



Wexford County

RECREATION AND BUILDING COMMITTEE

Julie Theobald, Chair

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Recreation and Building Committee of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 06, 2023, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room, third floor, Historic Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- E. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 02, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES..... 1
- F. PUBLIC COMMENTS
The Committee welcomes all public input.
- G. AGENDA ITEMS
 - 1. Maintenance Report (*A. Kerr*)
 - 2. Civic Center Report (*M. Figliomeni*)
 - 3. Recreation Plan 3
 - 4. Pinnacle Park Discussion
- H. CORRESPONDENCE
- I. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS
- J. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- K. COMMITTEE COMMENTS
- L. CHAIR COMMENTS
- M. ADJOURN

WEXFORD COUNTY
RECREATION & BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 02, 2023

The Recreation and Building Committee regular meeting was called to order by Chair Julie Theobald at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room, Historic Courthouse, 437 E. Division St. Cadillac, Michigan.

Members Present: Julie Theobald, Jason Baughan, Jason Mitchell, and Ben Townsend
Members Absent: None
Also Present: Mathew Cooke, Networks Northwest; Jami Bigger, Deputy Administrator/HR Director; and Megan Kujawa, Sr. Exec. Admin. Assistant

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Added: G.4. December Meeting Change Discussion

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Comm. Townsend and supported by Comm. Mitchell to approve the agenda, as amended. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed, 4-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made Comm. Baughan and supported by Comm. Townsend to approve the October 05, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

G.1. Maintenance Report

Mr. Adam Kerr, Maintenance Director, was unable to attend. A report was provided at the meeting. The report was reviewed. The lights are going up for Operation Greenlight for Veterans.

G.2. Civic Center Report

Mr. Mike Figliomeni, Boon Sports Management, was unable to attend. A report was provided at the meeting.

G.3. Recreation Plan Discussion

Mr. Cooke from Networks Northwest was present. Mr. Cooke reviewed the plan with the committee and stated that the plan is being released for public comment for the next 30 days. Mr. A public hearing will be held at the Board of Commissioners meeting on December 06, 2023. Mr. Cooke will publish the public hearing notice.

G.4. December Meeting Change Discussion

Chair Theobald stated that for December's meeting she will be out of town for a conference and asked that the meeting be moved to December 06, 2023 at 3:00p.m.

A motion was made by Comm. Baughan and supported by Comm. Mitchell to hold the December meeting on December 06, 2023 at 3:00pm. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed, 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS

Ms. Bigger informed the committee that there was a leak in the server room. Mr. Porterfield and Mr. Kerr were able to take care of it and there was no damage to the servers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

All committee members thanked Mr. Cooke for his work on the Recreation Plan

CHAIR COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Comm. Mitchell and supported by Comm. Baughan to adjourn the meeting at 4:23 p.m. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed, 4-0.

Julie Theobald, Chair

Megan Kujawa, Recording Secretary

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners, held at the Wexford County Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan on the sixth day of December 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23 – 21
WEXFORD COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN 2024 – 2028**

WHEREAS, Wexford County has undertaken a 5-Year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and goals and actions for improving and maintaining recreational facilities during the five year period covering 2024 through 2028; and,

WHEREAS, Wexford County has developed the Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and,

WHEREAS, input was received through Buildings and Recreation Committee meetings, a survey, five pop-up public input events, one community input session, a public comment period (held between November 3, 2023 to December 4, 2023), and a public hearing held on December 6, 2023 to obtain input on recreation needs and opportunities, and all other aspects of the recreation plan; and,

WHEREAS, Wexford County has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire community,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Wexford County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Wexford County Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the County.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Gary Taylor, Chairman, Wexford County Board of Commissioners

Alaina Nyman, Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF WEXFORD)

I hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution 23-21 adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Wexford County at a regular meeting held on December 06, 2023, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Alaina Nyman, Clerk



Wexford County
Parks and Recreation Plan
2024-2028 Public Comment Draft

Acknowledgments

Prepared by:

Wexford County
Recreation and Buildings Committee

Julie Theobald, Chair
Jason Baughan
Jason Mitchell
Ben Townsend

Adopted by:

Wexford County
Board of Commissioners
on XXXXXXXX XX, XXXX

Gary Taylor, Chairman – District #7
Michael Bush, Vice Chairman – District #5
Jason Mitchell – District #1
Michael Musta – District #2
Ben Townsend – District #3
Kathleen Adams – District #4
Julie Theobald – District #6
Jason Baughan – District #8
Brian Potter – District #9

Prepared with assistance from:



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Introduction



Wexford County

Home to the Huron-Manistee National Forest and the Pere Marquette State Forest, nearly 80% of the County’s land cover is forested, with about 41% of its total acreage managed by the National Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Nearly 15% of the County’s surface area consists of water features, which include several major lakes and a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. These assets provide Wexford County residents and visitors with countless year-round opportunities for activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, or horseback riding.

The County’s lakes, rivers, forests, trails, community events, and recreation programming provide other benefits as well. Recreation activities and events bring residents and visitors together, fostering opportunities for cultural activities, education, and civic engagement. They promote public health and wellness by encouraging opportunities for physical activity, which is critical in staying healthy, reducing stress fighting obesity, and preventing chronic health conditions.

Parks also act, increasingly, as economic drivers, raising property values, drawing new residents to the community, and encouraging new development and tourism. Because of the

important role it plays in the community’s quality of life and desirability, recreation improvements and enhancements support and encourage—and in some cases, create—new investment and economic development.

To help guide with future recreation improvements, the Wexford County Board of Commissioners contracted with Networks Northwest to revise their 2019-2023 Parks and Recreation Plan, with an emphasis on public input opportunities. This plan presents an evaluation of the County’s parks and recreation opportunities and community needs. It is intended to identify the County’s highest recreation priorities and to offer an implementation road map for the recreation goals and objectives identified by the community.

The Plan is organized as follows:

Chapter 1. Administrative Structure, summarizes the process through which recreation decisions are made.

Chapter 2. Community Description, includes information regarding the County’s population, natural features, and other community information.

Chapter 3. Recreation Inventory itemizes the County’s existing recreational facilities.

Chapter 4. Planning and Public Input, explains

how public input was gathered and used in developing and prioritizing recreation goals, objectives, and action program, and identifies recreation goals of existing county plans for consideration and in goals, objectives, and actions.

Chapter 5. Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan describes proposed recreation goals and improvements, and suggests specific implementation activities to achieve those goals.

DNR Recreation Planning Guidelines

This Plan was developed according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans.

Through its recreation grants program, currently funded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides financial assistance to communities that would like to purchase land for parks, or are planning to improve or develop recreation facilities.

To be eligible to apply for these grant programs, a community must have a 5-year recreation plan, approved by the DNR, that meets certain requirements. This Recreation Plan was developed to comply with all MDNR requirements for recreation plans.

1. Administrative Structure

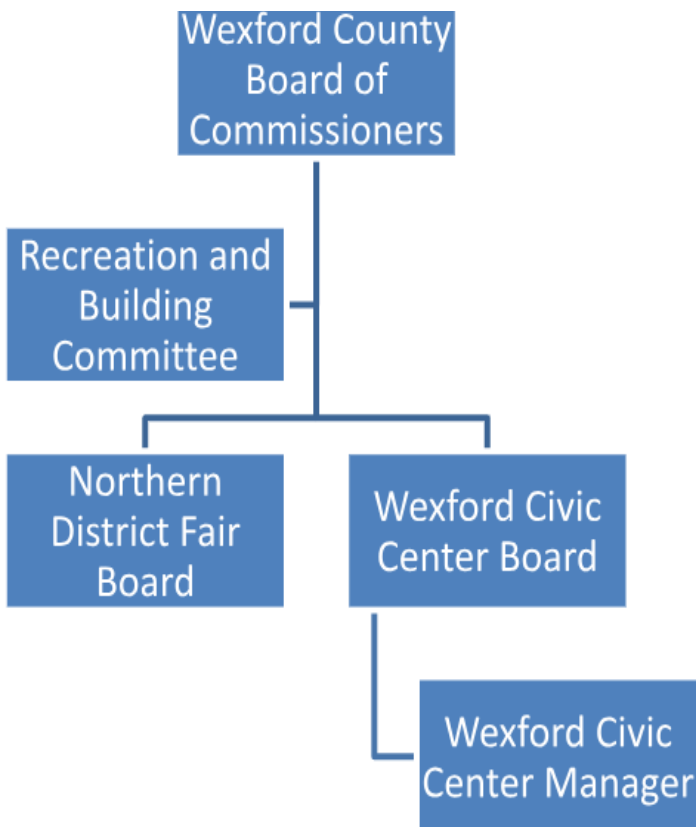


Figure 1 Wexford County Administrative Structure

Organizational Structure

The Wexford County parks and recreation system are guided by the Board of Commissioners with recommendations from the standing Recreation and Building Committee. The County Board of Commissioners is responsible for adopting budgets, approving contracts, adopting policy, and the oversight of staff. The Recreation and Building Committee assists with the oversight of budgets, planning, staffing, and other issues related to the County's parks, recreation, and facilities.

While there is not a formal Parks and Recreation Department, the County Administration Department assists the Board of Commissioners and Recreation and Building Committee to carry out directives, planning, and projects related to the parks and recreation system.

Staff, Relationship with Volunteers and Community Organizations

Under contract with the County through 2028, Boone Sports Management oversees the

maintenance and operations of the Wexford Civic Center (locally referred to as The Wex) and the maintenance of the Civic Center facilities.

Boone Sports Management staff The Wex with a full time facility manager who is charged with the day to day operations, promotions and marketing, and the maintenance of the grounds and facility with assistance from 15-20 part time employees. Civic center users and other community groups continue to provide support for the facility.

Wexford County also partners with the Northern District Fair Board for the use of the fair grounds and facilities at the Fairgrounds and Civic Center for 3 weeks every August. The County maintains the buildings that are located on the Fairgrounds.

Parks and Recreation Budget

The parks and recreation budget is funded by the general fund through taxes and State and Federal grant programs. Additional sources of funding include, but are not limited to Michigan DNR grant programs, Michigan Economic Development Council, millages, bonding, grants and foundations, donations or user fees.

Fiscal Year (Jan 1 - Dec 31)	Parks and Recreation Budget
2022	\$58,000
2023	\$58,000
2024 (Projected)	\$58,000

2. Community Description

Wexford County is located in the northwestern part of the Lower Peninsula, surrounded by Manistee, Grand Traverse, Missaukee, Osceola, and Lake Counties. Wexford County has two cities, three villages, and sixteen townships with separate boards and officials who make decisions at the local level.

The natural features and vast public land in Wexford County provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, including areas for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, skiing, and hiking, among others.

Population Characteristics

The County’s permanent population estimate in 2021 is 33,552 people. The population grew 2.8% since 2010. The southeast corner of the county is the population center. City of Cadillac and surrounding townships have the largest populations in the county: the city has 10,317, Haring Township has 3,528, Clam Lake Township has 2,827, Cherry Grove Township has 2,642, and Selma Township has 1,975.

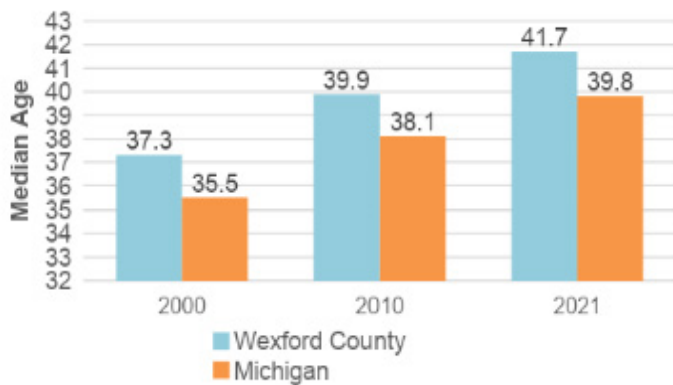
Wexford County and Municipalities Population Estimates, 2010-2021				
Municipality	2010 Population	2021 Population	Numeric Change	Percentage
Wexford County	32,653	33,552	899	2.8%
Village of Buckley	580	844	264	45.5%
Village of Harrietta	113	209	96	85%
Village of Mesick	454	373	-81	-17.8%
Antioch Township	660	870	210	31.8%
Boon Township	571	782	211	37%
Cedar Creek Township	1,644	1,732	88	5.4%
Cherry Grove Township	2,488	2,642	154	6.2%
Clam Lake Township	2,593	2,827	234	9%
Colfax Township	897	989	92	10.3%
Greenwood Township	562	618	56	10%
Hanover Township	1,364	1,691	327	24%
Haring Township	3,167	3,528	361	11.4%
Henderson Township	168	217	49	29.2%
Liberty Township	891	824	-67	-7.5%
Selma Township	2,196	1,975	-221	-10.1%
Slagle Township	595	439	-156	-26.2%
South Branch Township	303	272	-31	-10.2%
Springville Township	1,780	1,579	-201	-11.3%
Wexford Township	934	955	21	2.2%
City of Cadillac	10,384	10,317	-67	-0.6%
City of Manton	1,456	1,295	-161	-11.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Yr Estimates

Age and Household Characteristics

The age of a community’s residents is an important factor in determining recreation needs. Communities can work to provide diverse recreation opportunities to accommodate the varying abilities and interests of residents at different stages of life.

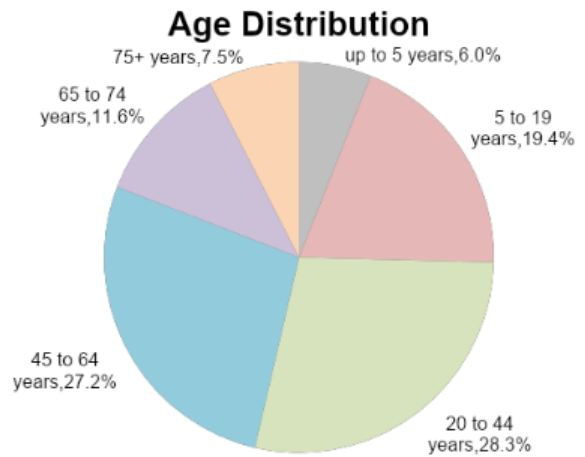
The median age divides the age distribution into two equal parts; half of the cases fall below the median value and half are above the median value. Wexford County’s 2021 median age is 41.7, about two years older than the state median age (39.8). The median age of Wexford County and the State of Michigan has been steadily increasing since 2000.



The total 2021 Wexford County population is broken down into the following age groups:

Category	Age	Total	Percent
Preschool	Under Age 5	2,012	6%
School Age	Age 5 to 19	6,506	19.4%
Family Forming	Age 20 to 44	9,481	28.9%
Empty Nest	Age 45 to 64	9,136	27.8%
Senior	Age 65 to 74	3,888	11.6%
Elderly	Age over 75	2,529	7.5%

The majority of county population (28.3%) is in the family forming age group, between the ages of 20 to 44. The second largest group is empty nester’s (27.2%) between the ages of 45 to 64. The third largest group are youth, ages birth to 19 years old (25.4%). The median age and the



age cohorts describe an aging population where the empty nest and senior population groups will continue to grow.

As individuals age, the need increases for facilities that accommodate passive recreation such as walking. Barrier-free access and universally accessible to recreation is particularly important for persons with a disability as well as senior and elderly adults. Barrier-free access and universally accessible to recreation such as hard-surface pathways and accessible kayak launches allows aging seniors and the elderly access to activities they might not otherwise enjoy. Additionally, all recreation facilities should adhere to standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act for barrier-free access.

The youth population groups (preschool and school aged) are holding steady at 25.4% when compared to the 19 and under population in the previous plan. Youth-oriented recreation opportunities will continue to be important for both current residents and as an amenity to draw new families to the county.

Income and Poverty

When planning for recreation, it is important to ensure that activities and amenities in the community are within the financial means of the majority of residents. The American Community Survey reports that 2021 per capita income in Wexford County was \$27,772, compared to \$34,768 the statewide per capita income. In 2021, the median household income in the county was \$54,114, which is 16.8% below the state’s median household income of \$63,202.

8.9% of all families in Michigan had income below the poverty level; similarly, 8.1% of all families in Wexford County had income below the poverty level.

Families in Wexford County and throughout the nation are dealing with higher prices of goods and services due to rising inflation levels as well as disruptions to the food supply chain (GAO Office, 2023). “While food prices generally increased about 2% in prior years, they increased about 11% from 2021 to 2022.” In 2022, the annual inflation rate 6.5%, as measured by the consumer price index, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Prices for eggs, butter and margarine, lettuce, white bread, and dairy and related products rose dramatically. Lower income residents can face greater challenges in accessing recreation, and providing recreational opportunities to those with limited means is an important consideration when planning for recreation in Wexford County.

	Wexford County	State Average
Number of Households	13,002	4,029,761 (total households)
Labor Force Participation Rate	57%	61%
ALICE Households	31%	26%
Households in Poverty	14%	13%
Source: 2021 United for ALICE Wexford County Report		

ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Many struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can’t afford the essentials. In Wexford County

Seasonal Population

Like many northwest Michigan communities, Wexford County experiences an influx of seasonal residents and tourists throughout the year. However, the decennial Census and the American Community Survey only consistently and comprehensively track the permanent population.

Networks Northwest’s 2022 Seasonal Population Study for Northwest Lower Michigan analyzed the 2020 seasonal population for the ten counties in northwest Michigan: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford. The study collected data for permanent and part-time residents and overnight visitors in accommodations and short-term rentals (STRs) by county.

Northwest Lower Michigan’s permanent base population is 310,802 and expands to include its largest amount of part-time residents and overnight visitors in July at an estimated total of 676,052 persons, a 118% increase.

Wexford County is the least-seasonal county in the region, with the total population change of 42% between 40,879 in the month of February and 58,168 in July. The permanent population represents roughly 78% of the total population in the off-season and 61% of the total population in the on-season. The seasonal growth of the county is driven by people staying in traditional accommodation businesses (hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts, campgrounds, etc.). Table 5 illustrates the monthly estimated differences between the permanent population and seasonal residents/overnight visitors for the county.

Land Use and Planning

Any recreational expansion or newly-created recreational facilities should be coordinated with the community to ensure appropriate location for the proposed activity, and consistency with the township, village, or city master plan and zoning ordinances as applicable. The Wexford Joint Planning Commission reviews land use and

Wexford County Seasonal Population													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Permanent Population	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	33,673	
Combined Part-time and Over-night Population	7,799	7,206	10,952	11,196	19,258	22,637	24,495	24,388	19,273	13,028	11,297	7,737	14,939
Total Seasonal Population	41,472	40,879	44,625	44,869	52,931	56,310	58,168	58,061	52,946	46,701	44,970	41,410	48,612
Percent Change	23%	21%	33%	33%	57%	67%	73%	72%	57%	39%	34%	23%	

zoning decisions for the following jurisdictions: Antioch Township, Boon Township, Cherry Grove Township, Hanover Township, Liberty Township, Selma Township, Slagle Township, South Branch Township, Springville Township, and Wexford Township.

Transportation

Wexford County is served by six state/federal highways including US-131, Old US-131/ Business US-131, M-115, M-55, M-37, and M-42. The Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority, or WexExpress, is a door-to-door public transit service for residents and visitors of Wexford County. The WexExpress also provides regional transportation with daily trips to/from Traverse City.

Additionally, the Wexford County Airport, owned by the City of Cadillac and Wexford County, is open to the public and is a general aviation airport. It is located two miles north of the City of Cadillac. Wexford County is also serviced by the Great Lakes Railway Company from Clare, Mt. Pleasant, Midland and points north to Traverse City, Yuma, and toward Petoskey. The railway north of Yuma (a settlement in Springville Township within Wexford County) has been removed.

Trails

Trail facilities enhance recreation opportunities, and provide a unique opportunity to combine physical activity with transportation, linking destinations while providing alternatives to motorized transportation. Trail development and connections between existing trails are increasingly recognized as important economic strategies, generating tourism and visitor spending, and even drawing new residents.

Access to a diverse and vast trail network is especially great in Wexford County. The County hosts a number of both motorized and non-motorized trail systems. Information on the specific trails is provided in Chapter 3, Recreation Inventory. Snowmobiles and off-road vehicles (ORVs) are authorized to use road shoulders on County road rights-of-way, and a number of motorized trails are available on the County's public land. Trail opportunities for ORVs were recently expanded with Public Act 288 of 2016, which opens state forest roads to ORV use unless posted.

Natural Features

The natural resources of Wexford County are vital to the economic health and quality of life of area residents. The abundance of quality public

forest land and water resources make this area a popular tourism destination, particularly for hunters, fishermen, and snowmobilers, and are an invaluable asset in attracting new visitors and investment to the area.

Topography

About 50 percent of Wexford County is made up of rolling to steep glacial moraines, with most of the remainder undulating or nearly level glacial out wash plains. The highest point in Wexford County is Briar Hill at 1,706 feet elevation.

Soils

The main soil types found in Wexford County include:

Sandy Soils. Nearly level to steep, somewhat excessively drained and well drained sandy soils. Not fertile, thus not productive for crops or trees. Fast leaching, which tends to make groundwater vulnerable to contamination from the surface. These include: Rubicon-Montcalm-Graycalm, Grayling, Graycalm, Kalkaska, Croswell sand, and Pits.

Sandy Loam Soils. Nearly level, undulating, to steep, well drained loamy and sandy soils. These include: Emmet-Montcalm and Hodenpyl-Karlin.

Loam and Clay-Loam Soils. Nearly level to steep well drained and somewhat poorly drained loamy and sandy soils. Tends to be the more fertile, productive soils. Also tends to be soils that are problems for use of on site sewage disposal systems. This includes: Nester-Kawkawlin-Manistee

Wetland and Flood Plain Soils. Nearly level and undulating, very poorly drained and moderately well drained mucky and sandy soils in bogs, depressions, drainage ways. These soils include: Tawas-Croswell Lupton, Au Gres-Finch sands, Allendale loamy sand, Fluvaquents and Histosols, and Winterfield sands.

Vegetative Cover

The forests of Wexford County include hemlock

and other coniferous trees, such as red and white pine, spruce and fir, and deciduous trees, such as birch, beech, maple, basswood, and oak. Swamp and wetland vegetation patterns are also found along with a multitude of shrubs. As a result of intensive lumbering in the past, most of these forested areas are second growth and, to some degree, the original forest habitat patterns have been altered.

Forest cover types represent the largest land cover in Wexford County. The three principal segments are the United States Manistee National Forest, the Michigan Pere Marquette State Forest and the large tracts of land owned by Consumers Energy (formerly Consumers Power) along the Manistee River. All of these areas are under some degree of woodland-wildlife-recreation management plan.

Water Resources

The County is divided between two major watersheds, or drainage areas: the Big Manistee River and the Muskegon River (Clam River/Lakes Cadillac/Mitchell). Both flow into Lake Michigan. Much of the County is within the watershed of the Big Manistee River/Pine River.

Wexford County' surface waters are major attractions for recreation and tourism. The Big Manistee River and the Pine River, a federal Wild and Scenic River, run through Wexford County. The lower 26-miles of the Pine River was designated a National Scenic River in 1992. The Pine River has the fastest average flow of any river in lower Michigan. The Manistee has had a long standing reputation for being a top quality trout stream, and provides cold water habitat for over 75 species of fish, including trout and salmon.

There are a large number of named and unnamed feeder creeks to the Big Manistee River in the north central part of Wexford County, which represents artesian flow from groundwater moving north from the glacial hills toward the river.

Major Lakes in Wexford County include:

- Lake Mitchell
- Lake Cadillac
- Hodenpyl Dam Pond
- Long Lake
- Lake Gitchegume
- Pleasant Lake
- Stone Ledge Lake
- Lake Meauwataka (Dayhuff Lake)
- Berry Lake
- Woodward Lake
- Round Lake

The streams in Wexford County are quality trout streams because of abundant groundwater discharge into the surface water resulting in cold water streams. The protection of groundwater and riparian zones is therefore important for maintaining and protecting the County's fisheries.

Climate

Wexford County seldom experiences prolonged periods of hot, humid weather in the summer or extreme cold during winter due to the movement of pressure systems across the nation. Wexford County is located about 21 to 28 miles east of Lake Michigan.

As a result of prevailing westerly winds, crossing Lake Michigan, Wexford County experiences a lake effect influence on the weather. The lake effect is mainly in the winter, providing increased cloudiness and snowfall. With northeast winds the sky may clear and provide lower temperatures more commonly experienced at interior locations.

The lake effect has almost no effect in the summer, or for agricultural purposes. Wexford's climate is characterized by larger temperature ranges than in areas at the same latitude near the Great Lakes.



3. Recreation Inventory



Recreation Inventor

Units of government and businesses are essential to Wexford County by providing residents and visitors recreational opportunities across the County. Parks and recreation opportunities improve quality of life by promoting health and wellness and protecting the environment while supporting economic development by attracting tourists and business.

Examining the opportunities and facilities available outside of what the County owns assists with understanding where opportunity for improvement lies and determining future needs and projects. Map XX shows both County owned assets as well as those within the County (see Chart XX). County-owned sites were inventoried to provide information on facility type, size, service area, amenities, events, and accessibility. This inventory was accomplished through site visits, interviews with staff, public meetings, and previous plan documents.

Accessibility Evaluation

The accessibility evaluations for the Wexford County parks and recreational facilities were

completed as part of the recreation inventory with assistance from County staff and Boon Sports Management. The evaluations were conducted using the criteria provided in the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community

Parks and Recreation Plans.

These criteria are based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. To assist with the assessments, the planning committee referenced the New England ADA Center “Checklists.”

The following ADA Ranking system was used for the evaluations:

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

Grant Inventory

Wexford County has received one recreation grant from the MDNR. A copy of the DNR Grant History, which includes descriptions of the grant, is included at the end of this chapter. The required Post Completion Self Inspection Reports are included in the Appendices.



The Ice Arena at The Wex is a single, regulation rink with seating for 500 in the bleachers known for being vital to hockey and figure skating programs. The Ice Arena hosts adult hockey leagues, high school practices and games, learn to skate programming, and public open skates. The ice is ready to skate on in October and is typically removed in April. When the ice is removed, the Arena is able to be used for other activities such as roller derby.

The Civic Arena and Auditorium provide space for public and private events such as banquets, concerts, trade shows, wedding receptions, and more. The Auditorium space is 20,000 square feet with bleacher seating for 1800 and additional chair seating up to 800 . Both the Ice Arena and Civic Arena have concession stands which are serviced by a commercial kitchen. The Civic Arena allows for activities to the public such as batting cages, basketball court, pickleball, and indoor walking during the winter.

The Wexford Civic Center and Northern District Fairgrounds

The Wex includes the Civic Arena and the Ice Arena, as well as the Northern District Fairgrounds on a 40 acre parcel just north of the City of Cadillac. The Wex is managed by Boone Sports Management Company who employ a full time Facility Manager, full time Events Manager, and 15-20 part-time staff. The property is utilized by members of the public and visitors as demonstrated by the Civic Center and Fairgrounds being the most used County parks.

The Wex continues to promote the use of space and increase activity which has led to community events being held at The Wex such as the annual Governors Breakfast, Wexford County Commission on Aging Senior Expo, Cadillac Pop Culture Con, Dancing with the Y Stars, as well as events such as gun and knife shows, fundraisers, meeting space, and sports banquets.



Northern District Fairgrounds

The Fairgrounds host community events, primarily the Northern District Fair but has also hosted demolition derbies and monster truck events among others. The Northern District Fair is put on by the Northern District Fair Board, a volunteer group made up of 13-15 board members (at normal levels).

Fair events have included the Farm Stock Tractor Pull, demolition derby, livestock

judging and market sales, battle of the bands, amusement park rides and games, and more. During the month of August when the Northern District Fair takes place, the Fair Board has access to the entire Civic Center property.

While still being considered for rehabilitation, the historic Octagonal Building remains on site along with a front office, a new and old horse barn, swine and beef barn, small animal barn, the VFW building, and a block outbuilding. The track and field has a grandstand with a 1000 person capacity for spectators as well as restrooms and a concession stand.



Pinoco Park

Pinoco Park is a 40 acre undeveloped parcel located in Boone Township, which services the entire County. An unpaved access road and turn-around area allow for access to the property, although it continues to not be well known or used by residents. The property was formerly owned by 4-H and MSU Extension until the County became the property owner in the late 1990s.

Pinoco Park Accessibility Rating - 1

Recreation Assets

As previously mentioned, a variety of recreation and park assets are available throughout the County. Local units of government within Wexford County maintain their own parks and recreation systems, as well as federal and state

land which contain trails, boat launches, and campgrounds among others.

In addition, non-profit organizations like the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy (CALC), whose mission is to “protect significant natural, scenic, and farm lands for current and future generations and fosters an appreciation for the environment in Missaukee, Osceola, Wexford, and northern Lake and Mason counties.”. CALC has four public preserves including Waldeck Island Nature Preserve, Oliver Family Nature Preserve, Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve, and the Kohn Family Nature Preserve. CALC also protects land by working with landowners through conservation easements, monitoring and stewardship of easement properties, and community outreach.

Private business also provides recreational opportunities in the County, such as Caberfae Peaks Ski & Golf Resort and Evergreen Resort. Wexford County also contains privately owned campgrounds, equestrian facilities, cross country and downhill skiing, snowmobile clubs, and golf courses.

State and Federal Land

The Huron-Manistee National Forests and Pere Marquette State Forest encompass hundreds or thousands of public land in and around Wexford

County. The United States Forest Service and State of Michigan are a big part of what makes Wexford County a four season playground. These public lands provide areas for rustic and improved camping, hunting, fishing, motorized and non-motorized trails public access to rivers and lakes, and opportunities for wildlife and bird watching.

Wexford County’s two National Scenic Rivers are surrounded by large areas of public land providing quality canoeing and kayaking, and fishing opportunities. Much of the land along the Pine River is owned and managed by the United States Forest Service, and much of the land along the Big Manistee is owned by the State of Michigan and Consumers Energy.

Trails

Public and stakeholder input received during the planning process indicates a strong interest in trail development in Wexford County. Comments most commonly addressed the need for more trails, including paved bike trails, ORV/ATV trails, horseback riding trails, and unpaved mountain biking trails; trail connections and extensions; improved maintenance; and more mapping/signage.

An understanding of trail systems in the area is important in identifying opportunities for trail linkages and enhancements. Wexford County is host to a number of significant trail systems, which are organized by use on the following page. Additionally, a number of regionally significant non-motorized trail systems are located just outside of the County, such as the Big M and Marzinski Equestrian Trail.

Snowmobile Trails

Snowmobiling is a popular winter activity for both residents and visitors. Some trails within the Manistee National Forest also permit snowmobile and ORV usage. The majority of snowmobiling is on the DNR Designated Snowmobile Trails, which are concentrated in the southern and western parts of the County. Staging areas are located along the routes. Snowmobiles are also allowed on the White Pine Trail. Cadillac Winter Promotions is a volunteer snowmobile trail grooming group sponsored by the State of Michigan. The group is responsible for maintaining and grooming around 200 miles of snowmobile trails.

ORV Trails - Long Lake Wexford Motorized Cycle Trail

This 27-mile ORV trail is motorcycle-only. The trail is sandy and mostly wooded. It is located south of Manton.

Missaukee Junction ORV Trail

Over 15 miles of ORV Trail located north of Cadillac on state land.

Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail

The Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail (MCCCT) covers hundreds of miles and connects many trail systems throughout Michigan's lower peninsula. The MCCCT trail is designed for off-road motorcycles and runs through Henderson, Boon, and Antioch Townships.

