

Summit Township
Recreation Plan
2019-2023 edition

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*The 2019-2023 edition of the Summit Township
Recreation Plan will expire on December 31, 2023*

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Chapter 1

Community Description & Administrative Structure

Community Description

A priority of Summit Township is to develop a recreation plan which responds to the recreational needs and desires of its residents. Given that charge, this plan provides a clear picture of the recreation opportunities available to residents regardless of who provides them. This review includes nontraditional opportunities such as historic districts/structures and shopping opportunities as well as traditional parks and recreation facilities.

In addition to its rich network of aquatic features, Summit Township and its surroundings are home to a variety of communities, neighborhoods, and districts. The presence of trail corridors requires an intensive review of how that asset can be further integrated into the Township. With all those issues in mind, a sincere effort was spent in developing this recreation plan which represents the projected needs for recreation facilities and services in the 21st Century.

Location

Summit Township is located near the center of Jackson County, surrounding the southern two-thirds of the City of Jackson (see Map 1). The Vandercook Lake CDP (Census Designated Place) is located along the eastern border of the municipality and adjacent to the lake from which the name of the unincorporated settlement is derived (see Map 2, Appendix A). Summit Township is also bordered by Blackman Township to the north, the Townships of Leoni and Napoleon Township to the east, Columbia Township to the southeast, Liberty Township to the south, Hanover Township to the southwest, Spring Arbor Township to the west, and Sandstone Township to the northwest. A number of major roadways traverse the approximately thirty (30) square mile municipality: United States Highway 127 (freeway and Meridian Road (US- 127)), Brooklyn Road (M-50/BL-127), and Michigan Highway 60 (freeway) (M-60).

Jackson County is located in south-central Lower Michigan, close to the border with Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana (see Map 1).

Map 1
Regional Location



The Jackson Urbanized Area is located in the center of the County and covers much of Summit Township (see Map 2, Appendix A). The junction of I-94 and US-127 is located just north of the City of Jackson, earning the Area the nickname of “Crossroads of Michigan.” Those roads connect Jackson directly to Ann Arbor and Detroit to the east, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to the west, and Lansing to the north.

A Brief Socioeconomic Summary

The composition of Summit Township’s population has an effect upon its recreational needs. Pertinent demographic components are listed below along with a brief paragraph describing the local situation. Each component is described in greater detail in Appendix B of this document.

- **Population History & Projections.** The 2010 population for Summit Township’s population was 22,508 people and the 2016 population was estimated to be 22,502 people. The population is expected to increase to 23,824 people by 2025. Approximately 21% of Summit Township residents (4,723 people) lived in the Vandercook Lake CDP (Census Designated Place) in 2016.
- **Age & Gender of the Population.** The estimated median age of Summit Township residents was 44.5 years and the estimated median age of Vandercook Lake residents was 39.3 years. Baby Boomers (26%) were estimated to comprise the largest generation in Summit Township, followed by Millennials (24%), Generation X (24%), the iGeneration and younger (17%), and the Silent Generation and older (9%). Generation X (25%) was estimated to comprise the largest generation in Vandercook Lake, followed by Millennials (24%), Baby Boomers (22%), the iGeneration and younger (22%), and the Silent Generation and older (7%) Females comprised 52% of the populations of both Summit Township and Vandercook Lake.
- **Racial & Ethnic Composition.** The populations of Summit Township and Vandercook Lake are very homogenous. An estimated 89% of Summit Township residents and an estimated 99% of Vandercook Lake residents were white in 2016. An estimated 3% of Summit Township residents and an estimated 1% of Vandercook Lake residents were Hispanic.
- **Disabilities of Residents.** An estimated 13% of Summit Township residents and an estimated 17% of the residents of Vandercook Lake residents were disabled in 2016. An estimated 8% of Summit Township residents and 10% Vandercook Lake residents had an ambulatory disability. Older people were more apt to have a disability. For example, an estimated 32% of Summit Township residents 75 years old or older and an estimated 40% of Vandercook Lake residents 75 years old or older had an ambulatory disability.
- **Household & Family Composition.** An estimated 66% of Summit Township households and an estimated 74% of Vandercook Lake households were comprised of families in 2016. Single people comprised an estimated 29% of all Summit Township households and an estimated 21% of Vandercook Lake households in 2016. Other non-family households comprised an estimated 5% of the households in

both Summit Township and Vandercook Lake. Only an estimated 2% of Summit Township's residents resided in group quarters in 2016 and none of them lived in the CDP.

- **Income.** The estimated median income was \$57,998 for Summit Township households and an estimated \$48,564 for Vandercook Lake households. The estimated median income was \$71,789 for Summit Township families and an estimated \$57,708 for Vandercook Lake families. The estimated per capita income was for \$30,355 for Summit Township residents and \$22,863 for Vandercook Lake residents.
- **Housing Types.** An estimated 82% of Summit Township dwellings and 90% of Vandercook Lake dwellings were single-family homes in 2016. An estimated 15% of Summit Township dwellings and 1% of Vandercook Lake dwellings were located in multi-family buildings. An estimated 3% of Summit Township dwellings and an estimated 9% of Vandercook Lake dwellings were mobile homes.

Administrative Structure

In response to identified recreation needs, the Summit Township Board formed the Recreation Planning Committee under the authority of [Public Act 156 of 1917 \(Recreation and Playgrounds\)](#). The Act:

- authorizes "cities, villages, counties, townships and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds" (emphasis added). It also allows those entities to:
 - "operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds; acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; vote and expend funds for the operation of such system."
 - "operate such a system independently or they may cooperate in its conduct in any manner which they may mutually agree; or they may delegate the operation of the system to a recreation board created by any or all of them, and appropriate money, voted for this purpose, to such board."
- The act also allows park systems to operate on "(1) property under its custody and management; (2) other public property . . . ; [and] (3) private property, with the consent of the owners."

Organizational Structure

The Recreation Planning Committee is charged with producing this recreation plan and advising the Township Board on recreation issues and grant opportunities. However, the Summit Township Board maintains final authority concerning local recreation issues. Staff and consultants advise the Township during the development of recreation plan updates and amendments as well as on grant applications and other recreation issues. The Township may also rely on organized volunteer labor for specific projects on an as-needed basis.



Membership on the Recreation Planning Committee consists of four township residents as well as liaisons from the Township’s Board and Planning Commission. The Township’s Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer, in addition to four trustees, comprise the Board. The Township’s Zoning Administrator is the primary staff person on recreation issues. Region 2 Planning Commission staff also advises the Township when requested. Summit Township may utilize volunteers for specific recreation projects.

Sources of Funding

Summit Township identifies several potential sources of revenue for recreation:

- general tax fund dollars
- grants awarded for specific projects
- donations from the general citizenry and philanthropic organizations

General tax fund dollars are used for recreation, including the cost of producing this document. The Township may solicit grants for the acquisition of parkland and the development of a park or recreational facility (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.). Donations to be used at the discretion of the Township or for a specific facility or program will also be accepted. A portion of the local match required of most grants may also come from the general fund or donations. Grants for parks and recreational facilities are likely to come from several sources:

- **The Michigan Department of Natural Resources**
 - The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
 - The Land and Water Conservation Fund (a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan)

- **The Michigan Department of Transportation**
 - Michigan Transportation Alternatives Program (a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan)
- **The Jackson County Road Commission**
 - The 1% annual allocation of state transportation (Act 51) fund for non-motorized facilities

Parks and Recreation Budgeting

Summit Township currently owns a couple of trails, but it does not own, staff, or maintain any other recreation facilities. Consequently, the need for full-time recreation staff is not anticipated. The Township currently contracts with the City of Jackson for trails maintenance. As maintenance responsibilities increase with the development of the trail system, the Township will continue to contract with the City, a private company, or the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission for trail maintenance.

Relationships with Other Public Agencies

Summit Township is not the only supplier of parks and recreational opportunities to its residents.

Schools

Vandercook Lake Public Schools serve a major population center within the Township (i.e., the Vandercook Lake CDP)) and Jackson Public Schools also serve many school-aged residents (see Map 3, Appendix A). Hanover-Horton Schools, the Western School District, and East Jackson Community Schools also serve some students living along the perimeter of the Township. The Jackson County Intermediate School District (which includes Vandercook Lake and Jackson Public Schools) provides educational services to residents and local school districts. Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of the recreational facilities and programs provided by schools.

Local, County, State, and Private Parks and Recreation Facilities

Jackson County and the City of Jackson are major recreation providers in and around Summit Township. Some of the nearby townships and villages also maintain parks. The State of Michigan provides a variety of recreational facilities as well in the form of nearby state game, wildlife, and recreation areas; state historic parks; and state parks throughout the State (although none of those facilities are located in the study area). A variety of private entrepreneurs and quasi-public agencies also provide recreation facilities and programs in and around Summit Township. Recreational programs take place in many of the facilities listed above. Those programs are sponsored by a variety of public, quasi-public, and private boosters. Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of recreation facilities in the Summit Township Area.

Active Jackson

Active Jackson is a group of community leaders in the City of Jackson and throughout Jackson County. It also serves as the Active Living Health Action Team for the Health Information Organization (HIO) founded by Henry Ford Allegiance Health. The chair of the Summit Township Recreation Planning Committee is a member of the organization. Its mission is: “To create an environment where it’s easy to walk and bike for recreation, transportation, and health; and to educate and encourage citizens to be active”. As part of that effort, the HIO conducted a Collaborative Community Assessment Metric Report which published the results of a community health assessment survey conducted in 2017. The answers to various questions regarding general health, physical activity/overweight and obesity illustrate the need for additional recreation facilities in Summit Township and the rest of Jackson County.

- When asked questions about weight and height, it was determined that 32.6% of respondents were overweight (i.e., had a body mass index of 25.0-29.9) and 39.9% were obese (i.e., had a body mass index of ≥ 30.0).
- When asked to rate the difficulty in finding a place to exercise, 10.9% of respondents reported it was ‘somewhat difficult’ and 6.2% reported it was ‘very difficult’.
- When asked if they feel if sidewalks and bike routes in their neighborhood are adequate, 77.9% and 80.2% responded ‘yes’, respectively.
- When asked if they use bicycle paths or bike trails in their community, 25.1% said ‘yes’, 44.0% said ‘no’, and 30.9% said the ‘community does not have any’ facilities.
- When respondents who reported having school age children that walk or bike to school were asked if there is a safe route to school for their kids, 68.4% responded ‘yes’ and 31.6% responded ‘no’. When asked how many days a week their kids walk or bike to school, 34.4% said ‘1 day’, 31.6% said ‘2 days’, and 34.0% said ‘5 days’.

Active Jackson will participate in the development of the Combined City of Jackson and Jackson County Non-Motorized Plan by facilitating public engagement and providing stakeholder engagement for identifying possible non-motorized routes. Routes running through Summit Township will become part of the next edition of the Summit Township Recreation Plan. The Region 2 Planning Commission, the City of Jackson, and Jackson County will begin the planning effort in 2019.



Chapter 2

Recreation and Resource Inventories

Recreation Inventory

In order to plan for future parks and recreation facilities it is important to prepare a complete inventory of existing resources and facilities. The following inventory is comprised of all known parks and recreation facilities and programs available in Summit Township, not just those owned and managed by the Township. The parks, facilities, and programs were identified through local knowledge and review of current and historic documents and maps.

Park Classifications and Standards

It is also important to be able classify parks and recreation facilities in order to identify the need for additional parkland and recreation facilities in Summit Township. Park systems are comprised of several types of parks:

- **Mini-Parks** — Small parks (less than an acre) which address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.
- **Neighborhood Parks** — Informal active and/or passive recreation parks which serve as the focus of the neighborhood; this park type also serves as a mini-park for the area immediately adjacent to the facility.
- **Community Parks** — Parks which serve a broader focus than a neighborhood and may also preserve a unique landscape or open space; this park type also serves as a neighborhood park for the area immediately adjacent to the facility.
- **Regional Parks** — Parks which serve the entire county as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces; this park type also serves as a community park for the area surrounding the facility.
- **Connector Trails** — Linear parks which serve as non-motorized connectors among neighborhoods, business areas, parks, schools, and other destinations.

Parks and Recreation Facilities in Summit Township

Parks and recreation facilities found in Summit Township are provided by Jackson County, Vandercook Lake Public Schools, Jackson College, and a variety of private and quasi-public entities as well as the Township.

Summit Township Recreation Facilities

Summit Township owns and maintains several connector trails but does not own or maintain any traditional parkland. The Horton Road Trail connects the Weatherwax Road Trail with the Fourth Street Connector Trail. The Probert Road Trail extends eastward from the bike path along Francis Street into Ella Sharp Park. The Spring Arbor Road and High Street Trails provide connections to the City of Jackson, Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park, and Lumen Christi High School (please see the following table and the Map 4, Appendix A).

Township Recreation Facilities

Key	Name	Description	BFA ¹
1	Horton Road Trail	Along Horton Road from the Weatherwax Road Trail north to Ella Sharp Park and the Fourth Street Connector Trail (City of Jackson)	4
2	Probert Road Trail	Along the north side of Probert Road, extending from Ella Sharp Park (City of Jackson) eastward to Francis Street	4
3	Spring Arbor Road Trail	A parallel trail along the northern side of the road, extending from east of Robinson Road (Lumen Christi) to south of Morrell Road (Pollys).	4
4	High Street Trail	A parallel trail to High Street (into Sparks Foundation County Park), extending from the Spring Arbor Road Trail to the Cascades Park Trail System (City of Jackson).	4

- **Accessibility** — It is important that the trail be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, an estimated 13% of township residents were disabled in some way in 2016 and an estimated 32% of residents 75 years of age or older had an ambulatory (mobility) difficulty. Accordingly, the trails are rated according to their level of barrier free access. The number listed under the BFA column in the above table equates to the barrier-free rating listed in the adjacent table.
- **Past Grants** — The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has awarded Summit Township 1 recreation grant.

Barrier-Free Access (BFA) Analysis

Key	Description
1 =	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2 =	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3 =	Most of the facilities/park area meet accessibility guidelines
4 =	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5 =	The entire park was developed/renovated utilizing universal design

¹ The analysis of barrier free access was provided by Summit Township, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

Past MDNR Grant

Park Name	Project No.	Year	Improvements/Usage
Horton Road Trail Development	TF15-0069	2015	Construct 1/2 mile of trail connecting the Weatherwax Road Trail on the south end and the City of Jackson's Fourth Street Connector Trail on the north end.

Other Public Parks

Although Summit Township does not own or maintain any parkland, Vandercook Lake County Park —a 21-acre community park— is located within the municipality as is much of Sparks Foundation (Cascades) County Park —a 443 acre regional park— (please see the following table and the Map 4, Appendix A). The City of Jackson's Ella Sharp Park — a 533 acre regional park — also borders the Township. Given the 22,508 residents in 2010 (and the estimated population of 23,824 people in 2025), the parkland listed above exceeds the typical acreage per resident ratio cited by the National Recreation and Park Association.²

Other Public Parks in Summit Township

Key	Name	Description
A	Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park	Water access, an illuminated waterfall, golf courses, soccer golf, a banquet facility, a band shell, a fishing pier, green space, picnic areas, a basketball court, playground structures, a handicap accessible urban fishery; and modern restrooms and portable toilets – 442.8 acres
B	Vandercook Lake County Park	Water access, a swimming area, a boat launch; green space, a picnic area, ball diamonds, a playground area, kayak rental, and restrooms – 20.7 acres
C	Ella Sharp Park (City of Jackson)	A golf course and golf learning center, flower gardens, hiking trails, basketball courts, soccer fields, softball fields, Frisbee golf and many other facilities for athletics and casual enjoyment of the outdoors – 562 acres

² 10.1 acres per 1,000 population according to the [National Recreation and Park Association](#).

Other Connector Trails

Various other trails also traverse Summit Township (please see the following table and the Map 4, Appendix A). For example, the Martin Luther King Equality Trail and Falling Waters Trail corridor connect the City of Jackson with the Village of Concord, passing through Summit Township and the community of Spring Arbor; the non-motorized corridor also connects to the Horton Road Trail and other trails. The Martin Luther King Equality Trail and Falling Waters Trail corridor is part of the Iron Belle Trail and Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails: South Haven (Lake Michigan) to Port Huron (Lake Huron), statewide trail efforts currently underway across Michigan (see Chapter 3).

Other Connector Trails in Summit Township

Key	Name	Description
5	Martin Luther King Equality Trail	The trail extends southeastward into the Township from Jackson to Weatherwax Road.
6	Falling Waters Trail	An extension of the Martin Luther King Equality Trail, extending from Weatherwax Road southeast to Concord.
7	Weatherwax Road Trail	A parallel trail to Weatherwax Road, extending from the Martin Luther King Equality Trail to the Horton Road.
8	Fourth Street Connector Trail	A parallel trail to Horton Road and Fourth Street, extending from the Horton Road Trail to the Martin Luther King Equality Trail.
9	Sparks Park Connector Trail	A trail (partially parallel to Kibby Road), extending from the Martin Luther King Equality Trail to the Cascades Trail Loop.
10	Cascades Park Trail System	A trail loop around the Cascades lagoons in Sparks Foundation County Park, extending from the Sparks Park Connector Trail.
11	Elm Drive Trail	A parallel trail Elm Drive, extending from the Fourth Street Connector Trail within Ella Sharp Park.
12	Francis Street Bike Lanes	Paved shoulders, extending between South Street and McDevitt Road.
13	South Street Bike Lanes	Paved shoulders, extending between Francis Street and M-50 (Cooper St//Brooklyn Rd.).
14	McDevitt Avenue Bike Lanes	Paved shoulders, extending between Francis Street and Old McDevitt Road, and a four (4) foot wide sidewalk, extending between Maurice Avenue and Old McDevitt Road, on the north side of the road.

Local Schools

Schools also provide a variety of recreational facilities (please see the following table and the Map 4, Appendix A). For example, elementary schools provide numerous playgrounds aimed at different age groups and sports fields. Middle and high schools provide football fields, ball diamonds and tennis courts. Elementary, middle, and high schools provide gymnasiums. Because of those facilities, schools generally function as community parks.

Vandercook Lake Public Schools serve students living in the CDP and all of its facilities are located in the unincorporated settlement. Jackson Public Schools serves much of the Township and one of its elementary schools is located within the municipality. Several private schools are also located in the municipality.

Schools in Summit Township

Key	Name	District	Facilities
D	Vandercook Lake High	Vandercook Lake PS	Football fields, track, ball fields, and tennis & basketball courts – 21 acres.
E	Townsend Elementary	Vandercook Lake PS	Ball fields, basketball court, and play equipment – 18 acres.
F	Dibble Elementary	Jackson PS	Basketball court, ball field, picnic table, and play equipment – 4.5 acres.
G	Lincoln Elementary	Jackson PS	The school district may reopen the school – 7 acres
H	Sharp Park IB World School	Jackson PS	Gymnasium (1/2 court), playground, picnic tables, gaga ball pit - 2.7 acres
I	Lumen Christi High	Private	Football field, tennis courts, track, softball & baseball fields, soccer fields, and basketball court – 43.5 acres.
J	Jackson Christian Elementary	Private	Ball field, basketball court, soccer fields, and play equipment – 8 acres.
K	Jackson Christian High	Private	Soccer field – 10 acres.
L	Paragon Charter Academy	Charter	Basketball court, soccer field and playground equipment.
M	Jackson College Central Campus, including da Vinci Institute High School and Jackson Preparatory & Early College (JPEC)	Community College and Charter	Victor Cuiss Fieldhouse (volleyball and basketball), Frisbee golf, and softball, baseball, and soccer fields.

Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities

A number of quasi-public and private entities also maintain recreational facilities in Summit Township (please see the following table and the Map 4, Appendix A). For example, the Township is home to the Dahlem Center, which contains an environmental education center. Facilities provided by other quasi-public and private entities also have some recreational value. For instance, the Jackson District Library (JDL) provides access to books, films, and a variety of enrichment programs. The JDL's Summit Branch is located in Vandercook Lake (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more detail on JDL facilities).

Other Recreation Facilities

Key	Name	Facilities
N	Dahlem Center	Nature and environmental education center – 200 acres.
O	Grande Golf Club	18-hole course - 400 acres.
P	Jackson Country Club	27-hole course, pool, tennis courts, and fitness center – 550 acres.
Q	Hickory Hills Golf Club	36-hole course and cross-country skiing – 250 acres.

Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Surrounding Area

Parks and recreation facilities provided by a number of public, quasi-public and private institutions are also located in the surrounding area.

Other Municipal and County Parks

Some of the surrounding municipalities also provide parks to their residents (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more facilities).

- **City of Jackson** — the City maintains 26 other parks in addition to Ella Sharp park (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more detail).
- **Blackman Township** — Rod Mills Memorial Park
- **Hanover Township** — Bibbins Lake Park, Perrin Park, Veteran's Ball Field
- **Leoni Township** — Peter Alex Ball Park, Leoni Community Park, Bender Park, and a public boat launch
- **Napoleon Township** — Napoleon Village Park, Napoleon Lions Park, and girls' softball field

- **Spring Arbor Township** — Fritz Gallagher Park and Harmony Park
- **County of Jackson** — the County maintains another 14 parks in addition to Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park and Vandercook Lake County Park (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more detail).

Other Public School Districts

Vandercook Lake Public Schools is the only district located entirely within Summit Township and all of its facilities are located in the Vandercook Lake CDP (Census Designated Place). Although Jackson Public Schools serves much of the Township, most of its schools are located in the City of Jackson. Several other public school districts also serve small portions of Summit Township although they maintain no facilities in the municipality (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more school districts).

- **Jackson Public Schools** — covers the City of Jackson and portions of Blackman, Liberty, Napoleon, and [Summit](#) Townships. The district, maintains the following facilities outside of the Township:
 - Bennett Elementary
 - Fourth Street Learning Center
 - Frost Elementary
 - Hunt Elementary
 - Jackson High
 - Jackson Pathways
 - JPS Montessori Center
 - Middle School at Parkside
 - Northeast Elementary
 - T. A. Wilson Academy
- **East Jackson Community Schools** — covers portions of Blackman, Leoni, [Summit](#), and Waterloo Townships. The district maintains the following facilities outside of the Township:
 - East Jackson Elementary
 - East Jackson Secondary
 - East Jackson Alternative
- **Hanover-Horton School District** — covers the Village of Hanover and portions of Hanover, Liberty, Pulaski, Spring Arbor and [Summit](#) Townships. The district maintains the following facilities outside of the Township:
 - Early Impressions Preschool and Childcare Center
 - Hanover-Horton Elementary
 - Hanover-Horton Middle
 - Hanover-Horton High
- **Western School District** — covers the Village of Parma and portions of Concord, Parma, Sandstone, Spring Arbor and [Summit](#) Townships. The district maintains the following facilities outside of the Township:
 - Bean Elementary
 - Warner Elementary
 - Western High
 - Parma Elementary
 - Western Middle
 - Western Career Prep High

Local Colleges

There are several local college campuses in the surrounding area in addition to Jackson College's Central Campus. Jackson Community College's main campus is located in Summit Township. Baker College's local campus and Jackson College's W.J. Maher Campus are located in Blackman Township. Finally, Spring Arbor University's main campus is located in the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor. Michigan State University's [MacCready Reserve](#) in nearby Liberty Township provides 6.5 miles of trails and is dog-friendly.

Many colleges provide access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities. Township residents can also avail themselves of the other recreational facilities and programs hosted by those institutions. For example, The [Potter Center](#) (Jackson College) "is comprised of the most versatile and complete performing arts complex in the area." The [Ganton Art Gallery](#) (Spring Arbor University) is "the state's largest, single-room gallery."

State Parks

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a significant provider of regional parks and recreation facilities, maintains parkland which extends into Jackson County (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for a full listing of state recreation facilities in Jackson County). For example, Walter J Hayes State Park—which extends into Norvell Township— provides opportunities for boating, fishing, picnicking, metal detecting, playing (i.e., playgrounds), swimming, and camping. The Waterloo Recreation Area—which extends into the townships of Grass Lake, Leoni, and Waterloo— provides opportunities for cross-county skiing, snowmobiling, boating, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, horseback riding, picnicking, playing (i.e., playgrounds), and camping. The Sharonville State Game Area—which extends into the townships of Grass Lake and Norvell— provide opportunities for hunting. Finally, the DNR also maintains eight boat launches in Jackson County.

Jackson County Fairground

The Jackson County Fair is held every August in the City of Jackson. However, it is important to note that the Fairground also hosts other special events throughout the year.

Golf Courses

In addition to the public courses associated with the Ella Sharp and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Parks, a variety of private courses are available to Summit Township residents. Many of those courses are open to the general public (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for a complete listing of golf courses in Jackson County).

Recreation and Sport Centers

The YMCA of Jackson, located in Downtown Jackson, provides a variety of sports and recreational activities; there is a satellite facility in the Summit Oaks shopping plaza. Allskate Fun Center and Optimist Ice Arena are also located in the City of Jackson. Finally, Airport Lanes, and Suburban Bowling Lanes provide opportunities for bowling.

Public and Private Facilities with Recreational Benefits

Various other facilities in the surrounding area (provided publicly and privately) also have recreational benefits:

- **Cemeteries** — Cemeteries provide important green space. They can also be used as safe places to walk/exercise and contemplate nature (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for a listing of cemeteries in Jackson County).
- **Sidewalks** — Existing sidewalks are used for exercise as well as transportation and may even connect with non-motorized trails.
- **Shopping and Eating** — Many people enjoy shopping and going out to eat. Consequently, nearby local downtowns and other commercial districts provide recreation because of their restaurants and/or shops (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more on shopping and eating opportunities in Jackson County).

Resource Inventory

In addition to recreation facilities, Summit Township and the surrounding area is also home to a wide variety of cultural and natural resources. The Township is graced with a slightly rolling landscape, including some hills, low broad valleys, the Grand River and some of its tributaries, and a number of lakes and wetlands. It also has access to major transportation routes and has become increasingly urbanized. This type of landscape is amenable to the development of trails.

Recreation Events and Programs

Summit Township does not maintain any recreation programming or provide any events. However, local schools, Jackson County, and the City of Jackson do actively provide recreation programming and host events. It should also be pointed out that many of the recreation providers listed above also provide recreational programs. For example, the various bowling alleys also host bowling leagues.

City of Jackson

The City of Jackson provides a wide variety of recreation programming. Those programs are available to Township residents who also reside in the Jackson Public School District (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more detail on programs).

Jackson County

The Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park —located in Summit Township and the City of Jackson— hosts a variety of events, including fire-works on or around Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more detail). The Jackson County Parks Association also hosts a variety of work-bees and recreational events in the various parks.

Local Schools

Schools are the primary providers of recreation facilities and programs for children. Sporting teams, band programs, and school plays provide recreational opportunities for the entire community.

- **Vandercook Lake Jayhawks**. The Jayhawks are a member of the *Cascade Conference* with the Addison Panthers, East Jackson Trojans, Grass Lake Warriors, Hanover-Horton Comets, Manchester Dutchman, Michigan Center Cardinals, and Napoleon Pirates.
- **Jackson Lumen Christi Titans**. The Titans are a member of the *Interstate 8 Athletic Conference* with the Harper Creek Beavers (Battle Creek), Pennfield Panthers (Battle Creek), Coldwater Cardinals, Hastings Saxons, Northwest Mounties, Marshall Redhawks, and Western Panthers (Parma).
- **Jackson Vikings**. The Vikings are a member of the *Southeastern Conference* with the Adrian Maples, Huron River Rats (Ann Arbor), Pioneer Pioneers (Ann Arbor), Skyline Eagles (Ann Arbor), Chelsea Bulldogs, Dexter Dreadnaughts, Monroe Trojans, Pinkney Pirates, Saline Hornets, Tecumseh Indians, Bedford Kicking Mules (Temperance), Ypsilanti Grizzlies, and Lincoln Railsplitters (Ypsilanti).
- **Jackson Christian Royals**. The Royals are a member of the *Southern Central Athletic Association* with the Lenawee Christian Cougars (Adrian), Athens Indians, St Philip Fighting tigers (Battle Creek), Bellevue Broncos, Burr Oak Bobcats, Camden-Frontier Redskins, Climax-Scotts Panthers, Litchfield Terriers, North Adams-Jerome Rams, Pittsford Wildcats, Tekonsha Indians, and Waldron Spartans.
- **da Vinci Institute Stallions**. The Stallions are independent.

Clubs and Organizations

There are a variety of clubs and organizations that organize recreational activities. For example, the Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) organizes cleanup activities and monthly canoeing and kayaking outings to create environmental awareness. The Cascades Cycling Club is active in the area. The Dahlem Conservancy provides guided nature hikes on the grounds of the Dahlem Center. Finally, [Experience Jackson](#) promotes a variety of outdoor activities: trails, golf, alternative sports, fishing, birding, and fall scenic tour.

Historical Sites

Historical sites are important cultural and recreational resources.

State and National Registers

Summit Township hosts two sites on Michigan's register of state historic sites: the McCain School (3517 McCain Road) and the Thomas Wilson House (3600 Vrooman Road). A total of 44 other sites are located throughout Jackson County (as identified by [Wikipedia](#)). A total of 28 sites in Jackson County are on the National Register of Historic Places, none of which are in Summit Township, according to the [National Register of Historic Places](#). The first state prison is also located in the City of Jackson. It brings many tourists to the area.

City of Jackson Historic Districts

The Under the Oaks Neighborhood in nearby Jackson is a locally designated historic district. The City has also designated 42 other local historic districts. The City's [Historic Preservation Ordinance](#) (Chapter 13 of the City Code) describes each of the sites.

Transportation

Jackson County and Summit Township share a well-connected transportation system. Interstate 94 (I-94) traverses the County from east-to-west, north of the Township, providing access to the major metropolitan areas of Chicago and Detroit. United States Highway 127 (US-127) runs along the eastern edge of the Township, providing access to the Lansing area and other points north as well as Adrian and Toledo to the south. A couple of Michigan highways (i.e., M-50 and M-60), the Horton/South Jackson Road corridor, Francis Street, McDevitt Road, Spring Arbor Road, and a variety of other county primary roads provide access to those major roadways. The Jackson Area Transportation Authority's Route #6 (Francis Street) extends into the Township as far south as Clark Street, east of Ella Sharp Park. Route #8 provides access to Jackson College and the Da Vinci Institute's High School. The Martin Luther King Equality Trail and Falling Waters Trail provide an important non-motorized corridor connecting the City of Jackson to the Village of Concord, with plans statewide to incorporate the facilities into the Iron Belle Trail and Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails: South Haven to Port Huron (see Chapter 3).

Water Resources

Many wetland areas and a number of lakes are located within Summit Township, the largest of which are Browns and Vandercook Lakes (see Map 5, Appendix A). This drainage system generally flows in a northerly direction into the Grand River and its tributaries. The northwest portion of the Township drains into Sandstone Creek via the McCain Drain while the remainder drains into the Grand River via the Mercedes and Ferguson Drains. Summit Township is located entirely within the Upper Grand River Watershed, which eventually drains into Lake Michigan.

Topography

Elevations of land in Summit Township fluctuate 172 feet in height. The low point of 926 feet above sea level is located to the northeast along the border with the City of Jackson (see Map 6). The high point of 1,098 feet above sea level is located near the southwest corner of the Township. Low areas throughout the Township are easy to identify as they are dominated by wetlands and are unsuitable for development.

Greenways

The types of soils found in Jackson County are important to its development. For example, while agricultural land remains in Summit Township, only a small portion of the proposed agricultural preservation extends into the southwest corner of the municipality (see Map 7, Appendix A). However, a possible network of greenways which “generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands” is located in Summit Township (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more information on agricultural preservation areas and greenways).

Future Land Use

The ‘Future Land Use’ map contained in the 2016 edition of the Summit Township Master Plan shows a mix of residential, office, commercial, public/semi-public, parks and recreation, and industrial land uses within Summit Township (see Map 8, Appendix A). Low density residential areas comprise the largest land use category on the plan map. Summit Township is essentially a bedroom community although limited office, commercial and industrial uses are also found in the Township. Commercial areas are found in the northwest portion of the Township at McCain and Robinson Roads; along the southwest side of Weatherwax Drive; on Francis Road north of the Vandercook Lake area; in the northeast corner; and along McDevitt and Vandercook Lake. A large parcel has also been suggested south of McDevitt near the U.S. 127 interchange. Currently most of the existing industrial operations are located in the east portion of the Township along the U.S. 127 corridor and along M-50. The plan suggests expanding new industrial opportunities into the east portion of the community along these corridors.



Chapter 3

Descriptions of the Planning and Public Input Processes

Description of the Planning Process

The steps utilized to develop the 2019-2023 edition of the Summit Township Recreation Plan included the following:

1. Summit Township recognized the need to update the Recreation Plan.
2. Summit Township administration contracted with Region 2 Planning Commission staff to facilitate the development of the 2019-2023 edition of the Plan in 2017.
3. The Recreation Planning Committee conducted a recreation survey in the winter of 2018.
4. Region 2 staff updated the community description; administrative structure; and recreation and resource inventories within the Plan, including new mapping, and reported the findings to the Recreation Planning Committee.
5. The Recreation Planning Committee utilized the input collected from the various public involvement efforts and the information produced by Region 2 staff to develop the goals and objectives and action program included in the Plan.
6. The Recreation Planning Committee provided the plan for public review from October 28, 2018, through December 14, 2018, and held a public hearing on December 17, 2018. The Plan was approved by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the Township Board after the public hearing was closed.
7. The Summit Township Board of Trustees adopted the Plan on January 8, 2019.

Description of the Public Input Process

A variety of methods were employed to incorporate public input into the development of this recreation plan:

Recreation Survey

A total of 412 people completed a recreation survey conducted during the winter of 2018 (please see Appendix C). The survey results include:

- **Non-motorized trail network.** There was solid support for the continued development of a non-motorized trail network in Summit Township (82% of 405 responses was 'yes').

- **Grand River water trail.** There was clear support for the development of kayak/canoe launch sites and maintaining the Grand River for kayaking and canoeing (76% of 402 responses was 'yes').
- **Partnering with Jackson County.** There was strong support for partnering with Jackson County Parks to provide/improve traditional local recreation facilities in the county parks located in Summit Township (83% of 385 responses).
- **Traditional local recreation facilities.** Various possible trails were proposed. The City of Jackson's Ella Sharp Park was referred to as well as Vandercook Lake County Park and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park. A public pool was mentioned several times as was a dog park. Various sports facilities were mentioned, including several calls for a pickle ball court.
- **Other comments.** Support for trails and sidewalks were among the most common response, including a call for trail amenities, safety concerns regarding the crossing of Horton and Weatherwax Roads, and a trail connecting to the Jackson College Campus and the Dahlem Center. There were comments specific to Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park, as well as Vandercook Lake County Park and the City of Jackson's Ella Sharp Park. Support was demonstrated for canoe/kayak launch sites and the Grand River. There were comments supporting a dog park, a swimming pool, basketball courts, and pickle ball courts. A Township recreation pamphlet was also suggested.

One Month Review Period

The recreation plan was submitted for a one-month public comment period which began on October 28, 2018, and ended on December 14, 2018 (please see Appendix D). The plan was available for review in the Summit Township Office and the Summit Branch of the Jackson District Library as well as online at www.summittwp.com. No ideas were generated during the review period.

Letters of Transmittal

Letters of transmittal were sent to the County of Jackson and the Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC) alerting those bodies of the recreation planning effort (please see Appendix D).

Committee Meetings

All meetings of Summit Township's Recreation Planning Committee are open to the public.

Public Hearing and Plan Approval

A public hearing on the recreation plan was held on December 17, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the Township Hall, during a special meeting of the Recreation Planning Committee (please see Appendix D). A Resolution of Approval was then passed by the Committee (please see Appendix D). The Township's Board of Trustees passed a Resolution of Adoption on January 8, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Township Hall, during a regular meeting (please see Appendix D).

Regional Trail Planning

Together, the City of Jackson's Martin Luther King (MLK) Equality Trail and Jackson County's Falling Waters Trail comprise Summit Township's primary off-road non-motorized trail corridor. That corridor also serves as the backbone for two statewide trails planned to traverse Summit Township.

Hiking Trail of the Iron Belle Trail

"The Iron Belle Trail is Michigan's showcase trail that touches hundreds of municipalities and crosses through 48 different Michigan counties. Using existing trails, networks and some new connections, the trail extends more than 2,000 miles from the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit on a biking trail and hiking trail. The biking route utilizes many of the state's existing bike paths, bike lanes, and signed, designated biking routes as it travels up the east side of the state, while the hiking route utilizes sidewalks, trails, and the 1,000-mile plus North Country National Scenic Trail traveling up the west side of the lower peninsula" (see [Iron Belle Trail – Two Routes, One great Trail](#)). The hiking trail utilizes the MLK Equality Trail/Falling Waters Trail corridor, which is suitable for biking as well as hiking. 'Click' on [Iron Belle Trail](#) for a map of the trail and [Falling Waters Trail – Jackson- Lakeland Trail](#) for a detailed map of the trail in the Jackson Area.

Route #1 of the Great Lake-To-Lake Trails

"The last three decades in Michigan's trail movement have been about securing individual trails of all types: abandoned rail, utility corridors, road rights of way, and more. Today, Michigan can extend these trails east and west to reach from one Great Lake to another, weaving in many communities and tourism attractions along the way. [The] Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance has identified 5 Great Lake to Lake Trail routes across the state" (see [About the Great Lake to Lake Trails](#)). Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails will connect South Haven (Lake Michigan) with Port Huron (Lake Huron), utilizing the MLK Equality Trail/Falling Waters Trail corridor. 'Click' on [GLTL Route #1: South Haven to Port Huron](#) for a map of the trail.

Connecting Ella Sharp Park and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park

Summit Township joined with the City of Jackson and Jackson County to submit complementary Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) applications to construct trails that connect Ella Sharp Park and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park to the MLK Equality Trail/Falling Waters Trail corridor and each other and to provide trail loops in Summit Township and the City of Jackson. The local governments received Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) grants in 2015 for the Horton Road Trail Development Project (TF 15-0069), the Fourth Street Connector Development Project (TF-15-0097), and the Sparks Park Inter-City Trail Connector Development Project (TF 15-0092) and all 3 trails are now open to the public. The Horton Road and Fourth Street Connector projects link with each other, the Weatherwax Trail, and the MLK Equality Trail (at New Leaf Park) to provide a connection to Ella Sharp Park as well as a trail loop. The Sparks Park Inter-City Trail Connector project provides a connection between the trails in Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park, the MLK Equality Trail, and City of Jackson sidewalks and bike lanes to provide another trail loop.

Combined City of Jackson and Jackson County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

The Region 2 Planning Commission, the City of Jackson, and Jackson County will be developing a non-motorized plan that covers all of Jackson County beginning in 2019. It will provide an update to the [Jackson County Regional Trailway Study](#) completed in 2002. It is anticipated that potential trail projects in Summit Township will be identified in this document. Active Jackson will be engaged in that planning process.

