

ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

2025-2030



DRAFT MARCH 1 2025
ADOPTED ____ 2025

ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION

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This plan could not have been completed without the dedication and support from the Township staff and the Recreation Committee:

Ishpeming Township Planning Commission

Ishpeming Township Board of Directors

Ishpeming Township Recreation Committee

Kristin Thornton

Dave Bosio

Curt Corcoran

Bobby Reichel

Community Organizations

Ishpeming Township Citizens

THANK YOU!

1 Introduction

5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

Communities throughout Michigan develop and update recreation plans to ensure qualification for annual Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) funding opportunities.

The 5-year recreation plan must adhere to a format defined by the MDNR and outline priority goals, objectives, and projects with the potential to be completed within the 5-year window and beyond.

This document synthesizes data on community demographics, natural resources, existing recreational assets, operational management, citizen input, and community partnerships to generate an all-inclusive map for recreation in the community. It describes community values, highlights common goals and objectives, and outlines strategies to achieve these goals.

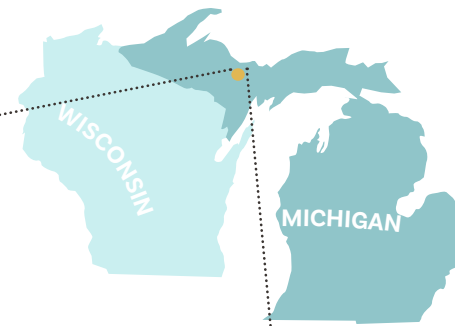
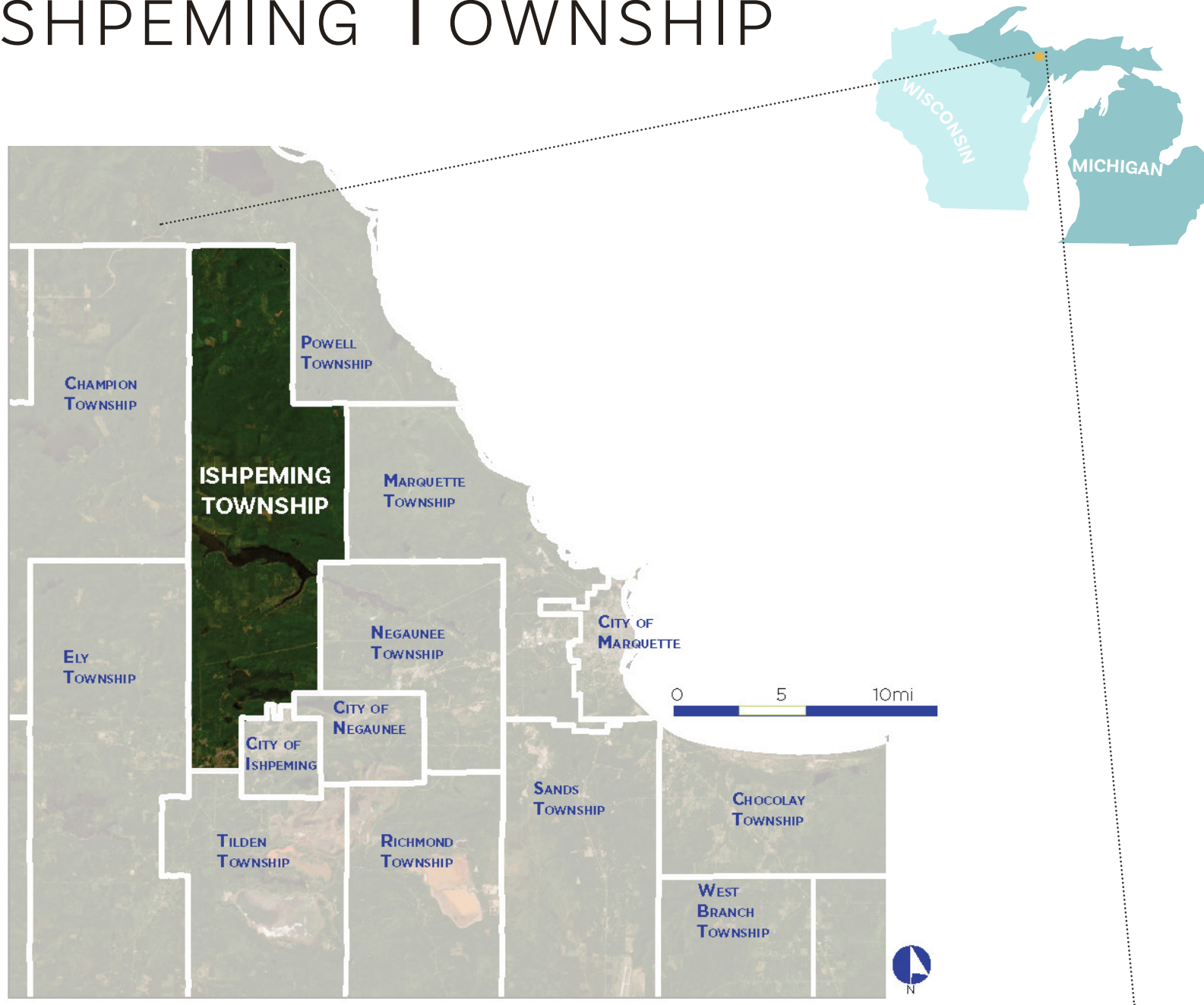
Looking beyond the 5-year window, this document will serve as a road map for future endeavors improving parks for decades to come. The 2024-2029 Recreation Plan will assist township officials in determining priority projects to nurture an already expansive parks system. It will outline strategies for making parks accessible to all and provide park designs that allow future generations to grow and prosper within.



“**THE PARK/RECREATION AREA AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL WAS A BIG FACTOR IN OUR DECISION TO BUY IN ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP. OUR HOME IS CLOSE TO THE TOWNSHIP HALL SO OUR CHILDREN CAN ENJOY THE PARK - PLAYGROUND, BALL FIELDS, AND BASKETBALL & TENNIS COURTS.**”

-SURVEY RESPONDANT

ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP



PLANNING PROCESS

RECREATION PLAN

CITIZEN SURVEYS

PROVIDE WEB AND
PAPER BASED OPTIONS
TO COMPLETE SURVEYS

DATA GATHERING

NATURAL RESOURCE + ADA
ASSESSMENTS, RECREATION
INVENTORY + COMMUNITY
DEMOGRAPHICS

ESTABLISH A TEAM

IDENTIFY COMMUNITY
BASED RECREATION
STAKEHOLDERS

6-8
WEEKS

SYNTHESIZE

GENERATE A SERIES OF GOALS
+ OBJECTIVES REFLECTING ON
INFORMATION GATHERED IN THE
FIRST PHASE OF THE PLANNING
PROCESS

PRIORITIZE

CREATE AN ACTION PLAN
FEATURING PRIORITY PROJECTS
THAT WILL ACHIEVE THE GOALS
+ OBJECTIVES

4-6
WEEKS

DRAFT PLAN

WRITE THE DRAFT PLAN
COMPLETE A THOROUGH
REVIEW WITH THE RECREATION
COMMITTEE

PUBLIC COMMENT

MAKE THE DRAFT PLAN
READILY AVAILABLE TO THE
PUBLIC FOR A 30 DAY REVIEW
PERIOD

FINAL DRAFT PLAN

MAKE ANY NOTED CHANGES
AND COMPLETE A FINAL
COMMITTEE REVIEW

12 WEEKS

APPENDICES

GATHER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
DOCUMENTATION AND
COMMENTS
COMMUNITY TO COMPLETE
PREVIOUS GRANT PROJECT POST
COMPLETION FORMS
DETAILED ADA APPENDIX
DRAFTED

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARING
PRIOR TO HOSTING; PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO
COMMENT THEN CLOSE HEARING
BEFORE MAKING A MOTION TO
APPROVE FOR ADOPTION BY THE
TOWNSHIP BOARD

SUBMITTAL

SEND TRANSMITTAL LETTERS
GAIN MiGrants ACCESS
AND UPLOAD ALL REQUIRED
MATERIALS

6-16
WEEKS

**“THE BALL FIELDS ARE UPKEPT
AND WELL-USED BY ALL
GENERATIONS.”**

-TOWNSHIP RESIDENT

**“SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS
REALLY BRING THE COMMUNITY
TOGETHER.”**

-TOWNSHIP RESIDENT

2

Community Description

HISTORY + DEMOGRAPHICS

Ishpeming Township is located to the north and west of the City of Ishpeming in Marquette County. In the recently completed 2040 Marquette County master plan Ishpeming Township is grouped together with Negaunee, Richmond, and Tilden Townships, along with the cities of Negaunee and Ishpeming. This region is highlighted as the “**Iron Core Region**” noted for its iron ore mining heritage, historic neighborhoods, and their rugged resilient small-town character.

The township’s early economy was driven by iron mining, which was part of the larger Marquette Iron Range. This area became one of the most important iron ore-producing regions in the United States, contributing to the growth of the steel industry in the Midwest. The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company (now Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.) was a major operator in the area and established mining operations that created employment and spurred population growth.

Mining towns in the Upper Peninsula, including Ishpeming Township, experienced rapid growth as immigrants from Europe, especially Finland, Sweden, Italy, and Croatia, came to work in the mines. The influx of diverse cultural groups added to the township’s character.

Alongside mining, logging became a significant industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The dense forests surrounding the township provided valuable timber, which was harvested and transported to build railroads, homes, and businesses across the Midwest. By the mid-20th century, many of the iron mines began to decline as ore became

harder to extract and cheaper foreign sources of iron entered the market. This caused a population decline and economic slowdown in the area. However, the Cleveland-Cliffs Company remained a key player, and the mining industry, while reduced in scale, has continued to play a role in the region’s economy.

Today, Ishpeming Township is a mix of rural and residential areas with a focus on outdoor recreation, thanks to the natural beauty of the surrounding forests, lakes, and trails. While the iron mining industry is not as dominant as it once was, remnants of the mining culture still influence the township. It is also home to residents who work in nearby towns like Marquette, and its economy has diversified to include tourism and small businesses.

The township’s history of mining and logging is still visible in the landscape, from abandoned mining sites to heritage celebrations that honor the community’s immigrant roots and industrial past.

“**IN THE NEXT TWO DECADES, **Iron Core** WILL SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFIT FROM CONTINUED REVITALIZATION OF ITS NEIGHBORHOODS AND DOWNTOWN DISTRICTS, MEETING THE EVOLVING NEEDS OF ITS POPULATION, CAPITALIZING ON LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL TRENDS TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.**”

-MARQUETTE COUNTY 2040: YOUR COUNTY, YOUR PLAN, OUR COMMON FUTURE

COMMUNITY DATA

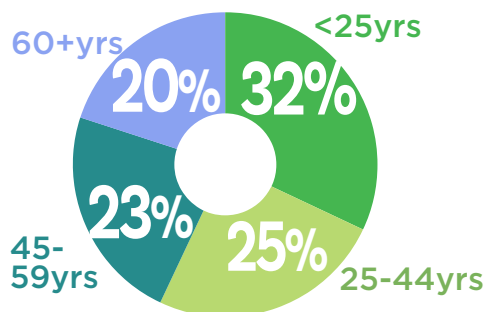
AS IT RELATES TO RECREATION

Assessing the number of people in the community and their demographic characteristics helps planners and policy makers determine the needs of the community. For recreation planning, demographic data is useful when defining recreation goals and guidelines for a community. The figures in this section have been sourced from the US Census database. *It is important to note that the 2024 data is an estimate.

| | YEAR | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 | 2024* | PERCENT CHANGE |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|
| ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP: | POPULATION | 3,515 | 3,522 | 3,513 | 3,392 | 3,424 | - 2.58% |
| | | | | | | | |
| | YEAR | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 | 2024* | PERCENT CHANGE |
| MARQUETTE COUNTY: | POPULATION | 70,887 | 64,634 | 67,077 | 66,017 | 66,999 | - 5.48% |
| | | | | | | | |
| | YEAR | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 | 2024* | PERCENT CHANGE |
| MICHIGAN: | POPULATION | 9,295,297 | 9,938,444 | 9,883,640 | 10,077,331 | 10,093,800 | + 8.59% |
| | | | | | | | |

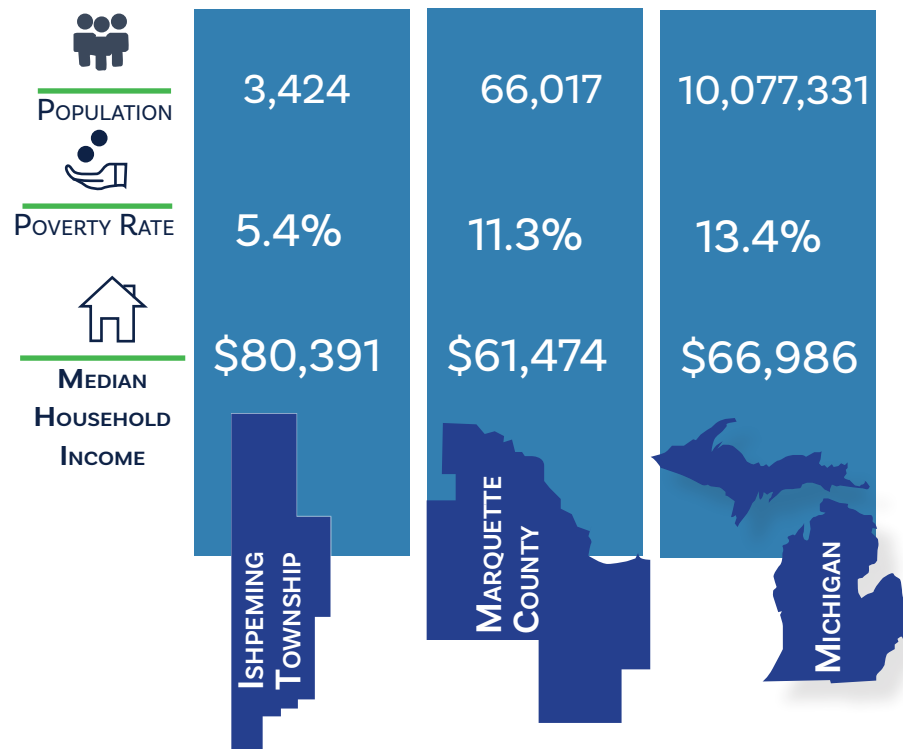
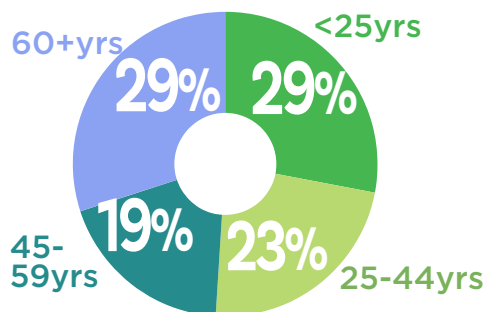
AGE | 2000

Source: US Census ACS Data



AGE | 2022

Source: US Census ACS Data



Source: 2022 US Census ACS Data

Since 1990, Ishpeming Township has seen a relatively steady population and a relatively low poverty rate compared to the county. While the percent change for the township is negative over the last 30 years, the overall population of Michigan has grown. Examining age cohorts can be useful in determining the type of recreation a community should pursue. Current data sets indicate that the fastest growing age category is made up of those 60 years and older. Younger age cohorts are shrinking, as seen in those 25 years and younger. According to the US Census, 14.2% of the residents of Ishpeming Township are estimated to have a disability. This means that ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards should be taken into consideration when planning for parks and amenities.