North Missaukee Trail/Route

The ORV Route and Trail run through the northwest corner of the County in Liberty Township. The Route is for ORVs of all sizes, where as the Trail is for ORVs 50 inches in width or less, including off-road motorcycles. The Route connects to the MCCCT.

Hiking, Biking, Cross-Country Ski Trails Cadillac Pathway

The Pathway has over 11 miles of maintained trail for non-motorized use. During the winter season, both the Cross Country Ski Trail and Winter Sports Trail are groomed by volunteers from the Friends of the Cadillac Pathway. During the non-winter months, the Pathway is used by hikers and bikers.

Clam River Greenway

This paved greenway in the City of Cadillac features a wooden boardwalk, sound garden, sun dial, gardens, and bridge opening to the Clam River. The Greenway connects Lake Cadillac trails to the Cadillac Area Sports Association Soccer & Baseball fields.

North Country Trail/Iron Belle Trail

The North Country Trail is a National Scenic Trail, stretching 4,600 miles over seven states, from New York to North Dakota. Ten national forests, and more than 150 public lands, the North Country Trail is the longest National Scenic Trail in the United States.

The Trail enters Wexford County in Springville Township and follows county roads until reaching a large block of public land along the

Big Manistee River. The trail follows the north side of the Manistee River to the east side of Wexford County, where it exits the County toward Fife Lake. The trail connects to the Manistee River Trail at Coates Highway to the South and the Suspension Bridge to the North. Hikers can continue on to Seaton Creek Campground and many primitive sites along the trail.

White Pine Trail

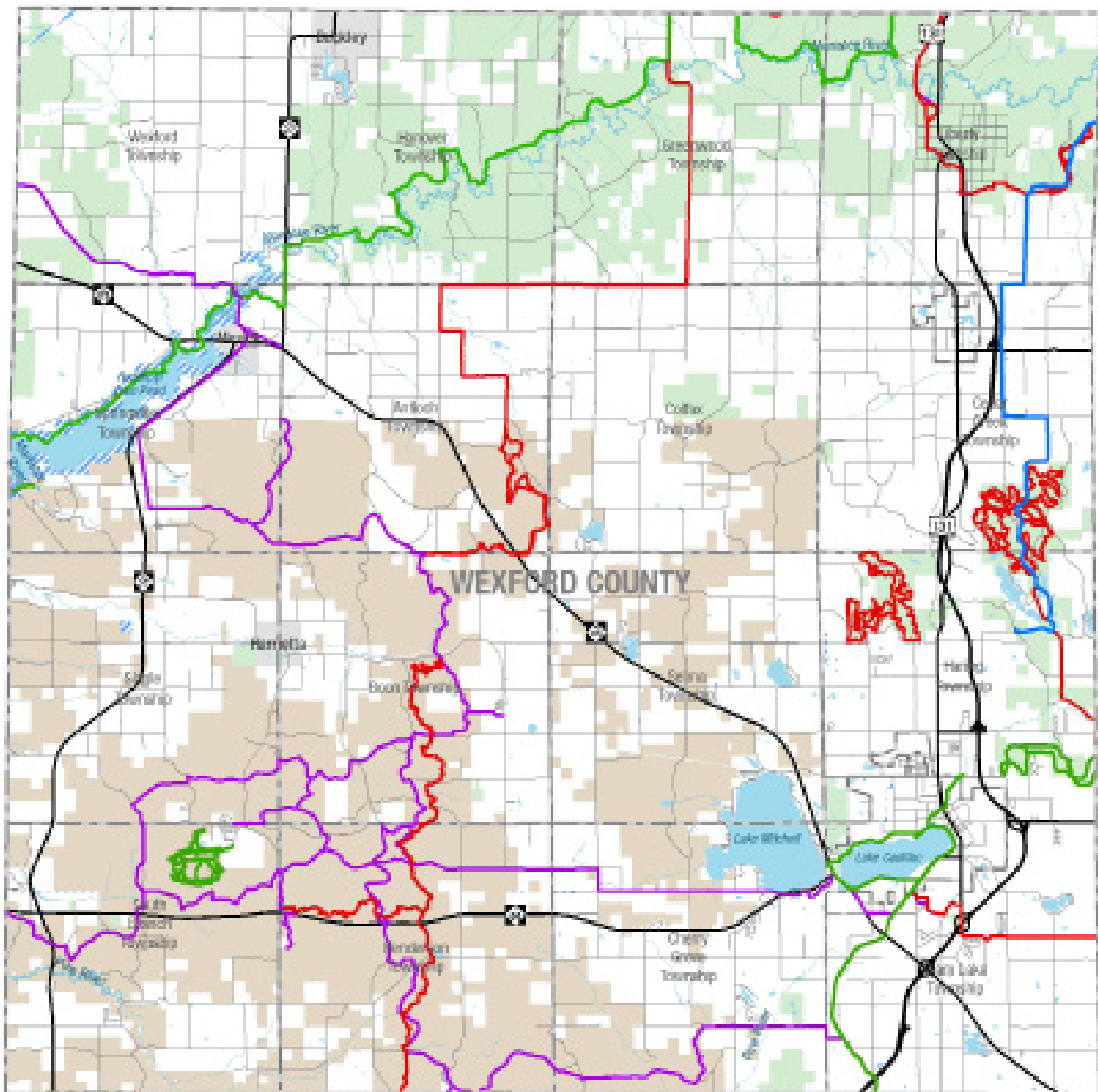
Hendrick Meijer White Pine Trail follows the former rail road grade south of Cadillac ninety-two miles to Grand Rapids. This trail system is operated as a state park by the Department of Natural Resources, and is maintained with assistance from the Friends of the White Pine Trail.

Mackenzie Trail

The trail includes over 10 miles of loops of varying lengths for cross-country skiing and mountain biking. The trail is located in the Huron Manistee National Forest, northwest of the Caberfae ski area. The loops range in difficulty.

Equestrian Trails Shore to Shore Trail

A southern spur off the main 220 mile Shore to Shore trail comes down into Wexford County towards Cadillac, passing through Hopkins Creek and Log Lake State Forest Campgrounds. The trail is open to horseback riders and hikers.



Wexford County Trails

- Non-Motorized Trail
- Equestrian Trail
- ORV and/or Motorcycle
- Snowmobile Trail
- Local and County Roads
- State Trunkline
- Township
- State Land
- Consumers Energy
- Huron Manistee National Forest
- City or Village



Data Source: Michigan Open Data; Networks Northwest; Wexford County

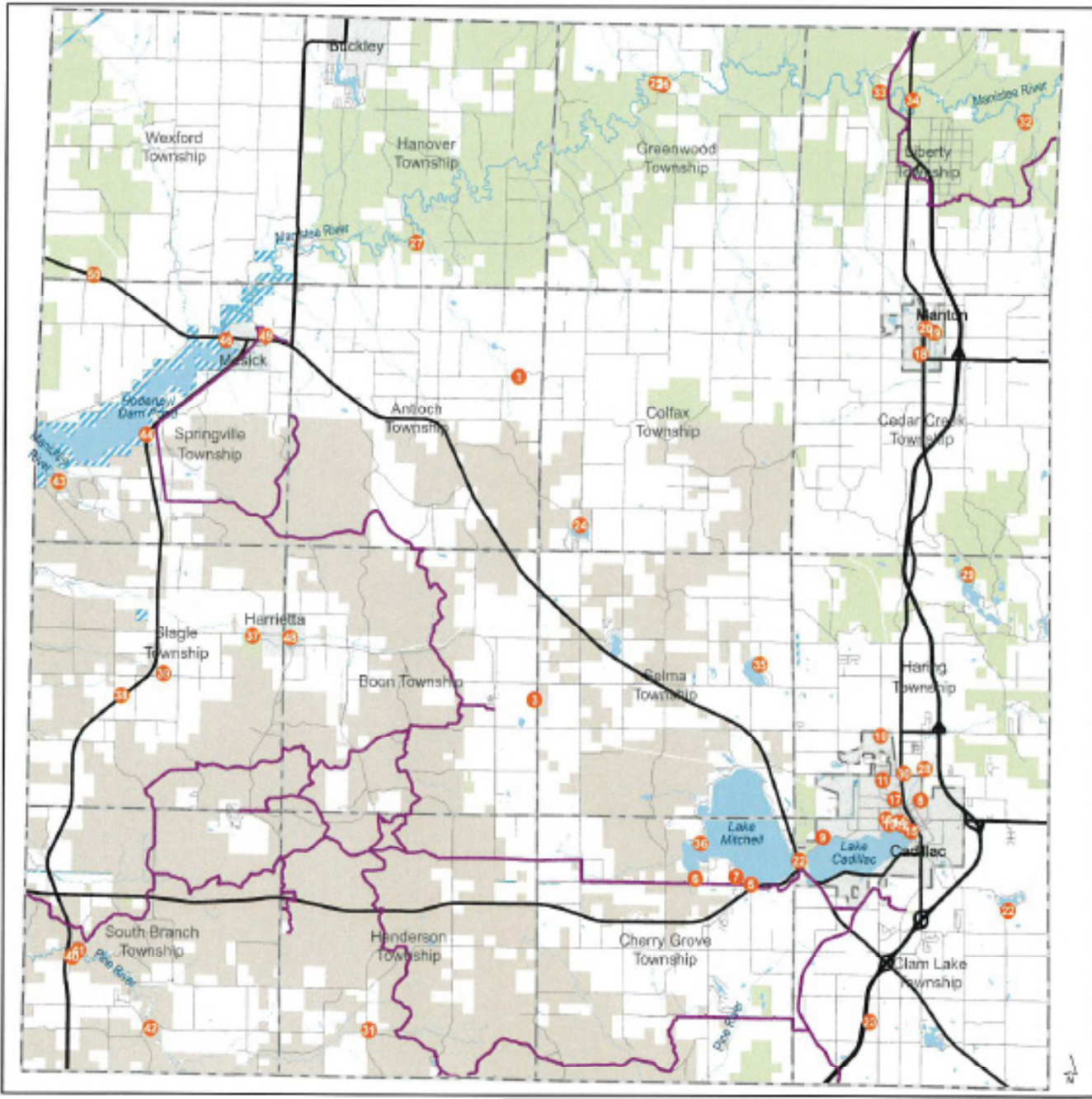
Produced By: Networks Northwest, December 2010



No.	Location/Name	Owner	Description of Facilities Available	Size
<u>Antioch Township</u>				
1	Antioch Township Park	Twp	Fishing	40 Acres
<u>Boon Township</u>				
2	Boon Township Park	Twp	Playground	
3	Pinoco Park	County	See pg. XX	40 Acres
<u>Cedar Creek Township</u>				
4	Manton Free Methodist Campground	Church	Camping, Childrens Play Equipment, playfeilds	50 Acres
<u>Cherry Grove Township</u>				
5	Forest Lawk Drive Boat Launch	Twp	Boat Launch	.2 Acre
6	Hemlock Campground	USFS	Camping, Boat Launch, Fishing	7 Acres
7	West Shore Park Boat Launch	Twp	Boat Launch	.1 Acre
<u>City of Cadillac</u>				
8	Diggins Hill	City	Sledding, Tennis Courts, and Disc Golf	14 Acres
9	Kenwood Beach, Park, and Boat Launch	City	Picnic Sites, Beach, Swimming, Boat Launch, Children's Play Equipment, Nature Trail, Disc Golf	80 Acres
10	Wexford County Airport	County-City	County Paved Runway, Turf Runway	100+ Acres
11	Cadillac Area Dog Park	City	Large and small dog fenced-in areas, water, and a small covered shelter	2.5 Acres
12	Lakefront Park	City	Shuffleboard, Picnic Sites, Benches, Boat Launch/Docking, Pier/Fishing, Playground Equipment, Restrooms, 1.25 mile paved and lighted Keith McKellop Walkway. The park is officially part of the Cadillac Commons site (#15).	15 Acres
13	CASA Feilds	City	Baseball Field, Softball Field	6 Acres
14	Chris Blackburn Memorial Skate Park	City	Skate Park Equipment	.5 Acre
15	Cadillac Commons	City	Picnic Areas, Dock, Performing Arts Pavilion, Amphitheatre, Restroom, Splash pad, Fire-place, Synthetic Ice Rink, Covered Market-place, bike racks, and in 2020, a trailhead for the White Pine Trail. The site hosts concerts, music in the park, and several markets and festivals.	5.3 Acres
16	Community Tennis Courts	CAPS/City	Tennis Courts	2 Acres
17	Kiwanis Park	CAPS	Soccer, Basketball, Children's Play Equipment	.75 Acre

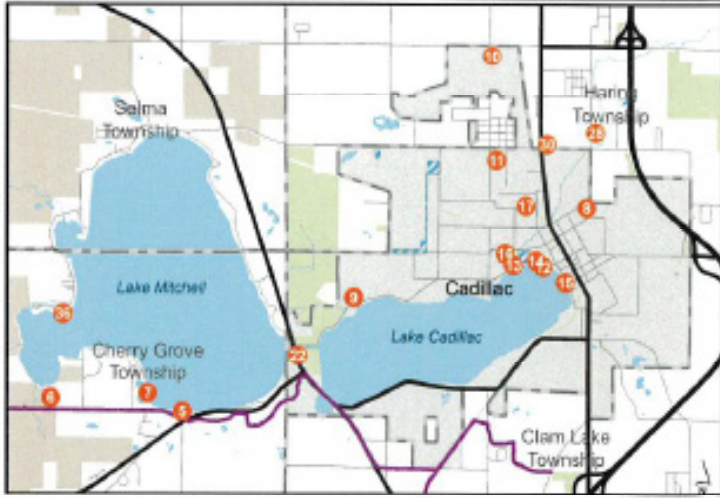
No.	Location/Name	Owner	Description of Facilities Available	Size
<u>City of Manton</u>				
18	Railroad Park	City	Shuffleboard, Picnic Sites, Band Shell	1 Acre
19	Lake Billings Park	City	Camping, Picnic Sites, Swimming, Playfields, Fishing	16 Acres
20	Rotary Memorial Park		Swimming, Picnic Sites, Fishing, Horseshoes, military museum	4.7 Acres
<u>Clam Lake Township</u>				
21	Mitchell State Park	State	Camping, Swimming, Picnic Sites, Boat Launch, Play Equipment	32.4 Acres
22	Berry Lake Access Site	State	Boat Launch, Fishing	1 Acre
23	NB Rest Area Road Eckhert Roadside Park	State	Picnic Sites	28 Acres
<u>Colfax Township</u>				
24	Lester A. Barnes Memorial Park	Twp	Camping, Picnic Sites, Boat Launch, Fishing, Swimming	67 Acres
<u>Greenwood Township</u>				
25	Baxter Bridge Access Site	State	Fishing, Boat Launch	1 Acre
26	Baxter Bridge Camp-ground and Canoe Camp	State	Camping, Boat Launch	25 Acres
<u>Hanover Township</u>				
27	Harvey Bridge Access Site	State	Boat Launch, Fishing	1 Acre
<u>Haring Charter Township</u>				
28	CASA Complex	CAPS		50 Acres
29	Long Lake S.F. Camp-ground	State	Camping, Fishing, Boating	10 Acres
30	Wexford Civic Center & Northern District Fairgrounds	County	See Page XX	40 Acres
<u>Henderson Township</u>				
31	Ravine Picnic Area and Campground	USFS	Picnic Sites, Camping, Hiking Trail, Fishing	3 Acres
<u>Liberty Township</u>				
32	Chase Creek Camp-ground		Camping, Boat Launch	10 Acres
33	Old 131 Bridge Camp-ground and Canoe Camp	State	Camping, Boat Launch	10 Acres
34	Casey Jones Roadside Park	State	Picnic Sites	15 Acres
<u>Selma Township</u>				
35	Pleasant Lake Park	Twp	Picnic Sites, Swimming	.3 Acre
36	Camp Torenta	CAPS	Picnic Sites, Ball Diamond, Tennis Courts, Archery, Swimming, Fishing, Hiking/Nature Trails, Basketball	160 Acres

No.	Location/Name	Owner	Description of Facilities Available	Size
<u>Slagle Township</u>				
37	State Fish Hatchery	State	Picnic Sites, Exhibitions	160 Acres
38	Juluis Becker Roadside Park	State	Picnic Sites	5 Acres
39	Slagle Township Park	Twp	Horseshoe Pits, Ball Diamonds, Picnic Sites, Volleyball	5 Acres
<u>South Branch Township</u>				
40	Peterson Bridge South Camping Area	USFS	Camping, Picnic Sites, Fishing, Canoe Launch	11 Acres
41	Peterson Bridge North Canoe Access and Camping Area	USFS	Boat Launch, Picnic Sites, Fishing	10 Acres
42	Dodson Bridge Canoe Landing	USFS	Boat Launch, Picnic Sites, Fishing	10 Acres
<u>Springville Township</u>				
43	Seaton Creek Picnic Area and Campground	State	Camping, Picnic Sites, Boating, Nature Study Trail	12 Acres
44	Hodenpyl Backwater Scenic Turnout	State	Picnic Sites	2 Acres
45	Mesick Wildlife Sanctuary	State	Fishing, Nature Study, Walking Trails	785 Acres
46	Mesick Memorial Park		Picnic Sites, Fishing	2 Acres
<u>Village of Buckley</u>				
47	Buckley-Hanover Activities Center	Village	Basketball, Tennis/Shuffleboard	1 Acre
<u>Village of Harrietta</u>				
48	Harrietta Community Park	Village	Children's Play Equipment	.3 Acre
<u>Village of Mesick</u>				
49	Mesick Community Park	Village	Ball Diamonds, Tennis/Shuffleboard, Basketball, Horseshoes, Childrens Play Equipment	5.7 Acres
<u>Wexford Township</u>				
50	Keith Baguley Roadside Park	State	Picnic Sites	3 Acres



Wexford County Recreation

- Recreation Assets
- Township
- State Land
- Consumers Energy
- Huron Manistee National Forest
- Local and County Roads
- State Trunkline
- Snowmobile Trail
- Rivers
- Lakes



Inset map of Cadillac area

4. Process and Public Input



Process

Wexford County contracted with Networks Northwest for the development of the Parks and Recreation Plan in 2023. The process began in early 2023 with the development of the 2023 Wexford County Parks and Recreation Survey guided by the Recreation and Building Committee. Throughout the late spring and summer, multiple public input opportunities were offered through community pop-up sessions at local events, collecting input from youth and child aged residents, and a community open house.

Survey Analysis

After review of the previous plan, a survey was developed and reviewed by the Wexford County Recreation and Building Committee and released the 2023 Wexford County Parks and Recreation Survey. The survey was released in March of 2023 and extended for additional response until August 31, 2023.

The survey was advertised through multiple press releases, social media, survey business cards, local units of government, and local organizations. Full results of the survey can be found in Appendix XX. 464 responses were received during the survey response period of which nearly 88% were permanent or seasonal residents of Wexford County.

The City of Cadillac was the most populous jurisdiction for response with 144, followed by Cherry Grove Township (49) and Haring Township (40). Seasonal residents lived nearby in areas like Grawn and Grand Rapids and as far as North Carolina. For those who do not reside in Wexford County, many lived in the surrounding counties and even Chicago and Cape Cod. The 61 to 70 years old bracket brought in the most responses at 102, followed closely by 41 to 50 (97), 51 to 60 years old (78) and 31 to 40 years old (72). Additionally, 80



respondents provided an email address to be sent the digital draft Parks and Recreation Plan once the public comment period commences.

When asked about the recreational activities that households enjoy, Walking was selected the most at 367, followed by Festivals (257), Hiking (245), Biking and Concerts (both 238) and Kayaking (237). Other activities that received over 200 selections included Nature/Wildlife Viewing, Camping, and Other. Other selections provided by respondents included Swimming, Boating, Mountain Biking, and Hockey amongst others.

Just over 87% of respondents participated in recreational activities at least once a week or more. 17% marked daily, 31% for 4 to 6 times a week and 28% for 2 to 3 times a week. The primary reason for recreational activity was Physical Health (41%), Mental Health (21%), and Socialization (13%). Other reasons included Family Time, all of the options, and general enjoyment. Over 15% of respondents identified barriers that prevent them from using or participating in recreational opportunities. The most common barriers included accessibility (physical and financial), awareness of opportunities, and safety and cleanliness.

When asked what recreational opportunities should be added or expanded in Wexford County, Concerts was the most selected at 107. This was followed by Walking (91), Pickleball (90), Festivals (87) and Biking (81). Other activities identified included Swimming, Mountain Biking, youth related activities, and Dog Park were amongst the responses. In looking at what facilities the County could use more of Facilities for 60 plus year olds was selected 63 times with Facilities for Winter Activities and Trails - off-road, unimproved (53 each) and Natural Areas (50) following.

The Wexford Civic Center is the most popular County park with just under 50% using it Occasionally or Often, while Pinoco Park was never used by 85% of respondents. The Northern District Fairgrounds was rarely or never used by just under 80%. The Civic Center Auditorium is the most used (45%), followed

by the Ice Arena (26%) and the Fairgrounds (23%). The Wexford Civic Center (39%) was also the most selected for where improvements would be liked to be made. This was followed by Northern District Fairgrounds (30%) and Pinoco Park (7%). There were various other items mentioned by respondents such as pickleball courts, Lake Mitchell area, bathrooms, and trail improvements.

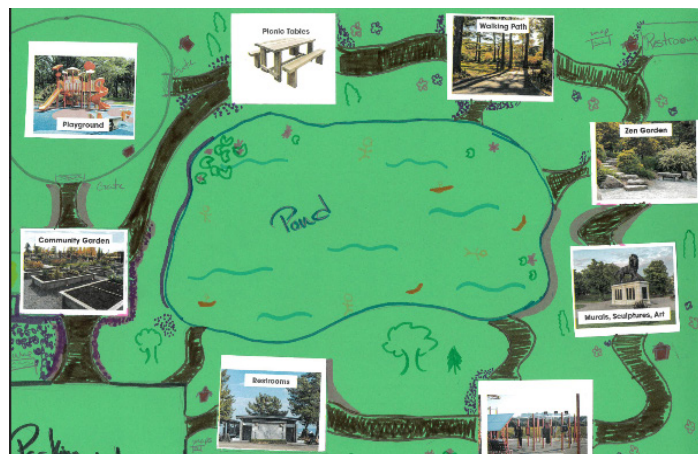
When asked for specific improvements at the County Parks, plenty of ideas were generated for each park. In regards to the Civic Center some of the projects mentioned included better bathrooms, pickleball (indoor and outdoor), general updates and repairs, more activities and improved parking. The Northern District Fairgrounds potential improvements included improvements to the grandstands and other buildings, more activities and events, improved parking and accessibility, and landscaping and beautification. Improvement ideas at Pinoco Park included signage, marketing of property, facilities (bathrooms, picnic tables, playground) and activities (walking path, disc golf).

Almost 140 respondents marked a location on the map where they felt a park could be added in Wexford County (see Map xx). Additionally, they were asked to provide what they would like to see at their selected location. While Pickleball was the most commonly selected, other considerations included picnic areas, playgrounds, walking, hiking, and biking trails, campground, waterfront access, and amenities such as splash pads, tennis courts, disc golf and basketball courts.

Over 35% of responses supported the goal of "Provide recreation facilities that are available to residents of all ages and abilities, and that are operated on a year-round basis.". This was followed by "Maintain and improve existing County parks and recreation facilities." (33%) and "Support and promote Wexford County as a trail destination with an interconnected trail system." (25%). Other Goals to Consider included improvements to fairgrounds, outdoor recreation opportunities, and improvements to existing County parks.

An open ended question was asked for ways the County can achieve the goal of providing recreation to all, and that are opened year round. Ideas generated included increasing funding for parks, partnering with local organizations and communities, maintenance of existing facilities, and the promotion of recreation opportunities. Next they were asked how the County can maintain and improve existing County parks. Ideas generated included increased funding, maintenance of parks and recreation facilities, improvements to existing parks, and the promotion of the parks. Lastly, they were asked to identify ways the County can support being a trail destination with an interconnected system. Responses included connecting trails, maintenance of trails, promotion of trails, improved signage, and amenities such as parking and bathrooms.

The next question asked for projects that the County can consider. There were many ideas that were generated from this including pickleball courts, bike trails, outdoor recreation, improvements to existing facilities, and more events. Lastly, respondents were given the opportunity to provide any comments regarding the Wexford County Parks and Recreation system. The common themes from the comments included maintenance, accessibility, new facilities to provide new opportunities, more events, and better marketing.



School Input Session Analysis

Networks Northwest facilitated student planning sessions at Cadillac High School and Manton Middle School. This included three 9th grade government classes, a 6th grade social studies class and one 6th grade science class.

Both classes were given 22 park amenity icons and were asked to design their perfect park. The high school students were allowed 8 amenity icons and the middle students were able to choose 6, both told that park projects have budgets and that not every feature can be included. Working in groups of 2-5, the students arranged the icons on a sheet of paper representing an open space and used markers to draw additional park features such as pathways, parking, water and landscaping. Full results can be found in Appendix XX.

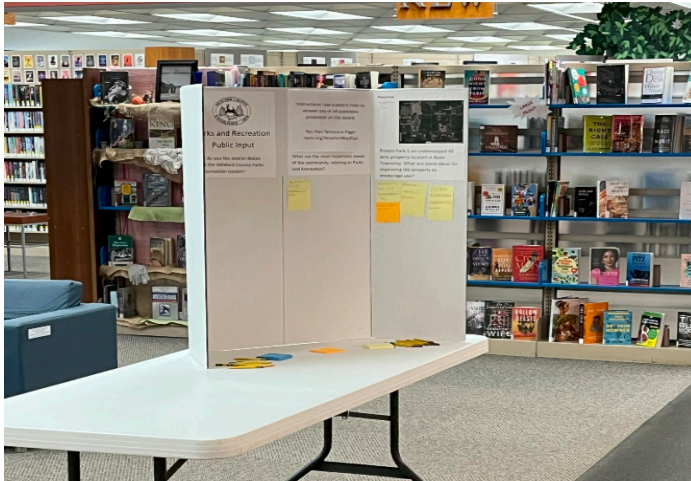
Amenity	Middle School	High School
Restrooms	15	26
Picnic Tables	7	19
Playground	9	18
Walking Path	-	17
Basketball Court	-	14
Kayak/Boat Launch	10	-
Camping	8	-
Dog Park	7	-

Community Pop-up Session Analysis

Networks Northwest staff attended five different events throughout the process to offer an opportunity for public participation. Staff talked to residents and handed out survey business cards at the Manton Farmers Market (June 9, 2023 from 3pm to 6pm) and at the Freedom Festival Car Show (July 5, 2023 from 11am to 2pm) to elicit more survey responses.

In addition to these, staff attended the Buckley Old Engine Show (August 18, 2023 from 2pm to 5pm), Northern District Fair (August 19, 2023 from 12pm to 3pm), and the Wexford County Senior Expo (September 28, 2023 from 10am to

2pm). At these events, a tri-fold display board with four questions was presented for the public to respond (see Figure xx). The display board was also displayed for response at the Wexford Cadillac Public Library from September 11th, 2023 to September 19th, 2023.



The questions presented for response were:

1. Wexford County owns The Wexford Civic Center, the Northern District Fairgrounds, and Pinoco Park. What are some improvements that could be made to The Wex and Fairgrounds?
2. What do you like and/or dislike about the Wexford County Parks and Recreation system?
3. What are the most important needs of the community, relating to Parks and Recreation?
4. Pinoco Park is an undeveloped 40 acre property located in Boon Township. What are some ideas for improving the property to encourage use?

Below is an analysis of the comments received with full comments available in appendix XX.

1. Wexford County owns The Wexford Civic Center, the Northern District Fairgrounds, and Pinoco Park. What are some improvements that could be made to The Wex and Fairgrounds?

Responses included physical improvements, amenities, and management comments such as adding a walking path, installing an outdoor PA System, LED lighting at animal barns, making space more available to rent, and removal of parking fees.

2. What do you like and/or dislike about the Wexford County Parks and Recreation system?

Responses indicated residents enjoyed things such as places to camp, clean bathrooms, and pickleball courts. They also responded that parking fees, upkeep of parks, and need for restrooms at all sites could be worked on.

3. What are the most important needs of the community relating to parks and recreation?

The responses to this question indicated that respondents felt that amenities and safety could be improved upon such as restrooms, picnic tables, trail enforcement, and better accessibility for mobility scooters/chairs. Other improvements included an Art Walk, trail connecting Lake City and Cadillac, or a new park in Wexford Township.

4. Pinoco Park is an undeveloped 40 acre property located in Boon Township. What are some ideas for improving the property to encourage use?

There were a variety of potential uses mentioned for Pinoco Park such as camping, dog park, ORV Trailhead, disc golf, pickleball and tennis courts, or a kids playground.



Wexford County Community Open House

The Wexford County Parks and Recreation Community Open House was held on Thursday, September 28, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at the Cadillac Wexford Public Library. The event was advertised through a press release, email blast to local units of government and community organizations, a flier, and social media postings. Only two members of the public attended the session to provide comments.

The Open House was set-up as a drop in style for members of the public to come in and provide comments on various prompts. The first three stations asked the public to review the current Goals and Objectives and place a dot next to the ones that they supported. They were also asked to view six different signage options and mark which they would like to see at Wexford County Parks.

The current Action Plan was also a station, and the audience was asked to mark which they support. Another station asked for improvements at the three park sites, as well as a question about funding options. The last station asked what do you like or dislike about Wexford County Parks and Recreation system, what would encourage park use, and if there is anything the County should know about Parks and Recreation.

Below is an analysis of the feedback received from the Community Open House.

Goal: Provide recreation facilities that are available to residents of all ages and abilities, and that are operated on a year-round basis.

Objectives supported:

- Support local efforts that enhance recreational opportunities in the County
- Encourage trail projects for all four seasons and for all trail users, including motorized and non-motorized uses as well as for accessibility (2x)
- Encourage and support the improvement

and expansion of recreation activities in all communities throughout Wexford County

- Support enhanced communications and marketing efforts of recreation opportunities in Wexford County
- Encourage development of barrier free facilities at all parks and recreation sites (2x)

Goal: Maintain and improve existing County parks and recreation facilities.

Objectives supported:

- Provide improvements to the Wexford Ice Arena and Wexford Civic Arena/Auditorium
- NEW: Provide improvements to the Northern District Fairgrounds

Goal: Support and promote Wexford County as a trail destination with an interconnected trail system

- Support the construction, improvement, and maintenance of trails and trail crossings to connect with the existing trail network and to communities within and around Wexford County (2x)
- Promote the use of designated trails for a variety of activities, including motorized and
- Support marketing efforts that promote Wexford County as a trail destination
- Support more continuous user experiences for motorized and non-motorized trail users, including more connections to communities and other trails
- Support improved trail signage and wayfinding

Action Plan Items Supported:

- Maintain an updated 5-year recreation plan in support of recreation activities and to help ensure grant funding eligibility through the MDNR
- Replace the parking lot at the Wexford Civic Center
- Build relationships with a diversity of groups

to encourage use of the County's facilities for a diversity of uses and interests through all four seasons

There was a comment left on the action plan item: "Encourage and support connecting the White Pine Trail to the Betsie Valley Trail" to include ORVs and snowmobiles. Additionally, the parking lot was mentioned as an improvement for the Wexford Civic Center.

Recreation Plan Review

The Wexford County Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 was made available for Public Comment and Review from Friday, November 3rd, 2023 to Monday, December 4, 2023. Two public notices were published in the Cadillac News, multiple press releases were sent, a Facebook posting, and nearly 80 public members were emailed from the survey results.

Comments received included:

To be inserted after public comment period.

