

CITY OF ISHPEMING

RECREATION PLAN

2024-2028



CITY OF ISHPEMING

RESOLUTION

Draft

CITY OF ISHPEMING

CONTENTS

- 1 INTRODUCTION** | A VISION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE CITY OF ISHPEMING
 - 2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION** | HISTORY, DEMOGRAPHICS + DATA
 - 3 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE** | STAFFING, BUDGET + VOLUNTEERS
 - 4 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** | LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES, SOILS, + WILDLIFE
 - 5 RECREATION INVENTORY** | STANDARDS, PARK LOCATIONS + DESCRIPTIONS
 - 6 COMMENTS + ISSUES SCOPING**
 - 7 VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES**
 - 8 ACTION PLAN** | PRIORITY PROJECTS
- APPENDIX A** | PUBLIC NOTICE + COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS
- APPENDIX B** | VISITATION DATA PROVIDED BY TRAVEL MARQUETTE
- APPENDIX C** | UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN GUIDELINES
- APPENDIX D** | GRANT HISTORY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This plan was prepared with input from the City of Ishpeming Parks and Recreation Commission the Ishpeming City Manager's office and the Ishpeming City Council. A special thanks to the following participants:

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1

INTRODUCTION

5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

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.

FOUR KEY FOCUS AREAS:

- Ishpeming as a Recreation Destination
- Supporting Healthy, Active Lifestyles
- Meeting Increased Demand for Trails
- Improving Outdated Infrastructure



The National Parks and Recreation Association 2022 Agency Performance Review summarizes what many of us, as Michiganders have realized: “Two years into the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, one thing is clear: parks and recreation is essential.” Park visitation increased dramatically during the pandemic, with the promise of access to fresh air and room to run, play, and gather. Park and recreation resources offered within the City of Ishpeming provided residents with the opportunity to pursue the recreation or leisure activity of their choosing (see page 33 Community Survey Results). The parks and trails within the city continue to offer rewarding recreation opportunities while promoting a love for one’s community, as well as better physical and mental health. The priorities outlined in this plan will provide increased access to recreational amenities while ensuring there are a variety of opportunities for current and future generations.

Crunching the numbers, the parks and recreation industry is an avenue for community development and growth as well. As noted in a June 2023 speech by Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II, “The outdoor recreation sector was worth \$10.8 billion to the state’s economy in 2021, providing more than 100,000 direct jobs.” The City of Ishpeming already hosts a variety of recreation oriented events, services, and shops, but the potential for additional job opportunities and community development is extensive. By promoting the spectacular natural resources this city has to offer and generating a plan for sustainable recreation design, the promise of a truly resilient community can be realized.

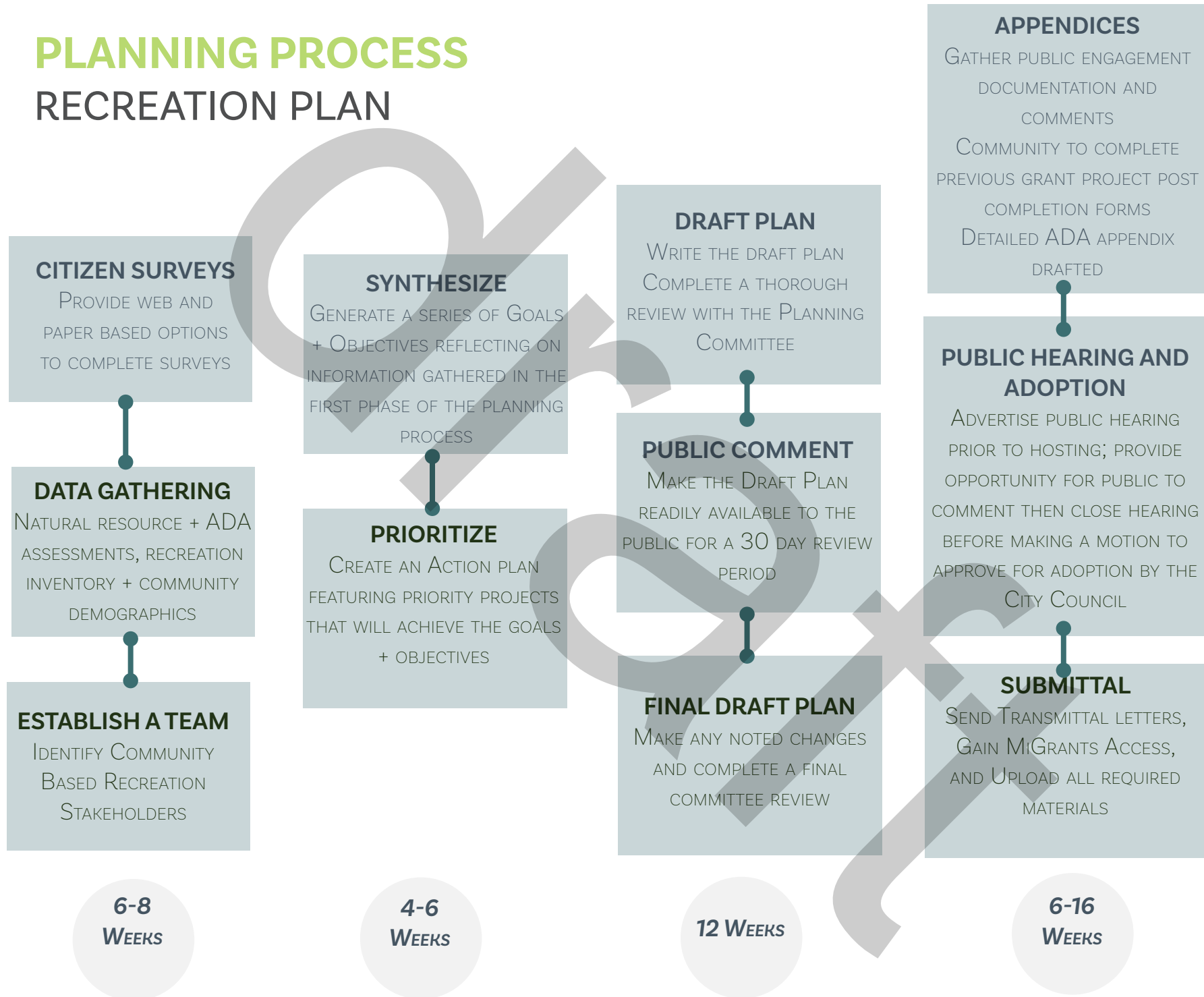
Introduction

The City of Ishpeming is a 9.38 square mile parcel of land located in the central portion of Marquette County, within the Marquette Iron Range of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It is located adjacent to the west of the City of Negaunee, and about 14 miles west of the City of Marquette.



PLANNING PROCESS

RECREATION PLAN



2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

CITY OF ISHPEMING

The City of Ishpeming is a mining town with an extensive history of recreation. Known as the “birthplace for organized skiing,” one of the nation’s first ski clubs was formed in Ishpeming in 1887. Since then the city has produced many famous ski jumpers, practicing on its renowned Suicide Hill. The National Ski Association was formed in Ishpeming in 1904 and the city hosts the National Ski Hall of Fame.

While the community is inseparable from its history of mining on the Iron Range, its distinction as a skiing destination is also deeply ingrained in community culture. The city continues to host Northern Michigan University ski competitions as well as the Junior National Qualifier and annual ski jumping tournament. In more recent history, the city has embraced many other forms of recreation most notably, mountain biking. It has the potential for a tremendous future in recreation with its unique combination of rugged terrain, rich natural resources, and four seasons of varied activities.



US SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

The Iron Range is geographically isolated and largely undeveloped wilderness. Most local development occurred due to the wealth underground. The early mining activities lead to the establishment of numerous operational mines within the city limits. The city’s homes and businesses literally grew up around the mines. Some of these historic sites have been preserved or are being preserved for future generations to learn about the early life of miners and their families. Today, there are no active mines within the city’s corporate limits; however, the Tilden Mine (Iron) is located south of the city in Tilden Township and the Eagle Mine (Copper and Nickel) is located north of the city in Powell Township. Mining still has a significant impact on the city’s economy, but not as much as it once did.

In recent decades, recreation and tourism have become a key economic driver within the city. The service and retail trade sectors benefit from money spent by visitors in the area. Agritourism is also making headway within the community with the establishment of Partridge Creek Farm and other local farms. Partridge Creek Farm hosts a successful farm to school program, introducing students to the practice of growing your own food and eating healthier. Ishpeming’s future is bright as the city continues to create and sustain a vibrant community that preserves and appreciates its amazing history and abundant natural resources.

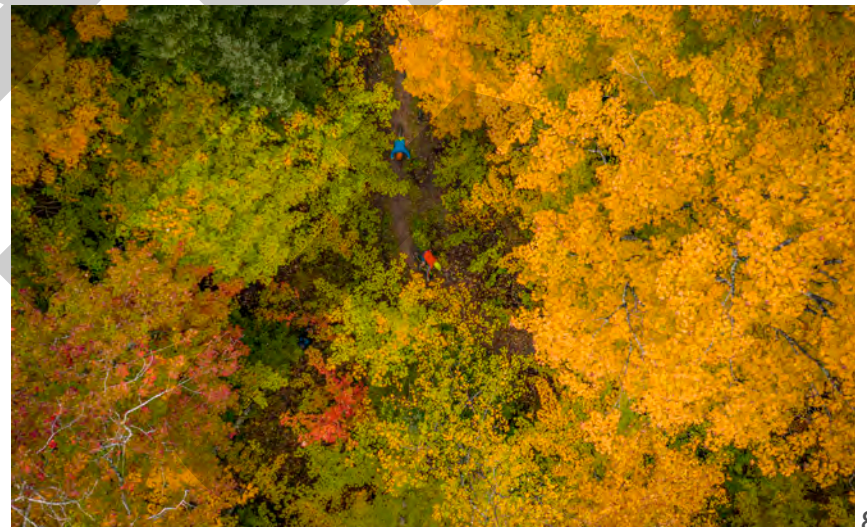


PHOTO COURTESY: AARON PETERSON STUDIOS

CITY DATA AS IT RELATES TO RECREATION

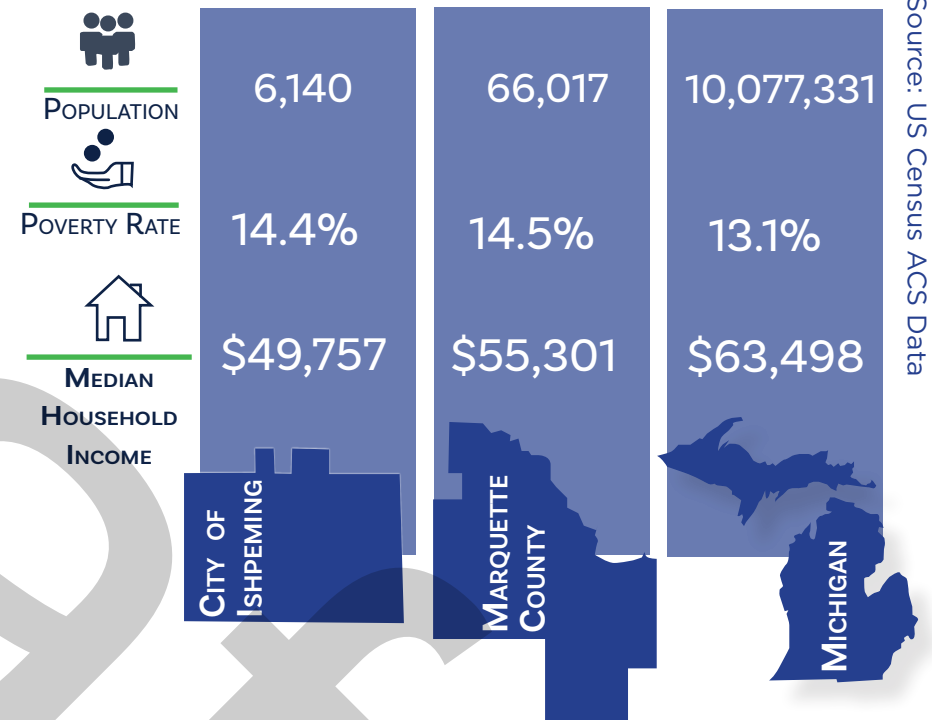
Assessing the number of people in the community and their demographic characteristics helps planners and policy makers to determine the needs of the community. For recreation planning, population data is useful when applying recreation standards to a community.

While the population in the State of Michigan increased in the last thirty years, Marquette County has experienced a slow decline in population as well as the City of Ishpeming. Population trends are shown in the adjacent table.

Understanding the composition of the population by age will help leaders plan for the types of recreation and facilities that will maximize opportunity for as many residents as possible. In the pie charts shown below, the City of Ishpeming's age demographics are unique in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, illustrating a slight increase in 0-25 year olds. This shift affirms the draw the community provides to young families through hosting affordable housing options, employment and education opportunities, and an abundance of recreational access.

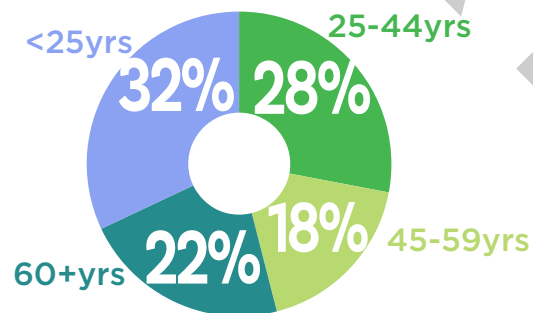
To ensure aging populations and younger generations continue to have access to recreation opportunities the city must continue to develop accessible facilities that can be enjoyed year round.

