



VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE

PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

2024-28



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Prepared by:
The Village of Thompsonville Council

Adopted by:
The Village of Thompsonville Council
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Prepared with assistance from:





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INTRODUCTION

The Village of Thompsonville is located in the lower center of Weldon and Colfax Townships border in the southeast of Benzie County. Colfax and Weldon Township, along with the Village of Thompsonville are commonly referred to as the Greater Thompsonville Area - making up 72.5 square miles (of which the Village is 1 square mile). They are bordered by Inland and Homestead Townships (Benzie County) to the North, Grant Township (Grand Traverse County) to the East, Cleon and Springdale Townships (Manistee County) to the South, and Joyfield Township (Benzie County) to the West.

The Village of Thompsonville has four recreation assets that allow for the opportunity for recreation through activities such as baseball, biking, camping, and the enjoyment of the outdoors. The winter months allow for additional recreation activities like snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and skiing. These recreational assets, opportunities, and activities are key elements to the area's economic development and quality of life for residents and visitors.

Recreation activities and events bring residents and visitors together, fostering opportunities for cultural activities, education, and civic engagement. They promote public health and wellness by encouraging opportunities for physical activity, which is critical in staying healthy, reducing stress, fighting obesity, and preventing chronic health conditions. Parks and trails are also safe options for non-motorized transportation – which is especially important for those that do not own a car or cannot drive due to age, disability, or income. Parks also act, increasingly, as economic drivers, raising property values, drawing new residents to the community, and encouraging new development and tourism.

To assist with the development of the Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan, the Village Council initiated the development of the Parks and Recreation Plan with assistance from Networks Northwest. The Plan utilized the Benzie County Recreation and Cultural Plan, other local plans, and the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans as a template for planning.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE GREATER THOMPSONVILLE MASTER PLAN

The Greater Thompsonville Area Joint Master Plan provides a foundation for the land use planning of Colfax Township, Weldon Township, and the Village of Thompsonville. In relation to the Village Parks and Recreation Plan, a goal is to: “Foster a Distinctive and Attractive Community, with Strong Sense-of-Place” with an objective to meet that

goal being to “Maintain, expand, and market the community’s outdoor recreational resources.” Some of the strategies that the Master Plan mentions related to Parks and Recreation include “Work to develop a well-connected system of parks that provide for a wide range of active and passive recreation opportunities.”

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN PURPOSE AND INTENT

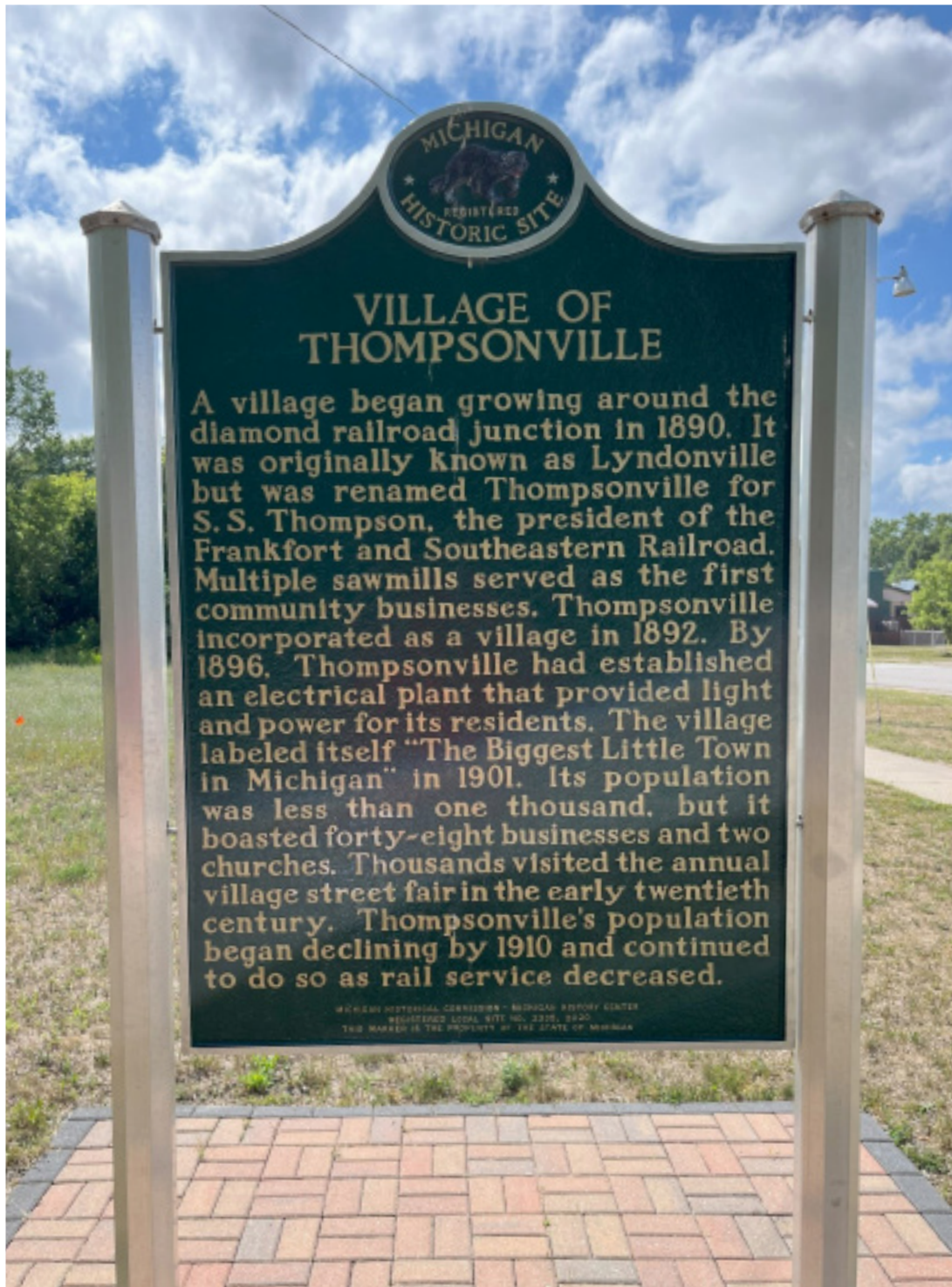
The intent of the plan is to identify the Village’s parks and recreation priorities and needs, while creating an action plan meeting the identified goals and objectives for the parks and recreation system of the Village through public input, Village Council meetings, and review of existing plans. This plan also provides an inventory of the

Village’s parks and recreation assets leading to the Village becoming eligible for parks and recreation grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

Through its recreation grants program, the MDNR provides financial assistance to communities

that would like to purchase land for parks, or are planning to improve or develop recreation facilities. The Village of Thompsonville has not been the direct recipient of MDNR monies to date. To be eligible to apply for most of these grant programs, a community must have a 5-year recreation plan, approved by the DNR that meets

certain requirements. This Parks and Recreation Plan were developed to comply with all DNR requirements for plans.



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Village of Thompsonville, population 451 (2020 census), is located in Benzie County, within Michigan's Northwest, Lower Peninsula. It is a vibrant and close-knit community nestled in the heart of the state's picturesque landscape. With its rich history, natural beauty, and welcoming atmosphere, Thompsonville offers a unique blend of small-town charm and outdoor adventure.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Manistee National Forest, Thompsonville is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. The Crystal Mountain Resort provides year-round recreational activities, including skiing, snowboarding, golfing, and hiking, making it an ideal destination for both thrill-seekers and nature lovers alike.

In addition to its natural wonders, Thompsonville boasts a thriving local economy supported by a diverse range of businesses and services. From quaint shops and boutiques to locally owned restaurants and cafes, residents and visitors alike can experience the warm hospitality and genuine sense of community that defines Thompsonville.

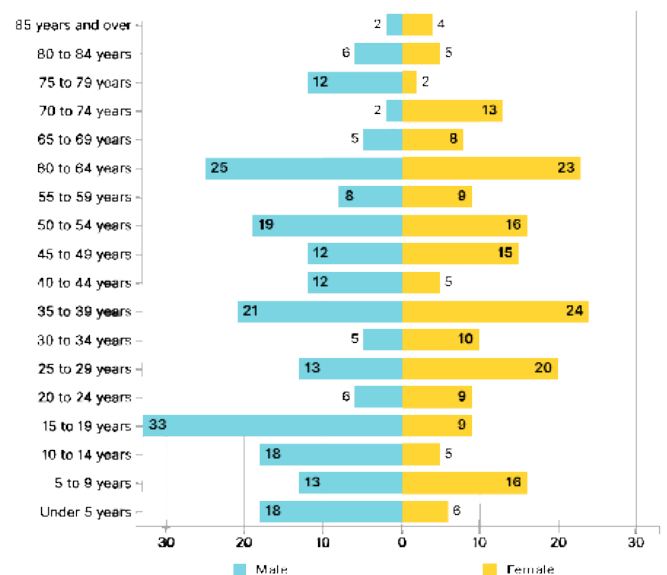
The community takes pride in its strong sense of togetherness, with regular events and gatherings that foster connections among neighbors and friends. From seasonal festivals and farmers markets to volunteer initiatives and cultural celebrations, there are numerous opportunities for residents to engage, connect, and contribute to the town's rich tapestry of traditions and values.

Thompsonville's excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and family-friendly amenities make it an ideal place to raise a family. Its proximity to larger urban centers provides the perfect balance between a peaceful, rural lifestyle and access to modern conveniences and opportunities. Thompsonville is a place where residents can enjoy a high quality of life, surrounded by natural beauty and a supportive community that values tradition, innovation, and a shared commitment to building a bright future for generations to come.

When discussing the recreational opportunities

in Thompsonville, Michigan it is important to look at demographics from the area. We will be discussing the area's total population, age, sex, household income, disability, households and family makeup, and seasonal population. The reason it is important to review these areas when looking at recreation plans and opportunities in the area is to ensure the community is planning for appropriate activities that are inclusive of the types of people who will be utilizing the recreation facilities,(i.e.: If an older population is observed, it might be important to target recreational activities that target an older generation such as pickle ball, where a younger generation might require recreational opportunities such as soccer fields.) this ensures that money spent on recreation done so in a proactive manner.

The total population of Thompsonville is 451 residents per the 2020 decennial census the break out of age is show in the age pyramid (image 1) below:



The population pyramids group the populace by age and sex. A wider pyramid indicates that there is a larger count of that specific age range. Typically, a wide base indicates a younger population, a wide top an older. The Village of Thompsonville has a median age of 38.7 ± 4.6 . When we compare that to the Michigan median age of 40.3 ± 0.1 we can

see that the Village has a younger population than the State average. The breakout of the Village of Thompsonville is roughly 29% of its population 18 or under. This 18 and under age group is largely skewed towards the male population with 88 males to 36 females. The population that is between the ages of 19-40 is roughly 25% with females outnumbering males in the age group 63 females to 45 males. The 40-65 age group makes up roughly 32% of the population of the population of the Village, 76 males to 68 females. The final group is the 65 or older group making up roughly 14% of the population, 27 males and 32 females. The Village has a relatively even distribution of age categories within its boundaries with roughly 54% under the age of 40. When developing recreational sites the Village should look towards recreation activities that can be utilized by all ages.

The median income in the Village of Thompsonville is \$42,045 ± \$6,975, well under the State of Michigan average of \$66,986 ± \$675 (2021 American community survey 5-year estimates). When the Village looks to implement recreational activities they should look to add in low or no cost activities to not put a strain on the lower incomes of the Village residents and be available for all residents.

The Village has 19% disabled population the highest percentage amount among the 18-34 age group. When the development of recreational sites is being planned for additional cost associated with making the sites handicap accessible should be included in cost estimates. Sites being developed with grants are almost always required to have

handicap accessibility as part of the project.

According to the seasonal population study done by Networks Northwest (<https://www.networksnorthwest.org/userfiles/filemanager/49nwypzbp28vz3voy6gk/>), Benzie County's population increases substantially (see Figure 2 below) in the months of May-Oct.