Public Hearing & Adoption

Prior to the Wexford County Board of Commissioners December 6, 2023 meeting, the Buildings and Recreation Committee held their meeting, reviewed comments from the public comment period, and approved a resolution that recommended approval of the plan following the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing was held for the Wexford County Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 at the Wednesday, December 6, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Comments received include:

To be inserted after the Public hearing.

Comments were considered from the Public Hearing by the Board. Following the close of the Public Hearing, the Board of Commissioners approved the Wexford County Parks and Recreation Plan by resolution (see appendix XX). The plan was then submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for State approval.

5. Goals, Objectives & Action Plan

The goals, objectives, and action plan are intended to guide future decisions about recreation in a manner that reflects the County's values and priorities. These goals were developed based on existing goals and objectives, existing facilities, public input obtained through the 2023 Wexford County Parks and Recreation Survey, meetings with the Board of Commissioner's standing Recreation and Building Committee, conversations with recreation stakeholders, and other local and regional plans and strategies.

Definitions

In order to appropriately administer goals, objectives and actions it is important to understand the roles of each and their relationship to each other.

Goals provide general direction and serve as a description of the desired future. They address issues and specific needs, but are broad in scope.

Objectives are a means of achieving goals, and are attainable.

Actions set forth the specifics necessary to accomplish objectives. One strategy might be used to accomplish multiple objectives; or an objective might require multiple strategies.

GOAL: Provide recreation facilities that are available to residents of all ages and abilities, and that are operated on a year-round basis.

Objectives:

- Expand recreation opportunities throughout Wexford County
- Encourage the use of The Wex facilities for a variety of activities
- Explore potential uses of Pinoco Park

- Pursue barrier-free features at Wexford County owned recreation facilities
- Support local efforts that enhance recreational opportunities in the County
- Encourage a diverse range of recreation opportunities throughout the County
- Provide more opportunities for the general public to enjoy the County Fairgrounds year-round
- Encourage trail projects for all four seasons and for all trail users, including motorized and non-motorized uses as well as for accessibility.
- Encourage and support the improvement and expansion of recreation activities in all communities throughout Wexford County
- Support enhanced communications and marketing efforts of recreation opportunities in Wexford County
- Support improved signage and wayfinding
- Encourage development of barrier free facilities at all parks and recreation sites
- Support improved water access to the County's lakes and rivers
- Support development of barrier free water access facilities
- Create an active environment at County Parks for all users
- Establish a Parks and Recreation budget

GOAL: Maintain and improve existing County parks and recreation facilities.

Objectives:

- Continue to support maintenance of the County's recreation facilities
- Provide for ongoing funding to provide maintenance and improvements at County facilities
- Provide improvements to the Wexford Ice Arena and Wexford Civic Arena/Auditorium

- Provide improvements to the Northern District Fairgrounds
- Collaborate with local organizations such as the Cadillac Visitors Bureau on signage and promotion

GOAL: Support and promote Wexford County as a trail destination with an interconnected trail system

Objectives:

- Support the construction, improvement, and maintenance of trails and trail crossings to connect with the existing trail network and to communities within and around Wexford County
- Support trail development in and around Wexford County
- Promote the use of designated trails for a variety of activities, including motorized and non-motorized uses
- Support and coordinate with local, state, and federal governments and partner organizations, including the Cadillac Trails Collaborative
- Support marketing efforts that promote Wexford County as a trail destination
- Support more continuous user experiences for motorized and non-motorized trail users, including more connections to communities and other trails
- Support trail events in Wexford County such as the Bear Claw Epic
- Support and encourage collaborative trail projects
- Support the creation and development of water trails
- Support motorized and non-motorized trail connections to communities within and around Wexford County Objective Support improved trail signage and wayfinding

Action Plan:

- Maintain an updated 5-year recreation plan

in support of recreation activities and to help ensure grant funding eligibility through the MDNR

- Replace the roof of the Auditorium/Civic Arena at the Wexford Civic Center
- Replace the parking lot at the Wexford Civic Center
- Support the upgrade of LED Lighting at Fairground Horse Arena, Fairground electronic board signage, and a Public Announcement System on the fairgrounds.
- Support an inventory of the facilities at the Fairgrounds and explore additional uses of the facilities, including the Octagonal Building
- Improve signage at County Recreation facilities
- Build relationships with a diversity of groups to encourage use of the County's facilities for a diversity of uses and interests through all four seasons
- Coordinate and cooperatively promote activities and events at County facilities
- Encourage and support wayfinding signage for recreation facilities throughout the County
- Encourage and support coordination of trail development projects within and connecting to Wexford County
- Support trail development by acting as the grant applicant for trail development projects or by providing letters of support to grant applicants, and by participating in local and regional trail planning efforts
- Support the development of trailheads along motorized and non-motorized trails
- Support the development of trailheads along motorized and non-motorized trails
- Support maintenance, improvements, extensions, and connections to area trails including the White Pine Trail, North Country Trail, Manistee River Trail, Mackenzie Trail, Cadillac Pathway, Betsie Valley Trail, DNR designated snowmobile trails, and designated ORV and ATV routes.
- Support the extension of a snowmobile trail from Cadillac to Manton, and from Manton to both Lake City and Fife Lake

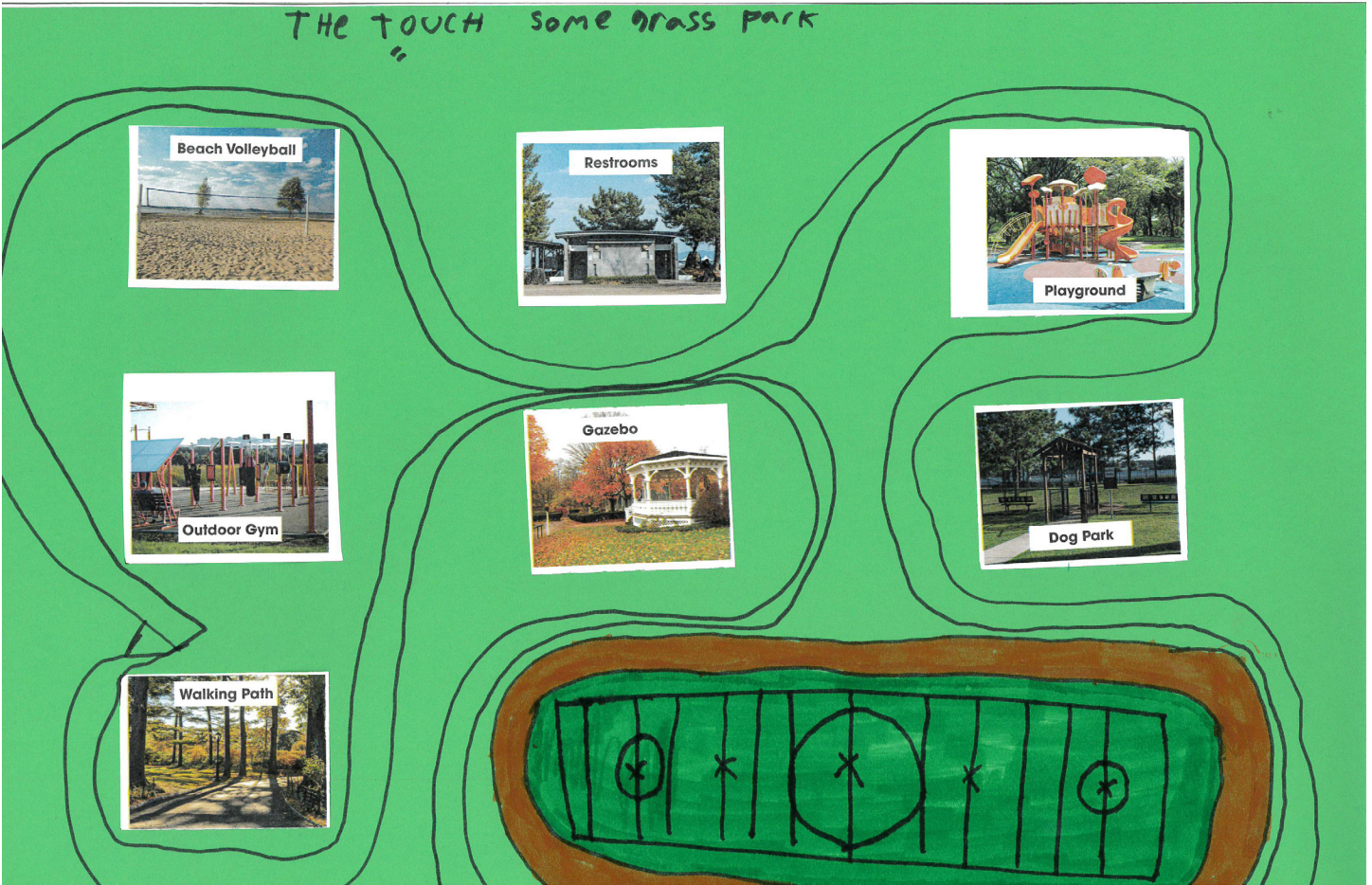
- Encourage and support connecting the White Pine Trail to the Betsie Valley Trail
- Explore and support opportunities to expand the White Pine trail north towards the Traverse City area.
- Encourage and support Pure Michigan Trail Town designations
- Install picnic tables and benches at County facilities
- Develop a park development plan for Pinoco Park
- Utilize a Capital Improvement Program to fund County Parks and Recreation improvements

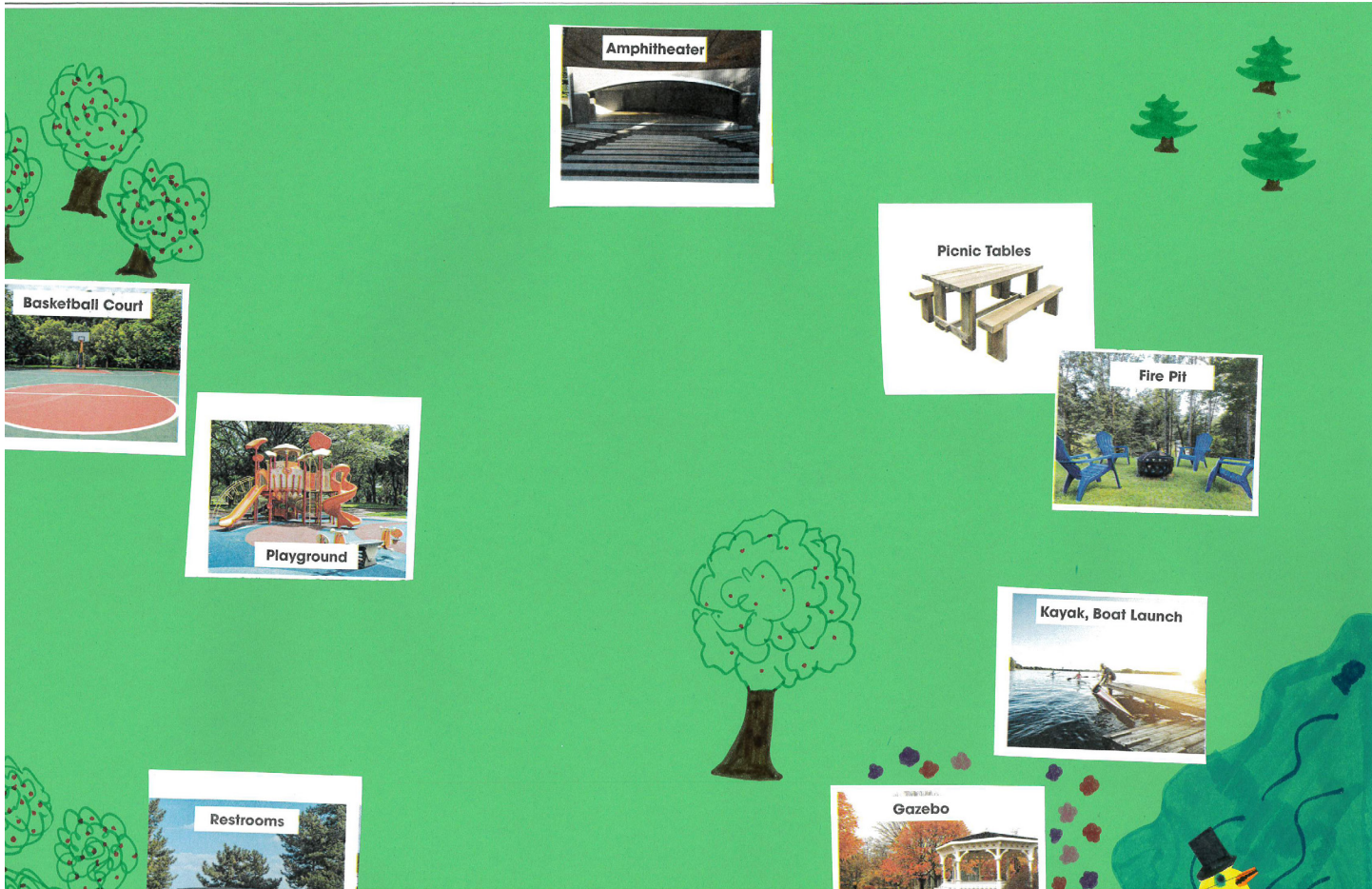
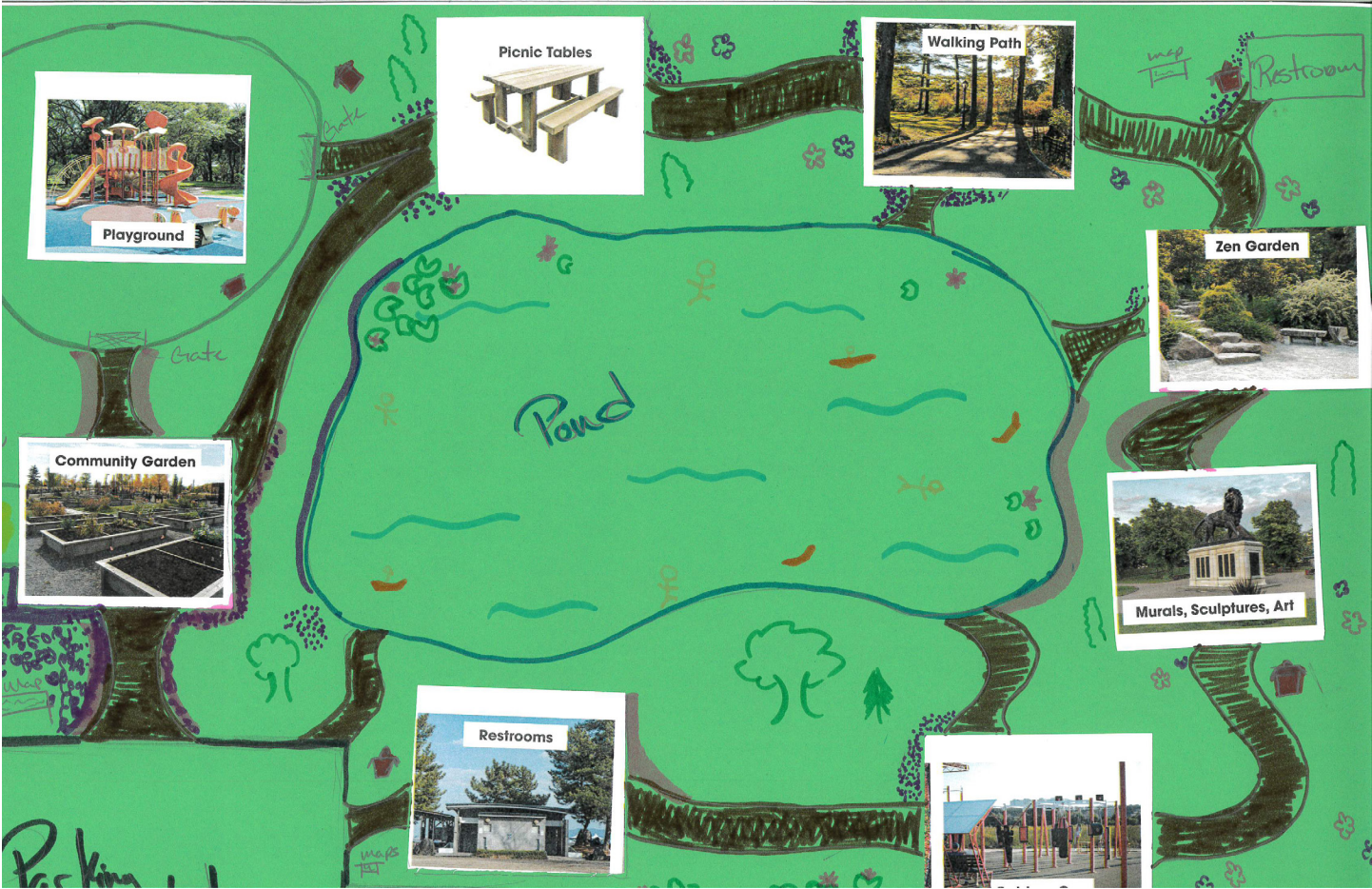
Appendices

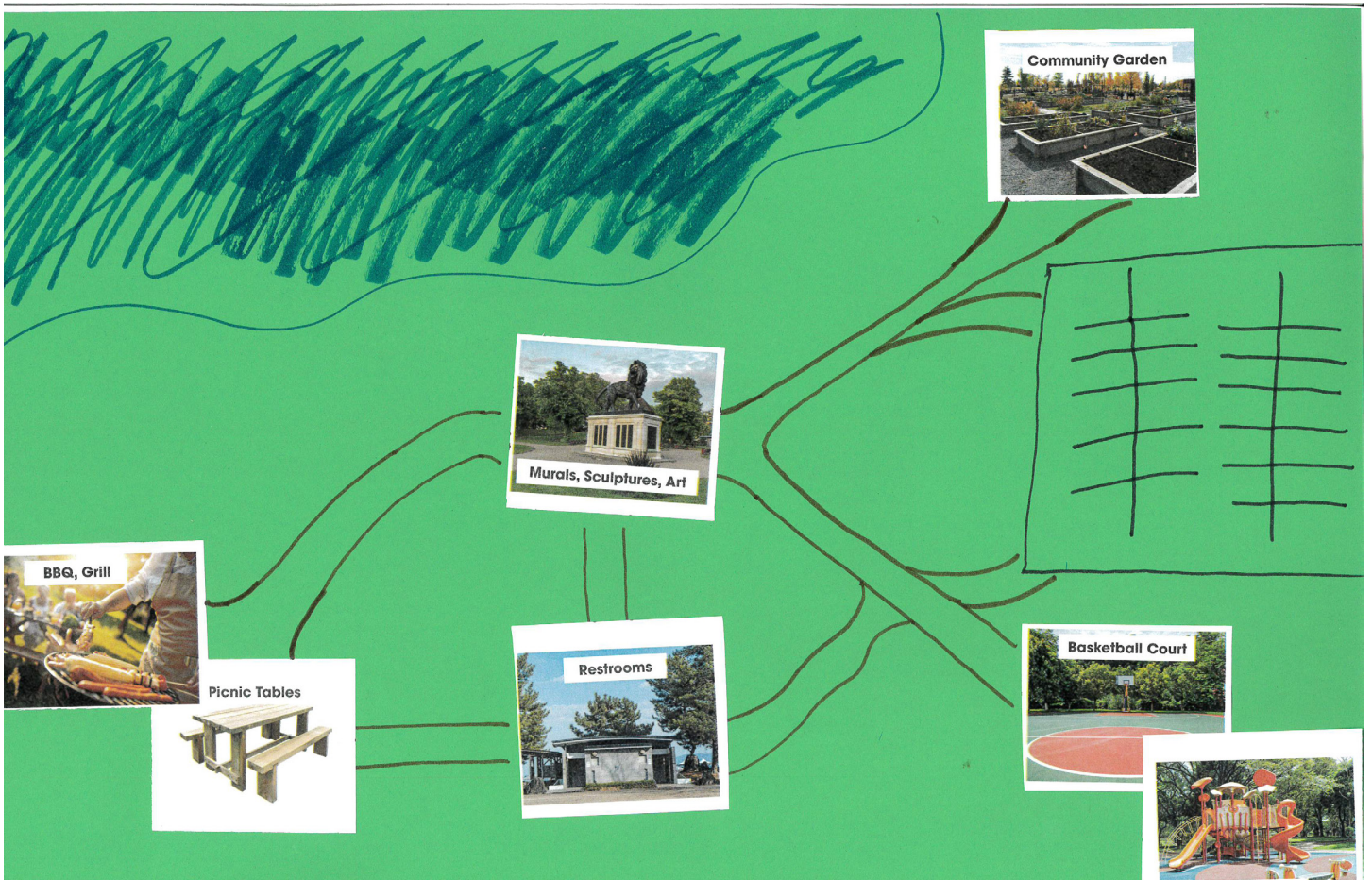
Appendix : 1



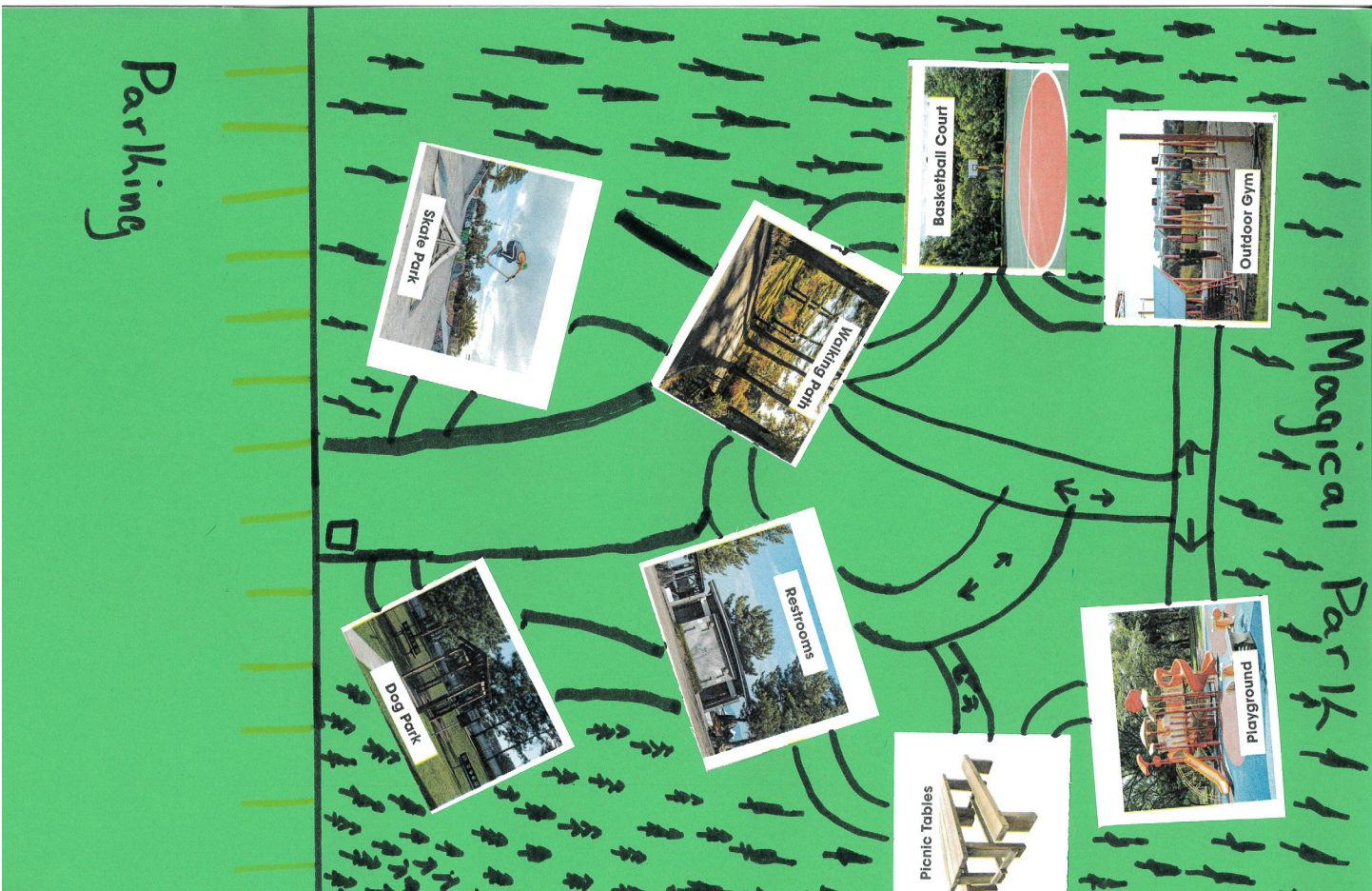
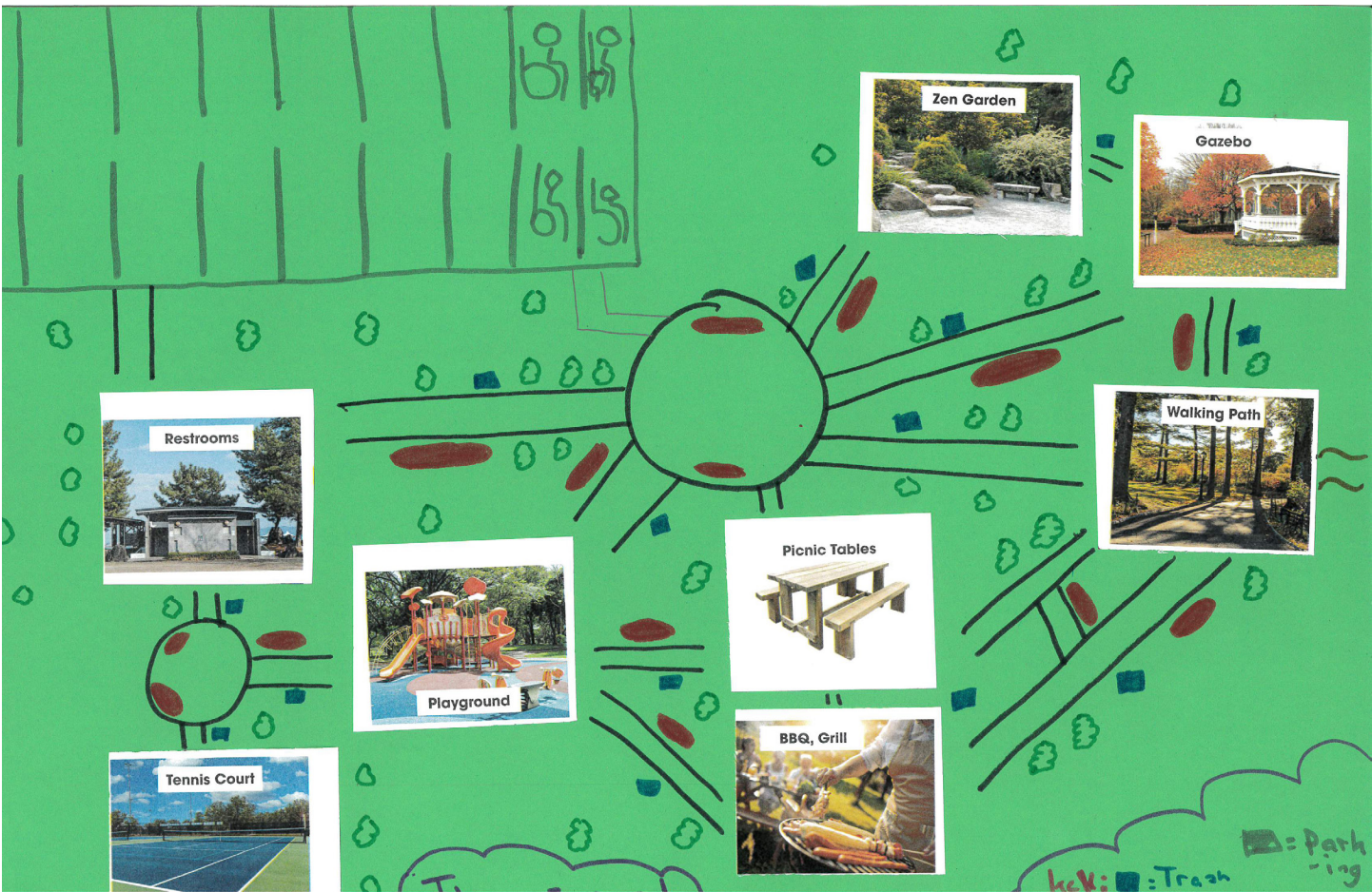
THE TOUCH some grass park

