

MUNISING

RECREATION PLAN

2024-2028



MUNISING

RECREATION PLAN OUTLINE 2024-2028

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MUNISING RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION

1

INTRODUCTION

5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2022-2027

Every 5 years communities throughout Michigan update their recreation plans to ensure qualification for annual Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) funding opportunities.

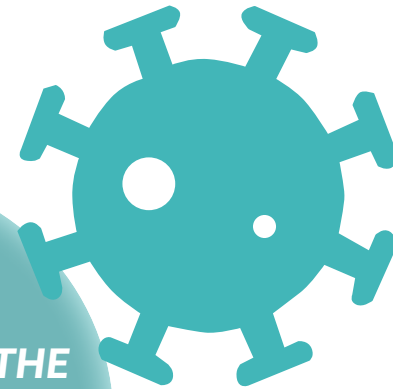
The 5 year recreation plan must adhere to a format defined by the MDNR and outline priority goals, objectives, and projects with the potential to be completed within the 5 year window and beyond.

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

Looking beyond the 5-year window, this document will serve as a road map for future endeavors improving parks for decades to come. The 2024-2028 Recreation Plan will assist City officials in determining priority projects to nurture an already expansive parks system. It will outline strategies for making parks accessible to all and provide park designs that allow future generations to grow and prosper within.

**“A
BILLBOARD FOR THE
U.P.”**

-DAN B. JONES
THE DETROIT NEWS



Covid-19 and its many variants wreaked havoc on everything we knew to be normal from riding the bus to school in the morning to picking up a cup of coffee at the local shop. Despite these irksome new Covid wary habits, there is at least one silver lining. The outdoors have become our safe haven, friend and family gathering space and vacation destination. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan tourism industry has exploded, boosting local economies.

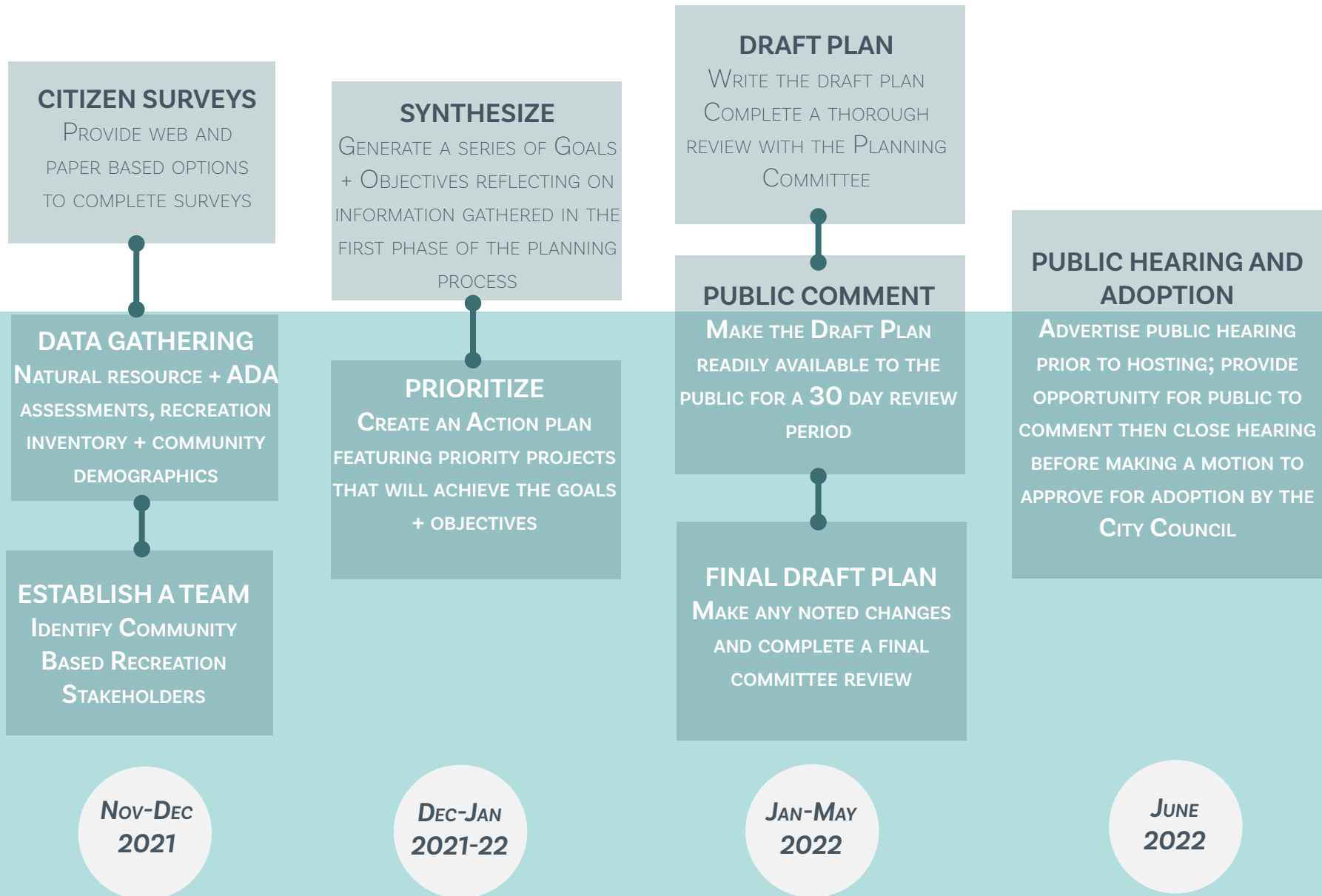
The Covid-19 stimulated spike in socially distanced outdoor tourism and surge in work from home options, paired with the expansion of our U.P. broadband grid has added to a rise in home and property sales.

A report prepared by the MEDC by Tourism Economics in 2014, found direct spending by leisure travelers equated to \$16.6 billion-nearly 73% of all visitor spending in Michigan. As this report demonstrates, local economies are stimulated by access to recreation opportunities in addition to improving a community's health and vitality.

Let's keep this momentum going!

PLANNING PROCESS

RECREATION PLAN



2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

THE CITY OF MUNISING

Munising is a small city situated along the shores of Lake Superior. It serves as the gateway to the first national lakeshore created, Pictured Rocks, and is home to spectacular scenery and abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The name, derived from “Minnising”, is Native American in origin and means “island in the lake”, referring to Grand Island, nestled just off shore. In 1820 the Chippewa village was located at the mouth of the Anna River but was later moved. Munising Iron Company moved in later platting the first village in 1855. It was not until 1915 that Munising was organized into a City and the town grew rapidly to a population of 3,500. Docks, sawmills and a tannery were built, paired with the printing of a local paper.¹

The City of Munising is roughly 5.3 square miles in area and hosts a bustling downtown and waterfront. Arts and culture are integrated into the fabric of the community as evidenced in the community mural and alleyway art projects as well as the numerous galleries and events.

Once stepping outside the fabric of downtown, the potential for recreation and adventure is seemingly endless. As noted in the community survey data, recreation enthusiasts of all types visit and live within Munising to work and play. This plan seeks to enhance those experiences of play and leisure time while preserving the natural scenery that makes this community so special.



PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTPS://ALGERCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM/ARTS-CULTURE](https://algercountychamber.com/arts-culture)

¹ Alger County History. (2018) Retrieved Nov 16, 2021, https://www.algercounty.gov/how_do_i/learn_about/alger_county_history.php

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

COMMUNITY DATA

Assessing the number of people in the community and their demographic characteristics helps planners and policy makers to determine the needs of the community. For recreation planning, population data is useful when applying recreation standards to a community.

While the population in the State of Michigan increased in the last twenty years, Alger County and the City of Munising have experienced a slow decline in population. Population trends are shown in the adjacent table. With a 1960 population of 4,228, the 2020 population was recorded at 1,986 persons, marking a 53% decrease. Au Train Township and Munising Township, shouldering the City of Munising to the East and West have each doubled in population within the past 60 years. A question might be how these communities have made such strides in expanding their population while the City of Munising has seen such a major decline.

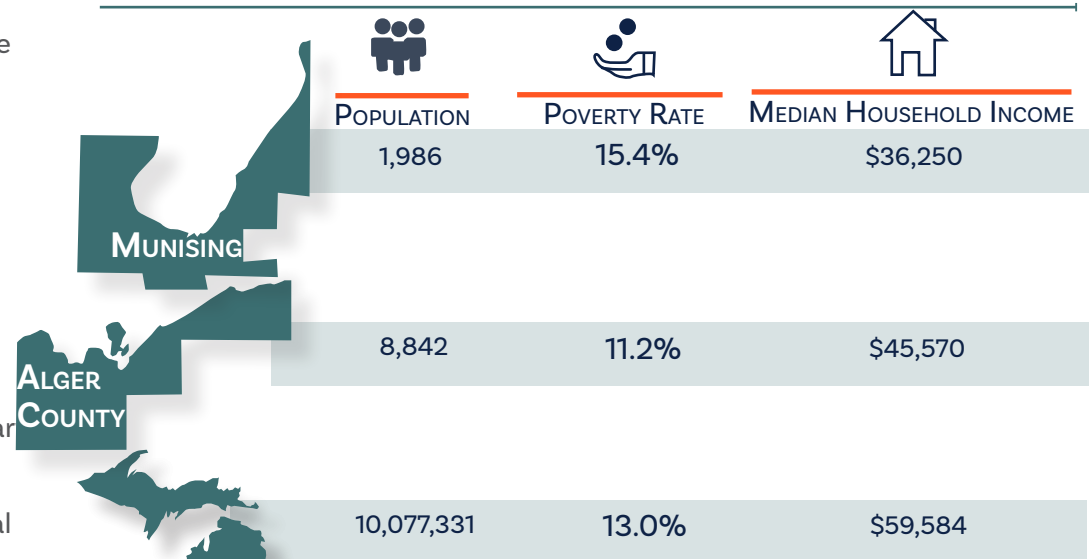
The 2021 US Census Data projects the difference in ages within the City to level out some. The preschool and school aged kid numbers increase slightly with the working age numbers decreasing a little as the retirement age group maintains a similar level in 2010 as projected in 2021.

Munising's economy has benefited from its abundance of natural resources within the region. Manufacturing industries including the Neenah Paper Mill and Timber Products Michigan sawmill and veneer mill capitalize on these resources and provide local jobs.

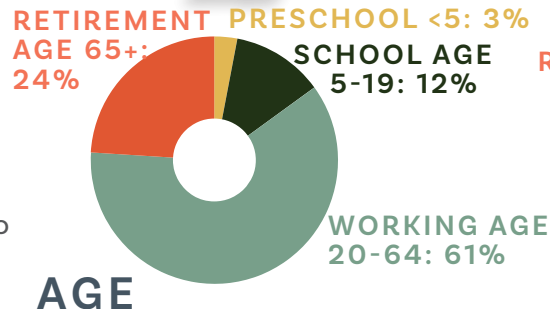
Tourism has ramped up significantly within Munising smashing previous records for Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore visitation numbers. The park saw a record 1.21 million visitors in 2020 versus the previous year's record count of 858,000. Many local businesses have embraced this uptick in visitors including Pictured Rocks Cruises and Glass Bottom Shipwreck Tours. Although the increase in tourism has stimulated the local economy many who submitted survey responses noted a need to address the physical growing pains such as parking issues, a lack of resources dedicated to local needs, and garbage clean up.

	YEAR	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	PERCENT CHANGE 1960-2020
CITY OF MUNISING:	POPULATION	4,228	3,677	3,083	2,783	2,539	2,355	1,986	-53%
AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP:		508	545	928	1,047	1,172	1,138	1,019	200%
MUNISING TOWNSHIP:		1,408	1,614	1,963	2,193	3,125	2,983	2,865	203%
ALGER COUNTY:		9,250	8,568	9,225	8,972	9,862	9,601	8,842	-4.4%

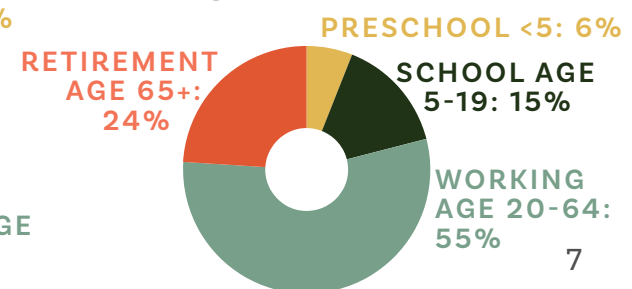
2020 US CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS



2010



2021



3 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

The natural features that define the City of Munising's landscape are nothing short of spectacular. From cascading waterfalls to hardwood forests and Lake Superior's shoreline, there is much to see in and around this Upper Peninsula City.

