

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2026-2031



Superior Township
Chippewa County
Michigan

Prepared for:
Superior Township Board
Prepared by:

Superior Township Recreation Committee

RECREATION PLAN TABLE OF CONTENTS

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PURPOSE

The purpose of the Superior Township Recreation Committee is to work in cooperation with the Superior Township Board, and residents of the Township who participated in this effort. The Plan is an updated version of the 2015-2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Its composition and adoption process should comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans. The Plan's adoption should qualify the Township to apply for MDNR grants for a total of five years after its adoption.

The purpose of the 5-year recreation plan for Superior Township is to develop recreational projects and improve existing facilities for residents and tourists, as well as increase tourist visits and lengths of stay, thus creating more local employment. This plan is meant to be a functional plan that can be amended to respond to the changing needs of the township. The plan will act as a guide for the continuing development and enhancement of recreational facilities in the township.

This Plan was established by identifying community needs in the Superior Township, holding discussions during public meetings, considering State recreational standards, and input from the Parks and Recreation Public Survey. The Superior Township is not financially obligated to complete any of the future projects proposed by the Parks and Recreation Board. However, the Township Board supports community amenities that reflect the best qualities of Township.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Superior Township is situated in the central part of Chippewa County. It lies within the area T46N and R2, R3, and R4 west. As shown on the Superior Township Base Map, the entire eastern boundary joins Dafter Township, the southern boundary with Kinross Township, the western boundary with Chippewa Township and most of the northern boundary with Bay Mills Township. A small area on the northern border has waterfront access to Lake Superior at Waiska Bay.

Superior Township is very rural in nature. Brimley an unincorporated town and the only community within the township – provides residential, commercial, educational and social services. Some mixed-use development of residential and commercial exists along M-28 and 6 Mile Rd, and along the shoreline. It lies within the route of scenic Curley Lewis Memorial Highway (Whitefish Bay Scenic Byway) to Sault Ste. Marie making it an ideal location for commuters to stop in the area.

The total area of Superior Township is about 104 square miles (66,560 acres) of which 85% is forested. In terms of land ownership, 65% of the land is public, 34% private and 1% is corporate. Major paved roads in Superior Township include M-28, M-221, 6 Mile Rd/ Lake Shore Drive, and Ranger Rd.

Demographic Background

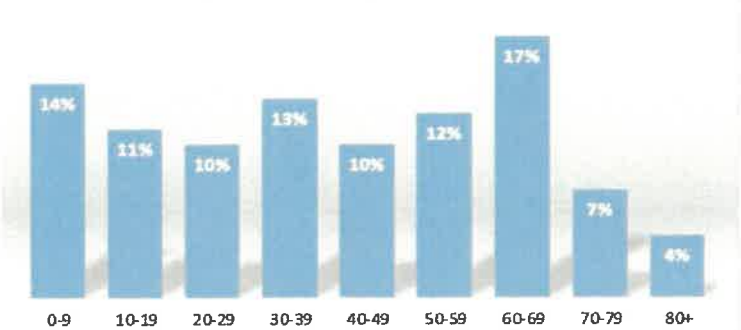
Superior Township

County: Chippewa County
Area (mi²):102.985
State: Michigan

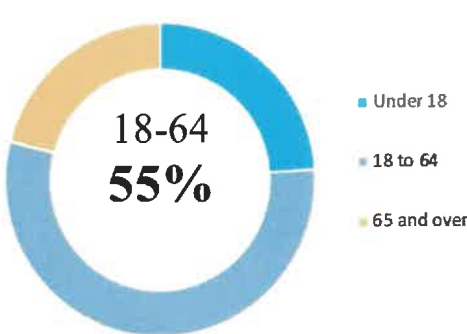
Superior township is in Chippewa County, Michigan. Superior Township has a 2025 population of **1,273**. Superior Township is currently growing at a rate of 0.47% annually and its population has increased by 2.33% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of **1,244** in 2020. The average household income in Superior Township is \$72,917 with a poverty rate of 15.8%. The median age in Superior Township is 43.1 years: 39 years for males, and 44.8 years for females.

Population and People

Population by Age Range



Population by age catagory



Data From: [Superior township, Chippewa County, MI - Profile data - Census Reporter](#)

Economics and Income Statistics

\$34,497 ±\$4,008 Per capita income

- **about 10 percent higher** than the amount in Chippewa County: \$30,609 ±\$1,599
- **about 90 percent** of the amount in Michigan: \$39,538 ±\$169

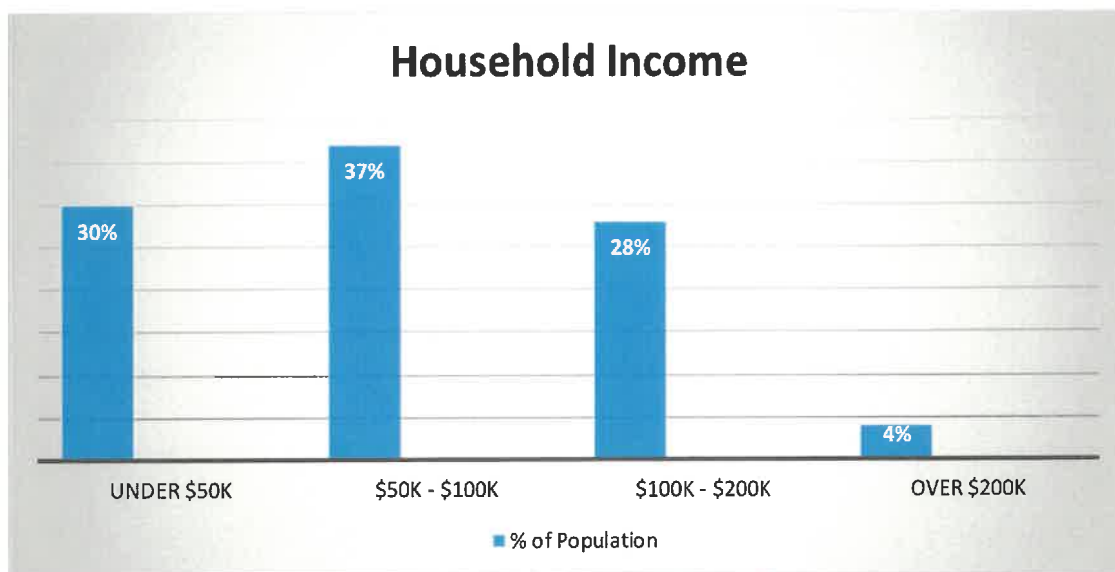
\$72,917 Median household income

- **about 20 percent higher** than the amount in Chippewa County: \$60,631
- **about the same as** the amount in Michigan: \$71,149

Over \$200K: 4%[†]

- **about 10 percent higher** than the rate in Chippewa County: 3%[†]
- **about two-fifths** of the rate in Michigan: 9%

[†] Margin of error at least 10 percent of total value



Data From: [Superior township, Chippewa County, MI - Profile data - Census Reporter](#)

Superior Township Income in Past 12 months

Median Household Income in Superior township, Chippewa County, Michigan

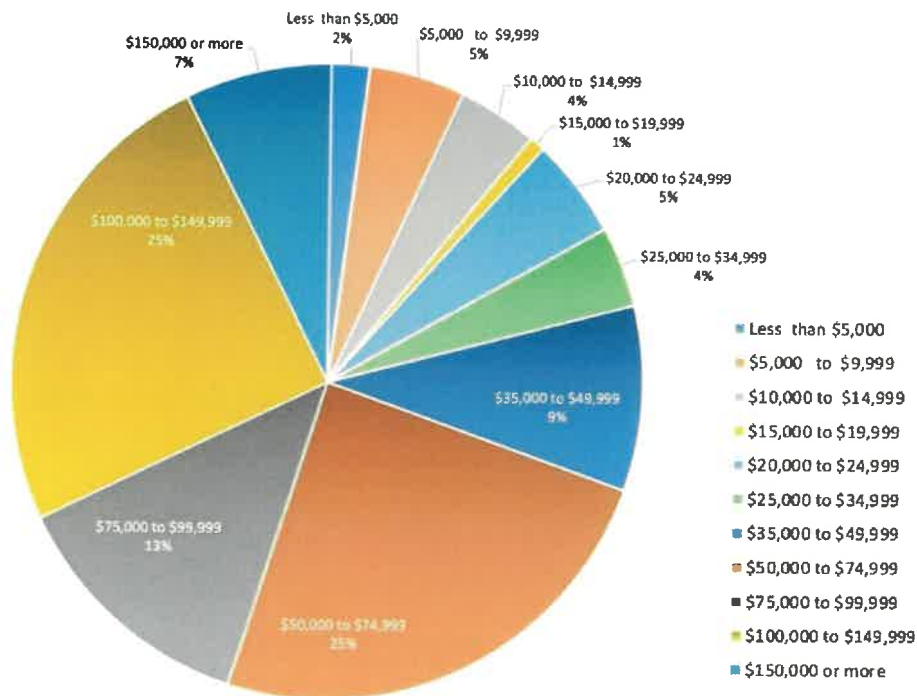
\$72,917 ± \$7,209

In 2025, Median Household Income has increased. Superior Township compared to the State of Michigan has better numbers overall but, keep in mind that the construction of a new Soo Lock which began in 2019 and is expected to take up to 10 years to complete, has significantly impacted the local area with the increased labor workers in the area.

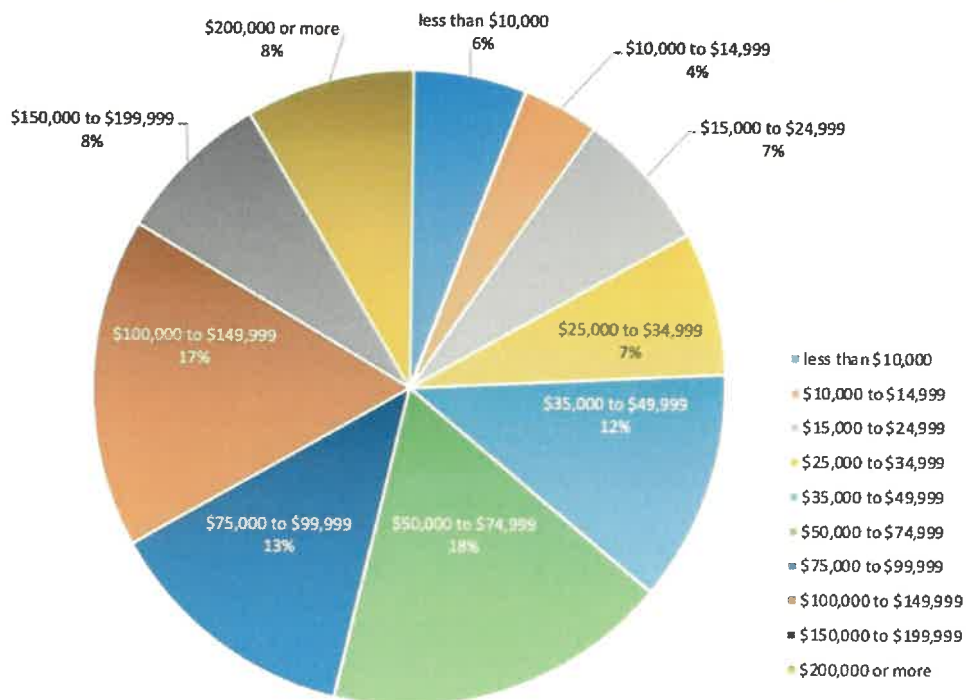
Economically, the project has increased tourism, brought numerous jobs and investment, while also creating temporary disruption in affordable housing availability. Refer to charts on next page.

Data from: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/06000US2603377540-superior-township-chippewa-county-mi/>

Superior Township Household Income in Past 12 Months



Michigan household Income in Past 12 months



ALICE Data and Indicators of Well-Being

Having a low income is often associated with lower levels of education, higher rates of unemployment, and poorer health. Communities that have been able to disrupt these associations can provide important insights into how to change environments or policies to support ALICE households. Tracking relationships between ALICE households and other variables at state and county levels can also help stakeholders ask important questions and target resources where they can have the greatest impact.

The information below shows the percentage of households below the ALICE Threshold (poverty + ALICE) — households that cannot afford the basics in the communities where they live — along with additional indicators of well-being.

