

# ***Community Recreation Plan Village of Ellsworth & Banks Township***



**2018 - 2022**

***ADOPTED***

*Ellsworth Village Council: February 12, 2018*

*Banks Township Board: February 19, 2018*

# Village of Ellsworth & Banks Township

## Community Recreation Plan 2018 - 2022

Prepared by:  
Recreation Committee

### **Members**

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### **Adopted**

Village of Ellsworth Council: February 12, 2018  
Banks Township Board: February 19, 2018

*Planning Assistance Provided By:*



# COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN 2018 - 2022

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## SECTION 1

# COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### Location and Regional Context

The Village of Ellsworth is located within the geographic boundaries of Banks Township in northwest Antrim County. Banks Township is the northwestern most township in Antrim County, which is bounded on the west by Lake Michigan, and by portions of Charlevoix County on the north and east. Antrim is located in the northwest region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. According to the Census information, Banks Township comprises approximately 45 square miles, of which the Village of Ellsworth comprises 0.7 square miles, and for reference Antrim County is 476.9 square miles in area. Figure 1-1 illustrates the location of Banks Township and the Village of Ellsworth in relation to Antrim County and the State of Michigan.

The Village of Ellsworth was incorporated as a village late in its history. In 1902, the election board of Banks Township was organized. In March 1938, the citizens voted 50-6 to petition the Township Board of Supervisors to incorporate the village. A special election was held on the proposal for incorporating the village and the election of the members of Charter Commission, in November 1938.

### Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2016 population estimate for the Village of Ellsworth was 342 persons, and an estimated 1,576 for Banks Township, averaging approximately 35 persons per square mile for the Township's 45 square miles of land area. This population density can be compared to approximately 48.6 persons per square mile for Antrim County.

In discussing the population for the Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township, however, it is important to note that the figure presented by the Census does not reflect the actual number of persons in the area during the summer months. This situation can be seen throughout much of northern Michigan. A 2014 Northwest Michigan Seasonal Population Analysis found that Antrim County's population grows by over 15,000 people during the summer months. This is the highest percentage of seasonal population in the 10-county region of Northwest Michigan.

### Scenic Features & Recreation

The Township and Village have abundant natural features, including lakes, ponds, streams, woodlands, farmlands, open space, wetlands, and topography. These resources contribute to the area's desirability as a place to live and visit by creating exceptional scenic beauty and providing abundant recreational opportunities.

With all of the high quality water resources in the area, water-related activities (boating, fishing, swimming, etc.) are especially popular in this area. Most of the parks here are situated along the lakes, and there are public access sites on Lake Michigan, Ellsworth Lake and Lake St. Clair. These recreation opportunities and others provided in the Village and Township are detailed in Section 3 of this plan.

## Location Map

Figure 1-1

**Banks Township and  
Village of Ellsworth**



Antrim County

State of Michigan



## SECTION 2

# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### **Administrative Structure and Funding**

The ultimate decision-making authority and responsibility for all park related projects resides with the Village Council and Township Board. When updating the recreation plan, the Village and Township establish a joint recreation committee that provides recommendations regarding parks and recreation policies and projects to the Village Council and Township Board, as appropriate. The Committee serves as a community sounding board on recreation matters, and brings the concerns of the residents to the Township Board and/or Village Council for consideration via this recreation plan. The Committee includes a Village Council member, Township Board member, Village Recreation Department program director, a school representative, and a representative at large.

The Village administers a Recreation Department for programming of parks and recreation activities. Banks Township cost shares with the Village for the programming on an annual basis. The program is for children ages four through teens, and is focused around T-Ball, Little League Baseball, and Girls Softball. The Village staffs the Recreation Department with one part-time employee.

Village staff maintain the Village's park facilities. Each staff member operates under the direct authority of the Village Council. The Township's park facilities are maintained through contracted services. The contractor services Banks Township Park for seven months of the year, and is on site 2-3 times per week to observe and address needs during seven months of the year. The contractor operates under the authority of the Township Board.

**Volunteers** are an integral part of the recreation projects in the Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township. While there is not a designated volunteer group, volunteers are solicited on a project-by-project basis. This assistance provides some of the labor for "in-kind" match on projects as appropriate.

**Relationships**: In order for the Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township to efficiently and effectively pursue Township and Village recreation goals, the two units of government jointly prepare their Community Recreation plan updates.

Together the Township and Village include three public school districts. All of the Village and most of Banks Township is served by Ellsworth Community School. A small area in the northwest portion of the Township is served by Charlevoix Public Schools; additionally a small area along the southern portion of the Township is served by Central Lake Public Schools. The Township and Village frequently communicate with the schools about community and school sponsored activities and events.

