

SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP'S 2018-2022 FIVE YEAR PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN (TEXT DRAFT) FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

(30 DAY COMMENT PERIOD OCTOBER 18, 2018- NOVEMBER 19, 2018)

Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated. They may be submitted by email to sbaytwp@suttonsbaytwp.com . Hand written paper replies are acceptable and may be dropped off at the township office. All responses should be brought to the attention of William Drozdalski, Suttons Bay Township Parks Supervisor.

Posted by Suttons Bay Township Parks and Recreation Committee, October 2018

1. Executive Summary

The Suttons Bay Township Parks and Recreation Committee adopted its first (Five Year) Community Recreation Plan in 2002. Since then this Committee accomplished many of its goals including the acquisition of property that are now known as the 45th Parallel Park and Herman Park. These acquisitions were made possible with grants from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund.

Herman Park's active and passive recreation development has been the number one priority for the township based on previous public input. Financial assistance was provided from many private family foundations, the Grand Traverse Community Foundation, Rotary Charities, "Friends of Herman Park, Inc." and many private individuals from around the community. With several grants from the Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund and the Recreation Passport Grant Programs we have been able to complete and provide the community with (4) USTA (United State Tennis Association) tennis courts, a ½ mile paved walking trail, kids fishing dock, a small gazebo at the pond, (2) pickleball courts, an 18-hole disc golf course and most recently a 3600 sq. ft. covered pavilion.

A full list of Recreation Objectives and Action Program including priority rankings can be found in Table 5. Park, Recreation, and Open Space Goals and Objectives for the next five years are also discussed in Section 11.

In 2011, Suttons Bay Township and the Village of Suttons Bay formally adopted a joint master plan for the two communities. The *Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan* distills all the future visions down into six goals. This plan can be found on both the Village and Township web sites. Goal 2 is to Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty and Critical Environmental Areas. Action steps supporting this goal includes recognition and enhancement of the bay as an asset by expanding recreation opportunities (**Priority 2 in this Plan**), and the creation of a tree planting and protection program in the parks (**Priority 4 in this Plan**). Under Goal 6 of the Joint Master Plan, which is to Foster a Distinctive, Attractive Community with a Strong Sense of Place, more action steps are called out. They include exploring the possibility of providing a performance venue in one of the parks (**Priority 1**), utilizing the water front (blue water trail, charter fishing, and leisure boating) (**Priority 2**), working with area entities such as the school to promote recreation (**Priority 3, and others**), developing a management plan for the parks (**Priority 5**), and working with the Village to combine recreation plans (**Priority 12**).

State shared revenue and a 1 Mil tax levy provide the current township its annual operating funds for all township operations. The Parks and Recreation Committee will use public and foundation grants and fund-raising to augment the township's budget to further develop recreational facilities, and maintain parks and natural areas.

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4. Introduction and Background

In accordance with the State's five year cycle for recreation planning, the 2018-2022 Suttons Bay Township Community Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan was prepared by the Township Parks and Recreation Committee and will be adopted (after final public input) by the Suttons Bay Township Board to serve as a guide and decision making document for future park and recreation facilities and programs. The planning process included several public meetings, an online survey using "Survey Monkey", Committee discussions, a review of other jurisdictions' plans, and a formal public review and adoption process. One of our committee members spent time in the classrooms at Suttons Bay Schools and explained to the students the purpose and format. For those in the community not having access to computers, there were paper surveys available at the Township Office. Upon completion they were manually entered on line.

This revised Plan presents an inventory of existing recreation facilities, recreation programs, and environmentally significant open spaces within the Township. It considers the existing facilities in and around the township. Based on public input, it evaluates park and recreation opportunities, needs, and anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and programs. It outlines the township's revised park, recreation and open space goals and 5-year action program. The action program for 2018 to 2022 identifies park/trail way planning needs and projected improvements.

The Plan is also intended to enable the township to continue to apply for funding assistance from various agencies and work toward implementing the township's goals. This Plan provides for five years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

This document is based on the format provided by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources for community recreation planning: Community Description, Administrative Structure, Recreation Inventory, Description of the Planning Process, Description of the Public Input Process, Goals and Objectives, and the Action Program.

5. Community Description

Suttons Bay Township encompasses the area described as Township 30 North, Range 11 West, Leelanau County. It is located in the eastern portion of Leelanau County and bounded by Bingham Township to the south, Leland Township to the west, Leelanau Township to the north, and the Grand Traverse Bay to the east (see Figure 1). There are two settlements within the township. The Village of Suttons Bay lies in the southeastern portion of the township and Peshawbestown (reservation of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians) lies in the extreme northeastern portion. The township is located 15 miles north of the City of Traverse City, which serves as the region's center. The county seat moved to a new facility in Suttons Bay Township on M-204 between Suttons Bay and Lake Leelanau in 2008.