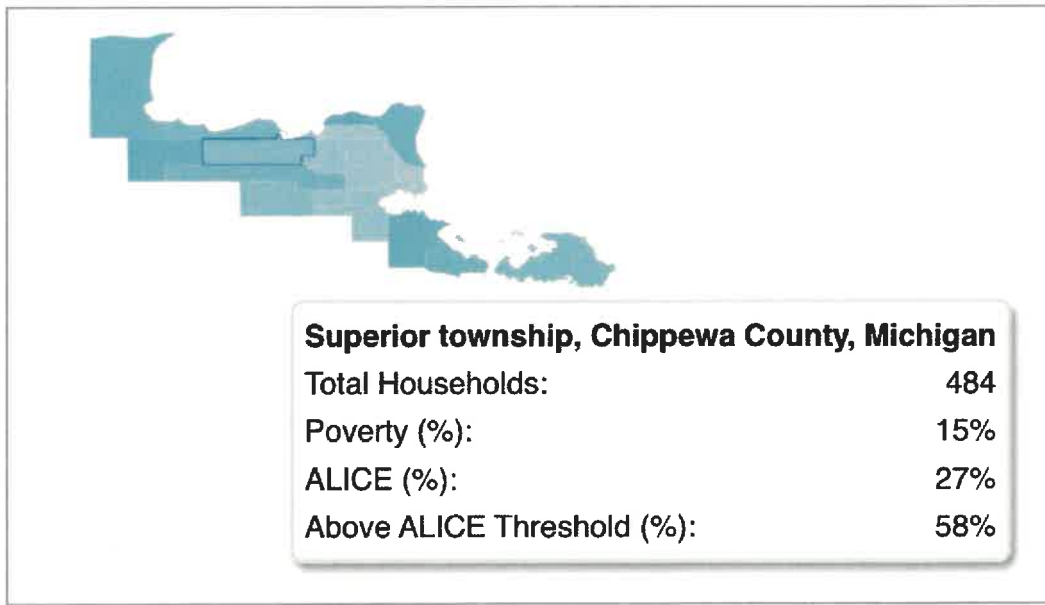
Although the information below does not give specific numbers to Superior Township, it does represent the county it resides in.

Access to Parks

Percent Below ALICE Threshold, 2023 and Access to Parks, 2020

County:	Chippewa
State:	Michigan
Year:	2023
Percent Below ALICE Threshold:	45%

County:	Chippewa
State:	Michigan
Title:	Access to Parks
Year:	2020
Value:	70.10

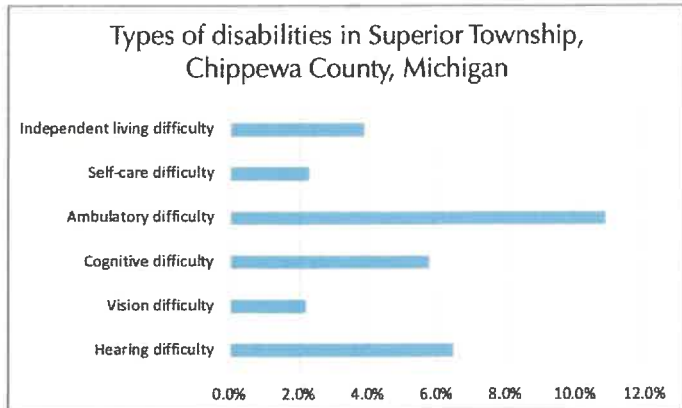


Data from: <https://unitedforalice.org/indicators-of-well-being/michigan>

Disability

Superior Township is aware of the needs of the disabled and has made it a goal to make existing recreational sites as ADA accessible as possible, and ensuring future recreational opportunities are also ADA accessible. The latest American Community Survey (2023: ACS 5-year estimate) data shows 16.4% of Superior Township's population has a disability. The table below shows a breakdown of

Superior Township's population with a disability. This data is a combination of all ages and disabilities. With 24% of the population over the age of 60, Ambulatory Difficulty and Hearing Difficulty are noted as the highest items.



Data from: <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1810?g=060XX00US2603377540>

Housing

Units & Occupancy: 781 Number of housing units

Chippewa County: 20,340

Michigan: 4,599,683

Occupied vs Vacant



■ Occupied ■ Vacant

Ownership of occupied units



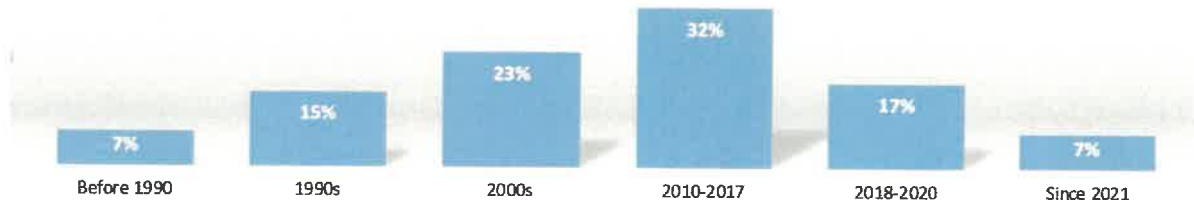
■ Owner occupied ■ Renter occupied

Superior Township in Chippewa County, Michigan offers a mix of residential properties, including houses, vacant lots, and even cabins, with some being waterfront properties on Lake Superior. Superior Township, is known for its natural beauty that makes it a popular vacation destination and location for vacation homes.

Data from: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/06000US2603377540-superior-township-chippewa-county-mi/>

Social

Year Moved in, by percentage of population



Data from: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/06000US2603377540-superior-township-chippewa-county-mi/>

Educational attainment

94.1%

High school grad or higher

About the same as the rate in Chippewa County: 92.8%

About the same as the rate in Michigan: 91.9%

22.1%

Bachelor's degree or higher

About the same as the rate in Chippewa County: 21.9%

About the same as the rate in Michigan: 31.8%

Place of birth

1.3%

Foreign-born population

About two-fifths of the rate in Chippewa County: 3.2%

About one-fifth of the rate in Michigan: 7%

Veteran Status

7.9%

Population with
veteran status

About 90 percent of
the rate in Chippewa
County: 8.5%

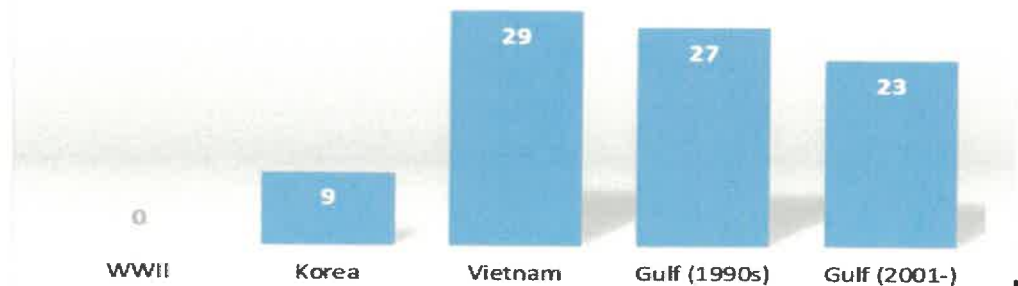
About 1.3 times the
rate in Michigan:

6.1%

Data from:

<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/06000US2603377540-superior-township-chippewa-county-mi/>

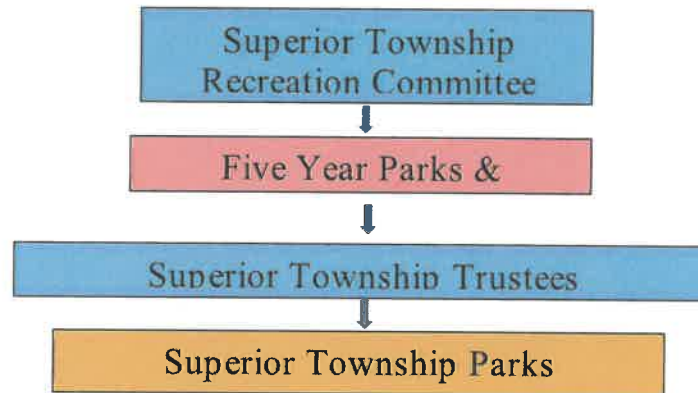
Veterans by wartime service



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Superior Township administrative activities are handled by a township board of trustees that consists of five elected members: A Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Trustees. Superior Township has no formal Parks and Recreation Department. A Recreation Committee was formed in late 2014 to assist in maintaining and developing recreation opportunities within the Township. The recreation committee is a volunteer committee with members appointed by the Township Board. Superior Township has two (2) seasonal maintenance employees, whose responsibilities include maintenance of the parks.

Superior Township Organizational Chart



Superior Township Trustees

Michael Fox, Supervisor
Jolene Passmore, Clerk
Amy Eddy, Treasurer
Jim Sutton, Trustee
Cindy Vansloten, Trustee

Recreation Committee

Lori Busha – Township Zoning Administrator
Jim Busha – Superior Township Water Board Member
Heidi Murdoch – Township Resident
Cindy Wilson – Township Resident
Lee Freedman – Superior Township Board Review

Staff

Because the park does not currently have any recreational facilities to maintain or program, Superior Township does not currently have any permanent park maintenance or recreation staff. The current Superior Township staff includes a 2-person Department of Public Works, whose responsibilities include maintenance of Township Parks.

Annual and Projected Budgets

BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE BOARD OF Superior Township 2025-2026 BUDGET

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the general appropriations for the Superior Township General Fund for the fiscal year 2025-26; a resolution to make appropriations ; to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations; and to provide for the disposition of all revenue received by Superior Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total revenue and unappropriated fund balance estimated available for appropriations in the **GENERAL FUND** are as follows:

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

401 current property tax	\$97,000.00
405 payment in lieu	\$0.00
408 gaming component	\$10,000.00
409.1 township share of Fire & Amb	\$14,000.00
415 taxes -admin fee	\$15,000.00
424 taxes -commercial forest	\$100.00
425 taxes-swamp tax	\$7,500.00
506 federal sources	\$11,500.00
574 st shared rev.	\$140,000.00
611 metro author annual	\$3,000.00
617 Misc other	\$2,000.00
635 grave opening and closing	\$1,000.00
641 lot splits	\$200.00
642 cemetery lot sales	\$500.00
648 Verizon Lease Pmts	\$8,000.00
650 rent and royalties	\$1,200.00
655 zoning	\$750.00
665 interest	\$6,850.00
697 Donations	\$0.00
101-000-69 PRIOR YEAR CARRYOVER	\$25,000.00
Total Revenues	\$343,600

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that \$343,600.00. of the total available to appropriate in the **GENERAL FUND** is hereby appropriated in the amounts for the purpose set forth below:

EXPENDITURES

101 TOWNSHIP BOARD	\$22,040
171 TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR	\$14,531
191 ELECTIONS	\$1,200
209 ASSESSORS	\$30,800
215 TOWNSHIP CLERK	\$19,225
247 BOARD OF REVIEW	\$2,330
253 TREASURER	\$21,325
265 BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$113,445
276 CEMETARY	\$1,450
336 FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$29,510
410 ZONING	\$13,000
446 STREETS & HIGHWAYS	\$13,000
751 PARKS AND REC	\$10,000
101.000.99 CONTINGENCY	\$51,744
Total Appropriated	\$343,600

Excess Revenue Over(Under) Expenditures \$0

Projected Fund Balance April 1,2025 \$173,139

Funding Sources

Superior Township's only current recreation expenditures have been annual contributions to the cost of maintenance of Superior Township Park, such as payment of the electrical bill. These funds came from the township's general fund. The township's total budgeted expenses related to the park from the general fund budget for the 2025–2026 fiscal year was \$10,000.

The Superior Township Community School District's primary funding source for operations is through the per-student foundation allowance provided by the State of Michigan. Basic maintenance of recreational facilities is handled by the school district. The operational cost of utilizing the buildings comes from the general budget. There is not a separate line item in the budget for maintenance of the playfields.

Role of Volunteers

Volunteers promote recreation throughout the community in a wide range of areas:

Citizens of Chippewa County, local businesses and members of the local Lions Club are dedicated to improvement of the Superior Township Parks. To date the efforts have included: raising funds, painting the railroad cars in the Historical Mini-Park and building improvements within the Superior Township Park.

Volunteer groups support and participate in activities at the Superior Township Park, including construction projects and attending music in the park events.

Relationships with other Agencies

There are many organizations and agencies that contribute to the overall success of recreation opportunities within Superior Township. These organizations and agencies have provided matching funds and/or volunteers for development projects, technical assistance on projects and grants, etc.

Organizations and Agencies:

- Brimley Area Schools
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- United States Forest Service
- E.G.L.E. Environment, Great Lake, Energy
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac Conservation District

- Eastern U.P. Regional Planning Development Commission
- Sault Ste Marie Snowmobile Club
- Friends of Pandal's Creek
- Western Great Lakes Pilots Association (WGLPA)

Status Report of All Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

To date, the Superior Township has received one grant from the DNR in 2015, as well as donations in 2024 from a local business and residents.