3 Administrative Structure



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

The National Recreation And Park Association [NRPA] assembles annual reports featuring park metrics throughout the nation. The goal of this document is to help local park systems identify the optimal mix of facilities and programming for their community. Key 2023 findings are listed below:

2023 KEY FINDINGS

Mission:

To advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Pillars:

Health & Wellness
Social Equity
Conservation

3,759 Residents
per playground



10.8 acres
of parkland for
every 1,000
residents

Residents per Park:

2,287



Full-Time Equivalent
Employees (FTEs) per
10,000 Residents:

8.9



Economic Activity
related to parks:

\$218B

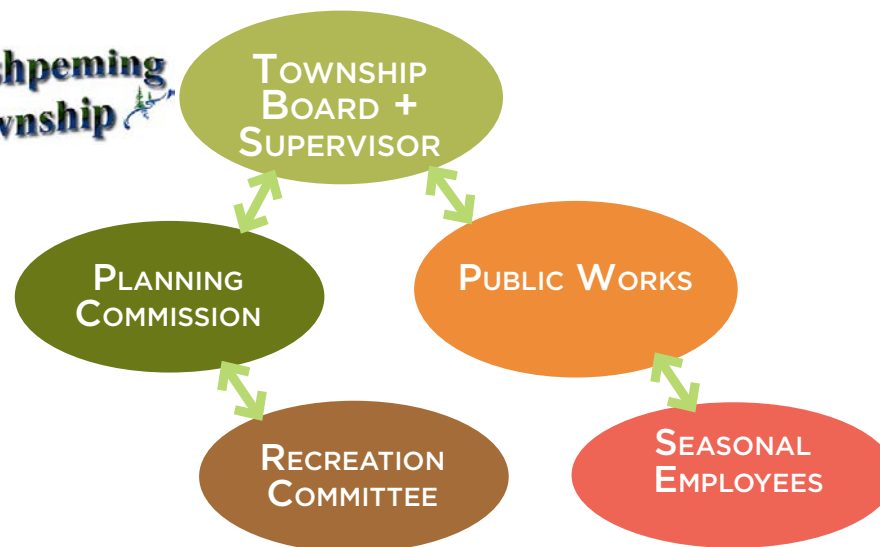


14 miles of
silent sport trails

Key programming activities include themed special events, social recreation events, team sports, fitness enhancements classes, and health + wellness education.

Ishpeming Township Administrative Structure

Ishpeming Township has a 4 member Township Board and a 7 member Planning Commission. Both meet bi-monthly. The Township Board oversees the operation of the parks and recreation operations as the recreation committee. The duties of the committee are to instill a plan to ensure all facilities are maintained, to make headway with current projects and keep the recreation plan moving in a positive direction, and to improve the facilities based on township resident suggestions.



OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER ACRE

The median level of operating expenditures is \$7,823 per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER FTE

The typical park and recreation agency spends \$102,530 in annual operating expenditures for each employee.

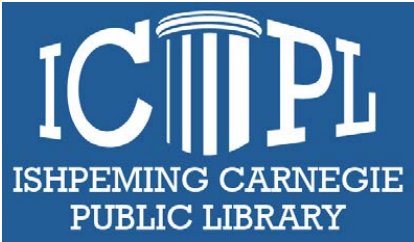
DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES

At the typical park and recreation agency, staffing costs account for 54% of the operating budget.

Related Ishpeming Township Community Organizations

In addition to the local government bodies, Ishpeming Township shares amenities and resources with the nearby city of Ishpeming. This includes schools, community groups, faith based organizations, senior centers, and the Ishpeming Carnegie Library.

These organizations, schools, and community groups often fill in the gaps in recreational programming, trail maintenance, and events, focusing on community engagement and real community change.



Budget + Funding

The Recreation Committee meets regularly for decision-making on recreation issues. The Township Supervisor carries out the directives of the Township Board, which is responsive to the recreation needs and desires of citizens by providing for community based decision-making through public meetings and hearings on recreation issues, plans, and applications for grant funding.

Parks and recreation revenue is brought into the township through the Township’s general fund and grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. \$30,000 is allocated to Parks and Rec annually from the general fund. These funds are mainly used for park maintenance and event support.

Ishpeming Township

PARKS + RECREATION BUDGET | 2019-2022

| YEAR | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| BUDGET | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |

4 Natural Environment

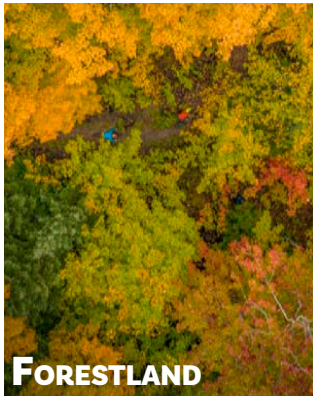
LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

Ishpeming Township is home to a diverse array of natural areas. Here, landscape typologies are utilized to showcase the various landforms influenced by terrain, soils, exposure and vegetation. By developing a clear understanding of what landscapes the county has and where they are located a more holistic understanding of the region is generated. Recreation opportunities, preferred connections between typologies, and preservation priorities begin to emerge allowing communities to formulate a vision for the ideal future landscape. Striking the right balance of development and preservation of natural resources within a community is key to maintaining a long lasting beautiful place for generations to explore and appreciate.



Rocky Outcroppings

Precambrian bedrock exposures can be seen throughout the township, creating rugged rocky landscapes rich with ancient history.



Forestland

Upland areas contain beautiful deciduous/mixed forests. The original tree stands are what drew settlers to the land initially. Now the forests provide a haven for birds and wildlife and a jaw-dropping fall color display.



Inland Lakes + River Corridors

Inland lakes dot the landscape providing a haven for many different plant and animal species as well as spaces for fishing, birding, hiking, paddling, camping and sightseeing. Stream and river corridors serve as greenways connecting parks and natural areas throughout the township.



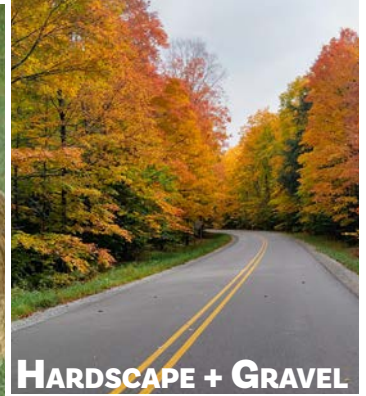
Wetlands

A combination of high water table, bedrock close to the surface, and drainage depressions formed by glaciers provide an abundance of wetlands within the township. These areas contain a variety of plants including wood sorrel, northern dewberry, sphagnum moss, sedges, dogwood and various wildflower species.



Pasture

There is a great deal of agriculture land within the township containing open fields for grazing and cultivating crops.



Hardscape + Gravel

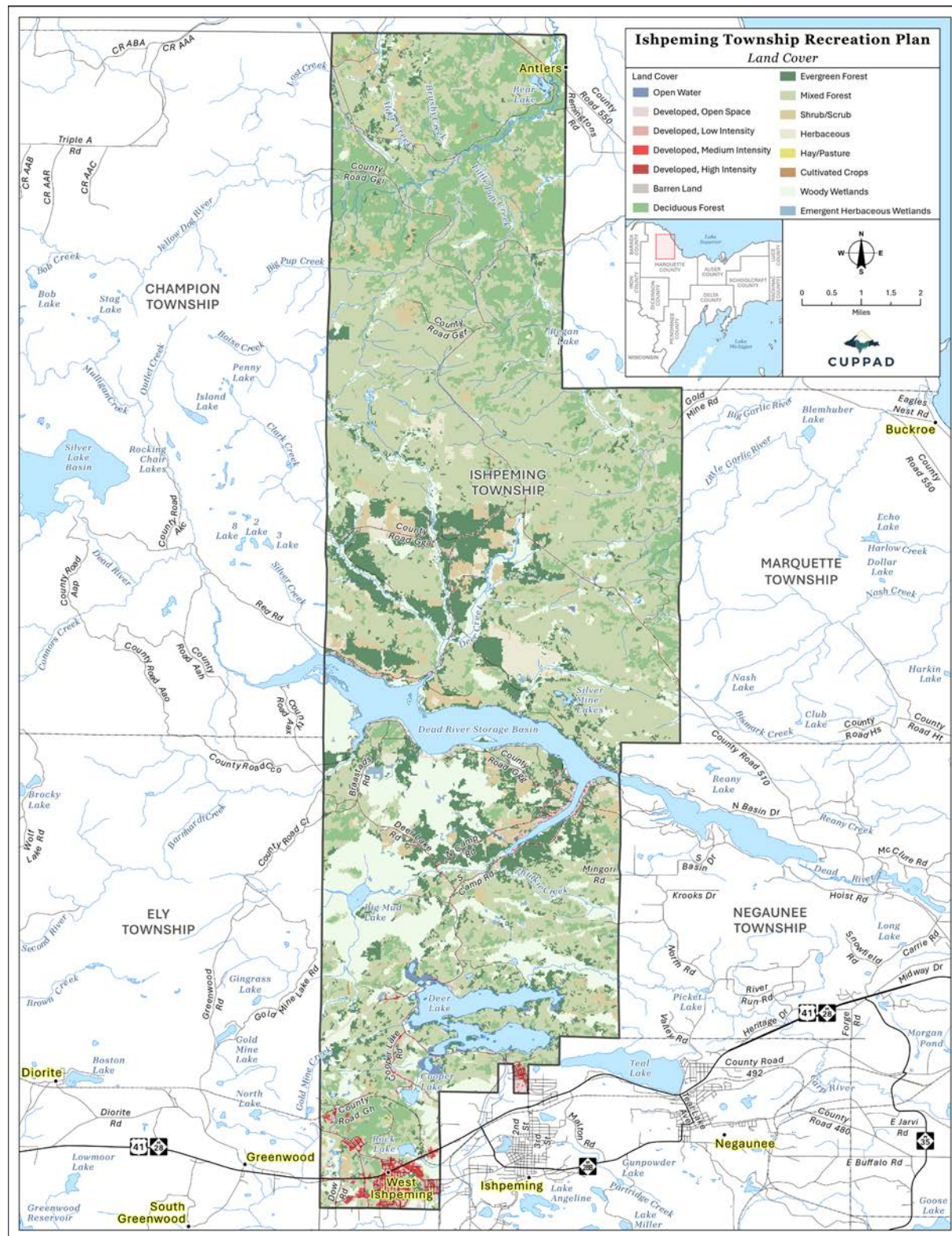
Some areas of the township are paved and developed, some more than others.

LAND COVER

The township's landscape is dominated by a mix of conifer forest and deciduous/mixed forests. Woody wetlands and shrub also cover much of the township.

The developed areas are limited to West Ishpeming and the area just to the north of Ishpeming proper. Development tends to follow the northbound roads, congregating around bodies of water like Deer Lake and Cooper Lake.

The mixed forest landcover is ideal for outdoor recreation such as hiking/ biking trails, and can be a lure to tourists, especially during the fall color season.



WILDLIFE

Deer, bear, moose, and other smaller mammals, birds and amphibians call Ishpeming Township home. An abundance of vegetation provides food and shelter for these residents.

The Information for Planning and Consultation site hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes the potential existence of several threatened and endangered species within the Upper Peninsula. Measures taken to preserve habitat and accommodate these species are critical to maintaining their existence. Water levels along the coastline can impact nesting sites for Piping Plover and Red Knot. Lynx live in boreal forests that often receive heavy snowfall and are home to snowshoe hare. White nose syndrome threatens the Northern Long-eared Bat. The biggest culprit threatening the Monarchs seems to be the disappearance of milkweed. It is critical communities consider these threatened and endangered species when planning for development.



GEOLOGY

Geology and soils provide the foundation for all forms of life and its related activities. Soil type can help predict performance such as water infiltration, erosion potential and vegetation growth. Generating an understanding of these baseline layers is critical to developing a well rounded and feasible vision for future development and preservation measures.

The maps on the following pages were generated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and illustrate soil properties of particular interest including, erosion potential, drainage type, arable lands and hydrology.

The uppermost materials within the township- a mix of sands, gravels, and clays- were deposited by glaciers thousands of years ago. These define most topographical features including lakes, valleys, hills, and streams. The primary geologic base within Ishpeming Township is characterized by Precambrian rock formations including Archean Rocks, some of the oldest rocks on Earth dating back over 2.5 billion years like granite and schist, and Proterozoic Rocks, which are slightly younger rocks like sedimentary and volcanic rocks, along with iron formations.