Leelanau County

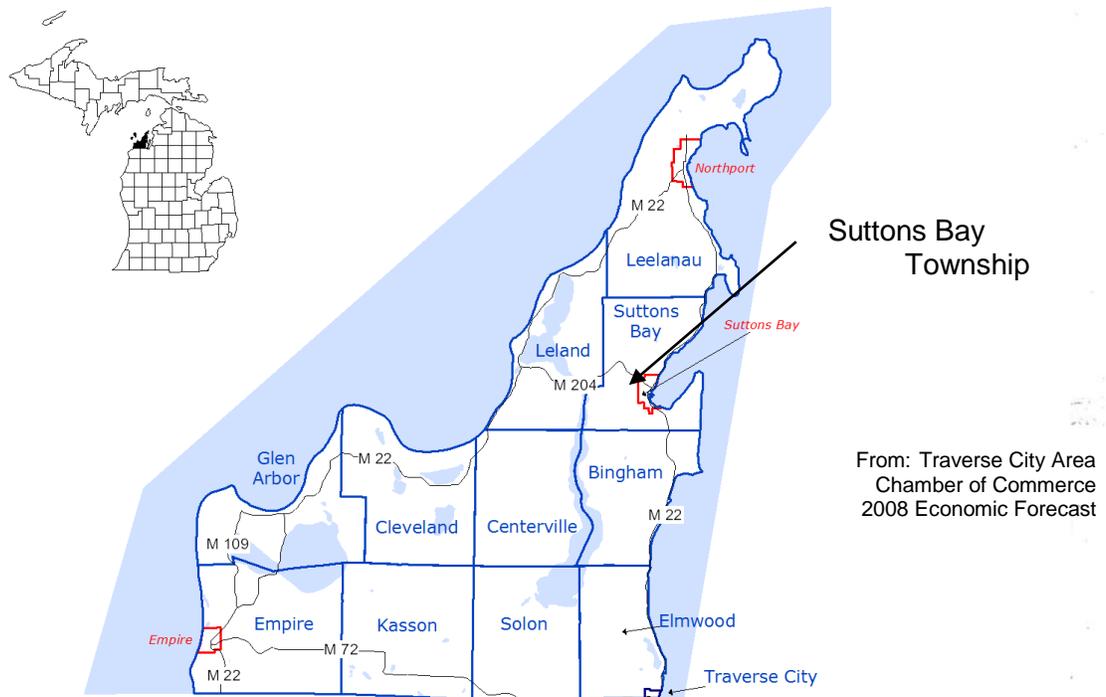


Figure 1. Location of Suttons Bay Township in Leelanau County

The township is a rural community with a majority of development being a combination of seasonal and year-round single-family dwelling units along the scenic shorelines of Grand Traverse Bay, Suttons Bay, and Lake Leelanau. The rolling hills found within the interior portion of the township support prime agricultural lands, woodlots and scattered large lot residential development that take advantage of scenic views.

Orchards, vineyards, agricultural fields and pastures are an important asset. These lands are primarily broken into large tracts and are found throughout the township and many take advantage of the unique and prime soils.

The population of Suttons Bay Township at the last census (2017) was 2,991 with a Village of Suttons Bay population of 618. The population of Bingham Township (also served by Suttons Bay Public Schools) at last census was 2,896. The combined population for the village and two townships is 6,505. The population triples in the warmer months. Seasonal residences account for 34% (440 of 1290) of the improved properties in Suttons Bay Township and Village.

The Suttons Bay School District serves all of the township, village, and Bingham Township. The school campus facilities are located in the southwest corner of the Village of Suttons Bay.

The Village of Suttons Bay serves both as the focal point and as the activity center of the township. The village is compact and characterized by traditional small scale development and a pedestrian-friendly environment. Most of the commercial and industrial development that serves the community is located within the village.

Outside the village limits, there are three business nodes in the township. The first is along M-22 south of the village. This is an important segment of M-22 because it serves as the southern gateway into the village, thus forming a first impression for the traveler. The second is found north of the village along M-22 in Peshawbestown, the settlement of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. This area of development is centered on the casino and related facilities. There is a third area, at the township's western boundary on M-204 where the commercial district of the village of Lake Leelanau begins. The county seat is located in Suttons Bay Township, midway between the Village of Suttons Bay and the community of Lake Leelanau.

See Appendix A. for additional resource information.

6. Community Administrative Structure

Suttons Bay Township is governed by the five member Township Board. Michigan townships have been granted their powers and responsibilities as expressly provided by state law. Oversight of parks and recreation facilities and programs is an example of a governing function that townships may choose to perform under Public Act 157 of 1905, as amended. The Suttons Bay Township Board is responsible for the following public parcels: Graham Greene Park, Vic Steimel Park, 45th Parallel Park, Lover's Lane road end, Herman Park, Ice Rink Park, and the old M-204 bridge abutment parcel.

The Township Planning Commission is appointed by the Supervisor and approved by the Township Board. It serves as a recommending body in the area of zoning, land use and developed recreation areas. Suttons Bay Township and the Village of Suttons Bay have adopted a joint master plan: *Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan*. This vision document was written by a Joint Planning Commission, made up of members from both communities, and was adopted in August 2011.

While the Village of Suttons Bay is part of Suttons Bay Township, they have their own governing Village Council. The township, village, Suttons Bay Public School District, and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians work cooperatively to develop recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The Suttons Bay Township Board established a Parks and Recreation Committee in 2001 to create the First Community Recreation Plan (2002-2007) was based on an inventory of existing facilities, local recreation needs and community input. Since then the Committee has updated the Plan as required every five years. This document serves as the revised Community Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2018-2022.

The current committee is made up of volunteers from the community at large. Their focus has been to identify what recreational opportunities exist and how could they be expanded or strengthened. They are also charged with determining what new facilities and opportunities should be planned for the future recreational needs of the community.

A. Recreation Committee Role

The Park and Recreation Committee plays an advisory role to the Township Board, which makes the final decisions on funding and expenditures. The Park and Recreation Committee develops the Community Park and Recreation Plan and provides recommendations to the Township Board based on a public input process.

The Township currently hires a local contractor to maintain the mowing and plowing (where necessary) for all parks. Trash pick-up and porta-john rentals are also contracted out. The Township depends on volunteers to assist where necessary. In 2018 the Township appointed a Township Parks Supervisor who has specific responsibilities for overseeing all the parks in the township.

