



# Recreation Plan | 2023-2027

TRAILS



SPORTS



ICE SKATING



PLAYGROUNDS



COMMUNITY



ADOPTED ON: JANUARY 23, 2023

This Recreation Plan was prepared for Humboldt Township with input from residents, stakeholders, the Planning Commission, and the Township Board of Trustees.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Supervisor: Jeff Ogea  
Clerk: Sarah Etelamaki  
Treasurer: Christopher Grund  
Trustee: Peter Koski  
Trustee: Betty Grund

## PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

Chairman: Jim Kippola  
Vice Chairman: Dan Etelamaki  
Secretary: Carrie Hair  
Commissioner and Board  
Representative: Chris Grund

Professional consulting assistance for the Humboldt Township Recreation Plan 2023-2027 was provided by Jason McCarthy of *Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services, LLC*.



## INTRODUCTION

The intent of a community park and recreation plan is to create an inventory of existing facilities and resources, identify community recreation and open space needs, and set a plan of action for a five-year period. This plan is also referred to as a five-year recreation plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides financial assistance to communities through its grant programs. A current DNR-approved community park and recreation plan is required to be eligible for Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and waterways grants. For the Recreation Passport grant program, either an approved community park and recreation plan or approved capital improvement plan may be used for eligibility.

The *Humboldt Township Recreation Plan | 2023-2027* shall serve as a recreational planning road map for the next five years in Humboldt Township, located in Marquette County. Recreation provision in Humboldt Township is a key component in community planning efforts, as it serves as a benchmark for how residents and visitors view the quality of life in the community. As residents already know, we are home to world-class, four-season recreational opportunities. With inland lakes, trails, scenic vistas, historical sites, and abundant local, county, and state-owned recreational properties, we are truly a mecca for the outdoor enthusiast.

Humboldt Township seeks to provide its residents and visitors with a high-level of recreational service by enhancing the recreational opportunities within the Township, and by working with the County, State, school systems, and neighboring municipalities to further enhance recreation in the area. This Recreation Plan is intended to guide decision makers with the future development and improvement of the community's parks and recreation facilities. Our five-year Action Program is based input from the Humboldt Township Board of Trustees, Planning Commission input, residents and stakeholders. Professional consulting services were provided by Jason McCarthy of *Northwood Planning & Zoning Services, LLC*, based out of Marquette, Michigan.

This plan was written in accordance with the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans](#), as administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management team. It has also been developed with the acknowledgment of [Michigan's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#). Many of the goals and objectives found in this plan reflect similar intentions of the SCORP and this plan aims to align Humboldt Township's recreation planning with many of the state's long-range recreation planning objectives.

A final draft of the recreation plan was distributed to our surrounding municipalities, agencies, partners and the public for review and comment on December 20, 2022. The plan was also made available for review on the Humboldt Township website at: <http://www.humboldt.town>



## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The jurisdiction of this plan represents the desired and anticipated outdoor recreation needs for residents and visitors of Humboldt Township. Humboldt Township is a civil township of Marquette County in the U.S. state of Michigan. In addition, most municipalities within Marquette County also conduct recreation planning at some level. When possible, we coordinate with surrounding governmental, educational and stakeholder’s efforts to support and advance their recreational goals. The plan speaks to our broader, regional audience further along in the document.

Humboldt Township is a rural community located in western Marquette County, within the central portion of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, a rural region renowned for its outdoor recreation opportunities. The Township is ninety-five square miles (61,222 acres) in size and located approximately 35 miles west of the city of Marquette and sixty-miles southeast of L’Anse/Baraga.

A general location map is provided as Figure 1.1 and a base map showing surrounding municipalities and the general transportation network is shown in Figure 1.2. Humboldt Township shares its municipal boundaries with Champion Township to the north, Ely Township to the east, Sagola Township (Dickinson County) to the south, and Republic Township to the west.

Humboldt Township’s geographic location is relatively remote from large urban areas of Michigan. It is a 7.5-hour drive to Detroit and 6.5-hour drive to Lansing. However, the city of Marquette is located 40 miles to the east and offers amenities found in larger urban areas, such as a university, hospital and shopping and entertainment opportunities. The Marquette area has become a regional shopping hub for much of the Upper Peninsula. Other recreational and resort areas of the Upper Peninsula are also within close proximity.

The major transportation route in the township is U.S. Highway 41/M-28. US-41/M-28 and M-95 meet in the northern part of Humboldt Township. US-41/M-28 provides an east/west connectivity and M-95 runs north/south through portions of the community. M-95 is an important north/south corridor connecting the central Upper Peninsula and northeastern Wisconsin with larger cities in Wisconsin and Illinois including Green Bay, Milwaukee and Chicago.

