

CITY OF MARQUETTE 5 YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2011-2016



November 2011



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CHAPTER 1

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT



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Purpose

It was determined by the City of Marquette and its staff of the Community Services Department – Parks and Recreation Division (Parks and Recreation Division) that the Five Year Recreation Master Plan would be developed in consideration of the preferences of the citizens-at-large, user groups, staff and elected officials (who serve the community-at-large and their constituent groups). To accomplish the goal, many opportunities for participation were offered. Meetings with City Staff, Advisory boards and the public were held throughout the project. The results from a statistically valid citizen survey distributed in 2006 to City of Marquette residents relied on extensively, as there were minor changes in the City’s demographics in the last census, and the survey was very comprehensive. A mail-in survey was developed by U.P. Engineers & Architects and sent to various stakeholders.

Meetings with the Park & Recreation Advisory Board were held once a month throughout the project. On the afternoon of July 14, 2011, seventeen people attended a drop-in public open house. Twenty-three people attended a more formal evening workshop on the same day. At both sessions, participants were able to meet with staff members and discuss issues, opportunities and values of the recreation facilities throughout the City. Input from the public meeting is presented in Appendix A.

In addition to the Community-wide survey results from 2006, a new survey, very similar to the 2006 instrument, was sent to key stakeholder groups. A copy of the survey and tabulated results for each group is included in Appendix A. Members of each of the following groups received a survey:

- **Advisory Boards, Committees and Authorities:**
 - Arts & Culture Advisory Committee
 - Downtown Development Authority
 - Harbor Advisory Committee
 - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
 - Peter White Public Library Board of Trustees
 - Planning Commission
 - Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee
 - Senior Service Task Force
 - Sustainable Community Ad-Hoc Committee
 - Water Front Safety Task Force
- 2010-2011 Marquette City Commission
- **Recreation Stakeholder Groups:**
 - Baseball/Softball
 - Soccer
 - YMCA
 - U.P. Community Rowing Club
 - Community Garden
 - Noquemanon Trail Network
 - Marquette Junior Hockey
 - Tennis
 - Kitchi-Mi-Kana
 - Figure Skating
 - MAPS (all schools including Vandenboom Child Development Center and Adult & Community Education)



Identification of Potential Key Issues

Based on the input received from the various meetings, a list of key issues which should be addressed in the Master Plan are as follows and are not in priority order:

1. There is insufficient funding to balance the operating and capital needs with available resources.
2. There is a need for a pricing policy which identifies city costs for programs, services and facilities and its expectation for the percentage of costs that should be recovered for both residents and non-residents.
3. Public spaces along the shoreline need to be preserved.
4. The City is maintaining some facilities which could be considered for abandonment.
5. The importance of providing facilities and special events which will further the City's position as a destination for year round indoor and outdoor activities.
6. The challenge of organizing and managing a regional effort for parks, trails, special events, and sports facilities used by the region.
7. The need to educate the public and improve the promotion of the programs, special events, trails and facilities.
8. There are many needs at Presque Isle for routine maintenance and capital improvements.
9. There is a critical need for major Harbor and Marina capital improvements at the Presque Isle Marina.

Values Model

When asked about their value system during the planning process, several community leaders were in agreement with the list that appears below. Based on the interaction with each of the stakeholders and subsequent facilitation of public meetings, small group meetings and data retrieved from the stakeholder surveys, the consultant is of the opinion that the values listed below are representative of the value system in the community. As a result, these values will be considered by the consultant as short and long term recommendations are developed.

- Protecting/preserving the environment
- Preserving Historic Sites
- Respect for others
- Taking care of what we have
- Active lifestyle
- Respecting the past
- Professional management of our assets
- Quality facilities and programs
- High quality of life



CHAPTER 2

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Any plan must be based on an understanding of the people in the community. For the purpose of this plan the community refers to all lands within the boundaries of the City and those City owned lands lying outside the boundaries. Population analysis and projections are basic plan elements that impact future land use decisions relating to growth or shrinkage of demand for new development, community facilities and services.

The State of Michigan grew by a healthy 6.9% in the 1990s. However, between 2000 and 2010, the State lost 1% of its population or about 54,800 people. The state's estimated population according to the 2010 Census is 9,883,640.

Marquette is the largest community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which is home to just 3% of Michigan's population, or about 318,000 people. The Upper Peninsula is very rich in mineral deposits including iron, silver and copper. (Small amounts of gold have also been discovered.) In the 19th century mining dominated its economy and it was home to many isolated company towns. Lumbering was the other major industry. Some mines are still active today, though on a much smaller scale than 100 years ago. Because of the climate and the short growing season, there is very little agriculture in the Upper Peninsula. Tourism is a major industry.



Regional location map

The Upper Peninsula has large tracts of state forests, Eastern arborvitae swamps, coastline, over 150 waterfalls, and very low population densities. Because of the camping, boating, fishing, hunting and hiking opportunities, many Lower Peninsula and Wisconsin families take their summer vacations here.



Current Population

Some Michigan counties are experiencing rapid growth while others are losing a significant number of residents. Explanations for these patterns vary from one part of the state to another. The population losses in the Upper Peninsula and northeastern Lower Peninsula reflect the combined effect of low international migration, negative domestic migration, and an excess of deaths over births. As shown in Table 2-1 below, the City of Marquette gained almost 1,700 residents (7% change from 2000) between 2000 and 2010; the County almost 2,500 residents.

The new 2010 Census estimates indicate that 40 Michigan counties lost between 0.1% and 13.3% of their population since the 2000 census. The only counties that grew or stayed the same in the Upper Peninsula were Marquette, Baraga and Houghton County. The population growth in Marquette County and the City of Marquette can most likely be attributed to a number of things including jobs offered by some of the County's biggest employers including Marquette General Hospital, Cliffs Michigan Mining Company and Northern Michigan University.

Table 2-1: Population Change (2000-2010)				
Area	2000 Census	2010 Census	Change 2000 - 2010	
			No.	%
City of Marquette	19,661	21,355	1,694	+7%
Marquette County	64,634	67,077	2,443	+4%
Michigan	9,938,444	9,883,640	-54,804	-1%

Source: US Census Bureau



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Northern Michigan (Upper Peninsula) Lifestyle

Large tracts of public land, plus the scenic beauty of the lakeshore and several major historical sites, provide the basis for year-round activities for residents in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (the U.P.). Michigan's Upper Peninsula is sparsely populated, just over 310,000 in 1996 spread over 15 counties in an area larger than that of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Delaware combined. Thanks to a well developed and growing tourism industry, the area abounds in restaurants, motels, resorts, campgrounds, parks, and sites honoring early explorers and its colonial, copper and iron mining, logging, and maritime history. The U.P. is home to an emerging cluster of high-technology firms spun off by Michigan Technological University in Houghton, one of the world's and nation's leading technical and engineering schools. Sister-city Hancock is home to Suomi College, the nation's only Finnish-American college.

Peninsula Pleasures

The Upper Peninsula offers much for the outdoors person. There is over one million acres of land for hiking, bird watching, and hunting in Hiawatha National Forest, while others enjoy white water rafting at Piers Gorge. The region, lying along the rugged coastline of Lake Superior, is carpeted with lakes, rivers and virgin hardwood forest, old mines and historical sites. Mineral-stained sandstone cliffs, shaped by wind, ice and pounding waves, rise sharply from Lake Superior at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, stretching along the shore for 42 miles from Grand Marais to Munising. Visit the 100,000-acre Seney National Wildlife Preserve by canoe, pedal the 100-mile bike trail, or ski over the nine-mile cross-country trail. Go scuba diving in the crystal-clear waters of Superior at Whitefish Point Underwater Preserve to explore shipwrecks over a 376-square-mile area, or experience the Superior Circle dog sled race.

North Central Upper Peninsula (U.P.)

These three counties located along the shore of the largest of the Great Lakes - Alger, Marquette, and Baraga - comprise the northern tier of central counties. Only in a very sparsely populated region could a city the size of Marquette, with 22,000, hold the title of largest city; but since trees and critters, which far outnumber people, aren't counted, that indeed is the case. Marquette County with 1.2 million acres is also the state's largest county. The region, lying along the rugged coastline of Lake Superior, is carpeted with lakes, rivers and virgin hardwood forest, old mines and historical sites. Mineral-stained sandstone cliffs, shaped by wind, ice and pounding waves, rise sharply from Lake Superior at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, stretching along the shore for 42 miles from Grand Marais to Munising.

Marquette County

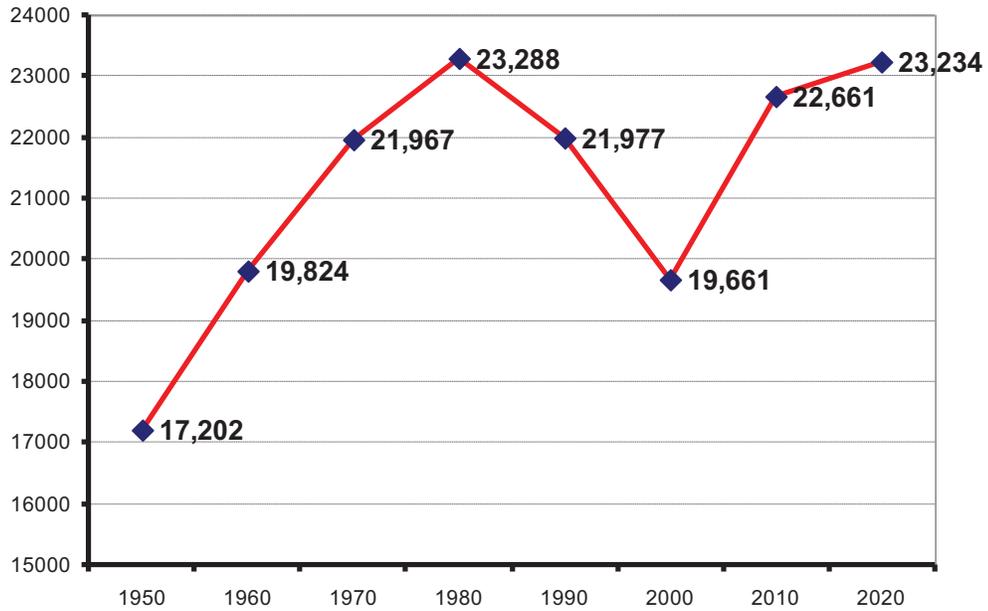
Marquette County is home to Northern Michigan University, a regional health care industry, and numerous manufacturers. Over 75 miles of Lake Superior shoreline and the Huron Mountains add scenic beauty to the county. Mining and lumbering first drew settlers to Marquette. Two iron mines still operate in the county, employing over 1,500, and a new copper/nickel mine is in development. The wood products industry also remains a significant employer in the area. The retail and service sectors employ thousands of additional people. The City of Marquette is the largest city in the Upper Peninsula. Highway, rail, air, and waterborne transportation connect Marquette County to the rest of the Midwest and to national and international markets. The conversion of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base provides extensive industrial capacity in Marquette, adding several hundred thousand square feet of industrial buildings and about 1,000 acres to the county's network of industrial sites

-Source: Michigan Economic Development Corporation



Population Projections

Population Projections indicate that the City will grow by about 3,500 people in the next twenty years and achieve its 1980 population.



Racial and Ethnic Trends

The City of Marquette is predominantly white (about 91%). Black or African Americans form the largest minority group with over 500 people (4.4%), followed by American Indian (1.5%) in the City of Marquette.

Table 2-2: Racial and Ethnic Groups				
Race	City of Marquette		Marquette County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	19,455	91.1	62,911	93.8
Black or African American	946	4.4	1,141	1.7
American Indian and Alaska Native	316	1.5	1,161	1.7
Asian	188	0.9	358	0.6
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	309	1.4	767	1.1

Source: U.S. Census

Note: Since 383 people in the City and 1,345 in the County reported two or more races, the totals do not add up to 21,355 and the percentages do not add up to 100%

Household Type and Size

The average household size in the City of Marquette is 2.05, compared to 2.26 for the County. However, this could be in part due to the amount of single person households, younger families and older households present in the City as discussed in later sections. The City has a higher percentage of non-family households, single householder households and households where the householder is over 65, a typical trend in most US cities.



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Table 2-3: Household by Type				
HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE	City of Marquette		Marquette County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households	8,321	100.0%	27,538	100.0%
Family households (families)	3,788	45.0%	16,664	60.5%
Married-couple family	2,768	33.3%	13,170	47.8%
Female householders, no husband	749	9.0%	2,363	8.6%
Nonfamily households	4,533	54.5%	10,874	39.5%
Householder living alone	3,176	38.2%	8,361	30.4%
Householder 65 years and over	975	11.8%	2,925	10.6%
Average household size	2.05		2.26	
Average family size	2.71		2.81	

Source: US Census Bureau

Employment and Occupation

During the 2000 Census, the City of Marquette had 16,861 people over the age of 16. Of these, over 63% are in the labor force. The County has a slightly lower labor force participation rate (62%). Female labor force participation is also higher in the City than in the County (61% in the City and 59% in the County). The unemployment rate for the City, as of May 2011 was 8.7%.

Table 2-4 from the Lake Superior Community Partnership shows principal employers in Marquette County and the number of employees. The largest employer in the County is Marquette General Health System with over 2,800 employees. Followed by Cliffs Michigan Mining Company (1,567 employees) and Northern Michigan University (999 employees).

Table 2-4: Principal Employers in Marquette County (2009)	
EMPLOYER	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Marquette General Health System	2831
Cliffs Michigan Mining Company	1567
Northern Michigan University	999
Peninsula Medical Center	630
Westwood Mall Association	500
Michigan Department of Corrections	490
Wal*Mart	434
Marquette Area Public Schools	425
Bell Hospital	335
Alger-Marquette Community Action Board	250
County of Marquette	240
AMR Regional Aircraft Maintenance Facility	233
WE Energies	205
Pioneer Surgical	200
Target	200
Pathways	200
Negaunee Public Schools	190
PCBM Management - County Village	188
Gwinn Area Community Schools	180
City of Marquette	175
Potlatch	152
Shopko	150
Ojibwa Casino II	143



Income and Poverty

Median household income is the dollar amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups—half with income above the median and half with income below the median. It provides one measure of the ability of the City of Marquette households to meet the costs of food, clothing, housing, health care, transportation, childcare, and higher education. Retail businesses, shopping centers, builders, and developers consider the median household income as a guide to investment in a community. Table 2-5 below shows income ranges for the residents in the City of Marquette. The City’s population is pretty well diversified among the categories. The largest groups are in the less than \$10,000, \$15,000 to \$24,999, \$35,000 to \$49,999, and \$50,000 to \$74,999.

Table 2-5: Income and Benefits per Household				
Income and Benefits (in 2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)	City of Marquette		Marquette County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households	8,069	100%	25,364	100%
Less than \$10,000	1,498	18.60%	2,700	10.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	755	9.40%	1,824	7.2%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,256	15.60%	3,112	12.3%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	736	9.10%	2,809	11.1%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	964	11.90%	3,576	14.1%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,257	15.60%	5,011	19.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	678	8.40%	3,057	12.1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	577	7.20%	2,253	8.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	229	2.80%	560	2.2%
\$200,000 or more	119	1.50%	462	1.8%
Median household income	31,912		43,692	
Mean household income	50,316		56,278	

Which income bracket households fall into can

Source: US Census Bureau

have a direct affect on the type of recreation they pursue. For example, golf is usually a sport people of higher incomes partake in.

Median and Mean household incomes are lower in the City than in the County, primarily because the city has a higher percentage of young single adults and non-family households.



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Age Distribution

Information on age distribution within a population can assist a community in matching public services to community characteristics and in determining special needs of certain age groups.

Analysis of age distribution may also be used by policy makers to identify current gaps in services and to project future service needs for housing, education, recreation and medical care.

Age distribution comparisons for the City, Marquette Township, and County are presented as Table 2-6. In general, the City of Marquette has the highest percentages (approximately 39 percent) of people between the ages of 5 and 25 years.

As evidenced by the change in median age between 2000 and 2010, the City is the only area where the population is getting younger. The City of Marquette went from a median of 30.6 years in 2000 to 29.1 years in 2010. This along with the age distribution data discussed above, suggests the City is attracting younger families or newly graduated professionals possibly with children.

Marquette Township's median age increased from 40.1 in 2000 to 43.9 in 2010, while Marquette County also increased from 37.5 in 2000 to 39.4 in 2010.

Table 2-6: Age Distribution						
Age Group	Marquette City		Marquette Township		Marquette County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	788	3.7	170	4.4	3,491	5.2
5 to 9 years	630	3	170	4.4	3,293	4.9
10 to 14 years	706	3.3	216	5.5	3,472	5.2
15 to 19 years	2,355	11	243	6.2	5,140	7.7
20 to 24 years	4,661	21.8	340	8.7	7,026	10.5
25 to 29 years	1,797	8.4	246	6.3	4,328	6.5
30 to 34 years	1,136	5.3	215	5.5	3,789	5.6
35 to 39 years	923	4.3	181	4.6	3,480	5.2
40 to 44 years	912	4.3	222	5.7	3,811	5.7
45 to 49 years	1,161	5.4	317	8.1	4,637	6.9
50 to 54 years	1,219	5.7	347	8.9	5,194	7.7
55 to 59 years	1,315	6.2	354	9.1	5,333	8.0
60 to 64 years	985	4.6	265	6.8	4,256	6.3
65 to 69 years	616	2.9	183	4.7	2,893	4.3
70 to 74 years	565	2.6	136	3.5	2,269	3.4
75 to 79 years	543	2.5	112	2.9	1,759	2.6
80 to 84 years	444	2.1	103	2.6	1,447	2.2
85 years and over	599	2.8	85	2.2	1,459	2.2
Total	21,355	100	3,905	100	67,077	100
Median Age	29.1 Years		43.9 Years		39.4 Years	
2000 Median Age	30.6 Years		40.1 Years		37.5 Years	



Education

Data on educational attainment shows that the City and County have attained a high level of education. Approximately 90% of the City's population has a minimum of high school graduation degree and over 34% has a bachelor's degree or higher. The City has a substantially higher percentage of

Table 2-7: Educational Attainment				
Educational Attainment	City of Marquette		Marquette County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 25 Years and over	11,414		41,453	
Less than 9th grade	393	3.40%	1,070	2.60%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	742	6.50%	2,700	6.50%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	3,437	30.10%	13,862	33.40%
Some college, no degree	2,043	17.90%	8,452	20.40%
Associate's degree	758	6.60%	3,503	8.50%
Bachelor's degree	2,481	21.70%	8,095	19.50%
Graduate or professional degree	1,560	13.70%	3,771	9.10%

graduate degree holders than the County. The large population of advanced degrees is primarily due to the presence of Northern Michigan University and the Medical Industry, including Marquette General Hospital, Peninsula Medical Center and Pioneer Surgical.

Housing

Housing value data from the 2010 US Census Bureau was not available at the time of this Plan. In 2009, at the time of the last Census Bureau Community survey, the median value of an owner-occupied home was \$143,000. This is significantly higher than the County where the median value of an owner-occupied home was \$120,800. The 2000 Census reported significantly lower values. The median value of owner occupied units in the City of Marquette was \$86,400 and the County is \$77,200. The \$56,000 increase happened during a time when housing values throughout the country escalated at a high rate. The City's sense of place, recreational opportunities, University, and regional medical center have attributed to the population growth and housing value growth. Median rent in the City was \$550 and the County had a value slightly lower of \$542.



Application of Demographic Data to Parks and Recreation Planning

Analysis of Climate

With average temperatures that range between the 10s and 20s in the winter months to the 40s and 70s in the spring, summer and fall months, the climate is supportive for all types of activities. It is important to understand the typical indoor and outdoor preferences in a climate of this type.

Best practices within the parks and recreation profession provide some clues for our consideration:

- There should be a balance between the indoor and outdoor facilities provided. There is a recognition that not all users play outdoor sports or engage in outdoor activities but do use many of the indoor amenities that are provided in contemporary ice arenas and indoor recreation centers; e.g. indoor walking/jogging tracks, indoor leisure pools with lap lanes, fitness areas and activity rooms, especially in a unique community such as Marquette.

Educational System

The City of Marquette residents have a high school graduation rate of 90% and 34% have achieved a college degree.

From a planning perspective, there is research which concludes that leisure services are selected, in part, based on one's educational achievements. The Parks and Recreation Division should be aware of the choices that one will make for services, based on their educational level and corresponding higher income earning power and provide choices for services; for example:

- Offer services that are priced for those who do not earn a lot of money, but also, provide services that are priced for those who can afford to spend more on services that are important to them.

Activities which are attractive to those with more earning power include such things as:

- Golf is a preferred choice for those who earn higher incomes which is typically based on one's educational background.
- Travel for pleasure is also a choice for those who earn higher incomes.



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- Membership in high end health clubs and private lessons for various skills is a choice for those with higher incomes.

Gender

The female population is 48.2% (10,283) and the male population is 51.8% (11,072) in Marquette. This is slightly different than the national average. Typically, the female population is generally larger than the male population in most developed countries. This is primarily because of the higher life expectancy among women as compared to men.

From a planning perspective, there are some trends which differentiate the female from the male user of parks and recreation services. Those differences are:

Females

- Women participate in fitness programs outside the home more than men do
- There is increased interest in opening traditional men's sports to women
- Women's and girl's sports are growing exponentially which is due, in part, to the increasing number of women's professional teams and media coverage
- Yoga and Tai Chi are two of the more popular activities selected by females in an indoor setting
- A greater percentage of females participate in exercise walking, exercising with equipment, swimming, aerobic exercising, workouts at a club, volleyball, ice/figure skating and kick boxing than do males
- Women are more likely to use exercise equipment that focuses on cardiovascular well-being

Males

- The fastest growing expenditure for sports-related activities by male teens is for adventure sports like skateboarding, in-line skating, BMX biking and cycling
- Participation in structured programs is decreasing and movement is toward individual activities
- Most popular activities, in order, include exercise walking, camping, exercising with equipment, swimming, bowling and fishing
- Men are more likely to use exercise equipment that stresses muscular development/toning



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Age

Age is the best predictor of what one will choose to do in his/her leisure time. The median age in Marquette is 29.1. This compares nationally with a median age of 35.3.

From a planning perspective for parks and recreation services, it is helpful to analyze the preferences by citizens relative to their age group. Most quantifiable data is available as presented here:

Table 2-8: Age Groups by Percentage of Population		
Age Group Designation	Age Range	Marquette Percentage
Generation Y	5 to 20	17.3%
Generation X	20 to 34	35.5%
Baby Boomers	35 to 54	19.7%
Empty Nesters	55 to 64	10.8%
Seniors	Over 65	12.9%



CHAPTER 3

RECREATION INVENTORY



RECREATION INVENTORY

Citizens in the City of Marquette and surrounding area have access to outstanding recreation facilities year-round. The physical setting for the city on Lake Superior and the outdoor recreation opportunities found in the city and surrounding Upper Peninsula contribute to the high quality of life experienced in Marquette.

In addition to the City of Marquette, the local school districts, the YMCA, and Northern Michigan University (NMU) are probably the most important public providers of recreation activities. A short distance outside of the City, the State of Michigan (mostly via DNR) and the County make major recreation contributions. Many commercial, private, and quasi-public organizations, firms, and individuals also contribute in various ways to the great diversity of recreation opportunities in the Marquette area.

This Section inventories and/or describes city recreational facilities, educational system facilities, public programs and special events, senior citizen programs, handicapped activities, private opportunities, cultural/historical/natural resources and extra-city recreational sites. For comparison there is also a discussion on national issues.

National Trends in Facility Types

Park Trends

Neighborhood Parks - Best of Class agencies work with neighborhoods to customize the park design, or re-design of their neighborhood parks to match the demographics of the surrounding area and the corresponding preferences of those who live there. When possible, the agency will develop a partnership agreement with the neighborhood to share responsibilities for development and maintenance of the park.

Large Downtown Parks - Large downtown parks are framing cities and creating a sense of space. Many large and small communities select a downtown park to provide a sense of place, to encourage visitors and to otherwise showcase their community. Notable large downtown parks include Central Park in New York City, the Millennium Park in Chicago and the Golden Gate State Park in San Francisco.

Community Parks - Community parks are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. They allow for group activities and offer other recreational opportunities not feasible, nor



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perhaps desirable, at the neighborhood level. As with neighborhood parks, both active and passive recreation activities should be developed.

Signature Parks - Signature parks are making a major comeback and are framing the way cities demonstrate their quality of life, their image of public managed space, and the creation of a sense of place and connectivity for the community. A Signature Park is defined as one which the entire community recognizes as one of its most important parks. The Signature Park is one which creates an image of who the community is and what it represents. The Signature Park often has the full complement of passive and active recreational activities and creates a high level of earned income. Examples include the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, Fairmont Park in Philadelphia, Central Park in New York, Millennium Park in Chicago, Grant Park in Chicago and White River State Park in Indianapolis.

Special Use Parks – Special Use Parks are designed to serve the entire community with specialized facilities such as a sports complex, golf course or aquatic facility. Size is determined by the demand for the facilities located there and their space requirements. These park types are becoming much more popular as they provide a destination for users with a similar interest. Another advantage of this park type is that park users who have no interest in active facilities can seek a passive experience in another park type.

Regional Parks - Regional Parks serve a larger purpose than community parks. Regional parks are larger and have more amenities than community level parks and attract users for longer periods of time due to their size and features. Regional parks typically include features such as playgrounds, shelters, walking trails and athletic facilities.

Preserves – Preserves are created to preserve land as undeveloped greenway space in and around communities. These parks often follow natural drainage ways or utilize land that is not developable, thus they require minimum maintenance and capital improvement dollars. Trails are a great addition to these parks and are a great way to link neighborhoods within the community.

Greenways and Trails - Greenways and trails continue to be the number one amenity that communities desire because they have wide age segment appeal, they connect neighborhoods to major attractions and stream corridors, and they allow people to move freely with very little vehicle interaction.

Clustered Sports Facilities - Development of clustered sports facilities that promote sports tourism and operational efficiency is a significant trend. Clustered sports complexes are developed to support youth and adults in one setting.



Recreation Facility Trends

Indoor Facilities - Recreation facility trends for indoor facilities focus on multiple court field houses for basketball (10 to 12 courts), volleyball, soccer, and tennis. The trend is moving away from one court facilities:

Outdoor Tennis Complexes - Complexes are designed to support 20 to 24 courts in one setting which allows for regional, state and national tournaments. This trend moves away from the traditional one and two tennis courts in close-to-home neighborhood and community parks.

Recreation Centers - Centers are now designed to offset operational costs and are multi-generational in design. They are 70,000 to 100,000 sq. ft., with large functional space that supports gym activities, aquatic activities and fitness activities, with designated spaces for both teens and seniors. Some communities include indoor ice in their facilities which can add an additional 40,000 sq. ft. These facilities incorporate monthly pass fees and daily admission fees and return high operational revenues to the City. Some of these facilities are designed and located to serve their communities as Signature Facilities that assist with citizen retention, new resident attractions, and business development enhancements.

Ice Skating Facilities – The trend is toward multiple sheets of ice in one location due to the popularity of the sport and to accommodate the multiple user groups with unique interests. For example, there are competitive users, figure skaters, recreational skaters and those who are interested in the learn-to-skate classes. For several of the user groups, seating to accommodate 1,000 spectators is important.

Shaded Areas - Many communities are providing shade structures in their aquatic and athletic facilities. In aquatic facilities, it is not uncommon to see shade structures both in the water area and on the deck. In athletic facilities, shade structures are provided over the primary bleacher area for spectators, for covered dugouts and for common areas where players and spectators congregate.

Outdoor Aquatics - Outdoor aquatic facilities continue to be very popular in most cities. These are family oriented and incorporate warm water and cool water pool facilities with shallow and deep water. These pools incorporate water play features, competitive swim opportunities, slides, flow riders, and lazy rivers with a bather capacity level at 1000 to 2000 people at a time.

Splash Pads - Many communities are providing splash pads which augment existing indoor /outdoor aquatic facilities in the same location, or, in areas of the community where there are no other existing aquatic facilities (stand alone). Splash Pads are colorful and safe areas for water play for children which have no standing water. Typically there are ground nozzles that spray



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water upwards and other interactive water features that spray water from all directions such as in the form of a mushroom shower or tree shower.

Dog Parks - Dog Runs (a term generally used in the eastern United States), and Dog Parks (a term generally used in the western United States) are places where dogs are legally allowed to be unrestrained or off-leash. Some examples are: fenced areas of city parks, piers, beaches, and very large parks with hiking trails. Surveys indicate that off-leash dog parks are typically composed of a fenced enclosed area one to three acres for a neighborhood facility and up to ten acres for a community facility. Smaller facilities have been developed in some communities, but the success of these areas creates a significant impact and wear on smaller sites. The facilities should include a double gate to assure that animals cannot escape as new ones enter the compound; plastic bags and waste receptacles to remove dog waste; water source; parking; benches (inside and out compound); shade shelter; bulletin board; emergency phone; and some areas include trails and dog training/obstacle course areas. Recently there has been a trend in creating segregated areas for big and small dogs to improve pet safety.

Adventure Parks (BMX Track, Skate Park and In-Line Skating) - Special Use Parks are provided by some communities with an emphasis on adventure sports. Typically, an adventure park will include a BMX track and skate park. In a few instances, an in-line skating facility is also provided.

Skate Spots - A relatively new trend is for communities to provide close-to-home skate spots. These facilities are much smaller than a skate park and will typically include 2 to 4 obstacles. The interest in skate spots is driven by the fact that the average age of a skateboarder is 13.8, thus their inability to drive to a larger facility by themselves. Providing a close-to-home skate spot enables children to enjoy the skateboarding experience on a frequent basis without having to rely on transportation to a larger skate park.

Facility Classification

Specific types of recreational opportunities and facilities in a community may vary appreciably from another community of the same size. Nevertheless, in trying to determine the recreational needs of a community, it helps to understand the types of facilities present and those which typically can be found in a community the size of Marquette. For planning purposes, the varying types of recreational units found in Marquette are classified into nine general categories (mostly by magnitude) as follows:

- **Regional Parks** –Regional parks provide facilities or natural features which draw people from outside the immediate vicinity into the City. Examples of what may be expected to be found in a regional park are campgrounds, rare natural features, zoos, and scenic drives. Such parks may also incorporate opportunities such as hiking, boating, and fishing, as well as playground activities.



