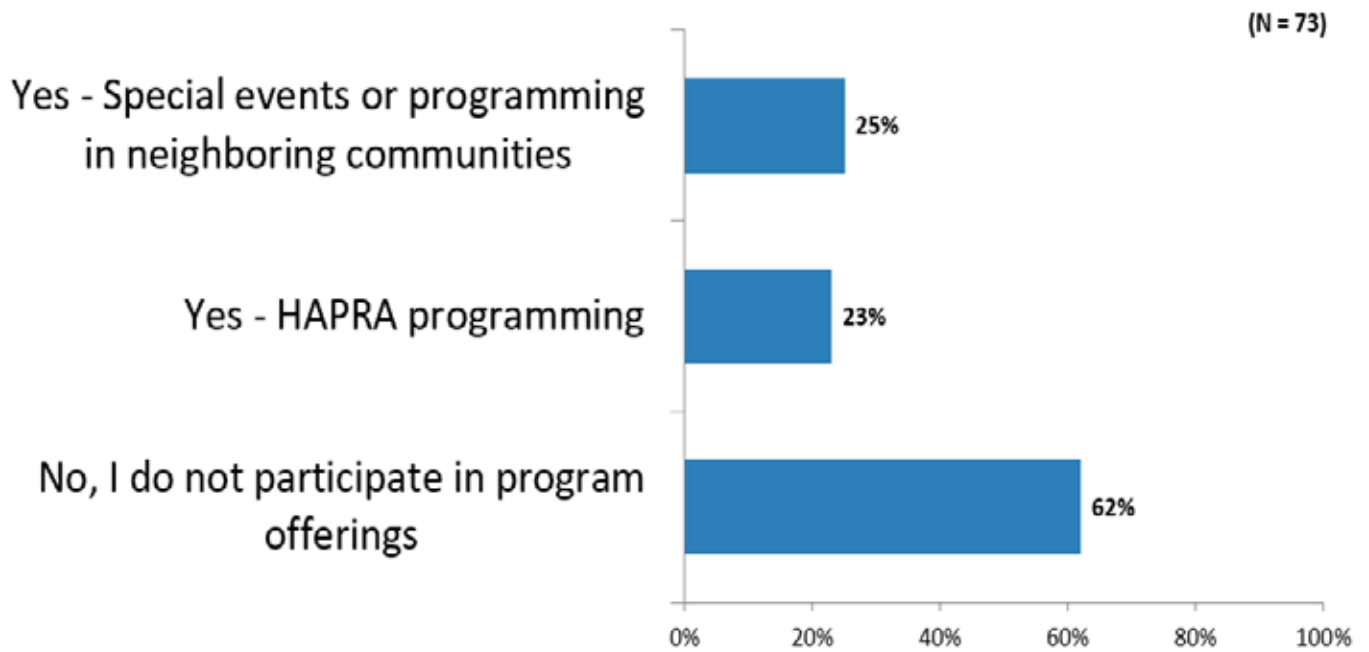


## If Howell Township developed a trail system, how much of an impact would it have on your activity level?

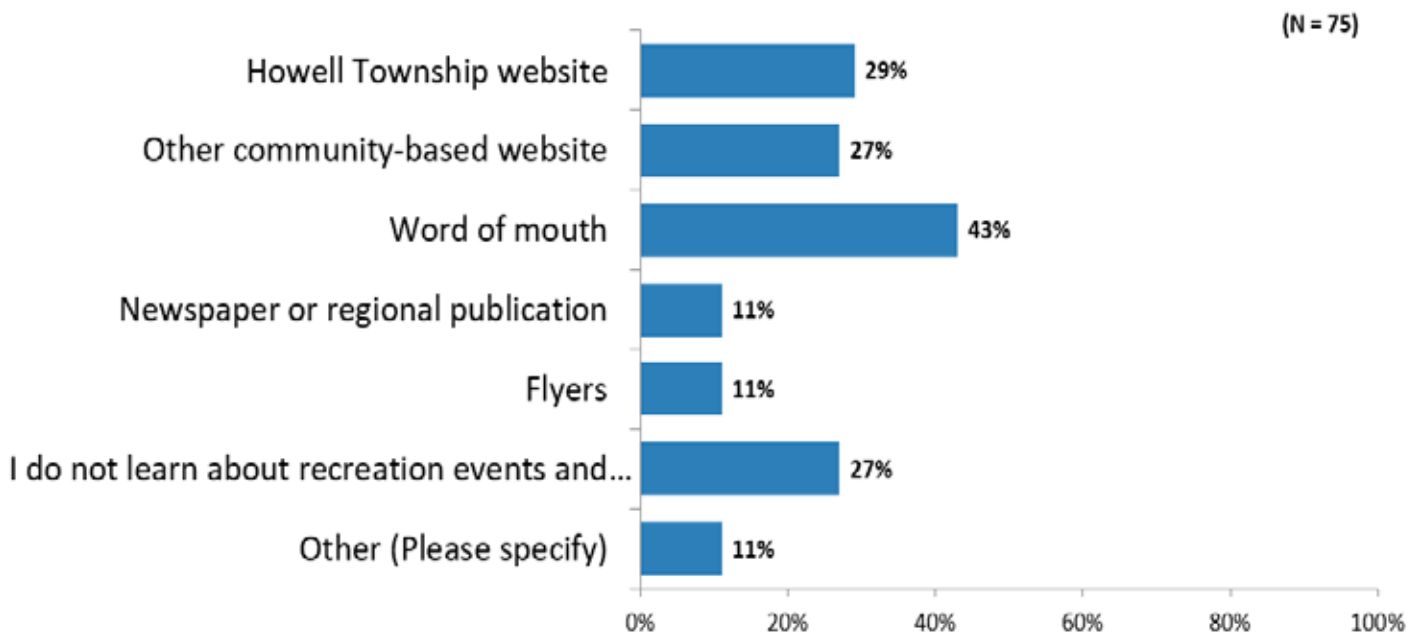




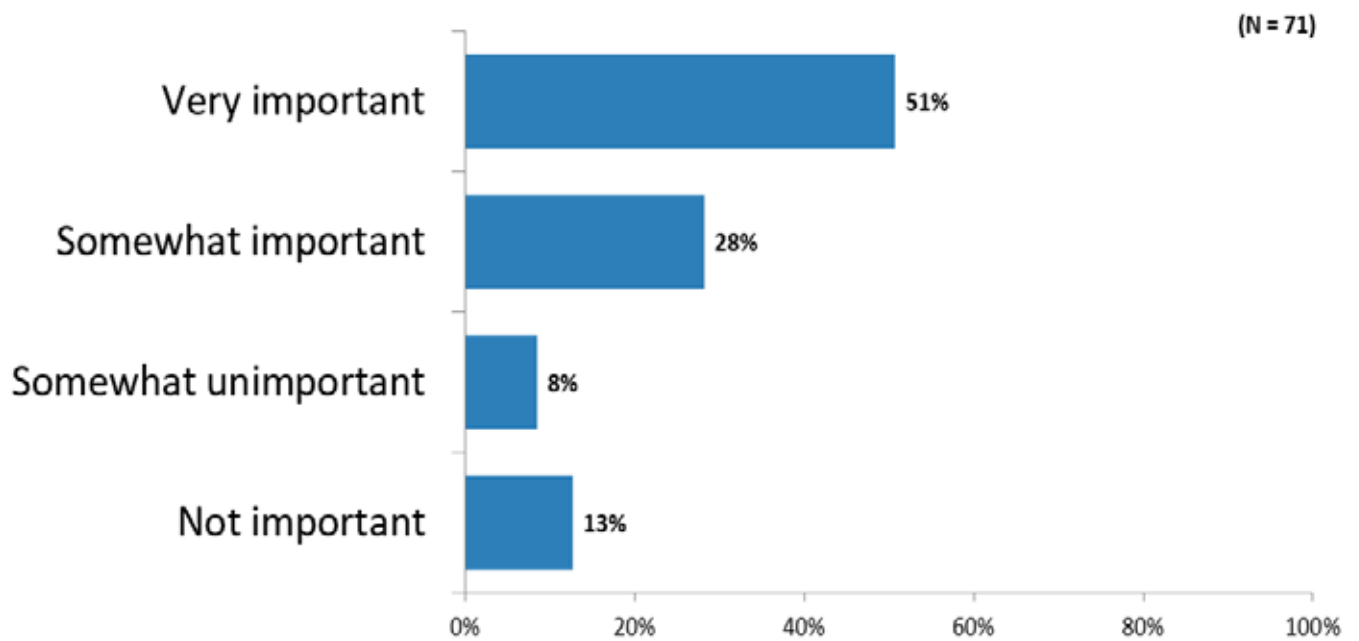
