Located in central-eastern Leelanau County on the shore of Suttons Bay, the Village of Suttons Bay is one of three incorporated villages in Leelanau County. The Village is known for its thriving and historic downtown, waterfront and marina access, and its setting amidst beaches, rolling hills, orchards, and vineyards. Suttons Bay offers a high quality of life for its year-round and seasonal residents and visitors, and is a popular destination for tourists who enjoy walking, boating, shopping, and dining in the Village’s unique small town atmosphere.

One of Suttons Bay’s many assets is recreation. The Village’s parks, playgrounds, community events, trails, and recreation programming bring residents and visitors together, fostering opportunities for cultural activities, education, and civic engagement. They promote public health and wellness by encouraging opportunities for physical activity; and they act as economic drivers, raising property values, drawing new residents to the community, and encouraging new development and tourism.

Because of the importance of recreation to all parts of the community, the Village Council initiated an update to the Suttons Bay Village Recreation Plan in 2012. This Recreation Plan is intended to identify the Village’s highest recreation priorities and to offer an implementation road map for the recreation goals and objectives identified by the community throughout the various planning efforts. The Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1, Community Description, includes information regarding the Village’s population, natural features, and other community information. The intent of this section is to provide a context for the plan that will assist in establishing goals.
- Chapter 2, Administrative Structure, summarizes the process through which recreation decisions are made.
- Chapter 3, Recreation Inventory itemizes the Village’s existing recreational facilities.
- Chapter 4, Planning and Public Input,
provides background on related plans and explains how public input was gathered and used in developing and prioritizing recreation goals, objectives, and action program.

- Chapter 5, Goals, Objectives, and Action Program describes proposed recreation goals and improvements, and suggests specific implementation activities to achieve those goals.

DNR Recreation Planning Guidelines

This Plan was developed according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans.

Through its recreation grants program, currently funded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides financial assistance to communities that would like to purchase land for parks, or are planning to improve or develop recreation facilities.

To be eligible to apply for these grant programs, a community must have a 5-year recreation plan, approved by the DNR, that meets certain requirements. This Recreation Plan was developed to comply with all MDNR requirements for recreation plans.

Recreation: An Important Community Asset

At their most basic, parks, recreation facilities, and community events provide an environment in which residents and visitors can gather and interact in an informal setting; but parks also provide a number of health and economic benefits to the community:

- Parks encourage physical activity, which is critical in staying healthy, reducing stress, fighting obesity, and preventing chronic conditions that lead to heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes.
- Parks and trails are safe options for non-motorized transportation—which is especially important for those that don’t own a car or can’t drive due to age, disability, or income.
- Recreation opportunities attract visitors, increasing local tourism revenues.
- Demographic groups with expendable income and significant amounts of leisure time, such as retirees and young professional, often relocate to communities with a “recreation oriented” lifestyle and a high quality of life.
- National studies have shown that improvements to parks, civic spaces, and trails can encourage new development or redevelopment.
- Property values tend to increase in direct proportion to their proximity to parks and trails.
The Village of Suttons Bay, situated on the eastern edge of Leelanau County along Suttons Bay, about midway between the northern and southern extents of the Leelanau Peninsula, is an incorporated village of about 600 residents.

**History**

Prior to European settlement, the Suttons Bay area was home to members of the Odawa (Ottawa), Obibwa (Chippewa), and Bodowadomi (Pottawatomi) tribes. Following a series of purchases and government treaties, these tribes—now reorganized as the Grand Trand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians—were able to retain lands north of the Village of Suttons Bay in the Peshawbestown area.

Early European settlement of the Village of Suttons Bay began in the 1850’s, following the establishment of a camp on the bay, which became one of Leelanau County’s primary harbors. Shipping activity on the bay contributed to commercial and residential development occurring in the Village, while nearby lands were used for timber productions, field crops, and orchards. Railroads were established in Leelanau County in 1892, with the Manistee and Northeastern Railroad providing daily service through Suttons Bay and Northport by 1903.

While the nation’s and the region’s economies have shifted over the years, Suttons Bay continues to be closely connected to its
waterfront and to the agricultural economies of surrounding communities.

Demographics

Leelanau County is well-known as a vacation destination and as a high-quality place to live. The County’s population has seen dramatic increases over the last several decades as new residents move to the County to enjoy its hundreds of miles of coastline, beautiful beaches, thousands of acres of forests, rolling hills and orchards. Between 1990 and 2000 alone, population increased by 28% - making the County one of the fastest-growing areas in the State. Much of that growth has occurred in the rural townships of the County, as new homes are built in the countryside to take advantage of opportunities for rural lifestyles or larger lots. While population increases and development have slowed since 2000, the County continues to grow in popularity with visitors, as attractions such as the region’s vineyards and parks such as Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore generate positive public attention and draw increasing numbers of visitors.

While Suttons Bay’s population has not reached the high annual growth rates seen in townships, the Village has grown steadily since it was established in the 1850’s. About 250 people lived in the Village by the 1880’s, and in 1940, the town had a population of 439. Seventy years later, at the time of the 2010 Census, the population had grown about 29%, with a population of 618 residents.

