



## **Leoni Township Recreation Plan**

2016-2020 edition

**Plan Approval and Adoption**

Recreation Committee .....	January 28, 2016
Leoni Township Board .....	February 9, 2016
Michigan Department of Natural Resources .....	March 2, 2016

**The 2016-2020 edition of the *Leoni Township Recreation Plan* will expire on December 31, 2020**

Prepared with the assistance of



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*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

## Chapter 1

# Community Description

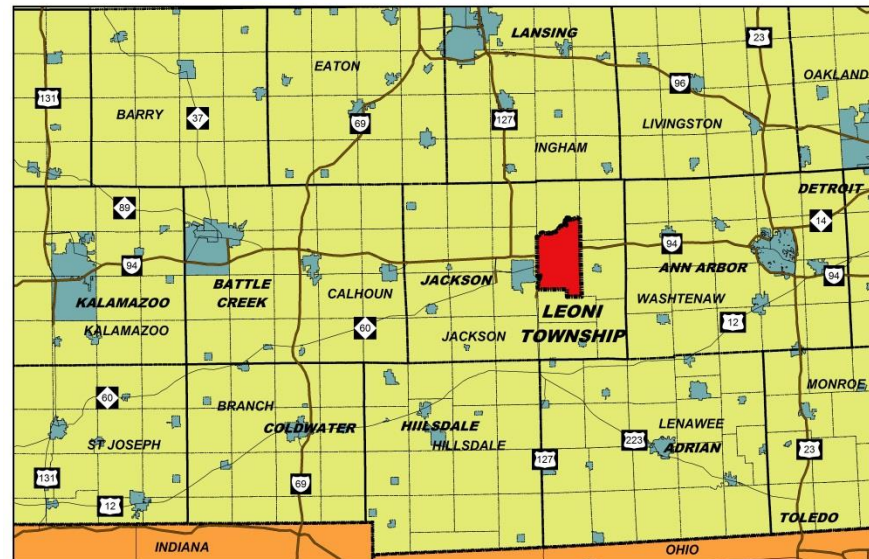
Leoni Township Recreation Plan

A priority of Leoni Township is to develop and implement a recreation plan which responds to the recreational desires of its citizens and plans for enhancements to its parks and recreation programs. A sincere effort was spent in developing this plan which represents the projected needs for recreation facilities and services in the Township. For example, the plan provides a clear picture of the recreational opportunities available to residents regardless of who provides them. Nontraditional recreation opportunities such as historic districts/structures and shopping opportunities are catalogued as well as traditional parks and recreation facilities.

## Location

Leoni Township comprises 51.3 square miles of Jackson County—on the east side of the City of Jackson—which is located in south-central Lower Michigan, close to the border with Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana. Interstate Highway 94 (I-94) and United States Highway 127 (US-127) converge in Metropolitan Jackson, earning the area the nickname of “Crossroads of Michigan.” Those roads connect Leoni Township and the rest of Jackson County to Ann Arbor and Detroit to the east, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to the west, and Lansing to the north.

**Figure 1-1  
Regional Location**



## **A Brief Socioeconomic Summary**

The demographic composition of the population of Leoni Township—including Michigan Center, a Census Designated Place (CDP)—has an effect upon its recreational needs. Pertinent demographic components are listed below along with a brief paragraph describing the local situation. Each of the components is described in greater detail in Appendix A of this document.

### **Population History and Projections**

The population throughout Leoni Township was an estimated 13,807 people in 2010 according to the US Census; the share of Township residents living within Michigan Center was an estimated 33.8% (4,672 residents). The Township's population was projected to be 13,808 people in 2015; the American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that the population was an average of 13,790 people between 2009 and 2013. The population of the Township is also projected to remain steady at 13,808 people in 2020 and 2025.

### **The Gender & Age of the Population**

The ACS estimated that males comprised 53.0% of all Township residents and 54.4% of Michigan Center residents between 2009 and 2013. It was also estimated that the average Leoni Township and CDP resident (median ages of 41.6 and 42.3 years, respectively) were older than the population of the nation (median age of 37.3 years) during that time period. 'Baby boomers' (aged 45-64 in 2010 (28.8% and 28.6%, respectively)), 'Generation X' (aged 25-44 in 2010 (26.5% and 26.5%, respectively)), and 'Millennials' (aged 5-24 years in 2010 (23.7% and 26.0%, respectively)) were estimated to be the most populous generations in the Township and CDP.

### **Racial & Ethnic Minorities**

The population of Leoni Township, including Michigan Center, is homogenous with few racial and ethnic minorities. For example, an estimated 95.5% of all Township residents and 97.2% of CDP residents were estimated to be white between 2009 and 2013. Persons of Hispanic origin—an ethnic group—comprised small segments of the populations of the entire Township (2.9%) and Michigan Center (0.2%) during the same time period.

### **The Disabilities of Residents**

Disabled individuals comprised small but significant estimated segments of the populations of the entire Township (16.9%) and Michigan Center (17.0%) between 2009 and 2013. The ACS estimates that more people become disabled as they age. It is interesting to note that it was estimated that significant portions of Township (26.9%) and CDP (24.0%) residents 65 years of age or older had some type of ambulatory difficulty.

## Households & Families

The ACS estimates that there were 5,545 households in all of Leoni Township and 1,870 households in Michigan Center between 2009 and 2013; the CDP accounted for an estimated 33.7% of Township households. Families comprised an estimated 64.0% of all Township households and 68.9% of Michigan Center households during that time period. One-person households comprised 28.8% of all Township households and 25.3% of CDP households. Average household size was estimated to be 2.43 people for the entire Township and 2.46 people in Michigan Center. Average family size was estimated to be 2.43 people for the entire township and 2.99 people in the CDP. There were an estimated 99 seasonal or occasional homes throughout the Township and 45 of them were located in Michigan Center. There were also an estimated 328 Township residents living in group quarters with 2 of them residing in the CDP.

## Income

The recent economic downturn is reflected in local household, family, nonfamily and per capita ACS estimates between 2009 and 2013.

- **Median Income** — Median household income was \$43,245 for all of Leoni Township and \$44,897 for Michigan Center; median family income was \$52,674 in the Township and \$51,368 in the CDP; the national median household and family incomes were estimated to be \$53,046 and \$64,719 people, respectively
- **Per Capita Income** — Per capita income was \$22,018 in for all of Leoni Township and \$20,120 in Michigan Center; the national per capita income was estimated to be \$28,155

## The Health of Jackson County Residents

Obesity describes ranges of weight that are above healthy guidelines given a certain height. Body Mass Index is used to calculate an individual's ratio of height to weight. Generally, a person with a Body Mass Index score of 25.0 or greater is considered obese.<sup>1</sup> In 2010, 31.1% of Michigan residents were considered obese (the tenth highest in the nation),<sup>2</sup> with 34% of adults in Jackson County reporting being obese.<sup>3</sup> According to a report published by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research and Institute for Health Care Studies, being overweight or obese substantially increases the risk for cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, lipid disorders, stroke, gallbladder dis-

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Obesity and Overweight for Professionals: Adult: Defining – DNPAO - CDC. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult/defining.html>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Obesity and Overweight for Professionals: Data and Statistics -- DNPAO - CDC. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>

<sup>3</sup> County Health Rankings. (2014). Adult obesity in Michigan | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2014/measure/factors/11/data>

ease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, psychological disorders, stress incontinence, and cancers of the endometrium, breast, prostate and colon.<sup>4</sup> In 2008, the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan showed that a poor diet and physical activity were second only to tobacco as the greatest cause for actual death in the United States in 1990 and 2000. Furthermore, a publication by the World Health Organization states that physical inactivity and a poor diet are large contributors to being overweight and obesity.<sup>5</sup> According to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 26% of Jackson County residents reported being physically inactive,<sup>6</sup> placing it in the top 25 counties in Michigan for this measure. These statistics point to a need for more active recreational opportunities in all communities. Those opportunities may include providing more walkable neighborhoods as well as the provision of actual recreational opportunities such as athletic fields (e.g., soccer, baseball, etc.) and courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, etc.). Factors of particular relevance to community growth, development, and planning contributing to unhealthy weight according to the 2006 Jackson Community Report Card produced by the United Way of Jackson County include:

- “Inadequate community infrastructure limits the ability of people to be active. These include lack of accessible indoor and outdoor exercise facilities, neighborhood sidewalks, walking paths, and bicycle trails. Additionally, inclement weather, lack of adequate recreational opportunities, fear of unsafe neighborhoods, and unattractive/unpleasant local environments may prevent people from exercising.”
- “Programs and policies are necessary to promote smart community growth and the establishment of urban and rural environments supportive of physical activity. Active community environments provide access to safe favorable conditions for physical activity and promote the development of social support networks that encourage activity.”

The Michigan State University Report: *Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan Through Physical Activity and Nutrition* (Kreulen, 2002), recommends cooperation among state and local units of government and residents in the promotion of ac-



Haehnle Sanctuary

(Source: Grant Bauman)

<sup>4</sup> Kreulen, G. J. (2002). *Promoting healthy weight in Michigan through physical activity and nutrition (Informing the debate : health policy options for Michigan policymakers)*. East Lansing: Institute for Public Policy & Social Research and Institute for Health Care Studies at Michigan State University.

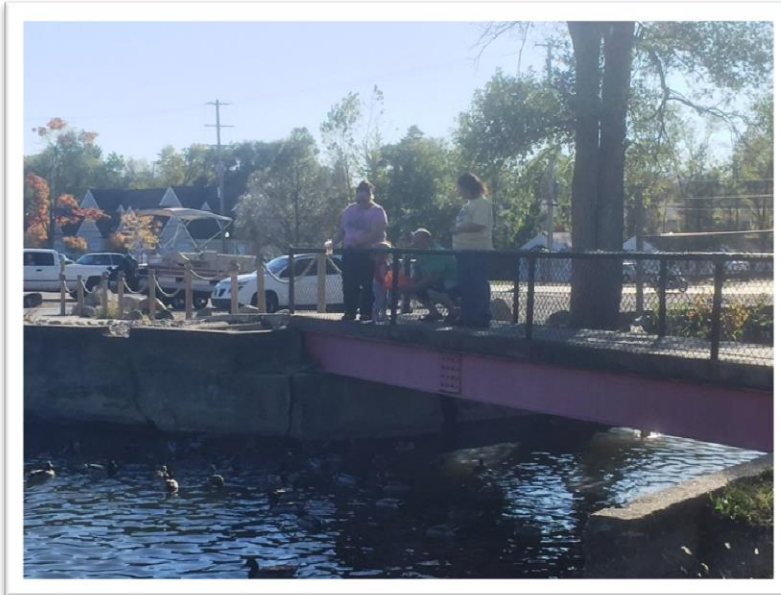
<sup>5</sup> World Health Organization. (2009). Unhealthy Diets & Physical Inactivity. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/fact\\_sheet\\_diet\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/fact_sheet_diet_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> County Health Rankings. (2014). Physical inactivity in Michigan | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2014/measure/factors/70/data>

tive environments, including the following actions.

- “Develop walkable communities by widening and maintaining or building sidewalks, safe roadway crossings, and aesthetically pleasing areas.”
- “Encourage bicycling by developing, maintaining, and promoting the use of bike paths.”
- “Require [that] all urban planning and re-design incorporate the concepts of active community environments and thereby promote physical activity.”





*Center Lake Bridge*

*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

## Chapter 2

# **Administrative Structure**

Leoni Township Recreation Plan

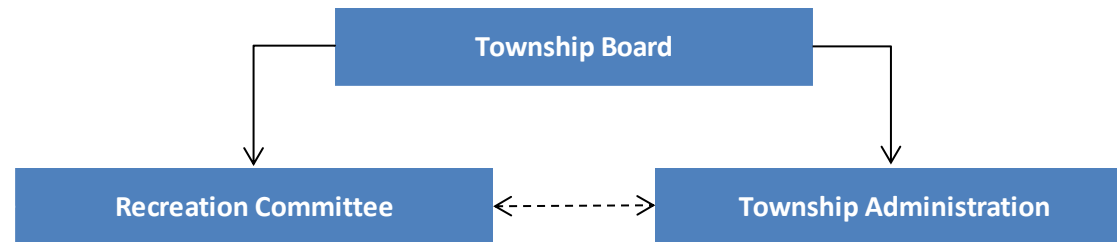
## Authorization

The authority to provide public park systems and recreation programs is granted by the State of Michigan. Leoni Township's park system is established under the authority of Public Act 156 of 1917, *Recreation and Playgrounds (MCL 125.51 et seq)*. The act allowed for the creation of the Recreation Committee under the control of the Leoni Township Board.

## Organizational Structure

The Recreation Committee is responsible for the initial planning of Leoni Township parks and recreation facilities and making recommendations to the Township Board. The Leoni Township Board of Trustees is responsible for constructing, maintaining, and administering any parks and recreation facilities developed during the 5-year planning period of this document. The Township's administration is responsible for the coordination of any recreation programming taking place in Township facilities. The Committee is also charged with studying and making recommendations on various recreation needs, advising the Township Board on recreation issues and making appropriate budget requests (see the organizational chart).

**Leoni Township Organizational Chart**



The following members comprise the Recreation Committee:

- 2 members of the Township Board appointed by the Board
- 3 Leoni Township residents appointed by the Board (1 from each school district is possible)

Any parks and recreation facilities developed by the Township will be administered in conjunction with its cemetery program. The Township Supervisor (or his/her designee) reports to the Leoni Township Board. The Township employs 3 people in its Department of Public Works which is

involved in parks and recreation maintenance. The Township will also utilize individual volunteers and service groups to develop and maintain parks and volunteer to help with park cleanup.

## **Parks and Recreation Budgeting**

Leoni Township spent an average of \$21,672.30 maintaining its parks over 4 of the past 5 fiscal years (July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>). Those expenses were as low as \$4,698.25 in 2014 and as high as \$36,675.13 in 2011. Budgeting for the foreseeable future are likely to follow the same pattern.

## **Sources of Funding**

Leoni Township will utilize a variety of funding sources to maintain its parks and recreation facilities and programs:

- general tax fund dollars
- rental income from “the farmhouse”
- grants and donations awarded for specific projects

General fund tax dollars will be used by Leoni Township for the maintenance of any parks and recreation facilities, including the cost of producing this Plan. Grants will be sought from various state, federal, and philanthropic sources for the acquisition of any parkland and the development of a specific park or facility (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.). Donations from the general public and various service organizations for a specific park or facility will also be accepted. A portion of the local match required of most grants may also come from the general fund or donations. Many grants for parks and recreational facilities are likely to come from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund<sup>1</sup> Grants for trails (e.g., non-motorized transportation) are likely to come from the Michigan Department of Transportation through the Transportation Assistance Program.<sup>2</sup>

The Michigan Transportation Fund Act (Act 51) states that “a reasonable amount, but not less than 1% of” funds allocated to the state or a county, city, or village “shall be expended for construction or improvement of non-motorized transportation services and facilities.” That set-aside can be used to fund “an improvement in a road, street, or highway which facilitates non-motorized transportation . . . or improvement of a sidewalk or any other appropriate measure.” The Michigan Department of Transportation and the Jackson County Department of Transportation receive funding through Act 51. Coordination with those entities could result in the expenditure of Act 51 funds on non-motorized projects proposed within this document.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## Relationships with Other Recreation Providers

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

### Schools

Local school districts are significant suppliers of parks and recreational opportunities to their students and boosters as well as the general public. The service areas of the following school districts extend into Leoni Township:

- Michigan Center School District
- East Jackson Community Schools
- Grass Lake Community Schools

The Michigan Center School District and East Jackson Community Schools maintain recreation facilities within Leoni Township. However, all recreation facilities maintained by Grass Lake Community Schools are located in or around the Village of Grass Lake. All 3 districts are part of the Jackson County Intermediate School District (ISD) which provides educational services to residents and local school districts, including some recreation facilities (see the School District map).

### Local, County, State Government and Private Providers

The City of Jackson and some of the townships surrounding Leoni Township also maintain parks, trails, and recreation programs. Leoni Township intends to participate with the other local governments within Jackson County in the planning for and provision of recreation facilities, including the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study 2002 (see the Trail Network Map). The State of Michigan maintains a state recreation area which extends through Leoni Township. Jackson County maintains a county park within the Township. A variety of private entrepreneurs and quasi-public agencies also provide recreation facilities and programs in and around the Township. Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of recreation facilities in Leoni Township.



*(Source: Grant Bauman)*



*Leoni Community Park*

*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

### Chapter 3

## **Recreation and Resource Inventories**

Leoni Township Recreation Plan

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, recreation facilities, and programs available in the Michigan Center Area or the rest of Leoni Township, not just those owned and managed by Leoni Township. The parks, facilities, and programs were identified through local knowledge and review of current and historic documents and maps.

## Township Parks

Township parks are the primary source of recreation for many residents. Leoni Township's park system is comprised of 7 parks encompassing 123.8 acres of parkland and 2 trails traversing 2.58 miles (please see the following tables and maps). The system includes 2 community parks, a baseball field, the Township's office, and several undeveloped properties. The two roadside trails are along Ann Arbor Road, west of the Sergeant Road Interchange with I-94, and Page Avenue as it traverses Michigan Center.

### TOWNSHIP PARKS AND TRAILS

MAP KEY	NAME OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	FACILITY TYPE	AREA (ACRES)	SERVICE AREA	FACILITIES	BFA
A	LEONI TOWNSHIP HALL	LEONI TOWNSHIP	TOWNSHIP OFFICE	6.5	LEONI TOWNSHIP	GOVERNMENT OFFICES	2
B	PETER ALEC BALL PARK	LEONI TOWNSHIP	BASEBALL FIELD	1.6	LEONI TOWNSHIP	BASEBALL FIELD	2
C	LEONI COMMUNITY PARK	LEONI TOWNSHIP	COMMUNITY PARK	4.3	LEONI TOWNSHIP	PAVILIONS (3), PLAYGROUND, REST ROOM, BOAT LAUNCH, PARKING, DOCK, WETLANDS, TRAILS	2
D	BENDER PARK	LEONI TOWNSHIP	COMMUNITY PARK	5.3	LEONI TOWNSHIP	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, PAVED WALKING PATH, PAVILION, BENCHES	2
E	MILL POND	LEONI TOWNSHIP	UNDEVELOPED	3.8	LEONI TOWNSHIP	PARKING AREA	N/A
F	ANN ARBOR ROAD PROPERTY	LEONI TOWNSHIP	UNDEVELOPED	3.7	LEONI TOWNSHIP	GARAGE	N/A
G	LEONI WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY	LEONI TOWNSHIP	UNDEVELOPED	98.6	LEONI TOWNSHIP	AVAILABLE VACANT LAND	N/A
1	ANN ARBOR ROAD TRAIL	LEONI TOWNSHIP	ROADSIDE TRAIL	0.68	LEONI TOWNSHIP		5
2	PAGE AVENUE TRAIL	LEONI TOWNSHIP	ROADSIDE TRAIL	1.89	LEONI TOWNSHIP		4

### Barrier-Free Access

It is important that the parks and recreation facilities operated by Jackson County and the City of Jackson be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, it is estimated that 14.6% of County residents had some type of disability between 2008 and 2012 according to the American Community Survey (ACS) and 7.9% had an ambulatory difficulty. Accordingly, all of the parks and trails provided by the Township were also rated according to their level of barrier free access.<sup>1</sup> The number listed under the BFA column in the tables listing those parks equate to the barrier-free rating listed below:

#### 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 USING THE PRINCIPAL OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

### Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has awarded 1 recreation grant to Leoni Township.

