

Ty Wessell, Chairman

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Leelanau County Board of Commissioners will be conducting a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner Meeting Room, Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

***(Please silence all electronic/cellular devices)***

*(Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded and are not the official record of the meeting, the formally approved/accepted written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.)*

### **AGENDA**

Call to Order by Chairman

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

Roll Call

#### **Purpose of the Public Hearing:**

Public Input on the Final Draft of the 2025-2029 Leelanau County Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan 2-6

Adjournment

## Comment on Parks and Recreation Parks and Recreation Plan

First and most importantly, thank you to members of the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Committee for their long hours contributed to update to the county parks plan.

Through my volunteerism with Kids Fishing Day, I am most familiar with Veronica Valley County Park. As a suggestion, please consider combining future plans for a walk around Kids Fishing Pond and construction of a pavilion. I say this because I believe they could be integrated into one grant request to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The pavilion would be very helpful for Kids Fishing Day — the need to rent a tent would be eliminated, saving funds — as well as other events hosted at the park.

Again, thank you for your work on this project.

— Alan Campbell  
231 492 4972

**From:** [patricia cobb](#)  
**To:** [Lauren Cypher](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Leelanau County Five-Year Parks Plan  
**Date:** Monday, December 9, 2024 2:46:57 PM

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Dear Ms. Cypher,

Thank-you for this valuable work and for the opportunity to comment. I am a Michigan voter and Leland resident. I have the following comment:

- I read with interest that the Leland road-ends to Lake Michigan at North Street, Reynolds Street, Thompson Street, etc. are listed as county facilities.
- This suggests that road ends could be modified or used as parks, as part of the Five-Year Plan.
- In fact, I recall it was concluded by the Leland Township Board on November 29, 2018 that road ends fall ONLY under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission.
- Furthermore, the road ends are NOT parks; they are used for launching boats and for access to shoreline walking.
- Therefore, I would recommend that the road ends be removed from the county facility list.
- Please, let's avoid a re-do of the conflicts of 2018-2019 when attempts were made to "market" the road-ends as public beaches.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Cobb

**From:** [Derenda LeFevre](#)  
**To:** [Richard Lewis](#); [Lauren Cypher](#)  
**Subject:** P&R DRAFT Plan Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 9, 2024 7:29:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [LC Recreation DRAFT Plan Edits.pdf](#)

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Hello,

My name is Derenda LeFevre. I am a resident of Centerville Twp., a Recreational Therapist and a Disability Inclusion Specialist living and working in Leelanau County.

There are many ways in which you have included people with disabilities in your Draft Plan and I want to first recognize that fact and your intention of reaching for Universal Access & Design.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is widely regarded to be one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation in American history. It was meant to ensure equal access and opportunity for the countless millions of American citizens living with disabilities. It was meant to ensure fair treatment and guaranteed accessibility.

In recent years, the tenants of the ADA have been misused to further oppress the disabled community. This most commonly takes the form of claims of undue financial burden, historic designations, providing only one accessible park or only some accessible features and waiting for access to be requested before taking action. Actions like these are essentially saying that access for disabled residents is a “nice to do” instead of a right.

It is important that the P&R Commission prioritizes access needs in your Capital Improvement Plan - that the access features are identified and included in the budget and planning process proactively.

It is also important to remember that the ADA is a minimum requirement and even if you comply with the ADA fully you are still not providing equitable access.

I encourage the P&R Committee to fully embrace Universal Access & Design by including this language in your mission statement, applying the Universal Access standards to all Accessibility Improvements and be explicit in how you will meet the all Universal Access Principles at each site.

Universal Design is design that’s usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Universal Design IS NOT about making adaptations for a specific person or group of people.

It IS about making our spaces welcoming for all people, beyond and inclusive of disability.

I also want to express the importance of accessible, permanent and year round restrooms as an essential element of access for people with disabilities.

I want to leave you with a gentle reminder that any one of us at any time can become a member of the disabled community due to injury, illness or age.

When we look at the disability statistics in Leelanau County, we need to look at not only those that self-identified as having a disability, but also the aging population who many (but not all) will experience increased barriers to access if we are not preparing our spaces now and prioritizing access.

I’ve provided updated language for several sections of the Draft Plan that will move you closer to your goal of Universal Access as well as provide up-to-date terminology related to disability. This information is included as an attachment to this email.

Thank you for your work. Parks and Recreation is essential to the health of our community.

## Lauren Cypher

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**From:** Ashley Suttman <ashley@goodnessonmain.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 9:49 AM  
**To:** Lauren Cypher  
**Subject:** Regarding the Final Draft of Parks

Thank YOU! Thank you for focusing on families & all of our needs as you created this plan. I look forward to hopefully attending the meeting, but just in case I wanted to extend my words of gratitude for the organization's hard work. This is so important and is often not recognized until we realize what we DO NOT have. I am always shocked when I go to pretty much any other township, village, or city and see their beautiful park areas. I appreciate the work you are putting into this and hope we get to see better days ahead!

Thanks again,  
Ashley Suttman  
Leland

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Ashley Suttman  
Goodness on Main  
Owner and Curator



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## Lauren Cypher

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**From:** Ashley Suttman <ashley@goodnessonmain.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 10:30 AM  
**To:** Lauren Cypher  
**Subject:** Post Reading it over...

Hi! Ok- I just read it over.

Of course, the two parks I am most concerned about selfishly are Myles Kimmerly and Veronica Valley. Considering how many children access these parks CONSTANTLY, playgrounds, equipment and restrooms are so important to me. I'm sure a lot of thought was put into this; I just feel that our communities are lacking in playgrounds for the kids to use and would LOVE to see a great playground at Veronica Valley. I didn't even know they currently had playground equipment.

Thanks so much,  
Ash

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Ashley Suttman  
Goodness on Main  
Owner and Curator



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