



**LELAND TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN  
2010-2014**

**Adopted July 26, 2010**

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### APPENDICES

Maps

Facility Photographs

To: Leland Township Board

From: Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: July 26, 2010

Re: Letter of Transmittal

The Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission hereby submits the attached Leland Township Community Recreation Plan for review and consideration for adoption by the Leland Township Board.

Upon adoption, the plan will be filed with the Department of Natural Resources and the Leelanau County Planning Department.

The plan will be subject to future review and update as deemed necessary by the Leland Township Planning Commission, Leland Township Board or Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission.

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Thomas Sleder, Chairperson  
Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

To: Matt McCauley, Director of Regional Planning and Community Development  
P.O. Box 506, Traverse City, MI 49685-0506

From: Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: July 28, 2010

Re: Letter of Transmittal

The Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission hereby submits the 2010-2014 Leland Township Community Recreation Plan.

The plan was adopted by the Leland Township Board and filed with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Leelanau County Planning Department and the Leland Township Planning Commission.

The plan will be subject to future review and update as deemed necessary by the Leland Township Planning Commission, Leland Township Board or Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission.

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Thomas Sleder, Chairperson  
Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

To: Leland Township Planning Commission

From: Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission

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Thomas Sleder, Chairperson  
Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

To: Leelanau County Planning Commission

From: Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: July 28, 2010

Re: Letter of Transmittal

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Thomas Sleder, Chairperson  
Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

**LELAND TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN 2010-2014  
RESOLUTION  
TO ADOPT THE DRAFT PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**WHEREAS**, The Leland Township Recreation Committee has undertaken a five year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2010 and 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, once a draft plan has been completed, citizens must be provided with a well publicized opportunity of adequate length (at least 30 days) to review and comment on it before it was officially adopted, and

**WHEREAS**, the Leland Township Recreation Commission has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Leland Township Recreation Commission hereby adopts the Leland Township Recreation Plan 2010-2014 for public review and comment

**ADOPTED** by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Thomas Sleder, Chairperson, Steve Plamondon, Twp. Board Representative,  
Maynard "Rink" Wheeler and Charles "Pat" Gardner commission members.

Nays: None

Chairperson Sleder declared the Resolution adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN                    )  
  )ss  
COUNTY OF LEELANAU                )

I, Jane M. Keen, Clerk of Leland Township, Leelanau County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board at a meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 2010, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act 167, Public Acts of Michigan 1976, as amended.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereto affixed my signature this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane M. Keen, Leland Township Clerk

**LELAND TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN  
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION  
LELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission has undertaken a Five Year Community Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2010 and 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, public comment sessions were held January 26, 2010, February 9, 2010, and June 23, 2010 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Commission of Leland Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

**WHEREAS**, the Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission voted to adopt said Recreation Plan,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Leland Township Parks & Recreation Commission hereby adopts the Leland Township Community Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Leland Township.

**ADOPTED** by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Sleder, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Plamondon

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Dzuba and Ms. Shiflett

I, Jane Keen, Leland Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Leland Township Board at a Special Meeting thereof held on the 26th day of July, 2010.)

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Jane M. Keen, Leland Township Clerk

**LELAND TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN  
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION  
LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Commission of Leland Township has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2010 and 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, public comment sessions were held January 26, 2010, February 9, 2010, June 23, 2010, July 22, 2010, and July 26, 2010, to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan as it was being prepared, and

**WHEREAS**, a draft plan was completed and citizens had a well publicized opportunity of adequate length (at least 30 days) to review and comment on it before it was officially adopted, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Commission of Leland Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

**WHEREAS**, after the public hearing, the Leland Township Board voted to adopt said Recreation Plan,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Leland Township Board hereby adopts the Leland Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2010-2014 as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Leland Township.

**ADOPTED** by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Plamondon, Ms. Och, Ms. Garthe, Mr. Larkin, and Ms. Keen

Nays: None

Absent: None

Supervisor Larkin declared the Resolution adopted.