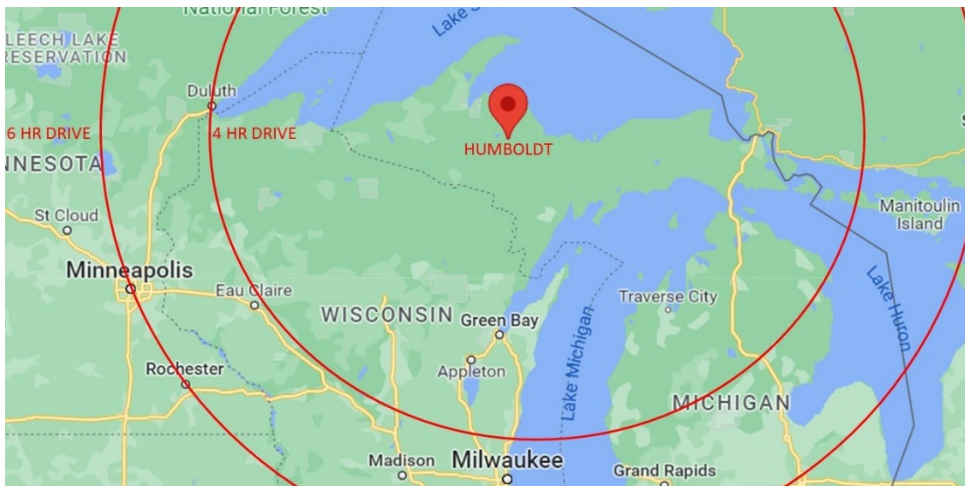


Figure 1.1

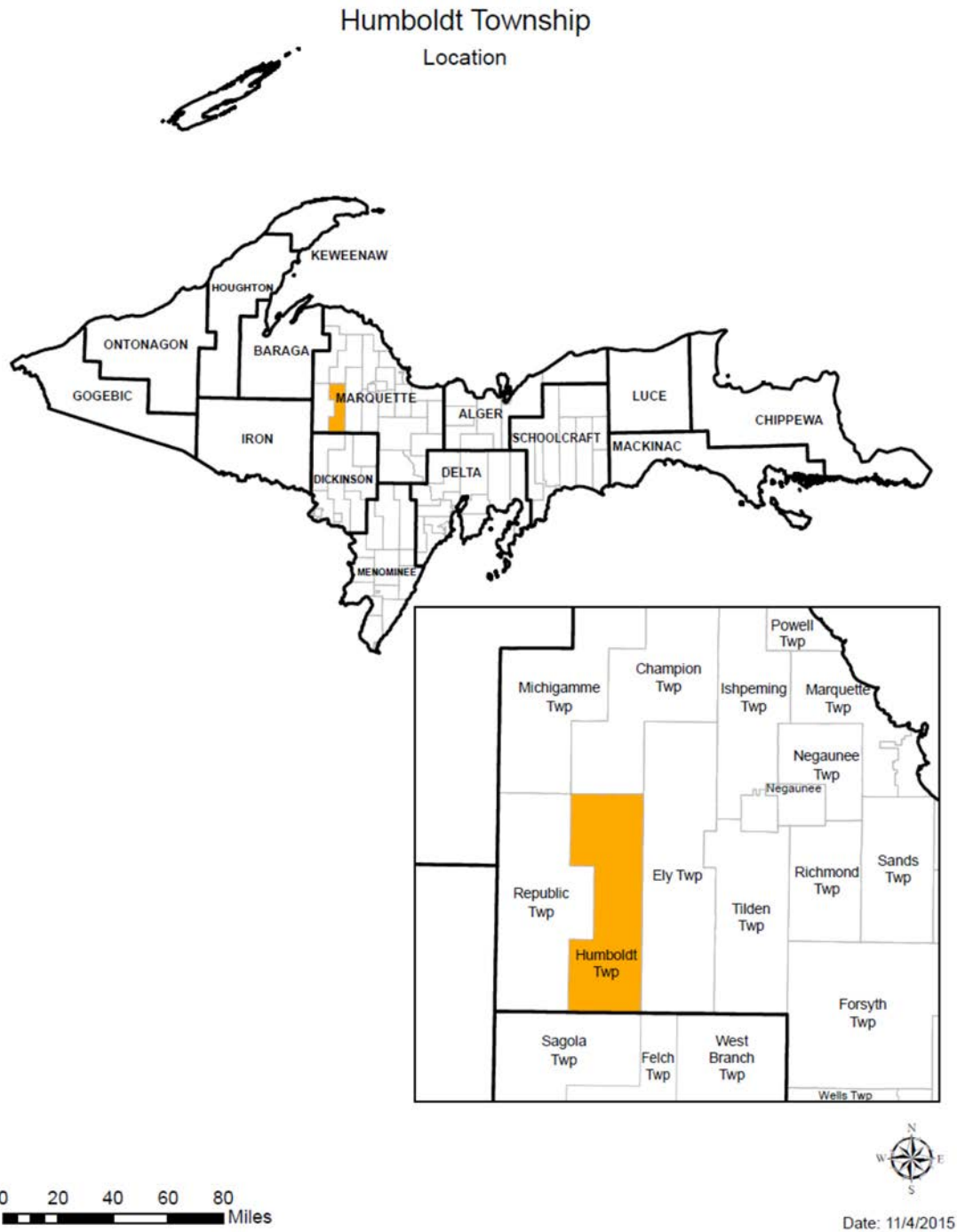
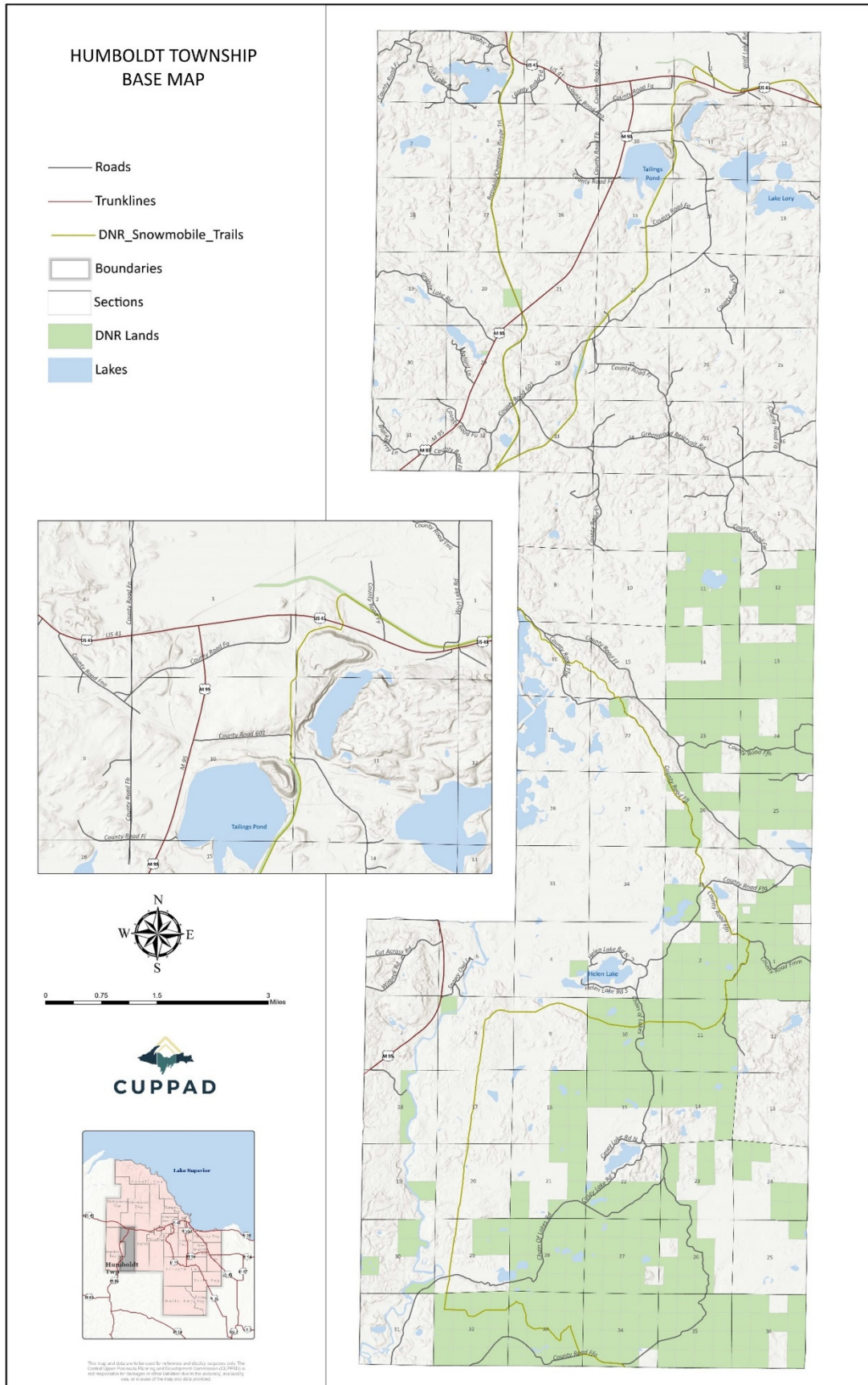