#### RECREATION GRANT HISTORY

PARK NAME	PROJECT NUMBER	YEAR	USAGE
BENDER PARK	CM00-219	2000	THE PLAY EQUIPMENT, PAVILION AND OTHER PICNICKING FACILITIES, BIKE PATH, AND LIGHTS ARE STILL USED

### Park Standards and Types

A park and recreation plan should also recognize and use appropriate park standards. The recommendation of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NPRA) is a minimum of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons. Therefore, Leoni Township should have 138.1 acres of parkland in order to meet the needs of the population in 2020. The 123.8 acres of parks and recreational facilities provided by the Township come close to meeting that standard, but much of that parkland remains undeveloped (i.e., 106.8 acres). However, the additional 3,740.1 acres of parks and

<sup>1</sup> The analysis of barrier free access was provided by Leoni township, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

recreation facilities provided by schools, other governments, quasi-public agencies, and private businesses far exceed that standard. According to the NRPA, school facilities generally function as community parks.

## Local Schools

Leoni Township students are served by 3 school districts. However, only the Michigan Center School District and East Jackson Community Schools have facilities located in the Township. Schools provide a variety of recreational facilities. 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.

### SCHOOLS

MAP KEY	NAME OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	FACILITY TYPE	AREA (ACRES)	SERVICE AREA	FACILITIES
H	MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY	EAST JACKSON	SCHOOL	35.5	EAST JACKSON	
I	BERTHA ROBINSON ELEMENTARY	EAST JACKSON	SCHOOL	30.9	EAST JACKSON	
J	EAST JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL	EAST JACKSON	SCHOOL	29.3	EAST JACKSON	
K	EAST JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL	EAST JACKSON	SCHOOL	46.3	EAST JACKSON	
L	KEICHER ELEMENTARY	MICHIGAN CENTER	SCHOOL	7.1	MICHIGAN CENTER	
M	ARNOLD ELEMENTARY	MICHIGAN CENTER	SCHOOL	8.4	MICHIGAN CENTER	
N	MICHIGAN CENTER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	MICHIGAN CENTER	SCHOOL	39.6	MICHIGAN CENTER	
O	CLEMENT SCHOOL	MICHIGAN CENTER	SCHOOL	6.5	MICHIGAN CENTER	
P	7TH STREET BALLFIELDS	MICHIGAN CENTER	RECREATION FACILITY	6.0	MICHIGAN CENTER	BASEBALL FIELDS
Q	OUR LADY OF FATIMA	PRIVATE SCHOOL	SCHOOL	12.4	N/A	BASEBALL FIELDS



A private school operated by Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church is also located in Leoni Township. Grass Lake Community Schools provide the Little Warriors Pre-School and Daycare, George Long Elementary School, Grass Lake Middle School, and Grass Lake High School in or around the nearby Village of Grass Lake.

## Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

A variety of other public agencies and private entrepreneurs also provide recreational opportunities to Township residents.

### Jackson County

Jackson County's park system is comprised of 17 parks, most of which are adjacent to water —providing opportunities for swimming, boating, and/or fishing— making them community facilities. Gillet's Lake County Park is located in Leoni Township, north of Michigan Center. Clear Lake, Grass Lake, Little Wolf Lake, and Vandercook Lake County Parks are other community facilities located in nearby townships. Pleasant Lake, Sparks Foundation (i.e., the Cascades), Swains Lake, and Burns County Parks are regional facilities available to Township residents. The Falling Waters Trail is also accessible to Township residents.

#### JACKSON COUNTY

MAP KEY	NAME OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	FACILITY TYPE	AREA (ACRES)	SERVICE AREA	FACILITIES
R	GILLET'S LAKE COUNTY PARK	JACKSON COUNTY	COMMUNITY PARK	5.5	JACKSON COUNTY	SWIMMING AREA, SHELTER AND PICNIC AREA, PLAYGROUND, SOFTBALL DIAMOND, AND TOILETS

### City of Jackson

The City of Jackson's park system is comprised of 27 parks. The Martin Luther King Center, Loomis Park, and William Nixon Memorial Park are nearby community facilities. Ella Sharp Park is a regional facility as is the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Equity Trail (i.e., formerly the Intercity Trail).

### State Parks

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a significant provider of regional parks and recreation facilities, several of which extend into Leoni Township and Jackson County.

The Waterloo Recreation Area provides opportunities for cross-county skiing, snowmobiling, boating, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, horseback riding, picnicking, playing (i.e., playgrounds), and camping. The Waterloo Game Unit (part of the Waterloo Recreation Area) provides opportunities for hunting. The DNR also maintains boat launches on Center Lake and Gillet's Lake in Leoni Township.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

MAP KEY	NAME OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	FACILITY TYPE	AREA (ACRES)	SERVICE AREA	FACILITIES
S	PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCHES	STATE OF MICHIGAN-DNR	BOAT LAUNCH	1.5 2.6	REGIONAL	CENTER LAKE BOAT LAUNCH GILLETS LAKE BOAT LAUNCH
T	WATERLOO RECREATION AREA (PORTION)	STATE OF MICHIGAN-DNR	STATE PARK	1,903.9	REGIONAL	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, HIKING, SNOWMOBILING, WATCHABLE WILDLIFE, BOAT LAUNCH, FISHING, HUNTING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, SWIMMING

The Walter J Hayes State Park provides opportunities for boating, fishing, picnicking, metal detecting, swimming, and camping as well as playgrounds. The Sharonville and Grass Lake Unit State Game Areas provide other opportunities for hunting. The DNR also maintains 6 other boat launches in Jackson County, including Portage Lake in Waterloo Township.

**Private and Quasi-Public Parks and Recreation Facilities**

A number of private and quasi-public institutions also provide recreation facilities.

**Wildlife Preserve**

Adjacent to the Waterloo Recreation Area is the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Audubon Sanctuary, which is located almost entirely in Leoni Township. Known for its Sandhill Cranes, the wildlife preserve also provides opportunities to observe other animals such as deer, squirrels, and birds from its hiking trails. Other preserves, including the Dahlem Center, the MacCready Reserve, and the Kate Palmer Sanctuary are located nearby in Jackson County.

**WILDLIFE PRESERVE**

MAP KEY	NAME OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	FACILITY TYPE	AREA (ACRES)	SERVICE AREA	FACILITIES
U	PHYLLIS HAEHNLE MEMORIAL AUDOBON SANCTUARY (PORTION)	MICHIGAN AUDOBON SOCIETY	WILDLIFE PRESERVE	968.5	REGIONAL	

## Recreation and Sport Centers

American Legion Post (Richard F. Smith) 29 operates 3 baseball facilities in the Jackson Urbanized Area, including the field in Michigan Center off of Falahee Road. Suburban lanes, a bowling alley, and Extra Innings Jackson, an indoor baseball and softball training center are also located in Leoni Township off of Ann Arbor Road.

### RECREATION AND SPORTS CENTERS

MAP KEY	NAME OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	FACILITY TYPE	AREA (ACRES)	SERVICE AREA	FACILITIES
V	AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL FIELD	AMERICAN LEGION	BASEBALL FIELD	9.9	REGIONAL	1 BASEBALL FIELD
W	SUBURBAN LANES	PRIVATE	BOWLING ALLEY	0.5	REGIONAL	12 LANES, RESAURANT AND BAR, PRO SHOP, AND BANQUET FACILITY
X	EXTRA INNINGS JACKSON	PRIVATE	TRAINING FACILITY	3.2	REGIONAL	14,000 SQUARE FOOT INDOOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TRAINING FACILITY WITH 6 PRACTICE TUNNELS, TRAINING ROOM, PARTY AREA AND PRO SHOP



Center Lake Boat Launch

(Source: Grant Bauman)

Other recreation and sports facilities are located in the Jackson Urbanized Area. For example, the other American Legion baseball facilities are located in the City of Jackson and Blackman Township. Airport Lanes, another bowling alley, is located in Blackman Township. The YMCA of Jackson provides a variety of sports and recreational activities and the Optimist Ice Arena, also located in Jackson, provides a venue for hockey and skating. Finally, the Rando Activity Center in Blackman Township specializes in basketball leagues and tournaments and contains a fitness center.

### Golf Courses

Leoni Township hosts 2 public golf courses. Jackson County is home to 13 other courses. A variety of private courses are located in Jackson County. Most of those courses are open to the general public.

**GOLF COURSES**

MAP KEY	NAME OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	FACILITY TYPE	AREA (ACRES)	SERVICE AREA	FACILITIES
Y	PINE HOLLOW GOLF COURSE	PRIVATE	GOLF COURSE	169.9	REGIONAL	18-HOLE GOLF COURSE, CLUBHOUSE AND PARKING AREA
Z	LAKELAND HILLS GOLF COURSE	PRIVATE	GOLF COURSE	107.2	REGIONAL	18-HOLE GOLF COURSE, CLUBHOUSE, AND PARKING AREA

**Camps and Campgrounds**

A variety of private campgrounds throughout Leoni Township also provide individual campsites to patrons.

**CAMPGROUNDS**

MAP KEY	NAME OF FACILITY	OWNERSHIP	FACILITY TYPE	AREA (ACRES)	SERVICE AREA	FACILITIES
AA	HIDEAWAY CAMPGROUND	PRIVATE	CAMPGROUND	55.4	REGIONAL	
BB	THE OAKS CAMPGROUND	PRIVATE	CAMPGROUND	37.8	REGIONAL	
CC	SHERWOOD FOREST CAMPGROUND	PRIVATE	CAMPGROUND	70.5	REGIONAL	
DD	GREENWOOD ACRES CAMPGROUND	PRIVATE	CAMPGROUND	183.5	REGIONAL	

**Other Recreation Facilities**

Michigan International Speedway is the most conspicuous of the private recreation facilities located in Jackson County. However, a wide variety of privately provided recreational opportunities are available to their members and/or the general public including nature preserves, gun and sportsmen's clubs, and other clubs.

## Trails & Trail Planning & Programming

Networks of trails and “blueways” (i.e., water trails) are continuing to develop throughout Leoni Township and Jackson County, sometimes connecting with other nearby systems (see the Trails map). For example, Leoni Township is partnering with other municipalities, governmental agencies, the Fitness Council of Jackson, and other non-profit advocacy groups on the developing network of trails throughout Leoni Township. The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) has also developed a series of water trails within the Grand River and sponsors various “paddles” (i.e., canoe and kayak events) throughout Leoni Township and Jackson County each year (please see Appendix C for more detail).

## Public and Private Facilities with Recreational Benefits

Various other facilities provided publicly and privately also have recreational benefits:

- **Jackson District Library (JDL)** — The Eastern Branch of the JDL is located in Leoni township on Michigan Avenue, east of Dettman Road, provide access to books and other items of entertainment (e.g., audio books, CDs, DVDs, etc); the JDL operates 12 other library branches including the (main) Carnegie Branch in Downtown Jackson
- **Airports** — Airports provide opportunities for recreational activities as well as transportation. For example, Reynolds Field (Jackson County Airport) provides opportunities for recreational flying; Napoleon Airport provides opportunities for flying and parachuting
- **Sidewalks** — Some of Leoni Township’s streets have sidewalks; those facilities are used for exercise as well as transportation and may even connect with non-motorized trails



*The Cheese Castle*

*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

- **Shopping and Eating** — Many people enjoy shopping and going out to eat. Consequently, Downtown Michigan Center and downtowns of Brooklyn, Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Jackson, Napoleon, Parma, and Spring Arbor are recreation destinations because of their restaurants and/or shops. The proximity of those downtown areas to each other —as well as the various shops and restaurants scattered throughout the rest of Jackson County— increase the opportunities for this type of activity.
- **Local Colleges**
  - There are several colleges which maintain campuses in Jackson County. Baker College’s local campus is located in Blackman Township, north of the Jackson County Airport. Jackson College’s main campus is located in Summit Township. Finally, Spring Arbor University’s main campus is located in the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor.
  - 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.”<sup>2</sup> The Ganton Gallery (Spring Arbor University) “is one of the largest, single-room galleries in Michigan.”<sup>3</sup>

## Recreation Events and Programs

A wide variety of recreation programs are available to Township residents. However, it must 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.

Program Name	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Program Sponsors	Participants
Summer Reading Program		X			Jackson District Library	70
Annual Draw Down	X				Michigan Center Lions Club	350
Easter Egg Hunt	X				Little Leos - Lions Club	150
Football			X		Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	100
Basketball			X	X	Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	150
Volleyball				X	Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	60

(continued)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.jccmi.edu/events/pottercenter/theatres.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.arbor.edu/edu\\_detail.aspx?id=37930](http://www.arbor.edu/edu_detail.aspx?id=37930)

Program Name	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Program Sponsors	Participants
Cheerleading			X	X	Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	200
Track and Field	X				Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	120
Softball (Girls)	X				Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	350
Baseball (Boys)	X				Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	350
Golf	X				Michigan Center Schools	40
Wrestling				X	East Jackson Schools	25
Annual Halloween Party			X		Leoni Township Fire Dept. and Michigan Center Rotary Club	200
Annual Carp Carnival		X			Michigan Center Lions Club	8,000
Bingo and Euchre	X	X	X	X	Michigan Center Senior Citizens Club	100
Boy Scouts	X	X	X	X	Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	30
Girl Scouts	X	X	X	X	Michigan Center and East Jackson Schools	45
Chicken BBQ Fundraisers		X	X		Michigan Center Lions Clubs	1,000
Gem and Mineral Show	X				Gem and Mineral Society	300
Santa's Workshop				X	Michigan Center Lions Club	225
Annual Car Show		X			Leoni Township	200

## Resource Inventory

In addition to recreation facilities, Jackson County and the City of Jackson are also home to a wide variety of cultural and natural resources.

### Topography

“Topography in the area of Jackson County” (according to the 2000-2025 edition of the [Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan](#)) “can be described as gently rolling, moderately hilly morainal uplands”. There is a 192 foot difference in the low and high elevations in Leoni Township (see the Topography Map). Low elevations of 904 feet above sea level are located on the northern border of the Township in the vicinity of the Portage River Drain. The high elevation of 1,096 feet is located in the vicinity of I-94 and Race Road (i.e., Exit 147) near the eastern border of the Township.



## Water Resources

The Upper Grand River Watershed covers all of Leoni Township. However, various sub-watersheds cover various portions of the municipality (see the Watersheds Map). For example, sub-watersheds associated with the Portage River are located in the northern half of Leoni Township. The majority of Michigan Center is located in the Center Lake Sub-Watershed.

In addition to the Grand and Portage Rivers, Leoni Township is blessed by many lakes and wetlands (see the Hydrology Maps). For example, large lakes such as Center, Gilletts, Brills, and Goose are located in the Township. Wetlands exist throughout Lenawee County.

## Transportation

Leoni Township and Michigan Center share a well-connected transportation system. Interstate 94 (I-94) traverses the Township from east-to-west, providing access to the major metropolitan areas of Chicago and Detroit. United States Highway 127 (US-127) runs along the western edge of the Township. It provides access to the Lansing area and other points north as well as Adrian and Toledo to the south. A wide variety of county primary roads provide access to those major roadways. For example, Page Avenue provides access to Michigan Center.

## Soils

The types of soils found in Jackson County are important to its development. For example, the 2000-2025 edition of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan identifies lands suitable for agricultural preservation as well as the establishment of greenways (please see Map 3-6). That plan contains a map of 'Agricultural Preservation Areas' which identifies parcels of land eighty (80) acres or more in size with soils classified as prime or unique for agricultural production by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The location of active agricultural land, the location of agricultural and open space areas on township future land use plans, and existing proposed sewer service areas also impacted the designation of those areas. The 'Jackson County Greenways Plan' map contained in the document identifies a possible network of greenways which "generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands" (see the Farmland & Greenways Map).

## Land Use

The latest Leoni Township Future Land Use Plan map was published in the 2030 edition of the Leoni Township Master Plan (see the Future Land Use Map). It recognizes Michigan's Waterloo Recreation Area, the Audubon Society's Phyllis Haehnle Wildlife Sanctuary, and several agricultural preservation areas recommended in the 2000-2025 edition of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan. Other significant parks and recreation facilities are also recognized on the map.



(Source: Grant Bauman)





*Leoni Community Park*

*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

#### Chapter 4

## **Descriptions of the Planning and Public Input Processes**

Leoni Township Recreation Plan

## Description of the Planning Process

The development of the first edition of the *Leoni Township Recreation Plan* included the following steps:

- Leoni Township recognized the need to update the Recreation Plan
- The Recreation Committee was formed
- The Township contracted with Region 2 Planning Commission staff to assist the Recreation Committee in the development of the 2016-2020 edition of the Recreation Plan
- The Recreation Committee conducted a survey of Leoni Township Area residents, business owners, and park and recreation consumers
- Region 2 staff created the community description; administrative structure; recreation and resource inventories; and descriptions of the planning and public input processes chapters of the Plan, including mapping, and reported the findings to the Recreation Committee
- The Recreation 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 chapters of the Plan
- The Recreation Committee provided the Plan for public review from December 27, 2015 through January 28, 2016
- The Recreation Committee held a public hearing on January 28, 2016, approving the Plan and recommended adoption by the Township Board
- The Township Board adopted the Recreation Plan on February 9, 2016

## Description of the Public Input Process

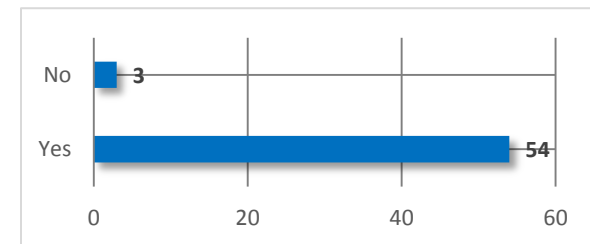
A variety of methods were employed to incorporate public input into the development of this Recreation Plan:

### Recreation Survey

An online survey was conducted September 27, 2015 through October 31, 2015, supplemented by paper surveys. The 57 responses can be summarized as follows:

- **Are you a Leoni Township resident?**

Almost all respondents (94.7%) were Leoni Township residents (n=57). Only 5.3% of respondents lived somewhere else.



- **Will additional/improved parking improve the usage of Township park and recreation facilities?**

The clear majority of respondents (63.5%) felt that better parking would improve the usage of parks and recreation facilities operated by Leoni Township (n=52). Only 36.5% of respondents stated no. The following facilities were identified as needing better parking:

---

Boat launch

---

Not sure if they "improve" usage but additional work in the area may enhance the park

---

The boat launch and between the side walk and road from the township building to the light at Napoleon rd. Very dangerous..

