RECREATION PLAN

2021-2025

WHITEFISH TOWNSHIP, CHIPPEWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN
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WHITEFISH TOWNSHIP
RECREATION PLAN
2021-2025

Chippewa County, Michigan

Prepared for:
Whitefish Township Board

Prepared by:
Whitefish Township Recreation Committee
and
EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission
1118 E. Easterday Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Adopted 11/5/2020
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# Table of Contents

List of Maps ........................................................................................................... 3

PURPOSE .................................................................................................................. 4

VISION ....................................................................................................................... 4

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION .................................................................................... 5

   Extent of Plan Focus ............................................................................................. 5

   Location .................................................................................................................. 5

   Description .......................................................................................................... 7

   History ................................................................................................................... 7

   Climate .................................................................................................................. 9

   Population and Housing ....................................................................................... 9

   Transportation ..................................................................................................... 10

   Topography .......................................................................................................... 10

   Land Cover ........................................................................................................... 10

   Land Ownership ................................................................................................. 10

   Water Resources ................................................................................................. 11

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE ............................................................................. 15

   Administration ..................................................................................................... 15

   Administrative Chart ........................................................................................... 15

   Planning Commission ........................................................................................... 15

   Recreation Committee .......................................................................................... 16

   Staff/Parks and Recreation Maintenance ........................................................... 16

   Relationships with Other Agencies and Volunteers ............................................ 16

   Finances/Parks and Recreation Current Funding ................................................. 16

   Recreational Programming .................................................................................. 17

   Recreation Grant History ...................................................................................... 17

RECREATION INVENTORY ...................................................................................... 18
# List of Maps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map 1</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 2</td>
<td>Elevation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 3</td>
<td>Land Cover</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 4</td>
<td>Land Ownership</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map 5</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PURPOSE

Recreation provides opportunities to enhance the quality of life in a community. The development of this Recreation Plan also serves as a vehicle for outreach to the Whitefish Township community and the opportunity to create a blueprint which will guide the development of our recreational assets. Planning is essential for responsible management of resources and for expanding those resources for the benefit of the community. The Whitefish Township Recreation Plan is an essential step in the development and well-being of Township residents and visitors.

This plan will:

- Engage partners and community members to reflect their vision for the community
- Inventory and review the status of existing assets
- Analyze the challenges and opportunities for each of our recreational assets
- Develop a strategy to make feasible and impactful improvements which will support an improved quality of life and economic growth
- Facilitate DNR grant eligibility

VISION

To provide an array of diverse community and recreational activities in this area to serve our youth, adults, and senior citizens, as well, the thousands of tourists that travel to and through the Whitefish Township area annually.
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Extent of Plan Focus
It is not just the members of the Paradise community that make use of the recreational facilities located in Whitefish Township, but also members of neighboring jurisdictions of Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties, the many seasonal residents and thousands of touring visitors who influx the area during all seasons.

Located in a natural and remote area, Whitefish Township has abundant year-round recreational opportunities. Springtime brings out the bird watchers, while the autumn months provide opportunities for wild berry harvesting and fall color tours. The summer leads to camping and water enjoyment and the winter to crisp, white scenery and a variety of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

Whitefish Point, the northern tip of the Whitefish Township, is a major flyway and migration area for thousands of birds and waterfowl. This area encompasses over 50 acres of open public land and is part of the Whitefish Point Unit - Seney National Wildlife Refuge and Michigan Audubon property. Bird watchers from all over the world come to this area during spring and autumn migrations.

Fishing, hunting, boating both motorized and non-motorized, snowmobiling, orv-atv trail riding, horseback riding, swimming, scuba diving, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing are examples of these all-season recreational opportunities. The area has many trails and rural roads for walking, biking, equestrian and motorized use.

The Whitefish Township School provides a unique opportunity for students to encompass all the history, culture, plant and wildlife diversity this area has to offer. The gymnasium and playground equipment are available to members of the community.

This plan focuses on those recreational facilities located in Whitefish Township, Chippewa County, Michigan. This plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities and the socio-economic status as well to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements that fit those needs.

Location
Whitefish Township occupies the northwest corner of Chippewa County and lies within the area described as T47N, T48N, T49N, and T50N; and R6W and R7W. Map 1 on the following page shows the location of Whitefish Township in Michigan.

The Township is roughly twenty-five miles long north to south and twelve miles wide east to west. Lake Superior borders the township to the north and Whitefish Bay on
Lake Superior to the east. Luce County borders the west side and three Chippewa County townships to the south (Hulbert, Chippewa, and Bay Mills Townships).

**Description**
According to the U.S. Census Whitefish Township has a total area of 293.6 square miles of which 241.5 square miles is land and 52.1 square miles is water. The Tahquamenon River flows eastward across the center of the township, entering Whitefish Bay at the historical community of Emerson. The river drops over Lower Tahquamenon Falls within the township and the Tahquamenon Falls State Park occupies a large portion of the township on either side of the river.

The population center in the Township is the unincorporated village of Paradise, which is located along the Township’s main route of M-123. Paradise is a gateway to multiple tourist attractions including the Tahquamenon Falls, Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Whitefish Point and the Whitefish Unit of the Seney Wildlife Refuge.

Most of the land within Paradise is primarily used for commercial purposes, such as motels and resorts, restaurants, stores, gift shops, gas/convenience stores, and auto/snowmobile repair services. Land outside the village is heavily forested; major landowners include the State of Michigan, the U.S. Forest Service, and timberland corporations.

**History**
Whitefish Township is rich in history. Before the arrival of the French explorers, the local Chippewa bands of Native Americans used the coastal waters of Lake Superior as fishing grounds. The various islands, bays, points, river mouths, and hills along the coast were also important camping sites, harbors of refuge, and landmarks in the Indians’ employment of the near shore water as a canoe highway.

The name Tahquamenon is from the Ojibwe for “this is a short route” (Ou=this + takou=it is short + minan=trail or path). This name refers originally to Tahquamenon Bay, which the Indians used as a shortcut while traveling. The bay has a small island in it that facilitated the “shortcut” from Whitefish Point across the open and at times dangerous bay. The name was later given to the River that enters the bay. The current name for the Tahquamenon River in the Ojibwa language is Adikamegong-ziibi “River where the Whitefish are found.” This name is also the naming basis for the Whitefish Point and Whitefish Bay, both known earlier as “Tahquamenaw”.

Lumbering, commercial fishing, blueberry and cranberry harvesting were among the major economic activities in the 1800’s. As a result of these activities many small
settlements were established and, as the resources were depleted, eventually abandoned.

One of the oldest settlements in Michigan, Whitefish Point was a productive fishery on Lake Superior in 1895. In 1848, a lighthouse was erected on the property. The present structure was built in 1902 and placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It is the site of the oldest operating light station on Lake Superior. In the 1980’s the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society (GLSHS) began leasing the property and established the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum which attracts thousands of visitors annually. The lighthouse remains active today and is critical to the safety of ships and sailors traveling on Lake Superior. In 1998 the Bureau of Land Management transferred 8.27 acres to the GLSHS and 2.69 acres to the Michigan Audubon Society. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department maintains control and manages 33.04 acres at Whitefish Point.

Shelldrake is the oldest commercial settlement in the township. It was named for the river that ran through it, which was called Shelldrake by the French explorers in the late 1600’s after the merganser duck that nested there. Mill fires destroyed the settlement in the early 1900’s and the land is now privately owned.

Vermilion was named for the deposits of red ochre near the Lake Superior shoreline. A life-saving station, first built in 1873, was washed into the Lake in 1938 and rebuilt but eventually abandoned in 1943. The red cranberries were once harvested by Native American families and shipped in barrels from Whitefish Point. This spectacular property was protected in February 2007 thanks to a bargain sale from Evan Noyes and his Wildshore Foundation and grants from the J.A. Woollam Foundation and the North American Wetland Conservation Act Program and is now under the ownership of Little Traverse Conservancy.

Emerson was located at the mouth of the Tahquamenon River and was founded in 1882. Both fishing and lumbering operated here. There are no longer any buildings on this site and the property is part of the Tahquamenon Falls State Park.

In 1926, 225 lots in Paradise were surveyed and laid out and the settlement named for the natural beauty of the area. Today, there are a number of tourist-oriented commercial establishments, churches, the Whitefish Township Hall and Community Center, Whitefish Township Community School and the Whitefish Township Community Library.
Climate
Annual averages are based on weather data collected from 1981 to 2010 for the NOAA National Climatic Data Center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Inches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whitefish Township</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>122.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers are for the total amount of new snow and how many days it snows at least 0.01 inches during the year.

| Annual Average Precipitation (yearly averages for rainfall plus snowfall) |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 175                         | 32.3  |

Includes the days when precipitation amounts to 0.01 inches or more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Average Temperature</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relief from freezing and sub-freezing temperatures usually lasts four and one-half months from mid-May to October.