	YEAR	1990	2000	2010	2020	PERCENT CHANGE 1990-2020
CITY OF ISHPERING:	POPULATION	7,200	6,686	6,500	6,140	-14.7%
MARQUETTE COUNTY:	POPULATION	70,887	64,634	67,178	66,017	-6.8%
STATE OF MICHIGAN	POPULATION	9,262,044	---	---	10,077,331	+8%



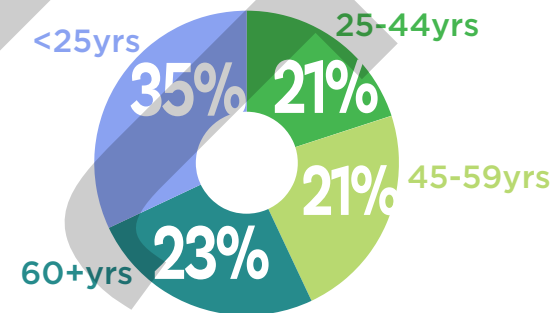
AGE | 2000

Source: US Census ACS Data



AGE | 2023

Source: US Census ACS Data



3 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

2022 KEY FINDINGS

The National Recreation And Park Association [NRPA] has assembled a 2022 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. Key 2022 findings are listed below:

95% of
Park + Recreation
Agencies have Playgrounds

10.4 acres
of parkland for
every 1,000
residents

Residents per Park:

2,323

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

8.9

Annual Operating
Expenditures
per Capita:

\$93.01

14 miles of
silent sport trails

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



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

City of Ishpeming Budget + Spending

In recent years the city has dedicated an average of \$443,872 annually for parks and recreation operations, maintenance, and capital investment. Figures fluctuated with the influx of grant funds to complete capital improvement and new park construction endeavors. This plan will serve as a first step toward meeting requirements to apply for MDNR grants. By augmenting existing budgets with grant and other outside funding sources the city will have the ability to provide needed improvements and upgrades.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Revenues	\$57,102	\$48,271	\$38,628	\$27,557	\$32,753	\$27,250
Grants Revenues		\$300,000			\$100,000	\$179,000
Operations + Maintenance	\$226,244	\$169,481	\$168,560	\$237,166	\$226,542	\$224,600
Capital Outlay	\$47,740	\$586,800	\$54,500	\$78,600	\$428,000	\$215,000
Total Expenditures	\$273,984	\$756,281	\$223,060	\$315,766	\$654,542	\$439,600

A few recent recreation projects include:

2019 - the Construction of the Lake Bancroft Pavilion

2022 - Construction of the Brasswire Campground

Proposed in 2023 - Teal Lake Boat Launch, Lake Bancroft Playground, and Al Quaal Improvements

2023 Sources of Operating Expenditures:

General Tax Support	\$197,350	
Park + Rec Fees	\$27,250	
Public Improvement Fund Support	\$140,000	Al Quaal Improvements
Grants	\$100,000	Boat Launch MDNR Rec Passport Grant
Donations/Fund Raising	\$134,500	Playground Funds from Kiwanis Club

The yellow panel on the left reflects the most recent (2022) data gathered by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) noting average spending, employee numbers, park type and quantity and other recreation related features within park systems throughout the United States.



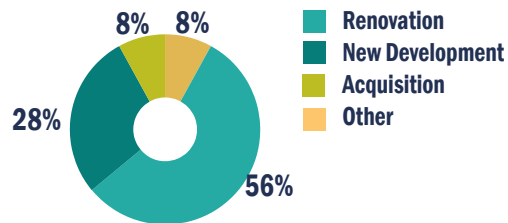
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

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

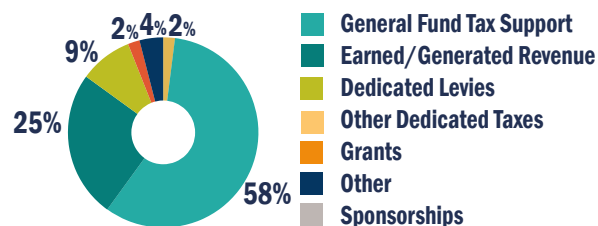
OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER FTE The typical park and recreation agency spends \$102,530 in annual operating expenditures for each employee.

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

Targets for Capital Expenditures

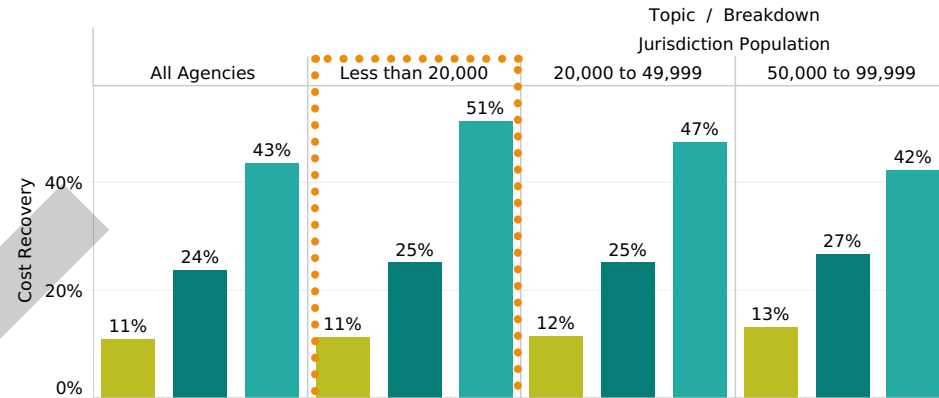


Sources of Operating Expenditures

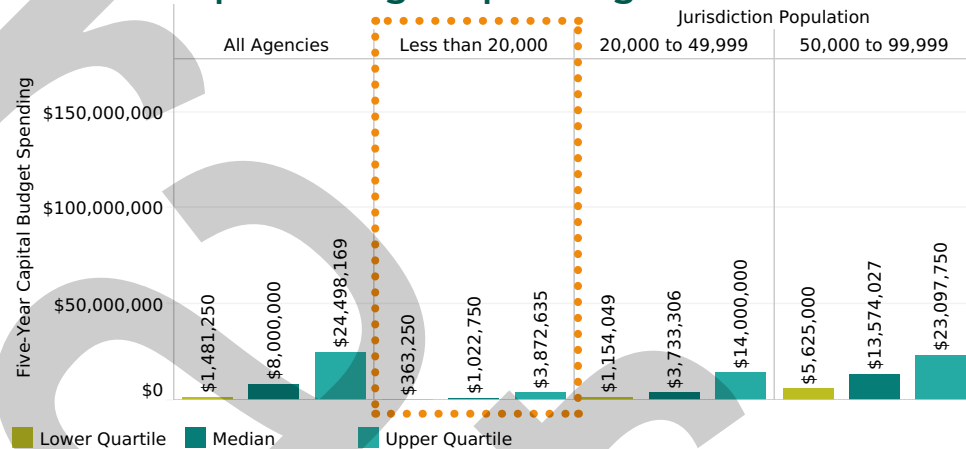


*FINDINGS FROM THE 2022 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW USES SURVEY DATA GATHERED FROM 2019-2021 BY NRPA PARK METRICS

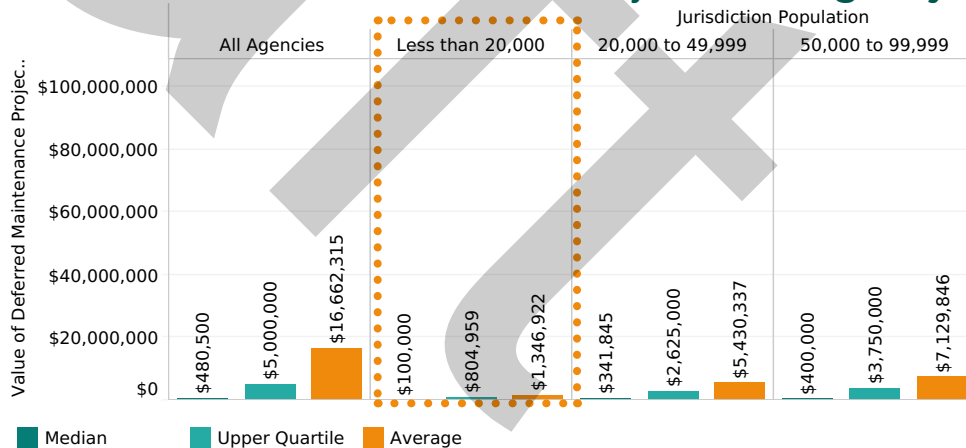
Revenues as a Percentage of Operating Expenditures



Five-Year Capital Budget Spending



Value of Deferred Maintenance Projects Per Agency



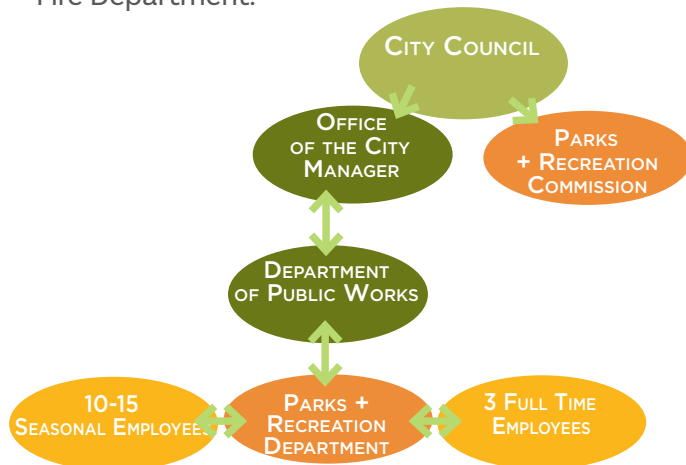
PEOPLE + FUNDING

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Under 1917 Public Act 156, the City of Ishpeming has appointed a Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a 9-person advisory group which includes representatives from Ishpeming City Council, Ishpeming High School, and other community members. The Commission meets on a regular basis to formulate initiatives for the city's recreational programs and park system, to provide oversight for these areas, and to review and recommend changes to this plan. In addition, we share all our plans with our neighbors in the City of Negaunee, Ishpeming Township, and Negaunee Township. In 2007, the City of Ishpeming and City of Negaunee created a shared use plan for about 300 acres north of Teal Lake and within the city limits of Negaunee. Presently this parcel of land is used for cross country ski trails, hiking trails, and as a nature preserve.

Other City organizations that have a significant role in Parks and Recreation include the Department of Public Works, Police Department, Zoning Board of Appeals, Downtown Development Authority, Neighborhood Improvement Committee, Cemetery Board, and Library Board.

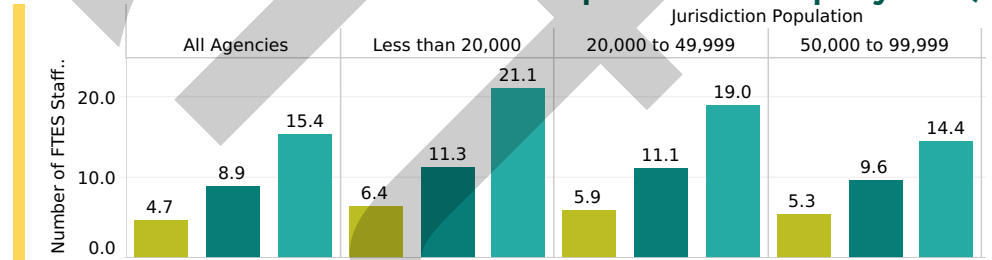
The city currently employs approximately 40 full-time equivalent employees. Departments include City Hall, Carnegie Public Library, 24/7 Police Department, Public Works Department, and a Volunteer Fire Department.



Key Responsibilities of Parks + Recreation

NRPA NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION	Jurisdiction Population			
	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999
Operate and maintain park sites	98%	98%	97%	99%
Operate and maintain indoor facilities	91%	85%	90%	95%
Conduct jurisdiction wide special events	81%	75%	83%	82%
Operate and maintain non-park sites	69%	62%	69%	67%
Operate, maintain, or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks	67%	51%	65%	70%
Operate, maintain, or contract racquet sport activities/courts/facilities	63%	58%	56%	73%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	56%	35%	53%	64%
Administer community gardens	45%	32%	50%	47%
Manage large performance outdoor amphitheaters	37%	21%	32%	43%
Operate, maintain, or contract tourism attractions	36%	25%	31%	30%
Operate, maintain, or contract golf courses	36%	13%	28%	36%
Operate, maintain, or contract indoor swim facilities/water parks	32%	19%	32%	40%
Maintain or manage beaches (inclusive of all waterbody types)	22%	15%	21%	21%
Administer or manage farmer's markets	21%	16%	24%	26%
Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center	20%	10%	18%	25%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality indoor sports complexes	20%	12%	19%	22%
Operate, maintain, or contract campgrounds	18%	12%	8%	7%
Operate, maintain or contract marinas	11%	7%	6%	8%
Administer or manage professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack	9%	2%	5%	9%
Manage or maintain fairgrounds	6%	5%	3%	5%

Park + Recreation Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



*FINDINGS FROM THE 2022 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW USES SURVEY DATA GATHERED FROM 2019-2021 BY NRPA PARK METRICS

Lower Quartile
Median
Upper Quartile

VOLUNTEERS + PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Volunteers are critical for recreational programs in the city. Ishpeming hosts numerous recreational events supported by volunteers for: mountain biking, cross-country skiing, basketball, and running. League sports, such as little league teams and the American Legion baseball team, enjoy the support of dedicated volunteers.

The City has had a long and successful relationship with community and school organizations. Community organizations supporting recreation include the Downtown Development Authority (ODA), the Ishpeming Business Association, Kiwanis, the Ishpeming Ski Club and various organizations that support recreational activities and youth sports. Ishpeming schools athletic department, booster club, coaches, officials, and athletes are key players in the continued development of

recreational facilities within the city. The city receives support from corporate and individual donations to promote recreational activities and projects as well. Examples include: The development of mountain biking trails within and around the city in partnership with the Range Area Mountain Bike Association, the Iron Ore Heritage Trail Association with development of a multi-use trail system and associated amenities, and the Moose Country Snowmobile Club that maintains the trails throughout the city.

A list of recreation organizations associated with the city are listed in the chart on this page.

