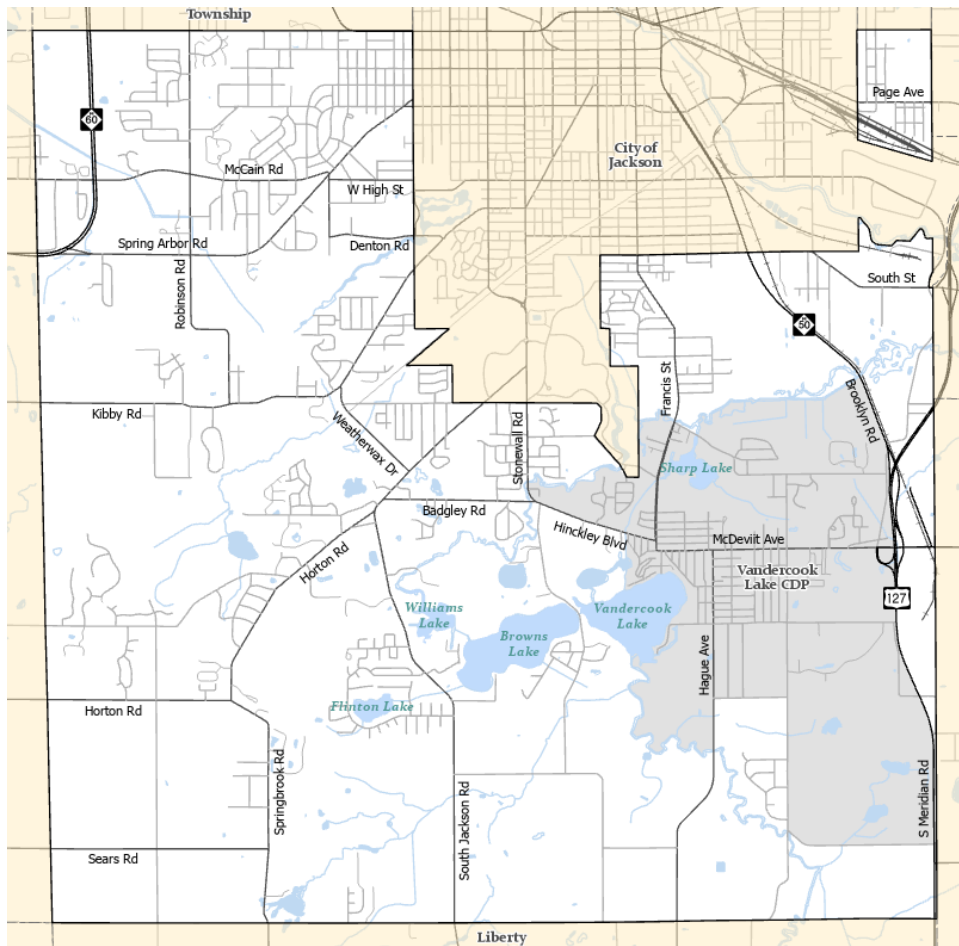


Summit Township Recreation Plan

2024-2028 Edition

January 9, 2024



Region 2

PLANNING COMMISSION

Serving Hillsdale, Jackson & Lenawee Counties

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Recreation Advisory Committee

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Plan Approval and Adoption

Recreation Planning Committee..... 11/20/23

Summit Township Board of Trustees01/09/24

*The 2024-2028 edition of the Summit Township
Recreation Plan will expire on December 31, 2028*

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Chapter 1

Community Description & Administrative Structure

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Summary

The Recreation Planning Committee after hearing significant support from the Community wishes to increase the efforts to connect Summit Township Residential and Commercial areas to the existing trail network to provide:

- A Safer,
- A more Pedestrian Friendly, and
- A more connected Community.

The Committee will attempt to do this by:

- Creating a Funding Bank to accept community funds for trail development and maintenance.
- Actively working to seek land rights (Ownership and easement) for linear parks (trails), and
- Actively seeking funds from individual that can be leveraged to acquire grants for funding trail development.

The Committee is responding to the level of interest in the proposal brought forward on the development for the extension of the trail along Horton Rd from Weatherwax to Ferguson Corners.

The balance of this Recreation Plan is in support of this endeavor.

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 1, Appendix A). Summit Township is also bordered by Blackman Township to the north, the townships of Leoni and Napoleon to the east, 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 highways traverse the approximately 30 square mile township: US-127 (freeway and Meridian Rd), M-50 (Brooklyn Rd/Bus. US-127), and M-60 (freeway and Spring Arbor Rd).

Jackson County is located in south-central Michigan, close to the border with Ohio and Indiana (see Map 1). The Jackson Urbanized Area is located in the center of the County and covers much of Summit Township). 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.

Map 1
Regional Location



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.** Summit Township’s population in 2020 was 22,920 people and the 2021 population was estimated to be 23,025 people. The population is expected to increase to 23,466 people by 2030. Approximately 20% of Summit Township residents (4,579 people) lived in the Vandercook Lake CDP (Census Designated Place) in 2021.
- 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 39.5 years. Adult (45 to 64) (25.6%) was estimated to comprise the largest age group in Summit Township, followed by Older Adult (65 plus) (24%), Young Adult (25 to 44) (19.9%), School Age (5 to 17) (15.8%), Preschool (0 to 4) (7.4%), and College Age (18 to 24) (7.3%). Adult (25.7%) was estimated to comprise the largest generation in Vandercook Lake, followed by Young Adult (23.2%), School Age (18.4%), Older Adult (17.9%), College Age (9.2%), and Preschool (5.6%). Females comprised the majority of the populations of both Summit Township and Vandercook Lake with 52.9% and 50.8%, respectively.
- Racial & Ethnic Composition.** The populations of Summit Township and Vandercook Lake are very homogenous. An estimated 88.5% of Summit Township residents and an estimated 92.7% of Vandercook Lake residents were white in 2021. An estimated 4.2% of Summit Township residents and an estimated 6.1% of Vandercook Lake residents were Hispanic.
- Disabilities of Residents.** An estimated 13.8% of Summit Township residents and an estimated 20.4% of the residents of Vandercook Lake residents were disabled in 2021. An estimated 7.4%

of Summit Township residents and 8.2% Vandercook Lake residents had an ambulatory disability. Older people were more apt to have a disability. For example, an estimated 18% of Summit Township residents 75 years old or older and an estimated 22.7% 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 67% of Vandercook Lake households were comprised of families in 2021. People living alone comprised an estimated 31.7% of all Summit Township households and an estimated 32% of Vandercook Lake households in 2021. Other non-family households comprised an estimated 2.4% of the households in Summit Township and 1.5% Vandercook Lake.
- **Income.** The estimated median income was \$59,657 for Summit Township households and an estimated \$48,475 for Vandercook Lake households. The estimated median income was \$76,828 for Summit Township families and an estimated \$62,632 for Vandercook Lake families. The estimated per capita income was for \$31,479 for Summit Township residents and \$22,558 for Vandercook Lake residents.
- **Housing Types.** An estimated 84% of Summit Township dwellings and 92% of Vandercook Lake dwellings were single-family homes in 2021. An estimated 14% of Summit Township dwellings and 2% of Vandercook Lake dwellings were located in multi-family buildings. An estimated 2% of Summit Township dwellings and an estimated 7% 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” and “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.

Organizational Chart

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.

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. 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. Jackson College and Jackson Preparatory and Early College are also located within the township. 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 participated in the development of the Jackson City + County Non-Motorized Plan by facilitating public engagement and providing stakeholder engagement for identifying possible non-motorized routes. Routes running through Summit Township are found in Map 4 located in Appendix A. The Region 2 Planning Commission, the City of Jackson, and Jackson County completed this planning effort in 2020.



Chapter 2

Recreation and Resource Inventories

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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 and/or segments along roadways that 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 3, Appendix A).

Township Recreation Facilities

Key	Name	Description	BFA ¹
-----	------	-------------	------------------

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.

Chapter 2

Recreation and Resource Inventories

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 (Polly's Country Market).	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

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

- **Accessibility** — It is important that the trail be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, an estimated 13.8% of township residents were disabled in some way in 2021 and an estimated 7.4% 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.

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 Map 3, Appendix A). The City of Jackson’s Ella Sharp Park—a 533 acre regional park—also borders the Township. Given the 22,920 residents in 2020 (and the estimated population of 23,466 people in 2030), 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

Other Connector Trails

Various other trails also traverse Summit Township (please see the following table and the Map 3, 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.

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

Other Connector Trails in Summit Township

Key	Name	Description
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 Avenue.
13	South Street Bike Lanes	Paved shoulders, extending between Francis Street and M-50 (Cooper St//Brooklyn Rd.).
14	McDevitt Avenue Trail	A parallel trail to McDevitt Avenue, extending from Francis Street to Oak Lane.

Local Schools

Schools also provide a variety of recreational facilities (please see the following table and the Map 3, 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	John R Lewis Elementary	Jackson PS	Gym and playground – 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 Middle/High	Private	Soccer field – 10 acres.
L	Paragon Charter Academy	Charter	Basketball court, soccer field and playground equipment.
M	Jackson College including Jackson Preparatory & Early College (JPEC)	Community College and Charter	Victor Cuiss Fieldhouse (volleyball and basketball), Frisbee golf, and softball, baseball, and soccer fields.
N	Jackson County ISD and Career Center	Jackson County ISD	None

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 3, 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:
 - Cascades Elementary
 - Hunt Elementary
 - Jackson High
 - 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
 - Parma Elementary
 - Warner Elementary
 - Western Middle
 - Western High
 - Western Career Prep High
- **Jackson County Intermediate School District** — covers all of Jackson County. The district's central campus is located within the Township.

Local Colleges

There are several local college campuses in the surrounding area in addition to Jackson College's Central Campus. Baker College's local campus is 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 Plans](#) 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.

Keeley Park

The Jackson County Fair is held every August at Keeley Park 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 Plans](#) 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. All-skate 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 Plans](#) 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 Plans](#) 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 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 fireworks on or around Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day (please see the [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. Jackson Audubon organizes regular meetings held at the Ella Sharp Museum and nature activities in Jackson County and the surrounding area. 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. 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. Jackson County also contains a significant number of Eskers, which provide economic and natural feature benefits.

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. However, a possible network of greenways which “generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands” is located in Summit Township (please see the Jackson County Recreation Plan for more information on agricultural preservation areas and greenways).

Future Land Use

The ‘Future Land Use’ map contained in the 2022 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 2, 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.

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Chapter 3

Descriptions of the Planning and Public Input Processes

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Description of the Planning Process

The steps utilized to develop the 2024-2028 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 2024-2028 edition of the Plan in 2022.
3. The Recreation Planning Committee conducted a recreation survey in the winter of 2023.
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 November 21, 2023, through December 20, 2023, and held a public hearing on November 20, 2023. 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 Month Day, Year.

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 229 people completed a recreation survey conducted during the winter of 2023 (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 (88.5% of 226 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 (87.6% of 229 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 (86.6% of 224 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 November 21, 2023, and ended on December 20, 2023 (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 November 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Township Hall, during the 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 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Township Hall, during the 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.

Jackson City + County Non-Motorized Plan

The Region 2 Planning Commission, the City of Jackson, and Jackson developed a non-motorized plan that covers all of Jackson County and was adopted in 2020. It provides an update to the [Jackson County Regional Trailway Study](#) completed in 2002. Potential trail projects in Summit Township are identified in this document (see Map 4, Appendix A). Active Jackson was 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, a launch site has been installed at Vandercook Lake County Park (see Map 5, Appendix A). Type “A” access sites in and near Summit Township are proposed at 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. Another nearby proposed site is at the Loomis Road Bridge in Liberty 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

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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 2023; 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 Jackson City + County Non-Motorized 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, 2013-

2017, and 2019-2023 editions. The policy was expanded in this edition of the recreation plan to include water trails. The winter 2023 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 City + County Non-Motorized Plan, and expanded upon in the Jackson County Recreation Plan will result in a non-motorized network which connects Summit Township to a proposed countywide system and statewide trails. In addition, recreation survey requests included safe routes to school as well as a trail to Jackson College.
- **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 are listed below.