---

Round Lake

---

Paved parking would be great. I don't think we need more parking. Just better conditions.

---

Bathrooms . need to be open to the public.

---

[Y]es a paved boat [-] car parking would be a great asset.

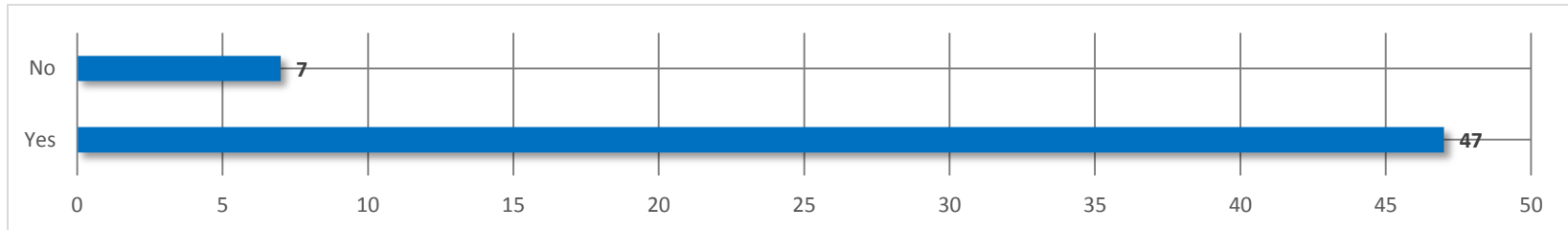
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Center lake boat launch

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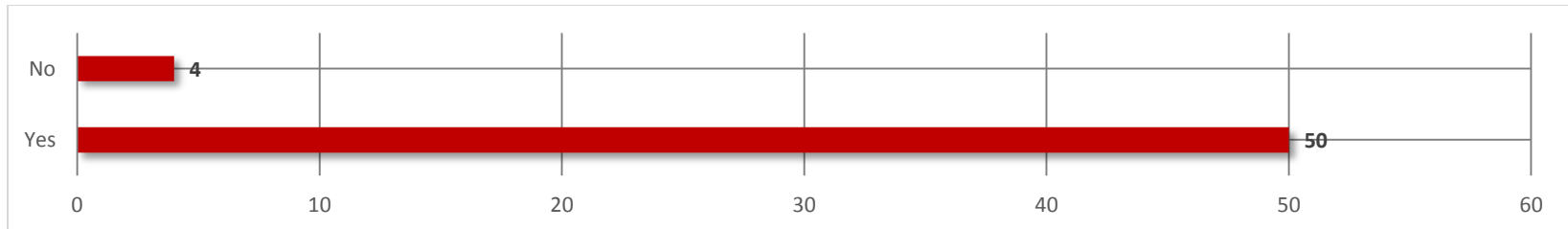
- **Non-motorized trails.**

Most respondents (87.0%) were in favor of non-motorized pathways (n=54). Only 13.0% were against trails.



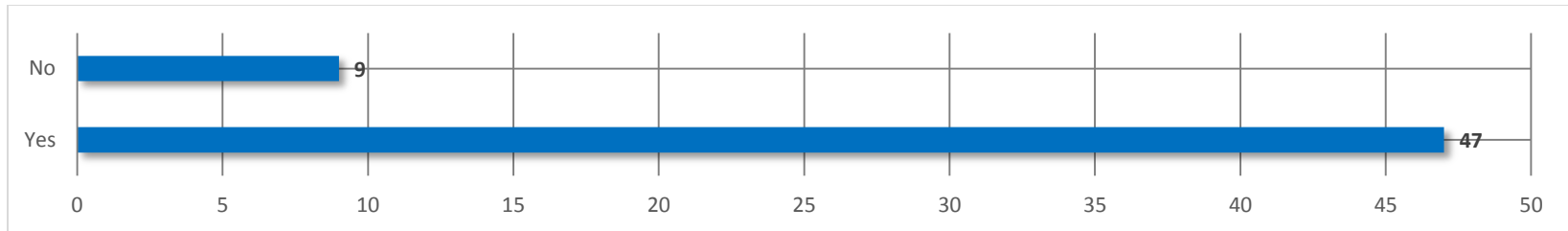
- **Water trail (i.e., kayaking/canoeing) on the Grand River**

Almost all respondents (92.6%) were in favor of water trails (n=54). Only 7.4% were against 'blueways'.



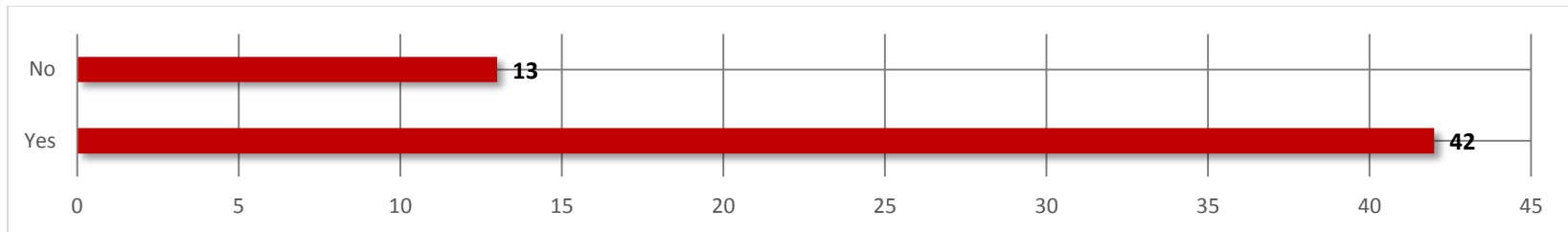
- **Kayak/canoe livery/launch**

Most respondents (83.9%) were in favor of a livery or launch for canoes and kayaks (n=56). Only 16.1% were against.



- **Other recreation facilities (e.g., playground equipment, soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, disc (Frisbee) golf, etc.)**

Most respondents (76.4%) were in favor of other recreation facilities (n=55). A significant 23.6% were against.



The following facilities were identified:

---

All that is mentioned.

---

Basketball

---

Any of the above would help enhance our community

---

Playground equipment, basketball courts, picnic facilities,

---

The Clement baseball/ softball fields.

---

Basketball courts batting cages

---

Any ball fields for families would be great!

---

Basketball and Tennis court

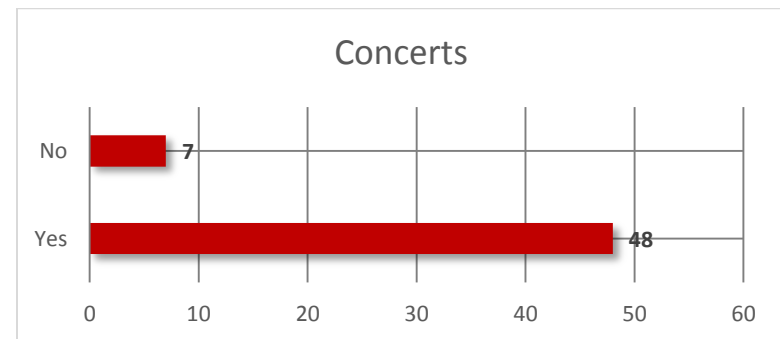
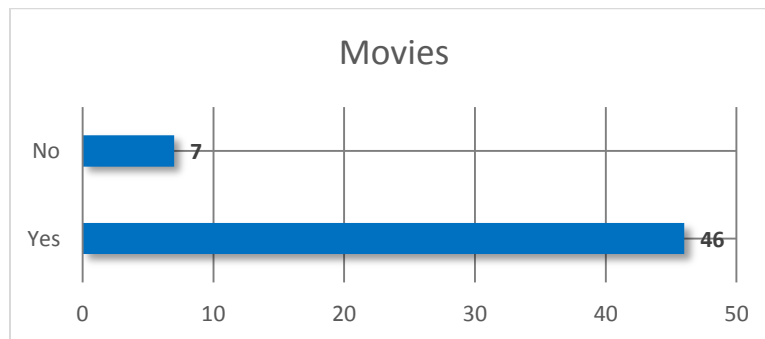
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(continued)

Soccer.
Basketball courts at the township park would be nice to separate the big kids and adults from the little kids that use the school courts currently.
[Splash pad]/water park facility
Having a great park promotes family time that doesn't cost them lots of money.
Baseball/softball fields, at least for the use of the school's youth leagues.
Basketball, more picnic tables
Playground equipment, baseball/softball field
Playground equipment is needed / possible baseball [field]
Softball field at township hall
Soccer, softball, basketball, playground equipment
Playground, disc golf, walking trails, tennis court
Let's clean up our business area and bring in some business. The sidewalks have grass growing thru them. The park is the only thing that looks good. We need more good!!!an
Tennis courts, bike path
Tennis courts and Frisbee golf
All that is mentioned.

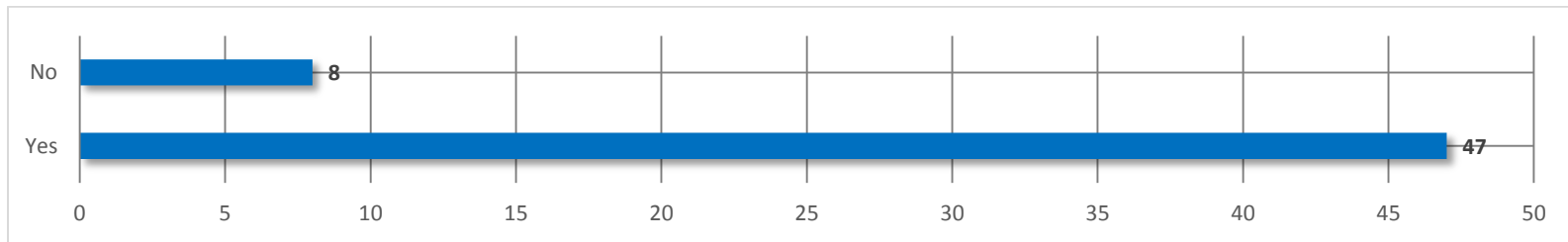
- Movies and Concerts**

Most respondents (86.8%) were in favor of movies in the park (n=53). Most (87.3%) were in favor of concerts (n=55).



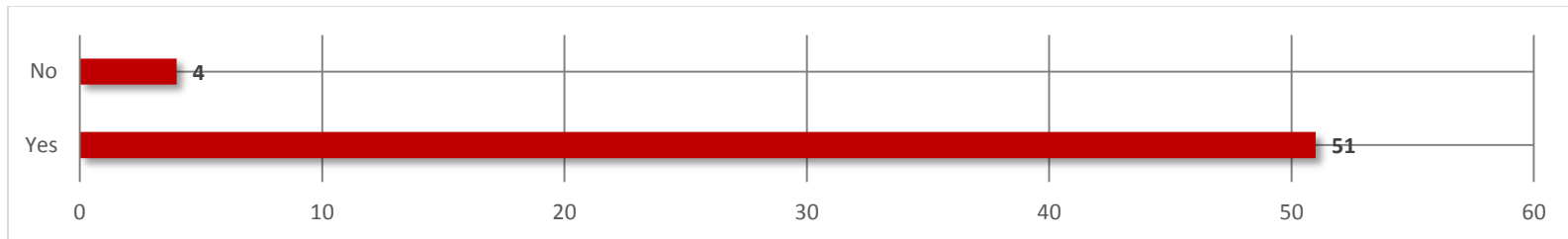
- **Car/boat shows**

Most respondents (85.5%) were in favor of car and boat shows (n=56). Only 14.5% were against.



- **Street fairs/community parties**

Almost all respondents (92.7%) were in favor of street fairs and community parties (n=55). Only 7.3% were against.



### **Leoni Millpond**

The Township has been informed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) that the Leoni Millpond, located east of Portage Road on Michigan Avenue (Sec. 1, T3S,R1E), must be removed or replaced. Grass Lake Township would also like the millpond to be a trail head for a trail extending westward from that facility to the Grass Lake Community Sports and Trails Park, paralleling Michigan Avenue and the adjacent railroad. Together, those proposals provide an opportunity for a new park featuring the millpond and surrounding area.

### **Recreation Committee Meetings**

All meetings of the Recreation Committee are open to the public.

**One Month Review Period**

The Recreation Plan was submitted for public comment beginning on December 27, 2015 and ending on January 28, 2016. The plan was available for review in the Township offices as well as online at [www.leonitownship.com](http://www.leonitownship.com). No comments were submitted to the Recreation Committee.

**Public Hearing**

A public hearing on the *Leoni Township Recreation Plan* was held on January 28, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the Township Hall, during a meeting of the Recreation Committee. The hearing took place prior to the vote on the resolution recommending adoption of the Plan by the Township Board. No comments were made during the public hearing.

**Jackson County and the Region 2 Planning Commission**

The Township must provide a copy of the Recreation Plan to the Jackson County Parks Department and the Region 2 Planning Commission. The Plan was transmitted to them on January 27, 2016.

**Other Trail Planning Efforts**

Several local, state, and national trail planning efforts also impact the Michigan Center/Leoni Township Area.

- Jackson County Regional Trailway Study
- Iron Belle Trail
- Route #1 of the Great Lake to Lake Trails

Summaries of those efforts are located in Appendix C.









*Leoni Community Park*

*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

## Chapter 5

# Goals & Action Program

Leoni Township Recreation Plan

## Goals and Objectives

The following goals (i.e., strategies) and objectives (i.e., tactics) were developed for the recreation plan:

**#1**

### **Promote the Michigan Center Waterfront**

- Build a community Farmers Market Pavilion at Leoni Township Community Park
- Improve the community boat launch at Leoni Township Community Park, including facilities for canoes and kayaks
- Establish a safer Leoni Township Community Park through lighting
- Create more handicapped accessibility in Leoni Township Community Park, including the playground
- Acquire land to enlarge Leoni Township Community Park
- Establish a community-wide festival

**#2**

### **Provide a system of trails and paths to connect parks, schools, the township office, and other recreation facilities**

- Plan for a system of shared-use paths, boardwalk nature trails, etc. that connect parks, schools, and the township office
- Tie in with the developing countywide trail system to eventually form a loop into the City of Jackson
- Cooperate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the development of the Lakeland Trail State Park extension

**#3**

### **Fully utilize available public and private resources to reduce costs and maximize public convenience**

- Improve the promotion of recreation services to immediate and surrounding communities
- Continue to improve the use of volunteers in the planning, operation, and maintenance of parks and in recreation programming
- Improve cooperation and coordination with other providers of recreation in the community
- Include recreation opportunities in the Leoni Mill Pond dam removal project

Input into developing the goals and objectives listed above included:

- existing recreation facilities available to Township residents, regardless of the provider
- the health, age, and disabilities of Township residents
- responses from the survey and the other opportunities for public comment

### **Promote the Michigan Center Waterfront**

Michigan Center's waterfront is one of the Township's prime assets. The Leoni Township Community Park serves as the centerpiece of the waterfront and is the Township's premier recreation facility. Water trails were supported by 92.6% of survey respondents and 83.9% were in favor of a livery or launch site for canoes and kayaks.

It is estimated by the American Community Survey (ACS) that 16.9% of township residents have some type of disability. The ACS also estimates that 26.9% of residents at least 65 years of age, and 0.9% of children 5 through 17 years of age, respectively, have an ambulatory difficulty. Recreation facilities, including playgrounds, were supported by 76.4% of survey respondents.

Street fairs and community fairs were supported by 92.7% of survey respondents. More specifically, 85.5% were in favor of car and boat shows. Hosting concerts and movies in Leoni Township Community Park are popular with 87.3% and 86.8% of survey respondents, respectively.

### **Provide a system of trails and paths to connect parks, schools, the township office, and other recreation facilities**

The Lakeland Trail State Park is proposed for extension into Jackson County from Stockbridge. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been clearing the old railroad right-of-way in Jackson County and has received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to construct the extension. Non-motorized trails were supported by 87.0% of survey respondents. There have been discussions with Grass Lake Township officials regarding the development of a trail connecting a new park at the Leoni Mill Pond and the Grass Lake Township Sports and Trails Park.

### **Fully utilize available public and private resources to reduce costs and maximize public convenience**

Intergovernmental cooperation is a goal of Governor Snyder and cooperation with the private sector is also desirable. As documented above, there have been discussions with Grass Lake Township officials regarding the development of a trail connecting a new park at the Leoni Mill Pond and the Grass Lake Township Sports and Trails Park (emphasis added). This pathway and other existing/planned trails for the Township can be used to create a loop connecting the township to the City of Jackson.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is requiring the removal of the dam at the Leoni Mill Pond. This obligation provides an opportunity to create a small park that will act as a trailhead for the proposed trail to the Grass Lake Township Sports and Trails Park. In addition, it will provide a venue for the other recreation facilities that 76.4% of survey respondents indicated they wanted.

## Action Program

The following projects are proposed for the current 5-year planning period. Please note that the projects are not prioritized, but simply organized by use (i.e., activity).

- 
1. Leoni Township Community Park boat launch improvements, including canoes and kayaks
  2. Develop a shared-use path linking the Leoni Mill Pond with the Grass Lake Township Sports and Trails Park (joint project with Grass Lake Township)
  3. Develop a park as part of the removal of the Leoni Mill Pond dam
- 

### **Leoni Township Community Park boat launch improvements**

“Improve the community boat launch at Leoni Township Community Park, including facilities for canoes and kayaks” is a tactic of the strategy: “Promote the Michigan Center Waterfront”.

### **Develop a shared-use path linking the Leoni Mill Pond with the Grass Lake Township Sports and Trails Park (joint project with Grass Lake Township)**

“Improve cooperation and coordination with other providers of recreation in the community” is a tactic of the strategy: “Fully utilize available public and private resources to reduce costs and maximize public convenience”. Furthermore, “plan for a system of shared-use paths, boardwalk nature trails, etc. that connect parks, schools, and the township office” and “tie in with the developing countywide trail system to eventually form a loop into the City of Jackson” are tactics of the strategy: “Provide a system of trails and paths to connect parks, schools, the township office, and other recreation facilities”.

### **Develop a park as part of the removal of the Leoni Mill Pond dam**

“Include recreation opportunities in the Leoni Mill Pond dam removal project” is a tactic of the strategy: “fully utilize available public and private resources to reduce costs and maximize public convenience”.



