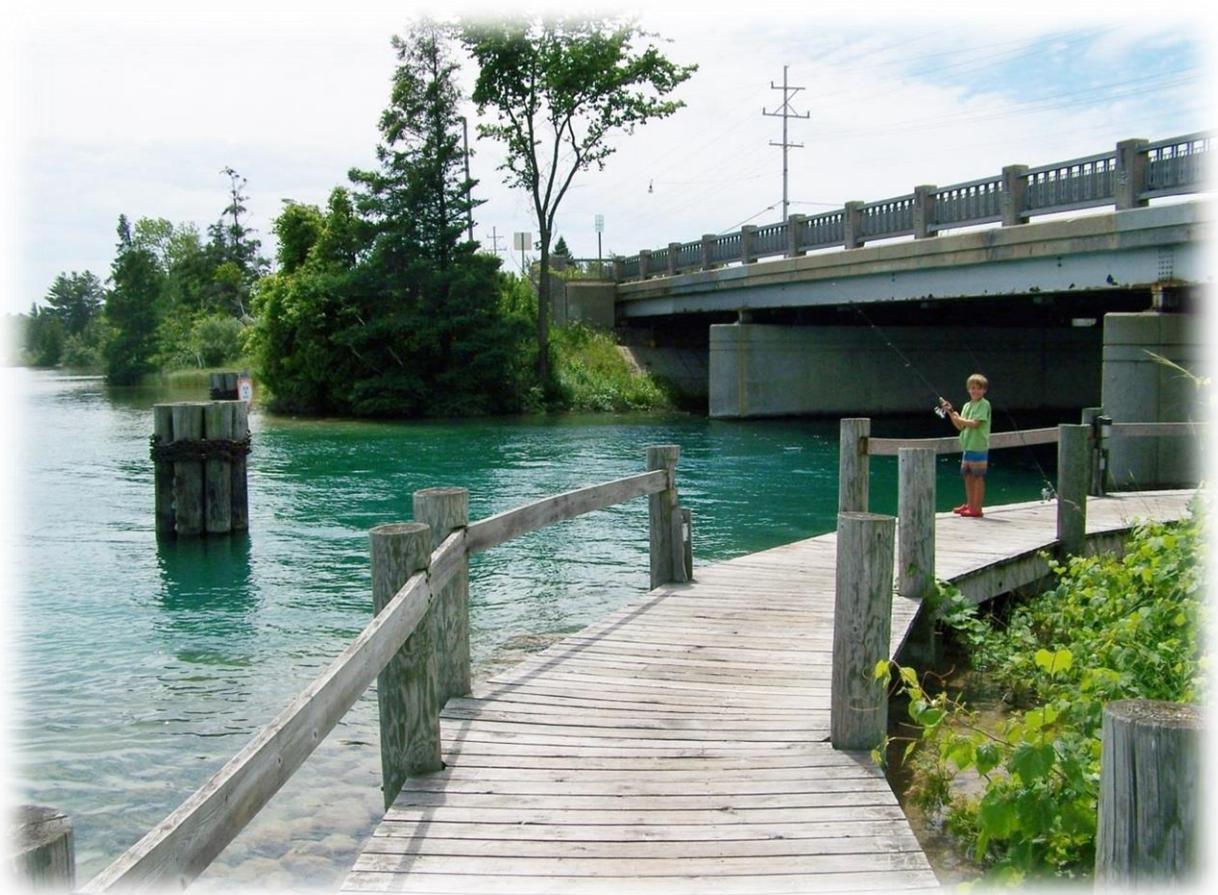


Five Year Community Recreation Plan

Village of Elk Rapids

Parks & Recreation Commission

April 4, 2013



The Community Recreation Plan guides the future development of recreational opportunities within the Village of Elk Rapids as well as the continuing enhancement of recreational amenities. It provides a concise description of the Village's plans and policies for current and future recreation.

This plan expires on December 31, 2017.

Parks & Recreation Commission

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Acknowledgements

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Contents

Chapter 1 Community Description

History of Elk Rapids	3
Transportation.....	5
Non-motorized Transportation	5
Public Transit	5
Air	5
Rail	6
Streets and Highways	6
Future.....	6
Natural Resources.....	6
Topography.....	6
Hydrological Features.....	8
Surface Water	8
Groundwater.....	8
Soils and Vegetation.....	11
Soil Map Legend.....	11
Fish and Wildlife.....	13
Environmental Concerns	13
Climate	14
Climate Change	15
Zoning.....	15

Chapter 2 Administrative Structure

Village Commissions and Authorities	17
Beautification	17
Downtown Development Authority	18
Harbor	18
Housing.....	18
Parks & Recreation.....	19
Planning.....	19
Staff & Volunteers	19
Staff.....	19
Volunteers	20
Community	20
Village Budget.....	20
Recreational Programming	21
Operation of Village Recreational Facilities.....	21
Recreation Funding & Budgeting.....	21
2012 Budget.....	21
2013 Budget.....	21
Funding Sources	22
Inter-Agency Relations.....	22

Rules and Regulations: Use of Village Recreational Facilities.....23

Chapter 3 Recreation Inventory

Conducting the Recreation Inventory.....25

Village Parks26

- Veterans Memorial Park.....26
- Rotary Park.....26
- Dam Beach and Fishing Park27

Non-motorized Trails27

Boardwalk & Park27

Community Garden.....27

Noble Pines Nature Trail28

Old Bathing Beach28

Kids Pond.....28

Village Beautification Gardens28

Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor.....28

Community Ice Rink.....29

Other Local Recreational Assets29

- Elk Rapids Day Park.....29
- Elk Rapids Area District Library29
 - About the Island House..... 29
- Elk Rapids Schools.....30

Regional Recreation Assets30

- Wilcox-Palmer-Shah Nature Preserve30
- Petobego Natural Area31
- Maple Bay Conservation Area.....31
- Barnes Park.....31
- TART Trail31

Accessibility Assessment.....32

Prior Grants from DNR33

Chapter 4 Recreation Goals

General Goals and Objectives35

Specific Recreation Goals and Objectives35

Specific Harbor Commission Goals & Objectives36

Chapter 5 Action Plan

Non-motorized Transportation37

- Non-motorized Trail Project37

Alternative Route through Downtown	38
Trail Budget	38
Preserve the Dam Beach and Fishing Park.....	38
Dam Beach and Fishing Park Project	38
Restroom Facility	38
Parking Lot Improvements.....	39
Diverse Recreational Goals	39
Kayak Launch Dock and Storage Rack.....	39
Phase 2 Upgrade of Rotary Park.....	40
Elk Rapids Harbors	40
Harbor Action Items	40
Upper Harbor Improvement	41

Chapter 6 Planning and Public Inputs

Planning.....	43
Public Input	43
Upper Harbor Open Space Community Charette	44
TART Trail Public Input.....	45
Summary of Public Comments	46
Summary of Student Responses to Survey	46
Elk Rapids High School	46
Cherryland Middle School.....	48
Plan Development Staff	51

Appendix

Notice of Availability of Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment	53
Affidavit for Public Hearing on January 24	54
Notice for Public Meeting	55
Affidavit of Publication on February 14.....	56
Date of Public Meeting	56
Copy of Minutes from Public Meeting.....	57
Upper Harbor Open Space Charette Outline	59
Plan Approval by Parks and Recreation Commission.....	60
Plan Approval by Council	61
Plan Sent to Antrim County.....	62
Plan Sent to NWMCOG (Regional).....	63
Checklist	64

Figures and Tables

Elk Rapids and Vicinity	1
Antrim County in Northwest Lower Michigan	2
Old Elk Rapids	3
Glacial Coverage in Michigan	7
Topographic Map	7
Watersheds Map	9
Elk Rapids Water Quality Monitoring Results	10
Groundwater Recharge Area	10
Soils Map	11
Areas of Consensus on Environmental Issues	13
Average Temperatures	15
Village Organization	17
Planting Dune Grass	20
Creating the Ice Rink.....	20
Harbor Days Carnival.....	20
2012 Village Budget, Parks & Recreation.....	21
2013 Village Budget, Parks & Recreation.....	22
Parks and Recreation Facilities.....	25
Parks and Recreation near Elk Rapids	30
Barrier-free Criteria	32
Barrier-free Path in Memorial Park	32
Barrier-free Assessment	33
General Recreation Goals and Objectives.....	35
Existing Lower Harbor.....	40
Lower Harbor Expansion.....	40
Harbor Capital Improvement Plan.....	41
Floating Dock, Upper Harbor	41
Public Input Session.....	43
Conclusions about TART Trail.....	45

2013 Community Recreation Plan

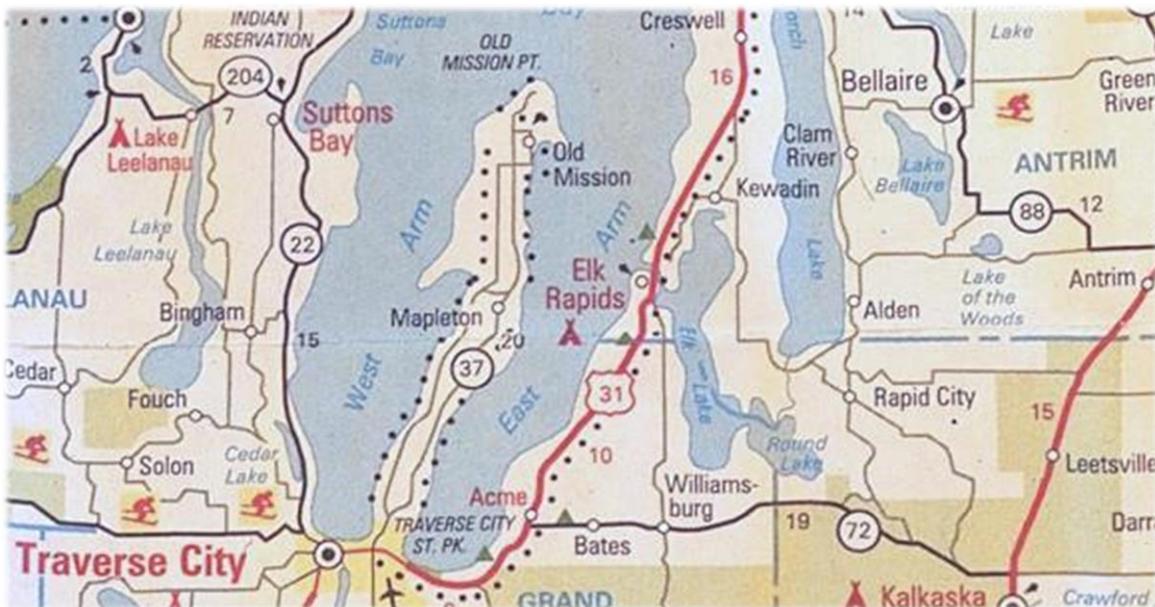
Village of Elk Rapids

April 2013

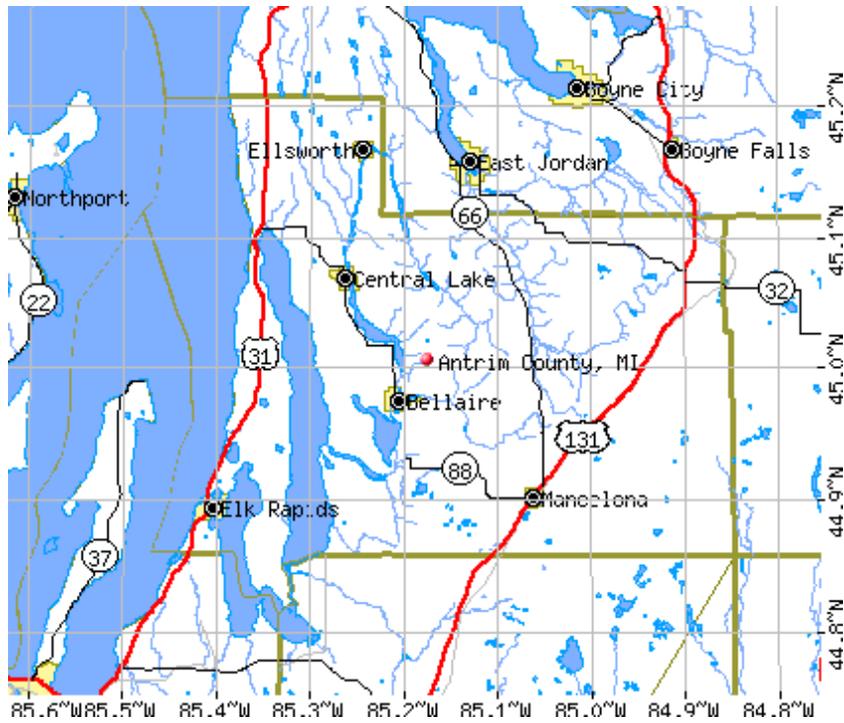
**On Grand
Traverse Bay in
southwest
Antrim County**

The Village of Elk Rapids, current population: 1,642, nestled in a 1.6 square mile area located Antrim County in the northwest region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, values recreation as a key aspect of Village life and development. Boating, kayaking, swimming and fishing are just a few activities that Elk Rapids offers. Residents and visitors alike can also walk, run, bike or sunbathe on sandy beaches, picnic by Grand Traverse Bay or listen to music in the park.

The Community Recreation Plan ("The Plan") guides the future development of recreational opportunities within the Village of Elk Rapids as well as the continuing enhancement of recreational amenities, and it provides a concise description of the Village's plans and policies for current and future recreation. The Plan has been developed with respect to the forthcoming Coordinated Master Plan of the Village of Elk Rapids and Elk Rapids Township and will be incorporated into it.



Elk Rapids and Vicinity



Elk Rapids in Antrim County



Antrim County in Northwest Lower Michigan

Chapter 1 Community Description

Located in a 500 square mile watershed where the beautiful chain of inland lakes flows into Grand Traverse Bay, Elk Rapids is a charming place to live, work and also enjoy our bountiful, available recreation.

History of Elk Rapids

Native Americans have hunted and fished the Grand Traverse region for thousands of years, perhaps as many as 10,000, before white settlers appeared. The waters of Grand Traverse Bay, Elk River and the 14 lakes of the Antrim County Chain of Lakes had been the home of the Anishnaabek people as far back as 8,000 B.C. The sand dunes along the west shore of Bass Lake in Elk Rapids was home to the local Native Americans for decades. (Sources: *Elk Rapids Sesquicentennial Scrapbook*, 1998 and *Elk Rapids – the first 100 Years* by Glenn Ruggles with Glenn Neumann).