In addition to its year-round population, the Village of Suttons Bay also has a significant amount of seasonal residents, tourists, and day visitors. Based on analysis of existing residents versus number of housing units, bed and breakfast units, and marina slips in the Village, the 2004 Suttons Bay Recreation Plan estimated that seasonal residents may raise the summer population of the Village to as high as 1,800 people. Further, amenities such as pharmacies, grocery stores, and other shopping and service opportunities draw residents from rural areas throughout Leelanau County year-

Table 1. Population 1930-2010: Suttons Bay Village, Suttons Bay Township, Leelanau County

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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suttons Bay Village</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suttons Bay Township</td>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>1,360</td>
<td>1,774</td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td>2,982</td>
<td>2,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leelanau County</td>
<td>8,206</td>
<td>8,436</td>
<td>8,647</td>
<td>9,321</td>
<td>10,872</td>
<td>14,007</td>
<td>16,527</td>
<td>21,119</td>
<td>21,708</td>
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</table>
round. Further, there is a high demand for and usage of Suttons Bay’s village beaches from County residents as well as visitors, due in part to the relatively low number of public water access points on the southeastern side of the County.

**Age and Household Characteristics**

As the baby boomers—the country’s largest demographic group—reach retirement age, the nation’s population as a whole increases in age. Leelanau County and the Village of Suttons Bay are no exception; and because of their desirability as retirement destinations, populations both within the Village and Countywide are older than state or national averages. The Village’s population is older than the County’s, with a median age in the Village of 58.8 years, compared to Leelanau County’s median age of 50.3 years County-wide.

Between 2000-2010, the Village of Suttons Bay experienced increases in all age ranges 55 years and over. The largest percentage increase was in those aged 85 or older—an increase over three times the 2000 Census count for this age range—was likely in part due to the construction of the TenderCare facility in the Village, a long term care facility. However, even as those aged 55 or older increased, there were simultaneous decreases in all age ranges below 55, with accompanying shifts in household size and type.

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**Table 2. Suttons Bay Village Population by Age Range, 2010**

*Source: 2010 US Census*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>% Change 2000-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 years</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 years</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-36.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 years</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>-3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24 years</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 years</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>-29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 years</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>-30.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59 years</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64 years</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 years</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 years</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>133.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years+</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>325%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of family households in Suttons Bay (including husband-wife families) declined about 3% between 2000-2010; while the number of families with children declined by 30% during that time period.

Different populations have different recreation needs and interests. As such, when planning for recreation facilities, the community’s growth trends, age, and income levels are important factors to consider. As individuals age, needs increase for facilities that accommodate passive recreation such as walking. Barrier-free access to recreation is particularly important for an aging population, and the provision of
barrier-free recreation will become an increasingly high priority as the population ages.

Despite declining numbers of children and family households, individuals under the age of 18 make up about 13% of Suttons Bay's total population. Youth-oriented recreation opportunities will thus continue to be important for both current residents and as an amenity to draw new families to the Village.

**Income**

In addition to age considerations, it’s also important to ensure that activities and amenities in the community are within the financial means of the majority of residents. The American Community Survey reports that while per capita income in the Village is higher than per capita income County-wide—$37,421 vs $32,194 Countywide—median household income for the Village is lower. However, the median income of Suttons Bay households is $50,278 per year, vs $56,527 for households County-wide.

3.6% of individuals in the Village live in poverty, compared to 5.8% of residents County-wide.

**Transportation**

**Non-motorized Transportation**

Because of Suttons Bay’s small size, relatively high-density development patterns, and available sidewalks, opportunities for walking, biking, and other non-motorized forms of transportation are plentiful for residents and visitors alike. However, personal automobile is the primary means of transportation from the village to other parts of the County and the region.

**Public Transit**

Suttons Bay is served by the Bay Area Transportation Alliance. On weekdays, a fixed bus route runs five times daily from Northport to Suttons Bay, with connections available to Traverse City. Dial-a-ride service is also available.
Air Transportation

The Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport provides the region’s primary air transportation service. Woolsey Memorial Airport is located about 3 miles north of the Village in Leelanau Township. A 4,000 foot turf runway is available for public use from April through October.

Streets and Highways

The Village road system consists of village-maintained roads along with two Michigan State Highways—M-22 and M-204, both of which are part of the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route, which is intended to protect and enhance the scenic, historical, and recreational characteristics of the highways through Leelanau County.

M-22 winds through the Townships and Villages of Leelanau County, acting both as the major transportation and commercial artery for Leelanau County and as a corridor for viewing some of the country’s most scenic and diverse vistas.

M-22 is one of only five corridors in the state that have been designated as a Michigan Scenic Heritage Route. M-22 received this honor due to exceptional views of the water, woods and open spaces that can be experienced while travelling this road.

The Village of Suttons Bay endorsed the designation of M-22 as a Michigan Scenic Heritage Route to ensure that this byway would remain in its current state and would be managed in a manner that highlights the intrinsic qualities of the Leelanau Peninsula. Designation enables county and local governmental bodies to be involved in all management decisions that involve M-22. The designation will allow local communities to work with MDOT to fulfill their management visions for M-22.

Natural Resources

Topography

The Soil Survey of Leelanau County, prepared by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), describes the Village’s topography as ranging from level to gently sloping. United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps provide contour data in 5-meter intervals, as well as spot elevations. Land elevations depicted by USGS range from 183 meters to 255 meters above sea level. Generally, the lowest elevations are found along the shorelines. The highest point of elevation is found in the extreme northwest corner of the Village. Elevation increases are found along shorelines, and elevations also increase gradually from east to west.

The existing land use pattern generally follows the topography. Areas in the Village over 200 meters in elevation are generally underdeveloped, or contain unplatted
Soil Characteristics

There are three major soil associations present in the Village of Suttons Bay: Emmet-Omena, Emmet-Leelanau and East Lake-Eastport-Lupton. The following briefly describes the general characteristics of each soil association as reported in the Soil Survey of Leelanau County.