Superior Township Recreation Grant History				
Date	Project No.	Description	\$Amt	Status
2015	TF15-0123	Superior Township Acquisition Reimbursement Request	\$96,200.00	Done
June. 2024	NA	Board walk (private donation)	\$5,000.00	Done
June. 2024	NA	Board walk lighting, benches, decorative rocks (private donation)	\$5,000.00	Done
June. 2024	NA	WGLPA (Local business donation)	\$5,000.00	WIP
Aug. 2024	NA	Pavilion (Township funded)	\$5000.00	WIP

Table: Parks and Recreation Funding Sources (Fiscal Year 2025 -2026)

Superior Township	\$ 10,000
Pavilion Rental	\$ 0
Donations	as Received
Sale of Steel	Seeking Buyer(s)
Volunteer labor	

Status of Previously Awarded Project TF15-0123

The TF15-0123 Superior Township Acquisition Reimbursement Request was written in 2016 and funded the purchase of Veterans Memorial Park property. This purchase was completed nearly 9 years ago, so the park is still in use by the public. The Superior Township Park, which is near the Veterans Memorial Park, is currently in need of necessities to draw more locals and visitors to the park. Additionally, by joining the two parks by way of a under the bridge walkway, it would gain access to more parking and future restrooms. Upgrades that are being requested are identified in the Action Program and photo documentation will be included, refer to Supporting Documents section.

RECREATION & RESOURCE INVENTORY

Recreational Inventory

The following Recreational Inventory is a comprehensive list of public and private recreation areas and facilities in Superior Township. The inventory will be used as a basis for determining the need for specific recreational facilities in the area. Information was collected and assessments were made on the current facilities that are used by the residents. The following chart is a summary of the local and regional park and recreation facilities available. They have been categorized by district, as well as classification based on size and type of facility.

		Acreage (approximate)	Ball Diamonds	Football	Pickle Ball/Ice Rink	History	Picnic Area	Playground Equipment	Playfield (open)	Nature Trails	Waterfront Property	Shelter	Boat Launch	Kayak Launch	Restrooms	Classifications	Comments
Schools																	
1	Brimley Area School	20.2	X	X	X			X	X							SG	
Local Public Facilities																	
2	Superior Township Offices	0.25													X	CP	
3	Superior Township Park	2.7					X		X		X	X	X	X		CP	
4	Veterans Memorial Park	0.66				X					X					CP	
5	Wheels of History Museum	1.15				X	X					X				CP	
Regional Recreation																	
6	Brimley State Park	100					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	RP	
7	ORV Trails									X						RT	
8	Snowmobile Trail									X						RT	
9	Superior Water Trail									X	X					RT	
10	Round Island Nature Preserve Trail	1,026								X	X					RP	
11	Hiawatha National Park (Eastern)	38,430					X			X	X	X			X	RP	
- Number denotes location on parks and recreation inventory map																	
CP = Community Park; RP = Regional Park; NP = Neighborhood Park; SG = School Grounds; RT = Regional Trail																	

Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities

The following Recreational Inventory is a comprehensive list of public and private recreation areas and facilities in the Superior Township Community, see map in the Appendix. This inventory will be used as a basis to determine the need for specific recreational facilities in the community. Grant history of each park is included. Post Completion Forms for MDNR funded projects are included in the Supporting Documentation. The summaries also address the accessibility of parks and recreation facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). In general, all construction since 1991 was required to comply with these guidelines.

ADA compliance ranking each facility ranges from 1-5:

- 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 areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4= The entire facility/park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5= The entire facility/park was developed /renovated using the principals of universal design

Township residents utilize school facilities whenever possible, during school hours and extracurricular activities, the availability of these facilities for public use is limited. For this reason, it appears that there is demand for recreational park land that is owned, developed, and maintained by the Township. The intent would be to develop available space in the community to be used as parks land for various programming in the area.

As noted, most amenities and programming revolve around the Superior Township Community School system. To make up the deficiencies that exist in the area, the community must be proactive in providing these services and recreational activities that are accessible to all the residents.

SCHOOL

Brimley Area Schools



Description	The Brimley Area Schools provides the only K-12 public school system for the entire Township, in addition to Bay Mills, Chippewa, and a part of Dafter Townships. Brimley Area Schools, located on M-221 in Brimley, serves approximately 460 students.
Size	20.2 acres
Facilities	Recreation facilities on school grounds include tennis court/ice rink, children's playground, basketball courts, track, football and baseball fields, which are all available to the public. Indoor gymnasiums are available upon request. Superior Township provides electricity for the tennis court/ice rink
Accessibility	ADA- 5 – (Barrier free parking and concrete walkways close to but not connecting playground equipment)
Previous MDNR Grant Assistance	None

Local Public Facilities

Superior Township Office

Description Located in Brimley, it serves all residents of the community.

Size: .25 acres

Facilities: Bathroom

Accessibility: ADA-1

Previous MDNR Grant Assistance: None



Superior Township Park



Description



A small park located at the corner of M-221 and W. Lakeshore Drive along the Waika River, in the initial stages of development of a new recreational facility. The site has: Universal Access EZ Dock to launch canoes/kayaks, a barrier-free lighted fishing pier & boat dock, a launch for small craft, parking area, boat drop-off area and launch site, picnic tables, pavilion, and trash receptacles.



Proposed improvements will also include toilets, outdoor grills, and playground. In addition, the Township plans to improve parking for vehicles and add potable drinking water.



Coordinates: 46°24'40.4"N 84°34'21.6"W
Size: 2.7 Acres
Facilities: Waterfront, Kayak & Boat Launch Facilities, Picnic area, shelter, open play field
Accessibility: ADA-3
Previous MDNR Grant Assistance: None

Veterans Memorial Park



Description	The Veterans' Memorial Park & Monument is a public memorial honoring those who have served in the United States Military.
Coordinates:	46°24'39.4"N 84°34'20.2"W
Size:	.91 acres
Facilities:	History
Accessibility:	ADA-1
Previous MDNR Grant Assistance:	None

Wheels of History Museum –Mini-Park



Description Climb
aboard this 1905 wooden
railroad passenger car and



caboose and learn the history
of the Brimley area. See
fascinating historical exhibits
and artifacts from the railroad,
telephones, logging, fishing,
Great Lake ships and local family histories. There is also an accessible
¾ Replica Depot with a gift shop and restroom.

Size: 1.15 acres

Facilities: History, picnic area, shelter, family-friendly & restroom inside the
Depot building

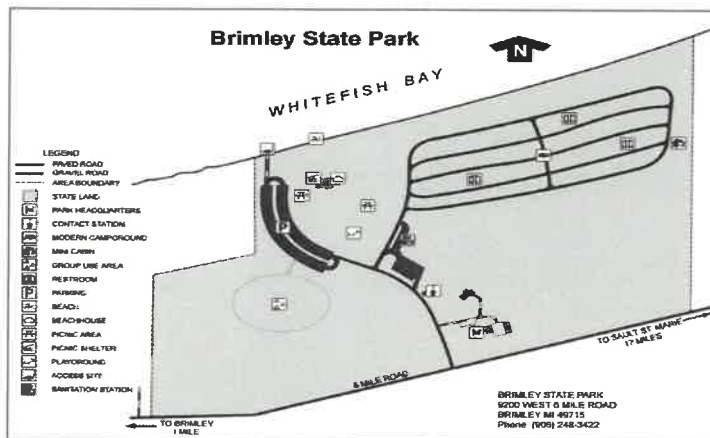
Accessibility: ADA-3

Previous MDNR Grant Assistance: None



Regional Recreation

Brimley State Park



Description The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages Brimley State Park. Brimley State Park, located along the beautiful shore of Lake Superior's Whitefish Bay, is home to 100 acres of lakeside recreation. The park is one of the oldest state parks in the Upper Peninsula and was established in 1923 when the Village of Brimley gifted the park's initial acreage to the DNR.

From the sandy shoreline or observation area, visitors enjoy watching passing freighters and the view of Canada across the lake. The nearby bays and rivers are a destination for fishing, and several designated trout streams are located within a 30-minute drive of the park in the Hiawatha National Forest.

Size	100 acres
Facilities	Picnic area, Playground, playfield open, nature trails, waterfront, boat & kayak launch, beach, bathroom, camping
Accessibility	ADA-5
Previous MDNR Grant Assistance	None

ORV ROUTE C

Description

Chippewa County consists of more than 65 miles of designated ATV/ORV trails. These trails are a great way to explore the beauty of the Upper Peninsula in the “backroads” way. The Sault Ste Marie, Racó, Strongs Route travels through downtown Brimley and Superior Township.