B. Organizational Chart

SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES			
SUPERVISOR Rich Bahle			
CLERK Sandy VanHuystee	TREASURER Cathy Herman	TRUSTEE Debbie Slocombe	TRUSTEE Tom Nixon
PLANNING COMMISSION 9 Member Board		ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS 3 Member Board	
<p>PARKS SUPERVISOR William Drozdalski</p> <p>RECREATION COMMITTEE William Drozdalski Gary Hoensheid Gary Devol Joe Bottenhorn Pete Ostrowski Debbie Slocombe</p>			

C. Current Funding Sources

State shared revenue provides the largest (60% approximate) share of township funds. A 1 Mil tax levy provides the balance of funds. It is anticipated that public and foundation grants and fund raising will continue to augment the township’s budget for any future acquisition of park land and development of recreation plans, facilities, and programs. The township may consider a balloted millage for targeted recreation and open space projects.

D. Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations and Maintenance

The Township Board budgets for the operation and maintenance of the existing park properties from the Township General Fund, at approximately \$40,800 per fiscal cycle. This includes staffing and personnel costs. Budgets are reviewed every year and finalized in March. Amounts requested for park development are reviewed annually.

E. Relationships with Other Agencies

The Township Board always seeks opportunities to work with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Leelanau County, Bingham Township, TART Trails, Inc. and The Leelanau Conservancy in developing community recreation facilities.

In recent years the township has established an ongoing program with Suttons Bay Schools. Students are able to serve community service hours and required “Senior Projects” by developing and maintaining programs in the township park system.

The township has also been open to requests from local Eagle Scouts for projects they need to fulfill their personal requirements. Past projects included Bat houses and Life Ring structures at the pond in Herman Park.

There is cross-representation between the township committees and the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee as they share the goal of enhancing the scenic, historical, and recreational characteristics of two state highways that transect the township, M-22 and M-204.

F. Parks and Recreation Policies and Procedures

The Park and Recreation Committee members are appointed by the Township Board. Committee members must be township residents and serve a rotating three-year term. There are also several ad-hoc members that support recreational development.

The township enforces an hours of operation ordinance. All applicable ordinances, permit and reservation requests are available on-line at the Township website and are updated as needed.

7. Recreation Inventory

A. Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory:

The inventory of Park and Recreation Facilities and Public Open Spaces has been kept updated by the Township. The Committee talked with recreation program coordinators to update program and participation data for this revised plan.

The following Tables 1, 2, & 3 add an Accessibility Ranking in the second column to assess the accessibility of each recreation area to people with disabilities. The following ranking system comes from the "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreations, Open Space, and Greenway Plans," Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management, IC 1924 (Rev. 02/05/2009), pages 7 & 8.

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines (Appendices B & D)
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park is designed using the principles of universal design

See the following Maps 1 and 2 for Existing Park and Recreation Facilities.

B. Inventory of All Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Township, Village, and Other Governmental Units

The following Table identifies the existing recreation facilities within the township.

TABLE 1 PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP							
KEY (See Maps 1 & 2)	PARCEL NAME <i>Accessibility Rank</i>	FACILITIES	ACRES	PUBLIC	SCHOOL	PRIVATE	LOCATION
A.	Graham Greene Park 2	Rocky beach frontage on Grand Traverse Bay. Swimming, kayaking, picnicking, walking, grills, tables, porta-jon, wooded.	15	X			M-22 Section 2
B.	Vic Steimel Park 3	Rocky beach frontage on Grand Traverse Bay. Swimming, kayaking, picnicking, small boat launching, grills, trash containers, 7 picnic tables, porta-jon	1	X			Nanagosa Trail Section 23
C.	Lover's Lane 1	66' road end frontage on Suttons Bay. Swimming and lake access, sandy beach. No parking.	.3	X			Lover's Lane (west end) Section 23
D.	South Lake Leelanau Access (Old M-204 bridge abutment) 1	Swimming and water access. No facilities. Adjacent to DNR boat launch	.6	X			South arm of Lake Leelanau Section 25
E.	Leelanau Trail 3	15 Mile linear recreational trail, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing, approximately 3 miles long in Suttons Bay Township. (TART Trails, Inc. – non-profit organization)				X	M-22 & Cedar St., South to Township Line Sections 21 & 33 North from M-204 to Dumas Road
G.	Johnson 4-H Nature Preserve 1	Hiking, picnicking, shelter structure, restroom, woodlands, wetlands and creek.	60			X	Stallman Road Section 10
H.	Leelanau Conservancy Parcel 1	Only public use is a guided tour through the Leelanau County Nature Conservancy.	70	X			Roubal Road, Section 3
I.	Water Wheel Park	Tennis court, basketball. Village operated.	.3	X			St. Mary's Ave., Section 28
O.	Ice Skating Park 2	Picnic tables, lighted ice skating, covered bench.	.5	X			Lincoln Ave. and W Broadway, Section 28
T.	45 th Parallel Park 1	Water access, swimming, and future plans to create walking & x-c skiing trails, picnic & scenic overlooks and shoreline access to Grand Traverse Bay.	43	X			M-22, Section 16
V.	Herman Park 5	Tennis courts, pickleball courts, ½ mile paved trail, fishing pond with dock, disc golf course, soccer field, gazebo at pond, large pavilion, picnic tables, benches and grills.	123	X			Herman Road & Center Highway (631) Section 28

The following Table identifies the existing recreation facilities within the village.