1. **Completing sidewalk connections to schools and between neighborhoods**
2. **Improve crosswalks so they are compliant with the American with Disabilities Act**
3. **Connect adjacent neighborhoods to the Falling Waters Trail and other trails**
4. **Provide bike routes on local roads to connect neighborhoods**
5. **Connect to Jackson College**
6. **Connection to Hanover/Horton via abandoned railroad corridor**
7. **To accomplish the items listed above, property rights will be acquired as necessary.**

Background Information

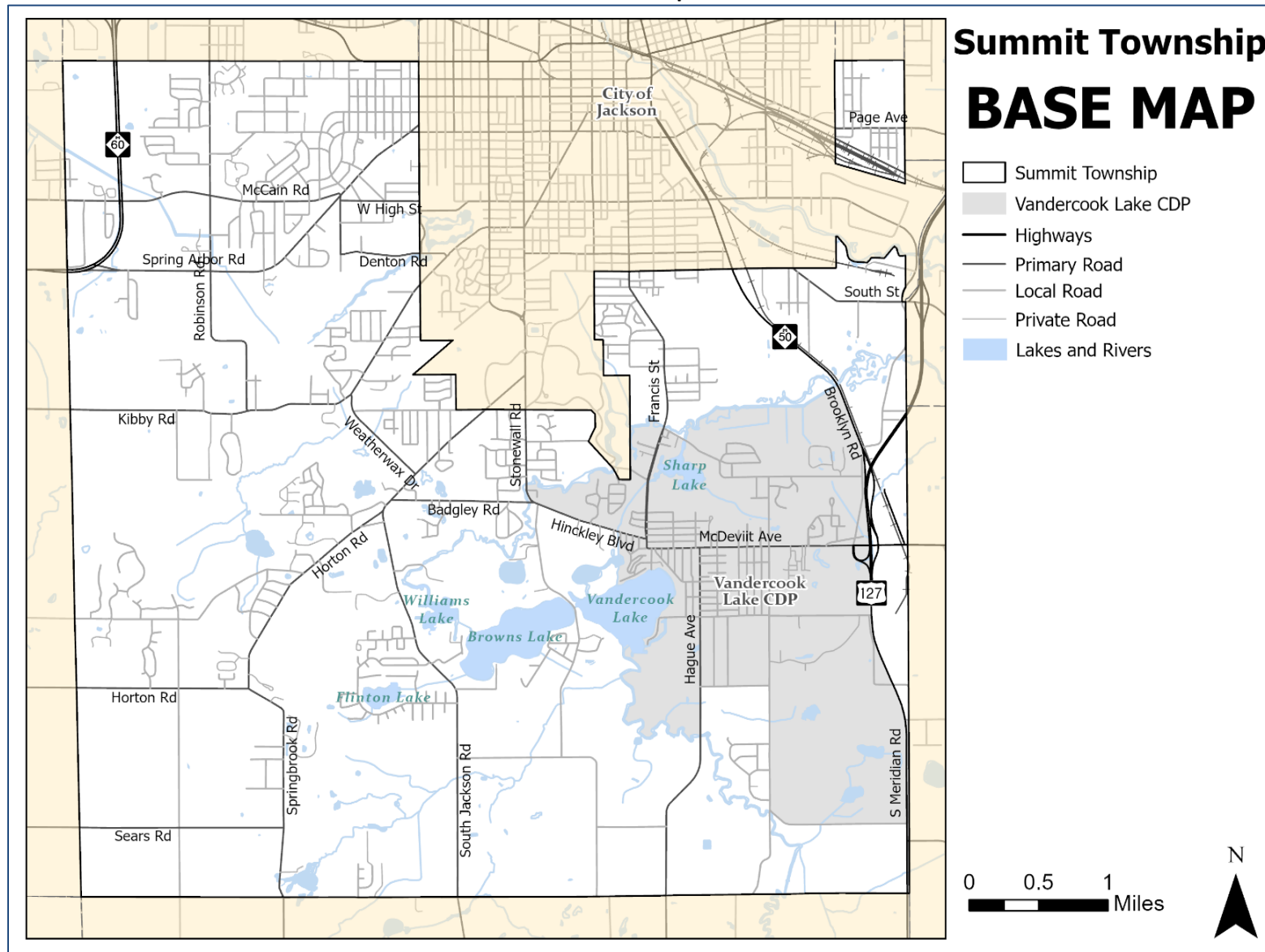
The Plan's goals and objectives are the basis for the action program listed above. For example, the first goal espouses the development and augmentation of a countywide trail system as it traverses Summit Township. The Spring Arbor Road Trail project will preserve an existing trail and extend it to connect 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.



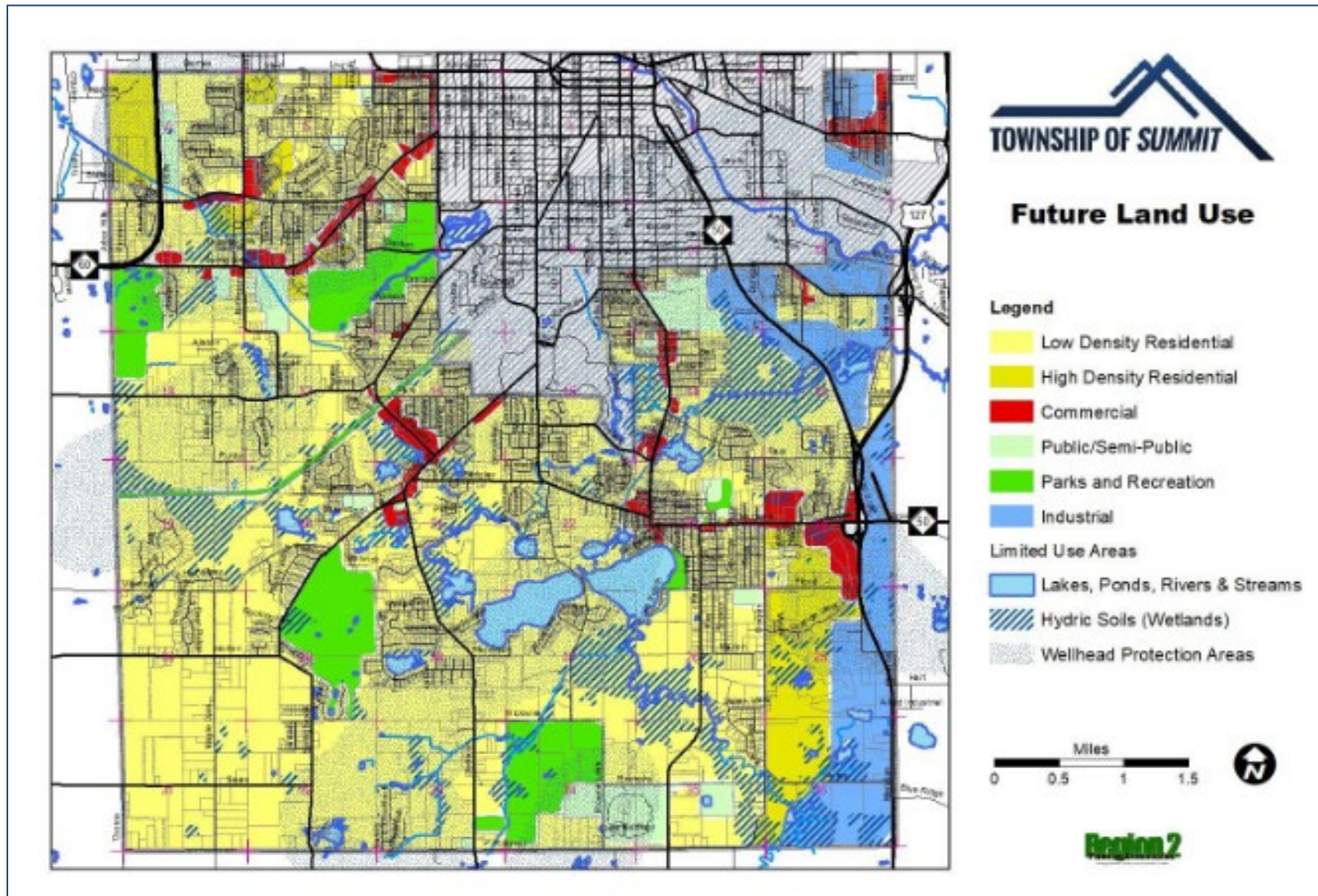
Appendix A
Maps

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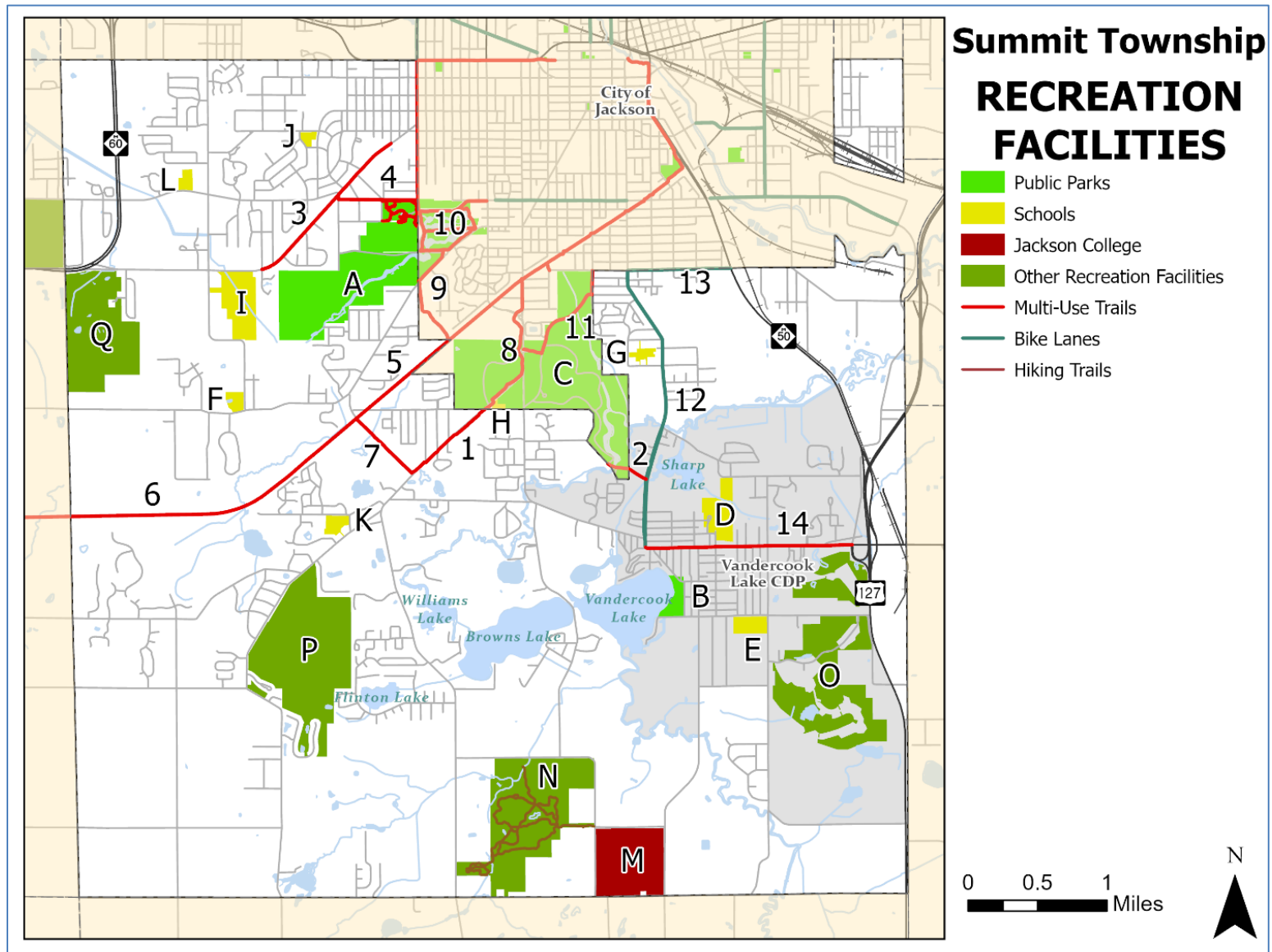
Map 1
Base Map



