

# Powell Township Recreation Plan

## 2020 - 2025

### Township Board

Darlene Turner (Supervisor)  
Daryl Wilcox (Deputy Supervisor)  
Samantha Morin (Clerk)  
Leah Fraley (Deputy Clerk)  
Arlene Erickson (Treasurer)  
Kelly Santilli (Deputy Treasurer)  
Howard Robare (Trustee/Zoning Administrator)  
Denise Hudson (Trustee)  
Joe Stanley (Trustee)

### Parks and Recreation Committee

Sven Gonstead (Chair)  
Jill Bevins (Secretary)  
Darlene Turner (Treasurer)  
Arlene Erickson (Member)  
Lucy Wilcox (Member)  
George Girod (Member)  
Heidi Shatz (Member)

### 2026 - 2030 Plan

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Heidi Shatz (Chair)  
Coty Sorby (Co-Chair)  
Kelli Santilli (Secretary)  
Darlene Turner (Treasurer)  
Sven Gonstead  
Lauri Shaw  
Linda Ludwig  
Kelly Cain

# Parks & Recreation Department



## PT P&R Survey 2026

225 responses

### Big picture

Views

448

Starts

261

Submissions

225

Completion rate

86.2%

Time to complete

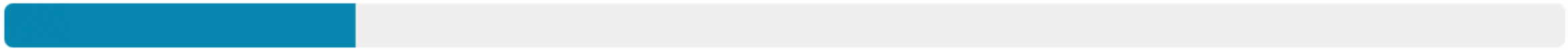
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## What is your age group?