Banks Township and the Village of Ellsworth have worked cooperatively with Antrim County, Michigan Departments of Natural Resources, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy on conservation and recreation projects, and this plan includes provisions to continue to enhance the working relationship with these agencies as well as other local and regional non-profits, local Tribal Governments and neighboring units of government as related to recreation projects located

within Banks Township and/or Village of Ellsworth.

Specifically, the Township and Village will be working cooperatively with the Top of Michigan Trails Council, Antrim County, Charlevoix County, neighboring local units of government, and other local, regional, and state agencies to pursue the development of non-motorized trails and bike lanes, in order to most effectively develop local routes that connect with the other trail systems in northern Michigan.

The Village and Township have partnered with Paddle Antrim to address access to the Chain of Lakes, and will continue to do so to improve water access along the trail. For lake related projects, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council are expected to be active partners.

**Funding:** The source of funding for the Village's recreation budget is its General Fund. The source of funding for the Township's recreation budget is also its General Fund. The following numbers reflect the previous, current and projected budgets for parks operation and maintenance, recreation programming, and capital improvements at the Village and Township.

#### **VILLAGE BUDGET AND RECREATION EXPENDITURES, 2016 - 2019**

FY Ending Feb 28	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Recreation	45,000	48,500	TBD

#### **BANKS TOWNSHIP BUDGET AND RECREATION EXPENDITURES, 2016 - 2019**

FY Ending Mar 31	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Recreation	\$15,000	\$67,200*	\$15,000

\*The Township received a \$44,400 Recreation Passport grant from the MDNR to help fund improvements to Banks Township Park. “

#### **Status Report of all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Village of Ellsworth: In 1985, the Village of Ellsworth received grant #26-01411 for improvements to Wooden Shoe Park (campground). This included upgrades to the restroom and shower facilities, dump station and septic system. In 2006, the Village of Ellsworth received grant # TF 06-092, for the development of the Ellsworth Community Park. The grant-funded improvements included accessible restrooms, a pavilion with electricity, play area, trail, wildlife viewing area, fishing pier, boat dock, an archery range and a parking area.

Banks Township: In 2015, Banks Township received grant RP15-0077 for improvements to Banks Township Park. This development project is designed to improve the accessibility to Lake Michigan and the site amenities. The many elements of the project are intended to provide barrier-free enjoyment of the park.

Additional information on the status of these grant assisted facilities is included in the Post Completion Reports.



## SECTION 3

# RECREATION INVENTORY

### Inventory of Recreation Facilities

An inventory of existing recreation facilities located in Banks Township and those within the Village of Ellsworth are provided below. The inventory is listed according to jurisdictional ownership, starting with the Township facilities below. Following the Township and Village owned facilities are other public recreation sites in the area, followed by privately owned recreation sites. Each listing is followed by a brief description of that location. Figures 3.1 illustrate the location of the public sites. The inventory also includes information relative to the accessibility of each Village and Township recreation facility to people with disabilities. The ADA ratings were updated by the Recreation Planning Committee, based on the criteria below.

#### MDNR ADA Accessibility Rating

- 1 = None of the site elements meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = Some of the site elements meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = Most of the site elements areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = All of the site elements meet accessibility guidelines
- 5 = The facility meets the Principals of Universal Design

### FACILITIES OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY BANKS TOWNSHIP

NAME	SIZE	DESCRIPTION/FACILITIES	ADA RATING
Banks Township Park	2 ac	Community park and beach on Lake Michigan with picnic tables and grills; benches; stairs to beach; bathroom; and parking	4 (ADA pathways, picnic tables, toilet, and parking; no ADA water access)



### OTHER TOWNSHIP FACILITIES

NAME	SIZE	DESCRIPTION
Banks Township Hall	<1 ac	Meeting room, dining hall, office space for Township and Village; rentals for private and public events. Parking area and facilities are accessible; upstairs accessible with lift.



Historical Society	Village Lot	Museum and records storage
Ellsworth Fire Station Atwood Fire Station	Village Lot	4 bays 6 trucks 1 bay 2 trucks
Cemeteries (4)	N/A	Atwood Cemetery; Antrim City Cemetery; Catholic Cemetery; and Ellsworth Cemetery

### Facilities Owned and/or Operated By Village of Ellsworth

NAME	SIZE	FACILITIES	ADA RATING
Ellsworth Community Park	6 ac	Community park on Ellsworth Lake with a boat dock and fishing pier, pavilion with electricity, archery range, trails, snowmobile trailhead parking, play area, restrooms/multipurpose building, wildlife viewing boardwalk, and labyrinth.	2
Ellsworth River Park	~6.5 ac	Community park with a sandy beach swimming area, picnic area with grills, pavilion with electricity, playground, fishing platform, water access.	2
Wooden Shoe Park	9.5 ac	Campground overlooking Ellsworth Lake with dump station, full hook-up, cable TV, Wi-Fi, restroom facilities, and picnic area.	3
Ellsworth Park	3 ac	Playground, tennis & basketball courts (located near the high school)	2
Ellsworth Athletic Complex <i>Hugh Campbell Field, Art Drenth Field, Jean B Muha Track</i>	20+ ac	Softball & baseball fields; track & soccer fields; permanent bleachers & concession stand; parking.	2
Community Square	1 ac	New public square next to Township Hall with a grassy open area.	1



