

WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
Thorne Swift/Parks & Recreation Committee
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, July 15, 2026 – 5:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve minutes of:
 - a. June 17, 2026
4. Old Business:
 - a. Recreation concept proposal discussion
 1. Scope of recreational component
 2. Estimated project schedule/timeline
 3. Schedule open house
 - b. Playground equipment discussion—Thorne Swift
5. New Business:

None
6. Public comments – Please state name
7. Committee member comments
8. Next meeting: August 19, 2026
9. Adjourn

WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
Thorne Swift/Parks & Recreation Committee
June 17, 2026 – 5:00 PM- **Draft meeting minutes**

1. Call to order

Chair Hammond called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Hammond, J. Baker, Arbaugh, Ford, DeCamp

Absent: Mooradian, Corlew

Staff Present: Ken Lane, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Guests Present: Joseph Olson, Township Clerk

3. Approve minutes of: April 15, 2026.

Motion by DeCamp, second by Arbaugh, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

a. Recreation concept proposal—discussion

Chair Hammond introduced this agenda item and asked the Zoning Administrator to offer a report.

Zoning Administrator Lane reviewed the proposal from Beckett & Raeder and suggested that tasks listed in the proposal might be performed by the Recreation Committee. He suggested that the Recreation Commission prepare a conceptual recreation plan for the Township owned properties on Lake Street, and hold an open house to get public input. He suggested that passive recreational items, such as walking trails, picnic areas, and maybe a pavilion, have the best chance of success for grant funding with matching funds approved by the Township Board.

Zoning Administrator Lane stated that once the Recreation Committee creates a base plan, Beckett & Raeder or another firm can finalize it into a final site plan that can be submitted with a grant application. He added that recreation grant funding has become very competitive, and a professionally prepared site plan will be required.

Member Arbaugh asked when a grant application will need to be submitted to the MDNR.

Zoning Administrator Lane responded that applications need to be submitted by April 1, 2027, to be eligible for funding in 2027.

Member DeCamp asked if the application will need to coincide with the construction timeline for the new Township Hall.

Zoning Administrator Lane responded that although it will be beneficial to mention the new Township Hall project in the grant application, any recreation improvements will be separate from the Township Hall project, and the application does not need to coincide with the new Township Hall.

Clerk Olson stated that the tentative construction plan for the new Township Hall will start with a groundbreaking in September 2026, and conclude in September 2027.

The Committee discussed recreational concepts for the Township owned properties.

Proposed: June 18, 2026

Approved:

Chair Hammond suggested that the Recreation Committee could walk the properties and mark any proposed walking and hiking trails ahead of an open house.

The Recreation Committee determined to individually think about a base/concept plan for the recreational component to coincide with the Township Hall project and be prepared to discuss/finalize at the July 15 meeting: (1) the scope of the recreational component; (2) a project schedule/timeline; and (3) schedule an open house.

b. "Township 80"—discussion

Zoning Administrator Lane stated that it is his understanding that discussions between the Township and the Little Traverse Conservancy relating to the Township 80 will not continue, and the Township will not be selling the property.

Member Baker stated that an option for the Little Traverse Conservancy to manage the Township 80 property may remain available.

After some discussion, the Recreation Committee decided to not pursue any recreational improvements to the Township 80 at this time and to recommend to the Township Board that the Township consider a management agreement for the Township 80 with the Little Traverse Conservancy.

Chair Hammond stated that he will share the Committee's recommendation with the Township Supervisor.

c. Playground equipment discussion—Thorne Swift

Chair Hammond stated that he has been researching options to add playground equipment near the nature center building. He added that he is still collecting costs and design options, and will be seeking two additional quotes.

Member Arbaugh asked the estimated cost of the equipment.

Chair Hammond responded \$32,000, with between \$5,000 and \$7,000 to prepare the site for the equipment. Chair Hammond stated that he will continue to pursue this project and bring back updates when available.

5. New Business

None.

6. Public comments

None.