- Emmet-Omena: Covers a portion of undeveloped land along the northern border of the Village. This soil association consists mainly of well-drained, nearly level to very steep, loamy soils on moraines. Slopes with 0 to 12 percent slope are generally suitable for development, though erosion is a potential problem on slopes exceeding five percent incline.

- Emmet-Leelanau: Forms a narrow band against the western border spanning the distance between Fourth Street and Jefferson Avenue. This soil association comprises under one percent of the total Village land area. The soils in this association are well-drained, nearly level to gently sloping and sandy. Some portions are very poorly drained, nearly level and mucky. This association is found on lake terraces and beach ridges. These soils are generally suitable for development; although steeper soils pose constraints for construction due to erosion hazards.

- East Lake-Eastport-Lupton: This soil association covers 91.5 percent of the Village land area. The soils in this association are well drained and moderately well drained, nearly level to gently sloping and sandy. Some portions are very poorly drained, nearly level and mucky. This association is found on lake terraces and beach ridges. These soils are generally suitable for development; although steeper soils pose constraints for construction due to erosion hazards.

Hydric soils and soils that pose severe construction constraints generally remain underdeveloped or support low intensity land uses. (It should be noted that the mapped locations of each soil type are generalized and should be verified by soil borings at the time a development is initially proposed or planned.)

Hydrological Features

The Village has developed around the scenic harbor of Suttons Bay. This hydrological feature...
has had a tremendous influence on the location and type of development found inside the Village. In early times, the bay served as a shipping point for lumber and agricultural products and as a place to unload coal shipments. Currently, the bay is home to a municipal marina that provides docking for recreational watercraft.

**Lakes**

Suttons Bay forms the Village’s jurisdictional boundary to the east. The bay is connected to Grand Traverse Bay which is linked with Lake Michigan.

**Drainageways**

Leo Creek is a drainageway found inside the Village. Leo Creek lies within a wetland area in the southern portion of the Village and drains to Suttons Bay. There is also a small creek found in the northern portion of the Village near the intersection of M-204 and M-22, as well as a stream running through the center of town through Waterwheel Park to the

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**Village of Suttons Bay Climate Summary**

**Northport and Maple City Stations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature Summary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January Average Minimum Temperature</td>
<td>14.0˚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January Average Maximum Temperature</td>
<td>27.1˚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July Average Minimum Temperature</td>
<td>56.4˚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July Average Maximum Temperature</td>
<td>80.9˚</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Precipitation Rainfall Summary (inches)**

- Mean Precipitation (inches) | 38.33” |
- Maximum Daily (inches) | 3.22” |

**Precipitation Snowfall Summary (inches)**

- Mean Snowfall Average | 164.3” |
- Maximum Monthly Snowfall | 81.0” |
- Maximum Daily Snowfall | 20.8” |
- Maximum Total Snowfall Depth | 53.2” |

**Growing Season Summary**

- Date of last spring occurrence (90% of yrs recorded – May 12th) | <32˚F |
- Date of first Fall occurrence (90% of yrs recorded – Oct 9th) | <32˚F |
- Average Length of Growing Season (90% of yrs recorded) | 153 Days |

Sources: Midwest Regional Climate Center (MRCC) Northport Station, Michigan State Climatologist’s Office, MSU Dept. of Geography, Maple City Station
Wetlands

Wetlands are complex ecological systems that function in a number of beneficial ways. They reduce flood hazards by providing additional storm water storage. When located over groundwater recharge areas, they can also improve groundwater quality by filtering the water as it percolates through the soil; while wetlands located along a watercourse protect surface water quality by filtering surface water run-off. Finally, wetlands are highly productive ecosystems which provide an essential habitat to much of Michigan’s fish and wildlife at some time in their lifecycle.

Wetlands are located throughout the Village of Suttons Bay, primarily along the shoreline, with significant areas of wetland in the southeastern portion of the Village, along Leo Creek.

Woodlands

Woodlands in the Village of Suttons Bay were mapped based on information from the USGS topographic survey and the Michigan Resource Information System (MIRIS) maps. As depicted on the map, large tracts of woodland are found outside established residential areas of the Village. The Village’s woodland areas are dominated by deciduous cover types. Coniferous woodlands are found south of Fourth Street in presently undeveloped areas.

Woodland areas are complex ecological systems, providing multiple benefits for the environment, wildlife, and human inhabitants. Woodlands play a role in flood protection by slowing the flow of surface-runoff to allow for greater storm water infiltration; reduce air pollutants by absorbing certain air borne pollutants; and provide wildlife habitats. Forests also moderate the effects of wind and temperatures, while stabilizing and enriching the soil. For humans, forested areas offer attractive visual and effective sound barriers, as well as natural resources and recreational opportunities.

Woodland resources contribute greatly to the Village’s environmental quality. The conservation of woodlots will play a positive
role in maintaining and enhancing the future environmental character of the Village. Woodland areas should be preserved as possible. The Village has adopted a tree replacement policy which requires two trees to be planted for every tree removed; and has also developed a tree management plan that will aid in conservation efforts.

**Climate**

Because Leelanau County is a peninsula surrounded by Lake Michigan, the County’s temperature is moderated, resulting in slightly cooler temperatures during the summer months and mildly warmer in the winter. The length of the growing season is approximately one hundred and fifty days with an average daily temperature of 55 degrees (Fahrenheit) and the average daily low temperature over the course of a year, is 37 degrees (Fahrenheit). The average annual precipitation for the County is about 29 inches. Snow may be present a total of six months out of the year.
Chapter 2: Administrative Structure

Village Council

The Village Council consists of seven members that are elected by the public every four years, Clerk, treasurer, and manager are appointed by the Village Council. The Village Council adopts budgets, approves contracts, adopts policies, and oversees staff. Budgets, planning, staffing, and other issues related to parks, recreation, and other Village facilities are also overseen by the Council.

