Acknowledgments

The purpose of this plan is to set forth a recreation strategy for Ontonagon County that addresses the forces of change, confronts future challenges, and provides direction for decision-making regarding investment in recreation projects in the County. This plan was developed in accordance with the guidelines for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A five-year, DNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for governmental entities to pursue DNR-administered grants.

Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners:

Carl Nykanen – Chairperson
John Cane – Vice-Chairperson
Richard Bourdeau – Commissioner
David Nykanen – Commissioner
Gray Webber – Commissioner

Planning Commission:

Bruce Johanson – Chair
Rick Bourdeau
E. David Jaris
Diane Moilanen
Carl Nykanen
Tony Smydra
Steve Store

This plan was prepared by the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region. All opinions and results contained in this document belong to the authors and do not represent positions taken by any of the above mentioned agencies or institutions. All errors remain the responsibility of the authors.
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INTRODUCTION

The 2017-2021 Ontonagon County Recreation Plan (Plan) has been developed to guide recreation improvements in the County over the next five years. The Plan provides an overview of the community, presents an inventory of existing recreational facilities, and provides a framework for continued improvement and development of recreation facilities in Ontonagon County. The overall goal of the Plan is to establish a program of improvements that meets the recreational needs of Ontonagon County. A five-year plan also qualifies Ontonagon County to apply for Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other grants.

This Plan was developed by the Ontonagon County Planning Commission (see acknowledgements, above) in consultation with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region. Public comments and suggestions were taken under consideration during the development of the Plan. The Plan will continue to be updated, as needed, to address changing needs of the community and its residents. The County Board of Commissioners adopted the Plan on February 21st, 2017.
Part 1: COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Ontonagon County is located in the northwestern Upper Peninsula of Michigan (see Figure 1). It is bordered on the northwest by Lake Superior, by Gogebic County to the west and south, and by Houghton and Iron Counties to the east. Ontonagon County was organized in 1843, recognized in 1848, and legalized by the Legislature in 1853.

At 1,311 square miles (839,040 acres), the county is the third largest in the state. With a population of 6,780, Ontonagon County is Michigan’s second most sparsely populated. Despite being traversed by several state highways and U.S. Highway 45, many of the county’s destinations are far “off the beaten path.” The Village of Ontonagon, the county’s only incorporated municipality, is located on the Lake Superior shore, far from the major Upper Peninsula east-west route M-28. The county is subdivided into 11 civil townships.

Despite the county’s isolation, tourism remains a major economic force, due in large part to its woods and waters, which are highlighted by Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. The park is affectionately known as the “Porkies.” At 60,000 acres (almost all within the county), this is the largest state park in Michigan and, according to the DNR, contains the largest old-growth hardwood-hemlock forest in the Great Lakes region. Besides tourism, major industries in Ontonagon County include healthcare and education.

The County’s population trend, to be explained further in the next section, is shown in Table 1. The age profile of the county is generally older than that of the country. A population analysis shows that 1,161 (17.1%) residents are aged 0-19, 944 (13.9%) are aged 20-39, 2,888 (42.6%) are aged 40-64; and 1,787 (26.4%) are aged 65 and above (Source: 2010 Census; also see Table 2). Retirees are disproportionately prevalent due to the lack of a strong economy to support working-age groups. In addition, the County’s median income is significantly lower than that of the State, at $36,566 versus $45,656.

Table 1: Ontonagon County Population Trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Population Trend (1990-2015)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon County (1990)</td>
<td>8,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon County (2000)</td>
<td>7,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon County (2010)</td>
<td>6,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon County (2015)</td>
<td>6,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Population change (1990-2000)</td>
<td>-11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Population change (2000-2010)</td>
<td>-13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Population change (2010-2015)</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1: Ontonagon County Location Map
Table 2: Ontonagon County Population Information from 2010 & 2015 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Demographics and Race</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>2015 ACS**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>% of Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PERSONS</strong></td>
<td>6,780</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3,496</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3,284</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 19 years</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 34 years</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 49 years</td>
<td>1,244</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 64 years</td>
<td>1,941</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 79 years</td>
<td>1,378</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 years and over</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6,594</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian, Eskimo or</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (including listings of</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more races)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other County Characteristics</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
<th>2015 ACS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty: All Ages (% of total population)*</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 years (% of age range)*</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Housing Units</strong></td>
<td>5,672</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Housing Units</td>
<td>2,414</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Housing Units</td>
<td>3,258</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner-occupied Housing Units</td>
<td>2,801</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter-occupied Housing Units</td>
<td>457</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Household Size</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Income</td>
<td>$36,566</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All other data from U.S. Census Bureau (2010).

Economy and History
Ontonagon has historically been focused on copper mining (first), forestry (later), and productive industry. In the later years of the 20th century, the economy began to shift toward tourism. That became even more the case after major industrial employers, including the Copper Range Company’s White Pine Mine, and more recently Smurfit-Stone’s corrugated cardboard plant, closed in 1995 and 2009, respectively. These closures have contributed to out-migration of residents, including the largest percentage-based population loss of any
Michigan county from 2000 to 2010. Even so, most services necessary to support a comfortable lifestyle remain available in the Village of Ontonagon, which serves as a commercial, service, and governmental center for a small regional market.

The area hospital, Aspirus Ontonagon, also plays an important role in supporting both community health and the local economy. Aspirus is the county’s largest private employer. Besides health services, employment numbers are greatest in retail and accommodations and food services. The largest private contributors to county earnings include utilities, retail trade, and construction firms. Many county residents also commute outside of the county to major education and health care institutions, construction firms, and service and retail establishments. The average unemployment rate within the county was 17.1% in 2010 compared with a state average of 12.5% (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics).