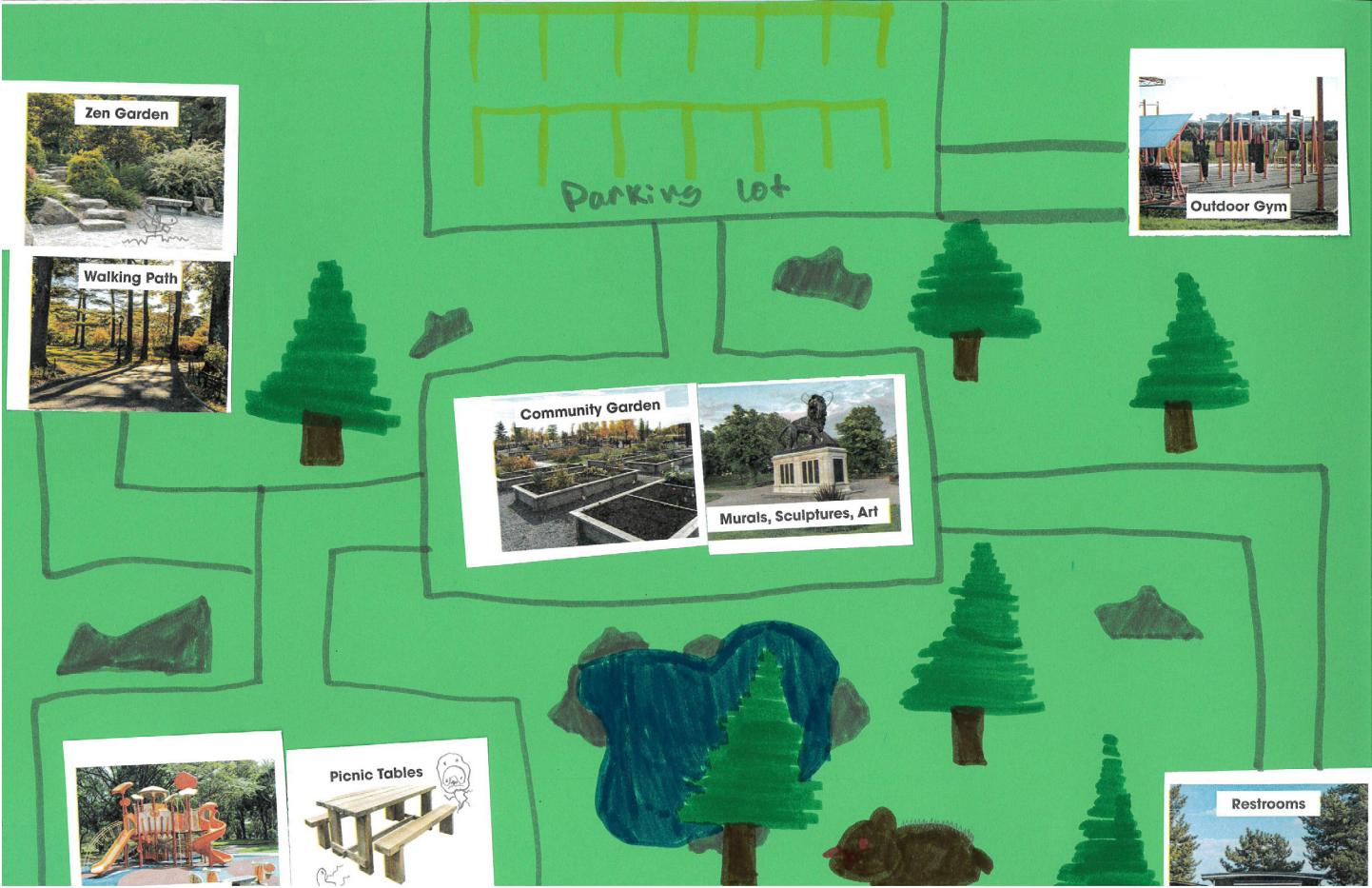








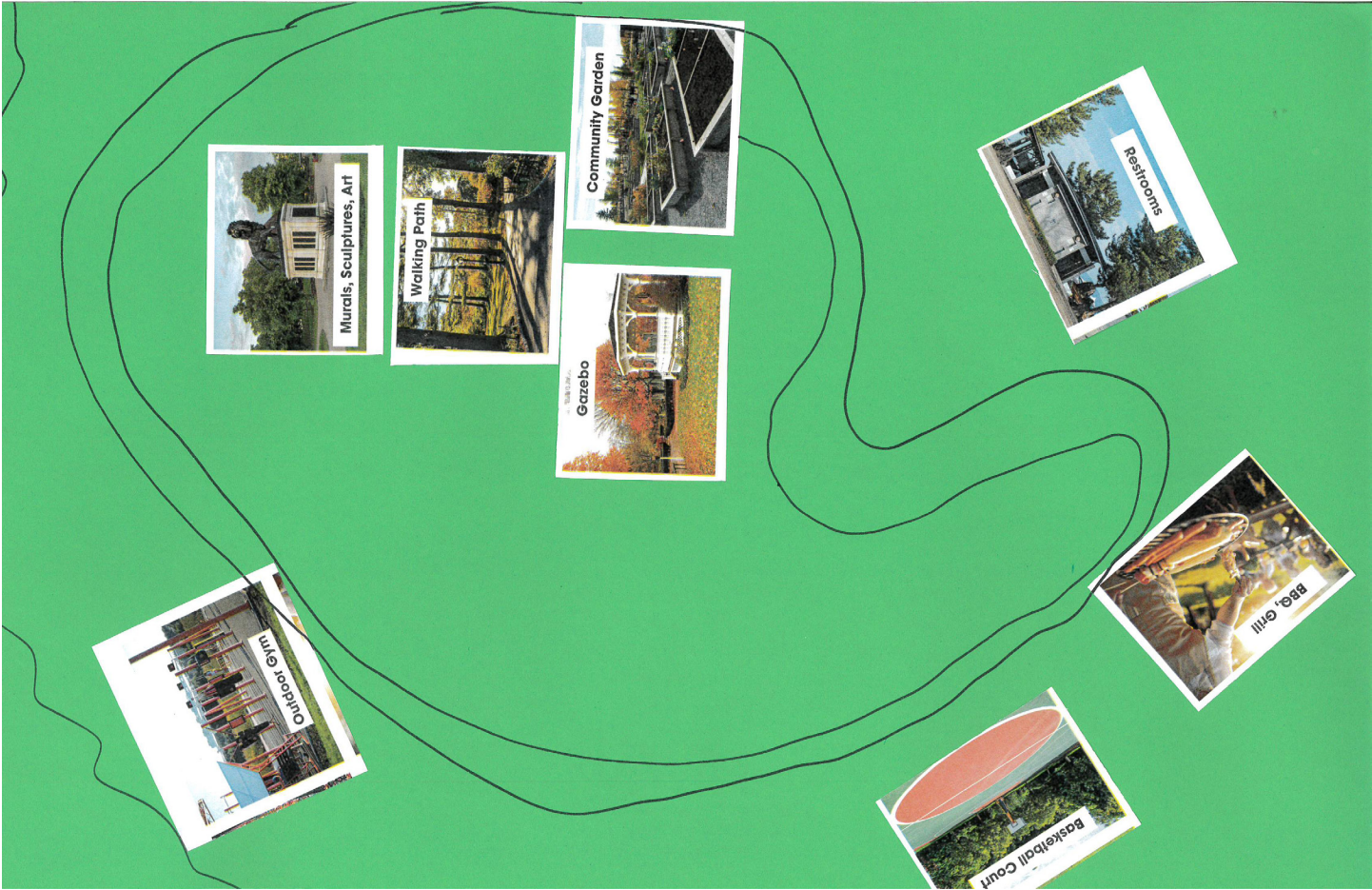


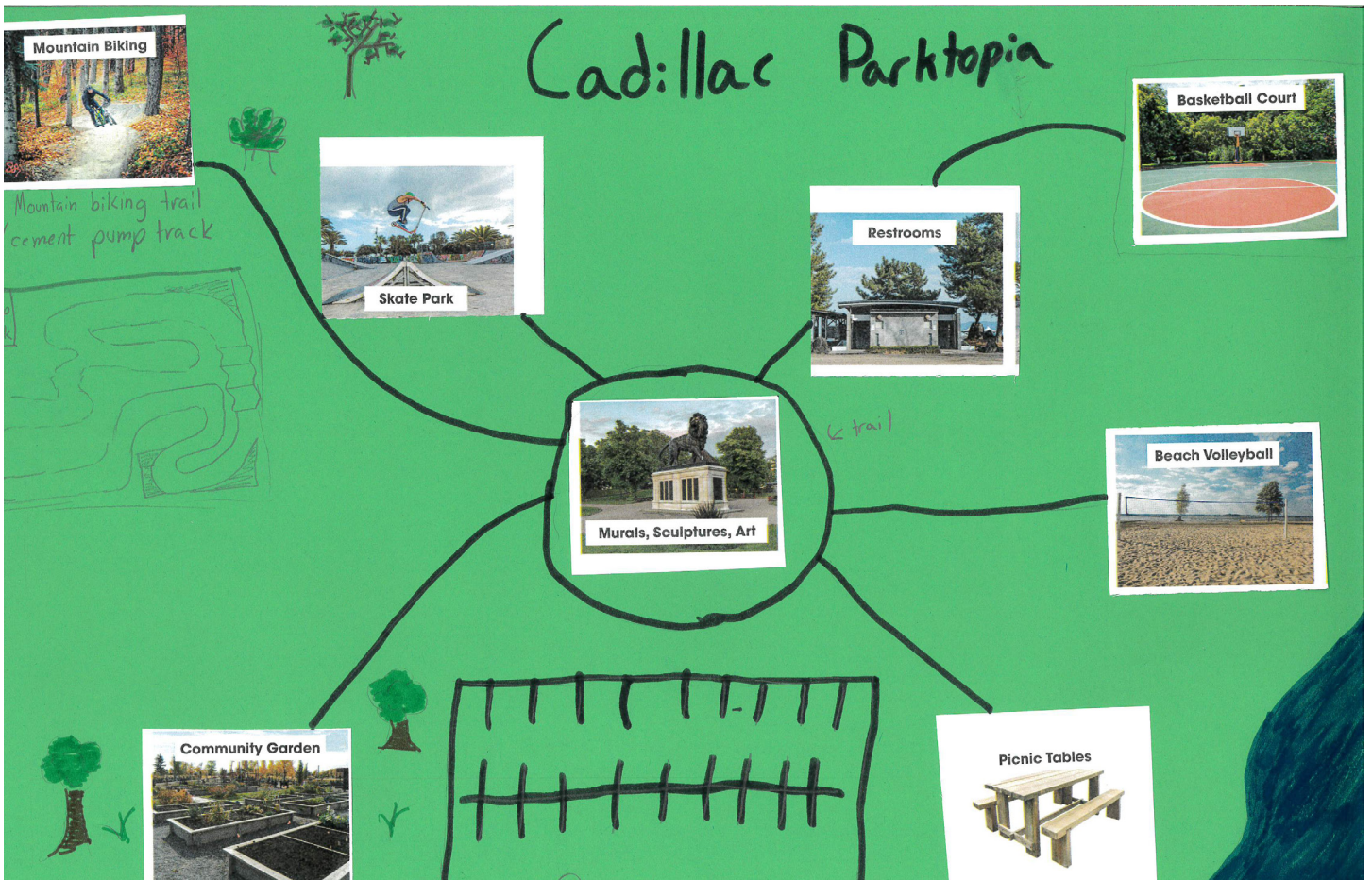


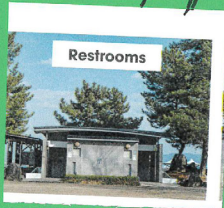
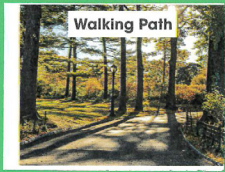
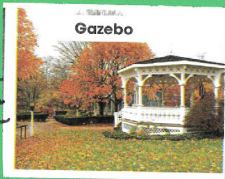
Appendix : 2

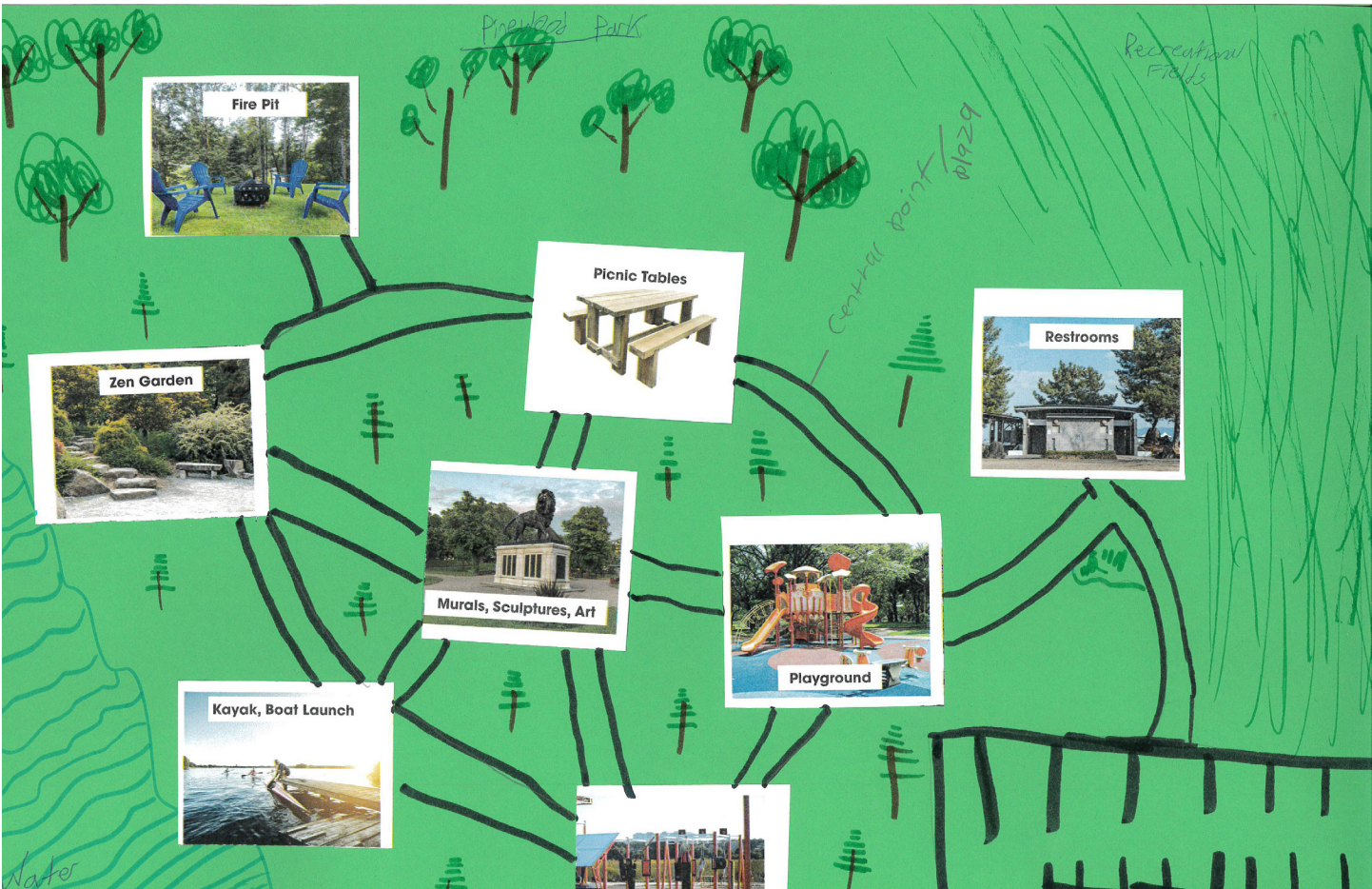
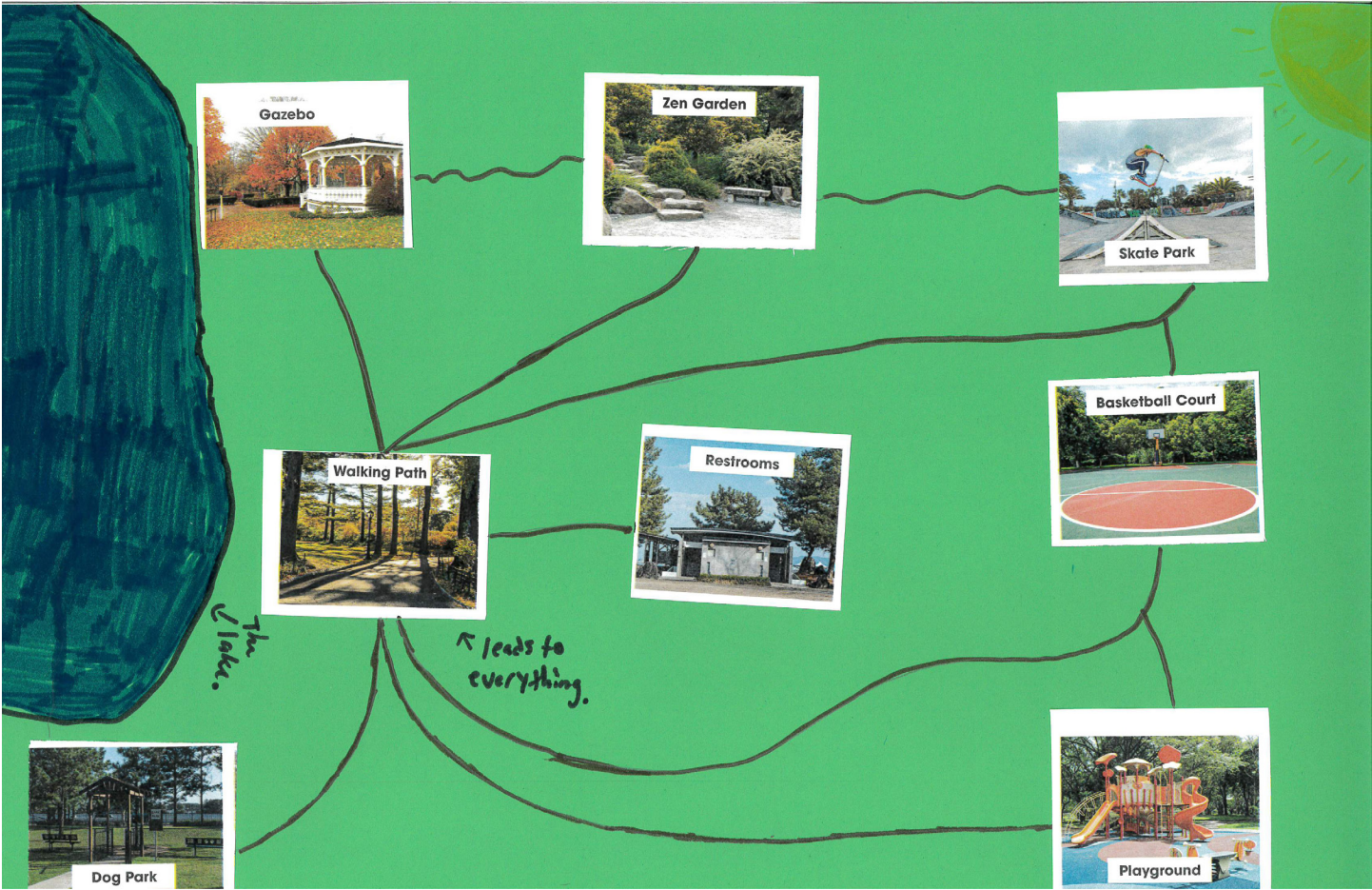


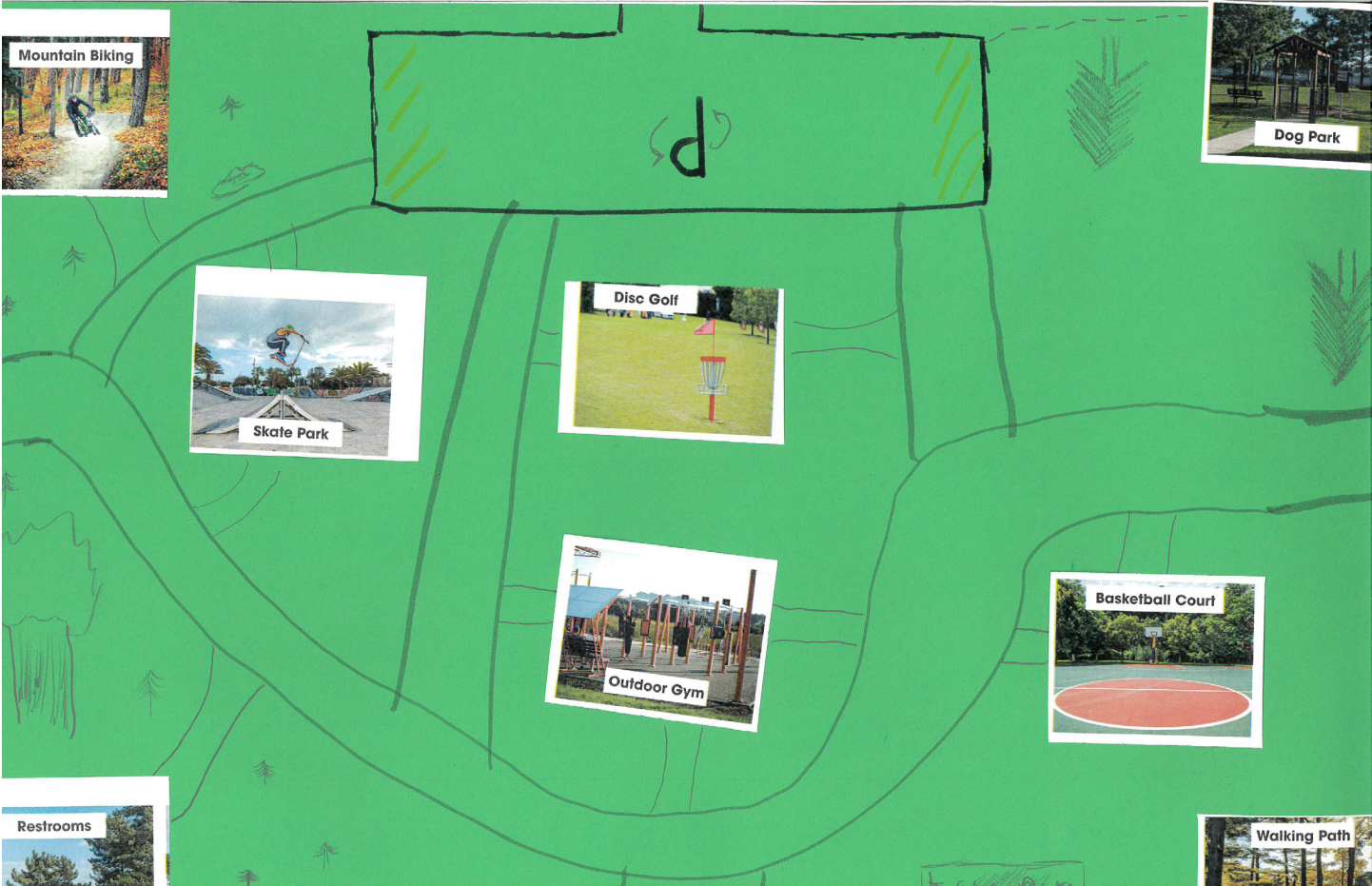












Appendix : 3

Wexford County PopUp Session Comments			
Wexford County owns The Wexford Civic Center, the Northern District Fairgrounds, and Pinoco Park. What are some improvements that could be made to The Wex and Fairgrounds?	What do you like and/or dislike about the Wexford County Parks and Recreation system?	What are the most important needs of the community relating to parks and recreation?	Pinoco Park is an undeveloped 40 acre property located in Boon Township. What are some ideas for improving the property to encourage use?
Connect Wex to Trail out to Walmart		Need more trash cans on walking trails to help with littering	dog park
Permitter Trail		Clean by pavillion	kids play ground
Someone who actually returns phone calls. More availability to rent the space!		Restrooms for all	water of some sort (rivers, lagoon, splash pad)
More community activities at the fair like a dance, craft show/selling, contest, etc.		Better accessibility for mobility scooters/chairs	walking/biking trail around the grounds
Parking lot fixed at The Wex		Wexford Township - new park opportunity	dog park with shade
Octogonal Building Repair			campground

Wexford County PopUp Session Comments			
Wexford County owns The Wexford Civic Center, the Northern District Fairgrounds, and Pinoco Park. What are some improvements that could be made to The Wex and Fairgrounds?	What do you like and/or dislike about the Wexford County Parks and Recreation system?	What are the most important needs of the community relating to parks and recreation?	Pinoco Park is an undeveloped 40 acre property located in Boon Township. What are some ideas for improving the property to encourage use?
Parking Lot Resurface	Great places to camp	ORV Trailhead snowmobile	Hunting on Public Land
Lights at concession stands	Pickleball courts. Clean bathrooms	Good restrooms are needed	Trailhead at Pinoco - ORV
Clean kitchens	Cherry Grove Twp Trail	Safety while visiting... for adults and kids	Campground cabins, Snow/UTV
4-H Clubhouse	I don't like having to pay to park or purchasing a parking pass.	Art walk	Turn it into a shopping area
More food stands	Need a portapotty at all park sites at minimum	Trail enforcement of ebikes, etc.	Pickleball courts
Pickleball courts	The open bathrooms are great	Stop feeding ducks	dog park
Walking Path	Concerned about upkeep	Garbage cans at trail heads for trash	pickle ball
Clean it up	Indoor walking during the winter	More seating, bathrooms, and tables	Tennis court
PA System for Fairgrounds		clean up duck poop along sidewalk	disc golf
LED Lights at Horse Arena		Trail safety measures	keep it clean
Restrooms		More handicap parking	leave it how it is
Activities for kids		Bike trail to Lake City to Cadillac	campground with cabins and pavillion to rent
Fair needs to improve		More picnic tables - put them near swingsets on lake plus near parking lots on Chestnut Street so coolers dont have to be carried so far	campground
Get more rides and animals. Also lower prices. Take away parking fees.		seating, restrooms, especially near playgrounds	campground

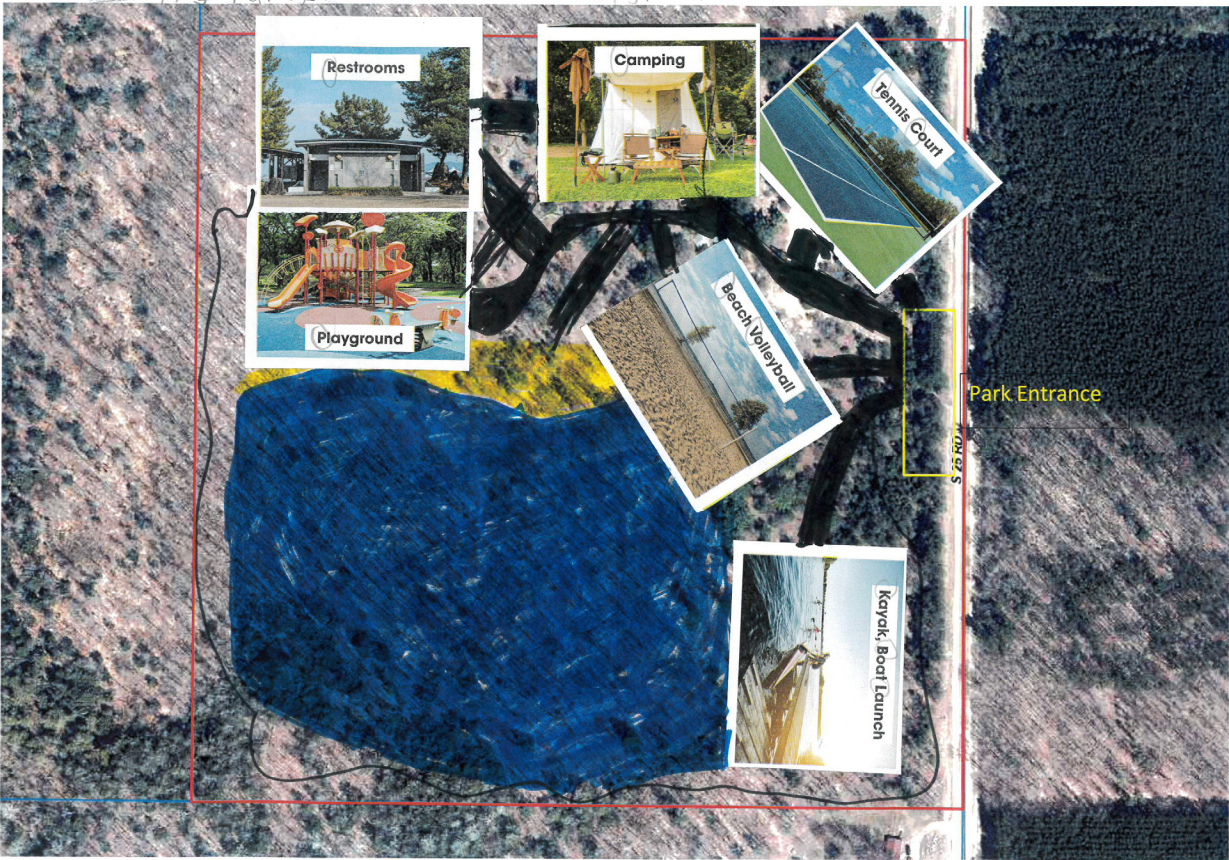
Appendix : 4

Name → the KFI



Ailynn PARK

Joey's Park



Willow Wood Park!



the Dog Friendly Park



Love Dogs

and cats



We Love Dogs and cats

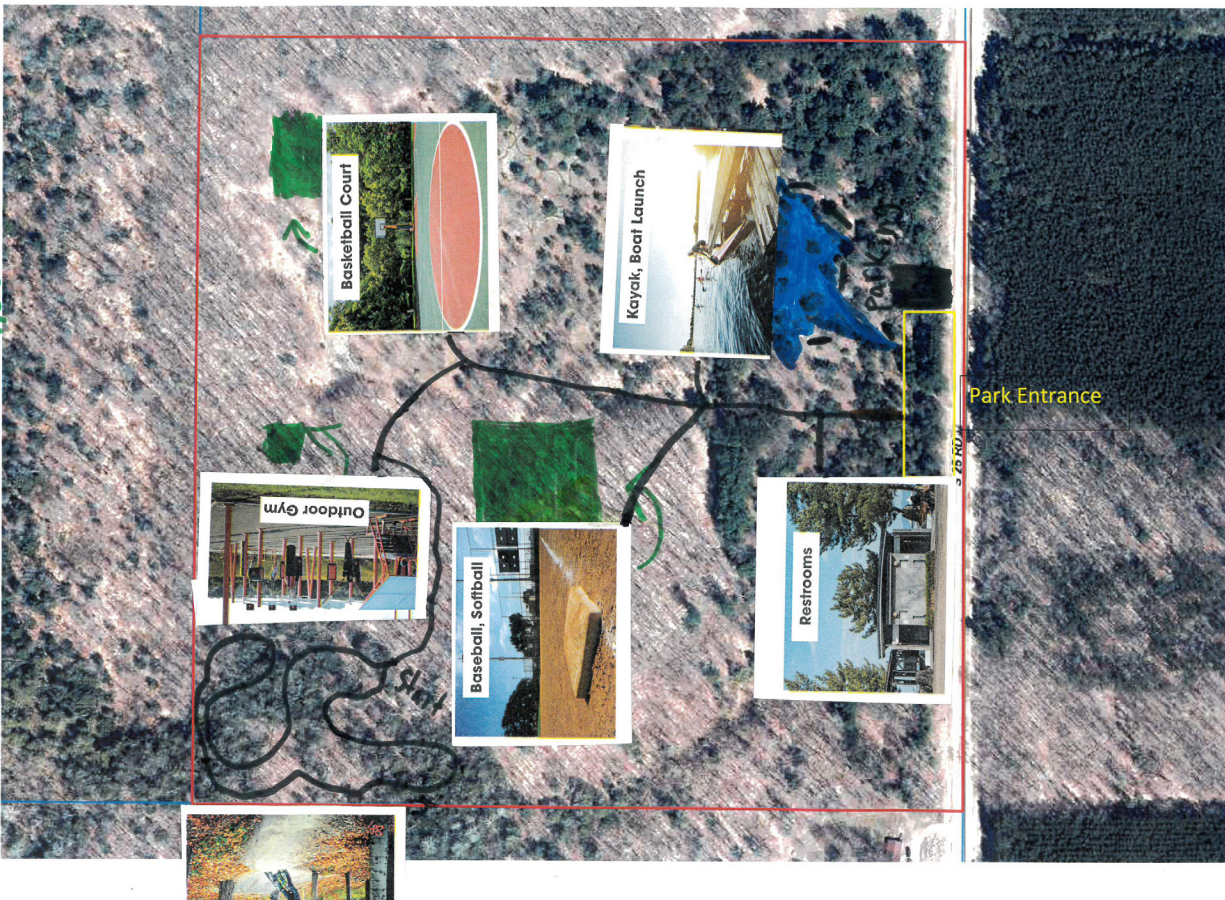
dog tracks

~ = trails

clear cut area



-- = Benches

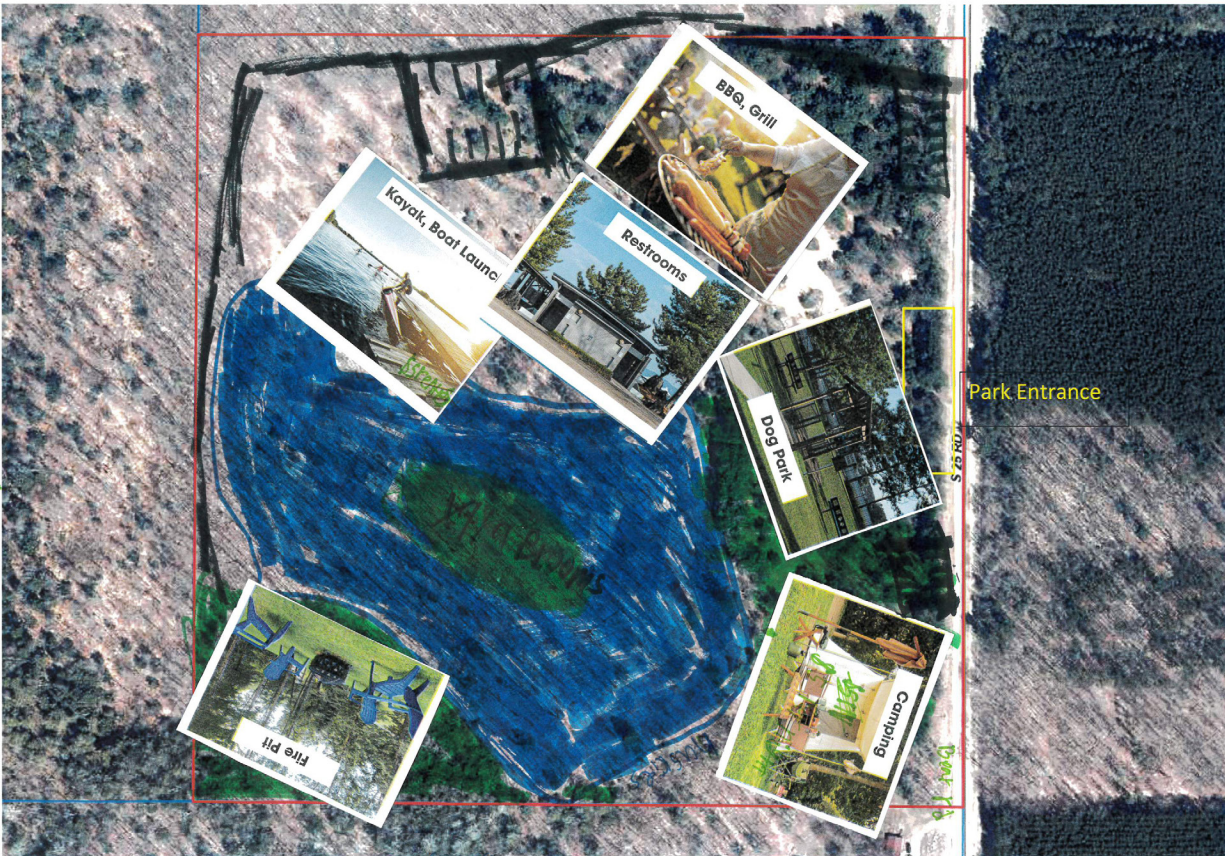


Sports Park

Hand icon
Park Kockales



\$5 ANCHOR!
\$5 PER NIGHT
5 FOR KENTON'S OUT WEST TOWN.