The Village of Thompsonville resides within Benzie County and due to its proximity to Crystal Mountain resort it can be deduced that these statistics remain true for the Village as well. When looking to plan for recreation projects within the Village this seasonal population should also be considered when deciding on scope, size, and availability of the site.

Table B-1. Seasonal Population - Benzie County

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
Full-Time Population	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970	17,970
Part Time Population	1,338	1,338	2,008	2,008	2,008	10,708	10,708	10,708	3,012	3,012	3,012	3,012	4,406
Overnight Population	8,804	8,226	8,755	8,845	29,251	30,600	32,227	32,136	29,513	29,713	8,409	8,717	19,600
Accommodations	7,227	6,530	7,204	7,196	25,994	26,340	27,687	27,487	25,836	26,270	7,066	7,244	16,840
Short-term Rentals	1,577	1,696	1,551	1,649	3,255	4,259	4,539	4,648	3,677	3,443	1,344	1,473	2,759
Total	28,112	27,535	28,733	28,823	49,228	59,278	60,904	60,814	50,495	50,694	29,391	29,699	41,975

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation system is guided by the Village Council, who is the decision-making authority and take responsibility for the Village Parks and Recreation. They are responsible for adopting budgets, approving contracts, adoption of policy, and more. The

Village Council is made up of seven members, which includes a President, Clerk and Treasurer. The maintenance of the Village parks is the responsibility of the Village Department of Public Works - with tasks such as lawn maintenance, garbage collection, repair of parks, and more.

VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

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

Fiscal Year (Jan 1 - Dec 31)	Parks and Recreation Budget
Adopted 2022	\$ 8,178
Adopted 2023	\$ 14,440
Adopted 2024	\$ 14,440

VOLUNTEERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

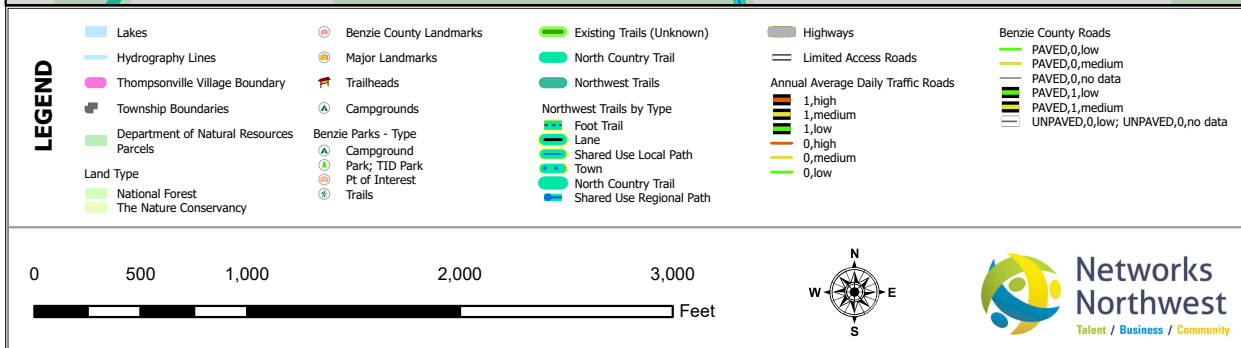
Local volunteers and community groups have assisted with various projects such as ballfield maintenance and revitalization planning. In the past, the Village has allowed for various fundraisers and events on park property. Potential projects for future partnerships could include trail

expansions and connection, park improvements and beautification of the parks. Below is a list of organizations and groups that have or may work with the Village to better and improve the Village parks and recreation facilities. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

- Local community volunteers
- Community events
- Thompsonville Summer League Baseball/ Softball
- Local Little League Teams
- Adult and Youth Softball/Baseball Tournaments
- Benzie Snowbirds
- Friends of Betsie Valley Trail
- Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project (TARP)
 - TARP seeks to create an attractive and historically compelling trailhead on the Betsie Valley Trail, near the site of the Historic Thompsonville Junction next to Sharp Park



VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MAP



RECREATION INVENTORY

Parks and recreation opportunities and access improve the quality of life of residents and visitors through promotion of health and wellness, protection of the environment, and support of economic development through attraction of tourists and business.

The following inventory includes the village owned properties and facilities, as well as those owned by other units of government or community organizations. The inventory of the Village properties and facilities identifies the park type, size, ownership and service area, a brief description, and an accessibility assessment score. The accessibility assessment scores were performed by Networks Northwest staff using the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and MDNR Guidelines for Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans.

DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES	
ACCESSIBILITY GRADE	DEFINITION
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

VILLAGE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The Village of Thompsonville has four parks and facilities within its boundaries – Thompsonville Community Park, Thompsonville Community Center, Bragerstock Field-Webber Sports Complex, and Sharp Park. Additionally, the Village of

Thompsonville owns the Thompsonville Airport (7Y2) which is located in Weldon Township. Below is the recreation inventory for the Village of Thompsonville.

THOMPSONVILLE COMMUNITY PARK

Park Type: Community Park

Size: 3.7 acres

Ownership: Village of Thompsonville

Service Area: Village of Thompsonville, Benzie County

Description: Skate Park with street skating features, basketball court with lighting, swings, slide, and One (1) wooden picnic table. One pavilion with electric outlets and six (6) picnic tables under it. One (1) outbuilding, the Thompsonville Community Center, and a parking lot are also on the property.

Accessibility Assessment: 2



THOMPSONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Park Type: Community Facility

Size: Located at Thompsonville Community Park

Ownership: Village of Thompsonville

Service Area: Village of Thompsonville, Benzie County

Description: The Thompsonville Community Center houses the Village of Thompsonville offices, as well as the Fire Hall/Department. The Fire Department has a three bay garage housing fire and ambulance vehicles and equipment. The building also includes

restrooms, drinking fountain, kitchen facilities, and meeting space.

Accessibility Assessment: 2



BARGERSTOCK FIELD - WEBBER SPORTS COMPLEX

Park Type: Ball Fields and Community Park

Size: 20.45 acres

Ownership: Village of Thompsonville

Service Area: Village of Thompsonville, Benzie County

Description: Webber Sports Complex hosts two ball fields, each with home and away dugouts, bleachers and scoreboards. One field measures at 287' to left, 298' to center and 298' to right, while the other field has lighting and measures at 288' to left, 298' to center and 285' to right. Between the fields is a press box which sits above the concession stand and restrooms. Multiple picnic tables are present along with a truck and train children's play structure, jungle gym play structure, and swing sets. There is

unimproved parking which is primarily flat, and identified parking spaces for handicapped parking.

Accessibility Assessment: 2



GEORGE W. SHARP PARK

Park Type: Campground and Community Park


Size: 1.7 acres

Ownership: Village of Thompsonville

Service Area: Village of Thompsonville, Benzie County

Description: Also known as Thompsonville Recreational Campground. Sharp Park houses the historic "Diamond Crossing" area, the Village's campground as well as the water tower and subsequent infrastructure. There are XX campsites with electric outlet at three power pedestals and a water spigot available for use.





There is an unimproved path that goes throughout the campsites which are marked with wooden markers. There are three grills, three picnic tables

and a swing set on the property. There were no restrooms available on the property.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

OTHER PARKS AND FACILITIES

The following are related facilities within the Village that are not owned by the Village, with the exception of Thompsonville Airport which is located in Weldon Township. Although located 2.5 miles west of the center of the Village, Crystal Mountain should be mentioned as it is a privately ran ski resort that brings visitors to the area and provides recreational opportunities, especially during the winter and ski season.

Betsie Valley Trail: Owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Benzie County is the 22 mile Betsie Valley Trail connecting Frankfort and Thompsonville via the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way. There is a trailhead at Bragerstock Field.

Weldon Township Hall: Owned by Weldon

Township and used as Township offices and meeting space.

Colfax Township Hall: Owned by Colfax Township and used as Township offices.

Betsie Valley District Library: Owned by Betsie Valley District Library and offers library services and programming.

Thompsonville Airport (7Y2): Located in Weldon Township and owned by the Village of Thompsonville. There are two general aviation runways, one paved and one grass, an administration building, restrooms, and water availability. There are also private hangars on the 120 acre property. Utilities and maintenance of the airport are contracted with BART.

PREVIOUS DNR GRANTS

The Village of Thompsonville has not received a DNR grant.



PLANNING, INPUT, AND PROCESS

The Village of Thompsonville worked with assistance from Networks Northwest to develop its 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Plan. The process began in early 2023 with the development of a survey which was released from March 20, 2023 to May 1, 2023. While plan development occurred over the summer, the Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Community Input Drop-in Session was planned and took place on November 6, 2023. At

the December 11, 2023 Village Council meeting, the plan was released for the public comment period from December 13, 2023 to January 15, 2024. On January 16, 2024, the Village Council held a public hearing on the Parks and Recreation Plan. Following the hearing, the council approved a resolution to approve the Parks and Recreation Plan.

VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY ANALYSIS

The 2023 Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Survey was developed with review and assistance from the Village of Thompsonville Council. The survey was released on March 20, 2023 and was kept open for response until May 1, 2023. Methods of advertising the survey included press releases, social media posts, community members and local organizations, and a survey flier with survey link and QR Code.

During the response period, there were 191 responses of which nearly 80% identified as “Not a Village resident.” 25 responses were from year round Village residents, while 14 came from seasonal residents. Non-village resident responses came primarily within Benzie County with others residing in the Traverse City area or within Wexford and Manistee County. 61 and older held 65% of the responses, while the age groups of 41-60 (21%), 20-40 (13%), and 12-19 (1%) followed. 23 respondents also provided an email address for the Draft Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan when it is released for public comment.

When asked about how often respondents visit the parks and facilities of the Village, Thompsonville Community Park is the most utilized with 50% having some level of usage of the park. Bargerstock Field-Webber Sports Complex was the second most used, while Sharp Park and the Thompsonville Community Center were similar in levels of usage. When the survey is limited to Village residents

and Village seasonal residents, Thompsonville Community Park (just under 80% marked a level of use) remains the most utilized with the same parks and facilities following behind.

More than 70% of responses marked each park or facility as either in Good or Fair condition. Sharp Park had 25% of responses mark it as poor and Thompsonville Community Park had 17% marked poor. When the survey is limited to Resident and Seasonal Resident responses, the results are comparable with the exception of Sharp Park and Thompsonville Community Park marked with over 30% Poor selections. When asked to rate the Village’s Parks and Recreation system overall, the majority selected Fair to Good.

There are many outdoor activities which may or could occur within the Village Parks and Recreation system. When asked what activities are most enjoyable, Biking was the most selected choice followed by Walking, Hiking, Kayaking, and Farmers Market. When the responses are limited to Village Residents and Seasonal Residents, the choices are similar with Walking, Hiking, Nature/Wildlife Viewing, Farmers Markets and Biking making up the top five.

In asking what recreational activities respondents would like to see added or expanded in the Village of Thompsonville, Biking was the clear number one followed by Farmers Markets, Walking, Hiking, Concerts, and Kayaking and Festivals both having the same number of selections. Farmers

Markets move to the most selected when broken out to only contain Village Residents and Seasonal Residents. This is followed by Festivals, Biking, Walking, and Concerts.

The efforts to restore and tie in the Diamond Crossing Historic Site to existing trails, as well as the restoration of the property to be a more useful community asset prompted a question to find how the space could be used. Trails were the most selected with Restrooms and Farmers Market tied for second, while Biking and Picnic followed close. When broken out for Village and Seasonal Residents, Farmers Market moves to the top, followed by Picnic, Trails, Restrooms, and Concerts.

