



Village of Empire
Five-Year Recreation Plan
2018

This page left intentionally blank

2018 Village of Empire Master Plan

Acknowledgements

Empire Village Council

Wayne Aylsworth
Maggie Bacon
Sam Barr, President
Susan Carpenter
Dan Davis
Chris Frey
Teresa Howes

Empire Planning Commission

Todd Avis
Phil Deering (Chair, 2018)
Rollie Groening
Randy Nelson (Chair, 2017)
Sue Palmer
Tom Rademacher
Peter Shous

Empire Master Plan Committee

Todd Avis
Maggie Bacon
Jim Bagaloff
Frank Clements
Phil Deering
Rollie Groening
Teresa Howes
Randy Nelson
Sue Palmer
Tom Rademacher
Peter Shous
Shirley Tanguay
Meg Walton—Chair

Prepared with assistance from



**Networks
Northwest**

Talent / Business / Community

This page left intentionally blank

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Community Description	1
Administrative Structure	3
Recreation Inventory	5
Planning and Public Input Process	10
Goals and Objectives	12
Action Program	14
Appendices	
A. Notes from August 28, 2017 Public Forum	18
B. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant History	19
C. Non-Motorized & Trail Maps	20
D. Minutes for Plan Adoption (pending)	22

This page left intentionally blank

Introduction

The Village of Empire offers a wealth of recreation opportunities for both residents and visitors. A mix of Village-owned facilities, along with other publicly-owned facilities and properties, includes public beaches, natural areas, trails, and sports fields.

As a recreation service provider, the Village recognizes the importance of maintaining its parks and recreation facilities, and of planning for future recreation services and facilities. A major factor in the provision of any service is the question of how projects will be funded. One possible source of funding for recreation projects is through grants available from Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

Recreation was included as a key component of the 2012 Village of Empire Master Plan Update and the Village wishes to update this information and create a stand-alone Village of Empire Recreation Plan.

Community Description

The Village of Empire is a community of 375 year-

round residents (2016 American Community Survey) occupying nearly one square mile of land abutting Lake Michigan. The Village is located within the boundaries of Empire Township on the southwestern edge of Leelanau County (see Figure 1-1). Empire's close proximity to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has established the community as a popular tourist destination. The year-round population, however, has remained mostly static over the last few decades.

Recreational use occupies the second highest amount of land in the Village with over 212 acres or 35.6% of the Village land area (Village of Empire Master Plan Update 2012). This recreational land includes publicly owned properties as well as quasi-public property which is held by a conservancy as a preserve or nature area.

Population Characteristics

When planning for recreation facilities, the community's age and income levels are important

Components of a Recreation Plan

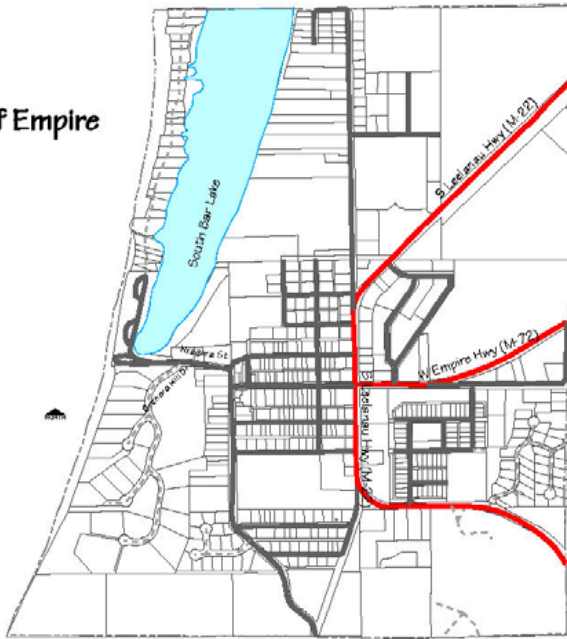
To become eligible for MDNR and other funding sources, a community must have an approved recreation plan. Components of a MDNR-approved recreation plan include:

1. **Community Description** describes the jurisdiction of the recreation plan and the extent of the plan focus.
2. **Administrative Structure** includes a description of how the park and recreation functions are carried out and who is involved with park and recreation programming. Also included are the current and projected annual budgets as well as funding sources.
3. **Recreation Inventory** provides an inventory of existing parks, natural areas and recreation facilities.
4. **Planning and Public Input Processes** discusses planning methods, as well as methods used to incorporate public input into the recreation planning process.
5. **Goals and Objectives** describes the goals and objectives developed during the preparation of this Recreation Plan.
6. **Action Program** identifies how the community will meet, or work towards meeting the Plan's goals and objectives over the next five years.