*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

Appendix A

## **Demographics**

Leoni Township Recreation Plan

## Demographic Composition & Recreation

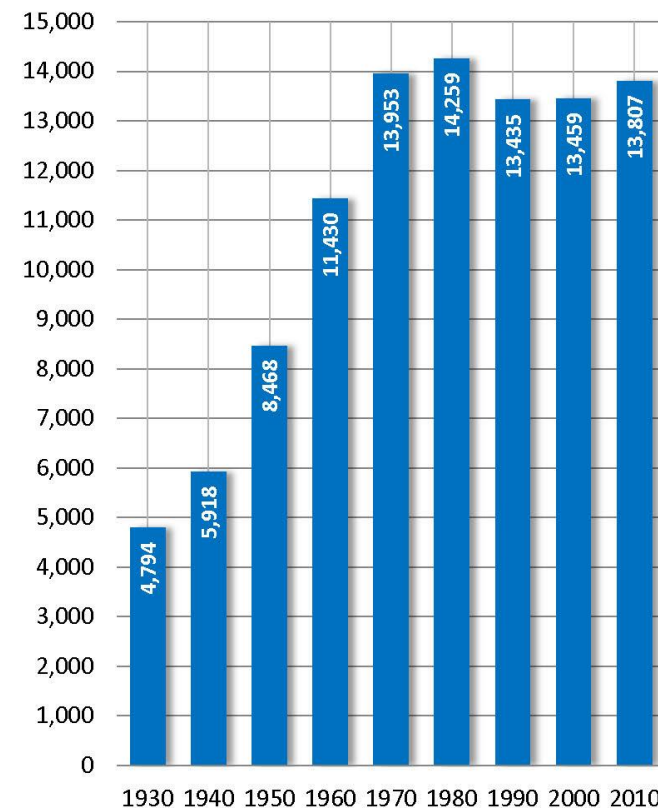
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The demographic composition of Township residents has an effect upon their recreational needs. For example:

- **Population History & Projections** — establish the need for general recreational facilities (standards for which are based upon the size of the population)
- **The Age & Gender of the Population** — further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among various age groups and gender interests
- **Household & Family Composition** — further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced between family-oriented and individual activities
- **Racial & Ethnic Composition** — further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among the various interests of racial and ethnic groups
- **The Disabilities of Residents** — establish the need for special recreation facilities and disability accommodations to general recreation facilities
- **Income** — helps to illustrate the need for publicly-funded recreational facilities

## Population History

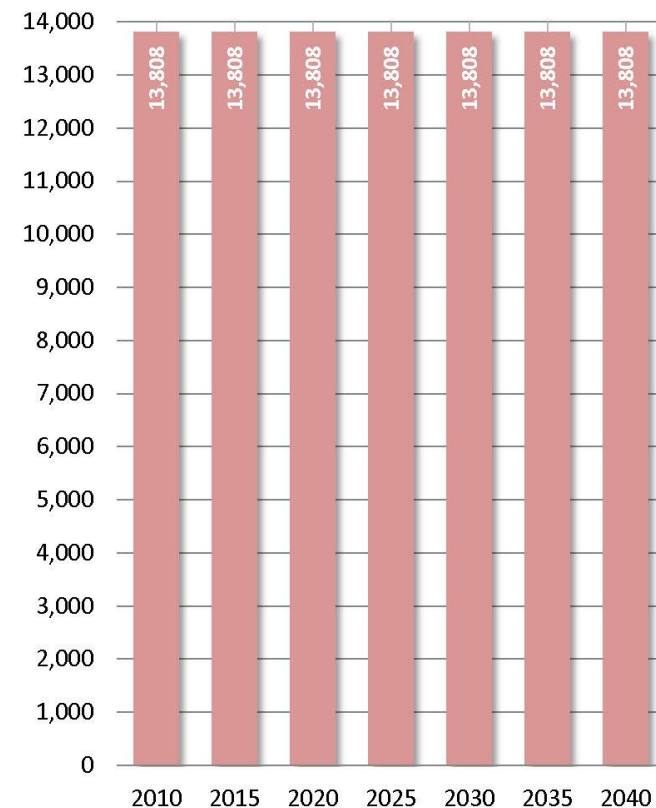
- The population of Leoni Township was comprised of 13,807 people in 2010 according to the U.S. Census
- The adjacent figure shows the population:
  - Increased an average of 47.8% per decade between 1930 and 1970
  - Increased 2.2% between 1970 and 1980
  - Decreased -5.8% between 1980 and 1990
  - Increased an average of 1.4% per decade between 1990 and 2010
- Michigan Center, a Census Designated Place (CDP) located within Leoni Township had a population of 4,672 in 2010, comprising 33.8% of the Township's population





## Population Projections

- The population projections utilized in this plan were developed for the Jackson Area Comprehensive Transportation Study (JACTS)
  - The 2040 projections are grounded on historic census (demographic) trends and Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) forecasts
  - REMI data is based upon Cohort Survival methodology and local factors/input
  - The projections are then “straight-lined” in 5-year increments between 2010 and 2040
- Utilizing that information, it is reasonable to expect that:
  - Population in the Township will remain stable through 2040
  - The 2015 population for the Township is projected to be 13,808 residents
    - The American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that the population was 13,790 people between 2009 and 2013*
  - The population is projected to be 13,808 in 2020 and 2025



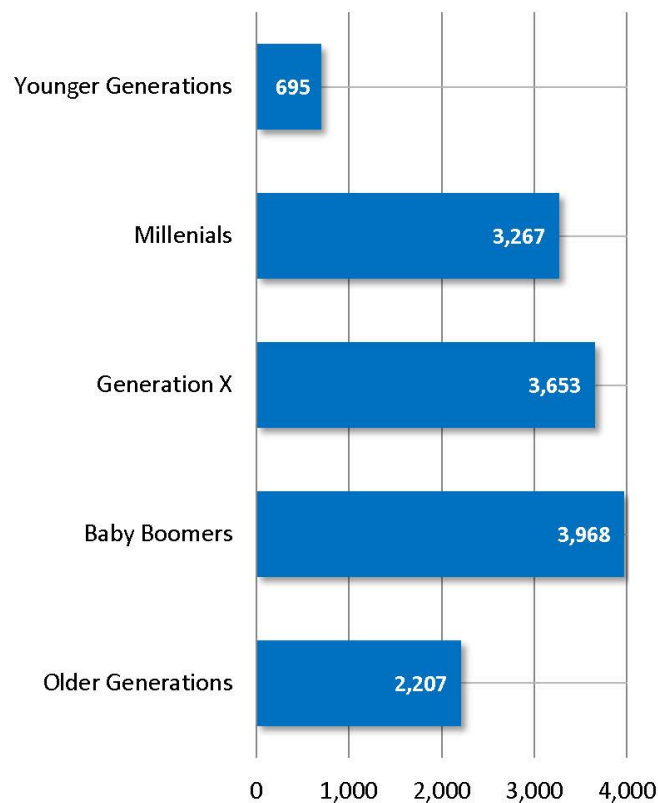


## **American Community Survey (ACS)**

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- 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 Leoni Township are provided five-year average estimates on a regular basis
- The reporting period available and utilized for this plan is 2009-2013
- The U.S. Census Bureau includes CDP (Census Designated Place) populations in the populations of the townships of which they are a part

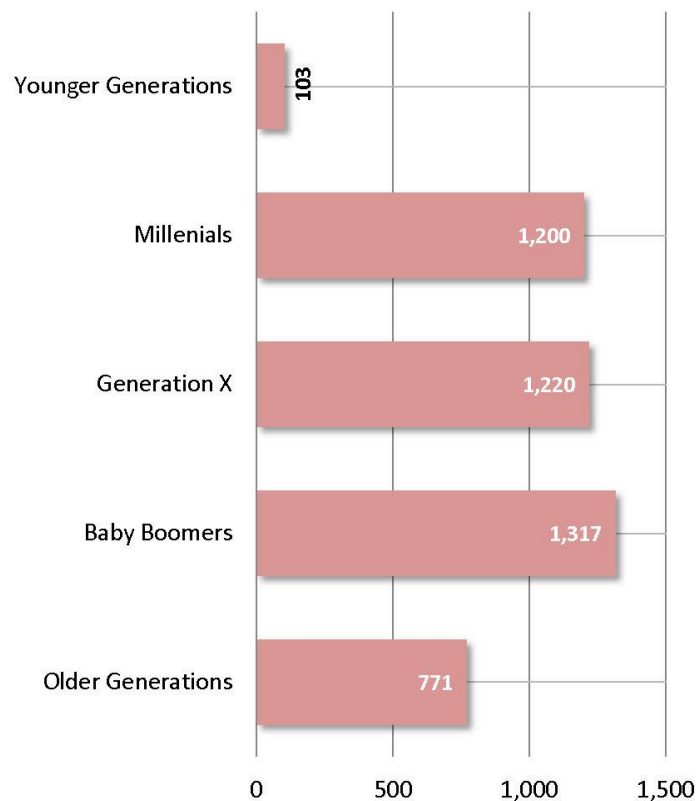
## ***Leoni Township*** **Age & Gender: 2009-2013**



- The estimated median age of Leoni Township residents was fairly high when compared to the national median
  - 41.6 years for Township residents (please see the ACS note)
  - *42.3 years for CDP residents*
  - 37.3 years nationally
- The adjacent figure illustrates Grass Lake Township's estimated generations:
  - 28.8% — 'Baby boomers' (people 45-64 in 2010)
  - 26.5% — 'Generation X' (people 25-44 in 2010)
  - 23.7% — 'Millennials' (people 5-24 in 2010)
  - 16.0% — Older generations (people ≥65 in 2010)
  - 5.0% — The younger generation (people <5 in 2010)
- Finally, it is estimated that males comprised 53.0% of the Township's population

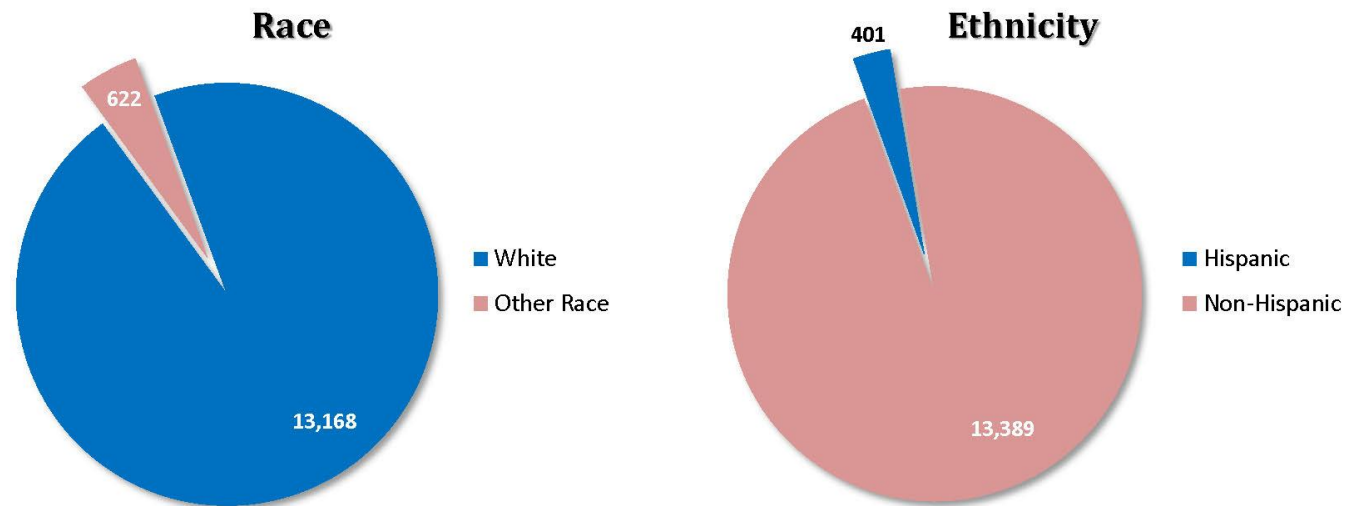
## ***Michigan Center CDP***

### **Age & Gender: 2009-2013**



- The estimated median age of Michigan Center residents was fairly high when compared to the Township and National medians
  - 42.3 years for CDP residents
  - 41.6 years for Township residents (please see the ACS note)
  - 37.3 years nationally
- The adjacent figure illustrates Michigan Center's estimated generations:
  - 28.6% — 'Baby boomers' (people 45-64 in 2010)
  - 26.5% — 'Generation X' (people 25-44 in 2010)
  - 26.0% — 'Millennials' (people 5-24 in 2010)
  - 16.7% — Older generations (people ≥65 in 2010)
  - 2.2% — The younger generation (people ≤5 in 2010)
- Finally, it is estimated that males comprised 54.4% of the Township's population

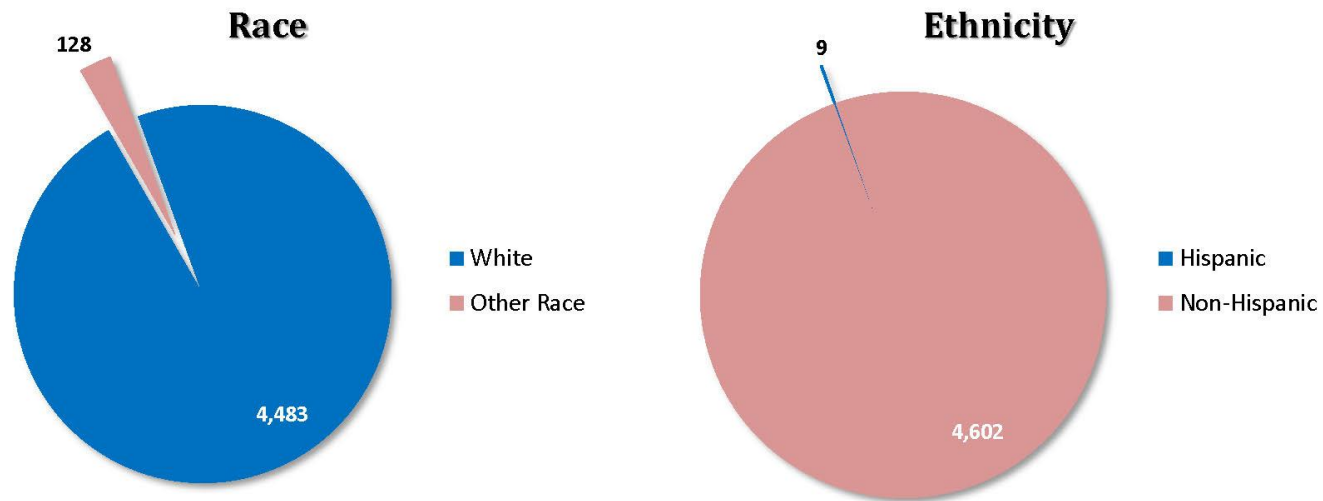
## ***Leoni Township*** **Race & Ethnicity: 2009-2013**



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

- An estimated 95.5% of the Township's population was white
- An estimated 2.9% of the Township's residents considered themselves Hispanic

## ***Michigan Center CDP*** **Race & Ethnicity: 2009-2013**



The population of the Michigan Center CDP is homogenous with few racial and ethnic minorities

- An estimated 97.2% of the CDP's population was white
- An estimated 0.2% of the CDP's residents considered themselves Hispanic

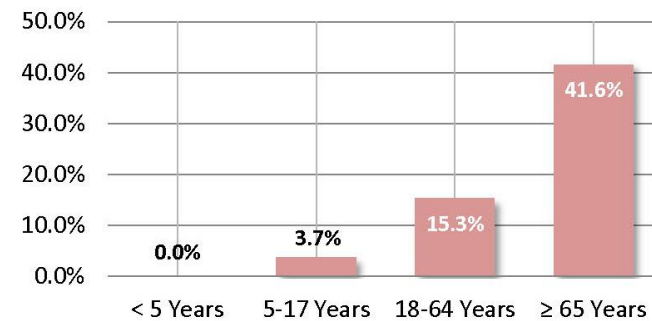
## ***Leoni Township***

### **Disabilities: 2009-2013**

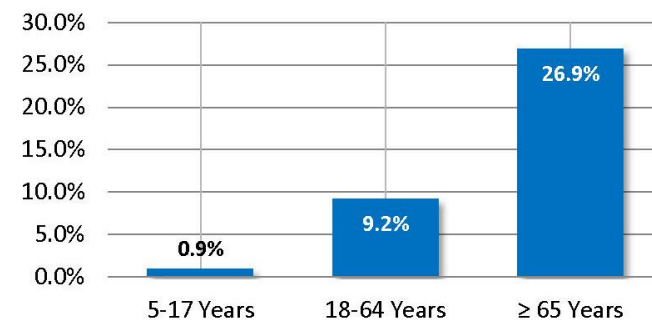
Disabled residents are a significant component of Leoni Township's population

- An estimated 16.9% of Township residents were disabled
- < 5 years
  - An estimated 0.0% were disabled
- 5-17 years
  - An estimated 3.7% were disabled
  - An estimated 0.9% had an ambulatory disability
- 18-64 years
  - An estimated 15.3% were disabled
  - An estimated 9.2% had an ambulatory disability
- ≥ 65 years
  - An estimated 41.6% were disabled
  - An estimated 26.9% had an ambulatory disability

**Some Type of Disability**



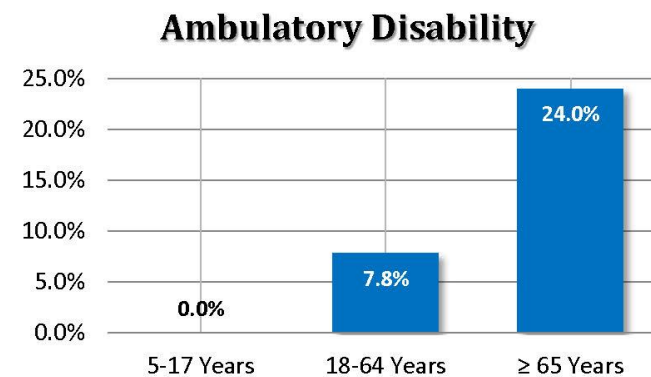
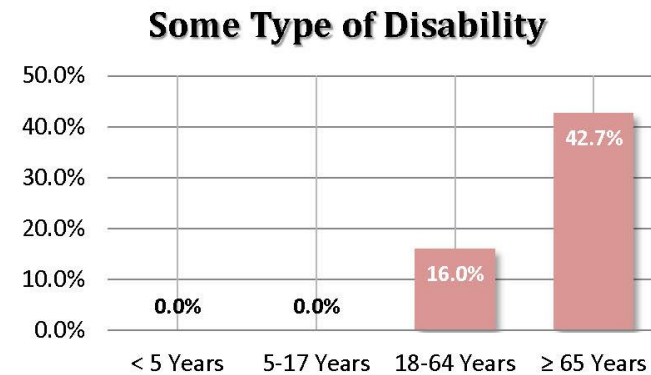
**Ambulatory Disability**