The region can be broken into a series of categories, known as landscape typologies. These include the Lake Superior shoreline, developed parkland, developed urban area, deciduous forest, mixed forest, and woody wetlands.

The coastline is very sandy with beautiful beaches. Some sites have been manipulated due to erosion and feature rip rap and retaining walls. Other low-lying areas along the shore host wetland species and see frequent flooding or constantly saturated soils. Bayshore Park is the largest developed park within the community and hosts an expansive lawn area and paved pathways. Moving south from the Lake the most developed section of the City takes shape with some established street trees and a few small pockets of green space. Moving up into the hills the landscape makes a dramatic change featuring primarily hardwood forests with some mixed forests. Development within this region consists of recreational trails and a few more rural roadways. The woody wetlands are found along the Anna River in low-lying saturated areas. Each of these landscape typologies present their own opportunities for recreation within the community. The developed areas include more flat surface and constructed play/recreation features while the hillier terrain provides opportunity for more rugged pursuits. The coastline is quite developed within the City limits but once outside of the developed core there are many places to explore the sandy coastline via water or land including, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

The remainder of this chapter looks at the many layers of the landscape that define the greater Munising area. Finding the right balance of development and preservation of natural resources within a community is key to maintaining a long lasting beautiful place for generations to explore and appreciate.



DECIDUOUS FOREST



DEVELOPED URBAN AREA



MAINTAINED TURF



SANDY SHORELINE

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

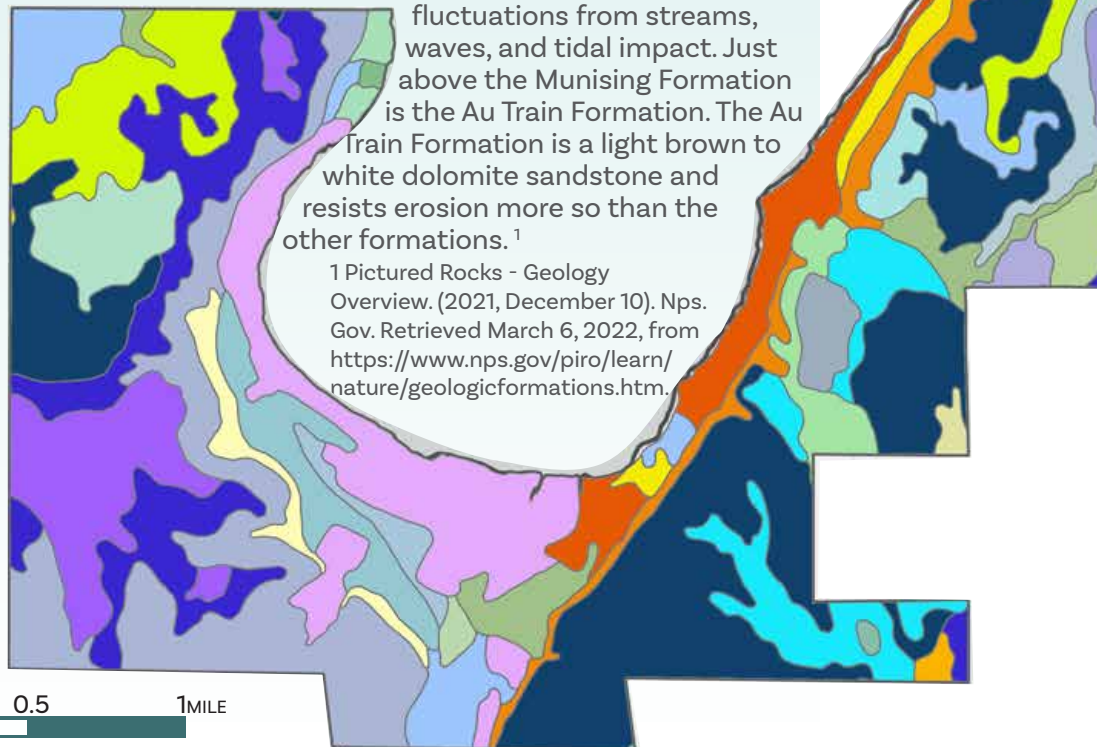
GEOLOGY + SOILS

The gateway to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Munising's spectacular scenery is centered on its bedrock and tapestry to a geologic features. The Pictured Rocks sandstone cliffs are named for the mineral stains that streak down the cliffs. They were formed in two separate time intervals the Late Precambrian, Cambrian, and Early Ordovician Periods (500-800 million years ago) and the Late Quaternary Period (two million years ago).

The sediments that form the sandstone cliffs along the shoreline were deposited during the Cambrian and early Ordovician periods. The Jacobsville Formation of the Late Precambrian age is the oldest exposed formation with deep red and mottled white coloring. The Munising Formation is above the Jacobsville with a light grey and white color. It is thought to represent a shallow water environment with

fluctuations from streams, waves, and tidal impact. Just above the Munising Formation is the Au Train Formation. The Au Train Formation is a light brown to white dolomite sandstone and resists erosion more so than the other formations.¹

¹ Pictured Rocks - Geology Overview. (2021, December 10). Nps. Gov. Retrieved March 6, 2022, from <https://www.nps.gov/piro/learn/nature/geologicformations.htm>.



Soils_SSUGO_NRCS	
Map Unit Name	
Au Gres sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 15 to 70 percent slopes, dissected
Carbondale, Lupton, and Tawas soils	Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Croswell sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes, dissected
Dawson, Greenwood, and Loxley soils	Munising fine sandy loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Deerton-Tokiahok-Trout Bay complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes, dissected	Munising-Yalmer complex, 1 to 12 percent slopes, dissected, very stony
Deford and Leafriver soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Munising-Yalmer complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Fence very fine sandy loam, 1 to 12 percent slopes, dissected	Rubicon sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Frohling-Tokiahok complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes, dissected, stony	Rubicon sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Garlic-Blue Lake-Voelker complex, 1 to 12 percent slopes, dissected	Sheldrake sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes
Garlic-Blue Lake-Voelker complex, 15 to 60 percent slopes, dissected	Steuben-Blue Lake-Kalkaska complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Garlic-Blue Lake-Voelker complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes, dissected	Steuben-Blue Lake-Kalkaska complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Histosols and Aquepts, ponded	Tawas-Deford mucks
Jacobsville muck, very stony	Trout Bay-Gongeau-Shingleton-Rock outcrop complex, 1 to 70 percent slopes
Kalkaska sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Udipsamments and Udorthents, nearly level to very steep
Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 1 to 12 percent slopes, dissected	Wurtsmith-Deford complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Zeba-Jacobsville complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes, very stony



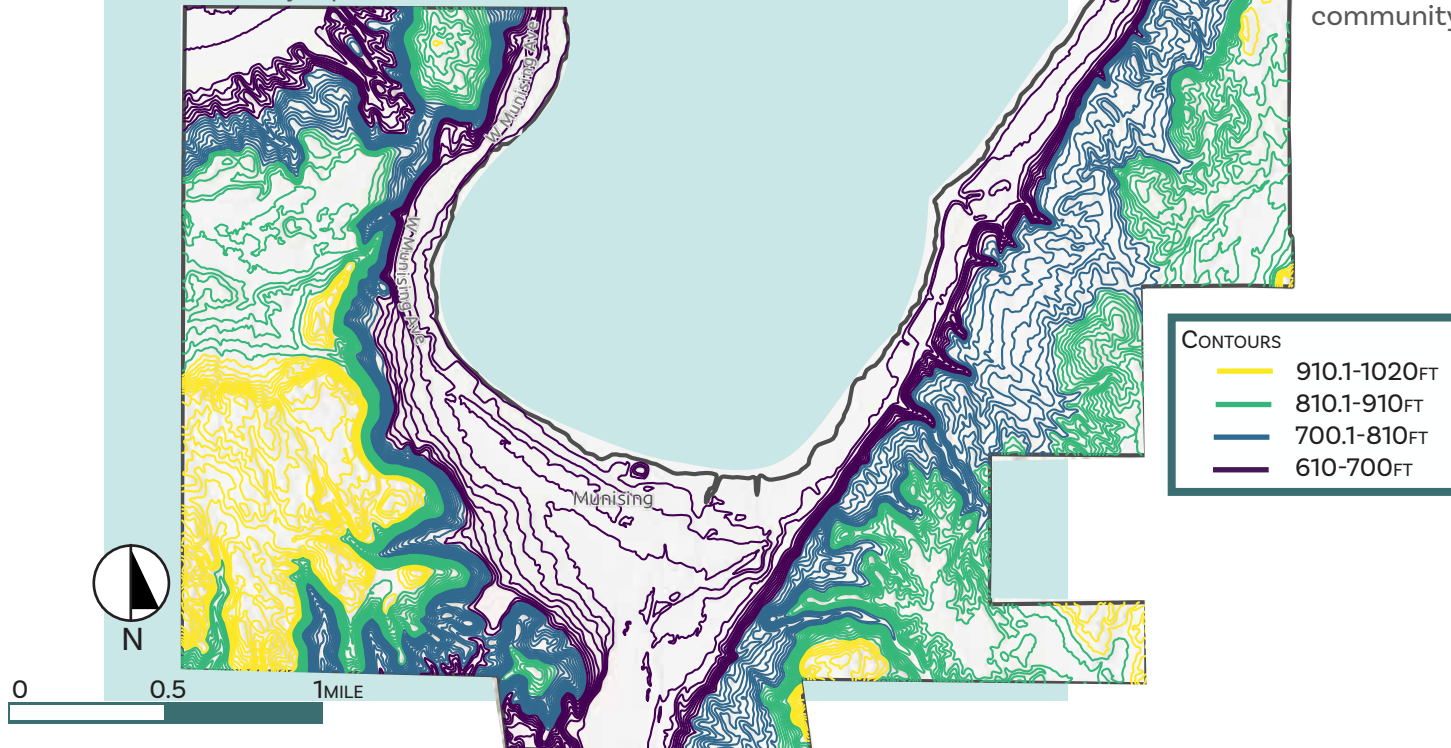
MINERAL STREAKS AT PICTURED ROCKS

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

GEOLOGY + SOILS CONTINUED

The City of Munising's geology and soils do not vary dramatically from those of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. The vast majority of soils are very well drained and sandy. Bayshore Park, the downtown area, and the paper mill site are listed as: Udipsamments and Udorthents which are typically a gravelly/sandy soil that has been disturbed with the upper layer removed. Moving to the southwest of the City limits the soils are a mix of the Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex and the Garlic-Blue Lake-Voelker Complex which are predominantly sandy soils of disintegrated moraines and outwash plains.² This speaks to the elevation gain just outside of the developed City core.

²USGS Web Soil Survey. Websoilsurvey.Sc.Egov.Usda.Gov. Retrieved March 16, 2022, from <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>



TOPOGRAPHY

The City of Munising is situated along Munising Bay at the mouth of the Anna River. As is illustrated in the topography map to the left, the areas along the lakeshore and in downtown are relatively flat. The moraines discussed in the geology and soils section rise up rather dramatically framing the developed area.

These elevated slopes make for spectacular viewpoints, sledding spots and mountain bike trails. They also limit the areas that can feasibly, and cost effectively be developed. This provides the perfect framework for a community surrounded by recreation opportunity as realized by many of Munising's community members in the survey responses.