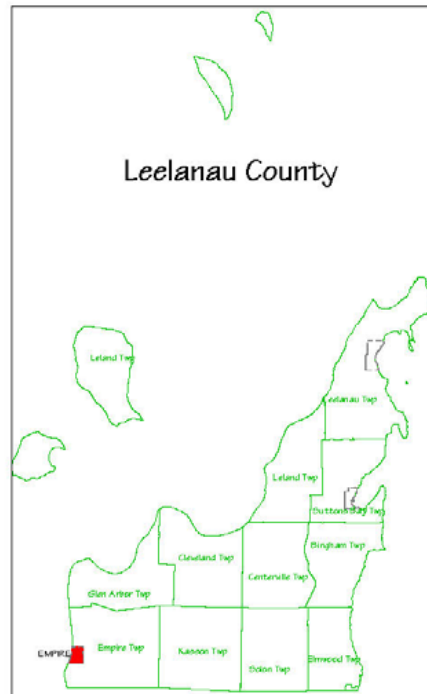
Location Map, Village of Empire

Figure 1-1

Village of Empire



Leelanau County



State of Michigan



Source: Village of Empire Master Plan Update 2012

factors to consider. As detailed in the Village Master Plan (2018), the Village of Empire is home to a population that is aging at a rate faster than the region or the State of Michigan, with a median age of 57.1 years, compared to Michigan’s median age of 37 years. As the population ages, needs move from active recreation facilities like ball fields and playgrounds, toward more passive recreation types like walking and boating. Barrier-free access to recreation is particularly important for an aging population. At the same time, it’s important to consider activities and amenities for the populations that the Village hopes to attract and serve as residents and visitors, including younger people and families with children. Activities and amenities should also be within the financial means of the majority of residents.

It’s also important to consider the large influx of seasonal residents and visitors that use the Village’s recreation facilities. The 2014 Northwest Michigan Seasonal Population Study (Land Policy Institute) estimates that the population of Leelanau County increases by as much as 40% during the summer months, as measured by individuals sleeping in campgrounds, hotels/motels, and in seasonal housing units. The actual increase in population and visitation is likely much higher: the National Park Service estimates that over 1.5 million people visit the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore annually. Many of those visitors start and/or end their visits in the Village of Empire, with stops at the National Park Service

headquarters, located in the Village; at downtown retail and restaurants; and at Village-owned parks or beaches.

Administrative Structure

At the present time, the Planning Commission is also serving as the Parks and Recreation Committee, with additional input from an informal ad hoc recreation committee. The ad hoc committee, in association with the Planning Commission, provides recommendations regarding park policies and projects to the Village Council.

The ad hoc committee, Planning Commission and Village staff serve as a community sounding board on recreation matters, and bring the concerns of the residents to the Village Council for consideration. Routine park maintenance is handled by the Village staff, contractors and volunteers, operating under the direct authority of the Village Council.

The ultimate decision making authority and responsibility for all park related projects resides with the Village Council.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of the recreation projects in the Village of Empire. While there is not a designated volunteer group, volunteers are solicited on a project-by-project basis to provide some of the labor for the Village “in-kind” match on projects as appropriate,

Plan Review and Adoption

The Recreation Plan was reviewed by Empire Village Planning Commission on ___ and the Empire Village Council on ___. Public comments were accepted as part of a Public Hearing held for the Recreation Plan on _____.

The Master Plan Update including the Recreation Plan was adopted by the Village of Empire Planning Commission on _____ and by the Village Council on _____. Copies of the minutes from the meetings when the plan was adopted are provided in Appendix D ____

Table 1-1. Village Budget and Recreation Expenditures, 2010 - 2018

BUDGET								
FY Beginning March 1	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total Village	\$555,912	\$556,602	\$970,264	\$642,014	\$701,315	\$713,218	\$791,253	\$734,889
EXPENDITURES								
Recreation	\$70,140	\$56,358	\$66,628	\$112,932	\$150,282	\$88,724	\$140,146	\$89,838

Source: Village of Empire

including from local organizations such as the Empire Lion’s Club, Empire Area Community Center (EACC), the Heritage Museum and the Beautification Committee.

was budgeted as a recreation line item, demonstrating that the Village Council does routinely allot funding for recreational purposes.

Relationships

This recreation plan covers the Village of Empire, which is located within the geographic boundaries of Empire Township, and is part of the Glen Lake Community School district. Additionally, the visitor’s center and park headquarters for the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore are located within the Village. The Village of Empire intends to continue to partner with the National Park Service and surrounding jurisdictions on recreational projects as appropriate, especially as related to trail projects, including but not limited to the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail. This Recreation Plan includes provisions to continue and enhance the working relationship with Leelanau County, the Leelanau Conservancy, the National Park Service and Michigan Department of Natural Resources as related to the other recreation facilities located within the Village of Empire.

Funding

The Village of Empire's recreational activities and facilities are primarily funded through the Village’s general fund. Table 1-1 illustrates recreation spending for the past eight years, in comparison to the Village’s total budget. For the 2017-2018 budget, nearly \$90,000

Recreation Inventory

An inventory of existing recreation facilities located in the Village of Empire is provided below, with properties identified on Figure 1-2.

Accessibility evaluations for Village parks and recreational facilities were conducted by Networks Northwest with input from the Master Plan Committee using the criteria provided in the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (MDNR, 2016). These criteria are based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. To assist with the assessment, the following references were used:

ADA Rating 1: None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

ADA Rating 2: Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

ADA Rating 3: Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

ADA Rating 4: The entire park meets accessibility guidelines

ADA Rating 5: The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Lake Michigan Beach Park

Size: 6.7 acres

Service Area: Village, County, Region

ADA Rating 3

Lake Michigan Beach Park is a heavily-used park with frontage and access along both Lake Michigan and South Bar Lake. The park is a major attraction both for Village residents and seasonal visitors, offering recreational opportunities for swimmers, boaters, picnickers, and more.

