



# ***MORTON TOWNSHIP***

## ***RECREATION PLAN***





# MORTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

## 2025-2029

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## Introduction

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In 2010, Morton Township developed its first Recreation Plan to emphasize the importance of recreation to the township's quality of life. That plan represented the ideas of the township's officials and residents through meetings and an "Issue Identification" Workshop. The original process was a combined effort of the Township Board, interested citizens, and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. The development of this Recreation Plan is a combined effort of the Township Board, interested citizens, Morton Township Recreation Committee and some content from the original plan created by the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. This plan also included assistance from ROWE Professional Services Company.

The Action Program provides a schedule for completing a number of improvements. The township should strive to follow the established schedule but should consider the schedule a "living guide" since funding opportunities and other events may not always mesh with the schedule. The integrity of the plan will not be compromised if actions are rescheduled during the five-year planning period. Finally, this plan should be a working document that is frequently used for guidance and updated if necessary.

The plan looks ahead for a five (5) -year period from 2025 through December 31, 2029.

Accomplishments since the last plan prepared in 2017 include the following:

- Morton Township has created a Recreation Committee which meets on a regular basis.
- The township developed walking trails on 40 acres of township property adjacent to its business park called the Pine Grove Trail. This canvas of pine trees has nearly 3 miles of trails carved throughout it and can be enjoyed in all seasons.
- The township took possession of 15 acres of property from CSX Railroads that was an abandoned railroad track. This has been developed into a non-motorized trail. The trail runs from Franklin Street west to 80th Avenue and has 0.7 miles of crushed limestone path available for walking, biking, and other similar activities. In 2023, the township purchased over 30 acres of land adjacent to the 21 acres also owned by the township.
- Morton Township participates annually in the Muskegon River Watershed Trash Bash to clean up the Little Muskegon River by removing brush, trash, and other debris.
- Morton Township has supported 30+ miles of bike lanes that have been created from Morton Township to Big Rapids and from Morton Township to Stanwood, both connecting to the 92 miles of the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park.

## Community Description

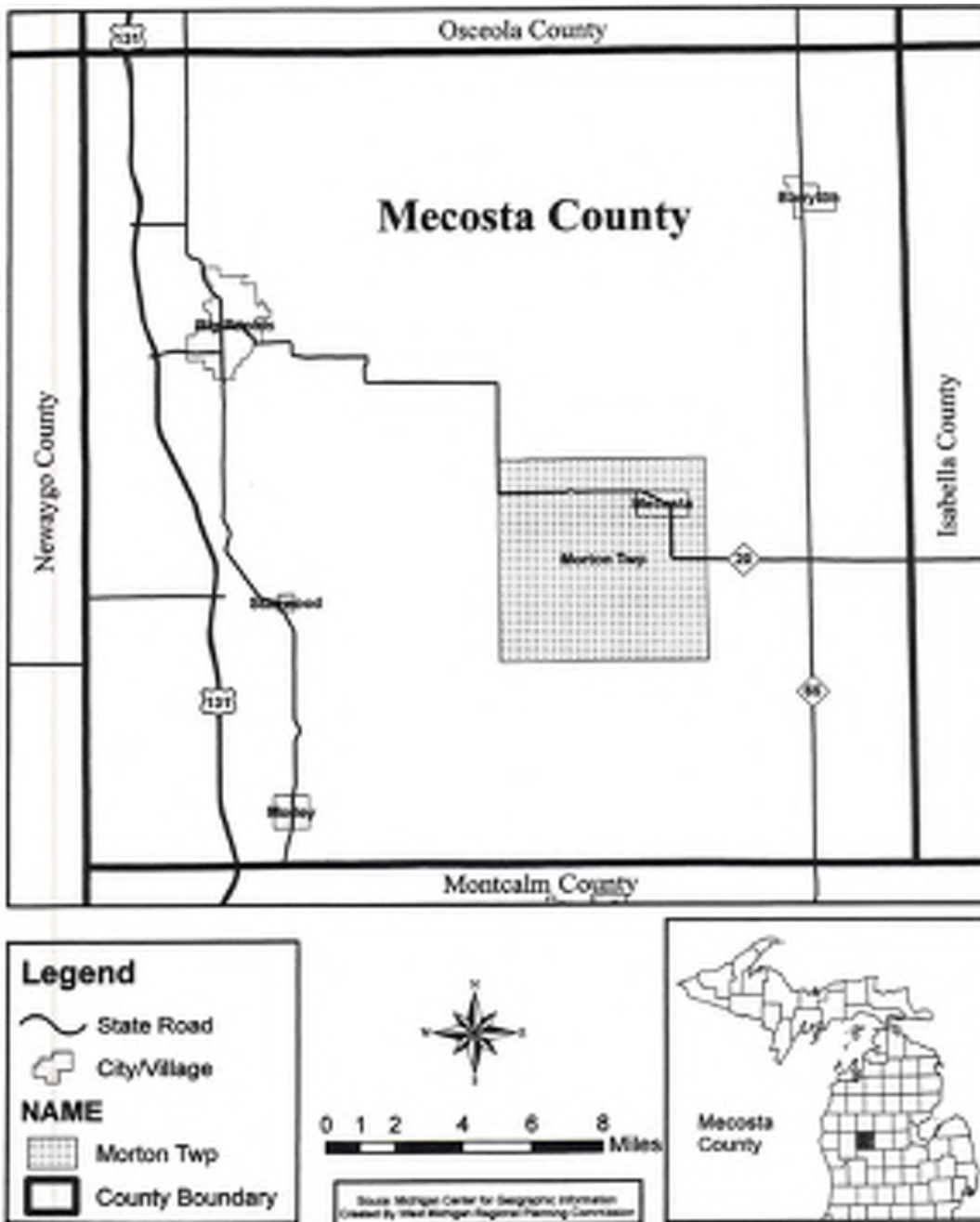
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The township is located in central Mecosta County (Map 1).

The plan focuses on providing recreation opportunities to residents of Morton Township and the Village of Mecosta, which is surrounded by the township, through the acquisition, development, and maintenance of community-owned parks. While the primary focus is on providing residents of the township with recreation opportunities, developing a Township Park system will benefit Morton Township, the Village of Mecosta, adjoining townships, schools, and visitors to the area.

Supplemental information describing the area's physical and social features is included in Appendix A: Community Description Supplemental Information from 2016 plan and draft update.

Map 1: Morton Township Location Map



West Michigan Regional Planning Commission

## Administrative Structure

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### Township Board

The township's residents are the final authority since they elect the Township Board, which must approve any expenditures. Morton Township's recreation-related planning activities are undertaken by the Township Board, which is listed below:

- Mark Klumpp, Supervisor
- Camie Courtright-Clerk
- Tracy Snyder, Treasurer
- Jeff Ratledge, Trustee
- Yulanda Bellingar, Trustee

### School District

The township is served by Chippewa Hills School District.

### Mecosta County

Mecosta County maintains seven (7) parks, one of which is in Morton Township (see Recreation Inventory).

### Staff and Volunteers

Volunteers include the Recreation Committee as well as others throughout the township. Martiny Township has a representative on the Recreation Committee.

### Budget Information

Table 1: Summary of Budgeted Revenues and Expenses for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

<b>Revenues</b>	
Property Tax	\$450,000
Property Tax Penalties	\$2,000
Summer Tax Collection	\$18,000
Trailer Tax	\$750
Property Tax Admin Fee	\$115,000
Special Assessment Valley Court	\$6,000
Cable TV Franchise Fee	\$50,000
Zoning Permit Fees	\$1,600
Land Division Permit Fees	\$100
Metro Act/Right of Way Payment	\$16,000
Local Community Stabilization Share Tax	\$7,000
State Revenue Sharing	\$435,000
Interest	\$20,000
Sale of Assets	\$0
Recycling Donations	\$20,000
Other Revenue	\$3,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,144,650</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Township Board	\$329,450
Supervisor	\$39,500

Elections	\$29,900
Assessor	\$95,100
Clerk	\$68,600
Board of Review	\$2,500
Treasurer	\$64,000
Data Processing	\$27,000
Town Hall	\$30,750
Business Park	\$2,000
Cemetery	\$3,600
Planning/Zoning Commission	\$46,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$2,000
Highway Department	\$207,100
Recycle/Clean Up Day	\$62,400
Economic Development	\$11,000
Parks & Recreation	\$25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,045,900</b>

Table 1 identifies the current general budget information related to Morton Township (source). The township has several categories of expenditures and revenues, and this list provides a summary related to the township's budget for the fiscal year 2024/2025. Morton Township currently has three (3) parks, The Morton Township River Access Park, located at 9920 Seven Mile Road, Stanwood, MI 49346, is 0.9 acres. The Pine Grove Park, located off Midstate Drive, which provides opportunities for walking, hiking and winter sports (40 acres) and the White Pine Mecosta Loop Trail which connects the Village of Mecosta to the White Pine Trail communities including Stanwood, Rodney, Big Rapids, Tri-Lakes, Canadian Lakes, and School Section with 25 of 32 miles completed. The White Pine Mecosta Connector is a 15-acre park with 1 mile of non-motorized trail. The budget includes twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the maintenance of the parks.

There are additional categories that are not identified related to the Building Department, Fire and Rescue, the Library, and other categories.

**Recreation Inventory**

The recreation inventory provides a summary of facilities in the township and surrounding areas.

**Morton Township**

Unnamed Park was recently expanded to 51 acres, located on 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue adjacent to the Mecosta Connector Trail corridor. It is partly wooded and rolling topography adjacent to residential property.

7 Mile Road or River Access Park is 1 acre located at 9920 7 Mile Road and at the end of Little River Court, Stanwood, MI. The River Access Park provides launching for your canoe or kayak onto the Little Muskegon River. The River Park includes limited parking, a picnic table, a rain garden, and a launching dock with steps for easy access.

This river is an average of waist deep, depending on the time of the year and is a clear, clean river with a steady current to float. The next exit is about 2 hours down the river at 5 Mile Road at



Altona Park. From Altona Park, you can paddle another couple of hours to an area near Rustford. Here you can portage around the dam and paddle another couple of hours to Morley Mill Pond where you will find a parking lot, gas stations, and restaurants.

Pine Grove Park provides opportunities for walking, hiking, and winter sports (40 acres). It's located at the southwest end of Morton Township's Business Park on Nine Mile Road in the same site as the Township's Recycling Center. Road signs in both directions indicate where to turn at Mid-State Drive. You can see the park sign from Mid-State Drive within the park, with unpaved parking. This 40-acre canvas of pine trees has nearly 3 miles of unpaved trails.

The White Pine Mecosta Connector Trail connects the Village of Mecosta to the White Pine Communities Loop (15 acres). The trail surface is crushed aggregate. Morton Township has installed 4-foot bike lanes on many local road pavement projects at various locations (refer to Map 3: Morton Township Nonmotorized Map and Description). The trail heads west out of town to 80th Avenue, following the old CSX Railroad tracks and provides access to the 51 acre unnamed park. The ultimate township goal is to connect to the White Pine Trail in Big Rapids.

Bike lanes have also been created from School Section Lake County Park south to Buchanan Road and then west to the four-way stop light. A second connection to the White Pine Trail in Stanwood, will create a 33-mile loop between these two bike lanes and the White Pine Trail. In Stanwood, it will be only a 4-mile ride to connect to the Midwest recognized 47-mile International Mountain Biking Association sanctioned mountain bike trail, The Dragon, all on the back waters of the Muskegon River.

There are also Village of Mecosta, Mecosta County, and State of Michigan recreation facilities within the township that are accessible to township residents. The township is not responsible for maintaining or improving the other facilities. There are also private recreation facilities in the township's resort/residential developments that are available to residents of those developments.

### **Village of Mecosta**

The Village of Mecosta has two parks that serve a variety of functions in the community from active to passive recreation activities. There is also a public school in the village. Map 2 identifies the locations of each site as well as other recreation facilities in the Village and Morton Township.

**Bromley Park** - This 3-acre park is located in the village on the East Branch of the Little Muskegon River, which has a nice stream that passes through the township and village. The park has a picnic shelter and tables, sidewalks and paved pathways, a portable restroom, a water pump, paved parking, nice landscaping, a skateboard park, slides, a merry-go-round, spring toys, a jungle gym, sand wings. The park is in good condition and in a very central part of the village.

### **Other Facilities in Morton Township**

**Mecosta Elementary School** - This public school, located at 555 West Main Street, is a K-4 facility operated by the Chippewa Hills School District. There are also two (2) preschools housed at Mecosta Elementary that are operated by other organizations for local preschoolers. In addition to the traditional indoor facilities (classrooms, gymnasium/cafeteria, restrooms, etc.) the school has a number of outdoor facilities typical of an elementary school. Outdoor facilities include swings, climbing equipment, a merry-go-round, four basketball hoops, and game fields. There is paved parking, fencing, sidewalks, and signage. The overall condition of the almost 5-acre site is good. Facilities are generally available during non-school hours. In addition to the property the school is on, they own a 40-acre parcel just outside of the Village of Mecosta that is a school

forest property.

**Morton Township Hall** - The Morton Township Hall, located at 290 West Main Street, has indoor meeting space and a picnic table, available for use by the general public.

**Morton Township Canadian Lakes Fire/Rescue Station #1** - The Fire/Rescue Station is located at 8260 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Canadian Lakes, with meeting space and a kitchen available for use.

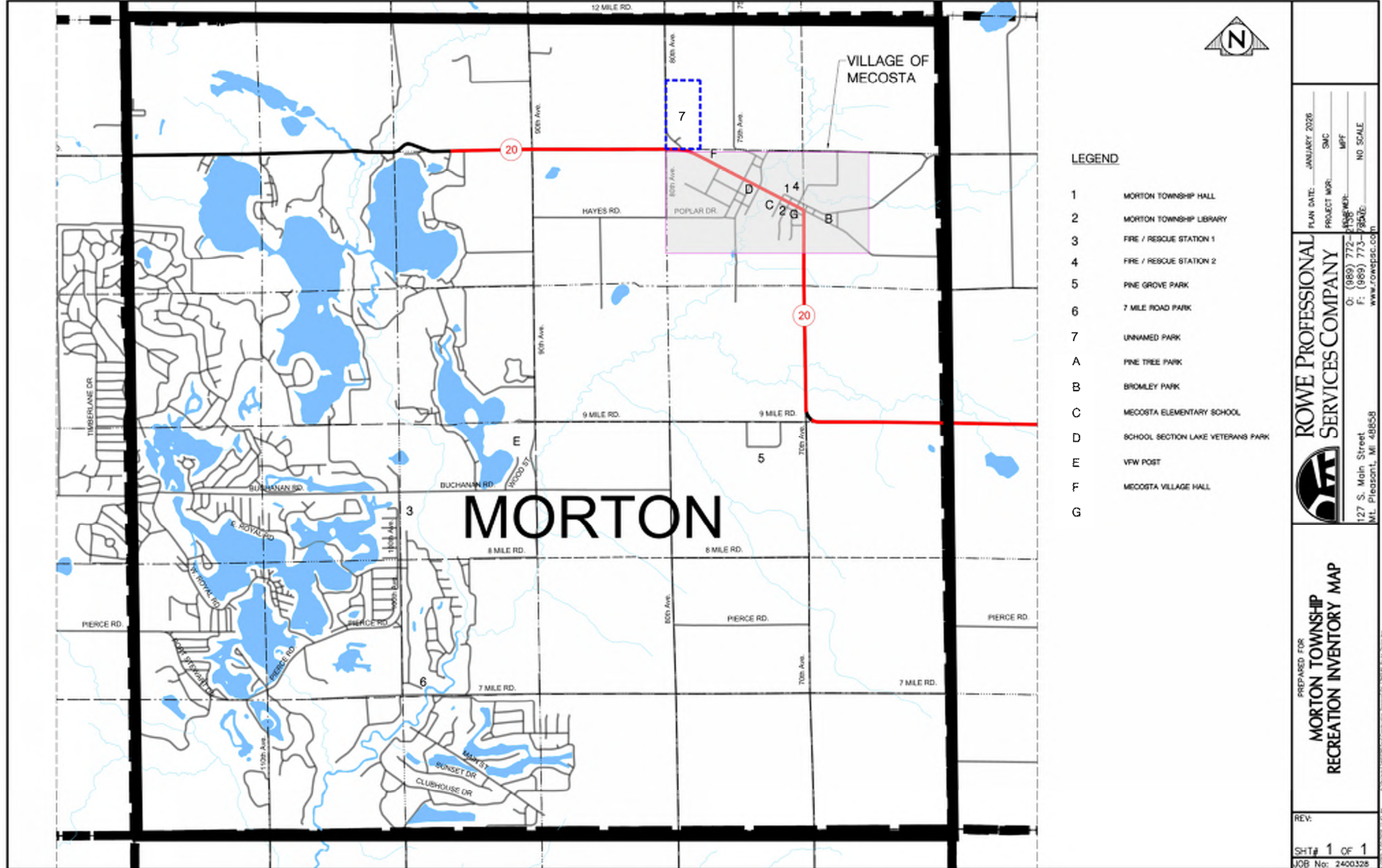
**Morton Township Canadian Lakes Fire/Rescue Station #2** - The Fire/Rescue Station is located at 290 W. Main Street, in Mecosta.

**Mecosta Village Hall** - The Mecosta Village Hall, located at 115 West Main Street, has no indoor meeting space available for use by the general public.

**Morton Township Library** - The library is located at 110 South James Street. The library is open Tuesday through Saturday and provides a wide variety of resources and programs. The library has meeting rooms and a community room available to the public.

**The Albert Shiffer VFW Post #2335** - The VFW Post is located at 1050 Main Street and has indoor meeting space available for use by the general public. It is on 4.59 acres in the Village of Mecosta. There are two baseball fields located behind the VFW Building.

Map 2: Morton Township Recreation Inventory Map









MORTON TOWNSHIP TWO BIKE LANE ROUTES TO THE WHITE PINE TRAIL – 40 TOTAL LOOP MILES

Old CSX Railroad Bed - Franklin St. northwest to 80<sup>th</sup> Ave. TOTAL 1.0 mile 2021 Construction (DONE)

SOUTH BIKE LANE TO STANWOOD – updated 5/19/22

M 20/80<sup>th</sup> Ave. west on M 20 to 90<sup>th</sup> Ave – shoulders widened to 4 feet. TOTAL 1.0 mile 2021 Construction (DONE)

M 20/90<sup>th</sup> Ave. south on 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 9 Mile Rd. – shoulders widened to 4 feet. TOTAL 2.0 miles 2021 Construction (DONE)

90<sup>th</sup> Ave./9 Mile Rd. south to Buchanan Rd. - .5 miles and 90<sup>th</sup> Ave./Buchanan Rd. west to Buchanan Rd./100<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ave. (4 way stop – shopping area) - 1.0 mile TOTAL 1.5 miles 2019 Construction (DONE)

Buchanan Rd./100<sup>th</sup> Ave. south on 100<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Fierce Rd. and then west to 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Morton/Austin Twp. boundary) shoulders widened to 4 feet. TOTAL 3.1 miles 2022 Construction (DONE)

120<sup>th</sup> Ave./Fierce Rd. to First St. (Stanwood) (White Pine Trail) TOTAL 6.1 miles

LENGTH OF SOUTH BIKE LANE – 13.9 Miles

NORTH BIKE LANE TO BIG RAPIDS – updated 12/28/23

M 20/South Ave. north to 80<sup>th</sup> Ave./13 Mile TOTAL 2.0 miles 2018 Construction (DONE)

South Ave./13 Mile Rd. north to 80<sup>th</sup> Ave./Cleveland Rd. and 80<sup>th</sup> Ave./Cleveland Rd. west to 80<sup>th</sup> Ave./14 Mile Rd. TOTAL 1.7 miles 2019 Construction (DONE)

80<sup>th</sup> Ave./14 Mile Rd. west on 14 Mile to 105<sup>th</sup> Ave. TOTAL 1.5 miles 2021 Construction (DONE)

105<sup>th</sup> Ave./14 Mile Rd. to 14 Mile/M 20 (Rodney) TOTAL 1.5 miles 2023 Construction (DONE)

14 Mile Rd./M 20 west to M 20/McKinley Rd. (Clear Lake) TOTAL 4.1 miles (crushed limestone) 2023 Construction (DONE)

M 20/McKinley Rd. north to four-way stop TOTAL .8 mile (crushed limestone) 2023 Construction (DONE)

M 20/157<sup>th</sup> Ave. north to 16 Mile Rd. TOTAL 1.1 miles

16 Mile Rd./157<sup>th</sup> Ave. west to 16 Mile Rd./180<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Big Rapids City Limits) TOTAL 2.9 mile Scheduled for 2025

16 Mile/180<sup>th</sup> Ave. west to 16 Mile/190<sup>th</sup> Ave. TOTAL 1.0 mile 2023 Construction (DONE)

LENGTH OF NORTH BIKE LANE – 15.7 Miles

TOTAL LENGTH OF BOTH BIKE LANES – 19.6 miles PLUS 9.1 miles of the White Pine Trail = 39 TOTAL MILES

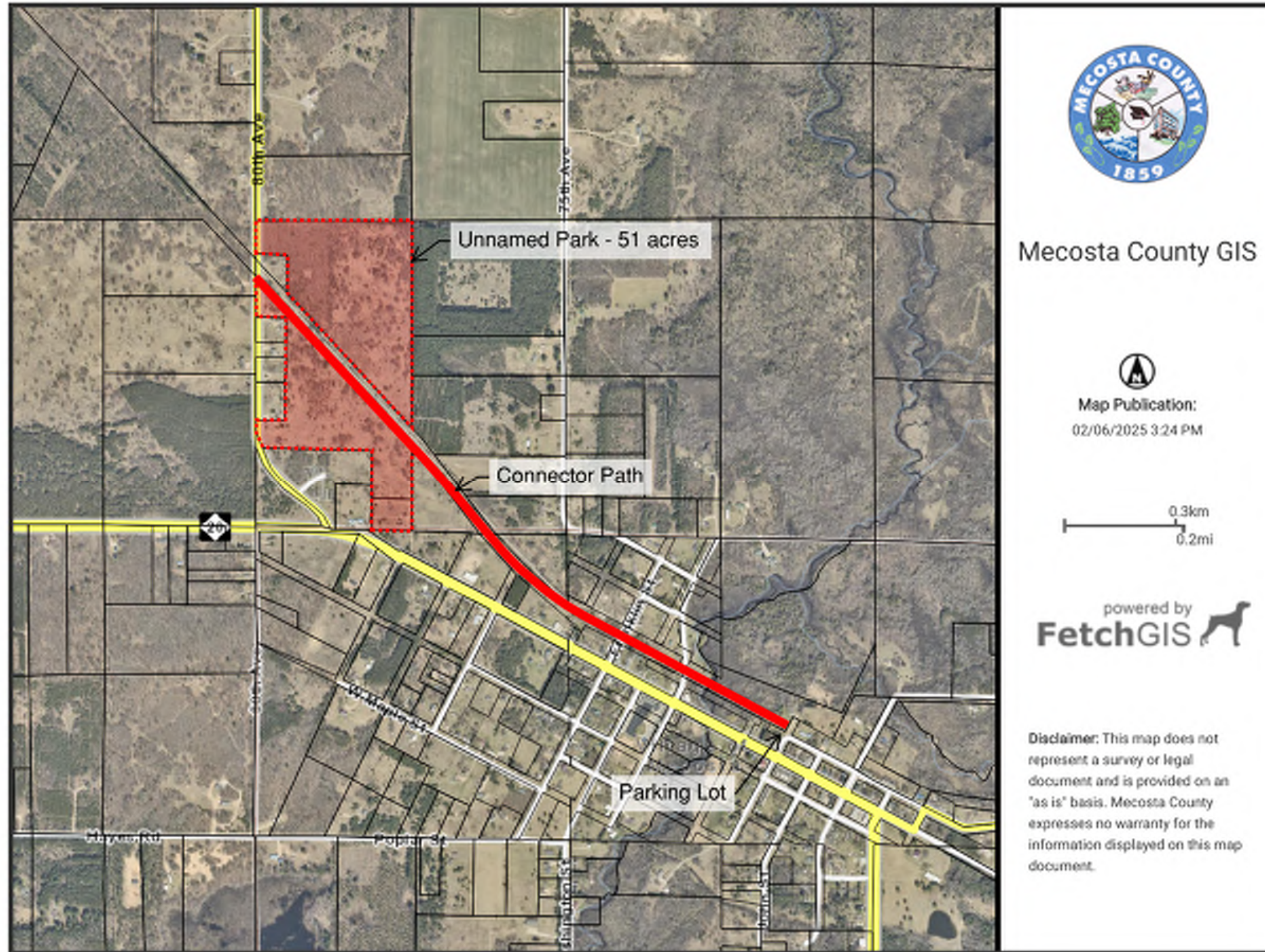
Total Miles of Bike Lane Constructed to Date – 20.4 miles

GRAND TOTAL of Constructed & (Planned) Miles – 31.5 miles (2.0 miles of 16 Mile in Colfax Twp.)

Miles left to Plan Construction – 6.1 miles in Austin Twp. + 1.0 mile in Colfax Twp.



Map 4: Morton Township Unnamed Park Location Map





## Mecosta County

Mecosta County maintains several parks and a senior center. Table 2 provides a brief description of the County's parks.

Table 2: Mecosta County Parks

Park	Location	Acreage	Picnic Facilities	Water Features	Active Play Areas	Other
Mecosta County Senior Citizens Center	Martiny Township	5	X		X	Senior Center
Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground	Martiny Township	7,660		X		Camping
Paris County Park	Green Township	40	X	X	X	Camping, Swimming
Merrill – Gorrell County Park	Fork Township	90	X	X	X	Camping, Swimming
<b>School Section Lake Veteran’s Park</b>	Morton Township	86	X	X	X	Camping, Swimming
This park, located in Morton Township, provides many opportunities for Township Residents. Cooperation between the township and county exists for providing recreation and the township is currently working with the County to develop the historic Little River School House at the Park for classroom re-enactment. Includes septic/sewers.						
Brower County Park	Mecosta Township	280	X	X	X	Camping, Swimming
Davis Bridge	Mecosta Township	20	X	X		Boat Launch
Haymarsh Lake Campground	Grant Township	6,737	X	X		2 Boat Launches
White Pine Valley Recreation	Green Township	200				Loop Trails

Source: Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Plan

Morton Township is currently working on the development of a 32-mile walk/hike/bike White Pine Mecosta Loop that will connect to the White Pine Trail in Stanwood to the south and Big Rapids to the north. As of 2024, 25 miles have been completed connecting Canadian Lakes, the Village of Mecosta, and Martiny Township.