The Village of Elk Rapids had its beginnings in the 1840s when surveyor Abram S. Wadsworth built a cabin in the area and became the first permanent non-native settler. In the spring of 1852 he laid out the village of Stevens, which in 1858 became the town of Elk Rapids, the first in Antrim County.

Old Elk Rapids had lumberjacks and iron workers.

Soon others followed and, in the 1860s, Moulton Craw constructed the first sawmill at the mouth of Elk River. Later, Wirt Dexter and Henry Noble bought the saw mill from Craw, and established the Dexter and Noble Company. The company's first order of business was lumbering, which flourished in the later part of the 1800s. Dexter and Noble also owned a flour mill, company store, chemical works, and the



Courtesy of Glenn Neumann

Old Elk Rapids

enormous Elk Rapids Iron Company that stood along the banks of the river. Dexter and Noble also built a huge dock extending into the Bay that was used by ships from all of the Great Lakes to deliver iron ore and supplies as well as ship out lumber and pig iron.

In 1866 a courthouse was built on Ottawa Street and Elk Rapids served as the county seat until moved to the more centrally located Bellaire in 1879.

Hydropower has been an intrinsic part of the Village's economic life since the very beginning. The first water powered saw mill was installed in the early 1850s on the site of the current powerhouse's bypass spillway. By 1871, the Elk Rapids Iron Company had also constructed a water powered, four-story grist mill and wooden powerhouse at that site. The saw mill went through a number of rebuilds and upgrades before being relocated to the site of the current powerhouse. The mill, grist mill and wooden powerhouse were razed in 1915 as the supply of Northern Michigan White pine became exhausted and, in 1916, were replaced with the lower level of the present dam/ powerhouse structure. In 1929-1930, the current, more elaborate building was built. At the time, the turbines in the four bays provided a total of 1,845 horsepower.

However, by the time the County acquired the site from Consumers Power Company in 1967, the hydroelectric plant had been decommissioned and all generation equipment, save for the turbines, had been removed. When the oil shocks of the

1970s led the country to look for alternate sources of energy, Antrim County decided to put the powerhouse back on line. The current plant began generating electricity in 1984.



Lisa Lirones

The dam plays an essential role in maintaining the natural features and recreational opportunities that make the Village of Elk Rapids so unique. The local tourism-based economy has, for all practical purposes, grown up around the dam and the water levels the dam has maintained for Elk and Skegemog lakes since the mid-nineteenth century. If the dam were removed, the lakes' water levels would fall. Most riparian homes

would suddenly be anywhere from 50 feet to hundreds of yards away from the lakeshore. The channels between all the lakes below the Bellaire Dam, which currently allow navigation between the lakes, would become impassable rapids. None of the existing marinas would be able to operate in their current locations and boaters would be unable to reach any of the commercial districts around the lakes. To maintain any recreation on the lakes, a massive infrastructure investment would be required. By acting as a barrier to invasive species migrating from Lake Michigan into the Chain of Lakes, the dam also preserves the lakes' fisheries.

The dam enables navigation in the Chain of Lakes.

Hydroelectric power is now generated again.

With the imminent arrival of Asian Carp in the Great Lakes, this function has become even more indispensable. The Village was delighted when Antrim County restarted hydropower generation at the dam for it allows the facility to be partly self-sufficient, maintaining the foundations of the Village's economy and those of the surrounding communities at reduced cost. The County has demonstrated its commitment to relicense the dam and renovate it, making it a permanent presence in our Community. Mark Stone as Antrim County Operator of Dams has completed a \$75,000 restoration and repair project, using historic photos as a guide to restore the original appearance.

Once all the trees in the area were cut, the lumbering era began to fade and soon afterward Dexter and Noble closed the iron works. With its industrial base gone, Elk Rapids nearly became a ghost town during the first few decades of the 20th century. Tourism gradually became the major source of the village's economy and continued

to grow during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The 1980s saw an increase in the permanent population as many people decided to move to the area and make it their year around home.

School enrollment grew during this period and an elementary school was constructed in nearby Williamsburg. In addition, existing elementary and middle schools were expanded to serve a growing enrollment. The high school was built in Elk Rapids in 1970 and an elementary school in Williamsburg in 1990.

Our harbor is one of the finest in Michigan.

The Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor has been a Village project for over 50 years. It was expanded twice during the late 1980s and now provides a modern, 213-slip facility one of the largest and most popular on Grand Traverse Bay. In 2012, courtesy floating docks and 22 boat slips were added in the Upper Harbor for a total of 50.

The Elk Rapids Township Hall, built in 1883, is undergoing a complete rehabilitation as it rapidly evolves into a thriving community center. The hall is one of only fourteen flat-floored opera houses remaining in the United States. Rare features found in this magnificent structure are its tin ceiling, raked stage and the historic stage curtain, now a digital replica of the original. The Historic Elk Rapids Town Hall Association is the managing agent for this ongoing rehabilitation.

Transportation

The Elk Rapids transportation network, as elsewhere in the state, is heavily focused on the automobile, but there are legacy and emerging alternatives.

Non-motorized Transportation

Connecting to the TART Trail is a major goal.

The Village of Elk Rapids serves as an ideal location to connect the existing trails that have been developed by the Top of Michigan Trails Council, which provides recreational trails through Charlevoix, Emmet and Cheboygan counties as well as Traverse Area Recreation Trail (TART) in the Grand Traverse region. These trails provide very important safe areas for many recreational activities such as jogging and walking, skateboarding, biking, and rollerblading.



Public Transit

The only public transportation system serving the Village of Elk Rapids is the Antrim County Transportation Agency (ACT), which provides dial-a-ride service to all residents of the County. There is a semi-scheduled morning bus run between Bellaire, the Antrim County seat, and Elk Rapids.

Bus service is available in nearby Traverse City. Indian Trails Bus Company services include charters, tours, shuttles, airport transfers, casino runs as well as daily scheduled routes throughout Michigan and into Chicago, Milwaukee, and Duluth.

Air

The Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport, approximately 15 miles from Elk Rapids, provides primary air transportation for the region. Other options exist in Grand Rapids, Pellston, Manistee, MBS (Tri-cities), Lansing and Flint.

Rail

Elk Rapids used to have a railroad line that terminated in Elk Rapids, but it is now abandoned.

A Michigan [State Rail Plan](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-11056-242455--,00.html) (www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-11056-242455--,00.html) is now available that describes, on pages 116-117, the possibility of doing a feasibility study to create passenger service between Petoskey and Grand Rapids or Detroit. This service would likely pass near but not through Elk Rapids.

Streets and Highways



Major arterials within the community include U.S. 31, River Street, Ames, Cairn Highway and North Bayshore Drive. Three bridges convey traffic over the Elk River and spillway.

Shared-lane bicycle markers are used now on major roadways in anticipation of an extension of the existing TART non-motorized trail to, through and to the north of Elk Rapids.

Future



The Grand Vision is an ambitious, citizen-led vision for the future of land use, transportation, economic development and environmental stewardship across six counties in northwest lower Michigan. Citizens from the Elk Rapids area are participating in this project. Grand Vision is currently creating a regional transportation plan that will include Elk Rapids. More information is available at the following link: www.thegrandvision.org/transportation-network

Natural Resources

Once famous for its clay for brickmaking and limestone for smelting, Elk Rapids now especially values its waterways and agricultural land.

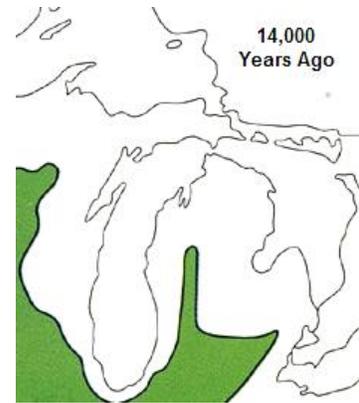
Topography

The bedrock in the Village consists of Berea Sandstone, Bedford Shale and Ellsworth Shale. The surface geology of the Village is dominated by medium-textured glacial till, composed of non-sorted glacial debris, loam and silt loam texture with variable amounts of cobbles and boulders.

The surface geology of the Village was formed 10,000 to 12,000 years ago by glacial activity. Numerous advances and retreats by the glaciers resulted in the locally complex pattern of erosion and deposition. The drainage channels scoured by the glaciers resulted in depressions oriented linearly from the northwest to the southeast. Along the lakes the geological composition is primarily lacustrine sand and gravel. This type of sand and gravel typically occur as former beaches and near offshore deposits of the glacial Great Lakes.

Elk Rapids is almost surrounded by water.

The Village is located on two peninsulas bounded by Grand Traverse Bay, Elk River and Elk Lake. The topography of this area is flat to gently rolling and drains directly into Grand Traverse Bay, Elk Lake and Bass Lake, as shown in the Topographic Map that follows. The only major area of topographic relief is a slight escarpment where the topography elevates approximately 40 feet in the southern part of the west side of the Village. The contours on the topographic map were digitized from the USGS quadrangle sheets available in GIS format from the State of Michigan Center for Geographical Information.



Glacial Coverage in Michigan

Topographic Map Village of Elk Rapids

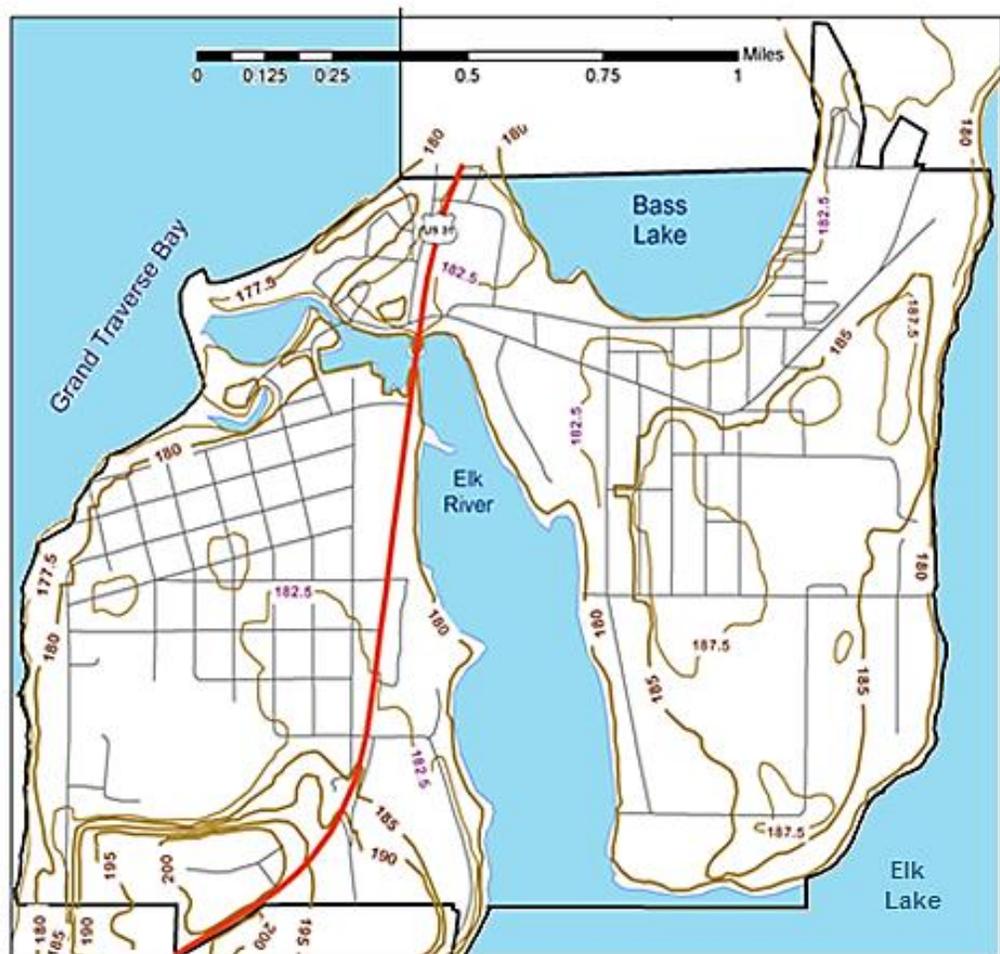
Base GIS Data
Michigan Framework Data, Antrim County
and the US Geological Survey (USGS)
Michigan Geotiff, NAD 83
Contours digitized from 1:24,000 scale
USGS Topo Quad Files from
Center for Geographic Information
State of Michigan

Elevation Contours in Meters



Legend

- 5-m Contours
- 2.5-m Contours



Topographic Map

Hydrological Features

Elk Rapids has some of the finest water resources in the world, both on and below the ground.

Surface Water

One of the greatest attractions for the residents and visitors to Elk Rapids is the area's natural environment, most notably the surface water resources. The Elk River serves as the outlet for the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed, which covers approximately 503 square miles in the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska. Except for the dams at Elk Rapids and Lake Bellaire, the Chain of Lakes is navigable by small craft.

Within the Village there are 1.6 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and nearly seven miles of frontage on inland lakes and rivers. These lakes, rivers and their associated streams and creeks offer scenic and recreational amenities to Village residents and visitors. Responses to the 2005 Master Plan Opinion Survey indicate that Village residents feel it is extremely important that the quality of these surface waters be protected from the negative impacts of development, such as pollution and loss of scenic views to open water.

Elk Lake and Bass Lake are part of an ongoing comprehensive lake monitoring program being conducted by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. The results of the 1992, 1995, 2001 and 2004 monitoring are shown below.