7. Committee member Comments

Member Ford stated that Steve Corlew and his family have moved from West Traverse Township, which may be why he has missed the past few meetings.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Submitted by: Ken Lane, Planning & Zoning Administrator

The goals, objectives, and action plan are designed to shape future decisions regarding recreation, aligning closely with the community's values and priorities. These goals were formulated through a comprehensive process that included analyzing current facilities, gathering public input via the 2024 Community Survey, consultations with recreation stakeholders, and reviewing various local and regional plans and strategies. To effectively implement these goals, objectives, and actions, it is crucial to grasp their respective roles and their interconnectedness. Understanding these dynamics ensures a coherent approach to achieving our recreational objectives.

Goals offer broad guidance and outline the desired future state. They address specific needs and issues but remain general in nature.

Objectives are concrete steps that help achieve the broader goals and are designed to be attainable.

Actions detail the specific steps required to meet objectives. A single strategy may support multiple objectives, or an objective may need several strategies to be achieved. These actions also identify the implementation tools, such as zoning changes, and the key stakeholders responsible for fulfilling the goals and objectives.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Maintain and Improve parks and recreational facilities and identify opportunities for new spaces

- » Continue to provide, maintain, and enhance parks and recreational facilities and amenities for both residents and visitors.
- » Keep the 5-year recreation plan up-to-date and ensure it meets DNR approval to maintain a dependable stream of funding.
 - » Continually communicate with the public and seek information from the taxpayers of West Traverse Township so that we know that the recreation plans are moving in the right direction and so that we may be prepared for future needs and interests.
 - » Periodically send out questionnaires to determine interest in becoming involved with any of the projects in this plan.
 - » Publish these updates on the West Traverse Township website.
- » Promote and support public art installations, community events, and festivals in parks and civic spaces.
- » Explore opportunities to introduce additional recreational activities at existing parks and facilities to better attract and retain both residents and visitors.
- » Develop or upgrade amenities to expand recreational opportunities specifically for the area's youth.
- » Increase the Township's capacity to plan effectively for parks and recreation.
- » Work with the West Traverse Township Board in identifying possible lands that have the potential to be donated to either West Traverse Township or to the Little Traverse Conservancy.
- » Work with the West Traverse Township Planning Commission and the West Traverse Township Board to look at zoning changes that would set aside open space for recreation in new subdivision developments.

- » Advocate for improved accessibility across all parks and recreational facilities.
- » Work with HARBOR, Inc. and neighboring townships to advance this goal.

Provide nonmotorized transportation options and outdoor recreational opportunities, taking advantage of the physical characteristics of the land of this Township while meeting the expressed needs of its taxpayers.

- » Improve and/or develop trail systems through open space areas in which interest has already been established.
- » Prepare trails that can be used for biking and hiking in the spring, summer, and fall seasons and then be used for snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter season.
- » Working with HARBOR, INC. and neighboring townships to provide main non-motorized trails routes for the purpose of transportation and recreation that pass through West Traverse Township.
- » Provide pedestrian routes between activity centers and focus on the more developed areas of the Township for sidewalk construction and expansion.
- » Continue evaluating and improving the Thorne Swift Nature Preserve.
- » Develop policies and directives to establish construction and maintenance schedules.

Provide facilities and programming that encourage those living in this community to want to be outside, engaging in physical, healthful, and educational activities that enhance their lives

- » • Establish a system that keeps Township taxpayers informed of the status of recreational/ educational programs at the Thorne Swift Nature Preserve.

Educate the public on the value of understanding the natural world around them and the benefits of environmental conservation.

- » Provide information relative to the flora and fauna and ecology of the specimens in that area.
- » Encourage more "guided" programs throughout the Township's trail systems.
- » Provide information relating to the recreational opportunities within the Township and region.
- » Incorporate informational and directional signage within the Township's recreation areas.

Work closely with neighboring townships to enhance the recreational opportunities of the entire community.

- » Continue associations with neighboring townships relative to ways that there can be more enhanced sharing of facilities and programs.