60 - 69

49 resp. 22.5%



70 +

49 resp. 22.5%



40 - 49

38 resp. 17.4%



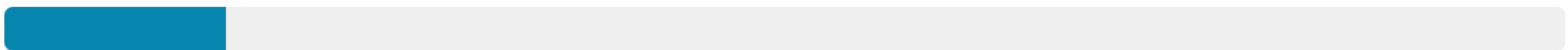
30 - 39

31 resp. 14.2%



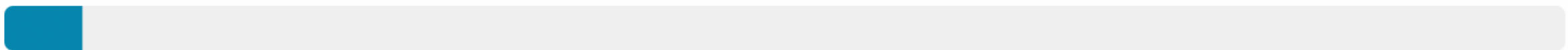
50 - 59

31 resp. 14.2%



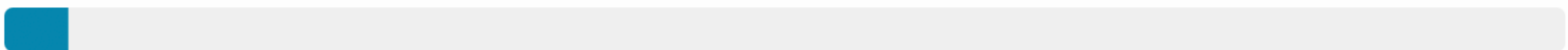
Under 20

11 resp. 5%



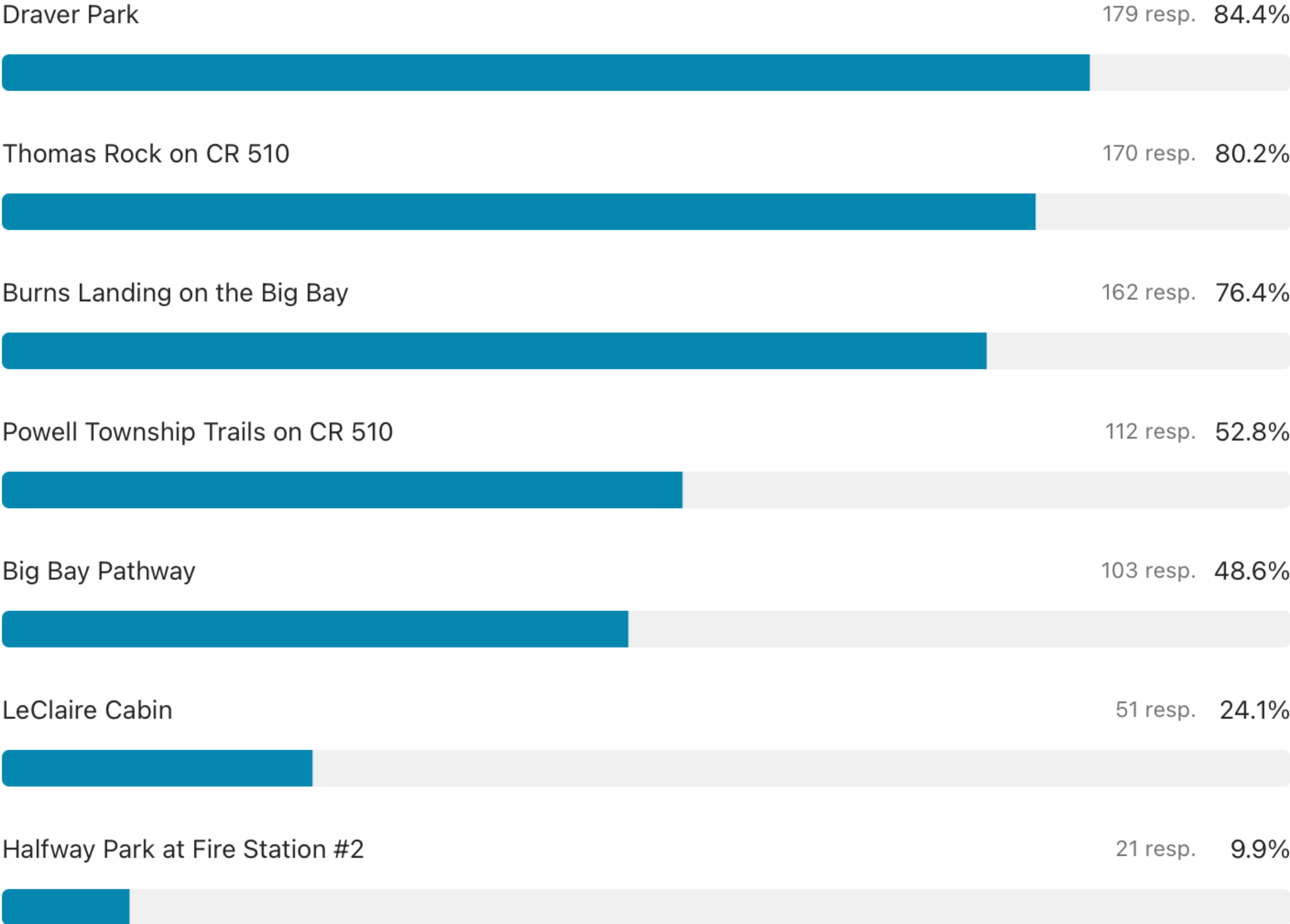
20 - 29

9 resp. 4.1%





## Which of the Powell Township's Recreation Sites do you visit at least once a year?







### What recreational activities do you participate in?

Hiking/walking 170 resp. 77.3%



Swimming 134 resp. 60.9%



Kayak/Canoeing/Paddleboarding 121 resp. 55%



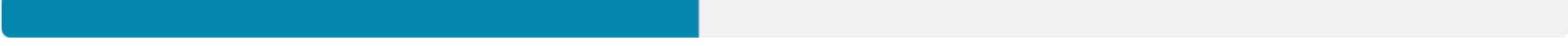
Boating Motor/Sailing 120 resp. 54.5%

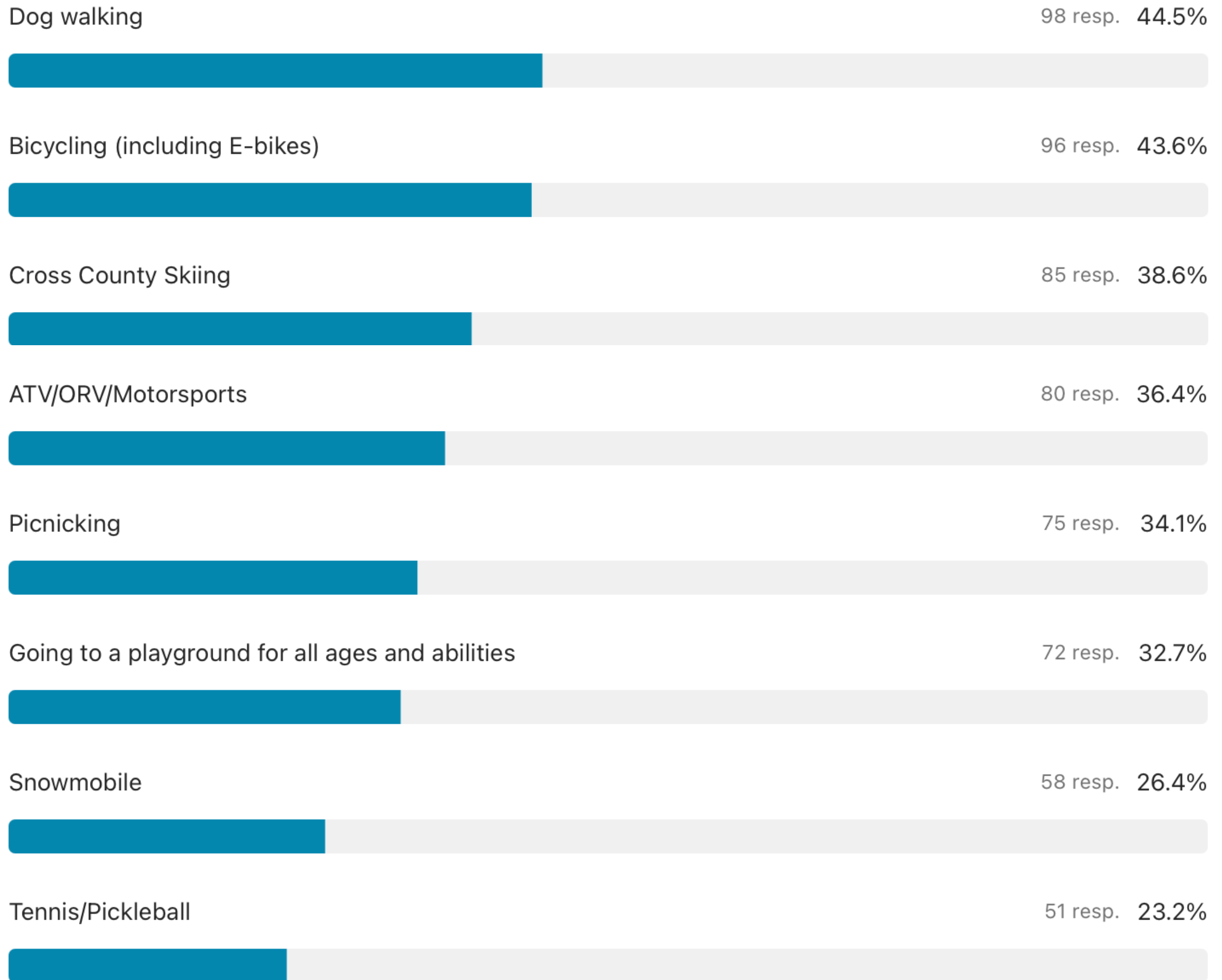


Fishing 112 resp. 50.9%



Bird/Wildlife/Viewing/Photography 98 resp. 44.5%





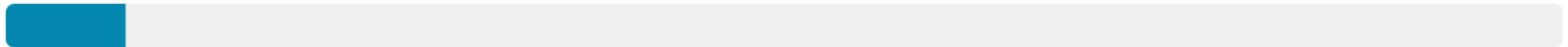
Running/Jogging 43 resp. 19.5%



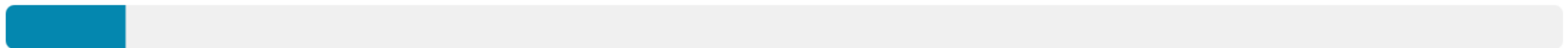
Baseball/Softball 23 resp. 10.5%



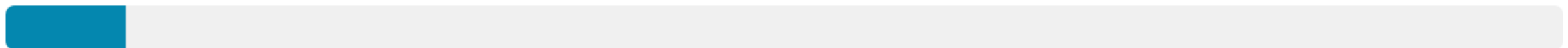
Bicycle Pump Track for youth 17 resp. 7.7%



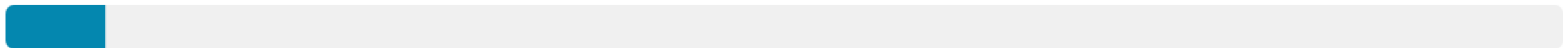
Disc Golf 17 resp. 7.7%



Snow biking 17 resp. 7.7%



Geocaching 14 resp. 6.4%





4

What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?



## What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?

Sledding, a pump track, bingo, baseball/softball teams, cooking classes

Pump track or Grom trail for kids, more ski trails would be awesome! Safer ways to bike/walk from place to place, pickle ball

Dog park