I, Jane Keen, Leland Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Leland Township Board at a Special Meeting thereof held on the 26th day of July, 2010.)

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Jane M. Keen, Leland Township Clerk

## **A. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **1. Data and Discussion of Social Characteristics:**

a. **Community Population:** According to the 2000 Census, Leland Township has a population of 2,033.

b. **Employment Trends:** Tourism and related industries provide the majority of occupations in the township. Services such as retail sales, professional specialties, education, health, social services, recreation and food services employ the majority of the populace. Education, health and social services are the largest group with 159 persons. Construction, extraction and maintenance industries are other large employment groups. Major employers in the township include Easling Construction, Leland Public School, St. Mary School, and local restaurants including the Bluebird Restaurant. Not all of the 1,606 employed residents work in the township. Many people are employed outside the county, mainly in Traverse City.

The median family income for Leland Township in 1999 was \$55,714, with a per capita income of \$27,556. The township has significant populations of those in poverty and those living with high incomes.

Leland Township accommodates a number of business establishments and various types of enterprise which contribute significantly to the tax base and local economy. Agricultural enterprise consists mainly of family-operated fruit-growing farms. Good Harbor Vineyards, Gill's Pier Winery and other vineyards are a few of the increasing number of wine producers on the Leelanau Peninsula. Northwestern Michigan is often referred to as the "cherry capital of the world."

In the villages of Lake Leelanau and Leland, there are restaurants, retail shops, cottage industries and professional offices that provide goods and services to local and summer residents. To accommodate tourists, there are a variety of overnight facilities within the township, including bed and breakfast establishments, lodges, rental homes and cottages.

c. **Number and Location of Households:** 1,550 housing units in 2000 (per Census).

d. **Population Trends:** Development in the township is largely residential, with a preponderance of single family homes in the villages of Leland and Lake Leelanau and along the shores of Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan. The shoreline homes are largely seasonal, second homes, causing an increase in population during the summer months. The summer population is also swollen with tourists visiting the shops and historic Fishtown in the village of Leland and enjoying the spectacular beaches along Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau.

Many migrant workers labor in the strawberry fields, wineries and orchards. Summer day care programs are provided by the state for young children, and many school-age children remain in area

schools until mid-October, when the fruit harvest is completed. A small number of Hispanic families have settled in the township and are year-round residents. Both year-round and migrant families enjoy the local parks and numerous recreational activities in the area.

Since the early 1970s, an increasing number of retirees have settled in Leland Township. Some have built retirement homes, mainly along the lakeshores. Many seasonal residents have renovated and winterized their homes. These activities have stimulated the local economy and provided a steady source of construction-related jobs. New and renovated homes, however, are often expensive, impacting property values and the tax base, and making it difficult for some residents to afford their shoreline homes. Retired residents require services and have contributed to the creation of many service-related jobs. The township is attempting to accommodate the special needs of its increasing population of older citizens in areas such as housing and recreation activities.

**e. Population Distribution:** As of the 2000 Census, Leland Township's population was evenly distributed between the sexes. Twenty-one percent (21.8%) were 65 years and over, and twenty-two percent (22.5%) were under 18 years. In 1940, Leland Township was the largest population center in the county, with more than 14% (1,212) of the people. By 2000, the Leland Township population had grown to 2,033, representing 9.6% of the county. The township needs to maintain and improve its parks and expand playground facilities to accommodate its young families and seniors. With a decreasing availability of open space, the need for parks, lake access and access to recreational activities becomes more important.

Leland Public Schools, grades K-12, has an enrollment of about 426 students. St. Mary Parochial School in the village of Lake Leelanau has grades K-12 with an enrollment of about 200 students. The township has a relatively high level of educational attainment, with 92.4% of adults 25 years and older high school graduates and 38.9% of adults with a degree or higher.

Hancock Field, in the village of Leland, provides sports facilities for the Leland Public Schools and Leelanau County residents generally. Drow Field is the home of the St. Mary sports teams.