Population and Housing
According to the U.S. Census Bureau the population estimate for 2018 is 545 with 52.5% male and 47.5% female. The average median age is 54.5 years for Whitefish Township compared to Michigan’s median age of 39.8 years and the United States median age of 37.9 years.

Just under 4% of the population is under the age of 5, 73.9% are 18 years and older and 29.5% are 65 years and older. Ninety-two percent of the population is white, 3.3% are Native American and two or more races at 3.9%.
About 21% of the population is disabled compared to 12.6% of disabled in the U.S. Ninety-six percent of the population are a high school graduate or have some level of higher education. The median household income is just over $37,000 and almost 32% are at poverty level or below.

There are 1,416 housing units with 223 occupied and 1,193 vacant. Average household size is 2.42 persons. The population increases as seasonal residents and recreational visitors come to the area, but it is difficult to estimate exactly what that seasonal increase is as people stay with family or friends, at the many campgrounds and at private lodging places.

Transportation
The primary route through the Township is state highway M-123 which travels north/south and turns west at Paradise and continues to loop west and south to the Village of Newberry in Luce County. A system of national forest, state forest, and county roads provides access to and from the township. There is no rail, bus, or air service currently in the Township. The nearest passenger air service is located 57 miles away in Kinross Township.

Topography
Elevation in Whitefish Township ranges from 572 feet above sea level at the lowest points around the shoreline to over 1,100 feet at the highest point in the south west portion. See Map 2 on page 12.

Land Cover
Map 3 on page 13 shows woody wetlands in the lower elevations and deciduous forest in the higher areas of the township. Forested areas make-up about 80% and wetlands about 19% of the land area. Evergreen forests, herbaceous, lakes, rivers and emergent wetlands are scattered throughout the township. Residential areas are found along the major highway and county roads along the eastern shoreline with the majority located in the community of Paradise. Small pockets of private land are interspersed along the northern shoreline and along county roads into the wilderness areas of the Township.

Land Ownership
On page 14 Map 4 shows the largest landowner in Whitefish Township is the State of Michigan. Tahquamenon Falls State Park encompasses over 50,000 acres stretching over thirteen miles into Luce County. Other major landowners include U.S. Forest Service and timber corporations. Approximately 47% of the land is public, 18% private and the remaining 35% under corporate holdings. A major portion of the public land is in the northern half of the township while private holdings are generally in the southern half and along the shoreline.
**Water Resources**

Whitefish Township borders Lake Superior which is the largest of the Great Lakes of North America and the world's largest freshwater lake by surface area. The Ojibwe name for the lake is gichi-gami, meaning “great sea.” Henry W. Longfellow wrote the name as “Gitche Gumee” in *The Song of Hiawatha* and Gordon Lightfoot sung it that way in his song *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*. At least 200 shipwrecks lie along Lake Superior's Shipwreck Coast, a treacherous 80-mile stretch of shoreline with no safe harbor between Munising, Michigan, and Whitefish Point. The famous Edmund Fitzgerald lies just 15 miles to the northwest of Whitefish Point. The township’s waterfront, history and culture, and shipwreck preserve are some of its greatest assets and a major economic factor.

The Tahquamenon River is an 89.1-mile-long blackwater river that flows in a generally eastward direction through the lower middle of the Township. It drains approximately 820 square miles of the Upper Peninsula, including large sections of Luce and Chippewa Counties. Some tributaries originate in Mackinac County as well. It begins in northeast Columbus Township of Luce County and empties into Lake Superior south of the village of Paradise. The Tahquamenon’s huge central marsh and wetland area protects this region from excessive human development. The watershed remains very natural; forests and wetlands make up about 90 percent of the area. The lower falls, located four miles downstream from the upper falls in Luce County, are a series of five smaller falls cascading around an island which can be reached by rowboat. A hiking trail runs between the upper and lower falls along the riverside. The falls are a popular tourist destination during all seasons. The Tahquamenon Falls State Park has campgrounds at the Rivermouth and Lower Falls.

The Sheldrake River is a 32-mile-long river that originates in the Betsy Lake watershed and flows west to east to drain into Lake Superior north of Paradise. A dam impounds the river 8 miles northwest of Sheldrake and is a great fishing area. The rustic state forest campground at Sheldrake was closed in 2014 but area is still accessible for day use.

Major lakes in the township include Sheephead, Clark, (Piatt and Johnson, private lakes) and Andrus. Sheephead and Clark do not have vehicle access but are open to foot traffic. The MDNR maintains a state forest campground located at Andrus Lake.
Map 2 - Elevation
Map 3 - Land Cover

WHITEFISH TOWNSHIP
REC PLAN MAP: LAND COVER

- Whitefish TWP Rec Plan Area
- Barren Land
- Cultivated Crops
- Deciduous Forest
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Med Intensity
- Developed, High Intensity
- Emergent Wetlands
- Evergreen Forest
- Hay/Pasture
- Herbaceous
- Mixed Forest
- Shrub/Scrub
- Lakes & Rivers
- Ontario
- MAP CREATED BY EUPRPDC
- State Roads
- International Border

Legend:

- 0 1.75 3.5 7 10.5 14 Miles

Lake Superior
Map 4 - Land Ownership

WHITEFISH TOWNSHIP
REC PLAN MAP: OWNERSHIP

- Whitefish TWP Rec Plan Area
- Hiawatha National Forest
- Lake Superior Campground
- Marsh Lake Natural Area
- Newberry Forest Mngmt.
- Private & other
- Tahquamenon Falls State Park
- U of M Property
- State Roads
- International Border

- Barb’s Beach
- Jinny Palms
- Little Lake Sanctuary
- Vermilion Point
- Newberry State Forest
- Sheldrake Orchid Bog
- Tahq. Study Area
- Lakes & Rivers
- Ontario

MAP CREATED BY EUPRPDC

[Map of land ownership in Whitefish Township, Michigan, showing various ownership areas and labels.]
**ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

**Administration**
Whitefish Township is governed by a five-member elected Board of Trustees consisting of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and two Trustees. Positions are voted on by registered voters in an at-large election held every four years. The Township Board is responsible for all recreation decisions for the township.

The Township Board may appoint a special committee to assess recreational development plans.

**Administrative Chart**

**Planning Commission**
The Township Planning Commission may advise the Township Board on matters relating to recreational development. The Whitefish Township Planning Commission is a 5-member body that serves 3-year terms. Planning Commission members are intended to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce, industry, government, education, transportation, and so on. Planning members contribute their time and talents to the local planning process through the review of proposed development projects and the preparation of the Master Plan and Recreation Plan.
Recreation Committee
Whitefish Township has no formal park and/or recreational board. Special committees were used for the original Township Recreation Plan in 1978 and for the past updates.

The Whitefish Township Board appointed the current Recreational Planning Committee (comprised of representatives from Whitefish Township Community School, Senior Citizens, Businesses, and two at-large representatives) to assess current recreation facilities and make recommendations for the Township’s 2021-2025 Recreation Plan.

Staff/Parks and Recreation Maintenance
The Township Board directly controls all township-owned recreation facilities. The Township Supervisor oversees the maintenance staff assigned to the upkeep of recreation facilities. There is currently 1 full-time maintenance staff.

Relationships with Other Agencies and Volunteers
Whitefish Township relies on volunteers from the community for event or festival planning and organizing, facilities maintenance and upgrades, and funding support. These volunteers consist of members of the community, Paradise Area Chamber of Commerce, Whitefish Township School, Chippewa County Sportsman’s Off-Road Vehicle Association (SORVA), Paradise Area Night Riders (PANR) Snowmobile Club, Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society and Sault Tribe of Chippewa County. US Coast Guard Group Soo occasionally provides labor for service projects.

Finances/Parks and Recreation Current Funding
The Whitefish Township Board has the authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants and acquire land on behalf of the community. Revenue invested in parks and recreation for Whitefish Township have come from the general fund, fundraising, grant monies, and donations. The Township also welcomes any volunteers to help with recreational upkeep.

