

Prepared by:

The Joint Ontonagon Village & Township Recreation Advisory Panel

Adopted on **Month DD, YYYY**



**VILLAGE OF ONTONGAON
ONTONAGON TOWNSHIP**

JOINT RECREATION PLAN 2018 – 2022

Table of Contents

PART 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION	1
PART 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE.....	10
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE.....	10
TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	12
TOWNSHIP-VILLAGE CO-OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE	12
COUNCIL/BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBERS.....	13
PART 3: RECREATION INVENTORY.....	14
PART 4: DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS.....	25
PART 5: GOALS.....	27
PART 6: RECREATION NEEDS – OBJECTIVES & BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN.....	28
PART 7: FIVE-YEAR ACTION PROGRAM	40
APPENDIX.....	41

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Village of Ontonagon and Ontonagon Township Location.....	2
Figure 2: Village of Ontonagon Recreation Administrative Structure	11
Figure 3: Ontonagon Township Recreation Administrative Structure.....	12
Figure 4: Principles of Universal Design.....	14
Figure 5: Village-owned recreation sites	17
Figure 6: Township-owned recreation sites	18
Figure 7: 2005 Ontonagon Township Park Site Plan Map	19
Figure 8: Concept design for ADA compliant beach access.....	30
Figure 9: Rendering of Acquired MDNR Rail Yard and Rose Island	32
Figure 10: RICC development plans.....	33
Figure 11: Acquired Ontonagon Elementary School Property	35
Figure 12: Ontonagon water trails	36
Figure 13: Snowmobile and ORV trails within the Village	37

Table of Tables

Table 1: Socio-Economic Summary of Ontonagon Village	4
Table 2: Socio-Economic Summary of Ontonagon Township	4
Table 3: Socio-Economic Summary of Ontonagon County	4
Table 4: Ontonagon Village Demographics.....	5
Table 5: Ontonagon Township Demographics	6
Table 6: Recreation Inventory: Village and Township of Ontonagon.....	20

Table 7: Village Recreation Projects 40
Table 8: Village Marina Recreation Projects 40
Table 9: Township Recreation Projects 40

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PART 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Village of Ontonagon was founded in 1843 and is located within Ontonagon Township. The Village and surrounding Township are located at the mouth of the Ontonagon River, which is on the south shore of Lake Superior in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan (see **Figure 1**). The Village is the county seat, the only incorporated municipality in the county, and a major trading, cultural, and social center for a large part of the west-central Upper Peninsula.

Most of the Village's residential and commercial development is established along the east side of the Ontonagon River, with industrial development adjacent to the harbor. The Ontonagon River serves as large drainage basin fed by four main branches of the river and several streams. The main river flows from near Rockland into Lake Superior in the Village. The river also provided an early port for the shipping of copper and lumber and supported a fishing industry.

The Village and Township have historically been heavily dependent on the extractive industries of mining, forestry and agriculture. Industries of this type are especially affected by fluctuations in the business cycle and changes in national and world markets. Thus, the economy of the Village and Township has undergone a pattern of boom and bust related to the major natural resources of copper and wood. More recently tourism has had a large impact on the local economy. The change in the predominance of these industries over time has affected employment opportunities and settlement patterns.

The discovery of large amounts of copper in the early- and mid-19th century brought the area's first boom and first influx of immigrants. During the 1860's, copper was widely used in the production of munitions for the Civil War, and the Village of Ontonagon became the largest town on Lake Superior. Copper mining continued as the dominant economic enterprise through World War I, but rapidly declined shortly thereafter when most of the mines in the area closed. In the 1880's large scale logging of the pine forests began with the wholesale purchase of land by the Diamond Match Company. By 1890, the two sawmills owned by the Diamond Match Company cut 300,000 board feet of lumber daily. In 1896, a fire at the sawmill swept through the Village, and the company never rebuilt.

In the 1980s the area's employment revolved around three single-employer industries: a corrugated medium paper mill, an operating copper mine, and a commercial shipbuilding firm. Beginning in 1995, economic conditions resulted in the mine terminating operations. The shipbuilding operations followed suit in 1998, and the paper mill terminated operations in 2009.

Historically logging was an important industry, but many of the forests are now used for recreational purposes. There are 199 campsites in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, which is located 15 miles west of the Village and has drawn roughly 300,000 visitors annually in recent years. Besides being major tourist attractions, the picturesque mountains of the 58,000-acre Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and other areas of Ontonagon County are unique features of Michigan's geography.

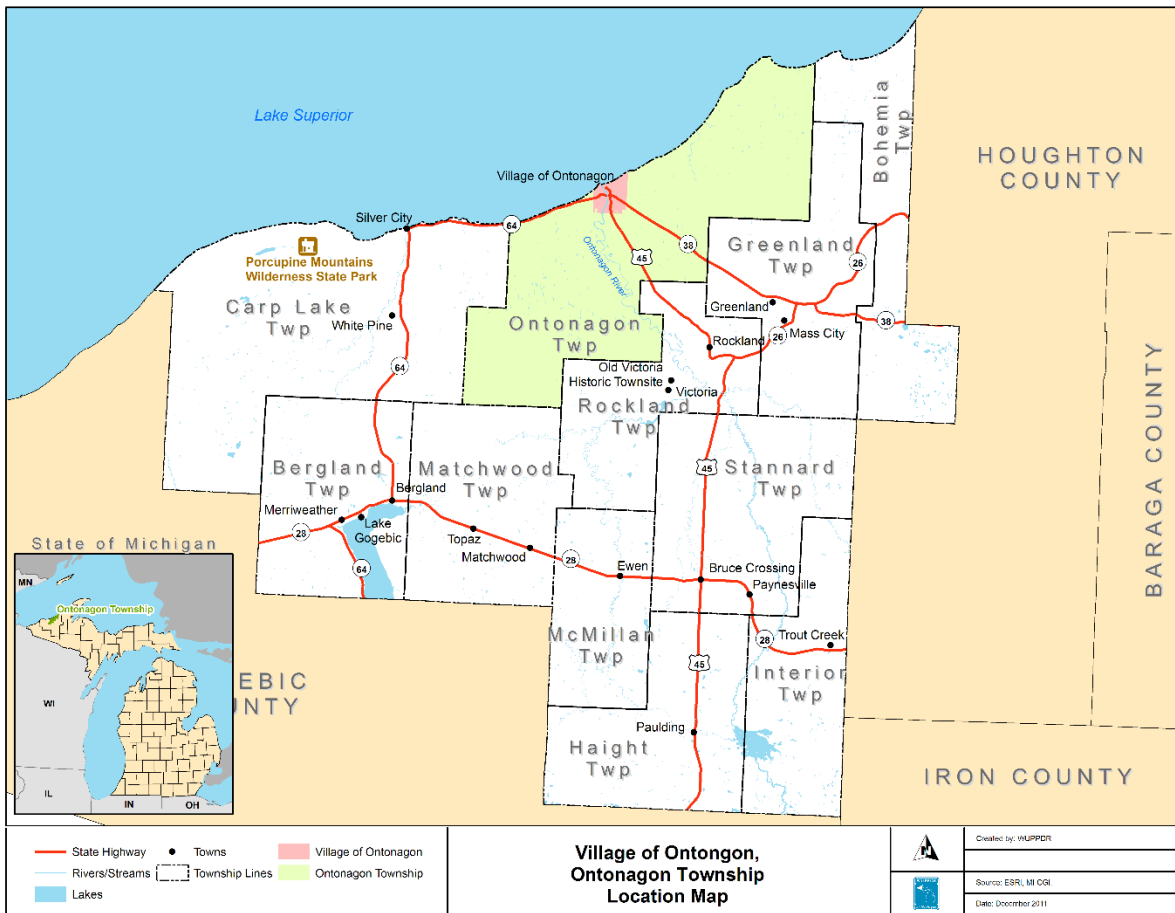


Figure 1: Village of Ontonagon and Ontonagon Township Location

There are 21 major lakes, 26 major trout streams, nine waterfalls and four named rapids that are recreational assets within the county. Lake Superior, the largest body of fresh water in the world, and the County has 52 mile of lake shore. Tourism and recreation are now important to the Village’s and the Township’s economy, making winter sports, summer sports, and other recreational activities a potential growth area.

LAND USE

The Village’s land use is characterized by retail and service businesses set in a linear pattern along River Street (Highway US-45), the “downtown.” The orientation of the development pattern, which follows the flow of the river, is northwest to southeast. The northern and eastern edge of the commercial district consists of residential neighborhoods. West of the Village and on the north side of the mouth of the Ontonagon River is a large industrial facility, Lakeshore, Inc. (recently purchased by J.F. Lehman & Company), which is being utilized at this time. Also west of the Village, and on the south side of the mouth of the Ontonagon River, is the remaining buildings of the Smurfit-Stone Container Mill, which ceased production operations in 2010 and was razed in 2011. In 2017, SynSel Inc. announced plans to construct a \$350 million dollar bio-fuel production facility at the former paper mill site. Deepwater Port facilities line the river in

this area. On the south side of the Ontonagon River and adjacent to the Smurfit-Stone Container site is the Village's Riverfront Park, which is a recreation park with open space, picnic areas, fishing along the river, and volleyball courts.

Adjacent to the park is the 50-slip Village Marina facility. The full service marina includes a boat hoist, service building, fish cleaning station, boat storage area, paved parking lot, and four boat launch ramps. Located between the Ontonagon River and downtown is the former EL&S railroad yards acquired by the MDNR through the rail bank program and an area known as the "island." The Rose Island area is primarily open space except for two occupied housing units, two commercial buildings, a private dock, parks, and one Village park which exhibits two vacant older buildings previously used by the commercial fishing industry. The entire southern portion of the island is a wetland area. Separating the island from downtown is a waterway known as the Rose Channel or the slough. Once navigable by larger boats, the slough receives minimal flow from the river and is navigable to canoes and kayaks. The Township, with the Village at its approximate center, is a composite of residential, commercial, agricultural, forestry, and streams-and-rivers zoning. The Township includes the Township Park campground and playground complex along the Township's 22.6 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. The Ontonagon Airport also lies in the Township, adjacent to Highway M-64 between the Village the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

UTILITIES

The downtown and waterfront areas are served by the Village water and sewer system. Both utilities cross the Ontonagon River at the island. These crossings are under the river bed. Construction has been completed on the water system improvement program, which links the three major rural communities—namely the Village of Ontonagon, Silver City in Carp Lake Township, and White Pine in Carp Lake Township. A river crossing exists from the marina area south of the railroad bridge. The Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park received an appropriation to construct a transmission main from Silver City to the State Park, which was constructed and completed in the summer of 2002. The State Park is a major utility customer of the Village of Ontonagon. In spring 2006, the Township added a sewage lift station to enable the community to service the Township Park and waterfront. Private utilities offered in the area include natural gas, electric, phone and DSL, cell phone and G4 wireless, cable TV and internet, and fiber optic networks. In 2017 the Ontonagon Telephone Company extended fiber optic service to all properties in the Village.

POPULATION TRENDS

Tables 1, 2, and 3 summarize the socio-economic characteristics of the Village, Township, and County, respectively. As of 2015 the Village is estimated to have a population of 1,399 residents. This represents a 6.3% decline from 2010. Township population experienced an 8.8% decline over the same period to 2,425 in 2015. Ontonagon County experienced a similar rate of decline: The population dropped by 9.7% since 2010. **Tables 4 and 5** show demographic details of the Village and Township, respectively.