Music in the park, cookouts, more free all ages events—we love to visit Big Bay!

Running, disc golf

Sand volleyball, indoor pickleball

Bike lane on 550

All

Mountain biking

Running, activities with my dog, swimming, kayaking, and cross country skiing are my favorite.

There are already plenty.

Bike riding trail

I love where we are at. I would always love to see more trails for hiking and more native gardens though.

More for children..

More biking trails a trail that leads from town

Community Garden. More walking paths. More mountain view hiking paths.

Hiking and biking

Disc golf/miniature golf/arcade

All of the above in question 3

PickleBall

Outside public pickle ball courts

More water access and more trails

Hiking, snowshoeing, XC skiing

More bike trails

A rock climbing wall would be pretty cool.

Exercise in the park

Already pleased with available options

a dog park

trampoline park

skating ring

skating

a roller skating park, and a trampoline park.

Backcountry skiing

Basketball

Pickleball

Continue to maintain the existing infrastructure.  
The existing opportunities are excellent. The addition of more often times leads to mediocre everywhere.

New playground equipment for our kids @ Dravers & Perkins (especially Perkins that equipment is old and not big enough to keep all the kids safe or entertained), more craft shows (I used to put craft shows together and it helps the community and local businesses), halloween haunted hay rides, Christmas Carolling, just anything to help keep our kids and community having fun..