Map 2
Future Land Use

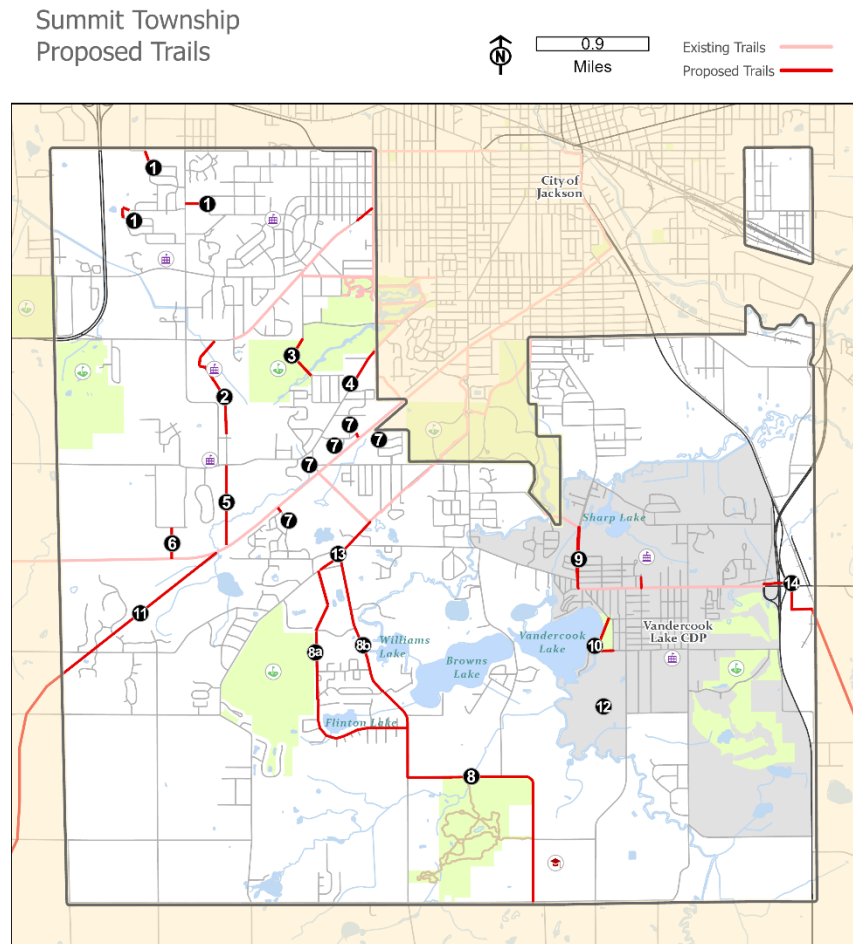


Map 3
Recreation Facilities

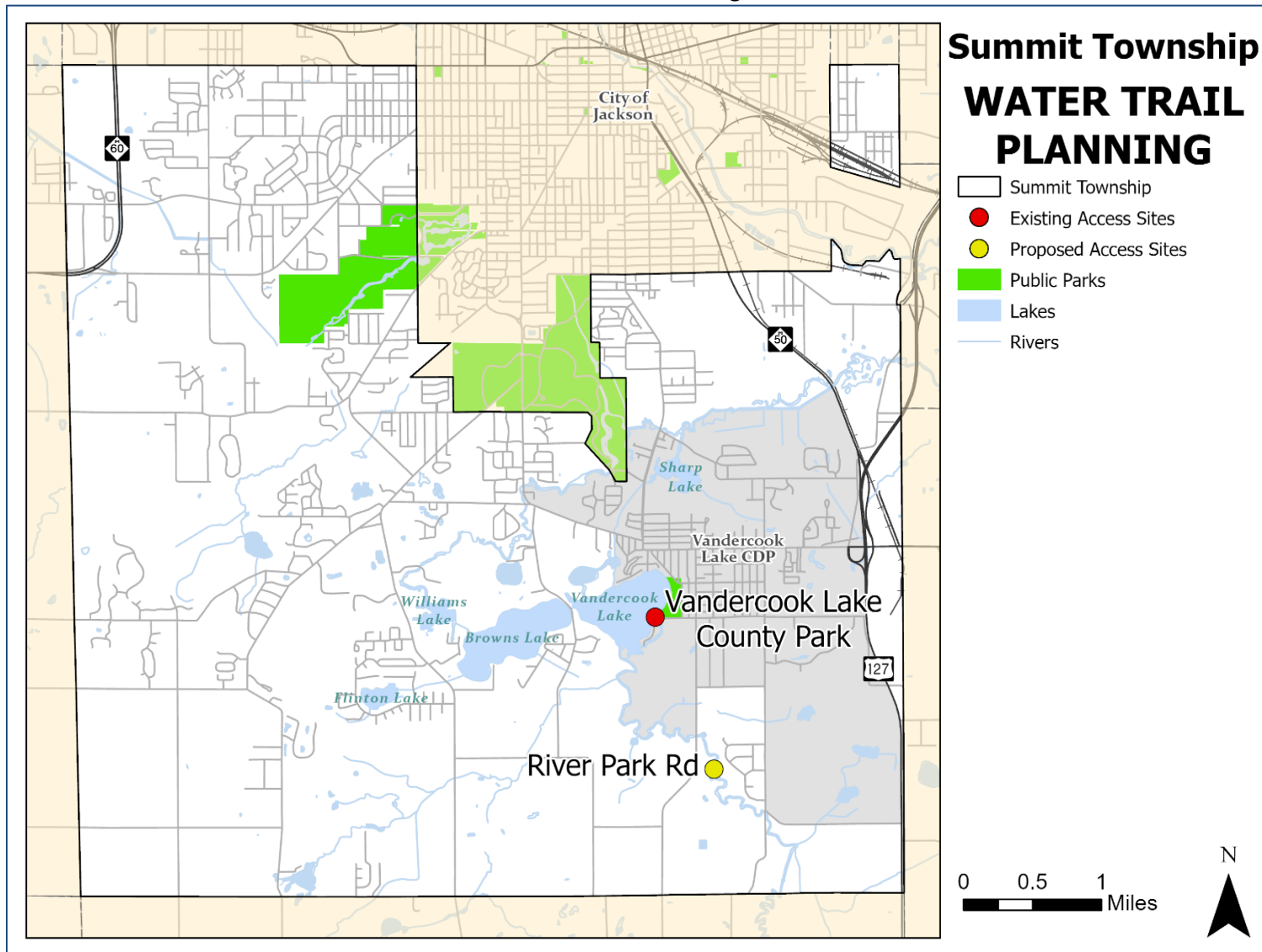


Map 4 Proposed Trails

1. Pathways connecting neighborhoods.
2. Township applied for grant to build connection from Blue Lane to Lumen Christi High School.
3. Connection through golf course following service road.
4. Connection to Kibby Rd through undeveloped parcel.
5. Connection to Falling Waters Trail through private property
6. Connection to Falling Waters Trail through Consumers Energy property.
7. Connect neighborhoods to Falling Waters Trail.
8. Connect Jackson College to Horton Rd by pathway along Browns Lake Rd, Wickwire Rd, and South Jackson Rd to Lexington Blvd. From there it would either:
 - a. Follow neighborhood roads which would connect to trail along sewer easement.
 - b. Continue north along South Jackson Rd.
9. Pathway along Francis Street to connect pathways along Probert Rd and McDevitt Ave.
10. Pathway planned through Vandercook Lake Park.
11. Unpaved trail along abandoned rail corridor on Consumers Energy Property connecting to Horton and Hanover.
12. Explore opportunities for an off-road trail between Vandercook Park and Jackson College.
13. Pathway along Horton Rd from Weatherwax Drive to proposed trail number 8.
14. Connection from McDevitt Ave pathway to proposed trail along abandoned rail corridor connecting to Clark Lake.



Map 5
Water Trail Planning



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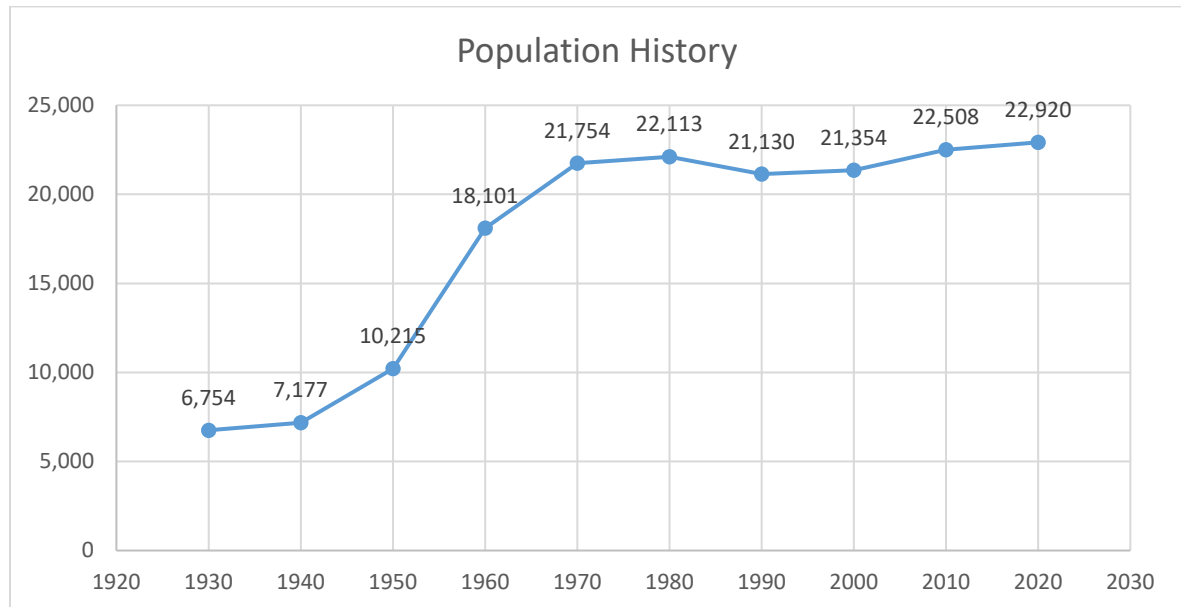
Appendix B

Demographics

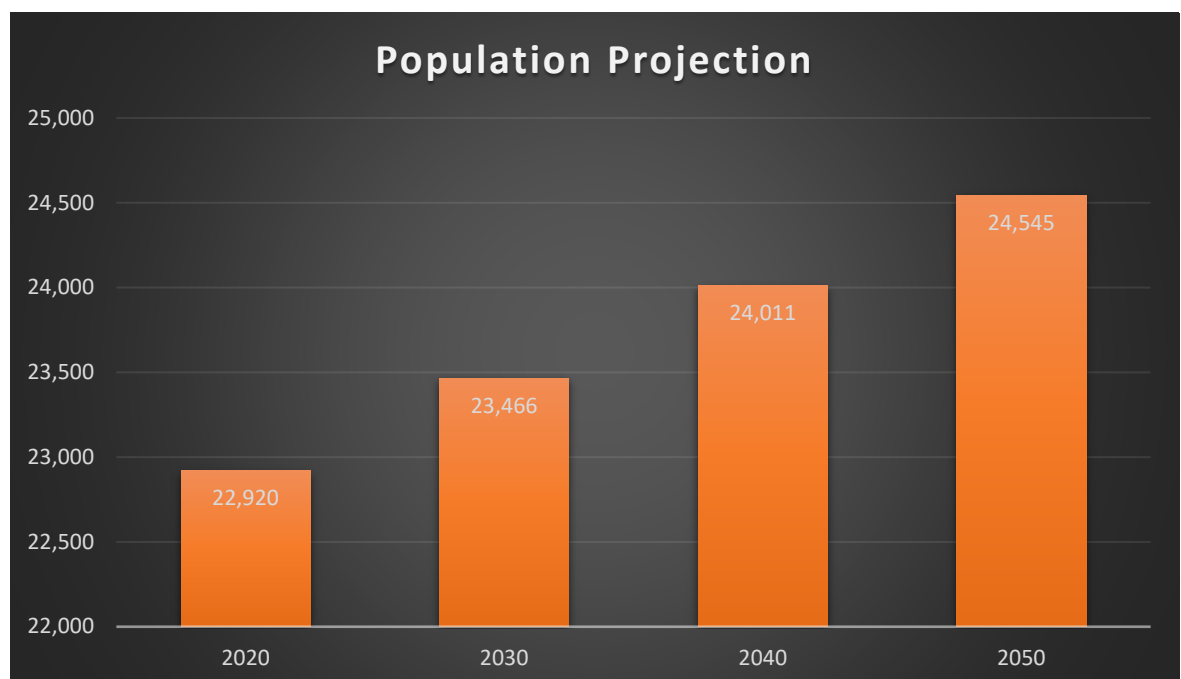
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Demographics

Summit Township has grown significantly over the past 100 years, with explosive growth between the 1940s and 1970s as people moved out of Jackson and into the township. Since then growth has been much slower, for the most part hovering around 22,000 people.