## Do you take advantage of programs provided by HAPRA or neighboring communities?



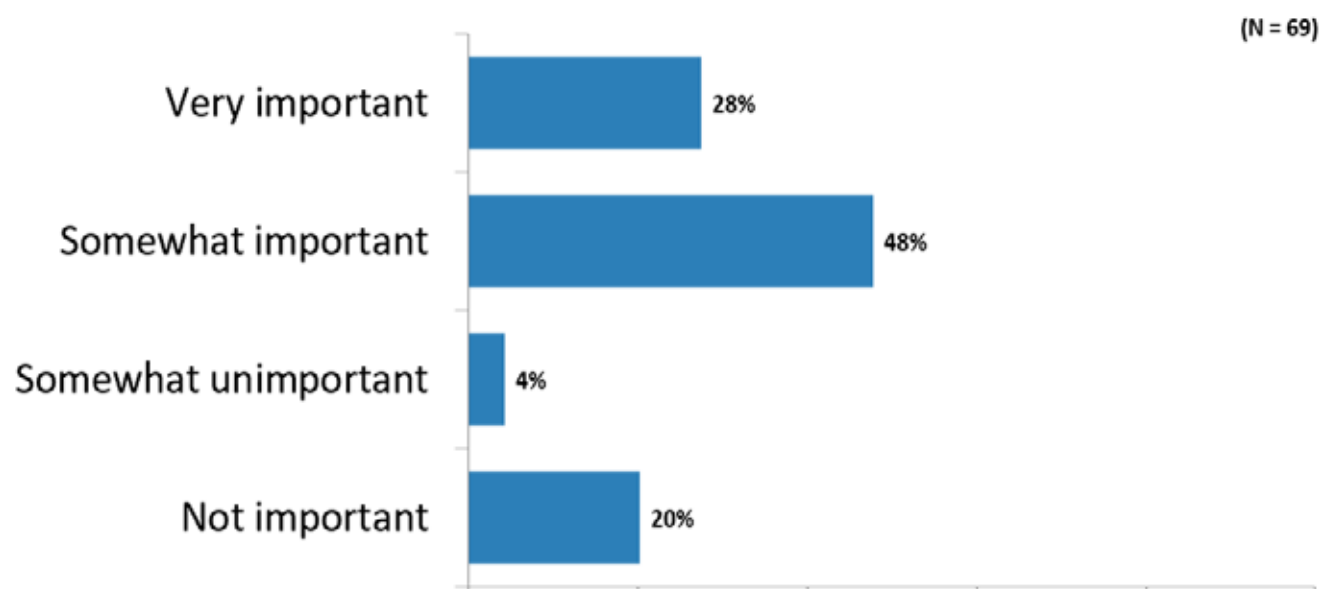
## How do you learn about recreation events and opportunities in Howell Township?



