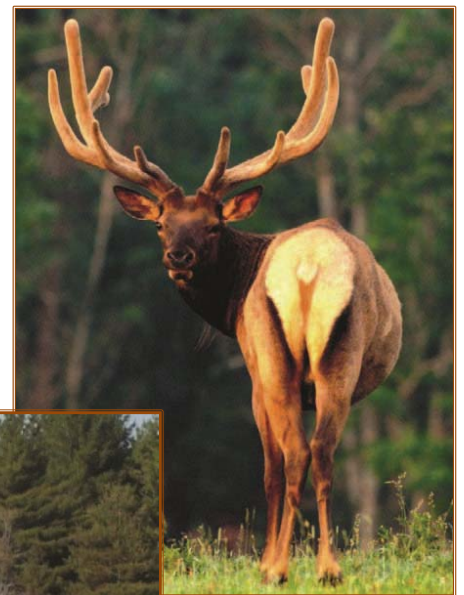


HILLMAN AREA RECREATION PLAN

2020-2024



**Village of Hillman &
Hillman Township**
Montmorency County, Michigan

*Adopted, **Month XX**, 2020*

**Village of Hillman &
Hillman Township
Joint Recreation
Plan
2020 - 2024**

Adopted: **Month xx, 2020**

Prepared for:

**The Village of Hillman
And
Hillman Township**

Prepared by:

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CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and plans within the boundaries of the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of the Hillman area and the surrounding area in order to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

Location and Regional Setting

The Village of Hillman and Hillman Township are located in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula of Michigan in east central Montmorency County (**Map 1 – Regional Location**). The Township is bordered by Montmorency Township to the north, Briley Township to the west, Avery and Rust Townships to the south, and Green and Wellington Townships in Alpena County to the east. The Village of Hillman lies on the eastern edge of Hillman Township and is surrounded by the Township with the exception of a small portion that extends into Green Township in Alpena County. The Township comprises a total area of 68.9 square miles, including the 1.75 square miles that is the Village of Hillman.

The latitude of the Village of Hillman is 45°3'N, approximately halfway between the North Pole and the equator. The Village is located in a rural area with abundant natural resources and recreational opportunities.

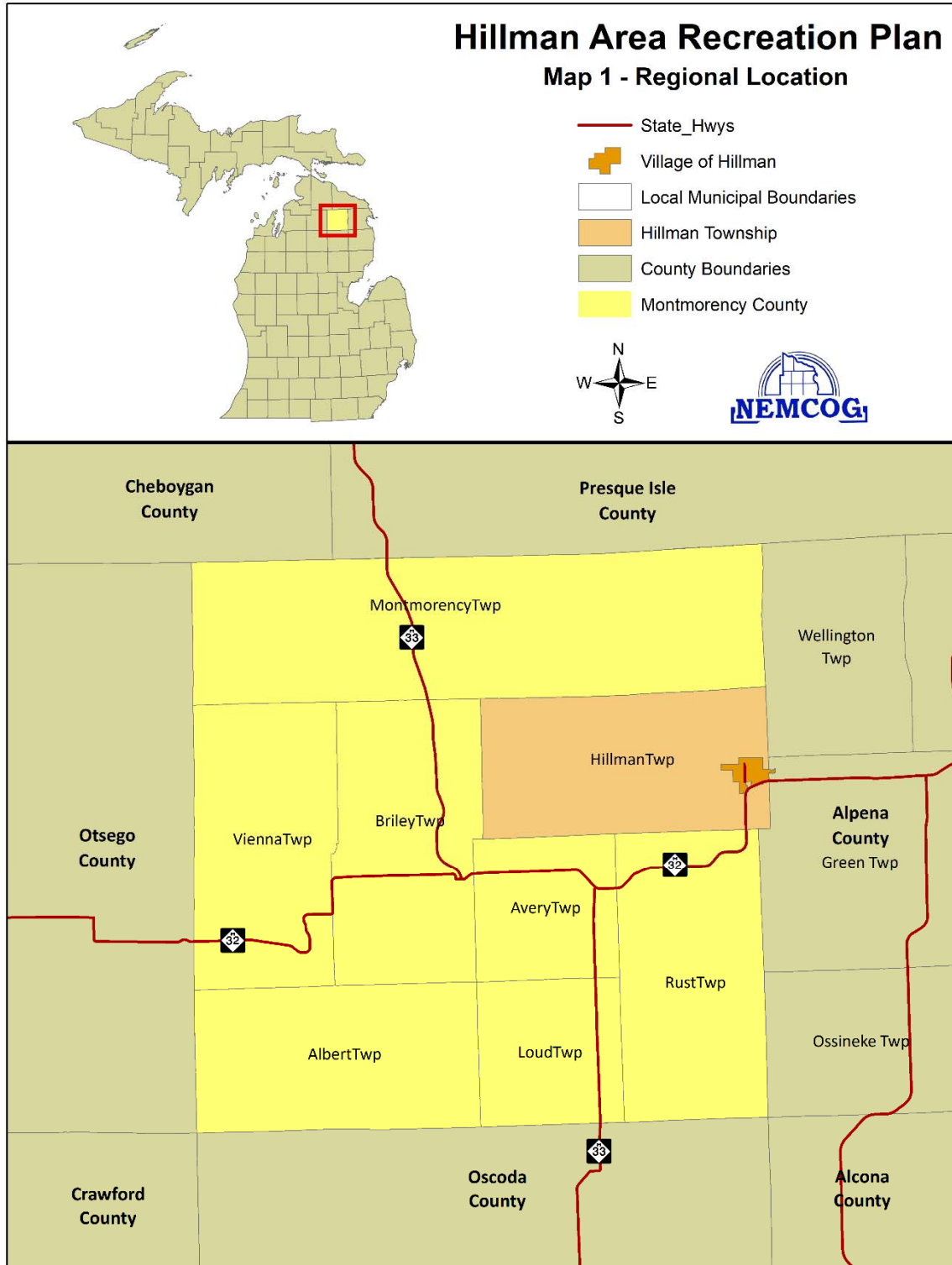
Transportation

State highway M-32 runs along the southern border of the Village though the southeastern corner of the Township. The highway is a primary east/west trunkline, connecting US-31 in Antrim County to US-23 in Alpena County. This highway also connects to the north/south state highway M-33, from Avery Township to the southwest and in Briley Township to the north, where it continues on to Onaway and Cheboygan. County Road 451, County Road 624 and Pleasant Valley Road are the primary roads within the area.

Public Transportation is offered by Thunder Bay Transportation Authority, a three-county transit system. There is no railroad access in the Village or Township. The Hillman Airport, located two miles northwest of the Village of Hillman in eastern Hillman Township, is a public airport owned by the Village. The airport has a 3,400' paved runway, and a second 2,200' grass strip.

Hillman Area Recreation Plan

Map 1 - Regional Location



Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Hillman Township in 2010 was 2,175 persons with a median age of 50. This represents a decrease of 4.1% from the 2000 census. These census numbers include the Village of Hillman, which according to the 2010 census had a population of 701 persons with a median age of 51.4. This represents an increase of 2.3% from the 2000 Census.

Climate

The Hillman Area's climate is humid continental and is not strongly influenced by the Great Lakes. The average temperature for the area is 43.05 degrees Fahrenheit. The county has generally cold winters, cool springs, moderately warm summers, and cool falls. These distinct seasons provide ample opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing are just some of the area's popular winter sports, and summertime activities, such as swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, and camping can be enjoyed when the weather turns warm. Spring-time brings out the mushroom hunters and bird watchers, while many await the autumn months for hunting and fall color tours.

The average annual precipitation is 24.9 inches with approximately 60% of the precipitation falling between April and September. The temperature ranges between 19°F and 67°F in the spring and between 51°F and 80°F in the summer. The frost dates for Atlanta are typically June 10 to September 8. The average annual snowfall is 96 inches, and on average, 129 days of the year have at least one inch of snow on the ground. However, the number of days varies each year. The temperature ranges between 16°F and 56°F in the fall, and between 9°F to 30°F in the winter.

Geology

The general geology of the Hillman area is consistent with that of the entire northern lower peninsula of Michigan. Surface conditions are the product of continental glaciation, with a bedrock geology of sedimentary rock underlying the glacial surface features.

The bedrock geology of the area was established during the Paleozoic Era some 250 to 600 million years ago by shallow marine seas that deposited layers of silt, clay, and other calcareous materials to form shale, limestone and dolomite bedrock. This bedrock is located anywhere from 40 to 500 feet below the surface. The sedimentary bedrock type through Hillman Township is predominately Antrim Shale, with small areas of Barea Sandstone and Bedford Shale, Sunbury Shale, and Coldwater Shale in the south central portion of the Township. Antrim Shale contains rich deposits of natural gas that has resulted in numerous producing wells in the Township, and throughout the region.