A three-person Parks and Recreation Committee, a committee of the Village Council, makes recommendations to the Village Council relative to parks budgeting and other recreation decisions.

Planning Commission

The Village Planning Commission is 7-member body appointed by the Village Council to administer the Village Zoning Ordinance, create plans, and serve in an advisory role in planning. The Village Planning Commission provided oversight and guidance in the preparation of the Village Recreation Plan.

Staff & Volunteers

The Village Manager is appointed by the Village Council to manage day-to-day Village operations, budget, and facilities. The Manager provides oversight of parks and recreation staff and facilities.

Parks are maintained by both marina and Village Department of Public Works (DPW). Twelve seasonal employees, overseen by the Harbor Master, maintain and operate the Village Marina and surrounding waterfront parks. The DPW consists of four full-time staff, who maintain parks year-round.

Volunteers are not engaged in parks maintenance. However, a local garden club does provide flowers at locations throughout the community, including parks.

Funding & Budgeting

Funding for Village parks comes out of the Village General Fund. In 2012, $193,515 was budgeted for parks and recreation, an increase of $89,117 from 2011. The budget covers wages, contractual service, equipment/vehicles, repair and maintenance, operating supplies, and utilities. The 2012 budget also included line items to cover estimated costs of dredging North Park, as well as miscellaneous capital improvements items.

The Village of Suttons Bay frequently pursues and obtains grant funding to implement needed recreation projects and improvements. Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grants have been used to improve several parks within the Village, including the marina and North Park.
Chapter 3: Recreation Inventory

The Village of Suttons Bay has eight public parks including Bahle Park, Coal Dock Park, Duester Park, Marina Park, North Park, Sutton Park, South Side Marina Park, and Water Wheel Park. Concord Avenue Road End, while not currently maintained as a park, is included in the Recreation Inventory as a publicly owned property with recreation potential. Leelanau Trail, which is not owned in its entirety by the Village, is also included in the inventory, as the Village does provide maintenance, and will be acting as partners in the construction of an extension of the Trail.

The Recreation Inventory provides discussion on the Village’s recreation facilities, and their place in the community, as well as parks and recreation facilities surrounding the Village. Included for each facility is a summary of public input relative to the park, received through the Recreation Plan questionnaire or public meetings. The inventory also includes an assessment of the accessibility of the park to people with disabilities, based on criteria provided in the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plan. The assessment considers the accessibility of both the facilities themselves, as well as the access routes to them.

Because of their importance to residents, the inventory also identifies parks and recreation facilities surrounding the Village.
Bahle Park

Bahle Park is a 30-acre park located at the end of West Street that provides walking trails, a sledding hill, and a warming hut. The warming hut, which includes a large fireplace and a kitchen, can be rented for private parties year-round.

Needs at the park include the lack of universal access to the warming hut, as well as ongoing maintenance needs for the warming hut and sledding hills. Trails are currently not maintained by the Village. Additional needs, based on public comments, include improving access for winter activities, trail use, and community education opportunities.

Accessibility Assessment

Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines. Barrier-free access could be improved by providing disabled access to the entrance of the warming hut.

Duester Park

Softball/baseball fields, a soccer field, a gravel parking area. Restrooms are present but not available at the 2-acre Duester Park, which is located off M-22 at the former fairgrounds site.

Duester Park is currently used primarily for soccer, though the public expressed an interest in encouraging use of the park for a variety of activities, such as community garden space. Wayfinding or directional signage could also improve awareness of or access to the park. There is also potential to provide a connector to the planned extension of the Leelanau Trail from the Duester Park parking lot, which could serve as a northern trailhead for the Leelanau Trail.

Accessibility Assessment

Most of the park’s facilities are accessible.
Coal Dock Park

Coal Dock Park is one-acre park at the south end of the marina, located at the end of Dame Street in the Village. Coal Dock Park includes a fishing pier, a boardwalk, and picnic tables. A wetland area also includes a boardwalk that provides wildlife viewing opportunities. The park is accessed from Front Street via Dame Street, which extends as a gravel road into the park area and accommodates some vehicle parking. Portable toilets are provided seasonally at the end of the Dame Street access road.

Coal Dock Park is addressed in the 2012 Marina Master Plan, with recommendations to improve trees and landscaping, and to provide better connections to South Side Marina Park/Pier area. The plan also recommends eliminating about half of the entrance road (Dame Street) and using this area for green space. Permeable parking is also recommended for this area.

The Marina Master Plan also recommends improvements to or replacement of the walkway, an aging wooden boardwalk that requires regular maintenance to replace rotting boards. The need for walkway improvements was reinforced by public comment during the recreation planning process. Other public suggestions included improvements to parking, signage, and additional landscaping or tree plantings.

Accessibility Assessment

Some of the park’s facilities are accessible. Barrier-free access could be improved by replacing the walkway and improvements to the entrance drive.
Marina Park

Marina Park is located just east of the Village’s downtown along the bay. The Park hosts a large open space area, picnic tables, grills, a playground, and volleyball nets. Marina Park is often used for family gatherings and community events, such as festivals and fundraisers. Marina Park is closely connected to the Suttons Bay Marina, a 171-slip boat dock. The Marina is accessed by a loop drive with 58 parking spaces, which also provides parking access to Marina Park visitors when available.