One of the county’s greatest assets is its tourism potential. The county’s wilderness is attractive to many sportspersons, but developed facilities also play a role in attracting people unfamiliar with the area, helping to support the local economy. Attractive facilities also serve as assets for retaining existing residents. Ontonagon County offers a campground with a playground and beach on Lake Gogebic, the largest inland lake in the Upper Peninsula. This facility offers much potential for future development and connection to recreational transportation links. The County also possesses hundreds of acres of undeveloped forestland offering public access for recreation. One of these, a parcel of land near the mouth of the Firesteel River, is being considered for future development should road access become favorable. (See Part 3.) Assets like these are vital to help the county move forward instead of slipping farther back.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is the county’s most significant tourist destination, drawing hikers, backpackers, skiers, bikers, other types of sportspersons, and sightseers from a multi-state region, as the park has many qualities unique even within the Upper Peninsula. Nike Running magazine in 2013 designated the Porkies as the #1 best place to run in the world where “the trails are well-kept and relatively easy”. Other significant tourist attractions include a portion of the U.P.’s largest inland lake; large tracts of the Ottawa National Forest, with opportunities for whitewater rafting, hunting, fishing, and camping, among myriad others; and the Adventure Mine in Greenland, which offers not only underground tours but hiking and biking trails. Long sections of the county’s namesake Ontonagon River system are designated as National Wild & Scenic Rivers.

Despite its many positive aspects, residents continue to leave the county due to a dearth of job opportunities, resulting in a somewhat depressed atmosphere along with many suitable yet vacant homes. Still, there is some hope of attracting new businesses to the county thanks to its natural resources, available property, potential available workforce, ready infrastructure, affordable taxes, and enduring spirit. A strong economic development framework has been built, and grant-funded efforts have been undertaken to promote the county, but so far no new enterprises have formed as a result.

Transportation Systems
The main roadways of Ontonagon County are Michigan State Highways (also known as “state trunklines”) M-26, M-28, M-38, and M-64; and U.S. Highway 45. These provide linkages to important regional destinations
such as Houghton, Baraga, Bruce Crossing, and, via the major east-west Upper Peninsula route M-28, most parts of the region. Yet few parts of the county other than those along M-28 are “on the way” to any other destinations, which reduces the amount of chance tourist traffic. This necessitates a focused and deliberate marketing effort not for just tourist attractions like the Porkies (not to mention the County Park on Lake Gogebic) but for the Village of Ontonagon, which is set away from the state park and hampered by indirect travel routes. Nevertheless, the state’s trunkline, constituted by those roadways above, is supplemented by County and U.S. Forest Service roads to provide access to recreation areas throughout the county. Furthermore, an effort to formalize a “Bridge to the Clouds” Heritage Route along major transportation corridors within the county can only help with tourism and recreation promotion.

For travelers who do traverse these roadways, roadside facilities are available throughout the Ottawa National Forest and on local government lands. Most roadside parks, at a minimum, offer picnic tables and vault toilets. By default, a number of these parks also offer public water access for fishing, boating, and other uses. A number of public facilities also provide camping near major routes for a fee.

Ontonagon County hosts a significant trail network for both motorized and non-motorized recreation. The Bill Nichols Trail (approximately 40 miles), which allows motorized use, begins near the county’s northeast corner at Greenland and continues on to Houghton. Businesses near the starting point benefit from snowmobile and off-road vehicle (ORV) traffic on the trail. The North Country Scenic Trail (NCST), used for hiking, runs west to east through the central part of the county, including the Porcupine Mountains State Park. The trail is ultimately planned to extend seamlessly from North Dakota to New York. Additional long distance multi-use trails include:

- Sidnaw to Bergland - 50 miles
- Greenland to Iron river (Ottawa Connector) – 80 miles
- Ontonagon to Rockland – 13 miles
- Bergland to Greenland (Pioneer) – 40 miles
- Land O’Lakes to Bruce Crossing – 35 miles
- Courtney Trails near Courtney Lake Campground (Equestrian-use) – 14 miles

A number of non-motorized routes are available within the Porkies, and motorized routes span the county. The motorized network is supplemented by county road connector routes allowing ORV traffic. Many of the non-motorized routes also allow for equestrian use (NCST is not), and all of the designated ORV trails within the county are open to equestrian use. Currently, sections of the NCST and U.S. Highway 2 integrate into the Iron Belle Trail. However, additional interconnectivity is a worthwhile pursuit, and significant planning and resources are required to reach this goal. The Lake Superior Water Trail also runs the entire northern county border and connects Saxon Harbor to Houghton.

The Village of Ontonagon has a 38-slip full-service marina with access to Lake Superior. Less relevant to recreation—but still notable—the Village also has the only deep water port in the Western Upper Peninsula, though it is not currently developed for commercial use. The county is located a reasonable distance from two airports with daily passenger service. The Houghton County Airport, located to the northeast in the city of Hancock, provides United Airlines service via SkyWest Airlines to Chicago. To the west, Gogebic-Iron County
Airport provides Frontier Airlines service to Milwaukee. Ontonagon County also has its own airport for general aviation. Indian Trails daily intercity bus service is accessible from nearby Gogebic and Houghton counties, and On-Tran operates a countywide public bus service which also makes a monthly round trip to the major shopping area in Houghton.

**Topography**
The County is bisected through its center in a northeast-southwest line by a Precambrian rock landform of very rugged hills. The hills are typified by the Porcupine Mountains in the northwest part of the county close to Lake Superior. Moving northeast from the Porkies, the hills taper into a coastal plain that ends at the Lake Superior shoreline. This coastal plain is bisected with myriad small stream valleys running nearly parallel. The remainder of the county is composed of rolling plateau-like highlands which are approximately 1,200 to 1,700 feet above sea level. (Lake Superior is 602 feet above sea level.) Many of the highlands are characterized by substandard and often dormant agricultural areas. The highest point in the county, Government Peak in the Porkies, rises to approximately 1,858 feet above sea level.

