

# Grand Haven Charter Township



## Facts and Trends Affecting Grand Haven Charter Township

Version: 9/18/2014

# Population Trend



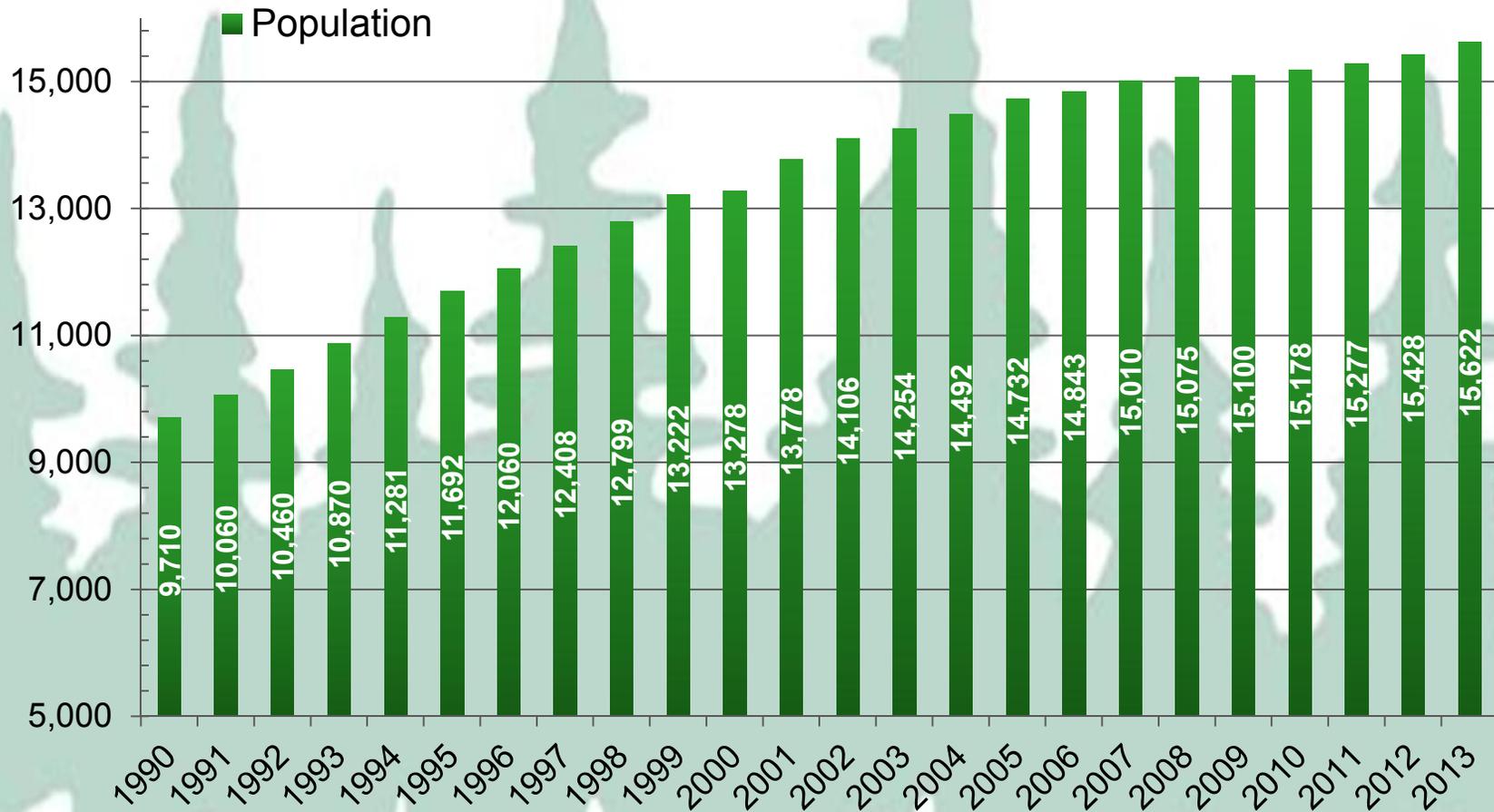
The population of Grand Haven Charter Township had been increasing steadily since 1990. However, this trend slowed dramatically after 2007. (*GHT estimates that each single family home has 2.9 residents and each apartment or mobile home has 1.5 residents.*)

The official 2010 Census indicates that Grand Haven Charter Township's population is 15,178, which is an increase of 1,900 residents (*or about 14.3%*) since the 2000 census (*i.e., 13,278*). This is an average of 190 new residents each year since the 2000 Census.

When compared to the 1990 Census, the Township's population has increased by about 5,468 (*or about 56.3%*). This is an average increase of 273 residents each year since the 1990 Census.

Staff estimate that the 2012 population has increased to about 15,428.

# Township Population Growth



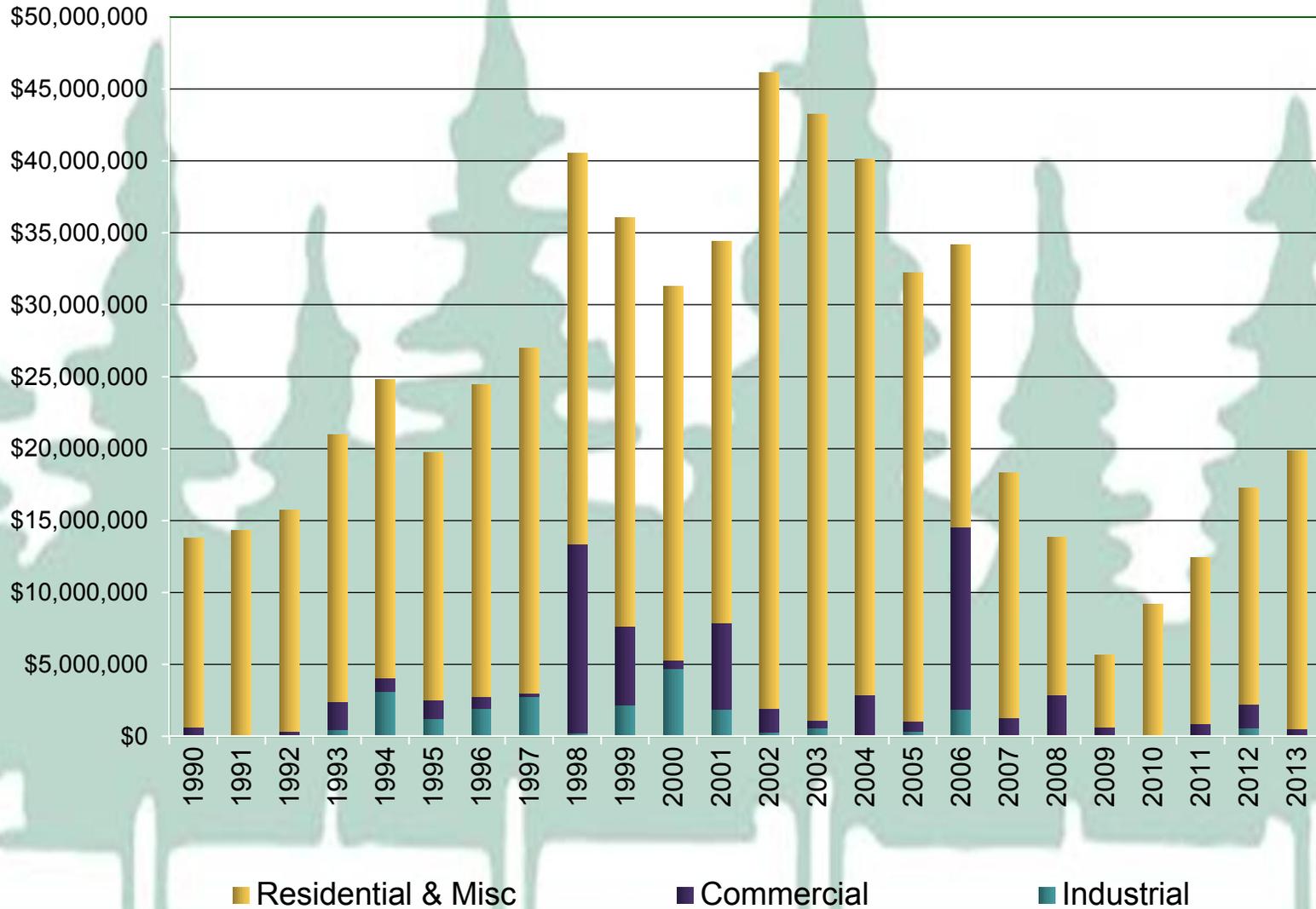
# Building Permit Growth - 2013

Prior to 2007, building permits had increased dramatically showing an increase of over 150% when compared to 1990. However, this growth trend dramatically dropped in 2007 because of the so-called “Great Recession.”

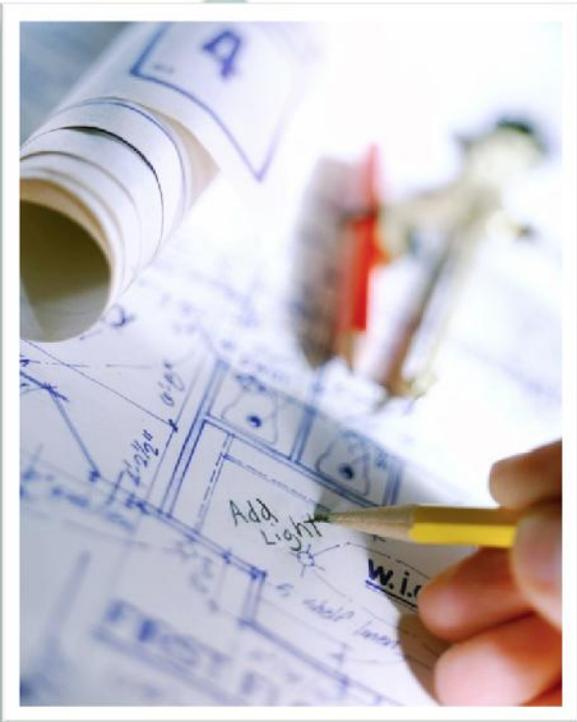
Fortunately, 2013 continued an upward trend from previous years with a total of **67** permits for new single family homes; **106** remodels; **21** additions; and, **\$19.9** million in construction, which is the highest level in the past seven years.



# Building Permit Growth – 1990 through 2013



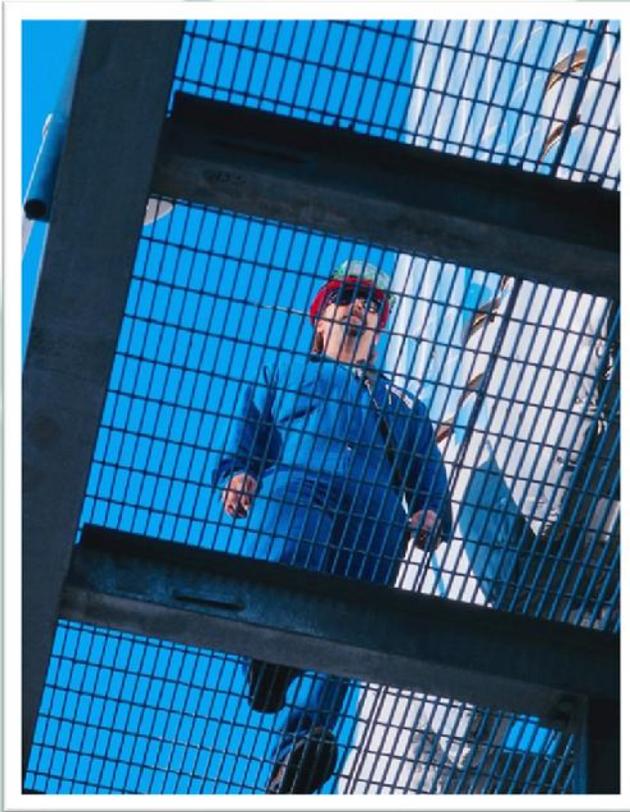
# Commercial & Industrial Trends



At the end of 2012 we experienced a positive increase in industrial and commercial building permits with a total value of over \$2,314,543.

This was a significant improvement over 2010 when we saw less than \$25,000 in new commercial and industrial growth.

