

# HIGGINS TOWNSHIP VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON



## **PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2018-2022**

# COMMUNITY ADVISERY

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Diane Lippert-COOR Intermediate School District  
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# INTRODUCTION

A driving economic impact for today's communities is access to recreation. In an effort to provide quality recreational opportunities in Higgins Township, the Village of Roscommon and surrounding areas, Higgins Township, the Village Council and the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority (RMRA) have created this "Village of Roscommon Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan". It is a tool to guide the development of the current Village park system as well as future trail and other recreation facilities.

In February of 2016, the Higgins Township and the Village Council formed a committee composed of representatives from the Village, RMRA, local recreation businesses and the school district to direct the development of this plan. The committee provided ample opportunity for local organizations and the general public to comment on the plan as it developed. It represents the Committee's attempt to merge the recreational priorities of the community with the fiscal and personnel limitations of the Village.



Since Roscommon is a recreation destination, the plan also considers the desires of tourists who visit the area. Much of the local economy depends on canoeing, snowmobiling, and other outdoor activities. The community also hosts numerous festivals and celebrations during the year. Many of these have a recreation component, and are a part of this plan as well.



# CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Higgins Township is 73 sq. miles of land located in Roscommon County. The population was 2,061 at the 2000 census. Incorporated in 1885, the Village of Roscommon is the county seat of Roscommon County. The Village has a total area of 1.6 square miles which is 2% of the township with 53% of the population of 1,100. It is the only incorporated city or village in the county. Two major thoroughfares, M-18 and M-76, intersect in the commercial district. History tells that Roscommon Village was a railhead. Excursions were by horse and buggy between the railroad, the plats, and small farms. The early construction of US27, M76, M18, and M55 provided excellent access to the area from the heavily populated areas of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. The era of tourism and vacationing followed. With the advent of the automobile industry in Michigan the opportunity for automobile related industries were established in the Roscommon. The "Great Depression" started in 1929, it brought about high local taxes and the loss of property at tax sales, which resulted in over 4,500,000 acres being deeded from private ownership to the State of Michigan. The land in Higgins Township was subjected to this State takeover because of the lack of money by private owners to either retain it or purchase it or the owners simply no longer wanted and abandoned the property. To this day over 60% of Higgins Township is state land.



The closest communities to Roscommon are Saint Helen, (12 miles), Grayling (15 miles), Prudenville (15 miles), and West Branch (29 miles). Higgins Lake, one of the world's most beautiful lakes, is about 8 miles west of the Village. Houghton Lake, Michigan's largest inland lake is 14 miles southwest.

Although the local population is small, tourism generates many visitors to the Roscommon area. Tourism and recreation have long been essential to the local economy. The AuSable River provides individuals the opportunity to canoe, fish, and enjoy its beauty. As a result of the increasing popularity of winter recreation, the area is a popular tourism destination in that season as well.

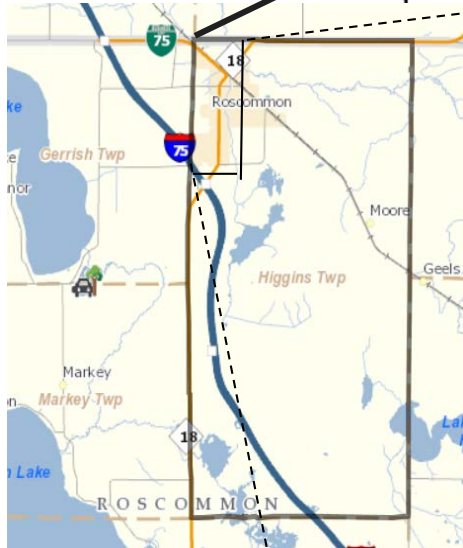
Due to its geographic location, Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon have many recreational businesses that are tourist and seasonally related. These provide goods and services for activities including canoeing, hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, cycling, camping, hiking, natural areas and ORV trails. The Roscommon community is also the home to many annual festivals and events celebrating our beauty and culture.

The focus of this plan is to identify and examine all aspects of recreation in Higgins Township and the community of Roscommon. The committee will use this updated plan to recommend improvements to our park and recreation system. Improving our park facilities and equipment and securing grant funding are primary goals of this planning process.

This plan is not an attempt to be all-inclusive, but rather to establish parameters from which scheduled improvements can take place. It is the intent of this plan to be flexible and to accommodate both active and passive recreational facilities. This document reviews the condition of existing recreation opportunities, enumerates the recreational goals of the community, and establishes a blueprint for future improvements.



HIGGINS TOWNSHIP



# VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON

REVISION BY  
KIMBERLY A. KUTENHOUT  
(2015)



SCALE - 1" = 200'

WALLACE  
PARK

VILLAGE  
OWNED  
RECREATION  
ASSETS

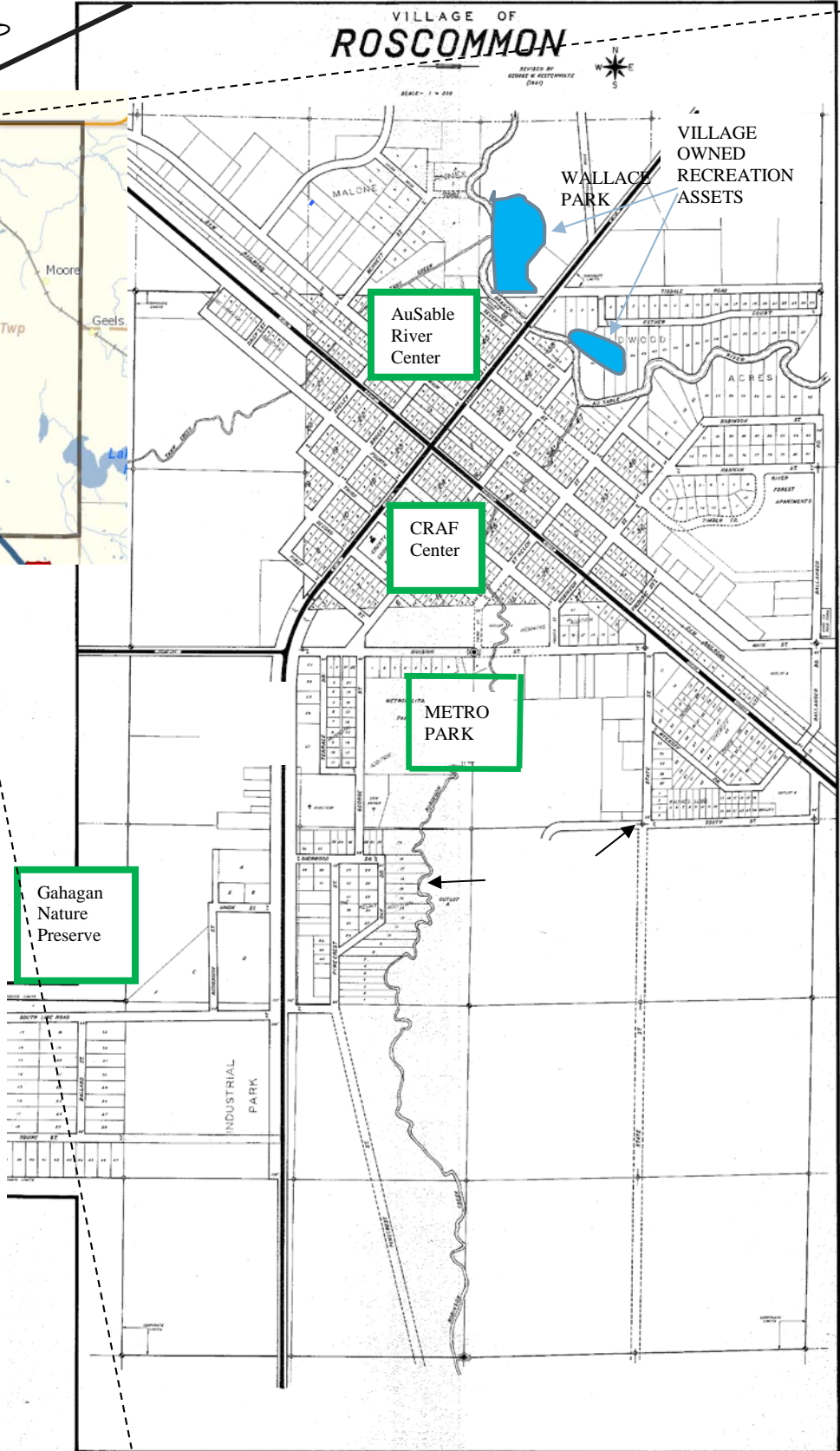
AuSable  
River  
Center

CRAF  
Center

METRO  
PARK

Gahagan  
Nature  
Preserve

INDUSTRIAL  
PARK



## CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Due to the extent of state land in Higgins Township and the bulk of population and recreation amenities within the Village, they budget and maintain existing facilities, meet changing needs and update equipment as needed. Parks and recreation functions within the community are primarily the responsibility of the Village of Roscommon and are supported by a collaborative group of authorities, Village employees and partnerships with community organizations. The Village and Higgins Township established the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority (RMRA) under MCL 123.951 the Building Authorities Act. RMRA was established, “to acquire, furnish, equip, own, improve, enlarge, operate and maintain any recreational parks and facilities for the use of the general public.”

RMRA now serves as the umbrella for several recreation organizations:



- The Community Recreation and Fitness (CRAF) Center operates several community based fitness programs as well as Gazebo Concerts through a grant from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.
- Gahagan Nature Preserve is a privately funded organization that hosts school and summer programs on nature and conservancy.
- The AuSable River Center is a museum of canoeing history. They also host the Roscommon Farmers' Market, which offers local produce and crafts weekly.
- METRO Park is the home to the community Little League fields and a newly constructed playground in 2014.



Volunteers play a vital role in the development of the park and recreation system within the Village. In 2014, volunteers from the RMRA, Lions Club, Roscommon Rotary Club and community members completed a new playground at Metro Park. RMRA has a land maintenance agreement with the DNR for grooming 8 miles of trails for summer hiking and winter cross-country skiing. In 2016-17, some of the biggest changes and renovations took place at the CRAF Center revitalizing it as the hub of activities, recreation and fitness for the community.

Several commissions and organizations are concerned with the development and expansion of parks and recreational facilities in the Roscommon area including:

The Roscommon County Board of Commissioners  
The Roscommon County Planning Commission  
The Roscommon County Road Commission  
The Roscommon Area Public School District



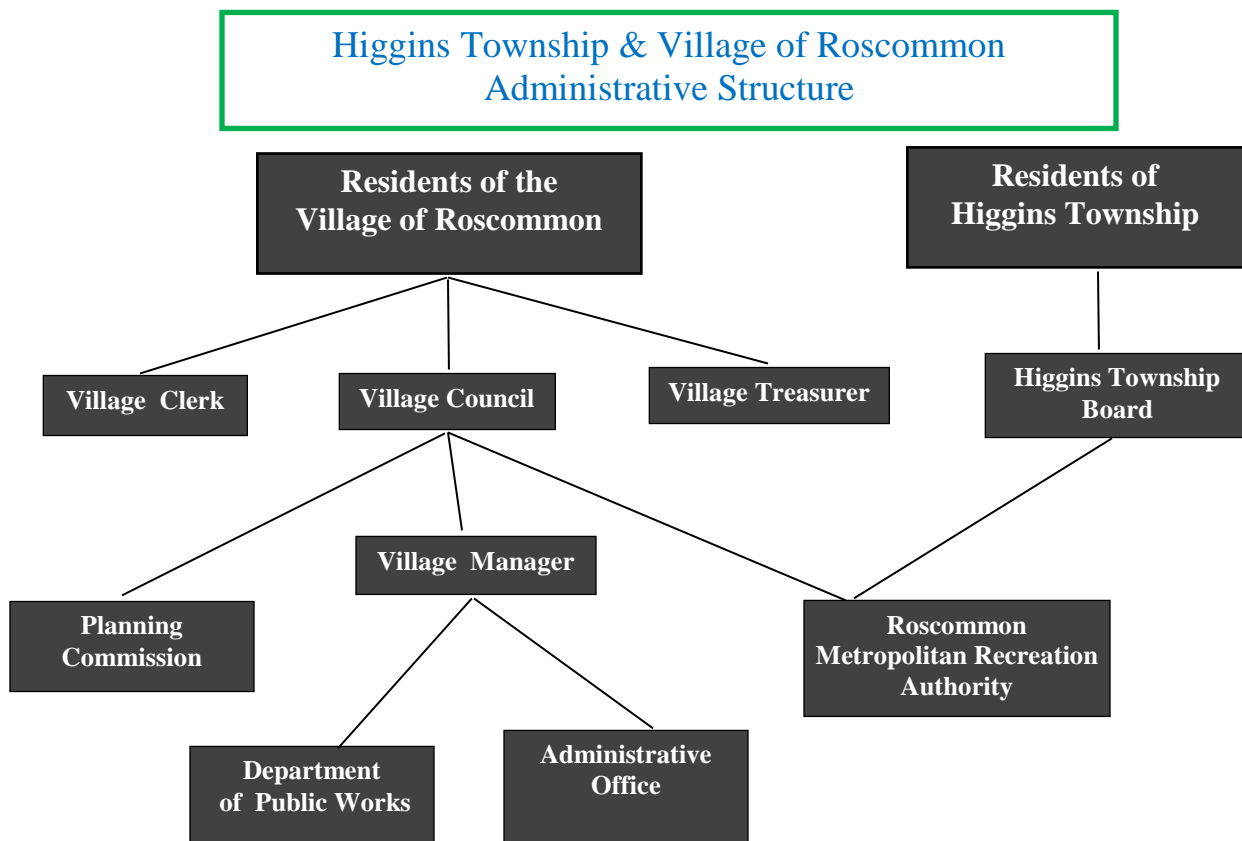
The responsibility for Roscommon park and recreation facilities lies primarily with three entities: the Village of Roscommon, Higgins Township and the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority. The Higgins Lake Roscommon Chamber of Commerce and the Roscommon Area Public Schools were also involved in the production of this plan and its implementation. The development and execution of this Recreation Plan will be a collaborative effort by these authorities and their governing bodies.

Higgins Township has small budgeted funding for public improvements but no formal recreation budget. The Village of Roscommon includes in its annual budget funds for recreation in the Village including activities and maintenance for Wallace Park. The recreation budget is included as a part of the general fund of the Village. The Village Manager presents the proposed budget to the council on an annual basis. After making changes the Council then approves the budget including funds for parks and recreation. The Village Department of Public Works maintains the park system and reports to the Village Manager.

The 2017 budget includes:

Wallace Park Maintenance	5,000
Little League Fields	7,000

RMRA is independent from the Village of Roscommon and Higgins Township. In the past, both entities budgeted funds for RMRA's administrative costs. They now partner with them for infrastructure and programming needs.



## CHAPTER 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

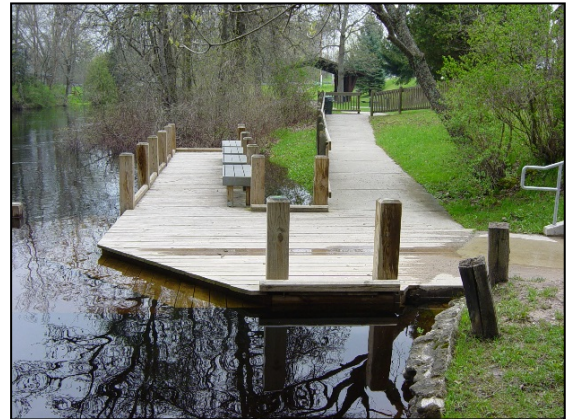
One of the first tasks of the members of the Recreation Committee was to draft an inventory of recreation activities in the area. Each member individually listed the currently existing recreation opportunities; then compiled this comprehensive list of recreation facilities in and around the Village of Roscommon.

### PARKS, NATURE AREAS, TRAIL SYSTEMS

#### **Wallace Park**

104 N. Seventh Street

Wallace Park is located on the banks of the South Branch of the AuSable River within the Village limits and close to downtown. The large pavilion was built by the Lions Club. The beautifully renovated dock includes universal access into the park, fishing pier and boat launch. Frontage along the South Branch of the AuSable River provides public and commercial launching of canoes, kayaks and tubes. The park has two bathrooms built by Roscommon Rotary, picnic tables, grills and has universal access.