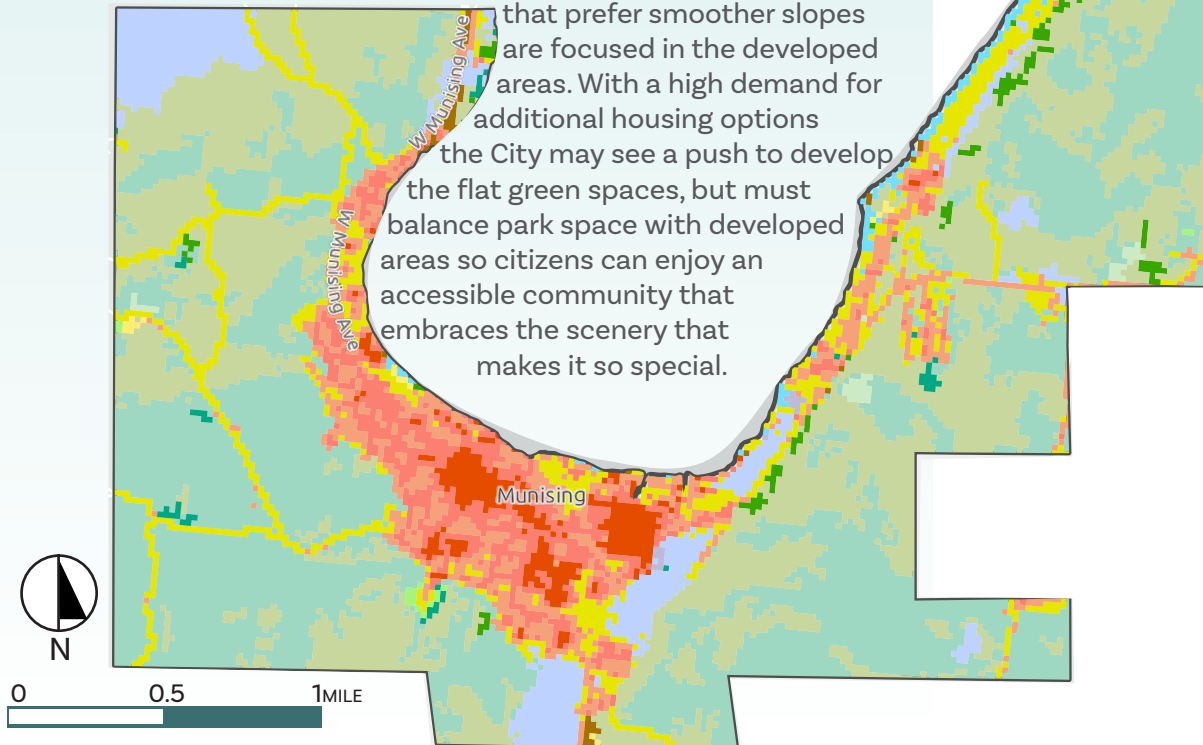
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

LAND COVER + WILDLIFE

Munising's land cover patterns reflect the soils and terrain that make up its foundation. As discussed in the topography paragraph, the majority of the City's development is in the low lying areas within the heart of the bay. The steeper elevations surrounding the City prove challenging and expensive to develop and are therefore primarily wooded. This organization makes for spectacular fall scenery with hardwood and mixed forests primarily surrounding the City. The low lying areas along the shoreline and Anna River create some concern as much of them are developed yet still have the potential to flood in high water seasons or years with unusually high levels of snow pack or rain.

The wooded areas prove excellent places for more rugged forms of outdoor recreation while the recreation activities

that prefer smoother slopes are focused in the developed areas. With a high demand for additional housing options the City may see a push to develop the flat green spaces, but must balance park space with developed areas so citizens can enjoy an accessible community that embraces the scenery that makes it so special.



Land Cover Classification

- 11 - Open Water
- 21 - Developed, Open Space
- 22 - Developed, Low Intensity
- 23 - Developed, Medium Intensity
- 24 - Developed, High Intensity
- 31 - Barren Land
- 41 - Deciduous Forest
- 42 - Evergreen Forest
- 43 - Mixed Forest
- 52 - Shrub/Scrub
- 71 - Herbaceous
- 81 - Hay/Pasture
- 82 - Cultivated Crops
- 90 - Woody Wetlands
- 95 - Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
- City Boundary



NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT



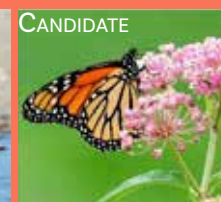
CANADA LYNX



RED KNOT



PIPING PLOVER



MONARCH BUTTERFLY



GRAY WOLF



PITCHER'S THISTLE

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

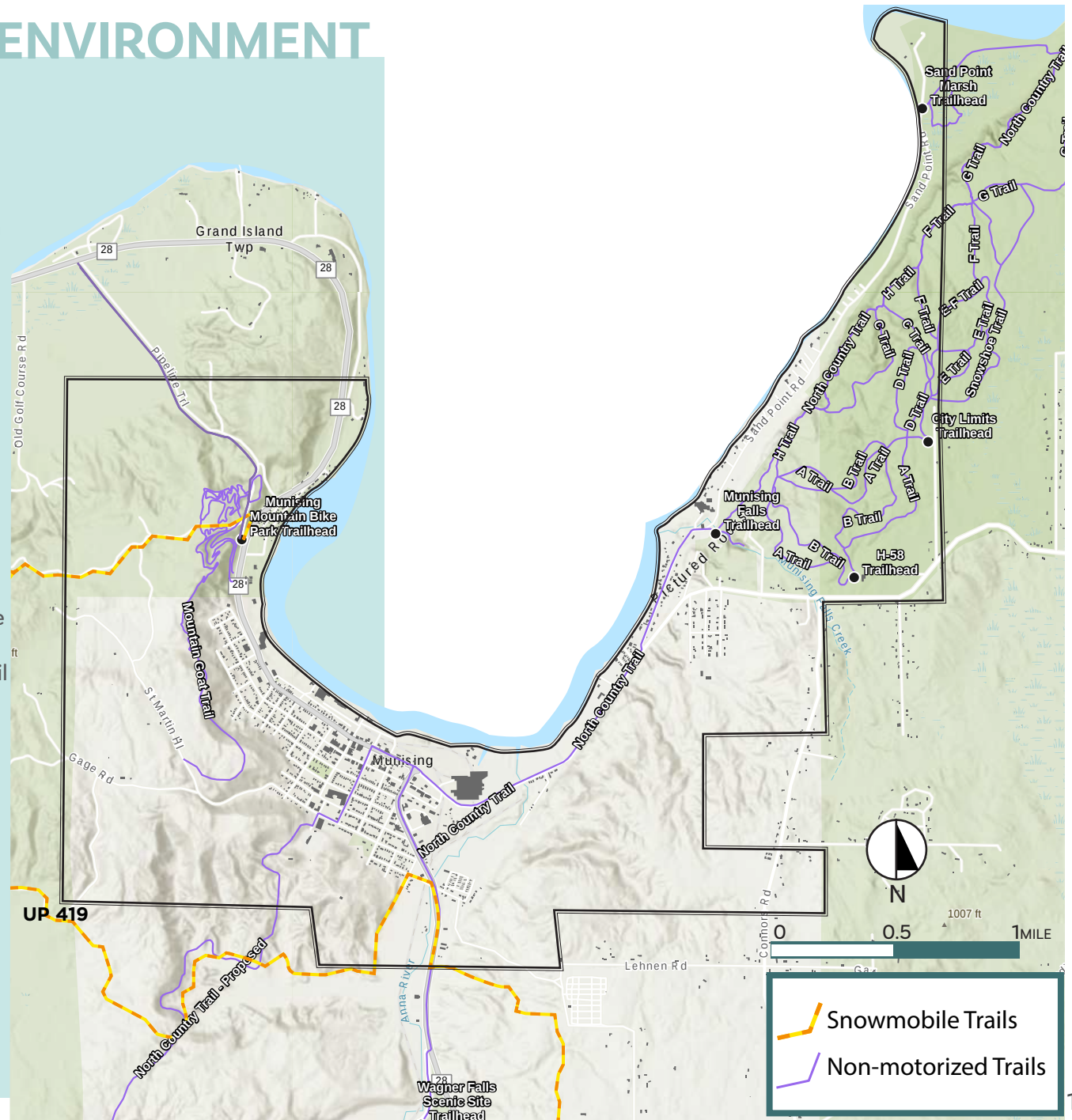
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

TRAILS

The City of Munising has a wealth of trails surrounding the community. Additional non-motorized trail development within the community was a top request within the community responses. The addition of the Munising Bay Mountain Bike Trails received many positive comments and has dramatically increased the number of trail opportunities within the community.

The summer of 2021 paved trail along Hwy M-28 received positive input as well, although many requested the trail be extended to Christmas and an additional trail be provided that does not follow the highway. Many also requested a trail be provided that links Sand Point Road to the downtown core.

Motorized trails enter the City at two points and attract a large number of snowmobilers in winter months. There were many concerns expressed within the surveys requesting additional enforcement and restrictions be put in place to limit speeds and access to roadways for ORV's and Snowmobiles.



4

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

NATIONAL PARKS + RECREATION ASSOCIATION (NRPA)

2021 KEY FINDINGS

The National Recreation And Park Association [NRPA] has assembled a 2021 Agency Performance Review featuring park metrics throughout the nation. The goal of this document is to help local park systems identify the optimal mix of facilities and programming for their community.



Residents per
Playground:
3,607

Full-Time Equivalent Employees
(FTEs) per 10,000 Residents:
8.2

Operating Expenditures
per Capita:

\$88.30/year

Acres of Parkland
per 1,000 Residents: **9.9**

Residents per Park:

2,277



58%

of park and recreation agencies
deliver STEM programming to
youth and young adults

Revenue to Operating
Expenditures:

22.9%



City of Munising Recreation Budget + Spending

The City of Munising allocates its parks and recreation funding from its general fund. Below is a chart featuring the City of Munising's annual budget over the past five years. The City anticipates their funding will remain steady into the future with additional funds dedicated to recreation projects as needed.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
PARKS + RECREATION SPENDING	\$113,456	\$109,626	\$64,025	\$49,258	\$63,303	\$47,139
MARINA SPENDING	\$134,345	\$159,735	\$226,388	\$233,176	\$248,614	\$223,037
STATE GRANT FUNDING	\$279,448	\$1,248,330	\$64,312			

PARKS + RECREATION BUDGET | 2016-2021

The NRPA data focuses on larger communities so details such as number of full-time employees within a parks or recreation department does not prove an accurate comparison to the relatively low population within the City of Munising.

The NRPA does specify average operating expenditures within communities as \$88.30/year per capita. For a quick comparison, the City of Munising's population is 1,986 if multiplied by \$88.30 this would equal \$175,364 in annual parks and recreation spending.

As an additional NRPA measure, roughly 9.9 acres of parkland exist per 1,000 residents. Munising has 153.4 acres of parkland primarily due to the 91 acre Tourist Park Campground site and the property that hosts the Munising Bay Trail Network mountain bike trails. This is significantly higher than the 19.66 acres the NRPA's data would project within a community of this population. Based on the survey responses, community members would likely argue the Tourist Park Campground is not a resource for the locals and should not be factored in when tallying accessible parkland.

2020 COMMUNITY COMPARISON OF PARKS AND RECREATION AVERAGE ANNUAL SPENDING

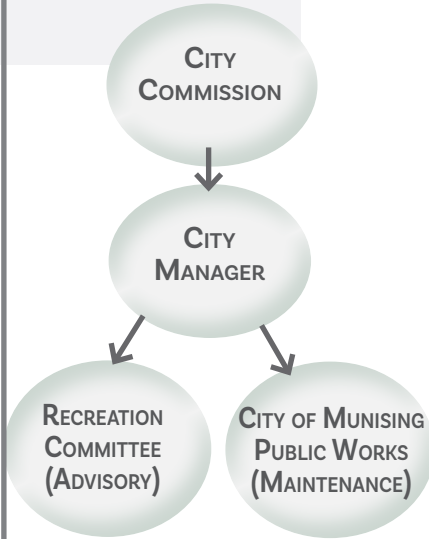
Community	Pop.	Recreation Budget
Munising	1986	\$76,100
Ishpeming	6140	\$220,000
Kingsford	5139	\$166,000
Negaunee	4627	\$240,500
Wakefield	1702	\$85,800

*ACTIVITY THROUGH
JUNE 2022

4 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

STAFFING + VOLUNTEERS

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ALGER PARKS +
REC DEPARTMENT
(PROGRAMMING)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The City of Munising's Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for the maintenance of the City's parks and recreation facilities. The DPW is overseen by the City Manager and the City Commissioners. The City's Recreation Committee serves to advise the City Manager and City Commissioners on recreation issues.

Recreation programming is developed and operated by the Alger Parks and Recreation Department (APRD). The APRD is a separate organization. In September 1998, the City of Munising, along with Au Train Township, Munising Township, Grand Island Township and the APRD entered into a joint agreement to operate 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, have the power to make all programming, financial, staffing decisions.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

VOLUNTEERS



The City of Munising has a successful relationship with several community organizations. These organizations have helped fund, construct, and maintain the recreational resources within and around the City. Recently, the Munising Bay Trail Network assisted with funding acquisition, planning, and construction of a new trailhead, trails, and pump track along Hwy M-28 just west of town. These trails have been extremely popular and begin to address the community's demand for additional trail infrastructure.