**Climatic Conditions**
The climate of the area can be characterized as temperate, having short, moderate summers, long, pleasant falls, and long, colder winters. More specifically, climate varies greatly by location within the county. Total annual precipitation averages about 31 inches, with 90 to 160 inches of snow depending on distance from Lake Superior. Mean winter temperature is approximately 18° Fahrenheit. Mean summer temperature is 65.5°. Prevailing winds are southerly during warm weather and northwesterly the remainder of the year.

The region’s proximity to Lake Superior results in a moderating effect on temperatures and unusually high amounts of winter snowfall brought over the area by northwesterly winds. The area usually experiences its first freezing temperatures in late September and last freezing temperatures in late May. The growing season is roughly 102 days. These diverse weather conditions result in a need for a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities in Ontonagon County. Due to the long winter months, skating, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other cold-weather activities are popular.

**Water**
Ontonagon County makes up a portion of the Lake Superior Drainage Basin and has a total of 52 miles of shoreline in the coastal zone. The County has some 645 inland water bodies which occupy about 11,000 acres. These include 592 natural lakes and ponds accounting for 8,424 acres. The County is also host to 1,227 miles or rivers and streams, much of which is suitable to recreational kayaking, canoeing, and fishing. Other water bodies include hydro-electric reservoirs, tailing ponds, pits and other artificial ponds.

The County is dominated by the Ontonagon River, whose watershed is the largest on the south shore of Lake Superior. The Main Branch of the river, which is fed by East, West, Middle and South Branches and numerous small tributaries, discharges into Lake Superior at the Village of Ontonagon. The river’s drainage area approaches 1,453 square miles, extending far beyond the boundaries of Ontonagon County. Many minor watersheds are located along Lake Superior in the coastal plain. In all, rivers and streams are estimated to
account for 1.3% of the county's area. The water resources of the County, including Lake Superior, along with the inland lakes, streams and rivers, provide endless recreational opportunities to residents and visitors.

**Vegetation, Landownership, and Wildlife**

Northern hardwoods characterize the predominant forest cover in Ontonagon County. State, federal, and corporate holdings comprise the great majority of forestland in the county and total 540,000 acres. Most of the county’s unprotected forests remain suitable for timber harvesting and are currently in a second-growth stage. This arrangement can have a direct benefit for sportsmen. Michigan’s Commercial Forest Act (CFA) provides tax benefits to landowners who allow public access for fishing, hunting, and trapping while managing their land for timber production. Many corporate landowners allow public access for other purposes as well. CFA lands run primarily along a belt parallel to but inland from the Lake Superior shoreline and exclude a large southeastern part of the county. Public access also affords the public an opportunity to see wildlife, including otter, beaver, fox, rabbit, porcupine, squirrel, and a variety of birds. Large game species like whitetail deer and black bear also are present.

**Part 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

**Roles of Commission**

The Ontonagon County Planning Commission serves as the *de facto* “recreation committee” for the purpose of the County’s recreation plan development. This commission is made up of eight individuals (although a seat is currently vacant) appointed every three years or whenever a vacancy occurs. The commission identifies recreational needs, obtains public input in the planning process, and advises the County Board of Commissioners on recreation facility development. The County Parks Commission implements recreation development projects and oversees operation and maintenance of facilities (currently only the County Park). An organizational chart follows in Figure 2.
Annual and Projected Budgets

County recreation facilities operations and maintenance have historically been funded through County Park admission fees with the bulk of recreational expenditures focusing on County Park operations, maintenance and improvements. Table 3 provides budget information for County Park revenues and County recreation expenses from 2012 to 2016. Additional information on capital outlays for recreation development projects is included in this document’s Action Plan (Part 6).

Table 3: Annual Recreation Revenue and Expense Budgets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>County Park Revenue Budget</th>
<th>Recreation Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td>$32,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
<td>$36,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
<td>$32,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
<td>$36,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
<td>$25,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Funding Sources

Table 4 depicts several possible funding sources for recreation projects within Ontonagon County.

Table 4: Potential Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Match?</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Funds</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation/Other (service organizations &amp; businesses)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)</td>
<td>75/25 grant</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land &amp; Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)</td>
<td>50/50 grant</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Recreation Passport Grants (RPG) ($75,000 maximum)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boating Infrastructure Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Vessel Act - Boat Pumpout Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterways Program Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Habitat Improvement Fund Program Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic Habitat Grant Program</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Safety Grants to Counties</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Law Enforcement Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Safety Education Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grants Program</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Improvement Program</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Improvement Fund Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Trails Program Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile Trail Improvement Program</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Habitat Grant Program</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Peninsula Deer Habitat Improvement Grant Program</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Zone Management (CZM)</td>
<td>50/50 grant</td>
<td>DEQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Grants</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations, Gifts &amp; Crowdfunding</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Role of Volunteers

Two volunteer groups, the North Country Snowmobile Club and the Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment (MI-TRALE), help to maintain recreation trails in the County. The work of these groups is supported by Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR). However, additional partnerships with volunteer groups are desirable. The Ontonagon Valley Sportsman Club helps to promote fishing and hunting recreation across the whole county. The future development of the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area and the Firesteel River Beach Area (discussed in Part 3: Recreation Inventory) presents an opportunity to engage volunteer recreation groups in the planning, development, and maintenance of these assets.

### Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

The County’s recreation programming and sites are supplemented by those located and managed by local units of government, e.g., townships, villages and cities, within Ontonagon County. The County also works collaboratively with the DNR in support of the Porcupine Mountains State Park and the Ottawa National Forest. Informal agreements exist with several individual schools, former school facilities, and churches to provide occasional, scheduled access to gymnasiums and other indoor recreation facilities as well as sports fields and outdoor play and recreation equipment.
Part 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

Ontonagon County maintains a County Park and undeveloped forestlands for both local residents and visitors. The following recreation inventory describes the types and location (see Figure 3) of recreation sites and facilities available in the county and nearby. In addition, accessibility assessments and rankings are provided for each County-owned site based on the parameters outlined in the “DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans” as follows:

- 1=none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2=some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3=most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4=the entire facilities/park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5=the entire facilities/park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Universal design should also be considered in the development process for recreation facilities. The approach outlined in the box at right helps to maximize the return on investment in recreation by making facilities as safe and user-friendly as possible.