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- **Community Park** – While a community park usually incorporates some of the facilities typical of neighborhood parks and playgrounds, its major purpose is to provide developed facilities for less structural activities, usually in a natural atmosphere, to be used by large numbers of people. Examples of the types of opportunities available at a community park are outdoor swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, cross-country skiing, and alpine skiing.
- **Community Playfield** – The community playfield provides a multi-purpose area to meet the recreational needs of a wide range of age groups. Normally this type of playfield is centered around an athletic facility(s) structured for organized sports such as baseball or football. The community playfield may also include associated spectator seating, ice rink, game courts (tennis, basketball, shuffleboard, etc.) picnic tables, playlots, and parking areas.
- **Neighborhood Park** – The neighborhood park is similar to the neighborhood playground except that it provides more passive recreational opportunities. In addition to the facilities commonly found in a neighborhood playground, picnic tables, benches, and more grassy open spaces are available.
- **Neighborhood Playground** – The neighborhood playground is an area for intense recreational activities and is typical of the facilities often found adjoining public elementary schools. This type of facility is oriented toward the recreational needs of five to 12 year olds but also provides limited recreation for young people and adults. Facilities within neighborhood playgrounds may include merry-go-rounds, see-saws, monkey bars, open space for informal games, paved areas for court games, ice rinks, and playlot equipment.
- **Playlot** – Playlots are small areas intended for children of preschool age. They are normally included as part of a larger, more diverse recreational scheme. The playlot itself should include simple and safe equipment such as swings, sand boxes, slides, paved areas for wheeled toys, and benches for adults acting in a supervisory capacity.
- **Greenspace** – These areas vary both in size and atmosphere and are designed specifically for passive pursuits. They are typically landscaped areas with benches that may offer scenic views or contain items such as walkways or monuments.
- **Linear Park** – These are areas developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and pleasure driving. Such facilities may also contain components of the above discussed parks. They are typically developed in built or natural corridors, such as utility and railroad rights-of-way, bluff lines, and vegetation patterns, etc.
- **Special Use Parks** – Special Use parks are parks that provide a specific experience and do not fit into any other category.



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An additional type of recreation open space in Marquette is a “Conservancy” component which is and that is protected and managed for its natural attributes.

The major City of Marquette recreation facilities that are operated and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Division are discussed below. A map depicting location of essential features precedes the descriptions of these city-operated facilities (see Figure 3-1).





Figure 3-1: City of Marquette
Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Existing Parks



0 2,500 Feet



Regional Facilities

Presque Isle Park

As Marquette’s recreational crown jewel, special attention is given here to Presque Isle Park. The popular regional facility is located on Presque Isle (fr. “almost an island”), a 323 acre forested oval shaped headland/peninsula which juts into Lake Superior in the northern tip of the City. Presque Isle is known throughout the United States for its natural beauty.

The “Island”, as it is referred to by locals, has had many visitors starting with the prehistoric people 3,000 to 7,000 years ago. Early residents of Marquette traveled there by boat since there was no bridge over the Dead River. Originally it was designated as a government lighthouse reservation. Through the efforts of Peter White, a bill was passed on July 12, 1886, by the United State Congress deeding the Island to the City of Marquette. White then built a road from the City to the park and planted the now tall Lombardy poplar trees which line Lakeshore Boulevard. Today, Presque Isle Park is Marquette’s most beloved attraction, offering year-round outdoor recreation, serene settings for nature observation and education, and cultural experiences.

Situated at the end of Lakeshore Boulevard, the showcase park is easily accessible by either the shared-use path or automobile. The park supports over 100 species of native plants and diverse landscapes including pebble beaches, rocky cliffs, bogs, and forest. Major facilities at the Island include two picnic areas, concession facilities (the Island Store), 3.5 and 1.5 kilometer cross-country ski trails, hiking trails, playground facilities, three drinking fountains, grassy open areas, a historic wood band shell for concerts, two sets of restrooms (serving each picnic area), an open air park shelter, and custom designed timber gazebo.

The two major picnic areas are well supplied with picnic tables and cooking facilities. The larger of the two, located on the south east side of the park, contains a playground area with merry-go-round, swings, a barrier free swing, slide, and climbing apparatus. There is a smaller third picnic area at Sunset Point, northwest of the Black Rocks. This area contains a new pavilion and numerous picnic tables. The park also contains numerous park benches grills and bicycle racks.



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A stone and log pavilion was constructed in 1999 to replace an old structure that was razed in 1986. The building contains a kitchen, interior meeting rooms, storage areas, restrooms, a 1,400 square foot deck, outdoor grill and firepit, restrooms and larger interior open area designed for community events, small receptions and other gatherings. The approximately \$200,000 project was funded to a large extent by donations, in-kind services and a loan by the City of Marquette.

Presque Isle is also the site of the City-owned 67 slip Presque Isle Marina as well as the Upper Harbor lighthouse and a long breakwater (or “breakwall” as it is called by many locals).

The park is served by a number of foot trails. There is also the narrow perimeter Peter White Drive which winds its way around the Island. The scenic roadway was improved and repaved in 1999. Turnouts are provided in intervals for those wishing to stop and travel by foot, or simply enjoy the scenery. Peter White Drive is closed to vehicular traffic during scheduled times to allow for non-motorized access around the island.



During the winter, the park is a favorite of cross-country skiers. Trails are groomed for skiing by the Department of Public Works – Parks Division. There is also a snowshoe path along the outer perimeter of the groomed ski trails.

The Moosewood Nature Center, operated by a non-profit group, is located near the entrance to Presque Isle and offers nature-based educational opportunities for youth. The Nature Center has plans to increase the nature-based educational opportunities by converting the former Shiras Pool into a wetland area. The \$250,000 project will be completed in phases, with the first phase being removal of the concrete lining of the pool and the completed project including nature paths, boardwalks, observation platforms, and butterfly and bird gardens.



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The Island serves as a venue for several special events including the Marquette Marathon in early September and the Glacier Glide Art Show in February.

The eastern coastline, filled with coves and ancient rock outcroppings, is best viewed from the outlook platform just north of the graves of Charlie Kawbawgam (the last chief of the local Chippewa) and his wife, Charlotte.



Fishing opportunities are available at several spots in the park. As with most other fishing areas in the City, fishermen concentrate on spring and fall catches of native lake whitefish, lake trout and brook trout as well as for non-native species Coho and Chinook salmon and rainbow and brown trout which were introduced for sport fishing.

Most of the park's man-made facilities are concentrated near the park entrance (a narrow area of land connecting the park to the mainland). Despite the seemingly large number of facilities described above, most of the Island has been kept preserved for its natural beauty as suggested by Frederick Law Olmstead's firm over 100 years ago.

Tourist Park Campground

The City-owned and operated Tourist Park is located approximately one-half mile north of Wright Street on Sugar Loaf Avenue on the north edge of the City. Fronting on the Dead River, the nicely wooded 40 acre park provides visitors with the only clean, pleasant and convenient place to camp in the immediate Marquette area.



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There are approximately 20 acres of campground space with one hundred-ten (110) camping sites. Fifty-eight (58) sites provide upgraded electrical hookups, four (4) have water and electric service, and thirty-eight (38) sites have electric, water and sewer service to accommodate RVs and trailers. The remaining sites are designated for primitive style tenting. Each camping site has a picnic table and barbeque pits are scattered throughout the campground.



Campground facilities also include hot showers, restrooms/flush toilets, sanitary dump station and paved roads. The campground has a softball diamond with spectator seating, a small playground, cooking facilities, grassy open space, hiking trails, drinking fountains, and two large picnic areas. These facilities are often used by the community for reunions and company picnics.

Tourist Park included a beach on a reservoir formed on the Dead River until a 2003 washout of an upstream dam at the Silver Lake Basin destroyed the dam and drained the reservoir near Tourist Park. However, in the spring of 2011, the Marquette Board of Light and Power started a 4.8 million dollar project to reconstruct the dam and restore beach areas adjacent to Tourist Park and create about 13 acres of wetland habitat. The project is on schedule to be completed in June of 2012.

Tourist Park is the site of the annual Hiawatha Music Festival.

Heartwood Forestland Property

In 2005, the City of Marquette made a bold and unusual purchase of undeveloped rugged land from the Heartwood Forestland Group. This acquisition, totaling 2,385 acres of land along its south border, included property located in Sands and Marquette Townships. The land is highly suitable for hiking, mountain biking and other outdoor recreational pursuits. The acquisition is considered a key to promote and develop these growing recreational values for the citizens of the region and for tourism development.

In 2009 the City Commission established the Heartwood Forestland Ad-Hoc Committee to study the property and identify potential development areas, identify areas for conservation and identify partnerships for the development and maintenance of recreational properties. In the committee's report, they recommended approximately 930 acres for development, approximately 1,063 acres for conservation and public recreation, and approximately 250 acres for deferred development.



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The 1,063 acres recommended for conservation and public recreation has many recreational opportunities. These opportunities include the Noquemanon Trail Network's South Trails, waterfalls and numerous streams.

Community Parks

Ellwood A. Mattson Lower Harbor Park

The site of a former coal dock and storage facility, Ellwood Mattson Lower Harbor Park was dedicated July 24, 1989 and is located just north of the ore dock in Marquette's Lower Harbor. The 22 acre Mattson Lower Harbor Park has a large grassy open space area, park benches, picnic tables, Kid's Cove Playground (a very large wooden play structure constructed through community donations and volunteers), an architecturally designed period concession/restroom facility, boat ramp, and a large nearby breakwater. The shoreline bike path runs through the park and an illuminated walkway with period style lighting circles the park and parallels the waterfront along the bulkhead.



Fishing opportunities also exist with the fishing occurring predominately in the spring and fall for Coho and Chinook salmon and rainbow, lake, and brown trout.



The beautiful natural setting and large grassy area has made the site a popular location for special events and festivals, playing host to such activities as Marquette's annual Seafood Festival, the International Food Festival, Art on the Rocks, concerts, fireworks, and other large gatherings. The 101 slip Cinder Pond Marina, completed in 1995, is located immediately east of the park.



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An attractive bell tower is located at the west entrance to the park and dedicated as a Firefighters and 9-11 Memorial. It also serves as a focal point and gateway from downtown to the Mattson Park.

Shiras Park

Shiras Park is located on the shore of Lake Superior the northernmost part of which is known as Picnic Rocks near the intersection of Lakeshore Boulevard and East Fair Avenue. The approximately 31 acre park has a beautiful five-eighths mile long sand beach.

The Picnic Rocks area has restrooms, grassy open space, benches, cooking facilities, picnic tables, a drinking fountain, and paved and graveled parking lots. There is also a playground which was dedicated by the Zonta Club of Marquette, with swing sets, tot riding apparatus (two), a wood/steel play unit, and climbing tires. In addition to motor vehicle access, the park is accessible by the shoreline bike path. Improvements to the Picnic Rocks area were part of a U.S. Land and Water Conservation project. For the past several years the site has accommodated the annual Outback Art Fair.

McCarty's Cove

Located adjacent to the former U.S. Coast Guard Station near the intersection of Lakeshore Boulevard and East Michigan Street, McCarty's Cove (officially the south extremity of Shiras Park) includes a swimming beach on Lake Superior with lifeguard watch, information kiosk, water rescue station stocked with a ring buoy and personal floatation devices, two volleyball areas, picnic tables, four permanent park benches overlooking the lake, grassy open space, small restroom facility, drinking fountain, parking area, and a playground with a wooden play structure, slide and climbing apparatus on the bluff above the beach. The park, adopted by the Marquette Noon Kiwanis Club, is accessible by the aforementioned shared-use path.



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South Beach Park

Located immediately south of the Municipal Power Plant on Lake Street, South Beach Park has a swimming beach on Lake Superior with two lifeguard watches, designated swimming area marked with buoys, two sets of stairs, a handicapped ramp providing access to the beach/restrooms, five swings, climbing apparatus, tot riding apparatus, two permanent benches and extensive lighted/paved parking. A unique feature is the custom designed recreational building set into the bluff. The building contains accessible restrooms and storage facilities and a topside handicapped accessible viewing platform facing the lake. Major improvements were funded in part, by a MDNR Coastal Zone Management grant during the mid 1980s.



Fit-Strip (Cemetery) Cross-Country Ski Trail

Located on West Ridge Street at the southwest corner of the Park Cemetery, this site contains 1.7 and 1 kilometer cross-country ski trails which are very popular. Grooming of the ski trails is provided by the Noquemanon Trail Network, through a partnership between the Noquemanon Trail Network and the City. The trails are lighted until 11 P.M. during the winter months. This trail also serves as a jogging trail in the summer and includes developed exercise stations. A parking area is also provided.

Nearby at the Park Cemetery is a community garden available for rent. The paved roads in the Park Cemetery are used by joggers and walkers.



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Mount Marquette Lookout

Located on Mount Marquette off the Mount Marquette Road near the Carp River, a lookout provides a panoramic scenic view of the City of Marquette and Lake Superior. It is also part of a groomed snowmobile trail, hiking trails and the South Marquette Trail System. The access road to this site is very steep and the condition varies throughout the year. However, it is generally in poor condition.

Marquette Commons

A town square was constructed in 2005 in downtown Marquette. The site was part of the linear park rail corridor acquisition. Phase 1 of the project reconfigured a parking facility to integrate better with downtown and the proposed Commons. The Marquette Commons includes an ice skating plaza and a warming house building with restrooms and gathering area. The plaza is used for art exhibits, a farmers market and performances during other seasons. The building also provides restrooms for downtown.

The skating plaza was constructed with piping in the concrete slab for the future addition of refrigeration equipment. This investment will greatly extend the ice skating season.



Founder's Landing

The "south rail yards" in Marquette's lower harbor is a former rail yard and fuel depot undergoing a major transformation. The "brownfield site" has been cleaned and capped and is being redeveloped into a residential and commercial area. The redevelopment plan includes condominiums, a hotel, and a boardwalk along the shore, public marina/piers, retail shops, and a parking structure. Much of the Lake Superior shoreline is being reserved for public open space with a shared-use path and access to the waterfront. Currently most of the condominiums have been constructed, the hotel is under construction and the seawall/board walk is constructed and open to the public. In 2009 the City of Marquette's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Amended the Brownfield Plan to include the parcels that make up Founder's Landing. This plan makes it eligible for Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) funding.



Community Playfields

Kaufman Sports Complex

The River Park Sports Complex has four large softball diamonds with spectator seating and three irrigated soccer fields with ADA compliant spectator seating and players' kicking board facilities. In addition to a large lighted parking area (gravel), the facility includes a pavilion, concession area and restroom building, picnic tables, drinking fountains, and emergency telephone.



North Marquette Athletic Field Complex

Located on Presque Isle Avenue near the corner of Presque Isle Avenue and Wright Street, the 20 acre North Marquette Athletic Field contains a softball diamond, two regulation baseball diamonds, and one junior baseball diamond, dugouts, restrooms, drinking fountains, and spectator seating including barrier free design seating. The south end of the site contains a basketball court (two hoops), slide, two swing sets (six swings total), tot riding apparatus, and an outdoor lighted ice rink during winter.

Hurley Field

Located at Mesnard and Adams Streets in “South Marquette”, historic Hurley Field has a lighted outdoor softball field. The 2.5 acre facility also contains spectator seating, dugouts and a lighted scoreboard. The adjoining playground on the east side of the field contains a basketball court (two hoops), two tot swings, picnic tables, merry-go-round, slide, climbing apparatus, play tires, a paved play area, restrooms, concession facilities, and a drinking fountain.



Setter Field

Located in Tourist Park, the two acre site includes a softball diamond, dugouts, seating, and picnic tables.



Neighborhood Parks

Williams Park



Located on the corner of Ohio Street and Pine Street, the Williams Park (a.k.a. Ohio Street Park) has three tennis courts, basketball court (two hoops) and a new playground , park benches, picnic tables, paved play area, five benches, bike rack, and a drinking fountain. Restrooms (portable) are available on a seasonal basis.

Harlow Park



Occupying a typical city size block located on Washington Street between Seventh and Morgan Streets, Harlow Park has a grassy open space, paved play area, swings, slides, see-saws, large play tires, climbing apparatus, asphalt surface basketball court (two hoops), tetherball pole, bike rack, 16 park benches, picnic tables, a drinking fountain and

a utility building. Restrooms (portable) are provided seasonally. The approximately five acre historic park has a variety of large conifers, and deciduous trees arranged symmetrically (with benches) paralleling Washington Street. There is also an established walkway system with period style lighting. The Marquette Area Veterans Memorial was constructed at Harlow Park with 10 benches.



Neighborhood Playgrounds/Playlots

Shiras Hills Park

A small playground facility located on the south side of the Shiras Hills residential development include grassy field with baseball backstop, hard play surfaces, small slide, swings, (six swings total) climbing apparatus (jungle gym), merry-go-round, tetherball pole, sandbox, picnic tables, drinking fountain, asphalt surface basketball court (two hoops/different heights) and small storage/utility building. Most of the equipment is old and/or in poor condition. Restrooms (portable) are available on a seasonal basis.

Giants Foot Park

Giants Foot Park is located in South Marquette on the corner of Albion and Mountain Streets. The playground contains sand play areas, concrete surface basketball court (two hoops), two sets of swings (6 total), merry-go-round, climbing apparatus, bike rack, picnic tables, three permanent benches, two tot riding apparatus, cross country skiing trail and hiking trail, drinking fountain and a storage/utility building. Being a hilly part of the City, the partially tree covered site is interspersed with rock outcrops. The park was developed principally by the neighborhood Giants Foot Park Association and City of Marquette.



Playlots

At this time, there are no facilities maintained by the City solely as a playlot. However, such facilities are incorporated into most of the larger recreational facilities discussed above.

Greenspace

Father Marquette Park

Located directly north of the Lake Superior Community Partnership, Father Marquette Park overlooks Lake Superior, the new Founders Landing area, and Marquette's Lower Harbor. The .5 acre site has a grassy open space, with landscaping and flowers, six park benches, picnic table, public phone, and an impressive bronze statue of Pere Jacques Marquette, the Jesuit missionary priest and explorer (1637-1675). The 20 foot tall monument sits on a prominent point amid rock outcrops and is surrounded by a fine rock pathway/step system. Presented to the City of Marquette on July 15, 1898, the statue bears the words "James Marquette-Intrepid Explorer". Local Native American tradition relates that Father Marquette camped on Lighthouse point



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during a trip along the south shore of Lake Superior in 1669. Returning to his mission at St. Ignace after visiting Native Americans in the Illinois country in 1675, he fell ill and died at age 38 along the Lake Michigan shoreline. In 1850, a year after its founding, the village of New Worcester was renamed Marquette in honor of the priest.

Downtown Pocket Park

Located on Washington Street in downtown Marquette, the Pocket Park is a small grassy area nestled between buildings that provides a connection between Washington Street and the municipal parking ramp. The former site of a commercial building itself, the space contains three aluminum park benches, lighting, brick paved walkways, way-finding signage, and a flagpole. The park is accessible by elevator from the municipal parking ramp.

Rosewood Pedestrian Connector Park

A lovely pocket park has been constructed on the former site of a rail trestle providing a connection between Front Street and the Lakeshore. This space includes a walkway, seating areas, a scenic harbor overlook and landscaping.

Spring Street Park

Located near the Snowberry Heights senior housing complex on Spring Street, the approximately three acre Spring Street Park currently consists of a large grassy open space with concrete walks meandering the location.

LaBonte Park

Located on Lakeshore Boulevard just south of the Dead River, the small (50 x 100 feet) greenspace was built in the 1930's by WPA labor under Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Mainly used as a wayside for walkers to and from the Island, the area features an interesting rock outcrop formation, metal benches, and a small pump-driven waterfall.

Linear Parks

Shared-use Paths

Shared-use paths have become increasingly popular. The City of Marquette currently maintains a total of 17 miles of Shared-Use Paths.

Much of the Holly S. Greer Shoreline Bike Path, starting where it enters the City limits from the south, serves as part of the North Country National Scenic Trail which links the Atlantic seaboard with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in North Dakota. In addition to bicyclists, the shared-use path is used extensively by walkers, joggers, and inline skating enthusiasts.



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The Iron Ore Heritage Trail is a 48 mile long Heritage Corridor that extends from the former Republic Mine site adjacent to downtown Republic, north and east through Marquette Township to the Lake Superior shoreline in downtown Marquette, where it continues generally along the shoreline and east into Chocolay Charter Township. The multi-use path follows contemporary rail corridors as well as long abandoned rail grades dating from the earliest days of mining in the Upper Peninsula. The Iron Ore Heritage Trail currently has two sections complete, running from Jackson Mine Park in the City of Negaunee through Ishpeming, and from Marquette to Kawbagam Road in Chocolay Charter Township. Construction of the eleven mile segment from Jackson Mine Park in Negaunee east to Baraga Avenue in the City of Marquette will begin in the fall of 2011. The completion of this section will result in approximately 28 miles of non-motorized multi-use path.



Significant additional shared-use path development has taken place in recent years including segments along Hawley Street, the Dead River Spur railroad grade from Washington Street to Tourist Park, and along McClellan Avenue (South). However several significant “gaps” continue to exist along the popular route. The shared-use path system is depicted in Figure 3-2.



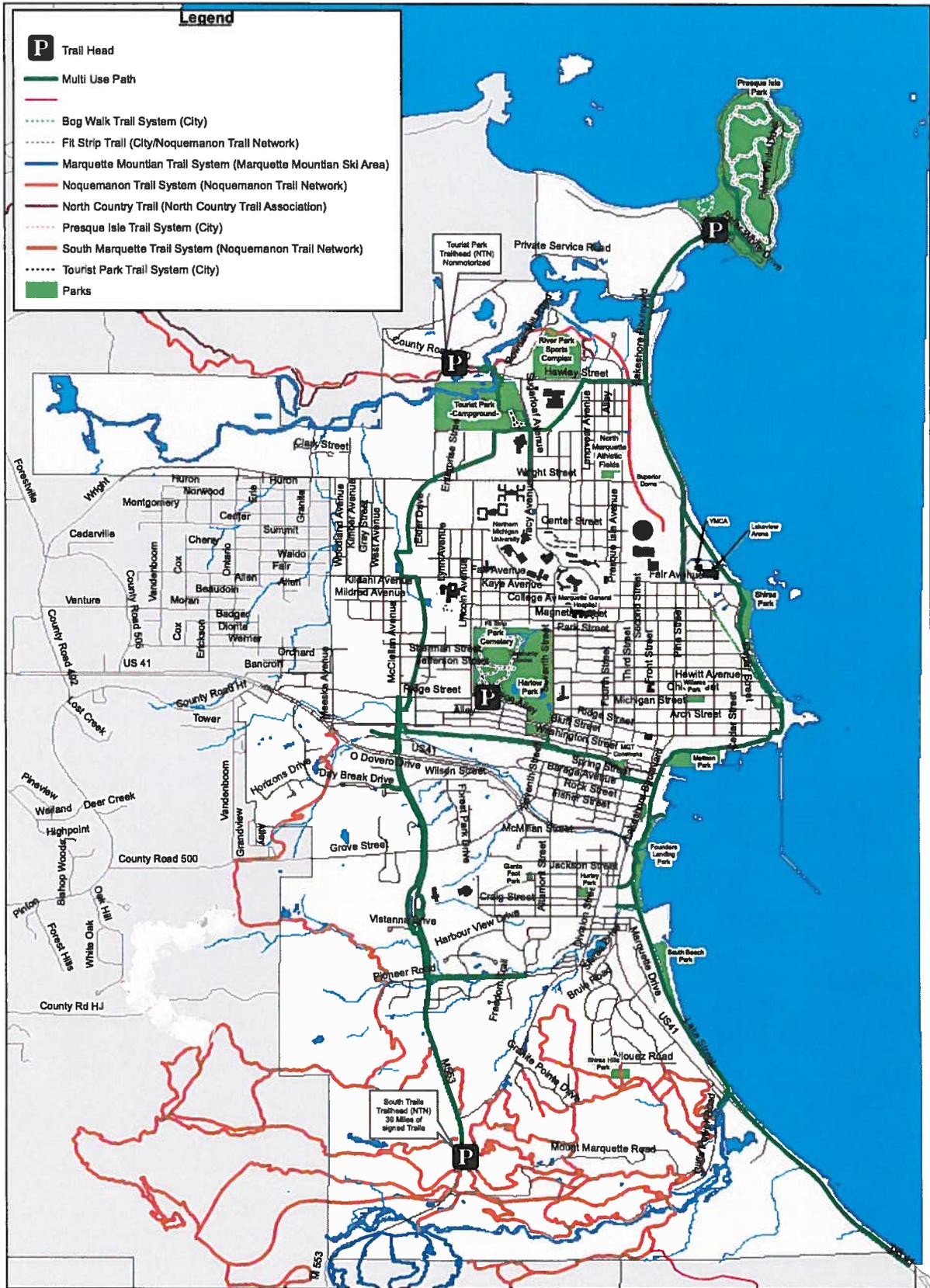


Figure 3-2: City of Marquette
Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Existing Trail Systems



Linear Park

In recent years, the city acquired a rail corridor that bisected the city. Part of this corridor through the downtown included both elevated and on-grade tracks. The elevated portion has been demolished and all track removed through the city. The Linear Park will link the Lakeshore recreational facilities and shared-use path with the bike path near McClellan Avenue. It also provides a key non-motorized link to downtown businesses.

Special Facilities

Presque Isle Marina

The Presque Isle Marina is located adjacent to the Presque Isle Park at the end of Lakeshore Blvd. While the approximately two acre marina does have picnic tables, restrooms, and limited amounts of grassy open space, its major purpose is to provide launching and docking facilities for boating and fishing enthusiasts. The marina has 67 boat slips and two ramps, each of which has two launching sites. Having served as the City's principal mooring and boat launch facility for over 30 years, the marina is in need of an upgrade. In February 2010 a Preliminary Engineering Report was completed to evaluate the physical and operational condition of the marina and provide recommendations for improvements. This eight-phase project includes dredging of the marina basin, reconstruction the boating access site, replacing the entire marina pier system, modifying the harbor entrance/break wall, renovating the harbor services building and landscaping.

Cinder Pond Marina

The 101 slip Cinder Pond Marina was completed in 1995. This modern recreational boating facility includes a harbormaster's office/restroom building, double ramp boat launch, benches, cooking grills, and picnic tables. The project was funded by the City of Marquette, MDNR Trust Fund and the Michigan State Waterways Commission. This marina is also starting to show its age. In the upcoming years the facility will also have to be renovated.

Lakeview Arena

The 72,000 square foot Lakeview Arena is located on East Fair Street at Lakeshore Boulevard near Lake Superior. The arena is accessible via the shoreline shared-use path. It has served as one of the most versatile recreation and convention facilities in the Marquette area since 1974. The facility was expanded in 1982 and underwent a major \$1.2 million renovation in 1998-99 (roof repairs, locker room enlargements, concession area improvements, new flooring, mechanical system upgrades, etc.). A 41,000 square foot YMCA building which is connected to the arena was also constructed in 1998-99 (discussed later).



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Designed for multiple uses, the Lakeview Arena houses the Parks and Recreation Division offices and a variety of recreational activities including public skating, junior and adult hockey programs, skating lessons, figure skating, and ice rental for community groups and organizations. A skateboard facility (Skateboard Park) is located just outside of the arena during summer.

Marquette Senior High School and the Marquette Electricians among others use the arena for their home hockey games. After many years of leasing the facility for its hockey program, Northern Michigan University moved into the Berry Events Center beginning with the 1999-2000 season, resulting in an annual loss of revenue of approximately \$200,000.

Two ice sheets are currently provided at Lakeview Arena, with the larger one having a 4,200 seating capacity. A variety of special events are staged each year at the arena including concerts, circuses, ice and art shows to name a few. Arena facilities are also used extensively in the spring and summer months for small and medium size conventions. In addition, the arena is used for trade, building, recreation and car shows, and large reunions, wedding receptions, high school graduation, and other events requiring the use of large facilities. Approximately 3,500 seats are available for sit down concerts and up to 4,500 attendees can be accommodated for festival style rock concerts. The Lakeview Arena is easily accessed but is deficient in parking (408 off-street spaces) for some events.

Marquette Community Center

Attached to the Marquette City Hall, the community center provides a gymnasium that is used for basketball, volleyball, exercise classes and a variety of other activities, including elections. The gym includes shower and locker facilities. Senior programs and special education programs also make use of the community center. The facility is accessible to the handicapped and is open to the general public during work week lunch hours.

Educational Facilities and Resources

Northern Michigan University

Marquette is truly fortunate to be the home of the Northern Michigan University. First opening its doors in 1899 as Northern State Normal School, NMU has an enrollment of about 9,400 students and 340 faculty on a modern 300 acre campus. Superb recreational facilities and cultural and sports events are provided by this institution, along with excellent contributions in the scholastic/academic realm. The quality of life influence on the Marquette area is significant, as is the economic impact of the NMU students and staff.

Some of the major recreational facilities and programs that are available to the residents of Marquette are described below.



Physical-Education Instructional Facility (PEIF)

The \$10 million, 185,000 square foot Physical-Education Instructional Facility (PEIF Athletic Complex), completed in 1976, contains a volleyball arena, basketball and handball-racquetball courts, wrestling and eight training rooms (5,600 square foot weight room), a sports medicine clinic, an indoor rock climbing facility, eight-lane swimming pool with a separate diving tank, locker rooms, and saunas, An indoor tennis facility was placed in PEIF building in winter 1999 in renovated space that previously housed an ice sheet.

Superior Dome

NMU is also home to the U.S.'s largest wooden dome facility, the Superior Dome. Opened in September 1991, the five acre+ indoor all-events center cost nearly \$22 million to build. The 15 story high dome contains the world's largest indoor retractable turf carpet and is the site of college and high school football games, track meets/conventions, trade shows, and other large events. Facilities that have been made available to the public include an indoor 200 meter track, tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts.

The Superior Dome is home to NMU's United State Olympic Education Center (USOEC). In recent years, a new weight room, wrestling room and boxing ring was added to the Dome for the USOEC.

Berry Events Center

The Berry Events Center opened in the fall 1999 school year. The \$10 million, 60,000 square-foot arena, is designed to accommodate university hockey, basketball and other sports activities in addition to concerts and other community and university live performance events. The Center also serves as the national training facility for the U.S. short-track speed skating team. The building features an Olympic-sized ice surface that can be covered for basketball and other events and a seating capacity of over 3,800 fixed seats and standing room for an additional 400. Situated in close proximity to each other, the Berry Event Center, PEIF Athletic Complex, and the Superior Dome are conveniently linked by connector buildings/walkways.