## How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?: **Youth sports and fitness**

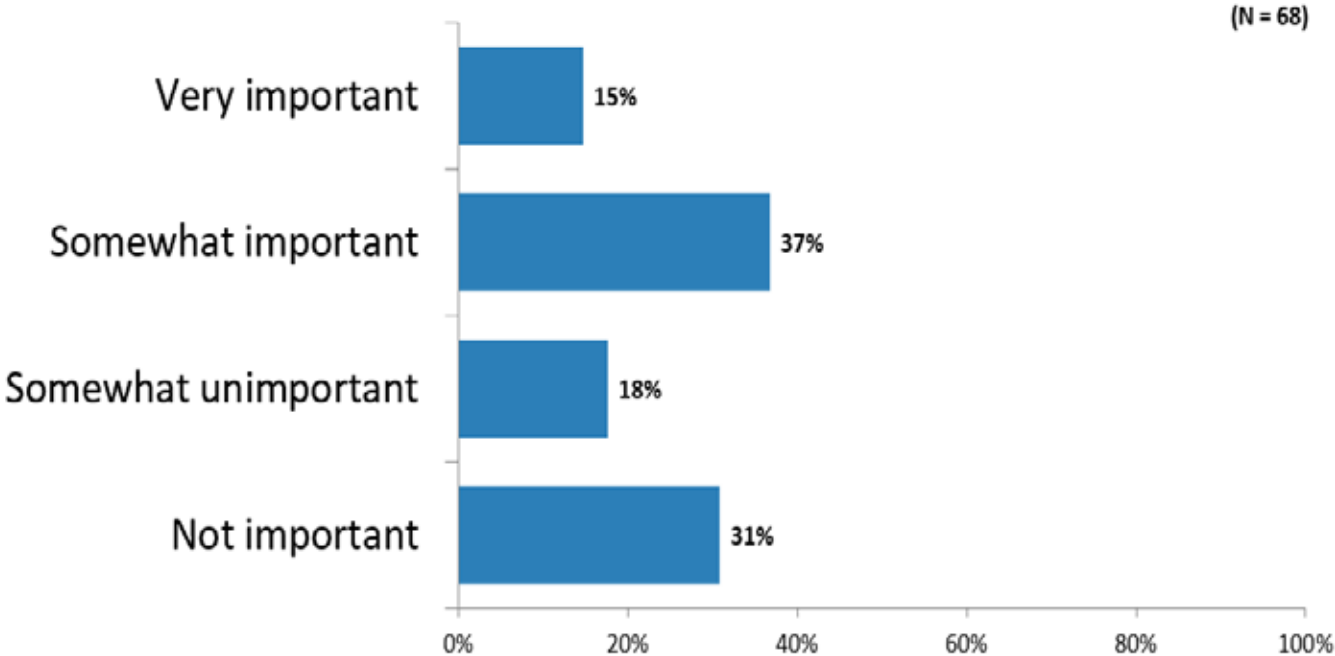


## How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?: **Adult sports and fitness**

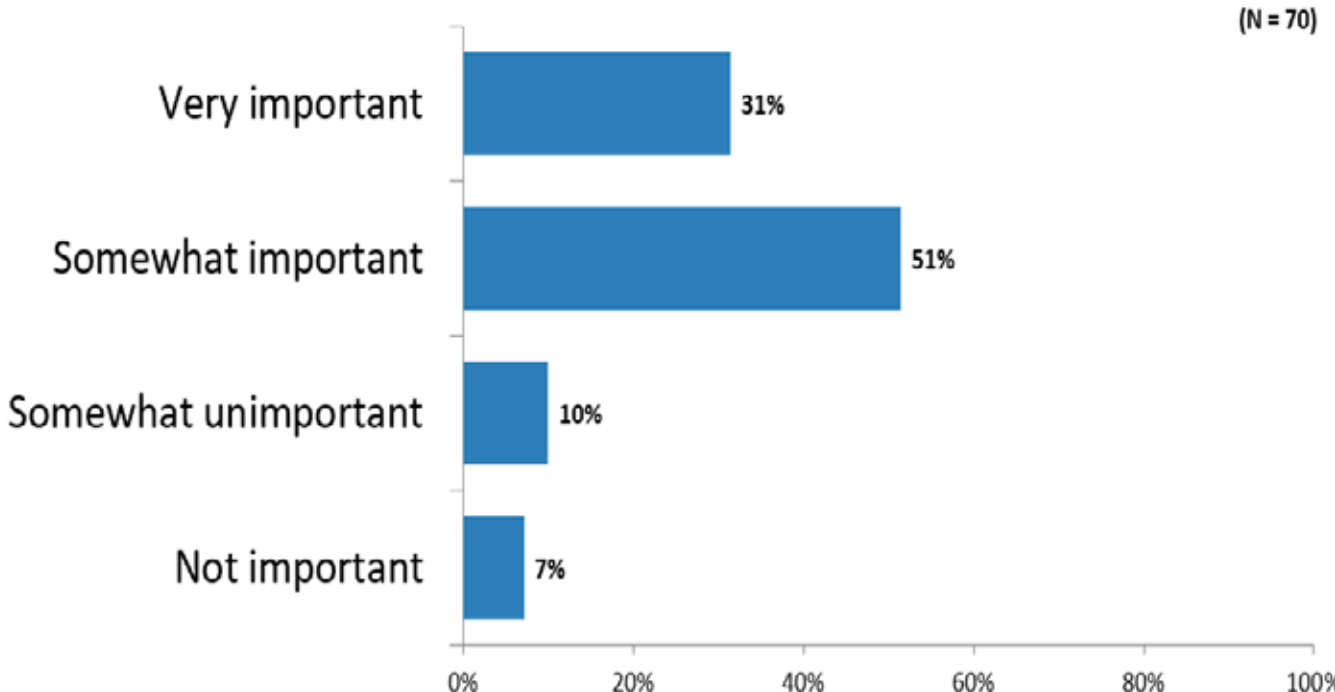




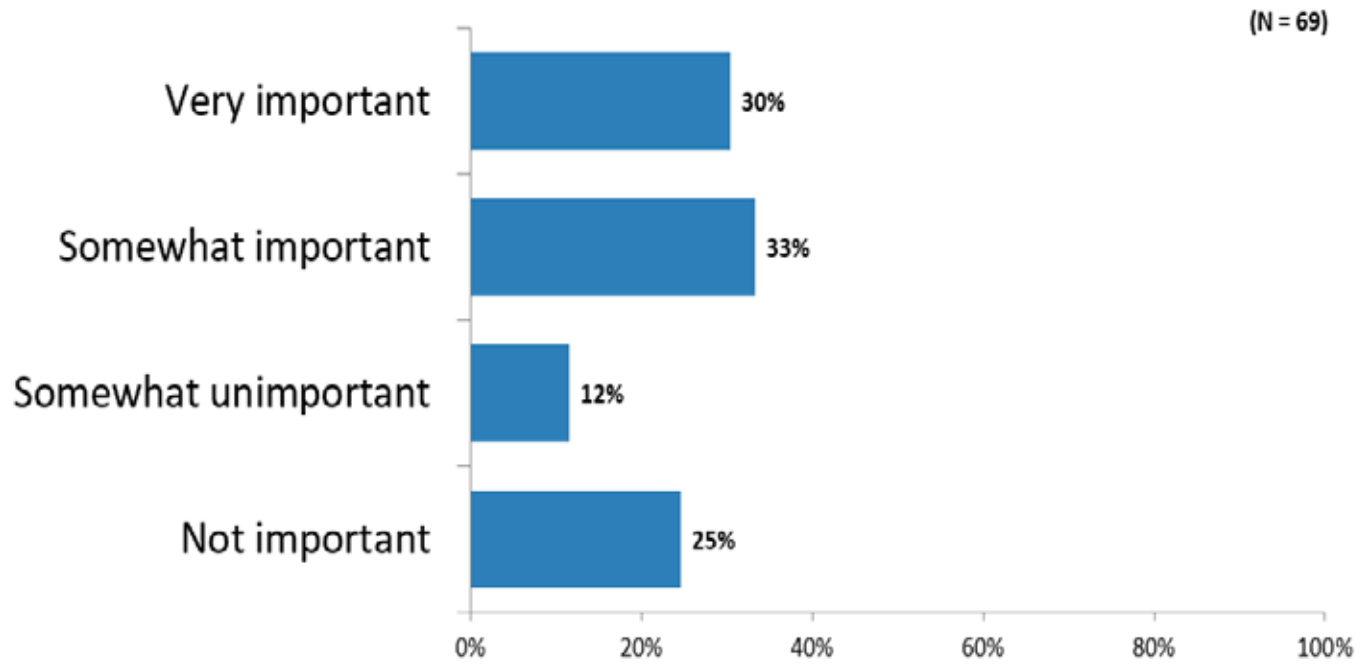
## How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?: **Senior (50+) programs and trips**