Leland Township has several distinct populations. Many local residents are from families that settled in the area in the 1850s. The population makeup includes farmers, service people, construction workers, Hispanic migrant workers, wealthy summer and year-long residents, well-educated retirees and many more. The township needs to consider these population groups in planning its recreation programs and facilities.

**f. Location of Populations with Unique Needs:** Many seniors with unique needs live in rural parts of the township and need access to health care and shopping. A large percentage of the migrant population lives and works in rural parts of the township and has transportation and recreational needs for its children.

## **2. Description and Discussion of Physical Characteristics:**

**a. Land Use Patterns:** Leland Township is located in Leelanau County, the "little finger" of Michigan. Leelanau County is bordered to the north and west by Lake Michigan and on the east by Grand Traverse Bay. Traverse City, adjacent to the southeastern corner of Leelanau County, is the closest urban area, some 25 miles from Leland Township. The county is about three-fourths open land or woodland with agricultural and low-density rural residential areas. The residential areas are located mainly in the southeastern portions of the county and could be considered suburban Traverse City. More than 10% of the county is occupied by the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Leland Township has two unincorporated villages, Leland and Lake Leelanau. Leland is located along the Leland River on a narrow piece of land between Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau. It was settled in the 1850s when a dam was built on the Leland River for the logging industry (the dam remains in place today). Other industries were iron smelting and fishing. The commercial fishing industry remains today, and many charter boats are available during the summer months for salmon fishing.

Leland is the site of a harbor of refuge for recreational boaters. During the summer months, the marina is crowded with boats and boaters enjoying Leland. Manitou Island Transit, located in the marina, ferries visitors and backpackers to North and South Manitou islands wilderness areas located within Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. Fishing is a popular sport along the marina breakwater and in the Leland River.

Lake Leelanau Village is located on the narrows between North and South Lake Leelanau, a popular fishing spot. This village has always been a rural center. It had a logging industry and was a railroad terminus in the 1800s. It is the primary entrance to Leland Township from the east on highway M-204. A center of activity in the village is St. Mary Catholic Church and School. Many residents are engaged in construction and service occupations. Grove Park in the village serves as a center for recreation. Drow Field, the baseball field on the eastern edge of the village, has recently undergone major improvement, with a cooperative effort between St. Mary School, Leland Township Parks and Recreation, and local volunteers. Improvements in the access sites to the Narrows have been suggested to better accommodate the elderly.

**b. Topography:** Leland Township is a triangle-shaped area about five miles across its base (east to west) and nine miles across its length (north to south). The township contains 19,000 acres, of which one-fifth is water. There are approximately 17 miles of shoreline on Lake Leelanau, and another 12 miles of shoreline on Lake Michigan. The topography consists of rolling hills, orchards, wetlands, woodlands and high bluffs with spectacular views of Lake Michigan, the Manitou Islands and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Leelanau County is considered by many to be of world-class beauty with its dazzling meeting of high, sandy bluffs and a fresh-water inland sea. Visitors are uniformly struck by its beauty, which has led to increased tourism and the corresponding need for improved recreational facilities.

**c. Water, Fish and Wildlife Resources:** Fishing has been and remains an important component of the economy, history and culture of Leelanau County and Leland Township. Fishtown, in the Village of Leland, represents an important historical treasure, and even today, commercial fishing continues. Numerous sport fishing services operate from Fishtown and offer the opportunity to enjoy deep water salmon and trout fishing at its best. It is not uncommon to catch salmon weighing over 30 pounds.

Deer hunting is a popular activity in Leelanau County. Wooded and wetland areas of the township provide prime wildlife habitat and support populations of wild turkey, grouse, bald and golden eagles, black bears, deer, raccoons, opossum, porcupines, several varieties of squirrels, fox, coyote and skunks. Otters and beaver are observed in North Lake Leelanau and the Narrows. In recent years, there have been numerous reports of cougar sightings in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and surrounding areas. The lakes support a large summer population of ducks and swans and a spring and fall migratory waterfowl population, including loons, mergansers, buffleheads, common scalps, arctic terns and a spectacular variety of permanent and migratory song birds, woodpeckers and gulls, shorebirds and hummingbirds. Leelanau County is an important migratory route for raptors crossing Lake Michigan from the Upper Peninsula.