#### **Metro Park**

208 George

Street (between Division and Sherwood)

The eight acre park is located two blocks from the Roscommon County Building in a residential neighborhood. It is home of the Roscommon-St. Helen Little League and has three baseball/softball fields. In 2014, the aged playground was replaced with a new 12,000 sq. ft. footprint. There were two tennis courts and two basketball courts, all of which were removed with upcoming plans for the open area. A pavilion houses a sheltered picnic area as well as concessions during ballgames. The area has municipal water and sewer on site, which supports two indoor bathrooms.

#### **Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve**

209 Maplehurst

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve is a non-profit organization operated by volunteers and funded by its members, generous donors and the endowment left by Marguerite. It provides environmental education for Roscommon County Schools as well as many of the schools in the surrounding counties. The Preserve is a 60 acre public wildlife sanctuary open 24/7 to the community for hiking, biking, skiing and sightseeing. A well-marked and maintained three mile trail network of walking paths wind through forested, creek side and wetland habitats. A quarter mile wheelchair accessible asphalt path and boardwalk allows universal access from the parking lot through the upland area to Tank Creek and the pond.



### **South Higgins Lake State Park**

106 State Park Drive

South Higgins Lake State Park is located 9 miles southwest of Roscommon. It is a 1000-acre park that contains almost one mile of shoreline along Higgins Lake, which is a large spring-fed body of water known for its clarity and fishing. There are multiple trails (see Marl Lake Trail), a modern campground with 400 sites, picnic area, sandy beach, boat launch, playground and many other amenities. Both State Parks host annual seasonal events.

### **North Higgins Lake State Park**

11747 N. Higgins Lake Drive

North Higgins Lake State Park is located 8 miles west of Roscommon. It boasts 175 modern campsites, picnicking, swimming, two mini-cabins and a boat launch. Over 8 miles of trails are available for hiking, cross-country skiing and biking (See Trails).



### **Gerrish Township Park**

109 Carlos Avenue

This lakefront park, with approximately 400 ft. of public beach, offers public swimming access, a gazebo, picnic areas, grills, restrooms with bath house, children's play equipment, volleyball court, universally accessible boardwalk, tetherball and paved parking.

### **Gerrish Municipal Park**

2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive.

This park is adjacent to the township hall, has a pavilion, picnic tables, grills, restroom facilities (inside the hall), tennis courts, children's play equipment, basketball court, tetherball and paved parking.

### **Gerrish Township Community Park Marina**

103 Mill Road

This lakefront park area currently operates a 133 slip marina facility and offers marina gas sales, fishing, grills, boating and ATV safety classes and lake access. Winter activities include ice fishing and ice skating

### **Firemen's Memorial Park**

1295 E. Robinson Lake Road

The park is two miles from the downtown area and is approximately 4 acres in size. A local firemen's Memorial Committee provides all maintenance for this site which contains the memorial, a small playground, rest rooms, and a walk-through artifact site of fire equipment and memorabilia. The project has become immensely popular with visitors and draws many people in a year's time as well as during the Firemen's Memorial Festival, held in September each year.







### **Roscommon North Youth Soccer Association and Roscommon Youth Football League Fields**

Pinewood and County Road 100

Five soccer fields and one football field were built and funded by the Rotary Club of Roscommon and owned by C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District. The soccer association and football league operate and maintain the fields. This sports complex was dedicated in 1990 and continues to welcome other teams to play and compete in Roscommon.

## **RIVERS and LAKES**

### **South Branch of the Au Sable River**

The South Branch of the Au Sable River, flowing through the Village of Roscommon, is one of the finest trout streams in the country. Anglers and canoeists are taken back in time when following this meandering river through a pristine wilderness as it flows from its headwaters towards the mainstream of the Au Sable. Kayakers and canoeists enjoy the relatively flat waters. Roscommon is the host for the annual Pro Am Canoe Classic Race in early May featuring C2 and C1 races held at Wallace Park.



### **The Cut River**

Higgins Lake connects and drains into Marl Lake by the Cut River, which runs into Houghton Lake and eventually to Lake Michigan. The distance between Houghton and Higgins Lakes is about 10 stream miles. The river flow is unique as non-motorized water crafts can enjoy a mix of river and lake in one trip and gives ample opportunity to fish.



### **Higgins Lake**

Eight miles west of Roscommon, Higgins Lake is a large recreational and fishing lake in Roscommon County. The 9,900 acre lake is known for its deep, clear waters and is the 10th largest in Michigan with a shoreline of 21 miles. The Cut River connects Marl Lake to Higgins Lake giving ample opportunity to fish for perch, trout and pike. Two state parks and public access points provide excellent beach facilities, camping, launch sites, hiking trails and cross country skiing.



There are public beaches at the North and South Higgins Lake State Parks, Gerrish Park and Gerrish Marina. Kelly Beach off of Kelly Ave. (off Flag Point Dr). It hosts a swimming area and association maintained boat launch and dock. There is no public parking within two blocks.

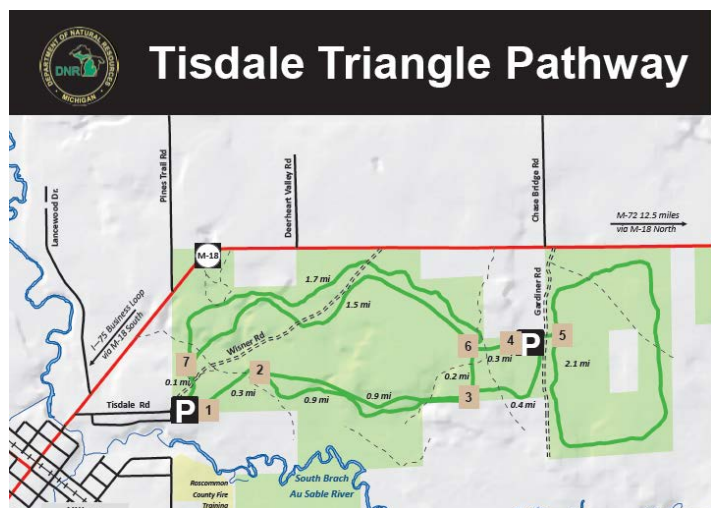
There are public launch sites at the State Parks, Gerrish Marina and the West Higgins Lake Boat Launch off County Road 200. This launch also is a public boat launch with parking.

## Snowmobile/ORV Trails



Tisdale Road and Wisner Road

This trail, located one-half mile east of Roscommon via M-18, consists of 8.1 miles of multiple loops. It is a non-motorized trail where cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and biking are permitted. The terrain is relatively flat with a few rolling hills. The Trail is maintained by the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority.



## **The Mason Tract**

Chase Bridge Road

From Chase Bridge near Roscommon to Smith Bridge in neighboring Crawford County there is a special place in the annals of fly fishing. The trail is 10.42 miles utilized for XC skiing, snowshoeing and hiking and is maintained by Friends of the Mason Tract. The Mason Tract is a section of undeveloped land that was conveyed to the State of Michigan in 1955 by the late George W. Mason in a perpetual trust to ensure it remains undeveloped. It includes 1500 acres bordering the stream and an additional 1330 acres acquired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1957 that extended its borders. This special tract is also known as the Mason Retreat.

## **Red Pine Natural Area**

County Road 603 and F-97

The trail, located 15 miles east of Roscommon near the Kirtland Community College campus, covers 164 acres. There are 34 acres of virgin pines, most of them red pine. Winding through this stand of 200-year old trees is a 1.5 mile interpretive trail with sixteen stops and an accompanying brochure.

## **Marl Lake and Trail**

County Road 100 (Across from South Higgins Lake State Park)

Just off County Road 100 south of South Higgins Lake State Park is Marl Lake. It has trail loops of 2.0, 3.5 and 5.5 miles for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. It is a quiet wooded path that wraps around the shoreline and through treed areas. There is a small boat launch with vault toilets. The lake is designated for non-motorized watercraft.

## **North Higgins Lake State Park Trail:**

Across from the North State Park, the eleven-mile trail system consists of three trails: A 6.5 mile North Higgins-Beaver Creek Trail; the 3.8 mile North Higgins-Bosom Pines Trail; and the 1.5 mile North Higgins-Upland Nature Trail that is also enhanced with fitness stations. All trails are usable for hiking and cross-country skiing. Trails are groomed in the winter, well-marked state forest-managed land.

## **Cross Country Ski Headquarters Trail Network**

This is a 9.39 mile trail system groomed for XC Skiing that are available as walking paths in the summer. Maintained by privately owned facility.

## **Roscommon Area Public Schools Walking Trail**

The paved 2-mile walking path located on the campus of the Roscommon Area Schools. This trail now connects the Safe Walk to School Trail that runs along Co.Rd. 100, secured by grant funding by RCRC.

## HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

### **Roscommon Area Historic Model Train Club**

815 Lake Street

Come and see the trains of years past and learn about their importance to Roscommon and the surrounding area. The train club operates an eighth-scale passenger train next to the River Center every Saturday during the summer as well as a clubhouse that exhibits displays of N, H.O., S, O, and G scale trains.



### **Roscommon Area Historical Society**

404 Lake St.

The Roscommon Area Historical Society preserves and protects artifacts and archives from the Roscommon and Higgins Lake Areas. The society maintains its museum in the 1880's era Gallimore Boarding House that operated from 1904-1931. The rooms are furnished in period style, and exhibits depict the history of the area. Richardson School House served the community from 1914-1955 and now displays an interior setting with many artifacts from Roscommon and surrounding areas.

### **The AuSable River Center**

211 North Main Street

The mission of the AuSable River Center is to educate the public about the heritage, artifacts, wildlife and environment of the great AuSable River. It provides a forum for those interested in keeping the river as a viable entity. The Center provides outdoor education, information and growth for all interested individuals. It houses exhibits promoting the history of canoeing and kayaking and the AuSable River. Each year, volunteers build a cedar strip canoe. The canoe is raffled during the Firemen's Memorial Festival in September to raise funds for the Center.



**The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum:** 11747 N. Higgins Lake Drive is part of North State Park and is located across the street. More than 100,000 young Michigan men were enrolled in the federal Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps, performing a variety of conservation and reforestation projects around the state. On site is the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and the museum.

### **Mason Tract Attractions**

An hour and a half float down the AuSable River from Chase Bridge, you will come to the landing at Durant Castle. This 42-room mansion was built in 1931 at a cost of \$500,000. The castle was adorned with eight gables, seven fireplaces, and a two-story tower entrance. The basement had a gym, recreation room, bar, barber shop and vault. Sadly, the uninsured mansion burned to the ground the day after it was completed. The foundation area, along with interpretive signage and pictures, are on the bank of the river along with a public toilet.

The Chapel is further downriver and the only structure that exists in the Mason Tract, and was dedicated in 1957 to George W. Mason. He bequeathed this vast tract of wilderness to the people of the state so it could be enjoyed for many generations to come. The AuSable South Branch is also known as the Holy Waters by trout fisherman. They journey from all around the world to fish here. It can be accessible by water or ORV and is a popular destination for weddings, private prayers and local landmark.



# COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS & FESTIVALS

## **CRAF Center** **Community Recreation, Activities and Fitness Center** 606 Lake Street

The CRAF Center's Mission is to enable a healthier community by implementing effective programs and providing facilities to enhance levels of fitness, recreation and leisure satisfaction. The Center offers a full fitness center and personal trainer. Classes include aerobics, yoga, Tai Chi, karate, clogging and **Silver Sneakers®**.

The two gyms are open for youth drop-in, organized volleyball, men's basketball and pickle ball leagues. Rooms are available to rent for meetings and accommodate the space and needs of the community. During the summer, the CRAF Center along with RMRA have a biweekly concert series of six concerts that brings music and artistic talent to the community.



## **Roscommon Area District Library** 106 Lake Street

The Library provides free services to all residents living within the library district, which includes Gerrish, Higgins and Lyon Townships as well as the Village of Roscommon.



The library holds more than 35,000 materials including books, movies, magazines, music CDs and audio books. Our patrons enjoy downloadable audiobooks, eBooks & magazines. Mango Languages & Ancestry.com (Library Edition) are also available for your use. The library offers activities for all ages, visiting authors, and music programs throughout the year.

## **Roscommon Village Market** Roscommon River Center

This open market features local produce and various other Michigan-made products. The Market is open Saturdays from May through October.





**Roscommon Community Center**  
510 South St.

The Community Center is located on the east side of the Village and is a focal point for several public programs. A very active senior group has the daily meal program there followed by recreational activities such as cards, bingo, dance, arts and crafts. Various public meetings for planning purposes are also conducted in the Community Center. The two-acre site has walking paths, croquet and horseshoes during the summer months.

**Roscommon County Fire Training Grounds**  
290 Ballanger Road

The 20 acre Fire Training Grounds are located just east of the Village. Firemen from around the state use the facility for training at various times throughout the year. There is a large parking area, two buildings, bathrooms and a large pole building constructed by the Firemen's Memorial Committee for use during their annual festival. Various public functions use the grounds annually, including the Roscommon County Fair and Fourth of July fireworks.



**Pioneer Hill Sledding Area**

County Road 100 adjacent to C.O.O.R. ISD

Large open hill area utilized for downhill sledding and Higgins Lake Winterfest activities.

**The Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center** is located adjacent to the North State Park. This educational center serves state and federal agencies, educational groups and other nonprofit organizations in a natural setting away from the distractions of home and the workplace.

**Camp Westminster**

116 Westminster Drive

Camp Westminster provides a setting for Christian summer camps, retreats, mission trips and outdoor summer worship in northern Michigan on beautiful Higgins Lake.

**Kirtland Community College**

10775 N. St. Helen Road

Kirtland Community College provides open access to education, as well as cultural opportunities, to enrich the lives of the people in Northern Michigan.

The Kirtland Performing Arts Center is the home of the Kirtland Center for the Performing Arts, the Kirtland Center's Performing Artist Series, the Kirtland Youth Theatre and Kirtland Center Players. The Performing Arts Center is an 846-seat modified thrust theatre which is used for both professional and educational performing arts events, as well as major campus-wide events.



**Bambi Lake Conference Center**  
3468 East Robinson Lake Road



Bambi Lake Baptist Retreat and Conference Center, commonly referred to as "Bambi Lake" is a 240 acre site owned by the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. There are many recreational activities such as boating, swimming or fishing in the private 20-acre lake, putt-putt golf, walking the wooded hiking trails and winter sledding down Monster Hill.

**Community Garden** The Roscommon Community Garden is located in the Village of Roscommon at the corners of Main and George Streets. Produce grown at the garden is available to the community as it ripens. This project was headed by the Crawford-Roscommon Conservation District, community volunteers with funding from Rotary, grants and private donations. In collaboration with community service groups and the Village of Roscommon, the garden was completed for the 2016 season.

**Birdwatching** The endangered Kirtland's warbler is one of the rarest members of the wood warbler (Parulidae) family. It is a bird of unusual interest for many reasons. It nests in just a few counties in Michigan's Northern Lower and Upper peninsulas and Roscommon County has an abundant population for your viewing pleasure. In addition, Roscommon County hosts a variety of trails through area habitats that provide abundant opportunities for birdwatching of many species.

## FESTIVALS

Kirtland Performing Arts Concerts and Events (Throughout the year)

Higgins Lake-Roscommon WinterFest (February)

Great Egg Scramble and Bike Give-Away (March or April)

Annual Roscommon Business Expo (May)

Pro Am Canoe Race (May)

Kirtland Warbler Festival (June)

Sunrise Run (June)

CRAF Center Gazebo Concert Series (June through August)

Annual July 4th Fireworks and Parade (July)

Annual Roscommon Art Festival (July)

Roscommon Rotary Annual Duck Race (August)

AuSable River Festival (August)

Civil War Reenactment

Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival (September)

Conservation Expo (September)

Girls' Night Out in Roscommon (November)

Christmas in the Village (December)

Lions Club Annual Ski for Light: Cross Country Ski Event for the blind (3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend in January)





## DNR RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY

In 2001, the Village of Roscommon received a MDNR Grant to improve the accessibility of Wallace Park. The program was funded through the Clean Michigan Initiative Recreation Bond Program (Project Number CM 99-217), had a final construction cost of \$10,135. The Village constructed a 3,540 square foot barrier-free park walkway from Seventh Street to the major features of the park. The walkway is used frequently and remains in good condition.



In 2015, the Village of Roscommon received a MDNR Recreation Passport Grant for further improvements in Wallace Park. The program funded \$45,000, and with additional money from the Village of \$54,529 and DDA of \$8,262 the \$107,792 project was completed in the fall of 2016. These improvements included universal accessibility into the park, canoe and kayak launch with fishing landing and replacement of the deteriorating retaining wall. New amenities of picnic tables, benches and grills were added to accommodate persons of all functional capacities.