ORGANIZATION	RECREATION TYPE
UP Disk Golf Association	Disc Golf
Range Area Mountain Bike Assoc. (RAMBA)	Mountain biking, Running, XC Skiing, Hiking Snowshoeing
Iron Ore Heritage Trail Assoc. (IOHT)	Biking, Running, XC Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing
Greater Ishpeming Commission on Aging	Senior oriented recreation and leisure
Upper Peninsula Luge Club	Sledding
Little Bella's	Mountain biking
Ishpeming Ski Club	Skiing
NICE Community Schools	Gus Macker Tournament
Ishpeming Little League	Little League Baseball
906 Adventure Team	Mountain biking



IMAGE SOURCE: [HTTPS://THEPOLARROLL.COM/POLAR-ROLL2023/](https://thepolarroll.com/polar-roll2023/)

4 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

The natural features that make up the City of Ishpeming's landscape are defined by rugged terrain and inland lakes. Each landscape hosts its own list of potential recreational opportunities.

The city's landscape can be broken into a series of categories, known as landscape typologies. These include virgin growth forest, deciduous forest, woody wetlands, maintained turf, mixed forest, inland lakes, and hardscape.

The layers of geology, soils, topography, hydrology and existing development are analyzed in the pages that follow. 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.



VIRGIN GROWTH FOREST



DECIDUOUS FOREST



WOODY WETLANDS



MAINTAINED TURF



HARDSCAPE



INLAND LAKES



MIXED FOREST

Geology and soils provide the foundation for all forms of life and its related activities. Generating an understanding of these baseline layers is critical to developing a well rounded and feasible vision for future development and preservation measures.

The City of Ishpeming has a developed core featuring hardscaped surfaces with natural surface trails weaving throughout. Beyond it's urban center the original landscape typologies are more apparent with a mix of inland lakes, woody wetlands, deciduous and mixed forests, and pockets of herbaceous landcover. The wetland areas feature peaty soils high in organic matter. They serve as nature's sponge soaking up harmful chemicals and pollutants and reducing erosion by slowing the rate of runoff. As illustrated in the diagram above, they improve water quality by filtering and recharging groundwater reservoirs. They also provide abundant habitat for wildlife. It is necessary to preserve these natural filters as much as possible so we can continue to source clean drinking water and keep our waterbodies free from contaminants.

Four main soil orders are present within the city. They include: **Entisols** are typically sandy soils near rocky outcrops or along water bodies. **Histosols** support peatland vegetation and make up a large portion of the county's soil surface. These soils are often within wetlands and serve as large carbon sinks. Although tough to develop on they are a crucial resource in the capture of runoff and filtering of pollutants. **Inceptisols** are typically found on forest floors and contain glacial till with large boulders interspersed. **Spodosols** are also present. These soils are acidic and not very fertile but support forests.²

The diagram illustrates a cross-section of a wetland landscape. On the left, a stream flows into a wetland area. A blue arrow labeled 'Groundwater flow' points from the stream into the wetland. Another blue arrow labeled 'Dissipated stream energy' points to the stream bed. A third blue arrow labeled 'Bacteria break down contaminants' points to the wetland floor. A fourth blue arrow labeled 'Saturated peat stores water' points to a large, porous, yellowish-brown mass representing peat. A fifth blue arrow labeled 'Groundwater infiltration' points from the peat into the ground. A sixth blue arrow labeled 'Slow release of stored water' points from the peat back towards the stream. A seventh blue arrow labeled 'Cleaner water outflow' points from the stream towards the right. A final blue arrow labeled 'Stream' points to the stream on the right. Text labels with arrows point to various features: 'Dissipated stream energy' points to the stream bed, 'Provides critical wildlife habitat' points to the wetland area, 'Cleaner water outflow' points to the stream, and 'Groundwater flow' points to the groundwater flow. A large, porous, yellowish-brown mass represents the peat. A small tree is on the left, and a small pond is on the right.

Groundwater flow

Dissipated stream energy

Provides critical wildlife habitat

Cleaner water outflow

Stream

Bacteria break down contaminants

Saturated peat stores water

Slow release of stored water

Groundwater infiltration

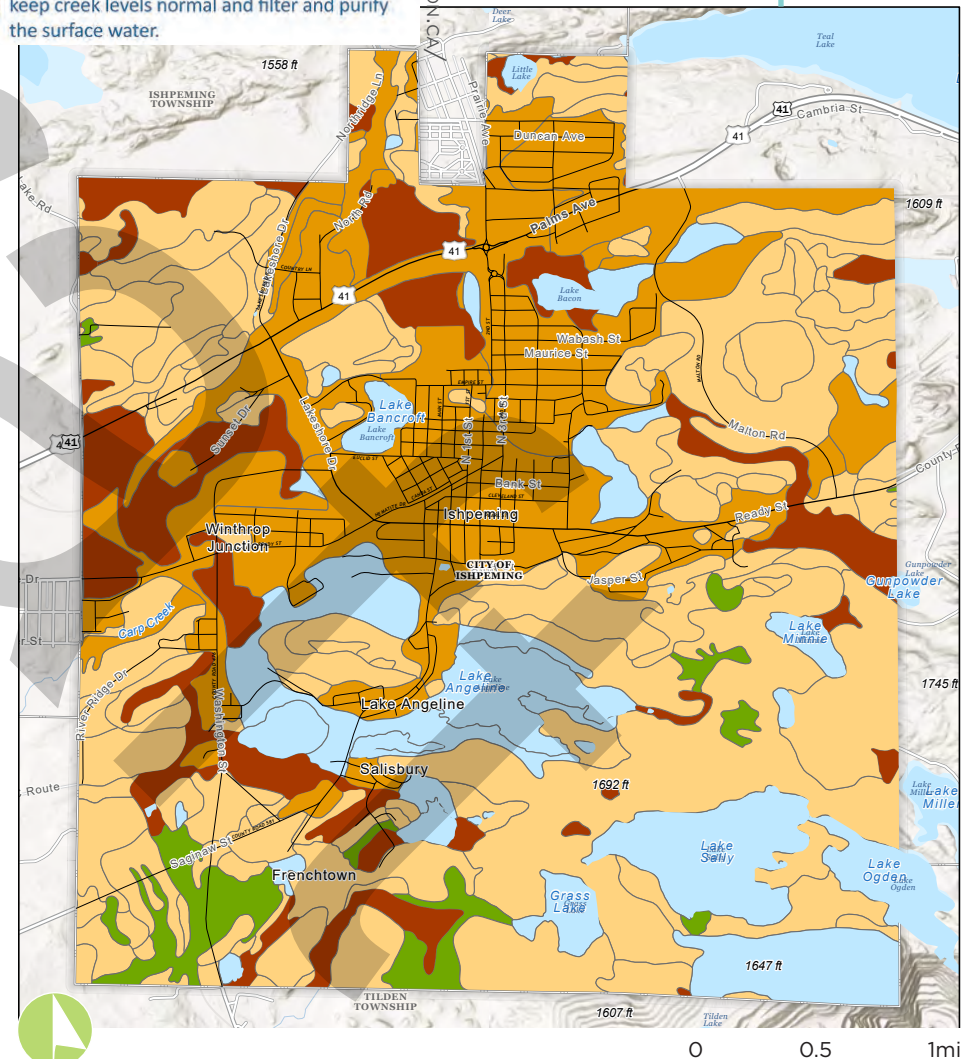
Wetlands prevent flooding by holding water much like a sponge. By doing so, wetlands help keep creek levels normal and filter and purify the surface water.

Wetlands prevent flooding by holding water much like a sponge. By doing so, wetlands help keep creek levels normal and filter and purify the surface water.

[HTTPS://WWW.KETTLECREEKCONSERVATION.ORG.CA/](https://www.kettlecreekconservation.org.ca/)

SOIL ORDERS

- WATER
- ENTISOLS
- HISTOSOLS
- INCEPTISOLS
- SPODOSOLS



25Soil Orders and Suborders in Minnesota. J F Cummins. reviewed in 2021, from <https://extension.umn.edu/soil-management-and-health/soil-orders-and-suborders-minnesota#histosols-1383914>

TOPOGRAPHY

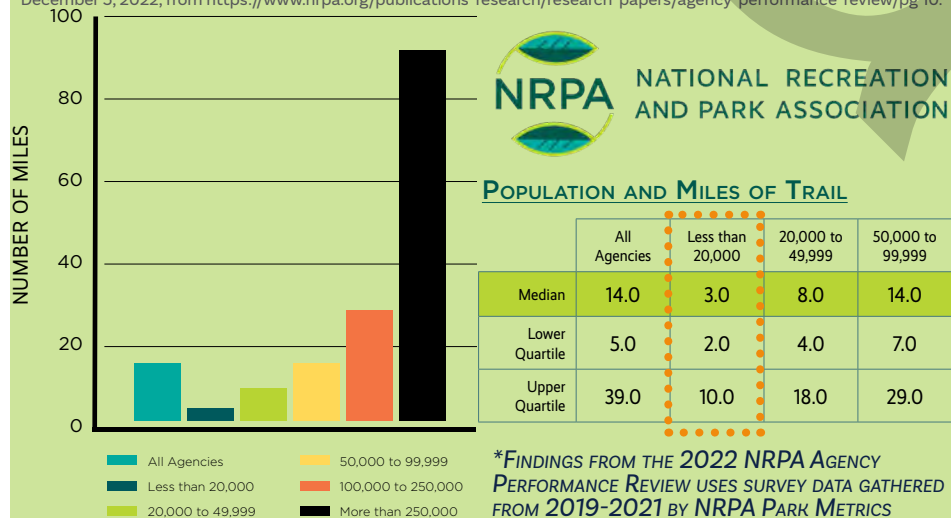
The terrain within the City of Ishpeming is varied with many steep sections and rocky outcrops. Jasper Knob, southeast of downtown, is the world's largest gemstone of jaspilite made up of fine bands of jasper (quartz) and hematite. Brasswire hill was the site of ski jumping tournaments in 1901, taking advantage of the steep terrain. Today, local clubs flock to this landscape for a variety of recreational activities. Mountain biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and motor sports trails crisscross the community. The city recognizes its unique asset in its topography and hosts a multitude of sporting events and races boosting the economy and bringing people to local shops and restaurants.

TRAILS

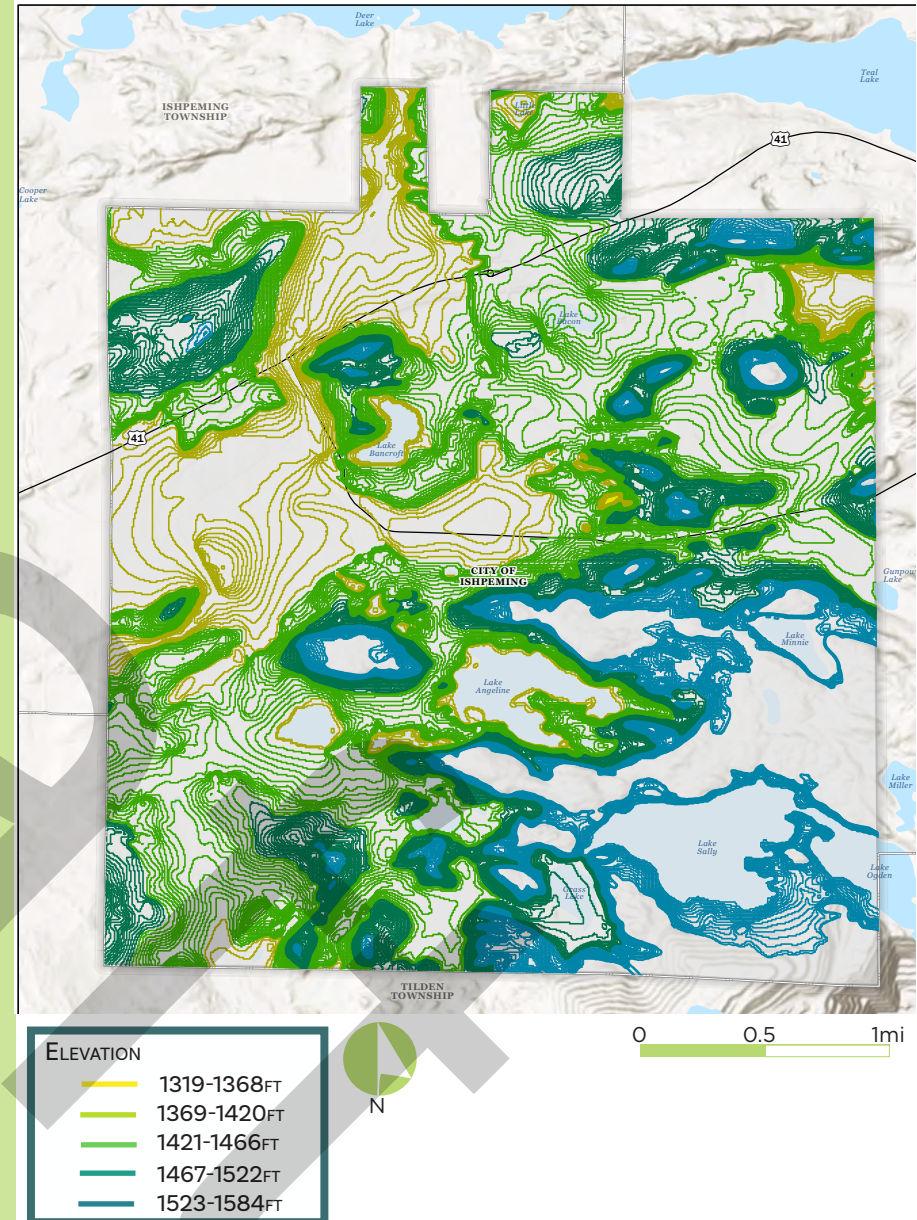
Exposed bedrock and rolling hills define much of the city's trails as perfectly showcased within Al Quaal's ski trails and the Range Area Mountain Bike Association's (RAMBA) trail network. The paved Iron Ore Heritage Trail runs through the center of the city providing a smoothly graded accessible for trail connecting multiple communities and amenities.

The NRPA 2022 data revealed an average of 3 miles of trail for communities with populations less than 20,000.³ Ishpeming has significantly more miles of trails for its rather small population feeding into the greater region's recreation economy and network. The region has established itself as a premier destination for recreation.

³ NRPA Agency Performance Review, field report: Research. National Recreation and Park Association. (n.d.). Retrieved December 5, 2022, from <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/pg10>.



