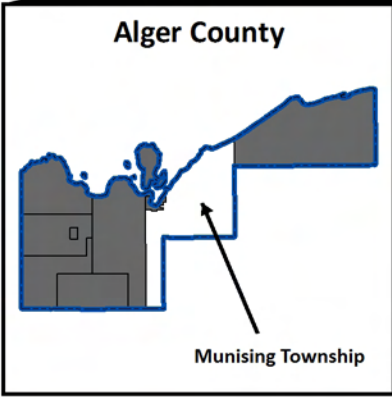
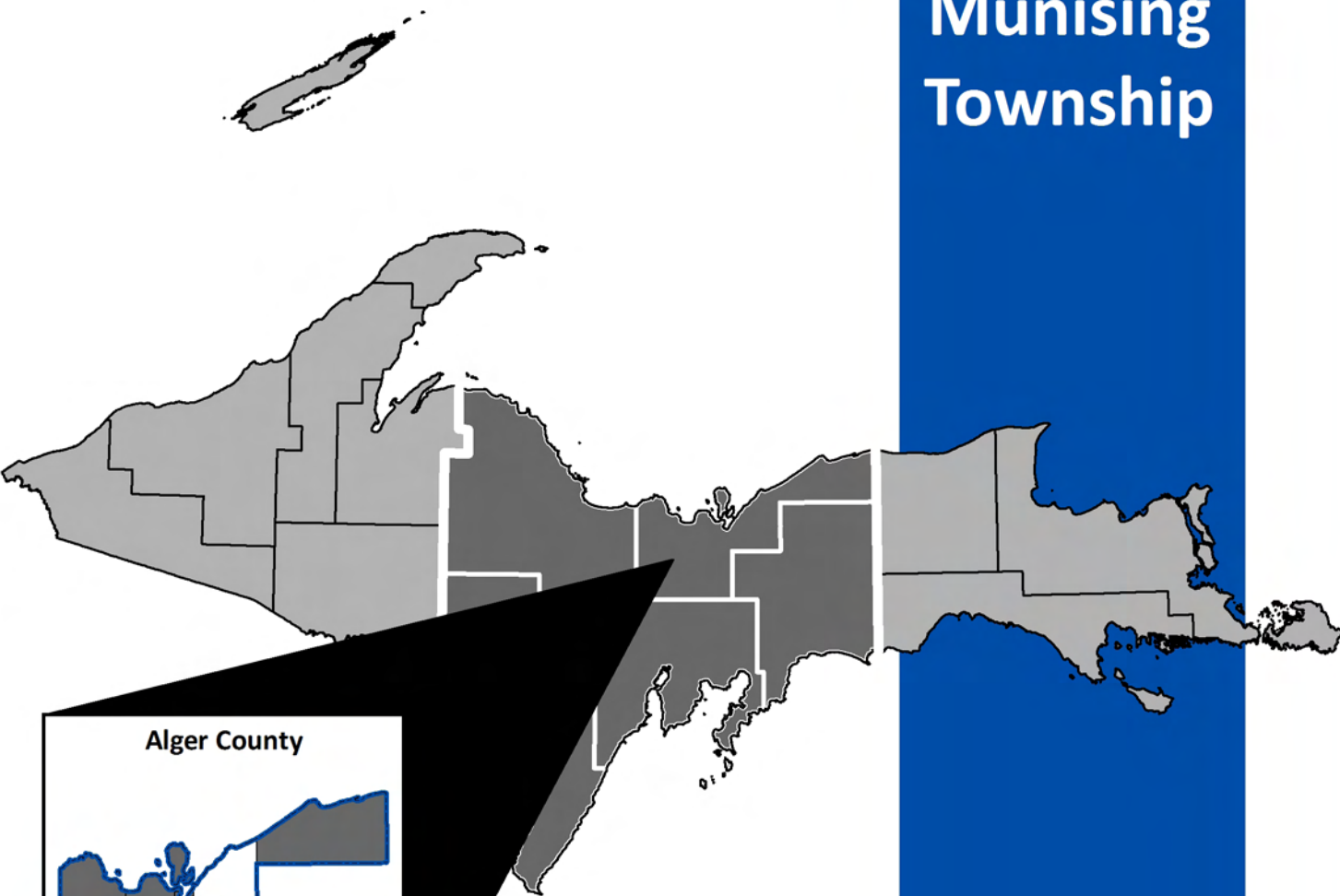


# Munising Township



## Recreation Plan 2013 - 2017

Prepared By:  
Munising Township Planning Commission  
&  
Munising Township Board  
Adopted: November 5, 2012





## COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

*By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants*

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: <span style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue;">MUNISING TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2013-2017</span>		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
<span style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue;">MUNISING TOWNSHIP</span>	<span style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue;">ALGER</span>	<span style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue;">NOVEMBER 2012</span>

PLAN CONTENT
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations</li> </ul> </li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</b></li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>3. RECREATION INVENTORY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</b></li> </ul>

**6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
  - Date of the Notice September 26, 2012
  - Type of Notice Newspaper
  - Plan Location Township Hall, Township Website CUPPAD Website
  - Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 40 days
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
  - Date of Notice September 26, 2012
  - Name of Newspaper The Munising News
  - Date of Meeting November 5, 2012
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

**7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**8. ACTION PROGRAM**

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: November 5, 2012
- 2. Official resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: 12/3/12
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: 12/3/12

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Munising Township

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated

 11/28/12  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government      Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

**DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grants Management      Date

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Munising Township, with the assistance of the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission, has put together this five year recreational plan. This Recreation Plan for Munising Township should serve several useful purposes. It should serve as (1) a source of information, (2) a guide for correcting deficiencies, (3) an indicator of goals and policies, (4) a framework for making decisions, and (5) a means of stimulating public interest and participation in local community recreation projects.

Located in east central Alger County, along the southern shore of Lake Superior, Munising Township's land area is inhabited by about 2,983 people. The Township is adjacent to Au Train Township, Burt Township and the City of Munising in Alger County, Hiawatha and Inwood Townships in Schoolcraft County and Nahma Township in Delta County. The location of Munising Township is illustrated on **Map 1-1**, found in Appendix A.

## 2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Planning for and providing recreation services and open space for a community require staff (or volunteers) and funds to purchase land and open spaces to develop, operate and maintain them. This section describes how the Township's Parks and Recreation functions are carried out.

### 2.1 Organizational Structure

Under Public Act 156 of 1917, Munising Township has designated the Planning Commission to also serve as a Recreation Committee. In September 1998, the Munising Township, along with the City of Munising, Au Train Township, Grand Island Township and Alger Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) entered into a joint agreement for the provision of a public recreation system. The agreement also stipulated cooperation between other recreation related organizations as ex-officio members such as Munising Public Schools, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of Natural Resources. This agreement stated that APRD as a department shall have full responsibility and authority to provide full-time, year round broad based recreation programs to the residents of the above mentioned municipalities. The APRD committee, with representatives from each of the cooperating agencies, shall have the power to make all programming, financial, staffing, etc. decisions. APRD has filed for 501 3(c) status to act as an independent fiscal agent.

The Munising Township Board works in cooperation with the APRD and Commission to provide recreational opportunities to Munising Township residents. The Director of Parks and Recreation advises and contacts various community recreation user groups in the area and works in coordination with the groups. The Director is appointed by the APRD Board and is directly responsible to the Board in the performance of his/her duties. Responsible to the Director is all other administrative, supervisory, regular, short-term, seasonal and part-time personnel.

The Director is to advise and contact various user groups within the area and to work in coordination with these groups. These groups consist of Alger Centennial Arena, the Alger Parks and Recreation Board, City Recreation Committee, Munising Public Schools, Little League Baseball and Softball, Adult Co-ed Softball Leagues, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, National Parks Service and US Forest Service, as well as various others interested in recreation.

The APRD is funded by the General Funds of Munising Township, Grand Island Township, Au Train Township and the City of Munising. The maintenance on Munising Township owned recreational facilities is the responsibility of the Township and is performed by Township volunteers, staff or is contracted out. Programming of recreational classes, leagues and activities is administered through the APRD Director and staff. These programs include activities such as athletics, enrichment and parks for seniors, adults, youth and families. Figure 2-1 illustrates the organization chart for the joint recreational partnership agreement.

**Figure 2-1**



## 2.2 Community Volunteer Groups

Munising Township works cooperatively with the APRD to develop recreational opportunities in the area. Munising Township has also been working closely with the Munising Tennis Association to expand the opportunity to play tennis in Munising Township. The Township does not have a formal relationship with the school district at this time.

## 2.3 Parks and Recreation Budget

Munising Township allocates approximately \$33,000 per year to the APRD for recreational programming. Munising Township will spend approximately \$12,000 from the General Fund for Parks and Recreation in FY2012-2013. Additional funding is allocated when improvement projects are lined up. The maintenance on Munising Township owned recreational facilities is the responsibility of the Township and is performed by a part-time Township employee.