Discussion in the recreation planning process identified concerns regarding runoff from pavement that at present flows into South Bar Lake at the boat launch and where runoff forms a pool adjacent to the anchor.



Other issues or potential concerns at the park include opportunities for expansion to accommodate the large demand for use of the park, and to provide additional amenities for visitors such as changing rooms, exterior showers, and mobi-mats to provide improved access to the beach.

All of the park boat launches, swim and fishing docks are inspected and maintained as part of the Department of Public Works budget and are eligible for inclusion into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as needed.

South Bar Lake Recreational Amenities:

Boat Launch—a boat launch ramp with concrete pad located on the South end of the Lake. A wooden walkway is located to the north of the concrete pad that leads to an ADA accessible floating fish dock with a bench area.

Swimming Dock— seasonal and ADA accessible consisting of three (3) 60'x20' hinged floating platforms with no ramp and supported by six (6) poles/pipes for anchoring. Includes a swim ladder.

Additional amenities include a picnic shelter, ADA-compliant playground equipment, picnic grills, drinking fountain, bathhouse with restroom facility (accessible), fishing dock, picnic table and benches.

Village of Empire Recreation Sites

Figure 1-2



Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone, regardless of physical or mental impairment.

When evaluating the accessibility of parks and facilities, barriers should be recognized from the perspective of the participant. These perspectives aid in preparing the design and planning future improvements to both current and existing facilities. Therefore, we can determine whether a site, building, and/or facility is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Perspectives to Consider:

- Could a person with visual impairment have a reasonable means of identifying the facilities?
- If a person is physically disabled, is there a means to access all facilities, and if there are barriers, is an alternate route available?
- If a person has a reading disability, are there standard symbols indicating parking, restrooms, or trailway?
- If a person uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, could the person move from the point of arrival to the various recreation facilities?

An evaluation of the Village of Empire's park and recreational system accessibility to persons with disabilities was conducted as a component of the 2018 Master Plan Update's recreation inventory. Each site was inventoried for its accessibility status, and results are noted under the discussion on that facility.

Transition Plan

Much of the transition plan for the Village of Empire consists of the removal of small-scale accessibility barriers, which is readily achievable through using the general fund expenditures. This would include the systematic upgrade of play areas, the removal of uneven surfaces and sidewalk obstructions, the placement of accessible parking space signage, and the procurement of additional wheelchair-accessible picnic tables.

Capital improvement expenditures are targeted for more comprehensive accessibility remediation projects, which will be incorporated into the overall improvements of existing facilities. All new playground equipment, site furnishings, landscaping, and other facilities included in the capital improvements plan shall be designed and installed in compliance with the latest adopted U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board and U.S. Department of Justice standards.

South Bar Lake offers a wake free zone and is intended for small boats, kayaks, canoes, rowboats and paddle boards.

Lake Michigan Recreational Amenities include:

A seasonal boat launch ramp (recently upgraded in 2017) located at the north end of the public beach consisting of five (5) ramp units together measuring 150’ x 146’. Each individual ramp is composed of steel grates designed for both the annual set up in the Spring and removal in the Fall by the Village’s Department of Public Works.

Additional amenities include: Beacon Lighthouse for boaters/fishermen, basketball court (non-regulation size), historic structures with interpretive panels and ADA-compliant playground equipment

Shalda Park

Size: 12.2 acres

Service Area: Village/Township

ADA Rating: 3

Shalda Park is an “active” park that includes facilities for organized sports, including baseball and tennis, along with a walking trail. Recreation planning input identified needs for improved connections between Shalda Park and the nearby Chippewa Run Natural Area, and for an

ADA compliant footbridge that would provide access to the Natural Area while protecting the creek banks from erosion. Additional recommended improvements include floodlights for the baseball field and miscellaneous improvements to existing facilities. Input also suggested that the park may need additional promotion and/or improvements to encourage its use among residents and others, by offering facilities such as pickleball courts, a gazebo, and new/upgraded and accessible playground facilities.

Recreational Amenities include: Ball fields (2) with backstop, fenced outfield and dugouts; tennis courts (2, unlit); walking path; path to creek; children’s play area; storage building; restroom facilities (2, one ADA compliant), landscape buffer, drinking fountains

Downtown Green Space

Size: .14 acres

Service Area: Village/Township

ADA Rating: 4

The Village maintains a small open space park in the Village’s downtown. Some discussion has been held regarding installation of public restrooms at the park, which may be dependent on sewer/water infrastructure options.

Public / Quasi-Public Owned Recreation Facilities

NAME	OWNER	SIZE (ACRES)	FACILITIES
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	National Park Service	107.7	Visitor’s facility with interpretive center and auditorium (leased), natural area, trails, picnic facilities
Chippewa Run Natural Area	Leelanau Conservancy (non-profit)	110	Natural area, 1.5 miles of trails
Johnson’s Park	Empire Lions Club	5.3	Picnic shelter with kitchen area, storage building with restrooms, playground equipment, pickleboard/shuffleboard courts, bocce ball court
Township Hall	Empire Township	0.28	Meeting facilities, indoor recreation facilities
Village Nature Preserve (formerly Nature Conservancy)	Village of Empire	13	Natural area with wetlands
Total		236.28	

Recreational Amenities include: Informational kiosk, picnic table

Other Leelanau County Recreational Facilities

In addition to parks within the Village, residents and visitors also use recreational facilities outside the Village that are owned by other local governments, nonprofits, and state or federal agencies. Township, County, and State parks and campgrounds offer a wide range of recreational activities from picnicking and baseball to hiking and swimming. The local public schools within the county also all have recreational facilities, including sports fields and tracks. Designated public access sites on Lake Michigan and inland lakes and rivers feature boat launches, parking areas, and toilets. Such facilities are maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources or Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. In addition, privately-owned recreational facilities open to the public provide amenities ranging from golf courses to canoe/kayak rental liveries, catering to both residents and visitors.