**TABLE 2
PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
VILLAGE OF SUTTONS BAY**

KEY (See Map 2)	PARCEL NAME <i>Accessibility Rank</i>	FACILITIES	ACRES	PUBLIC	SCHOOL	PRIVATE	LOCATION
I.	Water Wheel Park (village) 2	Picnic tables, open field, bike rack, and water wheel on creek.	.3	X			St. Mary's Ave. Section 28
J.	Sutton Park (South Shore Park) 2	Swimming, picnicking, bathroom, picnic shelter, playground, 300 ft. shoreline.		X			South Shore Drive Section 28
K.	Bahle Park 1	Sledding hill, nature trails, cross country skiing, warming and meeting house.	30	X			West Street Section 29
L.	North Park 3	1,500 feet of frontage, boat launch, covered pavilion, restrooms & boat parking	4.5	X			East of the intersection of M-204 & M-22, Sec.28
M.	Village Marina Park Complex 2	Swimming, bathhouse, boating, walking paths and boardwalks, boat launch docks (130), fishing, playground, 3,000 ft. water frontage.	10	X			End of Adams Street, Section 28
N.	Fairgrounds Recreation Area 1	Lighted and fenced fields, restrooms, bleachers, concession building, natural wooded area, and parking.	4	X			M-22 north of M-204, Section 21
P.	Suttons Bay Schools 3	1 Football field 1 Track 2 Soccer fields 1 Baseball field 3 Softball fields 1 Auditorium 3 Indoor gyms 1 Playground equipment 1 Fitness Center	70		X		Herman Road and Center Highway Section 28
Q.	Suttons Bay Friendship Center 1	Meeting Room, youth drop-in, computer lab, pottery area, office.	--			X	St. Mary's Ave., Section 28
R.	Port Sutton 3	Private condominium with tennis courts, swimming beach and pool, clubhouse, 40 private boat slips	4			X	M-22 north of M-204 Section 21
S.	Village Coal Dock 3	Fishing pier, boating, boardwalks, walking path, docking facilities for Inland Seas Education Program.	2	X			Section 28
W.	Bay View 3	Private condominium with tennis court, indoor pool & clubhouse, 40 public, 40 private boat slips, fishing pier.	2			X	M-22 north of M-204 Section 21
	Grand Traverse Bay Shoreline 2	Small boat launch available at seven public parks in township and village.		X			Township boundary along Grand Traverse and Suttons Bays

The following Table represents existing recreation facilities by other Governmental Units within Suttons Bay Township.

TABLE 3 PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UNITS IN SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP							
KEY (See Map 1)	PARCEL <i>Accessibility Rank</i>	FACILITIES	ACRES	PUBLIC	SCHOOL	PRIVATE	LOCATION
T.	45th Parallel Pull-off M-22 MDOT 1	Water access, swimming, picnicking. A picnic table along the road by the waters of Grand Traverse Bay.	1.5	X			M-22, Section 16
U.	Strong Heart Recreation Center G.T. Band 3	Baseball/Soccer field, basketball courts, skatepark, playgrounds, bathrooms, horse shoes, Pow Wow Grounds, picnic tables, grills, sand volleyball courts. Indoor facilities: locker rooms, rubberized track, weight room, aerobics/dance studio, and cardiovascular area.	40			X	Stallman Road Peshawbestown Section 10
	Leelanau County Government Center 5	Community Meeting Room. Exercise classes open to the public.	39	X			Government Center Drive, Section 19

C. Recreation Opportunities

Coinciding with the abundance of natural resources in the region, many opportunities exist for individual recreation and team sports. The township has many access points to the water for summer swimming and boating. Most roads in the township are traveled by cars and trucks, allowing excellent bicycling, walking, and running. The Leelanau Trail offers year round recreation, allowing safe walking, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, etc. Winter sports opportunities include ice skating and sledding; groomed cross-country skiing on the Leelanau Trail; snowshoeing; and some snowmobiling. The following summarizes individual opportunities within the township.

Baseball/Softball: The Suttons Bay Youth League provides both baseball and softball opportunities for Suttons Bay youth each summer. In addition, a local T-Ball League is offered. In the past years, 150 players participated from Suttons Bay, while the county youth numbers neared 500.

Bicycle (Road & Mountain): There are some road biking options, M-204 has a three foot paved shoulder on both sides of the road. M-22 has six foot shoulder south of Suttons Bay Village and three foot shoulder north of M-204. The shoulders north of M-204 are bikeable, but need repair. The Leelanau Trail runs the entire length of the

township and is paved for the 2.5 mile stretch south of the village and beyond the southern boundary line. The trail is paved north to Dumas Rd.

Birding: The combination of township lands along the shoreline and inland provides varying habitats for birding. Close to 150 species either nest or migrate through the township. The area has become more popular as a destination birding location because of an organization, Saving Birds through Habitat, which has a 44 acre sanctuary north of the township. An annual birding festival began in 2011 and grows in attendance each year.

Boating: The Township has many areas where people can launch personal watercraft, such as kayaks, row boats, and wind surfers. Larger boat ramps are located at the marina and at North Park in the village. There is also a boat launch in Lake Leelanau at the old M-204 bridge abutment.

Camping: There is one privately owned and operated campground/RV park in the township. A state park with camping sites, Leelanau State Park, is 18 miles north of the village center.

Cross-Country Skiing: The Leelanau Trail, which runs the length of the township, offers the only groomed trail in the township for both skating and Nordic (classic) cross-country skiing. Nearby Leelanau County's Veronica Valley park offers groomed cross country skiing.

Disc Golf: Herman Park has an 18-hole course that can be played year round. Several fairways are in the wetlands which create very challenging play. There is also a new 27-hole course located in Peshabestown.

Down Hill Skiing: The closest Alpine skiing is at The Homestead in Glen Arbor Township, a 25 mile distance from the township. Many people also travel to Crystal Mountain, in Benzie County to the south, which is the nearest major ski area.