The soils map on the following page illustrates the soil suborders that are present within the township. These include Alfisols, Entisols, Histosols, Inceptisols, Mollisols, and Spodosols.



Below is a brief summary of soil types found in the township:

Alfisols: These are forest soils that often stay moist throughout summer months. These soils are the least common in the township.

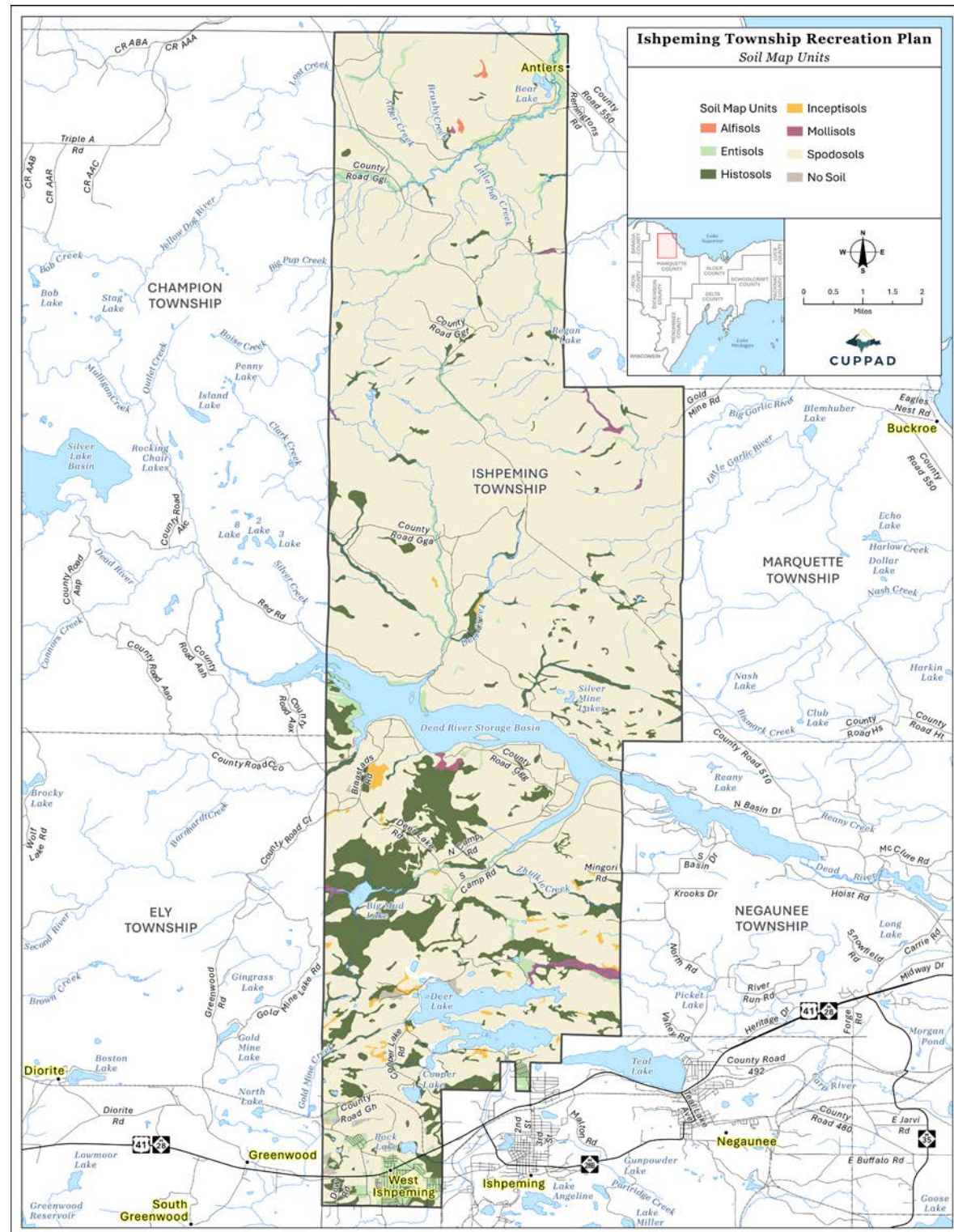
Entisols: These are typically sandy soils near rocky outcrops or along water bodies.

Histosols: These support peatland vegetation and make up a significant portion of the township's soil surface. These soils are often within wetlands and serve as large carbon sinks. Although tough to develop on, they are a crucial resources in the capture of water runoff and the filtering of pollutants.

Inceptisols: The parent material for these is primarily glacial till and these soils are most commonly found within forested areas.

Mollisols: Known for a thick dark soil layer high in nutrients. These soils are excellent for cropland but are few in the township.

Spodosols: These soils are acidic and not very fertile but support the many forests in the area. This is the largest soil coverage in the township.



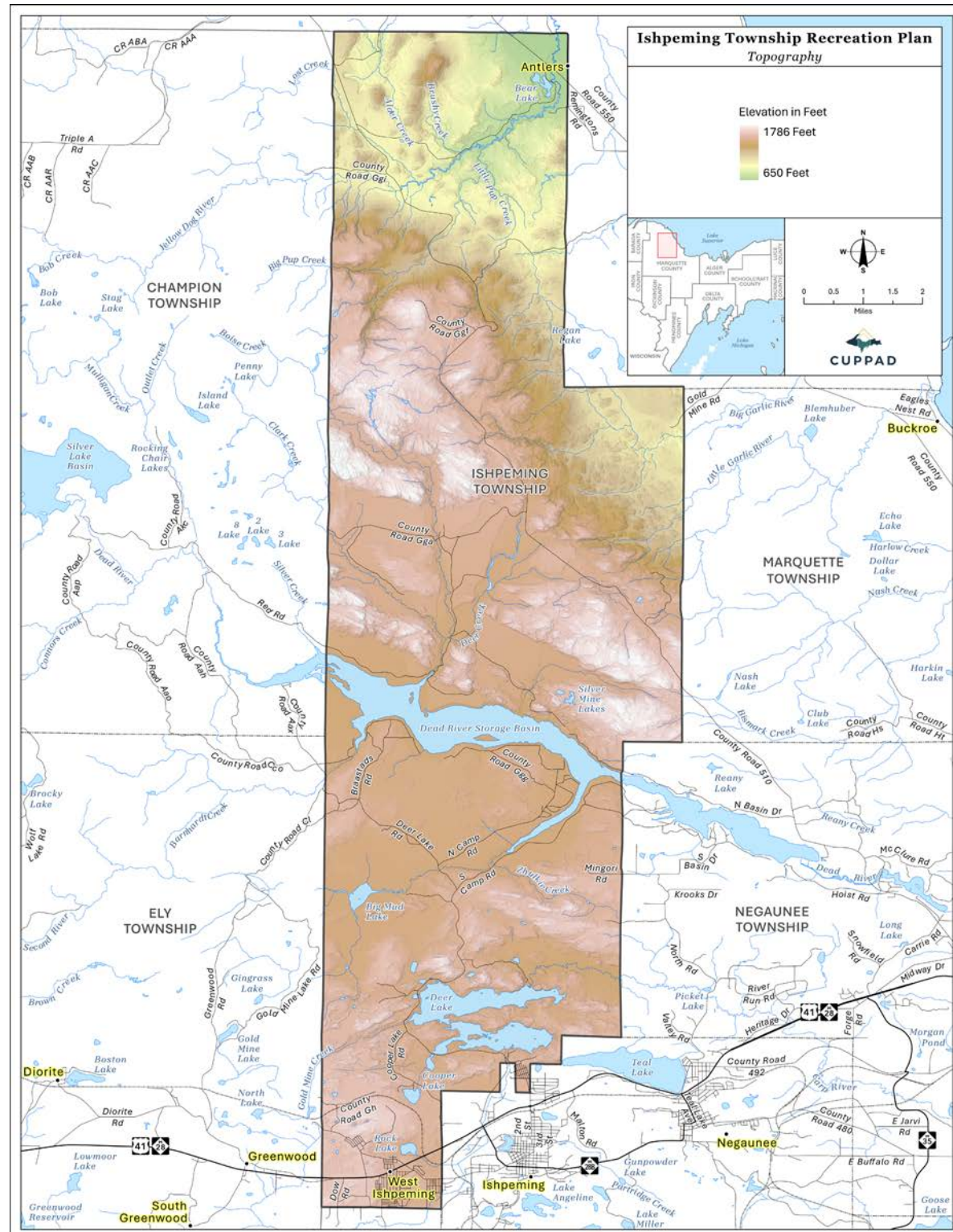
TOPOGRAPHY

Topography refers to the arrangement of natural and artificial physical features of an area. This can mean landforms, such as mountains, hills, valleys, plains, and plateaus, as well as elevation, slope, and the position of these features in relation to each other.

Topography also influences development and recreation patterns. The township is characterized by rolling hills, rocky outcrops, and numerous lakes, streams, and wetlands, making it part of the larger landscape typical of the western Upper Peninsula. Depressions left by ancient glaciers now hold lakes and wetlands.

Heading north, the landscape rolls downwards as it reaches Lake Superior.

This mix of hills, fresh water bodies, and forested areas provides a scenic and rugged natural environment well-suited for explorers and outdoor recreationists.



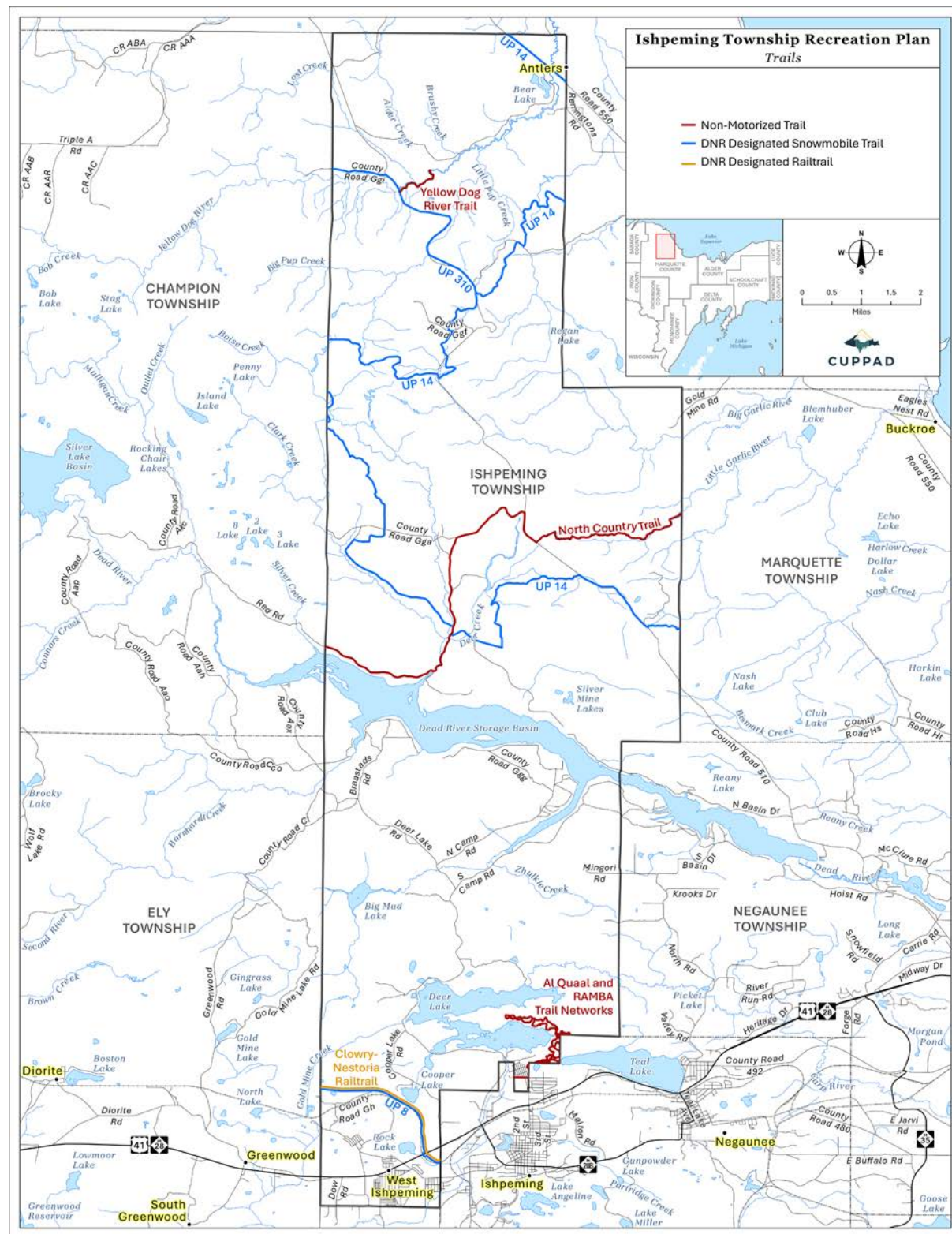
TRAILS

Ishpeming Township has a few larger non-motorized trail networks that run through it including the North Country Trail, the R.A.M.B.A. network, and the Clowry-Nestoria Railtrail.

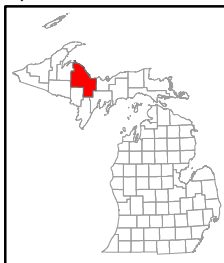
Snowmobile trails also run through the township (full map on next page) which is also part of a larger network of trails. These trails are largely in the northern part of the township and see frequent use in the winter.











The township could benefit from more trail development including making meaningful trail connections, increasing the reach of the network. Trails to points of interest and around, such as a connecting loop, would also be advantageous. One such attraction could be the Dead River Basin area or Yellow Dog Falls.

Multi-use pathways and trails can be utilized differently depending on the season, weather, and personal ability. Creating connections between trails can boost usage and increases pedestrian mobility within the township and to the larger cities outside it. One such connection could be a non-motorized trail from West Ishpeming to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT) trailhead to the south. It was mentioned in the survey multiple times how much community members value this regional trail connection.