## State of Michigan Facilities

**White Pine Trail** - This 92-mile rail-trail stretches from Comstock Park, in Kent County, to Cadillac, in Wexford County. The trail is currently open along most of its course and is paved.

**Newaygo State Park** – This 400 acre park overlooks the Hardy Dam Pond and borders the Manistee National Forest. The park offers an 18-hole disc golf course, boating access site, and two rustic campgrounds.

## State Game Areas

### Mecosta County

- Pere Marquette State Forest
- Haymarsh Lake State Game Area

### Boat Launch Sites

Mecosta County has 22 public Boat Launch sites (as per DNR) maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The list of sites follows:

- |                           |                          |                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Lake Mecosta           | 9. Brockway Lake         | 16. Bergess Lake        |
| 2. Rogers Pond            | 10. River Bend Bluffs    | 17. Tubbs Island SFCG   |
| 3. Chippewa Lake          | 11. Jehnsen Lake         | 18. Tubbs Lake SFCG     |
| 4. Haymarsh Lake Flooding | 12. Former Rustford Pond | 19. Browers Park Marina |
| 5. Pretty Lake            | 13. Lower Evans Lake     | 20. Paris Park          |
| 6. Townline Lake          | 14. Big Evans Lake       | 21. Alma Lake           |
| 7. Clear Lake             | 15. Winchester Dam       | 22. 131 Bridge          |
| 8. Hillsview Lake         |                          |                         |

### Campgrounds

In addition to State and County Campgrounds there are several privately operated campgrounds in Mecosta County. A summary of these facilities follows:

- Bluegill Lake Family Camping Resort, 15854 Pretty Lake Drive, Mecosta - 100 modern sites with fishing and hot showers.
- Mecosta Pines Campground, 550 South Talcott Street, Morley - 104 sites on Little Muskegon River.
- River Ridge Resort, 22265 8 Mile Road, Stanwood - A luxury RV resort with 231 sites and many amenities located on the all sports backwater of the Hardy Dam.
- Cran-Hill Ranch Family Campground, 14444 17 Mile Road, Rodney - 120 RV sites, 30 tent sites,

with playground, kayaking, hiking, fishing, biking, and canoeing.

- Shooltz's Landing, 16621 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mecosta - 55 sites on Martiny Lake.

### Public Golf Courses

Mecosta County has several public golf courses. A list of the courses follows:

- St. Ives Golf Resort, 9900 St. Ives Drive, Stanwood
- Tullymore Golf Course, 11969 Tullymore Drive, Stanwood
- Clear Lake Golf & Country Club, 14777 150th Avenue, Big Rapids
- Ferris State University Katke Golf Course, 1003 Perry Avenue, Big Rapids

## Description of Planning and Public Input Process

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The following identifies the steps used to develop a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Morton Township in accordance with guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

**Community Description** - This step includes two major sections. The first section describes the township's physical features. These features include location, climate, soils, natural features, wildlife, and a description of the transportation network. The second major portion of this step



describes the township's social features. This section describes the population and provides information about Mecosta County and Michigan for comparison. The plan analyzes past trends and projects the township's population. The plan includes population features including age and sex distribution; racial distribution; people with physical disabilities; types of households; employment; and income information.

**Recreation Inventory** - The township currently maintains three parks; additional parks and recreation facilities are identified on pages #-# and maps 2 and 3. Information includes acreage and types of recreation activities, types of equipment, an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses, surrounding land uses and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's recreation facilities. The inventory includes a description of County Parks and Michigan State Parks.

**Needs Analysis** - This step establishes the township's recreation issues. The township identified and ranked issues through various public engagement tools including:

- An on-line public survey conducted as part of a comprehensive master plan process that included specific questions related to parks (results are included in Appendix B: Public Input).
- A public open house/workshop was held to provide additional input (see Appendix B: Public Input). Top priorities on goals and objectives and emphasis on responses received from the on-line survey were indicated by voting stickers.
- Facilities were compared to recreation standards.
- The township also worked with the Township Board, Recreation Committee, and residents to identify issues and goals for the township.

**Action Program** - This step identifies what actions Morton Township will perform over the five-year planning period. The plan identifies actions in an easy-to-understand format that allow readers to understand each action. The Action Program also identifies where and when an action will occur; who will accomplish the action; how much the action will cost; and potential funding sources. The Action Plan includes a Basis for Action Program that identifies why each of the actions is a priority in Morton Township.

**Administrative Structure, Adoption** - This step includes describing how Morton Township administers recreation facilities and activities. This step also includes providing copies of the plan to Mecosta County and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission on \_\_\_\_\_. This step also includes a resolution adopting the plan on \_\_\_\_\_, a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, and forwarding the plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on \_\_\_\_\_. Documentation is included in Appendix C: Approval Documentation.

## Recreation Standards

One way for a community to determine if they are adequately serving the residents is to compare the existing facilities to standards. Table 3 provides some standards and compares the needs of Morton Township's population to these standards.

Table 3: Recreation Standards

Recreation Facility/Opportunity	Standard (units/ Population)	Required to Meet 2020 Population 4,426	Existing in Morton Township
Local Park Land (acres)	1/100	45	92
Ball Fields (a)	1/3,000	2	3
Outdoor Basketball Courts (a)	1/5,000	1	0
Outdoor Ice Rinks (b)	1/20,000	0	2
Picnic Tables (c)	1/200	23	80
Playgrounds (c)	1/3,000	2	5
Soccer Fields (a)	1/20,000	0	0
Outdoor Tennis Courts (a)	1/4,000	1	0
Boat Launches (parking) spaces)	1/400	11	21
Campsites (b)	1/150	30	167
Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles)	1/10,000	0	0
Fishing Access (feet)	1/1	4,500 (feet)	0
Hiking Trails (miles)	1/5,000	1	3
Swimming Beaches (public) (c)	1/25,000	1	1

Source: National Recreation and Park Association 2024

- a) Does not include school facilities.
- b) Includes private facilities.
- c) Includes County Park

## Accessibility Evaluation

The three township park facilities have limited development or are unimproved meeting the ranking of 1 below. 7 Mile Road or River Access Park and Pine Grove Park should include future ADA parking and accessible routes. The White Pine Mecosta Connector Trail and all designs for the development of parks and other facilities should incorporate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. This analysis was based on self-reporting and site visits by ROWE staff:

### Ranking Key

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals

## Status Report of Grant Assisted Parks

Morton Township has applied for one grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Land Acquisition Grant funding to purchase land on the little Muskegon River; but has never applied for a U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. The application for Michigan Natural Resources Land

Acquisition Grant was later withdrawn. Morton Township bought the 0.9 acres directly from the owner.

## **Issues, Goals, and Objectives**

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The following issues, goals, and objectives are key to the success of Morton Township's ability to provide recreation opportunities to its residents and visitors to the area. They are not listed in any order of priority.

**Issue #1** - Morton Township maintains three (3) recreation facilities in an area that is known for its recreation opportunities.

**Goal #1 - Improve recreation opportunities for Morton Township's residents and visitors by expanding coordination activities with the Mecosta County Park Commission, the Village of Mecosta, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Canadian Lakes Property Owners Corporation, Mecosta County Road Commission, Mid-Michigan Trail Alliance and other organizations, counties, and townships surrounding Morton Township.**

**Comments:** Morton Township has acquired a 51-acre parcel that needs a master plan to provide guidance on the development of facilities that are currently lacking in the area.

Morton Township can assist in identifying needs and making improvements to existing facilities located within the township but operated by other entities such as the Mecosta County Park Commission or the Village of Mecosta. The township has provided funds to the Village of Mecosta to build a skate park at Bromley Park and has worked with Mecosta County to rebuild the historic Little River Schoolhouse at School Section Lake Veteran's Memorial Park. Many of the township's residents live in private developments that offer their residents a variety of recreation facilities and activities and these should also be considered as part of the overall community but recognize that only a portion of the township's residents have regular access to the private facilities. This point should also be considered when applying for grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; many of the facilities that would be developed using the trust fund would provide facilities for residents that live outside of one of the private developments. Both Canadian Lakes and Tullymore increase the median household income for the entire township, which could impact the ability of the township to acquire a grant.

Pine Grove Trail is located at the south end of Morton's Township Business Park on Nine Mile Road. This 40-acre canvas of pine trees has nearly 3 miles of trails for walking, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing. The township should continue to look for opportunities to add property to this facility.

**Issue #2** - There is an opportunity to connect Morton Township to a statewide trail system for increased opportunities for non-motorized recreation, tourism and connectivity.

**Goal # 2 - To develop a trail to connect to the White Pine Trail. The Trail could begin in the Village of Mecosta, using Bromley Park as a staging area, heading west to Big Rapids.**

**Comments:** The Recreation Committee has obtained 1 mile of rail trail from CSX and developed a walk/hike/ run opportunity on the 15-acre parcel which was completed in 2021. It also connects to the multi-community White Pine Mecosta Loop which has developed 32 miles of roadside trail connecting Morton and Martiny Townships.

**Issue #3** - The Little Muskegon River, the East Branch, the West Branch, and Gilbert Creek are currently underutilized recreation assets with limited public access. There is one water trail access point on Seven Mile Road in Morton Township that is available to the general public. Morton Township would like to create more opportunities for access to the Little Muskegon River.

**Goal #3 - Promote the Little Muskegon River and the associated branches and creeks, to create water trails, as recreation resources for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing.**

Continue to develop the River Access Park launch to provide easier access. The Recreation Committee attempts to keep the river navigable several times each year. In addition, the Recreation Committee also participates in the Trash Bash clean-up annually maintaining the river from 7 Mile to 3 Mile launch. The township continues to explore improvements for the Altona launch area.

**Comments:** The Little Muskegon River and its tributaries meander for miles through Morton Township, have limited access to most residents or any visitors to the area. Developing additional access points would create a wonderful recreation resource for canoeists, kayakers, and others to enjoy the clean, slow-moving river. Developing access points creates a facility that is miles long, with very little investment and very little required maintenance. This type of facility can easily be designed with universal design principals to make it suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Cooperation with Hinton Township may provide a suitable site for additional water access.

## Action Program

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The previous sections of this plan lead to performing actions to address the recreation-related needs of Morton Township's residents and visitors. The following actions identify the year, location, approximate cost, and justifications for improvements. The Action Program is a guide. Some actions may be performed prior to, or after, the scheduled time due to funding opportunities, or difficulties in obtaining funds or other resources. Finally, this does not list all the actions that should be performed over the five years - the Action Program focuses on physical improvements to facilities, versus administrative tasks.

### *Master Plan for 51-Acre Parcel (High Priority)*

Action: Develop plans to create four-season recreational opportunities on land tracts already owned by Morton Township.  
Location: A 51+ acre parcel along abandoned railway  
Cost: To be determined  
Funding Source(s): Morton Township, Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund and Recreation Passport.  
Justification: Morton Township already owns these two parcels of land, which could provide recreational opportunities. Potential plans could include a playground, basketball and pickleball courts, a pavilion, restrooms, nature area with ADA parking/ compatible walk/exercise trail, mountain bike trail, and winter activities.

### *Develop Non-motorized Pathways and Regional Connections*

Action: Continue implementation of nonmotorized paths and water trails.  
Location: The Little Muskegon River and designated trails in Morton Township  
Cost: To be determined  
Funding Source(s): Morton Township, Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund, MDOT Transportation Alternative Program.  
Justification: Based on public input, survey responses supporting non-motorized and water access.



### *Little Muskegon River Access Property Acquisition*

Action: The township will identify additional launch sites to increase access to the Little Muskegon River or one of its tributaries and will begin the process of acquiring the sites by establishing fair market values for the sites, determining if property owners are willing to donate a portion of the value of the land as a full or partial match for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). Seek funding from the MNRTF or support other adjacent municipalities in their grant pursuit.

Location: To be determined

Cost: To be determined

Funding Source(s): MNRTF, Township General Fund, Donations of land and/or dollars

Justification: The Little Muskegon River and its tributaries meander for miles through the community providing access to an amazing natural resource. Developing an additional access point would create a wonderful recreation resource for canoeists, kayakers, and others to enjoy the clean, slow-moving river. Developing an additional access point creates a water trail that is miles long, with very little investment and very little required maintenance. This type of facility can easily be designed with universal design principals to make it suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

### *Little Muskegon River Access Development*

Action: Identify the preferred facilities to develop at existing and future township recreational sites (ramps, docks, walkways, parking, picnic facilities, restrooms, signage, access roads, etc.) and develop site plans with cost estimates incorporating the desired features.

Location: River Park on 7 Mile Road and any others to be identified along the Little Muskegon River

Cost: Cost of development at sites to be determined.

Funding Source(s): MNRTF, Township General Fund, Donations of labor and funding.

Justification: The Little Muskegon River and its tributaries meander for miles through Morton Township but have limited access to most residents or any visitors to the area. Developing facilities at these sites would create a wonderful recreation resource for canoeists, kayakers, and others to enjoy the clean, slow-moving river. Developing an additional access point creates a water trail that is miles long, with very little investment and very little required maintenance. This type of facility can easily be designed with universal design principals to make it suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

### *Partnerships*

Action: Develop partnerships with other stakeholders, including the State of Michigan, Mecosta County, surrounding townships, Canadian Lakes Property Owners Corporation, and the Friends of the White Pine Trail to seek opportunities to improve non-motorized transportation as well as connections to existing regional trail systems.

Cost: To be determined

Funding Source(s): MNRTF, Township General Fund

Justification: Working with other stakeholders will aide in the connectivity of Morton Township trails to existing systems. These would include the Michigan Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources, and Mecosta County Parks and Road Commissions.

### *Capital Improvement Schedule*

Action: Develop a schedule and begin submitting grant application(s) for the planning, development, and implementation of recreation projects.

Cost: Fees for completion of grant applications

Funding Source(s): Township General Fund

Justification: This would be the next step in procuring funds to complete any proposed recreational improvements.

### *Conclusions*

Morton Township has limited public recreation facilities available to meet the needs of the residents. There are many existing recreation opportunities in the area (the Village of Mecosta, Mecosta County, the State of Michigan, and private developments all maintain facilities), but the township has very little influence over decisions related to the types of facilities or activities provided. Morton Township has many ideas for developing a recreation system but has established primarily two areas in which to concentrate its efforts during the next five years: developing 51 acres as a township park and providing additional water access to the Little Muskegon River. This plan also identifies the need to focus on cooperating with surrounding areas and creating community facilities for the residents of Morton Township.

## **Funding Sources**

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### *General Fund*

Continue to allow for re-investment in facilities to avoid future increased maintenance costs and ensure revenue streams when possible.

### *User Fee*

Consider charges of reasonable fees to participants of recreation programs and key facilities. Evaluate the fees annually to ensure they are providing the appropriate amount of funding to allow the programs to continue.

### *Special Millage*

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades. A millage is an effective method to divide costs over time among all the taxpayers in the community to provide matching grant funds or finance projects out-right. A millage allows more flexibility in how the money is used than a bond.

### *Bonds*

Several bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. Revenue bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project.

### *Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)*

The **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** provides funding for numerous types of projects that support the enhancement of transportation facilities and promote safe and efficient multi-modal transportation methods. This is a reimbursement program that originally comes from the federal level and is administered by MDOT. A minimum of 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects.

### *Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants (MNRTF)*

The **MNRTF** Grant provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition and development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. These are grants between \$15,000 and \$400,000 with a required minimum local match of 25 percent. Final engineering and construction services are covered at a maximum of 15 percent.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** provide grants to local units of government to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition

or development projects is required from local government applicants. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS), which grants final approval.

The **Michigan Recreation Passport Grant** program is funded by sales of 'passport' opt in participation for those wishing to access or support Michigan parks as part of their license renewal. Eligible projects are targeted for renovation and improvement to existing parks. Grants range from \$7,500 to \$150,000 with a minimum 25 percent local match, with the anticipation that the maximum grant amount will increase as revenue from sales of the Recreation Passport also increases.

The **Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program** is funding that deals with the issues of prevention, detection, eradication, and control for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in Michigan. The scope of the grant must prevent new invasive species from being introduced, strengthen state-wide invasive species early detection and response network, limit the dispersal of recently confirmed invasive species and manage and control widespread, long-established invasive species. These grants are between \$25,000, with a maximum grant amount between \$60,000 and \$400,000.

**State Water Trail Designation Program** is a new program that is under the direction of the MDNR that will classify certain water trails in communities as state water trails. Partnering groups and organizations would be vital in supporting the community in pursuing the grant. Funding sources are still being reviewed and analyzed; but funding is expected to be finalized in 2019.

Other MDNR grants include specialized opportunities such as the **Urban and Community Forestry (UCF)** program, funded through the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program and the Water Trail Designation Program. Local units of government, nonprofit organizations and schools are eligible to apply. Projects include street and park tree management and planning activities; urban forestry training and education events; tree plantings; and Arbor Day celebrations.

*Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Grants:*

Funding sources in the EGLE are available through the **Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)** program. Funding is used to secure and provide protection for water and coastline areas to prevent contamination and erosion control. Some of the grants available include the **Waterfront Redevelopment Grant**, which deals with increasing public access to the waterfront and supporting economic development in areas. Another grant through the EGLE is **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)** Grant which deals with coastal areas, protecting rare and threatened species and natural communities. Maximum grants are capped at \$1,500,000 with no minimum grant requirement. The **Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Grant** is available to those communities with direct Great Lakes access. The total grant funds available are not to exceed \$100,000, with an equal match from the community.

*Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)*

Projects eligible for **CDBG** funding must be in a low-moderate income service area and/or provide access to the disabled to qualify. Investments using CDBG funds must provide a documented benefit to low-moderate income households. Projects eligible for funding include public infrastructure improvements and those that provide ADA accessibility.

### *MEDC Patronicity Crowd Funding*

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has developed an additional way of securing funding for community development projects by using crowdfunding to support developments. Communities, non-profits, and municipalities can submit projects by applying to the Patronicity campaign. The projects that meet the programs parameters and successfully crowd-fund their goal will receive a matching grant from the MEDC of up to \$50,000.

<https://www.patronicity.com/puremichigan>

### *Michigan Community Revitalization Program (MCRP)-MEDC*

MCRP is a program available in cooperation with MEDC, designed to promote community revitalization that will accelerate private investment in areas of historical disinvestment, contribute to Michigan's reinvention as a vital, job-generating state, foster redevelopment of functionally obsolete or historic properties, reduce blight; and protect the natural resources of the state. The focus of the MCRP is to encourage and promote capital investment and redevelopment of brownfield and historic preservation sites located in traditional downtowns and high-impact corridors.

### *United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA)*

This direct loan and grant program provides funding for essential community facilities in through the Rural Development program. Example projects include pavilions with shared use as a Farmers Market at trailheads. Accepts yearly applications; 7 CFR Part 4280, Subpart E.

### *Michigan Natural Resources Tree Planting Grants*

Through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, there are three tree planting, grant programs that will assist in funding landscape enhancements at the park and reforestation projects. Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project cost.

### *United States Department of Transportation – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant*

Maximum grant amount is \$25 Million; with no more than \$100 Million going to one state. Grant is used to develop equitable access to multimodal transportation in communities. Current programs that qualify for this grant include the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

### *Donations*

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

### *Conservation Easements*

A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. Rather than obtaining fee simple or complete ownership, an organization or community can purchase or acquire by gift an 'easement' to the property.

### *National Park Service – State Historic Preservation Programs*

Fund is intended to support preservation of historic sites across the county. Eligible entities include local and state municipalities, federal, and tribal representation. Grants are awarded annually and based upon needs of the community.



### *Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships*

Reduced funding at the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities, as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands.

### *Foundations*

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity established as a mechanism through which land, cash and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

### *National Forest Foundation – Matching Awards Program (MAP)*

Provides funding for results-oriented “on-the ground” projects that enhance outdoor experiences in forests and grasslands. Match is 1:1 and applications are due in January of every year for Round 1 and June for Round 2. Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) non-profits, universities and federally recognized Native American tribes.

### *Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation*

Provides funding for projects in arts/culture, education, environmental support, civic and community activities and health and human services. The geographic area of primary interest is Michigan. Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) non-profits, community groups, non-political committees, and local capital improvement projects. Capital project request may not exceed 10 percent of the total cost of the project. Foundation does not support organization on an annual (or ongoing) basis and encourages self-sufficiency and financial sustainability.

### *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Acres for America*

Land conservation program to provide funding for projects that conserve large habitats for fish, wildlife and plant material through land acquisitions and easements. Launched with Walmart Stores as a founding partner, the program has protected over 1.49 million acres. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations 501 (c) organizations, state government agencies, local and municipal governments, tribal governments, and educational institutions. All grant awards require a minimum 1:1 match of cash or contributed goods and services.

### *Home Depot – Community Impact Grants*

Grant offered through Home Depot. Grant awards go up to \$5,000 to 501 (c)(3) designated organization (for at least one year) and tax-exempt public service agencies in the United States. Grants are normally given in the form of Home Depot gift cards to purchase tools, material, or services.

### *Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund*

Developed in 2015, the purpose of the fund is to develop rails to trails routes throughout the United States and multi-use trails. Annually, the fund disperses \$85,000 through a competitive grant application for the purpose of development or acquisition. Average grant is between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

### *AARP Community Challenge*

Community grant program is available for all 501 (c) non-profit organizations, government entities and other types of organizations based on a case-by-case basis. Program seeks to improve public spaces, civic engagement, inclusion, and transportation. Submission dates for grant program are April of the calendar year.

These grant funding opportunities can be accessed through the *Michigan Foundation Directory*.  
[https://subscribe.foundationcenter.org/?\\_ga=2.251298116.396118890.1593525913-378130520.1593525913&\\_gac=1.228271727.1593525913.CjwKCAjwxev3BRBBEiwAiB\\_PWJKS7JaVg1UtcOvn2w4xQ70R4WM9XI5o7YIRtcuLCZflf\\_X9nDxBqxoCCXgQAvD\\_BwE#/fdo/signup/professional](https://subscribe.foundationcenter.org/?_ga=2.251298116.396118890.1593525913-378130520.1593525913&_gac=1.228271727.1593525913.CjwKCAjwxev3BRBBEiwAiB_PWJKS7JaVg1UtcOvn2w4xQ70R4WM9XI5o7YIRtcuLCZflf_X9nDxBqxoCCXgQAvD_BwE#/fdo/signup/professional)

**Appendix A: Community Description Supplemental Information from 2016 plan and draft update**

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## Physical Features

The following section describes many of the township's natural and man-made features. The purpose is to provide users of this plan with an overview of the natural features since recreation activities are closely related to the township's physical features.

### Location

Mecosta County is in Western Michigan and is bordered by Osceola County to the north, Isabella County to the east, Montcalm County to the south and Newaygo County to the west. Mecosta County is 35 miles north of Grand Rapids and 30 miles south of Cadillac. The City of Big Rapids is the only city in the county, which has 4 villages and 16 townships. Morton Township is in the central portion of Mecosta County and surrounds the Village of Mecosta.

### Climate

Mecosta County's weather, like all of Michigan's, influences the recreational opportunities available throughout the year. The area can support a variety of activities throughout the year from swimming to skiing. Table A-1 identifies information related to the area's climate. Generally, January is the coldest month (20°F average daily temperature) and has the highest snowfall (18.9 inches). July is generally the warmest month in the county (68.9°F average daily temperature). It generally snows as early as October and as late as May. Precipitation peaks May through October (3.8 inches) and February generally has the lowest average (1.6 inches). Prevailing winds are from the southwest.

Table A-1: Climate in Mecosta County

	Temperature (°F)			Precipitation (inches)	
	Average Daily Maximum	Average Daily Minimum	Average Daily	Average	Average Snowfall
January	28.8	11.6	20.0	2.0	18.9
February	32.3	12.2	22.3	1.6	12.7
March	42.1	19.8	30.9	2.3	8.4
April	56.4	32.1	44.2	3.1	2.2
May	68.5	41.9	55.4	3.4	Trace
June	77.6	51.0	64.4	3.4	0.0
July	82.1	55.8	68.9	3.0	0.0
August	79.6	54.2	66.9	3.7	0.0
September	71.2	45.8	58.5	3.8	Trace
October	58.4	35.8	47.0	3.6	0.2
November	44.8	27.4	36.1	3.2	5.8
December	33.1	18.2	25.7	2.2	17.4
Year	56.2	33.8	45.0	35.1	65.6

Source: USA.Com

### Land Use

Morton Township has a mix of land uses that center around Canadian Lakes, which is a large residential development with hundreds of homes situated on several lakes, 3 of its own golf courses as well as Tullymore and St Ives public golf courses, and a residential area adjacent to Canadian Lakes. In addition to residential development, there are several agricultural areas in the



eastern half of the township. Morton Township has commercial/service uses along the state route that passes through the township (M-20) and in the Village of Mecosta. There are also several commercial businesses around Canadian Lakes. Public facilities include township and village facilities and a Mecosta County Park. The Pere Marquette State Forest meanders through the area.

### **Soils**

The following soil associations described below are found within the township. The following information is taken from the [Soil Survey of Mecosta County, Michigan](#).

1. Perrinton-Coloma-Ithaca Association - Nearly level to steep, well drained, somewhat excessively drained, and somewhat poorly drained, loamy, and sandy soils that formed in glacial till or outwash deposits.
2. Coloma Association - Nearly level to steep, somewhat excessively drained, sandy soils that formed in glacial till or outwash deposits.
3. Remus-Spinks-Metea Association - Nearly level to rolling, well drained, loamy, and sandy soils that formed in glacial till or outwash deposits.
4. Marlette Association - Undulating to rolling, moderately well drained and well drained, loamy soils that formed in glacial till.
5. Mecosta Association - Nearly level to gently rolling, somewhat excessively drained, sandy soils that formed in outwash deposits or glacial till.
6. Coloma-Covert-Thetford Association - Nearly level to rolling, somewhat excessively drained, moderately well drained, and somewhat poorly drained, sandy soils that formed in outwash deposits or glacial till.
7. Wauseon-Arkona Association - Nearly level or undulating, very poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained, loamy, and sandy soils that formed in outwash deposits or glacial till.
8. Houghton-Adrian Association - Nearly level, very poorly drained, mucky soils that formed in organic material over outwash deposits.

### **Water Features**

Water features are one of the township's strengths, with the western half of the township covered by several lakes, including Canadian Lakes, Lake Mecosta, Blue Lake, School Section Lake, Round Lake, and several other small lakes. Additionally, the township has many rivers and streams including the Little Muskegon River, its East Branch and West Branch, and Gilbert Creek.