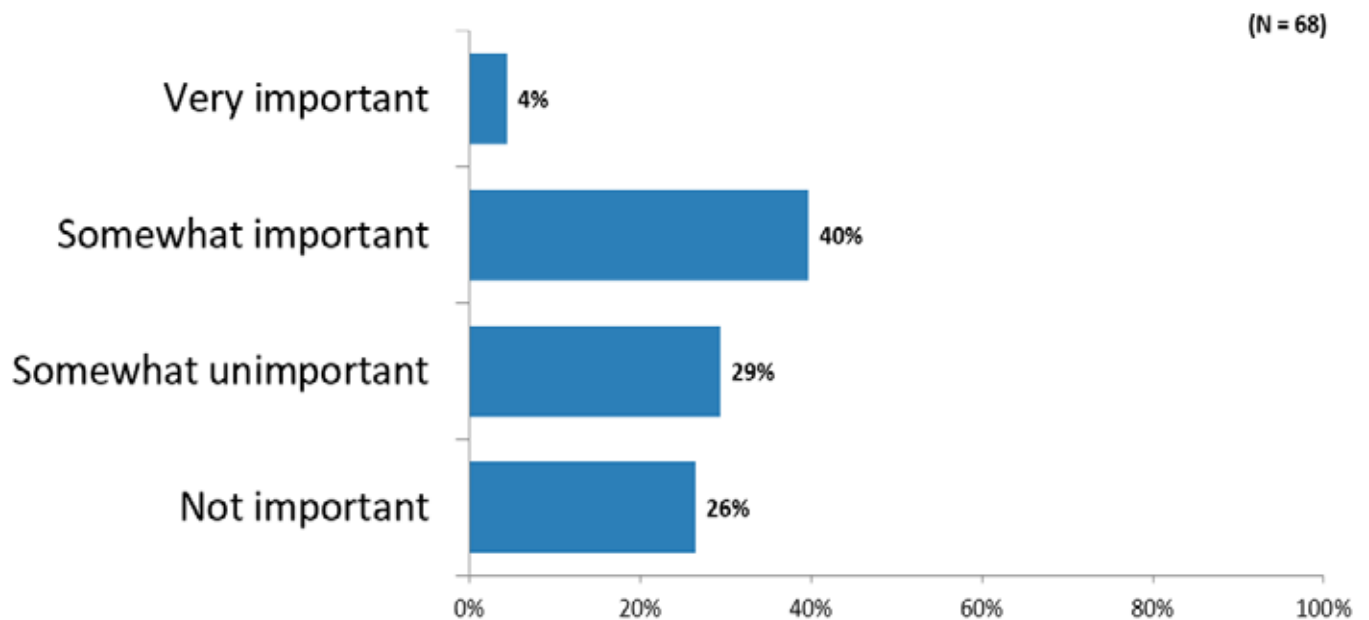
## How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?: **Special events and festivals**



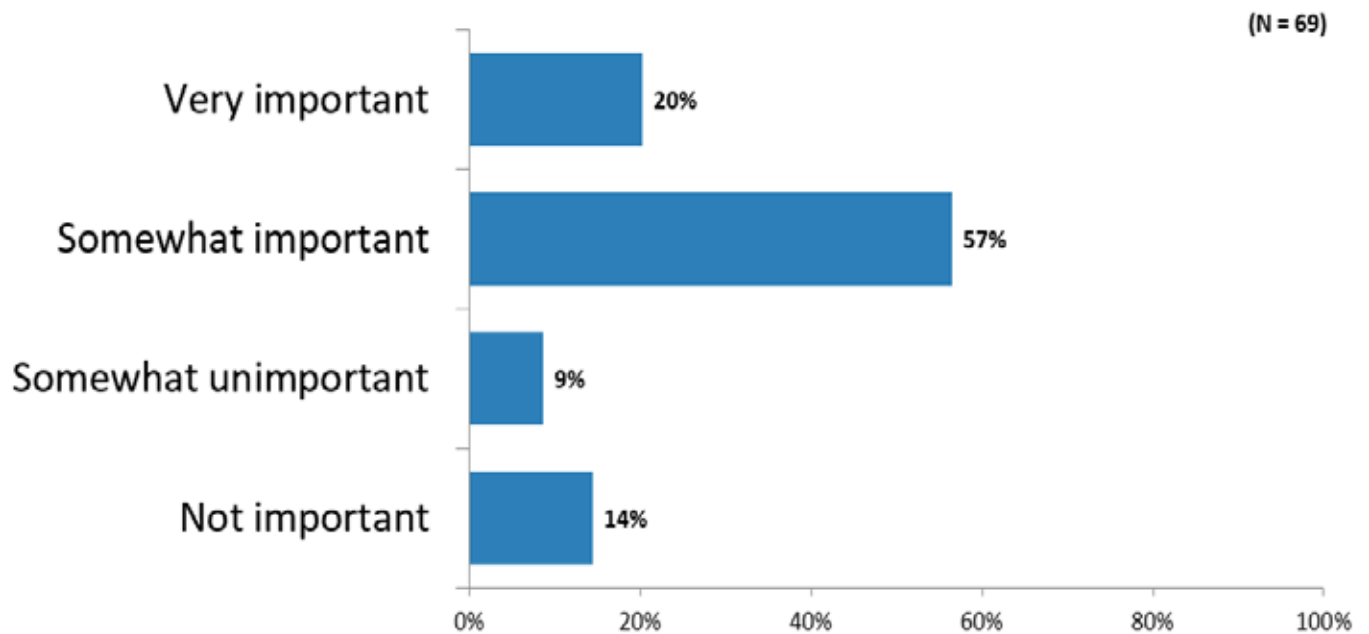
## How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?: **Summer camps**