River Park Fishing Platform



Ellsworth Community Park

### Public Water Access Facilities in Banks Township and Village of Ellsworth

NAME	OWNERSHIP	FACILITIES	ADA RATING
Banks Township Park	Township	Lake Michigan carry-down access	1
St. Clair Access (DNR)	State	DNR boat launch on Lake St. Clair	NA
Ellsworth River Park	Village	Ellsworth Lake carry-down access	1
Ellsworth Community Park	Village	Ellsworth Lake floating docks	2
Ellsworth Lake (Rushton Rd)	County Road Commission	Ellsworth Lake carry-down access	1
Ellsworth Lake/Wilson Lake Bridge (Clay Pit Bridge)	County Road Commission	Carry-down/foot access between Ellsworth and Wilson Lakes	1
Ellsworth Lake Access (DNR)	State	DNR boat launch on Ellsworth Lake	NA

### Other Public Recreation Facilities in Banks Township

NAME	OWNERSHIP	FACILITIES
Antrim Creek Natural Area	County	156 acres, beach, restrooms, natural trails, barrier-free trails
Ellsworth Community School	School District	Softball diamond; gymnasiums (2); library facility w/ computer lab; 2 - 40 acre school forests

### Private Recreation Facilities in Banks Township

NAME	FACILITIES
Antrim Dells Golf Course and Tennis Club	18 holes, tennis courts, restaurant, subdivision
Whistling Pines Campground	15 campsites, dump station, full hook-up, docks, and one rental cabin
Torch Valley Farm Training Facilities	Horse Stable- boarding and training facility
Numerous rental cabins and B & B's	All support local recreation activities

### Recreation Facilities in the surrounding areas


NAME	LOCATION	FACILITIES
East Jordan Tourist Park	City of East Jordan	92 campsites
Thurston Park	Village of Central Lake	24 campsites
Antrim Co Eastport-Barnes Park	Torch Lake Twp.	61 campsites
A-Ga-Ming Golf Course	Torch Lake Twp.	2 - golf courses, Restaurant
The Mallard	South Arm Twp.	9-hole golf course, Restaurant
Boyne Mountain	Boyne Valley Twp.	Ski Resort & Golf, Indoor water park
Shanty Creek	Kearney Twp.	Ski Area, Resort & Golf
Schuss Mountain	Custer Twp.	Ski Area, Resort & Golf
Camp Hayo-Went-Ha (YMCA)	Central Lake Twp.	Summer camp
Pleasant Valley Bible camp	Echo Twp.	Summer camp
East Jordan Community Pool	East Jordan School	Swimming pool
William Day Park	Torch Lake Township	Swimming, picnic area, playground, boat launch
Bellaire Lanes	Village of Bellaire	Bowling Alley
Gemini Lanes	City of East Jordan	Bowling Alley
Charlevoix Area Community Pool	Charlevoix Township	Swimming Pool
East Jordan Sportsmen Club	East Jordan area	Outdoor pistol range, rifle range and muzzleloading
Charlevoix Rod and Gun Club	Hayes Township	Ranges for pistol or rifle, Trap, sporting clays, archery,
Groomed snowmobile Trails to East Jordan	Multiple jurisdictions	Trails
Jordan Valley Outfitters	City of East Jordan	Canoe, rafting & kayak rental and trips, Geo-caching

### Recreation Events held in Banks Township and the Village of Ellsworth

NAME	DATE
Annual Pig Roast, Games, & Fireworks	3 <sup>rd</sup> week-end in June
Summer Recreation Program (ages 4– teen)	Summer programming
Ellsworth Farmers Market	Mid-June thru mid-October
Paddle Antrim	2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend after Labor Day
Breezeway Fall Cruise	September and October (3 weekends)
5K Fun Run	Summer, organized by X-County team
Wooden Shoe Fest	Dec., tree lighting and kids games
Breakfast with Santa	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in December