Presentation for Park

hasky park

haskies park ~~area~~ LAKE



Area 10 LRP

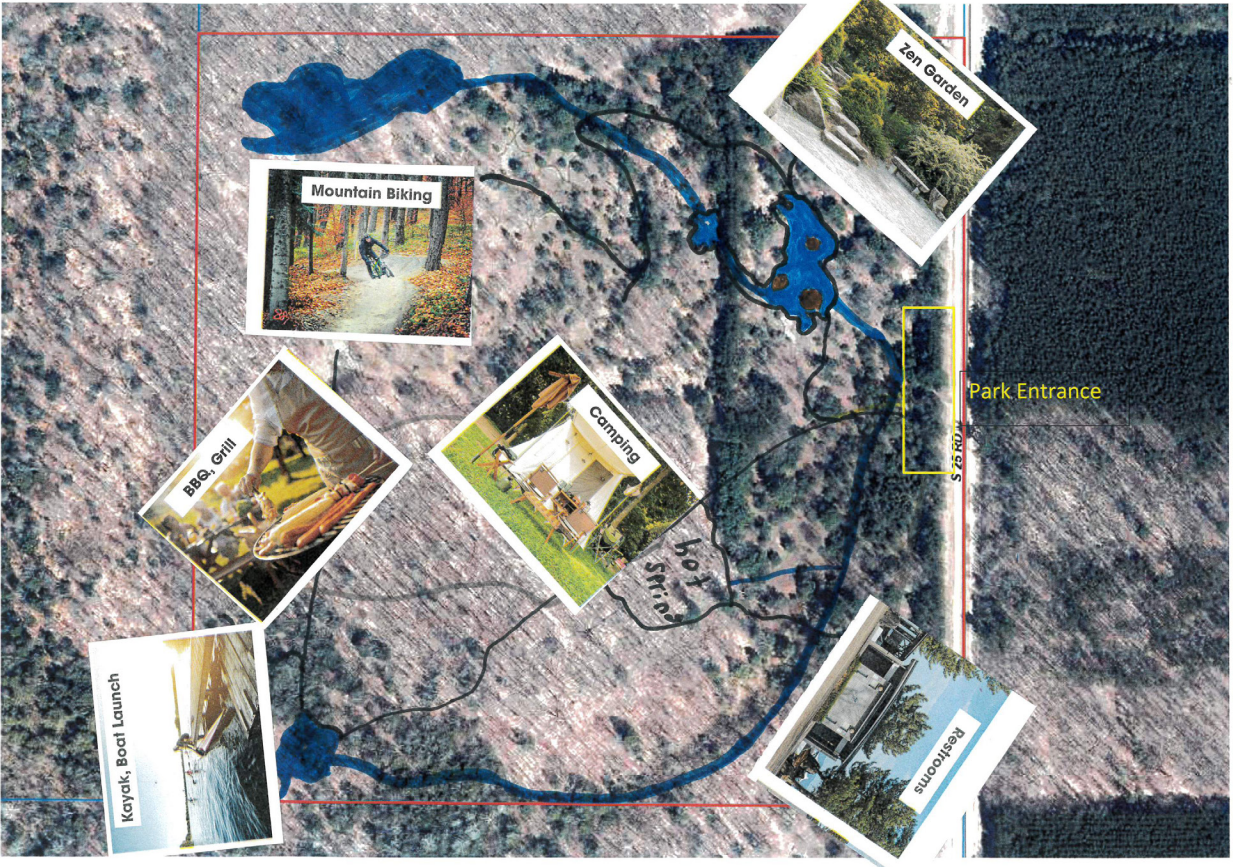


green dots are more trees



Lazy River





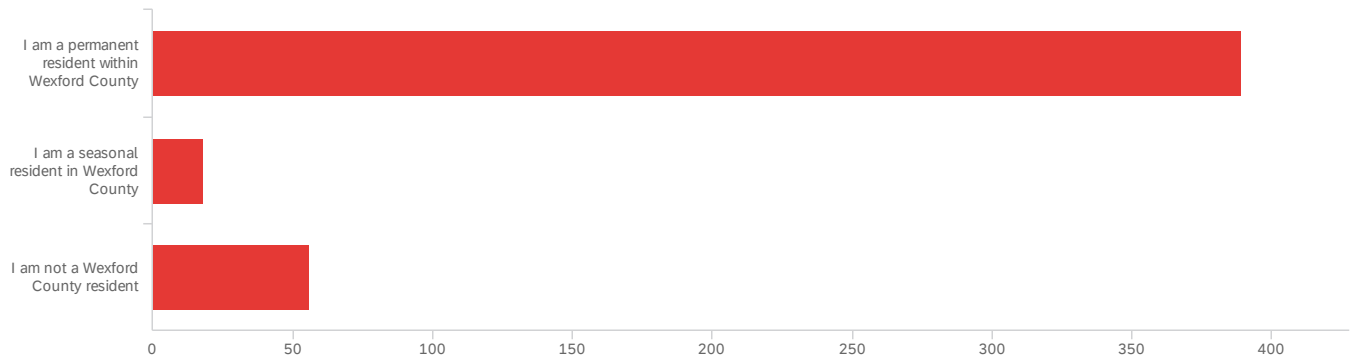
- grass - grass
- trails - water
- trees = MN - pebbles
- Streams =
- Sand



Park - sation

Appendix : 5

Q1 - Are you a permanent resident of Wexford County?

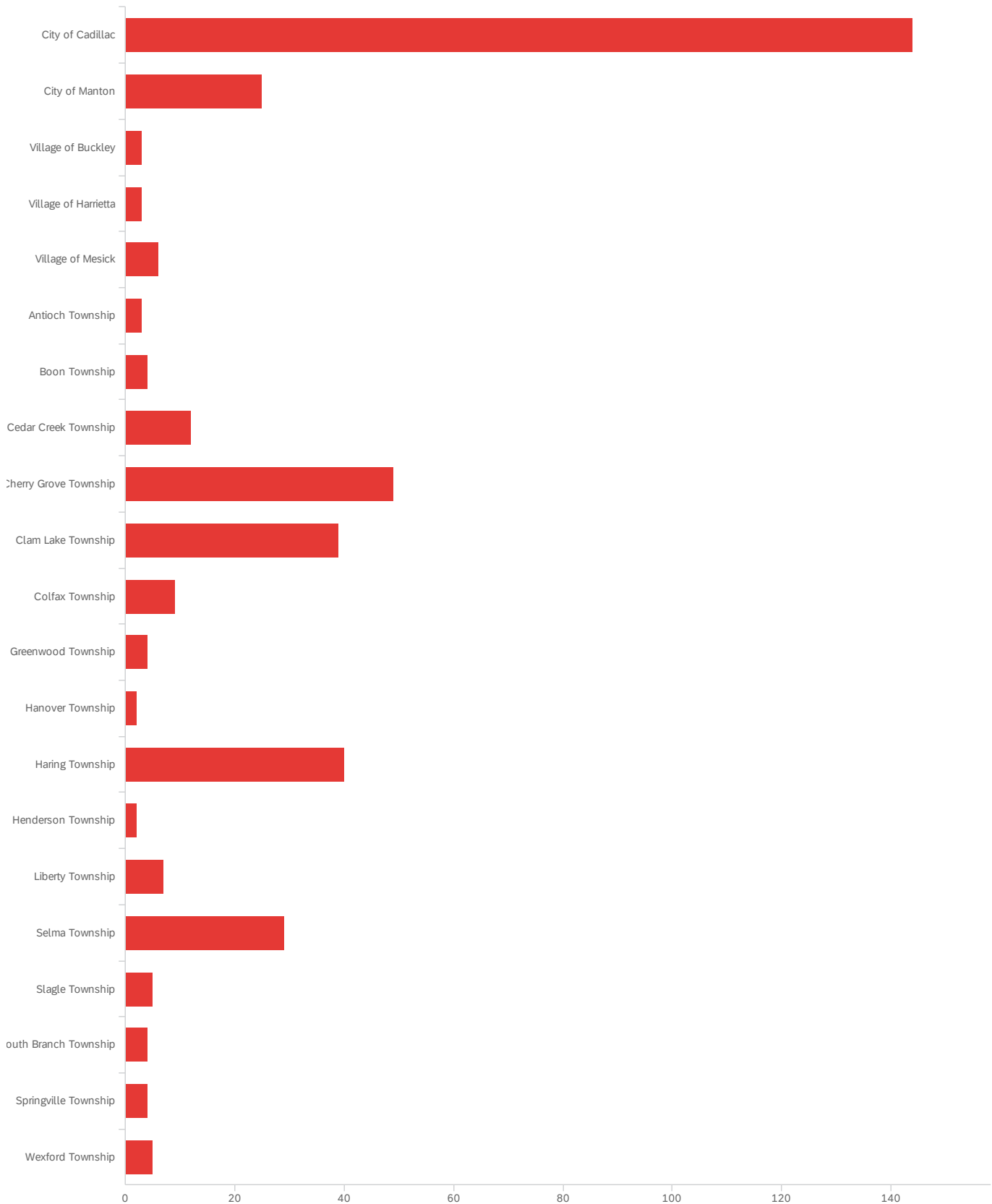


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you a permanent resident of Wexford County?	1.00	3.00	1.28	0.67	0.44	463

#	Field	Choice Count
1	I am a permanent resident within Wexford County	84.02% 389
2	I am a seasonal resident in Wexford County	3.89% 18
3	I am not a Wexford County resident	12.10% 56
		463

Showing rows 1 - 4 of 4

Q1.2 - Please select the City, Village, or Township you reside in.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Please select the City, Village, or Township you reside in.	1.00	21.00	7.36	6.16	37.91	399

#	Field	Choice	Count
1	City of Cadillac	36.09%	144
2	City of Manton	6.27%	25
3	Village of Buckley	0.75%	3
4	Village of Harrietta	0.75%	3
5	Village of Mesick	1.50%	6
6	Antioch Township	0.75%	3
7	Boon Township	1.00%	4
8	Cedar Creek Township	3.01%	12
9	Cherry Grove Township	12.28%	49
10	Clam Lake Township	9.77%	39
11	Colfax Township	2.26%	9
12	Greenwood Township	1.00%	4
13	Hanover Township	0.50%	2
14	Haring Township	10.03%	40
15	Henderson Township	0.50%	2
16	Liberty Township	1.75%	7
17	Selma Township	7.27%	29
18	Slagle Township	1.25%	5
19	South Branch Township	1.00%	4
20	Springville Township	1.00%	4
21	Wexford Township	1.25%	5
			399

Showing rows 1 - 22 of 22

Q1.3 - When I am not in Wexford County, I reside in

When I am not in Wexford County, I reside in

Cadillac

New Jersey

Grand Rapids, MI

Wayne County

Lansing area

North Carolina

Grawn

Harrietta

Lake township

grand rapids

Wayne county

Honor MI

Q1.4 - If you are not a Wexford County resident, please specify your community of residence.

If you are not a Wexford County resident, please specify your community of...

I work in Wexford County but I live in Osceola.

harrietta

Missaukee

Mcbain

Missaukee

Missaukee

Osceola County

Missaukee County

Chicago and Cape Cod

I live on Seeley, so just over the county line. I work and my kids go to school in wexford

Missaukee County

Missaukee and work in Wexford

Missaukee

Marion, Mi

McBain

Missaukee County, just outside of Cadillac

Tustin Osceola County

Missaukee

Ogemaw County

McBain

If you are not a Wexford County resident, please specify your community of...

East Bay Township (Traverse City)

Genesee County

Manistee

Manistee

Fife Lake

Manton resident in Missaukee County

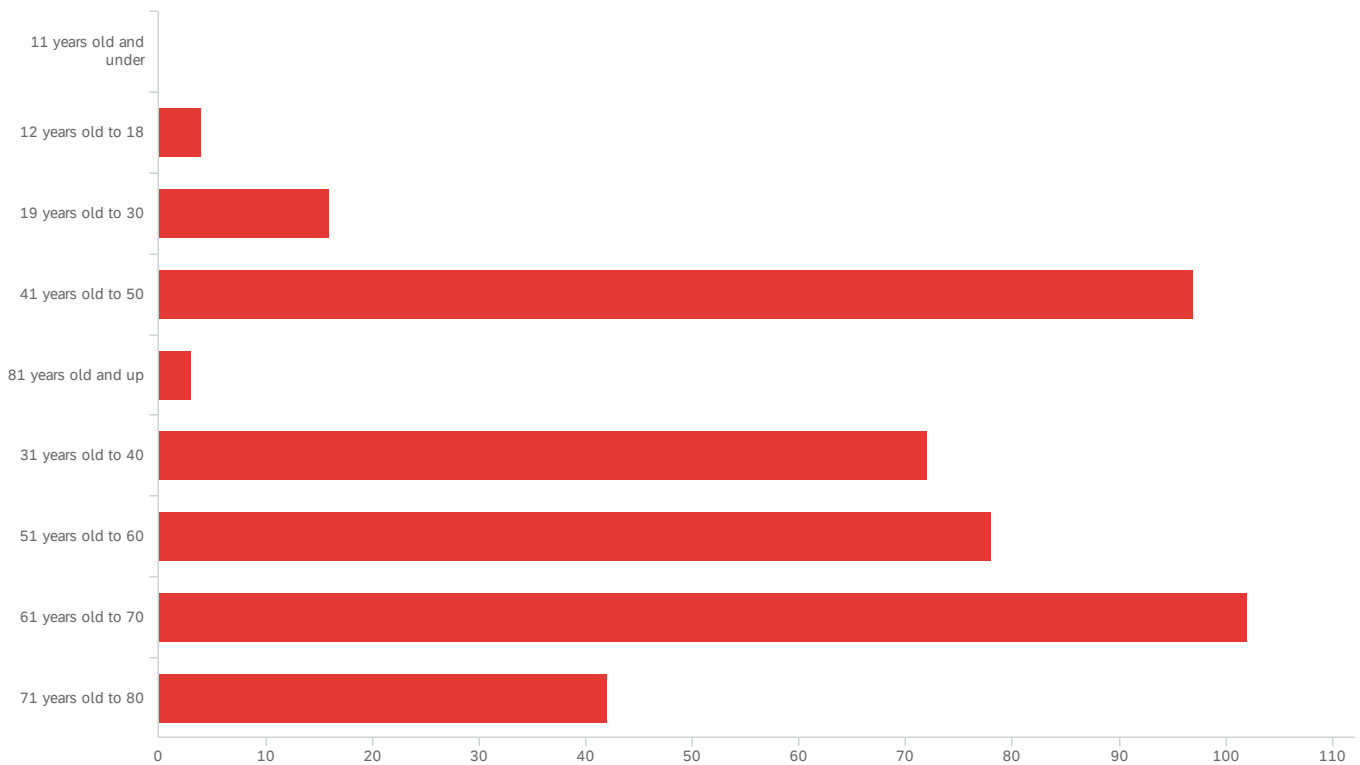
Roscommon County

Missaukee county

Osceola, Tustin. Work and spend all time in Wexford

Missaukee County but work and play in Wexford County.

Q2 - Please identify your age group.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Please identify your age group.	2.00	9.00	6.36	1.85	3.41	414

#	Field	Choice Count
1	11 years old and under	0.00% 0
2	12 years old to 18	0.97% 4
3	19 years old to 30	3.86% 16
4	41 years old to 50	23.43% 97
5	81 years old and up	0.72% 3
6	31 years old to 40	17.39% 72
7	51 years old to 60	18.84% 78
8	61 years old to 70	24.64% 102
9	71 years old to 80	10.14% 42

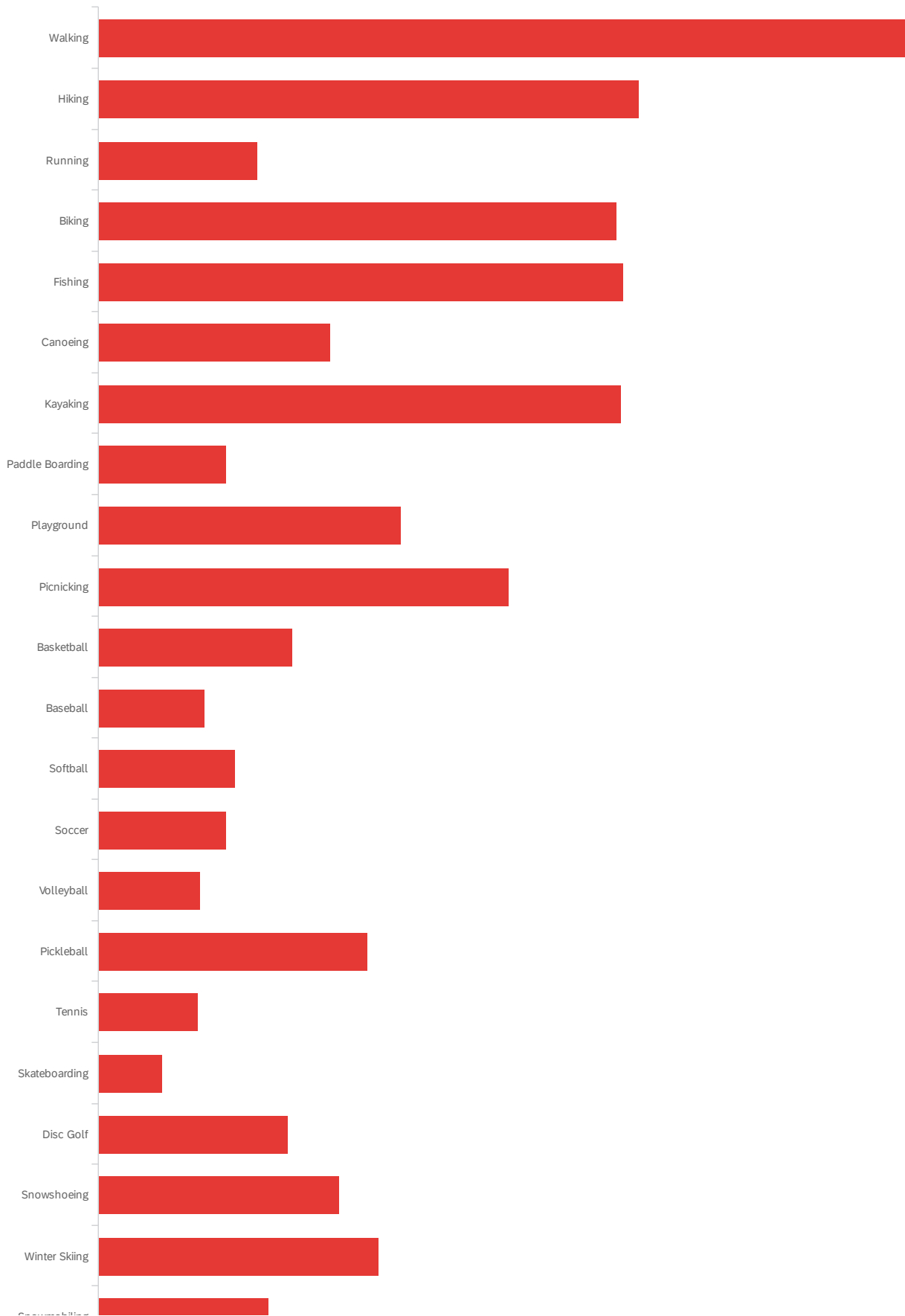
Field

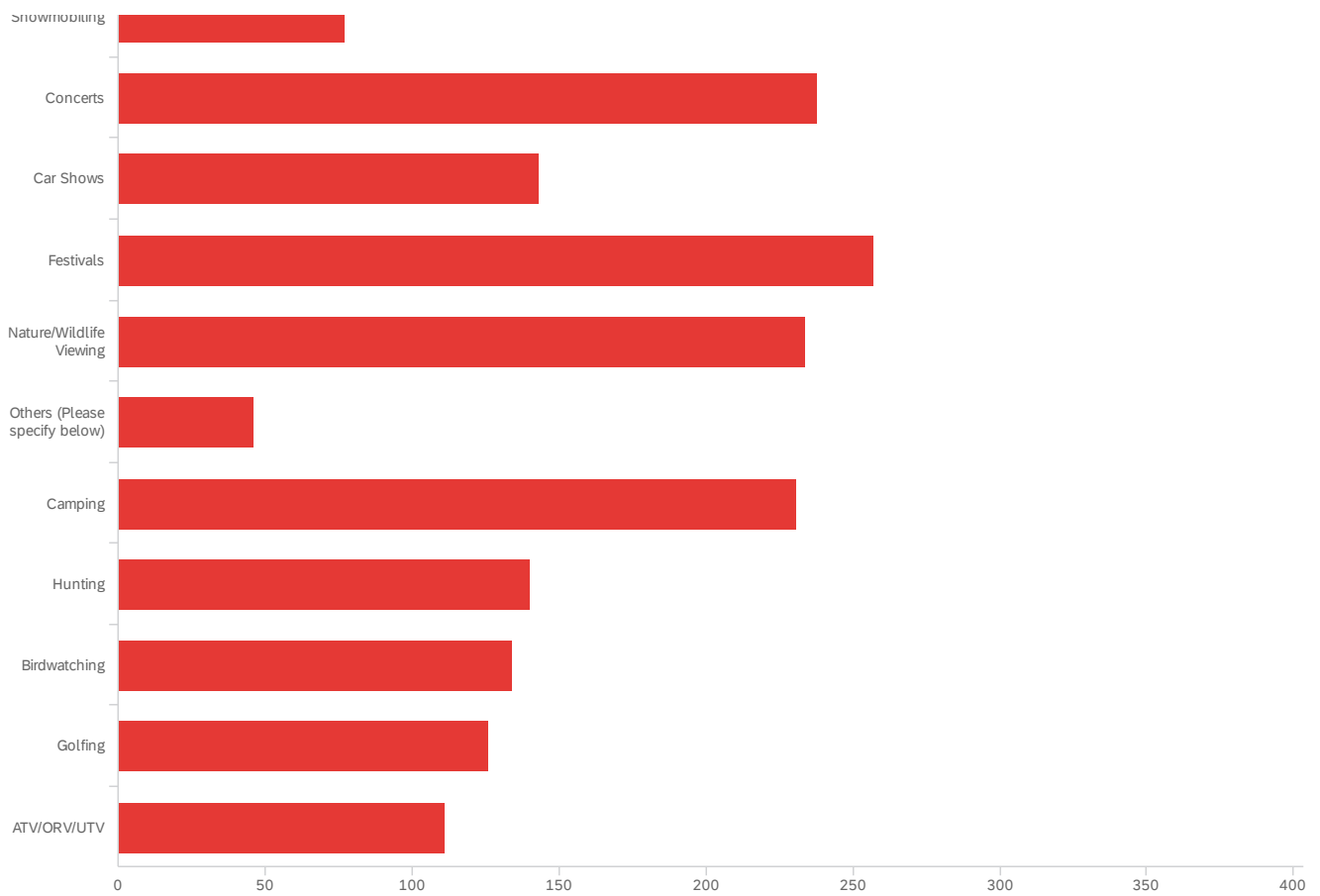
Choice Count

414

Showing rows 1 - 10 of 10

Q3 - What recreational activities does your household enjoy? Select all that apply.





#	Field	Choice Count
1	Walking	8.27% 367
2	Hiking	5.52% 245
3	Running	1.62% 72
4	Biking	5.30% 235
5	Fishing	5.36% 238
6	Canoeing	2.37% 105
7	Kayaking	5.34% 237
8	Paddle Boarding	1.31% 58
9	Playground	3.09% 137
10	Picnicking	4.19% 186
11	Basketball	1.98% 88
12	Baseball	1.08% 48
13	Softball	1.40% 62
14	Soccer	1.31% 58

#	Field	Choice Count
15	Volleyball	1.04% 46
16	Pickleball	2.75% 122
17	Tennis	1.01% 45
18	Skateboarding	0.65% 29
19	Disc Golf	1.94% 86
20	Snowshoeing	2.46% 109
21	Winter Skiing	2.86% 127
22	Snowmobiling	1.74% 77
23	Concerts	5.36% 238
24	Car Shows	3.22% 143
25	Festivals	5.79% 257
26	Nature/Wildlife Viewing	5.27% 234
27	Others (Please specify below)	1.04% 46
28	Camping	5.21% 231
29	Hunting	3.16% 140
30	Birdwatching	3.02% 134
31	Golfing	2.84% 126
32	ATV/ORV/UTV	2.50% 111

4437

Showing rows 1 - 33 of 33

Q5_27_TEXT - Others (Please specify below)

Others (Please specify below)

Swimming

Disc Golfing

Boating

Any outdoors activity nit mentioned

Swimming

Others (Please specify below)

Motorcycle riding

Hockey

Resisted exercise, HIIT

Boating

Water Park

Sail Boat (Sunfish)

Snowboarding

Rodeos, truck and tractor pulls

Wexford County Gair

Outdoor concerts, wildlife trails

Dancing, yard games, personal fitness

Splash pad

Horseback riding

XC skiing

Hockey

Boating

wading and swimming at beach

Handicapped accessible trails and beaches.

Boating

Lake

Rails-to-Trails

Archery; trap & 5-stand (shotgun events); horseback riding on trails

Swimming Sunbathing

power boating

Others (Please specify below)

Hockey

Cross country skiing

hockey

Mountain biking. It bothers me this didn't make your list. Do you know it's the mountain bike community that builds and maintains the trails at the Cadillac Pathway!?! And also built and grooms the Winter Sports trail there for snowshoeing, hiking, and skiing!?! Your lack of inclusion of bikers would be similar if you were doing a survey on road use and didn't include car owners. Very disappointing.

Ice hockey

Foraging

Geocaching

Roller Skating- Outside and Inside Horseback Riding/Trail Riding

We have some health issues that have limited our ability to enjoy all the activities that we used to enjoy. I selected activities that we currently enjoy and some that we have enjoyed earlier. One can hope. :)

group activities with others of similar

Rollerblading

Boating

Ice hockey, why would this not be in the list?

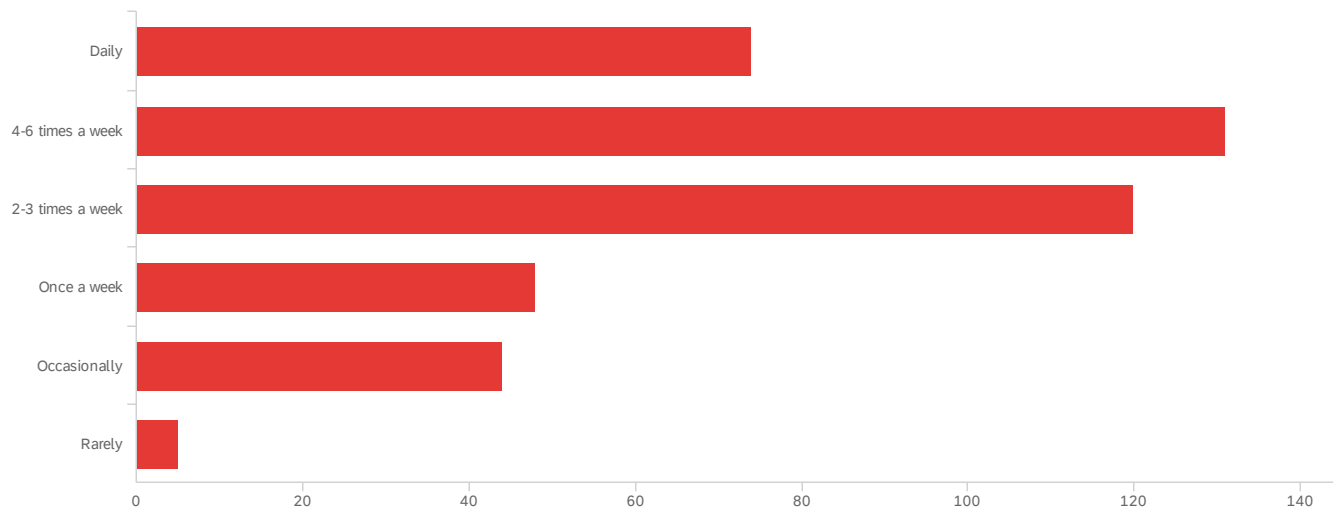
Photography

snowmobiling

Would love to see more concerts.

Geocaching

Q4 - How often do you participate in recreational activity each week?