TOPOGRAPHY



WILDLIFE

The Information for Planning and Consultation site hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes the potential existence of several threatened and endangered species within the Upper Peninsula. There are wetlands and forested areas within the city that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Whitetail deer and the occasional bear, moose, or wolf are some of the larger mammals found in the city. A variety of smaller mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insect species also live within the city. Measures taken to preserve habitat and accommodate these species are critical to maintaining their existence. It is critical communities consider both these threatened and endangered species as well as more common animals when planning for development.

Source: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

THREATENED



NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

PROPOSED
ENDANGERED



TRICOLORED BAT

THREATENED



CANADA LYNX

CANDIDATE

ENDANGERED



GRAY WOLF

THREATENED



MONARCH BUTTERFLY



RED KNOT

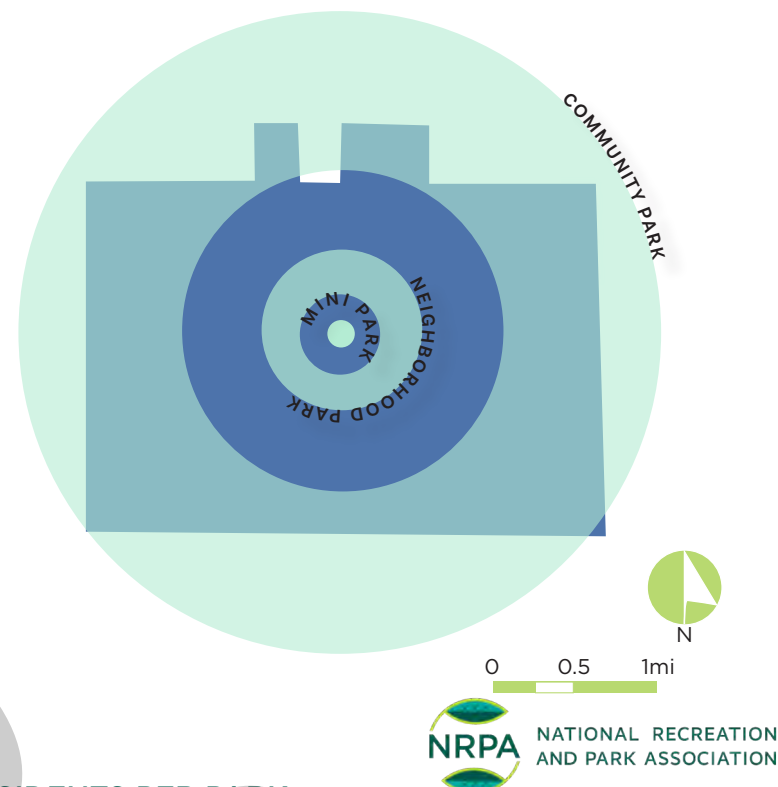
5 RECREATION INVENTORY

STANDARDS FOR RECREATION

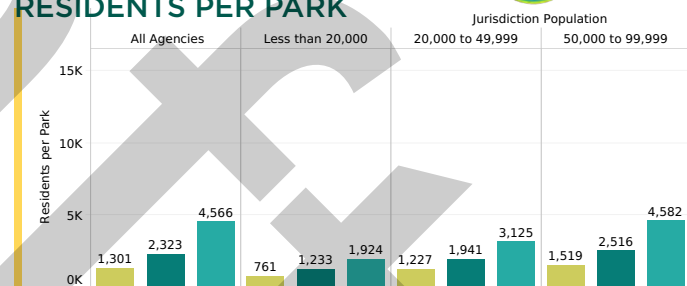
The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a scale to help measure an existing recreation system's park facilities and provide a baseline standard for equitable park access within a community.

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

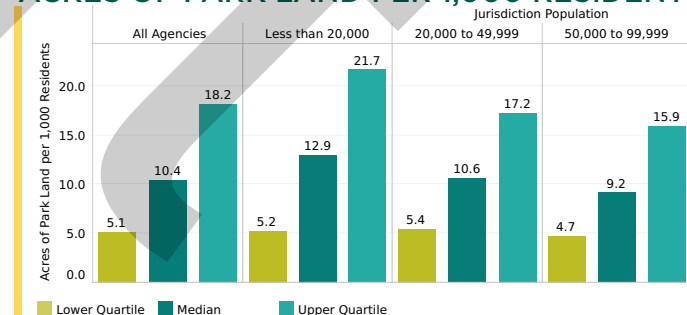
PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	SIZE (ACRES)	ACRES/1,000 POP	PARKS (ACRES)	USES
Mini-Park	<1/4mi	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	0.5 to 1 <i>Currently:</i> --	Specialized facility serving a concentrated or limited population
Neighborhood Park	1/4 to 1/2mi	15+	1 to 2	2 to 4 <i>Currently:</i> --	Hosts intense recreation activities: Play, sports fields/courts, picnicking etc.
Community Park	1 to 2mi	25+	8 to 10	16 to 20 <i>Currently:</i> --	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 <i>Currently:</i> 460	Area of natural quality for outdoor recreation; boating, swimming, camping, trail use etc.
School Park				<i>Currently:</i> --	Park associated with an educational institution



RESIDENTS PER PARK



ACRES OF PARK LAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS



RECREATION INVENTORY

PROGRAMMING

As illustrated in the list of special events below and organizations that function within the community, it is evident the City of Ishpeming has a robust recreation programming component. The city takes measures to promote and support recreational and community events and activities and plans to continue this as community members are consistently eager for more.

Recreation opportunities at city parks are listed in the chart on the following page. Hiking and biking trails are a feature of many parks and there were requests for additional trail development to increase access to these opportunities. It is also evident winter recreation is important to our community. Potential opportunities for activities and program development are listed in Chapter 10, the Action Plan.

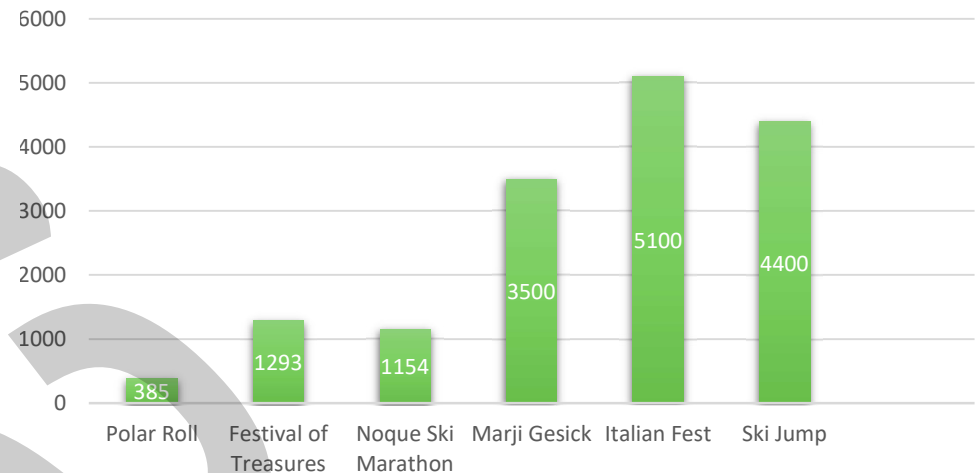
SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Christmas Parade and/or Sleigh Rides/Santa Visits
- Marquette Marathon
- Iron Range Roll
- Marji Gesick
- Fat-ish Fatbike Race and/or 906 Polar Roll
- Noque Ski Marathon, Wildcat Invitational, and/or Ishpeming Ski Club Jr. National Qualifier
- IBA Concert Series
- Gus Macker
- Festival of Treasures, 4th of July, or Labor Day Festivities
- Pasquali's Car Show and/or Buzz the Gut
- Italian Fest
- Ore to Shore
- Neighborhood Nite Out and/or Ladies Night Out
- Ishpeming High School Home Coming Parade
- GINCC Arts and Crafts Show
- Ishpeturkey Trot

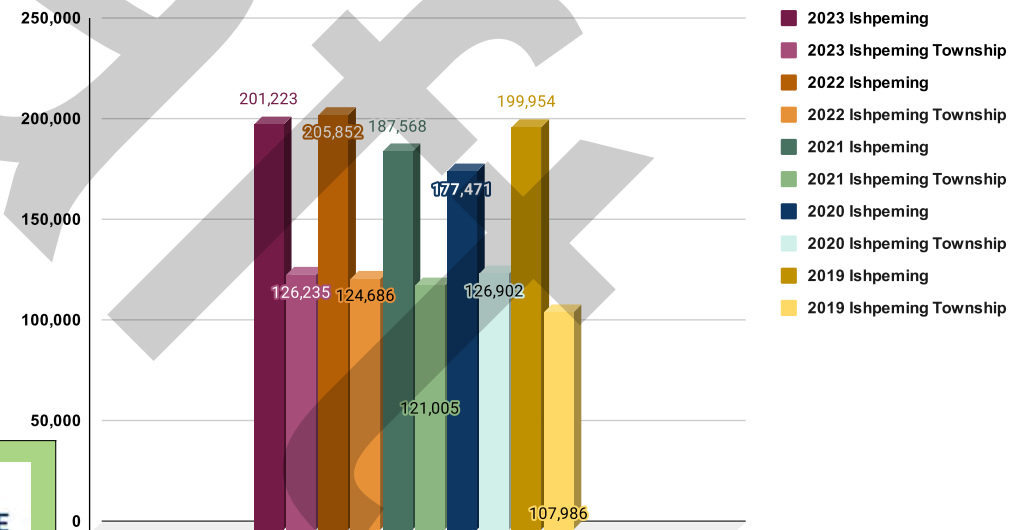


Travel Marquette graciously provided data reflecting the number of visitors who came to the city when various community events were hosted. Appendix B features the compilation of this data. Below is a chart showing the number of visitors to various City of Ishpeming events in 2023 and below that at chart of overall visitors numbers to the city over the past five years.





















City of Ishpeming | 2023 Event Visitation



Ishpeming & Ishpeming Township Yearly Visitors































Data Prepared by Travel Marquette
 Data Verified by Placer.ai
 Participant Data provided by Event Organizers

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

PARK/FACILITY

ACTIVITY

AL QUAAL	        
LAKE BANCROFT PARK	    
MARQUETTE STREET PLAYLOT	 
BARNUM (7TH ADDITION PLAYLOT)	  
LAKE ANGELINE PLAYLOT	 
BRUCE ASGAARD PARK	  
SALISBURY PLAYLOT	 
PALMS AREA PLAYLOT	  
MATHER 'A' BALLFIELD	
HOLMES PLAYLOT	  
SECOND STREET PLAYLOT	 
POWER OF 10 POCKET PARK	
RAMBA TRAILHEAD	    
BRASSWIRE CAMPGROUND	 
CITY PLAYGROUND	   
JUNIPER STREET PLAYLOT	

ACCESSIBILITY

The facilities were evaluated for accessibility via site visits by CUPPAD on June 28th, 2022. 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 above 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 county.

As new recreational facilities are planned and developed, the City of Ishpeming pledges to incorporate the principles of Universal Design into future projects.

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 SITES WITHIN THE CITY OF ISHPEMING

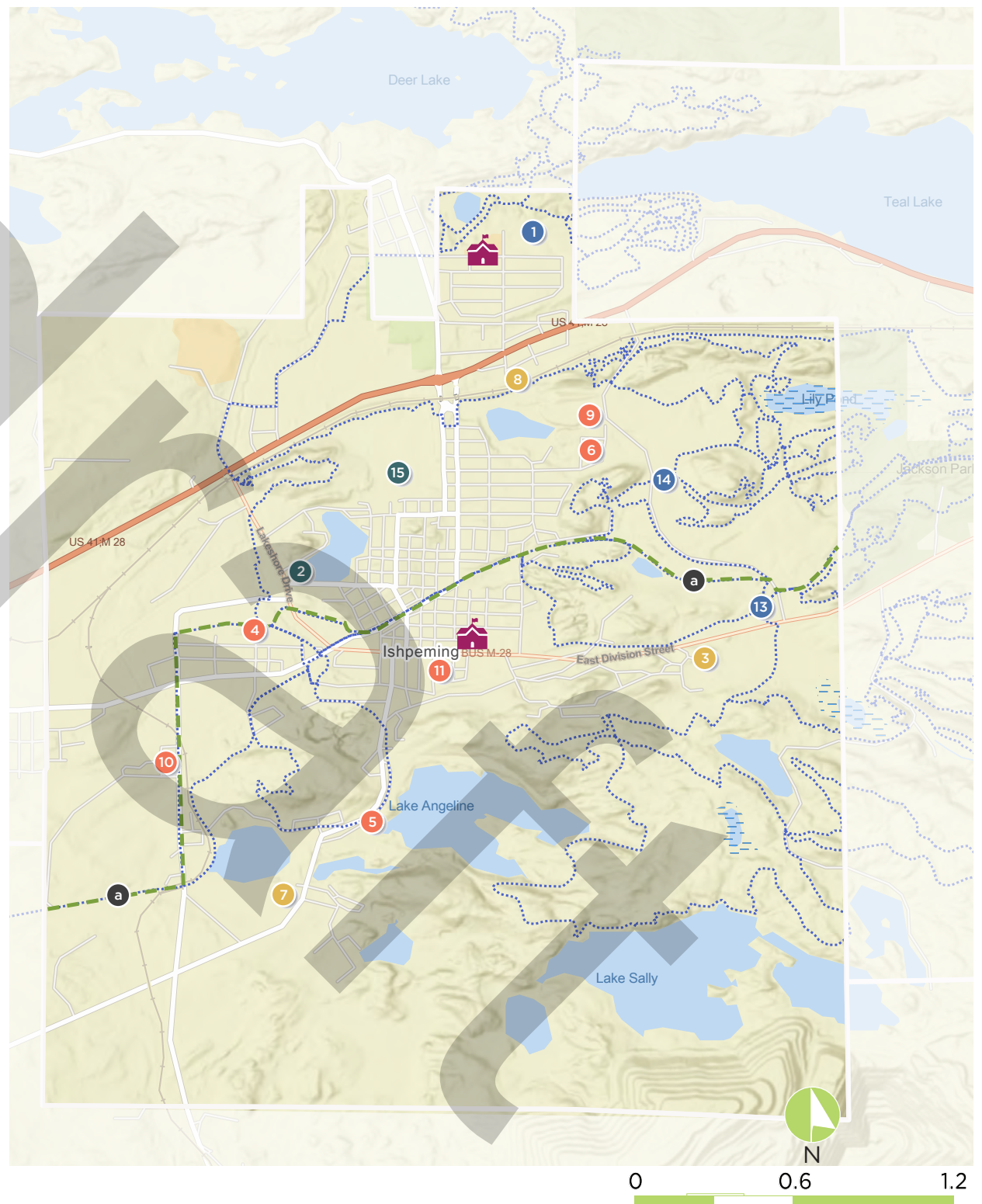
- MINI-PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- COMMUNITY PARK
- REGIONAL PARK
- PRIVATE PARK
- SCHOOL PARK
- REGIONAL TRAIL

REGIONAL TRAILS

- a Iron Ore Heritage Trail

PARKS OWNED/MANAGED BY OTHERS

- 1 Al Quaal
- 2 Lake Bancroft Park
- 3 Marquette Street Playlot
- 4 Barnum (7th addition) Playlot
- 5 Lake Angeline Playlot
- 6 Bruce Asgaard Park
- 7 Salisbury Playlot
- 8 Juniper Street Playlot
- 9 Mather "A" Ballfield
- 10 Holmes Playlot
- 11 Second Street Playlot
- 12 Power of Ten Pocket Park
- 13 RAMBA Trailhead
- 14 Brasswire Campground
- 15 City Playground



CITY OF ISHPeming PARKS

1

AL QUAAL

460 ACRES

This regional recreation site is located in the northern portion of the City, along Popular Street. It is the largest single recreation area within the City's corporate limit. The land that currently makes up this recreational area was leased by the City in 1939 and purchased in 1999.