The surface features of the area were developed 10,000 to 12,000 years ago through continental glaciation. The numerous glacial advances and retreats across the region formed a complex pattern of erosion and depositional features. These features include course textured

glacial fill in the southwest, glacial outwash sand and gravel in the northern and central, and end morains of medium textured till in the east. The numerous lakes, streams and wetlands are a result of the glacial activity.

Topography

The Village of Hillman and Hillman Township occupies part of an old lake plain that covers the northeastern portion of Montmorency County. The land in this area is level or gently rolling, but contains numerous wet swales, ponds and higher patches of sand. Elevations range from 700 to 900 feet. Antrim Shale covers the majority of the Hillman area with small pockets of Sunbury Shale and Thunder Bay Limestone located in the southwest and northeast.

Soils

The soils in the Hillman area are also a product of the glacial history and consist primarily of medium and coarse textured glacial till or sand and gravel outwash. The majority of the Township is sand or loamy sand, but transitions to a silt loam on the eastern edge of the Township. As can be expected, areas of hydric soils are located along and near the Thunder Bay River, creeks and streams, and in the proximity of lakes and larger ponds. These areas are primarily muck and mucky sand.

Water Resources

The Hillman area is blessed with many clean lakes and streams (**Map 2 – Water Resources**), which provide ample opportunities for fishing, swimming, and small craft boating. The chief source of water for Hillman is the Thunder Bay River, which flows through the southeast corner of the Township and through the Village from the southwest to the northeast. Brush Creek, a major tributary, begins in the northwestern part of the Township and flows eastward intersecting the Thunder Bay River near the center of town. Both the Thunder Bay River and Brush Creek are controlled by dams, and the impoundment on Brush Creek is another important water resource for the Village. Anchor Creek flows from the northeastern border of Hillman Township to the eastern edge of the Village of Hillman. Miller Creek flows through the south central portion of Hillman Township before it flows into the Thunder Bay River.

Lake Avalon is the largest lake within the Township. Ess Lake lies on the northern border of the Township extending into Montmorency Township. The south end of Long Lake and the Long Lake Narrows lie within the Township and extend into Montmorency Township as well. Other lakes within the area include: Voyer Lake, Sucker Lake, Sportsmen Lake, Coopers Pond, Beaver Lake, and Lake Hiawatha, also known as Brush Lake, which Brush Creek flows through.

Groundwater is generally available in adequate quantities throughout Montmorency County. Four inch wells in glacial drift will yield 10 to 15 gallons of water per minute. Availability of groundwater in bedrock is not very productive, since only 10 or less gallons per minute can be expected from bedrock throughout the County. Depth to groundwater averages 30 to 40 feet.

State of Michigan Land

State land covers a large tract of land in Hillman Township (**Map 3 – State Owned Land**). The Atlanta State Forest Area of the Mackinaw State Forest, is a 280,000 acre forested area that is located in Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Alpena, and Montmorency Counties. The forest is owned by the State of Michigan and operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Approximately 17,000 acres of the Atlanta State Forest are included in Hillman Township.

Wetlands and Woodlands

A wetland is land that is permanently or very seasonally flooded and are often referred to as marshes, bogs, and swamps. Wetlands in the Hillman area generally follow the river and stream corridors, with small pothole wetlands scattered across the landscape.

The forest lands of the area are predominantly upland forests consisting of aspen, oak, mixed pine, and northern hardwoods (sugar maple, beech, and basswood. Lowland conifer forests mostly follow the stream corridors and contain northern white cedar, black spruce and eastern tamarack.

The forests of Northern Michigan provide important raw materials for local industries, including pulpwood, fuel chips, saw logs, firewood, Christmas boughs and sap for maple syrup.