Trails

There are numerous recreational facilities classified as trails that are in or run through Leelanau County,



including walking, hiking, biking, equestrian, and cross country skiing trails. Notable trail systems within and connecting to the Village of Empire include the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail, a cross-state equestrian trail; and the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, which was developed collaboratively by the National Park Service, the Friends of Sleeping Bear, Traverse Area Recreational Trails, the M-22 Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and other state and regional partners.

The Village of Empire completed a Transportation Plan in 2015 and included a series of recommendations for increasing the connections between the Village and nearby trails. Input in the recreation planning process reinforced the importance of improved/increased trail connections. These recommendations have been incorporated into this Recreation Plan. Refer to

Community Recreation Events

	COMMUNITY EVENT
January	Empire Snowmobile Drag Race / Roy Taghon Memorial
February	Empire Winterfest
April	Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast
May	Asparagus Festival
June—September	Empire Farmers' Market—Saturday mornings
July	Anchor Day Celebration
September	Hill Climb—Car rally
October	Empire Heritage Days
	Hops Festival
	Sleeping Bear Marathon
November	Village Tree Lighting and Shopping in the Village
December	Christmas Potluck

Planning and Public Input Process

Recreation Planning Process

The Village of Empire recognizes the need to plan for future improvements at locally-owned recreation sites and consider in detail how these projects could be funded. In addition to investigating sources of grant and matching funding, the Village is actively pursuing funding from public donations of labor and materials to assist with recreation maintenance and improvements.

To ensure that recreation planning takes into consideration the full spectrum of community issues and input, the 2018 Recreation Plan was developed in conjunction with the 2018 Village of Empire Master Plan update process. The process included review and analysis of socio-economic data, natural resources, existing land use, and recreation inventory information required by MDNR as part of the recreation plan. The Master Plan Committee provided guidance and oversight in developing the draft plans and in engaging the public in the process. Networks Northwest provided assistance in coordinating meetings and developing the plan.

Public Input Process

As part of the 2018 Village of Empire Master Plan Update, the Empire Village Planning Commission created a survey to obtain public input on priority community issues, including recreation. The questionnaire was distributed by mail in July 2017, and included an option for respondents to complete the survey online. One hundred eighty eight (188) responses were received. A sampling of the survey results related to recreation are shown on page 11. A public forum was also held in August of 2017 to discuss the survey results and invite community feedback. Approximately 50 participants attended the event. In addition, all meetings with the Village of Empire Planning Commission and Master Plan Committee were open to the public and posted in local public places.