# CHAPTER 4:

## EVALUATION OF 2013-2017 RECREATION PLAN

The 2013 to 2017 Recreation Plan was evaluated to assess effectiveness, credit projects that were completed and reevaluate those that still exist. For those projects that were not completed we took the opportunity to follow up to see if (1) they are still an active desire of the community and (2) what barriers that exist to get the projects completed. Below are the items that were noted to be the priorities of the Roscommon Community and surrounding area in 2013 noted with the evaluation and outcomes

### SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

Tisdale Trail, Signage and Dog Stations: In 2014 a land maintenance agreement was entered by the DNR and the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority. The RMRA mows the trail for summer hiking and grooms for cross country skiing in the winter. Networking with the DNR the trails are clear of debris and has new signage. Dog stations were not placed due to cost and labor, however effective signage addressing dog activities and waste pick up have been effective.

Community Bike Racks have been placed giving Roscommon residents the option of non-motorized access to area business, governmental buildings and park areas promoting a lifestyle of healthy living. Six bike racks were funded by the DDA and purchased.

#### Park Surveillance Cameras

Surveillance cameras were placed at Metro Park in 2014. This has drastically cut down on vandalism and has been used to solve complaints reported to the Sheriff's Department. Surveillance at Wallace park is in the 2017 Budget.

#### METRO Park Playground Equipment

In 2014 \$100,000.00 was raised by grants and community donations and a new playground was installed. Increasing the size from 400ft to 12,000 ft. has benefited the play needs of children.

#### Replace Wallace Park Seawall

2016 a Recreation Passport Grant was received from DNR. In 2017 construction was completed on park renovations, entrance ramps, canoe/kayak launch, fishing dock and a new retaining wall that will last decades.

### IN PROCESS

#### Snowmobile / ATV Trail Connection Plan

The Village Council approved a re-routing of the current trail into the Village. Working with the local snowmobile club, village residents, MDOT and area businesses the route was streamline through town. New directional signage was placed. Pending is wayfinding at trailheads and the final connector at the end of Main Street connecting the trail to Billman Rd.

#### Non-motorized Trail System

A primary goal was to enhance, create, and market non-motorized trail systems in and around the Village for use by residents and visitors. The major crossroads are not amenable for the addition of bike path.

Networking with the Roscommon County Road Commission they have made most of the edges of road a paved shoulder trail. CR103 E. Higgins Lk Rd gets widened this summer and resurfaced in 2018. The 2 state park off road trails will be done in the summer 2017. Steele Rd. has shoulders now and will get resurfaced in 2018 so the Village connector will be done. Rotary is working on signs for the trail way around Higgins Lake.

#### Basketball Courts

Part of the plan to renovate the remainder of Metro Park. Not accomplished due to funding exhaustion from the playground project and shift of volunteer needs to the CRAF Center.

#### Water Feature in METRO Park

Currently in an early planning phase for feasibility due to financial constraints and park layout.

#### RMRA Fundraising Plan

The plan is in process but currently stalled. The RMRA is a governmental entity however was not formed as a Recreation Authority excluding them from being viable for State grants. The CRAF Center, AuSable River Center, Gahagan Nature Preserve are self-sustaining. The RMRA manages and maintains Metro Park. With no current source of funding the RMRA for the past eight years has utilized fundraising efforts and bartering to manage their capital expenses. This funding is not sustainable so new avenues will need to be considered.

#### Recreation Program Plan

No formal plan has been developed but continued ideas have been implemented. Networking with Chamber of Commerce, District Library and RMRA a Kids Calendar was developed. On each website area residents and visitors can utilize it as an informative source finding kids activities in the area.

#### Replace Downtown Sidewalks

Sidewalks have been assessed, prioritized and to date one large scale and 3 smaller projects have been completed. All curbing has been installed.

#### Install Wayfinding Information boards

These have been discussed and will be part of community economic development.

## **NEEDS RE-EVALUATION FOR CURRENT NEED**

#### Non-motorized Trail Phase 1- 5.(Wallace Park to Hilltop)

The first phase had been funded by the DDA however progress has not proceeded. Gaining contact for easement has failed due to multiple sales and management changes of the property. Now with other opportunities and safe walking needs this trail plan Phase 1-5 is being reevaluated.

#### Tennis Courts

Tennis courts have fallen in popularity in the 2017 survey. Current desire for basketball and pickle ball courts have been weighted higher in desire. Tennis courts are in area parks within 10 miles radius and may be efficient in serving the needs of the community.

#### Ice Rink

Due to funding of the playground and work at the CRAF Center this item is yet to be addressed. In the past success is dependent on weather and maintenance. No funding is available for maintaining such an amenity at this time.

#### Quiet Waters Event

It was thought that utilizing the river and its surroundings as an attractor for events would draw attention to natural amenities as fishing, boating, swimming ranked top in the activity survey. It is obvious that the lakes and rivers are utilized as the primary source of recreation activities in our surrounding area.

## CHAPTER 5:

# DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Roscommon Village Council appointed a Recreation Committee, comprised of the following members to direct the development of this plan.

Sue Jock, Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority, Chair  
Connie Allen, Higgins Lake – Secretary, Higgins Twp.  
Diane Lippert, COOR Intermediate School District  
Julie Crick-MSUe  
John Rosczyk, Village Manager  
Bill Curnalia-Higgins Township. Supervisor  
Ron Alden-Higgins Township. Treasurer  
Nancy Smitz-Community Member  
Cathy Boyle-Chamber of Commerce

The committee implemented a multi-step process to gather information with the goal of involving as many segments of the community as possible.

Step 1 - Review the current Recreation and Open Space Master Plan: Was the plan effective? Was the community able to implement portions of the goals? Are there portions of the plan that should be incorporated into the new plan?

Step 2 – Update the Community’s Description: What are the major features of the Roscommon area? What is the impact of recreation on the residents and visitors?

Step 3 – Inventory of the Community’s Recreation Opportunities: What recreation resources currently exist in Higgins Township, Village, and surrounding area?

Step 4 – Determine the Community’s Recreation Needs and Desires: What improvements are necessary to the current recreation infrastructure? What other opportunities does the public want?

Step 5 – Install Action Program to Meet Community Needs and Desires: This program prioritizes the broad based goals from the community input and identifies specific objectives necessary to accomplish them. The Action Program identifies what the key players must accomplish over the five-year period to make each item a reality. These groups include the Village, DDA, Higgins Township, RMRA, and several local service organizations.



Step 6 – Draft the Recreation Plan: Using the guidelines from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, complete a plan that will guide the community in reaching the identified goals.

Step 7 – Adopt the Recreation Plan: Take the plan through all the necessary steps for ultimate approval by the Township Board and Village Council.





## CHAPTER 6: PLANNING METHODS

The Recreation Committee was charged with the task of drafting a new Recreation Plan for Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon, guiding it through the approval process and submitting it to the State of Michigan. This involved a multi-step process.



1. The existing recreation facilities and programs were evaluated by collecting the relevant data.
2. Community needs were established by several means of collecting recreation priorities of residents.
3. Community priorities and existing facilities were assessed.
4. Identified deficiencies were addressed through broad Recreation goals.
5. An Action Plan was developed to identify specific projects as a way of reaching those goals.
6. Budgetary and scheduling components were added to that plan
7. Community residents and stakeholders reviewed the completed Recreation Plan and gave input regarding the plan details.
8. The committee made revisions to the plan based on the public input.



# CHAPTER 7: PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Recreation Committee decided to utilize two forms of input to gather public opinion in an attempt to address all age groups within the community.

## INPUT METHOD #1: Community Input Meetings

These meetings were well publicized as part of public input sessions of Higgins Township, the Village of Roscommon, and Roscommon DDA's monthly meetings. Attending the meetings were community members, business owners and the media. The meeting was an open forum where residents gave their priorities for community infrastructure improvements. Two primary questions were asked: How do you view recreation in your community?, What avenues do we need to develop or steps to improve existing recreation opportunities? Most everyone agrees that the natural resources are the items that draw people to our community. Frequently voiced, the groups were in agreement that they are not aware of specific amenities, attractions and events in our surrounding area.

1. Hiking and biking trails
2. ATV/snowmobile trailhead connecting existing trails
3. Basketball courts
4. Pickle ball courts
5. Expanded playgrounds/finishing of Metro Park

## INPUT METHOD #2: Community Questionnaires

This method was used to determine the interests from a broad age range of residents. A survey utilizing SurveyMonkey was designed utilizing similar questions from the 2012 recreation survey. The survey link was distributed by email, social media, group email from the CRAF Center, DDA, Village and Township board members, and two classes in each of the elementary, middle and high school. It is of note that a better representation of results were gathered from the school age population which changed the outcome of the survey results as it has to do with kids and activities they would prefer. A copy of questions and results are included in the appendix. In order of priority, the survey results are of the facilities or activities the community could consider developing or enhancing:

1. Non-motorized trails, biking and hiking
2. Playgrounds
3. Youth activities
4. Ice rink
5. Basketball courts
6. Water Feature/Ice Rink
7. Dog Park
8. Pickle ball/Tennis Courts
9. Skate park
10. Volleyball courts

The top five activities are consistent with the prior recreation needs of the community. Falling off of 2012 survey were game rooms, swimming pool and after-school activities.

Outdoor recreation opportunities ranked by how often community members participate in them. The survey results are:

1. Exercise/boating/camping
2. Swimming/biking/fishing
3. Music/cooking
4. Gym activities/hiking
5. Arts/crafts/board games

6. Hunting/baseball/volleyball

Write in comments:

Shooting

Legos

Roller skating

Disc golf

Airport



# CHAPTER 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## **Basis for Action Plan**

The Recreation Committee evaluated, revised the issues, and redeveloped goals and objectives from the 2013-17 Recreation Plan. The changes were based on the results of the community input meetings, community questionnaire and presentations to local organizations. Higgins Township and the Village Council will use this information as it works on its economic development and capital improvement plan.

## **Issue #1**

The Higgins Township/Roscommon Area has a limited trail system for walking, running and bicycling. The 65-plus age group comprises 30.8 percent of the population in Higgins Township and 27.5 percent of the population in the Village. This demographic, either by choice or of necessity, uses non-motorized transportation. Just as in 2012, the 2017 community input surveys conducted named non-motorized hiking and biking trails as a top priority with all age groups. It is clear from the recreation inventory that there is a need to further enhance and develop non-motorized pathways linking neighborhoods, parks and businesses. While additional sidewalks remain a priority, the opportunity to develop the Iron Belle Trail along the state-designated route through both Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon is actively being sought. The collaborative effort to support this state initiative has active support from Roscommon County, Higgins Township/Village of Roscommon as well as local townships through which the trail runs. The development of the trail would provide designated passage of non-motorized traffic through Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon, as well as allow continuance to nearby communities. The trail would increase local recreation and tourism opportunities with access to Kirtland Warbler habitat and the statewide trail network.

## **Goal**

Create, expand and connect with existing non-motorized trail system in and around Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon that can be used safely by residents and visitors.

## **Objectives**

- A. Identify existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to pathways' access in the community factoring in all safety concerns of the public.
- B. Continue to expand a pathway system that provides safe walk or bike to neighborhoods, parks and businesses within Higgins Township/Village of Roscommon limits.
  - Reassess the need for a pathway from the apartments and nursing home on Hilltop Lane to the village limits
  - Continuation of expanding the roads shoulders within Higgins Township/Village of Roscommon to create a safe passage for non-motorized use.
  - Continue progress on Iron Belle Trail through Higgins Township/Village of Roscommon and Roscommon County.
  - Safety concerns have presented with narrow to no shoulders crossing the bridge over the AuSable River. Consider a bridge walk as access for safe pedestrian crossing.
- C. Acquire necessary land or obtain easements for pathway development.
- D. Involve community groups to fund, develop, promote and maintain the trail system.

## **Issue #2**

Visitors as well as community members are unaware of area activities and recreation offerings. Roscommon is situated in the center of northern lower Michigan, within minutes of some of the state's most pristine lakes and rivers. The typical family of four will spend \$300.00 per day in a community while vacationing. We need to bring visitors to the area and inform residents what activities are available locally. For the second time developing recreation plans, data that we gathered showed this as a need for our community.

## **Goal**

To increase knowledge and awareness of existing area recreation opportunities.

## Objectives

- A. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the marketing of Roscommon recreation opportunities.
- B. Consider utilizing newer media marketing techniques to market area businesses, activities, recreation and amenities, i.e., local apps.
- C. Develop a master plan to disseminate information regarding the varied area activities.
- D. Network with local governmental units and community groups to promote local activities and events through:
  - a. Electronic signage
  - b. Cooperative efforts with Chambers of Commerce & Tourism Bureau
  - c. Community signs and marquees
  - d. Newspapers & radio, recreation guides
  - e. Social Media
  - f. Print Marketing
- E. Foster and maintain partnerships with local educational institutions to share information and cooperate regarding recreation opportunities.

## Issue #3

Economic impact that this community is dependent is recreation and tourism. Local and area visitors seek the natural resources that are abundant here. There is no unit within the community that is responsible for recreation. The Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority is the only group that is active within the community but its function is limited. Not formed as a Recreation Authority in the 1960's limits it's availability to be a recipient for state grants and it is dependent on volunteer service that leaves its existence vulnerable. It also has no avenue for funding which limits its community leverage.

**Goal:** To reevaluate an avenue for funding for recreation within the Village and Township.

## Objectives

- A. Consider adding a Parks and Recreation group within the Village or Township
- B. Reassess the current Recreation Authority and realign it so it can be a funded avenue for recreation.
- C. Recognize the limitations of a non-funded recreation plan has to our community economics.

## Issue #4

ORV, ATV and snowmobile users avoid Roscommon due to incomplete, non-connecting access. There are state recognized trails on three sides of the Village, yet there is limited ability to patronize Village businesses. With an unemployment rate of 14.2 percent and over one-third of the households earning less than \$25,000, it is essential to provide easy access to the business district. Snowmobile/ATV trails connect communities throughout northern lower Michigan. Utilized for four season recreation, these trails bring recreation enthusiasts from across the state to our area. Current progress has been made in attempts to connect the two primary trail systems that service Roscommon. Current rerouting utilizing one main route allows traffic to gain access into town and its amenities. Unfortunately, there is no current way to connect the trails north of town which limits the trail system use.

## Goal

To finish development of connections for current motorized trails on the north end of town and to establish a snow maintenance path along that roadside trail.

## Objective

- A. Develop a well-marked, clear pathway through the Village.
- B. Work with local governmental agencies on a general maintenance trail program.
- C. Offer a direct route for ATV/ORV/Snowmobile riders to gain access to area businesses, parks and event facilities.
- D. Market area assets and businesses that would benefit from riders to the area.
- E. Identify area clubs and include them in the planning and implementation of trails.

**Issue #5:**

Lodging accommodations for year-round visitors do not meet the needs for area tourism. Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon are dependent on tourism as a primary economic source of income within the community. Visitors come for the “up north” experience and recreation, but lack housing accommodations. This makes people alter their plans based off access to lodging suitable for their planned activities. When lodging takes you out of town, the economic impact of shopping, food, gas and other amenities are lost to neighboring communities.

**Goal:**

Initiate assessment and planning for area accommodations for year-round use such as camping/RV park, small cabins, bed & breakfast, hotels or hostel.

1. Assess economic need for short and long term housing and accommodations.
2. Explore zoning changes within the Village and Township to provide suitable sites for accommodation development.
3. Preplan and assess area infrastructure for suitable land acquisitions and development.
4. Seek out and facilitate with investors or corporations.
5. Consider long term housing for generational living in a walking community.

**Issue #6**

Amenities in Roscommon’s parks need to be completed. One-third of all households in the Village have children under the age of 18. Upgrading the public parks started in 2013 with complete renovation to Metro Park; then in 2016, renovations including universal access, fishing pier and amenities at Wallace Park. Currently Metro Park is unfinished. Playground completion (#3), basketball courts (#4), ice rink (#6) and water feature (#7) in Metro Park are the items requested for playground improvements by the community information gathering sessions.

**Goal**

Preserve, renovate or replace recreation opportunities to provide an avenue for recreation within the community as well as promotion of events to the community and out-of-town visitors.

**Objectives**

- A. The playground sits with major renovations in 2014, but was left unfinished due to funding.
- B. Identify area funding partners and volunteers to complete renovation projects.
- C. The RMRA will take survey information and plan amenities around community need and sources of management.
- D. Move the parking lot to provide handicap parking and maintain the flow of traffic away from children’s play area.
- E. Identify threats to child safety and put in place measures to make the community a safe place to live, work and play.
- F. Conduct regular and thorough inspections of all recreation facilities and equipment, maintaining current safety standards. Quickly and effectively address public safety concerns.