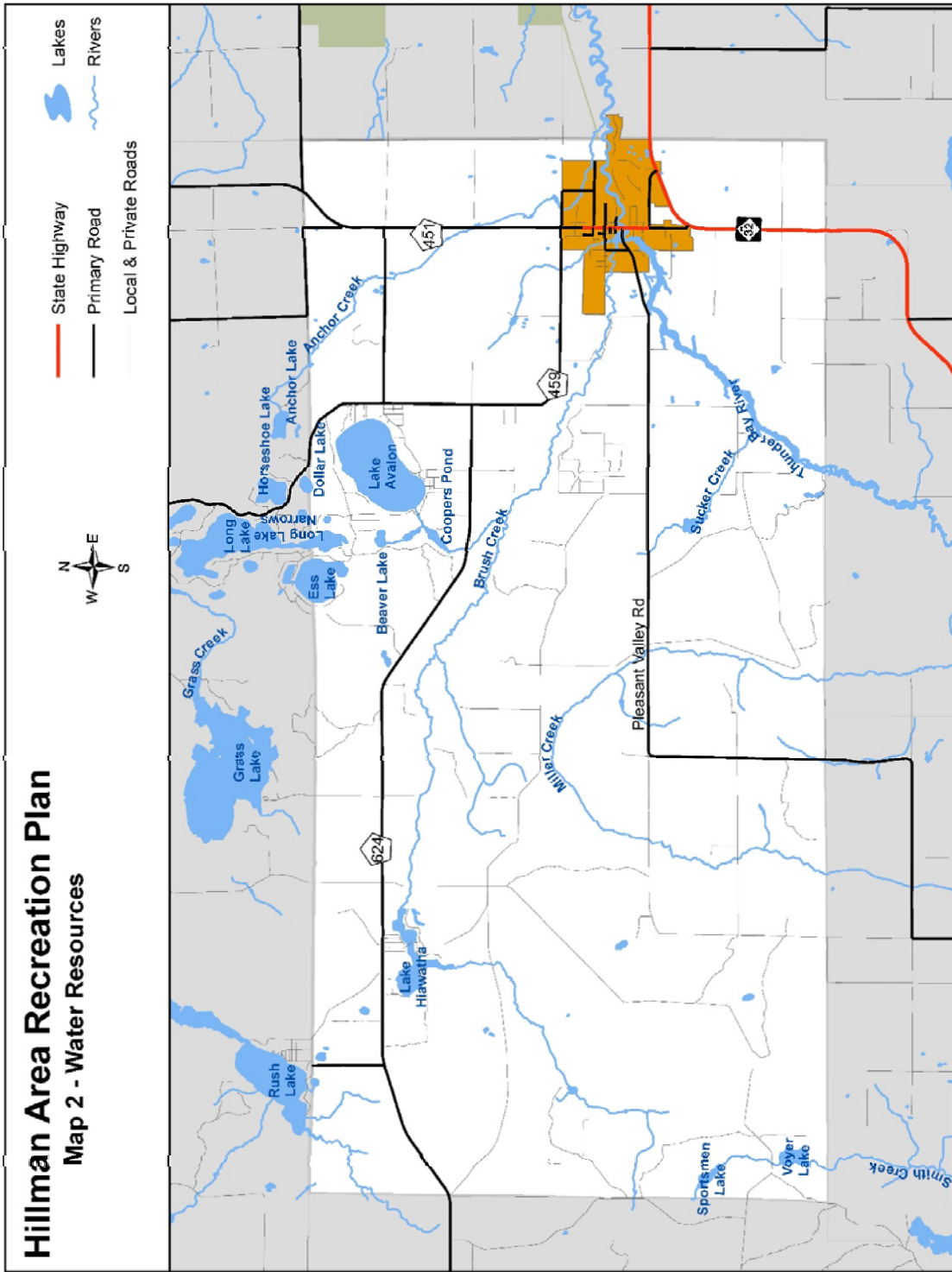
Fish and Wildlife

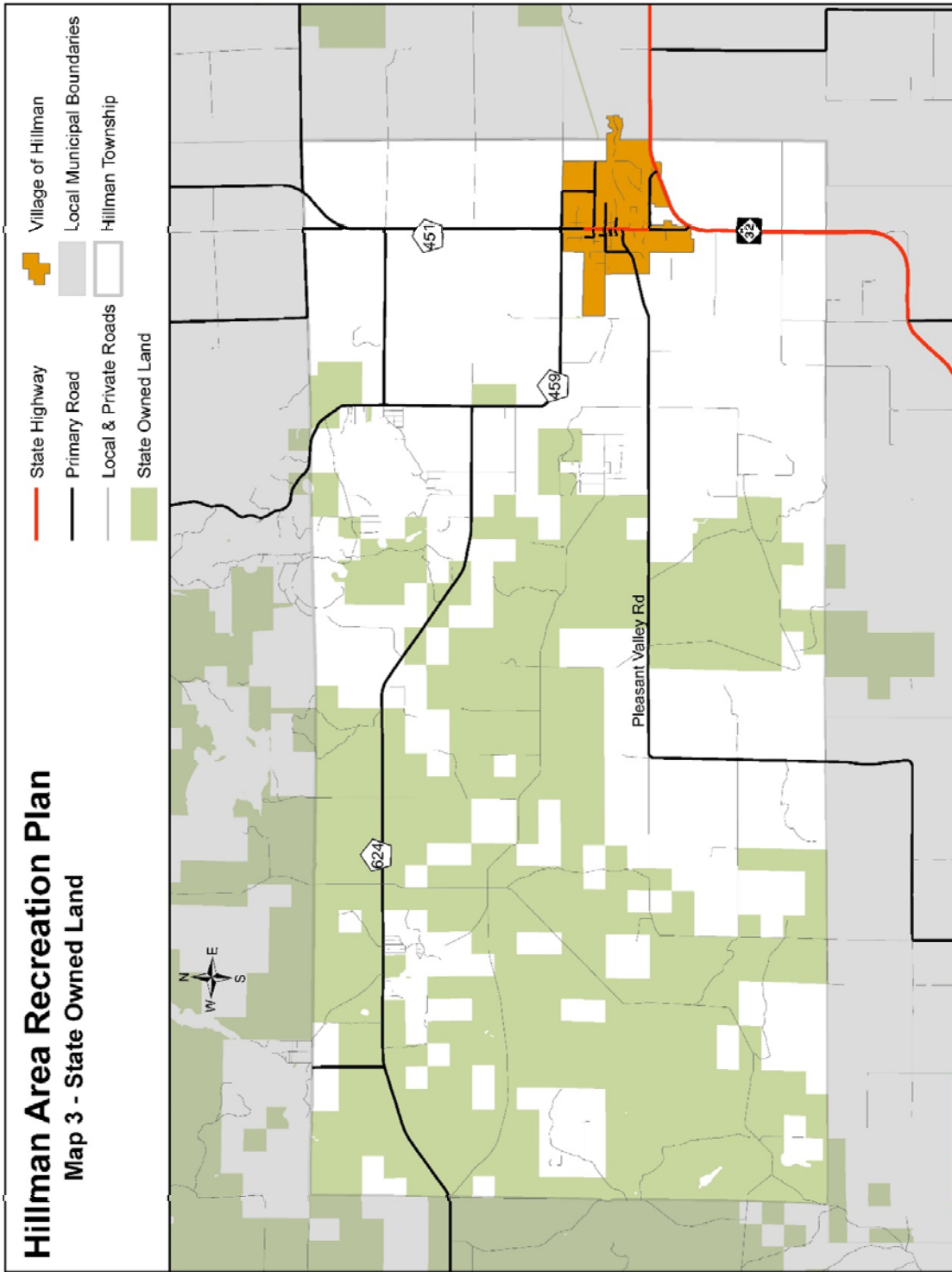
The Hillman area's topography, climate, water resources, and diverse forest land provide the basis for extensive fish and wildlife habitat. The fishing and hunting resources in the area are an important component of the local economy, with many people traveling to the area to enjoy the high quality resources. Visitors also enjoy hayrides and sleigh rides to view the area's elk.

Sport fishing on area lakes and streams is an important component of the area's recreation and economic activity. Game fish species found in the river and streams include: brown and rainbow trout, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, yellow perch, bullhead, and various panfish species. Designated trout waters mean resident populations of trout are supported. Miller Creek yields brook, brown and some rainbow trout. Additionally, perch, smallmouth bass, pan fish, walleye, pike and bluegills are found in the area's numerous lakes.

The forested and wetland regions of the Hillman area provide habitat for numerous species of birds and mammals typical of the forested ecosystems of northern Michigan. Game species include elk, white-tail deer, black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and snowshoe hare. Non-game species include fox, woodchuck, beaver, porcupine, raccoon, opossum, skunk, coyote, bald eagle, and many song bird and waterfowl.

Numerous threatened and endangered species occur within the Thunder Bay River basin. These include Kirtland's Warbler, osprey, caspin tern, common loon, lake sturgeon, channel darter, black sedge, fairy slipper, dwarf lake iris, and pine drops.





CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Village of Hillman Administration

The Village of Hillman operates under an administrative structure consisting of a President, Clerk, Treasurer, Manager and four Trustees. The President and Trustees are chosen by registered voters of the Village in an at-large election held every four years for Trustees, and every two years for the President. Parks and recreation facilities are under the direct control and responsibility of the Village Council. The Village of Hillman Planning Commission is directly responsible for developing the Recreation Plan.

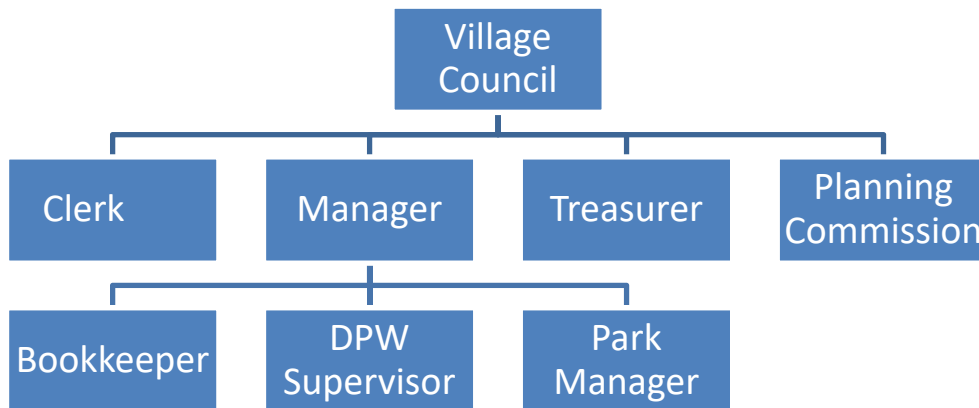
Village of Hillman Elected Officials

- Myron McIntire, President
- Brenda South, Clerk/Treasurer
- Wilbur Funk, Trustee
- John Fitzgerald, Trustee
- Bruce Brown, Trustee
- Velma Brown, Trustee

Village of Hillman Staff

- Dave Post, Manager
- Janet McMurray, Secretary/Bookkeeper
- John Burr, Sr., DPW Supervisor
- Thomas Hunt, Park Manager

Village of Hillman Organizational Chart



Parks & Recreation Staff

The Village of Hillman does not employ an official director for the parks program. The Village employs a seasonal part-time park manager and a seasonal, part-time laborer position. The parks and recreational facilities are under direct control of the Village Council. The Parks and Recreation Department is overseen by the Village Manager, and day-to-day operations are the responsibility of the park manager and a part-time seasonal employee. The Village of Hillman DPW staff does occasionally assist with maintenance activities. Larger maintenance and construction projects are contracted on an as needed basis.

Hillman Township Administration

Hillman Township is governed by an elected Board of Trustees consisting of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Trustees. These positions are chosen by registered voters of the Township in an at-large election held every four years. The Board of Trustees is responsible to make recreation decisions concerning land acquisition, recreation planning, recreational property maintenance, and financial accommodations. The board has delegated some its responsibilities to an appointed Park Committee, to manage the affairs at each of its recreation sites. The committee provides input on recreational planning, and provides some oversight of the day to day maintenance and operation of recreation facilities. The Hillman Township Planning Commission is directly responsible for developing the Recreation Plan.

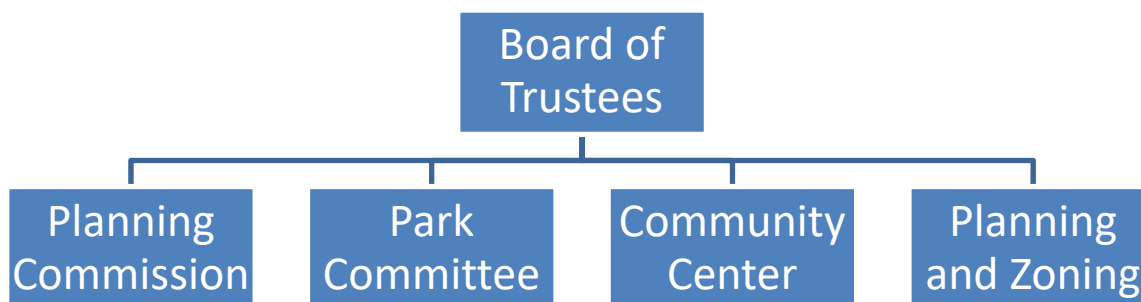
Hillman Township Elected Officials

Charles Manning, Supervisor
Pam Achatz, Clerk
Jody Vanderveer, Treasurer
Mike Achatz, Trustee
John Burr, Trustee

Other Township Personnel

Jon Jackson, Community Center Manager
Stephen Orlandi, Zoning Administrator
Garry Boldrey Jr., Assessor
Peggy Boldrey, Deputy Assessor

Hillman Township Organizational Chart



Parks & Recreation Staff

Hillman Township employs a part-time Community Center Manager that oversees the day-to-day maintenance and activities at the community center. The Township also employs one or two part-time seasonal maintenance staff to perform general maintenance at Tournament/Tiger Paw Park. Snowplowing at the community center is contracted. Larger maintenance and construction projects are contracted on an as needed basis.