## What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?

For community sailing to return to Perkins Park

Snowmobile group rides, ATV/UTV group rides, Fishing tournaments

Indoor pickball courts

Dog park at Draver Park

Disc golf, bike trails

Disc golf

Baseball / softball games

Sled hill

Na

Na

Indoor pool and gym

Continue or increase community concerts with food and grandchildren activities

Dancing lessons

Youth bicycle pump track. Access to the lake at the big Bay lighthouse

Playgrounds, trails, tennis courts, public beaches

Better walleye fishing

I would love a garden area for everyone to plant stuff in and take care of. Like a snipping garden, but for everyone to garden in.

a dirt bike trall

rc track

top golf

A gym

junior fire school

dog park-

more indoor group health activities/classes: tai chi, yoga, etc

Walking in winter      fishing piers      lighting for trails

Volleyball, hiking, sailing, skiing,

Community center/library

Pickleball Courts

Side by side recreation trails

snowshoeing, community garden space/allotments

A community center that can host fitness classes, build a pool, offer exercise equipment

Continue existing activities

Disc golf

EBike

All available

Indoor pickleball with more than one court. Permanent outdoor pickleball court(s).

Where is hunting on the list????

More walking paths. Walking on the roads is so dangerous!

Dog walking trails, new sidewalks in town, support for snowmobiling and ATV riders, parks for kids.

Trails -Races- Group Events

More hiking trails

softball team

## What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?

outdoor pickleball courts and indoor recreational facility (with a possible pickleball court or two).
Better access to trails for walking/atvs/snowmobiles/sking from the town of Big Bay
Organized group exercise, arts and crafts,book clubs,that the whole community can participate in.
The pump track would be great for kids.
Bike path connecting 510 sites to downtown/draver/burns landing
Non-motorized trail to Marquette. Outdoor recreation events in Powell Township for families.
More activities for seniors.
Disk golf , geocaching
The playground at Draver Park is nice for the grandkids
Disc golf course
Guided self tour around Big Bay
Pickleball courts new nets on basketball ct
Jogging path along kcb
Swimming, hiking, fishing, picnicking, horseback riding
Golf course
ORV trails to the town so we don't have to ride on paved roads. The money they wasted on bike trails when the people wanted orv trails. They took Eagle Mine money and just bought equipment for the township which is being used for personal use. This money was for a trail system and the people got scammed
Sailing
You have a good selection now , keep it.
Any Outdoor activities
Summer fishing derby
Better playgrounds, bike trails of all levels, hiking trails, beaches
Any activities that can be done in nature in it's natural state so tax payer dollars are not needed to sustain it.
I'm too old to do these things, but anything pleasant for the little ones and young adults and visitors.
Better playground equipment
The addition and maintenance of the trails in the region are an incredible gem. I frequently hike and trail run in the region and love the trails. I'd like to see more opportunities of connection between the trails for longer distances.
Skiing, biking
Hiking trails/XC Ski trails/Mountain bike trails/Scenic overlook
Crushed Limestone Bike path from Burn's Landing to Thomas Rock.
Pickleball courts all year, fishing management, bike/walking trails along shoreline and through the woods easygoing with pea gravel (not mountain bike), waterfalls signage/maps, old railway history signage with the clearing and maintenance of the old railway grade.
Indoor swimming pool !
Anything that gathers the community together. Like 4th of July and the fall harvest "festival "... and all the other events we have. I also love the Lake Superior beach . The improvements are wonderful!
Leave things alone and stop "improving "

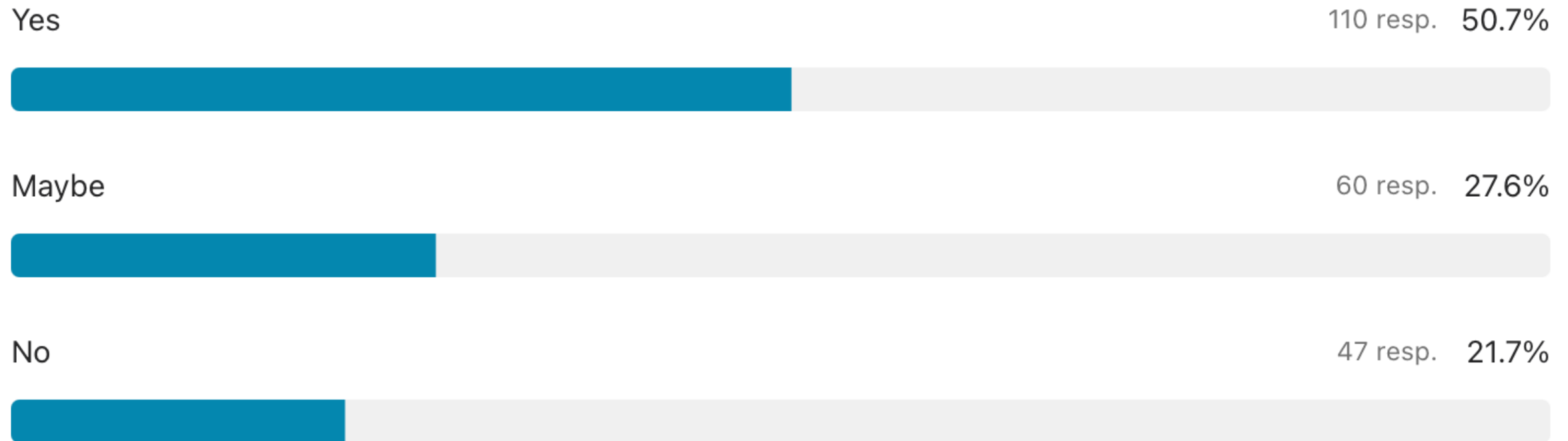
## What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?