Equine Facilities: Suttons Bay Township currently does not have any designated trails for horse and rider. There are several local farm owners who allow people to ride by permission on their land. The Shore to Shore Trail near Empire is the only public horse trail in the county.

Fishing: There are year-round fishing opportunities in Suttons Bay Township. In addition to access to the Great Lakes fishery via Suttons Bay there are several lakes and numerous ponds and creeks that produce consistent results for the fisherman. Herman Park has two fishing ponds and a creek that are easily accessible.

Football Programs in Suttons Bay Schools: At present all but one level of football competition is offered in Suttons Bay. Anyone in grades 5th through 12th has the opportunity to participate. Suttons Bay Schools have Pop Warner football for grades 5th- 8th. The school system provides football programs for junior varsity and varsity. At each level there is currently an average of 20 to 25 players per team. At this point, all football programs utilize the facilities of the Suttons Bay School campus.

Golf: There is one 18-hole public golf course just outside the township, The Leelanau Club. Leelanau County also has other public and private courses.

Hunting: Hunting is allowed in Herman Park and the 45th Parallel Park. State rules and laws must be followed

Ice Skating: The Township floods and maintains its outdoor ice rink in the village, at the corner of W. Broadway and Lincoln Ave. The rink has lights for night skating.

Pickleball: Herman Park has two pickleball courts built to United States Pickleball Association specifications. Local players have started fund-raising in 2018 so that two additional courts can be built.

Roller Blading: The paved portion of the Leelanau Trail offers the only area for roller blading in the township. The recent extended pavement on the Leelanau Trail offers a local full 18 mile stretch of asphalt.

Sledding: The village has a sledding hill at Bahle Park.

Soccer: The recreational soccer needs of Suttons Bay are currently being served by the Leelanau Youth Soccer Organization (LYSO). Approximately 300 players, ranging in age from 5 to 13 years play out of the Suttons Bay area. County membership for LYSO is nearing 800 participants. Depending on enrollments, Suttons Bay Schools may offer competitive soccer.

Snowmobiling: Although there are some private property owners who allow snowmobiling on their land, there are no public trails in the township.

Snowshoeing: There is an abundance of snowshoeing opportunities in the township within its park system. Herman Park offers both snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

Swimming: The village has swimming beaches at the Marina and South Shore Park. The township also has many informal swimming access sites. The closest indoor swimming is in Northport at the Wurm Health Center with a two-lane pool and small shallow area.

Tennis: Herman Park offers four tennis courts built to United States Tennis specifications. There is one public tennis court / pickleball court at Water Wheel Park. Two private courts are owned by Port Sutton Condominiums. The Bay View Condos also has one private court. Nearby Leland Township has one court at Grove Park in Lake Leelanau.

Volleyball: Suttons Bay Schools offers competitive volleyball for girls starting in 6th grade. There are two sand courts at the Suttons Bay Village Marina beach. There are also sand courts at the Strong Heart Center that are used by tribal members.

Walking, Hiking, & Running: People walk and run on most roads in the township. M-22 and M-204 are the only roads with paved shoulders. Bahle Park in the Village offers walking and hiking trails. Tart Trails has considerable trail extensions through Leelanau County as well as Suttons Bay Township.

TABLE 4 RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS IN SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP						
PROGRAM NAME	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	PROGRAM SPONSOR	EST. # OF PERSONS
Leelanau Youth Soccer Organization	X		X			300
Suttons Bay Youth League: T-Ball, Baseball, Softball	X	X			Leelanau County Youth League	170 Suttons Bay and Bingham townships, 660 total for Leelanau County
Suttons Bay Pop Warner Football, 5 th & 6 th grades, and 7 th & 8 th grades			X		Pop Warner Organization	50
Leelanau 4-H Youth Program	X	X	X	X	MSU Extension	800 County, 160 Suttons Bay

D. Recreation Programs: There are several existing organized recreation programs for the youth of Suttons Bay Township. The school campus is the primary activity center for these programs. See Table 4 for a list of the existing programs.

E. Accessibility Assessment

The ongoing development of Herman Community Park includes universally accessible features in all of its plans. The paved parking lot and sidewalks are both universally accessible. Vic Steimel Park was renovated to barrier-free through a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Coastal Zone Management Grant in 2006-2007. Graham Greene is a rustic natural park and there are long term plans for accessibility to the water's edge. The 45th Parallel Park is not yet developed, therefore does not meet any accessibility guidelines. Improvements to all of the existing and any future parks will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (ADA). This will include parking, pathways, activity areas, signage and restrooms. See Tables 1, 2 & 3 for park ratings.

8. Physical Characteristics of the Community – See Appendix A.

9. Description of the Planning Process

Suttons Bay Township has used and is currently using a combination of the three planning methods outlined in the “Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Plans.”

A. A Community Based Approach to Park, Recreation and Open Space Planning

Community input was sought prior to the updating of this plan. The use of a “Survey Monkey” online survey was used for the first time. To get as many responses as possible it was offered from February 1, 2018 through June 1, 2018. This survey was also introduced to Suttons Bay High School students who were encouraged to use it. Paper surveys were also available for those in the community who preferred that option. This process created more responses and feedback than traditional public input meetings.

A copy of the online survey is attached in Appendix (TBD).

The top five most “desired” requests at Herman Park are:

- Drinking water
- Permanent restrooms as opposed to porta jons
- Playground equipment
- Basketball Courts
- Dog Park

B. Identification of Potential and Priority Conservation Areas

The newly adopted *Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan* is based largely on The Leelanau Conservancy’s Natural Lands Inventory, which maps Potential Conservation Areas. It is a science-based approach to identify potential conservation areas throughout the Leelanau Peninsula that, with proper management, would ensure the long-term persistence of the region's biodiversity, the ecological processes needed to maintain these elements and ecological integrity.