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

Ontonagon County Park, the only County-owned public recreation facility, has several previous DNR grant-funded projects on record as described below. The current condition of scope items is provided to the greatest extent possible. However, since certain projects have become difficult to differentiate with the passage of time, some inaccuracies are possible.

Grant number **26-00174** of 1968 in the amount of $6,750.00 to establish:

- Boat launch ramp (replaced in 1984)
• Pit-type toilets (4) (in use but will become obsolete with availability of municipal sewer)
• Campsites (20) (in use in good standing)
• Nature trail (in use in good standing)
• Extended roads (in use in good standing)
• Parking area (in use in good standing)
• Clearing and landscaping of sites (landscaping and site character are maintained as appropriate)
• New picnic tables (30) (replaced as necessary)
• Grills (6) (some remain in useable condition)
• Stone fire rings (20) (obsolete; most existing fire pits are metal)
• Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) sign (may have been replaced in 1976)

Grant number **26-00754** of 1976 in the amount of $18,131.40 to establish:
• Security lights (2) (necessary lighting is maintained)
• Vault toilets (2) (in use but will become obsolete with availability of municipal sewer)
• Parking and signs (maintained and signs replaced as needed)
• Swimming area float & marker buoy (maintained/replaced as needed)
• Picnic area and equipment (remains in place and in use)
• Playground equipment (in use in good standing)
• Well and utilities (operable and in use)
• Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) sign (remains in place and legible)

Grant number **26-01341** of 1984 in the amount of $52,418.43 to establish:
• Boat ramp (repaired in 1992)
• Skid pier (remains in place)
• Campsites (10) (in use in good standing)
• Campground road (passable; maintained as needed)
• Utilities (operable and in use)

Grant number **BF92-318** of 1992 in the amount of $50,300.00 to establish:
• New campsite pads (4) (in use in good standing)
• Upgrade existing sites/pads (41) (in use in good standing)
• Blacktop interior road (in use in good standing)
• Upgrade water system (in use in good standing)
• Repair boat launch (marginally in use—in severe state of disrepair)
• Playground equipment (in use in good standing)
• Construct pavilion (in use in good standing)
• Develop nature trails (in use in good standing)
• Plant 50 trees (unknown which remain, but tree cover is sufficient)
Grant number **TF14-0078** of 2014 in the amount of $210,400 for improvements to the Ontonagon County Park was rejected. It was resubmitted in 2015 and was funded at that time after the County increased the match. The grant was used for a new toilet/shower building to service the campsites and day use area, to construct ADA compliant, barrier free access to the beach area and pavilion and playground renovations. The work has been completed and the project close-out is pending.

Grant number **TF16-0112** of 2016 in the amount of $90,200 for improvements to the North Country/Iron Bell Trail from US-45 to O Kun de Kun Falls on Baltimore River. The project seeks to enhance accessibility and curtail erosion and other negative impacts caused by existing trail conditions on this 1.4-mile stretch and will follow the Forest Service Trail and Accessibility Guidelines. The contract with DNR has been executed and work began in 2017 and is expected to be complete in 2018.

Based on the following recreation inventory, the need for improvements and additional recreational facilities can be fully evaluated. **Figure 3** identifies the locations of Ontonagon County recreation sites.

**Figure 3: Ontonagon County-Owned Recreation Sites Map**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County-Owned Recreation Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ontonagon County Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Firesteel Beach Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
County-Owned Recreation Facilities

ONTONAGON COUNTY PARK

Type of Park: Large Campground, Beach, and Playground
Size of Park: 84 Acres (44 undeveloped)
Service Area: Primarily Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties

Located in the southwest corner of the county in Bergland Township, this park is one of four public campgrounds on Lake Gogebic. It is the County’s only developed recreation facility. The park is supervised by a host and maintained by County staff. In spite of being in reasonably good financial condition, it has several physical maintenance issues in need of attention along with upcoming essential upgrades to waste disposal and other systems. Low rates make this park very popular. It offers a swimming beach, boat ramp, fish cleaning shack, pavilion, playground, vault toilets, water hand-pump, and 43 campsites (most with 30-amp electric hookups). Future plans for the Ontonagon County Park include new modern and primitive camp sites, facilities for equestrian camping and parking accommodations, a walking path to Lake Gogebic Beach, and a waste pump-out disposal in fish cleaning station.

Accessibility Assessment: 2 = some of the facilities / park area meet accessibility guidelines

FIRESTEEL BEACH AREA

Type of Park: Beach and Trail (both walking and water) Access
Size of Park: 56 Acres (undeveloped)
Service Area: Primarily Ontonagon County

The Firesteel River flows generally northwest between the Flintsteel River and the West Sleeping River and empties into Lake Superior. The river’s two branches are identified as the West Branch and East Branch, and the river receives Black Creek about three miles north of the junction of those main branches. The East Branch rises in the Mishwabic State Forest and runs southwest, receiving Senecal Creek and a different Black Creek. The West Branch begins at Sudden Lake in the Ottawa National Forest and receives Silver Creek near the boundary of the national forest and the state forest. Both branches run near each other through the state forest. The County, which owns thousands of acres of forestlands, has long considered development of
recreation at the mouth of the West Branch. Now undeveloped, a low-impact development is an identified project opportunity provided it is consistent with the land’s character and composition, which offers favorable ORV and equestrian access to potential campsites. The parcel is located near the river’s mouth, and formal access to that stream has not been established. The proposed development project would include ADA-compliant walking trail from Lakeshore Drive to beach, picnic area, and off-road parking.