Group art classes.
Educational walks/nature based
Pickle ball courts
Disc golf
Sledding area
More summer concerts.
Exercise classes
A Kayak / Canoe landing at Burns Landing or inside the Break Wall location
Disc golf course
Pickleball court
volleyball, basketball, pickleball
Basketball court/Pickle ball, upgraded park, Dog Park, more walking paths
PT has the activities I desire.
Vollyball basketball court
Rock climbing & ice climbing
Pickleball (in Winter too), Ice Skating, walking on the sidewalks in winter to be of the road,
Upgraded parks
More softball tournaments
groomed fat bike trails.
More walking trails
guided tours, more public areas/parks for kids, public pool
Nothing we don't already have access to
improvements to playground at Draver park.
More things for kids and seniors to do.
Outdoor equipment Rental possibilities
Ice rink/skating (in the pavilion)
Possibly archery

# 135 Responses

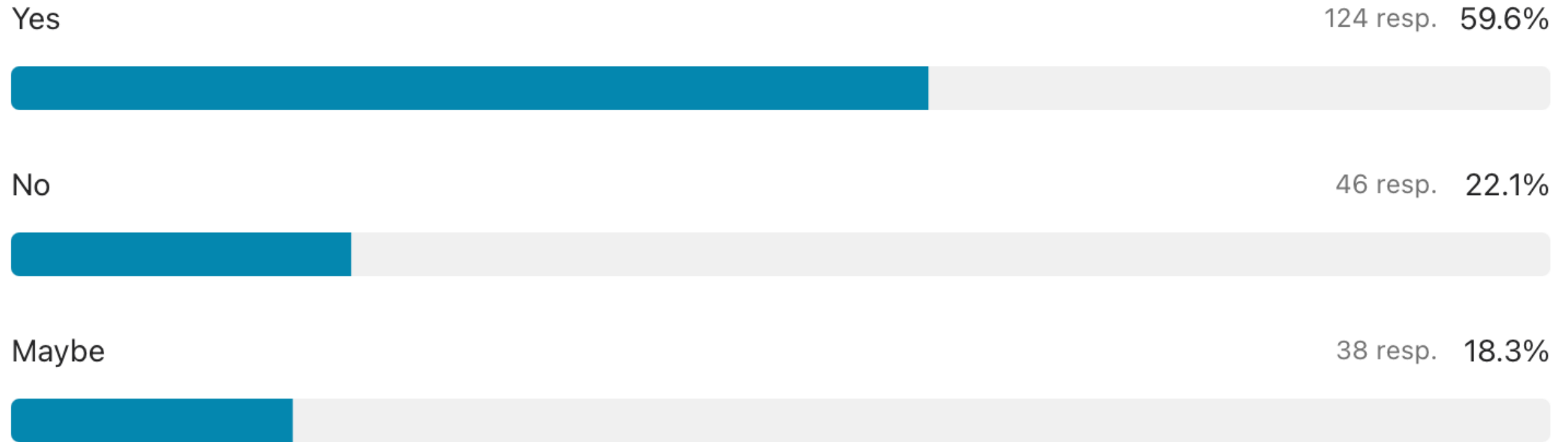


Would you support a Recreational Millage for the maintenance of our current recreational opportunities?