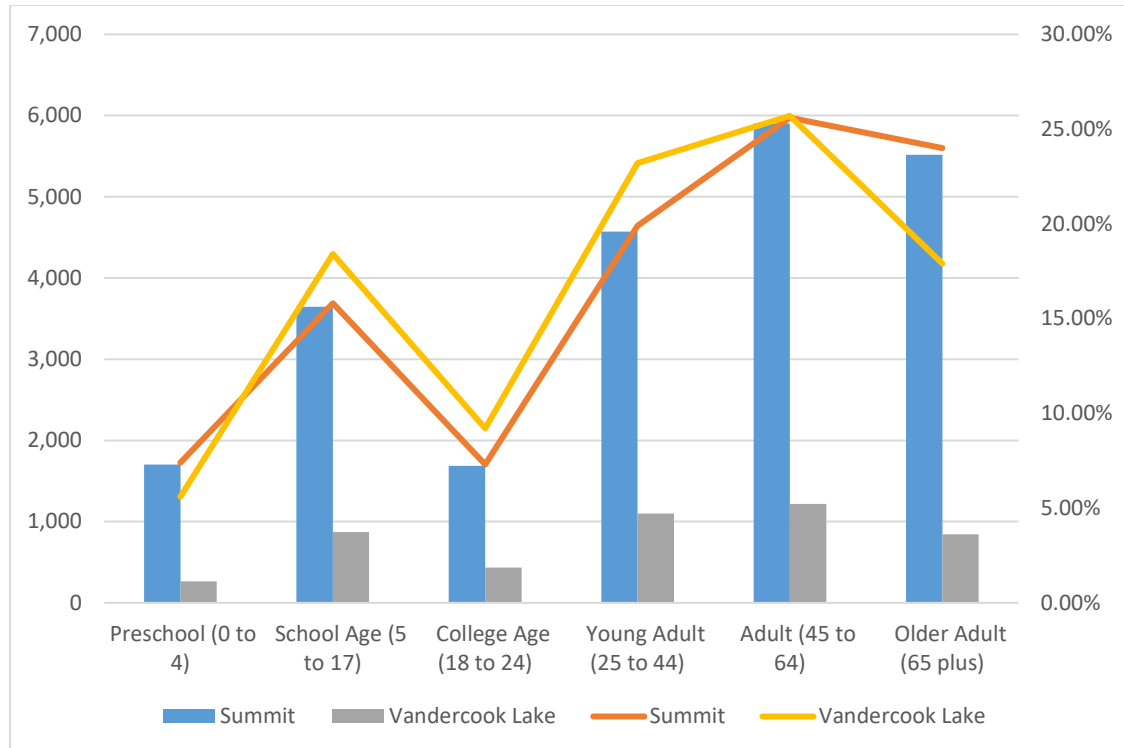


The township's population will expand beyond that range in the coming decades, with slow but steady growth to over 24,000 inhabitants by 2050.



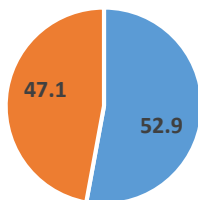
Age and Gender

The population of both Summit Township and Vandercook Lake skew older, and move roughly in parallel. However, the township has a greater proportion of 18-24 year old and those under 4 than Vandercook Lake. Yet the median age for Summit Township is 44.5 years, while it is 39.5 for Vandercook Lake. The State of Michigan's median age is 39.8.



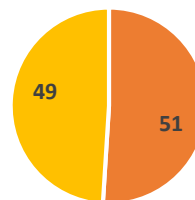
Both Summit and Vandercook Lake have more women than men.

Summit Township



■ Female ■ Male

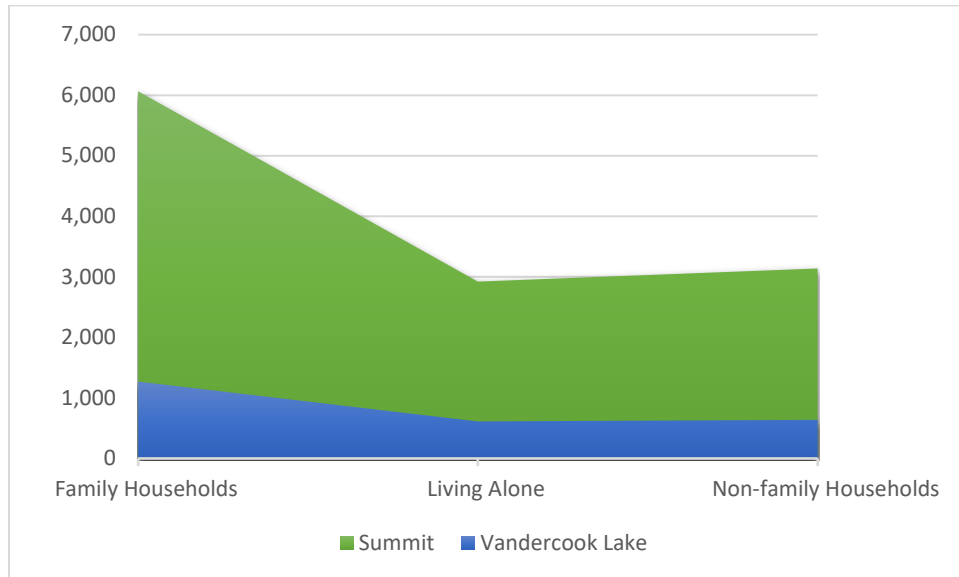
Vandercook Lake



■ Female ■ Male

Households and Housing

The majority of people in Summit and VCL live in family households (66%) while the remaining third either live alone or in a non-family household.



Likewise, over 72% in Summit Township and nearly 80% in Vandercook Lake live in a home that they own with the majority of the rest renting. There are a few other units that are used only seasonally or for recreational purposes.

Summit Township

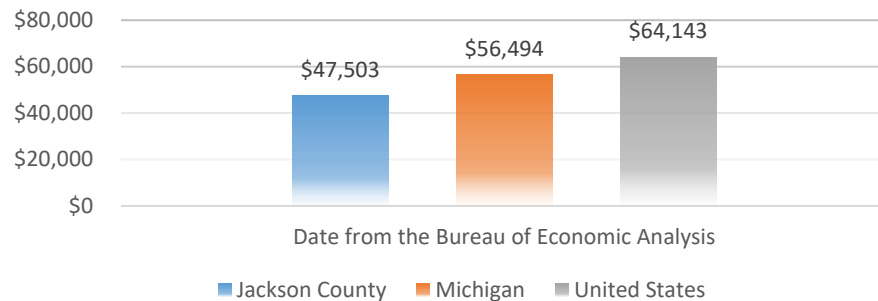


Vandercook Lake

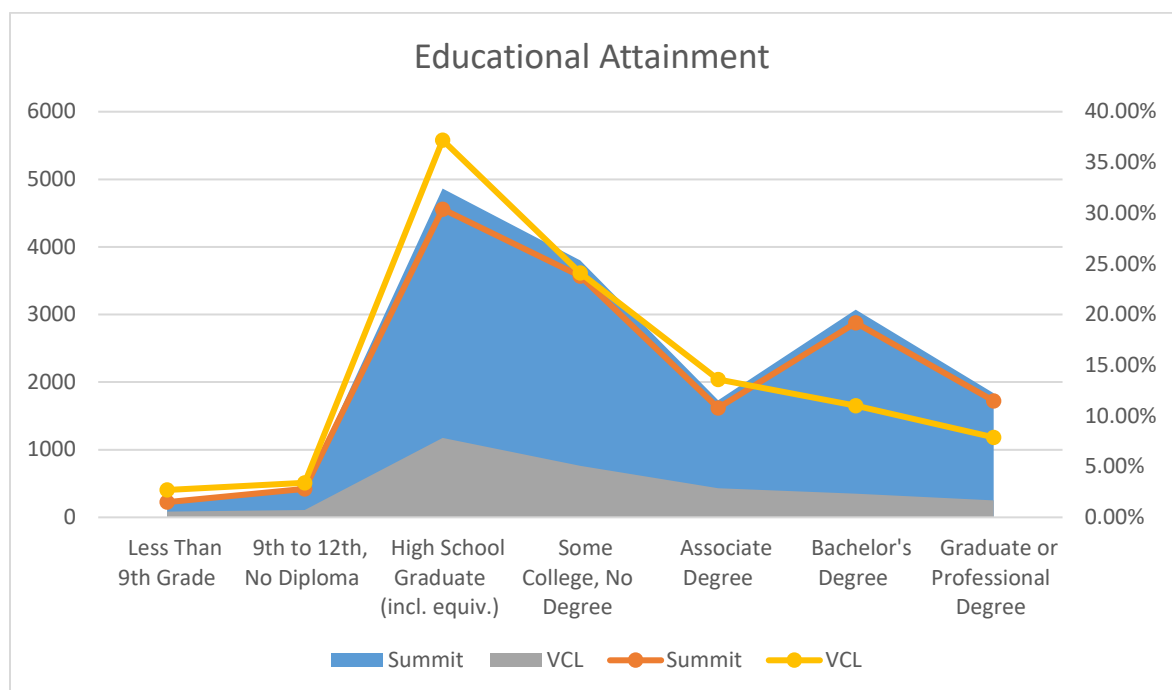


Income and Education

Per capita income for Jackson County in 2021, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, was \$47,503. This number lags behind the averages for both the state of Michigan, \$56,494, and the United States \$64,143.

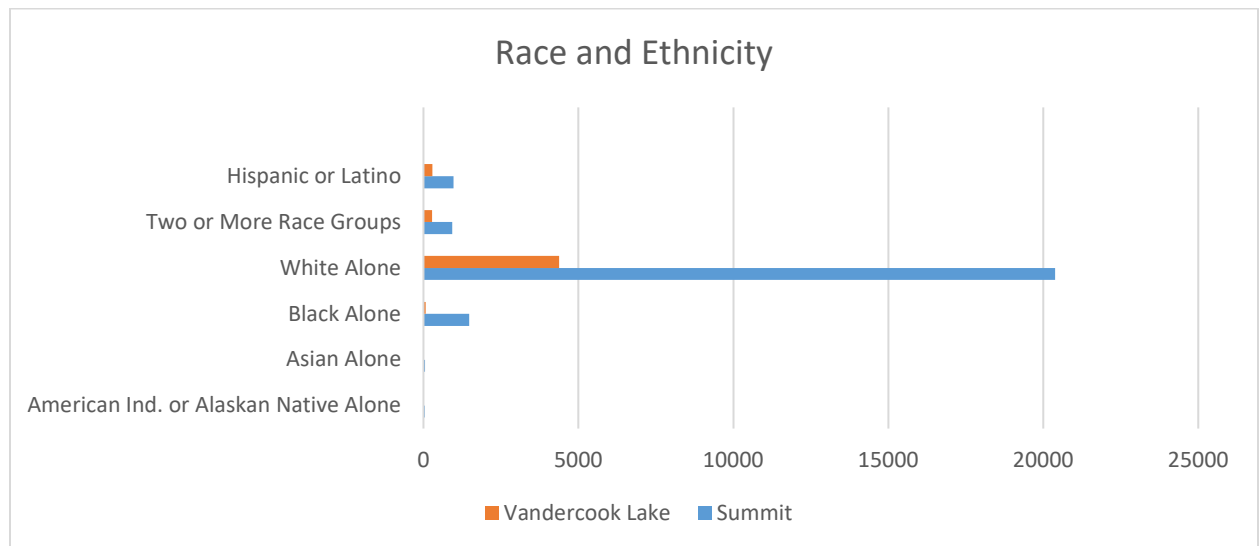


Educational attainment for those over 25 for the area has a plurality with a high school diploma. More than 65% of Summit Township residents have at least some college, though only about 20% completed a 4 year degree and slightly more that 10% have a graduate or professional degree. Compared to Michigan and the United States, Summit Township has a higher percentage with only a high school degree or equivalent (30.4% vs 28.7% for MI and 26.3% nationally). Summit Township and Michigan both have 19.2% with a Bachelor's Degree, slightly behind 21.2 for the United States. The area is also behind the state and national numbers with only 11.5% with a graduate degree versus 12.5% statewide and 12.8% across the country, however there is a higher percentage with some college locals as 65.3% as opposed to 63.3% and 63.1% for Michigan and the US respectively.