Planning Commissions

Planning Commission members are intended to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce, agriculture, government, education, transportation, etc. Planning members may come from many walks of life, but all contribute their time and

talents to the local planning process. In addition to the direct responsibility of preparing the Master Plan and Recreation Plan, the Planning Commission is charged with reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

The Village of Hillman Planning Commission is a five member body, serving three-year staggered terms. The Village Planning Commission is currently comprised of:

John Post	Margaret Kirby
Joe Buschey	Steve Orlandi
Myron McIntire	

The Hillman Township Planning Commission is a five member body, serving three-year staggered terms. The Village Planning Commission is currently comprised of:

Steve Orlandi	Roger Funk
Jan McMurray	Mike Achatz
Steve Kazyaka	

Programming

There is no formal existing recreation programming in the Village of Hillman. The Brush Creek Mill does offer various activities such as Music at the Mill, Open Mic Night, Applefest, Mill River Days, and occasional cornhole tournaments. The Village in partnership with Hillman Community Radio, a local low power FM community radio station, has begun sponsoring summer concerts at the new Emerick Park Bandshell.

Hillman Township sponsors summer youth activities at Tiger Paw Park. The activities include such things as an outdoor family movie night, a Crime Scene Investigation day, field trips, archery classes, painting, nature walks, wildlife biology, fire safety day, and treasure hunts to name a few. Additionally, private groups and organizations such as Little League sponsor activities in the township.

Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers

Whenever possible, the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township work jointly and pool resources with other agencies and organizations to undertake community projects. This has the dual effect of maximizing resources while at the same time benefiting a greater share of the population.

The Village and Township also depend on their community volunteers. These are dedicated individuals and businesses who time and again come forward to assist with community projects. Community volunteers donate money, time, and materials for many community improvement and maintenance projects at recreational facilities. Volunteers often form a committee that spearheads an effort to implement a community project.

The Village of Hillman works closely with the Brush Creek Mill Board. The Village owns the building and property, but the Mill is run by Brush Creek Mill Board. Together they sponsor many

activities at the Mill.

Hillman Township maintains a working relationship with several groups and agencies in offering summer youth activities at Tiger Paw Park. Agencies include the Hillman Fire Department, Montmorency County Sheriff's Department, Department of Natural Resources, MSU Extension, Montmorency Conservation District and many local businesses.

Both the Village and Township work with Hillman Community Radio (HCR). HCR is an FCC licensed low power FM community radio station. The station operates out of a building owned by the Township, and has its antenna located on the Village water tower. HCR and the Village have begun co-sponsoring concerts at the newly constructed band shell at Emerick Park.

Hillman Area Little League (HALL) partners with both the Village and Township. Currently HALL operates out of Hillman Township Tournament Park. HALL provides some maintenance activities to the ball fields. They also rent the concession stand from the Township during the baseball season. HALL has a 99-year lease with the Village for the development of the Youth Sports Complex currently under development.

Finances/Park & Recreation Maintenance: Current Funding

Funds for maintaining, improving, or acquiring new facilities in both the Village and Township are appropriated from their respective General Fund. The annual projected budget for operations, maintenance and capital improvements are detailed in the respective Village of Hillman or Hillman Township budget.

INSERT BUDGETS

CHAPTER 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

An inventory of recreation facilities available in the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township was completed and includes Village of Hillman owned facilities, Hillman Township owned facilities, other public owned facilities, and privately owned facilities. The Village of Hillman and Hillman Township owned facilities were evaluated for barrier-free accessibility. A description of the barrier free accessibility rating criteria is provided below.

Inventory Procedures

The methods used by NEMCOG staff to compile this recreational inventory include verification and compilation of information from the previous recreation plans, information provided by Village and Township officials, and site visits. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

Accessibility Assessments - An assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. The barrier-free accessibility information and sources of assistance given in appendices B and D of the MDNR Recreation Plan Guidelines document should be consulted when making this assessment. At a minimum, use the following ranking system for each park:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Village of Hillman Owned Recreational Properties

Brush Creek Mill



The property and building are owned by the Village, but the Mill is operated by the Brush Creek Mill Board. The green-built Mill is air tight and features solar power, water wheel power and is working towards geo-thermal heating. The Mill houses the museum, local crafts and art for sale, an educational room and a meeting room. The Mill organizes several events that draw people to the Mill and the Hillman area such as live music, Mill River Days, Applefest, Quilt Days and Christmas Tree Festival.

Type: Special Use

Barrier Free Accessibility: 3 - Most of the park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Brush Creek Mill Area

The lot in front of the Mill is a recreational area that offers picnic tables and benches. Fishing along the river bank is allowed. Wheelchairs can fit up to the picnic tables.



Type: Mini-Park

Barrier Free Accessibility: 2 - Some of the park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Brush Creek Park

The approximately 2-acre park adjacent to the Brush Creek Mill is a recreational area that offers picnic tables and benches. Fishing along the Brush Creek millpond is allowed. Wheelchairs can fit up to the picnic tables.

Type: Mini-Park

Barrier Free Accessibility: 3 - Most of the park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Emerick Park

This 22 site campground sits on 25 acres within Village limits. The park offers camping, picnicking, playground, two pavilions, regulation horseshoe pits, boat launch, dock, fishing access, showers and restrooms, a family/group campsite with pavilion, and a bandshell. Three campsites are paved and meet ADA standards as do the restroom and showers. Some of the picnic tables are handicap accessible.



Type: Community Park

Barrier Free Accessibility: 3 - Most of the park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Pineview Park

This 2.8-acre park is located behind the Senior Citizen Center on Pineview Court. This Village owned property offers walking paths, a foot bridge, benches and shuffleboard.

Type: Mini-Park

Barrier Free Accessibility: 3 – Most of the park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Hillman Township Owned Recreational Properties

Tournament Park

This 40-acre park is owned by Hillman Township. It offers three softball fields, a concession stand, a playground and an expanded parking area. A bike path owned by the Village runs from Tournament Park west along E. Progress Street to State Street. A snowmobile trails heads along this route into town in the winter. It is maintained by the Snowmobile Association.

Type: Neighborhood Park

Barrier Free Accessibility: 4 – The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.

Tiger Paw Park

Located in Tournament Park, this community sponsored Boundless Playground is an extraordinary playground where all children, with and without disabilities, can develop essential skills for life as they learn together through play.



Type: Mini-Park

Barrier Free Accessibility: 5 – The entire park was developed using the principals of universal design.

Hillman Community Center



The 10,000 square foot Community Center is owned and operated by Hillman Township. The Village and Township offices are housed there along with meeting rooms. Roller-skating is the key recreational activity offered. The center is available for wedding receptions, craft shows and organizational dinners (Ducks Unlimited, White Tails Unlimited, and the Fireman’s Ball).

Type: Special Use

Barrier Free Accessibility: 4 – The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.

Other Publicly Owned Recreational Facilities

Senior Citizens Center

This facility provides meals, meetings, crafts for the Senior Citizens. Exercise and dance classes are open to the public in general. This non-profit facility is run by the Montmorency Commission on Aging and the local board.



Hillman Community School District

The school provides indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities with playgrounds, baseball fields, outdoor basketball courts, track, practice fields, football fields, restrooms, concession stands and a gym. The buildings provide meeting rooms, places for indoor adult recreation and tournaments.



Hillman Wright Library



The library is open six days a week offering books, movies and CD's to residents. Computer and internet access is available. Recreational activities include story time for toddlers' ages 1-5 years, arts and crafts for children 5-17 years, and adult arts and crafts classes. The library also has reading and writing clubs.

Youth Sports Complex

Hillman Area Little League has a 99-year lease with the Village of Hillman to develop and operate this 18-acre site. A storage barn and two ball fields have been completed, with a third ball field under construction. The site development has been all locally funded. Final plans include the addition of a soccer field, press boxes, restrooms and concessions, and parking areas.