Al Quaal is also known as the Winter Sports Area. Primary winter activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, and snow biking. This area is used for high school, college, regional, and Olympic level cross-country ski events. It is an FIS certified and homologated cross country ski stadium.

It has hosted numerous cross-country ski events, including: Michigan High School State Championships, Masters Cross-country Ski Championship, Annual Noquemanon Ski Marathon (regional event), Central Collegiate Midwest Regionals and Conference Championships, Midwest Junior Olympic Qualifying Races, Midwest Junior Olympic Combined Nordic Qualifying Races, U.S. Super Tour

The site is used year round, with tennis, basketball, baseball, horseshoes, volleyball, mountain biking, hiking, swimming picnicking, boating, and fishing, occurring in the summer months and skiing, tobogganing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and snowbiking occurring in winter months.

Al Quaal has also hosted the World Championship Snow Bike Race. Facilities at this site include:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Accessibility: 2 | • Ball Diamond | • Playlot at Birchview School | • Flagpole |
| | • Restroom Building | • Mountain Bike Trail | • Pavilion |
| | • Ski Ticket & Patrol Shelter | • Fitness Trail | • Disc Golf Course |
| | • Tube Slide | • Paved Roads | • Snowshoeing Trail |
| | • Picnic Area | • 30 KM of Cross-Country Trails | • Mountain Bike Trail System |
| | • 3 Picnic Grills | • Downhill Ski Slopes | (into area No1th of Teal Lake) |
| | • Gym Set | • Ski Warming Shelter | • Clubhouse (Restrooms, |
| | • Backstop | • Ski Tow Buildings | Concession Area, and Kitchen |
| | • 6 Horseshoe Courts | • Two Tennis Courts | Facilities) |
| | • Tube Slide with tow system | • 40 Picnic Tables | • Sledding Areas |
| | • Snowboarding | • Seven Swing Sets | • Deer Lake Trails |
| | • Lighted Sledding Area | • Two Merry-go-Rounds | (w/Ishpeming Twp.) |
| | • Teal Lake - Log Cabin | • Two Slides | • Lighted Areas (Horseshoes, |
| | | | Volleyball, Cross-Country Skiing) |

DNR Grant History:

1979, Project No. 26-01052
 1990, Project No. TF90-242
 1991, Project No. TF91-080
 1994, Project No. TF94-054
 1995, Project No. TF95-316
 1997, Project No. TF97-228
 1993, Project No. TF93-033
 1992, Project No. TF92-065
 2021. Project No. RP21-0090



2

4 ACRES

LAKE BANCROFT PARK

This three acre parcel is a community park located between Cliff Street, Euclid Street, and the west shore of Lake Bancroft. This property was originally developed by a local Jaycee group. Surrounding bluffs, the historic Cliff's Shaft Mine Museum, and Lake Bancroft makes this setting one of the most attractive areas in the City. Accessibility: 3 Facilities at the recreational site include:

- Park Signage and Identification
- Jogging/Walking Area
- Eight Picnic Grills
- Flagpole and Marker
- Paved Walking Path
- Paved Parking Area
- 16 Picnic Tables + Lights
- State Historical Marker
- Rustic Sign
- Gazebo
- Restrooms
- Pavilion with restrooms
- Updated accessible playground with accessible parking

DNR Grant History:

1979: Project No. 26-00787

2017: Project No. 17-0216



3

0.33 ACRES

MARQUETTE STREET PLAYLOT

A mini recreation site that is located in the east central portion of the City, south of Business M-28. The open field and sparse play area leave much room for potential improvement.

Facilities at this site include:

Accessibility: 1

- Three belt swings
- Slide
- Open field



4

11 ACRES

BARNUM (7TH ADDITION) PLAYLOT

This 11 acre site is largely unused. An old basketball court, slide, swings and merry-go-round are the only improvements the site has seen. The park is also difficult to find due to it being located down a two track alleyway adjacent to residences. Accessibility: 1



5

1 ACRE

LAKE ANGELINE PLAYLOT

This neighborhood park is located on a one acre parcel of land along Lower Pine Street, just west of Lake Angeline. The boulevard at the site was formerly an old trolley route. The park has the following facilities:

Accessibility: 1

- Three belt swings
- Merry-go-round
- Slide
- Picnic Table



6

1 ACRE

BRUCE ASGAARD PARK

This one acre neighborhood recreation site is located along Wabash Street, just south of Mather "A" Ball field. It was renamed from the Wabash Heights Playlot to the "Bruce Asgaard Park" in 2016.

Facilities at this site include:

Accessibility: 1

- Buck-a-bout
- Merry-go-round
- Basketball court
- Picnic table
- Volleyball court
- Slide
- Three belt swings



7

1 ACRE

SALISBURY PLAYLOT

This mini park is a one acre parcel of land located in southern portion of the City, west of South Pine Street featuring belt swings, a slide, and a mowed lawn area. There is much room for potential improvement at this site.

Accessibility: 1



8

1 ACRE

JUNIPER PLAYLOT

This neighborhood park is a one acre parcel of land located in the northern portion of the City. It is accessible at the southern end of Hickory Street. Facilities at this park include:

Accessibility: 1

- Three belt swings
- Merry-go-round
- Basketball court
- Slide



9

1 ACRE

MATHER 'A' BALLFIELD

This neighborhood recreation site is located at the inactive Mather "A" mine site in the northwestern portion of the city. The site was acquired in 1984 by the city as an additional auxiliary ball field to compliment expansion of recreation leagues. It was built by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company (CCI) originally to service their employee softball league. Because of scheduling and maintenance problems, CCI requested the City take over this area. The ball field is now used on a daily basis during the summer months because of the current demand for ball field facilities. Facilities at this site include:

- Accessibility: 2
- Backstop
 - Benches
 - Port-a-john (seasonal)
 - ADA Parking
 - Bleachers
 - Paved barrier poles



10

1 ACRE

HOLMES PLAYLOT

This one acre neighborhood park is located in the western portion of the city between D Street and E Street, off of Washington Street.

Facilities at this site include:

- Accessibility: 1
- Jungle gym
 - Picnic tables
 - Four swings
 - Basketball court

11

1 ACRE

SECOND STREET PLAYLOT

This neighborhood park occupies a 1 acre parcel of land located in the central portion of the City, on South Second St., west of East Superior.

Facilities include:

- Accessibility: 1
- Swing set
 - Picnic table
 - Merry-go-round
 - Fence



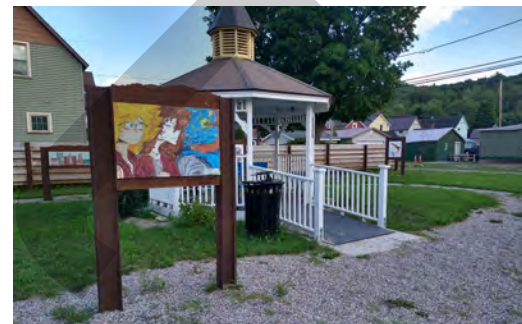
12

1 ACRE

POWER OF TEN POCKET PARK

The "Power of Ten Pocket Park" was added to the city's park system in 2017. It has ten features: public art, Jasperlite Boulders (mining heritage), split rail fence (lumbering heritage), Little Free library, bike rack, picnic table, park bench, Iron Ore Heritage Trail interpretive sign, raised bed flower garden, and kiosk. This pocket park was made possible by a grant from CUPPAD.

Accessibility: 3



13

-- ACRES

RAMBA TRAILHEAD

This trailhead is located at the intersection of Malton Road and Division Street. It serves as an entry point to the RAMBA trail network as well as the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. The graveled lot also hosts bike racks, picnic tables, a wooden pump track, paved and natural surface trails, a kiosk with a map, a port-a-john and seating on site.

Accessibility: 2

DNR Grant History:

2014: Project No. 14-0265



14

16
ACRES

BRASSWIRE CAMPGROUND

This campground is slated to open within the summer of 2023. It contains a stretch of virgin growth forest and the city intends to provide trail access and interpretive elements to this area. The campground contains 40 drive up rustic sites; 2 ADA vault toilets; 2 pump wells; 2 equestrian trailer sites for parking; 3 hammock friendly sites; 1 family site; 10 walk in sites. Day use access is also provided.



15

CITY PLAYGROUND

16

ACRES

This Community Park is located along West Empire Street in the north central portion of the city. About 16 acres of the total acreage is undeveloped. The remaining area provides various types of recreational activities. Facilities at the park include:

Accessibility: 2

- Two Lighted Ball Diamonds*
- Two Lighted Basketball Courts
- Warming Shelter & Restrooms*
- Stadium (2,600 seating)*
- Paved Track*
- Lighted Football Area*
- Storage Building & Restrooms*
- Pavilion/Concession Area*
- Parking and Entrance*
- Renovated Hardball Field
- Four Unlighted Ball Diamonds
- Seven Lighted Tennis Courts
- Restroom/Locker Room*
- Blacktop Roads
- Twelve Sets of Bleachers*
- Three Paved Field Event Areas
- Concession Area*
- Softball Field
- Four Swing Sets
- Three little league baseball fields
- Four Teeter Totters
- Slide
- Climber
- 16 Benches
- Four Picnic Tables
- Two Flagpoles
- Merry-go-Round
- Two Bike Racks

*Note: Items marked with an * are on property owned by the City and leased by the School District



DNR Grant History:

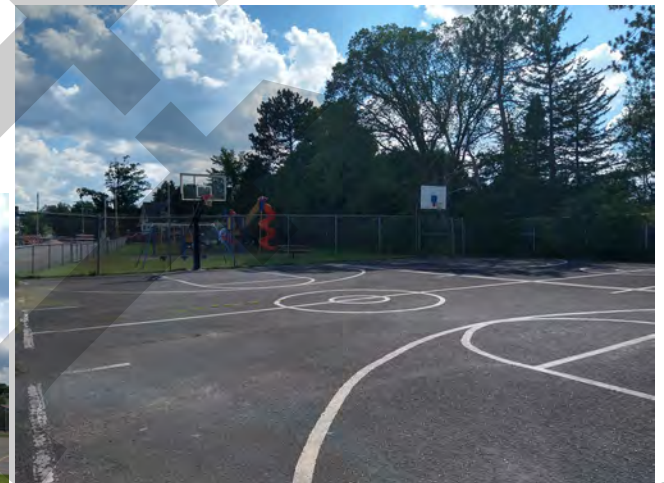
1972, Project No. 26-00339

1976, Project No. 26-00762

1980, Project No. 26-01104 T1

1989, Project No. BF89-521

1989, Project No. BF89-66



PARKS OWNED/MANAGED BY OTHERS

Additional Local and Regional Parks not Owned/Managed by the City

Suicide Ski Center

This ski center is on Suicide Bowl road south of M-28. The site is owned by CCI and leased to the Ishpeming Ski Club. The site hosts a 90 meter ski jump and cross country ski trails.

Iron Ore Heritage Trail

This **Regional Park** runs through the City of Ishpeming on its 47 mile journey through the northern U.P. It is a destination for all those who recreate in Michigan's upper peninsula creating connections to communities and parks alike. The entire trail is open to hikers and mountain bikers.

River Rock Lanes

This privately owned facility offers 16 bowling lanes and 6 billiards tables and is located at 1011 North Road in Ishpeming.

St. Johns Church

This privately owned facility offers an indoor gymnasium as is located on South Pine Street in Ishpeming.

906 Cross Fit

This privately owned facility offers an indoor strength and fitness center and is located on Lakeshore Drive in Ishpeming.

Cross Bridge Church

This privately owned facility offers an indoor gymnasium and is located on Third Street in Ishpeming.

Heritage Hills

This privately owned facility offers a riding stable and horse trails on Malton Road in Ishpeming.

Wawonowin Country Club

This privately owned facility offers an 18 hole golf course on Co rd 478 in Champion.

St. Joseph's Church

This privately owned facility offers an indoor gymnasium as is located on Prairie Ave. in Ishpeming.

Strength and Fitness

This privately owned facility offers an indoor strength and fitness center and is located on South Main Street in Ishpeming.

Ishpeming Township Parks

Ishpeming Township Park

This seven acre park hosts a softball diamond, little league diamond, tennis courts, pavilion, tot lot, restrooms, concessions, playground, horseshoe court, shuffleboard, volleyball court, basketball court, picnic table and grills.