Upper Grand River Water Trail

A water trail is a designated route on a navigable waterway such as a river, lake, bay or canal that is designed, implemented and managed to foster educational and recreational experiences for the user. Water trails are intended primarily for non-motorized uses such as kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle-boarding. The Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance created the [Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan](#) which identifies potential locations for canoe and kayak access sites along the Grand River. Low water levels during parts of the paddling season make canoeing and kayaking on the Grand River south of Vandercook Lake problematic at times. Therefore, the river at Vandercook Lake has been identified as the priority for water trail development (see Map 9, Appendix A). Type “A” access sites in and near Summit Township are proposed at Vandercook Lake County Park, Ella Sharp Park, the High Street bridge near US-127, and Riverfront Park in Downtown Jackson. Type “A” access sites will be designed to include an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible kayak launch, parking for multiple vehicles and contain other amenities (e.g., restrooms, interpretive signage, etc.). A type “B” access site is proposed in the vicinity of Draper and River Park roads near the southern border of the Township. Type “B” access sites will be designed to include an unpaved path to the water’s edge, limited parking and minimal amenities.



Chapter 4

Goals and Objectives and Action Program

Goals and Objectives

The following goals were developed for the recreation plan:

Goal #1

Continue to collaborate in the development and augmentation of the county-wide trail system as it traverses Summit Township.

Goal #2

Collaborate with and facilitate the efforts of other providers to develop trails and other new recreation facilities which will be available to Township residents such as, but not limited to:

- Playgrounds,
- Pickleball courts,
- Dog parks,
- Natural areas, and
- Picnic areas.

Goal #3

Collaborate in the development of the proposed Upper Grand River Water Trail as it traverses Summit Township.

Background Information

Input into developing the goals and objectives listed above included:

- existing recreation facilities available to Summit Township residents, regardless of the provider;
- the health, age, and disabilities of Township residents;
- responses from the Township recreation survey conducted in the winter of 2018; and

- various regional trail planning efforts: the Upper Grand River Water Trail, the Iron Belle Trail, Route #1 of the Great Lake to Lake Trails, and the Combined City of Jackson and Jackson County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

Summit Township is blessed with an abundance of recreation facilities within its boundaries and the surrounding area (please see Chapter 3). For example, Vandercook Lake Public Schools, Jackson Public Schools, various private schools, Jackson Community College, and Jackson County Parks maintain a wide variety of recreation facilities within the Township. The Jackson Intermediate School District, Jackson County Parks, and the City of Jackson also provide important recreation facilities and programs within the study area. Various private entities also host notable recreation facilities within the Township and the study area.

- **Collaboration with Other Recreation Providers.** Because of the wealth of recreation facilities available to its residents —few of which are provided directly by the municipality— Summit Township decided that the most meaningful recreation contribution it could make to the Greater Jackson Community is trail development. This policy was established during the preparation of the 2007-2011 edition of this recreation plan and continued through the 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 editions. The policy was expanded in this edition of the recreation plan to include water trails. The winter 2018 recreation survey identified a variety of public recreation facilities residents of the township desire. Amongst the most popular were pickleball courts and dog parks. Without any parkland of its own —other than trails— the Township continues to feel that the best way to provide those facilities is to facilitate their development in other parks by collaborating with other recreation providers whenever opportunities arise. Collaboration and facilitation will most likely take the form of technical and financial assistance in return for universal access to the new facility by Summit Township residents.
- **Trail Development.** Route #1 of the proposed Great Lake to Lake Trails and the Iron Belle Trail provide statewide visions of a trail traversing Summit Township. The trails proposed in the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study, and expanded upon in the City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan will result in a non-motorized network which connects Summit Township to proposed countywide system and statewide trails. That system will be further refined as part of the Combined City of Jackson and Jackson County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. In addition, recreation survey requests included safe routes to school as well as a trail to Jackson College Trail.
- **Overweight and Obesity.** Obesity and generally being overweight are highlighted as concerns within a 2017 community health assessment, pointing out the need for more opportunities to exercise.

Action Program

Future projects will likely include the development of trails and water trails. A timeline for the Upper Grand River Water Trail in Summit Township has yet to be determined and future trail projects will be based upon the Combined City of Jackson and Jackson County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. In the meantime, however, the following trail projects comprise the recreation action program (please see Map 10, Appendix A):

1. **Spring Arbor Road Trail.** This existing trail needs to be widened and repaved and the gap between Polly's Country Market and the City of Jackson's trail along Brown Street needs to be bridged.
2. **Lumen Christi/Dibble Trail.** This proposed trail will provide a connection between Lumen Christi High School, Dibble Elementary School, and the Falling Waters Trail. It is proposed as a safe-route-to-school by Jackson Public Schools (JPS).
3. **Lincoln Trail.** This proposed trail will provide a connection between the Lincoln Elementary School and existing trails in Ella Sharp Park. It is proposed as a safe-route-to-school by Jackson Public Schools. JPS plans to reopen the elementary school.

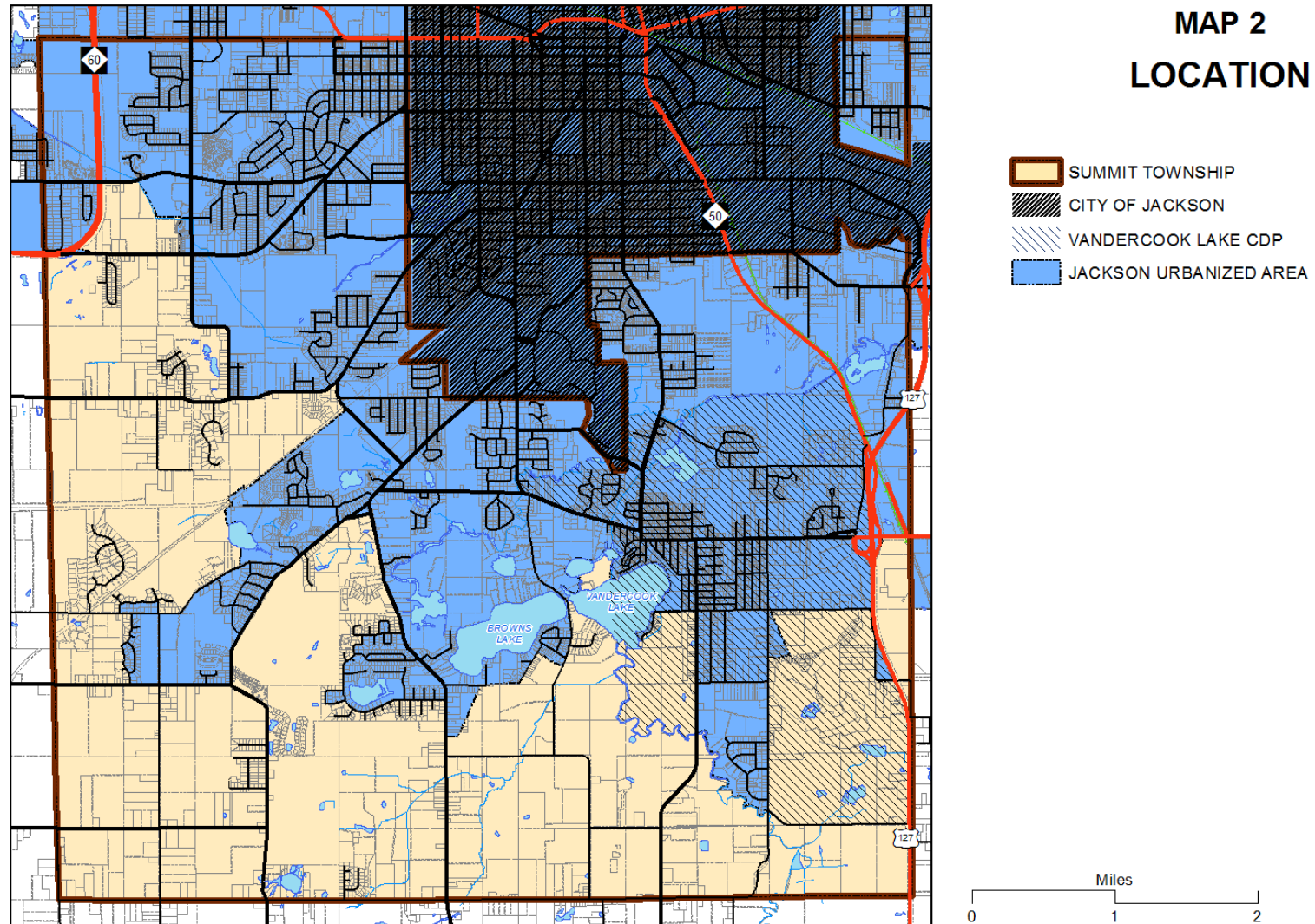
Background Information

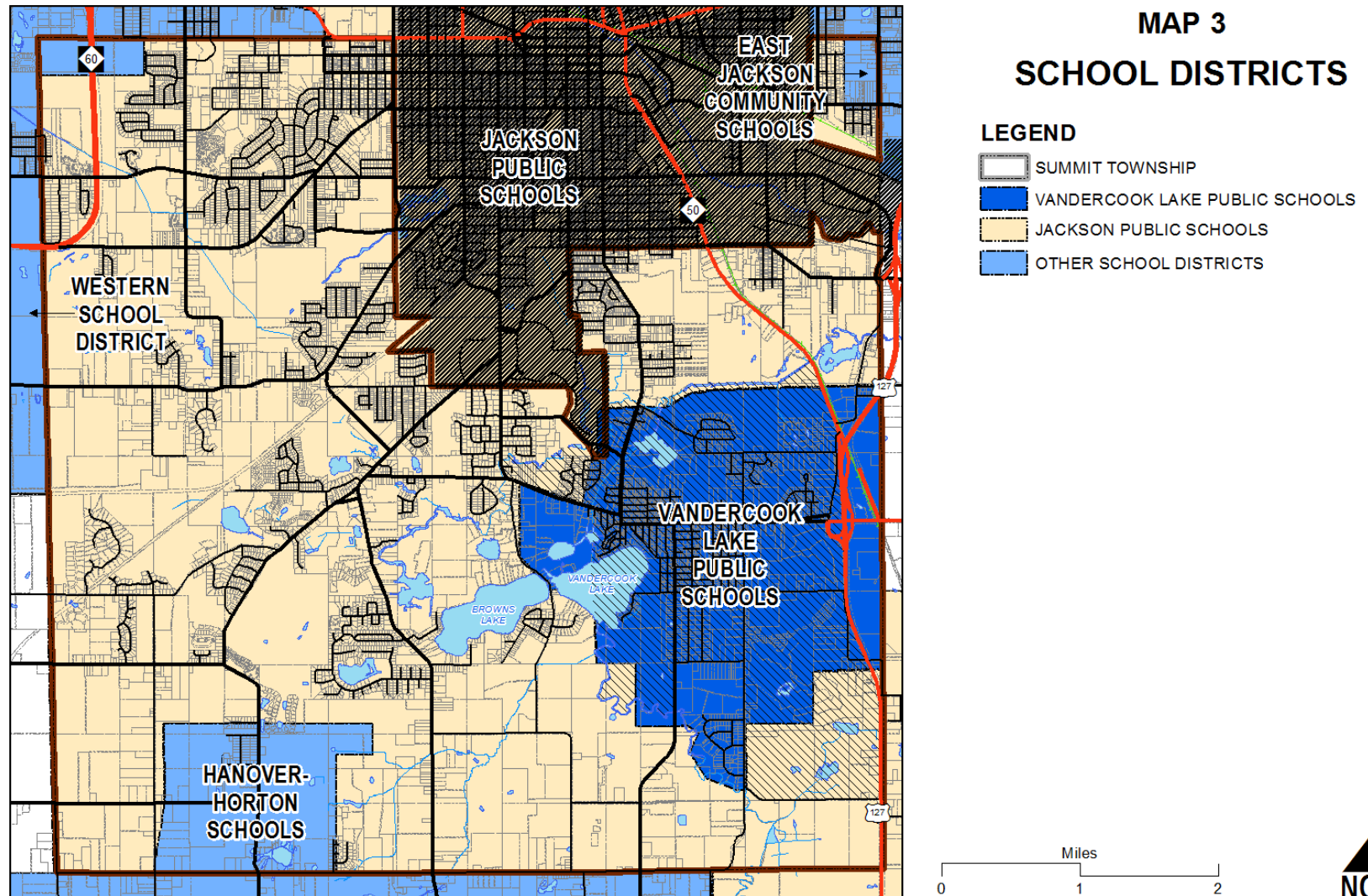
The Plan's goals and objectives are the basis for the action program listed above. For example, the first goal espouses the development and augmentation of a countywide trail system as it traverses Summit Township. The Spring Arbor Road Trail project will preserve an existing trail and extend it to connect with another local trail. The Dibble and Lincoln Trails will serve as safe-routes-to school for two JPS elementary schools located in Summit Township. Please note that intergovernmental cooperation will be necessary for the successful implementation of the trail program, fulfilling the intent of the second goal.

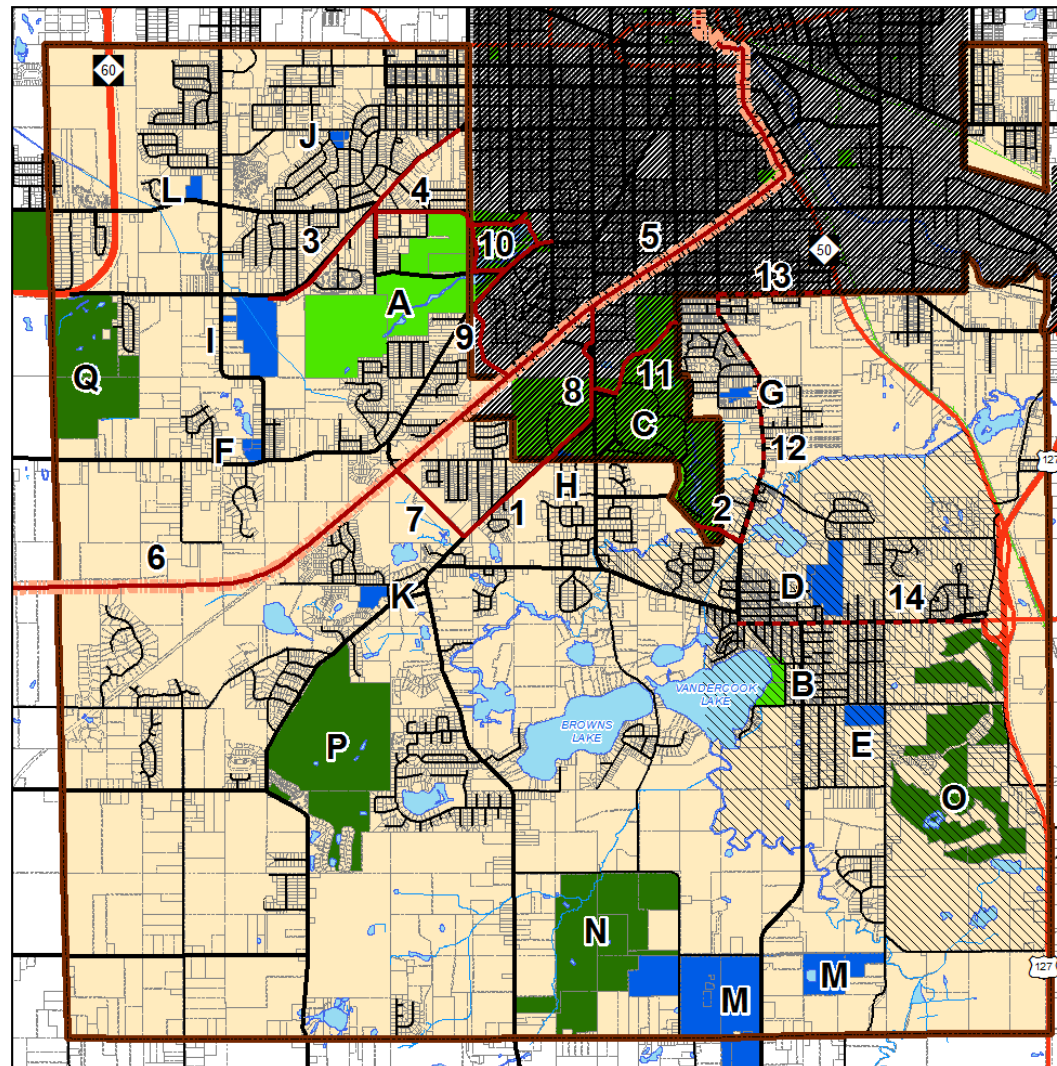


Appendix A

Maps







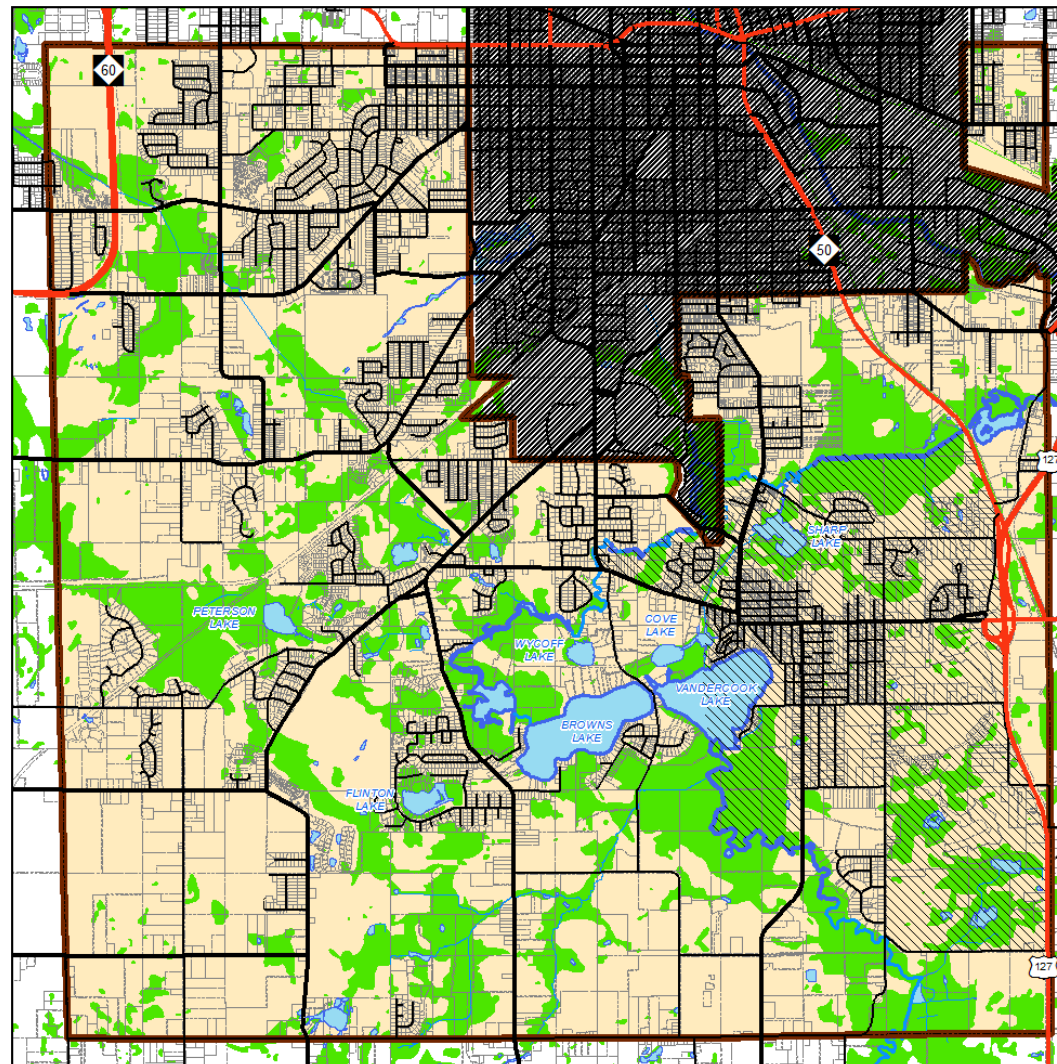
MAP 4 RECREATION FACILITIES

LEGEND

- PUBLIC PARKS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES
- OFF ROAD TRAILS
- BIKE LANES
- IRON BELLE TRAIL AND
GREAT LAKE-TO-LAKE-#1 TRAIL






