



PARK, RECREATION OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

2023
2027

HIGGINS TOWNSHIP
VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON
ROSCOMMON AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY

PLAN ADOPTED BY:

HIGGINS TOWNSHIP: November 14, 2022

VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON: November 14, 2022

ROSCOMMON AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY: November 21, 2022

RECREATION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

- Sue Jock-Roscommon Area Recreation Authority
- Jory Klumpp-Director of Recreation
- Connie Allen-Higgins Twp. Resident and RARA Board
- Julie Crick-Natural Resource Educator-MSUe
- Bill Curnalia-Higgins Township Supervisor
- Ron Alden-Village Manager
- Nancy Smitz-Resident
- Don Dixon-Village Resident
- Anna Sylvester-Retired DNR, South Branch Twp. Supervisor
- Theresa Ekdom-Resident, Houghton Lake Area Tourism Bureau
- Kris Suvada-Business Owner, Resident
- Tom Barber-Business Owner, Resident
- Tracy Smith-Higgins Lake Roscommon Chamber of Commerce
- Tracy Bosworth-Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
- Jennie Walker-Village Planning Commission

HIGGINS TOWNSHIP BOARD

- Bill Curnalia-Supervisor
- Cheri Sullivan-Treasurer
- Margaret Borgula-Clerk
- Ron Peters-Trustee
- Tom Jennette-Trustee



VILLAGE COUNCIL

- Mike Miller-President
- Heather Roemer
- Tony Medina
- Angela Cook
- Dan Fishel
- Joanne Lederman
- Maureen Ruddy



COMMUNITY ADVISORY

ROSCOMMON AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY

- *Sue Jock-Chair*
- *Eric Hart-Vice Chair*
- *Connie Allen-Secretary*
- *Karrie Williams*
- *Cheri Hutek*
- *Derek Smitz*
- *Steve Hinds*
- *Jory Klumpp-Director of Recreation*



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Introduction

We have a vast number of natural resources, features and facilities to attract visitors and residents in the Roscommon Area. Access to recreation is a top priority as it directly impacts our community economically.

In order to meet the needs of our community residents and visitors, Higgins Township (Board), Village of Roscommon (Council), Roscommon Area Recreation Authority (Board), along with the assistance of other area groups, councils, and individuals prepared this “Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan for Higgins Township, the Village of Roscommon and the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority”. This 2023–2027 Master Plan was collaboratively developed to gather data and develop recommendations and goals for our community.

In February of 2022, the Higgins Township and the Village Council formed a committee composed of representatives from the Village, RARA, 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.

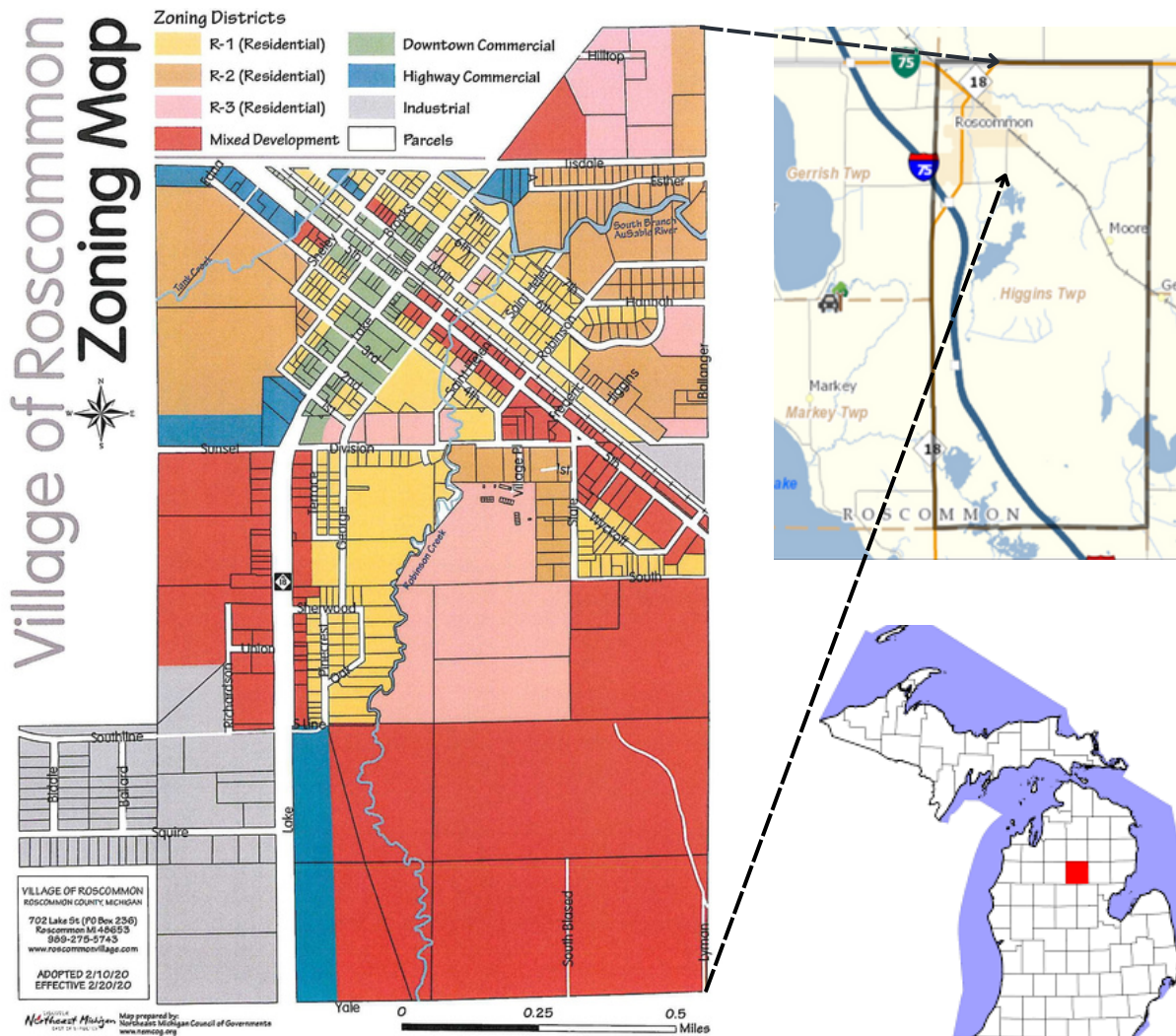
Since Roscommon is a recreation destination, the plan considers the desires of tourists who visit the area. Much of the local economy depends on canoeing, snowmobiling, and other outdoor activities. The community also hosts numerous festivals and celebrations during the year that have a recreation component.



Community Description

Situated on the northcentral border in Roscommon County, Higgins Township is one of the top destinations for recreation activities in central Michigan. Covering a land mass of 70.4 square miles, it is the second largest township in the county holding 12.5% of the land. The Township consists of 60% state land, 36% private, and 4% water.

According to the 2020 census, the township has a population of 2183. The village of Roscommon is in the northwest corner of Higgins Township. The Village has a total area of 1.6 square miles which is 2% of the township yet comprises 58% of the population at 1,075. Incorporated in 1885, it is the only incorporated city or village within Roscommon County and holds the county seat.



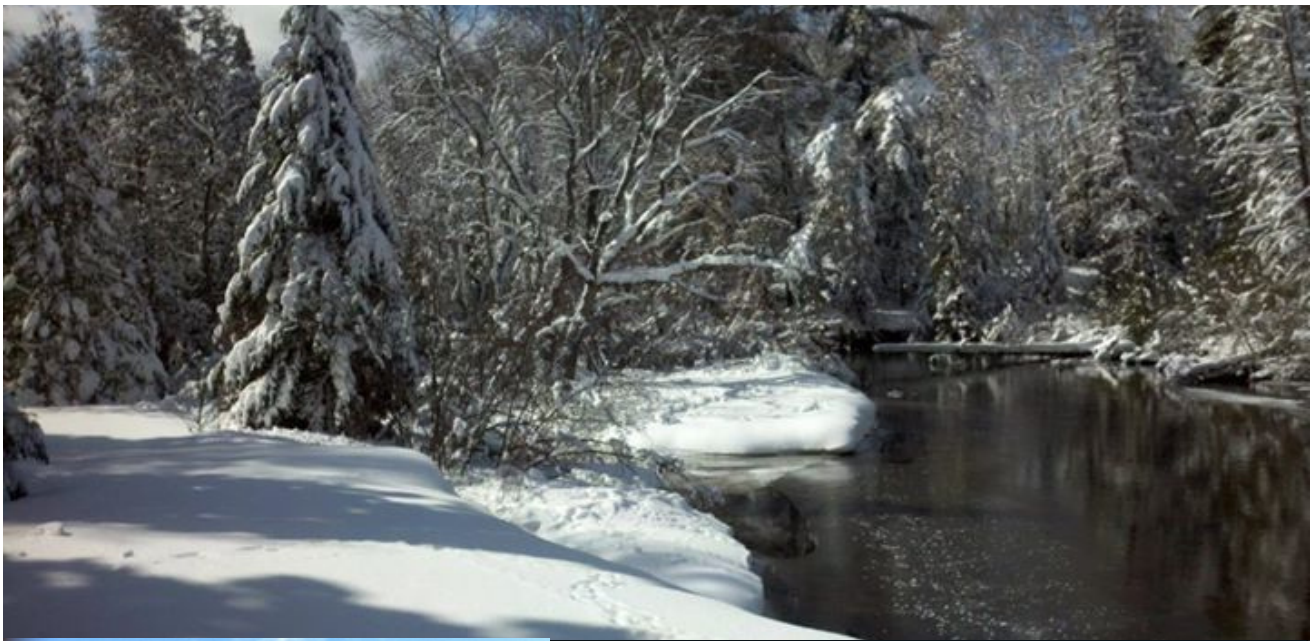
Two major thoroughfares, M-18 and M-76, intersect in the commercial district. History tells that Roscommon Village was a railhead. Excursions were by horse and buggy between the railroad, the plats, and small farms. The early construction of US-27, M-76, M-18, and M-55 provided excellent access to the 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 was established in Roscommon. The Great Depression brought about high local taxes and the loss of property at tax sales. This 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). Some of the state's most sought offer natural resources are the rivers and lakes. Houghton Lake, Michigan's largest inland lake, is multi-use for boating, fishing, and lakeshore enjoyment and is 14 miles southwest. Higgins Lake, one of the most beautiful lakes in Michigan, is the closest to the Village at about 8 miles. Lake St. Helen (12 miles) is a shallow inland lake known for excellent fishing and surrounding ORV/ATV trails in the area. The South Branch of the AuSable River runs through the Village of Roscommon and connects to the North Branch and continues to Oscoda where it empties into Lake Huron. Recreation use for canoes and kayaks is popular upstream. Further downstream you enter the "Holy Waters" offering world-class fishing on the Mason Tract.

Although the local population is small, tourism generates many visitors to the Roscommon area. This population influx for our community's amenities, both natural and developed, is one of the primary economic drives for the community. Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon have many businesses that are tourist, recreational and seasonally related. They 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. Tourism and recreation have long been essential to the local economy. As a result of the increasing popularity of winter recreation, the area is a popular tourism destination in that season as well.

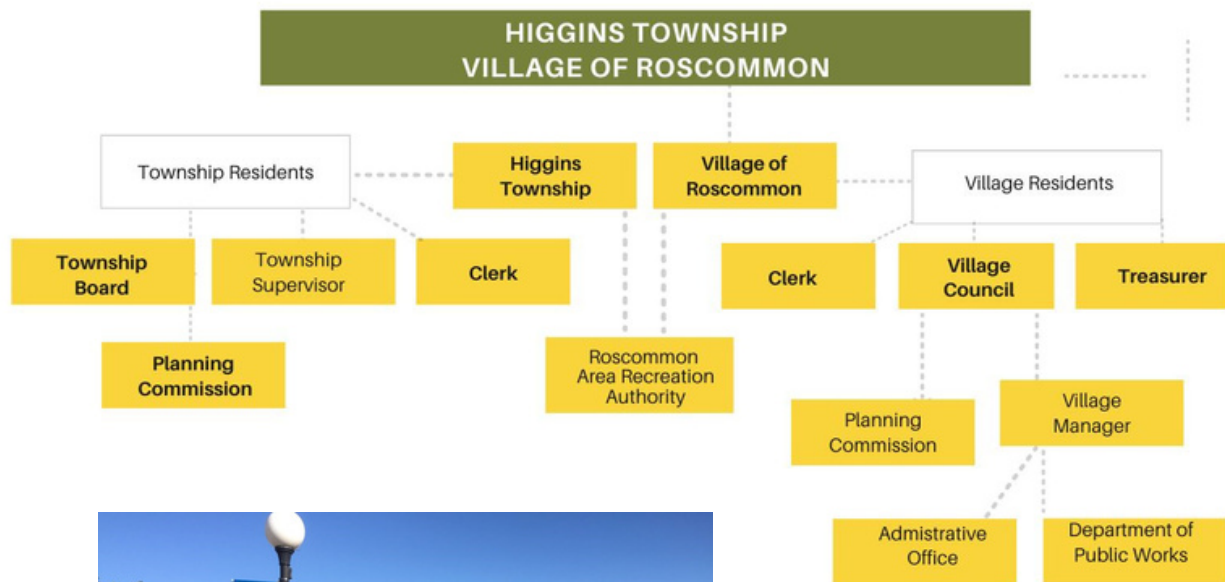
The focus of this plan is to identify and examine all aspects of recreation in Higgins Township and the community of Roscommon. The committee will use this updated plan to recommend improvements to our park and recreation system. Improving our park facilities and equipment, and securing grant funding,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



Administrative Structure

Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon are unique communities. State land makes up a majority of square miles in Higgins Township with the bulk of population and recreation amenities close to or within the village limits. The building assets for recreation are owned and operated by the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority. The administrative structure of the township are positions that require election. These include the supervisor, clerk, treasurer and the board which is elected every four years. The village has elected office for the village president, clerk and treasurer every four years, village council every 4 years, and the village manager is hired by the village council. The Roscommon Area Recreation Authority is comprised of seven board members, (3) members appointed by the Higgins Township Board, (3) appointments from the Village Council and (1) appointed by the RARA. Each member will fulfill a three-year term or until their successor is appointed.