Outdoor Facilities

The University's outdoor facilities include, a tennis facility with eight courts, track and field hockey/soccer areas, and nearby Longyear Forest informal hiking trails in Marquette Township. Four new soccer and football practice fields have been constructed north of the Superior Dome.

Most of the University's facilities are available to the public on an intermittent basis, some of which entail user fees and/or recreation program memberships. NMU also offers a variety of instructional sports and recreation classes for youth and adults through Community Outreach Program.



USOEC

The U.S. Olympic Education Center (USOEC), which has produced gold and silver medal-winning champions, is located on the NMU campus. It is the first and only Olympic training site to provide educational opportunities to the athletes. The Center offers programs in biathlon, boxing, Naturbahn luge, Nordic skiing, Greco-Roman wrestling, short-track speed skating and ski jumping, among others.

Local Schools

School grounds and buildings have long been important providers of user-oriented recreation facilities. Parochial schools include Father Marquette Elementary School and Father Marquette Middle School. The public schools in Marquette are of a modern type design with ample recreational facilities. There are no plans for additional schools in the immediate future. Fortunately, Marquette's school facilities are distributed by population. The use of school facilities, especially indoor use, is often restricted. Nevertheless, schools are a very important recreational resource to the general public by offering opportunities during designated times and/or on a rental basis (e.g. multi-purpose gymnasiums).

Marquette High School – Located on the corner of Lincoln and West Fair Streets, the high school has a softball diamond, an outdoor basketball court, a paved play surface, eight tennis courts, a lighted football field, and a renovated quarter-mile track with field event facilities. Both the track and the football fields are served by stadium structured spectator seating. Major indoor recreational facilities include a swimming pool and a gymnasium, which are used for community swimming and classes.

Bothwell Middle School – Located near the western end of the Mesnard Street in the south part of the City, Bothwell Middle School serves grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. It has an open play area with two undeveloped baseball fields, a straight track, an open field, and a gymnasium. The field situated between the middle school and the newer Superior Hills Elementary School is used for informal soccer practices.

Graveraet School – Currently services as the alternative school. It also is and location of the Kaufman Auditorium used for local theatre productions.

Superior Hills Elementary School – Marquette's newest public school is located just west of Bothwell Middle School off recently constructed McClellan Avenue (South). Recreational facilities include paved and open play areas with playground equipment and a multipurpose gymnasium. This school site is connected to the McClellan Avenue shared-use path.



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Sandy Knoll Elementary School – Located on the corner of Seventh and East Michigan Streets, the Sandy Knoll School has 13 swings, 3 climbing apparatus, a slide, a merry-go-round, 3 see-saws, a basketball court (1 hoop), 2 tennis courts, a paved play area, an open play area, and a multi-purpose gymnasium.

Father Marquette Elementary School – A parochial elementary school located on the corner of North Fourth and Fisher Streets, Bishop Baraga School has an open play area and a multipurpose gymnasium.

Father Marquette Middle School – Located on the corner of Presque Isle Avenue and West College Street, this parochial school has basketball court, tether ball pole, an open play area, and a multi-purpose gymnasium.

Public Programs and Events

A very wide variety of recreation programs, activities and events are available to a diverse range of population segments in the Marquette area. They are sponsored by a variety of government units, school districts, special interest groups and private businesses. Many programs are available regardless of place of residence.

Senior Citizens

Since its inception in 1974, the Marquette senior services/community center located in the City building (currently the Helen I. Johnson Service Center) has developed a wide range of social, educational and recreational programs to increase the quality and promote the independence of Marquette's older residents.

NMU (e.g. swimming) also provides senior programs. The following is a listing of recreational programs offered by the Marquette Service Center:

- Cribbage League
- Social Work/Services
- Dances
- Senior Social Center
- Physical Fitness
- Birthday Parties
- Educational Programs

Special Events

Marquette is the site of many well-organized event activities and attractions. In cooperation with various local organizations, the City of Marquette assists in coordinating a variety of the special events. Major annual events in the community include:



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- U.P. 200 Sled Dog Championship and Midnight Run
- Midsummer Scandinavian Fest
- Hiawatha Music Festival
- Art on the Rocks
- Outback Art Show & Sale
- Rotary West Seafood Festival
- Band/Performance Concerts
- Blueberry Dance Festival
- Local Tours (Garden and Historic Building)
- Carnivals and Circuses
- Marquette Independence Day Celebration
- Exchange Club International Food Festival
- U.P. Gospel Music Fest
- Marquette Christmas Celebration
- Noquemanon Ski Marathon
- Presque Isle Glacier Glide Art Show
- Ore to Shore Bike Festival

There is an ever increasing demand for additional event activities and attractions in the Marquette area. While the existing events and activities could be built upon and/or new ones created, the principal current sites for most outdoor functions (i.e. Tourist Park and particularly Mattson Lower Harbor Park and Presque Isle Park) are reaching their respective handling capacities to accommodate much more intense use. A new attractive place is needed for special events like music fests, concerts, ethnic festivities, exhibits, and food festivals.

Current City Programs

The Parks and Recreation Division has supported and/or helped coordinate such recreational developments as the Marquette area Great Lakes State Bottomlands Preserve and Trans-Peninsula Snowmobile Trail. The YMCA of Marquette County (discussed below) and NMU get-fit programs and other outreach activities have eased the City's programming load considerably. Nevertheless the department provides many facilities and space to house activities by other providers and remains responsible for a variety of all-season activities. The list below includes programs sponsored directly or indirectly by the department.

WINTER

- Junior Hockey
- Cross Country Skiing
- Women's Volleyball
- Figure Skating
- "Drop in" Hockey
- 35 Years and Older Basketball League
- Under 35 Basketball League (periodically)



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- Senior Men's Hockey
- Indoor Open Skating
- Outdoor Open Skating
- Open Noon Hour Gym

SUMMER

- T-Ball, 7 and 8 Year Olds
- Open Swimming
- Skateboard Activities
- Junior Little League – 8-12 Years
- Senior Little League – 13-15 Years
- Playground Activities (Staffed)
- Crew
- Soccer Leagues

YMCA of Marquette County

The YMCA of Marquette County (the Y) is located on the corner of Pine and Fair Avenues. The Y offers many opportunities for Marquette County residents to be active, healthy and engaged. Program offerings range from swimming lessons, travel basketball, competitive swimming, and youth sports, to group fitness classes, before and after school care, and summer day camp. These programs are offered throughout Marquette County, and utilize the YMCA facility, Marquette Senior High School, Kaufman Sports Complex, Vandenboom Child Development Center, Lake Superior Village Youth and Family Center, and many other locations.

The YMCA's facility includes a family pool, wellness center, multi-purpose group exercise room, gymnasium, Kids' gym, drop-in child care, locker rooms and a lounge for youth and teens. The Y is looking to expand their current facility by 2014. They hope to double the size of their current Wellness Center and to add an additional multi-purpose room.

All programs operated by the Y are designed to promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Other

Several health and fitness education programs are available through the Marquette County Health Department. The County Sheriff's Department, in cooperation with local school districts, offer programs in boating, snowmobiling, and hunter safety. Up to 400 individuals are reached annually in each of the courses. Boater safety programs are also provided by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Michigan National Guard Armory gymnasium is available on occasion (rental basis) for various recreational activities, gatherings and events.



Private Recreational Opportunities

Recreation has traditionally been viewed as a need that is to be satisfied by the public sector; privately operated facilities are playing an increasing important role in providing recreational opportunities to the community. With the increase in leisure time and the demand for recreation, the public sector cannot supply all the activities that are desired by the residents.

For the purpose of this section, the private recreation system is divided into two broad categories; profit and non-profit recreation enterprises. The role of the private recreation enterprise is to provide a needed product at a profit. These businesses can offer the opportunity to experience an array of recreational activities to residents while contributing to city economic development strategies. Private recreation facilities have tremendous potential to improve the position of the City in the regional tourism market and enhance its opportunities for maintaining a share of tourism expenditures. Recreational opportunities provided by private profit-making facilities in the City are relatively few. Following is a partial list of available private sports and recreation facilities in the Marquette area:

- Athletic Club (5)
- Bowling Alley
- Alpine Ski Area
- Charter Fishing (3)
- Bike Rentals (2)
- Outfitters/Guides (3)
- Cross Country Skiing
- BMX Track
- Golf Courses (3)
- Multi-Screen Movie Theaters (2)
- Private Marine Mooring Facilities (2)
- Scuba/Diving
- Yacht Club

With regards to tourism, an expansion of these business enterprises and attractions could increase the number of visitors which would result in more spending on goods and services available in Marquette. As previously discussed, tourism is a significant industry which has been on the upswing over the past ten years.

Nationally, recreation demand is increasing due to the growth of certain age groups, especially seniors who have both time and money to travel. Scenic beauty, naturalness, and open space are major draws and form the basis for non-urban tourism in the Upper Great Lakes. Job producing recreational activities include snowmobiling, cross country skiing, hiking, bicycling, lake-related boating activities, and others. Tourist related activities support primary jobs and have the potential to create work in the service sector (via lodging, shopping, dining, etc.). The provision of recreation opportunities is seen as one way to assist in attracting and keeping visitors in the area to stimulate the local economy. Also important is the protection of local visual



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quality, land acquisition for protection of natural resources and features, and the management of public lands for multiple/year-round uses.

Non-profit organizations comprise the other category of the private recreation system. Although Marquette is somewhat lacking in certain profit-making recreation enterprises, it is fortunate to have many civic, church and youth groups. These organizations offer a wide range of recreational activities for both young and old and provide volunteer help in operating and maintaining many of the City's recreational facilities.

An example of organization participation in the maintenance area would be the Adopt-a-Park Program which has included as many as 32 locations. These groups also serve to meet the social needs of people with similar interest. In addition to making improvements to the City's parks, athletic fields and other sports facilities, virtually every public program and event held in the City is assisted by volunteers.

The following abbreviated list represents a partial inventory of non-profit groups currently providing recreational programs and activities in the Marquette area:

- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Peninsula Waters Girls Scouts
- Hiawathaland Boy Scouts
- Mqt. Junior Hockey Corp
- S.A.Y. of Superiorland (Soccer)
- Metro Fast Pitch League
- Figure Skating Club
- Marquette Rotary
- Marquette Rotary West
- Men's Slow Pitch League
- Ensign Fleet 35
- KMK Bike Club
- American Legion Baseball
- Elks Club
- Lions Club
- Kiwanis
- Moose Lodge
- Little League
- Women's Softball League
- Commercial Travelers
- Marquette Luge Club
- Women's Volleyball League
- Marquette Underwater Preserve
- Marquette Tennis Association
- Girls Fastball League
- Upper Peninsula Community Rowing Club
- Superior Watershed Partnership
- Noquemanon Trail Network
- Moosewood Nature Center
- Superiorland Ski Club

In addition to the organizations listed above, there are numerous city church groups, bridge clubs, women's clubs, and other organizations that offer outreach programs, social gatherings and activities such as bingo games. These groups serve many city residents with some of the activities they provide being geared particularly to senior citizens.



Supplementing the City's two public marinas is the privately-owned and operated Lower Harbor Association. In the past, over forty recreational boats have been berthed in a season through the Association's facilities. The Marquette Fish Producers Association operates a dock in the lower harbor that berths more than twenty recreational water craft.

Cultural, Natural and Historic Resources

This section describes Marquette's cultural, natural and historic resources which so profoundly influence the quality of our lives. Because of the abundance and extensive variety of resources available to the community, a broad overview is provided here. Another source of information is the Marquette County Special and Unique Environments Inventory (MCSUEI) which is maintained by the County Resource Management/Development Department. It was created through the efforts of, and via a cooperative agreement between, the County and DNR. Although some of the resource information may be dated, the inventory is interesting and informative. The MSCUEI identifies and locates manmade features and natural resources including recreational site and facilities, cultural, historic and archaeological sites and natural features such as endangered species, geology, rivers, etc.

Cultural Resources

Kaufman Auditorium

The historic Kaufman Auditorium, built in 1928, seats approximately 830 people. The facility is maintained by the Marquette Area Public School District and is housed in the Graveraet Middle School building. Community and NMU groups utilize Kaufman extensively, with a majority of performances being geared toward the general public.

Forest Roberts Theater

Forest Roberts Theater, located on the campus of Northern Michigan University, is an excellent facility. The 535 seat theater was recently improved with new drapes, repainting, and the re-upholstery of all seats. University related events dominate the schedule with community groups competing for the few remaining free days. While performances are largely NMU related, most are open to the public.

Other Performing Arts Areas/Planned Facilities

There are several other locations in Marquette that have been used for performing arts events in the past but which are designed for activities completely different and thus are severely limited in their effectiveness. Among the areas used in the past have been St. Peter's Cathedral, Masonic Temple, Fraziers Lake Superior Boathouse (home of Lake Superior Theatre, Inc.), the Marquette High School auditorium, three lecture rooms in Jamrich Hall and the Great Lakes Rooms at Northern Michigan University. NMU's Superior Dome, and C.B. Hedgcock Fieldhouse



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and the City's Lakeview Arena are currently used for large, single event performances including nationally known music acts which attract several thousand spectators. These venues serve adequately in this regard, though they all suffer from generally poor acoustics.

Additionally, NMU completed construction of a 290 seat recital hall during the 2000-2001 school year. The Reynolds Concert Hall accommodates student and faculty music recitals, guest lecturers, small chamber programs, and cultural events. It was built through the renovation of almost 8,000 square feet of the C.B. Hedgcock Fieldhouse (the "small gym" area). The University also plans to create a 125 seat black box theater and technical theater production facility in McClintock Hall.

The City of Marquette leases approximately 5,600 square feet in the Peter White Library. The area includes a 230 seat auditorium shared with the library for presentations and performances, workshop and classroom space, art supply and consignment gift shop, space for visual arts exhibits, and offices for the City's Arts and Culture Coordinator and staff.

Peter White Public Library

Completed in 1904, and expanded in 1958 and 2000, the Peter White Library is an outstanding and beautifully located facility. The collection has expanded from the original 6,000 items (from the White family and the School District Library) to approximately 100,000 volumes today, making it the largest public library in the Upper Peninsula. In addition to providing for City needs, service extends to outlying areas in the County. Based on past and anticipated future growth, the library experienced a major expansion and renovation to provide modern community library service, improve accessibility and enhance aesthetics. The \$10 million expansion and modernization project increased building size from 26,000 to 63,000 square feet housing both library and community art center space. It should be noted that supplementing the Peter White Library, reading and research opportunities are provided by NMU's Olsen Library with over 300,000 volumes and the John M. Longyear Research Library with 10,000 volumes.

Art Galleries/Visual Arts

With the exception of some generally small sites, there is not much space in Marquette for use by the public or by community groups for display or creation of the visual arts. The DeVos Art Museum at Northern Michigan University is specifically designed for art display. The gallery's 2,000 square feet of exhibit space features many national artists and fine traveling exhibitions during the school year and regional artists during the summer.



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A number of private art galleries are located in the City that display and sell local arts and crafts. Occasionally, areas in shopping malls, the Peter White Library, City Hall, restaurants and motel lobbies are used for art exhibition. While the availability of small and/or private informal space has increased over the past ten years, there are no public facilities outside of NMU for the formal exhibition of art work.

Presently, Marquette has few community spaces specifically designed as creative areas for arts in classroom, workshop or studio form. Those private areas that are available are severely limited in their use. The Women's Federated Clubhouse, the Peter White Public Library and the Community Center section of City Hall have space available for public meetings. However, they rarely accommodate the visual arts and their use is restricted with regard to scheduling and accessibility. Opening of the aforementioned City of Marquette Arts and Culture facility in the Peter White Public Library addition has provided some much needed relief to the lack of space issue.

The Marquette County Historical Museum

Located on the corner of Spring Street and Third Street, the Marquette County History Museum is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1918. The museum is open to the public and features exhibits, artifacts, and research materials related to the cultural heritage and economic development of the Central Upper Peninsula and Upper Great Lakes. The Marquette County Regional History Center recently opened in its current location. The new facility includes a large reception area, approximately four times the exhibit space of the old facility, special exhibit gallery, more educational opportunities for school groups and a completely ADA accessible facility.

The Marquette Maritime Museum

The museum, located on Lakeshore Boulevard near the Lower Harbor breakwater in the historic 1891 sandstone Water Works building, provides a glimpse of the Great Lakes' and Marquette area's nautical histories. Self-guided displays include exhibits of old boats, birch bark canoes and marine hardware, navigational instruments, outboard motors and memorabilia which promote a greater understanding of the area's maritime heritage. A small museum store is also located in the building.

The museum contains the largest collection of lighthouse lenses in the Great Lakes, and operates the historic 1866 Marquette Harbor Lighthouse, which is in the process of restoration. The museum building is located adjacent to the former Coast Guard station and a large parcel owned by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard currently uses only portions of this property and has agreed, once proper environmental assessments are done to turn the property over to the City.



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Upper Peninsula Children’s Museum

This museum is geared to (and a good part designed by) tots and youngsters. Housed in a completely renovated downtown building on Baraga Avenue, it features interpretive tours and “hands on” interaction with exhibits that promote an understanding of science, health and culture.

Shiras Planetarium

Located at Marquette Senior High School on Fair Avenue, the recently renovated planetarium offers a schedule of public astronomical shows and exhibits for all age groups.

Organizations

A partial inventory of public and private cultural organizations in Marquette is given below.

- Lake Superior Theater
- Lake Superior Art Association
- Marquette Arts Council
- Marquette Choral Society
- Marquette Community Concert Association
- Marquette Community Theater
- Marquette Folk Dancers
- Marquette Maritime Museum
- Marquette Symphony Orchestra
- NMU Department of Theater
- NMU Performing Arts Series
- NMU Department of Art and Design
- Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council
- Upper Peninsula Arts Coordinating Board
- Upper Peninsula Youth Orchestra
- WNMU Public Radio and TV
- NMU Department of Music
- Marquette County Historical Society
- Hiawatha Music Co-op
- Stage Company
- NMU International Dancers

Natural Resources

The Marquette area has been blessed with a diverse range of natural assets which lend themselves to outstanding recreational use and cultural activities. Marquette is characterized by forests, rivers, rugged topography, rock outcrops, lengthy sand beaches and the largest body of freshwater in the world, Lake Superior. Weather and climate too make their mark—beautiful temperature summers and a very distinct winter season.

Because of its unique natural setting, and the fact that Marquette is the center for a large region and has many visitors annually, the City’s recreational needs are unlike those of many smaller size communities.

The City of Marquette has an adopted Master Plan which is a long range guide for the use of land in the community. It consists of a map depicting a desirable arrangement of land uses along with supporting documentation and policy recommendations. Areas proposed for parks, recreation areas, and open space reflect “potentials” for recreation which relate to tourism and



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the goal of preserving the area's outstanding natural features, rather than solely by future needs relating to population growth.

The range in elevation is considered to be one of Marquette's most attractive features. A large portion of land in Marquette has slopes in excess of 18 percent. These areas are found mainly in the southern portion of the City along the Carp River in the Mount Marquette area. A large tract of land in this area was acquired by the City of Marquette in 2005. While steep slopes may not be conducive to building development, such terrain can be aesthetically appealing as well as provide an opportunity for outdoor recreation activities such as cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and hiking.

Historic Resources

The City of Marquette is a place of great historical wealth in terms of architecture and historic sites. The City's historic sites, buildings and places, as listed by state and federal historic registers, are shown in Figure 15. Additional information regarding the significance of these places is given in Appendix 11. In addition to those places listed on national and state registers of historic places, many other sites of historical significance exist within the City of Marquette. These sites should be considered for preservation and rehabilitation in the development of the community.

A prime example is Presque Isle, which was used by Native Americans long before white settlers arrived to the area. The history of the site as a park is long and interesting. Efforts should continue in maintenance and preservation of the peninsula.

Another good example is the old Dead River bridge on CR550 which was left standing after the construction of the new vehicular bridge was constructed specifically because of its unique design and architecture. The bridge was constructed in 1931 and meets criteria for placement on the National Register due to its unique Camel Back construction and age. The bridge is already used for fishing, pedestrian and cross-country ski traffic. An organized effort could better integrate the structure into the City's park and non-motorized transportation system.

Many buildings in the City are unique due to their cultural or historical significance including the Marquette Historical Society Building which was once a church. Getz Department Store is one of the oldest businesses in Marquette. St. Peter's Cathedral on Fourth Street contains the tomb of Bishop Frederic Baraga. The 1866 harbor lighthouse is the oldest major building in the City. Other sites include remnants of a charcoal kiln dating to the mid-1800s near the mouth of the Carp River which is connected to Marquette's iron industry. Near this site is also the site of the first post office in the area, the Carp River Post Office, which was established in 1847.

A list of all historical sites in the City would be quite extensive. Suffice to say, historic resources have great recreation value and Marquette has outstanding sites of historic and architectural significance. Any new development or building activity should respect the historical resources of



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the specific site and the City as a whole. The Marquette Historical Society has information helpful in such necessary research.

Recreation Opportunities Outside the City

Outdoor recreation opportunities abound within easy driving (or hiking/biking) distance of Marquette. Examples include:

Longyear Forest – This one hundred and eighty (180) acre picturesque forested property is located immediately north of the City. Owned by Northern Michigan University it is used principally for educational purposes. The parcel includes a nature trail, physical fitness course and cross country ski trail designed for experts (originally used by NMU's cross country ski team). The tract is used informally by the public.

Little Presque Isle – Readily accessible by County Road 550 a few miles north of the City, the DNR managed property consists of 2,800 acres with 8,900 feet of highly valued Lake Superior shoreline. The site has served as a "local" recreation area for many years, offering many quiet and scenic opportunities. Acquired by the State in 1979 in a land exchange with Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, the property includes the 64 acre Harlow Lake, Hogback Mountain, Little Presque Isle, several streams, and an 8.6 acre island. The Little Presque Isle site includes a swimming beach, universally accessible path and concrete overlook, vault toilet, Songbird Trail, and a portion of the North Country Trail.

Sugarloaf Mountain Natural Area – Located on County Road 550 immediately adjacent to Little Presque Isle, Sugarloaf Mountain is an eighty-plus (80+) acre recreation site owned and maintained by the County of Marquette. Developed facilities include a parking lot, trails and stairways leading to the top. With the assistance of a Coastal Zone Management grant, \$100,000 in trail and stair improvements were constructed in 1999. The hike to the summit takes about half an hour. A lookout platform 315 feet above the base of the mountain provide a stunning panoramic scenic view of Lake Superior and surrounding countryside. There is a monument at the peak that recognizes A. Barlett King, a local Boy Scout leader who was killed during WWI.

Snowmobile Trails – There are a variety of designated snowmobile trails in surrounding Chocolay and Marquette Townships with informal access to outskirt motels and restaurants.

North Country Natural Scenic Trail – A portion of this National Park Service sponsored non-motorized trail comes into the City from Chocolay Township to the south. The trail traverses Marquette Township (i.e. from the Lake Superior shoreline in the City of Marquette west below the Dead River to County Road 550, north to Wetmore Pond, Hogback Mountain, Wetmore's Landing, Little Presque Isle area, then northwest along the banks of the Little Garlic River). This trail will ultimately link the Atlantic seaboard with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in North Dakota.



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Wetmore Pond Interpretive Nature Trails – This nature trail system, located south of Hogback Mountain and west of Sugarloaf Mountain, is situated mostly on corporately owned land. It is part of the previously discussed North Country Trail. A variety of terrain features are included ranging from rock outcrops to marsh wetlands. The trail system was a joint effort by Mead Corporation, NMU, the local North Country Trail Hikers Association and the DNR.

Michigamme State Forest – Located in the northern half of Marquette Township, this 420 acre property is open to the public for wilderness camping, hiking, and fishing.

Thomas Rock Overlook – Located in Powell Township one mile west of County Road 550 on County Road 510. The site includes a parking area, picnic area, vault toilets, a half mile universally accessible path with benches, and boardwalks. Two overlook platforms provide beautiful views of Lake Independence, the community of Big Bay and Lake Superior.

There are several other nearby regional state-owned/operated facilities that are enjoyed by many city residents including Van Riper State Park on Lake Michigamme about 20 miles to the west (226 camp sites). State forest campgrounds in Marquette County include Bass Lake; Little Lake and Pike Lake near the Village of Gwinn; Horseshoe Lake and Squaw Lake near the community of Witch Lake; and Beaufort Lake near Village of Michigamme. These State campgrounds provide approximately 130 total campsites. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Campgrounds are located in Alger County which lies immediately east of Marquette County.

Barrier Free Compliance – Universal Design

The City of Marquette develops recreational facilities that provide access to people with disabilities in conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other applicable State and Federal regulations.

With this Recreation Plan, the City of Marquette is expanding its commitment to barrier-free access by incorporating Universal Design into plans for new facilities and renovation projects. Universal Design is described as follows:

Universal Design is a process that looks beyond the written codes and laws that govern accessibility in the built environment. It is a process that looks to the population as a whole and the myriad of physical challenges across all age groups; issues like low vision, hearing loss, what many refer to as their “bum knee” and the like. Inclusive design is perhaps more descriptive of the thinking that is involved. It extends to paint color to increase ambient light for aging baby boomers, to more open visually connected spaces for people with failing hearing that rely more on vision. It includes the attention to the small details that provide additional comfort to those with disability beyond the letter of the code. For example control joints struck into wet concrete meet the letter of barrier free codes and laws. However they transmit considerable force thru the hard tires of a wheel chair. This not only causes premature failure of



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the bearings but is very uncomfortable for those with spinal injury. Saw cutting the joints serves the same structural purpose and greatly reduces the negative effect of tooled joints.

The importance of universal design to the City of Marquette and its Recreation program is supported simply by its aging demographic. The greatest source of disability in America today is not accident, but aging. Looking beyond the regulations that govern accessible design is the challenge. The result is a better, higher functioning built environment for a greater number of people. Additional information on Inclusive Design can be found at the Institute for Human Centered Design, <http://www.adaptenv.org/>.



CHAPTER 4

PARK SYSTEM ANALYSIS



Overview

Citizens of the City of Marquette are very proud of the numerous recreational opportunities, venues and programs available to them, evidenced by comments received during public meetings and by the high rate of use. The City of Marquette's recreation facilities are clearly outstanding for a city of its size.

For the most part, the inventory of Marquette's recreational facilities did not reveal any major issues or problems with the existing facilities. Generally, all park facilities have been well-maintained over time. The citizen recreational survey also did not identify any particular issues with facilities.

However, some problems and deficiencies have been identified. These will be described in this Chapter.

Analysis of the Park System

Presque Isle Park

Presque Isle Park is noted as the City of Marquette's crown jewel and this distinction was confirmed by the recreation survey and user data for the park. User satisfaction is very high with Presque Isle, however some problems are noted:

- Erosion along the west shoreline continues to be a problem, and threatens the roadway and pedestrian pathway. A study, completed by STS Consultants has recommended costly measures to control this problem. Given the popularity of automobile access around the island, erosion control must be addressed.
- The existing restroom facility on the south side of the Island is in poor condition and should be replaced.
- With the popularity of walking and hiking in the City of Marquette, completing a pedestrian pathway around the island should be a priority, as well as maintaining the interior pathways.
- The Bogwalk/boardwalk near the Moosewood Nature Center is showing its age and needs maintenance. It could also be upgraded to be universally accessible.
- Improve informational signage to include interpretive information about interesting geology, history and natural features.
- Safety fencing and warning signage is needed in several areas to create awareness of the dangers of Lake Superior.
- Parking lot paving improvements that are sensitive to the natural environment should be completed.
- Universal accessibility upgrades are needed throughout the park.

Lake Superior Shoreline

A distinguishing feature of Marquette is the extensive Lake Superior shoreline found in the City. Marquette has taken full advantage of this unique geographical resource by developing beautiful parks, beaches, community gathering places, as well as two marinas. A very popular shared-



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use path along the entire length of the City's Lake Superior waterfront links all of these recreational opportunities together.

The waterfront parks in Marquette serve the community in several capacities:

- As regional parks or destinations, the Marquette waterfront parks and open space attract area residents from outside the city, as well as tourists and other community visitors.
- The waterfront parks serve as community or neighborhood parks, providing play areas as well as picnic, beach and other recreational activities. These parks are reasonably and safely accessible from most of the city's neighborhoods.
- The waterfront parks are really part of an overall community green space or linear park network.

As a defining feature of the City of Marquette, the City should continue to improve and enhance the waterfront park system as well as the shared-use path which links these green spaces. In addition, the city should continue efforts with the proposed land swap with the United States Government which will add the former Coast Guard Station and Lighthouse property to the waterfront park system.

Park Needs in the Southwest

Due to the growth of single-family housing and multi-family dwellings in the south and southwest part of Marquette, an additional neighborhood or community park will be needed in the future. This growing area along the McClellan Avenue corridor and the already-developed neighborhoods south of the bypass are somewhat isolated from the existing waterfront park network. Safe access to these parks becomes more difficult for children on foot or bicycles.

The City of Marquette acquired a large tract of land that expands from the south edge of Marquette into Sands and Marquette Townships for future development and recreational open space purposes. In 2010, the Heartwood Forestland Ad-Hoc Committee completed a study identifying areas of potential development, conservation and potential partnerships for the development and maintenance of recreation facilities on the property. As previously stated in Chapter 3, the report recommended approximately 930 acres for development, approximately 1,063 areas for conservation and public recreation and approximately 250 acres for deferred development. Based on the recommendations in the report, a detailed Master Plan for the acquired land is important at this time and should accomplish the following:

- Identify important existing trail networks as well as other desirable trail links and systems to be preserved for recreational use prior to development.
- Identify specific locations with suitable soils, slopes and other physical characteristics for residential and other development.
- Identify locations for at least one neighborhood park.
- Consider redevelopment options for the old landfill site west of McClellan Avenue.



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Presque Isle Marina

A major recreational need already identified and studied relates to the deteriorating condition of the Presque Isle Marina. In February of 2010 a Preliminary Engineering Report was completed to evaluate the physical and operational condition of the marina. The report recommends an eight-phase, multi-year construction plan to upgrade and improve the marina.

