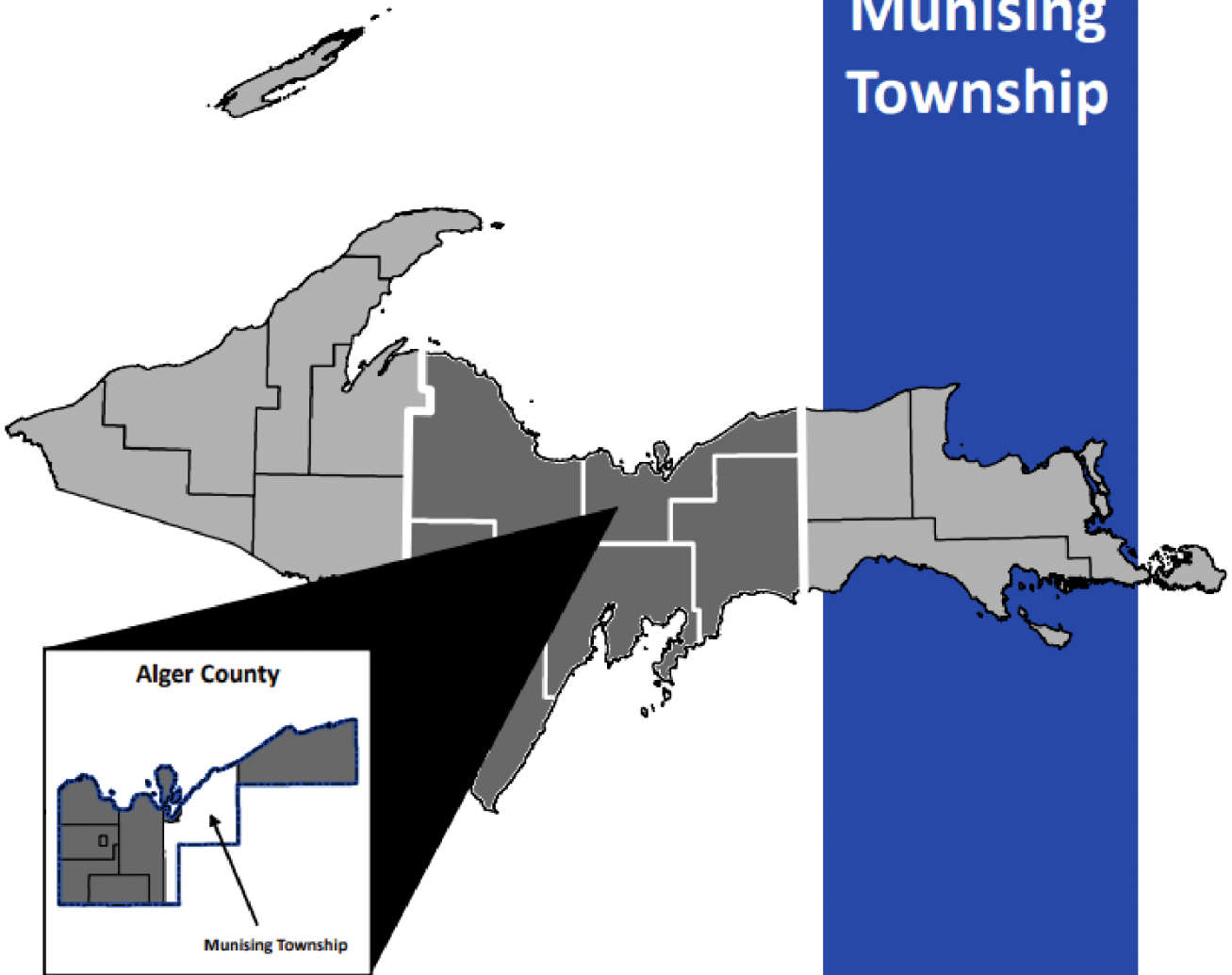


Munising Township



Recreation Plan

2024-2028

Prepared by:
Munising Township Board
& Recreation Advisory Committee

Adopted: November 6, 2023



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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 2,865 people (2020 Census). The Township is adjacent to Au Train Township, Grand Island 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

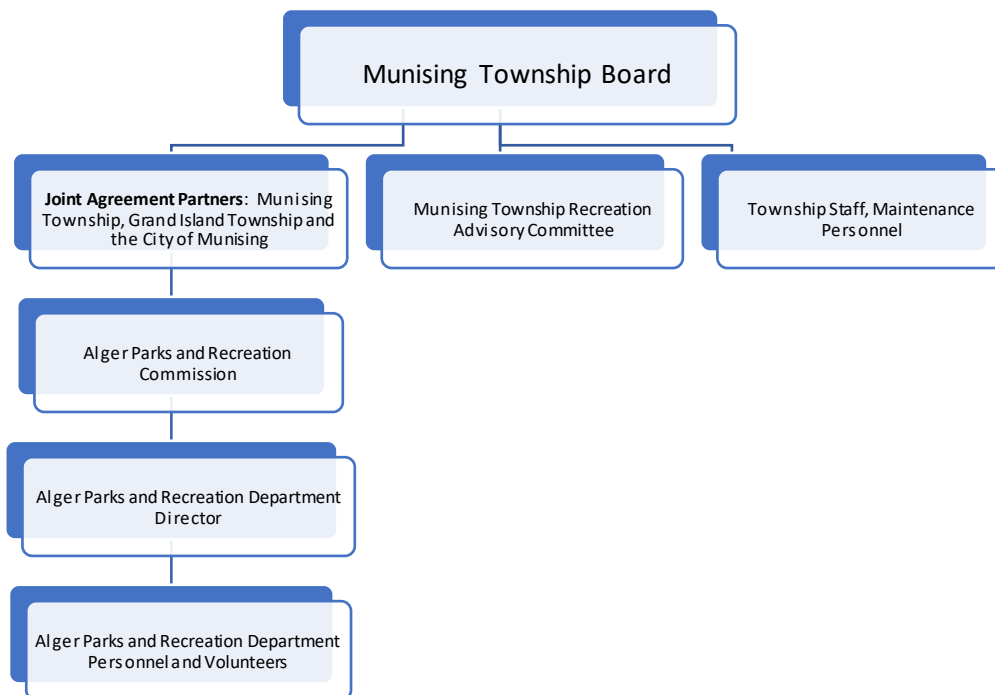
The Township Board appoints members to a Recreation Advisory Committee. In September 1998, Munising Township, along with the City of Munising, Grand Island Township and Alger Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) entered into a joint agreement for the provision of a public recreation system. The agreement 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 a 501 3(c) status to act as an independent fiscal agent.

The Munising Township Board works in cooperation with the Recreation Advisory Committee and APRD to provide recreational opportunities to Munising Township residents. The APRD's 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 are 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 the Munising Township Recreation Advisory Committee, Alger Centennial Arena, the Alger Parks and Recreation Board, City of Munising Recreation Committee, Munising Public Schools, Munising Baseball and Softball, 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 and the City of Munising. The maintenance of 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 township and 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. The Township and APRD work with various volunteer groups to maintain and improve recreational facilities and programs. These volunteer groups include the Friends of Valley Spur (a cross-country ski/hiking group), Munising Baseball and Softball (a youth baseball group), the Snowmobile and ORV Association of Alger County (SORVA), and the Munising Bay Trail Network (a mountain biking & non-motorized trail group). For special projects, the Township typically requests volunteers for in-kind work using township-purchased or donated materials.

2.3 Parks and Recreation Budget

Munising Township allocates approximately \$32,813 per year to the APRD for recreational programming and has budgeted approximately \$83,900 for Parks and Recreation in FY2023-24. This budget is not expected to be significantly changed for future years. Additional capital funding is allocated when improvement projects are lined up. In FY2023-24, the Township has budgeted for \$379,000 in capital projects, mostly from ARPA funds, including the installation of the Tot Lot and boardwalk reconstruction and maintenance at McQuisten Park. The maintenance on Munising Township owned recreational facilities is the responsibility of the Township and is performed by a part-time township employee or contracted third parties.