Accessibility Assessment: 1 = none of the facilities / park area meet accessibility guidelines at this time
Accessibility Goal: 4/5, after design and construction of ADA-compliant walking trail

HIMANKA HILL FAMILY RECREATION AREA

Type of Park: Family Recreation with facilities for motorized and non-motorized; All seasons
Size of Park: Total County land of two parcels, 840 & 40 acres (currently undeveloped)
Service Area: Western UP directly, Wisconsin and rest of Michigan indirectly

The Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area is an undeveloped property two miles south of Bruce Crossing on Himanka Hill Road. This future park will be located on the new ORV designated trail that connects Land O’ Lakes, Wisconsin to Bruce Crossing. This connector will provide access to the park from any direction in the Western UP via the current ORV trail system, and provide for day trips to Bond Falls.

They are a few roads on the property previously used for logging. These could be used as a base layout for the park use. Stakeholders wish to design the park to include a non-motorized only, a shared, and a motorized only sections. Trails would be one-way and designed for safety, minimal resource impact, and maximum the use of the natural geography which consists of rolling hills and some wet areas.

Preliminary plans call for a parking area able to accommodate trailers and allow for easy entry and exit to the park. The initial park would be rustic with portable restrooms. Considerations should include minimal facilities (high lines, hitching posts) for equestrian users when the layout of the non-motorized parking area is developed. Possible additional assets may include picnic tables, fire rings, and permanent restrooms for the site. Signage explaining how to get to the park and any rules that are developed will be necessary.

Accessibility Assessment: 1 = none of the facilities / park area meet accessibility guidelines

COUNTY-OWNED FORESTLANDS

Type of Park: Undeveloped Land
Size of Park: Multiple separate parcels totaling 4,674 Acres
Service Area: Western UP and Ontonagon County

Several of these parcels are located on maintained County roads and are be accessible year round. Most
however, require that access be developed for public use and additional development to provide recreational use to the public.

Other than improved road access to the Firesteel River parcel, County-owned forestlands are completely undeveloped. Both parcels (Firesteel River and Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area) see limited public use at this time, but a low level of development consistent with the character and composition of the land are future objectives. In particular, the parcels offer favorable ORV and equestrian access to potential campsites. The Firesteel parcel is located near but does not abut the mouth of the Firesteel River, so formal access to that stream has not been established. The Kennedy Lake parcel surrounds two small inland lakes fed by small tributaries. These are only two of many minimally developed County-owned parcels of land. None of the other parcels are singled out for potential development at present.

Accessibility Assessment:
1 = none of the facilities / park area meet accessibility guidelines

Significant Regional Recreational Facilities within Ontonagon County

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STATE PARK  
Owner: Department of Natural Resources  
Type of Park: Campground and Minimally Developed Forestland  
Size of Park: 60,000 Acres  
Service Area: Great Lakes Region

This is the largest state park in Michigan and one of the largest virgin (uncut) hardwood-hemlock forests east of the Mississippi River. Thus, it is a major attraction in the Great Lakes region. Most of the park is maintained as a wilderness area and is prohibited by law from any type of modern development. One section of wilderness is set aside as a study area, which may not be modified in any way.

Some eastern areas of the park contain modern trails, roadways, and other facilities. Cabins, primitive “back country” campsites, and rustic and modern campgrounds are available. The modern campground, Union Bay, accommodates recreational vehicles and has electrical hookups. The park overall provides for a wide variety of developed and undeveloped recreational activities and facilities, from swimming, paddling, lake and stream fishing, biking, and metal detecting to a boat launch, a picnic shelter, and a concession stand.

NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL  
Owner: Varies with Section  
Type of Facility: Hiking Trail  
Size of Facility: 57 Miles in Ontonagon County (4,600 miles total)  
Service Area: Northern United States

This hiking trail, which will eventually lead continuously from North Dakota to New York, leads through a variety of terrain types and settings. Some segments are marked but undeveloped and minimally maintained by
volunteers; others are gravel or paved pathways; and still others, namely where segments cannot be acquired from private landowners, are merely roadway shoulder routes. The concept, however, is very attractive to both long-distance and local hikers. The trail traverses most of the county’s east-to-west length.

**ORV ROUTES**

*Owner:* Owner varies; administered by DNR; MI-TRALE performs most construction and maintenance  
*Type of Park:* Trails  
*Size of Facility:* 255 Miles (including county road connector routes)  
*Service Area:* Great Lakes/Midwest region

All designated trails within Ontonagon County are full multi-use (both motorized and non-motorized) and allow for equestrian use. As described earlier, this network includes major trails such as the 40-mile Bill Nichols or “BN” trail from Greenland to Houghton, the Pioneer or “P” Trail from Rockland to Bergland, the Bergland – Sidnaw Trail or “SB”, and the Land O’Lakes – Bruce Crossing or “LL” and many others. The primary trail network runs across publicly owned land and DNR easements on private land. Trails are supplemented by a number of county road connector “preferred routes” that allow ORV traffic with some county-level restrictions. Designated National Forest Roads also function as ORV routes. Although all ORV trails allow vehicles up to 65” with a state ORV sticker, some of the trails are closed to motorcycle usage. ORV trails are generally conducive to equestrian traffic. The DNR is primarily responsible for administration and law enforcement. Law enforcement is also provided by the Ontonagon County Sheriff’s Department with DNR funding. MI-TRALE currently carries out most construction and maintenance.

**SNOWMOBILE TRAILS**

*Owner/Administrator:* Owner varies; administered by DNR  
*Type of Park:* Trails  
*Size of Facility:* 350 Miles  
*Service Area:* Great Lakes/Midwest region

Due to the region’s reputation for heavy snowfalls, its network of snowmobile trails is very popular. The snowmobile trail network is even more extensive than the ORV network; however, there is much overlap in the two networks, with trails designated for each type of traffic marked by unique signs. As a general rule, all ORV trails allow snowmobiles, but the reverse is not true. As with ORVs, the primary trail network runs across publicly owned land and DNR easements on private land, and the DNR is primarily responsible for administration. Also as with ORV routes, law enforcement is provided by the DNR and Sheriff’s Department.