Higgins Township budgets a small amount for revenues but has no formal recreation budget or liabilities. The Village of Roscommon’s annual budget has funding for recreation in the village including expenditures for park maintenance, general equipment and employees. RARA is funded annually by the township and the village according to their articles of incorporation. Other income for the RARA is secured by revenues gained from the CRAF Center memberships and rental income. RARA could also seek funding by millage as stipulated in their articles of incorporation but this has not been attempted. Other sources of funding exist specifically via special project grant requests and fundraisers.

12/12/2022 10:53 AM BUDGET REPORT FOR VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON Page: 4/17
 User: RON Fund: 101 General Operating

ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	2023 RECOMMENDED BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS		
Dept 441 - DPW Payroll		
101-441-702.007	Parks	10,000.00
101-441-702.008	Other	10,000.00
TOTAL UNK_EXP - UNK_EXP		27,000.00
Totals for dept 441 - DPW Payroll		54,000.00

12/12/2022 1:05:53 AM BUDGET REPORT FOR VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON Page: 1/17
 User: RON Fund: 101 General Operating
 DB: Roscommon

ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	2023 RECOMMENDED BUDGET
ESTIMATED REVENUES		
Dept 000		
4 - Revenues		
101-000-401.000	Real Property Taxes	165,000.00
101-000-476.000	Building Department	4,000.00
101-000-574.000	State Revenue Sharing	95,000.00
101-000-574.001	CVTRS	17,400.00
101-000-575.000	Liquor Control Fees	2,500.00
101-000-608.000	Property Sale	5,000.00
101-000-627.000	Cemetery Sales	1,000.00
101-000-664.000	Interest	1,000.00
101-000-667.000	Rental Income	6,000.00
101-000-677.000	DDA Reimbursement	4,000.00
101-000-678.000	Administrative Fee	500.00
101-000-691.000	Tower Rent	5,000.00
TOTAL 4 - Revenues		306,400.00
UNK REV - UNK REV		
101-000-477.000	Parks and Recreation	20,000.00
101-000-573.000	Local Community Stabilization Sha	100,000.00
101-000-655.000	Fines	200.00
101-000-671.000	Other Revenue	10,000.00
TOTAL UNK_REV - UNK_REV		130,200.00
Totals for dept 000 -		436,600.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		436,600.00

RECREATION:

Recreation within the community of Roscommon is supported by a collaborative group of governmental entities, authorities and groups that keep an active schedule. The village participates and volunteers with local activities and maintains Wallace Park and Hiawatha Park, along with several open greenspace areas and pocket parks. The Roscommon Area Recreation Authority owns a grouping of four large properties that provide recreation and services to the community. A fifth piece of State owned land is maintained by the RARA.

- The Community Recreation and Fitness (CRAF) Center operates a fitness center, hosts several community-based fitness programs, community events, and room rentals.
- Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve is a privately funded organization that hosts school and summer programs on nature and conservancy.
- The AuSable River Center was once a museum of canoeing history. Renovated and reorganized artifacts are on display. The center is now an open building, available for community group utilization and public rental. It is also the site of the Roscommon Farmers' Market, which offers local produce and crafts weekly May-October.
- Metro Park is the home to the community Little League fields and a playground constructed in 2014, with plans for additional development in the near future.

RARA also maintains a state owned trail system. Tisdale Triangle Pathway holds eight miles of trails utilized for hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. RARA has a land maintenance agreement with the mDNR for summer mowing, trail clean up and winter grooming for cross country skiing.

Other agencies involved with area recreation, many of which are volunteer organizations, that continually support recreation within the area include:

1. Higgins Lake Roscommon Chamber of Commerce
2. Roscommon St. Helen Little League
3. Roscommon North Youth Soccer Association
4. Roscommon Area Youth Football League
5. Roscommon County Canoe Race Association
6. Roscommon Area District Library
7. Roscommon Rotary
8. Rosco Higgins Trail Cruisers
9. Roscommon County Commission on Aging
10. MSUE 4H
11. The Lions Club

Several commissions and organizations are engaged or oversee 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 5 Year Open Space Master Plan and Recreation had a large, diverse group that represent many of these commissions, authorities, groups and residents within the community to construct this plan.

Recreation Inventory

An inventory of recreation activities is included and listed by classification. It is to be noted that Higgins Township and the Village boundaries are at the northernmost border of Roscommon County. The “Roscommon Area” or 48653 zip code and the Roscommon Area School District venture west into the county and include the townships of Gerrish, Lyon, and Markey as well as the south end of Crawford County.

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. There is a beautifully renovated dock that includes universal access to 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, and grills, all with universal access.

Hiawatha Park

1113 Lake Street

Property situated across the river from Wallace Park at 113 Lake Street, which will be noted as Hiawatha Park, was purchased by the Village of Roscommon in 2018. The property consists of a small peninsula with a house, pond, two-car setback garage and parking lot. This property is currently being assessed for future development for public use.

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 to Roscommon / Saint Helen Little League with 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 ball games. 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 62-acre public wildlife sanctuary open 24/7 to the community for hiking, biking, skiing, and sightseeing. Pets on a leash are welcome. A well-marked and maintained three mile trail network of walking paths wind through forested, creekside, and wetland habitats. A quarter mile wheelchair-accessible asphalt path and boardwalk allow 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 nine 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, a picnic area, a sandy beach, a 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 eight miles west of Roscommon. It boasts 175 modern campsites, picnicking, swimming, two mini-cabins, and a boat launch. Over eight 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 bathhouse, children's play equipment, universally accessible boardwalk, tetherball, and paved parking.

Gerrish Municipal Park
2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive

This park is adjacent to the township hall and has a pavilion, picnic tables, grills, restroom facilities (inside the hall), tennis courts, pickleball 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 lake access. Winter activities include ice fishing and ice skating.

Michigan State Firemen's Memorial Park 1295 E. Robinson Lake Road

The park is two miles from the downtown area and is approximately four acres in size. Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival committee provides all maintenance for this site which contains the memorial, a small playground, restrooms, 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 Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival, held in September each year.

Other Notable Parks:

Park 27 in Lyon Township

Markey Township Park in Markey Township

Phoenix Park Lyon Township.

Roscommon North Youth Soccer Association fields has 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 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.

Cut River

Higgins Lake connects and drains into Marl Lake by way of 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 where non-motorized experienced 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 North Higgins Lake State Park, South Higgins Lake State Parks, Gerrish Park and Gerrish Marina.

Kelly Beach off of Kelly Ave. (off Flag Point Dr) hosts a swimming area and association maintained boat launch and dock. There is no public parking within two blocks.

Boat Launches

There are public launch sites at the State Parks, Gerrish Marina and the West Higgins Lake Boat Launch off County Road 200. These four launches include large parking lots. A fifth launch, Townline launch is small with limited parking.

TRAIL SYSTEMS

MOTORIZED & NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEMS

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

Geels Trail is a 55.93-mile ORV, motorcycle Route 69, with the trailhead south of Roscommon at Federal Highway, which extends south to Saint Helen. In 2014, the Village of Roscommon re-routed the trail access down Ballenger, then left down Main Street, extending north out of town to the Billman Road area. There is a disconnect from that point to the Grayling trail head (route 489) in Crawford County. The trail was recognized by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in April 2011. Roscommon allows snowmobiles on the shoulder of all village maintained streets.

Tisdale Triangle Pathway

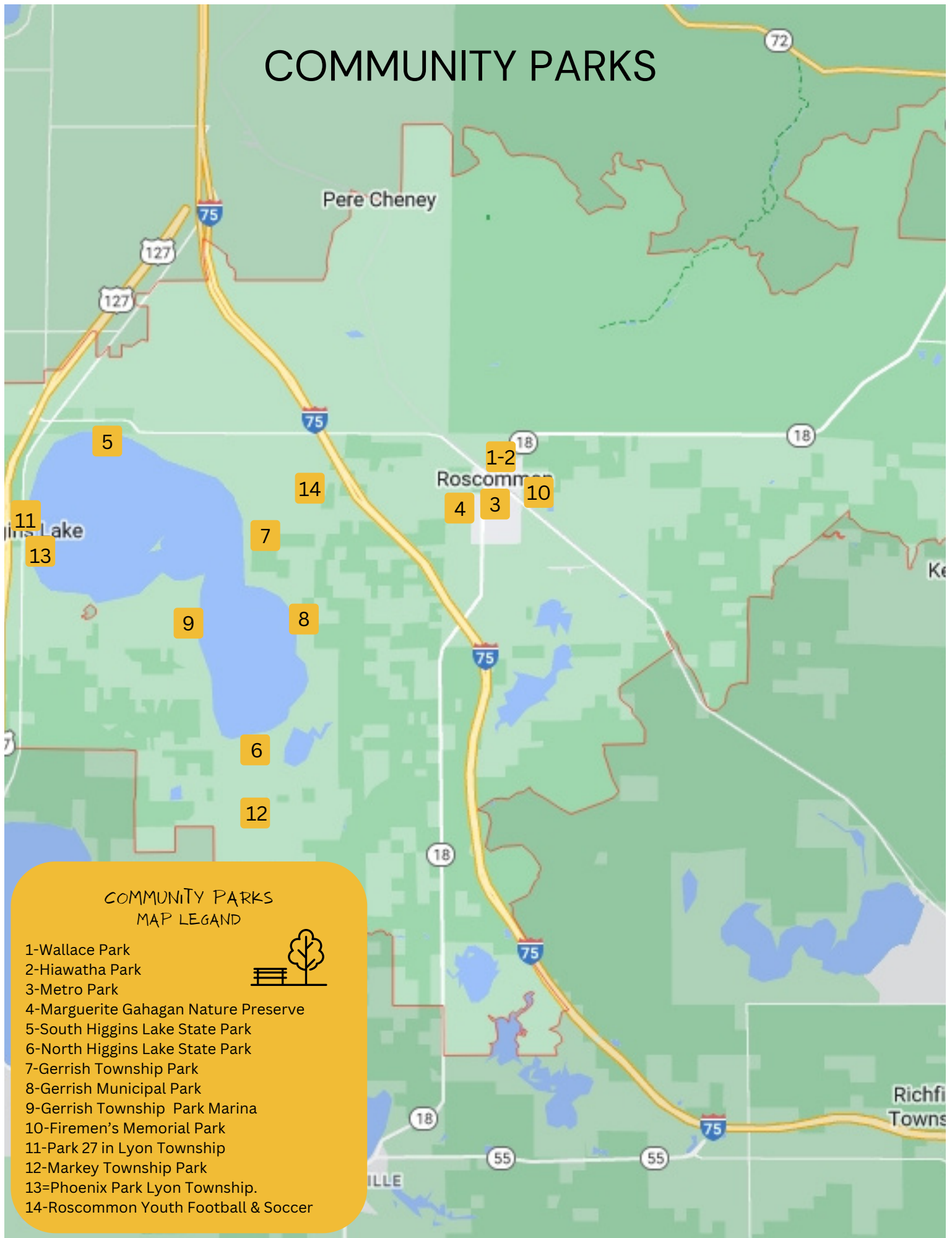
Tisdale Road and Wisner Road

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 Area Recreation Authority.

Cross Country Ski Headquarters Trail Network

This is a 9.39 mile trail system groomed for cross country skiing that is available as walking paths in the summer. Maintained by a privately owned facility.

COMMUNITY PARKS



COMMUNITY PARKS MAP LEGEND

- 1-Wallace Park
- 2-Hiawatha Park
- 3-Metro Park
- 4-Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
- 5-South Higgins Lake State Park
- 6-North Higgins Lake State Park
- 7-Gerrish Township Park
- 8-Gerrish Municipal Park
- 9-Gerrish Township Park Marina
- 10-Firemen's Memorial Park
- 11-Park 27 in Lyon Township
- 12-Markey Township Park
- 13=Phoenix Park Lyon Township.
- 14-Roscommon Youth Football & Soccer



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 Mason Tract. The associated hiking trail is 10.42 miles utilized for cross-country 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 original 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 Trail (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, and 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.

North Higgins Lake State Park Trail:

Across from North Higgins 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 and are well-marked state forest-managed land.