# Industrial Construction



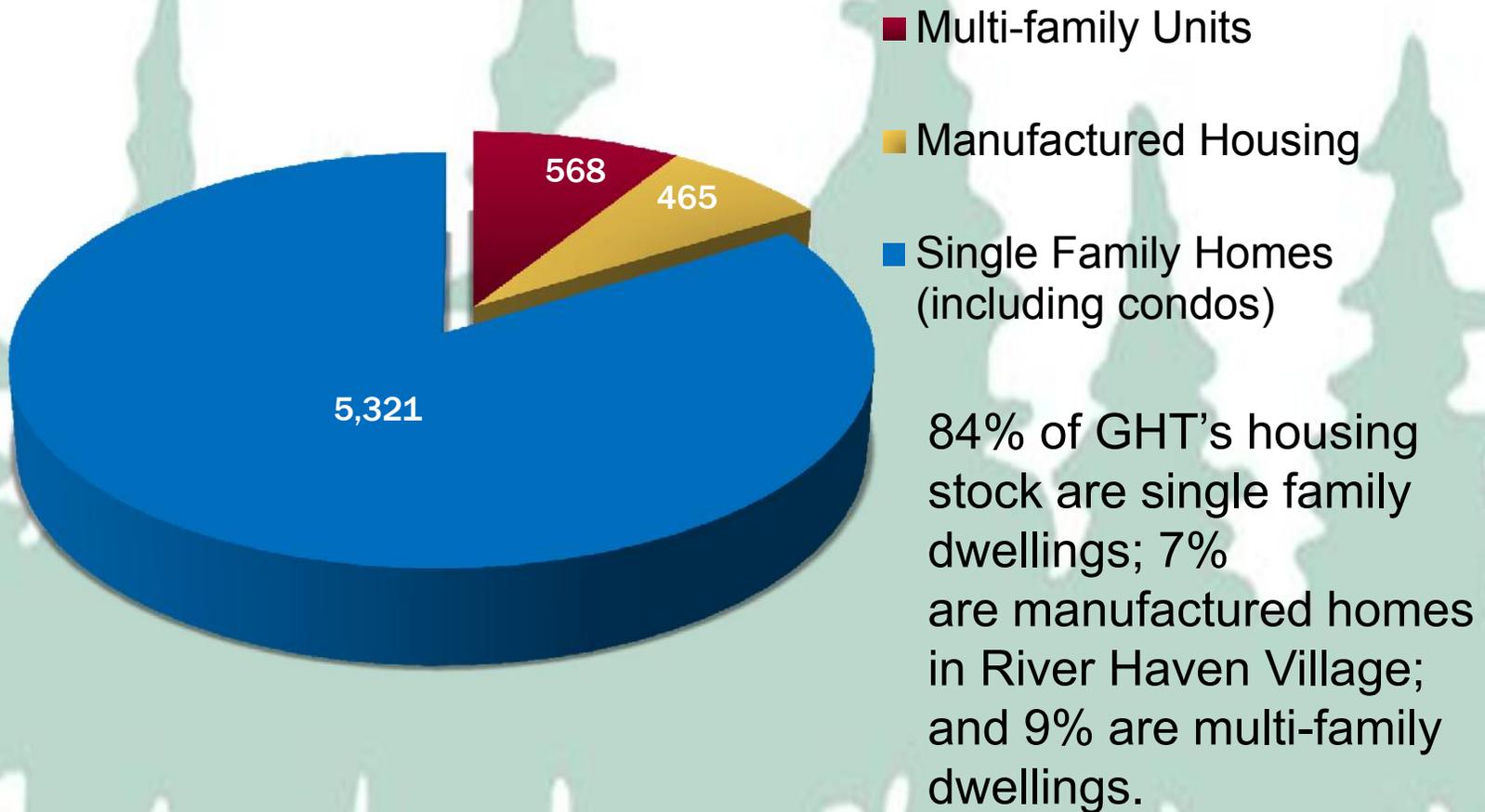
During the past twenty years, 932,381 square feet of industrial space was added in the township. Most are small to mid-size firms that have expanded.

# Growth in Township Housing Stock

Since 1990, **3,251** new housing units were constructed in the township while 114 units were razed. About 73% or 2,360 units were single family homes while 6.5% or 423 units were mobile homes being placed in River Haven Village. The remaining 14.5% or 468 were multi-family units.

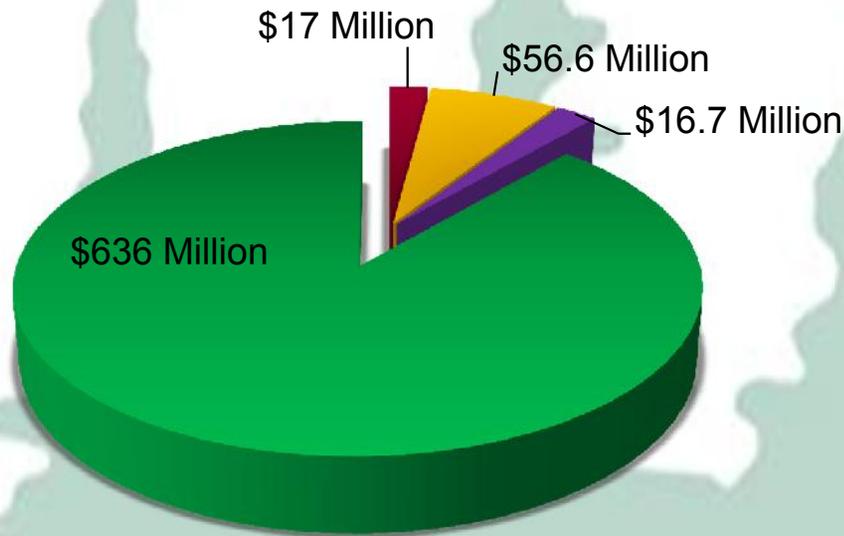


# 2013 GHT's Housing Characteristics



# Division of Land Value in 2012

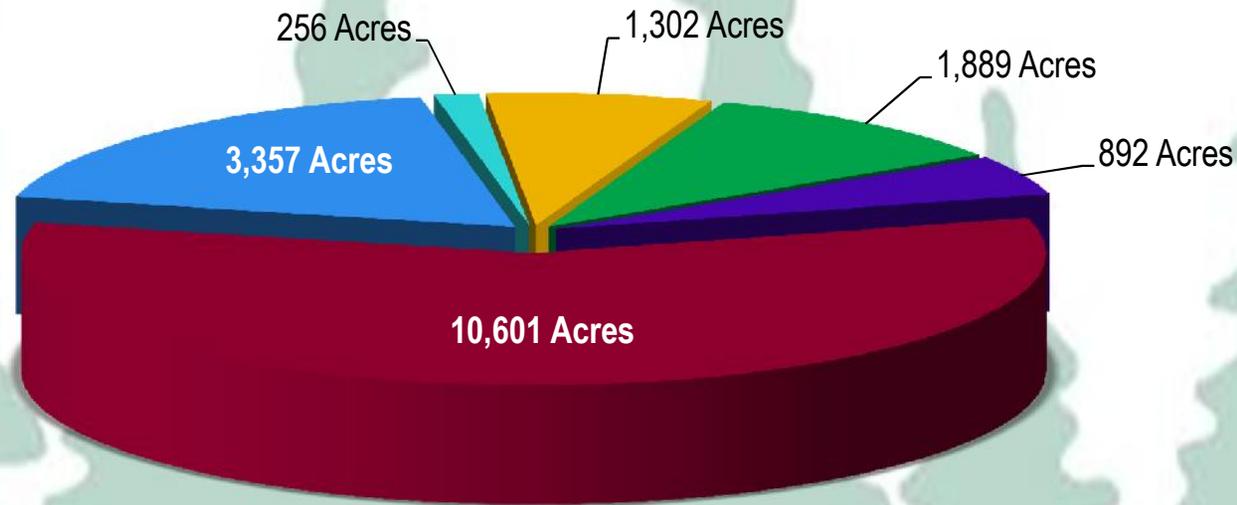
(Does not include personal or developmental property)



State Equalization Values in the township are dominated by Residential classes. Commercial and industrial follow, with the smallest value being contributed by Agricultural land.



# 2012 Division of Land Use in the Township



■ Public - 10.32%      ■ Commercial - 4.86%      ■ Residential - 57.94%  
■ Agricultural - 18.34%      ■ Industrial - 1.40%      ■ Roads - 7.12%

Grand Haven Charter Township consists of about 28.59 square miles or 18,297 acres of land. The majority of this land is divided between Residential (10,601 acres) and Agricultural (3,357 acres).