### **Wildlife**

The county's wildlife is typical of that found in most of western Michigan. Common wildlife includes deer, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, muskrats, beavers, squirrels, rodents, and other small mammals. The area is home to a variety of birds including owls, wild turkeys, pheasants, and many others. The area is also a seasonal home to many migratory birds including Ducks, Osprey, Bald Eagles, Loons, and Canada Geese.

### **Native Vegetation**

Originally, Michigan was covered with a dense forest of deciduous trees. As the area was cleared for farming and development, or the trees were removed for timber, the area's forests were replaced by farm fields, open field areas, orchards and smaller forested areas containing both deciduous and coniferous trees.

### **Transportation**

Morton Township is located 10 miles east of US-131 which is the area's primary interstate linking

the area to Grand Rapids to the south and Cadillac to the north. The township is 2 miles west of M-66, which is a major north-south route. M-20 is the area's primary east-west route and passes through Morton Township. There is also a network of roads maintained by Mecosta County and many private roads in the Canadian Lakes and Tullymore developments.

### Social Features

This section describes the population of Morton Township, the Village of Mecosta, Mecosta County, and Michigan. The description focuses on the township and its unique population characteristics.

### Population Growth Overtime

The population growth experienced by a township affects the demand for land for residential uses and can affect the community's character. Table A-2 shows a population comparison from 1980 to 2020 for Morton Township, the surrounding townships of Aetna Township, Big Rapids Charter Township, Green Charter Township, and Mecosta Township, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan, along with percent changes for 2010 to 2020 and 1980 to 2020. This graph demonstrates the region's population trends over the past 50 years to better understand how these areas have changed. Figure 1 provides a visual representation of the percent change from 1980 to 2020 from Table A-2.

From 1990 to 2000, Morton Township's population grew by nearly 70 percent. Green Charter Township, Aetna Township, and Mecosta Township also experienced similar, large growth during this period.

While most of the surrounding communities and the county saw their peak population counts in 2010, Morton Township hit its peak population in 2020, with 4,426 (Table A-2 and Figure 1). Despite the State of Michigan seeing a nearly 2 percent population growth, Mecosta Township saw close to 5 percent, and Morton Township almost at a 3 percent population growth from 2010 to 2020; the county and the majority of the communities surrounding the township saw a population decline, although relatively minimal.

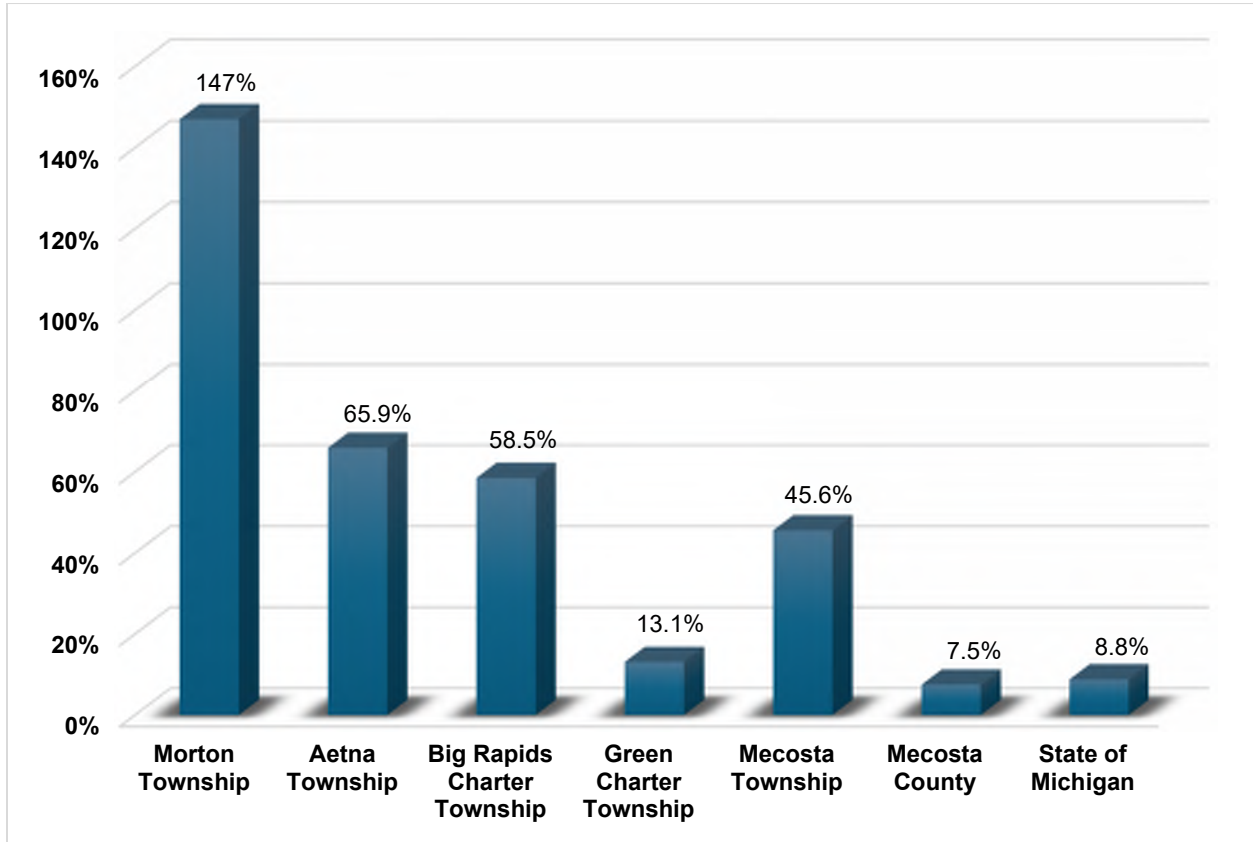
Table A-2: Population Comparison, 1980 – 2020  
(Source 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020 Decennial Census)

	1980 Population	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 1980-2020
<b>Morton Township</b>	1,789	2,122	3,597	4,311	4,426	+2.7%	+147%
<b>Aetna Township</b>	1,351	1,622	2,044	2,299	2,241	-2.5%	+65.9%
<b>Big Rapids Charter Township</b>	2,471	3,100	3,249	4,208	3,917	-6.9%	+58.5%
<b>Green Charter Township</b>	2,847	2,833	3,209	3,292	3,219	-2.2%	+13.1%
<b>Mecosta Township</b>	1,885	1,968	2,435	2,615	2,744	+4.9%	+45.6%
<b>Mecosta County</b>	36,961	37,308	40,553	42,798	39,714	-7.2%	+7.5%

Table A-2: Population Comparison, 1980 – 2020  
 (Source 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020 Decennial Census)

	1980 Population	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 1980-2020
<b>State of Michigan</b>	9,262,078	9,295,297	9,938,444	9,883,640	10,077,331	+1.9%	+8.8%

Figure 1: Percent Change in Population 1980 – 2020



## Age

Table A-3 compares age groups for Morton Township, Aetna Township, Big Rapids Charter Township, Green Charter Township, Mecosta Township, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan. In 2020, the median age of residents in Morton Township was 58.9, which is significantly higher in comparison to the state, county, and surrounding community averages.

Age	Morton Township		Aetna Township		Big Rapids Charter Township		Green Charter Township		Mecosta Township		Mecosta County		State of Michigan	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Under 5</b>	193	4.4%	140	6.2%	179	4.6%	175	5.4%	163	5.9%	2,145	5.4%	548,875	5.4%
<b>5-14</b>	336	7.6%	316	14.1%	454	11.6%	399	12.4%	357	13.0%	4,458	11.2%	1,223,163	12.1%
<b>15-24</b>	323	7.3%	290	12.9%	892	22.8%	362	11.3%	355	12.9%	7,095	17.9%	1,341,656	13.3%
<b>25-44</b>	735	16.6%	486	21.6%	754	19.3%	741	23.0%	610	22.2%	8,178	20.6%	2,488,419	24.7%
<b>45-59</b>	718	16.2%	464	20.6%	621	15.9%	621	19.3%	551	20.1%	6,817	17.2%	1,961,399	19.5%
<b>60-74</b>	1,381	31.2%	417	18.6%	668	17.1%	671	20.9%	524	19.1%	7,702	19.4%	1,784,620	17.7%
<b>75+</b>	740	16.6%	128	5.7%	349	8.9%	250	7.8%	184	6.7%	3,319	8.4%	729,199	7.3%
<b>Median</b>	58.9		40.5		36.6		43.1		41.5		40.0		40.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,426</b>		<b>2,241</b>		<b>3,917</b>		<b>3,219</b>		<b>2,744</b>		<b>39,714</b>		<b>10,077,331</b>	

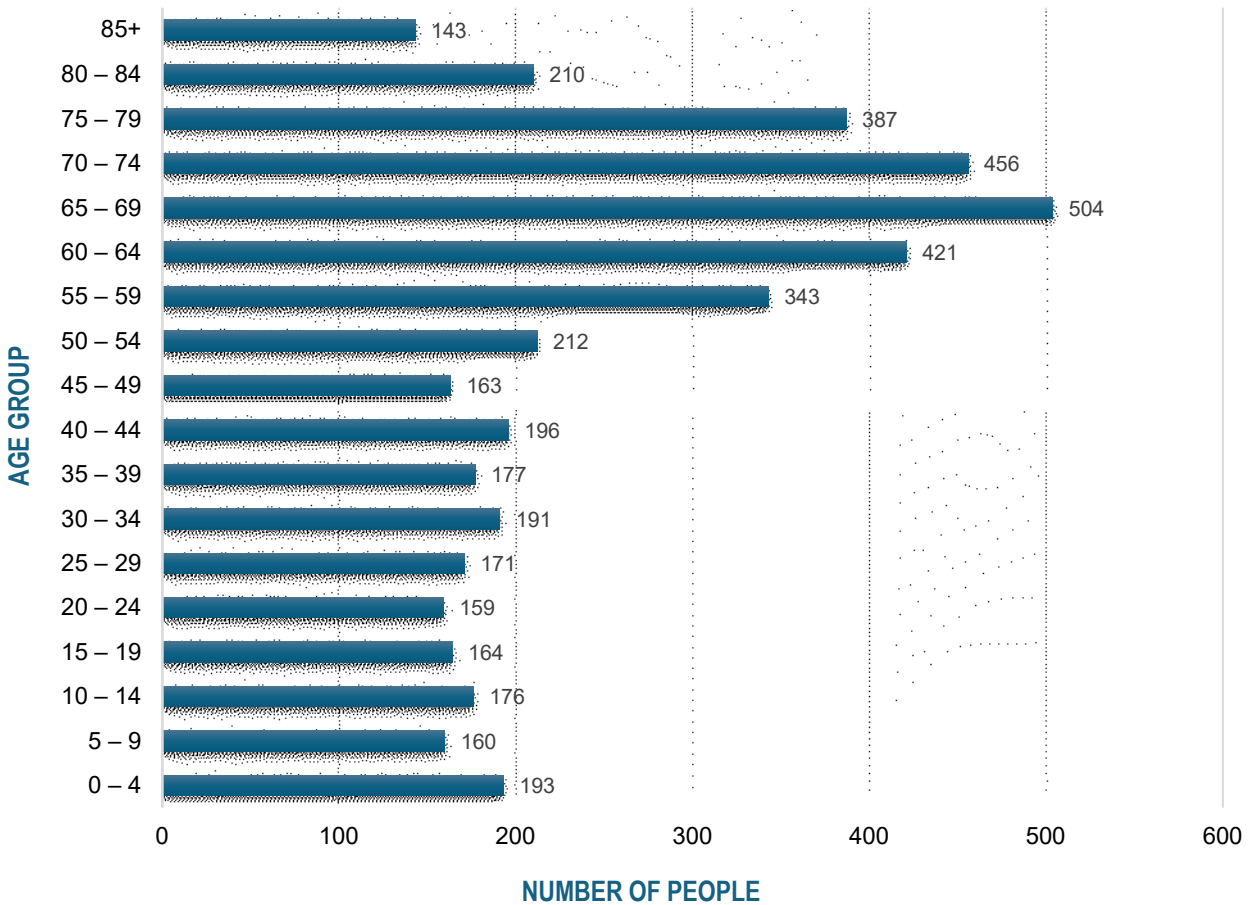


In 2020, the greatest concentration of population in the township was within the ranges of 60-74, with 31.2 percent, 75 and older, with 16.6 percent, and 25-44, with 16.6 percent (Table A-3). This indicates that a majority of the residents are retirees and above the surrounding communities and county percentages. Table A-4 shows the population of Morton Township further broken down by age groups of five-year intervals. Here, the greatest concentration of population is between the ages of 65 and 69, as well as between 70 and 74.

Table A-4: Age by 5-year Increments, Morton Township, 2020 (Source 2020 Decennial Census)	
Age Group	Number of People
0-4	193
5-9	160
10-14	176
15-19	164
20-24	159
25-29	171
30-34	191
35-39	177
40-44	196
45-49	163
50-54	212
55-59	343
60-64	421
65-69	504
70-74	456
75-79	387
80-84	210
85+	143

Figure 2 reiterates the data from Table A-4, by creating a visual representation of age distribution through those age groups of five-year increments. Additionally, Figure 2 clearly demonstrates the largest quantity of individuals, which are those that fall into the 65 to 69 age group and the next largest age group of 70 to 74, that may not be fully expressed by Table A-4.

Figure 2: Age Distribution by 5 Year Increments, Morton Township Only



### Gender Distribution

In 2020, the gender distribution has slightly more female to male ratio. However, Aetna Township, Green Charter Township, and Mecosta Township have more males, between 0.1 percent and 1.9 percent, living in these areas (Table A-5). This is such a small percentage difference that it is negligible. Overall, the population within Mecosta County does follow the state trend with females slightly outnumbering males, 50.7 percent to 49.3 percent.

Table A-5: Gender Distribution, 2020  
(Source 2020 Decennial Census)

	Morton Township	Aetna Township	Big Rapids Charter Township	Green Charter Township	Mecosta Township	Mecosta County	State of Michigan
<b>Males</b>	49.7%	51.9%	47.6%	50.1%	50.3%	49.3%	49.3%
<b>Females</b>	50.3%	49.1%	52.4%	49.9%	49.7%	50.7%	50.7%

## Race

Table A-6 compares the different race and ethnicity groupings that comprise the populations of Morton Township, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan. Morton Township and Mecosta County have similar percentages of each ethnicity grouping present in their respective populations. White residents comprise the large majority of both communities. Compared to the State of Michigan, Morton Township and Mecosta County are less diverse. In 2020, Michigan's population comprised 72.4 percent white individuals and 27.6 percent nonwhite individuals. Meanwhile, in 2020, Morton Township was home to 91.7 percent white individuals, and 8.3 percent nonwhite individuals.

	Morton Township		Mecosta County		State of Michigan	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
White alone	4,058	91.7%	35,521	89.4%	7,295,651	72.4%
Black alone	51	1.2%	772	1.9%	1,358,458	13.5%
Hispanic or Latino	62	1.4%	1,026	2.6%	564,422	5.6%
American Indian, and Alaska Native alone	19	0.4%	190	0.5%	47,406	0.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander alone	20	0.5%	326	0.8%	334,891	3.3%
Other	15	0.3%	118	0.3%	37,183	0.4%
Two or more races	201	4.5%	1,761	4.4%	439,320	4.4%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>4,426</b>		<b>39,714</b>		<b>10,077,331</b>	

## Economic

Table A-7 shows the median household income for Morton Township in 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars was \$58,302. Morton Township's median household income is approximately \$12,500 higher than the median household income for Mecosta County and close to \$1,000 lower than the State of Michigan median household income. Additionally, Table A-7 shows that Morton Township had a higher 2020 median household income than the surrounding communities of Aetna Township, Big Rapids Charter Township, Green Charter Township, and Mecosta Township.

Morton Township	Aetna Township	Big Rapids Charter Township	Green Charter Township	Mecosta Township	Mecosta County	State of Michigan
<b>\$58,302</b>	\$52,440	\$40,401	\$43,639	\$52,321	\$45,797	\$59,234

## Income Types

Table A-8 shows the number of households with earnings and the sources of those earnings in Morton Township. The categories are not exclusive, so a household may have earnings from

multiple sources including social security or retirement income such as a pension or 401K, as shown in Table A-8.

Table A-8: Income Types, 2020 (Source 2020 American Community Survey)	
Total Households	1,922
With Earnings	952
With Social Security Income	1,233
With Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	68
With Public Assistance	238
With Retirement Income	1,061
With Other Types of Income	-

***Income Distribution***

Table A-9 shows the income levels for households in Morton Township, Aetna Township, Big Rapids Charter Township, Green Charter Township, Mecosta Township, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan, according to the 2020 Census Data. Nearly 60 percent of households in Morton Township earn more than \$50,000 per year. This is much higher than the percentage of households in Mecosta County at 46.6 percent and the state at 57.3 percent that earn more than \$50,000 per year. Additionally, Morton Township has a higher percentage of households earning more than \$50,000 per year than Big Rapids Charter Township (45.4%) and Green Charter Township (46.1%). Overall, Morton Township has fewer low-income households than its surrounding communities, the county, and state, and more high-income households.

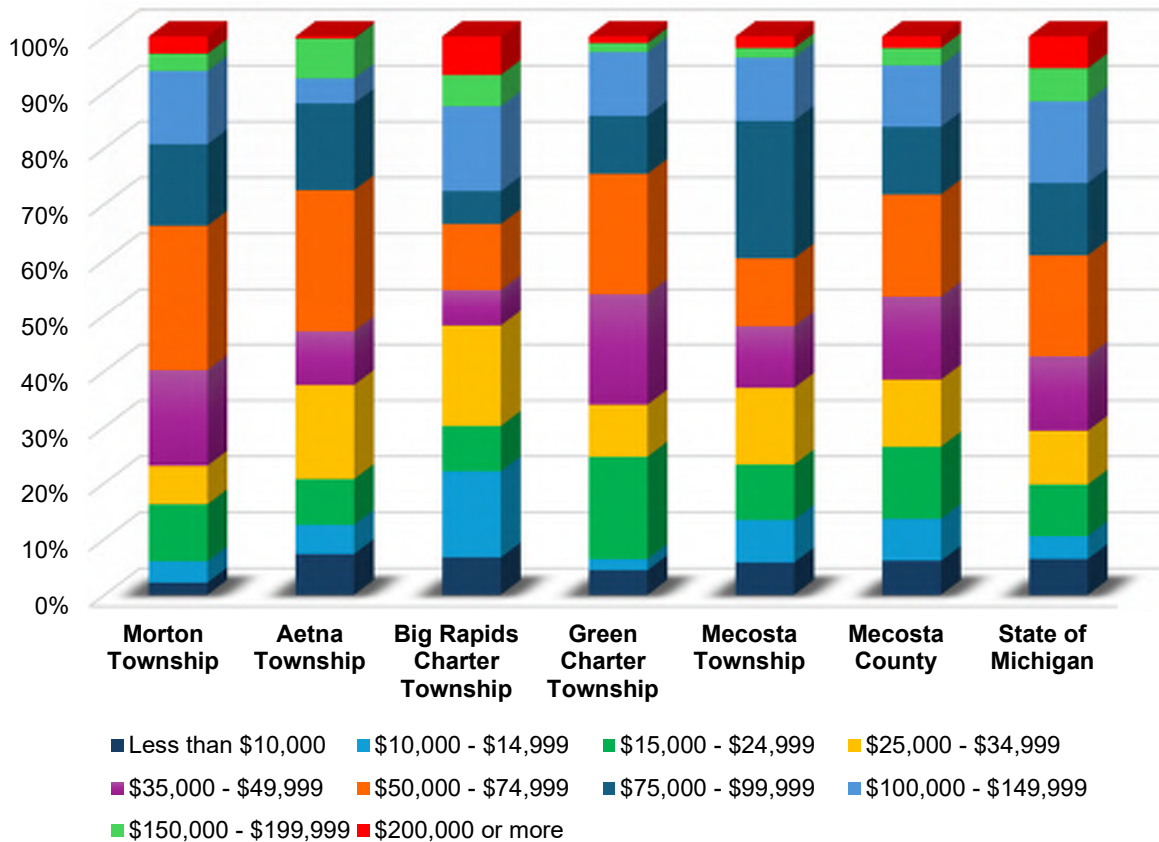


**Table A-9: Household Income Distribution, 2020**  
(Source 2020 American Community Survey)

	Morton Township		Aetna Township		Big Rapids Charter Township		Green Charter Township		Mecosta Township		Mecosta County		State of Michigan	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Less than \$10,000</b>	42	2.2%	52	7.3%	123	6.7%	65	4.4%	58	5.8%	995	6.1%	254,424	6.4%
<b>\$10,000 - \$14,999</b>	73	3.8%	37	5.2%	281	15.4%	29	2.0%	76	7.6%	1,218	7.5%	164,841	4.1%
<b>\$15,000 - \$24,999</b>	197	10.2%	58	8.2%	148	8.1%	268	18.3%	99	9.9%	2,095	12.9%	364,976	9.2%
<b>\$25,000 - \$34,999</b>	132	6.9%	119	16.8%	328	18.0%	136	9.3%	136	13.7%	1,951	12.0%	383,601	9.6%
<b>\$35,000 - \$49,999</b>	329	17.1%	68	9.6%	118	6.5%	291	19.9%	109	11.0%	2,444	15.0%	527,421	13.3%
<b>\$50,000 - \$74,999</b>	499	26.0%	180	25.4%	215	11.8%	315	21.5%	122	12.3%	2,974	18.3%	723,559	18.2%
<b>\$75,000 - \$99,999</b>	281	14.6%	110	15.5%	108	5.9%	153	10.4%	245	24.6%	1,962	12.1%	515,271	12.9%
<b>\$100,000 - \$149,999</b>	251	13.1%	32	4.5%	278	15.2%	167	11.4%	112	11.3%	1,798	11.0%	582,349	14.6%
<b>\$150,000 - \$199,999</b>	59	3.1%	50	7.1%	102	5.6%	23	1.6%	17	1.7%	498	3.1%	236,748	5.9%
<b>\$200,000 or more</b>	59	3.1%	3	0.4%	126	6.9%	18	1.2%	21	2.1%	341	2.1%	227,218	5.7%
<b>Total Households</b>	1,922		709		1,827		1,465		995		16,276		3,980,408	
<b>Mean income (average)</b>	\$71,227		\$58,355		\$79,590		\$55,648		\$62,167		\$60,669		\$80,803	

Figure 3 shows the percent distribution of household incomes from Table A-9 for Morton Township, surrounding communities, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan. The graph shows those percentage distributions in sequential order, starting at the bottom of each bar with the number of households that make less than \$10,000 in dark blue and ending at the top with the number of households that make more than \$200,000 in red.

Figure 3: Regional Household Income Distribution



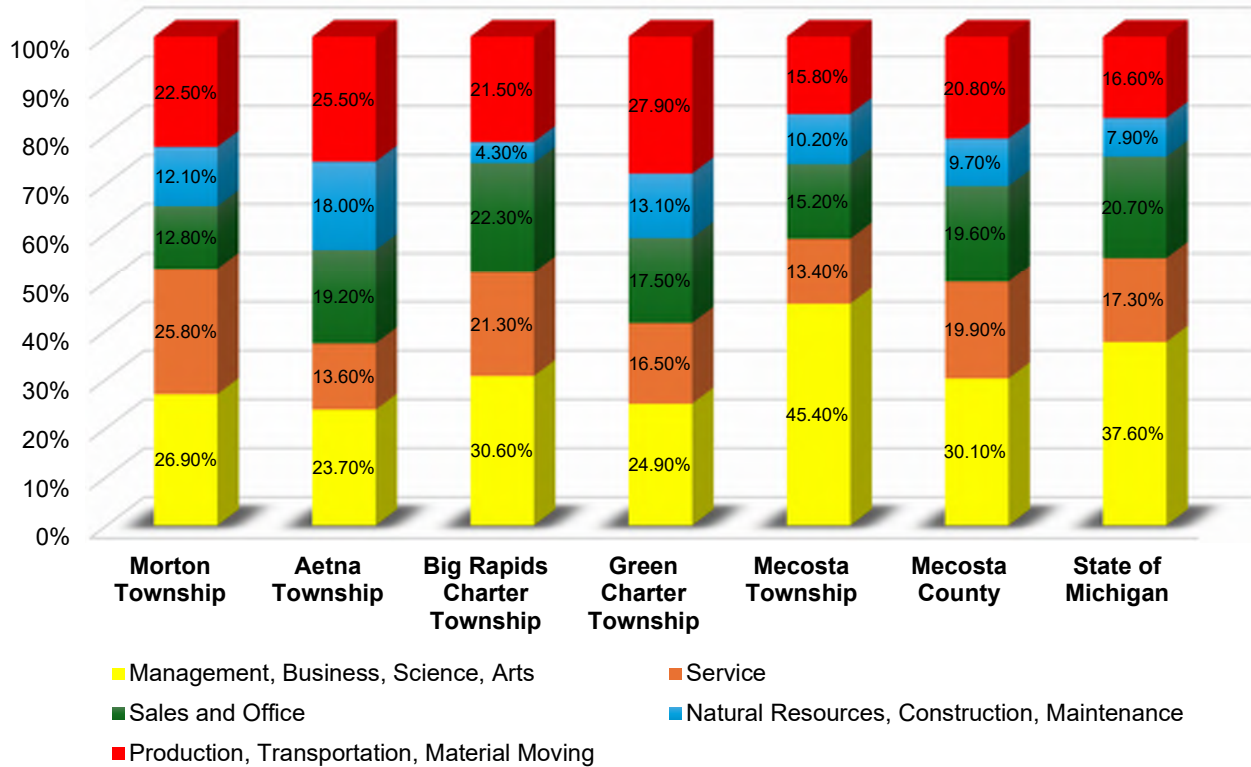
### Occupations

Table A-10 shows occupations for the employed population aged 16 years and older who live in Morton Township, Aetna Township, Big Rapids Charter Township, Green Charter Township, Mecosta Township, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan. The most common sources of employment in Morton Township are management, business, science, and the arts, and over 26 percent of the residents employed in Morton Township fall into this occupational category. The same applies to Big Rapids Charter Township, Mecosta Township, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan. The only outliers are Aetna Township and Green Charter Township, where the most common occupation types are Production, Transportation, and Material Moving. This can be seen more clearly in Figure 4.