Tourist Park

The Tourist Park character was radically changed by the Dead River flood, and resulted in the loss of the lake/flowage. This feature was a major attraction for the campground. However, if the project remains on schedule the flowage should be filled by summer of 2012. As part of the \$4.8 million restoration project, the Broad of Light and Power plans to restore the swimming beach adjacent to Tourist Park and create 13 acres of wetland habitat.

While the City of Marquette may not have much influence on the rebuilding of the dam that creates the flowage, universal access from the park to the new swimming beach should be considered. Consideration should also be given to enhancing the campground and keeping it competitive with state parks and private campgrounds in the region. Primitive cabins are growing in popularity and becoming common at campgrounds and should be considered for Tourist Park. Eliminating tent sites at the campground has also been suggested.

Playgrounds in the Park System

Generally, playgrounds and play equipment in the City parks are in good condition, but at some point, will need upgrades and replacement as budget permits. This is true for all of the playgrounds/play equipment except for the large play area/Kids Kingdom at Mattson Park. New ADA and safety standards should be followed in the selection and installation of new play equipment following the guidelines of the latest edition of the U.S. Consumer and Product Safety Commissions Handbook for Public Playground Safety. A new inclusive play area has been suggested in Presque Isle Park.

Signage

One deficiency noted in the overall park system analysis is the lack of a unifying theme and look for park signage and wayfinding. Current park signage includes a variety of types, materials and styles. An attractive, standard system of signage has been developed and is being implemented to better identify the parks, as well as direct park users to key attractions, activity areas, parking, restrooms and other facilities. Wayfinding signage directing users to City destinations and local businesses throughout the City's shared-use path system have been suggested.



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Shared-use Paths and Trails

The maintenance of existing shared-use paths is clearly a priority of Marquette citizens as identified in the recreation survey. The existing path network is paved for hikers, joggers and bikers, and has only a few missing links to complete. The lakeshore shared-use path segment is a part of the National North Country Trail and the segment along the lake in South Marquette is also part of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

At the community recreational planning meetings held, several groups showed support for expansion and maintenance of mountain bike trails as well.

The linear park trail segment through the center of Marquette serves as an important east/west piece of the shared-use path system and is also part of the 48-mile Iron Ore Heritage Trail, a shared-use path stretching from Lake Superior to Republic in western Marquette County.

The Marquette Commons has been identified as an excellent location for an “urban” trailhead for the City’s multi-use trails as well as the major trail network being developed in the Heartwood property. The Marquette Commons central location, availability of parking and restroom facilities, and ease of access to all trails makes this an excellent location for an urban trailhead.

This will also benefit visitors with access to services, shops and restaurants, and enhance tourism impacts. The City of Marquette should collaborate with the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) organization to make this idea possible.

The NTN has a goal of establishing 100 miles of mountain bike trails in and around the City of Marquette by the year 2020. The City should assist and cooperate with this effort and support inter-jurisdictional efforts to link and expand trail networks.

A growing concern with the development of hiking and mountain biking trails is the environmental impacts of trails and their use. The International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) has standards for sustainable trail design. Just as there are engineering standards that the City uses for construction of utilities and streets, the IMBA sustainable design standards ensure that trails will last, require less maintenance, and minimize environmental impacts on natural areas. The City of Marquette should embrace and incorporate the IMBA standards as part of its partnership with the NTN.

In addition, a segment of the waterfront shared-use path near the South Beach, extending the path system to the Carp River was completed in the summer of 2011. However, east-west link in south Marquette is necessary to connect the waterfront pathway with South McClellan and the South Trails trailhead. It has been suggested that Pioneer Road could be used for this east-west link.



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A water trail has been developed along the Lake Superior shoreline in Marquette County for kayaking and canoeing. As part of the project, access and landings have been identified. A landing and locker facility should be constructed near the downtown waterfront.

As land in the city-owned Heartwood Forest property is considered for development or for sale, existing developed trails should be surveyed and permanent public easements created. This will preserve the existing trail network as well as enhance the property being sold or developed.

Rowing

Rowing is a sport that is growing in popularity in the area. The Upper Peninsula Community Rowing Club (UPCRC) helps promote the sport by offering men and women ages 18 and over the opportunity to participate. The UPCRC also runs youth programs through the high school for interested students. In order to help promote their sport, the UPCRC has asked for the City's support in developing a portion of the lakefront near downtown for a boathouse and community building.

Analysis of Existing Parks by Type and Condition

Park Rating Criteria

Each park's condition was rated as excellent, good, fair or poor. Those conditions are defined as follows:

Excellent is reserved for those parks that are state-of-the-art in both construction and design. These parks will not require any major repairs or modernization for at least ten years. Very little leeway is given for imperfections such as peeling paint, graffiti, rust, or inadequate play area surfacing, etc.

Good is a rating given to those parks whose design and amenities are strong in appearance but are showing the normal wear and tear expected throughout a park system. Maintenance appears to be regular, the grass is mowed, play area surfacing is kept at an acceptable depth and free of weeds, structures are painted and major repairs or renovation is at least five to ten years away.

Fair is a rating in which the property itself may very well be attractive but the amenities are in a state of decline. Maintenance is less frequent or at least cannot turn back the clock on normal decline. Play equipment is still safe but maybe rusting, bleaching or covered with mildew; structures such as restroom buildings are in need of repairs such as paint, shingles or cleaned of graffiti; ball fields are playable but the infields are grass covered creating a hazard, fencing is warped or rusting, dugouts are undersized or may flood when it rains and bleachers are not up to code. These parks need major repairs or renovation within three to five years.



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Poor is a rating for which the park and its amenities, as a whole, are at the end of their life cycle. Typically, a park in poor condition is not well maintained. There may be trash on site as well as glass and weeds. The amenities are out of date and in many cases are unsafe or fail to meet current codes. Frequently, parks in this category appear to have been all but abandoned. These parks need rebuilding following a new master plan as soon as it can be scheduled.

Park Type Descriptions

Each Marquette park has been categorized by type. The park types which are available in the city include: neighborhood parks, community parks, special use parks, pocket parks and linear parks. Descriptions of each type of available parks are provided, and, in addition, other parks types that are not available are also provided as they may be at some point in the future as this plan is implemented.

Pocket Parks are the smallest park classification and are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Examples of pocket parks include concentrated or limited populations; isolated development areas; unique recreational opportunities; landscaped public use areas; scenic overlooks; or, play areas adjacent to downtown shopping districts. Pocket parks in the City of Marquette at this time include the Downtown pocket Park, Rosewood pedestrian Connector Park Spring Street Park and Dead River Park.

Neighborhood Parks are the basic unit of the park system, which serve as a recreational and social focus of a neighborhood with both passive and active activities. They are not intended to be used for programmed activities that result in overuse, noise, parking problems and congestion. They should be geared for those living within the service area. A Neighborhood Park accommodates a variety of ages including children, adults and seniors. These parks are usually not smaller than 5 acres in size and are developed centrally within the neighborhood to encompass 1/2 mile service radius. Neighborhood Parks primarily facilitate recreational activities including play structures, sitting areas and open space. Ideally, these parks are linked to the neighborhood and to each other by a pathway system and respond to the need for basic recreational amenities close to home. Marquette neighborhood parks include Williams Park and Harlow Park.

Community Parks are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. They allow for group activities and offer other recreational opportunities not feasible, nor desirable, at the neighborhood level. As with neighborhood parks, they should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities. Optimal size for a community park should exceed 25 acres with a service radius of approximately 1 mile. Design features might include large play structures, informal fields for youth play, tennis courts, volleyball courts, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe



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areas, swimming pools, disc golf, trails, group picnic areas, open space and unique landscapes/features, nature study areas, ornamental gardens and facilities for cultural activities such as plays and concerts in the park. Marquette's community parks include Mattson Lower Harbor Park, Shiras Park, McCarty Cove, South Beach Park, the Fit Strip, Mount Marquette Lookout, Marquette Commons and Founders Landing.

Regional Parks serve a larger purpose than community parks. Regional parks are larger and have more amenities than community level parks and will attract users for longer periods of time due to their size and features. Regional parks will typically include features which lend themselves to neighborhood level and community level activities such as playgrounds, shelters, walking trails and athletic facilities. Marquette's regional parks include Presque Isle Park, Tourist Park, and the Heartwood Forestland property.

Special Use Parks are designed to serve the entire community with specialized facilities such as a sports complex, golf course or aquatic facility. Size is determined by the demand for the facilities located there and their space requirements. A golf course may require 150 acres, an athletic complex may require 100 acres and so on. Location of special use parks has to be carefully planned to ensure that access, traffic control, lighting issues and noise issues do not negatively impact neighborhoods. Marquette's special use parks include River Park Sports Complex, the North Marquette Athletic Field Complex, Hurley Field, and Setter Field, the Presque Isle and Cinder Pond Marinas and Lakeview Arena.

School Parks combine City-owned parks with school sites and fulfill the space requirements for other classes of close-to-home parks such as mini parks and neighborhood parks. Marquette's school parks include Marquette High School, Graveraet Middle School, Bothwell Middle School, Superior Hills and Sandy Knoll Elementary Schools, and at Father Marquette Elementary and Middle Schools.

Linear Parks are areas that are developed for one or more varying modes of recreational use such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. The Lake Superior Shoreline Shared-use Path and the Downtown Linear Park would be included in this category.

Undeveloped Land/Remnant Land in the City's inventory has been acquired in a variety of ways. Sometimes, these sites can serve a useful purpose while other times they cannot. It is important that each parcel be evaluated for its usefulness as a valuable asset to the park system and developed accordingly. If there is no possibility of a useful purpose, it should be disposed of. Undeveloped land owned by the City of Marquette includes the Heartwood Forest Land property in south Marquette.



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Table 4.1: Parks Rated by Type and Condition		
NAME OF PARK	TYPE OF PARK	CONDITION OF PARK
Presque Isle	Regional	Good
Tourist Park	Regional	Good
Mattson Lower Harbor	Community	Excellent
Shiras park	Community	Good
McCarty Cove	Community	Good
South Beach	Community	Good
Fit Strip	Community	Fair
Mount Marquette	Community	Fair
Marquette Commons	Community	Excellent
Founders Landing	Community	Excellent
River Park Sports Complex	Special Use	Good
North Marquette Athletic Field Complex	Special Use	Good
Hurley Field	Special Use	Good
Setter field	Special Use	Good
Williams Park	Neighborhood	Good
Harlow Park	Neighborhood	Good
Shiras Hills Park	Neighborhood	Poor
Giants Foot Park	Neighborhood	Good
Presque Isle Marina	Special Use	Fair
Cinder Pond Marina	Special Use	Excellent
Lakeview Arena	Special Use	Good
Marquette Community Center	Special Use	Good



Analysis of Facility Needs

The table below represents the existing number of selected facilities as provided by the city and others and the need for new facilities based on demand.

Table 4.2: Existing and Needed Facilities			
Facility Type	Existing Number Provided by City	Existing Number Provided by Others	Additional Facilities Needed
Softball/Baseball Fields	10	0	0
Soccer Fields	3	1	1
Football Fields	0	2	0
Tennis Courts	5	8	0
Outdoor Basketball Courts	6	1	0
Skateparks	1	0	Expansion of existing skatepark
Playground	12	6	1
Small Pavilion	3	1	0
Large Pavilion	1	0	0
Band Shell	1	0	0
Winterized Restroom Facilities	2	0	1
Winterized Concession Stand Facilities	1	0	0
Outdoor Pool	0	0	0
Indoor Pool	0	2	0
Community Center	1	0	0
Sledding Hill	0	0	1
Ice Rink - Indoors	2	1	0
Ice Rink - Outdoors	3	1	0
Marina	2	2	0
Beach – Guarded	2	0	1
Beach - Unguarded	1 four mile beach	0	0



Comments about Facility Needs

Softball/baseball fields – Nationally, participation in baseball is stable while it is decreasing in softball. This also appears to be the case in Marquette, thus no need for additional fields.

Soccer fields – Nationally, participation in soccer is increasing and that also seems to be the case in Marquette, thus the need for one new field which may be provided by the school system or other private entity.

Football fields – Participation is decreasing, thus no new fields are warranted.

Tennis courts – Nationally, participation in tennis has decreased from 11.6 Million in 1994 to 9.6 Million in 2004. It does not appear that the current level of participation in Marquette warrants additional courts. However, the current courts are in need of upgrades.

Outdoor basketball – Nationally, participation in basketball is stable. However, the number of outdoor courts in the City is adequate.

Skatepark – Nationally, interest in skateboarding is up from 4.9 Million in 1994 to 10.3 Million in 2004. Interest in skateboarding in Marquette also seems to be very high, thus the recommendation to expand the existing facility.

Playground – One new playground will be required to meet the need for the growth area in the southwest part of town.

Small pavilion – Usage of existing small pavilions indicates that the demand is being met.

Large pavilion – Usage of existing large pavilions indicates that the demand is being met.

Band shell – Usage of the existing band shell indicates that the demand is being met.

Winterized restroom – Given the fact that Marquette is a winter city and provides numerous outdoor winter activities/facilities, an additional restroom facility is warranted. Adjacent to a bike path is the preferred location.

Winterized concession stand – There is no new need at this time.

Outdoor pool – There is no new outdoor pool recommended at this time.

Indoor pool – Existing indoor pools are meeting the demand.

Community center – The current center is meeting the demand.



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Sledding hill – As a winter city, there is interest in a low cost, or no cost, lighted sledding area for youth and families.

Ice rink indoors – Existing indoor sheets of ice are meeting the demand.

Ice rink outdoors – The Marquette Commons fills some of the need for outdoor ice skating. The Commons has one small outdoor ice rink/skating pathway and is not enough to meet demand, especially for youth “shinny” or informal hockey. With winter clearly the dominant season in Marquette, more outdoor recreation activity in the City is warranted.

Marina – The existence of four marinas is meeting the demand.

Guarded beach – It is reasonable to re-open the beach at Tourist Park when the dam reconstruction project is complete.

Unguarded beach – Four miles of unguarded beach is meeting the demand.

Analysis of Need for Park Land and Trails

It is interesting to compare the quantity of park land and trails in Marquette with guidelines and best practices within the parks and recreation profession. Calculations are shown below:

Total acres of park land

The park system features 2,811 acres of developed and undeveloped parks with 323 of the total acreage at Presque Isle Park. The Heartwood Forestland property makes up about 2,385 of these total acres. Although this property is not officially designated a park its current use is primarily recreation, but has not been included in the following calculations.

Park land acres per 1,000 residents

The current supply of park land in the City of Marquette is 16.7 acres per 1,000 residents. This is more than the national average according to a study completed in 2003 by the Trust for Public Lands (TPL). This study concluded that the average acreage provided by all cities (high density, medium density and low density) equals 16.2 acres per 1,000 residents.

Results of total acreage provided by the City of Marquette

Table 4.3 shows that the City of Marquette currently exceeds by (0.4 acres) per 1,000 residents the park acreage that is the average provided in the United States. However, the quantity of park land is not an indication that it is in the right location (s) to provide citizens with equitable access to the park system.



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Table 4.3: Park Acres compared to National Guidelines			
EXISTING ACREAGE	NATIONAL GUIDELINE	MARQUETTE	COMPARISON
500	16.2 acres per 1,000 residents	16.6 acres per 1,000 residents	(.4) acres per 1,000 above National Guideline

Results of acreage provided by the City of Marquette by park type

Table 4.4 represents the quantity of existing park types and trails and the future demand for each type.

Table 4.4: Parks, Open Space and Trails				
Park Type	Provided by City	Provided by Others	Standard	Needed
Playground	12	7	12-16 acres per 1,000 residents	1
Neighborhood	5	0		1
Community	8	0		0
Regional	2	0		0
Special Use Parks and Facilities	4	2 golf courses; YMCA athletics; NMU; 3 private gyms; martial arts studios	Is determined by the number of facilities specified in Table 4.1	0
Natural Preserve or Open Space	Presque Isle	Thousands of acres	No Standard	0
Trails	Provided by City	Provided by Others	Standard	Needed
Hiking, Biking, Jogging Trail	3	Townships	There is no standard for trails; typically, it is assumed that the more the better	yes
Groomed ski trails	1*	1 in Sands Township; various NTN trails		0
Lighted Trails	1*	1 in Sands Township		0

Note: * Grooming is provided through the City via a partnership with the Noquemanon Trail Network



Observations from the park system mapping

From the mapping of the park system, the following observations have been made:

- There is a need for a city-owned park in the southwest part of the community
- Other than the southwest part of the community, citizens in Marquette have equitable access to the park and trail system
- A shared-use path connection from the existing path system to the Kaufman Sports Complex is needed
- An east/west trail connection is needed in south Marquette to connect the residential area with the waterfront shared-use path

Other Responsibilities

Maintenance of the park system is provided by the Public Works Department.

The Parks and Recreation Division is responsible for facilitating approximately 100 special events which results in numerous hours away from its other responsibilities.

Opportunities

Winter Recreation Opportunities

Marquette residents have some of the best opportunities for winter recreation in the United States because of relatively mild winter temperatures and abundant snowfall. Most of these opportunities, including the popular winter sports of snowmobiling, cross country skiing and snowshoeing are located outside of the city limits.

The City of Marquette currently grooms the trails in Presque Isle Park for skiing and has a partnership with the Noquemanon Trail Network to groom the lighted Fit Strip Trail for skiing.

The Marquette Commons Ice Rink in downtown, an outdoor rink on Baraga Avenue and an outdoor rink in north Marquette provide outdoor skating opportunities. The rink at the Marquette Commons was designed so that in the future, as funding permits, refrigeration can be added to extend the ice skating season.

The addition of a lighted sledding hill would be very popular with families and should be considered as part of the new park development in the southwest part of the city.



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Abandonment of Park Facilities

During this recreation planning process, facilities were analyzed as candidates for abandonment. One facility has been identified:

- A ball diamond at Tourist Park, which has been closed for the 2011 season.

Trails

- The Heartwood Forestland property in south Marquette presents an opportunity to partner with the city and others to continue to expand a world class mountain bike trail network.
- Linkage between McClelland Avenue and the waterfront trail provides a much-needed east/west connection on the south end of town.

Revenue Producing Facilities

Marinas – An opportunity exists to investigate the possibilities that may come from privatization of the marinas. Current annual bond payment in the amount of \$90,000 for the Cinder Pond Marina with revenue from both marinas in the amount of \$40,000 is the benchmark against which the private sector can compete.

Tourist Park – Tourist Park can be improved to re-position it in the marketplace by adding user preferences for internet access and cabins. Rebuilding of the dam will also provide opportunities for users of the beach, swimming and boat fishing.

Ice Cream Stores – The City has two ice cream/concession stores, one in Mattson Park and the other in Presque Isle Park. Through an agreement with the City, these stores are operated by Vango's Pizza. The City is currently talking to local businesses about operation of the concession stand in Lakeview arena as well.



CHAPTER 5

RECREATION PROGRAM

ANALYSIS



Introduction

The recreation program was reviewed to determine the role it should play in the lives of citizens during the life of this plan. The process included:

- analyzing citizen preferences for programming by seeking their input in public meetings, focus groups and a formal statistically valid survey;
- determining the special expertise and general capabilities of staff for directly providing or facilitating programs;
- understanding the capabilities of recreation facilities to accommodate programming demand;
- acknowledging that other providers fill many of the needs of citizens; (e.g. Northern Michigan University, YMCA, private providers, schools, the faith community, assisted living facilities and not-for-profit providers) and,
- realizing that other resources must be available to support programs and facilities; (e.g. other city departments, support by elected officials, support by city advisory boards).

Data Collection

Data was collected from a variety of sources to gain a better understanding of the expectations and needs for the recreation program. Those sources include the following:

- Meetings with elected officials
- Meetings with the Parks and Recreation Board
- Meetings with Advisory Boards and Committees
- Public meetings
- Analysis of data taken from the ETC/Leisure Vision Survey as completed in March 2006
- Analysis of results from a Stakeholder Survey

Program Preferences

As determined by the statistically valid citizen survey of 2006, the top four program preferences which received support from 60% to 77% of the respondents included the following:

- Running, walking and biking
- Visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors
- Attending community special events
- Attending live theater/concert performances

Other program preferences which received support from 31% to 43% of the respondents included the following:

- Cross country skiing
- Adult fitness/aerobics classes and weight training



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- Snowshoeing
- Fishing or ice fishing
- Sledding
- Ice skating or hockey
- Downhill skiing

Key Issue Identification

Based on information collected during meetings, public meetings, citizen survey, stakeholder survey and direct observations, a number of key issues have surfaced:

- Many of the users of programs and facilities are non-residents of the City of Marquette.
- Revenue from users does not offset all of the costs to the Parks and Recreation Division for providing, and/or, facilitating the programs, services and facilities under its jurisdiction.
- Given a choice among various providers of programs and facilities, 62% of the survey respondents indicated that the City of Marquette is their choice. Other choices included the State of Michigan Parks, the University, churches, schools, YMCA, Chocolay Township and private clubs and leagues.
- As detailed in Chapter 3 of this report and portrayed on Table 5.1 in this chapter, there are numerous providers of programs, services and facilities. Many of these other providers depend on the Parks and Recreation Division for support to ensure that their events are successful; e.g. coordination of city resources, organization and production expertise, facility scheduling, pre-event and preparation and post-event cleanup, etc.
- Programs, services and facilities which are either managed or facilitated by the Parks and Recreation Division are a significant contributor to the local economy. In many instances, the city and its surrounding area is an attraction for users on a regular basis from the region and, in some instances, from the nation.

Recreation Program Analysis

Analysis of the recreation program as it exists in Marquette is provided below:

Programs Offered by the City

- It is the current policy of the City that the Department does not directly produce any recreation programs at this time.

Programs Offered by Others

Detailed in Table 5.1



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Available City Facilities for Programming

- The Lakeview Arena
- Facilities within the Park System; e.g. parks, beaches, marinas, trails
- The Marquette Commons
- Tourist Park Campground

Available Facilities for Programming by Others

- Detailed in Table 5.1

Program Service Area – Primary, Secondary and Tertiary

- The primary service area for the programs, services and facilities provided by the City is its city limits.
- The secondary service area for the programs, services and facilities provided by the City is an area which includes surrounding Townships.
- The tertiary service area for the facilities provided by the City are both regional and national.

Program and Service Options

- Direct Provider – The Parks and Recreation Division is a direct provider of facilities which accommodate programs as produced by others.
- Facilitator – The Parks and Recreation Division is a program facilitator for numerous other providers who use city-owned facilities.

Recreation Program Conclusions

1. A mechanism must be created which addresses the high percentage of non-resident users of city-owned facilities which results in an imbalance of funding for city taxpayers.
2. There is a significant economic impact on the community by visitors who travel to the area to use its many attractions. This awareness should result in the allocation of resources to market, manage and maintain these areas at the highest possible level.
3. Given several conditions as detailed below, the most appropriate role for the Parks and Recreation Division is to serve as a facilitator, and not a direct provider, of programs and services. Those conditions include the following:
 - A depressed economy
 - Willingness of others to organize and produce programs and services
 - Citizen preferences for activities which are self-directed such as running, walking and spending time outdoors and events which are currently organized and produced by others such as special events, live theater and concert performances



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4. The core programs and services to be provided by the Parks and Recreation Division should be the following:
- Facilitator of special events, programs and services provided by others
 - Trails and shared-use paths
 - Presque Isle Park
 - Manager and facilitator of special use facilities/services
 - Lakeview Arena
 - Two Marinas
 - Two guarded beaches
 - Athletic fields
 - Tourist Park Campground
 - Concession Stands (Ice Cream Stores)

Resources should be allocated at the highest possible level to ensure that core programs and services are produced at a level which builds on their ability to attract users from other communities which results in a positive economic impact on the community.



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Table 5.1: Recreation Program Providers

	CITY	UNIVERSITY	SCHOOL DISTRICT	YMCA	PRIVATE PROVIDERS	ARTS AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT	OTHERS	NON-PROFIT GROUPS	MEMBER CITIZENS	HANDICAPPED ADVISORY BOARD	CELEBRATION, NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESEARCH
Lakeview Art Center Community Center Pieringer Hole Marine Custer Park Marine	<p>Physical Education, Instructional Facility</p> <p>Michigan Iceberg Bunny Events Center</p> <p>Outdoor Facilities - tennis, ball diamonds, soccer and football, pickleball, track and field track, soccer areas</p> <p>USOE - The United States Olympic Education Center</p>	<p>Gymnasiums, Athletic Pools, Open Play areas and playgrounds</p>	<p>Indoor and Outdoor Programs</p>	<p>Athletic Clubs</p> <p>Baseball Overhill skiing Fishing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bike rentals • softballs/packs • cross country skiing • BMX/Track • golf • tennis • private marine swimming • facilities • windsurfing • jockeying 	<p>Special Events</p>	<p>Health Department Sheriff's Department U.S. Coast Guard National Guard</p>	<p>Golf Society Bow Society Junior Hockey S.A.V. Soccer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans of Foreign Wars • Peninsula Waters Golf Society • Handicapped Bow Society • S.A.V. of Esplanade • Marquette Youth League • Marquette Junior Hockey Club • Figure Skating Club • Marquette Rotary • Marquette Rotary West • Marquette State Park League • League Fair 35 • American Legion Baseball • Elks Club • Lions Club • Elks Lodge • Little League • Women's Softball League • Marquette LPGA Club 	<p>various programs</p>	<p>various programs</p>	<p>Kudrinskiy Anderson Forest Roberts Thayer St. Kenneth Convent Hall of NMU Pier White Public Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT • Gullshore • Visual Arts • Facilities • The • Marquette • County • Historical • Museum • The • Marquette • Maritime • Museum • Upper • Peninsula • Children • Museum • Museum • Plaster • 40 	



CHAPTER 6

2006 CITIZEN SURVEY



Overview of the Methodology

After reviewing the demographic shifts in the 2010 Census, it was determined the statistically valid survey conducted in 2006 was still very valid and valuable information. The City of Marquette and Chocolay Township conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey from January to March of 2006 to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Marquette and Chocolay Township. The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone.

Leisure Vision worked extensively with City of Marquette officials, as well as members of the Bucher, Willis and Ratliff project team in the development of the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future system.

In January of 2006, surveys were mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households in the City of Marquette and 1,000 households in Chocolay Township. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed, each household that received a survey also received an electronic voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. Additionally, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed, Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone, either to encourage completion of the mailed survey or to administer the survey by phone.

The goal was to obtain a total of 600 completed surveys, with 400 coming from City of Marquette residents and 200 from Chocolay Township residents. This goal was far exceeded, with a total of 1,047 surveys having been completed. This includes 655 completed surveys from City of Marquette residents, and 392 from Chocolay Township residents. The results of the random sample of 1,047 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-3.0%.