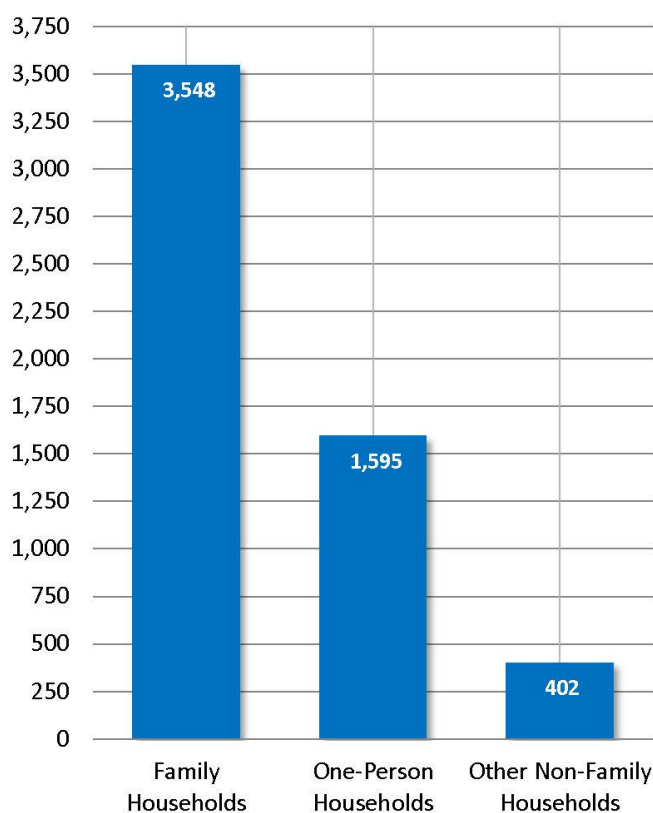
## ***Michigan Center CDP*** **Disabilities: 2009-2013**

Disabled residents are a significant component of Michigan Center's population

- An estimated 17.0% of CDP residents were disabled
- < 5 years
  - An estimated 0.0% were disabled
- 5-17 years
  - An estimated 0.0% were disabled
  - An estimated 0.0% had an ambulatory disability
- 18-64 years
  - An estimated 16.0% were disabled
  - An estimated 7.8% had an ambulatory disability
- ≥ 65 years
  - An estimated 42.7% were disabled
  - An estimated 24.0% had an ambulatory disability



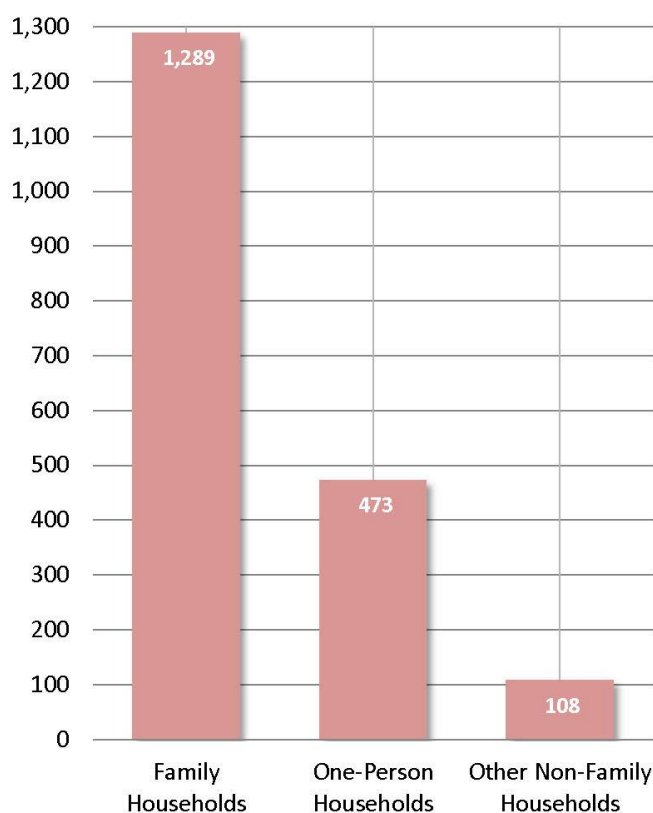
## ***Leoni Township*** **Households & Families: 2009-2013**



- Most people live in the estimated 5,545 households in Leoni Township
- Families comprised an estimated 64.0% of households
- An estimated 28.8% of households were comprised of a single person
- The remaining estimated 7.2% of households were other non-family households
- Estimated average household and family size was 2.43 people and 2.97 people, respectively
- *There were an estimated 99 seasonal or occasional homes (i.e., households) potentially increasing the population up to 241 people (i.e., 1.7%) at times*
- *Group quarters (e.g., nursing homes, etc.) were home to 328 people*



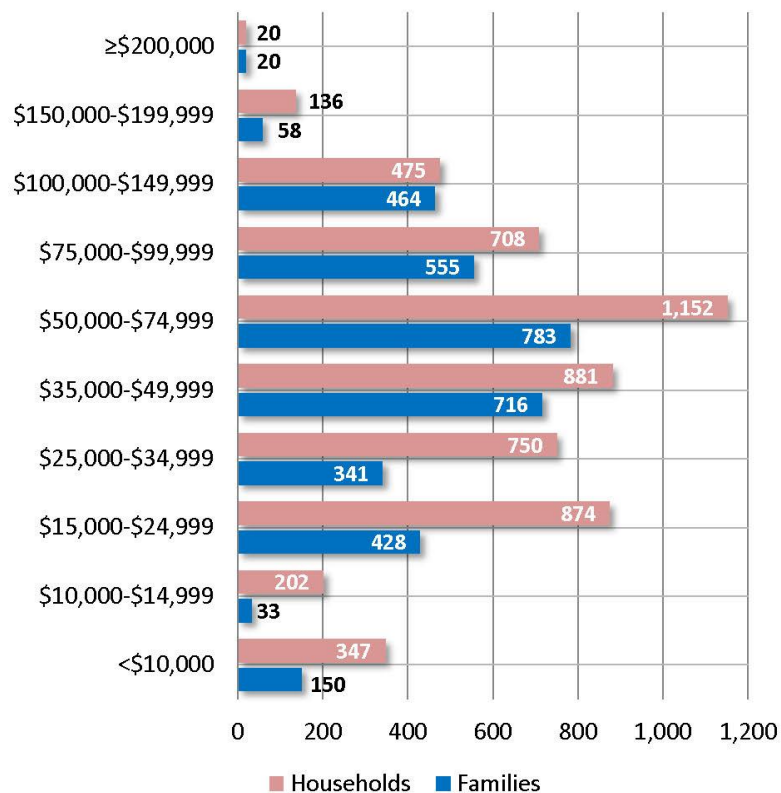
## ***Michigan Center CDP*** **Households & Families: 2009-2013**



- Most people live in the estimated 1,870 households in Michigan Center  
*The Michigan Center CDP accounted for an estimated 33.7% of Township households*
- Families comprised an estimated 68.9% of households:
- An estimated 25.3% of households were comprised of a single person
- The remaining estimated 5.8% of households were other non-family households
- Estimated average household and family size was 2.46 people and 2.99 people, respectively
- *There were an estimated 45 seasonal or occasional homes (i.e., households), potentially increasing the population up to 111 people (i.e., 2.4%) at times*
- *Group quarters (e.g., nursing homes, etc.) were home to an estimated 2 people*

## ***Leoni Township***

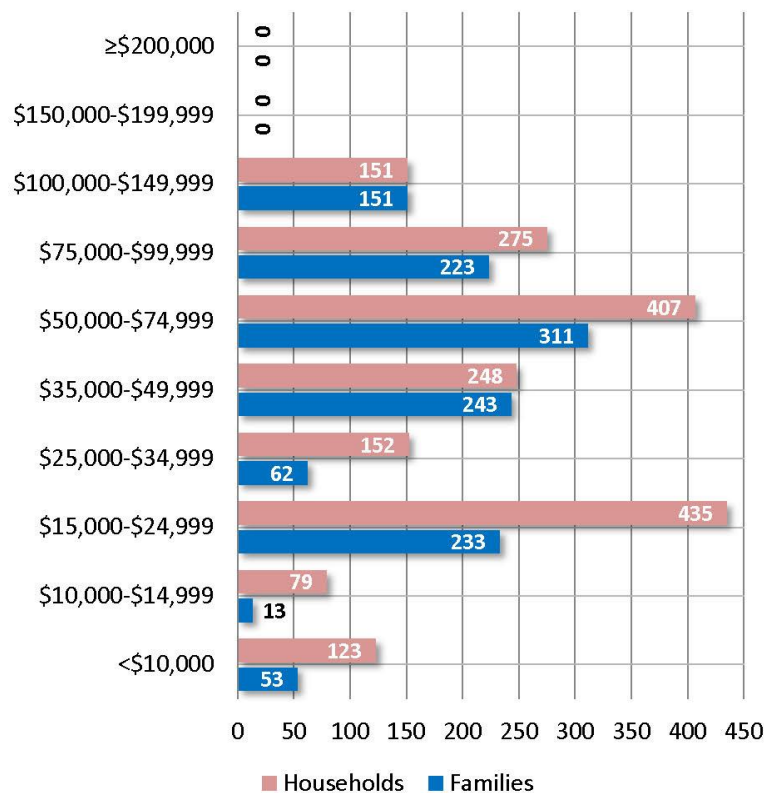
### **Household Income: 2009-2013**



- Median and mean household income:
  - Township — \$43,245 and \$53,207 (please see the ACS note)
  - Nation — \$53,046 and \$73,487
- Median and mean family income:
  - Township — \$52,674 and \$60,132 (please see the ACS note)
  - Nation — \$64,719 and \$85,588
- Per capita income:
  - Township — \$22,018 (please see the ACS note)
  - Nation — \$28,155

## *Michigan Center CDP*

### **Household Income: 2009-2013**



- Median and mean household income:
  - CDP — \$44,897 and \$48,222 (please see the ACS note)
  - Nation — \$53,046 and \$73,487
- Median and mean family income:
  - CDP — \$51,368 and \$55,358 (please see the ACS note)
  - Nation — \$64,719 and \$85,588
- Per capita income:
  - CDP — \$20,120 (please see the ACS note)
  - Nation — \$28,155