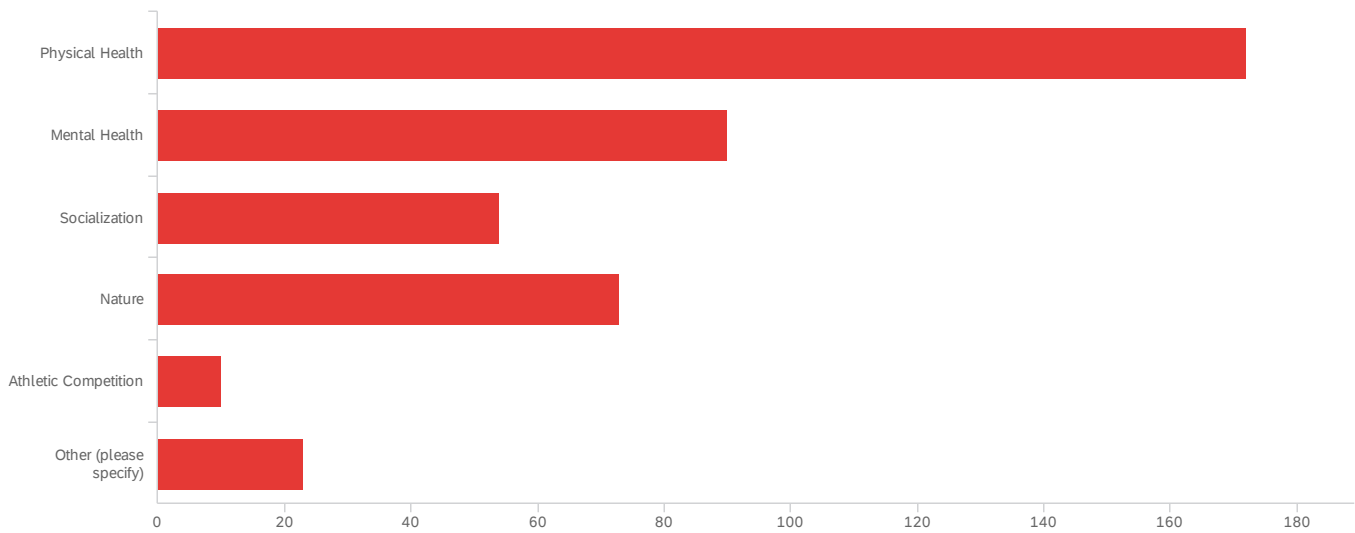
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How often do you participate in recreational activity each week?	1.00	6.00	2.70	1.25	1.56	422

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Daily	17.54% 74
2	4-6 times a week	31.04% 131
3	2-3 times a week	28.44% 120
4	Once a week	11.37% 48
5	Occasionally	10.43% 44
6	Rarely	1.18% 5

422

Showing rows 1 - 7 of 7

Q5 - What is the primary reason for your recreational activity?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	What is the primary reason for your recreational activity? - Selected Choice	1.00	6.00	2.36	1.48	2.19	422

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Physical Health	40.76% 172
2	Mental Health	21.33% 90
3	Socialization	12.80% 54
4	Nature	17.30% 73
5	Athletic Competition	2.37% 10
6	Other (please specify)	5.45% 23

422

Showing rows 1 - 7 of 7

Q8_6_TEXT - Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

Family Time and physical health

Other (please specify)

Enjoy outdoors activities weather permitted

Spending quality time with Gkids

Why not

Enjoyment

Elderly Activities

Enjoyment, exercise, keeping busy and nature

Quality time with family

All the above

We have kids

All of it! Mental, physical, social, competition

All of the above

Getting fresh air

All the above

Enjoyment

all of the above

Total wellness

Geocaching

Family time

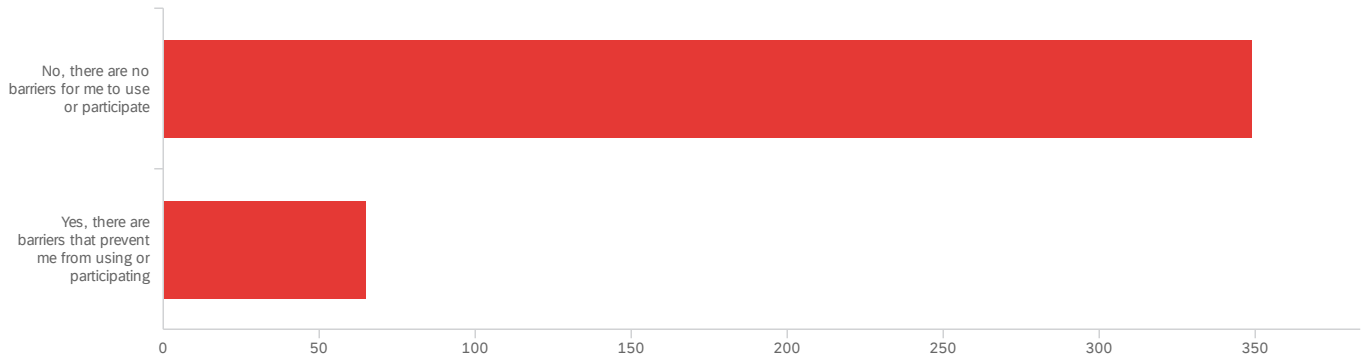
Family fun

All of the above except 5.

All of the above

Family time

Q6 - Are there barriers that prevent you from participating or using Wexford County parks or recreational assets?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are there barriers that prevent you from participating or using Wexford County parks or recreational assets?	1.00	2.00	1.16	0.36	0.13	414

#	Field	Choice	Count
1	No, there are no barriers for me to use or participate	84.30%	349
2	Yes, there are barriers that prevent me from using or participating	15.70%	65

414

Showing rows 1 - 3 of 3

Q6.2 - If yes, please specify the barriers. As a reminder, this survey does not and will not have identifying information to responses.

If yes, please specify the barriers. As a reminder, this survey does not an...

Not barrier free, poorly maintained, lack of signage.

I have feet problems and its hard for me to stand/walk for long periods of time.

Financial

Limited multi court pickleball venues

Too few pickleball courts.

We live in Benzie County

Getting onto the calendar to rent a space

Wheelchair

Some of the parks we like to frequent have not been taken care of properly.

All the garbage and drug alcohol trash laying around

Sometimes there isnt enough shade, esspcilay with small kids. More shade at the splash pad would be great!

Close handicap parking, inability to walk more than short distance without having to sit down/rest

Not enough pickleball courts

Few pickleball courts to play outside. We need more than the two being built near pathway

Not enough available parking to always walk by Lake Cadillac in the evening, especially in the summer.

poorly maintained facilities

I am not aware of any beaches near Mesick with a walkway to the water for use by wheelchair or someone with a walker. I also am not aware of any trails near Mesick that are handicapped accessible.

No bathrooms; weather; courts full

Not everything is accessible relative to my mobility ussyes, especially in the winter

The blue playground by the lake does not feel safe for me and my family.

If yes, please specify the barriers. As a reminder, this survey does not an...

We need a bike trail on 41 Road to connect the neighborhoods and Mackinaw Trail Middle School with the Lake area and the White Pine Trail.

Lack of facilities (a public archery range - Carl T Johnsons is not open to public)

The availability of county facilities is much too limited. I don't feel the county actually cares about recreation.

Handicap accessibly

Lack of knowledge of available places/activities

No snowmobile access to downtown Cadillac merchants

Money

Not enough for young kids

Several trails have been blocked by the Wexford County Road Commission and or the DNR. Several roads have had bridges washed out and not replaced over the years. It's also a safety issue with no access for fire departments.

Awareness of opportunities, need family friendly access

Wexford county provides close to nothing in the City even though as a city resident I pay both City and County taxes. I receive back very reduced benefits

Limited recreation options, not always available/open/clean, not always families using the facilities

Lack of enough trails and infrastructure.

The gates to the diggins hill tennis courts are always locked.

Not enough safe walking opportunities around Manton.

Mobility issues due to physical disability

Barriers to knowing choices, detailed access data and safety. Not all folks have smart phones. Local tv reporters and drones coverages are helpful; Cadillac News, and TC Record-Eagle outdoor activity sites and concert articles are good; brochures and printed guides at Visitors Bureau, also good.

Use a wheelchair around town

financial, transportation,

Financial

There are no parks, public nature areas, or trails near me in Buckley

Way too many trails on state land blocked off. This definitely hinders access and is a major fire hazard for our local firefighters and residents.

drug needles found on the ground

If yes, please specify the barriers. As a reminder, this survey does not an...

Lack of restrooms that are open all the time. Sidewalks are not maintained.

Handicap accessibility

Work too much

Too many people.

Way to many needles and shady Individuals by the River walkway.

Not set for disabilities

health issues , not elderly friendly

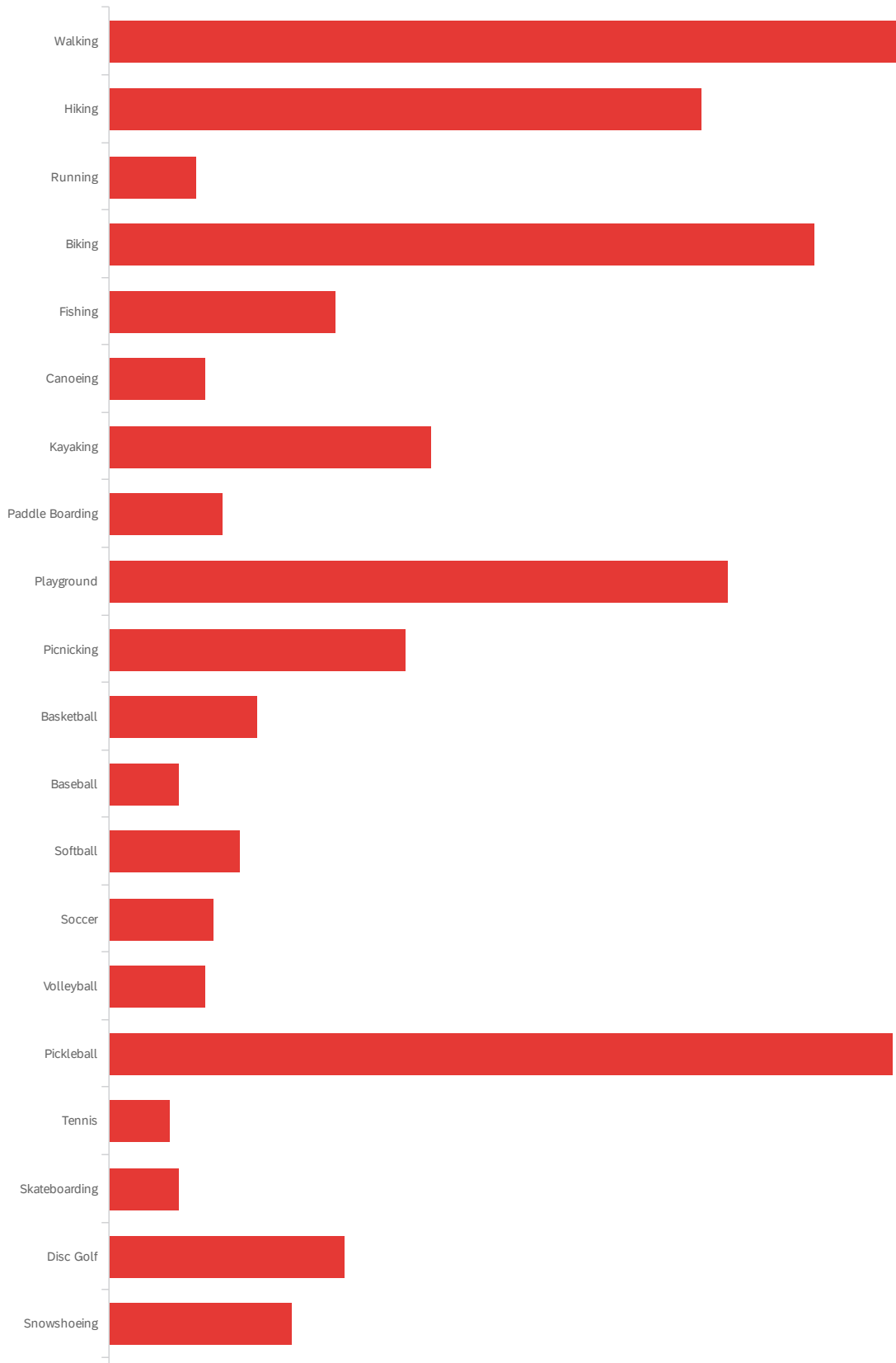
Walking, biking

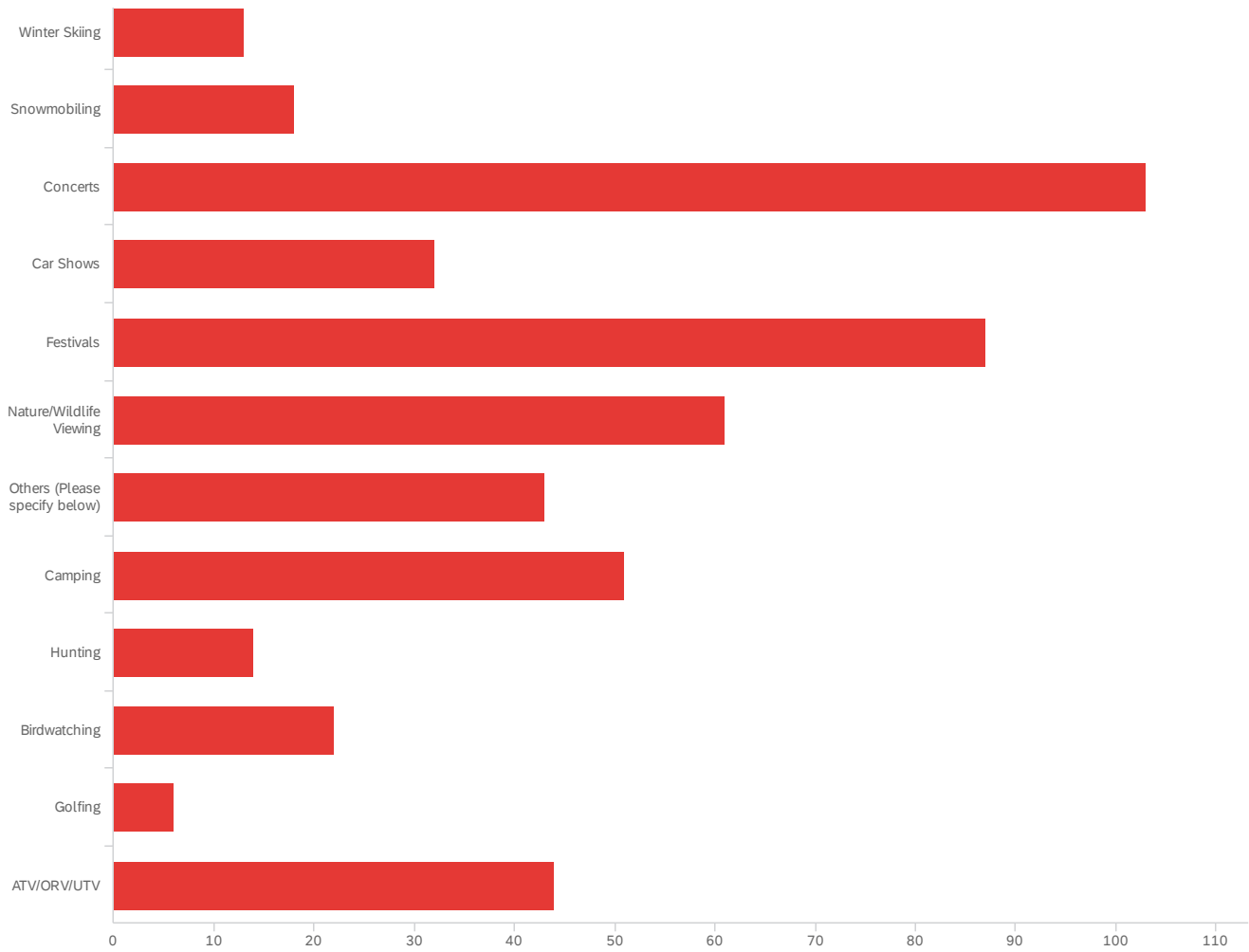
The pavilion is not very handicap friendly. There should be a ramp going down the center of it with a railing.

Roadways are not maintained and parking issues

Q7 - What new or expanded recreational opportunities are needed in Wexford County?

Please select your top 3.





#	Field	Choice Count
1	Walking	7.90% 91
2	Hiking	5.90% 68
3	Running	0.87% 10
4	Biking	7.03% 81
5	Fishing	2.26% 26
6	Canoeing	0.95% 11
7	Kayaking	3.21% 37
8	Paddle Boarding	1.13% 13
9	Playground	6.16% 71
10	Picnicking	2.95% 34
11	Basketball	1.48% 17
12	Baseball	0.69% 8

#	Field	Choice Count
13	Softball	1.30% 15
14	Soccer	1.04% 12
15	Volleyball	0.95% 11
16	Pickleball	7.81% 90
17	Tennis	0.61% 7
18	Skateboarding	0.69% 8
19	Disc Golf	2.34% 27
20	Snowshoeing	1.82% 21
21	Winter Skiing	1.13% 13
22	Snowmobiling	1.56% 18
23	Concerts	8.94% 103
24	Car Shows	2.78% 32
25	Festivals	7.55% 87
26	Nature/Wildlife Viewing	5.30% 61
27	Others (Please specify below)	3.73% 43
28	Camping	4.43% 51
29	Hunting	1.22% 14
30	Birdwatching	1.91% 22
31	Golfing	0.52% 6
32	ATV/ORV/UTV	3.82% 44

1152

Showing rows 1 - 33 of 33

Q7_27_TEXT - Others (Please specify below)

Others (Please specify below)

Swimming

Small playgrounds in area that do not have any

additional professionally designed MTB trails

Others (Please specify below)

Water skiing

Swimming- better beaches needed.

Definitely need more outdoor pickleball courts. Even though 2 new courts were opened this year, the popularity of the sport indicates we will need 6 or 8 more outdoor courts. Then even more people could play and tournaments could be held which can draw visitors to town.

Snowmobiling into town, for gas, restaurants, and lodging.

Swim Parks and docks and cabanas

Drone Pilot Club/training sport

Indoor winter activities for family.

The fairgrounds and county fair needs lots of work I know the fair board works hard but really needs some new ideas and an abilities take a few risk to increase attendance

Roller skating

Need OUTDOOR open play times scheduled for pickleball in the area (similar to the Wex). This is a common thing in other surrounding communities, including Manistee I& TC. It's a great way for community members to get to know one another in for single players to be able to play.

More kids-focused/friendly activities. We LOVED the freedom feast and the kids had a blast. We go to the library often and events there as well. More splashpad/play ground and fixing up things that a broken at the blue park by the river.

Horseback riding trails

Expanded winter carnival making full use of both lakes

Biking (Trails)

We could use outdoor Pickleball courts for expanded play and tournament play

More available parking downtown for walkers

We could use more outdoor pickleball courts in Cadillac. The courts at Diggins need to be resurfaced and lines for pickleball should be added to more courts.

cross-country skiing

Mesick really needs something for the teens. A skateboard park would be a great hangout for them.

A downtown theatre for plays, films, bands, etc.

Archery

Swimming, inside walking in the winter

Others (Please specify below)

Not enough beach areas

Private, tent-only campsites

Hockey

Cross country skiing

It would be nice to have something collectively for our young youth to do with their siblings. We do have a skate park (too big for littles) and lake Billings with play equipment (too little for bigs). I do know there were talks of a splash pad. This community was sooooo excited for that as it allows kids of ALL ages to enjoy a fun time together without having to drive 20 minutes to downtown Cadillac.

We need trail access. To many of our PUBLIC trails have been blocked.

Dog park in the downtown area

All of the above with some contribution to these activities in the City

The Kenwood park playground equipment. The one on the other side of the road is falling apart and missing a bunch of stuff.

I think we have lots of opportunities personally. Maybe others feel different.

Airplane watching

Horse-drawn buggy tours. :) Fall color tour train rides: winter time would be beautiful, too.

area with obstacles to play and train one's dogs. ex. teeter totters, slant boards, pole fences to run between, plastic tunnels, even a diving board to jump from in deeper water at the lakes.

Unable to

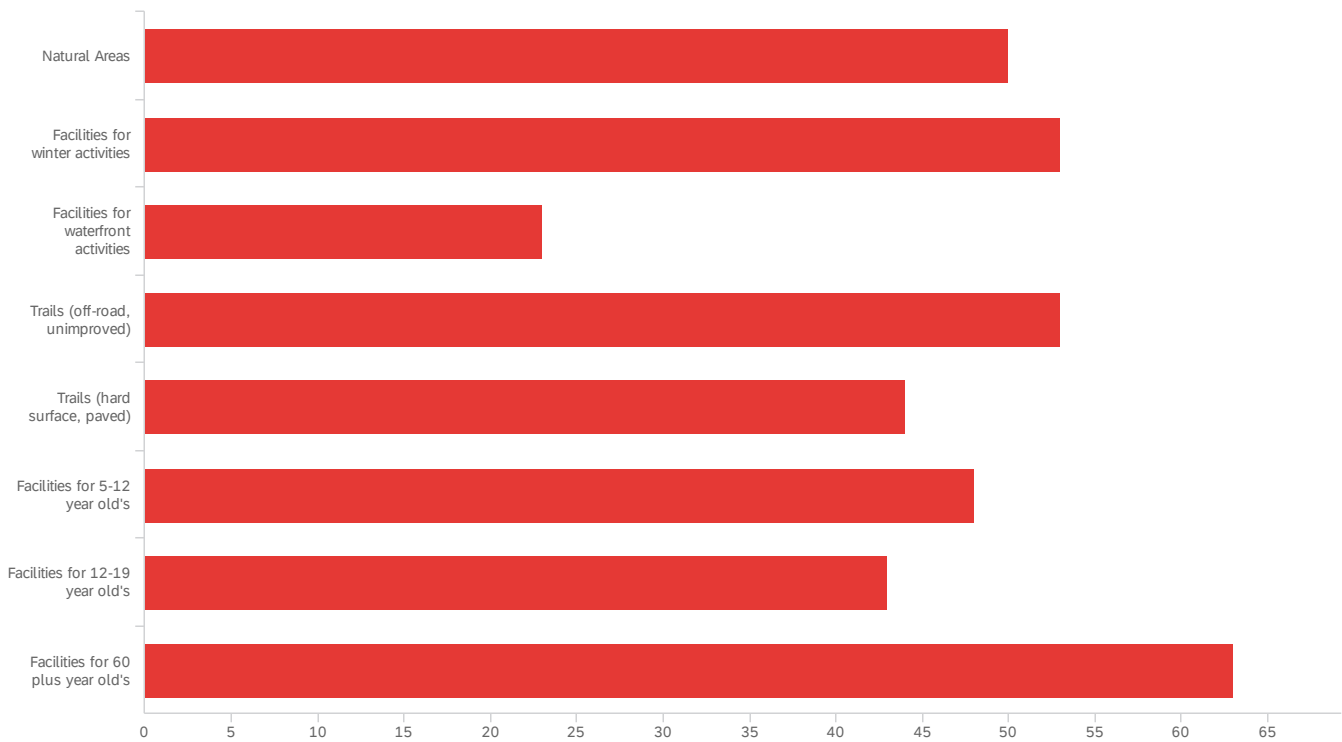
Dog parks and trails

Things to get more people out in one place

The county should create facilities do to scale that small governmental units can't. Examples: Indoor Recreation Center, large playground. County should make a master plan for the Wex.

Children's activities!!!!

Q8 - What type of facilities do you think the County could have more of?



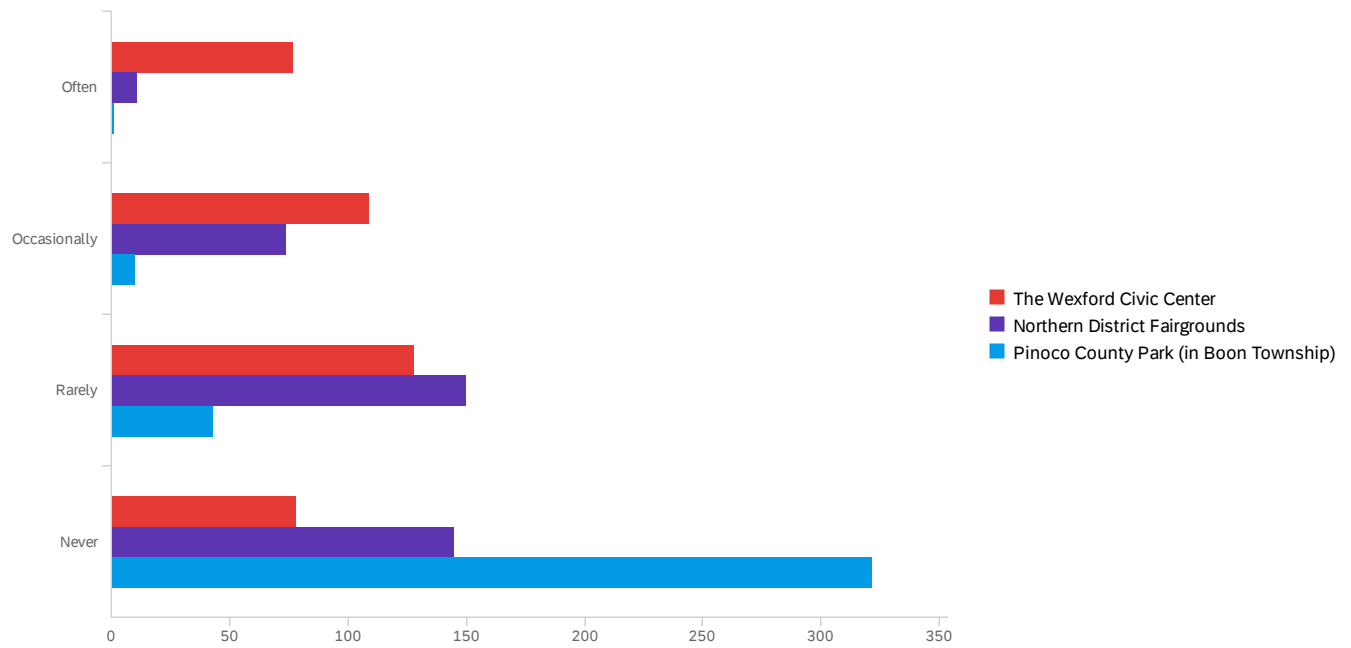
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	What type of facilities do you think the County could have more of?	1.00	8.00	4.64	2.39	5.73	377

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Natural Areas	13.26% 50
2	Facilities for winter activities	14.06% 53
3	Facilities for waterfront activities	6.10% 23
4	Trails (off-road, unimproved)	14.06% 53
5	Trails (hard surface, paved)	11.67% 44
6	Facilities for 5-12 year old's	12.73% 48
7	Facilities for 12-19 year old's	11.41% 43
8	Facilities for 60 plus year old's	16.71% 63

377

Showing rows 1 - 9 of 9

Q9 - How often do you use the following County recreation facilities?



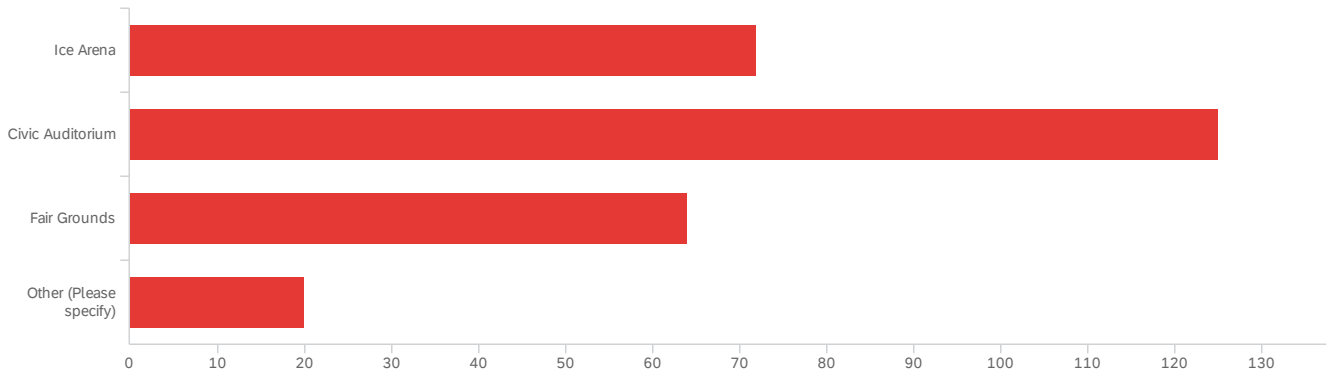
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	The Wexford Civic Center	1.00	4.00	2.53	1.02	1.04	392
2	Northern District Fairgrounds	1.00	4.00	3.13	0.82	0.68	380
3	Pinoco County Park (in Boon Township)	1.00	4.00	3.82	0.46	0.21	376

#	Field	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Total
1	The Wexford Civic Center	19.64% 77	27.81% 109	32.65% 128	19.90% 78	392
2	Northern District Fairgrounds	2.89% 11	19.47% 74	39.47% 150	38.16% 145	380
3	Pinoco County Park (in Boon Township)	0.27% 1	2.66% 10	11.44% 43	85.64% 322	376

Showing rows 1 - 3 of 3

Q10 - Which facilities do you or members of your household use at the Wexford Civic

Center?



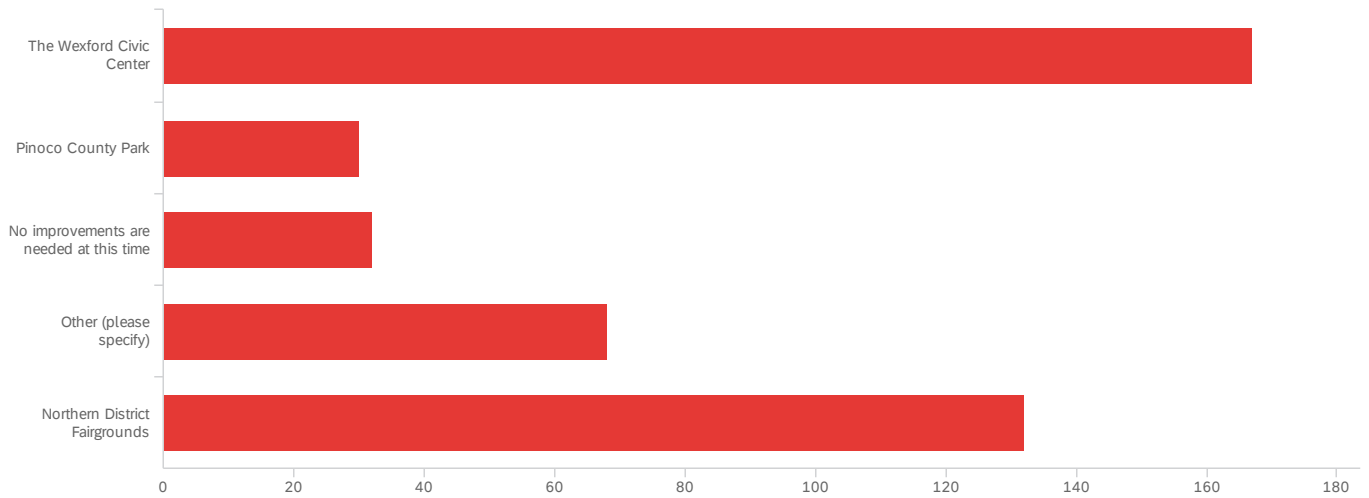
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Which facilities do you or members of your household use at the Wexford Civic Center?	1.00	5.00	2.19	1.04	1.09	281

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Ice Arena	25.62% 72
2	Civic Auditorium	44.48% 125
3	Fair Grounds	22.78% 64
5	Other (Please specify)	7.12% 20

281

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

Q11 - Where would you like to see improvements to Wexford County parks?



#	Field	Choice Count
1	The Wexford Civic Center	38.93% 167
2	Pinoco County Park	6.99% 30
3	No improvements are needed at this time	7.46% 32
4	Other (please specify)	15.85% 68
5	Northern District Fairgrounds	30.77% 132
		429

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

Q12_4_TEXT - Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

I didn't know Pinoco Park existed. Maybe some advertising to let residents know about it.

More parks

All facilities within budget to have residents of the County Of Wexford for improving and being safe with proper lighting and ease of access

More playground for children- garden areas

8 dedicated outdoor pickleball courts. For local rec use and tournaments to benefit the whole community

kenwood park

Not sure

Other (please specify)

Expanded parking for CASA fields

bike trail to Thompsonville, Benzie County

Diggins Park tennis courts/ pickle ball

Lake Mitchell

Lake Mitchell Area

Pickleball courts

All areas of Cadillac could use a pick me up

Play grounds and areas for kids 9 and up

8 outdoor pickleball courts

All the above. Only let you pick one??? Not a good survey

Colfax Township Park

Bike paths. Wider roads around Lake Mitchell. And other biking opportunities.