The population decline can be attributed to the permanent closure of the Smurfit-Stone Container Paper Mill in 2011. **Table 4** reflects that the current population is older, with those at retirement age having comprised 19.8% of the population in 1980, now comprising 31.5%. The median age has increased from 36.8 years to 56.2 years over the same period. **Table 3** reflects that the unemployment rate has increased from 6.5% in 1980 to 9.8% in 2015. This substantiates local wisdom that young people are leaving the area for work and those being attracted are retirees.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Summary of Ontonagon Village

	1990	2000	2010	2015
Total Population	2,040	1,769	1,494	1,399
% Change	-6.5%	-13.3%	-15.5%	-6.3%
Median Household Income	\$21,048	\$28,300	\$32,950	\$31,200

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates; otherwise U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2: Socio-Economic Summary of Ontonagon Township

	1990	2000	2010	2015
Total Population	3,238	2,954	2,660	2,425
% Change	N/A	-8.8%	-10.0%	-8.8%
Median Household Income	\$22,004	\$32,308	\$33,150	\$33,478

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates; otherwise U.S. Census Bureau

Table 3: Socio-Economic Summary of Ontonagon County

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
Total Population	9,861	8,854	7,818	6,976	6,298
Percent Change	N/A	-10.2%	-11.7%	-10.8%	-9.7%
Median Household income	\$8,502.00	\$21,147.00	\$28,300.00	\$35,269.00	\$34,459.00
Civilian Labor Force	3,850	3,782	3,506	3,143	2,354
Percent Unemployment	6.5%	8.4%	8.1%	16.5%	9.8%
Major Employment Sectors of Total Workforce:					
Agriculture, Forestry, Commercial Fisheries & Mining	32.5%	18.0%	6.9%	2.8%	6.4%
Construction	4.8%	6.0%	7.0%	5.9%	8.3%
Manufacturing	14.0%	18.8%	15.1%	10.6%	8.2%
Transportation	1.4%	3.1%	4.5%	7.1%	7.2%
Communications/Information	1.6%	2.5%	1.5%	1.8%	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	0.4%	0.8%	0.9%	0.6%	0.6%
Retail Trade	16.1%	20.4%	11.3%	15.7%	10.4%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	N/A	N/A	3.8%	3.1%	4.1%
Service Industries	22.0%	23.0%	14.4%	36.6%	35.1%
Public Administration	N/A	4.0%	5.4%	4.5%	7.5%
Other	N/A	N/A	4.6%	6.7%	6.3%

Source: Census Bureau 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and historic sources

Table 4: Ontonagon Village Demographics

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
Population	2,182	2,040	1,769	1,494	1,399
Change in Population	-10.3%	-6.5%	-13.3%	-15.5%	-6.4%
Male	48.0%	48.3%	47.8%	49.2%	50.0%
Female	52.0%	51.7%	52.2%	51.1%	50.0%
Under 5 Years	6.4%	6.9%	4.7%	3.7%	3.5%
18-64 Years	71.8%	53.5%	52.3%	79.5%	86.6%
65-Over	19.8%	23.8%	27.3%	21.6%	31.5%
White	99.5%	99.1%	97.7%	97.3%	94.2%
Black or African American	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.1%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	0.4%	0.6%	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%
Other	1.0%	0.2%	1.6%	0.0%	1.2%
Median Age (years)	36.8	41.2	46.7	48	56.2
25+ Years, High School Equivalent or higher	70.7%	77.5%	83.8%	45.1%	38.4%
Number of Housing Units	900	950	891	863	934
Number of Year-Round Housing Units	872	929	859	816	N/A
% Renter Occupied	27.0%	30.1%	26.0%	28.2%	27.9%
% Owner Occupied	73.0%	69.9%	74.0%	71.8%	72.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; otherwise U.S. Census Bureau/historic sources

Table 5: Ontonagon Township Demographics

	1990	2000	2010	2015
Population	3238	2954	2,660	2,425
Change in Population	N/A	-8.8%	-10.0%	-8.8%
Male	49.3%	49.1%	50.3%	50.4%
Female	50.7%	50.9%	49.7%	49.6%
Under 5 Years	6.7%	4.6%	3.4%	2.7%
18-64 Years	56.2%	55.0%	82.1%	84.9%
65-Over	20.4%	22.4%	25.4%	28.9%
White	1.0%	97.6%	97.8%	96.2%
Black and African American	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.7%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	1.3%	0.8%	0.6%	0.4%
Other	0.0%	1.6%	1.5%	0.7%
Median Age (years)	N/A	45.8	51.5	53.9
25+ Years, High School Equivalent or Higher	77.4%	87.1%	92.8%	93.5%
Number of Housing Units	1,652	1,694	1,663	1,837
Number of Year-Round Housing Units	1,478	1,429	1,387	N/A
% Renter Occupied	22.3%	18.4%	19.7%	17.2%
% Owner Occupied	77.7%	81.6%	80.3%	82.8%

* Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates; otherwise U.S. Census Bureau/historic sources

TRANSPORTATION

Because of its remote northern location on the south shore of Lake Superior, transportation and communications are especially meaningful to the economy of Ontonagon. The Village of Ontonagon is at the northern terminus of US 45, which extends through the middle of the nation connecting Lake Superior with the Gulf of Mexico. Terminal locations such as this, located on international boundary waters, do not have the advantage of transient or en route business or recreational traffic. To attract large volumes of tourist or business travel, then, it is necessary to develop “destination” types of attractions and incentives.

Highway M-64 was built to accommodate the connection of Ontonagon with the Porcupine Mountains and White Pine, influencing the number of people visiting the downtown and waterfront areas. In 2006 the Michigan Department of Transportation appropriated funds to change the location of Highway M-64 and the bridge crossing the Ontonagon River. M-64 now crosses the river 2,500 feet upstream from its previous location and swing bridge (which has been demolished), creating a bypass around the downtown district. (The new bridge is shown at

left.) Large watercraft retain access to the Village Marina below the bridge, whereas smaller watercraft continue to navigate the river upstream of the marina.

Public access to the river is available on Village-owned property at the marina and Riverfront Park. Downstream from the old M-64 bridge site, access is currently limited by the industrial use of the property, and a pier rehabilitation project constructed in 1995 by the Army Corps of Engineers has resulted in the destruction, through erosion, of the Village's only handicapped accessible boardwalk to the East Pier fishing area.

The Army Corps of Engineers maintains the Ontonagon Harbor as a deep-water port up stream to the old M-64 bridge site. The Ontonagon Harbor is as harbor of refuge, with the nearest safe harbors being Black River Harbor 40 miles to the west and the North Portage Entry, 50 miles to the east. Keeping the harbor dredged and usable to deep-water vessels is important to the local economy and future industrial development in the Village. Ontonagon Harbor is the only commercial harbor in Michigan on the western basin of Lake Superior.

Motor freight and car carry most of the goods and people over relatively good highways that connect the trunk lines (for average daily volumes, see **Figure 1**.) A railroad was present until 2011 in the Village of Ontonagon and Ontonagon Township. Rail service (owned by the Escanaba and Lake Superior Railroad) to the Village of Ontonagon was discontinued in 2011. In 2014 13.25 linear miles of railroad track was sold to DNR to establish a key trail connection between the Village of Ontonagon and Rockland.

Passenger air service is available at Hancock and Ironwood. The Ontonagon Township/County airport has a 3,500-foot runway and is available for private flights. Ontonagon County has a public transit system, known as On-Tran, which operates a number of small buses. On-Tran provides countywide service Monday through Friday. Its facility is located on the west end of the Village off Highway M-64.

FLOOD PLAINS

The entire waterfront and a portion of the downtown are located in a 100 year flood plain. The Village participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. Major flooding has occurred in the Village caused by ice dams restricting the flow of spring runoff. These ice dams have occurred at the old M-64 Swing Bridge and at the mouth of the Ontonagon River. The last major flooding occurred in 1963. The slough area can be closed to flowing water as a result of the construction of an earthen dike on the island built after the 1963 flood. The dike remains in place and extends from the railroad grade downstream to the location of the previous M-64 bridge. Relocation of the bridge has alleviated the majority of the ice damming problems. A new formal evaluation of the flood plains needs to be conducted, since the characteristics of flooding in the lower Ontonagon River have likely changed.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

The region surrounding Ontonagon Harbor was shaped during the Pleistocene glaciation. The Ontonagon River is the major stream in the largest watershed on the south shore of Lake Superior.

The Ontonagon River runs in a northerly direction through the break between the Gogebic Range and Copper Range in Western Upper Peninsula. The Ontonagon River drains about a 1,390-square mile area. The shape of the Ontonagon River's drainage area and the topography of the drainage basin is such that high flows of short duration occur with rainfall of moderate intensity over a relatively small area. Most of the drainage area consists of well-defined valleys, but near Lake Superior the river meanders through a broad, gently sloping plain. The upper basin is bowl shaped with four tributaries: the East, Middle, West, and South Branches of the Ontonagon River.

CLIMATE

Because of the moderating influences of Lake Superior, the Village of Ontonagon and Ontonagon Township have climatic and weather conditions less extreme than their northerly location might suggest. The mean annual temperature of 46 degrees Fahrenheit is surprisingly higher than that of the northern Lower Peninsula. The mean annual snowfall is less than some areas of the Western Upper Peninsula and averages 142 inches per year, which is reflective of the area mean annual precipitation of 35 inches/year. Most of the Ontonagon area of 110 to 130 days, which is somewhat longer than in the interior parts of the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula but much shorter than in the coastal areas and all of the southern Lower Peninsula.

GEOLOGY - SOILS

Surface geology of the area consists primarily of Freda Sandstone and Nonesuch Shale; both Upper Precambrian formations. The soils near Lake Superior are generally sandy. Inland, five miles along the Ontonagon River is the Michigamme-Champion-Rockland Association, a shallow, stony, poorly-drained soil. The remaining area around the Village and harbor consists primarily of the Ontonagon-Rudyard-Pickford Association, a deep, well-drained to poorly drained clay type soil which has a very fine texture, and good water capacity. Except for the alluvial soils in the flood plain of the river, the soils in the Village were deposited underwater, when the predecessor to Lake Superior stood at higher levels and inundated the site of Ontonagon. As the Great Lakes water lowered and the surface of the land emerged, the soils were subjected to repeated reworking by surface water. The result is a complex mixture of soil types with a variety of textures and drainage characteristics.

VEGETATION

About 80% of Ontonagon County is in forests, as is about 89% of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The area surrounding the Village is primarily wooded. The major forest type is mixed northern hardwoods including Maple, White Pine, Red Pine, and Aspen.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife in the Ontonagon area is an abundant resource ranging from the larger species such as black bear, white-tailed deer, coyote, wolf, and fox to smaller species such as snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, ruffed grouse, duck and goose. Occasionally, fisher, eagle and bobcat are observed. A large variety of freshwater fish is also abundant in Lake Superior and the small inland lakes. These include such species as walleye, northern pike, trout, musky, bass, perch, and whitefish.