### 3.0 RECREATION INVENTORY

#### 3.1 Township Parks and Recreation Facilities

Township parks and recreational facilities are discussed in this section. Condition and other relevant factors are presented. Munising Township owns three recreation facilities, two in Wetmore and one in Shingleton. The Township also boasts many recreational facilities not owned by the Township. Recreation sites discussed below are illustrated on **Map 3-1** in Appendix A and the sites were evaluated visually during the development of the Master Plan. The Township owned facilities were evaluated for accessibility and determined the facilities are in need of updates to improve the accessibility for all users; accessibility improvements are included as objectives in this plan. The following rating scale was used:

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

#### **Robert McQuisten Munising Township Recreational Area**

The Wetmore area has the greatest concentration of population; therefore the Robert McQuisten Munising Township Recreational Area is being developed into an organized recreational area. Accessible development of the park is the number one priority for the Munising Township Board as well as residents.

- **Size:** 28 acres total, 10 acres developed
- The Robert McQuisten Munising Township Recreational Area currently has a Little League Field, two (2) full basketball courts, playground, boardwalk, pavilion and a parking lot. The Munising Township Building was designed and constructed to meet all applicable accessibility standards at the time of construction.
- **Accessibility Rating: 2**

#### **Wetmore Community Park**

The Wetmore Community Park is located in Wetmore adjacent to the Munising Township Office complex (site of the Munising Township Hall). The park is somewhat small and is used frequently. The community park is beginning to show its age; the equipment is in need of repair and replacement.

- **Size:** 0.75 acres
- The park contains two (2) tennis courts. The tennis court cracks were repaired in 2007.
- **Accessibility Rating: 1**

#### **Shingleton Community Park**

The Shingleton Community Park is located in Shingleton on Park Street and is bounded by state land and H-15. The park is in need of completion and updates in order to be used to its full capabilities. The community building is handicapped accessible.

- **Size:** Ten (10) acres
- The park contains a softball diamond, tot lot, basketball court, community building and parking area. The baseball field playing surface was repaired in 2007.
- **Accessibility Rating: 2**

### 3.2 MDNR Recreation Grant Status

Since 1988, Munising Township has received three recreation grants from the MDNR. In 1988, the Township received a grant in the amount of \$37,500 for the Munising Township Recreation Area to acquire approximately 28 acres of property now known as the Robert McQuisten Munising Township Recreational Area in the community of Wetmore. In 2001, the Township received approximately \$175,000 to develop a barrier-free boardwalk and natural trail with interpretative signage around Cox Pond and adjacent wetland areas. In 2003, an additional \$135,000 of funding was received for the park to extend the boardwalk and nature trail, construct a pavilion, add barrier free fishing sites and for fish habitat improvements. All three grants were successfully closed out by Munising Township. The Robert McQuisten Munising Township Recreational Area is used frequently by area residents and visitors. The facility is in excellent condition. The Township desires to make additional improvements to the Recreational Area in order to increase accessibility and incorporate universal design policies where feasible, particularly to improve access to the boardwalk from the parking lot.

### 3.3 Area Recreation Facilities

The area also boasts many recreational facilities that are administered by other entities. The recreational areas are discussed below.

#### Hiawatha National Forest

- United States Forest Service
- Size: 37,959 acres in Munising Township
- Hiawatha National Forest is an 880,000-acre National Forest. Commercial logging is conducted in some areas. There are over 100 miles of shoreline within the National Forest.

#### Island Lake Campground

- United States Forest Service
- Size: 5 acres
- The campground is located south of Wetmore on Forest Route 2557. The campground, composed of two unnamed loops, is located on Island Lake. Some sites overlook the lake but most do not. Canoeing and boating on this small lake are favorite activities. A very tranquil campground that is convenient to many of the area's sights such as Wagner Falls Scenic Site, Grand Island National Recreation Area and one of several historic lighthouses.

#### Pete's Lake Campground

- United States Forest Service
- Size: Not Available
- The campground has 41 private and forested sites and is located on Forest Road 2173. Each site is equipped with a picnic table and grill. Vault toilets and drinking water sources are conveniently located throughout the campground. The campground is handicapped accessible. Surrounded by many lakes, this recreation area offers much in the way of camping, hiking, fishing, and swimming, boating, and picnicking. All roads are black topped (perfect for bike riding).



**Moccasin Lake Campground**

- United States Forest Service
- Size: Two areas of three acres in size
- The Moccasin Lake rest area is located on FH-13 and has a picnic area with a boat launch.

**Widewaters Campground**

- United States Forest Service
- Size: Two areas of 13 acres in size
- Widewaters Campground is situated on the Indian Wild and Scenic River, 13 miles south of Munising, on Highway H-13, then 1/2 mile NW on FR-2262. There are opportunities for canoeing, fishing and hiking. The campground boasts 34 campsites and two boat launches. Approved drinking water pumps and vault toilets are conveniently placed throughout the campground. Tables and grills are also located at each site.

**Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore**

- United States National Park Service
- Size: 28,000 total acres in buffer zone; 73,000 total acres in Lakeshore
- More than 73,000 acres extending from Munising to Grand Marais are included in the National Park Service's Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. An interpretive center is located at Munising Falls and is open from May through October. A year-round interagency visitor center, operated in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, is located at the junction of M-28 and H-58 (East Munising Avenue). Park headquarters are located at Sand Point. Among the park's most popular features is the North Country National Scenic Trail. Campsites are located along the trail every two to five miles. Only foot and boat traffic is allowed in the backcountry. Twenty-one single and group campsites are found along the trail. Non-hikers can access three campgrounds from road H-58. These campsites at Hurricane River, Twelvemile Beach and Little Beaver campgrounds have water, tables, grills and primitive toilets available for users. Visitors to the PRNL enjoy sightseeing, picnicking, boating, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, hiking, fishing and hunting. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and ice fishing are popular during the winter months. There are over twenty miles of cross-country ski trails throughout PRNL. Fifty miles of designated snowmobile routes and 100 miles of hiking trails are contained within the PRNL.

**Pictured Rocks Golf Club**

- Privately owned 18-hole golf course
- The front nine at Pictured Rocks Golf Club was the original nine when the course opened in 1968, the back nine opened in 1995. The golf club offers a variety of memberships for any age. There is a driving range, practice putting green, powered golf cart and club rentals, a pro shop and restaurant/bar.

**McKeever Hills Ski Trails**

- United States Forest Service
- Trails for cross-country skiing and hiking located off of H-13. In the summer, hikers can walk the cross country ski trails. This hilly trail affords beautiful vistas of McKeever, Wedge, Pete's and Kimball lakes. The C loop of this trail below Wedge Lake connects to the larger Bruno's Run Trail. There are three cross-country ski loops, ranging from easy to difficult.

**Oakwood Horse Trail**

- United States Forest Service
- Located off of Hovey Lake Road, the Oakwood Trail system provides an 11-mile horseback riding trail through a variety of forest types from oak to maple to pine. The terrain is mostly flat with occasional gentle hills. Through cooperative arrangement, the route is signed and maintained by the North Coast Riding Club. Trail markers are red, and locator maps are posted at trail intersections. Most of the route is located on 2-track roads open to motorized vehicles.

**Wandering Wheels Campground**

- Privately owned campground
- Located 3 miles from downtown Munising on Highway M-28 with 440 acres of trails, biking trails, outdoor heated pool, horseshoes, playground, bike rental and a gift shop.

**Additional Recreational Facilities**

**Sand Point Beach:** Sand Point beach is located on Lake Superior just east of Munising and is part of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Sand Point was named one of the "Top 5 Summer Beaches in America" by the Weather Channel. The undeveloped sand beach is ideal for children and a perfect place for kayaking launching. The beach is also a popular spot for watching the sunset over Munising Bay. A boardwalk is also located at Sand Point.

**Grand Island:** All except 44 of the island's 13,500 acres are part of the Hiawatha National Forest since being acquired in 1990 from the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company. The island is accessible by private boat or Forest Service ferry service. Visitors can hike, camp, fish, sightsee, bike or kayak. ALTRAN provides a bus tour of the island from beginning June 15<sup>th</sup> and continuing into October. The ferry departs from the Grand Island landing. The landing is located one mile west of the Munising city limits. A 23-mile trail for biking and hiking follows the shoreline of the island. Campsites include fire rings picnic tables, and bear poles. A day use area has been developed at Murray Bay that includes toilets, benches and pedestal grills. Two cabins were constructed in 2008.

**Munising Falls:** Located across from Munising Memorial Hospital on Washington Street in Munising, Munising Falls is a part of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. This is a fully accessible site with parking and picnic areas, restrooms, the Munising Falls Interpretive Center, and a scenic 0.5 miles walk to the base of the 50-foot waterfall.

**Wagner Falls:** This scenic site is owned and maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Munising on M-94. A short walking trail begins at the parking area and leads to a series of small waterfalls that stretch for about 100 feet.

**Alger Falls:** This site is located about 1 mile south of Munising at the junction of M-28 and M-94. The waterfall cascades down about 30 feet of rock and is visible along the east side of M-28.

**Horseshoe Falls:** This privately-owned site is located within the Munising city limits and small admission fee is required. It is open daily from May 1 through October 15 and is accessible from Bell Avenue near the southern city limit.