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 two recreation facilities, one in Wetmore and one in Shingleton. Since the previous recreation plan, a third small park located at the township hall was removed due to its age and underutilization compared to nearby Robert McQuisten Park. 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 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

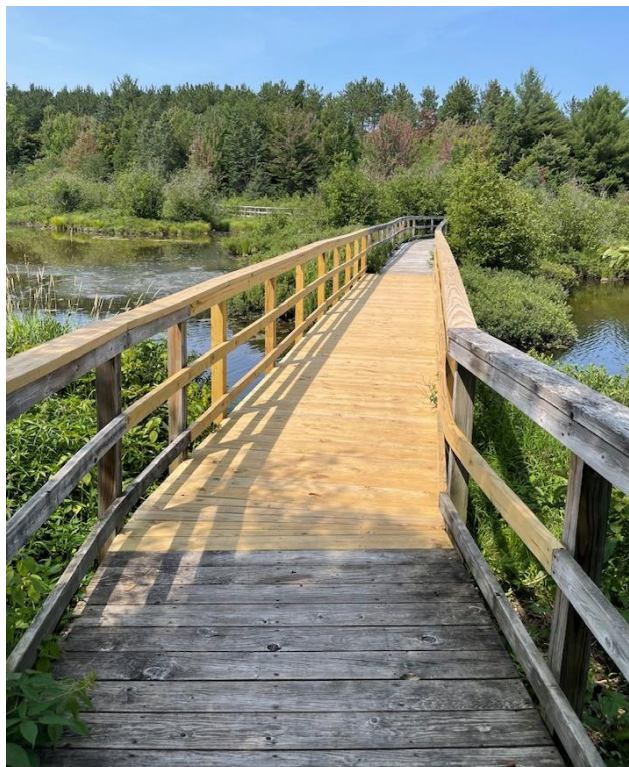
The Wetmore area has the greatest concentration of population; therefore the Robert McQuisten Munising Township Recreational Area is being developed into an organized recreational area. Accessible development of the park is the number one priority for the Munising Township Board as well as residents.

- **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, sand volleyball court, and a parking lot. The entire park, including the pavilion and boardwalk were designed and constructed to meet all applicable accessibility standards at the time of construction.
- The basketball courts were resurfaced in 2018.
- A new “tot lot” structure and play panels were added during a 2022-2023 project. Accessible Jelly Bean rubber mulch replaced wood chips under the play structure in 2023.
- A DNR grant funded project repaired and replaced an aging bridge in the boardwalk area in 2019, and a second bridge was replaced in 2023.

- The “Wetmore Tot Track” bicycle loop was installed with the collaboration of the Munising Bay Trail Network. The Munising Bay Trail Network is also developing a trailhead and trail to connect to Valley Spur National Single Track Mountain Biking Trail
- **Accessibility Rating: 2**



“Tot lot” structure, play panels, and accessible surface installed in 2023.



Continued repairs and upgrades to the boardwalk at Robert McQuisten, 2023.

Shingleton Community Park

The Shingleton Community Park is located in Shingleton on Park Street and is surrounded by state land and H-15. The park is in need of completion and updates in order to be used to its fullest 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 four 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. A 2019 grant of \$49,000 was used to make repairs to the boardwalk. All four grants were successfully closed out by Munising Township. The Robert McQuisten Munising Township Recreational Area is used frequently by area residents and visitors. The Township continues to provide funding for ongoing repairs to the boardwalk area for safety and accessibility. The Township desires to make additional improvements to the Recreational Area in order to continue repairs and to increase accessibility and incorporate universal design policies where feasible; particularly to improve access to the boardwalk from the parking lot, continue accessibility improvements at the playground, and add additional amenities such as vault toilets and pickleball courts.

3.3 Area Recreation Facilities

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

Munising Mountain Bike Park/Non-Motorized Trails

- Munising Bay Trail Network
- ~8 miles of trails, including a bike park with various loops, distances (1,000 ft. – 1.5 miles) and features
- Partnerships and connecting routes with surrounding Hiawatha National Forest trails totaling 27 miles.

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 Canoe/Kayak Launch

- 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 canoe/kayak 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 (PRNL). An interpretive center is located in downtown Munising. 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 ice-falls climbing, 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 kayak 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. The Grand Island Ferry Service provides a bus tour of the island through October 9th. 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 constructed in 2008 are available for overnight accommodation.

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, picnic areas, restrooms, the Munising Falls Visitor 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. (This site has been temporarily closed over the past several months).

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 and Snowshoe Trails: 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.

The Valley Spur trail system falls under the Noquemanon Trail Network organizational umbrella. Grooming and maintenance as well as the lodge operations are the responsibility of the non-profit group, Friends of Valley Spur. The Munising Bay Trail Network also assists in trail maintenance and development projects. In addition to wintertime activities, Valley Spur offers 27 miles of biking trails for mountain biking enthusiasts. All of the trails are shared with hikers. A 10-mile connector trail from the Valley Spur network to Munising Township's Robert McQuisten Recreation Area will be completed in 2024.

Snowmobile and ORV/Motorized Trails, Multi-use Trails: Several seasonal ORV and snowmobile trails and routes transit the township including DNR-designated routes UP-8, 422, and 419. These popular routes connect the city of Munising and surrounding area with lodging, dining, and recreation destinations. SORVA maintains and grooms these trails for year-round use. Established in 2004, SORVA maintains 101 miles of snowmobile and 129 miles of ORV trails in the central Upper Peninsula.

Bay Furnace Campground and Picnic Area: This facility is a Hiawatha National Forest campground and provides 50 campsites, vaulted toilet facilities and a sanitation station. 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 Campground 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.

Hanley Field Airport: A 252-acre airport with a 4,000-foot turf runway is located south of Wetmore along H-13. The airport was transferred from Hiawatha National Forest to Alger County in 2019, and the county has taken steps to make improvements to the facility. The

airport is used by small private aircraft, including recreational flying groups, and is the closest air facility to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

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 4,800 miles from Vermont to 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

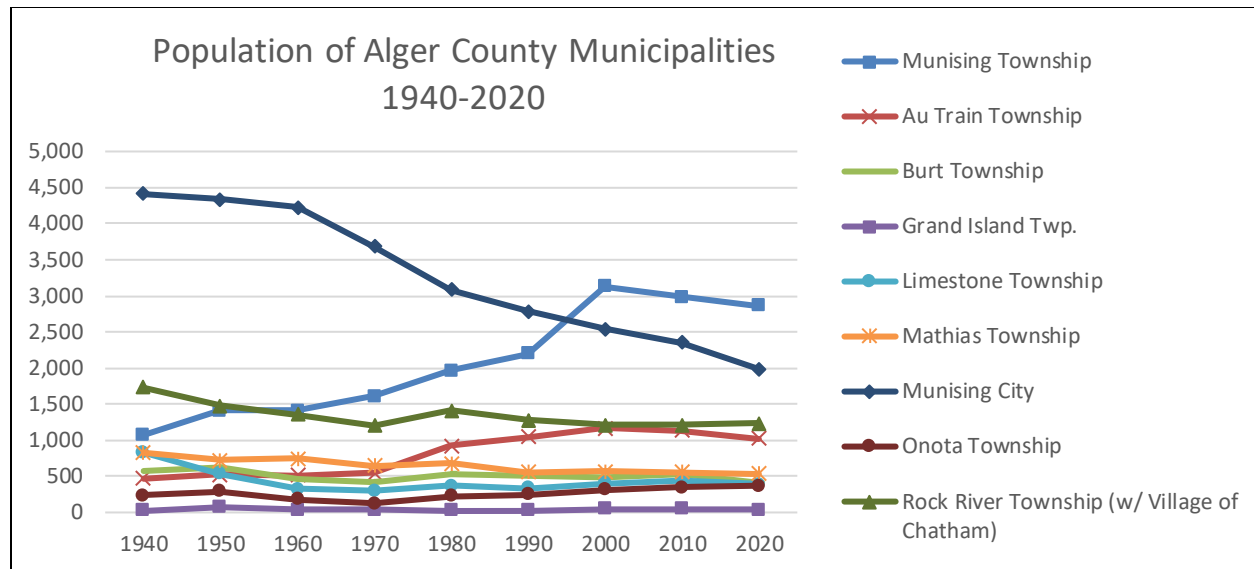
For any planning endeavor, careful attention must be given to the analysis of population trends and projections. Such an analysis is necessary to determine existing or future needs based on the characteristics of the area's population. Population analysis assists with determining the direction of local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