Updated: 01/17/2024



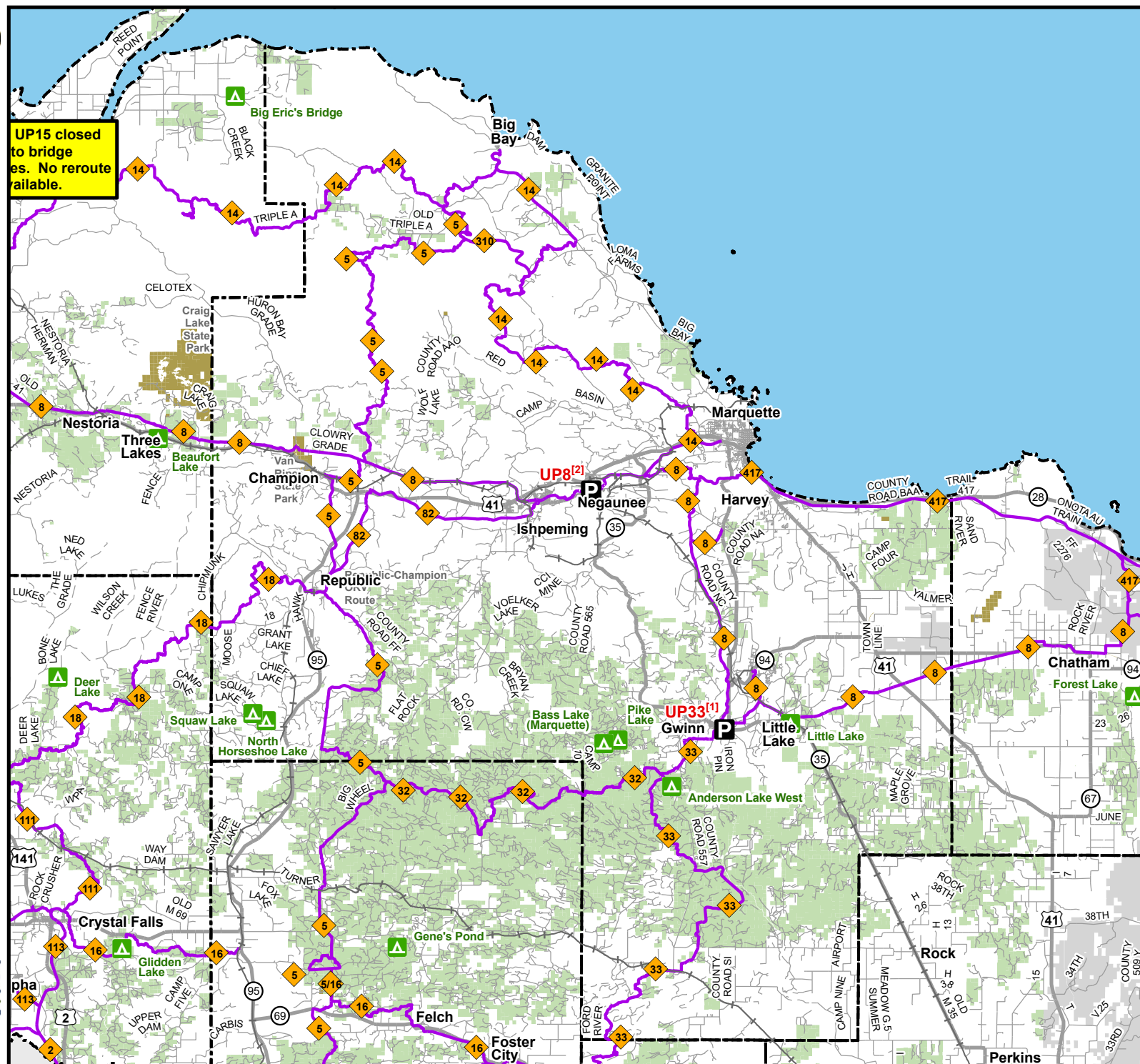
P Parking lot
 State forest campground
 Snowmobile trail
 Highway
 Paved road
 Gravel or dirt road
 Railroad
 State forest land
 State park
 Federal land
 County

Parking
UP33^[1] Parking off of M-35 in Gwinn just west of intersection with M-553
UP8^[2] East of Silver St, South Side of Rail St



RIDE
RIGHT

Michigan.gov/Snowmobiling



(intentionally blank)

5

Recreation Inventory

STANDARDS FOR RECREATION

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a scale to help measure an existing recreation system's park facilities and provide a baseline standard for equitable park access within a community.

A typical park and recreation system offers one park for every 2,323 residents served, with 10.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Due to its lower density population, Michigan's Upper Peninsula trends toward having a higher acreage of parkland per resident. Here is a chart illustrating the different open space typologies defined by NRPA and the desired minimum amount of park space per community.

The chart below features a summary of acreage of the various park typologies within the township.

| PARK TYPE | SERVICE AREA (RADIUS) | SIZE (ACRES) | ACRES/1,000 POP | PARKS (ACRES) | USES |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Mini-Park | <1/4mi | 1 or less | 0.25 to 0.5 | 2.25 to 4.5 Currently: -- | Specialized facility serving a concentrated or limited population |
| Neighborhood Park | 1/4 to 1/2mi | 15+ | 1 to 2 | 8.8 to 17.6 Currently: -- | Hosts intense recreation activities: Play, sports fields/courts, picnicking etc. |
| Community Park | 1 to 2mi | 25+ | 8 to 10 | 70.4 to 88 Currently: -- | Diverse environmental quality; may include sports complexes or more natural forms of outdoor recreation |
| Regional Park | 1 hr drive | 200+ | 5 to 10 | 44 to 88 Currently: -- | Area of natural quality for outdoor recreation; boating, swimming, camping, trail use etc. |
| School Park | | | | Currently: Over 1300 | Park associated with an educational institution |



ACCESSIBILITY

Any and all future park development pursuits by the township will strive to achieve universal access for all. Below is a DNR developed Accessibility Grading Rubric to be referenced if and when the township decides to develop or modify its own recreational facilities.

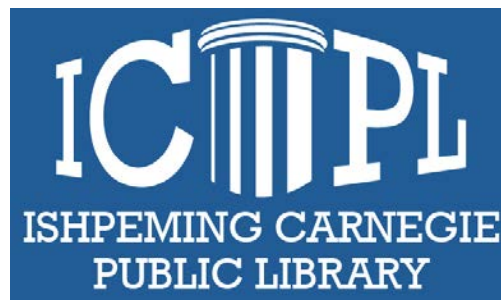
A site visit and accessibility assessment was conducted on October 29, 2024 according to the ADA Checklist*.

DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5. The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

PROGRAMMING + VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Recreation programming within the region is provided through a variety of community based recreation organizations and clubs. The



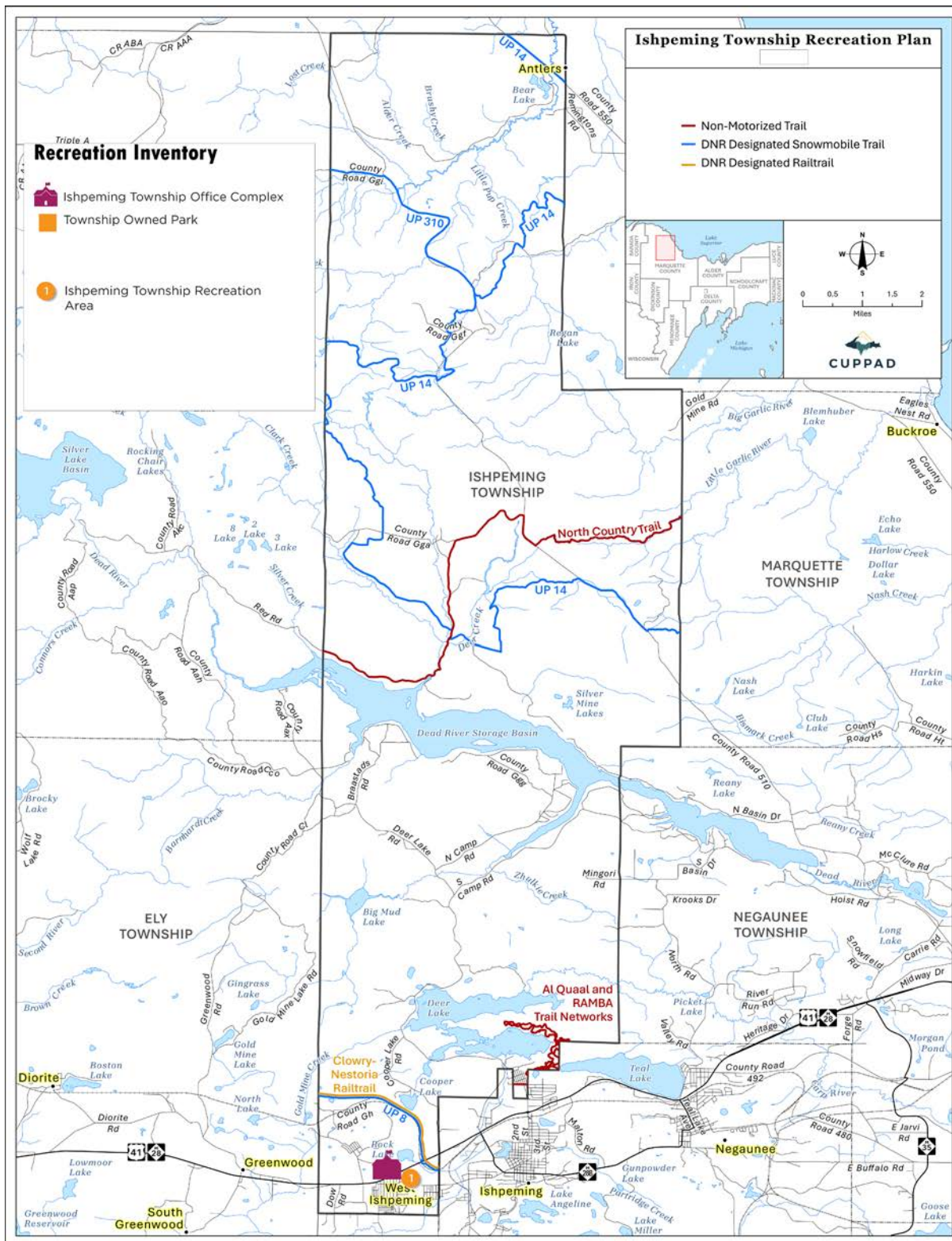
Below is a summary of the 2024 NRPA findings reflecting the types of facilities communities offer and the associated number of residents per facility. As Michigan's Upper Peninsula has a very low density population compared to most other regions in the country, there is often a greater number and type of facilities within a population. The facilities Ishpeming Township offers its residents are highlighted below. The facilities the township has yet to offer that would be the most common for a low population community include a dog park, skate park, and toddler specific playgrounds.



Outdoor Park + Recreation Facilities | Population per Facility

| | All Agencies | Less than 20,000 |
|--|--------------|------------------|
| Playgrounds | 3,759 | 2,014 |
| Basketball courts | 7,404 | 3,729 |
| Diamond fields: baseball - youth | 6,863 | 3,114 |
| Tennis courts (outdoor) | 5,860 | 2,805 |
| Rectangular fields: multi-purpose | 9,177 | 3,859 |
| Dog park | 43,532 | 11,100 |
| Diamond fields: softball fields - adult | 15,345 | 5,800 |
| Diamond fields: softball fields - youth | 11,384 | 5,079 |
| Diamond fields: baseball - adult | 20,228 | 7,627 |
| Community gardens | 31,395 | 8,178 |
| Swimming pools (outdoor only) | 38,635 | 9,745 |
| Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth | 7,228 | 3,600 |
| Multiuse courts -basketball, volleyball | 17,475 | 5,093 |
| Totlots | 11,649 | 5,816 |
| Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult | 13,692 | 6,955 |
| Skate park | 53,144 | 10,726 |
| Rectangular fields: football field | 26,780 | 8,637 |
| Pickleball | 13,922 | 3,252 |
| Regulation 18-hole courses | 94,109 | 9,587 |
| Driving range stations | 25,930 | 4,555 |
| Multipurpose synthetic field | 36,884 | 9,518 |
| Ice rink (outdoor only) | 17,741 | 8,045 |
| Rectangular fields: cricket field | 139,248 | |
| Rectangular fields: lacrosse field | 26,411 | 9,786 |
| Overlay field | 14,763 | 8,707 |
| Rectangular fields: field hockey field | 20,909 | 18,000 |

2024 NRPA Findings



Park Inventory

ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP OWNED PARKS & FACILITIES

ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP RECREATION AREA

The sole township-owned facility in the township is the Ishpeming Township Recreation Area. Located adjacent to the Township Hall and Police Department complex on US-41 and covers 9 acres. This recreation area is open to the public during daylight hours. Amenities include a softball diamond, a little league diamond, tennis courts, restrooms, shuffleboard, volleyball court, basketball court with 6 hoops, tennis court, and picnic tables with a covered pavillion. The pavillion is available on a first come-first serve basis and can be reserved for larger groups. This area also houses two playgrounds, one for those aged 5-12, and a tot lot for those aged under 5.

GRANT HISTORY:

1977, #26-01023-X3, \$10,073

An MDNR Land and Water Conservation Fund grant was used to fence in the tot lot, parking lot resurfacing, benches, and landscaping.

1986, #TF86-280, \$25,000

An MDNR Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant was used by the township to acquire the 9 acre recreation area that was previously leased from the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company.

ACRES: 9

ACCESSIBILITY: 1

The low accessibility rating is due to the sandy paths and the limited width of access through the fenced in areas and bathrooms of the recreation area.