Size

more than 65 miles

Facilities

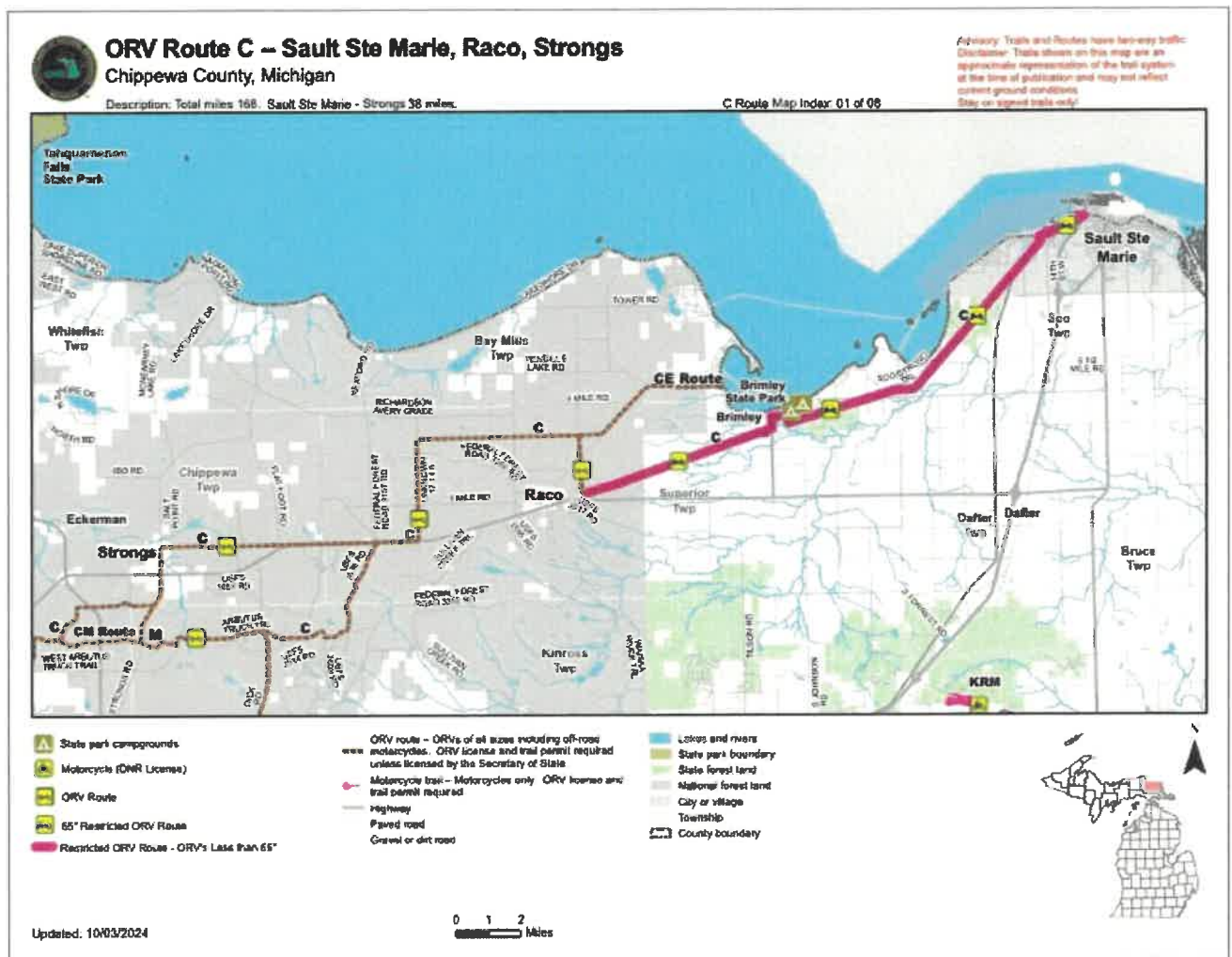
ORV trail

Accessibility

ADA-1

Previous MDNR Grant Assistance

None



DNR Snowmobile Trails

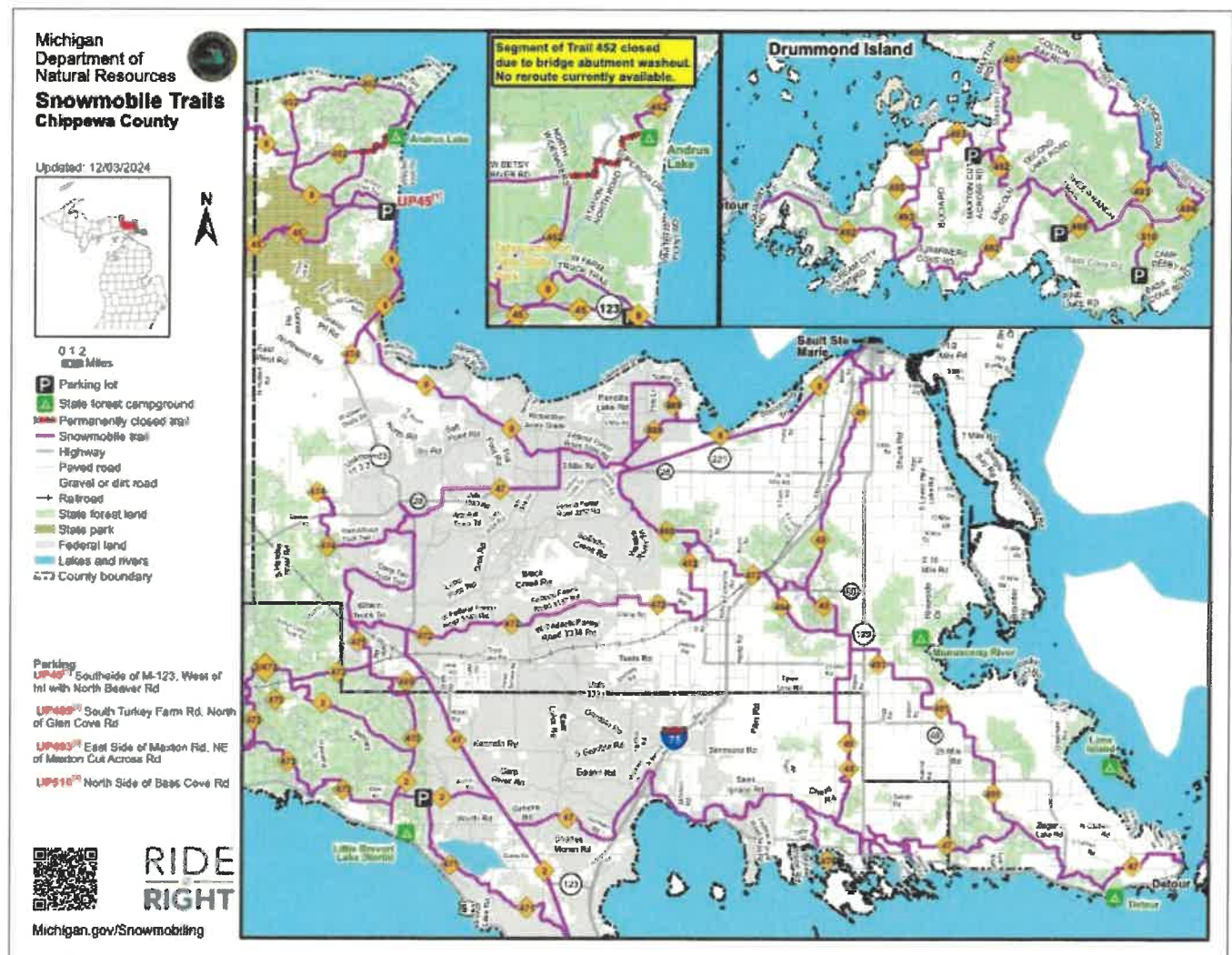
Description The Upper Peninsula of Michigan has more than 3,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, with about 220 miles of them going through Chippewa County, Michigan.

Size More than 3,000 miles

Facilities Snowmobile trail

Accessibility ADA-1

Previous MDNR Grant Assistance None



MDOT Bike Trails



Description

The Michigan U.S. Bicycle Route System is part of a national network of bicycling routes connecting urban and rural communities via signed roads and trails.

Size

Facilities

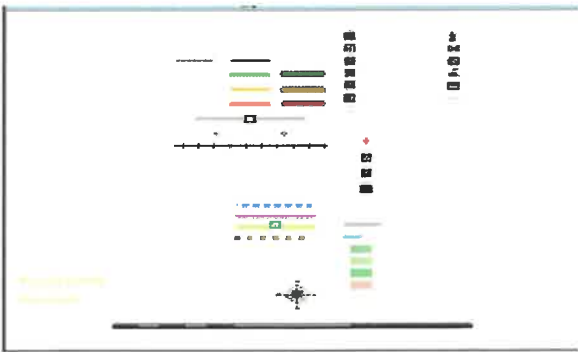
Accessibility

Previous MDNR Grant Assistance

Bike Trail

ADA-1

None



Superior Water Trail

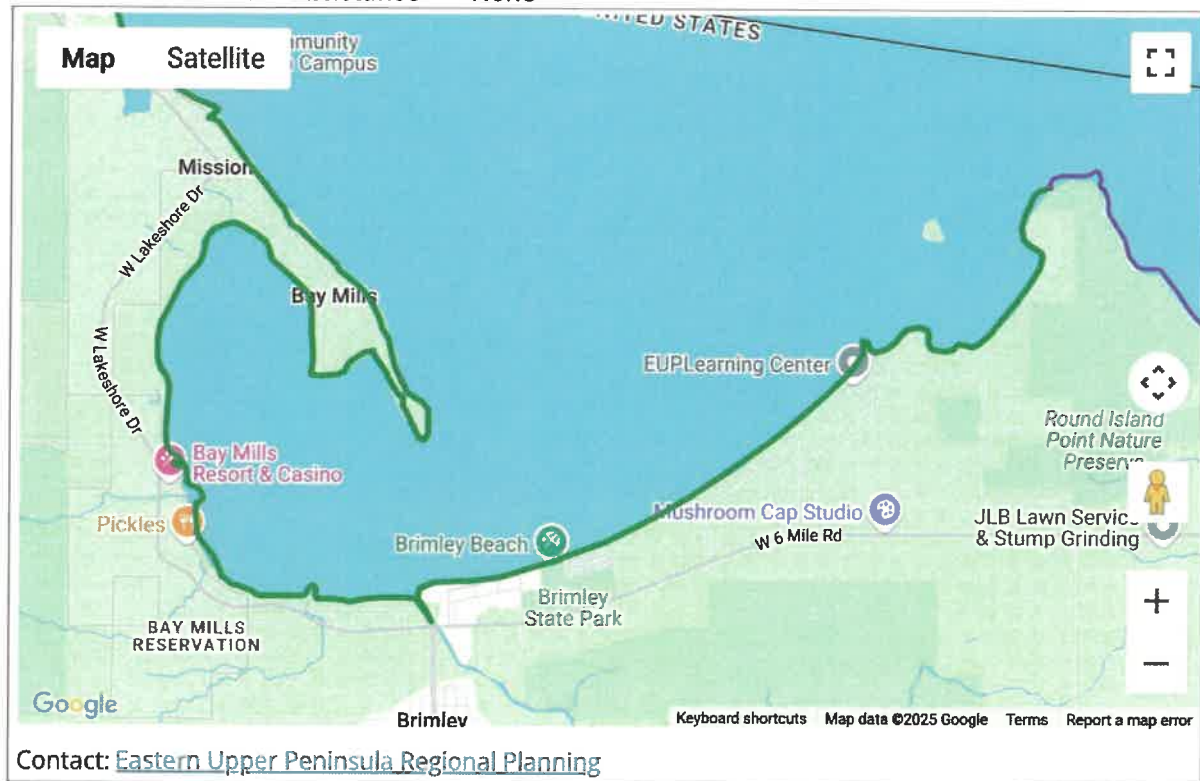
Description The Department of Natural Resources Waterway Division is the body directly responsible for managing the Great Lakes shorelines. A water trail is a designated route along a lake, river, canal or bay specifically designed for people using small boats like kayaks, canoes, single sailboats or rowboats. The trails, sometimes called “blueways,” are the aquatic equivalent of a hiking trail (or “greenway”). Water trails feature well-developed access and launch points; are near significant historical, environmental or cultural points of interest; and often include nearby amenities such as restaurants, hotels and campgrounds.

Size

Facilities Water trail

Accessibility ADA-1

Previous MDNR Grant Assistance None



Round Island Nature Preserve

Description	Round Island Point is a large block of protected habitat near Lake Superior in Brimley, MI. In total, this preserve is 1,026 acres with 9,000 feet along Lake Superior. The trail is great for seeing all sorts of wildlife such as birds. There is a 1½ mile inland groomed trail which includes an outlook with some great views. But feel free to explore off the dedicated trails and explore your way to Lake Superior.		
Size	1,026 acres		
Facilities	Nature trails		
Accessibility	ADA 1		
Previous MDNR Grant Assistance	None		



Description	The U.S. Forest Service District Office in St. Ignace is responsible for the management, planning and development of approximately 38,430 acres of Hiawatha National Forest within Superior Township. While forest management is the most important function performed, recreational hunting, fishing boating, camping and the like are allowed on National Forest land.
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Size	38,430 acres combined East & West
Facilities	Nature trails
Accessibility	ADA-1
Previous MDNR Grant Assistance	None



DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Planning

The Superior Township board recognizes the need to provide its residents and visitors with recreation opportunities. In Oct 2023, a Recreation Committee was formed by the Superior Township Board and was appointed to work on updating the Recreation Plan, among other tasks. That committee consists of members representing various interest. The members of this committee are listed at the beginning of this plan.

In the development of the Recreation Plan update from 2015, several public presentations and questionnaires were provided at local events to attain public support and interest of recreational development. The current Recreation Committee is reviewing public interests from questionnaires provided.

The public was provided a review and comment period of this plan from AUG 6th to SEPT 8th, 2025.

A public hearing was held prior to the Township Board meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

Notices declaring the above meetings and availability of the draft plan was published in the Sault News on 8/6/2025. Notices were also placed at the Township Hall, refer to Supporting Documents.

Public Input

The Superior Township Parks and Recreation Committee was formed to oversee park improvements in the Township. The Committee is comprised of representatives of the Township, active citizens, and volunteers. In 2015, the Board developed, and the Township adopted a Parks and Recreation Plan for the community; this Plan expired in 2019. In 2024, the Township decided to update the Plan. The planning process began in Jan, 2025.

Early Input Before the Draft Plan

Public input was solicited more informally, in 2024 and again 2025 to determine the current needs compared to the previous survey results done in 2015. Most information was obtained primarily through Park Committee meetings and surveys results solicited during public community events (4th of July Parade, Music in the Park, Brawl in the Fall Smoke Off event, etc.).

Public Input – 2024 Informal Survey

To ensure that the Park Committee understood the current needs of the Township residents and those that visit our township, we did a small informal survey and collected the results during public events held in the community during the summer of 2024. The events were the 4th of July Parade, and the three Music in the Park Events held monthly throughout the summer, (7/27/2024, 8/17/2024 & 9/20/2024).

Survey Questions

Are you a resident of Superior Township? Yes or No

Select your top priority Park Options for development of the Township Park

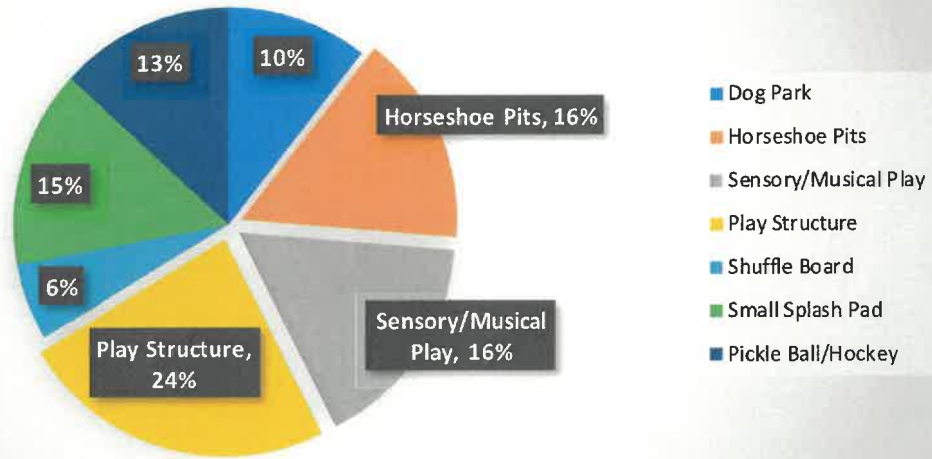
- Dog Park
- Horseshoe Pits
- Sensory/Music Play
- Shuffleboard
- Small Splash Pad
- Pickle Ball / Hockey

Write-in any suggestions you have for developing the Township Park

Results

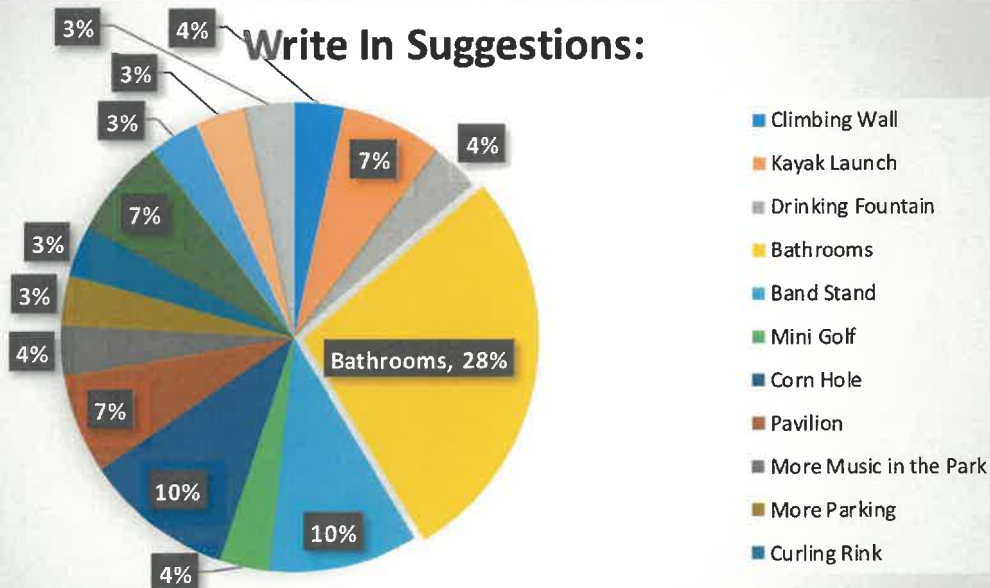
It is estimated that there were approximately 665 people who attended those events and 98 people participated in the surveys, almost 15% survey participation rate. Of the 98 people surveyed, 61.2% were residents of Superior Township and 38.8% were not residents. The results of the Park Options portion of the survey are displayed in the graph below.