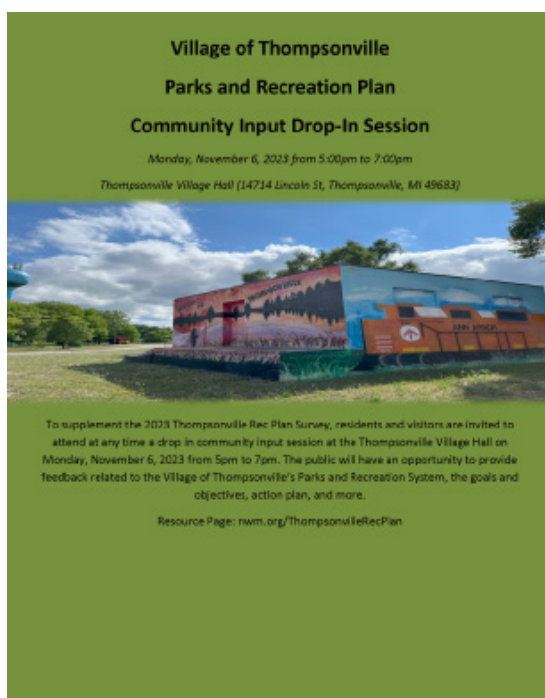
Respondents were asked to select which assets should be improved, which would then prompt them to respond what improvements they would like to see for the parks they selected. Only 2 responses marked no improvements are needed, while many identified the trail into Thompsonville as a potential improvement.

At Thompsonville Park, some of the improvements included a better skate park, lighting under gazebo, updated playground equipment, more and improved upkeep of the grounds, improved restrooms, and signage. For Bargerstock Field-Webber Sports Complex, making it more

welcoming, better restrooms, bench seating by playground, building maintenance, and stowing baseball equipment were mentioned. Possible Sharp Park improvements included nicer ground cover, improved restrooms, signage, a gathering place, and no more tree removal from the park. The Thompsonville Community Center was identified for having better amenities and nicer ground cover.

An open ended question then asked how or what can make the Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation System better. Of the various responses, tying into the trail systems or improving the trail systems were mentioned frequently. Cleaning and maintenance of the parks was also mentioned a few times. Other items included more control of camping at Sharp Park, a trailhead and restrooms in Thompsonville, more community involvement, and pickleball.

Lastly, an open ended question was asked if there was anything else respondents would like the Village to know in regards to the Parks and Recreation system. Again, the trail system was mentioned frequently, particularly improved surfaces and trail connections. Advertisement of the parks on social media, a newsletter or in general, maintenance and taking pride in the parks, and development of existing parks were also mentioned.



THOMPSONVILLE COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION ANALYSIS

The Thompsonville Community Input Session was held on Monday, November 6, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Thompsonville Community Center. Advertisement of the event was done through a press release, social media posting, and word of mouth which led to a dozen community members providing input. The input session sought out comment on goals, objectives, and action plan items in addition to other Parks and Recreation based questions. Full results from the input session can be found in Appendix XX.

Attendees arrived at a drop in community input session which had four different stations for response, as well as a map of the Village with the Parks and Recreation assets marked out. The first station asked what improvements would like to be seen at the Village Parks and Recreation assets. At Bargerstock Field – Weber Sports Complex, respondents marked cameras, landscaping, and restrooms (ADA) as projects they would like to see. At Sharp Park, project ideas included support of the TARP project, restrooms, cameras, landscaping, and better signage. Thompsonville Community Center projects included awareness, event fees, cameras, and a new bulletin board. At the adjacent Thompsonville Community Park, projects included wildflower bed improvements, playground equipment, cameras, and picnic tables.

The next two stations looked at possible Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan considerations and asked respondents to place a sticky dot by the goal, objective, or action plan item they believed the Village should support. While there were no stickers placed at the Goal section, discussion did not yield any objections to those presented at the input session. When looking into objectives to assist meeting the goals, the most selected was to “Provide improvements to Thompsonville Community Park, Bargerstock Field-Webber Sports Complex, Sharp Park, and Thompsonville Community Center (x9)” followed by “Partner with

other community organizations (x8)”. There were four objectives that were marked seven times (x7) which includes “Ensure that parks and recreation facilities and opportunities are available to all residents” and “Provide for maintenance and management of Village parks and recreation facilities”. Other comments included “Signage” and “Maintenance of existing equipment before new equipment purchases (x2)”.

When asked about which action plan items could be considered, respondents marked “Restroom Addition/Improvements (x8)” most often. “Upgrade playground equipment at parks (x7)” and “Encourage healthy active lifestyles through recreation (x7)” followed but were in front of “Provide access for all by improving barrier-free access features at facilities (x6)” and “Work with local and regional organizations, the public, business owners, and others to enhance downtown Thompsonville connections (x6)”. When asked about how the Village could fund Parks and Recreation, Grants (x9), a Parks and Recreation Budget (x8), and Event Revenues (x7) were the most selected.

Lastly, there were three open ended questions for response, first looking at what respondents liked or disliked about the Village Parks and Recreation system. Responses included maintenance, better signage at parks, and more communication about what is going on at parks. Next respondents were asked what would encourage the utilization of the Village parks more with answers coming in such as ADA compliance for access, maintenance, and an event planner-coordinator. Lastly, it was asked if there was anything the Village should know regarding Parks and Recreation. Some of the responses included maintenance, improved coordination of the Greater Thompsonville Area parks and park uses, cameras, campground fee improvements, and not cutting trees within the parks.



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

The Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan was released for a public comment period lasting from December 13, 2023 to January 15, 2024. Notice was sent in the Benzie Record Patriot, by a press release (leading to multiple news articles), social media, and an email to those who supplied and email address during the survey period. Comments recieved were organized by the park referenced.

The Thompsonville Village Council held the Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan Public Hearing on January 16, 2024. Notice was physically posted at the Village of Thompsonville Hall and at the Betsie Valley District Library from January 1, 2024 to January 16, 2024. There above mentioned press release and news stories also mentioned the public hearing.

There were no additional comments in regards to the draft but it was mentioned that the Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project (TARP) was working on projects that would improve Sharp Park and discussion of maintenance of equipment and parks.

Webber Sports Complex

- Install a disc golf course
- Upgrade concession stand and score boards
- Upgrade lighting
- Upgrade playground equipment

Sharp Park

- Fencing around backside of property
- Bathroom upgrades
- Playground upgrades (swing set)

Thompsonville Community Park

- Skateboard and Basketball resurfacing
- Upgrade playground equipment
- More restrooms
- Upgrade lighting

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – ACTION PLAN

The goals, objectives, and action plan were developed to guide the Village's decision-making over the next five years, related to parks and recreation that meet the needs of the community. The goals and objectives, as well as the action plan were developed using the review of existing facilities, community input, Village of Thompsonville Council meetings, and other relevant plans.

GOAL 1: IMPROVE OR EXPAND PARK FACILITIES, AMENITIES, AND AWARENESS

Objective: Maintain an active MDNR Parks and Recreation Plan

Objective: Ensure park improvements meet applicable ADA standards to ensure accessibility.

Objective: Pursue funding sources through grant programs, donations, and/or user fees

Objective: Ensure diverse parks and recreation facilities and improvements are accessible to all users

Objective: Promote public awareness of parks and availability for use of parks

Objective: Support efforts to restore and develop the Diamond Crossing Historic Site

Objective: Promotion and advertisement of the Village Parks and Recreation system

Objective: Encourage and support events utilizing the Village parks

Objective: Partner with other community organizations

Objective: Encourage healthy active lifestyles through recreation

Objective: Collaborate with partner organizations, local schools, and public agencies such as MDNR,

Benzie County, and surrounding communities to enhance access to the areas parks and recreation opportunities for all user groups

GOAL 2: PROVIDE FOR MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Objective: Provide improvements to Thompsonville Community Park and Thompsonville Community Center

Objective: Provide improvements to Bragerstock Field-Webber Sports Complex

Objective: Provide improvements to Sharp Park

Objective: Ensure that parks and recreation facilities and opportunities are available to all residents

GOAL 3: DEVELOP AND PROMOTE AND INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM OF MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

Objective: Pursue partnerships to enhance planning and collaboration

Objective: Support the development of trails, an interconnected trail system that links communities, parks, existing trails, and other recreational sites

Objective: Identify potential trail connectors to parks, schools, and other community resources

Objective: Coordinate with community groups, such as Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail and others to maintain, improve and expand the Betsie Valley Trail and connections to the Betsie Valley Trail

Objective: Explore opportunities and funding to create trail connections that link parks, existing trails, and other community assets



ACTION PLAN

- Ensure all improvements meet applicable ADA standards to ensure accessibility for all
- Pursue partnerships and work with volunteers, community groups, and public agencies to assist with park maintenance, planning, and development projects
- Utilize social media, local partners, and community organizations to grow awareness of Village parks and recreation assets
- Encourage the placement of bicycle racks in appropriate locations
- Work with local and regional organizations, the public, business owners, and others to enhance downtown Thompsonville connections
- Partner with schools, visitors bureaus, and other organizations to promote the use of Village
- Improve landscaping and beautification of all park sites
- Pursue the paving of trails connecting Village parks assets and Betsie Valley Trail
- Explore opportunities and funding to create trail connections that link parks, existing trails, and other community assets
- Build awareness and encourage use of the Village parks and recreation opportunities through social media
- Specific Improvements to:
 - Thompsonville Community Park
 - Upgrade playground equipment
 - Host a community garden
 - Other
 - Bargerstock Field-Webber Sports Complex
 - Paved walkways
 - Improved signage
 - Lighting improvements at unlit field
 - Sharp Park
 - Install restrooms for campground use
 - Improved signage
 - Support the efforts of the Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project to redevelop the Diamond Crossing historic site
 - Thompsonville Community Center
 - New bulletin board for community events, notices, etc.



APPENDIX

A. SURVEY RESULTS

B. COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION RAW DATA

C. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AFFADAVIT

D. PUBLIC COMMENT - PUBLIC HEARING PRESS RELEASE AND NEWS ARTICLES

E. PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

F. JANUARY 16, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING AND VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

G. VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE RESOLUTION 24-01

H. COUNTY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

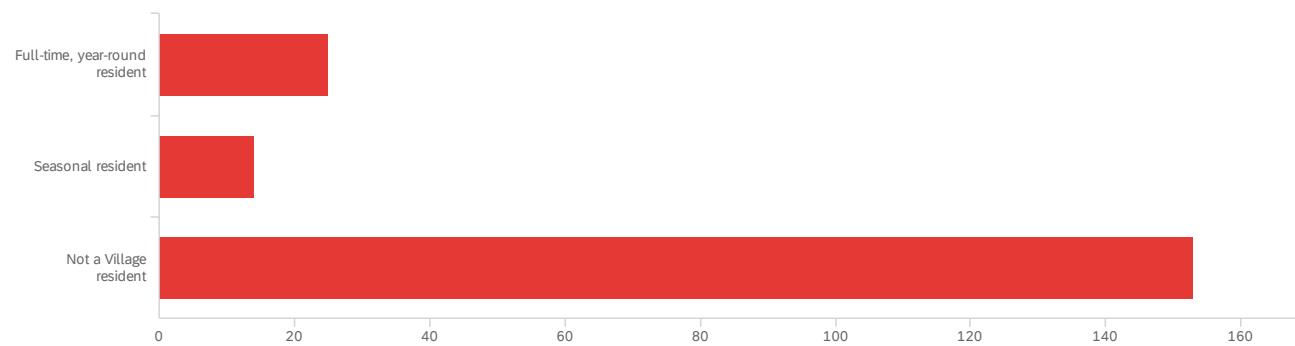
I. RPA TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Appendix A. Survey Results

Default Report

2023 Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Survey
October 9, 2023 3:18 PM MDT

Q1 - Are you a resident of the Village of Thompsonville?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you a resident of the Village of Thompsonville?	1.00	3.00	2.67	0.69	0.48	192

#	Field	Choice	Count
1	Full-time, year-round resident	13.02%	25
2	Seasonal resident	7.29%	14
3	Not a Village resident	79.69%	153
			192

Showing rows 1 - 4 of 4



Q1.1 - I am a seasonal resident but also reside in

I am a seasonal resident but also reside in

frankfort and ann arbor

Kalamazoo, MI

Indiana





Q1.2 - If you are not a Village of Thompsonville resident, please specify your community of residence.

If you are not a Village of Thompsonville resident, please specify your com...

Cooemish

Benzonia

Rockford

Beulah

Beulah part year

Joyfield

Benzonia

Benzonia

Grawn

Frankfort

Frankfort / Kalamazoo

Benzonia

Benzonia

Springdale Twp

Frankfort

Honor

Benzie County

Traverse City

Traverse City

Frankfort





If you are not a Village of Thompsonville resident, please specify your com...

Crystal Mntrn Resort Cottage owner.

