

# Arvon

## T O W N S H I P

### RECREATION PLAN | 2024-2028



## JEWEL OF THE U.P.

ADOPTED ON: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

This Recreation Plan was prepared by the Arvon Township Planning Commission with technical assistance from, *Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services, LLC*

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*The Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028* was developed by the Arvon Township Planning Commission with technical assistance provided by Jason McCarthy, from *Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services, LLC*.

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## INTRODUCTION

The *Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028*, shall serve as a road map to the future regarding recreation planning and development within the community. The plan's primary focus is to ensure that quality recreational opportunities are available for users of all ages and abilities. Recreation provision in Arvon Township is a key component of community planning, as it serves as a benchmark for how residents and visitors view their quality of life.

Recreation planning is important for a number of reasons. It helps to ensure that there are a variety of recreational activities available to meet the needs and interests of a community's residents and visitors. This can include everything from organized sports leagues and fitness classes, to parks, trails, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. It can also play a role in promoting public health and wellness, as it can encourage people to be physically active and spend time in nature. In addition, recreation planning can help to boost a community's economy, as it can attract tourists and businesses that are drawn to an area's recreational offerings. Overall, recreation planning helps to create vibrant and livable communities by providing a range of opportunities for people to engage in leisure activities and pursue their interests.

This plan is a continuation of Arvon Township's first recreation plan which covered planning efforts in the community for the years 2012-2016. The current version of the plan was also written in accordance with the [Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans](#), as administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management team. It has also been developed with the acknowledgment of [Michigan's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#). Many of the goals and objectives found in this plan reflect similar intentions of the SCORP and this plan aims to align Arvon Township's recreation planning with many of the state's long-range recreation planning objectives.

The five-year Action Program, which can be found later in the document, is based on input from residents, stakeholders and elected and appointed officials. Additional input was received at an open house discussion at the Arvon Township Hall on May 3, 2023. The plan also provides ways to achieve Arvon Township's long-range outdoor recreational goals and allow eligibility to apply for financial assistance from the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#).

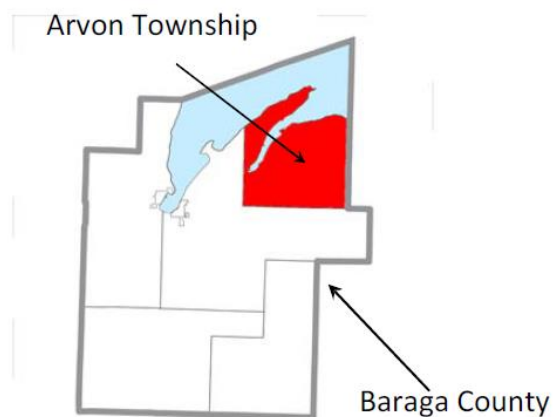
Once completed, the final draft document was distributed to surrounding municipalities, regulatory agencies, partners, and the public for a 30-day review on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023. The plan was also available for review on the township's website at: [www.arvontownship.org](http://www.arvontownship.org)



## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Arvon Township is a rural community situated on the banks of Lake Superior and located in the northeastern portion of Baraga County, in the Upper Peninsula. The township is home to a mix of forests, lakes, and small farms, providing a picturesque and natural setting for residents. Arvon Township includes the Abbaye Peninsula, which projects into Lake Superior to form Huron Bay and Keweenaw Bay. The Huron Bay, the only natural fjord in the State of Michigan, is long and narrow so its waters are significantly more protected than those of the open lake. Much of the shoreline, particularly around the tip of the peninsula at Point Abbaye, is rocky, although there are some stretches of sandy beach.

The community is relatively small, with a population of 496, as of the 2020 US Census. The majority of Arvon Township's population is concentrated in the two rural communities of Aura and Skanee. Aura is located at the base of the Point Abbaye peninsula on the northern side of Huron Bay. Skanee is located about 15 miles northeast of the village of L'Anse.



Despite its size, Arvon Township has a rich history and a strong sense of community. Many residents are actively involved in local organizations and events. The township is also home to many outdoor recreational opportunities, such as fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling.

The jurisdiction of this plan represents the desired outdoor recreation needs for residents and visitors of Arvon Township. Other municipalities within Baraga County also conduct recreation planning at some level. When possible, Arvon Township will coordinate with other governmental, educational and stakeholder's efforts to support and advance their recreational goals. The plan speaks to a broader, regional audience further along in the document.