**Rudy Olson Memorial Falls:** This site (formerly known as Tannery Falls) was donated to the Michigan Nature Association by the widow of Mr. Olson in 1987. It features a drop of about 40 feet from a rock shelf to its canyon below. It can be accessed from road H-58 at the base of Washington Street. There are no provisions for visitor parking.

**MNA Memorial Falls:** The Michigan Nature Association acquired this site in 1987. It is located about 500 feet from the Rudy Olson Memorial Falls, but on a different stream. Access to the top of the falls requires a walk of only a few hundred feet off of Nestor Street on the City of Munising's east side.

**Grand Island Harbor Scenic Turnout:** This Michigan Department of Transportation rest area provides vaulted toilets, drinking water, a picnic table, information and a short pathway leading to an overlook of Grand Island and Munising Bay.

**Valley Spur Cross-country Ski Trail:** Located within the Hiawatha National Forest, Valley Spur features 12 groomed and marked trails that cover 42 miles. Rental equipment and food are available in the warming shelter located along M-94 about 5 miles southwest of Munising.

Beginning with the 2007-2008 season, the Valley Spur trail system now falls under the Noquemanon Trail Network organizational umbrella. However, grooming and maintenance as well as the lodge operations are the responsibility of the non-profit group, Friends of Valley Spur. In addition to wintertime activities, Valley Spur offers 26 miles of biking trails for mountain biking enthusiasts. All of the trails are shared with hikers.

**Bay Furnace Campground and Picnic Area:** This facility is a Hiawatha National Forest campground and provides 50 campsites, vaulted toilet facilities, a sanitation station, and a lighted cross-country ski trail. It is located about 5 miles northwest of the City of Munising on M-28 on Lake Superior.

**Hovey Lake Campground:** This facility is a United States Forest Service campground approximately 5 acres in size. Hovey Lake Camping is an isolated family type camping area located 8 miles southwest of Munising on M-94, then 4 miles southeast on FR-2254, and south

on FR-2473. Toilets and drinking water are available. This small campground, located on the east side of the lake, is a good place for canoeing, bird watching, or just enjoying nature's surroundings. There are 5 campsites, each with a table and fire ring. Hovey Lake Campground is a no fee area.

**Alger County Underwater Preserve:** In 1981, the Michigan DNR declared the 113 square mile area an underwater preserve, protecting its underwater natural resources. This preserve extends from Au Train Point to Au Sable Point and was the first underwater preserve selected in the state. Thirteen dive sites have been designated where varying features can be viewed at depths ranging from six to 100 feet. Diving enthusiasts can explore sunken ships, artifacts, large colorful rocks and sea caves. An extensive historical record of the shipwrecks has been compiled. Among the shipwrecks is the *BERMUDA*, a 150-foot wooden hull schooner; the *MANHATTAN*, a 252-foot wooden hull freighter; the *HERMAN H. HETTLER*, a 210-foot wooden steamer; a 230-foot wooden hull steam barge, the *SMITH MOORE*; the steamer, *SUPERIOR*; the freighter, *KIOWA*; and a steel tug, the *STEVEN M. SELVICK*, the first vessel intentionally sunk within the Michigan underwater preserve system as a dive site.

**U.S. Forest Service Pathways:** Many trails have been developed by the U.S. Forest Service to accommodate recreational activities such as cross-country skiing, biking, hiking, and horseback riding.

**North Country National Scenic Trail:** The North Country National Scenic Trail bisects the northern half of Munising Township. The trail stretches more than 4,600 miles from Crown Point in eastern New York to Lake Sakakawea in western North Dakota. The trail is administered by the National Park Service, managed by federal, state, and local agencies, and built and maintained primarily by the volunteers of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) and its partners.

## 4.0 DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

### 4.1 Community Data

#### 4.1.1 Population

For any planning endeavor, careful attention must be given to the analysis of population trends and projections. Such an analysis is necessary to determine existing or future needs based on the characteristics of the area's population. Population analysis assists with determining the direction of local capital improvements and related expenditures. For recreation planning, population data is also useful when applying recreation standards to a community.

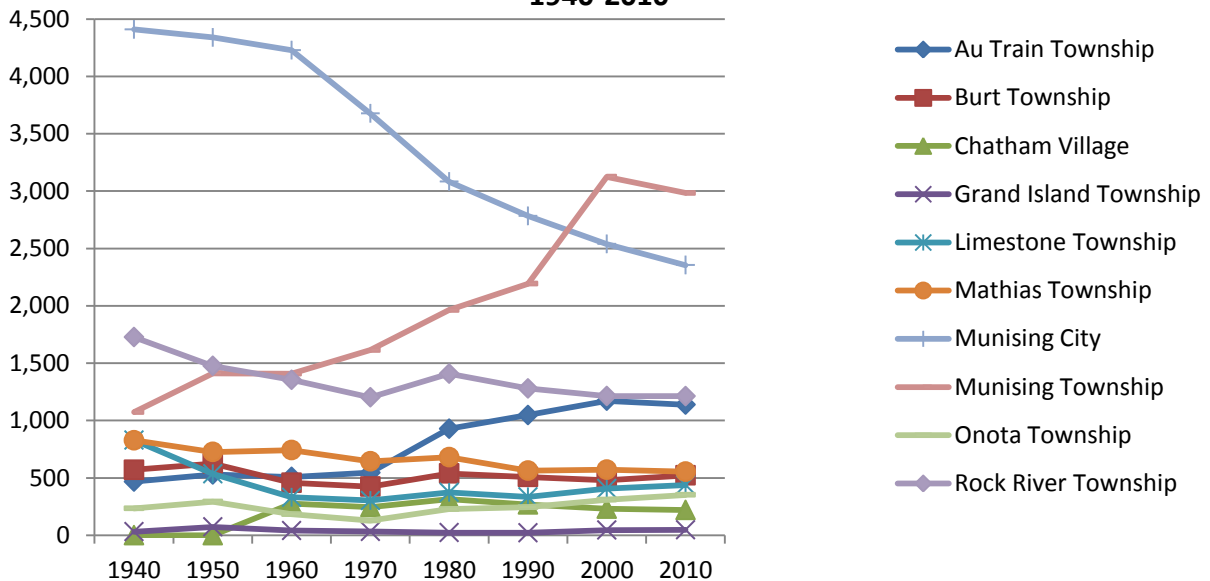
Munising Township has experienced a substantial increase in population from 1940 to 2010. The Township's population grew from 1,073 in 1940 to 2,983 in 2010, representing a 178.0 percent increase. Many Townships in the Upper Peninsula have experienced similar growth, while cities in the region have observed a population decline over the same time period, as the City of Munising has. After a peak of 4,409 residents in 1940, the City has experienced a population decline of 46.6 percent to 2,355 in 2010.

Munising Township’s growth has tapered only slightly in recent years; the Township expanded its’ population 42.4 percent from 1990 to 2000, while the Township’s population declined by approximately 4.5 percent from 2000 to 2010. Many area township populations have increased due to an out-migration of residents from urban to rural areas. Au Train Township and Onota Township have experienced significant growth as well. Table 4-1 reports the population for selected areas from 1940 to 2010.

Governmental Unit	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	% Change 1940-2010
<b>Munising Township</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>2,983</b>	<b>178.0</b>
Au Train Township	467	529	508	545	928	1,047	1,172	1,138	143.7
Burt Township	570	624	457	424	539	508	480	522	-8.4
Chatham Village	-	-	275	246	315	268	231	220	-
Grand Island Township	31	73	40	32	23	21	45	47	51.6
Limestone Township	829	535	330	302	373	334	407	438	-47.2
Mathias Township	827	726	742	644	680	563	571	554	-33.0
Munising City	4,409	4,339	4,228	3,677	3,083	2,783	2,539	2,355	-46.6
Onota Township	234	293	183	128	228	244	310	352	50.4
Rock River Township (w/ Village of Chatham)	1,727	1,476	1,354	1,202	1,408	1,279	1,213	1,212	-29.8
Alger County	10,167	10,007	9,250	8,568	9,225	8,972	9,862	9,601	-5.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, years cited.

**Population, Alger County Municipalities  
1940-2010**



### 4.1.2 Age Characteristics

The age of the residents of an area may indicate emerging needs for recreational facilities. According to data obtained in the 2010 Census, the population of Munising Township is significantly younger than Alger County as a whole. Munising Township's median age in 2010 was 37.5, much lower than that of Alger County (45.0), as well as Michigan (37.6) and the United States (37.2) overall. From 1980 to 2010, the Township experienced an 8.8 year increase in the median age of its residents. While the median age rose in every municipality in Alger County, Onota Township's 26.1 year increase was the most dramatic. Table 4-2 presents comparative data on median age.