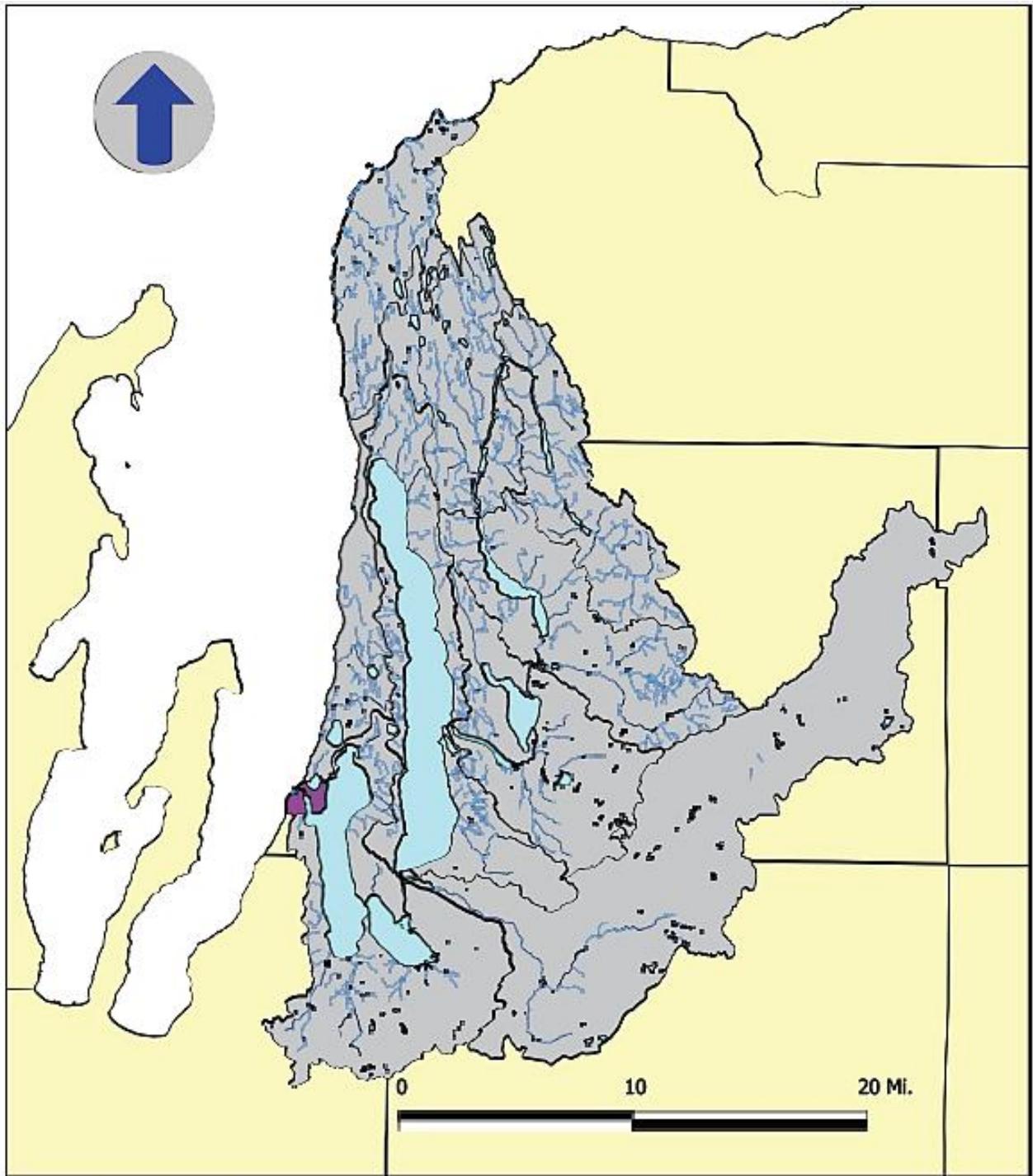
Groundwater

Elk Rapids has three municipal wells and a water tower.

The Village is working on a new wetlands ordinance.

The entire Village relies on groundwater for drinking water, either from the municipal wells for those served by the municipal water system or from individual wells where municipal water is not available. The 'Aquifer Vulnerability to Surface Contamination in Michigan' map, prepared by the Center for Remote Sensing and Department of Geography at Michigan State University, reveals that the Village is located in an area where the vulnerability of drinking water aquifers to surface contamination is high. This is because of the presence of highly permeable soils over highly sensitive drift lithology (layers of clay and permeable sands and gravels). Due to this aquifer vulnerability, wellhead protection measures have been put in place for the municipal water wells.

Lakes, creeks and wetlands are important for surface drainage, groundwater recharge and wildlife habitat. The well recharge area for the two municipal wells in Elk Rapids is shown below. Note that the third municipal water well located near the Department of Public Works has a well-defined recharge area that is indicated by the oval-shaped segment, encompassing mainly the Ames Street commercial corridor, the residential area to the south of Bass Lake, the southern end of Bass Lake and extending across part of the Elk Rapids Golf Course to Elk Lake. By comparison, the municipal water well, located at the Veteran's Memorial Park in close proximity to the shoreline of Grand Traverse Bay, has a less-defined recharge area by a radius of approximately one mile encircling the well area. Alterations to the watershed features in these and other areas can contribute to flooding, poor water quality, and loss of valuable wildlife habitat.



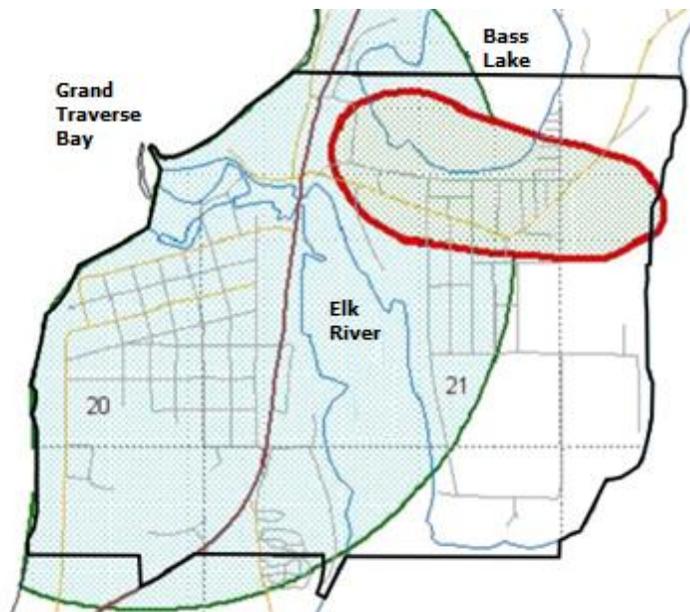
NAD83 State Plane Coordinate System

Watersheds Map

Elk Rapids Water Quality Monitoring Results

	Depth (m)	Temp (°C)	Surface D.O. (mg/L)	pH	Total Phos. (mg/L)	Nitrate-Nitrogen (ug/L)	Total Nitrogen (ug/L)	Conductivity (uS/cm ²)	Chloride (mg/L)
Elk River									
4/ 2/2007	12.0	3.95	11.64	8.47	1.0	245	305	267.1	8.0
4/14/2010	15.0	6.30	12.49	8.51	2.0	205	313	261.3	10.0
Elk Lake									
4/17/2007	0.2	2.49	13.24	8.31	2.9	262	338	249.4	9.3
4/17/2007	27.9	2.44	13.62	8.26	2.0	287	311	250.6	7.3
4/17/2007	53.6	2.55	13.13	8.25	2.4	255	303	250.8	9.6
4/19/2010	0.2	5.44	12.80	8.35	9.6	193	411	246.7	9.8
4/19/2010	27.6	4.92	12.55	8.40	2.2	193	458	246.7	10.0
4/19/2010	56.7	4.83	12.37	8.42	0.5	197	331	246.5	9.9
Bass Lake									
4/19/2007	0.2	7.55	12.3	8.41	7.9	17	504	309.6	38.1
4/19/2007	7.3	5.69	10.6	7.94	8.5	15	558	311.4	37.2
4/14/2010	0.2	11.07	11.2	8.53	8.8	11	584	335.3	42.9
4/14/2010	7.0	8.68	9.0	8.33	8.0	18	606	338.1	43.8

Data Source: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council – 2010



Groundwater Recharge Area

Soils and Vegetation

The distribution of soil types throughout the Village, as compiled by the US Natural Resource Conservation Service in 1978 in the Soil Survey of Antrim County, Michigan is shown below. This soil map shows pre-development soil conditions. Since the map was developed, some of the areas with wetland soils have since been dredged, filled, and built upon.

Legend	
SOIL TYPES	
Be	– Beaches
CbA	– Charlevoix Sandy Loam
CdA	– Crosswell Sand
DeC	– Deer Park Sand
EaB	– East Lake Gravelly Loamy Sand
EmB	– Emmet-Montcalm complex
IoA	– Iosco Sand
KaB	– Kalkaska Sand
KsA	– Kawkawlin Silt Loam
Ps	– Pickford Silty Clay Loam
Ta	– Tawas Muck
Te	– Tawas-Ensley Complex

erial photography from USDA National Agricultural Imagery Program

Soil Map from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Soil Survey of Antrim County (1978)

NAD 83 - Michigan GeoRef



Soils Map

Elk Rapids has twelve different soil types.

Deer Park Sand (DeC) is the most pervasive soil type in the Village. This soil type is well drained and typically located on gently sloping landforms. All soil associations found in the Village are described below. The general soil map for Antrim County shows twelve different associations found in the Village of Elk Rapids. While the soil association information presented here can be used as a general guide for management of large, undeveloped tracts of land, it should not be used for development of specific sites.

Soil Map Legend

The following legend describes the soil types shown above.

Be - **Beaches**: Nearly level and gently sloping consisting of loose sandy and stony lake beaches and strands of sand extending inland.

CbA - **Charlevoix Sandy Loam**: Nearly level and gentle slopes up to 4%, somewhat poorly drained soils in upland depressions.

CdA - **Crosswell Sand**: Nearly level to gently sloping, moderately well drained lowland soils.

DeC - **Deer Park Sand**: Gently sloping to moderately steep slopes (up to 20%), excessively drained soils on ridges adjacent to Lake Michigan.

DrC – **Deer Park-Roscommon complex**: Gently sloping to moderately steep (0 to 20 percent slopes), excessively drained Deer Park soils on ridges, and nearly level poorly drained and very poorly drained Roscommon soils in swales between the ridges on the plains adjacent to Lake Michigan.

EaB - **East Lake Gravelly Loamy Sand**: Nearly level to gently sloping up to 6%, somewhat excessively drained soils in the form of terraces or ridgelike topography adjacent to level areas.

EmB - **Emmet -Moncalm Complex**: Gentle to moderate slopes of 3 to 12%, well drained and moderately well drained soils, generally located on tops of hills or mounds.

IoA - **Iosco Sand**: Nearly level to gently sloping, up to 4%, somewhat poorly drained soil in upland depressions.

KaB - **Kalkaska Sand**: Nearly level to gently sloping, up to 6%, somewhat excessively drained soil located on upland plains.

KsA - **Kawkawlin Silt Loam**: Nearly level to gentle slope up to 3%, somewhat poorly drained soil located in upland depressions.

Ps - **Pickford Silty Clay Loam**: Nearly level poorly drained soil, located in depressions and along waterways, subject to frequent flooding. Limitations: This soil association is classified as a wetland soil with severe septic and construction limitations.

Ro – **Roscommon Mucky Sand**: Nearly level, poorly drained and very poorly drained soil in lowlands, in depressions and adjacent to bogs and waterways, subject to frequent flooding.

Ta - **Tawas Muck**: Nearly level, poorly drained organic soils located in lowlands and subject to flooding. Limitations: This soil association is classified as a wetland soil (unless previously drained), with severe septic and construction limitations.

Te - **Tawas-Ensley Complex**: Nearly level, poorly drained soils located in swamps and drainage ways and subject to flooding.

Some high water table conditions do exist, especially in the lower areas of the Village. A small percentage of the total Village area consists of hydric (wetland) soil (unless previously drained).

Fruit trees and bushes abound.

Vegetation in the Elk Rapids area includes mixed hardwoods and conifer forest. Wetland areas are home to lowland cedar swamps, and marshlands. Northern Michigan boasts excellent soil for fruit crops, which can be seen surrounding this area.

Fish and Wildlife



Fishing is a very popular pastime in Elk Rapids.

Walleye, trout, northern pike, perch, bass, black crappie, muskellunge, whitefish, northern pike, and bluegill are species found in Bass Lake, Elk Lake, and the Elk River. Sixty-nine different species of fish have been identified in the Chain-of-Lakes Watershed by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. The Elk River Chain of Lakes fishery management strategy includes stocking and periodic surveying of fish populations. Brown trout, steelhead, and various species of salmon are found in Grand Traverse Bay. The Michigan Department of Resources has identified the Elk Rapids bay area as a key spawning ground for Cisco Whitefish. Many of the current recreational areas in the Village of Elk Rapids cater to recreational fishermen. Examples are the Dam Beach and Fishing Park as well as Kids Pond.

Habitat for populations of songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, muskrat, mink, and raccoon are provided by the wetlands and lakeshores within the Village. The predominant mammal species found in the Village of Elk Rapids are squirrel, fox, raccoon, mink, muskrat, skunk, rabbit, and deer.

Environmental Concerns

Environmental quality is very important for Elk Rapids.

Environmental quality is of great concern for area residents.

The *April 2005 Survey Summary Report*, approved in late 2005 and reviewed in 2012, by the Village Planning Commission, lists the following partial areas of strong consensus in environmental issues:

Areas of Consensus on Environmental Issues

- Protect lake water quality.
- Protect scenic views of the water.
- Protect groundwater quality to preserve the quality of well water.
- Protect air quality.
- Protect safe biking along streets.
- Very important that Elk Rapids work on new *image* policies to preserve the scenic view areas in the Village.
- Agreed or strongly agreed that Elk Rapids should work on new *environmental/growth* management policies to develop comprehensive protective measures for properties and waterways adjacent to construction sites during construction of any building.
- Protect the informal lifestyle and slow pace of life.
- Protect the island library and bridge.
- Protect strict traffic speed control on all streets in the Village.
- Protect groundwater quality.
- Protect locally owned family business.
- Protect recreational opportunities in Village harbors and parks, such as tennis courts, playgrounds, and so on.
- Agreed or strongly agreed that Elk Rapids should work on new *environmental/growth* management policies to engage in joint efforts with surrounding counties and townships for developing zoning regulations that offer more protection to our shorelines.

- Protect noise control, especially in residential areas next to commercial areas.
- Agreed or strongly agreed that Elk Rapids should work on new *image* policies to require all new development to hook up to Village sewer and water systems.
- Protect wetlands and natural areas.
- Agreed or strongly agreed that Elk Rapids should work on new *image* policies to create a walking community by connecting and extending sidewalks throughout the east and west sides of the Village
- Agreed or strongly agreed that Elk Rapids should develop additional bicycle lanes on or adjacent to roads
- Agreed or strongly agreed that Elk Rapids should develop additional combination bicycle paths and roller blade paths.
- Very important that the Village should work on new *image* policies to preserve historic buildings.
- Protect tree-lined streets.
- Agreed or strongly agreed that Elk Rapids should work on new *environmental/growth* policies to raise private funds to create bicycle and walking pathways around the Village (similar to Charlevoix/Petoskey area)

Any planning, zoning, or operational issues that the community faces now or in the future should take these areas into consideration, because each of them has very strong community support.

Climate

Our moderate climate is great for both residents and visitors.

Elk Rapids is located just south of the 45th parallel, midway between the North Pole and the equator, so it has four distinct seasons.

- Spring erupts in millions of cherry and apple blossoms.
- Summer has warm temperatures that are perfect for boating, swimming, golf and many other recreational activities.
- Autumn lingers as trees turn color and lose their leaves later than further inland.
- Winter brings snowfall of 125" to 145" – perfect for winter recreation.