# Banks Township Recreation

## MAP KEY

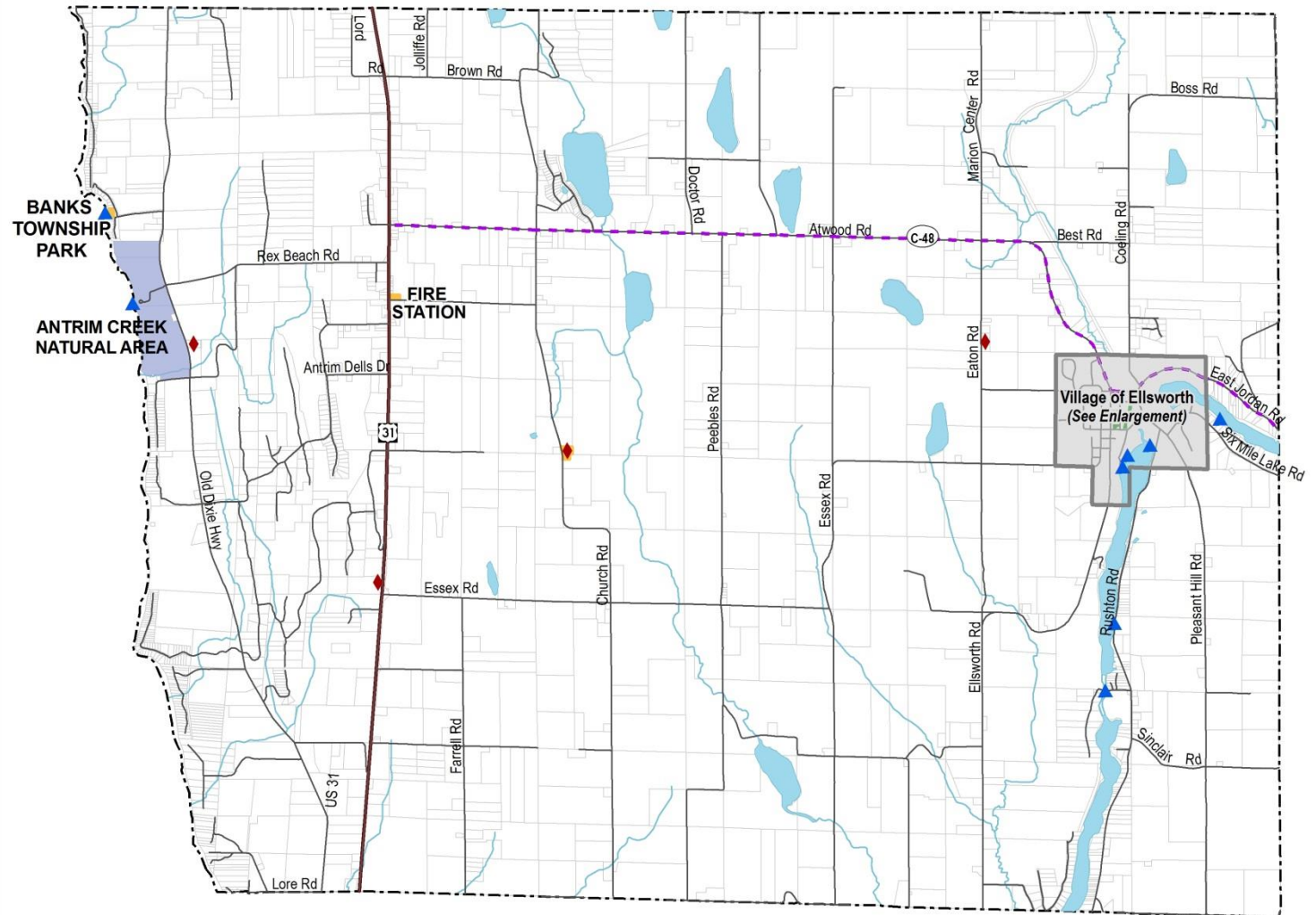
-  Township Parcels
-  Township Boundary
-  Village Boundary
-  Banks Township Property
-  Antrim County Parks
-  Water Access Sites
-  Cemeteries
-  The Breezeway
-  Local/County Roads
-  State Roads