Area	1980	1990	2000	2010	Change 1980-2010
<b>Munising Township</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>+8.8</b>
Au Train Township	30.1	36.2	42.3	51.7	+21.6
Burt Township	42.2	48.1	56.7	62.9	+20.7
Chatham Village	--	36.2	40.8	42.5	--
Grand Island Township	42.5	37.5	45.8	50.5	+8.0
Limestone Township	32.8	37.8	45.5	51.5	+18.7
Mathias Township	31.6	39.9	44.6	49.1	+17.5
Munising City	34.3	39.7	43.8	45.7	+11.4
Onota Township	31.4	38.6	49.8	57.5	+26.1
Rock River Township	29.9	36.1	42.3	46.3	+16.4
Alger County	31.6	36.7	41.2	45.0	+13.4
State of Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5	37.6	+8.8
United States	30.0	32.9	35.3	37.2	+7.2

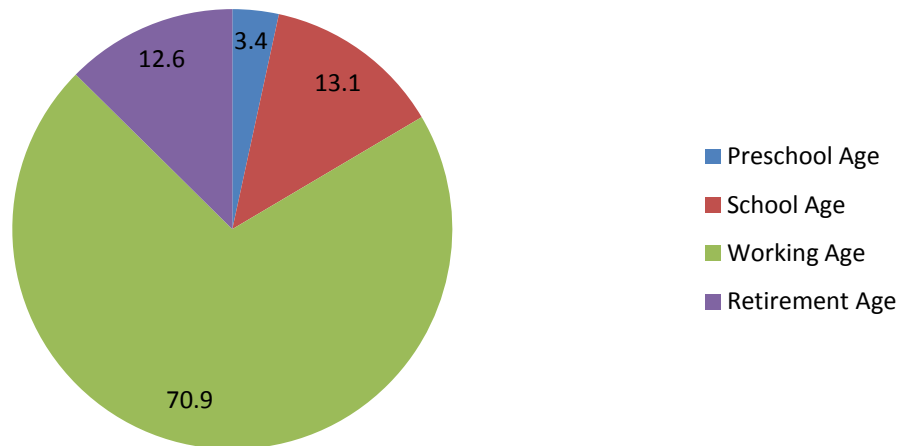
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 Census Table DP-1, 2000 Census of the Population, STF 1A, Table 1; 1990 Census of the Population, General Population Characteristics, Table 44; 1980 Census of the Population, Table 33.

In 2010, the age group of 25-29 made up the largest portion of the Township's total population, at 269 persons, or 9.0 percent; the 20-24 age group was the second largest at 246 persons, or 8.2 percent. Many Upper Peninsula natives leave the area after high school to attend college and obtain jobs. The lack of jobs in the area is often cited as the reason for losing local youth. The elderly population, which includes those 65 years and older, made up 12.6 percent of the total population in 2010. The data indicates that the population of the Township is aging, although much slower than other Alger County municipalities. Growth of the older segment of the population influences the type and costs of services offered by the Township and other providers.

In recent decades, there has been a shift in population from the school age and working age population into the retired age group. This change has occurred almost universally across the country. The proportion of individuals in the preschool and school age groups continues to shrink which contributes declining school enrollment. Many residents in the working age population have been forced to move to areas with more employment opportunities. As the "baby boomers" begin to reach retirement age, a smaller proportion of the population is participating in the workforce. With a diminishing workforce, there are fewer people contributing to pension funds and additional programs that support retirees. As the number of

working persons decreases in comparison to retirees, there is distress over the future of programs such as Social Security.

**Munising Township  
Percent of Residents by Age Group, 2010**



#### **4.1.3 Gender**

The majority of the population in Munising Township is male (64.7 percent).

#### **4.1.4 Household Characteristics**

Evaluation of the changes in household characteristics in a community can often provide additional insights about population trends. Household relationships reflect changing social values, economic conditions, and demographic changes such as increased lifespan and the increasing mobility of our society.

The Census defines a household as all persons who occupy a housing unit, i.e., a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any group or related or unrelated persons sharing living quarters. A family consists of a householder and one or more persons living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A non-family household can be one person living alone, or any combination of people not related by blood, marriage or adoption.

From 2000 to 2010, the number of households in the Township increased from 828 to 862, as the population decreased 4.5 percent. The average household size decreased from 2.74 persons in 2000, down to 2.47 persons per household in 2010. Across the region and the United States, smaller household sizes have been the trend, largely due to an increase in the number of single-parent households. From 2000 to 2010, non-family households have increased from 159 to 217, the majority of the increase coming from householders living alone. From 2000 to 2010, there was an increase in the number of householders over the age of 65 living alone.

Household Type	2000		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households	828	100.0	862	100.0
Family Households	669	80.8	645	74.8
Husband-Wife Family	580	70.0	543	63.0
Female Householder	53	6.4	59	6.8
Non-Family Households	159	19.2	217	25.2
Householder Living Alone	120	14.5	181	21.0
Householder 65 years and older	48	5.8	78	9.0
Average Household Size	2.74		2.47	

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of the Population and Housing, STF 1A, P003, P016 and H017A; 1990 Census of the Population and Housing, STF 1, 003, 016 and 035, 2010 Census Table DP-1.

#### **4.1.5 Economic Characteristics**

- **Household Income**

The median household income, as reported in the 2006-2010 American Community Survey estimates was \$45,625. Approximately 11.4 percent of all individuals reported incomes below the established poverty level.

- **Economic Base**

The Township benefits from the limited diversity that exists among area businesses and industries. Alger Maximum Correctional Facility provides employment for many in the Township. Manufacturing industries like the Neenah Paper mill, Hiawatha Log Homes and the Timber Products Michigan sawmill and veneer mill provide a strong base of employment for the area. Hiawatha Communications, Inc. (HCI) is the locally owned and operated holding company that oversees four Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) across the Upper Peninsula, including Hiawatha Telephone Company, in the City of Munising.

Economic activity in the service and retail trade sectors has favorably impacted employment as the tourist industry has grown. Community groups such as the Alger Chamber of Commerce, Alger County Economic Development Corporation and the Greater Munising Bay Partnership for Commerce Development have worked to bring about infrastructure improvements and have initiated marketing programs which have benefitted the local economy.

Munising Township is home to numerous smaller businesses that employ many local residents. These Township establishments include: Grand Island Wood Products, Bell Timber, Pamida, numerous hotels, Wood Island Landfill, Alger County Road Commission, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources office, People's State Bank, Johnson Brothers Equipment Rental, Remax real estate, a post office, Woodlands Restaurant, UP AutoTech, Gerou Excavating and Redi-Mix, Pictured Rocks Golf Club and Lakoski's Gravel Pit. The Township is dependent on the forest and wood products industry for employment and income. There are numerous businesses mentioned above that rely on forest yields to manufacture their wood products. Munising Township is also heavily dependent on the security industry for employment.



#### **4.1.6 Land Use**

Large scale lumbering began in Alger County in 1876 and overlapped with the last days of the Schoolcraft Furnace. Lumbering continued beyond the construction of the Detroit, Mackinac and Marquette Railroad. The first huge pines were felled along Lake Superior, which provided the only means possible for shipping the logs. Timber was also the main reason for the existence of several communities in Munising Township, including Wetmore, Shingleton, Van Meer and Melstrand. Lumbering remains an important factor in land use development in the Township today.

The establishment of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in 1966 has also had an enormous impact on land use in the Township. Land development is limited within the National Lakeshore's inland buffer zone and regulated by the Township's Zoning Ordinance. Land development is also limited by the Hiawatha National Forest.

A majority of the Township's residential development is concentrated on or around transportation corridors. Residential land use in Munising Township occurs primarily along the length of M-28 or near highway offshoots. Residences are concentrated in the communities of Wetmore and Shingleton, as well as between the two communities along M-28 and in Van Meer and Melstrand. Most of the homes are single-family residences. A great deal of residential development has occurred along available waterfront property in the Township. Waterfront development has become increasingly desirable. Zoning regulations such as setbacks and minimum lot size should be reviewed periodically to maintain balanced and appropriate levels of waterfront development.

As with most of the residential development in the Township, the majority of commercial development is concentrated near transportation corridors. Land is designated for commercial use north of M-28 in the Alger Heights/Wetmore area. The commercial uses in Munising Township are quite diverse. Commercial uses include: several hotels, a bank, a retail store, the post office, a flooring company, a gas company, a campground, auto repair, mini-golf, a gas station, storage units, a realtor and a lumber company.

Commercial forest land is dispersed throughout the Township. Substantial tracts of commercial forest reserve lands include: the land surrounding the Wagner Falls Scenic site, south of the City of Munising, west of Wetmore; land east of Wetmore and north of M-28, including lands surrounding Indian Town, continuing eastward throughout the north/central portion of the Township; pockets of land near Melstrand; and lands within the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

#### **4.1.7 Local Transportation System**

M-28 is an east-west state trunkline highway that almost completely traverses the Upper Peninsula, from Wakefield to near Sault Ste. Marie. Along with US-2, M-28 forms a pair of primary highways linking the Upper Peninsula from end to end, providing a major access route for traffic from Michigan and Canada along the southern shore of Lake Superior. M-28 is the longest state trunkline in Michigan numbered with the "M-" prefix at 290.43 miles. The entire highway is listed on the National Highway System, while three sections of M-28 are part of the

Lake Superior Circle Tour. M-28 also carries two memorial highway designations along its route.

M-94 also runs through Munising Township. M-94 is a state trunkline that runs for 89.16 miles from K. I. Sawyer to Manistique. The highway is part of the Lake Superior Circle Tour during a concurrency with M-28. In the City of Munising, M-94 joins a concurrency with M-28 and the Lake Superior Circle Tour from Munising to Shingleton. Until the turn at Shingleton, the route travels east-west rather than north-south. Between Shingleton and Manistique, M-94 is travels a north-south route.