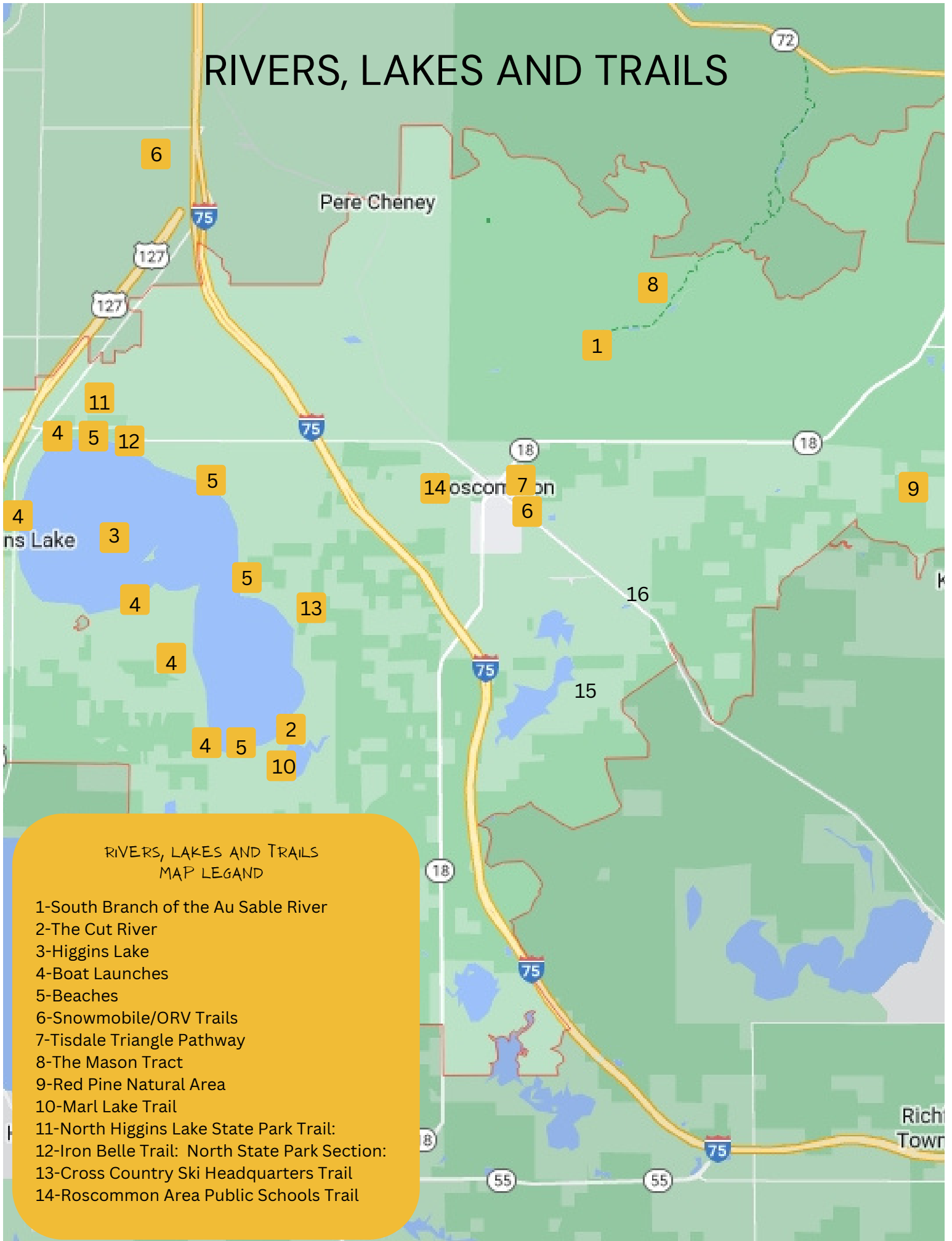
Iron Belle Trail: North Higgins Lake State Park Section:

Along the north side of North Higgins Lake State Park is a two-mile section of the Iron Belle Trail. This paved path is a seasonal walking and biking trail that extends from the northwest side of the park and finishes at Forest Avenue and North Higgins Lake Drive.

Roscommon Area Public Schools Walking Trail

The paved 2-mile walking path is 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.

RIVERS, LAKES AND TRAILS



RIVERS, LAKES AND TRAILS MAP LEGEND

- 1-South Branch of the Au Sable River
- 2-The Cut River
- 3-Higgins Lake
- 4-Boat Launches
- 5-Beaches
- 6-Snowmobile/ORV Trails
- 7-Tisdale Triangle Pathway
- 8-The Mason Tract
- 9-Red Pine Natural Area
- 10-Marl Lake Trail
- 11-North Higgins Lake State Park Trail:
- 12-Iron Belle Trail: North State Park Section:
- 13-Cross Country Ski Headquarters Trail
- 14-Roscommon Area Public Schools Trail

HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

Roscommon Historic Model Train Museum

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 1880s era Gallimore Boarding House which 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. The Silsby-Jacobson Building was built in the 1880's and currently houses historical documents and pictures.

The AuSable River Center

211 North Main Street

The AuSable River Center and Museum have evolved from near destruction to one of Roscommon, Michigan's most beautiful and active places. The two-story structure was built in 1936 during the Great Depression as a Michigan Department of Conservation administrative building utilized for 40 years. Then it housed the County Health Department. The building was set to be demolished but was saved by a group of community members. Once maintained as a museum, it was filled with historic artifacts, utilized for events, meetings, and the home of the farmer's market.

After years of dedicated service, the AuSable River Center group retired leaving a building filled with memories. The building was partially renovated, moving the museum artifacts to the wall for better viewing. The fireplace room was renovated and the entire lower level can now be utilized for community meetings, special events, and classes. The upstairs holds an office, open space, and workshop that is available for classes.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum:

11747 N. Higgins Lake Drive

The CCC Museum is part of North Higgins Lake 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. Onsite 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 for \$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. A portion of the AuSable South Branch is also known as the Holy Waters by trout fishermen where there is fly fishing only, and catch and release, between Wakely Bridge and Burton's Landing. 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 landmarks.

Pere Cheney Cemetery

Pere Cheney was a village in beaver Creek Township in Crawford County, north of Roscommon. Established by lumberjacks in the 1870s it was wiped out by disease in the early twentieth century. Said to be "cursed" from its start because it was build on Native American land, all that is left is its cemetery, which is considered haunted by many.

COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS

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 facility, a school building rescyed in 1994 is fully renovated and occupied. The CRAF Center offers a full fitness center, group classes, and personal trainers. Rooms are available to rent for meetings and accommodate the space and needs of the community.

Village Farmers Market

AuSable River Center

211 North Main Street

This open market features local produce and various other Michigan-made products from the surrounding area. The market is one of the largest of the area with 25-35 vendors a week and is open Saturdays, from May through October.

Roscommon Community Center

510 South Street

The Community Center is located on the east side of the Roscommon 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.

Roscommon County Fire Training Grounds

290 Ballanger Road

The 20 acre Fire Training Grounds are located just east of Roscommon. Firefighters 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 Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival Committee for use during their annual event. Various public functions use the grounds annually and Fourth of July fireworks are shot off there.

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. Their patrons enjoy downloadable audiobooks, eBooks & magazines. Mango Languages & Ancestry.com (Library Edition) is also available for use. The library offers activities for all ages, visiting authors, and music programs throughout the year.

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 once 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.

AuSable Birding Trail: The heavily forested Crawford and Roscommon counties in the heart of northern Michigan have long been a delight for birders and a haven for endangered and migratory species. The AuSable Birding Trail takes you through the woods and into the wetlands, from the protected nesting of the Kirtland's Warbler to the towering aeries of the populous Bald Eagle. Birders, novice to expert, are invited to bring their eyes and ears (and binoculars and cameras) to the trails, woods, and waters of the AuSable Birding Trail for a rewarding birding experience.

The Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center is located adjacent to the North Higgins Lake 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.

Kirtland Community College
4800 West 4 Mile Road, Grayling MI 49738

Kirtland Community College provides open access to education, as well as cultural opportunities, to enrich the lives of the people in Northern Michigan. Kirtland Community College offers 39 degrees and certificates including three transfer associate degrees.

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.

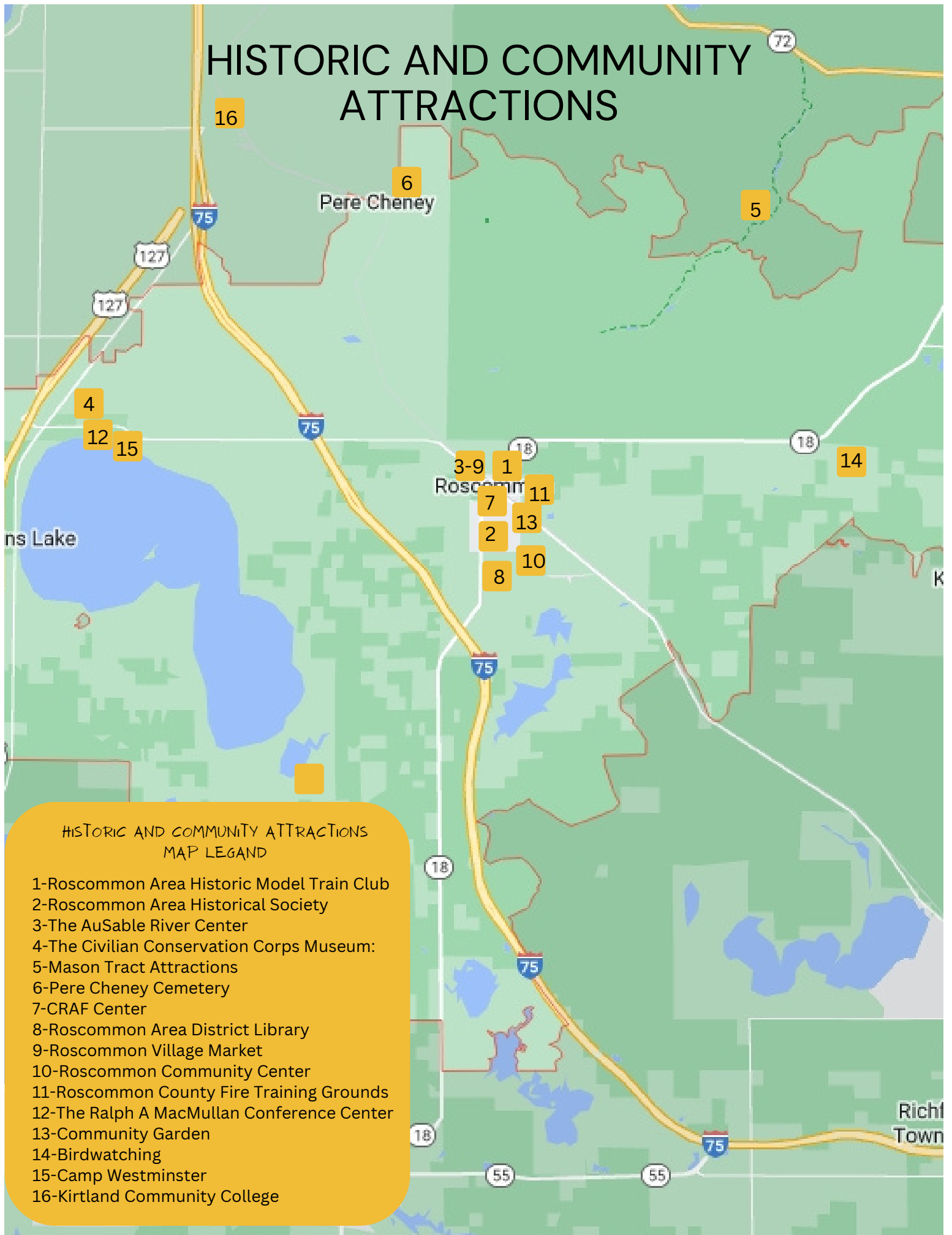
Camp Westminster
116 Westminster Drive

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

Privately Owned Recreational Public Facilities

In addition to the listed recreational opportunities in Higgins Township, the Village of Roscommon and areas within the community boundaries, there are an abundance of other assets. Included in the other private opportunities or facilities are a zoo, bowling alley, numerous golf courses, shooting range, canoe liveries, and amenities for a large range of sport orientated hunters, fishermen and the like.