Negaunee Township Parks

Negaunee Township Park

71-acres with basketball court, pavilion, warming building, concessions, playground area, little league field, Babe Ruth baseball field, softball field, tennis court, cross-country ski trail, picnic tables, and snowmobile trail access.

Michigan Mining Museum

30-acres with exhibits of early iron ore mining artifacts, audio-visual programs, and outdoor interpretive paths.

McClure Storage Basin Access Site

Hard-surface launch ramp, toilets and parking area. Site is 1.03 acres.

Hoist Basin Access Site

Hard-surface launch ramp, toilets and parking area. Site is 1.82 acres.

City of Negaunee Parks

Iron Town Field

This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Prince Street east of Camelot Drive. It is owned by the Cleveland Cliffs, Inc. (CCI) and leased to the City. The site includes a baseball field, concession stand, rest room and storage building.

Miners Park

This **Community Park** is located on the north side of Hwy 41 between Maas and Maple Streets. It hosts the largest play structure in the community, a picnic pavilion that is frequently rented, illuminated basketball courts, horseshoe courts, a volleyball court, historical marker and rest rooms. Several parents have expressed the need for a fence as the playground is adjacent to Hwy 41.

Lincoln Street Park

This **Mini Park** is located east of Healy Street and north of Lincoln Street. It is owned by the City and has a basketball court and a picnic table.

Teal Lake Beach

This **Community Park** is located on the Eastern shore of Teal Lake along Croix Street. The City plans to extend the current storm water culverts that run to the beach into the water and rehab the existing timber retaining wall. Many survey respondents commented on water quality issues and excessive goose poop at this site. The site is owned by the City and features several picnic tables and a swimming area.

Teal Lake Boat Launch

Teal Lake Boat Launch is a facet of the Teal Lake Beach Park. The facility was installed in 1995 with partial funding from a DNR Trust Fund Grant. The site includes a paved boat launch and accessible fishing dock.

Breitung Park

This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Pioneer Ave. near the fire station in downtown Negaunee. It is owned by the City and contains a band shell with grassy area and benches.

Veteran's Park

This **Mini Park** is located in front of the City Hall in Downtown Negaunee. The park has benches, a concrete pathway, a fountain, and a memorial.

Copper St/Partridge Creek Park

This **Mini Park** is located on the corner of Copper and Division Streets. It hosts a basketball court and grassy area.

Ann Street Park

This **Mini Park** is located on Ann Street in downtown Negaunee. It hosts a basketball court, sand volleyball, and swing set.

Bartle Park

This **Mini Park** is located at the corner of Cyr and Lombard Streets. The park features an open grassy area with a gazebo.

Sunset Drive Park

This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Sunset Drive in the Northeast corner of the City. It hosts a basketball court, grassy field, playground equipment, and picnic area.

Negaunee Ice Arena

This **Community Park** is located on Rail Street, south of downtown Negaunee. Negaunee features a full sized arena, new locker rooms and rest rooms as of 2021, a lobby, kitchen, concession area, two offices, meeting room and large parking lot.

Buffalo Road Park

This **Neighborhood Park** is on the southern edge of the City's property at New Buffalo Road. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City. It contains a swing set, basketball court, and picnic area/table.

Chiri Park

This **Mini Park** is located at the corner of Iron and Silver Street in Downtown Negaunee. It hosts a grassy area with a bench.

Old Town Recreation Area

This **Regional Park** serves as the community gateway to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. It hosts a trailhead to the RAMBA mountain biking trail network, a volunteer built disk golf course, and several interpretive stops showcasing the rich history of the region.

Community Play Field

The Community Play Field is a 5 ½ acre park that is located. The park is owned by CCI and leased to the schools. The park includes an 1,800 person capacity stadium, track, practice fields, rest rooms, lockers, weight lifting room, and concession building. The facility also has an adjacent wrestling and weight-lifting room, lavatory facilities and locker room. The site received an upgrade with the construction of a year round indoor recreation facility.

LaCombe Field

This **Community Park** is located on Baldwin Street between Water Street and Mitchell Avenue. It features a lighted softball field, batting cages, press box, rest room and storage facility, and an open area used for football/soccer practice. New, high school student built dugouts and an accessible sidewalk are currently proposed improvements for the site. It is owned by (CCI) and leased to the City.

Ericson Parkway

This **Mini Park** is located between Iron and Jackson Streets. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City. It features a winding concrete path with picnic table.

Negaunee Middle School

The Middle School is located on Case Street Between Pioneer Street and Teal Lake Avenue. It is owned by the school district. The school has a gym, outdoor basketball court, and hard surface play area.

Negaunee High School

The High School is located on Arch Street. It hosts a 50x75' indoor pool, auditorium, 75x42' gym, and 8 outdoor tennis courts.

Negaunee Luge

The luge is located on Lucy Hill at 230 E County Road. The property is owned by CCI and leased from the City. It includes warming shacks, a maintenance building, starting house, equipment rental and a parking lot.

Lakeview Elementary

This school is located on Teal Lake Avenue. It is owned by the school district.

The school features playground equipment, 2 tennis courts, 1 basketball court, and open field, and a gym.

Bernie Rivers Memorial Field

This **Community Park** is located on Prince Street, east of Vine Street. It contains a baseball field, lighted horseshoe courts, a basketball court, playground, portable rest room, pavilion, concessions and storage building. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City.

Jackson Mine Park + Senior Center Park

This **Community Park** is located on Tobin Street in downtown Negaunee. It is owned by the City and part of the larger Old Town recreation area. Recent updates include lighting along the Iron Ore Heritage Trail to Ishpeming, a new pavilion with rest rooms, a new parking area and a soon to be new playground.

Richmond Township Parks

Richmond Township Park

This park hosts a horseshoe court, basketball court, tennis courts, baseball field, playground, picnic area, pavilion and restrooms.

Tilden Township Parks

Recreation Complex

This six acre site with tennis courts, baseball field, horseshoe courts, basketball court, playground area, pit toilets, parking, picnic area, and pavilion.

Sands Township Parks

Blueberry Ridge

This DNR owned trail system is utilized year-round with groomed ski trails, mountain biking, hiking and foraging.

Marquette County Fairgrounds

This 60-acre site hosts an exhibition building, American Legion building, 4-H building, two cattle sow rings, a poultry and small animal building, a large livestock building, an office building, a barrier free restroom/utility building, two storage structures, parking, outdoor speakers, 1/2 mile race track, mud drag strip, paved go-cart track, large carnival area, outside horse stall, two outdoor pavilions, and portable bleachers.

TRAILS



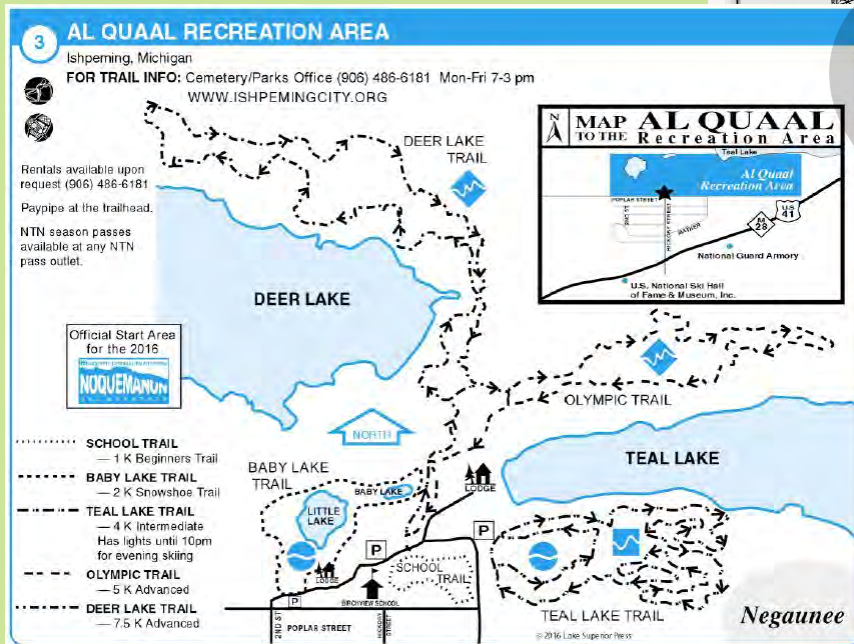
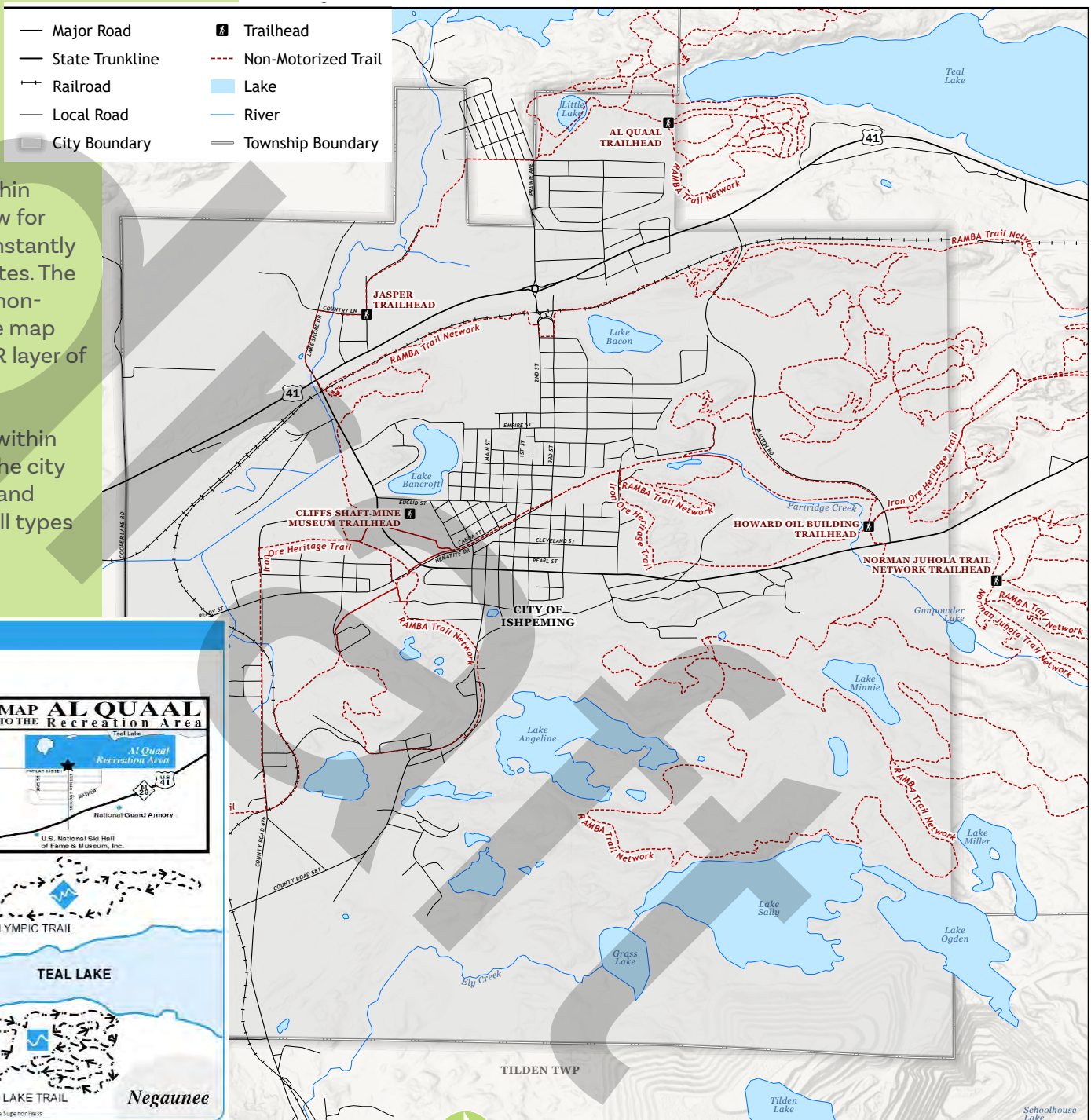
Photos courtesy of Aaron Peterson Studios