There are 46.93 miles of primary roads located within Munising Township. Primary roads within the township are paved and examples include the portions of the following roads:

- Buckhorn Road
- Cusino Trail
- FF-13
- Connors Road
- FF-2268
- H-58
- Miners Castle Road
- H-15 (formerly known as Munising-Van Meer-Shingleton Road)
- Prospect Street

#### **4.1.8 Local Zoning**

Land use is regulated by the Munising Township Zoning Ordinance. The Township Zoning Administrator is responsible for its implementation. The Planning Commission hears conditional use permit and various other requests. The Zoning Board of Appeals hears variance requests.

## **4.2 PLANNING METHODS**

One method to assess community recreation needs is a systems approach to planning. The systems approach to planning incorporates information gained from citizen surveys and detailed recreation inventories to determine the recreation needs of a community.

### **4.2.1 The Public Input Process**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that two methods be used to incorporate public input into the recreation planning process. The Planning Commission made a Recreation Survey available to the public at the Township Hall, at the Shingleton Community Park building and on the Township website. Planning Commission members also distributed the survey to various residents and advertised the survey in the Munising News. A copy of the advertisement, the survey and a summary of the results may be found in Appendix B. The Township also advertised that the Planning Commission would be seeking input on the Recreation Plan update at their June 13, 2012 regular meeting. No citizens attended or commented. A copy of the notice may be found in Appendix B.

Munising Township advertised the draft plan was available for review on September 26, 2012 in the Munising News. A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix B. After the 30 day public review period, the Munising Township Board secured additional public input and adopted the recreation plan at their regular meeting on November 5, 2012. A copy of the advertisement and the minutes from this meeting can be found in Appendix B.

## 5.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals that follow are guides for recreation related decision making. Consideration and observance of recreation policies should ultimately lead a community toward the attainment of its short and long term goals.

Specific development projects and programs should initially be evaluated with respect to the recreation goals and then in terms of the proposal's contribution to the recreation system of Munising Township. Goals and objectives developed by Munising Township are listed below.

**GOAL: To strengthen recreation programs and opportunities available to the residents and visitors of Munising Township.**

### Objectives:

- Continued maintenance of our existing parks, recreation areas and programs through the Township's General Fund as a primary means of promoting our quality of life and economic vitality.
- Develop and/or maintain certain specialized facilities that meet our unique needs; i.e., indoor winter facilities, outdoor winter facilities.
- Continued maintenance and improvements at the Township's three parks that meet a broad range of citizen interests and preferences.
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities and services by working closely in the future with the school district, townships and the City of Munising.
- Encourage the continued development of a regional bike path/bike route system.

**GOAL: To meet the intent and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).**

### Objectives:

- Implement the modification of existing park and recreation structures and/or the construction of new park, recreation and leisure facilities to insure accessibility to all citizens regardless of ability.
- Continue to work toward inclusionary programming of park and recreation activities.
- Educate and inform private providers of recreation services who use public facilities of their responsibility to provide inclusionary opportunities for persons of all ability levels.

### 5.1 Identified Recreation Needs and Recreation Development Schedule/Action Plan

Munising Township, through the recreation development schedule, planned a number of necessary and valuable recreation projects to enhance the quality of life for all demographic groups. The Township has also recognized the need for maintenance improvements to existing facilities.

Munising Township and APRD place accessibility and barrier free facilities and programs very high on all priority lists. All facilities owned and operated by Munising Township have documented accessibility. It is the policy of the Township and APRD to provide recreational opportunities to residents and visitors regardless of their age, sex, financial or physical abilities. All new construction will be subject to barrier-free inspections. Engineering and architectural firms must comply with and exceed all ADA guidelines to receive contract consideration.

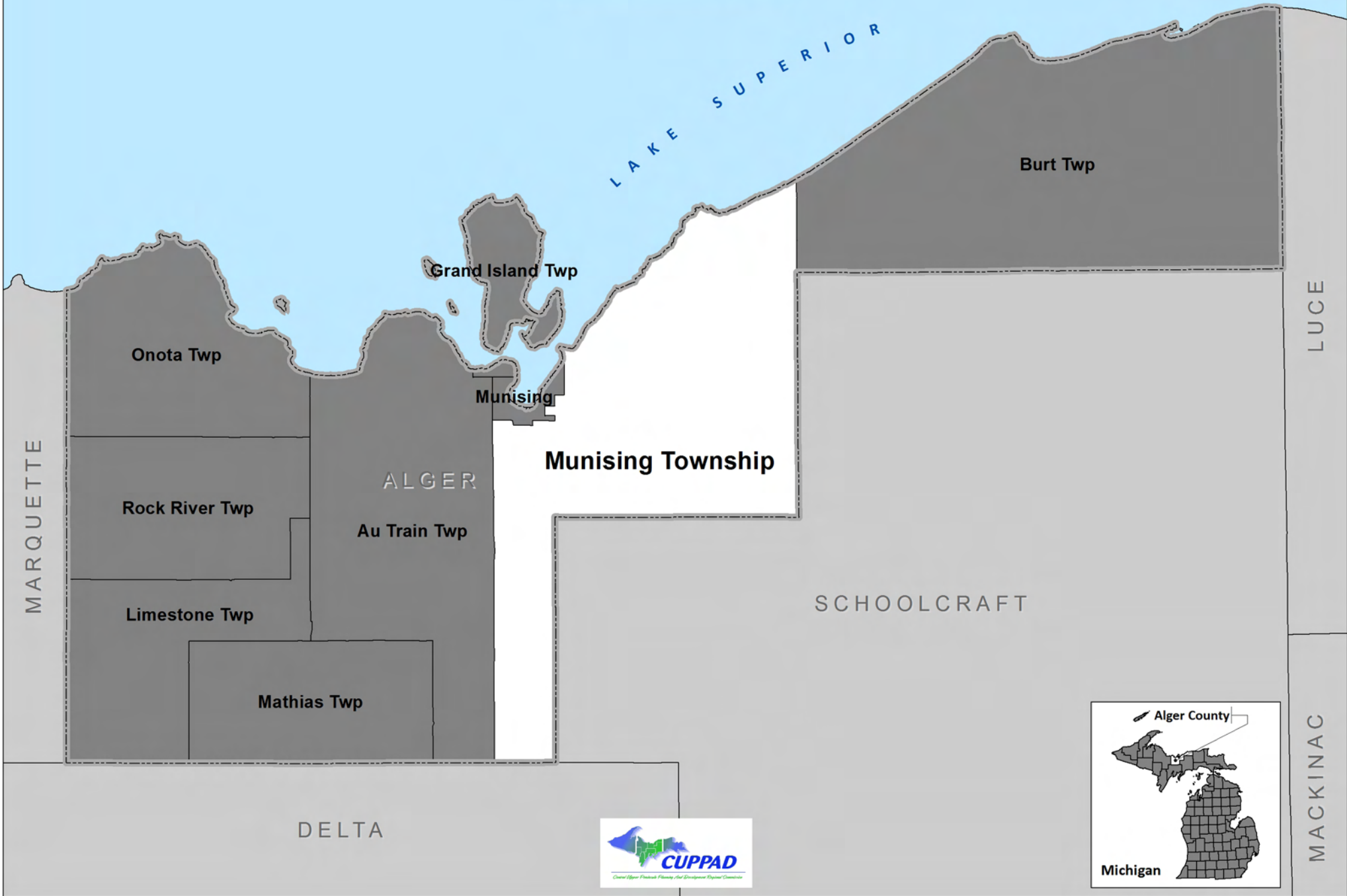
The recreation development schedule/action plan highlights the Township's top priorities as follows:

<b>Table 5-1 Recreation Development Schedule/Action Plan, Munising Township</b>	
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Approximate Cost and Potential Funding Sources</b>
Construction of 4 tennis courts at the Robert McQuisten Recreation Area including cement, surfacing, fencing, nets, posts, windscreens and sitting area	Approximately \$150,000 MDNR Recreation Grants, Township, Munising Tennis Association, various grants
Universal design improvements at the Robert McQuisten Recreation Area including upgrading the current play surface from wood chips to a unitary safety surface.	Cost unknown MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Universal design improvements to the walkway from the boardwalk parking lot to the playground continuing on to the pavilion and tennis courts, including a walkway a minimum of 6' wide, and less than 2% slope, unitary safety surface and accessible amenities.	Cost unknown MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Develop a universally designed play area at the Township Hall, including ramps and transfers, unitary safety surface and a variety of toys and equipment.	Approximately \$75,000 MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Develop a shaded play area at the Robert McQuisten Recreation Area, including the planting of trees.	Approximately \$75,000 MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Develop a picnic area, horseshoe courts and a pavilion at the Shingleton Community Park.	Approximately \$40,000 MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Improve motorized trail signage in the Township, particularly in the Shingleton area.	Approximately \$10,000 MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants

**APPENDIX A**

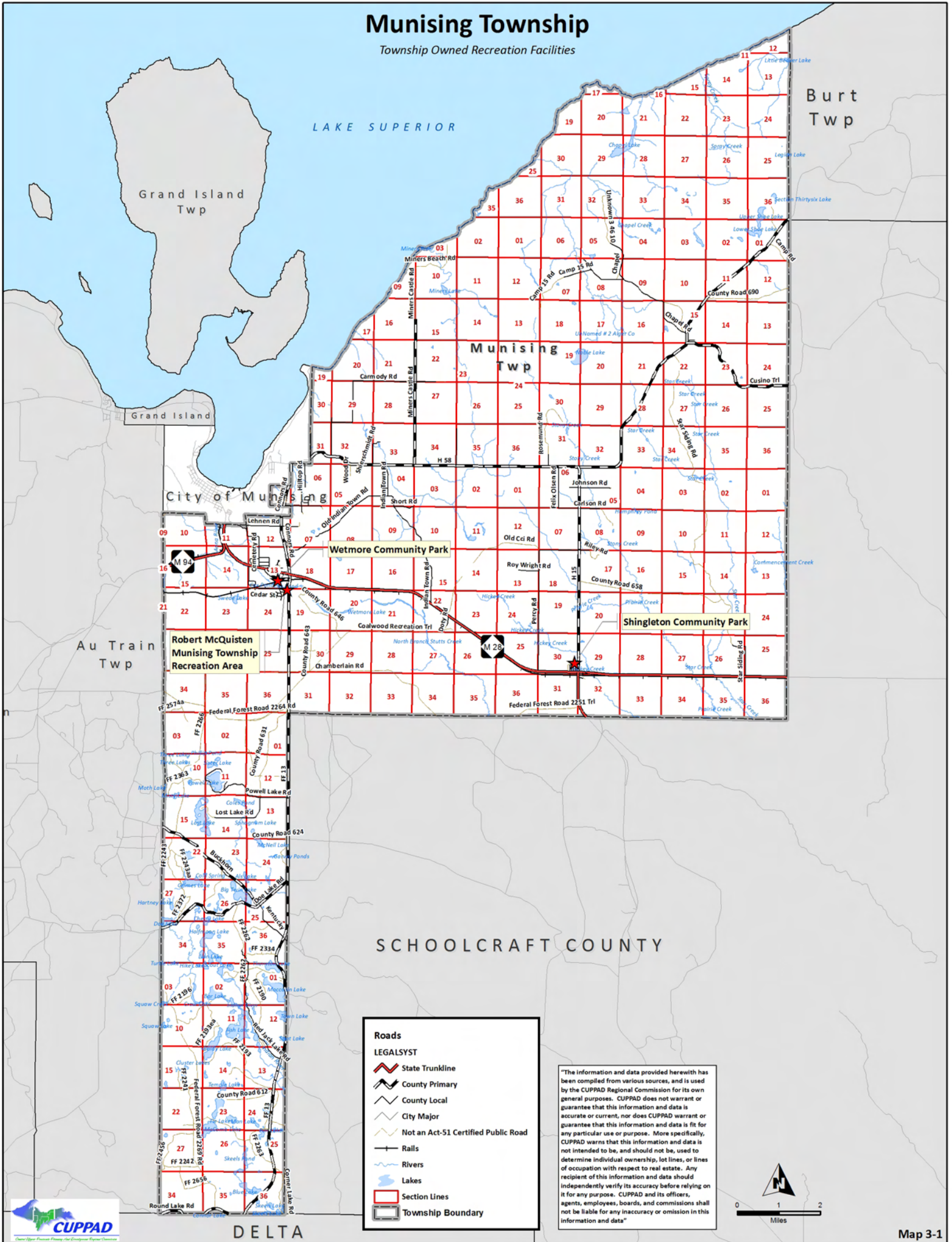
**MAPS**

**Munising Township  
Alger County  
Location Map**



# Munising Township

Township Owned Recreation Facilities



**Roads**

**LEGALSYST**

- State Trunkline
- County Primary
- County Local
- City Major
- Not an Act-51 Certified Public Road
- Rails
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Section Lines
- Township Boundary

"The information and data provided herewith has been compiled from various sources, and is used by the CUPPAD Regional Commission for its own general purposes. CUPPAD does not warrant or guarantee that this information and data is accurate or current, nor does CUPPAD warrant or guarantee that this information and data is fit for any particular use or purpose. More specifically, CUPPAD warns that this information and data is not intended to be, and should not be, used to determine individual ownership, lot lines, or lines of occupation with respect to real estate. Any recipient of this information and data should independently verify its accuracy before relying on it for any purpose. CUPPAD and its officers, agents, employees, boards, and commissions shall not be liable for any inaccuracy or omission in this information and data"



**APPENDIX B**  
**PUBLIC INPUT**



**NOTICE:  
MUNISING TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS  
RECREATION PLAN INPUT NEEDED**

Please be advised that the Munising Township Planning Commission is working on a Recreation Plan to submit to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval and is seeking public input via a brief survey. Copies of the survey are available at the Munising Township Hall, Munising Library, Shingleton Recreation Area and at [www.munisingtownship.org](http://www.munisingtownship.org). Input from residents is an important part of the Recreation Plan. Please fill out the survey and return by mail or in person to the Munising Township Hall.

The Munising Township Planning Commission is also seeking public input on the Recreation Plan at their June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 regular meeting at 6:30 pm to be held at the Munising Township Hall, E9630 Prospect St., Wetmore, MI 49895.

Written comments will also be accepted and may be sent to: Munising Township Planning Commission, E9630 Prospect St., P.O. Box 190, Wetmore, MI 49895.

## Eben Snack Bar expansion approved

by Amanda Ingraham  
The Rock River Township Planning Commission approved an extension of a conditional use permit on Monday night for the expansion of the Snack Bar restaurant in Eben.

have decided to take the opportunity to expand and upgrade the facility. Roge's partner Clint Tynner is overseeing much of the work on the building.

In addition, they need expansion of the building, which will nearly double. This year she was a member of the team which was the Cup Champions Track Award and the 1011 Cross Country Finals Award. Her future plans include attending college in Detroit, Michigan for education in the health field, as well as continuing to run to stay fit. Congratulations Selma for all of your hard work and positive attitude!



## Help needed to build bike trails

her family, back on the husband's side. Such a change, new bat-drawn and try will be



on City land. Silent Sports has grown in popularity. Currently Munising has the best cross country skiing (Valley Spur) and kayaking in the Midwest. Adding mountain biking to the



Brought to you by Helquist Feed Mill / Trenary Wood Products

### NOTICE: MUNISING TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RECREATION PLAN INPUT NEEDED

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Written comments will also be accepted and may be sent to: Munising Township Planning Commission, E9630 Prospect St., P.O. Box 190, Wetmore, MI 49895.

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Mission Synod  
PO Box 181, N5177 Rock River St., M-94, Chatham, MI  
Saturday Contemporary Worship Service: 5 p.m.  
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study & Education Hour: Sunday 9:15 a.m.  
Playgroup Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - Noon

M-28 West  
Munising MI  
Phone 387-2520

VERONICA R. (KROPPA) MURRAY  
Veronica R. (Kroppa) Murray, age 51, of Munising, Michigan, passed away on May 13, 2012 at the Tendercare Health Center in Pontiac, Michigan on May 16, 1960 to the late Zane and



*Central Upper Peninsula Planning And Development Regional Commission*

2415 14th Avenue South • Escanaba, MI 49829

906.786.9234 • Fax: 906.786.4442 • 800.562.9828 • [cuppad@cuppad.org](mailto:cuppad@cuppad.org)

May 14, 2012

TO:           Munising Township Residents

FROM:       Munising Township Planning Commission/CUPPAD

SUBJECT:     Munising Township Recreation Plan/Citizen Input

---

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) provides financial assistance through its recreation grants program to communities within the State of Michigan that want to acquire land for parks and open space or that want to develop recreation facilities. Assistance is currently available from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Passport Grants. To be eligible to apply for these grants, a community must have an approved, five-year recreation plan on file with Grants Management of the MDNR.

The Munising Township Planning Commission is currently working on a Recreation Plan to submit to the MDNR for approval, with technical assistance from the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission. The Recreation Plan will serve as (1) a source of information, (2) a guide for correcting deficiencies in recreation, (3) an indicator of goals and policies, (4) a framework for making decisions, and (5) a means of stimulating public interest and participation in local community recreation progress. Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is a key consideration in the development of the Recreation Plan.

Please fill out the following survey and return by mail or in person to the Munising Township Hall, E9630 Prospect St., P.O. Box 190, Wetmore, MI 49895.

The Munising Township Planning Commission will also be holding a public input session at their June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 regular meeting to be held at the Munising Township Hall at 6:30 pm. Thank you for your time and valuable input.