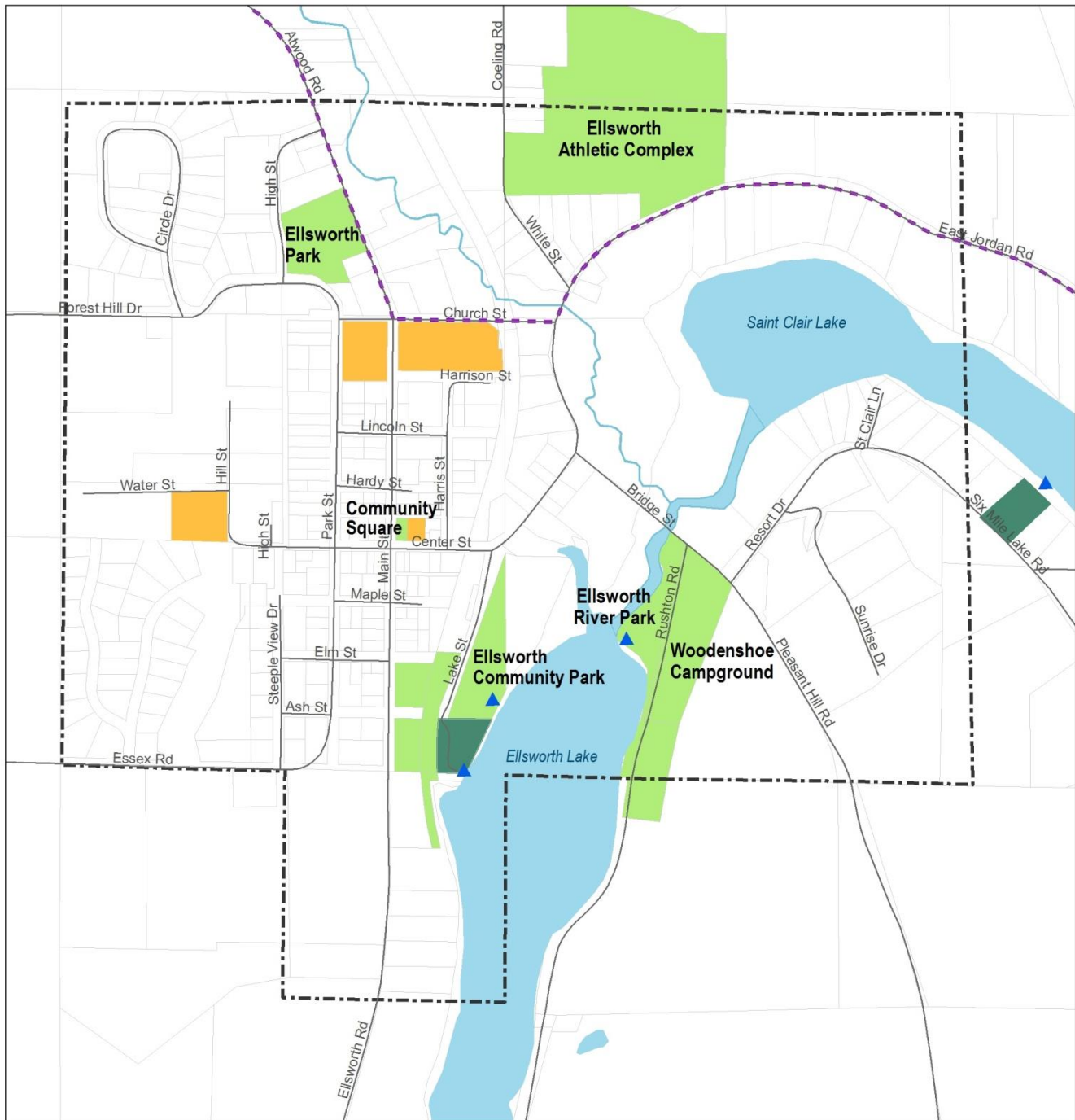


0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Data Sources:  
Michigan Geographic Data Library,  
Antrim County, Networks Northwest  
Date: January 2018

Networks  Northwest  
Travel / Business / Community





## Village of Ellsworth Recreation

### KEY

- |                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Village Recreation Assets                                        | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-top: 1px dashed black;"></span> Village Boundary                                      |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #2E8B57; border: 1px solid black;"></span> MDNR                                                             | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Parcels                                                    |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFA500; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Other Public Assets                                              | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> Roads                                               |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 0; height: 0; border-left: 5px solid transparent; border-right: 5px solid transparent; border-bottom: 8px solid blue;"></span> Water Access Sites | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Lakes and Streams |

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 Miles



Data Sources:  
Michigan Geographic Data Library,  
Antrim County, Networks Northwest  
Date: December 2017

**Networks Northwest**  
Talent / Business / Community



## SECTION 4

# PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township work together to develop their recreation plans jointly. The last of these plans expired in 2016. Since the Recreation Committee which was involved in the development of the previous plan had not been active in recent years, a new Recreation Committee was appointed in the fall of 2017 to assist with the plan update. The Recreation Committee worked with Networks Northwest to prepare this plan update during a series of meetings open to the public.

### Public Input

Input from area residents helps the Village and Township better understand the needs and interests of their communities, and is an essential part of updating goals and deriving an action plan. As part of the 2018 Village recreation plan update, the Village and Township planned a joint community event. A summary of event and the public input received is provided below.

Additional opportunities for public input during this recreation planning process were provided through the 30-day public review period and public hearing. Details are provided under *Public Review and Adoption* following the event summary below.