Incorporate Action Items from the West Traverse Township Sidewalk, Trail, and Pathway Plan to give better access throughout the Township and make it safer for the community to be active.

Goals of the Plan are as follows:

1. Provide a safe and effective pedestrian circulation system in specified areas of the Township for citizens and residents.
2. Provide safe and effective pedestrian routes to schools, parks, churches, and businesses.
3. Establish methods for financing the capital improvements, repair, and maintenance of the pedestrian system.
4. Develop a systematic program to maintain pedestrian routes in a usable and safe condition.
5. Maintain administrative policies that promote the coordination and efficient management of resources directed toward planning and implementation of the pedestrian system.
6. Comply with the legal requirements that impact the development of the pedestrian system.
7. Provide methods to allow public participation in developing or revising routes/priorities

ACTION PLAN

Ridge Road 80 Acre Parcel

2025-2027

- » Bike Trail: If a bike trail is to go from State Road to M-119, parts of this property could be used for a connecting link from Griffin Road to Ridge Road which directly connects to M-119. In this case, a trail suitable for biking would have to cut across this parcel.
- » Improve access from Ridge Road.
- » Survey property and secure for recreational purposes.
- » Stabilize the current snow-shoeing trails and cross-country skiing trails. Develop signage that assists new users of these trails in terms of directions and to indicate any natural areas of interest.
- » Assess need for small pavilion for rest during the winter sports season but also usable by hikers in the summer.

2027-2028

- » Continue to work on an appropriate bike trail should this become the chosen bike route to M-119.
- » Build a small parking area off Griffin Road and make improvements to Griffin Road.

2028-2029

- » Build a pavilion for recreational users of this property.

2029-2030

- » Continue to evaluate the needs of the users of this parcel.

Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

2025-2027

- » Continually work with The Little Traverse Nature Conservancy as to any areas of recreational needs that should be enhanced, improved, or added to the Preserve.
- » Create a Township Parks & Recreation Director position that would be responsible for the administration of the Thorne Swift Nature Preserve and other recreational areas and facilities.



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management Section

RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS

	ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	PREREQUISITE TO APPLY/MATCH	ELIGIBLE PROJECTS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM GRANT REQUEST AMOUNTS	AWARD RECOMMENDATION DATE	SITE CONTROL REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Approximately \$21 million available annually	*State and Local units of government authorized to provide public outdoor recreation. *Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and Regional Recreation Authorities.	*Applicant must have a current, five-year recreation plan that has been approved by the DNR prior to the application deadline. Match – minimum 25%	*Acquisition Projects: acquisition of land or specific easements). AND * Development Projects: for public outdoor recreation such as: trails, campgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts and restrooms.	*April 1 Submitted electronically online	*Acquisition Projects: no minimum or maximum grant request. *Development Projects: \$15,000 minimum and \$300,000 maximum grant request.	*In early December, the MNRTF Board makes final recommendations to the Legislature for funding.	Private land not eligible. Public land not owned by applicant must have a minimum of 25-year lease and landowner commitment to long-term maintenance and perpetual encumbrance.
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Approximately \$6 million available annually	*State and Local units of government authorized to provide public outdoor recreation. *Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and Regional Recreation Authorities. *Federally recognized Native American Tribes.	*Applicant must have a current, five-year recreation plan that has been approved by the DNR prior to the application deadline. Match – 50%	*Acquisition Projects: acquisition of land or recreation easements. AND * Development Projects: for public outdoor recreation such as: trails, campgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts and restrooms.	*April 1 Submitted electronically online	*Acquisition Projects: no minimum or maximum grant request. Grant requests cannot exceed the Departments available annual funding. *Development Projects: \$30,000 minimum grant request and \$500,000 maximum grant request.	The DNR Director announces projects recommended for LWCF funding in November. National Park Service must approve all projects recommended for funding.	Private land not eligible. Applicant must possess fee simple title or a recreation easement with adequate legal control of the property.
Recreation Passport (RP) Approximately \$2 million available annually	*Local units of government authorized to provide public outdoor/indoor recreation. *Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and Regional Recreation Authorities.	*Current annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): OR *Approved five-year recreation plan on file with the DNR. Match – minimum 25%	*Development Projects (only): for public outdoor and indoor recreation such as: trails, picnic areas, beaches, campgrounds, boating access and fishing areas. Renovation of existing facilities is emphasized.	*April 1 Submitted electronically online	*Development Projects: \$7,500 minimum grant request and \$150,000 maximum grant request.	The DNR Director announces projects selected for Recreation Passport funding in November.	Private/public lands. If private, applicant must have site control for 20 years for non-structures and 40 years for enclosed structures.
Clean Vessel Act – Boat Pumpout (CVA) Approximately \$200,000 available annually	*Public and private boating facilities open to the public.	*Applicant must agree not to incur any income above \$5 per pumpout. Match – 25% of total project cost	*Pumpout stations at large boating or mooring facilities with a minimum of 15 slips and upgrading of old pumpout systems.	Applications are typically accepted in the fall with funding becoming available in the spring of the following year.	N/A	Approximately 3-4 months following application.	Applicant must have ownership of the facilities and marina or written agreement from the new owner or lessee to comply with grant provisions throughout the useful life of the pumpout station.