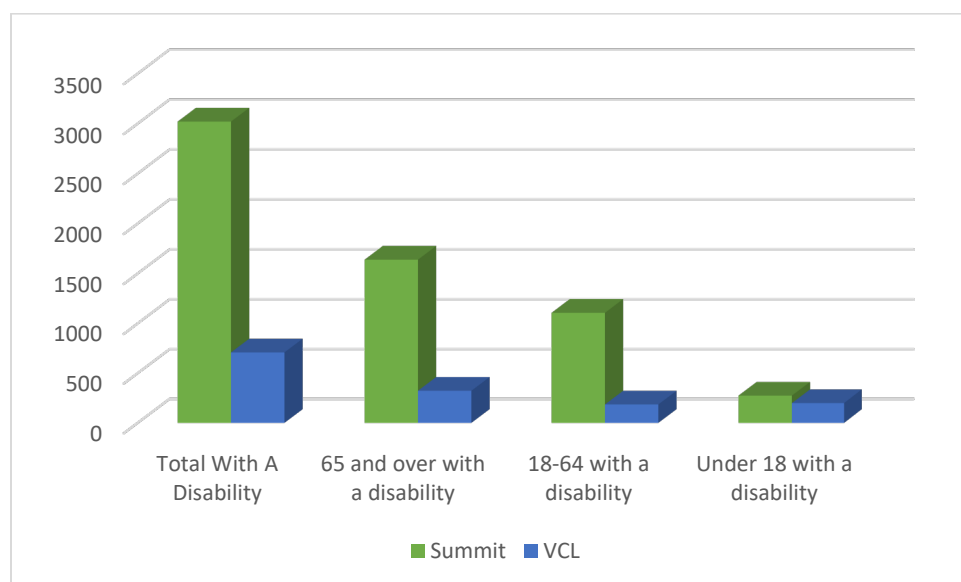
Race and Ethnicity

Summit Township and Vandercook Lake are overwhelmingly white, with over 88% of the population in Summit and nearly 93% of VCL identifying that way. There are small numbers of Black and Latino residents, as well as people who identify with more than one racial group also living in the area.



Disability

Disabled residents account for roughly 14% of Summit Township's population. This includes all those who have some sort of disability (i.e. vision, hearing, cognitive, self-care, ambulatory, or independent living).



Data Source

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 2017-2021
- The U.S. Census Bureau includes CDP populations in the populations of the townships of which they are a part



Appendix C

2023 Recreation Survey

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A survey was conducted during the winter of 2023 to collect the opinions of Summit Township residents regarding the provision of recreation facilities in the Township. The simple 2-page survey was released online distributed with the Township's winter tax bills. A total of 229 surveys were returned to the Township.

The following introduction comprised the first page of the survey:

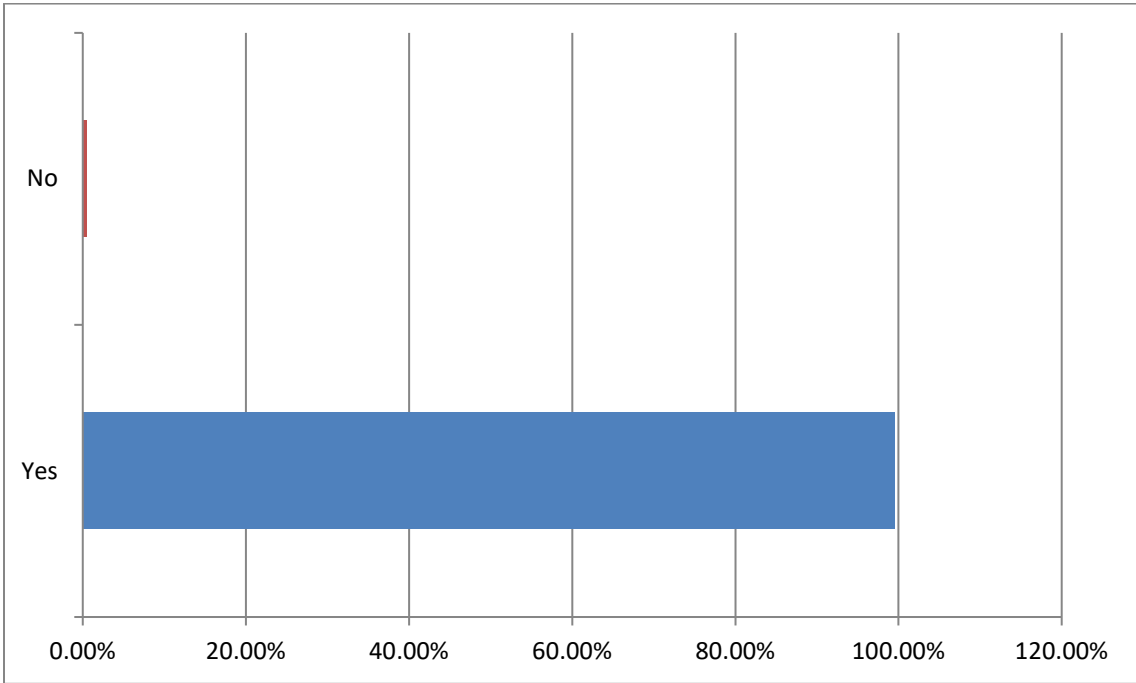
Summit Township is blessed with an abundance of recreation facilities within its boundaries and the surrounding area. Vandercook Lake Public Schools, Jackson Public Schools, various private schools, Jackson College, the City of Jackson, and Jackson County Parks maintain a wide variety of recreation facilities 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!***

Q1 Are you a Summit Township resident?

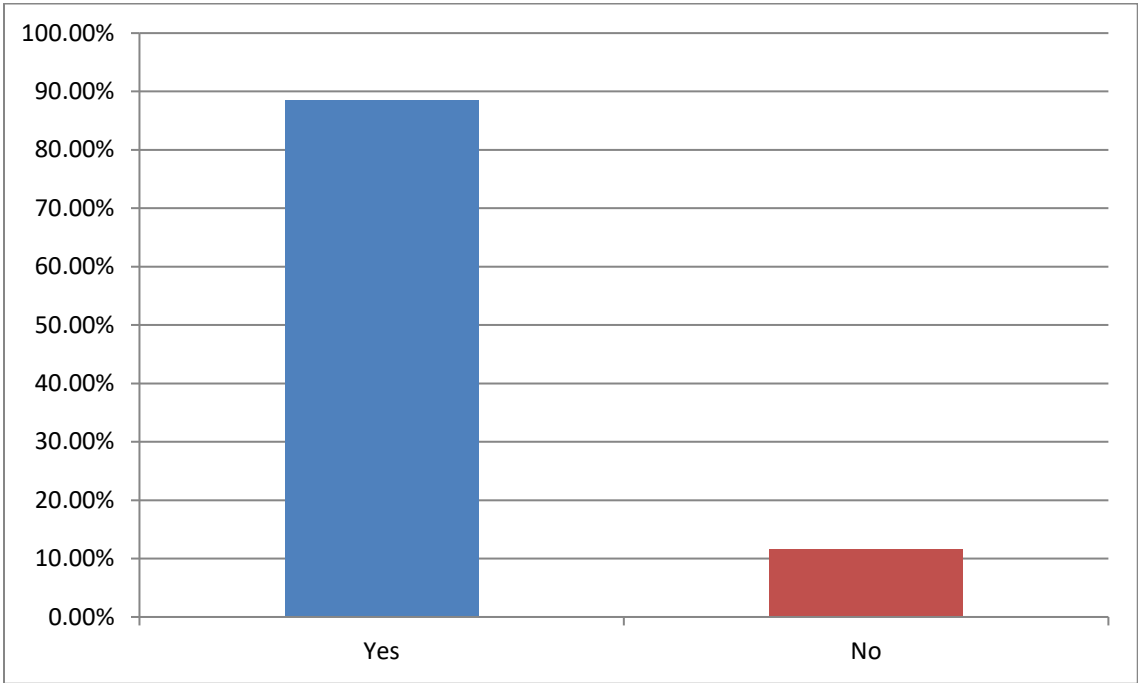
Answered: 228 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	99.56%	227
No	0.44%	1
TOTAL		228

Q2 Do you support further development of the Non-Motorized Trail Network through continued development of trail links to the existing MLK Equity Trail / Falling Water Trail Corridor as it traverses Summit Township?

Answered: 226 Skipped: 1



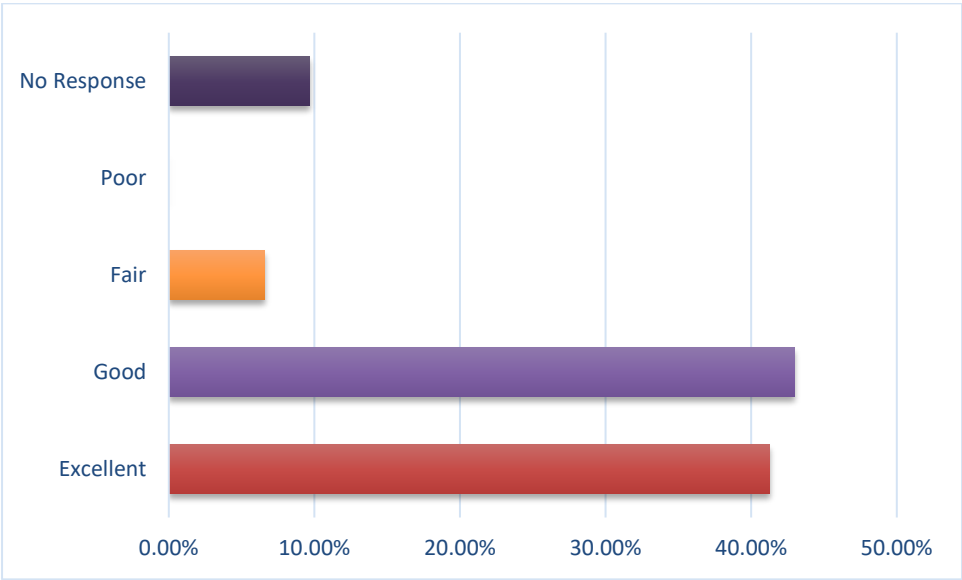
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
Yes		88.5% 200
No		11.5% 26
TOTAL		226
#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	As a runner, I'm also happy to have more safe trails to run on.	3/14/2023 1:11 PM
2	The trail down McDevitt in Vandercook should have access to the Falling Water Trail. The trail stops at the corner of McDevitt and Francis with no access further - doesn't make much sense! Perhaps it could be continued down Francis to Probert to Sharp Park, then connect on Horton Road to Weatherwax - thus allowing actual use of the trail from Vandercook.	3/13/2023 10:10 AM