**Issue #7**

Future population growth will place increasing demands on recreational land in the Roscommon area. The years from 2002 to 2010 showed the first decline in population in Roscommon in many decades. The projection over the next several years is for moderate growth. This will be the result of individuals seeking the quality of life available in the area. Opportunities must increase with the population. Roscommon is a small rural community surrounded by some of Michigan’s favored lakes and rivers, supported by standing forests and natural beauty, make it a favored recreation destination. Planning for future recreation needs, parks and natural resources is the key to the community’s sustainability.



**Goal**

To preserve sufficient open space that will provide opportunities for recreation now and in the future.

**Objectives**

- A. Preserve current public land that is suitable for recreation in quantities adequate to meet the existing and future recreations need of the population.
- B. Protect the natural resources and identity of the community and surrounding area.

Secure donations, endowments and corporate partnerships to maintain and develop the recreation system necessary to meet the goals of this plan

## CHAPTER 9: ACTION PLAN

The Roscommon Recreation Committee, in cooperation with Roscommon community members, compiled a prioritized list of projects for implementation from 2018 through 2022. The Committee based this list on the various public input sessions and surveys, as well as the collaborative work with Township and Village staff and demographic data. This Action Plan was developed to carry out the goals and objectives set forth in the previous chapter. These projects are subject to availability of funding through Village and Township funds and grant acquisition.

Past recreation plans have had items, activities or upgrades for recreation within the community. Many of those items have been accomplished and several are in process. It is noticeable that along with a “list” of items for recreation, that we lack the infrastructure or organization to market, secure and manage recreation opportunities.

Recreation and planning for the future of recreation is an ongoing process. We have compiled several action items that will meet the majority of current recreational needs and desires of a community. We believe the mix of projects that are included in this plan will accomplish most of the goals. The following section describes those projects in some detail and gives their locations when appropriate.

### 2018

#### Iron Belle Trail

The IBT is the longest state-designated trail system in the nation. Roscommon County was recently a recipient of a planning grant for preliminary planning phase. The Township and Village will have a significant economic impact from tourism and will actively participate in the planning for the IBT.

#### Complete Snowmobile / ATV Trail Connection Plan

Network with area organizations and agencies to join incomplete trail systems. This will provide access for vacationers and bring business to the Roscommon area.

#### Park Surveillance Cameras

Safety is of primary importance to the Roscommon community. Vandalism is becoming an increasing problem. Park surveillance cameras would help maintain a level of awareness and security.

#### Utilize Community Natural Resources

With the AuSable River flowing through the Village, canoeing, kayaking and fishing are popular recreation activities with residents and visitors. A plan needs to be put in place to promote activities within Wallace Park and surrounding properties to promote what we have naturally.

#### Shooting Range

Shooting Range was mentioned repeatedly on the survey as an independent activity. There is no safe place in the surrounding community where target practice can take place, leaving people limited, safe opportunities to shoot.

#### Community Gardening

Gardening and nutritious eating is gaining popularity nationwide. With Village residents having limited area to plant, a community garden was secured by grant in 2016. Utilization, management and marketing is needed to make this a functional part of our community and maximize the use as hobby or sustenance.

## 2019

### Safe Passage for Non-Motorized Use

Continued open communication and planning with the Roscommon County Road Commission of expanding the road shoulders within Higgins Township/Village of Roscommon to create a safe passage for non-motorized use.

There is no avenue for safe access across the AuSable River on M-18. Planning of a walking bridge will reduce potential for harm and provide an appealing safe pathway for pedestrians in and out of the Village.

### Basketball & Pickle ball Courts

Teens and young adults identified basketball as one of their preferred activities. The courts located in METRO park need to be completely renovated. The surface, baskets, and fencing all must be replaced.

## 2020

### Evaluation of Current Zoning within the Community

Current zoning is outdated and limits property use to its full potential. The Village will explore changes in current zoning within the community to provide suitable sites for accommodation and development.

### Trailhead and wayfinding signage for ORV/Snowmobile

Trailhead at the south end of the Village lacks wayfinding signage to area amenities and visible markers.

### Wayfinding Information

With diverse recreation opportunities in the Roscommon area, it is important for visitors to have easy access to information. Installing way-finding information boards, development of community apps or printed media within the community will help area residents and visitors locate areas of recreation, businesses and local attractions.

## 2021

### Water Feature in METRO Park

Installing a water feature in METRO Park will be a safe alternative to hot days for children in this residential area. It would also attract visitors from the tourist area around the Township and Village.

### Airport

A small community dependent on destination tourism, airport access would ease the transportation needs of persons coming from distant locations. Air travel has continued in popularity and the ability to fly in for weekend events or short term stays will provide an economic impact notably within the Village and Township.

## 2022

### Reevaluate Recreation

Combine efforts within the Township and Village to assess recreation and study the feasibility for developing a long term plan and financing for community recreation. Pending a long term community recreation plan, opportunities and activities within the Roscommon Area would be identified and multi-generational plan would be developed to address the needs of a diverse population.



### Skate Park

A skate park area continues to be one of the top 10 activities listed for consideration within the Village and Township from information gathered. With a large population of adolescents in this walkable, bikeable community, an area to gather and skate would get off road the and keep them out of the park and other cement foundations for both safety of the participant and residents.

# **APPENDIX**

1. Resource Inventory
2. Community Questionnaire
3. Recreation Related Articles from Newspapers
4. Recreation Plan Availability Public Notice
5. Chamber of Commerce Presentation Minutes
6. Recreation Committee Presentation Minutes
7. Notice of Planning Commission Public Hearing
8. Planning Commission Approval Minutes
9. Planning Commission Approval Resolution
10. Recreation Committee Approval Minutes
11. Village Council Approval Resolution
12. Submittal Letter to Roscommon County Planning Commission
13. Submittal Letter to Eastern Michigan Council of Governments
14. Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

# RESOURCE INVENTORY

The Recreation Committee and the Roscommon community have identified open space in and around the Village that they desire to preserve because of the properties' natural features. This chapter also lists existing natural areas that should be protected for future recreation opportunities.

## Currently protected land:

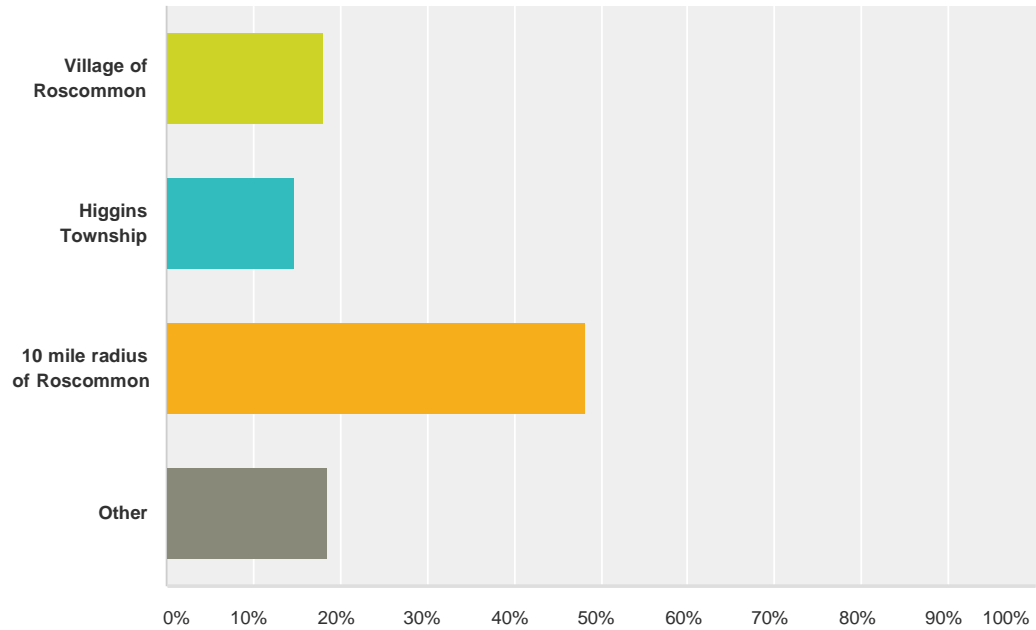
1. South Branch of the AuSable River
2. Wallace Park
3. Metro Park
4. Tisdale Trail
5. Michigan Fire Training Grounds
6. DNR Airport
7. Firemen's Memorial Park
8. Village property between Seventh St. and South Branch, southeast of M-18
9. Small park area on Main Street across from old Village Hall

## Open Space Areas to Protect:

1. Vacant land behind Post Office
2. 10 acres bounded by Main, Robinson, Hannah, and Ballanger
3. M-18 South of Village limits to Firemen's Memorial
4. North of DPW property to Tisdale Trail
5. 40 acres east of Gahagan Nature Preserve

## Q1 WHERE DO YOU RESIDE (LIVE)

Answered: 323 Skipped: 1

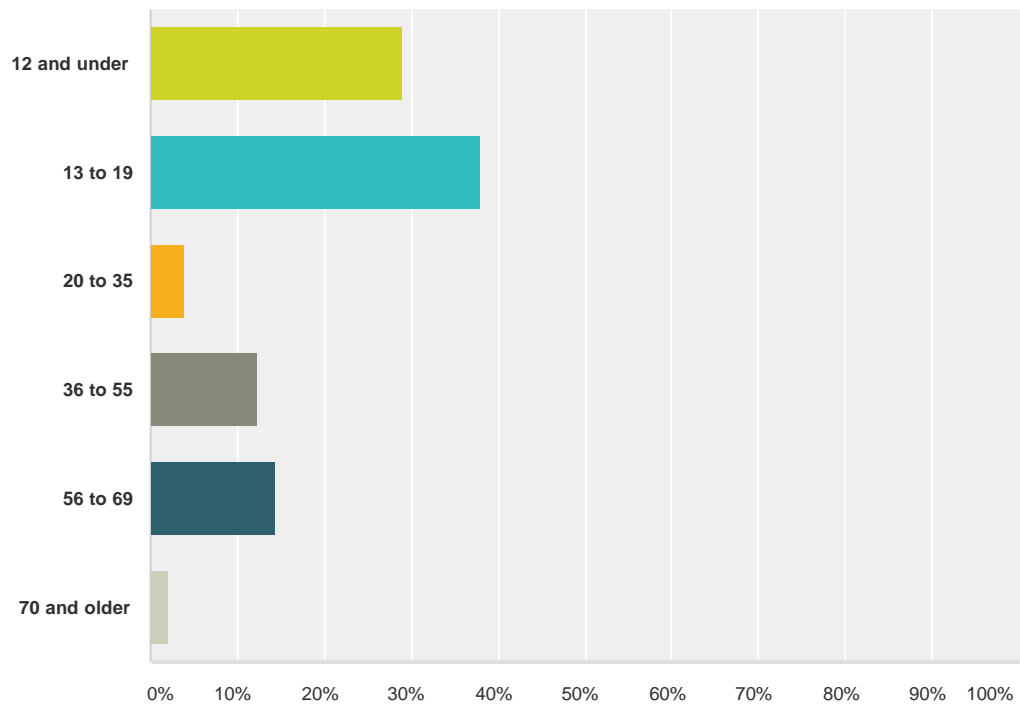


Answer Choices	Responses	
Village of Roscommon	18.27%	59
Higgins Township	14.86%	48
10 mile radius of Roscommon	48.30%	156
Other	18.58%	60
Total		323



# Q2 WHAT IS YOUR AGE

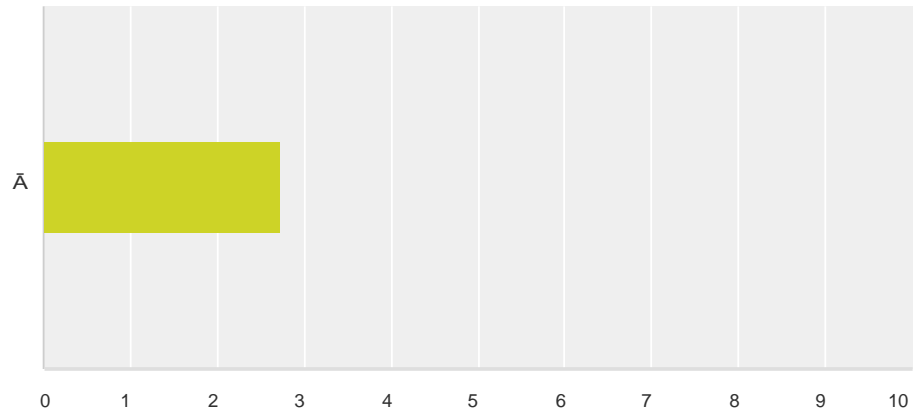
Answered: 324 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
12 and under	29.01%	94
13 to 19	37.96%	123
20 to 35	4.01%	13
36 to 55	12.35%	40
56 to 69	14.51%	47
70 and older	2.16%	7
Total		324

## Q3 HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE CRAF CENTER

Answered: 316 Skipped: 8



	Never Visited	Needs Attention	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Ä	14.87% 47	16.14% 51	49.68% 157	19.30% 61	316	2.73

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	Good looks so much better then it did.	2/27/2017 4:08 PM
2	I think that it helps people with crafting.	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
3	I really want to see what the do in the craft center	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
4	excellent	2/10/2017 1:01 PM
5	I've only done one of the things there which is the basketball court	2/10/2017 1:00 PM
6	its outstanding	2/10/2017 1:00 PM
7	I wish they had more open gym hours.	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
8	Could be cleaner	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
9	I went to the CRAF center when I was little and younger for gymnastics and it was fun	2/10/2017 12:01 PM
10	Its cool to see things people have made	2/10/2017 11:54 AM
11	i dont go there very often,besides gazebo concerts in summer,witch i love	2/10/2017 11:53 AM
12	I dont go there often but when I do it is ALWAYS a blast	2/10/2017 11:52 AM
13	Need more things	2/10/2017 11:51 AM
14	the CRAFT center is really good with students and kind with them.	2/10/2017 10:27 AM
15	its pretty cool but last time i went there they kicked me out because i was underage but all the other times i had no problem	2/10/2017 10:26 AM
16	I love you can play basketball, tennis, softball, and more and go to the gym and work out. Also take classes there like dance and more.	2/10/2017 10:25 AM
17	sidewalks need work	2/10/2017 10:24 AM
18	Fine	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
19	They really need to work on putting in new floor	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
20	New court, New hoop soon	2/10/2017 10:18 AM
21	A great asset to our community!	2/7/2017 8:17 PM

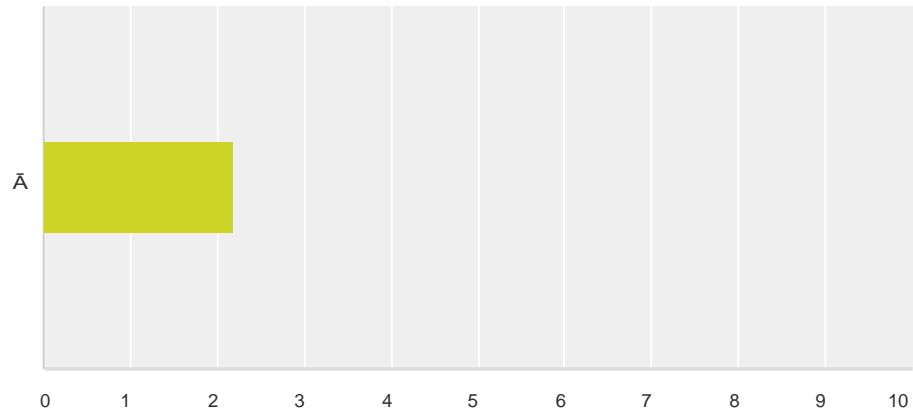
22	Haven't used the facility in a while but took yoga classes there.	2/7/2017 9:01 AM
23	I doubt I will ever go, but I might if you add some form of ice skating.	2/6/2017 1:57 PM
24	they need new basket ball floors	2/6/2017 1:56 PM
25	Needs more people	2/6/2017 1:56 PM
26	Lady at the counter threatened to take our phones if we did not put basketballs away, I don't think they are allowed to do that.	2/6/2017 1:55 PM
27	indoor pool should be put into the CRAF Center	2/6/2017 1:54 PM
28	More gym space	2/6/2017 1:54 PM
29	old and limited	2/6/2017 1:53 PM
30	Need work on flor	2/6/2017 1:24 PM
31	It's a good place to work out and meet friends.	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
32	The only place that I have been was the old dance and gymnastics room and also the gym.	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
33	I would like to visit it sounds very nice	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
34	I have not been there in a few months.	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
35	Great gym, but needs some updates.....	2/6/2017 1:21 PM
36	Enjoyable place to be	2/6/2017 1:20 PM
37	Have used it my whole life, areas could use work though, they have put some good work into it as of recent and it looks nice.	2/6/2017 12:45 PM
38	A lot of improvements have been made, but the basketball court needs to be fixed.	2/6/2017 12:44 PM
39	it needs a batting cage up in the top room from nick thomas	2/6/2017 11:48 AM
40	needs new gym floor	2/6/2017 11:46 AM
41	i think the kids that are 14 should be able to buy a membership because it is sad that we can only go for 6 hours on days after school	2/6/2017 11:46 AM
42	Haven't been there much but could use more upgrades to the buildings interior	2/6/2017 11:42 AM
43	I went to the police academy at the craft center and it was amazing!!!	2/6/2017 10:39 AM
44	Flooring Needs fixed...	2/6/2017 10:38 AM
45	Needs a foam pit, and new floors	2/6/2017 10:38 AM
46	needs a pool or trampoline area	2/6/2017 10:37 AM
47	I think updating the gym would be nice, and a couple maps would be helpful.	2/6/2017 10:36 AM
48	The floor	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
49	Needs Updates, Floor needs to be fixed	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
50	They need to fix the the gym floor.	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
51	Needs a foam pit	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
52	They fixed some of it and now it's much better.	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
53	It's a good place to just hang out and practice with friends.	2/6/2017 10:34 AM
54	Gym needs work.	2/6/2017 10:32 AM
55	The gym floor is not good.	2/6/2017 10:31 AM
56	The basketball court needs a little more work.	2/6/2017 10:13 AM
57	Please remodel the basketball court because the last time it was Nixon was president. Seriously remodel it you would get way more people if that court was remodeled.	2/6/2017 10:12 AM
58	I haven't been there that much and when I have I haven't really paid much attention and I've only been to the kitchen and gym.	2/6/2017 10:12 AM