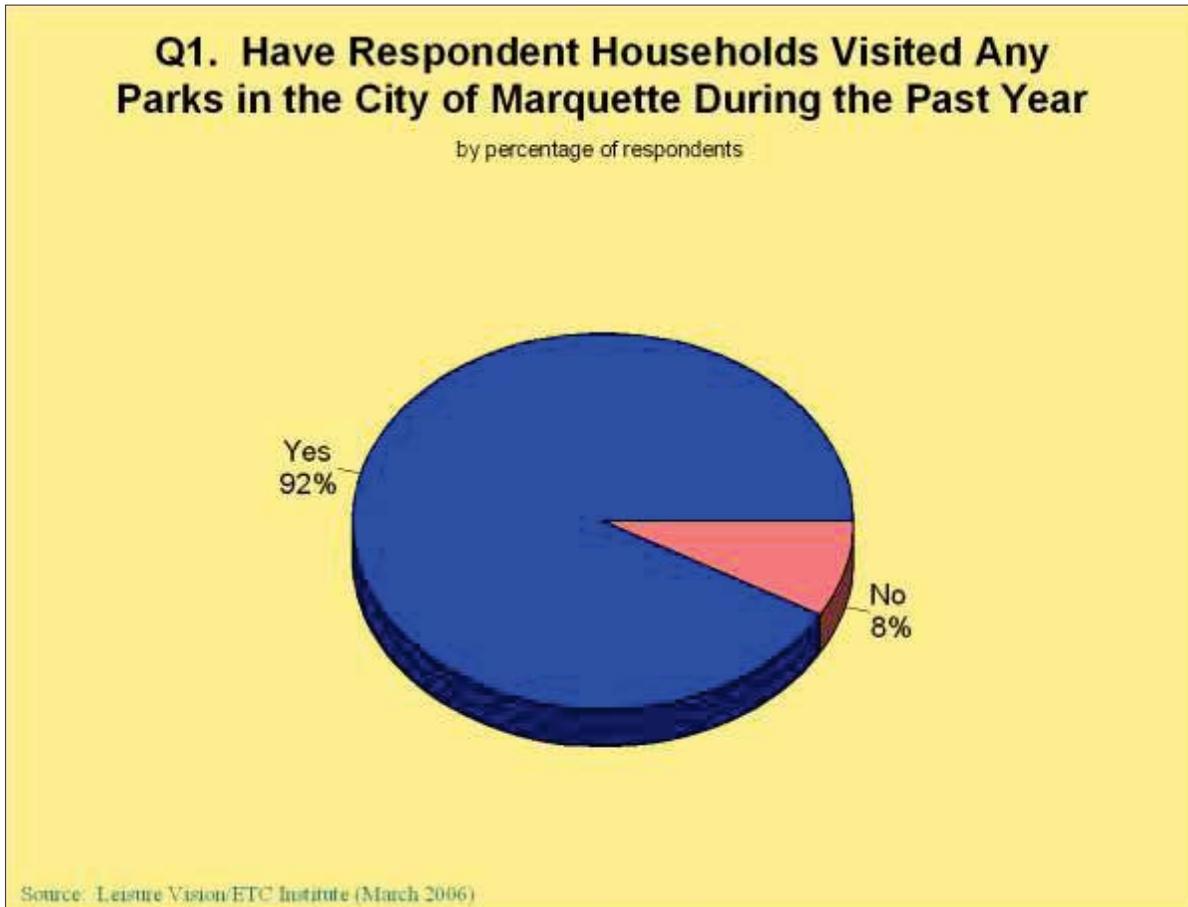
The following pages summarize major survey findings for all 1047 completed surveys:



Visitation of City of Marquette Parks During the Past 12 Months

Respondents were asked if they or members of their household have visited any parks in the City of Marquette during the past 12 months. The following summarizes key findings:

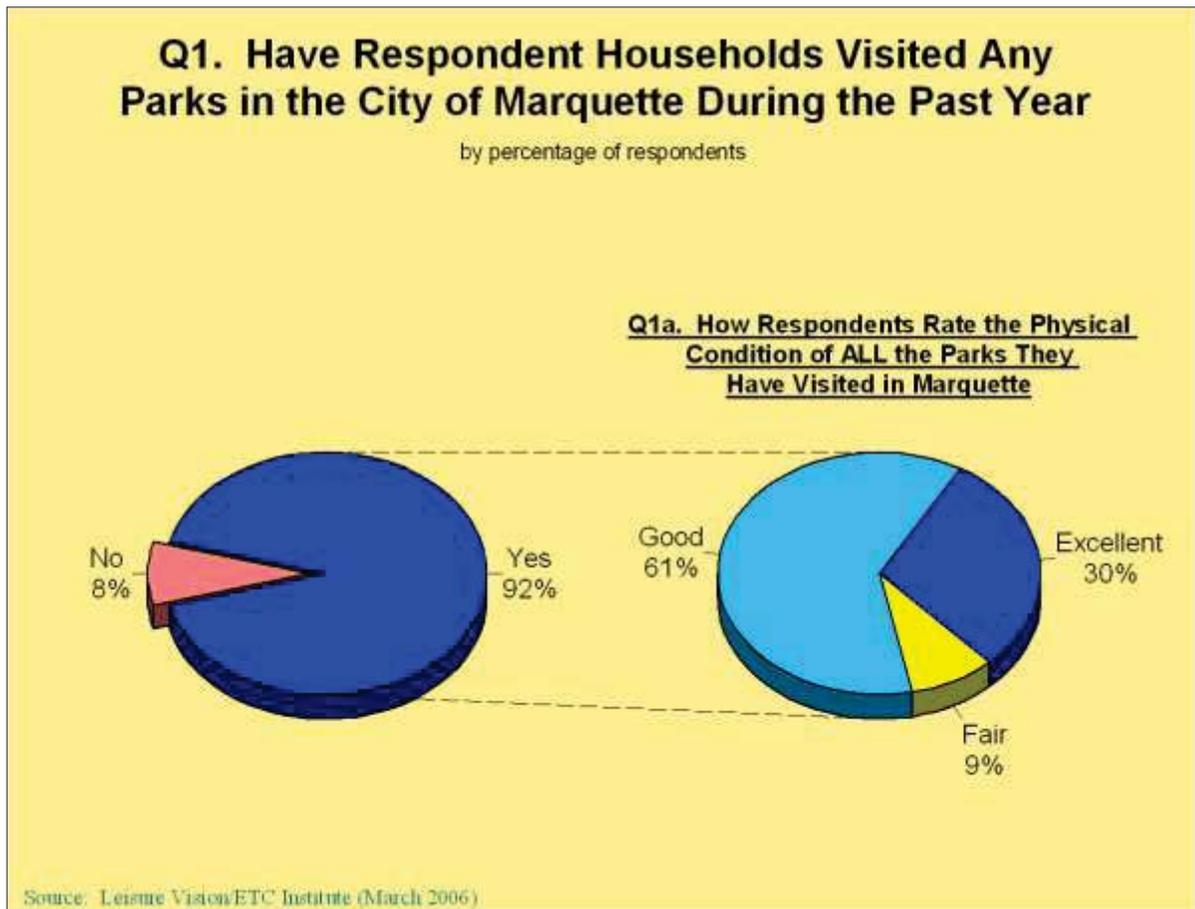
- **Ninety-two percent (92%) of respondent households have visited parks in the City of Marquette during the past 12 months.**



Physical Condition of City of Marquette Parks

Respondent households that have visited parks in the City of Marquette during the past year were asked to rate the physical condition of all the parks they have visited in the City of Marquette. The following summarizes key findings:

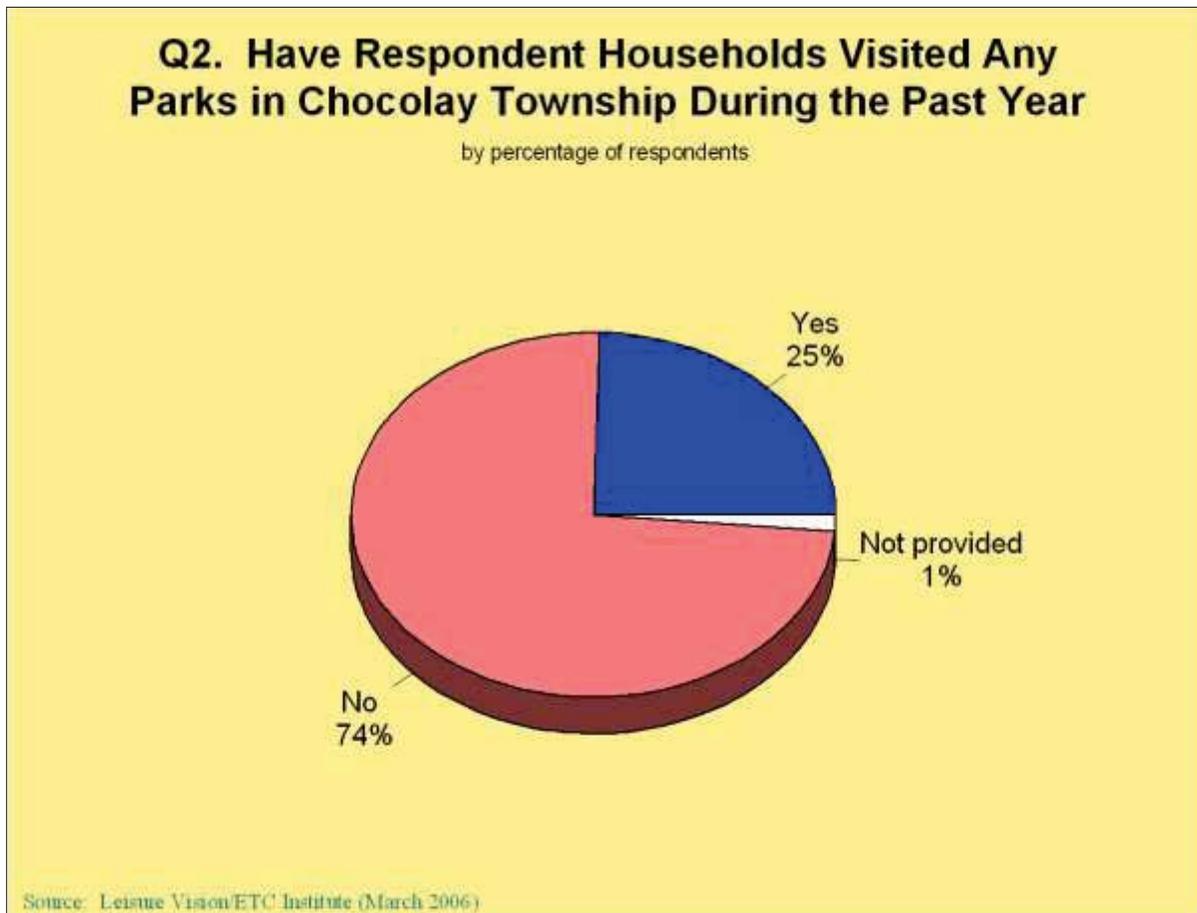
- Of the 92% of respondent households that have visited parks in the City of Marquette, 91% rated the physical condition of parks they have visited in the City as either excellent (30%) or good (61%). An additional 9% of respondents rated the parks as fair, and less than 1% rated the parks as poor.



Visitation of Chocolay Township Parks During the Past 12 Months

Respondents were asked if they or members of their household have visited any parks in Chocolay Township during the past 12 months. The following summarizes key findings:

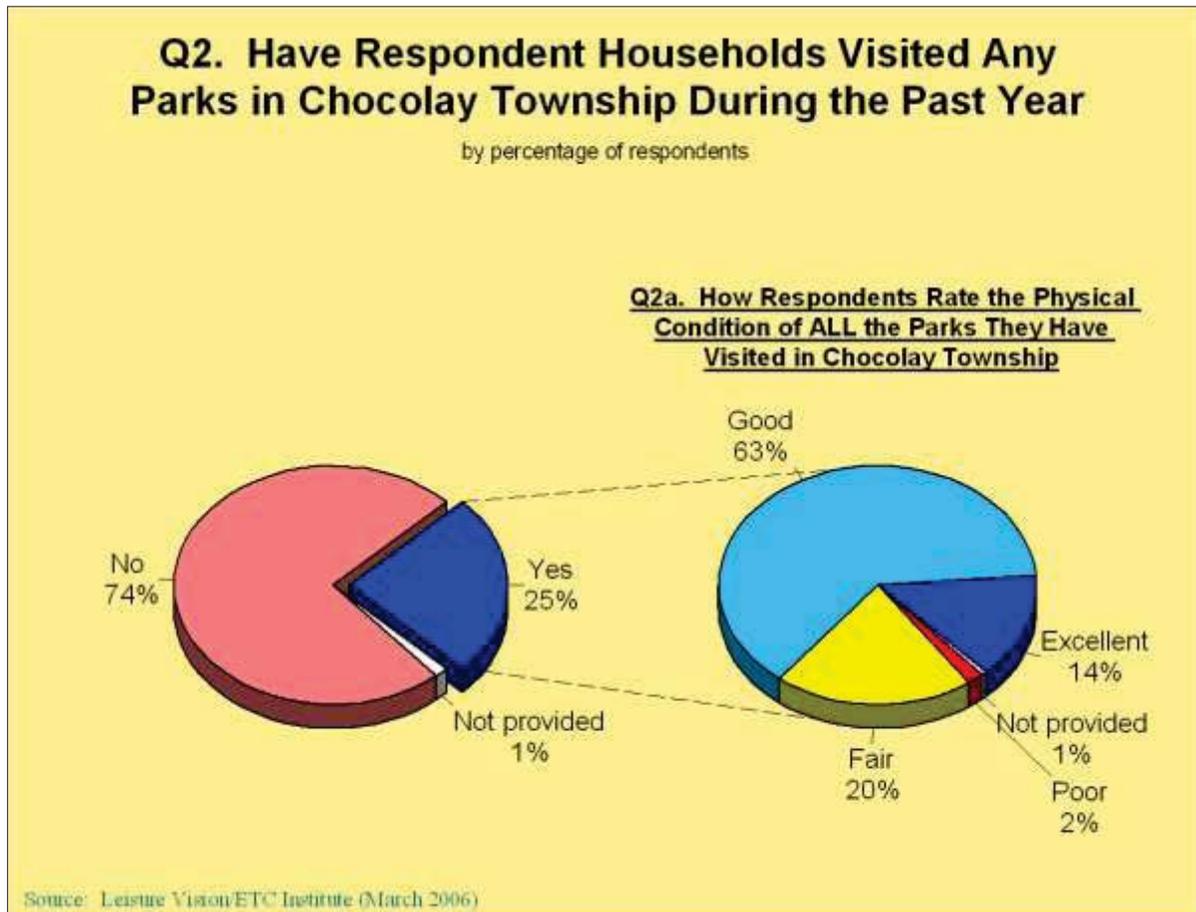
- Twenty-five percent (25%) of respondent households have visited parks in Chocolay Township during the past 12 months.



Physical Condition of Chocolay Township Parks

Respondent households that have visited parks in Chocolay Township during the past 12 months were asked to rate the physical condition of all the parks they have visited in Chocolay Township. The following summarizes key findings:

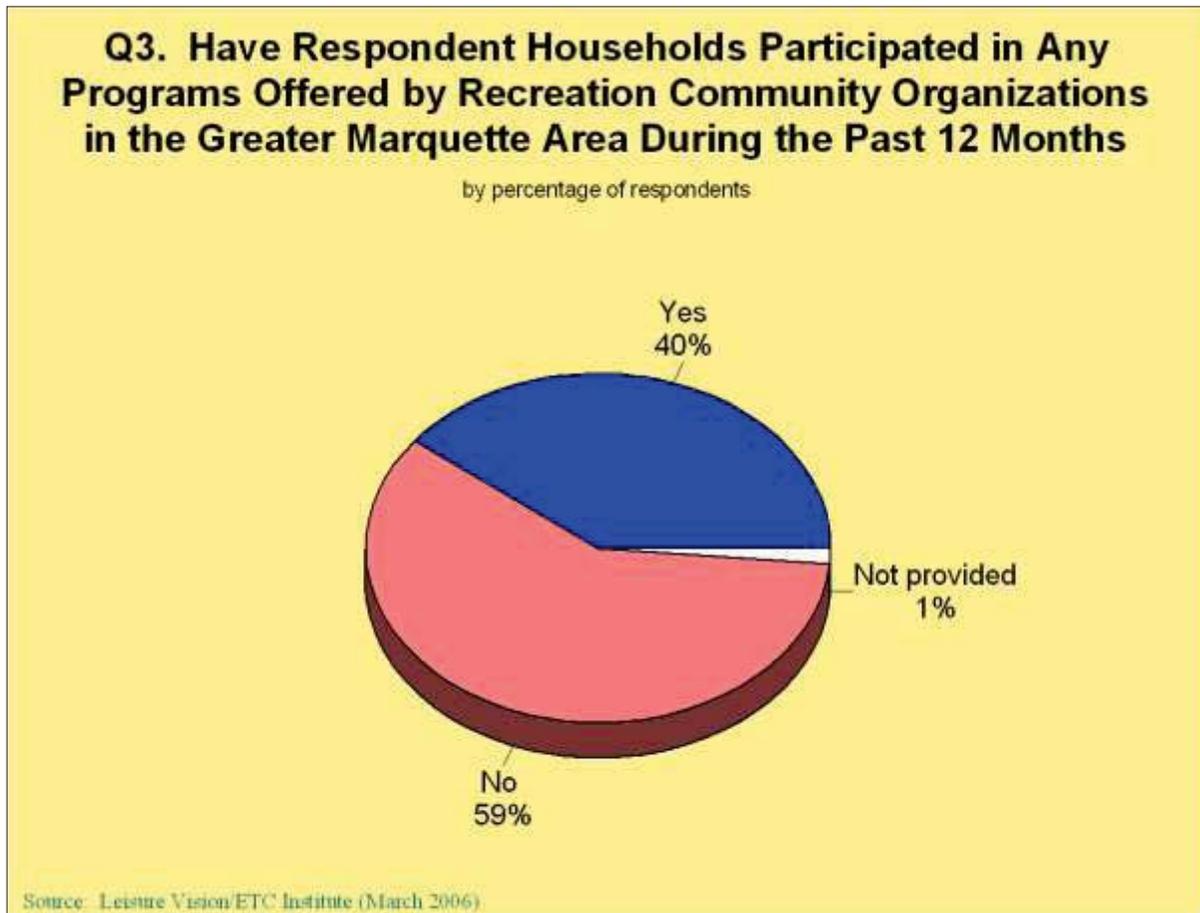
- Of the 25% of respondent households that have visited parks in Chocolay Township, 77% rated the physical condition of parks they have visited in the Township as either excellent (14%) or good (63%). An additional 20% of respondents rated the parks as fair, 2% rated the parks as poor, and 1% did not provide a response.



Participation in Recreation Programs in the Greater Marquette Area

Respondents were asked if they or other members of their household have participated in any programs offered by various recreation community organizations in the greater Marquette area over the past 12 months. The following summarizes key findings:

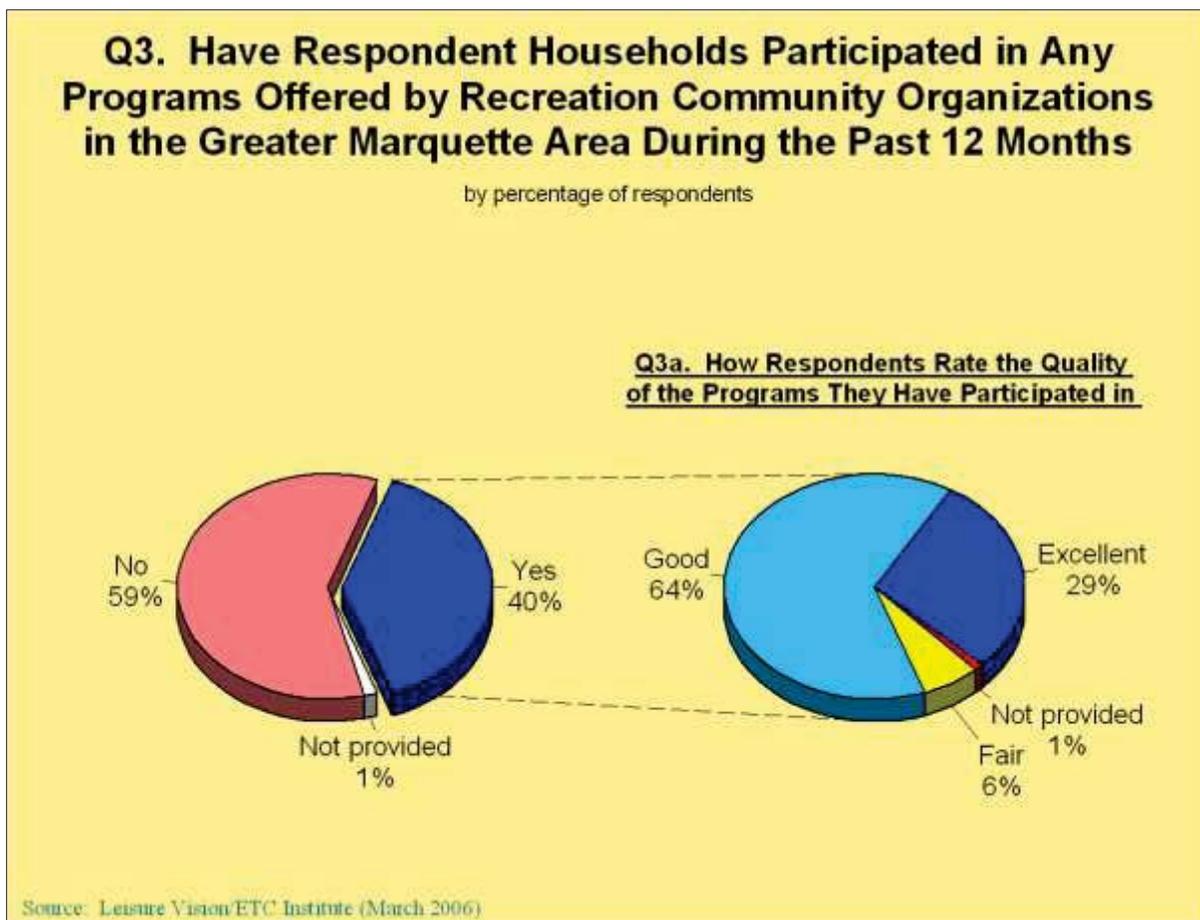
- **Forty percent (40%) of respondent households have participated in programs offered by recreation community organizations in the greater Marquette area during the past 12 months.**



Quality of Recreation Programs in the Greater Marquette Area

Respondent households that have participated in programs offered by various recreation community organizations in the greater Marquette area over the past 12 were asked to rate the quality of the programs they have participated in. The following summarizes key findings:

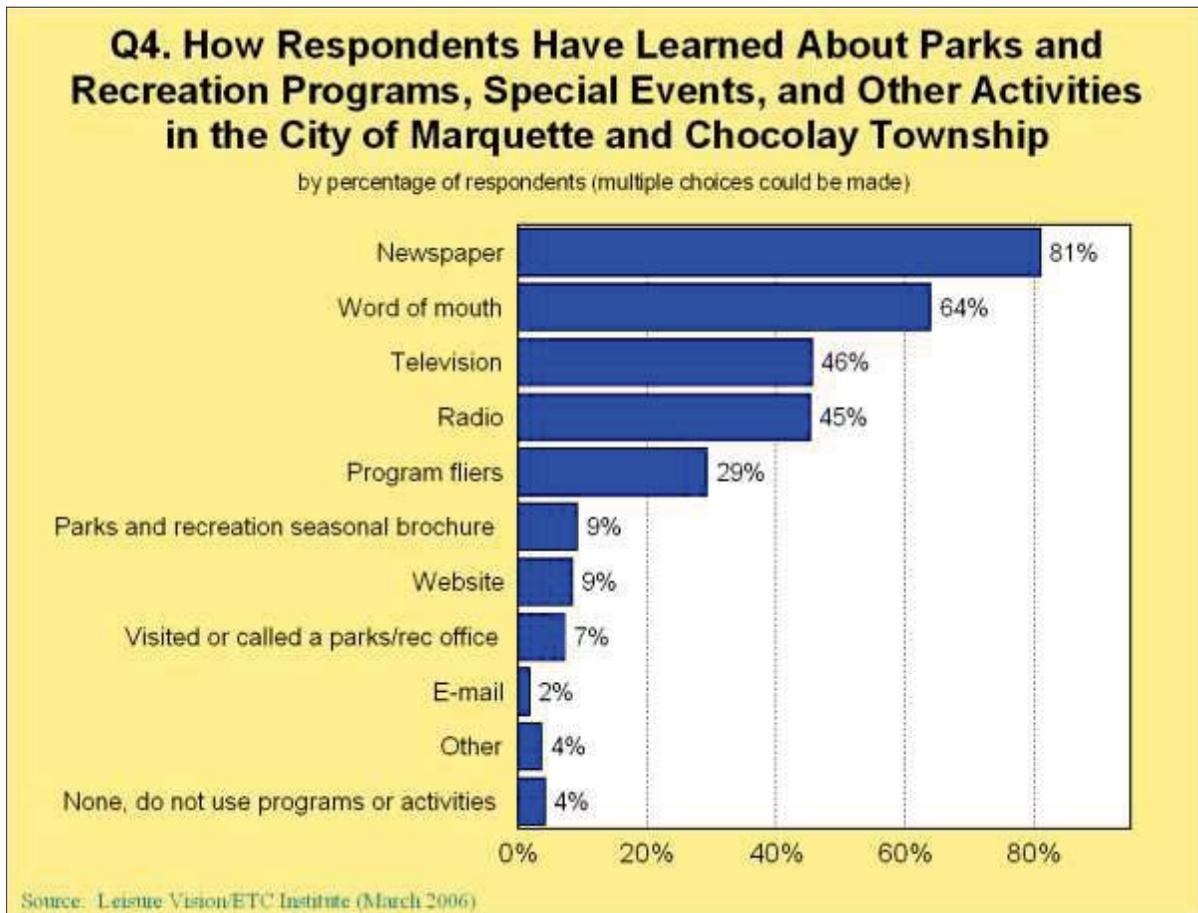
- Of the 40% of respondent households that have participated in programs in the greater Marquette area, 93% rated the quality of the programs they have participated in as either excellent (29%) or good (63%). An additional 6% of respondents rated the parks as fair, less than 1% rated the parks as poor, and 1% did not provide a response.



Ways Respondents Learn About Parks and Recreation Programs and Events

From a list of nine options, respondent households were asked to indicate all of the ways they have learned about parks and recreation programs, special events and other activities in the City of Marquette and Chocolay Township. The following summarizes key findings:

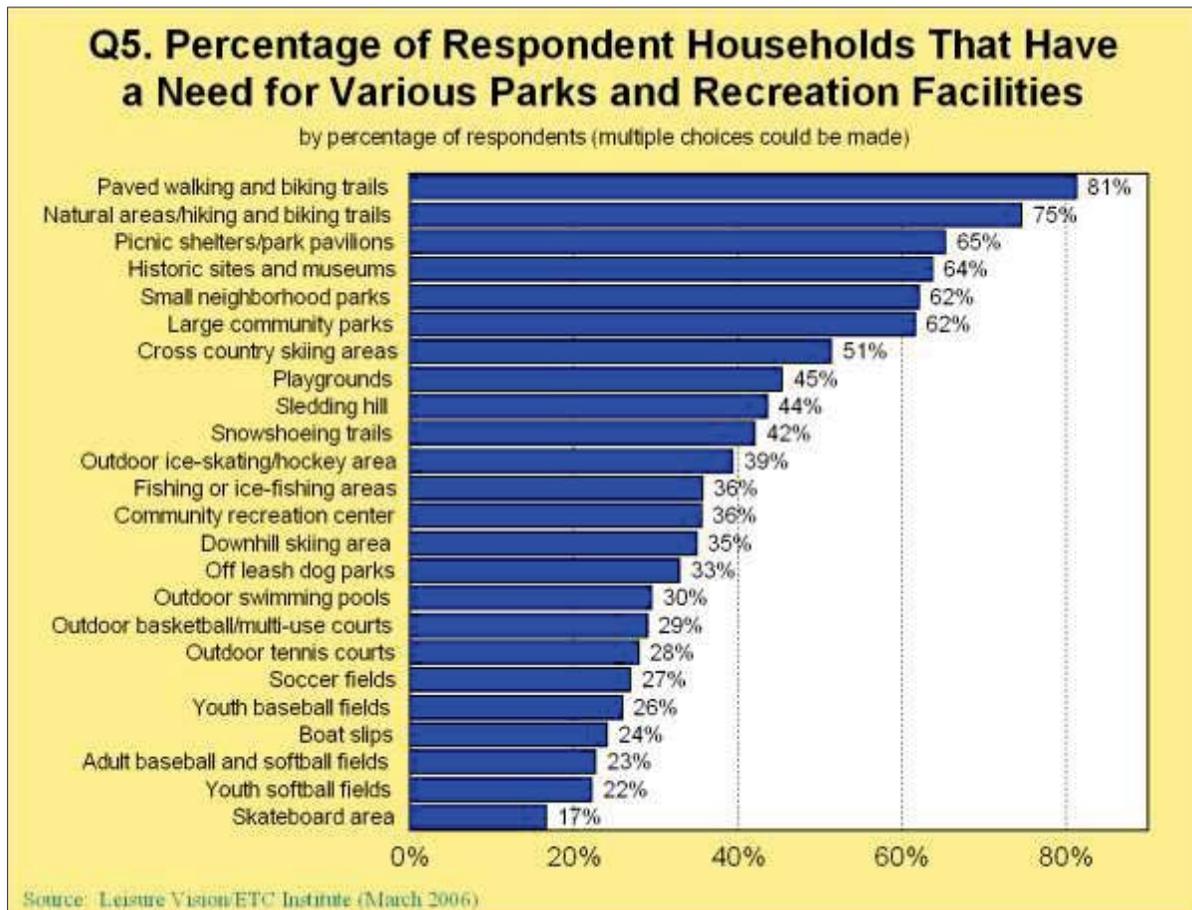
- **The newspaper (81%) is the most frequently mentioned way that respondents have learned about parks and recreation programs, special events and other activities.** There are three other ways that over 40% of respondents have learned about programs, special events and other activities, including: word of mouth (64%), television (46%), and radio (45%).



Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

From a list of 24 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate which ones they and members of their household have a need for. The following summarizes key findings:

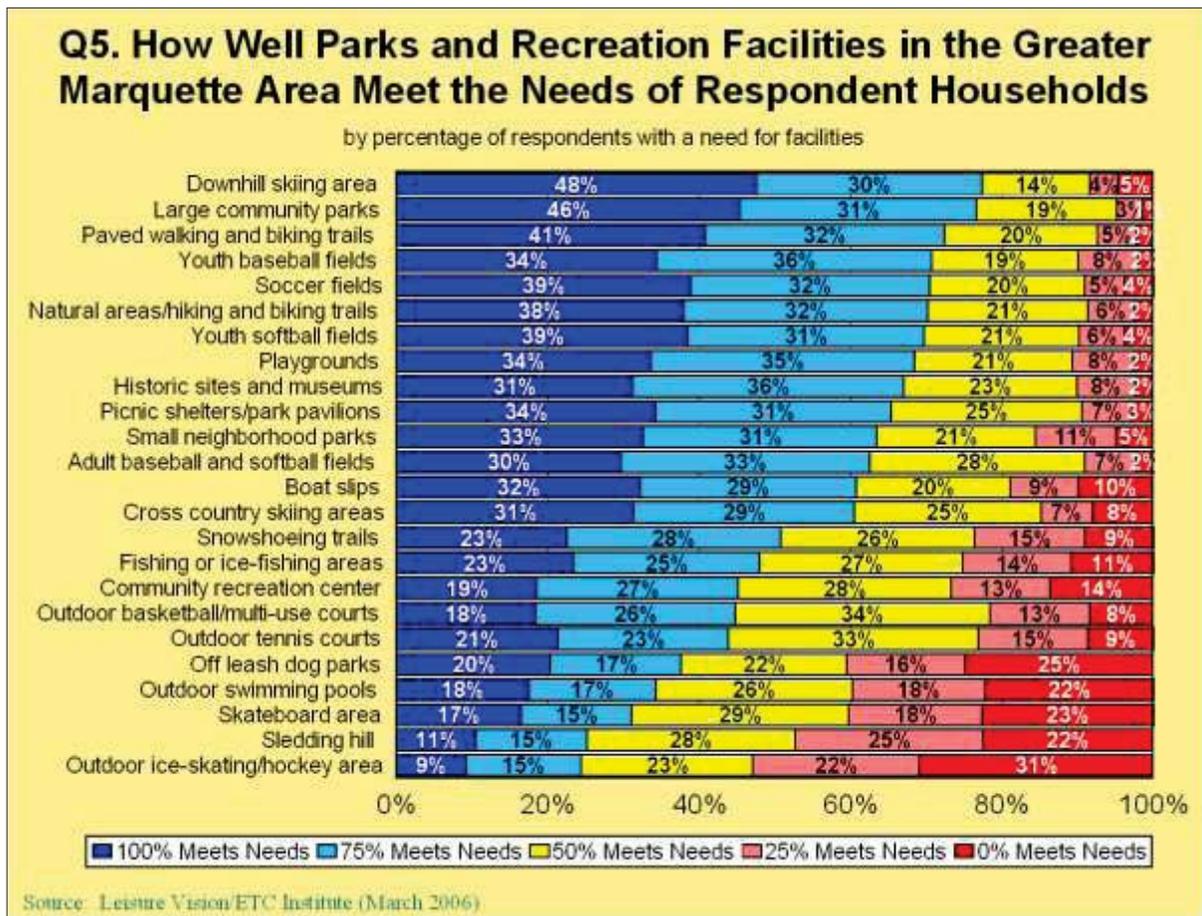
- Six of the 26 parks and recreation facilities had over 60% of respondent households indicate they have a need for it. These six facilities include: paved walking and biking trails (81%), natural areas/hiking and biking trails (75%), picnic shelters/park pavilions (65%), historic sites and museums (64%), small neighborhood parks (62%), and large community parks (62%).