Current Fund Balances:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Park Budget:</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>SPEND</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2017/2018</td>
<td>$ 5,077</td>
<td>$ 1,505</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018/2019</td>
<td>$ 4,202</td>
<td>$ 917</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019/2020</td>
<td>$ 3,967</td>
<td>$ 3,755</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2020/2021</td>
<td>$18,779</td>
<td>$ 2,801</td>
<td>Through August 31 (2 months)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation Budget:

| FY 2020/2021  | $32,110 | $16,055| Improvements to Wildcat Road. |
Recreational Programming
The Township does not offer any recreational programs.

Whitefish Township is the location for many community events, such as; the Tahquamenon Hike Between da Falls, the Wild Blueberry Festival, Tahquamenon Trail 25K Run, Fish Boil, Tahquamenon Wilderness Canoe Race, Great Lakes Endurance Tahquamenon Snowshoe Race, Whitefish Point Marathon, Whitefish Point Run for the Light, community flea market, a local fishing contest, and several others.

The Paradise Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors an annual “Haunted Trail” for Halloween fun in which the hiking trail at Sawmill Park is decorated and treats are made available. Music on the Bay was offered as a weekly concert event over the summer months when funding and volunteer organizers were available. Latern-lit night cross-country ski events are held on the Paradise Pathway Ski Trail.

As a regional destination many bicycling tours and events follow Highway M-123 through Paradise and Whitefish Township. The Tour da Yoop, Eh challenge is a bicycling event that grew out of a love for biking in nature. The club has grown and works with MDOT on creating bicycling safe roads and routes. This bicycling challenge event covers the entire U.P. The League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB) hosts the Michigan Upper Peninsula (MUP) Bicycling Tour annually which also follows the M-123 on-road highway route. LMB also offers a Micro-Grant Program which provides financial assistance to support the implementation of creative projects that promote bicycling and the safety of bicyclists on Michigan roadways.

Recreation Grant History
Whitefish Township has not received any past MDNR Recreation grants. There is currently an application under review that was submitted in March 2020 for the expansion of Saturn Memorial Park.
RECREATION INVENTORY

Inventory Procedures
The methods used by EUPRP&DC staff to compile this recreational inventory included verification and compilation of information from the previous recreation plan. Site visits were made and included verification and evaluation of ADA accessibility.

In addition, information was researched via internet resources including Google, Land Conservancies, MDNR Parks and Trails, MDNR Boat Launch websites, Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL), and additional Geographic Information Systems data possessed by EUPRP&DC. The Whitefish Township Recreation Committee reviewed and provided additional pictures and information. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

The assets inventoried below are all located in Whitefish Township and serve residents in addition to thousands of visitors every year.

ADA Compliance Ranking
The following criteria were used for ADA compliance ranking each facility:

1 = None of the facilities/park area meets accessibility guidelines.
2 = Some of the facilities/park area meets accessibility guidelines.
3 = Most of the facilities/park area meets accessibility guidelines.
4 = The entire facility/park area meets accessibility guidelines.
5 = The entire facility/park area was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.

A map of the inventory sites is shown on page 36.
Township Owned Park and Recreation Facilities

1. Saturn Memorial Park

Type: Community Park
Size: 10.92 Acres
Location: 46.764959, -85.014039
Accessibility: 1

Located on the Lake Superior shoreline west of Whitefish Point this township-owned park is in the process of expansion with a MNRTF grant applied for in March, 2020. It is named for the historical wreck of the barge Saturn which went down on November 27, 1872 with all seven aboard along with sister barge Jupiter with six aboard.

Strengths of this site are the wide-open shoreline where one can beachcomb, swim, paddle, sunbathe, picnic, and enjoy nature and wildlife.

Issues also arise with the wide-open space as winds and water create an ever-changing sandy landscape and have in the past buried the parking lot and destroyed the pit toilet that was there. The Township is currently working with the Chippewa County Road Commission on improving the access road and parking area.

Keeping the area pristine and in a natural state is the priority. Establishing policies can help protect the area. Adopting and clearly communicating the "Leave No Trace" seven principals will help to educate those who use this facility. Amenities should be chosen with careful thought of the maintenance that will be required. Volunteer events may need to be held annually or more often to handle the maintenance activities. Maintenance activities that are needed should be defined with cost estimates and revised as new amenities are added.
2. Saw Mill Creek Park

Type: Community Park  
Size: 4.25 Acres  
Location: 46.629461, -85.037634  
Accessibility: 2

Located just north of M-123 on Whitefish Point Road, this park includes a large parking area, covered pavilion picnic area with hand pump well, nature trail, vault toilets, and informational kiosk.

Besides its beautiful and natural setting, one of this park’s strengths is in its location to downtown Paradise.

The community uses this park for trail events including a “haunted trail” in the fall and “lantern lit” snowshoe hike in the winter.

Maintenance activities include trail clearing and debris removal, cleaning and maintenance to toilet facility, picnic table winter storage and spring placement, and signage maintenance and replacement when needed.

Recommended improvements include to pave the parking area, install improved toilets, outdoor playground equipment, and enhance picnic facilities.
3. Sunrise Park

Type: Community Park
Size: 4.83 Acres
Location: 46.609735, -85.038421
Accessibility: 1

This Township-owned wooded parcel is located on Hwy. M-123 adjacent on the north side of property owned by Chippewa Co. Road Commission which is adjacent on the north to the Township Hall and Community Center property.

It is proposed that the Township will acquire the County Road Commission property, which has been declared a brownfield once it has been cleaned up. Acquisition of the Road Commission property will connect the Township Community Center property on the south with the parcel on the north side.

The location on the Whitefish Bay, Lake Superior shoreline facing east creates an ideal place for the community and visitors to stop and view the daily sunrises.

Eventually, the plans for this community park include to stabilize the shoreline and make an accessible pathway to the water. Landscaping options should be thoroughly and carefully chosen for shoreline stabilization and management with efforts to keep most of the property in a natural state.

Additional long-term improvements would be to build a pavilion, well installation and possibly a recreation center for year-round activities.
4. Whitefish Township Community Center and Recreation Area

Type: Special Use  
Size: 2.39 Acres  
Location: 46.608135, -85.038253  
Accessibility: 2  

Located on North Hwy. M-123 the building contains a large multi-purpose room with a stage, kitchen, book exchange, restrooms, and township offices. There is a large, paved parking lot.

The Community Center can be rented out for both private and public events. Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac Community Action Agency serves senior meals twice a week.

The property is located on the shores of Whitefish Bay and has picnic tables and vault toilets outside.

The area was a venue for Music on the Bay, a weekly concert series held over the summer of 2018.

Suggested improvements for this property would include a gazebo/amphitheater type facility that could be rented out for weddings or other events, as well as a stage for musicians or performances held at the hall. Potential grant source for an art or cultural structure would be the Michigan Council for Art's Capital Improvement Program.
5. **Whitefish Township Community Library**

- **Type:** Special Use
- **Size:** 12.72 Acres
- **Location:** 46.611488, -85.039179
- **Accessibility:** 3

The library provides a number of reading, photography, and other hobby exploration programs for youth and adults.

---

**Other Publicly Owned Park and Recreation Facilities**

6. **Andrus Lake State Forest Campground**

- **Type:** Special Use
- **Size:** 40.15 Acres
- **Location:** 46.703809, -85.035530
- **Accessibility:** 2

This State Forest Campground has 25 rustic camp sites, vault toilets, beach, picnic area, hard surface boat ramp. It is located in northern Whitefish Township on Andrus Lake. Recreational activities include hunting, boating, fishing, rustic camping and wildlife watching.

---

7. **Betsy Lake**

- **Type:** Natural Resources Area
- **Size:** 19,000 Acres
- **Location:** 46.623464, -85.273024
- **Accessibility:** 1

Located in the Tahquamenon Falls State Park this recreational area is also in neighboring McMillan Township in Luce County with a trailhead entrance in Whitefish Township. Included is 38 miles of hiking trails. Wetlands dominate the
area around Betsy, Sheephead and Clark Lakes, including one of the largest northern peatlands in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Wildlife in the area include bald eagles, wolf, black bear, coyote, osprey, spruce grouse, sharp tail grouse, river otter, fox, porcupine, beaver, mink, pileated woodpeckers, and a variety of waterfowl and songbirds. The Tahquamenon area also sees large numbers of migrating birds during the spring and fall migrations. In addition, this is one of the few nesting areas for sandhill cranes in Michigan.

8. Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum
Type: Special Use
Size: 4.82 Acres
Location: 46.770825, -84.957799
Accessibility: 2

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society was founded in 1978 by a group of divers, teachers, and educators to commence exploration of historic shipwrecks in eastern Lake Superior, near Whitefish Point. Today, this non-profit organization operates The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Whitefish Point Light Station, Whitefish Point. The Shipwreck Museum is open to the public seasonally from May 1 to October 31.
9. **Jinny Palms**  
Type: Natural Resources Area  
Size: 360 acres  
Location: 46.740809, -85.182432  
Accessibility: 1  

Situated a mile inland from Lake Superior, this preserve borders the Michigan Nature Association’s 370-acre Lake Superior Preserve. The northwest portion of Chippewa County is the wildest and most remote land in LTC’s service area and contains some of the largest blocks of unfragmented landscape. Jeannine Palms donated this preserve in memory of her mother.

10. **John J. Helstrom Nature Preserve**  
Type: Natural Resources Areas  
Size: 14 acres  
Location: 46.674797, -85.029703  
Accessibility: 1  

Located at Shelldrake River in Whitefish Township. This property, acquired in 2017, includes over 1,800 feet of frontage on Shelldrake River as well as 700 feet of Lake Superior shoreline.

Benches, fishing platform, foot trail along river to Lake Superior with a viewing platform would enhance this area for wildlife viewing, freighter viewing and fishing sport. As a potential access site on the Lake Superior East Water Trail possible improvement could be made to the parking area with a drop-off site established for paddling craft near the water’s edge. Amenities could include signage, waste, recycling and dog waste receptacles, picnic table, and kayak storage for rental.
11. Shelldrake Impoundment Site & State Forest

Type: Natural Resources Area  
Size: 850 Acres  
Location: 46.712452, -85.064687  
Accessibility: 2

Once a State Forest Campground the campground was closed in 2014 due to budget cuts. Recreation opportunities include off-shore fishing with a hard surface boat ramp to launch from, and wildlife watching.

As a community relying on growing the tourism economy and with the increasing of visitors to the area looking for rustic recreation the State of Michigan is encouraged to re-open as demand grows and funding allows.

12. Tahquamenon Falls State Park -- Lower Falls Unit

Type: Special Use  
Size: 228 Acres  
Location: 46.605483, -85.203291  
Accessibility: 4

Tahquamenon Falls State Park encompasses close to 50,000 acres and stretches more than 13 miles. Most of the park is undeveloped and the park’s centerpiece is the Tahquamenon River and its waterfalls. The Lower Falls, which consists of a series of five smaller falls cascading around an island, can be viewed from the riverbank or from the island and can be reached by a row boat rented from a park concession. At the Lower Falls Unit there is a paved parking area, picnic area, river bend site campground (81 sites) overlook site campground 87 sites, boating facilities, and hiking trails. Recreational activities
include snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hiking, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, paddle sports and camping year-round. The staff also offer nature programming and group events throughout the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13. Tahquamenon Falls State Park -- Rivermouth Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Special Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 644.26 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.556525, -85.034403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This campground is located 5 miles south of Paradise at the mouth of the Tahquamenon River. There is a parking area, picnic area, campground (72 Modern and 36 Rustic sites), flush toilets, hiking trails, fishing platform, and hard surface boat ramp. Recreational activities include hiking, paddling, fishing, camping and wildlife watching. Electricity is provided at modern campground sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>14. Tahquamenon Falls State Park -- Upper Falls Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Special Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 224 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.578938, -85.252620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Located in Luce County, the Upper Falls is one the largest waterfalls east of the Mississippi with a drop of nearly 50 feet, 200 feet across and maximum flow of 50,000 gallons of water per second. There is a paved parking area, picnic area, hiking trails, groomed cross-country ski trails and 4-mile hiking trail between Upper and Lower Falls.
### 15. Vermilion Point Nature Preserve

**Type:** Natural Resources Area  
**Size:** 175 Acres  
**Location:** 46.762363, -85.148713  
**Accessibility:** 2

This preserve is defined by the majesty and moods of Lake Superior and its remote location. It contains a wide sandy beach, low shore dunes, upland forest, old cranberry bog wetlands, and a stream. Ecologically, the land is known habitat for the federally endangered piping plover. 9,240 feet Lake Superior frontage. A dirt road takes you to a parking area where easy access to the beach is available. A marked trail to the beach is available from the buildings. Historically, this property and its associated buildings were a lifesaving station first built in 1876. Years of neglect and harsh Lake Superior weather have taken a toll on the buildings. Researchers from Lake Superior State University, The Nature Conservancy, and Michigan Audubon use the property to study the piping plovers as well as other birds, and the wetlands.

### 16. Whitefish Bay Roadside Park

**Type:** Mini-Park  
**Size:** 81.23 Acres  
**Location:** 46.562922, -85.029439  
**Accessibility:** 3

This roadside pull-off area is located just north of the Tahquamenon River mouth. There is public beach access to Lake Superior with two vault toilets, paved parking, grills, benches and tables and kiosk signage.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17. Whitefish Point Unit - Seney National Wildlife Refuge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Natural Resources Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 53 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.765091, -84.988976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected area of Whitefish Point, it is a focal point for spring and fall bird migration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18. Whitefish Point State Dock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Special Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 5 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.762021, -84.964944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A state boat harbor with a boat launch and vault toilet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19. Whitefish Point Underwater Preserve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Natural Resources Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> Approximately 376 Square Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.651147, -84.901429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A state-designated underwater preserve with 23 dive-able shipwrecks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20. Whitefish Point Bird Observatory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Natural Resources Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 2.76 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.770590, -84.957102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal point for spring and autumn bird migration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
21. Whitefish Township Community School Recreation Facilities

Type: School Park  
Size: 328.46 Acres  
Location: 46.610643, -85.039147  
Accessibility: 2

School property includes softball field, playground, indoor gymnasium/basketball court, outdoor basketball court, and a quarter-mile track.

Trails and Routes

22. Great Lakes Circle Tour

Type: Road Driving Trail

The Great Lakes Circle Tour is a designated scenic road system connecting all the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. The Circle Tour road route is over 6,500 miles and is marked by distinctive green and white signs usually along the closest major road or highway to the Great Lakes shorelines. The tour was established by the Great Lakes Commission in cooperation with its eight member states and the province of Ontario, promoting travel and tourism along the shores of "North America's Fresh Coast." The Lake Superior Circle Tour is a 1,300-mile route around the world's largest freshwater lake, taking travelers past soaring cliffs, sandy beaches, dazzling waterfalls and northern forests.
23. Lake Superior East Water Trail

Type: Blueways Trail  
Size: 40 Miles  
Location: Lake Superior Shoreline  
Accessibility: 1

The Lake Superior Heritage Coast Water Trail encircles the greatest expanse of freshwater on Earth. The Lake Superior East Water Trail is a segment of the bigger Lake trail from Sault Ste. Marie to Grand Marais connecting to the Hiawatha Water Trail in central U.P. Smaller segments of the trail have been named including Shipwreck Coast (along north shore of township) and Whitefish Bay (along eastern shoreline border of the township.) Enhancements to the water trail include improving and acquiring access sites to meet national trail standards of an access site every five miles and camping every ten miles along the trail with cohesive signage and marking along the trail route.

24. North Country Trails

Type: Non-Motorized Trail System  
Size: 122 Miles  
Location: 46.568239, -85.167875  
Accessibility: 1

The North Country Trail is a wilderness hiking trail stretching for approximately 4,600 miles crossing 7 states, from New York to North Dakota. The section in the eastern Upper Peninsula is maintained by the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Chapter.
25. ORV-ATV Trails

Type: Motorized Trail System  
Size: 25 miles  
Location: 46.468069, -85.099210  
Accessibility: 1

Groomed trails, connects to the U.P. wide trail system; groomed by the Paradise Area ATV Association.

26. Paradise Pathways

Type: Non-Motorized Trail System  
Size: 8.4 Miles  
Location: 46.649667, -85.065650  
Accessibility: 1

Groomed non-motorized trails. Parking area at the trail head; groomed by the Tahquamenon Country Pathways Association.

27. Paradise-Whitefish Point Bike Pathway

Type: On-Street Bikeway  
Size: 11 Miles  
Location: Whitefish Pt. Road from M-123 north to Whitefish Point  
Accessibility: 2

Cyclists can use the designated bike lane paved shoulder along Whitefish Point Road to ride between Paradise and Whitefish Point.
### 28. Snowmobile Trail System

**Type:** Motorized Trails  
**Size:** 109 Miles  
**Location:** 46.689181, -85.137628  
**Accessibility:** 1

Approximately 109 miles of groomed trails, connects to the U.P. wide trail system; groomed by the Paradise Area Night Riders.