FACILITIES IN NEARBY AREAS

City of Ishpeming

- National Ski Hall of Fame, Constructed in 1992 on a 1 acre site. Museum has historical displays and artifacts of skiing from all countries.
- Al-Quaal, a 200 acre recreation site utilized year round with tennis, basketball, baseball, horseshoes, volleyball, mountain biking, hiking, swimming, picnicking, boating and fishing, skiing, sledding, tobogganing, ice fishing, and snowmobiling in winter months.
- City Playground, features a variety of sports facilities and play equipment.
- Suicide Ski Center, on Suicide Bowl Road south of M-28. The site is owned by CCI and leased to the Ishpeming Ski Club. The site hosts a 90 meter ski jump and cross country ski trails.
- River Rock Lanes, privately owned bowling facility offering 16 bowling lanes and 6 billiards tables.
- St.Johns Church, offers an indoor gymnasium and is located on South Pine Street in Ishpeming.
- 906 Cross Fit, privately owned facility offering indoor strength and fitness center.
- Heritage Hills, a privately owned facility offering riding stable and horse trails.

City of Negaunee

- IronTown Field, owned by Cleveland Cliffs Inc. (CCI) and leased to the City. This site includes a baseball field, concession stand, rest rooms, and storage building.
- Miners Park, hosts the largest play structure in the community, a picnic pavilion that is frequently rented, illuminated basketball courts, horseshoe courts, volleyball court, historical marker, and restrooms.

- Lincoln Street Park, a mini park located east of Healy Street and north of Lincoln Street, owned by the City and has a basketball court and picnic tables.
- Teal Lake Beach, owned by the City and features several picnic tables, a beach and swimming area, with a boat launch, fishing dock, and an accessible kayak launch.
- Breitung Park, near the downtown Firestation and contains a band shell with a grassy area and benches.
- Veteran's Park, in front of City Hall with benches, a concrete pathway, a fountain, and a memorial.
- Copper St/ Partridge Creek Park, located on the corner of Copper and Division. It hosts a basketball court and a grassy free play area.
- Ann Street Park, a mini-park with a basketball court, sand volleyball, and a swing set.
- Bartle Park, located on the corner of Cyr and Lombard Streets, featuring an open grassy area with a gazebo.
- Susnet Drive Park, in the northeast corner of the city with a basketball court, grassy field, playground equipment, and a picnic area.
- Negaunee Ice Arena, located on Rail Street, featuring a full-size ice arena, locker rooms, rest rooms, a lobby, kitchen, concession area, two offices, a meeting room, and a large parking lot.
- Buffalo Road Park, owned by CCI and leased to the City containing a swing set, basketball court, and picnic area.
- Chiri Park, a mini-park with a grassy free play area.
- Old Town Recreation Area, serves as the community gateway to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, containing a trailhead to R.A.M.B.A. mountain bike trails, a disc golf course, and several interpretive stops showcasing history of the region.
- Community Play Field, a 5 and a half acre park that includes an 1,800 person capacity stadium, track, practice fields, rest

rooms, locker rooms, weight lifting room, and concession building. The facility also has an adjacent wrestling room, lavatory facilities and locker room.

- LaCombe Field, featuring a lighted softball field, batting cages, press box, rest rooms, storage facility, and an open area used for football and soccer practice.
- Ericson Parkway, a mini-park owned by CCI and leased to the City, with a winding concrete path and picnic table.
- Negaunee Middle School, owned by the school district, containing a gym, outdoor basketball court, and a hard surface play area.
- Negaunee High School, has an indoor pool, auditorium, large indoor gym, and 8 outdoor tennis courts.
- Negaunee Luge, located on Lucy Hill at 230 E County Road. The property is owned by CCI and leased by the City including warming shacks, a maintenance building, starting house, equipment rental, and parking lot.
- Jackson Mine Park + Senior Center Park, a community park owned by the City and is part of the larger Old Town recreation area serving children and seniors. Recent updates include lighting along the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, new pavilion, restrooms, parking area, and play equipment.

Baldwin Township

- Perkins Park located across the street from the Baldwin Township Hall on Perkins 30.5 Road.
- The park is not easily identified as Creten's Cabinetry owns the majority of the property facing the street. The baseball field and bathroom are accessed via an easement that passes to the east of the Cretens' facility.
- Amenities Include: A play structure, a baseball/softball field, picnic tables, a restroom building, mowed walking trail, basketball court, and parking.

Negaunee Township

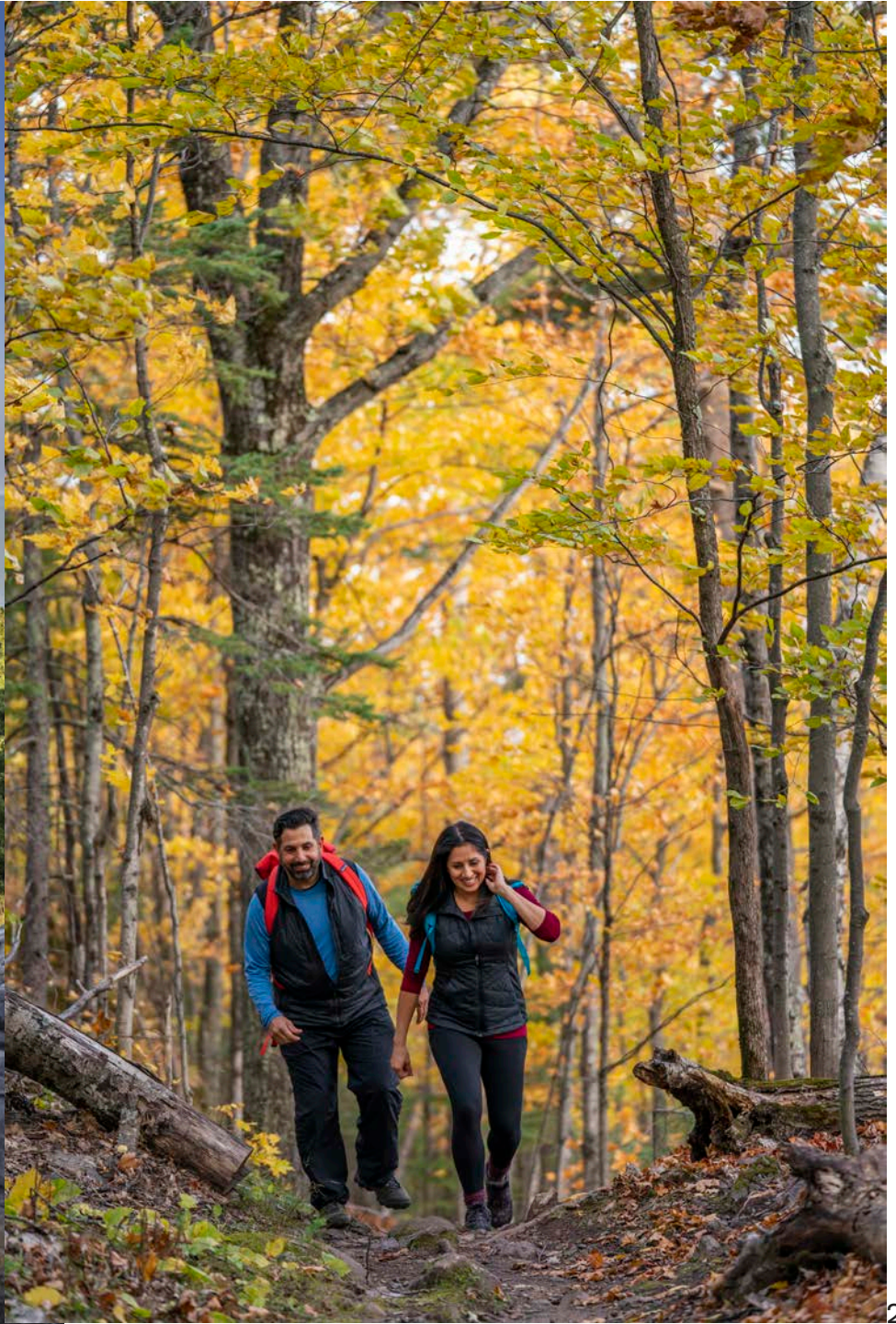
- Negaunee Township park: 71 acres with basketball courts, pavilion, warming building, concessions, playground, little league field, softball field, tennis court, cross country ski trails, picnic tables, and snowmobile access.
- McClure Storage Basin Access Site: Hard-surface launch ramp, toilets, parking area. 1.03 acres.
- Hoist Basin Access Site: Hard-surface launch ramp, toilets, parking area. 1.82 acres.

Marquette County

- Sugarloaf Mountain, one of the most popular scenic overlooks in the Central UP, features parking areas, interpretive signage, and two different trail difficulties.
- Perkins Park, a 45 acre park located on the shores of Lake Independence in Big Bay. The park boasts 75 campsites with electrical and water hookups, plus 40 rustic sites. Amenities include a swimming beach, bathhouse, playground, boat launch, fish cleaning station, restrooms, and trails.
- Big Bay Harbor of Refuge is a boat launch that consists of a break wall, mooring bulkhead, boat launch, and a harbormaster's building, and restrooms. Intended to be a safe place or refuge for boaters during unpredictable Lake Superior weather conditions.
- Honor Camp Property is a heavily wooded 420 acre area located in the northwest corner of Sands Township. Includes the Silver Creek and a few hiking trails.
- Little Trout Lake Park is an 111 acre park in the heart of Forsyth Township. Amenities include a small swimming beach, pavilion, restrooms, parking, volleyball court, basketball court, horseshoe pit, and playground.

City of Marquette

- Presque Isle Park, 323 acres peninsula, forested with areas for walking, climbing, beach visits, picnicking and a playground. Also features a marina.
- Tourist Park Campground, a 40 acre wooded campground
- NTN North trails and Forestville featuring a large network of all season non-motorized trails. Primarily on CFR lands.
- Ellwood A. Mattson Lower Harbor Park, 22 acres with a large grassy area for community events, parking, playground, rest rooms, boat launch, and picnic area.
- Lakeview Arena, recreation and convention center used for hockey, skating, concerts, shows and events.
- Shiras Park, 31 acres at the Northeast end of Marquette with a long beach on Lake Superior, restrooms, parking, cooking facilities, and playground.
- Marquette Senior Center, has an indoor gym for court sports including pickleball.
- McCarty's Cove, the southernmost coastal pieces of Shiras Park includes a swimming beach equipped with lifeguard stand and water rescue station, parking, sand volleyball, sitting areas, rest rooms and a playground.
- South Beach Park, Hosts lifeguard watch stations, a large swim beach, play area, parking, and rest rooms.
- Fit Strip (Cemetery) and Cross Country Ski Trail; Lit ski trails and fit strip winding through the cemetery property. There is also a community garden area.
- Marquette Commons, the downtown square hosting community events including the farmers market
- NMU Superior Dome and recreation facility
- Founder's Landing, South of the Ore Dock a brownfield site now has a new life as a continuation of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail with beach access and restrooms.
- A variety of smaller playgrounds and community play fields pepper the Marquette City landscape.
- Marquette Mountain: Local ski hill along M-553
- Ripping and Raging River Resorts: Privately owned campgrounds on either side of Marquette Mountain
- NTN South trails a primarily mountain bike trail network south of the City of Marquette
- Iron Ore Heritage Trail: a 47 Mile long paved, multi-use trail connecting communities from East to West through Marquette County



6 Comments + Issue Scoping

COMMUNITY INPUT

A parks and recreation survey was launched in September of 2024. It was paired with the township master plan survey. 156 completed surveys were received. The feedback garnered was extremely informative and helped in generating recreation values, goals and priority improvements for the community.

The quotes within this chapter feature written responses received. They highlight specific reactions community members had including:

SURVEY RESPONSES

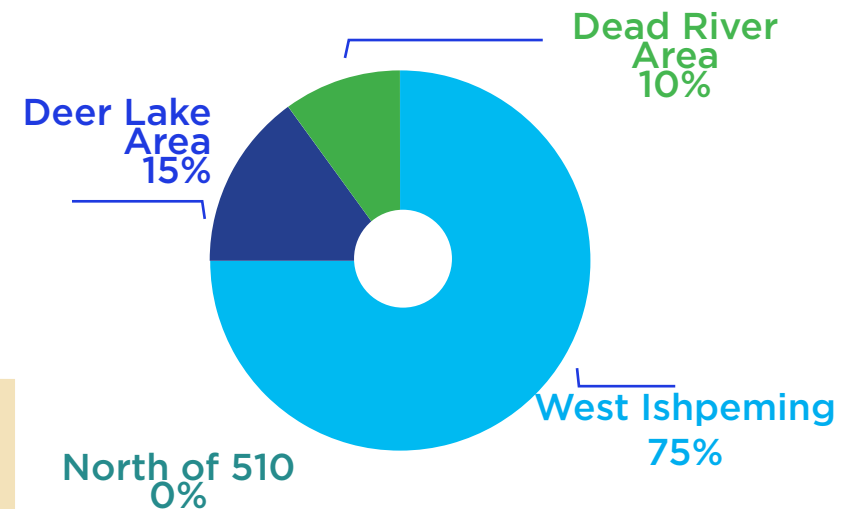
“WE HAVE A GREAT AREA TO RAISE FAMILIES. LET’S LOOK TO GROW AND IMPROVE SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN CONTINUE TO ENJOY IT.”-LOCAL RESIDENT

THE UNDEVELOPED/LIGHTLY TOUCHED NATURAL AREAS ARE WHY I ENJOY LIVING IN THE TOWNSHIP.-LOCAL RESIDENT

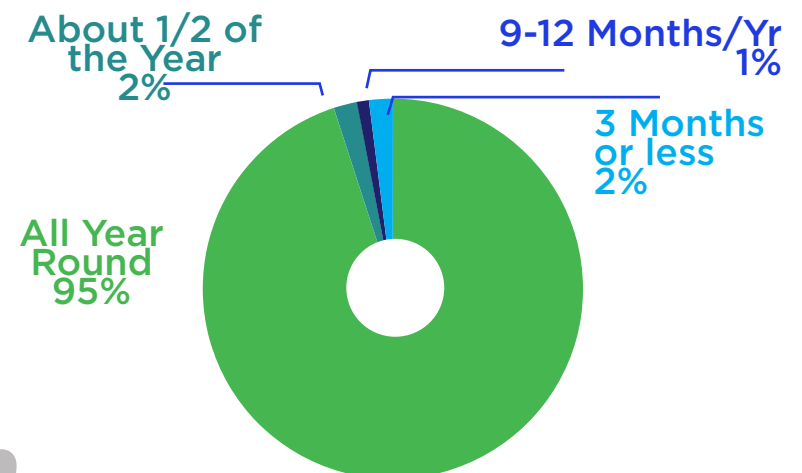
I VALUE THE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP FOR PROVIDING A SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT WHERE OUR YOUTH, INCLUDING MY OWN CHILDREN, CAN STAY ACTIVE. THESE SPACES FOSTER PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, ALLOWING THEM TO EXPLORE NEW INTERESTS AND BUILD LASTING FRIENDSHIPS, CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR OVERALL WELL-BEING AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY.-LOCAL RESIDENT

WE LIVE NEAR THE BALL FIELDS AND THE PARK. I LOVE SEEING THEM USED BY ALL GENERATIONS! WE ARE A FEW MINUTES AWAY FROM THE IOHT AND I LOVE THE EASY ACCESS.-LOCAL RESIDENT

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



HOW MUCH OF THE YEAR DO YOU LIVE HERE?