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PART 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL

The Village Council reviews and acts on recommendations received from the Planning Commission, Marina Commission, Recreation Commission and Village Manager. The Council determines and directs general policies toward the recreation needs of the Village. The Council reviews the Capital Improvements Plan and determines the amount of funds that are to be committed toward recreation endeavors. The Village Marina operates as an enterprise fund, being self-funded through fees, whereas the Parks and Rec Building are funded from the Village's General Fund. For 2017, \$44,725 is allocated to Village Marina operations and \$52,750 to Parks and the Rec Building. Finally, the Council receives recreation ideas and concerns directly from the public.

VILLAGE MANAGER

The Village Manager is a voting member of both the Marina Commission and the Recreation Commission and acts as liaison between the Planning Commission and the Village Council. The Manager also directly supervises staff in both the Marina and recreation areas. The Planning Commission maintains the comprehensive Capital Improvements Plan. The Manager makes budgetary recommendations to the Council and implements Council recommended policy.

MARINA COMMISSION

The Marina Commission makes, amends, revises and causes to be enforced written rules and regulations as necessary for proper administration of the Marina. It also provides and causes to be levied and collected adequate fees and rentals so that the marina is self-supporting. All such regulations are submitted to the Village Council for approval. Upon approval, all such regulations may be enforced pursuant to ordinance. The Marina Commission also provides for and instructs the Harbor Master on necessary operation and maintenance of the marina and provides the Village Council with such plans for expansion or alteration as may be required to meet the needs of the boating public.

RECREATION COMMISSION

The Recreation Commission shall have primary responsibility for administration of the Ontonagon Multi-Purpose Recreation Building, which may be leased on a year-to-year basis. The Commission makes, amends, revises and causes to be enforced such written rules and regulations as necessary for proper administration of the facility. The Recreation Commission also considers and recommends to the Village Council whether particular fees for rentals for various activities in the building, as well as commissions upon services rendered there, should be imposed. Upon Village Council approval of particular fees, rentals or commissions, the Recreation Commission causes the same to be levied and collected. Since, 2007, the Village has

contracted with the Ontonagon Area Hockey Association to operate the Rec Building. The Village retains responsibility for major renovations and contributes \$15,000 annually to the utility costs of the facility.

The Recreation Commission considers proposals for other recreational facilities or endeavors, or alterations to existing recreational facilities, and reports to the Ontonagon Village Council each year in February regarding the status of each recreational activity in the Village.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Village Planning Commission makes and adopts a master plan for the physical development of the Village, including any areas outside the boundaries of the Village which, in the Planning Commission’s judgment, bear relation to the planning of the Village. The Planning Commission is granted all powers and duties generally prescribed by state statute. The Planning Commission enforces the Village Zoning Ordinance, maintains the Village Capital Improvement Plans and evaluates the priorities for the Village Council.

VILLAGE RECREATION STAFFING

- Village Manager spends 10 - 15% of time on recreation annually
- Village employs a Marina Harbormaster(s) and an assistant for six months from late April through mid-October each year
- Village employs student workers in the summer to help maintain the Village parks.
- Numerous volunteers contribute time to provide manpower of all ice maintenance, and open skating supervision, and recreation building management
- Potential volunteer labor and donations are taken into account in determining feasibility of recreation facility improvements and expansion (included as items in survey used in development of this plan (see **Appendices B** through **F**))
- Village employees maintain grounds at Marina, Riverfront Park, James K. Paul Park, Recreation Building, and Little League Field

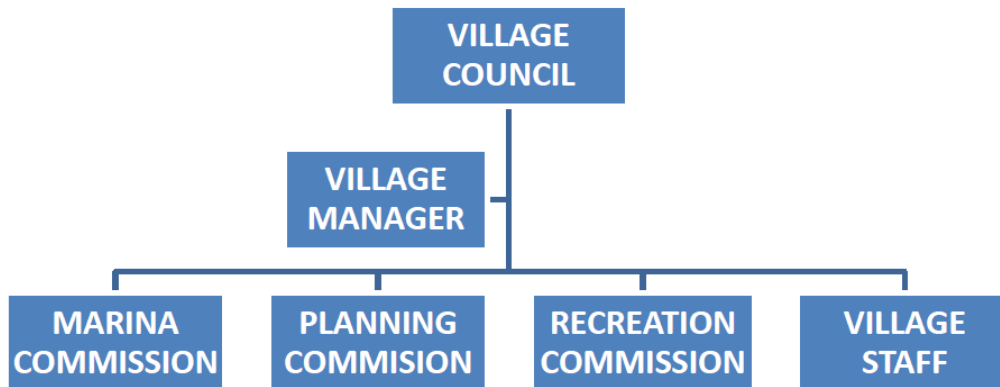


Figure 2: Village of Ontonagon Recreation Administrative Structure

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Ontonagon Township Park and its trails constitute the only developed recreation facility currently managed by the Township. These management responsibilities fall to the Ontonagon Township Parks Commission. This is an elected body established by the Township Board under the authority of Michigan Public Act 157 of 1905. The Parks Commission provides direction, policy, and day-to-day management of the operations of the Township Park facility.

The Ontonagon Township Board of Trustees provides an annual General Fund contribution of support for the operation of the Township Park. This contribution, which is \$5,000 in 2017, offsets operational costs at the park. The remaining operational budget for the Township Park comes from camping revenues (\$85,086 in 2017). The Parks Commission oversees the activities of a full time Park Manager, who oversees both the camping and recreational activities of the park. The total 2017 recreation budget is \$107,949.

Like the Village, the Township utilizes and greatly values volunteer assistance with its facilities—namely the Township Park. Volunteer fundraising and labor were the driving force behind the playground at the Park. The Township will count on similar volunteer efforts for future projects.

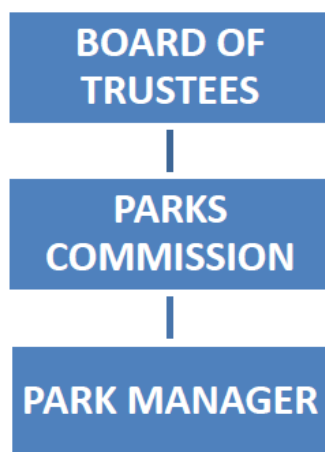


Figure 3: Ontonagon Township Recreation Administrative Structure

TOWNSHIP-VILLAGE CO-OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

Significant industrial economic changes and a desire for more comprehensive recreation planning led the Township Board of Trustees and Parks Commission, in partnership with the Village Council, Village Planning Commission, and Village Recreation Commission, to appoint a five-member Joint Recreation Advisory Panel. The Panel's primary goal will be to focus the combined community efforts on maximizing their recreational and economic opportunities available through the community's abundance of natural resources. The Advisory Panel will

meet quarterly in joint recreation planning sessions to update and expand the combined community activities. In addition, the Village and Township participate in the Ontonagon County Recreational Advisor Group, a voluntary organization formed to share information and promote mutual support between the Federal, State, County, Village, Townships, snowmobile clubs, ATV/ORV organizations and any other groups actively working to improve the recreational opportunities in the Ontonagon County Area.

COUNCIL/BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBERS

JOINT RECREATION ADVISORY PANEL

Joe Erickson, Village Manager
Gunnard Kyllonen, Township Park
Tony Smydra, Village Council
Bob Rotundo, Township

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Ken Waldrop, President
Mike Mogan, Trustee
Bruce Seid, Trustee
John Hamm, Trustee
Don Chastan, Trustee
Elmer Marks, Jr., Trustee
Tony Smydra, Trustee

VILLAGE RECREATION COMMISSION

Jill Johnson, Chairperson
Sue Kempen
Gunnard Kyllonen
Dawn Miller
Tony Smydra, Trustee
Arnie Bolo
Sara Wagoner

TOWNSHIP BOARD

Bill Chabot
Brenda Hamm
Charles Maki
Penny Saari
Steve Store

VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION

James Brogan, Chairman
Henry Hoefflerle
John Hamm, Trustee
David Rosemurgy
Vacant

VILLAGE MARINA COMMISSION

Fred Chamberlain, Chairperson
Joe Erickson, Village Manager
Steve Lindberg
Elmer Marks, Jr., Trustee
Jim Richardson, County Representative
Jerry Coey
Brenton Netz

TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMISSION

Gunnard Kyllonen
John LaSota
James Miles
Bob Rotundo
Deb Slye
Mike White

PART 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

In order to determine the need for future recreational facilities and equipment in the Village and Township of Ontonagon, it is necessary to take stock of what is presently available. This inventory was developed through examination of previous plans and consultation with Township and Village participants in the planning process. **Table 6** and accompanying **Figure 5** and **6** provide this information for planning purposes. The Recreation Commissions goal was to create an inventory of all recreational and potential recreational properties and facilities in the Ontonagon Area.

ACCESSIBILITY

Universal design (**Figure 4**) must be taken into account when planning and renovating recreation facilities to broaden potential group of users and to gain the highest return on investment through maximum versatility and ease of access. Handicapped accessibility is an important component of universal design.

Accessibility assessments and rankings were assigned for each site by the Joint Recreation Advisory Panel based on the parameters outlined in the “DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans” as follows:

- 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=Entire facilities/park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5=Entire facilities/park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

Seven Principles of Universal Design

1. **Equitable Use:** The design is useful and marketable to any group of users.
2. **Flexibility in Use:** The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
3. **Simple and Intuitive Use:** Use of the design is easy to understand.
4. **Perceptible Information:** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user.
5. **Tolerance for Error:** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintentional actions.
6. **Low Physical Effort:** The design can be used efficiently and comfortably.
7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach and use

Figure 4: Principles of Universal Design

VILLAGE OF ONTONAGON

The Village of Ontonagon owns ten named recreation facilities and has several others owned by other entities within its boundaries (also see **Table 6**). **Figure 5** indicates the locations of these recreation assets.

1. *James Paul Park* is a mini-park located across from a veteran's memorial in the downtown area. This small park has no facilities other than sitting benches. The park mainly serves the immediate neighborhood.
2. *Michigan Avenue Little League Field* is a baseball field outside the Recreation Center used for Little League and available for neighborhood use. The park serves the Village and much of the Township's outlying area.
3. *Ontonagon Marina* provides long-term boat docking and public access to the Ontonagon River, which in turn provides access to Lake Superior. The park serves the Village and much of Ontonagon County, as few similar facilities are available.
4. *Ontonagon Recreation Facility* is a 26,400-square foot indoor arena for ice skating and hockey with associated amenities. It also provides for summer events requiring a large floor area. The park serves the Village and much of the Township's outlying area.
5. *Ontonagon Village Beach*, also known as Lakeshore Drive Swimming Beach, is a strip of undeveloped Lake Superior beachfront directly accessible from Lakeshore Drive. The beach mainly serves the Village and Township. Part of the 2005 Ontonagon Township Park and Village of Ontonagon Waterfront Master Plan constitutes the beach's site plan (**Appendix A**), which highlights the beach's ongoing problems with erosion.
6. *Riverfront-Marina Park*, located adjacent to the marina, is the largest park (five acres) owned by the Village. It has a picnic area, playground, large undeveloped green space, and vault toilets. Also within the park is a boardwalk along the Ontonagon River. The main service area is the Village and immediately outlying parts of the Township.
7. *Tousignant Park*, located on the Island. Fishing docks and a parking area are provided at this park.
8. *Webber Park*, located at the south end of the Island. The park provides a river side boardwalk, walking trails, and a parking area.
9. *RICC Park*, located on River Street, the park is began development in 2017 as a public park in the downtown commercial district.
10. *Lakeshore Park*, located near the corner of Lake and Trap Streets, this park is located on leased property from Lakeshore System Inc. and provides additional access to Lake Superior. The park was established in 2017.