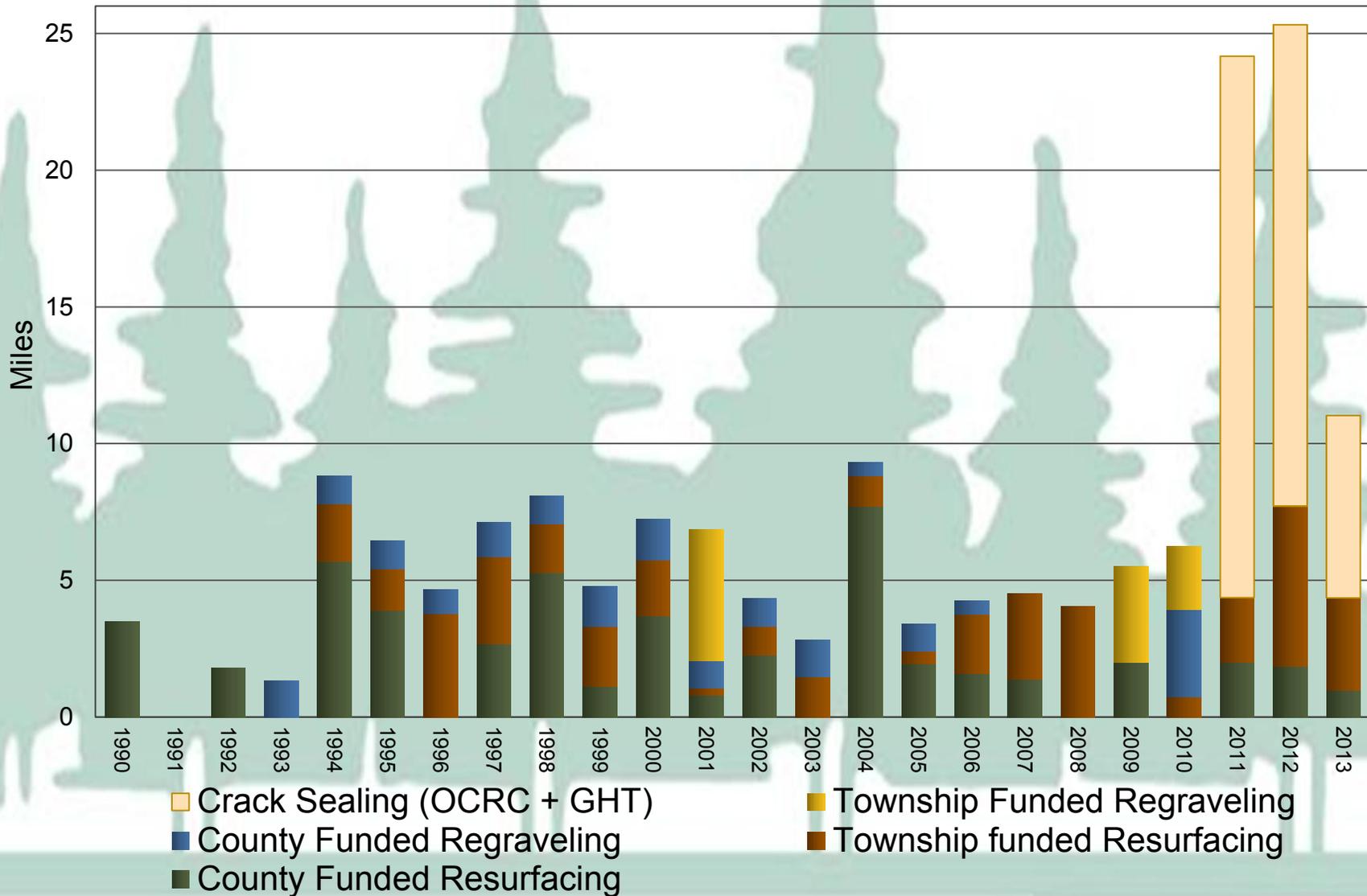
# Miles of Roadways Improved



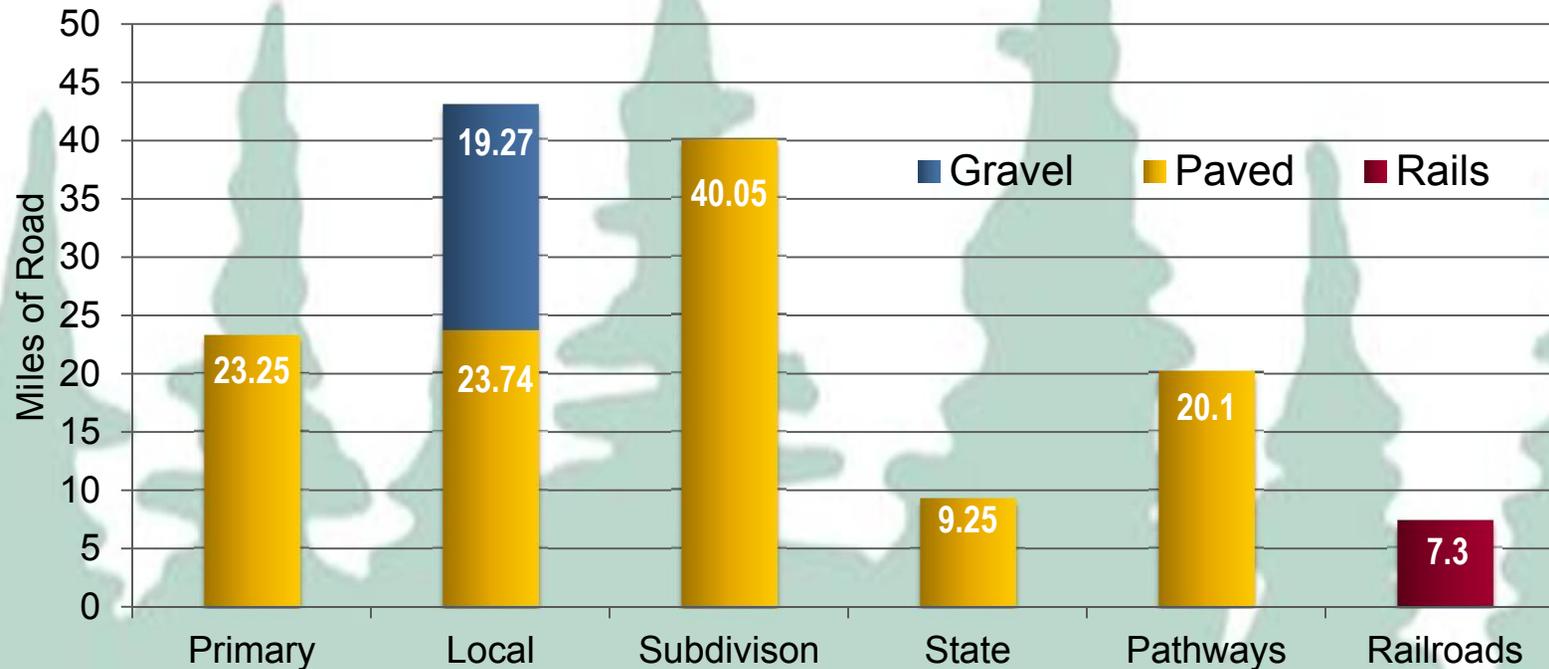
There are approximately **23** miles of primary roads; **43** miles of local roads (*of which about 19 miles are gravel*); and, **40** miles of subdivision roads for a total of about **106** miles of streets and roads within Grand Haven Charter Township. In addition, there are **9.25** miles of State highways (*i.e., US-31 & M-45*).

Since 1990, the Road Commission has resurfaced 50.33 miles of paved streets and re-graveled 18 miles of gravel roads. In addition, the Township has paved or re-surfaced 42.72 miles of streets and re-graveled 10.6 miles of roads. Recently, crack sealing was added to the range of maintenance activities with 44.07 miles of roadways crack sealed, funded mostly by the Township.

# Roadway Improvements since 1990

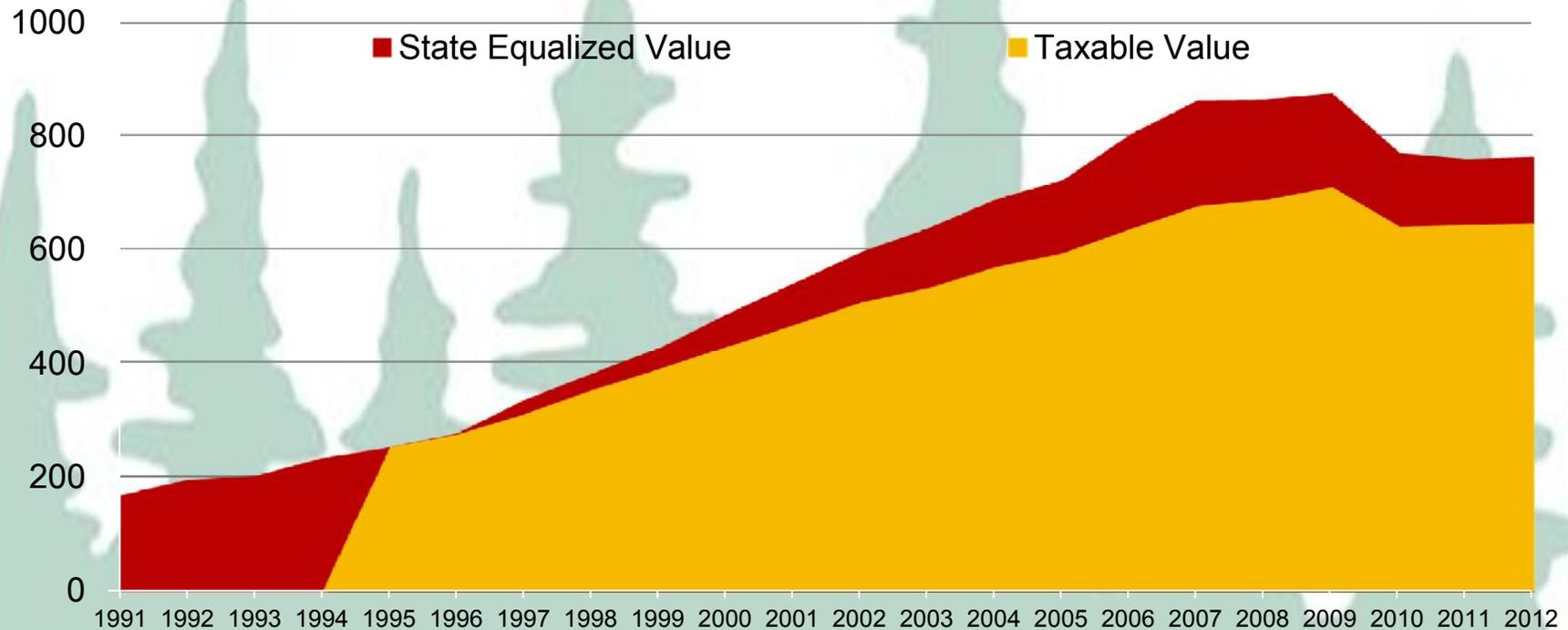


# 2014 GHT Transportation System



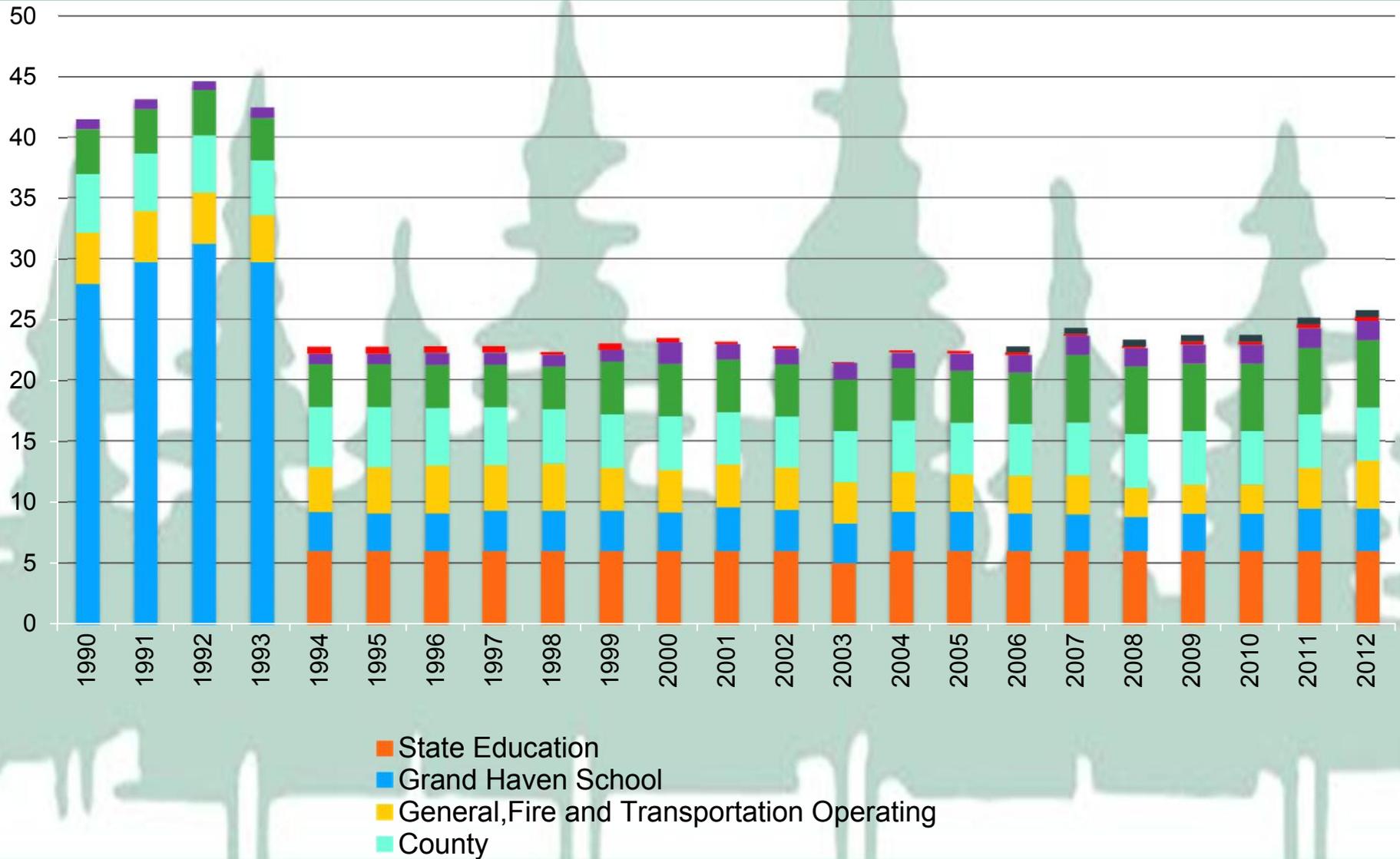
Grand Haven Charter Township has a total of 106.31 miles of streets and roads, 9.25 miles of state highways, 22 miles of pathways, and 7.3 miles of rails. About 82% of the streets and roads are paved (excluding the state highways) and 18% of the road system are gravel roads.

# State Equalized and Taxable Value Growth Comparisons (does not include IFT's)



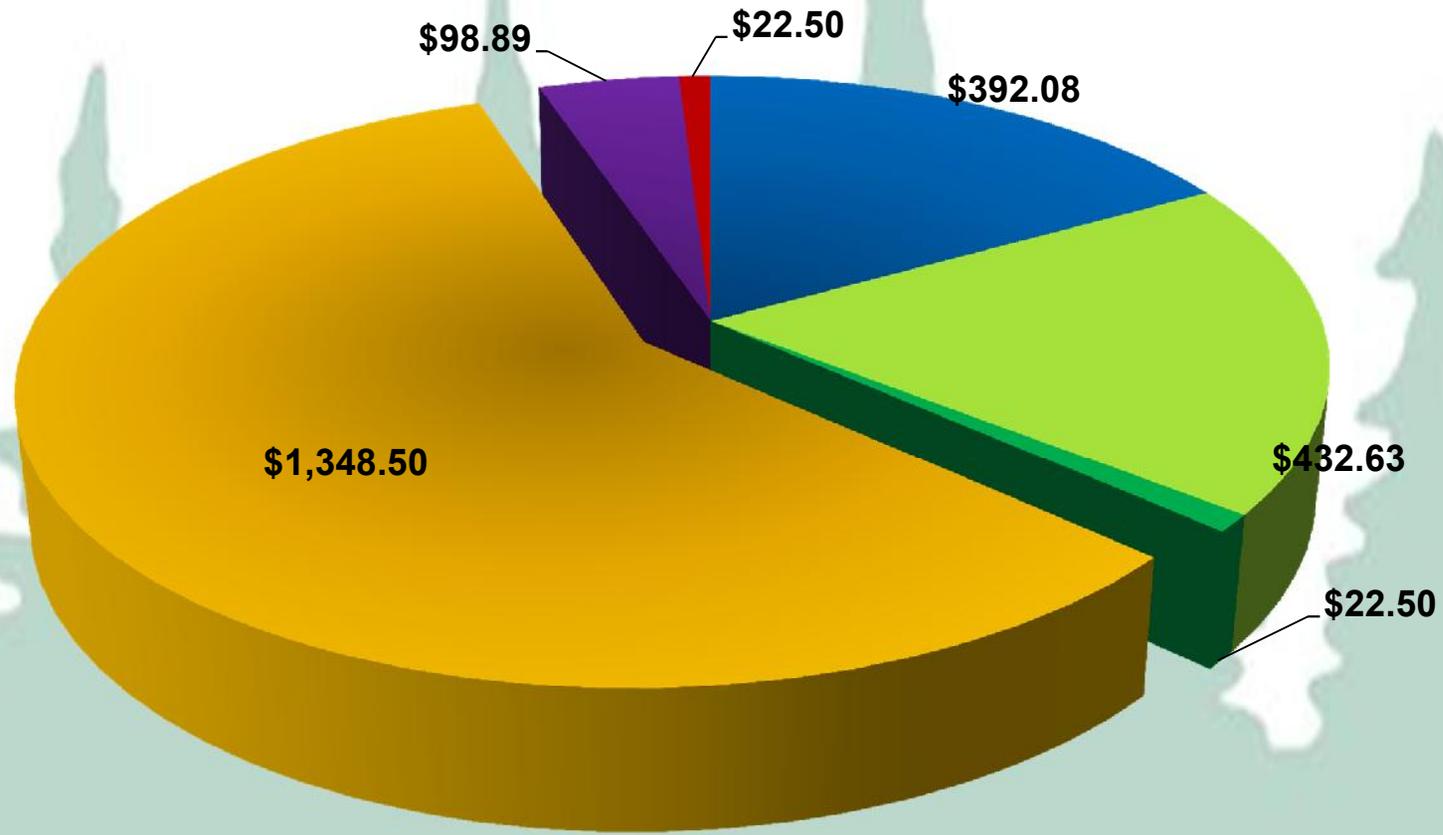
In 2010, property values in GHT dropped for the first time. However, for 2012, it appears that the SEV will rise an additional \$5.5 million from 2011 numbers and the Taxable Value will increase by about \$3 million. (These are preliminary numbers and may change slightly before the end of March Board of Review.)