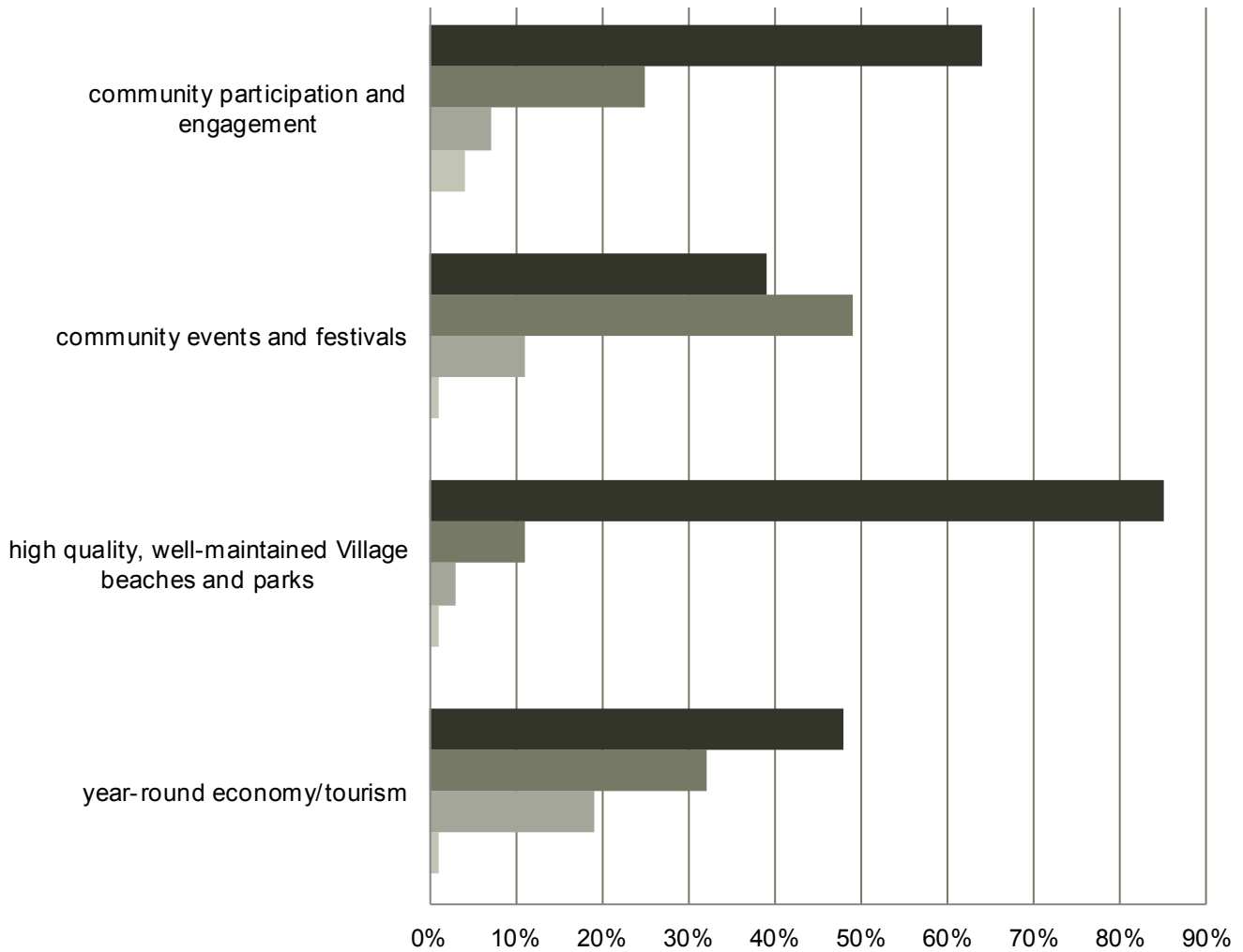
Public Input Results

The July 2017 community survey results showed a near-unanimous agreement regarding the importance of Village beaches and parks. Public comment at the forum emphasized the importance of the beach as the Village's primary economic asset, and included suggestions on opportunities for improving Shalda Park. A number of concerns were raised regarding maintenance issues and lack of accessibility from the Village itself – without trail connections, visitors and residents can't easily walk or bike to the community's primary assets.

Village of Empire Master Plan Survey Results

July - August 2017

Figure 1-3



	year-round economy/tourism	high quality, well-maintained Village beaches and parks	community events and festivals	community participation and engagement
■ VERY IMPORTANT	48%	85%	39%	64%
■ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	32%	11%	49%	25%
■ NOT IMPORTANT	19%	3%	11%	7%
■ NO OPINION	1%	1%	1%	4%

Goals and Objectives

The Village of Empire, because of its environmental attributes, expanses of public (state and federal) land and low population density, currently enjoys a favorable reputation as an outdoor recreation area. To sustain and increase the current level of recreational activities for all age groups, the Village should pursue recreational improvements for all residents and visitors, and encourage the growth of **open-space recreation**.

GOAL:

SUSTAIN AND INCREASE THE CURRENT LEVEL OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGE GROUPS AND ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF OPEN-SPACE RECREATION.

OBJECTIVES

Encourage the preservation and continued vitality of Critical Dune Areas and federally-protected wetlands.

Develop a multi-purpose pathway system in the commercial area and throughout the Village to connect the downtown to area parks, recreation areas, National Park Service facilities and other existing trails.

- Widen sidewalk on LaCore into a separated pathway .
- Install a separated pathway or sidewalk along both sides of M-72 between M-22 and Old Front Street/Erie Street.

Work with partners to ensure the continued maintenance and accessibility of the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, and to maintain and enhance trail connections to Village assets.

Pursue the development of bike lanes/designated bike routes where separate pathways are not feasible.

- Designate Lake, South LaCore, Wilco and/or Wood as shared roads to connect to the Empire Bluffs Trail south of the Village.
- Designate downtown streets as shared roads.

Proposed subdivisions, site condominiums, planned unit developments and commercial developments should be encouraged to provide or participate in the development of neighborhood parks.

- Consider zoning review procedures that require or encourage park development and trail connectivity in new developments.

Maintain open space and scenic vistas by encouraging Planned Unit Development, clustering and conservation easements.

Maintain existing and establish new trails for biking, cross-country skiing and walking in the Village.

- Establish a route from the village to Empire Bluff Trail into the Village
- Establish a trail along the east side of South Bar Lake to the rail bed, from the rail bed to Johnson Park.

Strive to connect to regional trails

- Coordinate any Shore to Shore Trail signage with the Michigan Trail Riders Association.
- Coordinate with planners of the Bay to Bay Trail (a 30 mile paddle/backpack trail) running parallel to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore coastline from Platte Bay to Good Harbor Bay.

The Village of Empire has a system of **parks, ball fields and recreational facilities**. To meet the needs of the growing seasonal population and the increased tourist activity, it is important to improve and expand these recreational facilities. Recreational facilities should be developed to meet the needs of the whole community, all age groups and income levels.

GOAL:
MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, GROWING SEASONAL POPULATION AND INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY
OBJECTIVES:
Encourage the consideration of recreational facilities as an integral part of community development plans.
Ensure all new playground equipment for Village parks is ADA compliant.
Enhance and/or expand public beach and water access facilities.
Provide ADA compliant bathroom facilities at all Village parks.

Community-wide programs that provide opportunities for year-round recreation, personal enrichment, art, musical and theatrical groups are contributors to the quality of life and attractiveness of the Village. It is important to ensure accessibility to adequate public recreation facilities and cultural activities for area residents and visitors. Coordinated programs and facilities that reflect the character and desires of the community can play a key role in attracting new commercial activities.