**d. Soils and Vegetation:** The isthmus between Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau is largely residential and wooded. The area known as East Leland consists of fruit-growing farms and woodlands on well-drained, nearly level to fairly steep, loamy soils on glacial moraines and till plains. South of Highway M-204, woodlands and mixed farm use prevail on similar but sandier soils. There are about 2,000 acres of agricultural land in the East Leland area and another 2,000 in the South Leland area, there are 2,400 acres classified as orchard; 2,200 acres classified as cropland; and 2,000 acres classified as open land.

Approximately 600 acres of wetlands exist at the northeast corner of Lake Leelanau, which is drained by Houdek Creek. Another 250 acres exists bordering the Narrows that connects North and South Lake Leelanau. Numerous smaller wetlands dot the township. Approximately 700 acres of state-designated critical dune areas exist at the north end and the southwest corner of the township along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Approximately three miles of bluff that stretch along Lake Michigan has been designated by the state as a high risk erosion area.

Over one-third of the township (6,000 acres) is covered with forest land, primarily the northern hardwoods association and white pine. Red oak, lowland hardwoods and conifers are also present. Some aspen are present north of Lake Leelanau, as are swamp conifers in the wetlands.

**e. Transportation Systems:** Leland Township is served by the Bay Area Transit Authority, which provides daily bus service to Traverse City and throughout the county. However, the primary means of transportation is the private vehicle. Two state roads, M-22 (north-south along the west edge of the township through the village of Leland) and M-204 (east-west across the base of the township, through the village of Lake Leelanau) serve the township, as well as several county roads.

There are two miles of bicycle lanes along M-22 south of Leland. The winding county roads with rolling hills make Leland Township a popular destination for bicycle tours and local enthusiasts.

f. **Climate:** The Leland Township climate is tempered by the surrounding waters of Lake Michigan, creating a unique marine environment. Leland village may be 10 degrees cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter than inland areas. Average precipitation is among the lowest in Michigan. It is not uncommon that little rain falls in July, which is appreciated by residents and tourists. Average summer temperatures are in the 80s, with winter temperatures in the 20s. Lake Leelanau generally remains frozen from late December to early April, providing many opportunities for winter sports. Ice fishing on the lake is popular. Snowmobiling, ice boating, ice skating, and cross-country skiing are also popular. There are many cross-country ski trails in the wooded hills and the Provemont Pond Natural Area. Lake-effect snows generally provide ample snowfall. Spring arrives in late April or May along with steelhead trout fishing and morel mushroom hunting. By early July, the lakes are warm enough for swimming and the seasonal residents return.

Lake Leelanau is the focus of summer sports activities such as fishing, boating, water skiing, wind surfing and sailing. There are several public access sites to Lake Leelanau and three public parks. East Leland, Schneider's Beach, and Bartholomew Park make North Lake Leelanau activities available to all. Several public access sites in the village of Leland provide access to spectacular beaches on Lake Michigan. Fall brings the tourists to admire the trees at peak colors and the much-anticipated deer hunting season. Spring brings the wild turkey hunting season.

g. **Environmental Issues:** Leland Township is a unique area. Its spectacular landscape draws tourists, retirees and seasonal residents. However, sensitive areas could be lost due to careless development. Many permanent and seasonal residents are passionate about environmental and land use issues and demonstrate their passion through public meetings and involvement with environmental and land use organizations.

h. **Zoning:** The township Planning Commission is attempting to preserve the beauty of the township by requiring site plan reviews and encouraging cluster housing and conservation easements.

i. **Maps (to illustrate the physical characteristics of a-h.):** See Figures 1 through 4 in the appendix.