**Table A-10: Occupations, 2020**  
(Source 2020 American Community Survey)

Occupation	Morton Township		Aetna Township		Big Rapids Charter Township		Green Charter Township		Mecosta Township		Mecosta County		State of Michigan	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Management, Business, Science, &amp; Arts</b>	356	26.9%	189	23.7%	695	30.6%	369	24.9%	527	45.4%	5,587	30.1%	1,752,147	37.6%
<b>Service</b>	342	25.8%	108	13.6%	483	21.3%	242	16.5%	156	13.4%	3,694	19.9%	805,030	17.3%
<b>Sales &amp; Office</b>	169	12.8%	153	19.2%	505	22.3%	258	17.5%	176	15.2%	3,645	19.6%	962,900	20.7%
<b>Natural Resources, Construction, &amp; Maintenance</b>	160	12.1%	143	18.0%	98	4.3%	193	13.1%	119	10.2%	1,795	9.7%	366,692	7.9%
<b>Production, Transportation, &amp; Material Moving</b>	298	22.5%	203	25.5%	488	21.5%	411	27.9%	183	15.8%	3,866	20.8%	771,588	16.6%
<b>Total Employed Population (16 years &amp; over)</b>	1,325		796		2,269		1,471		1,161		18,587		4,658,357	

Figure 4: Occupations, Regional



### Commuting Characteristics

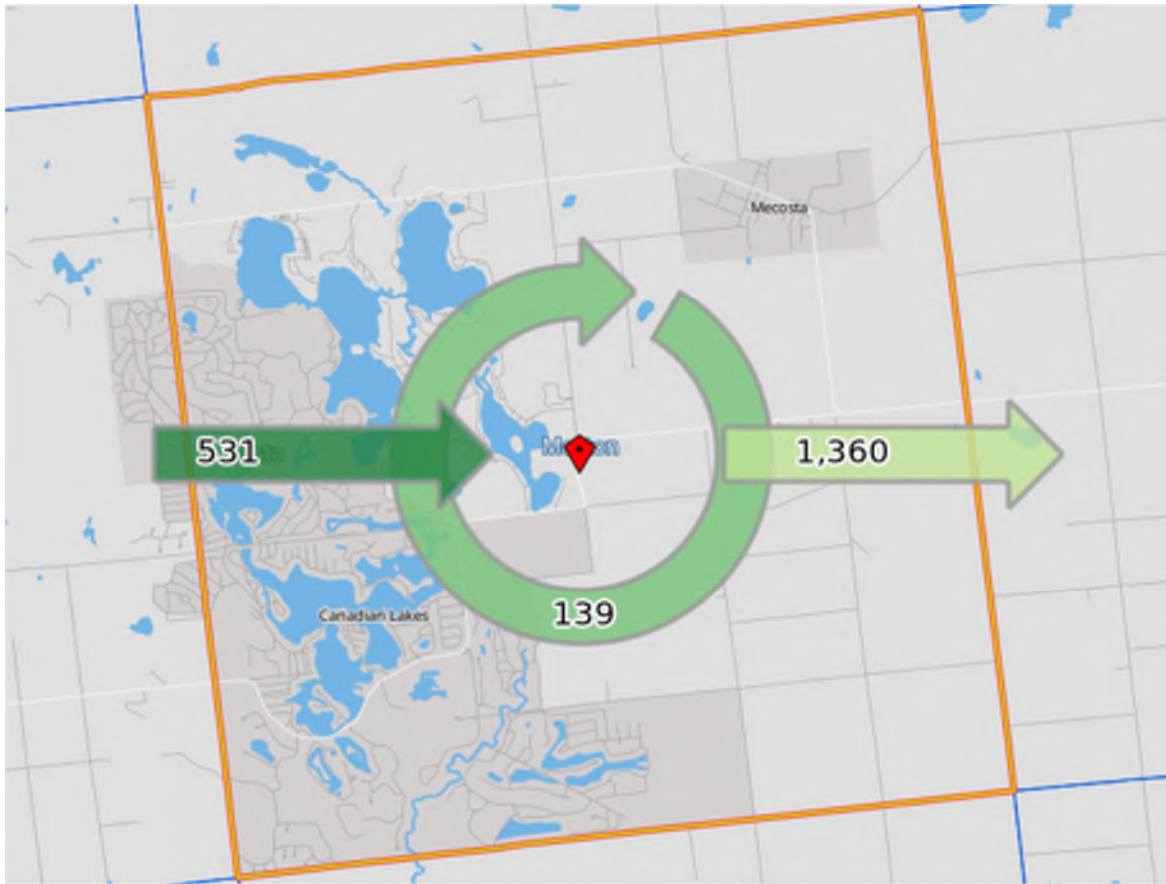
Place of work is an important characteristic to study because it indicates the labor market that residents rely upon for employment. If most residents work in the community in which they reside, that community can have an impact on the growth of their community by actively promoting continued economic development and job growth. Rural bedroom communities tend to have modest employment bases that do not significantly impact employment by their residents.

### Worker Inflow and Outflow


The large majority of actively working individuals who live in Morton Township do not work in Morton Township. According to the U.S Census Bureau, in 2021 there were a total of 670 people employed within Morton Township. Of that group, 531 individuals commuted from outside Morton Township to the township for work. Of the residents that live within Morton, 139 people both live and work within the township, while 1,360 workers commute to a job location outside of the township.



Figure 5: Inflow/Outflow Analysis Map, 2021



**Map Legend**

**Selection Areas**  
 Selection Area




**Inflow/Outflow**  
 Employed and Live in Selection Area  
 Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside  
 Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside  
 Note: Overlay arrows do not indicate directionality of worker flow between home and employment locations.



Figure 6: Inflow/Outflow Counts of All Jobs for Morton Township, 2021 (All Workers)

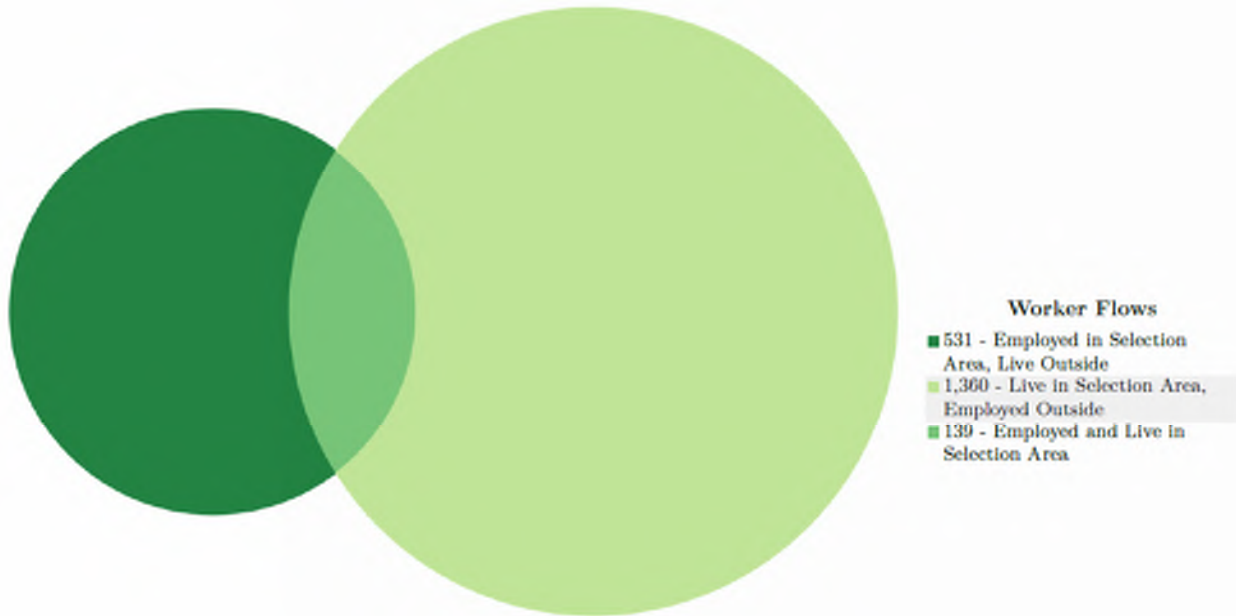


Figure 7: Inflow/Outflow Counts of All Jobs for Morton Township Area, 2021

<b>Worker Totals and Flows</b>	<b>2021</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Share</b>
<b>Employed in the Selection Area</b>	670	100.0%
<b>Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside</b>	531	79.3%
<b>Employed and Living in the Selection Area</b>	139	20.7%
<b>Living in the Selection Area</b>	1,499	100.0%
<b>Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside</b>	1,360	90.7%
<b>Living and Employed in the Selection Area</b>	139	9.3%

As Table A-11 shows, the largest portion of Morton Township residents work in Mecosta County, with 33.5 percent of workers employed in the county. Kent County is the next most-likely destination with 20.1 percent of Morton Township residents employed, followed by Isabella (8.5%) and Osceola (4.8%) counties. Mecosta County is also the most common source of workers in Morton Township, with 56 percent of workers in the township coming from the county, followed by Montcalm County (8.7%), and Isabella County (7.6%).

<b>Table A-11: Resident and Worker Origin/Destination, 2021</b>					
<small>(Source U.S Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application &amp; LEHD Destination Employment Statistics, 2021)</small>					
<b>Where Residents Work</b>			<b>Where Workers Live</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Workers</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Workers</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>Mecosta County</b>	502	33.5%	<b>Mecosta County</b>	375	56.0%
<b>Kent County</b>	301	20.1%	<b>Montcalm County</b>	58	8.7%
<b>Isabella County</b>	128	8.5%	<b>Isabella County</b>	51	7.6%
<b>Osceola County</b>	72	4.8%	<b>Kent County</b>	37	5.5%
<b>Ottawa County</b>	53	3.5%	<b>Wayne County</b>	21	3.1%
<b>Montcalm County</b>	47	3.1%	<b>Clare County</b>	13	1.9%
<b>Muskegon County</b>	40	2.7%	<b>Osceola County</b>	10	1.5%
<b>Oakland County</b>	37	2.5%	<b>Newaygo County</b>	9	1.3%
<b>Ingham County</b>	30	2.0%	<b>Allegan County</b>	8	1.2%
<b>Wayne County</b>	26	1.7%	<b>Iona County</b>	7	1.0%
<b>Other Locations</b>	263	17.5%	<b>Other Locations</b>	81	12.1%
<b>All Counties</b>	1,499	100.00%	<b>All Counties</b>	670	100.00%

## Commute Times

Table A-12 shows that most Morton Township residents drive further to work on average compared to residents of Mecosta County and the State of Michigan. Overall, 52.9 percent of employed residents of Morton Township drive less than 30 minutes to work, while 71 percent of Mecosta County residents face less than a 30-minute drive to work. In the state overall, 66.6 percent of residents face less than a 30-minute drive to work. Over 13 percent of residents of Morton Township drive more than 60 minutes to work each day compared to 9.3 percent Mecosta County, and 6.4 percent of the residents in the state. This data aligns with the large number of Morton Township residents that exit the township for work each day, as shown in Figure 5.

Travel Time	Morton Township	Aetna Township	Big Rapids Charter Township	Green Charter Township	Mecosta Township	Mecosta County	State of Michigan
Less than 10 minutes	12.4%	9.7%	36.5%	14.5%	26.3%	25.4%	13.6%
10 to 14 minutes	7.8%	8.7%	28.6%	31.1%	19.5%	17.0%	14.4%
15 to 19 minutes	9.3%	8.6%	15.1%	16.4%	13.6%	12.2%	16.1%
20 to 24 minutes	13.8%	16.8%	5.4%	9.4%	11.9%	11.8%	15.1%
25 to 29 minutes	9.6%	6.5%	2.3%	1.1%	2.1%	4.6%	7.4%
30 to 34 minutes	20.9%	13.4%	3.6%	14.3%	4.5%	9.1%	12.5%
35 to 44 minutes	4.3%	9.1%	0.8%	3.0%	1.5%	4.3%	7.2%
45 to 59 minutes	8.8%	10.3%	1.1%	4.7%	6.8%	6.3%	7.3%
60 or more minutes	13.0%	17.0%	6.5%	5.5%	13.8%	9.3%	6.4%



## Housing

The age of Morton Township's housing stock is older, with most of the homes built before the year 2000. Table A-13 compares the years of the total housing units built in Morton Township to Mecosta County and the State of Michigan. Over 66 percent of the homes in Morton Township were built between 1960 and 1999. Only 24.7 percent of homes in Morton Township were built after 2000. Mecosta County and the state's percentages follow a similar trend.

	Morton Township		Mecosta County		State of Michigan	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2014 or later	10	0.3%	477	2.2%	82,985	1.8%
2010 to 2013	57	1.7%	432	2.0%	56,872	1.2%
2000 to 2009	771	22.7%	2,459	11.3%	454,659	9.9%
1980 to 1999	1,480	43.6%	8,009	36.8%	1,066,396	23.2%
1960 to 1979	773	22.8%	5,814	26.8%	1,252,782	27.2%
1940 to 1959	204	6.0%	2,270	10.5%	1,024,323	22.2%
1939 or earlier	96	2.8%	2,280	10.5%	673,896	14.6%
<b>Total</b>	3,391		21,741		4,611,913	

## Housing Unit Types

The majority of the occupied housing units in Morton Township, and most of the occupied housing units in Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan, are single family, detached homes. Table A-14 displays the number and percent of housing unit types found in the township, county, and state. The total number of non-single family detached homes in Morton Township is 302, 15.8 percent of the housing stock. In Mecosta County, 30.4 percent of the total housing stock is non-single family detached homes. In the State of Michigan as a whole, 27.7 percent of homes are non-single family detached homes.

Units in Structure	Morton Township		Mecosta County		State of Michigan	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
1, Detached	1,620	84.3%	11,330	69.6%	2,880,503	72.4%
1, Attached	23	1.2%	243	1.5%	191,078	4.8%
2 Units	1	0.1%	416	2.6%	83,255	2.1%
3 or 4 Units	0	0.0%	524	3.2%	103,759	2.6%
5 to 9 Units	0	0.0%	394	2.4%	170,774	4.3%
10 or more Units	11	0.6%	741	4.6%	353,641	8.9%
Mobile home or other type of housing	267	13.9%	2,628	16.1%	197,398	5%
<b>Total Units Occupied</b>	1,922		16,276		3,980,408	

## Housing Value

The median home value of owner-occupied homes in Morton Township is \$169,100. This is \$46,600 higher than the median home value of Mecosta County, and roughly \$6,500 higher than the median home value of all State of Michigan, owner occupied homes. However, a large majority of homes in the township, at 26.9 percent, are between \$200,000 to \$299,000.

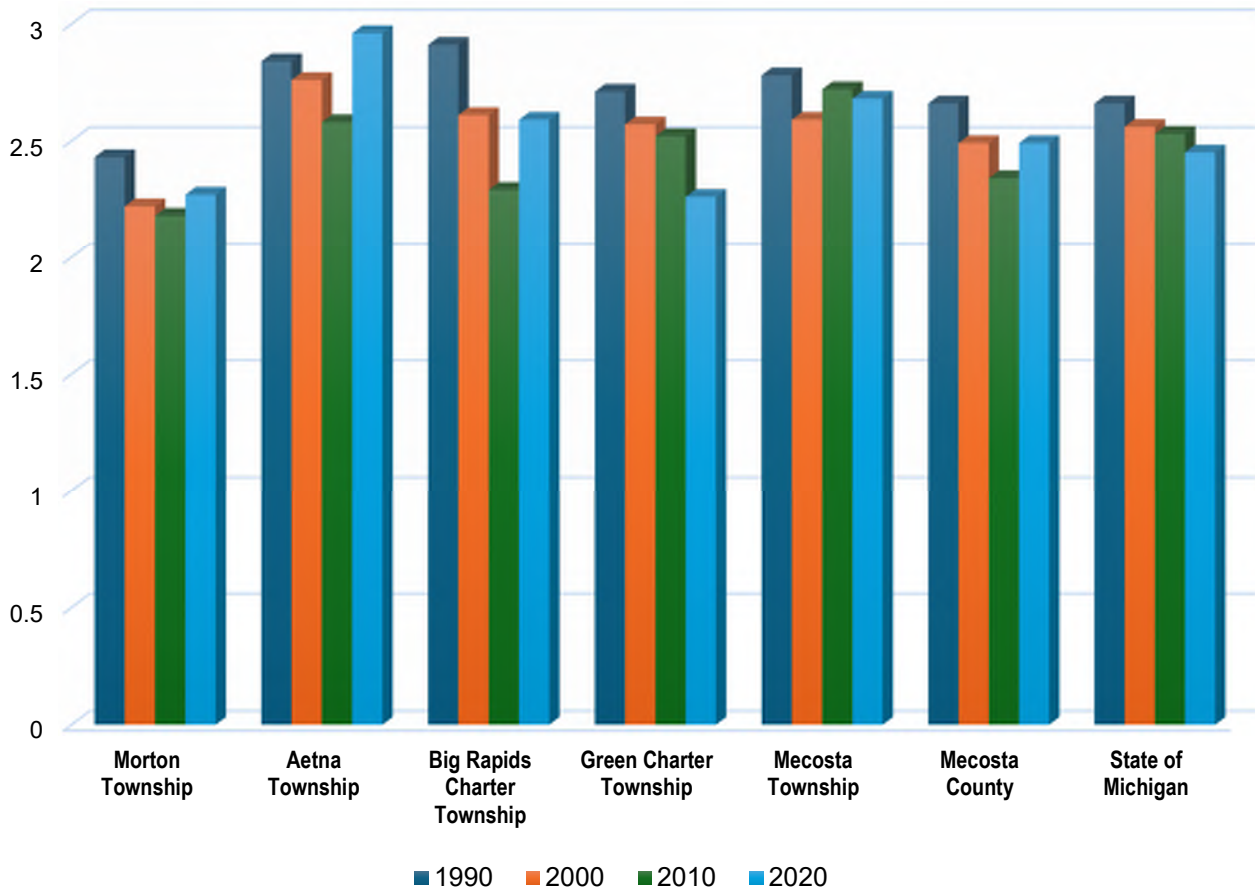
Table A-15: Home Value, 2020 (Source 2020 American Community Survey)						
	Morton Township		Mecosta County		State of Michigan	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	165	9.3%	1,417	11.7%	311,344	10.9%
<b>\$50,000 to \$99,999</b>	297	16.8%	3,283	27.1%	469,443	16.4%
<b>\$100,000 to \$149,999</b>	262	14.8%	2,585	21.3%	499,308	17.5%
<b>\$150,000 to \$199,999</b>	383	21.6%	2,194	18.1%	488,633	17.1%
<b>\$200,000 to \$299,999</b>	476	26.9%	1,857	15.3%	560,506	19.6%
<b>\$300,000 to \$499,999</b>	126	7.1%	578	4.8%	384,080	13.5%
<b>\$500,000 to \$999,999</b>	38	2.1%	167	1.4%	117,813	4.1%
<b>\$1,000,000 or more</b>	25	1.4%	40	0.3%	24,358	0.9%
<b>Owner-occupied units with mortgage</b>	986		6,639		1,702,529	
<b>Median (Dollars)</b>	\$169,100		\$122,500		\$162,600	

## Household Size

The average household size has steadily declined in Morton Township, surrounding communities, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan. Morton Township's household size remains lower than the Mecosta County and State of Michigan averages. Table A-16 demonstrates the average household size decline over the years between 1990 to 2020 and Figure 8 provides a visual representation of those numbers reported in the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census and the 2010 and 2020 American Community Survey.

Table A-16: Average Persons Per Household (Source 1990 & 2000 Decennial Census, 2010 & 2020 American Community Survey)				
	1990	2000	2010	2020
<b>Morton Township</b>	2.43	2.22	2.18	2.27
<b>Aetna Township</b>	2.84	2.76	2.58	2.96
<b>Big Rapids Charter Township</b>	2.91	2.61	2.29	2.59
<b>Green Charter Township</b>	2.71	2.57	2.52	2.26
<b>Mecosta Township</b>	2.78	2.59	2.72	2.68
<b>Mecosta County</b>	2.66	2.49	2.34	2.49
<b>State of Michigan</b>	2.66	2.56	2.53	2.45

Figure 8: Average Persons Per Household



Several socio-economic factors influence the size of a household. The move as a society from agriculture to technology and the increased economic pressure of raising and educating children have contributed to the decline in the average number of children that families have chosen to have. Another phenomenon affecting households is the breakup of nuclear families. Causes of this trend include the increase in divorce rates and births out of wedlock. This has resulted in an increase in the number of single parent households.

In general, another factor in the declining household size is the aging of our society as a whole. As a family of two parents and two children grows older, each of the children leave home to establish new households. This leaves one household of two people, and two new households of one person each. The result is a decrease in the number of people per household, a stable population, and an increase in demand for dwelling types, specifically differing types from the traditional single-family detached home. This appears to be a trend experienced by Morton Township, as its household size has decreased over the past four decades (Table A-16, Figure 8). The implications for the future include that, even with little or no population growth, the township could experience a demand for additional dwelling units. If population growth is significant, the impact on housing demand will be magnified. However, the lack of public water and sewer systems may have a slowing effect in terms of development of housing units.

## ***Household Composition***

Household composition is a term used to describe the general makeup of a household. Household composition may be broken up into five categories:

- Married couple families, composed of both spouses, with or without children.
- Single head of household families, containing one parent and a dependent.
- One person household, 65 years or older.
- Other one person, less than 65 years old.
- Other non-family

Household composition is an important factor to consider. Its interconnection with age, income, and housing demand, making it a key element to the population characteristics of a community. Table A-17 and Figure 9 illustrate household composition for Morton Township, surrounding communities, Mecosta County, and the State of Michigan.

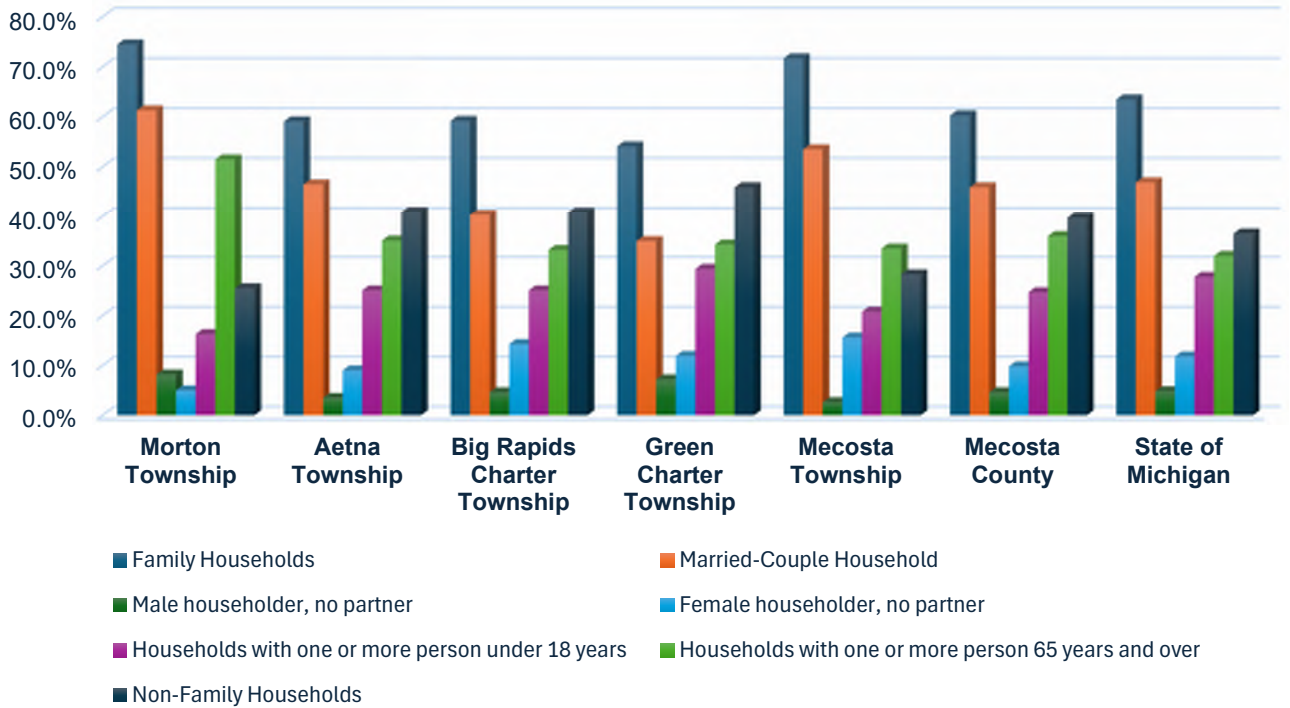
**Table A-17: 2020 Household Composition, Regional**

(Source 2020 American Community Survey)

	Morton Township		Aetna Township		Big Rapids Charter Township		Green Charter Township		Mecosta Township		Mecosta County		State of Michigan	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Family Households	1,432	74.5%	419	59.1%	1,082	59.2%	793	54.1%	713	71.7%	9,811	60.3%	2,526,437	63.5%
Married-Couple Household	1,178	61.3%	330	46.5%	736	40.3%	513	35.0%	532	53.5%	7,471	45.9%	1,865,163	46.9%
Male householder, no partner	157	8.2%	25	3.5%	84	4.6%	106	7.2%	26	2.6%	745	4.6%	190,513	4.8%
Female householder, no partner	97	5.0%	64	9.0%	262	14.3%	174	11.9%	155	15.6%	1,595	9.8%	470,761	11.8%
Households with one or more person under 18 years	313	16.3%	178	25.1%	459	25.1%	431	29.4%	207	20.8%	4,013	24.7%	1,108,434	27.8%
Households with one or more person 65 years and over	1,066	51.5%	292	35.1%	535	33.2%	457	34.3%	360	33.5%	5,772	36.0%	1,294,461	32.0%
Non-Family Households	490	25.5%	290	40.9%	745	40.8%	672	45.9%	282	28.3%	6,465	39.7%	1,453,971	36.5%
<b>Total Households</b>	1,922		709		1,827		1,465		995		16,276		3,980,408	



Figure 9: Household Composition, Regional



### Housing Tenure

Home ownership is generally a reliable indicator of community stability. Home purchases often represent the single largest investment that a family will make and, therefore, usually signifies a long-term commitment to the community. Table A-18 shows that owner-occupied homes in Morton Township are 92.2 percent of the total occupied housing units and 74.5 percent of Mecosta County; these numbers far exceed the state average of 71.7 percent, according to the 2020 American Community Survey. All but one of the surrounding communities follow this state trend, where Big Rapids Charter Township appears to be the outlier in Mecosta County, with only 67.5 percent owner-occupied homes.