Miles
0 1 2

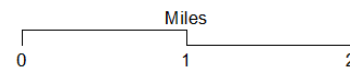


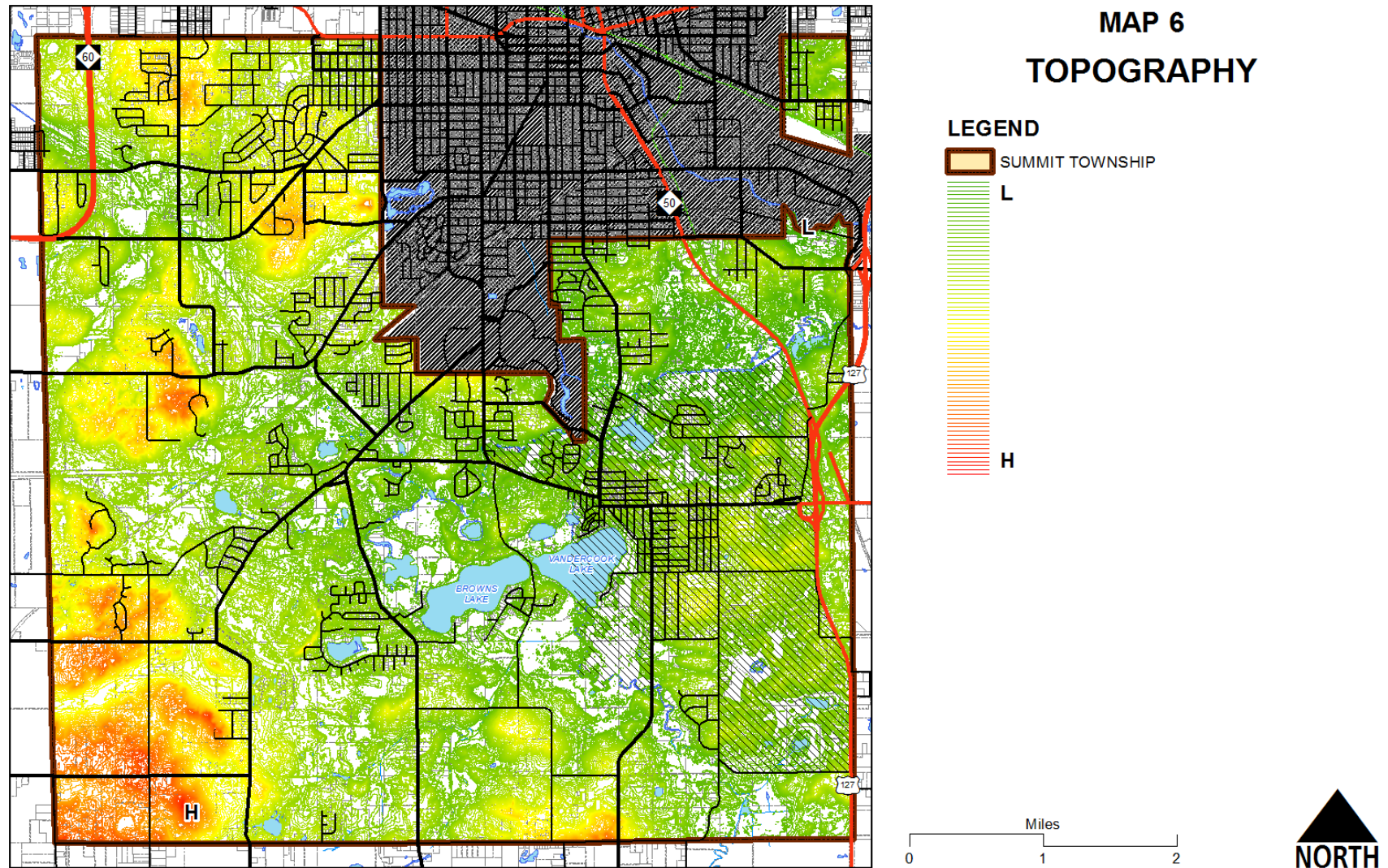


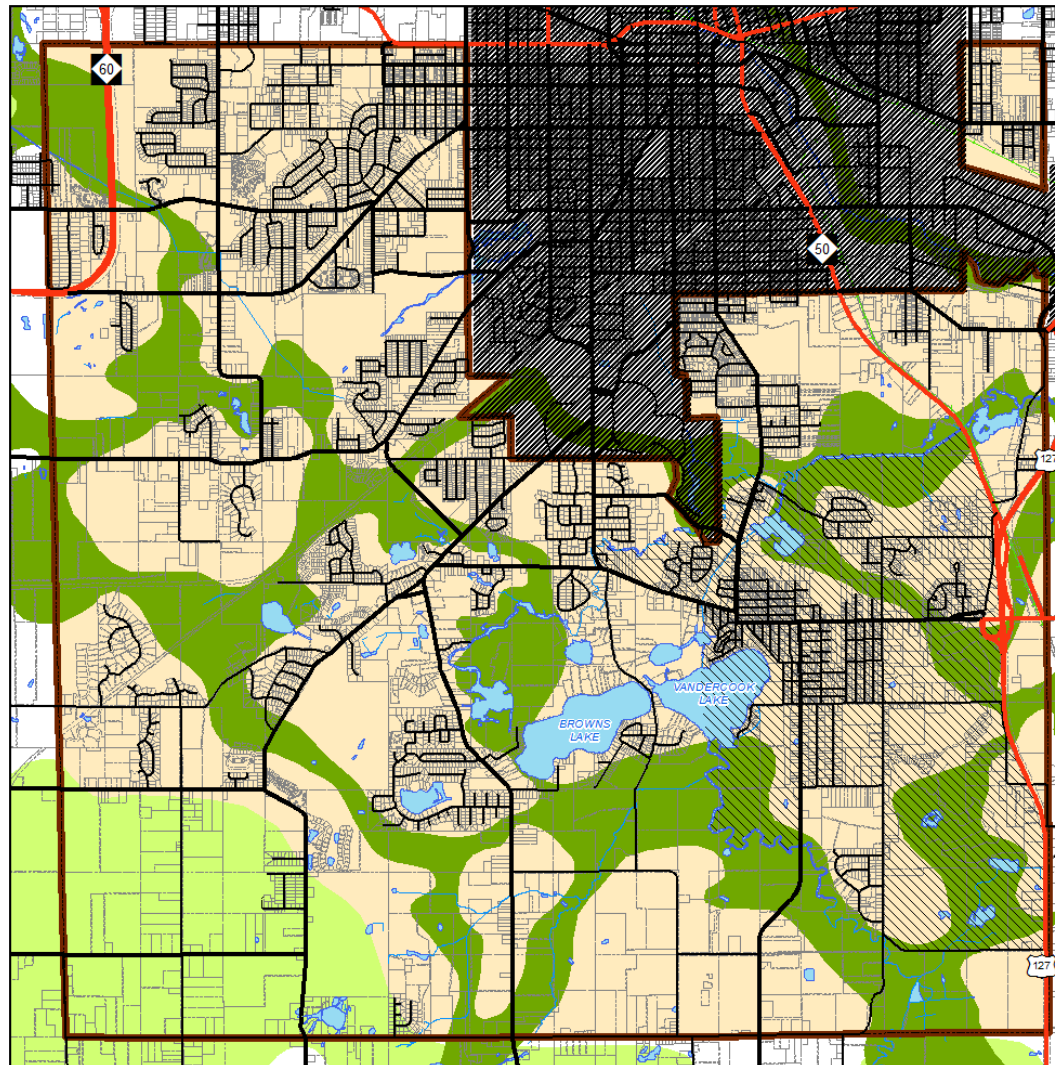
MAP 5 WATER RESOURCES

LEGEND

-  SUMMIT TOWNSHIP
-  THE GRAND RIVER AND ASSOCIATED LAKES
-  OTHER STREAMS
-  OTHER LAKES AND PONDS
-  WETLANDS






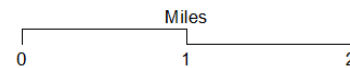


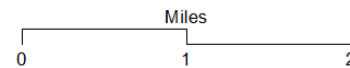
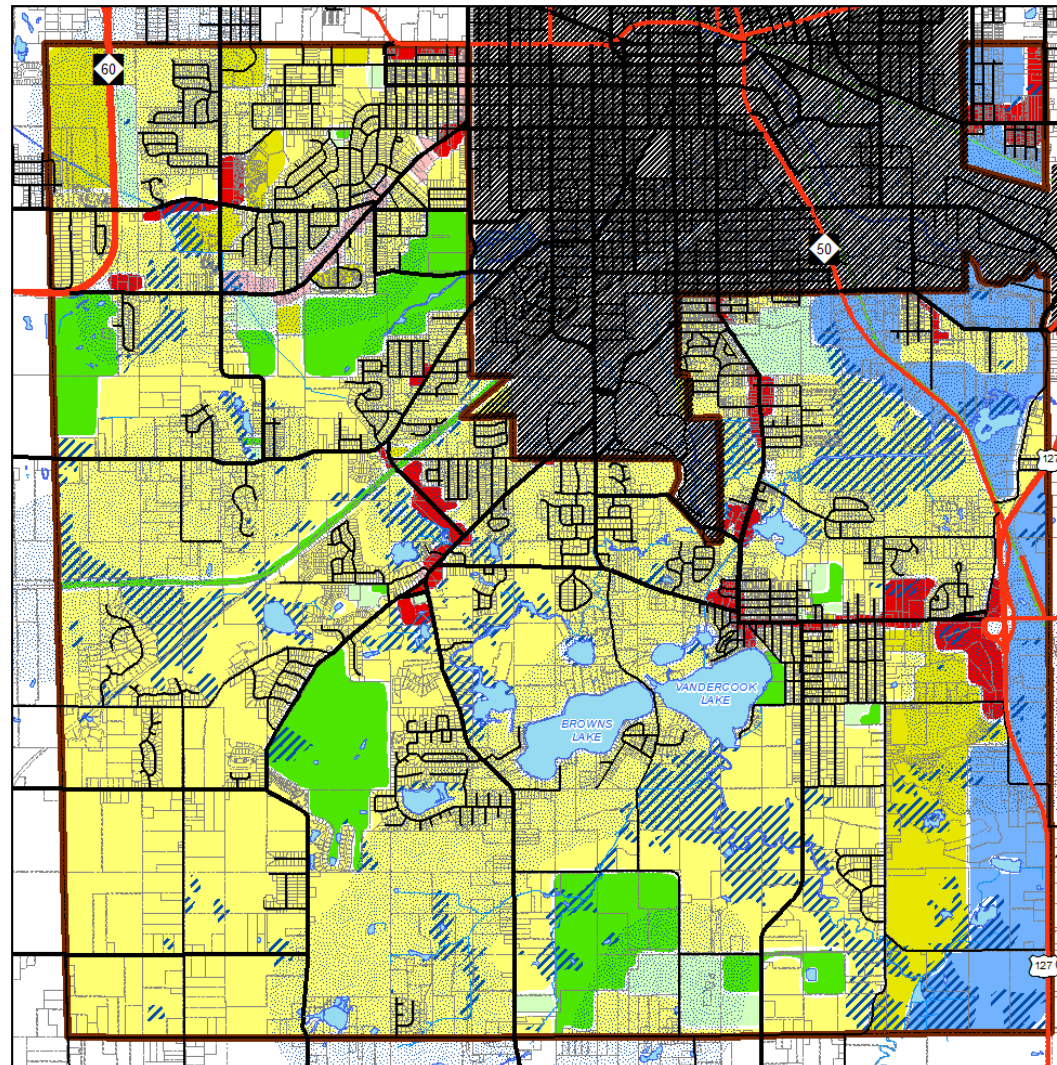


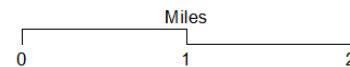
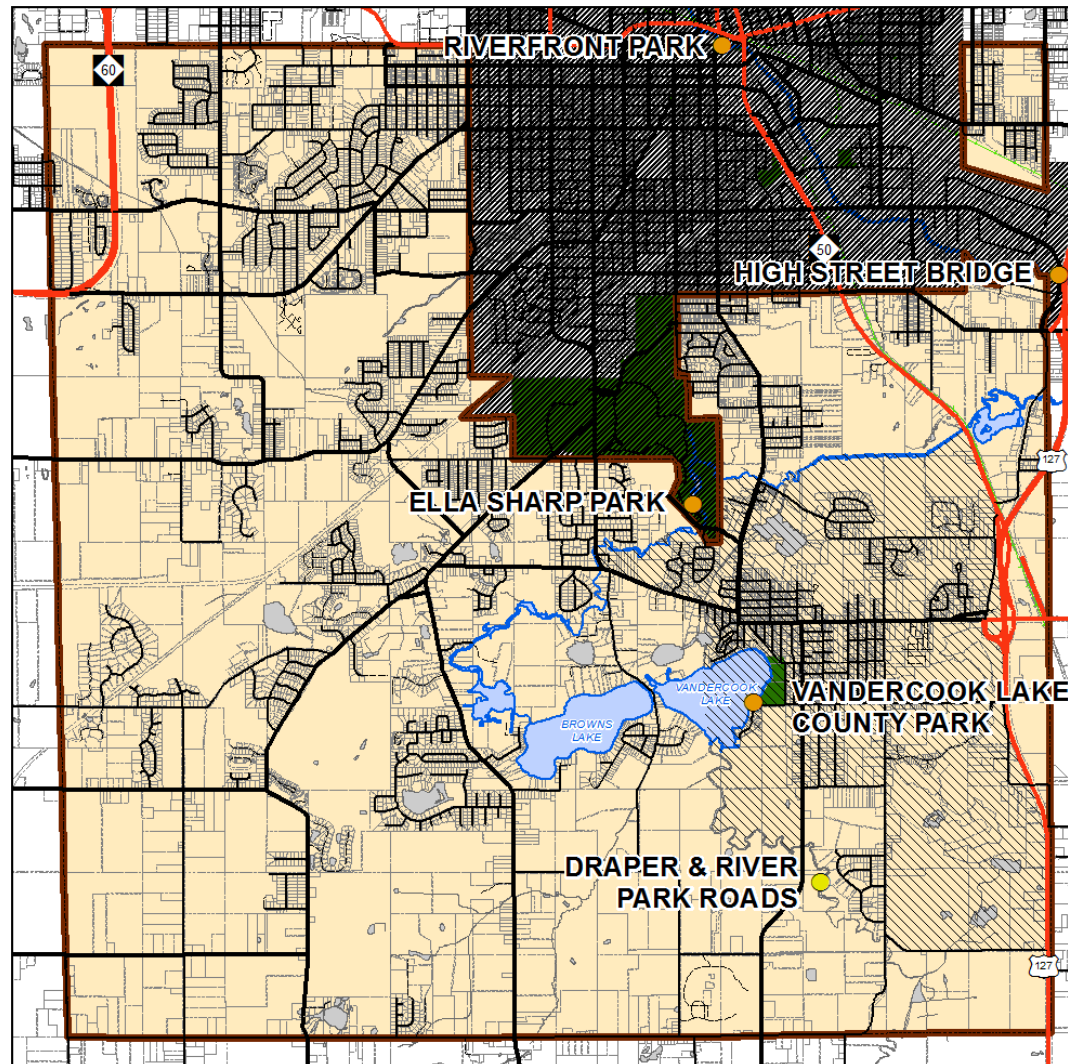
MAP 7
GREENWAYS

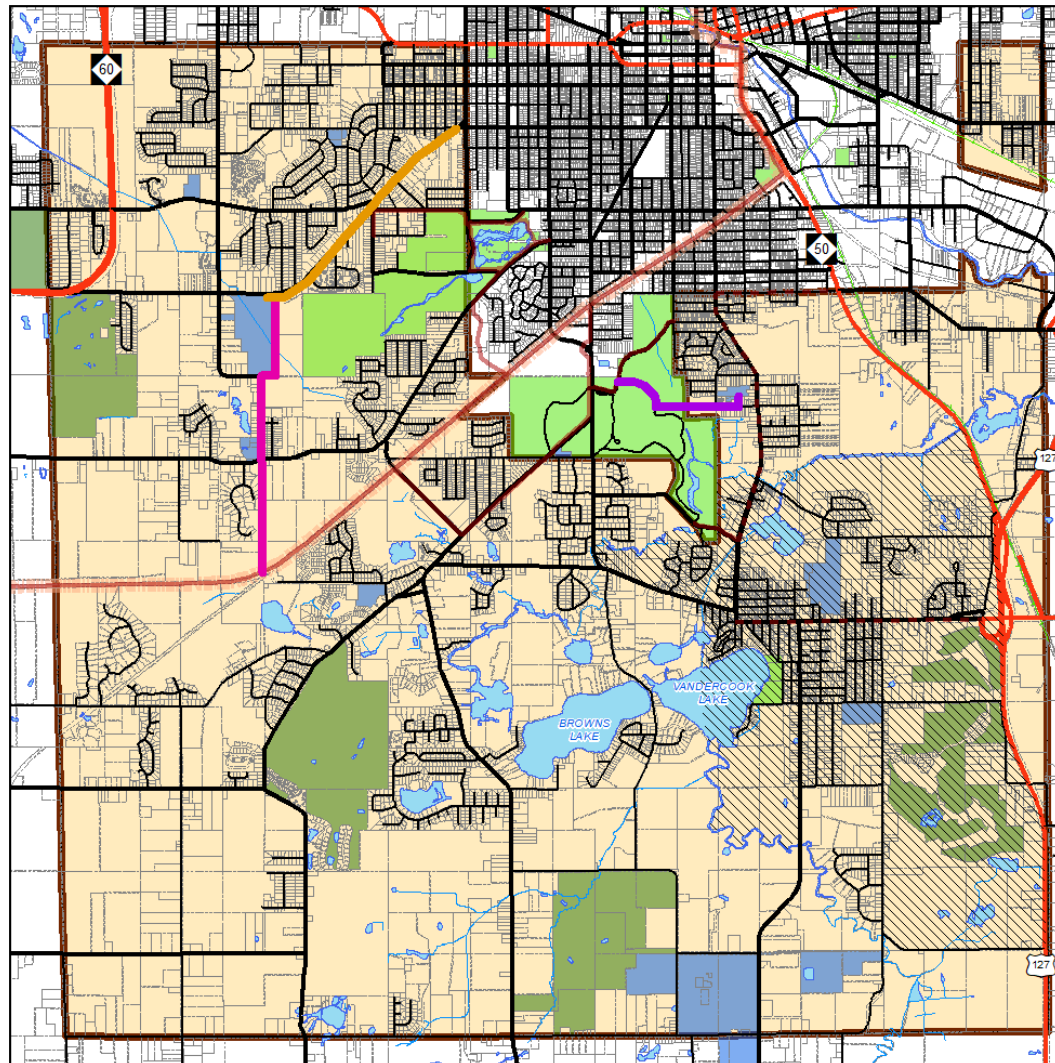
LEGEND

-  SUMMIT TOWNSHIP
-  GREENWAY
-  AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AREA





