



"A Place to Call Home"

5-Year Recreation Plan

2024 – 2028

Stanton Township Board
www.stantontownship.com

January 15, 2024
Approved by MDNR March 2024

PREFACE

The Stanton Township Board approved a project to prepare a 5-year recreation plan during its June 2022 business meeting, with the aim of better managing recreation opportunities in Stanton Township. The project included background research, an inventory of Township-owned recreation properties and facilities, and a community recreation survey of Township residents and non-resident property owners.

The **Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028** was unanimously adopted by the Township Board on January 3, 2024, after a 30-day public review and comment period and a public hearing. An approved 5-year recreation plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to be eligible for several types of grants and associated technical assistance.

The Stanton Township Board would like to thank our Township residents and non-resident property owners for your participation in the community recreation survey, and for all your constructive comments and opinions along the way! The 5-year recreation plan provides an important baseline document and guide for improving our recreation opportunities during the years ahead ... in a wonderful place to call home!

Stanton Township Board

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Clerk: Kara Heinonen

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Trustees: Mark Haataja and Mike Pionke

Stanton Township

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Appendix A:	Report on the Recreation Survey of Stanton Township Residents. (68 pages)
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NOTE: All photos and images were created by Kenneth J. Vrana, Maritime Heritage Consulting, unless otherwise referenced.

Section 1.0 - Community Description

In 2022, the Stanton Township Board approved the preparation of a 5-Year Recreation Plan for submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The previous plan expired in 2014, and is no longer an adequate representation of current conditions and issues associated with the Township's recreation properties and facilities. Therefore, all aspects of community recreation need to be re-assessed by the Township.

In order to professionally address this need, the Township Board approved a survey of Township residents and non-resident property owners, which was completed in 2023. The results of the community recreation survey are discussed further within this plan, and are the foundation of the Township's *Goals and Objectives*, and *Action Program*. The following information describes the current physical and social-economic conditions of Stanton Township.

General Description

Stanton Township is a local unit of government within Houghton County, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (**Figure 1**). It was named for John Stanton, a prominent civil engineer, copper mining entrepreneur, and former co-founder and director of the Copper Range Company (www.mininghalloffame.org/hall-of-fame/john-stanton). The Township Hall is located on the (Houghton) Canal Road, near its junction with the Liminga – Freda Road. Township business meetings are also held occasionally at the Toivola Recreation Center or the Agate Beach Park.

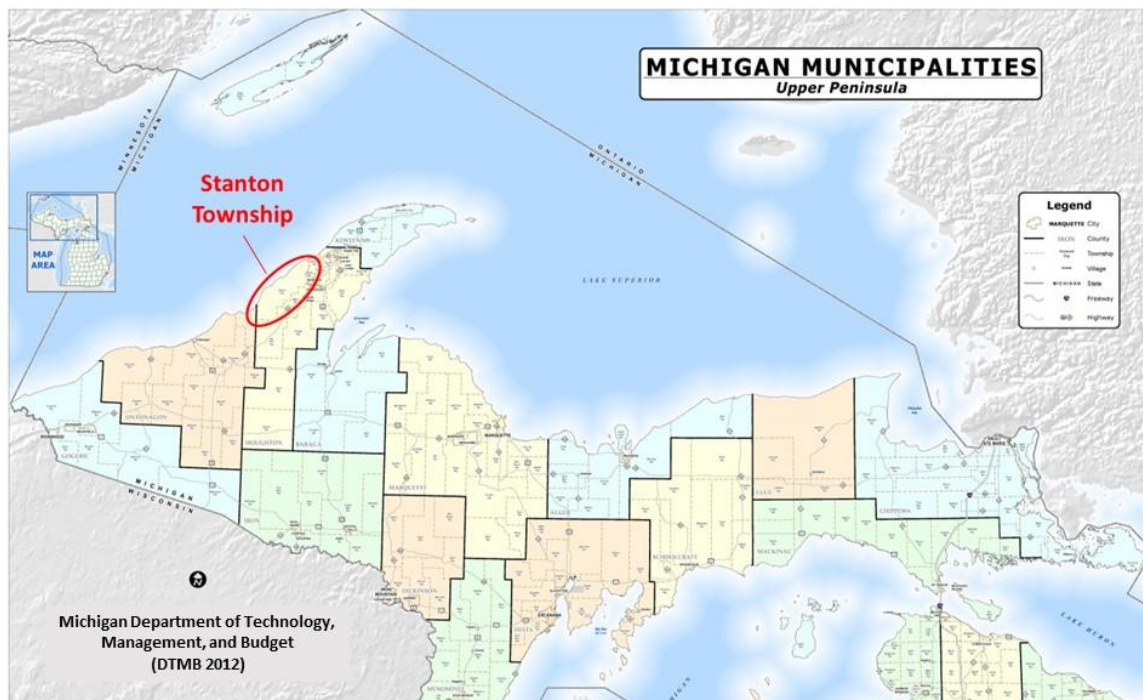


Figure 1. Location of Stanton Township, Houghton County, Upper Peninsula, Michigan.

The entire northerly boundary of the Township is the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) along the shoreline of Lake Superior (**Figure 2**). The official elevation for the OHWM on Lake Superior is 602.6 feet above sea level (Michigan EGLE 2023a). Great Lakes bottomlands (or submerged lands) lakeward of the OHWM “are held in trust by the State of Michigan for use and enjoyment by its citizens. The State, as the owner and trustee, has a perpetual responsibility to the public to manage these bottomlands and waters for the prevention of pollution, for the protection of the natural resources and to maintain the public's rights of hunting, fishing, navigation, commerce, etc.” (Michigan EGLE 2023b).

The easterly boundary is along the Keweenaw Waterway (also called the Portage Canal) and Adams Township. The southerly boundary is adjacent to the Township of Elm River, and Bohemia Township in Ontonagon County (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2. Boundaries of Stanton Township within Houghton County, Michigan. (Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget 2017)

The Township land area is 122.4 square miles (78,336 acres) and features about 21.5 miles of Lake Superior shoreline and 8.3 miles of shoreline along the Keweenaw Waterway (Google Earth Pro 2023). The Township land and water area is 123.6 square miles or 79,104 acres. Therefore, only 1% (1.2 square miles or 768 acres) of total land and water area is comprised of inland lakes and streams.

Based on a total population estimate of 1,383 persons from the 2020 U.S. Census, the Township has an overall population density of 11.3 people per square mile. (The overall population density of the State of Michigan is 178 people per square mile.) The primary concentrations of population are along the Houghton Canal Road; within the Liminga area and lakeshore communities of Redridge, Beacon Hill, and Freda; and within the Misery Bay - Agate Beach area, west of the small village of Toivola. The nearest incorporated cities are Houghton and Hancock.

The commute from most locations within Stanton Township requires about 30 – 45 minutes to access work, shopping, and entertainment venues in Houghton and Hancock. Main highway links to population centers south of the Keweenaw Peninsular are M-26 towards Wisconsin and Minnesota, and US-41 to the city of Marquette, and the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Geology

The western Upper Peninsula of Michigan consists of ancient igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks of Precambrian age and is part of the Canadian Shield, which has rocks estimated to be at least 3.5 billion years old. The igneous rocks are hard, crystalline, resistant to erosion, and are largely made up of granite, basaltic, and metamorphic rocks (i.e., rocks that have been changed through heat and pressure). The higher areas of the western Upper Peninsula are the remnants of ancient peaks that have been worn down over millions of years by the erosive action of wind, water, and moving ice. (Schaetzl 2005a).

The bedrock geology of Stanton Township was classified by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as *Freda Sandstone* (MDNR 1999; Reed and Daniels 1997). It is a sedimentary formation comprised of sandstones and mudstones from the Middle Proterozoic, and is associated with the Mid-Continent Rift system that forms the Lake Superior basin. The sandstone is typically red, fine-to-medium-grained, with prominent white streaks and blotches. Structurally, the sandstone dips to the north at a low angle and has two distinct joint sets. (Vitton, personal communication 2023).

Regionally, the Freda Sandstone is part of the Oronto Group of northern Michigan and Wisconsin, including the Copper Harbor Conglomerate and the Nonesuch Formation, with the Freda Sandstone lying conformably between these two formations. The contact between the Freda and the Copper Harbor formations is distinct, while the contact between the Freda and Nonesuch Formations is gradational in character. (Vitton, personal communication 2023).

The bedrock of Stanton Township is covered with an uneven blanket of unconsolidated material deposited during glacial-interglacial periods that ended about 9,000 years ago. This material consists of a mixture of sand, gravel, clay, and boulders called *glacial drift* (WUPPDR 2010:11). The quaternary geology of Stanton Township was classified by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as primarily (1) *course-textured glacial till* in the northeast half of the Township, and (2) *lacustrine clay and silt* in the southwest half of the Township (Farrand and Bell 1982). Quaternary geology is a branch of geology that studies change on earth's surfaces during the glacial-interglacial periods (commonly called the ice age) to present.

The geology of the "copper country" was a crucial factor in the social-economic development of the counties and townships comprising the Keweenaw Peninsula. Additional information on the geology of Stanton Township is available from:

Keweenaw Geoheritage (www.geo.mtu.edu/KeweenawGeoheritage)

Michigan Geological Survey (<https://wmich.edu/geologysurvey>)

U.S. Geological Survey (<https://mrdata.usgs.gov/geology/state/state.php?state=MI>).

Forests and Forestry

Northern Hardwoods are the predominant forest cover in Stanton Township and Houghton County. Sugar maple, red maple, hemlock, basswood and yellow birch are the most common trees in Michigan's northern hardwood forest. Typical secondary species are beech, black cherry, quaking aspen and white ash (MSU Extension 2014). The general forest type of this area prior to European settlement can be characterized as a Laurentian Mixed Forest, composed primarily of Maple – Birch – Hemlock (Schaetzl 2005b).

Northern hardwood forests occupy the better upland soils, and also occur in poorer quality on lighter soils. The large areas of sandy plains found in many parts of the Upper Peninsula mostly support pines. Spruce, balsam, cedar, and tamarack (larch), the swamp conifers, generally occupy the poorly drained sites, while extensive areas of aspen occur throughout, principally on burned-over lands. (Schaetzl 2005b). Wildlife communities of Stanton Township are typical for northern hardwoods and other forest types of the upper Great Lakes region (Benyus et al. 1992).

In Michigan, the term northern hardwood forest specifically applies to stands dominated by sugar maple. High quality logs, especially sugar maple, command some of the highest prices in the region. Logs that have birds-eye or curly grain patterns are particularly valuable. Low quality material makes excellent pulp for papermaking and energy where markets are available (MSU Extension 2014).

Logging continues to be an important economic activity in Stanton Township, and about 57% of the Township land and water area is currently owned by forest product companies and enrolled in the Michigan Commercial Forest Act (CFA). There are 253 active CFA enrollees in Stanton Township totaling 45,298 acres (Maidlow, personal communication, 2022). This equals about 2% of all CFA lands in Michigan, which total 2.2 million acres. CFA lands are concentrated in the southwestern half of the Township (i.e., west half of T55N, R35W; T55N, R36W; T54N, R35W; and T54N, R36W) (**Figure 3**). Forest product companies with the largest acreages of land holdings in Stanton Township are currently Lake Superior Timberlands, LLC; Verdant Timber Michigan, LLC; Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, LLC; and Sage Timber Michigan, LLC (Willis, personal communication 2023).

The CFA provides a property tax incentive to private landowners “to retain and manage their forestland for long-term timber production and to provide foot access to the public for hunting, trapping, and fishing. Any other activities require landowner permission. CFA lands are not posted or signed as commercial forests and may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does *not* prohibit public access by foot to these lands for fishing or hunting. However, the owner may restrict public access during periods of logging to ensure public safety” (Michigan DNR 2023).

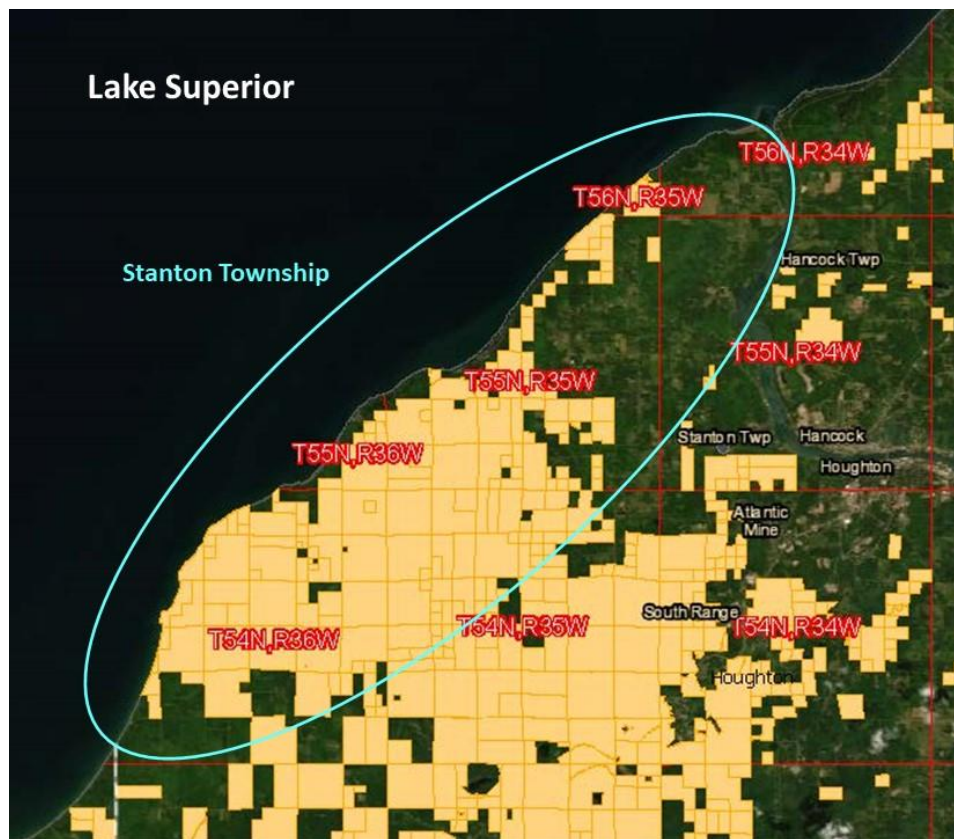


Figure 3. Commercial Forest Lands enrolled in the Michigan Commercial Forest Act (yellow). Source: MDNR (2023)

In 2021, Stanton Township approved the *Forest Stewardship Plan* prepared by Green Timber Consulting Foresters, Inc. of Pelkie, Michigan for five parcels of Township lands (Green Timber, Inc. 2021). The parcels total 481 acres and included the Agate Beach Property, Fire Hall Property, Ball Field Property, North Canal Property (north and south), and the Townhall Property. In terms of landowner goals and objectives, Stanton Township “placed a high priority on publicly-accessible recreation and education through the implementation of exemplary forest management practices” (Green Timber, Inc. 2021:18).

Land Use

The Keweenaw Peninsula has been a source of copper as well as the hunting, fishing, and gathering grounds of ancient peoples for thousands of years. New research suggests that “the Old Copper Culture emerged at least 9,500 years ago, and peaked between 7,000 and 5,000 years ago, when the evidence suggests copper use began to decline” (*Archaeology* 2021). The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) maintains the records of archaeological sites that date prior to and after contact between Native Americans and European peoples. Currently, there are several pre-contact and post-contact sites that have been recorded within Stanton Township (Surface-Evans, personal communication 2023). However, there also appears to be few professional archaeological surveys completed with the Township.

The Ojibwa peoples migrated to the upper Great Lakes region from the North American east coast during the 1500s – 1600s, while the region was being explored by France and other European nations (Cleland 1992). Monette (1994:5) mentions “when people arrived in Redridge in 1888, there were five wigwams on the west bank of the Salmon-Trout River, which belonged to members of the Chippewa [Ojibwa] Tribe. These people were relocated some years later to the reservation near L’Anse.” However, the western Upper Peninsula (including Stanton Township) is located within the ceded territory of the U.S. Treaty of Washington (1842) with Ojibwa bands. Federally recognized tribal members retain the rights of hunting, fishing, and gathering on tribally-owned and public lands within this ceded territory (GLIFWC 2023).

Although there are historical accounts of fur trapping and trading in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan during the later 1600s through 1800s, European settlement of the Keweenaw Peninsula began in earnest with the “copper boom” of the mid-1800s (Murdock 1976). Stanton Township and the Stanton Township School Board were subsequently established in 1902. That year also marked the completion of the Redridge Steel Dam and a road connecting the villages of Redridge and Freda (Koski 2011). These projects were associated with the construction and operation of five copper stamp mills and associated “company towns” along the western shore of Lake Superior during the 1890s through the mid-1900s. The stamp mills processed copper ore from the South Range of the Keweenaw mining district, and provided employment for many Stanton Township residents during the first half of the 20th century. The primary historic copper mines of the South Range were located in what is now Adams Township, adjoining Stanton Township to the southeast.

Other prevalent economic activities in Stanton Township during the “copper era” included logging and agriculture. Forests and commercial forestry were summarized in the prior section. Most historic agricultural activity was in support of industrial-scale copper production in the Keweenaw mining district. However, many of the farms along the Keweenaw Waterway (Houghton Canal Road) and within the Liminga and Misery Bay - Agate Beach areas of Stanton Township went out of production with the end of the copper era in the 1960s. The remaining farm fields are now devoted primarily to hay production with some subsistence and small-scale animal production.

With the exception of Markham’s Marina and Schmidt’s Corner Bar & Grill on Canal Road, a small automotive repair shop in Liminga, and a couple small farms selling produce, there are no “storefront” retail businesses within Stanton Township. However, there is an unknown number of home-based businesses or consulting services within the Township. In this regard, the Township can be characterized primarily as a residential extension of the cities of Houghton and Hancock (i.e., “bedroom community”) as well as a retirement location for those who enjoy rural and wildland settings. Over half of the resident population are aged 55 or older, and 34.1% are aged 65 or older.

The current and projected land use within Houghton County was originally mapped by the Houghton County Road Commission, based on data from the former GEM Center for Science and Environmental Outreach at Michigan Technological University. This land use map was revised by UP Engineers & Architects, Inc. of Houghton, Michigan in 2006, and by the Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region (WUPPDR 2012). Projected land use in Stanton Township is portrayed in **Figure 4**. A comprehensive economic development strategy for Houghton County was prepared by WUPPDR in 2021.

The following publications provide additional historical background on Stanton Township:

Range of Opportunity: A Historic Study of the Copper Range Company. Richard A. Fields. 1997. Book Concern Printers, Hancock, MI.

Freda, Michigan: End of the Road. Clarence Monette. 1989. Greenlee Printing, Calumet, MI.

Redridge and Its Steel Dam. Clarence Monette. 1992. Greenlee Printing Co., Calumet, MI.

Tall Timber Tales. Jingo Viitala Vachon. 1973. L’Anse Sentinel, L’anse, MI.

Finnish Fiddles: Sketches and Stories. Jingo Viitala Vachon. 1979. L’Anse Sentinel, L’anse, MI.

In addition, the Michigan Technological University (MTU) Archives maintain document and photo collections associated with copper mining and milling on the South Range, including the photographic collection of William F. Brinkman, formerly of Redridge (www.mtu.edu/library/archives/collections). The Copper Range Historical Museum in South Range, MI also maintains a collection of artifacts, documents and photos (<https://pasty.com/crhm>).

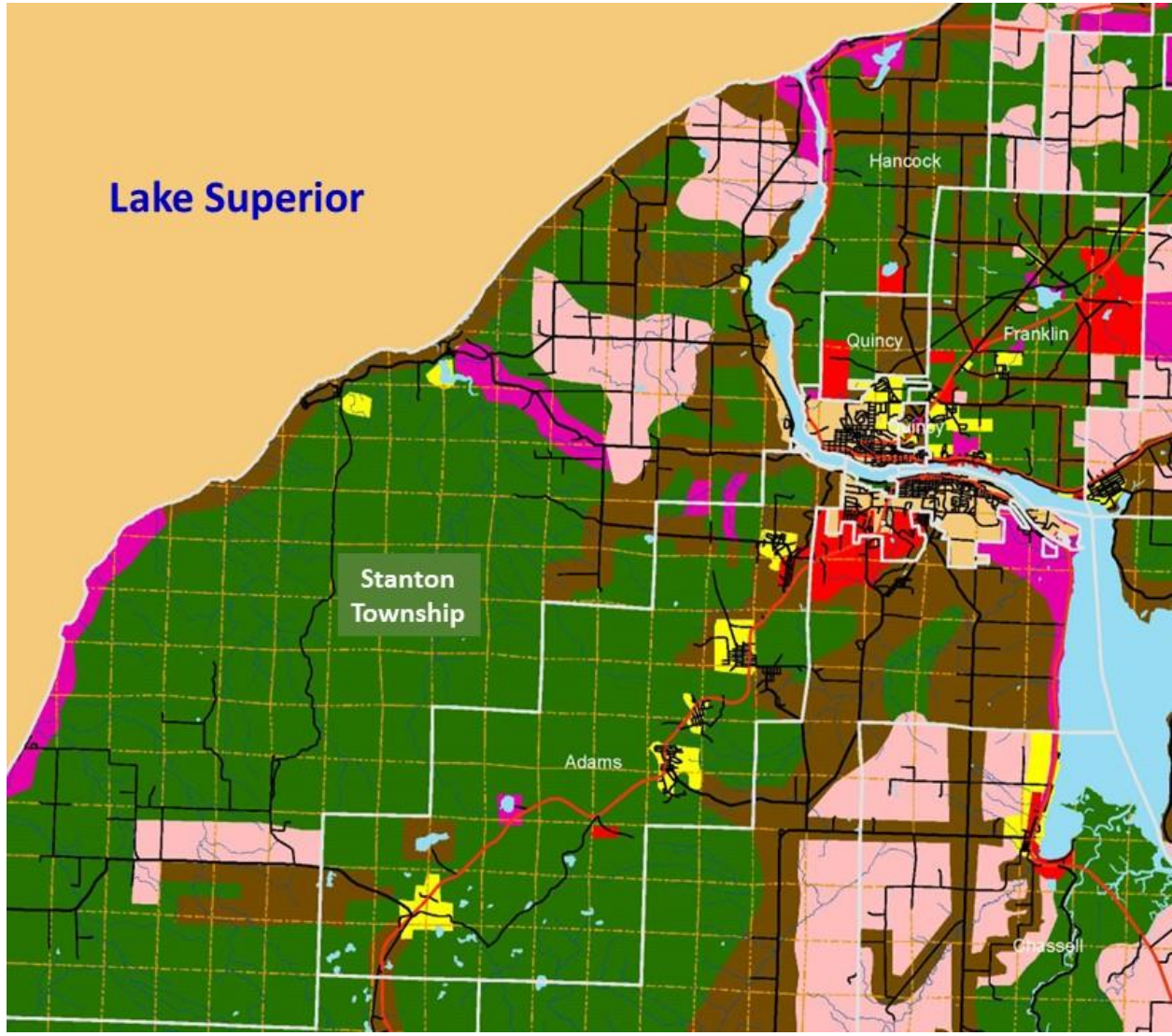
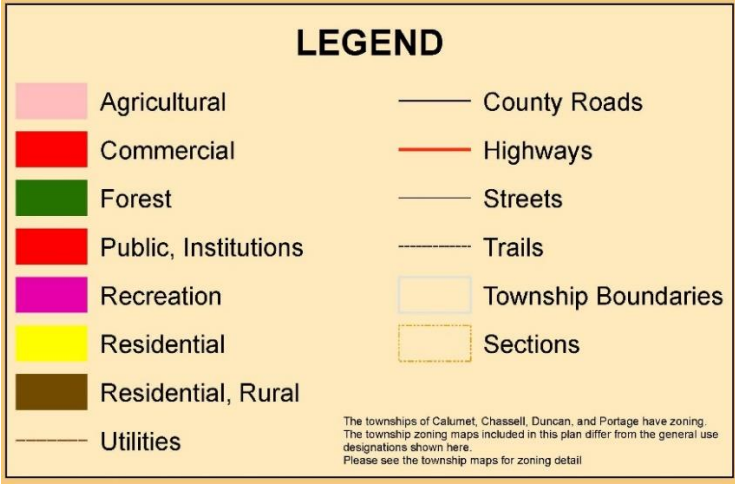


Figure 4: Projected Land Use in Stanton Township (WUPPDR 2012).



Physiographic Region

The western Upper Peninsula is classified as *Superior Bedrock Uplands*, one of ten major physiographic regions of Michigan (Schaetzl et al. 2013). Stanton Township is located within a subdivision of this region, termed *Lake Superior Incised Plain*, which runs from approximately the North Entry of the Keweenaw Waterway to the Porcupine Mountains (**Figure 5**).

General characteristics of the Lake Superior Incised Plain include (Schaetzl et al. 2013):

Physiography/Relief: High elevation, largely bedrock-controlled landscapes that have been modified by glacial scour and deposition, with areas of high hills and low mountains formed on bedrock. Low-moderate relief plain, some of which was associated with Glacial Lake Duluth, and generally sloping toward Lake Superior. In some areas, small, deep stream valleys exist, draining to Lake Superior, parallel to each other.

Soil/Sediments: Upland soils are moderately well to somewhat poorly drained silt loams, loams and fine sandy loams. Parent materials are silty-sandy.

Hydrology: Series of parallel streams draining to Lake Superior; heavy snow in winter. Few or no inland lakes.

Pre-settlement vegetation: Sugar maple-hemlock-yellow birch forest.

Land use: Forest; small patches of open land

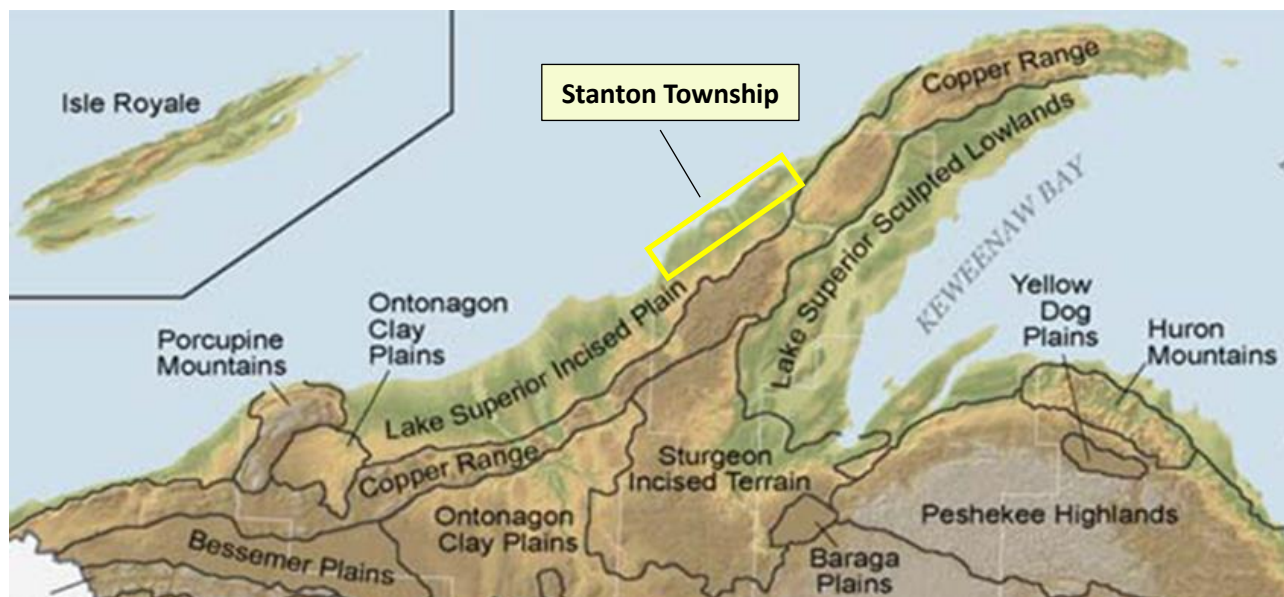


Figure 5. Location of Stanton Township in the *Lake Superior Incised Plain* Physiographic Region.

Physiographic regions can be considered a means of delineating the earth's landforms, based on one or more scientific criteria. Several criteria were used in delineating the boundaries of Michigan's physiographic regions, including topography and local relief, bedrock and quaternary geology, landscape fabric, sediment types, soils, water table, land cover and use. (Schaetzl et al. 2013).

Social-Economic Profile

The following social-economic profile for Stanton Township was prepared from final baseline data of the 2020 U.S. Census:

- Total population of 1,383 ± 234 persons (i.e., range of 1,149 - 1,617 persons)
- Township population has remained stable for over a decade, based on a population estimate of 1,338 in 2008 by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- The population 15 years and older was estimated at 1,096 ± 153 persons (i.e., range of 943 - 1,249 persons)
- The voting age population 18 years and older was estimated at 1,050 ± 146 persons
- An estimated 76.6% of the Township's total population is 18 years of age or older, and 23.4% are under the age of 18 (**Figure 6**). The median age is 49 ± 8.7 years of age.
- An estimated 55.2% of the resident population are age 55 or older, and 34.1% are age 65 or older (**Figure 6**). Only 18.7% of Michigan residents are age 65 or older.
- Females comprise about 52% of the population, and males comprise about 48%
- About 59% of the total population are married
- Total number of households is 529 ± 77 with an average household size of 2.6
- Over half of households (52.9%) contain one or more persons aged 60 or older
- Total number of families is 375 ± 64 with an average family size of 3.1
- 95.1% of people attained a high school diploma or greater; 29.7% attained a college undergraduate degree or higher
- 14.6% of the population has veteran's status, more than double the rate for the State of Michigan
- Stanton Township has the largest percentage of people of Finnish heritage in the United States (52.5%)
- People 25 years and older have median earnings of about \$44,107 ± 8,233.

- 5.9% of people are below the poverty line (lower rate than Houghton County and the State of Michigan)
- Nearly all housing is owner-occupied (95.5%); rental units comprise only 4.5% of housing
- 90% of housing are single unit structures
- Travel time to work, shopping, and entertainment venues in Houghton and Hancock is about 30 – 45 minutes.

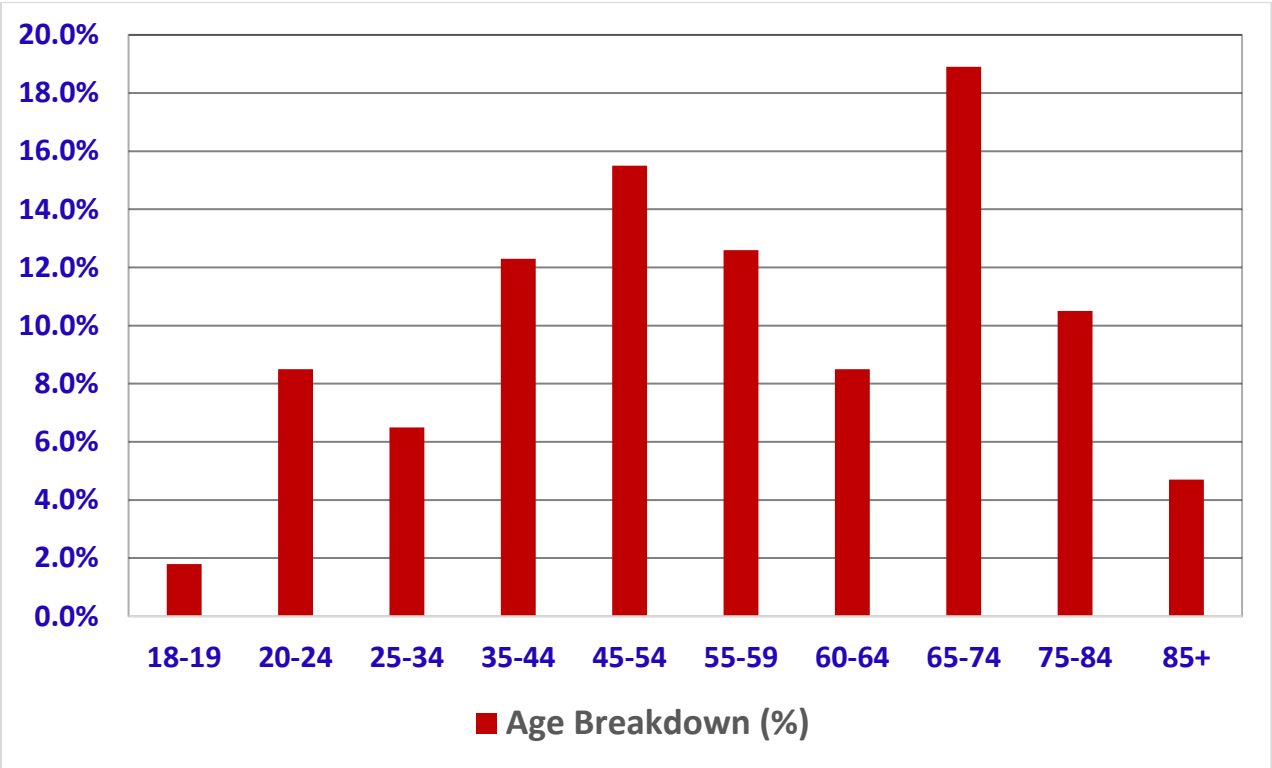


Figure 6. Age Profile of Stanton Township Residents (U.S. Census Bureau 2020)

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Section 2.0 - Administrative Structure and Budget

Stanton Township was officially created in 1903 by Act No. 287 of the Michigan Legislature. This Local Act “legalized the action of the [Houghton County] board of supervisors in detaching certain lands from the township of Hancock in said county, and organizing the same into a new township, known as the township of Stanton.” It is considered a *general* township (i.e., it is *not* a charter township under Michigan Law).

The Stanton Township Board is responsible for policy and management of recreation properties and facilities owned by Stanton Township. The Township Board has the authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants, and purchase land on behalf of the community. It also has an obligation to prepare annual and projected budgets for operations, maintenance, capital improvements and recreation programming.

The E. B. Holman Elementary and Middle School is responsible for recreation properties, facilities and equipment located on its premises in the Liminga Area, just off the Freda Road (<https://www.stpsd.us>). Most of these students continue their education at Houghton High School or Jeffers High School in Painesdale (Adams Township). The focus of extracurricular recreation activities at the E.B. Holman School is athletics. There are no formal programs in outdoor and environmental learning.

The Stanton Township Board is composed of five locally-elected members (**Figure 1**). The members include the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Trustees. The term of office for Board members is 4 years. Stanton Township’s planning, management, and operational responsibilities are carried out by several *less-than-full-time* employees and volunteers. The Township does *not* have a full-time employee on its payroll.

Less-than-full-time employees associated with Stanton Township’s recreation properties and facilities include caretakers for the North Canal Park and Agate Beach Park, and a rink manager for the Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome) (**Figure 1**). Volunteers maintain the Stanton Ballfield, located near the E.B. Holman School off Freda Road, the Toivola Recreation Center on the Misery Bay Road, and other locations as needed.

In the past, the Township Board approved *ad hoc* citizen committees for the Agate Beach Park and Redridge Dam Site. The Agate Beach Committee appoints a director that coordinates with the Township Board on issues affecting local residents and visitors to the Park, and associated Township property and facilities. The Redridge Dam Committee has focused on resolving several issues associated with the historic dams, and potential development of the site as a “community heritage park” (Redridge Dams Study Group 2009).

The Road Committee provides advice to the Township Board regarding construction, repair, and maintenance of local roads, including the entry roads to the North Canal Park, Agate Beach Park, and other recreation-related properties. However, the Houghton County Road Commission has the primary authority for construction, repair, and maintenance of public roads and bridges in Stanton Township. “Townships do not have jurisdiction over roads and do not receive any funding directly from the state. Instead, county road commissions maintain roads in townships with road commission funds” (www.houghtoncountyroads.org).

The Stanton Township Board is considering the creation of a *Park and Recreation Committee*. This type of advisory group would be beneficial in evaluating and developing collaborations and more formal partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies as well as nonprofit organizations and private businesses to enhance recreational opportunities in Stanton Township. As an example, the Township Board is exploring partnerships with private entities to maintain and operate the North Canal Park Campground and other services and amenities at the Park. The Township Board is also exploring partnerships with several agencies and organizations on historic preservation of the Redridge Dams, protection of the stream fishery, and recreational development of the Redridge Dams Site.

Currently, the Township does *not* have formal partnerships with outside organizations for the planning, maintenance, and operation of its recreation properties and facilities. However, there are several reasons for the Township to collaborate with Houghton County, cities of Houghton and Hancock, Adams Township, and Bohemia Township (Ontonagon County). In particular, it appears that a relatively large percentage of residents from Houghton/Hancock and adjoining Townships visit Stanton recreation properties and facilities. There is also a deep and extensive historical connection between Adams and Stanton Township related to copper mining and milling, and logging.

In addition to its responsibilities for parks and recreation, Stanton Township maintains two cemeteries and a volunteer fire department. One of the cemeteries is located in the Liminga Area near Redridge, and the other on the Misery Bay Road near Toivola. The Stanton Township Volunteer Fire Department is organized into two precincts. The Liminga Fire Department operates out of its firehall located just off the Canal Road at Schmidt's Corner, and a small fire station at Redridge (www.limingafire.org). The firehall for the Toivola Fire Department is located next to the Toivola Recreation Center, on the Misery Bay Rd. (www.facebook.com/ToivolaVFD). Expenses for the operation of Township cemeteries are budgeted separately from parks and recreation-related expenditures. The Stanton Township Volunteer Fire Department funds its operations through several sources, including grants, loans, donations, and reimbursements.

Reference Cited: Redridge Dams Study Group. 2009. Final Report of the Redridge Dams Study Group. Stanton Township, Michigan.



Figure 1. Stanton Township Organizational Chart for Recreation Properties and Facilities

Stanton Township Annual Budget

Stanton Township collected **\$350,365** in revenues during April 2022 – March 2023. State revenue-sharing and property taxes were the primary sources of revenue to fund all operations of the Township (**Table 1**). State revenue-sharing comprised about 56% of Township revenues, followed by property taxes (32%), camping fees from Agate Beach Park (5%), and Commercial Forest Act (CFA) revenue (3%). The total dollar amount of fees collected at Agate Beach Park was **\$17,801**.

Park and recreation-related expenditures totaled **\$47,425** during April 2022 - March 2023 (**Table 1**). This is 13.5% of the total revenues collected by Stanton Township during this 12-month time period. Salaries comprised about 33.0% of the total expenditures, followed by Repairs and Maintenance (31.0%), Utilities (11.5%), Park Sanitation and Trash (9.5%), Capital Outlays (8.0%), Operating Supplies (4.0%), and Plowing and Miscellaneous (3.0%).

Table 1.0 Summary of Stanton Township Revenues and Park and Recreation-Related Expenses.
Source: Income Statement, April 2022 – March 2023

REVENUES (INCOME)

Property Taxes:	\$ 112,108	
Licenses and Permits:	3,071	
Charges and Misc. Revenues		
Camping Fees – Agate Beach Park:	17,801	
CFA Revenue:	9,540	
Misc. Revenue:	3,723	
Charges for Services	2,780	(\$1,675 for cemetery services)
Interest and Dividends	4,551	
Revenue Subtotal:	\$ 153,574	
State Revenue-Sharing:	\$ 196,807	
Donations:	255	
Total Revenues:	\$ 350,635	

PARK & RECREATION-RELATED EXPENSES

Salaries:	\$ 15,568	(Caretakers for Agate Beach Park, North Canal Park, and the Kenner Dome; labor for Agate Beach Park fee collection and repairs)
Repairs and Maintenance:	14,732	
Utilities:	5,486	
Park Sanitation / Trash:	4,544	
Capital Outlays:	3,633	
Operating Supplies:	1,878	
Plowing and Misc.:	1,585	
Total Expenses:	\$ 47,425	
Percent of Total Revenues:	13.5%	

Section 3.0 - Recreation Inventory

Stanton Township owns and manages two parks on Lake Superior featuring sand beaches; a small memorial park in Freda, overlooking Lake Superior and the ruins of the Champion copper mill; a historical site on the Salmon-Trout River that is listed in the National Register of Historical Places; two all-season recreation centers featuring ice rinks for skating and hockey; a ball field that hosts community baseball games; and a modern boat launch on the Keweenaw Waterway, near North Canal Park (Figure 1). The Township also owns and maintains an office building on Canal Road; two firehalls (Canal Rd and Misery Bay Rd.) and a small fire station in Redridge; and two cemeteries (one near Redridge, the other on the Misery Bay Rd.).

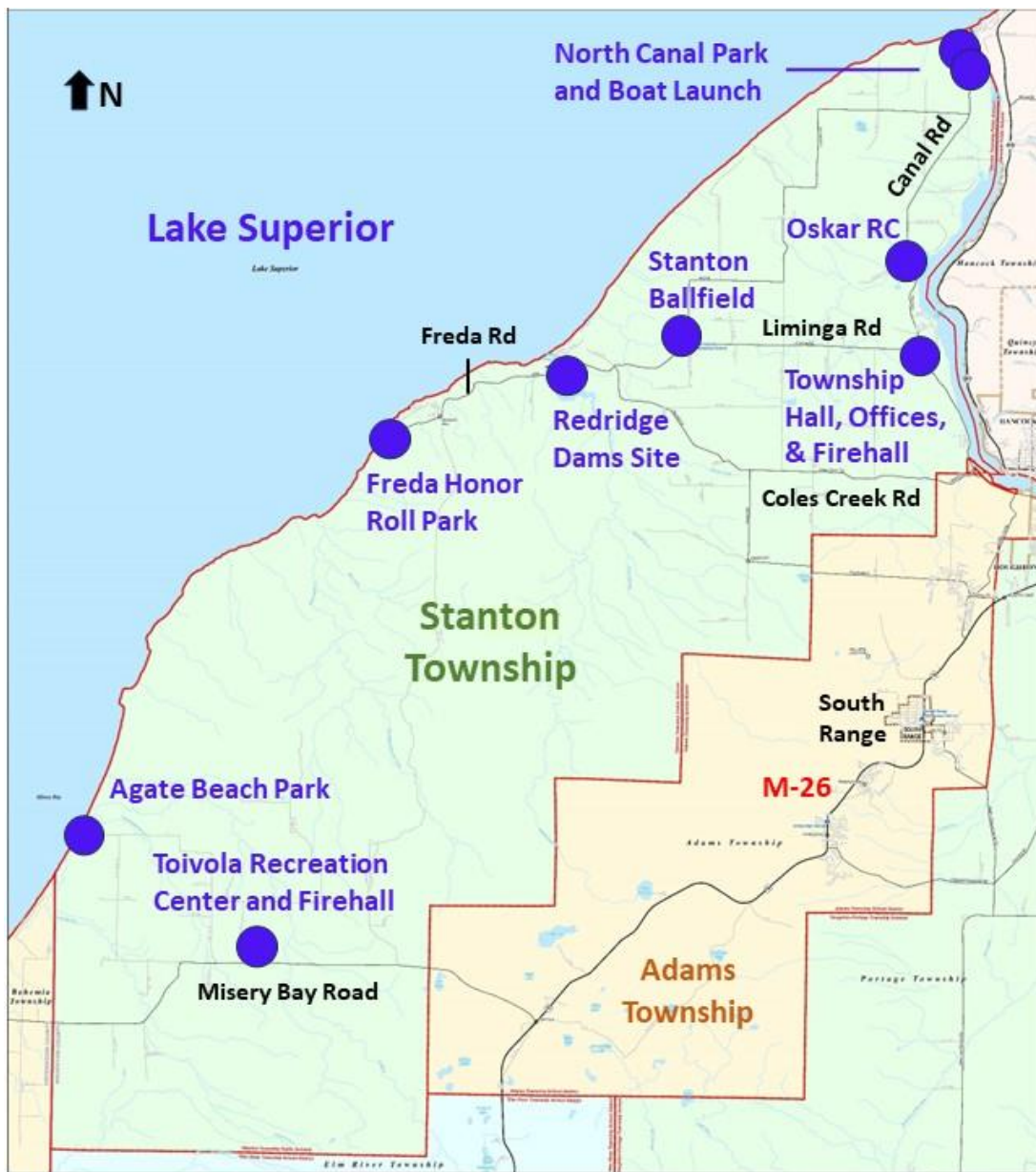


Figure 1. Stanton Township-owned park and recreation properties, Houghton County, MI.

In order to conduct the inventory, Stanton Township provided maps of registered land parcels that include the Township recreation properties of interest, and other surrounding properties. Google Earth Pro was also used to visualize the Township properties in relation to regional topography, road networks, and population centers. Site visits were made to each of the Township's recreation properties during summer 2022 through spring 2023. The purpose was to observe and record the general condition of Township properties and facilities over a full calendar year. These recreation properties (in alphabetic order) are described in more detail in the following pages:

Agate Beach Parcel

General Description: This 247-acre parcel of land includes the Agate Beach Park, and is primarily forested lands managed by Stanton Township under a *Forest Stewardship Plan* (Green Timber, Inc. 2021) (**Figures 2 - 3**).

Primary Service Area: Rural areas of Toivola, and the Misery Bay - Agate Beach Area. The park is also receiving relatively large numbers of summer visitors from Houghton County and several states other than Michigan.

Amenities: The lakeshore park features a white sand beach that extends southwest for about .3 miles to the Little Elm River mouth (**Figure 4 - 5**). In addition, visitors can walk the sandy beaches of Misery Bay for several miles northeast and southwest of the Agate Beach Park. Common beach activities during the spring – fall seasons are picnicking, swimming and rock-collecting. The park has also hosted an annual *Agate Beach Jamboree* of folk music.

Facilities: Currently, the park provides 25 primitive campsites, most with a level area for tenting or small campers, a picnic table, and a fire ring (**Figure 6**). Drinking water is available from a well and manual pump. Overnight camping is \$20/per site, paid on an honor basis. The park also includes a large playground area, outdoor pavilion, two vault toilets, eight handicap parking places, and two storage buildings (**Figure 7**). The smaller building formerly housed a concession stand; the larger "lodge" building has a banquet and meeting room, and kitchen. These buildings have not been in regular use for several years, and are currently in disrepair.

Past Projects: In 2013, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) awarded a grant of \$45,000 to Stanton Township for Agate Beach Park improvements "to include a pavilion, improve existing access road to pavilion, ADA and regular parking areas, ADA picnic tables, and vegetation planting for erosion control." Construction of the lodge building was funded, in part, by the MDNR Land & Water Conservation Fund several decades ago. A Master Plan for Agate Beach Park was prepared and submitted by Hitch, Inc. in 2008 to the former Stanton Township Recreation Committee. The project was funded in part by the Michigan Coastal Management Program. The plan recommended extensive development of the Park to include 23 tent sites, 37 modern RV sites, a toilet and shower building, and improvements

to the existing kitchen, lodge, and concrete boat ramp. However, the Master Plan was “tabled” by the Stanton Township Board, after being rejected by community members in the Toivola - Misery Bay - Agate Beach areas.



Figure 2. Agate Beach Park area, within a 247-acre parcel of coastal forest.

Figure 3.
Agate Beach Parcel

Section 31, T54N, R36W

Property #131-005-00

247 Acres

Special Features:

Agate Beach Township Park

Little Elm River

Lake Superior Shorelands

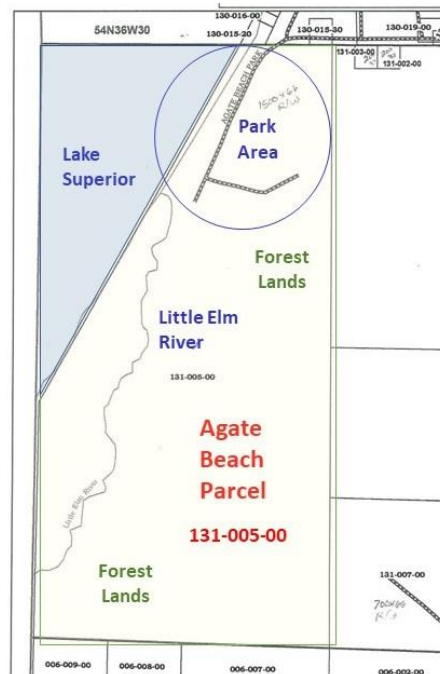




Figure 4. Agate Beach, looking northeast from the Park.



Figure 5. Agate Beach, looking southwest from the Park.



Figure 6
Agate Beach Park
Primitive Camping Sites Near Lake Superior



Figure 7
Agate Beach Park
Facilities including "Lodge" Building, Concession Stand, Pavilion, Vault Toilets, Handicap Parking, and a Playground

Important Issues:

Boat Launch: In the recent past, the Agate Beach boat launch (concrete ramp) provided direct access to Lake Superior by local residents and other visitors aboard small watercraft, to engage in recreational fishing and sight-seeing. The boat launch has served Stanton Township well up to about 4 - 5 years ago, when it began deteriorating due to age and high-water levels in Lake Superior. The water levels have receded over the past few years; however, the old launch ramp is now considered a safety hazard to boaters, swimmers, and waders (**Figure 8**).

Note: The MDNR maintains a boat launch site on the Misery River in Bohemia Township, Ontonagon County. The boat launch site is 5.0 miles by road from the junction of the Misery Bay Road with the Agate Beach Road, and 8.5 miles from Agate Beach Park (**Figure 9**). However, anecdotal information from local residents indicate that the Misery Bay boat launch is often unusable due to limited depth at the river mouth from sand migration. In addition, overnight camping is not allowed at this MDNR launch site.



Figure 8. Agate Beach Boat Launch (currently in disrepair). Looking northeast.

The Stanton Township Board believes that a project to renovate the boat launch (and possibly install a docking system) would be well-received by residents of Houghton and Ontonagon Counties as well as an increasing number of non-resident visitors to the Agate Beach

Park. In 2022, over 70% of registered campers resided in locations other than Houghton County, including 18 other states. Over 40% of campers were out-of-state residents (Mattila, personal communication, 2023). Most respondents in close proximity to Agate Beach Township Park selected “Renovation of the boat launch” as the most important need for the Park, in a recent community recreation survey (Stanton Township 2023).

In addition, the Fisheries Biologist of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department expressed a need for a boat launch along this stretch of Lake Superior coastline (Mensch, personal communication, 2022). Such a launch would be beneficial in conducting nearshore fisheries research, in collaboration with the MDNR and USFWS.