HISTORIC AND COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS



HISTORIC AND COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS MAP LEGEND

- 1-Roscommon Area Historic Model Train Club
- 2-Roscommon Area Historical Society
- 3-The AuSable River Center
- 4-The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum:
- 5-Mason Tract Attractions
- 6-Pere Cheney Cemetery
- 7-CRAF Center
- 8-Roscommon Area District Library
- 9-Roscommon Village Market
- 10-Roscommon Community Center
- 11-Roscommon County Fire Training Grounds
- 12-The Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center
- 13-Community Garden
- 14-Birdwatching
- 15-Camp Westminster
- 16-Kirtland Community College

FESTIVALS

- Lions Club Annual Ski for Light: Cross Country Ski Event for the blind (January)
- Higgins Lake-Roscommon WinterFest (February)
- Annual Roscommon Business Expo (May)
- Pro Am Canoe Race (May)
- Kirtland Warbler Festival (June)
- Summerfest (June)
- Sunrise Run (June)
- CRAF Center Gazebo Concert Series (June through August)
- Annual July 4th Fireworks and Parade (July)
- Aluminum Canoe Race Classic (July)
- Annual Roscommon Art Festival (July)
- Roscommon Rotary Annual Duck Race (July)
- Annual Meals on Wheels Car Show (August)
- Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival (September)
- Conservation Expo (September)
- Girls' Night Out in Roscommon (October)
- Christmas in the Village (December)
- Reindeer Run (December)



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:

- South Branch of the AuSable River–Natural Resource
- Wallace Park–Village Property
- Metro Park–RARA Property
- Tisdale Triangle Trail–State Property
- Michigan Fire Training Grounds–100 year Land Lease
- DNR Airport–DNR Property
- Michigan Firemen’s Memorial Park–
- Village property between Seventh St. and South Branch, southeast of M-18– Village Property 055-758-001-0000 1 acre
- Small park area on Main Street across from old Village Hall–Village Property

Open Space Areas to Protect:

055-105-012-0110: 10 acres bounded by Main, Robinson, Hannah, and Ballanger
11 acres was an old ballfield, Private Held (Grover)

M-18 South of Village limits to Firemen’s Memorial

North of DPW property to Tisdale Trail

055-105-007-0270: Private Property–M-18 and Tisdale, 12 acres Rosco Property Holdings

Frontier Communications Building: Main and Brook Street

Private properties adjacent to Gahagan that continue to be of interest in acquiring:

055-107-002-0060: Loughrey–(west of Post Office) Private

055-107-002-0080: Wyckoff–(South of Loughrey–west of M-18) Private

055-107-003-0020: Benedict–(South of Wyckoff, SW M-18) Private

005-107-005-0020: Kalthoff–Wetland (CR 100 or East Sunset) Private

005-107-010-0020: State Property– 121 acres Southline/Wheeler Road

055-106-015-0021: DNR–34 acres wetland North Of County Road 100 and bordering Brooks Street

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), and 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



Evaluation of Past Plans

The 2018 to 2022 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 they are still an active desire of the community and what barriers 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 2018 noted with the evaluation and outcomes.

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

To reevaluate an avenue for funding for recreation within the Village of Roscommon and Higgins Township.

In 2019, community recreation was evaluated and results presented to village and township. The AOI and bylaws were rewritten and submitted to the state with approval. The name was changed to Roscommon Area Recreation Authority and according to Legislature Act 321 of the Public Acts 2000 currently incorporated by the state. The village and township committed to specific funding according to bylaws and a Director of Recreation was created.

PARTIALLY COMPLETED & ONGOING

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.

Walking opportunities have been enhanced with the completion of the Hilltop to Tisdale pathway, routine grooming and maintenance of Tisdale Pathway and completion of Division Street bridge. Alternative walking options have been promoted by RARA on social media and shared with area agencies. Progress is difficult within the community due to county and state road intersections with limited ability to add safe biking paths.

Visitors as well as community members are unaware of area activities and recreation offerings within our community

The challenge is to increase knowledge and awareness of existing area recreation opportunities. Increased use of social media, networking with area tourism bureau, chamber of commerce, and an addition of digital sign downtown for events has been very beneficial. According to 2022 survey data, there is still a disconnect in disseminating events and information out to area residents and visitors.

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.

ORV, ATV and snowmobile users avoid Roscommon due to incomplete, non-connecting access.

RECOGNIZED BUT NOT PRIORITIZED: Networking needs to be established with area snowmobile clubs and townships to help achieve these goals.

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

RECOGNIZED and initial measures taken by economic development. Lodging accommodations for year-round visitors do not meet the needs for area tourism.

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

IN PROGRESS: Amenities in Roscommon's parks need to be assessed, planned and completed. RARA is currently in the planning process for completion phases for Metro Park. The village has purchased the Hiawatha property on the NE side of the river and is in the idea and design phase. Economic development has also increased awareness of the importance of greenspace and preservation, and working together to achieve this goal.

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

RECOGNIZED AND ONGOING: Future population growth will place increasing demands on recreational land in the Roscommon area.

Description of Planning Process

Higgins Township Board, Roscommon Village Council and the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority selected individuals for the Recreation Committee to direct the development of this plan. The committee implemented a multi-step process to gather information with the goal of involving as many segments of the community as possible.

Review of the 2018–2022 Recreation and Open Space Master Plan:
Was the plan effective? Was the community able to implement and complete portions of the goals highlighted in the current plan? Are there remnants or unfinished objectives of the plan that should be incorporated into the 2023–2027 Master Plan?

1. Update the community’s description and recreation inventory.
What are the major features of the Roscommon area? What is the impact of recreation on the residents and visitors? What recreation resources currently exist in Higgins Township, Roscommon, and surrounding area?

2. Determine the Community’s Recreation Needs and Desires with plan of action.
What improvements are necessary to the current recreation infrastructure? What other opportunities does the public want?

3. Initiate a plan of action to meet the needs of the community.
This program prioritizes broad based goals from community input and identifies specific objectives necessary to accomplish them. Data was collected by multiple open meetings and public gathering sessions. In addition, public input was gathered using a survey. 541 community members took the survey with 84% being full time residents of the 48653–area code. This process identified community topics that need to be addressed and prioritized over the five-year period to make each item a reality. These groups include the Village, DDA, Higgins Township, RARA, and several local service organizations.

4. 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.

5. The 2023–2027 Recreation Plan:
Once the plan was drafted it was available for public input, presented at township, village and county meetings and subsequent approval was obtained by the Village Council, Township Board and RARA Board.

Planning Methods

The Recreation Committee was charged with the task of drafting a new Recreation Plan for Higgins Township, Village of Roscommon and the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority, 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.

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 Area Recreation Authority's 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 agreed 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. Top themes that were gained from the public input:

1. Hiking and biking trails
2. ATV/snowmobile trailhead connecting existing trails
3. Finishing Metro Park and Hiawatha Park as public space and greenspace.
4. Improving marketing and awareness of amenities and activities going on within the community.

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 and 2018 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 was 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. Hiking/walking paths
2. Bike paths
3. Kids activities
4. Basketball Courts
5. Pickleball
6. Ice rink
7. Splashpad
8. Dog Park
9. Movie Theater
10. Pool
11. Skateboard Park
12. Volley ball

The top activities are consistent with the prior recreation needs of the community. It is to be noted that most activities or amenities are currently in the pipeline for development. Much of 2018–2022 was spent on restructuring of the RARA, building relationships with the township and village and loss of time with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Goals and Objectives

The Recreation Committee evaluated the issues, and redeveloped goals and objectives from the 2018–2022 Recreation Plan. The changes were based on the results of the community input meetings, community questionnaire and presentations to local organizations. Higgins Township, Village Council and the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority will use this information as it works on its economic development and capital improvement plan.

Visitors as well as community members are unaware of area activities and recreation offerings.

Despite utilizing variety of media and marketing techniques there is still a disconnect between area amenities and activities and those that visit or live here.

Goal: To increase knowledge and awareness of existing area recreation opportunities and community events.

Objectives:

- a. Develop a master plan to problem solve how our community disseminates information.
- b. Take into consideration generational differences and how they obtain information
- c. Mastery of new platforms and marketing techniques
- d. Network with local governmental units, business and community groups to promote local activities and events.

ORV, ATV and snowmobile users avoid Roscommon due to incomplete non-connecting access.

There are state recognized trails on three sides of Roscommon, yet there is limited ability gain access into and through the Village. This limits the economic impact that local businesses could benefit from for food, gas and services. It also is a barrier for the user to plan routes that circumvent Roscommon.

Goal To work with area ORV/Snowmobile groups, local units of government, the DNR and road commissions to evaluate and plan a route that goes from the 69 trailhead south of Roscommon north to the connectors.

Objective:

- A. Establish a multidisciplinary group of ORV/Snowmobile members, local governmental, DNR, township, village, and road commissions to work through a process to plan a functional route.

- B. Develop a well-marked, clear pathway at trailheads and through Roscommon.
- C. Work with local governmental agencies on a general maintenance trail program.
- D. Market area assets and businesses that would benefit from riders to the area.
- E. Collaboration with enforcement agencies on ORV routes.

Enhancement of Roscommon’s parks and greenspace.

Greenspace and playgrounds are highly sought-after amenities in communities

Goal: Preserve, renovate or replace amenities and opportunities to provide an avenue for recreation within the community.

Objectives

- A. RARA will utilize data gathered to plan and engineer Metro Park completion.
- B. Hiawatha Park is vacant greenspace with preliminary plans for development for river access, greenspace for residents and visitors alike.
- C. Gahagan Nature Preserve plan acquisitions and protection of adjacent properties and wetlands. Documented plans highlight park and trail enhancement, addition to their educational center and develop and maintain outdoor environmental education withing the schools and community.
- D. Greenspace: See Open space
- E. Identify area funding partners and volunteers to complete renovation projects.
- F. Identify threats to individual safety and put in place measures to make the community a safe place to live, work and play.

Higgins Township and Roscommon area residents rank trail systems/safe walking paths along with safe bike pathways as the top request for the past decade.

Goal: Continues to work to 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 and Roscommon limits.

- C. Continuation of expanding the roads shoulders or marked roadways within Higgins Township/village of Roscommon to create a safe passage for non-motorized use.
- D. Primary non-motorized traffic from Hilltop and north of Roscommon utilize the newly developed Hilltop to Tisdale section of the pathway into Roscommon. There are safety concerns with narrow/no shoulders where the pathway crosses the bridge over the AuSable River. Plans for an extended walkway over the river have been engineered since 2015 and with Roscommon now owning both sides of the river make this a workable goal.
- E. Acquire necessary land or obtain easements for pathway development.
- F. Involve community groups to fund, develop, promote and maintain the trail systems.
- G. Increase awareness of area trails

Future population growth will place increasing demands on recreational land in the Roscommon area.

Goal: Community sustainability 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 recreation need of the population.
- B. Protect the natural resources and identity of the community and surrounding area.
- C. Secure donations, endowments and corporate partnerships to maintain and develop the recreation system necessary to meet the goals of this plan

The Roscommon community provides limited group activities across the age spectrum. With 13.4 percent of the population under the age of 14 and another 24.7 percent above the age of 65, it is necessary to plan improvements to accommodate every age group. More age-related activities were cited as a priority in the data collection process for the recreation plan. Due to the current economic climate, spending on recreation by governmental agencies has been reduced or eliminated.

Goal: To provide community activities to increase recreational activities and socialization for all ages and abilities.

Objectives

- A. Identify and create activities that are suitable to the community and offer age-appropriate recreational activities.
- B. Provide opportunities to promote a healthy lifestyle and, in turn, a healthy community.

C. Promote and market the parks, recreation programs, facilities and the benefits that are provided to the public.

D. The Roscommon Area Recreation Authority, using the priorities collected for this recreation plan, will annually develop or provide new programs, events and community enhancements that cross the age span to address the needs of socialization, exercise and activities for the community at large.

Action Plan

The Roscommon Recreation Committee, in cooperation with Roscommon community members, compiled a prioritized list of projects for implementation from 2023–2027. 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.

Complete Snowmobile / ATV Trail Connection Plan

Network with area organizations and agencies to work mutually to achieve well planned, marked, developed trail system. The common goal is to join incomplete trail systems providing access for safe passage in and round the community. This will help trail usage from north to south, increasing tourism and economic impact within the region.

Utilize Community Natural Resources

With the South Branch of the AuSable River flowing through Roscommon, and nearby fresh water lakes, canoeing, kayaking, boating and fishing are popular recreation activities with residents and visitors. A plan needs to be put in place to promote activities within Wallace/Hiawatha Park and surrounding properties to promote what we have naturally.

Safe Passage for Non-Motorized Use–continued and ongoing

Continued open communication and planning between the Roscommon County Road Commission and village of expanding the road shoulders or enhanced signage within the area to create a safe passage for non-motorized use. We have access to many trails but non-obstructed, well-groomed areas are not well developed or marked. Currently there is no safe access across the AuSable River on M-18 for non-motorized travel. The planned of a walking bridge would reduce potential for harm and provide an appealing safe pathway for pedestrians in and out of Roscommon.

Park Planning, Development and Completions:

Metro Park on George Street currently has three ball fields, newly renovated bathrooms and a new playground built in 2014.

Rehabilitated open space is available and ready for development by the RARA. Safe hiking and biking opportunities, water feature, kids' activities, skateboard park, dog park and pickleball and basketball courts are the items to be evaluated for future development. These items are repeated top priorities over the past decade according to our recreation plans. Hiawatha Park is also open green space, borders the AuSable River and is adjacent to Wallace Park. The options are broad for usage and planning amenities that can include greenspace, launch, pavilions, parking, universal access to the water and surrounding areas and bathrooms.

Trailhead and Wayfinding Signage for ORV/Snowmobile

Trailhead at the north and south end of Roscommon lacks wayfinding signage to area amenities and visible markers. This is due in part lack of connection between the two trailheads. A trail connection plan needs to be put in place.

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 and development of community apps or printed media within the community will help area residents and visitors locate areas of recreation, businesses and local attractions.