The major transportation route in Arvon Township is Skanee Road which connects to the Village of L'Anse and to US-41. US-41 travels north to the Keweenaw Peninsula and south to the City of Marquette and other locations south and east.



**ARVON TOWNSHIP**

Map showing the boundaries of Arvon Township, Michigan, and its surrounding areas. The map includes the following features:

- Geographical Features:** Lake Superior, Keweenaw Bay, Finland Bay, Huron Bay, Assay Peninsula, and various creeks and rivers.
- Roads:** Numerous roads are shown, including Arvon Rd, Huron Rd, and various local roads.
- Towns and Municipalities:** Surrounding towns include Lanse Township to the south, Powell Township to the east, and MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP to the south.
- Map Orientation:** The map is oriented with North at the top, indicated by a compass rose in the bottom left corner.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

As a rural community, recreational operations, maintenance, and the proposed Action Program projects will all be administered by the Arvon Township Board of Trustees with administrative assistance from the community's Planning Commission. Project financing will come from township's general fund, potential local donations and grant opportunities. The Township Board of Trustees serve as the "Recreation Director," in the sense of budgeting, coordinating programming and facility maintenance schedules.



The Township's Recreation Plan will also be reviewed annually to assure that its goals, objectives and Action Program improvements are focused towards providing the highest and best recreational opportunities for the community. It is anticipated that this Recreation Plan will continue to be reviewed and updated every five years. The Planning Commission serves the Township Board by providing support in recreation planning, administration and implementation, as required.

### ***Recreation Programs***

The Township Board and Planning Commission are available to develop programs at township-owned parks, as necessary. It is also advisable to engage in public and private partnerships to assist in the development of well-rounded recreational programming.

### ***Recreation Sites***

Periodically, the Township Board will review facilities located at township-owned parks and make recommendations on issues and opportunities. Recommendations cover the use of the facilities, personnel and/or maintenance that may be required, the expenditure of funds on the improvement of the facilities, and types of facilities that may be needed.

### ***Regulations***

The Township Board administers rules and regulations to be implemented at township-owned parks and properties.

### ***Funding Sources***

At this time, the Township Board themselves or a consultant can assist the community with identifying possible grant sources. They may also provide input in developing and preparing grant applications. Preparation and submittal of grant applications are also the responsibility of Township Board.

The Township Board allocates general fund dollars on an annual basis for recreation projects, as needed. The Township Board has been working towards submitting a 5-year recreation plan and [Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund](#) grant applications to develop park properties within the community. Based on recent public input, recreation has become more important to local residents. As

such, township officials have placed the expansion of recreational opportunities as a priority during recent planning and budgeting exercises.

### ***Role of Volunteers and Organizations***

Two vital components of recreation provision in Arvon Township are volunteerism and stewardship. Each Action Program improvement or maintenance project at a township-owned park property aims to involve assistance from local residents, trail advocates and/or service group volunteers, as well as public and private financial assistance. This plan also aims to focus on improving and building our volunteer base.

### ***Relationships with School Districts and Other Public Agencies Involved in Recreation***

The [Arvon Township School](#) educates children from kindergarten through eighth grade students at the historic location in Skanee. Along with the annual Christmas program, there are several other productions conducted by the school that provide entertainment and culture for the community.





# ARVON TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

Recreational opportunities within a community often reflect the quality of life that is enjoyed by its residents, and allure by its visitors. When considering future land use issues and opportunities, recreation facilities and programs should be at the forefront of the discussion. Arvon Township is home to world-class, four-season recreation opportunities with its Lake Superior shoreline, rugged terrain and miles of trails. The natural resources are part of the community fabric. Recreational planning in Arvon Township aims to develop and promote recreational opportunities that meet the needs of the township's residents, visitors and tourists — regardless of their abilities.

To that end, below is a listing of the recreational facilities maintained by Arvon Township:

## **Township Hall Park**

Arvon Township owns approximately 15 acres at the intersection of Town Road and Park Road. While it is not a particularly large parcel, it serves the function of a Community Park. It is the site of the Township Hall which serves the community's indoor recreation needs. In addition to the seat of township government, the structure features a kitchen and is rented to the community for gatherings and township events. The upstairs provides an auditorium. A ramp provides access to the meeting rooms. The grounds immediately surrounding the township hall are park like and provide a nice informal space for small public events. On the west end of this parcel and accessed from Park Road is the townships active recreation facility. The facility includes a softball field and is also available for other activities requiring a large grassy playfield.