Park Options:



The survey indicates that most people prioritized having a Play Structure, followed by Horseshoe Pits and Sensory/Music Play tied for second place. The input from the people who wrote in a suggestion for what they would like to see in the Township Park is captured in the graph below.

Write In Suggestions:



There were 29 Write-in Suggestions. Having a restroom/bathroom facility far outweighed the other suggestions, with 28% of the Write-in Suggestions, followed by a tie for second at 10% for Band Stand and Corn hole.

In 2024, the residents were most interested in developing the Township Park with a Play Structure and Restroom Facilities.

Public Input – 2025 Informal Survey

An additional survey was performed in 2025 to ensure alignment of the results from the previous year's survey. The Survey used at the Mikolowski Makin Bacon Farms Brawl in the Fall Smoke Off Event on September 18, 2025 obtained input from 22 people in the community out of the approximately 200 people that showed up to the event. The survey which was the same survey used for the 2015 Recreation Plan is located on the next page, with the results on the pages following the survey.

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP PARK PLANNING

The Superior Township Board, in conjunction with the Bay Mills – Brimley Historical Society is developing a 5-year Recreational Plan for the township. Part of the plan includes what the public feels is needed in the way of facilities in the township.

As a member of our community, your input is important for us to determine our community needs and wants for future park improvements. Please take a moment to fill out the questions below.

If members of your household seldom or do not use Superior Township Park facilities, what are the reasons? (Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ No restrooms
- ☐ Limited parking availability
- ☐ No dog parks
- ☐ No play structure
- ☐ Other, please explain: _____

From the list below, please list the most important park improvements needed to serve Superior Township: (1 being the highest priority, 6 being the lowest priority):

- ☐ Provide cognitive skills (sensory/musical play) area for all ages
- ☐ Install play structure
- ☐ Install horseshoe pits
- ☐ Develop a path with fitness equipment
- ☐ Create dog off-leash area
- ☐ Other, please describe: _____

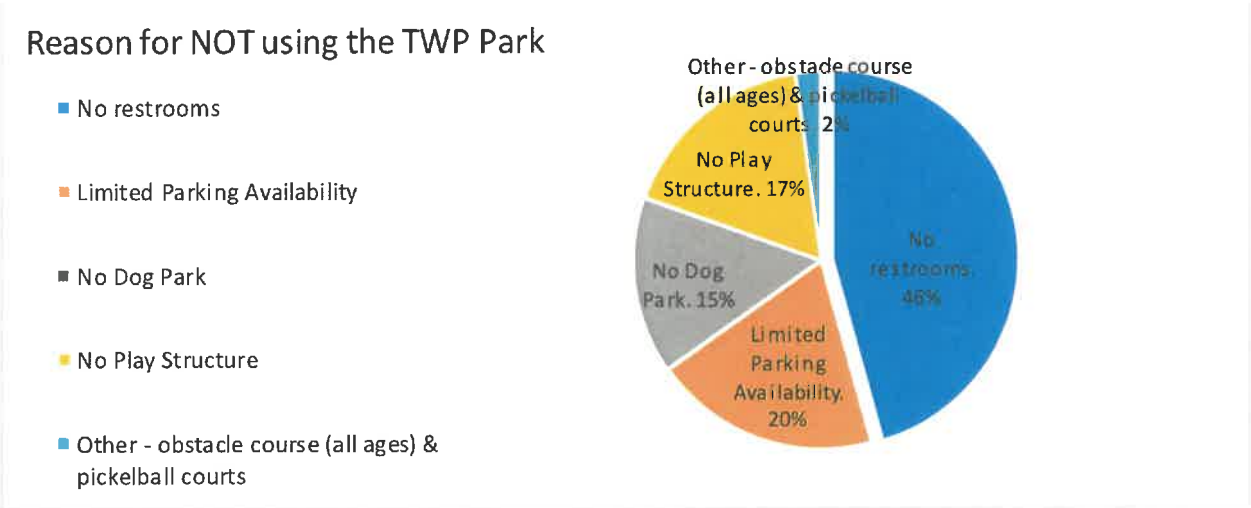
How can we make Superior Township Park more enjoyable for you? (1 being the highest priority, 6 being the lowest priority):

- ☐ Provide more seating and viewing areas
- ☐ Expand and develop the Superior Township board walk to include Memorial Park
- ☐ Provide interpretive and exercise trails, for education and fitness
- ☐ More support facilities (restrooms, drinking fountains, grills, etc.)
- ☐ Other, please describe: _____

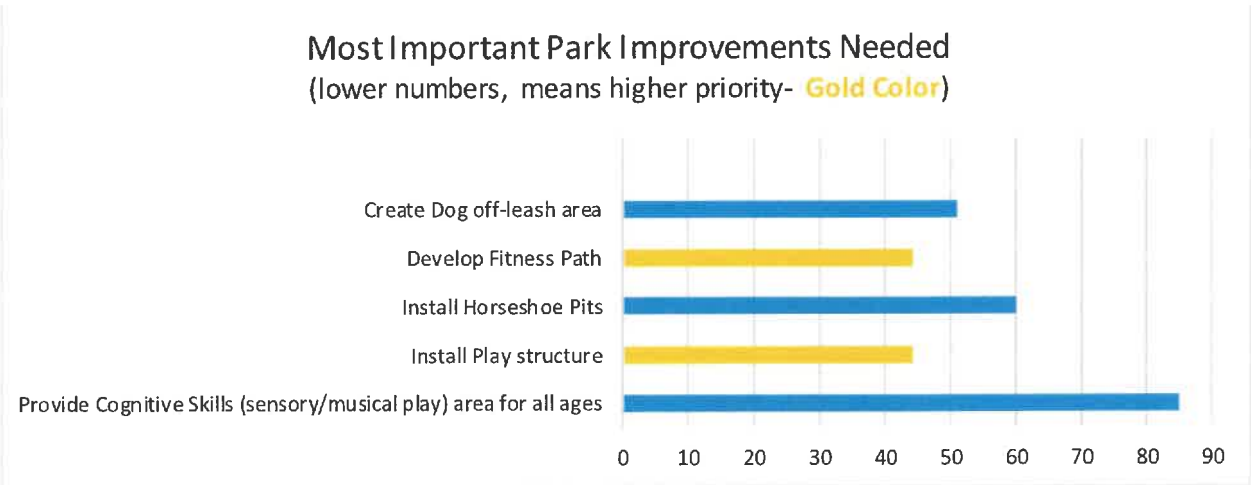
Thank you for your time and input.

Results

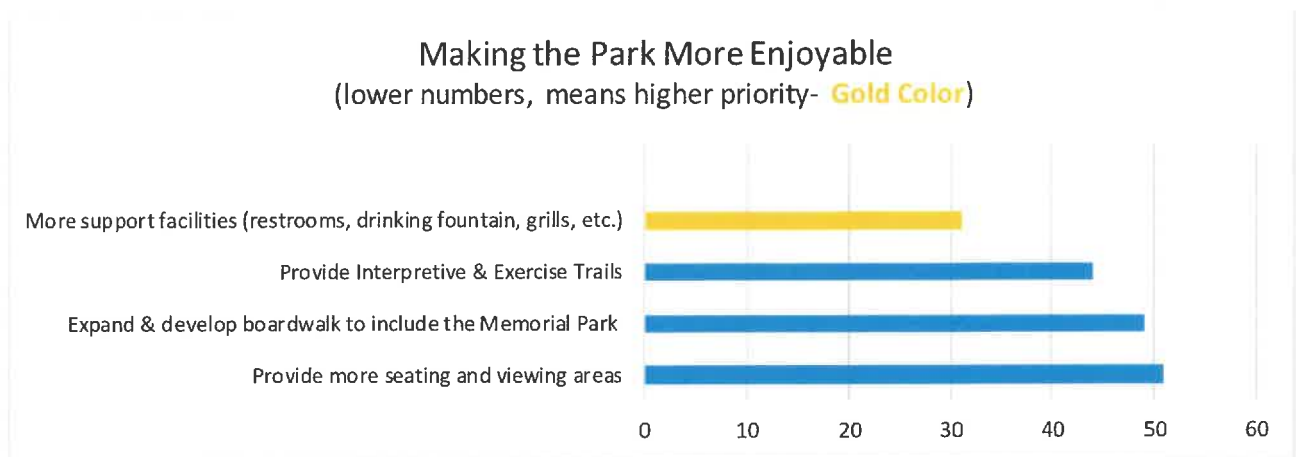
Total People Surveyed: 22



The results above indicate a large majority of those surveyed would use the park more if there were Restroom facilities, followed by more Parking and having a Play Structure.



The survey results also captured the type of activities that people thought would be an improvement to the park. Developing a Fitness Path and Installing a Play Structure were the highest priorities. These results are in line with the 2024 Informal Survey results that prioritized Play Structure and having more facilities like restrooms and parking.



The survey results clearly shows that more support facilities are a priority for the Township Park.

Survey Conclusions: Based on the 2024 and 2025 survey results, having a Play Structure, Restroom Facilities and Parking are the top priorities. These results are also in line with the previous 2015 Recreation Plan survey, but with more focus on development of the Park along Waiska River, as several of the goals from the previous 2015 Recreation Plan were already accomplished, with improvements to the Historical Mini-Park, establishing a Veterans Memorial Park, Universal access EZDock and Launch for Canoes/Kayaks, boardwalk dock for fishing and paved hiking/biking path between the Brimley State Park and the Township Park.

Public Input – Additional Information Gathering

An Information board about potential projects was also displayed to encourage input about what the community would like to see the Committee promote. The monthly Committee meetings were advertised to the community and residents were invited to attend.

After the information from the meetings was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board, the goals and objectives and action plan were developed based on what were high priority items to address in the parks and programming. The goals and objectives were drafted and were presented to the Park and Recreation Committee and comments were held to define other potential amenities to the parks program. The Draft Plan was then ready to begin the 30-day review process. The dates for the 30-day review were August 6th, 2025 to September 8th, 2025 and the Plan was available at the Superior Township Offices. Refer to the Supporting Documents section for the Posted Notice certified by the Township Clerk.

After the 30-day review in the community, the public from the Superior Township community was invited to participate in the public hearing for the draft on September 11, 2025. After the public hearing, any comments were reviewed and anything that needed to be adjusted in the Plan was reviewed and updated. Refer to the Supporting documents section for the Meeting Minutes from the public hearing.

After this review, the Plan was forwarded to the Township Board for review. The Township reviewed and adopted the Plan on January 27, 2026. Copies of the public hearing and recommendations for a Resolution of Adoption from the Superior Township Board are included in the Supporting Documentation.

The final copy of the Plan was uploaded to the MDNR with a transmittal letter noting that copies had been sent to the local and regional planning agency for acceptance.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

An overall guide for the Superior Township recreation goals, will be to focus efforts on developing additional recreational programming and defining key opportunities for park improvements. The information for the goals and objectives was collected with survey data from residents and visitors to our park and from the data collected from the comprehensive plan developed for the Superior Township Master plan. Of the goals and objectives listed, the top priorities ranked in order include:

- Construct new facilities where necessary to provide additional amenities for residents.
- Upgrade and renovate existing park properties to meet the current needs and requirements for ADA-accessibility.
- Expanding program opportunities for park facilities in the service area.

The overall theme for improving recreation will be to develop and maintain recreational programming that will support the growing needs of Superior Township.

The following goals support this (not listed in any order of priority):

Goal 1

Develop recreational sites and opportunities for residents and tourists and provide connections for Lake Superior Water Trails¹.