RECREATION SURVEY

This survey is designed to assess recreation opportunities for the village of Roscommon, Higgins Township and the Roscommon area residents

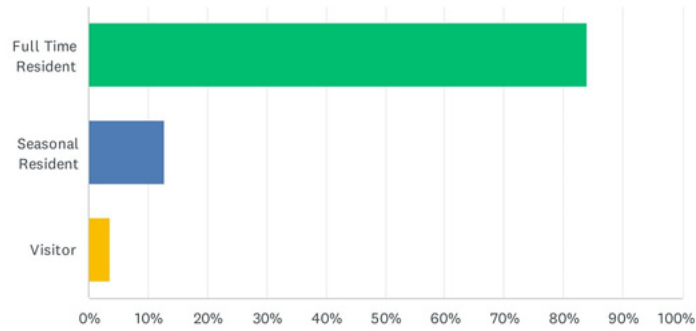
1. COMMUNITY
 - a. Full time resident
 - b. Seasonal resident
 - c. VisitorZIPCODE:
2. What is your age group
 - a. Under 12
 - b. 13-19
 - c. 20-40
 - d. 41-65
 - e. over 65
3. What is your favorite recreation activity in this community?
4. What are your barriers to enjoying recreation in this area?
5. What recreation activities do you LEAVE this community for?
6. Rank the top 10 items you would like to see developed or improved.
7. Activity Programming:
List YOUR top programs or activities you would like to see developed.
8. How would you rank the CRAF Center.
_Never Visited _Needs Work _ Good _Excellent
9. How would you rank Metro Park.
_Never Visited _Needs Work _ Good _Excellent
10. How would you rank Gahagan Nature Preserve.
_Never Visited _Needs Work _ Good _Excellent
11. How would you rank AuSable River Center.
_Never Visited _Needs Work _ Good _Excellent
12. How would you rank the care and maintainance of Tisdale Pathway.
13. How would your rank overall recreation in your community.



RECREATION SURVEY

Q1 Community

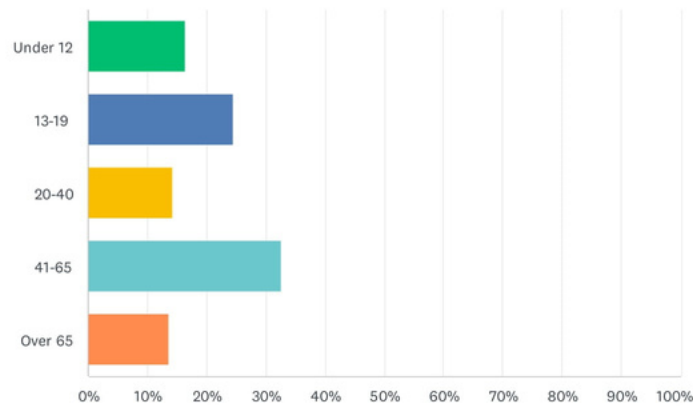
Answered: 538 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full Time Resident	84.01%	452
Seasonal Resident	12.83%	69
Visitor	3.53%	19
Total Respondents: 538		

Q2 What is your age grouping?

Answered: 539 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 12	16.33%	88
13-19	24.49%	132
20-40	14.29%	77
41-65	32.65%	176
Over 65	13.54%	73
Total Respondents: 539		

RECREATION SURVEY

Favorite Recreation Activity in Community

Water-34%

It comes to no surprise that water is the overwhelming favorite resource of our community. This entails both motorized and non-motorized boating and swimming. Higgins Lake's nearest public access is 6.5 miles away from the village of Roscommon. The South Branch of the Au Sable River runs right through Roscommon and is bordered by Wallace Park and Hiawatha Park.

Sports-18%

Community members love using sport to get moving and to be active. According to the survey, the activities enjoyed differ from one generation to the next. The under 20 group prefer basketball, soccer, baseball and softball. The 20-50 age group supports the natural resources of water and outdoors along with activities and amenities for families such as parks, safe walking and biking and kids activities. The favorite for the over 50 community members is pickleball.

Hiking/Walking-15%

Higgins Township consist of about 44 square miles of state land, and the consensus is that people prefer to take in all the natural scenery on foot. Hiking and walking have been a high priority for the past 15 years on our recreation surveys. Not only do the residents wish for hiking trails, but the ability to walk on a more stable surface without worrying about barriers or traffic is of importance for their safety.

Biking 14%

Biking spans all ages and skill levels, so whether you are just learning or training for your next competition biking is a top favorite. Our respondents repeatedly list a deficiency in safe bike routes or spaces for both children and adults.

Outdoor Recreation 12%

Our natural resources, parks, and recreation opportunities make Roscommon a top visitor destination year around. Outdoor recreation is also one of the top five reasons families relocate to live and raise families.

ATV/ORV 7%

A growing pastime, hitting the trails on a quad, side by side, or snowmobile has increasing popularity. Having the trails in close proximity to communities for food, gas and social time spent is a necessity to capture the economic impact that this recreational business brings.

Barriers to Enjoying Recreation

Trails-36%

Hiking and biking combine for 29% of the activities that people like to do. According to our survey results, a lack of awareness of trails and groomed ski trails hinder people for enjoying this pastime more.

None-28%

Over a quarter of responses said they don't have any barriers to enjoying recreation in our community.

Accessibility or Access 21%

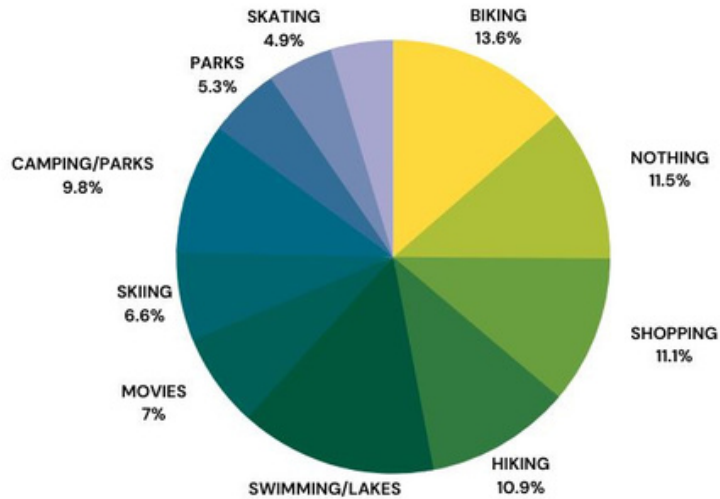
Our woods and waterways are what residents and visitors seek. According to the responses, there is a disconnect between what is perceived accessibility and what is actually available. This includes anything from a trail to boat launches. Living in a rural area, travel is required for many destinations and not always an option. According to the survey, a lack of activities for the kids, parks, and programs has been a topic in our recreation plan over the past 15 years.

Courts-15%

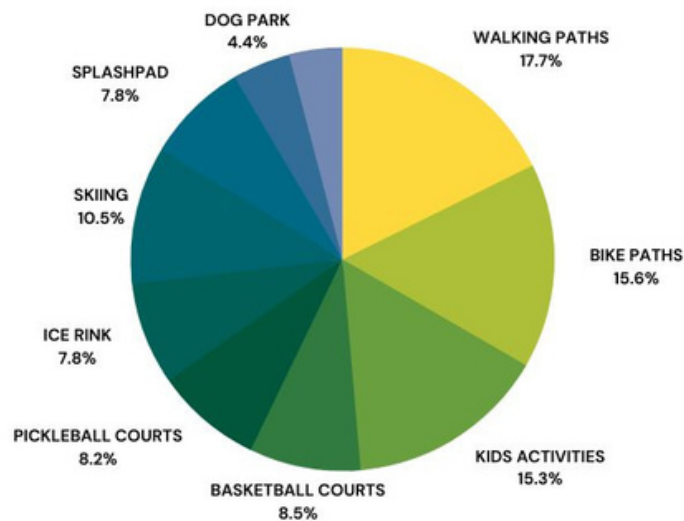
Outside basketball and pickleball courts weigh in on community wants and needs. Both are available inside at the CRAF Center within the village limits, but many enjoy playing outdoors during the summer months. The closest outdoor courts are in Gerrish Township within five miles of the village, Lyon Township is 10 miles, or Denton Township, about 14 miles away.

RECREATION SURVEY

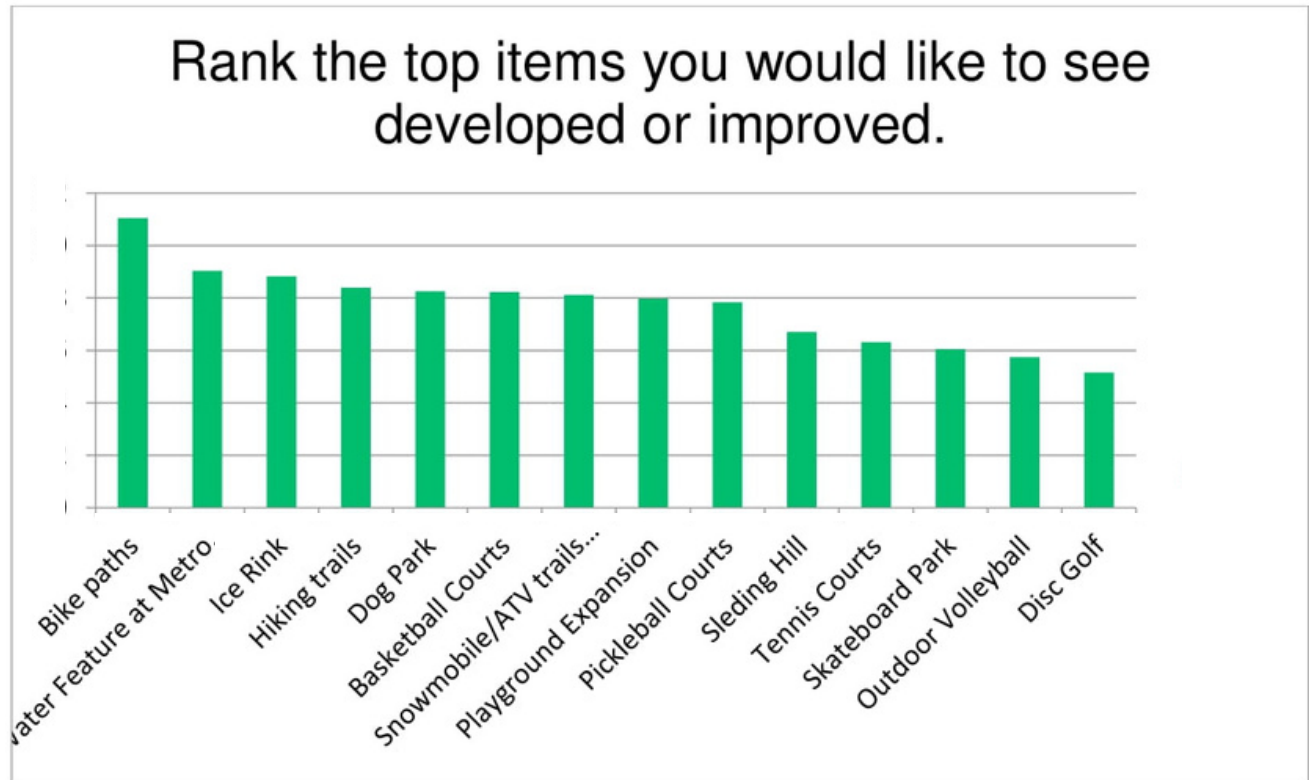
WHAT RECREATION ACTIVITIES DO YOU LEAVE THE COMMUNITY FOR



TOP TEN PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED



RECREATION SURVEY





ANOTHER 34 ACRES

Celebrating Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve's acquisition of a 34-acre parcel within the Village of Roscommon with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 18 were (front row, left to right) HeadWaters Land Conservancy Executive Director Julie Rubsam, MGNP Education Director Kalsa Parker Browning, HeadWaters Land Conservancy Community and Development Coordinator Diane Farnar, MGNP Executive Director Tracy Bosworth, Gahagan supporter Sarah Dibbet, (back row) MGNP Vice Chair Ken Elmore, MGNP board member Mike Petrucha and MGNP Chair Tom Dale. Not pictured is Roscommon Area Recreation Authority (RARA) Director Sue Jock. (Photo by Cheryl Holladay)

Gahagan celebrates 34-acre land acquisition, expansion

(continued from page one) filters and clarifies water.

"We knew we wanted to preserve and protect that piece," she said. "The parcel is northeast of the preserve, along Co. Road 100."

The wetland is part of the Tank Creek watershed, she said. Tank Creek is a prominent feature on Gahagan's property and part of the headwaters of

Branch of the AuSable just west of Wallace Park.

Bosworth said when the board found out the land was DNR property, it was already up for public auction. The property was listed for \$35,000 as a minimum bid when it went up for auction, she said. The DNR has an internal market value for municipalities or alternative conservation ownership. That value was

to allow for recreational opportunities, and interpretive signage to educate the public on the importance of wetland habitat.

"We are proud to be part of a community that values our natural resources and strives to provide accessible recreation for all ages," she said.

RARA Director Sue Jock could not attend the ribbon-

seasoned, first-time skiers

By Cheryl Holladay

Cross Country Ski Headquarters, Higgins Lake, was hopping Jan. 16, as skiers headed to the woods for some outdoor recreation.

The parking lot was full and guests were gathered around outdoor fire pits in the mild air that was dotted with snowflakes.

"This year it's been like this on Saturdays," said co-owner Mariah Frye Colie, who owns Cross Country Ski Headquarters with her husband, Stu Colie.

Frye Colie said free lessons are offered every Saturday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., led by ski instructor Jim Bradley.