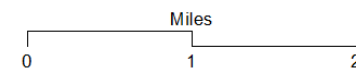




MAP 10 ACTION PLAN

LEGEND

- SPRING ARBOR ROAD TRAIL
- DIBBLE TRAIL
- LINCOLN TRAIL



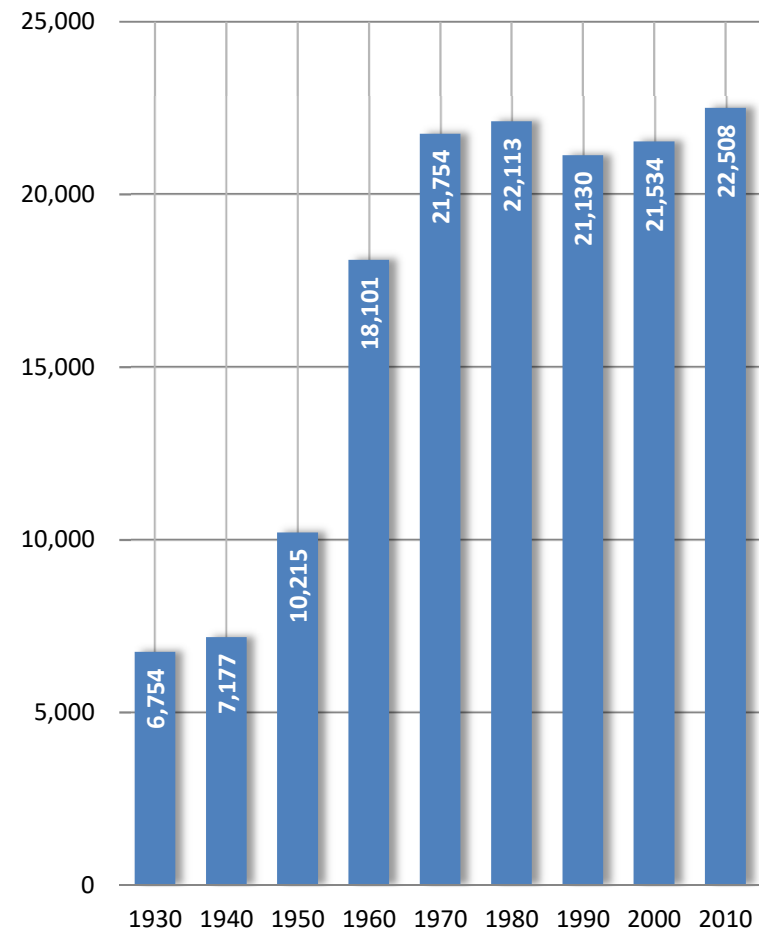


Appendix B

Population Summary

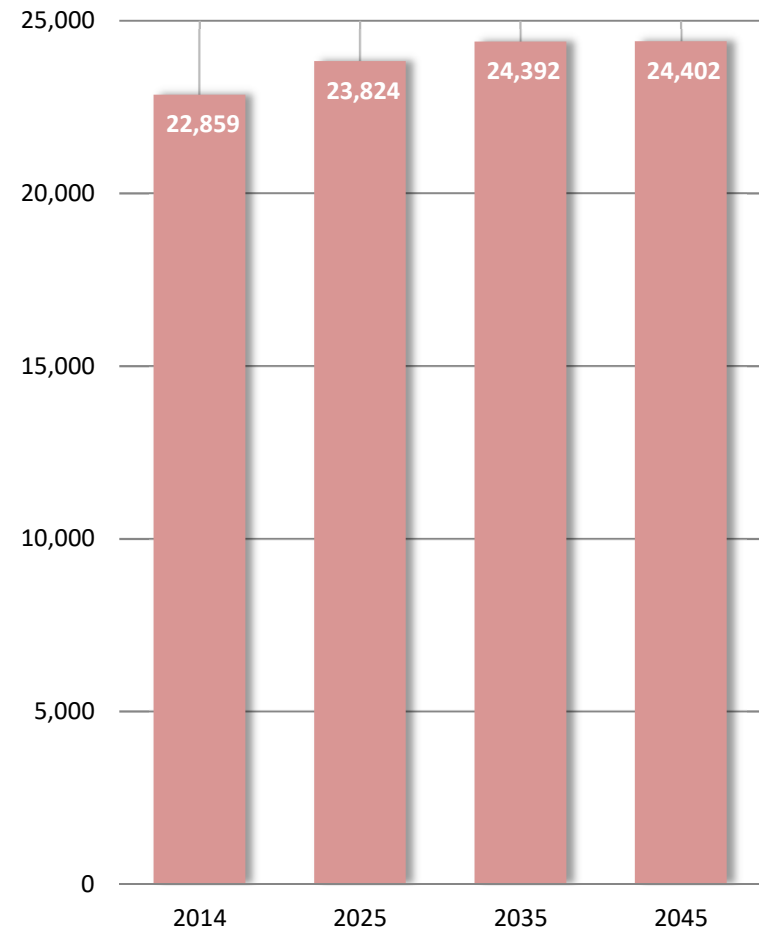
Population History

- Summit Township was home to 22,508 people in 2010, according to the U.S. Census
- The adjacent figure shows the population:
 - Increased 6% between 1930 and 1940
 - Increased 42% between 1940 and 1950
 - Increased 77% between 1950 and 1960
 - Increased 20% between 1960 and 1970
 - Increased 2% between 1970 and 1980
 - Decreased 4% between 1980 and 1990
 - Increased 2% between 1990 and 2000
 - Increased 5% between 2000 and 2010
- Vandercook Lake, a Census Designated Place (CDP) located within Summit Township had an estimated population of 4,723 in 2016, comprising 21% of the Township's population (22,502).



Population Projections

- The population projections utilized in this plan were developed for the Jackson Area Comprehensive Transportation Study (JACTS)
- The 2045 projections are grounded on a Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) forecast
- The population is projected to increase 8% between 2010 and 2045
- The 2014 population for the Township was projected to be 22,859 residents
The American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that the population was 22,502 people in 2016
- The 2025 population is projected to be 23,824

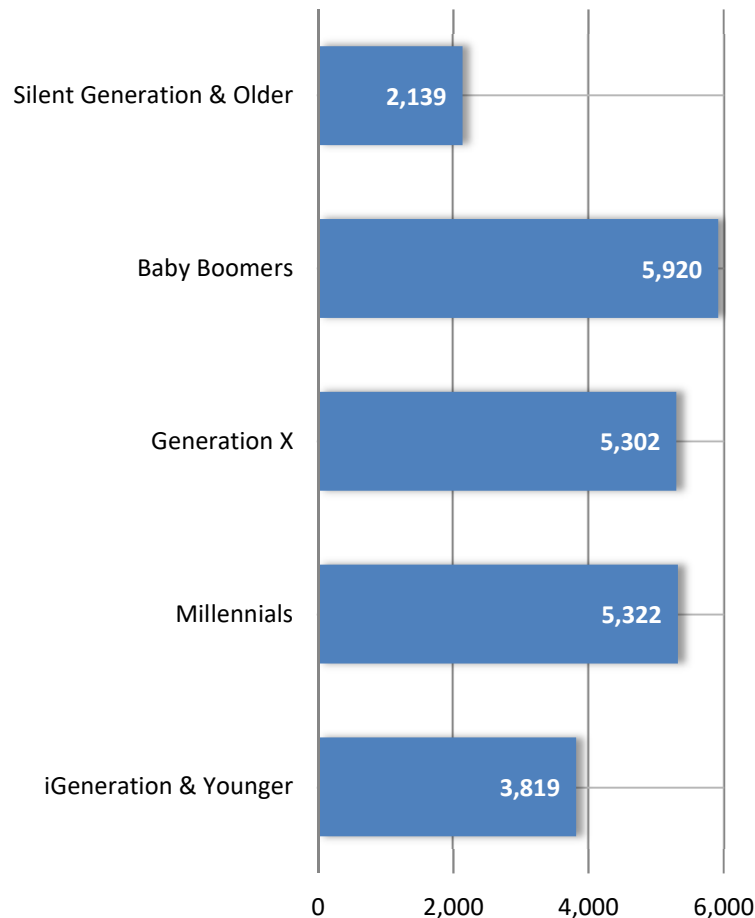


American Community Survey (ACS)

- The use of estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) provides more up-to-date demographics
- Reporting jurisdictions the size of Summit Township and the Vandercook Lake CDP are provided five-year average estimates on a regular basis
- The reporting period available and utilized for this plan is 2012-2016
- The U.S. Census Bureau includes CDP populations in the populations of the townships of which they are a part

Summit Township

Age & Gender: 2012-2016



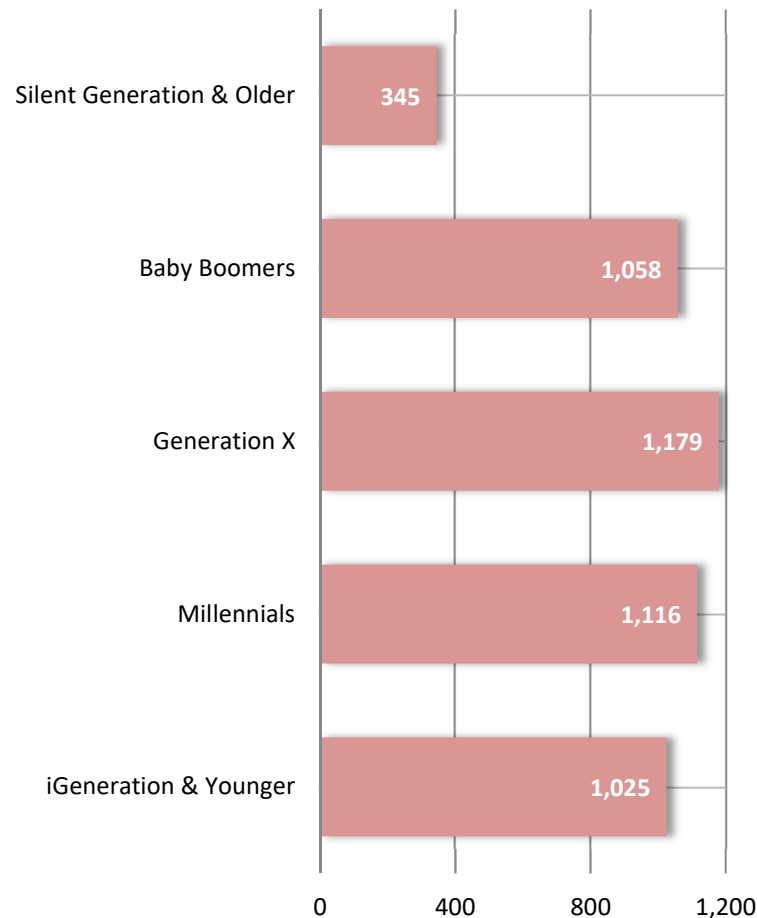
Summit Township Recreation Plan

- The estimated median age of Summit Township residents was fairly high when compared to the statewide median
 - 44.5 years for Township residents [39.5 years statewide]
- The adjacent figure illustrates Summit Township's estimated generations:
 - 26% — 'Baby boomers' (people 55-74 in 2016) [23% statewide]
 - 24% — 'Millennials' (people 15-34 in 2016) [26% statewide]
 - 24% — 'Generation X' (people 35-54 in 2016) [26% statewide]
 - 17% — 'iGeneration' & younger (people ≤14 in 2016) [18% statewide]
 - 9% — 'GI' & 'Silent' generations (people ≥75 in 2016) [7% statewide]
- It is estimated that females comprised 52% of Summit Township's population [51% statewide]

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Vandercook Lake CDP

Age & Gender: 2012-2016



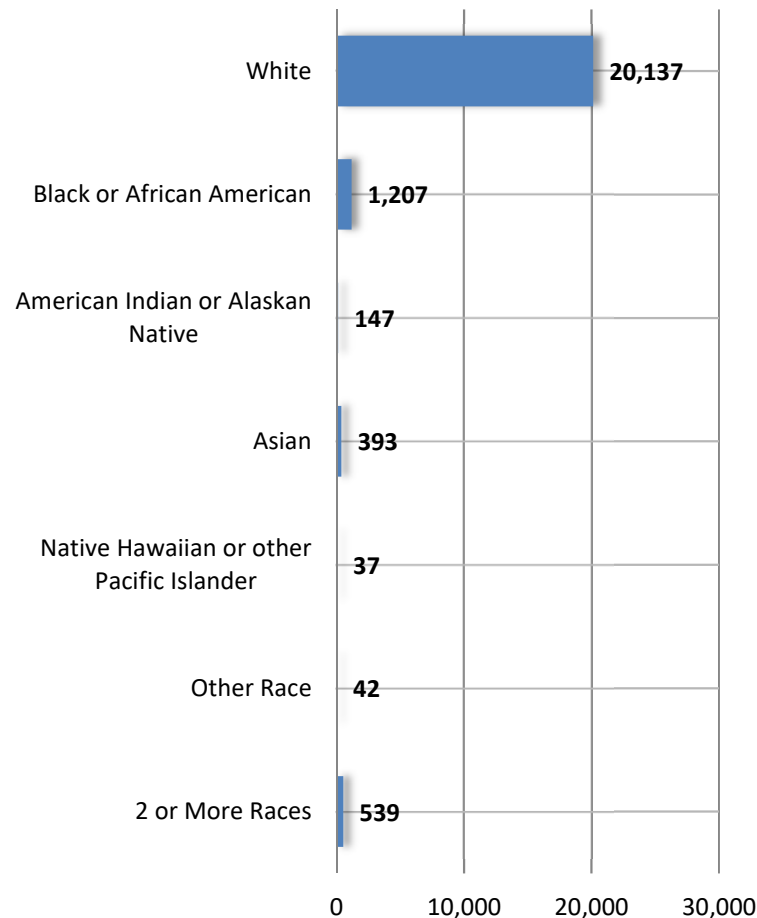
Summit Township Recreation Plan

- The estimated median age of Vandercook Lake CDP residents was comparable to the statewide median
 - 39.3 years for CDP residents [39.5 years statewide]
- The adjacent figure illustrates Vandercook Lake's estimated generations:
 - 25% — 'Generation X' (people 35-54 in 2016) [26% statewide]
 - 24% — 'Millennials' (people 15-34 in 2016) [26% statewide]
 - 22% — 'Baby boomers' (people 55-74 in 2016) [23% statewide]
 - 22% — 'iGeneration' & younger (people ≤14 in 2016) [18% statewide]
 - 7% — 'GI' & 'Silent' generations (people ≥75 in 2016) [7% statewide]
- It is estimated that females comprised 52% of Vandercook Lake's population [51% statewide]

Page B-6

Summit Township

Race & Ethnicity: 2012-2016



The population of Summit Township is homogenous with few racial and ethnic minorities

- **Race**

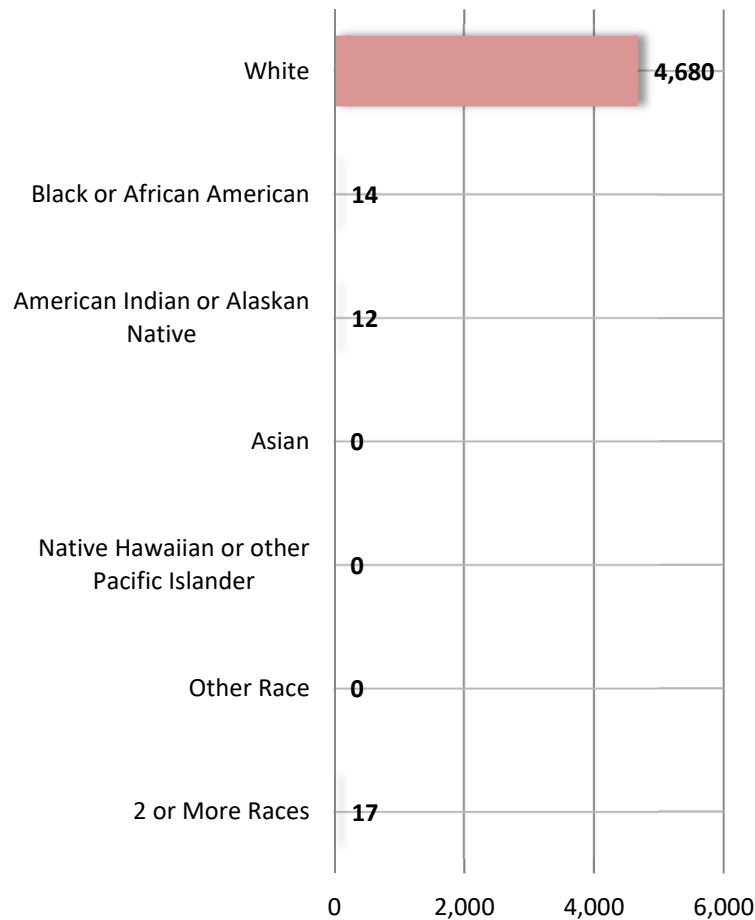
- An estimated 89% of the population was white [79% statewide]
- An estimated 5% of the population was Black or African American [14% statewide]
- An estimated 1% of the population was American Indian or Alaskan Native [1% statewide]
- An estimated 2% of the population was Asian [3% statewide]
- An estimated 1% of the population was a member of some other race [1% statewide]
- An estimated 2% of the population was a member of 2 or more races [3% statewide]

- **Ethnicity**

- An estimated 3% of the population was Hispanic [5% statewide]

Vandercook Lake CDP

Race & Ethnicity: 2012-2016



The population of the Vandercook Lake CPD is homogenous with few racial and ethnic minorities

- **Race**
 - An estimated 99% of the population was white [79% statewide]
 - An estimated 1% of the population was a member of some other race [18% statewide]
 - An estimated 0% of the population was a member of 2 or more races [3% statewide]
- **Ethnicity**
 - An estimated 1% of the of the population was Hispanic [5% statewide]

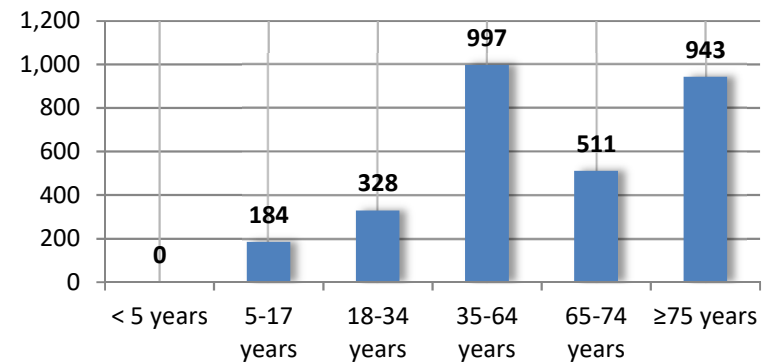
Summit Township

Disabilities: 2012-2016

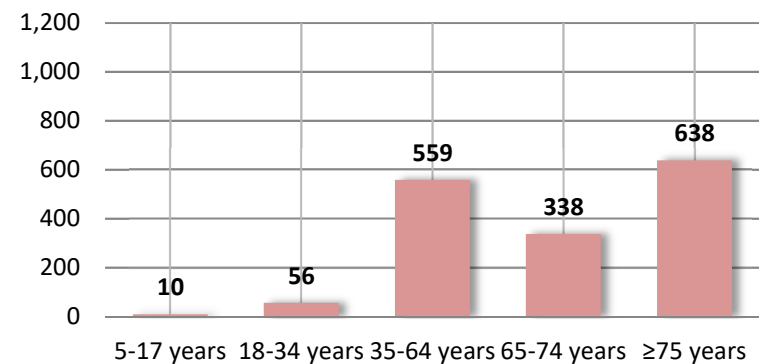
Disabled residents are a significant component of Summit Township's population