	Total Occupied Units	Owner Occupied	% Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	% Renter Occupied
<b>Morton Township</b>	1,922	1,772	92.2%	150	7.8%
<b>Aetna Township</b>	709	585	82.5%	124	17.5%
<b>Big Rapids Charter Township</b>	1,827	1,234	67.5%	593	32.5%
<b>Green Charter Township</b>	1,465	1,208	82.5%	257	17.5%
<b>Mecosta Township</b>	995	834	83.8%	161	16.2%
<b>Mecosta County</b>	16,276	12,121	74.5%	4,155	25.5%
<b>State of Michigan</b>	3,980,408	2,855,485	71.7%	1,124,923	28.3%

**Housing Vacancy**

Housing vacancy rates in Morton Township remain very high, with 43.3 percent of units, which is significantly higher than its surrounding communities and Mecosta County as a whole, as seen in Table A-19. Vacancy rates between 3 and 5 percent are generally considered to offer evidence of a stable housing market. When vacancy rates drop below three percent, housing choice becomes restricted. It should be noted that the number of vacancies does not necessarily mean the availability of retail homes for consumers. The state of vacant homes can vary based on current conditions on-site.

<b>Table A-19: Housing Vacancy, 2020</b> (Source 2020 American Community Survey)					
	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Percent Occupied	Vacant Housing Units	Percent Vacant
<b>Morton Township</b>	3,391	1,922	56.7%	1,469	43.3%
<b>Aetna Township</b>	784	709	90.4%	75	9.6%
<b>Big Rapids Charter Township</b>	1,997	1,827	91.5%	170	8.5%
<b>Green Charter Township</b>	1,614	1,465	90.8%	149	9.2%
<b>Mecosta Township</b>	1,275	995	78.0%	280	22.0%
<b>Mecosta County</b>	21,741	16,276	74.9%	5,465	25.1%
<b>State of Michigan</b>	4,611,913	3,980,408	86.3%	631,505	13.7%

## **Appendix B: Public Input**

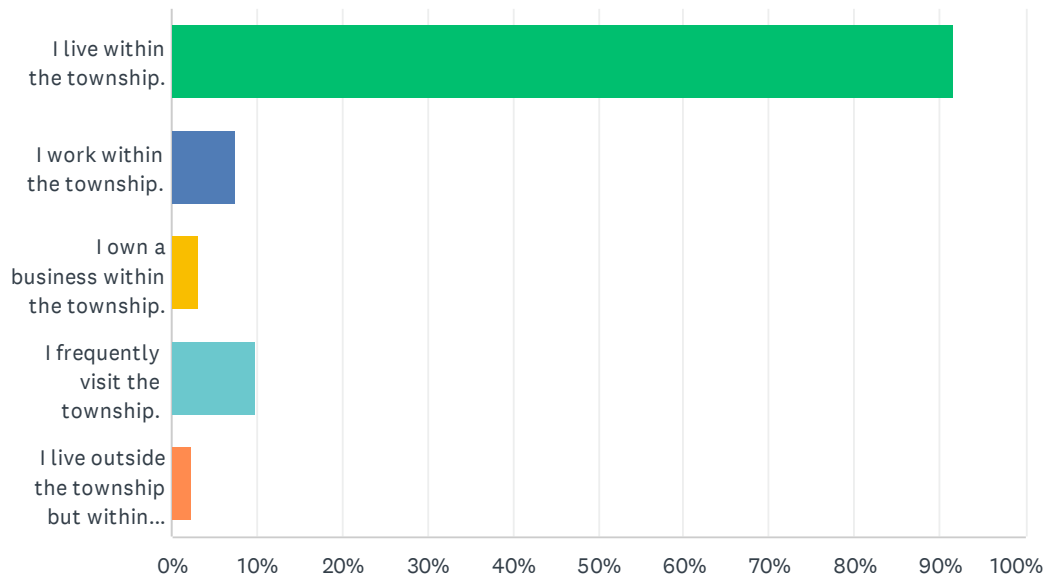
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Copies of the following documents are included in Appendix B

- On-line survey and summary of survey responses
- Notice of Workshop held October 8, 2024 (posted on the township Facebook page, Canadian Lakes Friends Facebook page, The Tullymore Community Connection and on Nextdoor. It was also shared with the Tri-Lakes Association and the School Section Lake PO.)
- Summary of results from October 8 meeting

# Q1 What is your connection to Morton Township? (Select all that apply)

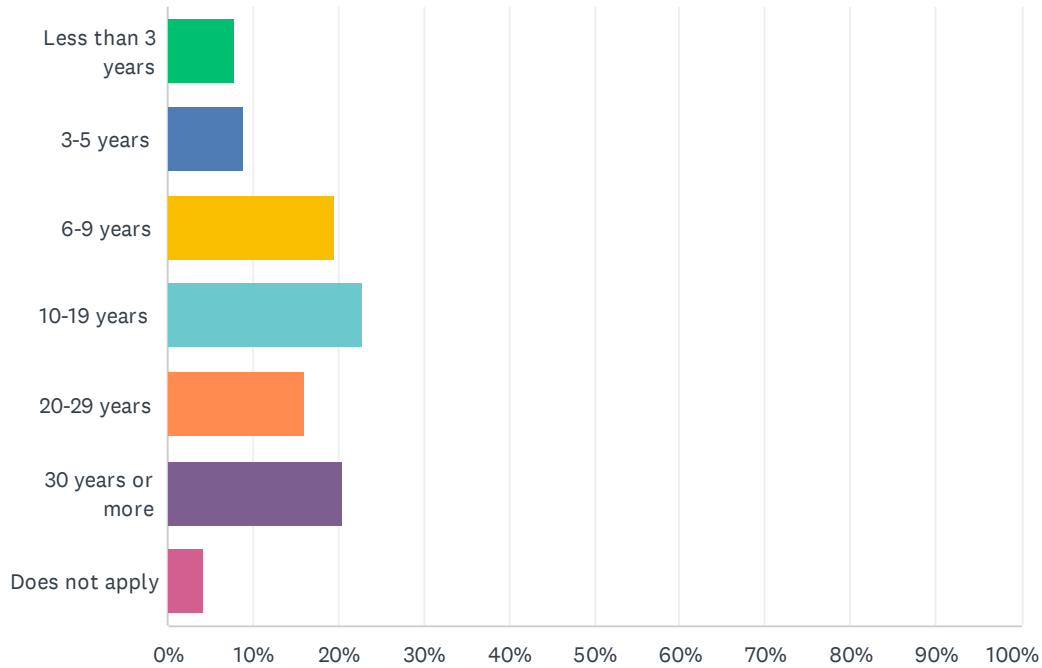
Answered: 253 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live within the township.	91.70%	232
I work within the township.	7.51%	19
I own a business within the township.	3.16%	8
I frequently visit the township.	9.88%	25
I live outside the township but within Mecosta County.	2.37%	6
Total Respondents: 253		

## Q2 How long have you lived in Morton Township?

Answered: 255 Skipped: 0

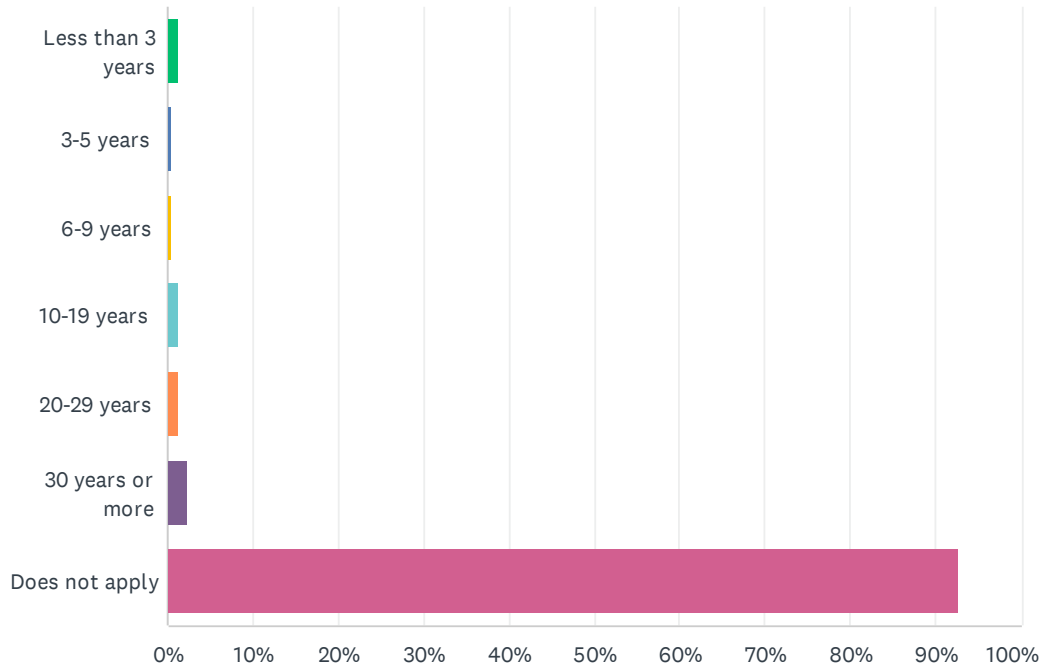


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 3 years	7.84%	20
3-5 years	9.02%	23
6-9 years	19.61%	50
10-19 years	22.75%	58
20-29 years	16.08%	41
30 years or more	20.39%	52
Does not apply	4.31%	11
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>255</b>



### Q3 If you have a business in Morton Township, how long has it been established?

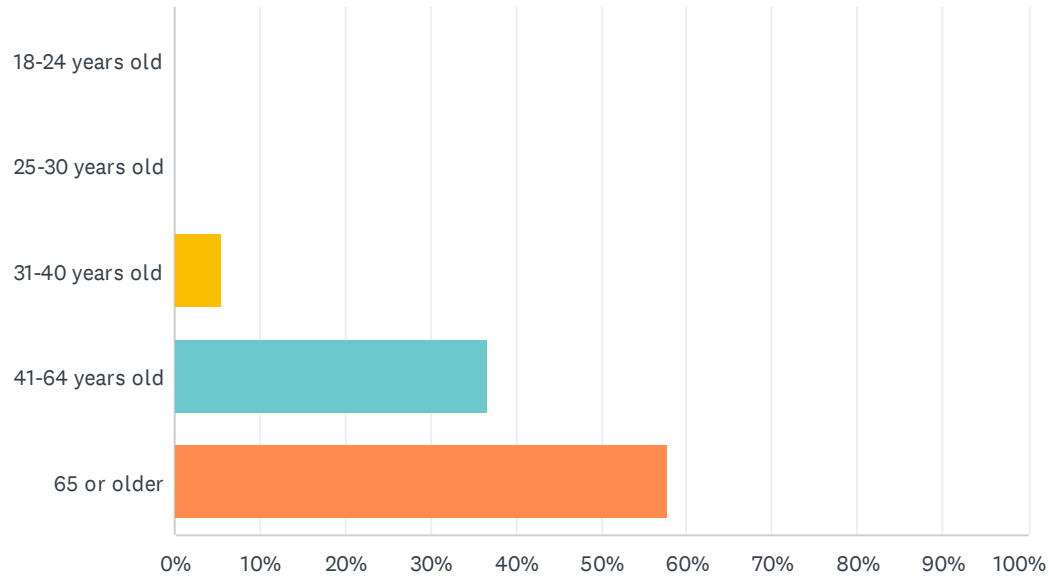
Answered: 218 Skipped: 37



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 3 years	1.38%	3
3-5 years	0.46%	1
6-9 years	0.46%	1
10-19 years	1.38%	3
20-29 years	1.38%	3
30 years or more	2.29%	5
Does not apply	92.66%	202
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>218</b>

## Q4 What is your age?

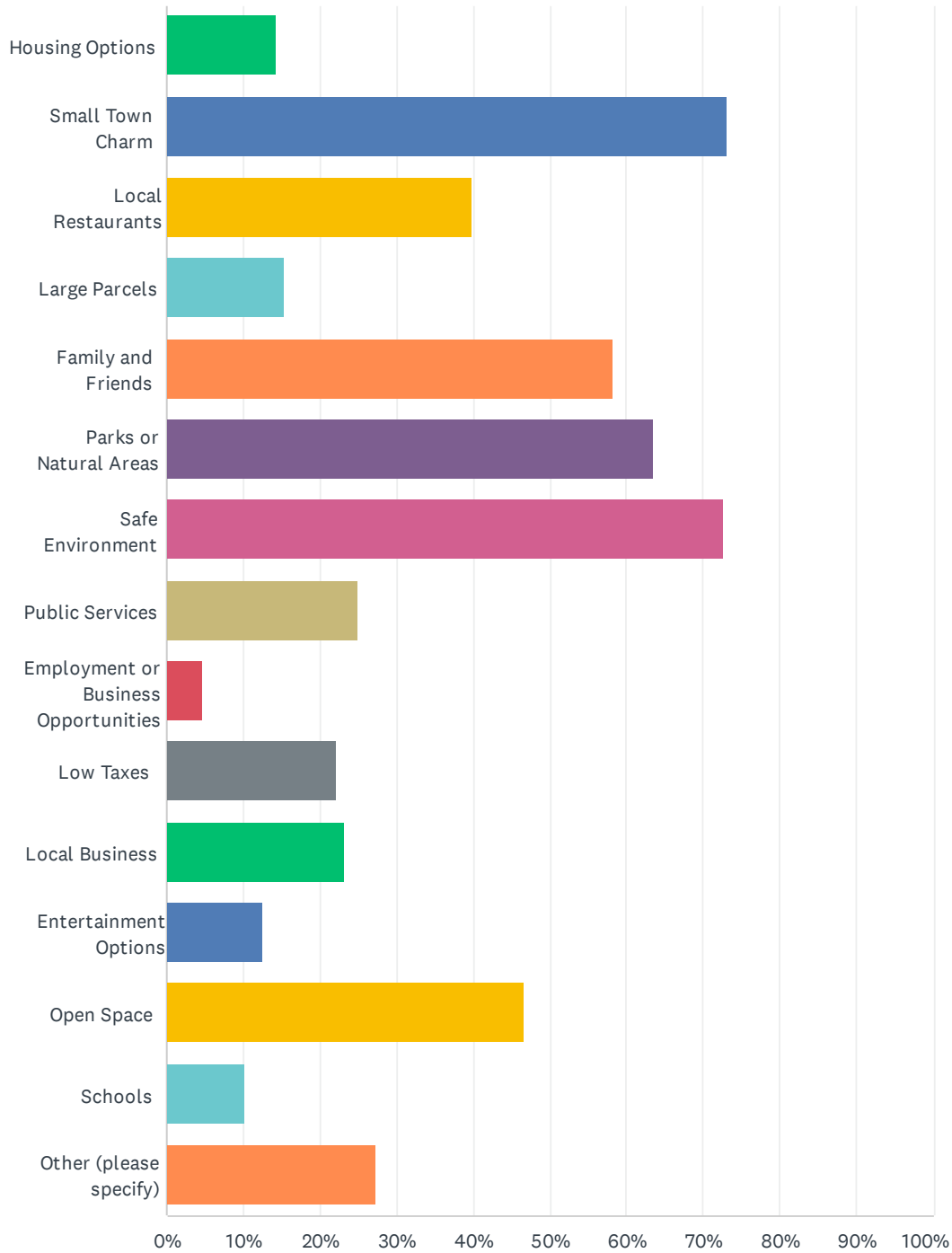
Answered: 254 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
18-24 years old	0.00% 0
25-30 years old	0.00% 0
31-40 years old	5.51% 14
41-64 years old	36.61% 93
65 or older	57.87% 147
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>254</b>

## Q5 What do you value the most about living, working, or visiting Morton Township? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 253 Skipped: 2



Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Housing Options	14.23%	36
Small Town Charm	73.12%	185
Local Restaurants	39.92%	101
Large Parcels	15.42%	39
Family and Friends	58.10%	147
Parks or Natural Areas	63.64%	161
Safe Environment	72.73%	184
Public Services	24.90%	63
Employment or Business Opportunities	4.74%	12
Low Taxes	22.13%	56
Local Business	23.32%	59
Entertainment Options	12.65%	32
Open Space	46.64%	118
Schools	10.28%	26
Other (please specify)	27.27%	69
Total Respondents: 253		

## 5. What do you value the most about living, working, or visiting Morton Township? (other results)

Based on the survey responses, here are the top ten most valued aspects of living, working, or visiting Morton Township:

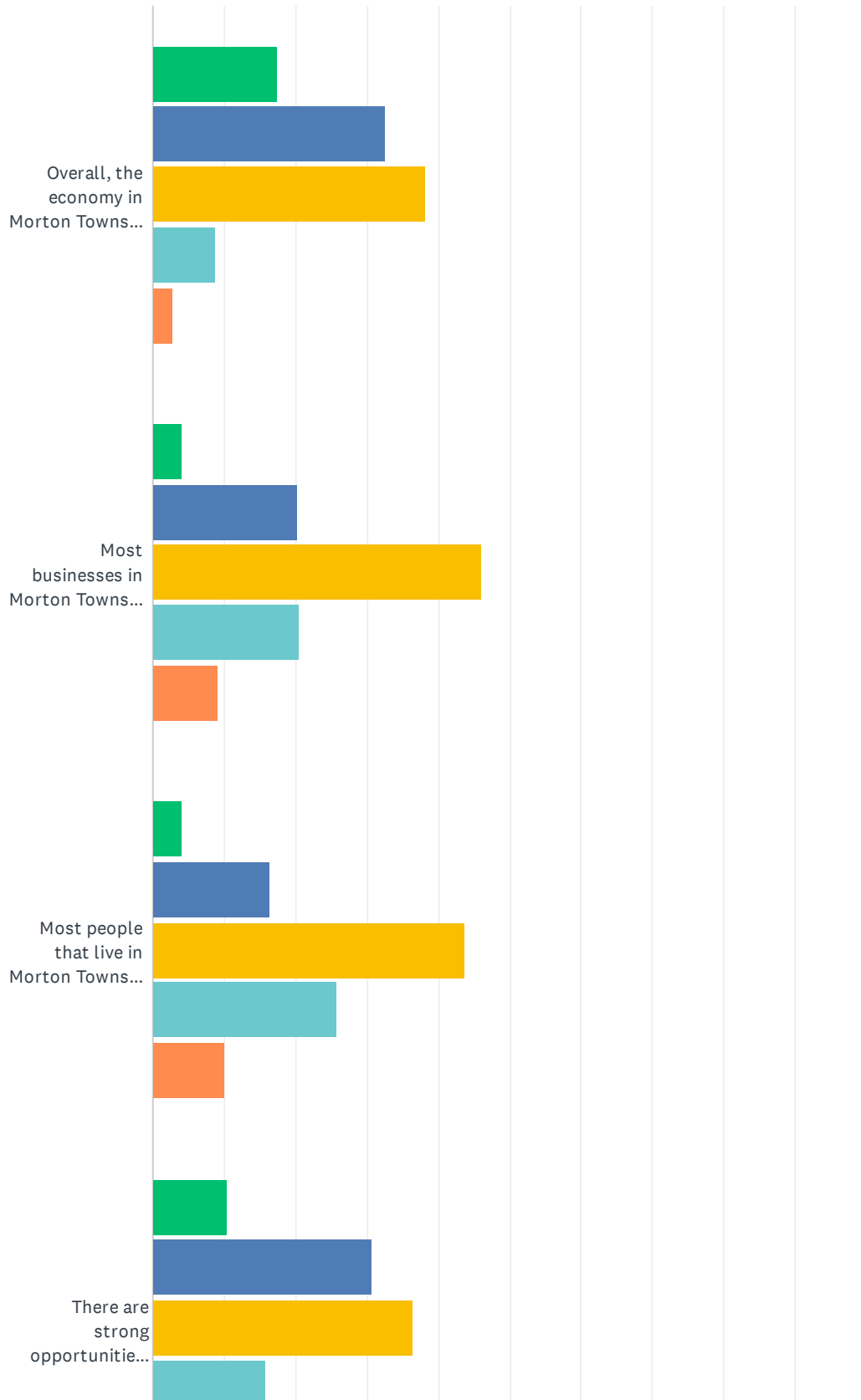
1. **Lakes/Water Access:** The lakes, especially Tri-Lakes, are frequently mentioned as a significant draw for recreation, boating, and the general beauty they provide.
2. **Low Population/Low Traffic:** Many respondents appreciate the rural, less congested nature of the area, which offers a peaceful and serene environment.
3. **Recreation:** The township's recreational opportunities, including boating, hiking, and outdoor activities, are highly valued.
4. **Natural Beauty:** People enjoy the natural, rural atmosphere, with its clean air, water, and quiet surroundings.
5. **Community Feel:** The small-town charm, community involvement, and events are important to many residents and visitors.
6. **Library:** The Morton Township Library is a well-loved asset in the community, mentioned multiple times.
7. **Safety and Space:** The open spaces and feeling of safety, along with the absence of crowding, are important for quality of life.
8. **Lack of Overdevelopment:** Some value the balance between development and preserving the rural, peaceful atmosphere without excessive commercial or residential expansion.
9. **Golfing:** Access to golf courses, especially at Tullymore Golf Resort, is appreciated.
10. **Proximity to Larger Cities:** While Morton Township provides a peaceful setting, its proximity to other cities and attractions is also noted as a positive aspect.

The lakes, low population density, and recreational amenities stand out as the most cherished aspects of Morton Township.

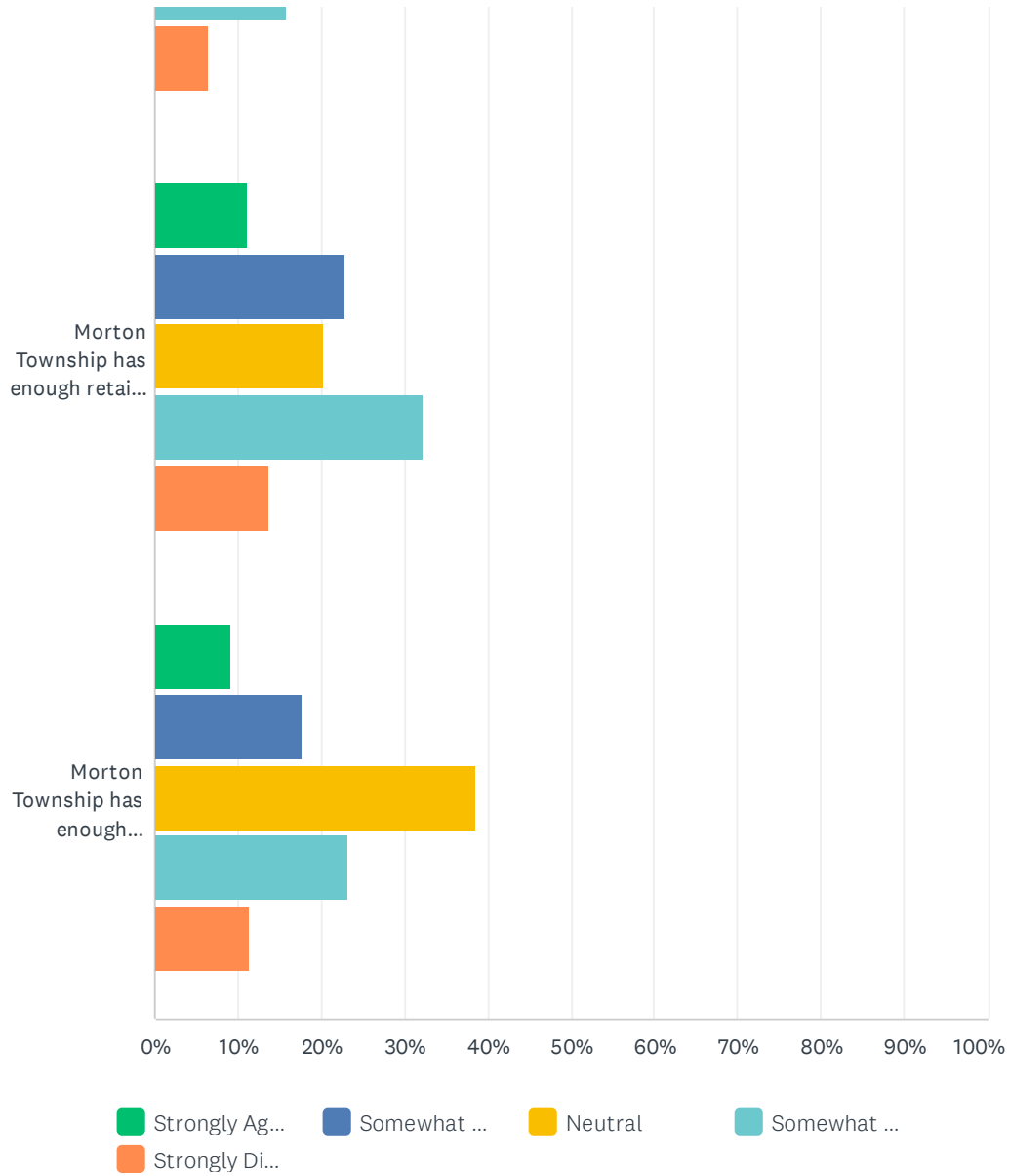


## Q6 Economy

Answered: 252 Skipped: 3



# Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey



Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey

	<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Overall, the economy in Morton Township is headed in a positive direction	17.53% 44	32.67% 82	38.25% 96	8.76% 22	2.79% 7	251
Most businesses in Morton Township can find dependable employees in a reasonable amount of time.	4.03% 10	20.16% 50	45.97% 114	20.56% 51	9.27% 23	248
Most people that live in Morton Township can find jobs that pay them a reasonable wage without a long commute.	4.02% 10	16.47% 41	43.78% 109	25.70% 64	10.04% 25	249
There are strong opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses to meet the community's needs.	10.53% 26	30.77% 76	36.44% 90	15.79% 39	6.48% 16	247
Morton Township has enough retail, restaurants, and service businesses to meet the community's needs.	11.16% 28	22.71% 57	20.32% 51	32.27% 81	13.55% 34	251
Morton Township has enough industrial businesses and large employers to meet the community's needs.	9.24% 23	17.67% 44	38.55% 96	23.29% 58	11.24% 28	249

## Q7 Are there specific types of businesses or economic activities you would like to see more of in Morton Township?

Answered: 120 Skipped: 135

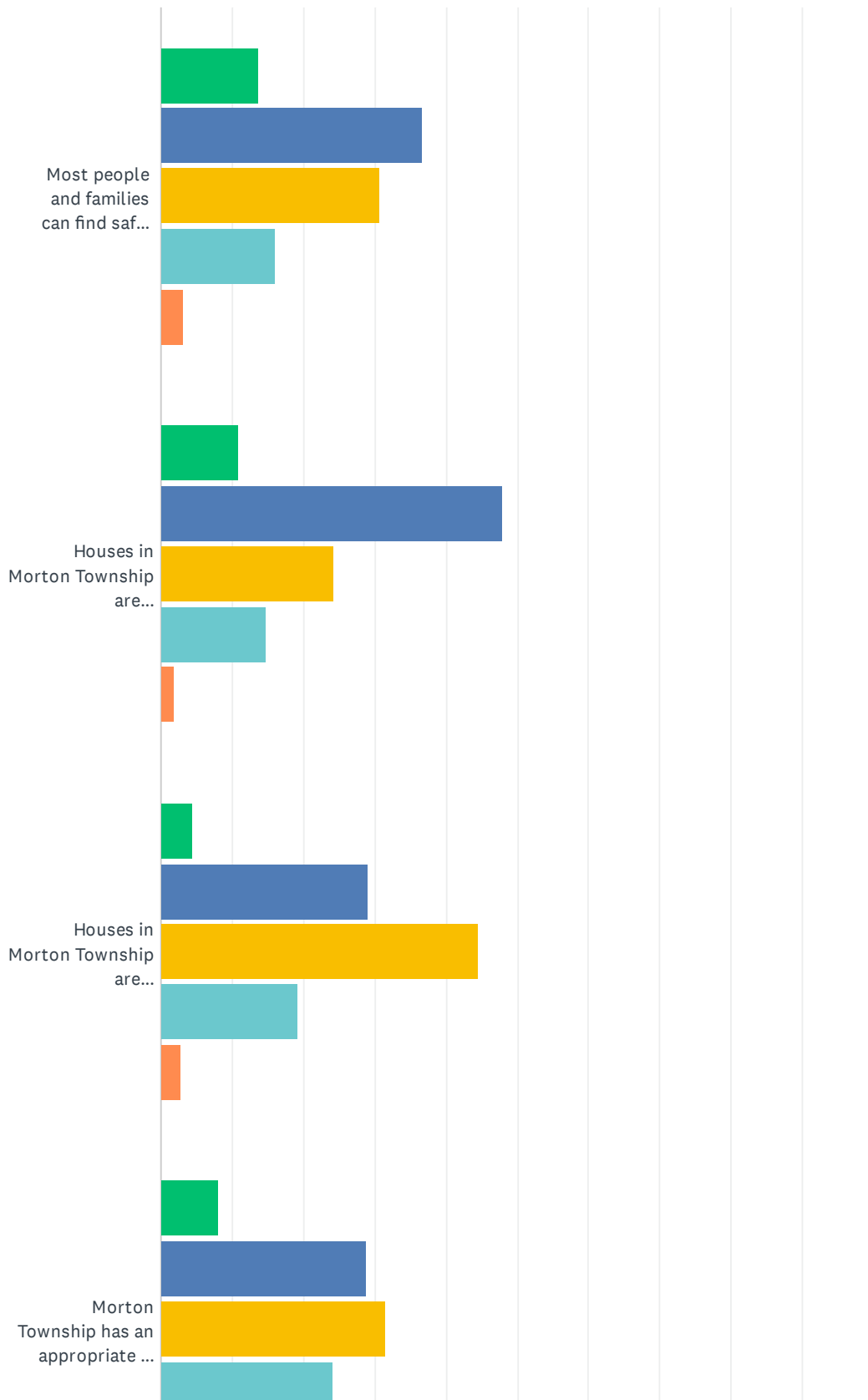
### 7. Are there specific types of businesses or economic activities you would like to see more of in Morton Township?