Bradley said he has been with Cross Country Ski Headquarters for 23 years. His lessons used to be in the afternoon, he said, but morning lessons allowed guests time to look for skis to rent or buy before they leave for the day.

"It works out a little better,"

he said. Offering the free lessons "is going very well."

On Saturday, he had two groups of about 20 out on the trail behind the Cross Country Ski Headquarters shop on Co. Road 100.

"[The lessons] get them off on the right foot," he said, adding that they can choose a private or semi-private lesson later. "This is my 37th year teaching."

Originally from Mt. Pleasant, Bradley first cross country skied when someone asked him to ski some supplies out to where he lived, during the Blizzard of 1978. Then, he said a professor from Central Michigan University, Steve Thompson, who served as the winter sports director for Special Olympics, had asked him to teach skiing.

"I taught myself how to ski and got my credentials," he said.

Bradley said an uncle of an athlete then asked him if he

wanted to give lessons for the general public.

So, for 14 years, he taught at Chalet Cross Country, before starting with then-owners Bob and Lynne Frye at Cross Country Ski Headquarters.

"There's no place like it in northern lower Michigan," Bradley said of the shop.

"Cross country skiing can be anything you want it to be — a workout, a look at the birds," he said, adding that the snow on Saturday was "just beautiful."

Bradley said during the free lessons, guests learn how to adjust their pole straps and how to grasp the poles. They also learn the "ready" position, how to fall and recover from spills, as well as the basic stride and diagonal stride, he said. Also included in the lesson is double poling, which he said is more efficient.

The group goes on a 2K loop which includes climbing some hills, and comes back to the beginning where they learn how to do a straight downhill run. Guests also learn how to wedge to a stop, he said, which some people call a "snow plow." If another (paid) lesson is needed, he said skiers can learn to do turning wedge turn, step turn and most classical cross country ski strides.

"There's a pent-up demand for outdoor activity," Bradley said. "Everybody just wants to get outside."

The weekends and holidays have been "unbelievable," he said, at Cross Country Ski Headquarters.

Bradley said the lessons provide people with an introduction to the sport and the hope is that they come back and have a good experience.

"Everybody seemed to have a good time," he said.





ON STAGE AT THE GAZEBO
The CRAF Center Summer Gazebo Concert Series will feature five concerts, which will all take place at the gazebo on the lawn of the CRAF Center. This summer's series will feature the Roscommon High School Jazz Collective, Oh Brother Big Sister, Matt Gabriel, Brotherly Angst and Nathan Walton.

CRAF Center Summer Gazebo Concert Series begins June 8

Running for 26 consecutive years, the 2022 Summer Gazebo Concert Series will return this summer with a five-concert lineup that includes an eclectic mix of music. The summer series will feature the Roscommon High School Jazz Collective, Oh Brother Big Sister, Matt Gabriel, Brotherly Angst and Nathan Walton.

June 8

The RHS Jazz Collective will kick off the series June 8. The Jazz Collective has been the opening act of the Summer Gazebo Concert Series since 1999. The collective is a group of high school-aged musicians who have collectively won numerous award-winning appearances at a Northern Michigan University Jazz Festival and the Alma College Jazz Festival.

June 22

The brother/sister duo of Penny and Radal

Rosin, who are from Northern Michigan, make up the band Oh Brother Big Sister. They have been described as having "a fresh, distinctive sound with an element of surprise. The two will take to the gazebo June 22.

July 6

Taking the gazebo stage July 6 will be Matt Gabriel. Gabriel, a singer/songwriter, has been writing and performing for more than a decade. He has been described as having a "must-see live show" with his folk and blues stylings.

July 20

Brotherly Angst is a country/folk duo "with groovin' charm and charisma" who will perform July 20. Brother John and Brother Bob, have become "local favorites" as they have played shows in the Houghton Lake area. Brother John is also a Houghton Lake Com-

munity Schools graduate and former teacher. "This duo is a can't-miss with a brotherly vibe. Their show will feel like a family reunion with a good time mixed in," is how their show has been described.

August 3

Singer/songwriter Nathan Walton, who has been described as having a "voice like a cannon," will be the final act to take the gazebo stage this summer on Aug. 3. Walton has powerful soulful vocals and has been known to lend his voice to bands like Stone South and the Broken Teeth.

All of the concerts will be held rain or shine at 7 p.m. at the gazebo located on the lawn of the CRAF Center, 606 Lake St., Roscommon.

For information contact the CRAF Center at (989) 275-4975 or visit www.roscorec.org.

Kirtland's Warbler Weekend is Back for 2022

Save the dates – The Kirtland's Warbler Weekend is back June 3-4, in downtown Roscommon.

The weekend starts with the Kirtland's Warbler Festival Home Opener June 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve.

Bird enthusiasts can enjoy a social evening, including a nature hike and social time with beer and wine tasting, as well as appetizers, as Kirtland's Warbler Weekend kicks off. The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve is located at 209 West Maplehurst Dr., Roscommon.

Joyanne Mittig of the American Bird Conservancy is the keynote speaker for the 2022 festival. She will present "Forestry for Michigan Birds."

The Kirtland's Warbler Festival takes place June 4, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the CRAF Center, 606 Lake St., Roscommon. It is an educational celebration of the Kirtland's warbler, its habitat and the communities located in the jack pine ecosystem.

ern Michigan through a variety of activities, including a kids' tent, jack pine tours, nature presentations, featured artist Kim Diment, featured author Bill Rapai and live animals.

Presentations include Kirtland's warbler videos with an introduction by Rapai; "Dispatches from Paradise: Observing Avian Migration at Whitefish Point," by Alison Világ; and "Michigan Frogs by Sight and Sound," by Jim McGrath.

For information and updates about these events, visit the Kirtland's Warbler Festival Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kirtlandwarblerfestival or send an email to kirtlandsfestival@gmail.com.

In conjunction with the Kirtland's Warbler Festival June 4, the Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce will host a corn hole tournament at the CRAF Center, and a classic car show on M-18 in front of the CRAF Center. For information contact Tracy Pardue Smith.

Roscommon Canoe Classic celebrates 40th

(continued from page one) the area businesses get behind the race and how many people come out to watch.

The C-2 Race will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday. Racers will begin at Wallace Park in downtown Roscommon, complete a buoy turn at Deerheart Valley Road and then return to Wallace Park.

Brabant expected there to be about 60 racers from places like Texas, New York, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. Some of the local racers to be in attendance include Jay Sharpe, Austin Weiler,

Bill Torongo, Fred Mills and Brabant himself. Brabant said it is rumored that Bill Stockton, a longtime veteran racer of the Roscommon Canoe Classic, will be on the river as well.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary, the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority (RARA), Roscommon County Canoe Racing Association and Alpena Beverage will be coming together to host a community celebration from 12 to 6 p.m. at the AnSable River Center, 211 North Main St. Sue Jock, chair of RARA, said

the idea for the partnership is to make this year's race more of an event in honor of the 40-year milestone.

Jock said the community is excited to the celebration where there will be an awards ceremony, a bounce house, corn hole and kids activities. Beverages including beer and food from Slidetz & Fryz Old School and Cut River Grill's food trucks will be available. The celebration will also feature live music sponsored by Navigator Wireline Service. Ryan Menghini will perform from 1 to 3 p.m. and Atomic Sounds will perform from 3 to 6 p.m.

"I enjoy seeing some of the old time favorites and the new and rising stars," Jock said of watching the race. She called the race "invigorating" because it's nice to see families watch the race from the banks and then return to Wallace Park to see the paddlers finish.

She said RARA wanted to partner with the race committee because it has been looking for ways to increase recreation within the community and the canoe race falls into the group's recreation goals.

For information about the race, visit roscommonrecreation.com.

Cornhole, 'Burnt Rubber' taking over Roscommon

Two summer staples in the form of a car show and cornhole tournament will be coming to downtown Roscommon Saturday with the inaugural Burnt Rubber Drag Car Show and Village Summer Throw Down Cornhole Tournament.

Presented by Q100, registration for the car show will begin at 8 a.m. and the show will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., when awards will be presented at the CRAF Center Gazebo.

Trophies for the car show will be awarded in several categories and there will also be a best paint award, kids' choice award, sponsors' choice award, best display and people's choice award.

Registration for the car show is \$20. For information on the car show, contact Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tracy Smith at 275-8760.

Registration for the Village Summer Throw Down Cornhole Tournament will begin at 10 a.m. and bags will fly at 11 a.m. Sponsors for the tournament include White Pine and Petals, Bob's Butcher Shop and Roscommon Indoor Garden.

To register, or for information on the cornhole tournament, contact Beth at 275-4855 or email beth@whitepineandpetals.com.



SNOW MUCH FUN

With a light snow falling around them, those enjoying the trails at Cross Country Ski Headquarters took a break by relaxing with a hotdog luncheon provided by Kate Otwell of Bob's Butcher Shop of Roscommon. The luncheon was part of the Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce's Snow Much Fun WinterFest event held Feb. 12.

(Photo by Krista Tacey-Cater)

WinterFest 2021

SKIING ONE DAY, SNOWMEN THE NEXT

(Right, above) The Dawson family, including Julie, eight-year-old Ava and Tim Dawson of Parma located in Jackson Country, had just gotten off the trails at Cross County Ski Headquarters and was treated to a hotdog luncheon as part of the WinterFest Snow Much Fun event Feb. 12. "She did really good," Julie said of Ava's first time



B10 • Houghton Lake Resorter, June 24, 2021

Happenings

Higgins Lake Sunrise Run attracts more than 200 runners

Higgins Lake did not disappoint as the backdrop for the annual Higgins Lake Sunrise Run June 19.

The crystal blue water was calm as glass as runners took off from both the North and South Higgins Lake State Parks for a

half marathon, 10k and 5k. Held as a fundraiser for the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center, the race attracted 220 runners and walkers.

Nick Rocheffort of Bad Axe was the first runner to cross the finish line, winning the half marathon in 1:26.02. His course took him from a starting line at North Higgins Lake State Park to a finish line at South Higgins Lake State Park in front of the Park Store.

Rocheffort said it was a "great course" and it was just starting to get warm when he finished. He said organizers had marked it well and it was easy to follow.

After receiving his medal, Rocheffort said he planned to "just relax" the rest of the day after running the 13.1-mile race.

Taking first in the women's division of the half marathon was Courtney Krupp of Chesaning, who finished in 1:27.27.

In total, 30 runners finished the half marathon. Local finishers included John Thiel of Roscommon (fourth overall, first male 40-47, 1:36.5), Jamie McLosky of Roscommon (ninth, 1:42.04), Philip Czech of Roscommon (22nd, 2:08.45) and Crystal Scott of St. Helen (28th, 2:28.04).

Winning the 10k race was Adam Specht of Farmington Hills in 45:50. James Loughrey

Prudenville was third (51:32).

Ashley Benjamin of Morrice was the top female finisher in 54:04.

Local finishers in the 10k included Ben Elliott of Houghton Lake (12th, 56:43), John Cooper of Roscommon (24th, 1:06.04), Michelle Maloney of Roscommon (27th overall, first female 24-31, 1:10.4) and Reenie Murphy-Jones of St. Helen (28th overall, first female 56-64, 1:12.06). Thirty-one runners competed in the 10k race.

Shelby Township's Eric Berg won the 5k race in 17:55. There were 122 participants in the run/walk.

A first-time Sunrise Run participant, Berg said he liked the course, which he said was pretty hilly and the run in the sand along the beach was challenging.

Amanda Close of White Lake was the top female finisher in the 5k, coming in at 27:51.

Houghton Lake's Jon Vaughn finished third in the 5k (25:00) and first overall for males, ages 24-31. Collin Hamp of Houghton Lake was 11th overall (28:07) and first in the male 1-15 age group. Ron Wilcox was 29th overall (31:24) and first in the male 56-64 division.

Roscommon's Amy Brewer was 14th overall (28:32) and first in the female 24-31 age group.



CELEBRATING 13.1 MILES

Raising his hands triumphantly as he crosses the finish line of the Higgins Lake Sunrise Run's half marathon, Roscommon's John Thiel (305) records a time of 1:36.5. He finished fourth overall out of 30 runners and was first in the male, 40-47 age group with a time of 1:36.5.

Recreation Committee Meeting August 30, 2022

Present:

Anna Sylvester (Retired DNR, South Branch Twp. Supervisor, Business Owner)
Ron Alden (Roscommon Village Manager)
Connie Allen (RARA)
Theresa Ekdorn (Houghton Lake Area Tourism Bureau)
Kris Suvada (Planning Commission, Business Owner)
Tracy Bosworth (Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve)
Sue Jock (RARA)
Bill Curnalia (Supervisor, Higgins Twp.)
Kalsa Parker-Browning (Director, Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve)
Tracy Pardue-Smith (Executive Director, Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce)
Jory Klumpp (RARA Director)

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Sue Jock.