**Photo Credit:** [http://www.benmusielakphotography.com/](http://www.benmusielakphotography.com/)

### 29. Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route

**Type:** Road Driving Trail


### Water Access

#### 30. Andrus Lake

**Type:** Special Use  
**Size:** 40.15 Acres  
**Location:** 46.703809, -85.035530  
**Accessibility:** 1

A hard-surfaced ramp, in areas of limited water depth or limited size of water body, where launching and retrieving of largest boats may be difficult and not recommended. The site is signed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Shelldrake Impoundment</th>
<th>Tahquamenon Falls State Park -- Rivermouth Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Special Use</td>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Special Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 850 Acres</td>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 644.26 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.712452, -85.064687</td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.556525, -85.034403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 1</td>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A hard-surface ramp with sufficient water depth and lake or impoundment size to accommodate all trailerable watercraft (minimum of 2.5 - 3 feet deep at a distance of 20 feet from shore). The site is signed.</td>
<td>This site has 12 parking spaces available. This site is equipped with a public toilet. A hard-surface ramp with sufficient water depth and lake or impoundment size to accommodate all trailerable watercraft (minimum of 2.5 - 3 feet deep at 20 feet from shore). The site is signed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tahquamenon Falls State Park</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Special Use</td>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Special Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Size:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Size:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.539165, -85.047545</td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> 46.539165, -85.047545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 1</td>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Located on Lone Pine Road this site has a gravel parking lot available with an access for small craft onto a creek that empties into Lake Superior. It is not signed and there are no amenities.</td>
<td>A nice little site for wildlife viewing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
34. Whitefish Point State Dock

Type: Special Use
Size: 5 Acres
Location: 46.761394, -84.964906
Accessibility: 2

Amenities include a vault toilet and launch.
Map 5 - Inventory

WHITEFISH TOWNSHIP
REC PLAN MAP: INVENTORY

- Whitefish TWP Rec Plan Area
- Conservation & Rec Lands
- State Roads
- International Border
- Lakes & Rivers
- Township-Owned Sites
- Trail Systems
- Privately-Owned Sites
- Publicly-Owned Sites
- Water Access
- Motorized Trails
- Non-Motorized Trails
- North Country Trail
- ORV/ATV Trails
- Snowmobile Trail
- Water Trail

Lake Superior
PLANNING PROCESS

Whitefish Township Planning Process
The 2016-2020 Whitefish Township Recreation Plan was adopted by the Whitefish Township Board on June 4, 2015 with the recommendation that in 2018 the Township conduct a series of community workshops followed by a minimum of one survey to reassess the recreation goals and objectives of the community in preparing for the 2021-2025 Recreation Plan.

The Whitefish Township Board appointed members to the Recreation Committee to carry out the necessary actions required when putting together a recreation plan. The Whitefish Township Recreation Committee was the lead entity in overseeing the development of the recreation plan starting with gathering input from citizens and community groups with a recreation survey.

Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission was contracted to work with the Recreation Committee, write the plan, co-participate in public input session(s) and submit approved plan to MDNR. Throughout several meetings, the committee compiled and reviewed plan materials and survey results. The Whitefish Township Recreation Committee and Whitefish Township Board meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments.

A timeline for the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

SCHEDULE
April, 2020 Whitefish Township contracts with Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission (EUPRP&DC) to update the recreation plan.

May-July, 2020 EUPRP&DC staff reviewed the expiring plan and 2019 survey results. Connections were made with Recreation Committee members and a plan outline developed.

August-Sept., 2020 Chapter development began with reviews from Recreation Committee members as each chapter was completed.

October, 2020 The draft plan is posted for a 30-day public review period on Whitefish Township’s and EUPRP&DC’s websites. A public notice for the plan availability and public meeting was published in the Tri-County Buyer’s Guide and the Sault Evening News. The Whitefish Township Planning Commission met to review the final draft and recommend adoption by the Township Board.

November, 2020 A public hearing was held to offer a public hearing for comments
in conjunction with the Whitefish Township Board meeting on 11/5/2020. All comments and suggestions were recorded and considered for incorporation into the final plan. The Whitefish Township Board acted at their 11/5/20 meeting and adopted the recreation plan.

Public Input
Citizen opinion on parks and recreation priorities is vital to the development of a recreation plan. A 15-question survey was compiled by members of the Whitefish Township Parks & Recreation Committee and reviewed by the Whitefish Township Board (1/6/19) before it was published.

The survey was open to the public to complete beginning January 31, 2019 and ending March 3, 2019. Information about the survey was posted on the Whitefish Township website, facebook page, and twitter account. Notices were posted at the Whitefish Township Community Library and the Whitefish Township Office throughout the duration of the survey as it was open.

Survey Monkey was used as an online resource for people to complete the survey online. The Whitefish Township Recreation Committee offered printed hard copies available at the Township Hall and Community Library. The survey was publicized through social media and announced on the Whitefish Township website. The results of the survey were reviewed, analyzed, and interpreted in the update of the Whitefish Township Recreation Plan.

Survey Publicity
The availability of the survey was posted on the Whitefish Township website, digital sign facebook page and twitter account. Notices were posted at the Whitefish Township Community Library and Whitefish Township Office.

Public Meeting Notices and Announcements
Recreation Committee Meeting 9/16/2020 Meeting Notice sent out to recreation committee members and other stakeholders by e-mail and posted on Whitefish Township’s website and Township Offices on 9/9/2020:

Whitefish Township
Recreation Committee Meeting
Public Meeting Notice
9/16/2020; 4:00 PM

A meeting of the Whitefish Township Recreation Committee will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 beginning at 4:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to review the 2019 Recreation Survey results, review the draft plan by chapter, set a 5-year action plan for years 2021-2025. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.
An agenda and meeting instructions can be found at [http://whitefishtownship.org/public-notice](http://whitefishtownship.org/public-notice)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://eupschools.zoom.us/j/94377764105?pwd=ZXNMNktmbTNhckxOSDFSc1JjK1kz
Meeting ID: 943 7776 4105
Passcode: 694920
Or
Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 943 7776 4105

Contact Ellen Benoit, EUP Regional Planning and Development Commission for more information at ellen@eup-planning.org or (906) 635-1581 x 138.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Background/Overview of draft plan by chapter – E. Benoit
4. Review Survey Results – Appendix A
5. Review/Discuss prior action plan – accomplishments/revisions/removals
6. Develop list of projects/actions with estimated costs
7. Prioritize projects/actions by year
8. Set schedule for 30-day review period, public comment hearing date, Rec. Committee/Planning Commission Meeting date for plan approval/recommendation to Township, Township Board meeting date for Resolution of Plan adoption.
9. Other Business
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment
Public Notice of Whitefish Township Recreation Plan availability for 30-day Review and Public Hearing Date
After all public input was gathered and recorded, the Whitefish Township Recreation Committee met to prioritize projects for the Action Plan and to develop a capital improvements plan on 9/16/2020.

During the month of October residents were invited to view the survey results and draft of the 5-year plan, followed by a public input hearing on 11/5/20 at 7:45 AM.

Insert published notice on 30-day review period here.

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Insert minutes of the public hearing/planning commission meeting.

Whitefish Township Board Meeting Minutes
Insert minutes of the Township Board meeting.
Whitefish Township Board Resolution of Adoption
Insert Resolution of Adoption.

Submittal Letter to Regional Planning Agency
Insert submittal letter here.
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION PLAN

Goals and Objectives

The purpose of this 5-year plan for Whitefish Township is to expand and improve the recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. To make this a reality, this plan will work to achieve three main goals. Each goal will have objectives to guide progress through various initiatives and projects. The next section, Action Program, will delineate when, where, and how certain objectives will be met by Whitefish Township.

The rationale for these goals and objectives is rooted in the insights gleaned from previous plans, community input, the 2019 recreation questionnaire, as well as, from discussions with the Whitefish Township Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, and Township Board members. These goals and objectives have been carried over from the previous recreation plan. The Recreation Committee reviewed the goals and objectives for the 2021-2025 update and considered them still relevant to meet the needs of the population of Whitefish Township.

The proposed goals should not be considered as hard and fast rules for development of recreation facilities, but as guidelines for evaluating specific proposals.

Goal 1: Provide a wide variety of recreational activities for the full spectrum of age groups that visit or reside in Whitefish Township.

Objectives

A. Projects should be accessible to all Township residents, including the elderly and handicapped. Just under 30% of the total population is over the age of 65 and the median age is 54.

B. Whenever and wherever possible, facilities should be multiple and/or year-round use. The winters can be long and harsh. Providing indoor facilities and activities such as exercise classes or a walking track would benefit the health and social well-being of the community.

C. User donations should be established where feasible to help defray maintenance costs at specific facilities. Community and visitors who use the resources will also be relied upon for the responsibilities and costs that are required for maintenance and upkeep on recreational facilities.