Munising Township experienced a substantial increase in population from 1940 to 2020 which has stabilized over the past twenty years. The Township's population grew from 1,073 in 1940 to 2,865 in 2020, representing an overall 167% increase. Many townships in the Upper Peninsula have experienced similar growth and more recent losses, 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 55% to 1,986 in 2020.

Munising Township's growth has tapered only slightly in recent years; the Township's population has declined by approximately 8% from 2000 to 2020. Many area township populations have decreased due to regional out-migration of residents from rural areas. Au Train Township and Onota Township have experienced similar growth and losses over the period as well. Table 4-1 reports the population for selected areas from 1940 to 2020.

Governmental Unit	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	% Change 1940-2020	% Change 2010-2020
Munising Township	1,073	1,412	1,408	1,614	1,963	2,193	3,125	2,983	2,865	167.0%	-4.0%
Au Train Township	467	529	508	545	928	1,047	1,172	1,138	1,019	118.2%	-10.5%
Burt Township	570	624	457	424	539	508	480	522	411	-27.9%	-21.3%
Grand Island Twp.	31	73	40	32	23	21	45	47	35	12.9%	-25.5%
Limestone Township	829	535	330	302	373	334	407	438	392	-52.7%	-10.5%
Mathias Township	827	726	742	644	680	563	571	554	532	-35.7%	-4.0%
Munising City	4,409	4,339	4,228	3,677	3,083	2,783	2,539	2,355	1,986	-55.0%	-15.7%
Onota Township	234	293	183	128	228	244	310	352	371	58.5%	5.4%
Rock River Township (w/ Vlg. of Chatham)	1,727	1,476	1,354	1,202	1,408	1,279	1,213	1,212	1,231	-28.7%	1.6%
Alger County	10,167	10,007	9,250	8,568	9,225	8,972	9,862	9,601	8,842	-13.0%	-7.9%

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



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 2020 Census, the population of Munising Township is significantly younger than Alger County as a whole. Munising Township’s median age in 2016 was 40.1, much lower than that of Alger County (49.4) but was comparable with Michigan (39.8) and the United States (38.1). From 1980 to 2020, the township experienced an 11.4 year increase in the median age of its residents. While the median age rose in every municipality in Alger County, Au Train and Onota Townships’ increases have been the most dramatic. Table 4-2 presents comparative data on median age.

Area	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	Change 1980-2010	Change 1980-2016
Munising Township	28.7	32.4	35.2	37.5	40.1	11.4	2.6
Au Train Township	30.1	36.2	42.3	51.7	57.5	27.4	5.8
Burt Township	42.2	48.1	56.7	62.9	64.0	21.8	1.1
Grand Island Twp.	42.5	37.5	45.8	50.5	54.3	11.8	3.8
Limestone Township	32.8	37.8	45.5	51.5	56.3	23.5	4.8
Mathias Township	31.6	39.9	44.6	49.1	48.0	16.4	-1.1
Munising City	34.3	39.7	43.8	45.7	50.9	16.6	5.2
Onota Township	31.4	38.6	49.8	57.5	60.2	28.8	2.7
Rock River Township	29.9	36.1	42.3	46.3	47.2	17.3	0.9
Alger County	31.6	36.7	41.2	45.0	49.4	17.8	4.4
State of Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5	37.6	39.8	11	2.2
United States	30.0	32.9	35.3	37.2	38.1	8.1	0.9

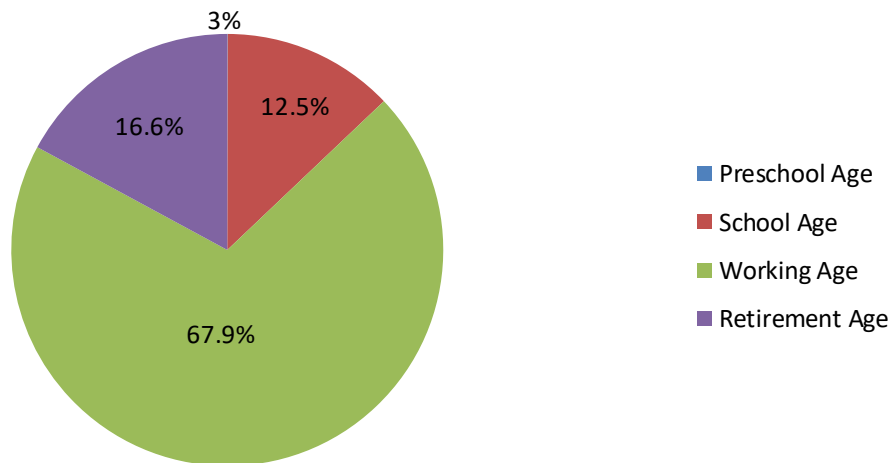
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, years cited.

In 2020, the age group of 25-34 made up the largest portion of the Township’s total population, at 563 persons, or 19.7%. Many Upper Peninsula natives leave the area after high school to attend college and obtain jobs, though the large proportion of township residents at this age may suggest that the area is more attractive than others. The elderly population, which includes those 65 years and older, made up 16.6% of the total population in 2020. 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, 2020**



4.1.3 Gender

The majority of the population in Munising Township is male (65.8%). This proportion may be influenced by the siting of the Alger Correctional Facility in the township.

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 2020, the number of households in the township increased from 828 to 883 (6%), as the population decreased 8%. The average household size decreased and then increased again by 2020, suggesting that more families may be moving into the township in recent years. 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 2020, non-family households have increased from 159 to 206, the majority of the increase coming from householders living alone. From 2000 to 2020, there has been a continued increase in the number of householders over the age of 65 living alone.

Household Type	2000		2010		2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Occupied Housing Units	828	100.0	862	100.0	883	100.0
Family Households	669	80.8	645	74.8	565	64.0
Husband-Wife Family	580	70.0	543	63.0	505	57.2
Female Householder	53	6.4	59	6.8	129	14.6
Non-Family Households	159	19.2	217	25.2	206	23.3
Householder Living Alone	120	14.5	181	21.0	179	20.3
Householder 65 years and older	48	5.8	78	9.0	86	9.7
Average Household Size	2.74		2.47		2.54	

Source: US Census Bureau for years cited.

4.1.5 Economic Characteristics

- **Household Income**

The median household income, as reported in the 2021 American Community Survey estimates was \$48,203, lower than the statewide median of \$63,202. Approximately 13.3% percent of all individuals reported incomes below the established poverty level, comparable to the statewide 13.1%.

- **Economic Base**

The township benefits from the diversity that exists among area businesses and industries. Alger Maximum Correctional Facility provides employment for many in the township. Manufacturing industries like the Mativ 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. Increased year-round tourism activity over recent years has benefitted the community, but also strained local employment and housing needs.