A PowerPoint presentation was shared showing the current draft of the 2023-2027 Recreation Plan. The Plan was sent to all members for review prior to this meeting, looking at wording, typos and anything the committee felt should be corrected or changed. This included:

- Adding a legend to the zoning map under 'Community Description'.
- Add appendix
- Add budgets
- Add page numbers and update the 'Table of Contents'.
- Correct typos

Updates and corrections will be completed. Motion made by Jory Klumpp to accept the plan as written with corrections, seconded by Tracy Bosworth, motion carried. The Plan will be published for 30 day public input. Public notice to be published in the Houghton Lake Resorter with the plan available for viewing at the village, township, Chamber and CRAF Center offices, and RARA website. Planned presentation Higgins Twp. 11/14/2022, Planning Commission 10/5/2022, Roscommon Village Council 11/14/2022. Village planning commission 10/22/2022 and RARA November 21, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Allen

Recreation Plan Data Gathering Public Notice

Higgins Township
Village of Roscommon
Roscommon Area Recreation Authority
Board Meeting-Public Input Meeting

Public input meetings are planned to gather input for the Five-Year Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027 on three upcoming occasions. The information gathered will be utilized to outline recreation and open space needs of Higgins Township and the Roscommon community.

The public meetings schedules as follows:

Higgins Township on May 2, 2022 at 7:00pm prior to their regularly scheduled board meeting.

The Village of Roscommon on May 9th at 7:00 pm prior to their regularly scheduled board meeting.

The Roscommon Area Recreation Authority on May 18 at 7:00pm prior to their regularly scheduled board meeting at the AuSable River Center.

Written input can also be submitted to rmrauthority@gmail.com. Once all data is gathered a formal plan will be published for public input.

Posted Date:

4-25-2022

Posted Signature:

Francis Dawson

Recreation Plan 30 Day Review

AFFP

Open Space Master Plan Notice

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN }
COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON } SS
}

Attention
Village of Roscommon/
Higgins Township Residents

Tori Muckenthaler, being duly sworn, says:

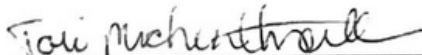
That she is Office Staff of the The Houghton Lake Resorter, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Houghton Lake, Roscommon County, Michigan, that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

September 1, 2022 and September 8, 2022

A draft copy of the 2023-2027 Recreation Open Space Master Plan is completed and available for viewing for the next 30 days at Village Hall 702 Lake Street from 8am-4pm Monday-Thursday, Higgins Township Hall 700 S Fifth Street, Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm, Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce, 709 Lake Street, Tuesday-Friday 9am-2pm, CRAF Center, 606 Lake Street, Monday-Thursday 8am-7pm, Friday 8am-5pm. A draft is available from August 31 through September 30 at these locations or it can be viewed at www.roscommonvillage.com or www.roscorec.org. Written comments can be mailed to the Village at PO Box 236, Roscommon, Mi, 48653 or to Higgins Township at PO Box 576, Roscommon, Mi, 48653. Comments may also be emailed to assistant@roscommonvillage.com, supervisor@higginstownship.com or mmrauthority@gmail.com

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Office Staff

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 10th day of October, 2022.



Alycia L. Nielsen, Notary Public, Roscommon County, Michigan

My commission expires: March 17, 2026

04106499 00090505

Sue Jock
Roscommon Area Recreation Authority
606 Lake St.



will promote and enhance the business and economic development in our area, encouraging good will and communication among members and the community in an environmentally responsible manner.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 11-16-2022 9:00 a.m.

Attendance: X Beth Barber President, X Cindy Eschendal Vice President, X A. Weiss Secretary, X Dawn Flores Treasurer, X Mike Walker Director, X Emily Barber Director, X Jenny Walker Director, T. Pardue Smith Exec Director

Guests: Sue Jock RARA

Call to Order 9:00 Beth Barber, President

Additions to Agenda:

Meeting Minutes from Board Meeting 9-28-2022

Treasurer's Report –

Bank Statement Balances as 10-31-22:
Current as of 11-15-22:

Correspondence: Sue
Jock RARA

Guest Presentation:

Sue Jock with RARA updated us on the accomplishments of their organization as well as plans moving forward. RARA has done a tremendous amount of work to enhance recreational opportunities in our area and the update was greatly appreciated!!

Unfinished Business:

Handed out form at Annual Meeting received good response from members for helping

Website Update from Jennie

Member Survey/Discuss questions submitted by Andrea/Do we need to add a QR Code/Board approved questions survey monkey format

Digital Visitors Guide? Yes work on this. Cindy will help. Make a Winter project, launch in Spring

Village 150th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, on October 8th was a huge success

Beth, Mike, Cindy and Andrea took raffle tickets to sell.

WinterFest/Lyon Township/attending board members felt this is a good idea. Need to meet

Public Notice Hearings to Adopt Plan

NOTICE

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Higgins Township
October 5th, 2022 – 1:30 pm

The Higgins Township Planning Commission will hold a meeting on October 5th, 2022 @ 1:30 PM at Higgins Township Hall, 700 S. Fifth Street, Roscommon.

This meeting will be to review & approve The Park, Recreation, and open Space Master Plan 2023-2027.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Signed: Maggie Borgula Date Oct 2, 2022

NOTICE

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Village of Roscommon

October 17th, 2022, 5:30pm

The Village of Roscommon Planning Commission will hold a meeting on October 17th, 2022 @ 5:30 PM at Village Hall, 702 Lake Street, Roscommon, Michigan.

This meeting will be to review & approve The Park, Recreation, and open Space Master Plan 2023-2027.

Posted: 10/10/22

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Signed: *Liammy* Date 10/10/22
M. Griffin

NOTICE

HIGGINS TOWNSHIP
Public Meeting Posting
November 14th, 2022 – 7 pm

Higgins Township will hold a meeting on November 14th, 2022 @ 7:00 PM at Higgins Township Hall, 700 S. Fifth Street, Roscommon.

This meeting will be to review & approve The Park, Recreation, and open Space Master Plan 2023-2027.

Posted: 11-09-22

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Signed: WJZ Coates Date 11-09-22

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN }
COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON } SS
}

PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE

Village of Roscommon will be hosting two separate Public Hearings this coming Monday, November 14, 2022. The first hearing will be held at the Village Hall starting @ 6:30pm. This first hearing will be regarding the 2023 Village Budget. The second hearing will start at 6:45pm to approve a resolution for the Park Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for 2023-2027. Public Welcome.


Tori Muckenthaler, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Office Staff of the The Houghton Lake Resorter, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Houghton Lake, Roscommon County, Michigan; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

November 10, 2022

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Office Staff

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 10th day of November 2022.



Alycia L. Nielsen, Notary Public, Roscommon County, Michigan

My commission expires: March 17, 2026

03103188 00091224

Village of Roscommon
P.O. Box 236
ROSCOMMON, MI 48653

NOTICE

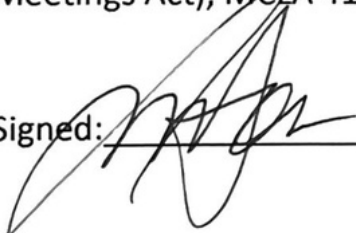
**Roscommon Area Recreation Authority
Public Meeting
November 21, 2022 7:00pm**

The Roscommon Area Recreation Authority will hold a meeting on November 21st at 7:00pm at the AuSable River Center, 211 N. Main Street, Roscommon.

This is an open public meeting to review & approve The Park, Recreation, and open Space Master Plan 2023-2027.

Posted: 11/16/2022

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCL 41.72a (2)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Signed:  Date 11/16/2022

Approval Meeting Minutes

Higgins Township Planning Commission

October 5, 2022 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The quarterly meeting of Higgins Township Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Jim Smith at 1:30 pm on Monday, October 5th, 2022, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present- Jim Smith, Chairman, Laurie Granlund, Mary Alice McKindles, Julie Peters

Absent- Tom Jennette

Persons in attendance: Sue Jock, Tom Allen, Connie Alen, and John Gubancsik

Approval of Minutes: A correction was made by Jim Smith to strike the last sentence in the Zoning Variance Request. Motion made by July Peters and seconded by Laurie Granlund to approve the minutes with the correction. All ayes. Motion carried.

New business:

RARA Open Space Plan

Sue Jock asked to open a special meeting at 1:20 pm to approve the to the 5-year open space Roscommon Area Recreation Master plan. The special meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Smith at 1:20 pm. No public comment. The new 5-year open space Roscommon Area Recreation Master plan for review by the Higgins Township Planning Commission. Motion made by Laurie Granlund and seconded by Julie Peters to approve the 5-year open space Roscommon Area Recreation Master plan. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion made by Julie Peters and seconded by Mary Alice McKindles to close the special meeting at 1:40 pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

The regular meeting was reopened at 1:40 pm.

Higgins Township Master Plan was presented. The board is to read it and needs to be approve prior to presenting it to the township. A special meeting is set for Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 1:30 pm to go over the Master Plan.


Old business:

None

Motion by July Peters, seconded by Mary Alice McKindles to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING / REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
10-17-2022

Public Hearing

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Dixon called the public hearing of the Planning Commission to order at 5:30 PM, at the offices of the Village of Roscommon.
2. Roll Call: Roll was taken by Walker. Members present: Don Dixon, Tim Reilly, Steven DeVault, Angela Cook. Members excused: Kris Suvada. Others present: Ron Alden, Jennie Walker, Troy Hull, Jory Klumpp.
3.  Public Comment: Alden explained that authorization of the public hearing had been established; and the purpose of the hearing was to review the Recreation Open Space Master Plan for 2023-2027 and gain feedback from the public. Klumpp described the survey process, reviewed survey results, and presented the plan. Klumpp noted the plan's inclusion of the Hiawatha Park supporting data. Alden solicited additional public comment. No comments were added.
4. Dixon requested a motion of adjournment. Cook made the motion and Reilly seconded the motion. The public hearing was adjourned at 5:36 PM.

Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Dixon called the regular meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 5:37 PM at the offices of the Village of Roscommon.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.
3. Roll Call: Roll was taken by Walker. Members present: Don Dixon, Tim Reilly, Heather Roemer, Steven DeVault. Members excused: Kris Suvada. Others present: Ron Alden, Jennie Walker, Troy Hull, Jory Klumpp.
4. Approval of Minutes: Dixon asked for any discussion of the previous meeting minutes. After no discussion, Cook made a motion to approve the minutes and Reilly seconded the motion. The motion was carried with all members present voting aye.
5. Public Comment: No comments
6. Old Business
 - A. Planning Commission Annual Report
Dixon reviewed draft document with members. Additional items were suggested for inclusion by members present. Alden also explained that the report content will be prepared and submitted by Dan Scow, Economic Development Director.
 - B. Roscommon Area Recreational Area
Alden requested that the board entertain a resolution to approve the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for 2023-2027. After further discussion, Cook made the motion that the Plan be approved with editing for typos. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion was carried with all members present voting aye.
 - C. 5 Family Bi-Annual Meeting
Alden described the agenda and invited members to attend the 5 Family meeting on October 20 with the Village Council, Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, and Dan Scow, Economic Development Director.
 - D. Capital Improvement Plan
Alden reviewed the progress, completion, funding sources, and priority status of all line items of the plan. After discussion of some line items, DeVault made a motion to approve the plan. Reilly seconded the motion. All members present voted aye and the motion was carried.
7. New Business

A. Troy Hull Tiny House Plan

Hull presented pictures of possible tiny houses and discussed the differences in requirements for tiny houses versus other housing options. Alden, Hull and members explored site options, water and sewer versus well and septic possibilities, and other parameters to consider prior to the sale of any lots in the mixed use or industrial park areas. Alden will contact EGLE to discuss options regarding water, sewer, well and septic requirements per lot sizes and report back to members.

B. Master Plan Review

Alden requested that the Planning Commission board members review the plan and provide a statement of support once the review is completed at the next meeting.

C. Bylaws/Procedures

The Bylaws were reviewed by the members and Dixon made a motion to approve the Bylaws. DeVault seconded the motion. All members present voted aye and the motion was carried.

8. Correspondence/Reports


Alden announced that the TeePee property had been purchased and that the new owners. Alden was pleased with their proposed development ideas. Alden explored 2023 planning commission meeting options with members. Members suggested that meetings continue monthly. Alden shared that DeVault and Suvada's terms will be up in December of 2022. He stated that they would need to submit a letter requesting continuance if they desired to remain on the board. Alden noted that there was interest in the building north of The Butcher's Wife for a tanning salon. Alden gave an update on the property known as Rosco's and the possibility of utilizing MEDC gap funds for development.

9. Public Comment

Dixon asked for agenda items for the next meeting. Items included EGLE update by Alden.

10. Adjournment

Dixon asked for adjournment. A motion of adjournment was made Reilly and Cook seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:47PM.



Chairperson, Don Dixon

11-21-2022

Date

Secretary, Jennie Walker

Date

Higgins Township

November 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Higgins Township Board was brought to order by Supervisor Curnalia at 7:00 pm on Monday, November 14th, 2022, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Supervisor Curnalia, Clerk Borgula, Treasurer Sullivan, Trustee Peters and Trustee Jennette

Interested persons in attendance: Sue Jock from RARA

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda: Motioned by Clerk Borgula and Treasurer Sullivan to accept the consent agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Higgins Township Board resolution to approve the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027 *see attached resolution*

▶ The meeting was opened up to the public at 7:10 pm. Motion made by Trustee Jennette and seconded by Supervisor Curnalia to approve the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027 resolution.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Supervisor Curnalia, Clerk Borgula, Treasurer Sullivan, Trustee Peters and Trustee Jennette

Nays: None

Absent: None

Resolution passed and adopted on November 14, 2022

Regular board meeting commenced at 7:12 pm.