D. Proposed projects should be directed toward the elimination of the deficiencies of this plan.
E. Programs should be developed for facility use whenever possible and where applicable. *Providing opportunities for a variety of social and healthy recreational activities will be a benefit to the residents of Whitefish Township.*

F. Make full use of state and federal assistance programs to acquire or develop or rehabilitate recreation areas and facilities. *Seek out partnerships and funding opportunities to supplement local funds.*

G. Coordinate recreation planning and implementation activities to avoid duplicity of services and effort to make optimal use of financial and other resources. *Seek opportunities to save money by coordinating projects with other agencies.*

H. Consult an advocacy organization such as the Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. on projects as deemed necessary. *Seek opportunities for planning to succeed by researching best use practices and meeting established laws and criteria.*

**Goal 2: Make optimal use of new and existing resources and facilities.**

**Objectives**

A. Facilities should be capable of accommodating multi-jurisdictional needs where economically feasible. *Whitefish Township is a destination and connected to neighboring communities.*

B. Facilities should be of a type which minimizes vandalism. *The rural nature and park locations in Whitefish Township make them vulnerable to vandalism and destruction from those that do not care.*

C. Sites selected for development of facilities or parks should be suitable in terms of population served (existing and future) and physical properties of the site. *Demographic information of the make-up of the Township residents should be considered in decision making.*

D. Detailed site plans should be developed to guide new development at township owned as well as other rural recreational sites by the unit of government with primary responsibility for the site. *Careful and planned layout of a site will provide the best means to develop facilities while protecting natural resources.*

E. Cooperative or joint development of facilities by adjoining communities is encouraged. *Shared connections and shared costs will benefit the region.*

F. Existing facilities should be upgraded before new facilities are built. *Explore all options to achieve the desired result.*
G. Proper maintenance should be assured for facilities by responsible units of government. *Maintenance and operation plans will provide for long-term sustainability.*

H. Volunteer efforts by citizens and/or service clubs are encouraged whenever and wherever feasible in all aspects of operations and maintenance of recreational areas. *Reliance on the community to assist with the responsibilities associated with parks and recreation facilities and programs is necessary for the long-term sustainability.*

**Goal 3: Facilities should be developed to enhance the cultural, historic, and natural characteristics of the area or site.**

**Objectives**

A. Preservation/restoration of historic sites is encouraged. *The history of Whitefish Township is an asset that should be protected and shared with others.*

B. Site planning should consider natural topographic and scenic characteristics when planning new facilities or rehabilitating existing ones. *The unique landscape of Whitefish Township and Lake Superior shoreline provide challenges that will need to be considered carefully.*

C. Identification of meaningful historic areas in the Township should continue. *The culture and history of the area should be protected for future generations.*

D. Tourist related development should be encouraged, especially in areas already experiencing such use and traffic. *The economy of Whitefish Township relies heavily on the tourism industry.*

E. Information should be easily accessible to travelers in the Township at new or existing sites to inform the public of available amenities and facilities. *Marketing materials will benefit the promotion of the area.*

F. Every project will consult an advocacy organization such as the Michigan Protection Advocacy Service, Inc. *Whitefish Township is dedicated to creating facilities and opportunities for all.*

**Action Plan**

Recreation priorities were identified according to the current and projected needs of Whitefish Township and have been addressed in the following five-year capital improvement schedule. Whitefish Township understands this Capital Improvement Plan
should be followed as closely as possible; however, circumstances may prevent certain projects from being completed on schedule.

The action plan for this five-year plan will be dictated by the monies available through grants, fundraising, donations, and general township funds. These projects can be realized through the cooperation, assistance, and expertise of county, state and federal governments. This recreation plan may be amended at any time during its five years to change priority or to add or change goals and objectives with public opinion and input. All development projects will be held to universal compliance and American Disability Act standards.

**Funding Sources**
Whitefish Township Funds
Local Funds (local service organizations and businesses, donations, in-kind work, volunteers and fundraising)
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians: 2 percent funds
MDNR: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)—minimum 25 percent match
MDNR: Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)—minimum 50 percent match
MDNR: Recreation Passport (RP)—minimum 25 percent match
MDNR: Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund
MDNR: Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Improvement Program
MDNR: Waterways Program Grant
MDNR: Boating Infrastructure Grant
MDEQ: Coastal Zone Management (CZM)—minimum 50 percent match
MDOT: Transportation Alternatives Program
MDOT: Transportation Safety Funds; Safe Routes to Schools
MCACA: Capital Improvement Grant; Project Support Mini-grant
League of Michigan Bicyclists: Micro-Grant

**Basis for Action Plan**
A list of recreational needs was identified by survey first in 1987 and re-evaluated in the continued updates of the Township’s Recreation Plan. The most current survey was taken in 2019 (see Appendix A.) Some of the activities are already in place, but the Township Recreation Planning Committee feels these activities could be enhanced and improved.

Two major Township needs that have remained consistent throughout the years has been: 1) Public access to the waterfront in Paradise and 2) Preserving more green-space in Paradise and developing that space for various types of recreation.

The Whitefish Township Recreational Planning Committee discussed the recreational needs of the Township and reviewed the following six projects from the previous plan.
1 Implementing the 2004 Visual Enhancement Plan, starting on Whitefish Point Road at the North side of the Lakeview Cabins property, extending west on M-123 to the West side of the Village Fabrics & Crafts Shop property, then south on M-123 to the Birch Hill area. Incorporated into this plan should be a multi-purpose trail on the West side of M-123 from Birch Hill to the intersection of Whitefish Point Road, then on the North side of M-123 approximately ½ mile to State land. **This is still a high priority and with upcoming road improvements planned for M-123 the opportunity is now to start discussions with State agencies on steps for implementation.**

2 Develop a Downtown waterfront park, centrally located in the Business District that includes a full-service marina, public restrooms, and a visitor information center to create public awareness of recreational opportunities in the area. **This is still a desire of the community. First steps would be to seek out desired potential locations and try to get an agreement in place for first right of refusal if ever a property was to come up for sale.**

3 Develop a pavilion in the Community Center area. This open pavilion would have removable sides, for use in both summer and winter seasons. This pavilion would be used for many different community events and would have several different uses. **This project is still a desire and would be beneficial for the community for events and recreation use. The priority would be to acquire the adjacent Road Commission property to start developing Sunrise Park in which this pavilion could be located.**

4 Encourage development of the Whitefish Point Underwater Preserve, with an on-shore interpretation center located in Paradise, near the proposed marina. This would encourage and promote underwater archeological studies, development of underwater trails, glass-bottom boat tours, a buoying system for shipwrecks, and expanding the Preserve area. **Lower priority until a downtown property can be obtained, but perhaps can start partnering with other agencies to begin developing materials/exhibits for viewing at other locations.**

5 Encourage and participate in trail enhancement and development of such trails as Scenic Byway Trails, North Country Trails, Paradise Pathway Trails, and Lake Superior East Water Trail. **Use of outdoor trails for a variety of recreation is growing in popularity and is a big draw for the area. Providing safe off-road trails and amenities that meet national standards is a priority.**

6 Public Restrooms in the town of Paradise. **An indoor facility would be planned with the above marina/interpretation center, but until then the facilities at Sawmill Park should be promoted.**
In 2008 the Whitefish Township Recreational Planning Committee developed the following list of long-term projects:

1. Pave the parking area in Sawmill Creek Park, installing improved toilets, outdoor playground equipment, and enhance picnic facilities. *This is a lower priority project as this park is in good condition.*

2. Develop enhance the multi-purpose trail on the West side of Whitefish Point Road and State Route M-123, extending from the Tahquamenon River mouth to Whitefish Point. This could run parallel to the road where feasible but separated with a buffer from the road. *Providing a safer facility for non-motorized and/or atv/orv use away from vehicular traffic is still a desire of the community.*

3. Develop a multi-purpose building near the Community Center to serve the increasing population of Senior Citizens. *A facility that would serve indoor recreation throughout the winter months is still desired by the community.* Before building new, careful consideration should be given to using existing facilities such as the school or community center and developing partnerships with public and private for recreational programming opportunities such as exercise or dance classes.