**Other Non-County-Owned Recreational Facilities within the County**

The county’s numerous recreation facilities owned by other entities are shown in Table 5:
### Table 5: Non-County Owned Recreational Facilities in Ontonagon County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Type/Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village of Ontonagon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Beach</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Undeveloped beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boardwalk and Riverfront Park</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Pathway, playground, picnic area, &amp; vault toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon Marina</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td>38-slip marina, toilets, boat ramp &amp; hoist, &amp; fish cleaning station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon Recreation Facility</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Outdoor football and Little League baseball fields; indoor skating, hockey, flush toilets, warming shelter, &amp; concessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Paul Park</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Day-use park with benches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon Area School</td>
<td>School District</td>
<td>Indoor basketball; outdoor volleyball, basketball, track, &amp; football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
<td>Type/Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ontonagon County</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon Golf Club</td>
<td>Private/member-owned but open to public</td>
<td>9-hole golf course &amp; clubhouse w/food &amp; beverage service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ontonagon Township</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Park</td>
<td>Township (Carp Lake Township maintains under 99-year lease)</td>
<td>Gazebo, fire pits, toilet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon Twp. Park</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Picnic area, RV campground (64 sites with 30- to 50-amp electricity), playground, beach, 1-mi nature trails, restrooms, showers, sanitary dump station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakefront Walkway</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Accessible walkway from Village to Twp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bergland Township</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergland Township Campground &amp; Park</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Ballfield, campground, hot showers, flush toilets, electricity, sanitary dump station, drinking water, playground, picnic area, swimming (no lifeguard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
<td>Type/Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergland Dock Boating Access Site</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Boat ramp, courtesy pier, &amp; vault toilet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Field</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Ballfield &amp; tennis courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bohemia Township</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misery River</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Boat ramp, day use area, &amp; campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Lake</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Campground, vault toilets, &amp; picnic area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney Lake</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>Boat launch, day use park, campground, drinking water, and cross-country ski, hiking, &amp; equestrian trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Mile Lake</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>Hiking trail, ski trail, &amp; minimally developed boat launch site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudden Lake</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>Boat launch &amp; day use park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carp Lake Township</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township Park (White Pine)</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Building</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Ice rink, flush toilets, &amp; kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonanza Falls Overlook</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Parking lot, road, picnic area, &amp; accessible overlook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Park</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Gazebo, fire pits, toilet (under 99-year lease from Ontonagon Township)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greenland Township</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riddle Junction Ski Trails</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Cross-country ski trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground &amp; Little League Ball Diamond</td>
<td>School (former elementary facility)</td>
<td>Ballfield &amp; playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-26 Softball Field</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stenson Park</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Park off Plank Road in Greenland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
<td>Type/Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Mountain</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Sledding, skating, &amp; mountain bike trails; fairgrounds; racetrack &amp; motocross park; Bill Nichols Trailhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Haight Township</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond Falls Scenic Site/Flowage</td>
<td>UPPCO</td>
<td>Campsites, accessible hiking trails, picnic area, boat launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbins Pond Campground</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>Campground &amp; vault toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandlund Lake Access</td>
<td></td>
<td>Picnic area &amp; minimally developed boat launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erickson Lake</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Primitive and rustic picnic area; boating and fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interior Township</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbott-Fox Park</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Playground, open shelter, water tap, picnic area, fire rings, lighting, historic steam engine, memorial, beach (on pond), &amp; flush toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agate Falls Scenic Site</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Accessible hiking trails, picnic area, &amp; vault toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backwater Recreation Area</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Walking trail &amp; foot bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond Falls Flowage</td>
<td>UPPCO</td>
<td>Campsites &amp; boat launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commons Park</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Picnic area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>McMillan Township</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
<td>Type/Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch Street Park – Ewen</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Basketball courts and playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewen Pines Roadside Park</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Picnic area &amp; vault toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewen-Trout School District</td>
<td>School District</td>
<td>Indoor and outdoor sports fields and playground area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Branch Ontonagon River</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Canoe landing area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steusser Lake Access</td>
<td>State</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rockland Township**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Type/Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rockland Community Park</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Playground, picnic area, dam (fishing), &amp; historical site: Old Victoria Log Home Restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little League Baseball Field</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Ballfield &amp; dugouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Hill Roadside Park</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Picnic area &amp; vault toilet(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stannard Township**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Type/Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Park</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Campground (12 sites with sewer, water, &amp; electric hookups), pavilion, concession building, flush toilets, volleyball courts, &amp; horseshoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steamboat Bill Little League Park</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>Ballfield</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 4: RECREATION NEEDS — BASIS FOR ACTION PROGRAM

A variety of recreation deficiencies and potential improvements to County facilities were identified based on the survey results and discussions with the Planning Commission. The following list identifies some of the current needs at County recreation facilities and lands:

- Aging recreational infrastructure in need of reconstruction, particularly with regard to boating access and support facilities;
- Promotion of existing facilities in order to make different subgroups of the public aware of their existence, location, and potential uses;
- Access by traditionally under-promoted recreational transportation modes to County facilities, including, but not limited to, equestrian and ORV users;
- Underdevelopment on alternative forms of outdoor recreation (e.g. cross country skiing, cycling, hiking, kayaking and canoeing, etc.);
- Provision for public use of undeveloped lands not currently meeting their full potential;
- Limited accessibility issues at County recreation sites that prohibit potential use by individuals with mobility limitations and other physical impairments;
- A lack of integration with economic development partners, which limits potential tourism and financial benefits generated from the Counties recreation assets; and
- Limited collaboration with recreation groups and other regional recreation assets (e.g. state parks) that result in missed opportunities to capture revenue from tourists visiting the area.
Part 5: RECREATION GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Ontonagon County has identified a number of goals for recreation within the community. Goals and objectives have been established with public input generated by a community survey and feedback from the County’s Recreation Planning Commission. The following are goals and objectives to guide the County’s recreation planning during the 2017-2021 period:

Goal 1: Provide recreation facilities, programs, and opportunities to sufficiently meet recreational desires and promote healthy lifestyles for its residents and visitors.