Needs for Marina Park include the need for upgrades to the restrooms, which are currently located a significant distance from the beach and parking area. Several portable toilets are also provided and maintained by the Village at the west end of the marina parking lot, with greater proximity to the beach area. However, they provide no changing areas, are frequently used, and difficult to upkeep. The lack of beach access for those with disabilities is also a concern.

The 2012 Marina Master Plan calls for a number of improvements to the marina, including changes to site circulation, parking configurations, stormwater management, dockage and fuel dock alterations, service building modifications, a new boaters support building, channel dredging, and improvements to the head pier (see Appendix for complete recommendations). The Plan also identified a number of recommended site improvements relative to pathways, wayfinding, and park amenities.

Public input identified a number of additional interests in improvements, such as the addition of a bandshell, a picnic shelter, and a “foot shower” near the parking lot.

Accessibility Assessment

Most of the park’s facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Improvements to the public restrooms are needed to provide barrier-free access. Park access could be improved by providing “mobility mats” to allow disabled beach access.
South Side Marina Park

South Side Marina Park is a small park located between the Marina and Coal Dock Park. The park is accessed via Madison Street, with a gravel parking area that accommodates 20-25 cars. The park offers open space and picnic areas along the waterfront.

Needs at the park include improvements to the bridge and connections between the South Side Marina Park and Coal Dock Park. Other improvement needs include wayfinding, park furnishings, and future trail connections, consistent with treatments at Coal Dock Park and the marina.

Accessibility Assessment

Some of the park’s facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

Suttons Park

Suttons Park, also known as South Shore Park, is a beach park located on South Shore Dr. The 1-acre park includes a picnic pavilion, restrooms, swim area, swimming beach, playground equipment, cooking grills, and picnic tables.

Public comments received about Suttons Park included suggestions for parking area improvements, as well as suggestions to enhance accessibility for seniors and disabled, potentially through use of a sidewalk, and improved restrooms.

Accessibility Assessment

Some of the park areas/facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Barrier-free access could be improved with paved sidewalks or barrier-free beach access.
Waterwheel Park

Waterwheel Park is located on the corner of Jefferson St and St Mary’s Ave. Tennis courts, a basketball court, picnic table, and a small stream with a waterwheel are located at the park. The park consists of 2 acres; ownership is shared between the Village and Suttons Bay Township, with each entity owning 1 acre. Maintenance and upkeep responsibilities are shared between the Village and the Township.

A number of needs have been identified for the park, including the need for restrooms, landscaping/flowers, wayfinding signage, walkways, and improvements to the stream, as well as general improvements or additional park amenities. Public comments received during the planning process focused on the need for repairs to the park’s tennis courts and basketball court.

Waterwheel Park is addressed in the Front Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, which suggests closing portions of Jefferson Avenue to vehicle traffic and creating a public square or park in the former street area, with a wide walkway providing access to businesses along Jefferson Ave. One goal of the plan is to create a pedestrian/non-motorized corridor that will provide access from residential neighborhoods and downtown businesses to the shoreline, with a pedestrian crossing across M-22. The plan also recommends restoring the stream and providing a variety of landscaping improvements and park amenities. Implementation of the Plan would expand and enhance Waterwheel Park amenities.

Accessibility Assessment

Most of the park’s facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
North Park

North Park is a 2-acre park located at the intersection of Race Street and Front Streets, and includes a pavilion, restrooms, a boat launch, a small dock, an open space area, and parking. The park was updated in 1995 with MDNR funds.

Dredging is planned for 2012/13, to allow for larger boat access to the Bay. Some additional improvements and amenities, such as landscaping, are needed to improve aesthetics.

Accessibility Assessment

All of the park’s facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

Concord Street Road End

Public waterfront property is located at the end of Concord Street, just north of Marina Park. However, the access is currently unimproved and not signed or maintained as a park. While the property includes a steep bank and is unsuitable for swimming access, there are water views available. Landscaping, benches, or other amenities could be added to the property to improve access to the property and create a “pocket park.”

Accessibility Assessment

There are currently no recreation facilities maintained at the park.
Leelanau Trail

A parking/loading area for the Leelanau trail is located on Fourth Street. The 15.5-mile non-motorized paved trail, which runs along a former railroad corridor, extends south from the Village of Suttons Bay to Traverse City. In Traverse City, it connects with the TART Trail, providing non-motorized access to Acme Township in Grand Traverse County and beyond.

A planned 1.3 mile extension will extend the Trail from Marina Entrance Drive north through the Village to Dumas Road. To fund the construction of the Trail extension, the Village of Suttons Bay was awarded grants from the MDNR Natural Resources Trust Fund ($240,000) and the Michigan Department of Transportation ($313,000), which will be used along with matching funds from the Village ($60,000) and TART Trails ($40,000). Construction is expected to begin in 2013.

The majority of the Leelanau Trail is owned and maintained by the TART Trails Association; however, the Village owns approximately half of the 1.3 mile Trail extension. The Village will provide maintenance on the Village-owned portion of the Trail. Maintenance agreements are being developed to address maintenance needs on portions of the Trail not owned by the Village.

The trail extension provides many opportunities to connect with and enhance existing parks, particularly Marina Park, South Side Marina Park, Coal Dock Park, North Park, and Duester Park.

Accessibility Assessment

Most of the parks facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
Local Recreational Assets

In addition to Village-owned properties, a wide variety of recreation opportunities are available within and near the Village.

Friendship Center. The Friendship Center, located on Broadway Avenue, provides meeting and activity space for the community, and hosts groups such as the Senior Center and the Boys & Girls Club.