In response to this issue, the Stanton Township Board submitted a MDNR SPARK Grant proposal in December 2022, and re-submitted an updated proposal in June 2023 for the renovation of the Agate Beach Boat Launch. The design includes a kayak launch system.



Protection of Shorelands: Stanton Township has three *High Risk Erosion Areas* (HREAs) along its Lake Superior shorelands (**Figure 10**). Two areas are just northeast of Rockhouse Point, in private ownership. The other HREA is along the shorelands of Agate Beach Park and the beach southwest of the park (MDEQ 2018). This stretch of shorelands is classified as HREA B, with an estimated average erosion rate of 1.4 feet per year.

Stanton Township has taken several steps to protect the shorelands and sand beach of Agate Beach Park. In particular, the beach is closed to camping, fires, and ATV use. Dogs must be leashed and under the control of its owner. Swimming at the Agate Beach Park is at the visitor’s own risk -- no lifeguards are provided by the Township or other organizations.

Lodge Building and Concession Stand: These buildings are currently in disrepair and have not been used on a regular basis for several years (**Figure 7**). The “lodge” building was formerly available for banquets, parties, community meetings, and special events such as the Agate Beach [Music] Jamboree. Stanton Township does not have any recent, written plans for the lodge building, concession stand, and other facilities on the Agate Beach parcel. However, there has been interest expressed by the Agate Beach Committee in renovation of these facilities. The Agate Beach Committee is composed of local residents in the Misery Bay – Agate Beach Area, and provides advice to the Stanton Township Board regarding the Park and associated lands.



Figure 10. Shoreland erosion within the HREA.

Agate Beach Road: Many respondents to the recent community recreation survey expressed concern about the condition of the Agate Beach Road, from its junction with the Misery Bay Road to the dirt entrance road to the Park (**Figure 9**). This asphalt road has many filled and often unfilled potholes and only a small shoulder to accommodate use by bikers. The situation is known to the Stanton Township Board and its Road Committee. Plans to improve Agate Beach Road is the responsibility of the Houghton County Road Commission, in consultation with Stanton Township.

Freda Honor-Roll Park

General Description: This small (.545 acre) parcel of land includes an Honor-Roll memorial to local residents who have served in the nation’s wars, and is the only current public access to the shorelands of the Freda area (**Figures 11 - 15**). Most Freda shorelands are sandstone bluffs, which transition to beach just southwest of the mill ruins to the Graveraet River.



Freda Parcels

Section 25, T55N, R36W

“Honor Roll” Lot
Property #600-035-00

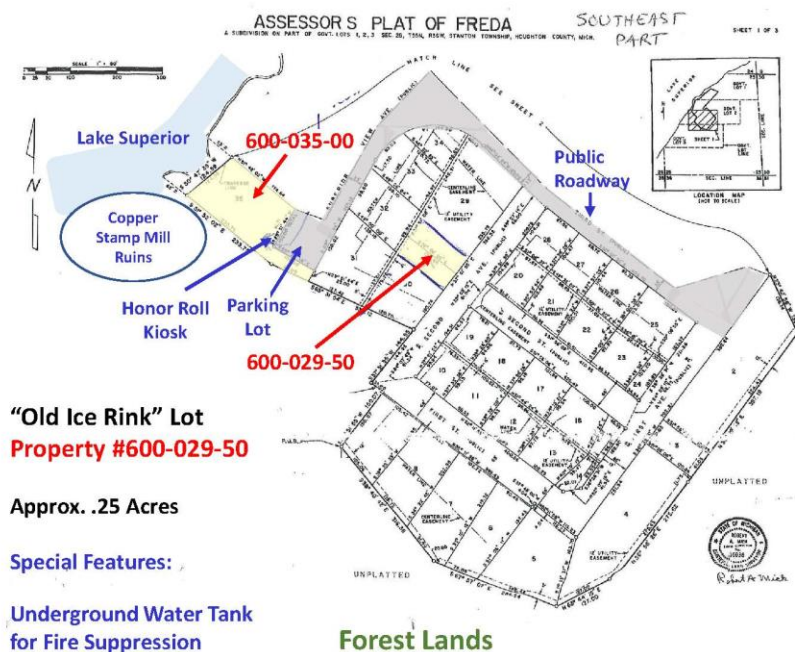
.545 Acres

Special Features:

Lakeshore Veterans
Honor Roll Kiosk

View of Historical
Copper Stamp Mill
Ruins

Lake Superior
Shorelands



“Old Ice Rink” Lot
Property #600-029-50

Approx. .25 Acres

Special Features:

Underground Water Tank
for Fire Suppression

Figure 11. Perspectives of the Freda area. Park location on Google map is approximate.

The Township also owns a small, vacant lot within the village proper (Parcel 600-029-50). The lot formerly served as a community park with a playground area, shuffleboard court, and a concrete pad used as a basketball court and an outdoor ice rink in the winter. It is still referred to as the “old rink” property. An underground water tank is currently buried on the property for fire suppression in the Freda and lakeshore areas. Stanton Township does not have any recent, written plans for recreational use of this lot.



Figure 12. Freda Honor-Roll Memorial on the east end of the Park. Looking southwest toward ruins of the Champion Copper Stamp Mill (smokestack and Lake Superior in background).



Figure 13. Freda Honor-Roll Park and adjoining parking lot. Looking west toward Lake Superior.



Figure 14. Looking toward Lake Superior shorelands and wooded acreage of the Freda Honor Roll Park. The Memorial is not visible in the upper right of the photo.



Figure 15. Looking toward a sight-seeing and picnic location at the boundary of the Freda Honor-Roll Park with the parcel of land containing ruins of the Champion Copper Stamp Mill.

Primary Service Area: Local lakeshore communities. It is visited regularly by Township residents as well as others who enjoy views of Lake Superior and historical sites.

Amenities: Views of Lake Superior to the southwest and west of Freda, especially evening sunsets. The ruins of the Champion Copper Mill can also be viewed from this parcel. Some visitors explore these privately-owned ruins and the Lake Superior beach southwest of Freda, on foot (**Figure 16**).

Facilities: Small memorial and parking area maintained by Stanton Township.

Past Projects: None



Important Issues:

Access to Lake Superior Shorelands

Current public access to Lake Superior shorelands below the elevation of the Freda Honor-Roll Memorial is by way of a steep, often slippery foot trail (**Figure 17**). Ropes attached to trees have been added by unknown persons to aid in walking down and back up this foot trail to the Memorial and adjoining parking lot.

In the past, visitors to shorelands of the Freda Honor-Roll Park and adjacent ruins of the Champion Copper Mill traveled on a former mill road along the shorelands. That former mill road and footpath is currently blocked by a private property owner (**Figure 18**).

In a recent community recreation survey, the “creation of a safe, public access to the Township’s Lake Superior shorelands in Freda” was selected by the largest percentage of residents (41%) and non-resident property owners (39%) from a list of five other Township recreation needs *Note:* This question excluded Agate Beach Park, North Canal Park, and Redridge Dams Site, which were covered in other questions (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b).



Figure 18. Former access route to shorelands of the Freda Honor-Roll Park and ruins of the Champion Copper Mill. This route is currently closed to the public.

North Canal Park

General Description: North Canal Park is located at the north end of two parcels of Township land that total 116.86 acres (**Figures 19 - 20**). It is commonly referred to as “The Breakers.” The actual acreage of the parcel containing the Park (328-001-00) has not been confirmed (**Figure 21**). It is connected to the other parcel of land (328-003-15) containing the North Canal Boat Launch by a thin corridor of public land along the Keweenaw Waterway. Records of the Stanton Township Assessor indicate that parcel #328-003-15 is about 80 acres in size. This indicates that the actual size of North Canal Park parcel #328-001-00 is about 36.86 acres, as indicated on Google Earth Pro.

The boat launch is a little over one mile by road from the Park. Based on Google Earth, these two Township parcels and associated public land include approximately 8,715 feet (1.65 miles) of shoreline along the Keweenaw Waterway, and approximately 4,275 feet (.81 mile) of shoreline along Lake Superior.

The gravel entrance road to the Park is located at the end of the (Houghton) Canal Road, near the north entry of the Keweenaw Waterway (or Portage Canal) to Lake Superior. The Park area contains an approximately 15-acre parcel of land shoreward of the west breakwater into Lake Superior. This parcel is owned by the U.S. government, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and has been leased to Stanton Township on a 25-year basis for public recreational access. The lease is being considered for renewal in 2023 by the Township Board.

Primary Service Area: Northeast portion of Stanton Township. The Park is also popular with Houghton County residents and visitors to the “Copper Country.” It does not appear that any visitation surveys have been completed for Park, either prior to or after environmental remediation of the stamp sands in the early 2000s.

Amenities: North Canal Park features two beach areas, one along Lake Superior and the other inside the west breakwater (i.e., “breakers beach”) (**Figures 22 - 23**). Based on Google Earth, the length of Lake Superior beach within the Park is about 1,300 feet (.25 mile). This stamp sand beach extends another 3,000 feet (.57 mile) southwest of the Park boundary. The length of breakers beach is about 1,450 feet (.27 mile). The shoreline along Keweenaw Waterway extends another 7,265 feet (1.38 miles) south of breakers beach. Beach walking, swimming, picnicking, and sightseeing are common recreational activities within the Park. It is also a popular destination for sunsets and northern lights over western Lake Superior.

The copper stamp sands lakeward of the ordinary high-water mark are owned by the State of Michigan in a “public trust,” and managed by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) under the Great Lakes Submerged Land Act and other state law (EGLE 2023). The darker-color “stamp sands” are

composed of crushed rock and slag from historical copper stamp mill operations along the Lake Superior shoreline southwest of the North Entry (at Redridge, Edgemere, Beacon Hill, and Freda). The stamp sands have been deposited in the vicinity of the North Entry breakwaters by the northerly long-shore lake currents along the western shore of the Keweenaw Peninsula (www.geo.mtu.edu/KeweenawGeoheritage/Lake/Beach_Rocks.html). The forest lands of both Township parcels are managed by Stanton Township under a *Forest Stewardship Plan* (Green Timber, Inc. 2021) (**Figure 19**).



Figure 19. Township parcels containing the North Canal Park and North Canal Boat Launch.

North Canal Parcels

116.86 Acres Total

Section 28, T56N, R34W

Property #328-001-00

Special Features:

North Canal Township Park

Lake Superior Shorelands

Property #328-003-15

Special Features:

North Canal Boat Launch

Trail to North Entry

Keweenaw Waterway



Figure 20. North Canal parcels on Township assessor's map.



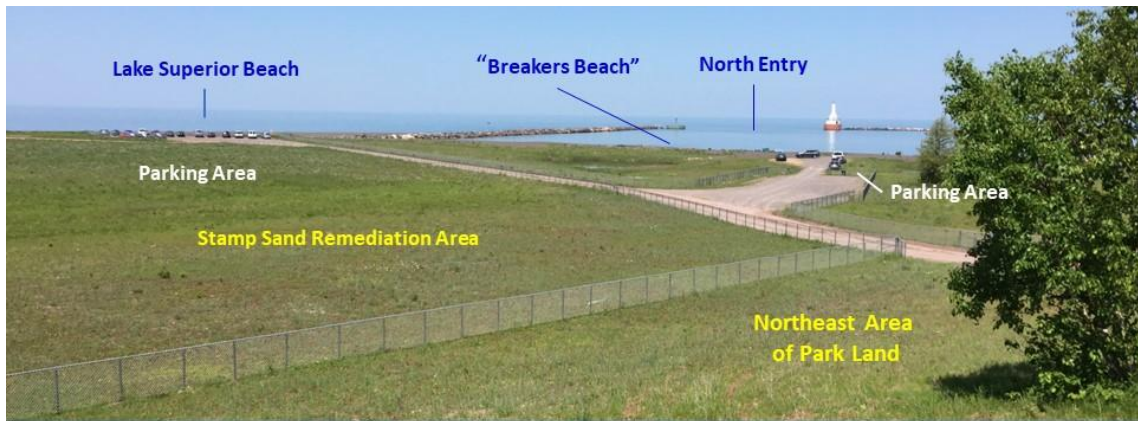


Figure 22. Northeast Area of North Canal Park and Associated Stamp Sand Beaches



Figure 23. North Canal Park Beaches

Facilities: The North Canal Park formerly provided primitive campsites, picnic tables, box toilets, playground equipment, water pump, barbecue grills, and horseshoe pits. However, the campground and other amenities were closed in 2005 to accommodate environmental mitigation of the stamp sands that comprise a large percentage of the nearby Lake Superior beach. The Park is currently open, but only provides a pavilion with picnic tables and one vault toilet (**Figure 24**). The vault toilet and a portion of the pavilion appear to be located on leased U.S. Government property (i.e., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).

Past Projects: Agate Beach Park lands were originally acquired by Stanton Township through the *Federal Lands to Parks Program* of the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service. In 1989, the Michigan DNR awarded a grant of \$37,500 to Stanton Township for construction of two vault toilets, pavilion/changing house, and a boat launch at “breakers beach.” A master plan was completed in 1997 to guide future development at North Canal Park, including ADA accommodations (WUPPDR 2010). However, no action has been taken on that master plan by Stanton Township. Instead, the Stanton Township Board is currently considering its options to renovate and re-open the former campground at North Canal Park.



Important Issues:

Renovation and Re-Opening of Campground

The North Canal Park campground was closed in 2005 to accommodate environmental remediation of the stamp sands in the vicinity of the North Entry. The campground was located on forested shorelands, about .25 mile from the stamp sand beach on Lake Superior (**Figure 21**). Resident respondents to the recent community recreation survey identified the re-opening the campground and preparing a master plan as the two most important needs for the North Canal Park (Stanton Township 2023a).

In response, the Stanton Township Board is considering its options for renovation and re-opening of the campground, including contracting with a third party to provide campground services and manage park operations. A site development plan and assessment of operational feasibility would benefit the Township Board in decision-making on the future of Park facilities.

In addition, many respondents to the community recreation survey provided written comments about the need to upgrade the existing toilet facilities at the Park. Presently, there is only one vault toilet available to Park visitors, located nearly a quarter mile from the Lake Superior beach and about .15 mile from breakers beach. The existing pavilion appears structurally stable, but needs upkeep soon to protect it for future use. Any plans for facility development should verify whether the vault toilet and pavilion are actually located within the area leased from the U.S. Government, and potential implications of the lease.

Protection of Beach Areas

In 2005, 32 acres of stamp sand southwest of the North Entry were capped with soil and selected species of vegetation (US EPA 2023, 2003). This work was completed as a component of the *Torch Lake Superfund Project* to remediate (i.e., reduce or eliminate) environmental damage from the stamp sands deposited during historical copper mill operations along Lake Superior. The remediation work in the vicinity of North Entry was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the former Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

There was strong support expressed for continued “protection of shorelands” by both Stanton Township residents and non-resident property owners in the recent community recreation survey (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). It is assumed that respondents were considering the stamp sand beach areas as well as the upland area containing the pavilion, vault toilet, and former campground facilities. The U.S. EPA continues to monitor the environmental quality of the beach remediation area (US EPA 2023).

Visitor Safety and Enjoyment

Stanton Township residents and non-resident property owners also strongly expressed concerns about the safety and experiences of visitors to the North Canal Park area (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). The large majority of these concerns involve depreciative behavior at the beach areas. Depreciative behavior is defined as “actions that degrade park resources or experiences of other visitors” (NPS 2023). Of most concern were the burning of wood pallets, furniture, and other materials that contain nails and other metal fasteners; beach parties that disturb the character and atmosphere of the place; broken glass and trash left on-site; and reckless use of ATV and vehicles.

The Stanton Township Board recently responded to these concerns by authorizing the placement of large fire rings and related signage at the beach areas (i.e., fires in designated areas only). Currently, there are no trash receptacles within the Agate Beach Park area. Additional signage to remind visitors to respect others by cleaning-up and packing-out their trash may also assist in reducing depreciative behavior. More serious behavioral issues may require intervention by the Houghton County Sheriff Department.

Due to multiple governmental entities present within the Agate Beach Park area, collaboration with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, State of Michigan, and Houghton County is important in resolving operational issues at the North Canal Park area. However, Stanton Township appears to be in the best position to “take the lead” in engaging various stakeholders on planning for the future of this popular destination for coastal recreation. An important stakeholder is Michigan Technological University, based on the observed regular use of the Park by its students.

Canal Road and Park Entrance Road

Only 11% of residents and 7% of non-resident property owners selected “Pave the entry road to North Canal Park” as an important recreation need in the recent community recreation survey (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). However, many respondents provided written comments about the poor condition and safety of the (Houghton) Canal Road, especially from its junction with the Liminga - Freda Road to the gravel entry road of Agate Beach Park. The most common concerns were the large number of potholes and decaying asphalt; small width of the shoulders along Canal Road for biking and walking; and perceived increases in traffic and speeding.

Some respondents believe that road traffic and concerns about safety will increase with further development of the Keweenaw Waters Resort on Canal Road, just outside the boundary of Stanton Township near the mouth of Coles Creek (<https://keweenawwatersresort.com>). Development plans include up to 24 rental cabins, a 46-site recreational vehicle (RV) park, and 23 tent sites (City of Houghton 2021a, 2021b, 2021c). The Resort currently has six rental cabins available that can house up to 60 people per night. The opening of an RV park with electric and sewer hook-ups, swimming area, and other amenities is planned for 2025.

North Canal Boat Launch

General Description: The North Canal Boat Launch and its gravel access road are located within a parcel of Township land (328-003-15) that is connected to the Agate Beach Park (328-001-00) by a thin corridor of public land along the Keweenaw Waterway (**Figures 19 – 20**). The boat launch parcel is sometimes referred to as the “old gravel pit” property. The boat launch is located within a small cove on the Keweenaw Waterway, a little over one mile by road from the Park, and about 1.3 miles from the mouth of the North Entry into Lake Superior (**Figure 25**).

The two parcels of Township land at the north end of the Canal Road total 116.86 acres. Records of the Stanton Township Assessor list indicate that #328-003-15 is about 80 acres in size. Based on Google Earth, these two parcels of Township land and associated public lands feature approximately 8,715 feet (1.65 miles) of shoreline along the Keweenaw Waterway, and approximately 4,275 feet (.81 mile) of shoreline along Lake Superior.

Primary Service Area: Northeast portion of Stanton Township. The Park is also popular with Houghton County residents who enjoy fishing and sight-seeing on Lake Superior. It does not appear that any visitation surveys have been completed at the boat launch.

Amenities: The boat launch is located within a remote, forested area of land bordering the Keweenaw Waterway (also called Portage Canal). The site provides relatively close access to Lake Superior and the northern section of the Keweenaw Waterway for recreational boating and fishing. The northern shoreline of the Keweenaw Waterway within Stanton Township is largely undeveloped. A substantial stretch of this shoreline is held within a seawall of steel sheet pilings, maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Facilities: This modern boat launch was constructed about 10 years ago to replace an obsolete boat launch formerly located at breakers beach within the North Entry. Facilities include a gravel entrance road, parking lot, concrete ramp and two temporary docks, and a portable toilet (**Figures 26 – 27**).

Past Projects: In 2008, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) awarded a Waterways Grant of \$335,125 to Stanton Township for construction of a boat launch along the Keweenaw Waterway. The project took place in 2012 - 13, after mitigation of wetlands lost or negatively impacted by the construction. In that regard, Stanton Township entered into a conservation easement in 2012 with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to preserve 20.4 acres of land (including 13.6 acres of wetlands) within the Township parcel south of the boat launch (MDEQ 2012) (**Figure 25**). The Township also agreed to abandon former trails and to not build any new “paths, trails, or roads” within the conservation easement area as well as other land use restrictions.

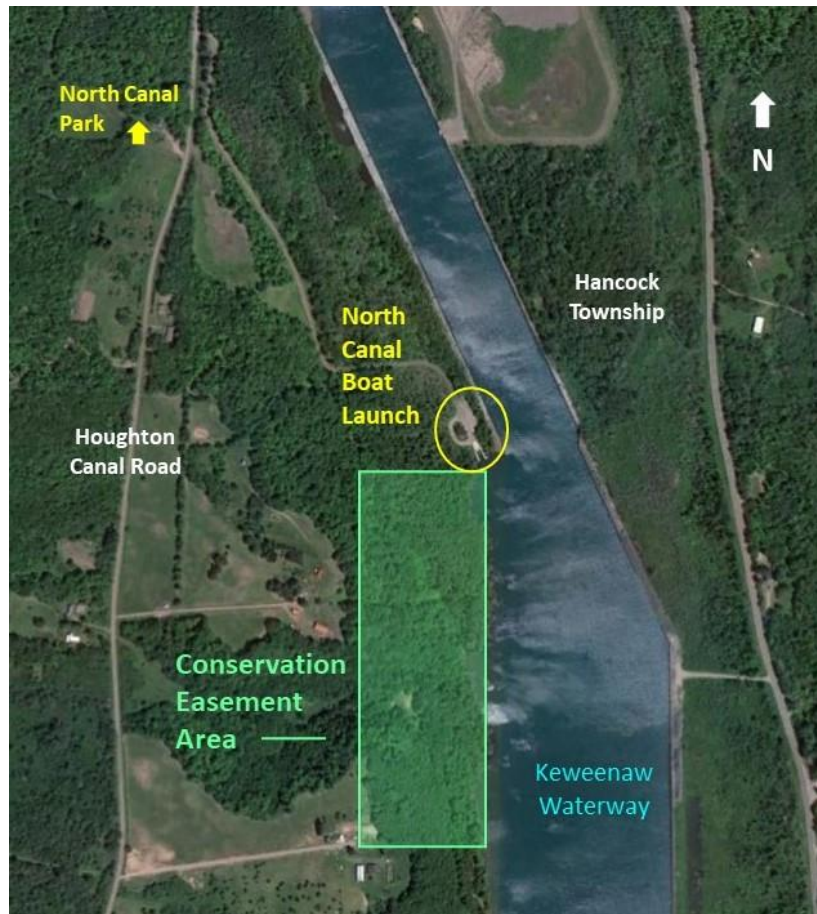


Figure 25. North Canal Boat Launch and Conservation Easement Area.

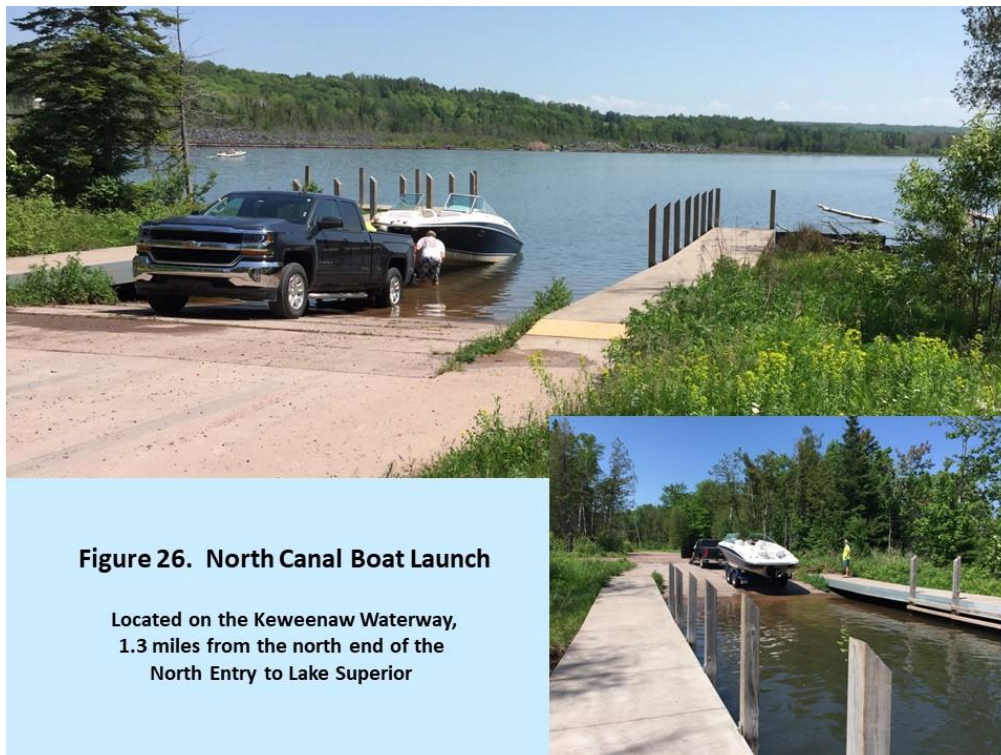


Figure 26. North Canal Boat Launch

Located on the Keweenaw Waterway,
1.3 miles from the north end of the
North Entry to Lake Superior



Figure 27. North Canal Boat Launch
Entrance Road, Parking Lot, and Vault Toilet

Important Issues

Trail Development: An “unofficial” ATV and walking trail formerly extended from the southern end of the boat launch parcel to the Agate Beach Park. In 2012, Stanton Township entered into an agreement with the State of Michigan to abandon the old trail and to *not* build new “trails, paths, or roads” within the conservation easement area south of the boat launch (**Figure 25**). Instead, the concept of a walking trail connecting the boat launch with the Agate Beach Park was suggested at a 2022 business meeting of the Stanton Township Board. However, fewer respondents to the recent community recreation survey considered “Creation of a walking trail from the North Canal Boat Launch to North Canal Park” as the most important need for the Park than “Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal Property,” “Re-open the North Canal Park Campground,” and “Protection of the beach and shorelands” (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b).

Entry Road: Paving the entry road to the North Canal Boat Launch was selected by only 11% of resident respondents and 7% of non-resident property owners in the recent community recreation survey (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b).

Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome)

General Description: The Oskar Recreation Center is located on 1.88 acres of Township land in the unincorporated village of Oskar (**Figure 28**). It is commonly called the “Kenner Dome,” in memorial to a former resident who was instrumental in the construction and operation of the facility. The parcel features the grounds of the Recreation Center, and a portion of Schlot Creek and associated wetlands. It is located on Canal Road, about 1.5 miles north of its junction with the Liminga – Freda Road.

Primary Service Area: Northeast portion of Stanton Township. The Center also receives an unknown amount of use by residents of the Houghton - Hancock area.

Amenities: Access to Schlot Creek, a freshwater stream flowing into Oskar Bay on the Keweenaw Waterway. The stream and nearby wetlands provide an opportunity for fishing kayaking/canoeing, and wildlife viewing.

Facilities: This parcel of Township land contains a large, wood-frame building that houses the ice rink, gravel access road and parking lot, outdoor basketball court, sand volleyball, and level area near Schlot Creek for picnicking (**Figure 29 - 31**). The ice rink includes a locker room, and a portable toilet is available for visitor use. Based on the community recreation survey, the facilities are still well-used by local residents as well as some non-resident visitors (Stanton Township 2023a). Access to the facility could use improvement - ADA (2) accessible.

Past Projects: In 1993, the MDNR awarded a \$26,100 grant to Stanton Township to “provide additional recreation opportunities at the Oskar Bay Recreation Center, including a fishing pier, canoe launch, and day use facilities” (including two restrooms).

Important Issues:

Facility Maintenance: There were several written comments by respondents to the recent community recreation survey about the lack of routine maintenance and general upkeep of the ice rink building (Stanton Township 2023a). In particular, the vault toilets installed in the restrooms are not working correctly.

Visitor Enjoyment: There were also several written comments by respondents about instances of depreciative behavior at the Center that decreased their enjoyment and use of the facilities. In particular, rude behavior by youthful visitors was mentioned (Stanton Township 2023a).

Entry Road and Parking Lot: Respondents to the recent community survey considered “Paving the parking lot and entry road” to the Oskar Recreation Center as the least important need from a list of five other important needs for Township properties and facilities (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b).



Figure 28. Location of Oskar Recreation Center within the Village of Oskar.



Figure 29. Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome)



Figure 30. Ice Rink within the Oskar Recreation Center.



Figure 31. Other Recreation Opportunities at the Oskar Recreation Center Area

Redridge Dams Site

General Description: This historical site is adjacent to the unincorporated village of Redridge, on the paved road to Freda. It is comprised of two parcels of land deeded to Stanton Township by Mead Corporation in 1992. The two parcels total about 14 acres in size and feature two historic dams on the Salmon-Trout River and a portion of the associated impoundment (**Figure 32 - 33**). The site also includes a 3-acre “triangular” parcel of remnant land on the south and north side of the Freda Road. Prior to construction of the current roadway over the River, this parcel contained the historical overflow channel from the Salmon-Trout River impoundment. A small Township fire station is located on a village lot near the Redridge Dams Site.

Primary Service Area: Stanton Township residents and non-resident property owners. Based on anecdotal information and observations, the site is also popular with other Houghton County residents and visitors to the Copper Country who are interested in the history and heritage of the copper mining era in the western Upper Peninsula. It does not appear that any visitation surveys have been completed at the site.



Redridge Parcels

Section 21, T55N, R35W

Redridge Dams Site

Property #221-006-10
#220-003-10

14 Acres

Special Features:

Historical Wood Crib Dam
and Steel Dam

Salmon-Trout River

Township Fire Station Lot
Property #328-003-15

.328 Acres

Remnant Property
Property #220-001-00

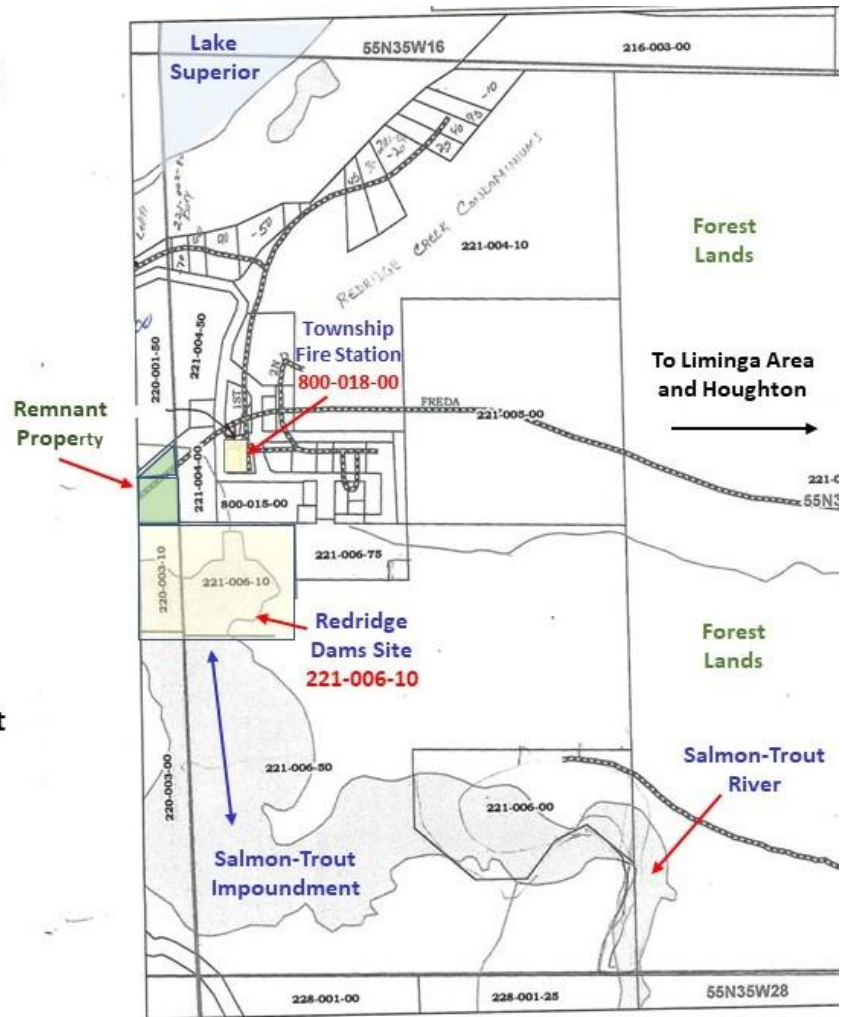


Figure 33. Stanton Township-owned parcels in Redridge.

Amenities: The two dams on the Salmon-Trout River are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by the National Park Service (Rutter 1990) (Figure 34). The timber crib and rock dam was built in 1893 - 94. It was replaced by a steel dam in 1900 - 01, the largest existing dam of this type in the world (Reynolds 1989). The dams are historically associated with the operations of the Atlantic and Baltic copper stamp mills on nearby Lake Superior shorelands. The current unincorporated village of Redridge was originally established as a “company town” engaged in work at these lakeshore stamp mills. In 1986, the Michigan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers dedicated the steel dam as a Michigan Historic Civil Engineering Landmark (Monette 1992:72).

The site also contains a portion of the Salmon-Trout River impoundment (Figure 35), and is commonly visited by residents and non-resident property owners of Stanton Township for walking, sight-seeing, wildlife viewing, and fishing (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). However, there is limited direct access to the River for kayaking or canoeing.

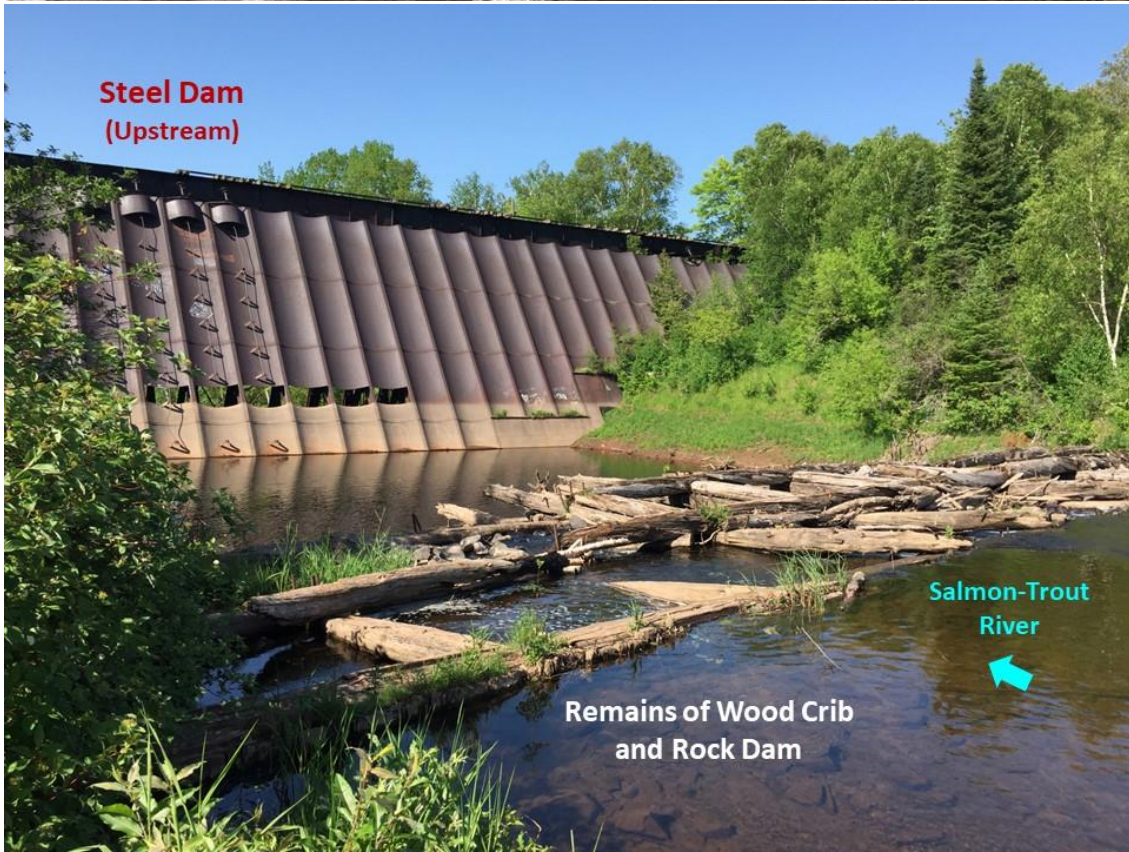
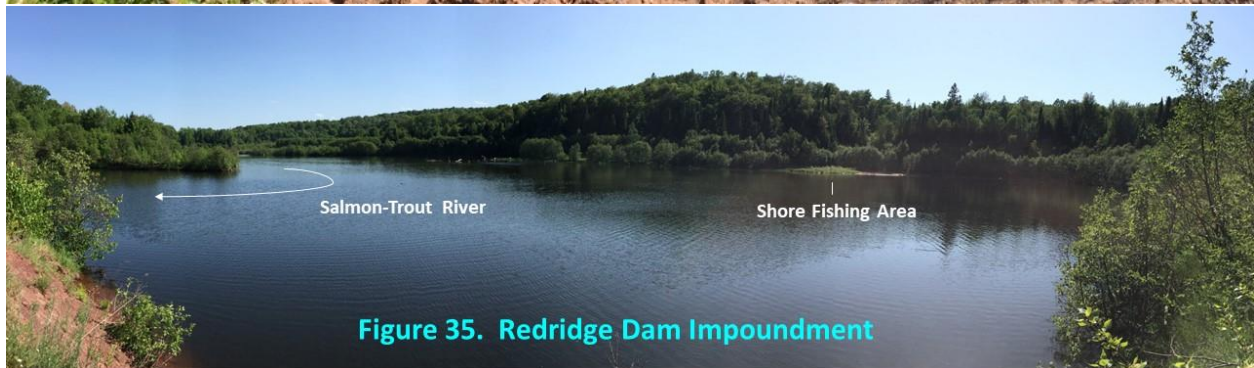


Figure 34. Redridge Steel Dam on the Salmon-Trout River.



Facilities: Stanton Township does *not* maintain any roads, trails, or facilities at the Redridge Dams Site. However, the site is commonly visited by Stanton Township residents and non-resident property owners (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b), and provides significant, year-round outdoor recreation opportunities to visitors. (It is the only area of public lands along the Township’s Lake Superior coastal zone extending from North Canal Park to Agate Beach Park.) An unimproved, dirt parking area is located adjacent to the Freda Road, about 400 - 500 feet from the steel dam (**Figure 36**).



Past Projects: The Stanton Township Board authorized a Study Group for the Redridge Dams Site in 2007. The Study Group engaged stakeholders from government agencies, nonprofit organizations, Michigan Technological University (MTU), and local residents to conduct studies of the dams, impoundment, and Salmon-Trout River from 2007 - 2010 (Redridge Study Group 2009). The site development concept recommended by the Study Group was a *community heritage park*, with a research component in collaboration with MTU. Additional site studies after 2010 were conducted under the supervision of Dr. Stanley Vitton, professor, MTU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (Stanton Township 2023c).

The timber crib dam and rock dam is currently listed as a *significant hazard dam* by the Dam Safety Office of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The steel dam is *not* considered a regulated dam by EGLE. However, the 130-year-old timber crib and rock dam has been deteriorating significantly during recent years, compounded by the Father’s Day Flood of 2018, which damaged both dams. In response, Stanton Township secured funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to remove debris from the “pool” between the dams, and to stabilize the concrete foundation on the downstream side of the steel dam. Most of the stabilization work has been completed, but the FEMA project is still on-going.

Important Issues

Dam Safety:

In 2023, Stanton Township submitted a full proposal to the Michigan EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program with the goals to (1) eliminate a significant hazard dam, (2) return the Salmon Trout River to a free-flowing condition, while preventing sea lamprey migration upstream, and in turn (3) allow formal consultations about the development of other public benefits at and near the Redridge Dams Site. Although the proposal was *not* funded with 2023 grant funds, the Michigan EGLE Dam Safety Office encouraged Stanton Township to re-submit the proposal in the next funding cycle. The proposal is on file with Stanton Township, and provides the most comprehensive assemblage and review of past studies on the Redridge Dams and impoundment (Stanton Township 2023c).

Stanton Township believes that resolution of the dam safety issue and return of the Salmon Trout River to a free-flowing condition will provide important opportunities to provide other substantive public benefits at the site. This could include interpretation of the historic dams and their role in copper stamp mill operations; sea lamprey control; fishery and stream restoration and protection; and provision of recreation facilities to enhance visitor experiences.

Visitor Safety and Enjoyment:

Stanton Township does not currently provide recreational trails or facilities at the Redridge Dams Site. To deter automobile access and camping, the Township has blocked an old dirt road down to the area upstream of the steel dam as well as the new roadway to the downstream portion of the site. During 2007 - 08, volunteers with the Redridge Dams Study Group enclosed both ends of the Copper Range railroad trestle over the steel dam with wire mesh and barbed wire, to discourage access onto the trestle by visitors. However, the trestle may be considered an “attractive nuisance,” requiring additional attention by the Township.

The Salmon-Trout River downstream of the steel dam is a popular destination for anglers, especially trout fisherman. In addition, the impoundment provides year-round opportunities to fish for rainbow trout, brook trout, perch and other species in a “lake-like” setting. However, visitors must portage a kayak or canoe from the parking area along Freda Road in order to access the Salmon-Trout River (i.e., there is no road access down to the River).

The sandy area near the wood crib and rock dam has served as a “party spot” for local youth and MTU students for many decades. The resulting trash and old campfires have required occasional clean-up of the area by Township residents. In addition, the steel dam has become a popular “easel” for graffiti art, some of which might be considered offensive by visitors (Figure 37).



Figure 37.
Campfires,
Trash, and
Graffiti

Future Site Development:

The preparation of a master plan would be an important next step in protection and development of this unique historical site, after resolution of the dam safety issue. In that regard, about half of Stanton Township residents (48%) and non-resident property owners (59%) who responded to the recent community recreation survey selected “Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan for the Site” as the most important current need. Nearly 30% of those respondents selected “Transfer the Redridge Dams Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities.” Only 7% of residents and 9% of non-resident property owners selected “Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities” (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b).

About 17% of Stanton Township residents and 20% of non-resident property owners indicated on the community recreation survey that they participate frequently in “visiting historical sites.”

Stanton Ballfield

General Description: This 40-acre parcel of Township land contains a baseball field and associated facilities (**Figures 38 - 39**). The remaining acreage of forest lands is managed by Stanton Township under a *Forest Stewardship Plan* (Green Timber, Inc. 2021). The ballfield is located on a gravel road near the Liminga – Freda Road, and adjacent to agricultural fields.

Primary Service Area: Northeast portion of Stanton Township, including the Liminga area and lakeshore communities of Redridge, Beacon Hill, and Freda.

Amenities: A well-maintained ballfield with forest land behind the outfield fence. The facility is home to the Stanton Wildcats community baseball team. During the copper mining era, many communities in the region hosted baseball teams. The ballfield also hosts high school and twilight league games.

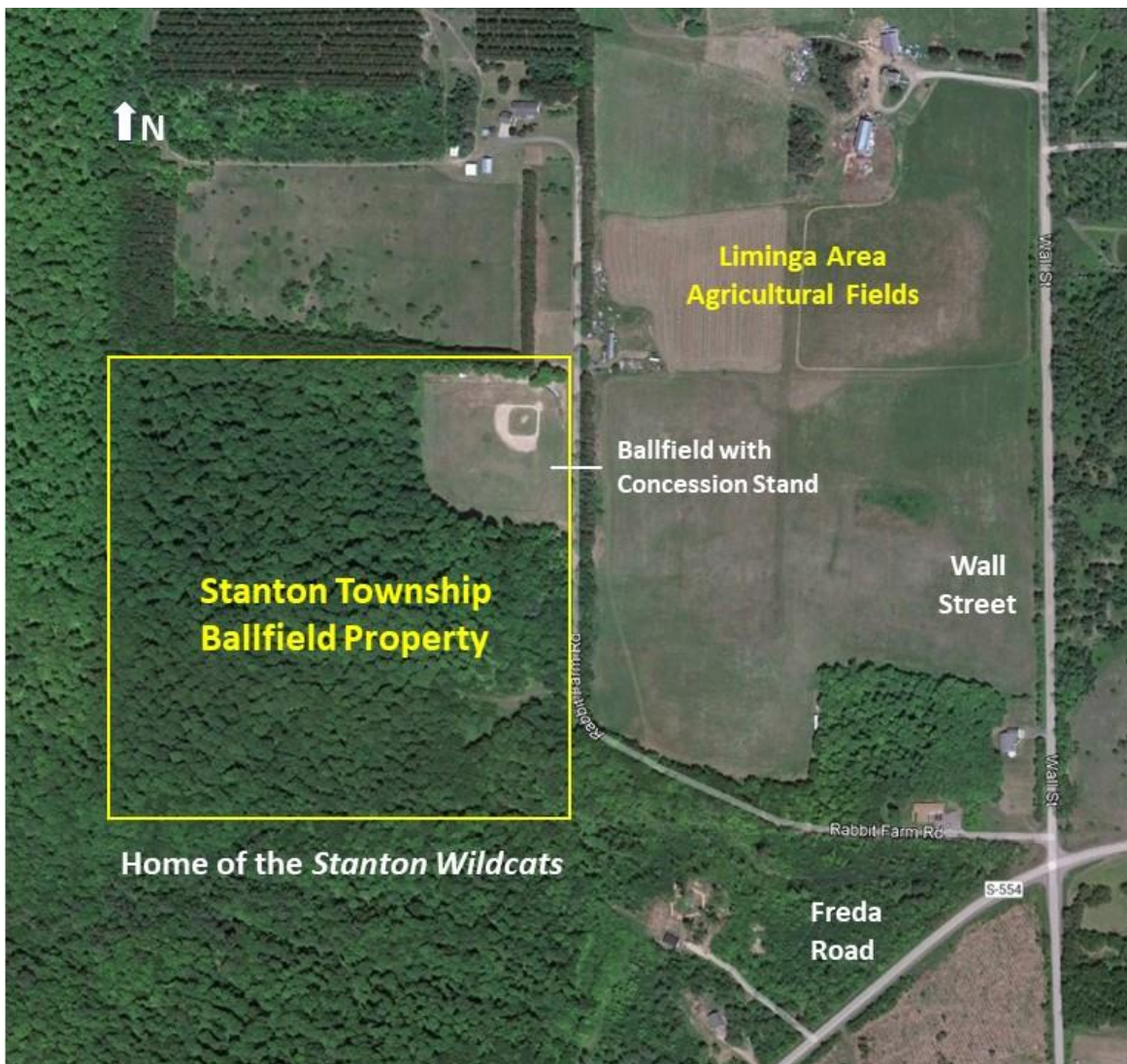


Figure 38. Stanton Township ballfield property.

Stanton Ball Field Parcel

Section 15, T55N, R35W

Property #215-015-00

40 Acres

Special Features:

Home field of Stanton Wildcats community baseball team



Figure 39. Township parcel including the Stanton Township Ballfield.

Facilities: Baseball field with dugouts, seating for spectators, picnic tables, concession stand, storage shed, scoreboard, and portable toilet (Figure 40).

Past Projects: The ballfield and associated facilities are maintained by Stanton Township and community volunteers.

Current Issues: None



Figure 40. Stanton Township Ballfield



Toivola Recreation Center

General Description: The Toivola Recreation Center is located next to the Toivola Firehall on the Misery Bay Road (**Figures 41 – 42**). These facilities were constructed on the southwest corner of a 20-acre parcel of Township land. The remaining acreage of forest lands is managed by Stanton Township under a *Forest Stewardship Plan* (Green Timber, Inc. 2021).

Primary Service Area: The Toivola – Agate Beach – Misery Bay Areas in the southwest portion of Stanton Township. The building and grounds are available for a variety of community activities, including ice skating and hockey during the winter season. The facility is commonly used by local residents (Stanton Township 2023a) as well as visitors from Adams Township.



Figure 41. Location of the Toivola Recreation Center and Firehall.

**Toivola Recreation Center
and Fire Hall Parcel**

Section 03, T53N, R36W

Property #003-015-00

20 Acres

Special Features:

Ice Rink for Hockey
and Skating

Meeting Room and
Kitchenette

Fire Hall for Agate
Beach – Misery Bay Area

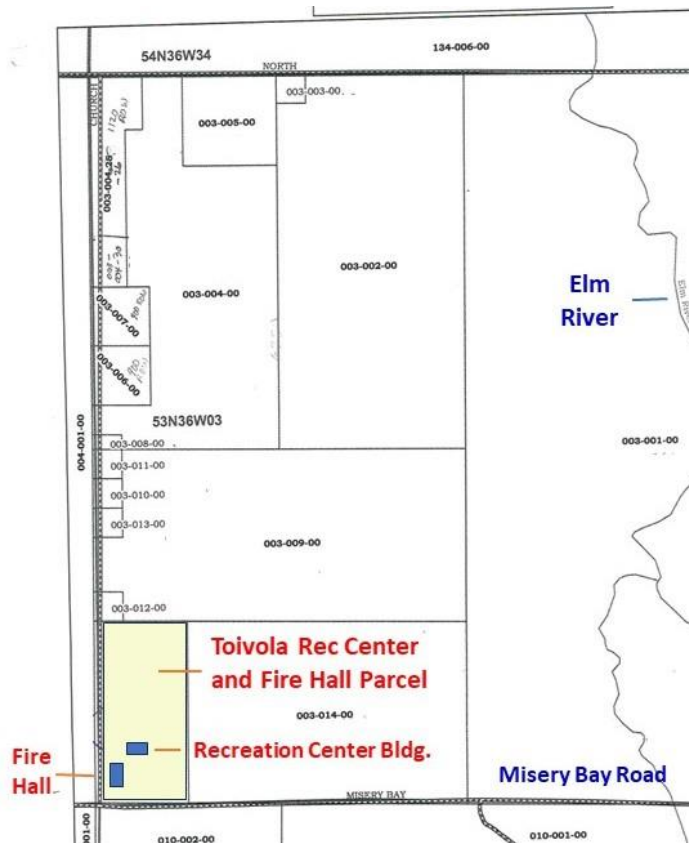


Figure 42. Parcel of land containing the Toivola Recreation Center.

Amenities: The only indoor community recreation center within a region extending from South Range south toward Ontonagon. It is surrounded by forest lands.

Facilities: Wood-frame building housing an ice rink that can also be used for other recreational activities or community purposes (**Figure 43**). The building also contains a kitchenette and small meeting room. The Recreation Center is easily accessible from Misery Bay Road and has a level parking lot with ADA (3) accessibility.

Past Projects: In 1999, the MDNR Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) awarded a \$25,000 grant for construction of a multi-purpose, indoor recreational facility to provide for ice skating, hockey, basketball, and other recreational activities. The facility is maintained by Stanton Township and local residents.