Manistee County, Kaleva

TRAVERSE CITY

Holland MI

Cadillac area

Currently Traverse City but Beulah for 20years

Traverse City

ELBERTA, MI

Springdale township, Betsie River

Frankfort

Inland township, Benzie Co.

Joyfield Township, Benzie County

Frankfort

Frankfort

Frankfort, MI

Frankfort

Traverse City

Grand Rapids, MI with a vacation home in Beulah, MI

Honor

Frankfort

Bear Lake, Michigan

Bloomfield Hills, MI (and Frankfort seasonal)

Colfax Township resident outside the village limits

Honor





If you are not a Village of Thompsonville resident, please specify your com...

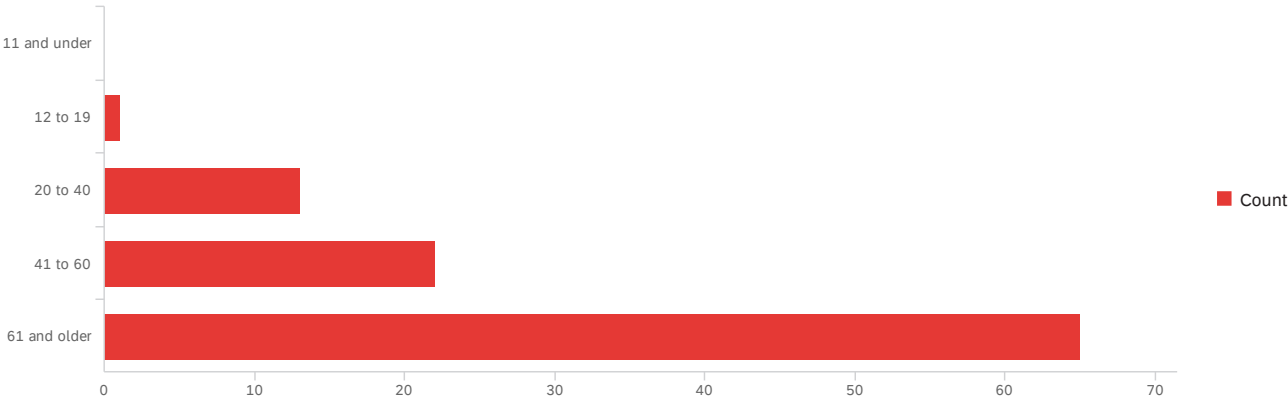
Beulah

Beulah

Mason county, work in Manistee county

Weldon twp

Q2 - Please select your age range.



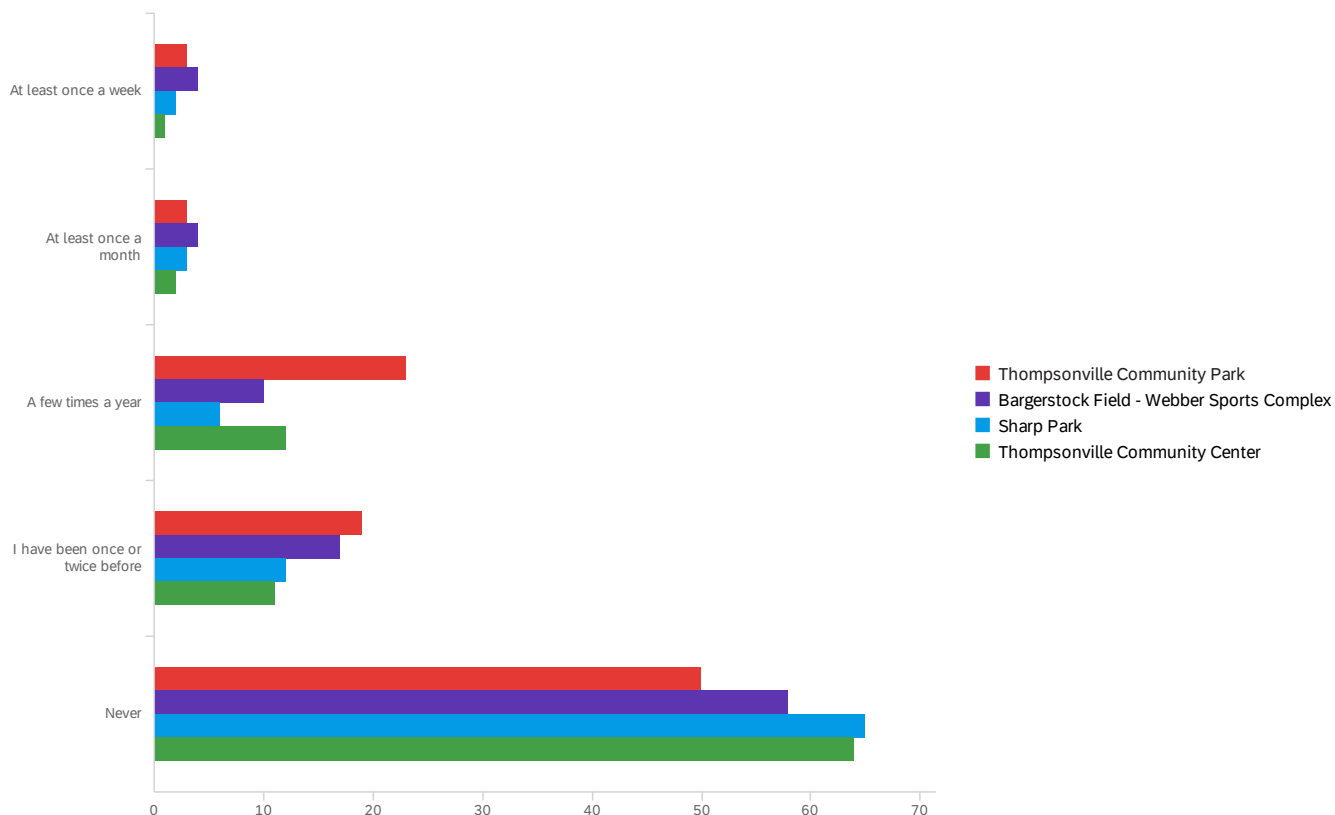
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Please select your age range.	2.00	5.00	4.50	0.75	0.57	101

#	Field	Choice	Count
1	11 and under	0.00%	0
2	12 to 19	0.99%	1
3	20 to 40	12.87%	13
4	41 to 60	21.78%	22
5	61 and older	64.36%	65
			101

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6



Q3 - How often do you use the following Village parks and recreation assets?



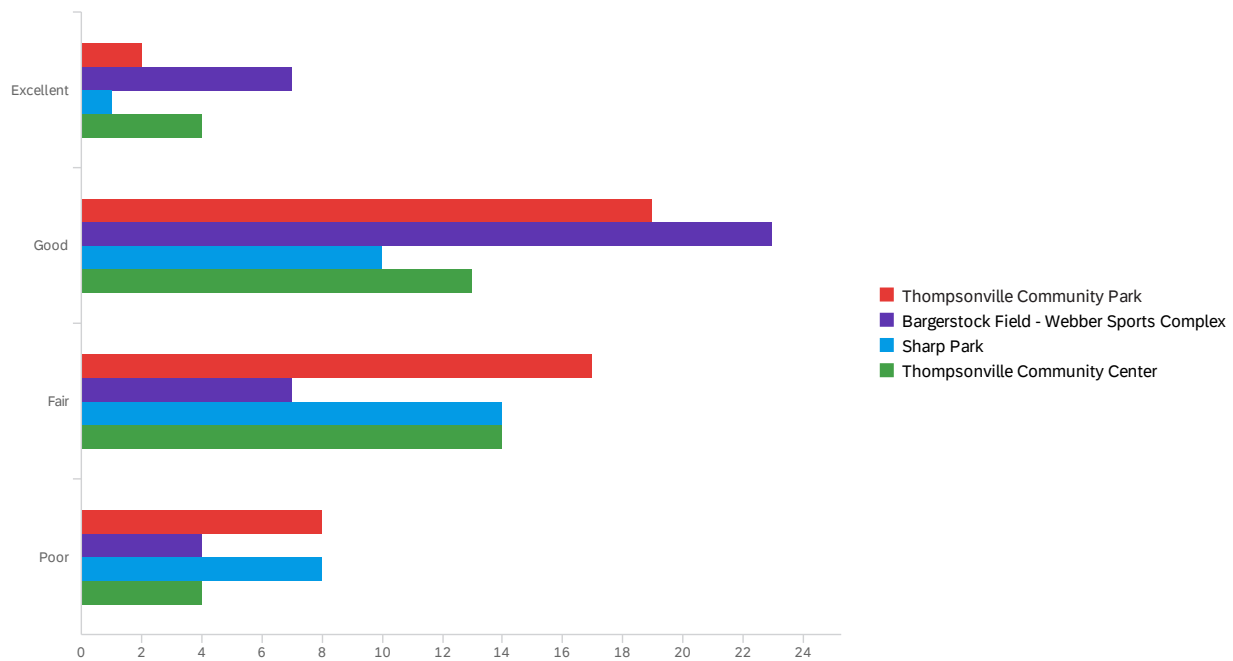
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Thompsonville Community Park	1.00	5.00	4.12	1.06	1.13	98
2	Bargerstock Field - Webber Sports Complex	1.00	5.00	4.30	1.10	1.20	93
3	Sharp Park	1.00	5.00	4.53	0.93	0.86	88
4	Thompsonville Community Center	1.00	5.00	4.50	0.89	0.78	90

#	Field	At least once a week		At least once a month		A few times a year		I have been once or twice before		Never		Total
1	Thompsonville Community Park	3.06%	3	3.06%	3	23.47%	23	19.39%	19	51.02%	50	98
2	Bargerstock Field - Webber Sports Complex	4.30%	4	4.30%	4	10.75%	10	18.28%	17	62.37%	58	93
3	Sharp Park	2.27%	2	3.41%	3	6.82%	6	13.64%	12	73.86%	65	88

#	Field	At least once a week	At least once a month	A few times a year	I have been once or twice before	Never	Total
4	Thompsonville Community Center	1.11% 1	2.22% 2	13.33% 12	12.22% 11	71.11% 64	90

Showing rows 1 - 4 of 4

Q4 - How would you rate the following Village parks and recreation assets?



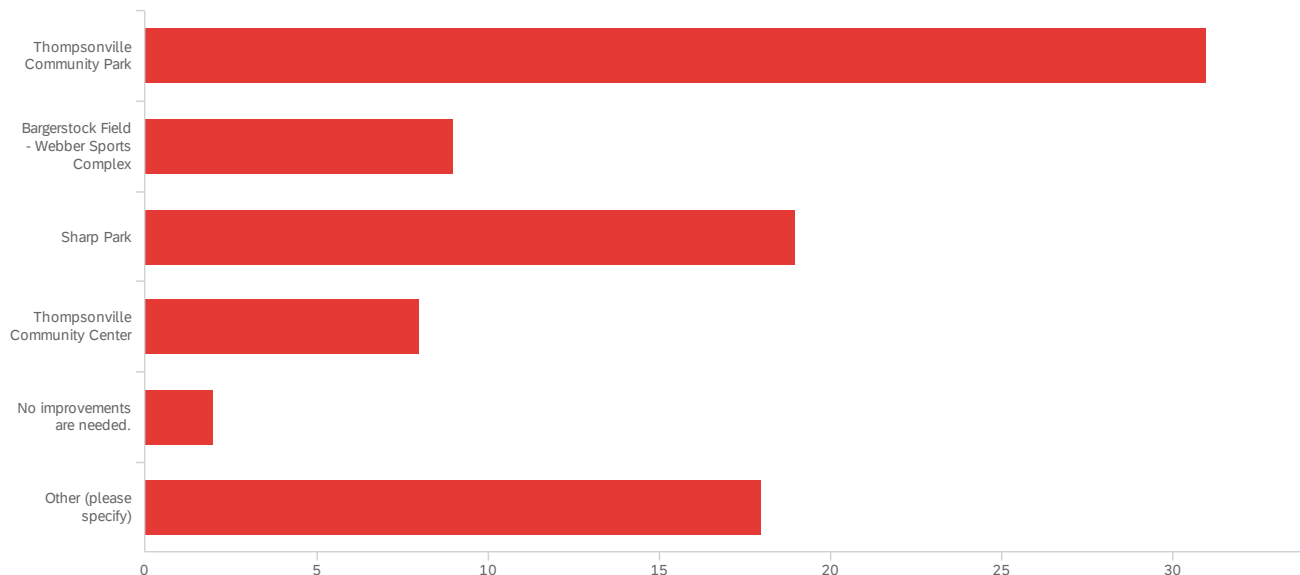
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Thompsonville Community Park	1.00	4.00	2.67	0.81	0.65	46
2	Bargerstock Field - Webber Sports Complex	1.00	4.00	2.20	0.83	0.69	41
3	Sharp Park	1.00	4.00	2.88	0.81	0.65	33
4	Thompsonville Community Center	1.00	4.00	2.51	0.84	0.71	35

#	Field	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
1	Thompsonville Community Park	4.35% 2	41.30% 19	36.96% 17	17.39% 8	46
2	Bargerstock Field - Webber Sports Complex	17.07% 7	56.10% 23	17.07% 7	9.76% 4	41
3	Sharp Park	3.03% 1	30.30% 10	42.42% 14	24.24% 8	33
4	Thompsonville Community Center	11.43% 4	37.14% 13	40.00% 14	11.43% 4	35

Showing rows 1 - 4 of 4



Q5 - Which Village parks and recreation assets should be improved? Select all that apply.