Munising Township is home to numerous smaller businesses and institutions that employ many local residents. These Township establishments include: Pat's Foods, numerous hotels and short-term rental lodgings, 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, The Bear Den and Bear Trap Inn restaurants, Gerou Excavating and Redi-Mix, Pictured Rocks Golf Club, Superior Roofing 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.

4.1.6 Land Use

Large scale lumbering began in Alger County in 1876 and overlapped with the last days of widespread iron ore mining. 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 are 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, retail stores, the post office, a flooring company, a bottle-gas company, a campground, auto repair, mini-golf, a gas station, storage units, a realtor, a lumber company, a roofing company, and a snowshoe manufacturer.

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

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 citizens (which might include Facebook comments, township website comments, workshop input, official public meeting input, 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. Early public input prior to planning was heard during the budgeting process for allocations through the American Rescue Plan. The Township heard public input and developed a list of projects, including recreation needs and updates, that could be funded, and then has implemented a number of them over the past several years. Recreation projects identified in this process have been maintained by the Recreation Advisory Committee.

The Township Board through its regular meetings, website, and Facebook page invited the community to complete a survey on recreation in the summer of 2023. The survey was conducted online through SurveyMonkey and available in print at the Township Hall. A copy of the announcements and a summary of the survey results may be found in Appendix B. Survey respondents repeatedly mentioned outdoor activities and valued easy access to outdoor facilities in their responses.

Munising Township advertised the draft plan was available for public comment beginning on Friday October 6 through November 5, 2023. The Township posted notices at the Township Hall, on its website, and social media. A copy of these notices is available in Appendix B. One public comment was received from the president of the Snowmobile and ORV Association of Alger County for the inclusion of more information on motorized recreation opportunities. The Township scheduled a public hearing at the conclusion of the public comment period on November 6, 2023 for additional input. Public comments received at the hearing included some additional information on nonmotorized trails under the umbrella of the Munising Bay Trail Network and clarifying information for other areas of the plan. The Munising Township Board, at their regular meeting following the public hearing on November 6, adopted the recreation plan with a resolution that is included in Appendix C.

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 two 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. Collaborate with trail groups to conduct user counts and explore the feasibility of new trails.

Goal: To incorporate universal design principles in all township facilities and programs.

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. Major projects are identified and discussed by the Recreation Advisory Committee, and implemented when funding sources have been identified.

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

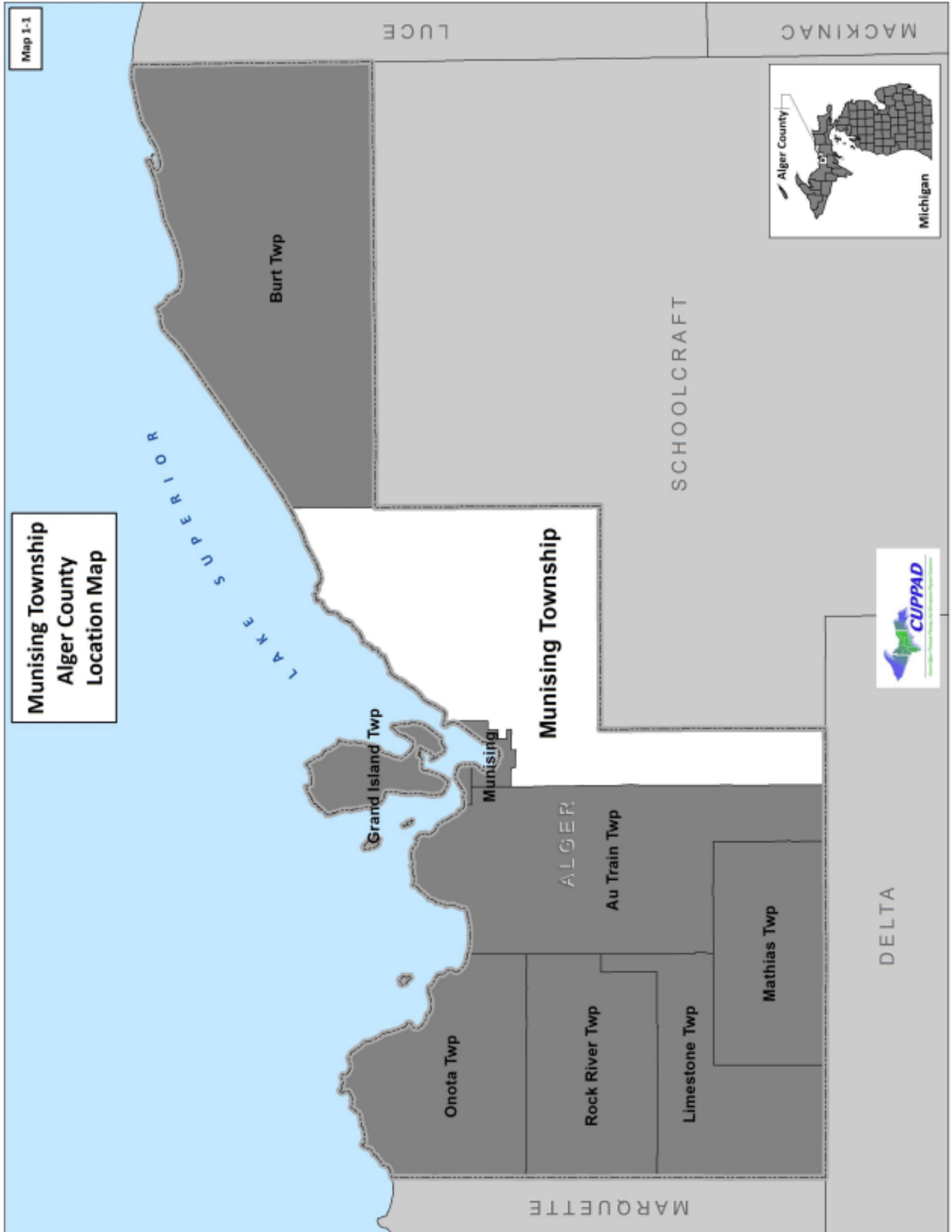
documented accessibility updates and goals. It is the policy of the Township and APRD to provide recreational opportunities to residents and visitors regardless of their age, sex, financial or physical abilities. All new construction will be subject to implementation of Universal Design concepts and measures. 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:

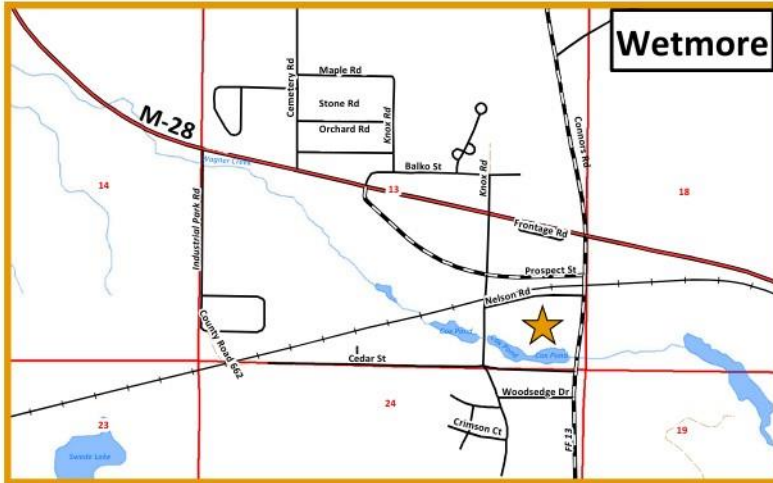
Table 5-1 Recreation Development Schedule/Action Plan, Munising Township	
Project Description	Approximate Cost and Potential Funding Sources
Continue to identify universal design improvements to Township-owned recreation sites.	When projects and funding sources are identified.
Develop a shaded area at the Robert McQuisten Recreation Area, including the planting of trees.	Cost unknown Various grant(s) including DNR Community Forestry Grant, Township, fundraising, timber industry donations
Install a permanent accessible restroom facility (vault toilets) at Robert McQuisten Recreation Area	Approximately \$90,000-\$130,000 MDNR Recreation Grant, Township fundraising, various grants
Develop a tennis and/or pickle ball court at the Robert McQuisten Recreation Area.	Approximately \$250,000 MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Develop a walkway at Robert McQuisten Recreation Area between the boardwalk, pavilion, playground, basketball courts and baseball field that incorporates universal design requirements.	Cost unknown MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Develop motorized and non-motorized trails in Munising Township connecting with trail systems in neighboring communities, the region and State, including trailheads.	Approximately \$10,000 - \$200,000 MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Develop a universal design play area at the Shingleton Community Playground.	Cost unknown MDNR Recreation Grant, Township, fundraising, various grants
Replace the west floating bridge on the Robert McQuisten Recreation Area boardwalk with a helical pier bridge.	\$155,000 MDNR Recreation Grant, Township fundraising, various grants