Inland Seas Education Center. Inland Seas Education Center, located on Front Street, provides aquatic science, environmental awareness, and sailing training opportunities for children and adults, both onshore and aboard tall ships.

Library. Meeting area, reading rooms, computer access, and educational events are available at the Suttons Bay Bingham District Library, which is located on Front Street in the Village.

Suttons Bay Public Schools. Baseball/football fields, basketball courts, soccer fields, and playgrounds are available on the 36-acre Suttons Bay Public Schools campus.

Suttons Bay Township Park. A one-acre park on Broadway and Lincoln Street, owned by Suttons Bay Township, provides open space and public ice skating.

Regional Recreational Assets

A wide variety of both publicly– and privately-owned recreation opportunities are available within the region surrounding the Village of Suttons Bay. Additional County– and local government-owned recreation properties are identified in Tables 1 and 2.

DNR Boat/Fishing Access Sites. Various sites are located throughout Leelanau County, on lakes including Lake Leelanau and Grand Traverse Bay. Amenities include boat parking, ramp, dock, and rustic restrooms. Sites are approximately 1/2 acre to 1 acre in size.

M-22 Scenic Heritage Route. 60 miles of M-22, M-109, and M-204 have been designated as the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route. Driving tours, scenic views, and historical sites are accessible on or from the Heritage Route.
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Located about 15 miles southwest of the Village of Suttons Bay, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is one of the largest attractions in the region. The park, which covers 50,000 acres in Leelanau and Benzie Counties, provides many opportunities for swimming, hiking, bicycling, hunting, picnicking, camping, and bird and wildlife watching. Attracting over a million visitors annually, positive nationwide press has recently resulted in higher exposure and increased visitation rates.

Leelanau State Park. The Leelanau State Park covers about 1,300 acres of woodlands, beaches, and sand dunes at the northern end of Leelanau County, north of Northport. 8.5 miles of trails for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and skiing, a 42-site rustic campground, two mini-cabins, picnic pavilion and grills, bird watching, hunting, and playgrounds are available. The Grand Traverse Lighthouse museum is also located at the State Park.

Leelanau Conservancy Properties. The Leelanau Conservancy, a 501(c)3 organization, purchases land and easements for the purpose of conservation. The Conservancy owns over 20 properties throughout Leelanau County, many of which provide public access for recreation activities such as hiking, birdwatching, and cross-country skiing.

Strongheart Center. The Strongheart Center, owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and located in Peshawbestown, provides a number of recreational facilities, including baseball and soccer fields, basketball courts, a skate park, volleyball courts, playgrounds, indoor basketball courts/gymnasium, rubberized indoor track, weight rooms, and an aerobics/dance studio. The Strongheart Center also provides community meeting and activity space.

Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center. The Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center, located in Peshawbestown, is a museum and center devoted to preserving and sharing the history, language, and culture of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Privately-owned Recreation Opportunities. Many privately-owned recreation opportunities are available throughout Leelanau County, including RV parks, golfing, camping, and skiing.
Table 1. Leelanau County Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>General Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Settler's Picnic Grounds</td>
<td>Empire Township Park</td>
<td>consisting of meeting space, playground, picnic area, and lake access</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myles Kimmerly Recreation Area</td>
<td>Kasson Township Park</td>
<td>contains athletic fields, playground, tennis courts, hiking trails, and picnic area</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Township Parks in Leelanau County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th># of Facilities</th>
<th>General Descriptions</th>
<th>Approximate Acreage Range</th>
<th>Approximate Total Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bingham Township</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Playground, picnic area, basketball &amp; tennis courts and lake access</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centerville Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Picnic area and lake access</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Picnic area and lake access</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmwood Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground, picnic area, lake access, volleyball and public marina</td>
<td>3-15</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire Twp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Picnic area &amp; public campgrounds</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Arbor Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tennis &amp; basketball courts, playground, picnic area and lake Access</td>
<td>1 or less</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasson Twp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Playground, tot lot and picnic area</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leelanau Township</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Athletic fields, playground, picnic area, trails, lake access, ice rink skateboarding, tennis and sledding</td>
<td>½ - 72</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leland Twp</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground, picnic area, boat launch, lake access, beach access &amp; swimming</td>
<td>1-100</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solon Twp</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Athletic fields, tennis courts, playground, picnic area, swimming beach and lake access</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suttons Bay Township</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tennis courts, basketball courts, picnic area, lake access, and sledding</td>
<td>Less than 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 4: Planning Process

The recreation plan was developed with guidance from the Suttons Bay Village Planning Commission, with assistance from the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG).

Existing Plans and Projects

Over the last several years, the Village of Suttons Bay has been involved in a number of proactive initiatives to enhance transportation, recreation, environmental quality, and land use. Following is a description and summary of local plans relevant to recreation planning.

The Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan, adopted in 2011, provides goals and policies for Suttons Bay Township and the Village of Suttons Bay, and acts as the legal basis for zoning decisions. The Plan helps guide decisions about public improvements, community programs, and private development, and provides a number of smart-growth strategies to enhance the community's housing, transportation, and recreation options (see sidebar for recreation-specific strategies).

A Front Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, prepared in 2011, calls for a number of transportation enhancements along Front Street. Key among the recommendations is to create a “woonerf,” or shared transportation space, along Front Street. The woonerf concept would provide for traffic calming, safe bicycle and pedestrian access, and enhanced access to

Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan (2011) - Objectives and Strategies

Objective: Provide ample and quality recreation opportunities.