Other community organizations who have assisted with donations in the past include: the Munising Tennis Association, Alger Regional Community Foundation, the Munising Lions Club, Moose Lodge, American Legion and Kiwanis. The City has also received funds from the Sault Tribe to support projects that enhance quality of life within the community.



The City of Munising partners with the Munising School District on several recreation endeavors. The school district hosts seasonal leagues on their sports fields as well as school season sports. The Alger Centennial Arena is utilized by the Munising school hockey teams as well.



The Munising Hockey Association consists of a dedicated group of parents and volunteers who manage and organize all hockey programming and fundraising within the City.



Adjacent to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Grand Island National Recreation Area, and Hiawatha National Forest, the City of Munising works closely with National Parks staff and the US Forest Service.



**ALGER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

The Alger Conservation District has completed many conservation projects in partnership with the City of Munising and anticipates seeking funding for future endeavors including land acquisition. Past projects included tree and shrub donations, urban forestry and state tree grant plantings, and partnering with the Superior Watershed Partnership on the Anna River and Tourist Park sites to complete additional planting.



The Great Lakes Climate Corps (GLCC) is another key partner in the Munising community contributing to trail building, public access, and habitat restoration projects. GLCC can also assist with securing grant funds when needed. This organization is a facet of the Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy, a key player in implementation of conservation and public education projects. 15

5 RECREATION INVENTORY

STANDARDS FOR RECREATION

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

A typical park and recreation system offers one park for every 2,277 residents served, with 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Due to its lower density population Michigan's Upper Peninsula trends toward having a much greater number of parks per 2,277 residents. Here is a chart illustrating the different open space typologies defined by NRPA and the desired minimum amount of park space per community.

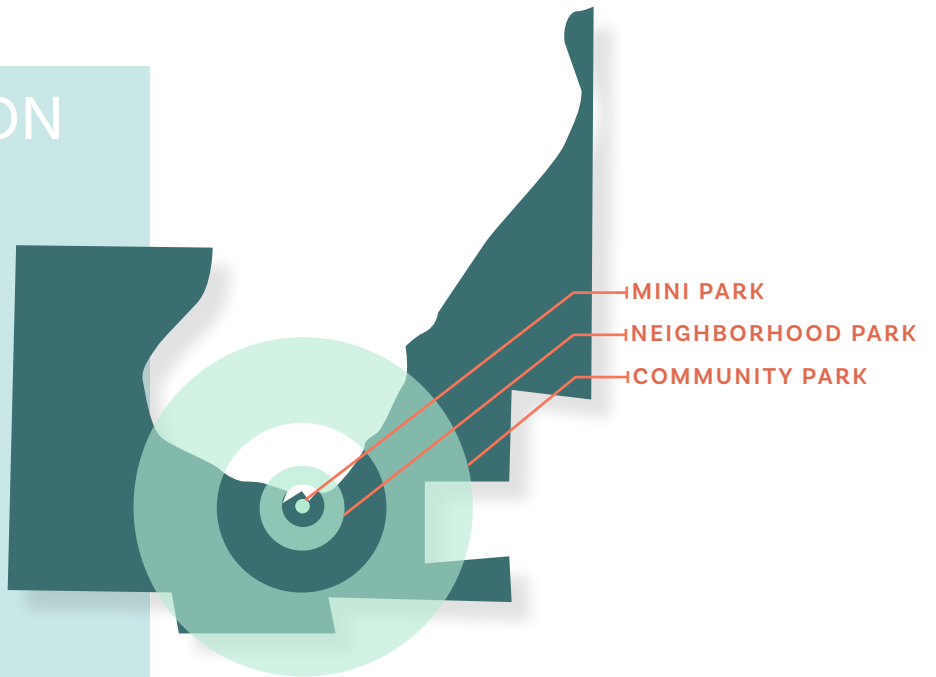
The City of Munising has a good mix of park types and scales allowing it to accommodate many different users throughout the community.



The following pages feature each recreational site within the City including a short description of any amenities paired with activity icons.



Stars adjacent to park titles denote particular sites that would benefit from additional maintenance and general upgrades or contain great potential for enhancement projects.



PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	SIZE (ACRES)	ACRES/1,000 POP	MUNISING MANAGED PARKS (ACRES)	USES
Mini-Park	<1/4mi	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	0.5 to 1 Currently: 0.63	Specialized facility serving a concentrated or limited population
Neighborhood Park	1/4 to 1/2mi	15+	1 to 2	2 to 4 Currently: 3.75	Hosts intense recreation activities: Play, sports fields/courts, picnicking etc.
Community Park	1 to 2mi	25+	8 to 10	16 to 20 Currently: 65.92	Diverse environmental quality; may include sports complexes or more natural forms of outdoor recreation
Regional Park	1 hr drive	200+	5 to 10	10 to 20 Currently: 91	Area of natural quality for outdoor recreation; boating, swimming, camping, trail use etc.
School Park				Currently: 19	Park associated with an educational institution

RECREATION INVENTORY

PROGRAMMING

The City of Munising and broader Alger County area are fortunate to have a variety of dedicated recreation clubs. A list of the organizations that are active within the City of Munising include:

ACCESSIBILITY

The facilities were evaluated for accessibility via site visits by CUPPAD on October 4th, 2021. Tools utilized in conducting the assessments included the ADA Checklist found at ADAchecklist.org and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. Each facility was graded according to the scale featured below with more detailed descriptions of the facility's accessibility features and shortfalls in Appendix C. The recommended accessibility improvements were integrated into the action plan and priority project lists for the community.

ORGANIZATION	RECREATION TYPE
SORVA	Snowmobiling/ORV's
MBTN	Mountain Bike Trails
Munising Tennis Association	Adult Tennis
Munising Hockey Association	Youth Hockey

DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM

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

RECREATION ACTIVITY KEY

 Boat Facilities	 Biking
 Playground	 Ball Sports
 Picnic Area	 Sledding
 Hockey + Ice Skating	 Sightseeing + Wildlife Viewing
 Hiking + Walking	 Camping
 Mountain Biking	 Disk Golf
 Fishing	 Cross-Country Skiing
 Swimming	 Snowshoeing
 Paddling	 Arts + Culture
	 Skate Park

PARK/FACILITY	ACTIVITY									
BAYSHORE PARK										
CITY MARINA										
MUNICIPAL BOAT LAUNCH										
TANNERY PARK OVERLOOK										
BROWN'S ADDITION PLAYGROUND										
LYNN ST. PLAYGROUND										
ALGER CENTENNIAL ARENA										
TOURIST PARK										
HEROES FIELD										
SKATE PARK										
MUNISING BAY MOUNTAIN BIKE TH										

MUNISING PARKS MAP

CITY MANAGED PARKS

- 1 Bayshore Park
- 2 City Marina
- 3 Municipal Boat Launch
- 4 Tannery Park Overlook
- 5 Playground at Brown's Addition
- 6 Playground at Lynn Street
- 7 Tourist Park
- 8 Alger Centennial Arena
- 9 Heroes Field
- 10 Skate Park
- 11 Anna River Boat Launch
- 12 Munising Bay Mountain Bike Trailhead

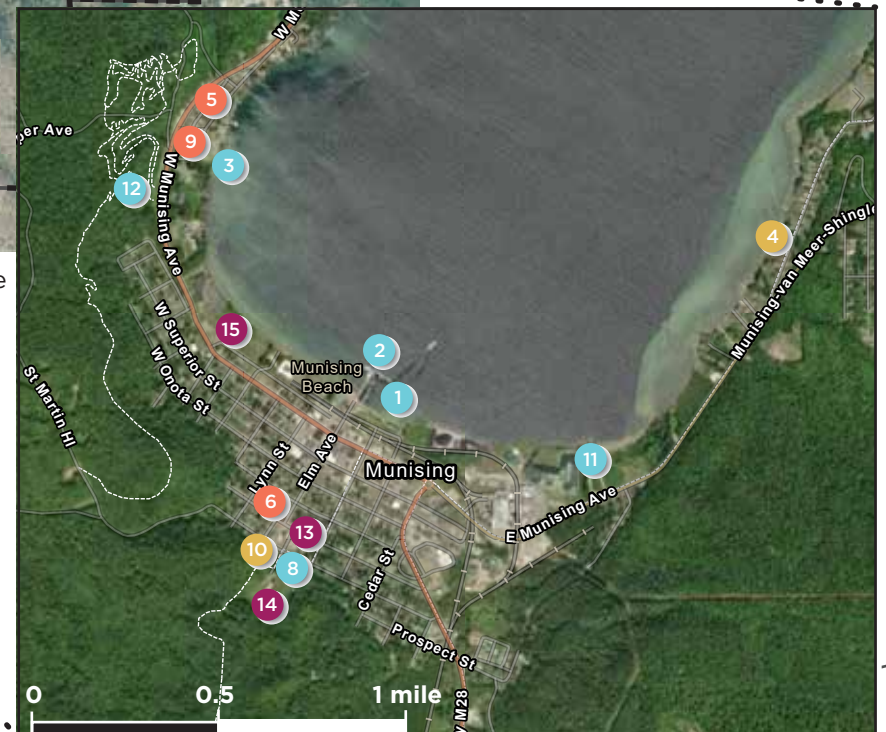
PARKS MANAGED OR OWNED BY OTHER ENTITIES

- 13 Kid's Connection Playground (Munising Public Schools)
- 14 R.W. Nebel Field (Munising Public Schools)
- 15 Munising High School Soccer Field (Munising Public Schools)

- MINI-PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- COMMUNITY PARK
- REGIONAL PARK
- SCHOOL PARK
- MANAGED BY OTHERS



0 0.5 1 mile



0 0.5 1 mile

RECREATION INVENTORY

RECREATION PLAN

COMMUNITY PARK

BAYSHORE PARK

4.5 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 2

Situated on the harbor in Munising Bay this park serves as the centerpiece of the City's park system.

This site hosts many special events including: independence day, farmer's market, + private gatherings

Amenities include:

- Pavilion with bread oven
- Accessible restrooms/drinking fountain
- Picnic tables, grills, and benches
- Underground sprinkler system
- Beachfront area
- Veteran's Memorial, gazebo, + signage



COMMUNITY PARK

CITY MARINA

4.5 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 4

The marina is adjacent to Bayshore Park.

Amenities include:

- 19 slips for boats up to 30 feet long
- 300ft of dock for broadside mooring
- 300ft of additional usable docking space
- Fuel (gasoline only), Electricity (20,30,50amp)
- Annual slip space rentals + Daily dockage rates
- Pictured Rock's Boat Excursions operates from here
- Public parking, wayside exhibits + dock attendant



COMMUNITY PARK

MUNICIPAL BOAT LAUNCH 2.25 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 3

The boat launch is located in the Brown's Addition area along Munising Bay. There were several public comments received requesting this site be improved as the parking is currently inadequate.

Amenities include:

- Hard surface ramp + 2 courtesy piers
- Parking capacity of 71
- Picnic area
- Accessible restrooms with concrete access path



MINI-PARK

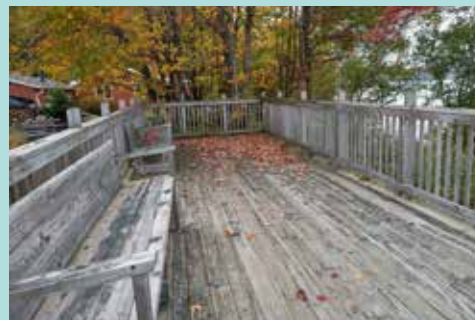
TANNERY PARK OVERLOOK 0.33 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 3

The overlook is located on Washington Street. It hosts a view of Lake Superior.

Amenities include:

- Picnic table
- Wooden deck overlooking the lake
- Parking area and asphalt access path



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

BROWN'S ADDITION PLAYGROUND 0.5 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 1

This playground is located at the corner of Portage Street and M-28.

Amenities include:

- Inaccessible port-a-potty
- Inaccessible playground featuring slide, swings + structure
- Inaccessible picnic tables
- Shade trees
- Off street parking



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

LYNN STREET PLAYGROUND

0.6 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 3

This playground is paired with tennis courts and situated on a slightly sloped site leading to multiple ramps and staircases for access.