GOAL:
ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO ADEQUATE PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR AREA RESIDENTS AND VISITORS
OBJECTIVES:
Establish physical space to support community center activities and groups like the Empire Area Community Center.
Encourage community arts and crafts, musical and personal enrichment programs for all age groups and for seasonal-and year-round residents.
Encourage and promote cultural facilities and events that meet the needs of the entire community.

Action Program

The action program describes improvements to existing facilities and the development of new facilities. Anticipated funding sources will be in the form of cash from the Village general fund, in-kind labor, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Leelanau Conservancy and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants. Sources of the grants include: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Coastal Management Program (CMP), Inland Fisheries Grant Program (IFGP), Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Natural Heritage Small Grants, other appropriate grant programs.

PROPOSED ACTION

Lake Michigan Beach Park

Acquire frontage on the south east shoreline of South Bar Lake to allow for the construction of a boardwalk and nature walk with seating. Link into existing village-owned adjacent property and Johnson Park.

Install bio-detention or bio-retention swales to filter runoff from pavement that at present flows into South Bar Lake at boat launch & where runoff forms a pool adjacent to the anchor, as proposed in the Village Landscape Ordinance.

Create a natural amphitheater on the open space at the south end of South Bar Lake, utilize new pavilion as a stage for events, and provide water and power.

Replace new playground equipment as needed (ongoing purchases and installs).

Add outdoor “sand rinsing only” exterior shower for beach goers to enhance village beach amenities.

Add changing rooms to enhance village beach amenities, especially for day-trip beachgoers.

Shalda Park

Provide access to the Chippewa Run Natural Area by constructing an ADA compliant footbridge to provide a safe crossing and protect the creek banks and surrounding area from unnecessary erosion caused by undirected crossings.

Replace existing, non-functional floodlights and install low energy bulbs. Promote facility usage and encourage resident involvement i.e.—organize local softball leagues. Utilize the lighting for other evening /after dark events.

Install track with suitable walking surface.

Either replace or repair existing facilities.

Purchase portable ice rink system to enhance Village winter recreation.

Install fencing along baseball diamonds to protect park goers against balls going out of play.

Explore design and construction costs for a gazebo or pavilion. Build a structure that will appeal to and encourage involvement in the park.

Design and implement a more effective landscaped barrier between the commercial and residential properties and the park. Use native trees and shrubs to help create a bird-friendly habitat.

Install picnic tables and grills for more family-oriented use of the area.

Install new ADA-compliant swings and play structure for more family-oriented use of area.

Designate area and provide infrastructure to support a community garden.

Provide and promote shuffleboard and/or bocce courts to encourage more diversity of use for residents to organize teams/competitions and leagues.

Designate an area and provide infrastructure to support pickleball.

Maintain existing tennis courts.

PROPOSED ACTION

Village Trail System

Pursue linkages of existing trail systems. Create or designate necessary trails/routes to connect existing trails and provide signs to clearly identify connections.

Complete sidewalk connectivity throughout the village.

Downtown Green Space Park

Develop a plan to install a public flush toilet restroom. The project is dependant upon a Village wastewater system.

Table 1-3. Recreation Capital Improvement Schedule

The following information includes information based off of the Village of Empire’s six year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2016/17 through FY 2021/22.

PROJECT	CIP PRIORITY (YEAR PROGRAMMED)	FUNDING SOURCE	FUNDING AMOUNT
Lake Michigan Beach Park			
Acquire South Bar Frontage	2	MDNR and Conservancy	Negotiations with property owners
Wetland Enhancement & Boardwalk Area	3	MNRTF, NHSG, Property Owner and Village	\$18,000
Pavement Drainage	5	Community and Village	\$5,000
Picnic Pavilion/Amphitheater	5	MNRTF and Village	\$25,000
Playground Equipment	ongoing	Village (CIP General Fund)	\$6,000 (\$1,000 per year)
Exterior Shower	(2018)	Village (CIP General Fund)	\$3,600
Shalda Park			
Footbridge over creek to Natural Area	1	LWCF, MNRTF and Village	\$60,000
Baseball Floodlights	1	MNRTF and Village	\$5,000
Walking Track	1	MNRTF and Village	\$30,000
Restrooms	1	MNRTF and Village	\$45,000
Ice Rink	(2020)	MNRTF and Village (CIP General Fund)	\$10,000
Gazebo/Pavilion	1	MNRTF and Village	\$8,000
Landscaping	3	Consumers Energy and Village	\$15,000
Picnic Tables and Grills	1	MNRTF and Village	\$4,100
Playground Equipment	1	MNRTF, Game Time and Village	\$12,000
Sidewalk extension	1	MNRTF and Village	\$25,000
Community Garden	4	Village	\$5,000
Shuffleboard / Bocce Courts	3	Village	\$2,000
Village Trail System			
Trail Linkage System	2	MDOT, SBDNL and Village	to be determined
Village Community Center			
	5	Community	\$600,000
Downtown Green Space Park			
Public Restroom	(2021)	MNRTF and Village (CIP General Fund)	\$110,000
Portable Gazebo	3	MNRTF and Village	\$9,500
Source: Village of Empire Capital Improvement Plan FY 2016/17 - FY 2021/22			