How Well Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Greater Marquette Area Meet Needs

From the list of 24 parks and recreation facilities, respondent households that have a need for facilities were asked to indicate how well the facilities in the greater Marquette area meet their needs. The following summarizes key findings:

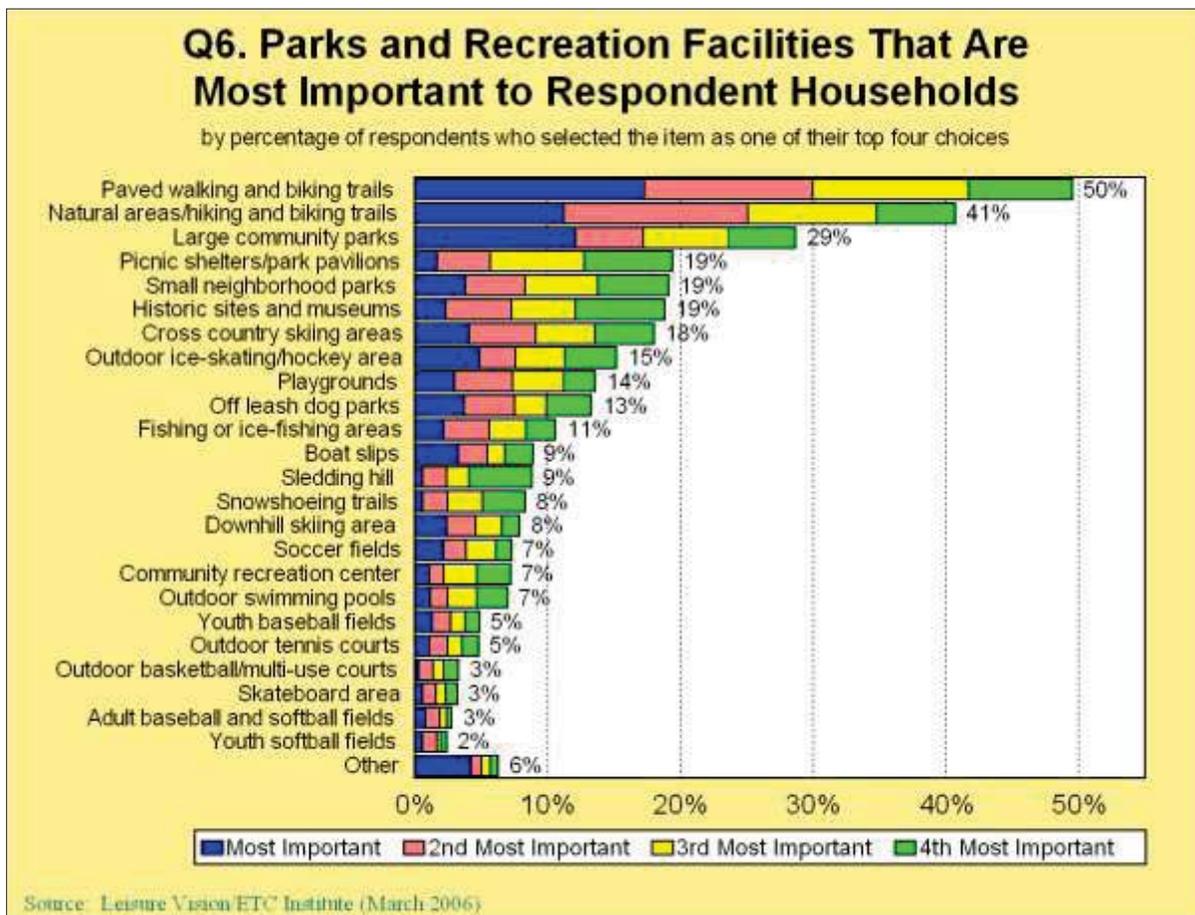
- For all 24 facilities, less than 50% of respondents indicated that the facility completely meets the needs of their household.



Most Important Parks and Recreation Facilities

From the list of 24 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to select the four that are most important to them and members of their household. The following summarizes key findings:

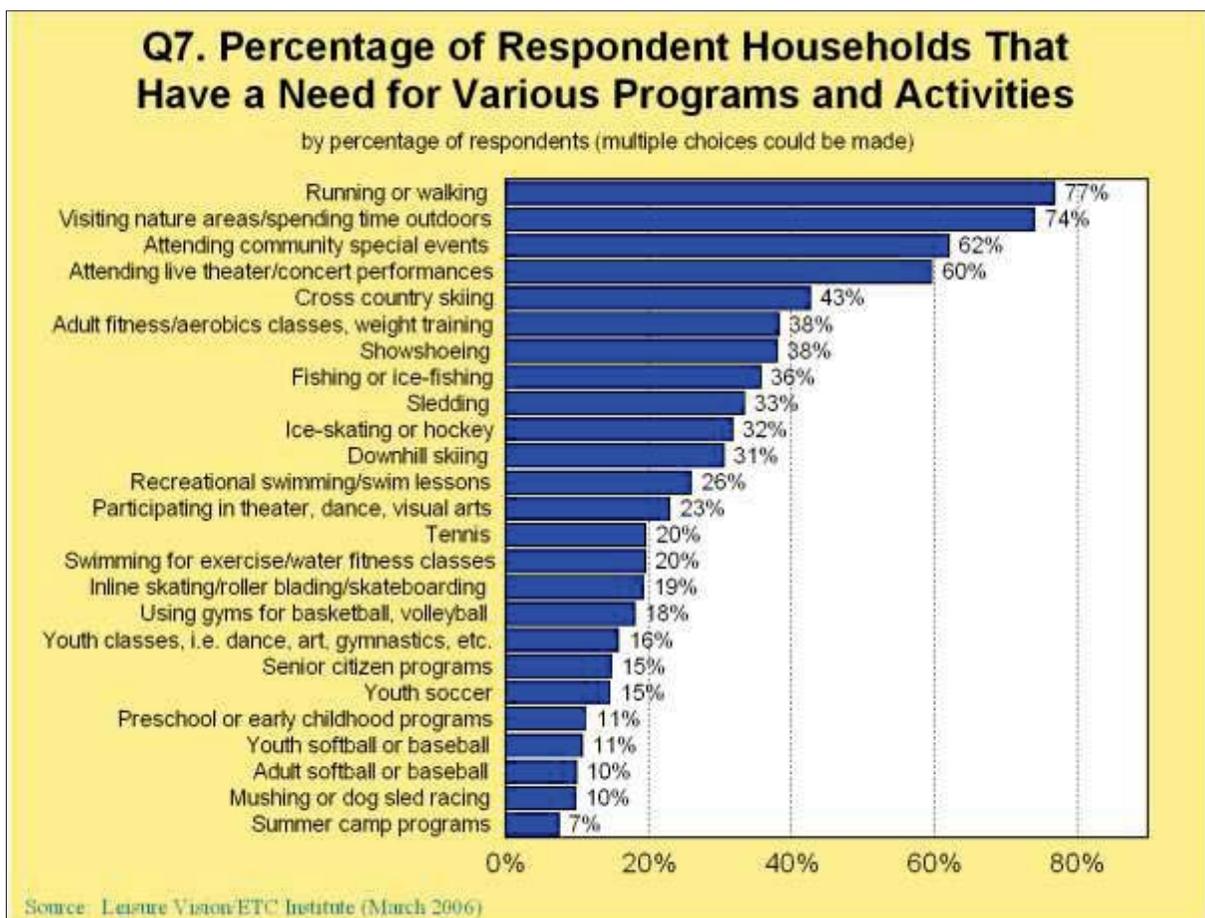
- Paved walking and biking trails (50%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four most important facilities for their household.** The other most important facilities for respondent households include: natural areas/hiking and biking trails (41%), large community parks (29%), picnic shelters/park pavilions (19%), small neighborhood parks (19%), historic sites and museums (19%), and cross country skiing areas (18%). It should also be noted that paved walking and biking trails had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important facility.



Need for Recreation Programs/Activities

From a list of 25 recreation programs and activities available within the City of Marquette or Chocolate Township, respondents were asked to indicate which ones they and members of their household have a need for. The following summarizes key findings:

- **Four of the 25 recreation programs/activities had at least 60% of respondent households indicate they have a need for it.** These four programs/activities include: running or walking (77%), visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (74%), attending community special events (62%), and attending live theater/concert performances (60%).

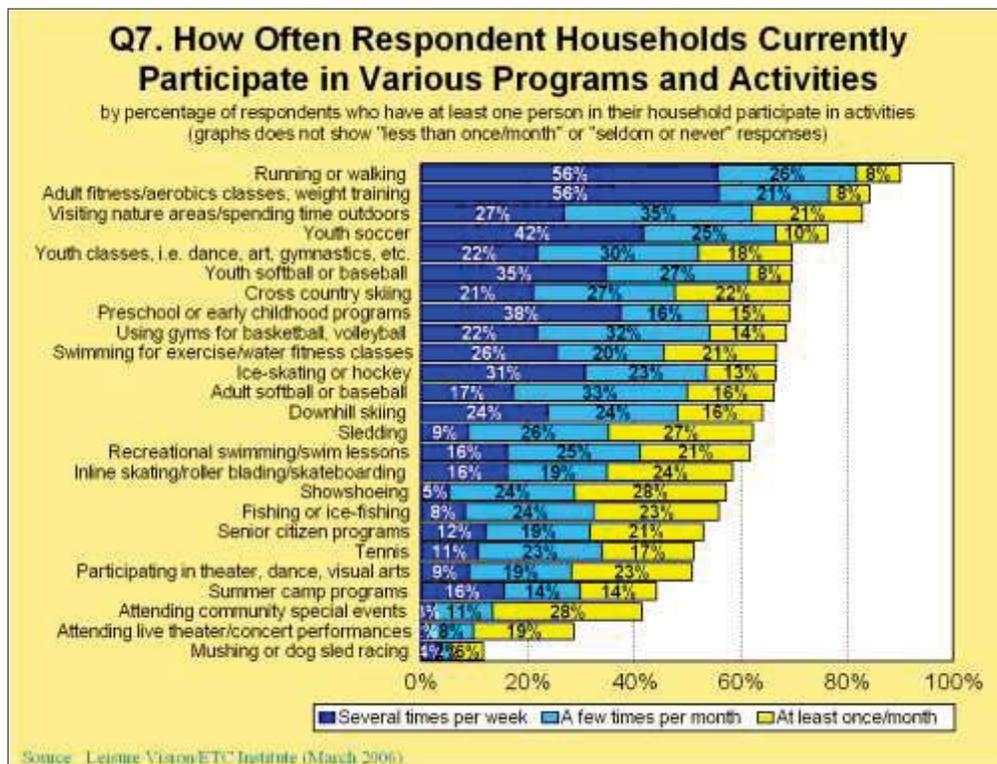


Frequency of Use of Various Programs and Activities

From the list of 25 recreation programs and activities available within the City of Marquette or Chocolay Township, respondents who have at least one person in their household participate in a program or activity were asked to indicate how often they participate in each program/activity. The following summarizes key findings based on those respondents who have at least one person in their household participate in the program/activity:

(Note: The graph below does not show the percentage of respondents who indicated “less than once/month” or “seldom/never”.)

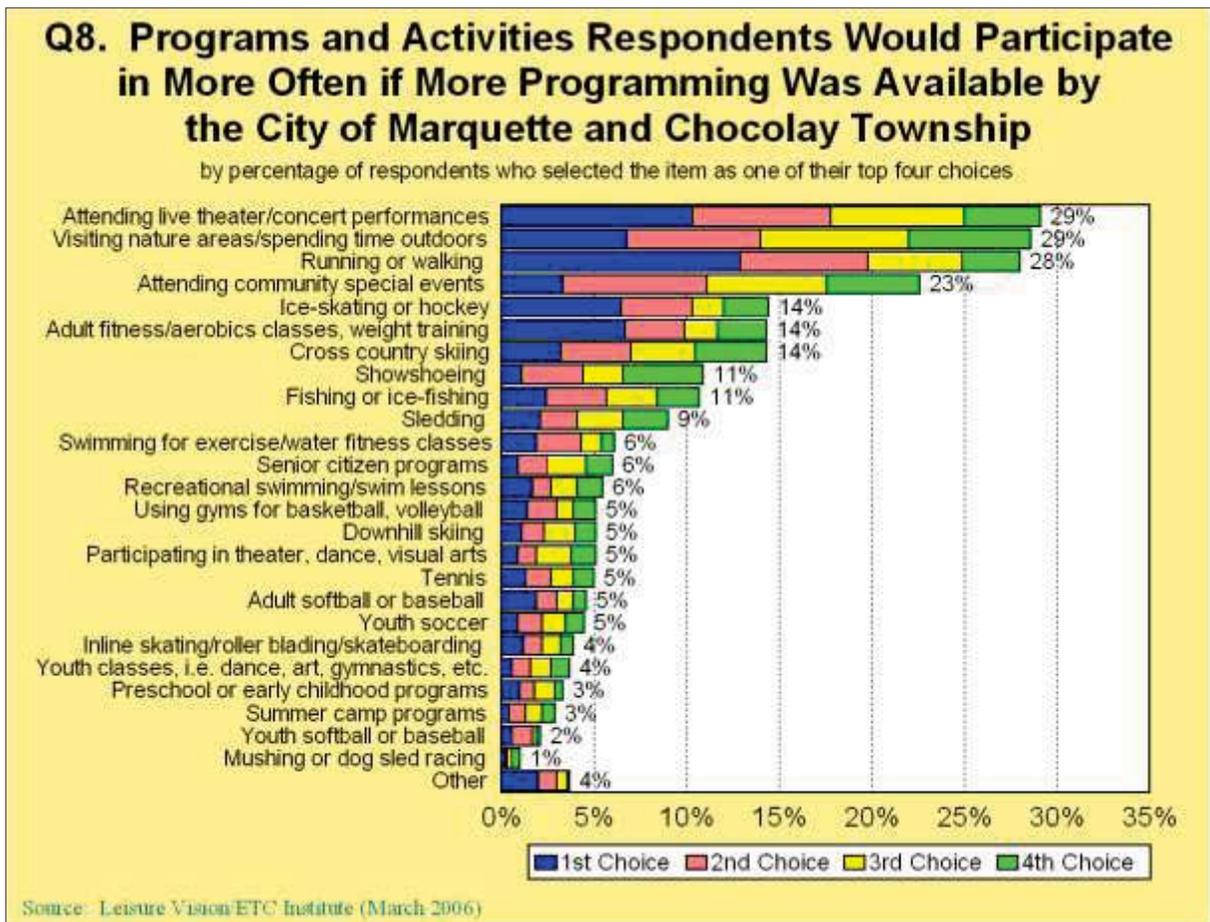
- Ninety-six percent (96%) of respondent households who participate in running or walking indicated they currently participate in it at least once a month.** There are three other programs/activities that over 75% of respondent households currently participate in at least once a month, including: adult fitness/aerobics classes, weight training (85%), visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (83%), and youth soccer (77%). It should also be noted that running or walking (56%) and adult fitness/aerobics classes, weight training (56%) are the programs/activities that the highest percentage of respondents participate in several times per week.



Programs/Activities Respondents Would Participate in More Often

From the list of 25 recreation programs and activities available within the City of Marquette or Chocolay Township, respondents were asked to select the four that they and members of their household would participate in more often if more programming were available by the City of Marquette or Chocolay Township. The following summarizes key findings:

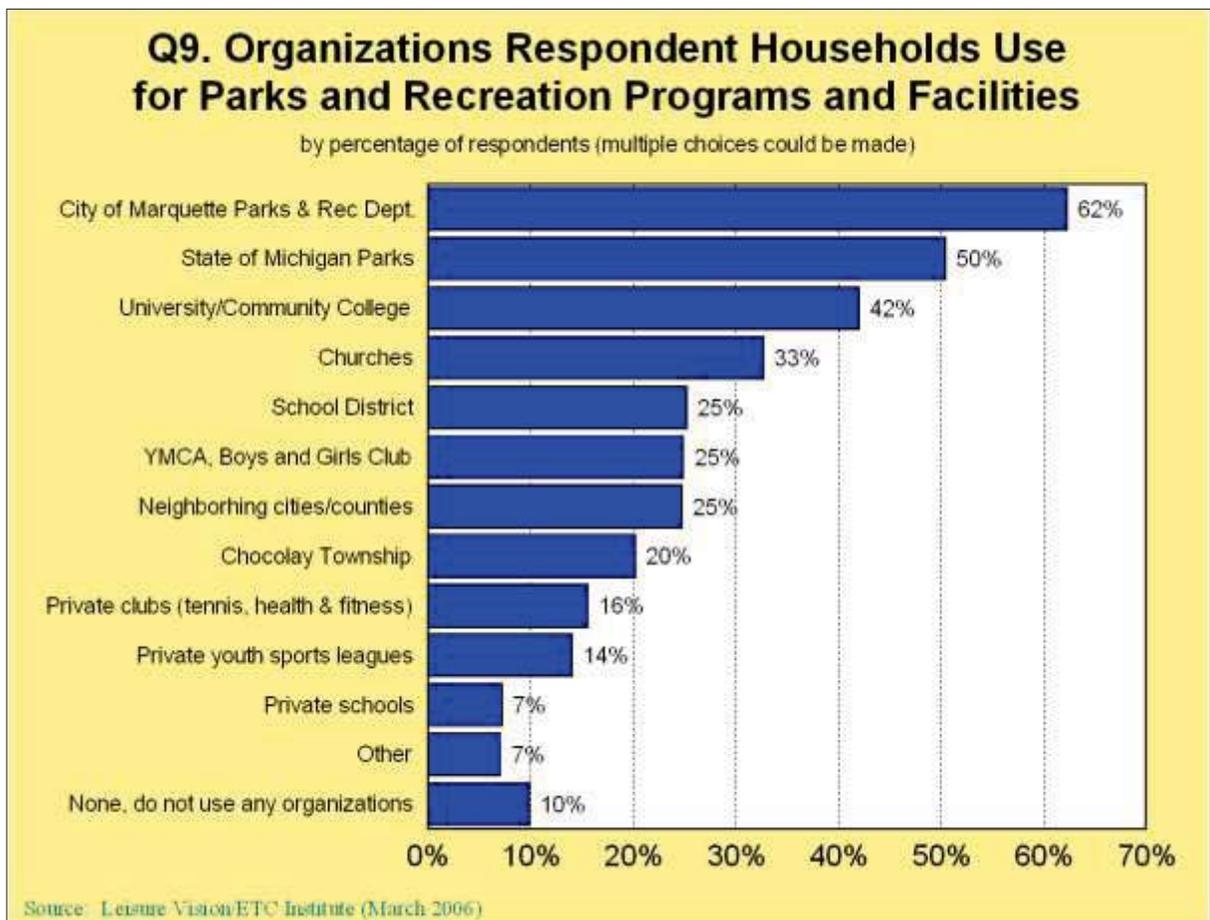
- Attending live theater/concert performances (29%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four programs/activities they would participate in more often if more programming were available.** There are three other programs/activities that over 20% of respondents selected as one of the four they would participate in more often, including: visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (29%), running or walking (28%), and attending community special events (23%). It should also be noted that running/walking had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the program/activity they would participate in more often.



Organizations Used for Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities

From a list of 11 options, respondent households were asked to select all of the organizations they use for parks and recreation programs and facilities. The following summarizes key findings:

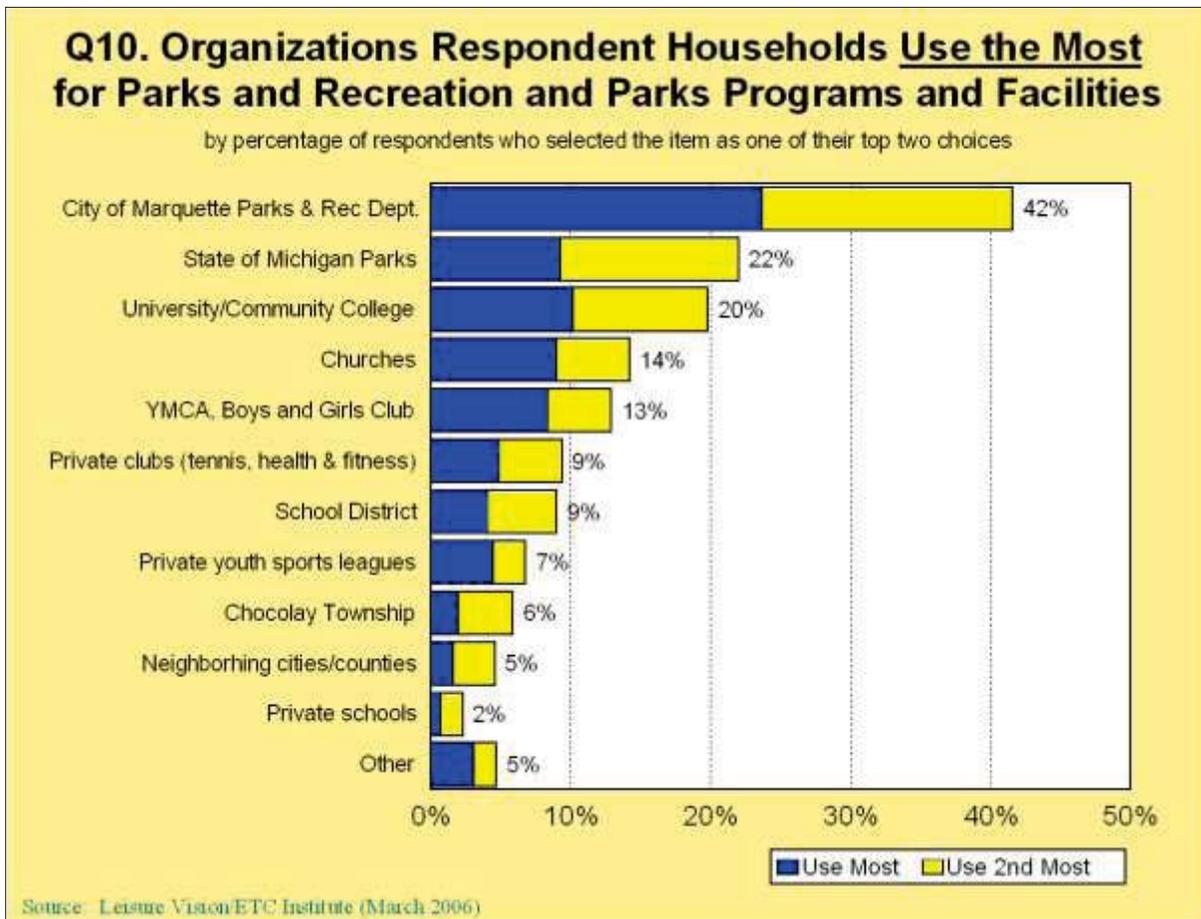
- **The City of Marquette Parks and Recreation Division (62%) is the organization used by the highest percentage of respondent households.** There are three other organizations used by over 30% of respondent households, including: State of Michigan Parks (50%), university/community college (42%), and churches (33%).



Organizations Used Most for Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities

From the list of 11 options, respondent households were asked to select the two organizations whose parks and recreation programs and facilities they use the most. The following summarizes key findings:

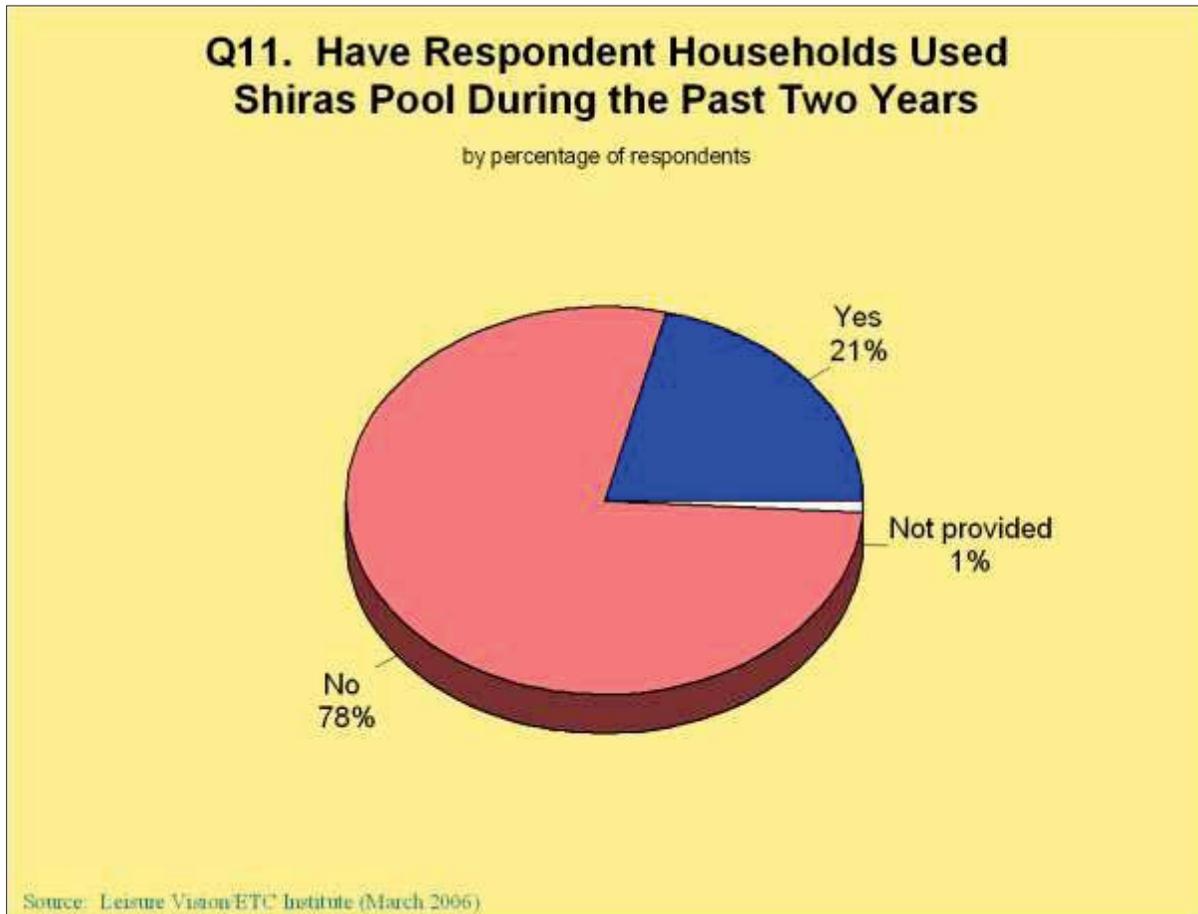
- The City of Marquette Parks and Recreation Division (42%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the two organizations they use the most. There are two other organizations that at least 20% of respondents selected as one of the two they use most, including: State of Michigan Parks (22%) and university/community college (20%).