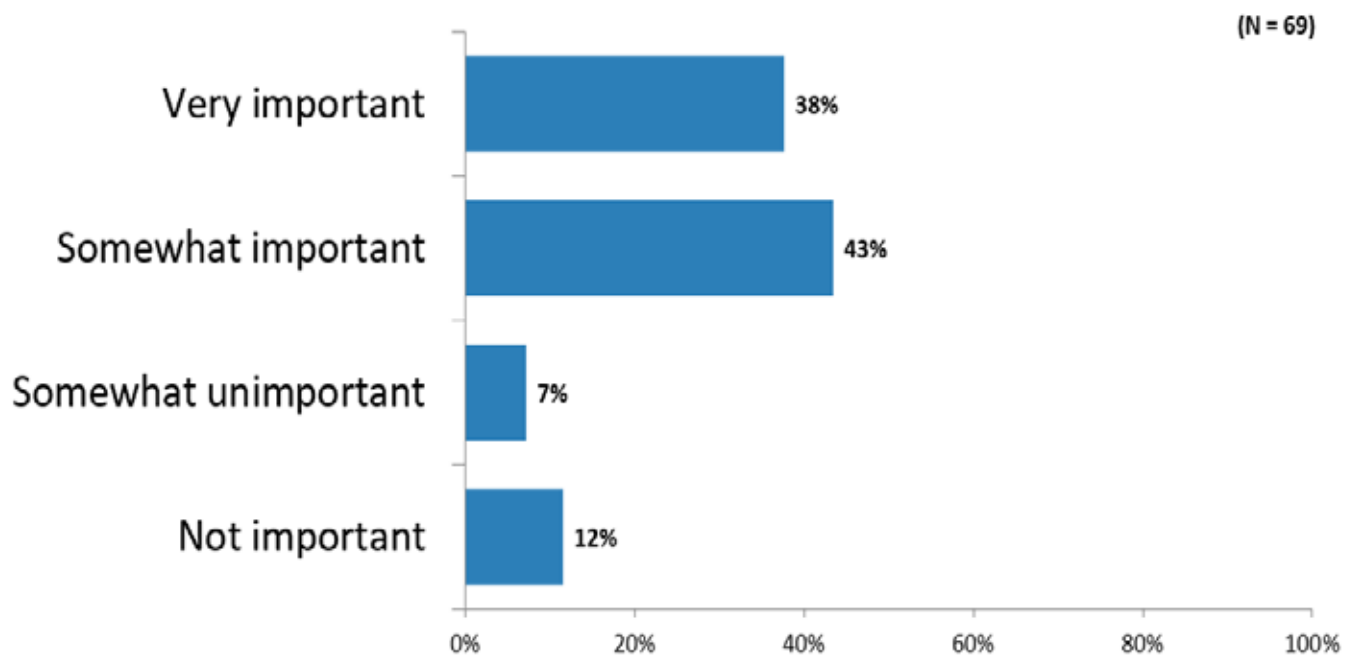
## How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?: **Skills workshops (e.g. computer education, accounting, etc.)**



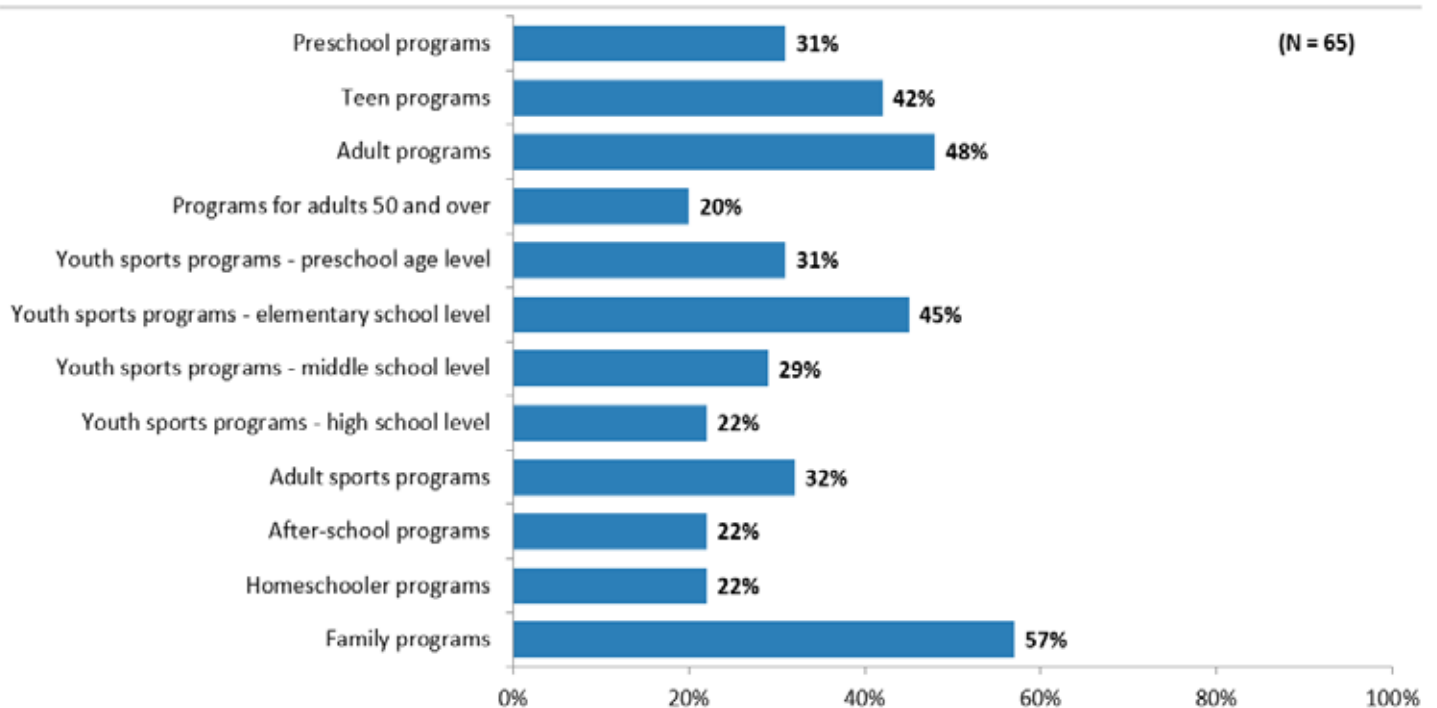
How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?:  
**Nature education (e.g. stargazing, bird watching, plant identification, etc.)**