Alpena to Hillman Trail

The Alpena to Hillman Trailhead is in Alpena. It follows state land to Hillman. The trail comes down the side of Progress Street past Tournament Park to State Street. The trail then heads down Caring Street to Pineview Park and back onto state land and other trails. The trail is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The trail offers opportunities for snowmobiling, and hiking (some sections impassable for mountain bikers)

Brush Creek Snowmobile Trail

The trailhead is located west of Hillman in the Thunder Bay River State Forest. The trail runs 30 miles to M-33 north of Atlanta. The Alpena to Hillman Trail connects to it southwest of the trailhead. The trail is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The trail offers opportunities for snowmobiling, and hiking (some sections impassable for mountain bikers).

Ess Lake State Forest Campground

Located approximately six miles northwest of the Village in Hillman Township, this State owned, five-acre facility offers rustic camping with 27 campsites, boating, fishing, swimming, and picnic area.

Lake Avalon

Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns a public access site with boat launch and beach on County Road 459 five miles north of the Village of Hillman.

Long Lake

Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns a public access boat launch off North Shore Drive seven miles north of the Village of Hillman.

Michigan Department of Transportation – Roadside Park

The State of Michigan has more than 80 scenic roadside parks, located primarily on rural state highways. Located in Rust Township on M-32, the Robert P. Zelski Roadside Park is a nicely wooded rest stop that features a fresh water well, picnic facilities and restrooms with vault toilets.

Fletcher’s Flood Waters

Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns public access for boats on Jack’s Landing Road, five miles east of the Village of Hillman in Green Township Alpena County.

Grass Lake

Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns a public access boat launch ten miles northwest of the Village of Hillman in Montmorency Township.

Privately Owned Recreational Facilities

Northern Shore Lodge

Located off North Shore Drive, this retreat offers 9 bedrooms and baths, living room, recreation room, kitchen and dining room, swimming, boating and fishing with access to Long and Ess Lakes.

Thunder Bay Golf Resort

Located within the Village of Hillman is an 18-hole public golf course. Along with golfing, the resort offers elk-viewing sleigh rides with a gourmet dinner, quilt retreats, wine tasting events and murder mystery weekends.

Hillman Sportsman Club

Located three miles north of Hillman in the northeast corner of the Township, this facility is an outdoor shooting range for rifle and handguns at 25, 50, and 100 yards.

Sorenson’s Grass Lake Resort

Located 11 miles northwest of Hillman in Montmorency Township, this resort has cottage rentals, 27 campsites, electric, water, modern restrooms, playground, boat and motor rental, and covered pavilion.

Good Times Family Campground

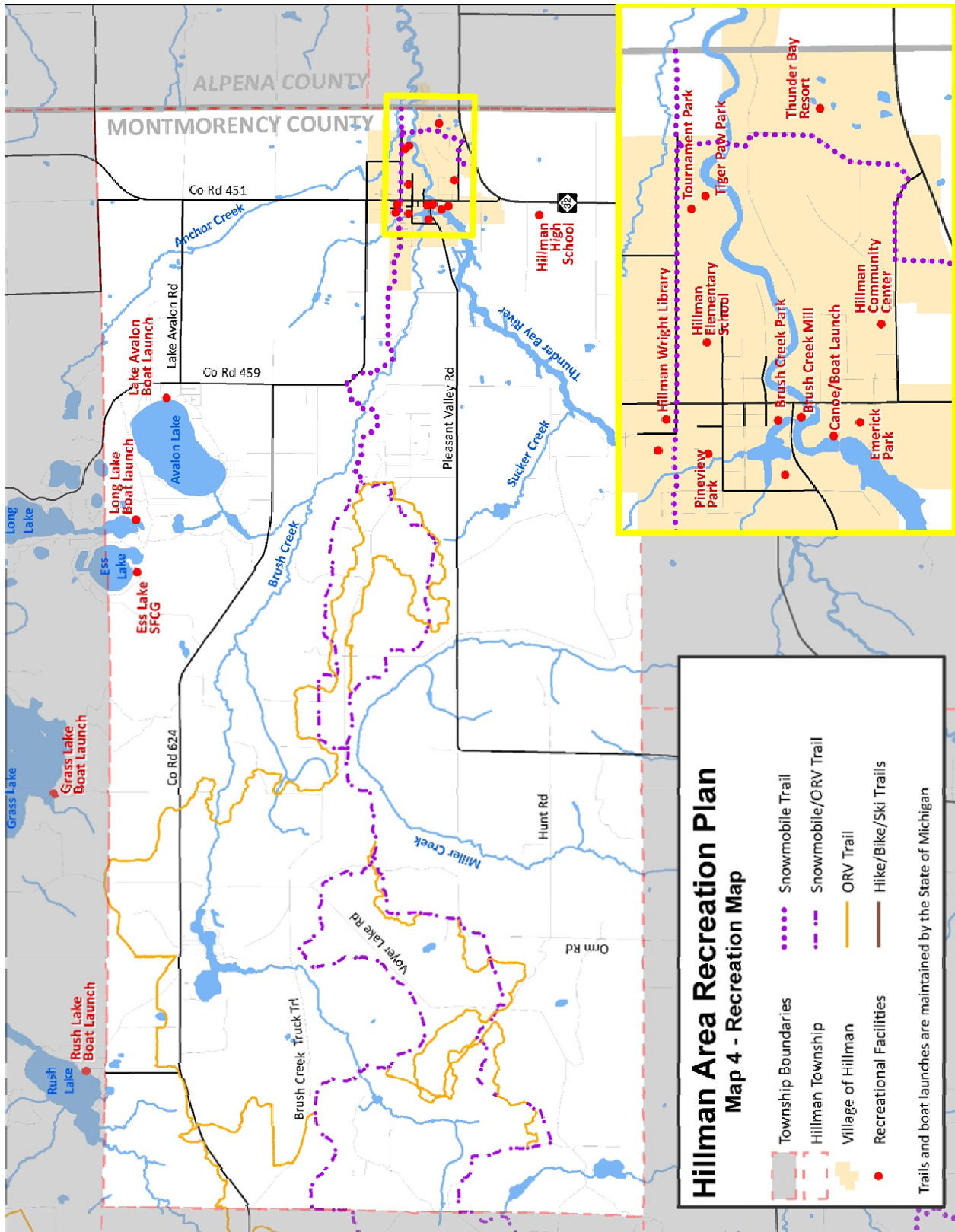
Located south of the Hillman area in Rust Township, this facility has rustic and modern campsites, and cabins available for rent. The campground offers fishing, and boat and pontoon rentals.

Killion's Landing

Located seven miles southeast of the Village of Hillman in Green Township, Alpena County, this resort offers modern campsites, cabins and boat rentals on the shores of Fletcher's Floodwaters.

Jack's Landing Resort/The Hideaway at Jack's Landing

Located seven miles east of the Village of Hillman in Green Township, Alpena County, it offers restaurant and bar, hotel rooms, 30 campsites with electric, sewer, modern restrooms, swimming, playground, boat/canoe rental, fishing bait store, rental cabins, and ice shanty rentals.



Status Report on Grant-Assisted Recreational Facilities

The Village of Hillman has received and successfully completed five grants through the DNR recreation grant funds program. They were in 1973, 1977, 1978, 1997 and 2006.

Table 1 – Village of Hillman Recreation Grant Status			
Grant #	Park Name	Scope Item	Current Condition
26-00454	Hillman Emerick Park	Added a shelter and restroom to the park.	Shelter is still in use. The restroom was converted to a maintenance facility after a new restroom/shower facility was constructed.
26-00996	Hillman Emerick Park Development	Shower rooms added to existing restroom building in the park.	Deemed obsolete and converted to a maintenance facility after a new restroom/shower facility was constructed.
26-01060 T3	Pineview Park	Acquired 2.8 acres of land and built 2 shuffleboard courts, a storage shed, security light and landscaping.	The storage shed was deemed obsolete and removed. Remainder of park is in good condition and actively used.
TF97-048	Emerick Park Project	Construct new modern, ADA accessible restrooms and showers.	Facility is in good condition and widely used. The Village continues to expand the park and amenities. A family/group campsite with pavilion, regulation horseshoe pits, and a band shell are recent additions.
TF06-053	Brush Creek Dam and Millpond Acquisition	Acquisition of approximately 1.5 acres with 200 feet of frontage on Brush Creek Millpond.	The Village has since added benches, picnic tables, and garbage receptacles with plans for further development.

Hillman Township has received and successfully completed two grants through the DNR recreation grant funds program. They were in 1994 and 2000.

Table 2 – Hillman Township Recreation Grant Status			
Grant #	Park Name	Scope Item	Current Condition
TF94-115	Williams Tournament Park	Acquire 18.5 acres with existing ballfield complex and 395 feet frontage on Thunder Bay River.	Facility is in good condition and widely used. The Township continues to add amenities. The ball fields are currently being partially reconditioned and new dugouts constructed.
CM00-031	Tournament Park Development	Construct a multi-use restroom and picnic pavilion.	Facility is in good condition and widely used. The Township continues to add amenities. The ball fields are currently being partially reconditioned and new dugouts constructed.