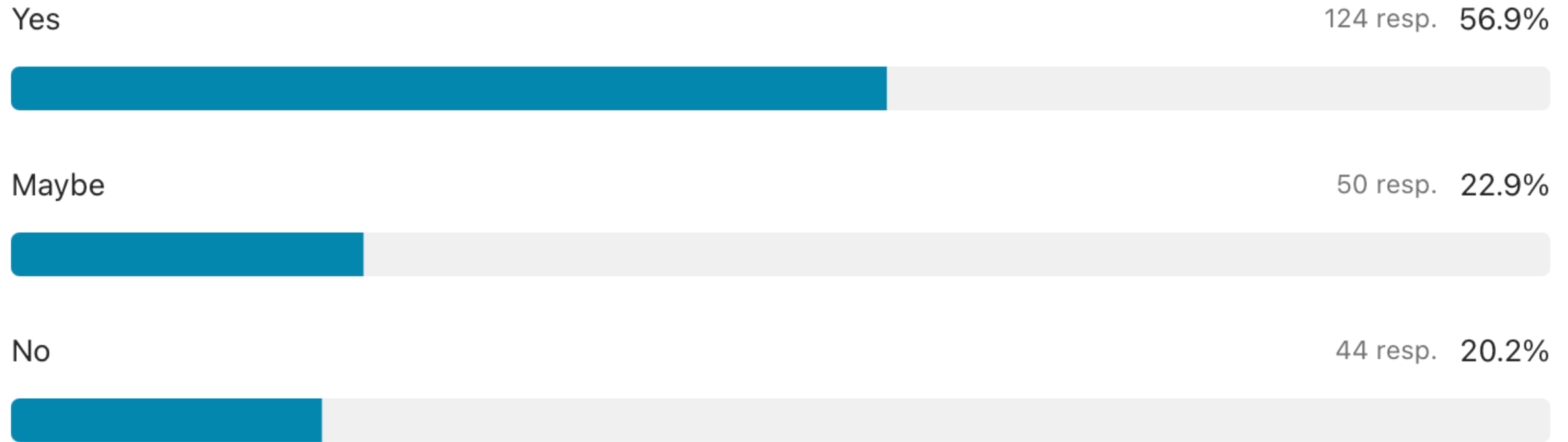
Would you support a trail from Burns Landing to Thomas Rock for pedestrians and bikes?





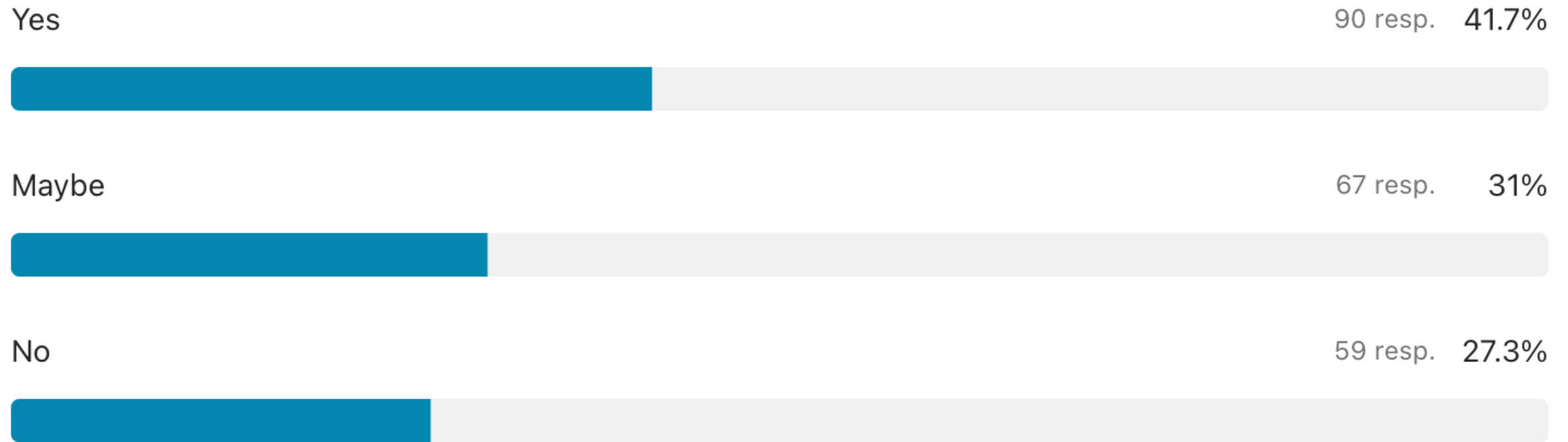


Do you support the building of a Community Building for public gatherings, educational presentations and recreation?