# Property Tax Rates for Homesteads



# Distribution of Taxes in GHT for an Average Home

\$2,317.10 in Property Taxes on a \$180,000 Homestead in 2012

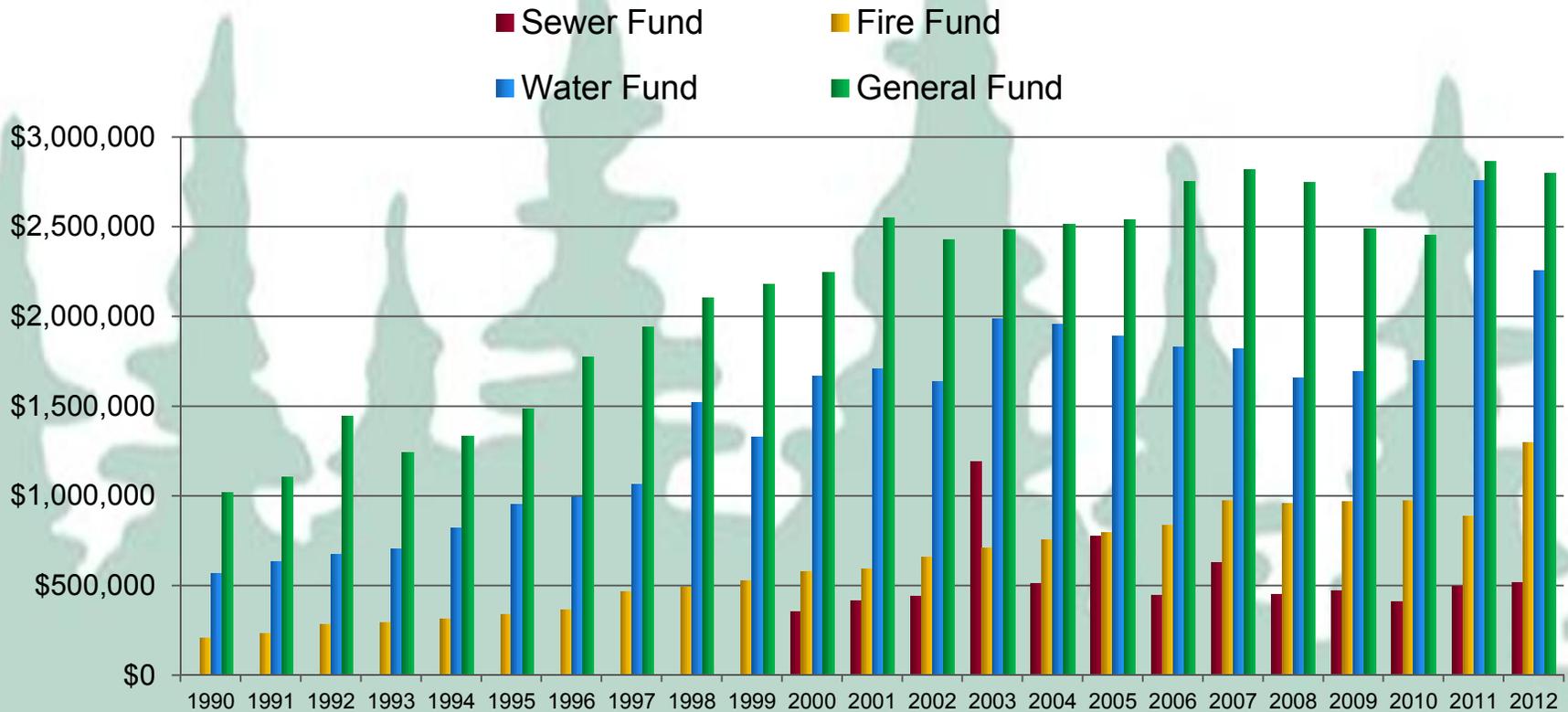


- Ottawa County (17%)
- Tri-Cities Museum (1%)
- Loutit District Library (4%)

- Grand Haven Township (19%)
- Education (K-12 and ISD) (58%)
- Council on Aging (1%)

# Revenue Trends in the Major Funds

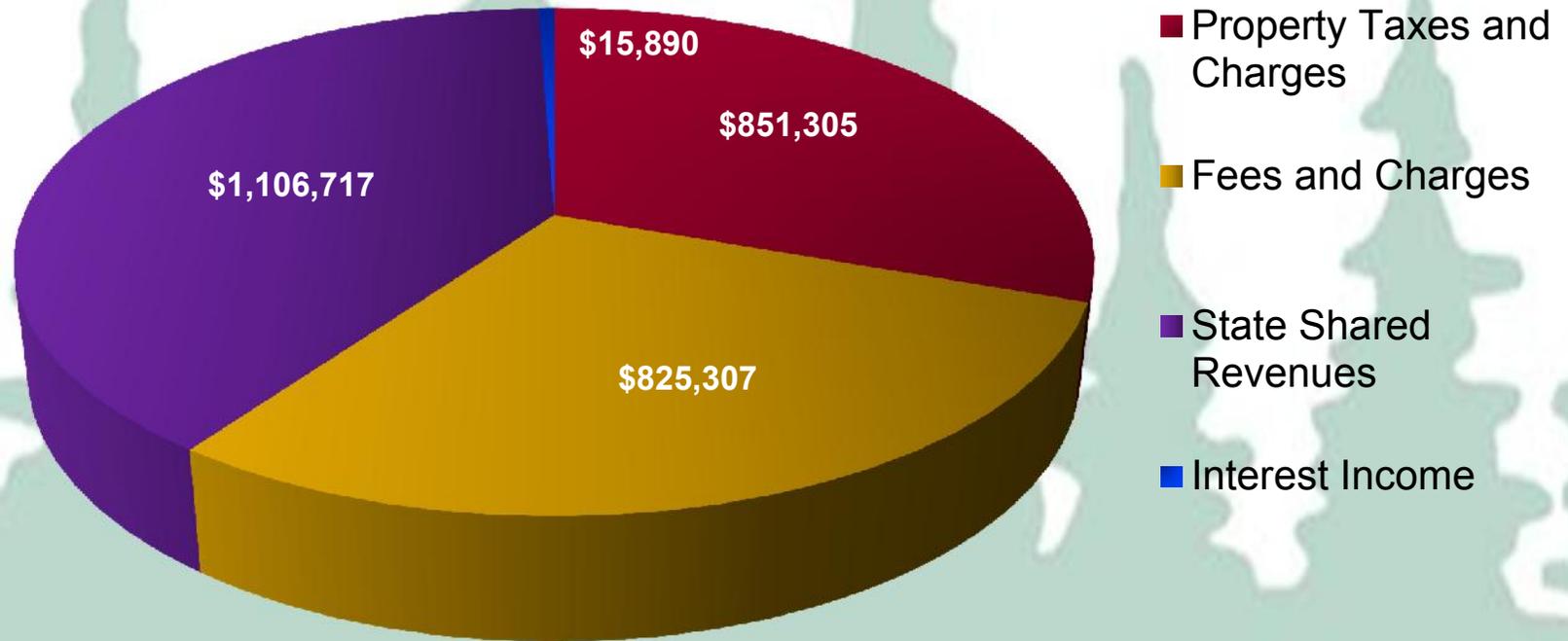
## Excludes Grants and Bonds



The 2012 General Fund revenues showed an increase because of a rise in state shared revenue. Most of the major revenues streams remain relatively “flat”. Cost control continues to be the major focus.

# Distribution by Source of 2012 General Fund Monies

(excludes all grants)



Five years prior, over one-half of GHT's General Fund Revenues came from state revenue sharing. That has dropped to about 40%. Moreover, interest income fell by over \$140,000 during the same period.

# Tax Collection - 2012



During 2012, Grand Haven Charter Township collected about \$19.7 million in taxes. The majority of the monies collected were for local education (*i.e. about 63% or \$12.3 million*). **Grand Haven Charter Township was the next largest tax collector accounting for about 18%** of the monies collected; Ottawa County accounted for about 14%; Loutit District Library accounted for about 4%; Tri-Cities Museum and the Council on Aging accounted for less than 1% each.

# Tax Collection - 2012

■ Township

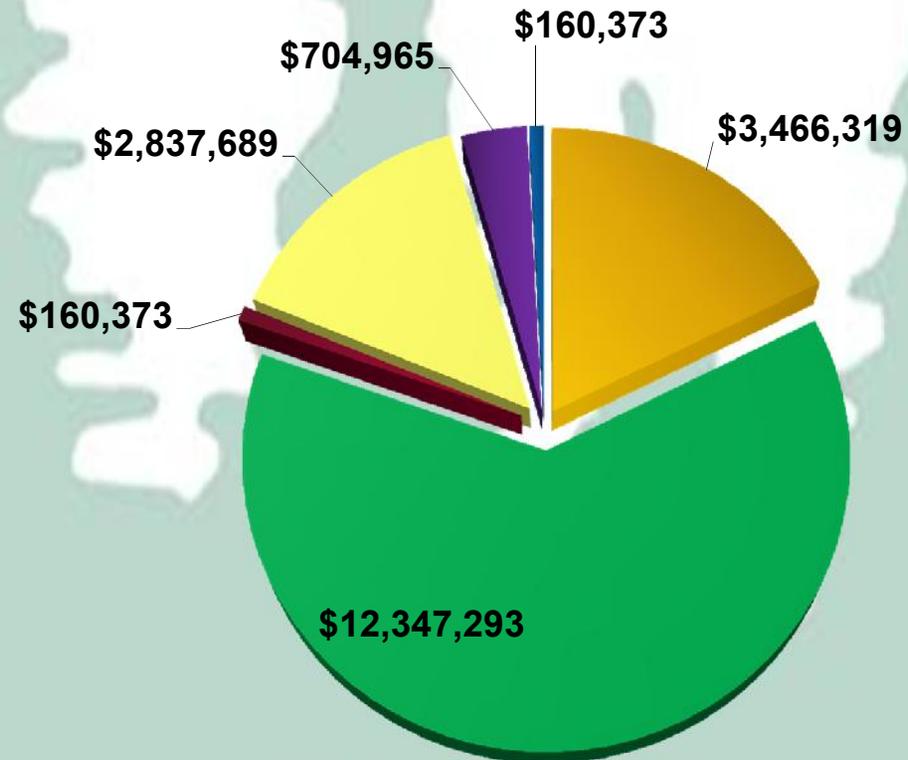
■ Local Schools (includes ISD)