Objective 1.1: Establish additional modern camping facilities in the County.

Rationale: The County is seeking to increase tourism to the area to enhance economic development. The survey results indicate that non-County residents placed the highest priority on improving modern campsites for projects at the Ontonagon County Park.

Objective 1.2: Enhance paddle craft facilities along the County’s water body shorelines.

Rationale: The community survey results indicate that 72% of household respondents with school-aged children participate in recreational boating and canoeing. Enhancing the Firesteel River Beach Area with rest areas and picnic facilities will make the area more family-friendly.

Objective 1.3: Develop primitive campsites facilities on County recreation areas.

Rationale: The community survey results indicate that 48% of household respondents with school-aged children participate in primitive/tent camping recreation activities. These respondents ranked establishing primitive campsites as one of the top priorities for Ontonagon County Park projects.

Objective 1.4: Establish equestrian-friendly camping facilities on County recreation areas.

Rationale: Equestrian recreation is increasing in Ontonagon County. Results from the community survey indicated a strong desire for equestrian-related activities within the County, and was the most popular form of recreation mentioned in the survey comments section.

Goal 2: Enhance access for persons with mobility limitations to County recreation facilities.

Objective 2.1: Provide accessible pathways and recreation facilities for persons with mobility limitations on County recreation areas.

Rationale: Approximately 26.5% of the County’s population is above the age of 55 years old, and demographic trends suggest that the median age for residents will continue to increase. As residents age, decreased physical mobility can become a barrier to many recreation
activities. Results from the community survey indicate that residents prioritize enhancing access to recreation assets for people with mobility challenges.

**Objective 2.3:** Enhance the accessibility of water craft recreation in the County.

**Rationale:** Same rationale as Objective 2.1.

**Goal 3:** Publicize and otherwise capitalize on recreation facilities and associated amenities to attract visitors and residents as a strategy for economic development.

**Objective 3.1:** Support the hosting of ORV/ATV, hiking, cross country skiing, bicycling, kayaking/canoeing events or equestrian trail rides and horse shows in Ontonagon County to attract regional visitors and trail users.

**Rationale:** The Ontonagon County Planning Commission has identified the County’s natural resources and recreation as two primary drivers for future economic development. Supporting the development of world-class trails for a wide variety of recreation forms will help to attract visitors to the region while offering all County residents venues for trail recreation.

**Objective 3.2:** Coordinate County recreation outreach activities with County Chamber of Commerce and other regional chambers, visitor/tourism bureaus and PURE Michigan campaign.

**Rationale:** Coordinating recreation outreach and marketing efforts with various economic development organizations will help maximize the economic benefits of the County’s recreation economy. These organizations are able to help promote the County’s recreation assets and identify opportunities to generate additional benefits for local businesses and residents.

**Goal 4:** Continue to develop a network of non-motorized four-season pathways and trails to serve the community in coordination with local and township governments along with the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

**Objective 4.1:** Establish equestrian-friendly trails on County-owned recreation areas.

**Rationale:** Equestrian recreation is increasing in Ontonagon County. Results from the community survey indicate that equestrian trail development was the most popular form of recreation mentioned in the survey’s comments section for the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area.

**Objective 4.2:** Establish hiking, biking, and cross country skiing trail systems on undeveloped recreation sites owned by the County.
Rationale: Results from the community survey indicated that hiking was the most popular form of recreation among respondents with household incomes less than $50,000 per year. Respondents with children present in the household indicated through the community survey that developing additional biking trails or baths was their highest priority recreation goal.

Objective 4.3: Collaborate with MDNR, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, and Ottawa National Forest to identify potential for cross-promotion and developing linked trail systems for non-motorized trail systems.

Rationale: Same rationale as Objective 4.2.

Goal 5: Work with the various ATV/ORV and snowmobile trail groups and other stakeholders to develop, support and promote trails and facilities.

Objective 5.1: Establish ATV/ORV trail systems on undeveloped recreation areas owned by the County.

Rationale: 58% of females, 56% of families with children, and 62% of families with annual household incomes reported through the community survey that household members participate in some form of ATV/ORV recreation. Developing trails for motorized recreation will help provide additional venues for this popular form of recreation.

Goal 6: Improve public access to existing County lands suited to recreation.

Objective 6.1: Install directional road signage to Ontonagon County recreation facilities

Rationale: The Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area and Firesteel Beach Area are undeveloped properties owned by the County. The community survey revealed that most respondents (79%) had not visited Himanka Hill and (59%) had not visited the Firesteel River Beach Area. Road signage will help boost the visibility of the area and increase use of the area by both residents and non-residents. According to the community survey, installing directional road signage with the top priority for County seasonal resident respondents for the Ontonagon County Park.

Objective 6.2: Clear and develop parking facilities at new recreation sites.

Rationale: According to the community survey, full-time County residence respondents and respondents with annual household incomes less than $50,000 indicated establishing a parking area is their top priority for the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area and the Firesteel Beach Area. Creating a parking area with the capacity to handle equestrian and ORV trailers will also support Objectives 4.1 & 5.1.

Goal 7: Support appropriate use of public lands within the County for legal hunting, fishing, and trapping.
Objective 7.1: Enhance or develop facilities to promote legal hunting, fishing, and trapping on County-owned lands.

Rationale: From the community survey, 59% of female respondents indicated that household members participate in shore-fishing activities, and 70% of female respondents indicated that household members participate in boat fishing activities. In an effort to boost recreational fishing among females and young adults, the onsite fish cleaning station at the County Park will be greatly improved by installing a waste-pump out disposal.