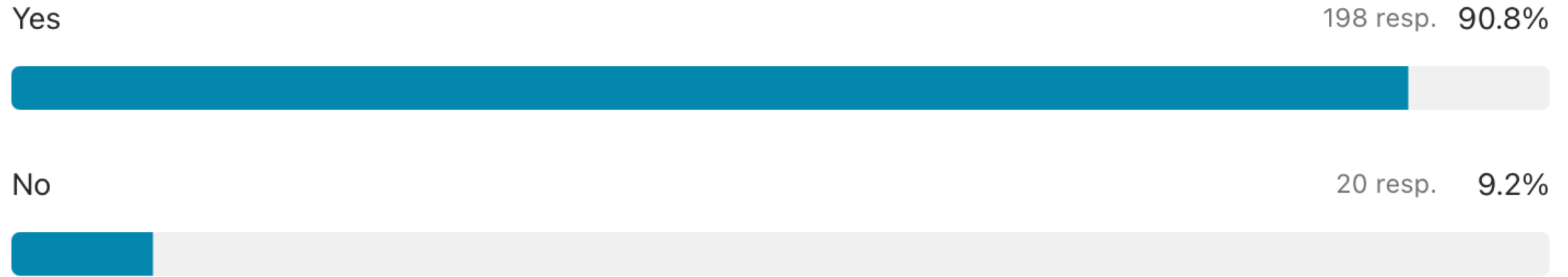


## Would you support a millage to purchase public properties for future recreation?





### Do you own property and/or reside in Powell Township?





Please enter any comments and/or suggestions you have here:



# Please enter any comments and/or suggestions you have here:

I would like to see the LeClair cabin turned into a historic site with involvement from the Marquette Historical Museum, for Perkins park to be plowed so ice fishing could be more accessible, for the land for sale by Burns Landing to be acquired by Powell township, for the wood shacks to be acquired by Powell township. I would love to have a community building that had pickleball, a kitchen, and beautiful community space to hold wedding receptions and showers, graduation parties. More community programs for kids and aging persons.

I think more events hosted in Big Bay would be great! Pickle ball/ tennis lessons for example. I think a pickle ball league would go over well in the summer! I know it's hard in our area because of the 4 wheelers and snowmobiles, but a rail trail would be awesome to hop on from Marquette to Big Bay to bike. We used to ride our bikes to Big Bay or Marquette all the time but it has gotten so busy with tourists that cross not the shoulder that it's scary to do so anymore .

Big Bay is where many of our friends reside, and spend a lot of time there. We visit and explore and spend a lot of time there

No more motor sports! Hiking, biking, quiet activities only. We shouldn't have to pay more taxes for other people to come and make our township unpleasant

Too many gd tourists already visit the area. Don't need even more new trails. Property Taxes out of control for a remote township.

A new hiking trail

Thank you for all your hard work! I really appreciate it

My wife and I own our home in Powell. We support outdoor recreation initiatives when they are focused on our own community. We are not in support of increasing tourism in Powell township. Ultimately we are in favor of keeping land wild. We don't need accessible trails everywhere.

Our Lake Independence property taxes are very high already, so I'm not sure about millage support. Hope our tax dollars are being spent wisely.

Would like to see the Draver Park renovation actually completed within existing budget without seeking more funding

Thank you for all your hard work!!

Commons area with farmers market would be nice

I would like to see the continued push for responsible tourism. I would like people to come visit our beautiful home but also treat it with respect.

Nothing at this time.

Do not over exploit Big Bay for tourism dollars. Big Bay/Powell Township is a great place, over exploitation and too many tourists WILL ruin what makes this area so great.

make a ice ring

If you build it you must maintain it. The recent new infrastructure and recreational opportunities have been great but they have yet to hit a full maintenance cycle. Making sure funding is available to maintain/slightly improve at this stage is more important than adding new.

Clean up the branches and trees at Burns Landing to be able to enjoy the beautiful view of the bay, more parking for Burns Landing (not much but another closer parking to beach would be awesome, better signs of where things are and maps of how to get to different places like the trails for biking/ walking in Big Bay, do more things/ activities to involve kids of ALL ages

Community suggestions or choice in the selection of music in the park events.

Bike night or ATV ride night

Spring or Summer fishing tournament.

I think having a community building with even some recreational activities to do inside for children and adults. Especially for people of all ages to gather in the extremely cold months when being outside so much isn't an option.

Also, where is the funding money that Powell township received to do draver park and when is that going to be not only started but completed.

Thank you for asking what we want to see.

I would really like to see an indoor pool for the winter months. Perhaps tent bay cliffs for the residents

Congratulations on all your good work

Having more lake Superior access would be huge

We have all the parks we need for our small town.

no comment

dirt bike Trall

rc track

your words are to proper

no questions

Educate people to understand the importance of recreation

Golf course or driving range

Thanks for all the hard work!

Work with the DNR to make a better fishing experience in Lake Indendence.

non-motorized recreation is a major contributor to health, mental and physical. I support any non-motorized recreation opportunities, and adaptations for universal access to recreation.

brainstorming a farmers type market

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our community.