#	Field	Choice Count
1	Thompsonville Community Park	35.63% 31
2	Bargerstock Field - Webber Sports Complex	10.34% 9
3	Sharp Park	21.84% 19
4	Thompsonville Community Center	9.20% 8
5	No improvements are needed.	2.30% 2
6	Other (please specify)	20.69% 18

87

Showing rows 1 - 7 of 7

Q5_6_TEXT - Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

BVT

Never have heard of sharp park

not a user, others are better informed to provide input





Other (please specify)

I'm interested in the area along the BVT.

Whatever is best for the full-time residents

BETSIE VALLEY TRAIL

We plan on using the bike trail. Would use more if paved.

The Trail head for bike path from Beulah to Thompsonville

Sorry, I'm from Beulah and don't use Thopsonville Community Parkl. Will be nice to see the trail improved from Beulah to Thompsonville

Trail system

Sorry, unfamiliar with condition.

not familiar with them

Bike path Improvement

I a

extend existing bike path or create more bike paths

Betsie Valley Trail. I ride that to Thompsonville but it's in bad shape

None stop wasting money because you do nothing after money is spent





Q5.1 - What improvements would you like to see at Thompsonville Community Park?

What improvements would you like to see at Thompsonville Community Park?

Better skate park for kids, better play equipment, maybe some lights under the gazebo

Benches

nicer ground cover, better amenities

more amenities

bathrooms, signage

Better Restrooms, water fountain

Clean it up and make it safe.

Camping with nice bathrooms.

Cleaner Area and some benches for people to sit and relax when out walking

better upkeep, mowed more often, weeds removed, bell tower painted, repaired, picnic tables stationary pavilion maintained

Better playground

Equipment





Q5.2 - What improvements would you like to see at Bargerstock Field - Webber Sports Complex?

What improvements would you like to see at Bargerstock Field - Webber Sport...

more welcoming

Love this area...its great for kids. Add some better restrooms.

Seating besides just the bleachers....like a few benches through out and beside the play area in case an adult wants to sit and watch their child play

maintenance of building inside and out, baseball equipment put away after use instead of left out in the elements all year, building upstairs and down cleaned and maintained

Q5.3 - What improvements would you like to see at Sharp Park?

What improvements would you like to see at Sharp Park?

No idea where this is

nicer ground cover, better amenities

bathrooms, signage

Better Restrooms, water fountain

better restrooms, a gathering place and overnight camping would be great. Clean it up and make it safe.

Don't cut anymore trees out of the park. TARP program is good but I'm afraid the first thing they'll do it cut the trees down to make room for other things. Restrooms are a mess. Building that is there could be cleaned and needs a new roof.

Clean up!! No camping more than a couple days

Playground equipment

Q5.4 - What improvements would you like to see at the Thompsonville Community Center?

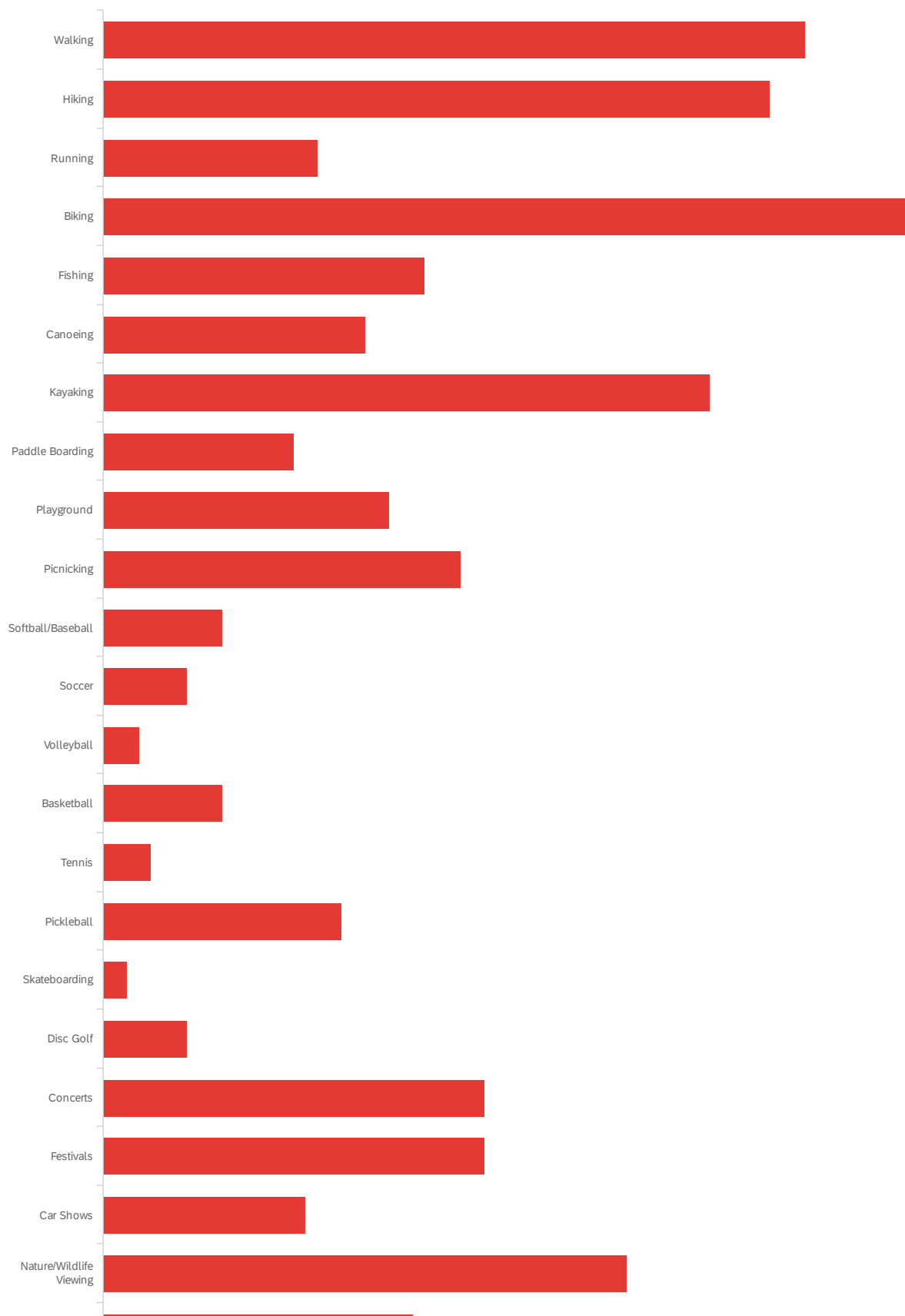
What improvements would you like to see at the Thompsonville Community Cent...

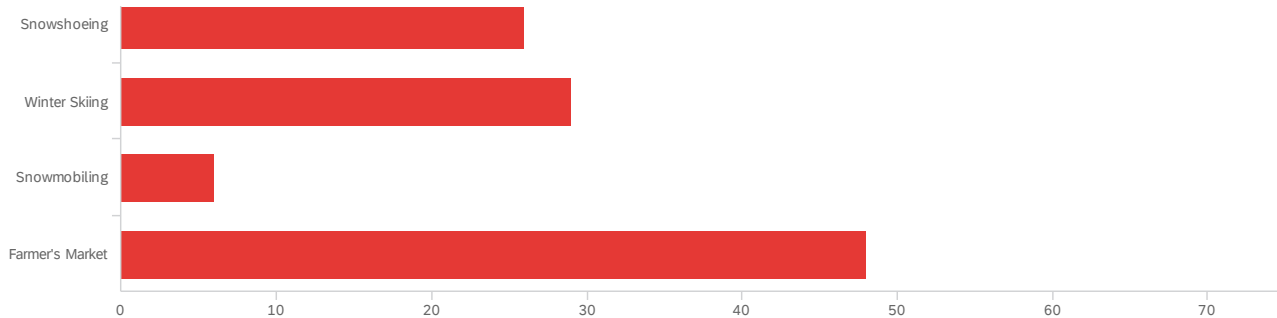
nicer ground cover, better amenities





Q6 - What recreation activities does your household enjoy? Select all that apply.





#	Field	Choice Count
1	Walking	8.83% 59
2	Hiking	8.38% 56
3	Running	2.69% 18
4	Biking	10.18% 68
5	Fishing	4.04% 27
6	Canoeing	3.29% 22
7	Kayaking	7.63% 51
8	Paddle Boarding	2.40% 16
9	Playground	3.59% 24
10	Picnicking	4.49% 30
11	Softball/Baseball	1.50% 10
12	Soccer	1.05% 7
13	Volleyball	0.45% 3
14	Basketball	1.50% 10
15	Tennis	0.60% 4
16	Pickleball	2.99% 20
17	Skateboarding	0.30% 2
18	Disc Golf	1.05% 7
19	Concerts	4.79% 32
20	Festivals	4.79% 32
21	Car Shows	2.54% 17
22	Nature/Wildlife Viewing	6.59% 44
23	Snowshoeing	3.89% 26