Amenities include:

- 2 fenced tennis courts
- Non-ADA picnic tables
- Accessible port-a-potty
- Playground area with sand play
- Trash cans and benches
- Ramp system to allow ADA access to the site



REGIONAL PARK

TOURIST PARK

91 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 4

As the name suggests this is a popular tourist campground along Lake Superior's shoreline.

Amenities include:

- 126 total campsites
- 26 of which are full hook up sites
- 28 rustic camp sites on Lake Superior
- Sand beachfront
- Office for registration + snacks
- Pavilion + two buildings that house restrooms + showers
- Small playground
- City owned facility operated through a concessionaire



COMMUNITY PARK

ALGER CENTENNIAL ARENA

0.3 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 4

A 24,000 sqft building constructed in 1985 this facility has a commanding presence at 110 East Varnum Street.

Amenities include:

- Kitchen and concession area
- Changing rooms and accessible restrooms
- Seasonal ice rink
- Artificial ice making ability
- Rented for group gatherings
- Mainly utilized by local hockey program with some free skate hours available in the winter
- City took over operational responsibility in 2007



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

HEROES FIELD

2.75 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 3

A baseball field adjacent to the Municipal Boat Launch.

Amenities include:

- Storage + accessible restroom building
- Portable bleachers
- Concrete dugouts, backstop + lights
- Underground sprinkler system
- Converted to skate rink in the winter



MINI-PARK

SKATE PARK

0.3 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 2

Located across from the Alger Centennial Arena on Varnum Street. This property was donated to the City.

Amenities include:

- Move-able ramp features for a flexible layout, Asphalt surface and fencing



COMMUNITY PARK

ANNA RIVER BOAT LAUNCH

7.87 ACRES

This boat launch is located on Neenah Paper Company and DNR property at the mouth of the Anna River and is managed by the City. Requests to improve this launch site for kayaks were received from the community.

Amenities include:

- Hard surface ramp into the river
- Accessible restrooms + picnic tables
- Accessible fishing pier + kayak launch
- Parking capacity of 62



COMMUNITY PARK

MUNISING BAY MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILHEAD

51 ACRES

Accessibility Rating: 3

Situated on the edge of town along Hwy M-28 this trailhead serves as a starting point for 4-seasons of recreation. Snow biking, mountain biking, hiking and trail running are all permitted on the constantly improving trail system. A pump track was recently added to the site as well.

Amenities include:

- Vault toilet
- Trailhead kiosk and signage
- Picnic tables
- Parking area
- Bike fix it station



RECREATION INVENTORY

PARKS OWNED OR MANAGED BY OTHER ENTITIES

KID'S CONNECTION PLAYGROUND

This playground is located on Munising Public School property and is managed by the school system. It features an intricate network of wooden ramps, climbers and play features.

Amenities include:

- Fenced in playground
- Open from 8AM-10PM
- In good condition although there are some features that need to be repaired



WHAT KID'S CONNECTION COULD
LOOK LIKE WITH SOME UPDATES

R.W. NEBEL FIELD

The facility is at the end of Park Street at Varnum Street and serves as the Munising High School's recreation complex.

Amenities include:

- City owned site leased to the school in 1965 for 50 years
- Track, football field, soccer field, parking
- Lights, bleachers, storage + accessible restrooms
- A trail weaves around the western edge of the site



PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Extending from Munising to Grand Marais this National Lakeshore is a spectacle of sandstone cliffs leaching 'painted' mineral streaks, rugged woodland trails, inland lakes and various camping destinations along sandy beaches. The park serves as an icon of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and is a popular destination for paddlers, sightseers, and backpackers alike. User numbers have been climbing exponentially and have risen from roughly 575,000 visitors in 2013 to 1.2 million visitors in 2021. As a result of this staggering number of visitors the park service has implemented a new entrance fee in 2022.

MNA MEMORIAL FALLS

MNA Memorial Falls is named for the hundreds of past Michigan Nature Association members who contributed to the association. Located just to the West of Nestor Street in Munising this falls, paired with Rudy Olson Memorial Falls, is located right within town and show the effects of frequent visitation. Recent trail improvements were planned for summer 2021 leading to the closing of the falls until late 2022. The improvements included rerouting trails to reduce erosion, installing new trailhead infrastructure and upgrading signage.

The falls are seasonal and therefore can be viewed during spring snow melt or following a heavy rainstorm.

RUDY OLSON MEMORIAL FALLS

Rudy Olson Memorial Falls previously named Tannery Falls was renamed in honor of this Michigan Nature Association member. Located just to the West of Nestor Street in Munising this falls, paired with MNA Memorial Falls, is located right within town and shows the effects of frequent visitation. Recent trail improvements were planned for summer 2021 leading to the closing of the falls. The improvements included rerouting trails to reduce erosion, installing new trailhead infrastructure and upgrading signage.

The falls are seasonal and therefore can be viewed during spring snow melt or following a heavy rainstorm.

SAND POINT BEACH

Located along the shores of Lake Superior just east of Munising and is part of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Amenities include:

- Undeveloped sand beach
- Beautiful sunset watching post, kayak launching site or kid's play spot
- Accessible vault toilet

ALGER COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER

Located on Washington Street in Munising the Heritage Center is located in a former school building and offers exhibits featuring local history, artifacts, photos and guided tours.



WAGNER FALLS

Located 1.5 miles south of Munising on M-94 and Wagner Creek.

Amenities include:

- MDNR property
- Short walking trail begins at the parking area and leads to a series of small waterfalls



HORSESHOE FALLS

Accessed from Bell Ave on the southern City limit.

Amenities include:

- Privately owned
- Small admission fee required
- Open from May 1- October 1

GRAND ISLAND SCENIC TURNOUT

Just past the western edge of the City limits.

Amenities include:

- MDOT rest area
- Vaulted toilets, drinking water, picnic table, and info
- Short path leading to an overlook of Grand Island

ALGER FALLS

Located about 1 mile south of Munising at the M-28/M-94 junction along Alger Creek.

Amenities include:

- Waterfalls cascade down about 30' of rock
- Easily visible along the east side of M-28
- No safe parking options are currently available

PICTURED ROCKS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Located in a historic building at the corner of M28 and Elm Ave. The site includes a gift shop and self guided interpretive tour.



HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST: GRAND ISLAND

An island located in Munising Bay.

Amenities include:

- Land acquired from Cliffs Natural Resources in 1990
- Island is accessible by private boat or the Forest Service ferry
- Visitors can hike, camp, fish, sightsee, bike, kayak and swim
- Altran provides a bus tour of the island June-October
- All but 44 of the Island's 13,500 acres are part of Hiawatha National Forest
- 23 miles of trail for biking and hiking follow the shoreline
- Campsites include fire rings, picnic tables + bear poles, and cabins are available for rent
- Day use area at Murray Bay including toilets, benches, and grills

MUNISING ORV/ SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

The Munising Trail branches from the Christmas Trail south of Christmas and extends through the City's highlands before entering the residential area at Brook and Prospect Streets. A separate spur enters the City via Jasper Avenue.

Amenities include:

- Heavy use in winter months
- Snowmobiles are permitted to use designated City roadways with restrictions applied to speed as well as hours of operation; Requests to not allow snowmobiles on city streets was made several times in the community surveys.

BAY FURNACE CAMPGROUND

Hosted by the US Forest Service, Bay Furnace Campground is located along Lake Superior 5 miles west of Munising on M-28 in Christmas.

Amenities include:

- 46 Rustic Camp Sites
- Historic roads to historic furnace
- Large day use area with several picnic sites and access to rocky beach

VALLEY SPUR

Located along M-94 about 5 miles southwest of Munising.

Amenities include:

- Year-round non-motorized, multi-use trail system with great community support
- 12 groomed and marked cross country ski trails that cover 42 miles
- Rental equipment and food available in warming shelter
- Included as part of the Noquemanon Trail Network
- Grooming and maintenance as well as lodge operations are the responsibility of the non-profit group, Friends of Valley Spur
- 13+ miles of mountain bike trails available with new trails under constant development
- All trails shared with hikers

PICTURED ROCKS GOLF + COUNTRY CLUB

Located east of the City along H-58.

- 18-hole course
- 6,296 yards of golf from the longest tees
- Par 71
- Front 9 opened in 1968
- Back 9 opened in 1995
- Practice putting green
- Driving range
- Restaurant/bar
- Rental clubs
- Lessons
- Pro shop

ROBERT MCQUISTEN MUNISING TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL AREA

A 28 acre park located in Wetmore.

Amenities include:

- Little League Field
- Two full basketball courts
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Bog Walk
- Kids mountain bike loop
- Munising Township Building was designed and constructed to meet all applicable accessibility standards at the time of construction

ALGER COUNTY UNDERWATER PRESERVE

113 square mile area declared as an Underwater Preserve by the MDNR in 1981. 13 dive sites designated where varying features can be viewed at depths from 6' to 100'.

Sunken ships, large colorful rocks and sea caves.

Shipwrecks include:

- BERMUDA
- MANHATTAN
- HERMAN H. HETTLER
- SMITH MOORE
- SUPERIOR
- KIOWA
- STEVEN M. SELVICK-intentionally sunk steel tug as a dive site

WETMORE COMMUNITY PARK

A .75 acre park located in Wetmore adjacent to the Munising Township Complex site.

Amenities include:

- Tennis courts
- ½ basketball court
- Tot lot

SAULT TRIBAL COMMUNITY CENTER

The Sault Tribal Community Center features a small walking track on the third floor of the facility. It was open to the public prior to the pandemic and may still be open to the public on a limited basis.

6 COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING

Initial public input was received via an online survey. The survey was advertised via multiple methods including the City's website, Facebook page, and via a mailer paired with the monthly water bills. A Facebook ad was also generated to gather additional responses. As a result, 225 completed surveys were received.

The feedback received was instrumental in shaping local community member's perspective on recreation opportunities within their City and how they could be improved upon. The activities, values, and desired changes all helped shape the community goals and objectives.

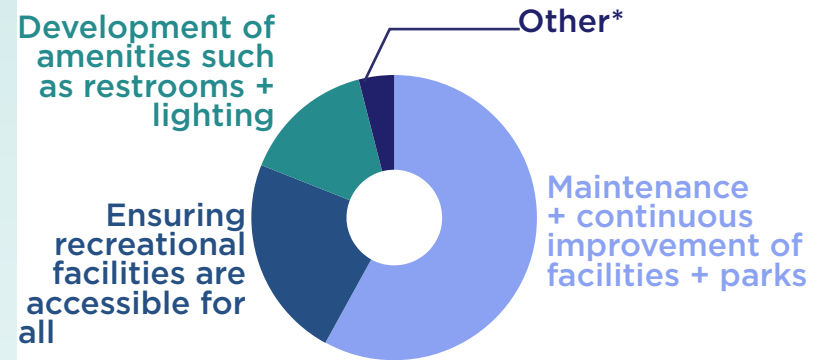
Eighteen local business owners and recreation representatives were contacted to serve as stakeholders in the planning process. They assisted via careful review and individual consultation with the plan drafting team to ensure the recreation plan reflected the community's priorities.

Once the draft plan was generated a copy was shared with the community via the web and in paper format. A selection of local recreation and community representatives were contacted via email to review the draft and provide input. Several comments were received from local natural resource and recreation groups. Some items requested included the desire to acquire more property for park and recreation use as well as locating funding options to upgrade local playgrounds.

The survey respondents were primarily year round residents with a slightly larger portion of 26-45 year olds participating in comparison to the community's census age distribution.

Many comments were received concerning priority areas of focus for the City when addressing recreation. Parking was a popular topic with many complaining of tourists taking up spaces for private businesses and requesting time limits be placed on how long one can park.

WHAT SHOULD BE A PRIORITY WHEN ADDRESSING THE CITY OF MUNISING'S RECREATION PLAN?



* Some of the explanations from those who answered other.

"I believe the Brown's addition and Bayshore Park areas should not be taken up by private business parking... can't even find a parking spot now that isn't taken out by pictured rocks cruise passengers cars or riptide ride passengers car"

"Expanding trails and offering other opportunities such as disc golf."

"Create better outdoor spaces to attract more residents..."

"Hire someone to clean up the garbage."

"Safety."

"Monthly calendar of events mailed to each resident."