Average Temperatures



Dana Vannoy



Dana Vannoy

Month	Average High	Average Low
January	27	14
February	30	14
March	40	22
April	53	32
May	67	42
June	77	52
July	81	58
August	79	57
September	70	50
October	58	40
November	44	31
December	32	21

Sources:

- Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Northern Michigan Almanac
- National Weather Service
- Michigan State Climatology Office



Tom Vranich



Dana Vannoy

Climate Change

Although the causes of global warming are disputed, climate change in northwest lower Michigan is taking place nonetheless. Average temperatures are rising, the frequency of severe storms is increasing and lake levels are decreasing.

Zoning

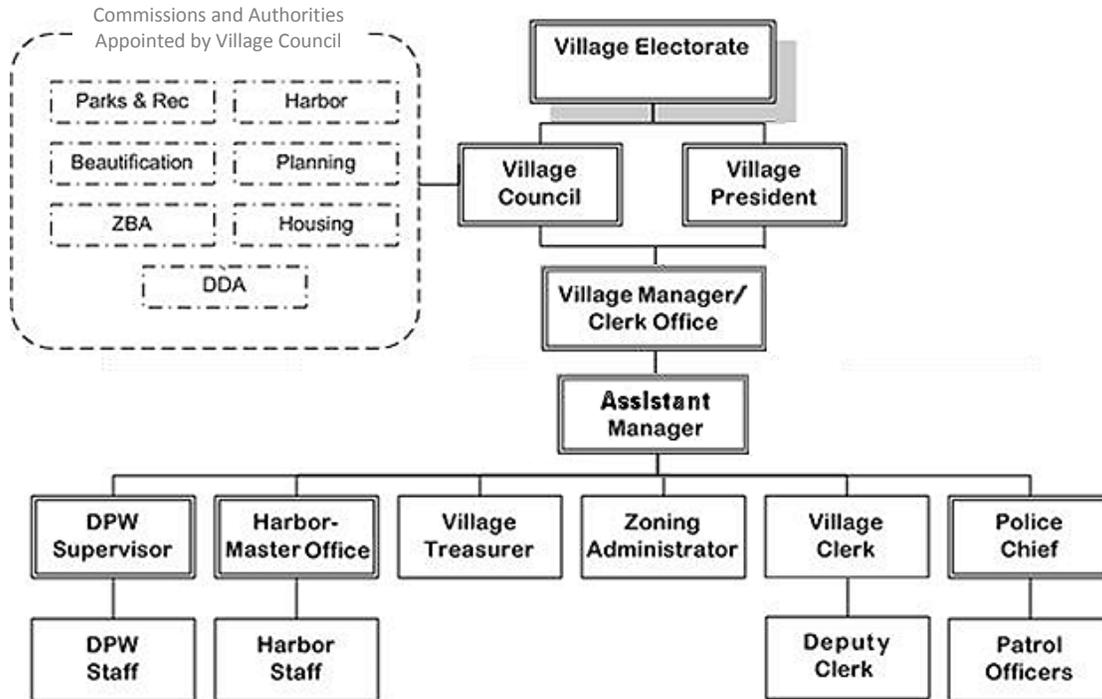
The Village of Elk Rapids is a fully zoned community. The Planning Commission sets the zoning districts, and the Village Zoning Administrator administers and enforces the zoning districts. Appeals against the Zoning Administrator's determinations can be made to the Village Zoning Board of Appeals.

[Zoning Map](http://www.nuspari.com/ER-ZoningMap960.html) (www.nuspari.com/ER-ZoningMap960.html)

Refer to the Village Coordinated Master Plan or Village Web site for the latest zoning information.

Chapter 2: Administrative Structure

The Elk Rapids Village Council has ultimate authority over the development and management of recreational facilities within the Village. The organization of the Village is shown in below.



Village Organization

Appointed commissions and authorities related to parks and recreation include the Parks & Recreation Commission, Harbor Commission, Beautification Commission and Downtown Development Authority. The Planning Commission reviews all recreation development proposals. Village staff members, under the Village Manager’s overall direction, operate and maintain village recreational facilities. The following sections describe the roles of commissions, authorities and staff.

Village Commissions and Authorities

All Village Commissions and Authorities act as advisers to the Village Council, which approves or disapproves all recommendations. The commissions are described in brief and collaboration with the Parks & Recreation Commission, if any, is also explained. More information is available in the [Village Code of Ordinances](http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=13263) (<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=13263>).

Beautification

The Beautification Commission works to improve the appearance of the Village by planning and implementing projects that add to the beauty of the public areas and preserve the tranquility of natural areas. The Beautification Commission was

established July 17, 1978 for the purpose of creating programs that care for *passive recreational sites* and beautification throughout the Village. The duties of the Beautification Commission include, but are not exclusive to, recommending the replacement plantings of trees and shrubs where deemed appropriate and acting as a liaison with Elk Rapids Garden Club and Village Council. The eight members of the Commission meet regularly and report to the Village Council on their activities.

Downtown Development Authority

The current DDA area now includes some Village parks.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) engages in long-range planning in cooperation with the staff and other commissions, including Parks & Recreation, to envision future economic vibrancy of the downtown as well as prepares plans and undertakes economic improvement projects.

The geographical boundaries of the current DDA include several parks in the Village. The DDA Plan lists Pedestrian Crossing and Trail systems; Construction of Parks; Construction of Courtesy Docks in the Upper Harbor; and other Walkable Community Improvements among the projects that might be funded.

For more information, please reference the DDA Plan dated 2011.

Harbor

Lower Harbor is on Grand Traverse Bay. Upper Harbor is on Elk River.

The Harbor Commission, under authority from the Village Council, plans, builds, operates, and maintains Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor and the Elk River Upper Harbor. The Commission supervises the work of the Village Harbormaster who in turn supervises seasonal dockworkers at the public harbor facilities. It also reviews all village projects that may affect the streams, lakes, rivers, and shorelines within the village. The Harbor Commission makes recommendations to the Village Council regarding harbor operations and harbor projects. The Harbor Commission comprises seven members who meet monthly. The Village President appoints the members with the consent of the Village Council. One Village Council member is also appointed by the village president to sit on the Harbor Commission.

The Harbor Commission prepares a Capital Improvements Schedule that serves as its master plan.

Housing

The Housing Commission is granted authority under Section 3 of the Public Act of 1933 as amended. The Commission has the following areas of interest:

- Low-income housing
- Elimination of sub-standard housing
- Control and supervision of all parks and playgrounds forming a part of a housing development under its jurisdiction
- All other matters that involve housing, especially public or subsidized housing under its jurisdiction

Note that one member of the housing commission shall be a resident of public or subsidized housing.

Parks & Recreation

This Parks & Recreation Commission works in an advisory capacity regarding the development of parks and recreational programming within the Village of Elk Rapids. Its main concerns are parks, public access sites, seasonal recreational facilities and recreational activities and events. The Village President appoints the members on this commission with the consent of the Village Council. One of the members is a Village Council representative, who is also a voting member of the commission. At least four of the members of the commission shall reside within the boundaries of the Village. The Parks & Recreation Commission must meet at least six times a year and these meetings must be open to the public.

The Parks & Recreation Commission was established under Public Act 156 of 1917 in June of 1993 by Ordinance Number 223. The primary role of the commission is to make recommendations to the Village Council regarding the development and maintenance of parks. The Commission also serves as a liaison between the Village Council and community members and keeps an open line of communication with the County and neighboring townships in order to be informed about possible shared recreational opportunities in the area. A yearly Parks & Recreation budget is also recommended to the Village Council by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Village Council has final determination over the Parks & Recreation budget.

Parks & Rec communicates with the County and Townships.

Planning

The Planning Commission reviews all development activities in the Village of Elk Rapids, including any new recreation projects. Such projects are subject to the Village's Zoning Ordinances. The Planning Commission also updates the Village Master Plan every five years, and may opt to incorporate the Community Recreation Plan into the Master Plan by reference.

Collaborating on an innovative joint master plan.

Staff & Volunteers

The Village has several staff members as well as numerous volunteers that help it thrive.

Staff

The Village staff has the following positions:

- Village Manager/Clerk
- Assistant Village Manager
- Chief of Police
- Department of Public Works Superintendent
- Planning & Zoning Administrator
- Planning Commission Chairperson
- Harbormaster
- Treasurer
- Deputy Clerk

A very professional and trained staff

Volunteers



Creating the Ice Rink

Unpaid volunteers play a key role in the planning and maintenance of Village recreational facilities and operations. The appointed Commissions described above (Parks & Recreation, Harbor, Beautification, and Planning) all have appointed volunteers who are not compensated for their work. Most of the gardens under the Beautification Commission are maintained by volunteers from the Elk Rapids Garden Club. The Parks & Recreation Commission has occasional activities, such as roadside and stream bank cleanups that are manned by volunteers from the Commission as well as the general public. The Village Ice Skating Rink is maintained mostly by volunteers. And numerous residents of all ages came to Dam Beach last year to plant protective dune grass.



Lisa Lirones

Planting Dune Grass

Community

Volunteers play a very active role in most other aspects of Village community life, such as:

Community volunteers are numerous and very active.



Tom Vranich

- Churches. There are several in the area.
- Schools, K-12
- Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
- Harbor Days Association that puts on our annual summer festival (www.elkrapidsharbordays.org)
- Garden Club with more than 100 members.
- Green Elk Rapids Days (www.greenelkrapidsdays.com) – a multi-day town festival that celebrates our environment and features a super recycling day, sculptures made of trash, informative seminars and exotic field trips.
- Art Rapids! (www.artrapids.org)
- Friends of the Dam Beach
- Historic Elk Rapids Town Hall Association (www.ertownhall.org)
- Civic organizations such as Rotary, Lions, Masons, Boy/Girl Scouts and many more.



Lisa Lirones

Harbor Days Carnival

Village Budget

The Village of Elk Rapids provides significant funding for parks and recreation.

Recreational Programming

The Village helps the Right Way Youth Activities conduct an annual Fishing Derby at Kids Pond for area children. In addition, money has been budgeted to begin offering other recreational programming in the future.

Operation of Village Recreational Facilities

The Elk Rapids Department of Public Works (DPW) currently maintains all park facilities while employees of the school district maintain school recreation sites. As such, the operational budget for the Village park facilities is part of the overall DPW budget.

The Village Council has full authority over the affairs of the harbor facilities. Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor has 213 slips, eight shopper docks, and a launch ramp. The Elk River Upper Harbor has 50 slips (some transient) and a launch ramp. The revenue generated from these two locations is used for operations, maintenance, future improvements, and expansions to waterfront properties owned by the Village.

Recreation Funding & Budgeting

The 2012 and project 2013 operational budgets for parks and recreational facilities in the Village of Elk Rapids are provided below.

2012 Budget

The 2012 budget for Village parks and recreation is provided here.

2012 Village Budget, Parks & Recreation

Item	Budget
Parks Maintenance (DPW)	\$128,925
Parks & Recreation Commission	2,860
Harbor Operation & Maintenance Enterprise	808,230
Harbor Capital	116,000
Harbor Construction	440,000
Harbor Bond	186,528

2013 Budget

The 2013 budget for Village parks and recreation is provided here.

2013 Village Budget, Parks & Recreation

<u>Item</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Parks Maintenance (DPW)	131,050
Parks & Recreation Commission	4,500
Harbor Operation & Maintenance Enterprise	928,399
Harbor Capital	64,500
Harbor Construction	242,500
Harbor Bond	113,548

Funding Sources

Currently, most of the funds for recreational activities under the purview of the Parks & Recreation Commission come from the Village general fund, made up of revenues from various taxes, licenses, fees for service, state revenue sharing and private donations. Occasional special donations from civic groups and private individuals for specific purposes are received and applied.

Operational funds for the Grace Memorial Harbor are generated by revenues from the rental of boat slips as well as the sale of related goods and services. The Harbor operates as an Enterprise Fund (standalone business).

The Elk Rapids Master Plan Opinion Survey of 2005/2006, commissioned by the Village Planning Commission indicated that there is strong public opposition to levying a millage to finance high-cost public recreational facilities such as walking paths and bicycle trails. There was, however, overwhelming support for raising *private* funds for such purposes. When public funding becomes available, these facilities will be evaluated.

Inter-Agency Relations

A Village Council Trustee sits on the Parks & Rec Commission.

Liaison between the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Village Council is maintained by the appointment by the Council of one of its members to the Parks & Recreation Commission. This is the standard procedure for all of the appointed commissions.

The Parks & Recreation Commission interacts with other commissions as needed and establishes contacts with other park-related public entities around Antrim County as needed for specific purposes.

Parks & Recreation consults as needed with community-based organizations such as the Elk Rapids School Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and the Lions Club to coordinate activities and exchange information. The Rotary and Lions Clubs are frequent contributors to recreational facility upgrading and construction in the Village.

The Village, Harbor Commission and the Harbormaster work with regulatory agencies including the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Army Corps of Engineers, and Antrim County Soil Erosion to obtain the necessary permits for future construction and maintenance at waterfront facilities in the Village.

The Antrim County Operator of Dams is interested in working with Parks & Recreation to integrate the dam into the Village park system. Note that the dam is strategically located on Dexter Street between the Lower Harbor/Dam Beach and Fishing Park on one side and Upper Harbor Open Space on the other.

Parks & Recreation collaborates with Elk Rapids Schools when prudent. For example, student surveys were developed and implemented to help design the Community Ice Rink. Other collaborations include Dam Beach cleanup, dune grass planting and education on water issues. Also, Parks & Recreation wants to consider working with the schools on a summer tennis program.

Rules and Regulations: Use of Village Recreational Facilities

Rules and regulations concerning the use of the various recreational facilities in the Village of Elk Rapids are governed by Village Ordinances.

The Village of Elk Rapids has an existing agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Harbor Commission follows all State rules and regulations governing harbor and waterfront operations. The Village Council, the Harbor Commission, and the Harbormaster are responsible for enforcing them. Rules and regulations not set by the DNR are recommended by the Harbor Commission to the Village Council. The Village Council makes the final decision.

Chapter 3 Recreation Inventory

Here is a description of the inventory process followed by the inventory itself of Village-owned recreation facilities as well as several nearby.

Conducting the Recreation Inventory

In 2010, as part of the basic data collection required for the effective identification and prioritization of community recreation needs, a special subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Commission conducted a comprehensive community recreation inventory.