Important Issues: The only prominent issue identified during the recreation inventory and survey was the poor condition of flooring in the Toivola Recreation Center. Local residents have suggested replacement of the flooring with concrete at past business meetings of the Township Board.

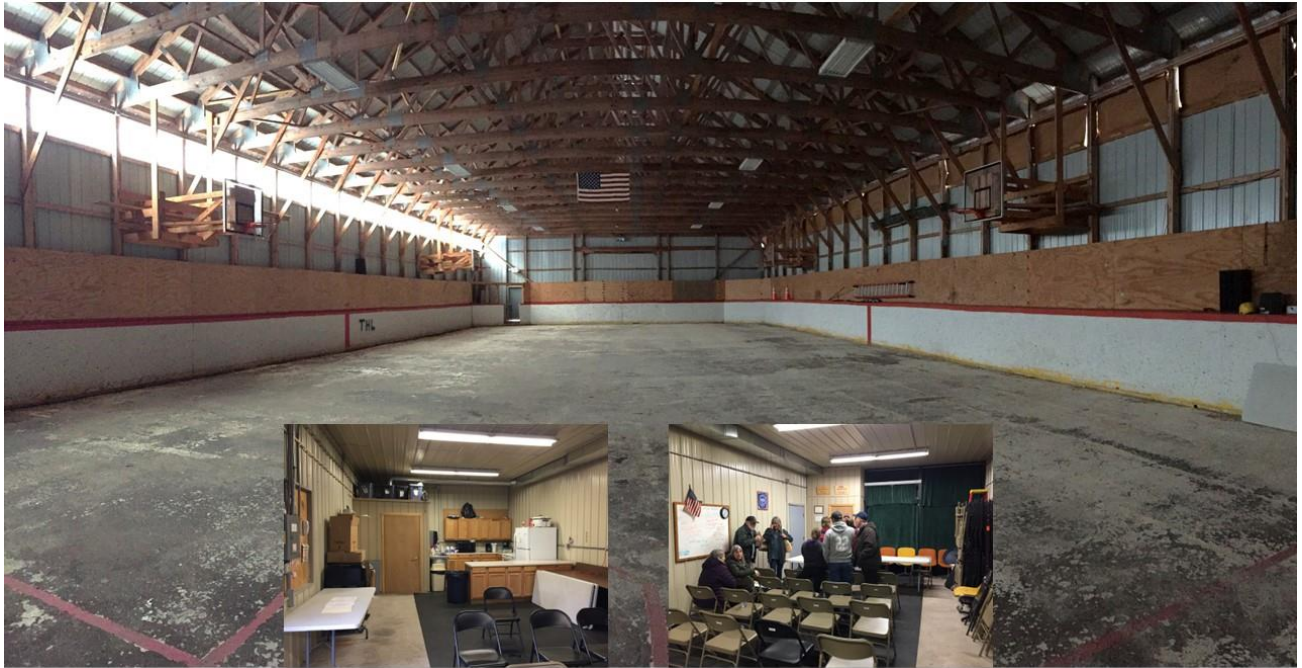


Figure 43. Interior of Toivola Recreation Center, with inserts of meeting room and kitchenette.

Other Township-Owned Recreation Facilities

Township Hall and Firehall (Houghton Canal Road)

The Township Hall contains offices and a public meeting room to conduct Township business. The other buildings on this 10.8-acre parcel of land are the main Firehall and a Fire Practice Building (**Figure 44**). The Township Hall and Firehall occasionally host community recreational events. The facilities are easily accessed from the Houghton Canal Road and include a parking lot that is ADA (3) accessible. The Township Board maintains a website about Stanton Township at www.stantontownship.com.

E.B. Holman School

The E.B. Holman School is the only K-8 community school in Stanton Township. Students usually continue their education at either Jeffers High School in Painesdale, or Houghton High School. Certain facilities and grounds of E.B. Holman School are available to Township residents for recreational use during specific days and times. The grounds include playground equipment, swings, outdoor basketball court, baseball field, and indoor gym with a basketball court. The parking lot is ADA (3) accessible. Additional information on E.B. Holman School is available at www.stpsd.us.



Figure 44. Stanton Township Hall and Firehall.

Other Recreational Opportunities within Stanton Township

MDNR Snowmobile / ATV Trails

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) formerly maintained ATV/snowmobile Trails #120 and #121 within Adams and Stanton Township (“Freda Loop”). The route of Trail #120 includes the Beacon Hill – Toivola Road. It connects with Trail #121, which runs from Mill Mine Junction (near Atlantic Mine) to Redridge. It is also called the BA Route (**Figure 45**). These trails run along the railbeds of the former Copper Range Railroad, which was the primary transportation link between the copper mines on the South Range and the copper stamp mills along Lake Superior in Stanton Township.

These trails are currently closed by the MDNR due to maintenance needs, and to assess the benefits, costs, and public support for continued upkeep by the State of Michigan. Several respondents to the recent community recreation survey provided comments in support of re-opening the trails to ATV and snowmobile use.

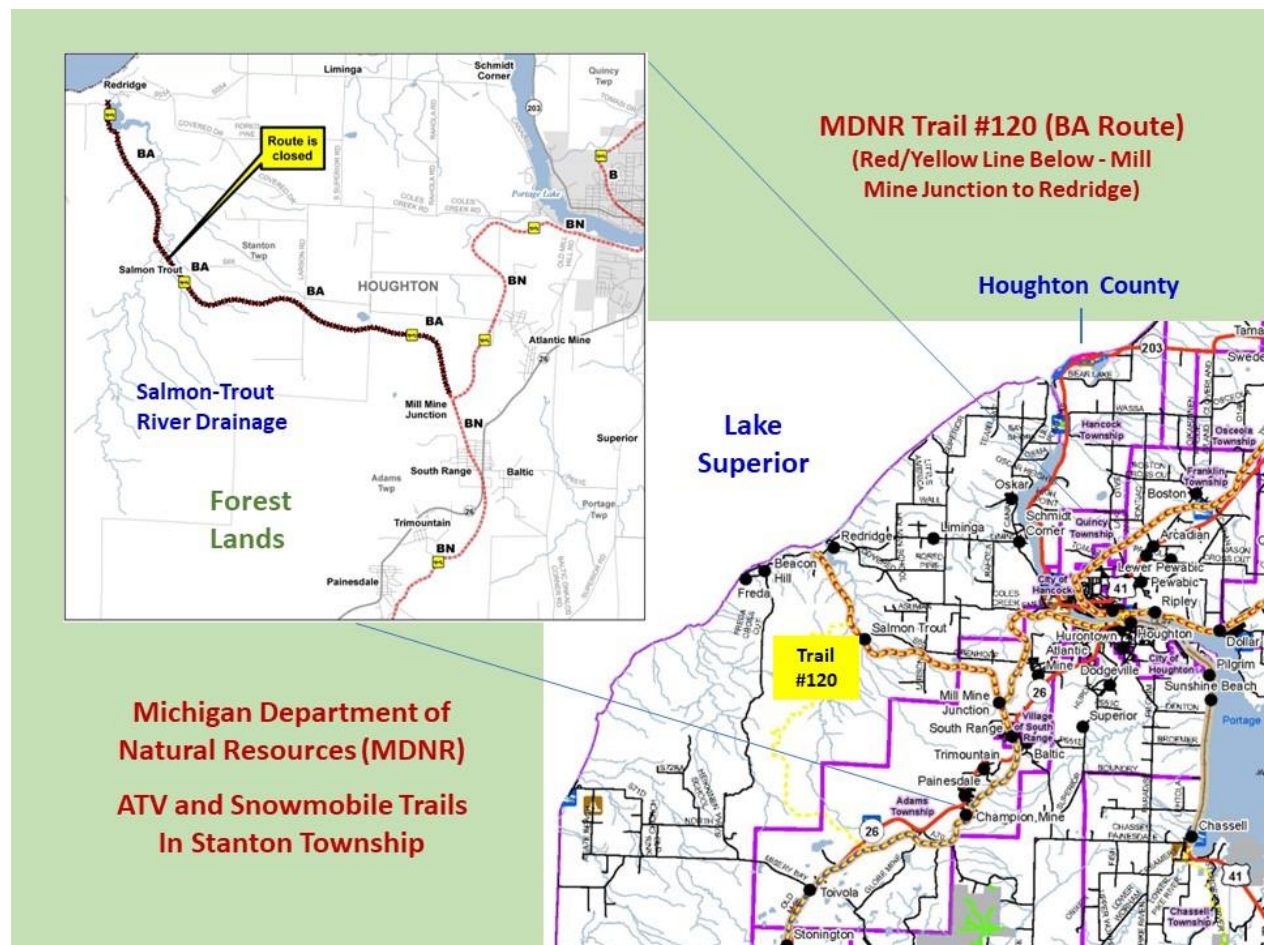


Figure 45. MDNR ATV and Snowmobile Trails in Stanton Township.

Western U.P. Water Trail

The Western U.P. Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) has promoted the Western U.P. Water Trail for several years, in coordination with the EGLE Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program and Michigan Sea Grant Program (www.michiganwatertrails.org/uptrails.asp). The Western U.P. Water Trail extends from the Wisconsin border along the western and southern shore of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (**Figure 46**).

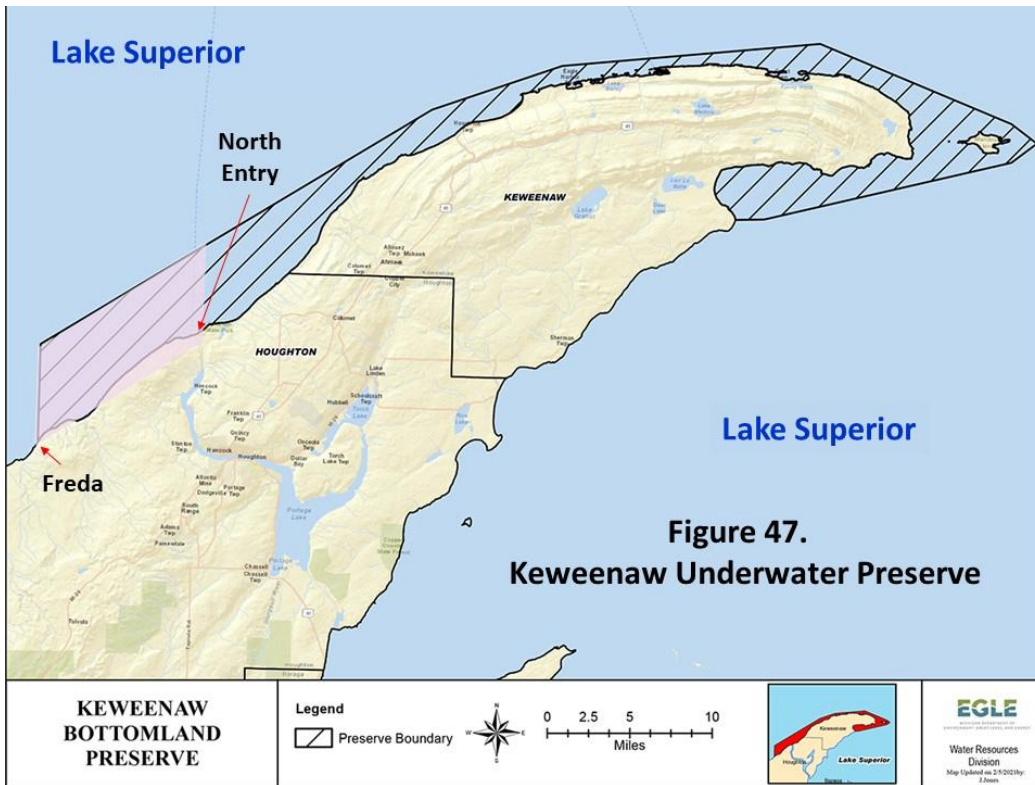


Figure 46. Kayaking western Lake Superior (Keweenaw Peninsula).

Keweenaw Underwater Preserve

The Keweenaw State Bottomland Preserve (commonly known as the Keweenaw Underwater Preserve) was established in 1991 under Part 761 Aboriginal Records and Antiquities of Michigan Public Act No. 451 of 1994, as amended (MCL 324.76101 et seq.) (**Figure 47**). The Keweenaw Underwater Preserve includes Lake Superior submerged lands extending from the North Entry (of the Keweenaw Waterway) to Freda. It contains several historical shipwrecks, remains of the copper stamps mills, and other underwater cultural resources and geological features.

Currently, a total of 13 Michigan underwater preserves have been designated on Michigan's Great Lakes submerged lands. The Preserves are designated by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); Great Lakes submerged lands are managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/shipwrecks/michigan-underwater-preserves-system). Other stakeholders include the Michigan Underwater Preserves Council, Inc. (www.michiganpreserves.org), and the Michigan Sea Grant Extension (www.canr.msu.edu/resources/msu-extension-water-programs-lakes-streams-and-watersheds).



Heikkinen School

The former Heikkinen School has been preserved in a relatively intact condition by a private owner (**Figure 48**). It represents an important historical era of life in the Toivola - Agate Beach Area, especially to residents of Finnish ethnicity.



Figure 48. The historical Heikkinen School in the Toivola – Agate Beach Area.

Marsin Preserve

The 40-acre Marsin Preserve was established in 1999 by the Keweenaw Land Trust. It features walking trails through forested areas and a white cedar swamp. The Preserve's trailhead is on the Red Brick Road about 1.0 miles by road from the Oskar Recreation Center. It is open year-round to the public for low impact recreational or educational purposes.

Nearby Recreational Opportunities

Misery Bay Boat Launch (Bohemia Township)

This Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) boat launch is located at the end of the Misery Bay Road. The facility is comprised of a concrete ramp (without docks), parking lot, and a vault toilet (**Figure 49**). Overnight camping is prohibited.



Figure 49. Misery Bay Boat Launch on the Misery River, Bohemia Township.

Other nearby recreational opportunities include:

- Lake Superior and the Keweenaw Waterway for boating, fishing and sightseeing
- Numerous Commercial Forest Act lands for fishing, hunting, and trapping
- McLain State Park (Hancock Township)
- Houghton / Hancock for indoor recreational and athletic venues

In addition, there are many historical, cultural, natural, and environmental attractions and associated hospitality facilities throughout Houghton County and the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan (www.visitkeweenaw.com).

ADA Statement

A full ADA assessment was not completed as part of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan. However, the number of ADA accessible parking spots are provided in this recreation inventory for the various Township recreation facilities. A comprehensive ADA assessment should be considered by the Stanton Township Board at a later date. ADA assessments are also recommended prior to any future improvements to Township recreation properties and facilities. The assessments should include comparisons with the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*, and *Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas* (MDNR 2021), as appropriate. ADA assessments are especially important because of the relatively aged population of Stanton Township. An estimated 55.2% of the resident population are age 55 or older, and 34.1% are age 65 or older (U.S. Census Bureau 2020). **Note:** See the Addendum for updated information on the ADA assessment and action plan.

Natural Resource Inventory

An inventory of natural resources was not completed as a component of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan. Guidelines for the development of community park and recreation plans state that a natural resource inventory would “typically be conducted by creating a map of each type of resource or feature considered important for conservation purposes, such as wetlands, soils, surface water, forests, and wildlife habitat as well as maps of political boundaries, roads and parcel maps. These individual maps (or data layers) are usually incorporated into a geographic information system (GIS). They then can be combined with each other to determine the relative conservation value of different lands and the relationship of these lands to each other” (MDNR 2021:8).

An important purpose of natural resource inventories is “to identify open-space land that may be desirable for future protection and/or public access through acquisition or other means due to the natural features present, as well as an accounting of land that is already protected” (MDNR 2021:8). In the case of Stanton Township, the recent community recreation survey found that a significant percentage of residents identified the need for public access to Lake Superior near Freda, and to the Salmon-Trout River mouth at Redridge (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). Currently, all Lake Superior shorelands are in private ownership from North Canal Park to the Agate Beach Park.

Geographic information system (GIS) services are available to Stanton Township from the Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region (WUPPDR) and Houghton County, as needed for the purposes of the Township. These services would be especially beneficial in developing natural resource inventories.

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Section 4.0 - Description of the Planning Process

Stanton Township does *not* currently have a Planning Commission, or a dedicated Park and Recreation Committee. In addition, its most recent 5-Year Recreation Plan is nearly 14 years old (WUPPDR 2010). In response, the Stanton Township Board approved the preparation of a 5-Year Recreation Plan during its June 2022 business meeting, with the aim of better managing recreation opportunities at Township properties and facilities. An approved plan is required to be eligible for several different grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

To accomplish this aim, the Township Board approved a proposal from Maritime Heritage Consulting (MHC) of Sagola, Michigan to prepare and submit a *final draft* 5-Year Recreation Plan by early 2023. However, the deadline was extended for the park and recreation consultant to assist Stanton Township with a MDNR SPARK grant proposal for renovation of the Agate Beach Boat Launch as well as a major proposal for resolution of dam safety issues at the Redridge Dams Site.

The steps in the planning process to complete the *Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028* are summarized below:

- Background research for the community description and other sections of the Plan, including primary documents on file at the Stanton Township Hall, finalized data from the 2020 U.S. Census, and trusted on-line sources.

(Completed throughout the project)

- Qualitative survey of the Stanton Township Board to assess the perspectives of local government leadership regarding recreation opportunities in the Township. The responses also assisted in preparation of questions for a community recreation survey.

(Completed during October 2022)

- Inventory of Township-owned recreation properties and facilities as well as nearby recreational opportunities.

(The consultant conducted site visits to all Township-owned properties and facilities over the period of one calendar year, from late summer 2022 through summer 2023. The site visits included conversations with residents and visitors as well as photographic documentation of these properties and facilities. Google Earth Pro was used to visualize the properties in relation to regional population centers, roadways, and other recreation opportunities.)

- Scientific survey of Stanton Township residents and non-resident property owners, in coordination with Stanton Township. The MDNR considers a community survey to be a key component in the process of park and recreation planning (MDNR 2021).

(The final draft report on the mail survey of Stanton Township residents was submitted to the Township Board on May 19, 2023. The final draft report on the mail survey of non-resident property owners was submitted on September 5, 2023.)

- A *final draft* 5-Year Recreation Plan was submitted to the Stanton Township Board by the park and recreation consultant in early October 2023 for review and comment. The consultant then met with Township Board members at a scheduled special meeting on November 1, 2023 to discuss their final comments.

(The resultant final draft version of the Plan was approved by the Township Board, and was posted to the Stanton Township website on November 10 for the required 30-day public review and comment period.)

- *30-Day Public Review and Comment Period:* The Stanton Township Board requested public comments on the *final draft* 5-Year Recreation Plan by postal mail or online during the period of November 10 through December 11, 2023.

(The notices of public review and a summary of comments is provided in Section 8: Supporting Documents.)

- *Public Hearing:* The Stanton Township Board scheduled a public hearing on the *final draft* Plan on January 3, 2024.

(The notice for and minutes of the public hearing are provided in Section 8: Supporting Documents.)

- *Adoption of the 5-Year Recreation Plan:* The Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028 was unanimously adopted by the Township Board on January 3, 2024.

(Certification of the Plan's adoption and minutes from the Township business meeting are provided in Section 8: Supporting Documents.)

- The adopted Plan was uploaded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). MiGrants website on January 17, 2024 for review and approval by the MDNR.

- After approval by the MDNR, the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan: 2024 - 2028 will be posted on the Stanton Township website for reference by Township residents, non-resident property owners, and others interested in the recreational opportunities and challenges of Stanton Township. In addition, the approved Plan will be transmitted to the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) and Houghton County Planning Commission for incorporation into regional planning documents.

References Cited

MDNR. 2021. Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks & Recreation Plans. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Lansing, MI.

Section 5.0 - Description of the Public Input Process

The Stanton Township Board approved the preparation of a 5-Year Recreation Plan during its June 2022 business meeting, with the aim of better managing recreation opportunities at Township properties and facilities. A scientific survey of Township residents and non-resident property owners was preferred by the Township Board as the primary means of public engagement and input. (The prior recreation plan is nearly 14 years old and did not include a community recreation survey.)

Community Recreation Survey

Questions for the community recreation survey were prepared by the park and recreation consultant in consultation with the Stanton Township Board, and after review of *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans* (MDNR 2021). The initial survey questions were also based on a review of selected professional recreation surveys and discussions with Township residents and visitors throughout the recreation inventory phase of the project.

A qualitative survey of the Stanton Township Board was then conducted by the park and recreation consultant during August - September 2022. The purposes of this email survey were to assess the perspectives of local government leadership regarding recreation opportunities in the Township, and to pre-test initial survey questions for the larger community recreation survey. The survey results for the Township Board are summarized below (MHC 2022:5).

All board members agree that Stanton Township provides great opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as hockey and ice skating at the Kenner (Oskar) Dome and the Toivola Recreation Center. Township property used for outdoor recreation by residents and visitors include two Township Parks that adjoin Lake Superior (Agate Beach, North Canal), the boat launch on the Keweenaw Waterway, the Redridge Dam Site on the Salmon-Trout River, and the Stanton Ball Field. However, many of the facilities at the Township parks and other properties are either in disrepair or in need of regular maintenance. Vandalism and littering are an associated issue at these Township properties.

In addition, most board members believe that the focus of park and recreation operations should be the needs of the local community (i.e., Township residents and property owners who pay taxes). A couple board members indicated that Stanton Township should consider tourism as well as community needs in decision-making. Currently, the Agate Beach Park is the only Township property

that generates enough revenues to offset operational costs. Supervision and maintenance of Township parks, the boat launch, Redridge Dams Site, Stanton Ball Field, Kenner (Oskar) Dome, and the Toivola Recreation Center are provided by both paid and volunteer caretakers.

The final questionnaire for the community recreation survey included general questions about the respondent, several park and recreation-related questions, three questions about support for certain actions by the Township Board, and space for additional comments. The method chosen for administering the survey was a mail questionnaire delivered by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). This survey method was preferred due to the lack of reliable Internet access in many locations of the Township, and because 2020 U.S. Census data indicates that a relatively large percentage of the Township's total population are seniors (42.1% age 55 or older), many of whom may not be comfortable with responding to online questionnaires.

The survey of Stanton Township residents was conducted during March - April 2023. The response rate for residents was an impressive 42% (472 returned questionnaires / 1,112 adjusted mailings). The survey of non-resident property owners was conducted during late June - August 2023. The household response rate for non-resident property owners was 35% (69 returned questionnaires / 197 households). Findings in social research commonly indicate that decision-makers can confidently generalize the results of mail surveys with return rates over 35% to the entire target population.

The interpretation of results from the community recreation survey is based on information reviewed during preparation of the community description; the field inventory of Township recreation properties and facilities; and other documents referenced in the *final draft* 5-Year Recreation Plan. The full reports on the recreation survey of Township residents and non-resident property owners are provided in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**.

Other Public Input

The *final draft* Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028 was delivered to the Stanton Township Board in early October 2023 by the park and recreation consultant. It was formally reviewed by the Township Board during a scheduled special meeting, prior to its regular monthly business meeting of November 1, 2023. The *final draft* plan was approved at the special meeting by the Township Board (with some changes) for posting on the Stanton Township website.

The *final draft* Plan and results of the community recreation survey were posted on the Stanton Township website on November 10, 2023 for a required 30-day public review and comment period. A summary of comments from the 30-day public review period are provided in Section

8: Supporting Documentation. The Stanton Township Board also scheduled a public hearing on the *final draft* Plan, prior to its regular monthly business meeting of January 3, 2024. The minutes of the public hearing are provided in Section 8: Supporting Documentation.

The Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028 was unanimously adopted by the Township Board on January 3, 2024, after a 30-day public review and comment period and a public hearing. It was then uploaded onto the State of Michigan MiGrants website, for final review and approval by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). An approved 5-year Recreation Plan is required to be eligible for several MDNR grants and associated technical assistance.

References Cited

MHC. 2022. Report on the recreation survey of the Stanton Township Board, dated October 4, 2022. Maritime Heritage Consulting, Sagola, MI.

MDNR. 2021. Guidelines on Preparation of Community Parks and Recreation Plans. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Lansing.

Section 6.0 - Goals and Objectives

An important responsibility of the Stanton Township Board is to provide recreation opportunities to the residents and non-resident property owners of Stanton Township. However, the Township's park and recreation properties and associated facilities are receiving substantial visitation by other Houghton County residents as well as people from throughout the Great Lakes region and beyond.

An important question arising from this situation is "What should be the focus of future park and recreation development by Stanton Township? The results of the recent community recreation survey provide an important perspective for the Township Board (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). About one-half of residents (46%) and non-resident property owners (51%) responded that the focus should be on "The needs of residents and property owners." A little over one-third of residents (36%) and non-resident property owners (37%) responded with "Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs." Only 1% of residents and non-resident property owners responded with "Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region."

It should be noted, however, that a significant percentage of residents (17%) and non-resident property owners (11%) responded with "Leave things like they are – I don't favor additional development." There were also many written comments by survey respondents in favor of little or no additional park and recreation-related development. Survey comments and anecdotal information from Stanton Township residents during the recreation inventory indicate that concern over property tax increases and increased visitation by tourists would negatively impact their recreational experiences.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of Stanton Township's 5-Year Recreation Plan can now be better defined, based on the results of the recent community recreation survey and anecdotal information from attendees of Stanton Township board meetings over the past two years:

To assist the Township Board in delivering the recreation experiences of most need to residents and non-resident property owners of Stanton Township, while better understanding the implications of tourism-related development on property taxes and quality of life.

The following pages provide a listing of goals, associated objectives, and their rationale for completion over the next five years or more.

Goals and Objectives

Goals are defined for this 5-Year Recreation Plan as broad statements about the desired outcomes of certain actions. The MDNR *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks & Recreation Plans* recommends that “Goals should be based on the demographic characteristics of the population served and the physical and environmental characteristics of the area ... Goals should be broad enough and have one or more objectives associated with them. Objectives will be more specific actions to help accomplish the goal” (MDNR 2021:11).

The following goals and objectives are offered in accomplishing the purposes of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan. They are based primarily on results of the recreation survey of Stanton Township residents and non-resident property owners during spring - summer 2023. Other sources of information include the comments of attendees at the business meetings of the Stanton Township Board.

Goal A: Improve maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities, in general.

Objectives: Assess current conditions and develop a preventative maintenance plan; increase the budget for caretaking services and associated expenses at the parks and other recreation sites, and recruit additional volunteer caretakers.

Rationale: Respondents to the recent community recreation survey overwhelming supported “more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities” (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). In that regard, 83% of residents and 81% of non-resident property owners were in favor of this action. Only 3% of residents and no non-resident property owners opposed this action. The remainder of respondents had no opinion. About one-half of residents (57%) and non-resident property owners (53%) also supported the “Hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities.” However, 15% of residents and 20% of non-resident property owners did *not* support this action, and a large percentage (27%) of all respondents had no opinion.

Goal B: Develop walking, hiking and biking trails wherever the need and opportunities exist at Township properties.

Objectives: Contract with a private business or nonprofit organization familiar with outdoor trail design and maintenance to assess and provide options for development of formal walking, hiking and biking trails at the Township properties. The trail assessment should also include options to link these properties and other recreation opportunities. An initial focus of the contracted services will be assessment of a trail system linking the North Canal Park (Parcel 328-001-00) with the North Canal Boat Launch (Parcel 328-003-15). The consultant should

consider several design criteria, including land ownership and easements, foci of visitor use, available parking space, ADA considerations, visual qualities, recreational amenities, and options for trail construction in assessing Township properties.

Rationale: Respondents to the recent community recreation overwhelming selected *walking* as the outdoor recreational activity in which they *most often* participate in Stanton Township (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). In addition, over three-quarters (77%) of residents and 70% of non-resident property owners indicated that they participate in *walking* frequently in Stanton Township.

Recreational activities in which *about 30% or more* of respondents indicated that they participate frequently are listed in **Table 1.0** (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). Over half of the activities selected by residents are associated with recreational trails and pathways (i.e., walking, snowshoeing, biking, wildlife viewing, sight-seeing, ATV riding). Nearly all of the activities selected by non-resident property owners are associated with recreational trails and pathways (i.e., walking, day hiking, wildlife viewing, sight-seeing, ATV riding).

Table 1.0 Outdoor recreational activities in which respondents participate frequently in Stanton Township.

Residents:	Walking	77%	Wildlife Viewing	33%
	Fishing	46%	Hunting	32%
	Boating	43%	Sight-seeing	30%
	Snowshoeing	36%	ATV Riding	29%
	Biking	33%	Kayaking	29%
Non-Resident				
Property Owners:	Walking	70%	Kayaking	34%
	Day Hiking	37%	Sight-seeing	33%
	Wildlife Viewing	37%	ATV Riding	30%

On the recent community recreation survey, only 16% of residents and 14% of non-resident property owners selected “Create a walking trail from the North Canal Boat Launch to North Canal Park,” from a list of five *most important current needs* at North Canal Park. However, anecdotal information from Stanton Township board meetings and local residents indicates that a former trail beginning at the southern end of Township Parcel 328-003-15 was well-used in the past. This informal trail was blocked and abandoned south of the boat launch by Stanton Township, as part of an *Agreement for Conservation Easement* with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in 2012. The easement was provided to mitigate the loss of wetlands in construction of the North Canal Boat Launch.

Goal C: Retain the Redridge Dams Site, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a master plan for the Site.

Objectives: Complete a professional survey to confirm the boundaries of Township land parcels comprising the Redridge Dams Site.

Continue coordination with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), National Park Service, and other stakeholders in resolution of dam safety-related issues at the Redridge Dams Site.

Revise and re-submit the 2023 proposal to the EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Program to remove the central portion of the timber crib and rock dam and alter the steel dam, in order to return the Salmon-Trout River to a free-flowing condition.

Continue to explore and assess opportunities to transfer this Township property to a government agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities.

Rationale: The historic timber crib and rock dam is listed by Michigan EGLE as a *significant hazard dam*. It was built in 1893-94, and then submerged after construction of the steel dam in 1901-02. The top 12-feet of the timber crib were removed in 2005 because of concerns over its structural integrity. The timber crib portion of the dam continues to deteriorate and could become a very expensive facility to repair and maintain. These costs may increase with bills currently under consideration by the Michigan Legislature to revise dam safety laws.

An important benefit of the project proposed by Stanton Township to Michigan EGLE in 2023 is to de-classify the timber crib and rock dam as a state-regulated dam. The project would return the Salmon-Trout River to a more natural, free-flowing condition, and include construction of barriers to prevent sea lamprey migration upstream as well as historic preservation of the steel dam and portions of the timber crib dam. It would also provide the Township with an opportunity to seriously evaluate the Redridge Dams Site for development as a “community heritage park” or other such recreational property (Redridge Dams Study Group 2009).

Nearly one-half (46%) of residents and 19% of non-resident property owners who responded to the recent community recreation survey visited the Redridge Dams Site in 2022. About one-half of those residents (48%) and non-resident property owners (59%) selected “Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan for the Site,” from a list of three *most important current needs* for the Redridge Dams Site. Another 29% of residents and non-resident property owners selected “Transfer the Redridge Dams Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities.” Less than 10% of residents (7%) and non-resident property owners (9%) favored sale of the Redridge Dams Site to a private entity. However, 16% of residents did not respond to this survey question.

Goal D: Enhance recreational experiences at the North Canal Park and associated Township land.

Objectives: Complete a professional survey to confirm the boundaries of Township land parcel 328-001-00, containing the North Canal Park.

Continue to evaluate options for re-opening the former North Canal Park Campground, including contracting the campground operations and services to a qualified private business.

Assess the benefits and costs of installing a kayak launch along “breakers beach,” on the inside of the North Entry to Lake Superior.

Coordinate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan EGLE, Houghton County Sheriff Office, and other relevant parties to decrease depreciative behaviors on park shorelands and nearby stamp sand beaches (see Section 3.0 - Recreation Inventory).

Assess funding sources to prepare a master plan for the two parcels of Township land containing North Canal Park and the North Canal Boat Launch, and pursue any promising opportunities. A master plan for the North Canal Park was prepared in 1997 by Hitch, Inc., but it is now considered outdated and obsolete.

Rationale: Over two-thirds (70%) of residents who responded to the recent community recreation survey visited the North Canal Park in 2022. Over one-half (57%) of those residents used this Township property *the most* for recreation. However, only 19% of non-resident property owners visited the North Canal Park in 2022. This reflects the relatively large number of non-resident respondents with seasonal camps in the Misery Bay - Agate Beach Area.

There was not a particular “overwhelming” or strong response to a list of five *most important needs* for the North Canal Park. Instead, about one-quarter of residents selected “Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property” as well as “Re-open the North Canal Park Campground,” and “Protection of the beach and shorelands.” Over one-third (34%) of non-resident property owners selected “Protection of the beach and shorelands” as the most important need, followed by “Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property” (28%), and “Re-open the North Canal Park Campground” (17%).

About one-third of non-resident property owners (34%) and 29% of residents who responded to the recent community recreation survey participated *frequently* in kayaking in Stanton Township during 2022. In addition, kayaking has become a popular water-based recreation activity for other park visitors, including retired “baby boomers” as well as younger generations. There is an opportunity to collaborate with the Portage Health Foundation on the installation of a kayak launch at the North Canal Park.

Goal E: Enhance recreational experiences at the Agate Beach Park and associated Township land.

Objectives: Coordinate with the Agate Beach Park Committee and the Park Caretaker to monitor the physical condition of Lake Superior shorelands and beaches at Agate Beach Park and southwest to the boundary of the Township’s parcel of land 131-005-00.

Assess funding sources to prepare a *new* master plan for Agate Beach Park and associated Township lands. A *Master Plan for Agate Beach Park* was prepared by Hitch, Inc. in 2008. However, it was “tabled” by the Stanton Township Board, after being rejected by community members in the Toivola - Misery Bay and Agate Beach areas.

Continue to seek funding for renovation of the Agate Beach Park Boat Launch, as per the proposal submitted to the MDNR SPARKS Grant Program in December 2022, and re-submitted in June 2023. The proposal includes installation of a kayak launch system. There is also an opportunity to collaborate with the Portage Health Foundation on the installation of a kayak launch at the Agate Beach Park.

Improve the current primitive camp sites, as funds become available through camping fees and recreational grant programs.

Rationale: Over one-half (56%) of residents and 27% of non-resident property owners who responded to the recent community recreation survey used the Agate Beach Park in 2022 (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). About 36% of all Township residents used this Park *the most* for recreation, with about 11.0 average annual visits in 2022. However, about 57% of Township residents *with Toivola post office addresses* used this Park *the most* for recreation, with about 17.0 average annual visits in 2022.

All non-resident property owners with seasonal homes or camps in the Agate Beach - Misery Bay area (56 respondents) used Agate Beach Park in 2022, with nearly 31.0 average annual visits. This reflects the relatively large number of seasonal home and camp owners in this area of the Township.

As for the *most important needs* at the Agate Beach Park, about one-quarter of Township residents (26%) and one-third of non-resident property owners (31%) selected “Protection of the beach and shorelands.” Another 22% of residents and 19% of non-resident property owners selected “Prepare a New Master Plan for the Agate Beach property.” About 19% of residents also selected “Improve the current primitive camping sites.”

“Renovate the boat launch,” “Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings,” and “Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park” were selected by lower percentages of respondents (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). However, 27% of residents *with Toivola post office addresses* selected “Renovate the boat launch” and “Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park.” In addition, 27% of non-resident property owners from the Agate Beach - Misery Bay Area selected “Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park.” Only 15% of respondents *with Toivola post office addresses* as well as non-resident property owners from the Agate Beach - Misery Bay Area selected “Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings.”

About one-third of non-resident property owners (34%) and 29% of residents who responded to the recent community recreation survey participated *frequently* in kayaking in Stanton Township during 2022. In addition, kayaking has become a popular water-based recreation activity for other park visitors, including retired “baby boomers” as well as younger generations (Outdoor Foundation 2022). There is an opportunity to collaborate with the Portage Health Foundation on the installation of a kayak launch at the Agate Beach Park.

Goal F: Create a safe, public access to the Township’s Lake Superior shorelands at the Freda Honor-Roll Park.

Objectives: Determine whether there is a public easement on an old mill road that runs through private property down to the Lake Superior shorelands within Township parcel of land 600-035-00. This walking route would be considerably safer than the current informal dirt trails down to the shorelands.

Contract with a private business or nonprofit organization familiar with the design of parks and recreation facilities to assess and provide options for development of this Township parcel of land as a small community park, with safe public access to the shorelands overlooking Lake Superior.

Rationale: About 21% of residents, but only 10% of non-resident property owners who responded to the recent community recreation survey used the Freda Honor-Roll Park in 2022 (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b). However, the informal dirt trails from the Honor-Roll Memorial to Township shorelands below can be considered a safety hazard, especially to the elderly and those with limited mobility. A related issue is the lack of any direct public access to Lake Superior from the North Canal Park southwest along the shoreline to the Agate Beach Park.

This public access issue was reflected in results of the recent community recreation survey. All respondents were asked to select *other important needs* for Township properties and facilities, from a list of five actions (space was provided to write-in other actions). The largest percentage of residents (41%) and non-resident property owners (39%) selected, “Create a safe, public access to the Township’s Lake Superior shorelands in Freda.”

Goal G: Explore opportunities to create public access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River and associated stamp sand beaches.

Objectives: Determine whether the former railbed of the Copper Range Railroad along the shorelands near the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River is owned by the State of Michigan, and whether there is a public easement over the railbed. The Copper Range Railroad trestle over the Salmon-Trout River at this location is beginning to “collapse” into the streambed (**Figure 1**).

Explore current opportunities to purchase land or negotiate a public easement along the Salmon-Trout River from the Redridge Dams Site to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River.

In addition, explore current opportunities to purchase land or negotiate a public easement elsewhere along Lake Superior shorelands in the Redridge area, for access to stamp sand beaches owned by the State of Michigan.



Rationale: The mouth of the Salmon-Trout River upstream to the Redridge steel dam is a popular destination for trout-fishing (**Figure 2**). This stretch of river also receives regular treatments by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to control the local population of sea lamprey. (*Note:* There is no evidence of sea lamprey upstream of the historical dams.) In addition, there is a lack of direct public access to Lake Superior from the North Canal Park southwest along the shoreline to the Agate Beach Park.

This public access issue was reflected in results of the recent community recreation survey. All respondents were asked to select *other important needs* for Township properties and facilities, from a list of five actions (space was provided to write-in other actions). Next to creation of safe, public access to Township shorelands in Freda, the second largest percentage of residents (32%) and non-resident property owners (25%) selected, “Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River.” Less than 12% of respondents selected other actions.



Figure 2. Mouth of the Salmon-Trout River, downstream from the Redridge Dams Site.

Note: Several private landowners along the Lake Superior shoreline at Redridge and Sunset Shores expressed concerns during the 30-day review period and public hearing about depreciative behavior with increased public access. Their opinions were based on past and current problems with trespass, litter, fires, and ATV use. The Township Board shares these concerns; however, this is only an initial step in determining the feasibility of public access. There will be several opportunities for formal public input and participation, if such a project was seriously being considered by the Township Board or other governmental agencies.

In addition, the public comments about Goal G indicated confusion over laws and regulations associated with public access to Michigan navigable rivers and Great Lakes beaches. To help clarify and inform Township residents about such laws and regulations, the Township Board will invite the Michigan Sea Grant Extension and the MDNR to provide a workshop on these topics for Township residents, as soon as feasible.

Goal H: Repair or replace the vault toilets in the Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome)

Objectives: The Stanton Township Board will request cost estimates for the repair or replacement of the toilets, and upgrading of the restrooms. In addition, a preventative maintenance plan will be prepared for the ice rink and associated properties. The plan will assist in facility management, including the budgeting of Township funds and grant-writing.

Rationale: About one-quarter (25%) of Township residents who responded to the recent community recreation survey used the Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome) in 2022 (Stanton Township 2023a). Only 6% of non-resident property owners used the Oskar Rec. Center in 2022 (Stanton Township 2023b). It is assumed that visitation to the facility will increase with repair or replacement of the vault toilets and modern restroom facilities.

The Stanton Township Recreation Plan for 2010 - 14 placed a high priority on installation of modern sanitation facilities in the Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome), a suitable septic system, and pressured water to accommodate increased usage (WUPPDR 2010). In the early 1990s, two restrooms with vault toilets were installed in the ice rink as part of a MDNR-funded project to provide additional recreational opportunities at the site. However, the vault toilets are currently in disrepair. In addition, the ice rink needs cleaning, repairs, and routine maintenance.

Goal I: Coordinate with the Township Road Committee on park and recreation planning in Stanton Township.

Objectives: Request a traffic study of the Houghton Canal Road by the Houghton County Road Commission. The study should determine the volume and speed of vehicles during periods of peak seasonal use by tourists; estimate the impacts on use by pedestrians and bikers; and provide some options for improving the roadway's safety and recreational use.

Provide updates to Township residents in the Misery Bay - Agate Beach Area on the status of any scheduled maintenance, repairs, or re-paving of the Agate Beach Road.

Provide updates to Township residents along the Canal Road on the status of any scheduled maintenance, repairs, or re-paving of that road.

Rationale: Many residents and non-resident property owners who responded to the recent community recreation survey expressed concerns about the poor condition of the Canal Road, speeding, and the associated safety of bikers and pedestrians, especially from its junction with the Liminga - Freda Road to the North Canal Park. In addition, many respondents expressed concerns about the condition of the Agate Beach Road. However, results of the community survey also indicate that paving the gravel entry roads to the North Canal Park, North Canal Boat Launch, Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome), and Agate Beach Park were selected by only 14% or fewer residents. The result was similar for non-resident property owners.

Goal J: Improve visitor safety and protection of Township recreation properties and facilities.

Objective: Install security cameras at key locations within the parks and other recreation properties.

Rationale: Many respondents to the recent community recreation survey expressed concerns about the depreciative behavior of visitors to Agate Beach Park, North Canal Park, Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome), and the Redridge Dams Site (see Section 3.0 - Recreation Inventory). Security cameras are *not* currently installed at any Township properties and facilities. However, this action is now necessary due to the concerns of Township residents and non-resident property owners, and expected increases in visitation to Stanton parks and recreation sites.

Goal K: Improve public access to and the security of the Stanton Township Hall and its offices on Canal Road.

Objectives: Pave the driveway and parking lot, and establish ADA-compliant parking.

Upgrade the Stanton Township website to enhance communications among the Stanton Township Board and the Township's residents and non-resident property owners.

Install a security camera(s) at key locations on the property.

Rationale: These actions will enhance the knowledge, engagement, and diversity of interactions among the Township Board and stakeholders in the recreational properties and facilities of Stanton Township.

Goal L: Improve coordination and increase collaborations with government agencies providing park and recreation opportunities, and other stakeholders.

Objectives: Establish connections with professionals in government agencies that have responsibilities for lands and waters adjoining Township properties as well as those agencies with grant programs for the purchase of recreational land, construction and maintenance of facilities, and development of recreation programming. Of general importance are the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan EGLE, and Houghton County.

Stanton Township will also benefit from coordination and collaborations with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, National Park Service, and Michigan State Historic Preservation Office in resolving the dam safety issues at the Redridge Dams Site.

Collaborations with Michigan Technological University and local high schools can also help alleviate depreciative behavior at Township recreation properties and facilities. Actions could include public service messages and educational events for students as well as involving student organizations in the clean-up and maintenance of parks and other recreation sites.

Rationale: Improved coordination and collaborations with other agencies can improve the number and quality of recreation experiences in Stanton Township, for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. It can also help in better positioning the Township within regional plans for economic development (WUPPDR 2021, Houghton County 2018).

Other Township Properties and Facilities

There are no specific goals and objectives listed for the North Canal Boat Launch, Stanton Ballfield, and the Toivola Recreation Center. About one-half (52%) of Township residents who responded to the recent community recreation survey used the North Canal Boat Launch in 2022 (Stanton Township 2023a). About 17% of residents used the Stanton Ballfield in 2022. Although only 11% of all residents used the Toivola Recreation Center, a significantly larger percentage of residents (32%) and non-resident property owners (33%) in the Misery Bay – Agate Beach Area used this facility in 2022. Less than 10% of all non-resident property owners who responded to the community recreation survey used the North Canal Boat Launch (9%), Toivola Recreation Center (5%), and Stanton Ballfield (4%) in 2022.

In the case of the North Canal Boat Launch and Stanton Ballfield, only a few recreation-related improvements are anticipated in 2024 – 28. The only improvement suggested for the Toivola Recreation Center is replacement of the asphalt floor with concrete. The Stanton Township Board is assisting local community members in identifying funding sources for this project.

The prior recreation plan for Stanton Township (WUPPDR 2010:25) also recommended the following:

“Preserve the last stretch of undeveloped Lake Superior shoreline around Rockhouse Point....This is the last shoreline in Houghton County that remains in an undeveloped state. The Township should actively work with outside organizations to seek funding to preserve the shoreline and adjacent forest tracts through public purchase or conservation easements.”

Note: The Agate Beach Park, North Canal Park, Redridge Dams Site, and other locations along the Lake Superior coastal zone are eligible for grants from the Michigan Coastal Management Program, administered by Michigan EGLE. “Established in 1978, the Michigan Coastal Management Program is committed to providing substantial technical assistance and strategic grant funding to assist in coastal communities’ ability to understand risks, and options to mitigate coastal hazards; create healthy habitats that provide for human use and enjoyment; support coastal eco-tourism opportunities while ensuring for safe public access; and support resilient & sustainable coastal economies” (www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/coastal-management).

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Stanton Township. 2023a. Community Recreation Survey - Residents. On file at Stanton Township Hall, Houghton, MI.

Stanton Township. 2023b. Community Recreation Survey – Non-Resident Property Owners. On file at Stanton Township Hall, Houghton, MI.

WUPPDR. 2021. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2022 - 2026. Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region, Hancock, MI.

WUPPDR. 2010. Stanton Township Recreation Plan 2010 – 2014. Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region, Hancock, MI.

7.0 - Action Program

Stanton Township is a small, local government with responsibility for a valuable portfolio of recreational properties and facilities within Houghton County, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Township does *not* currently have a Planning Commission, or a Park and Recreation Committee to advise the five members of the Township Board on matters pertaining to its recreational properties and facilities. However, the preparation of this 5-Year Recreation Plan is an important step toward improving recreation opportunities within the Township.

In order to accomplish as many goals and objectives as feasible within the next five years, the Stanton Township Board will establish and appoint a **Park and Recreation Committee**. In that regard, nearly two-thirds of residents (65%) and non-resident property owners (64%) who responded to the recent community recreation survey supported the “Creation of a Township Park and Recreation Committee to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities.” About 14% of residents and 19% of non-resident property owners did *not* support this action by Stanton Township, with others having no opinion (Stanton Township 2023a, 2023b).

The primary responsibility of the Stanton Township Park and Recreation Committee will be to prepare a detailed plan for accomplishing the goals and objectives described in the 5-Year Recreation Plan. The **Action Program** will prioritize the goals and objectives, and identify the specific projects and associated funding sources to accomplish the goals and objectives over the next five years. If beneficial, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources also suggests that the Action Program “include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, operation and maintenance actions, as well as land acquisition and facility development, if applicable. A capital improvement schedule for park development projects is not required, but may be useful for planning purposes and may include the type of improvement, the estimated cost, funding sources and a schedule of construction” (MDNR 2021:11).

A final draft Action Program will be presented to the Stanton Township Board of Supervisors for review and comment, prior to any discussions and resolutions by the Board.

Future Projects

On March 6, 2024, the Stanton Township Board approved a list of future projects to be pursued over the next five years, in support of the Recreation Plan’s goals and objectives. The Stanton Township Board will consider the establishment and appointment of the Park and Recreation Committee at a later date. The approved list of priority projects and improvements are provided in the following pages. See the Addendum for further information.

1. **Redridge Dam Recreation Area**

Projects: Make improvements to the entire site, including general accessibility, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and stream access issues, as well as overall parking improvements. Dam safety items should be reviewed along with consideration of the future preservation of this historic site.

2. **North Canal Park**

Projects: Bring back overnight camping to the park as well as improving overall access and providing power and water to the entire site. Construct a hiking/walking trail to the South, to connect with Stanton Township's North Canal Boat Launch. Improve the aggregate road surface within the future camp site area, and correct parallel road drainage issues at the bottom of the hill (toward the lake from the pavilion to the water's edge parking lot). Repair any fencing that is in disrepair. Note: The Township Board is also considering entertaining proposals for a concessionaire/operator of the North Canal Park.

3. **Agate Beach Park**

Projects: Remove the existing boat ramp and place a new ramp in Lake Superior for small boats, kayaks and canoes. Discuss with the Township Road Committee the ways to improve and possibly place HMA pavement on the road to the park. Place additional aggregate on roads within the park and possibly update the meeting hall with other items, including a furnace, windows, and exterior doors. A long-term goal is to make minor site improvements and possibly restore electric power to the sites. Lastly, an investigation will be undertaken to determine the costs of a new well, shower and toilet facility, and drain field.

4. **Toivola Recreation Hall**

Projects: Remove and replace the aging and heaved HMA surface with a concrete floor in the ice rink area, and install correct drainage below the floor and outside of the building to eliminate frost heaving in the winter months. Install drain tile as needed. In addition, verify the condition of floor and doors in the buildings' warming/meeting area.

5. **Stanton Township Ballfield**

Projects: Make renovations and improvements to the existing ballfield and the associated Township-owned buildings. This includes some roof and fence repair, foul ball protection behind home plate, yellow tubing fence topper for player safety, improve bleachers and spectator seating as well as scoreboard improvements. A storage shed for lawn mowers and baseball-associated equipment will also be needed.

6. Freda Honor Roll Park

Projects: Address maintenance of the Honor-Roll monument, parking and trail improvements at the Township-owned property as well as a walking path and possible set of steps to access the shoreland portion of the Township property (with safety considerations kept in mind).

7. North Canal Boat Launch

Projects: Install a fish cleaning station with power and offal collection, and lighting for the launch, parking, and fish cleaning station areas. Place a paved HMA surface from the Houghton Canal Road extending through the entire launch area. Construct a hiking/walking trail to the North, connecting with the North Canal Park.