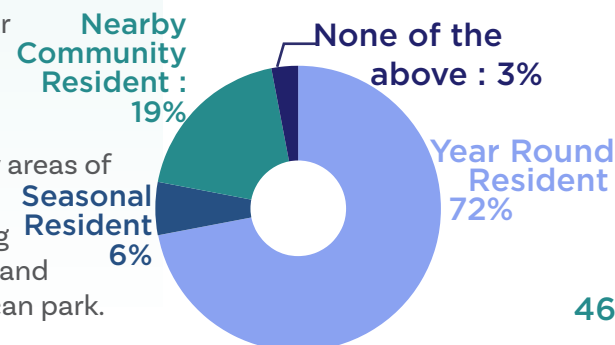
"Parking."

"Stuff for residents and families."

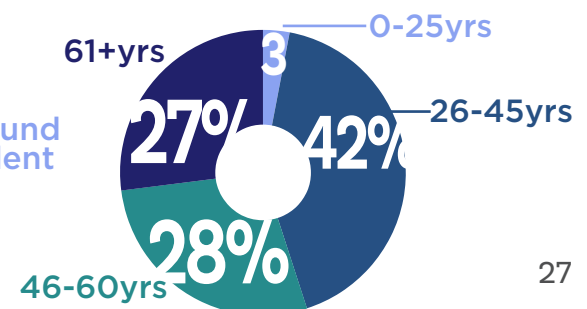
"Information on what roads can be used by quads and snowmobiles when in the City."

"Paved walk/bike path like Mqt has. Off the highway..."

RESIDENCY



SURVEY RESPONSE | AGE



COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING

Participants were asked to note at what frequency they visited the parks within the City. Bayshore, City Marina, Municipal Boat Launch, the Pavilion and Munising Bay Mountain Bike Trailhead were the most frequently visited sites.

When respondents were asked to rank their highest priority projects within the community from a list of eight the desire to have a waterfront walkway (170 votes) was a clear winner. Updating playgrounds (109 votes) also proved to be a priority. The other options included An amphitheater (80 votes), Interactive art installation (74 votes), A splash pad (73 votes), An exercise area (73 votes), A pickleball court (58 votes), and Other (54 votes). Those who responded other elaborated with their own priority projects. These are included in the tally on pages 30 and 31.

* The larger the font the more respondents who listed the item

What recreational activities have you or a member of your household participated in?



COMMUNITY VALUES

The values survey respondents listed helped define values for the community as a whole. Ease of access to recreation and nature were most commonly noted while the appreciation of the surrounding outdoors tied in with this theme. Having lots to do as well as many trail options were also key values. Affordable access, beauty, beaches + water were other popular responses.

The following pages feature requests for changes, priority projects, and any other project ideas that were received within the surveys. Having more trails was a top ranked priority with many specifying an off highway (not along the highway) paved bike path. Additional activities for kids as well as all season activities were frequently mentioned. These included an indoor pool, outdoor skating rink, additional sport courts, swimming beach, and outdoor exercise area for all ages. Many complaints were received noting too many tourists, not enough parking, boat launch parking issues, the need for trash clean up, and need for regulation of motorized vehicles on City streets and paths.

VALUES

"LOTS TO DO, GREAT VIEWS."
-RESIDENT

"I VALUE THE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SO CLOSE TO WHERE WE LIVE. IT'S GREAT TO BE ABLE TO WALK TO TRAILS OR PLAYGROUNDS."
-RESIDENT

"I LOVE THAT IT'S SO EASY TO WALK OUT OF MY HOUSE AND BE ABLE TO FIND A TRAIL, OR GO ON THE WATER, AND FIND THINGS TO DO. I LOVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS THE CITY DOES TO KEEP RECREATION AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS."
-RESIDENT

LESS FREQUENT MENTIONS:

- 1 - PRESERVED
- 1 - CLEVELAND CLIFFS
- 1 - TIME WITH FAM/FRIENDS
- 1 - EVERYTHING
- 1 - SPACE TO EXPAND
- 1 - HOCKEY
- 1 - PICKLEBALL
- 1 - WATERFALLS
- 2 - TENNIS
- 2 - THE VIEWS
- 2 - WALKABLE COMMUNITY
- 2 - LOCAL BUSINESSES
- 2 - CITY PARK EVENTS
- 2 - IT'S IMPROVING
- 2 - POTENTIAL
- 2 - MARINA
- 2 - 4-SEASONS
- 3 - BOATING ACCESS
- 3 - SENSE OF COMMUNITY

What do you VALUE about the City of Munising's recreation opportunities?

*The larger the font the more respondents who listed the item

surrounding outdoors
Not too busy playgrounds/kid's activities
ease of access
beauty walkable
community Beaches/Water
nothing lots to do trails
views Gym/Rec Center
Affordability clean, well kept diversity of options activities for all ages silent sport options bike lanes
Munising Bay Trail Network Valley
Spur Pictured Rocks

REQUESTED CHANGES

What would you like to CHANGE about the City of Munising's recreation opportunities?



SPLASH PAD OR WATER PARK



MORE EMPHASIS ON LOCAL EVENTS



MORE WALKABLE



BETTER BEACH AT BAYSHORE



MORE BIKE PATHS



PLAYGROUND UPDATES



OUTDOOR "GYM"



SKATING RINK AT BAYSHORE

Numbers listed in each image notes number of survey respondents who requested each item.



WATERFRONT WALKWAY



TOO BUSY: CATER TO RESIDENTS LESS FOR TOURISTS



MORE TRAILS/FACILITIES



MORE PARKING AT BOAT LAUNCH OR ADD ANOTHER LAUNCH



PRESERVE, REDUCE IMPACT

"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CITY GET BACK TO BASICS AND IMPROVE THEIR EXISTING FACILITIES AND PARKS. THE CITY IS SPREAD TOO THIN AND SPENDING MONEY ON EXPANDING OFFERINGS WHEN EXISTING LOCATIONS ARE BEING NEGLECTED. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE TOT LOTS REVAMPED, AND IMPROVED BAYSHORE PARK WITH SPLASH PAD AND BEACH IMPROVEMENTS."
-LOCAL RESIDENT

"...MORE ACCESS TO LAKE SHORE LESS ENCUMBERED BY DOCKS, MORE WALKING PATHS ON LAKE SHORE, BETTER FISHING FACILITIES..., BETTER BATHROOMS AND TRASH MAINTENANCE (RECYCLING!) AT BAY SHORE, BIKE PATHS ON STREETS, IMPROVED LANDSCAPING AND REGULAR TRASH PICK UP AT TOT LOT, BETTER MAINTENANCE AT SKATE PARK, IMPROVED/UPDATES ON SCHOOL PLAYGROUND, RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR LIGHTING."
-LOCAL RESIDENT

"WOULD LIKE A BIKE TRAIL LIKE MARQUETTE HAS. OUR 0.3 MILE IS A JOKE. ENFORCE VEHICLES OFF THE SIDEWALKS TO ALLOW FOR SAFE WALKING IN TOWN. TOO MANY CARS BLOCKING SIDEWALK TRAFFIC. WHY HAVE THEM? ALSO, NOT SAFE FOR KIDS TO GET TOO AND FROM SCHOOL AND PARKS IF THEY HAVE TO WALK IN THE STREET."
-LOCAL RESIDENT

"MAKE SURE RESIDENTS ARE KEPT IN THE FRONT WINDOW FOR DECISIONS. LOTS OF GROWTH IS GREAT AND NEEDED TO SUSTAIN, BUT YEAR ROUND RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES AND THEIR HERITAGES HAVE KEPT THE FIRE KINDLED FOR MANY YEARS. MAKE SURE THEY GET PREFERRED ACCESS TO MANY OF THE SITES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE FUTURE. WHEN SOMETHING IS TAKEN AWAY, HAVE SOMETHING OR TWO THINGS MADE AVAILABLE."
-LOCAL RESIDENT

"MUSIC FESTIVAL. BUSKERS. FOOD FEST. EXPAND ICE FESTIVAL TO INCLUDE HUGE ICE SCULPTURE SIMILAR TO MTU. HAVE UP COLLEGES COMPETE...SIGNATURE CROSS COUNTRY SKI RACE. SNOWMOBILE RACES... INCREASE WINTER ACTIVITIES AND FIND SOME ACTIVITIES TO PLUG THE REST OF THE YEAR WITH AND IT WILL ATTRACT MORE YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTS."
-LOCAL RESIDENT

REQUESTED CHANGES

Numbers listed in each image notes number of survey respondents who requested each item.



ADDRESS GOOSE POOP ISSUE



GOOD WORK! KEEP GOING!



MORE TRASH CLEAN UP + RECYCLING



MORE FUNDING FOR PARKS



ENFORCEMENT FOR ORVS/
SNOWMOBILES ON NON-
MOTORIZED TRAILS + STREETS



REMOVE PRIVATE BUSINESSES
FROM USING PUBLIC LAND FOR
BUSINESS



MORE FOR KIDS TO DO



PICKLEBALL COURT



MORE!!!



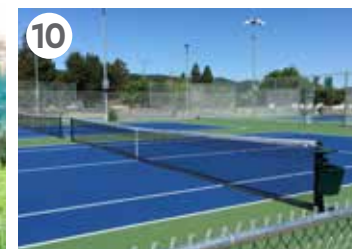
MORE INDOOR ACTIVITIES



EXTEND BIKE PATH TO CHRISTMAS



BETTER MAINTENANCE



MORE TENNIS COURTS



MORE TRAILS/FACILITIES
(MTN + SNOW BIKING, BMX,
SILENT SPORTS TRAILS)

LESS FREQUENT MENTIONS

- 1 - ADD RENTALS
- 1 - MORE POCKET PARKS
- 1 - MORE SUSTAINABLE
- 1 - SKI HILL
- 1 - IMPROVE KAYAK LAUNCH
- 1 - DESIGNATED ROCK CLIMBING
- 1 - CURLING VENUE
- 1 - INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING
- 1 - EQUESTRIAN OPTIONS
- 1 - DISK GOLF
- 1 - PLAYGROUND AT BAYSHORE PARK
- 1 - FISHING PIER
- 1 - MORE SLIPS AT MARINA
- 1 - NO CAMPGROUNDS IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS
- 1 - COMMUNITY GARDEN
- 1 - MARINA

- 1 - MORE IDEAS
- 1 - UPDATE BASKETBALL COURT
- 1 - COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC SITE TOUR
- 1 - GO-CART TRACK
- 1 - CITY PARK WITH BASKETBALL OR SOCCER
- 1 - CLEAN PARK BATHROOMS
- 1 - DO NOTHING AND KEEP TAXES LOW
- 1 - A PARK WITH OPEN LAND, TREES, WALKING
- 1 - ELECTRIC BIKE SHARE
- 2 - VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 2 - FISH CLEANING STATION AT BOAT LAUNCH
- 2 - PROMOTE LOCAL ACTIVITIES
- 2 - INDOOR RACQUETBALL COURT
- 2 - MOVIES AT THE PARK
- 2 - WINTER FESTIVAL
- 2 - DISCOUNTS FOR LOCALS
- 2 - DOG FRIENDLY TRAILS/ DOG PARK

- 2 - ENCOURAGE TOURISM
- 3 - SEEK GRANT FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS
- 3 - MORE ATTENTION FOR MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES
- 3 - MORE WATER + RESTROOM ACCESS
- 3 - SWIMMING/BALANCE PROGRAMS FOR OLDER RESIDENTS

ADDITIONAL BIKE PATH SUGGESTIONS:
MUNISING FALLS TO BAY FURNACE
NON-MOTORIZED PATH NOT AS PART
OF THE HIGHWAY
MUNISING MEMORIAL TO SAND POINT
BIKE PATH ALONG H58
CLEAR IN WINTER FOR WALKING/BIKING

"Too
MANY MISSED
OPPORTUNITIES. No
REC PATH. ..BAYSHORE
PARK MIGHT AS WELL
BELONG TO PICTURED
ROCKS CRUISES."
-LOCAL

"OUR
FAMILY LOVES
THE CENTRAL SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND AND IF IT
IS UPDATED REALLY HOPE
THEY DON'T GET RID OF
THE WOODEN STRUCTURE.
THOSE ARE THE COOLEST
PLAYGROUNDS."
-RESIDENT

7 VALUES, GOALS, + OBJECTIVES

RECREATION VALUES

We VALUE the readily accessible recreation opportunities and nature in and around the City.

We VALUE having a variety of recreation options in every season.

We VALUE the surrounding trail networks and diversity of landscapes they provide access to.