3	Specifically, we need a sidewalk on Park Rd that connects to the Falling Water Trail. One of our neighbors was killed recently after being struck by a car on this road. I know many neighbors that won't walk down the road because they don't feel safe. I have personally witnessed many incidents of unsafe driving and the township has a duty to improve safety. It seems like a no-brainer to solve this issue and at the same time help with increasing access to the trail with a sidewalk.	3/11/2023 5:13 PM
4	I think we have enough trails. They are great!	3/11/2023 4:34 PM
5	Bike lanes along roads leading to the trail would also help in terms of accessing the trails	3/11/2023 12:29 PM
6	I would love to see the Trail go all the way to Jackson College.	3/9/2023 3:34 PM
7	I don't think it's the best spending money on all the art work. I use the trail to run and bike and that's all it needs to be.	3/8/2023 12:18 AM
8	Further expanding the trail system will help to improve the health, wealth and safety of our community. -Through walking and riding, the rates of diabetes and heart disease will improve. Walkable and bikeable communities are desirable to home buyers which can increase property values. -Many residents who enjoy the trails do not have a safe way to get to the Falling Waters trail from their neighborhoods. I know many people who have nearly gotten ran over trying to ride to the trails. Linking the neighborhood needs to be a priority for the safety of residents.	3/7/2023 10:57 PM
9	If possible, a great addition would be down McCain up to Robinson. There are a lot of health care workers who walk to work at Ganton, and the bus only goes to Pollys.	3/7/2023 7:14 PM
10	The non-motorized trail network is a critical piece of the infrastructure to have a safe place for all non-motorized users	3/7/2023 11:55 AM
11	After the recent death of a bicyclist on Park Rd., it would seem that this area needs to be the first recipient of dedicated bike lanes and sidewalks. My daughter owns a home there and they are alarmed at how many cars exceed the speed limit, making it dangerous to walk or bike. There are many families with young children who are worried about this dangerous situation.	3/6/2023 5:37 PM
12	I use the Falling Water Trail almost every day. The problem is not the linking of the trails, but getting there. There virtually no sidewalks to get places. It is hit or miss if one's neighborhood has them or major streets linking neighborhoods have them.	3/6/2023 5:29 PM
13	The trail system is key to attracting residents to Summit Township and for existing residents to be able to access for working out / improved health benefits.	3/5/2023 6:05 PM
14	A tentative yes. Please provide more details as to what that entails. Also, it appears that Summit Township is having some difficulty keeping the paved trails along Horton and Weatherwax Roads cleared of snow. On March 5, 2023, the snow was not plowed from Greenbriar Street to Weatherwax. We had to walk in Horton Road which thankfully didn't have heavy traffic. Also, the pedestrian crosswalk at Weatherwax and Horton Roads is extremely dangerous for walkers. A traffic light for the walkers and bikers crossing is desperately needed. People turning left from Horton onto Weatherwax are not looking for pedestrians. It's only a matter of time before someone is hurt or worse at that intersection.	3/5/2023 5:06 PM
15	We love the trail!! More lights please.	3/5/2023 1:07 AM
16	The more we can connect to trails without being on busy streets or transporting ourselves and bikes by car to trail parking lots, the better. I can currently bike from north of Spring Arbor Rd. to the Cascades and being on trails for the rest of my ride. We should continue to build nonmotorized trails that lead to the MLK/Falling Waters main corridor.	3/3/2023 10:19 AM

Appendix C		2023 Recreation Survey
17	I support further development but I would hate to see it over done. Moderate growth through the period would be desired. What every money is required to develop new, I hope you have money to maintain with little tax impact.	3/3/2023 9:32 AM
18	It would be nice to have an access point, with vehicle parking, right in Vandercook proper.	3/2/2023 6:07 PM
19	Understand it may fall outside the township; but, would like to see the MLK trail repaved. Lighting updates to trail are nice; however, if the trail itself is not maintained it becomes pointless.	3/2/2023 11:43 AM
20	Especially the section between Fourth Street and Weatherwax. The pavement needs to be replaced. Its tough to ride a bike on the wavy blacktop.	3/1/2023 2:50 PM
21	I would have to know the cost to residents (if any) before I consider supporting any future development.	3/1/2023 1:01 PM
22	I don't use the trail personally but I think having it is very valuable.	3/1/2023 12:06 PM
23	As long as this is funded by grants and not an increase in property taxes.	3/1/2023 9:28 AM
24	Excellent and beneficial asset to all	3/1/2023 7:09 AM
25	Yes, I use the existing trail year round for walking and mainly biking. It is a great asset to Jackson County.	2/28/2023 3:03 PM
26	We enjoy biking the trails especially when they are out in the country and by lakes and rivers.	2/28/2023 9:47 AM
27	Definitely. Extending from Weatherwax west should be considered (the newsletter said extension to Lowe Rd is being considered; I would think that access up to Summit Oaks would be adequate). That said, public access connecting the Falling Waters Trail to Lancashire Downs would be great. There are paths, but they are marked Private.	2/27/2023 9:00 PM
28	No new taxes.	2/27/2023 4:39 PM
29	We love the trail system! It is so nice to be able to access the trails which are just a short bike ride from our house. We don't even have to load our bikes into our car and drive to a trail head, which is so nice.	2/27/2023 2:43 PM
30	We should take every opportunity to improve Summitt twp non-motorized trail connections to the entire trail system. Extend the trail to Vandercook Lake Park.	2/23/2023 7:13 AM

Q3 How do you rate the non-motorized trail system extending throughout Summit Township?

Answered: 228 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Excellent		41.23%	94
Good		42.98%	98
Fair		6.58%	15
Poor		0.00%	0
No Response		9.65 %	22
TOTAL			228

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Very nice for walking & biking! Used many times when the weather is good!	3/8/2023 2:41 PM
2	It makes walking on McDevitt so much nicer	3/8/2023 12:57 AM
3	A nicely paved path and cut the weeds and grass back makes it excellent	3/8/2023 12:18 AM
4	When comparing our trail system to other cities, ours could be more connected. There are not many side-walks in the township. The trails are really all we have to connect the neighborhoods.	3/7/2023 10:57 PM

5	it is hard in snowy weather to keep them clear, with the snow plows along roads like Spring Arbor Road	3/7/2023 7:14 PM
6	Falling Waters is great but the MLK trail needs to be repaved and widened. The trail network needs to be expanded to include more of the township. Road crossings on the trail network should be improved for visibility to users of the trail.	3/7/2023 11:55 AM
7	As a bicyclist, it would be great if no one had to take their bike by car to the Falling Water Trailhead. All of the neighborhoods closest to the trail should have access points in the form of walking/ biking trails from their neighborhoods to this trail. We really need to keep the bicycles off the heavily traveled roads, especially if we want our children to safely access this trail. If we want to have a population that is not obese, we need to make it very easy for all ages to access our trails system safely, especially the children. With easier and multiple access points this trail could be used much more in the winter for walking, biking and cross country skiing. The creation of safer, easier, multiple access points to the Falling Water Trail would impact a greater number of township residents than any new park would. Think about how impactful a 10 mile long trail with many, many access points, would be to the Summit Township population. Many isolated neighborhoods all along the trail would suddenly have recreation opportunities which didn't exist before the connectors. For example the Spring Mill, Stone Oak, Maple Dale and Vrooman Road neighborhoods are all close to the trail but don't have any easy access to the Falling Water trail. The trail is parallel to most of these neighborhoods but our only access is to load our bikes into a car and drive to the Weatherwax Rd. trailhead. People are not going to do this because it takes a lot of extra time. Think about all of the children (who don't drive) who could use these trails. This would be a much cheaper alternative than creating new parks which would have limited use because they are usually accessed by cars. Look at how many people use the Sparks Foundation Park now that there is a bike path to the park and dedicated walking trails. Please don't spend township funds on any new parks which need a lot of maintenance. Use the money for connectors to the trail!	3/6/2023 5:37 PM
8	I would support it if it linked together. A series of nonconnecting trails, not even linked by sidewalks or bike paths would not be advantageous. Connecting the already established trails would be best, not creating new ones.	3/6/2023 5:29 PM
9	We love the trail system! We have used it for the Hot Air Balloon festival (bike to the event) and many biking trips on the system during spring to fall months.	3/5/2023 6:05 PM
10	Generally it is maintained well. Whoever is plowing the paved trail along Horton and Weatherwax is tearing up the sod and casting it onto the walkway making walking difficult. The walkway is showing signs of extreme wear... lots of cracks and crumbling pavement. Also, there are a number of motorized electric bikes on the trails.	3/5/2023 5:06 PM
11	Some spots a little bumpy for my rollerblades ;) but we love it	3/5/2023 1:07 AM
12	Please see above.	3/3/2023 10:19 AM
13	The trails I have used, are great.	3/3/2023 9:32 AM
14	I have not experienced the trail system, but I highly endorse it.	3/2/2023 1:50 PM
15	Section between Weatherwax and Lime Lake is going to need cracks filled or repaving soon. Also concerned about commercial development along Weatherwax and impact to trail. The elevation changes between the properties and Weatherwax is going to require rework of the trail or inclines/declines to transition from Weatherwax to properties (as they get developed).	3/2/2023 11:43 AM
16	Can't say as I haven't used it. I really like that you can rent bikes and I want to do that, just haven't yet.	3/1/2023 12:06 PM
17	Falling Waters Trail system between S West Ave and Weatherwax Rd needs to be resurfaced	2/28/2023 3:14 PM

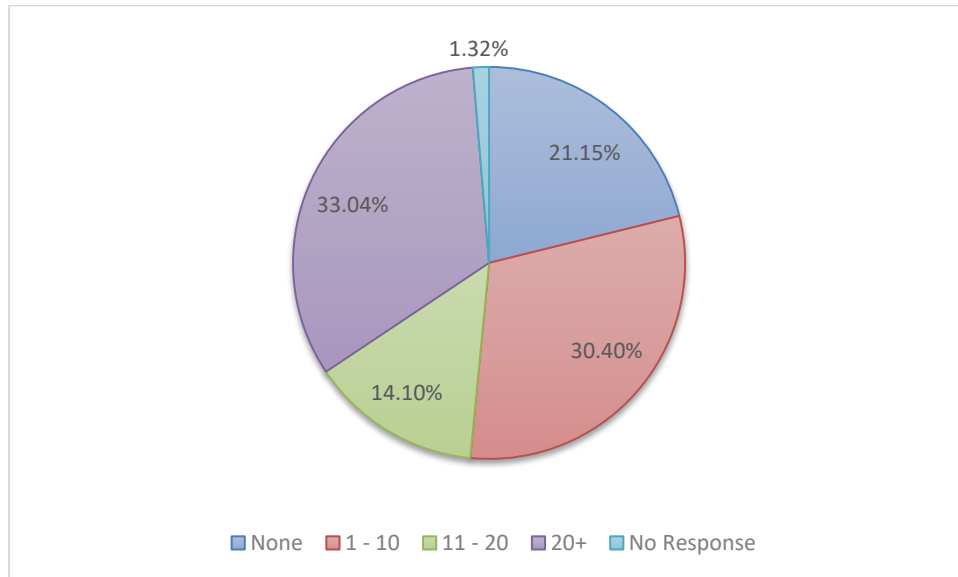
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18	Falling Waters Trail is kept up pretty well. Last year they re-paved out near Lime Lake. We need to keep it that way. Don't let it become like the MLK trail.	2/28/2023 11:01 AM
19	I don't know enough about it to comment.	2/27/2023 4:39 PM
20	The east to west trail is nice and continues to improve. A trail should be established extending south from the Jackson city limits to Vandercook Lake Park.	2/23/2023 7:13 AM

Q4 How many times have you used the trail system in the last year?