- An estimated 13% of Township residents were disabled [14% statewide]
- < 5 years
 - An estimated 0% were disabled [1% statewide]
- 5-17 years
 - An estimated 5% were disabled [6% statewide]
 - An estimated 0% had an ambulatory disability [1% statewide]
- 18-34 years
 - An estimated 8% were disabled [7% statewide]
 - An estimated 1% had an ambulatory disability [2% statewide]
- 35-64 years
 - An estimated 11% were disabled [15% statewide]
 - An estimated 6% had an ambulatory disability [9% statewide]
- 65-74 years
 - An estimated 22% were disabled [26% statewide]
 - An estimated 15% had an ambulatory disability [16% statewide]
- ≥ 75 years
 - An estimated 48% were disabled [50% statewide]
 - An estimated 32% had an ambulatory disability [32% statewide]

Some Type of Disability



Ambulatory Disability



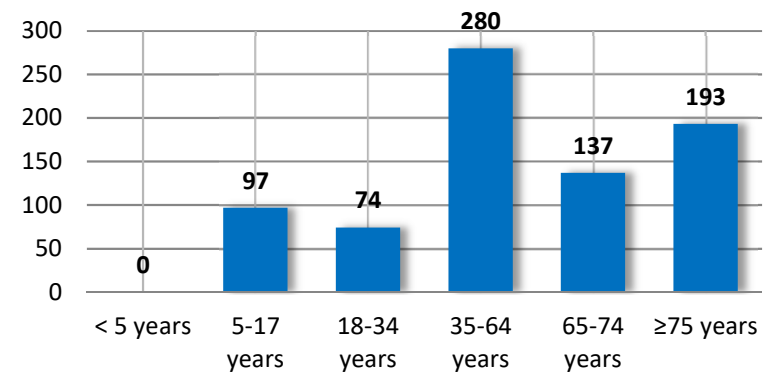
Vandercook Lake CDP

Disabilities: 2012-2016

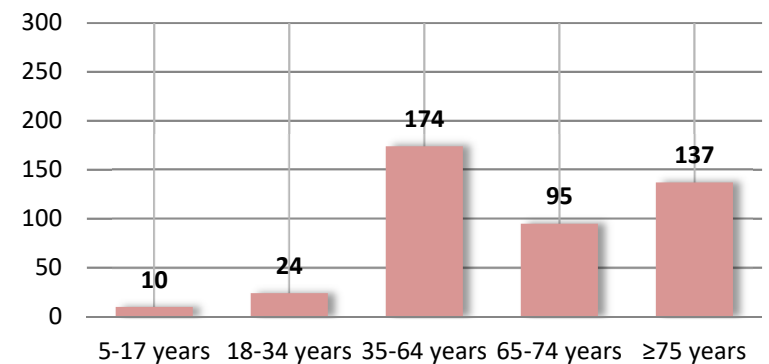
Disabled residents are a significant component of Vandercook Lake's population

- An estimated 17% of CDP residents were disabled [14% statewide]
- < 5 years
 - An estimated 0% were disabled [1% statewide]
- 5-17 years
 - An estimated 9% were disabled [6% statewide]
 - An estimated 1% had an ambulatory disability [1% statewide]
- 18-34 years
 - An estimated 9% were disabled [7% statewide]
 - An estimated 3% had an ambulatory disability [2% statewide]
- 35-64 years
 - An estimated 15% were disabled [15% statewide]
 - An estimated 9% had an ambulatory disability [9% statewide]
- 65-74 years
 - An estimated 36% were disabled [26% statewide]
 - An estimated 25% had an ambulatory disability [16% statewide]
- ≥ 75 years
 - An estimated 56% were disabled [50% statewide]
 - An estimated 40% had an ambulatory disability [32% statewide]

Some Type of Disability

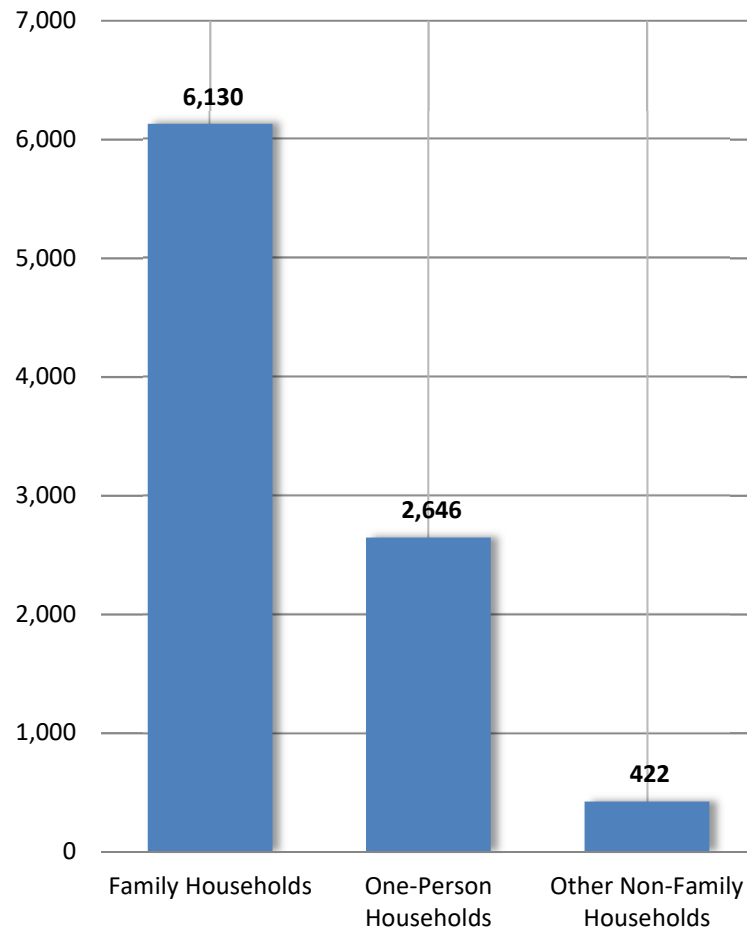


Ambulatory Disability



Summit Township

Households & Families: 2012-2016

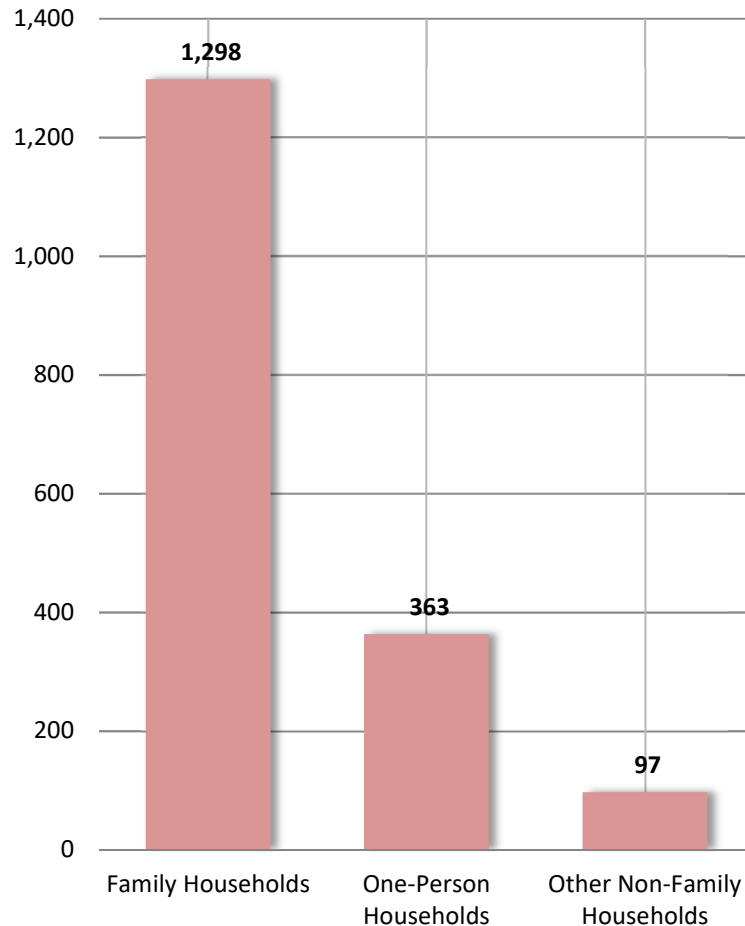


Summit Township Recreation Plan

- Most people live in the estimated 9,198 households in Summit Township
- Families comprised an estimated 66% of households [65% statewide]
- An estimated 29% of households were comprised of a single person [29% statewide]
- The remaining estimated 5% of households were other non-family households [6% statewide]
- Estimated average household and family size was 2.40 people [2.51 statewide] and 2.91 people [3.10 statewide], respectively
- *There were an estimated 101 seasonal or occasional homes (i.e., households) potentially increasing the population by up to 242 people at times*
- *Group quarters (e.g., nursing homes, etc.) were home to an estimated 412 people*

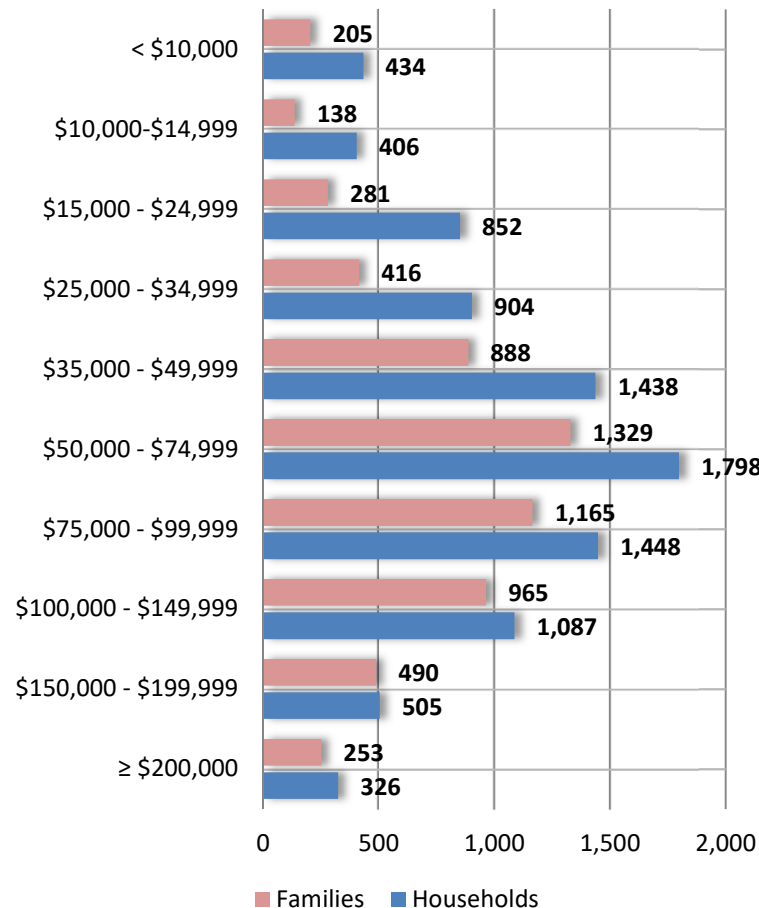
Vandercook Lake CDP

Households & Families: 2012-2016



- Most people live in the estimated 1,758 households in Vandercook Lake
The Vandercook Lake CDP accounted for an estimated 21% of Township households
- Families comprised an estimated 74% of households [65% statewide]
- An estimated 21% of households were comprised of a single person [29% statewide]
- The remaining estimated 5% of households were other non-family households [6% statewide]
- Estimated average household and family size was 2.69 people [2.51 statewide] and 3.12 people [3.10 statewide], respectively
- *There were an estimated 7 seasonal or occasional homes (i.e., households) potentially increasing the population by up to 19 people at times*
- *Group quarters (e.g., nursing homes, etc.) were home to an estimated 0 people*

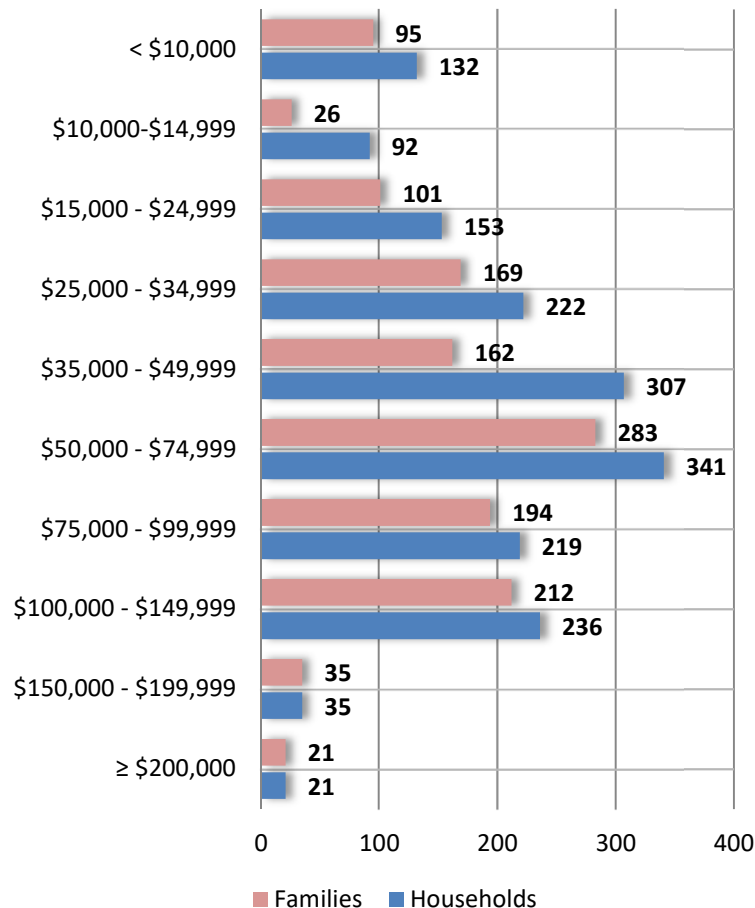
Summit Township Income: 2012-2016



- Household income:
 - Median -- \$57,998 [\$50,803 statewide]
 - < \$25,000 – 18% [24% statewide]
 - \$25,000 - \$49,999 – 25% [25% statewide]
 - \$50,000 - \$99,999 – 35% [31% statewide]
 - ≥ \$100,000 - \$49,999 – 21% [20% statewide]
- Family income:
 - Median -- \$71,789 [\$63,958 statewide]
 - < \$25,000 – 10% [16% statewide]
 - \$25,000 - \$49,999 – 21% [22% statewide]
 - \$50,000 - \$99,999 – 41% [35% statewide]
 - ≥ \$100,000 - \$49,999 – 28% [27% statewide]
- Per Capita income:
 - Per capita income -- \$30,355 [\$27,549 statewide]

Vandercook Lake CDP

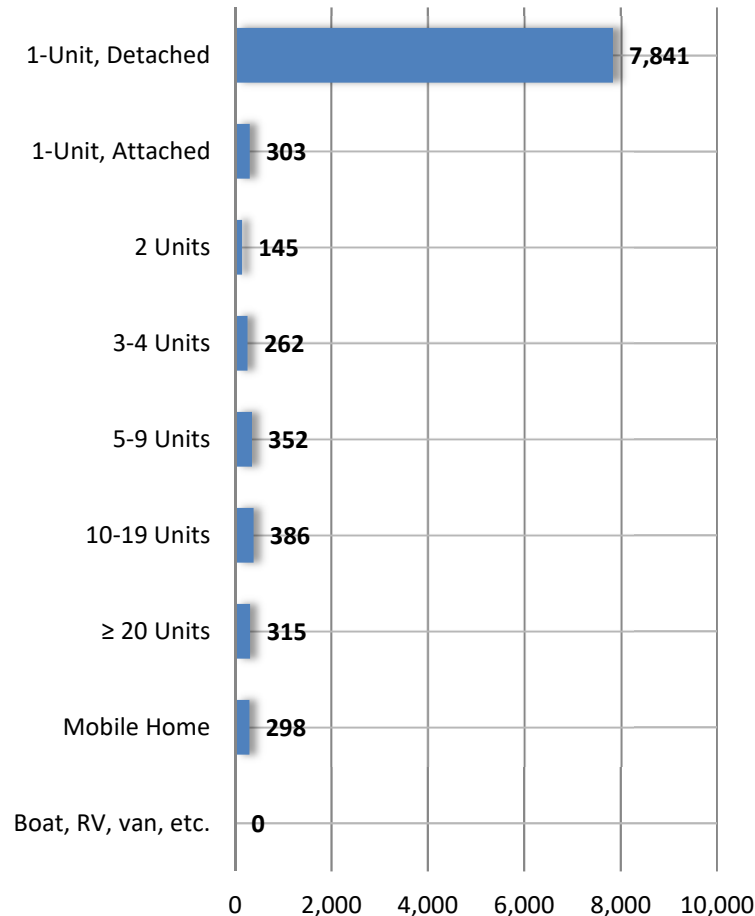
Income: 2012-2016



- Household income:
 - Median -- \$48,564 [\$50,803 statewide]
 - < \$25,000 – 21% [24% statewide]
 - \$25,000 - \$49,999 – 30% [25% statewide]
 - \$50,000 - \$99,999 – 32% [31% statewide]
 - ≥ \$100,000 - \$49,999 – 17% [20% statewide]
- Family income:
 - Median -- \$57,708 [\$63,958 statewide]
 - < \$25,000 – 17% [16% statewide]
 - \$25,000 - \$49,999 – 25% [22% statewide]
 - \$50,000 - \$99,999 – 37% [35% statewide]
 - ≥ \$100,000 - \$49,999 – 21% [27% statewide]
- Per Capita income:
 - Per capita income -- \$22,863 [\$27,549 statewide]

Summit Township

Housing Types: 2012-2016

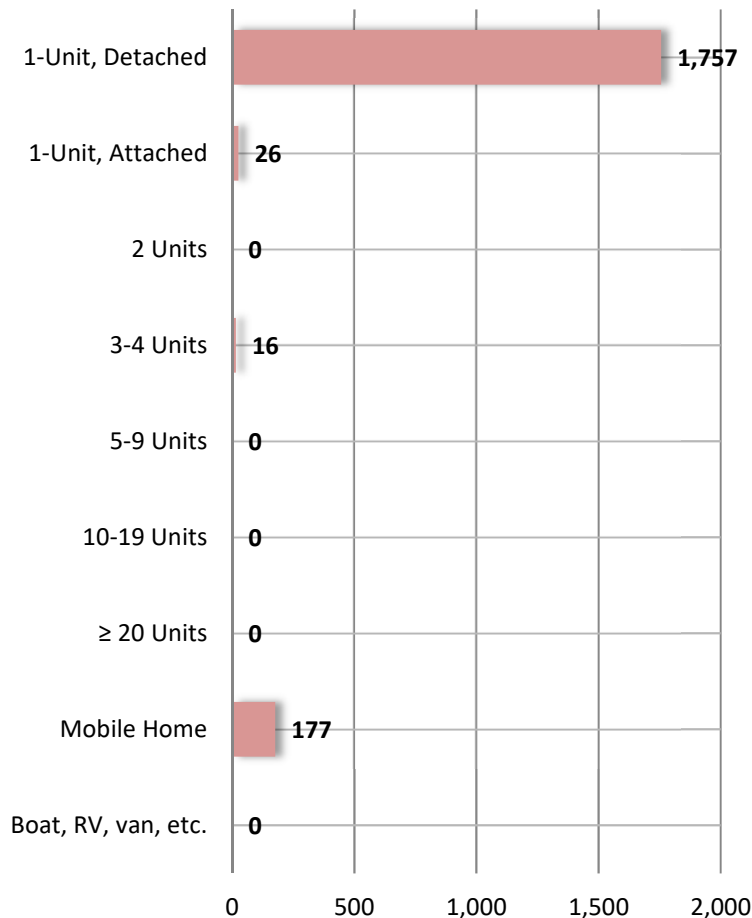


Summit Township had an estimated 9,902 dwelling units

- An estimated 82% of dwellings were single units [77% statewide]
 - An estimated 79% of dwellings were detached single units [72% statewide]
 - An estimated 3% of dwellings were attached single units [5% statewide]
- An estimated 15% of dwellings were in multi-unit buildings [18% statewide]
 - An estimated 1% of dwellings were in duplexes [2% statewide]
 - An estimated 3% of dwellings were in 3-4 unit buildings [3% statewide]
 - An estimated 4% of dwellings were in 5-9 unit buildings [4% statewide]
 - An estimated 4% of dwellings were in 10-19 unit buildings [4% statewide]
 - An estimated 3% of dwellings were in ≥20 unit buildings [5% statewide]
- An estimated 3% of dwellings were mobile homes [5% statewide]

Vandercook Lake CDP

Housing Types: 2012-2016



The Vandercook Lake CDP had an estimated 1,976 dwelling units

- An estimated 90% of dwellings were single units [77% statewide]
 - An estimated 89% of dwellings were detached single units [72% statewide]
 - An estimated 1% of dwellings were attached single units [5% statewide]
- An estimated 1% of dwellings were in multi-unit buildings [18% statewide]
 - An estimated 0% of dwellings were in duplexes [2% statewide]
 - An estimated 1% of dwellings were in 3-4 unit buildings [3% statewide]
 - An estimated 0% of dwellings were in 5-9 unit buildings [4% statewide]
 - An estimated 0% of dwellings were in 10-19 unit buildings [4% statewide]
 - An estimated 0% of dwellings were in ≥20 unit buildings [5% statewide]
- An estimated 9% of dwellings were mobile homes [5% statewide]



Appendix C

2018 Recreation Survey

A survey was conducted during the winter of 2018 to collect the opinions of Summit Township residents regarding the provision of recreation facilities in the Township. The simple 2-page survey was distributed with the Township's winter tax bills. A total of 412 surveys were returned to the Township.