RECREATION GOALS

1. Showcase Munising's waterfront maintaining, reclaiming, and enhancing its existing resources while finding a balance that satisfies tourism industry desires and local resident's parkland needs.

2. Promote trail development in and around the City. Take steps to create a more walkable, family friendly community streetscape.

3. Continue to embrace the four seasons appeal of Munising and create additional opportunities for locals to enjoy their community all year round.

RECREATION OBJECTIVES

Provide additional recreation options for locals to partake in within Bayshore Park. (i.e. bigger beach, winter skating, waterfront trail, playground or splash pad, group exercise classes)

Partner with local community groups to maintain, develop, and enhance new and existing recreation infrastructure.

Upgrade park areas that are in need of improvements. (i.e. boat launch, playgrounds, and Bayshore)

Plan for a more walkable city design, providing plowed sidewalks and non-motorized pathways. Create safe, pedestrian friendly connections between schools, parks, and the downtown core.

Create separate motorized and non-motorized trail connections to neighboring communities and resources.

8 ACTION PLAN

Local + Regional Projects

The City of Munising has yet to accomplish many of projects proposed in the 2015-2019 Recreation Plan. Factoring in the input garnered from this round of community surveys a new list of priority projects has been generated. This list does reflect many of the original projects proposed in the 2015-2019 Recreation Plan.

This Action Plan channels the many ideas provided via community input, recreation board, stakeholder, and staff feedback and has resulted in a list of park and recreation improvements. This is not a comprehensive list as interests, demographics, and the environment are constantly evolving. This list simply provides a framework for the community to begin to take steps toward improving recreation for all.

By addressing these priority projects the City will begin to forge the link community members are looking for from the spectacular recreation opportunities that lie outside its borders to a walkable, recreation focused urban community at its core.

GOAL #1

Showcase Munising's waterfront maintaining, reclaiming, and enhancing its existing resources while finding a balance that satisfies tourism industry desires and local residents parkland needs.

BAYSHORE PARK

Bayshore Park is Munising's connection to the waterfront. The pavilion and restrooms could both use upgrades to better serve the community's needs. A multi-functional amphitheater space is proposed to be constructed where the pavilion currently stands integrating seating, bathrooms, and a comfortable area to set up farmer's market tents, host exercise classes or community events. The goose poop issue will receive attention as well as the need to provide options for properly disposing trash. In addition to the Bayshore Beach Area a splash pad or similar play structure will be integrated into the park design plan.

CITY MARINA

The Munising City Marina is in need of a fueling option as well as bathroom and harbor master facility improvements.

BOAT LAUNCH (AT BROWN'S ADDITION)

The boat launch expansion project is planned to increase parking by regrading the lot and adding a retaining wall. The City also plans to increase the number of docking stalls as well as add a fish cleaning station and lighting.

MUNISING RECREATION PLAN

GOAL #2

Promote trail development in and around the City. Take steps to create a more walkable, family friendly community streetscape.

COMMUNITY BIKE TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The City of Munising plans to partner with the National Parks Service to provide a multi-use paved trail from the City to the Sand Point Beach. This will forge the connection many community members requested in the surveys. The City will also continue to support projects that improve walking and biking and connections within the community.

LAND ACQUISITION

The City of Munising will consider feasible land acquisitions that would benefit trail development and community recreation.

GOAL #3

Continue to embrace the four seasons appeal of Munising and create additional opportunities for locals to enjoy their community all year round.

PLAYGROUND UPDATES

Lynn Street and Brown's Addition Playgrounds could both use updates. The City will support efforts to improve these play spaces and integrate accessible elements. Tourist Park also needs updates to its play area.

TANNERY PARK

Provide another program element at this underutilized space. There is not much room for sport courts but the site could work well as a site for hosting yoga or other exercise equipment/classes or showcase local sculpture. It was also recommended the City consider installing a staircase to provide access to the lake.

ALGER ARENA

The aging structure requires multiple updates including: bleachers, a heated viewing area, a dehumidification system, upgraded compressors, relocating the Zamboni and garage to the southwest corner, new tables and chairs and upgrades to the kitchen. Some of these updates could fall under the umbrella of energy efficiency upgrades and may be able to receive outside funding.

TOURIST PARK IMPROVEMENTS + EXPANSION

In addition to the play area, Tourist Park, could use a boat launch, improved roads, and a new office building. It is planned for the park to expand to the other side of the highway with additional full-hook up sites. It was requested the public parking area for beach access be expanded and formalized.

HEROES FIELD

The Community will consider other programmatic options for this site as it is currently under utilized. If the ball field were to be replaced an alternate site for spring little league and softball would be provided. One recommendation was to flood the site in the winter and create an outdoor skating area.

SKATE PARK

The skate park is underutilized and would benefit from a re-programming. With high demand for pickleball the City would consider locating 2 pickleball courts here instead.

ANNA RIVER BOAT LAUNCH

It was requested this site also be noted as a swimming area.



BAYSHORE PARK REIMAGINED

PRECEDENT IMAGES: PROJECT EXAMPLES



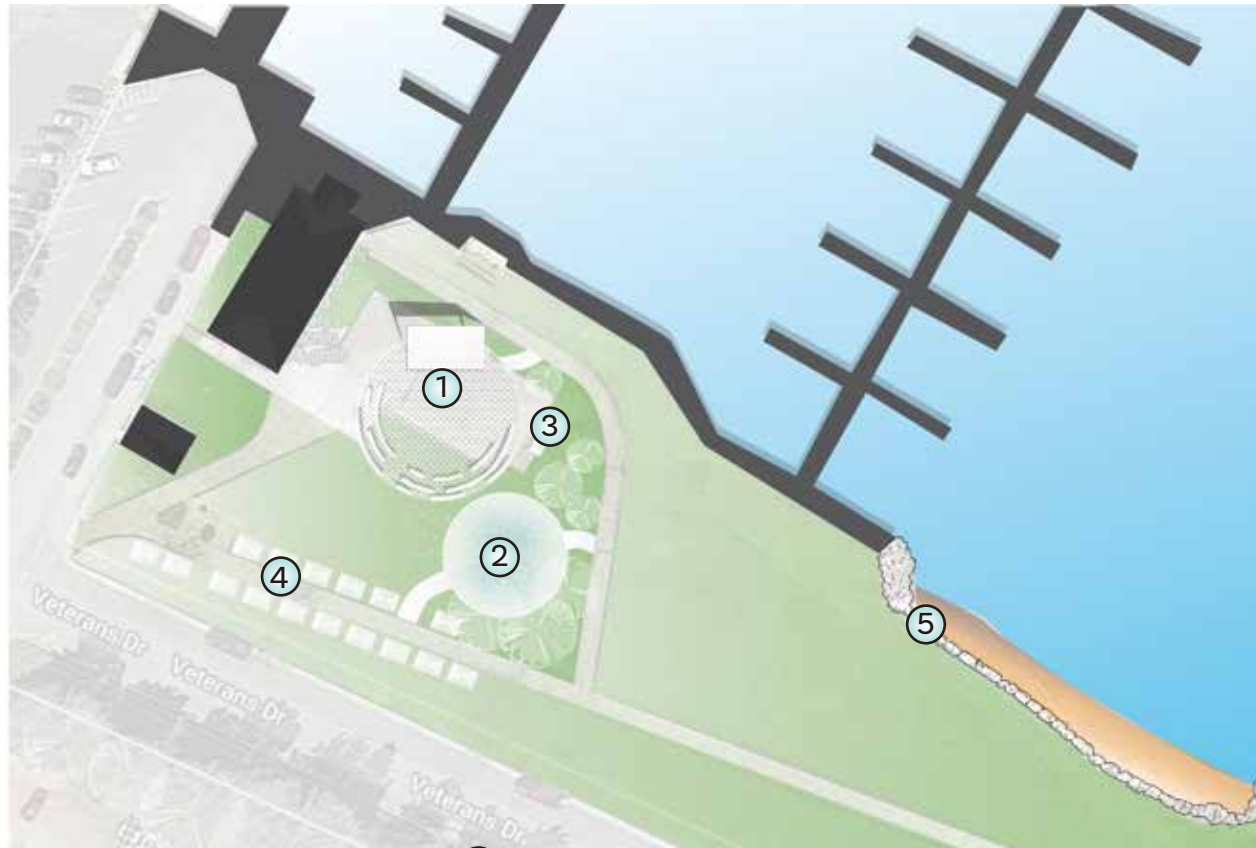
EVENT/MARKET SHELTER



SPLASH AREA, SEATING AND SHELTER/BATHROOM



PLANTINGS AND TERRACED SEATING



0 50 100FT

- ① PROPOSED MULTI-FUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY AMPHITHEATER
- ② PROPOSED SPLASH PAD OR ADA ACCESSIBLE PLAY AREA
- ③ EXISTING COMMUNITY BREAD OVEN
- ④ FARMER'S MARKET/COMMUNITY EVENT TENT AREA
- ⑤ EXISTING BEACH AREA



STAGE AREA CONCEPT



COMMUNITY EXERCISE CLASS AREA



SPLASH PAD

CITY OF MUNISING

APPENDIX B

Grant History City of Munising

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-00213

MUNISING TOURIST PARK

Project Year: 1970

Project Description: Develop 14 acres to include 70 site campground, electric services, faucets, roads, office, restrooms, shower, trailer dump station, stoves, picnic tables, landscaping and water system.

Grant Amount: \$82,500.00

Project Status: Closed

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01322

ALGER COUNTY ICE ARENA

Project Year: 1984

Project Description: Develop and ice arena and associated site development.

Grant Amount: \$219,992.37

Project Status: Closed

PROJECT NUMBER: TF90-311

MUNISING CITY MARINA

Project Year: 1990

Project Description: Construction of a mooring facility to service transient and seasonal boaters including a floating pier system, harbor master building, utilities, site work and dredging on Lake Superior.

Grant Amount: \$315,000.00

Project Status: Closed

PROJECT NUMBER: TF06-082

TOURIST PARK CAMPGROUND EXPANSION

Project Year: 2006

Project Description: Development to include additional campsites with water, sewer and electrical services, foot bridge and pavilion/restroom/shower building at Tourist Park. Campground on Lake Superior.

Grant Amount: \$210,500.00

Project Status: Closed

PROJECT NUMBER: RP12-468

LYNN STREET TENNIS COURT RENOVATION

Project Year: 2012

Project Description: Development to include renovation of two tennis courts and development of public drinking fountain for courts and adjacent playground.

Grant Amount: \$20,200.00

Project Status: Closed

PROJECT NUMBER: TF12-039

MUNISING BAY UNIVERSAL ACCESS SITE-ANNA RIVER

Project Year: 2012

Project Description: Development to include improvements to and expansion of universally accessible fishing pier, construction of an accessible vault toilet, site landscaping and construction of a universally accessible kayak launch.

Grant Amount: \$86,200.00

Project Status: Closed

PROJECT NUMBER: TF13-141

MUNISING BAY MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILHEAD

Project Year: 2013

Project Description: A new trailhead with a universally accessible restroom, parking lot and necessary amenities for a 1.6 mile single track, mountain bike trail. The new mountain bike trail will have different trail types to meet a variety of user abilities.

Grant Amount: \$194,100.00

Project Status: Closed

PROJECT NUMBER: TF13-142

MUNISING TOURIST PARK CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Project Year: 2013

Project Description: A campground development project along the Hiawatha Water Trail on Lake Superior. It includes the renovation of existing campsites to full services sites, expansion of new rustic campsites, access paths, mobi-mat beach access path to shoreline, upgrades to the existing dump station, septic field, and lighting. Parking improvements to meet ADA requirements, new toilet/shower building and a new entrance sign also added.