■ Tri-Cities Museum

■ Ottawa County

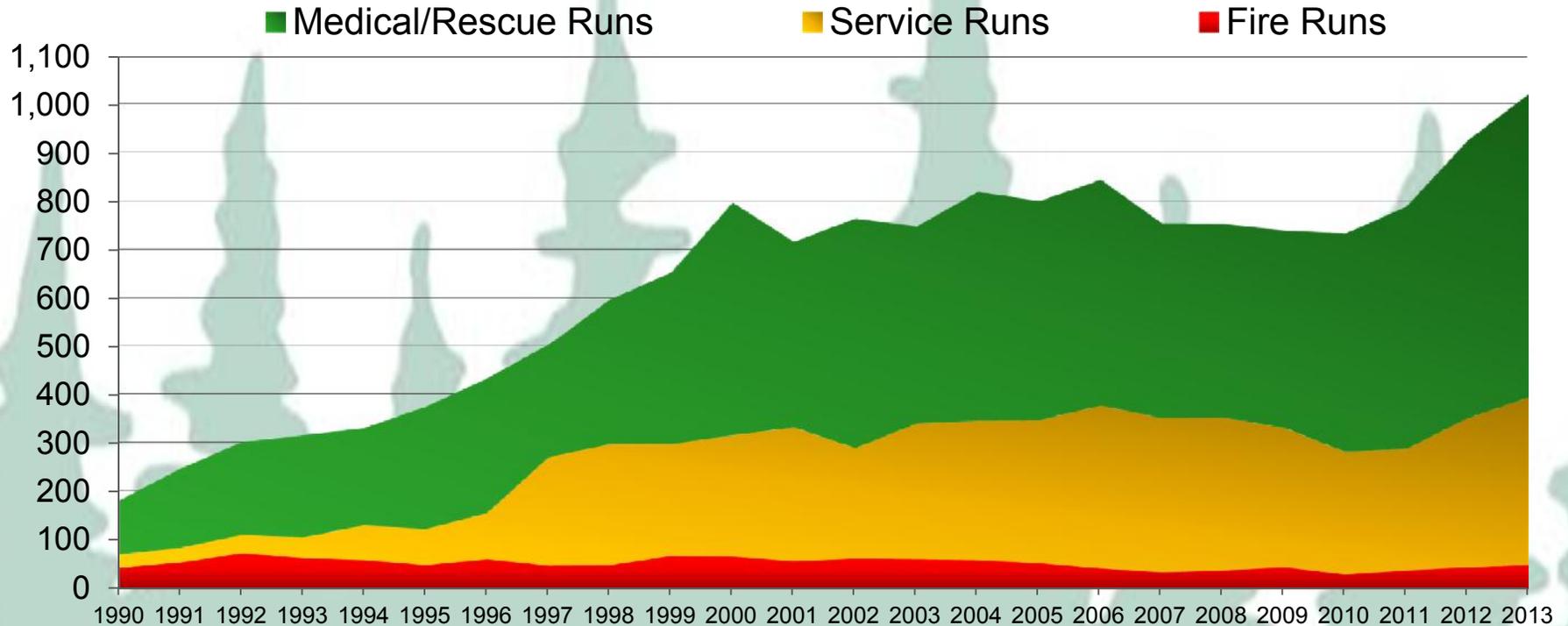
■ Loutit District Library

■ Council On Aging



# Emergency Runs

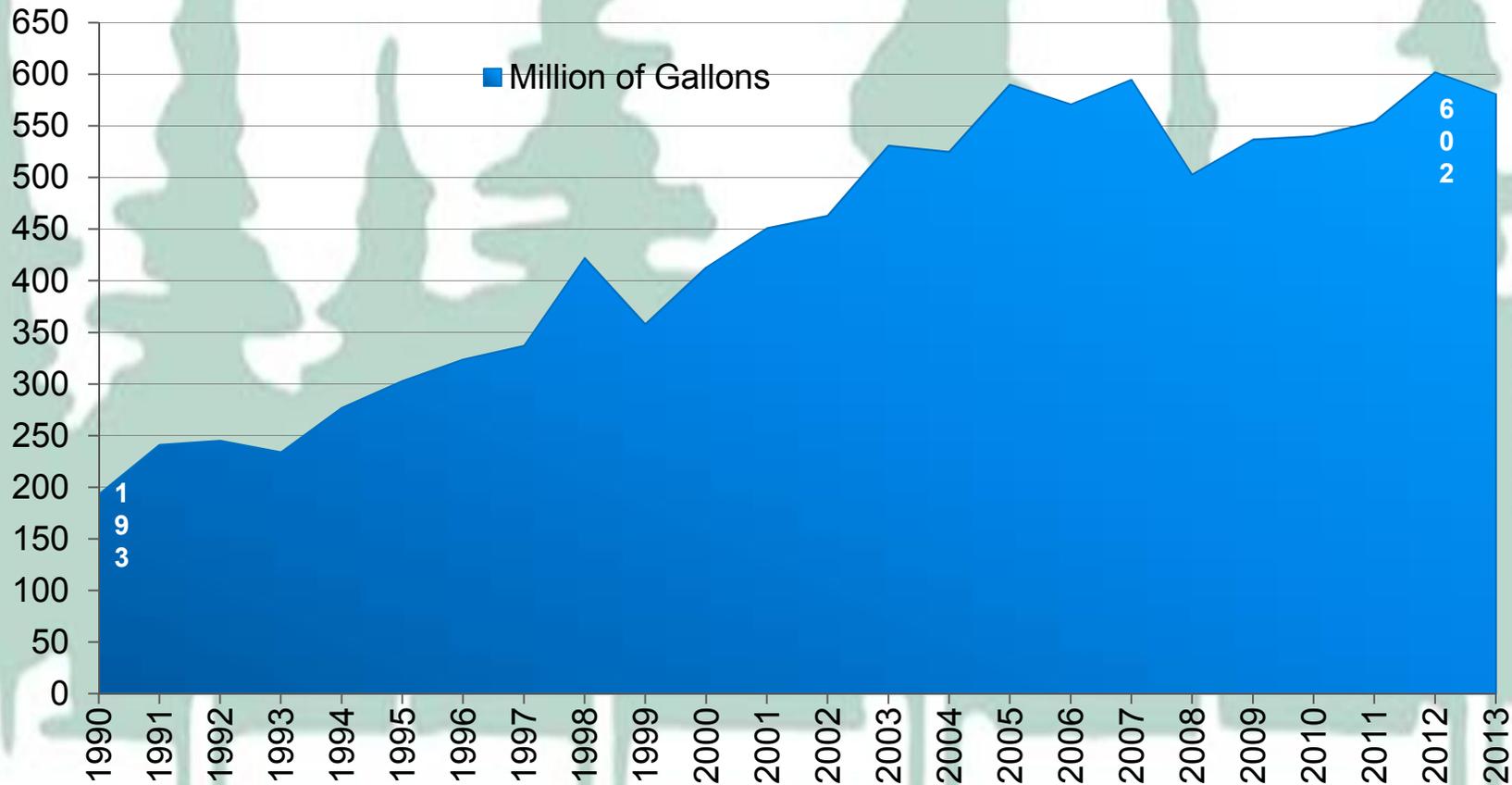
1990 through 2013



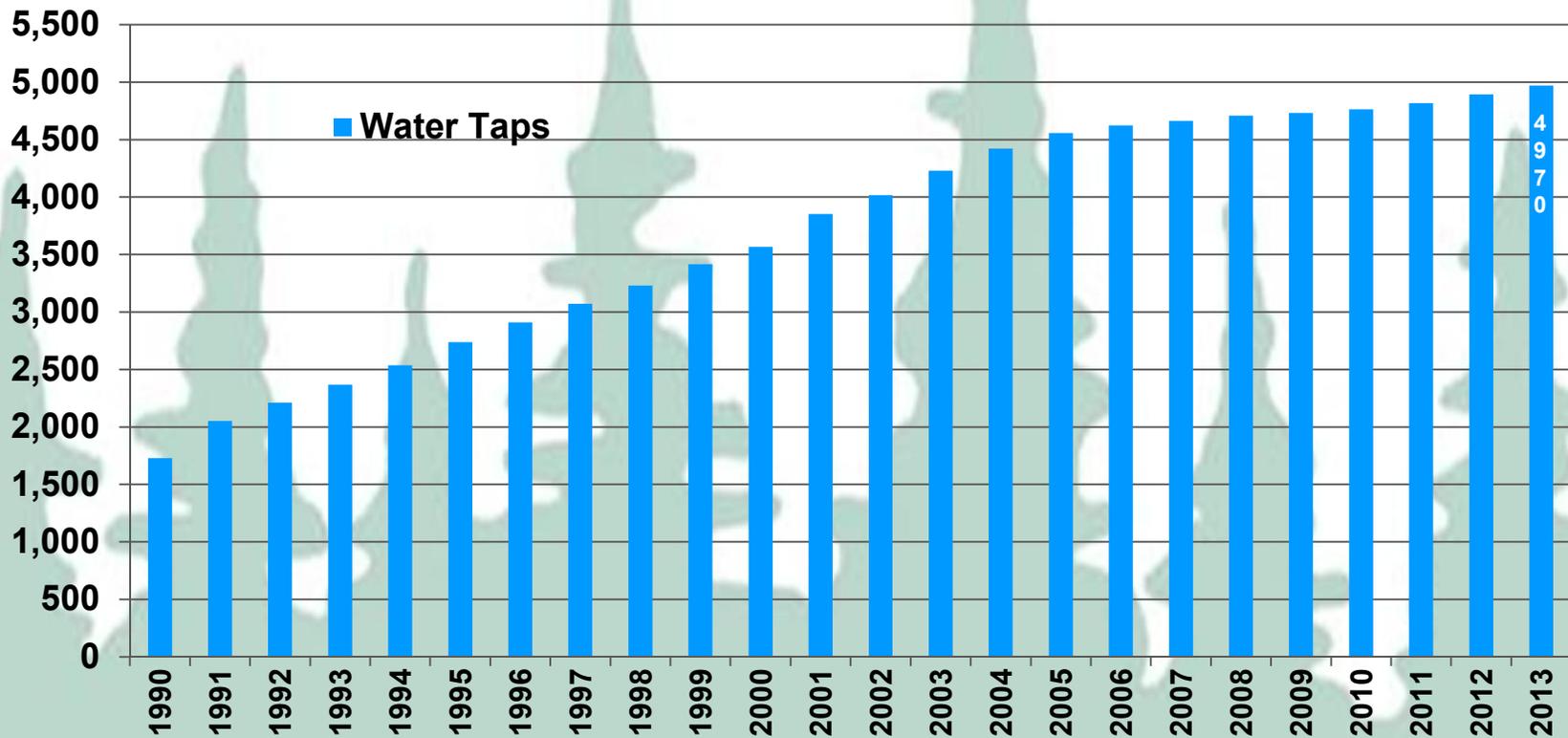
Population growth spawned increases in Fire/Rescue runs. The number of emergency runs were at **1,020** during 2013, which is new record high. This is an increase of over 460% when compared to 1990. The majority of calls continue to be for medical and rescue (*i.e.*, 61%), with actual fire suppression calls accounting for about 5% of the total.

# Water Usage, Millions of Gallons Per Year

Since 1990, annual water usage has increased by nearly 409 million gallons, an increase of about 213%. This equals an average increase of about 18 million gallons per year. However, 2013 water usage dropped from 602 to 581 million gallons.