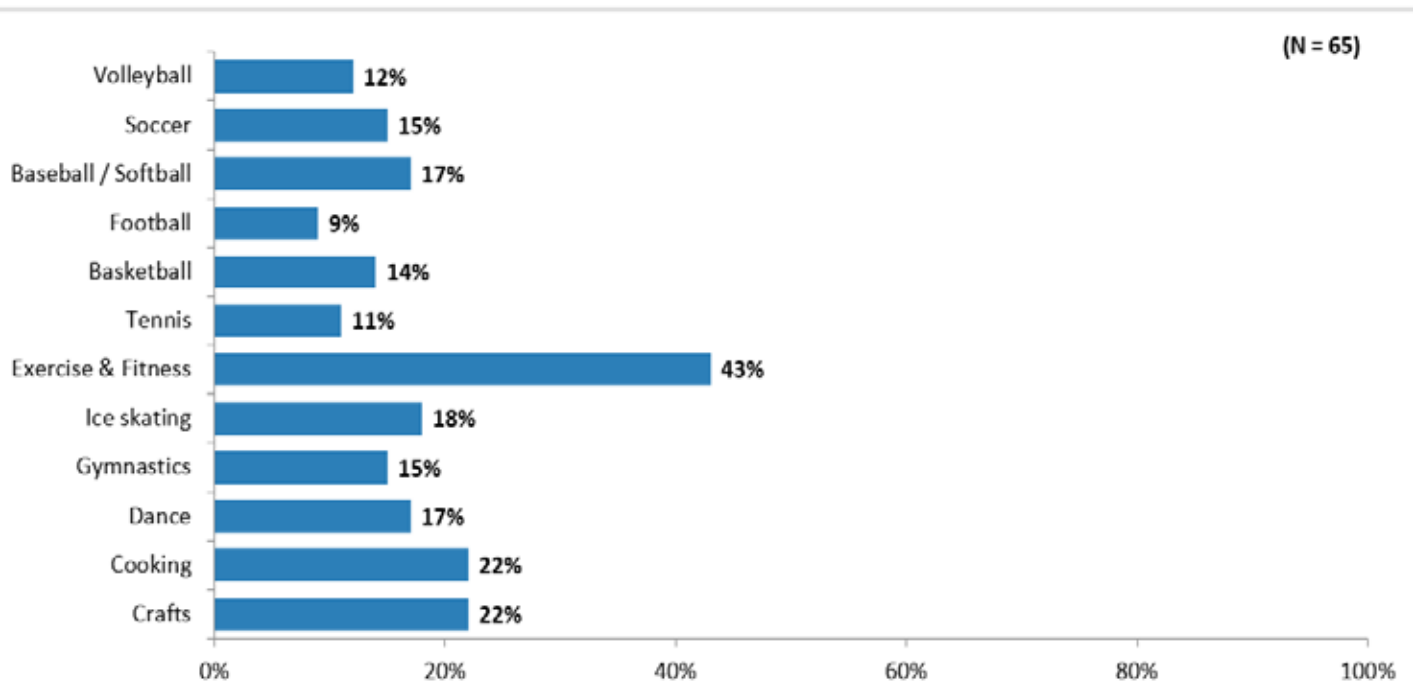
How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?:  
**Aquatics (e.g. swimming lessons, exercise, etc.)**



## Which of the following recreational programs would you like to see more of? Check all that apply.



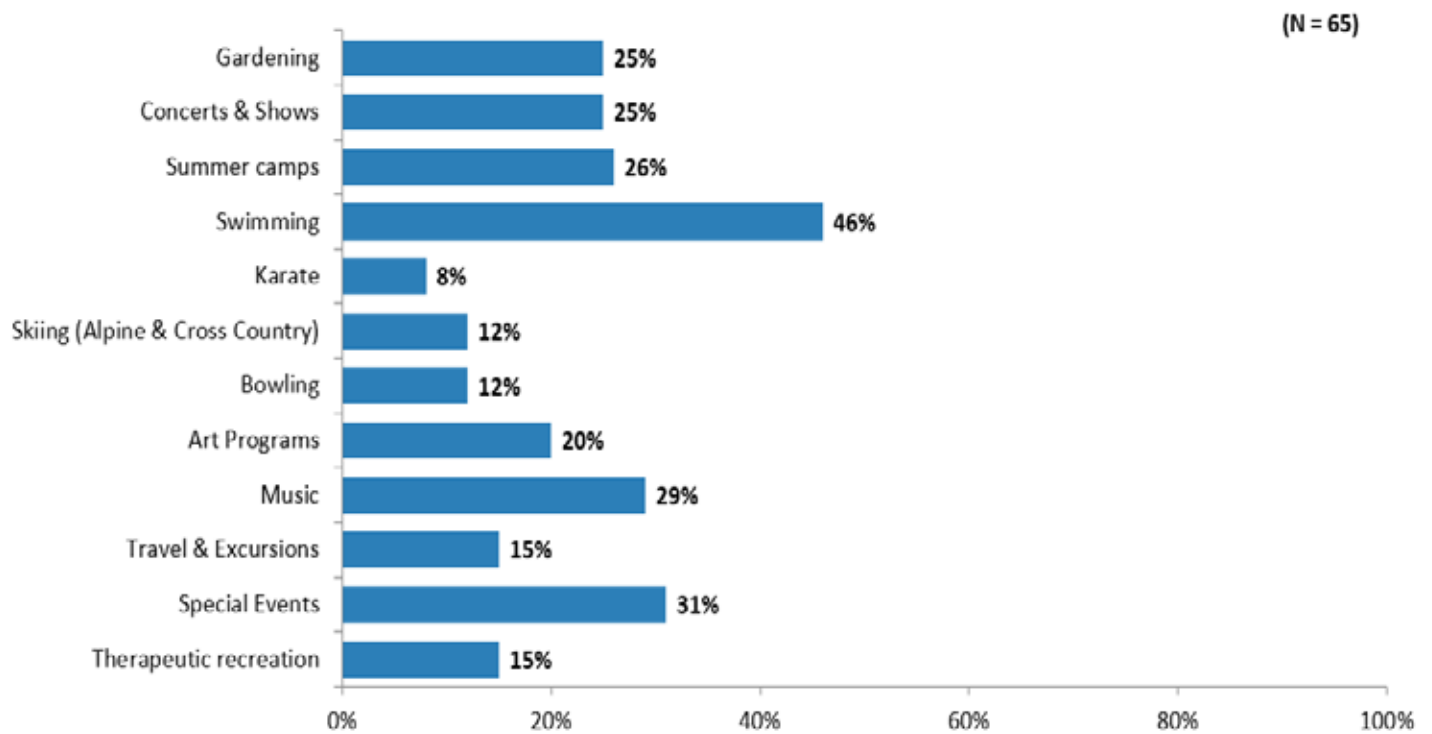
## Which of the following recreational programs would you like to see more of? Check all that apply. (Continued)