Grant Amount: \$200,000.00

Project Status: Closed

CITY OF MUNISING

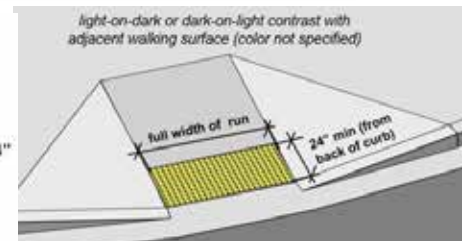
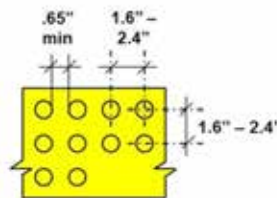
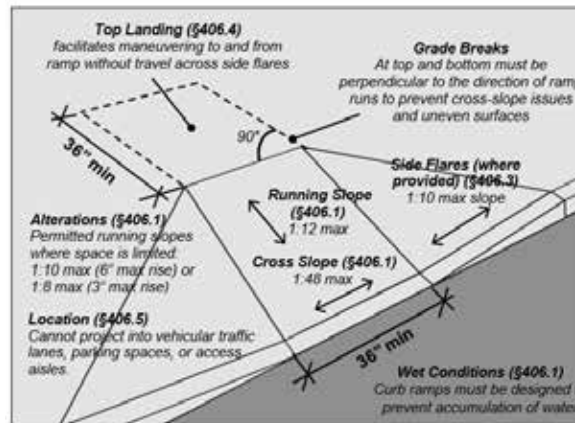
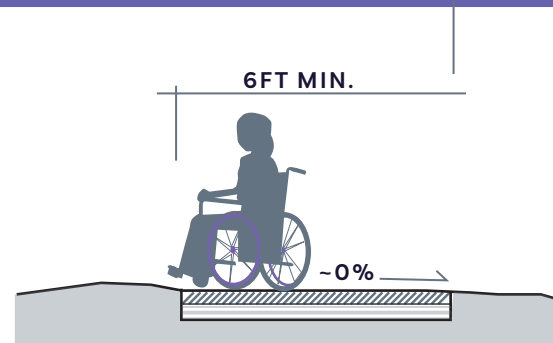
APPENDIX C

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

Michigan DNR Guidelines

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

- WALKWAYS WITHIN A SITE** - minimum 6 foot width and slopes under 2%
- MULTI-USE TRAIL** - 8 feet, with slopes under 2%, wider width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass
- REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM** - at least 10 feet wide, with 1-foot buffers on either side, with slopes under 2%
- SURFACE TREATMENT** - unitary surface (ex. concrete, boardwalk or asphalt, crushed aggregate/screenings that have been “stabilized” or natural soils enhanced with soil stabilizers)
- TRANSITIONS** - plates between trail and pedestrian bridges, decks, etc.
- INTERSECTIONS** - contrasting color treatment and textured surface treatments such as brushed concrete at intersections or interpretive stations to cue people who have vision impairments that there is something to pay attention to at that spot
- Close to level cross slopes (side to side) and very gentle running slopes, no steep sections, larger (greater than 60”X60”) level areas at all turns and intersections
- Thoughtfully laid out on the site to maximize the experience with minimal difficulty
- AMENITIES** - All should be accessible including: benches, restrooms (port-a-johns), drinking fountains, etc.



CITY OF MUNISING

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

BEACH

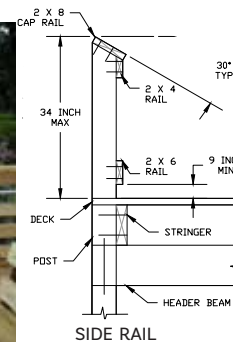
- Routes over the beach and into the water, can be portable/temporary matting if it needs to be taken in and out for beach cleaning/ dragging or in the off season
- Wide enough for side by side walking/passing
- At beach route end have an accessible area at the waters edge large enough to park multiple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



TRANSFER STATION

FISHING DOCK + VIEWING DECK

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



CAMPING

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



CITY OF MUNISING

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

SKIING + SLEDDING HILL

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



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

SPORT COURTS + FIELDS

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



MAGIC CARPET LIFT



CITY OF MUNISING

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

PLAYGROUNDS

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



CITY OF MUNISING

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

BOARDWALKS

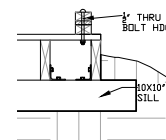
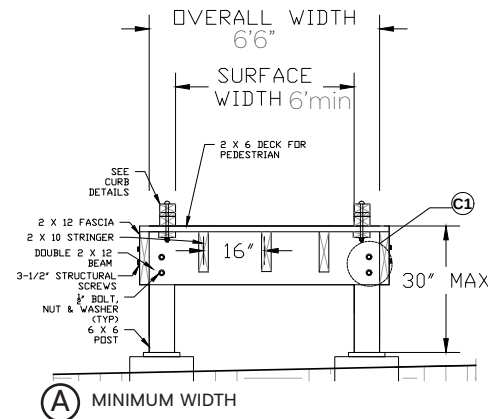
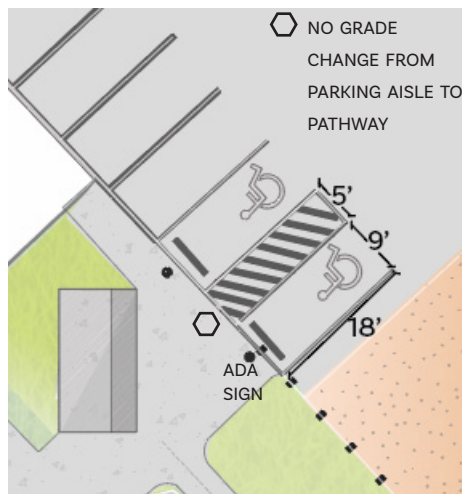
- (A) -6 foot minimum width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass
- (B) -EDGE TREATMENT to prevent roll/step off
- (C) -SIDE RAILS - more than 25% must be lowered for easy viewing in various places along the boardwalk
 - INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION - in a variety of alternative formats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

NATURE CENTER

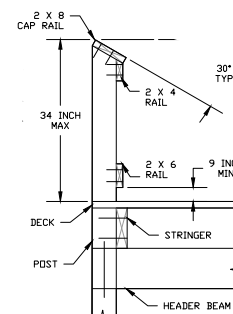
- INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION -in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.
- TECHNOLOGY - Creative use such as mp3 players for auditory descriptions (this gives the info. directly to the individual) closed loop assistive listening devices and closed circuit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

PARKING

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



(B) BUMPER RAIL



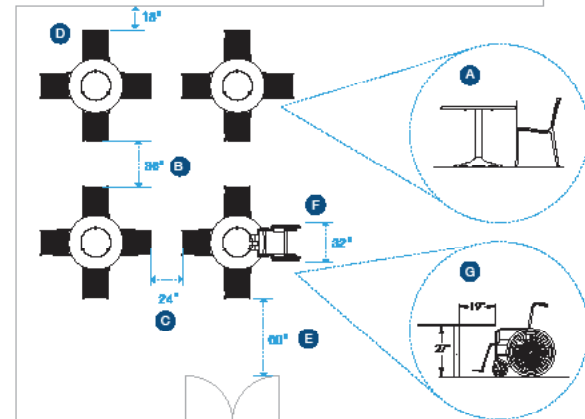
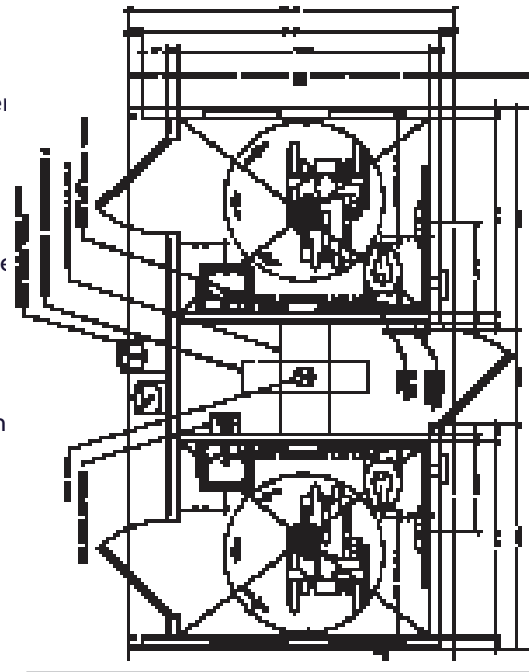
(C) SIDE RAIL

CITY OF MUNISING

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

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

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



- A. Distances referenced here assume the front edge of a chair lines up with the edge of a table top.
- B. Allow a minimum of 36" between seat backs to permit wheelchair access between tables.
- C. Allow a minimum of 24" between seat backs to provide a walkway between tables.
- D. Allow a minimum of 18" between a seat back and a wall or edge to permit access to all seats.
- E. Allow a minimum of 80" between a seat back and a site's entrance to allow for easy egress.
- F. Please refer to ADA guidelines and local codes to determine the number of wheelchair accessible seating spaces needed in a seating group. It is recommended that a minimum of 32" in width be provided to accommodate a wheelchair at a table.
- G. The minimum height and depth clearance necessary to accommodate a wheelchair at a table are 27" and 19", respectively.

CITY OF MUNISING

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

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

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

The following page features a closer look at the City of Munising parks. These sites have been assigned an accessible rating derived from this scale.

The Michigan DNR Rating Chart is as Follows:

- 1 | NONE OF THE FACILITIES MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**
- 2 | SOME OF THE FACILITIES MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**
- 3 | MOST OF THE FACILITIES MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**
- 4 | THE ENTIRE PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**
- 5 | THE ENTIRE PARK WAS DEVELOPED USING UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

CITY OF MUNISING

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS



BAYSHORE PARK:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

As the main community waterfront park, Bayshore Park features many accessible facilities but could stand to improve upon some of these. ADA parking is limited to 2 spaces one of which requires a properly mounted sign. Pathways throughout are concrete and adequate grades for access. The pavilion, community pizza oven, restrooms and other amenities are all accessible. Some features that are surrounded by grassy areas and therefore in accessible include benches, the beach area and picnic areas.

CITY MARINA:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 4

The marina area blends with Bayshore Park, sharing accessible parking and concrete paths. The docks themselves are accessible as well as the trash receptacles, picnic tables, and restrooms.

MUNICIPAL BOAT LAUNCH:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

The Municipal boat launch features an appropriate number of properly signed and striped ADA parking spaces as well as a fully accessible restroom. The docks feature a larger than 1/4" lip to access and are in the future plans of the City to be replaced with a more accessible system in the near future.

TANNERY PARK OVERLOOK:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

Tannery Park overlook includes off street paved parking that requires proper signage for ADA spaces. The path to the overlook is paved and boardwalk, accessible. The picnic table was also located along the paved path although it is not an ADA picnic table as there is not the proper legroom or table extension to allow for someone in a wheelchair to access. These few small changes would bring the site up to accessibility requirements.



BROWN'S ADDITION PLAYGROUND:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 1

Brown's Addition Playground features an inaccessible play structure surrounded by plastic edging and lawn area. The port-a-potty and other amenities on site are also located within the lawn area and deemed inaccessible. A series of hard surface paths leading to each element as well as an ADA accessible play feature would result in a much more inclusive site.



LYNN STREET PLAYGROUND:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

Lynn Street Playground has seen some recent grant funded updates and as a result has an accessible port-a-potty as well as accessible tennis courts with a paved pathway. The playground area is on a terraced slope with a winding sidewalk featuring accessible grades for ADA access. The play structure itself includes a transfer platform with some additional accessible features. The site does require properly marked ADA parking spaces with access from these spots and improvements the surfacing.



TOURIST PARK:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 4

Tourist Park features four ADA accessible campsites that are paved with ADA fire rings and accessible picnic tables. The bathroom shower building is also fully accessible. The play area is currently in need of updates and inaccessible. Each of the accessible features listed above should be properly signed with the universal symbol for accessibility. The beach access also includes an accessible mat that allows those with mobility issues to wheel down to the water's edge and experience Lake Superior in all its glory.



ALGER CENTENNIAL ARENA:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 4

Alger Centennial Ice Arena features ADA access to the building and throughout the interior including restrooms and seating.



HEROES FIELD:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

A wide swath of area surrounding the Heroes field is paved allowing easy free flow movement for those of all mobility levels. The ADA restroom at the adjacent boat ramp is fully accessible. Although this site is covered in asphalt the bleachers do not include integrated seating for those with mobility issues and ADA marked parking stalls are not located at the site.



SKATE PARK:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

The Munising Skate Park features a paved area with movable skateboard ramps. These facilities are inherently inaccessible but due to the paved surface would allow those with mobility issues to watch from almost any position within the site.



MUNISING BAY MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILHEAD:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

The Mountain Bike Trailhead features an accessible vault toilet, accessible parking, a hand cycle loop and accessible circulation paths. The only area for improvement includes adding an accessible picnic table positioned with adequate circulation on a hard surface pad.



ANNA RIVER BOAT LAUNCH:

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

The Anna River Boat Launch features an accessible fishing pier with an accessible kayak launch and accessible vault toilet. The reviewer visited this site in the off season and was not able to see the kayak launch installed.



Anna River Kayak Launch





THANK YOU.