APPENDIX A

MAPS



Munising Township Owned Recreation Facilities

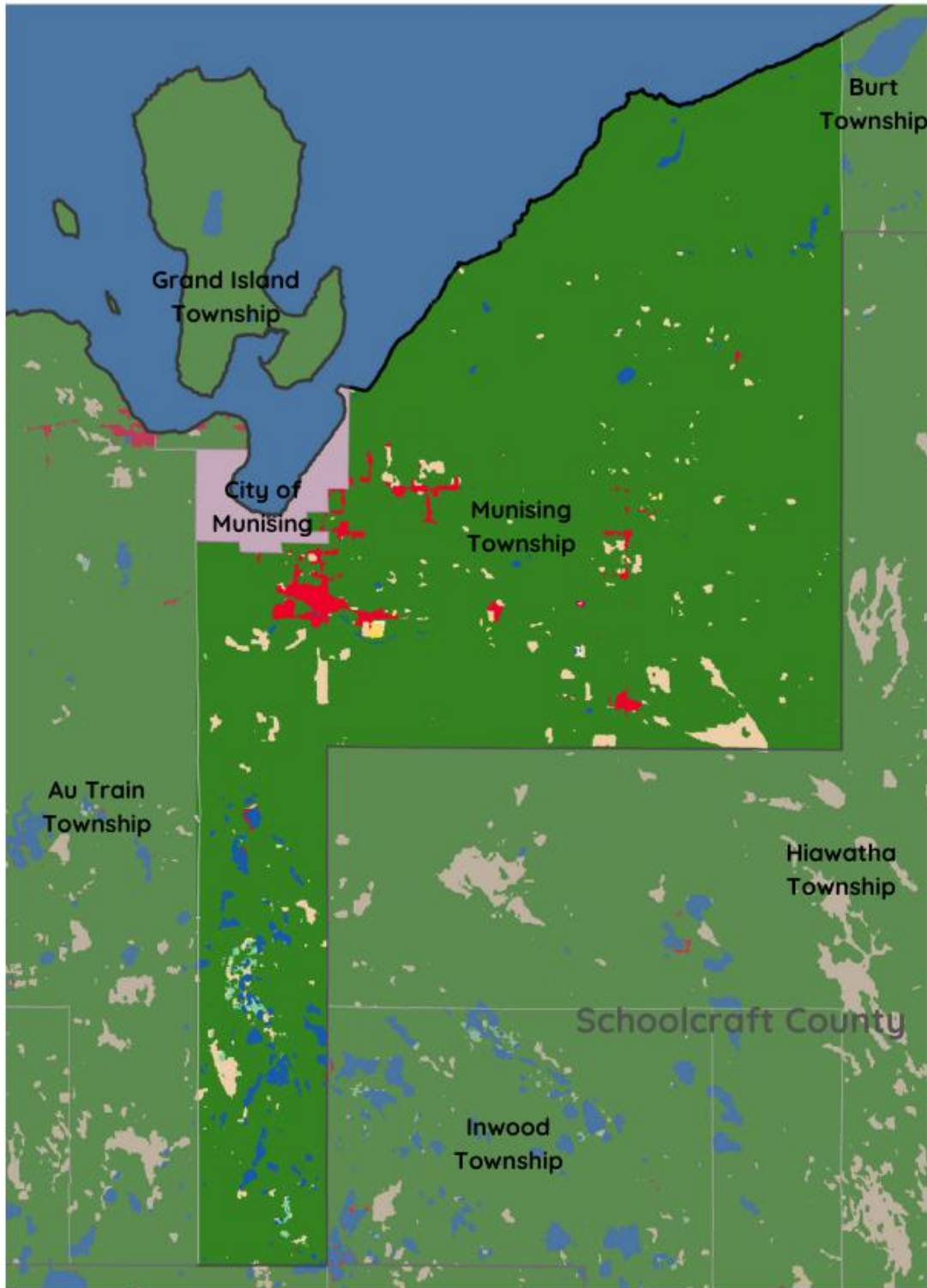


**Robert
McQuisten
Recreation Area**

**Shingleton
Community Park**



Munising Township Landcover



Source: Sentinel-2
Land Use Series



APPENDIX B**PUBLIC INPUT**

Notice of survey on Munising Township website, www.munisingtownship.org

**RECREATION PLAN SURVEY <<
click here**

Munising Township, with the assistance of the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission, is working on putting together a five-year recreation 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.

Please take a moment to take our survey.

Notice of survey on Munising Township’s Facebook page.

Munising Township
July 18 · 🌐

RECREATION PLAN SURVEY <<

Click here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCSFHG9>

Munising Township, with the assistance of the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission, is working on putting together a five-year recreation 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)... See more

SURVEYMONKEY.COM
Munising Township Recreation Survey
Take this survey powered by surveymonkey.com. Create your own s...

Munising Township
July 31 · 🌐

Have you taken the survey yet? If not then please do. Thank you.

SURVEYMONKEY.COM
Munising Township Recreation Survey
Take this survey powered by surveymonkey.com. Create your own s...

1 ↗

👍 Like 💬 Comment ↗ Share

Survey

Munising Township Recreation Survey

Your Voice Matters!

Munising Township has begun the process of drafting its 5-Year Recreation Plan. Citizen input is an integral part of the planning process. Project priorities and grant funding opportunities to pursue will be influenced by survey responses received. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only. Thank you!

1. Please select what best describes your residency:

- Year-round Munising Township resident
- Seasonal Munising Township resident
- Nearby community resident (outside Munising Township)
- Other (please specify)

2. Are you:

- Less than 25 years old
- 26-45
- 46-60
- 61 and over

3. In the past two years, how often have you or a member of your household visited the facilities below? (please check a box for each)

	No visits	1-2 times per year	3-6 times per year	Monthly	Weekly or more
Robert McQuisten Recreational Area [Wetmore Park]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shingleton Community Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hiawatha National Forest facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hiking and Biking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ORV and Snowmobile Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
City of Munising Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alger Parks and Recreation Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. In the past two years, what recreational activities have you or a member of your household participated in?

5. What do you VALUE about recreation opportunities in your region?

6. What park or recreation sites would you like to improve and how?

7. What should be a priority when addressing Munising Township's Recreation Plan (1: Highest Priority, 7: Lowest Priority)

- Maintenance and continuous improvement of facilities and parks
- Ensuring recreational facilities are accessible to all residents
- Development of amenities such as restrooms
- Nonmotorized trails and connections between communities
- Regulation outdoor pickleball/tennis courts to provide opportunities for high school matches/tournaments
- Disc Golf course
- Other

8. If you listed "other" as a priority in question 7 please provide your priority when addressing the township's recreation opportunities.