## **Arvon Township Park**

This site is located west of the Township Hall Park on Park Road. It is principally used as a boating access to Huron Bay. The park also includes a basketball court, parking, picnic sites, and restrooms.

There are two skid piers which are maintained by the township. The launching of small fishing boats is possible; however, the launching of larger boats is difficult due to limited water depth. Fluctuating lake levels have contributed to this problem along with the accumulation of sand in the near shore area. Ice fishing tournaments are held here in the winter months. The dock has been improved over the years with funding provided by Michigan DNR grants.

## **Township Cemetery**

The Skanee Cemetery occupies part of a 40-acre parcel near Lightfoot Bay. While the parcel is managed as a public cemetery, it is also an interest to tourists due the site's long history. As such, it receives a certain amount of tourist traffic and with sensitive trail improvements could contribute significantly to the community's hiking opportunities. There are also several small, pond and wetland habitats on the parcel that offer ideal wildlife viewing opportunities. Other than the cemetery proper and associated trails, the parcel does not meet accessibility guidelines.

## **Arvon Township Waterfront Parcels**

- 34 acres of undeveloped Lake Superior frontage near the eastern township boundary. The site is near a popular site for water sports but has no formal access or development at this time. As an undeveloped site, accessibility is limited. The site is entirely forested and features a mostly rocky shoreline. There is narrow sand beach near the east edge of the parcel that is utilized by beach goers.
- An approximate 38-acre parcel that neighbors Vicks Point. The parcel currently has no road access and is surrounded by private holdings. No immediate plans to develop the parcel exist at the time

of this report.

- A 100-foot strip of property at Witz Marina right on the lake, that has not been developed or planned for development at the time of this report.

In summary, the entire township, especially with so much land enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act, is a paradise for hunting and fishing. The Huron River and surrounding area, are well known, as is the Huron Bay for excellent fishing opportunities.

#### **ADDITIONAL AREA RECREATIONAL FACILITIES *(NOT OWNED OR MANAGED BY ARVON TOWNSHIP)***

##### **Roland Lake**

Roland Lake is a beautiful 40-acre lake 4 miles southeast of Skanee. It is spring-fed and stocked with brook trout, with a maximum depth of 22 feet. The boat launch is suitable for small to medium sized boats and accessible from a gravel road. Toilet facilities are available at the boat launch.

##### **Pointe Abbaye**

There are trails and rustic camping sites at Baraga County-managed facilities at Pointe Abbaye. The property is forested with old growth character including stands of large hemlock. The area also provides important migratory stopover habitat. Migratory birds that follow the Great Lakes shoreline, favor stopover sites on prominent shoreline features like Point Abbaye.

##### **Witz Marina**

Commercial marina and camping opportunities are also available immediately north of Skanee at Witz's Marina. Large fishing boats can be launched from this site. The nearest alternate public boat launch is located in the Village of L'Anse.

##### **Silver River Boat Launch Site**

Silver River Boat Launch located near the corner of Skanee & Townline Roads. The site features a hard-surfaced ramp. The site is signed and toilets are available along with approximately 20 parking places. The site is operated by the DNR.

##### **Aura Town Hall & Ball Fields**

This site, located along Townline Road, is maintained and operated by the Town of Aura. Annual events are held here along with summer softball league activities and the popular Aura Jamboree.

##### **Big Eric's Bridge & Campground**

This secluded campground, situated on the pristine Huron River watershed, is popular among fishermen for trout and spring/fall steelhead runs. The destination provides ease of access to area wilderness for hikers, hunters, ORV and outdoor enthusiasts. It has 21 sites for tent and small trailer use. Amenities include vault toilets and a hand pump well. It has barrier-free facilities. The campground is open from April through November.

##### **Lightfoot Bay Nature Area**

The multi-partner Lightfoot Bay Nature Area project was developed to protect unique Great Lakes coastal wetland and shoreline habitats that contribute to the overall health of Huron Bay and its diverse fishery. The nature area permanently protects much of this rare and unique coastal wetland complex, including over 6,500 feet of shoreline within Lightfoot Bay and 2,500 feet of Lake Superior barrier beach shoreline on Huron Bay. Over 70% of the project area is in nationally declining wetland habitat types, making it an important area for long-term conservation.