This page left intentionally blank

Appendix A. Notes from August 28, 2017 Public Forum

Source: Networks Northwest Empire Master Plan Survey and Public Input Results Summary and Report

- ADA parking @ beach – designated parking for residents
- Community garden @ Shalda
- Track, playground @ Shalda – everything in 2012 Rec Plan
- Smaller trees that won't break sidewalks
- Unique draw for Shalda – pool, ice rink, climbing wall, skate park – bring young people
- Beach grooming – pedestrian walkway on beach
- Connect SBHT to NPS headquarters
- Shalda Park bridge/greenway connections
- Community center for seniors & kids
- Space for live entertainment near beach – event structure, portable stage
- Community Center – Village Hall filled almost every day
- Preserve what we have – funding for maintenance
- Increase parking rates
- Concession stands, food trucks @ Shalda Park
- Winter activities
- Embrace bicycling
- Trail extension and bring people downtown safely
- Amenities for Shalda – i.e. BBQ
- Skate parks - kids using other Village locations unsafely
- Activities @ parks i.e. swim class
- Playground @ South Bar needs improvement

Appendix B. DNR Grant History

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Grants Management
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Grant History

Grantee

Village of Empire - Leelanau County

Project No. TF90-233

Project County: Leelanau

Project Year: 1990

Project Title: Empire Public Beach

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$60,000.00

Scope Item:

- Bathhouse remodel
- Handicapped playground Eq
- Handicapped signs (2)
- Install topsoil/hydroseed
- Landscape & Maintenance
- Picnic Tables (2)
- Relocate concrete slabs
- Retaining wall -WD lumber
- Sand placed over slabs
- Walks and steps

Project Description: Construction of a playground, picnic equipment, bathhouse renovations, landscaping and beach reclamation on Lake Michigan.

Project No. TF05-124

Project County: Leelanau

Project Year: 2005

Project Title: Lake Michigan Beach Park Improvements

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$356,600.00

Scope Item:

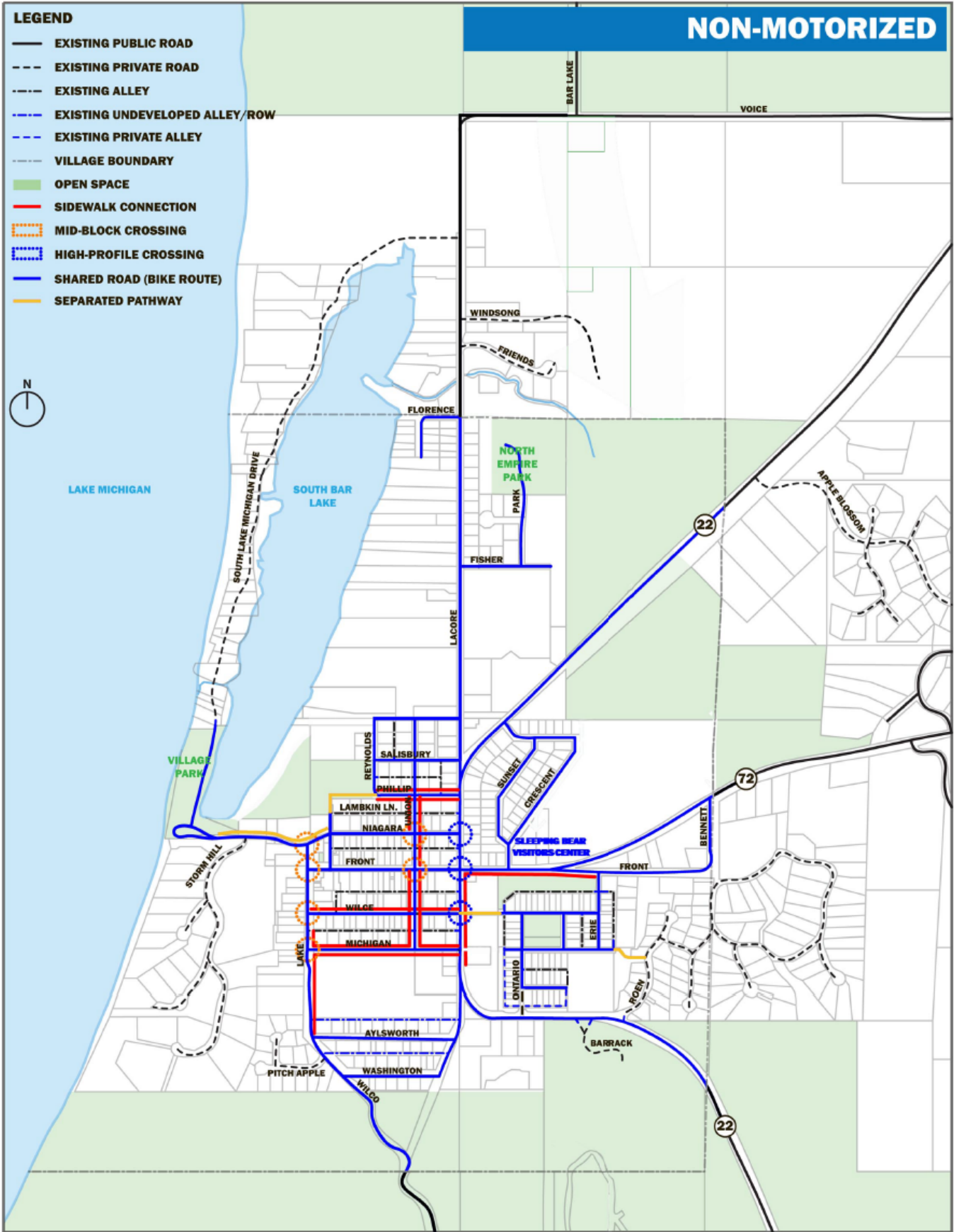
- Amenities
- Basketball court
- Beach walls/boardwalks
- Entrance Road--Niagara Street
- Entry sign
- Lighting
- Parking lots and access road
- Restroom
- Site preparation