*Center Lake Boat Launch*

*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

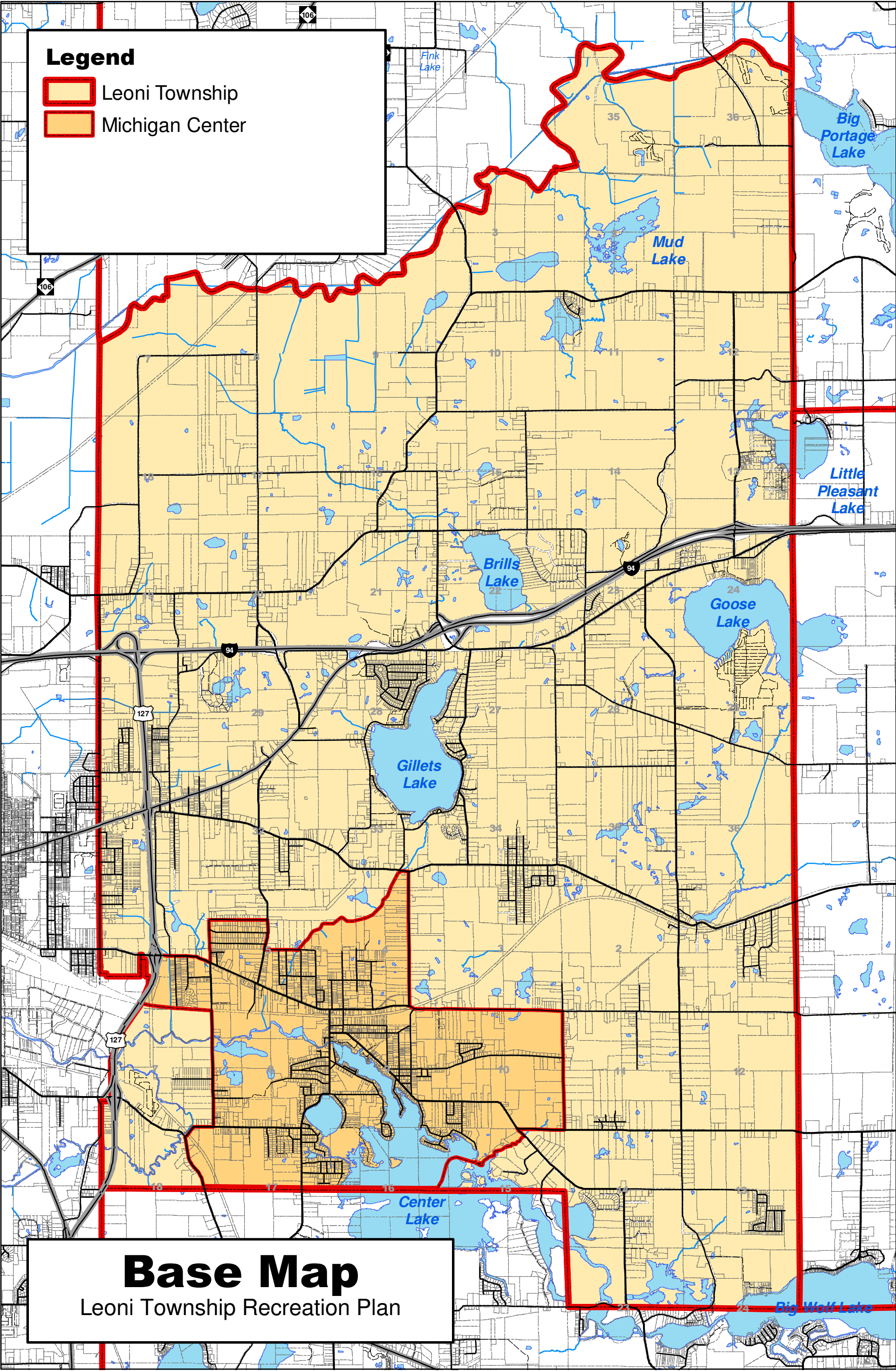
## Appendix B

# Maps

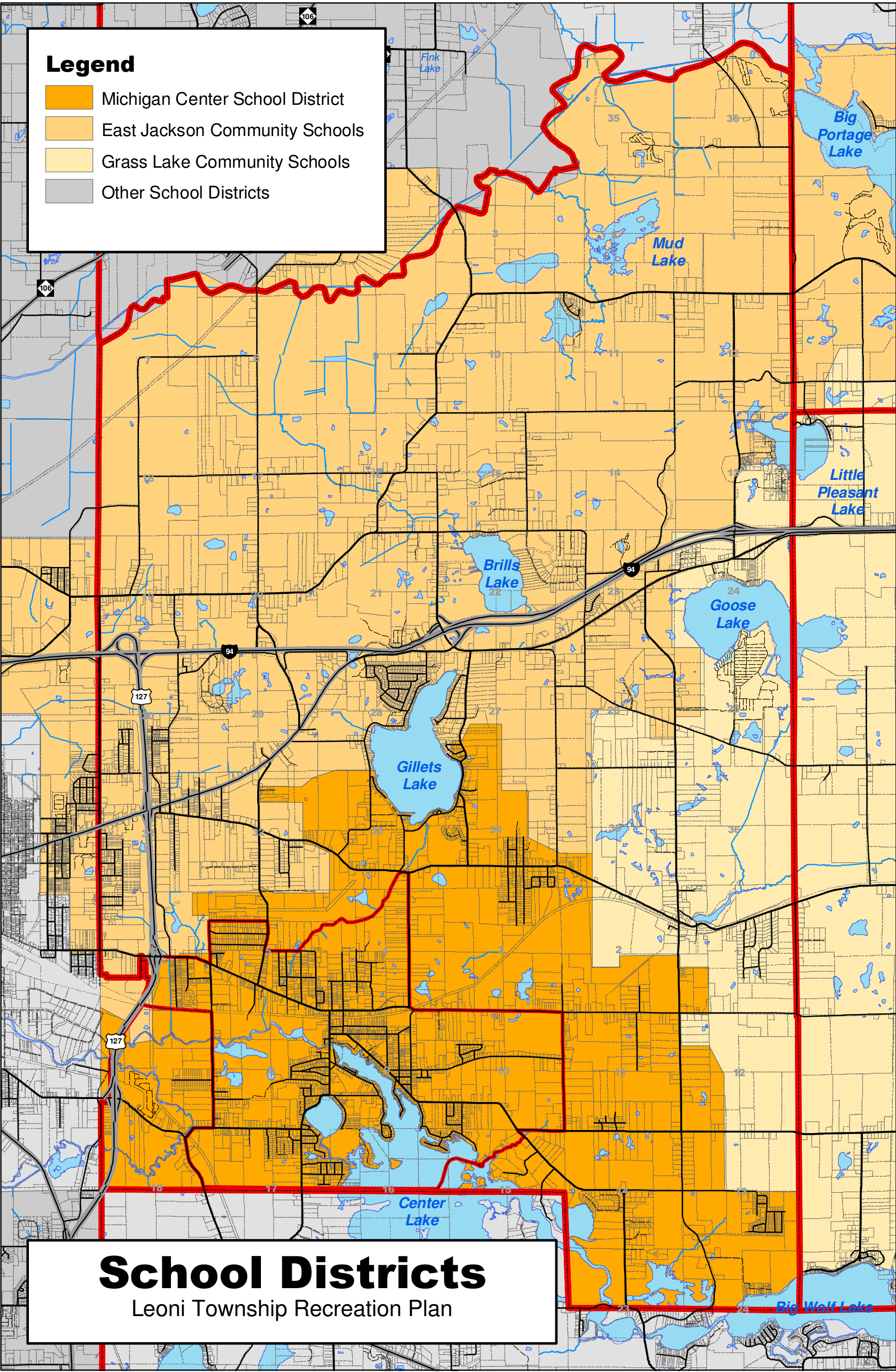
Leoni Township Recreation Plan











**Legend**

Michigan Center School District

East Jackson Community Schools

Grass Lake Community Schools

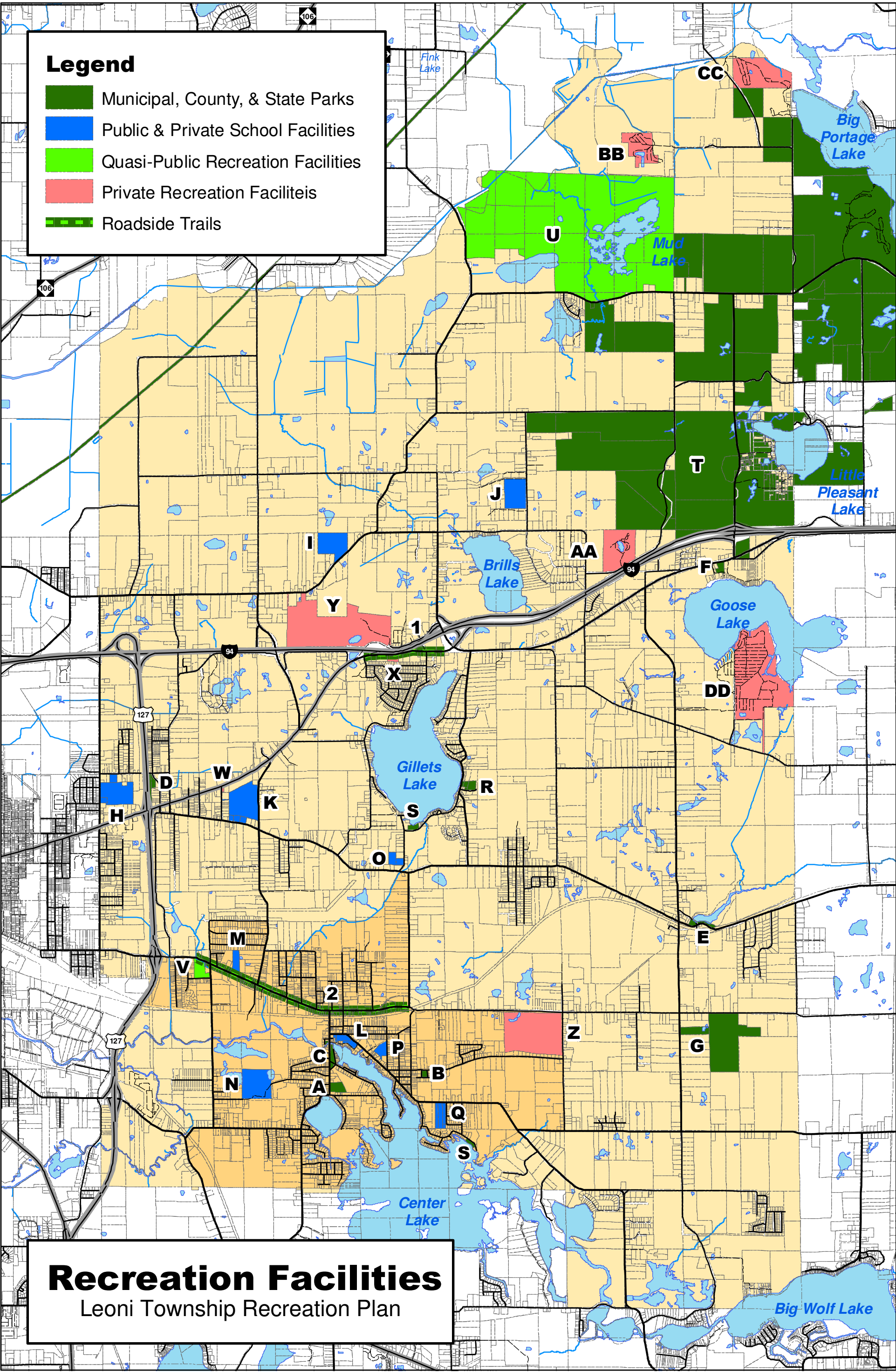
Other School Districts

# School Districts

Leoni Township Recreation Plan







**Legend**

Municipal, County, & State Parks

Public & Private School Facilities

Quasi-Public Recreation Facilities

Private Recreation Facilities

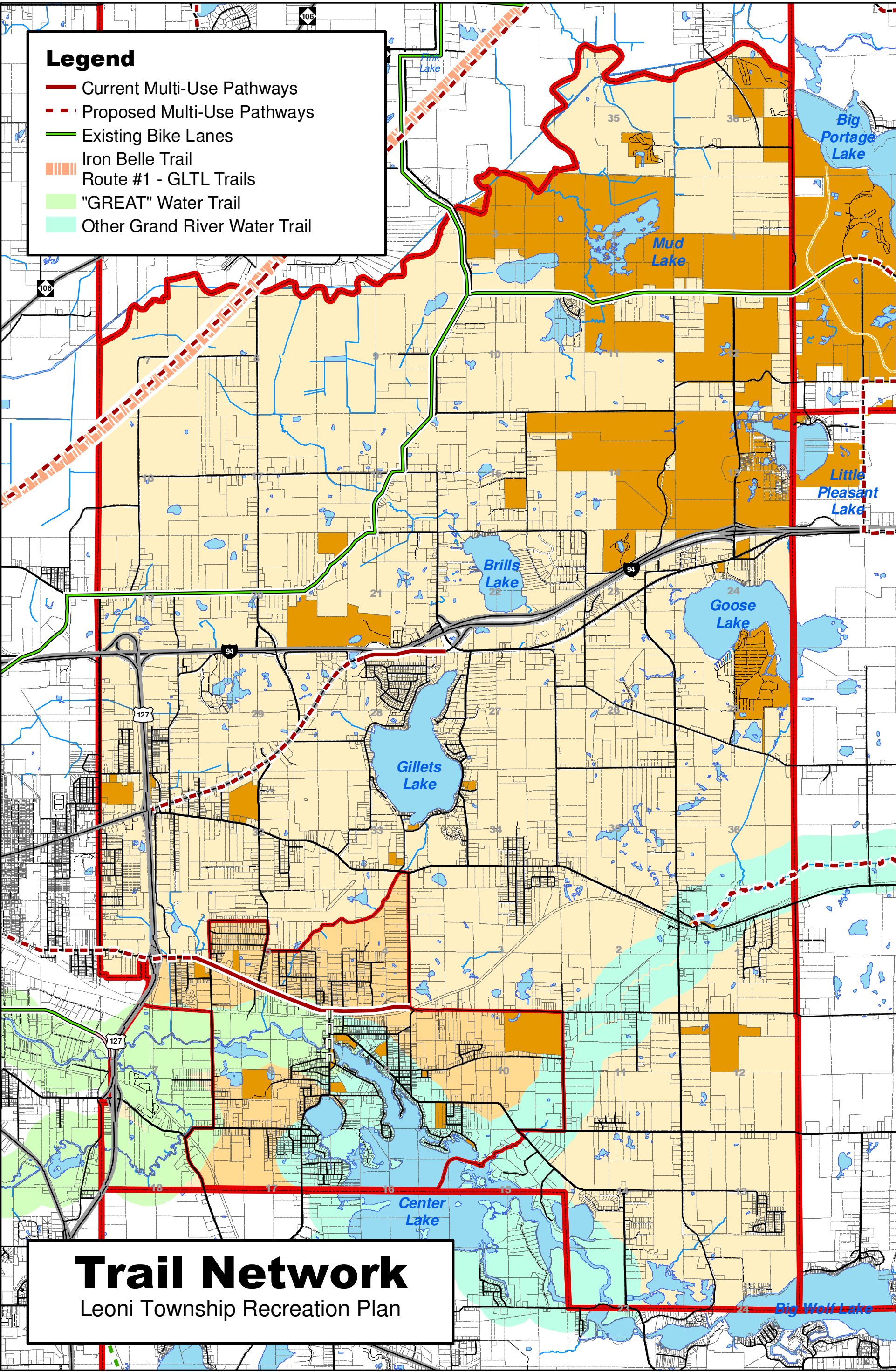
Roadside Trails

# Recreation Facilities

Leoni Township Recreation Plan







## Legend

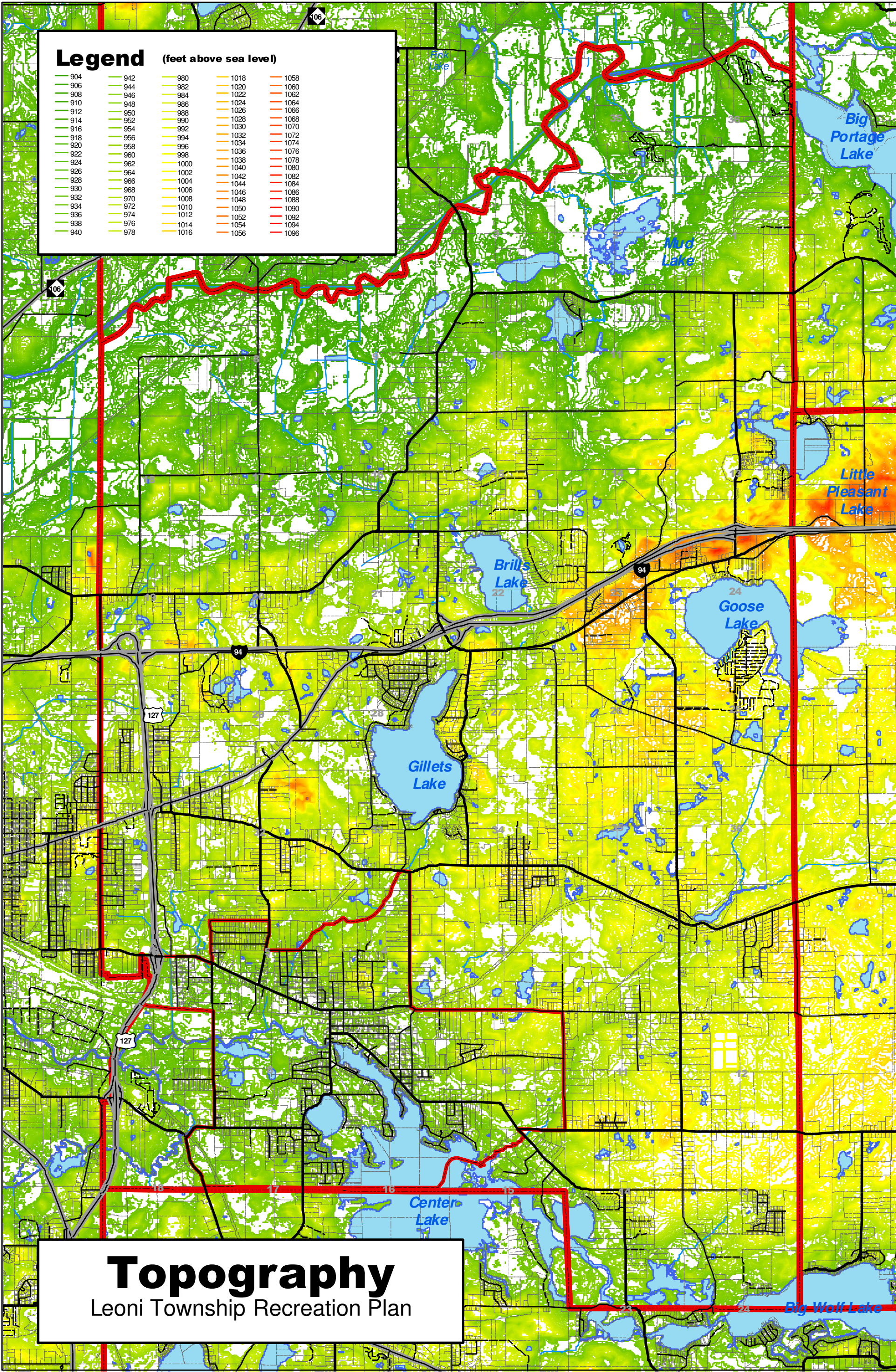
- Current Multi-Use Pathways
- - - Proposed Multi-Use Pathways
- Existing Bike Lanes
- Iron Belle Trail
- Route #1 - GLTL Trails
- "GREAT" Water Trail
- Other Grand River Water Trail

# Trail Network

Leoni Township Recreation Plan







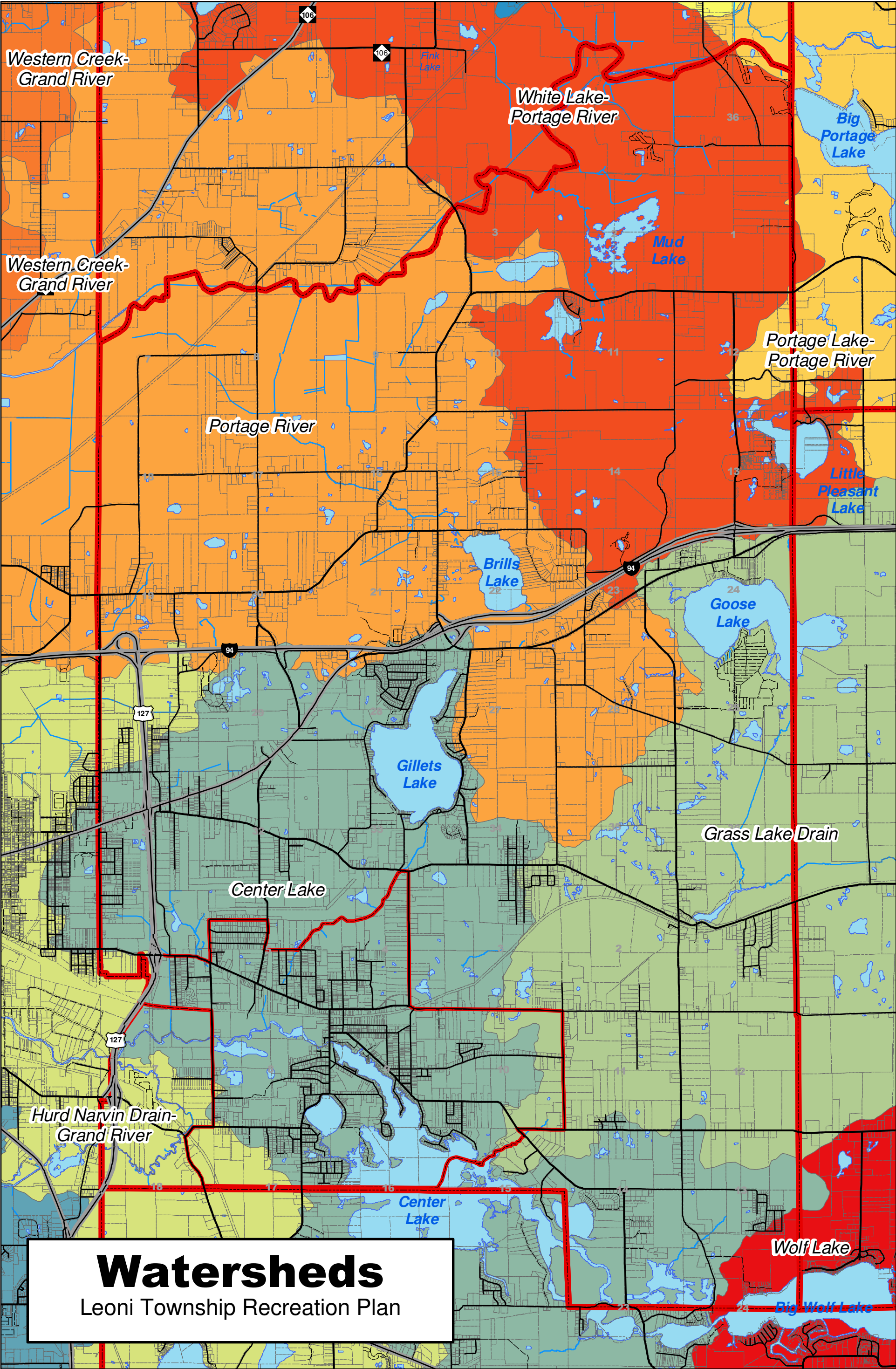
Legend (feet above sea level)				
904	942	980	1018	1058
906	944	982	1020	1060
908	946	984	1022	1062
910	948	986	1024	1064
912	950	988	1026	1066
914	952	990	1028	1068
916	954	992	1030	1070
918	956	994	1032	1072
920	958	996	1034	1074
922	960	998	1036	1076
924	962	1000	1038	1078
926	964	1002	1040	1080
928	966	1004	1042	1082
930	968	1006	1044	1084
932	970	1008	1046	1086
934	972	1010	1048	1088
936	974	1012	1050	1090
938	976	1014	1052	1092
940	978	1016	1054	1094
			1056	1096