59	needs an update in certain areas	2/6/2017 10:11 AM
60	Basketball courts, especially floors.	2/6/2017 10:10 AM
61	The basketball court needs to be redone.	2/6/2017 10:10 AM
62	Never Gone except for Easter events	2/6/2017 10:10 AM
63	I like the new carpet and they fixed the court up that's all the differences i've seen. the court still has a small bump in it i'm pretty sure.	2/6/2017 10:10 AM
64	i'm very very rarely there but the one time i was (december of this year) it was alright	2/6/2017 10:09 AM
65	new floors, or fix the floors. Also, get women's basketballs.	2/6/2017 10:07 AM
66	court is bad	2/6/2017 9:06 AM
67	I have been there a couple of times for school dances and my birthday party	2/6/2017 9:04 AM
68	I play basketball there during the off season.	2/6/2017 9:01 AM
69	entire facility and options are great, just need updating in the locker rooms.	2/6/2017 7:19 AM
70	Needs repairs but money is tight	2/5/2017 9:12 PM
71	Thrilled with the Pickle Ball courts, classes and leagues	2/5/2017 12:51 PM
72	It's a wonderful place for the community with great employees.	2/5/2017 10:16 AM
73	great staff, welcome people, encourage, intense	2/5/2017 7:38 AM
74	Great improvements being made, on its way to excellent.	2/4/2017 11:55 AM
75	good	2/4/2017 7:33 AM
76	Good love the updates and keyfob option	2/3/2017 6:40 PM
77	Great recent improvements; cost seems high compared to other facilities	2/3/2017 5:36 PM
78	Good	2/3/2017 4:05 PM
79	facility is in need if several updates including heating and air. facility is good for age of it	2/3/2017 3:56 PM
80	I like the CRAF Center, it does what's it's meant to do, but I wish the bathrooms were in better shape. I know renovations are complicated and expensive, but I just don't like to shower there.	2/3/2017 3:46 PM
81	Large Gym floor is in bad shape	2/3/2017 3:18 PM
82	It is getting better and better. I love the 24/7 hours and changes. I would love to have indoor racquetball courts. I am still surprised our communities don't have swimming except at hotels near.	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
83	Showing improvement. Needs a little more TLC.	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
84	Good	2/3/2017 3:02 PM
85	Excellent	2/3/2017 2:11 PM
86	Staff is great, and improvements are amazing. Seems like it would be nice to have more classes, but I understand there may not be the demand for them.	2/3/2017 1:53 PM
87	Once the gym floor is completed it will be even better. Pat does a great job and is a pleasure to work with. Our 14u softball team uses the facility and without it we couldn't practice in the winter. It's a savior for us and we appreciate it.	2/3/2017 1:45 PM
88	Second pickleball court would be nice	2/3/2017 1:37 PM
89	Tried to click on "Good" only but all three got highlighted	2/3/2017 1:34 PM
90	Needs: new court floors, lighted outdoor courts, maximize your spaces that sit empty.	2/3/2017 1:31 PM



## Q4 HOW WOULD YOU RATE WALLACE PARK

Answered: 315 Skipped: 9



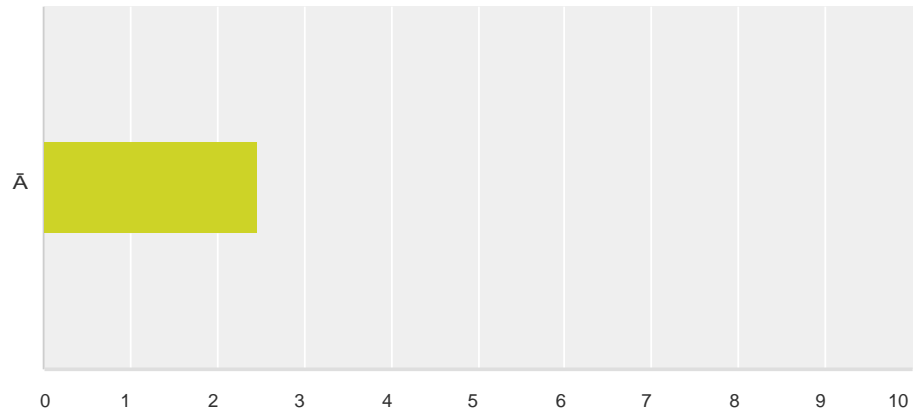
	Never Visited	Needs Work	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Ä	42.54% 134	9.21% 29	34.60% 109	13.65% 43	315	2.19

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	I never been there,	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
2	What is Wallace Park	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
3	good	2/10/2017 1:01 PM
4	never been there	2/10/2017 1:00 PM
5	It's nice to have quiet time by the river.	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
6	I don't know what that is	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
7	I don't know if i ever went to wallace park before.	2/10/2017 12:01 PM
8	i'm sure i've been there,the name just does not sound familier.	2/10/2017 11:53 AM
9	never been there	2/10/2017 11:51 AM
10	I never been there so I don't know what it looks like	2/10/2017 10:27 AM
11	its a beautiful park but i think they could add more stuff.	2/10/2017 10:26 AM
12	I dont know what it is but it sounds cool.	2/10/2017 10:25 AM
13	water needs glass cleaning	2/10/2017 10:24 AM
14	Never Been there	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
15	Little sketchy	2/10/2017 10:18 AM
16	Never been there	2/10/2017 10:17 AM
17	not familiar with	2/8/2017 6:51 PM
18	Good	2/7/2017 8:17 PM
19	Great place for residents and visitors	2/7/2017 9:01 AM
20	I doubt I will ever go, but I might if you add some form of ice skating	2/6/2017 1:57 PM
21	it is alot better with all the new upgrades	2/6/2017 1:56 PM
22	Fun area to go to, to relax	2/6/2017 1:56 PM

23	Nice park on the River.	2/6/2017 1:55 PM
24	Only been to one park don't know difference	2/6/2017 1:25 PM
25	Sounds like a good park	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
26	They just redid is so yeah it's good.	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
27	I would also like to visit there too	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
28	Super fun!	2/6/2017 1:21 PM
29	Nice area to hang out and have picnics	2/6/2017 1:20 PM
30	gun range.	2/6/2017 11:48 AM
31	easier way to get in the river	2/6/2017 11:46 AM
32	always used to go there but the remodel took really long but it was good for the community	2/6/2017 11:46 AM
33	more deep for people to swim	2/6/2017 11:42 AM
34	went there once for police academy.	2/6/2017 10:39 AM
35	Removing grafitti and adding a play set would be great (The grafitti is under the bridge).	2/6/2017 10:36 AM
36	Needs to have rocks removed.	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
37	A little more landscape.	2/6/2017 10:13 AM
38	Definitely add more to it.	2/6/2017 10:12 AM
39	Now that they created a better boat launch by the river it looks a lot nicer	2/6/2017 10:09 AM
40	new improvemnets are wonderful	2/6/2017 9:18 AM
41	Haven't been down there since the improvements last fall.	2/5/2017 12:23 PM
42	Excellent	2/3/2017 4:05 PM
43	It might be nice to have playground equipment. Are there permanent bathrooms?	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
44	Nice upgrade	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
45	Good	2/3/2017 3:02 PM

## Q5 HOW WOULD YOU RATE METRO PARK

Answered: 310 Skipped: 14



	Never Visited	Needs Work	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Ä	26.13% 81	18.71% 58	37.42% 116	17.74% 55	310	2.47

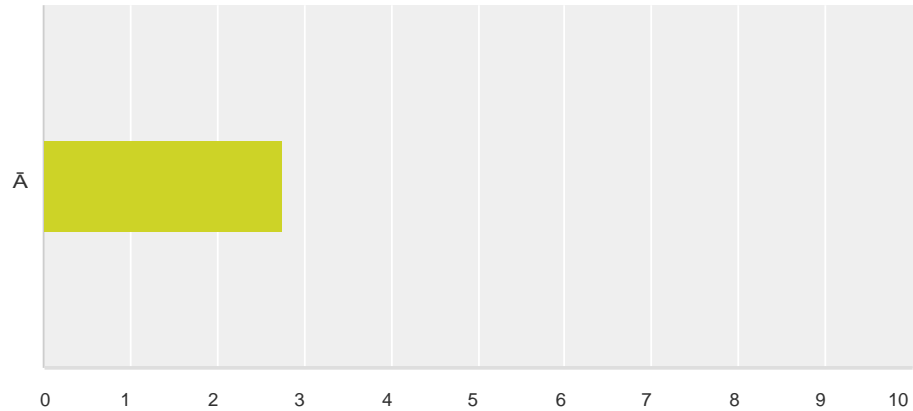
#	Additional Comments	Date
1	Love this park!	2/27/2017 4:08 PM
2	I never been there,	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
3	In the summer time I always go th Metro Park	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
4	It should have a skate park. Because a lot of kids in are school ride bmx bikes or they ride skater bords or scooters.	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
5	good	2/10/2017 1:01 PM
6	i love it	2/10/2017 1:00 PM
7	I love playing baseball there.	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
8	Needs more bathrooms (not outhouses)	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
9	i heard of metro park before but i think it was from a tv show	2/10/2017 12:01 PM
10	i wish they had more stuff for like 4 and under.	2/10/2017 11:53 AM
11	Pretty fun, I wish there was more equipment meant for the older kids.	2/10/2017 11:52 AM
12	to many pricklers	2/10/2017 11:51 AM
13	needs more work on the place	2/10/2017 10:27 AM
14	the play ground is so much better.	2/10/2017 10:25 AM
15	I like you can watch softball and and baseball and get snacks and play at the park and I live right next to it.	2/10/2017 10:25 AM
16	more big kid stuff not all little kid stuff	2/10/2017 10:24 AM
17	I think it needs work because there is alot of playground equitment for younger kids and not alot for older kids.	2/10/2017 10:24 AM
18	Bathrooms	2/10/2017 10:22 AM
19	There's a lot of litter there in the Summer.	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
20	But i don't like the wood chips	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
21	not familiar with	2/8/2017 6:51 PM
22	Excellent	2/7/2017 8:17 PM

23	I doubt I will ever go, but I might if you add some form of ice skating	2/6/2017 1:57 PM
24	could be better taken care of	2/6/2017 1:56 PM
25	Not much people visit any more	2/6/2017 1:56 PM
26	The New Playground is nice!	2/6/2017 1:55 PM
27	Only been to one park don't know difference	2/6/2017 1:25 PM
28	Maybe add a few more basketball hoops	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
29	I leave right by it and it needs a lot of work	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
30	Visit	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
31	I live by it for about 8 years and now its the most stupid place now.	2/6/2017 1:21 PM
32	Very nice, but it gets dirty....	2/6/2017 1:21 PM
33	lots of bures	2/6/2017 1:20 PM
34	Nice place to go and watch sports and hang out	2/6/2017 1:20 PM
35	Good (it keeps selecting the first three).	2/6/2017 11:57 AM
36	needs a farther fence.	2/6/2017 11:48 AM
37	needs new play equipment	2/6/2017 11:46 AM
38	i like all of thet hings you can do there	2/6/2017 11:46 AM
39	Bathrooms need work.	2/6/2017 11:39 AM
40	Horrible parking!!	2/6/2017 11:27 AM
41	Metro Park is a really good park and is very close to the village!!!	2/6/2017 10:39 AM
42	It really is kinda boring.	2/6/2017 10:36 AM
43	Basketball court needs some work. Maybe a volleyball court	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
44	Needs play stuff for teens.	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
45	The baseball fields are awesome.	2/6/2017 10:31 AM
46	safer playground conditions	2/6/2017 10:13 AM
47	The fields and the dug needs a little work done.	2/6/2017 10:09 AM
48	Childrens pl;ay stations are excellent	2/6/2017 9:18 AM
49	could use like a skate park or bmx park to it	2/6/2017 9:03 AM
50	It continues to improve however, I do not use it - Great for kids	2/5/2017 12:51 PM
51	It fulfills a big need for the community but it needs an upgrade	2/5/2017 10:16 AM
52	So grateful to have such beautiful fields. Need to repair the scoreboards though.	2/3/2017 6:40 PM
53	Good	2/3/2017 4:05 PM
54	limited usage for children	2/3/2017 3:56 PM
55	tennis courts need to be redone	2/3/2017 3:18 PM
56	This may be a good location to have outdoor racquetball courts and other courts noted below.	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
57	We need to finish metro to make it family/pet friendly	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
58	Good	2/3/2017 3:02 PM
59	Most the park is in great condition, however the t-ball field could use some work with the holes in the outfield	2/3/2017 1:47 PM
60	New playground gets a lot of use. Seeing the fields full in the spring/summer puts a smile on my face. Wish we had room for one more softball field.	2/3/2017 1:45 PM
61	Ideal location for 4 dedicated Pickleball courts!	2/3/2017 1:34 PM
62	Pickleball lines	2/3/2017 1:31 PM



## Q6 HOW WOULD YOU RATE GAHAGAN NATURE PRESERVE

Answered: 319 Skipped: 5



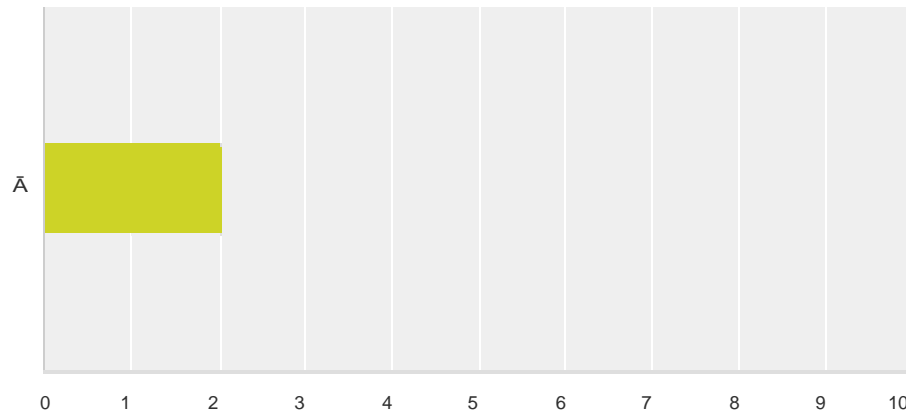
	Never Visited	Needs Work	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Ä	23.20% 74	6.58% 21	42.32% 135	27.90% 89	319	2.75