8. Oscar Dome Recreation Facility

Projects: Repair the vault toilets, repave the HMA surface for the basketball court, place sand fill to bring the volleyball courts back to the correct grade, replace the aging volleyball net, resurface and grade the aggregate parking lot, as well as doing some general site maintenance on aging items within the facilities and property. Install/repair puck fencing atop the current boards, and find a permanent solution to painting the court lines for the pickleball courts.

9. Michigan DNR Trail Repairs and Improvements (not Stanton Twp. owned)

Projects: Work with the Michigan DNR, Trails Division to repair the existing snowmobile/ATV trails and associated bridges and culverts within Stanton Township, that are in a state of disrepair and damage from neglect, and due to damage from the “Father’s Day Flood” of 2018 (namely the Freda Grade Trail). Also, request this trail to be reopened to tie in with MDNR Trail #120 & #121, which lead back into the local Atlantic Mine/South Range/Trimountain/Painesdale areas.

References Cited

MDNR. 2021. Guidelines for Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Lansing.

Stanton Township. 2023a. Community Recreation Survey - Residents. On file at Stanton Township Hall, Houghton, MI.

Stanton Township. 2023b. Community Recreation Survey – Non-Resident Property Owners. On file at Stanton Township Hall, Houghton, MI.

8.0 - Supporting Documentation

The following documents are found in Section 8, or the Addendum to this Plan. They are required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for approval of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028:

- **Stanton Township Enabling Act – Michigan Legislature 1903**
- **Notice of the 30-Day Review and Comment Period**

Stanton Township residents and non-resident property owners were mailed a questionnaire about community recreation during spring - summer 2022 (Appendix A and B). The survey package included a note from the Township Board about preparation of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028, and that “Results of the community recreation survey and updates on the 5-Year Recreation Plan will be posted on the Stanton Township website at www.stantontownship.com.”

A formal notice of the 30-day review and comment period for the 5-Year Recreation Plan was posted on the Stanton Township website on November 10, 2023. The post included copies of the *final draft* 5-Year Recreation Plan, and results of the recreation survey of Township residents (Appendix A) and non-resident property owners (Appendix B). The website allowed viewers to immediately submit their comments online, or by postal mail. A screenshot of the website notice is attached. A notice of the 30-day review and comment period was also prominently placed in the Preface of the *final draft* 5-Year Recreation Plan. Lastly, attendees of Township Board meetings on November 1 and December 4 were encouraged to provide comments during the 30-day review period, ending December 11, 2023.

- **Results of the 30-Day Review and Comment Period**

Summary of Public Comments

Eleven people submitted written comments on the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan during the 30-day review and comment period. Eight of the comments focused on *Section 6.0 Goal G: Explore opportunities to create public access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River and associated stamp sand beaches*. All eight people mentioned past and/or current problems with depreciative behavior by visitors to the Redridge beaches. In one case, the respondent complained specifically about fishermen along the lower reach of the river to the river mouth.

Five of the responding people openly opposed Goal G, while three others expressed concerns about greater depreciative behavior with increased public access to the river mouth and associated sand beaches. One person noted that the Township should focus on *Goal A*:

Improve maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities, in general, before engaging in Goal G. It should be noted, however, that all of the people opposing Goal G appear to be nearby property owners along Lake Superior, or in one instance, the Salmon-Trout River.

In addition, one couple favored the remediation (repair) of MDNR ATV/snowmobile trail 120/121, and provided several reasons that the trail should be repaired and re-opened. These non-resident property owners also favored the proposed goals and objectives for the Freda Honor-Roll Park and the Redridge Dams Site. Lastly, one respondent provided copy edits for the final plan as well as shared concerns about depreciative behavior at North Canal Park.

Response by the Township Board

The Township Board shares the concerns of private landowners about past, current and potential depreciative behavior with greater access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River and associated stamp sand beaches. These concerns affirm the need for the Township Board to pay more attention to the challenges of public resource management and stewardship of the Redridge Dams Site and Salmon-Trout River.

In this regard, the Township Board must consider the value of the Salmon-Trout River and Lake Superior as recreational and biological resources for all Township residents, and other visitors. In addition, Goal G is only an initial step in assessing the feasibility of creating public access at this location. There will be several opportunities for public input and participation if such a project was seriously being considered by the Township Board or others.

With that said, Goal G will be retained and amended to include the following statements:

The Township Board shares the concerns of private landowners; however, this is only an initial step in determining the feasibility of public access. There will be several opportunities for formal public input and participation, if such a project was seriously being considered by the Township Board or other governmental agencies.

In addition, the public comments about Goal G indicated confusion over laws and regulations associated with public access to Michigan navigable rivers and Great Lakes beaches. To help clarify and inform Township residents about such laws and regulations, the Township Board will invite the Michigan Sea Grant Extension and the MDNR to provide a workshop on these topics for Township residents, as soon as feasible.

- **Notice of the Public Hearing on January 3, 2024**

A formal notice was published in the *Houghton Mining Gazette* in the December 23-24, 2023 weekend edition. Notice of the public hearing was also posted on the Stanton Township website on December 20, and on the front door of the Stanton Township Hall.

- **Minutes from the Public Hearing of January 3, 2024**

The signed and certified minutes include a summary of comments from the public hearing, and a resolution to adopt the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan.

- **Certified Resolution of Adoption by the Stanton Township Board**

- **Transmittal Letters to the County and Regional Planning Agencies**

These include signed letters to the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) and Houghton County Planning Commission.

- **MDNR Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports**

Post-completion self-certification reports are found in the Addendum for MDNR-funded park and recreation projects at the Agate Beach Park, North Canal Park, Oskar Recreation Center, and the Toivola Recreation Center. These reports are required for projects funded under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport Grant Program, Clean Michigan Initiative Fund, and Recreation Bond Fund.

Stanton town-
ship to assume
obligation.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. That that part of the indebtedness of said township of Hancock existing before said division, apportioned to the said township of Stanton, be and the same is hereby declared to be a valid and subsisting obligation of said township of Stanton, and that the said township board of said township of Stanton be and it is hereby authorized, in addition to all other taxes authorized by law, to assess upon the assessment rolls of said township in each year, such sum as in the judgment of said township board shall be sufficient to provide for a sinking fund for, and for the payment of said indebtedness when the same shall become due and until the same shall have been paid: Provided, That no moneys raised by such assessment shall be used for any other purpose than the payment of the said indebtedness and the interest to accrue thereon.

Approved February 12, 1903.

[No. 278.]

AN ACT to legalize the action of the board of supervisors of the county of Houghton in detaching certain lands from the township of Hancock in said county, and organizing the same into a new township, known as the township of Stanton.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Organization
of Stanton
township
legalized.

Proviso.

SECTION 1. That the action of the board of supervisors of the county of Houghton in detaching certain lands from the township of Hancock in said county and organizing the same into a new township known as the township of Stanton, which action was had by the said board of supervisors by its resolution passed on the fourteenth day of April, nineteen hundred two, be and the same is hereby declared to be legal and valid in every respect, and that the further action of said board of supervisors in detaching certain other lands from said township of Hancock and attaching the same to said township of Stanton, so organized, which action was had by the resolution of said board of supervisors passed on the ninth day of December, nineteen hundred two, be and the same is hereby declared to be legal and valid in every respect, and that the township of Stanton as organized and as existing by said resolutions of said board of supervisors be and the same is hereby declared to be a legally organized and existing township of the said county of Houghton: Provided, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed as limiting or in any way affecting the power of said board of supervisors hereafter to divide or alter in its bounds the said township of Stanton in the manner provided by law.

Approved February 12, 1903.



Stanton Township
50960 Canal Road
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: 906-482-8319

Fax: 906-482-8320

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IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

[Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan – FINAL DRAFT 11.09.23](#)

THE 30-DAY REVIEW PERIOD IS NOW OPEN FOR THE *FINAL DRAFT* STANTON TOWNSHIP 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2024 – 2028. WE ENCOURAGE COMMENTS FROM ALL TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS, NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNERS, AND VISITORS.

RECENT NEWS

- > [Public Meeting Notice – Stanton Township Road Committee](#)
- > [Public Notice for December Board of Review](#)
- > [PUBLIC NOTICE FOR DECEMBER 2023 BOARD MEETING DATE & TIME CHANGE](#)
- > [5 Year Recreation Plan pdf](#)

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023. (REFER TO SECTION AND PAGE NUMBERS IN YOUR COMMENTS.) SEE THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS ONLINE. OTHERWISE, SEND YOUR COMMENTS BY POSTAL MAIL TO:

Stanton Township Clerk
5-Year Recreation Plan
50960 Canal Road, Houghton, MI 49931

Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan Comment Form

2024-2028

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

* Indicates required question

Name *

Your answer

Phone Number

> [IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE](#)

QUICK LINKS

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> [Elections](#)

> [Kenner Dome](#)

> [Forest Stewardship](#)

LINKS OF INTEREST

[E. B. Holman School](#)

[Houghton County Links](#)

Your answer _____

Email

Your answer _____

Comments *

Your answer _____

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Stanton Township
5-Year Recreation Plan
2024 – 2028

FINAL DRAFT

(For Review and Comment Only)

Stanton Township Board of Supervisors

www.stantontownship.com

November 9, 2023

PREFACE

The Stanton Township Board approved a project to prepare a 5-Year Recreation Plan during its June 2022 business meeting, with the aim of better managing recreation opportunities in Stanton Township. The project included background research, an inventory of Township-owned recreation properties and facilities, and a community recreation survey of Township residents and non-resident property owners.

On November 1, 2023, the *final draft Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028* was approved for posting on the Township website for a required 30-day public review. It was approved during a special meeting of the Township Board, prior to its regular November 2023 business meeting.

Relevant comments will be incorporated into the *final draft* Recreation Plan after the 30-day public review period. In addition, the Stanton Township Board has scheduled a public hearing as part of its January 2024 business meeting. The public hearing provides an opportunity for final comments prior to formal adoption of the Recreation Plan by the Township Board. The document can then be submitted to the State of Michigan MiGrants website for review and approval by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Comments can be submitted online at www.stantontownship.com
(follow directions on the webpage) or by postal mail addressed as follows:

Stanton Township Clerk
5-Year Recreation Plan
50960 Canal Road
Houghton, MI 49931

Please submit your comments by Monday, December 11, 2023

Refer to the section and page number in your comments

Thank you for participating in this important Township planning initiative!

Prepared by:
Kenneth J. Vrana
Maritime Heritage Consulting
Sagola, Michigan



Stanton Township
50960 Canal Road
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: 906-482-8319

Fax: 906-482-8320

HOME BOARD ASSESSING CEMETERIES HISTORY CONTACT NEWS

Stanton Township 5-Year Rec Plan Public Hearing Notice 2024

DECEMBER 20, 2023

Public Hearing Notice 2024

FILED UNDER: [NEWS](#)

RECENT NEWS

- > [Stanton Township 5-Year Rec Plan Public Hearing Notice 2024](#)
- > [Next Road Committee Meeting Date](#)
- > [Public Notices and Annual Meeting Schedule 2024](#)
- > [Public Meeting Notice - Stanton Township Road Committee](#)

STANTON TOWNSHIP
50960 Canal Rd.
Houghton, MI 49931
Office Phone: 906-482-8319
Office Fax: 906-482-8320

STANTON TOWNSHIP: PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING ON STANTON TOWNSHIP 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

On Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6:05PM, the Stanton Township Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Stanton Township Hall (50960 Canal Rd. Houghton, MI 49931). This **Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption** will be held as a final means of soliciting public input on the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan. The Stanton Township monthly board meeting will immediately follow.

Marty Rajala, Stanton Township Supervisor

■ COPPER COUNTRY PAST & PEOPLE

Christmas comes of age in the Copper Country

DSTANT

The Industrial Revolution that began in England in 1760 was the direct result of the invention of the steam engine, an enormous device initially intended to improve the speed and efficiency of pumping water out of Cornish mines. It was soon found that the engine could be adapted to power large

Graham Jaehnig



who, when considering the International Date

across the United States. Evidence suggests that it began with the Glass Block Store, in Calumet.

During the December Christmas season of 1908, the store ran an ad in the Calumet News featuring toys. In fact, one-half of their full-page ad was devoted to just toys. The next year, other department stores met this

The Glass Block Store, in Calumet, advertised the sale of fully-clothed dolls imported from Germany, but mentioned no toys for boys. Levine's, in Houghton, announced that Santa Claus would establish his mail box there on Saturday, Dec. 4.

If the Glass Block Store

STANTON TOWNSHIP: PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING ON STANTON TOWNSHIP 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

On Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6:05PM, the Stanton Township Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Stanton Township Hall (50960 Canal Rd. Houghton, MI 49931).

This **Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption** will be held as a final means of soliciting public input on the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan. The Stanton Township monthly board meeting will immediately follow.

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

JANUARY 3, 2024

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Supervisor/Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Trustee/Mike Pionke, Trustee/Mark Haataja and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

All present read over the December 4, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Lori **motioned** to accept the monthly meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Kara **motioned** to pass the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Kara presented Bills to be paid. Lori **motioned** to pay all bills. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

The first thing on the agenda was for the board to commence with a Public Hearing on the proposed adoption of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan. The hearing began with an announcement of the boards intent to adopt the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation plan. Public comment was accepted immediately after the announcement. Eight people offered comments to the Stanton Township Board at this time. Six of these respondents voiced opinions regarding *Goal G: Explore opportunities to create public access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River and associated stamp sand beaches*, as summarized below:

- Does not support Goal G, based on concerns about depreciative behavior, maintenance of stamp sand beaches, and public health with increased access to the stamp sand beaches, extending from Redridge to Sunset Place (Statement endorsed by a second person).

- Does not support Goal G, based on concerns about 4-wheelers and other ATVs, fires and parties on the beaches with increased public access.
- Does not want any public access to the Salmon-Trout River mouth and stamp sand beaches.
- Good plan, but concerns about depreciative behavior and trash on the stamp sand beaches. Need regular maintenance and proper management.
- Surprised that there is no public access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River and associated stamp sand beaches. A similar public access issue in Ontonagon was worked out cooperatively by the community. Need a balanced approach. Access to Lake Superior is needed in Redridge.

The other two respondents voiced other opinions or questions, as follows:

- Concerns about trash and depreciative behavior of MTU students at the North Canal Park (“Houghton Breakers”) and associated stamp sand beaches. Need property survey at North Canal Park to know the boundaries of Township land.
- In addition, questions regarding the Community Recreation Survey were answered by the Township Supervisor and its recreation consultant. Attendees were encouraged to review the results on the Stanton Township website, posted since November 10, 2023. Township Supervisor Rajala responded to these concerns and questions during discussions among the Board and meeting attendees. In particular, the Township Board appreciates the concerns about Goal G, voiced by property owners along the Lake Superior shoreline from Redridge to Sunset Shores. However, Goal G is only a first step to explore opportunities for creating public access. If any such opportunities arise, the residents of Redridge and Sunset Shores would certainly be included in project planning. As for concerns about the behavior of MTU students at the breakers, the Township Board recognizes that MTU administration could be an important partner in resolving those concerns. The Township Board is currently exploring plans for re-opening the North Canal Park campground, including a survey of the property.

Marty **motioned** to **adopt** the Stanton Township Board Resolution Adopting the 2024-2028 Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan and that Ken will submit the township recreation plan to the MDNR. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved** on a **ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 AYES – HAATAJA, PIONKE, RAJALA, ANDERSON & HEINONEN 0 NAYS.**

*The Michigan Dam Service Office has reviewed the Stanton Township pre-proposal for the funding of a project again at the Redridge Dam and has invited the township to submit another full proposal as was previously submitted. The township is working with Ken Vrana and Stan Vitton on this and letters of support have again been requested from multiple agencies.

The United States Fish & Wildlife Service funded feasibility study will give us 5 options to mitigate the hazard at the Redridge Dam. When we receive the options we will review them. Ken told the board that it is a real opportunity to have the support of the USFWS. We have applied for funding from the MDSO already, but have been denied in the first round. We are in the second round now. Marty **motioned** that with grant approval in the MDSO funding package, the Stanton Township Board is requesting that: The regulated structure(s) be removed, a Sea Lamprey barrier be installed on the Salmon-Trout River and funding be provided for preservation of the Historic Steel Dam structure. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.** This funding package will be submitted prior to January 31, 2024. The board will have a special meeting at one of the budget workshops to review the 5 options from the USFWS. The next question asked was, "Can Stanton Township reserve the right to transfer ownership of the dam and the associated township owned parcels to another public or non-profit entity, IF grant monies were accepted?" The answer is yes, we can give it away to a new owner. It was also mentioned that Stanton Township has previously committed (by approved motion) to \$60,000 or \$80,000 to the above-mentioned project. Board members will verify the amount prior to the MDSO grant package submission. And finally, Stan Vitton is working on the next required Dam Inspection Report for the Redridge Dam. He will need some info regarding expenditures and amounts recovered and unrecovered from state and federal agencies to date.

*John Paul (TES) and Stan Vitton are currently working jointly on payment of previous FEMA projects. There is a new program in the grants portal for accounting of costs that may help speed up the payment process according to Stan.

*JP of TES is still working on the parcel sketch.

*Nothing new to report on township easement issue.

*KEDA is still waiting for the RFP request but the township cannot supply it because we are waiting on the lease agreement and its language from the USACE.

*No date set yet with Sue Sanford for transferring our current Quick Books to the new State of Michigan Uniform Chart of Accounts.

*The upcoming budget workshop for the Stanton Township Board will be held on January 17th and 18th at 5:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall. The annual Budget Hearing will be held on February 7th at 5:30PM with the regular monthly board meeting to immediately follow upon its conclusion.

*N. Canal Park is officially closed for the season.

*The Houghton Canal Road will get HMA paving project by the HCRC/FHWA from Coles Creek Rd to Liminga Rd in 2025 due to harsh winter/spring conditions. The service contract work must be obligated by the end of 2024 and the work must be finished by the end of 2025.

*The "Redridge" sign is on order and will be hung by the HCRC when it comes in.

*The Houghton County assessor proposal has been signed and delivered.

*Kara presented the current budget amendments to the board for Marty to read out loud to all present. Lori **motioned** to approve the budget amendments as read. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

*Next Marty **motioned** to move excess General Fund monies to a 6 Month CD and to put excess Road Fund monies in a 6 Month CD, both at Superior National Bank. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

*Mike gave an update on the road committee meeting which can be found in the meeting minutes that will be attached for the February board meeting. The next road committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10th at 6PM.

*The Liminga Fire Dept. is sending out a letter to remind residents that the fire millage is up for renewal on the Presidential Primary Election ballot. The election will be held on February 27, 2024.

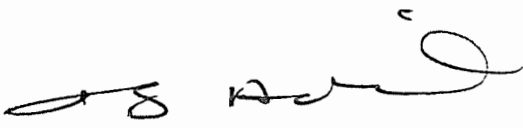
*Nothing new to report from the Toivola Fire Dept.

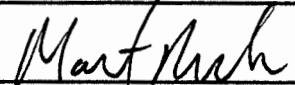
*The Freda sewer system is going along well. The tanks will need pumping this summer to a ballpark figure of \$4,000. Jim will let us know when it is scheduled.

Public Comment Accepted.

John Mattila speaking on behalf of the Toivola Fire Dept. requested that Lori transfer \$80,000 from the Toivola Fire Dept. and place it in a 5 Month CD at Superior National Bank.

Mike **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:26PM. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

2024 – 01/03-1

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2024-2028 STANTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

Whereas, Stanton Township has a variety of recreational facilities, parks, and land that are of high importance to the Township residents, nearby communities, tourist and businesses; and

Whereas, Stanton Township is committed to providing high-quality recreational opportunities at its facilities, parks and land, and recognizes the need for management according to a township-wide plan; and

Whereas, the 2024-2028 Stanton Township Recreation Plan has been developed by the Stanton Township Board and Township residents' suggestions and opinions, in consultation with Ken Vrana, a recreation planning professional from the Maritime Heritage Consulting of Sagola, Michigan, and

Whereas, the Township Recreation Plan will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval, which is necessary in order for Stanton Township to apply for a number of grants that could assist the Township in meeting recreational goals and objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stanton Township Board approves the attached 2024-2028 Stanton Township Recreation Plan, without amendment, and directs the Stanton Township Board to submit it to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Ayes: 5 *MARTY RAJALA, LORI ANDERSON, KARA HEINONEN, MARK HAATAJA, MIKE PINKKE*

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

I, Marty Rajala, Stanton Township Supervisor, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Stanton Township Board at a Regular Meeting thereof, held on the 3rd of January, 2024.

Marty Rajala
[Signature]

Marty Rajala, Township Supervisor

Kara Heinonen, Township Clerk



50960 Canal Road
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: 906-482-8319

Fax: 906-482-8320

www.stantontownship.com

March 11, 2024

Jerry Wuorenmaa, Executive Director
Western U.P. Planning and Development Region
400 Quincy St., 8th Floor
Hancock, MI 49930

Dear Planning Staff:

I am pleased to provide you with a digital copy of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 – 2028. The Recreation Plan was recently approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Please consider the goals and objectives of this Plan in your efforts of regional planning. A copy has also been provided to the Houghton County Planning Commission. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments about the Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Rajala".

Marty Rajala
Stanton Township Supervisor
906-250-1460

"Stanton Township is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"



50960 Canal Road
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: 906-482-8319

Fax: 906-482-8320

www.stantontownship.com

March 11, 2024

John Larson, Chairman
Houghton County Planning Commission
Houghton County Courthouse
401 East Houghton Avenue
Houghton, Michigan 49931

Dear Commission Members:

I am pleased to provide you with a digital copy of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024 – 2028. The Recreation Plan was recently approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Please consider the goals and objectives of this Plan in your efforts of county-wide and regional planning. A copy has also been provided to the Western U.P. Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR). Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments about the Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Rajala".

Marty Rajala
Stanton Township Supervisor
906-250-1460

"Stanton Township is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"

ADDENDUM

**(Additional Supporting Documents
Submitted March 11, 2024 - 27 pages)**

ADDENDUM to Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan 2024-28

The following documents and clarifying information were requested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) after initial review of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan, submitted to the MiGrants website on January 17, 2024.

1. **ADA Accessibility Assessment and Rating**
(ADA Action Plan, Stanton Township Board, March 6, 2024;
ADA Assessment, MHC, February 19, 2024)
2. **List of Specific Projects Comprising the Action Program**
(Stanton Township Board, March 6, 2024)
3. **Post-Completion, Self-Certification Reports for MDNR-funded Projects and Recognition Signage / Plaques**
(Agate Beach Park, North Canal Park, Oskar Recreation Center,
Toivola Recreation Center)

Submitted by:



Marty Rajala
Stanton Township Supervisor
50960 Canal Road
Houghton, MI 49931
www.stantontownship.com
Phone: 906-482-8319

March 11, 2024



50960 Canal Road
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: 906-482-8319
Fax: 906-482-8320
www.stantontownship.com

March 06, 2024

At the regular meeting of the Stanton Township Board , March 06, 2024, the Stanton Township Board reviewed the ADA assessment of each of its recreation facilities.

At this meeting, The Stanton Township Board motioned for, and approved on a roll call vote, to create an ADA Action Plan amendment to the 2024-2028 Stanton Township Recreation Plan.

This amendment is as follows:

Recreation Plan

Americans with Disabilities Act - Action Plan

At each park and recreation facility location, when funding for a project in the recreation plan becomes available, the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance will be reviewed and assessed with regard to that funded park or facility, and full compliance with the ADA will be attempted, in keeping with the current standards.

Motion By MARTY RAJALA

Ayes MARTY RAJALA, KAMA HEINONEN, LOU ANDERSON, MARK HANIFATA

Nays Ø

Twp. Supervisor [Signature]

Date 3/6/24

Twp. Clerk [Signature]

Date 3/6/2024

Stanton Township ADA Assessment

Agate Beach Township Park

Currently, the park provides 25 primitive campsites, most with a level area for tenting or small campers, a picnic table, and a fire ring. Drinking water is available from a well and manual pump. The park also includes a large playground area, outdoor pavilion, and two storage buildings. The smaller building formerly housed a concession stand; the larger “lodge” building has a banquet and meeting room, and kitchen. These buildings have not been in regular use for several years, and are currently in disrepair. The park also has two ADA-compliant vault toilets and eight ADA-compliant parking spaces. **The accessibility grade is 2 (some facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

Freda Honor-Roll Park

This small coastal park contains a memorial to those who served in former wars, and a gravel parking lot maintained by Stanton Township. The Township has not developed or maintained any trails at the park. **The accessibility grade is 1 (none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

North Canal Park

The Township provides one ADA-compliant vault toilet, a picnic pavilion, and parking on the gravel access road to the pavilion. Nearly all visitor parking is on the nearby stamp sand beach, owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The MDNR does not provide any ADA-compliant parking or restroom facilities at this popular location for residents and visitors to the region. **The Township accessibility grade is 2 (some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines). The accessibility grade for the MDNR-owned portion of the park area is 1 (none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

North Canal Boat Launch

The Township provides a gravel entrance road, parking lot, and a portable toilet at the site. The boat launch was constructed in 2013 in accordance with requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for ADA compliance. **The accessibility grade is 2 (some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

Oskar Recreation Center

This parcel of Township land contains a large, wood-frame building that houses the ice rink, gravel access road and parking lot, outdoor basketball court, sand volleyball, and level area near Schlot Creek for picnicking. **The accessibility grade is 2 (some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

Redridge Dams Site

This is an unimproved parcel of land containing two historic dams on the Salmon-Trout River. The Township has not developed any trails or other amenities at the site. The Houghton County Road Commission maintains a small dirt parking lot directly off the Freda Road, but there are no ADA compliant parking spaces. **The accessibility grade is 1 (none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

Stanton Ballfield

Baseball field with dugouts, seating for spectators, picnic tables, concession stand, storage shed, scoreboard, and portable toilet. **The accessibility grade is 1 (none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

Toivola Recreation Center

The site include a wood-frame building housing an ice rink that can also be used for other recreational activities or community purposes. The building also contains a kitchenette and small meeting room. The Recreation Center is easily accessible from Misery Bay Road and has a level parking lot with three ADA-compliant parking spaces. **The accessibility grade is 3 (most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

Stanton Township Hall

The Township Hall contains offices and a public meeting room to conduct Township business. The facilities are easily accessed from the Houghton Canal Road and include a parking lot with three ADA-compliant parking spaces. **The accessibility grade is 3 (most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines).**

References

The assessment was based on review of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (<https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/design-standards/2010-stds/>).

Follow-up Actions:

Stanton Township's ADA-compliance grades range between 1 and 3, indicating a need for more attention to accessibility at current park and recreation properties. In that regard, the Stanton Township Board will prepare an action plan for improving ADA-compliance at its park and recreation facilities. In addition, site-specific ADA assessments will be completed prior to any future improvements to Township recreation properties and facilities.

Prepared by:

Kenneth Vrana
Park and Recreation Consultant
Maritime Heritage Consulting
Sagola, MI 49881
kjvrana@mtu.edu

February 19, 2024

2024-2028 Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan

Action Program: List of Future Projects

The following is a list of project priorities and improvements to be made throughout Stanton Township on its individual recreation areas and facilities. This project list was approved by the Stanton Township Board at its regular monthly business meeting on March 6, 2024.

1. Redridge Dam Recreation Area

Projects: Make improvements to the entire site, including general accessibility, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and stream access issues, as well as overall parking improvements. Dam safety items should be reviewed along with consideration of the future preservation of this historic site.

2. Stanton Township – North Canal Park

Projects: Bring back overnight camping to the park as well as improving overall access and providing power and water to the entire site. Construct a hiking/walking trail to the South, to connect with Stanton Township's North Canal Boat Launch. Improve the aggregate road surface within the future camp site area, and correct parallel road drainage issues at the bottom of the hill (toward the lake from the pavilion to the water's edge parking lot). Repair any fencing that is in disrepair. Note: The Township Board is also considering entertaining proposals for a concessionaire/operator of the North Canal Park.

3. Agate Beach Park

Projects: Remove the existing boat ramp and place a new ramp in Lake Superior for small boats, kayaks and canoes. Discuss with the Township Road Committee the ways to improve and possibly place HMA pavement on the road to the park. Place additional aggregate on roads within the park and possibly update the meeting hall with other items, including a furnace, windows, and exterior doors. A long-term goal is to make minor site improvements and possibly restore electric power to the sites. Lastly, an investigation will be undertaken to determine costs of a new well, shower and toilet facility, and drain field.

4. Toivola Recreation Hall

Projects: Remove and replace the aging and heaved HMA surface with a concrete floor in the ice rink area, and install correct drainage below the floor and outside of the building to eliminate frost heaving in the winter months. Install drain tile as needed. In addition, verify the condition of floor and doors in the buildings' warming/meeting area.

5. Stanton Township Ballfield

Projects: Make renovations and improvements to the existing ballfield and the associated Township-owned buildings. This includes some roof and fence repair, foul ball protection behind home plate, yellow tubing fence topper for player safety, improve bleachers and spectator seating as well as scoreboard improvements. A storage shed for lawn mowers and baseball-associated equipment will also be needed.

6. Freda Honor Roll Park

Projects: Address maintenance of the Honor-Roll monument, parking and trail improvements at the Township-owned property as well as a walking path and possible set of steps to access the shoreland portion of the Township property (with safety considerations kept in mind).

7. North Canal Boat Launch

Projects: Install a fish cleaning station with power and offal collection, and lighting for the launch, parking, and fish cleaning station areas. Place a paved HMA surface from the Houghton Canal Road extending through the entire launch area. Construct a hiking/walking trail to the North, connecting with the North Canal Park.

8. Oscar Dome Recreation Facility

Projects: Repair the vault toilets, repave the HMA surface for the basketball court, place sand fill to bring the volleyball courts back to the correct grade, replace the aging volleyball net, resurface and grade the aggregate parking lot, as well as doing some general site maintenance on aging items within the facilities and property. Install/repair puck fencing atop the current boards, and find a permanent solution to painting the court lines for the pickleball courts.

9. Michigan DNR Trail Repairs and Improvements (not Stanton Twp. owned)

Projects: Work with the Michigan DNR, Trails Division to repair the existing snowmobile/ATV trails and associated bridges and culverts within Stanton Township, that are in a state of disrepair and damage from neglect, and due to damage from the “Fathers Day Flood” of 2018 (namely the Freda Grade Trail). Also, request this trail to be reopened to tie in with MDNR Trail #120 & #121, which lead back into the local Atlantic Mine/South Range/Trimountain/Painesdale areas.



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Stanton Township-Houghton County - Grant type is unknown, Assumed MDNR

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01060A PROJECT TYPE: Park Improvements

PROJECT TITLE: Agate Beach Park
Create overnight camping lots. Note: Completed 46 years ago. Not 100%

PROJECT SCOPE: sure

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Stanton Township, Marty Rajala, Supervisor, 50960 Canal Rd, 906-482-8319 or 906-482-9340, Houghton, Michigan, 49931

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? [X]Yes [X]No
If yes, please describe change(s).

Creation of Campsites at the Agate Beach Park. Current layout is generally the same as the
1978 layout with some improvements to access and buildings over the past 46 years.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please
describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation
buildings.) []Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. []Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? [X]Yes []No
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.
Park Sign as well as Park info board picture attached

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes []No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. []Yes [X]No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Daily monitoring of park by Township Employees along with trash pickup and mowing and
misc maint as needed for campers and visitors

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
Day use of public beach is free. Overnight camping fee is \$20/Night

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
24 Hours daily, May 01 - Dec 01 of each year, depending upon weather.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Marty Rajala (Supervisor)

Please print

Marty Rajala

Grantee Authorized Signature

Feb 13, 2024 ✓

Date

Mary Durocher

Please print

Mary Durocher

Witness Signature

Feb 13, 2024

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [X] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Stanton Township-Houghton County

PROJECT NUMBER: RP13-434

PROJECT TYPE: Park improvements

PROJECT TITLE: Agate Beach Park Improvements

PROJECT SCOPE: Pavilion, access road, ADA Improvements in parking and picnic areas

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Stanton Township, Marty Rajala, Supervisor, 50960 Canal Rd, 906-482-8319 or 906-482-9340, Houghton, Michigan. 49931, Stantonsupervisor@gmail.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Daily monitoring of park by Township Employees along with trash pickup and mowing and
misc maint as needed

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
Day use of the public beach is free. Overnight camping fee is \$20/Night

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
24 hours daily, May 01- Dec 01 of each year, depending on weather

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Empty space for comments.

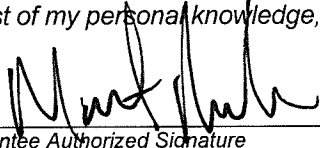
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Marty Rajala (Supervisor)

Please print

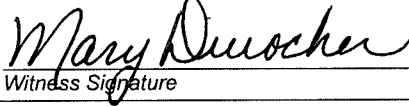

Grantee Authorized Signature

Feb 13, 2024 ✓

Date

Mary Durocher

Please print


Witness Signature

Feb 13, 2024

Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Stanton Township-Houghton County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF89-085

PROJECT TYPE: Park Improvements

PROJECT TITLE: Noth Shore Park (A.K.A. North Canal Park)

PROJECT SCOPE: 2 Vault Toilets, Boat Launch, Pavillion Changing House

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Stanton Township, Marty Rajala, Supervisor, 50960 Canal Rd, 906-482-8319 or 906-482-9340, Houghton, Michigan, 49931, Stantonsupervisor@gmail.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes []No

Lake Superior has destroyed the old boat launch. It has since been removed. No other changes have been made.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) []Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [X]Yes [X]No

Boat Launch is non-existent due to Lake Superior damage. All remnants of it removed.

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes []No

Park Sign as well as Park info board

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes []No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. []Yes [X]No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Daily monitoring and maintainance of park by Township Employees along with trash pickup
and mowing.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
Day use of public beach is free. Full Pavillion rental is \$20/day. Random hourly use at
no charge.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
24 Hrs daily,May 01-Dec 01 each year. Closed Seasonaly. Pavillion use is daytime use only

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

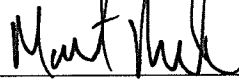
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Marty Rajala (Supervisor)

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

Feb 13, 2024 ✓

Date

Mary Durocher

Please print



Witness Signature

Feb 13, 2024

Date

**Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Stanton Township-Houghton County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF93-044

PROJECT TYPE: Rec Center Improvments

PROJECT TITLE: Oscar Bay Recreation Center

PROJECT SCOPE: Addition Rec Opportunities-Canoe Launch, Fishing Pier, & other facilt's

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Stanton Township, Marty Rajala, Supervisor, 50960 Canal Rd, 906-482-8319 or 906-482-9340, Houghton, Michigan. 49931, Stantonsupervisor@gmail.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes []No

Canoe Ramp, Fishing Pier and Skating Rink Improvements

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) []Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. []Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes []No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes []No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [X]Yes []No
Past minor vandalaism was curtailed with the placement of security cameras

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Daily monitoring of facility by Township Employee along with trash pickup, mowing and
misc maint as needed

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

8 am to 10 pm year round

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

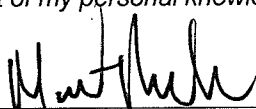
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Marty Rajala (Supervisor)

Please print

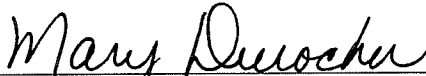

Grantee Authorized Signature

Feb 13, 2024 ✓

Date

Mary Durocher

Please print


Witness Signature

Feb 13, 2024

Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
Post-Completion Self-Certification Report

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
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GRANT TYPE: [] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [X] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Stanton Township-Houghton County

Multi-Purpose Recreation

PROJECT NUMBER: CM99-037

PROJECT TYPE: facility

PROJECT TITLE: Toivola Multi-Purpose Recreational Facility

PROJECT SCOPE: Construction of an indoor facility for recreational activities

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Stanton Township, Marty Rajala, Supervisor, 50960 Canal Rd, 906-482-8319 or 906-482-9340, Houghton, Michigan. 49931, Stantonsupervisor@gmail.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Daily monitoring of park by Township Employee along with trash pickup and mowing,
snow plowing and misc maint as needed

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
8 am to 10 pm year round

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

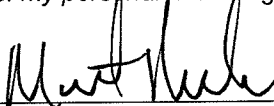
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Marty Rajala (Supervisor)

Please print

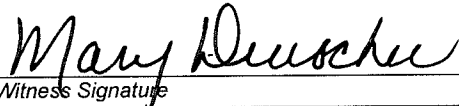

Grantee Authorized Signature

Feb 13, 2024 ✓

Date

Mary Durocher

Please print


Witness Signature

Feb 13, 2024

Date

**Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



Pavilion

**Agate Beach Park
Signage and Recognition
Plaques**

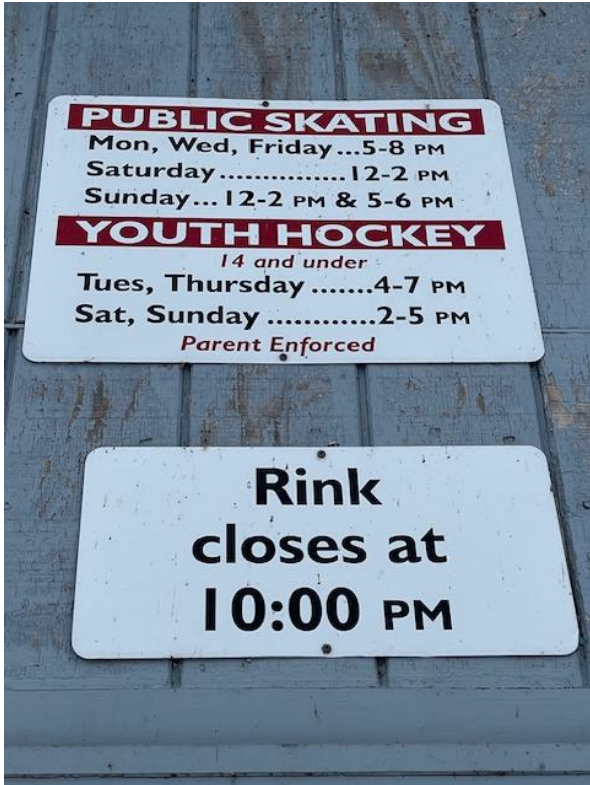
**Agate Beach Park
Lodge Building
Land & Water Conservation
Fund Recognition Plaque**





**North Canal Park
Recognition Plaques**

— **Vault Toilet Building**



Oskar Recreation Center (Kenner Dome)



Toivola Recreation Center

**Prepared by:
Stanton Township
February 2024**

APPENDIX A

Report on the Recreation Survey of Stanton Township Residents
(68 pages)

STANTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY

Final Results – Township Residents

May 19, 2023

Introduction

In 2022, the Stanton Township Board of Supervisors approved the preparation of a *5-Year Recreation Plan* in order to better manage recreation opportunities at Township properties and facilities. In addition, the Plan is required to apply for several different grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. A community survey is a key component in this Plan to enhance recreation opportunities for residents, property owners, and seasonal visitors to the Township.

This report provides background and final results of the recreation survey of Stanton Township residents, administered during March – April 2023. Non-resident property owners will be surveyed in Spring 2023. The final draft results of these community surveys will be posted on the Stanton Township website for review and comment.

Questionnaire Design

Questions for the community recreation survey were prepared by the survey coordinator, in consultation with the Stanton Township Board of Supervisors, and after review of *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans* (MDNR 2021) and other professional recreation surveys. This included a pre-test of questions with Township Board members in August – September 2022. The final version of the questionnaire was prepared with desk-top publishing software and copied to Adobe Acrobat for two-sided printing on one 8 1/2" x 11" piece of recycled paper. The questionnaire includes general questions about the respondent, several park and recreation-related questions, three questions about support for certain actions by the Township Board, and space for additional comments.

A number code was placed on the questionnaires in order to breakdown the results by post office (i.e., Atlantic Mine, Houghton, Toivola). This approach assumes that residents with Atlantic Mine postal codes are in relatively close proximity to the Freda Honor-Roll Park, Redridge Dams Site, and the Stanton Ballfield. In turn, most residents with Houghton postal codes reside along Canal Road and North Superior Road, and are in relatively close proximity to the North Canal Township Park, North Canal Boat Launch, and Kenner (Oskar) Dome. Lastly, residents with Toivola postal codes are in relatively close proximity to Agate Beach Township Park and the Toivola Recreation Building.

Survey Administration

The method chosen for administering the survey was a mail questionnaire delivered by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). This survey method was preferred due to the lack of reliable Internet access in many locations of the Township, and because 2020 U.S. Census data indicates that a relatively large percentage of the Township's total population are seniors (42.1% age 55 or older), many of whom may not be comfortable with responding to online questionnaires.

The mailing list for adult residents of Stanton Township was derived from the 2022 voting list for Stanton Township. "Adult" is defined as voting age of 18 years or older. Other residents *not* included in the initial resident mailing list were identified from the Stanton Township property owner list, or contacted the survey coordinator.

The mailing envelope to residents included a half-page introductory statement and instructions, full-page copy of the questionnaire, and a return envelope with an attached first-class postage stamp. Actions taken to increase the survey response rate included the following:

- The mailing envelopes were embossed with color stamps of the Upper Peninsula and the words IMPORTANT COMMUNITY SURVEY ENCLOSED.
- Each resident at a particular address were mailed separately, instead of "bulk" mailings to a general household address.
- A notice was posted on the Stanton Township website on March 1 alerting residents to the community recreation survey.
- Public service announcements were provided by two local radio stations during the last week of March to remind Stanton Township residents about returning their questionnaires.

The first mailing of the recreation questionnaire to 525 residents was completed on February 27 – 28, 2023 from the Kingsford, MI Postal Service Center. The second mailing to 423 residents was completed on March 6 – 7, 2023 from the Kingsford, MI Post Office. The final mailing to 130 residents on the initial mailing list was completed on March 8 – 9 from the Sagola and Kingsford Post Offices. An additional mailing to 61 residents *not* included in the initial mailing list was completed on April 5, 2023 from the Sagola Post Office. The mailings were staggered to make the processing of returned questionnaires and data entry more efficient.

The majority of questionnaires were returned by the original requested deadlines in late March. However, the deadline for all resident questionnaires was extended to May 1, 2023 to accommodate the additional mailing on April 5 as well as residents returning from seasonal winter residences or vacation rentals.

Discussion of Results

The response rate for the recreation survey of Stanton Township residents was an impressive 42% (472 returned questionnaires / 1,112 adjusted mailings). *Adjusted mailings* was calculated as 1,139 total mailings – 27 mailings returned by the USPS = 1,112. The primary reason for about 2% (27) of total mailings being returned by the USPS was “Not Deliverable As Addressed; Unable to Forward.” Eleven of the 472 questionnaires (2%) were returned anonymously.

The age profile of respondents is consistent with data from the 2020 U.S. Census for Stanton Township (**Figure 1, page 4**), with the following exceptions:

- Ages 18 through 24 are underrepresented by about 9.5% (only four questionnaires were returned from this age group).
- Ages 65 through 74 are overrepresented by about 9.5% (i.e., 28.4% of questionnaire returns compared with 18.9% for this age group in U.S. Census data).
- Ages 55 through 59 appear slightly underrepresented. However, when combined with the 60 through 64 age group, there is little difference between questionnaire returns and U.S. Census data (i.e., 23.0% compared to 21.1% in U.S. Census data for ages 55 through 64.)

Findings in social research commonly indicate that decision-makers can confidently generalize the results of mail surveys with return rates over 35% to the entire target population. In this case, the adult residents of Stanton Township. The confidence to generalize survey results to the entire resident population is enhanced when respondents’ age and sex profiles are consistent with data from the 2020 U.S. Census.

An Excel worksheet was created to record the survey results, including basic formulas for analyses of data from the questionnaires. Returned questionnaires were processed on a regular basis – about one hour was required to process 20 questionnaires. Data entry onto the Excel worksheet was completed with two people to reduce transcription error. All questionnaires were processed on a confidential basis (respondents can’t be directly identified, and individual results will not be disclosed to anyone).

The final interpretation of results from the community recreation survey will be based on an inventory of Township recreation properties and facilities (completed in 2022) and other information needed to prepare the 5-Year Recreation Plan as well as a review of U.S. Census Bureau data for Stanton Township, regional recreation plans, and additional comments from the Township Board, residents, and property owners. After a final draft of the 5-Year Recreation Plan is completed, a public hearing will be scheduled for final public review and comment. The public hearing is required by the Michigan DNR for final approval of the Recreation Plan.

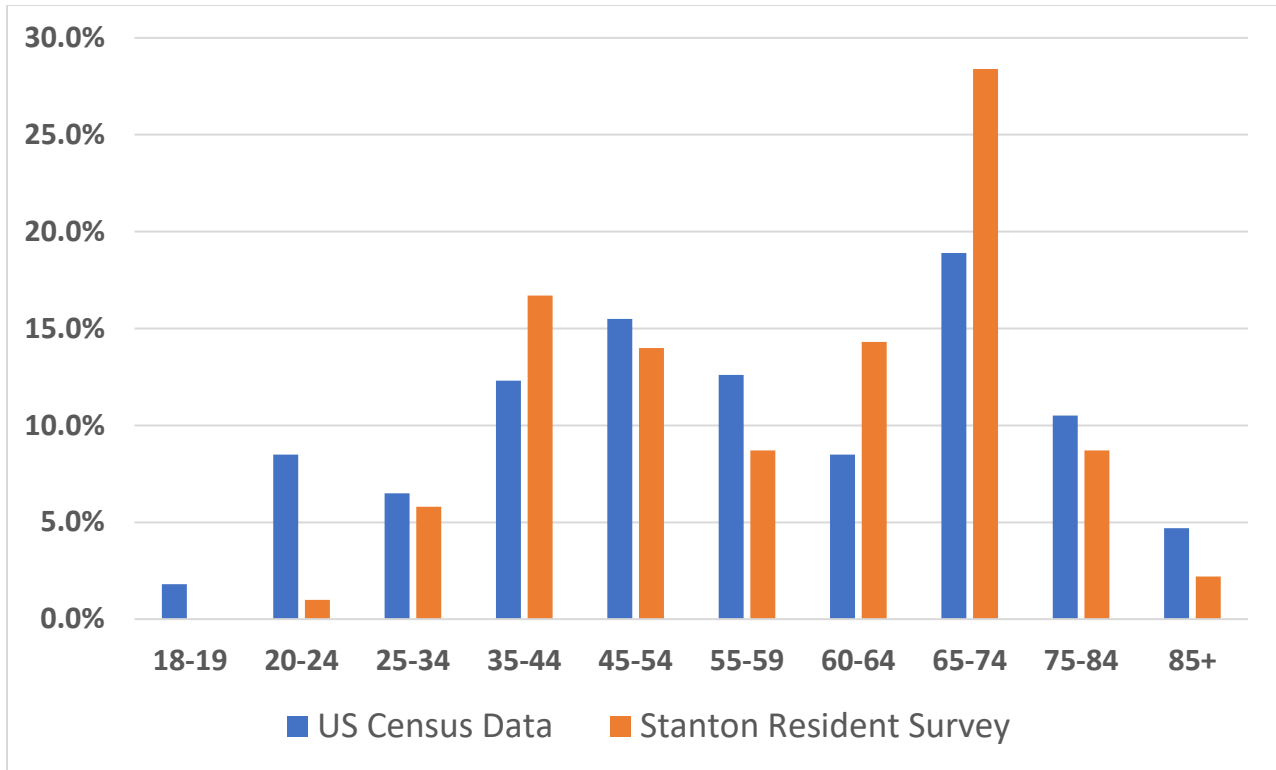


Figure 1. Age Profiles of Respondents to the Recreation Survey of Stanton Township Residents compared to 2020 U.S. Census Data for Stanton Township.

Limitations of Research

These survey results are limited to the adult resident population of Stanton Township. The total population of Stanton Township is listed by the 2020 U.S. Census as 1,383 ± 234 persons. Approximately 76.6% of the Township’s total population is 18 years of age or older, and 23.4% is under the age of 18. The median age of the total population was estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau at 49 ± 8.7 years of age.

Based on a comparison of survey results with U.S. Census data (**Figure 1**), the opinions of young adults (ages 18 through 24) are underrepresented. Other survey methods should be considered to better reach this important age group, who are making life decisions about career and where to call home. Recreational amenities are often an important factor in such decisions.

In addition, a more complete understanding of the needs and issues associated with the Township’s recreation properties and facilities requires a separate survey of non-resident property owners. This survey will be completed in Spring 2023.

Where to Send Comments:

Comments on the final draft survey results of Stanton Township residents can be sent to Ken Vrana, Survey Coordinator, at kjvrana@mtu.edu.

Profile of Report Preparer:

Mr. Vrana is a retired MTU Professor of Practice, who specialized in outdoor recreation and tourism systems, and community outreach. His academic training (MS and ABD) in social survey and public resource management was from the Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources at Michigan State University. Mr. Vrana is now engaged in selected consulting work, doing business as Maritime Heritage Consulting. His most recent consulting on a community recreation survey and 5-Year Recreation Plan was for Chassell Township in 2017-18.

Attachment

- Copy of Stanton Township Recreation Survey Questionnaire

Appendices

- A. Aggregate Results and Responses/Comments
- B. Results Broken Down by Atlantic Mine Post Office
- C. Results Broken Down by Houghton Post Office
- D. Results Broken Down by Toivola Post Office

STANTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY

Final Results – Township Residents

May 19, 2023

Stanton Township Community Recreation Survey

Please complete and return by **May 01, 2023**

A pre-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

General Information

Please check all the following that apply to you, or write-in your answer:

Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
Single _____ Married _____ Head of Household _____ Family Member _____
Number of Persons in the Household _____

Please mark with a "P"(primary residence) or "S"(second/vacation home) one of the following locations, or write-in the general location and type of your residence in Other:

Canal Road _____ Liminga Road _____ Larson/Obenhoff/Harma Roads _____
North Superior Road _____ South Superior Road _____ Coles Creek Road _____
Rauhala/Niemi Roads _____ Redridge/Beacon Hill/Freda Locations _____
Agate Beach - Misery Bay Area _____ Other _____

Park and Recreation Questions

For questions 1 - 3, please refer to the Township property listing below.

1. What Township property do you use **the most** for recreation? (Please write #1 in the space to the left of the property name.)
2. What other Township properties do you also use? (Please **check** the space to the left of **any** properties that apply).
3. In the space to the right of the Township properties you identified in #1 and #2, please write the **number of times** you visited these properties **in 2022** for purposes of recreation. (We don't need exact numbers, just your "best guess.")