The following introduction comprised the first page of the survey:

Summit Township is blessed with an abundance of recreation facilities within its boundaries and the surrounding area. Vandercook Lake Public Schools, Jackson Public Schools, various private schools, Jackson College, the City of Jackson, and Jackson County Parks maintain a wide variety of recreation facilities within or nearby the Township. The Jackson Intermediate School District, Jackson County Parks, and the City of Jackson also provide important recreation facilities and programs within the study area. Various private entities, such as Quiet World Sports (in Vandercook Lake County Park), also host recreation facilities within the Township and surrounding area.

Because of the wealth of recreation facilities available to Summit Township residents—few of which are provided directly by the municipality—past editions of the Summit Township Recreation Plan concluded that the most meaningful recreation contribution the Township can make to the Greater Jackson Community is trail development. Since that time, planning for water trails has also been initiated at the level of the Upper Grand River Watershed (which covers all of Summit Township). Without any parkland of its own —other than trails— the Township continues to feel that the best way to provide traditional recreation facilities for its residents is to facilitate such development in other parks by collaborating with other recreation providers whenever opportunities arise. Collaboration and facilitation will most likely take the form of technical and financial assistance in return for universal access to the new facility by Summit Township residents.

*The next edition of the Summit Township Recreation Plan is now under development. An important part of the planning process is to collect the opinions, wants, and needs of local residents. Accordingly, the Township seeks to ascertain if the above approaches remain consistent with the wants and needs of its residents. Filing the recreation plan with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will also make and maintain the Township's eligibility to apply for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and other grants administered by the MDNR through 2022. Those potential grants may put statewide dollars to work right here in Summit Township, substantially augmenting local investments. Please take the time to make your opinions, wants, and needs known by answering the following questions. **Your opinion matters!***

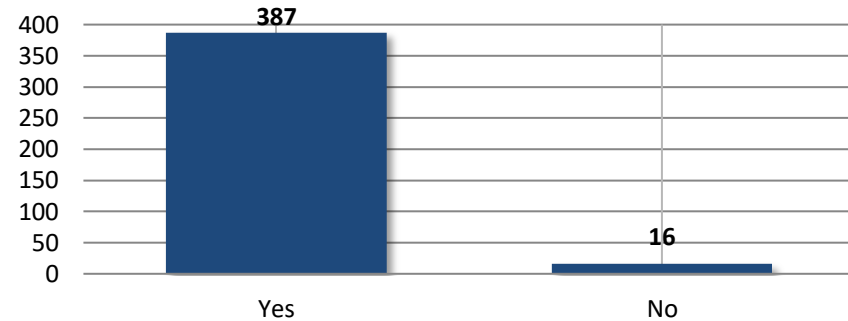
Survey responses are summarized by question on the following pages of this appendix.

1. **Are you a Summit Township Resident?**

Almost all of the people who took the survey were residents of Summit Township (responses=403).

Yes = 96%

No = 4%



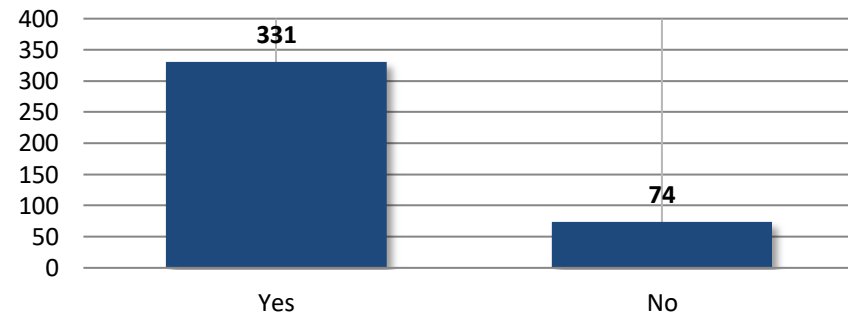
2. **Do you support the development of any of the following?**

a. ***Non-Motorized Trail Network. [Continue the development of] trail links to the MLK Equity Trail/Falling Water Trail Corridor as it traverses Summit Township.***

There was solid support for the continued development of a non-motorized trail network in Summit Township (responses=405).

Yes = 82%

No = 18%



The following comments were also provided by survey respondents:

Would need a map to show where – clarify.

It depends on location, cost, and expected use. Should be voted upon with costs

It would be nice if the sidewalk that runs the length of Spring Arbor would continue past Dr. Kram's office. To connect up with the nice new wide sidewalk on Brown Street you have to bike on to Spring Arbor and the way people drive on Spring Arbor and try to cross from Morrell over to Spring Arbor is something. It makes that whole area very dangerous and to try to bike in that area is terrifying.

Yes! Yes! Yes! Will be used by far more residents.

Love the new trail and look forward to spring.

It would be great to have dedicated bike lanes on some of the busier streets...S. Jackson, Horton, etc. It's not safe to ride a bike on our roads.

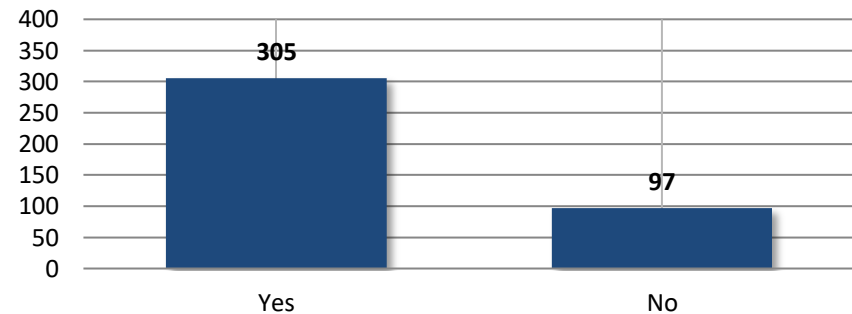
Have been using Falling Waters Trail since it opened for bicycling and walking. Happy to see expansion on Horton, Weatherwax, Kibby to connect trails and keep bicycles and runners off roads with heavy and fast traffic flow.

b. ***Upper Grand River Water Trail. Participate in the development of kayak/canoe launch sites and keeping the Grand River open for kayaking and canoeing.***

There was clear support for the development of kayak/canoe launch sites and maintaining the Grand River for kayaking and canoeing (responses=402).

Yes = 76%

No = 24%



The following comments were also provided by survey respondents:

What do you mean by participate? – clarify.

No opinion.

Depends on cost and expected use, but I'm willing to listen. Should be voted on with costs

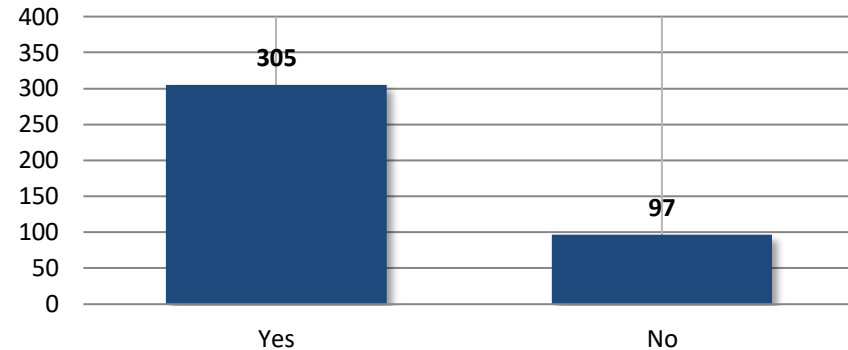
If waters are kept clean this would be wonderful.

3. **Should Summit Township work with Jackson County Parks to provide or improve traditional local recreation facilities at Vandercook Lake and/or Cascades (Sparks Foundation) County Parks?**

There was strong support for partnering with Jackson County Parks to provide/improve traditional local recreation facilities in the county parks located in Summit Township (responses=385).

Yes = 83%

No = 17%



Please list the other traditional local recreation facilities you wish Township residents had access to, but which are currently not made available by other recreation providers.

There were 71 written comments to this question. Various possible trails were proposed. The City of Jackson's Ella Sharp Park was referred to as well as Vandercook Lake County Park and Cascades (Sparks Foundation) County Park. A public pool was mentioned several times as was a dog park. Various sports facilities were mentioned, including several calls for a pickle ball court. Other responses include the need to concentrate on the Township's roads, tax concerns, and other miscellaneous comments.

Designated bicycle space on existing roads. Need a safe shoulder to ride on. "Share the road" signs.

If you can do the above things within your current budget – then sure. If not no – this is getting to the point of being beyond all reason with no end in sight.

Have no idea what is available.

Add exercise stations www.fittrail.com along either Cascades walking path or Falling Waters.

Senior fitness classes in the town hall would be wonderful! (for a small fee) – Crouch center is a distance to drive – the YMCA is expensive.

Ice skating rink

Pickle ball – standalone courts or convert tennis courts to pickle ball.

Sharp Park is underutilized. Is there anything in the works to make this more of a destination park, i.e. – walking trails, biking, skateboarding?

Dog park at Ella Sharp. See facilities in Ames, Iowa and John Brown dog park in Tallahassee FL.

I'm still discovering all Summit Township has to offer.

There is an abandoned RR track that switches from Falling W.T. and routes to Horton. There is an interesting old bridge as well as a tunnel lined w/Sandstone block w/ an inscription by builder. This would make an interesting expansion to our current trail system. I have walked that track many times – it is fenced off in places now. I have been a [?] financial and moral supporter of both GREAT and Falling Waters. I would not like to see money spent on artificial playgrounds such as the water park. Thanks for the opportunity to express an opinion.

No suggestions at this time.

Stop!! Nobody gives a [####] about a recreational trail until you fix these despicable, shameful roads!!

As long as they keep it natural. Not have man-made attractions.

Would love to see a horse riding/showing/boarding facility in Summit Township.

Partner w/Rails to Trails. Nat'l & local - campground at Tetunica, Round Lake, Vandercook Lake.

Continue to maintain our parks for all residents.

Connect trail to Dibble School area (Kibby Road and Robinson).

Ice skating at Cascades.

Indoor pickle ball courts and covered courts for inclement weather.

Rather than pathways the pool at Sharp Park could have been restored. Actually I see few people using the paths.

Reduced rate for YMCA (@Summit Oaks).

Any – Jackson Needs as much rec facilities and svcs. as possible.

It would be nice if the deer herd in the Thomas Dr. area was made smaller. The other night I came home and counted 25 of them in the cul-de-sac on Thomas Ct.

Add an additional pavilion for picnics at the Vandercook Lake.

Return of a pool for community.

Absolutely – Ella Sharp too.

VCL Park – new basketball courts, fence in ball diamonds and maintain the ball fields, dugouts, etc.

Summit Township should also invest in the Dahlem Center. We cannot let that gem go under-funded.

The master plan that was created several years ago – has this been reviewed lately? I understand a dog park may be pursued at Cascades Park. Was that in the original plan? Will the park be asking for funds from the township?

Dock at boat landing on Vandercook Lake.

Tennis court fix at Ella Sharp Park.

Would use a path to the trails from Lancashire Downs subdivision.

There needs to be a correction from J.C.C. to the “Falling Water Trail”.

The part of the water flow from Cascades ponds through Cascades Golf Course is in desperate need of cleaning or dredging.

Dog play area that is fenced and grassed, not graveled.

Would love trail to come down S. Jackson (we live off Vandermere). Not safe to bike it.

Pickle ball courts!!!

Develop anything that utilizes water. I grew up at Clear Lake, by Waterloo, so I know how wonderful that is.

Getting on the Grand River at the bridge on Loomis Road near the old Elk picnic grounds – a great put in sight.

All of Jackson will benefit from any and all fitness trails or parks. More sidewalks particularly down Denton Road to Warren would provide a full circle for all fitness activities and connect neighborhoods and Falling Water Trails. Cars don’t move over for walkers, runners, etc. Maybe we could promote fitness and courtesy.

Both County Parks are located in the south area of the township. I’d like to see a public park established in the northern area of the township. Suggestion: Perhaps in/on the same site as the water tower location near M-60 and West McCain Road.

Fix the roads first. I live on Lancashire next to the access and am told they are going to get a walking access set up here. Good, but no parking ability.

Need something done with the old swimming pool area at Sharp Park.

Recreation facilities at the College should be encouraged and promoted for township residents.

Not sure.

Maintenance but not adding development to the natural settings.

No. None!!!

Sharp Park – create kayak/cone launch. Create a public pool.

Only Cascades.

The geese population at Vandercook Lake is making the park unusable due to their droppings in the summer. The boat ramps need to be maintained.

Do something with the (falls) at the Cascades. Take care of the plant growth at the Cascades.

Pickle ball courts – growing sport for baby boomer generation.

Would love a public swimming pool.

West side of Cascades area by old Derby Hill is under-used.

More walking, biking trails so bike riders aren't hit on the roads. Would be nice to have some pickle ball courts, volleyball – sand or regular.

Recreation/your dogs! Dog park. Maybe near Vandy? Only other is at Humane Society. Not centrally located. More "Zumba in the park" sessions offered in warm months like Y-Center offers sporadically at Cascades band shell.

You have done nothing to Vandercook Lake in 30 years. Why do anything now?

Would be nice to see improvements at the Vandercook location.

Not aware.

No more taxes!

Hope the water will be dredged and cleaned at Cascades to provide boating (paddle and kayaking).

None. What we have is sufficient. Fix and maintain the roads so we can travel in and around Jackson County more effectively and safely.

Improve what at Vandercook Lake and Cascades? Trash and roads are bad at these parks. The Cascade waters are dirty and trash, why is Cascades not taking care of?

I wish Summit Township would have supported the pool and swim team at Ella Sharp., Also new pool. Yes, a pool in Summit would be fantastic. Miss Ella Sharp Pool a lot!!!

Disc Golf Course.

No.

Hiking trails, fishing boat rentals at county lakes, and/or fishing piers.

No to Cascades.

Enclosed dog park.

Support any facilities/services that promote getting people outdoors and active. This will attract and keep more young families to the area.

4. **If you have further comments, please provide them here:**

There were 181 written comments. Support for trails and sidewalks were among the most common response, including a call for trail amenities (e.g., trees, paved parking, lighting, restrooms, etc.), safety concerns regarding the crossing of Horton and Weatherwax Roads, and a trail connecting to the Jackson College Campus and The Dahlem Center; there were also some negative comments regarding trails. Calls for road improvements were also common, as well as concern over taxes, the need for parks, and dollar stores. There were comments specific to Cascades (Sparks Foundation) County Park, as well as Vandercook Lake County Park and the City of Jackson's Ella Sharp Park. Support was demonstrated for canoe/kayak launch sites and the Grand River. There were comments supporting a dog park, a swimming pool, basketball courts, and pickle ball courts. A Township recreation pamphlet was also suggested.

Please pave the parking lot on Weatherwax and plant shade trees!

Refurbish every public street. Comments: We are told to live within our means – but all branches of government have no intention of ever doing that. They fully intend to always have an open checkbook & bleed us dry. You run your special assessment elections off cycle, so that all the involved cronies who will benefit can push them through by avoiding full public turnout elections. This Township does not care one bit about the hardships they impose on their residents.

Would like to see sidewalk/trail continue west in front of Lumen Christi to Robinson and tie back water fall trail on Weatherwax.

We really appreciate the current trail and its expansion. Thanks to everyone who made it possible!

Would like to get better cooperation from the County Parks Director to beautify Cascades (Sparks Foundation) County Park with flowering trees via the Kiwanis Flowering Tree Project at zero cost to the County.

Thank you for the bike trail extension to Falling Water Trail. I am waiting to see how you will make crossing Horton Rd. safe.

I would like to see security lights posted along the Falling Water Trail and at Cascades Park. Also, it would be very convenient to have a public restroom facility along the Falling Water Trail.

I support the recreation plan but feel that no money should come from Summit taxpayers as we have had an increase in taxes to pay for roads. The roads are important – yes. One of the best things in Jackson is trails in Cascades & Falling Waters. Residents in Summit should always be well informed-allowed to have input and a vote. Thank you.

I would like to see a nice large fenced in dog park – must purchase pass and have current vac. To enter. Pass would be yearly. Also dog must be licensed.

I would like to see less money spent on “extras” at least until our roads are repaired!

Stay out of the recreation buss. Let county & state handle it. We don’t need a township parks dept. with trucks & man power.

Stay out of park business. Let state, county, city handle park.

Trail to the large development starting at Country Club Hills from Falling Waters (Horton Street to S. Jackson) – many families in the connecting subdivisions would benefit (walking & biking)

I don’t use any of these facilities.

Send stamps envelop if you forms return.

Please fix our road first. And when all the roads are fixed, then work on recreation.

Please provide a better crosswalk from Horton Rod & Weatherwax. The crosswalk for both have a lot of traffic & the road speed is high. Will only get worse with the addition of yet another dollar store on Weatherwax. People turning left onto Weatherwax do not stop for walkers. The current cross walk is extremely dangerous for pedestrians. Also, after only a few months Robinson Road's newly paved surface is cracking in many places. As Summit Twp. starts its repaving efforts with the newly approved millage (\$) – make sure the job is done right. Make sure the paving companies guarantee their work. I hope Summit/County can get its money back from the Co. that recently paved Robinson Rd. Better pave 1 road that lasts 20 years than paving 20 roads that start to break up in less than a year.

Pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in America. Pickle ball can bring visitors to the area by hosting tournaments. Pickle ball can be played at any age. I would be happy to speak with someone in person if interested in this idea or you want to learn more about this sport.

I am hopeful that someday soon the walking trail at Cascades will be repaired and resurfaced. Sidewalk or trail extension on Horton Road up to Badgley?

Walking trails can be used by everyone. Please support improved, safe walking trails.

I'm new to the township. The closeness of Cascades Park, Ella Sharp Park and the network of biking and walking trails played a large part in my decision to move here.

Fix the roads – these trails are a ridiculous waste! Parks don't need more upgrades – roads!!!

Roads! No more trails!!

I wish I could ride my bike safely to Falling Waters Trail from our Vrooman Road areas without riding on Reynolds Rd.

Fix the roads first.

Summit Township should adopt an "Oak Wilt" ordinance which prohibits the cutting or pruning of oak trees during the months April 1 – August 1. City of Jackson has a similar ordinance. I would be glad to introduce you to the State Forester, Roger Meek, the expert of oak wilt.

We are retired and would probably use any trails or kayaks. We occasionally use VCL Park for birthdays, etc.

Keep up the good work Jim Dun and staff!!

You are spending far too much money of trails etc. which are used by so few. The taxes keep going up!

I enjoy being a resident of Summit Twp. Good decisions are being made!

Developing kayak/canoe launch sites & keeping the Grand River open should be a top priority. I have to drive to Concord just to be able to access a river safely.

Stop!! Please stop spending money on anything other than essential items! The fact that we had to implement a special assessment to fix our roads is ridiculous – what happened to the monies that were already collected for this purpose?? The homeowners/taxpayers of Summit should not be a slush fund for your inability to manage the funds you’ve been entrusted. Your priorities with our money have been exposed!!

Jackson County needs family friendly and safe activities to enjoy. The Falling Water Trail is a great example of what is needed for the community. Great Job!

Thank you for your efforts to develop recreational facilities. Keep up the good work.

We are senior citizens who recently moved to County Club Hills. Difficult to walk streets because of zooming traffic. If we want to walk to Horton Road trail, where we do park? Where can we ride bikes? A Summit Twp. pamphlet on recreation would be nice. We need better information. Thank you.

The trails we have are moving closer to Jackson College which is wonderful. I would definitely behind taking our trails out S. Jackson and Browns Lake Roads to move our students safely to and from the college. Neither of those busy roads have room to ride or walk safely.

Summit bike/walk trail should go no further south than Summit Oaks Shopping Center. We need a traffic light, bridge, or some safe means to cross 4th Street @ S.P. Golf Course.

The Grand River is a huge asset to this community. Keeping it clean and cleared of debris is important to me and my family.

So many people enjoy Cascades Park. Can something be done to control the geese? The droppings are so bad on the sidewalk it’s hard to push a baby stroller and avoid the disgusting mess. Sometimes I just leave.

I do not like the stone and cement memorial in the park (such as couches). It reminds me of a cemetery. Plant a tree with a plaque.

Good job done by recreation dept.

Continue to link the non-motorized trails together. Link trails with downtown. Improve restroom at Weatherwax parking lot.

I support trails to encourage Jackson residents to exercise & live healthier. The city concrete was far more aesthetically pleasing than the ugly asphalt Summit used. Why wasn’t concrete continued?

Let’s keep leading our community in quality of life. Thank you.

You do a good job!

I believe it would be an asset to establish a trail link from Weatherwax Drive along the Badgely/Hinkley corridor or from Sparks Park to Probert Rd. and Francis St to VCL Park.

Re-connector route – from Dibble School to Falling Waters Trail via Consumers Power access – already cleared | mark, widen, pave, how much cost??

Residents who live near the trails are not happy. All they are doing is providing a wonderful way for bad people to break into homes or steal property and make it easy to get away at night. It is a highway for poachers and people who dump garbage on our property in the woods. We're paying the taxes for more people to abuse our property & wildlife.

Keep up the good work!

We support most items that enhance the area and make people want to live and work here. Yes, with question above – Don't make any project look like a waste of money (concrete trail at Sharp Park).

The new trail is great addition to FWT. Really looking forward to improved roads and streets in the township.

Absolutely nothing until road work is completed!!

I believe we have recreation infrastructure way beyond the need or desire of the population. Putting more concrete over the landscape while asking property owners for money to repair roads is a travesty. Some of the recent trails will never get use!

Trail work has been AMAZING. We use new sections on Horton Road and like FWT to Kibby/Cascades often. What about more park development near Jackson College? And will bike lanes/sidewalks be part of some key road construction?

Will the Upper Grand Water Trail be accessible from Vandercook Lake? If not, what would have to happen to make it so?

Our family uses local parks (Falling Waters, Sharp Park, etc.) extensively in the warmer months. Connection south with the Clark Lake Spirit Trail would be an excellent long-term goal. Expanding recreation on the Grand River is an outstanding idea.

Please properly maintain facilities. We [????] golf course up to its former state (1960-70-80).

It would be great to have a community fitness aquatics center like Chelsea. More bike lanes.

Work with the City of Jackson to control burn Ella Sharp Park to remove invasive plants and try to block thru-roads in park.

No more dollar stores! Please!!! I'd love to see the advancement of recreational facilities, trails, connection to trails, etc., as listed above. Let's increase our options for the betterment of our people. Summit Township can be great without a dollar store.

You are forcing people to move out of Summit Township with current increases in taxes and water, sewer rates. Please stop.

Bikers need a bike path from Springbrook Road down Horton Road to connect with Falling Waters Trail. Horton Road has high traffic and it is not safe to ride a bike there.

Thanks!

Although Cascades Park added a handicap accessible swing to their playground, I can't easily get my daughter's wheelchair to the top of the hill. I would love a paved walkway to the swings.

Bike lane on South Jackson to link Jackson College to the trail.

The roads leading to VCL High School need to be 1st priority. Golf Avenue is extremely dangerous for kids who walk. Sidewalks need to be in so they are not walking on the narrow streets.

We should concentrate on essential services like water and sewer and roads. Stop wasting money on trails.

Outdoor activities and good schools draw employers, make for happy people.

I hope all improvements and development have lowest impact on the environment. Also, we don't need another Dollar General.

Bike paths on McDevitt are rarely used. It would be better to re-do the sidewalk on the N side of McDevitt, so that people can actually walk and bike safely, opening up additional lanes for traffic. New fenced basketball courts at VCL Park, similar to those at Cascades. Clear the Grand River of downed trees, brush, and debris so it can be used. VCL is pretty much ignored by the County and Township. We are citizens and tax payers too. Why are our roads the last in the 3 year plan to be paved? Will there even be any money left by then?

Don't forget the Dahlem. It has such a value to our community and should be brought up to a viable state. The trails are beautiful, but I know we could do more.

Need trail parking possibly at Reynolds Road intersection.

Sidewalk on Kibby and Weatherwax.

You may have received a better response if you offered an on-line survey or at the very least, responses sent to an email address.

I don't feel that the trails are safe for people to be on alone. It would be very easy for them to be ambushed by someone and robbed or worse. The township could find themselves in a messy lawsuit if something happened to anyone. I know that I would not want to ever use the trails. Same for the river; same reason, sorry.

Stop building bike trails. That money should go to roads.

Let's get the roads fixed before even considering more bike paths!

Extend bike trails on Horton Road from Weatherwax Road to Ferguson Corners, Horton Road and South Jackson Road, to Polly's shopping center. New business traffic, dangerous on a bike to go from trail to Polly's parking lot.

Need a path from Lancashire Downs sub. to the trails.

Access is key. Many of our main roads (Kibby, Horton, Reynolds, Badgley, Moscow, etc.) have no paved shoulder for a bike rider. As roads are repaved can we add a few feet on the side for bikers-walkers? Thanks. The trail system (FWT, etc.) are great but you have to get to them on roads that are safe for bikers/walkers. Thanks. Good luck.

Please consider bringing the trail down Horton-S. Jackson, Wickwire ending at Jackson College.

Please consider extending the trail further down Horton Rd. to S. Jackson Road towards Jackson College.

At Vandercook Lake Park – It would be nice to have fenced basketball courts similar to those at Cascades Park. Also, proper fencing around the ball diamonds would be great.

Please consider installing the historically correct light posts (same as present ones) throughout the paths in Cascades Park. Safe nighttime usage. Please consider also installing paved walk path around skate pond and include same light posts and benches. Please – let's get our beautiful skating pond correctly cleaned so our community can enjoy this amazing facility. Please consider refurbishing the old "warming house" in the Tudor style or the Manor House and ice cream shop. Summertime – lemonade and iced tea and winter – hot cocoa, etc. Boating on pond.

If you've collected enough property tax monies that you think you need to give it to the City of Jackson for recreation, then you've collected too much money and need to give it back. Summit Township taxes should stay in Summit Township.

Dog park at Vandercook Lake. Parking lot at Vandercook Lake boat ramp is full of deep ditches, etc. Consider paving of gravel.

Expand recreational areas in Vandercook. Demolish old buildings, landscape and mini-play areas in neighborhoods.

Coordinate with other governmental units to develop and maintain an outdoor swimming facility (i.e. pool) for lessons and swim clubs, etc. It is critical to teach our youth how to swim.

Would very much like to see Summit Township be a supporter of a city pool to teach our children summer swim lessons. (We really miss the Sharp Park pool). Swimming is such an important life skill.

Repair roads!!

Just more crime, assaults, robbery, loitering, water related accidents and higher taxes.

I frequently use the Falling Water Trail. Expansion of it would be wonderful!

I'm excited about Jackson. With all the good things happening, it's like a dragon awaking from a deep sleep. The only sad part for me is that I'm 96 years old and I'm sure I won't be around to see what a glorious city this will become. I live in Summit Township and you are doing great things. Even the pot holes will disappear in time. Keep your eyes on the future! It's gonna be great!

Artsy fartsy projects can wait while roads need repair. A better more expedient way/manner to get rid of "crap" vacant houses. Better quality water. Drains for standing water.

Forget the parks and fix the "roads".

What will be the additional township costs for police and fire protection? Do a cost/benefits analysis on any and all items in this survey.

It's difficult to make informed decisions on the above when we have no idea what it's going to cost us as Summit Township taxpayers. Our taxes went up for road maintenance and Summit Township has some of the worst roads in the county.

Our parks and the Falling Waters Trail are a huge asset to our community. If we can't fix roads at least take care of the trails.

Our roads are in horrific need of repair. We need to spend the money on our roads. That's how we get to work, etc. The way they are now, it's wear and tear on our vehicles.

We need to concentrate more on our roads.

We are in desperate need for our roads to be repaired.

The bicycle trails is a wonderful asset for the good health of many.

Repair road instead.

Continue to improve the roads with materials that last more than a year (potholes, cracks, etc.).

Having a park as a neighbor is havoc for nearby residents who have to clean up user trash and windblown leaves not collected. I pay out of pocket for 15 loads of leaves in fall and again in spring. Do your own "lawn" cleanup or reimburse.

Township Board could establish a parks commission (if not already done) to coordinate recreation opportunities for township residents.

The roads are just horrible. This millage provides the funds. The only priority would be the roads for now.

We need some park benches on the new walk trails.

I believe the township should live within its means. However, we should also support these parks and recreation facilities as we are able.

I would love to see more kid-friendly things that are safe for kids to do. Better park equipment with a variety. Cleaner parks. Someone to watch and make sure heroin users are not leaving needles used in parks. Out of fear of needles, I typically do not take the kids to the parks.

Don't spend any township dollars on bike/walking trails. Waste of money.

Hoping that county/city/township recreational resources would be used to construct pickle ball courts which is a very popular activity.

Fix the damn roads. We don't drive on walking paths and trails.

Keep up the great job!

Don't see hardly enough activity on a lot of trails to warrant more money and time into trails. Better more time and money [invested] into parks, VCL and Cascades.

The township needs to keep proper priorities. Safety and wellbeing are the government's top priority. We need to have enough fire fighters and safe roads that are not crumbling. Parks and recreation is important for quality of life.

Would like to see development of a non-motorized trail connecting Golfview Hills/340 Farms/Country Club to Falling Water Trail.

I would prefer Cascades Park protect the natural, undeveloped sections of the park it currently has. I am opposed to development of the open land and wooded areas.

I think the township should save any money they can. We have enough trails already available to us. This township needs to [curb] their spending and concentrate on the most important things, like good roads and lowering our property tax and water and sewer rates.

Keep up the good work.

I would support Cascades County Park.

We enjoy the new trail on Horton Road!

As a local educator, I am surprised there is still no non-motorized trail/path that connects the Jackson College to any part of the City via Brown's Lake, Hague, or South Jackson Road corridors.

We don't need any tax increases. I'm on a fixed income with no COLA.

Fix the roads right!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

River cleaned up from 127 south to Vandercook Lake to Sharp Lake to Cascades. Someone to clean out trees with chainsaw. When I was a kid you could canoe the whole stretch. Now it's a mess! There is no way. It's becoming a lost sport here with no place to go. It's not the same on a lake.

Please provide better tree maintenance on the Falling Waters Trail, especially west of Weatherwax until you reach Lime Lake. More restrooms are needed along the trail as well.

I'd like to see more bike/walking paths in the City. Painting stripes on the streets is not adequate. Too dangerous. Motorists just don't see you.

We would like to see a bike/jogging trail along Browns Lake Road to Jackson College. Lots of joggers and bikers use the route, but it is narrow and curvy roadway.

Vandercook Lake Park is quite a nice place. It would be even better if some effort was made to put sand along the shoreline and/or remove the plants that now grow along the shore.

Many thanks for your good work!!!

The pond at Cascades needs to be dredged/cleaned out. It is so full of trash and debris and is becoming an eyesore. The port-a-johns need to be better maintained on a frequent schedule or removed if they are not going to be maintained. Gross!

Private sector will take care of it. Quit wasting money. Have you ever seen a bike on the McDevitt bike lane? Me either.

We are really disappointed about the Dollar General on Weatherwax Road.

Please make roads the priority.

Taxes are already too high. Give us a break and just fix the roads! Expenses are rising and no [??] increases.

Small parks on vacant lots throughout Summit Township would be nice.

Would like to see all of this happen if township can afford it without substantial increase in taxes.

Our tax dollars should not be used for recreation projects!

A walk in the park is very nice, but what we really need are good roads to drive on. Filling potholes is not the answer to good roads.

We would support #3, but Summit should not be the only township providing revenue.

Fix the roads first...they are a disgrace!

Money spent on the non-motorized trails is not justified for the few people who use them. Most times I go by there are no people on them and when there are, it's only a few.

How many bicycle paths do we need? – catering to the kids. The town looks terrible. It used to be a place to visit. Now we have swimming facilities at the Fall (open only 3 or 4 months). What else. Somebody must have some pull.

Clean up the lagoon across from the falls. That smells like sewer when you drive through Cascades. By the way, how are the fish biting in your pond?! Let's maintain what we already have.

Though I'm now 97 years old I can see these recreation facilities value so I am in favor of them. Thanks.

Areas for young adults-teenagers organized activities.

Love that you were part of, or supported in some way, the splash pad at Cascades. Hope that takes off. Love the new bicycle rentals along Falling Waters Trail. See circled question – How does the JCISD currently provide recreation facilities (or programs)?

Should provide more trail access to the Falling Waters Trail corridor than just at Weatherwax Road via nearby subdivisions.

Seriously, you need to do something with Woodland Ave. I am so stressed out over this road.

I am so disgusted with the Dollar General on Weatherwax. My property taxes should go down. My hope is that [????] goes there so in less than one year it is vacant and a stark reminder of make poor business decisions!

Love the Falling Waters Bike Trail.

I support additional trail [????] because I think that is the most effective use of our limited funds.

While we appreciate the Summit recreation commitment, we are extremely disappointed with the roads and what Jackson has done to Kibby in the name of enhancing the bike path, not to mention the total disaster the neighborhood roads are in.

You are required to buy park stickers to use state parks. Same should apply to bike trails. Those who use them should pay. Not all tax payers who don't.

Cascade Golf Courses driving range: Create a year-round driving range with high output L.E.D. lights for nighttime practice and heated and covered shelter. This would be modeled on practice facilities at M.S.U., U of M, and Miles of Golf in Ann Arbor.

Provide trail access to Dahlem Environmental Center and/or Jackson College.

I full support outdoor recreational improvements. Thank you for the wonderful work you do.

Walking paths will help increase property values. Improve the health of our community and increase foot traffic to businesses. I envision paths from Ferguson to the Dahlem Center; linking through Dahlem Center to the College. Path from Ferguson down Horton to the Country Club. Finally a path from Ferguson to Vandercook. All paths need to link up to be able to get to Falling Waters Trail.

More walking paths please!

A fenced dog park would be great. Love the bikes for rent. More would be great. Please add a real bathroom at the lot on Weatherwax (Falling Waters).

Entrances to Falling Waters Trail for adjoining subdivisions or create a path from the west on Horton Road to Weatherwax.

It would be nice to have drinking fountain put along the trail on Horton Road; maybe on the bike trail west of Weatherwax Road.

Improvement of roads. Access to trails and recreation.

Continue Walking path down S. Jackson Road all the way to Jackson College. See too many walkers on S. Jackson and no shoulder to walk safely.

Make a bike path along Kibby Road to connect / Falling Waters. Line to separate the two ways on path.

Spend the \$ on a bike lane for riding down S. Jackson Road to the college. S. Jackson Road is treacherous for bikers – not even a shoulder!!

Why, why a Dollar General? So many things are needed or wanted in this area. A dollar store isn't one of them! What's next, Cash Advance? In the future, let's have ideas that will help and represent the community surrounding it.

The emphasis needs to be on the roads! Parks and recreation facilities are nice to have, but they are frankly luxury items we cannot afford, especially when our roads are of a much higher priority (being in such disrepair). The Cascades are one of Jackson's gems. We love that whole area. Resurfacing Brown Street was long overdue. Kibby Road work has been disappointing and we are not liking what looks to be the elimination of a landmark boulevard, in lieu of more bike paths. Bike/walk ways again are nice, but bikes are not a primary means of transportation – roadways are! No more roundabouts and no more bike lanes/paths!! We have enough of those kinds of trendy, politically correct things that we are forced to be exposed to and pay for!

Since Jackson took over Cascades the trash and water ways are NOT clean and I feel bad for the wildlife in the area and people still drive too fast through the park. Need new speed bumps and temp fills in holes until new roads are completed.

Your idea for the \$5 mil paver is a wonderful idea!!

Also, can you fill in the BIG holes around Cascades PLEASE before June 1st?

We'd love to support all of these but know it would only mean more taxes. We're in our 80s. Can't take much more taxation.

Local track meets at Parkside Schools, training runs on Falling Waters Trail.

Complete disc golf course at Ella Sharp Park.

NOT ONE MORE PENY SPENT!! NO MORE TAXES.

Dedicate appropriate amount of tax money for road maintenance so future tax payers are not “stuck” with complete deterioration of the roads again.

Dog parks?

I have a growing concern over the condition of the existing trails – the intercity trail between 4th and Weatherwax is no longer desirable for hiking – cracks are too large. Soon, I’m afraid the Falling Waters Trail will be the same. I use the trails more days than not; bike/walk.

Dog park is desperately needed! Fenced and grassy. Would have a lot of support/use – makes Summit more attractive to millennials.

Let’s get the roads taken care of first which are in great need of repair which we voted on to spend millions of dollars.