Here are the top ten most common types of businesses or economic activities residents would like to see more of in the township:

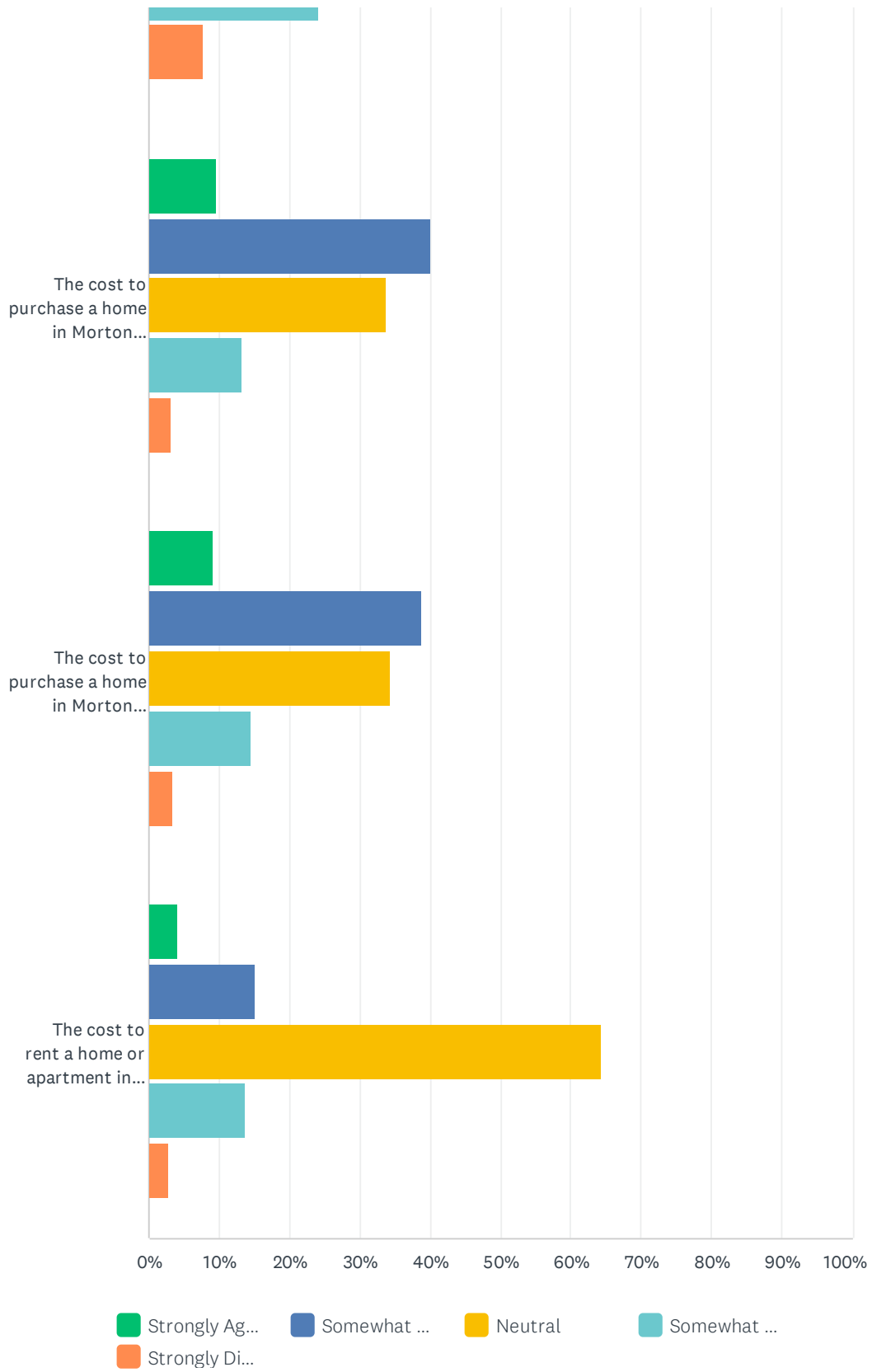
1. **Restaurants** – Multiple responses expressed a desire for more dining options, including family-style, diverse cuisine, fast food, and non-corporate eateries.
2. **Car Wash** – There is significant demand for car wash services, with several mentions of automatic or drive-thru car washes.
3. **Grocery Stores** – Organic grocery stores and general grocery options were frequently requested.
4. **Entertainment and Recreation** – Suggestions include movie theaters, bowling alleys, family entertainment, hiking trails, and playgrounds.
5. **Retail Shops and Boutiques** – Small retail businesses, boutiques, and gift shops were highlighted as desired developments.
6. **Medical and Health Services** – Residents want more clinics, walk-in facilities, and healthcare providers closer to the township.
7. **Breweries and Coffee Shops** – Craft breweries, coffee shops, and places with light food service were mentioned as popular choices.
8. **Industrial and Technology Businesses** – There were requests for more industrial or clean technology businesses to enhance economic growth.
9. **Fitness Centers** – Some respondents expressed interest in having fitness centers or Pilates studios in the area.
10. **Housing Development** – Affordable housing and 55+ communities without high fees were also requested.

## Q8 Housing

Answered: 253 Skipped: 2



# Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey



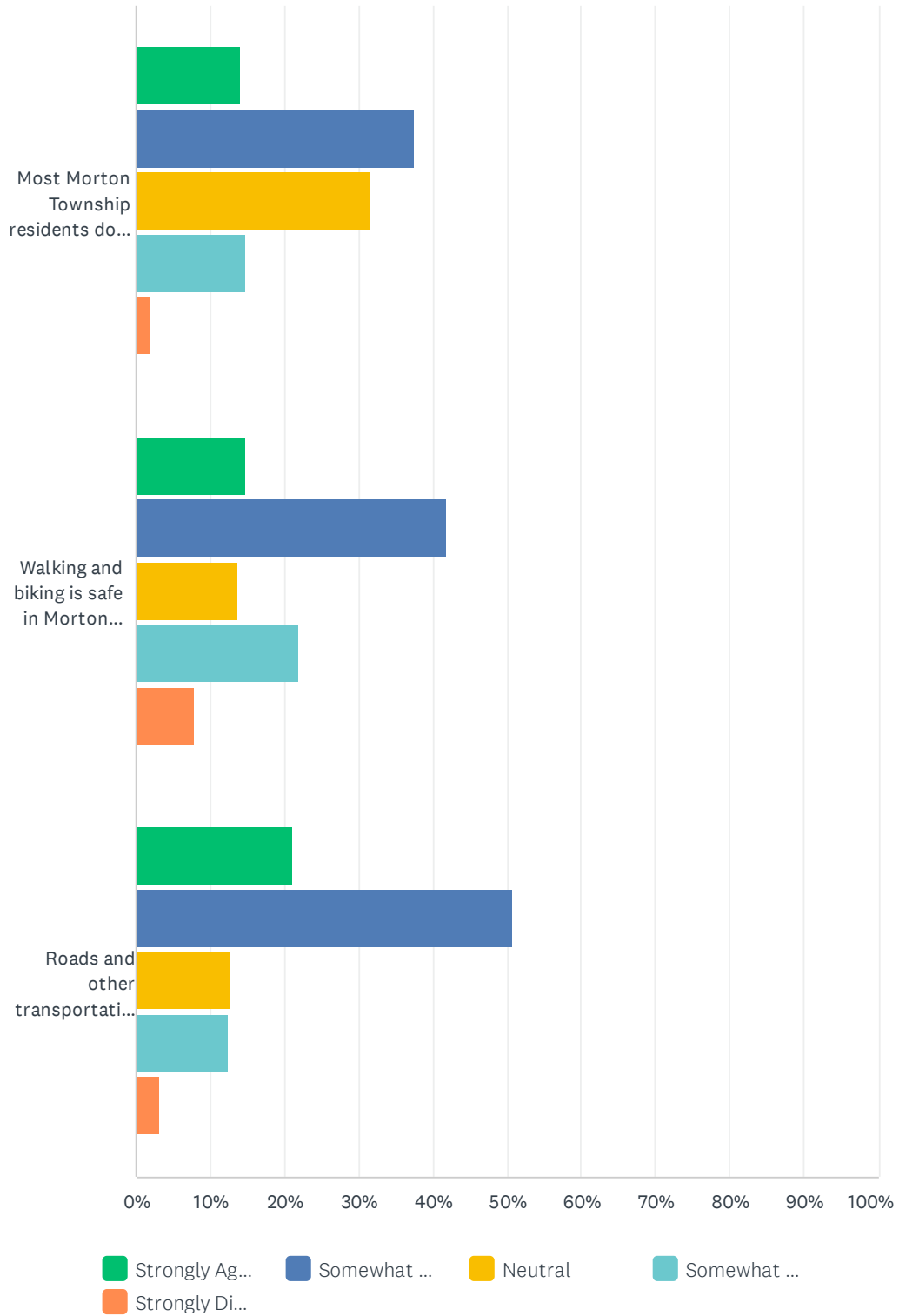


Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey

	<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Most people and families can find safe, affordable housing that meets their needs in Morton Township.	13.55% 34	36.65% 92	30.68% 77	15.94% 40	3.19% 8	251
Houses in Morton Township are well-maintained, and homeowners are reinvesting in their homes.	10.80% 27	48.00% 120	24.40% 61	14.80% 37	2.00% 5	250
Houses in Morton Township are well-maintained and rental properties are being reinvested in.	4.49% 11	28.98% 71	44.49% 109	19.18% 47	2.86% 7	245
Morton Township has an appropriate mix of housing options (single-family, apartments, senior housing, etc)	8.00% 20	28.80% 72	31.60% 79	24.00% 60	7.60% 19	250
The cost to purchase a home in Morton Township is reasonable.	9.64% 24	40.16% 100	33.73% 84	13.25% 33	3.21% 8	249
The cost to purchase a home in Morton Township is reasonable.	9.09% 22	38.84% 94	34.30% 83	14.46% 35	3.31% 8	242
The cost to rent a home or apartment in Morton Township is reasonable.	4.00% 10	15.20% 38	64.40% 161	13.60% 34	2.80% 7	250

## Q9 Transportation

Answered: 252 Skipped: 3

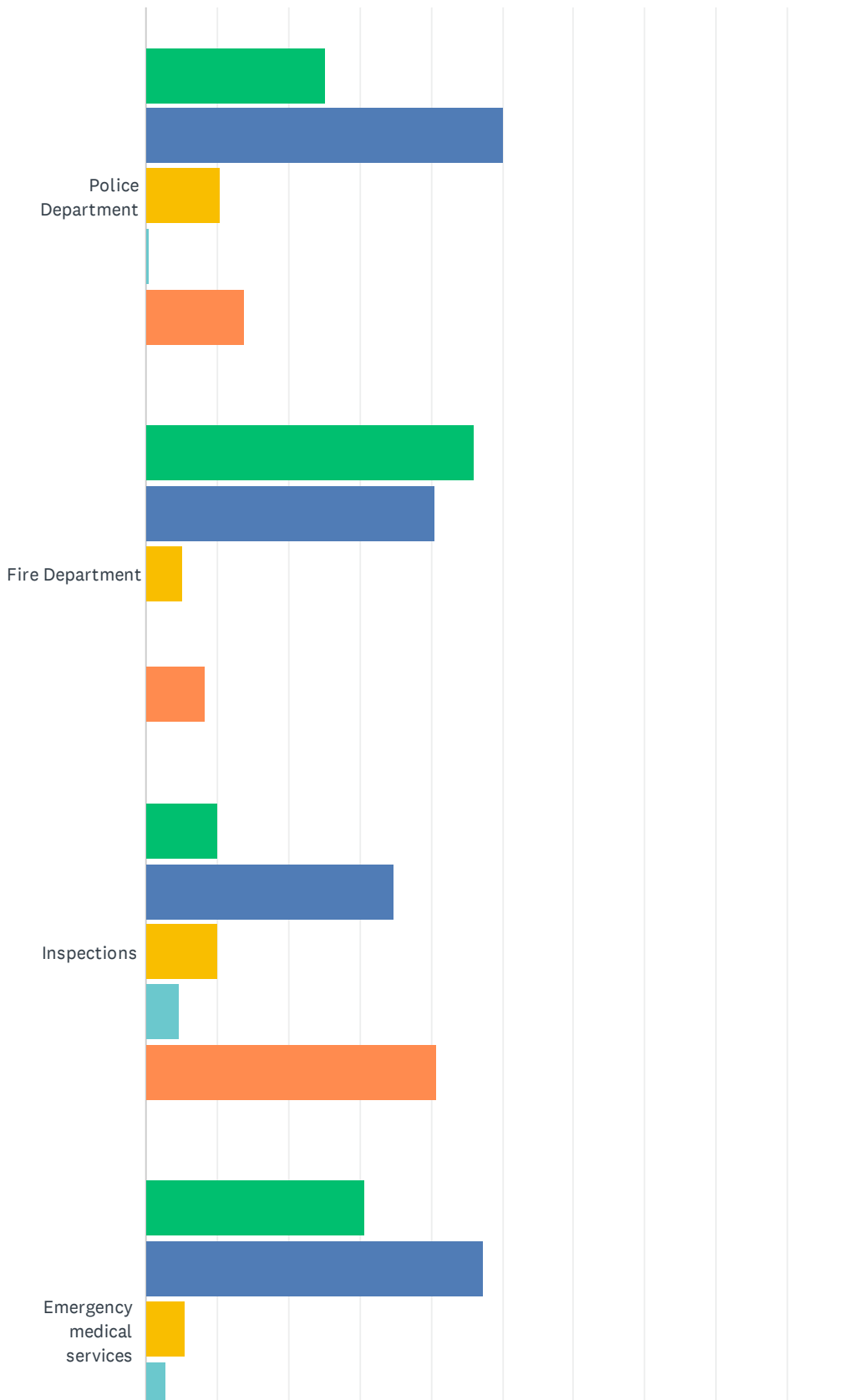


Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey

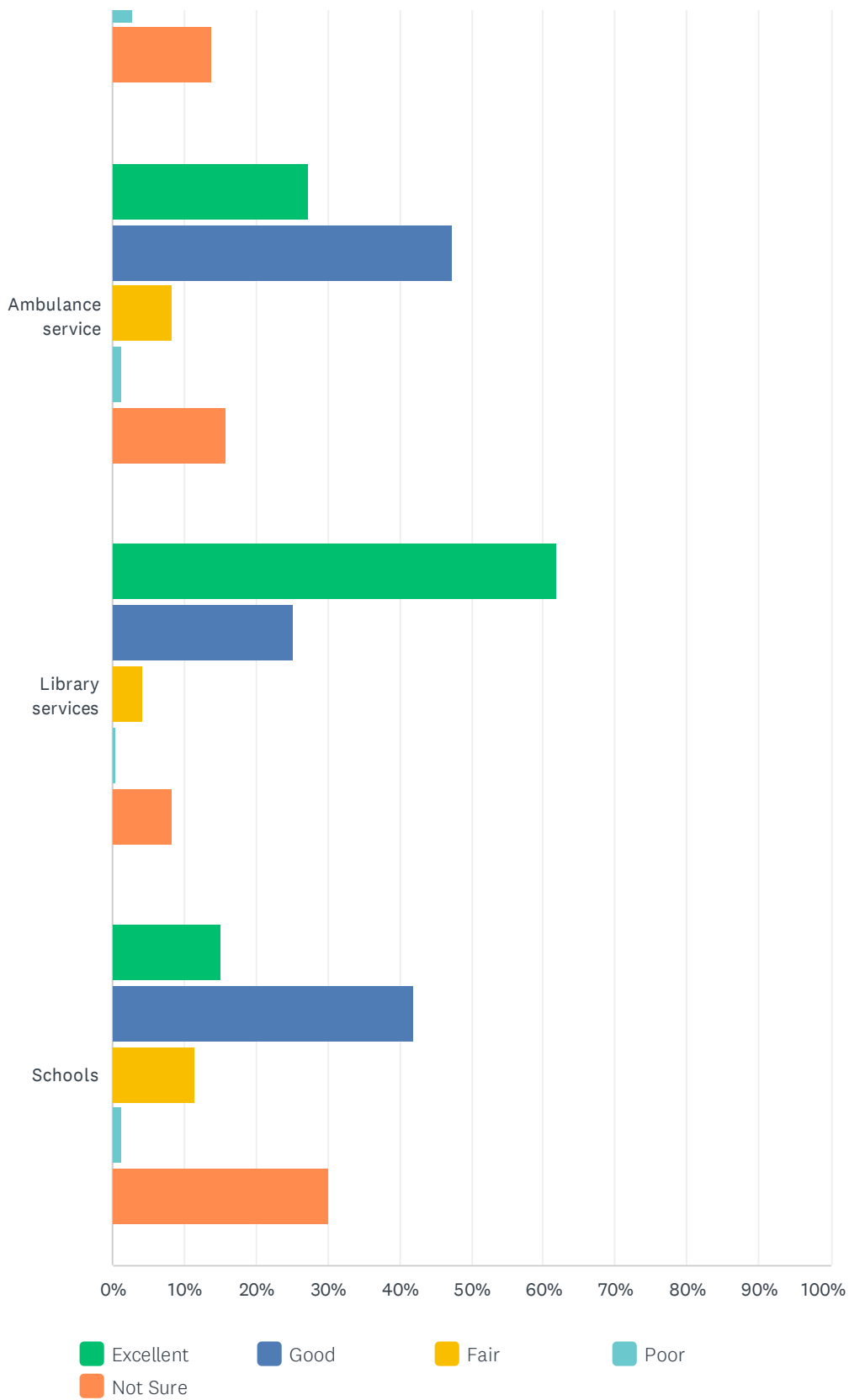
	<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Most Morton Township residents do not have a problem getting to work, school, the grocery store, or medical appointments	14.00% 35	37.60% 94	31.60% 79	14.80% 37	2.00% 5	250
Walking and biking is safe in Morton Township.	14.74% 37	41.83% 105	13.55% 34	21.91% 55	7.97% 20	251
Roads and other transportation infrastructure in Morton Township are well-maintained.	21.03% 53	50.79% 128	12.70% 32	12.30% 31	3.17% 8	252

## Q10 How would you rate the following community services?

Answered: 254 Skipped: 1



# Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey



Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NOT SURE	TOTAL
Police Department	25.10% 63	50.20% 126	10.36% 26	0.40% 1	13.94% 35	251
Fire Department	46.06% 117	40.55% 103	5.12% 13	0.00% 0	8.27% 21	254
Inspections	9.96% 25	34.66% 87	9.96% 25	4.78% 12	40.64% 102	251
Emergency medical services	30.71% 78	47.24% 120	5.51% 14	2.76% 7	13.78% 35	254
Ambulance service	27.27% 69	47.43% 120	8.30% 21	1.19% 3	15.81% 40	253
Library services	61.81% 157	25.20% 64	4.33% 11	0.39% 1	8.27% 21	254
Schools	15.08% 38	42.06% 106	11.51% 29	1.19% 3	30.16% 76	252



## Q11 If you answered "Fair" or "Poor" for any of the above options in Question #10, please briefly describe why below:

Answered: 46 Skipped: 209

### 11. If you answered "Fair" or "Poor" for any of the above options in Question 10, please briefly describe why below:

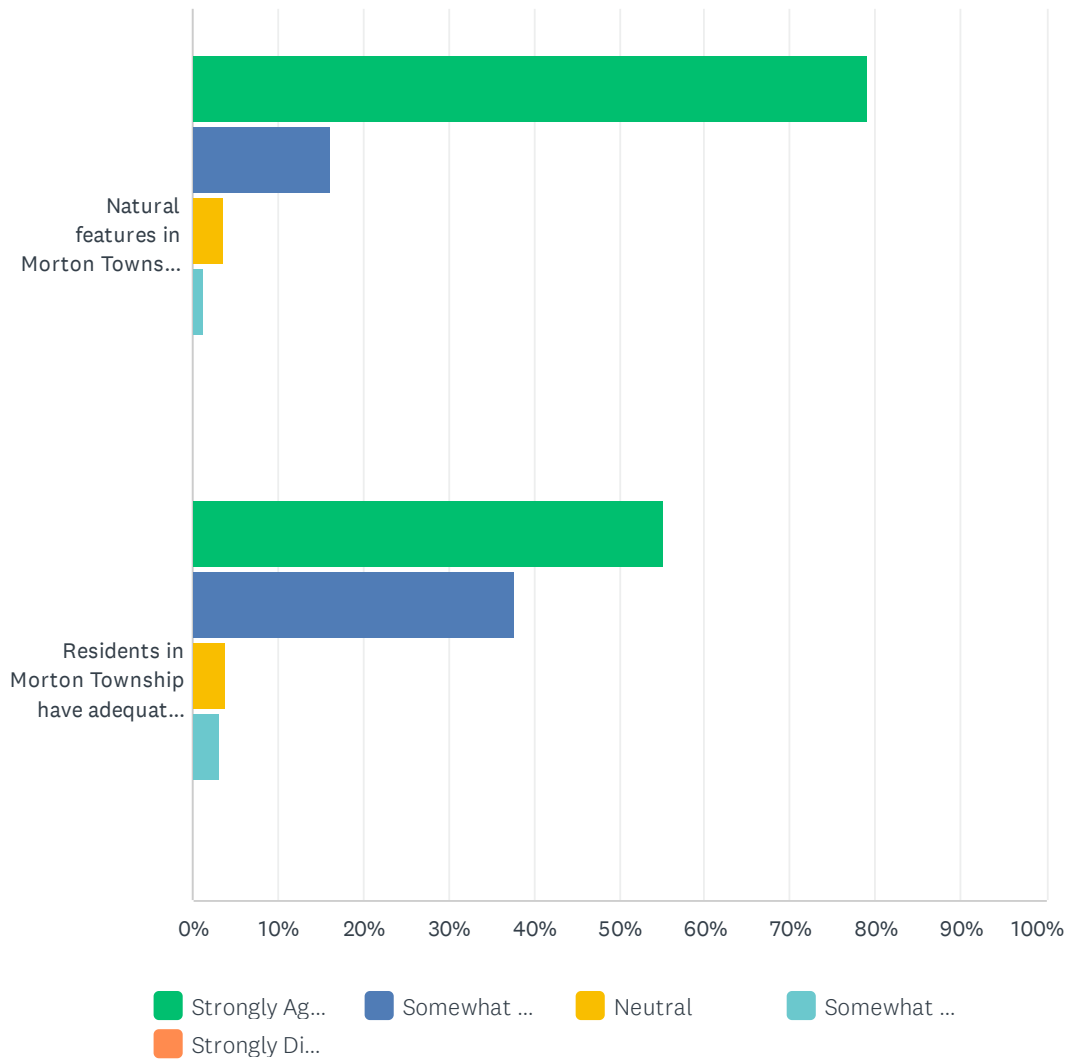
Here are the top ten most common comments from the provided list regarding services that were rated "Fair" or "Poor":

1. **Distance and Slow Response Times for Emergency Services** – Several comments express concern about the slow response times of emergency services, including ambulances, fire departments, and police, often due to the distance from service providers.
2. **Lack of Local Police Presence** – Many respondents note the absence of a local police force, with only county sheriff services available, which leads to limited patrols and a feeling of inadequate policing.
3. **Schools Need Improvement** – Concerns about the quality of local schools, including lower rankings compared to nearby districts, large class sizes, and outdated curriculums.
4. **Insufficient Code Enforcement and Inspections** – Respondents highlight a lack of enforcement regarding building codes, property violations, and housing inspections.
5. **Need for Better Urgent Care and Medical Facilities** – Several respondents mention the need for closer and better urgent care or trauma centers, given the distance to the nearest emergency medical services.
6. **Road and Infrastructure Issues** – Complaints about poor road conditions, especially on private roads, along with the need for better maintenance and infrastructure improvements.
7. **Marine and Lake Safety Services** – The limited scope and timing of marine patrols were mentioned as insufficient to meet the needs of the area, especially during peak boating hours.
8. **Fire Department Response** – Some concerns were raised about the response time and effectiveness of the volunteer fire department.
9. **Inadequate Ambulance Coverage During Summer** – There were specific concerns about ambulance services being overwhelmed during the busy summer months.
10. **Housing and Zoning Regulation Issues** – Inconsistencies in zoning enforcement and housing inspections were flagged as problematic, with examples of improper building approvals.