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	Haven't been there in years! But used to be awesome!	2/27/2017 4:08 PM
2	I never been there,	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
3	I never ever went to G.N.P	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
4	need work	2/10/2017 1:01 PM
5	its amazing it teaches you about nature	2/10/2017 1:00 PM
6	I like to visit on field trips.	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
7	Awesome nature	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
8	i went there alot of times during school it was fun	2/10/2017 12:01 PM
9	dont go there often,but i think it has attention.	2/10/2017 11:53 AM
10	very fun!	2/10/2017 11:53 AM
11	muscidos	2/10/2017 11:51 AM
12	I love that place but it's been a long time when I was there.	2/10/2017 10:27 AM
13	the park is amazing and probably my favorite park just i don't like the sand now th sand i could live with if it was just in a little area and i like football soo maybe they could get extra space for that	2/10/2017 10:26 AM
14	its alright need a lot of work.	2/10/2017 10:25 AM
15	I wish we went more often	2/10/2017 10:22 AM
16	really fun	2/10/2017 10:22 AM
17	It is very fun and neat	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
18	Excellent	2/7/2017 8:17 PM
19	Sorry to say I haven't visited - on my to do list	2/7/2017 9:01 AM
20	i live right off it	2/6/2017 1:56 PM

21	Not much to see.	2/6/2017 1:55 PM
22	only visited when in elementary with my classes	2/6/2017 1:54 PM
23	One of my cousin's cousin works there	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
24	I think they could do something different	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
25	I love the nature preserve its so pretty and fun	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
26	I learn a lot there.	2/6/2017 1:21 PM
27	I've been there a couple times, and it's a really nice place	2/6/2017 1:20 PM
28	Good	2/6/2017 11:57 AM
29	gun range.	2/6/2017 11:48 AM
30	the guides are always good and i love how much you learn from it	2/6/2017 11:46 AM
31	Probably needs to be re-paved, and more trips are needed for us kids.	2/6/2017 10:36 AM
32	I havent been their in a while so i would need to take a trip	2/6/2017 10:11 AM
33	I haven't been there in a while, but the last time I was there, it was great.	2/6/2017 10:10 AM
34	haven't been there in awhile but last time i did go there it was nice.	2/6/2017 10:10 AM
35	Nature walk trails	2/6/2017 9:18 AM
36	Nice area to walk	2/5/2017 12:51 PM
37	Has a lot of hidden potential. A lot of people don't know it is there.	2/5/2017 12:23 PM
38	Good	2/3/2017 4:05 PM
39	Needs more advertising. This is a problem with many of our wonderful resources.	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
40	Great resource	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
41	Good	2/3/2017 3:02 PM
42	Nice trails need more signs	2/3/2017 2:31 PM
43	Haven't been there in about 5-6 years	2/3/2017 2:19 PM
44	A treasure many are yet to find!	2/3/2017 1:38 PM
45	"Good"	2/3/2017 1:34 PM

## Q7 HOW WOULD YOU RATE AUSABLE RIVER CENTER

Answered: 318 Skipped: 6



	Never Visited	Needs Work	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Ä	48.11% 153	7.23% 23	33.65% 107	11.01% 35	318	2.08

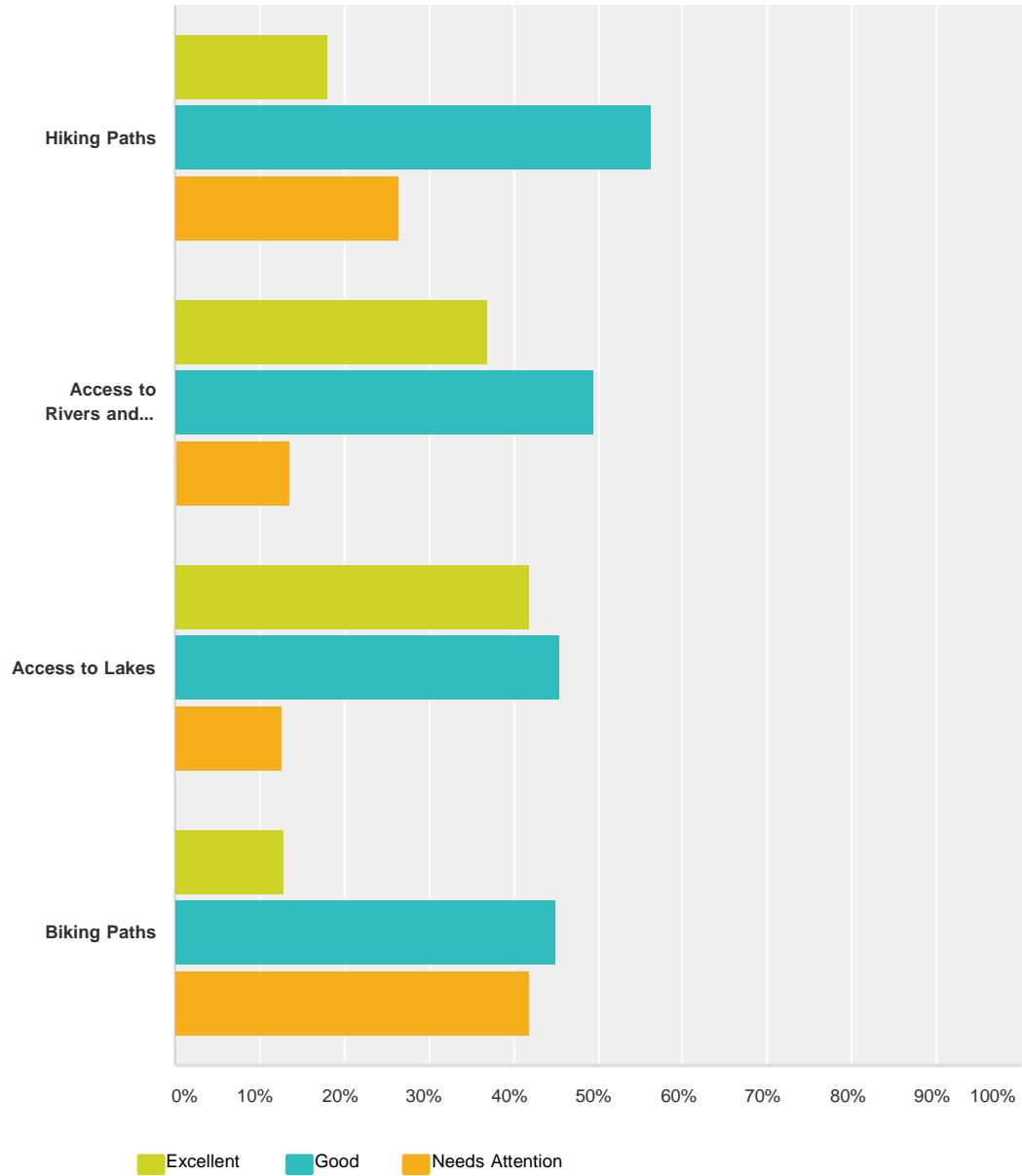
#	Additional Comments	Date
1	I never been there,	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
2	It is all right at the most part	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
3	excellent	2/10/2017 1:01 PM
4	i love it i go there all the time	2/10/2017 1:00 PM
5	Where is that?	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
6	I don't know if I ever went there before	2/10/2017 12:01 PM
7	I have only been there for troop 3944, and 944 scout meetings.	2/10/2017 11:54 AM
8	I like coning so I would love to go there for the summer.	2/10/2017 10:27 AM
9	i've never visited that but everyone that talks about it says its pretty cool	2/10/2017 10:26 AM
10	I love to swim there in the summer.	2/10/2017 10:25 AM
11	Don't really visit	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
12	Excellent	2/7/2017 8:17 PM
13	I love to canoe and do things outside	2/6/2017 1:55 PM
14	Also like to visit	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
15	AMAZING!	2/6/2017 1:21 PM
16	I've never been there	2/6/2017 1:20 PM
17	gun range.	2/6/2017 11:48 AM
18	vie only been there once	2/6/2017 11:46 AM
19	very relaxing!!!:)	2/6/2017 10:39 AM
20	Um it looks pretty but maybe advertise it more.	2/6/2017 10:12 AM
21	needs to be cleaned up a little.	2/6/2017 10:07 AM

22	conference room is good for meetings	2/6/2017 9:18 AM
23	Not inclusive. Limited hours.	2/4/2017 10:09 AM
24	I am not sure if I have visited.	2/4/2017 8:52 AM
25	Only been to outside events	2/3/2017 4:30 PM
26	Good	2/3/2017 4:05 PM
27	Parking can be a problem at times.	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
28	Good	2/3/2017 3:02 PM