- Initiate the development of the recreational waterfront Superior Township Park located at the corner of M-221 and W. Lakeshore Drive along the Waiska River. Site amenities will include a barrier-free Universal Access EZ Dock to launch canoes/kayaks, a barrier-free lighted board walk, a vehicle turnaround for the launch site of small craft, and potable drinking water. The site will also include restrooms, picnic area, pavilion, outdoor grills, agility course, trash cans, and informational kiosks.
- Superior Township Veteran's Park property is located on M-221 the Southeast corner of 6 mile intersection. This site has a monument honoring all local veterans who served their Country, with plans to add a boardwalk along the waterfront in this park.

Goal 2

¹ Water trails are recreational routes on waterways with a network of public access points supported by broad-based community partnerships. Water trails provide both conservation and recreational opportunities (NPS, MIDNR).

Improve upon current recreation facilities for greater use by residents and tourists.

- Provide signage, kiosks, and interpretive signs for parks, trails and historic sites.
- Provide guides: maps of water and hiking, biking trails, public restrooms, historic sites, museums, schools, businesses, festivals, geo-caching sites, and other events and sites.
- Work with the USFS Hiawatha National Forest to improve access to historic sites within the Township that are located under USFS authority. Sites include Demond Hill Fire Tower, Raco Work Center District Headquarters, CCC Camp in Raco (used later as German POW Camp), Raco Airfield, Fort Brady Reserve Site, and the Ghost Town of Wellsburg (once a RR stop and had its own post office and school).
- Encourage entrepreneurs to establish a canoe/kayak livery business using the Waika River and Bay area, and encourage training for coastal water fishing guides, kayak/canoe guides/lessons, and safe boating practices.
- Partner with the Brimley Area Schools for greater public use of their indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

Goal 3

Provide a variety of activities and recreational opportunities for residents of every age group, including youth, families, and senior citizens.

Develop an area within the park to make it a multi-function recreational area for multi ages, size skills and abilities for residents to safely choose from.

- Provide: Picnic area- Water access- Entertainment- Physical activities – Pickleball courts-- Horse-shoe Pits—Corn-Hole area—etc.
- Apply for grants – to achieve goals

Goal 4

Promote community ownership in the provision of recreational services and provide a transparent and accessible process through which individuals can offer feedback for continuous improvement.

- Provide ongoing opportunities for public input on recreation issues through the Township and Facebook websites.
- Identify opportunities for citizen involvement in recreation, recruit volunteers to undertake those tasks, and provide a method of public acknowledgment for their contributions.
- Increase public awareness of the local community parks.
- Promote and maintain existing partnerships that exist in the community that aid in recreational programming and opportunities (i.e. Lions Club, Brimley School club volunteers, Soo Coop Credit Union Volunteers, etc.).

Goal 5

Expand recreational activities with an emphasis on drawing visitors from the Eastern Upper Peninsula region and throughout the State into the Community Park.

- Install bike racks and facilities for bike commuters.
- Install a fire pit warming area for winter sports and snowmobilers.
- Install kayak racks and facilities for water trail users.
- Install a dog park for residents and visitors to enjoy and meet to socialize.

Goal 6

Continuously analyze opportunities to encourage physical recreation throughout the park including the incorporating an interpretive walking trail.

- Identify potential non-sidewalk pathways that could connect the Community Park to the surrounding community.
- Creating a connector path under the bridge to join the two parks
- The clearing of property for a multi-use path through the wooded area of the park. This path will connect to other pathways and areas of the park.
- Incorporating nature trail signs, to enhance the visitor's experience and understanding of the natural or cultural environment. These signs provide educational information and promote a deeper appreciation for the area's history, environment, or culture.
- Develop a natural play area that delivers a creative and imaginative playground that even adults will want to play, while also increasing biodiversity and making the project eco-friendlier.
- Expand walking area and boardwalk to connect to the ADA accessible kayak launch.

Goal 7

Park entertainment and rentals will be available. The development of park facilities must be updated to enhance further use. Local professional volunteers and grants should be applied for.

- Develop picnic area with pavilion and charcoal grills
- Incorporate a bandstand along the boardwalk
- Install bathrooms

Goal 8

Expansion of parking lot is necessary to create enough parking for the expanded park capabilities and the diversity of vehicles that will need to be accommodated.

- Demolition of existing building and shed
- Expansion of parking to accommodate handicapped parking, boat trailers and local Amish horse drawn buggies with hitching posts for the horses.
- Driveway to the boat launch to include erosion control, to mitigate the sand/soil build up into the lake.

Goal 9

MDOT LANDSCAPING AND CONNECTOR TRAIL this trail will reduce bike and pedestrian traffic at a busy intersection of M-221 and Lakeshore Drive/6-Mile Road, which provides a safer way to cross the busy street. It also provides a connection between two of the Townships parks, the Veterans Memorial Park and the Superior Township Park.

- Develop walking path connecting Superior Township Park to Veterans Park and community of Brimley which will go under the existing bridge on Lakeshore Drive/6-Mile Road.
- Landscaping the park side slope creates a more appealing look and erosion control on a steep slope of land.

ACTION PROGRAM

Action Plan

The basis for this action plan is the Parks and Recreation Committee's review of its goals and objectives, along with the previous Plan's action plan, improvements undertaken since 2015, and improvements proposed by recreation providers and the public.

The action program for this Five-Year Plan will be dictated by the monies available through grants, taxes, and PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) funds. These projects can be realized through the cooperation, assistance and expertise of County, State and Federal governments.

The Recreation Committee will review yearly the Goals & Objectives and the Action Program to determine:

- Progress towards meeting goals, and
- Project proposals to meet the goals for the Superior Township Board to review and based on the needs and funding, approve.

This yearly review provides feedback on how well we are meeting the plan.

The following list is the Action Program of recommended parks and recreation improvements for the Superior Township Community, along with justifications for each.

Note: While specific items have been identified by the Committee as preferred improvements. It is possible that some of the improvements for development may not be available for the Township. The Plan is to be considered flexible in terms of fund availability and priorities.

ACTIONS

1. *Improve Park*

The Superior Township Park is the easiest kayaking launch area for the Waiska River in the Township and is a significant natural feature of the park. It has significant potential as an educational, interpretive recreational facility and provides access to the bay. There is an established boardwalk north of the bridge and a proposed expansion to continue with boardwalk or dirt footpath south of the bridge along the west side of the river; however, the area is overgrown with trees and shrubs. This area slopes upward from the river to the west. If the area were to be cleaned up, it could be an attractive nature trail and would improve accessibility to the Waiska River.

Actions towards improving the park include:

- *Clean brush and weeds from river banks and obstructions, cut dead trees, and plant new trees where necessary.*
- *Improve site amenities around the park to include new BBQ grills, benches, and musical equipment.*
- *Installation of an agility coarse playground area for all ages.*
- *Develop restroom facilities and expanding parking area*
- *ADA accessibility to all park amenities (boardwalk, picnic tables, restrooms, playground area, horse-shoe pits, and corn-hole area).*
- *Due to the low water table, there is limited access to the river and park from the bay. Dredging the mouth of Waiska River would improve access for water sports.*

2. Recreational Trail Connections

An expanded, pathway system that could be used year-round and improve accessibility to the Waiska River. The facility could be used by residents of all ages and interests, and be suitable for: walking, running, snowshoeing and dog on leash.

Actions towards connecting recreational trails include:

- *Provide a walking path along the west side of the Waiska River to Veterans Memorial park, which would then connect through the existing sidewalk to the Wheels of History Museum and downtown Brimley.*
- *Provide water trail access by expanding the existing boardwalk to include the ADA Kayak launch.*
- *Expand options for other trail connections throughout the community to other locations.*
- *Identify a “champion” within the schools to pursue a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant.*

By incorporating the above renovations and expanding the trail network through the community, the Township will meet or exceed the recreational inventory standards.

4. Expanding Current Programming, Promotions and Partnerships

Presently, Superior Township has developed great relationships with various community partners and volunteer organizations. As the new Plan is implemented, it would be best to continue to support the current programming and allow for innovative programs and recreational amenities. The community is made aware of park & community events through the technology of the Superior Township Park Facebook pages, Superior Township websites, and local newsletters.

With programming, it also becomes important that the Parks and Recreation Committee and school district not duplicate services and where the need to collaborate for programs exist that the Township Board and School District are actively engaged in doing so. Also, to stay current

with the residents in what the desires of the community are towards certain recreational amenities and programs.

5. Safety and Security

The Parks and Recreation Board should ensure that the amenities and recreational structures are safe and reliable. By adding a safety surface, we provide surfaces that allow for easy transitional access between the pavement to the playground equipment. Other elements that would need to be addressed would be providing access to the pavilion. The installation of a bike rack would contribute to deterring theft while people enjoy the park amenities. A dog park helps contribute to the safety of the community, by allowing a dog to roam unleashed in a specified area and not allowed to roam unleashed in the other areas creates a safer environment for the people enjoying the park.

Also, the community members around the park play a significant role in providing a safe environment. Residents can assist in park monitoring and informing the Parks and Recreation Board when playground equipment or park amenities need repair or have been damaged. Also, all playground equipment that is installed should be vandal resistant. Additional deterrents such as a camera would help police activity in the park in the off-hours.

6. Facilities

Along with the demolition of house located at Southwest corner of the park and improvements to the existing park, the Committee also intends on additional facilities for parks and recreational programming. Currently, visitors would have to leave the Superior Township Park to use a restroom. As the park program expands, it would be necessary to review potential opportunities to construct other facilities that would promote recreational activities in the community. Some of those facilities include:

- Construction of a restroom would provide athletic and programming opportunities for all ages. The facility also could be a revenue stream for the community through pavilion rentals for various programs.
- The development of an amphitheater would help promote outdoor and social activities in the park; a portion of the park is located on a hill which can be used for natural seating. Additional consideration and locations for ADA accessibility would be ideal.

7. Funding

Various grant opportunities and programs exist that are useful in leveraging funding for projects and property acquisition. A summary of funding resources in the State of Michigan includes:

- **Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF)** – Provides funding assistance for the purchase of land (or interest in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its

environmental importance or scenic beauty, and the development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection of valuable natural resources. The improvement grants are between \$15,000 and \$500,000 with a required minimum local match of 25 percent. Acquisition grants vary depending upon the value of property and local match amount; therefore, there is not a minimum or maximum amount. This grant is ideal for implementing Community Park Plans and for land acquisition in the future. Applications are due in April and September of each year for acquisition projects and April of each year for development projects.

- **Special Millage** – A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects such as park land improvements and facility upgrades. A millage is an effective method to divide costs over time amongst all the taxpayers in the community to provide matching grant funds or finance projects outright. A millage allows more flexibility in how the money is utilized than a bond.
- **Community Forestry Grants** – To provide information and technical assistance to municipal governments, schools, nonprofit organizations, and volunteer groups for urban and community forest activities such as tree inventories, management plans, planting and other maintenance activities. Criteria: Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources in Michigan. Project categories are Management and Planning, Education and Training, Library Resources and Tree Planting. Applications are announced each summer (June-July), submitted to the Forest Resources Division and then reviewed by Division staff. Applications are approved, adjusted, or denied. Applicants are notified, and agreements are signed. Grant requests may be up to \$20,000, depending on the project type. Contact Forest Resources Division/Kevin Sayers (517-284-5898) sayersk@michigan.gov.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – LWCF provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. The minimum award is \$15,000 and the maximum of \$500,000 with a 50 percent local match. The eligibility criterion emphasizes preservation of natural resources such as waterways. This grant is ideal for implementing Community Park Plans for land acquisition in the future. DEADLINES, Applications must be submitted in MiGrants no later than April 1 each year. To be eligible to apply for a recreation grant, the 5-year recreation plan must be submitted on or before February 1 of the application year.
- **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** – TAP is a competitive grant program that funds projects such as non-motorized paths, streetscapes, and historic preservation of transportation facilities that enhance Michigan's intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. These investments support place-based economic development by offering transportation choices, promoting walkability and improving the quality of life. The program uses federal transportation funds designed by

Congress for these types of activities. TAP grant funding requires matching funds of at least 20 percent of the eligible project cost.