---

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & COUNTY REPRESENTED**

Chairperson – G. Corkin, *Marquette* • Vice-Chairperson – T. Elegeert, *Delta* • Secretary – J. Stevens, *Dickinson* • Treasurer – D. Bovin, *Alger*  
Director – L. Schultz, *Menominee* • Director – J. Poupore, *Menominee* • Director – S. Aldrich, *Schoolcraft* • Director – J. Beaudou, *Hannahville Indian Community* • Executive Director – Lloyd R. Matthes

## **Munising Township Recreation Survey**

---

Munising Township is in the process of developing a 5-Year Recreation Plan to submit to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Once the plan is approved by the MDNR, the Township will be eligible to apply for recreation grant funds. It is important to the Township to obtain as much citizen input as possible while developing the Recreation Plan. Your input will be used to develop the recreation development schedule. Please answer the questions below and return your survey to the Munising Township Hall, E9630 Prospect St., P.O. Box 190, Wetmore, MI 49895. **Thank you for your input.**

**Please circle YES or NO to answer the following questions:**

1. Do you or your family use recreational facilities offered in Munising Township? **YES**      **NO**
2. Munising Township has enough recreational facilities to accommodate Township residents and visitors. **YES**      **NO**
3. The Township's recreational facilities are adequately maintained. **YES**      **NO**

**What activities do you and your family members participate in for recreation (all seasons)?**

**Are there additional recreational opportunities you would like to see developed in the Township?**

**Which of these Township-owned recreation facilities do you feel need improvements?**

Robert McQuisten Recreational Area      \_\_\_\_\_  
Wetmore Community Park                      \_\_\_\_\_  
Shingleton Community Park                  \_\_\_\_\_

**What would you like to see improved in terms of the existing Township recreational facilities?**

**Please rank your support for public development for the following recreational facilities/activities in the Township from 1 to 5. One represents the most personally important, five represents not as important. Please use each number 1-5 one time.**

_____ Soccer fields	_____ Playgrounds
_____ Baseball fields	_____ Ice rinks
_____ Tennis courts	_____ Bike paths
_____ Basketball courts	_____ Hiking trails
_____ Picnic areas	_____ Snowmobile trails
_____ Pavilions	_____ Fishing access site
_____ Campgrounds	_____ Cross-country ski trails

## **Munising Township Recreation Survey Results**

1. Do you or your family use recreational facilities offered in Munising Township?

**YES 13 NO 5**

2. Munising Township has enough recreational facilities to accommodate Township residents and visitors.

**YES 2 NO 13**

3. The Township's recreational facilities are adequately maintained.

**YES 134 NO 4**

### **What activities do you and your family members participate in for recreation (all seasons)?**

- Fishing, playgrounds, basketball. Have used baseball fields, snowmobile trails.
- Playgrounds, boardwalks in Wetmore.
- Camping, hiking, fishing.
- ORVing, fishing, snowmobiling, hunting, bicycling, walking, sightseeing (nature, birding), trapping.
- At this time I just use hiking trails or go to the park to relax, it's really hard to say what we do all season.
- Picnicking, camping, snowshoeing, hiking, following nature trails, bird watching, fishing, hunting, 4 wheeling, ORVing, walking, etc. Crafting and displaying them.
- 4 wheeling and snowmobiling.
- Cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, hiking, biking, camping, walking.
- Hunting and fishing, metal dirting-4 wheeling.
- Basketball, hiking, bike riding, cross country skiing, playground.
- Use Shingleton and Munising Township Hall ballfields and playgrounds, basketball courts, camping.
- Baseball, basketball, ATV trails.
- ATV, baseball, snowmobile.
- Horseback riding, hunting, snowmobiling, fishing.
- Wetmore community park, McQuisten Rec Area.
- Walking boardwalk, bird watching, identifying vegetation, children on play equipment.
- X-c skiing, walking/hiking, bicycling.
- Snowmobiling, hiking, bicycling.

### **Are there additional recreational opportunities you would like to see developed in the Township?**

- Ice rinks in Wetmore and Shingleton.
- Like to see a community pool.
- All of the above (ORVing, fishing, snowmobiling, hunting, bicycling, walking, sightseeing (nature, birding), trapping), connect the existing facilities with adequate signing.
- More places for young kids and teens to have a place to hang out and do stuff besides just bowling alley.
- Hiking and biking trails off the highways, better signing of the existing facilities and future facilities, improved communications.
- Tennis, new courts, current ones are HORRIBLE.
- Walking trails.
- Bike paths.
- More tennis and basketball courts. Replace the lights in Brown's Addition.
- Pay for upkeep on the ones you already have.
- Horse approved trails.
- No.
- Tennis courts, shaded play area for young children when older siblings are playing ball.

- Any possibility of a facility north of Wetmore (Connors-Miller Roads, Indian Town Road, Alger Heights, Shannon Drive area)

**Which of these Township-owned recreation facilities do you feel need improvements?**

Robert McQuisten Recreational Area	1
Wetmore Community Park	4
Shingleton Community Park	13

- Bathrooms at all locations. I can see the problems being open all the time, but they do need to be useable.
- McQuisten is very nice.
- Haven't been to Shingleton's Park in a long time.

**What would you like to see improved in terms of the existing Township recreational facilities?**

- Cross country ski trails, hiking and bike paths in the Shingleton area.
- Tennis courts resurfaced next to Town Hall.
- Picnicking, communications (cell).
- Not sure whatever is safe.
- Tennis, new courts, current ones are HORRIBLE.
- Signs for snowmobiling, better communications.
- Ballfield, playground and basketball courts in Shingleton should be better maintained.
- Upkeep.
- New lights at the Brown's Addition field.
- n/a.
- Drinking water available, scoreboard.

**Please rank your support for public development for the following recreational facilities/activities in the Township from 1 to 5. One represents the most personally important, five represents not as important. Please use each number 1-5 one time.**

- 3 Soccer fields
- 2 Baseball fields
- 3 Tennis courts
- 2 Basketball courts
- 2 Picnic areas
- 2 Pavilions
- 3 Campgrounds
- 2 Playgrounds
- 2 Ice rinks
- 1 Bike paths
- 2 Hiking trails
- 3 Snowmobile trails
- 2 Fishing access site
- 3 Cross-country ski trails

**Munising Township Planning Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 13, 2012**

**Members Present:** Chair Joe Lindquist, Patty Willson, Robynne Woodaz, Ken McPherson, Jolene Hetherington, Steve McPherson

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Donna Gennick, Michelle DeWitt of CUPPAD

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Lindquist at 6:37 pm.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes Dated April 14, 2012:** Ken McPherson moved and Patty Willson seconded to approve the April 14, 2012, minutes as presented. The motion passed.

**Administrative Details:**

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Public Hearing for Recreation Plan:** Michelle DeWitt said we received eleven completed surveys regarding recreation in the Township. She is still hoping to receive some more. Suggested ideas for Wetmore area included a public swimming pool, banquet hall facility or community center, tennis courts, bicycle paths, camping area,

**Medical Marijuana Growing:** Michelle DeWitt said that a licensed caregiver can grow a certain amount for their users. The act is poorly written and gives no direction on how to grow the plants. Michelle will get some copies of regulations from other communities.

**Solar Panels:** Michelle DeWitt suggested treating solar panels as an accessory building or structure. Outdoor wood burners is also something to consider.

**Old Business:** John Shauver wants to get zoning change in the IBZ done, but Joe Lindquist said he has not heard from John about it.

**New Business:** John Shauver also told Joe Lindquist there is a possibility of revoking the junk yard permit. They have not complied with the conditions of the permit.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 12, at 6:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** Jolene Hetherington moved and Robynne Woodaz seconded to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.



## Munising Tennis Association 2012

The Munising Tennis Association has an incredible story to tell. We are a rural community on the shores of Lake Superior with little tennis history. Initially, 10 years ago, we established our tennis association to keep the two courts we have in a desired state of playability. Simultaneously we established our first adult doubles league, and now have 25 members in our adult organization.

Our next step was to start running a 2 week summer tennis camp in cooperation with Alger County Parks & Recreation. The first year we had 12 students, then 30, and then 70 students, and we have maintained this number of campers for 4 consecutive years. Did you know we only have 2 courts in our town? Imagine trying to find playing time with this many players.

Seeing the success of our summer program we approached the school about establishing a self-funded varsity tennis program. Initially we thought we would get 4-5 girls and boys out for each squad. The first day of the boys practice we had 18 boys out, and the girls had 14.

Continuing on with our plans in our community, we are looking at establishing adult clinics. More people are becoming interested in tennis in our community and it has been a complete success in the amount of news coverage we have received on television and in newspapers. We have been the tennis sports story of the last few years.

The mission of our organization is to promote healthy living through tennis, a sport that can be played an entire lifetime. We are an all volunteer staff, headed by Rod Gendron who is a teacher for Munising Public Schools. We serve a rural population without many economic opportunities at this time.

We fully support the Munising Township five year recreation plan to build four tennis courts at the Robert McQuisten Recreation Area. The approximate cost of the project is \$150,000. This includes cement, surfacing, fencing, nets, posts, windscreens, and sitting area.

The Munising Tennis Association partners with the USTA, Alger County Parks & Recreation, City of Munising, and Munising Public Schools to have our tennis program run efficiently. Also, we have received support from the Alger-Marquette Community Foundation.

Our evaluation is in numbers. We have an already established adult doubles league that has been running for 10 years. Our summer program had over 70 students attend annually.