The field assessment for barrier-free compliance status was conducted by Parks & Recreation Commission members over the winter of 2005/6, and all facilities were mapped using a hand-held geographic positioning system (GPS) unit in the spring and summer of 2006. It was revisited in 2009 with no substantive changes were noted. All maps were created using field data and Michigan framework GIS data from the Center for Geographic Information (CGI) of the State of Michigan.

The inventory includes publicly- and privately-owned facilities. Individual public lake access sites have been included and mapped. The many Village Beautification Commission gardens are primarily cared for by the Elk Rapids Garden Club.

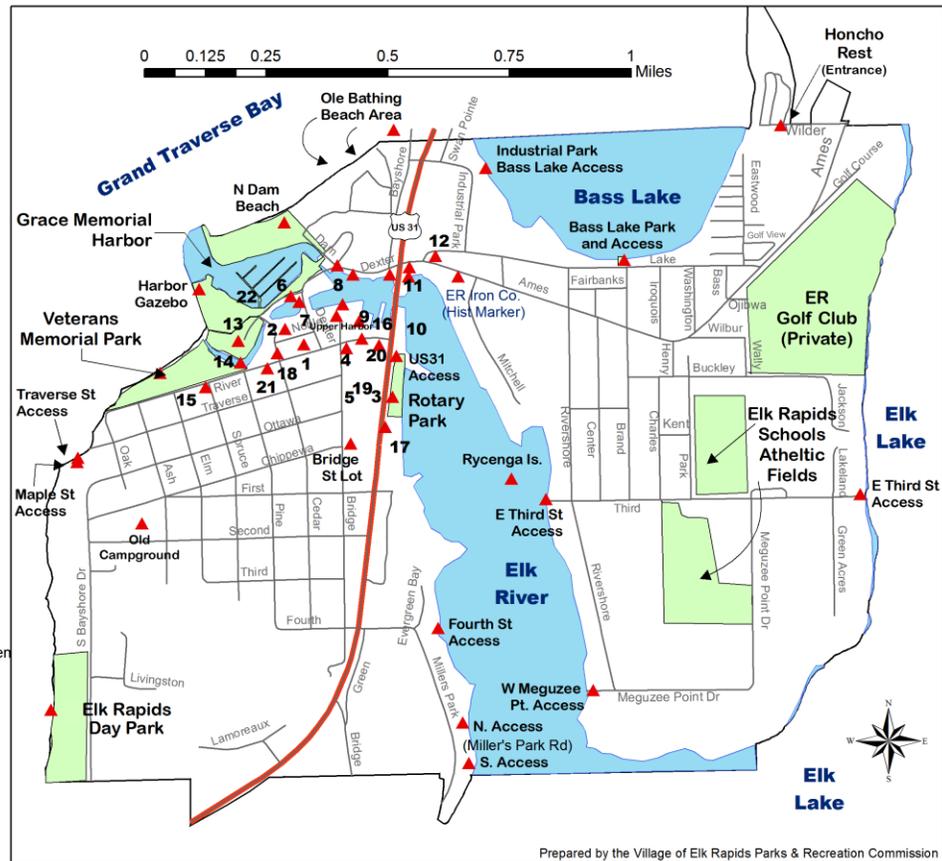
Barrier-free access is a high priority.

Parks and Recreational Facilities Village of Elk Rapids, MI

Base GIS Data:
Michigan Framework Data
Michigan GeoRef, NAD 83

Key to Numbered Facilities

1. Yuchasz Walk-through Garden
2. Noble Street Parking Lot
3. River St Entrance Garden
4. Bridge Street Access
5. Beulah Morrison Mem. Garden
6. Kids' Pond
7. Zupin-Anderson Garden
8. Dam Fishing Park
9. Dexter St Walkway
10. Boardwalk Access
11. South Arrowhead Garden
12. Iva's North Arrowhead Garden
13. Library/Mildred R. Guild Mem. Garden
14. Island Bridge
15. Old Twp Hall/Museum/Garden
16. The Triangle
17. The Garden at Rotary Park
18. Hollyhock Garden
19. River St. Median Garden
20. Elk River Marina
21. Elk Rapids Cinema
22. Ultimate Charters



Prepared by the Village of Elk Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Village Parks

Elk Rapids is blessed with numerous waterfront parks.

Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park is located on East Grand Traverse Bay and features picnic tables, grills, an expansive beach, public restroom, playground, a footbridge to the library, tennis courts, basketball courts as well as a veteran's memorial.

Several significant improvements have been made in the park. One of the previous four tennis courts has

been removed and replaced with a second basketball court plus several hard surface children game areas. The remaining three tennis courts have been resurfaced and new nets have been installed. A beach volleyball area has been added west of the tennis courts. Much of the old play equipment for children has been replaced with modern and safer play stations. Several bicycle racks are now conveniently located within the park. As a result of major reconstruction along River Street parking along the entire park has been improved.



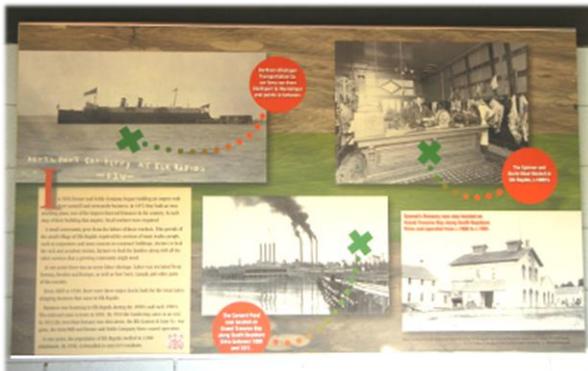
Tom Vranich

Rotary Park

Rotary Park is located on Elk River next to the Chamber of Commerce. It features a pavilion with covered picnic tables as well as three large *storyboards* mounted on the inside wall of the picnic pavilion. These storyboards have a modern design and feature historical photos and descriptions of the greater Elk Rapids area. Kayak access and ample parking are also available at this location.



Sarah Miller



Sarah Miller



Lindy Bishop

Dam Beach and Fishing Park

Becoming one of the most popular in the area.



The beach and piers are located on the bay side of the power dam. A rustic beach volleyball area has been added. Native dune grass has been planted on the dunes between the parking area and the beach. An eight-foot wide sidewalk now connects Dexter Street to the beach and fishing parking area for improved safety and ease of access from town.



Non-motorized Trails

Bicyclists already enjoy peddling through Elk Rapids.

A suggested local bike route is now indicated with street surface markings in the Village, which is also our marked snowmobile trail. The main roads include Bridge, River and Dexter streets, with possible scenic routes branching off into other parts of town.



Discussions are ongoing with the Grand Traverse Regional Conservancy, Elk Rapids Rotary and Elk Rapids Township to connect the Tart Trail from Acme through the Village of Elk Rapids.

The Village is located on U.S. Bike Route 35. Signage for this route is being installed in 2013.

Boardwalk & Park

Non-motorized east-west connectivity

As part of an existing non-motorized transportation system, Elk Rapids has two sections of boardwalk that integrate with Village sidewalks. One is located along the north side of Kids Pond (Elk River) and is used for walking and fishing. The other, located near the U.S. 31 bridge provides excellent non-motorized connectivity between east and west Elk Rapids, without having to cross the busy road.



At the west end of the boardwalk, a sidewalk continues through the park along the river. There is public land located along the north side of the Elk River between the Dexter Street bridge and the boardwalk that runs under the US 31 bridge.

Community Garden



A community garden was established in 2009 on the east side of Bridge Street and to the south of the police station. This land provides the opportunity for local residence to have a small vegetable or flower garden near their homes. (Photos: Bob Bassett)



Noble Pines Nature Trail



A rustic wood-chip nature trail was added in 2010 to the undeveloped parkland adjacent to the Noble Pines senior apartments. The entrance is off of Second and Chippewa Streets, winding through woodland and is less than ¼ mile long. Construction was done by volunteers from the local Boy Scouts, Sunrise Academy and others. (Photos: Bob Bassett)



Old Bathing Beach



Located on North Bayshore Drive, this beach is primarily undeveloped and used by residents, but it has great potential for people who use the proposed TART Trail.

Kids Pond



On the downtown portion of Elk River, between the spillway and the Cedar Street Bridge is Kids Pond. A boardwalk meanders along the north bank of the river, and people of all ages come to fish. (Pond: Dana Vannoy, Fishing: Copyright © Graydon DeCamp)



Village Beautification Gardens



The Elk Rapids Garden Club maintains more than a dozen beautiful gardens in Elk Rapids. All can be easily accessed by walking around the Village. (<http://elkrapidsgardenclub.com>) (Photo: Bob Bassett)

Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor



Surrounded by beaches and located just steps away from downtown Elk Rapids, many boaters frequent Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor. Located on both Grand Traverse Bay (Lower Harbor) and Elk River (Upper Harbor), our facilities are some of the finest in Michigan, featuring 213 slips in the Lower Harbor and 50 in the Upper Harbor as well as a pavilion, bathhouse, launch ramp, gas pump, Wi-Fi and other amenities. (Photo: Jim Nothoff)

Community Ice Rink



Located on Bridge Street since 2006, between the Police Station and the Community Garden, the community ice rink, open to the public, has been a part of Elk Rapids for more than 30 years. The Village offers ice skating and other opportunities for winter sports that are deemed appropriate. (Photo: Bob Bassett)

Other Local Recreational Assets

Several other local assets, not owned by the Village, are available, including:

- Antrim County Day Park
- Elk Rapids Area District Library
- Elk Rapids Schools

Elk Rapids Day Park



This county park is located between South Bayshore Drive and East Grand Traverse Bay. It has a beach, playground, bathhouse and several nature trails. There is interest in starting a discussion between Antrim County and Elk Rapids about future uses for this park. (Photo: Dana Vannoy)

Elk Rapids Area District Library



The Elk Rapids District Library is located next to the harbor on beautiful Grand Traverse Bay. In addition to books, it has audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, public computers, free Wi-Fi and outstanding programs for adults and children. (Photo: Dana Vannoy)

The library district includes the following members and contract areas: Elk Rapids Village, Elk Rapids Township, Milton Township, and Torch Lake Township. Patrons outside the district can use the materials in the library and have access to computers and the wireless Internet.

About the Island House

Edwin S. Noble (1838-1922) designed and built this house for his family in 1865. Noble was associated with the Dexter-Noble Company, which was involved in logging and the production of chemicals, flour and high-quality pig iron. It also operated a store and a brick yard. By 1882 the firm, then known as the Elk Rapids Iron Company, had become the largest employer in town. Noble also built a broad bridge over the river to connect the island with the town. In 1949 a part of the Island House became a public library, and currently the library has expanded into the entire building.

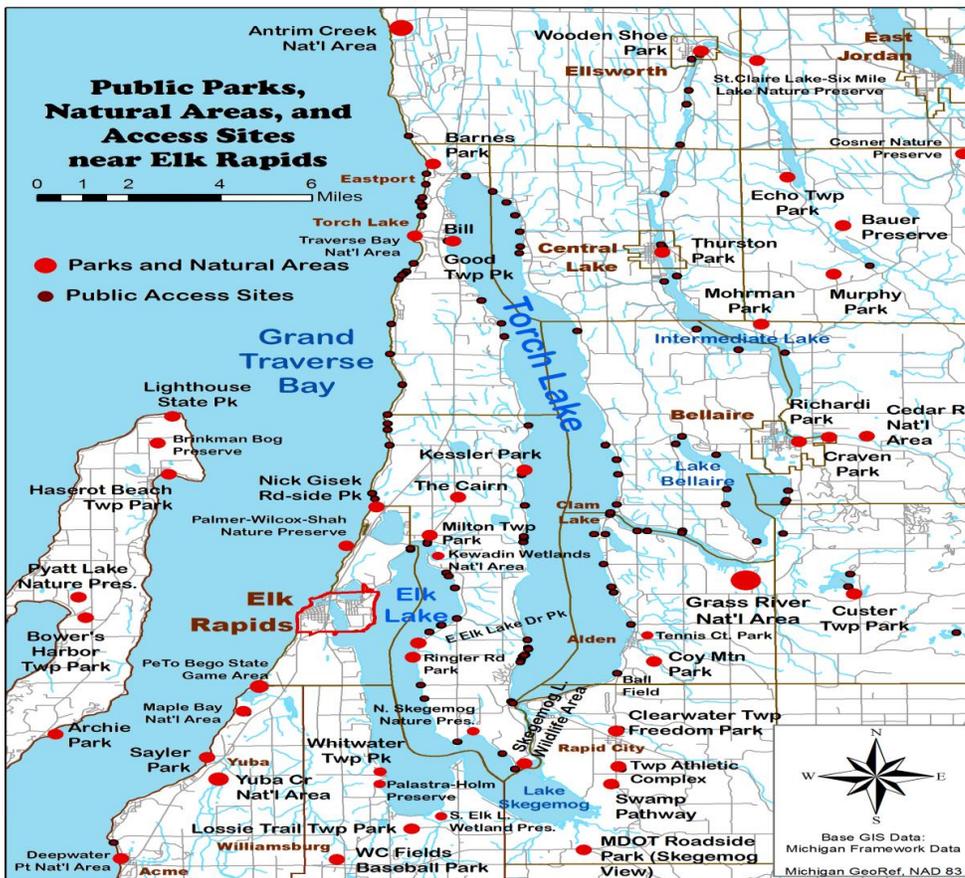
Elk Rapids Schools



Our public schools have a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, including a gymnasium, tennis courts, soccer and football fields and a track. The schools and Village often collaborate regarding mutual use of such facilities. For example, the High School allows area residents to walk the halls, as a recreational exercise pursuit, from time to time.

Regional Recreation Assets

Elk Rapids has many opportunities for area recreation. A few are highlighted in the following chart:



- Wilcox-Palmer-Shah Nature Preserve
- Milton Township Parks
- Petobego Natural Area
- Maple Bay Conservation Area
- Barnes Park
- TART Trail

Parks and Recreation near Elk Rapids

Wilcox-Palmer-Shah Nature Preserve



This 41 acre preserve, a part of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, is located approximately two miles north of Elk Rapids. There is a very short trail and boardwalk from the parking area to the expansive beach. (Photo: Dana Vannyo)

Milton Township Parks



The Cairn/Indian Road complex is located in Kewadin, four miles northeast of Elk Rapids. It has facilities for volleyball, soccer, track & field, baseball, basketball, and tennis. Other facilities include a playground, grill, pavilions and picnic area. (Photo: Tom Vranich)

The East Elk Lake Park, approximately seven miles from Elk Rapids, has lake access, pavilion and a picnic area.