## **B. COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

Parks and recreation activities of Leland Township are recommended to the Leland Township Board by the Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission. Functions that are unusual in nature or substantially more expensive than past projects are presented to the Township Board for approval. Budgeted activities are approved by the commission, implemented, and then reported to the Township Board. The Parks and Recreation Commission decides what opportunities will be pursued, such as land acquisition, upgrading of existing properties, development of new recreational areas or reducing activities in certain areas, and makes recommendations to the Leland Township Board. The Parks and Recreation budget for 2010-2011 is \$81,200.00.

Leland Township employs a year-round maintenance person who, based on need, hires additional help to assist in the general upkeep of all Leland Township properties. This employee is supervised by the township supervisor. The year-round maintenance person also maintains the ice rink in the winter months. This is the only employee hired by the township to regularly carry out park and recreation maintenance. All other help is hired on an "as needed" basis. A lifeguard is hired for an eight-week position at a popular swim area located on Lake Leelanau. MSU/4-H swimming instructions are also offered periodically at this location. As activity levels increase, additional staff will be hired as needed.

There is no director of park operations. The Parks & Recreation Commission and Township Board oversee all aspects of the facilities, and personnel report to the Township supervisor when the need arises. The Parks & Recreation Commission was appointed by the Township Board. It was not established under any public act. The commission meets at least four times per year.

The Parks and Recreation Commission works closely with the Leland Public School and Lake Leelanau St. Marys coaching staff. The Parks and Recreation Commission is in the process of selecting a steering committee and adopting a policy for use of the township fields to be presented to the Leland Township Board. There are no other agencies in the township involved in recreation. An organizational structure is included in the recreational plan.

In the last two years, Leland Public School has contributed more than \$72,000 for capital improvements to Hancock Field. St. Mary School has contributed substantial funding and manpower to improvements at Drow Field.

Many community volunteers support the parks and recreation activities of Leland Township. Some coach youth leagues; some help maintain the facilities, and some provide financial and in-kind contributions to supplement the township parks and recreation budget.

## LELAND TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Key: Su (Summer); Sp (Spring); F (Fall); W (Winter)

PROGRAM SPONSOR	SEASON	PROGRAM	APPROXIMATE # PEOPLE
<b><u>YOUTH PROGRAMS</u></b>			
4-H, Cooperative Extension	F, W, Sp	Kids Club	40
	Su	Swimming Class	18
Leelanau Ski Club	F, W, Sp	Recreational Skiing	40
	F, W, Sp	Competitive Skiing	15
Leland Yacht Club	Su	Sailing Lessons	40
Private Program	Su	Tennis Lessons	35
Leland Public Schools and St. Mary of Lake	F	Soccer	50
	F	Girls Basketball	25
Leelanau	W	Boys Basketball	40
	W	Skiing	20
	W	Cross Country Skiing	how many?
	W	Girls Volleyball	35
	Sp	Tennis	25
	Sp	Boys Baseball	55
	Sp	Girls Softball	55
Community Volunteers	W	Grades 5-6 Basketball	30
	Su	Baseball	250+
	Su	Softball	250+
	Sp, F	Soccer	250+
Leelanau Children's Center	Su, F, W, Sp	Preschool/kindergarten walking field trips	100
		School-age walking field trips	30

### **RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

Leland Yacht Club	Su	Sailing
Private Charters	Su	Fishing in Lake Michigan
Township Parks	Su	Swimming, Fishing
Leland Country Club	Sp, Su, F	Golf, Tennis
Ladies' Hiking Club	F, W, Sp	Hiking and XC Skiing
Cherry Capital Bike Club	Sp, Su, F	Biking
Shielding Tree Nature Center	All Year	Nature Activities

## **C. RECREATION INVENTORY**

**1. Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory:** The inventory was conducted with site inspections of each property, phone calls and personal visits. The maintenance staff is responsible for assuring that all park equipment is in safe and working order and reports as needed but at least once a year to the township supervisor.

### **2. Recreation Opportunities within the Community's Political Boundaries:**

#### **a. Public Properties/Facilities:**

Hancock Field (see Fig.3): softball/baseball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, bleachers, skateboard ramps, grandstand, picnic pavilion, drinking water, parking, concession stand.