Regional Recreation Surrounding the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township

Residents of the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township can also utilize recreational facilities outside of the village and the township. Listed below are the public and private recreational facilities in the vicinity of both the village and township. Complete information on all public and private recreational facilities can be found in the appropriate township and village recreation plans.

Avery Township	
Public	Private
Avery Park	

Briley Township	
Public	Private
Lake Fifteen Boat Launch	Win-Sands Motel
DeCheau Lake Boat Launch	Maple Valley Stable
Twin Lake Boat Launch	
Crooked Lake Boat Launches	
Clear Lake-Jackson Lake Pathway	
High Country Pathway	
Briley Township Recreation Area	
Briley Township Park	
Davis Field	
Atlanta Senior Citizens Center	
Atlanta Community Schools	
Montmorency County Fairgrounds	
Jackson Lake State Forest Campground	
Elk Trail	

Montmorency Township	
Public	Private
Rush Lake Public Access	Canada Creek Ranch
Clear Lake State Park	Sorenson's Grass Lake Resort
Clear Lake State Park Trail	St. John Lutheran Church
Clear Lake-Jackson Lake Pathway	
Town Corner Lake SFCG	
Grass Lake Public Access	
Elk Trail	
High Country Pathway	

Rust Township	
Public	Private
Rust Township Hall	The Hideaway at Jack's Landing
Grass Lake Boat Launch	Lyons Landing (currently for sale)
Fletchers Floodwaters	Good Times Family Campground
MDOT Robert P. Zelski Roadside Park	

Wellington Township, Alpena County	
Public	Private
Wellington Township Hall	
Mackinaw State Forest	

Green Township, Alpena County	
Public	Private
Green Township Ball Park	Bradley's Paradise Lodge Resort
Green Township Fire Hall	Upper South Dam
Green Township Hall	Moore's Landing Campground
Manning Hill Park	Killions Landing
Fletcher Pond – MDNR Access Site	Jack's Landing Resort/The Hideaway at Jack's Landing
Mackinaw State Forest	Fletcher's Landing

Ossineke Township, Alpena County	
Public	Private
Hubbard Lake Lions Park	
Beaver lake Park & Campground	
Chippewa Hills Pathway	

City of Alpena, Alpena County	
Public	Private
Arthur Sytek Park	APlex
Avery Park	Alpena Civic Theatre
Bay View Park	Thunder Bay Theatre
Bi-Path	Creative Arts Center
Blair Street Park	GKC/Royal Knight Cinema
City Marina	GKC/State Cinema
Culligan Plaza	Alpena Youth Club
Downtown Parks (Chisholm Street Park and Waterfront Park)	Boys and Girls Club

City of Alpena, Alpena County	
Public	Private
Duck Park	Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Island Park	Sky Theater Planetarium
LaMarre Park	Alpena Yacht Club
McRae Park	Thunder Bay Shores Marina
Mich-e-ke-wis Park/Starlite Beach	Thunder Bay Scuba
North Riverfront Park	Charter Fishing Boats
Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park	Lee's Miniature Golf
Rotary Island Mill Park	Ninth Avenue Dam
South Riverfront Park	Bay Athletic Club
Thomson Park	Bay Urban Fitness
Veteran's Memorial Park	
Washington Avenue Park	
Eleventh Avenue Boat Launch	
Alpena Regional Trailhead	
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve	
Thunder Bay Island	
Multipurpose Rail-Trails	
Alpena County Fairgrounds	

Water Access

In addition to the facilities listed above, Montmorency County has an abundance of pristine lakes and streams to offer numerous recreational opportunities. There are over 100 named lakes accounting for more than 10,000 acres in The County. There are also more than 30 named rivers and streams in the county which together account for more than 300 miles of waterways. Alpena County adds an additional 20 named lakes totaling more than 12,000 acres and another 35 named rivers and streams accounting for more than 300 miles of waterways. In total, there are over 35 boating access sites on the various rivers and lakes in the two county area.

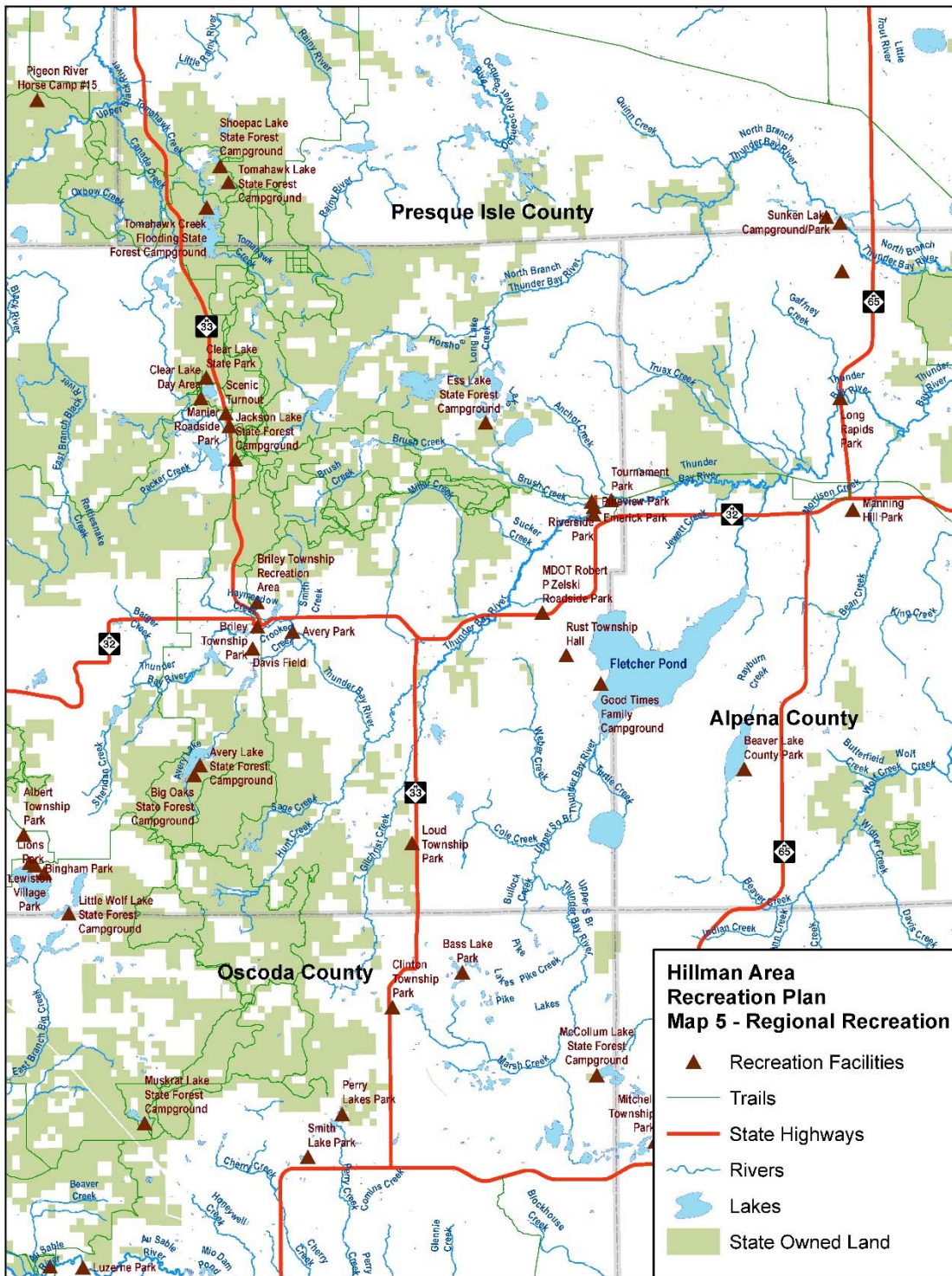
Trails

There are numerous trails of various types that run through Montmorency County. There are over 50 miles of hiking/ski trails, and more than 250 miles of ORV, Snowmobile and Motorcycle trails in the County. In adjacent Alpena County, there are an additional 65 miles of hiking/ski/biking trails, and more than 100 miles of ORV and/or snowmobile trails. Over the next two years, the Alpena to Hillman Trail will be upgraded to a crushed limestone surface.