_____ Agate Beach Park _____	_____ Toivola Recreation Building _____
_____ North Canal Park _____	_____ North Canal Boat Launch _____
_____ Kenner (Oskar) Dome _____	_____ Stanton Ballfield _____
_____ Redridge Dams Site _____	_____ Freda Honor-Roll Park _____
_____ Other _____	_____

For questions 4 - 5, please refer to the listing of recreation activities below.

4. What **three** outdoor recreational **activities** do you **most often** participate in Stanton Township?
(Please write #1 in the space to the left of **three** different activities.)
5. What other recreational activities do you participate **frequently** in Stanton Township?
(Please **check** the space to the left of **any** activities that apply.)

_____ Walking _____ Running/Jogging _____ Day Hiking _____ Biking _____ ATV Riding _____ Boating _____ Canoeing
_____ Kayaking _____ Overnight Backpacking _____ Tent Camping _____ RV Camping _____ Fishing _____ Hunting
_____ Target Shooting _____ Horseback Riding _____ Pickleball _____ Sight-seeing _____ Wildlife Viewing
_____ Bird Watching _____ Snowmobiling _____ Cross-country Skiing _____ Snowshoeing _____ Ice Hockey
_____ Ice Skating _____ Visiting Historical Sites _____ Watching Community Baseball _____ Other _____

6. What should be the focus of future park and recreation development by Stanton Township? **(Select One)**
 Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region. The needs of residents and property owners.
 Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs.
 Leave things like they are - I don't favor additional development.

7. What do you consider the **most important current needs** for North Canal Township Park? **(Select Two)**
 Re-open the North Canal Park Campground. Pave the entry road to North Canal Park.
 Create a walking trail from the North Canal boat launch to the North Canal Park.
 Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property (Park area and associated lands).
 Protection of the beach and shorelands. Other _____

8. What do you consider the **most important current needs** for Agate Beach Township Park? **(Select Two)**
 Renovate the boat launch. Improve the current primitive camping sites.
 Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings. Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park.
 Prepare a *New* Master Plan for the Agate Beach property (Park area and associated lands).
 Protection of the beach and shorelands. Other _____

9. What do you consider the **most important current need** for the Township's Redridge Dams Site? **(Select One)**
Note: The Redridge Dams are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
 Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan for the Site.
 Transfer the Redridge Dams Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities.
 Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities.
 Other _____

10. What other needs do you consider important for the Township properties and facilities? **(Select Two)**
 Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River.
 Create a safe, public access to the Township's Lake Superior shorelands in Freda.
 Replace the asphalt floor with concrete in the Toivola Recreation Building.
 Pave the Kenner (Oskar) Dome parking lot and entry road. Pave the road to North Canal Boat Launch.
 Other _____

11. In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?
Yes No No Opinion

12. Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?
Yes No No Opinion

13. Do you support the creation of a Township *Park and Recreation Committee* to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?
Yes No No Opinion

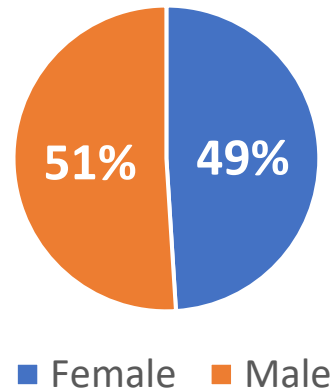
14. Lastly, what other improvements do you recommend for Township properties and facilities? This can include maintenance as well as construction. **Write your comments below or attach another piece of paper.**

Stanton Township Recreation Survey Resident Questionnaire

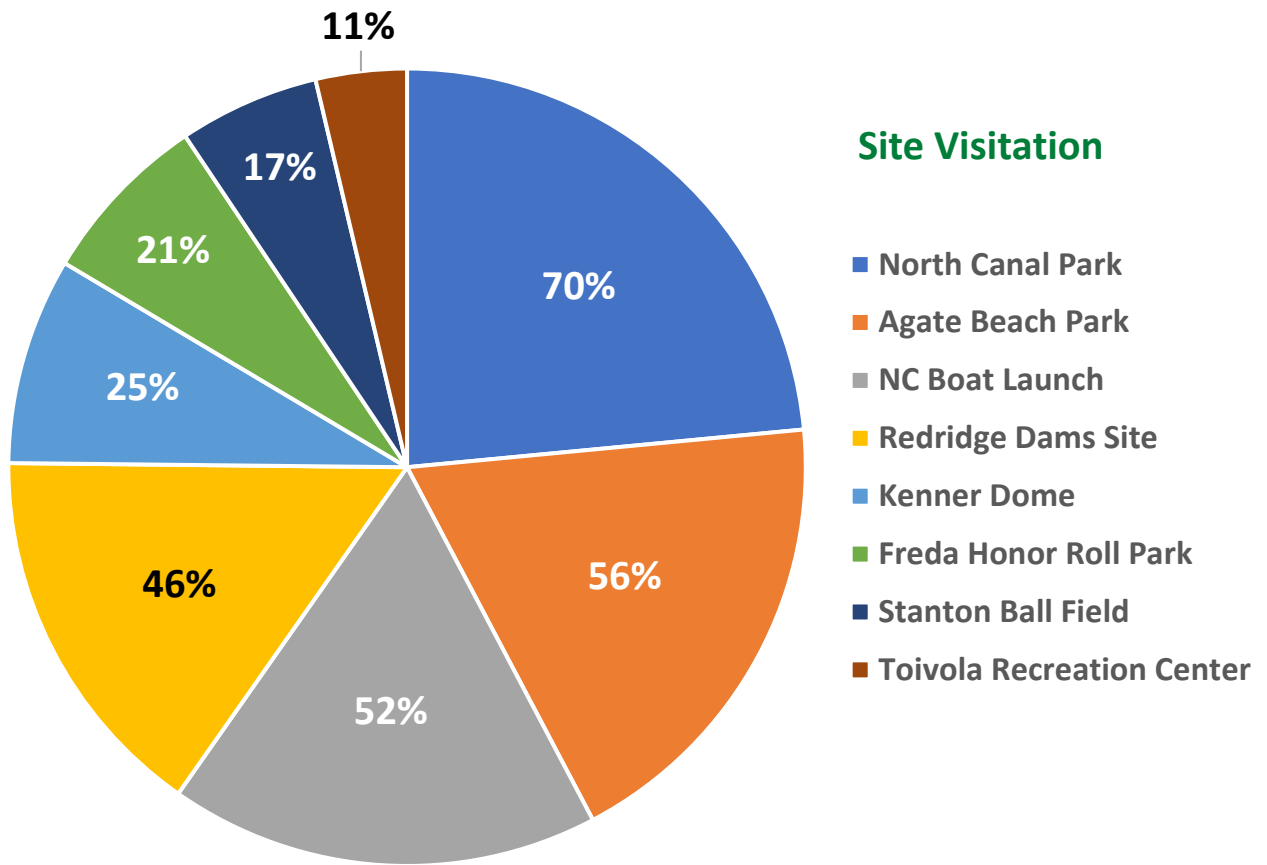
Aggregate Results

General Information

Total Number of Respondents:	472
Adjusted Return Rate:	42% (472 returns/1,112 mailings)
Average Age of Respondent:	58 years old
Married:	84%
Single:	16%
Head of Household:	31%
Average Size of Household:	3.0 persons
Primary Residence:	
Canal Road	19%
Larson/Obenhoff/Harma Rds.	12%
Agate Beach/Misery Bay	11%
Liminga Road	11%
North Superior Road	10%
Redridge/Beacon Hill/Freda	7%
Coles Creek Road	7%
Rauhala/Niemi Roads	6%
South Superior Road	3%
Other:	14%



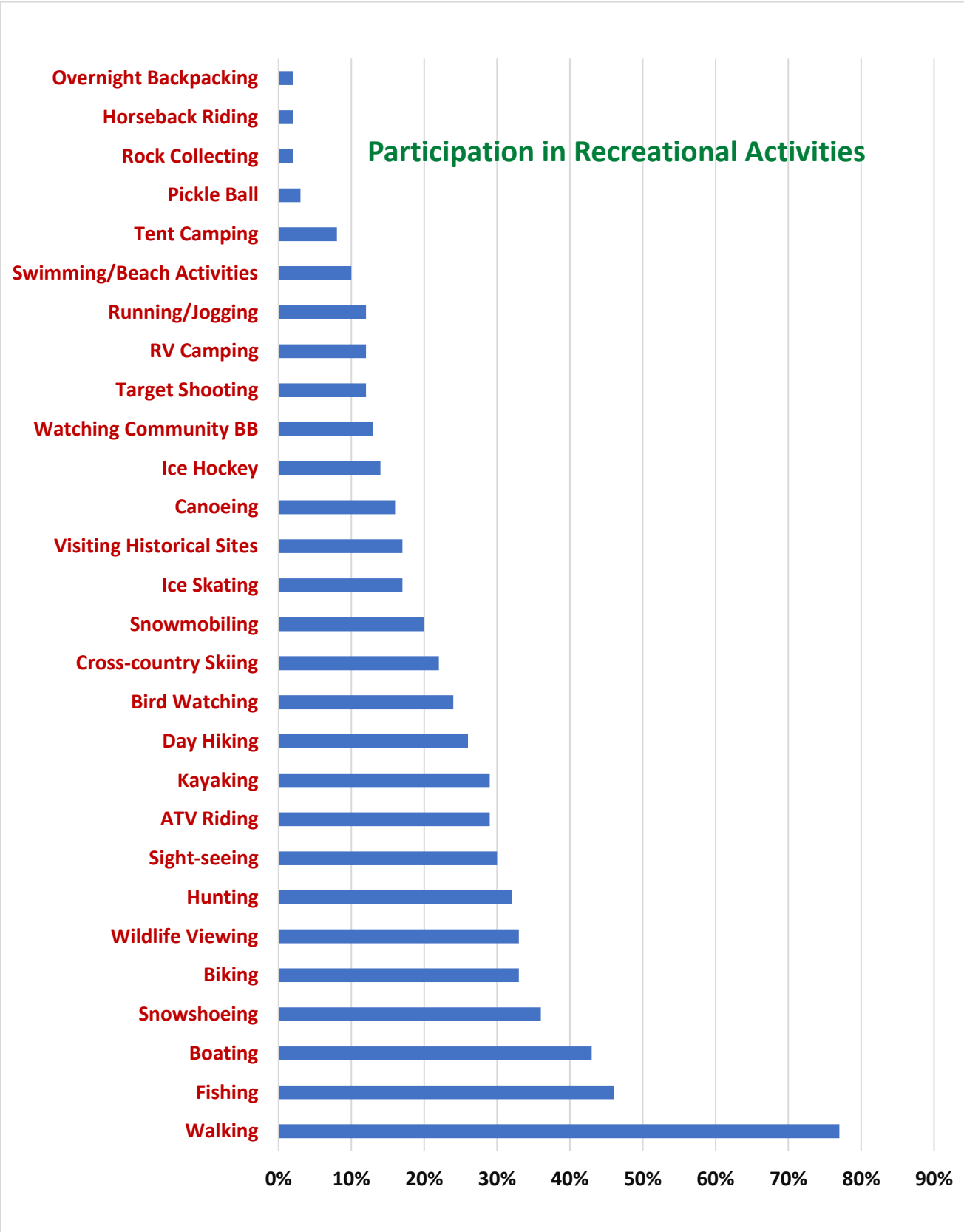
Park and Recreation Questions



Percentage of respondents who visited certain Stanton Township park and recreation sites in 2022

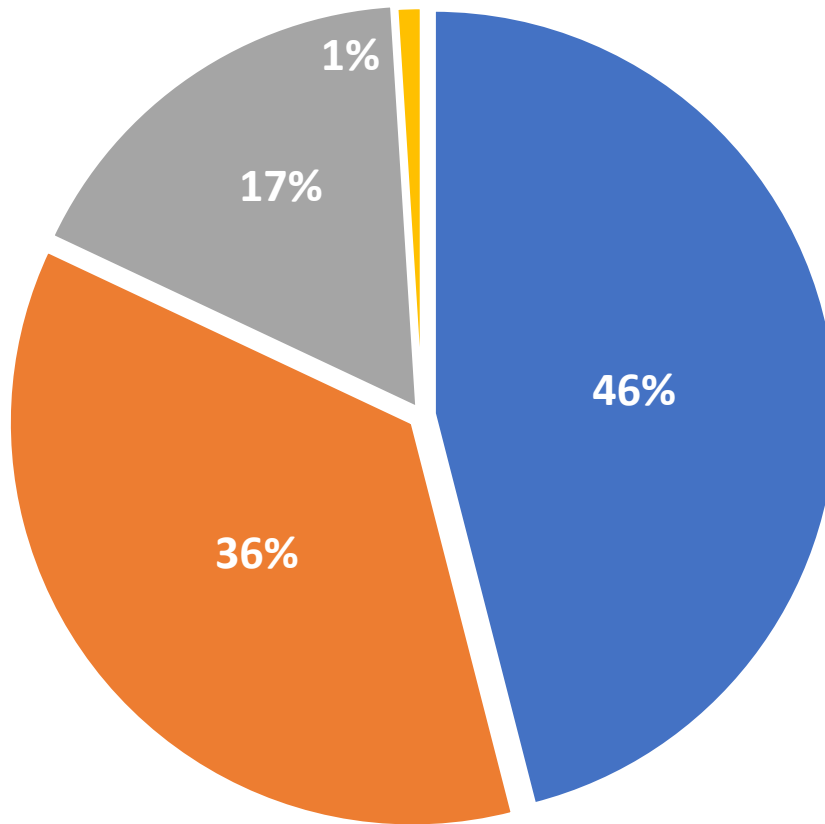
Average Annual Visits in 2022

North Canal Park	13.0	Kenner (Oskar) Dome	8.5
Agate Beach Park	11.0	Freda Honor Roll Park	8.1
N. Canal Boat Launch	9.1	Stanton Ballfield	6.3
Redridge Dams Site	6.1	Toivola Rec. Building	6.9



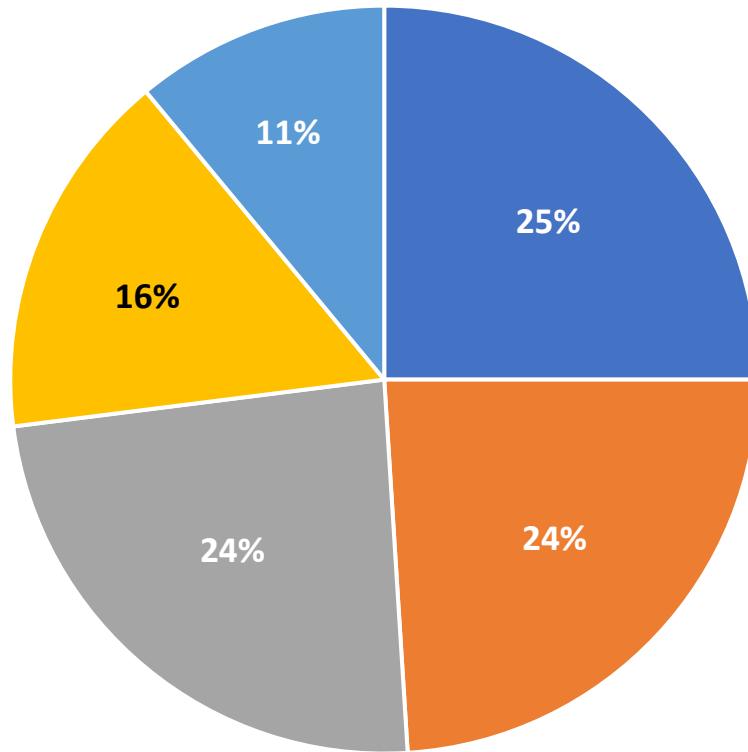
Percentage of respondents selecting recreational activities in which they participate frequently in Stanton Township.

Focus of Future Park And Recreation Development



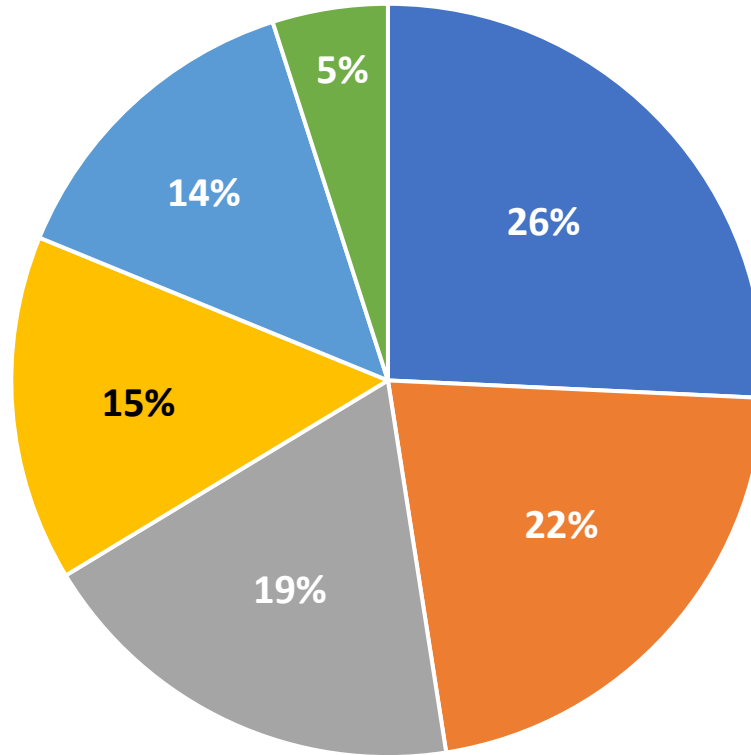
- The needs of residents and property owners
- Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs
- Leave things like they are - I don't favor additional development
- Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region

Most Important Needs for North Canal Park



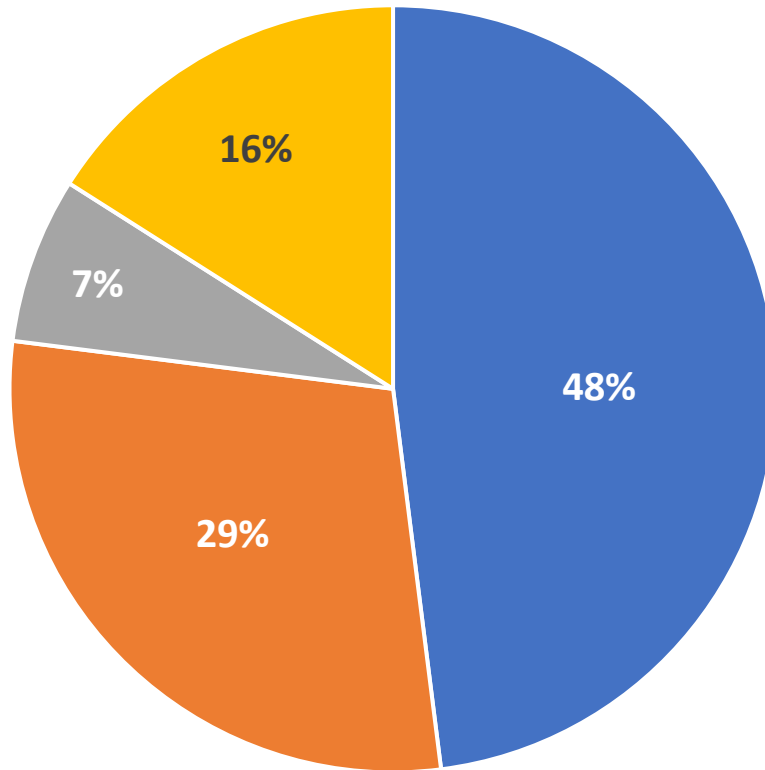
- Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property
- Re-open the North Canal Park campground
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Create a walking trail from NC boat launch to NC Park
- Pave the entry road to North Canal Park

Most Important Needs for Agate Beach Park



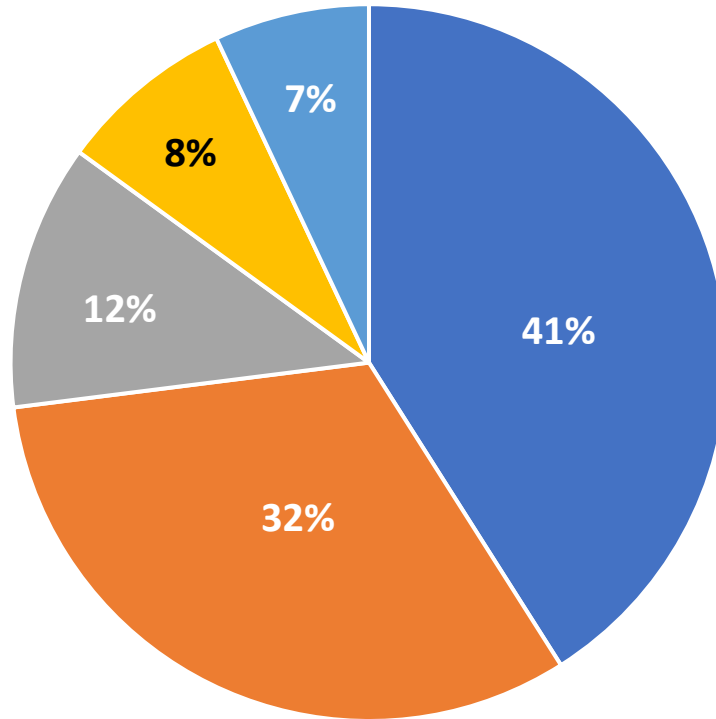
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Prepare a New Master Plan for the Agate Beach property
- Improve the current primitive camping sites
- Renovate the boat launch
- Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park
- Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings

Most Important Need for the Redridge Dams Site



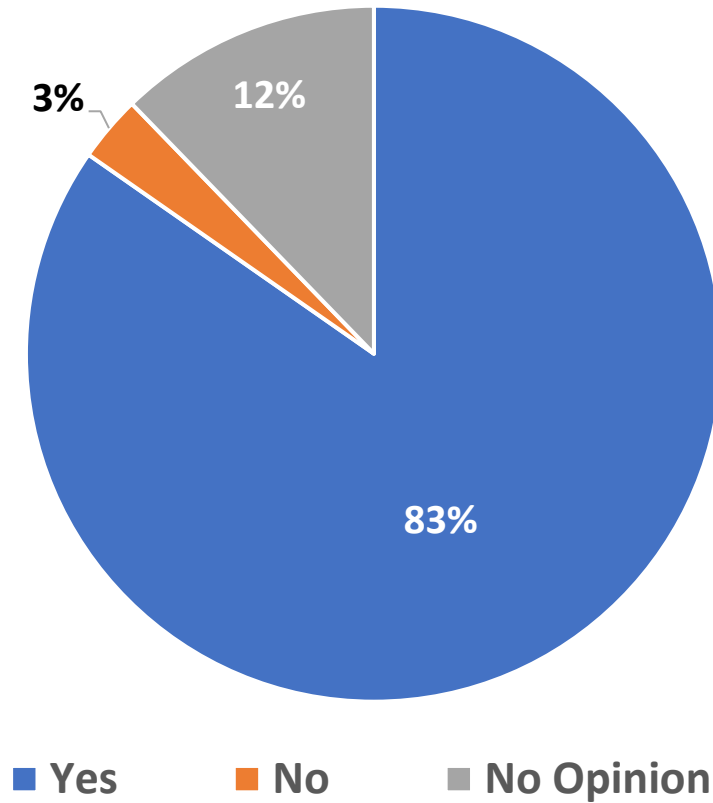
- Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan
- Transfer the Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities
- Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities
- No response

Other Important Needs for Township Properties and Facilities

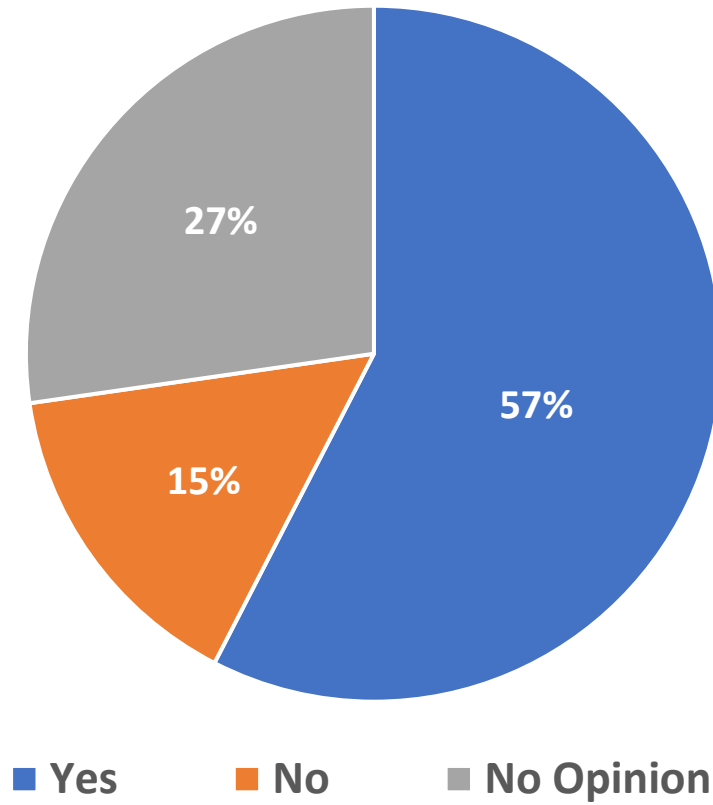


- Create a safe, public access to the Township's shorelands in Freda
- Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River
- Pave the road to North Canal Boat Launch
- Replace the asphalt floor with concrete in the Toivola Recreation Building
- Pave the Kenner (Oskar) Dome parking lot and entry road

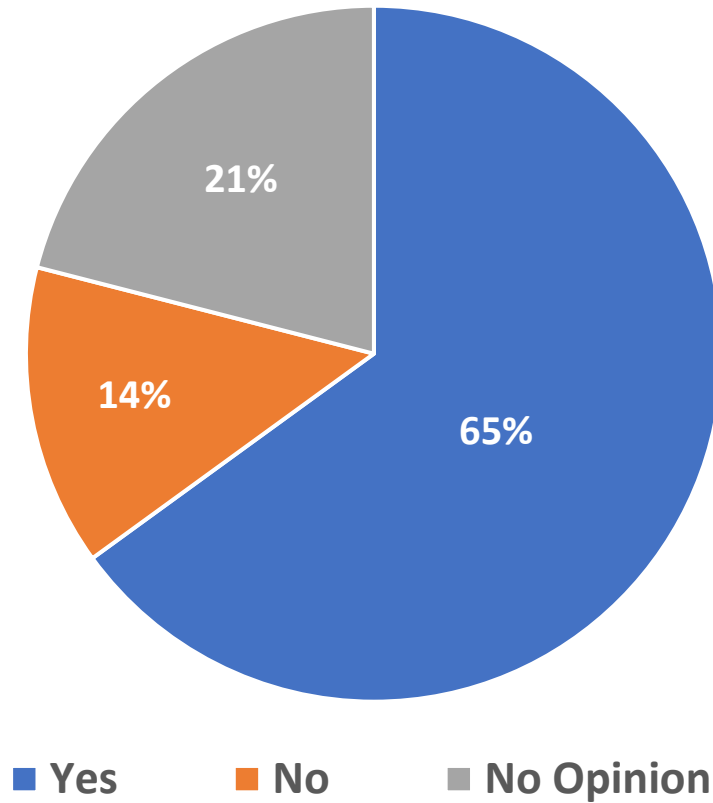
In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the creation of a Township *Park and Recreation Committee* to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?



ATTACHMENT: Written Responses / Comments on Questions 7 - 14

Final Results
Stanton Township Recreation Survey
Resident Questionnaire
Administered March – April 2023

Prepared by:
Ken Vrana
May 11, 2023

Stanton Township Recreation Survey Responses/Comments on Questions 7 – 14

NCP = North Canal Park ABP = Agate Beach Park

Introduction: All of the responses/comments below were transcribed verbatim from the recreation questionnaires returned by Stanton Township residents during March – April 2023. They are not listed in any particular order. Clarifications are shown in square [brackets]. Six respondents also attached letters with additional information. The content of these letters is included under Question 14.

Question 7 (Other): What do you consider the most important current needs for NCP?

Leave as is ● No opinion ● No opinion ● Develop Canal Park into a campground ● Fire pits ● Nothing ● No messy fires that leave nails, etc. ● Clean restrooms ● Park is fine ● Would rather have sand beach access in Freda or Redridge ● Park is fine ● Want sand beach access in Freda or Redridge ● Improve road - not necessarily pavement ● Pave the road to N. Canal boat launch ● [Add] fire pits to contain nails and other trash; large metal rings ● Pave entry road to NCP ● Regular garbage pickup - garbage containers ● Better bathrooms closer to beach ● Modernize bathrooms ● Need zoning ● Control of Tech students fires and garbage left behind ● Open N. Canal to overnight camping ● Supervisor should stop pallet/furniture burning ● Repair Canal Rd from Coles Creek Rd to NCP ● Police the park on a regular basis ● Charge nonresidents; fine the fire-builders ● Grade the entry road to NCP ● Make big fire pits on beach ● Better management of park to prevent vandalism, late-night parties, glass and nails left in sand, etc. ● Stop pallet burning - there are piles of nails and metal all over the beach; furniture, mattresses and tires too. Don't open campground! ● Repave road between Oskar cemetery and Kenner Dome ● Pave road / Oskar curve ● Restore clear cut area NCP campground ● Keep as is - no development. Maintain fences! Clearly establish parking areas back from beach ● Pave the boat launch road ● Opportunities for neighboring communities (share resources) ● Close at night after sunset; garbage and nails are horrible ● Leave as pristine as possible ● Unsure about what they need ● Improvement of roads into and in the parks ● I don't use it ● More funds for Agate Beach boat launch.

Question 8 (Other): What do you consider the most important current needs for ABP?

Rarely go ● No opinion ● No opinion ● Campground host ● Make it a day use park ● Make it a day use park ● No opinion/it'd be a cool place to go if all the drunks, druggies didn't hang out there ● Electricity and clean bathrooms ● Improve road but don't pave ● Management create clean, safe place ● Make all power sites; dump station also ● Raise the rates and clean it up ● Access to beach area for seniors ● Fly control ● Update bathrooms ● Restore power ● Install

power at some sites • I don't use Agate Beach • Create hike-in camping sites • More camping sites • Let the people of that area decide • Beautiful park • Parking • Put electric back at sites • It's fine as it is • Restore electric at sites • Not at all familiar with it • Pre-pay for campsite reservations online • Leave as pristine as possible • Pump outhouses more; collect from campers regularly • Pave all of Agate Beach Rd • Do not replace power to RV sites • RV power • Keep control by Township residents • Fix main road • Fix entire road • Repave AB road for better road to park • Sell to County or State.

Question 9 (Other): What do you consider the *most important current need* for the Redridge Dams Site?

Trim trees to see the dam from the road • Prefer more information before decision • Limited info upon which to make recommendation • Clear it out for fishing • Do whatever doesn't cost dollars • This year didn't trap dam; too hard to get to with canoe and gear • Which ever option above will preserve the site • Provide access to water for kayaks & canoes (fishing) • Open a usable boat launch • We use Redridge all the time, and worry that other entities will limit access • Would rather spend dollars on sand beach access at Freda or Redridge • Remove dam and allow natural flow of river • Leave things as they are • Pave the parking area and make a walkway to bottom of dam • Let someone else (governmental agency) pay for updates or fix • UPPCO could use to generate energy • Does UPPCO have any interest? • Maintain property as is • Retain property as is • The wooden crib dam should never have been removed • Do not sell property • Perhaps a small boat launch into the lake • Safety issues are over-emphasized • Don't sell • I don't go there • I don't go there • Stock it full of fish and have fishing piers • Worry about selling to a private entity - dam must be made safe somehow • Don't sell to private entity • Fix the dam • Do what's best for Township • Not educated enough on this one • I'm not informed about this area to make a decision • Improve fishing, kayaking, canoeing access • Get rid of it; any way to get out of future liability (\$) • Remove dam and restore river flow.

Question 10 (Other): What other needs do you consider important for the Township properties and facilities?

No beach - dangerous cliffs only • Pave residential Township roads; no rec roads • Secure and protect all • Maintain our paved roads • Maintain all roads! • Provide port-a-johns • No preference except no paving • Create more continuous walking / biking trails • Make the breakers/NCP beach friendly • Improve Kenner Dome for hockey • Pave Superior Shores Rd and as many roads as possible • Pave and finish paving Superior Shores Rd • Improve Kenner Dome; establish recreation hockey league • Fix roads before paving parking lots • Make improvements to road into Oskar Cemetery. (Even if its privately owned) • Pave the road to N. Canal boat launch • Better maintenance and construction of NCP pavilion and property • Create trail from

boat launch to North Entry beach • Pave Puuri Rd • Bike lanes along paved main roads - H. Canal and Liminga Rds. • The property in Freda is private • Need zoning; blight or neglect should be prohibited and removed • Repave Canal Rd past Schmidt's Corner • Grade/dust control the road to NCP • Need lights at NCBL dock (maybe solar) • Need lights at NCBL dock (maybe solar) • Redo the Canal Rd around Oskar Bay with proper drainage to help preserve the pavement • Playground structure at Oskar Dome • Maintain roads; fix road in Oskar • Shut Kenner Dome for 2 years to get bad people out • Better toilets and more grass, picnic tables, playground near the beach of NCP • Walking trails/paths in Liminga area • Playground equipment at Oskar Dome (pickleball, sand volleyball) • Don't use these areas • Don't use these areas • Repave N Superior Rd from Canal to Petersons corner • Restrooms at NCP • Develop walking/hiking trails on Township properties • Better bathroom facilities at NCP • More parking spaces at NCBL • More parking spaces at NCBL • Make safer to the ground area of natural spring faucet at Kenner Dome - dangerous in winter! • Repave the Canal Rd. between Liminga and NCP focusing on Oskar area • Pave N. Canal Rd • Pave road from Coles Creek to the end of the road • Install metal siding on Kenner Dome • Repair, repave roads that give access to these properties • These are not important needs • Improving parking lot spaces at N. Canal boat launch - more spaces • Develop cross-country ski trail along Portage Canal • Pave N. Canal Park Rd. • Put in Pickleball courts at Oskar • Pickleball courts in Oskar • None of the above • Pave/repair road to ABP • Pave road to ABP • Add a disk golf course at ABP and open snack stand, or build overlook platform to right of boat launch area • Create an online prepay system for camping • Repave Agate Beach Rd • Upgrade Agate Beach Rd • In the Toivola rec building pave strip of N & W ends of asphalt. Repaint surface white, repair boards. • I'm not informed about the need of these areas • Maintenance of current facilities and build a fund with tax dollars/park fees • Pave Agate Beach Rd - Karanen Corner to beach • Improvement of roads to and in the park • Pave road to ABP • Renovate Agate beach boat launch! • Purchase more lakeshore and riverfront property for public access and use • New power for RV campground • Proper management of ABP • Pave the road to Agate Beach • Pave Agate Beach Rd. to Agate Beach Park.

Questions 11: In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?

Let's have a plan first • I'd rather not see tax dollars go to seasonal township parks before our residential road is paved.

Questions 12: Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?

Let's have a plan first • If needed and helpful, but I'd rather have the money go to the facilities • If cost wise, it is feasible • How much staff do we have now as a Township? NCP should be addressed. We or most of us grew up there. Make it usable for residents. • Get a new staff and crew to take over!

Questions 13: Do you support the creation of a Township Park and Recreation Committee to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?

Depends on whether they help or drain resources • Needs to be a mix of people, not friends or relatives • Yes, with new board of directors and recreation committee!

Question 14 (Other Comments): Lastly, what other improvements do you recommend for Township properties and facilities? This can include maintenance as well as construction.

Fix the big dip/bump in the road near the Coles Creek / Harma intersection on Coles Creek.

Further development of currently owned properties, with better maintenance

Home is a hub for extended family to engage in recreational activities

We always show friends who visit the historic dam. It needs a picnic area and viewing site, fishing site too. Staff should be educated in management.

Clean the Breakers bathrooms, or replace; more toilet paper; allow camping at Breakers again.

Why are lakeside camping spots at ABP blocked off now? Best spot to camp! Charge!!

Fixing any safety issues

We worry about losing access to Redridge Dam Site if the dam gets given to someone else. We are there all the time; it's why we bought our house. Soccer field at EB Holman or ballpark. Sandy place with good swimming in Redridge or Freda.

Reopen/grade [snowmobile/ATV] trail - 120/121, which was damaged with the Father's Day flood. Help with assisting this happens.

Develop Canal Park into a full-out campground like McClain State Park

Secure public access sites to rivers/streams, and make/maintain hiking trails

Develop walking/biking trails; seek volunteer support for maintenance

There is so much junk in Freda that township properties are hard to get to. I will give you a tour.

Future changes in Lake Superior water levels needs to be considered when a boat launch on shoreline is renovated.

I think there is a Rail Road easement (Salmon-Trout River)

I support maintaining fishing access at the Redridge Dam and Salmon-Trout River

Residential roads should be paved first - no roads to recreation areas

Concerns with safe pedestrian/biking safety on North Canal Road, especially with new campground/rentals along Canal Rd; need more pedestrian/biking safe space (shoulders) along the primary route to Stanton amenities.

Maintain and improve Township roads

Pave all Township roads

Playground equipment at NCP (swings, slides, etc.) like there used to be. New bathroom facilities also.

Canoe and kayak launch sites, such as near Kenner Dome. Safer walking paths - Liminga roadside is hazardous due to traffic. Altogether I am pleased with the recreational improvements that have been made in the Township

Adopt zoning to protect residential property values and our way of life, 4th generation Stanton resident

Maintain what we have through better maintenance

Agate Beach is a beautiful campground, but needs to be supervised. The rules should be similar to state parks so families could be comfortable using the campground.

Need a caretaker for parks

The Covered Drive is a positive tourism attractant; fire hall activities related to a color tour

I feel the Kenner Dome could be an asset to the Township if improved. However, something would need to be done about the young people who constantly vandalize it.

More trails to hike on; get rid of trees and get rid of rocks and debris

Create community access to school gym, perhaps one night a week; adult league basketball or volleyball

Township properties and facilities should be maintained and updates to the level of use by Stanton residents and landowners only. The Township should not become an attractive recreational opportunity for "out of Township" users.

Community access to school gym

Support creating safe public access to shorelands in Freda

Open NC campground to camping with RVs. Get Redridge Dam so you can get to it with a canoe easily. Make it safe for public use. Figure out how to raise level up at least half of what they took down.

Assume maintenance of Sunset Place Rd.

Maintain our paved roads!! Board members are overpaid.

Please fix the corner road in front of Marty Rajala's house and maintain all roads.

NCP is used by so many people, not just members of our community. New bathrooms, clean beachfront, and reopen the campground to bring in revenue.

How many staff for management of Township properties and facilities are there now?

Marked trails and signage where feasible for walking, cross-country skiing, etc.

I use Redridge Dam, NCP, and ABP for picnics, swimming, and fishing.

Better bathroom facilities

Better bathroom facilities

Supervision at ABP campground or sell to the State for another state park. The same people camp and party there the whole entire summer. Enforce and up the rates for a more family friendly camping experience.

Spend money on contractors, not hiring staff; Wi-Fi / Internet access at Township Hall.

If we are serious about maintaining, we must fund for staff

Open the dam area for boating and recreation

Create access to Redridge lakeshore

Speed bumps on Liminga Rd; paving/maintenance of Canal Rd.

Signs on Liminga Rd; repave Canal Rd/maintenance

Soccer field - we have to go all the way to Houghton, but there are plenty of places to put one in. Also, I'd like a sandy place for swimming in Redridge or Freda. Agate and NCP are all rock and not fun for kids

If the hiring is supported by good management; park charging daily fees. First, maintenance of Kenner Dome and rink. Second, NCP developed with good facilities similar to a State of Michigan park, with appropriate fees. Third, maintain N. Entry boat launch and road.

I would love to see more continuous trails throughout the whole township. They could be used for running, walking, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Would like to see both parks accessible to the general public, with at least basic upkeep (grass mowed and toilets kept up).

Maintenance and repair only if deemed absolutely for safety reasons; additional staff only if person(s) were voted on by all Stanton Township residents and answered to committee; recreation committee to consist of township taxpayers and voted on.

No camping at breakers! They trash it!!

Better access to Redridge dam "lake," and access to the snowmobile/ATV trail near Redridge dam. Thanks! Happy there is a boat launch near N. Entry. Also please help with facilities at baseball field; it's a really good thing.

Develop access road from boat launch to Bayshore Rd with day use picnic spots along the lakeshore.

Pave Larson and Rova Roads. There are many homes on them, the roads are terrible, many complaints neighbor to neighbor on dust; the dips and potholes are terrible on vehicles.

Demolish or renovate buildings at Agate Beach. Restore Salmon-Trout river to free-flowing.

Only elected officials should guide and set policy [regarding parks and recreation]

I think what the Township already has should be maintained with the least amount of cost

Recognize the importance of retaining and expanding our access to lakeshore! Over time, there are fewer and fewer places to get to the lake or on the lake, as people who can afford lake frontage buy it up and fence it / post it – shut out all of us who care about the lake and the natural flora/fauna and the ecosystem! Thank you!

When paving heavily used Township roads, add a 2' bike shoulder on each side

Fish cleaning station at boat launch

Fish cleaning station is a must for the N. Canal boat launch!

Would like more tent camping options; would like to participate in pickleball

Maintaining what we have and improve if possible

Maintain what we have; finish paving Superior Shores Rd

Maintaining structures and beaches at the breakers [NCP]; infrastructure is already there - fix it.

Maintain the [NCP] beach and keep it safe. Drag it for nails.

Simple family-oriented, human powered or "silent sports" should be the focus of recreation development. Access to "The Lake" for all. Freda Mill site has become widely known and used for public recreation and should be purchased for public recreational use by some consortium able to promote fund-raising and legal efforts.

First see if there are volunteers (before hiring staff)

For all Township parks - plant nice grass, pave lots and walkways, install outhouses and nicer benches and tables. With exception of Canal boat launch, nothing is nice or inviting. Everything is ratty and uninviting.

Get camping down at breakers and clean up the lots. For money coming in - more camping, down on Agate beach. No to zoning [in parks].

Cross county / walking trails

Camping and day use at NCP period. Charge non-residents for day use and boat launch use.

Paved roads need repair where potholes have been created

Re-paving of roads that are already paved, but full of potholes

Get the ATV trail re-opened from Salmon-Trout bridge to Redridge Dam

Enforce lease law on N. Canal Park. Regulate N. Canal Park so burn sites leaving dangerous materials (nails, staples, etc.) aren't allowed.

Take care of the roads

Better regulate and monitor both ABP and NCP. I think many residents would support creating a position of a person to stop or manage the unauthorized camping and parties at both locations. This ruins the parks for families, and these parties are usually non-residents.

NCP could benefit from new outhouses

Bathrooms at ABP and NCP would be great. Better monitored camping at ABP; also would be nice to camp at NCP again. Would camp at ABP more if there weren't so many parties.

Clue MTU into advising student population re: huge parties and hazardous remains. Maybe no alcohol! You can't go barefooted because of broken bottles.

Blacktop the roads with potholes - ASAP!

Redo the boards at Oskar Dome (lots of nailheads that rips clothing)

Fix snowmobile trail to Redridge

Open the Redridge snowmobile trail

Start taking better (care) of what we have, and build for that. It can be done if we care now, not later.

General maintenance and security of facilities (cameras)

Enforce lease law at N. Canal Park, and regulate burning materials.

Law enforcement visits at facilities will cut down drunks and drug addicts. Charge for entry.

Zoning will clean up the many dumps that litter the Township.

Please see if Houghton Co. Road Commission can redo Erickson Dr. to Obenhoff Rd. The road is literally all potholes, with a few smooth patches. It is horrible! Also, I am concerned with the increase of traffic that the Keweenaw Waters Resort will bring to Canal Rd. There will be an increase in pedestrian / bike traffic along Canal Rd. with the Resort, and the road shoulders aren't significant. People travel too fast, and I worry about accidents - add speed bumps?

Road maintenance for biking

I would like to see more multi-use trails connecting Township properties and areas of interest.

Repair Redridge Dam memorial.

NCP would have more use if it was better maintained.

I think maintenance should trump new projects.

Better maintenance of the Covered Rd. Better maintenance instead of purchasing more properties.

Pave N. Superior Rd

Set-up timber harvest management plans (where possible) to harvest timber off Township properties, to create revenue instead of raising taxes to pay for improvements.

Stanton Township has no zoning, and many properties are junk yards or abandon with blight, so no "community recreation plan" would be successful until the properties and parks are cleaned up of blight ... The Township could create a Zoning Ordinance which could include anti-blight where abandonment, blight, or neglect properties are prohibited and must be removed by the owner...Then a second phase could be a "community recreation plan." An example is the Zoning Ordinance for the Charter Township of Portage, Houghton County, MI

Fix Canal Rd! Especially Oskar Bay corner! We have been forgotten past Schmidt's Corner.

An improved barrier to prevent vehicles from driving onto stamp sand areas of NCP

Agate Beach and N. Canal Park need to be private operation; privatize operations at Township properties and facilities

Pave N. Superior Rd

Get camping back at the Breakers [NCP] with an attendant on site! No parties, no garbage on the beach! Turn the Breakers into an RV park; take the fence down and develop the area. Stop the parties and the garbage on the beach. Tons of potential with that area, especially with Coles Creek being developed.

Better supervision of property

Update and maintain outdoor volleyball court at Oskar Dome

Maintenance of our Canal Rd would be more beneficial to our community than working on the parks.

Well done and thank you -- it's a lot of work!

Upkeep on outhouses

Primary concerns about condition of Canal Rd around Oskar Bay (Oskar Curve). Also concern about burning pallets at Township parks. Willing to serve on the Recreation Committee and provided phone number.

Purchase new road signs. Current signs are faded and many are unreadable. Find road signs that do not fade. The current sign poles can be reused

Remove junk on Township property on the end of Bayshore Drive. It is a liability and is blocking access to Township property. Improve trail to NCP.

Playground at NCP

The Kenner Dome has serious mis-use and abuse from users both local and non-local people. Can't even take my family to enjoy it.

Kenner Dome needs better maintenance and supervision; young kids trash the place and make it less family-friendly; NCP is also trashed - big party people. If the beach area was more developed and family-friendly, and maintained, then maybe it would be respected more? I am all for opening back up the NCP campground too. Thank you for making a survey !!!

Widening the road to NCP to 2-lanes to prevent traffic issues

I would like to feel comfortable walking in our area. Currently, we drive to town to walk because the speed of traffic makes it unsafe to walk here.

North Canal Park could use new bathrooms

Paved path to Bay Shore Rd from North Canal Park

Construct a convenience store at Schmidt's Corner with or without fuel pumps

A cleaning station at NCBL for fish, as well as an outhouse structure

I'd like to see a paved bike trail to the NCP. It's a bit scary for cyclists - runners now as well as motorists.

Develop hiking trails on Township properties for site seeing, bird watching, and enjoying nature. Continue to manage and utilize our property for recreational use and possible timber harvest.

Less or no committees, more workers

Get MTU involved in cleaning the NCP, because the students are the ones' hauling truckloads of pallets and furniture out there nightly and burning it all over, so there is piles of nails and springs all over. Have them make some huge metal fire rings to burn in

The roads are bad

Make ABP into a RV park and campground like McClain State Park, same with NCP. It would generate a ton of money for the Township.

Construct RV sites with power and water hook-ups at both parks [NCP and ABP].

Take care of Canal Rd to Rocky Shores intersection, allowing safer winter access and emergency access, including possible fire access via Fire Station Rd.

Proper management of Kenner Dome and using the property not only for hockey, but multi-sports (volleyball, baseball, basketball), and picnic area. A community center/sports complex.

A dog park at NCP, remove fencing that is unnecessary

More parking spaces at NCBL

More trailer parking and single vehicle parking at NCBL

Playground/swing set at NCP

Would love public pickleball courts

Improve bike/walk trails (handicap access), lighting?

A nice playground for kids at the Kenner Dome

Don't go far away from "natural." "The UP is special." Man made is everywhere.

Build a biking/walking path to the side of Canal Rd., from Coles Creek Rd. to the NCP.

Pave Canal Rd. from Schmidt's Corner to NCP

Mountain bike trails

Clean bathrooms/changing rooms at ABP and NCP. More hiking paths on Township properties. I'm sure many residents would volunteer labor and equipment to do this.

The curves in the Oskar area of the Canal Rd are in desperate need of serious repair. The potholes and poor patching job are damaging vehicles and making travel dangerous for drivers in both directions, because they are having to try to dodge the potholes. The road is very narrow in that area. I think the whole section needs to be replaced regardless of what some people in that area seem to think. It's dangerous in its current condition for the drivers and the residents.

Please pave Firehall road; renovate firehall.

Trails to connect easier to other trails. Usually have to trailer snowmobile or ride on road.

Canal road repair / Rajala corner. Holes in Red Brick Rd pavement. Different lighting on Kenner Dome - bright for North bound traffic.

Use volunteers. No burn at NCP beach. Please fix the N. Canal Rd. or no one will come and damage their cars and trucks.

Create pickleball courts where they are suited best. Pave N. Superior Rd.

Bathrooms at NCP. Indoor pickleball and basketball. Outdoor volleyball. Playground and picnic area at NCP.

Picnic pavilion area at Kenner Dome

Kayak launch area somewhere in the Township (maybe near Kenner Dome). Would like to participate in pickleball if possible. Also, would enjoy more walking trails.

Maintain what already exists, nothing fancy, just routine maintenance and upkeep

Pave the road past Schmidt's bar to the end [NCP]

Avoid adding items that will require more maintenance

Better supervision at Kenner Dome. Shouldn't just be for hockey!

Keep up to date and accessible

Some potholes are huge and dangerous, especially on corners with poor visibility (Oskar). I am excited to know all these places exist and hope they are maintained to the benefit of all. Thanks for all you do!

Add more parking spaces at N. Canal boat launch

Add dusk to dawn lights and more parking at N. Canal boat launch

Handicap fishing access at the NC boat ramp. Another section of dock added to the existing dock would allow more fishing access and boaters. There are state grants available for handicap access to beaches and docks. Ontonagon is working on one now.