Strategies

- Partner with schools, local organizations, public works, business owners, and residents to expand a tree planting and protection program that will maintain and enhance the community tree-lined streetscape and wooded parks
- As pedestrian facilities are repaired and developed, increase universal access to sidewalks, parks, and other public and private services to all individuals
- Explore the possibility of developing a performance venue in one of the parks
- Develop a plan that recognizes and enhances the bay as a community asset. This plan may include addressing water quality, recreation opportunities, viewsheds, and shoreline properties.
- Work with TART Trails and follow the Village of Suttons Bay and Township of Suttons Bay Community Recreation Plans to increase and improve trailway infrastructure
- Work with local entities to promote area recreation opportunities
the Village’s waterfront parks. Another major recommendation, currently being investigated for implementation, is closing off a portion of Jefferson Ave for use as a park and public square (see figure). Walkways, public toilets, landscaping, benches, and other park amenities are planned for the future park. Plans also call for restoration of the stream at Waterwheel Park, which is currently culverted. Stream restoration will include stabilization of stream banks from St Mary’s to Front Street and/or the marina, “daylighting” the stream, and providing for natural landscaping. A DEQ grant and Village matching funds are currently being used to investigate the potential to implement stream restoration plans.

A *Marina Master Plan* was prepared in 2012 to evaluate existing conditions and identify needs for the marina. The plan included public input opportunities, analysis of existing marina conditions, and a number of recommendations designed to improve safety and decrease liability at the marina, enhance the wetlands area, improve marina services, improve access to Coal Dock Park, plan for larger boats, stabilize the shoreline, attain a “green” marina designation, develop a “floating marina, offer multiple uses of the harbor, and balance transient and seasonal boat use. See page 30 for a summary of *Marina Master Plan* recommendations; complete recommendations are included in Appendix C.
Additionally, a Great Lakes Restoration grant from the Environmental Protection Agency is currently being used to address stormwater discharge issues. Stormwater is currently discharged untreated into the bay, creating water quality concerns such as elevated e. coli levels. A number of improvements are planned to improve infiltration and filtering of stormwater before discharge. Storm drains will be eliminated. In their place, thirty to forty bioswales (rain gardens) will be installed in upland areas in the Village to handle the first flush of stormwater. Best management practices for stormwater management will be incorporated throughout the Village and along the alleys on east and west side of M-22.

As noted in Chapter 3, Recreation Inventory, an extension of the Leelanau Trail is planned for 2013. MDOT and MDNR funds, along with a matching Village contribution, will fund the construction of a trail along the former railroad bed from Marina Entrance Dr to Dumas Rd north of the Village.

Public Input

A Community Public Input Session was held on Wednesday, August 14 at the Suttons Bay-Bingham Fire Hall in Suttons Bay. About 12 residents attended.

In addition to the public meeting, a recreation questionnaire was mailed to 700 residents and businesses. About 67 questionnaires were returned. Results of the questionnaire, combined with comments from the Community Public Input Session, identified priorities for each of the parks and community-wide recreation goals. Results and comments from the questionnaire and Public Input Session specific to each park are summarized in Chapter 3 under respective parks; full results are included in the appendix. Comments addressing community-wide goals are summarized as follows.

- Provide and improve park furnishings, such as benches, playground equipment, picnic tables, recycling bins, etc.
- Provide wayfinding and signage for all parks
- Identify areas for “pocket parks” and maintain site-specific amenities
- Consider major facility upgrades to the waterfront/marina and marina restrooms
- Improve location and access to restrooms
- Provide additional trails and trail connections to existing parks
- Conserve and plant trees and improve landscaping, i.e. provide flowers, weed control, etc.
- Provide for additional recreation opportunities, such as disc golf, shuffleboard, swimming pools, ice skating, and a dog park
- Provide for a farm market shelter
• Provide a central square focal point for business district, per the streetscape plan/turn Jefferson Avenue into a park-like area

• Coordinate with Leelanau County activities and parks

Additional opportunities for public input, including public hearings, will be available and will be identified accordingly.

Public Comment Period

The Village Council must release and announce the Recreation Plan for a 30-day public review period. Dates will be identified.

Public Hearing and Adoption

The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Village Council regarding adoption of the Recreation Plan. The Village Council will hold a public hearing and will consider adoption following the public hearing (at the same or a subsequent meeting).
2012 Marina Master Plan

The Marina Master Plan was prepared by Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc. in February 2012. Recommendations of the plan are summarized as follows:

- Improve **Site Circulation and Parking Configurations** including loop drives, connections to Front Street and downtown, permeable pavement options and storm water and snow-melt mitigation.
- Develop solutions to **Collect and Manage Storm water Runoff**
- Improve **Geometric and Layout Dockage Alterations** in various portions of the basin
- Modify the **Existing Fuel Dock and Service Building** to improve its location, safety and access
- Consider **Phasing Out of the Existing Boat Launch** for regular public use in concert with improving channel maintenance, parking use regulation, and public amenity improvement at the public boat launch at North Park
- Provide a **New Boaters Support building**, and **Separate the Public Restrooms** from either the existing or future boaters building.
- Advance plans for **Securing Additional Bottomlands and Channel Dredging** for both the main harbor and south coal dock.
- Address **Structural and geometric modifications to existing, aging shoreline, and head pier** including: the North (crib) pier with either new structure or sheet-pile encapsulation of the existing structure; and the coal dock shore line between the inland seas dock and the inland seas property with structure naturalized “bio-engineered” solutions.
- Construct **Public restrooms on south coal dock vicinity**
- Develop **Other Supporting Site Improvements** in specific and common areas of the marina and waterfront including:
  - Replace **old boardwalk wetland crossing**.
  - Add **connecting pathways and walkways** to link site features.
  - Develop **pocket park space along front street** as existing bath house is phased out
  - Create **streetscape amenity improvements** along Front Street and three marina access drive and parking locations.
  - Develop native landscape planting enhancements at key locations
  - Develop a **consistent wayfinding and informational signage system** for the marina and public waterfront facilities and amenities.
  - Maintain and improve **site trees along coal dock** (north and south sides)
  - Improve **site lighting / electrical hook-ups for boat slips**
  - Implement photovoltaic power (solar) power collection and Light Emitting Diode (LED) or other newer energy efficient and – dark sky promoting options.
  - Introduce **new site furnishings and amenities** (benches, tables, litter and recycle containers, bike racks etc.)
  - Develop a **symbolic, unique and functional harbor mouth entry feature and space** on the north pier.
  - Introduce **fabric tensile structures / open-air pavilion** to provide additional, seasonal shade and use areas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Facility</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Recommended Facilities</th>
<th>Existing Facilities</th>
<th>Needed Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Courts</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Fields</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-lit fields</td>
<td>1/30,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Fields</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Fields</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 hole</td>
<td>1/25,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Rink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey Rink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>1/100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td>depends on climate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery range</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ mile Running Track</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic areas</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country Ski Trails</td>
<td>One per region</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Trails</td>
<td>One per region</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sledding hill</td>
<td>1/40,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle Trails</td>
<td>One per region</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback Riding trails</td>
<td>One per region</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 5: Goals & Objectives

The following recreation goals and objectives were based on public input, existing local plans, and current Village initiatives. The Action Plan is informed by these goals.

Continue to maintain and improve existing parks.
- Add, update, or improve park furnishings and amenities at all parks as appropriate and necessary.
- Update and/or replace park restrooms as needed.
- Provide or improve barrier-free access features at all parks.
- Provide consistent wayfinding/directional signage for parks throughout the Village.
- Implement recommendations of the 2012 Marina Master Plan.

Provide a range of recreation opportunities that meet the needs of all segments of the population.
- Create pocket parks at the Concord Ave Road End and other publicly-owned, underutilized properties.
- Continue to pursue implementation of the Front Street Corridor Enhancement Plan recommendations relative to the conversion of portion of Jefferson Avenue to a park/public square.
- Explore opportunities to enhance recreation programming at existing parks.
- Provide facilities to meet the needs and abilities of all park users.
- Explore the creation of a dog park at an existing park or publicly-owned property.

Improve non-motorized options connecting parks, businesses, and residential neighborhoods.
- Implement planned expansion of Leelanau Trail from Marina Entrance Dr to Dumas Rd.
- Provide non-motorized pathway connections between existing and planned trails to Village parks.
- Explore options to provide safe non-motorized access along Village streets to “fill the gaps” between existing and planned non-motorized trail segments.
Work to ensure environmental integrity and quality of all parks.

- Explore and implement permeable paving options for Village parks.
- Provide recycling bins at all parks.
- Continue to pursue implementation of the Front Street Corridor Enhancement Plan relative to stream restoration.
- Integrate native vegetation and other low-impact practices into park design and landscaping.

Coordinate recreation planning and implementation with neighboring units of government and other organizations who own or maintain open space and parkland within the Village.

- Continue to cooperate with Suttons Bay Township on shared maintenance and ownership of Waterwheel Park.
- Work with volunteer groups, as opportunity presents, to implement Recreation Plan goals and other Village recreation objectives
## 2012-2016 Action Plan

### Bahle Park
- **Action**: Add/update/improve park furnishings and amenities as needed
- **Action**: Provide ongoing maintenance for warming hut and sledding hills
- **Action**: Provide barrier-free access to the warming hut
- **Action**: Explore options for improving and maintaining trails

### Duester Park
- **Action**: Add/update/improve park furnishings and amenities as needed
- **Action**: Provide ongoing maintenance and repairs
- **Action**: Provide trail connections from parking lot to planned extension of Leelanau Trail

### Coal Dock Park
- **Action**: Add/update/improve park furnishings and amenities as needed
- **Action**: Provide ongoing maintenance and repairs
- **Action**: Improve/resurface walkway and bridge
- **Action**: Convert gravel road to open space; provide landscaping and park furnishings
- **Action**: Explore and implement options for permeable paving

### Leelanau Trail
- **Action**: Work with TART Trails and other partners to implement construction of planned extension of Leelanau Trail
- **Action**: Provide ongoing maintenance to existing and planned trail segments, in partnership with TART Trails
- **Action**: Develop trail connections to parks throughout the Village

### Marina Park
- **Action**: Add/update/improve park furnishings and amenities as needed
- **Action**: Provide ongoing maintenance and repairs
- **Action**: Provide barrier-free beach access
- **Action**: Improve vehicle access and circulation
- **Action**: Explore and implement options for restroom upgrades
## 2012-2016 Action Plan (cont)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add/update/improve park furnishings and amenities as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide ongoing maintenance and repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dredging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South Side Marina Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add/update/improve park furnishings and amenities as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide ongoing maintenance and repairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improve walkway and bridge connections with neighboring parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suttons Beach</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add/update/improve park furnishings and amenities as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improve barrier-free access as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waterwheel Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add/update/improve park furnishings and amenities as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide ongoing maintenance and repairs, in cooperation with Suttons Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continue stream restoration activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Convert portions of Jefferson Ave to a public square/park; provide landscaping,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stream restoration, and park furnishings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide park furnishings, amenities, and ongoing maintenance at Concord Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road End and other underutilized public properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide consistent wayfinding signage at all parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>