Use of Shiras Pool

Respondents were asked if they or members of their household have used Shiras Pool during the past 2 years. The following summarizes key findings:

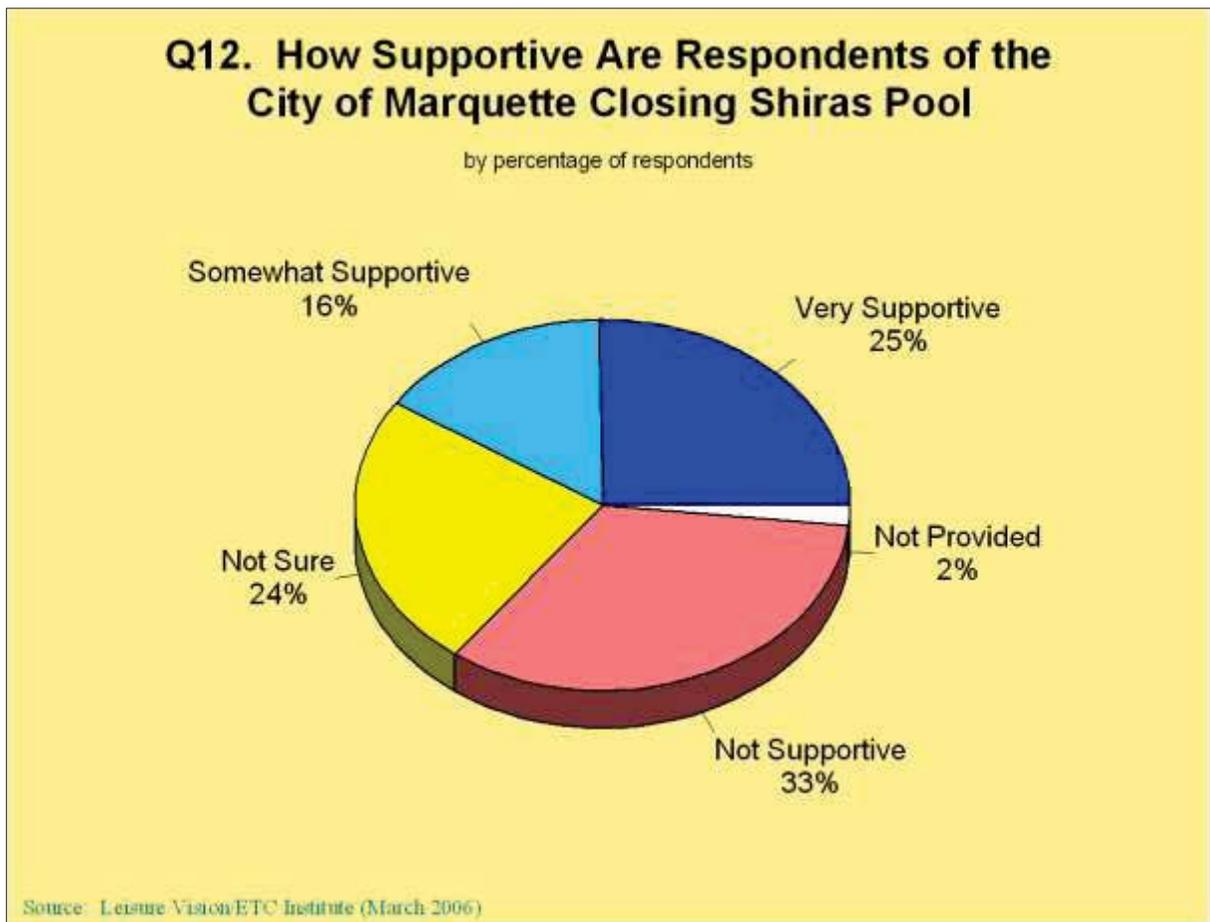
- **Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondent households have used Shiras Pool during the past 2 years.**



Level of Support for Closing Shiras Pool

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for the City of Marquette closing Shiras Pool. The following summarizes key findings:

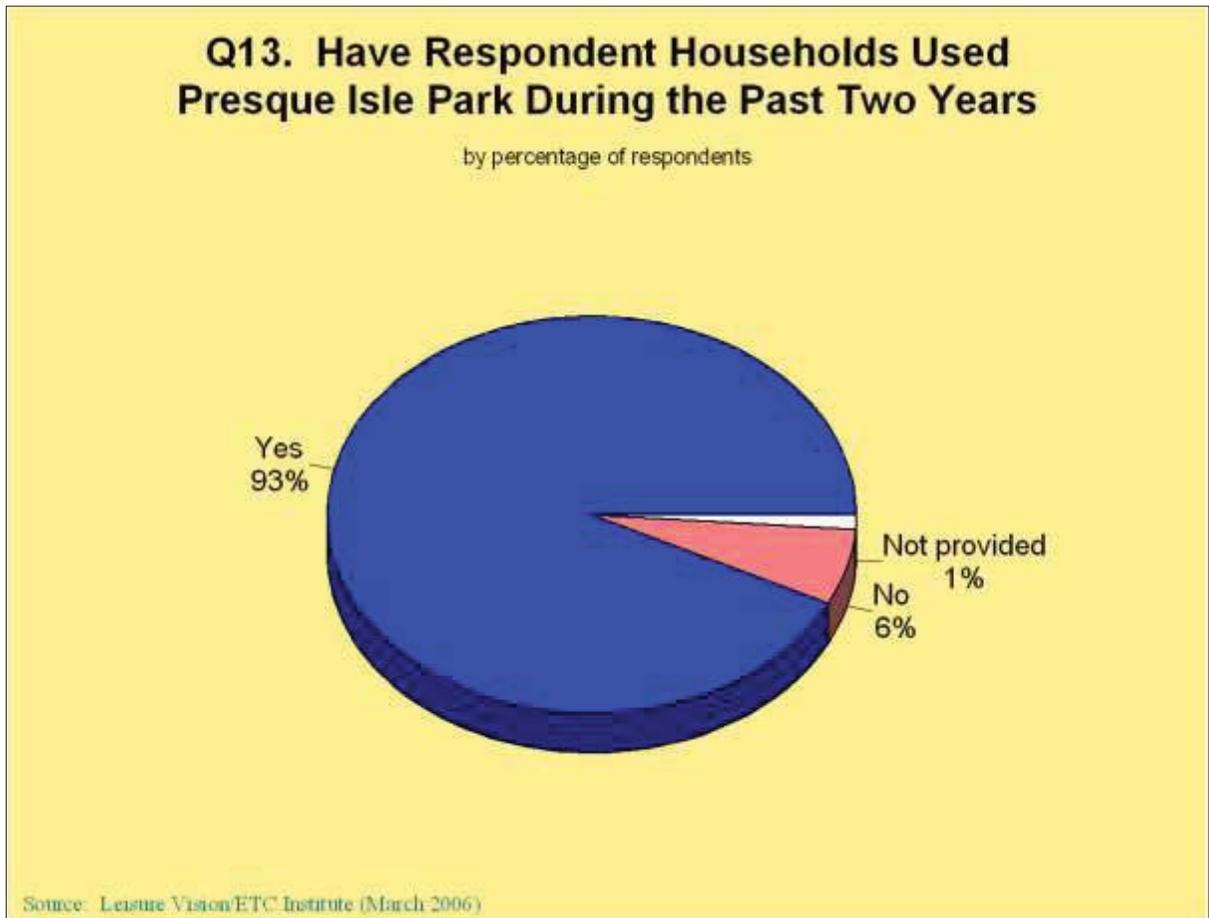
- Forty-one percent (41%) of respondent households are either very supportive (25%) or somewhat supportive (16%) of the City of Marquette closing Shiras Pool. In addition, 33% of respondents are not supportive of closing Shiras Pool, 24% are not sure, and 2% did not provide a response.



Use of Presque Isle Park

Respondents were asked if they or members of their household have used Presque Isle Park during the past 2 years. The following summarizes key findings:

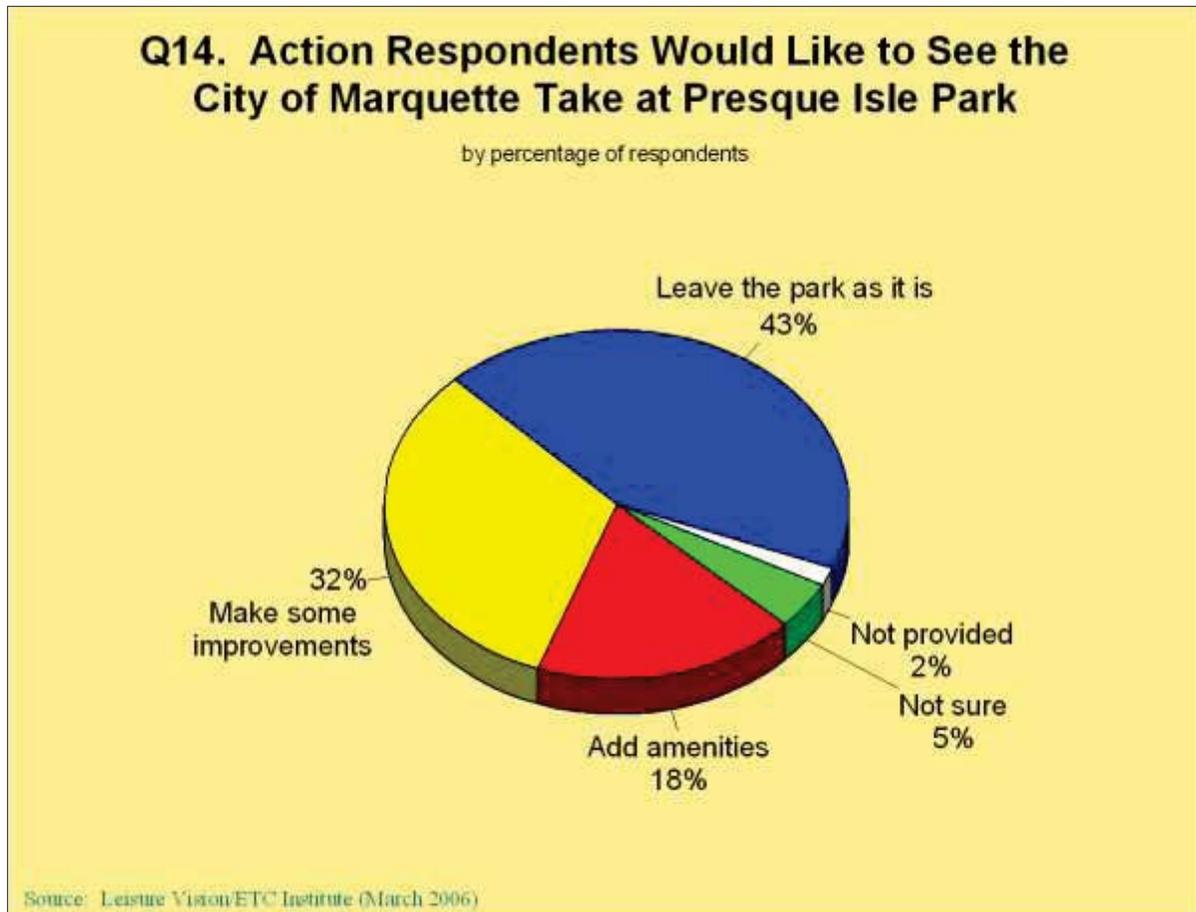
- **Ninety-three percent (93%) of respondent households have used Presque Isle Park during the past 2 years.**



Action to Take at Presque Isle Park

From a list of four options, respondents were asked to indicate what action they would like the City of Marquette to take with Presque Isle Park. The following summarizes key findings:

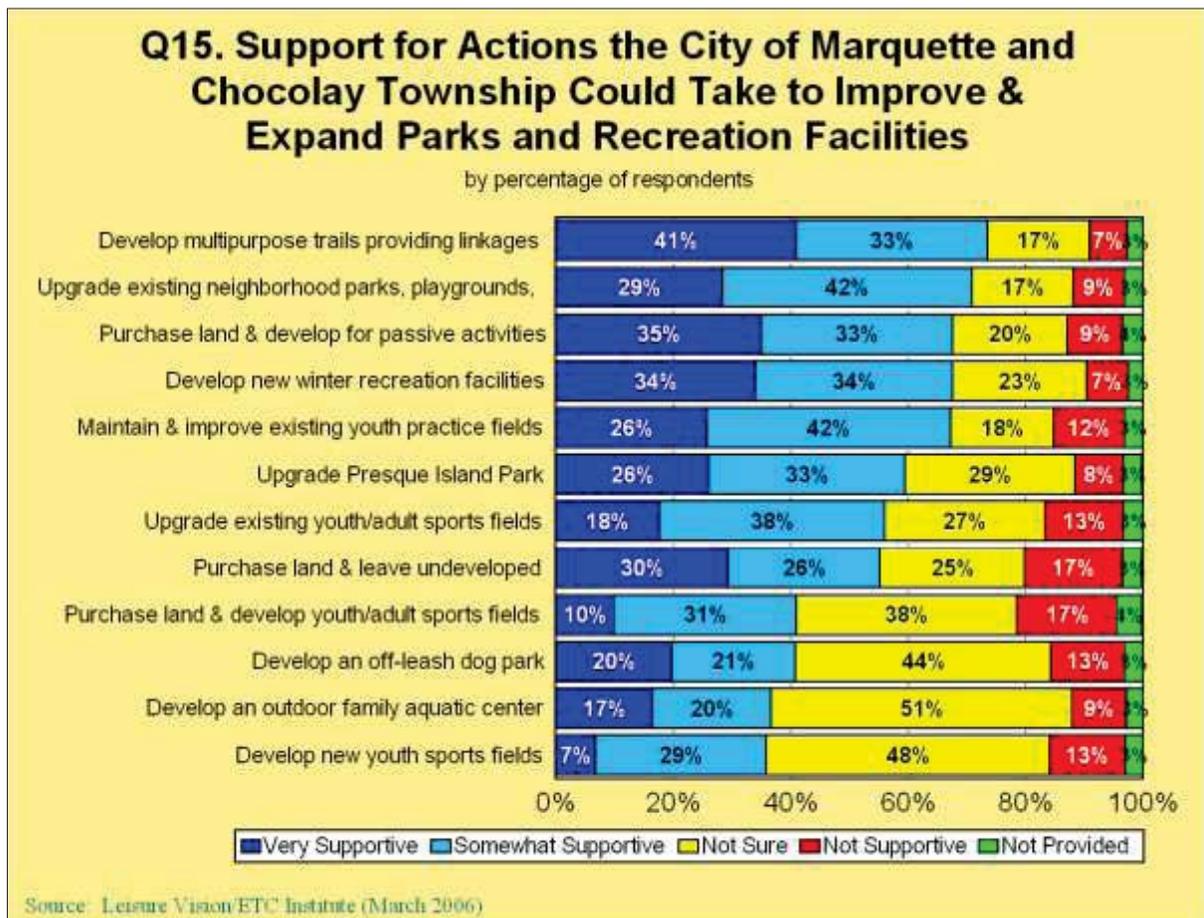
- **Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents indicated they would like the City of Marquette to leave the park as it is.** In addition, 32% of respondents would like the City of Marquette to make some improvements, 18% would like the City to add amenities, and 5% indicated “not sure”.



Support for Actions to Improve and Expand Parks and Recreation Facilities

From a list of 12 actions the City of Marquette and Chocolay Township could take to improve and expand parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for each one. The following summarizes key findings:

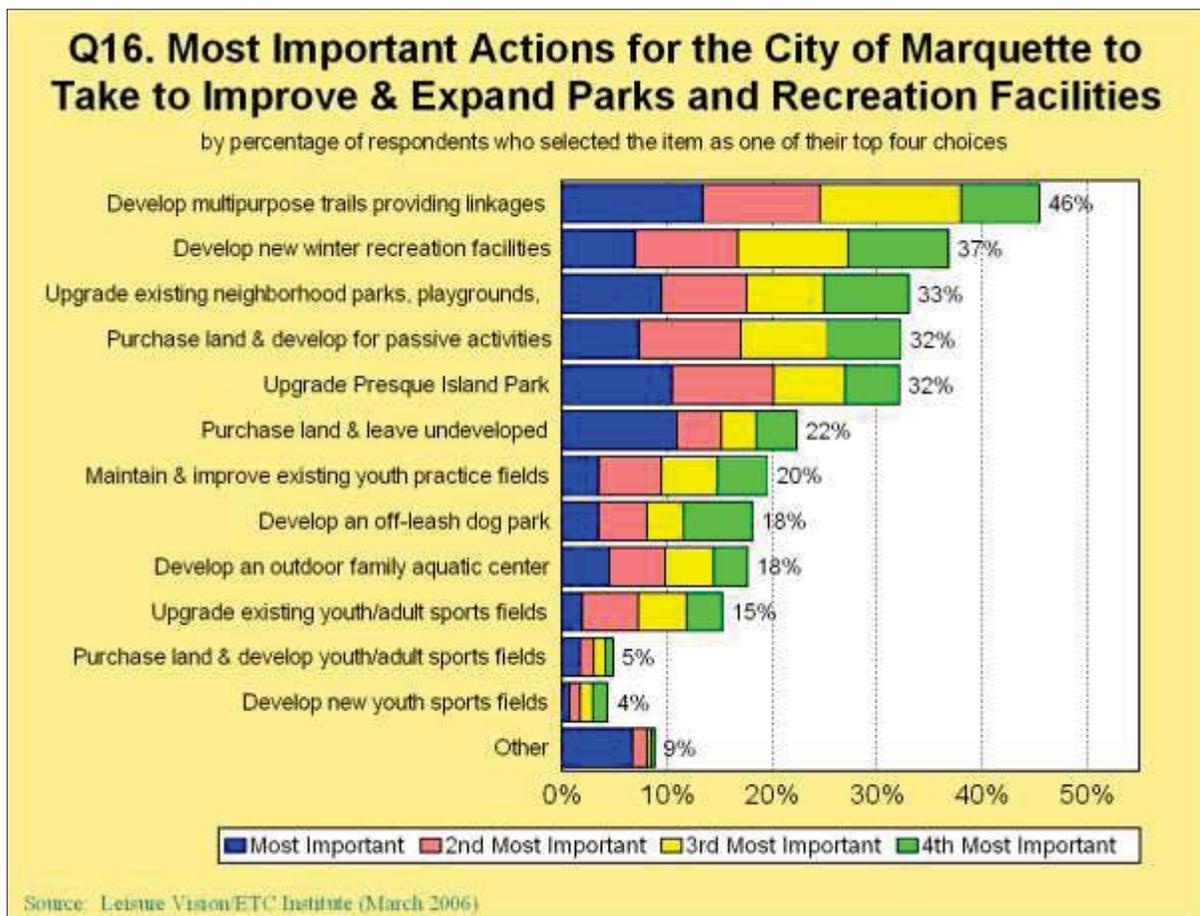
- **Of the 12 actions to improve and expand parks and recreation facilities, there are three that over one-third of respondents are very supportive of.** These three include: develop multipurpose trails providing linkages throughout the area (41%), purchase land and develop for passive activities (35%), and develop new winter recreation facilities (34%). It should also be noted that 8 of the 12 actions had over 50% of respondents indicated being either very supportive of somewhat supportive of them.



Most Important Actions for the City of Marquette to Take

From a list of 12 actions the City of Marquette and Chocolay Township could take to improve and expand parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate the four actions that are most important for the City of Marquette to take. The following summarizes key findings:

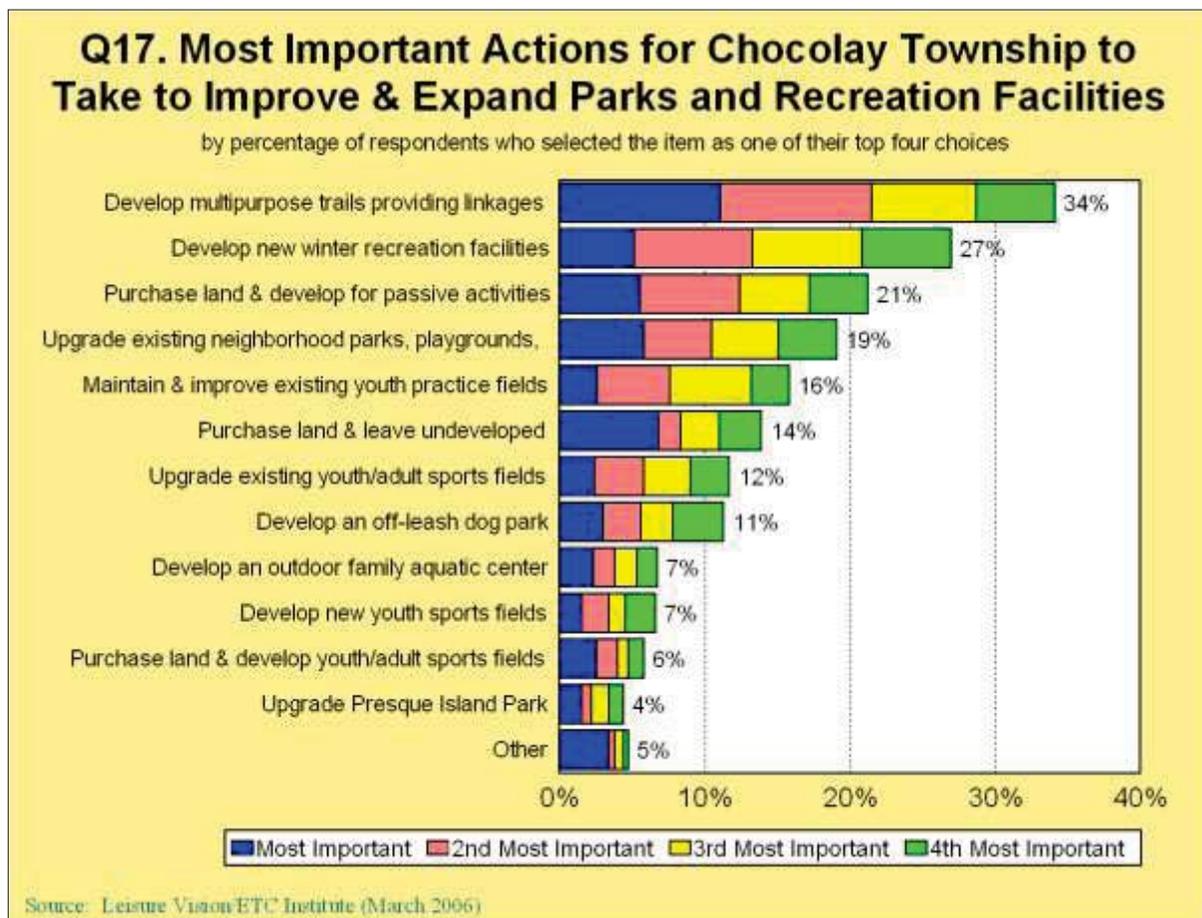
- Develop multipurpose trails providing linkages throughout the area (46%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four most important actions for the City of Marquette.** There are four other actions that over 30% of respondents selected as one of the four most important, including: develop new winter recreation facilities (37%), upgrade existing neighborhood parks, playgrounds, picnic shelters (33%), purchase land and develop for passive activities (32%) and upgrade Presque Island Park (32%). It should also be noted that develop multipurpose trails providing linkages throughout the area had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important action for the City of Marquette to take.



Most Important Actions for Chocolay Township to Take

From a list of 12 actions the City of Marquette and Chocolay Township could take to improve and expand parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate the four actions that are most important for Chocolay Township to take. The following summarizes key findings:

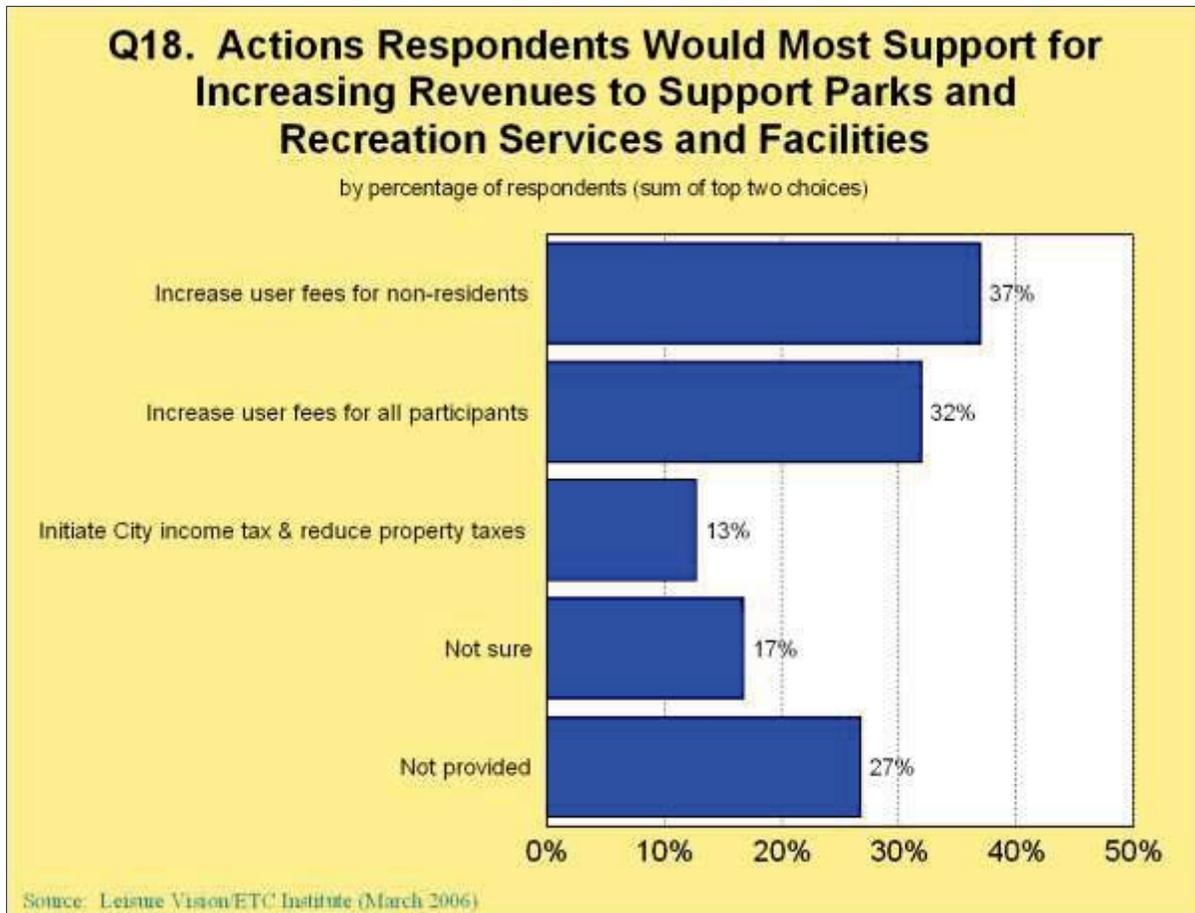
- Develop multipurpose trails providing linkages throughout the area (34%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four most important actions for Chocolay Township to take.** There are two other actions that over 20% of respondents selected as one of the four most important, including: develop new winter recreation facilities (27%) and purchase land and develop for passive activities (21%). It should also be noted that develop multipurpose trails providing linkages throughout the area had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important action for Chocolay Township to take.



Actions to Increase Revenue to Support Parks and Recreation Services and Facilities

From a list of three options, respondents were asked to indicate the two actions they most support for increasing revenues to support parks and recreation services and facilities. The following summarizes key findings:

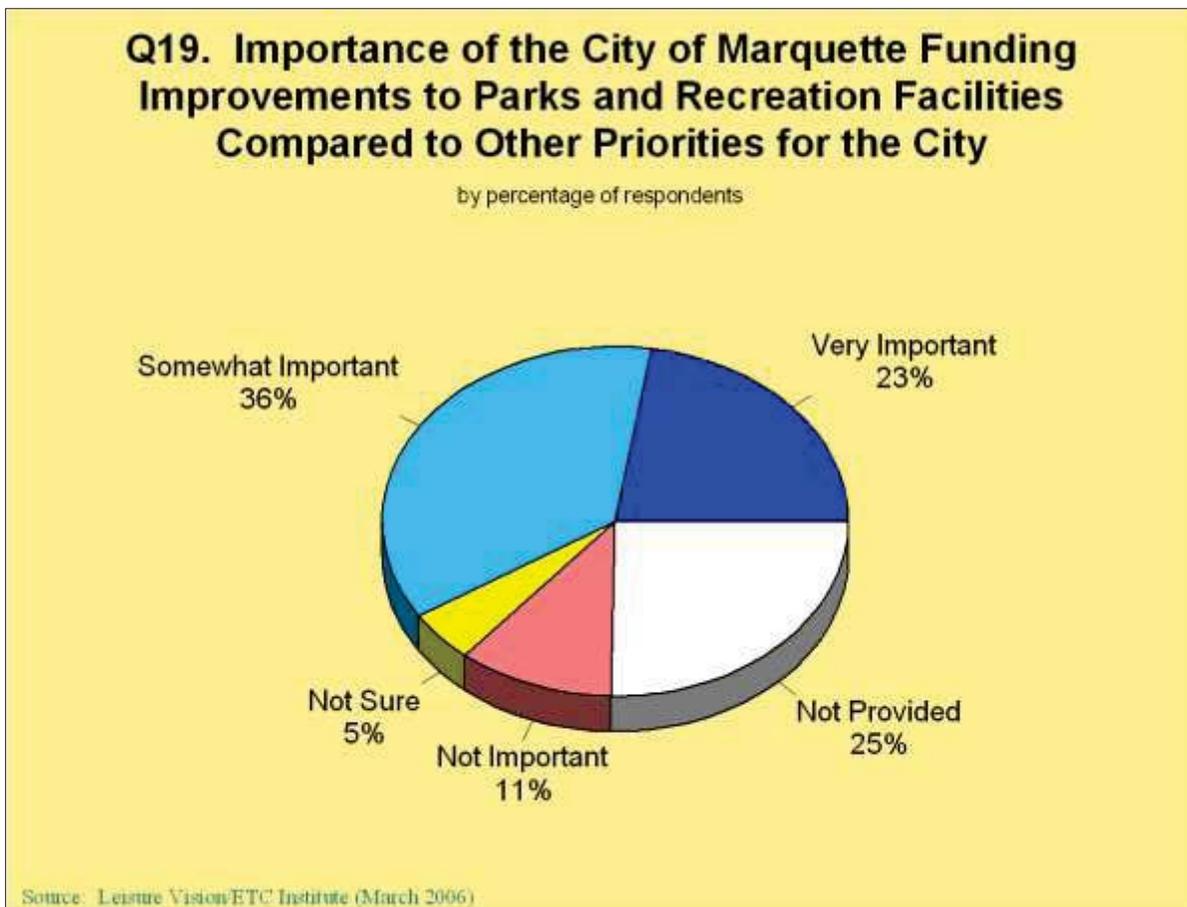
- Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents indicated “increase user fees for non-residents for programs and facilities” as one of the two actions they would most support for increasing revenues to support parks and recreation services and facilities. In addition, 32% of respondents indicated “increase user fees for all participants for programs and facilities” as one of the two actions they most support, 13% indicated “initiate a City income tax and reduce property taxes”.