Leland Harbor (see Fig. 3): marina, boat launch, dockage, water, grills, playground, parking, toilets, picnic tables, dog run, bath house.

Bartholomew Park and Nedow's Bay Beach (see Fig.3): beach frontage, lifeguard, docks, grills, fire pit, picnic tables, boat launch.

John Suelzer Memorial Park (see Fig. 2): boat launch, beach front, parking, toilets, dock, picnic area, playground, grills, fire pit.

Schneider Beach (see Fig. 2): toilets, sandy beach, dock, parking, picnic area, grills, fire pit.

Grove Park (see Fig. 4): tennis court, picnic tables, playground, parking, toilet, basketball court.

Provemont Pond Recreation Area (see Fig. 2): 70 to 80 acres of undeveloped woodland, fishing pond, hiking trails.

Drow Field (see Fig. 4): baseball field, dugouts, parking, water.

#### **The following are locations of Lake Michigan access sites:**

Cedar Street (see Fig. 3)

Reynolds Street (see Fig. 3), includes toilet and beach

Thompson Street (see Fig. 3), includes beach

Avenue A (see Fig. 3), includes beach

North Street (see Fig. 3), includes beach

Hall Beach (see Fig. 3)

**The following are locations of Lake Leelanau access sites, including the Leland River and the Lake Leelanau Narrows:**

Chandler Street (see Fig. 3)

Grand Avenue (see Fig. 3)

Fourth Street (see Fig. 3)

River Street (see Fig. 3) includes boat launch (DNR), dock, picnic tables

Horn Road (see Fig. 2), includes dock

St. Mary's Street (see Fig. 4), includes parking, dock, boat launch

E. Meinrad Street (see Fig. 4)

St. Joseph Street (see Fig. 4)

William Street (see Fig. 4)

Fisher Park (see Fig. 3)

**b. School Properties/Facilities:**

Leland Public School Playground (see Fig. 3): Playground, basketball court, softball diamond.

**c. Private Properties/Facilities:**

Leland Country Club: Golf course, 7 tennis courts, water, toilets, clubhouse, parking

Stander Marina: Boat storage, launch

St. Mary School: Playground, softball diamond, basketball court, parking

Leland Yacht Club: Parking, mooring, toilets, running water

Leelanau County Historical Museum: Parking, county artifacts

Leelanau Community Cultural Center: Parking, water, community recreation center, toilets

Whaleback Nature Trail: Scenic overlook

Houdek Dunes Natural Area: Hiking, environmental education

### **3. Recreation Opportunities Outside the Community's Political Boundaries**

North Manitou Island (see Fig. 2): Lake Michigan wilderness area, hiking, backpacking, wilderness camping, hunting, accessible by ferry from Leland Harbor

Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore Park, Empire Township: Dune climb, scenic drive, picnic areas, hiking, cross-country skiing, swimming, hunting, visitor center, Great Lakes Maritime Museum, ranger programs

Peterson Park, Leelanau Township: Lake Michigan shore, swimming, parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, scenic lookout, toilets

Leelanau State Park, Leelanau Township: Hiking, XC trails, swimming, toilets, parking, camping, playground, picnic area, lighthouse museum, hunting

DNR Boat Launch, Village of Lake Leelanau

Kehl Lake, Leelanau Township: Natural area, nature trails, environmental education

Cedar River, Solon Township: Natural area, nature trails, environmental education

Belanger Creek, Leelanau Township: Natural area, nature trails, environmental education

Veronica Valley – Leelanau County Park: Natural area, nature trails, cross country skiing, kids fishing day; fishing pond; walking trails

Numerous championship golf courses throughout Leelanau County

**3. Map(s) Showing Location of Facilities:** See attached maps (Figures 1 through 4).

### **4. Description of Community's Barrier-Free Compliance Status and Unmet Needs**

The parks and recreation facilities of the township are barrier-free. The township will continue to strive to ensure its parks and recreation system is accessible to persons with disabilities.