New Business:

Library Board- Motion made Trustee Jennette and Treasurer Sullivan to approve the reappointment of Ann Jordan and June Karjalainan for the Roscommon Area District Library Board. All ayes. Motion carried.

Natural Rivers Board Member- Motion made by Treasurer Sullivan and Clerk Borgula to approve Tom Jennette to be on the Natural Rivers Board. All ayes. Motion carried. Trustee Peters expressed willingness to be on the board if they need another member from the Higgins Township Board.

Master Plan- Planning Commission hasn't finished reviewing the Master Plan yet.

Sprinkler System- Motion Made by Supervisor Curnalia and Treasurer Sullivan to approve the renewal of the 3-year contract from Prescription Rain Irrigation at \$400 for each of the Township Hall and Fire Department. All ayes. Motion carried.


ARPA Funds:

Sewer Line Repair- Motion made by Treasurer Sullivan and Clerk Borgula to use the ARPA funds for the repair of the Township Hall sewer line, totaling \$1650.00. All ayes. Motion carried.

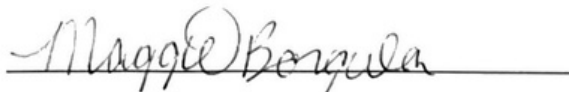
Fire/ EMS Bonuses- The Board is interested in using ARPA funds to give eligible employees in the Higgins Township Fire Department a \$500 bonus. The criteria will be dictated by Chief Mephram. Motion made by Trustee Peters and Treasurer Sullivan for the use of ARPA funds for to give eligible employees if the Higgins Township Fire Department a \$500 bonus. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Motion made by Clerk Borgula and seconded by Trustee Jennette to adjourn the meeting at 7:30. All ayes. Motion carried.



William Curnalia, Supervisor



Maggie Borgula, Clerk

These minutes are subject to change/amendment at the next regular meeting of the Higgins Township Board on Monday, December 5th 2022 at 7:00 pm. Minutes written by Clerk Borgula

VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON
Minutes of the November 14, 2022

Public Hearing

President Michael Miller called the Public Hearing to order at 6:45 pm. Members of the Council present: Michael Miller, Dan Fishel, Tony Medina, Maureen Ruddy, Heather Roemer, and Angela Cook. Joanne Lederman was absent/excused. Others present - Manager Ron Alden, and Clerk Frances Dawson, Debbie Emery, Tammy Menghini, Dan Scow, Krista Tacey-Cater, Sue Jock.

- ▶ Motion to approve Special Agenda for RARA Public Hearing by Roemer, seconded by Medina. Ayes: Cook, Miller, Ruddy, Fishel, Roemer, Medina. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow the public to question and make comments regarding the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027.

Motion to adjourn Public Hearing at 6:49 pm by Ruddy, seconded by Cook. All in favor. Motion carried.



Michael Miller
Village President



Frances Dawson
Village Clerk



Roscommon Area Recreation Authority (RARA)

November 21, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chair S. Jock at 7:00 p.m. at the AuSable River Center.

Board Members Present: Sue Jock, Connie Allen, Steve Hines, Derek Smitz

Excused: Eric Hart, Cheri Hutek, Kerrie Williams

Guests: Jory Klumpp, RARA Director, Hunter Mires

Public Comment: None

Minutes of the September 21, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as presented, motion S. Hines, 2nd D. Smitz, motion carried.

Treasurer Report – Attached. Motion to approve the Treasurers report as presented D. Smitz, 2nd C. Allen, motion carried.

Correspondence: None

▶ **OPEN MEETING:** Open meeting at 7:03 available for public input for the 2023-2027 5 Year Recreation Open Space Master Plan, meeting closed by motion from Connie Allen, second by Steve Hinds with no additional input.

Old Business:

- 2023-2027 5 Year Recreation Open Space Master Plan – Motion to approve/accept S. Hines, 2nd D. Smitz, motion approved. That the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority adopts the Village of Roscommon, Higgins Township and Roscommon Area Recreation Authority Plan 2023-2027, Resolution will be signed and submitted.
- CRAF Center – New doors and door wall installed at front of the building allowing public access to restrooms during community events. Fifteen thousand of the \$16,995 was funded by Roscommon DDA.
- 2023 Gazebo Concert – Grant request submitted to MCACA by J. Klumpp for \$3,500 for 2023 concert series approved.
- AuSable River Center - Reindeer Run / Baby It's Cold Outside – Events to be held December 3, in conjunction with Christmas in the Village Saturday. Currently 48 signed up for Reindeer Run which will be held at 3:00 PM. Roscommon County Sheriff's Department will assist in street closures. Baby Cold Outside will begin at 7:00 PM, tickets \$15 per person, includes beer/wine, hors d'oeuvres from Beachwood Cafe, and entertainment. Note: Santa Train will be on the tracks in front of the ARC from 2:30 to 4:00 PM.
-

Kitchen renovation is coming along; snowshoe, 2-day build a pair clinic, a great success; inside Farmers' Market / Craft venue inside, first one held November 19, great success. The Market will be held monthly throughout the winter. A suggestion was made to have a display of rental info available during ARC events/usage.

- Metro Park – Plans submitted by Fleis & VanderBrink reviewed. Layout design includes parking, Pump

Track, Splash Pad, hiking/walking trail. Estimated cost for the Pump Track 240,000, Splash Pad (2200

sq. ft.) \$170,000 pad, \$15,000 concrete pad. Hiking path of crushed aggregate. Estimated total pending. Grants will be partial funding source. Motion C. Allen, 2nd S. Hines to procure Pump Track engineering plans from Velo Solutions in the amount of \$9,000. Motion carried.

- Gahagan Nature Preserve – 34-Acre land acquisition to be placed in a conservation easement with Headwaters Land Conservancy.

New Business:

- CRAF Center – Urgent restoration of COOR Classroom. Ceiling collapsed, usage moved to other areas

until repairs are being completed. ServPro tested for asbestos and mold, all clear. We will replace drop ceiling using much of the existing material.

- CRAF Center – Motion to increase hourly wages for CRAF Center employees to \$14 per hour by C. Allen, 2nd D. Hines, motion carried.

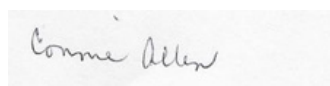
- RARA – 2023 Meeting Dates: Thursday, February 2; Wednesday, March 15; Wednesday, May 17; Wednesday, July 19; Wednesday September 20; Wednesday, November 8.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m., motion S. Hines, 2nd D. Smitz, motion carried. Next

meeting is

scheduled for February 2, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie Allen

HIGGINS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027

WHEREAS: The Roscommon Village Council and the Higgins Township Board has appointed a committee to assess, plan and draft the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027, and

WHEREAS: The plan has been available for public comment for more than thirty days, and

WHEREAS: The Planning Commission for Higgins Township has held a public meeting to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the plan, and they have determined that the plan furthers the goals of the township and village's master plan for recreation, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the Higgins Township Planning Commission approves a RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027 as a guide for improving the recreation for the residents and visitors to HIGGINS TOWNSHIP AND THE VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON.

YEAS: *GRAALAND, MacKINDLER, PETERS, Smith*

NAYS: *0*

ABSENT: *LENNETTE*

I, Jim Smith, Chairperson for Higgins Township Planning Commission do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Higgins Township Planning Commission at a regular meeting held on October 5th, 2022.

Jim Smith
Jim Smith, Planning Commission Chairperson

10-5-2022
Date

VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON
PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027

WHEREAS: The Roscommon Village Council and the Higgins Township Board has appointed a committee to assess, plan and draft the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027, and

WHEREAS: The plan has been available for public comment for more than thirty days, and

WHEREAS: The Village of Roscommon Planning Commission has held a public meeting to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the plan, and they have determined that the plan furthers the goals of the township and village's master plan for recreation, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the Village of Roscommon-Planning Commission approves a RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027 as a guide for improving the recreation for the residents and visitors to HIGGINS TOWNSHIP AND THE VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON.

YEAS: *DIXON, REILLY, COOK, DEVANEY*

NAYS: *NONE*

ABSENT: *SUVADA*

I, *D. Dixon*, Chairperson for Planning Commission for Village of Roscommon do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Village or Roscommon Planning Commission at a regular meeting held on October 17th, 2022.



Planning Commission Chairperson

10-17-22
Date

HIGGINS TOWNSHIP BOARD
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027

WHEREAS: The Roscommon Village Council and the Higgins Township Board has appointed a committee to assess, plan and draft the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027, and

WHEREAS: The plan has been available for public comment for more than thirty days, and

WHEREAS: Higgins Township has held a public meeting to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the plan, and they have determined that the plan furthers the goals of the township and village's master plan for recreation, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the Higgins Township Board approves the RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027 as a guide for improving the recreation for the residents and visitors to HIGGINS TOWNSHIP AND THE VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON.

Motion made by Trustee Jennette and seconded by Supervisor Curnalia to approve the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027 resolution.

Roll Call Vote:


YEAS: Supervisor Curnalia, Clerk Borgula, Treasurer Sullivan, Trustee Peters and Trustee Jennette

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

I, Margaret Borgula, Clerk for Higgins Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a Resolution adopted by the Higgins Township Board at a regular meeting thereof held on November 14th, 2022.



Margaret Borgula, Clerk

November 14, 2022

Dated

VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027

WHEREAS: The Roscommon Village Council and the Higgins Township Board has appointed a committee to assess, plan and draft the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027, and

WHEREAS: The plan has been available for public comment for more than thirty days, and

WHEREAS: The Village of Roscommon have held a public meeting to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the plan, and they have determined that the plan furthers the goals of the township and village's master plan for recreation, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the Roscommon Village Council approves the RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027 as a guide for improving the recreation for the residents and visitors to HIGGINS TOWNSHIP AND THE VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON.

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1

I, Frances Dawson, Clerk for the Village of Roscommon, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a Resolution adopted by the Roscommon Village Council at a regular meeting thereof held on November 14th, 2022.


Frances Dawson, Clerk

11-14-2022
Dated

Roscommon Area Recreation Authority
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027

WHEREAS: The Roscommon Area Recreation Authority, Village Council and the Higgins Township Board has appointed a committee to assess, plan and draft the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027, and

WHEREAS: The plan has been available for public comment for more than thirty days, and

WHEREAS: The Roscommon Area Recreation Authority has held a public meeting to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the plan, and they have determined that the plan furthers the goals of the township and village's master plan for recreation, and


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority approves the RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023-2027 as a guide for improving the recreation for the residents and visitors to HIGGINS TOWNSHIP AND THE VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON.

YEAS: 4

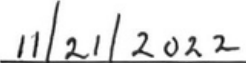
NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 3

I, Connie Allen, secretary for the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a Resolution adopted by the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority board at a regular meeting thereof held on November 21th, 2022.



Connie Allen, Secretary



Dated



Roscommon Area Recreation Authority
606 Lake Street
Roscommon, MI 48653

December 20, 2022

Roscommon County Planning Commission
500 Lake Street
Roscommon, MI 48653

Planning Commission Members:

Enclosed you will find the Higgins Township, Village of Roscommon and Roscommon Area Recreation Authority's Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027. The plan was formally adopted by the three entities at their November meetings. We invite you and your colleagues at the planning commission to peruse the document. It is also available for viewing and downloading at the village and RARA websites, www.roscommonfillage.com and www.roscorec.org.

Many of the projects proposed over the next five years will have implications beyond the village limits. We have added this addendum that will add opportunity to our current Recreation Master Plan.

If you have any comments or questions about this document, please feel free to contact us at the village, township or recreation authority. At the request of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, please forward a copy of your comments to Grants Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30425, Lansing MI 48909-7925.

For any further questions or information please don't hesitate to contact me:

Email: rmrauthority@gmail.com

Cell: 989-390-3816.


Sue Jock
Chairperson of the RARA

CRAF Center, Gahagan Nature Preserve, AuSable River Center, Metro Park and Community Recreation
989-275-4975 or rmrauthority@gmail.com



Roscommon Area Recreation Authority
606 Lake Street
Roscommon, MI 48653

December 20, 2022

Sue Fortune, Executive Director
3144 Davenport Avenue
Suite 200
Saginaw, MI 48602
EMCOG Planning Staff:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Higgins Township, Village of Roscommon Park and Roscommon Area Recreation Authority's, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023-2027. The plan was formally adopted by the entities at their meetings in November. We invite you and your colleagues at the NEMCOG to peruse the document. It is also available for viewing and downloading on the village and recreation authority websites, roscommonvillage.com and www.roscorec.org.

Many of the projects proposed over the next five years will have implications beyond the Township limits. We have included various recreation opportunities from around the area. We also would appreciate any assistance that EMCOG could provide for recreation infrastructure improvements in our community.

If you have any comments or questions about this document, please feel free to contact us at the township, village or recreation authority. Also, at the request of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, please forward a copy of your comments to Grants Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

For any further questions or information please don't hesitate to contact me:

Email: rmrauthority@gmail.com

Cell: 989-390-3816.

Sincerely,

Sue Lock

Chairperson of the RARA

CRAF Center, Gahagan Nature Preserve, AuSable River Center, Metro Park and Community Recreation
989-275-4975 or rmrauthority@gmail.com