For more detailed information on these and other DNR grant programs, please go to www.michigan.gov/dnrgiants or call (517) 284-7268 (517-28-GRANT)

Rev. 02/14/2023

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Available Grants

Recreation Grants

Boating Infrastructure Grants

To support construction of public transient boating facilities in the state that meet certain program goals. Approximately \$9-14 million available nationwide annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Clean Vessel Act - Boat Pump-Out Grants

To support new or upgraded pump-out stations and waste reception facilities to safely dispose of recreational boater sewage. Approximately \$200,000 available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

To provide matching grants to state and local governments for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas. Approximately \$5 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

To support acquisition and development of land for natural resource conservation and public outdoor recreation projects. Approximately \$23 million available each fiscal year. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-284-7268.

Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Program

To provide funding for maintenance of ORV trails and facilities as part of the designated statewide trail system. Approximately \$5.5 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

To provide grants to state and local governments for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas. Approximately \$100 million available nationwide annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Recreation Passport Grant Program

To provide funding to local units of government for development and renovation of public outdoor and indoor recreation facilities. Approximately \$2 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Snowmobile Trail Improvement Program

To maintain snowmobile trails as part of the designated statewide trail system. Approximately \$8.1 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Waterways Program Grants

To provide assistance for design and construction of public recreational harbor/marina and boating access site/launch facilities. Approximately \$3 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.



Michigan.gov/DNRGrants



Aquatic and Wildlife Grants

Fisheries Habitat Grant Program

To support a variety of activities to benefit fisheries, aquatic resources and the public, including fish habitat conservation, dam removal and repair, and access to recreation. Approximately \$1.825 million available annually.

Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program

To address strategic issues of prevention, detection, eradication and control for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in Michigan. \$3.6 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-284-7268.

Deer Plan – Northern Lower Peninsula Deer Private Land Assistance Network Grant Program

To produce tangible deer habitat improvements; foster productive relationships between the DNR, hunting organizations and private landowners; and increase opportunities for deer harvest in the northern Lower Peninsula. Approximately \$50,000 available annually. Contact: Deer Program, 231-340-1821.

Upper Peninsula Deer Habitat Improvement Program

To foster productive relationships between the DNR, hunting organizations, concerned citizens and other partners that improve deer habitat and educate the public. Approximately \$100,000 available annually.

Contact: Wildlife Division, 906-250-6781.

Wildlife Habitat Grant Program

To enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game species habitat. Approximately \$1 million available annually.

Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Forestry Grants

DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grants

To increase the number of properly planted, established and maintained trees within the service territory of DTE Energy. Approximately \$100,000 available annually. Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-582-3209.

Community Forestry Grants

To provide funds for projects that address the urban forestry needs of municipal governments, schools, nonprofit organizations and volunteer groups throughout Michigan. Approximately \$300,000 available annually. Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-582-3209.

Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant

To assist fire departments in acquiring firefighting equipment for local communities. Approximately \$250,000 available annually. Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-930-4294.

Law Enforcement and Safety Grants

Marine Safety Grants

To promote safety in the use of recreational watercraft through law enforcement and education. Approximately \$2 million available annually (\$900,000 federal, \$1.4 million state).

Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Off-Road Vehicle Safety Education Grants

To promote safety in the use of off-road vehicles through education. Approximately \$60,000 available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.



Law Enforcement and Safety Grants- Continued

Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grants

To promote safety in the use of snowmobiles through law enforcement and education. Approximately \$380,100 available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Off-Road Vehicle Law Enforcement Grants

To promote safety in the use of off-road vehicles through law enforcement and education. Approximately \$880,500 available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

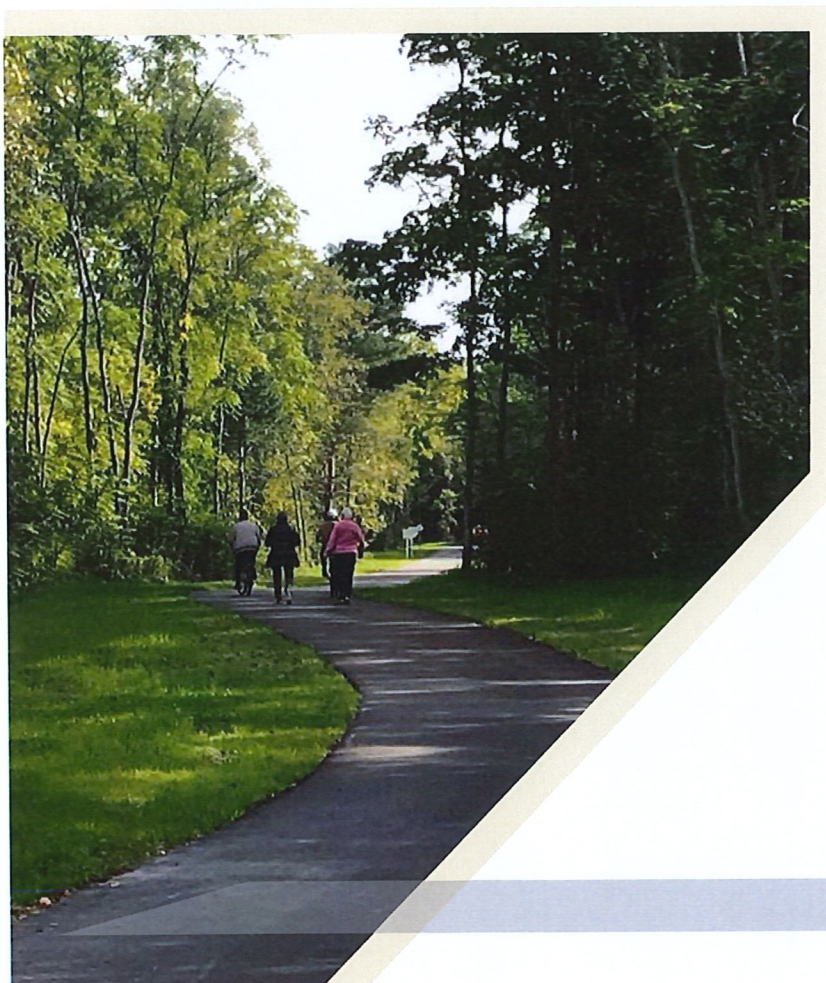
Success Story

One of Michigan's biggest grant program success stories is the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Since 1976, the Trust Fund has awarded more than \$1.3 billion to local and state units of government to conserve and improve high-quality, public outdoor recreation opportunities in all 83 counties. These projects emphasize the unique attributes that make Michigan a special place to live, work and play. Learn more at Michigan.gov/MNRTF.