Put work out on bids

Close the EB Holman School - send all children to Houghton - use that money to fund these projects.

Make it a community for everyone.

Shooting range

Toilet vault at NCP

Why is the Kenner Dome not kept clean? Do you have someone doing this?! Also at Kenner Dome, why are parking lot lights on all night long?

Avoid developments like Keweenaw Resort that takes away from the natural beauty of the area, and/or significantly increase traffic on Canal Rd.

Need road in Oskar paved. Too many cars are getting wrecked in the potholes, year after year. Holes are so bad you go on other side, could be cause of accidents.

What is the point of increasing economic impact when there is no economy (other than the bar)? Corner store gone; restaurant gone; and Sandy's gone.

Please do not add camping to NCP. It attracts people who have destroyed property and make recreating there dangerous. Overnight sleeping already happens there. Making camping there makes it worse. Let's make Agate Beach campground work.

I wish in the winter they would leave a small section of road on one side for snowmobiles to safely get to the trail down Canal Rd.

I would like to see the road paved going into the NCP.

More walking / snowshoeing trails open to public. Advertise about the Marsden Center [trails on Canal Rd].

Build trails for non-motorized access.

Make sure all properties and facilities have good signage and they are advertised to all parties. Build a gun range for target practice - encourage residents to use it rather than practicing on other properties.

Avoid development like Keweenaw Waters Resort.

Make the NCP and Agate Beach into RV sites.

Make the NCP and Agate Beach into RV sites.

Recreation committee with balance of members from both precincts. Attention to existing facilities and roads to the parks need to be addressed. Poor roads keep people away.

Favors Recreation Committee as long as residents have a say in decisions. Winter plowing issues seems like there are days when we don't get plowed on Arctic Circle Rd. Elderly residents can't get out. Also, the spring melts render this end almost impassable at times. Thank you

Agate Beach park attendant, full time in summer. If the Agate Beach Park area is improved a better group of people will come to camp here. You can charge more [and] the lesser campers are less likely to want to camp there. Also need a new well dug, and septic for hall, with bathrooms for events like a jamboree, etc.

Keep the overcrowding of our parks downstate. The natural beauty of this area is far better than the asphalt parks to the south. Screw Tourism

Outside people already know about our parks -- improve and upkeep what we have. Hire local people that want work, not companies to exploit us. Keep the outhouses pumped; collect from campers often, campground host and bring back the electric [at ABP]. ABP is well-known and can support itself with the right attention. I'm sure the northside [NCP] would benefit from the campground reopening. After this one, ABP is up and working properly.

Upkeep to current facilities. Putting our tax dollars/camping fees back into the parks. Making provisions for campground host. All questions seem heavily weighted toward needs of north end of Stanton Township.

Dust abatement for unpaved primary routes.

Why even ask for a master plan [ABP] - you already have one. Township can't afford to maintain what we have.

Starting from Misery Bay Rd, pave to ABP

Upkeep of the existing facilities would be great, but mostly I suggest paving the Agate Beach Rd. It is in horrible condition and there is a lot of people visiting in the summer.

Replace 1.6 miles of Agate Beach Rd from Misery Bay Rd toward park paving

Pave the road to ABP. It is very bad now. What is life about anyway? Work hard and retire, I like going to Agate Beach.

Make ABP only day activities or close the park

Daily staff person at ABP

A renovated boat launch at Agate Beach is really needed for the Agate Beach/Misery Bay area. The Misery Bay boat launch is not always open at the mouth of the river - too shallow. A non-resident fee could be implemented at Agate Beach launch.

I've enjoyed ABP for over 38 years. Don't make it so big that it's not enjoyable. I didn't like when there was the big Finn Festival. I enjoy the small community events where the locals come together and visit.

Purchasing more lakefront property. In my opinion, a desirable community allows access to its best features to everyone. Not just the privileged few. Do not limit just to lakefront and riverfront, but any other extraordinary areas.

Pave all roads. Fence separating recreation area from campers at ABP.

Fix and maintain power at ABP. Also, maintain the primitive campsites. ABP is our jewel in Stanton Township that locals and tourists visit the most.

Repair electrical issues at ABP for RV camping.

ABP is a beautiful place enjoyed by many people. However, the camping gets out-of-hand, and it is not properly managed.

[Renovate] ABP boat launch 100%

Keep control of Township properties by Township board and residents. Repair fencing at NCP to keep vehicles off beach.

Pave the road to Agate Beach and fix the boat launch

Dust control on the dirt roads

Purchase some new tables for the Toivola Recreation Building. Upgrade the Agate Beach buildings - kitchen in Agate Beach hall and windows in concession building

Fix two bridges on Agate Beach Rd.

Pave the road from Misery Bad Rd to Agate Beach Park.

The township needs to sell/donate ABP to the county or state so it can be properly run as a park, and not a private campground for whoever the caretakers are and their friends. It's a magnificent property, worthy of state park status, and the way it has been run for years and years is unacceptable.

Dump stations in both campgrounds [NCP and ABP] would possibly create more revenue for the Township as people like to be able to empty campers before traveling home. Most of the other options in this survey will not bring in revenue, will only cost the taxpayers money.

Stanton Township is small and beautiful as is – isn't that horrid new RV park on the Canal enough?! Quit inviting dirtbags into the area to make noise and trash the spectacular solitude. We are the ones paying to live here and we deserve to enjoy the peace and relative solitude, which characterizes this special place – into which we have invested our lives and our fortunes. If the Township wishes to truly enrich the area, let's find a way to eliminate property blight. Can the Township start fining property owners for trashing their front yards? Can the township find less punitive ways to help residents of Stanton Township clean up their properties? I'm also interested in our drinking/ground water. We've not had our water tested yet. If the area is heavily contaminated, will we be receiving filtration systems/discounts? Can you please keep the roads in better condition? The area between Oskar cemetery and the Kenner Dome is dangerous. I blew a tire on that corner last fall. I would urge the Township against blowing money on methods/schemes to attract tourists. This beautiful farmland is perfect as is. Let's clean up what we already have before we invest in building MORE. Thanks!

I love that Marsin Nature Area and Retreat! I would throw tax money at that lovely place. Nice little hikes and I love that outdoor fireplace.

I met with John C. of the Houghton County Road Commission and walked the OSKAR Curve to determine the best fix. He claimed they were broke, but then miraculously coughed up >2M to remake Canal Road up to Coles Creek. They could have used some of that for the OSKAR section. We watch Canal Road when there are seasonal activities for the North Canal Boat Launch and NCP. The road section from Oskar Bay Cemetery to Stoltz Creek is horrible and unsafe. How can we attract tourists and usage of these facilities if the road damages vehicles and trailers. Need to post a sign at Parks where there have been fires, *not* to burn pallets. The leftover nails are a tetanus hazard for people and maybe pets. We cleaned up 5 lbs. of nails in one hour. MTU ROTC is always looking for community service opportunities. Contact them for recreation projects, cleanup, and painting.

One reason for [our] not using the amenities isn't directly tied to Stanton Township oversight, though it is certainly a factor. If the Township facilities and properties are enhanced, it can be assumed there will be an influx of motor vehicle travel to/from those locations, especially with the new campground/rentals along Canal Road. The lack of safe pedestrian/biking space due to speeding and unsafe driving habits by vehicle operators on Canal Road is a major concern. This is especially concerning once pedestrians/bikers are approximately .8 miles south of the Liminga/Canal Rd intersection, and then the distance to the NCP. While there is a small shoulder on Liminga Road, Michigan law states that motor vehicles are required to allow a 3-foot buffer when passing pedestrians, which is rarely followed. If the Stanton Township amenities are to be enhanced, Liminga Road and Canal Road (south .8 miles of the Stanton Township Hall) need a shoulder like the southern part of Canal Road. We are predominantly commuter bikers to Houghton on Liminga Road and Canal Road. If there were more pedestrian/biking safe space (shoulders) alongside the primary routes to Stanton amenities, we would be more apt to use them. Thank you!

BONFIRES: This park [North Canal Park] has problems with evening bonfires. I am not against visitors enjoying a bonfire on the beach, but I am very concerned about the items that are being burned. Pallets are routinely burned on the beach, and this leaves piles of nails and other metal. During the course of a summer, there are many areas of nails on the beach. Also, I have seen places on the beach where furniture, tires, and mattresses were burned. Bottles and aluminum cans are often thrown into the bonfires, and this leaves broken glass and scorched cans. **MICHIGAN DOG LEASH LAW:** I have had barking dogs run towards me on my morning walks on the [NCP] and Stanton Township Beach. This is scary. **CANAL SIDE:** Please keep the chain link gate that was closed and locked last summer, *locked*. I am hoping this will help curtail the burning of illegal items on, at least, that side of the NCP. **NATURE CONSERVANCY LAND:** Last summer, there was vandalism on the adjoining Nature Conservancy property. Trees were cut and signs were burned. **CAMPGROUND:** I am against a campground (with hookups or primitive) at this park [NCP]. I am concerned that if camping is encouraged, there will be more overnight destruction at this park and on the beach. **SUGGESTIONS:** (1) In the parking areas, place receptacles for 10-cent deposit cans and bottles collection. A special container with a sign

might be needed, because from my observations people routinely mix garbage in with recycling. It could be a chicken wire box with a sign that explains that the money collected from the deposits will help out the park or go to another charity. This might discourage the burning of cans and bottles. (2) Hire a nighttime caretaker to keep an eye on the park and report illegal activities. They could help curtail the burning of pallets and other illegal items. And also, monitor any other destructive behaviors in the park. (3) Contact the MDNR. Maybe they would help to put up signs to educate the public about the importance of keeping Lake Superior clean. The signs could also inform visitors that it is against the law to burn items like pallets, mattresses, furniture and tires on the beach. I had contacted the MDNR about the routine burning of pallets and they said to call them when it is in progress (1-800-292-7800). A nighttime caretaker could contact the MDNR when there are problems on the beach. (4) Contact Michigan Tech and the high schools and inform them about the problems at the beach and ask them to educate the students.

Assembled and prepared by:

Ken Vrana
Community Survey Coordinator

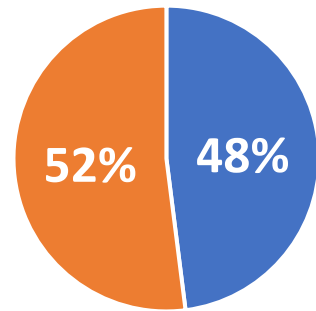
Final Document
May 16, 2023

Stanton Resident Recreation Survey Results Broken Down by Zip Code

Atlantic Mine Zip Code Responses

General Information

Total Number of Respondents:	239
Average Age of Respondent:	55.6 years old
Married:	81%
Single:	19%
Head of Household:	31%
Average Size of Household:	3.4 persons

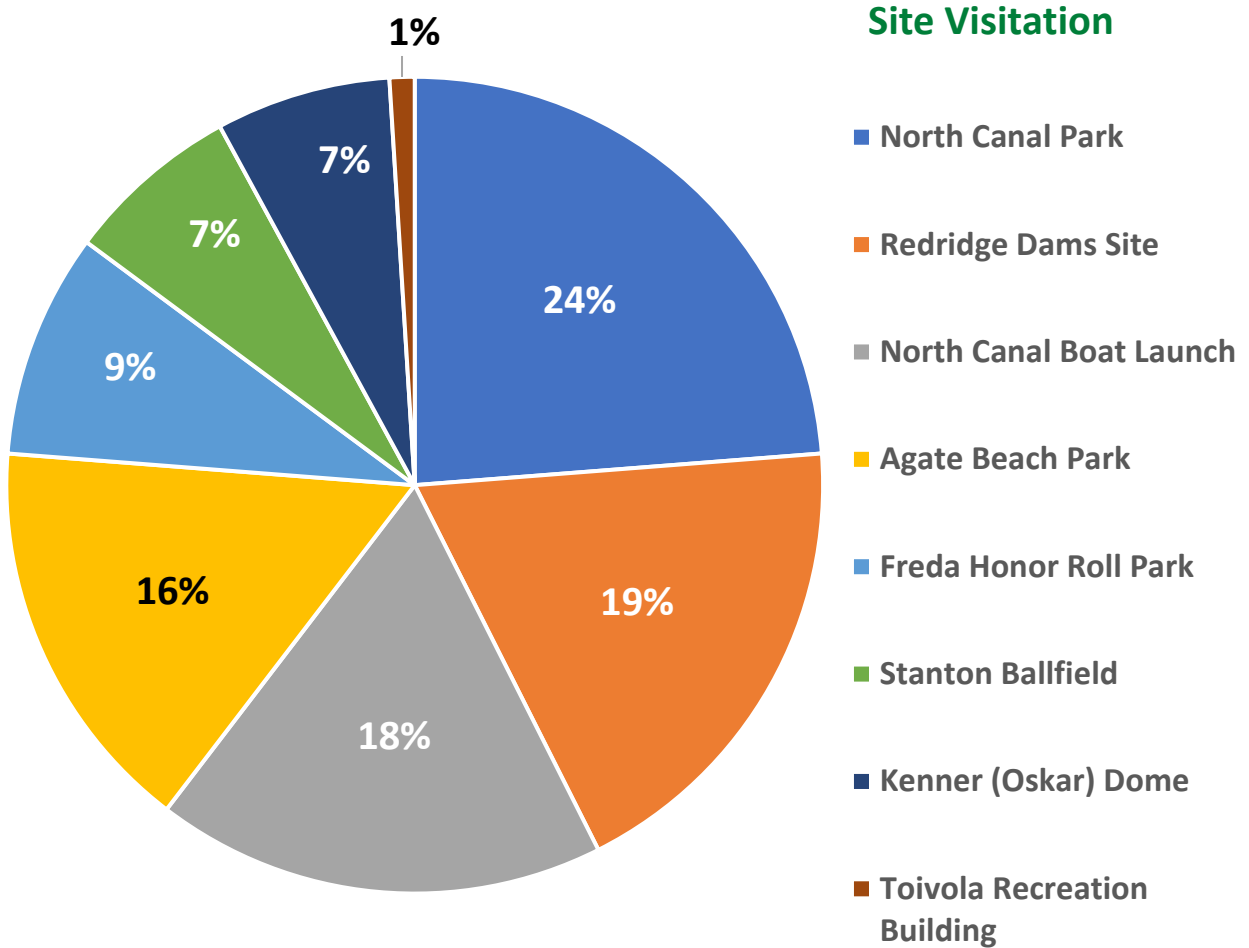


■ Female ■ Male

Primary Residence:

Larson/Obenhoff/Harma Rds.	23%	Gagnon Road	1%
Liminga Road	17%	Covered Drive	1%
Redridge/Beacon Hill/Freda	14%	Other	2%
Coles Creek Road	11%		
Rauhala/Niemi Roads	11%		
South Superior Road	6%		
Sunset Place	3%		
Wall Street	2%		
Superior Shores Road	2%		
Rova Road	2%		
North Superior Road	2%		
Puuri Road	1%		

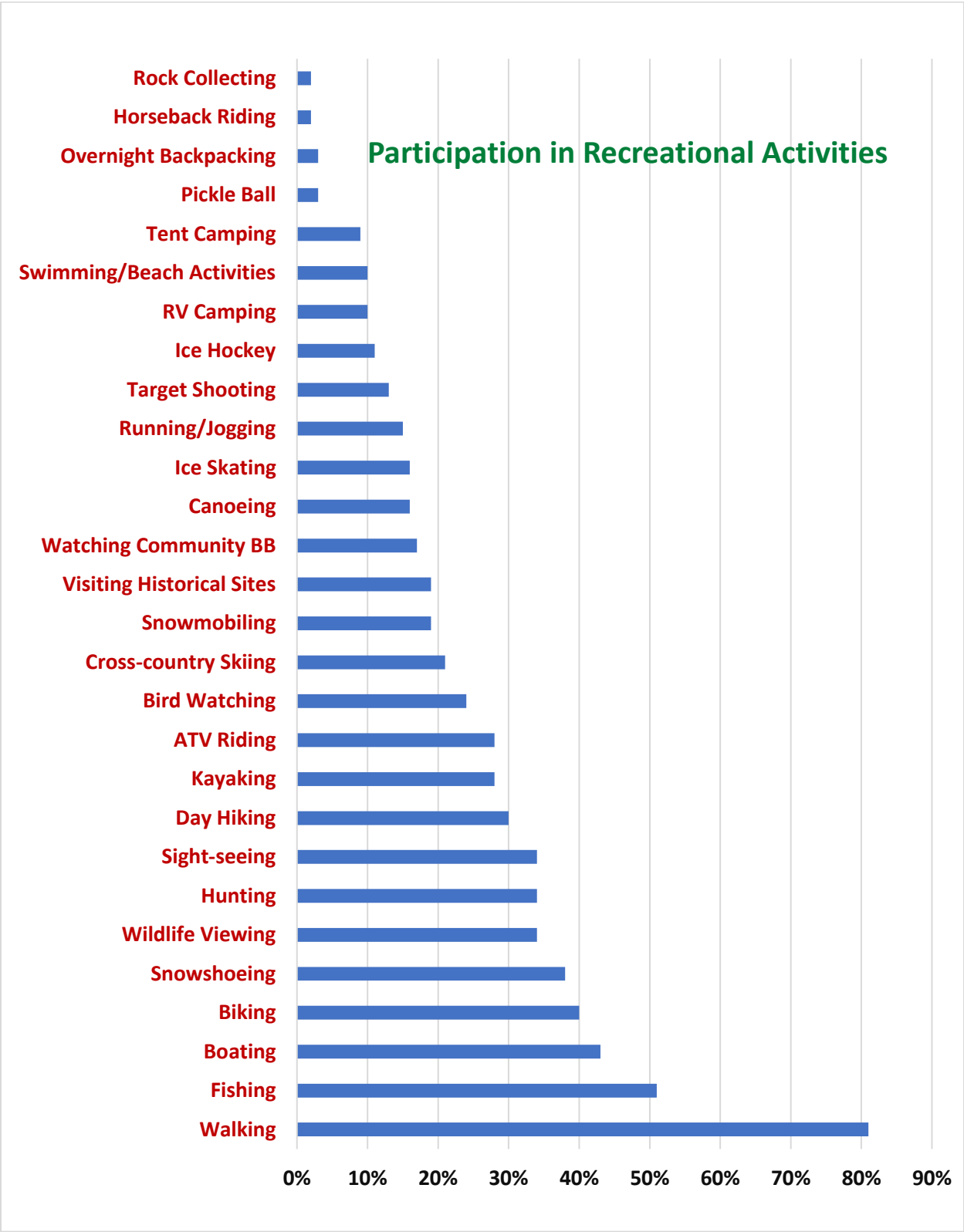
Park and Recreation Questions



Percentage of respondents who visited certain Stanton Township park and recreation sites in 2022

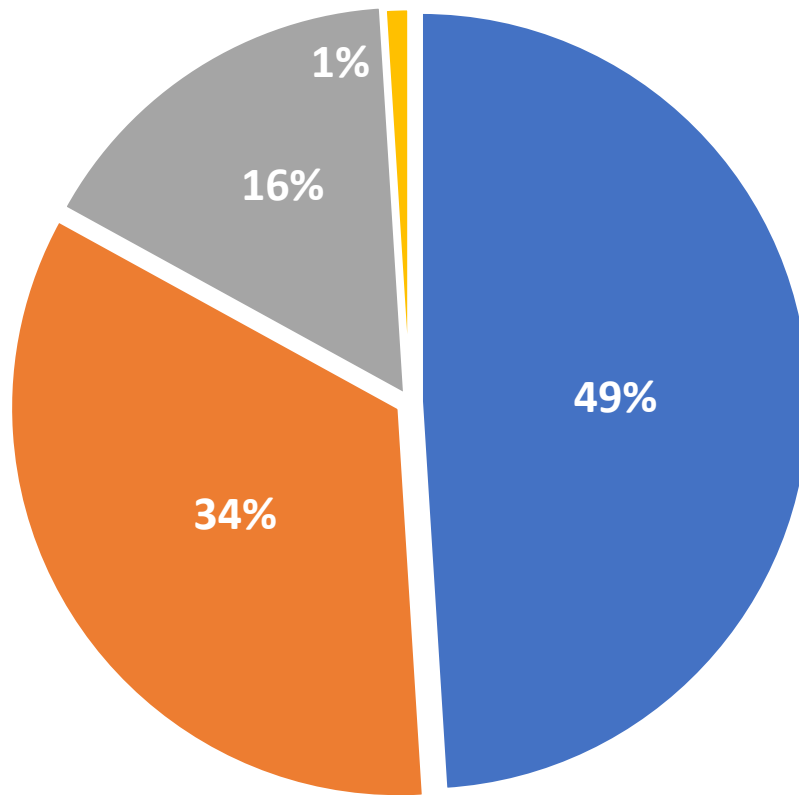
Average Annual Visits in 2022

North Canal Park	10.0	Freda Honor Roll Park	10.2
Redridge Dams Site	7.1	Stanton Ballfield	6.3
N. Canal Boat Launch	7.5	Kenner (Oskar) Dome	9.2
Agate Beach Park	4.2	Toivola Rec. Building	1.8



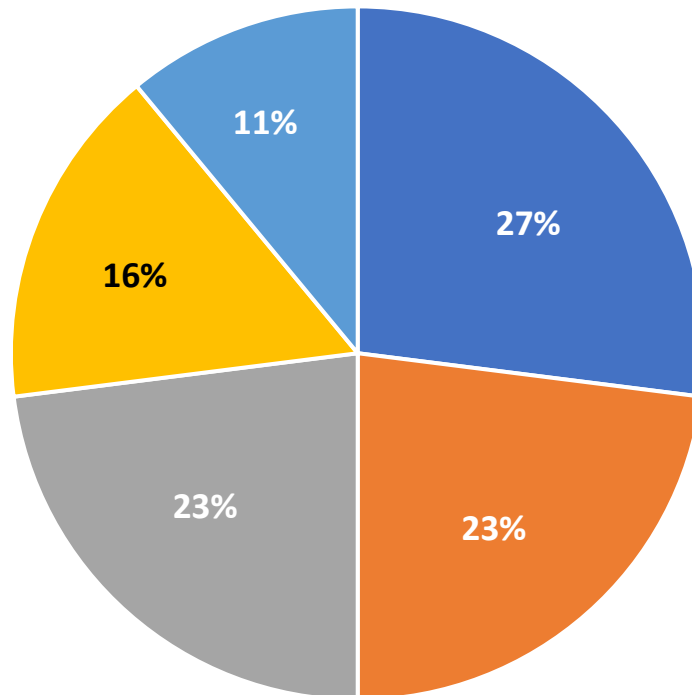
Percentage of respondents selecting recreational activities in which they participate frequently in Stanton Township.

Focus of Future Park And Recreation Development



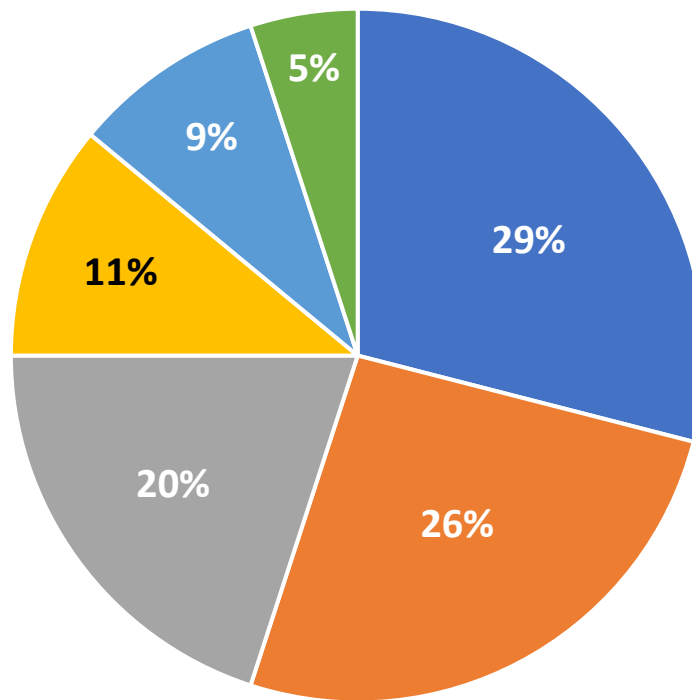
- The needs of residents and property owners
- Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs
- Leave things like they are - I don't favor additional development
- Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region

Most Important Needs for North Canal Park



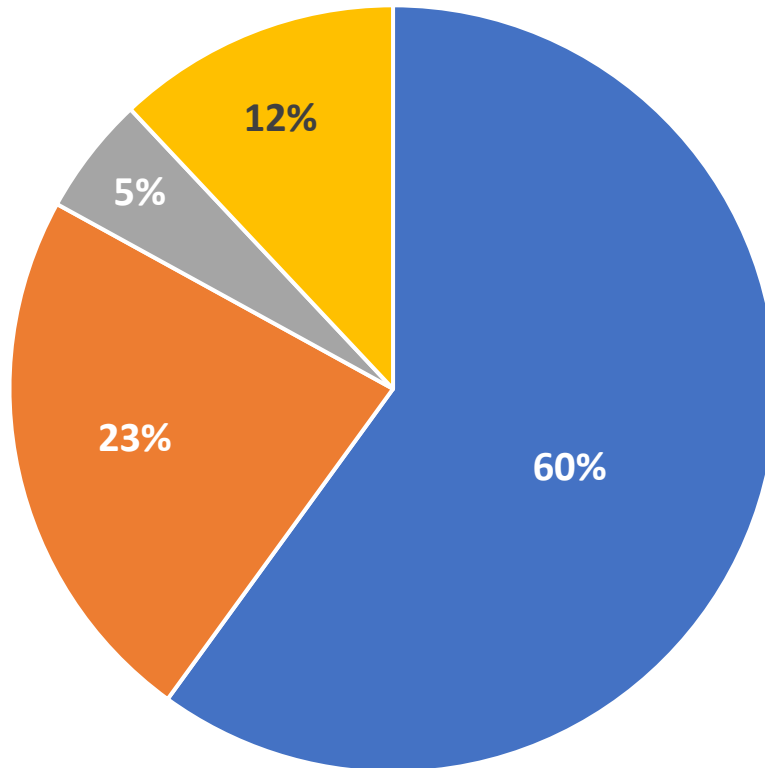
- Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property
- Re-open the North Canal Park campground
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Create a walking trail from NC boat launch to NC Park
- Pave the entry road to North Canal Park

Most Important Needs for Agate Beach Park



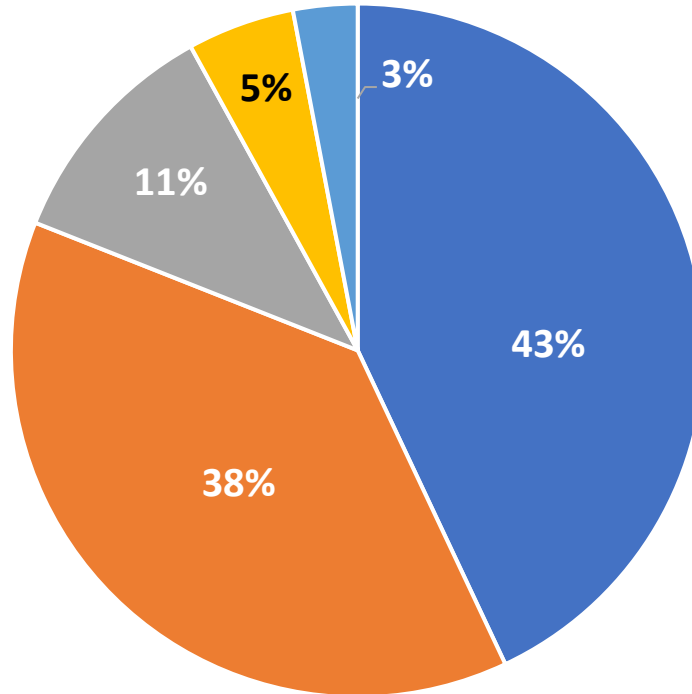
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Prepare a New Master Plan for the Agate Beach property
- Improve the current primitive camping sites
- Renovate the boat launch
- Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park
- Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings

Most Important Need for the Redridge Dams Site



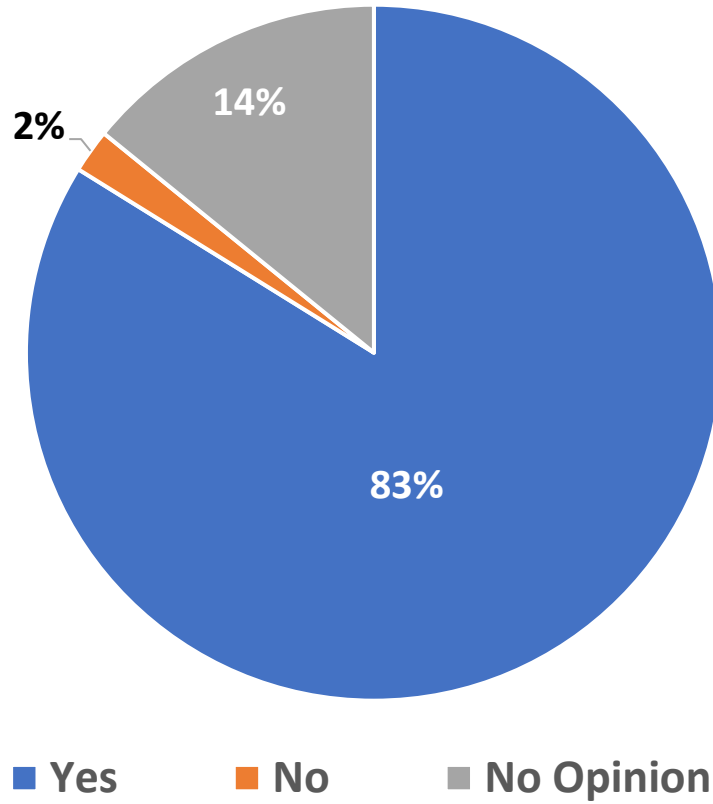
- Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan
- Transfer the Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities
- Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities
- No response

Other Important Needs for Township Properties and Facilities

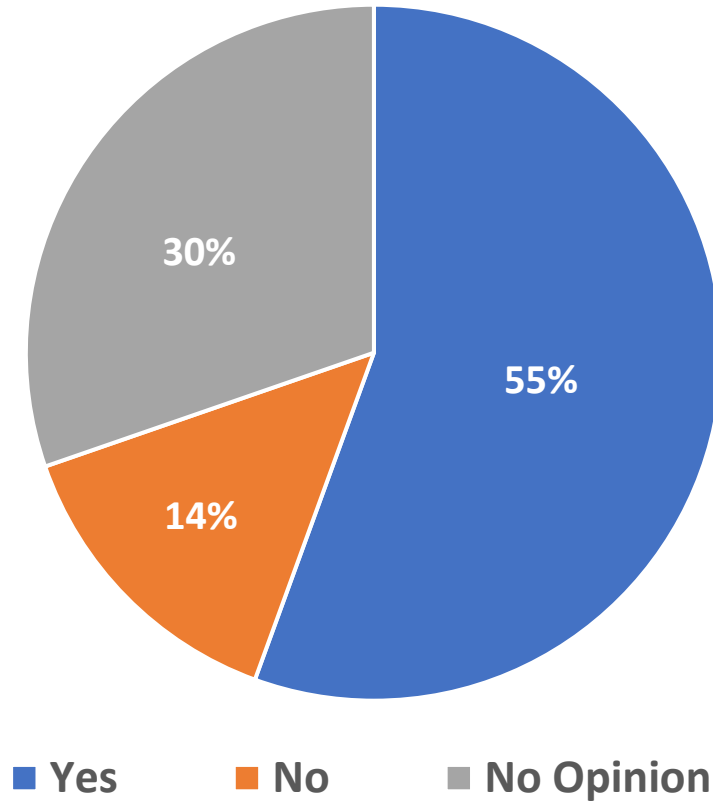


- Create a safe, public access to the Township's shorelands in Freda
- Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River
- Pave the road to North Canal Boat Launch
- Pave the Kenner (Oskar) Dome parking lot and entry road
- Replace the asphalt floor with concrete in the Toivola Recreation Building

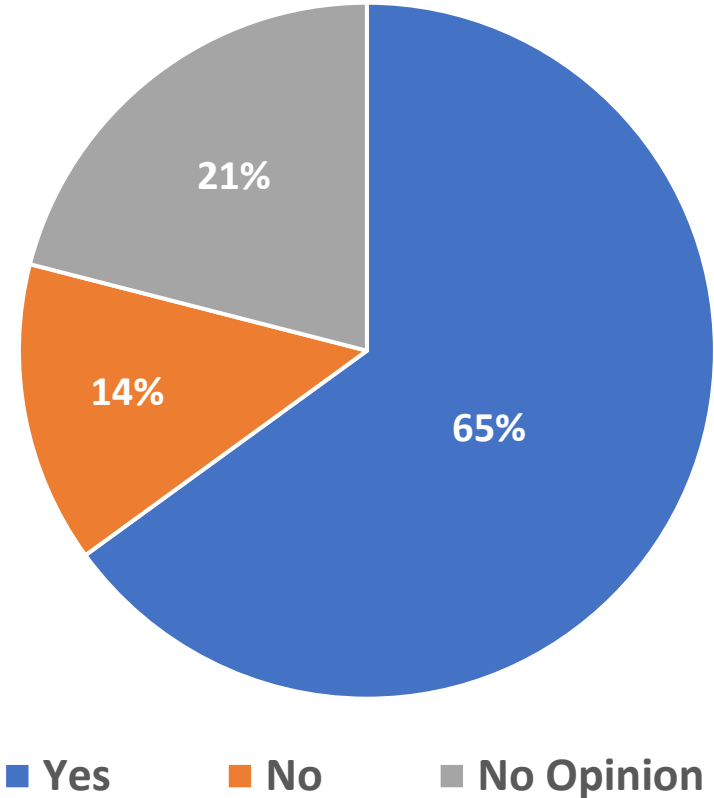
In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the creation of a Township *Park and Recreation Committee* to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?



Final Results
Stanton Township Recreation Survey
Resident Questionnaire
Administered March – April 2023

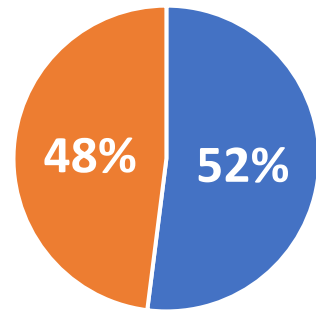
Compiled by:
Ken Vrana
May 11, 2023

Stanton Resident Recreation Survey Results Broken Down by Zip Code

Houghton Zip Code Responses

General Information

Total Number of Respondents:	173
Average Age of Respondent:	59.8 years old
Married:	92%
Single:	8%
Head of Household:	31%
Average Size of Household:	2.9 persons

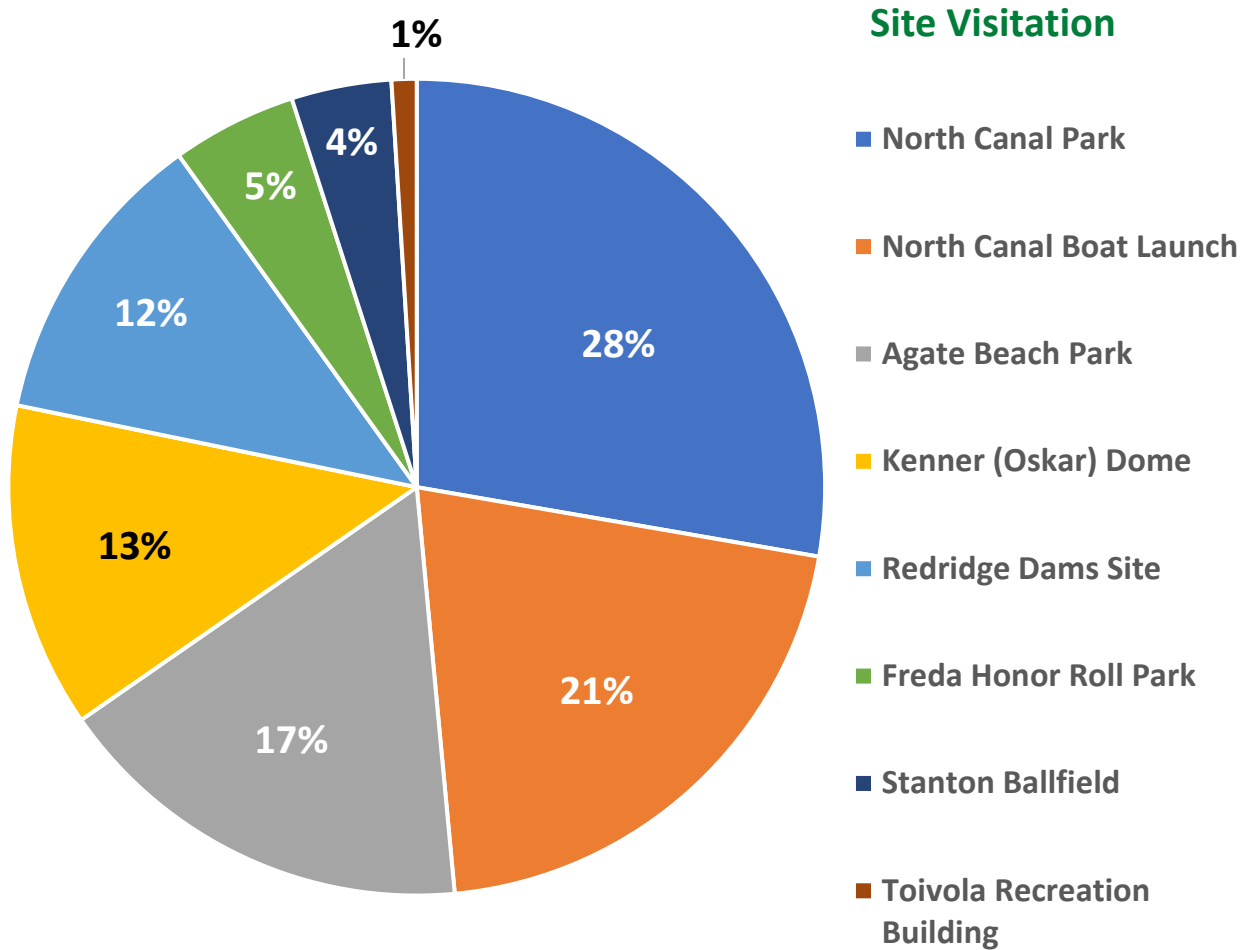


■ Female ■ Male

Primary Residence:

Canal Road	51%
North Superior Road	24%
Liminga Road	6%
Coles Creek Road	4%
Blue Top Cabin Road	2%
Osma Plat Road	1%
Rocky Shores Rd.	1%
Red Brick Road	1%
Bayshore Road	1%
Bayshore Farm Rd.	1%
Ruohonen Road	1%
Firehall Road	1%
Other	5%

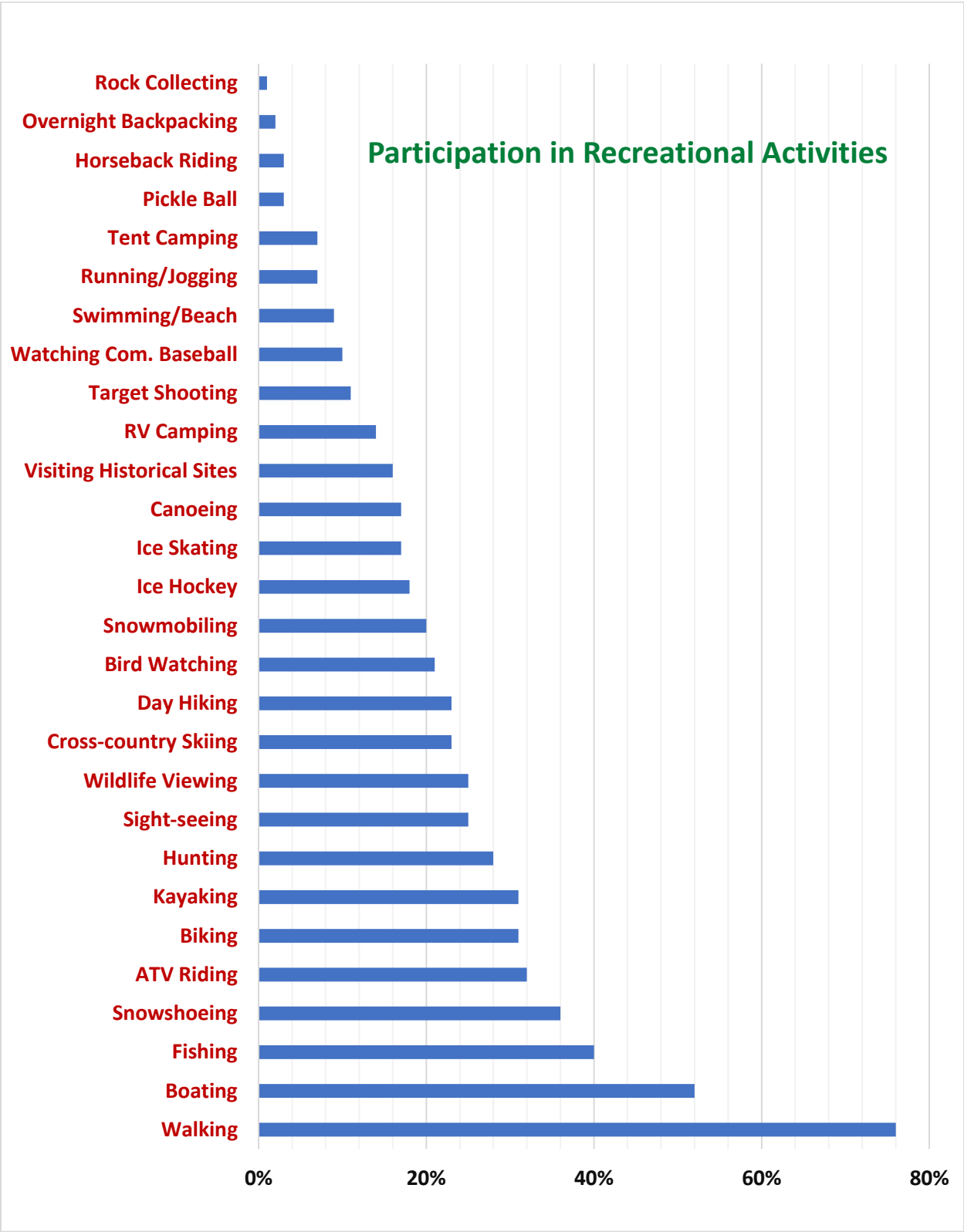
Park and Recreation Questions



Percentage of respondents who visited certain Stanton Township park and recreation sites in 2022

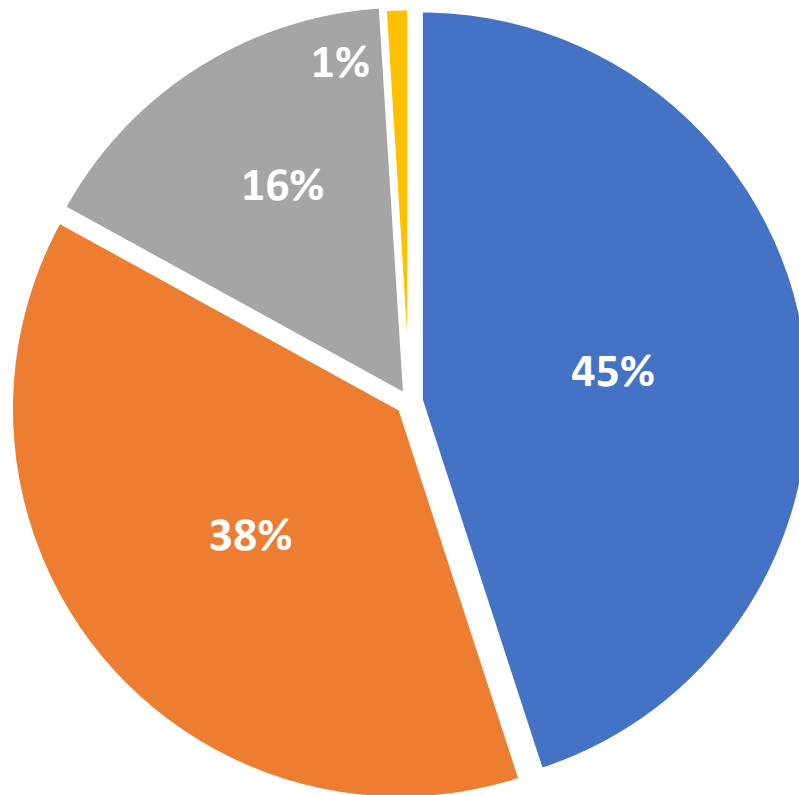
Average Annual Visits in 2022

North Canal Park	17.6	Redridge Dams Site	3.8
N. Canal Boat Launch	11.3	Freda Honor Roll Park	3.6
Agate Beach Park	5.9	Stanton Ballfield	6.5
Kenner (Oskar) Dome	7.9	Toivola Rec. Building	1.0



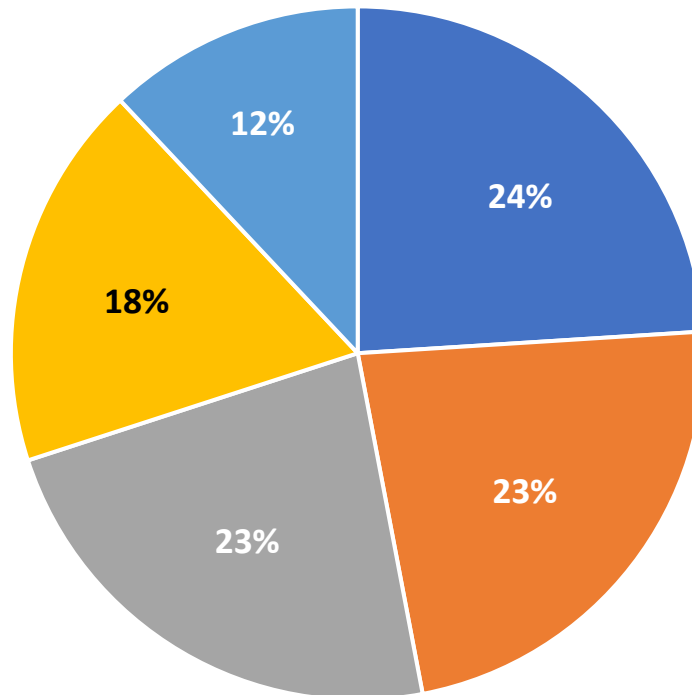
Percentage of respondents selecting recreational activities in which they participate frequently in Stanton Township.