# Topography

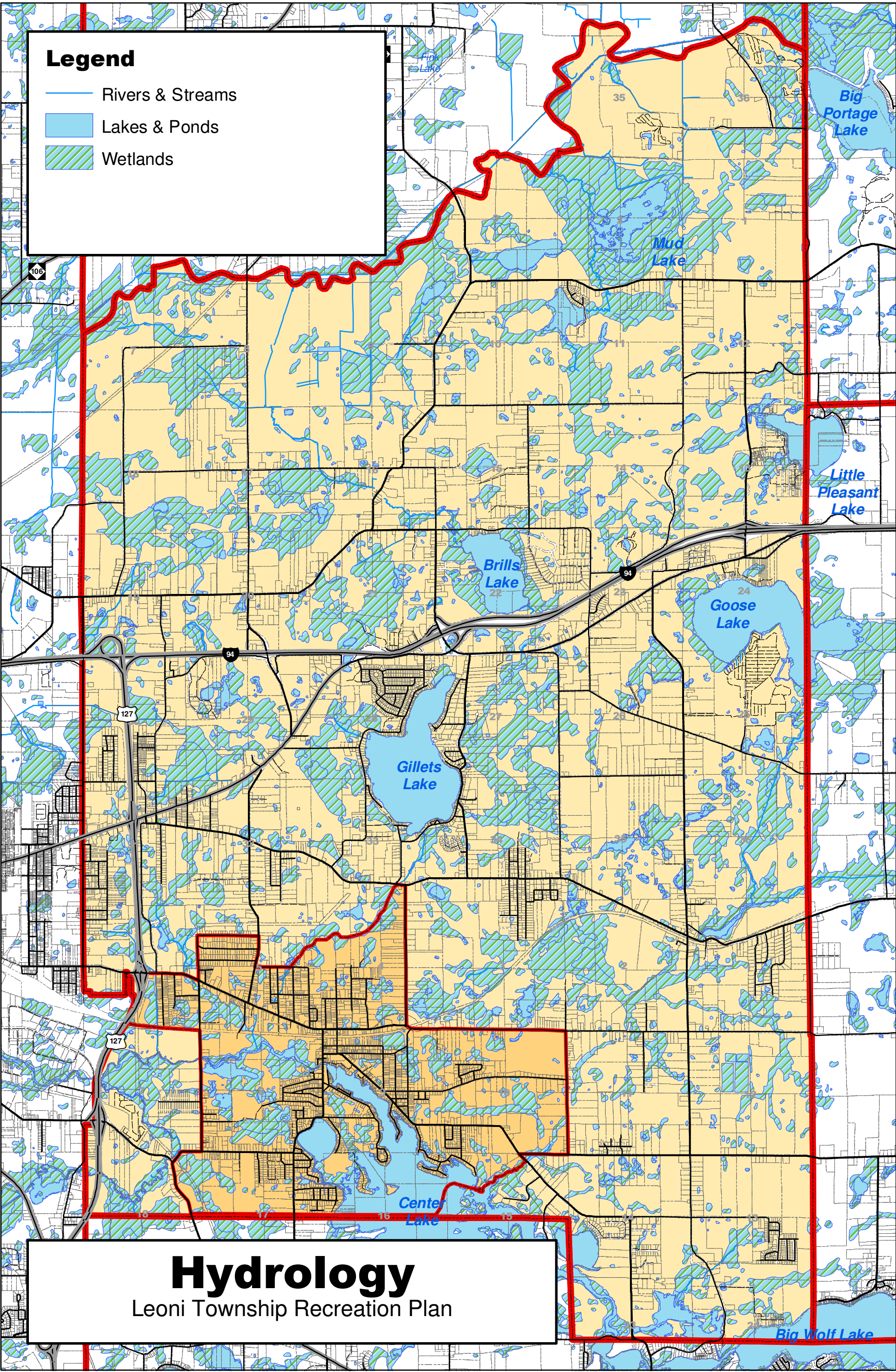
Leoni Township Recreation Plan







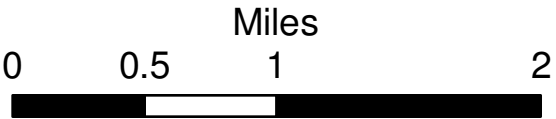




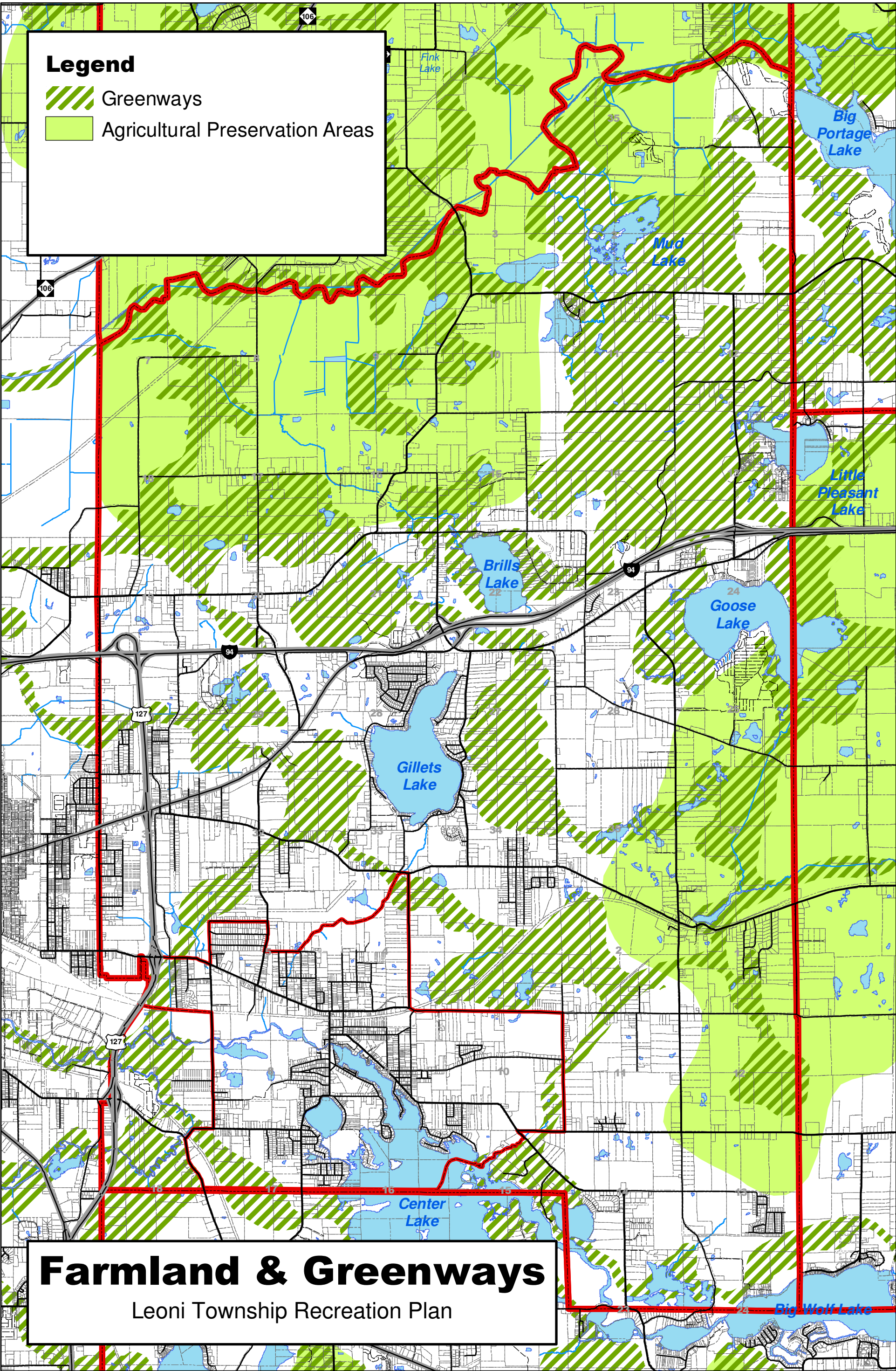
**Legend**

- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes & Ponds
- Wetlands

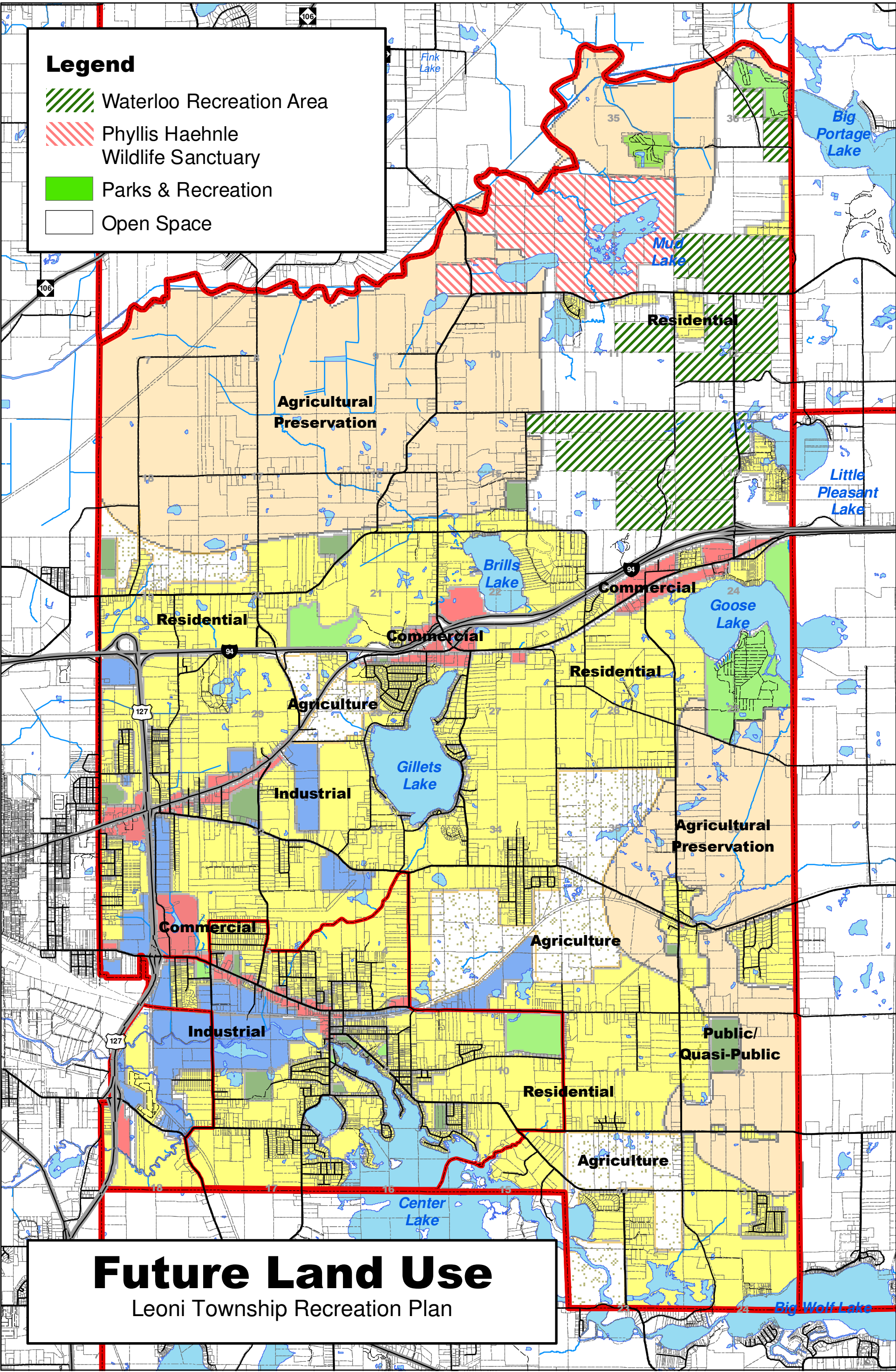
**Hydrology**  
Leoni Township Recreation Plan











**Legend**

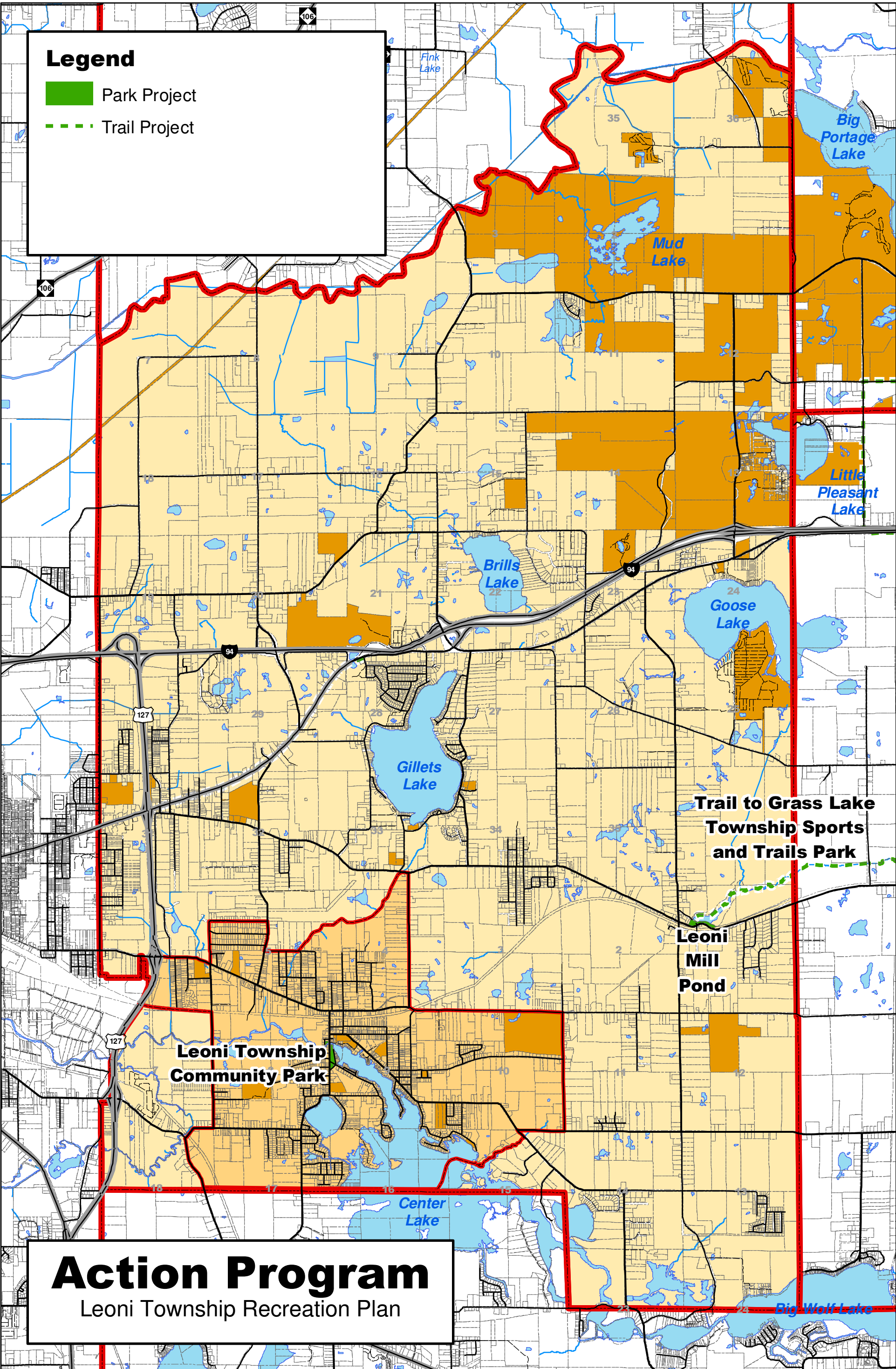
-  Waterloo Recreation Area
-  Phyllis Haehnle Wildlife Sanctuary
-  Parks & Recreation
-  Open Space

**Future Land Use**

Leoni Township Recreation Plan







**Legend**

- Park Project
- Trail Project

**Trail to Grass Lake  
Township Sports  
and Trails Park**

**Leoni  
Mill  
Pond**

**Leoni Township  
Community Park**

**Action Program**  
Leoni Township Recreation Plan

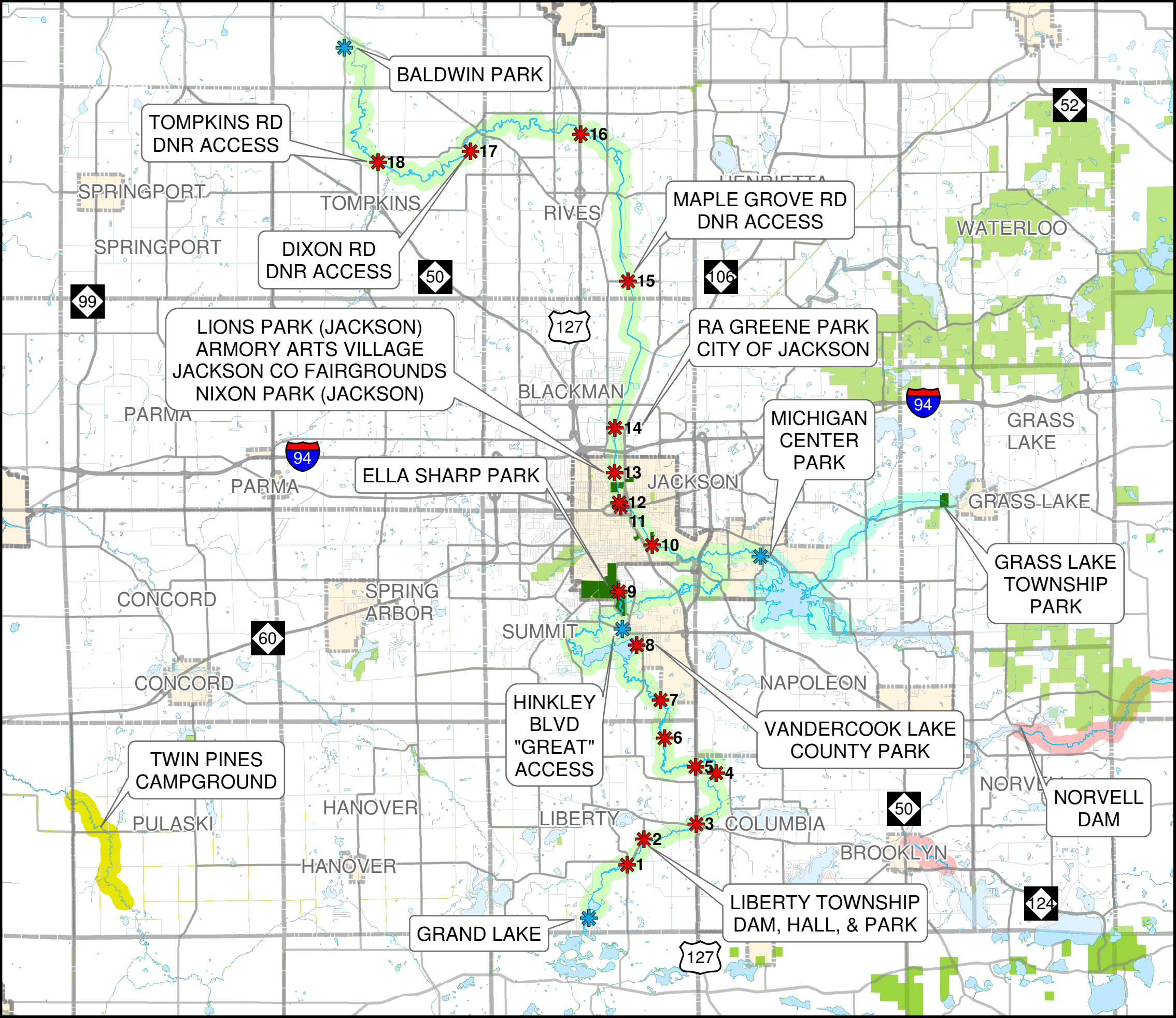




**CITY OF JACKSON &  
JACKSON COUNTY  
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

**MAP C-1**

**"BLUEWAYS"  
WATER TRAILS**



- LAKE & PONDS
- RIVERS & STREAMS
- "GREAT" ACCESS POINTS
- NEARBY PARKS
- 1/4 MILE BUFFER
- "GREAT" ROUTES
- OTHER GRAND RIVER ROUTES
- RIVER RAISIN ROUTES
- KALAMAZOO RIVER ROUTES

SOURCE(S):  
- MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY  
- "GREAT" & THOMAS GILBERT  
(WWW.GREAT-MI.ORG)