Figure 1.2



For any planning endeavor, attention must be given to population trends, economic factors, and projections. Such analysis is helpful in determining existing and future needs based on these characteristics. Population analysis assists in determining the direction of local capital improvements and related expenditures for recreational planning; population data is useful when applying recreation guidelines to a community.

Humboldt Township experienced a fluctuating population between the years 1950 and 2000. The 1970's saw an increase in population but with an economic turnaround, the population fell after 1980. However, the population of the community has held steady since 2000. The population in 2000 was 469 and as of 2020, the population total is 460. has held somewhat steady since the 2000 Census.

Infographics on Humboldt Township demographics, economics, families, housing and social characteristics are found below. This information was provided by U.S. Census Bureau (2020) and American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

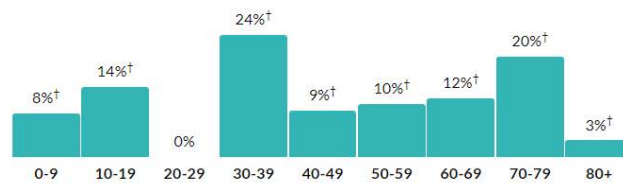
Age

**44.5**

Median age

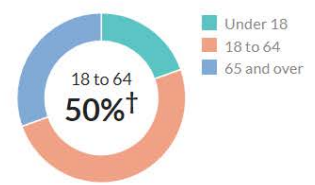
about 10 percent higher than the figure in Marquette County: 39.2  
 about 10 percent higher than the figure in Michigan: 39.8

Population by age range



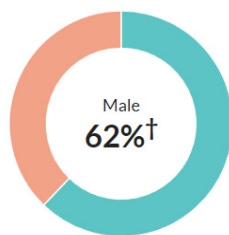
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Population by age category



Show data / Embed

Sex



Male  
Female

Show data / Embed

Race & Ethnicity



\* Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.

Show data / Embed

Income

**\$30,069**

Per capita income

a little higher than the amount in Marquette County: \$28,537

about 90 percent of the amount in Michigan: \$32,854

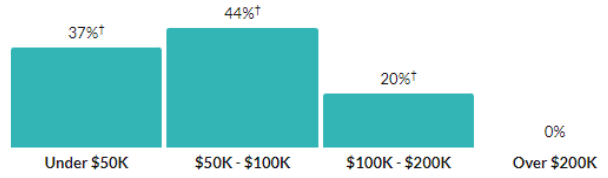
**\$57,054**

Median household income

a little higher than the amount in Marquette County: \$54,585

a little less than the amount in Michigan: \$59,234

Household income



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Poverty

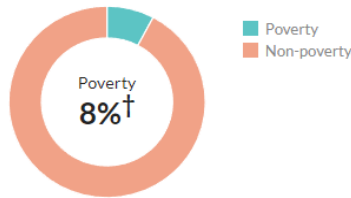
**10%**

Persons below poverty line

about two-thirds of the rate in Marquette County: 15.2%

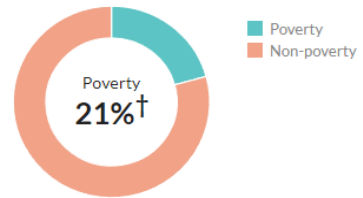
about three-quarters of the rate in Michigan: 13.7%

Children (Under 18)



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Seniors (65 and over)



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Transportation to work

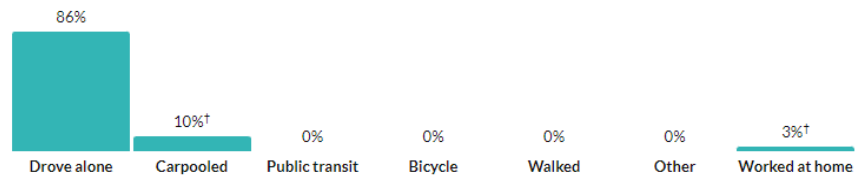
**33.1** minutes

Mean travel time to work

more than 1.5 times the figure in Marquette County: 18.5

about 1.3 times the figure in Michigan: 24.6

Means of transportation to work



Households

**199**

Number of households

Marquette County: 27,177

Michigan: 3,980,408

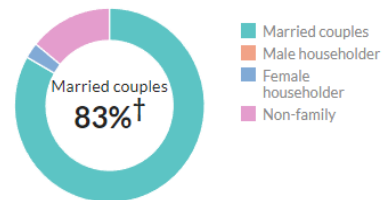
**2.3**

Persons per household

about the same as the figure in Marquette County: 2.3

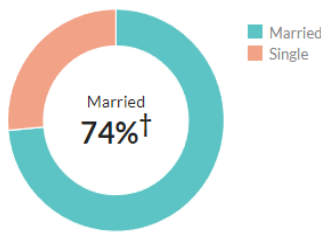
a little less than the figure in Michigan: 2.5