Focus of Future Park And Recreation Development



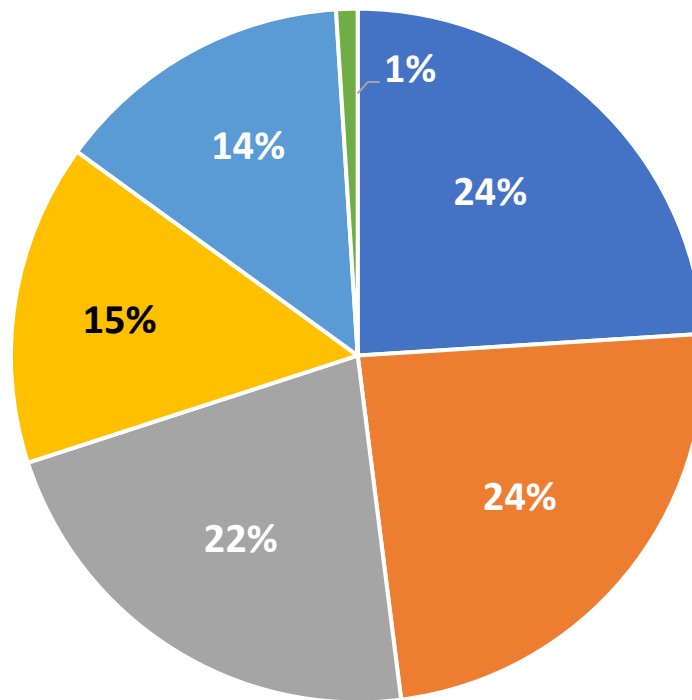
- The needs of residents and property owners
- Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs
- Leave things like they are - I don't favor additional development
- Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region

Most Important Needs for North Canal Park



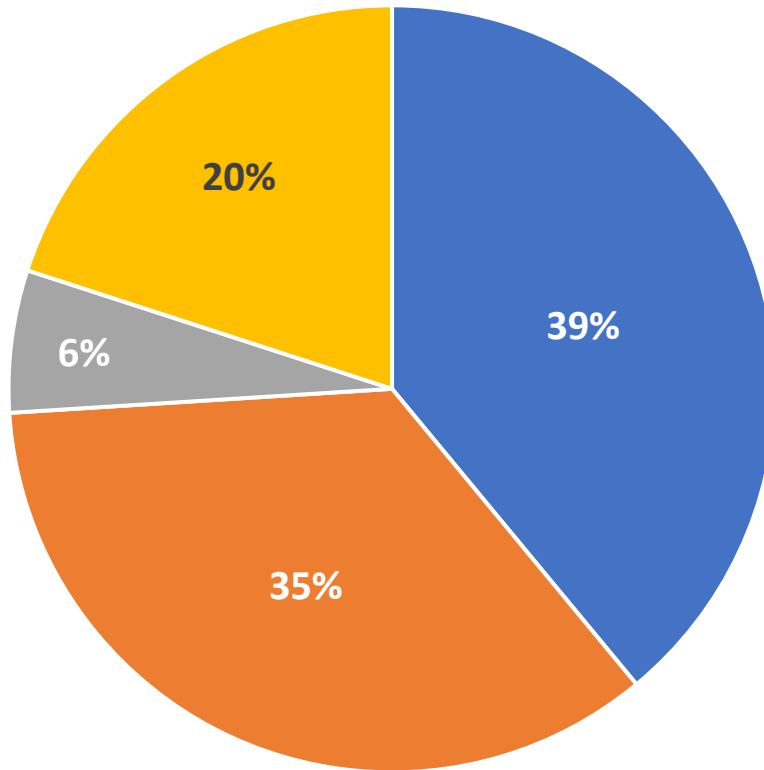
- Re-open the North Canal Park campground
- Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Create a walking trail from NC boat launch to NC Park
- Pave the entry road to North Canal Park

Most Important Needs for Agate Beach Park



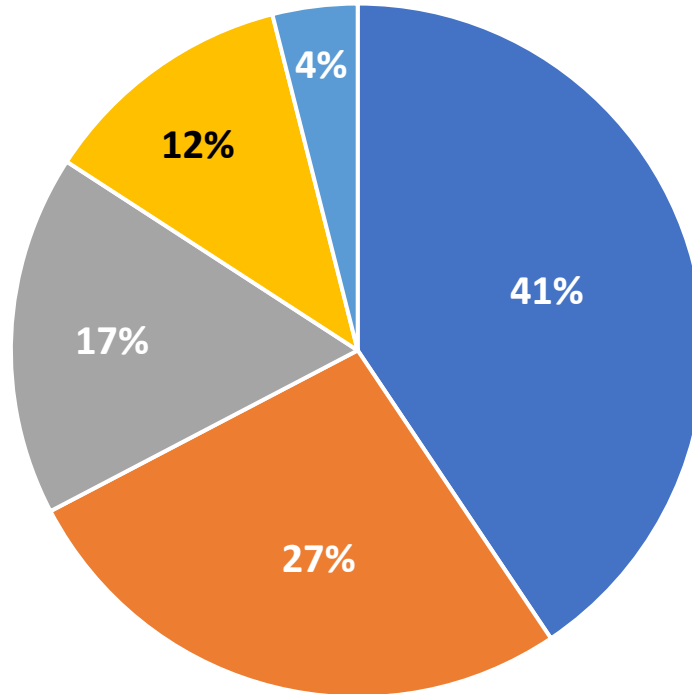
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Improve the current primitive camping sites
- Prepare a New Master Plan for the Agate Beach Property
- Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park
- Renovate the boat launch
- Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings

Most Important Need for the Redridge Dams Site



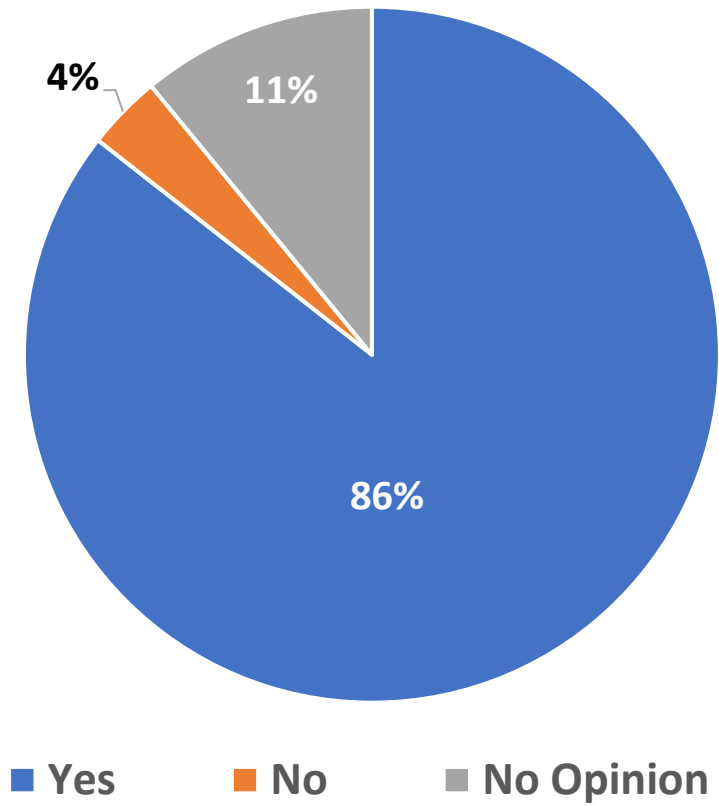
- Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan
- Transfer the Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities
- Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities
- No response

Other Important Needs for Township Properties and Facilities

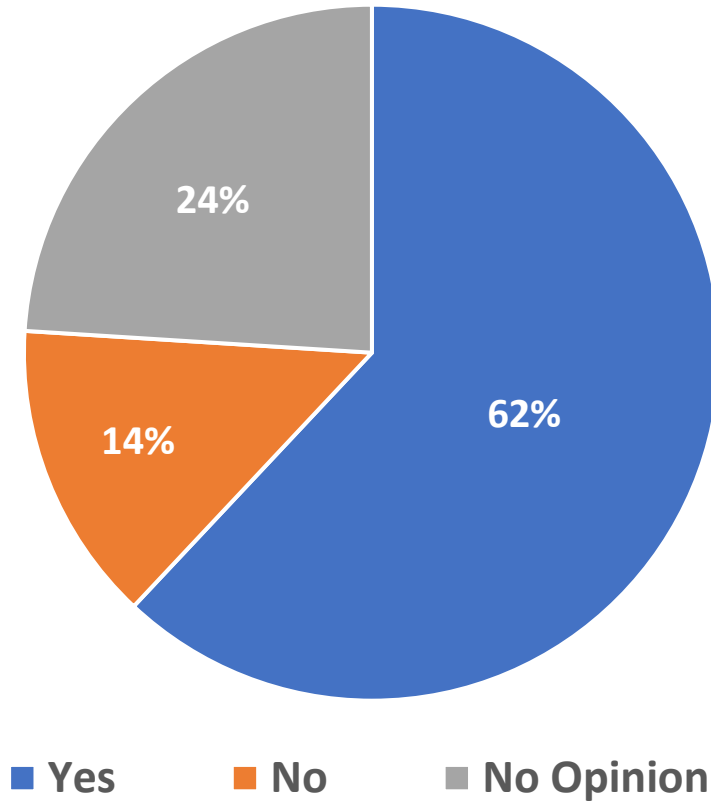


- Create a safe, public access to the Township's shorelands in Freda
- Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River
- Pave the road to North Canal Boat Launch
- Pave the Kenner (Oskar) Dome parking lot and entry road
- Replace the asphalt floor with concrete in the Toivola Recreation Building

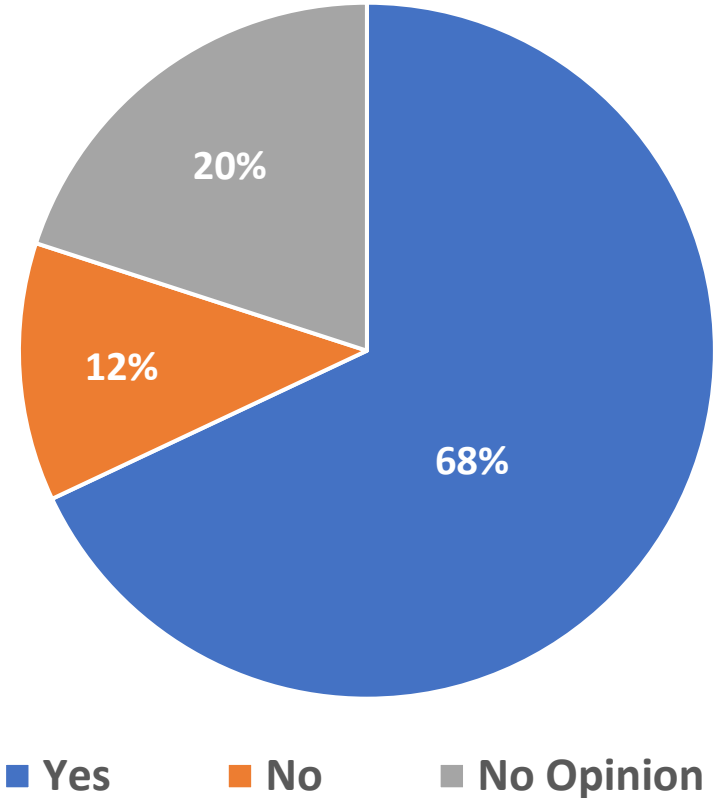
In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the creation of a Township *Park and Recreation Committee* to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?



Final Results
Stanton Township Recreation Survey
Resident Questionnaire
Administered March – April 2023

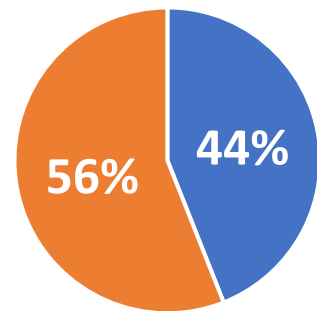
Compiled by:
Ken Vrana
May 11, 2023

Stanton Resident Recreation Survey Results Broken Down by Zip Code

Toivola Zip Code Responses

General Information

Total Number of Respondents:	57
Average Age of Respondent:	61.4 years old
Married:	70%
Single:	30%
Head of Household:	30%
Average Size of Household:	2.3 persons



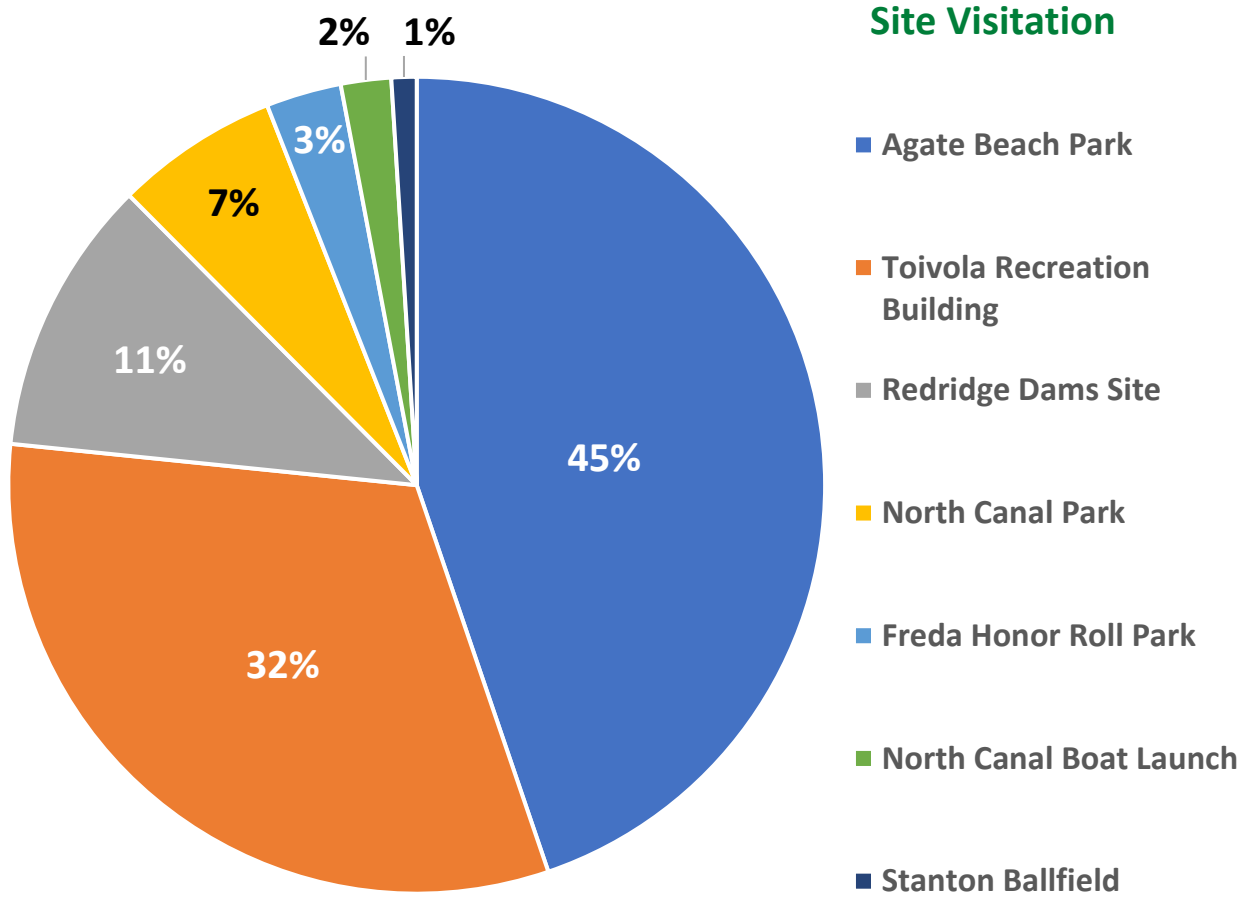
■ Female ■ Male

Primary Residence:

Agate Beach – Misery Bay Area	89%
Heikkinen School Road	4%
Lakeview Road	4%
Toivola	4%

Other described locations were Old Rink Road, Church Road, North Road, South Stanton, Southeast Stanton, and Mikkola Road.

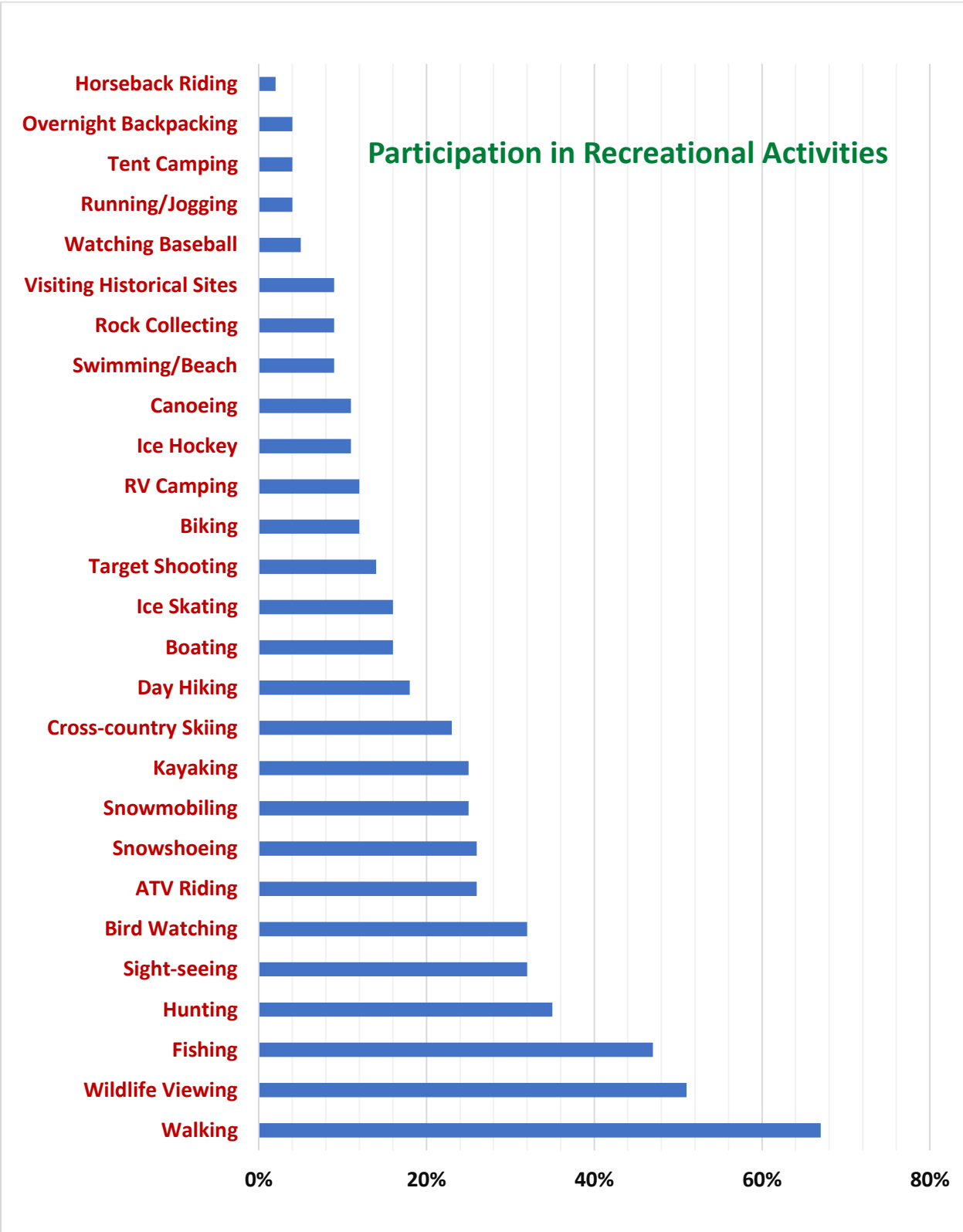
Park and Recreation Questions



Percentage of respondents who visited certain Stanton Township park and recreation sites in 2022

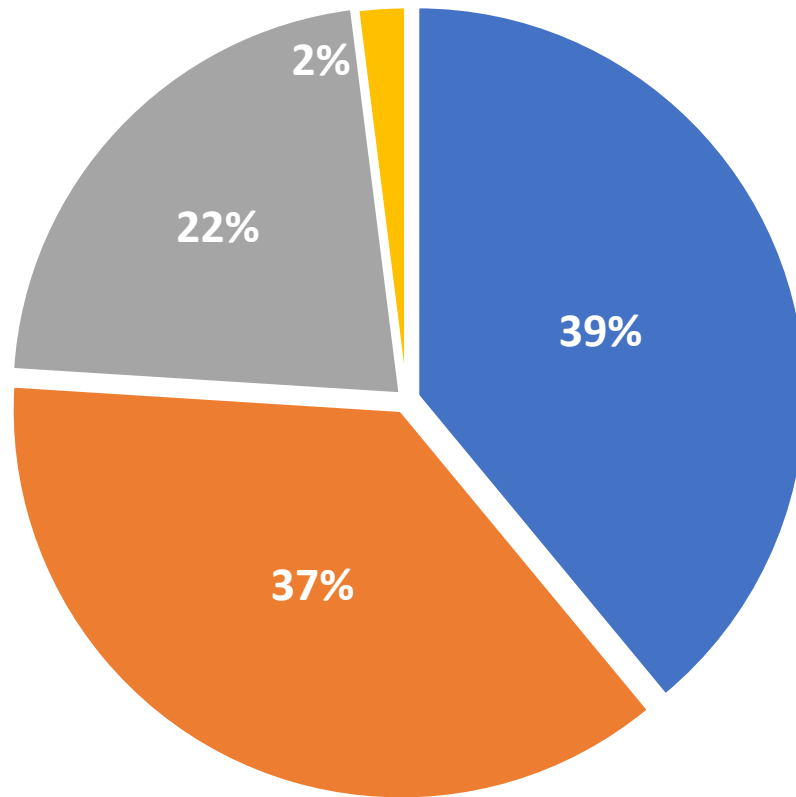
Average Annual Visits in 2022

Agate Beach Park	31.3	Freda Honor Roll Park	4.3
Toivola Rec Building	7.8	N. Canal Boat Launch	7.0
Redridge Dams Site	4.2	Stanton Ballfield	5.0
North Canal Park	3.1		



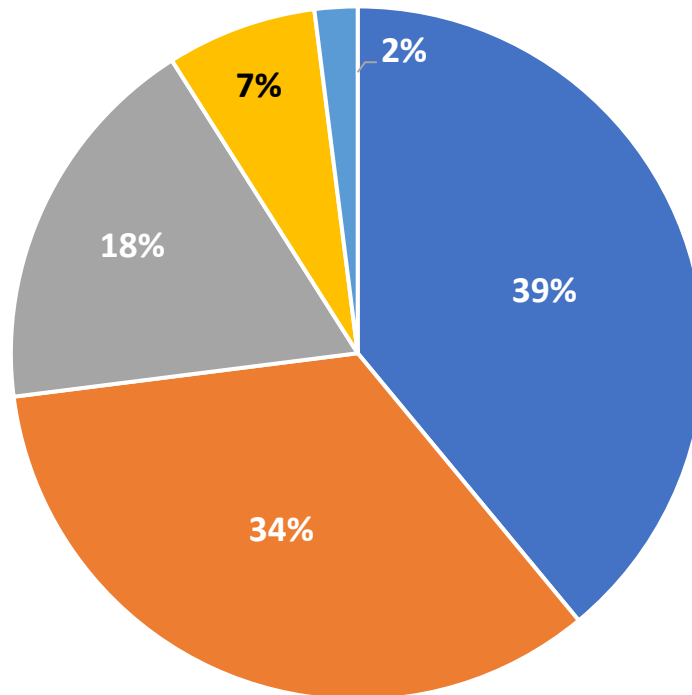
Percentage of respondents selecting recreational activities in which they participate frequently in Stanton Township.

Focus of Future Park And Recreation Development



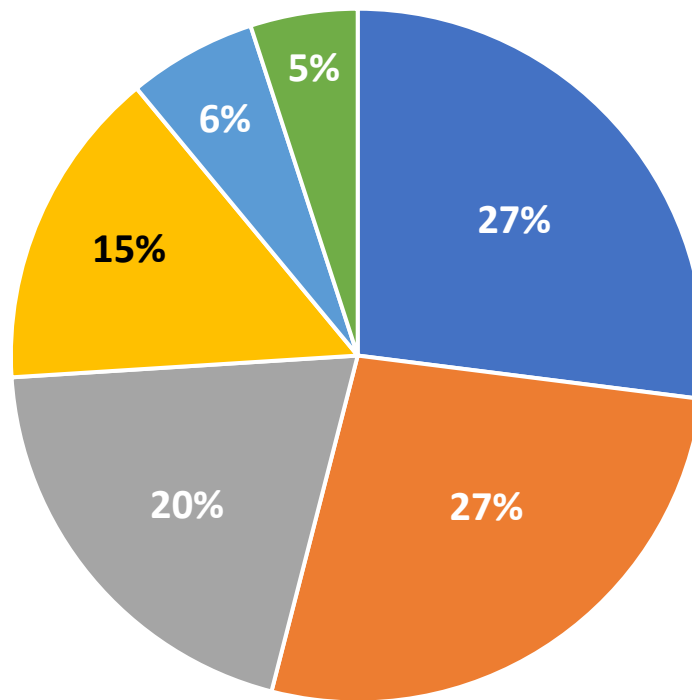
- Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs
- The needs of residents and property owners
- Leave things like they are - I don't favor additional development
- Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region

Most Important Needs for North Canal Park



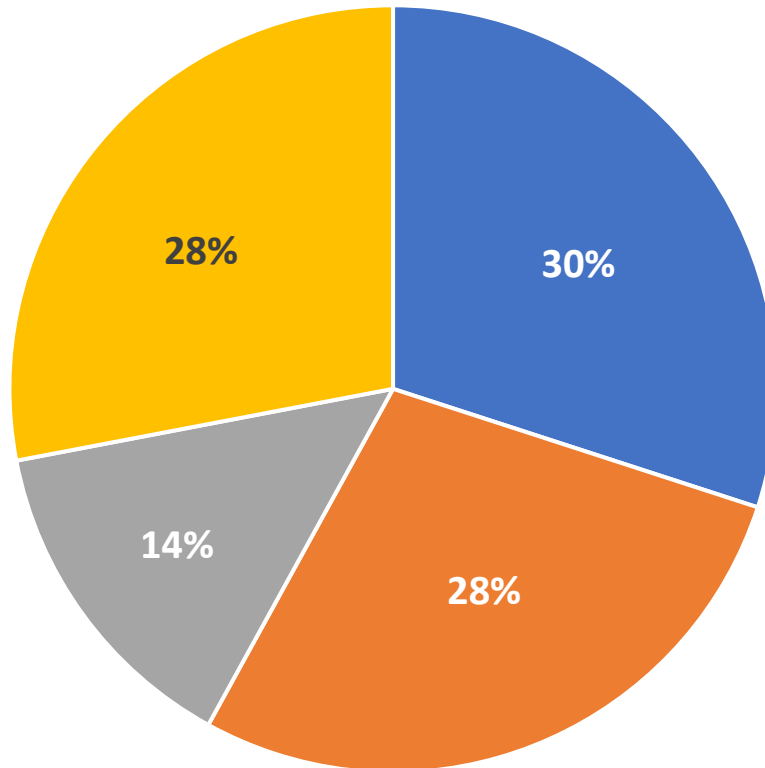
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Re-open the North Canal Park campground
- Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property
- Create a walking trail from NC boat launch to NC Park
- Pave the entry road to North Canal Park

Most Important Needs for Agate Beach Park



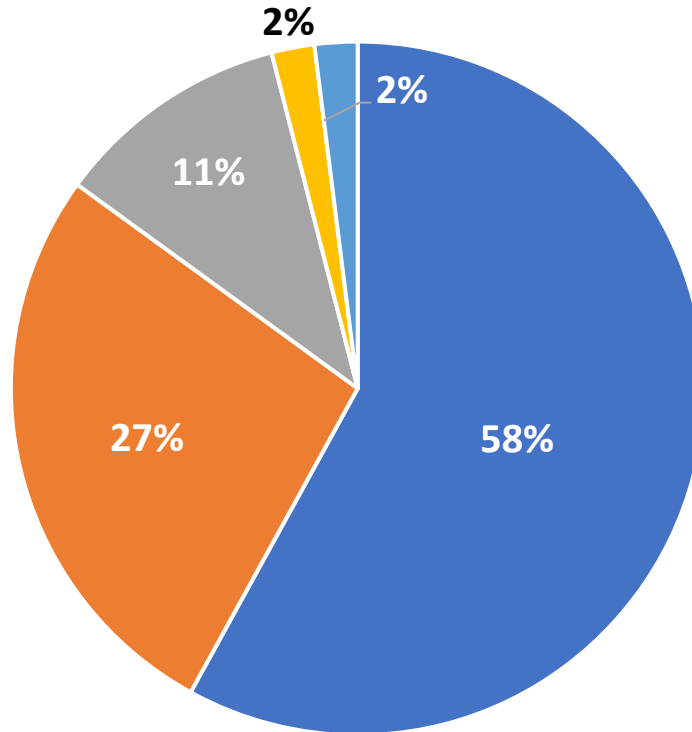
- Renovate the boat launch
- Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings
- Prepare a New Master Plan for the Agate Beach Property
- Improve the current primitive camping sites

Most Important Need for the Redridge Dams Site



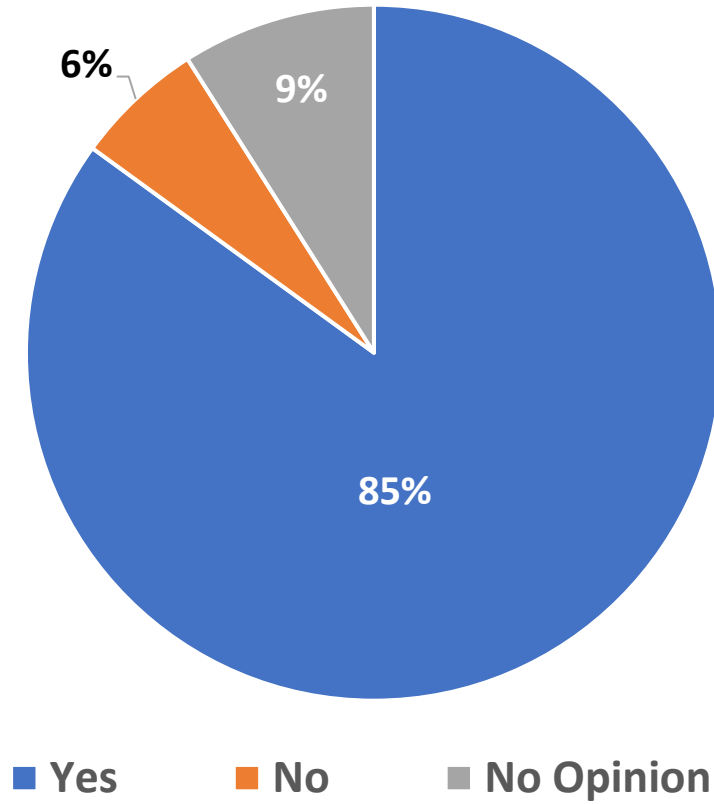
- **Transfer the Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities**
- **Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan**
- **Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities**
- **No response**

Other Important Needs for Township Properties and Facilities

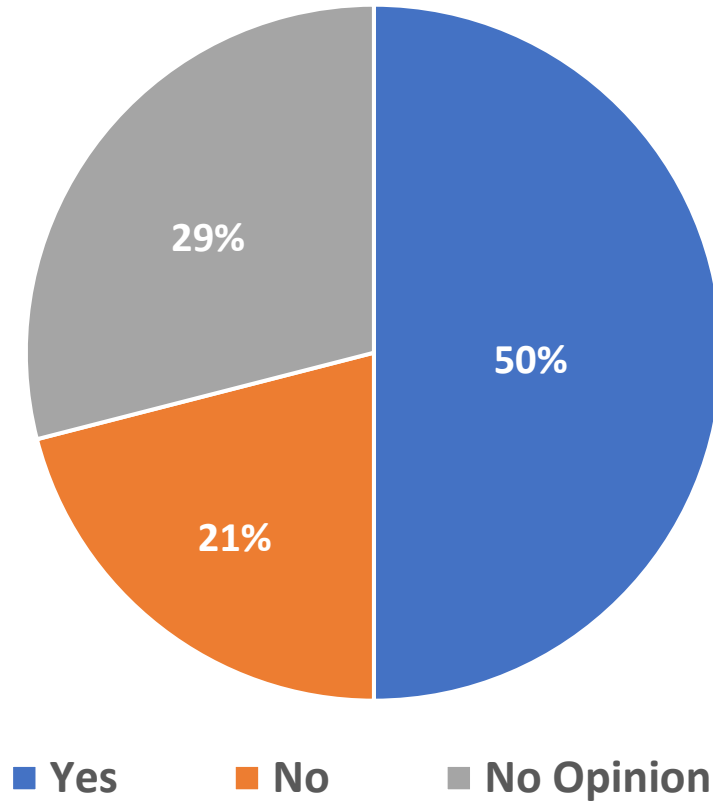


- Replace the asphalt floor with concrete in the Toivola Recreation Building
- Create a safe, public access to the Township's shorelands in Freda
- Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River
- Pave the road to North Canal Boat Launch
- Pave the Kenner (Oskar) Dome parking lot and entry road

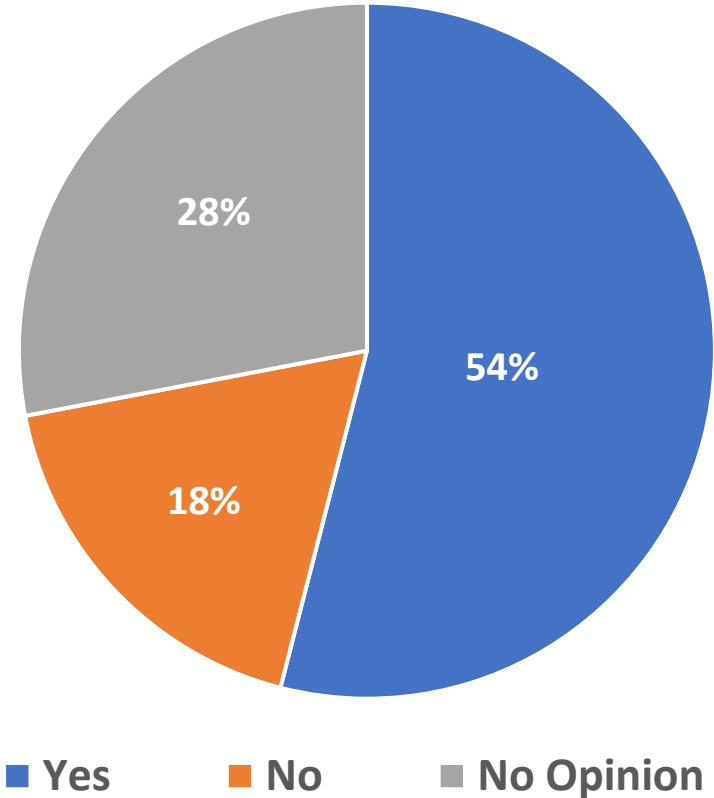
In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the creation of a Township *Park and Recreation Committee* to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?



Final Results
Stanton Township Recreation Survey
Resident Questionnaire
Administered March – April 2023

Compiled by:
Ken Vrana
May 11, 2023

APPENDIX B

Report on the Recreation Survey of Non-Resident Property Owners
(32 pages)

STANTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY

Final Results – Non-Resident Property Owners

September 5, 2023

Introduction

In 2022, the Stanton Township Board of Supervisors approved the preparation of a *5-Year Recreation Plan* in order to better manage recreation opportunities at Township properties and facilities. In addition, the Plan is required to apply for several different grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. A community survey is a key component in this Plan to enhance recreation opportunities for residents, property owners, and seasonal visitors to the Township.

This report provides background and final results for the recreation survey of *non-resident property owners* of Stanton Township, administered during July – August 2023. (Stanton Township *residents* were surveyed during March – April 2023.) The final draft results of these community surveys will be posted on the Stanton Township website for review and comment.

Questionnaire Design

Questions for the community recreation survey were prepared by the survey coordinator, in consultation with the Stanton Township Board of Supervisors, and after review of *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans* (MDNR 2021) and other professional recreation surveys. This included a pre-test of questions with Township Board members in August – September 2022. The final version of the questionnaire was prepared with desk-top publishing software and copied to Adobe Acrobat for two-sided printing on one 8 1/2" x 11" piece of recycled paper. The questionnaire includes general questions about the respondent, several park and recreation-related questions, three questions about support for certain actions by the Township Board, and space for additional comments.

Survey Administration

The method chosen for administering the survey was a mail questionnaire delivered by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). This survey method was preferred due to the lack of reliable Internet access in many locations of the Township, and because 2020 U.S. Census data indicates that a relatively large percentage of the Township's total population are seniors (42.1% age 55 or older), many of whom may not be comfortable with responding to online questionnaires.

The mailing list for *non-resident property owners* of Stanton Township was created by comparing the 2022 voting list (residents) with the 2022 property tax list for Stanton Township. It is assumed that all such property owners are adults, age 18 or older.

The mailing envelope to the property owners included a half-page introductory statement and instructions, full-page copy of the questionnaire, and a return envelope with an attached first-class postage stamp. Actions taken to increase the survey response rate included the following:

- The mailing envelopes were hand-stamped, and embossed with color stamps of the Upper Peninsula and the words IMPORTANT COMMUNITY SURVEY ENCLOSED.
- The questionnaires were mailed to the “household” address of the property owner(s) on record with Stanton Township. A total of 305 questionnaires were mailed to 197 households.

In addition, it was hoped that “word-of-mouth” discussion of the resident survey administered during March – April 2023 would increase the response rate. Lastly, a notice was posted on the Stanton Township website on March 1 alerting residents to the community recreation survey.

The first and only mailing of the recreation questionnaire to *non-resident property owners* was completed on June 20, 2023 from the Sagola, MI Post Office to 197 households. The majority of completed questionnaires were returned by the requested deadline of July 31, 2023. **The adjusted response rate by these property owners was 35%** (69 questionnaires / 197 households). The household rate of return was calculated as 207 total mailings – 3 mailings returned by the USPS = 204 – 7 resident returns = 197 adjusted household mailings. Findings in social research commonly indicate that decision-makers can confidently generalize the results of mail surveys with return rates of at least 35% to the entire target population.

Only 1% of mailings were returned by the USPS as “Not Deliverable As Addressed; Unable to Forward.” Questionnaires returned from seven households were confirmed as residents, and were included in the recreation survey of Stanton Township residents.

Discussion of Results

An Excel worksheet was created to record the survey results, including basic formulas for analyses of data from the questionnaires. Data entry onto the Excel worksheet was completed with two people to reduce transcription error. All questionnaires were processed on a confidential basis (respondents can’t be directly identified, and individual results will not be disclosed to anyone).

Respondents were from 14 different states. Most reside within Michigan (57%), Wisconsin (14%) and Minnesota (9%). The remaining 20% of respondents were from eleven other states: Florida (3), Arizona (2), California (2), North Carolina (2), Ohio (2), Iowa, Maryland, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. **NOTE:** About 30% of all respondents indicated a legal residence of Houghton County.

The final interpretation of results from the community recreation survey will be based on an inventory of Township recreation properties and facilities (completed in fall 2022); review of U.S. Census Bureau data, regional recreation plans, and other relevant information; and additional comments from the Township Board, residents, and property owners. After a final draft of the 5-Year Recreation Plan is completed, a public hearing will be scheduled for final public review and comment. The public hearing is required by the Michigan DNR for final approval of the Recreation Plan.

Limitations of Research

These survey results are limited to *non-resident property owners* of Stanton Township. The demographics and profiles of this population were not explored any further than the findings of this survey.

Where to Send Comments:

Comments on the final draft survey results of Stanton Township residents can be sent to Ken Vrana, Survey Coordinator, at kjvrana@mtu.edu.

Profile of Report Preparer:

Mr. Vrana is a retired MTU Professor of Practice, who specialized in outdoor recreation and tourism systems, and community outreach. His academic training (MS and ABD) in social survey and public resource management was from the Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources at Michigan State University. Mr. Vrana is now engaged in selected consulting work, doing business as Maritime Heritage Consulting. His most recent consulting on a community recreation survey and 5-Year Recreation Plan was for Chassell Township in 2017-18.

Attachment

- Copy of Stanton Township Recreation Survey Questionnaire

Appendices

- A. Aggregate Results and Written Comments
- B. Results Broken Down by Agate Beach - Misery Bay Area

STANTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY
Final Results – Non-Resident Property Owners
September 5, 2023

Stanton Township Community Recreation Survey

Please complete and return by **July 31, 2023**

A pre-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

General Information

Please check all the following that apply to you, or write-in your answer:

Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
Single _____ Married _____ Head of Household _____ Family Member _____
Number of Persons in the Household _____

Are you a *non-resident property owner* in Stanton Township, Michigan? IF YES, please write the City and State of your legal residence here: _____

In addition, please place a "X" after the general location of your property below:

Canal Road _____ Liminga Road _____ Larson/Obenhoff/Harma Roads _____ South Superior Road _____
North Superior Road _____ Coles Creek Road _____ Rauhala/Niemi Roads _____
Redridge/Beacon Hill/Freda Locations _____ Agate Beach/Misery Bay Area _____
Other _____

NOTE: If you are a Stanton Township resident, please place a "R" after the general location of your legal residence.

Park and Recreation Questions

For questions 1 - 3, please refer to the Township property listing below.

1. What Township property do you use *the most* for recreation? (Please write "#1" in the space to the left of the property name.)
2. What other Township properties do you also use? (Please *check* the space to the left of *any* properties that apply).
3. In the space to the right of the Township properties you identified in 1. and 2., please write the *number of times* you visited these properties *in 2022* for purposes of recreation. (We don't need exact numbers, just your "best guess.")

_____ Agate Beach Park _____	_____ Toivola Recreation Building _____
_____ North Canal Park _____	_____ North Canal Boat Launch _____
_____ Kenner (Oskar) Dome _____	_____ Stanton Ballfield _____
_____ Redridge Dams Site _____	_____ Freda Honor-Roll Park _____
_____ Other _____	_____

For questions 4 - 5, please refer to the listing of recreation activities below.

4. What *three* outdoor recreational *activities* do you *most often* participate in Stanton Township? (Please write a "#1" in the space to the left of *three* different activities.)

5. What other recreational activities do you participate *frequently* in Stanton Township? (Please *check* the space to the left of *any* activities that apply.)

_____ Walking _____ Running/Jogging _____ Day Hiking _____ Biking _____ ATV Riding _____ Boating _____ Canoeing
_____ Kayaking _____ Overnight Backpacking _____ Tent Camping _____ RV Camping _____ Fishing _____ Hunting
_____ Target Shooting _____ Horseback Riding _____ Pickleball _____ Sight-seeing _____ Wildlife Viewing
_____ Bird Watching _____ Snowmobiling _____ Cross-country Skiing _____ Snowshoeing _____ Ice Hockey
_____ Ice Skating _____ Visiting Historical Sites _____ Watching Community Baseball _____ Other _____

6. What should be the focus of future park and recreation development by Stanton Township? **(Select One)**
 Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region. The needs of residents and property owners.
 Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs.
 Leave things like they are - I don't favor additional development.

7. What do you consider the **most important current needs** for North Canal Township Park? **(Select Two)**
 Re-open the North Canal Park Campground. Pave the entry road to North Canal Park.
 Create a walking trail from the North Canal boat launch to the North Canal Park.
 Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property (Park area and associated lands).
 Protection of the beach and shorelands. Other _____

8. What do you consider the **most important current needs** for Agate Beach Township Park? **(Select Two)**
 Renovate the boat launch. Improve the current primitive camping sites.
 Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings. Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park.
 Prepare a *New* Master Plan for the Agate Beach property (Park area and associated lands).
 Protection of the beach and shorelands. Other _____

9. What do you consider the **most important current need** for the Township's Redridge Dams Site? **(Select One)**
Note: The Redridge Dams are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
 Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan for the Site.
 Transfer the Redridge Dams Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities.
 Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities.
 Other _____

10. What other needs do you consider important for the Township properties and facilities? **(Select Two)**
 Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River.
 Create a safe, public access to the Township's Lake Superior shorelands in Freda.
 Replace the asphalt floor with concrete in the Toivola Recreation Building.
 Pave the Kenner (Oskar) Dome parking lot and entry road. Pave the road to North Canal Boat Launch.
 Other _____

11. In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?
Yes No No Opinion

12. Do you support additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?
Yes No No Opinion

13. Do you support the creation of a Township *Park and Recreation Committee* to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?
Yes No No Opinion

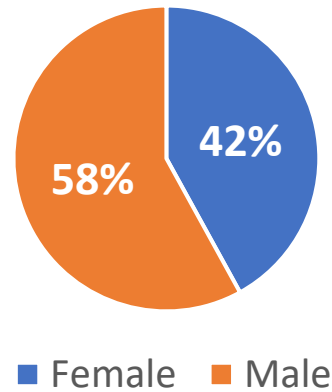
14. Lastly, what other improvements do you recommend for Township properties and facilities? This can include maintenance as well as construction. **Write your comments below or attach another piece of paper.**

Stanton Township Recreation Survey Non-Resident Property Owner Questionnaire

Aggregate Results

General Information

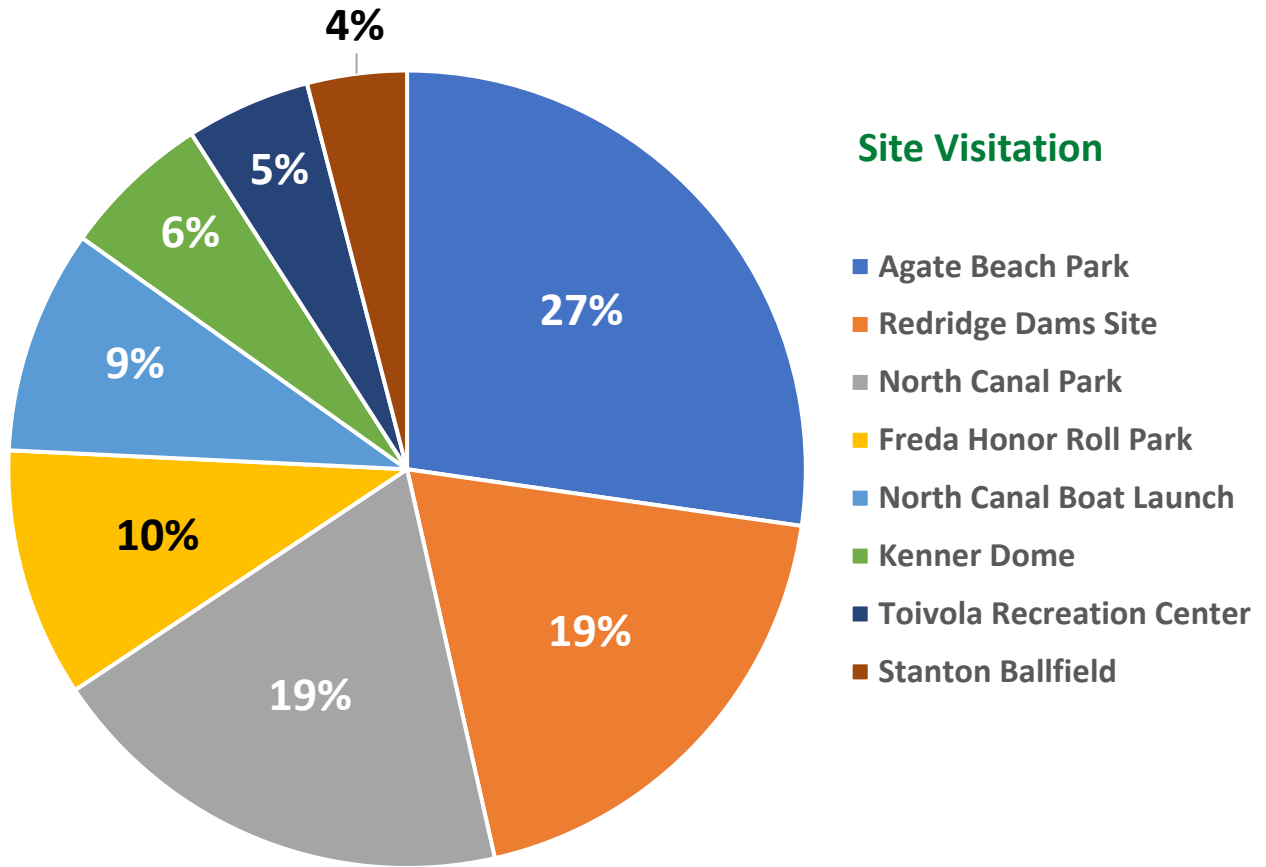
Total Number of Respondents:	90
Adjusted Return Rate:	35% (69 returns/197 households)
Average Age of Respondent:	60.6 years old
Married:	83%
Single:	17%
Head of Household:	34%
Average Size of Household:	2.7 persons



Location of Property:	
Agate Beach/Misery Bay	29%
Redridge/Beacon Hill/Freda	18%
Canal Road	16%
North Superior Road	13%
Larson/Obenhoff/Harma Rds.	2%
Coles Creek Road	2%
South Superior Road	2%
Liminga Road	1%
Rauhala/Niemi Roads	0%
Other:	16%

(Bay Shore Farm Rd, Blue Top Cabin Rd, Covered Dr, Firehall Rd, Heikkinen School Rd, Heinola Rd, Little America, Sunset Place, Superior Shores, Toivola-Beacon Hill Rd.)