The Lightfoot Bay wetland, near-shore, and upland plant communities play a critical role in maintaining the ecological integrity of greater Huron Bay, providing habitat for migrating waterfowl, breeding birds, native plants, threatened and endangered species, rare fish species and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

In addition to the high-quality fishery values, Lightfoot Bay also contains several other important habitats for biodiversity. Extensive cranberry bogs, fens, beaver ponds, and alder thickets make up a large part of the nature area, attracting migratory birds and waterfowl from across the region with bald eagles being a common sight. With little to no development in the surrounding area, Lightfoot Bay's night skies are among the darkest in the region and make it a perfect location for stargazing and aurora viewing.

### **Historical Museum**

The Skanee Historical Museum is located at the intersection of Upper Skanee and Roland Lake Road in Skanee, Michigan. The museum sits directly across the road from the Zion Lutheran Church.

The Skanee Historical Museum was originally a parsonage built between 1907-1908 for the Zion Lutheran Church. The museum is a roomy, structurally sound, two-story building complete with the 'comforts of home' from the late 1800's to the mid 1900's. Every year, the Skanee Historical Society sponsors a special activity to encourage people to visit and appreciate Arvon Township's history. In the past, people have gathered at the museum to attend handmade quilt displays, pie socials, historical tours, pageants, historical re-enactments, raffles and a variety of other activities. Funds or donations received are used to help cover the cost of maintaining the museum. The museum features regular hours during the summer months.

### **Old Ravine River Cemetery**

The Old Ravine River Cemetery is located on the Lundberg Homestead on Sicotte Road. Though not owned by the township, the history of this location is known and treasured by local residents. The Old Skanee Ravine River Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Arvon Township. In 1903, the Lundeborg's gave an additional acre for the expansion of this cemetery site. It has a deed which states that it is for the future use of the Lundberg's descendants, as well as those of several other original homesteaders.

### **Huron River**

The mouth of the Huron River is a very popular camping and fishing site and receives a great deal of use. However, this site is completely unmanaged with no facilities. Although not located within the township, access is provided through Arvon Township.





Arvon Township's Recreation Inventory Map – Figure 2.





## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

In this section, Arvon Township's planning method is discussed. This method is intended to assist with the assessment of the township's park, recreation and open-space requirements.

### Planning Method

Arvon Township will utilize the "system" planning method. This planning method will utilize the township's metrics, priorities, needs, level of service and community-wide issues and opportunities to guide recreational planning efforts. As planning efforts and projects are implemented, the system can be re-evaluated to measure success and guide future planning goals.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

In this section, we detail the approach used to incorporate public input into the recreation planning process. Residents' opinions on recreation and open-space priorities is a key factor in this plan's development.

### Community Survey

A community recreation survey was conducted during the spring of 2023. The survey was advertised and was mailed to approximately 500 Arvon Township community members. An online version of the survey was also made available. The results of the survey have been used in the drafting of this plan's Goals and Objectives and Action Program. A summary of the survey results can be found in the Appendix.

### Early Public Input

Because our residents' opinions on recreation and open-space priorities are paramount in this plan's development, a Community Input Session was held at the Arvon Township Hall on May 3, 2023 from 6 – 8 PM. This session offered a chance for attendees to share their outdoor recreation ideas, as the township prepared to their updated DNR 5-year Recreation Plan. Thirty-three (33) attendees were present to offer their input. The comments from those in attendance are detailed within the meeting minutes and have been utilized in the development of the Goals & Objectives, the Action Plan, and in the Appendix.





### 30-day Review Period

The draft of the updated Recreation Plan was made available for review on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023. Notice was posted in the local newspaper and on the township website. Copies of the draft plan were placed for review at the Arvon Township Hall and on the township's website at: [www.arvontownship.org](http://www.arvontownship.org). Instructions for providing additional comments on the plan were included in the public notice placed in the local newspaper and on the community's website.

### Public Hearing & Resolution of Adoption

Advance notice for the proposed adoption Public Hearing was also provided on the Arvon Township website and in an advertisement that was placed in the local newspaper on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023. The Planning Commission public hearing occurred on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023. A copy of the Public Hearing Notice, Adoption Resolution, and official meeting minutes will be provided, as required prior to DNR approval. In addition the Township Board also adopted a resolution of concurrence on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.



*Arvon Township Park*

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Michigan *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* aided in developing Arvon Township's recreational goals and objectives. The goals and objectives from the SCORP have been adapted to fit our community's recreational needs. Public input from our residents also provided helpful engagement by way of our Public Input Session. Many of the below goals and objectives are shared by our surrounding municipal neighbors. There are also provisions to collaborate with those entities if and when those opportunities should arise.