9. Please provide any additional comments regarding the township's parks and recreation opportunities here:

Survey Results

43 total respondents

1. Please select what best describes your residency:
 - a. Year-round Munising Township resident (83.72%)
 - b. Seasonal Munising Township resident (2.33%)
 - c. Nearby community resident (outside Munising Township) (9.30%)
 - d. Other (please specify) (4.65%)
 - Camp seasonal
 - Own property in the township, visit regularly

2. Are you:
 - a. Less than 25 years old (0%)
 - b. 26-45 (27.91%)
 - c. 46-60 (32.56%)
 - d. 61 and over (39.53%)

3. In the past two years, how often have you or a member of your household visited the facilities below? (please check a box for each)

	No Visits	1-2 times per year	3-6 times per year	Monthly	Weekly or more
Robert McQuisten Recreational Area [Wetmore Park]	9.30%	30.23%	25.58%	16.28%	18.60%
Shingleton Community Park	95%	2.5%	0	0	2.5%
Hiawatha National Forest facilities	4.76%	21.43%	35.71%	23.81%	14.29%
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore facilities	9.52%	9.52%	35.71%	30.95%	14.29%
Hiking and Biking trails	22.50%	27.50%	10%	25%	15%
ORV and snowmobile trails	42.50%	10%	17.50%	15%	15%
City of Munising tennis courts	87.50%	7.5%	0	5%	0
Alger Parks and Recreation Facilities	39.02%	14.63%	7.32%	14.63%	24.39%

4. In the past two years, what recreational activities have you or a member of your household participated in?

Activity	# of responses	Activity	# of responses
Hiking	20	Music	2
Walking	10	Running	2
Biking	9	Snowmobiling	2
Playground	9	Trails	2
Fishing	8	Classes	1
Snowshoeing	7	Disc golf	1
ORV	5	Flying	1
Skiing	5	Pavilion	1
Baseball	4	Photography	1
Basketball	4	Picnic	1
Boating	4	Softball	1
Hunting	4	Tennis	1
Kayaking	4	Water sports	1

Swimming	4	Winter sports	1
Camping	3		
Pickleball	3		
Cross country skiing	3		
Beach	2		
Birdwatching	2		
Fitness	2		

5. What do you value about recreation opportunities in your region?

- Just having something, but room for more growth potential
- Lots of woods and inland lakes (without motors preferred)
- So many free and low cost options
- Something for all ages and easily accessible
- Soooooooooo many
- So pristine
- Beauty
- Children’s play areas in
- The Wetmore Park where we take our grandchildren- We appreciate clear signage!
- The beauty
- The ease of accessing them
- Ease of access, nicely kept up
- The natural beauty. It’s sad that is much is getting developed.
- Entertainment and walking trails
- Baseball field for my grandkids
- Kid friendly
- Pristine
- I value the closeness as I can get to all within 10-20 minutes. I value the serenity of being outdoors- sharing the facilities but being alone. I value the diversity of choices depending on the weather/season.
- There are so many options. The cost is zero to low to participate
- Free or small fee, close, variety and not crowded
- Accessibility and reasonable cost for the gym, how well maintained hiking/biking trails are.
- Trails.
- I like clean available options that suit all age levels
- Freedom to go to public facilities
- The convenience
- The amount of public land available for use, especially when you don’t get charged to use federal property that your taxes already paid for, like the park service.
- I value the opportunities for silent sports and recreation (hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing) that cause minimal impact and provide for peaceful recreating in natural areas and are safe from motorized vehicles. I value the opportunity to engage in recreation that the entire family can enjoy together.
- I appreciate all the outdoor activities we have available and the FREE access to many of these activities.
- Cleanliness, safety
- Outdoor activities are the best

6. What park or recreation sites would you like to improve and how?

- ORV trail improvements. More bike trails (think connecting to other towns like Iron Ore Heritage trail). Multi-use trails (like Iron Ore Heritage)
- Paved biking paths. Pickle ball courts. Paved walking paths

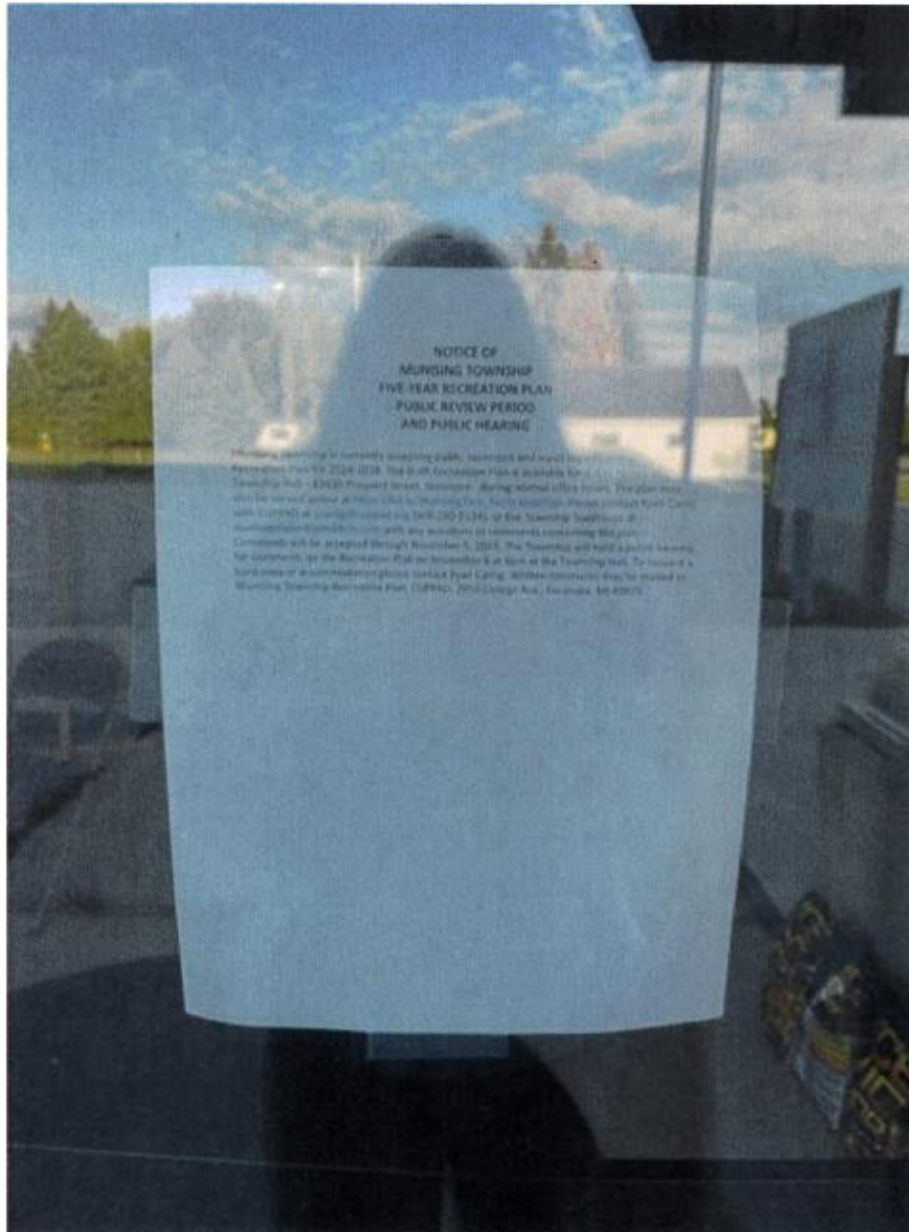
- Tennis/ pickle ball courts at McQuisten park. Plant more trees near the playground , basketball and baseball field
- Adding pickleball courts to mcquisten. Disc golf course.
- Hanley Field Airport - build hangars, improve pilot services
- Robert McQuisten Recreational Area--Pickleball and continue to improve trails and walking around the area
- snowshoe trails
- fishing cleaning station at Munising boat launch. better bathroom maintenance. Have the guys at Miners beach fixed or move thier consession so we can access river easier.
- Boardwalk-trimmed & boards fixed-fishing areas upgraded.
- None
- Band shell and benches at McQuisten Park for performances.
- Volleyball court
- Mcquistion park- add tennis/pickle ball courts
- Love to have a pickle ball court or two. Always glad to see more outdoor activities for youth and seniors.
- Not sure
- The indoor parks and Recreation facility needs updating. The community needs a pool for our youth to master swimming.
- None at this time.
- Improve the toy lot. Needs weed removal and fresh mulch! Trails for use other than biking. The trail behind the liquor store has a lot of bike use. Would be nice to get a safe place for runners. As it is you can't run the trail behind the liquor store and sidewalks are blocked by cars because police don't ticket offenders. Last summer I saw a blind woman walking in the middle of the street because the sidewalks were blocked with cars. Not to mention kids have to on their way to school. With being unable to use the "bike trails" runners are left to run town where police also allow for unleashed dogs to become an increased problem. We need safe running and walking space.
- Pickleball courts, more shade and picnic tables, handicap accessible paths
- The boardwalk is overgrown with bushes and tree branches.
- Robert McQuisten park
- Would love to see the park service do away with their fee since the numbers they used to push their agenda through were drastically inflated only due to covid.
- Would love to see a kids water park, sprinkler park, spray grounds, or splash pad in our community area
- I would love to see actual restrooms at McQuisten. That park is such a gem and offers such a variety of activities in a single spot. It's a great place and I appreciate the maintenance and repairs of the boardwalk. I would love to see an actual restroom or pit toilet instead of a porta-potty if possible and not too disruptive. And connecting the trails there to other recreational trails would be awesome given that there is a parking lot there already. It would be a great starting point for residents of Munising Township to access other trails.
- walk/run/bike paths that are easily accessible like what you find in Marquette/Harvey
- Tennis courts are not competition level, better or add bathroom facilities
- Bathrooms and pickleball at McQuisten