Potential Conservation Areas are defined as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural areas and unique natural features. In addition these areas may provide critical ecological services such as maintaining water quality and quantity, soil development and stabilization, pollination of cropland, wildlife travel corridors, stopover sites for migratory birds, sources of genetic diversity, and floodwater retention.

The process established by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory of identifying potential conservation areas, can be used to track and update the status of these remaining sites. Site maps and ranking data can then be used by the Leelanau Conservancy, local municipalities such as Suttons Bay and other agencies to prioritize conservation efforts and assist in finding opportunities to establish an open space system of linked natural areas throughout the peninsula.

The master plan also stresses that the shoreline and waters of Grand Traverse and Suttons Bay are community assets that are currently underutilized.

C. Comparison to Recreation Standards

Leelanau County has a large tourism economic base. Although development pressure has slowed recently, there has been a large increase in the second home market growth over the last couple of decades. Suttons Bay Township experiences the pressures of the seasonal population growth. The existing recreation facilities in the Suttons Bay community (township and village) have a very high usage during the summer season because of the seasonal residents and tourism. There are no county parks, state or federal recreation lands in the township to serve the tourism industry.

There is, and will continue to be a need for improved waterfront access as the population of the area grows. All age groups use waterfront parks, especially if they provide barrier-free facilities.

The active empty nester and seniors of today are using trails, and multi-purpose sports fields' right along with our youth. Suttons Bay Township has experienced its largest growth in these diverse age groups since 1990.

The aging population in our area has shown a preference for more pickleball courts as opposed to more tennis courts just a few years ago. Community members have started a fund-raising project for two more pickleball courts. There continues to be a great need for more youth soccer fields especially in Leelanau County. The local youth soccer organization along with the Township Parks & Recreation Committee continue to explore funding opportunities to provide safe playing fields at Herman Park.

10. Public Input Process

Previous public input processes were archaic and did not reach many people. This past year a decision was made to utilize "Survey Monkey" with an online survey approach. The survey questions were developed by the Parks and Recreation Committee. It was also decided that the online survey would be available to the public for five months. Results were automatically and instantaneously compiled. Paper surveys were also available at the Township Office. The results provided a good indication of what the public wanted to see at our parks. A copy of all responses will be available to the public after this Five Year Plan is approved by the Township Board

The final Five Year Plan will be submitted to the Leelanau County Planning Commission and Networks Northwest (regional) for peer review. Their responses will be included in the final Plan. Feedback from the Suttons Bay Township Planning Commission as well as the members of the Parks and Recreation Committee will also be included.

All comments received on the draft Plan will also be provided in the Final Plan which will be accessible on the township web site.

11. Park, Recreation, and Open Space Goals and Objectives

The Park Recreation Committee has established the following goals based on a formal community survey. Since the number one priority for park development has been Herman Park, the survey was basically geared to that development and understanding the budget limitations that the Township has to work with. Some of the goals are carry-over from the previous Recreation Plans.

1. Continue to provide barrier-free access to all future projects and ensure they meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Explore partnerships for developing the blue water trail system along the shoreline of the Township, using existing public lands as access points. Explore the possibility of providing an accessible launch site and primitive camping sites for users.
3. Improve the facilities at Ice Rink Park supporting the evolving ice maintenance program, and building a structure for onsite storage of equipment. Explore other uses for this Park.
4. Utilize the 2017 Forestry Stewardship Program created for Graham Greene, Herman Park and the 45th Parallel Park. Develop a tree inventory, tree removal schedule, tree planting schedule and maintenance program.
5. As funding becomes available, create trail accessible systems throughout Herman Park and 45th Parallel Park.
6. Increase and improve birding, fishing, and hunting access points to public and private lands.
7. Preserve and promote wildlife habitat protection as well as outdoor education opportunities.
8. Expand sports activity options to meet the growing and changing recreation programs and needs of the community.
9. Provide passive recreation opportunities by developing the 45th Parallel Park in partnership with The Leelanau Conservancy and the Grand Traverse Band for passive recreation (trails, outdoor education, picnic facilities, possible backpack camping site, etc.).
10. Work with the Michigan Department of Transportation to protect the M-22 and M-204 scenic corridors, improve water access, and develop an accessible picnic area along Grand Traverse Bay that will augment the management plan for 45th Parallel Park.
11. Continue to involve the students at Suttons Bay High School in the parks programming for the township.

12. Coordinate with Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on promoting any existing and new recreation facilities for the community.
13. Discuss the possibility of a long-term maintenance and facilities improvement plan in partnership with the Village of Suttons Bay.
14. Consider forming a Joint Parks Authority with the Village of Suttons Bay and or Bingham Township.

12. Recreation Objectives and Action Program

The following Table identifies the priorities for park, recreation and open space for the Township of Suttons Bay and specific actions for park land acquisition and facilities development over the next five years.