### **Goal #1 – Foster stewardship and conservation with businesses, organizations, and individuals in protecting Arvon Township's natural and cultural resources.**

#### Objectives:

- Encourage efforts directed at improving both the visual and physical characteristics of all recreational opportunities in Arvon Township.
- Support and promote initiatives to improve and/or maintain the quality of recreational opportunities in Arvon Township.
- Promote the preservation and expansion of recreational opportunities and other recreational-oriented business opportunities for recreation and tourism.
- Encourage developers to retain open space and preserve trail rights-of-way to further enhance Arvon Township's non-motorized and motorized transportation network.
- Collaborate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance in developing additional recreational opportunities in Arvon Township.

### **Goal #2 – Improve collaboration with recreation stakeholders to meet the outdoor needs of Township residents and visitors**

#### Objectives:

- Collaborate with surrounding municipalities, trail networks, non-profit organizations and other recreation program providers for the purpose of expanding recreational opportunities in the area.
- Develop a regional network of trails by collaborating with other municipalities, trail organizations, and recreation providers.
- Participate in regional recreational planning to ensure multi-jurisdictional trail connectivity.
- Collaborate with Baraga County regarding mutual planning issues and opportunities.

### **Goal #3 – Raise the awareness of residents and visitors on the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities available in Arvon Township.**

#### Objectives:

- Coordinate regional recreational planning; build environments and programming activities that identify opportunities, fill deficiencies, and avoid duplication of services and efforts so as to make optimal use of financial and other resources.
- Encourage cooperation and coordination between surrounding municipalities, school districts, recreational service providers, and developers with regard to recreational opportunities.



#### **Goal #4 – Improve recreation accessibility for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.**

Objectives:

- Promote bicycling, walking, and other activities that provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Continue to provide Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access, Universal Design features, and multisensory experiences to enhance access and attract all types of recreational users.
- Develop recreational tourism opportunities such as interpretive cultural and/or historical signage, farmer's markets, and the like.
- Consider holding additional seasonal, semi-annual, or annual community events at Township Parks.

#### **Goal #5 – Provide quality outdoor recreational experiences in balance with township resource management capabilities.**

Objectives:

- Purchase property to set aside, in perpetuity, for recreational use, where and when feasible.
- Identify, acquire and develop trail easements that connect residential, commercial, and recreational nodes.

#### **Goal #6 – Enhance the health of Arvon Township residents and visitors by providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities.**

Objectives:

- Identify and develop recreational opportunities that engage all ages and abilities.
- Consider both passive and active recreational opportunities.
- Consider holding additional seasonal, semi-annual, or annual community events at Township Parks.

#### **Goal #7 – Supplement economic opportunity in the community by providing high-quality recreational opportunities and programs.**

Objectives:

- Where and when feasible, acquire local, state, federal and private funding to develop a myriad of recreational opportunities that will enhance additional economic development opportunities in the area.
- Take advantage of opportunities to expand and develop trailheads, public access sites, and other facilities which further encourage hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting, and other recreational uses of the natural assets in Arvon Township.
- Monitor recreation trends, and incorporate opportunities that may draw new residents and visitors.
- Diversify recreation opportunities, to provide notable experiences and generate new revenue for Arvon Township.



## ACTION PROGRAM

In this section, we have described specific projects that have been identified by residents and stakeholders. They are intended to meet our stated goals and objectives over the course of the next five years. Ultimately, the Township Board will have the ultimate discretion on budgeting and approval of the proposed projects.

### 2024

#### **Proposed Arvon Township Park Improvements & Enhancements**

The following park improvements and enhancements are being proposed in order to hold seasonal community events at the park. For example, during the winter, an event for walking across the frozen bay could be held, along with a bon fire at the park. In spring (June) a lupine festival with local vendors (like a farmer's market) and nature experts giving talks could be conducted. During the summer, a fishing derby could be held. In fall, more fishing and nature talks by experts on fall activities.

#### **Arvon Township Park Improvements & Enhancements Phase One:**

- Improve the pavilion – Refinish the tables, add electrical outlets, create a pathway from the parking area that features hand rails and ADA accessibility.
- Install fire pits.
- Install additional grills (there are currently two).
- Improve restroom facilities (there is currently one pit vault toilet near the boat ramp).
- Install running water and a drinking fountain by utilizing the existing well that currently has a hand pump.
- Install additional trash and recycling receptacles made out of recycled plastic.
- Improve access to the water for swimming/rock hunting.
- Create nature trail on Town Hall Park.