Population by household type



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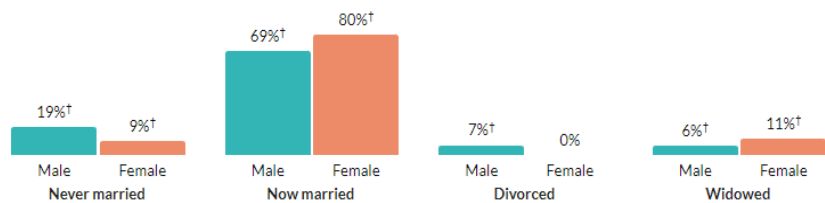
Marital status



\* Universe: Population 15 years and over

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Marital status, by sex



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## Educational attainment

**93.3%**

High school grad or higher

about the same as the rate in Marquette County: 95.6%

about the same as the rate in Michigan: 91.3%

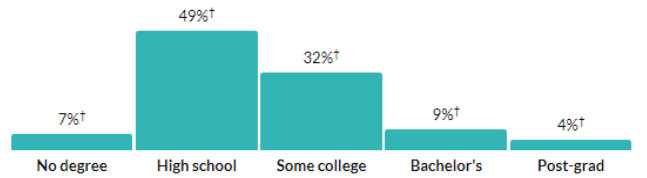
**13.1%**

Bachelor's degree or higher

about two-fifths of the rate in Marquette County: 34%

about two-fifths of the rate in Michigan: 30%

### Population by highest level of education



\* Universe: Population 25 years and over

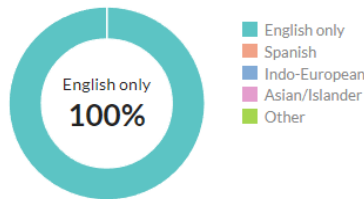
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## Language

**N/A**

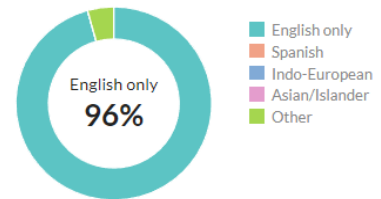
Persons with language other than English spoken at home

### Language at home, children 5-17



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### Language at home, adults 18+



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## Veteran status

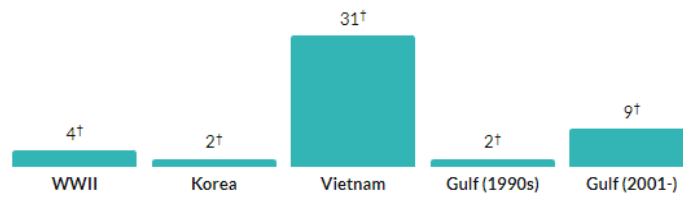
**17.8%**

Population with veteran status

nearly double the rate in Marquette County: 9.9%

more than double the rate in Michigan: 6.8%

### Veterans by wartime service



\* Civilian veterans who served during wartime only

[Show data / Embed](#)

**66** Total veterans

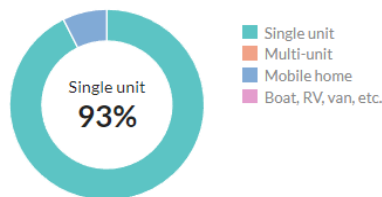
**61** Male

**5** Female

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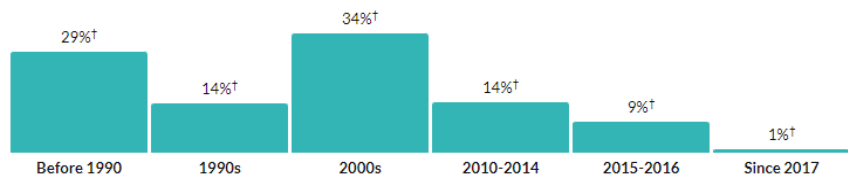
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## Types of structure



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## Year moved in, by percentage of population



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## Value

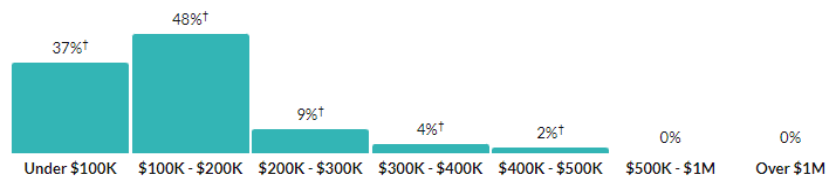
**\$125,400**

Median value of owner-occupied housing units

about 80 percent of the amount in Marquette County: \$154,200

about three-quarters of the amount in Michigan: \$162,600

### Value of owner-occupied housing units



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† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value.



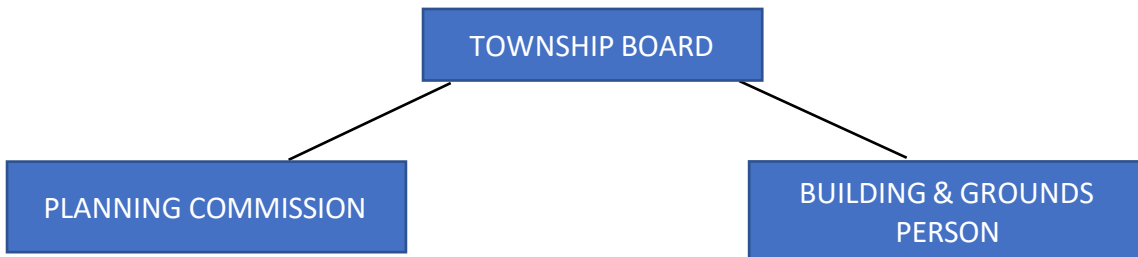
In summary, the 2020 U.S. Census data for Humboldt Township indicates several interesting trends. The median age of 44.5 years is approximately 10% higher than the residents of Marquette County and the State of Michigan. Per capita and median household incomes are slightly higher but relatively consistent with Marquette County and Michigan's figures. The poverty level in Humboldt Township is less than Marquette County and Michigan at approximately 10%. Seventy-four percent of the residents of Humboldt Township are married. The mean travel time to work for residents of Humboldt Township is nearly 1.5 times longer than those residing in other parts of Marquette County and nearly 1.3 times longer than other residents in Michigan. Also, median home values of occupied units in Humboldt Township are slightly lower than others in Marquette County and Michigan.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