CITY OF JACKSON &  
JACKSON COUNTY  
JOINT RECREATION PLAN

MAP C-2

NON-MOTORIZED  
TRAIL NETWORK

PROPOSED STATEWIDE TRAILS

IRON BELLE TRAIL  
ROUTE #1 - GLTL TRAILS

2002 TRAILWAY STUDY  
AND CITY DESTINATION-  
BASED BIKE ROUTES

MULTI-USE PATHWAYS

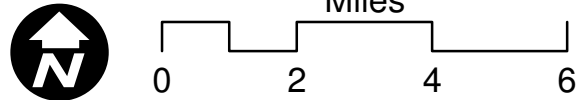
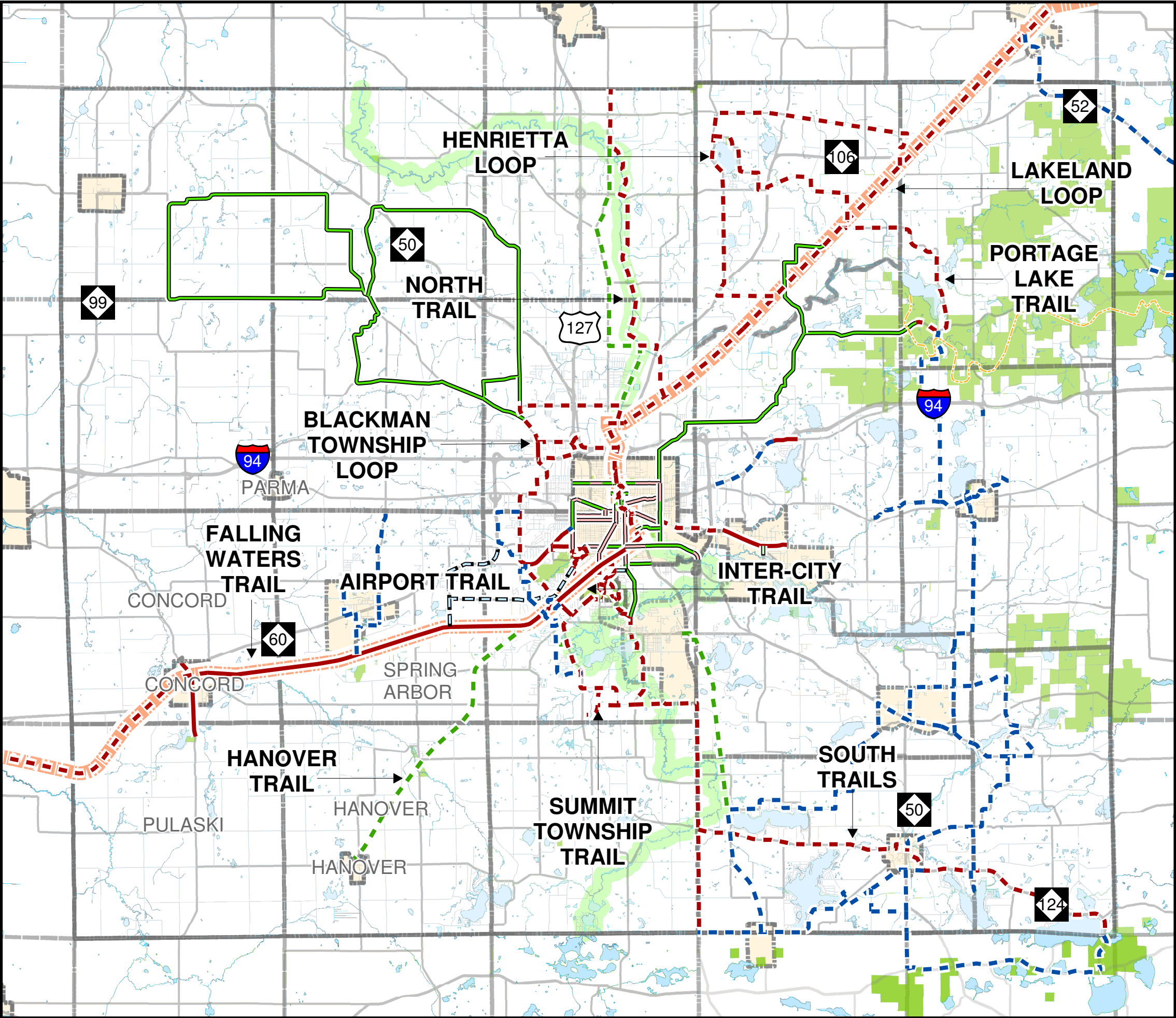
- CURRENT
- PROPOSED
- ALTERNATE (PROPOSED)

BIKE ROUTES

- POSTED ROUTES
- EXISTING LANES
- PROPOSED LANES

OTHER PROPOSED PATHWAYS

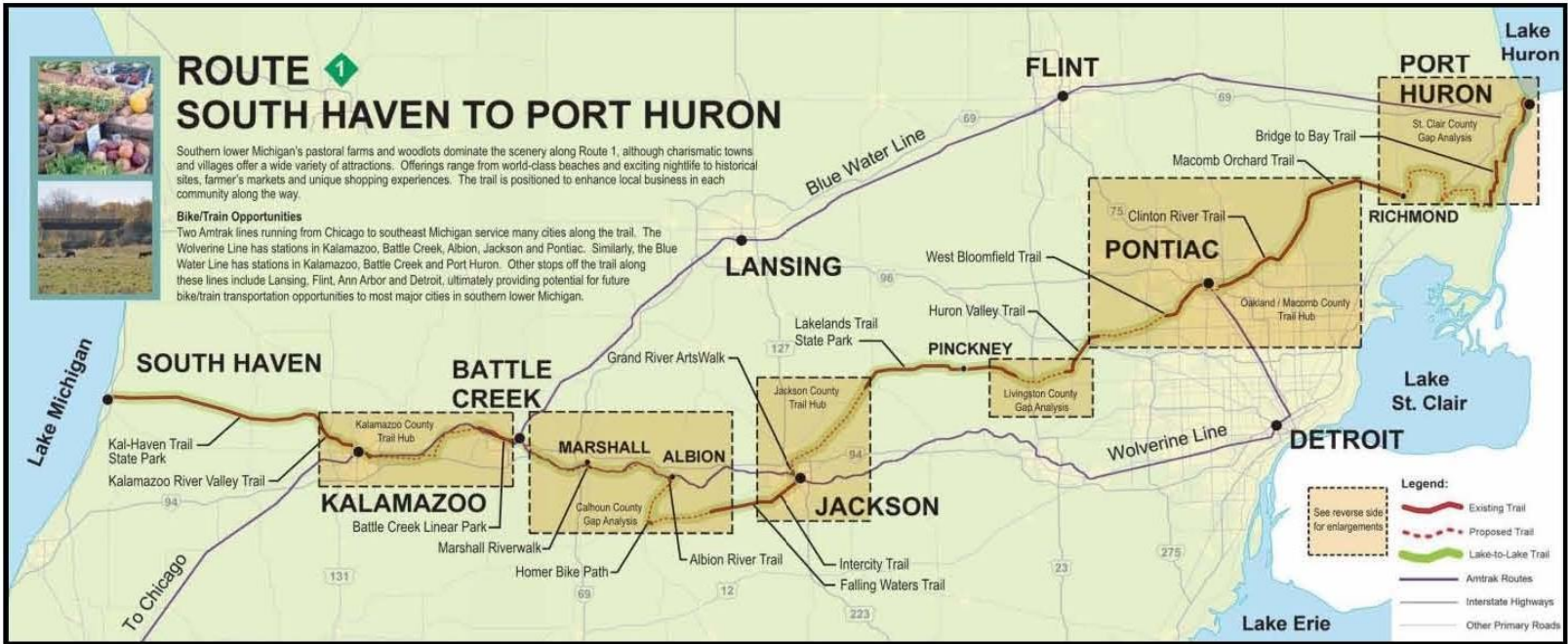
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE PATHWAYS
- PROPOSED BIKE LANES
- PROPOSED RUSTIC TRAIL





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

Waterloo Township Recreation Plan



*The Great Lake-to-Lake Trails* project began in 2009 with a generous grant to Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance from the Kresge Foundation to accelerate the development of cross-state trails. Anticipated outcomes include enhanced tourism, transportation, health and fitness and economic development opportunities. Stakeholder identification and collaboration on a multi-agency level is ongoing. A marketing/branding strategy and recommended next steps are included in the planning effort.

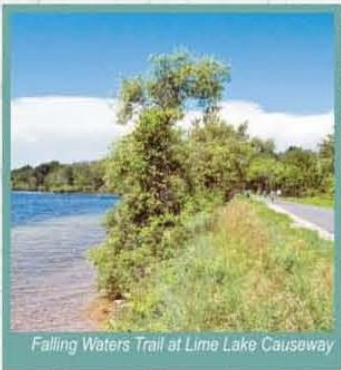


Michigan ranks #1 in the country with 2,478 miles of open rail-trail. With connecting non-rail-trail miles, there are well over 3,000 miles of multi-use trail for hiking, bicycling, running and often snowmobiling, horseback riding and ORV use, operated by state, county, township, city, village or nonprofit entities. Michigan is now at the enviable point of being able to connect long stretches of trail corridor across the state. Many of the east-west cross-state trail routes can be connected from one Great Lake to another in the foreseeable future. A system of five Great Lake-to-Lake Trails is envisioned for promoting Michigan's tourism and nonmotorized transportation assets. Route 1 extends from South Haven to Port Huron and is comprised of 15 trails totaling 178 miles already in place. Many opportunities for thematic promotion will present themselves as these trails are connected to each other. For a current map of Michigan's multi-use trail system, see [www.michigantrails.org](http://www.michigantrails.org).

## Jackson County Trail Hub

Three named trail segments combine to create 15.7 miles of nearly continuous trail through Jackson County. The Falling Waters Trail enters Jackson from the southwest to become the Intercity Trail. It transitions to the Grand River ArtsWalk following a 1/8 mile gap along the Grand River. The ArtsWalk passes through Armory Arts Village and continues north along the Grand River.

The gap from here to Lakelands Trail is filled by a proposed route north and west of the State Prison, partially using existing roadways and an incomplete segment of the Lakelands Trail State Park.



Falling Waters Trail at Lime Lake Causeway



The *Great Lake-to-Lake Trails* concept and the above graphics are the creation of the *Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance*.



# Iron Belle Trail: *Ironwood to Belle Isle*

Waterloo Township Recreation Plan



**Legend**

**Biking Trail**

- Biking - Existing Trail
- Biking - Approved For Construction
- Biking - Proposed Trail

**Possible Hiking or Biking**

- Existing Trail

**Hiking Trail**

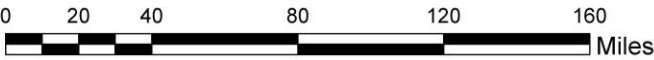
- Hiking - Existing Trail
- Hiking - Approved for Construction
- Hiking - Proposed Trail

- Highways
- Lakes and Rivers
- City
- County Boundary
- State Park Boundary
- State Land
- Federal Land

**\*\* The illustrated hike and bicycle trail connections will rely upon partnership opportunities. \*\***



January 26, 2015  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Forest Resources Division  
Resource Assessment Section





*Leoni Community Park*

*(Source: Grant Bauman)*

#### Appendix C

## **Trails & Trail Planning & Programming**

Leoni Township Recreation Plan

Leoni Township is partnering with other municipalities and governmental agencies as well as the Fitness Council of Jackson and other non-profit advocacy groups on the developing network of trails throughout Jackson County and beyond. This appendix provides a countywide context of current trail planning efforts.

## Water Trails (“Blueways”)

Various blueways exist (in some fashion) along waterways in Jackson County.<sup>1</sup> Water trails are maintained along the Grand River as it traverses Jackson County. Smaller blueways are also located along portions of the River Raisin and the Kalamazoo River (please see Map C-1).

### GREAT Routes

The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) has twelve (12) routes (i.e., trips) along the Grand River as it flows through Jackson County. GREAT also sponsors canoe and kayak “paddles” each year which utilize those and other routes (please see Map C-1):<sup>2</sup>

#### ■ Southern County Routes

- **Trip 1.** Grand Lake to Liberty Dam. *Access Point 1.*
- **Trip 2.** Liberty Dam to US-127 (Meridian Road). *Access Points 1 -3*
- **Trip 3.** US-127 (Meridian Road) to Reed Road. *Access Points 3 & 4*
- **Trip 4.** Reed Rd. to Vandercook Lake Park. *Access Points 4 - 8*

#### ■ Jackson Metro Routes

- **Trip 5.** Vandercook Lake County Park to Ella Sharp (City) Park. *Access Points 8 & 9*
- **Trip 6** | Ella Sharp (City) Park to High Street. *Access Points 9 & 10*
- **Trip 7** | Michigan Center to Lions Park. *Access: Points 13*
- **Trip 8** | Lions Park to Maple Grove Road. *Access Points 13 – 15*

#### GREAT

*The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) sponsors canoe and kayak “paddles” each year which traverse the Grand River and other defined water trails (i.e., “blueways”) throughout Jackson County. Please visit [www.great-mi.org](http://www.great-mi.org) to learn more about future “paddles” and other GREAT events. The synopsis of Trips and Access Points which comprise this section of the Appendix is based upon information obtained from GREAT (please see Map C-1).*

<sup>1</sup> These routes (i.e., trips) are shown for informational and planning purposes. The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) points out that there should be no water trails unless there is a commitment to perform the needed maintenance (i.e., chain saw cutting) to keep the routes open for paddlers. At this point, GREAT rotates cutting 3 of the 12 routes each year for its monthly public paddles—in addition to the annual clean-up within the City of Jackson—and these are only done a month prior to an event. To solve this blocking issue, GREAT suggests that local governments should undertake this maintenance along the stretches of the river within their jurisdiction in the spring of each year.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that fluctuating water levels and maintenance issues may cause difficulties for any of the trips. Fallen trees and limited clearance under bridges are of particular concern.

### ■ Northern County Routes

- **Trip 9** | Maple Grove Road to US-127 (State Road is adjacent). *Access Points 15 & 16*
- **Trip 10** | US-127 (State Road is adjacent) to Dixon Road. *Access Points 16 & 17*
- **Trip 11** | Dixon Road to Tompkins Road. *Access Points 17 & 18*
- **Trip 12** | Tompkins Road to Baldwin Park (Onondaga). *Access Point 18*

### Grand River Access Points

GREAT also developed the following access points (please see Map C-1):

#### Grand River Access Points

ACCESS POINT	NOTES FROM GREAT
1. LIBERTY DAM	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING (ASK AT STORE)
2. CULVER RD.	GOOD ACCESS & LIMITED PARKING
3. US-127 (MERIDIAN RD.)	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING
4. REED RD.	LIMITED PARKING & OK ACCESS
5. US-127 (MERIDIAN RD.)	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING AT THE NEARBY MDOT COMMUTER LOT
6. LOOMIS RD.	PARKING ON ROAD & ACCESS
7. DRAPER RD.	ACCESS & PARKING ON ROAD
8. VANDERCOOK LAKE COUNTY PARK	ACCESS & PARKING
9. ELLA SHARP (CITY) PARK	GOOD ACCESS & LIMITED PARKING
10. HIGH STREET	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING
11. GRAND RIVER (CITY) MEMORIAL PARK	DOWNTOWN JACKSON
12. THE TOY HOUSE	ACCESS & PARKING
13. LIONS (CITY) PARK	ACCESS THROUGH LOCKED GATE & PARKING
14. R.A. GREENE (CITY) PARK	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING
15. MAPLE GROVE ROAD	DNR BOAT LAUNCH
16. US-127 (STATE ROAD IS ADJACENT)	ACCESS & PARKING VIA STATE ROAD ON BOTH SIDES (NORTH/SOUTH) OF THE RIVER
17. DIXON ROAD	DNR BOAT LAUNCH
18. TOMPKINS ROAD	DNR BOAT LAUNCH

## Jackson to Grand Haven

An August 21, 2015, Mlive post announced a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) initiative to facilitate a “locally-led, bottom-up” effort to create a 252-mile Grand River blueway from Jackson County through Ottawa County at Grand Haven.<sup>3</sup>

## Non-motorized Trails

Jackson County partnered with other municipalities in 2002 to develop the *Jackson County Regional Trailway Study*. That document has been used as a guide ever since and various municipalities have expanded upon the basic “stick” network as part of their recreation planning efforts. The Falling Waters/Intercity Trail Corridor also serves as the backbone for a developing statewide trail as it traverses Jackson County.

## Regional Trailway Study

The parks departments of Jackson County and the City of Jackson; the townships of Blackman, Spring Arbor, and Summit; the Falling Waters Trail Committee; and the Lakelands Trail effort joined together to develop the *Jackson County Regional Trailway Study* which was completed in 2002. The Study is comprised of the following “stick” network of trails throughout the County (please see Map C-2):<sup>4</sup>

- Lakelands Trail – 15.4 miles
- Henrietta Loop – 19.9 miles
- Portage Lake Trail – 6.5 miles
- North Trail – 7.6 miles
- Blackman Township Loop – 8.0 miles
- Inter-City Trail – 7.5 miles
- Airport Trail – 5.5 miles
- Falling Waters Trail – 11.5 miles
- Hanover Trail – 8.9 miles
- Summit Township Loop – 7.2 miles
- Ella Sharp Park Trail and Cascades Park – 4.4 miles
- South Trail – 19.5 miles
- Connection to Existing Trail on Page Avenue – 0.3 miles

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<sup>3</sup> 250-mile Grand River water trail across Michigan under development, Garret Ellison, 8/21/15 edition of *The Grand Rapids Press* via Mlive ([http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2015/08/grand\\_river\\_water\\_trail.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2015/08/grand_river_water_trail.html))

<sup>4</sup> Please refer the attached map as well as the full study for greater detail.



## Statewide Trail Planning Efforts

There are two statewide trail planning efforts which impact Jackson County and its developing network of non-motorized trails:

- **Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake (GLTL) Trails.** The Michigan Greenways Alliance proposes the development of a series of trails which provide five non-motorized connections among the Great Lakes once they are developed. Route #1 will eventually connect Port Huron (Lake Huron) and South Haven (Lake Michigan), traversing Jackson County along the way. This opportunity increases the significance of the emerging trail network within Jackson County to statewide significance (please see Map C-3).
- **Iron Belle Trail.** Governor Snyder unveiled the routes of his showcase trail, which links Belle Isle Park in the City of Detroit with Depot Park in Ironwood (located along the Wisconsin border in the western Upper Peninsula) in early 2015. The hiking portion of the Iron Belle Trail will follow the current route of the North County Scenic Trail, traversing Jackson County along the way. This opportunity increases the significance of the emerging trail network within Jackson County to national significance (please see Map C-4).<sup>5</sup>

These trails utilize the primary non-motorized corridor planned for Jackson County. For example, the existing Falling Waters/Inter-City Trail Corridor will be utilized by the Iron Belle Trail and Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails as they traverse Jackson County. The planned extension of the Lakelands Trail Corridor into Jackson County will also serve as part of that backbone.

## Other Local Trail Planning Efforts

Municipalities within Jackson County have also engaged in non-motorized trail planning with the aim of supplementing the network defined in the *Jackson County Regional Trailway Study*.

**Local Recreation Plans.** Various municipalities have also proposed local expansions of the “stick” network proposed in the Trailway Study. Those plans include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Heart of the Lakes Area
- Grass Lake Area
- Leoni Township
- Village of Concord
- Summit Township
- Blackman Township

---

<sup>5</sup> The North County Scenic Trail stretches from eastern New York to central North Dakota.

The City of Jackson has also continued to refine the non-motorized pathways proposed within its boundaries. The Destination-Based Bike Routes Map includes existing and proposed non-motorized lanes and trails and signed bike lanes. The map also identifies the destinations they are designed to inter-connect.

**Intergovernmental Cooperation.** The above listing of municipal plans illustrates that the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation that created the original Trailway Study is still active in trail planning for Jackson County. For example, the *Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan* covers the Village of Brooklyn and the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell. The *Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan* covers the Village of Grass Lake and Grass Lake Charter Township.

**Public-Private Cooperation.** Cooperation between the public and private sectors is also active in the sphere of trail planning. For example, one of the strategies contained in the ‘Arts, Recreational, and Cultural Opportunities’ component of the *Jackson County Strategic Plan* is to “continue to improve the non-motorized System in the Jackson Community.” Current activities listed under this strategy are:

- “Help facilitate the update of the *Jackson County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan*” (i.e., the *Jackson County Regional Trailway Study*)
- Develop the Sparks Park/Inter-City Trail Connector
- Develop more statewide connection trails (Lakelands Trail to Stockbridge)

The Arts, Recreation, and Culture (ARC) Strand of Jackson 2020 helped to develop the ‘Arts, Recreational, and Cultural Opportunities’ component of the *Jackson County Strategic Plan*. The Parks, Recreation, and Environment Workgroup within the ARC Strand is involved in implementing those activities in cooperation with its mix of members from the public and private sectors as well as the general public.