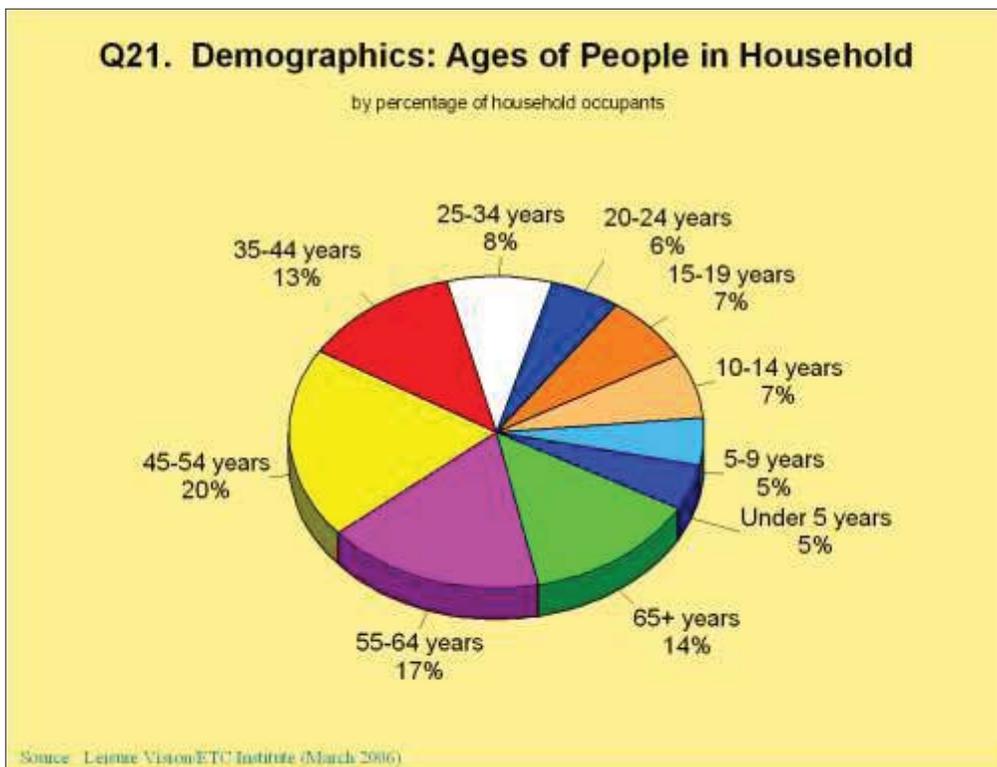
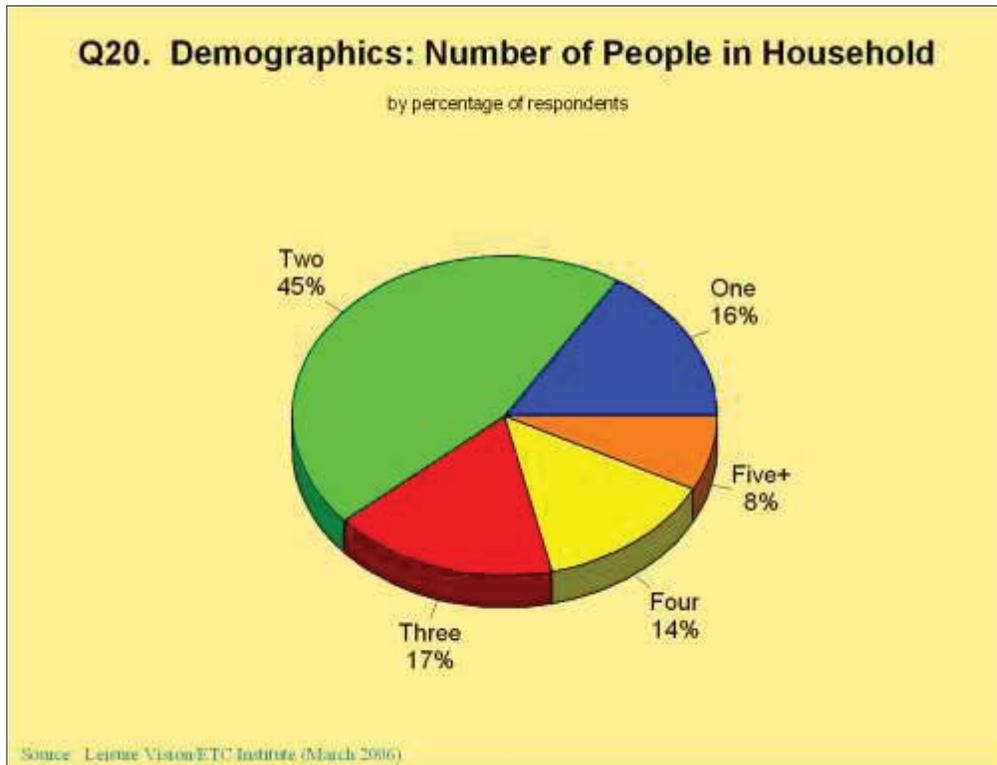
Importance of Funding Improvements to Parks and Recreation Facilities Compared to Other Priorities

Respondents were asked to indicate how important they feel it is for the City of Marquette to fund improvements to parks and recreation facilities compared to other priorities for the City, such as police, fire, and streets. The following summarizes key findings:

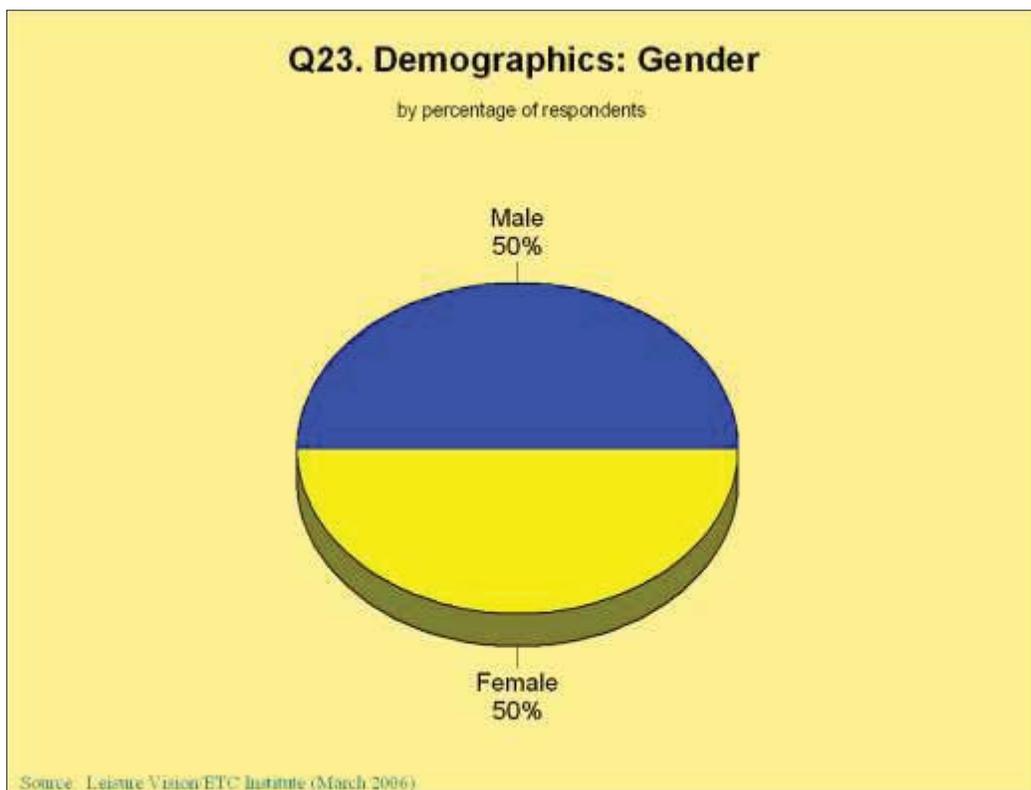
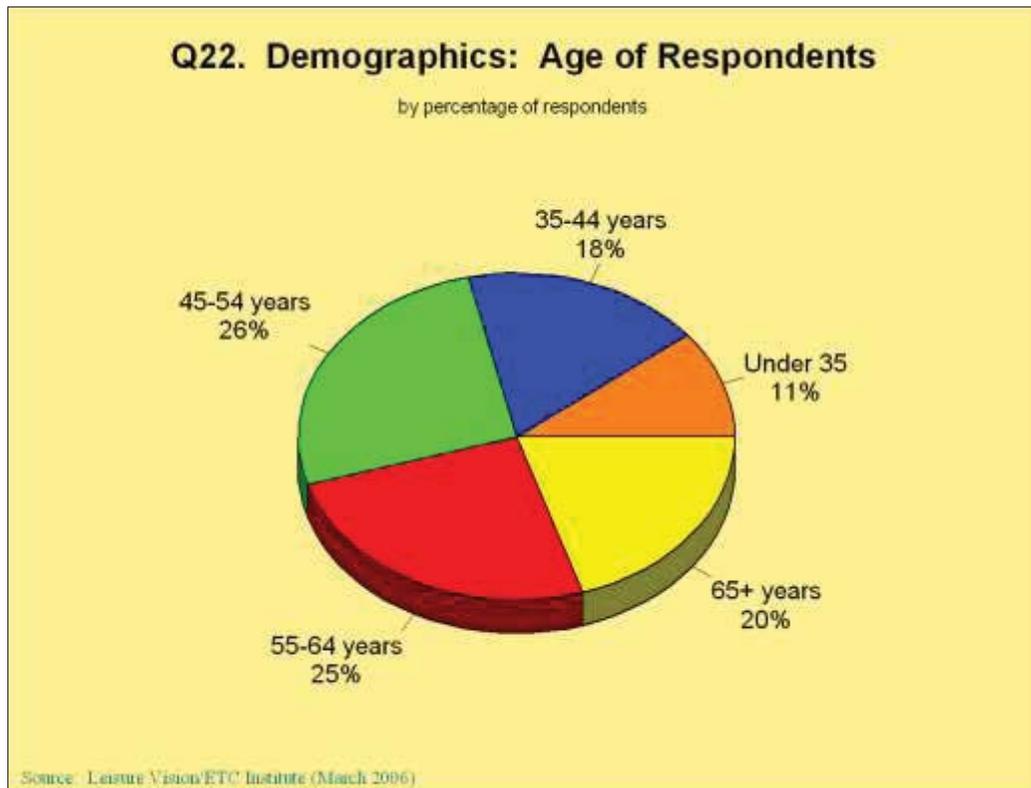
- **Fifty-nine percent (59%) of respondents indicated that it is either very important (23%) or somewhat important (36%) to fund improvements to parks and recreation facilities compared to other priorities for the City.** In addition, only 11% of respondents indicated that it is not important, 5% indicated “not sure”, and 25% did not provide a response.



Demographics



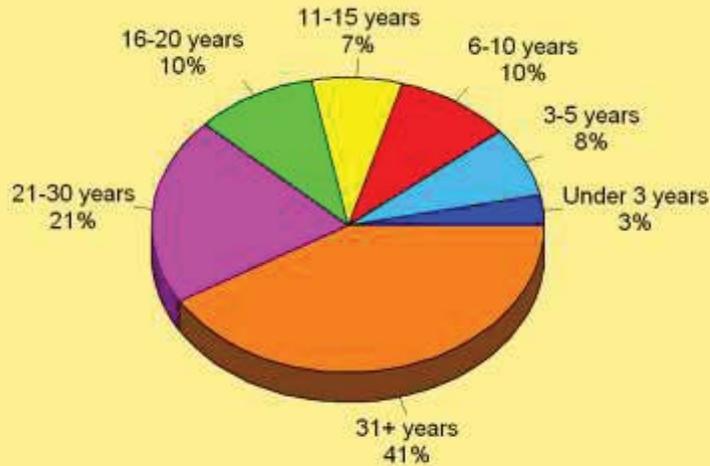
Demographics (Continued)



Demographics (Continued)

Q25. Demographics: Number of Years Lived in the City of Marquette or Chocolay Township

by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (March 2006)

Q24. Demographics: Total Annual Household Income

by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (March 2006)



CHAPTER 7

ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW



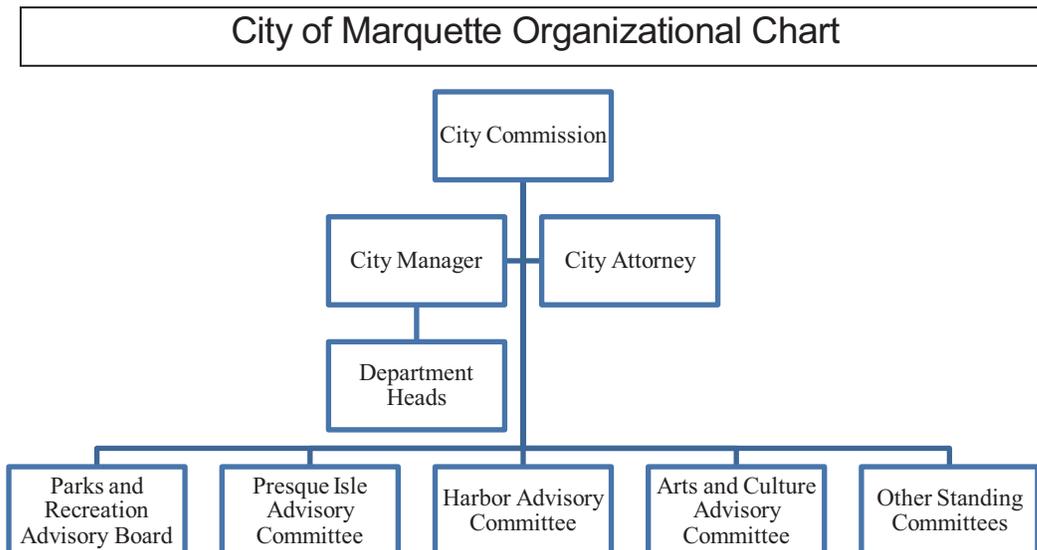
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2011
City of Marquette

The City of Marquette currently provides its recreation services through the Community Services Department – Parks and Recreation Division, the Community Service – Senior Services Division and the Community Services Department – Arts and Culture Division.

The Community Service Department – Arts and Culture Division serves the community by encouraging, developing and facilitating an enriched environment of artistic, creative and cultural activity and serves as the umbrella organization for local arts and cultural organizations.

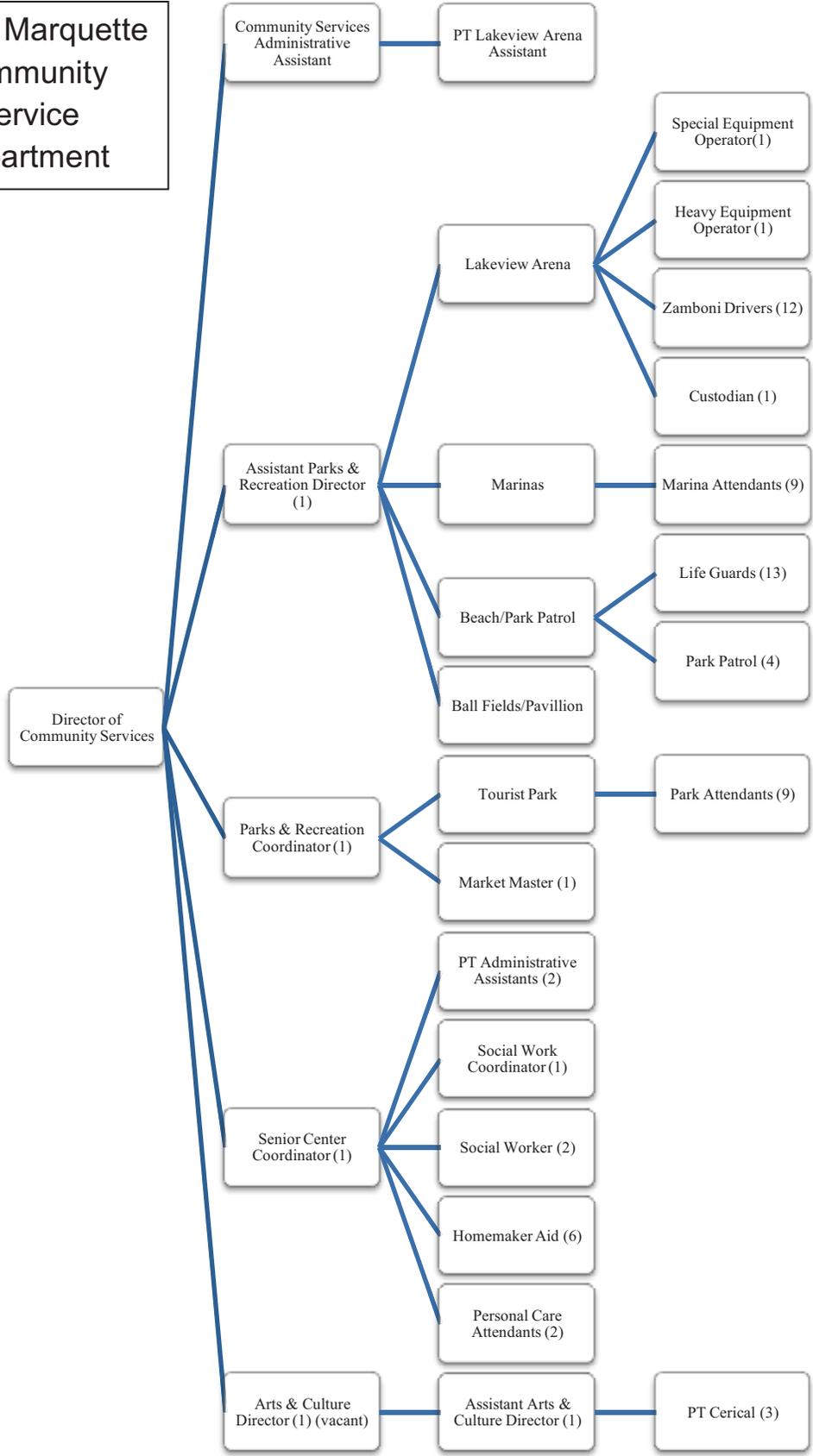
The Community Service Department – Parks and Recreation Division is responsible for maintaining facilities, facilitating with other providers for special events and recreation programs, managing Lakeview Ice Arena and Tourist Park, and staffing beaches and pavilion reservations.

The Community Service Department receives direction from the City Manager, City Committees and the City Commission as shown in the organizational charts below.



**Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2011
City of Marquette**

**City of Marquette
Community
Service
Department**



CHAPTER 8

ACTION PLAN



Introduction

This chapter lists the consultant's recommended actions which are needed to implement the Master Plan. Specific action strategies were developed by the consultant to address key issues which surfaced during the planning process as a direct result of listening to citizens in small group and public meetings, from citizens-at-large through the citizen survey and from interviews with key stakeholders.

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles were used as rationale for developing the Action Plan.

- To take care of what we have
- To enhance existing parks and facilities to create new opportunities
- To expand the existing park system to respond to trends and new visions
- To protect the environment
- To provide health and wellness opportunities
- To provide safe places for children and families to play
- To develop a master plan that is sustainable
- To develop a master plan that is collaborative with our partners
- To develop a master plan that is citizen-focused and encourages continuous citizen participation

Objectives

To position the City of Marquette and its Parks and Recreation Division for success in the future, this plan identifies several objectives which should be accomplished. Those objectives are ones which:

- Are realistic for Marquette given its stable population base and economic condition
- Recognize the emphasis placed by the community on its reputation as a "Winter City"
- Support the preferences for facilities expressed by citizens in the 2006 survey, the stakeholder group surveys and in public meetings
- Provide an opportunity for adjacent cities and townships to participate in the funding and governance of a Recreation Authority
- Demand tough decisions of elected officials by asking them to abandon a few existing facilities
- Recognize the need for a few new facilities and parks



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2011
City of Marquette

Finding #1 – Governance: The community has been engaged for quite some time in the debate about the preferred option for delivering parks and programs in the community; e.g. as a municipal department or Recreation Authority.

Action Strategy 1.1 – The first option is to continue providing parks and programs through the City’s Community Services – Parks and Recreation Division with an emphasis on managing its core services and adopting business principles in its revenue producing facilities.

Action Strategy 1.2 – The second option is to continue ongoing discussions with potential partners for a regional Recreation Authority. As discussions continue on this concept, it can be evaluated at some point against the municipal operation to determine which is best to provide parks and programs in the future.

Finding #2 – Core Businesses: The City will benefit by identifying and managing to its core businesses and partnering with other providers to provide non-core businesses.

Action Strategy 2.1 – The City should allocate its resources to its core businesses with the commitment to do them as well as can be done. Other non-core businesses should be provided by others, or by creating an appropriate partnership with the City, if possible. Core businesses have been defined as follows:

- Facilitator of special events, programs and services provided by others
- Shared-use Paths
- Presque Isle Park
- Beaches and Waterfront Recreation Areas
- Manager and facilitator of special use facilities/services
 - Lakeview Arena
 - Two Marinas
 - Two guarded beaches
 - Athletic fields
 - Tourist Park Campground
 - Concession Stands (Ice Cream Stores)
- Neighborhood Parks

Finding #3 – Surplus Facilities: Some existing costs can be avoided and re-allocated if specified facilities are abandoned.

Action Strategy 3.1 - A facility has been previously identified in Chapter 4 of this Plan for abandonment:

- a) Tourist Park Baseball field



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2011
City of Marquette

Finding #4 – Partnership Development

Action Strategy 4.1 – Continue to work with neighboring local governments and area recreation provided to identify, pursue and implement opportunities for collaboration.

Action Strategy 4.2 – Nurture and expand existing partnerships to share responsibilities for providing recreation programs and facilities.

Action Strategy 4.3 – Evaluate the opportunity in creating living/working studio space for artists.

Finding #5 – Capital Improvements: There is a need to upgrade existing parks and facilities and to add new parks and facilities.

Action Strategy 5.1 – Identify funding mechanisms to upgrade existing facilities. Table 8.2 is a list of projects and estimated costs.

Action Strategy 5.2 – Develop new facilities as shown in Chapter 4 of this report which include a new park in the southwest part of town; a lighted sledding hill; and a winterized restroom facility.

Action Strategy 5.3 – Utilize and adapt emerging technology, such as smart phone applications, to better inform residents and visitors of parks and recreation opportunities.

Finding #6 – Trails: There is a need for Upgrade of Existing Trails, Connections between existing trails and new trails as described in Chapter 4 of this report.

Action Strategy 6.1 – Continue the partnership with the NTN for the development of mountain biking networks in the south part of the city

Action Strategy 6.2 - As land in the city-owned Heartwood Forest property is considered for development or for sale, existing developed trails should be surveyed and permanent public easements created. This will preserve the existing trail network as well as enhance the property being sold or developed.

Action Strategy 6.3 - Collaborate with the NTN to establish the Marquette Commons as an urban trailhead for the vast network of trails and pathways in and around the City, as this facility can provide support facilities such as parking and restrooms, in a centrally located, ideal location.

Action Strategy 6.4 - Assist and cooperate with the NTN to achieve their goal of establishing 100 miles of mountain bike trails by the year 2020.



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Action Strategy 6.5 - Work with NTN to upgrade existing trails and develop new trails that meet the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) standards for sustainable trail design.

Finding #7 – Policies: There is a need for new management policies to guide the Parks and Recreation Division during the implementation of the Master Plan and the management of the Division in the future.

Action Strategy 7.1 – A cost recovery policy should be written and implemented.

Action Strategy 7.2 – A partnership policy should be written and implemented.

Finding #8 – Winter City: Marquette is a “Winter City”. To the community and surrounding area, there are many benefits of winter recreation that must be recognized and supported in some way by the City through the Parks and Recreation Division to ensure that resources are appropriately allocated. The action strategies listed below are the consultant’s recommendation for recognizing and supporting the benefits.

Action Strategy 8.1 – Resource Allocation: As a winter city, the budget needs to emphasize the importance of that season. Resource allocation should reflect the following to recognize the importance of winter activities:

- Cross country skiing in the city at Presque Isle and the Fit Strip
- Consider a lighted sledding hill in an existing park
- Continue to maintain the waterfront walking area in the winter time
- Consider laying ski tracks alongside the waterfront path

Action Strategy 8.2 – Citizen Survey: The Parks and Recreation Division should poll its citizens every three years to ensure that the preferences of the silent majority are considered when decisions are being made.

Action Strategy 8.3 – Trails: Trails that have been identified in Chapter 4 of this Master Plan should be developed.

Action Strategy 8.4 – Special Events: Continue to aggressively pursue the special events which attract both residents and visitors to the community.

Finding #9 – Marquette is a “City by the Lake”: The attraction to water and its impact on a community has been well documented by economists such as Dr. John Crompton at Texas A & M University, the National Realtors Association and others. Marquette is blessed with its proximity to the lake and the opportunities it offers. Several opportunities are available to the City at this time to support its waterfront facilities.



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Action Strategy 9.1 – Marina Operation: The City should benchmark its fee structure and level of service with other marinas that are similar to Marquette’s and report the findings to the City Commission on an annual basis.

Action Strategy 9.2 – Water Trail: The City should continue to promote the water trail and further develop it. Implementation of this strategy would include landing areas, lockers and signage.

Action Strategy 9.3 – Research the possibility of featuring the downtown ore dock by illuminating the structure.

Finding #10 –There is a need to maximize revenue from existing revenue producing facilities such as the Lakeview Arena now operating under a new business plan which has positioned it to recover its operating costs through user fees.

Action Strategy 10.1 – Tourist Park: Improvements need to be made at Tourist Park which reposition it in a changing market. Improvements may include user preferences for access to the internet and cabins.

Action Strategy 10.2 – Marinas: Based on its annual benchmarking of Marquette to other similar marinas and the guidelines established by the Waterways Commission, the City must push the envelope to ensure that fees, services and operations are maximizing revenue and minimizing costs.

Finding #11 – Funding: There is a need to identify realistic funding sources to implement the Master Plan.

Action Strategy 11.1 – Earned Income: Full cost recovery for all programs and special events should be collected from the participant.

Action Strategy 11.2 – Park Use: Park user fees need to be evaluated annually to ensure that the cost of renting the park is reflective of the value of the experience. Typical costs will include preparation, utilities, repairs and cleanup as a result of the user’s activity.

Action Strategy 11.3 – Marinas: The maximum rates approved by the Waterways Commission should be collected from the users.

Action Strategy 11.4 – Lakeview Arena: Attempt to recover full costs for all uses of the facility. The approved Business Plan should be evaluated on an annual basis to determine if the fee structure, staffing levels and hours of operation should be adjusted.



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Action Strategy 11.5 – Capital Improvements: Foundations, User fees, dedicated bonds, County-wide Recreation Authority, General Fund, Donations and grants are the realistic options to fund capital improvements. Marquette citizens feel that improvements to parks and recreation facilities are very important (23%) or somewhat important (36%) compared to other city services such as police, fire and public works.

**TABLE 8.2: ACTION PLAN
 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Priority	Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding/Source	Rational*
Low	Arts and Culture Center Replace Carpet Replace Dance Studio Floor Soundproofing for Doors Skylight Shading	\$20,000	Local/Grants	F
Medium	Harlow Park New Restroom Facilities	\$120,000	Recreation Grants/ Local	FG
Low	Harlow Park Irrigation System	\$75,000	Local/Partners	FG
High	McCarty's Cove New Restroom Facilities	\$120,000	Recreation Grants / Local	FG
Low	McCarty's Cove Irrigation system	\$30,000	Local	FG
Low	Williams Park Resurface Tennis Courts	\$60,000	Grants/Local	FG
Medium	Williams Park Universal Access Improvements	\$20,000	Grants/Local	BFG
Low	Williams Park New Sign	\$10,000	Grants/Local	FG
Medium	Williams Park New Restroom Facilities	\$120,000	Grants/Local	FG
Low	South Beach New Sign	\$10,000	Grants/Local	FG
Low	Lakeview Arena New sign	\$10,000	Grants/Local	FG
Medium	Lakeview Arena Replace cooling Tower Install Soft start units Compressors Purchase new staging for Lakeview and Mattson Park	\$40,000 \$25,000 \$550,000 \$85,000	Grants/Local	FG
Low	Lakeview Arena Irrigation System	\$30,000	Local	FG
Medium	Tourist Park Master Plan	\$20,000	Coastal Mgt/Local	EFG
High	Tourist Park Establish Beach frontage w/guards	\$75,000	Local	EFG



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Low	Tourist Park Campground Shower, Restroom and Admin Building	\$450,000	Recreation Grants/Local	EFG
Medium	Tourist Park Decommission and Repurpose Setter Field	\$25,000	Local	F
Low	Tourist Park Non-motorized Boat Launch	\$25,000	BLP	EFG
Low	Tourist Park Update Playground	\$100,000	Grants/Local	EFG
Medium	Tourist Park Various Universal Access projects	\$20,000	Grants/Local	BEFG
Low	Kaufman Sports Complex Establish Disk Golf course on west side of complex	\$25,000	Partnerships/Local/Donations	B
High	Kaufman Sports Complex Convert 2 softball fields to Little League fields with lighting	\$50,000	Partnerships/Local/Donations	F
Medium	Kaufman Sports Complex Pave Access Drive and Parking Areas	\$800,000	Partnerships/Local/Donations	DG
Low	Kaufman Sports Complex Fence Soccer Fields	\$75,000	Partnerships/Local/Donations	DG
High	Kaufman Sports Complex Irrigation improvements for Soccer Fields	\$150,000	Partnerships/Local/Cash Donations	DG
High	Kaufman Sports Complex Irrigation of Baseball/Softball Fields	\$120,000	Partnerships/Local/Donations	G
Low	Kaufman Sports Complex Lighting Improvements	\$50,000	Partnerships/Local/Donations	DG
High	Kaufman Sports Complex Bike Path Connector/Link	\$115,000	Partnerships/Local/Donations	A
Low	Develop Kayak/Canoe Facilities at Presque Isle and Cinder Pond	\$50,000	Local	BE
Medium	North Marquette Athletic Fields Irrigation System for Fields 1,2 & 4	\$100,000	Partnerships/Grants/Local	F
Medium	West Bike Path Restroom Facility	\$120,000	Grants/Local	A
Medium	Mattson Park Establish Permanent Performance Pad with Anchors for Arabesque Tent	Cost Unknown	Grants/Local	EFG
High	Mattson Park Irrigation System	\$100,000	Local	FG
High	Mattson Park Convert Restroom Facility to all season	\$25,000	Local	FH



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High	Mattson Park Evaluate Electrical system for Future Events	\$5,000	Local	FG
Medium	Mattson Park Repair Parking Lot	\$20,000	Local	FG
Low	Marquette Commons Install Compressor for Ice Rink Refrigeration	\$150,000		BH
High	Heartwood Property Study Recreation Authority Concept for Management and Establishing a Conservation Area.	\$10,000	Partnership Change Grant for	BG
Medium	South Marquette Bike Trails Trailhead Improvements and Restrooms	\$200,000	Grants/Local	A
High	Community/Senior Center ADA Compliance Improvements	\$15,000	Local	BF
Medium	Community/Senior Center Conduct Feasibility Study for a New Community/Senior Center	\$25,000	Local	BF
High	Presque Isle Park New Playground	\$100,000	Grants/Local	BEF
Medium	Presque Isle Park Entrance Sign	\$10,000	Grants/Local	F
Medium	Presque Isle Park Various Universal Access projects	\$35,000	Grants/Local	B
Medium	Presque Isle Park New Restroom Facilities at Band Shell	\$120,000	Grants/Local	BEF
High	Presque Isle Park New Band Shell Benches	\$40,000	Local	BEF
Low	Presque Isle Park Wayfinding system	\$20,000	Grants/Local	BEF
High	Presque Isle Park Portable Furnishings at the Pavilion	\$15,000	Local	BEF
Low	Rowing Club Boathouse Identify/Study Location, Cost & Funding	Cost Unknown	Grants/Local	B
High	Presque Isle Marina Phases II-V	\$2,000,000	DNR Waterways/ Local	EFG



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Rationale Explanations

- A – additional pathways-trails identified as very high priority/need by responses to attitude survey
- B – need and/or demand identified at public workshop or forum
- C – additional type of parkland or facility identified as a priority need by public attitude survey
- D – Soccer field development identified as a need via documented increasing popularity of the sport and observed high demand at the existing location (s) and as a priority by application of recreation facility development standards (which show a current deficiency)
- E – use of city parks/facilities to attract tourists identified as desirable by public attitude survey
- F – existing facility is outdated, deteriorated, and/or is becoming unsafe
- G – improvement represents a later planned stage of a multi-phased project currently in progress
- H – conforms to formal city policy advocating multi-seasonal use of facilities

Explanation of Priority

Priority	Timeframe	Total Cost of Projects in Action Plan
High	1-2 years	\$2,805,000
Medium	2-4 years	\$2,455,000
Low	4-5+ years	\$1,154,000
		<u>\$6,414,000</u>

Current Public Recreation Funding Programs

Natural Resources Trust Fund	MI DNR
Land and Water Conservation Fund	MI DNR
Recreation Passport Fund	MI DNR
Coastal Management Program	MI DEQ
Waterways Program	MI DNR