WHAT RECREATION ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN WITHIN THE PAST TWO YEARS?



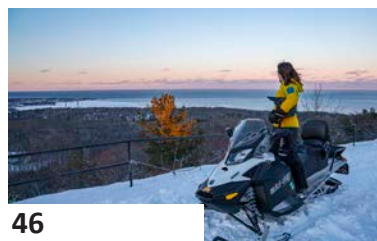
WHAT PROJECT(S) WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN?

Survey respondents were asked to provide their preferences as to which potential projects they would find the most beneficial to the community.

** Numbers indicate how many survey participants selected each option*



49
ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPTIONS



46
MOTORIZED TRAILS



95
PLAYGROUND UPDATES



82
UPDATED RESTROOMS



34
REMOTE CAMPING OPTIONS



52
ART IN THE PARKS



85
REGIONAL CONNECTOR TRAIL

** Top Other Selections:*
8 - Walking / Hiking Trails
5 - Community Events
3 - Ice Rink
3 - Disc Golf Course

16
OTHER: PLEASE SPECIFY

WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGE REGARDING PARKS AND RECREATION WITHIN ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP?

“DEDICATED PICKLEBALL COURT WOULD BE AWESOME AS WELL AS DEVELOPING MORE MOUNTAIN AND SNOW BIKING TRAILS OUT THIS WAY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE MORE CAMPING OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE COMING INTO TOWN.

-LOCAL RESIDENT

I BELIEVE ENHANCING OUR RECREATIONAL AREAS FOR THE YOUTH SHOULD BE A PRIORITY. WHILE THE EXISTING SPACES ARE VALUABLE, EXPANDING AND IMPROVING THEM WOULD OFFER EVEN GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN TO STAY ENGAGED, ACTIVE, AND CONNECTED WITH ONE ANOTHER. UPGRADING FACILITIES, CREATING MORE DIVERSE ACTIVITIES, AND ENSURING THESE AREAS ARE WELL-MAINTAINED WILL NOT ONLY BENEFIT THE YOUTH BUT ALSO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY BY GIVING FAMILIES MORE OPTIONS FOR HEALTHY, CONSTRUCTIVE RECREATION.

-LOCAL RESIDENT

ADD A SPLASH PAD, CONCERTS IN THE PARK BY THE PAVILION, COMMUNITY EVENTS AT THE PAVILION, FARMERS MARKETS, BINGO, BRING BACK ‘FUN DAYS’ OR A LIKE EVENT. THE LONG AND SHORT, HAVE MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS, WE HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SPACE, USE IT!

-LOCAL RESIDENT

REPLACE HANDRAILS AND DECKING ON THE BRIDGES IN THE PARK.

-LOCAL RESIDENT

A CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL NETWORK, PAVED TRAILS FOR ROLLER BLADING, A COMMUNITY ICE RINK

-LOCAL RESIDENT

MORE HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS, CONNECTION TO IOHT.

”



18 IMPROVED PARK MAINTENANCE

“COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF THE PARKS, REPAIR OF BASEBALL FIELDS AND A SAFE ROUTE TO THE PARK TO ENSURE THEY CAN GET THERE SAFELY.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



21 IMPROVE / UPDATE PLAYGROUNDS

“UPGRADE THE PARK EQUIPMENT. REMOVE THE SAND.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



6 SPLASH PAD

“INSTALL A SPLASH PAD FOR HOT SUMMER DAYS FOR CHILDREN IN PARK AREA BY THE TOWNSHIP HALL.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



4



18

MORE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS/EVENTS

“STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY BY GIVING FAMILIES MORE OPTIONS FOR HEALTHY, CONSTRUCTIVE RECREATION.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



6

ACCESSIBLE + CLEAN RESTROOMS



8

ROLLER RINK OR ROLLER BLADING PATH

“PAVED PATHS FOR ROLLERBLADING OR AN INDOOR FACILITY WOULD BE COOL.”

-LOCAL RESIDENT



11

OUTDOOR ICE RINK

“CREATE AN ICE RINK AREA FOR THE WINTER.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



14

MORE BIKING + HIKING TRAILS

“MORE HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS, A CONNECTION TO IOHT WOULD BE AWESOME.”

“MORE SILENT SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES!”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



18

LIVE MUSIC CONCERT VENUE

“CONCERTS IN THE PARK WOULD DRAW IN PEOPLE.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

Less frequent mentions:

- More trash cans and dog poop bag stations
- Safe Crosswalks
- Picnic areas
- Dedicated Pickleball court
- 18 Hole Disc Golf Course
- Bike path connections
- Highway Overpass
- Surveillance
- Arcade or other place for kids and teens to hang out
- Grilling opportunities
- Cross Country Ski Trail

***NUMBERS SIGNIFY THE QUANTITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS WHO MENTIONED THIS POTENTIAL CHANGE.**

7 Values, Goals + Objectives

COMMUNITY VALUES

This page summarizes all community values received. The word diagram below illustrates the values survey participants listed when asked to note what they valued about recreation opportunities within the township. The larger the font, the more common the response was. The top values mentioned through the community survey were Park, Community, Kids, and the Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT). Honorable mentions include Nice, Safe, Access, and Trails.

VALUES

- We value having a safe, well-maintained, and nearby place for the community to gather and enjoy.
- We value the natural landscape and the ease of regional trail access.

COMMENTS

“I VALUE THE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ISHPERING TOWNSHIP FOR PROVIDING A SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT WHERE OUR YOUTH, INCLUDING MY OWN CHILDREN, CAN STAY ACTIVE. THESE SPACES FOSTER PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, ALLOWING THEM TO EXPLORE NEW INTERESTS AND BUILD LASTING FRIENDSHIPS, CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR OVERALL WELL-BEING AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY.”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

“WE LIVE NEAR THE BALL FIELDS AND THE PARK. I LOVE SEEING THEM USED BY ALL GENERATIONS! WE ARE A FEW MINUTES AWAY FROM THE IOHT AND I LOVE THE EASY ACCESS.”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

“BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, FUN PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, NICE HERITAGE TRAILS.”

-LOCAL RESIDENT



STATEWIDE RECREATION GOALS

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Michigan's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as the backbone for recreation planning within the state. Every five years new surveys are administered, sites studied and goals and objectives created. Below is a summary of the methodology, goal, and objectives in the plan. This plan builds on the statewide recreation goals.

Planning Methodology:

Survey generated and distributed to gather responses from a wide variety of residents and visitors that accurately reflected the general population of the area.

Recreation Participation:

Factors to consider (Income, accessibility, age and health) that limit opportunities for some to recreate.

Motivators:

Mental health and physical benefits are key reasons participants recreate.

Land Use:

Recreation opportunities in and around more urban areas are needed.

Resources:

Participants are more likely to utilize opportunities accessible to a large audience (paved trails, campsites, and other trail types).

Information Seeking Technology:

Welcome and visitor centers are great resources but technological tools could also help mainstream information.

Barriers:

Safety, access, costs associated with, too many crowds, lack of time, or poorly maintained facilities all prevent community members from recreating.

Physical Activity:

Prioritize physical health for all Michigan residents.

**"THE TOTAL
NET ECONOMIC
VALUE OF OUTDOOR
RECREATION IN MICHIGAN
WAS ESTIMATED AT \$165
BILLION."
-2023-2027
SCORP PLAN**



SCORP GOAL

Ensure that Michigan's outdoor recreation assets are equitably distributed, developed and managed to provide convenient and welcoming access to the outdoors for healthful, outdoor physical activity; and while sustaining our lands, waters and wildlife for current and future generations, drive broad-based economic and quality-of-life benefits to people and communities.

-SCORP 2023-2027

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN THE CURRENT SCORP PLAN: IMPROVE COLLABORATION:

- Create more opportunities for cross-agency collaboration on recreation
- Explore opportunities for regional analysis and connection to regional planning efforts
- Enhance data access and digital tools for measuring recreation use across management entities

IMPROVE AND EXPAND RECREATIONAL ACCESS:

- Utilize SCORP survey and focus group data to better understand recreation demand
- Communicate the full portfolio of grants and funding available to communities to support outdoor recreation
- Encourage long-term investments that address issues of technology, climate change and resiliency

ENHANCE HEALTH BENEFITS

- Model public-private partnerships and collaborations to activate and steward recreational assets
- Improve interagency collaboration to measure and deliver public health benefits from additional investment in infrastructures and programs supporting recreation

ENHANCE PROSPERITY

- Model and use new data to communicate economic value of outdoor recreation
- Support continued engagement with new users and identify gaps and barriers

COMMUNITY GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Parks and trails have an important connection between natural places and people with the intent of creating meaningful outdoor experiences and of course, fun. The evidence of these experiences is validated in the activities and values listed in the community survey.

In addition to the value of recreation opportunities and access, there are equally important values regarding exquisite scenery, pristine landscapes, and quiet surroundings. The inherent tension between recreation and preservation helps shape how communities choose to pursue future parks and recreation opportunities.

The boxes to the right feature the 5-year Parks and Recreation Goals for Ishpeming Township. These goals are based on the suggestions and feedback received in the survey and aligned with the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and with Township officials.



ISHPEMING CARNEGIE LIBRARY PARK STORYTIME

GOAL 1: Maintain and Enhance the Township Recreation Area.

It is clear from the survey results that the community values the Township Recreation Area as an asset, but wishes to see it updated, better maintained, utilized, repaired, and accessible.

OBJECTIVES:

- **ENSURE PROPER YEAR-ROUND MAINTENANCE FOR THE TOWNSHIP RECREATION AREA.**
- **PLAN FOR UPGRADES TO PLAY EQUIPMENT.**
- **RESURFACE SANDY SURFACES TO MEET CURRENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES.**
- **PAVE PATHWAYS THROUGHOUT THE PARK FOR MORE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESSIBILITY.**
- **FIX UP BRIDGES FOR SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY.**
- **UPGRADE RESTROOM AREAS TO MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS.**
- **FIX OR CHANGE USE FOR UNDERUSED AND NEGLECTED AMENITIES AT THE RECREATION AREA, SUCH AS THE SHUFFLEBOARD COURT.**

GOAL 2: Community Engagement Through Recreation Programming and Activities.

The community survey revealed that more recreational programming is desired for community members of all ages. Programming can help to strengthen community bonds, keep kids out of trouble, and utilize the Recreation Area to its fullest potential.

OBJECTIVES:

- **PARTNER WITH LOCAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE A ROBUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS TAILORED TO COMMUNITY NEEDS.**
- **CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECREATION COMMITTEE TO HELP PLAN AND OVERSEE EVENTS.**
- **PLAN INTERGENERATIONAL AND FAMILY ORIENTED ACTIVITIES.**
- **WORK WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES TO PROVIDE SPONSORSHIP FOR LARGER EVENTS.**
- **ENGAGE WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS TO ADD INTEREST AND ENGAGEMENT.**
- **ADD GUIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.**

GOAL 3: New Amenities and Opportunities to Meet Community Needs.

Ishpeming Township is fortunate to have a small town community while being home to vast untamed natural land. Finding a balance between development and preservation is crucial for such a community. There were many mentions in the survey of heading into Marquette or Ishpeming for recreational opportunities. However, light development could further meet community needs closer to home.

OBJECTIVES:

- **CONSIDER REPURPOSING UNDERUSED PORTIONS OF THE RECREATIONAL AREA FOR NEW USES AND LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES, SUCH AS A SPLASH PAD.**
- **DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAIL SPUR TO FURTHER CONNECT THE RECREATION AREA TO THE IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL.**
- **MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAILS FOR YEAR-ROUND SILENT SPORTS.**
- **PROVIDE AN EQUIPMENT LENDING LIBRARY FOR OUTDOOR GEAR AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.**
- **OFFER INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE ON HISTORICAL SITES, SELF-GUIDED TOUR OPPORTUNITIES, OR SCANNABLE QR CODES FOR INFORMATION.**

8 Action Plan

Ishpeming Township does not have a formal parks and recreation department but is home to a diverse landscape with a multitude of recreation opportunities. This 5-Year Recreation Plan serves as the first step toward applying for and obtaining DNR grant funds for specific projects that maintain and enhance the township's recreational opportunities.

This Action Plan is an expansive list of potential partnerships, acquisitions and projects the township could apply for funding for in the future. By no means does this list of projects need to be completed within a 5 or even 20 year window. It simply reflects community generated and commission approved priority projects. Each project is a step in the right direction to help achieve the goals featured in the previous chapter.

GOAL #1 | Maintain and Enhance

Investing in local parks and recreational opportunities will breathe new life into neglected assets.

PRIORITIZE ACCESS FOR EVERYONE

All Township Recreation Area projects to meet or exceed 2010 ADA building standards and shall follow the American Barriers Act Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas. Upgrade parking and accessibility pathways to parks and areas of interest.

Add wayfinding signage, maps, and markers for improved navigation.

ENCOURAGE PARK UPKEEP BY CITIZENS

Work with local schools and Respect Marquette County to develop a clear and concise messaging campaign focused on leave-no-trace principles.