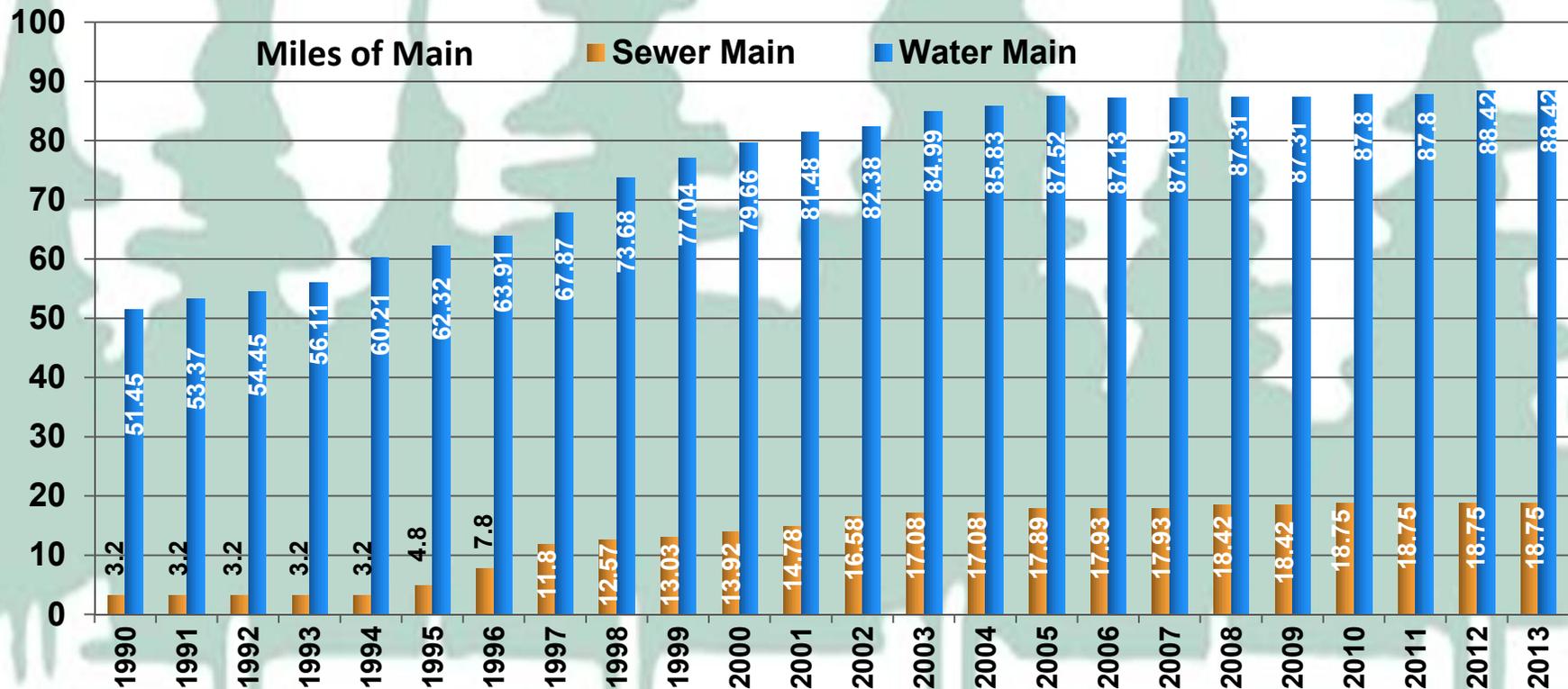
# Water Taps



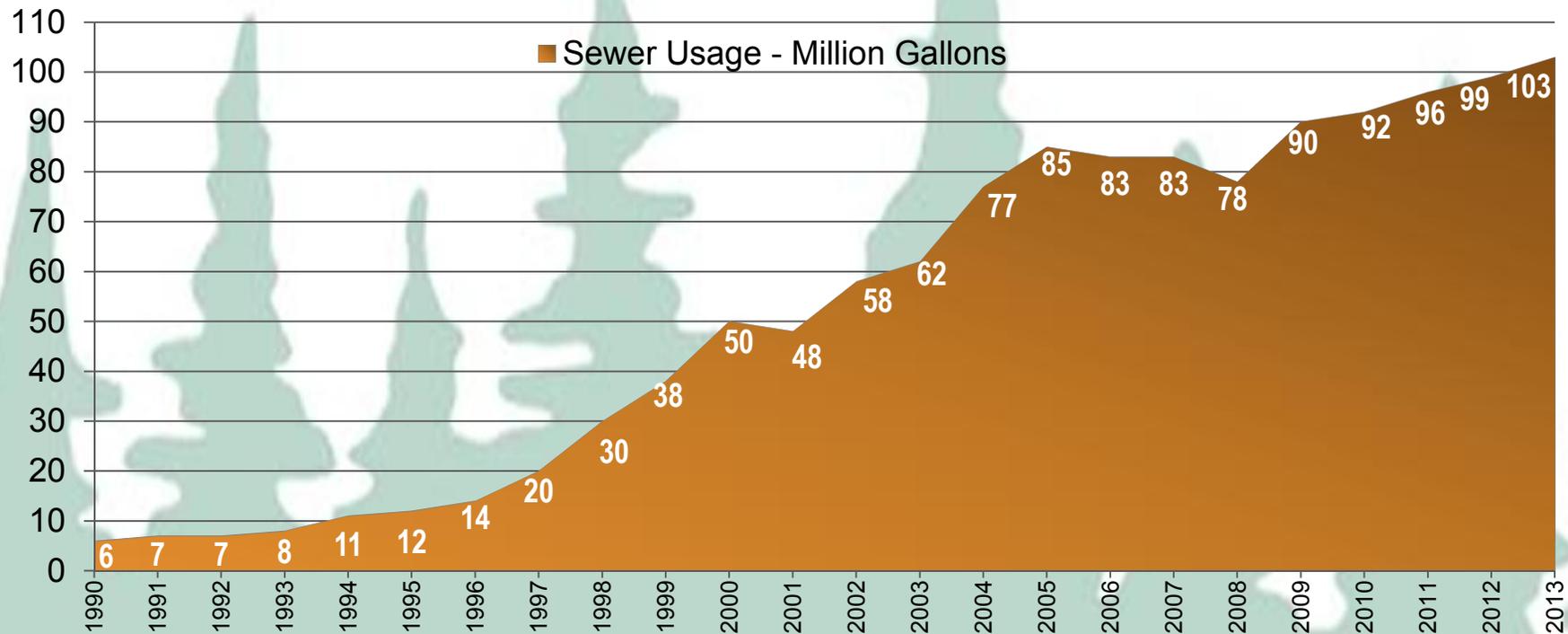
Water connections in the Township have increased by 3,242 since 1990. This is an increase of about 188%... an average of about 141 new “taps” each year. However, the rate of growth began to slow in 2006 with 2013 having only 76 new taps.

# Growth in Water and Sewer System

The Water Distribution System has expanded by over 37 miles since 1990. The Sewer System has expanded by over 15 miles over the same period. About 79% of the township's roads have water mains and approximately 8% of the roads have sanitary sewer mains.



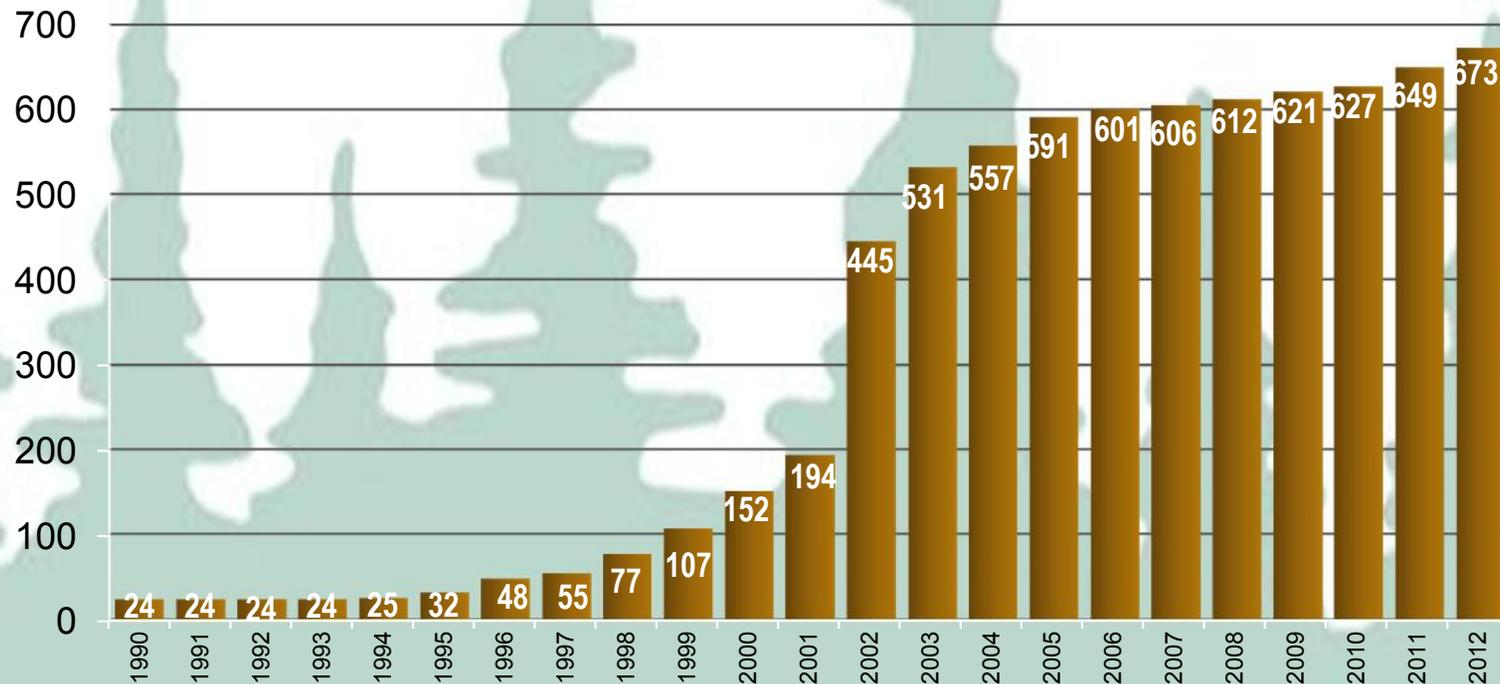
# Sewer Usage – Millions of Gallons Each Year



About 17% of the municipal water distributed to GHT residents is collected by the municipal sewer system. The remaining 83% is treated by on-site septic system.

# Sewer Connections

## ■ Sewer Connections



Grand Haven Charter Township still has few sewer connections, but a trend did begin toward more connections. Unfortunately, the economic recession has slowed this trend. However, if the economy begins to recover, implementation of the 2009 Master Plan should increase the momentum toward new connections. This trend mitigates some of the negative impacts of growth.

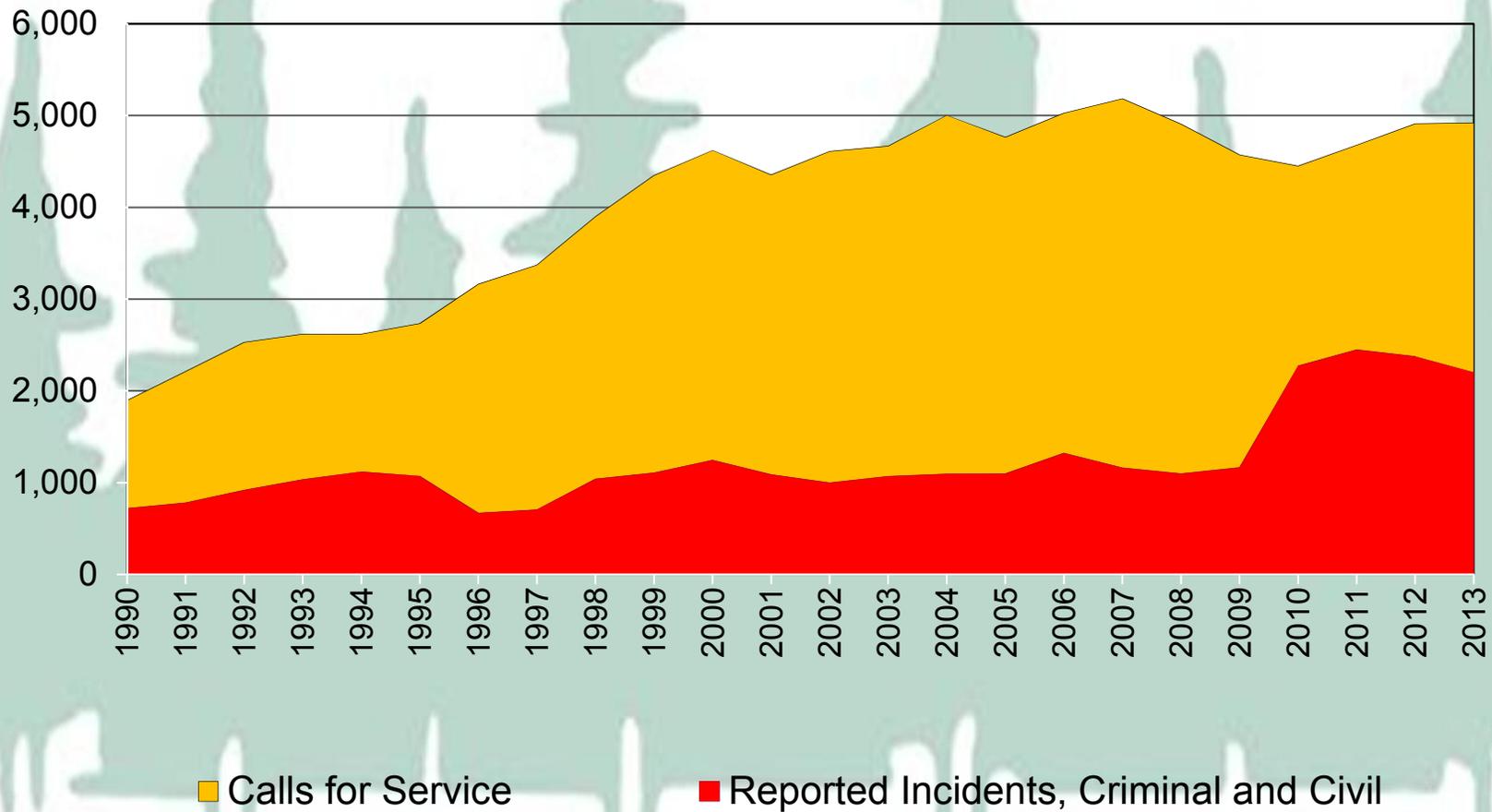
# Criminal Activity in Grand Haven Charter Township 1990-2013



Calls for service to the Sheriff have increased by 3,026 or about 160% since 1990. This increase is viewed, mostly, as a function of increased population. Most of the crimes are not violent. However, serious crime still occurs in the Township with 30 cases of criminal sexual conduct, 62 burglaries, 7 stolen vehicles, and 47 assaults.

During 2013, 2,201 cases were investigated leading to 382 arrests. 85 of the total arrests were juveniles.