Shaping Lives and Communities

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources administers grants that make communities healthier, safer and more vibrant. These grants enable the DNR's local partners to promote the lifestyles we all enjoy by providing recreational opportunities, enhancing wildlife habitat and ensuring public safety. Each year, the DNR offers approximately \$80 million in available grant funding to local units of government, state agencies and nonprofit partners.

Each grant program differs in terms of purpose, application deadlines, eligibility and whether matching funds are required.



For more information,
visit Michigan.gov/DNRGrants,
email dnr-grants@michigan.gov,
or call 517-284-7268.





P R O P O S A L

DATE: 02.16.2026

TO: Ed Murphy, Supervisor, West Traverse Township

FR: Tim Knutsen, Principal

Purpose: Preliminary Site Planning

Professional Involvement: Tim Knutsen, RLA, ASLA, Principal, Landscape Architect
Tressa Poole, Landscape Architect

Professional Roles: Landscape Architecture

Project Understanding:

West Traverse Township is in the process of designing and engineering a new township hall site. Project Centennial proposes construction of a new township hall on the north side of Lake Rd. on parcel -016, currently used for overflow parking for the historic township hall building on the south side of Lake Rd. on parcel -007. The project proposes preservation and improvement of the current township hall building to serve as public use.

West Traverse Township also owns the three parcels adjacent east of the new township hall parcel: parcels -033, -032, and -043. These parcels form over 9 acres of open and wooded rolling upland terrain with the unique character of the Lake Michigan shoreline. The historic township hall site represents a local historic and recreational asset, and the township hall location also represents a potential point of interest for those cycling the Tunnel of Trees. Development of these properties combined with the new Project Centennial and historic Township Hall can help to form a strong identity and center of activity for West Traverse Township.

Scope of Work:

Task 1: Project Kickoff Meeting and Base Plan

BRI will facilitate a project kickoff meeting at Township Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Identify Project Team and Project Stakeholders
- Confirm Project Scope
- Define Project Schedule
- Discuss Potential Recreational Uses and any Preliminary Concept Plans
- Receive Past Record Documents and Surveys



BRI will prepare a scalable existing conditions base plan utilizing the proposed Project Centennial development plans, existing survey and record drawings obtained by the Township. If no survey is available, BRI will prepare the existing conditions base plan from GIS and aerial imagery.

BRI will visit the project site after the meeting to record the existing condition, specifically regarding safety, access and circulation, potential connections, positive and negative visual influences, environmental and physical site conditions.

Deliverable: Project kickoff meeting notes, project schedule, preliminary scope of improvements and base plan

Task 2: Conceptual Site Plans

Using the base plan and information received during the previous task, BRI will develop at least two conceptual site plans for the subject parcels. The preliminary plans will be to scale but will be loose and informal in nature. Preliminary plans will include precedent images to illustrate the quality and character of proposed improvements.

Finally, the Project Team will prepare a short community survey document to be used to focus community input on the conceptual site plans.

Deliverable: Conceptual Site Plans, Proposed Programming and Precedent Images, Survey

Task 3: Community Open House

Conduct an open house session at West Traverse Township Hall to present conceptual site plans to interested community members. The Project Team will facilitate and attend the open house to answer questions and receive input on the conceptual streetscape plans.

As an optional additional service, BRI can develop an online survey to solicit input on conceptual streetscape plans.

Deliverable: Community Open House Notes, Survey Summary

Task 6: Preferred Site Plan

Meet with the Project Team to review input received at the Community Open House and if included, the online survey. Subject to this information and Project Team input, BRI will develop a Preferred Site Plan. The Preferred Site Plan will be a refined color rendering with scaled accuracy and the proposed program of improvements clearly identified. BRI will also include precedent images sufficient to illustrate the quality and character of proposed improvements. Finally, BRI will prepare a Preliminary Opinion of Construction Cost for the proposed improvements.

Deliverable:

Rendered scalable site plan, precedent images, Preliminary Opinion of Construction Cost.

Task 6: Summary Report

BRI will prepare a short report summarizing the planning and design process for the project. The report will include conceptual site plans and input received.