Other Regional Public Recreation Opportunities

In addition to recreation within Montmorency County, village and township residents have access to recreational opportunities in Alpena, 22 miles to the east, as well as Gaylord, 45 miles to the west. The City of Alpena is the largest city in the northeast Michigan region and offers many recreational properties. Community based recreation in Alpena includes Plaza Pool at Alpena High School and many community parks with swimming and fishing access. Gaylord offers seven recreational properties with many more surrounding Gaylord in Otsego County. The Gaylord area is also a true golf mecca, with approximately 20 courses within a 30 minute drive. The Otsego County Sportsplex is a multi-use facility just south of downtown Gaylord offering a swimming pool, ice rink, walking track, fitness classes, pickle ball, and the Energy Outlet play structure.

It is important to note that, while all of these regional recreational opportunities and many more, are available to residents of and visitors to the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township, many require fees and all require travel in order to access them.



CHAPTER 4: DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING /PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Village of Hillman and Hillman Township Planning Process

Development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The Village of Hillman and Hillman Township planning commissions were the lead entities in developing the Joint Recreation Plan. Planning Commission, Village Council, and Township Board meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. A timeline for the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

Schedule

January 2018	The Village of Hillman contacts the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) requesting assistance in updating their recreation plan.
March 2018	Hillman Township officials contact the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments requesting assistance in updating their recreation plan.
March 2018	NEMCOG suggests the Village and Township may want to consider consolidating their efforts and develop a joint community recreation plan. A joint plan would most likely realize some efficiencies and cost savings in not only plan development, but recreational facility development projects and programming as well.
April 2018	NEMCOG prepares a joint recreation plan proposal and contract with the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township.
April 2018	NEMCOG developed an online recreation plan survey. The survey link was posted on the Village of Hillman, Hillman Township and NEMCOG websites. Printed copies of the survey were also placed at the Village and Township offices and the local library.
February 2018	NEMCOG attends the Village of Hillman Planning Commission meeting to discuss the recreation plan update.
April 2019	NEMCOG attends the Hillman Township Board meeting to discuss the recreation plan update and potential recreation grant process.
November 2019	A draft recreation plan is developed and submitted to the Village and Township for review.



- November XX, 2019** The notice of availability of the draft recreation plan is published and appeared in the *Montmorency Tribune*.
- Month XX, 2019** The Public Hearing Notice for the appeared in the *Montmorency Tribune*.
- Month XX, 2019** The public hearing was held.
- Month XX, 2020** The Village of Hillman Planning Commission met to review the final draft of the recreation plan. The plan was approved and recommended for adoption by the Village Council.
- Month XX, 2020** The Hillman Township Planning Commission met to review the final draft of the recreation plan. The plan was approved and recommended for adoption by the Hillman Township Board.
- Month XX, 2020** The Village of Hillman Council met in open session to review the final plan and receive any final public comment. The Village Council approved and adopted the Recreation Plan.
- Month XX, 2020** The Hillman Township Board met in open session to review the final plan and receive any final public comment. The Township Board approved and adopted the Recreation Plan.

Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. Throughout the development of this recreation plan, members of key groups in the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township have been involved.

Online Survey Publicity

www.hillmanmichigan.org/index.html



Looking to our past to build our future...


Location & Government **Business & Economics** **Community Information**

Select Select Select

Hillman Michigan : Northern Michigan Living At Its Best...

Come experience what Hillman has to offer. Find out about our community, our events, our businesses, and what makes us an attractive place to live, work and visit.

Few places offer such big city amenities in such a beautiful rural setting. Surrounded by an abundance of natural and cultural resources, residents and visitors alike can find affordable land, innumerable lakes and rivers, top-notch golf, and a wide variety of higher education facilities within their reach.




Businesses are attracted to the abundant and willing work force, affordable living, and close proximity to commercial airports.

The Village of Hillman has plenty of retail shopping including grocery stores, party stores, hardware, lumber, and a sports shop. Dining includes restaurants, bars, and the Senior Center for congregate meals, and the local VFW provides meals.

Thunder Bay Resort provides golf, rooms, dining, and the famous Elk Ride that is considered one of the top ten rides of its type in the United States.

Included in Hillman are an elder friendly assisted living facility and a skilled nursing facility and Thunder Bay Community Health Services for medical needs. The Hillman Pharmacy is available for prescriptions.

Hillman has resorts in the surrounding area including Jacks Landing, Killions Landing which are both on Fletcher's Floodwaters, and Sorrensons' on Grass Lake.



Village of Hillman Meetings
1st and 3rd Tuesday
of every month

Hillman Community Center
24220 Veterans Memorial
Highway

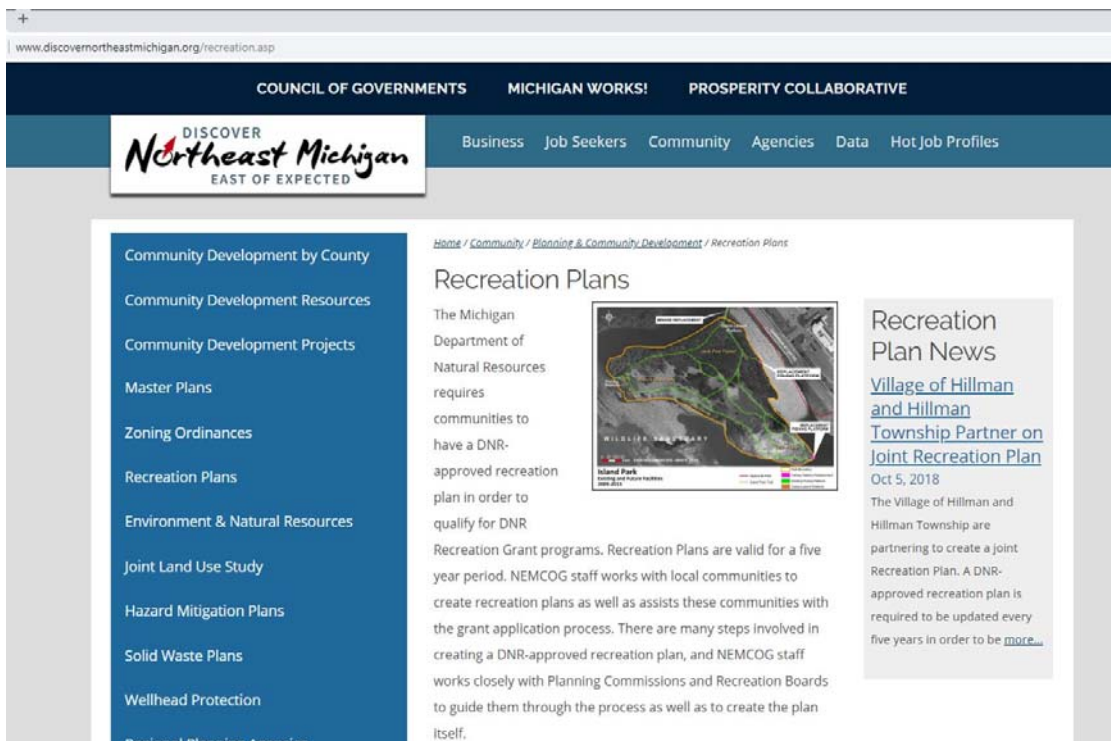
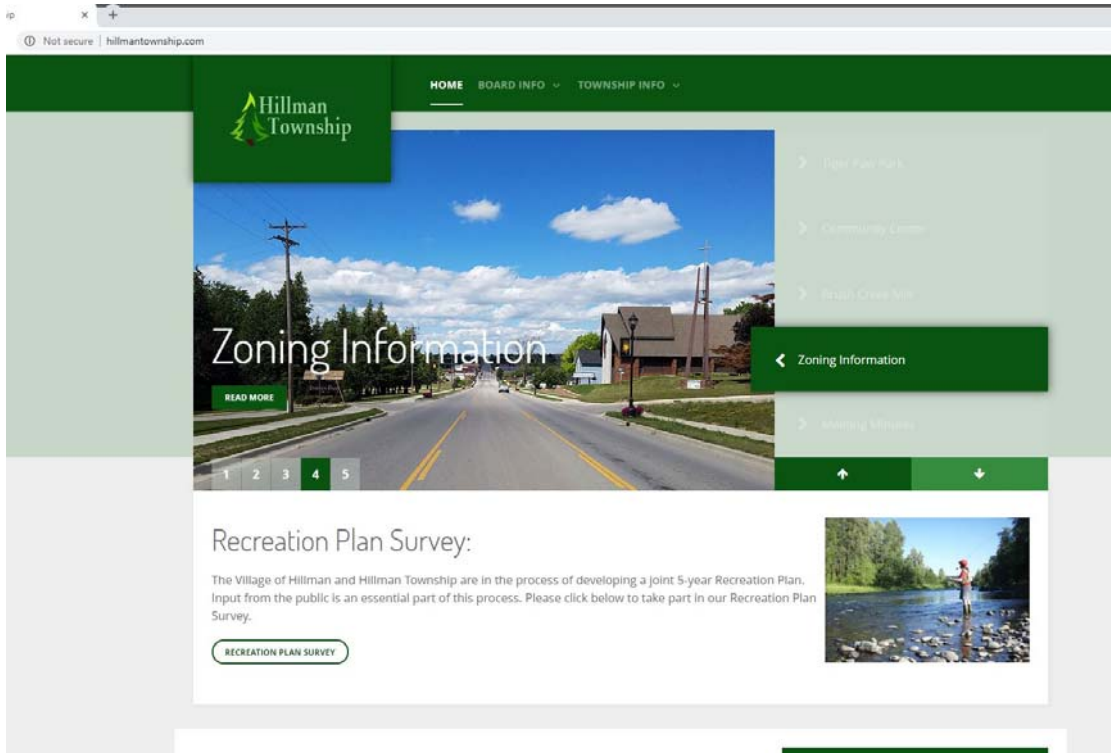
All meetings open to the public

Explore... Discover... Consider the possibilities...