7. What should be a priority when addressing Munising Township’s Recreation Plan (1: Highest Priority, 7: Lowest Priority)

Priority	Score of responses
Maintenance and continuous improvement of facilities and parks	6.24
Ensuring recreational facilities are accessible to all residents	5.07
Development of amenities such as restrooms	4.78
Nonmotorized trails and connections between communities	4.20
Regulation outdoor pickleball/tennis courts to provide	3.90

opportunities for high school matches/tournaments	
Disc Golf course	2.24
Other	1.56

8. If you listed “other” as a priority in question 7 please provide your priority when addressing the township’s recreation opportunities.
- Look at Iron Ore Heritage Trail- multiuse trail systems we are way behind the times yet we have high volume tourism
 - Recreation facilities on H-58
 - Public swimming pool
 - Maintain covered picnic areas like MacQuisten
 - N/A
 - See my answer to number 6
 - Maintaining area roads and trails that are used by ATV’s
 - Soccer fields
9. Please provide any additional comment regarding the township’s parks and recreation opportunities here:
- Please do things for residents- not tourists.
 - Keep the airport runways.
 - It would be nice to have fenced in regulation pickle ball courts with proper signage & maintenance. No skateboarding, etc. allowed, time allotment when using courts & proper court etiquette including not leaving trash on the court.
 - Provide parking for ballfield and tennis court for handicapped to watch from vehicle
 - I would like to see more street lights in the park/neighboring areas for event that run late or kids who want to stay late and play/practice
 - Indoor swim classes
 - None at this time
 - Marquette/harvey has a great trail system. Let’s work towards that!
 - I’d like to see more walking paths. Everything is geared towards biking. Perhaps something that would be from township to city.
 - Open the snack shop back up
 - I would love to see a bike path connecting the Wetmore/Alger Heights area to the Munising City trails.
 - Thank you for asking—option for regular stops via public transit may help low income
 - Keep up the good work



I, Lisa Howard, Munising Township Supervisor, certify that I placed this notice at the Munising Township Hall, Township website, and Township Facebook page on October 6, 2023.

Lisa Howard

 **Munising Township**
2d · 🌐

Friday, October 6, 2023 at 7:57 PM
MUNISING TOWNSHIP

**FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN
PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD
AND PUBLIC HEARING**

Munising Township is currently accepting public comment and input regarding its Five-Year Recreation Plan for 2024-2028. The draft Recreation Plan is available for public review at the Township Hall – E9630 Prospect Street, Wetmore - during normal office hours. The plan may also be viewed online at https://bit.ly/MunisingTwp_RecreationPlan. Please contact Ryan Carrig with CUPPAD at rcarrig@cuppap.org (906-280-5134), or the Township Supervisor at muntwpsuper@jamadots.com with any questions or comments concerning the plan. Comments will be accepted through November 5, 2023. The Township will hold a public hearing for comments on the Recreation Plan on November 6 at 6pm at the Township Hall. To request a hard copy or accommodation please contact Ryan Carrig. Written comments may be mailed to: Munising Township Recreation Plan, CUPPAD, 2950 College Ave., Escanaba, MI 49829.

DRIVE.GOOGLE.COM
DRAFT_Munising Township Rec Plan 2024-2028.pdf

👍 2 5 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

	<p>occurred in 1860. Early travelers have described their visual impressions of the area's majestic sites. Four separate sites have been called Munising over the years including: Grand Island City, the Schoolcraft/Munising Furnace site, Wetmore and the Village/City of Munising.</p> <p>Munising Township came into being with the establishment of the Schoolcraft Furnace. The Upper Peninsula wilderness went through many divisions in the early days and Munising Township was organized on March 23, 1867. Further division of the Township added sections to the townships of Manistique, Seney, Thompson and Hiawatha in Schoolcraft County and Onota and Burt in Alger County. The last boundary change, in 1905, was the second formation of Grand Island Township.</p> <p>Munising Township was attached to Marquette County until Schoolcraft County was organized in 1871. It has been noted that townships were often established but not organized until the region had been settled to a degree that required a local government. Roads had not yet been established in the dense forest and all supplies had to be shipped in. Transportation was very uncertain for residents at the time and they remained depended on boat traffic, the company and the company store for contact with the outside world. Alger County was not established until March 17, 1885, through an act of the state legislature. The new county was named after Russell A. Alger, the governor of Michigan, who later became Secretary of War under President McKinley, and then a United States Senator.</p> <p>The Schoolcraft Iron Company began construction of a smelting furnace in 1867. William Cox was appointed as the first postmaster in 1868 as homes and businesses were established in the village of Munising. Smelting furnaces operated in the area for over a decade. Sometime around 1900, the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company purchased the holdings of the former Munising Iron Company. The area was served by two railroads during this time, and was experiencing development of other industries such as lumber mills, tanneries, quarries, a brickyard, and woodenware manufacturing. Paper manufacturing followed shortly thereafter in 1902</p>	<p>NOTICE OF MUNISING TOWNSHIP FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>Munising Township is currently accepting public comment and input regarding its Five-Year Recreation Plan for 2024-2028. The draft Recreation Plan is available for public review at the Township Hall – E9630 Prospect Street, Wetmore – during normal office hours. The plan may also be viewed online at https://bit.ly/MunisingTwp_RecreationPlan. Please contact Ryan Carrig with CUPPAD at rcarrig@cuppap.org (906-280-5134), or the Township Supervisor at muntwpsuper@jamadots.com with any questions or comments concerning the plan. Comments will be accepted through November 5, 2023. The Township will hold a public hearing for comments on the Recreation Plan on November 6 at 6pm at the Township Hall. To request a hard copy or accommodation please contact Ryan Carrig. Written comments may be mailed to: Munising Township Recreation Plan, CUPPAD, 2950 College Ave., Escanaba, MI 49829. Click here.</p>
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Comment received during public comment period

Oct 27, 2023, 10:34 PM



Hello - My name is Sean O'Neill - I am the President of SORVA of Alger County (snowmobile and off road vehicle club) I am curious as to why you would not include orv and snowmobile trails in the recreation plan? I understand you do not fund them but the DNR Grant Programs has put a large amount of money in to the township.