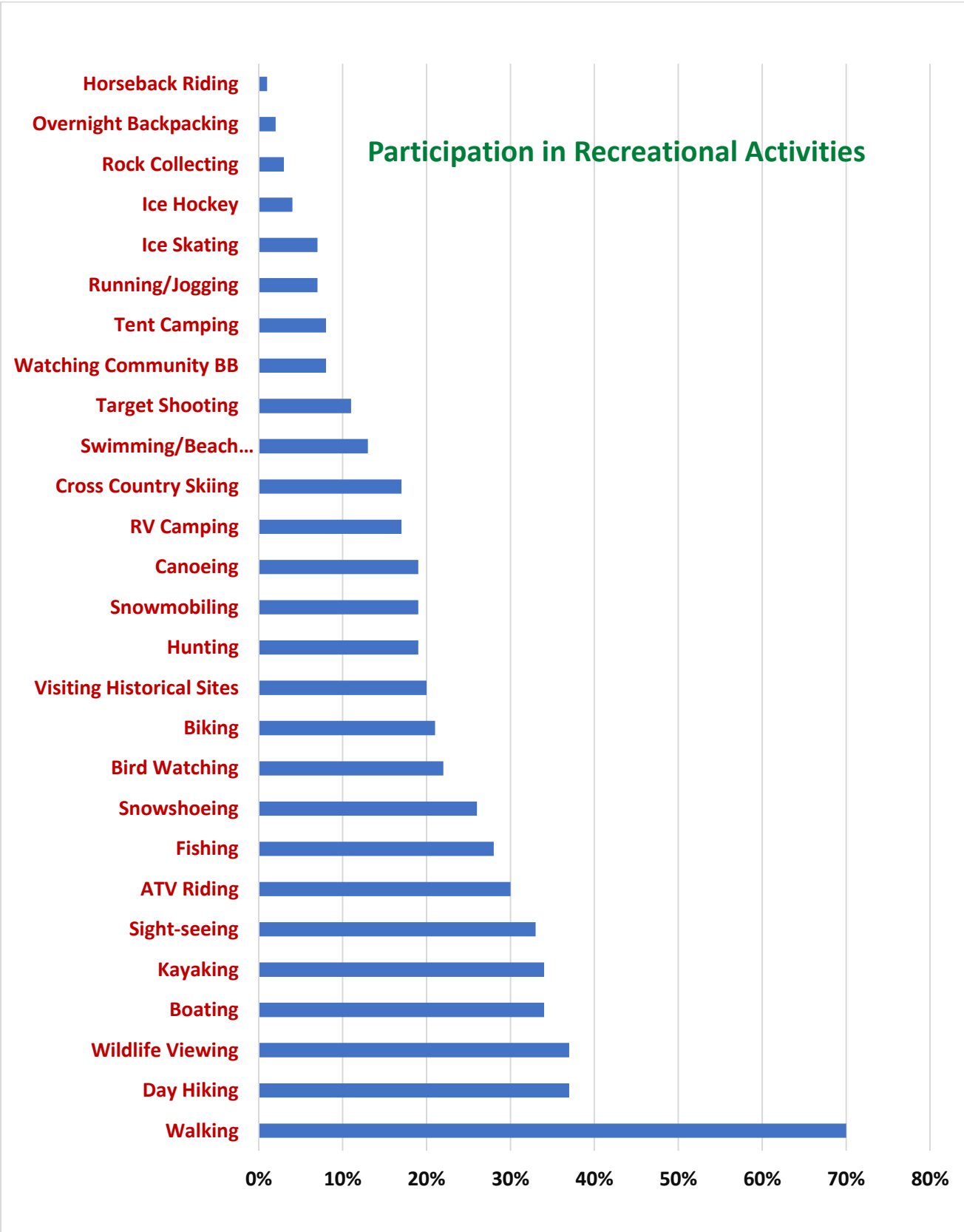
Park and Recreation Questions



Percentage of respondents who visited certain Stanton Township park and recreation sites in 2022. (NOTE: Other sites were Covered Dr, Marsin Nature Aresa, and Misery Bay (Bohemia Township, Ontonagon County))

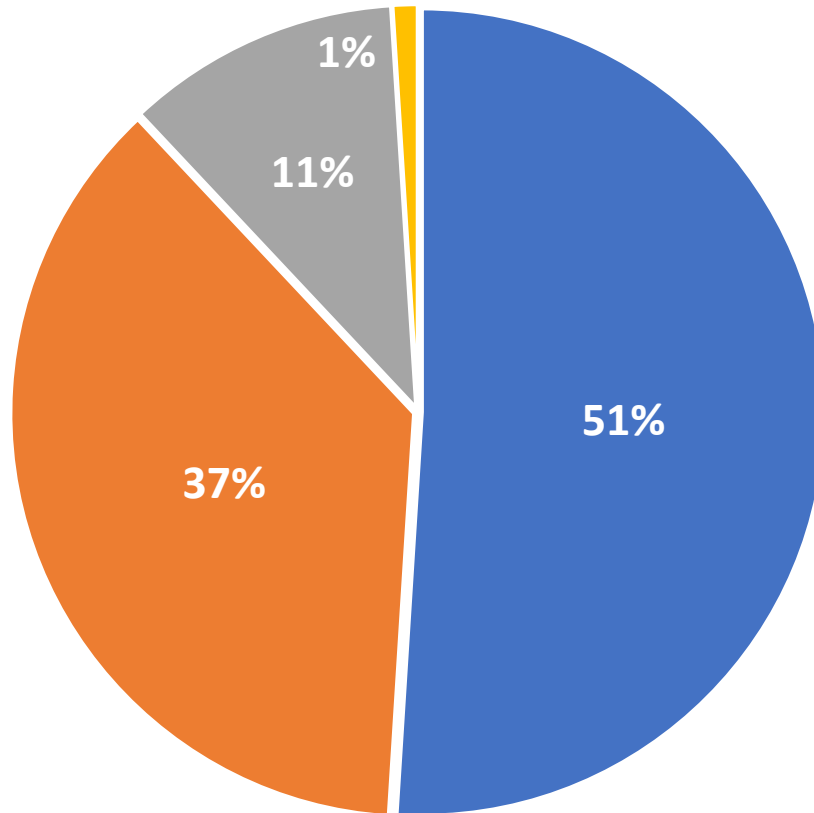
Average Annual Visits in 2022

Agate Beach Park	17.1	North Canal Park	3.6
Freda Honor Roll Park	6.8	N. Canal Boat Launch	2.8
Toivola Rec. Building	5.4	Kenner (Oskar) Dome	2.7
Redridge Dams Site	3.8	Stanton Ballfield	2.0



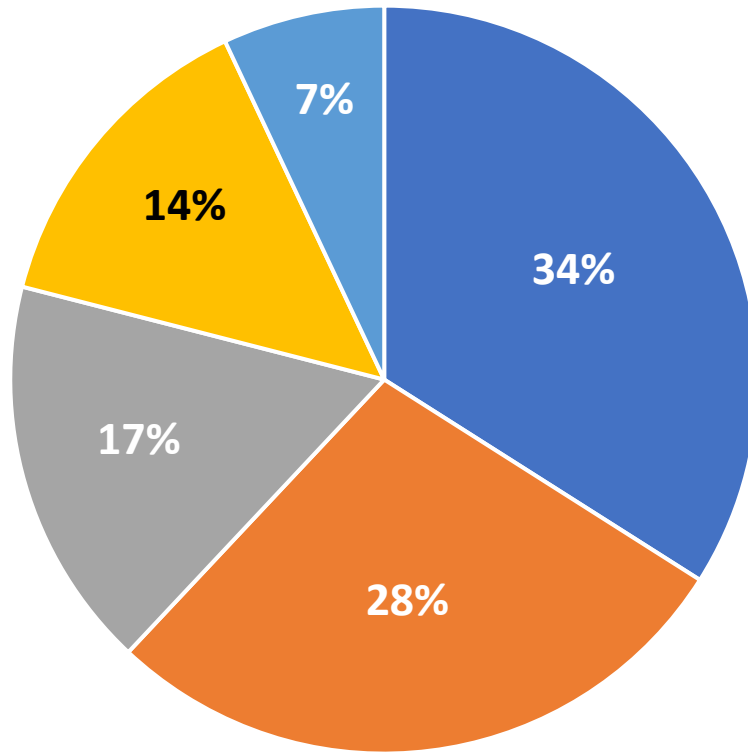
Percentage of respondents selecting recreational activities in which they participate frequently in Stanton Township.

Focus of Future Park And Recreation Development



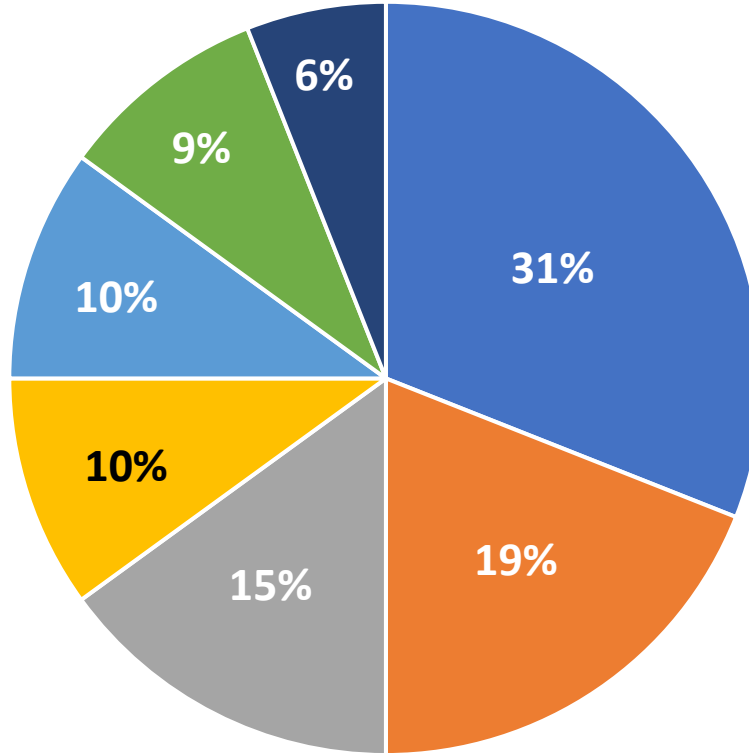
- Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs
- The needs of residents and property owners
- Leave things like they are - I don't favor additional development
- Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region

Most Important Needs for North Canal Park



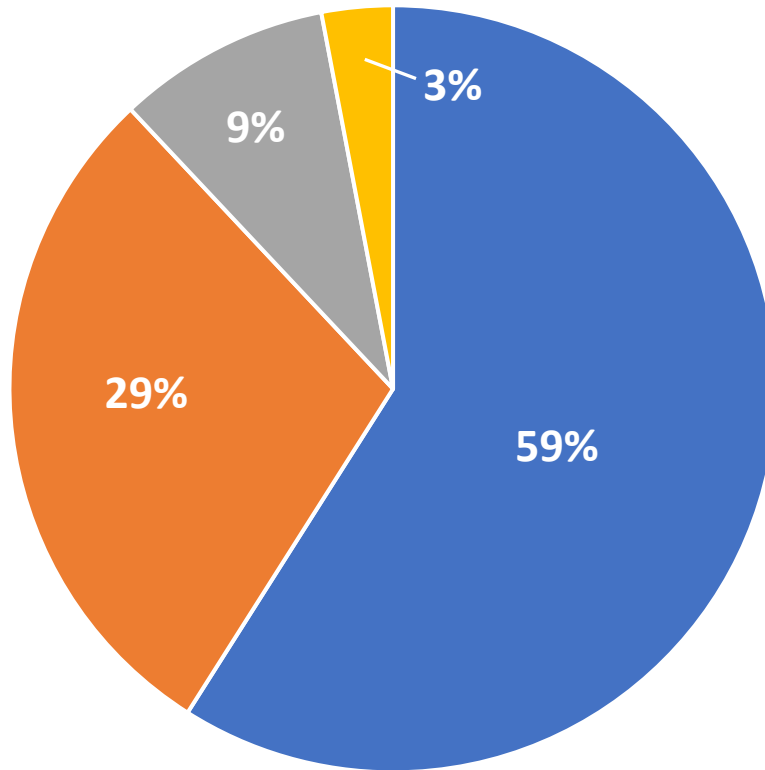
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property
- Re-open the North Canal Park campground
- Create a walking trail from NC boat launch to NC Park
- Pave the entry road to North Canal Park

Most Important Needs for Agate Beach Park



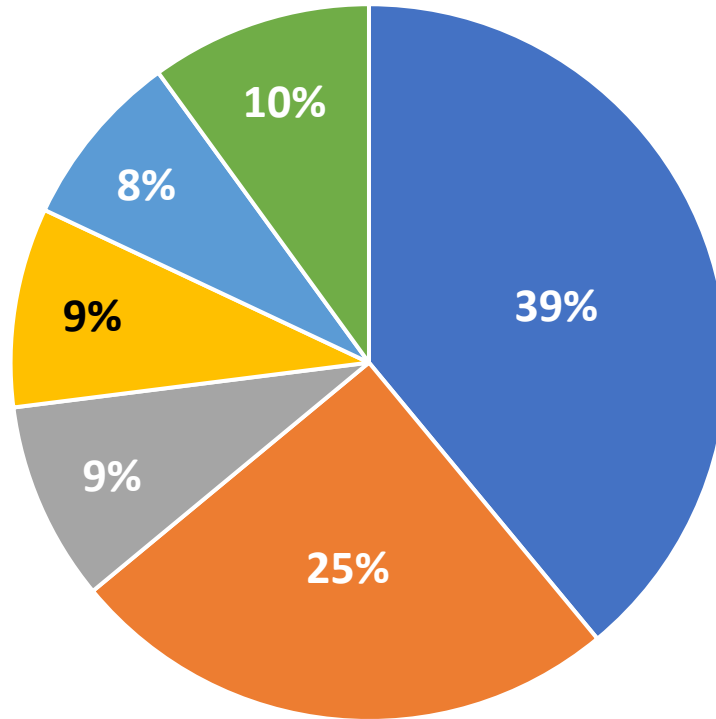
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Prepare a New Master Plan for the Agate Beach property
- Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park
- Renovate the boat launch
- Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings
- Improve the current primitive camping sites
- Other (see written comments)

Most Important Need for the Redridge Dams Site



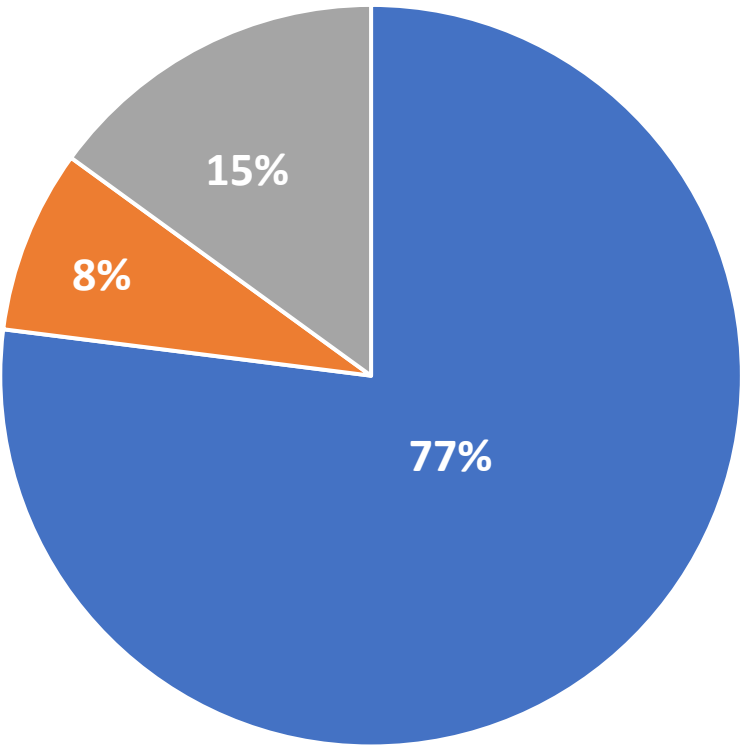
- Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan
- Transfer the Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities
- Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities
- Other (see written comments)

Other Important Needs for Township Properties and Facilities



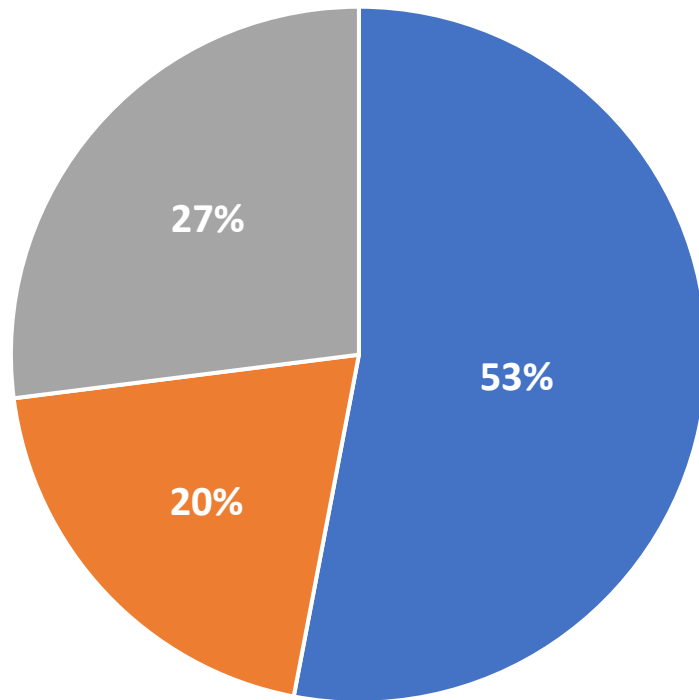
- Create a safe, public access to the Township's shorelands in Freda
- Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River
- Replace the asphalt floor with concrete in the Toivola Recreation Building
- Pave the road to North Canal Boat Launch
- Pave the Kenner (Oskar) Dome parking lot and entry road
- Other (see written comments)

In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?



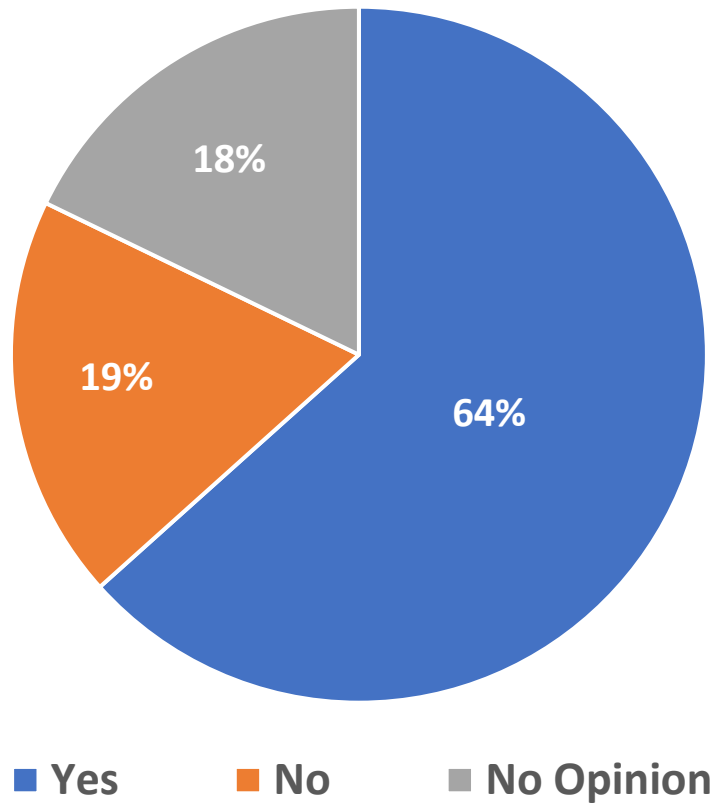
■ Yes ■ No ■ No Opinion

Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?



■ Yes ■ No ■ No Opinion

Do you support the creation of a Township *Park and Recreation Committee* to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?



ATTACHMENT: Written Responses / Comments on Questions 7 - 14

**Final Results
Stanton Township Recreation Survey
Non-Resident Property Owner Questionnaire
Administered July – August 2023**

Prepared by:
Ken Vrana
September 5, 2023

Stanton Township Recreation Survey
Non-Resident Property Owners
Written Responses/Comments

NCP = North Canal Park ABP = Agate Beach Park

Introduction: All of the responses/comments below were transcribed verbatim from the recreation questionnaires returned by non-resident property owners of Stanton Township during July – August 2023. They are not listed in any particular order. Clarifications are shown in square [brackets].

Question 7 (Other): *What do you consider the most important current needs for NCP?*

Create a weed and alcohol space as not to co-mingle with non-users ● Reopen restrooms and water ● No opinion ● Seems like a great tourism opportunity without negative impact on residents ● Maintain boat launch ● No idea ● Unsure - not familiar with park area ● Keep area clean (nice job!) ● Create biking paths

Question 8 (Other): *What do you consider the most important current needs for ABP?*

Hire a caretaker/maintenance to oversee ● No opinion ● CG reservation system ● Maintain boat launch ● Improve toilet facilities ● Make the beach handicap accessible ● Increase camping fee/collection ● Repair existing asphalt ● Repair existing asphalt

Question 9 (Other): *What do you consider the most important current need for the Redridge Dams Site?*

Don't know enough to make a good decision ● Keep it open to public use ● Remove the dam. This is the most important thing to do ● Allow fishing and parking from dam to L. Superior ● I am not informed enough to answer ● Re-establish the fishery ● No idea

Question 10 (Other): *What other needs do you consider important for the Township properties and facilities?*

Pavement of road -- entrance of fork to gravel ● Canal Rd. repairs by Kenner Dome - Pothole on Red Brick Rd ● Pave Canal Rd. from Coles Creek Rd. to Breakers ● NCP CG and HIRE a maintenance employee ● Return the Breakers into what it once was: *Fences down *Camping *Playground ● Either pave or put back to gravel the roads to Agate Beach ● Increase the Toivola Rec. Building parking lot ● Pave Agate Beach road ● Fix or pave Agate Beach road - it has heavy traffic ● I am not informed enough to answer ● No idea ● Fix the Freda Trail (snowmobile/ATV) ● Watersport rentals (boats, kayak, tubes, paddleboards, etc.) and relocate [Agate Beach] boat

launch to the south branch, Elm River • Watersport rentals; find a new place for a boat launch for Agate Beach Park • Repave Misery Bay Rd and Agate Beach Rd • Repave Agate Beach Rd.

Questions 11: In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?

Not at this time

Questions 12: Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?

That would be lovely, but expensive • Not at this time • Can you do this with volunteers? No opinion because don't know the budget • Depends on pay and responsibilities • Depends on number now and how number would increase.

Questions 13: Do you support the creation of a Township Park and Recreation Committee to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?

Yes, in an ideal world • A park and recreation committee may manage the park and property, but the responsibility should rest with the Township Supervisor (currently taxed on property in Freda and Agate Beach Rd.) • Not at this time

Question 14 (Other Comments): Lastly, what other improvements do you recommend for Township properties and facilities? This can include maintenance as well as construction.

Address the county board about future improvements to Toivola-BH Rd. Get camping opened back up at North Canal Park • Huge disconnect between what I pay in taxes and services provided. Put a road in front of the subdivision [Superior Shores?] you are counting huge taxes from • At least maintain what you have • Don't over develop properties. We don't want a bunch of visitors as it diminishes the peace and quiet of Stanton • Love the remote area • Not in favor of B&Bs on Canal Rd -- too many cars traveling down road; like to keep the remote surroundings • Roads improvement • Repairing road surfaces; enacting speed zone on Canal Rd. (especially) and Liminga Rd, and enforcing [the speed zone] • Access to Freda would be dangerous and costly. Concentrate money and labor to improve the sites we have (Misery Bay, Agate Beach, and North Canal Park). Lots of improvement is needed at North Canal Park: playground areas, picnic tables, changing areas, restrooms, walking trails, fire pits • Hire a Township maintenance person to oversee the parks and recreation locations!!! The North Canal Park should have the area maintained. Open the campground, charge fees to use to generate revenue to hire help • A local committee to oversee plans and safety issues for residents of the county • I hope the fences will be able to come down at NCP (Breakers). It doesn't feel inviting as when I was growing up with a playground and camping. We would see kids from school in the summer at the Breakers swimming, our mums sitting on the beach, playing on the playground and having a picnic. Most days a lot of people would be there for hours • Beaches that are accessible to residents and part-time residents is high on my list. I grew up going to

Freda and Beacon Hill beaches, and I always worry that all of the beaches will be private and expensive to purchase. I want my kids to have a nearby beach they can walk or bike to because we are so close to Lake Superior ● Protect the property rights of all current owners of property along lakeshore - "no trespassing," etc. ● Maintain train trestle over Salmon-Trout River for ATV and snowmobile use ● Basketball court in Toivola and North End; collaborate with Adams Township on ABP; renovate the concession stand at ABP and get vendors ● Need access up the beach from North Entry [Canal] Park. Idiot blocking with fencing ● Would like to see fence on east side of breakwater removed, or modified to allow parking closer to water at NCP ● We are so glad and thankful that we own property along shores of Lake Superior in Stanton Township and for all the wonderful people we have met from Freda through Redridge and area ● Toivola's Agate Beach hall and concession stand needs a septic tank for their kitchen ● Continuous road improvement and repairs ● Fix Agate Beach road ● You won't get any real money from tourism, only Houghton area will -- watch what you spend our money on ● Access to water at Agate Beach could be improved ● Maintain what you have, be sure you can maintain what you build. Thanks ● Thanks for Agate Beach child playground! ● Nighttime security for Agate Beach. People dig huge holes in the sand dunes, driving and camping on the sand dunes in increasing shore erosion. The Agate Beach playground is a great addition! Thank you ● Help facilitate with the MDNR the re-opening of the Freda Loop snowmobile/ATV trails ● Help the MDNR re-open the Freda Loop snowmobile/ATV trails ● Garbage removal at Redridge Dam ● Need better Lake Superior access in the Redridge-Freda area. Nowhere to access beach, walk dog, launch kayak, etc., without repelling down a cliff ● I would really like to see a Township resident beach access area for swimming, picnicking, walking, launch kayak! [Redridge - Freda area] ● Time to re-tar Superior Rd ● Updated bath house with toilets and showers at Agate Beach; and maintenance of fallen trees along beach; sell snacks, food, drinks at Toivola recreation building ● Updated bath house at Agate Beach Park; sell food and snacks and drinks at ABP; and clean-up fallen trees on the beach areas ● Pavement to Agate Beach Park ● Paving to Agate Beach! ● More control of 4-wheelers speeding and causing interruptions in family doings on Agate Beach and Old Rink Rd.

Assembled and prepared by:

Ken Vrana
Community Survey Coordinator

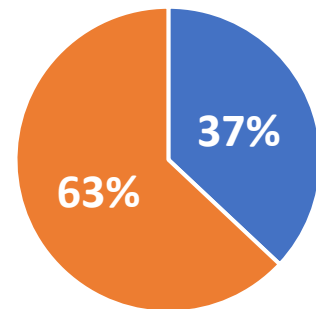
Final Document
September 1, 2023

Stanton Township Recreation Survey Non-Resident Property Owner Questionnaire

Results for Agate Beach / Misery Bay Area

General Information

Total Number of Respondents:	27
Adjusted Return Rate:	N/A
Average Age of Respondent:	61.5 years old
Married:	77%
Single:	23%
Head of Household:	26%
Average Size of Household:	3.0 persons



■ Female ■ Male

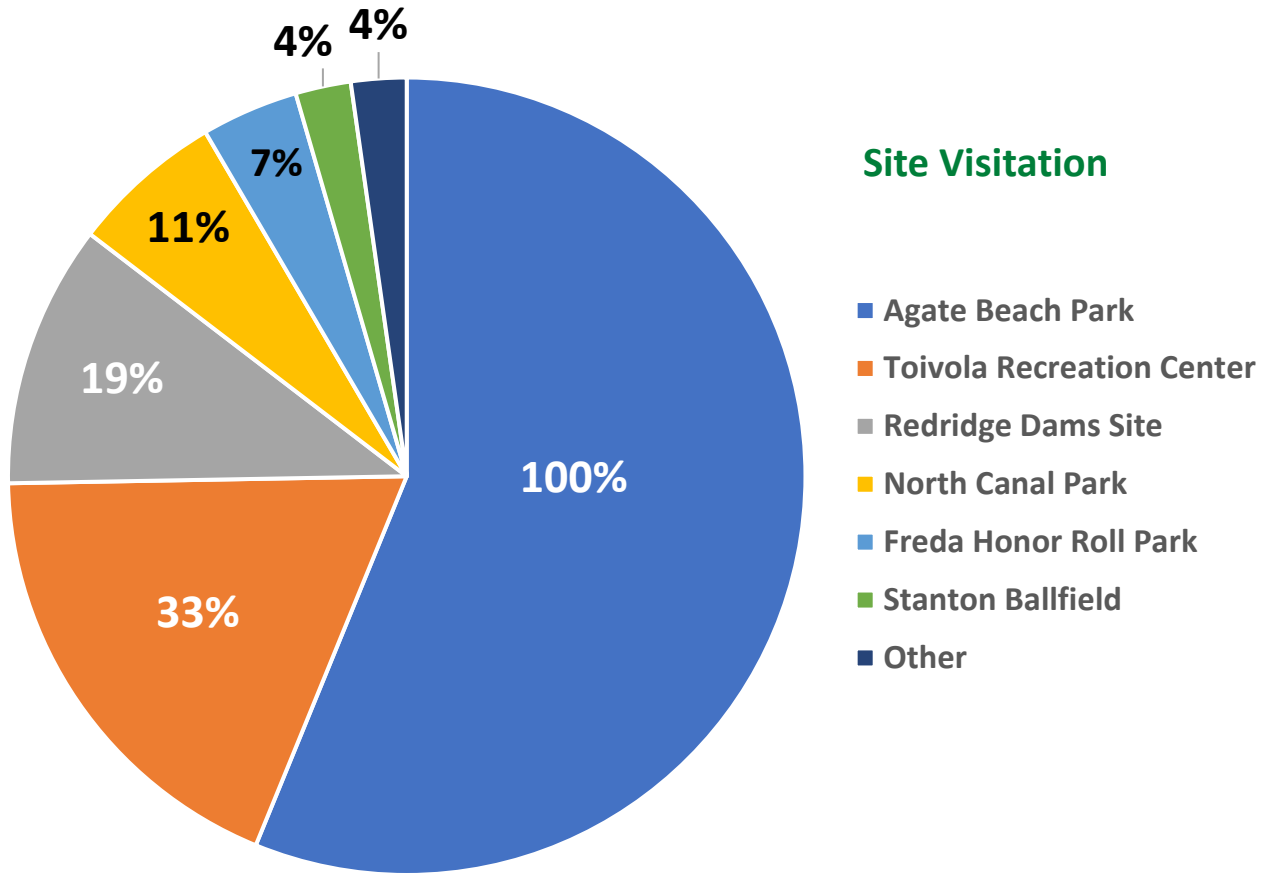
Location of Property:

For these analyses, the general results of the non-resident survey were broken down to respondents who selected the Agate Beach - Misery Bay Area as the location of their property in Stanton Township. A total of 21 households (27 persons) from this Area returned at least one completed questionnaire. This is 30% of all non-resident households that responded to the survey.

Legal Residences:

The legal residences of respondents were Michigan (41%), Minnesota (11%), and eight other states (48%) (Arizona, California, Iowa, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming).

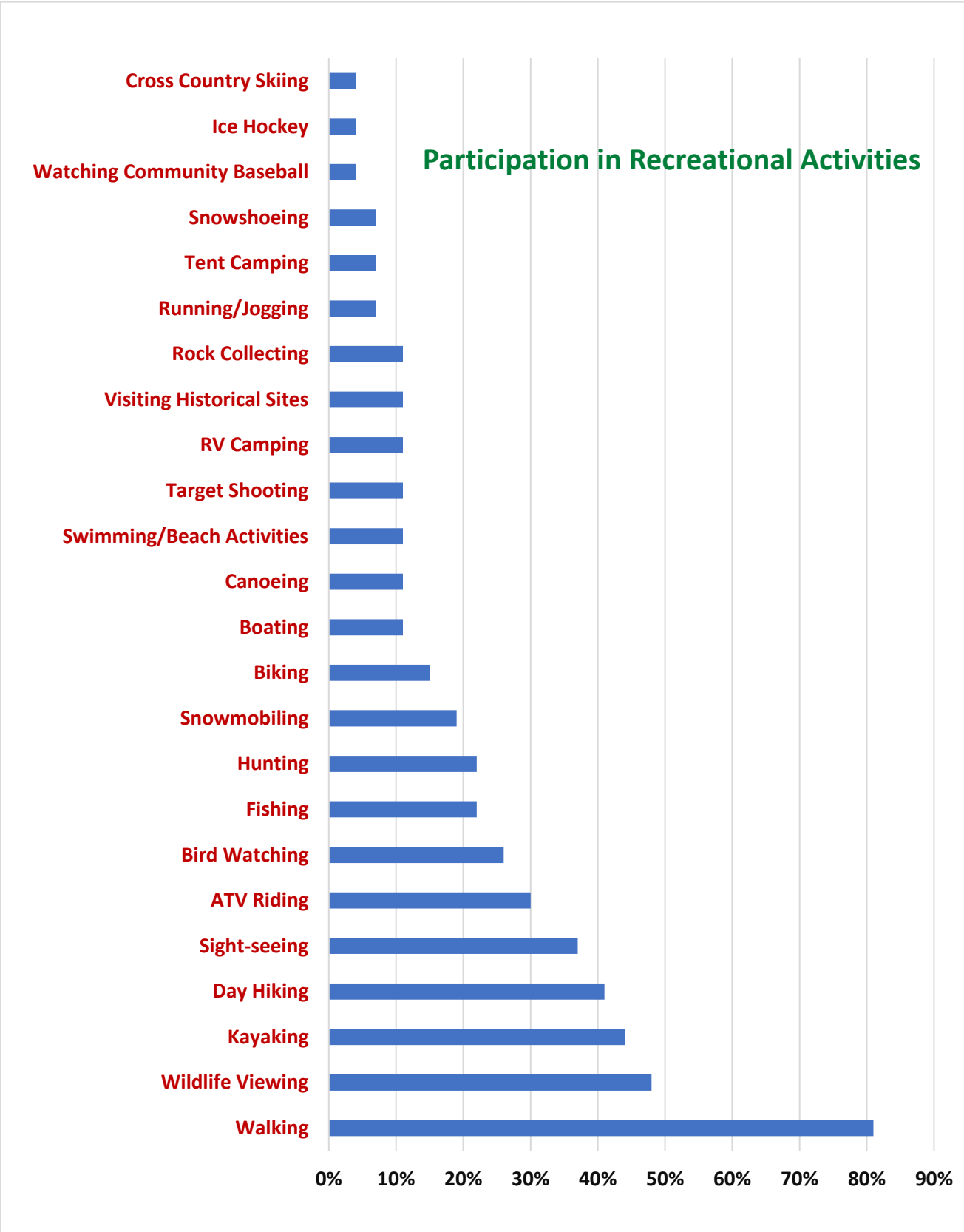
Park and Recreation Questions



Percentage of respondents who visited certain Stanton Township park and recreation sites in 2022. NOTE: All 27 respondents visited Agate Beach Park, and 89% (24/27) indicated they use this Park “the most for recreation.”

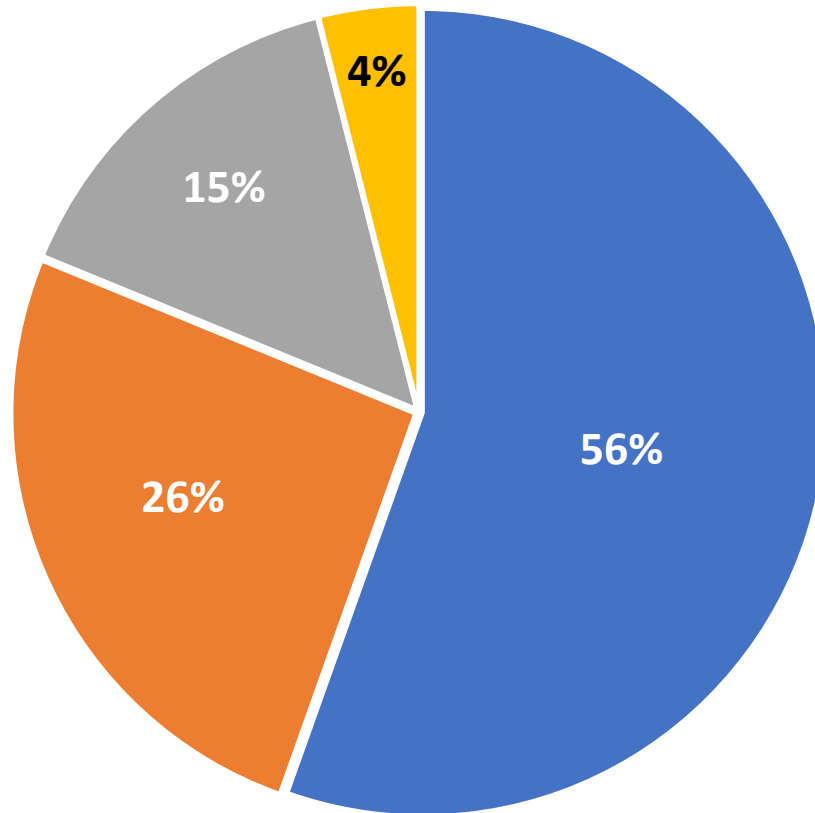
Average Annual Visits in 2022

Agate Beach Park	30.7	Stanton Ballfield	3.0
Toivola Rec. Center	6.0	North Canal Park	2.0
Redridge Dams Site	3.3		



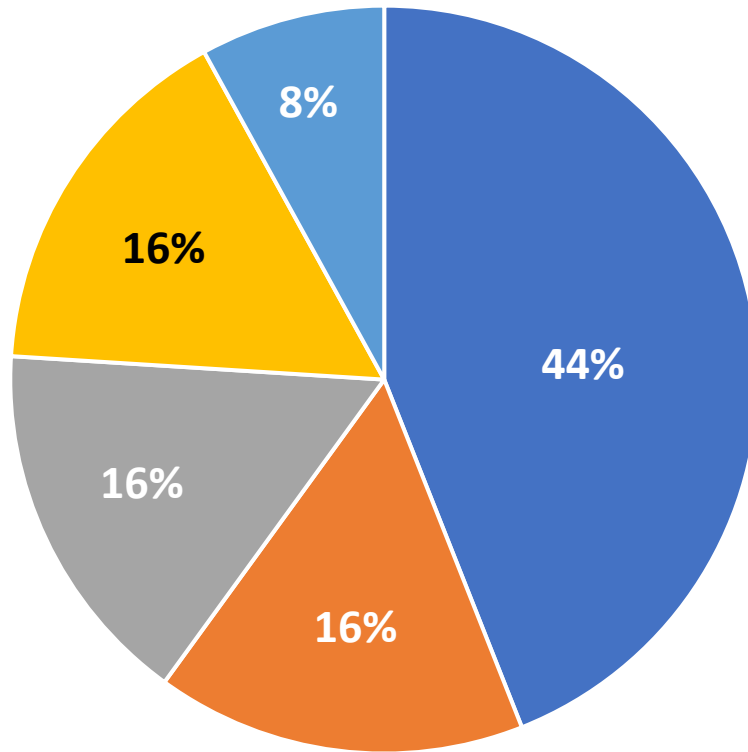
Percentage of respondents selecting recreational activities in which they participate frequently in Stanton Township (also see end note).

Focus of Future Park And Recreation Development



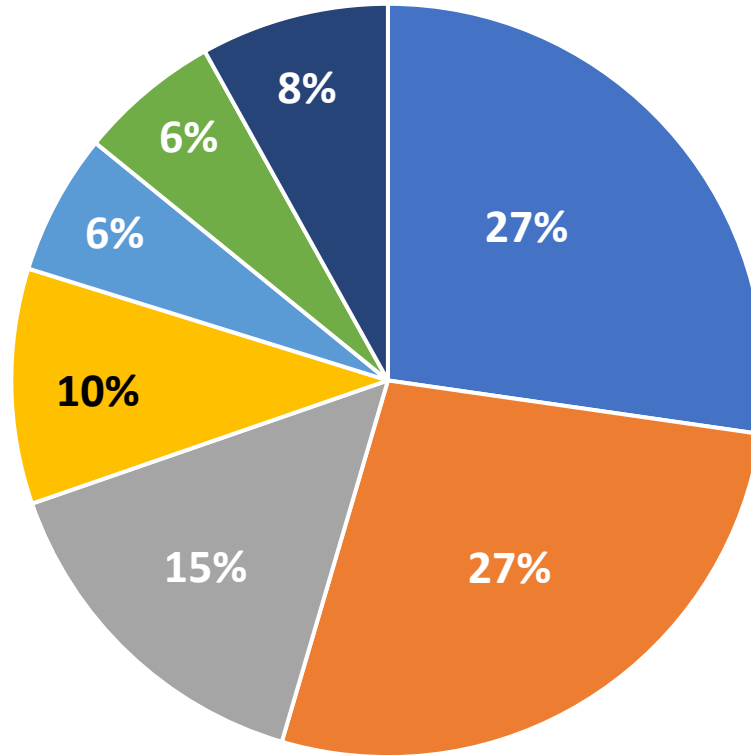
- Finding a balance between tourism opportunities and development based on community needs
- The needs of residents and property owners
- Leave things like they are - I don't favor additional development
- Attracting tourists to increase economic impact in the region

Most Important Needs for North Canal Park



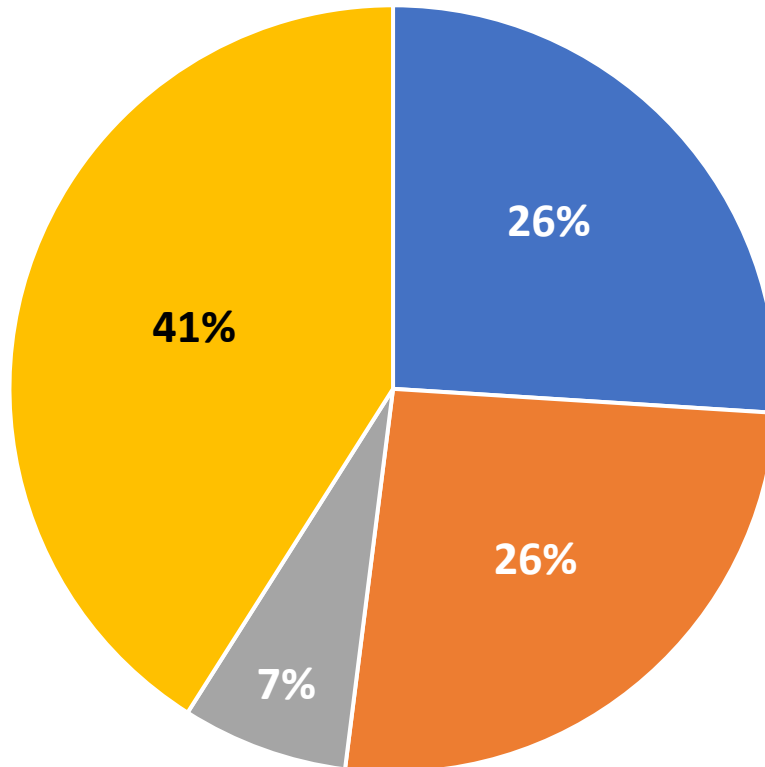
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Prepare a Master Plan for the North Canal property
- Re-open the North Canal Park campground
- Create a walking trail from NC boat launch to NC Park
- Pave the entry road to North Canal Park

Most Important Needs for Agate Beach Park



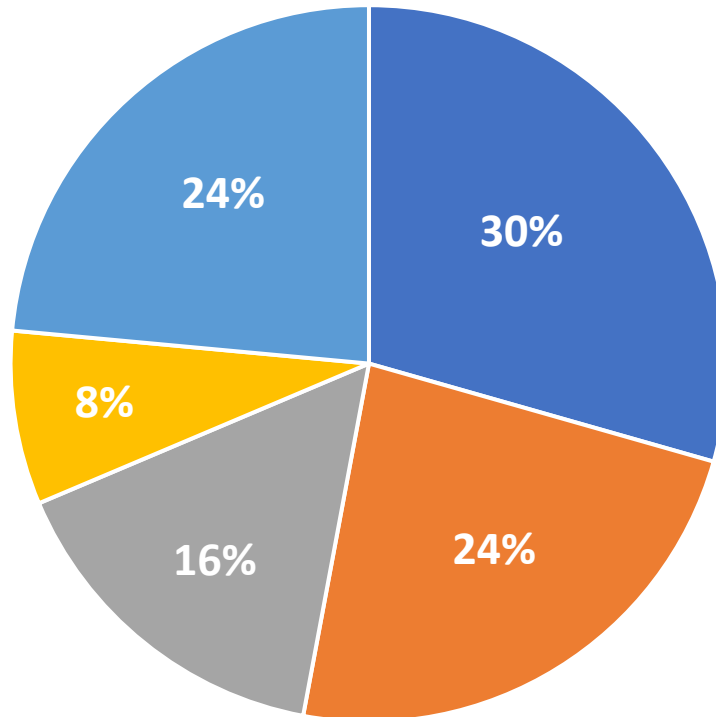
- Protection of the beach and shorelands
- Pave the entry road to Agate Beach Park
- Renovate the kitchen, dining, and meeting buildings
- Renovate the boat launch
- Improve the current primitive camping sites
- Prepare a New Master Plan for the Agate Beach property
- Other - see comments

Most Important Need for the Redridge Dams Site



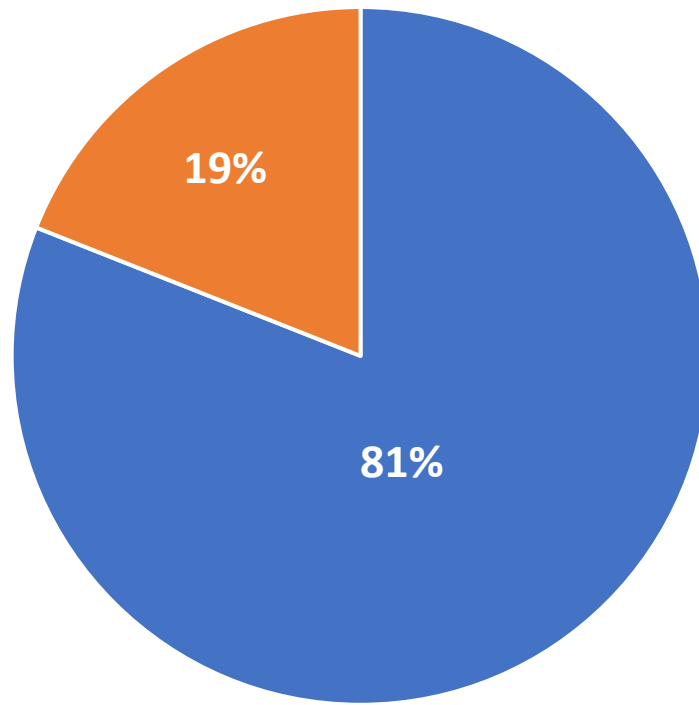
- Retain the property, resolve current dam safety issues, and prepare a Master Plan
- Transfer the Site to another governmental agency or nonprofit organization willing to assume current dam liabilities
- Sell the property to a private entity willing to assume current dam liabilities
- No response provided

Other Important Needs for Township Properties and Facilities



- Create a safe, public access to the Township's shorelands in Freda
- Replace the asphalt floor with concrete in the Toivola Recreation Building
- Purchase a public easement or lands for access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River
- Pave the Kenner (Oskar) Dome parking lot and entry road
- Other - see comments

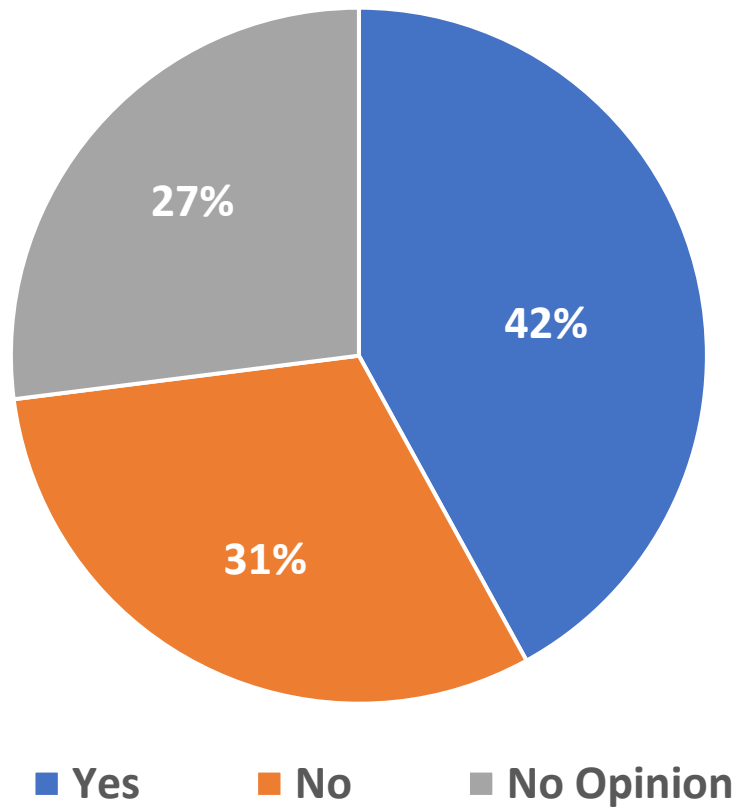
In general, do you support more attention to the maintenance and repair of Township properties and facilities?



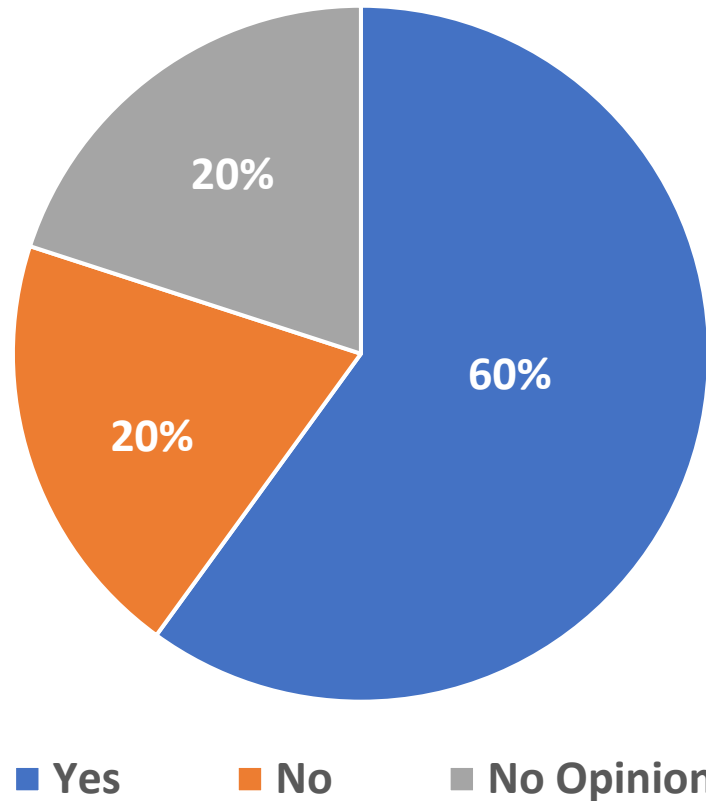
■ Yes

■ No Opinion

Do you support the hiring of additional staff for management of Township properties and facilities?



Do you support the creation of a Township *Park and Recreation Committee* to guide future operations and development at Township properties and facilities?



Written Comments:

The following comments were transcribed verbatim from the recreation questionnaires returned by non-resident property owners of the Agate Beach – Misery Bay Area. The comments are not listed in any particular order.

Question 8 (Other):

- Make the beach handicap accessible
- Increase camping fee/collection
- Repair existing asphalt
- Repair existing asphalt

Question 10 (Other):

Pavement of road -- entrance of fork to gravel • Either pave or put back to gravel the roads to Agate Beach • Increase the Toivola Rec. Building parking lot • Pave Agate Beach road • Fix or pave Agate Beach road - it has heavy traffic • Watersport rentals (boats, kayak, tubes, paddleboards, etc.) and relocate [Agate Beach] boat launch to the south branch, Elm River • Watersport rentals • Find a new place for a boat launch for Agate Beach Park • Repave Misery Bay Rd and Agate Beach Rd • Repave Agate Beach Rd.

Question 14 (General Comments):

At least maintain what you have • A park and recreation committee may manage the park and property, but the responsibility should rest with the Township Supervisor • Protect the property rights of all current owners of property along lakeshore - "no trespassing," etc. • Basketball court in Toivola and North End • Collaborate with Adams Township on ABP • Renovate the concession stand at ABP and get vendors • Toivola's Agate Beach hall and concession stand needs a septic tank for their kitchen • Continuous road improvement and repairs • Fix Agate Beach road • You won't get any real money from tourism, only Houghton area will -- watch what you spend our money on • Thanks for Agate Beach child playground! • Nighttime security for Agate Beach. People digging huge holes in the sand dunes, driving and camping on the sand dunes is increasing shore erosion. The Agate Beach playground is a great addition! Thank you • Updated bath house with toilets and showers at Agate Beach, and maintenance of fallen trees along beach • Sell snacks, food, drinks at Toivola recreation building • Updated bath house at Agate Beach Park • Sell food and snacks and drinks at ABP, and clean-up fallen trees on the beach areas • Pavement to Agate Beach Park • Paving to Agate Beach! • More control of 4-wheelers speeding and causing interruptions in family doings on Agate Beach and Old Rink Rd.

End Note – Recreation Activities

Walking was identified by 56% (15/27) of respondents as an outdoor recreation activity they **most often** participated in Stanton Township. In turn, kayaking was identified by 26%; wildlife viewing by 22%; day hiking by 19%; and sight-seeing by 15% of respondents.

Final Results - Stanton Township Recreation Survey

Non-Resident Property Owner Questionnaire

Administered July – August 2023

Prepared by:

Ken Vrana

September 5, 2023