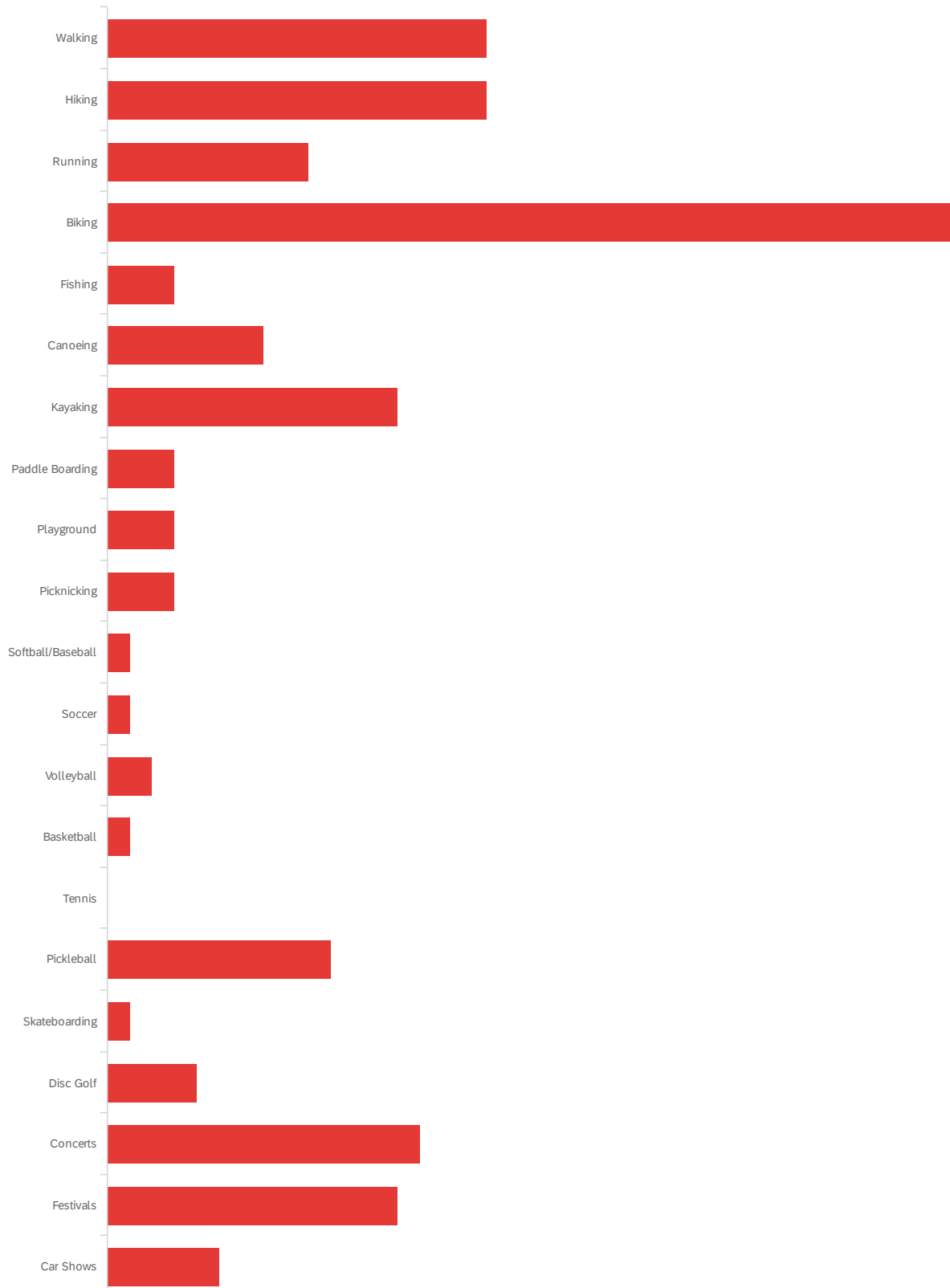
#	Field	Choice Count
24	Winter Skiing	4.34% 29
25	Snowmobiling	0.90% 6
26	Farmer's Market	7.19% 48

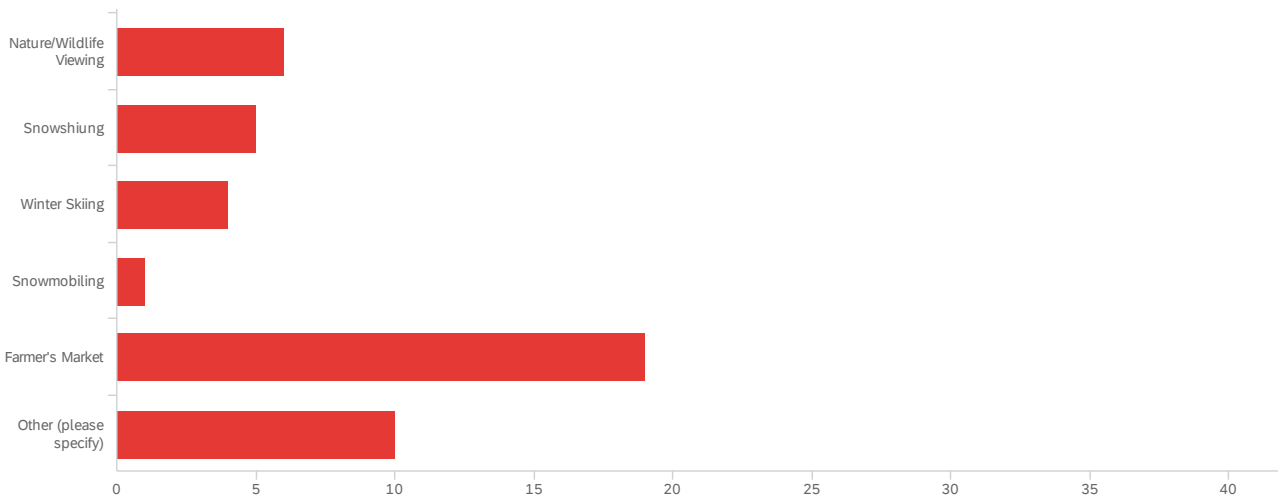
668

Showing rows 1 - 27 of 27

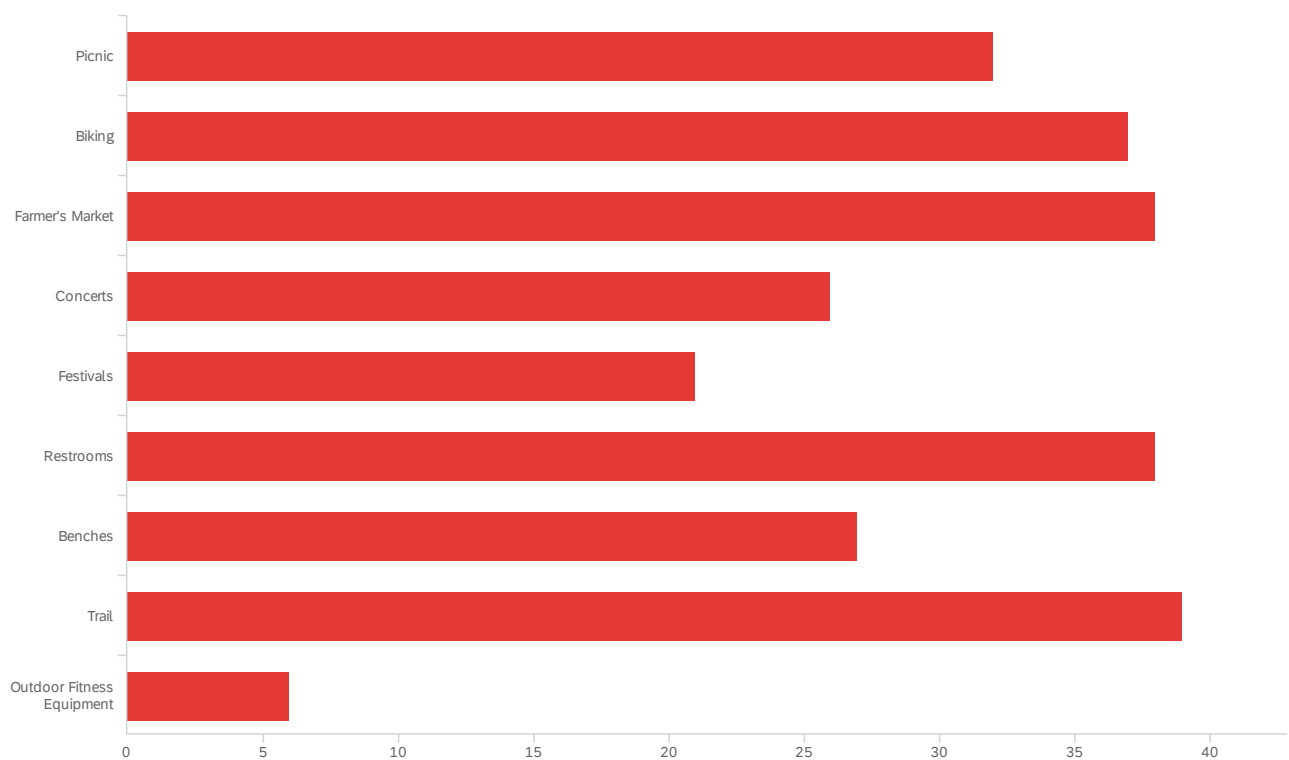


Q7 - What recreational activities would you like to see added or expanded in the Village of Thompsonville?





Q8 - There have been ongoing efforts to restore and tie in the Diamond Crossing Historic Site to existing trail infrastructure as well as restore the property to a more useful community asset. As a note, the State of Michigan owns the crossing property, while the Village owns the caboose. How would you envision this space being used? Select all that apply.



⚠
Data source misconfigured for this visualization.

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Picnic	12.12% 32
2	Biking	14.02% 37



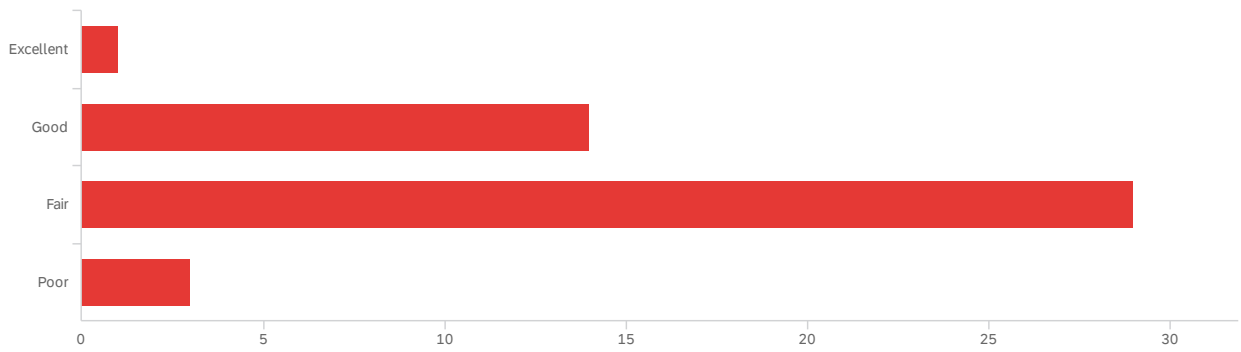
#	Field	Choice Count
3	Farmer's Market	14.39% 38
4	Concerts	9.85% 26
5	Festivals	7.95% 21
6	Restrooms	14.39% 38
7	Benches	10.23% 27
8	Trail	14.77% 39
9	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	2.27% 6
		264

Showing rows 1 - 10 of 10





Q9 - How would you rate the parks and recreation system in the Village of Thompsonville overall?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How would you rate the parks and recreation system in the Village of Thompsonville overall?	1.00	4.00	2.72	0.61	0.37	47

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Excellent	2.13% 1
2	Good	29.79% 14
3	Fair	61.70% 29
4	Poor	6.38% 3

47

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5





Q10 - How or what can make the Village of Thompsonville parks and recreation system better?

How or what can make the Village of Thompsonville parks and recreation syst...

Improve the BVT

More for the younger generation to go do!

Tie into the trail system

Betsy Valley Trail head, parking or connecting trail to Crystal Mntn Resort.

Tie into Betsie Valley Trail and pave.

Enhanced maintenance and continuous improvements

visitor center, bathrooms, historical use of caboose

Integrate with the Betsie Valley Trail - the BVT is fantastic - we travel hundreds of miles to get there.

Improvements to make the area more user friendly. Maybe team up with local vendors or restaurants to make some local event. Maybe boy scout wold like to make an eagle project out of an information billboard display about the trail and history of the diamond crossing.

Pave bike trail from/to Beulah

Paving the trail from Beulah

Paving the Betsie Valley Trail would provide a great way for non residents to access Thompson mille's parks.

Connecting to the Betsie Valley Trail system and connecting to new trails for Manistee County.

Support Betsie Valley Trail in completing the paving from Beulah to Thompsonville.

Timely cleaning of these areas. Make them safe and fun for the entire family to enjoy.

cleaner and safer for all

I would like to see a trail head with restrooms connected to the Betsie Valley Trail. The opinions of the full time residents should be considered more than the opinions of seasonal residents.

pave the bike trail

Find funding to pave the railtrail. Get some grant writers involved.

Community involvement





How or what can make the Village of Thompsonville parks and recreation syst...

paved bike trails, pickleball courts

A smoother bike trail to make more people able to ride to the village to explore

All of the above

Get rid of Gino and the "family" clique on the board

Just continue to keep them clean and not let people live in the park like last year

Keep it clean and maintained would do wonders. Sharp Park not used as a haven

I feel like there should be more there to commemorate the history of what was where the park is in where the cabooses is. I

Clean up areas

Equipment

End of Report



Q11 - Is there anything else you would like us to know about the Village of

Thompsonville's parks and recreation system?

Is there anything else you would like us to know about the Village of Thomp...