TABLE 5 2018 to 2022 RECREATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PROGRAM SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES				
Priority #	Year	Development & Improvements	Cost	Funding Source Opportunities
1	2018-2022	<p><u>Herman Community Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electrical Service ▪ Well & Drinking Water ▪ Irrigation ▪ Youth Soccer Fields ▪ Better restrooms ▪ Extend Walking Trails ▪ Connector Trails ▪ Community Garden ▪ Winter Ice Hockey ▪ Maintenance/Storage Bldg. ▪ Extend road and parking ▪ LED path/security lighting ▪ Enhance winter activities ▪ Special event rustic camping ▪ Trails thru wetlands 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund ▪ Traverse City Rotary Charities ▪ Township ▪ G.T. Band (2% money) ▪ Friends of Herman Park, Inc. ▪ Tart Trails, Inc ▪ Potential Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suttons Bay Public Schools ○ Leelanau County ○ Bingham Township ○ Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa ○ Grand Traverse Watershed Council ○ Leelanau Youth Soccer Club
2	2018-2022	<p><u>Blue Water Trail along Grand Traverse Bay Shoreline (Vic Steimel, Graham Greene, 45th Parallel Parks)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with the Lake Michigan Water Trail Initiative ▪ Accessible kayak launch ▪ Signage ▪ Maps ▪ Website ▪ Possible rustic camping 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund ▪ Traverse City Rotary Charities ▪ Township ▪ G.T. Band (2% money) ▪ Potential Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighboring townships ○ Leelanau County ○ Northwest Michigan Council of Governments ○ Land Information Access Association
3	2018-2022	<p><u>Ice Rink Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Storage building ▪ Equipment for ice surfacing ▪ Summer irrigation ▪ Improve water source ▪ Develop Summer uses ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Small shade structure 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund ▪ Township ▪ Local donations

TABLE 5 (continued)
2018 to 2022
RECREATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PROGRAM
SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Priority #	Year	Acquisition/Improvement	Cost	Funding Source Opportunities
4	2018-2022	<p><u>Management Plan for Park System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long term management plan for park system ▪ Survey and mark boundaries ▪ Research all history, deeds, etc. 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Township ▪ Local grants
5	2018-2022	<p><u>Graham Greene Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree removal ▪ Tree planting ▪ Signage ▪ Improve parking ▪ Provide barrier-free access ▪ Accessible picnic tables ▪ Grills ▪ Pavilion ▪ Play equipment ▪ Steps & ramp to water ▪ rustic camping 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund ▪ Township ▪ State Forestry Grants ▪ Local donations
6	2018-2022	<p><u>45th Parallel Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marked trail ▪ Parking ▪ Access road ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Restrooms ▪ Outdoor education program ▪ Rustic camping 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MDOT ▪ Michigan Heritage Route program ▪ Coastal Zone Mgmt. Program ▪ G. T. Band (2% money) ▪ Township ▪ Local grants/donations
7	2018-2022	<p><u>Vic Steimel Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree removal ▪ Tree planting <p>Improve parking</p>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Township ▪ Local grants ▪ Local donations
8	2018-2022	<p><u>Lovers Lane Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install steps & platforms to control erosion 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Township ▪ Local grants/donations
9	2018-2022	<p><u>TART/Leelanau Trail Connector</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and develop trail connections between all parks and Leelanau Trail ▪ Develop trail north to the 45th Parallel Park and beyond 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Township ▪ Local grants/donations ▪ Tart Trails, Inc Collaboration ▪ MDOT

Action Program Justification

Herman Park:

It is a prime location for many options of both passive and active recreation activities. There is opportunity for birding, hiking trails, and hunting. The varied wetland and forested ecosystems will provide outdoor education opportunities. The park protects wildlife habitat, wetlands, and the Leo Creek Watershed. The options for active recreation are focusing on youth soccer fields and additional pickleball courts.

Lake Michigan Water Trail: Suttons Bay and Grand Traverse Shoreline:

Suttons Bay has a series of existing public access points and facilities which are suitably spaced along Suttons and Grand Traverse Bay and provide a safe paddling experience. The infrastructure needed for a blue water trail system is minimal and includes safety and access information, maps, signage at launch sites and parks, and website updates. The Suttons Bay/Grand Traverse Bay Water Trail will be a key component of the Lake Michigan Water Trail, which will circumnavigate the entire Lake Michigan shoreline.

Ice Rink Park:

The popularity and use of this park increases every winter. Skating has become very popular among the students in the community; many are involved in the maintenance of the rink. It is highly used. Skating is an easy access winter activity that pulls people outdoors. Opportunities exist at Herman Park to provide winter skating under the covered pavilion after electrical service and water are provided. Opportunities exist for uses other than winter.

Management Plan for Park System:

As Suttons Bay parks evolve a long term comprehensive plan is needed. This would map out a strategic plan, goals, improvements, and support system. History of the parks should be recorded before it is lost, boundaries should be surveyed and marked.

Graham Greene Park:

There are a few diseased trees in Graham Greene Park that need to be removed. Planting trees for the future will be needed at the same time in order to maintain the pleasant wooded setting. Accessibility and features in this park can be improved and expanded.

45th Parallel Park Master Plan and Development: A trail needs to be developed to provide access to this hilled wooded setting. No actions can be taken until MDOT resumes plans for developing their pull-off on M-22 which will provide access to the 45th Parallel Park

Vic Steimel Park:

Improvements and accessibility have been added to this park in recent years. At this point an ongoing tree removal/planting program is needed.

Lovers Lane Park:

To protect the road end site from erosion, steps through the trees and a viewing platform should be added.

TART/Leelanau Trail Connector:

The first goal is to link the Township's and Village's park and recreation facilities including the school campus. The Township will work with the Village of Suttons Bay and TART Trails, Inc. to create a safe trail route and accessible trail through the Village and link all park properties by a non-motorized trail system. Another goal is to extend the Leelanau Trail north from Dumas Road to 45th Parallel Park, and then further north to the township boundary.