In Humboldt Township, parks and recreation administration and program development are the responsibilities of the Humboldt Township Board of Trustees. This includes programming, policy-making and the installation, operation and maintenance of the local public (non-school) recreational areas and facilities. Township recreation facilities are maintained by a Humboldt Township employee - who reports to the Township Board – and by volunteers.

Park operations, maintenance, and our Action Program items are financed by the Township’s general fund, local donations, and potential grant opportunities. The Township Supervisor serves as the Recreation Director (in the sense of budgeting, coordinating programming, and facility maintenance schedules). The Township Supervisor also acts as a liaison between the Planning Commission (established per, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008, and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of 2006, as amended), the Recreation Committee (established per, Act 156 of the Public Acts of 1917, as amended), as well as various organizations and stakeholders.

The Township’s Recreation Plan is administered by the Humboldt Township Board of Trustees, and Planning Commission. The plan is reviewed annually to ensure that its goals, objectives, and Action Program improvements are focused towards providing the highest and best recreational opportunities for the entire township community.



The Planning Commission and Township Board administer all aspects of recreation in the Township, including current operations, long-term recreation planning and recreation expenditures. The Planning Commission is also responsible for the following duties:

### Five-Year Recreation Plan

The Planning Commission and Township Board periodically review the Humboldt Township Recreation Plan. The complete Recreation Plan is updated at least every five years. The Planning Commission submits recommended changes and updates to the Township Board for consideration and implementation. A copy of the most recent Recreation Plan is then placed on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Having responsibility for recreation planning and grants, the Township Board aims to assure that the funds made available are expended on projects that maximize total community benefit.

### Recreation Programs

The Township Board has the continuing task of developing programs at township-owned parks. The Board has demonstrated success in maximizing the use of public and private partnerships to develop well-rounded and functional recreational programming.

### Recreation Sites

Periodically, the Planning Commission reviews facilities located at township-owned parks and makes recommendations on issues and opportunities to the Township Board. Recommendations cover the use of the facilities, personnel required, the expenditure of funds on the improvement of the facilities, and types of facilities that may be needed. The Planning Commission also advises the Township Board on the potential acquisition of new recreation sites, where and when feasible.

### Regulations

The Planning Commission makes recommendations concerning rules and regulations to be implemented at township-owned parks to the Township Board.

### Current Funding Sources

Funding for recreation improvements and services in Humboldt Township comes primarily from the general fund. The amount provided to recreation projects varies from year to year depending on project needs. The Planning Commission assists the Township Board in identifying possible grant sources to help offset costs.

The Planning Commission also provides input in developing and preparing grant applications, although preparation and submittal of grant applications are still the responsibility of the Township Board. Recommendations from the Planning Commission are transmitted to the Township Board.

## RECREATION INVENTORY

The following recreation inventory describes all parks, natural areas, as well as other public spaces and recreation facilities found in Humboldt Township. Although there are many other recreational opportunities located within close proximity of Humboldt Township, this inventory has emphasis on land and facilities the township owns or operates.

For those lands and facilities that are owned privately, owned by a nonprofit organization or owned by another governmental unit, the name, location and general information on the types of recreation and/or natural resource conservation are provided.

### Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory

The methods used to conduct the recreation inventory included a review of the previous version of the recreation plan along with a windshield survey of all parks, natural areas and public spaces in Humboldt Township in order to update the current inventory. The survey was conducted by the Humboldt Township Planning Commission chairperson, James Kippola and consultant Jason McCarthy from Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services, LLC located in Marquette, Michigan.

### Inventory of all Community-Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

#### ***Humboldt Township Park (Site #1)***

This 10-acre community park site is located just south of County Road FA, adjacent to the Humboldt Township Hall. The park area features a one-acre man-made pond constructed in 1936, which is supplemented by the flow of water from Halfway Creek. The park hosts an annual fishing derby in the summer. The bridge over the pond was constructed in 2007. The site features a basketball court, a modern playground structure and an adjacent restroom.



Images Courtesy Jackie Solomon

Images provided by Jackie Solomon

Accessibility Evaluation: 2



### ***Humboldt Township Hall (Site #2)***

The Township Hall is located on 11 acres and provides residents with a central location for meetings, parties, and other events. An addition was built in 1998, and a handicap-accessible elevator is provided. An ADA compliant sidewalk was recently constructed. A community cemetery is located on the property, and additional outdoor recreational opportunities have been recently introduced on the parcel, as playground equipment was installed next to an area that has been cleared for an ice rink during the winter months.

With more developable land available to the township on this property, officials may choose to invest in an updated master plan for the site as community needs change.



Accessibility Evaluation: 3

### ***Koski Field & Basketball Facility (Site #3)***

The Koski Field & Basketball Facility are located on a 38.2-acre parcel of Township-owned property. This site also has a potable water supply, concession building, bleachers, and restroom. In recent years, an improved parking lot, a fenced-in basketball court and some play structures have been added to the site. With more developable land available to the township on this property, officials may also choose to invest in an updated master plan for the site as community needs change. There is a desire for the field to serve as a baseball and softball field. This conversion would require minimal earthworks and grading. Additional or replacement fencing may also be required. The addition of tennis and/or pickleball courts have also been discussed, along with additional parking, as needed.



Accessibility Evaluation: 2

### ***Humboldt Township Horseshoe Court (Site #4)***

Located on one-half acre across from Township Hall. A property survey and site plan for this site should also be completed in the future.