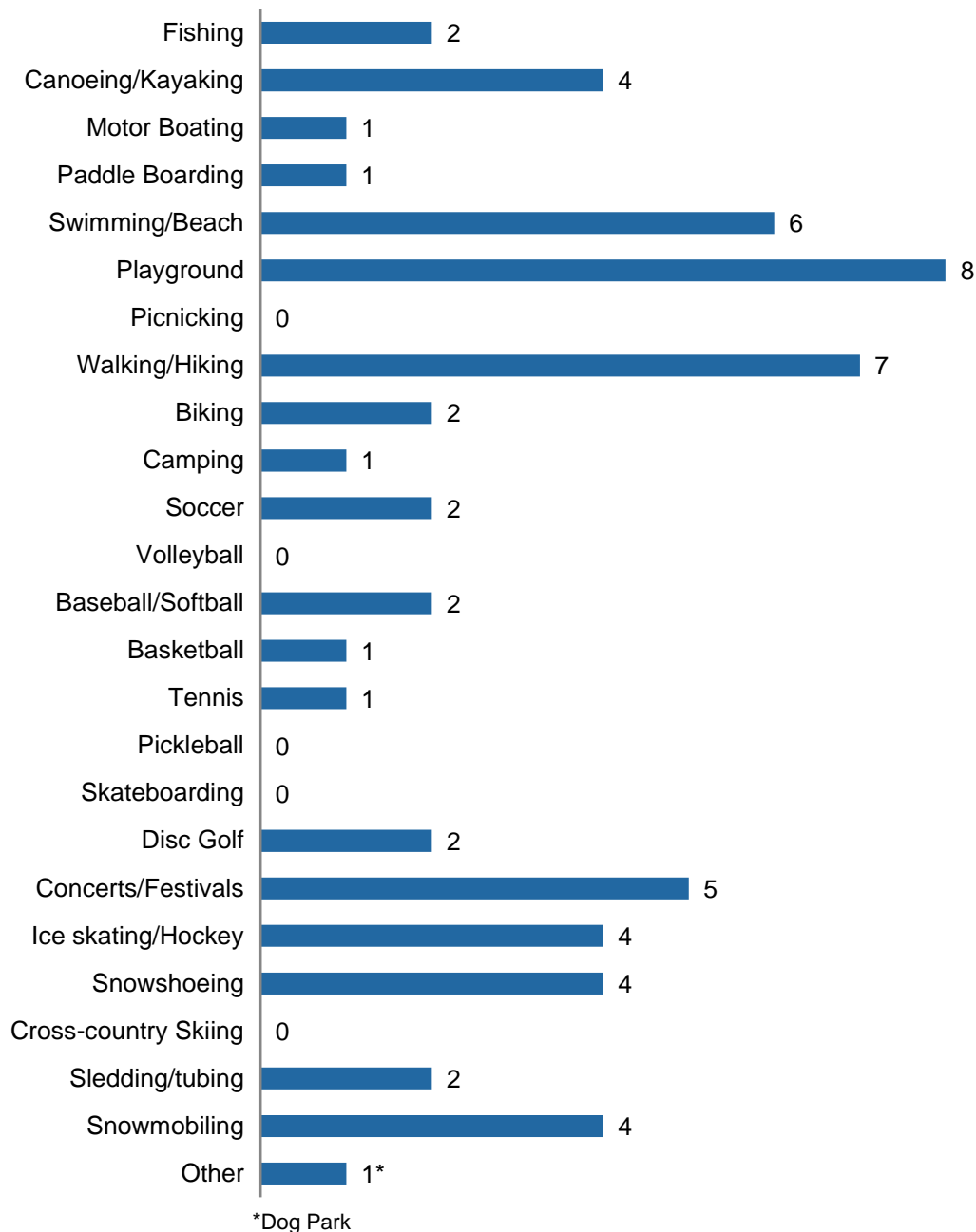
Looking Back and Looking Forward: A joint Village and Township community event was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at the Township Hall in Ellsworth. *Looking Back and Looking Forward* was organized to celebrate recent community successes and gather public input. The event kicked off with ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Village's new Community Square and the recently renovated Township Hall, followed by presentations from the Township, Village, School District, and East Jordan Area of Commerce. Attendees were then invited to visit the five stations set up around the room to provide input on current community development topics, one of which was recreation.

The recreation station was intended to inform attendees about the recreation planning process and to collect input on the recreational needs and interests in the Village and Township in order to help update and develop the goals, objectives, and actions included in this plan update. The two questions posted at the station were developed through discussions of the Recreation Planning Committee prior to the event.

For the first question –*what new or improved recreation activities would you like to see in the Village and Township?*– participants were each given three sticky dots to indicate their top three activities. For question two – *What recreational amenities would you like to see in this community?* – sticky notes and markers were provided for participants to share their ideas. Twenty attendees responded to at least one of the two questions posted; and a number of additional attendees stopped by the station to read or hear about the recreation planning process.