13. References

Grand Traverse Bay Watershed within Leelanau County, Suttons Bay Priority Area, the Leelanau Conservancy (on-line information)

Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreations, Open Space, and Greenway Plans, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management, IC 1924, pages 7 & 8, (Rev. 02/05/2009)

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Plan, Updated by Leelanau County Planning and Community Development, 2014-2021

Leelanau County General Plan, by Leelanau County and The Planning and Zoning Center, Inc., First adopted 1995, with updates 2000, 2005 and 2012

Leelanau Township Parks and Recreation Plan, Prepared by Leland Township Recreation Committee, 2016-2021

Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Roger A. Lancaster, Ed., Natural Recreation and Park Association, 1983

Suttons Bay Township Community Recreation Plan 2018 – 2012, Updated by Park and recreation Committee, December 2018

Suttons Bay Township Forestry Stewardship Plans for Herman Park, Graham Greene and 45th Parallel Park, by Linda Thomason PhD (Two by Two Wildlife Consultant) July 2017

Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan, Prepared with assistance from Partnerships for Change: Sustainable Communities. Adopted August 2011

Suttons Bay Township Zoning Ordinance, Prepared by Suttons Bay Township Board and Planning Commission, Adopted September 14, 1994, as amended through 2017

Suttons Bay Village Recreation Plan 2012 – 2016, Village of Suttons Bay, 2012

Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trails, Inc., 3- 5-Year Plan, February 2014

Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce 2008 Economic Forecast – Leelanau County, 2007, Page 58 of 60, November 2007

Appendix A – Physical Characteristics

I. Land Use Patterns

The township's land use pattern illustrates the rural character of the community and the settlement pattern of its residents. The Village of Suttons Bay, Peshawbestown, and shoreline development are the areas of higher density within the township.

II. Topography

The Soil Survey of Leelanau County describes the township's topography as ranging from level to gently sloping to steep. Land elevations depicted by United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps range from 179 meters to 306 meters above sea level. Areas which have little topographic relief (level or flat) are predominately found in the marsh areas surrounding Leo Creek. Very steep slopes (25 to 40 percent) are found throughout the township.

Generally, the lowest elevations are found along the shorelines. Elevation increases gradually increase from east to west. Past road construction was generally sympathetic to the area's topography, following topographic gradients and in valleys.

III. Water, Fish and Wildlife Resources

The township has 12.3 miles of shoreline along Grand Traverse Bay, including Suttons Bay, and 2.2 miles of shoreline on Lake Leelanau along the township west edge. There are eight access parcels to Grand Traverse Bay for the residents of the community, including those in the village and Peshawbestown. There is one community access to Lake Leelanau within the township. The township has one small inland lake, Julian Lake, and several creeks.

There are many opportunities for township residents to swim, boat, and fish in the major water bodies that help define the edges of the township. There are state boat launch facilities in the adjoining townships and a village-owned marina within the village.

The township has three major drainage ways: Belanger Creek in the northern portion of the township that drains in Grand Traverse Bay; Leo Creek drains through the wetland area south of the village into Suttons Bay. The third drainage way is an unnamed creek near Horn Road and turns west along M-204 where it drains into Lake Leelanau.

IV. More Information

You may find more detailed information about the Suttons Bay community, maps, and census data breakdown in the *Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan* at www.leelanau.cc/suttonsbaytwp.asp

Appendix B – Copies of Notices for Public Meetings

- I. Public Hearing Notice: 2018
- II. Public Hearing Notice: 2018
- III. Letter to community members prior to Public Hearings: 2018
- IV. Public Input Notice: 2018
- V. Public Comment Period Notice: 2018
- VI. Public Hearing Notice: 2018

*****Note: After Public Input Notices Draft Reviews and Meetings, specific dates will be entered.**

**SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(TBD)**

The Suttons Bay Township Trustees will hold a Public Hearing (TBD) 2018 at the Suttons Bay Township Office, (Hansen's Plaza) 95 West Fourth Street, Suttons Bay, MI.

The Township Board will receive public comment on the update of the Suttons Bay Township Community Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for the years 2018-2022.

The text of the proposed plan may be reviewed at the Suttons Bay Township Office during normal business hours. Email version of the same may be arranged by contacting the office at 231-271-2722. Written comments may be directed to the Suttons Bay Township Board, P.O. Box 457 Suttons Bay, MI 49682 and will be received until the time of the hearing.

If you planning to attend this meeting and require special assistance, please notify Sandy VanHuystee, Township Clerk, at 231-271-2722

Sandra VanHuystee
Suttons Bay Township Clerk

*****Note: After Public Input Notices, Draft Reviews and Meetings the actual dates will be entered.**

Appendix C – Summary of Survey Monkey

Suttons Bay Township Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan

On-line Public Comment Form

In accordance with the State's five year cycle for recreation planning, the 2018-2022 Suttons Bay Township Parks, Recreation, Open Space Plan was prepared by the Township Parks and Recreation Committee in 2018.

This revised Plan will present an inventory of existing recreation facilities, recreation programs, and environmentally significant open spaces within the Township. It will consider the existing facilities in and around the Township and based on public input, will evaluate park and recreation opportunities, needs, and anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and programs. The action program for 2013 through 2017 may identify potential property acquisitions, park/trail way planning needs and projected improvements.

A draft of the plan will be available for public review on the township web site. The draft will be available for 30 days. Public notification of the draft posting will be included in two issues of the Leelanau Enterprise.

**Appendix D – Public Comment from Draft Plan, and Response
(TBD)**

- **Appendix E – Summary of Public Hearing _____ 2018**

Draft Minutes
SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
_____, 2018
95 W Fourth Street
Suttons Bay, MI

*****Note: When this meeting is held, a copy of the minutes will be presented on this page.**

Appendix F – Resolution – Recreation Committee

Appendix G – Resolution – Township Board

*****Note: When these resolutions are completed they will be posted on this page.**

Appendix H – Letters to Other Agencies

- I. Grants Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- II. Leelanau County Planning and Community Development
- IV. Networks Northwest, Regional Planning & Community Development

***** Note: When the new Five Year Plan is completed, a copy of these letters will be posted in this Appendix.**