## Q8 HOW DO YOU RANK OUR OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES:

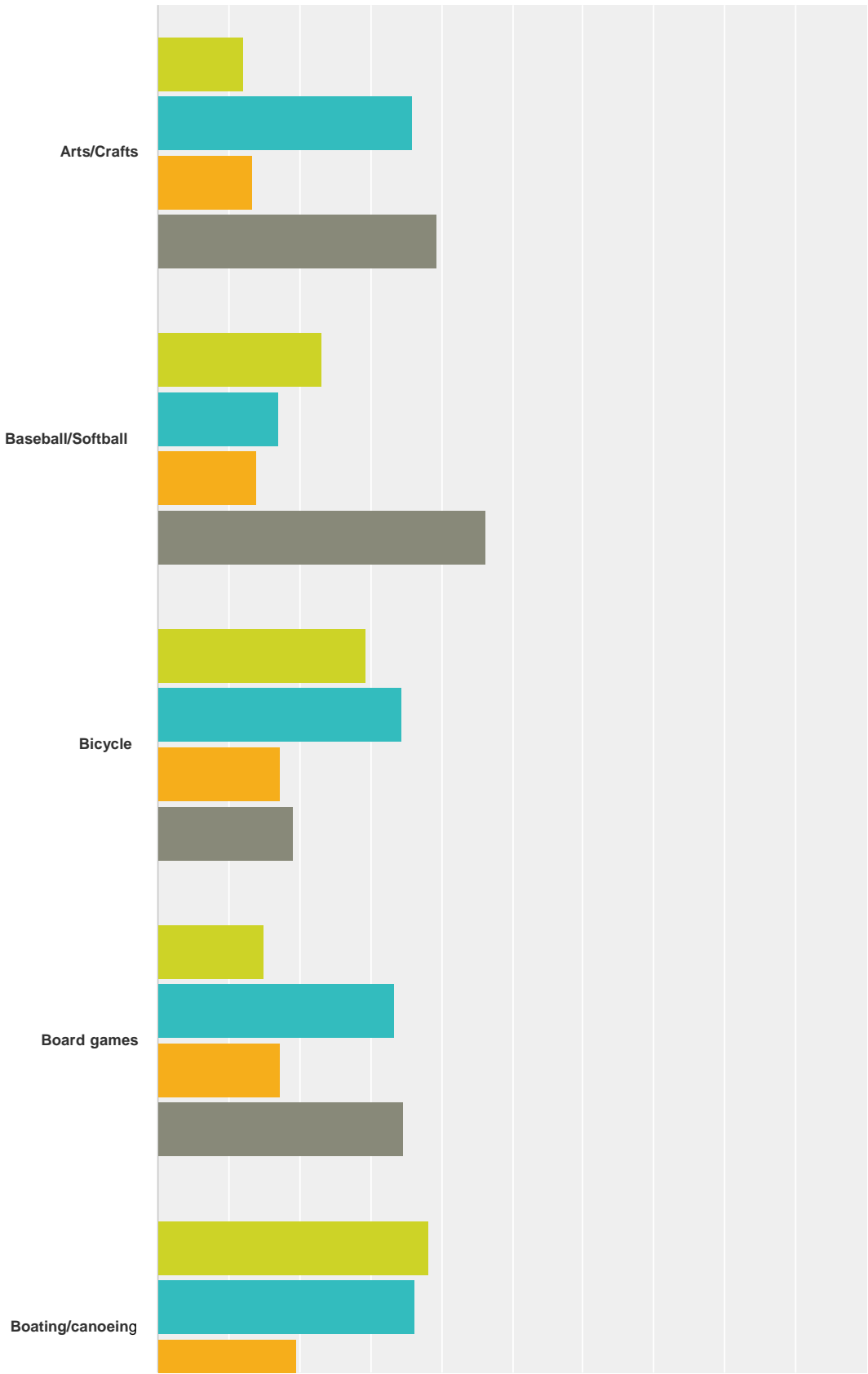
Answered: 312 Skipped: 12

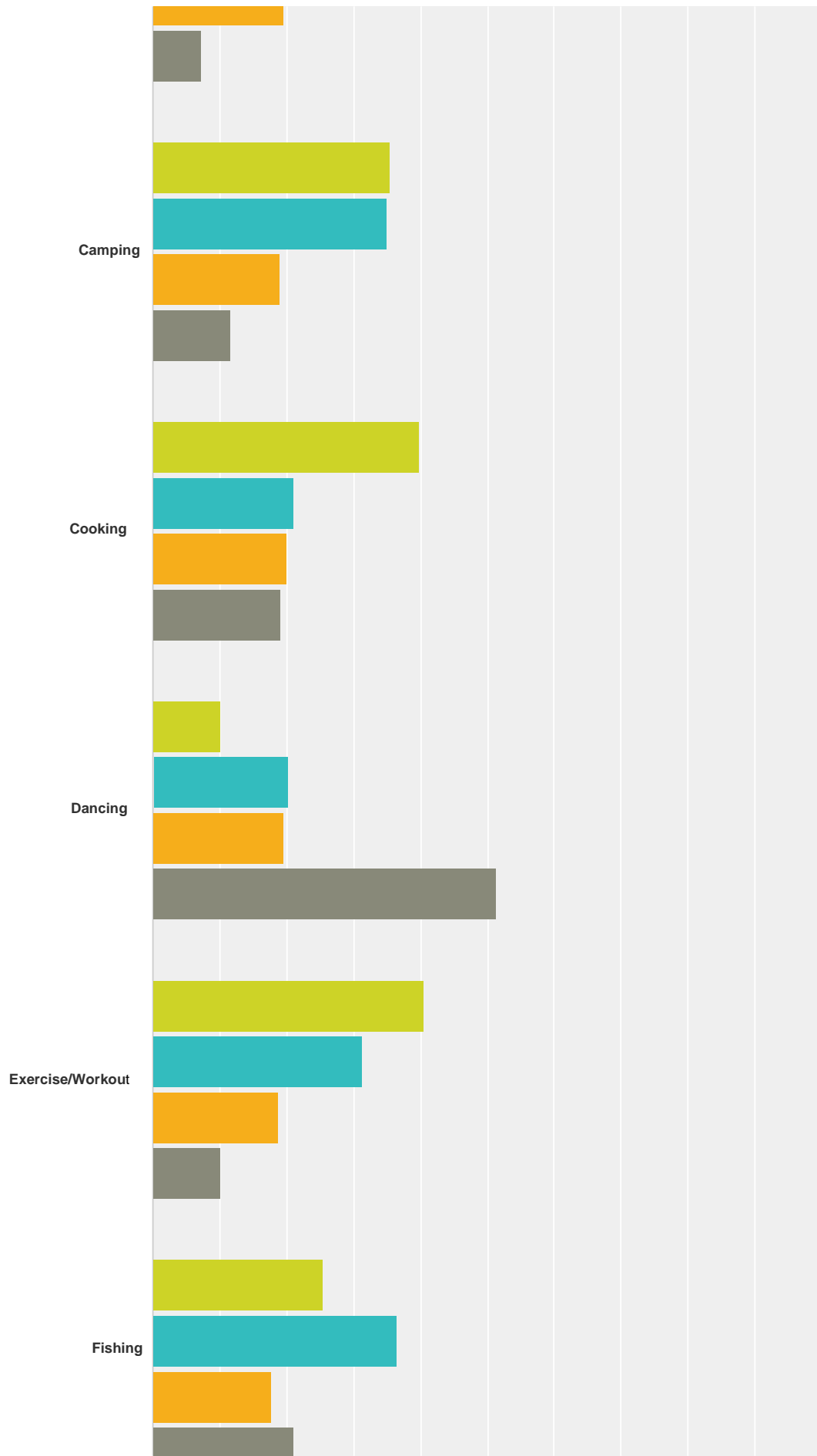


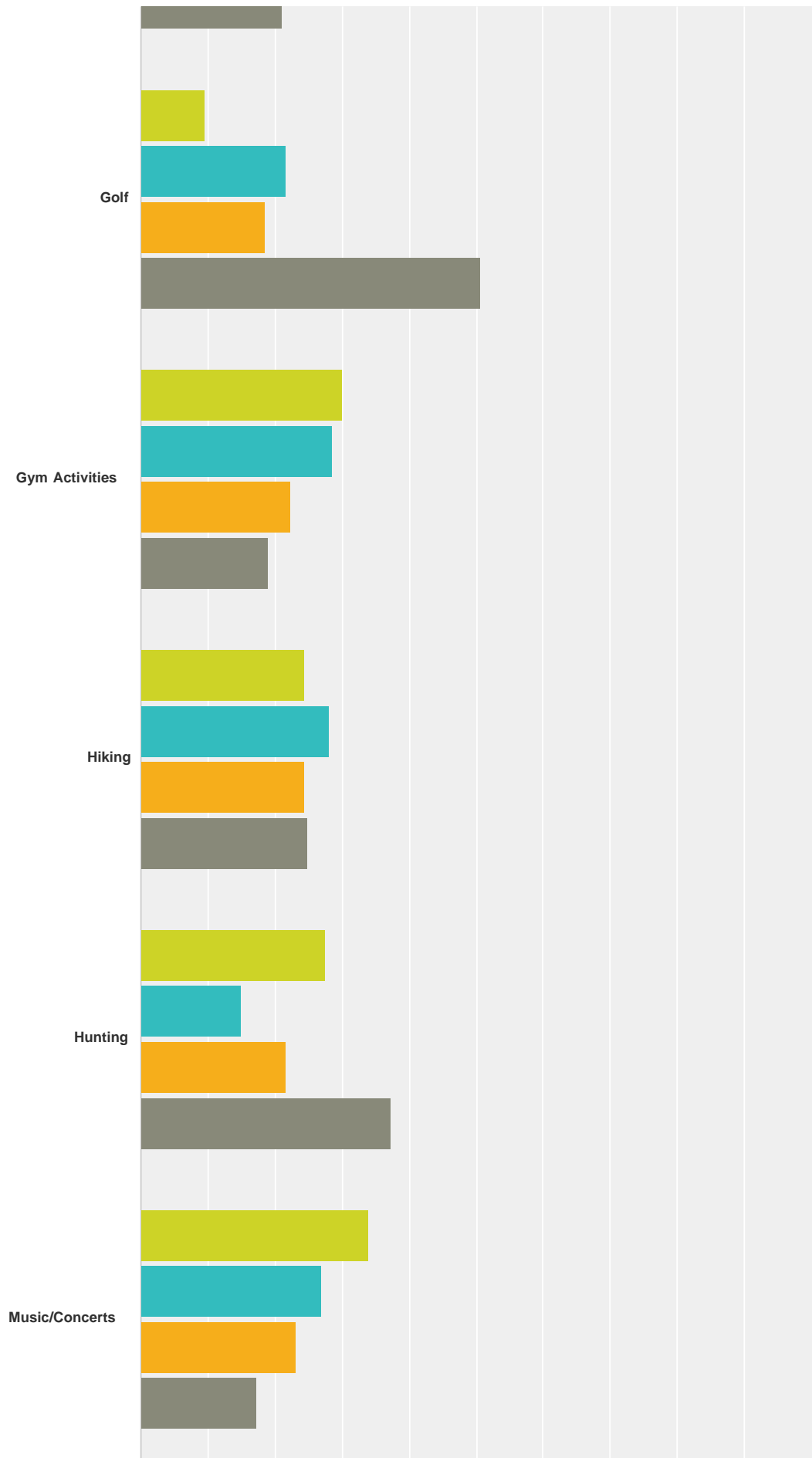
	Excellent	Good	Needs Attention	Total Respondents
Hiking Paths	18.21% 55	56.29% 170	26.49% 80	302
Access to Rivers and Streams	36.89% 114	49.51% 153	13.59% 42	309
Access to Lakes	42.02% 129	45.60% 140	12.70% 39	307
Biking Paths	12.91% 39	45.03% 136	42.05% 127	302

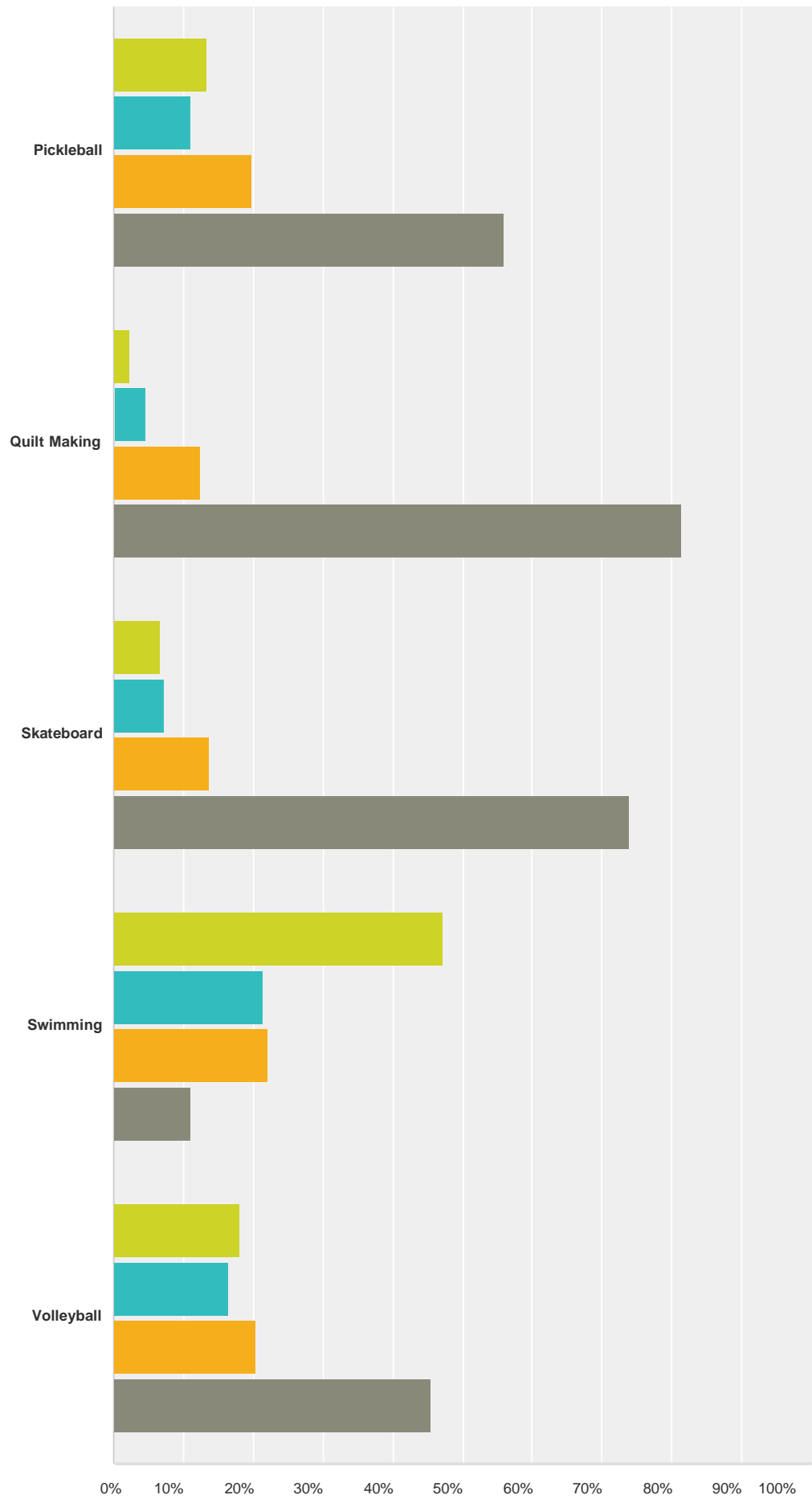
Q9 HOW OFTEN DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING?

Answered: 324 Skipped: 0











Often
  Sometimes
  Interested
  Not Interested

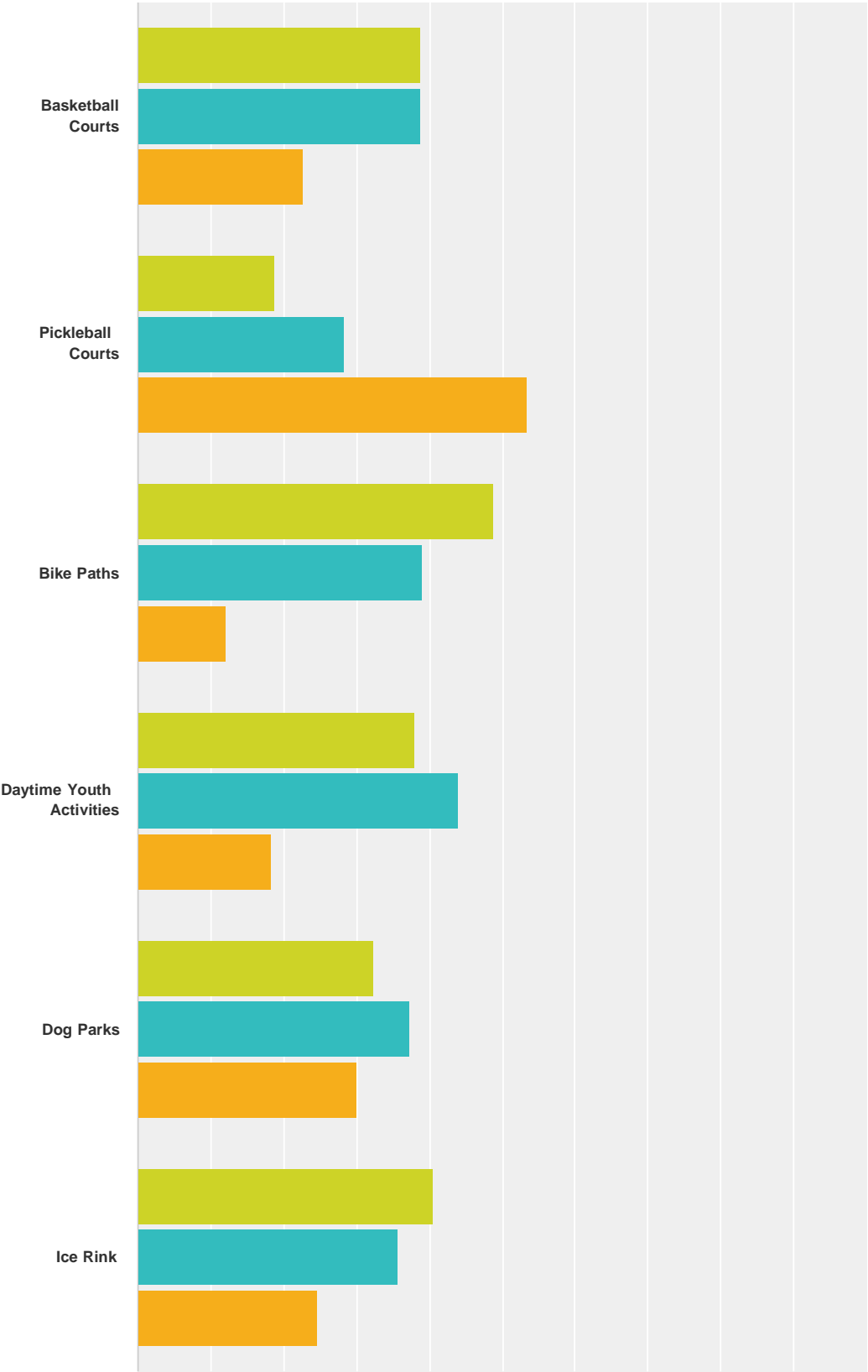
	Often	Sometimes	Interested	Not Interested	Total Respondents
Arts/Crafts	12.09% 37	35.95% 110	13.40% 41	39.54% 121	306
Baseball/Softball	23.17% 73	17.14% 54	13.97% 44	46.35% 146	315
Bicycle	29.43% 93	34.49% 109	17.41% 55	19.30% 61	316
Board games	15.11% 47	33.44% 104	17.36% 54	34.73% 108	311
Boating/canoeing	38.26% 119	36.33% 113	19.61% 61	7.40% 23	311
Camping	35.44% 112	35.13% 111	18.99% 60	11.71% 37	316
Cooking	39.94% 125	21.09% 66	20.13% 63	19.17% 60	313
Dancing	10.26% 32	20.19% 63	19.55% 61	51.28% 160	312
Exercise/Workout	40.58% 127	31.31% 98	18.85% 59	10.22% 32	313
Fishing	25.55% 81	36.59% 116	17.67% 56	21.14% 67	317
Golf	9.58% 30	21.73% 68	18.53% 58	50.80% 159	313
Gym Activities	30.13% 94	28.53% 89	22.44% 70	18.91% 59	312
Hiking	24.44% 77	28.25% 89	24.44% 77	24.76% 78	315
Hunting	27.48% 86	15.02% 47	21.73% 68	37.38% 117	313
Music/Concerts	33.97% 106	26.92% 84	23.08% 72	17.31% 54	312
Pickleball	13.29% 42	11.08% 35	19.94% 63	56.01% 177	316
Quilt Making	2.25% 7	4.50% 14	12.54% 39	81.35% 253	311
Skateboard	6.71% 21	7.35% 23	13.74% 43	73.80% 231	313
Swimming	47.23% 145	21.50% 66	22.15% 68	11.07% 34	307
Volleyball	18.18% 56	16.56% 51	20.45% 63	45.45% 140	308

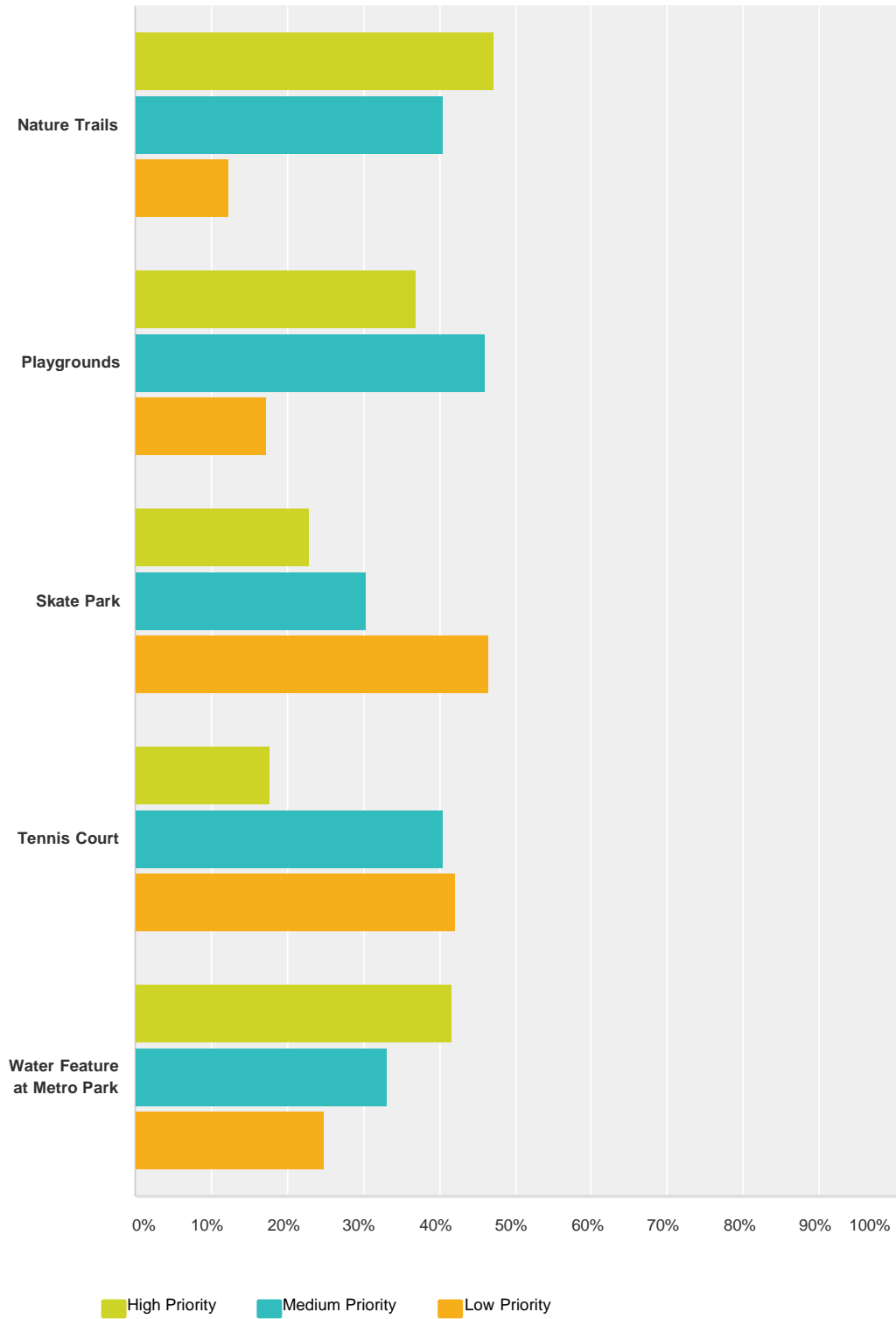
#	Other Items not Listed	Date
1	gaga ball	2/10/2017 1:03 PM
2	None	2/10/2017 1:02 PM