Sincerely,

Rod Gendron

President of the Munising Tennis Association  
Head Boys and Girls High School Tennis Coach



# City marina expansion

of the contract as it  
 Jason Brisson, Todd Brock, Missy Nelson, and Alma Oatley, Bryan Hill provided the lone voice against approval of the contract. Hill explained that he felt the pay increase indicated in the contract would result in necessary drastic cuts in the next year or two. Trustee Anne O'Neill was not present at the meeting.  
 The delay in ratification came from a disagree-

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
 Alger County is seeking proposals on its 2013 Health Insurance Benefit package and Life Insurance package. Interested agencies may pick-up informational packets at the Alger County Clerk's Office beginning Friday, September 28th, 2012.  
 Return sealed bids to the Alger County Clerk's office no later than Monday, October 29th, 2012 by 4pm. Any questions contact Alger County Clerk's Office at (906) 387-7032.

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## NOTICE: MUNISING TOWNSHIP FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN DRAFT AVAILABLE

Munising Township will receive public comments regarding the Township's Five Year Recreation Plan. The Draft Recreation Plan is available for public review on the Township website, [www.munisingtownship.org](http://www.munisingtownship.org), and at <http://www.cuppad.org/CurrentProjects.html>  
 Contact Dan Wilson, Township Supervisor, at the Township Hall (906.387.4404) with any questions or comments concerning the plan. Written comments will also be accepted and may be mailed to the Township Board, Attn: Recreation Plan Input, PO Box 190, Wetmore, MI 49895.  
 Public comments will also be received at the Munising Township Board regular meeting to be held on Monday November 5, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Munising Township Hall. After receiving comments, the Township Board will discuss comments received and may adopt the Recreation Plan at this meeting.



## Alger County Kiwanis Fundraising Auction/Hors d'oeuvres Public Welcome!

Saturday, October 6th, 2012  
 at Sydney's Grand Island Room  
 \$15 per person  
 5 pm Social Hour - Cash Bar  
 6 pm Hors d'oeuvres & Auction  
**Door Prizes!**

All proceeds support community projects.  
 Tickets available at People's State Bank, The Munising News, or from any Kiwanis Member.

**ALSO! Remember to purchase your Raffle Tickets for your chance to win a Two-Night Stay for Two**

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*The P88 "family" is like no other and I will miss working with all of you!*  
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 Mally Johnson

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# SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP!



The last day for deposits into your 2012 Christmas Club is October 5, 2012

Homecoming Tailgate Party  
 Munising - Friday, Sept. 28, 5-6:30 pm



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**Munising Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – 7:00 – 7:35 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Board Members Present: Supervisor- Dan Wilson, Clerk – Selina Balko, Treasurer - Bonnie Fulcher, Trustee- Lisa Howard, Trustee – Patty Willson

Also present: Deputy Treasurer – Janet Miron, Maintenance Man – Ron Bell, Fire Chief – Harold Anderson.

Visitors: Ken McPherson, Amanda Ingraham,

Supervisor Wilson opened our November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting at 7:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

**Public Comment:** Ken McPherson: Alger County Fair Board is going to help with upgrades of the power system at the Chatham Fairgrounds. They are also applying for grants. Lisa Howard: We should think about extending office hours to 5:00 as people have been stating that we are not open when they get out of work. Amanda Ingraham: Were new speed limit signs ever put up in Melstrand after the new study was done.

**Approval of Minutes :** Motion Treasurer Fulcher/Second Trustee Willson that the October 1<sup>st</sup> minutes be approved. Motion carried

**Clerk's Correspondence:** Nothing but adds to buy election supplies

**Supervisor's Correspondence:** PRNL comments on watercraft use in the park need to be in by November 9<sup>th</sup>. Revenue Sharing check was for \$2,000.00 more than usual. UPPCO thanking us for adding power to the cemetery. Some trees need to be removed at the old landfill.

**Requested Items:** A. Fire Department: Great Lakes Testing Center tested the ladders. Oshkosh Fire and Police Equipment was here and tested the air pacs.

**Clerk's Report:** Election day is tomorrow. Janet and I attended a seminar on BOE changes. The election commission had to have a special meeting and pass a resolution to appoint a election receiving board. The board will accept all elections materials at the end of the night and assure that everything was recorded and things were sealed correctly. Janet Miron and Kay LeVeque were appointed as the receiving board for the November 6<sup>th</sup> election. Processed 202 absentee ballots, most ever. Wetmore Community Club members brought supplies for the hall such as towels and dishcloths, some paper and plastic products. Thank you for that. At the last minute we had to get new applications to vote with the "Are you a U S Citizen" question removed.

**Supervisor's Report:** Repair to damaged dugout is complete. Base for cell phone tower is completed. We received our first franchise check from them. The heat for the meeting room was fixed, a belt was off. Attended a CUPPAD meeting in Menominee. Snowplowing contract is good and will be the same rates as last year. Estimate for air conditioning for township offices is around \$9,750.00 not including the electrical part for hooking it up.

**Unfinished Business:** A. Consider computer for township board: In order to get everything we need in a computer that will be able to handle everything including being able to participate in Webinars the estimate is higher than we thought it would be. Motion Trustee Howard/Second

**Munising Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Page 2**

**Treasurer Fulcher to purchase a computer for the township board not to exceed \$3000.00. Motion carried. B. Consider land sale in Shingleton: Motion Trustee Howard/Second Trustee Willson to approve the sale of the Shingleton lot to Kevin Renne for \$500.00. Motion carried.**

**New Business: A. Consider resolution on frontage road: A resolution was offered by Clerk Balko and supported by Treasurer Fulcher to vacate the road frontage on M28. Roll call vote: Treasurer Fulcher – yes, Trustee Howard – No, Trustee Willson – yes, Clerk Balko – yes, Supervisor Wilson – yes. Four yes, one nay. Supervisor Wilson declared the resolution passed. B. Consider resolution to adopt recreation plan. A resolution was made by Trustee Lisa Howard and supported by Treasurer Bonnie Fulcher to adopt our five year recreation plan with changes. Roll call vote: Supervisor Wilson – yes, Trustee Howard – yes, Treasurer Fulcher – yes, Clerk Balko – yes, Trustee Willson – yes. Five yes, no nays. Supervisor Wilson declared the resolution passed.**

**Committee/Policy Reports: Trustee Howard reported that the landfill committee met and the test wells are still testing okay. AP&R is still working to get a 501c3 status. IRS asked that their articles of incorporation be amended.**

**Public Comment: Treasurer Fulcher suggested our office be closed on November 12<sup>th</sup> for Veteran's Day and November 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> for Thanksgiving. We all agreed.**

**Building Report :**

Twp. Meeting Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
WEquiltMORE on Tuesdays the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.  
Quilt Guild on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
Private rentals on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Wetmore Club on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00  
Animal Shelter on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.  
Wilson thanked Balko for her report.

**Treasurer's Report: Balance Savings: \$150,592.70. Receipts: \$14,437.89. Disbursements: \$19,749.86 and \$2,861.25. Balance Fire truck millage acct: \$259,649.19. Balance Recreation fund: \$17,553.57. Balance Road Millage Fund: \$70,128.63. Balance Road Improvement Fund: \$6,357.58. Balance General Fund: \$153.76. Wilson thanked Fulcher for her report.**


**Pay Bills: Motion Trustee Howard/Second Trustee Willson to pay bills numbered 1319 through 1394. Motion carried.**


**Next Meeting: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Munising Township Office Complex Meeting Room.**

**Adjournment: Motion Treasurer Fulcher/Second Trustee Howard that we be adjourned. Motion carried. We are adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**

Proposed and Approved by Supervisor:

Respectfully Submitted: Selina Balko, Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Selina Balko, Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Wilson, Supervisor

**APPENDIX C**

**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

At a regular meeting of the **Munising Township Board** on November 5, 2012 at 7:00pm, the following motion was offered:

Moved by Trustee Howard and seconded by Treasurer Fulcher to adopt the following resolution:

**Resolution # 0002**  
**MUNISING TOWNSHIP FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN**  
**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

WHEREAS, the Munising Township Board has reviewed the *Munising Township Five-Year Recreation Plan, 2013-2017*, which recognizes various Township recreation needs, and

WHEREAS, the Munising Township Board has accepted the Recreation Development Schedule that proposes a variety of improvements including tennis court construction, universal design improvements to the play area and the development of a shaded play area at Robert McQuisten Recreation Area; universal design improvements at the boardwalk; the development of a universally designed play area at the Township Hall; the development of a picnic area, horseshoe courts and a pavilion at the Shingleton Community Park; and improvements to motorized trail signage in the Township.

WHEREAS, a five-year recreation plan is required to be eligible to apply for recreation grants administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management, and

WHEREAS, the Munising Township Board held an advertised public meeting on November 5, 2012 to accept public comment regarding the *Munising Township Five-Year Recreation Plan, 2013-2017*,

WHEREAS, during the public meeting, the Munising Township Board voted to adopt the *Munising Township Five-Year Recreation Plan, 2013-2017*.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Munising Township Board adopts the *Munising Township Five-Year Recreation Plan, 2013-2017* as its official recreation planning document.  
*with changes,*

**Roll call vote:**

	YES	NO
Dan Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selina Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bonnie Fulcher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Howard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patty Willson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION CARRIED.

I certify that the above is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Munising Township Board at a meeting on November 5, 2012.

By: Selina Balko, clerk  
Selina Balko, Township Clerk

11-5-12