These comments reflect concerns primarily around emergency services, school quality, and infrastructure in Morton Township.

## Q12 Environment

Answered: 254 Skipped: 1



	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
Natural features in Morton Township should be protected from development (wetlands, parks, farmland, forest, rivers and streams, etc.)	79.13% 201	16.14% 41	3.54% 9	1.18% 3	0.00% 0	254
Residents in Morton Township have adequate access to outdoor recreation opportunities and natural areas (hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, etc.)	55.12% 140	37.80% 96	3.94% 10	3.15% 8	0.00% 0	254

## Q13 Are there specific types of outdoor/recreational activities you would like to see more of in Morton Township?

Answered: 99 Skipped: 156

### 13. Are there specific types of outdoor/recreational activities you would like to see more of in Morton Township?

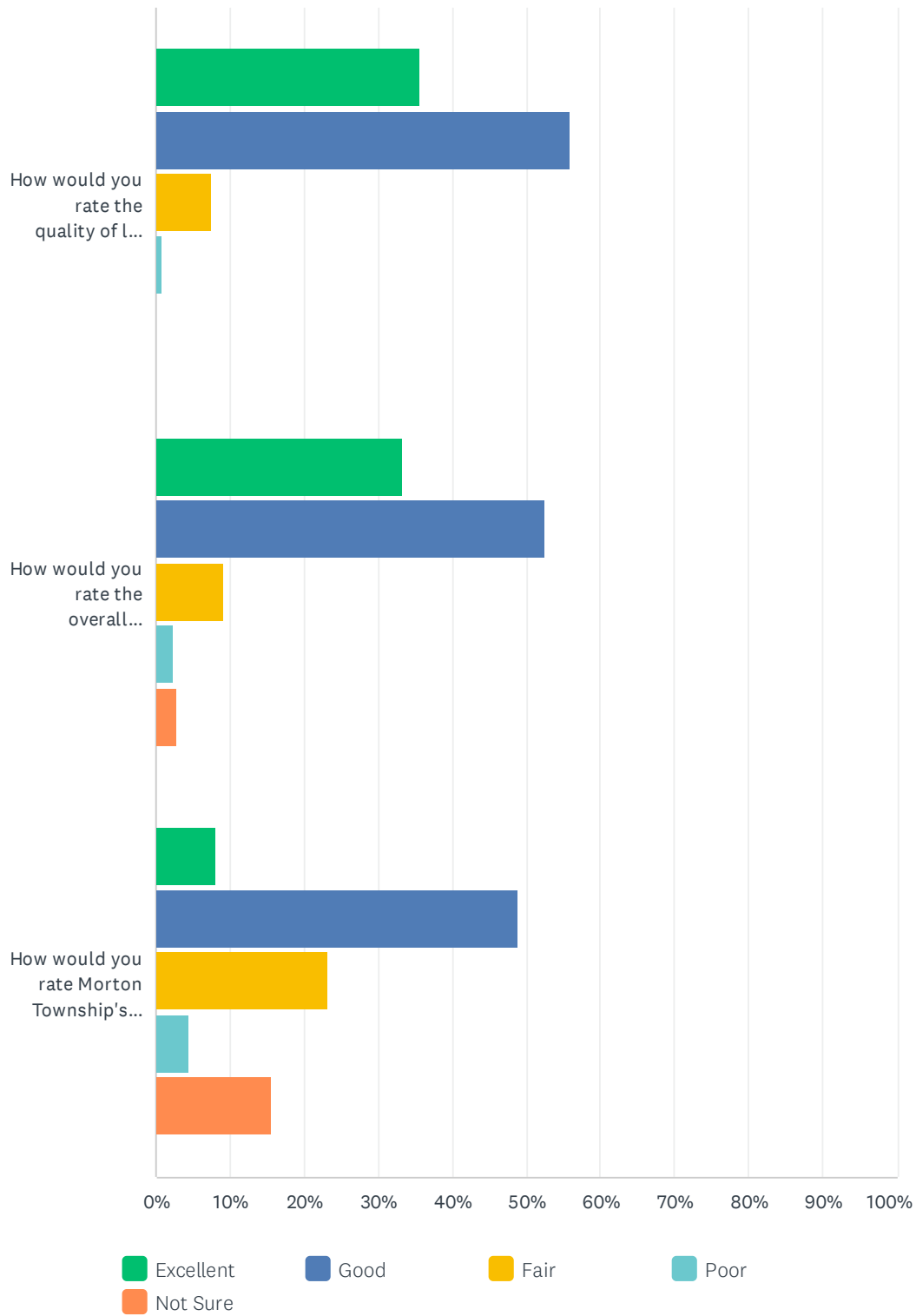
Based on the provided list, here are the top ten specific types of outdoor/recreational activities people would like to see more of in Morton Township:

1. **Walking/Hiking Trails** – A significant number of responses emphasize the need for more trails, especially those that are well-maintained and accessible for both hiking and winter activities like cross-country skiing.
2. **Biking Trails/Paths** – Many comments mention the importance of expanding biking opportunities, both on dedicated trails and in creating safer bike lanes on roads.
3. **Kayaking** – Improving access to kayaking areas, especially along the river, and making it easier for kayakers to navigate.
4. **Cross-Country Ski Trails** – In addition to hiking, there's a desire for trails that can be used for cross-country skiing in winter.
5. **Pickleball Courts** – There is a clear interest in adding more pickleball courts in the area.
6. **Community Garden** – A community garden is mentioned as a way to increase outdoor activities for residents.
7. **River Cleanup/Improvement** – The cleanup and improvement of local rivers, especially for recreational use, was mentioned multiple times.
8. **Playgrounds and Splash Pads** – Requests for more or better playgrounds and the addition of splash pads for children.
9. **Local Recreation Center** – A few comments highlight the need for a public recreation center with indoor facilities for swimming, gym space, and other activities.
10. **Skate Parks or BMX Parks** – Some residents would like to see more facilities for activities like skateboarding or BMX riding.

These priorities indicate a strong community interest in outdoor recreation, natural preservation, and both summer and winter activities.

## Q14 Perception

Answered: 252 Skipped: 3



Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NOT SURE	TOTAL
How would you rate the quality of life in Morton Township?	35.71% 90	55.95% 141	7.54% 19	0.79% 2	0.00% 0	252
How would you rate the overall willingness of people to help their community?	33.33% 84	52.38% 132	9.13% 23	2.38% 6	2.78% 7	252
How would you rate Morton Township's commercial and industrial areas?	8.00% 20	48.80% 122	23.20% 58	4.40% 11	15.60% 39	250

## Q15 If you answered "Fair" or "Poor," for any of the above options, please briefly describe why below:

Answered: 43 Skipped: 212

### 15. If you answered "Fair" or "Poor," for any of the above options (question #14), please briefly describe why below:

The top ten common concerns among those who rated Morton Township's perception as "Fair" or "Poor" are:

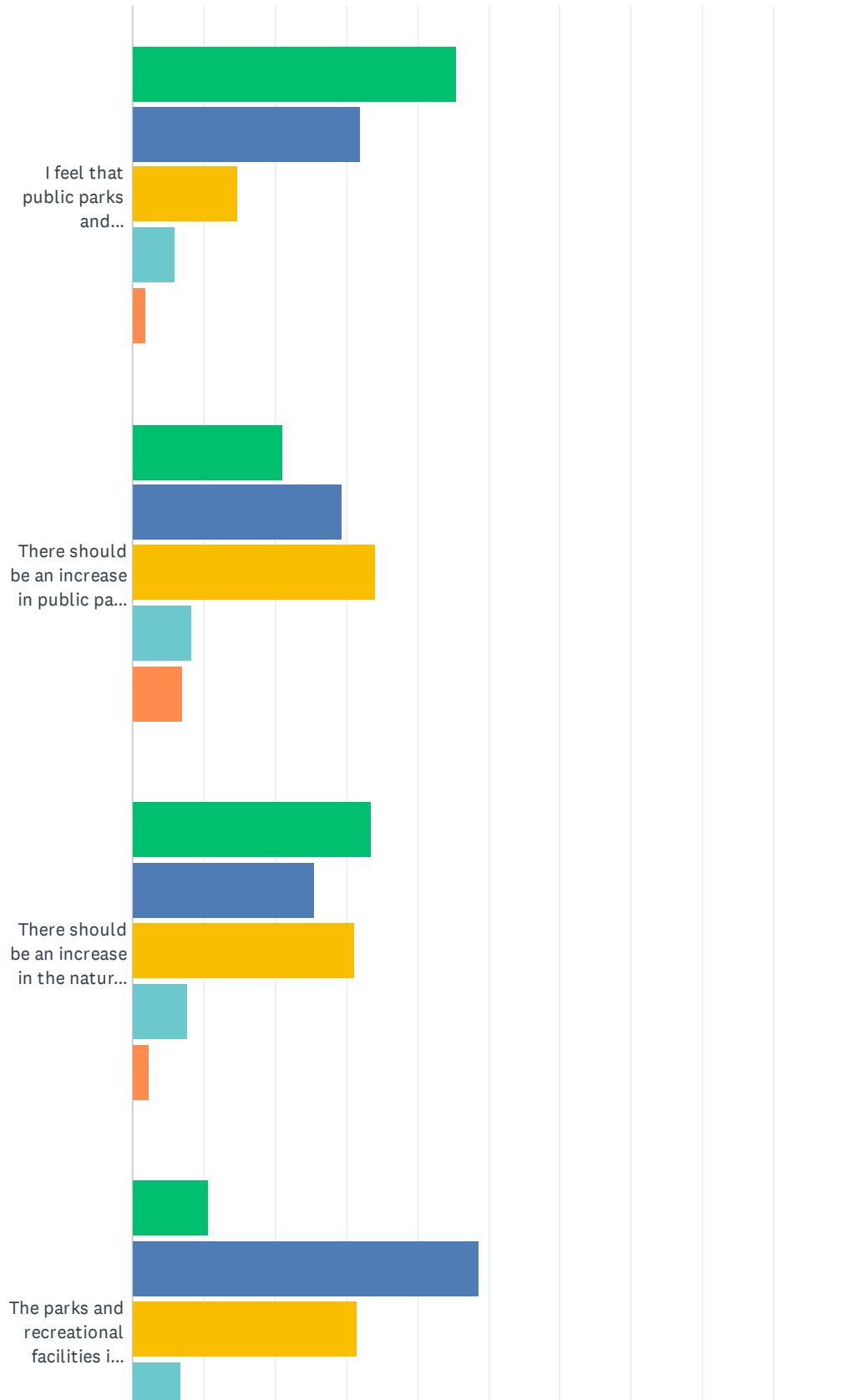
1. **Lack of Utilities (Water, Sewer):** Multiple comments express frustration with the lack of basic utilities like water and sewer, which hampers development and residential satisfaction.
2. **Need for Industrial and Commercial Growth:** Many respondents feel there is not enough industry or large employers, with several calling for an expansion of the Industrial Park and revitalization of the commercial areas.
3. **Abandoned and Vacant Businesses:** A recurring theme is the presence of empty and abandoned buildings, particularly in the village areas, which negatively impacts the township's appearance and economic opportunities.
4. **Limited Dining and Retail Options:** There are frequent complaints about the lack of quality restaurants, stores, and general commercial options in the area.
5. **Divided Communities:** Some feel there is a separation between different groups, such as Canadian Lakes residents, lake property owners, and the broader township community, with seasonal residents being less engaged.
6. **Resistance to Growth:** A few respondents' express frustration with what they perceive as a lack of support for growth, tourism, or new residents, due to resistance from older residents.
7. **Low Wages/Small Businesses:** Some comments mention that the township offers limited economic opportunities, with small businesses paying lower wages compared to nearby towns.
8. **Revitalization:** There is a clear desire for more revitalization efforts and in village, with people calling for more investment and business development.
9. **Lack of Community Involvement:** There is a perception that community involvement is low, especially in township activities, meetings, and initiatives.
10. **Aesthetic and Maintenance Issues:** Many feel that commercial properties are not well-maintained and look run-down, which detracts from the overall appeal of the area.

These concerns indicate a desire for improved infrastructure, economic growth, and greater community cohesion in Morton Township.

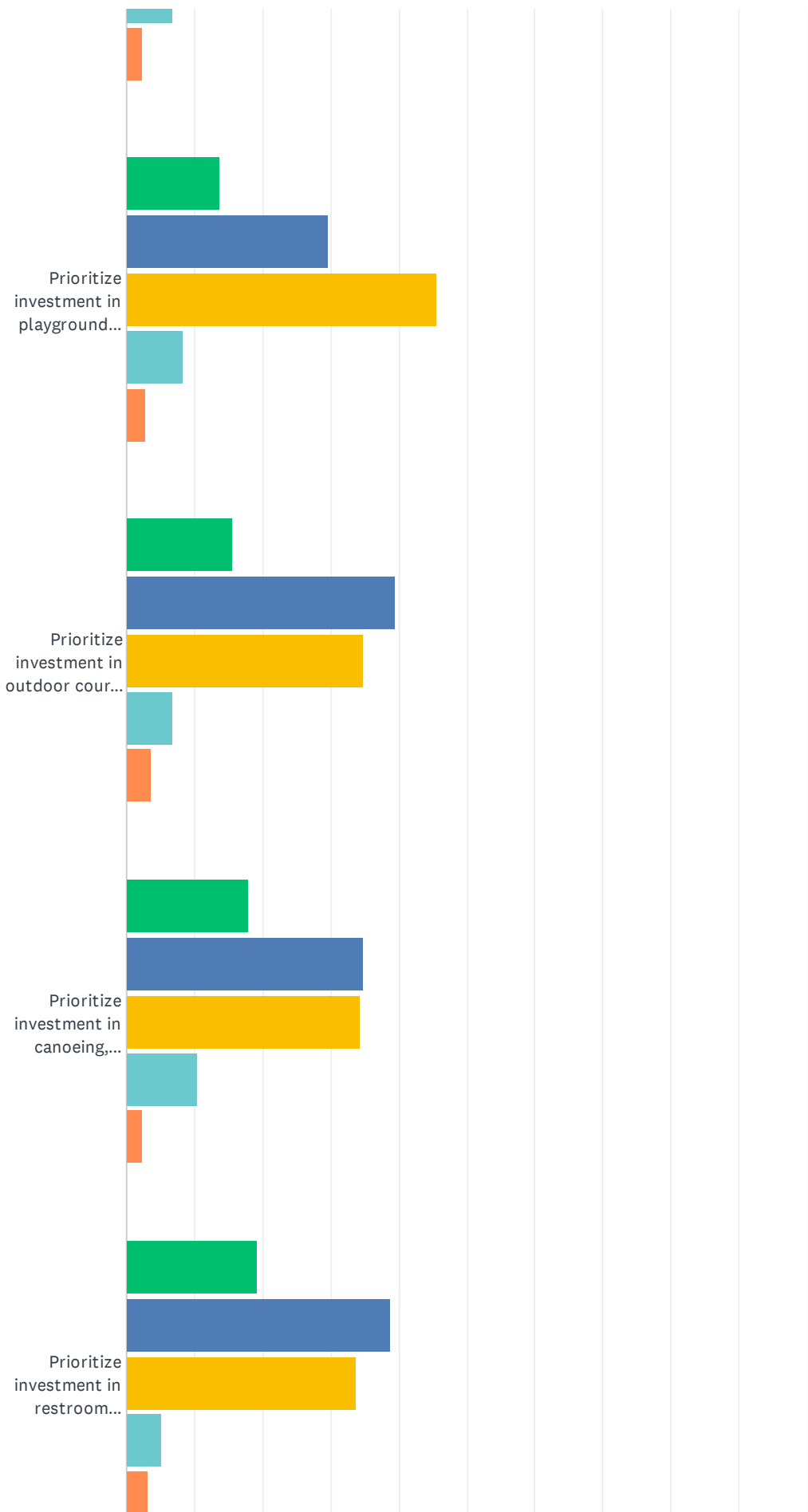


# Q16 Parks

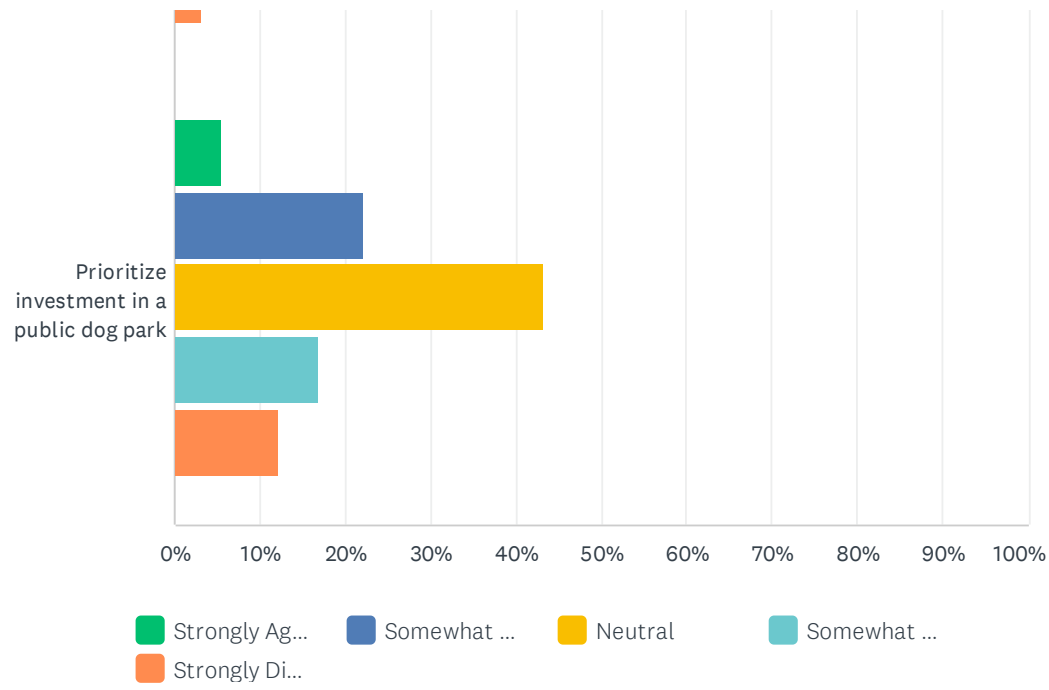
Answered: 253 Skipped: 2



# Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey



# Morton Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Community Survey



	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
I feel that public parks and recreational facilities are extremely important to my quality of life.	45.45% 115	32.02% 81	14.62% 37	5.93% 15	1.98% 5	253
There should be an increase in public park space in the township.	21.03% 53	29.37% 74	34.13% 86	8.33% 21	7.14% 18	252
There should be an increase in the natural or unimproved trail network in the township.	33.47% 84	25.50% 64	31.08% 78	7.57% 19	2.39% 6	251
The parks and recreational facilities in the township are excellent.	10.76% 27	48.61% 122	31.47% 79	6.77% 17	2.39% 6	251
Prioritize investment in playground equipment	13.60% 34	29.60% 74	45.60% 114	8.40% 21	2.80% 7	250
Prioritize investment in outdoor courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)	15.54% 39	39.44% 99	34.66% 87	6.77% 17	3.59% 9	251
Prioritize investment in canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding	18.00% 45	34.80% 87	34.40% 86	10.40% 26	2.40% 6	250
Prioritize investment in restroom facilities	19.20% 48	38.80% 97	33.60% 84	5.20% 13	3.20% 8	250
Prioritize investment in a public dog park	5.62% 14	22.09% 55	43.37% 108	16.87% 42	12.05% 30	249

## Q17 What is your favorite park or recreational area in the township?

Answered: 129 Skipped: 126

### 17. What is your favorite park or recreational area in the township?

Based on the list, the top eight favorite parks or recreational areas in Morton Township are:

1. **School Section Lake Veteran's Park** – Frequently mentioned as a favorite for its camping, playground, and beach facilities. Recognized by several respondents as a peaceful and appreciated green space.
2. **Tri-Lakes (Round Lake, Blue Lake, Lake Mecosta)** – Mentioned often for its beauty and recreational opportunities like boating and fishing.
3. **Pine Grove Park/Trail** – Appreciated for walking, hiking, and dog-walking.
4. **River Park (Kayak and Canoe Launch)** – A favorite spot for water activities like kayaking and canoeing along the Little Muskegon River.
5. **Bromley Park** – Valued for summer concerts and recreational activities.
6. **Canadian Lakes Parks** – Highly favored by residents of Canadian Lakes for private amenities and outdoor activities.
7. **White Pine Trails** – Mentioned by outdoor enthusiasts for its snowshoeing and hiking trails.
8. **Lake Mecosta Boat Launch** – Highlighted for boating and fishing access.

These parks and recreation areas are cherished for their natural beauty, outdoor activities, and opportunities for community events.

## Q18 What is your favorite amenity at the park or recreational area in the township?

Answered: 107 Skipped: 148

### 18. What is your favorite amenity at the park or recreational area in the township?

Based on the list provided, the favorite amenities in the parks or recreational areas within the township appear to be:

1. **Trails** – Frequently mentioned, they are valued for hiking, walking, skiing, and snowshoeing. Trails provide access to nature and a sense of calm for many respondents.
2. **Beach** – Many respondents highlight beach access as their favorite amenity, including School Section Veteran’s Lake Park and other lakes within the township, which offer swimming, sunbathing, and relaxing.
3. **Kayak Launches** – The availability of kayak launches, especially on the Muskegon River and other waterways, is frequently mentioned, supporting a love of water-based activities.
4. **Playgrounds** – Playgrounds are a favorite among families, offering space for children to play and exercise. They are often mentioned alongside picnic areas.
5. **Concerts and Music Venues** – Summer concerts in are popular for providing entertainment and a community gathering.
6. **Boating and Water Sports** – The lakes, including Tri-Lakes and Canadian Lakes, are enjoyed for boating, paddleboarding, and fishing.
7. **Golf Courses** – Golf is popular among residents, especially in Canadian Lakes, where well-maintained courses are easily accessible.
8. **Camping** – Camping is appreciated, especially at School Section Veteran’s Lake Park, which provides access to nature, beaches, and recreational activities.
9. **Nature Trails** – Many respondents mention enjoying the quiet, natural environment that the parks offer, with minimal congestion.
10. **Picnic Areas and Pavilions** – These amenities are often paired with playgrounds and beach areas, providing space for relaxation and family gatherings.

The most favored amenities are those that allow interaction with nature, recreation, and community activities, indicating that residents value a balanced mix of outdoor adventures and social experiences in their parks.

## Q19 What additional park / recreational amenities would you like to see?

Answered: 108 Skipped: 147

### 19. What additional park/recreation amenities would you like to see?

Based on the responses, residents have suggested the following additional park and recreational amenities they would like to see:

1. **Nature Trails** – Many respondents are asking for more walking, biking, and hiking trails. They suggest safer bike paths, connections to larger trail systems (like the White Pine Trail), and a variety of nature trails that feature wildlife viewing, educational features, such as plant and wildlife information.
2. **Pickleball Courts** – Pickleball is mentioned several times, indicating a strong desire for more courts or their addition in general.
3. **Restroom Facilities** – There is a consistent request for clean and year-round restroom facilities, especially in more remote or nature-based park areas.
4. **Playground Improvements** – Respondents want modernized playgrounds with better equipment, shaded areas, splash pads, and picnic facilities, catering especially to young children and families.
5. **Kayak Launches** – Several responses call for improved kayak launches and access to rivers and lakes for paddlers.
6. **Dog Parks** – Dog-friendly areas are desired, including dog parks where pets can run freely.
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9. **Benches and Picnic Areas** – More benches and improved picnic areas for families to rest and enjoy nature.
10. **Public Beach Access** – Suggestions for additional public beach access, possibly with enhanced amenities like picnic tables, pavilions, and playgrounds.
11. **Winter Activities** – Residents request winter sports facilities, such as groomed cross-country ski and snow shoeing trails and possibly an ice rink.
12. **Boat Launch Improvements** – Suggestions for better boat launches for water-based activities.
13. **Public Green Spaces and Wildlife Sanctuaries** – More protected green spaces, parks with river access, and wildlife sanctuaries for nature enthusiasts.

These suggestions show a desire for improved and diverse recreational opportunities, focusing on both infrastructure improvements and expanding natural, low-impact recreational options.



## Q20 Please provide any other comments

Answered: 77 Skipped: 178

### 20. Please provide any other comments:

Here are the top five comments based on the overall sentiment and topics addressed:

1. **Preserving Natural Beauty and Lakes:** Many comments focus on preserving the natural beauty of Morton Township and protecting lakes and wetlands from overdevelopment and pollution.
2. **Opposition to RV Parks:** There's significant opposition to the development of RV parks. Citing concerns about quality of life, environmental impact, and the preservation of peace and beauty.
3. **Speeding and Road Safety:** Several comments highlight concerns about speeding and road safety. Suggesting a need for speed studies and traffic regulation improvements.
4. **Managing Short-Term Rentals:** There is concern about the impact of short-term rentals on the community. Highlight the need for greater restrictions on short-term rentals to preserve neighborhood quality and manage overcrowding.
5. **Recreation and Amenities:** Some comments discuss the need for more or improved recreational amenities. The need adding amenities like biking and kayaking to enhance recreational opportunities.