Foster a sense of citizens' ownership of parks by promoting volunteerism.

PRIORITIZE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Replace and/or repair dated playground equipment and facilities,

Pave pathways throughout the Recreation Area to add accessibility and opportunities for mobility such as for strollers, walkers, or rollerblades.

UPGRADES TO UNDERUSED RECREATION AREA SPACES

Shuffleboard, Volleyball, and Horseshoe pits could be updated, reused, or repurposed for community needs, such as a splash pad, ice skating rink, fitness area, or off-leash dog area.

Adding grilling amenities or an outdoor kitchen space at the pavillion would encourage use.

Upgrade pedestrian bridges for safety, interest, and accessibility.

GOAL #2 | Community Engagement

Promote and strengthen the community connections through robust all-ages programming and engagement.

BOLSTER EVENT CALENDAR

Continue event partnerships with the Ishpeming Carnegie Library and seek other partnerships, perhaps through schools, homeschool groups, churches, senior center, and other community based non-profit groups and clubs.

Prioritize intergenerational engagement in the form of senior mentoring or family friendly events.

OFFER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Seek local business support and sponsorship opportunities for events such as a photo contest or scavenger hunt.

Pop-up shop or community event opportunities could be sponsored by local businesses.

ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE FOR EVENTS

Recruit volunteers and community champions to plan and organize meaningful township events.

GUIDED OPPORTUNITIES

Prioritize arts and culture developments through historical connections and interpretive signage.

Provide guided activities for first-timers, such as an introduction to pickleball or snowshoeing.

GOAL #3 | New Amenities

Provide new amenities and opportunities to meet the needs and wants of the community.

BUILD A COMMUNITY TRAIL

Create a non-motorized trail spur from the Recreation Area to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail access point in Tilden Township.

Work with local organizations to prioritize future trail priorities, propose alignments, and generate estimates so plans are ready when funding opportunities arise.

BUILD AN ICE RINK / SKATING AREA

Replace underused amenities in the Recreation Area with a highly sought-after community ice rink in winter that could also be used for roller skating and blading in summer.

BUILD A MUSIC VENUE

A bandshell or stage would be enough to host musical events, like a Summer Concerts in the Park series.

CREATE OFF-LEASH DOG AREA

Select an appropriate and convenient location for an off leash dog area or park.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Provide a lending library of outdoor gear and/or sports equipment at the Recreation Area.

A Appendix

PUBLIC NOTICES + SURVEY RESULTS

ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SURVEY IS NOW LIVE

Posted on October 9, 2024

Calling all Ishpeming Township residents and visitors! Your voice matters!

Ishpeming Township has begun the process of updating its Master Plan and Recreation Plan. Community input is an integral part of both plans. The Master Plan sets the goals and priority for development in the township, and is the basis for regulating land use and identifying the needs of the community for up to the next 20 years. The Recreation Plan sets community priorities and potential projects to enhance parks and recreation in the township for the next 5 years.

Your survey responses help to guide and shape the priorities in the plans.

The survey can be found here:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IshTwp2024>

The survey will be open until November 7th, 2024. Please share!

This entry was posted in [News](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

SOURCE: [HTTPS://CUPPAD.ORG](https://cupp.ad.org)

RECENT POSTS

[Meeting Notice: Materials Management Planning Committee](#)

[Ishpeming Township Community Survey is now LIVE](#)

[Dickinson County Master Plan: Public Review](#)

[Forsyth Township Public Hearing: Recreation Plan](#)

[Forsyth Township Recreation Plan: Public Review](#)

[Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission](#)

[Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission](#)

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Central Upper Peninsula

[Learn more](#)

Central Upper Peninsula

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CUPPADREGIONALCOMMISSION/](https://www.facebook.com/CUPPADREGIONALCOMMISSION/)

The information, goals, objectives, and strategic action items contained in this plan was produced in conjunction with public input in the form an online and in print survey. The survey was offered from September 5, 2024 through November 7, 2024.

Survey notices were made available via the Township's website (right) and via CUPPAD's website (above). It was also promoted via Facebook, on CUPPAD's and the Township's pages. Print copies of the flyer (next page) were put up at the Township Building and the Ishpeming/ Carnegie Library.

Print copies were able to be requested through the Township, but none were requested. The survey was also advertised via local news channel, My UP Now, TV6. A short segment appeared on TV6 on October 10, 2024. The YouTube screenshot and address are on the next page.

TRICK OR TREAT HOURS

Ishpeming Township Halloween Trick or Treat Hours will be:
Thursday, October 31st, 5-7 p.m.

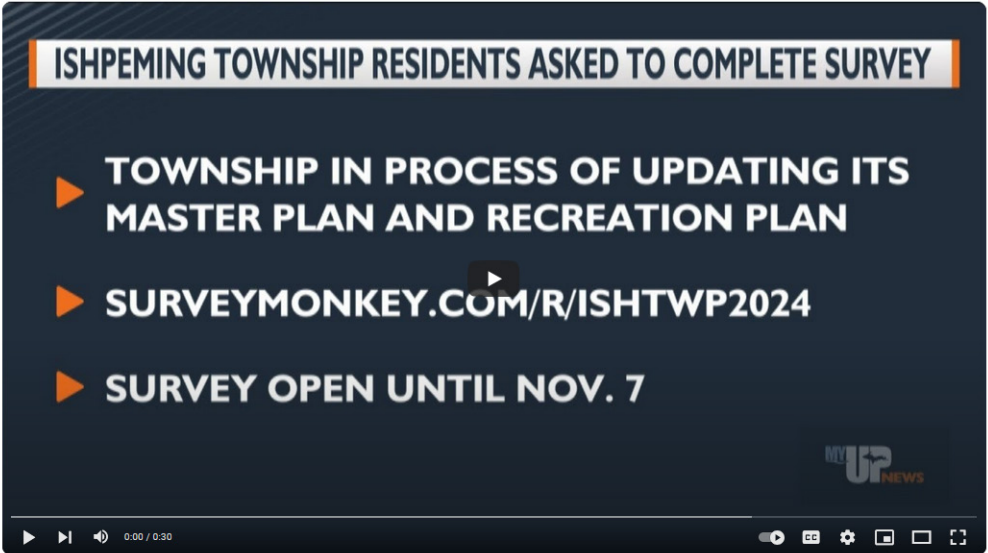
Ishpeming Township Master Plan and Recreation Plan Community Survey

Complete [Survey](#)
Open until November 7, 2024
Please Share

Payments Accepted Online!

[Tax Payment](#) [Utility Payment](#)

SOURCE: [HTTPS://ISHPEMINGTOWNSHIP.COM](https://ishpemingtownship.com)



Ishpeming Township residents asked to complete survey

My UP Now
20.2K subscribers

8 views Oct 10, 2024
Ishpeming Township has begun the process of updating its Master Plan and Recreation Plan and is looking for the community's input.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=OGtAINWoOjI&AB_CHANNEL=MyUPNow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGtAINWoOjI&AB_CHANNEL=MyUPNow)

If you prefer paper format, please mail a completed paper survey or hand in at the Ishpeming Township Hall: 1575 US-41 Ishpeming, MI 49849

Thank you!

Ishpeming Township, Marquette County | Recreation Survey

ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP

INVITES YOU TO COMPLETE THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

www.surveymonkey.com/r/IshTwp2024

This survey guides the development and priorities of the Master Plan and Recreation Plan for the next 5-10 years. Your voice matters!

Survey will be open until November 7, 2024
Please share!

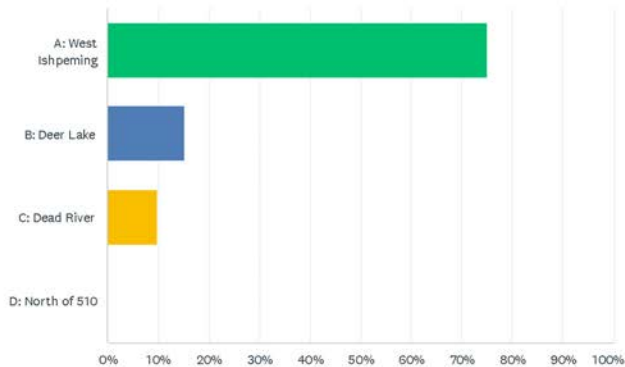
SOURCE: [HTTPS://FACEBOOK.COM/P/ISHPEMING-TOWNSHIP-100064853821930/](https://facebook.com/p/Ishpeming-Township-100064853821930/)

Survey Responses: It is important to note that the Recreation Survey was included within the Ishpeming Township Master Plan Survey. Pertinent questions and responses are contained on the following pages. Please see the Master Plan for the full survey.

Ishpeming Township Master Plan and Recreation Plan Community Survey (2024)

Q1 According to the map above, I live in the approximate area of:

Answered: 152 Skipped: 4

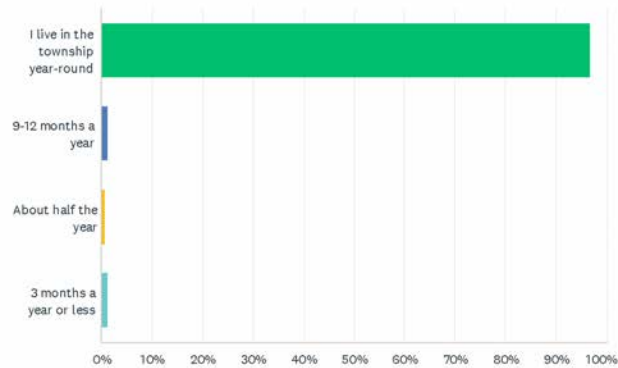


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----|
| A: West Ishpeming | 75.00% | 114 |
| B: Deer Lake | 15.13% | 23 |
| C: Dead River | 9.87% | 15 |
| D: North of 510 | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 152 |

Q2 I live in the Township:

Answered: 155 Skipped: 1

Ishpeming Township Master Plan and Recreation Plan Community Survey (2024)

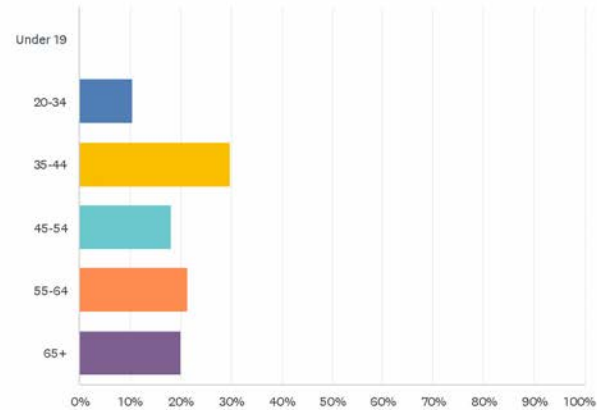


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| I live in the township year-round | 96.77% | 150 |
| 9-12 months a year | 1.29% | 2 |
| About half the year | 0.65% | 1 |
| 3 months a year or less | 1.29% | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 155 |

Q3 What is your age?

Answered: 154 Skipped: 2

Ishpeming Township Master Plan and Recreation Plan Community Survey (2024)

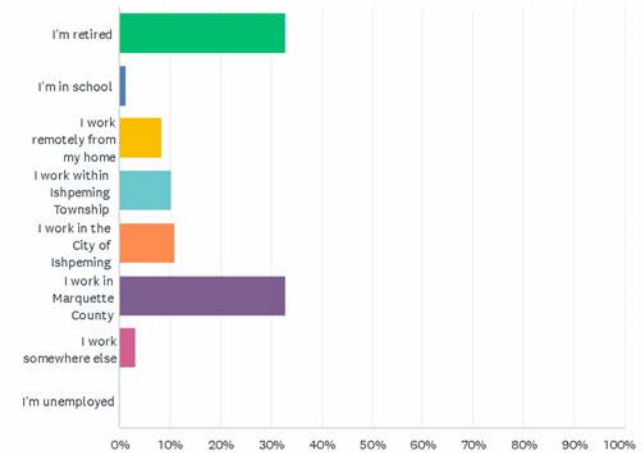


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Under 19 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 20-34 | 10.39% | 16 |
| 35-44 | 29.87% | 46 |
| 45-54 | 18.18% | 28 |
| 55-64 | 21.43% | 33 |
| 65+ | 20.13% | 31 |
| TOTAL | | 154 |

Q4 Where is your place of employment located?

Answered: 155 Skipped: 1

Ishpeming Township Master Plan and Recreation Plan Community Survey (2024)



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| I'm retired | 32.90% | 51 |
| I'm in school | 1.29% | 2 |
| I work remotely from my home | 8.39% | 13 |
| I work within Ishpeming Township | 10.32% | 16 |
| I work in the City of Ishpeming | 10.97% | 17 |
| I work in Marquette County | 32.90% | 51 |
| I work somewhere else | 3.23% | 5 |
| I'm unemployed | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 155 |

Q5 How important is it to you that the Township's population continues to be maintained or grow?

Answered: 154 Skipped: 2

Ishpeming Township Master Plan and Recreation Plan Community Survey (2024)

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Over-regulated | 5.88% | 9 |
| Properly regulated | 46.41% | 71 |
| Under-regulated | 7.19% | 11 |
| I don't know enough about the current zoning | 40.52% | 62 |
| TOTAL | | 153 |

Q15 What change would you like to see within Ishpeming Township?

Answered: 102 Skipped: 54

Q16 Is there anything else you would like to add that was not addressed by the questions? If you would also like to expand on any of your previous responses, please do so here.

Answered: 37 Skipped: 119

Q17 Ishpeming Township is also updating their 5-year recreation plan. The following questions will inform community priorities. In the past two years, what recreational activities have you or a member of your household participated in? (please list all, for example: hiking, biking, kayaking, etc.)

Answered: 113 Skipped: 43

Q18 Please list what you VALUE about the parks and recreational opportunities in Ishpeming Township.