Answered: 227 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
None		21.15%	48
1 - 10		30.40%	69
11 - 20		14.10%	32
20+		33.04%	75
No Response		1.32%	3
TOTAL			227
#	COMMENTS	DATE	
1	Between my wife and I, we use the trails hundreds of times per year.	3/14/2023 1:11 PM	
2	I would use it a lot more if I could walk down Park Rd on a sidewalk. I'm not going to drive less than 1/4 mile to park at a trailhead.	3/11/2023 5:13 PM	

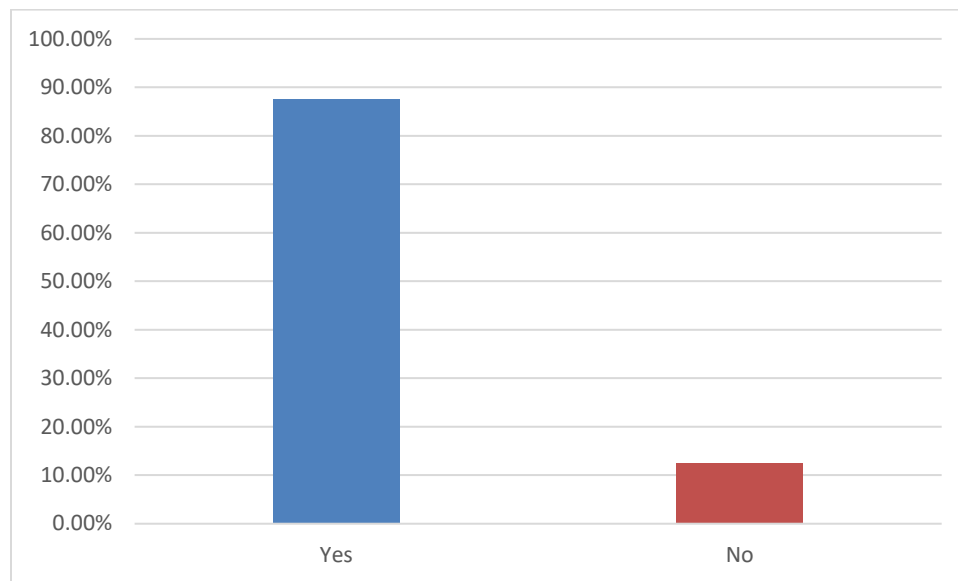
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2023 Recreation Survey

3	Use mainly for biking and running	3/8/2023 12:18 AM
4	I mostly have to drive to get to the trails. If I bike, I have to load up my bike to get to the trails(Falling Waters or near Parkside). I often take my bike to Dexter and Chelsea to ride. I would ride more if I could leave my house and get to the trail safely.	3/7/2023 10:57 PM
5	I often ride falling waters	3/7/2023 11:55 AM
6	We have a beautiful biking trail, let's insure that our township residents can access it easily and safely from their own neighborhoods, before adding any new parks to the township.	3/6/2023 5:37 PM
7	Almost daily.	3/5/2023 5:06 PM
8	I retired at the end of February, so I expect to use the trail system more in the coming year.	3/3/2023 10:19 AM
9	We walk the trails throughout the year.	3/3/2023 9:32 AM
10	We frequently bike the Falling Waters Trail during between late Spring and Early Fall. We currently access the trail either from the Weatherwax lot or the Teft Road access point.	3/2/2023 6:07 PM
11	Cycling and running.	3/1/2023 2:50 PM
12	I would have made more use of the trail the past year, but was unable to.	3/1/2023 2:26 PM
13	More than weekly	2/28/2023 3:14 PM
14	Twice a week, almost year round. Appreciate that it is plowed in the winter for us winter bikers.	2/28/2023 3:03 PM
15	Everyday	2/28/2023 1:54 PM
16	I walk the trail just about every day.	2/27/2023 6:41 PM
17	Looking to use the trail more this year	2/27/2023 4:30 PM
18	We love the trails! We just moved here and plan to utilize them all year long.	2/27/2023 2:35 PM
19	A connection to the trail between Jackson and Vandercook Lake Park would be much safer and make the trail more usable by Summit twp residents.	2/23/2023 7:13 AM

Q5 Do you support the development of the Upper Grand River Water Trail, in particular the creation of kayak / canoe launch sites, and keeping the Grand River open for kayaking and canoeing?

Answered: 226 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		87.61%	198
No		12.39%	28
TOTAL			229
#	COMMENTS	DATE	
1	Sounds fun	3/11/2023 12:29 PM	
2	Unsure about the Water Trail. Less significant to me than the "land" trail.	3/8/2023 11:41 AM	
3	Would love to see kayaking and canoeing sites, I didn't know we had access to do so nearby and would love to explore that	3/8/2023 12:18 AM	
4	But, I do not think it is a good value for the money. Not many people have Kayaks, and those who do can only use them 3-4 months out of the year. I think expanding the non-motorized trail system will be used by more people for a longer amount of time during the year.	3/7/2023 10:57 PM	
5	Vandercook Lake does not need any more water access. There have been many issues such as public intoxication & drug use in kayaks...floating in an area just to get high or drunk and not following rules of boating (paraphernalia found on the shoreline and park) problems with indecent exposure	3/7/2023 6:20 PM	

(urination etc.), kayakers (often intoxicated) trespassing using private docks and/or property for fishing or just hanging on. Littering (condoms & personal hygiene products, beer cans and bottles have been seen floating in the lake). Wildlife is being harassed. Turtles have been taken home by kayakers. Profanity and loud inappropriate music occur frequently in the presence of children. Children and dogs are left alone while "parents" are out kayaking and partying. The floating dock / launch is an attraction for bikes, skate boards and vandals. It is more often used for fishing thus not allowing it to be used as intended for launching. The wetland areas have nesting birds which are disturbed by unleashed dogs that also defecate in the lake. It appears that this is an area where prostitution and possibly human trafficking is happening. If more access is provided many of these problems will definitely become worse. The traffic will increase in an area that has too many speeding and careless drivers as it is. There is not near enough monitored security at this time. Myself and others have been witnesses to many of these occurrences. We believe kayaking is a wonderful recreation but this particular area has seen too much abuse already. The visitors that do these harmful things

do not read the signs...they vandalize them! Please save this peaceful area from overuse. A launch site is just a welcome mat for vandals, inappropriate activity and behavior at Vandercook Lake which also has access to many private properties including Brown's Lake.

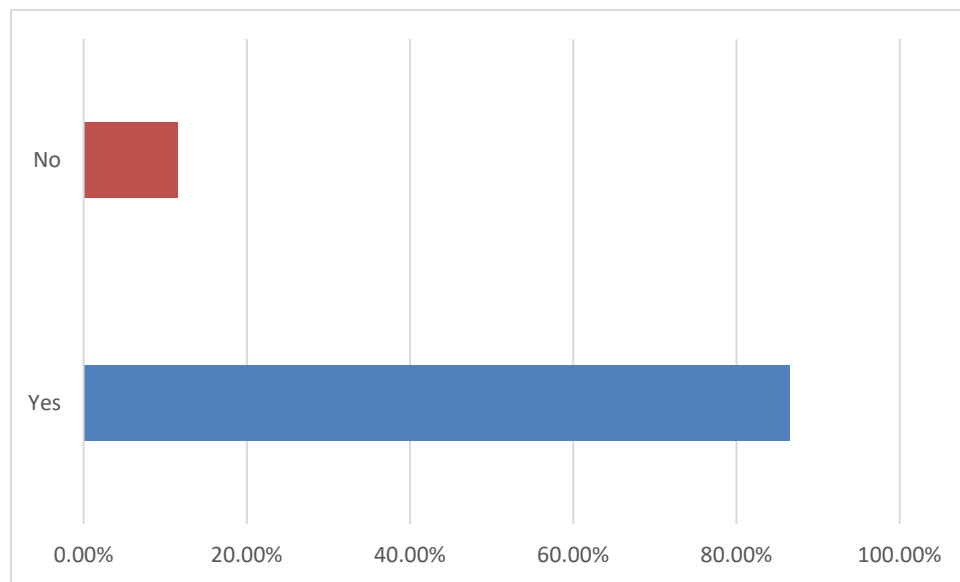
6	This would encourage people to keep the grand river clean for users	3/7/2023 11:55 AM
7	We need a water trail from Williams Lake to Browns Lake to Vandercook Lake, with access points at Williams Lake and Vandercook Lake. I know of people who canoe the Grand River but again there needs to be easy access points.	3/6/2023 5:37 PM
8	The launch sites are rather sketchy. I would not feel safe launching a kayak or bringing my family in those areas. A focus on proper launch site and a clean river would be something I'd support.	3/6/2023 5:29 PM
9	This would be another opportunity to use tax dollars that all of us pay and benefit us as residents in the township.	3/5/2023 6:05 PM
10	Only if the resources are available to maintain what the township already has...	3/5/2023 5:06 PM
11	Where do we launch!?	3/5/2023 1:07 AM
12	Maybe. I wouldn't want to direct money to this project if it is at the expense of improving the non-motorized trail system.	3/3/2023 10:19 AM
13	Being we are not canoe people anymore, I don't think we would use it and I am not use what it entails. Trying several sites would be okay.	3/3/2023 9:32 AM
14	My wife and I love to kayak and canoe. Since we live in Vandercook Lake we most often go out on Vandercook Lake, but have also kayaked on other lakes around Jackson County.	3/2/2023 6:07 PM
15	Yes! My husband and I love to kayak. We go to vandercook lake/brown lake all the time and the connecting rivers. We can get to the Grand River by going past brown lake but we can only get so far. Sometimes we can't get past Glenshire Dr because of the marsh area. Even when that is passable, we can't get too far down the river because there's a rocky drop off/waterfall that we can't get past at all.	3/1/2023 12:06 PM
16	I believe water trail development could be the single greatest improvement to township and county recreation opportunities.	2/28/2023 11:45 AM
17	I am not familiar with this trail. I've enjoyed kayaking the Grand north of Jackson. Lack of a livery is a problem. If this is an out-and-back system, then parking and a launch would be great. I'm just not familiar where this would be.	2/27/2023 9:00 PM
18	This would be amazing!	2/27/2023 2:35 PM

19 The grand river is a great natural resource. All development of facilities to improve recreational opportunities should be pursued.

2/23/2023 7:13 AM

Q6 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?

Answered: 224 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
Yes		86.61% 194
No		11.61% 26
TOTAL		224
#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Vandercook boat launch and parking area needs improvement	3/12/2023 6:10 PM
2	The tennis courts at the Cascades need to be completely redone.	3/11/2023 5:13 PM
3	I think they are just fine.	3/11/2023 4:34 PM

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4	I think we should work with the City of Jackson and close off Ella Sharp park to motorized through traffic, fence most of the perimeter of the park and develop paved and mountain bike trails.	3/9/2023 1:01 PM
5	Cascades is a gem and should be continually maintained and improved.	3/8/2023 11:41 AM
6	Maybe, It depends on what would come of it.	3/8/2023 12:18 AM
7	Focus on the non-motorized trails.	3/7/2023 10:57 PM
8	Monitored security and more lighting is needed at the Vandercook Lake facilities. Obvious criminal activity is going on. Many vehicles meeting each other...coming and going even at night. Reckless driving (vehicles doing "donuts") in the boat launch happens frequently along with speeding on the roadways. The park should close at dusk. There is no need to have it stay open later.	3/7/2023 6:20 PM
9	This would draw people to the township	3/7/2023 11:55 AM
10	How can we clean up the lagoon system at Cascades? I realize it is very shallow, full of algae growth and stagnant. The goose droppings in it are not helping either! We know you have been relocating some of the geese and goslings every year and we appreciate that. We have seen your employees in the boat spraying the algae inhibitor or whatever. Are your efforts paying off? Do we need to Dredge the lagoon or what?	3/6/2023 9:05 PM
11	Why should Township funds be used in Jackson County sites? We would in fact be paying twice if we subsidize Jackson County.	3/6/2023 5:37 PM
12	Not sure what traditional means. Lots of the questions are vague and can be misinterpreted. #2 and #6 specifically.	3/6/2023 5:29 PM
13	Again, only if the resources are available without having to raise taxes and the township can maintain what already exists.	3/5/2023 5:06 PM
14	Cascades park is not maintained well - especially the lagoons. Geese should be rounded up and removed each year. I realize it is a County park, but anything Summit Township can do to help would be appreciated.	3/3/2023 10:19 AM
15	Within reason, yes.	3/3/2023 9:32 AM
16	Unsure	3/1/2023 2:26 PM
17	I would have to know the cost to residents (if any) before I consider supporting any future development.	3/1/2023 1:01 PM
18	I go to vandercook park and cascades often. I think both areas are pretty good and I don't have any complaints or ideas for the areas but improvements are always a good thing.	3/1/2023 12:06 PM
19	Any/all parks are good for the community as a whole	3/1/2023 7:09 AM
20	Coordinate efforts for efficiencies. Make tax dollars go further.	2/28/2023 9:47 AM
21	We need good quality recreation areas for everyone to enjoy - young and old.	2/28/2023 9:44 AM
22	I'm on the fence on this one. Township spending should be within the township. Vandy is in the township; the Cascades is not. But I use the Cascades trails and want those maintained. But it does seem that the city/county need to fund that.	2/27/2023 9:00 PM