- **DNR partnership Match Program** The purpose of this partnership is to leverage gifts made by organizations associated with Parks and Rec (PRD) to fund improvement projects on Parks and Rec Division administered lands. Projects must be construction-based development projects including materials and/or services. The total value of State materials and/or services may be no more than 50% or of the estimated total project value. Applications must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) by January.
- **Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships** – Reduced funding at the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities, to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands. Crowd funding on-line has been a growing source to reach individuals as well. Several examples are provided below:
 - playground grant
 - grantmanshipcenter
 - Pendals Creek Fisheries
 - Lions Club
 - <http://www.crowdfundingmi.com>
- **The Michigan Municipal League** has launched a website, www.crowdfundingmi.com, which will provide extensive background information, how to get started, as well as highlight successful funding projects and serve as a clearing house for Michigan Investment crowdfunding projects as they develop. The website will also act as a portal to “Fundrise” and Local stake, two existing leading crowdfunding platforms. Although they both serve as web portals for crowdfunding investment, “Fundrise” lets you invest directly in local real estate. It will connect investors directly to individual properties online. Local stake helps connect businesses looking for capital with local investors.
- **Community Foundation of Chippewa County-** Community Impact Micro-Grants - Our Bud Mansfield Community Impact Grant cycle is a micro-grant program designed to help non-profits, community groups, youth teams and organizations get the infusion they need to help begin a project, fill a pantry, meet a need and so much more. Community groups and local non-profit organizations (including churches, schools, government agencies, and community groups with a 501(C)(3) non-profit status) may apply for grants for programs that benefit individuals in Chippewa County.

Grants up to \$500 will be considered. Grant applications must be submitted either through e-mail – Officemanager@chippewacountycf.org or mailed/dropped off at the CCCF’s office by June 1st , at 4:00 p.m. Chippewa County Community Foundation Office:

511 Ashmun St., Suite 202 Mail: PO Box 1979 Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783 If you have any questions, please e-mail: officemanager@chippewacounty.org or call: (906) 635-1046.

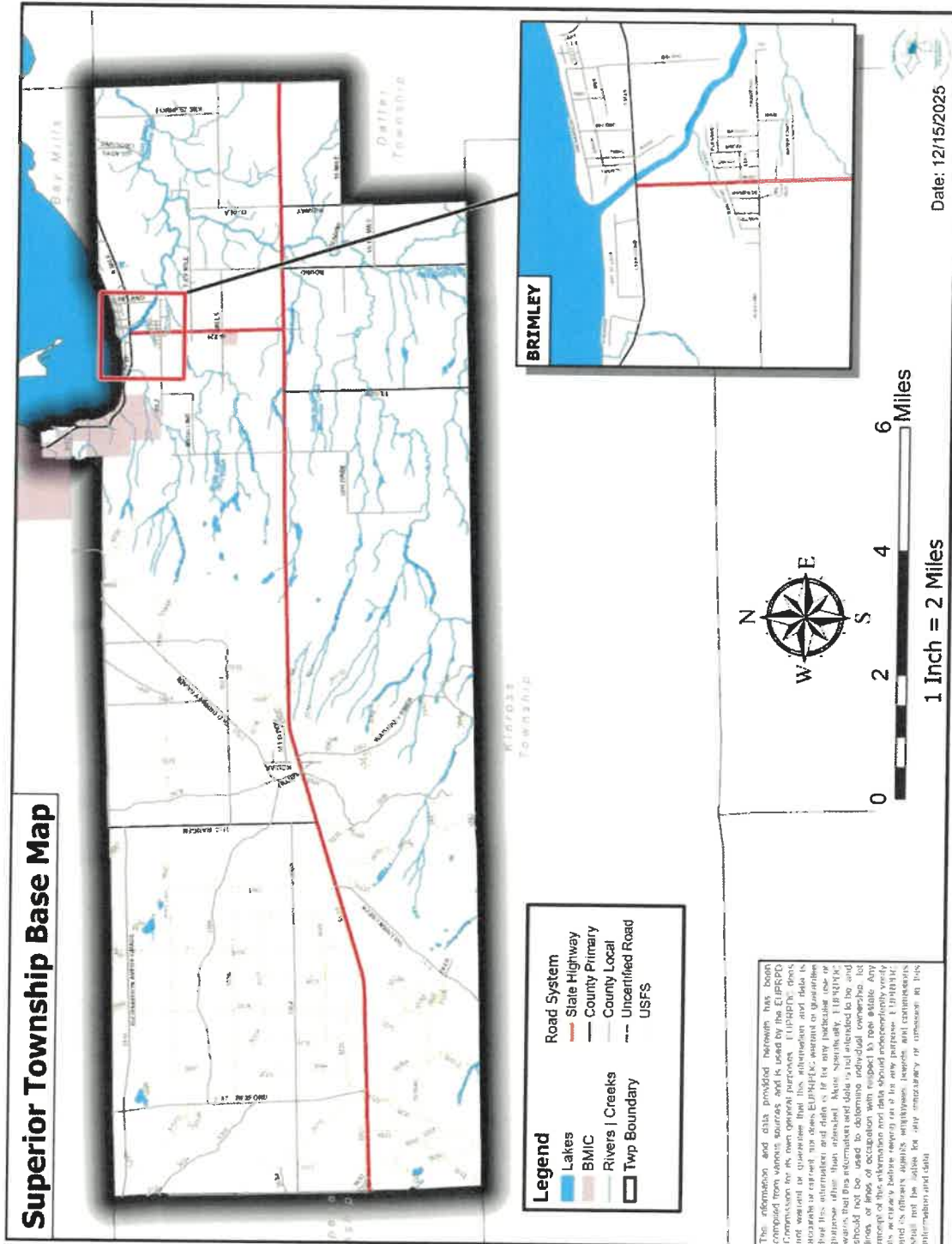
- **Fund Raising Events** To raise funds for the parks are also considered: organizing bake sales, explore crowdfunding, direct donations, local business sponsorships and fundraising auctions.
- **CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM - 2025** The Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District (CLMCD) has a Conservation Grants Program available to the public for conservation related projects to be implemented in Chippewa, Luce, or Mackinac County. CLMCD is anticipating awarding up to \$15,000 to 6 - 10 projects across Chippewa Luce and Mackinac Counties. Grants will range between \$1,000 - \$2,000 each. CLMCD seeks proposals for a variety of projects that have a direct impact to the improvement of our natural resources through hands on educational programs or projects that directly impact the environment.

APPENDIX

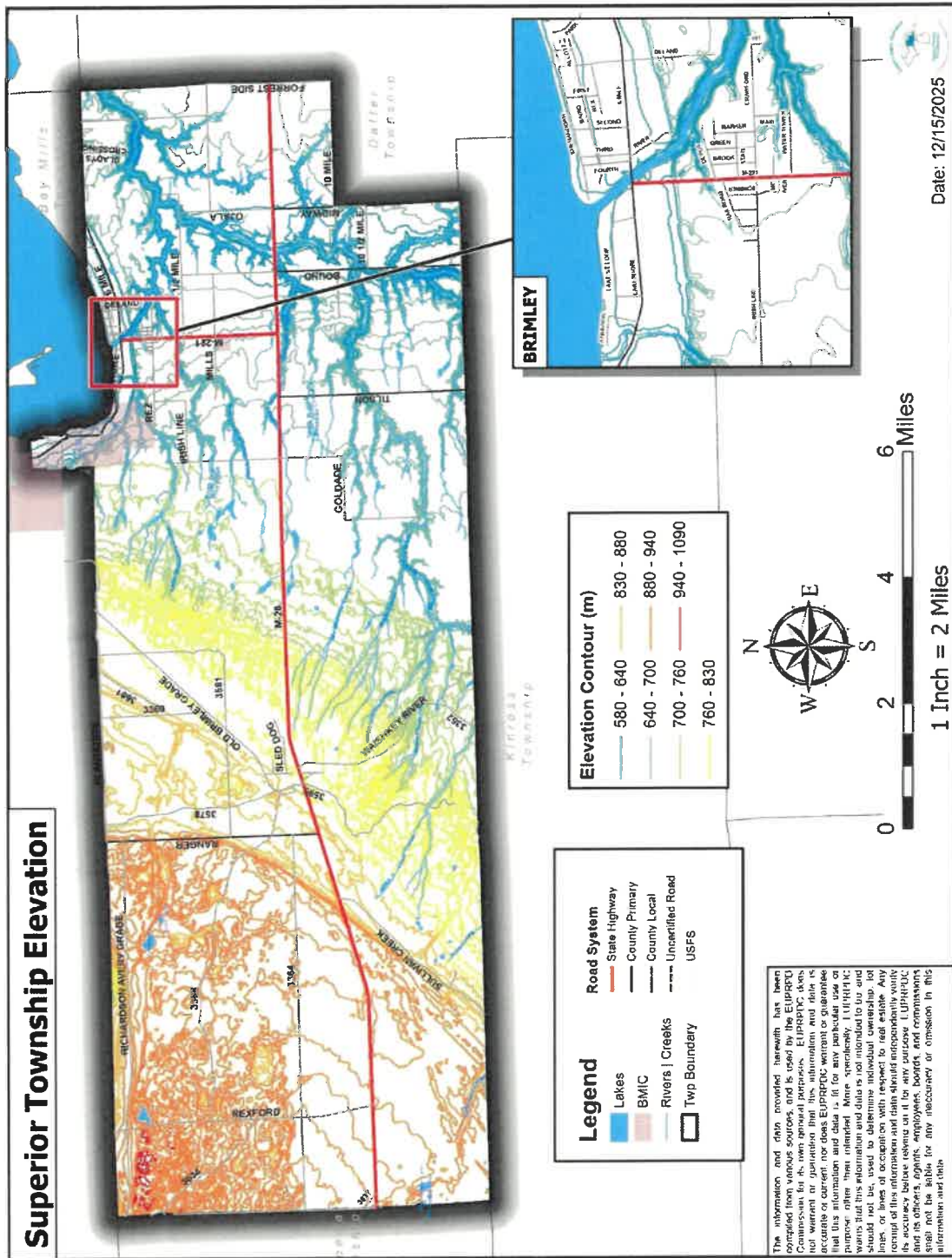
Maps

- Superior Township Base Map
- Superior Township Elevation Map
- Superior Township Soils Map
- Superior Township Land Ownership Map
- Superior Township Land Cover/Use Map
- Superior Township Recreation Sites Map
- Superior Township Park Concept Plan