I rarely use the unpaved portion of the BVT. I ride a recumbent trike and the pea gravel on the trail offers severe rolling resistance. There would be little more that I would like than to ride from Beulah to Genos. Some firm "improved" the trail in Beulah and they should be charged for engineering malpractice for using pea gravel rather than limestone fines that set up like concrete. While the residents do not want us to use the road I refuse to cycle on the crappy trail. People complaining to me will receive a dressing down that would make a DI proud.

People need to keep their needles picked up

I use the Betsie Valley Trail frequently. I look forward to using trail between Beulah and Thompsonville more once it is resurfaced.

Bike Racks @ or near Geno's Bar & Grill. Black top paving the trail Cadillac to Beulah Trail head. Update & open the bridge over the manistee river in Mesick.

Advertising the system on social media...facebook, newsletter, etc.

Seems like a missed opportunity to promote and improve connections to the regional trail network via the BVT

Please pave the bike trail from T-ville to Beulah and add indoor Pickleball courts.

Having the trail enhanced would make the Thompsonville area more likely to have tourism activity. Parking for people to use when they go biking would be helpful. a bathroom. water source. Is there a convenience store in the area that could be included in the staging plans?

Developing the parks would be a great asset for Thompsonville and encourage people from other areas to hike, bike, walk the parks.

Make it easier to bike from / to Beulah and connect to TART trails in TC

I believe that expanding the biking trail and having a good restroom/picnic stop in Thompsonville would bring a lot more people to your community to enjoy your parks.

The crossing property offers an exciting development opportunity!

As a seasonal resident I am not that familiar with the names of the parks. When I searched google maps, the only park identified by name was the Webber Sports Complex. The needs and wants of the full time residents are more important than seasonal residents. While I think it would be great to have a farmer's market - it maybe too much work for residents and it may interfere with other local farmer's markets.

We enjoy riding the Betsie Valley Trailway from the area around Crystal Lake. Having bathrooms, benches and/or picnic tables at the Diamond Crossing would be very welcome. Some signage there directing us to downtown businesses would encourage us to visit those businesses.

It has some great potential

The Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail have a project planned to pave the BVT from Beulah to T'ville. This would join the BVT extensions to the east and Cadillac, to the south (Manistee) and to the north (Interlochen and Traverse City). The Diamond Crossing would become an important junction of four bike trails which would in turn link to a wider network of bike trails across the state. From Frankfort the BVT can be extended to Leelanau County and Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail. The FBVT also plans to fix ancient culverts under the old rail line to reopen creeks to wildlife, endangered species, fishing etc. Big chance for economic development, healthcare savings, etc - all the benefits of trails.



Is there anything else you would like us to know about the Village of Thomp...

They don't care about the village nor the residents unless it's lining their perks. Don't waste good money the people who could use help don't receive it

Village should take pride in the parks and surrounding area. Maintain year round.



Appendix B. Community Input Session Raw Data



Chief Elected Official: **Chris Christensen**
Board Chair: **Nicole Sulak**
Chief Executive Officer: **Terry Vandercook**

January 25, 2024

Benzie County Board of Commissioners
448 Court Place
Beulah, Michigan 49617

RE: Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028

Enclosed is a copy of the Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 which was developed in 2023 with guidance and input from Village of Thompsonville Council and with assistance from Networks Northwest. The Village of Thompsonville Council adopted the Recreation Plan on January 16, 2024. This plan will serve as a guide for recreation projects in the Village over the next five years.

Please contact me at the information below with any questions about the process or documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MC", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Mathew Cooke
Community Planner

Networks Northwest
PO Box 506
Traverse City MI 49685-0506
231.929.5000
mathew.cooke@networksnorthwest.org

Antrim • Benzie • Charlevoix • Emmet • Grand Traverse • Kalkaska • Leelanau • Manistee • Missaukee • Wexford
PO Box 506 • Traverse City, MI 49685-0506 • Phone (231) 929-5000 • Fax (231) 929-5012 networksnorthwest.org

Networks Northwest and Northwest Michigan Works! are supported by the State of Michigan and are proud partners of the American Job Center Network. Projects may be funded with the authorized and appropriate use of federal funds. Contact Networks Northwest for additional information. Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and service are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Michigan Relay Center by dialing 711.

Appendix C. Public Comment Period Affidavit

11/29/23, 11:33 AM

bigrapids.admanagerpro.com:8277/AMPWeb/TemporaryItems/b1868ab0-b40d-4155-ad81-0b405432e669/00000019.html

The Pioneer Group
115 N. Michigan Big Rapids MI 49307
Phone: (231) 796-4831
Fax: (231) 796-1152



ZACH VEGA
NETWORKS NORTHWEST
PO BOX 506
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685
Account Number: 08100474

Class Liner Ad #00984105 Summary:

Ad Description: PN: PARKS &N REC PLAN
Size: 1.00 x 4.14
Salesperson: Denise Favreau

Publication Cost	\$58.05	Publication	Run Date	Cost
Adjustments	\$20.00	53 Benzie County Record Patriot		
Net Cost	\$78.05	Affidavit		\$20.00
Prepaid Amount	\$0.00	Insertion	12/6/23	\$58.05
Amount Due	\$78.05			

**Public Notice:
Village of Thompsonville
Parks and Recreation Plan
2024-2028 Public Review
and Comment Period**

The Village of Thompsonville has developed its Parks and Recreation Plan. As part of the process, a draft of the plan is available for public review and comment. Paper copies may be obtained by request at the Village of Thompsonville Hall (14714 Lincoln St, Thompsonville, MI 49683, contact thompsonvillevillage@gmail.com to arrange pickup) or digitally at nwm.org/thompsonvillerec-plan. The plan will be available and comments will be accepted from Wednesday December 14, 2023 to Monday, January 15th, 2024 and can be sent to Mathew Cooke, Community Planner at Networks Northwest, at Mathew.Cooke@networksnorthwest.org or (231)922-5056.

Dec. 6, 2023



Board Chair: Nicole Sulak

Chief Executive Officer: Terry Vandercook

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2023

Media Contact: Mathew Cooke
Networks Northwest, Community Planner
231-929-5056
Mathew.cooke@networksnorthwest.org

Thompsonville Parks & Recreation Plan Available for Public Review and Comment

THOMPSONVILLE, MI – The Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 has been drafted and is now available for public review and comment. The plan may be viewed digitally at nwm.org/ThompsonvilleRecPlan. A paper copy of the plan may be requested at thompsonvillevillage@gmail.com and picked up at the Village of Thompsonville Hall, 14714 Lincoln St., Thompsonville, MI 49683. Comments will be accepted from Wednesday, December 13, 2023 to Monday, January 15, 2024, and can be sent to Mathew Cooke, Community Planner at Networks Northwest, at mathew.cooke@networksnorthwest.org or (231) 929-5056.

The Village of Thompsonville has also scheduled a public hearing for the Parks and Recreation Plan for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Village of Thompsonville Hall.

#

NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by emailing Dan Boss at dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution, file format, and file size. Or phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: networksnorthwest.org/media

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10-county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works!, APEX Accelerator (formerly PTAC), various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our website, networksnorthwest.org. Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.

Antrim • Benzie • Charlevoix • Emmet • Grand Traverse • Kalkaska • Leelanau • Manistee • Missaukee • Wexford
PO Box 506 • Traverse City, MI 49685-0506 • Phone (231) 929-5000 • Fax (231) 929-5012 networksnorthwest.org

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Thompsonville Parks and Rec plan ready for public review

NEWS ADVOCATE STAFF

THOMPSONVILLE — The village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 has been drafted and is now available for public review and comment.

The plan may be viewed digitally at nwm.org/ThompsonvilleRecPlan. A paper copy of the plan may be requested at thompsonvillevillage@gmail.com and picked up at the Thompsonville Village Hall, located at 14714 Lincoln St. in Thompsonville.

Comments will be accepted from Dec. 13 to Jan. 15, and can be sent to Mathew Cooke, community planner at Networks Northwest, at mathew.cooke@networksnorthwest.org or 231-929-5056.

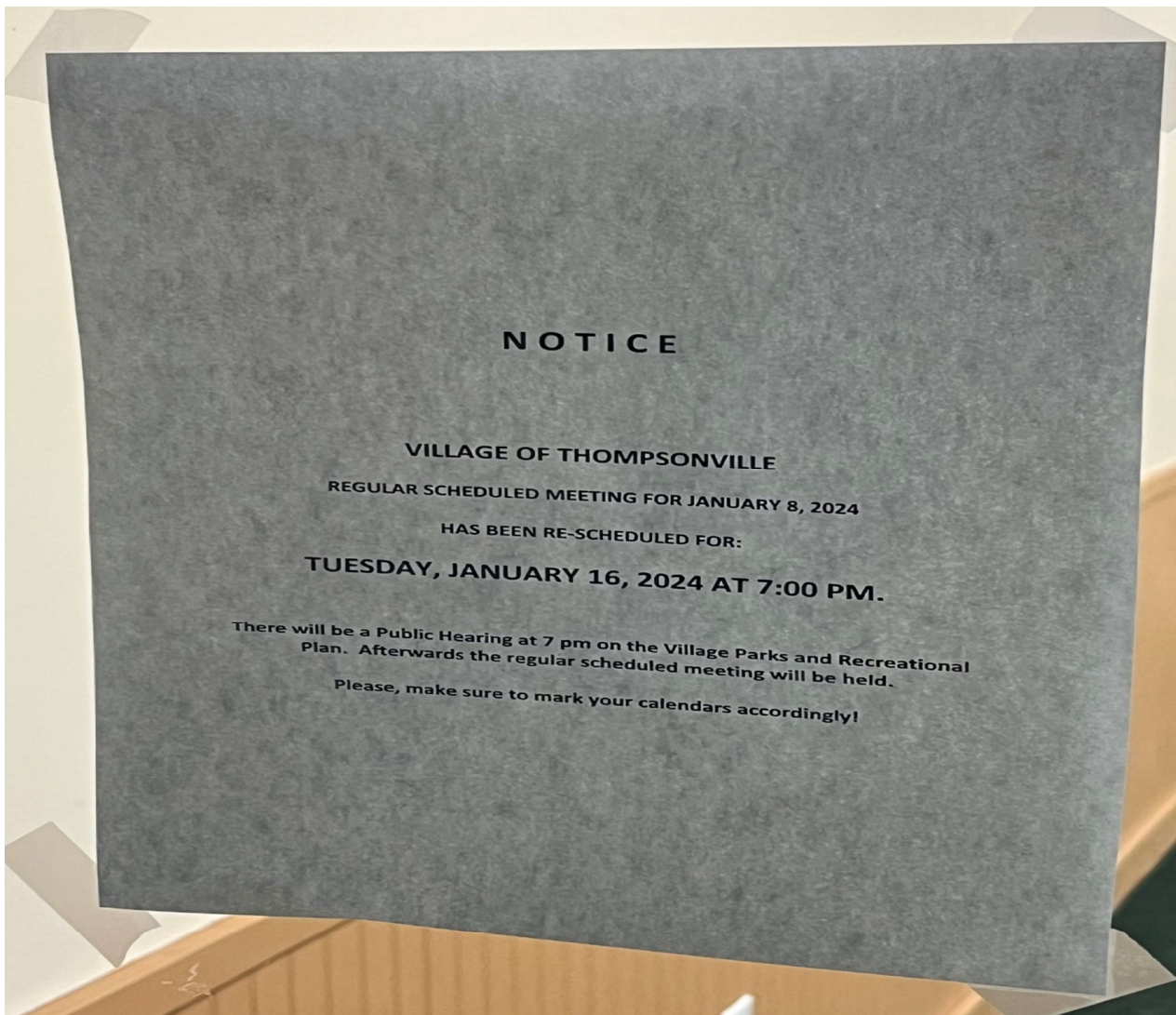
The village has also scheduled a public hearing for the Parks and Recreation Plan at 7 p.m. on Jan. 16, at the Thompsonville Village Hall.

Appendix E. Public Hearing Notice

The Village of Thompsonville posted physical public notice of the Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan Public Hearing held on January 16, 2024. The notice was posted at the Thompsonville Village Hall and Betsie Valley District Library between January 2, 2024 and January 16, 2024 by Deputy Clerk Sue Meredith. A photo of the notice is included below.