The results from the two questions are provided on the following pages.

**What new or improved recreation activities would you like to see in the Village and Township?**



Twenty (20) participants identified three activities they would like to see provided or improved in the Village and Township. Results indicate that Playground (40%), Walking/Hiking (35%), and Swimming/Beach (30%) were the most commonly desired new or improved activities among respondents to this question.

**What recreational amenities would you like to see in this community?***Responses*

- 1 Band shell or some sort of stage site outside (park near river)
- 2 Non motorized trails! (snowshoe, hike, bike)
- 3 Dog Park
- 4 Beach playground would help with campers and beach attendance
- 5 Playground at the ball fields
- 6 Open restrooms at park for visitors 24/7
- 7 Better boat launch
- 8 Restrooms - open!
- 9 Non-motorized trails
- 10 No motorized quads and motor bikes ripping through the park
- 11 More playground options in Community Park
- 12 It would be great to have a playground by the track/ballfields. Great way to keep little ones occupied.
- 13 Year-round open public restrooms
- 14 Walking track in empty park space

Fourteen (14) comments were received in response to Question 2. The most frequently suggested amenities among respondents were related to playgrounds (4), non-motorized trails (3), and public restrooms that are always open (3).

**Public Review and Adoption**

The proposed draft plan was released for public review on January 11, 2018. Notice was posted in the *Antrim Review* indicating that copies of the draft plan were available online at the Village, Township, and Networks Northwest websites, and that hard copies would be made available upon request. Following the 30-day review, the Village of Ellsworth held a public hearing on February 12, 2018 to take additional public comment on the plan. No written comments were received on the proposed Community Recreation Plan. Minutes from the public hearing are included in Appendix A.

The plan was adopted by the Village of Ellsworth Council on February 12, 2018 following the public hearing. The Banks Township Board of Trustees adopted the plan at their regular meeting on February 19, 2018. A copy of the respective meeting minutes are included in Appendix B.

The adopted plan was transmitted to the Antrim County Planning Department and to Networks Northwest on February 23, 2018. A copy of the letters are included in Appendix B.

## SECTION 5

# RECREATION GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives are intended to guide future decisions about recreation in a manner that reflects the community's values and priorities. These goals were developed based on a review of existing facilities, current community conditions, local and regional plans, and public input obtained through the 2017 Community Forum: Looking Back and Looking Forward and the 2016 Community Survey for the Ellsworth – Atwood Community Strategic Plan.

The order in which these goals, objectives, and actions appear does not represent a ranking of their importance or priority.

### GOAL:

***Provide a recreation system, responsive to the needs and desires of present and future residents of Banks Township and the Village of Ellsworth***

### OBJECTIVES:

- Acquire, develop, operate and maintain the Village and Township parks.
- Promote the overall coordination of resources within the parks and recreation system.
- Provide a system that keeps pace with the growing demand for recreational activities.
- Where possible, encourage multiple uses for recreation areas, open space areas, forest lands and flood plains.
- Encourage private land donations and easements for public use and recreation purposes.
- Pursue available funding for recreational development.
- Partner with the private sector to develop facilities complementing public uses.
- Promote interpretive and educational programs to foster appreciation and understanding of the outdoors.
- Promote the importance of recreation as a contributor to the improvement of the quality of life, including the pursuit of "complete streets" policies for both the Village and the Township.
- Develop a plan that is consistent and compatible with the County's recreational goals and policies.
- Establish an endowment fund to support recreation in both the Village and Township.
- Improve access to water.
- Become a trail town.

**GOAL:**

***Encourage the development of recreation areas and programs that consider proper utilization of natural resources without negative environmental impact.***

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Encourage the use of flood plain and wetland areas for open space activities such as wildlife refuges, hunting and fishing areas, and passive recreational activities.
- Promote the development of designated areas for recreational vehicles to minimize damage to rivers, streams, lakes and forests.
- Encourage commercial recreation development in such a manner that minimizes conflicts with adjoining land uses.
- Promote awareness of invasive species and encourage the use of native plants.
- Identify and preserve scenic and unique natural areas, while providing reasonable access.
- Stabilize lakefront shoreline at Banks Township Park to reduce erosion risks and allow for environmentally sensitive development.

**GOAL:**

***Encourage the development of recreation opportunities and facilities that support all ages and abilities.***

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Continue to solicit input from community members to determine unmet and future recreational needs.
- Pursue development of the identified recreation facilities.
- Develop universal accessibility when feasible.
- Encourage and promote outdoor activities, participation in recreation programs, and use of facilities by all age groups.