### 2025

#### **Arvon Township Park Improvements & Enhancements Phase Two**

- Install a universally-designed, modern play structure.
- Add corn hole games.
- Update the basketball court for multi-purpose (pickleball)
- Install a community garden space.
- Continue improvements to beach.

#### **Kayak Launch at Township-owned Property Near Witz Marina**

- Provide vehicle and pedestrian access to waterfront.
- Install signage to denote kayak launch.
- Consider the addition of kayak lockers and/or kayak storage racks.
- Provide improved area for kayak launching.

## 2026

### **Arvon Township Park Boat Launch Improvements**

- Extend the existing dock in order to accommodate larger boats.
- Install improved bumpers for boat docking.
- Develop an ADA accessible fishing pier.
- Develop a fish-cleaning station.
- Improve lighting by adding full cut-off, downcast light fixtures.
- Consider improved access to dock boats on the outside of the dock when waiting to come in.

## 2027

### **Improve Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Access**

- Work with Baraga Trail Authority to connect with current trails.
- Explore the possibility of creating a bike path on Pointe Abbaye Road to get to the county park on Pointe Abbaye.

### **Develop/Improve Hiking/Non-Motorized Trails**

- Improve access/trailhead on the trail leading to Mt Arvon.
- Install directional signage and/or map kiosk to Mt Arvon.
- Install recycled plastic benches on popular trails.
- Consider picnic shelter on popular trails.
- Install interpretive nature signage for popular trails.

## 2028

### **Develop 30+ Acre Parcel Overlooking Huron Islands for Camping and Dark Sky Park**

- Develop vehicle access and parking.
- Develop a master plan for the park to determine an appropriate number of rustic camp sites.
- Install fire rings.
- Install recycled plastic picnic tables, trash receptacles.
- Install interpretive signage for natural features (Huron Islands, type of forest, wildlife, night viewing).

### **Potential Funding Sources**

Creative funding options for the above-mentioned projects may come from several sources including but not limited to: local matching funds, the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) Development and Acquisition Grant program, the Recreation Passport Grant program, private donations, and in-kind labor or workforce donations.

Note: The Planning Commission also recommends that the Township Board consider the development of a Recreation Committee. During the community survey process, numerous people expressed their desire to serve on such a committee. A Recreation Committee could assist both the Planning Commission and the Township Board with recreation planning, project coordination, grant writing, event planning, and park maintenance.

Also, and only if supported by our residents and the Township Board, a small recreation millage could be considered in the future, in order to provide matching funds for DNR grants and maintenance funding for new and existing recreational facilities.

ARVON TOWNSHIP RECREATION SURVEY | 2023  
Summary of Survey Responses and Comments  
May 3, 2023

The Recreation Survey was used to collect input from citizens in March and April 2023. Below is a summary of responses, including the text comments for additional opportunities and improvements needed.

A total of 104 surveys were completed.

Paper/Mailed: 82 (A total of 500 were mailed out. This is a 16% return rate.)

On-Line Survey Monkey: 22

Total responses: 104

Question 1: Do you or your family use recreational facilities in Arvon Township?

Yes: 84      No: 18

Question 2: What time of year do you or your family recreate in Arvon Township?

All Seasons: 72

Spring: 88

Summer: 96

Fall: 92

Winter: 74

Question 3: Please provide the age of the person filling out this survey.

18 years and under: None

19-29: 6

30-39: 7

40-49: 4

50 and over: 82

No answer: 3

Question 4: Roughly how many hours as week do you spend recreating?

Answers varied greatly. Some said “none”. Several listed a range and others responded “varies”. Of those who submitted a specific number or a range, the **average was 12** hours a week.



Question 5: Does Arvon Township have enough recreational facilities for our residents and visitors? If no, what would you like added?