Village of Hillman and Hillman Township Join Recreation Plan Survey

The Village of Hillman and Hillman Township are in the process of developing a joint 5-year Recreation Plan. In order to qualify for MDNR recreation grant funding, communities must have a current, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan. Input from the public is an essential part of the planning process, so we need your input regarding recreational facilities in the Hillman area! Please take the time to fill out this survey and let your voice be heard! Your feedback is very important to us. Thank you!

To take the survey [CLICK HERE](#).



Insert notice of availability of recreation plan for 30 day review

Insert minutes from the planning commission meetings

Insert planning commission resolutions recommending adoption

Insert public hearing notice

Insert public hearing meeting minutes and comments received

Insert minutes from the Village Council meeting

Insert resolution of the village council adopting the recreation plan

Insert minutes from the township board meeting

Insert resolution of the township board adopting the recreation plan

Insert copies of submittal letters

Shared Goals

The following are common goals that are shared between the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township. These are broad based goals that are meant to guide the overall recreational planning and development in the Hillman area. They also serve as guiding principles during the development of the agency and site specific goals that follow. The shared goals and agency and site specific goals were developed based on public input and the demographics of the Village of Hillman and Hillman Township.

1. To protect, promote and preserve the natural resources and cultural characteristics of the Hillman area.
2. To encourage tourism as an economic resource while recognizing the need to maintain community character and protect natural resources.
3. Support regional recreational planning and development with surrounding communities and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
4. Ensure area residents are involved in the recreational planning and development process.
5. Provide a balance of recreational amenities that appeal to both the aging and younger population and families in order increase the livability of the community and attract families to the area.
6. To continually maintain, improve and expand recreation within the area to improve the quality of life that is critical to residents' health, the business environment, and the attraction of visitors to the area or those considering moving here.
7. To ensure all people have access to recreational opportunities regardless of age, sex, income, cultural background, or abilities.

Village of Hillman Goals & Objectives

1. IMPLEMENT THE WALKABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN

- A.** Create a bike path to/from the elementary and junior/senior high.
- B.** Develop a trailhead at the acquired Brush Creek Park Property.
- C.** Landscape and bank stabilization along Mill Pond at Brush Creek Park.
- D.** Add physical fitness course with different stations along the pathway system.
- E.** Build a footbridge over the Thunder Bay River to include Hillman Township facilities.

2. CONTINUE TO ENHANCE VILLAGE RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES

- A.** Add a town clock and handicapped-accessible picnic tables at the Brush Creek Mill area.
- B.** Upgrade the shuffleboard courts, paint equipment, add new benches and remove and trim trees at Pineview Park.
- C.** Add campsites to Emerick Park.
- D.** Improve playground at Emerick Park.
- E.** Develop concession stand/restrooms at the band shell.
- F.** Develop a basketball court at Tripp Field (Emerick Park).
- G.** Develop a boardwalk along Thunder Bay River from Mill to bridge
- H.** Replace and/or upgrade signage in Emerick Park.

3. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- A.** Continue to work with the Little League Association to continue developing the Youth Sports Park by adding soccer fields, youth football field, high school regulation ball field, and a fishing pond.
- B.** Research and develop a community theatre.
- C.** Develop suitable nature areas and future pathways.
- D.** Continue partnering with Hillman Community Radio to offer and expand on live concerts at band shell.
- E.** Research options to develop a skate park.

Hillman Township Goals & Objectives

1. CONTINUE TO ENHANCE TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES

- A.** Add additional bleachers at Tournament Park.
- B.** Add lighting to ball fields at Tournament Park to extend hours of usage.
- C.** Recondition ball fields at Tournament Park.
- D.** Upgrade and expand Playground at Tiger Paw Park.
- E.** Develop winter ice skating rink at Tiger Paw Park.

- F. Expand and pave parking lot at Tournament/Tiger Paw Park.
- G. Upgrade the kitchen at the Community Center.

2. CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- A. Continue to work with Hillman Area Little League to improve and expand the little league opportunities.
- B. Secure funding and expand partnerships to continue offering and expand the summer youth activities.
- C. Use Community Center stage to offer concerts, plays or other community events.
- D. Review rental rates for various activities at the Community Center.

Village & Township Joint Goals & Objectives

1. DEVELOP PROGRAM AND MATERIALS TO PROMOTE THE HILLMAN AREA RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- A. Establish wayfinding, directional, and site signage to direct visitors and residents to Hillman area recreational facilities.
- B. Develop a brochure, map, and other materials to promote recreational facilities and activities, and the Hillman area in general.
- C. Develop, secure funding, and look for partnerships to begin a Hillman Area Recreation promotional program.

Capital Improvement Plan

This section formulates a 5-year recreational Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP presents a list of proposed improvements, estimated costs, year of activity, potential funding sources, and project priority.

Table 3 – Capital Improvements Schedule						
	Priority	Site	Property Improvement	Est. Cost	Funding Source(s)	Year
Village of Hillman						
Walkable Communities Plan						
1		Village	Path to junior/senior high school	\$40,000	MDOT, MDNR, Local	
2		Brush Creek Park	Trailhead with parking and pathway map	\$10,000	MDNR, MDOT, Local	
3		Mill Pond	Landscape and bank stabilization	\$6,500	MDNR, MDOT, Local	
4		Village Pathways	Add physical fitness stations to pathway	\$3,000	Village, Foundations	
5		Thunder Bay River	Footbridge	\$60,000	USDA, MDNR, MDOT, Local	
Park Improvements						
6		Brush Creek Mill Area	Town Clock	\$12,000	MDNR, Local	
7		Brush Creek Mill Area	ADA picnic tables	\$1,500	Local	
8		Pineview Park	General enhancements - new shuffleboard, paint, benches, tree trimming/removal	\$1,500	Local	
9		Emerick Park	Additional campsites		Local, MDNR	
10		Emerick Park	Improve playground			
11		Emerick Park	Concession stand/restrooms		Local, MDNR	
12		Emerick Park	Basketball Court			
13		Thunder Bay River	Boardwalk	\$40,000	MDNR, USDA, Local	
14		Emerick Park	Replace/Upgrade signage			
Recreational Activities						
15		Youth Sports Plex	Continue developing site	TBD	MDNR, Local, Little League	
16		Village	Community Theatre	\$20,000	MI Council for Arts, Local	
17		Village	Nature Area Study	\$20,000	MDNR, Local	
18		Emerick Park	Partner with HCR to offer concerts	NA	Local	
19		TBD	Research skate park	NA	Local	

Hillman Township						
Site Improvements						
20		Tournament Park	Add additional bleachers		MDNR, Little League, Local	
21		Tournament Park	Lighting for ball fields		MDNR, Little League, Local	
22		Tournament Park	Recondition ball fields		MDNR, Little League, Local	
23		Tiger Paw Park	Upgrade and expand playground		MDNR, Local	
24		Tiger Paw Park	Winter ice skating rink		MDNR, Local	
25		Tournament/Tiger Paw Park	Expand & pave parking		MDNR, Local	
26		Community Center	Upgrade Kitchen			
Recreational Activities						
27		Tournament park	Expand Little League offerings		Little League, Local	
28		Tiger Paw Park	Continue & expand summer activities	TBD	MDNR, Local	
29		Community Center	Use stage for events	NA	Local	
30		Community Center	Review rental rates	NA	Local	
Joint Village/Township						
Promotional Program						
31		Hillman area	Wayfinding signage	\$6,000	MDNR, Local	
32		Hillman area	Brochures, maps, materials	\$3,000	MDNR, Local	
33		Hillman area	Develop and fund promotional program			

Basis for Action