4. Enhance existing outdoor playground equipment and facilities and install new equipment where needed. *This goal has been accomplished with a recent upgrade to the playground equipment at Whitefish Township School.*
The Whitefish Township Recreation Committee met on September 16, 2020 and developed the following 2021-2025 Action Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Suggested Improvement</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Local Funds</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Volunteer In-kind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Saturn Memorial Park</td>
<td>Acquire additional acreage (Grant application submitted in FY 2020). Basis for action: 2019 Community Recreation Survey Q7 public beach ranked highest on respondent’s choice of facility additions. Meets Goal 1 Obj. F; Goal 2 Obj. F; Goal 3 Obj. A.</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>G</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Saturn Memorial Park</td>
<td>Develop road maintenance schedule and add in capital improvement plan. In progress with Chippewa Co. Road Commission. Basis for action: Accessibility by the general road vehicles to the park is critical to provide access to all. Meets Goal 2 Obj. F, G.</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>L</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Suggested Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>All Rec. Facilities &amp; Programs In Twp.</td>
<td>Create marketing material – logo, brochure with map and information. Basis for action: Whitefish Township has a wide variety of recreational facilities. No current marketing material exists. Meets Goal 3 Obj. D, E.</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>All Twp. Park Facilities</td>
<td>Establish park policies and operation/maintenance plans for each facility. Basis for action: As new facilities, amenities, or uses are added developing an operations and maintenance plan will help sustain programs for long life. Meets Goal 1 Obj. C; Goal 2 Obj. G, H.</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>Off-road Multi-purpose paved pathway</td>
<td>Begin communications and coordinate with MDOT when road construction improvements are planned for Hwy. M-123 and the bridge over the Tahquamenon River. Apply for MDOT TAP Grant and MNRTF for street enhancements and off-road multi-use trail segments where possible and/or in combination with wider shoulders. FY 2023-24 - M-123, from the 90 degree turn, heading west. This is an NFRP project currently planned for 2023/2024. FY 2025 - M-123, from O’brien Creek to the 90 degree turn in paradise. Basis for action: Walking and Biking Trails ranked second and third highest choices on Q7 of the 2019 Community Recreation Survey. Meets Goal 1 Obj. F, G, H; Goal 2 Obj. A, C, D, E; Goal 3 Obj. D.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Multi-use pathway</td>
<td>Continue communications with Chippewa County Road Commission on Whitefish Point Road bike lane – work with engineers to explore opportunities to expand road shoulder with buffer zone or establish off-road paved path. Basis for action: Walking and Biking Trails ranked second and third highest choices on Q7 of the 2019 Community Recreation Survey. Meets Goal 1 Obj. F, G, H; Goal 2 Obj. A, C, D, E; Goal 3 Obj. D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Off-road Multi-purpose paved pathway</td>
<td>Establish savings plan and begin fund raising for off-road multi-use paved pathway along Whitefish Point and M-123 for matching funds. Basis for action: Long-distance bicyclists and bike groups are already traveling through the area. 2019 Survey indicated residents wanted more and safer facilities for biking and hiking. Grant programs generally require a match. Meets Goal 1 Obj. F, G.</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>Community Center/</td>
<td>Begin evaluating shoreline for appropriate landscaping methods to stop or slow erosion. Basis for action: High water levels and wave action have been destructive and causing serious shoreline erosion. Meets Goal 1 Obj. F, H; Goal 2 Obj. D, F, G; Goal 3 Obj. B.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunrise Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021 - 2025</td>
<td>Sunrise Park</td>
<td>Continue to work with Chippewa County Road Commission on the clean-up and acquisition of property. Basis for action: Property acquisition would connect with adjacent Township owned properties. Survey respondents indicated a desire for additional indoor/outdoor recreational opportunities. Meets Goal 1 Obj. D; Goal 2 Obj. A, B, C, D; Goal 3</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021-2025</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>Seek out community members and volunteers to lead projects. Basis for action: With the increase of facilities and programs comes the responsibility of administration, operations, and maintenance. Having a community volunteer base can help offset the responsibilities on Township Government. Meets Goal 1 Obj. C, G; Goal 2 Obj. H.</td>
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<td>2021-2025</td>
<td>Downtown Waterfront Marina</td>
<td>Seek and consider opportunities for acquiring waterfront property in the downtown area as funding allows for future downtown marina waterfront park and information center. Basis for action: This has been identified as a long-time need for Whitefish Township. Meets Goal 1; Goal 3 Obj. D.</td>
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<td>2021-2025</td>
<td>Underwater Preserve Interpretation Center</td>
<td>Use library to temporarily house and start an Underwater Preserve Interpretation Center until the establishment of a downtown location. Partner with other agencies in the development of materials and exhibits. Basis for action: Developing tourism-related activities and capitalizing on the history of this area provide economic opportunities for the community. Meets Goal 1; Goal 3 Obj. D.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>Saturn Memorial Park</td>
<td>Develop site design for park amenities including parking lot area, interpretive signage, toilet facility, hand pump well, and 1 up to 5 rustic campsites. Basis for action: A site design will allow for enhancing and improving the park facility while preserving and protecting the natural and pristine setting. Meets Goal 2 Obj. D; Goal 3 Obj B.</td>
<td>$3,000 - $5,000</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>Saturn Memorial Park</td>
<td>Design and install Interpretive Signage – about the shipwreck Saturn. Basis for action: The park was named for an historical event and signage would tell that story. Meets Goal 3 Obj. A, C, D, E, F.</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Sawmill Park</td>
<td>Improve public toilets in the downtown area. Wayfinding signage to Sawmill Park to pit toilets; Improve pit toilets into a restroom facility with running water at Sawmill Park or continue to seek opportunities for interpretation center facility with public restrooms. Basis for action: The comments in the 2019 Community Recreation Survey indicated a year-round, heated, public restroom facility as a want in the downtown area of Paradise. Directing traffic to Sawmill Park until a downtown location for the desired downtown marina is realized or improving park facilities are other options to take. Meets Goal 1 Obj. A, B; Goal 2 Obj. F; Goal 3 Obj. D.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>2023</td>
<td>All Twp. Park Facilities</td>
<td>Cohesive signage as designed in 2004 Visual Enhancement Plan. Basis for action: Improving the aesthetics in signage is a lower-cost objective that could be implemented easily with the design already developed. Meets Goal 3 Obj. A, C, D, E, F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023 - 2025</td>
<td>Sunrise Park</td>
<td>Land acquisition – County Road Commission Property. Basis for action: Acquisition of this property would re-purpose a brownfield into a community park and connect two Township owned properties into one large property that creates opportunities for multiple recreational improvements. Meets Goal 1 Obj. F; Goal 2 Obj. C; Goal 3 Obj. D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Saturn Memorial Park</td>
<td>Construct toilet facility, well installation, and rustic campground sites. Basis for action: With no amenities or signage or policy on &quot;Leave no Trace&quot; principals the area is vulnerable to undesirable trash. Meets Goal 1 Obj. A; Goal 2 Obj. A, B, C, F.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>2024 - 2025</td>
<td>Snowmobile/ ORV/ATV/Non-motorized trail</td>
<td>Tahquamenon Rivermouth Bridge – expand width for multi-modes of transportation or seek opportunities for separate bridge construction. Basis for action: Safety is critical and necessary. Hwy. M-123 is used by bicyclists, ORV/ATV and snowmobilers as well as cars, trucks, semis and delivery vehicles, and vehicles pulling boats or campers which make for dangerous situations when crossing this bridge. The bridge is too narrow. Any improvements should meet the needs of all modes of transportation. Meets Goal 1 Obj. F; Goal 2 Obj. G.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021 - 2025</td>
<td>Snowmobile Trail</td>
<td>Maintain snowmobile facilities for safety. Caution sign replacement at bridge near Silver Creek. Side rail re-construct on bridge south of Rivermouth. Basis for action: Safety is critical and necessary. Snowmobile trails draw a large number of users. Meets Goal 1 Obj. F; Goal 2 Obj. G.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</table>
Q1 Do you own property in Whitefish Township, Chippewa County, Michigan?

Q2 - Select the option that best represents your household.
Q3 Whitefish Township has several recreational activities. Which have you visited in the last year? Please mark all that apply.

Q4 How many times have you visited a Whitefish Twp facility (Q3) in the last year?
Q5 How many times have you visited a state park in Whitefish Township in the last year?

- 0 times: 0.00%
- 1 - 3 times: 5.00%
- 4 - 9 times: 10.00%
- 10 or more times: 15.00%

Q6 Why have you visited local or state recreational assets in the past year? Please check all that apply.
Q7 What kinds of facilities would you like to see added to local or township parks in Whitefish Township?

Q8 I am satisfied with the parks and recreation facilities in Whitefish Township.
Q9 I am satisfied with the local parks in Whitefish Township.