Maps

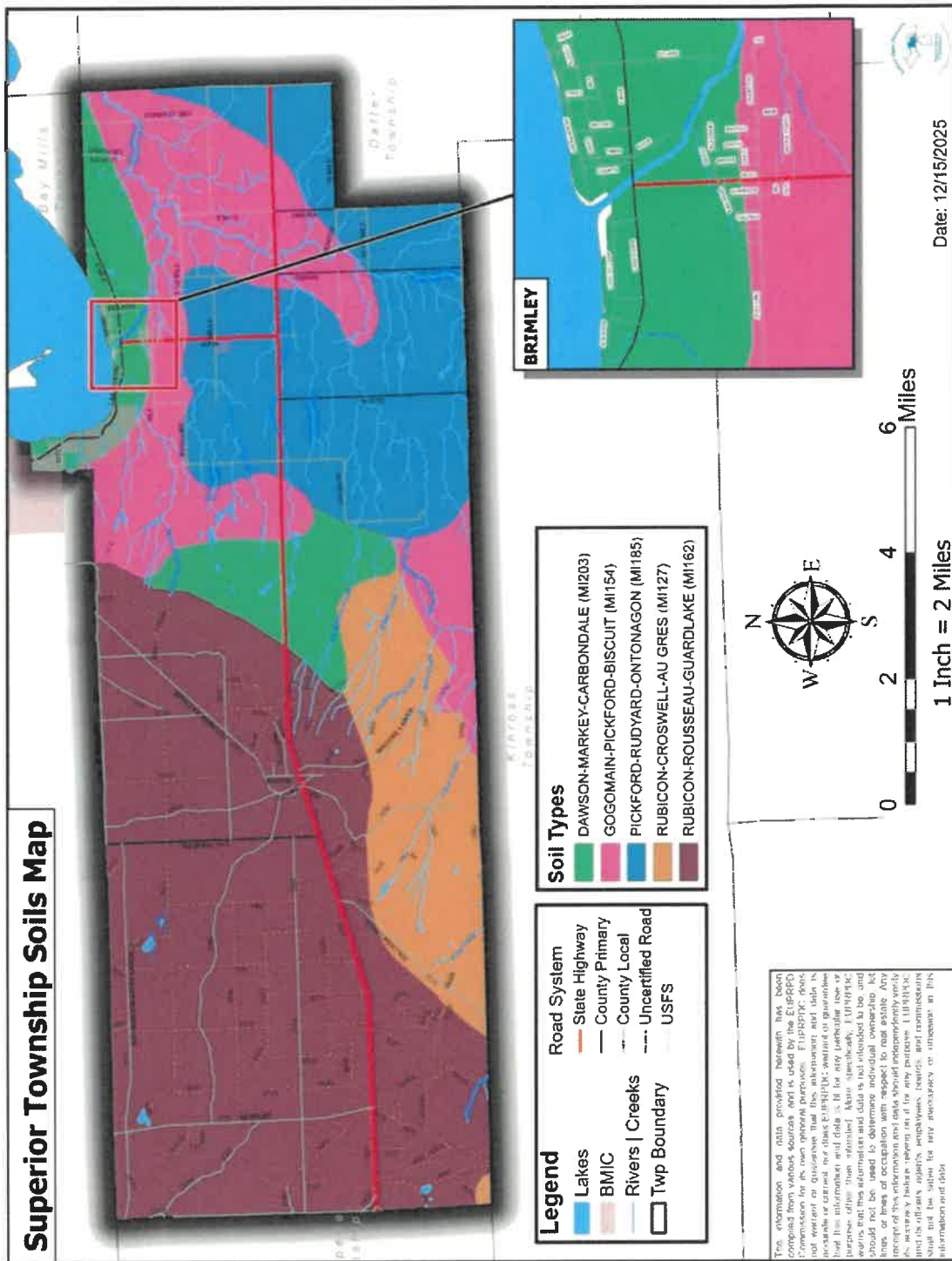


Superior Township Elevation



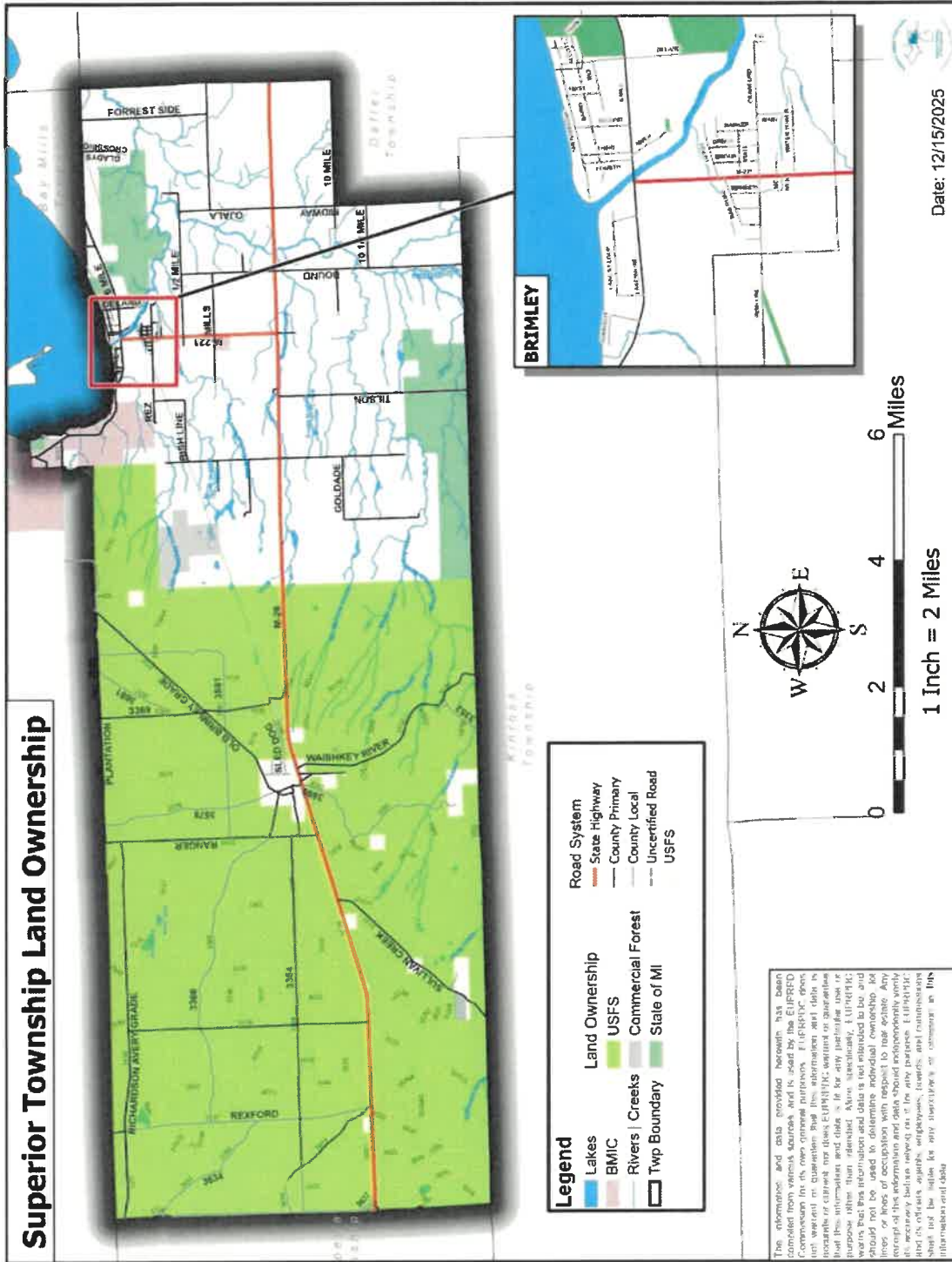
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Superior Township Soils Map



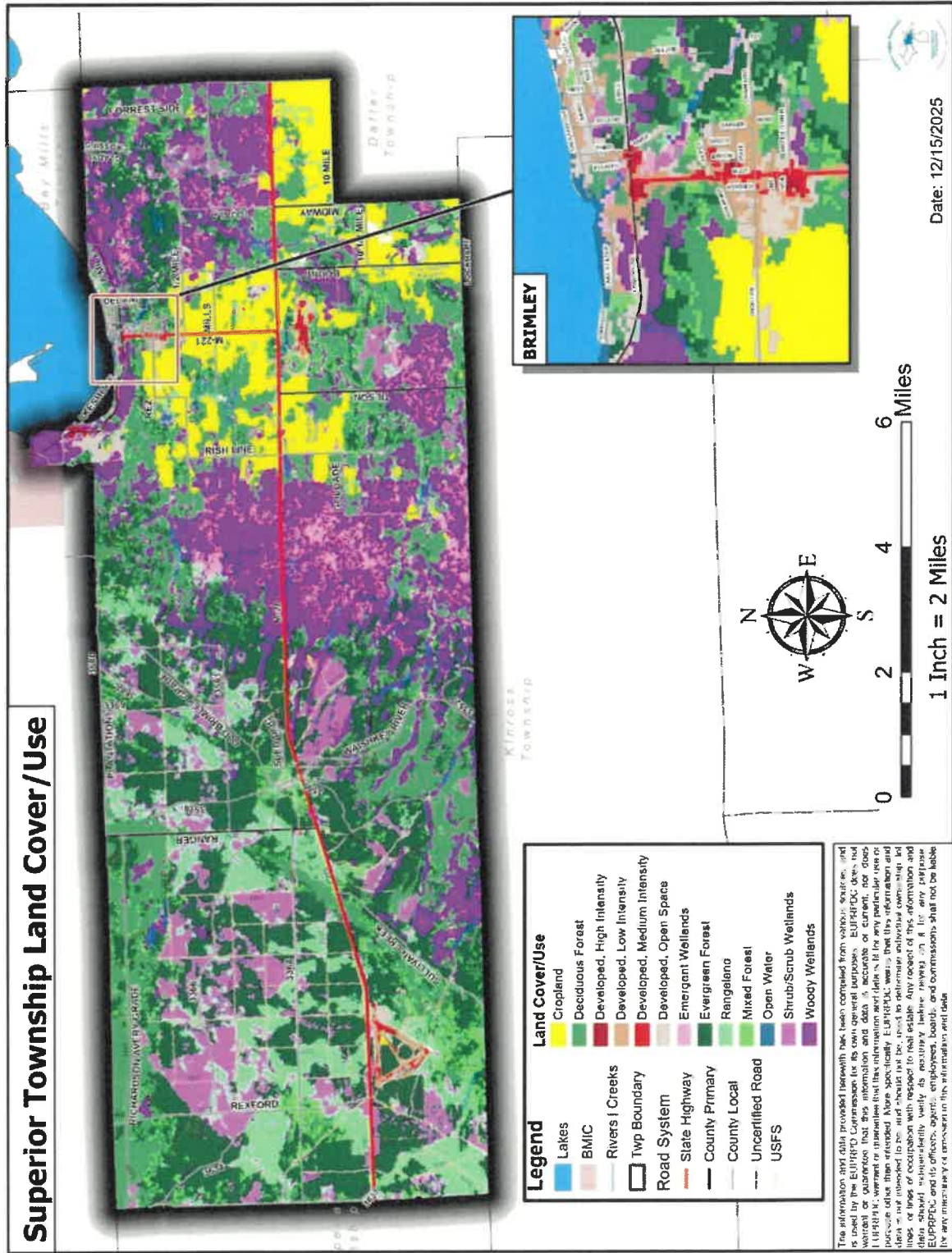
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Superior Township Land Ownership



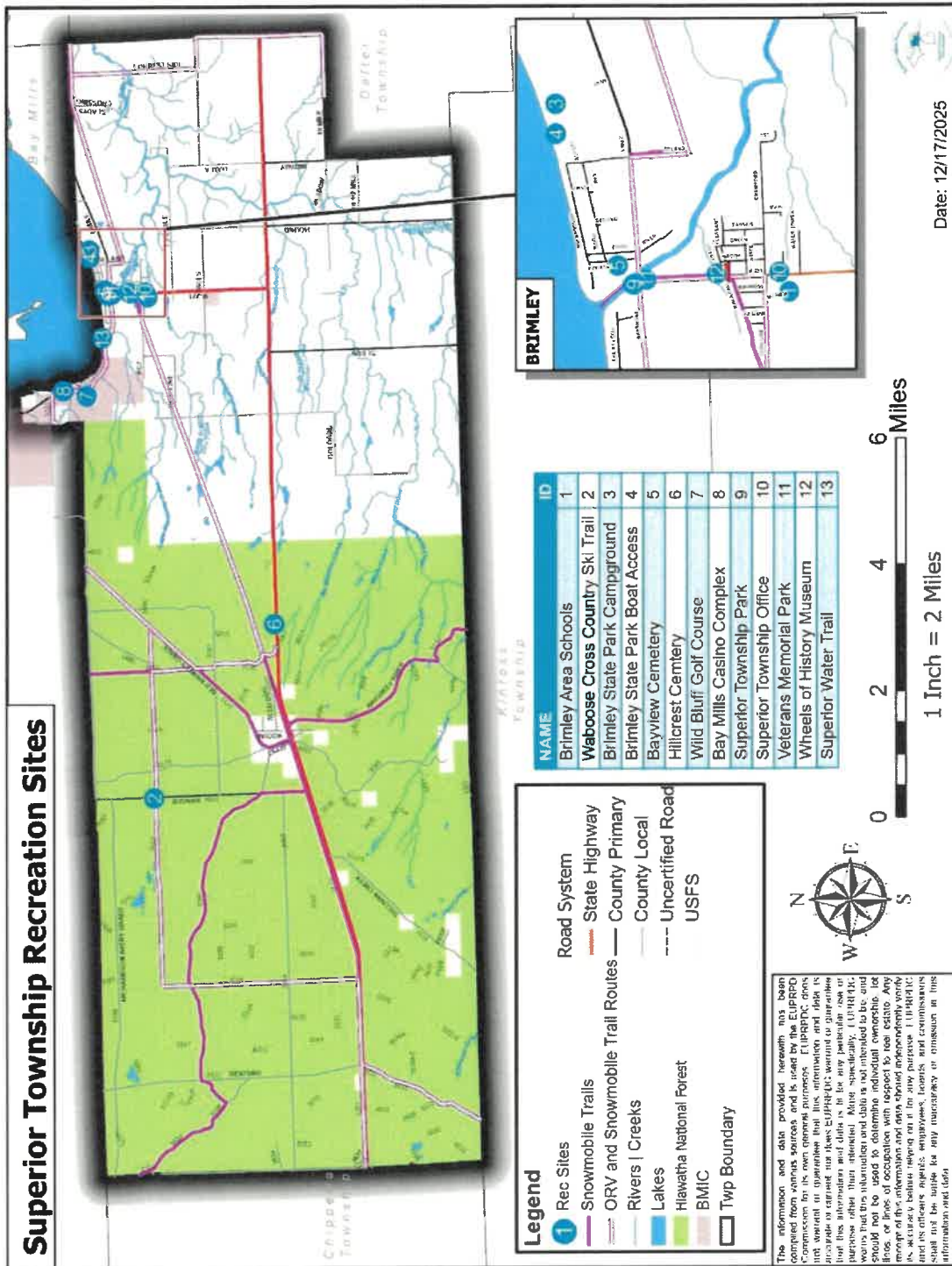
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Superior Township Land Cover/Use



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Superior Township Recreation Sites



Superior Township Park Concept Plan



This image represents Current (2025) to Future Superior Township Park Concept Plan

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Parking Lot Areas |  Public Restrooms |
|  Gazebo |  Boardwalk (Erected 2024) |
|  Dog Park |  Removal of existing structures |
|  Corn Hole / Horseshoe Pits |  Walking Trail / Interpretive Trail / Exercise Trail |
|  Sensory & Obstacle Course Play Area |  Kayak Launch - needs installation |
|  Park Grills / Picnic Areas | |
|  Pavilion (Erected 2024) | |