ONTONAGON TOWNSHIP

Ontonagon Township owns two recreation facilities (separated into three in **Table 6**). All facilities located within the Village are, of course, also located within the Township. **Figure 6** indicates the locations of these recreation assets.

1. *Green Park* is a roadside community park located near the Township's northwestern border but leased long-term to adjacent Carp Lake Township. The Township has no ongoing involvement with the facility, which contains fire pits, a gazebo, and toilets. The park is a one acre in area. The park serves Carp Lake Township, including its many visitors.
2. *Ontonagon Township Park* includes a semi-modern campground, playground, and one mile of hiking trails. The trails provide a connection to a Village lakefront sidewalk at the Village border. The park also contains a beach separate from the Village Beach as well as two buildings available for rent for both private and civic events. Both buildings are in need of major repair or replacement, with the "Legion Building" to be evaluated this year. The park also faces minor maintenance issues pertaining to picnic tables and soil erosion and stability, which are addressed in the Action Plan (**Part 7**). The entire park is 73 acres in area, approximately half of which remains undeveloped. The park serves the Township and some outlying areas of Ontonagon County. The park's site plan is in **Appendix A** and partially depicted in **Figure 7**.



Figure 5: Village-owned recreation sites

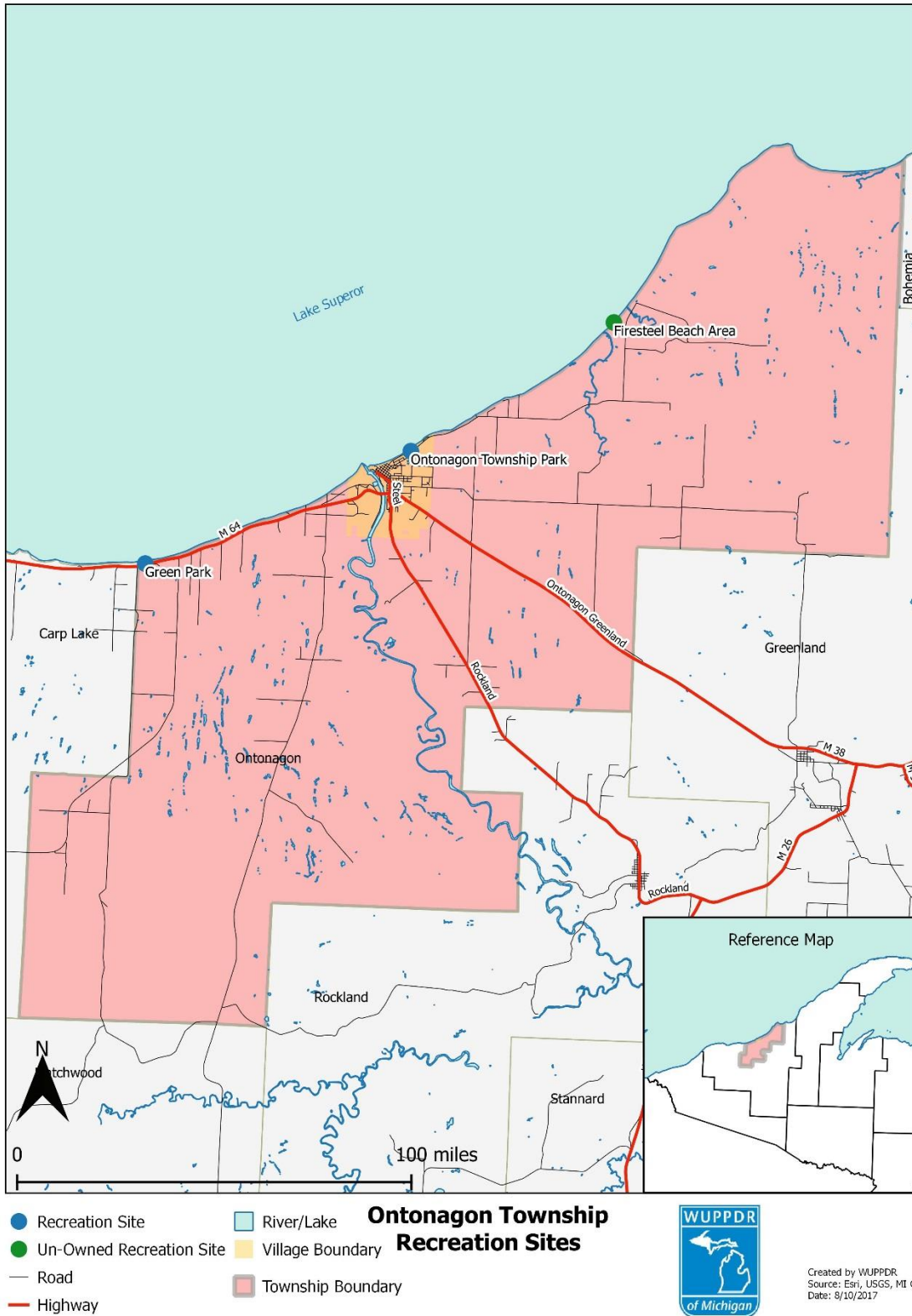


Figure 6: Township-owned recreation sites

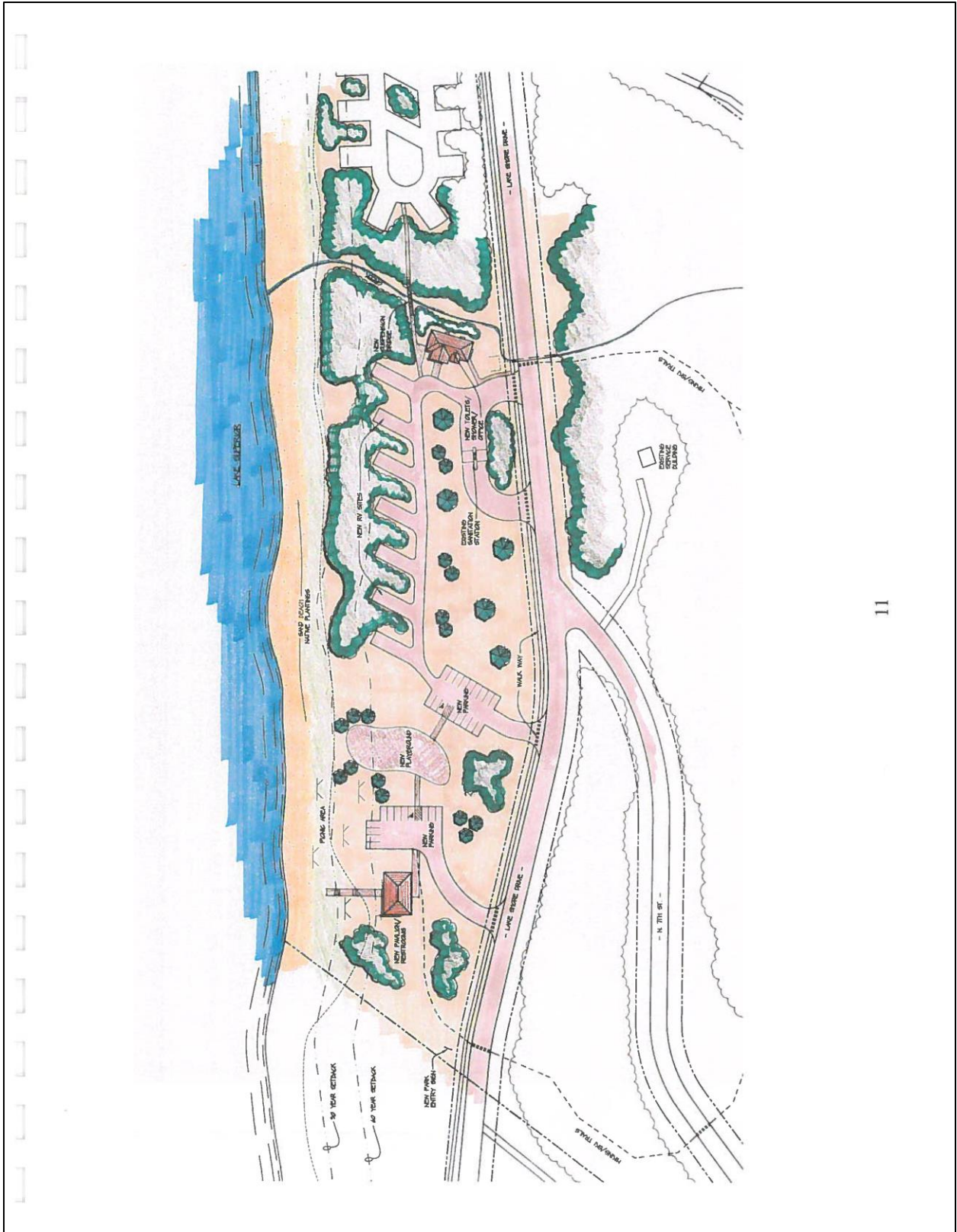


Figure 7: 2005 Ontonagon Township Park Site Plan Map

Table 6: Recreation Inventory: Village and Township of Ontonagon

Location	Type	Ownership	Accessibility Assessment	Existing Facilities
Green Park	Community Park	Carp Lake Twp. (Lease)	2	Pit Toilets, Picnic Tables, Parking Area
James K Paul Park	Small Park	Village	1	Benches, Tables
Little League Field	Outdoor Sports Field	Village	1	Dugouts & Bleachers
Ontonagon Elementary School Buildings & Grounds	Outdoor Sports Facilities & Playground	Village	2	Playground, Basketball Court, Indoor Gym
Ontonagon Area Schools	Indoor/Outdoor Sports Facilities	School	3	Playground, etc.
Ontonagon Golf Club	Golf Course	Private (Open to Public)	2	9 Hole golf course
Village Marina	Marina & Boat Launch	Village	3	50 slip marina
Village Rec. Building	Indoor Arena	Village	1	Indoor Ice Rink
Ontonagon Twp. Park	Campground & Playground	Township	3-4	Camp sites, Playground, etc.
Ont. Twp. Park Hiking Trails	Trails	Township	1	
Village Beaches	Lake Superior Beach	Village	1	Parking Areas
Ontonagon Library	Library	Township	3	
Ontonagon County Historical Museum	Museum	Non-Profit	2	
East Pier Access Walkway	Fishing Access	Village	1	
Ontonagon Theater	Performing Arts	Township	3	
Marina Park	Park & Playground	Village	2	Playground, Volleyball courts
Ont-Rockland Multi Use	Recreational Trail	State	1	