# Criminal Activity in Grand Haven Charter Township 1990-2013



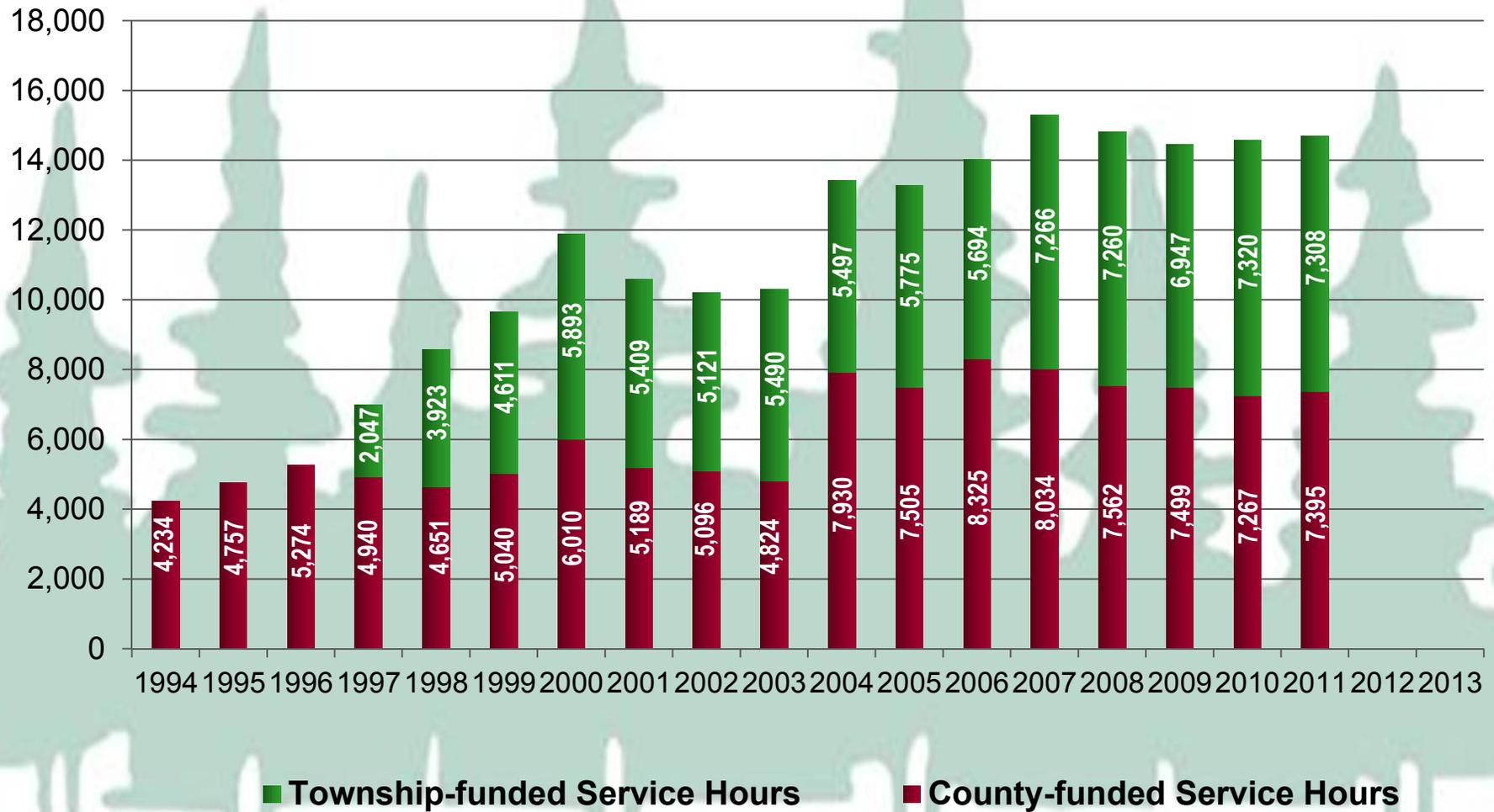
# Sheriff Hours in Grand Haven Charter Township

GHT provides four deputies through a contract with Ottawa County to supplement the service provided by the Sheriff's department. When the program began in 1997, the Sheriff's Department agreed to maintain a minimum level of service (*i.e., about 5,016 hours annually*). This service level ensured that the supplemental program would not replace the existing basic service level provided.

During the past six years, the basic service level within GHT averaged 7,680 hours, or about 53% **above** the minimum level. GHT help to fund about 7,308 hours of additional service in 2006 through the Police Special Assessment District.

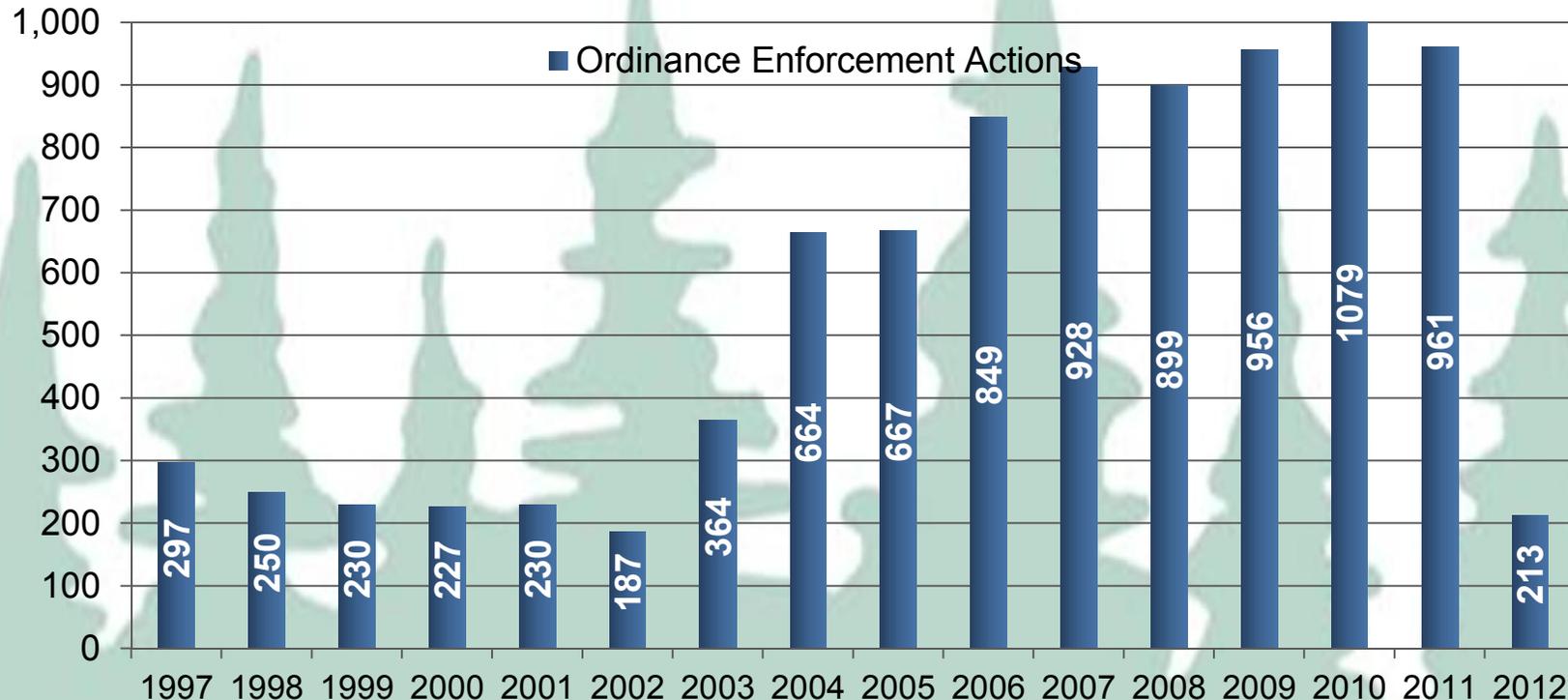


# Sheriffs Hours in Grand Haven Charter Township



# Ordinance Enforcement Actions

## 1997 - 2012

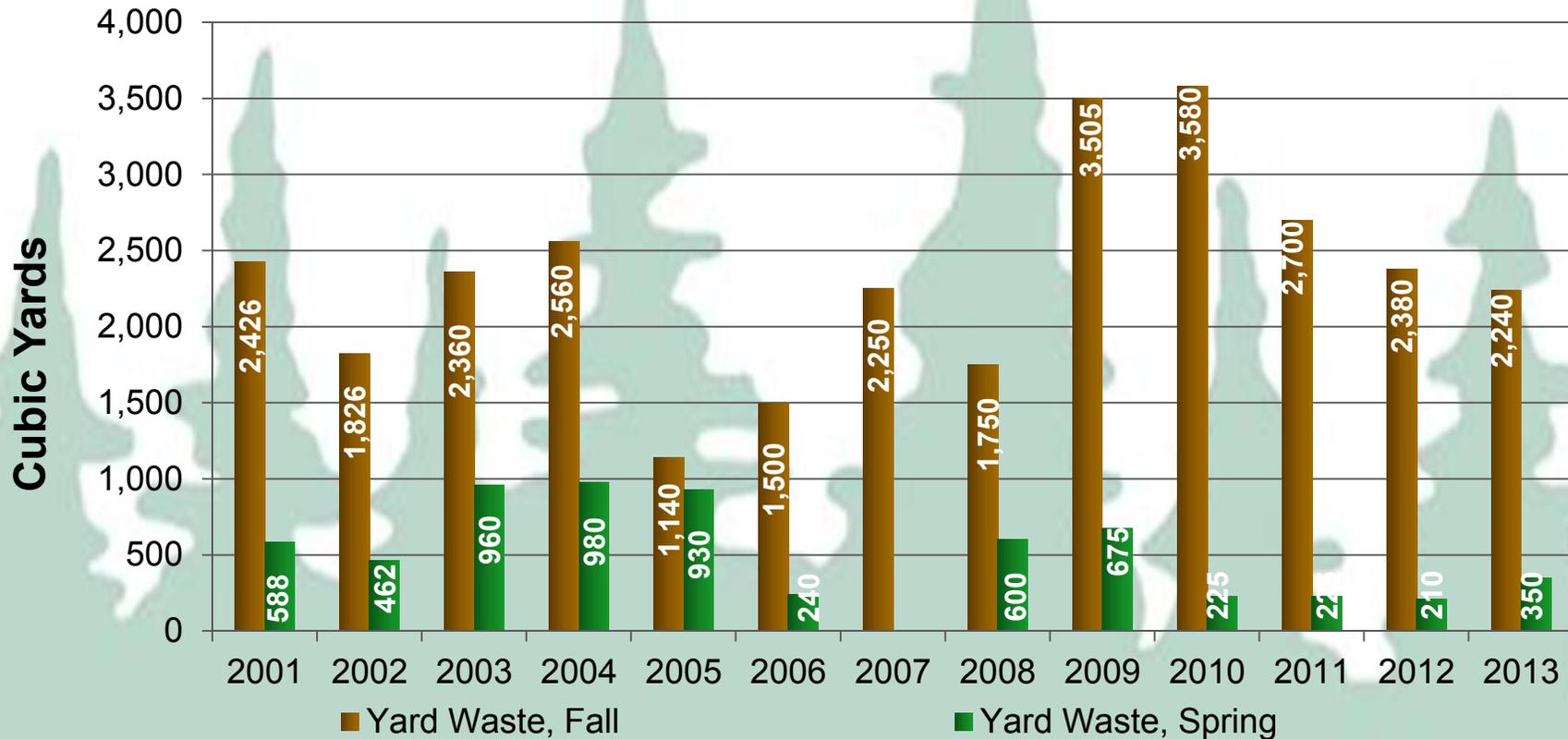


**GHT changed ordinance violations from criminal misdemeanors to civil infractions in 1997 and began a program of ordinance enforcement. The numbers climbed steadily since 2002 and typically reflect about 1,000 enforcement actions annually.**

**These numbers do not include traffic citations. Enforcement actions are designed to either protect property values or enhance public safety.**

**Note that GHT did not have an enforcement officer for most of 2012.**

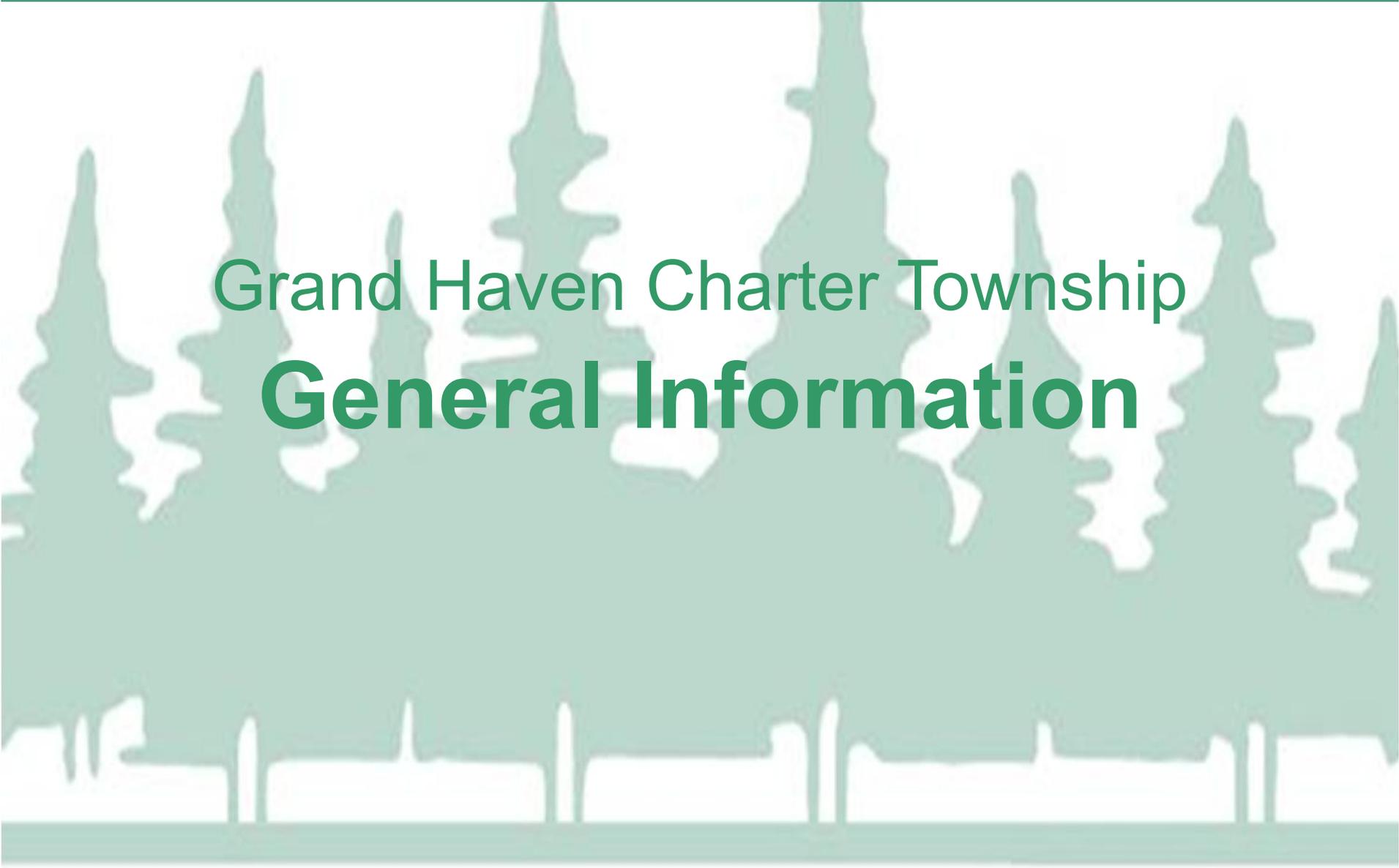
# Yard Waste Collected



GHT modified the yard waste collection program in the fall of 2005 and again in the fall of 2006. These changes made the program more convenient for residents, provided a source of compost for the river dredging project, and minimized the costs.