Accessibility Evaluation: 1

***Fish Lake Access Site (Site #5)***

A half-acre in size, this site provides the only public access to Fish Lake. This unique property could be improved with the development of a site master plan that would contain details on expansion of the dock along with a kayak launch, improved parking and a potential restroom facility.



Accessibility Evaluation: 1

***Black River Recreation Area (Site #6)***

Located on a one-acre parcel of property off of Greenwood Reservoir Road, this site provides a basketball court with 2 hoops. A street light has also been added to the site to provide extended hours of use. Adding additional off-street parking, a restroom facility, a picnic table, a bench, trash and recycling receptacles and a play structure were discussed during the drafting of this plan. The potential of re-establishing an ice rink at the site was also mentioned.



Accessibility Evaluation: 1



## Additional area recreational and cultural sites and opportunities:

### ***Republic Mine Wetland Preserve***

Central Humboldt Township (Sections 16, 21, 28) features an additional opportunity to coordinate with adjacent communities to enhance recreational opportunities by developing nature trails and interpretive signage denoting various natural features found in the preserve.

### ***Witbeck Rapids***

The Witbeck Rapids are located along the Michigamme River in Humboldt Township. The section of rapids consists of an approximate one-mile run of (class 2) big-water rapids in the spring of each year. It is a fairly easy run of boulder-bed rapids. There is also a set of waves at the end of the run that are similar to those found on other local rivers such as the Peshekee and the Paint. Opportunities to improve access and awareness of this natural feature were discussed during the development of this plan and may be explored in more depth in the future.

### ***Iron Ore Heritage Trail***

Currently, Humboldt Township is a non-participating local unit of government and does not receive the benefits of trail maintenance and improvements from the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority. As such, the Planning Commission has discussed recommending to the Township Board that the issue be placed back on the ballot for voters to decide on inclusion.

### ***Tower Lake Access***

A reuse plan would be needed in order to realize opportunities to consider enhanced recreational uses such as the development of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail and snowmobile access that could connect neighboring townships. Interpretive historical and cultural sign kiosks could also be created and installed to enhance the experience.

### ***Moose/wildlife Viewing Area***

During the initial planning phase for this plan and again at the public input session, the idea of developing a moose/wildlife viewing area was discussed. Although preliminary in concept, the idea did gain traction throughout the development of this plan and should be explored in the future.

### ***Dark Sky Park/Observatory***

During the initial planning phase for this plan and again at the public input session, the idea of developing a dark sky or observatory viewing area was discussed. Given the rural nature of the Humboldt Township and the noticeable lack of ambient light at night, this idea should be explored in the future.

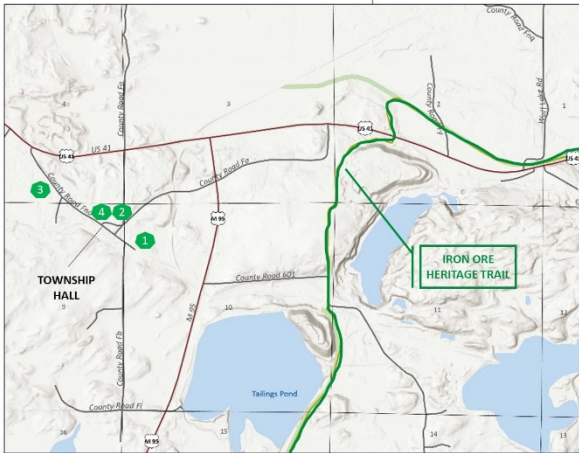
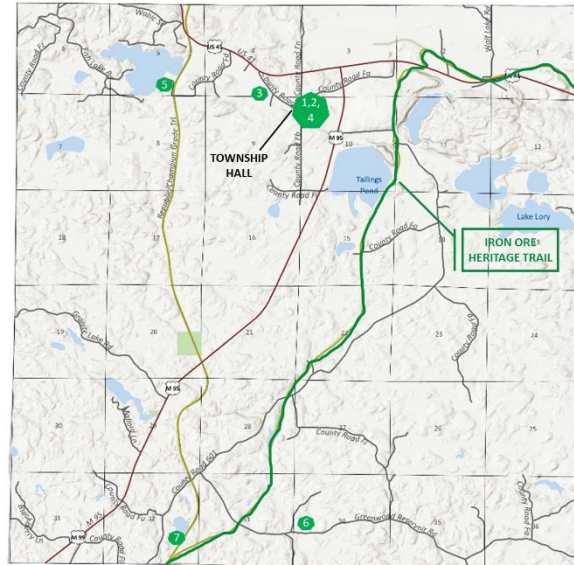
***Edison Historical Site*** – Additional information on this site to be added.

# HUMBOLDT TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY MAP

## Sites

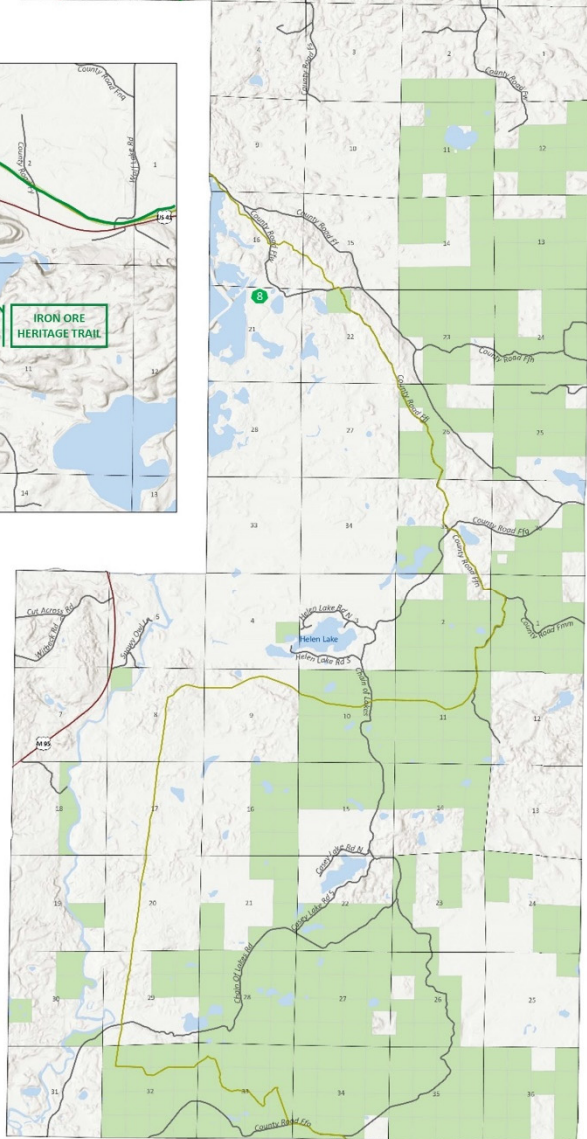
- 1 IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL
- 2 TOWNSHIP HALL & COMMUNITY CENTER
- 3 KOSKI FIELD & BASKETBALL FACILITY
- 4 HORSESHOE COURTS
- 5 FISH LAKE ACCESS
- 6 BLACK RIVER RECREATION AREA
- 7 TOWER LAKE ACCESS SITE
- 8 REPUBLIC MINES WETLAND PRESERVE

 IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL



-  Roads
-  Trunklines
-  DNR\_Snowmobile\_Trails
-  Boundaries
-  Sections
-  DNR Lands
-  Lakes

This map is not to be used for navigation or other purposes. The Humboldt County Parks and Recreation Department (CUPPAD) is not responsible for damages or other losses that may result from the use of this map. The map is available for use at the discretion of the map user.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

In this section, Humboldt Township’s planning method is discussed. This method is intended to assist with the assessment of the township’s park, recreation, and open-space requirements.

### Planning Method

Humboldt Township will utilize the system planning method. This planning method uses the township’s metrics, priorities, needs, level of service and community-wide issues and opportunities to guide annual planning efforts. As planning efforts and projects are implemented, the system can be re-evaluated to measure success and guide future planning goals.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

In this section, we detail the approach used to incorporate public input into the recreation planning process. Resident opinions and ideas on recreation and open-space priorities played a key factor in this plan’s development.

### Early Public Input

Humboldt Township contracted with *Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services, LLC* to assist the Planning Commission and the community with updating the 5-year Recreation Plan. This process began in early 2022 by meeting with the Planning Commission to note demographic changes, desired recreation improvements and budgetary opportunities that the community may have to commence on identified recreation projects. It was agreed that a public input session would be held in October of 2022 to gather additional input from residents and stakeholders. Stated community needs and proposed projects have been identified by area residents and appointed and elected officials. Additional discussion on this topic is presented below.

### Public Input Session

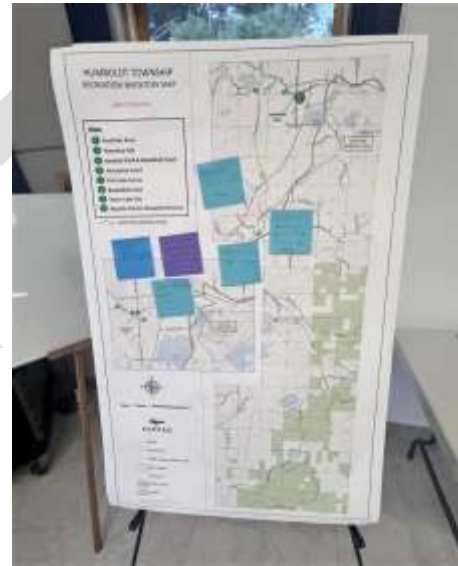
Because resident and stakeholder opinions on recreation and open-space priorities are paramount to this plan’s development, a Community Input Session was held at the Humboldt Township Hall on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 5-7 PM. This session offered an opportunity for residents to share their outdoor recreation ideas. After a short presentation, approximately a dozen attendees offered their thoughts and ideas about future desires for outdoor recreation in the area. Both verbal comments and notes placed on display maps were gathered and they have been incorporated into the development of the Goals & Objectives and the Action Plan sections of this plan.

#### Resident and stakeholder comments included a desire for:

- *Tennis and pickleball courts with appropriate surface types*
- *A dark sky park/viewing area*
- *A moose/wildlife viewing area*
- *Walking pathways adjacent to and along US-41 & M-95*

- *An indoor recreation area that could be utilized for a variety of uses including workout equipment, basketball court, community events, etc.*
- *Recognition of other cultural and historical sites such as the Witbeck Rapids, Edison Historical Site and the Republic Mine Wetland Preserve*
- *Coordination where and when feasible with adjacent municipalities, especially with regard to trail connectivity; both motorized and non-motorized*

**Photos from the 2023-2027 Humboldt Township - Recreation Plan Public Input Session held on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 5-7 PM:**



## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The State of Michigan's [\*State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)\*](#) provided assistance to the Planning Commission in developing Humboldt Township's recreational goals and objectives. The goals and objectives from the SCORP have been adapted to fit our community's recreational needs. Public input from our residents and stakeholders also provided helpful engagement by way of a Public Input Session held on October 27, 2022. Many of the below goals and objectives are shared by our surrounding municipal neighbors. There are also provisions to collaborate with those entities if and when those opportunities should arise.

### **Goal #1 – Foster stewardship and conservation with businesses, organizations, and individuals in protecting Humboldt Township's natural and cultural resources.**

Objectives:

- Encourage efforts directed at improving both the visual and physical characteristics of all shoreline areas and the many scenic views in Humboldt Township.
- Support and promote initiatives to improve and/or maintain the water quality of all inland lakes, rivers and streams.
- Promote the preservation and expansion of recreational shoreline and other water-oriented opportunities for recreation.
- Encourage developers to retain open space and preserve trail rights-of-way to further enhance Humboldt Township's motorized and non-motorized transportation network.
- Collaborate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Forest Management Division regarding planning and development concerns for any state-owned properties in Humboldt Township.

### **Goal #2 – Improve collaboration with recreation stakeholders to meet the outdoor needs of Township residents and visitors**

Objectives:

- Collaborate with other municipalities, trail networks, non-profit organizations and other recreation program providers for the purpose of expanding recreational opportunities in the area.
- Develop a trail network by collaborating with other municipalities, trail organizations, and recreational service providers.
- Participate in regional recreational planning to ensure multi-jurisdictional trail connectivity.