Trail				
Senior Center	Activity Center	Village	3	
Ont. School Nature Area	Trail	School	1	
Historic Fish Houses	Historic Site	Village	1	
Paddlecraft Landing	Water Trail Access	Village	4	Pit Toilet, Parking Area, ADA kayak launch
Ontonagon River Heritage Water Trail	Water Trail	Public Waters	1	
Lake Superior Water Trail	Water Trail	Public Waters	1	
Ontonagon County Firesteel River Property	Park, Water Trail Access	Ontonagon County	1	None
Flintsteel River Access Site	Water Trail Access	Ontonagon County Road Commission	1	None
Ontonagon County ORV Trails	ORV Trails	Multi	1	
Village Pathways	Walking/Bike Paths	Village	2	
E&LS RR Bridge	Trail	State	1	
JK Paul R.O.W. Snow Drags	Event Location	Village	1	
OASD Forest	Trails	School	1	
Paddy's Creek Bridge	Potential Non-Motorized Uses	Private	1	None
Various Underutilized Village Properties.	Potential Rec Uses	Village	1	None
Ontonagon Lighthouse	Museum	OCHS	2	
Airport Property	Cross country ski trails	County	1	None
TBD	Dog Park	TBD	TBD	

TBD	Soccer Field	TBD	TBD	
TBD	Mountain Bike Trails	TBD	TBD	
TBD	Splash Pad	TBD	TBD	
TBD	Community Garden	TBD	TBD	
TBD	Big League Ballfield	TBD	TBD	
TBD	Fitness Trail	TBD	TBD	
TBD	Equestrian Facilities	TBD	TBD	

Previous DNR Recreation Grants

DNR recreation grants previously received by the Village and Township of Ontonagon are as follows:

Village

Boardwalk and Riverfront Park

- Development grant #26-01436 of 1986 in the amount of \$22,591:
 - Paved entrance road & parking (remains in use)
 - Tot lot (remains in usable condition)
 - Landscaping (in state of deterioration)
 - Fisherman’s walkway (remains in use in good condition)
 - Picnic tables (many remain; maintained and replaced as necessary)
 - Vault toilet (remains in use in fair condition)

Marina and Adjacent Areas

- Development grant #26-00179 of 1969 (“Ontonagon Marina”) in the amount of \$60,000
 - Toilet building (functioning in usable condition)
 - Electricity & lighting (functioning and in use)
 - Access road with parking lot (remains in good condition)
 - Slope protection within mooring basin (believed to remain in good condition)
 - LWCF sign (remains legible and in place)
- Development grant #26-01031 of 1978 (“Ontonagon Mooring Facilities”) in the amount of \$59,762.79
 - Finger piers (still functioning their intended purpose)
 - LWCF sign (remains legible and in place)
- Development grant #TF91-236 of 1991 (“Island Shoreline Improvement”) in the amount of \$75,000
 - Boardwalk (remains in use in good condition)
 - Deck (remains in use in good condition)
 - Floating docks (remains in use in good condition)

- Picnic facilities (remains in use in good condition)
- Shore stabilization (remains in place)
- Landscaping (completed but has been subject to wear and tear)
- Parking (remains in use)
- Development grant #26-01516 of 1992 (“Boat Launch Dock/Boardwalk”) in the amount of \$52,358.68
 - Docking, boardwalk, & shoreline protection (serving intended use but have undergone wear and tear)
- Acquisition grant #TF06-032 of 2006 (“Ontonagon Marina Acquisition”) in the amount of \$87,000
 - Acquisition of two acres of Ontonagon Riverfront property for the development of a recreational boating facility and public fishing access at the current marina
 - 1.5 acres were acquired around the “old pump house” in 2013. In 2015, the Village spent \$25,000 to stabilize the river bank from erosion.

Recreation Facility

- Development grant #26-01023 T2 of 1977 in the amount of \$169,153.74.
 - Ice rink (remains in use in good condition)
 - LWCF sign (remains in place and legible)

Pending Grants

MNRTF Grant #TF14-0274 of 2014 to develop an Accessible Paddle Craft Landing on the Island.

- \$63,500 project including 30% match
- Engineering and plans completed
- Permits received from MDEQ
- Project Completed October 2017

MRP Grant #RP15 – 0069 of 2015 to refurbish the lighting at the Recreation Building.

- \$44,500 project including 25% match
- Engineer and plans completed
- LED Lighting Materials bid and received
- Bids pending for installation.
- Project Completed May 31, 2017

MNRC Waterway Grant of 2016 to dredge the Marina Basin

- \$286,400 project including 10% match
- Engineer and Plans Completed
- MDEQ & USACOE Permits received
- Project Bid Awarded October 24, 2016
- Project completion date August 31, 2018

MRP Grant #RP16-0097 of 2016 to replace lighting and benches along Lake Superior/Lakeshore Drive.

- Application received final score of 190
- Awarded

- Fall 2107 – Engineering & Design
- Project Completion Date October 1, 2018

Township

Township Park

- Development grant number 26-01161 of 1980 in the amount of \$5,656.52
 - Access road (remains in use in good condition)
 - Storage/shelter building (remains in use in reasonably good condition)
- Development grant number TF06-075 of 2006 in the amount of \$232,800
 - New restroom/shelter building (remains in use in good condition)
 - Pedestrian bridge and trails (remains in use in good condition)
 - Campsite expansion (in use as completed)
 - Electrical upgrades (functioning and in use)
 - Interpretive signage and hiking trails (functioning and in use)

PART 4: DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

In August 2016, the Village and Township of Ontonagon began the process of revising the five year Rec Plan. The Village Recreation Commission, Township representatives and the general public participated in a number of strategic planning sessions to develop the Recreational Goals, identify local recreational facilities and resources, and develop the five year action plans. The Commission relied on existing information, past surveys and input from various groups in developing the plan. At various times participation from the Ontonagon Regional Inclusive Community Coalition, the Ontonagon Recreational Advisory Group, the Township Park Board members, MI-TRALE and other community representatives participated in the recreational planning process.

In August 2017, the Rec Commission engaged the services of the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (WUPPDR) to assist in the completion of an updated five-year recreation plan.

In 2015, the Village of Ontonagon was a pilot study community for the Michigan Sea Grant programs Sustainable Small Harbor's Project. The Village and Sea Grant staff hosted community leaders and citizens in a three day Charrette on November 5, 6, and 7, 2015. The Charrette was a community planning workshop focusing on Ontonagon's water front. The preferred alternative consisted on mostly enhancing the recreational access to Lake Superior and the Ontonagon River, making the water front and access from the downtown a key element in improving the Village's economic development. The Recreation Commission made extensive use of this report in developing the Rec Plan. The final report is provided in appendix, **XXX**.

The Recreation Commission reviewed the previous survey conducted in 2012. Ultimately 129 responses were received to the survey, the majority being online. The surveys were virtually identical with regard to content, and their results were combined for analysis. The full print survey form, aggregate results in the survey form and in a Survey Gizmo report, descriptive charts, and categorized comments can be found in **Appendices C** through **G**, respectively. In addition to the survey, the Ontonagon Village/Township Joint Recreation Advisory Panel held planning sessions during October, November, and December 2016 and January and February 2017. The Advisory Panel also reviewed the 2017 Ontonagon County Recreational Survey for additional insight on the recreational needs of the area.

Members of the public had the opportunity to comment on Village and Township recreation planning at public meetings on November 16, 2016, March 15, 2017, May 17, 2017 and June 21, 2017 at various stages of the development of this plan. After sufficient input had been taken, and with the approval of the established Village and Township decision making bodies, the Joint Recreation Advisory Panel met with WUPPDR staff to finalize the joint recreation plan to present to both the Village and Township Planning Commissions. The resulting Five-Year Recreation Plan draft focused heavily on the results of the extensive recreation survey.

The required 30-day review and comment period for the draft was announced at the November 13, 2017 Village Council meeting (minutes in **Appendix H**). A press release (**Appendix I**) was done for the same on November 23, 2017. In addition, the Village and Township posted notices

around the community and in the November 23 edition of the Ontonagon Herald (**Appendix J**). The draft was available for examination at the same outlets where the survey had been. Two submissions of written comments were received and are summarized in **Appendix K**.

After minor modifications of the Plan draft based on this public input, a public hearing was held by the Joint Panel on **December , 2017** to take final comment on the Plan. Notice of the hearing was given in the Ontonagon Herald on **December** (**Appendix L**). Minutes from the hearing are in **Appendix M**. The Plan was approved by both the Village and the Township at regular meetings on January following the hearing. The adoption resolutions are in **Appendix N**.

DRAFT

PART 5: GOALS

The cooperative goal of the Village of Ontonagon and the Township of Ontonagon is to create a recreational environment in the Ontonagon Area that enhances the quality of life of all persons, of all ages, of all abilities, and of all interests for the physical and spiritual well-being of each us and all of us. The following goals have been adopted to help achieve this vision:

- **Goal 1:** Provide facilities, programs and opportunities which sufficiently meet the recreation needs of all residents and visitors;
- **Goal 2:** Manage land and water resources within the Village and Township to provide for future generations;
- **Goal 3:** Spend limited recreation funds in an efficient and effective manner;
- **Goal 4:** Improve, expand, and enhance our existing parks and recreation facilities for our residents, visitors and future generations;
- **Goal 5:** Make all of our parks and recreation facilities user friendly and accessible, in the spirit of universal design, and welcoming to all people;
- **Goal 6:** Explore new recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities;
- **Goal 7:** Seek partnerships, both public and private, to provide and improve the recreational opportunities of our residents, visitors and future generations; and
- **Goal 8:** Develop and improve linkages between our parks and recreational facilities and the world; with trails, pathways, complete streets, and any other means, to provide a recreational journey from our recreational facilities to our neighbors.

PART 6: RECREATION NEEDS – OBJECTIVES & BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

When determining the need for recreation opportunities in the Village and Township, several key elements need to be analyzed in order to formulate an Action Plan. Based on the recreation survey, discussions with residents, and the involved legislative and advisory bodies, a variety of recreation deficiencies were identified. The Action Program (**Part 7**) is intended to provide for those needs which are most evident at the present time and for which developing trends indicate a need.

When developing this Plan, the Recreation Committee sought to broaden the scope of recreational opportunities in the Village and Township. The committee expanded the Recreational Inventory to consider traditional and non-traditional recreational facilities, explored potential recreational sites, and identified recreational sites outside of the Village and Township with linkages and trail connections to the local area. The consideration for development of any recreational assets can be greatly influenced by partnerships. The Committee strongly supports partnerships, cooperation, mutual support with public and private groups and organizations promoting recreational development at any of these facilities and sites.

The Village and Township participate in the Ontonagon County Recreational Advisory Group, which was formed to share information and promote mutual support between the Federal, State, County, Village, Townships and various organizations actively working to improve the recreational opportunities in the Ontonagon County Area. This group has been especially beneficial in promoting trail networks for snowmobiles, ORVs, paddle craft, equestrian and hiking. Through the promotion of the various trail networks, local recreational facilities can be promoted, enhanced and new facilities developed in a cooperative and mutually supported manner.

Through numerous strategic planning sessions with the Joint Committee and members of the public, a number of potential recreational sites and activities were identified. Many of these sites are vacant, or used for purposes other than recreation at this time. The Committee identified numerous ways to provide recreational uses alongside of other public land uses. One of these ideas would be to create a cross-county ski trail on land surrounding the Ontonagon County Airport. Vacant parcels in residential area could be developed into neighborhood parks and play lots. Some sites with minimum effort could be used for play fields or perhaps a dog park. Other options would be to make use of County Forest lands for multi-use purposes, cross-country skiing, mountain biking or hiking trails. Development of recreational uses on existing publicly owned sites not only reduces costs for land acquisition, but provides opportunity for unique partnerships and creative recreational uses.