Q10 I support the Lake Superior Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary nomination.
Q13 Many of the recreational sites are supported through a collaboration of state, federal, and or not-for-profit entities. Do you know of any other possible collaborators to enhance recreational opportunities?
- State of Mich oil and gas lease moneys.
- Boat US grants for harbor and boat launch improvement.
- Northern Initiatives.
- Perhaps ORV or snowmobile clubs.
- Go Fund Me.
- Private Businesses and Corporations in the Area.
**Q14 What do you like best about the parks in Whitefish Township?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response Date</th>
<th>Responses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 01 2019 03:44 PM</td>
<td>The water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 01 2019 04:16 AM</td>
<td>Natural. Beautiful. Toilet facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28 2019 11:17 AM</td>
<td>Clean well maintained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28 2019 04:27 AM</td>
<td>Remoteness I like that many of the parks do not have many visitors at any given time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27 2019 10:18 AM</td>
<td>Clean, beautiful and accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27 2019 09:38 AM</td>
<td>I love visiting the Falls, the trails and facilities are nice. The Halloween festival is my favorite! My daughter loves the events and trick or treating at the campground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27 2019 08:07 AM</td>
<td>I like their natural state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26 2019 08:24 PM</td>
<td>No comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26 2019 01:29 PM</td>
<td>Ease of access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26 2019 09:07 AM</td>
<td>Clean, well maintained and quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26 2019 04:27 AM</td>
<td>Natural beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26 2019 02:54 AM</td>
<td>Open wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25 2019 06:09 PM</td>
<td>Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25 2019 05:44 PM</td>
<td>They are clean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25 2019 03:44 PM</td>
<td>I feel safe letting my children run around and be free. The natural beauty. It’s like home away from home down here in the LP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25 2019 03:40 PM</td>
<td>Walking trails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25 2019 03:32 PM</td>
<td>Township park on north shore is pretty much non-existent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25 2019 02:31 PM</td>
<td>State park and our State Forest Campground are maintained and clean.</td>
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<td>Feb 25 2019 02:23 PM</td>
<td>The wilderness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25 2019 02:05 PM</td>
<td>Whitefish Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25 2019 01:49 PM</td>
<td>Natural settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 21 2019 11:27 PM</td>
<td>Water access. Hiking/ski trail access natural/forest settings The state parks, the Whitefish Point complex, the north shore township park, Andrus and Shelldrake are all favorite places to go to enjoy nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 19 2019 05:27 PM</td>
<td>The Point and Andrus Lake are great. What we are missing is a reason means for people to be in downtown Paradise on a nice day. Lacking a public beach in downtown Paradise people leave faster than they should, impacting both businesses and the quality of life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 19 2019 04:52 PM</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 19 2019 01:32 PM</td>
<td>Typically not too crowded.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Feb 19 2019 01:30 PM</td>
<td>Access to the river, fishing and hiking the north country trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 17 2019 11:43 AM</td>
<td>The natural settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 03 2019 09:34 AM</td>
<td>The wilderness, the animals found.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 01 2019 08:33 PM</td>
<td>Clean and accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 01 2019 02:54 PM</td>
<td>I like that they are available and bring in visitors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feb 01 2019 01:10 PM free, great outdoors
Feb 01 2019 11:30 AM Unspoiled nature, natural state that is not over developed.
Feb 01 2019 11:21 AM No cost to enter twp parks.
Feb 01 2019 11:02 AM Clean
Feb 01 2019 08:25 AM Nice
Feb 01 2019 06:21 AM Lake views, nature, bird watching
Feb 01 2019 05:41 AM The natural beauty with marked trails to help guide & educate those taking advantage of them. The natural beauty. I think it's very important to think carefully before expanding "business opportunities" as you've mentioned in the survey. A jet ski rental or additional tourist related businesses not the answer. Paradise is beautiful because its mostly undeveloped. A great expansion in government regulation and private development will make the area far less appealing to those who visit and those there.
Feb 01 2019 05:34 AM I think it's very important to think carefully before expanding "business opportunities" as you've mentioned in the survey. A jet ski rental or additional tourist related businesses not the answer. Paradise is beautiful because its mostly undeveloped. A great expansion in government regulation and private development will make the area far less appealing to those who visit and those there.

Q15 What could be done to improve parks and recreation in Whitefish Township?
Mar 01 2019 03:44 PM I think they are pretty good now
Mar 01 2019 04:16 AM Year around heated toilets like the one at the lighthouse in Bay Mills!
Feb 28 2019 04:27 AM more facilities for young children, full size gym at school
Feb 27 2019 09:38 AM Indoor gym for all residents
Feb 27 2019 08:40 AM An indoor recreational facility that students could use would be amazing! Outdoor winter activities are fun but having an indoor place to play and exercise would be great for the days we can't go outside or for winter festivals and community events.
Feb 27 2019 08:07 AM More public beach access would be great....with rest rooms and water and a covered shelter.
Feb 27 2019 08:24 PM more for locals than tourists
Feb 26 2019 01:29 PM No suggestion at this time
Feb 26 2019 09:07 AM Better trash/recycling options
Feb 26 2019 04:27 AM More clean up
Feb 26 2019 02:54 AM Nothing
Feb 25 2019 07:23 PM Connect ORV trail south of town toward Silver Creek.
Feb 25 2019 05:15 PM Bike path
Feb 25 2019 05:11 PM Public swimming
Feb 25 2019 03:44 PM Make a few RV spots at the rivermouth campground maybe? Bug control. We fish the mouth of the river and that area is well controlled and very comfortable to be in the evenings.
Feb 25 2019 03:40 PM Have showers and electric for off grid campers to clean up and recharge phones. Garbage and recycling bins available.
Feb 25 2019 03:02 PM Community recreational classes. Playground for public.
Feb 25 2019 02:34 PM Not sure
Parks are fine. Snowmobile trail in the residential area should be moved. Very dangerous to get out of driveways and the speeds are not enforced.

Feb 25 2019 02:23 PM
Feb 25 2019 02:05 PM Public beach, public playground, things for kids to do.
Feb 25 2019 02:00 PM More structured events
Feb 25 2019 01:55 PM Clean up pollution by community center beach
Feb 25 2019 01:49 PM I’m pretty happy with them
Water access.

Minimal impact development.

Feb 19 2019 05:27 PM A public beach suitable for swimming north of Paradise on Whitefish Bay likely big plus for the community.
My primary residence is in Ludington and our Lake Michigan beaches are a major draw for locals and visitors. A public swimming beach north of Paradise could be a would be a great addition and help the community and township in many ways.

Feb 19 2019 04:52 PM Add a beach and a marina in Paradise
Feb 19 2019 01:32 PM Downtown public beach with parking, not unlike Andrus Lake.
Feb 19 2019 01:30 PM Restrooms and parking upgrades
Feb 11 2019 11:43 AM Improved road signs/trail markers to certain locations, such as Shelldrake Lake.
Feb 07 2019 09:35 AM Public beach in town.
Feb 04 2019 12:55 PM More parks with access to the water.
Feb 03 2019 09:34 AM No idea!
Feb 01 2019 08:33 PM Not sure they need anything
Feb 01 2019 01:10 PM safer parking and access to north township park
Feb 01 2019 11:30 AM Increased awareness of what is available. Kayak and/or hiking outfitter-guides in Paradise.
Feb 01 2019 11:21 AM I think they are fine the way they are.
Feb 01 2019 11:02 AM No opinion
Feb 01 2019 07:36 AM A band shelter or pavilion is needed for Music on the Bay at the Community Center!
Feb 01 2019 06:21 AM Don’t know
Feb 01 2019 05:41 AM Update & improve signage, such as adding trail markers (you are here) on Paradise pathways or identifying landmarks or unique species in the parks with educational signs. Adding more opportunities for recreation (paved bike path) will bring more tourism to the area.
Feb 01 2019 05:34 AM They are very nice
Feb 01 2019 05:15 AM More parking.
Feb 01 2019 04:47 AM Nothing
Feb 01 2019 04:16 AM Classes year round: safety, fitness, learning new hobby etc
Feb 01 2019 03:54 AM The North park needs to updated. Campers should have to pay to stay or camping should not be allowed. Seems gross that there is fecal matter around the area. This asset should be fully utilized to support
the whitefish township community. Maybe a great opportunity to team up with the Michigan DNR to develop.

Jan 31 2019 11:29 PM Recycle bins
000 Sawmill Creek park Should Be Plowed in the Winter!!
0002 pavillion/public beach, ice skating rink, indoor rec center
0003 More Picnic Tables
0005 Need More Launch Sites and Room to moor boats
   A Bike Path off the Shoulder of the Road from Paradise to the Point.
0006 Improve Parking at the Point