Yes: 49

No: 46

**Additional Facilities with 1+ Response**

Playground - equipment at park	6
Trail - Biking	6
Pickleball/Tennis Courts	5
Trails - Hiking	5
Beach - Public	4
Trails - X Country Ski	4
Beach - At park	4
Park - Improve	3
Trails - Snowshoeing	3
Boat launch - Deeper/better	2
Camping	2
Dock - Canoe/Kayak on Lk Superior	2
Splash pad	2
Trails - ATV/ORV	2
Trails - Walking	2

**Additional Facilities with 1 response**

ATV access to Pt Abbaye for handicapped
Ballfields - Continue Porta Potty
Ballfields - Improve
Ballfields - Seating/benches
Boat launch - Additional one
Camping - Free for Vets at Big Ericks
Cemetery - More plots
Dark Sky Park
Dock - Fishing dock at park
Family friendly games
Ice Skating Rink
More access to lake
Park - Covered/Screened building
Park - Pavilion - More user friendly
Parks - More
Picnic areas with fire pits
Playground - at ballfield
Playground - equipment
Porta Potties
Roads - Improve
Summer activities
Things to encourage visitors
Trail - Bike to Pt Abbaye
Trails - Mountain biking
Trails - Opt in to ATV trail system
Trails - Snowmobile
Utilize Huron Bay more
Waterfront Parcel - Near marina
Waterfront parcels - Access only by water
Waterfront parcels - Reeds Pt beach & picnic. Vehicle and ATV access

Question 6: Are Arvon Township's recreational facilities that you have used adequately maintained? If no, please list which facilities should have improved maintenance and in what areas.

Yes: 70

No: 11

**Maintenance Opportunities with 1+ Response**

Boat Launch - Make deeper/longer	3
Township Hall maintenance	3
Park - Maintenance/Mowing/Weed whacking	2

**Maintenance Opportunities with 1 Response**

Aura camp - Water & Restrooms needed
Ballfield
Big Ericks - Needs improvement/trash cans
Boat Launch - Lights
Cemetery - Take down dangerous trees
Park - Handrail to pavilion
Park - Plant more trees
Park - Shoreline for Beach
Park - Update
Playground
Pt Abbaye
Pt Abbaye - Boat launch & picnic on east side
Restrooms - Ballfield
Restrooms - Better maintenance
Restrooms - Big Ericks
Restrooms - Boat launch better/cleaner
Restrooms - Mouth of Huron
Restrooms - Second Sand Beach
Road - Paved Skanee Rd is terrible
Road - to Pt Abbaye
Roads - Are terrible. Need attention
Roads - Improve to park & marina
Taxes lowered

Question 7: Which of these Arvon Township recreational opportunities/facilities would you like to see improved?