The Village of Ontonagon has a number of existing parks and recreational facilities. A brief description of the sites in the recreational inventory is provided below:

Village Recreation Building, located on Michigan Avenue, provides an indoor recreation facility. The facility was constructed in 1977 and is in need of various updates and modernization. Winter time activities are focused around the artificial ice rink, for youth hockey and public skating. Summer time activities center on community events and private rentals of the building. Proposed updates include replacement of the ice making equipment, replacement of the boards and glass, renovations to restrooms and facilities for ADA compliance, replacement of doors and hardware, and other renovations to improve the potential uses of the facility. The Village currently has a Recreation Passport Grant to update the lighting to energy efficient LEDs. The UA rating for the Rec Building is currently a 2-3.

Lake Superior Beaches: The Village owns two areas of Lake Superior shoreline. The principal site is the Lake Superior Beach Park along Lakeshore Drive. This park is also known as the “pump-house” beach, is the most accessible and popular public area in the Village. The facilities on the site include a small parking lot, sidewalk, benches and lighting of the pathway along Lakeshore Drive. The shoreline is accessed at various unimproved sand paths over the low dunes. Future improvements to the park include replacement of the lighting along the sidewalk, installing new benches and bike racks, improving ADA accessibility, restroom / changing facilities, viewing decks and additional picnic facilities. Plans are currently being sought to change the lights to “dark sky compliant” LEDs. The beach is a prime location for viewing sunsets and the Northern Lights, and the current lights can distract from night time viewing. Grants are also being sought for beach access decks, to replace the unimproved paths over the dunes. The decks (**Figure 8**) will be ADA compliant, and will not only allow people with mobility issues to get close to the beach, but will reduce erosion of the dunes. The UA rating for this area is 1, improvement could increase the rating to 3 or 4.



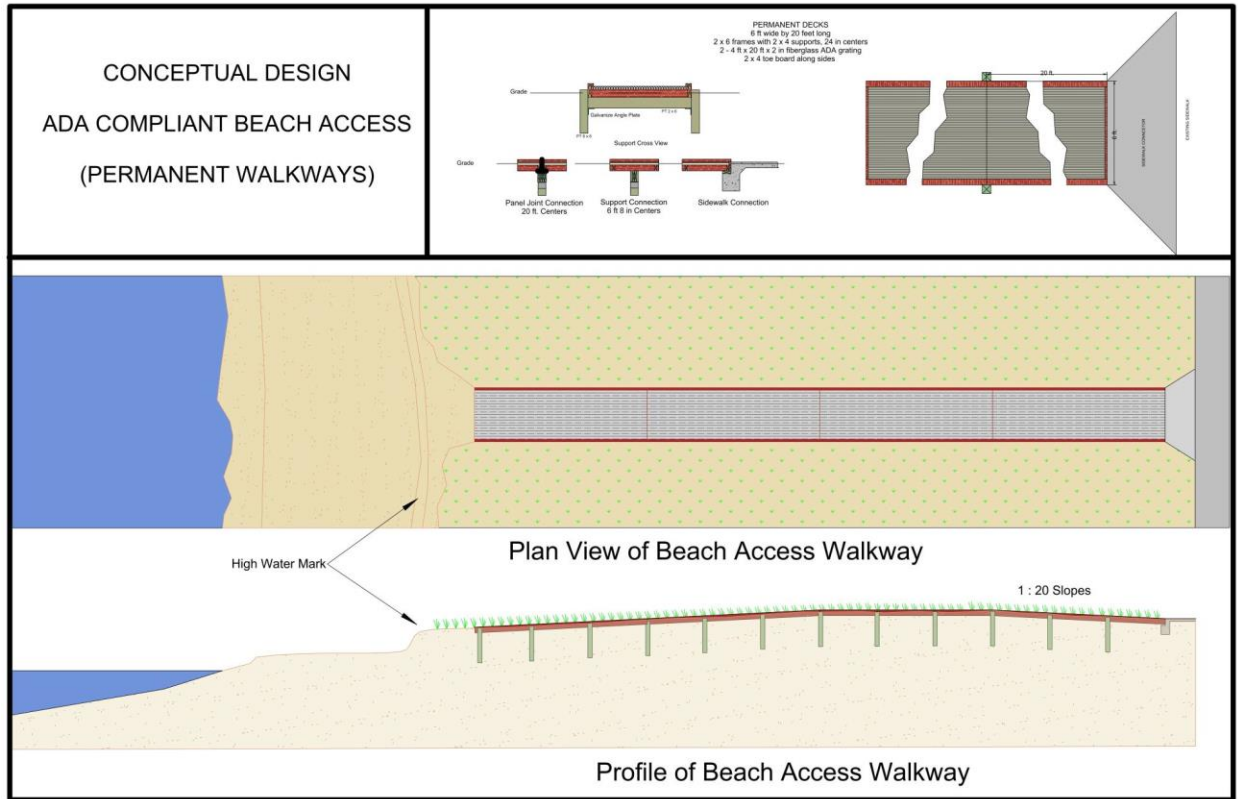


Figure 8: Concept design for ADA compliant beach access

Lake Superior Beach

The second beach front recreation area in the Village is located between Epidote and Conglomerate Streets. The site consists of wooded areas, dunes and the beach. Access is provided by trails from the road ends of Epidote and Conglomerate Streets, and at the intersection of Ontonagon and Amygdaloid Streets. These semi improved trails are intended for pedestrian or non-motorized access, since parking is limited.

The Village has acquired a lease from Lakeshore Systems Inc. securing access to the Beach from the corner of Lake and Trap Streets. The lease also allows access to the beach/shoreline along the Lakeshore property to the channel piers. A picnic area, benches, boardwalk and a parking area are proposed for the Lakeshore Park. The acquisition of the Lakeshore Systems property by the Village between Trap and Conglomerate Streets will provide room for parking and restroom/changing facilities. This property is also contiguous to the Village beach property above. An accessible boardwalk along the top of the dunes would also provide additional recreational opportunity. Other future improvements are limited until Ontonagon Street is extended to Epidote Street. The UA rating for this area is 1, with improvements could increase the rating to 2 or 3.

Rose Island: The Village owns a majority of the property on the Island (**Figure 9**), located adjacent to the Downtown side of the Ontonagon River. The Rose Island channel separates the Island from the main stream of the river. Webber Park is located at the south end of the island with a parking lot at the end of Island Road. There is a boardwalk along the river and nature trails through the woods. The trails cross the channel and can be accessed from Zinc Street. The boardwalk and trails extend north along the island to the historic fish houses. The UA rating for this site is a 3.

The historic fish houses are located near the middle of the island. They consist of two buildings used for commercial fishing and the oldest dates back to the early 1900's. Murals on the sides of the building depict the early fishing industry along the river. Future development of this area includes locating a fishing tug acquired by the Ontonagon Historical Society nearby. The fishing tug was the last operating commercial fishing vessel operating out of the Ontonagon harbor. The Historical Society plans to open one of the houses up for historical displays. Other improvements include stabilizing the buildings and other site improvements for accessibility.

Near the historic fish houses is located the Rose Island Paddle Craft Landing. The landing was constructed in the summer of 2017 with a MNRTF grant. The facility includes an accessible pit toilet and an ADA accessible canoe/kayak launching dock, located on Rose Island Channel. A parking lot and storage lockers for canoes & kayak is also on the site. This site was designed for ADA accessibility to the launch. The UA rating for this area is a 1, with the completion of improvements the rating will be a 3 or 4.

Three privately owned parcels separate Tousignat Park from the fish house and landing sites. These parks are connected with a paved pathway along Island Road. Tousignat Park consists of a paved parking area, boardwalks and two floating fishing platforms that are placed on the river. The property north of the parking lot was acquired with an MNRTF grant in 2012. This parcel adjoined an existing Village owned parcel where an old water works building is located. In 2014, the Village stabilized the bank along the river with rip-rap to stem erosion. The path along the top of the rip-rap is planned to be a boardwalk that will eventually extend along the river to Ontonagon Street. Future plans for this area include renovating the old waterworks building into a pavilion complex with a large patio for picnics, gathering and events. The pavilion, patio and paths will be constructed to universal accessibility standards. The area surrounding the building would be improved to provide ample greenspace. In the event of sewer service being made available on the Island, fully accessible restrooms can be constructed as part of the pavilion renovations. The UA rating for this area is a 2, with improvements the rate will be a 4 or 5.

Other recreational facilities planned for this area are a non-motorized foot bridge over the channel connecting with Houghton Street. Sidewalks and paths along Houghton Street would provide a non-motorized connection to Lake Superior and the Township Park. Along the Ontonagon River, future plans include the construction of a day use dock for boats. The river side dock would provide boaters access to the Island Park facilities and are within walking distance to the Downtown. One option being considered is to relocate the dock from the west side of the river to this vicinity on the east side of the river.

Former Rail Yard: The Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad yard was acquired by the MDNR in 2014. The Village is interested in acquiring the property or a long term lease to develop the site for recreational purposes. Currently the site is vacant and an eye sore that is adjacent to our Downtown. Proposed uses for the property include an ORV/Snowmobile Trailhead parking area, restrooms, the site cleared and leveled for greenspace, a pavilion, and walking paths. The current UA rating for the site is 1, and with improvements a 4 or 5.