Petobego Natural Area



The Petobego Natural Area is at the northwest corner of Whitewater Township, straddling Angell Road and encompasses a total of 250 acres. It is about five miles south of Elk Rapids. The dominant natural feature of the property is the 7,500 feet of Tobeco Creek that flows through the middle of the Natural Area and associated riparian wetlands, then empties into East Grand Traverse Bay. (Pond Photo: Dana Vannoy, Beach Photo: Lindy Bishop)



Maple Bay Conservation Area



Purchased by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Maple Bay, located about five miles south of Elk Rapids, has farm land and buildings as well as a wooded trail ending in an outstanding beach on East Grand Traverse Bay. (Photo: Dana Vannoy)

Barnes Park



Antrim County's Barnes Park is located on located on Grand Traverse Bay in Eastport, Michigan, 15 miles north of Elk Rapids. This park offers campsites nestled in the woods, a sandy beach. It is also excellent for hiking in the woods and riding bicycles.

TART Trail



TART Trail is coming soon to Elk Rapids

The 32 mile long TART Trail is a paved urban, non-motorized transportation corridor with an eastern end point at M-72 (Bates Road) in Acme Township, about 10 miles south of Elk Rapids, and a western end point at the M-22/M-72 intersection in Traverse City. The eastern trail section from M-72 to Lautner Road is two miles long, and then the trail leapfrogs to Bunker Hill Road and continues for 8.4 miles into Traverse City. At its western end the TART trail connects to the Leelanau Trail, which runs north to Suttons Bay.

Plans are underway to connect the northeast end of the existing TART trail to Elk Rapids and to continue the trail to the north, making the Village a compelling bicycle destination.

Accessibility Assessment

Over the winter of 2005/2006, Parks & Recreation evaluated barrier-free compliance status of all Village recreational facilities as part of the inventory process. The members based their evaluation on *Section 15 – Recreation Facilities, the Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Americans with Disabilities Act*, and used the ranking criteria suggested by DNR's *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*. The criteria are as follows:

Here are the rankings used in the assessment. The results of the compliance status survey are shown after.

Barrier-free Criteria

Rank	Interpretation
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
2	Some of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines.
3	Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines.
4	All the facilities/park meets accessibility guidelines.
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.



Bob Bassett

Barrier-free Path in Memorial Park

Barrier-free Assessment

Public Facility	Authority	Asset Type	Access	Associated Waterway
Antrim County Day Park	County	Park	1	Grand Traverse Bay
Arrowhead Gardens	Village	Garden	1	Elk River
Bass Lake Access	Village	Access Site	1	Bass Lake
Bass Lake Park	Village	Mini-park	1	Bass Lake
Beulah Morrison Memorial Garden	Village	Garden	4	Elk River
Bridge Street Access	Village	Boat launch	4	Elk River
Cedar Street Walkway	Village	Walkway	4	Elk River
Dam Beach and Fishing Park	Village	Park	2	Grand Traverse Bay
Dexter Street walkway	Village	Walkway	4	Elk River
Edward Grace Memorial Harbor	Village	Harbor	4	Grand Traverse Bay
Elk Lake Access – E. Third Street	Village	Access Site	3	Elk Lake
Elk Rapids Golf Course	Private	9-holes, open to public	3	Elk Lake
Elk River Access – E. Third Street	Village	Access Site	3	Elk River
Elk River Access – E. Fourth Street	Village	Access Site	1	Elk Lake
Elk River Access – Millers Park Road, North	Village	Access Site	1	Elk Lake
Elk River Access – Millers Park Road, South	Village	Access Site	1	Elk Lake
Elk River Access – U.S. 31	Village	Access Site	4	Elk Lake
Upper Harbor	Village	Harbor	2	Elk River
Veterans Memorial Park	Village	Park	4	Grand Traverse Bay

Prior Grants from DNR

The Village of Elk Rapids has received two grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), one in 1985 and the other in 1993. The 1985 grant funded improvements, including walkway, bollards, drainage, paved parking and landscaping for River Street Park (now Veterans Memorial Park). These

improvements were completed, and the park continues to be the well-maintained centerpiece of the Elk Rapids community. The 1993 grant also funded Memorial Park improvements and included repairing two tennis courts. These tennis courts continue to be maintained.

Note that, with no additional DNR funding, three of the courts were resurfaced in 2011, and the fourth court was transformed into a basketball court and a children's game court that many additional sports/play related activities. It is a popular area for young and old during all seasons of the year.

Chapter 4 Recreation Goals

The Village Parks & Recreation Commission has developed both general and specific recreation goals for the 2013 five-year plan.

General Goals and Objectives

The Parks & Recreation Commission has developed the following broad goals and objectives:

General Recreation Goals and Objectives

1. Maintain a Recreation Plan that protects and recognizes historical as well as natural resources, protects existing recreational opportunities as well as enhances and encourages the development of new recreational opportunities and establishes a recreational standard that revitalize and reinforce the qualities of Village recreation.
2. Meet the ever-changing needs and abilities of all residents and visitors by providing comprehensive, quality recreational activities and programming.
3. Promote and, where appropriate, preserve natural areas within the Village of Elk Rapids to enhance the region's environmental, aesthetic, and recreational qualities.
4. Encourage the redevelopment of existing recreational facilities and the development of facilities that are not available in the area and, where possible, provide universal access.
5. Provide trails and open space lands that serve link existing state, county, and municipal open spaces, as well as other trail networks, existing and planned, to facilitate a variety of recreation activities.
6. Encourage continuing cooperation between neighboring governmental entities and school districts.
7. Maintain and improve parks, facilities and equipment in an efficient and safe manner to provide continuous operation with minimal interruption of patrons, ensuring safe, clean and beautiful recreational areas. Continue working with the County in any efforts to increase the use of The County Day Park.
8. Encourage the development of winter sports, such as cross-country skiing.

Specific Recreation Goals and Objectives

The specific 2013 recreation goals of the Parks & Recreation Commission are:

1. To establish a non-motorized trail in and through Elk Rapids that also supports the Grand Vision Goals of better transportation systems in Northern Michigan.



Objectives

- Establish a connecting, non-motorized trail system south of the Village of Elk Rapids.
- Establish a connecting trail route through the Village.
- Establish a connecting, non-motorized trail system north of the Village.
- Work with entities along the trail to create a total biking experience.

2. Preserve the Dam Beach and Fishing Park as a natural conservation area for the term of the Antrim County lease for the benefit of the general public.



An accessible Dam Beach Park is a high priority.

Objectives

- Preserve scenic landscape and natural character of the area.
- Preserve the ecological habitat.
- Promote appropriate recreational activity such as swimming, fishing, volleyball, fire pit, and so on.
- Assist the Village in determining bathroom needs in the Dam Beach/Dexter Street area with meaningful public input.
- Make this park universally accessible to all to the fullest extent that is reasonable.
- Install signage and define swim area.
- Maintain road access for harbor maintenance, dredging and harbor operations.
- Promote education of the beach and sand dune environment.

3. Develop and support diverse recreational activities in the Village.

Objectives



- Increase diverse recreational usage in both high and low density areas of the Village park sites.
- Increase health awareness of benefits of physical activity.
- Increase public awareness of need to promote protection of water quality, clean beaches, shoreline maintenance, and preservation of trees/vegetation.
- Advise DPW on maintenance required for the parks.
- Evaluate opportunities to improve Rotary Park.
- Support the Harbor Commission as it works to enhance our local harbors.
- Evaluate opportunities to improve the Community Ice Rink.
- Work with the Antrim County Operator of Dams on dam restoration and integration into surrounding area.

Specific Harbor Commission Goals & Objectives

The Harbor Commission has these goals and objectives:

1. Protect the Lower Harbor.

Objective

- Change the harbor entrance to protect from north-west winds for boats entering and exiting and reduce cost of dredging.



Dana Vannoy

2. Improve the Upper Harbor Open Space (purchased by the Village with Harbor funds in 2011).

Objective

- Enhance and strengthen the downtown and surrounding areas to make them even better.

3. Promote all the goals of the Parks and Recreation Plan, especially those that support the universal-access kayak launch and storage.

Chapter 5 Action Plan

The 2013 Parks and Recreation Action Plan defines the actions of the Parks & Recreation Commission that support the goals described in the previous chapter.

Non-motorized Transportation

The following actions support the establishment of a non-motorized trail south, through and north of Elk Rapids, which also reflect Grand Vision Goals of better transportation systems in Northern Michigan.



1. Work with TART, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and Township officials (Elk Rapids, Whitewater and Acme Townships) to assist in the establishment of a non-motorized trail that connects Elk Rapids with the TART system to the south at M-72.
2. Engage in planning to establish and maintain a trail route through the Village of Elk Rapids.
3. Engage in planning to connect to a non-motorized trail system north of the Village.
4. Maintain a Parks & Recreation Commission representative as a liaison to the TART system, Land Conservancy and surrounding townships.
5. Conduct an annual community forum to keep the public informed on progress and to solicit input.
6. Work with stakeholders to seek funding through grants and donations, including the Antrim County Operator of Dams.
7. Place US Route 35 signs and *scenic alternative* signs at appropriate Village locations.
8. Work with the DDA and other organizations, as appropriate, to design and place wayfinding kiosks at designated locations.
9. Encourage the Village to maintain the street surface markings and other trail-related signage.



Non-motorized Trail Project



In the Elk Rapids area, the Elk Rapids Rotary Club took the initial lead on this project, commissioning NW Design Group, a consulting firm, to delineate alternative routes for a non-motorized trail that would join Elk Rapids with the Tart Trail currently under construction from Traverse City. The Parks & Recreation Commission will work with all participating organizations on this project.

Elk Rapids residents support such a trail, and the Village of Elk Rapids might provide logistical and institutional assistance to the various civic groups involved in making this trail system come true. Institutional support could come in the form of participating in joint, multi-local governmental unit Recreation Plans that will allow

future joint application for funding from relevant state and federal donors. The Antrim County Operator of Dams is also interested in participating.

Other forms of support could include grants and contributions for planning studies, design efforts, and other activities that would supplement activities of civic groups spearheading the non-motorized trail planning activities.

Alternative Route through Downtown

The Parks & Recreation will participate in future discussions in the Village about alternate routes through the Village that complement the designated TART trail route.

Trail Budget

Funding is proposed for Village signage, road surface markings maintenance and communications with the public and stakeholders. Funding is anticipated from the Village, civic groups, Michigan Department of Transportation, Rotary Charities, and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Private donations are also encouraged.

Preserve the Dam Beach and Fishing Park

The following actions support the preservation of the Dam Beach and Fishing Park as a natural conservation area for public benefit for the term of the lease.



1. Develop a management plan for preservation of the area for the term of the lease.
 - a. Bring stakeholders together to state what can and cannot be done in the area.
 - b. Enlist community support for plans, research and funding.
 - c. Prepare the plan.
2. Improve universal access to Dam Beach and Fishing Park.
3. Improve restroom facilities in this area.

Dam Beach and Fishing Park Project

Investigate options for universal access. Overall comfort will be improved with a proper restroom facility in the area. Some additional improvements to the parking lot might be considered.



Restroom Facility

The Parks & Recreation Commission will participate in upcoming Village planning to provide a modern restroom facility in the Dam Beach and Fishing Park/215 Dexter Street area.

Parking Lot Improvements

The Dam Beach and Fishing Park includes a parking lot that is located on land owned by Antrim County, but leased by the Village of Elk Rapids. For any re-study, the Parks & Recreation Commission, Harbor Commission and Downtown Development

Authority would likely collaborate on a plan that is in the best interests of the community. To be taken into consideration:



1. Role of the Hydroelectric Dam
2. New planning and paving ordinance, which supports pervious surfaces
3. Wetlands Ordinance under development

Diverse Recreational Goals

The following actions support the development and support of diverse recreation in the Village of Elk Rapids.

1. Develop programming for the Village. Possibilities:
 - Family Festival
 - Senior Olympics
 - International Festival
 - Summer Youth Program
2. Expand universal access capabilities on Elk River.
3. Support the Harbor Commission goals for the Elk Rapids harbors.
 - Maintain the existing harbors.
 - Expand the Lower Harbor.
 - Add more floating dock space in the Upper Harbor.
4. Support the Phase 2 upgrade of Rotary Park.
5. Support the Community Ice Rink.
6. Work with the Antrim County Operator of Dams to replace the chain-link fence on the upper side of the dam as well as integrating the dam into the TART Trails project.



Kayak Launch Dock and Storage Rack



A Kayak Launch Dock is being discussed for the Village. It would be accessible to people of all ages, sizes and abilities. Kayakers can use the sloping ramp and convenient side rails to transfer into a kayak or canoe and then safely push off into the water. Users can bring their own kayaks or canoes or possibly rent one at the dock. Locked storage racks will be considered for local residents and summer tourists. (Launch photo courtesy of EZ Dock, Storage photo courtesy of The Castle Group)



Phase 2 Upgrade of Rotary Park



The Parks & Recreation Commission is considering adding a full wall map of the Chain of Lakes, East Grand Traverse Bay and Elk Rapids on the outside north wall of the picnic pavilion. Ground-mounted photos and storyboards would feature corresponding numbers that correlate with the map. A walkway and viewing platform would allow visitors to study the map, photos and storyboards to learn more about our local history.

Elk Rapids Harbors

Our harbors provide outstanding opportunities for recreational boating. The Lower Harbor provides moorage on Grand Traverse Bay while the Upper Harbor has docks on Elk River, with access to the nearby Chain of Lakes. To achieve its goals, the Harbor Commission will continue to seek public input on a final plan and then research all funding opportunities to bring the goals into reality.

Harbor Action Items

1. In the next five years, get community support for the harbor expansion and development of the Upper Harbor Open Space.
2. Apply for development grants.



Lower Harbor Expansion

Courtesy of Village Harbor Commission



Existing Lower Harbor

Chapter 6 Planning and Public Input

Both planning and public input have been essential parts of setting goals and deriving an action plan by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Planning

The Parks & Recreation Commission decided in 2010 to conduct the planning process and write the resulting recreation plan in-house. Some discussion took place in 2012 to combine the Master Plan of the Village with the Community Recreation Plan, but it was decided not to combine the two in this cycle. Commission personnel conducted the public input session and oversaw the student surveys and writing of the report. Terry Miller of GRANTS*plus* was hired to assist with the writing of this five-year plan.

Also, the Parks & Recreation Commission and Planning Commission are working together to promote a better working relationship with Elk Rapids Township and Antrim County and to work with both to promote optimal usage of area parks.

Public Input

Parks & Recreation has sought and received extensive public input.