3	Basketball, I LOVE.	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
4	scooters I'm really intrestid in .	2/10/2017 1:02 PM
5	Football	2/10/2017 1:00 PM
6	Gymnastics,baking	2/10/2017 1:00 PM
7	soccer, XC ski, and roller skating.	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
8	Gymnastics (I am on the competition team, so 4-5 days a week)	2/10/2017 12:58 PM
9	Soccer, Basketball,	2/10/2017 11:53 AM
10	Football	2/10/2017 11:52 AM
11	roller skating ice skating	2/10/2017 11:52 AM
12	Football	2/10/2017 11:51 AM
13	basketball,singing,running,gymnastics ,ice skate,bummper cars	2/10/2017 10:27 AM
14	football 100%	2/10/2017 10:26 AM
15	football and video games	2/10/2017 10:25 AM
16	dog walking	2/10/2017 10:24 AM
17	Gymnastics I do Often	2/10/2017 10:21 AM
18	Gymnastics	2/10/2017 10:20 AM
19	Basketball	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
20	Soccer, Basketball, Cross Country	2/10/2017 10:19 AM
21	I REALLY think we should add a skatepark because, some people out there are doing very horrible things because they have nothing to do, they cant drive all the way to grayling/ or houghton lake to ride. so I think that you should really add a out door or indoor skate parl/ PLEASE PLEASE admire this.	2/6/2017 1:56 PM
22	Making music	2/6/2017 1:55 PM
23	Discgolf course, basketball	2/6/2017 1:54 PM
24	Basketball	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
25	Gymnastics	2/6/2017 1:23 PM
26	Legos	2/6/2017 1:20 PM
27	video games	2/6/2017 1:19 PM
28	shooting guns and bows.	2/6/2017 11:48 AM
29	Basket ball interested	2/6/2017 10:38 AM
30	Karate	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
31	Basketball	2/6/2017 10:34 AM
32	Basketball	2/6/2017 10:31 AM
33	FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, TRACK,	2/6/2017 10:12 AM
34	Basketball	2/6/2017 10:10 AM
35	Writing	2/6/2017 10:09 AM
36	Creative writing	2/6/2017 10:09 AM
37	Soccer	2/4/2017 1:01 PM
38	Kayaking	2/4/2017 12:11 PM
39	I wonder if there is any land upstream that canoeists and kayakers could launch from far enough out for a decent paddle. I know there is access at the fairgrounds, but that is too close to town. I enjoy going upstream and back, but it would be nice for all to have a launch site. Even the canoe businesses could benefit. Beach volleyball options may be nice. The hill at COOR could make a great concert venue. The library has done an awesome job with meeting the community needs, but maybe expand them to larger crowds for summer visitors.	2/3/2017 3:12 PM

Q10 BELOW IS A LIST OF FACILITIES OR ACTIVITIES THE  
COMMUNITY COULD CONSIDER DEVELOPING OR  
ENHANCING.

Answered: 323 Skipped: 1





	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Total Respondents
Basketball Courts	38.73% 122	38.73% 122	22.86% 72	315
Pickleball Courts	18.79% 59	28.34% 89	53.50% 168	314
Bike Paths	48.89% 154	39.05% 123	12.06% 38	315





26	Weight Room	2/6/2017 12:46 PM
27	Concert Hall	2/6/2017 12:46 PM
28	Better the basketball courts at the craf center and in town.	2/6/2017 12:45 PM
29	we need a gun range, we need a hunting store where you can buy rifles and bows all kinds of hunting things.	2/6/2017 11:48 AM
30	ATV or MX paths (High priority)	2/6/2017 11:42 AM
31	I would like to see the basketball courts redone at Metro. They aren't usable as is. We went to play last summer and wasn't attacked by prickles bushes	2/6/2017 11:32 AM
32	A POOL!!!	2/6/2017 10:36 AM
33	community swimming pool	2/6/2017 10:36 AM
34	Community Swimming Pools	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
35	Community pool or school pool	2/6/2017 10:35 AM
36	Volleyball court	2/6/2017 10:34 AM
37	Indoor football arena.	2/6/2017 10:12 AM
38	anything cool for a guy teen. Think!	2/6/2017 9:06 AM
39	Soccer fields	2/4/2017 1:01 PM
40	sinor dinnig out program	2/4/2017 7:33 AM
41	Thank you for this opportunity to respond. Please advertise more about how to become involved with this organization.	2/3/2017 6:40 PM
42	I think a combination of outdoor courts would be great as well as the indoor racquetball. I enjoy road biking, so wide shoulders on our roads in Higgins Township and to the lake and Prudenville would be a good start. I am not sure of existing playgrounds in Higgins; that may need improvement. If Gerrish would improve the size of their indoor ice rink, I think that would be awesome. Parenting grandparents and visiting family youth activities may be needed. Anything to get all populations active would be nice. There are handicap accessible trails at Beaver Creek. If we had more, that may be good too.	2/3/2017 3:12 PM
43	Kind of difficult to do an "across the board" answer - I rated pickle ball low because we have courts at CRAF, but there seems to be a big interest, so I don't know if more are needed. Or outdoors, etc.? Bike paths YES. Dog Parks, Ice Rink, and Skate Park, I am not personally interested in, but understand they could be draws to the community and enhance our residents experience.	2/3/2017 1:53 PM
44	Basketball court doesn't rank very high for me because we have the Craf center option available. Pickle ball seems to be on the rise. Just my opinion.	2/3/2017 1:45 PM
45	More drinking water at parks.	2/3/2017 1:31 PM

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Miles of trails greet hikers in Roscommon County and offer a wonderful opportunity to experience the great outdoors.

Houghton Lake Area Tourism Bureau's trail guide, "Take a Hike! Trails and Pathways to Walk or Bike," highlights about a dozen trails in and near Roscommon County.

Information is available on the H.L.A.T.B. website at [www.vishoughtonlake.com](http://www.vishoughtonlake.com) and at the tourism bureau office, 9091 West Lake City Rd. (M-55), Houghton Lake.

Trails are also featured in the Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation's "Experience Michigan's Other Great Lakes" tourism guide, available from the H.L.A.T.B. by calling (800) 676-5330 or 422-2002, or by visiting the chambers of commerce at Houghton Lake (422-5644), Higgins Lake-Roscommon (275-8760) or St. Helen (389-3725).

#### Get out there

• **Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve** offers peaceful hiking trails that wander through mature white and red pines and a cedar swamp. There is a paved trail that is wheelchair accessible. It is located off of M-18, just south of the Vi-

lage of Roscommon.

• **The Lost Twin Lakes Trail** has a three-mile loop that winds through an old growth pine forest and overlooks pristine wetlands. Designed for hiking and cross-country skiing, it features several bridges, including a covered bridge. The trail contains scenic overviews of pristine wetland areas. It is located seven miles south of Houghton Lake (from M-55 take Reserve Road, also known as Co. Road 400).

• **Skinner Park** has a three-quarter-mile trail that winds through pine trees. It is also used for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Incorporated into the trail is a half-mile fitness trail that encourages stretching, chin-ups and strength conditioning. It is located behind the Roscommon Township Hall, Knapp Road, Houghton Lake.

• **Cross Country Ski Headquarters** offers 20 kilometers of trails for hiking and non-motorized bicycles in the off-ski season. It is located at 9435 North Cut Rd. (Co. Road 100), Roscommon.

• **The Lansing Road Trail** is a four-mile trail that contains a large tract of natural white

birch. The quietly flowing Cut River runs through the property. A small bridge on Lansing Road allows fishing along the Cut River. It is located between M-18 and Flint Road.

• **Marl Lake** offers three trail loops of various lengths. The trail may also be used for cross-country skiing. The lake is across from the South Higgins Lake State Park; the trailhead is on Co. Road 100 (east of Co. Road 104). A State Recreation Passport is required.

• **Tisdale Triangle** is designed for mountain biking, hiking and cross-country skiing. It is located a half-mile from Roscommon via M-18 and Tisdale Road. A State Recreation Passport is required.

• **Red Pine Natural Area** offers a one and a half-mile trail for hikers and bikers (as well as skiers). This is also an interpretive foot trail. It is located eight miles north of St. Helen via F-97 and Sunset Road. A State Recreation Passport is required.

• **North Higgins Lake State Park** has three trails that loop through scenic wooded areas: Upland Nature Trail, Bosom Pines Trail and Beaver Creek Trail. They are located across the road from the camping and



#### PART OF THE IRON BELLE

Equipment sits next to part of a two-mile stretch of trail newly carved out of the woods at the North Higgins Lake State Park recently. The section of trail, part of the Iron Belle Trail system, was to be paved and in operation by Memorial Day.

Trail system, was to be paved and in operation by Memorial Day. beach areas behind the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum area. The park itself is located on the north side of Higgins Lake. A State Recreation Passport is required.

Go a little further north to find two more trail systems:

• **Mason Tract** is more than 11 miles long and was created

Lower Peninsula. Its rolling hills overlook the valley of the East Branch of the Ausable River. It features a 49-acre forest of old growth pines, the Visitor Center, four small lakes and a logging museum. It is located at 4216 Ranger Rd., Grayling. A State Recreation Passport is required.



## Happenings

### RMRA receives mParks Community Service Award

The Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority was recently awarded an mParks Community Service Award. The mParks' Community Service Award recognizes individuals and groups that show outstanding support to public recreation and park programs in their community such as friends groups, department volunteers and advocates.

RMRA's nomination was submitted by North Higgins Lake State Park Unit Manager Josh Pellow. RMRA was recognized for the volunteer service time it commits for the maintenance of the Tisdale Triangle Pathway. RMRA is now in its fourth year participating in a land maintenance agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The group, along with the help of Bill Torongo, maintains the 8.1 miles of trail utilized for hiking and cross country skiing at the pathway. Routine maintenance includes clearing falling trees, summer mowing and grooming for cross country skiing in the winter.

An award presentation and reception was held April 20 in Lansing, which recognized individual and group volunteers from all over the state of Michigan.

RMRA is the governing body of the AuSable River Center, CRAF Center, Gahagan Nature Preserve and maintains the Tisdale Pathway and Metro Park. RMRA completed a new playground at Metro Park in 2014 with current plans underway for further improvements in 2017. The group meets bimonthly on the second Wednesday of the month at the CRAF Center. The next meeting is July 20.

## Summer camps planned at Gahagan

Kids can learn about the great outdoors at the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve this summer at two different camps.

### 4-H Forestry Camp

This year, the preserve will host a 4-H Forestry Camp June 19-22.

This day camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and gives students a chance to look at trees and the forest through a different lens. They will increase their understanding of key elements of the forest and how to manage it. The program involves tree identification, compass basics, lessons on how to assess forest health and diversity and lots of fun games and outdoor activities.

The program is offered through the Michigan State University Extension with support from 4-H and the Michigan Conservation Districts.

### Summer Nature Camp

Every year, Gahagan hosts a summer nature camp for students in the area. This year, camp will take place July 18-20.

At this day camp, children explore the far reaches of the preserve, investigate various ecosystems on the property, play games and work on a few craft projects along the way. Camp favorites include puppet shows, feeding Sammy (the five-foot black rat snake), catching frogs in the pond and designing a nature-inspired T-shirt. More importantly, kids develop new friendships.

Nature Camp wraps up Thursday evening with a Family Night presentation. Family Night is an event geared to all ages and is open to the public.

These professional programs have covered a variety of subjects including bats, raptors, rep-

tiles and amphibians, mammals of Michigan, biodiversity and Michigan habitats. The Family Night presentation usually runs for two hours, with great audience participation. This year's topic is yet to be determined.

Children of Gahagan's membership families attend for \$10. The fee for children of non-membership families is \$20. Participation is open to children in the age range of seven to 11 and camp is limited to the first 25 to 35 children who register.

To get on the list, call Tracy Bosworth at (989) 390-0903 or email [adm@GahaganNature.org](mailto:adm@GahaganNature.org).



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## WINDING THROUGH THE CAMPGROUND

Runners in the 10K run/walk event during a recent Higgins Lake Sunrise Run/Walk wind their way through the campground at the South Higgins Lake State Park. This is the eighth year for the annual event, which will take place June 17.

## THUNDERING

### HERD

Youngsters let loose at the start of the children's Buck Dash race and obstacle course (sponsored by Higgins Lake Landscaping) during last year's Higgins Lake Sunrise Run at the South Higgins Lake State Park. This year's event will be the eighth annual and will take place on June 17. (Photo by Erick Simons)



(Photo by Thomas Reznich)

# Higgins Lake setting for eighth Sunrise Run

Runners can experience the beauty of Higgins Lake during the annual Higgins Lake Sunrise Run June 17.

The Roscommon Rotary Club will host the eighth running of the annual races this year. The event features a half-marathon race starting from the North Higgins Lake State Park and finishing at the South Higgins Lake State Park. In addition to the half-marathon, race day will include 10K and 5K run/walks

as well as a Fun Run/Walk for kids and families.

All proceeds benefit Roscommon Rotary supported projects, including local non-motorized trail development, ACT/NOW kids' programs as well as assistance to other non-profit groups in Roscommon County.

On June 16, packet pickup and late registration will be held at the Charles M. Engel VFW Post 4159, Roscommon. A pasta dinner will also be held at the VFW

from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dinner tickets will be sold separately.

Race day registration begins at 6 a.m. at South Higgins Lake State Park, and half marathons must be registered by 6:30 a.m. Runners in the half-marathon will be bussed to the start of the race at the North Higgins Lake State Park, which begins at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday's 10K and 5K run/walks start at the South Higgins Lake State Park Store at 8:30 a.m. The Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by the Roscommon Area Youth Booster Club will also begin at the South Higgins Lake State Park Store at 10 a.m. The fee for the Fun Run/Walk is \$10 per person, which includes a youth size t-shirt.

Organizer Catherine Erickson said the event keeps growing, and that last year 311 runners and walkers from all over the county participated.



# Roscommon Riverfest celebrates South Branch of AuSable July 9

In order to make the weekend of July 8 a bigger event in the Village of Roscommon, the annual Roscommon Riverfest will be held July 9, the day after the Roscommon Art Festival.

Roscommon Riverfest Committee member Mark Constance said the goal is to draw people to the village over the two days, but provide different activities.

The day's events will all be held on the banks of the South Branch of the AuSable River at Wallace Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first event to take place is the lock dog competition beginning at 10 a.m. Then at noon, the Cardboard Boat Race will take place, followed by the Rotary Club of Roscommon's Great AuSable Duck Race at 2 p.m.

The day will also feature music from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Music by Randy Guller and Carrie Westbay, Par-y of Two. There will also be children's games and nature-related presentations.

Constance said Riverfest

is about enjoying the AuSable River and learning to appreciate the natural resources and how to be a good

steward of the river.

For information on Riverfest events call Constance at (989) 980-9781.

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## A BIT OF TREPIDATION

Jeremy Wright, 11, of Lincoln Park, gets off to a slightly wobbly start in the second heat of the Cardboard Boat Race as his aunt and Riverfest Committee Member Anna Sylvester hopes for the best during last year's Riverfest. Her trepidation was unwarranted as Wright's boat was one of only two in the heat to go the distance, taking second place. This year's race is planned for July 9.

(Photo by Thomas Reznich)

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## NEW PLAYGROUND AT METRO PARK OFFICIALLY OPEN

Cal Royce, 5, (front row, center) of Roscommon uses the big scissors to snip a ribbon, officially opening the new playground at Metro Park in the Village of Roscommon Saturday morning, as a group of his contemporaries looks on. Also pictured (back row, left to right) are Derek Smitz of the Roscommon

Mon Rotary Club president; Connie Allen, Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce executive director; Eric Hart of the RMRA and Doug Hodges, president of the Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival Committee. Although the playground was installed in a community build in October of 2014, it did not open for play officially until Saturday.



# Kirtland's Warbler Festival

## KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

A male Kirtland's warbler was spotted during Kirtland's Warbler Festival June 3 in Roscommon.



## IN SEARCH OF THE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

Educator and Naturalist Tom Dale (left) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks Interpreter Craig Kasmer (right) lead a group of dedicated birders in search of Kirtland's warbler in a forested area off of Chase Bridge Road June 3.