I am happy to share specifics if you are interested.

Munising Township Special Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Lisa Howard, Clerk Patty Willson, and Trustee Jolene Hetherington.
Board Members Absent: Treasurer Carmon Decet and Trustee Selina Balko. Also present: Rhonda Lassila (Munising Bay Trail Network).

Supervisor Howard opened our November 6, 2023 meeting at 6:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Public Comment:

Public Hearing for comments on Recreation Plan 2024-2038: Board reviewed and discussed the draft Recreation Plan, made several additional updates, and discussed possible future projects. Supervisor Howard read aloud Sean O'Neill's (SORVA) email. Sean would like ORV and snowmobile trails included in the Recreation Plan. Board agreed to include ORV/snowmobile trails and will check with SORVA, a motorized trail group, for specifics on with the organization has to offer.

Next Meeting:

Next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Munising Township Hall.

Adjournment:

Moved Hetherington/seconded Howard, to **adjourn**. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Patty Willson, Clerk


Patty Willson, Clerk


Lisa Howard, Township Supervisor

**Munising Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2023 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.**

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Supervisor Lisa Howard, Clerk Patty Willson, Treasurer Carmon Decet, and Trustee Jolene Hetherington. Board Members Absent: Trustee Selina Balko. Also present: Cherie Konrad, Kim Tyner, Norm Dodge, Assessor Corey McLaughlin, and Brice Burge (Munising Beacon).

Supervisor Howard opened our November 6, 2023, meeting at 7:00 p.m. leading us with the pledge.

Public Comment:

Concern voiced by resident regarding blight on Carmody Road. Wondering about the process and would like to see more improvement and action taken by the Health Department since there is a minor living at the premises. Lisa has been monitoring.

Update requested by two residents regarding blight/condemned house on Ceder Street. Lisa spoke with Building Inspector and confirmed that the house was condemned earlier this year. Health Department looking into the situation because of human waste. Lisa to contact the homeowner about boarding up.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved Hetherington/seconded Decet to **approve minutes of October 2, 2023 Township Board regular meeting.** Motion carried.

Clerk's Correspondence/Report:

Received notice of hearing for the gas customers of DTE to be held November 15 via video/teleconferencing for approval of depreciation accrual rates and other related matters. Received the October issue of Par Plan News. Received letter of interest from Landmark Dividend to purchase cellular tower. Received Fahey newsletters dated October 3 and October 31. Attended a Q&A meeting last week regarding elections hosted by our Democratic State Representative, Deputy Secretary of State, and a representative from the Department of Homeland Security.

Supervisor's Correspondence/Report:

Received letter from a cell tower lease buyout company, APWireless. Received Notice from UPPCO requesting approval to implement a power supply cost recovery plan for the 12 months ending December 31, 2024 to be held November 16 via video/teleconferencing. Received a complaint of an unsafe and unhealthy structure on Cedar St. A complaint was filed with the LMAS Health Department and the Alger County Building Inspector has condemned it. Received a postcard from McKinsey Opiate Consultant Litigation regarding Opioids Class Action Settlement.

Requested Items:

- A. Zoning Administrator: Not present but provided written update.
- B. Assessor: Present, and provided update.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Cemetery Property Expansion: Seaberg's are making progress.

New Business:

- A. Adopt Recreation Plan 2024-28: Board discussed changes addressed during the public hearing. **A resolution was offered by Howard and supported by Hetherington to adopt the Munising Township Parks and Recreation Plan for 2024 through 2028. Roll call vote: Willson-yes, Decet-yes, Hetherington-yes, Howard-yes, and Balko-absent. 4 yes, 0 nay, 1 absent.** Howard declared the resolution passed.
- B. Early Voting Site: Moved Howard/seconded Willson to **designate the Alger County Courthouse as Munising Township's early voting site.** Carried.
- C. Purchase Guide to Planning & Zoning and Planning & Zoning Decision-Making: Moved Hetherington/seconded Decet to **purchase six additional books for each ZBA member and one for the office.** Carried.
- D. Review Miscellaneous Township Policies: Board reviewed the miscellaneous policies and discussed updating the policies for Emergency Repairs and the Bidding Process. Tabled until next meeting.
- E. Possible Future Projects: Board discussed and prioritized future projects and will research grants that might be available.

- F. Scrap 1978 Toro Wheel Horse Tractor: Moved Hetherington/seconded Decet to **scrap the 1978 tractor**. Carried.
- G. Recycling Curbside Pickup: Board discussed curbside interest and will research it further.

Committee/Policy Reports:

Inspection happening soon at APRD daycare.

Fire Department:

Present, and provided update.

Public Comment:

The hearing regarding the animal shelter is November 8 at 1:15 p.m.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance Savings (09/30/23): \$373393.87. Receipts: \$124515.46. Disbursements: \$105054.14. Balance Savings (10/31/23): \$392855.19. Balance Fire Truck Millage Account: \$82181.58. Balance Road Millage Fund: \$34234.27. Balance Road Improvement Fund: \$22011.01. Balance Road Bond Account: \$1047.73. Balance General Fund: \$5908.06. Balance CD – Embers: \$200000.00. Balance CD – Embers/FTMillage: \$150000.00. Balance Savings – Embers: \$5.00.

Pay Bills:

Moved Hetherington/seconded Howard, to **pay bills with checks numbered 9573 – 9634**. Motion carried.

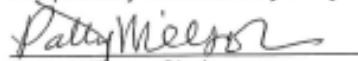
Next Meeting:

Next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Munising Township Hall.

Adjournment:

Moved Willson/seconded Hetherington to **adjourn**. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8.15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Patty Willson, Clerk


 Patty Willson, Clerk


 Lisa Howard, Township Supervisor

APPENDIX C
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION



TOWNSHIP OF MUNISING

Alger County, Michigan

E9630 Prospect St., P.O. Box 190
Wetmore, MI 49895

PHONE: (906) 387-4404

FAX: (906) 387-5719

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Lisa Howard - Supervisor
Patty Willson - Clerk
Carmon Decet - Treasurer
Selina Balko - Trustee
Jolene Hetherington - Trustee

Munising Township Resolution of Adoption

For Munising Township Recreation Plan

Alger County

November 6, 2023

WHEREAS, the Munising Township Board is made up of representatives from Munising Township, and

WHEREAS, the Munising Township Board began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Munising Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on November 6, 2023 at the Munising Township Hall, E9630 Prospect Street Wetmore, MI 49895 to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Munising Township Parks and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Munising Township Board voted to adopt said Munising Township Parks and Recreation Plan for 2024 through 2028.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Munising Township Board hereby adopts the Munising Township Parks and Recreation Plan.

The foregoing resolution offered by Supervisor Lisa Howard. Second offered by Trustee Jolene Hetherington.


Yeas: Patty Willson, Carmon Decet, Jolene Hetherington, and Lisa Howard


Nays: None

Absent: Selina Balko

MOTION carried.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Munising Township Board at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 6th day of November, 2023.

 11/6/23
Patty Willson, Munising Township Board Clerk

 Munising Township is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: Township of Munising, Alger County Michigan, P.O. Box 190, Wetmore, MI 49895 or call: (906) 387-4404.