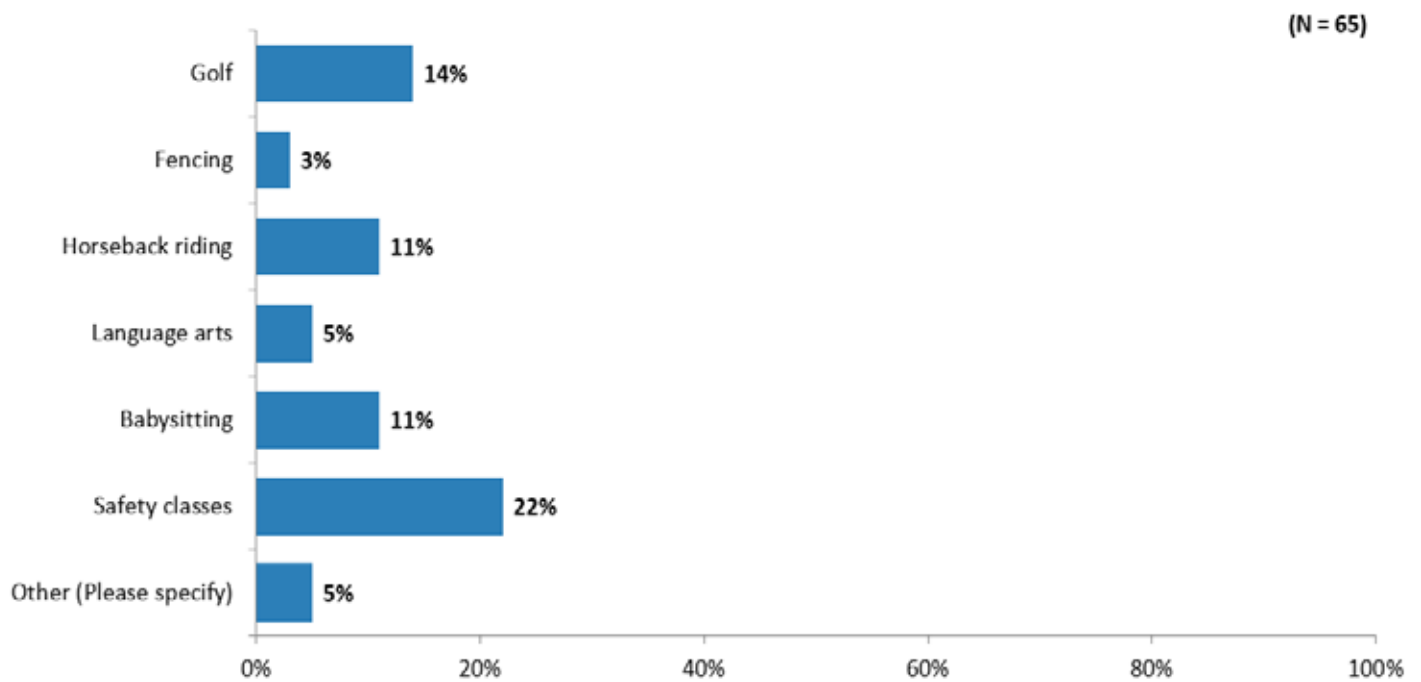




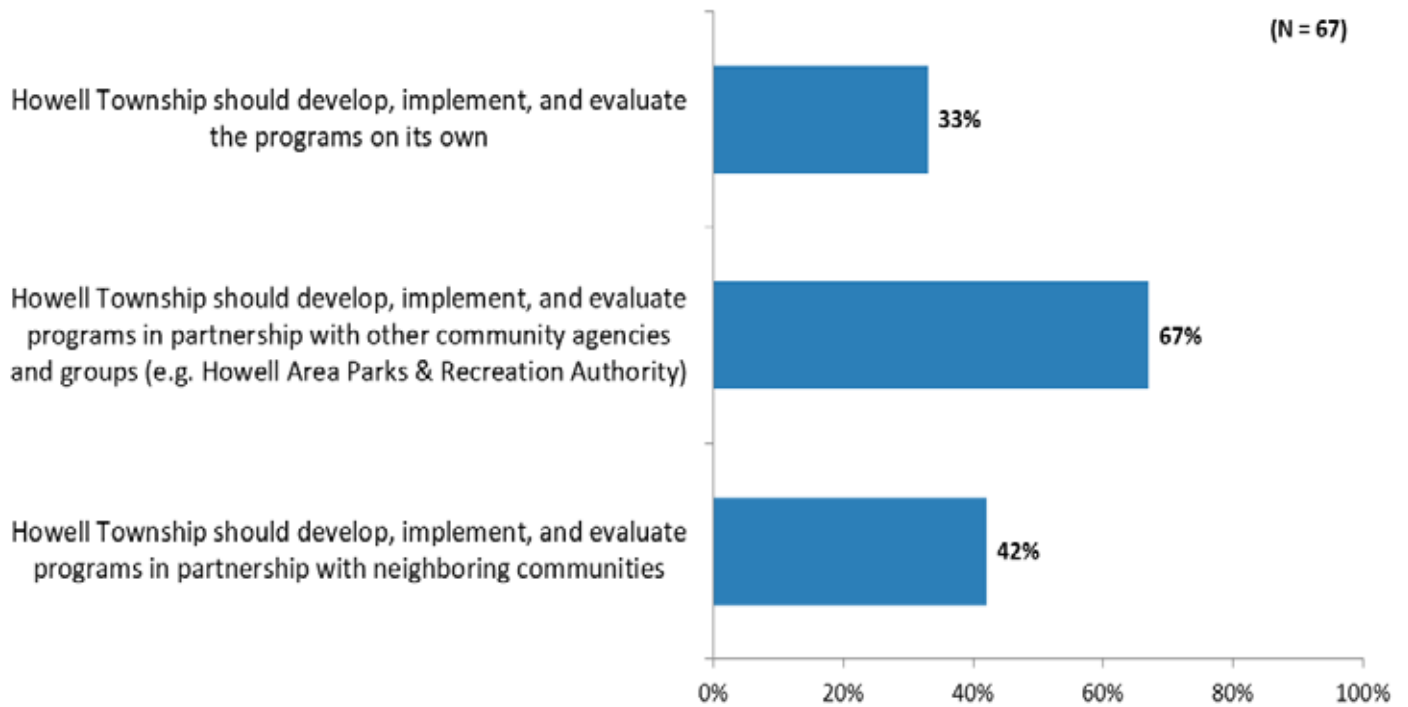
## Which of the following recreational programs would you like to see more of? Check all that apply. (Continued)