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23	But only in a percentage rate in ratio to population	2/27/2023 4:30 PM
24	Partnering with all surrounding municipalities is integral to the success of this recreational plan.	2/23/2023 7:13 AM

Q7 Please list other recreational facilities and activities you wish Township residents had access to, but which are currently not made available by other recreation providers.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 75

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I'd like if there was kayaking/paddleboats at Cascades again.	3/11/2023 5:13 PM
2	Pickle ball courts!	3/11/2023 12:29 PM
3	This may seem off topic, but I think we should encourage land owners to maintain trees along the sides of the roads. I've seen a lot of clear cutting in the last two years.	3/9/2023 1:01 PM
4	More single-track mountain bike trails.	3/9/2023 12:25 PM
5	Bike lane on Kibby Road from Cascades to falling water's trail.	3/8/2023 5:39 PM
6	It would be nice to have a sidewalk across from CNB to the south along Horton road to Springbrook where Horton road heads west.	3/8/2023 2:41 PM
7	Pickleball courts	3/8/2023 11:44 AM
8	I believe we enjoy parks system that many larger communities would envy.	3/8/2023 11:41 AM
9	Beaches and lake access, sports facilities	3/8/2023 12:18 AM
10	I would like to see Ferguson Corners area become a more walkable, bike able community area. Horton road to S. Jackson Road is 4 lanes currently. I would like to see traffic slow down. I think this could be done by making the 4 lanes of traffic into 3 lanes with a center turn lane. The 4th lane could be a non-motorized path for walking and biking, similar to what was done with McDevitt Ave.	3/7/2023 10:57 PM
11	Dog parks at both Cascades and Ella Sharp	3/7/2023 5:05 PM
12	Pickleball is a growing sport that I do not think there is currently a place within the township to enjoy	3/7/2023 11:55 AM
13	With limited funds, we should be very careful about adding any new financial obligations to the Township. All monies spent should be evaluated on the basis of how many township residents would directly benefit from the monies spent. There has to be a cost benefit evaluation of any new spending. Neighborhood connectors to the Falling Water Trail would benefit more residents that any isolated park would.	3/6/2023 5:37 PM
14	Bike paths connecting communities and neighborhoods.	3/6/2023 5:29 PM
15	I think the biggest thing is to post slower speed limits on Horton and Weatherwax Roads at pedestrian crossings. Perhaps install a speed sensor that flashes the drivers speed and occasionally have a deputy use radar to check vehicle speeds. The new bank that is being built at Weatherwax and Horton Roads will only increase congestion and danger for bikers and walker. Hopefully the entrance and exit to the bank will only be accessible from Horton Road.	3/5/2023 5:06 PM

Appendix C		2023 Recreation Survey
16	Rock wall / climbing facility!	3/5/2023 1:07 AM
17	It would be great if we had an outdoor exercise area with workout stations.	3/4/2023 2:32 PM
18	Having been to other areas throughout the country and used their trails, we are doing good and maybe better than some. Keep our sites good and groomed.	3/3/2023 9:32 AM
19	I wish that we had a public pool (outdoor specifically). There used to be one at Sharp park (which I know isn't in Summit). The only pool in Jackson is Nixon (which is more for kids). I liked the pool that was at Sharp because it was just a normal large pool. And if we had a pool, I wish it would stay open until the weather got cooler. The pool that was at Sharp used to close mid-august when it was still hot out.	3/1/2023 12:06 PM
20	Pickleball courts would be great!	3/1/2023 11:30 AM
21	Disc golf course	3/1/2023 9:23 AM
22	Dog park, Nature Center and/or Conservatory/Botanical Garden, Outdoor Gym with equipment (Park specifically designed for exercising)	3/1/2023 8:23 AM
23	I know Cascades is getting 8 new Pickleball courts this year but the Township could work with the City Rec Dept to improve the Sharp Park Pickleball/tennis courts.	2/28/2023 3:03 PM
24	No comment.	2/28/2023 2:59 PM
25	Vandercook Lake is not very walkable - A loop trail that connects the Jackson college area w Vandercook Lake area would be amazing and much safer than walking on Browns Lake Road, Wickwire, etc.	2/28/2023 1:32 PM
26	Additional pickleball courts	2/28/2023 1:20 PM
27	A separate bike path down francis street towards vandercook lake would be beneficial for bikers to access a swimming lake and to provide safer access to the Summit library.	2/28/2023 12:58 PM
28	Indoor lap swimming at one of the schools.	2/28/2023 11:01 AM
29	I would like a dog park that has access to water so my dog can swim. Swimming is good for old dogs joints...and this old dog likes throwing the ball for my dog to fetch.	2/27/2023 4:25 PM
30	Not a facility/activity per se, but I would be thrilled to know if the lakes (particularly swimming areas) were all tested regularly for e.coli, PFAS, etc, and what the results are. I think this could boost usage at the lake parks knowing they are safe to swim in.	2/27/2023 2:35 PM
31	PickleBall	2/27/2023 1:52 PM
32	A non-motorized trail connecting the existing trail to Vandercook Lake Park.	2/23/2023 7:13 AM
33	Like that new courts are coming to Cascades	
34	An indoor pool, maybe at Jackson College, also extend the trail south to Polly's and Jackson College and to Hillsdale on railroad bed	
35	like the idea, but don't want an increase in taxes	

36	pickleball
37	I recommend putting up a fence around the Sharp Park Golf Course
38	the rivers definitely need to be cleared of branches and trees
39	would like to extend Falling Waters along Horton Rd to Pollys/ Ferguson Corner for safe walking
40	Parkside to Weatherwax needs widening and smooth the cracks
41	quality dog park
42	sidewalks to get to the trail on Park Rd, Sidewalks on Horton to get to the new park as stated in the letter from Todd Emmons
43	cross country ski trails, bridle paths for horses
44	outdoor racquetball court
45	outside olympic pool like the old pool at Sharp Park
46	gun shooting range
47	dislikes the sculptures on the trail; doesn't want to spend tax money on working with Jackson
48	Put some pickle ball courts at VCL. Improve beach area at Vandercook. Also a basketball court there, and maybe putt-putt golf
49	shooting range
50	Wants safety consideration to be made at the corner of Weatherwax and Horton
51	Pickleball courts at Cascades Park. Dredge the Cascades Ponds and establish a canoeing, kayaking and fishing experience
52	want police to patrol non-motorized trail
53	I would like to see an improvement to the boat launch ramp at Vandercook lake - when backing trailer to ramp, there is a large dip between the cement pad and the gravel
54	a non-motorized extension to Jackson College and Dahlem Center. Bike lane included in the Badly Rd reconstruction.
55	pickle ball courts - light for night. More covered areas for parties/ get togethers
56	everything should be handicapped accessible
57	sand volleyball courts, dog parks
58	Convert Falling waters to crushed limestone surface. Most importantly a light for pedestrians to cross weatherwax!
59	more bike/ walking trails
60	not bother penny of township funds should be spent until all of the township roads have been resurfaced. It's infuriating to pay the taxes that we do and have to accept these roads. Fix the damn roads!
61	Biking paths on existing roads to and from off road activities
62	dog park
63	off leash dog park. Exercise, swings, slides replaced by Sharp Park Pavilion
64	stop converting tennis courts to pickle ball and/or build some pickle ball courts. Maybe badminton and horseshoes? Replace kids toys at pavilion. Large kids playground. Off Leash dog park
65	More pickle ball courts and fliers letting us know what is available
66	Do not penalize growing lawns long during may to better help support pollinators. No mow May!
67	paved parking lots at Cascade for the playground and Ice Cream areas, which is also used by you and future pickle ball courts. Also how about sidewalk down Warren Ave to the Golf Course?

Appendix C

2023 Recreation Survey

68	Dedicated bike lanes or larger area on the road for bikes to ride. S. Jackson and many of the back roads are not wide enough for biking. Allowing more connected trails access to Falling Waters Trail would be nice. Adding Mountain Bike trails would also be nice.
69	VCL needs lots of improvement - boat ramp, parking lots are terrible.
70	other areas need attention - fix the roads
71	use any funds to maintain roads
72	pool
73	disc golf
74	dog park
75	more restrooms, more benches and bench swings at various spots along trails would be nice
76	skateboard park, public swimming pool, public ice rink
77	sidewalk down Horton Rd connecting to Falling Waters Trail
78	more extensive bike trails on Horton and Jackson Roads
79	dog park
80	archery range
81	kayaking in lagoon area, splash pad
82	More motorized wheelchair trails with water features and woods
83	sailing sunfishes; flush toilets on the trail
84	Bring back the horseback riding stables. Sad that Ella Sharp pool is gone.
85	A senior community center in the area to host senior classes, events. Also younger you and teenage game nights, sports, like Boos Center.
86	a bicycle trail along vandercook lake park particularly on the west rise fo the park near the boat launch and through the marsh and along the lake shore to the boat launch for kayaks and handicap access. Many people would bike and walk their dogs.
87	none - taxes are too high already.
88	Strongly dislike the sculptures on Weatherwax - prefers nature
89	More non-motorized trails
90	Dislikes metal sculptures
91	Because of my lack of full mobility I'm not up to speed on some this. However, I believe Summit Township employees are doing a good job and that some of our tax dollars are going toward and should continue to go toward the above activities!
92	camping sites
93	more picnic areas
94	Boat launch dock at VCL
95	build trail to Hanover
96	Really doesn't like sculptures on the trail
97	Potholes in Sharp Park make bike riding very difficult.
98	More hiking/ biking opportunities. A park for children with playscape on their end of town.

99	At this time all of us need extra money to be used for roads, electric grid, water repair, recycling and learning to take care of the earth. Pleasure should be done when needs are met.
100	fishing pond
101	fishing pond

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Appendix D

Description of the Planning Process

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Summit Township Recreation Planning Committee
Summit Township Recreation Plan, 2024-2028 edition
Resolution of Approval

WHEREAS, Summit Township formed a Recreation Planning Committee for the purpose of developing a five-year recreation plan which describes the physical features and existing recreation facilities of the Township and the surrounding area, and the desired actions which can be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2024 and 2028, and

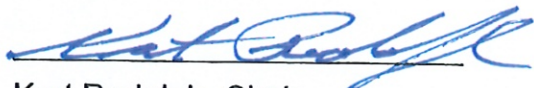
WHEREAS, the Recreation Planning Committee solicited suggestions and questions from the general public through an online recreation survey and an open house, and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Planning Committee developed the Recreation Plan for the benefit of the residents of Summit Township and the surrounding area and to assist Summit Township in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, after the one-month review period, held between Tuesday November 21, 2023 and through Wednesday December 20, 2023, and the public hearing held on Monday, November 20, 2023, the Recreation Planning Committee of Summit Township voted to approve the 2024 edition of the Summit Township Recreation Plan and to recommend its adoption by the Summit Township Board of Trustees.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Recreation Planning Committee of Summit Township hereby approves the 2024-2028 edition of Summit Township Recreation Plan and to recommend its adoption by the Summit Township Board of Trustees.

I, Kurt Rudolph, Chair of the Recreation Planning Committee, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Recreation Planning Committee of Summit Township at a meeting thereof held on the 20th day of November, 2023.



Kurt Rudolph, Chair
Summit Township, Michigan

20 NOVEMBER 2023

Date

Summit Township Board of Trustees
Summit Township Recreation Plan, 2024-2028 edition
Resolution of Adoption

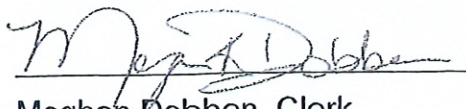
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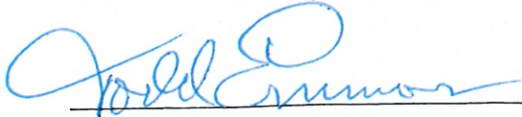
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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Summit Township Board of Trustees hereby approves the 2024-2028 edition of Summit Township Recreation Plan and to recommend its adoption by the Summit Township Board of Trustees.



Meghan Dobben, Clerk
Summit Township, Michigan

1/9/2024
Date



Todd Emmons, Supervisor
Summit Township, Michigan

1/9/2024
Date

I, Meghan Dobben, Clerk of Summit Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Summit Township Board of Trustees at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 9th day of January, 2024