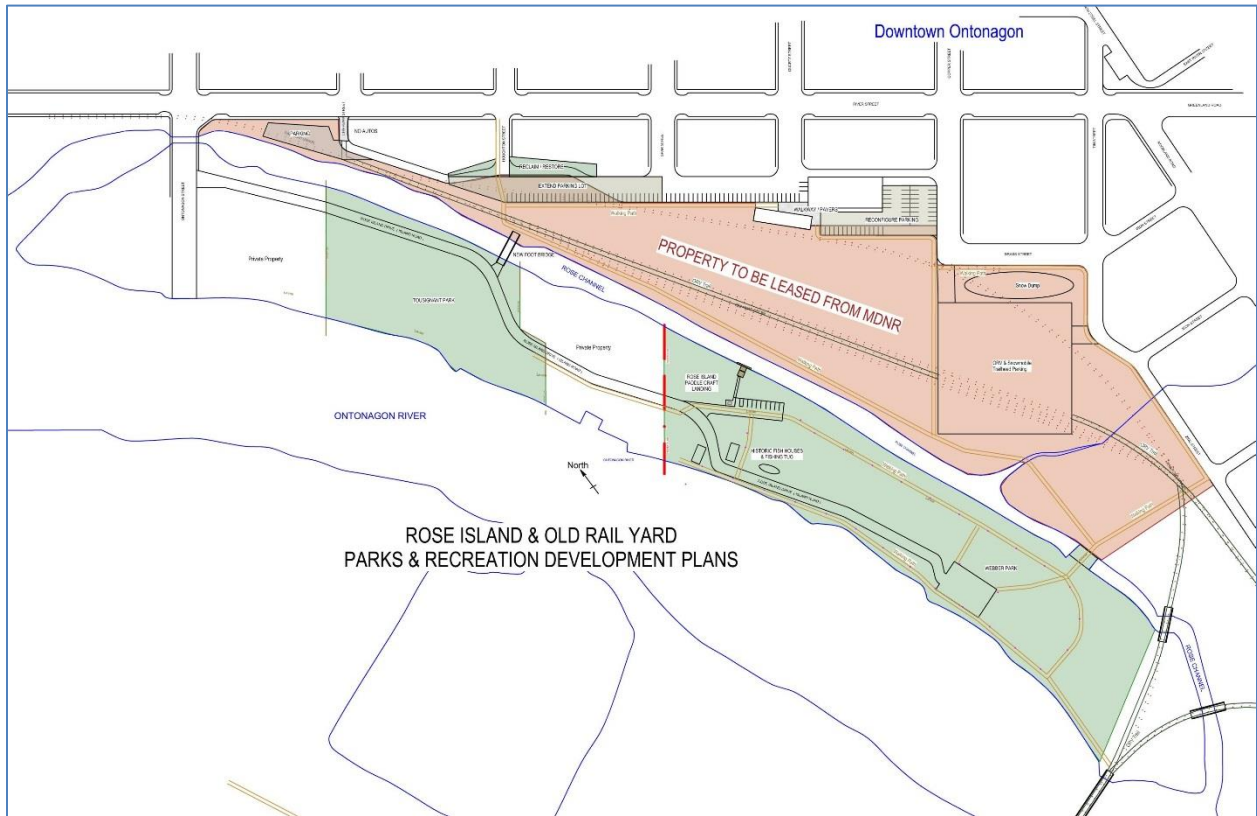


Figure 9: Rendering of Acquired MDNR Rail Yard and Rose Island

East Pier Pathway: The Village acquired an easement along the Ontonagon River to provide access to the East Pier of the harbor channel. The path was construction in 1992. However in 1994 a severe storm damaged the pathway. The Village has made subsequent repairs to keep the path usable, but is it no longer ADA compliant. The pathway is lighted. The path provides access for fishing along the river and views of the Historic Ontonagon Lighthouse across the river. Future plans include reconstructing the pathway to ADA standards. A stairway from the end of the pier to the beach on Lake Superior is also planned. The UA rating for the site is 1, with improvements the site rating will be a 3 or 4.

Downtown Parks: The Village has two locations with the potential to develop into parks along U.S. 45 – River Street. The RICC park (**Figure 10**) is located between the Aspirus Hospital Fitness Center and the Ontonagon County Historical Museum. The property is leased from the Aspirus Hospital. The park consists of a surface of brick pavers, benches and picnic tables. Future improvements include additional pavers, flower beds, public artwork, the relocation of a

drinking fountain and other amenities. The Park is intended to be a public social space in our downtown. The park is being funded through grants and volunteers, including the Ontonagon County Chapter of the Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC). Phase one of the park was completed in October 2017. The UA rating for this site will be a 4 or 5.

Other vacant land in the 500 block of River Street is being looked at by the Village Downtown Development Authority for a public band shell and other entertainment purposes. Additional downtown recreation space was identified as a recommendation in the Sustainable Small Harbors planning case study project funded by the Michigan Sea Grant Project. The projects goal was identifying barriers and opportunities for small harbor communities to become economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable and equip community leaders with the tools to assess and strengthen their own waterfront assets.

RICC Park Development Plans



- Phase I - Main Pathway - 14' x 100', 6,300 pavers & materials, est. cost = \$4,100. 8 hours site prep, remove topsoil and add sand base. Volunteers to install pavers. Christmas tree stand installed, 10 in. dia. pipe with cover. (Completed October 2017)
- Phase II - Bump Outs - 2,676 pavers & materials, est. cost = \$1,400. 8 hours site prep, remove topsoil and add sand base. Volunteers to install pavers.
- Phase III - Picnic Tables and Trash Recepticals - All items are 100% recycled materials, purchased by donations, fund raising, crowdfunding etc. All tables are accessible, est. cost \$850 to \$1,650 each. Trash recepticals est. cost \$750 each.
- Phase IV - Relocated Drinking Fountain - Currently located at Quartz Street, installed by Village DPW. 300 pavers & materials, est. cost = \$300.
- Phase V - Conversation Areas - 400 pavers & materials, est cost \$350. 6 hours site prep, remove topsoil and add sand base. Volunteers to install pavers. All 6 foot benches are 100% recycled materials, purchased by donations, fund raising etc. Est cost \$475 each.
- Phase VI - Electrical Power - Install electrical power service, underground, with locking panel and 3 locked outlets. Handhole with power installed for Christmas tree stand. Est. cost = \$2,500
- Phase VII - Landscaping & Artwork - This phase can be implemented at any time. Landscape grounds and prepare adjacent building walls for artwork. 100% funded by donations, etc. Park sign installed by Village est. cost \$425 each.

Figure 10: RICC development plans

Village Pathways: The Village has various sidewalks and pathways adjacent to public streets. In 2013 the Village adopted a Complete Streets Resolution to address non-motorized user of the streets as well as motorized use. Various Village plans identify the importance of linking public

parks and facilities to the Downtown, River front and Lakeshore. The Village will incorporate non-motorize paths into street reconstruction projects when possible, and construct additional pathway where opportunity arises. The current UA rating is a 2 or 3, with improvements rating would be a 3 or 4.

JK Paul Park: The park located at the corner of East River and North Steel Streets, adjacent to the Township Memorial Building, is dedicated to the founder of Ontonagon, James K. Paul. The park has picnic tables and benches. Future improvement includes updating the benches and tables. New lighting was installed in 2015 and a new sign was installed in 2016. The current UA rating is a 2.

Marina Park: The park is located north of the Village Marina, this large open space park feature access to the Ontonagon River and a fishing pier, beach volleyball courts and a playground. Future improvements are to enhance the greenspace to be suitable for an athletic field. The current UA rating is a 2 or 3.

Village Marina: The Village owns a full service 50 slip marina that is manned by a full time Harbor Master from May 15th to October 15th. The Marina offers full electrical and water service to the main slips, along with sewer pump out, fuel (gasoline) and an ADA chair lift. The harbormaster office has showers and restroom facilities. Adjacent to the harbormaster office is a fish cleaning station. To the south of the marina basin is a large parking lot for boat storage and 3 boat launches with trailer parking. The Marina has a 30 ton Travel Lift to move large vessels in and out of the water. The boat launch area also includes a pavilion, 2 fishing piers, and a pit toilet. The Marina Commission received a \$285,000 grant from the MDNR Waterways Division to dredge the Marina basin. This dredging project will restore approximately 80% of the basin to its original 10 foot depth. The Marina requires maintenance dredging every ten years or so, and approximately 10,000 to 15,000 cubic yard of spoil are removed and deposited on a Village owned upland site. Future projects include improvements to the showers and restrooms, upgrades to the electrical system, replacement of the fuel pumps and sewer pump out equipment. A major long term capital project would be to extend the south pier to the north to narrow the entrance channel, reducing the amount of sediments reaching the Marina and making dredging of the new channel easier. The Village Marina Commission reviews and recommends capital project to the Village Council. The Commission maintains the capital projects plan for the Marina facilities. The current UA rating is a 2 or 3, with improvements the facility could achieve a 4.

Old Elementary School Property: In 2017 the Village acquired the old elementary school and most of the adjacent property from delinquent taxes (**Figure 11**). The property hosts a playground and outdoor basketball court. The Village has formed a committee to evaluate the potential uses, including recreational, for the old school buildings. The current UA rating is a 3.



Figure 11: Acquired Ontonagon Elementary School Property

Ontonagon Area Schools – Zimmer Park: Located to the west of the School this School owned park consists of tennis courts and nature trails. Future plans include improvements to the trails, and additional rec facilities such as a basketball court, picnic tables and horseshoe pits. The current UA rating is a 2.

Ontonagon Township Park & Campground: The Township Park located on Lake Superior within the Village Limits provides a full service campground, shower facilities, pumpout station, hook ups and other services. There are two rental shelters on the property and a new pavilion constructed in 2017. The playground area has ADA compliant equipment and is accessible. Future improvements include updates to the facilities listed in the Township Action Plan. The current UA rating is a 3.

Ontonagon – Rockland Trail: This is Full Multi-use DNR Designated trail originating within the Village. The route was opened in 2017. The trail is currently suitable for ORVs in the summer and snowmobiles in the winter. The Village proposes further enhancement of the trails to provide for a suitable walking /biking surface and separations to provide a true multi-use trail system. Future improvements include the establishment of a trail head parking area with in the Village and construction of restrooms. The current UA rating is a 2.

Ontonagon River – Historic Water Trail: This is a water trail on the Ontonagon River from the forks of the east and middle branches at Military Hill on U.S. 45 south of Rockland (see **Figure 12** along with other water trails). The US Forest Service is developing a canoe/kayak landing at the forks on the west side of the River. This is a put in place for the water trail with take out in Ontonagon. The Ontonagon County Historical Society has developed a historic guide, with GPS locations, of sites and historical locations along the Ontonagon River. The current UA rating is a 1.

Lake Superior Water Trail – Union Bay to Misery Bay: This water trail follows the shore line of Lake Superior from Union Bay boat launch in the Porcupine Mountains State Park to the Misery Bay boat launch in northern Ontonagon County (**Figure 12**). The trail identifies

locations along the shore where there is public property for access to the shore. The locations have GPS coordinates to mark the locations. The identified access points have been mapped with shore amenities identified for paddlers. Future improvements to the trail include signage as part of the Lake Superior water trail. The current UA rating is a 2.