These comments reflect a mix of concerns about maintaining the area's natural beauty, managing development and traffic, and improving community amenities.

# Morton Township Recreation Plan Workshop:

Please join us on Tuesday, October 8th at 6:00 pm, at the Morton Township Hall

Morton Township is in the process of updating our Recreation Plan. This Plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to qualify for grant opportunities. We are looking for ideas and recommendations from the residents. of our township. The workshop will allow you the opportunity to share your thoughts on the types of recreation-related improvements you feel should occur in the township during the next five years.



# Open House

10/8/2024

Sign In Sheet 20 pp | +/-

	Name	Address	Relationship (Resident, Past Resident, Business Owner, Work in Twp, Other)
1	Michael Burnard	9464 Maryland Dr	Resident
2	Tracy Snyder	11474 S. Hookout Ridge	Resident
3	LINDA MOORE	9190 Saint Ives Dr.	Resident
4	Gary R. Moore	9190 Saint Ives Dr.	Resident
5	Wanda Kedge	7267 Madison	Resident
6	Loune Beatty	10359 E. Royal Rd.	Resident
7	Therese Beatty	"	"
8	Linda Howard	10235 75th Ave	Resident Commissioner
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			

# Recreation Open House

Hosted by:  
*Morton Township*  
**Park and Recreation Advisory Committee**

Welcome! Thank you for your participation. We would like your ideas and suggestions for the future of our parks. Please make sure you sign in.

The township is currently updating its 5 Year Recreation Plan (required for various grant funding opportunities). Your input will be used to establish goals and priorities within the plan. The draft of the recreation plan will be posted and available for public review this fall.

The process is being led by park and recreation advisory committee members and consultants from ROWE Professional Services. The following information is available for your review. Please use your stickers (3 each) to affirm existing suggestions or add your suggestions to the board.

Stations include:

- **Survey Results**  
Review the comments we have received from the survey that has been posted for public comment since January.
- **Park Development**  
Are there specific improvements that should be made at existing parks? Look at what is already planned in our goals/objectives and action plan items.
- **Miscellaneous**  
Any additional thoughts for how we can work together and partner to get things done?

What is important to you? Let us know by using your stickers to vote on things you support. (put them all on one or spread them around as appropriate). There are some forms for additional written comments too.

Thanks again for your input!

# Parks and Recreation Plan

## Additional Public Comments

Thank you for your participation. We would like your ideas and suggestions for the future of our parks. Please provide any additional comments for consideration

- Yes, I support the draft ideas presented!
- I generally support the ideas presented.
- I support some of the ideas presented

Comments:


Name:

# Parks and Recreation Plan

## Additional Public Comments

Thank you for your participation. We would like your ideas and suggestions for the future of our parks. Please provide any additional comments for consideration

- Yes, I support the draft ideas presented!
- I generally support the ideas presented.
- I support some of the ideas presented

Comments:


Name:



# 10-8-24 Open House Input

## Issues, Goals, and Objectives

The following issues, goals, and objectives are key to the success of Morton Township's ability to provide recreation opportunities to its residents and visitors to the area.

**Issue #1** — The Little Muskegon River, the East Branch, the West Branch, and Gilbert Creek are currently underutilized recreation assets with limited public access.

**Goal #1** — Promote the Little Muskegon River and the associated branches and creeks, to create water trails, as recreation resources for canoeing, kayaking, boating, tubing, and fishing.

Continue to develop the River Access Park launch to provide easier access. The Recreation Committee attempts to keep the river navigable several times each year. In addition, the Recreation Committee also participates in the Trash Bash clean-up annually maintaining the river from 7 Mile to 3 Mile launch. We are also exploring improvements for the Altona launch area.

**Comments:** The Little Muskegon River and its tributaries meander for miles through Morton Township, have limited access to most residents or any visitors to the area. Developing additional access points would create a wonderful recreation resource for canoeists, kayakers, and others to enjoy the clean, slow-moving river. Developing access points creates a facility that is miles long, with very little investment and very little required maintenance. This type of facility can easily be designed with universal design principals to make it suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Cooperation with Hinton Township may provide a suitable site for additional water access.

**Issue #2** — There is one water trail access point on Seven Mile Road in Morton Township that is available to the general public. Morton Township would like to create more opportunities or access to the Little Muskegon River.

**Goal #2 A** — Determine the feasibility of developing the abandoned railway in the Township into a linear parkway in cooperation with surrounding communities.

**Comments:** An abandoned railway passes through the northeastern portion of Morton Township. Currently, there are very few places suitable for walking in the Township due to the fact that there are only sidewalks in the Village of Mecosta and there are no other public trails within the Township. A pathway would encourage walking, bicycling, rollerblading, cross-country skiing, and other similar activities. With enough coordination, time, effort, and funding, the pathway could be linked to the statewide trail network — including the White Pine Trail, which is less than eight miles west of Morton Township. Additionally, the Pere Marquette Trail is about 15 miles north of the Township.

**Goal #2 B** — To develop a trail to connect to the White Pine Trail. The Trail could begin in the Village of Mecosta, using Bromley Park as a staging area, heading west to Big Rapids.

The Recreation Committee has obtained 1 Mile of Rail Trail from CSX and developed a walk/hike/run opportunity on the 15-acre parcel which was completed in 2021. It also connects to the multi-community White Pine Mecosta Loop which has developed 10.5 miles of roadside trail connecting Morton and Martiny townships.

**Issue #3** — Morton Township maintains one (1) recreation facility and is in an area that is known for its recreation opportunities on the Little Muskegon River.

**Goal #3** — Improve recreation opportunities for Morton Township's residents and visitors by expanding coordination activities with the Mecosta County Park Commission, the Village of Mecosta, Muskegon River Watershed, Canadian Lakes Property Owners Corporation, Mecosta County Road Commission, Mid-Michigan Trail Alliance, Mecosta County Youth and Family Center and other organizations, counties and townships surrounding Morton Township.


**Comments:** Morton Township can assist in identifying needs and making improvements to existing facilities located within the Township but operated by other entities such as the Mecosta County Park Commission or the Village of Mecosta. The Township has provided funds to the Village of Mecosta to build a skate park at Bromley Park and has worked with Mecosta County to re-build the historic Little River Schoolhouse at School Section Lake Veteran's Memorial Park. Many of the Township's residents live in private developments that offer their residents a variety of recreation facilities and activities and these should also be considered as part of the overall community but recognize that only a portion of the Township's residents have regular access to the private facilities. This point should also be considered when applying for grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund — many of the facilities that would be developed using the trust fund would provide facilities for residents that live outside of one of the private developments. Both Canadian Lakes and Tullymore increase the median household income for the entire Township, which could impact the ability of the Township to acquire a grant.

**Pine Grove Trail** — Located at the west end of Morton's Township Business Park on Nine Mile Road. This 40-acre canvas of pine trees has nearly 3 miles of trails for walking, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing. The township should continue to look for opportunities to add property to this facility.

A 51 acre parcel acquisition is in process. There should be a priority to identify a master site concept plan for the development of this park.

### 13. Are there specific types of outdoor/recreational activities you would like to see more of in Morton Township?

Based on the provided list, here are the top ten specific types of outdoor/recreational activities people would like to see more of in Morton Township:

- 
1. **Walking/Hiking Trails** – A significant number of responses emphasize the need for more trails, especially those that are well-maintained and accessible for both hiking and winter activities like cross-country skiing.
  2. **Biking Trails/Paths** – Many comments mention the importance of expanding biking opportunities, both on dedicated trails and in creating safer bike lanes on roads.
  3. **Kayaking** – Improving access to kayaking areas, especially along the river, and making it easier for kayakers to navigate.
  4. **Cross-Country Ski Trails** – In addition to hiking, there's a desire for trails that can be used for cross-country skiing in winter.
  5. **Pickleball Courts** – There is a clear interest in adding more pickleball courts in the area.
  6. **Community Garden** – A community garden is mentioned as a way to increase outdoor activities for residents.
  7. **River Cleanup/Improvement** – The cleanup and improvement of local rivers, especially for recreational use, was mentioned multiple times.
  8. **Playgrounds and Splash Pads** – Requests for more or better playgrounds and the addition of splash pads for children.
  9. **Local Recreation Center** – A few comments highlight the need for a public recreation center with indoor facilities for swimming, gym space, and other activities.
  10. **Skate Parks or BMX Parks** – Some residents would like to see more facilities for activities like skateboarding or BMX riding.

These priorities indicate a strong community interest in outdoor recreation, natural preservation, and both summer and winter activities.



## 19. What additional park/recreation amenities would you like to see?

Based on the responses, residents have suggested the following additional park and recreational amenities they would like to see:

1. **Nature Trails** – Many respondents are asking for more walking, biking, and hiking trails. They suggest safer bike paths, connections to larger trail systems (like the White Pine Trail), and a variety of nature trails that feature wildlife viewing, educational features, such as plant and wildlife information.
2. **Pickleball Courts** – Pickleball is mentioned several times, indicating a strong desire for more courts or their addition in general.
3. **Restroom Facilities** – There is a consistent request for clean and year-round restroom facilities, especially in more remote or nature-based park areas.
4. **Playground Improvements** – Respondents want modernized playgrounds with better equipment, shaded areas, splash pads, and picnic facilities, catering especially to young children and families.
5. **Kayak Launches** – Several responses call for improved kayak launches and access to rivers and lakes for paddlers.
6. **Dog Parks** – Dog-friendly areas are desired, including dog parks where pets can run freely. (CART PARK)
7. **Indoor Recreation Facility** – There's a suggestion for an indoor facility that would support winter activities, such as basketball courts, pickleball, and walking tracks.
8. **Bike Paths** – Safe and dedicated biking paths are frequently mentioned, particularly those that keep cyclists away from busy roads.
9. **Benches and Picnic Areas** – More benches and improved picnic areas for families to rest and enjoy nature.
10. **Public Beach Access** – Suggestions for additional public beach access, possibly with enhanced amenities like picnic tables, pavilions, and playgrounds.
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These suggestions show a desire for improved and diverse recreational opportunities, focusing on both infrastructure improvements and expanding natural, low-impact recreational options.

## Appendix C: Approval Documentation

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Copies of the following documents are included in Appendix C:

- Notice of Availability of Plan for Public Review (date)
- Notice of Public Hearing held (date)
- Minutes from Township Board Meeting/Public Hearing (date)
- Resolution from Township Board –(date)
- Transmittal letters

(to be added)

**0032 Public Notices**

**NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Morton Township Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 9:00 A.M., at the Morton Township Hall, at 290 West Main St, Mecosta, MI. The hearing will be for making a motion to approve the revised Morton Township Recreation Plan for 2024-2029.

**30 Day Review:** Morton Township is providing a draft version of the 5 Year Recreation Plan for public review for a 30-day period. The document is available for review at the Morton Township Hall during regular business hours between the dates of November 12, 2024 and December 11, 2024.

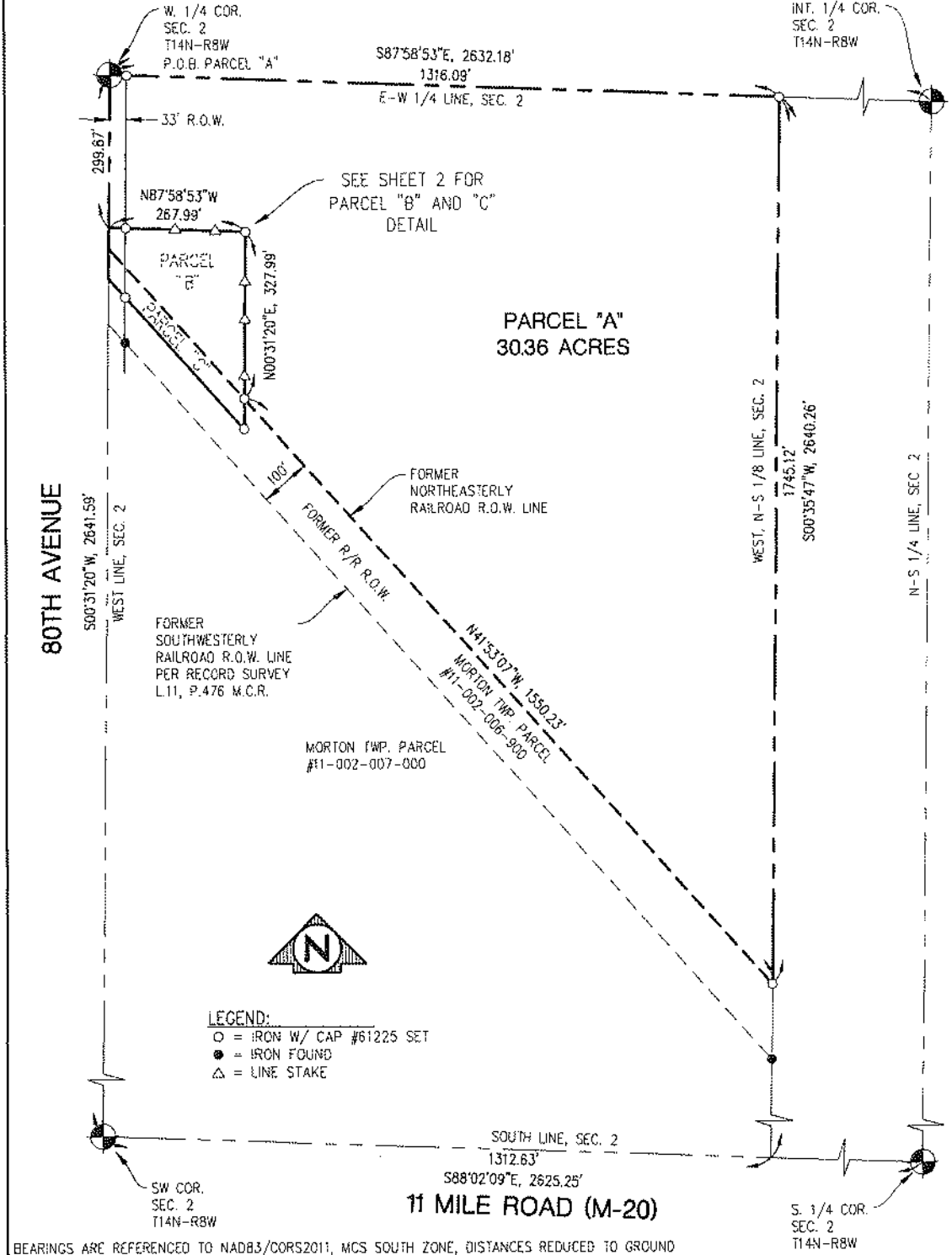
Comments on the plan can be provided at this location or by contacting Yo Bellingar at [trustee3@mortontownship.org](mailto:trustee3@mortontownship.org).

**Appendix D: Unnamed Park (30 acre property survey)**

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# CERTIFIED SURVEY

I, GUY A. STICKLER, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED SURVEY HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC ACT 132 OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND THAT THE RELATIVE POSITIONAL PRECISION OF EACH CORNER OF THE SURVEYED PARCEL OR PARCELS SURVEYED HEREIN IS NOT GREATER THAN 0.07 FEET, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED HEREIN.

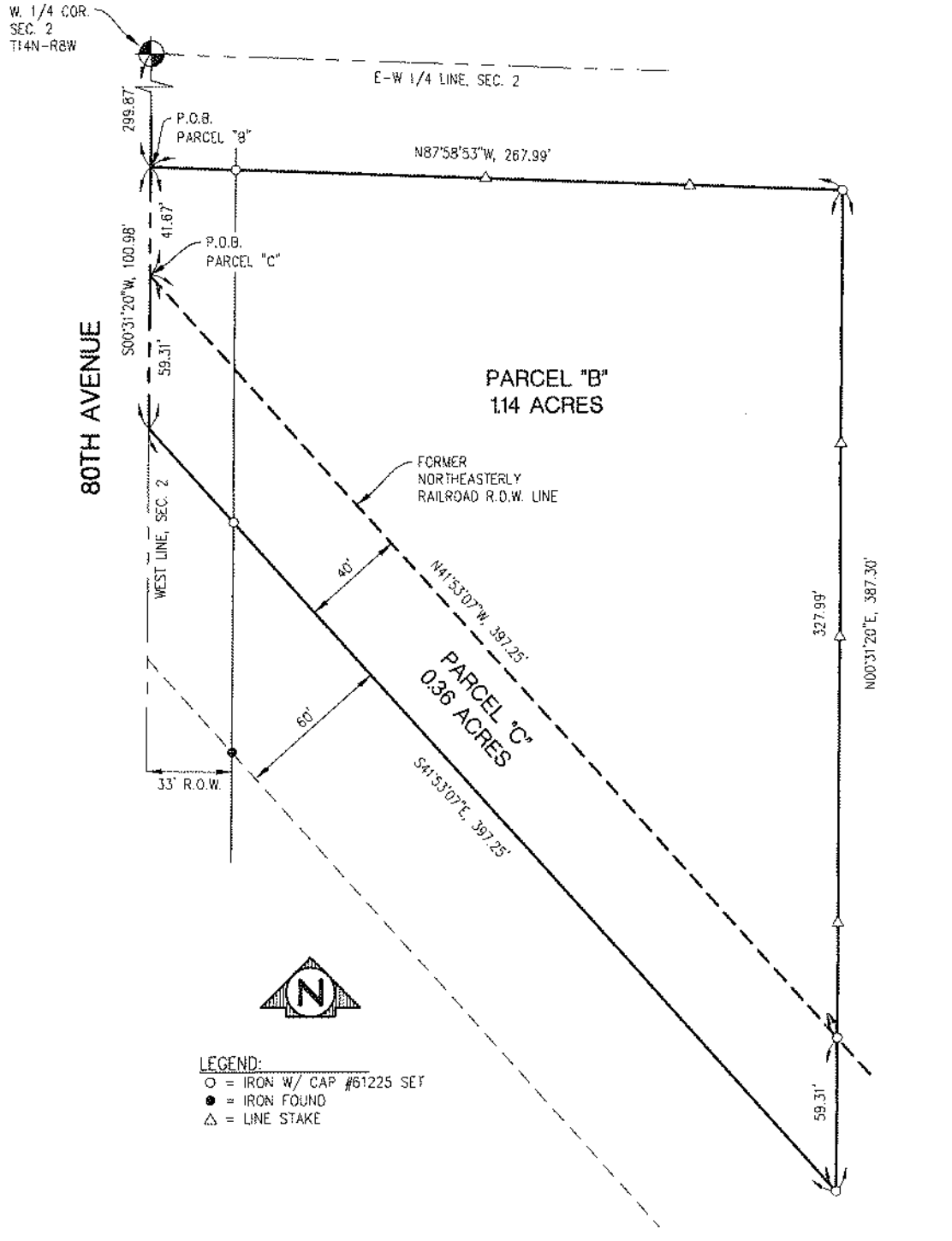


BEARINGS ARE REFERENCED TO NAD83/CORS2011, MCS SOUTH ZONE, DISTANCES REDUCED TO GROUND


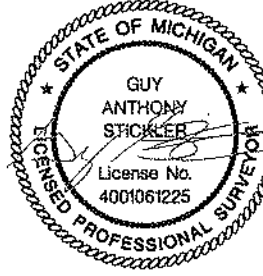

<h2 style="margin: 0;">MORTON TOWNSHIP</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">SECTION 2    T14N - R8W    MORTON TOWNSHIP MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN</p>		FIELD: DLR / JRH DRAWN: TLK CHECKED: GAS DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2023 REVISED:	
<h2 style="margin: 0;">ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">127 S. Main Street Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">O: (989) 772-2138 F: (989) 773-7757 www.rowepsc.com</p>		SHEET: 1 OF 3 SCALE: 1" = 250' 	
		JOB NO.: 2300618	

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BEARINGS ARE REFERENCED TO NAD83/CORS2011, MCS SOUTH ZONE, DISTANCES REDUCED TO GROUND

<h2 style="margin: 0;">MORTON TOWNSHIP</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">SECTION 2    T14N - R8W    MORTON TOWNSHIP MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN</p>		FIELD: DLR / JRH DRAWN: TLK CHECKED: GAS DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2023 REVISED: SHEET: 2 OF 3 SCALE: 1" = 50' 	
 <h2 style="margin: 0;">ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">127 S. Main Street Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">O: (989) 772-2138 F: (989) 773-7757 www.rowepsc.com</p>		JOB NO.: 2300618	

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LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PARENT PARCEL PER L.805, P.192, MECOSTA COUNTY RECORDS:

THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, MORTON TOWNSHIP, MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, LYING NORTH OF THE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PARCEL "A" (AS SURVEYED):

PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, MORTON TOWNSHIP, MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN. DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 2; THENCE S87°58'53"E, ALONG THE E-W 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION 2, 1316.09 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST, N-S 1/8 LINE OF SAID SECTION 2; THENCE S00°35'47"W, ALONG SAID 1/8 LINE, 1745.12 FEET TO A POINT ON THE FORMER NORTHEASTERLY RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE N41°53'07"W, ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE, 1550.23 FEET; THENCE N00°31'20"E, PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 2, 327.99 FEET; THENCE N87°58'53"W, PARALLEL WITH SAID 1/4 LINE, 267.99 FEET TO A POINT ON SAID WEST LINE; THENCE N00°31'20"E, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, 299.87 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 30.36 ACRES OF LAND, SUBJECT TO THE WESTERLY 33 FEET THEREOF AS BOTH AVENUE AND ANY OTHER EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS OR RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PARCEL "B" (AS SURVEYED):

PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, MORTON TOWNSHIP, MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN. DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 2 WHICH IS S00°31'20"W, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, 299.87 FEET FROM THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 2; THENCE CONTINUING S00°31'20"W, 41.57 FEET TO A POINT ON THE FORMER NORTHEASTERLY RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE S41°53'07"E, ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE, 397.25 FEET; THENCE N00°31'20"E, PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 2, 327.99 FEET; THENCE N87°58'53"W, PARALLEL WITH THE E-W 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION 2, 267.99 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 1.14 ACRES OF LAND, SUBJECT TO THE WESTERLY 33 FEET THEREOF AS BOTH AVENUE AND ANY OTHER EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS OR RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PARCEL "C" (AS SURVEYED):

PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, MORTON TOWNSHIP, MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN. DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 2 WHICH IS S00°31'20"W, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, 341.54 FEET FROM THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 2 TO A POINT ON THE FORMER NORTHEASTERLY RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE CONTINUING S00°31'20"W, 59.31 FEET; THENCE S41°53'07"E, PARALLEL WITH SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE, 397.25 FEET; THENCE N00°31'20"E, PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 2, 59.31 FEET; THENCE N41°53'07"W, ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE, 397.25 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.36 ACRES OF LAND, SUBJECT TO THE WESTERLY 33 FEET THEREOF AS BOTH AVENUE AND ANY OTHER EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS OR RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD.

COMBINED LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PARCELS "B" AND "C" (AS SURVEYED):

PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, MORTON TOWNSHIP, MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN. DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 2 WHICH IS S00°31'20"W, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, 299.87 FEET FROM THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 2; THENCE CONTINUING S00°31'20"W, 100.98 FEET; THENCE S41°53'07"E, PARALLEL WITH THE FORMER NORTHEASTERLY RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, 397.25 FEET; THENCE N00°31'20"E, PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 2, 387.30 FEET; THENCE N87°58'53"W, PARALLEL WITH THE E-W 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION 2, 267.99 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 1.50 ACRES OF LAND, SUBJECT TO THE WESTERLY 33 FEET THEREOF AS BOTH AVENUE AND ANY OTHER EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS OR RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD.

PLSS CORNER WITNESSES:



WEST 1/4 COR. SEC. 2 T14N-R8W  
 FND. MECOSTA CO. REMON. MON. IN MON. BOX  
 S30E 72.42' N&T IN SW SIDE 6" JACK PINE  
 S36W 65.84' N&T IN NW SIDE UTILITY POLE  
 N38W 51.58' N&T IN NE SIDE UTILITY POLE  
 N13W 112.79' N&T IN NE SIDE 32" OAK

SOUTH 1/4 COR. SEC. 2 T14N-R8W  
 FND. MECOSTA CO. REMON. MON.  
 NORTH 51.60' TELEPHONE RISER BOX  
 N80E 23.60' SPIKE IN S. SIDE 20" TWIN PINE  
 S03W 29.82' N&T IN E. SIDE 14" PINE  
 N82W 32.82' FOUND IRON IN STONES

SOUTHWEST COR. SEC. 2 T14N-R8W  
 FND. MECOSTA CO. REMON. MON. IN MON. BOX  
 N48W 99.14' N&T IN NE SIDE 10" PINE  
 N32W 82.67' N&T IN NE SIDE 12" PINE  
 N42E 70.75' N&T IN NW SIDE POWER POLE  
 S26E 62.95' N&T IN NE SIDE POWER POLE

INTERIOR 1/4 COR. SEC. 2 T14N-R8W  
 FND. IRON WITH CAP #17741  
 N90E 6.50' CENTERLINE ROAD  
 S87E 34.65' CENTER OF 4"X4" POST  
 N33E 110.76' NAIL IN SE SIDE OF POLE  
 S85W 48.90' CENTER OF 18" RED PINE

BEARINGS ARE REFERENCED TO NAD83/CORS2011, MCS SOUTH ZONE, DISTANCES REDUCED TO GROUND

<h2 style="margin: 0;">MORTON TOWNSHIP</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">SECTION 2    T14N - R8W    MORTON TOWNSHIP MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">FIELD:</td><td style="font-size: small;">DLR / JRH</td></tr> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">DRAWN:</td><td style="font-size: small;">TLK</td></tr> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">CHECKED:</td><td style="font-size: small;">GAS</td></tr> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">DATE:</td><td style="font-size: small;">OCTOBER 12, 2023</td></tr> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">REVISED:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">SHEET:</td><td style="font-size: small;">3 OF 3</td></tr> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">SCALE:</td><td style="font-size: small;">N/A</td></tr> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">0</td><td style="font-size: small;">1 INCHES</td></tr> <tr><td style="font-size: small;">0</td><td style="font-size: small;">FEET</td></tr> </table>	FIELD:	DLR / JRH	DRAWN:	TLK	CHECKED:	GAS	DATE:	OCTOBER 12, 2023	REVISED:		SHEET:	3 OF 3	SCALE:	N/A	0	1 INCHES	0	FEET	
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