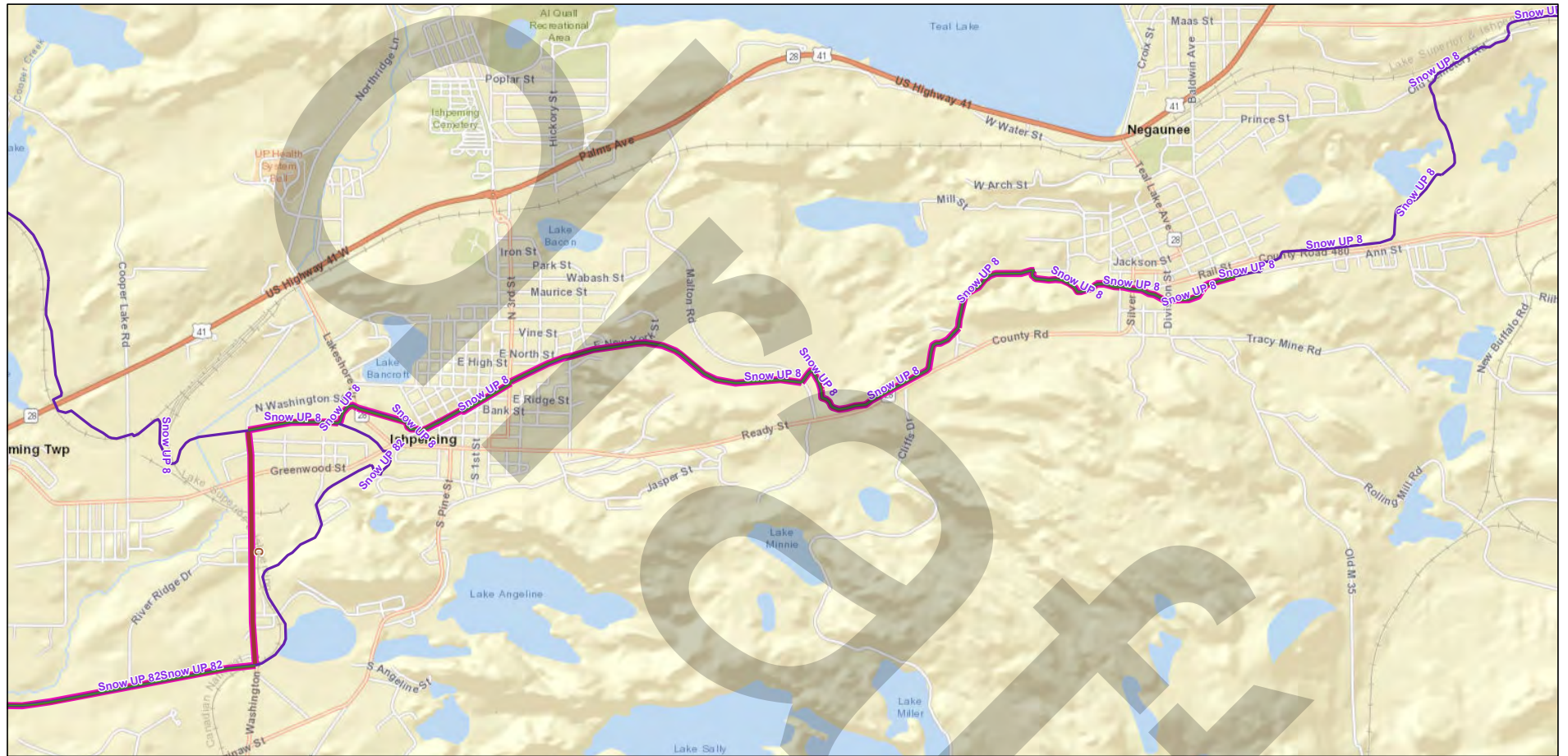
TRAILS

Trails for both motorized and silent sport users weave throughout the cityscape connecting to adjacent communities and wilderness. Trails within and around Ishpeming are a major draw for both residents and visitors and are constantly receiving updates, additions and reroutes. The map to the right captures the current non-motorized trails within the city and the map on the following page features the DNR layer of ORV and Snowmobile trails.

As a vital part of the recreation scene within the City of Ishpeming it is imperative the city prioritize the continued improvement and sustainable development of trails for all types of users.

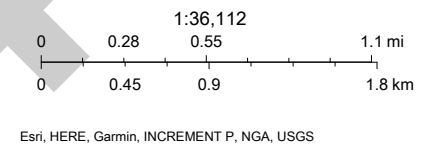


MOTORIZED TRAILS | MDNR



9/12/2023, 12:39:58 PM

- Snowmobile & ORV Seasonal Use
- DNR snowmobile trail (Season: December 1 to March 1)
- DNR ORV route (72" width)
- Special designation ORV route



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6

COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING STANDARDS FOR RECREATION

A parks and recreation survey was launched in September of 2022. The survey was shared via multiple methods including print outs around the city, paper copies stationed at several community locales and online. 455 completed surveys were received.

The feedback garnered was extremely informative and helped in generating recreation values, goals and priority improvements for the community. The pie charts on the right illustrate the age distribution of survey participants and the county in general. A relatively diverse mix of age groups were captured in the surveys submitted and nearly all of the responses came from nearby and local year-round residents.

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

"I LOVE HOW THE CITY OF ISHPEMING IS TRYING HARD TO KEEP UP WITH TRAILS, ETC. THE LIGHTING PROJECT ALONG THE IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL WAS MUCH NEEDED SO TRAIL USERS FEEL SAFE IN THE WINTERTIME WHEN IT GETS DARK EARLY."

-LOCAL RESIDENT

"AL QUAAL IS A WONDERFUL PLACE, BUT NEEDS UPDATED EQUIPMENT FOR CHILDREN, PICNIC SPOTS, INCLUDING BETTER COOKING FACILITIES."

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

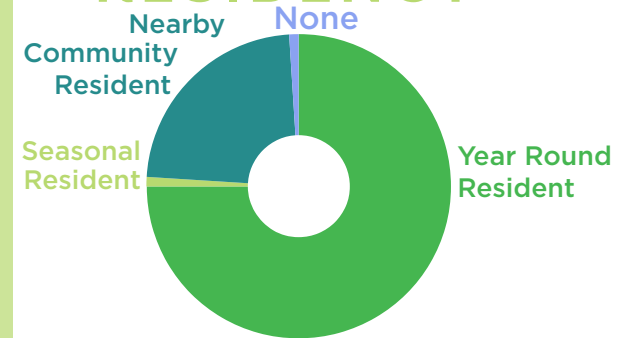
"I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CITY, SCHOOL, AND PRIVATE LAND OWNERS TO PROVIDE PLACES TO HIKE, BIKE, SKI, ETC. WE ARE DOING WELL... ALWAYS WAYS TO IMPROVE, AND PROGRESS, HOWEVER."

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

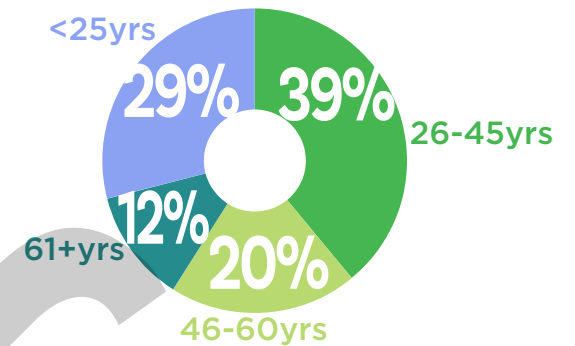
"SAFER WAY FOR KIDS TO GET FROM THEIR HOMES TO THE IOHT. MANY OF THE SIDEWALKS AND ROADS ARE IN BAD SHAPE SO IT'S HARD TO RIDE TO THE IOHT WITH YOUNGER KIDS. A WELL MARKED EASY MOUNTAIN BIKE LOOP WOULD BE GREAT."

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

RESIDENCY

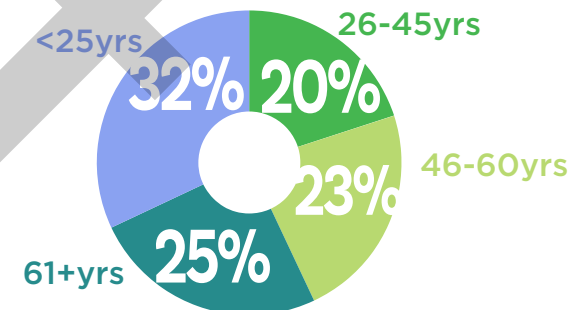


AGE | SURVEY



AGE | 2020

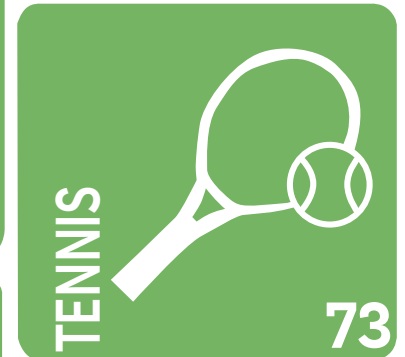
Source: US Census ACS Data



COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey participants were asked to list the recreational activities they participated in within the past two years. Top ranked activities included walking/hiking, biking, sledding, skiing/snowshoeing, and playing tennis. With many miles of hard surface and mountain bike trails winding throughout the community it was not surprising this was a frequent mention. The number of people noting sledding and tennis as recreation activities was not expected. Many of the responses to the next questions in the survey, including what one would like to change regarding recreation within the community featured a request for the sledding hill at Al Quaal to reopen and the tennis courts to be updated. The desire of respondents to see improvements and more access to these sites indicates two strong candidates for future action items.



LESS FREQUENT MENTIONS:
13 - HUNTING
12- DOG PARK
11 - MUSIC + EVENTS
10 - PICKLEBALL
8 - ORV/SxS
8 - VOLLEYBALL



* NUMBERS INDICATE THE NUMBER OF TIMES MENTIONED IN THE SURVEY RESPONSES

SURVEY RESULTS

When asked “*What special events have you participated in?*” the most frequently visited events included Festival of Treasures, 4th of July, or Labor Day festivities as well as Italian Fest and the Christmas parade, sleigh rides and Santa visits. The other community events mentioned focused on a specific user group and do attract large audiences, but not a vast majority of the general public.

Fat-ish Fatbike Race and/or 906 Polar Roll
Noque Ski Marathon, Wildcat Invitational, and/or Ishpeming Ski Club Jr. National Qualifier
IBA Concert Series
Gus Macker
Festival of Treasures, 4th of July, or Labor Day Festivities
Pasquali's Car Show and/or Buzz the Gut
Italian Fest
Ore to Shore
Neighborhood Nite Out and/or Ladies Night Out
Ishpeming High School Home Coming Parade
GINCC Arts and Crafts Show
Ishpeturkey Trot
Christmas Parade and/or Sleigh Rides/Santa Visits

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS	PARTICIPATE	DON'T PARTICIPATE
Marquette Marathon		
Iron Range Roll		
Marji Gesick		
and/or 906 Polar Roll		
ional, and/or Ishpeming		
o Jr. National Qualifier		
IBA Concert Series		
Gus Macker		
Labor Day Festivities		
y and/or Buzz the Gut		
Italian Fest		
Ore to Shore		
d/or Ladies Night Out		
Home Coming Parade		
Arts and Crafts Show		
Ishpeturkey Trot		
gh Rides/Santa Visits		

Facilities*
(168)

Lake⁽¹⁸⁾

Access⁽¹²⁵⁾

Beautiful⁽¹⁵⁾ Opportunities⁽³³⁾

Quality⁽¹²⁰⁾

Nothing⁽⁸⁾

Affordable/Free⁽⁴⁾

***Facilities Mentioned:**

Trails: 83
Al Quaal: 50
Tennis: 23
Iron Ore Heritage Trail: 23
RAMBA: 8
Teal Lake: 7
Football: 13

**COMMUNITY
VALUES**

- We value having access to a variety of recreation facilities; specifically trails
- We value having an abundance of recreation opportunities including community events, races, and year round activities
- We value the quality of recreation resources offered by the community and the region

VALUES

**"IT GETS BETTER
AND CONTINUES TO
BRING CHILDREN OUT OF
THEIR HOMES TO SEE WHAT
THE CITY HAS TO OFFER."**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

**"A
PLETHORA OF
OUTDOOR TRAILS,
SPACE AND SEASONAL
WEATHER TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF IT
ALL."**

**-LOCAL
RESIDENT**

***THE LARGER THE FONT THE
MORE FREQUENTLY NOTED TERM**
(NUMBER SIGNIFIES NUMBER OF SURVEY
PARTICIPANTS WHO MENTIONED THIS
VALUE)

7

VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Michigan's Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as the backbone for recreation planning within the state. Every five years new surveys are administered, sites studied and outdoor recreation habits mapped. Through developing a clear understanding of how people recreate within Michigan we can help define how to provide additional access and amenities for those utilizing the parks within our communities.

The main objectives outlined in the current SCORP plan:

- Foster stewardship and conservation
- Improve collaboration between stakeholders
- Raise awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities
- Improve recreational access for all
- Provide quality experiences
- Enhance health benefits
- Enhance prosperity via supporting economic prosperity, talent retention and high quality of life

RECREATION TRENDS

Nationally, many of the more traditional recreation activities, such as camping and fishing, have seen a slight decrease while nature based and backcountry activities are on the rise. Some of these trending activities include:

- Hiking
- Cross-country skiing
- Backpacking
- BMX/Mountain biking
- Kayaking
- Stand-up Paddling

Many passive recreation activities are also very popular, as noted in the SCORP surveys including relaxing, walking, picnicking, and unstructured play.

SCORP GOAL

Protect and manage Michigan's diverse and abundant natural and cultural assets to provide relevant, quality experiences that meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors and support economic prosperity.

-SCORP 2018-2022

VALUES + GOALS

The values generated in the previous chapter helped define parks and recreation goals for the community. These values again were:

- **We value having access to a variety of recreation facilities; specifically trails**
- **We value having an abundance of recreation opportunities including community events, races, and year round activities**
- **We value the quality of recreation resources offered by the community and the region**

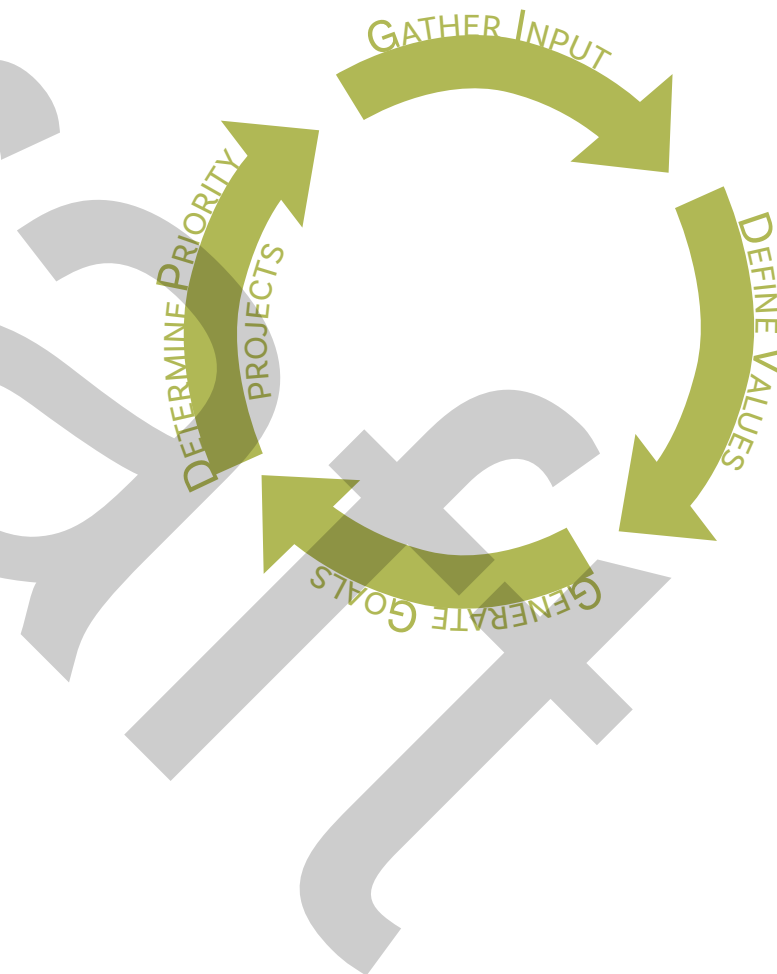
Community members were then asked what they would like to see change regarding recreation within the City of Ishpeming. A summary of the proposed changes is featured on the last two pages of this chapter. Combining these perspectives of community recreation values with desired improvements allowed the planning team to formulate a series of parks and recreation goals for the City of Ishpeming. These include:

Goal 1: Continue to maintain a diverse pallet of recreation opportunities while better utilizing existing park properties.