More pickleball outdoor courts

Never heard of Pinoco Park. But the county needs a park that is family friendly and not another area added by the lakes.

Diggins

Fix up the blue park by the lake. There is a music thing that has been broken for years. There is also a hole by the merryground that gets fixed but then is back again.

Not sure we've lived here 2.5 years so not sure what is available

Lake Mitchell access for fishing from shore

We're new to the area and don't know if improvements needed at this time

More pickleball courts

Pickleball courts next to the tennis courts at Diggins in the valley so they are protected from the wind

Cadillac Pathways (Improved Single Track mountain biking and trail cleanup from the logging operation)

More pickleball courts, or fix the ones at Diggins Park

Other (please specify)

Add outdoor pickleball courts

New outdoor Pickleball courts at the fairgrounds, 8 would be great!

Better parking and restrooms available

More Pickleball courts inside and outside

Bathrooms, drinking fountain

Paved walk/bike paths

Waterfront venues

Outdoor Pickleball courts

Fix current parks. Park on fifth street

The wex and fairgrounds should be head and shoulders above all else in the county's plans to reinvest. Huge potential!

Maintain what we already have instead of creating more facilities that eventually receive no maintenance.

pickleball courts

parking lot at the Wex

In the smaller areas. Not just Cadillac

Manton rotary memorial park

Lake Billings park

Colfax TWP Park

Accessible natural and waterfront areas

Fund some improvements in the City! We pay County taxes as well!!

Cadillac Pathway and other similar trails

Diggins Hill and park area

Create a new park and make old McKinley School into a rec area with tubing, skiing, pickleball, softball. An entire area for the city to use. Focusing on giving teens in the area something to do.

Survey won't allow multiple choices for the previous question. I think all of The Wex and Fairgrounds needs significant investment. I've never been to the Park in Boon; didn't even know it was there.

Other (please specify)

More parks in outlying areas

Beyond "Cadillac" areas

Resurface Diggins tennis courts

Petoskey's fair grounds' renovation has been a good thing. Northern District Fairgrounds would benefit from some well designed building, signage and yardscape upgrades; the return of harness racing may help. Carshows and outdoor concerts would add value there, in addition to the well-established hockey and carnival fair.

City of Cadillac/ Kenwood park area

Create more parks

something for kids

We have some beautiful areas currently but they are filled with trash and overgrown. Why consider something new when you are unable to maintain what we have already

Diggins Hill

More nature, less building.

Civic Center needs a new gym floor and updated amenities which will allow for lots of activities for all ages. It's old, it's dirty but still has a lot of life.

We would just like better mowing and up keep at the Diggins Hill Disc golf Course

need more activities , concerts all ages

Clean community park better.

Q11.1 - What improvements would you like to see at The Wexford Civic Center?

What improvements would you like to see at The Wexford Civic Center?

Parking lot, interior update

More community events/activities

Building modernization and paved parking.

Basic building/facade updates; keep maintaining so it doesn't fall into disrepair again

Park Lot, removal of the building half tore apart

Enhance facility to attract more concerts and headliner level live musicant

Improved pickleball

More things for the teens

That's a good place to build at least 8 outdoor pickleball courts.

Outdoor pickleball courts? Indoor walking track.

General facelift

Improvements of the building

Parking lot

Concerts, more open skate days/times

Inside needs updating

Upgrade facilities, more walking opportunities for winter

More activities for children

8 outdoor Pickleball courts

Evening Pickleball, year round.

More handicap accessible seating

Fix the bathrooms, expand activities

We only visit for hockey. The parking lot can be a bit rough.

What improvements would you like to see at The Wexford Civic Center?

Appreciate the A/C improvement. Would like better seating; more comfortable chairs

Outdoor pickleball courts

Outdoor pickle ball courts

More outdoor activities

Pickle ball courts

Remodeled outdoor space for horseshoes, outdoor pickeball etc

Outdoor pickleball courts

Outdoor pickleball courts

Outdoor Pickleball courts

More pickleball courts, showers in the bathroom

Cleaning floors regularly

Outdoor pickleball courts

Bathrooms need updated

Outdoor pickle ball

Outdoor pickleball courts

Pickleball courts outside

Outdoor pickleball courts; six to eight would allow for tournament hosting, bringing outside dollars to the county. +

Outdoors pickleball courts

Outdoor courts for pickleball

More outdoor pickle ball courts

Pickleball courts. Outside

Outdoor pickleball courts with lights.

More pickleball courts

Outdoor Pickleball courts

What improvements would you like to see at The Wexford Civic Center?

I would like to see 8 outdoor Pickleball courts erected right next to the ice rink. Not only for Cadillac residents but it would attract more tourists and fill the hotels and fill restaurants.

Floor replacement/repair . Better lighting

Outdoor and better indoor pickle ball courts

8 OUTDOOR DEDICATED PICKLEBALL COURTS

Activities during the winter

Bathroom updates

Playground outside, updated indoor facility such as flooring

Bigger

Outdoor Pickleball; hockey equipment shed; parking lot resurfaced; longer indoor Pickleball hours; outdoor walking path

I'm not sure. I was surprised to only see 3 options for places to improve and selected the Wex as it is the one I use. In general it seems like it could use repairs, parking improvements, improve the gym, just updating

Four Pickleball courts outside

More basketball hoops, better bathrooms, water bottle filler , concerts, national acts, more open for walk in public use pitching machine, private lessons different sports. Better parking lot

Parking lot lines

Updated ventilation, bathrooms, a fresher and more inviting place

Unsure

General upkeep improvements. Bathrooms are not in the best of shape and things are outdated.

Updates on the building

Speaker system, bathroom and drinking fountain upgrades.

Ice rink in the rink, it is a great resource that is well managed

Open to public for Athlete training for free

Drinking fountain

Everything. It's "clean", but frankly needs to be demolished & rebuilt. Very out of date and not adequate.

Updated bathrooms and a water fountain. My family appreciates the availability of the facility for baseball/softball.

What improvements would you like to see at The Wexford Civic Center?

Get rid of the gun and knife shows; get rid of events that attract the white trash. Offer more concerts, pop culture, and cultural events

Bathrooms, parking, lighting, ease of use by community groups

Full upgrade. Modernization. It is too run down.

Updates to the gym

Structural improvements that are past due - roof, sound system, parking lot, gym/auditorium floor. Huge potential for much more sports tourism.

More activitied

more pretty areas

Used more for community events, live events, and outdoor events. It seems totally wasted!

The parking lot is horrible and needs to be completely redone.

Increased size and updated.

Renovation inside and out; cleaner facility

Pickleball, skating

Upgrade facility so more events can be held

Heat for Hockey practice

Regular skating and more pickleball!

parking lot improvements

Nothing happens there besides open skates. Open it up to more activities.

Parking lot rebuilt. Aesthetics improved. Modern restroom facilities installed. Food service improvement

Update the heck out of it, it looks like it is unclean and falling apart/into disrepair

Bathrooms

More shows/ conventions better amusement at t the fair

New scoreboard, improved locker rooms, new boards and glass

It'd be nice if there were more events that are family and/or kid oriented.

Parking lot, roof, sound system update, new flooring in Civic Center section

What improvements would you like to see at The Wexford Civic Center?

Updated, this gets a lot of traffic and is a little run down. More festivals to be held, more music events

Bette parking

More shows,

Parking improvement; outdoor amenities; outdoor track around fairgrounds; more inviting aesthetics; more indoor versatility; improved lighting in civic center

Multiple pickleball courts sufficient for tournaments

More activities

complete make over

Upgrades, maintaining of ice rink

More activities for young adults.

The whole civic center inside and out needs remodeled

New parking lot, roof, restroom upgrade

Bathrooms. Auditorium upgrade for sports center.

Parking lot repairs

More ice skating and senior events

Cleaned up and have actual events that are interesting

Funding for the necessary on going upkeep of the facility

Parking lot needs work and the build needs painted, looks run down and rough

Parking lot and bathrooms need replaced.

Increased family activities

Complete update of inside fixtures. More events

Updated

Nicer restrooms

Better parking

What improvements would you like to see at The Wexford Civic Center?

Updated bathroom, energy saving, water and lighting

Q11.2 - What improvements would you like to see at the Northern District Fairgrounds?

What improvements would you like to see at the Northern District Fairground...

Parking lot, building improvements

REpair the octagon building.

Continually upgrade buildings and grounds. I support saving the octagonal building and moving to Veterans Park.

Paved parking. Site aesthetic enhancements. Maintenance.

Updates.....

building improvements and maintenance, sidewalks

Free skating for 12-19, more free activities for all

More things for teens

Better fair

Accessible

Building

More rides for teens and kids and more foods and animals and horses show

Paved areas for moving about freely in a wheel chair and a playground where I could take my granddaughter that I could get to.

More kid friendly activities.. wish we could get yearly fair back to somewhat of what it used to be

Campsites for camping during the fair, more reasonably priced activities for children and adults, exhibit building, etc

All the grounds need updating

Upgraded buildings and grandstand area

Less obstacle

I don't have any productive feedback for this, just that it's a gross run down area that I don't use because it's unappealing

Buildings upgraded.

Easier access to animal areas for those who have limited ability to walk. Paved surfaces to not have to walk through mud

Outdoor pickleball

What improvements would you like to see at the Northern District Fairground...

Outdoor pickle ball courts

Improved county fair

Walking path

Outdoor venue space

The grand stands and rest rooms could be updated and painted.

Bathrooms upgraded

Facelift

Everything. Grandstands are a fire trap and the track is in terrible condition. The fair itself is also very "sad". Need new, modern facilities.

Clean it up. Add landscaping to make it more scenic and attractive.

Maybe some landscaping improvements, walking track

Maintenance of the facilities and site. Improved parking.

This space also has huge potential and has been neglected and lacks proper investment and leadership.

Buildings need to be maintained. They are a terrible eyesore

Clean up the outdoor areas. Currently looks run down.

Rebuild the grandstands. The County should do massive upgrades for the parking area also

Updated facilities and overall appearance.

Outdoor recreational activities. There is so much land there with parking that is not used.

I think updating the look would be nice (cosmetic). The grand stand area could be updated for concerts

Place is in shambles. Have a lot of space there need to utilize it.

Paved walking trail around edge. New grandstand facility w/ modern outdoor concert and presentation capabilities. Pleasant landscaping. Trees.

Newer buildings.

I would suggest more outside bathrooms

Cleaned up so it looks nicer and host more events.

Better upkeep. Would like to see more vendors and just more events for the general public to enjoy

What improvements would you like to see at the Northern District Fairground...

Parking lot, grandstand

Camping

Pavement

Building improvements

More trees and landscaping. The dust is terrible there. Spruce up the buildings. (Traverse has a beautiful fairgrounds, as a good example.)

Better parking lot

Activities that would want me to go there for. Outdoor concerts, antique fairs

See earlier remarks.

Nicer grounds

Better carnival or concerts

Improving facilities, more events at the grandstands

More motor sports in the grand stand area

new grand stand area and improved barns

Maybe areas with activities for kids, teens, and adults to enjoy anytime. Using the area for concerts, or community activities. Or maybe a drive in movie screen. It definitely could use some landscaping.

playground, outside activities

More activities

Better companies to come in for the fair. More than just the 6 or 7 rides. More activities at the fairgrounds that don't cost a ton of money.

Parking lot

Cleaner

Build an event center to host larger events/concerts.

camping

A clean fair with more exhibits and good grandstand events

Same as above

What improvements would you like to see at the Northern District Fairground...

More activities there

Bike trails

Increased family activities

Upgrades to the grand stand and facilities and grounds

Walking track, paved parking lot, playground, picnic area

Stadium and the undergrounds

Make it more if an actual s fee air with miniature houses as little display areas

Better amusement rides for fair

Nice restrooms

Bathrooms and more activities

Q11.3 - What improvements would you like to see at Pinoco County Park?

What improvements would you like to see at Pinoco County Park?

Not sure as I was unaware it existed. From a quick google maps search, it looks like bathroom facilities and a pavilion type shelter. Signage.

What's the pinoco county park? Or rather where?

Don't know since I do not know where it is located. So maybe marketing and improvements

Trails for walking.

Pickleball courts

You could advertise it more. I've lived in Boon township for over 16 years and didn't know it existed.

Picnic tables, corn hole, disc golf benches

Walk/Bike trails

Maybe some signage to let people know it even exists!

donot know

Disc golf course

An acknowledgement of it's existence and actual use. Very little populates in a google search and I could not even find it on google maps. How can people use it if they don't know about it?

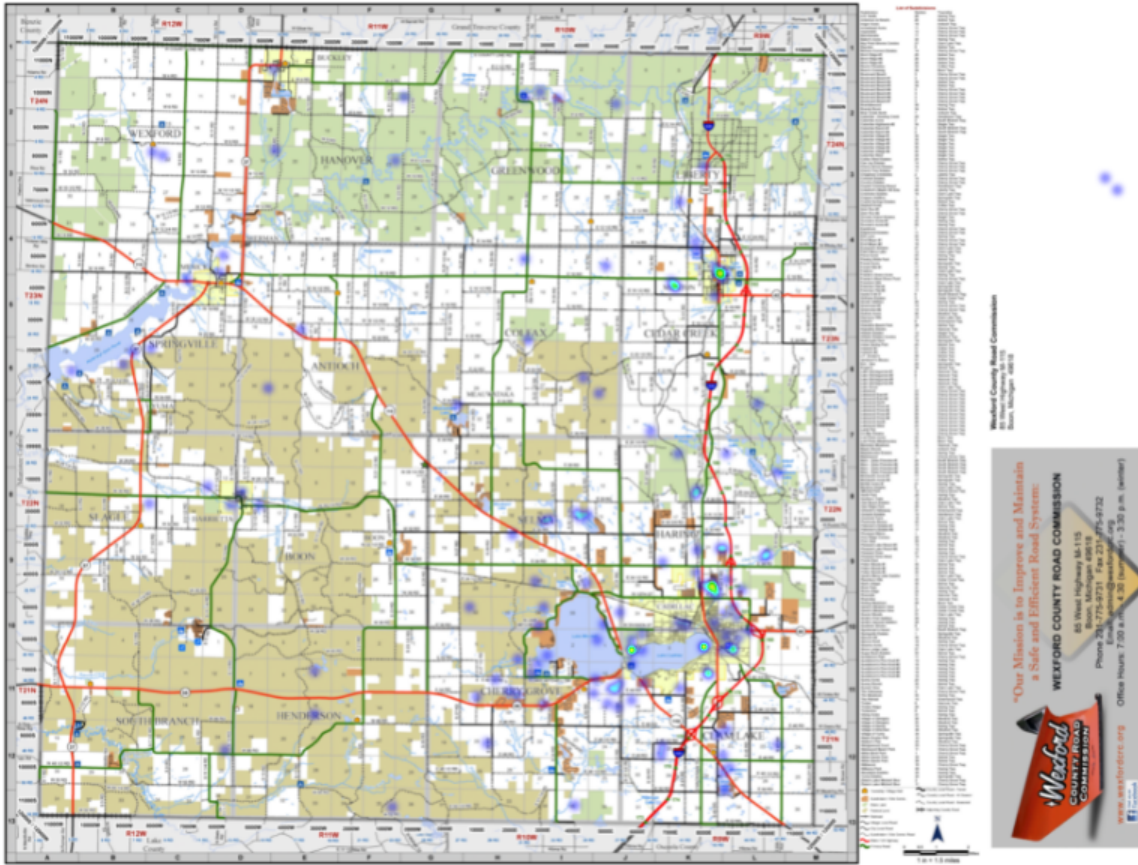
Would actually like to see a park for families to go and see nature and have cookouts.

More equipment

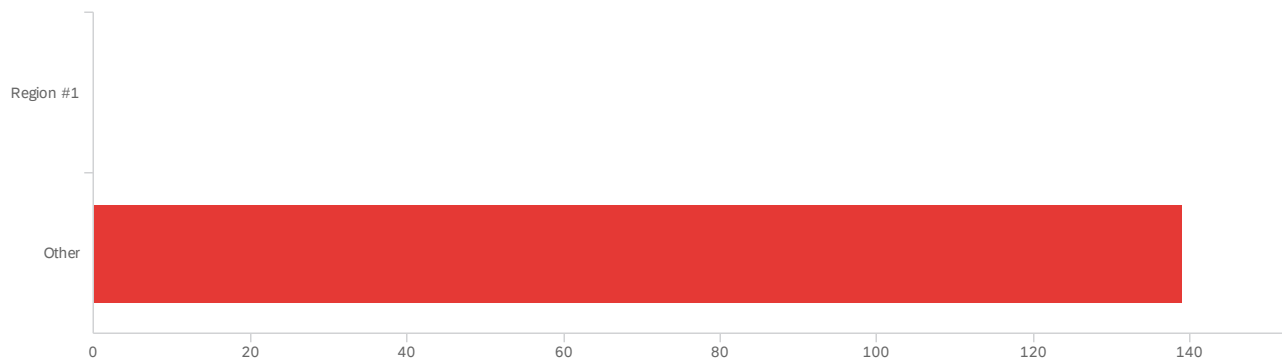
More activities

Playground, picnic tables, bathroom, or frankly ANYTHING!

Q12 - Where do you believe a park could be added to Wexford County? Please click on the map below to mark your area location for a possible future park. Only one location can be selected.



Q12 - Where do you believe a park could be added to Wexford County? Please click on the map below to mark your area location for a possible future park. Only one location can be selected. - Regions



Q12.1 - If you selected a location above, what would you like to see at the park?

If you selected a location above, what would you like to see at the park?

Haring or Cedar Creek

Picnicking features. Trails - walking and biking.

Pickleball courts and a playground

MTB trail to serve residents and visitors of the State Park and the West side of the lakes.

Can't read the area above it is too small.

Hiking trails

Swings

Outdoor pickleball courts

Pickleball courts, a bike track

Walking paths, benches, picnic tables. Safety measures

Trails for non motorized recreation

We don't need another park. Think about integrating nature, bike paths and walkways in all of our county communities. Need to think out of the box on this one.

X-country ski trails

Playground, picknick tables, etc.

Picnic area, playground, disc golf

Turn the property for sale into a nature park, maybe campgrounds, extended the clam river parkway. Would be amazing if it connected to the Cadillac pathways

Picnic tables, restrooms better beach access

More rides for teens and kids more foods and animals and horses and shows and games to play..

Splash pad for kids, playground equipment and sound gardens and art

Water park slides, shelters

Water slide or water based activity swim platform umbrellas etc. Beach sand, other shelters/cabins

If you selected a location above, what would you like to see at the park?

A better splash pad, with like dump buckets or overhead sprinkler type stuff, and park stuff for kids

Playground, walking trails, more access to Lake Mitchell

Activities for younger kids

Activities for bigger kids with seating areas. Maybe hands on exploration

Slides,play ground equipment, picnic tables

There is one one dense county area. Smaller parks in Buckley, Mesick and Manton

More playground equipment for all ages

Historical Marker for our Centennial Loggers US Forest Service Camp and a pavilion for weddings and more playground equipment

Grills, picnic table w/shelter, water hookup,bathroom

?

A nice area to be able to have picnics, ride bikes, watch nature, hang a hammock and enjoy the quiet. A place that can be enjoyed by all age groups. We should not cram more things around the lakes. Maybe a decent disc golf course. A peaceful and quiet area to enjoy.

Picnic area, playground, senior activities

Kids equipment. Stuff to play on. These swings that a baby and adult can swing on at the same time.

Trails for hiking and trail running.

Hiking

Pickleball park

Outdoor Pickleball courts

Pickleball

Something between Cadillac and Manton including good single track mountain biking trails similar to Arcadia Bluffs or Merrel Park (Rockford)

Fishing pier

Pickleball courts, basketball courts, picnic area, playground.

8 Pickleball courts

Not sure this is the only place available, pickle it would be nice to have more outdoor pickle ball courts. There are lots of people who enjoy it and only 3 outdoor courts available.

If you selected a location above, what would you like to see at the park?

Pickleball courts

Pickleball courts

Pickleball and concessions

A playground that isn't a hundred years old and right next to the lake or school

Picnic tables, benches, trails, playground, corn hole, Something in the NW corner of the county

N/A

Again, not sure where a park could/should go. I like waterfront opportunities, but there may be a better location for a park to improve access for kids that don't currently have a park.

Expansion of the White Pine Trail north of Cadillac

Picnic tables, boat launch, fish cleaning station

Pickle ball courts, walking and bike paths

Outdoor venue space

Diggins hill winter park

Nothing

Attractions for summer kayak rentals and hiking

Winter activities such as a monitored ski hill. Also need basketball, baseball playgrounds and groomed park areas.

Courts and fields in Clam Lake.

Picnic area, nature trails for pedestrians, bicyclists only; small event pavilion for nature classes and activities

Walk/Bike trails around lakes

Additional take-outs and parking along the manistee, or better marked and advertised

Picnic facilities, shore fishing, and pickleball.

Expand the beach at this park

Launch area for canoes and kayaks picnic area out house

Kayaking, picnicking, hiking trails

If you selected a location above, what would you like to see at the park?

Outdoor basketball, tennis,

Disc golf course

By the Cadillac pathways

walking, hiking running trails

I think that the parks we have now around the 2 lakes need to have basketball areas

Picnic, trails

A shelter with restrooms and firepit similar for snowmobilers similar to Reed City

Picnic places near the water. Trails.

better kayak access in mesick

Play area and water park with trails and food court

Splash pad, walking trails that connect in town, volleyball net, hammocks for teens to hang out in

More activities and a gathering space/pavilion at the Colfax Twp park.

Manton

Cedar Creek

Camping/ORV run/hiking

Paved walking trails. Playground instead of having to drive into town. Workout equipment.

dog park

Disc golf, hiking trails, access to Manistee river

Hiking trails

Don't think we need more parks, we need the county to pay it's fair share back to city residents

Playground, walking/biking/running trails

Kentwood improvements

Something for kids

Better access for bikers, hikers, runners to the highest point in lower Michigan

If you selected a location above, what would you like to see at the park?

Id like a nice little park near the soccer fields. Stuff for kids to play on. Make it a kid friendly area

Cleaned up, new baseball mound, refurbished tennis ball courts, maybe remodel parts of the hill to better incorporate other outdoor activities

Old McKinley school. Skiing. Tubing. Pickleball, softball, baseball. All for teens.

We love kenwood Park, it would be nice if there were swings for the kids and newer equipment on the north side of the road.

Mountain bike trails built in the area and a hub for them in either Harrietta or Mesick

A playground area for children in Cadillac West area

Soccer/basketball/baseball/softball fields

Walking trails and playground equipment

Walking/hiking/bike trail, playground

A unique park near pickle ball and basketball courts would be fun for the entire family. We have to drive to Elk Rapids to get something for everyone, it would be nice to have a one stop place in Wexford County. Courts, bike path on the outside edge, and a unique playground, too.

Manton is a beautiful area that is often forgotten about in Wexford County. I wish we have more trails by the river

Playground

Play equipment, volleyball net, bike repair station

Pickleball courts

It would be nice to have a pavilion with a Community Aviation Discovery Area similar to Jack Barstow Airport in Midland.

FENCED-IN (given the M37 highway there) picnic tables, miniature trail walk w edu signage re local flora and fauna, ie herons, eagles, deer, bear, bobcat, fish, rabbits, butterflies, with directional pole sign with miles to fish hatchery, red bridge, local churches, canoeing rivers ahead, etc. Could serve as a travel break stop. Well-designed and small; could re-work building there for travel stop re-use.

Picnic facilities, nice bathrooms, playground, walking paths, biking trails

it's too small to locate an area but should be central to the town

Trails, dog park, benches, splash pad, lap pool, concessions, picnic area, bike lanes,

A large family oriented park with hiking/walking trails; picnicking; water access for fishing and nature; modern campground; accessible for all county residents; useful for educational programming; - perhaps somewhere in center of county

Camping

Picnic tables

If you selected a location above, what would you like to see at the park?

Looks like a great spot for kayaking and canoeing. I'm not familiar with where that is and going to have to look at it further. Maybe camping or picnic areas would be great too.

camping at or near Hodenpyl dam

various playground equipment- swings, merry go round, etc., as well as grills and a picnic area

Hiking and cross country trails

Nothing new - but I would love the garbage and trash picked up all over. The areas in the city of Cadillac are not being maintained now - why expand when what we have is so unsightly and unkept. Fix what we have first...

Splash pad or paved area around it for elderly to walk

Clean area picnic tables

Additional picnic areas on the lake.

Something interesting natural wildlife

Small play equipment, bathroom, small dock, level out driveway/ parking. light post, reflective markings for entry from road, pedestrian crossing signs along highway, parking for trail walkers.

Picnic area, hiking/walking paths/trails

Playground area for kids, public areas for events

North south bike trail to Manton

would not open

More activities for elderly and disabled people

Natural wildlife.

Public beach area 4

More waterfront docks possible marina by the pavilion

Parking/ picnic area

Pickle ball, basketball, picnic area, restrooms

Basketball, pickleball, pavilion seated areas

hemlock campground needs an upgrade . make the beach area at city park better / ripped off

More land, parking, tables, benches

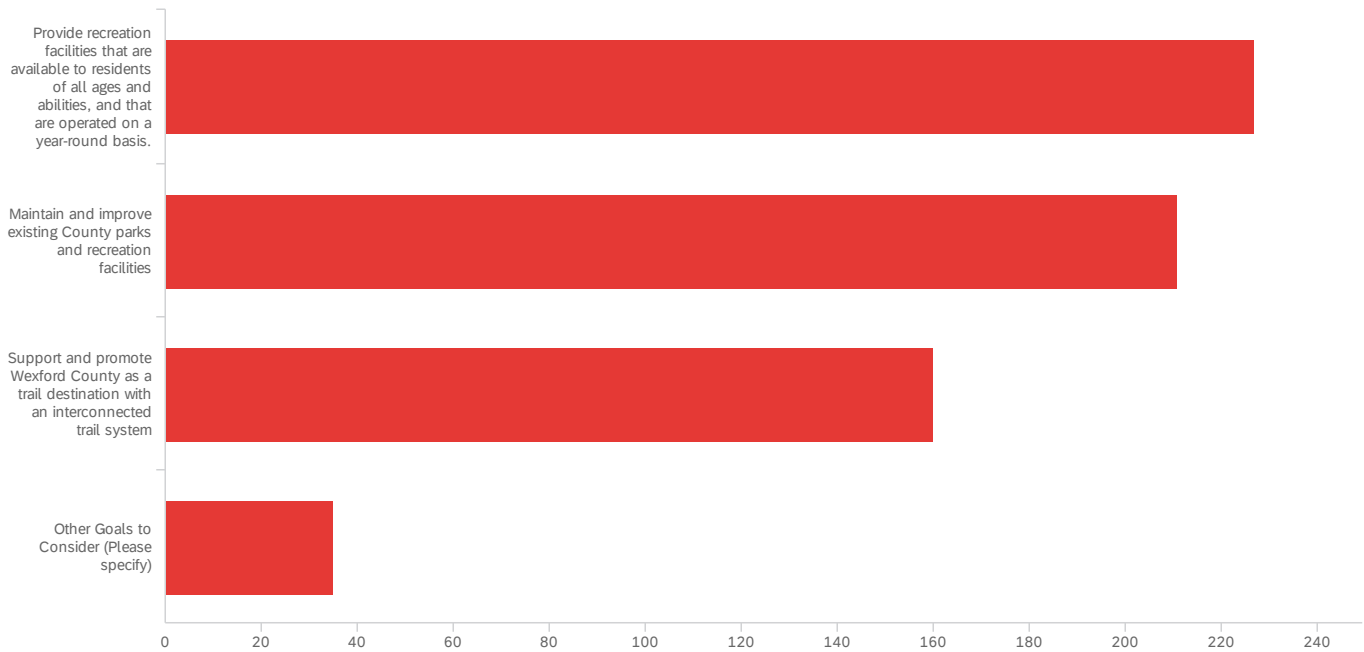
If you selected a location above, what would you like to see at the park?

Tables, benches and a sitting shelter

Atv/orv parking with bathrooms

Hiking trails behind tim hortins

Q13 - Please select the goals that you support.



#	Field	Choice Count
1	Provide recreation facilities that are available to residents of all ages and abilities, and that are operated on a year-round basis.	35.86% 227
2	Maintain and improve existing County parks and recreation facilities	33.33% 211
3	Support and promote Wexford County as a trail destination with an interconnected trail system	25.28% 160
4	Other Goals to Consider (Please specify)	5.53% 35
		633

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

Q13_4_TEXT - Other Goals to Consider (Please specify)

Other Goals to Consider (Please specify)

horse trails

atv trails other counties support this for tourism we have thousands of national forest and state land the tourism base gets confused as to what they can use and we lose thousands of dollars in revenue we need marked trails not everyone wants to hike

Fun in the sun both summer and winter

Support Fairgrounds

Expanding bike trails (access to manton or lake city), an indoor playground for kids in winter

Other Goals to Consider (Please specify)

We love going to and participating in car shows. Today, even with the rain, the freedom festival car show was terrific.

Bring tourists to the city

New pickleball courts and resurfacing of the tennis courts

Cadillac has a lot of lakefront. It would be nice to have another fishing pier where you don't need a boat to fish. Cadillac also has a lot of boaters. It would be nice to have places to rent dock space for the summers.

With the new Pickleball courts we could hold tournaments and have local merchants sponsor such. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country. A club could be established whereby dues or membership could be required. Grand Rapids has Belknap park which could be a pattern to follow.

More available public restrooms

Connect the railroad trestle in Mesick!

Coordinate with DNR to extend hiking and bicycling trails.

Skateboard park in Mesick

Support and Promote Wexford County as a non-motorized trail destination. Support Wexford County as a destination for paddling and fishing.

Continue to invest in the ice rink

Clean up existing parks; too much white trash litter and vandalize parks and park structures

Do something!

Develop outdoor pickleball courts that allow for tournaments and league play in the Cadillac area. The Wex is ok for indoor use in the winter months, but pickleball gets bumped (i.e. canceled) anytime there is another event in the Wex.

All of these are important, but the wex and the fairgrounds need a huge lift right now and the ROI would be enormous.

If the city won't fix Leeson Ave., create a bike path between Division and 13th Street.

improvement of Diggins Hill; additional pickleball venue (

Stop taking down the trees in the Cadillac pathway. Looking really shabby.

promote snowmobiling in Cadillac

Would love to see more pickleball and racquet ball courts

Public parkland acquisition that combines public use with open space preservation. Nature preserves, etc

Cooperation with joint funding with city

Other Goals to Consider (Please specify)

Increasing County engagement with Visitors Bureau, Chamber, and local municipalities that already have some of these facilities available.

Spaces for families to have activities and spaces that increase the benefits available to visitors

I support aspects of all of the above to some degree; however, what is done should be w/in budget restraints to include good maintenance and routine safety patrols.

Provide facilities that economies of scale do not permit local governments to provide.

More bike lanes for recreation and commuting

Improvement of natural areas, less buildings.

Make the marketplace a year round market

Maintain access to roads with better seasonal road conditions

Q13.2 - What ways can the County achieve the goal of providing recreation facilities that are available to residents of all ages and abilities, and that are operated on a year-round basis?

What ways can the County achieve the goal of providing recreation facilitie...

Change/upgrade facilities to match changing user desires like more pickleball or disc golf

have more parks available and create more trails that are safe for families to use

Advertising, local support, grants, and donations.

what you are currently doing ask for suggestions

Have an active recreation department to apply for grants and even promote recreational mileage increases

Maintaining roads that allow access.