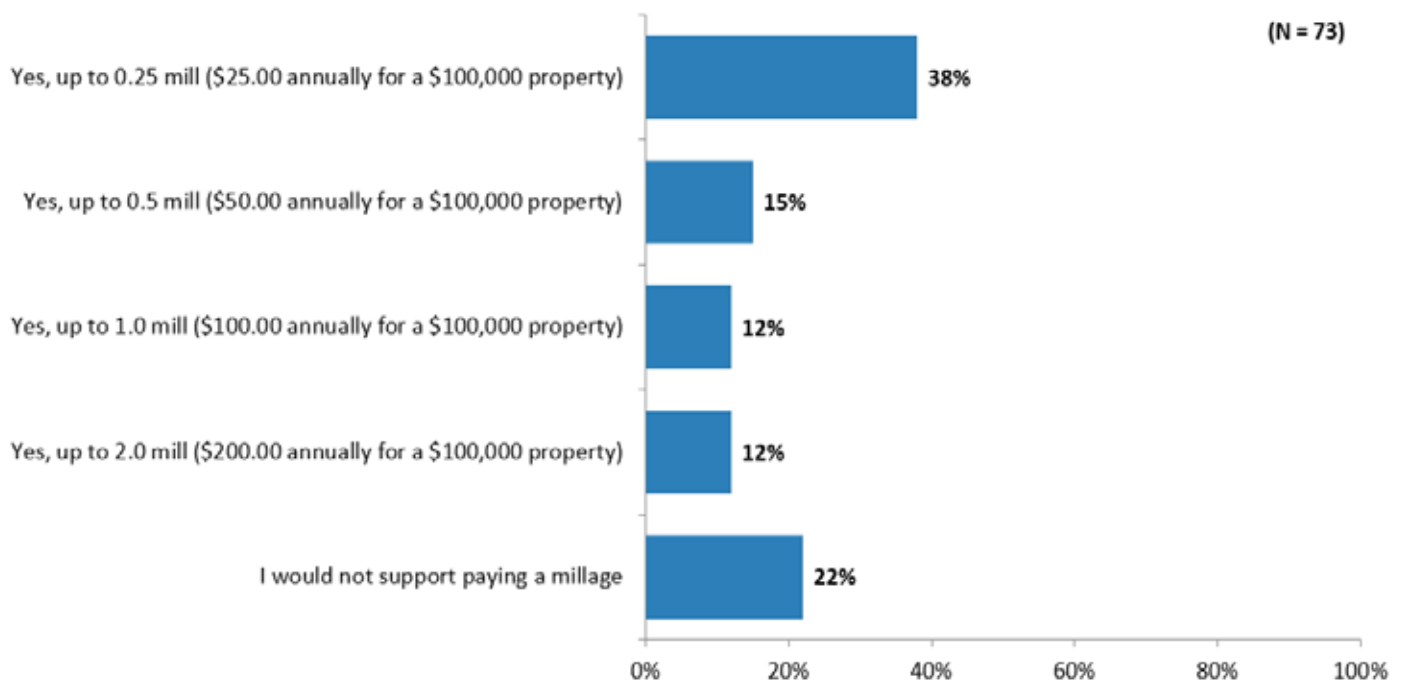
## Which of the following recreational programs would you like to see more of? Check all that apply. (Continued)



## If Howell Township were to develop more programs to meet the growing needs of our community, how should those programs be developed?

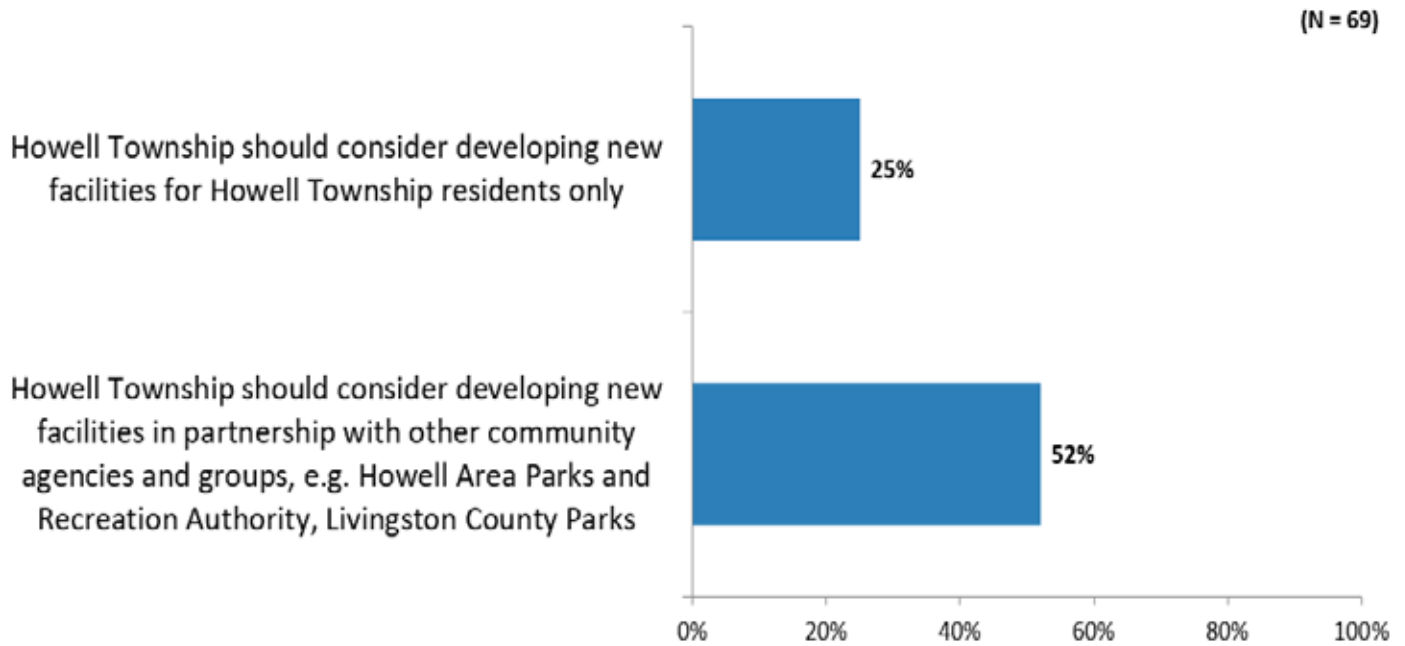


## Would you support a millage to develop further parks and recreation opportunities in Howell Township?





## Which of the following statements is most appropriate?



## Which of the following statements is most appropriate? (Continued)