Deliverable:

Summary Report

B R ⓘ
Beckett&Raeder

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FEE:

\$8,500.00

TASK # optional Additional Service: Online Survey:

\$1,500.00

Not Included In Proposal: Topographic Survey
Geotechnical Inventory
3-D Renderings

Timeframe:

Commencement upon Contract Authorization

Completion within 6-8 weeks of Contract Authorization

Submitted

Accepted

Dated: February 16, 2026

Dated: _____



ATTACHMENT 1
Subject Parcels

Planning Report

Serving & Planning Communities Throughout Michigan

July 2026

Top Story

MSHDA Launches Survey

"Michigan's housing needs continue to evolve, and we need perspectives from every community at the center of this process. Together, your insights will guide a housing plan that strengthens every Michigan community." Amy Hovey, MSHDA Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) invites Michiganders to participate in a new public survey. The **survey** is the first statewide public engagement effort tied to Michigan's next housing plan, known as SHP 2.0. The SHP 2.0 will be designed to build on the progress of the state's first housing plan released in 2022 and the result of a collaborative process with the state's residents. All are encouraged to share experiences, concerns, and ideas about their housing experiences in Michigan. Public input will play a central role in developing the new plan by helping to inform goals and strategies for the years ahead. The current and next steps include:

- Statewide and regional data analysis, listening sessions, and community engagement activities.
- Collaboration with local governments, Tribal partners, housing providers, and advocacy organizations.
- Identification of priorities and strategies to guide investment and action.

MSHDA. <https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/about/press-releases/2026/06/12/mshda-launches-public-survey-to-shape-michigans-next-statewide-housing-plan>

Legal

Legislation to Curb Data Center Energy Usage Introduced

"It is extremely important that we have a strong framework in place to put Michigan in the lead on data centers and keep us competitive for transformational projects that grow our economy and create thousands of good-paying jobs." Governor Whitmer

Michigan Senators have introduced an eight-bill package to curb the potential negative side effects that massive data centers may have on ratepayers, the environment, and workers. The bill is not a moratorium on data centers but rather a set of proposed guardrails that include:

- Cap a hyperscale data center's water usage at 2 million gallons per day; require centers to annually report water usage beginning in 2027, and create a new permitting process for facilities using more than 550,000 gallons of water a day (Senate Bill 1046).
- Facilities permitted under the legislation could have their permits revoked after multiple

failures to adequately report things such as wastewater volume and pollutants.

- Require facilities using more than 20 megawatts of electricity to enter into 20-year contracts with utility companies and power their buildings with 90% renewable energy (SB 1047).
- Require the Michigan Public Service Commission to not approve any contracts, discounts, or rates between an electric utility and a data center unless they hire apprentices during the building process whose programs are in good standing with the US Department of Labor (SB 1048).
- Laborers used during the construction and installation processes must also be paid an area's prevailing wage or minimum wage, whichever is greater.
- Ban public officials from entering into nondisclosure agreements on the topic of data centers, with some exceptions (SB 1049).
- Require data center operators to enter into a legally binding agreement between themselves and community stakeholders, including the area's local government, which outlines how the facility will "accommodate and benefit the public health, safety, and general welfare" of the area in which the data center resides (SB 1050).
- Bar data centers from receiving approval or a permit to build without a community benefit agreement in place first (SB 1051).

Bridge Magazine. <https://bridgemi.com/michigan-government/michigan-senate-democrats-push-for-stricter-data-center-energy-worker-rules/>

Events

CEDAM's Affordable Housing Forum: LIHTC & the QAP

August 4, Lansing, MI

More information: https://www.planningmi.org/aws/MAP/pt/sd/calendar/372753/_PARENT/layout_details/false

Michigan Association of Counties

September 9-11, Traverse City, MI

More information: <https://micounties.org/conferences/>

Michigan Association of Planning

September 30-October 2, Kalamazoo, MI

More information: <https://www.planningmi.org/aws/MAP/pt/sp/michigan-conference>

Michigan Municipal League Convention

October 7-9, Traverse City, MI

More information: <https://mml.org/event/convention-2/>