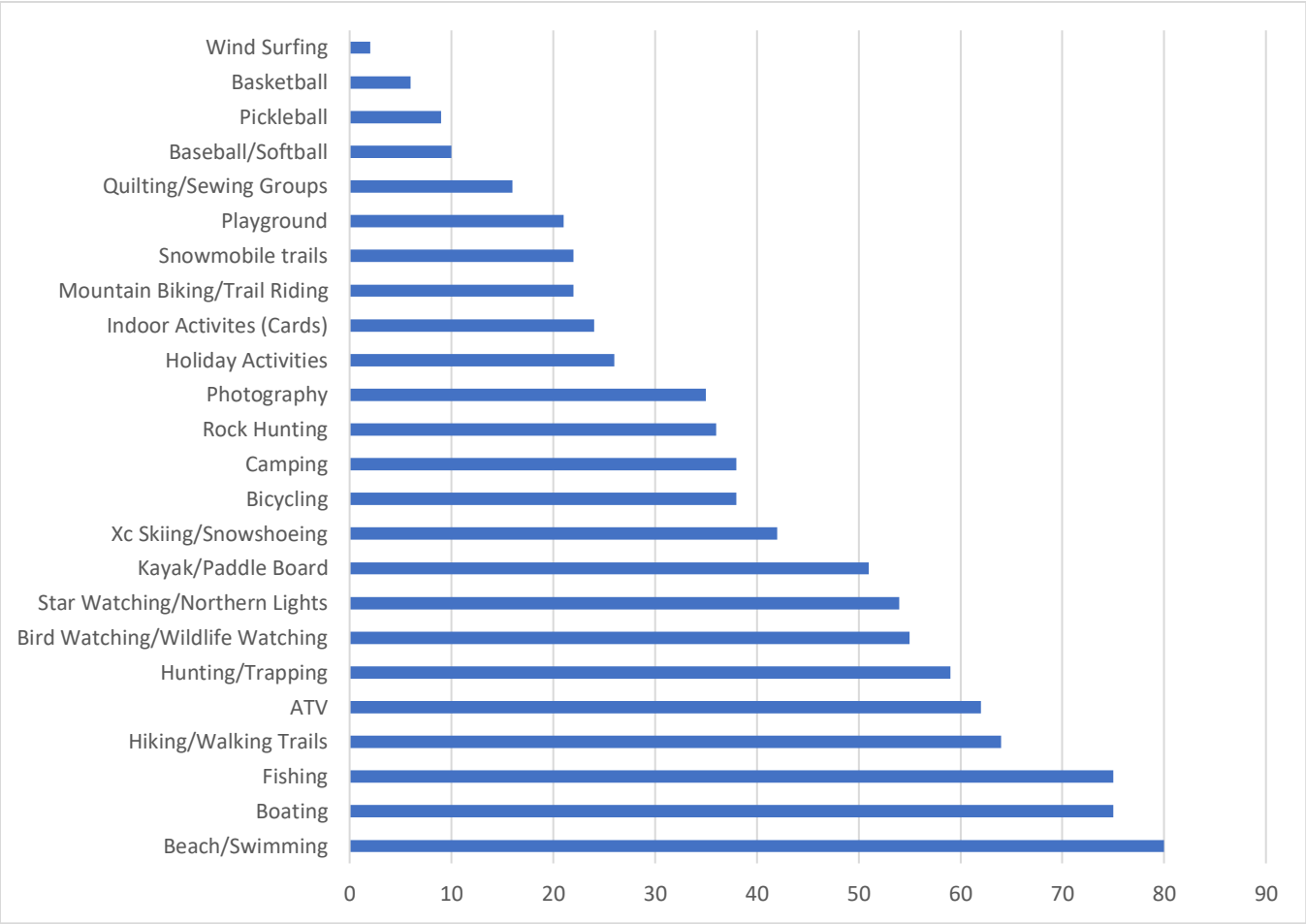
Hall and Ball Park: 44

Park with Boat Launch: 63

Undeveloped Waterfront Parcels: 44

Cemetery: 25

**Question 8: What activities do you and your family members participate in for recreation?**



**Question 9: Are there additional recreational opportunities you would like to have developed in Arvon Township? Be creative!**

**Additional Resources with 1+ Response**

Trails - Marked ORV	7
Trails - XC Ski/Hill	5
Pickleball court	4
Stop promoting wild areas (Pt Abbaye, mouth of Huron)	4
Beach/Swimming at Park	3
Boat Launch - Docking space	3
Trails - Biking	3
Trails - Hiking	3
Camping	2
Dark Sky Park	2
Dog Park - Fenced	2
None - Keep it like it is	2
Playground - slide, sandbox, swings	2
Shooting Range	2
Splash pad	2
Trails - Snowmobile	2
Trails - Snowshoeing	2
Undeveloped Waterfronts - Picnic/Camping	2

**Additional Resources with 1 Response**

Aura Hall
Ballfields - Improve, expand parking, view from cars
Better Signage
Camping - Promote free at State parks
Canoe/Kayak Race
Cemetery - Old Skanee move ownership to twp
Chapel - Praise & Prayer
Community - Activities/games
Community - BBQs
Community - Building/Foster Community
Community - Campfires
Community - Easter egg hunt
Community - Summer events
Community - Theatre performances
Dark Sky Park on Pt Abbaye

Disc Golf at Park
Ensure rural character maintained
Fishing - Contest
Fishing - Lessons
Golf - Driving/Putting
Guide services - Backroads
Guide services - Boat/Pontoon on Huron Bay
Guide services - Fishing
Guide services - to Huron Islands
Horseshoes
Ice Skating Rink - Outdoor
Kayak launch
Lighting - after hours
Lupine Festival
Mt Arvon ziplines
Music at park
Orienteering Competition
Outdoor Survival
Park
Park - Fish Cleaning Station
Park - Improve pavilion
Picnic areas with firepits
Pt Abbaye - Boat launch & restroom on east side
Rest areas at waterfalls
Scenic lookouts
Shelter with views
Signs & law enforcement to stop ATVs from racing on Beesley Rd
Tai Chi Class
Town Hall - Use it for rental, art shows, bake sales
Trails - Biking to Pt Abbaye
Trails - Expand Pinery XC Ski to Arvon
Trails - to Mt Arvon, maintenance of
Undeveloped Parcels - Easements/tables
Undeveloped Waterfronts - Picnic/Camping
Veteran - No fees for
Winter Activities