Project Description: Development of restrooms, entrance road, parking, beach wall, signage, boardwalks, and fishing dock at Lake Michigan Beach Park.

Total Number of Projects: 2
Total Amount of Grant Given: \$416,600.00

Appendix C. Non-Motorized & Trail Maps

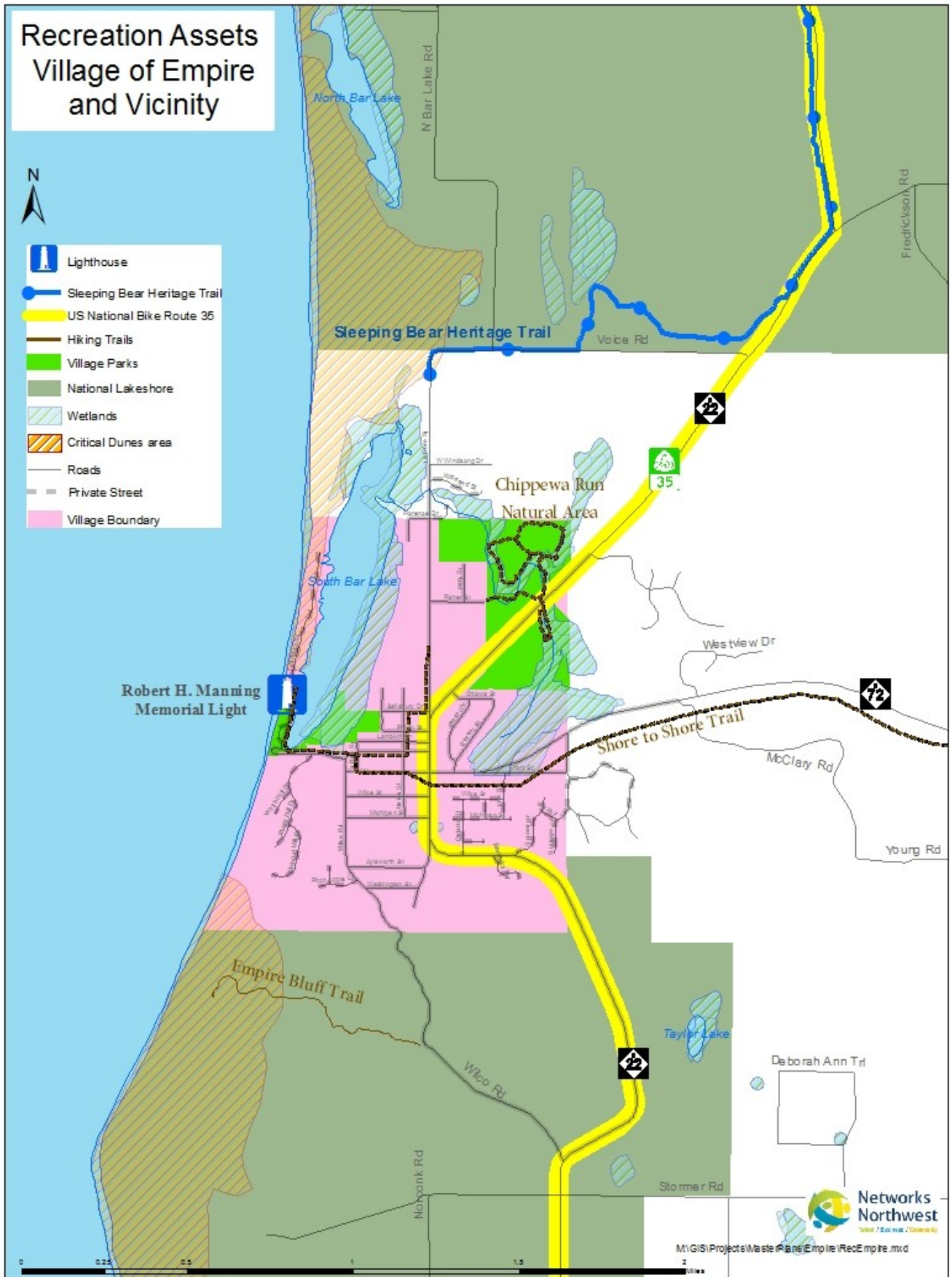
Source: Village of Empire Transportation Plan (2015)



Recreation Assets Village of Empire and Vicinity



-  Lighthouse
-  Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail
-  US National Bike Route 35
-  Hiking Trails
-  Village Parks
-  National Lakeshore
-  Wetlands
-  Critical Dunes area
-  Roads
-  Private Street
-  Village Boundary



Appendix D. Minutes - Plan for Adoption (pending)