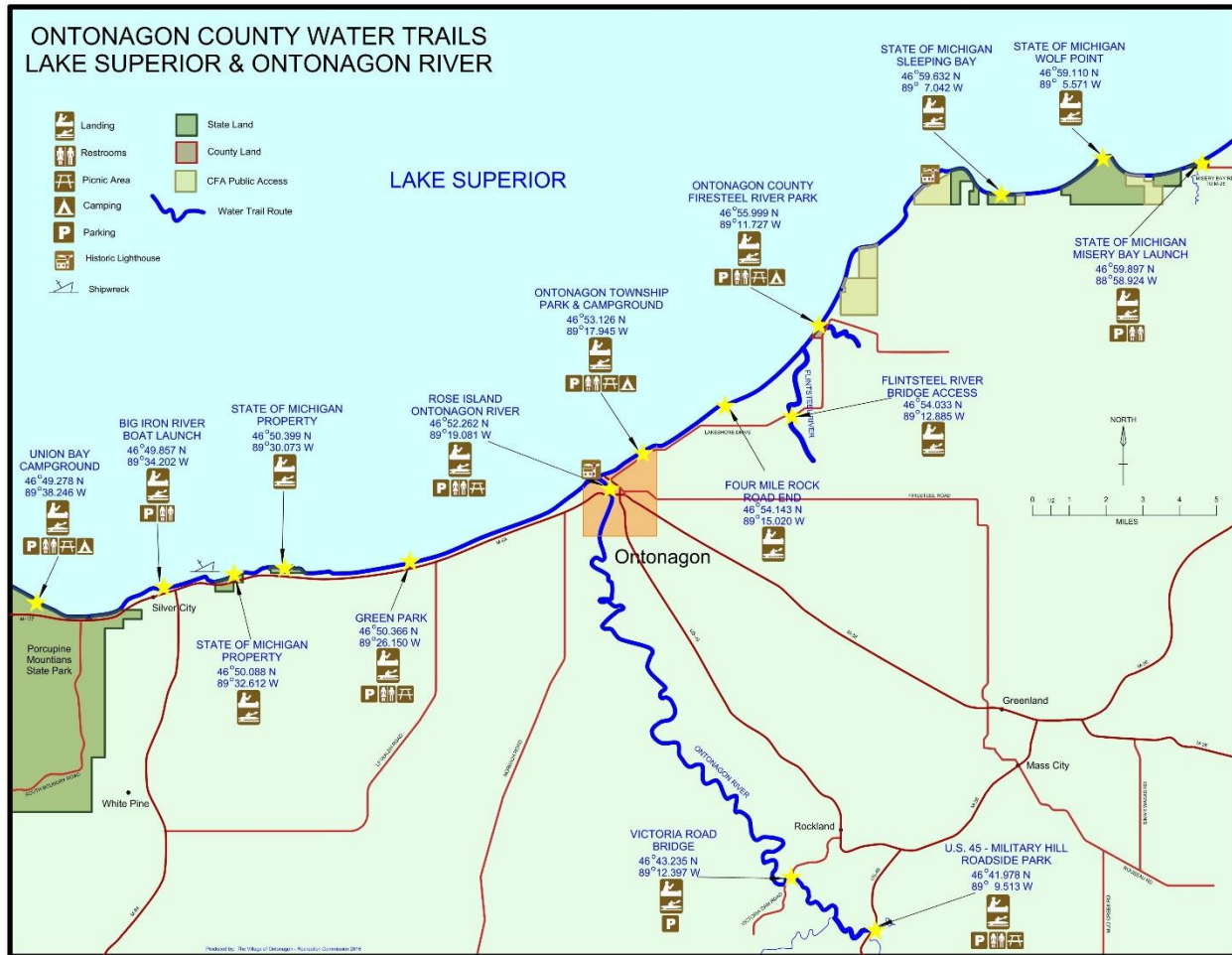


Figure 12: Ontonagon water trails

Ontonagon County – Firesteel Property: This is undeveloped County property within the Township. The property provides access to Lake Superior. Future plans include a boardwalk to access the beach and primitive camp sites.

OCRC – Flintsteel River Bridge: This property is located on the Ontonagon County Road Commission right-of-way. The site is proposed as an access point to the Flintsteel River for canoes and kayaks.

Ontonagon County ORV & Snowmobile Trails: There are various ORV and Snowmobile trails in Ontonagon County, many of these traverse portions of the Village and Township (Figure 13). The Village proposes further enhancement of the trails network to provide for a

suitable walking/hiking/ biking surface and separations to provide a true multi-use trail system. Future improvements include trail extensions and connectivity, trail heads and facilities.

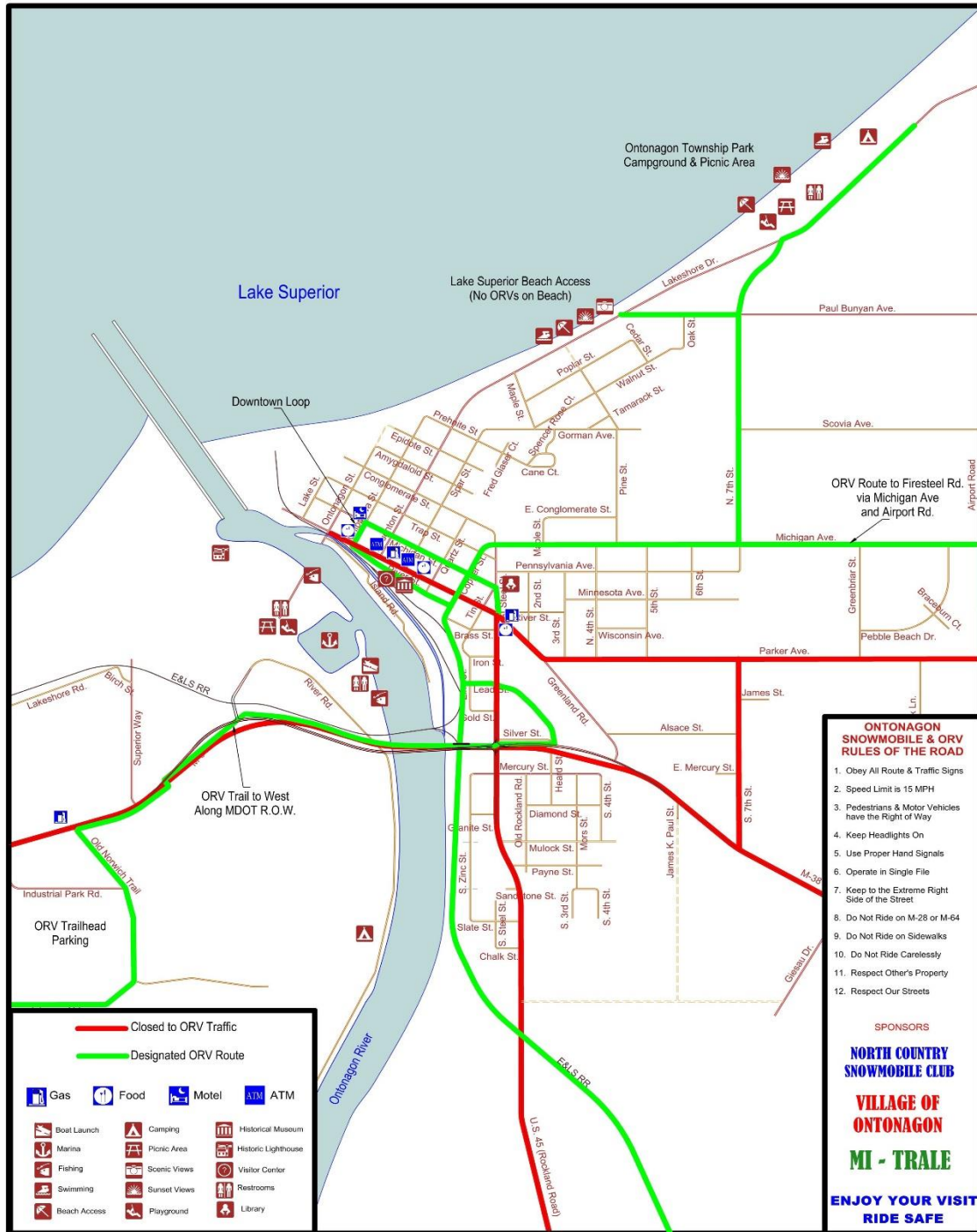


Figure 13: Snowmobile and ORV trails within the Village

Ontonagon County Forest Lands: Ontonagon County owns various lands in their forest reserve program. These lands are open to the public for hunting and other recreational uses. The

county lands could be developed for additional recreational uses such as cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails, hiking trails, etc.

Undeveloped Village Properties: These are vacant properties in the Village that could be used for future recreational purposes. Future uses include neighborhood parks, community gardens, picnic areas and playfields.

Ontonagon Township – Theater & Library: Located in the Township Memorial Building on N. Steel Street. These facilities provide passive recreational opportunities through the performing arts and learning activities. Various programs, play and concerts are scheduled throughout the year.

Ontonagon Senior Center: Located on Lake Street just off River Street in the Village, this facility provides a gathering place for seniors in the community for various activities.

Ontonagon Historical Museum & Lighthouse: The Museum located on River Street in the Village provides historical information and artifacts about Ontonagon County. Tours of the Lighthouse are provided from the museum.

Dog Park: There is an identified need for this type of recreation facility in the area. The location of such facility is yet to be determined.

Soccer Field: There is an identified need for this type of recreation facility in the area. The location of such facility is yet to be determined.

Mountain Bike / X Country Ski Trails: There is an identified need for this type of recreation facility in the area. The location of such facility is yet to be determined.

Skate Park: There is an identified need for this type of recreation facility in the area. The location of such facility is yet to be determined.

Community Garden: There is an identified need for this type of recreation facility in the area. The location of such facility is yet to be determined.

Big League Baseball Field: There is an identified need for this type of recreation facility in the area. The location of such facility is yet to be determined.

Neighborhood Playgrounds: There is an identified need for this type of recreation facility in the area. The location of such facility is yet to be determined.

Other Recreational Activities: The Village and Township Recreation Commissions are always open to proposals for new recreational activities and facilities. The Commissions encourage the public to share their desires for expanded recreational opportunities.

The Five-Year Action Program identifies specific projects to allow such assets to meet their full potential. Most of these projects were also identified by the preceding Village and Township Recreation Plans. The extensive list of recreational needs and opportunities represents a comprehensive look at the recreational potential of the Village and Township. As opportunities arise the Village and Township should take advantage these to meet the recreational goals of this plan. The community should continue to explore opportunities for recreation trails, including snow, ORV, water, equestrian, and others for connectivity to recreational trail networks.

DRAFT

PART 7: FIVE-YEAR ACTION PROGRAM

It was decided that in Ontonagon Village the top priorities for recreation would be to utilize a variety of funding sources to pursue recreational improvements. A number of potential project funding sources were identified. Other Village/Township projects were recognized as important but of lower priority. In Ontonagon Township the highest priorities were all allocated to the Township Park. All prioritized projects would be funded by grant monies, local funds, or both. Projects will occur from 2018 through 2022, allowing the remainder of 2017 to be used mostly for remaining planning tasks. See **Tables 7-9** for details.

Table 7: Village Recreation Projects

Year	Project Title/Description	Est. Cost	Funding Sources
2018	Replace signage, rec maps, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles at parks	\$15,000	Existing grant funds and general fund appropriations.
2019	East Pier sidewalk repairs and beach access.	\$50,000	RPG grant.
2020	Village River Community (Railyard) Park	\$750,000	LWCF, MNTF, RPG grants, State funds.
2021	ADA beach access walkways	\$75,000	RPG grant.
2022	Bike trails, x-country ski trails, and snowshoe trails	\$25,000	RPG, MNTF grants

Table 8: Village Marina Recreation Projects

Year	Project Title/Description	Est. Cost	Funding Sources
2018	Repaint docks and piers	\$10,000	Marina Funds
2019	Replace pump out station	\$25,000	BIG Grant
2020	Replace fuel pumps	\$50,000	Waterways grants
2021	Renovate showers and restrooms	\$100,000	Waterways, RPG grants
2022	Realign Marina Entrance Piers	\$1,500,000	Waterways grants

Table 9: Township Recreation Projects

Year	Project Title/Description	Est. Cost	Funding Sources
2018	Rental Cabin and Playground Improvements	\$25,000, \$30,000	MNTF, RPG Grants
2019	Expand parking area south of road, additional picnic tables	\$7,500, \$1,500	Park Funds
2020	Beach Changing Facility, and parking improvements	\$30,000, \$15,000	MNTF, RPG Grants
2021	New toilets and additional camp sites	\$25,000, \$100,000	MNTF, RPG Grants
2022	Safety Fence, and pave basketball court	\$10,000, \$8,000	RPG Grants

APPENDIX

- A. Schedule of Community Forums/Meetings
- B. Public Notification Affidavits of Community Meetings
- C. Draft Plan Public Comment Period Announcement(s)
 - a. Website
 - b. Social Media
 - c. Newspaper
- D. Summary of Public Comments Received During Review Period
- E. Public Hearing Notice of Affidavit from Ontonagon Herald
- F. Public Hearing Minutes
 - a. Village Council
 - b. Township Council
- G. Adoption Resolutions
 - a. Village Council
 - b. Township Council
- H. Post Completion Inspection Reports