**D. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

**1. Discussion of the Plan Development Process:** The planning for this Recreation Plan was done in Parks & Recreation Commission meetings and public meetings. Numerous local organizations and interested parties were asked to provide suggestions and input regarding the Five-year Plan (a five-year plan was previously done by the commission in 2004). Contact was made with residents in close vicinity to affected projects.

**2. Description of the Key Persons Involved in the Process:**

<b>LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD</b>				
Harry R. Larkin Supervisor	Jane Keen Clerk	Shirley Garthe Treasurer	Steven Plamondon Trustee	Susan Och Trustee

<b>PLANNING COMMISSION</b>				
Keith Ashley Chairperson	Skip Telgard Vice Chair	Gary Bardenhagen Secretary	Glenn Gotshall Commissioner	Peggy Schudlich Commissioner
	Jon Stimson Commissioner		Jane Keen Twp. Board Rep.	

<b>ZONING ADMINISTRATOR</b>
Tim Cypher

<b>ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS</b>					
Mike Kirt Chairperson	Ken Nash Vice-Chair	Merry Ball Secretary	Jon Stimson Member	Steve Plamondon Twp. Board Rep.	Bruce Price Alternate

<b>PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION</b>				
Thomas Sleder Chairperson	Russell Dzuba Secretary	Charles "Pat" Gardner Member	Bob Schlueter Member	Clair Shiflett Member
	Maynard "Rink" Wheeler Member		Steve Plamondon Twp. Board Rep.	

### **3. Description of Public Involvement Process Used in Development of the Plan**

- a. **Overall Description of Public Input Process and How Results were Used in Plan Development:** Numerous local organizations and interested parties were contacted and asked to provide suggestions and input regarding the Five-Year Plan. Also, well-publicized meetings were held June 23, 2010, July 22, 2010, and July 26, 2010, at which time the public was invited to give input and suggestions for the plan. Contact was made with residents in close vicinity to target projects. Parks and Recreation Commission members held numerous meetings and telephone discussions in formulating the plan based upon public input. The results of the public input were used to formulate the priorities, goals and projects that are central to the Five-Year Plan.
  
- b. **Description and Dates of Public Input Method(s) Used:** Well-publicized meetings were held June 23, 2010, July 22, 2010, and July 26, 2010, at which time the public was invited to give their input and suggestions for the plan. On June 25, 2010, a draft of the plan was made available on the Leland Township Web site, at the Leland Township Library, and in the Leland Township Office for public review and input.

## E. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### GOALS

1. To encourage an adequate range of recreation opportunities for township residents and visitors.
  
2. To encourage development of commercial recreation enterprises in selected appropriate locations.
  
3. To encourage the maintenance of quality and quantity of open areas, scenic, and natural areas throughout the township.

### OBJECTIVES

- A. Reservation of sufficient recreation lands to serve desired population growth with both passive and active recreation potential.
  
- B. Programs and capital Improvements to be Developed at various community parks.
  
- C. Increased recreation opportunities for elderly and handicapped.
  
- A. Orderly development of commercial recreation so there is optimum utilization of appropriate locations with minimum conflict with adjoining land use.
  
- B. Development compatible with township master plan and zoning ordinance.
  
- A. Where possible, multi-functional use of recreational space, areas for open space, forestry, flood plain, or water resource, conservation and historic preservation.
  
- B. Protection of unique natural areas of wetlands, forests, and watercourses from urban development.

4. To provide educational benefits from outdoor and environmental facilities by preserving the natural state and controlled academic development

A. To develop nature trails with environmental identification

B. To develop a community appreciation for the natural environment – an ongoing effort.

5. Work through Leland Township Planning Commission to have all recreation areas properly zoned.

A. To ensure non-compatible uses are prohibited.

B. To maintain the integrity of land use.

## **F. ACTION PROGRAM, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE AND RATIONALE**

### **1. Action Program:**

**Leland Harbor** - Acquire property adjacent to Leland Harbor for public access to Lake Michigan water frontage with picnic area and park; public restrooms need improvement.