Public Input Session

*Sought
extensive
public input.*

A community forum (public input session), for the Community Recreation Plan, was held on September 13, 2012 at Government Center. It was facilitated by the Parks

and Recreation Commission. Approximately thirty people attended. Participants were divided up into five tables to brainstorm recreation goals for the Village of Elk Rapids. At the end of the brainstorming, each individual had an opportunity to state their three main goals. Then each group tallied the responses and compiled a list of three goals for their table. Each table then reported to the entire group the goals that were determined. The results from all five tables were tallied and the results were as follows:

1. The goal receiving the most votes was to extend the TART trail south to Acme Township and north to Charlevoix.
2. Receiving the second highest number of responses was the goal to preserve the Dam Beach in its natural state.
3. The third top vote getter was to provide diverse year around recreational activities.

These goals have been incorporated into the Community Recreation Plan. The notices for the public input session were posted at Government Center and were printed in the Elk Rapids News (local newspaper) on August 30, 2012, September 6, 2012 and September 13, 2012.

There was a second public input session for the draft recreation plan on February 25, 2013 at 7 p.m. Public input was received from Village Staff, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, Art Rapids, Friends of the Dam Beach and individual citizens. All comments are on file and were given consideration in the final review.

Observing that the majority of the participants for the public input session were adults, Parks & Recreation then sought input from the youth of the community. With the help of Rotary Charities, surveys were developed and put online. There were 109 responses from High School students and 287 responses from Middle School. A summary of the responses is included at the end of this document.

Additionally, written responses from the public were received and given consideration.

Any planning, zoning, or operational issues that the community faces now or in the future should take these areas into consideration, because each of them has very strong community support.

Upper Harbor Open Space Community Charette

To redevelop the Upper Harbor Open Space in a way that will enhance and strengthen the downtown and help to make it an even better *place*, the Village – with help from the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance and Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce – hosted a public *Charette* on September 12, 2011. Prior to the Charette, the community was given two opportunities to examine and explore the Upper Harbor Open Space on its own. During the Charette, the public actively participated in a process that led to the development and selection of two to three re-use concepts for the Upper Harbor Open Space.

TART Trail Public Input



In October 2010, the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Elk Rapids Rotary Club sponsored a public forum at Government Center to discuss a possible non-motorized trail in the Elk Rapids area. Approximately 90 citizens attended. Julie Clark, Director of TART, gave a brief update on the TART system and explained future plans, which included extending the current system north to Elk Rapids. Also a representative from the NW Design Group gave a brief presentation about possible routes.

Conclusions about TART Trail

1. There is very broad individual and business support for a non-motorized trail coming to and passing through Elk Rapids.
2. Where possible, the trail should connect existing nature areas and parks.
3. The trail should be designed for multiple uses, such as walking, biking and jogging.
4. The trail should be off the main highways as much as possible.

***Elk Rapids is
on U.S. Bike
Route 35.***

In November 2012, representatives of the Downtown Development Authority, Harbor Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Rotary Club of Elk Rapids, Village staff and TART met to discuss possible bike routes through the Village as well as signage and infrastructure issues. This group agreed that U.S. Route 35, which is currently used by the biking community, is the preferred route, with a possible *scenic alternative* loop around town.

Summary of Public Comments

Five Year Community Recreation Plan

Summary of Comments from Feb.25, 2013 Public Input Session

And

Summary of Comments from 30 Day Public Comment Period

The Village Council had a special Council meeting on February 25, 2013 at 7pm for the purpose of receiving public input on the Community Recreation Plan. There were approximately twenty individuals who attended this session. The first speaker presented a slideshow on the Dam Beach and Fishing Park and suggested that the Friends of the Dam Beach be listed as a stakeholder in the rec plan as the mission of the group is to educate, preserve and provide passive recreation in the area. Several additional speakers spoke on the need to preserve the Dam Beach and Fishing Park and protect the environment in that area. Another speaker who was a member of the Friends of the Dam Beach offered to donate the money necessary to hire a management consultant to write the management plan for the Dam Beach area, which would define permitted and restricted uses. Another speaker spoke about the fact that there has been a twenty year effort to preserve the Dam Beach and Fishing Park and would like to see a defined swimming area to keep the swimmers safe from boater traffic in the area. A teacher from the Elk Rapids School system spoke about keeping the Dam Beach area preserved to provide and opportunity for outside educational purposes to teach stewardship. Several speakers spoke about the need for more diverse recreational activities such as the TART trail extension and a universal kayak launch and a storage facility for kayaks near the water. A community member spoke about Chris Grobbel of Grobbel Environmental and Planning Associates, as being very well qualified to write a Management Plan for the Dam Beach and Fishing Park and also how the Dam Beach area is especially appealing to young people. Another speaker addressed the need for a pool and swimming lessons for our young people. The public hearing was closed at 7:45pm.

Other Public Comment:

Comment was received from the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments and from the Village of Elk Rapids. This comment was on grammar and guidance on wording and areas in need of embellishment or additional information. These ideas were incorporated in the plan. Elk Rapids made several suggestions that were incorporated in the report regarding the Elk Rapids Day Park which is operated by Antrim County but is located within the Village limits. Comments were also received on the Veterans Memorial Park and how individuals would like it to be developed in the future. A dog park was also suggested and this idea was recognized as one needing further discussion and was not included in the plan. A list of 23 signers was presented to the Commission asking for preservation and a management plan for the Dam Beach and Fishing Park area.

Summary of Student Responses to Survey

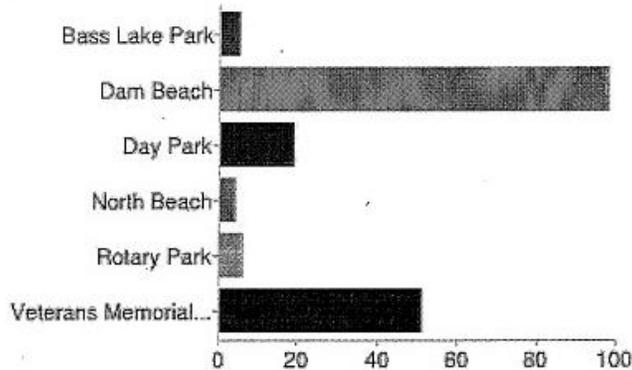
Summaries from Elk Rapids High School and Cherryland Middle School are provided on the next several pages.

Elk Rapids High School

126 responses

Summary [See complete responses](#)

Which park(s) do you most often visit?



Bass Lake Park	5	4%
Dam Beach	98	78%
Day Park	19	15%
North Beach	4	3%
Rotary Park	6	5%
Veterans Memorial Park	51	40%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

What is your favorite activity when visiting area parks?

Swimming, relaxing, and hanging out. Swimming and having bonfires Swimming and having bonfires Fishing Swimming, tanning Swimming, tanning Sittings around and enjoying the view Sittings around and enjoying ...

What is your favorite activity in the Spring when visiting area parks?

Taking pictures and playing tennis. Bonfires and picnics Bonfires and picnics Fishing Beach walks Beach walks I don't visit parks in the spring I don't visit parks in the spring Looking around at the changi ...

What is your favorite activity in the Summer when visiting area parks?

Swimming with my family and friends, and biking. Swimming and picnics Swimming and picnics Fishing/Swimming Swimming, boating, being with family Swimming, boating, being with family Swimming Swimmi ...

What is your favorite activity in the Fall when visiting area parks?

Taking a walk to look at all the pretty colors of leaves. Bonfires and picnics Bonfires and picnics Fishing Dog walking Dog walking Watching the leaves Watching the leaves Looking at leaves Playground Hang iu ...

What is your favorite activity in the Winter when visiting area parks?

I normally don't visit in the winter, but I love winter pictures and love taking them. I do not visit parks in the winter I do not visit parks in the winter Fishing I don't visit the parks in the winter ...

What would you like to see offered in the Fall by the Village, in regards to parks and recreation, that is not currently offered.

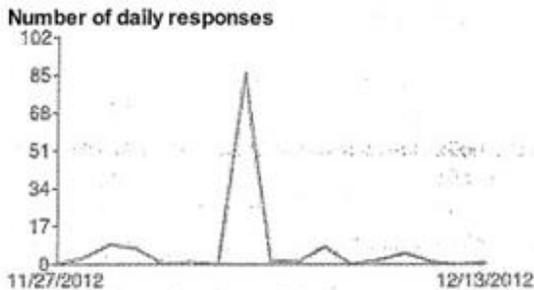
Fish Cleaning Stations Nothing Nothing Same Sidewalks to walk
 further Nothing Candy I don't visit parks really so I have no input Idk Football post Football
 post Idk Making largest mound of leaves contest Making ...

What would you like to see offered in the Winter by the Village, in regards to parks and recreation, that is not currently offered.

Fish Cleaning Stations Maybe.....idk Maybe.....idk Same Ice
 rink Nothing SnowCone I don't visit parks really so I have no input Idk Ice skating rink Ice
 skating rink Idk Snow days Snow days Idk There is nothin ...

Any additional comments related to parks and recreation activities in the Village of Elk Rapids?

Great job thus far! I like all the parks in elk rapids I like all the parks in elk
 rapids Nope No Nothing No Idk None None Idk Nothing Nothing Idk No, not
 really. No, not really. No, not really. No Nope Nope Nope Nothin ...



Cherryland Middle School

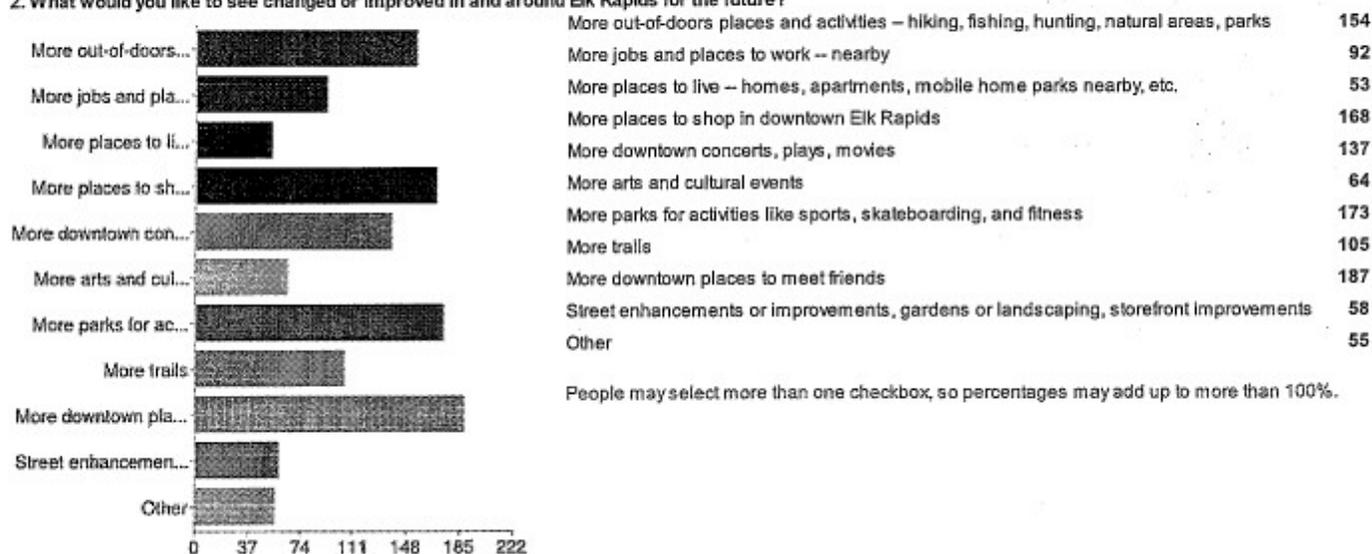
287 responses

Summary [See complete responses](#)

1. Community gathering places or potential community gathering places already identified by students include: An Elk Rapids Ice Rink and The Woods next to the Playground.

Memorial Park because it has basketball courts. I always go and look at the chute because it's cool. The shoot, Memorial Park, the theater. I hang out there because it's fun. I don't hang out anywhere in the Elk Rapids Community besides going to school or to the homecoming game. I go to the library because there are many different books to choose from and borrow, and also Memorial Park, because it is pretty and a good spot to run around or hang out. Memorial Park, because it's a good place to run around with your friends, swim, or just hang out and relax. I would want an ice rink in Elk Rapids. I ...

2. What would you like to see changed or improved in and around Elk Rapids for the future?

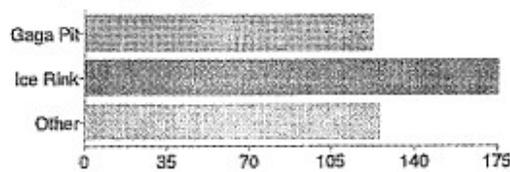


11/19/12

Edit form - [Placemaking in Elk Rapids] - Google Docs



3. What are your interests? For example, it could be sports (such as Basketball, Tennis, Hockey, Frisbee golf, Gaga ball), or arts activities (like drama, music, painting). Below are some interests' students have identified as lacking in the Elk Rapids community.



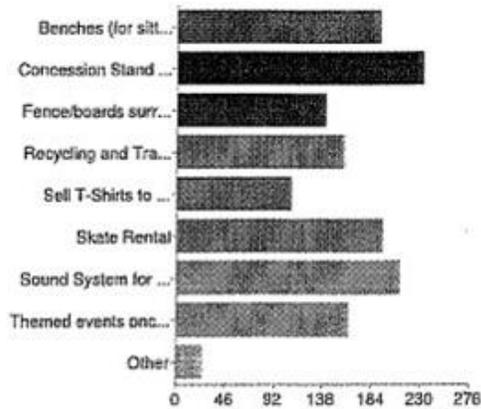
Gaga Pit	122	43%
Ice Rink	175	61%
Other	125	44%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

4. Listed below are potential projects students in the Placemaking In-School Club have already identified for an Elk Rapids Ice Rink.

Benches (for sitting and to put on ice skates)	192	67%
Concession Stand (food and hot drinks)	232	81%
Fence/boards surrounding the Ice Rink	141	49%
Recycling and Trash Cans	158	55%
Sell T-Shirts to promote Ice Rink and Events	108	38%
Skate Rental	194	68%
Sound System for music to skate to	210	73%
Themed events once-a-week or once-a-month	162	56%
Other	24	8%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.



5. Listed below are potential projects students in the Placemaking In-School Club have already identified for The Woods next to the Playground.