# General Information

Grand Haven Charter Township  
**General Information**



# What is a Charter Township?



- If you don't live in a city, you live in a township. There are two types of townships in Michigan: general law and charter townships. All townships are general law townships, unless they have incorporated as a charter township.
- Charter township status is a special township classification created by the Michigan Legislature to provide additional powers and streamlined administration for governing rapidly growing communities.

# More About Townships



- Michigan is one of twenty (20) states that have townships.
- There are 1,242 townships in Michigan. (*In comparison, there are 529 cities or villages in Michigan.*)
- Based upon the 2000 Census, Michigan townships range in population from only 10 to over 95,650.
- More than one-half of all Michigan residents live in a township.

# Meeting Schedule

- Township Board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 7:00 PM
- Planning Commission meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at 7:30 PM
- Zoning Board of Appeals meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM



Subject to change without notice

# Drop Box Available

- In order to make it easier for residents to pay property taxes or utility bills, Grand Haven Charter Township has installed a drop box along the entry drive to the Administrative offices.



# Automatic Payment Available

Would you like to arrange automatic payment for your Water & Sewer Bill or Property Taxes?



Forms are available at the township office  
or online at [www.gh.t.org](http://www.gh.t.org)

# Credit Card Payment Available

Pay your Utility Bills, Permits, Infractions, Rentals and Property Taxes with credit card.

Payments can be made online at [www.ghl.org/payments](http://www.ghl.org/payments) or by calling 844-392-3657.



Convenience fees apply and are paid to Point & Pay.

# Credit Card Payment Available

## Fees for Utility Bills, Permits, Infractions, and Rentals:

Bill	Fee
\$1-\$50	\$1.50
\$51-\$100	\$3.00
\$101-\$150	\$4.50
\$151-\$200	\$6.00
\$201-\$250	\$7.50

A utility bill of \$125 would have a convenience fee of \$4.50 for a total of \$129.50.

**Note:** An additional \$1.50 in fees is added for every \$50 increase in billed amount.

# Credit Card Payment Available

## Fees for Tax Bills:

Tax bills paid electronically are subject to a 3% fee (minimum \$1.50).

A tax bill of \$2,500 would have a convenience fee of \$75 (3%) for a total of \$2,575.

# 2014 Fall Yard Waste Collection



- The official dates for the Grand Haven Charter Township Fall Yard Waste Collection Program are October 24<sup>th</sup> – November 24<sup>th</sup>.
- GHT residents may bring their yard waste to the collection site behind the DPW Building at Grand Haven Charter Township.

The hours of operation are 8 AM – 6 PM Monday through Friday; 10 AM – 6 PM on Saturday; and 12:00 -6:00 PM on Sunday. *No dumping of wood, brush or limbs allowed.*

# GHT Trash Service Providers

There are three companies licensed to provide trash service in the Grand Haven Charter Township

- Republic Services 877-698-7274
- Pot Luck Pick-up 616-895-6399
- Waste Management 800-796-9696



# Drug & Alcohol Test Kits



GHT is offering inexpensive drug or alcohol kits allowing concerned parents to test their children for alcohol or drug use in the privacy of their own home.

- ▶ A 4-panel drug kit is \$12.00
- ▶ An 8-panel drug kit is \$14.00
- ▶ A marijuana only drug kit is \$4.00
- ▶ An alcohol detection kit is \$3.00
- ▶ GHT provides, free of charge, a simple handout that will help parents learn about and recognized the signs of drug or alcohol use.
- ▶ GHT will keep no record on the sale of kits

# We Care

- We are committed in providing excellent service to GHT residents. If you have comments, questions or concerns, please let us know.



Fill out our Customer Feedback Form online or call GHT at 616-842-5988

# Online Resources

▶ Visit our website for valuable information and resources at [www.ghet.org](http://www.ghet.org)

**Board & Committee Members • Meeting Dates and Times**

**• Agendas & Minutes • Code of Ordinances • Maps**

**Important Phone Numbers • Services • Newsletter**

**Property Records Data • Permit Application Forms**

**• Press Releases and more!**

# Home Security Checks



Grand Haven Charter Township, through its COPS Officers, provides free vacation security checks to its citizens who will be away from their homes, businesses, or other facilities for a period of time.

Deputies will periodically check the exterior of the premises. This service is offered to deter potential burglars and provides additional security while your premise is unoccupied.

Forms are available at the township and online at <https://www.miottawa.org/HomeSecurity/>

# FILE OF LIFE Packets Available

The FILE OF LIFE, is a mini medical history that can be posted on the outside of a refrigerator in a senior citizen's home enabling emergency medical staff to obtain a quick medical history when a patient is unable to offer one.

The card, which is kept in a red plastic pocket, lists the patient name, emergency medical contact, important health tracking numbers, health problems, medications, dosages, allergies, recent surgery and a health care proxy.

To obtain a *FILE OF LIFE*, email: [info@ght.org](mailto:info@ght.org)  
or call the GHT office at 842-5988.

# General Information



Grand Haven Charter Township  
**Department Information**

# Accounting Department



*The Accounting Department is responsible for local tax collection (i.e., the Schools, District Library, Council on Aging, Museum, and County), investments, and all financial transactions for the township.*

*Andrea Sandoval is the  
Director of Accounting  
616-604-6323*

# Administrative Department



The Township Superintendent or “Manager” serves as the chief executive officer of the township through the Board’s delegation of duties specified under state statute and defined by contract.

*William Cargo* is the Superintendent  
of Grand Haven Charter Township

616-604-6324

# Assessing Department

*The Assessing Department* is responsible for determining the state equalized value for all real and personal property, processing land division applications and maintaining the computerized property records.



*Denise Chalifoux* is the  
Assessing Director  
616-604-6314

# Community Development Department



*Bill Cargo*  
is the Community  
Development Director  
616-604-6324

*The Community Development Department* is responsible for all building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits and inspections and the processing of all special land use applications, zoning permits, long-term planning, and the township's GIS (i.e., the geographic information system).

# Fire Rescue Department



*Tom Gerencer* is the  
Fire Chief  
616-604-6322

*The Fire/Rescue Department* has 7 full-time and 23 part-time employees. It is the only ALS (*i.e., paramedic*) certified department in West Michigan. The station is staffed by two fire fighters 24-hours a day, 7-days a week which allows the initial vehicle to leave the fire station within an average time of about 30 seconds for all emergencies.

# Human Resources Department



*Suzanne Proksa*  
is the Director of  
Administrative Services  
616-604-6310

*The Human Resources Department* is part of the Administrative Department and is responsible for all personnel matters, benefit coordination, risk management & liability insurance matters.

# Public Services Department

*The Public Services Department* is responsible for the water distribution system, sanitary sewer collection system, non-motorized pathways, parks, cemeteries, building and grounds and information systems management.



*Mark Verberkmoes* is the  
Public Services Director  
616-604-6313

# General Information

Grand Haven Charter Township

## **Common Ordinance Violation Information**

# Common Ordinance Violations



- Many common ordinance violations are related to property maintenance. But many people do not realize that the enforcement of property maintenance rules have a direct correlation to “maintaining” the value of homes within a neighborhood.

# Common Ordinance Violations



**Trash Containers** - Containers cannot be stored outside if it is visible from the street. If you store a “trash can” outside where it can be seen from the street, please screen the container.

# Common Ordinance Violations

- **Junk and rubbish** – equipment, vehicle parts, appliances, or materials cannot be stored outside.
- **Vehicle parking or storage** - unlicensed vehicles cannot be stored outside, and licensed vehicles can't be parked on grass or stored on the streets.



# Common Ordinance Violations

**Blue Pools** - Unlike the previous violations, this is a state law. Any pool, including an inflatable pool, that is capable of holding 24 inches of water must be fenced.

Although this might seem extreme, remember that a toddler can drown in just a few inches of water.



# General Information

Grand Haven Charter Township

**Parks & Cemeteries**

**Information**



# GHT Parks and Recreation

- ▶ The Township maintains five (5) parks and four (4) public accesses totaling 437 acres of property, one (1) boat launch and more than 22 miles of non-motorized pathway.
- ▶ Organized recreational programs utilizing facilities within the parks system are provided by the North Ottawa Recreation Program.



# GHT Parks

The parks include the following facilities:

- ▶ **Hofma Park** - 15581 Ferris Street - (80 acres) with 1 shelter, a restroom, a soccer field, 78 space parking area, a softball field and a developed playground
- ▶ **Hofma Preserve** - 16295 Sleeper Street - (324.77 acres) with approximately 4.5 miles of trails, an 885 foot floating bridge, 17 space parking area and a restroom
- ▶ **Mercury Park** - 16175 Mercury Drive – (6.71 acres) with a restroom, a softball field, an in-line hockey rink and a developed playground.



# GHT Parks, continued

- ▶ **Pottawattomie Park** - 15600 Comstock Street - (20.83 acres) with 3 shelters, a rest room, 2 volleyball courts, 2 horseshoe pits, a soccer field, a developed playground, 2,750 feet of trails, a floating fishing/viewing platform, 160 feet of boardwalk, and 74 parking spaces
- ▶ **Millhouse Park** (0.46 acres), which is basically an undeveloped neighborhood park.
- ▶ **Odawa/Battle Point Launch** – 14415 144th Avenue - Boat launch with 4 areas for launching, a restroom and parking area (*Permit required to launch*)



# Park Rentals



Facilities such as a shelter, ball field, soccer field or the in-line skating rink may be reserved for exclusive use for varying blocks of time. These facilities are available between 8:00 AM and 10:00 PM each day.

Reservations must be completed by coming to the Township Administrative Offices and completing a reservation form. There is a nominal fee charged for each facility. Reservations for 2015 will begin Friday, January 2nd.

# Historic Cemetery



- ▶ The Grand Haven Charter Township maintains two municipal cemeteries. The oldest cemetery is the “***Historic Cemetery***” that was begun in about 1860.



- ▶ The cemetery is 10 acres in size, of which 8 acres are developed. Approximately 2,624 grave sites are maintained, with less than 800 still being available.

# Lakeshore Cemetery

- The second cemetery is the “**Lakeshore Cemetery**” that was purchased in 2001.
- This cemetery is approximately 26 acres in size and has about 6,300 grave sites with about 2,250 still being available. This cemetery includes a small chapel and a columbarium.



# General Information

Grand Haven Charter Township  
**Team 9-1-1 Academy**



# Team 911 Academy



Team 911 Academy is a program offered free to Grand Haven Charter Township Residents and only \$20 for non residents. The program is put together by GHCT Fire/Rescue and the Ottawa County Sheriffs' Office and is open to 15-18 year olds. Throughout the five days, students will participate in safe, hands on activities. This program takes place annually in the month of July. Watch for more info on how to sign up.

**Physical Agility training**

**Firefighting skills**

**K-9 demonstration**

**Team Building exercise**

**CRT/Tactical**

**Injured patient stabilization**

**Hi-Angle Rescue**

**Defensive Tactics**

**Water Rescue**

**Accident Investigation**



# Team 911 Academy, continued

- Instructors from Grand Haven Charter Township Fire/Rescue and Ottawa County Sheriffs Office
- Permission slips are available at the Fire Station and must be signed by a Parent or Guardian before attending the Academy.
- Lunch and snacks will be provided each day at no charge.
- Apply by calling the township at 842-5988 and ask for the Fire/Rescue Department.



# The End

*If there are data or performance measurements that you believe should be added to the program, please e-mail the township at your earliest convenience.*