**John Suelzer Memorial Park** - Replace fence; add more rocks separating parking from grass; pavilion; add six picnic tables; small storage unit, additional shade trees; new barbecue grills; possibly add dock adjacent to boat launch.

**Nedow's Bay Beach** - Add sand each year; repair boat ramp; extend dock for diving; move metal pipe or cover the pipe north of swimming area.

**Hancock Park** - Add new concession structure with public restrooms, storage and changing areas; maintenance agreement with school; add benches for seniors; perform maintenance on pavilion; drinking fountain; possibly cover and light ice rink

**Bartholomew Park** - Purchase picnic tables; perform general maintenance

**Provemont Pond Nature Area** - Complete hiking trails and add wood chips where needed; build small bridge across stream to complete trail; phragmites control; general clean-up.

**Fisher Park** - Add possible waterfront gazebo

**Drow Baseball Fields** - Add restrooms; add septic system or attach to the sewer system when possible

**Schneider's Beach** - Add picnic tables, repair rock work; add a dock

**Grove Park** - Thin trees to allow sunlight in, update playground equipment, plant grass; purchase picnic tables

## **2. Capital Improvement Schedule**

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Acquisition/Improvement</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Proposed Funding/Source</u>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>				
2010		Seriously consider acquiring property known as the "Crary Property" consisting of three parcels bordered on the west by Lake Michigan and on the east by Lake Leelanau. This would be public land like none other in the township for a natural resource-based public outdoor recreation area.	\$5,800,000	MNRTF
2010-14		Take advantage of acquisition opportunities as they arise to increase open space and parks, especially property with water access.	Unknown	Any Source
2010-14		Take advantage of acquisition opportunities as they arise for land that would be appropriate for additional soccer fields.	Unknown	Any Source
2011		<b>Provemont Pond Area</b> Improve north entrance and parking area; Complete hiking trails and add wood chips where needed; add benches and picnic tables; monitor <i>Phragmites</i> .	\$3,000	Local funds
2011		<b>Grove Park</b> Thin trees for more sunlight; update playground equipment; plant grass.	\$5,000	Local funds
2010		<b>Hancock Park</b> Develop a vision for the playing fields including softball, large soccer, baseball, small soccer, peewee baseball, tennis courts, sand volleyball, playgrounds and future sports fields.		Local funds Private funds School funds

2014	New concession structure with public restrooms, storage and changing areas.  Set up organizational structure to implement the vision.	\$75,000	Local funds Private funds State grants
2010-14	<b>Nedow's Bay Beach</b> Add sand each year; repair boat ramp; extend dock for diving; move metal pipe or cover the pipe north of swimming area.	\$10,000	Local funds State grants
2012-14	<b>Fisher Park</b> Thin hedge and add trees along road; add waterfront gazebo.	\$2,000	Local funds
2011-2012	<b>Leland Harbor</b> Public restrooms with observation platform; new playground equipment		State grants Private funds
2012	<b>Drow Baseball Field</b> Replace old fencing; landscape outside the fence.  Add restrooms; add septic system or attach to the sewer system when possible.	Unknown  Unknown	Local funds  State grants
2010-14	<b>Bartholomew Park</b> Purchase picnic tables; general maintenance.		Local funds
2011-14	<b>Schneider Beach</b> Add picnic tables, repair rock work; add dock.	Unknown	Local funds

## **F. CONCLUSION**

Leland Township, with its abundant natural resources, provides a variety of recreational opportunities for its diverse population. Fishing, boating, hunting, hiking trails, magnificent beaches, bird watching, snowmobiling, golf, tennis, cross country skiing, and many more activities make for year-round outdoor activities and personal growth for residents of all ages. The township needs to assure public access to its recreational facilities and natural resources and also needs to work closely with the township Planning Commission to protect these resources from unregulated development in order to preserve them for the enjoyment of future generations.