Goal 2: Create park spaces, events and signage that are easy to located, accessible for all, and reflect a sense of community.

Goal 3: Update well-loved facilities that are outdated or have fallen into disrepair.

The next step was to generate a series of objectives and action items that would help guide the community through the five year planning window and beyond. The following page features a diagram of the City of Ishpeming's recreation values, goals and objectives illustrating the cyclical nature of this process.



RECREATION VALUES

We VALUE having access to a variety of recreation facilities; specifically trails

We VALUE having an abundance of recreation opportunities including community events, races, and year round activities

We VALUE the quality of recreation resources offered by the community and the region

RECREATION GOALS

1. Continue to maintain a diverse palette of recreation opportunities while better utilizing existing park properties.
2. Create park spaces, events and signage that are easy to locate, accessible for all, and reflect a sense of community.
3. Update well-loved facilities that are outdated or have fallen into disrepair.

RECREATION OBJECTIVES

- Continue to collaborate with local community clubs and volunteers to develop and maintain recreation facilities and trails. Ensure there are clear agreements between parties as to what may or may not be developed, the process for how it can be completed, what approval mechanisms are in place and what the expectations are for continued maintenance.
- Partner with neighboring communities to capitalize on funding opportunities and the potential to link recreational resource.
- Maintain and enhance existing facilities: Identify priority facility upgrades that help reduce the need for additional maintenance and provide access for all.
- Maximize efficient use of funds through obtaining grant dollars for project match and donated funds, materials, and labor whenever possible.

CITY OF ISHPEMING

SURVEY RESULTS

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO **CHANGE** ABOUT THE CITY OF ISHPEMING'S RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES?

"HAVE BETTER ATV TRAIL MARKERS/MAPS AND IMPROVE/ADD TRAILS. SAME FOR HIKING TRAILS. NEED BALANCE WITH BIKING TRAILS THEY ARE TAKING OVER EVERYTHING & MAKING IT HARD TO KNOW WHERE TO GO WHEN ON ATVS OR OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES."

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

NOTHING

MORE TRAILS

- BEGINNER TRAILS
- MAINTENANCE
- CONNECTIONS
- SAFETY
- SIGNAGE



33

RESURFACE TENNIS COURTS

90



23

IMPROVE WATERFRONT AREAS

- NICER BEACH
- BETTER UTILIZE LAKES
- CLEAN UP GOOSE POOP



10

DISK GOLF UPGRADE

4



UPDATE + ADD PLAYGROUNDS

30



"THE BASEBALL FIELD NEEDS A LOT OF WORK, THE VOLLEYBALL COURT NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT BACK, THE STAGE NEEDS A ROOF AND THE WEEKLY CONCERTS COULD BE HERE IN THE SUMMER, THE PLAYGROUNDS NEEDS TO BE UPDATED, TRAILS NEED TO BE MAINTAINED, DOG LEASH LAWS NEED TO BE ENFORCED AND MONITORED, GARBAGE NEEDS TO BE EMPTIED ON A DAILY BASIS (SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL), ROADS NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED IN THE AL QUAAL, A DOCK ON ISHPEMING'S SIDE IN AL QUAAL. THE CITY OF ISHPEMING COULD LOOK AT PARKS AND RECREATION IN AREA'S OF WISCONSIN LIKE RHINELANDER, EAGLE RIVER, MINOCQUA. THESE COMMUNITY'S DO AN EXCELLENT JOB WITH THEIR PARKS AND RECREATION."

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

UPGRADE/ADD RESTROOMS

7



ADD A DOG PARK

36



ADD A DOWNTOWN GATHERING SPACE

10



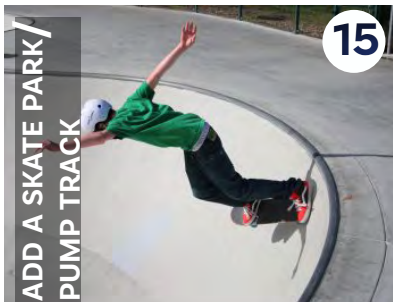
OPEN TUBING HILL

36



ADD A SKATE PARK/ PUMP TRACK

15



MORE SAFETY MEASURES

5



"MAKE THE TUBING HILL OPEN ALL WINTER! DEVELOP SOME INDOOR THINGS, A TRAMPOLINE PARK OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT FOR FAMILIES WOULD BE AWESOME."

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

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

"I THINK WE COULD DO MORE TO THE AL QUAAL RECREATION AREA."
-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

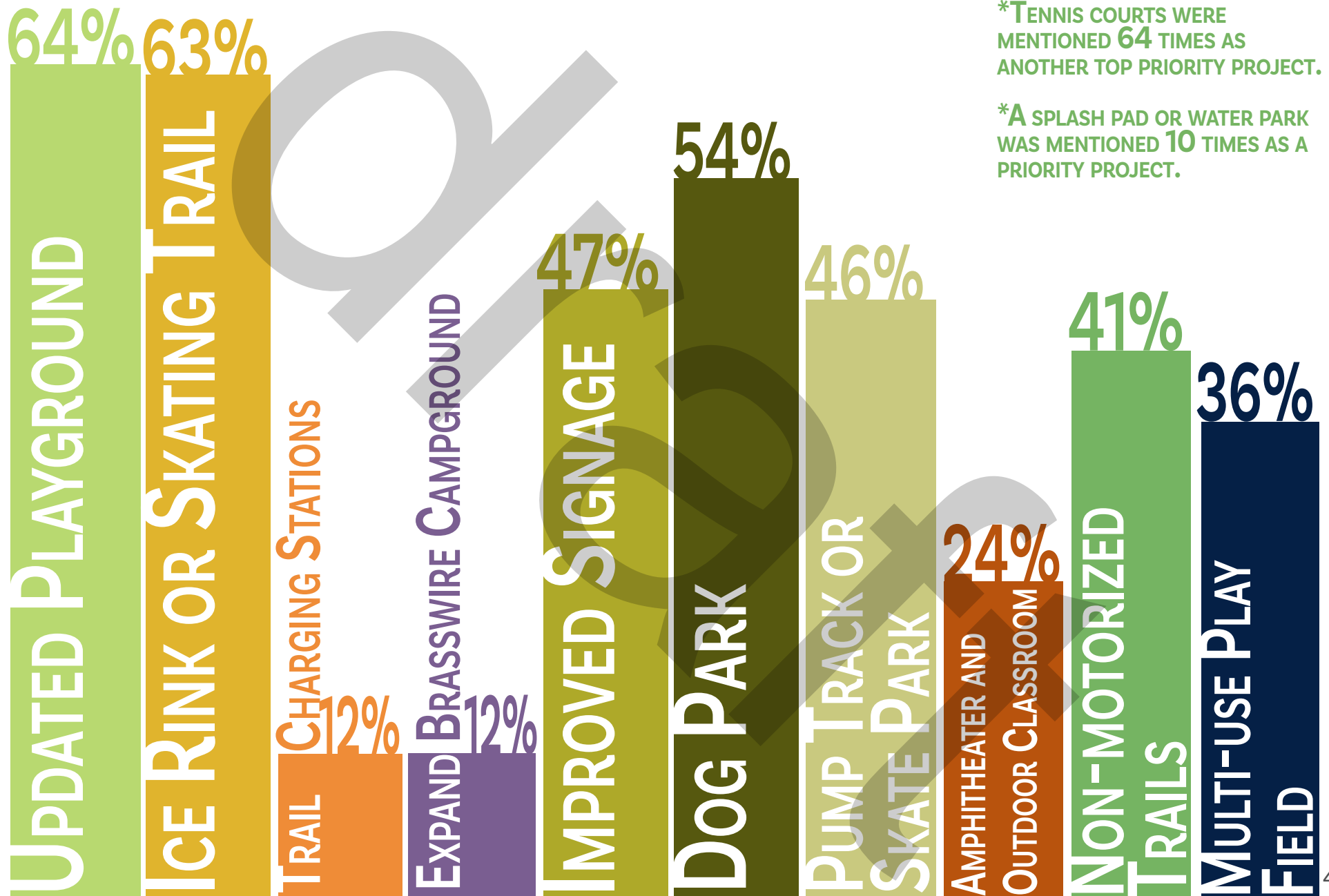


"MOST OF THE PLACES ARE STARTING TO GET 'RUN DOWN' GETTING A LOT OF CRACKS IN THE CONCRETE, WHICH MAKES IT HARD TO PLAY SPORTS OR EVEN JUST PLAY AROUND."
-LOCAL RESIDENT

"MORE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS FOR AN ACTUAL BEGINNER LEVEL. ALL TRAILS IN THE AREA ARE GREAT TO HAVE. MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS LABELED BEGINNER IN THIS AREA SEEM TO ACTUALLY BE AT THE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO ACTUALLY HAVE BEGINNER LEVEL TRAILS FOR ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS TO ENJOY MOUNTAIN BIKING."
-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

"THE SWIMMING COULD BE BETTER. IF I EVER WANT TO SWIM AT TEAL LAKE I ALWAYS GO TO THE NEGAUNEE SIDE. THE ISHPERING BEACH TENDS TO HAVE TRASH, IS VERY SHADED, AND THE SHORELINE IS MUCKY."
-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

PLEASE SELECT THE PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN WITHIN THE CITY OF ISHPERING.



6

COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING STANDARDS FOR RECREATION

The City of Ishpeming has prepared plans for and completed several park improvement projects. The Cities of Ishpeming and Negaunee were awarded a joint grant to install accessible kayak launches at either end of Teal Lake. An outdoor skating rink, recently installed, has proven to be a well-loved community improvement. Brasswire Campground, is a new rustic campground located along Malton Road. Additional future planned community improvements include a future dog park, skate park/pump track, and an outdoor classroom/band stand area.

This Action Plan on the following pages attempts to channel the many ideas provided via community input, recreation board and staff feedback and develop a list of park and recreation improvements within the coming years. By no means is this a comprehensive list as interests, demographics, and the environment are constantly evolving. The City will continue to revisit its recreation plan within the future and amend this list as needed.

GOAL #1

Continue to maintain a diverse palette of recreation opportunities while better utilizing existing park properties.

TRAILS

- Identify and develop plans for connecting trails in key locations.; this includes creating neighborhood trail/bikeway connections to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.
- Ensure a variety of trail types and designs for all ability levels are available within a reasonable distance from all city neighborhoods.
- Provide skill building areas for trail users; including kid, family friendly, and multi-generational trail opportunities.
- Prioritize maintaining existing trails and protecting adjacent natural resources over developing new trails.
- Create a park within the downtown core that provides a new form of recreation access serving younger and older generations alike; this could include a skate park or pump track, updated playground and seating/gathering space.
- Create an outdoor classroom/amphitheater space at Al Quaal to function as a community event space and accessible classroom for the schools and community programs/clubs to utilize.
- Consider adding recreation improvements to the old landfill site; these could include dog off leash trails, walking trails, or beginner level bike and ski trails.
- Add more winter recreation opportunities wherever possible including additional skating rinks or trails, ski and snowshoe trails and snowmobile trails/trailheads. When the opportunity presents itself consider electrifying trailheads and corridors to support the use of electric recreation equipment.

NEW

IMPROVEMENTS

GOAL #2

Create park spaces, events and signage that are easy to locate, accessible for all, and reflect a sense of community.

COMPREHENSIVE SIGNAGE AND MAPPING PLAN

AL QUAAL

TRAILS

- Identify any user or traffic conflicts along existing trail corridors and correct them.
- Provide additional trailheads and parking if needed.
- Notify trail users of proper trail etiquette and clearly mark user types allowed on trails.

- Develop a signage and mapping design plan that creates a cohesive look throughout the community. Showcase historic nodes as well as park regions within the greater community. Highlight natural features and interpretive opportunities.

- Continue to promote Al Quaal as a regional recreation destination. Create a comprehensive park master site plan that features existing park amenities, circulation and condition of features as well as provides an overlay of proposed improvements.
- Re-open the tubing hill and seek funding for alternate methods of operating that require fewer staff members be on site if possible.
- Update existing lodges or build a new community recreation facility.
- Provide universal accessibility updates throughout the park with an accessible pathway system linking the various activity nodes.
- Determine if the exercise loop is well-used and update as needed so the equipment is safe to use and functions properly.
- Update playground equipment and introduce accessible amenities including water bottle filling stations, restrooms and picnic areas.
- Provide improved access to Teal Lake.
- Improve existing ski area.

GOAL #3

Update well-loved facilities that are outdated or have fallen into disrepair.

TRAILS

- Complete an assessment of existing trails and identify trails in need of re-routes, decommissioning, or maintenance.
- Identify best management practices for trail design and development and create a template for future trail design/build projects.

MAINTENANCE

- Ensure all enhancement and park improvement projects utilize durable, high-quality materials and minimize the need for continuous maintenance.

SPORT COURTS

- Rehabilitate and redesign tennis facilities including the potential to utilize some courts for both pickleball and tennis.

PLAY LOTS

- Update play lots that have received little attention in recent decades. Consider re-purposing some for other community recreation functions such as converting one to a dog park and adding volleyball court, additional outdoor skating rink or trail, or a multi-use play field to others.

Qrxf

Qrxf

Qrxf

Qrxf