Consider all age groups

Expansion of designated bike lanes in a fashion that connects the counties' municipal areas. TART provides a great model

Increase funding. These days, folks are a lot more active. I live off the rails to trails and it is used all the time by many folks walking, biking, or snowmobiling

Indoor playground

Outdoor recreation (e.g. pickle ball) opportunities in the summer. Access to indoor opportunities in the winter.

Places that have stuff for teens to do

Government funding instead of funding buildings that contractors abandon

City of Manton need a youth center for the kids, also a welcome center would be great

Indoor putt putt. Arcades for adults, ski ball, etc

Allocate tax dollars for improvements and additions

Volunteers, donations, public involvement

Trash cans, maintenance and upkeep

What ways can the County achieve the goal of providing recreation facilities...

Explain what is available and opened year round. Improve what we already have. Loved hear for almost 26 years and I still don't know what all Wexford County has to offer.

Set up a "parks and rec" department to maintain areas

Indoor playgrounds, parks, walking areas

Maintaining year round restroom facilities, better parking options for handicapped. Handicapped does not just mean w/c access, but parking closer to facilities for someone using a cane or walker

Pickleball park

Outdoor pickleball courts

remote access cards

Expand the volunteer pool

An indoor sports complex would be great. Something similar to the "Kingdom Soccer" complex in Kalamazoo would be great. Multiple fields with high quality turf. 1 full size field and 2 smaller fields. The smaller fields would be usable as Rec Dodgeball leagues too. A big enough complex could potentially house indoor facilities for tennis and/or youth baseball and softball skills development.

Provide and update more pickleball courts for local residents and future tournaments

Grant money, fund raising. People pay for a key each year to open a gate to get into courts (\$30-50 a key). This helps keep things maintained and less damage do to people not able to get on courts without a key.

New Pickleball courts at the Civic Center, outside

Actually do it

Support the Wex ice skating arena and improve the opportunity to walk laps in the Wex.

Select State

Keeping free for county residents; add bathrooms (at least porta potty); ADA rated trails

I'm only aware of DNR and Forest service year-round recreation facilities, except for the WEX. It would be great to have maintained (plowed or groomed) trails for walking/running in the winter. Options are limited and most are for cross country skiing.

Add a handicap accessible fishing pier to the west end of the city walkway on Lake Cadillac

Improve Diggins Hill Park to include the top of the hill. Include year round facilities (restroom/warming house

Maybe try to expand the parking facilities somehow.

Recreation millage county wide that is directly invested in facilities and programs

What ways can the County achieve the goal of providing recreation facilities...

Establish a properly funded by tax payers and users, Park District.

Make recreation a priority. Partner with the City of Cadillac and community groups. Advocate to change the policy that only allows hotel taxes for big cities.

Apply for grants to help improve parks/recreation facilities

Improve the wex for multiple use.

Have them open and maintained

Update and make better use of the Wex gym for more indoor winter activities.

Fund facilities that need help!

the places exist, need better PR-signage, and website presence

Find more things to do INSIDE during inclement weather--year-round

Ma

Promote activities at the parks

Maybe cut some pay of some of the overpaid employees

Advertise the things we have as many don't really know, IMO.

Provide more activities and gathering spaces for young children and teens with different things people can bring their family or kids too. Low cost to free. Movies, music, playgrounds, pickleball,...

Operating millage. Aggressive grant writing. Community philanthropy

Look into acquiring vacant land or State Land (sometimes made available at auctions), especially near water features (rivers, lakes, creeks)

Put in new facilities and have full time staff to regularly clean maintain and repair the sites

ORV TRAILS CONNECTING LAKE CITY AND MANISTEE TO CADILLAC;

Funding and manpower

A clear vision and long term plan for recreation in the county.

Identify what the interests of certain age groups are so you can provide the appropriate facilities. Coordinate with outside groups/schools/clubs to promote use of the facilities and maybe "learn to" days to support beginners.

Invest in the infrastructure related to The Wex.

What ways can the County achieve the goal of providing recreation facilities...

Maintaining year round bathroom facilities, improving walking areas to accommodate electric scooters and wheelchairs, invest in snow removal equipment

Extend the White Pine Trail through Wexford county.

Having bathrooms open year round, when you have children accessing these is hard with no public restroom

Maintain existing trails; community cleanup events; community outreach events

Build a facility that can provide space for a couple hundred people to meet that has walls and portable heaters in the colder weather and open space with a roof in the warmer weather at the airport.

It if abandoned properties and cleaning them up for public use

Evaluate activity levels for various activities by all age groups. Maximize access for all at all facilities

Child Science Center

Update areas such as disk golf, they are no longer clearly marked. Put signs up to clearly mark trails designated for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing to encourage new activities.

more activities for teenage children

rest areas, plowing of snow

Ensure the grounds are sanitary and safe, as well as operational. Regular upkeep. Provide accommodations where needed (wheelchair access, etc.). Also provide weather appropriate activities.

By having more community input

Find areas that have no playground areas.

Work in trails

fund raising projects tied to specific projects

Improve the civic arena, nit just the ice side.

Make market a year round facility.

Take care of recreation facilities better

Have more areas plowed for walking in the winter

More trails for x-country skiing & snowmobiling

Use of an ad hoc committee

What ways can the County achieve the goal of providing recreation facilitie...

Make Cadillac West more pedestrian friendly.

Maintain the roads and provide bathrooms

Q13.3 - What ways can the County maintain and improve existing County parks and recreation facilities?

What ways can the County maintain and improve existing County parks and rec...

General upkeep, paint, new trash cans

repair the paths we currently have

Look to acquire additional funding, like grants, to maintain or expand recreational offerings.

Improved maintenance. Aesthetic/landscape enhancements.

improved signage, maintain and promote athletic areas

all comes down to funding, will the county support a small millage?

Get grants to help fund improvements and new facilities

Ensure that current structures are kept in good shape.

Hire more workers

Improve funding so there is sufficient money

Maintain infrastructure

The Wex is limited at times for pickle ball due to other events. With only one facility, pickle ball is the one that has to be canceled.

Keeping it clean and safe for younger kids

Better roads and plowing

Park upkeep

Volunteers and a paid administrator

Being able to better take care of them, offer more activities

Clean up and patrol more

Improve paths, Increase path connection, bathroom facilities

Cameras for vandalism

What ways can the County maintain and improve existing County parks and rec...

Give better direction and goals to fair. Contribute to recreational needs of Cadillac and area. No parks/no trails county supports

Update & upgrade existing facilities

Get out there and actually do it.

Fix the blue park and keep fixed, also repairs are needed at the sound garden

We really dont have many complaints. Bathrooms sometimes arent in great shape

Volunteers or jail house guests

Partner with the public schools for "space sharing"

Improved trails at the Pathways, and cleaning up the brush and sight lines at Diggins.

Add pickle ball courts

Repairs and maintenance ; remove or replace wooden structure in Sound Garden since it is eyesore and unsafe; plow trails and parking in winter; add Pickleball

Deferred maintenance and increased events. Indoor soccer field (s) ??

Give us a list of county parks -- I have no idea how many or where

Focus on repairing projects that were left alone after completion like the sound garden, greenway walk, and kids play park

More bathrooms

If a Park District is formed, their millage could pay for maintenance.

Keep them updated.

Keep the white trash out so they stop littering and vandalizing; add performing arts center to the civic center

Offer people a chance to partner with parks to help do maintenance/projects

Maintain them!

Put the youth to work, they can receive academic credit for volunteer hours

Have them open and maintained all year long

Provide adequate staffing and maintenance for the Wex.

Safety

What ways can the County maintain and improve existing County parks and rec...

Apply for grant funds and collaborate with other community stakeholders

More groomed hiking trails

Many need new paint and physical repairs

Cleaner

just maintain-carry on

Fix broken items on the playground, fresh wood chips, trash and basketball nets

Clean, sweep, landscape. Replace bike path between State Park & Sunnyside.

Clean up the garbage. There are campers(homeless?)on the Cadillac Pathway on Seeley Rd. The area is looking trashed.

Keep them clean

The Civic Arena has gone to seed. It needs massive upgrades. As this is a destination type facility, it not only serves county residents specifically but can attract visitors who spend money on meals, lodging and shopping. The ARPA funds would have been a perfect fit fir breathing new life into this facility while sending a message to potential investors and developers of our willingness to invest in ourselves.

Trash pick up, There is camping going on on the Cadillac Pathway near the Seeley Road entrance. Trash everywhere in certain areas. I think it may be homeless folks. Last hike over there was concerning.

Update old facilities such as the grand stand at the fairgrounds, improve trailheads or signage so people know the location of these recreational opportunities.

They aren't very well advertised. I have to actually 'think' where Wexford County parks are at. Mecosta County for example really promotes their parks and are applying for grants to improve and grow their park system.

Keep them clean

Operating millage.

Set up volunteer organizations "adopt-a-park" type groups

Fix broken equipment, paint to make them look better

Just improvements updating

Public infor basketball quart

Make improvements to ice arena. Allow people to play roller hockey whe. The ice is off.

Promoting the parks more. Maybe look into employing instructors or coaches who can do classes at these parks

New playground equipment for the wooded area at Kenwood Park.

What ways can the County maintain and improve existing County parks and rec...

Providing better communication, marketing and signage of what the facilities and opportunities are, especially those that are not state or federal opportunities.

There are so few to maintain...? Invest in The Wex and Fairgrounds.

More trash cans and pet waste bags, we could try instituting a community volunteer clean up day each spring. Or can inmates work on clean up? Winter bathroom facilities.

Update with Modern Ammenities

Update walking paths

More music events and events that focus on all ages

Set up a meeting with the Airport Manager to discuss possibilities for community facilities at the airport.

Make a master plan for the Wex and upgrade facilities to meet the master plan goals.

Maybe a parks director and staff.

Update the areas designated for activities, like disk golf. Cleaning the beaches from goose feces and seaweed that comes on the shores

Just some upgrades

clean up maybe new play areas

rest areas and plowing

Just enforcing the expectations already there, such as, maintenance, regular upkeep on current playground equipment. Adding equipment.

Have the City of Cadillac improve the walkway first. Nothing is maintained, trimmed, or mowed

By adding more activities/picnic areas

Maintain Diggins Hill disc golf course

Senior services, physical activities, health screening, s

Create a program for intern student to work at these facilities/parks with seasoned workers. Get experience and understanding of the beauty and importance they are for our community to have. Porta-potries at these locations are important.trash cans are also important.having persons work at these location will lessen the chance for people littering or abusing area.

Funding sources for necessary on going upkeep

Keep politics out of it.

Keep up current trail system

What ways can the County maintain and improve existing County parks and rec...

upgrade current areas ie: skate park for use, dog park for use etc...

Open the restroom facilities. Last summer the ones by the park were closed pretty much all summer.

Clean up river walk. Have more volunteers to patrol for safety

Update current facilities and restrooms

Move down trees, put together a mapping system for the Diggins Hill Disc Golf Course. Put walking markers and maps for Cadillac Pathway. Provide a walking path around Lake Cadillac so there would be no walking on the street.

city parks needs a better beach . rope off area

More "clearly marked" special needs parking & more parking in general

Clean and maintaine better.

Get rid of the geese off the Keith mckelopp walkway.

Maintain the roads and provide bathrooms/ seating areas

Q13.4 - What ways can the County support and promote Wexford County as a trail

destination with an interconnected trail system?

What ways can the County support and promote Wexford County as a trail dest...

Continually look to add to the trail system, especially with under-used or abandoned railways. I totally support the effort to map and promote statewide.

Work with other communities; can the White Pine Trail be extended northwest towards Frankfort

Coordinate with state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over other land. Coordinate with neighboring communities. Coordinate with clubs.

make some loop trails nearby.

More signage and pr

Commercials? Ads?

Connect to other local trails

Bike lanes, parking access

Connect White Pine Trail to Tart Trail

Marketing, expanding and improving trails

Expand bike lanes around Lake Mitchell

Connect clam river pathway to Cadillac pathway

Work to connect some of the existing trails. Getting in and out of Cadillac (city) is key. That's where many services are.

Linking trail from Wexford Cty to Thompsonville would complete a network of trails to the west, north and south of Wexford to Benzie Cty, Grand Traverse Cty, Leelanau Cty and Manistee Cty

Keep clean and safe

Better trail markers and trails

Advertise

I am not sure but public involvement would help

Open back up some of the trails

Figure out how to connect trails to Traverse County

What ways can the County support and promote Wexford County as a trail dest...

Biking, improvements around the North County Trail (camping, parking and/or trails linking to it)

Don't understand what that is.

Signage for trails needs more, have maps readily available

When I think of trails I'm talking about MTB, Road Cycling, Equestrian, and Skiing. Fort Custer State Park is a great example of a space with "multi-use single track" trails. Equestrian and Bike Riders share the trails riding opposite directions. The purpose built mountain bike trails draw people from all over. Roanoke, VA rebranded themselves as an outdoor destination (with an emphasis on MTB) when we lived there and people came from all around to ride and eat at local businesses. Utilizing our outdoor beauty to encourage tourism without majorly altering it would contribute to revitalizing downtown restraints.

More biking trails like the white pine trail. Only two options around the lake of down to Tustin.

Allow sleds in the downtown area

Paved trails

Get the trestle is mesick done for snowmobile

Expansive media campaign; connect trails with state park and with downtown so walking, biking and snowmobiles can connect trails with rental, food and kodgejy

Work with the agencies that already maintain non-motorized trail systems.

Planning and grants and fiduciary

More access for bycles and continued maintenance

Advertising, easy trail access from town

Possible working with adjacent counties to connect trail systems

Market and advertise out of state and within the state.

I think we should focus on trails that interconnect neighborhoods in the townships. We already have the White Pine Trail. Lets make parks easier to reach for residents rather than worry as much about visitors.

Promote trail mapped and signed off-road trails, plus paved trails for walking and biking

Work with the city, MDNR, and Visitor's Bureau to develop a comprehensive trail system.

Funding

Invest in those who are already working hard to build and maintain these trails.

Connect the Cadillac snowmobile trail system to the manton/lake city trails

What ways can the County support and promote Wexford County as a trail dest...

same as first, need better PR, and get all of the spots well "signed" and better website presence

Connect trails from Cadillac to Manton, Lake City so people could go all the way to the bridge

Hire someone to keep trails free of debris year-round

I believe the visitors bureau is involved with that promotion but it not get them involved.

Advertising. Work with the Visitor's Bureau. Put up maps, advertise on Facebook, promote events,...

Collaborate with visitors bureau, townships, municipalities, state, and non profits

Impove website/social media, keep it up to date

Connect the White Pine Trail to the North Country Trail.

Build more trails that interconnect throughout the entire county and with other counties.

Work with the Visitors Bureau to partner and build on existing opportunities and possibilities for motorized and non-motorized opportunities.

Have trail maps available in multiple locations, with area marked for gas and food availability. Host a trail ride with a theme, such as "Wexford Wilds Annual trail ride" design a logo, line up some food trucks to be at the trail head and along a designated route. Set it up so people have check points they have to get to and when they complete the ride they get a whatever (keychain, Bumper sticker..)charge an entry fee to cover costs.

Keep the trails maintained, paved, & plowed.

Get with all municaplities in the county.

Signs on trail systems, advertising

State events websites as to do & destinations

Provide a bike trial from the airport to other destinations within Wexford County.

Evaluate off-shoot bicycle trails to the White Pine bicycle trail. Evaluate trail connections from existing trails to population centers.

We have the North Country Trail system on the west side. And the one on the east side to Missaukee.

Create and put signs to clearly point to designated areas for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and other activities. Advertise on FB, Instagram, put out maps showing activities and where they are located at public high traffic areas.

Continue to maintain

Ensuring the trail is maintained. Advertising that it is available for use.

More events held at these locations.

Maps specifics for trails...all trails

What ways can the County support and promote Wexford County as a trail dest...

Build north from White Pine Trail

advertisement statewide, Donation activities involving trails

Make trails safer

Maintain roads and provide bathrooms and parking

Q14 - Are there any specific recreation projects you would like the County to consider?

Are there any specific recreation projects you would like the County to con...

Create and provide maps for a birdwatching trail

Stop being so cheap!

Public access for lakes/ivers

more pickleball courts, nature trails, paved trails around lake mitchell for biking, more playgrounds

MTB trail on West side of lakes.

No

none

Add outdoor pickleball courts.

BMX bike track

Lake Cadillac need to have weeds removed!!!!!!!!!!!!

Recreation projects throughout the county, not just in Cadillac.

Not sure

See above

Outdoor pickle ball courts (8 at one location to support tournaments). Pickle ball tournaments are big draws to areas that can accommodate them.

trail systems for atv and maps for the public

see above

Different places for teens and kids to go and do games and Different stuff for them but in Different buildings..and stuff for older adults to go and do Different stuff

Concerts and more festivals

Splash pad for the city of Manton for kids under 13

Water Parks

Yes

Are there any specific recreation projects you would like the County to con...

Better lake beaches

Paved walking paths at the fairgrounds with a playground available. The grounds are seldom used and this could be a great attraction.

Outdoor pickleball courts

Better safer splash pad less concrete within the area.. with attached park

8+ outdoor Pickleball courts

Biking trail system north

More hands on activities for all ages

Colfax Township Park -

Safer roads for biking around Lake Mitchell.

Clean up existing parks for the public to use.

Evening, indoor pickle ball for amateurs.

Activities for lower income families, activities for seniors

Expanding bike trails to manton and/or lake city

No

Opportunities for fishing from shore for handicapped without having a long walk to access it, preferably on Lake Mitchell

Oitdoor pickle ball courts

Pickleball park

Outdoor pickleball courts

Pickle ball courts

more blacktop trails

Additional outdoor Pickleball courts

Pickleball

New pickleball courts at Diggins in the valley next to the tennis courts for good wind protection, resurfacing of the tennis courts

More pb courts

Are there any specific recreation projects you would like the County to con...

Indoor Sports Complex, Purpose Built MTB trails

Provide an indoor/outdoor facility for pickleball use, especially tournaments.

City dock is in bad shape. Blue park's turf is getting all cracked and should be repaired

Dedicated pickleball courts, at least six-to-eight in one location. It's one of the fastest growing activities in the country. And one has to travel an hour or more to find a location like that.

8 Pickleball courts at the Wex so tournaments can be held to promote our community as it would bring participants from outside our county

Outdoor pickleball courts

Outdoor Pickleball courts at least 8

Outdoor pickle ball courts

Year round activities

Pickleball courts at the civic fair ground area.

Pickleball courts as mentioned

New Pickleball courts please

More parking for walkers by Lake Cadillac.

More outdoor Pickleball courts

Pickle ball courts

8 or more outdoor dedicated pickleball courts to be used in weekly rec play and for tournaments

More nature trails and a just a general outdoor play area for the kids

Corn hole

Select State

Interconnecting trails; more outdoor Pickleball close together so tournaments can be held

Indoor Soccer facility....Or indoor field of some sort to allow for competitive sports leagues and practices year round. Sand Volleyball pits somewhere!

More Pickleball courts

Improve the Clam River walkway by opening up the river portion under parking lots in town.

Are there any specific recreation projects you would like the County to con...

Campfire pits? Updating outdoor grills?

Diggins Hill expansion to be a winter rec area

More snowmobile trails

MTB trails

Bike trails

Pool! Aquatic center with water slides.

Yes, a bike trail on 41 road and improvements to the Wex (bathrooms and drinking fountains). We also need more options for winter. I think everyone group in the area should partner to get a downtown theatre for plays, movies, bands, etc.

Walk/bike trail around Lake Mitchell and Cadillac

Work with DNR to create a public shooting range. Too many shooters are on Cadillac Pathways which may one day result in an accident.

A low cost public pool - the ymca is fairly expensive to use

Start to maintain what you have.

I would love to see the beaches expanded to include volleyball nets

Pickleball courts.

Another disc golf course; large, clean waterfront play area

The Wex & fairgrounds!

Open more off road trails

NA

not really, just more use of the Wex

We need an area that teenagers can hang out but stay out of trouble. The ice rink always has teens and can use a lot of updates/fixing (parking lot). options to add maybe basketball half courts would be nice.

Bike path along Leeson, replace path between State Park & Sunnyside, more paved paths.

A site with 8+ pickleball courts as a venue (a court here or there scattered around challenges accessibility)

More pickleball courts.

fix the connecting trails going north

Are there any specific recreation projects you would like the County to con...

Again, the civic arena. We invite the governor and hundreds of others to a poorly landscaped, terrible parking lot with visible decaying outbuildings. They then walk to the cigarette-strewn, dingy entrance and are greeted by the smell of dingy, outdated bathrooms. The auditorium is just barely kept clean. Smaller communities show far more pride in their recreational facilities. The Board of Commissioners should rescind the unwarranted raise and use funding to reinvest in parks and facilities that serve the public and become a source of pride.

Would love to see more pickleball courts and racquetball rooms. Racquetball can be played by one person. Good exercise and a partner not necessary. Where I used to live there were racquetball concrete structures in the park.

Something in Mesick

improving and promoting what we have including the Veterans Serving Veterans park.

Pickleball. It's something people of all ages can do.

Equestrian trails

Include quite recreational pursuits in all planning - hiking, walking, snowshoeing, bird watching, biking, etc. Don't just focus on ATV, snowmobiles, etc.

Disc golf, Manistee River access

Kentwood beach upgrade

We live in Michigan

Improving the trail over by Caberfae. Mackenzie trail?

Anything that improves or benefits the ice arena or Cadillac in general. Largest chunk of the population is here

Clean up and reclamation of Diggins Hill/ Park

Focusing on teens

Co project with the National Forest Service to build mountain bike trails in the Briar Hill area of the county. Briar Hill is one of, if not the, highest point in the lower peninsula and its surrounding elevation profile would lend great to modern MTB flow trail. People already come from all over the state to ride the nearby North Country Trail section from Dillings to Marilla rd, having more high quality trail would make it even more of a destination. Hardy Dam is a good example of recent success, and also Marquette.

More rentable boat docks

There is a constant complaint that Cadillac needs an indoor play space for kids.

Extend the White Pine Trail through Wexford County

Construction and maintenance of pickleball courts and trails.

Projects that include the WHOLE County, not just Cadillac

Atv gravel pit

Are there any specific recreation projects you would like the County to con...

Recreation events not revolving around drinking alcohol

Pickleball courts at diggins hill area

A year-round pavilion with a community aviation discovery area similar to Jack Barstow Airport only better. This could serve multiple events such as monthly veterans coffee hours and educational field trips and camps.

Yes: upgrades to the district fair buildings and grounds and development of outdoor performance schedules for area schools, colleges and musician groups. Weekend summertime concerts for families and seniors there could be a good thing if well organized to fit in with already established concerts in the park, Elks Lodge, Interlochen, etc.

Mountain bike trails

Michigan

Child Science Center

Mostly going through and revamping the existing ones. I see so many young adults out playing disk golf and it's horrible.

county campground near Hodenpyl dam

indoor for winter

More children's facilities. Doesn't necessarily have to be a park, but somewhere children ages 2 and up can go and meet other children in a facility-type setting that would also accommodate during the winter months. Jungle gym, equipment- balls, mazes, building blocks, etc.

More and better improvements to trails and buildings on trails.

Get the litter, trash, growth out of the clam river - it is nasty and embarrassing

A rock climbing wall

Michigan

Wild life viewing

Trash cans/prota-poty, lights and workers at each.

No

Disc golf. Clean up Diggins

Upgrade current areas first then work on new projects

Splash pad in Manton

Improvement and clean up of lakes Cadillac and Mitchell and the Clam River including the dam with better overall wildlife and water management.

Are there any specific recreation projects you would like the County to con...

Paved track at fairgrounds

Shade at the pavilion.

No - but include as much green/grass as possible

Atv/orv staging area

Q26 - Please provide general comments below on Wexford County Parks and Recreation system, specific facilities, or your ideas on how to improve recreational opportunities.

Please provide general comments below on Wexford County Parks and Recreatio...

make sure they are maintained.

The property where the fairgrounds are at corner of Mitchell St and 13th street would be better suited for development of retail, hotel, restaurant, and year-round recreation. The fairgrounds should be moved to a more rural, central area of the county near a well-traveled highway like M115 somewhere between Boon Rd and Mesick. A new fairground property in this area could also serve as a campground.

Compared to many counties, Wexford does not seem to be that interested in recreation.

see above

The current facilities seemed to be used a lot by the community and maintained well by the County too.

?

Meawataka (day huff)lake the sea wall needs a lot of boards replaced

More communication with residents on what is open and available

Specifically, besides outdoor pickleball courts, the lighting and floor in the Wex auditorium should be improved.

A comprehensive Wexford county recreation map.

N/a

all our money goes into the ice arena we would like money for other things

NA

In Cadillac

There needs to be more for the public to do all year round especially if you don't ski or own a boat

Manton RV Camp grounds need a lot of new equipment. Such as , electric upgrades, better restrooms and better playground equipment

Lazy river area to float on inner tubes but you're not at a fancy resort

Zip lines for families shelters for picnics in the sunny beach, like around Lake Michigan but on our little lakes

Please provide general comments below on Wexford County Parks and Recreatio...

We need cleaner and better maintained beaches.

Is there a committee? Who decides where funds are used?

More events for kids at the wex

Seems very limited. Why a park in Boon and no where else? Or is there?

Add partial power, expand sites, recreational center with basketball court & playground/ pavilion on the picnic side for day use for family use or create a actual board for the project , get quotes, take suggestions it will be here for centuries

Promote the north end of the White Pine Trail as more of a destination.

Step up and help with the Civic Center and the fairgrounds. Residents should not have to go in and clean and do ground maintenance for upcoming fair.

As Cadillac grows, we will need more parks. Not necessarily big parks, but some different areas for everyone. Kids and seniors matter. We are trail riders but can't find trail maps or markers very easily.

Overall we have a lot of things and they are generally well maintained; our family favoites are biking, splashpad and parks. So expansions on any of those we would support.

Pickleball park that all ages players can enjoy and hosting tournaments that bring tourists to the city

foster social clubs designed to bring the community together for those with similar interests. Similar to meet up.

Pickleball courts are popping up around town, but there doesn't seem to be enough to keep up with the increasing demand. If you look across the US Pickleball is gaining steam as a multi-generational sport. To have some municipal courts that are well maintained and "state of the art" could draw players for tournaments from all over Michigan with the right branding and promoting.

Repair and or create new courts.

Can restrooms be open earlier in the spring and later in the fall? General upkeep on areas already developed. The Wex restrooms are in poor condition. Parking for the downtown waterfront area is crazy when there is an event.

None

The future of recreation looks good for Pickleball and the interest it generates for all ages

Sad to read in Cadillac News article that people are not aware of all county parks. Wesford County, this is YOUR fault!

Build a minimum of 8 pickle ball courts

Select State

Barrier free; grateful for what exists but need more with encouragement for all ages to be be out and moving

Focus on universal access to lakes

Please provide general comments below on Wexford County Parks and Recreatio...

All in all, I think Wexford County is doing a fantastic job to keep the Cadillac area a great destination.

Partner with area businesses to attract increased tourism

Create a Park District and allow them to levy a millage.

I think it just needs to be made more of a priority. We also

Make Parks a place to walk and bike. We moved to MI from OH because we love all the Rail-to-Trails

Again, maintain the facilities. Make them look and feel up to date, high quality, and attractive.

Not interested in opening up more roads for off road vehicle use. It is too dangerous.

No orvs or side by sides

Higher focus on maintenance leads to less rebuilding in future years

Cleaner

perhaps more "outhouses" on trail areas?

we have a nice walk way around part of the lake, but I do not feel safe walking or riding a bike lane with young children completely around the lake.

Often, new facilities are built but receive little or no maintenance. Maintain what we have!

The Wex is not attractive, either inside or out.

Do what you can to stop the DNR from looting the pathway of trees to sell off the wood. Cutting all trees down is markedly decreasing the walking, hiking experience. Tourists will not come for this.

There is so much opportunity for Wexford County to be a destination, but continued resistance from the city of Cadillac to find a path for snowmobiles forces riders to other destinations. These people have their pockets full of money to spend, but the Cadillac area basically tells them to take it elsewhere.

I've made my point. The Board momentarily had the funds to make a difference...and didn't.

I think it's important to maintain what we have. I see more trash on our hikes all the time and there is squatting near the Seeley Road trailhead of the Cadillac Pathway. We weren't confronted by anyone, but it is concerning. I would not like the beauty of this area destroyed. It will happen over time if not addressed.

I appreciate all the different options available for my kids and myself to use in Wexford County.

We have the foundation of a good system we just need to improve/update what we have and then look at ways to expand.

Very limited. Poor compared to many counties.

Please provide general comments below on Wexford County Parks and Recreatio...

There isn't much to do at the parks. Grills, pavilions, walking trails, camping and glamping, fishing piers, pickleball, dog areas, kayak launches, interpretive signs and murals about the County history.

Dont let them get crowded

Funding will need to be increased and committed; then leveraged through collaborations with area governments, nonprofit organizations, and community philanthropists.

I own 40+ acres in Cedar Creek Township, so I do pay taxes to the county. I might consider donating this land sometime in the future if I leave the area. I am a disc golf course designer with 20+ years of experience, and would be happy to assist the County in adding or improving disc golf facilities.

More organized/city sponsored or group sponsored activities

It would bring people from all over

The Long Lake area is a hidden gem that could be used to connect the NCT to the Cadillac Pathway and the White Pine Trail. And your survey needs to be specific about BIKING. Road biking, gravel road biking, and mountain biking all have different needs.

New scoreboard and sound for ice rink. Replace old boards and glass.

We need to focus on our existing parks. They are in desperate need of some TLC. Put funding into bringing these family fun areas back to life.

Keep the ability to maintain these parks in mind. Current parks appear in disrepair.

I realize these are standard questions, however the County doesn't operate any Parks & Recreation assets other than The Wex and the park in Boon. Is the County looking to take on more physical assets and who would manage them?

Before this I didnt even know we have a Parks and Rec department. I know about the city parks but not much about the county.

Wexford Civic Arena needs to be updated, especially the bathrooms.

Need more marketing of what is available.

We need more activities for kids

Awareness. Of facilities & event schedule

Include facilities at the airport that brings more value to the people of the community and helps educate and motivate aviation careers while attracting new businesses to Wexford County.

Routine maintenance and safety patrols.

There are none within a reasonable distance.

Recreation opportunities should be balanced geographically across the county.

You all do great and are greatly appreciated. Landscaping looks beautiful. Let power wash sidewalks, keep beaches cleaner and update activity areas.

Please provide general comments below on Wexford County Parks and Recreatio...

no additional ideas

Nothing much to add here really other than ensuring the current parks and recreation systems are maintained and that the community knows about them. Maybe advertising in public places?

Work with outside agencies to help host events. Rotary does a white pine ride that could be supported.

Try to make them affordable for all

Michigan

Need to be cleaned Kenwood beach is nasty littered with trash and overall very dirty

Trash cans, porta-potty, lights and workers at each

The Wex and Fairgrounds have such potential for all types of recreational activities. Some of these could include concerts, indoor events like winter car shows, rv shows, home and garden shows, etc... It would do the community a disservice if the community lost them. .

Promote trail extension for tourists. Also make Cadillac/Wexford disc golf destination

N/A

PFAS is a huge issue and testing especially surrounding the Clam River and remediation of the areas affected should be a primary focus.

More live music in the pavilion

I love walking down near the lake but cant safely do so in the winter

need more concerts for all ages

Phomenol jobs done - when maintenance is kept up

Pinochle park needs to be improved so it can be used and we need an ATV/ ORV staging area