**GOAL:**

***Identify and preserve historic and archaeological elements within the Township and Village.***

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Increase awareness of identified historic and archaeological areas.
- Pursue funding for preservation of historic and archaeological sites.
- Promote accessibility to these sites.

**GOAL:**

***Provide and support an interconnected system of non-motorized and motorized trails.***

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Pursue opportunities to become a Trail Town.
- Support the development of the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail.
- Establish non-motorized walking and biking trails.
- Promote the Chain of Lakes Water Trail.
- Continue to support snowmobile trail connections.
- Support and maintain trails that are multi-use.

**GOAL:**

***Protect, improve, and promote water access.***

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Develop a universal access kayak launch at the Ellsworth Community Park.
- Develop universal access to the water at River Park.
- Provide kayak racks at water access sites.



## SECTION 6

# ACTION PROGRAM

The action program is presented below in two tables that describe improvements to existing facilities and the development of new facilities. Anticipated funding sources will be the Township and Village general fund, in-kind labor, and grants. Sources of the grants are: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), and other appropriate state, regional and local grant programs.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH

Existing Facilities	Project/Development	Estimated Cost and Anticipated Funding Sources	Priority
Community Square	Phase 2, Gazebo: A free-standing shelter large enough to serve as bandstand for entertainment, picnics, and public events.	\$30,000 Grants, General Fund	High
	Phase 3, Restrooms: Double restroom building, masonry block and wood, metal roof, with utility room.	\$60,000 Grants, General Fund	Medium
Ellsworth Community Park	Universally accessible kayak launch	\$30,000 MDNR Trust Fund	High
	Kayak Racks (1 of 2 locations)	\$3,000 (for 1) MDNR Trust Fund	Medium
River Park	Kayak Racks (1 of 2 locations)	\$3,000 (for 1) MDNR Trust Fund	Medium
	Upgrade playground equipment, exact upgrades TBD, all will be ADA compliant.	\$50,000 MDNR Trust Fund	Low
Sports Park	Playground Equipment: Add playground equipment, including an ADA composite play structure and an ADA swing-set.	\$50,000 MDNR Trust Fund	Medium

#### Rationale for planned improvements

These projects are supported by the *Ellsworth–Atwood Strategic Plan*, the *2017 Village of Ellsworth Master Plan*, the *2018 Village Capital Improvement Plan*, the *Chain of Lakes Water Trail Plan*, the previous *2011-2016 Community Recreation Plan*, as well as input received at the November 2017 public input event.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR BANKS TOWNSHIP

Facilities	Activity/ Development	Anticipated Partners
Non-motorized routes	Pursue development and/or designation of trails throughout the Township and Village.	Top of Michigan Trails Council, TART , DNR, MDOT, Road Commission
	Designate, sign, and provide other minor improvements along Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail route	Top of Michigan Trails Council, TART, DNR, MDOT, Road Commission
	Plan non-motorized routes to connect to existing or planned trails, recreation facilities and points of interest within the surrounding areas.	Top of Michigan Trails Council, DNR, MDOT, Road Commission
Motorized trails and pathways	Support the Development or expansion of snowmobile trails and connections between existing routes.	Local snowmobile clubs, DNR, and foundations.

### Rationale for New Non-motorized Trails:

There is a growing interest in trails both within the community and connecting to a larger trail network. Non-motorized trail opportunities are supported by the 2016 Strategic Plan, 2017 Master Plan, Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail Concept Plan and Development Guide, and this Recreation Plan. Additionally the current Antrim County Recreation Plan identifies the need to “develop a connecting trail system.” The need for other biking, hiking trails, x-country ski and snowshoeing trails should be considered on Village and township properties, as well as connecting routes planned between facilities, parks and places of interest.

The proposed Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail project builds on the vision of more than a decade of community groups working to make trail connections. The Trail will provide the missing link in Northern Lower Michigan’s Multi-Use Trail System, connecting two major trail networks – the Traverse Area Recreational Trail (TART) and the Little Traverse Wheelway. Banks Township – and bring much desired recreational opportunities to communities along the US-31 corridor. The trail is an opportunity for residents and visitors of Banks Township to experience the area’s beautiful scenery, parks, beaches, natural areas, and nearby communities, while supporting active living, healthy lifestyles, and quality of life. The Banks Township segment is entirely shared roadway, utilizing Old Dixie Highway. Old Dixie Highway is well-suited as a shared roadway because of its low-volume, rural character.

### Rationale for Snowmobile Connector Routes:

There are a number of snowmobile routes throughout northern Michigan. With the designation of the Ellsworth Community Park as a trailhead parking area for the local snowmobile trails, the Village and Township are interested in expanding the network of trails in the area, and adding connector trails in order to facilitate access to existing trails and from those trails into downtown Ellsworth.