### **Goal #3 – Raise the awareness of residents and visitors on the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities available in Humboldt Township.**

Objectives:

- Coordinate with regional recreational planning efforts; build environments and programming activities that identify opportunities, fill deficiencies, and avoid



duplication of services and efforts so as to make optimal use of financial and other resources.

- Encourage cooperation and coordination between surrounding municipalities, school districts, recreational service providers, and developers with regard to recreational opportunities.

**Goal #4 – Improve recreation accessibility for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.**

Objectives:

- Promote bicycling, walking, and rolling activities that provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Improve upon Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access, Universal Design features, and multisensory experiences to enhance access and attract all types of recreational users.

**Goal #5 – Provide quality outdoor recreational experiences in balance with Township resource management and conservation.**

Objectives:

- Acquire additional property to set aside, in perpetuity, for recreational use, where and when feasible.
- Identify, acquire and develop both motorized and non-motorized rights-of-way that connect residential, commercial, and recreational nodes where and when feasible.

**Goal #6 – Enhance the health of Humboldt Township Residents and visitors by providing physical outdoor recreational opportunities.**

Objectives:

- Identify and develop safe motorized and non-motorized crossings at strategic intersections along the US-41 and M-95 corridors.
- Continue the development of the Humboldt Township’s motorized and non-motorized transportation network and integrate with the regional trail networks, where available.

**Goal #7 – Enhance economic prosperity by supporting a high-quality of life to attract and retain residents in Humboldt Township**

Objectives:

- Acquire local, state, federal, and private funding opportunities to develop regional and local motorized and non-motorized transportation routes.
- Take advantage of opportunities to expand and develop trailheads, public access sites, and other facilities which further encourage recreational uses of the natural assets.

## ACTION PROGRAM

The action program is the section of the plan identifies how goals and objectives will be accomplished over the next five years. The following specific projects were identified during the planning process and a description of how they will meet goals and objectives are provided. Estimated costs are also included in each year’s project list but will need to be further refined when the projects at the time of proposed construction. It should also be noted that any of the Action Program projects can be accomplished within any of the five years that the plan registered with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). For instance, a project that is proposed for 2027 could be accomplished in 2025 if a grant opportunity was identified, or if other favorable circumstances were realized.

### 2022-2023

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Complete draft of the Humboldt Township Recreation Plan 2023-2027 and submit to Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval, so as to become eligible for funding assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant opportunities.

Begin planning for 2024 MNRTF grant application submittal.

### 2024

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Consensus amongst the Humboldt Township Planning Commission is that additional recreational amenities should be added to the Humboldt Township Hall these improvements include:

- A recreational facility that is either added onto the existing Township Hall or built immediately adjacent to it that includes a half court gym, exercise equipment, indoor restrooms with showers. (The facility could also serve as the community’s emergency shelter.)
- Paved or aggregate pathways including botanical gardens and native plantings.

*Estimated Cost: \$200,000 - \$300,000*

### 2025

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The Humboldt Township Park, located adjacent to the Township Hall has seen recent improvements including a modern, inclusive play structure. The community desires the following additions to the park to enhance resident and visitor experiences.

- Construction of an additional bridge over the dam on the east side of the park.
- An expansion of the existing pavilion.
- Expansion of the parking area on the east side of the park.
- Construction of a “fit strip” exercise circuit.

- Additional playground equipment.

*Estimated Cost: \$100,000 - \$150,000*

## 2026

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The Humboldt Township Baseball Field has seen additional interest in recent years. Specifically, there is a desire for the field to serve as both a baseball and softball field. This conversion would require minimal earthwork and grading. Additional or replacement fencing may also be needed. With plenty of acreage on this property, there is an opportunity to add additional amenities in order to increase use and recreational opportunities. The project scope for this property is listed below.

- Design modifications to reflect multi-use field configuration – baseball and softball.
- Add tennis and/or pickle ball courts.
- Expand parking area.

*Estimates Cost: \$25,000 - \$50,000*

Along with relocating playground equipment to the Township Hall Park, the Humboldt Township Basketball Court property also had the following needs identified:

- The addition of off-street parking.
- The additional of a restroom facility.
- The addition of a recycled plastic picnic table, bench and trash and recycling receptacles.

*Estimates Cost: \$15,000 - \$25,000*

## 2027

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The next two project location sites will ultimately take additional time, planning and coordination to accomplish. As such, they have been listed to complete later on in this five-year planning cycle. They are not considered less important but rather need more time and input prior to implementation.

The Fish Lake Access site is a unique property that could be improved with the development of a site master plan that may include an expansion of the dock facility to include a kayak launch area, an improved parking lot and a potential restroom facility.

The Tower Lake site could be enhanced with the development of a “re-use” plan that would include trail development that would connect neighboring townships and feature interpretive, historical and cultural signage. It is anticipated that a consultant would be hired to develop the reuse plan.

The Republic Mines Wetland Preserve features yet another opportunity to work with adjacent communities to enhance recreational opportunities by developing coordinated trail networks and bird watching areas.



*Estimated Cost: Unknown at this time.*

### **ADDITIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**

The following, additional recreational opportunities were also discussed during the drafting of this document and during the public input session. These projects are considered ongoing and may be accomplished outside of this Action Program.

Iron Ore Heritage Trail: Recommend to the Township Board to put on the ballot and let voters decide. Seek help from the Heritage trail authority on how to present and inform voters.

Consideration of a moose/wildlife view area and a dark sky park.

### **POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES**

Creative funding options for the abovementioned projects may come from a number of sources including but not limited to: local matching funds, the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) Development and Acquisition Grant program, the Recreation Passport Grant program, and private donations.

The Township Board may also want to consider a recreation millage in the future to provide matching funds for proposed future projects, as well as maintenance and upkeep of proposed facilities. It is also recommended that a study and/or master plan be conducted regarding Humboldt Township-owned properties to determine the feasibility of developing (or not developing) the abovementioned recreational opportunities in the community.