Landings for bird watching on top of the bike trails would be excellent

No need for a community center. We have 2 churches, school, TBI, Baycliff, Township hall, Fire station and 2 parks.

Fish cleaning station at the harbor and more sand removal at boat launch at the harbor

Thank you!!!!!!!

Enough money spent on parks and rec. No more taxes for them

Do the RIGHT thing.

I am a long term resident of Big Bay. I answered maybe on some questions because Powell Township is a multi recreational area. Any plan should at least include representation of all the different types of Rec when using tax dollars. I do walking, snowmobiling, boating, and use my atv.

Community library is needed

Thank you for all your hard work. I have noticed a surge in people coming to Squaw Beach (can we get a sign with the new name and pronunciation on it?). Your improvements there have been dramatic and appreciated. It looks like someone cares about our beach area.

Study on community events, recreation infrastructure. This would also identify the economic and community health benefits. The purpose would be to identify which events would provide the most benefit to residents and visitors.

Residents seem to be mainly seniors on fixed incomes that really can't afford any millage increases. Any new recreational facilities etc should be financed by user fees and not added taxes.



# Please enter any comments and/or suggestions you have here:

Our family likes the improvements at Burns Landing and the beach! Have enjoyed the new trails to Powells Peak, but need better signage on the trails. Would like access to the Iron River for kayaking or stream fishing.

Powell township already spends too much money on parks & rec.

I appreciate all the work that has been done so far and look forward to what will be happening in the future.

keep up the good work!!

I think the public concerts that have been held in the summer are great and should be supported.

I don't support the use of township vehicles for personal use. That is tax payers money. It's a liability, why should we pay for the gas and maintenance so someone can plow their own driveway on company time and doesn't even homestead in Powell township. It's nice to see the township truck all beat up from personal use.

What type of community building and where. What is the township building used for.

I'd like a focus on recreation for families with young kids and all residents, less focus on things like baseball field that are used only once per year.

It appears to me that a small group of younger more active people are asking the taxpayers to support their activities. The average age of Powell Twp. residents is well over 65 years, most of those people do not hike, bike, snowshoe, ski or play baseball and should not be expected to pay for the activities of the younger minority.

Big Bay is a beautiful place to live and visit

Thanks for all you do

Increasing recreation opportunities enhances tourist visitation bringing income to the township. Worth a millage increase

I think the community has been moving forward and should continue to be able to grow and bring in new families, workers and businesses.

Don't raise taxes

Thank you for the survey.

Did you ever think people might like to have unspoiled wilderness

Keep things simple. Be as multiuse as possible.

Suggest caution raising property taxes. Many residents struggling paying bills. Seasonal residents may have more \$.

Campground at the old halfway ballpark? Or a disc golf course?

Path to thomas rock from burns, will that be on the road or through the forests (paved or gravel)?

Investing money in improving events and facilities for community interaction in Powell Township is a solid choice

Your Parks and Recreation Department does a lot! Thanks. Keep up your great efforts.

charge non residents who use trails, public facilities, ect. There are different ways to do this

I would support a millage, but I do not own property in Powell township. Consider a participation fee / membership / "friends of Powell twp recreation . Many people come to Powell twp chasing waterfalls, boating, snowmobiling and now gravel bike riding ("Crusher") - a part of the race entry fee should be paid to local units of government that provide these natural resources, maintain the trails, and may be assisting in an emergency if needs arise.

Keep providing chances for people to gather, especially in winter. It is easier to gather in the summer, but for winter, a community center that is a big enough public space to hold family gatherings, have basketball/Pickleball/volleyball indoors, be a business incubator for start up businesses Big Bay, house new township government offices to solve the issue of having people there to manage the facility, convert the old townhall to the maintenance facility and Parks and Rec equipment storage and maintenance garage.

The "historical" pathway would go through town and allow people to walk/ride bikes safely to recreation assets, get to the businesses such as Cram's and the ice cream shop, and someday with a community center located to the north of the Fire Station (across from the lumberjack) people would go right by a small business incubator with store front shop and a large multi-purpose space and township offices in the building.

The proposed facility would serve the residents needs to have a public space to gather without having to be at a bar or restaurant, it would provide more opportunities to gather in healthy way. It would support a more diverse entrepreneurial effort by providing a lower risk start-up opportunity, provide a physical space for new business, provide other shopping options for residents such as coffee, healthy food, camp supplies. It would help delineate a small business district in uptown Big Bay(starting at Crams, and ending at the Thunder Bay Inn)

Fish cleaning station at the harbor

Thank you Parks and Rec for all you do!

I would support a community building that included a pool

Big Bay should be a hub for ALL of Powell Township residents to enjoy as a hub of social activity, and this requires high-quality parks that serve multiple purposes and multi-season structures for gathering year-round.

# 76 Responses