Cleanup The Woods next to the Playground	142	49%
A Donation box	88	31%
Entrance with signage	72	25%
Gaga Pit	139	48%
Places to sit (Lawn chairs, Picnic tables, other seating arrangements)	181	63%
Teepee	108	38%
Tire Swing	165	57%
Trails into the space	138	48%
Trampoline	205	71%
Other	27	9%

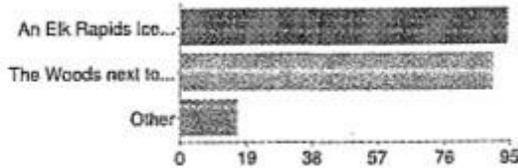
People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

6. Any other additional places where projects could occur.

Disc Golf Ice skating, or roller blading. Maybe a hang out spot just for older kids I don't know of any other places than next to the playground where projects could occur. You could put a project by the Elk Rapids Harbor. We could put like a little kid water playground. I think there could be downtown but I do not know where. Or within walking distance from the school. I think you have covered all the places I would think needs to be upgraded. Other than what was stated, I cannot think of any other places that may need projects. Maybe adding some basketballs to put at the basketball courts in Elk ...

7. We can't do it alone. Sixth graders: Alexis Coy, Silas Coates, Kira Gauthier, Emily Huhta, Kiki Stevens, Seventh graders: Lexi Bean, Anthony Chang, Jordan Kovach, Seanna Warren, and Eighth graders: Megan Clem, Victoria Garrow, Jenna Thomas are all participating in the Placemaking In-School Club working on creating and improving places in the Elk Rapids community. Let us know if you can help, too.

An Elk Rapids ice Rink	94	63%
The Woods next to the Playground	90	60%
Other	16	11%



People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

Plan Development Staff

The Parks & Recreation Commission was responsible for the planning, design, and implementation of the planning process. The Village Manager served as staff liaison to the Village office. The Village Clerk and the Village Treasurer provided technical and logistical support in the preparation of the plan documents. The Village Zoning Administrator, distributed drafts of the plan document sections to the Planning Commission for comment. The Elk Rapids Village Harbormaster represented the Harbor Commission at various Parks & Recreation Commission meetings and provided invaluable input during the planning process.

Appendix

Several pieces of important, required information are provided here.

Notice of Availability of Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

January 24, 2013

VILLAGE OF ELK RAPIDS

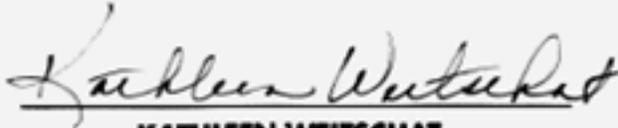
ATTENTION VILLAGE RESIDENTS

A draft copy of the 2013 Community Recreation Plan, as updated by the Parks & Recreation Commission, is available for viewing at the Village Office, 315 Bridge St., Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm until Monday, February 25, 2013. The Plan can also be viewed at the Elk Rapids District Library, and viewed and/or downloaded at www.elkrapids.org (click on Parks & Recreation). Comments may be made at a Special Village Council meeting on February 25, 2013 prior to adoption of the plan. Written comments can be mailed to the Elk Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission, PO Box 398, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, faxed to 231-264-6337, or emailed to vlqclerk@elkrapids.org.

Kelly Isenhart
Village Deputy Clerk

Affidavit for Public Hearing on January 24

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION


KATHLEEN WEITSCHAT

being duly sworn, says that she is the publisher of the Elk Rapids News, L.L.C., a newspaper printed, published and circulated in said county and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; that annexed hereto is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date, or dates, to wit:

VILLAGE OF ELK RAPIDS
ATTENTION VILLAGE RESIDENTS
A draft copy of the 2013 Community Recreation Plan, as updated by the Parks & Recreation Commission, is available for viewing at the Village Office, 215 Bridge St., Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm until Monday, February 25, 2013. The Plan can also be viewed at the Elk Rapids District Library, and viewed and/or downloaded at www.elkrapids.com, 222 1/2th on Parks & Recreation). Comments may be made at a Special Village Council meeting on February 25, 2013 prior to adoption of the plan. Written comments can be mailed to the Elk Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission, PO Box 308, Elk Rapids, MI 49624, based to 227-364-6327, or emailed to rdickel@elkrapids.com
Betsy Berthier
Village Deputy Clerk

July 17 ER , 20__
Jan 24 , 2013
_____, 20__
_____, 20__
_____, 20__

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 20 day of JUNE A.D. 2013


Notary Public,

ROBERT E. FORD
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of Grand Traverse
My Commission Expires Sep. 11, 2017
Acting in the County of GRAND TRAVERSE

My commission expires:

Notice for Public Meeting

[Held after one month public review period and before plan adoption by governing body(ies)]

ATTENTION VILLAGE RESIDENTS

The 2013 Community Recreation Plan, as updated by the Parks & Recreation Commission, will be presented for adoption at a Special Village Council meeting held on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The Plan has been available for viewing at the Village Office, 315 Bridge St., Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm from January 25, 2013 through Monday, February 25, 2013. The Plan is also available for viewing at the Elk Rapids District Library, and at www.elkrapids.org (click on Parks & Recreation).

Citizens are encouraged to attend and present comments regarding the proposed Plan. Written comments can be mailed to the Elk Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission, PO Box 398, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, faxed to 231-264-6337, or emailed to vllgclerk@elkrapids.org.

Kelly Isenhardt
Village Deputy Clerk

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period

30 days

Date of Notice

February 14, 2013

Name of Newspaper

The Elk Rapids News

Affidavit of Publication on February 14

Kathleen Weitschat
KATHLEEN WEITSCHAT

being duly sworn, says that she is the publisher of the Elk Rapids News, L.L.C., a newspaper printed, published and circulated in said county and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; that annexed hereto is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date, or dates, to wit:

Parks & Rec, 20__
Feb 14, 2013
_____, 20__
_____, 20__
_____, 20__
_____, 20__

VILLAGE OF ELK RAPIDS

ATTENTION VILLAGE RESIDENTS

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Kelly Bentzer, Village Deputy Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 20 day of JUNE A.D. 2013

Robert E. Ford
Notary Public,

ROBERT E. FORD
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of Grand Traverse
My Commission Expires Sep. 11, 2017
Active in the County of Grand Traverse

Date of Public Meeting

February 25, 2013

Copy of Minutes from Public Meeting

The minutes from the public meeting are provided below.

SPECIAL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013 – 7 P.M.

COUNCIL MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT FOR HOLIDAYS

At 315 Bridge St. - Village Council Chambers - (231) 264-9274

(unless other locations are arranged for in advance)

PRESENT: VILLAGE PRESIDENT RESZKA; COUNCIL MEMBERS BRONKEMA, SCHULER, LEBLOND, JANISSE, BALL, MATTHEWS.

STAFF: VILLAGE MANAGER, M. PRICE; ASSISTANT MANAGER, M. SPENCE; DPW SUPERINTENDENT, S. BREECE.

ABSENT: NONE.

ALSO PRESENT: ANTRIM COUNTY COMMISSIONER, E. BOETCCHER; ANTRIM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, C. KOOP; INTERESTED CITIZENS (25).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: NONE.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: NONE.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY PARKS & RECREATION CHAIR – DIANNE RICHTER. Chairperson Richter thanked everyone in attendance for participating in the public input process for the Elk Rapids Community Recreation Plan. Richter provided background on the process of drafting the plan, and discussed multiple reasons why the public input process is important to the decision-making process.

A Public Hearing was opened at 7:11 p.m. to receive citizen input on the proposed Elk Rapids Community Recreation Plan. President Reszka provided his recollection of the drafting and public input processes for past community recreation plans, and how the attendance at this meeting compared positively with public input sessions for past plans. Manager Price provided Council with all written comments received to date. Verbal comments were received on the following topics:

- The Dam Beach and Fishing Park is important to multiple generations of Elk Rapids residents and should be protected as an invaluable natural area.

- Friends of the Dam Beach would like to donate funds for the hiring of a principal author and facilitator for a Dam Beach and Fishing Park Management Plan.
- Several comments made at previous public input sessions are not entirely reflected in the proposed recreation plan.
- The Dam Beach and Fishing Park should not be developed as a park in a similar fashion to Veterans Memorial Park.
- The Village should consider seeking grants outside the DNR to fund park improvements – including a kayak launch.
- Programming – including swimming lessons – should be offered at parks in the Village, and the Village should budget to fund these programs.
- Bathrooms and other facilities should be installed at the Dam Beach and Fishing Park, and the Village should budget to fund these improvements.
- The Village should consider constructing a public swimming pool.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

Councilmember Janisse stated that he would like more information about the Friends of the Dam Beach group, particularly contact information for their spokesperson. Janisse said this will help the Village understand who is making comments and requests, and will improve communication between the group and the Village. President Reszka followed up with questions about the Friends of the Dam Beach offer to donate funds to hire a professional to author and facilitate a Dam Beach and Fishing Park Management Plan. Reszka stated that any donation would need to follow the Village donation policy and should first be presented formally to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The next regular council meeting will be held Monday, March 4, 2013, at 7 p.m.

MOTION by **SCHULER**, second by **MATTHEWS**, to adjourn at 8 p.m. All members present voting yes.
MOTION CARRIED.

Michael Spence, Assistant Manager

Upper Harbor Open Space Charette Outline

Grant Agreement Appendix A Attachment A

Elk Rapids 215 Dexter St. Site Re-use Charette Outline 9/12/11

- I. The concept of "Placemaking"
 - a. What is "Placemaking"?
 - b. Principles for creating great community places
 - c. Key qualities of a successful "place"
 - d. The "Power of 10"

- II. Overall "goals" and "limitations" of re-developing the site
 - a. Overall "goal" of this project is to re-use the site in such a way as to make downtown Elk Rapids a better "place" for the entire community.
 - b. "Limitations" of re-developing the site (see attached list, next page):
 - i. Marina's plans for putting in docks, sidewalk, water and elec.
 - ii. Location, shape, size, etc. of the site and existing buildings
 - iii. If the site re-use isn't something directly related to the Harbor Commission, the costs to develop and maintain the site will have to be borne by some other entity. They would have to have the capacity to do this. Private development must have money upfront.
 - iv. Zoning restrictions
 - v. Water and sewer restrictions
 - vi. Environmental Study results apply.

- III. "Items to Consider" and examples from other communities
 - a. Go over "Items to Consider" list (below). Participants should keep these items in mind when proposing "concepts".
 - b. Show examples of re-development projects from other communities

- IV. **"Structural and Use Concepts"** for re-development of site
 - a. Solicit re-use "concepts" from participants
 - i. Split into groups.
 - ii. Give each table a handout of the site to draw "Structural and Use Concepts" on. (show example of concept)
 - iii. Any "Structural and Use Concept" can be considered at this point, but each table can only report back on 1 or 2 general "Structural and Use concepts" with options that can be considered within the total "overall concept".
 - iv. Each table reports out their "Structural and Use concept and options"

Plan Approval by Parks and Recreation Commission

**Village of Elk Rapids
Parks and Recreation Commission
Commission Approval and Recommendation of Recreation Master Plan**

- WHEREAS:** The Village of Elk Rapids Parks and Recreation Commission has been commissioned to develop a Recreation Master Plan for the Village of Elk Rapids, and
- WHEREAS:** The Recreation Master Plan has been prepared after considerable public recommendations and comment, and
- WHEREAS:** The Parks and Recreation Commission of the Village of Elk Rapids held a public input session on September 13, 2012 on the proposed Recreation Master Plan and has considered public comment, therefore
- BE IT RESOLVED:** The Village of Elk Rapids Parks and Recreation Commission recommends approval of the Recreation Master Plan as a general planning document of the Village of Elk Rapids.

YAYS: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1

I, Dianne Richter, acting as Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted and approved at the Regular Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting held on April 4, 2013.

Dianne M Richter

Plan Approval by Council

RESOLUTION 13-62

COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN APPROVAL

Whereas: The Elk Rapids Village Council has undertaken a Community Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2013 and 2017, and

Whereas: A public comment session was held February 25, 2013 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Community Recreation Plan, and

Therefore,
Be it resolved: The Elk Rapids Village Council hereby adopts the Elk Rapids Community Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Elk Rapids.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

I, Michael Spence, Assistant Manager, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Elk Rapids Village Council at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 3rd day of June 2013.



Michael Spence
Elk Rapids Assistant Manager

Plan Sent to Antrim County



Village of Elk Rapids

315 Bridge Street
P.O. Box 398
Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0398

Phone: 231-264-9274
Fax: 231-264-6337

July 10, 2013

Mr. Joe Meyers, Associate Planner
Antrim County Coordinator/Planner Office
P.O. Box 187
Bellaire, MI 49615

Dear Mr. Meyers:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Village of Elk Rapids Community Recreation Plan. The Plan was formally adopted by the Elk Rapids Village Council at their meeting of June 3, 2013.

We invite you and your colleagues in the Coordinator-Planner Office and the County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to peruse the document. The document is also available for viewing and/or downloading at: www.elkrapids.org.

If you have any comments or questions on the document, please feel free to contact us at the Village. Also, per request by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), please forward a copy of your comments, if any, to: Ms. Linda Hegstrom, Grants Management, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, PO Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

Sincerely,

Marcia Price
Village Manager

Encl.

Plan Sent to NWMCOG (Regional)

315 Bridge Street
P.O. Box 398
Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0398



Village of Elk Rapids

Phone: 231-264-9274
Fax: 231-264-6337

July 10, 2013

Mr. Mathias McCauley, Regional Planning Director
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
PO Box 506
Traverse City, MI 49684

Dear Mr. McCauley:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Village of Elk Rapids Community Recreation Plan. The Plan was formally adopted by the Elk Rapids Village Council at their meeting on June 3, 2013.

We invite you and your colleagues at NWMCOG to peruse the document. The document is also available for viewing and/or downloading at www.elkrapids.com.

If you have any comments or questions on the document, please feel free to contact us at the Village. Also, per request by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), please forward a copy of your comments, if any, to Ms. Linda Hegstrom, Grants Management, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, PO Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

Sincerely,

Marcia Price
Village Manager

Encl.

Checklist

APPENDIX H. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: Five Year Community Recreation Plan - Village of Elk Rapids		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Village of Elk Rapids	Antrim	June 2013

PLAN CONTENT
INSTRUCTIONS: Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of <input type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RECREATION INVENTORY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
 - Date of the Notice January 24, 2013
 - Type of Notice Newspaper - Elk Rapids News; website
 - Plan Location Village Office, Public Library, Village website
 - Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 33 days
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
 - Date of Notice February 14, 2013
 - Name of Newspaper Elk Rapids News
 - Date of Meeting February 25, 2013
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: June 3, 2013
- 2. Official resolution of the Parks & Recreation Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: April 4, 2013
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: July 10, 2013
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: July 10, 2013

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Village of Elk Rapids

(Local Unit of Government)

includes the required content, as indicated

above and as set forth by the DNR.



7/11/13

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING, MI 48909-7925

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

Date

By:

Grants Management

Date