I, Mary Wixson, Village Clerk, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct public hearing notice that was physically posted at the Village of Thompsonville Hall and Betsie Valley District Library.

Mary Wixson



Appendix F. January 16, 2024 Public Hearing and Village Council Meeting Minutes

VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN JANUARY 16, 2024

Public Hearing called to order by President Eugene Allen at 7:00 pm.

Pledge to flag performed.

Members Present: Dennis Smith, Fran Griffin, Deidra Pomranky, Ken Pasanski, Eugene Allen, Patty Dixon, Brent Johnson, Flo Smith, Mary Wixson. All.

Guests: Donaven Norman, Jennifer Hodges, Tim Windrim, Jim Franke, Sue Meredith, Charles Kraus, Gary Sauer, Tom Besey, Marv & Arlene Prepejchal, Andy Campbell, Matthew Cook.

Discussion: floor was opened up for discussion regarding Resolution 2024-01 for Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028. Matt let the board know that there were several responses online of what people in the community would like to see. See attached. Sharp Park-that is going to have changes as the TARP group is focusing on that park. Thanks to Sue Meredith (deputy clerk) and not Mary for posting about the hearing tonight. Fran asked if we have the funds in the village account or if we are going to get grant money to upkeep and maintain the equipment and any changes we make to our parks. The Parks & Recreation Plan would allow us to apply for grants to get the funds. We do have the staff as we now have 2 full time DPW personnel.

Adjournment: Dennis made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Flo 2nd. Carried. Adjourned at 7:09 pm.

VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JAN 16, 202

Meeting called to order by President Eugene Allen at 7:09pm.

Pledge to flag performed.

Members Present: Dennis Smith, Fran Griffin, Deidra Pomranky, Ken Pasanski, Eugene Allen, Patty Dixon, Brent Johnson, Flo Smith, Mary Wixson. All.

Guests: Donavan Norman, Jennifer Hodges, Tim Windrim, Jim Franke, Sue Meredith, Charles Kraus, Gary Sauer, Tom Besey, Marv & Arlene Prepejchal, Andy Campbell, Matthew Cook.

Minutes: Fran motioned to approve. Patty 2nd. Carried.

Agenda: move parks to 1st item of discussion in department reports before the ambulance. Patty motioned to approve with moving parks. Flo 2nd. Carried.

Gary Sauer: gave an update on the following: Elberta Zoning Board of Appeals-fence height, Benzie County Road Commission-demolition of the old Platte River School, School Resource Meeting-starting on the Benzie bus garage this spring, \$17,000 grant available for marijuana education-billboards and etc., Benzie County Courthouse-911 project is just about completed and they are hoping to have an open house in Feb.-it came within budget-they are moving on to the probation project in the downstairs of the building. BV Trails decided not to go with the Raise Grant as they were doing it in conjunction with Manistee and Manistee just received a different grant. They are going to use grant money that is left (@400,000) to pave Beulah to Homestead.

Treasurer's Report: all CD's are maturing Feb 22nd. Need to start thinking if you wish to roll them or redeem them as the decision will have to be made at next month's meeting. Fran motioned to approve report. Dennis 2nd. Carried.

Parks: Resolution 01-2024 Brent motioned to adopt the resolution. Flo 2nd. Roll call: Dennis Smith-yes, Fran Griffin-yes, Ken Pasanski-yes, Flo Smith-yes, Patty Dixon-yes, Brent Johnson-yes. Roll call showed all ayes and no nays. Resolution 01-2024 adopted.

Ambulance: bought a new monitor as the one they had died.

Water: Jennifer passed out and went over the project status update comparing current infrastructure and prices to new infrastructure and prices. Water main improvements will improve water quality as it will remove some of the dead ends and make them loop. Gourdie Fraser will engage with the residents to work


on getting into their homes to hook up meters as they will be installed on the interior of each home with the exclusion of mobile homes. They will also work on abandonment of any existing private wells at residences with new water lines being installed due to the project. All meter readings will be fed via cellular at the DPW building. Billing will be per REU that is used and not a flat rate. The USDA Grant amount is \$1,853,000 and our Approved Bond (loan amount) is \$900,000. Rates will increase to \$60 per month for 2024/2025 Fiscal year. In 2026/2027 Fiscal Year they should have enough data to adjust the rates so there is a rate per REU's used. Need at least a year or two of data after meters are installed. Those who use more water will pay more and those who use less will pay less. Construction is scheduled to be completed by November 2024 dependent upon time frame of award. Gourdie Fraser will coordinate and contact all contractors and will provide full time on-site inspection and testing throughout the project. Honor Bank bonds switch to a variable rate April 1, 2029. The rate is being increased to \$60 per month to help pay off that bond. We need to write a check and pay it off on April 1, 2029. It is currently 4.25% interest but will go to prime rate on April 1, 2029 and that is currently 8%. It can't be paid off prior to April 1, 2029. We need to take action at next month's meeting to approve the debt and the rate. We had to submit a special application to the treasury to add new debt as our delinquent taxes are over 18%. We were approved by the treasury to take on the new debt. \$656,000 of the Bond Series 2024A is at 2.00% which matures 5/1/2064. \$244,000 of the Bond Series 2024B is at 2.25% interest and matures 5/1/2064. We will need to approve the treasury letter of acceptance at next month's meeting along with the Engagement Letter from Baker Tilly, bond ordinance from Pat McGowan and a resolution to change the rate from \$47 to \$60 starting April 1, 2024. Mary will find a previous one and get it ready for the rate change. We need to approve GFA's letter of recommendation that Jennifer presented to the board. Fran motion to accept and approve their recommendation letter. Ken 2nd. Carried. Tim asked that a motion be made to allow Eugene to sign any forthcoming documents from USDA that Blake needs him to sign. GFA has to take their budget and put it into the USDA format. Flo made a motion for Eugene to sign documents from USDA for the water project. Brent 2nd. Carried. Fran asked about the water test this quarter. Tim said it cleared but before EGLE lets us off the hook we have to have the loops in the ground to remove the dead ends. They want to see the project completed before they will sign off.

Airport: Marv & Arlene-see Marv's report and diagrams. Marv asked if village knew about housing project by the airport. Eugene told Marv he would have to get with the Weldon Zoning Admin and Weldon Township board as we have no say in what is built outside the village in Weldon Township. Their meeting is the 2nd Tues of the month. Fran mentioned that John Stimson is the one building it. He is building the one in Frankfort currently and did the one in Honor. He is from Homestretch Builders. Marv sent a letter to the DOT regarding his concerns about the project. Fran said that Weldon Township board has not had any updates recently. Eugene asked Marv to get with John Stimson, MDOT & FAA and discuss the project and try to come up with a solution before the project begins.

Fire: had their 1st structure fire of the year out in Wallin. The house was a total loss by the time they got there and they arrived 15 mins after they received the call. Fire Grant-they were able to spend all but \$5,589.56 of the grant money. We are just waiting on reimbursement. Fire millage needs to be renewed this year. We need to get it on the ballot. Eugene asked Dennis to let Mike know.

Maintenance: the old red dump truck died. Dennis asked what the bill was for \$8,500-it is to replace that truck with a truck that Tim found in Interlochen. They have someone willing to pay us \$2,000 for the old red dump truck. The used one we purchased comes with the plow on it-no grader blade but has the blade mount plus all hydraulics and controls. They broke down twice with the plow truck. It was an air dryer and fuel issue. They saved an \$800 tow bill as the county had the part and the truck broke down across from the county. Donaven and Tim changed it in JoMo's parking lot. Ken made a motion to sell the old truck for \$2,000. Brent 2nd. Carried.

Personnel: Deidre gave Eugene her resignation to be done the end of March or sooner is someone steps up. Thank you for 2 years of service. Donaven has completed his CDL training and received his CDL License. He is officially Class A certified. The village paid for all his training, physical and his license



fee. He in turn signed a 2 year contract to work for the village. In the interview the personnel committee discussed with Donaven raising his wage to \$25 an hour once he received his CDL. Brent made a motion to increase Donaven's wage to \$25 per hour starting with the next pay period. Patty 2nd. Carried. He is working towards his water certification. He has done the preliminary work of creating a website for the village. It will cost us \$324 a year to have the website and it will allow us to collect water payments thru an online portal at no cost to us or the customer. Fran made a motion to purchase the website for a cost of \$324 per year. Brent 2nd. Carried.

Streets: Just trying to keep them clean.

JPC: meeting is on Mon at 7pm for the Village, Colfax and JPC.

Clerk: SIGMA-still trying to get registered. I am not the administrator and there is not any administrator for either the village or the airport. I am working on becoming the administrator. Water Bill rate-will need by next month so books can be ordered.

Budget: Patty made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Dennis 2nd. Carried.

Bills: Flo motioned to pay the bills. Ken 2nd. Carried.

New Business: ceiling above the heaters in the fire barn is falling down. Need to replace the drywall. Tim will check with Marshall Sauer. If he is not available Eugene will contact Alan Louisagnau who does drywall.

Adjournment: Brent motioned to adjourn. Dennis 2nd. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Wixson

Mary Wixson/Clerk

Appendix G. Village of Thompsonville Resolution 24-01

VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE COUNCIL

**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION
VILLAGE OF THOMPSONVILLE
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN 2024-2028**

Resolution: 2024-01

The following resolution was offered by Brent Johnson
and seconded by Flo Smith.

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

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

WHEREAS, input was received through the Village of Thompsonville Council meetings, a survey, a community input session, a public comment period (held between December 14, 2023 and January 15, 2024), and a public hearing held on January 16, 2024 to obtain input on recreation needs and opportunities, and all other aspects of the recreation plan; and,

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the the Village of Thompsonville Council hereby adopts the Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the County.

AYES: Dennis Smith, Fran Griffin, Ken Pasanski, Flo Smith, Patty Dixon, Brent Johnson.

NAYS: None

I, Mary Wixson, Village Clerk, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted by the Village of Thompsonville council at the meeting held on the 16th day of January, 2024.

Mary Wixson

Appendix H. County Transmittal Letter



Chief Elected Official: **Chris Christensen**
Board Chair: **Nicole Sulak**
Chief Executive Officer: **Terry Vandercook**

January 25, 2024

Benzie County Board of Commissioners
448 Court Place
Beulah, Michigan 49617

RE: Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028

Enclosed is a copy of the Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 which was developed in 2023 with guidance and input from Village of Thompsonville Council and with assistance from Networks Northwest. The Village of Thompsonville Council adopted the Recreation Plan on January 16, 2024. This plan will serve as a guide for recreation projects in the Village over the next five years.

Please contact me at the information below with any questions about the process or documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MC", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Mathew Cooke
Community Planner

Networks Northwest
PO Box 506
Traverse City MI 49685-0506
231.929.5000
mathew.cooke@networksnorthwest.org

Antrim • Benzie • Charlevoix • Emmet • Grand Traverse • Kalkaska • Leelanau • Manistee • Missaukee • Wexford
PO Box 506 • Traverse City, MI 49685-0506 • Phone (231) 929-5000 • Fax (231) 929-5012 networksnorthwest.org

Networks Northwest and Northwest Michigan Works! are supported by the State of Michigan and are proud partners of the American Job Center Network. Projects may be funded with the authorized and appropriate use of federal funds. Contact Networks Northwest for additional information. Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and service are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Michigan Relay Center by dialing 711.

Appendix I. RPA Transmittal Letter



Chief Elected Official: **Chris Christensen**
Board Chair: **Nicole Sulak**
Chief Executive Officer: **Terry Vandercook**

January 25, 2024

Networks Northwest
PO Box 506
Traverse City, MI 49685-0506

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Enclosed is a copy of the Village of Thompsonville Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 which was developed in 2023 with guidance and input from Village of Thompsonville Council and with assistance from Networks Northwest. The Village of Thompsonville Council adopted the Recreation Plan on January 16, 2024. This plan will serve as a guide for recreation projects in the Village over the next five years.

Please contact me at the information below with any questions about the process or documents.

Sincerely,

Mathew Cooke
Community Planner

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