Answered: 89 Skipped: 67

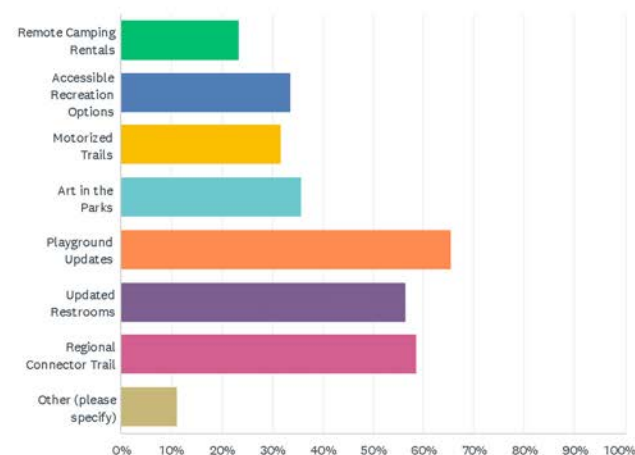
Q19 Please list what you would like to see CHANGED regarding parks and recreational opportunities in Ishpeming Township.








Answered: 76 Skipped: 80

Q20 Please select the parks and recreation project ideas you would like to see happen within the township, and provide your own ideas.

Answered: 145 Skipped: 11

Ishpeming Township Master Plan and Recreation Plan Community Survey (2024)



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|-----------|----|
|  Remote Camping Rentals | 23.45% | 34 |
|  Accessible Recreation Options | 33.79% | 49 |
|  Motorized Trails | 31.72% | 46 |
|  Art in the Parks | 35.86% | 52 |
|  Playground Updates | 65.52% | 95 |
|  Updated Restrooms | 56.55% | 82 |
|  Regional Connector Trail | 58.62% | 85 |
| Other (please specify) | 11.03% | 16 |
| Total Respondents: 145 | | |

Q21 Is there anything else you would like to add about parks and recreation in Ishpeming Township? If you'd like to expand on any previous questions, please do so here.

Answered: 28 Skipped: 128

B

Appendix

GRANT HISTORY

1977, #26-01023-X3, \$10,073

An MDNR Land and Water Conservation Fund grant was used to fence in the tot lot, parking lot resurfacing, benches, and landscaping.

1986, #TF86-280, \$25,000

An MDNR Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant was used by the township to acquire the 9 acre recreation area that was previously leased from the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company.

GRANT NOTES, APPLICATIONS, AND AWARDS

C

Appendix

DNR ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR DESIGN

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

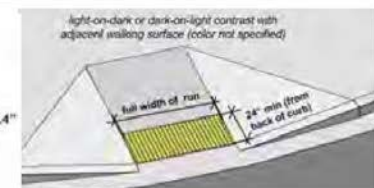
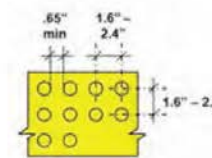
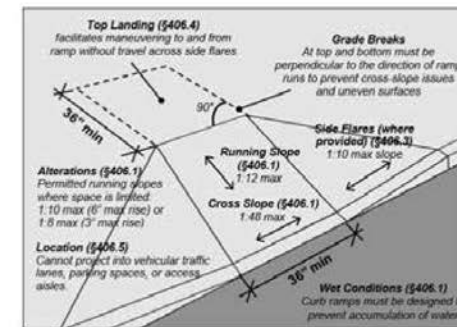
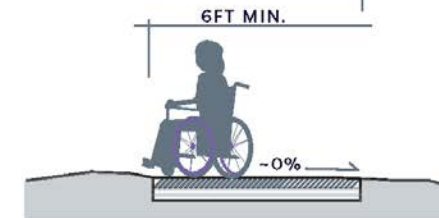
Michigan DNR Guidelines

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

- WALKWAYS WITHIN A SITE - minimum 6 foot width and slopes under 2%
- MULTI-USE TRAIL - 8 feet, with slopes under 2%, wider width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass
- REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM - at least 10 feet wide, with 1-foot buffers on either side, with slopes under 2%
- SURFACE TREATMENT - unitary surface (ex. concrete, boardwalk or asphalt, crushed aggregate/screenings that have been "stabilized" or natural soils enhanced with soil stabilizers)
- TRANSITIONS - plates between trail and pedestrian bridges, decks, etc.
- INTERSECTIONS - contrasting color treatment and textured surface treatments such as brushed concrete at intersections or interpretive stations to cue people who have vision impairments that there is something to pay attention to at that spot
- Close to level cross slopes (side to side) and very gentle running slopes, no steep sections, larger (greater than 60"x60") level areas at all turns and intersections
- Thoughtfully laid out on the site to maximize the experience with minimal difficulty
- AMENITIES - All should be accessible including: benches, restrooms (port-a-johns), drinking fountains, etc.

Quick reference of minimum requirements for accessible spaces. The 2010 American with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design Guidelines provide a comprehensive resource. https://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm

- Clear width is 36" min for most accessible routes
- Surfaces: 1/4" max change, slopes less than 5%, firm and stable
- Head Clearance: 80" high and as wide as the route
- Clear Space: min 30" wide by 48" deep located at element
- Viewing: clear from 32"-51" height
- Maneuvering space: 60"x60" min and level, at entries and places for change of direction
- Transferable height: 17"-19" with transfer supports
- Knee Clearance: 27" high by 30" wide by 25" deep
- Table tops, counters, and rail heights: max 34" high
- Reach range: 48" max height forward and 15" min low side
- Operation: operating mechanism that is operable with one hand and does not require tight pinch/grasp/wrist twist to open



GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

BEACH

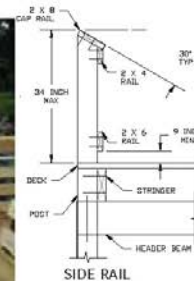
- Routes over the beach and into the water, can be portable/temporary matting if it needs to be taken in and out for beach cleaning/ dragging or in the off season
- Wide enough for side by side walking/passing
- At beach route end have an accessible area at the waters edge large enough to park multiple chairs while the owners are in the water
- With a transfer system at the waters edge so people can get down to the ground level and into the water.



TRANSFER STATION

FISHING DOCK + VIEWING DECK

- More than 25% of the rails are lowered in various locations or no rails at all with only an edge treatment to prevent roll off
- Sitting benches (all with backs and arm rests) scattered about so anglers can choose to sit or stand to fish
- Tackle box stands next to one bench end (not both) leaving one end clear space for sitting side by side with someone in a wheelchair
- A variety of fish landing cutaways strategically placed
- A variety of accessible opportunities—over-water fishing, shore fishing, in-water fishing, etc.
- Transition plates between access route and deck/pier



CAMPING

- Accessible surface on all sites, including rustic sites
- Larger spaces to accommodate side lifts on campers and vehicles
- Accessible tables, grills (15" minimum, 34" maximum height), and fire rings on all sites
- Centrally located restrooms on easy routes from each site



GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

SKIING + SLEDDING HILL

- Accessible route to top (no steps), possibly using a “magic carpet” lift
- Level surface for sled mounting at hill top
- If staffed, provide ATV transport or have policy that allows personal ATV use
- Transfer at hill bottom to help transfer down to sled and back up into chair/walker



<https://www.movingmountainsap.org/>

SPORT COURTS + FIELDS

- Routes to both sides of all fields and courts, not just end zones
- Accessible seating spaces both ground level and elevated if risers/bleachers are provided
- Accessible seating spaces scattered throughout all viewing areas and levels with companion seating on both sides of the space
- All lowered service windows at all concession areas
- Wider gate openings into court areas (tennis, bocce, basketball) and skate parks to accommodate wider sports wheelchairs
- Routes to both horseshoe pits and along both sides of the route between pits
- Level routes onto bocce courts with sitting benches at both ends



MAGIC CARPET LIFT



GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

- PLAYGROUNDS**
- Has both ramp and transfer access to all play components
 - Ramps to every “getting on spot” or “sit/stand & do it spot” of every play component
 - Transfer system from the ground up to the main deck located near the exits of slides and climbers furthest from the ramp onto the structure
 - Only unitary safety surface such as poured-in-place or rubber tiles NOT any loose fill materials like shredded rubber, wood chips, engineered wood fiber, or any other non-unitary surface material
 - On deck transfer platform at the entry point of every slide
 - On deck transfer platform with one open transfer side and one side with transfer steps to every entry/exit point of every climber, so kids climbing up can get down to the deck to move to another component, as they may have left an assistive device at the ground
 - A good variety of things to manipulate that make noise or music, have high contrast/bright colors, games that two kids can play (to foster social interaction), Braille and sign language panels to teach awareness, easy to operate with just one hand with a whole fist (does not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate)
 - Different high contrast colors for decks versus transfers so kids with low vision can perceive a change in level
 - Play panels are located at heights so they can be used from a seated position or standing



GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

BOARDWALKS

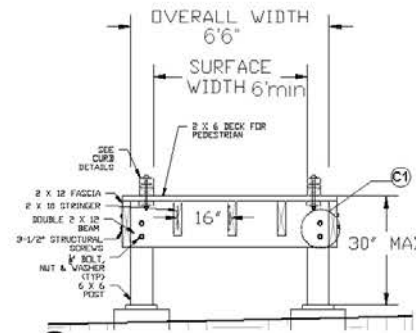
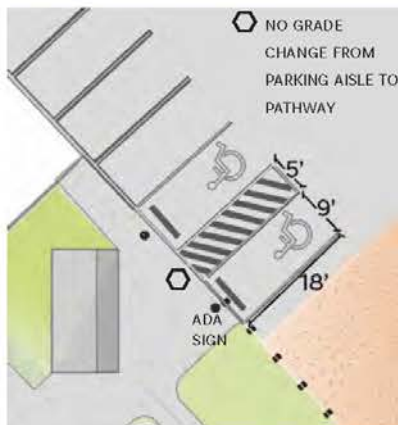
- (A) -6 foot minimum width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass
- (B) -EDGE TREATMENT to prevent roll/step off
- (C) -SIDE RAILS - more than 25% must be lowered for easy viewing in various places along the boardwalk
 - INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION - in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.

NATURE CENTER

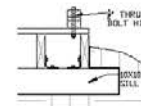
- INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION -in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.
- TECHNOLOGY - Creative use such as mp3 players for auditory descriptions (this gives the info. directly to the individual) closed loop assistive listening devices and closed circuit captioning of all interpretive presentations
- All displays at lowered heights for sitting or standing viewing
- All operating mechanisms that are operable with one hand and do not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate

PARKING

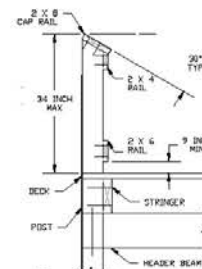
- More than minimum number of accessible spots
- Each connected directly to an accessible route to the park elements and NOT into the traffic flow
- Thoughtfully located nearest the activity entrance, which might require multiple lots (some near the beach, some near the playground, some near the bathhouse, etc.)



(A) MINIMUM WIDTH



(B) BUMPER RAIL



(C) SIDE RAIL

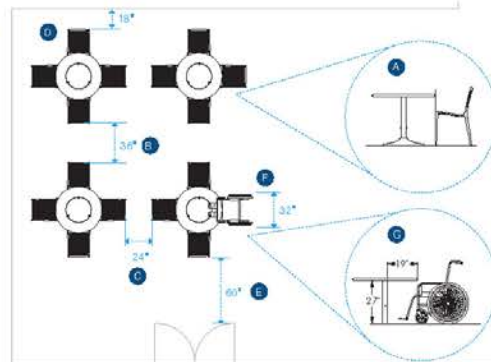
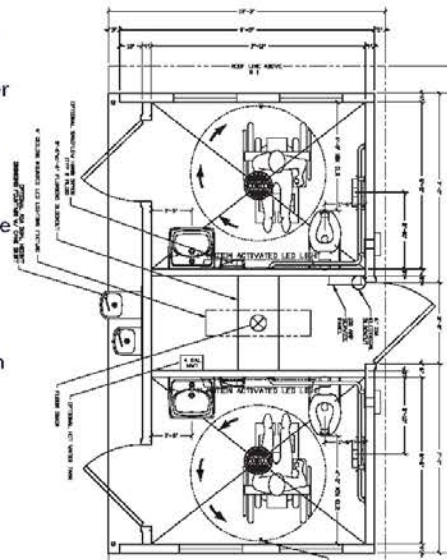
GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

RESTROOMS

- More than the minimum number of accessible units
- Multiple unisex/single user toilet rooms/units so opposite sex care givers can assist; also good for parents of young children of the opposite sex so kids aren't sent alone into the multi-user restroom
- Thoughtfully located near areas of activity such as play areas, beaches, fishing piers, etc.
- Accessible door pulls and water faucet handles
- All accessible port-a-johns, again big enough for individual use or care giver/parental assistance.

PICNIC AREAS + ELEMENTS

- All tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc. are accessible
- All located on accessible routes
- Level routes onto pavilions with no changes of level from path to pavilion surface
- Wider routes and clear space with firm surface around all elements so someone with mobility limits can easily move around the element (table, grill, etc.)
- A variety of table styles, some with clear sitting space on the side, some with extended table tops on the end
- Some fixed tables to ensure they remain accessible (not moved off into a grassy or sandy area, etc.)
- Clear space all around each element so people can approach and use the grill, fire ring, etc. from the front, back and either side
- Grills you can lower/raise the cooking surface with one hand
- Raised fire building surfaces so you can place wood without leaning too far over from a standing or seated position



- A. Distances referenced here assume the front edge of a chair lines up with the edge of a table top.
- B. Allow a minimum of 36" between seat backs to permit wheelchair access between tables.
- C. Allow a minimum of 24" between seat backs to provide a walkway between tables.
- D. Allow a minimum of 18" between a seat back and a wall or edge to permit access to all seats.
- E. Allow a minimum of 60" between a seat back and a site's entrance to allow for easy egress.
- F. Please refer to ADA guidelines and local codes to determine the number of wheelchair accessible seating spaces needed in a seating group. It is recommended that a minimum of 32" in width be provided to accommodate a wheelchair at a table.
- G. The minimum height and depth clearances necessary to accommodate a wheelchair at a table are 27" and 19", respectively.