Goal 8: Continue to use public funds as efficiently and effectively as possible to implement and maximize recreational opportunities in Ontonagon County.

Objective 8.1: Designate a portion of the money derived from forestry projects to achieve the objectives above.

Rationale: This will allow for a reliable source of financial resources to support the various recreation asset development and enhancement projects outlined in the goals and objectives above.

Objective 8.2: Apply to the DNR Trust Fund for grants and match appropriately such grants with available funds to achieve stated objectives.

Rationale: The DNR Trust Fund represents one of the primary sources of support for local governments from the state of Michigan for recreation investments. Program cost-sharing stipulations require local governments to contribute additional resources toward the complete of projects. This means that only projects of high priority will be pursued so that public resources are not wasted.

Objective 8.3: Support fund raising efforts of trail and specialty groups to develop existing and new recreational facilities.

Rationale: The private sector has the capacity (financial and expertise) to make substantial investments in recreation assets in the County. Developing public and private partnerships can help provide additional resources to accomplish the objectives and goals described above and improve recreational opportunities for the County’s residents and visitors.
Part 6: ACTION PLAN
This section will provide an overview of specific projects identified in the recreation planning process that will help the County reach its recreation goals and objectives. The projects were identified based on input from the County’s community recreation survey (Appendix A) and the County Planning Commission. The plan will serve as a guide for the County to identify projects; however, it is intended to be flexible as resources and priorities change over time. The County’s recreation planning committee can review this list of projects and amend the Action Program as opportunities are presented.

Table 6: Capital Outlays for Recreation Development Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Develop website, brochures, and marketing materials for Ontonagon County Recreation.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Local, Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Develop preliminary design and acquire cost estimates for the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area.</td>
<td>4,5</td>
<td>4.1; 4.2; 5.1</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Local/Park Revenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Install directional road signage to Ontonagon County Park from M-28 and U.S. 2.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Park revenues/Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Provide accessible pathways for persons with mobility limitations to Lake Gogebic Beach at Ontonagon County Park.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>MNRTF/DNR/Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Clear and develop and parking facilities for horse and ORV trailers at Himanka Hill Recreation Area.</td>
<td>1, 6</td>
<td>1.4, 6.2</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>MNRTF/DNR/Local/Trail Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Establish multi-use trail system able to accommodate a wide range of motorized and non-motorized recreation activities (e.g. hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, biking, equestrian, ORV, etc.) at Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area.</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
<td>4.1; 4.2; 5.1</td>
<td>$1,000-5,000/mile*</td>
<td>MNRTF/DNR/Local/Trail Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Establish off-road parking near the Firesteel River mouth off Lakeshore Drive at the Firesteel Beach Area.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>MNRTF/DNR/Local/Trail Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Complete NCT/IBT Trail Improvement to O Kun de Kun Falls.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.2, 4.3</td>
<td>$90,200</td>
<td>MNRTF Secured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Establish equestrian-friendly camping facilities at the Ontonagon County Park to include trailer parking and animal waste disposal receptacles.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>MNRTF/DNR/Local/Trail Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Establish site directional signage to Firesteel River Beach Area from M-38.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Park revenues/Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Establish site directional signage to Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area from U.S. 45 and M-28.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Park revenues/Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Create accessible walking trail for persons with mobility limitations from Lakeshore Drive to the beach at Firesteel Beach Area.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>MNRTF/DNR/Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Develop primitive campsites at Ontonagon County Park on the west side of Michigan Highway 64.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>DNR/Local/Park revenues/Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Update website, brochures, and marketing materials for Ontonagon County Recreation.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>$5,000-$10,000</td>
<td>Local, Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Establish additional modern campsites at Ontonagon County Park.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>DNR/Park revenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Develop a rest stop for paddle craft with family picnic area at the Firesteel River Beach Area with appropriate signage.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local/MNRTF/DNR/Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Establish accessible stream entrance and exit points for persons with mobility limitations on County-owned lands for paddle craft boat launches.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>$25,000 (per site)</td>
<td>DNR, DEQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Install waste pump-out disposal in fish cleaning station at Ontonagon County Park.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>DNR/Local/Park revenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Update website, brochures, and marketing materials for Ontonagon County Recreation.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>$5,000-$10,000</td>
<td>Local, Rural Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources of Funding

Several funding sources for recreation projects are available to support the County’s recreation projects. **Table 7** provides a non-exhaustive list of funding sources to evaluate when identifying financial capital for projects.

**Table 7: Possible Funding Sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local funds and Park revenues</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation/Other (local service organizations and businesses)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)</td>
<td>75/25 grant</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Passport Grant Program</td>
<td>75/25 grant</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Trails Program Grants</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Improvement Fund Grants</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile Trail Improvement Program</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Road Vehicle (ORV)/Snowmobile Grants</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land &amp; Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)</td>
<td>50/50 grant</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)</td>
<td>75/25 grant</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterways Program Grants</td>
<td>50/50 grant</td>
<td>DNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Grants</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 7: DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

Members of the Planning Commission and WUPPDR staff members met on May 17th, 2016, to review recreation goals and objectives and explore potential projects. During this meeting, members of the Planning Commission generated a list of potential recreation development projects to be evaluated by the public. It was determined that a Recreation Survey was the most effective means to solicit public input into the recreation plan, and implementation strategies were discussed to maximize public participation in the survey.

The recreation survey was created and opened for responses from October 3rd through November 7th. The survey was available online at the WUPPDR website, http://www.wuppdr.org, and paper copies were available at the front desk of the County Courthouse and at township offices within the County. The online and print versions contained the same questions; however, question order differed between the surveys to assist with print formatting. An example of the paper survey can be found in Appendix A. Following a press release (Appendix B), notice of the survey’s availability was published in the weekly Ontonagon Herald. In addition, a number of recreation groups that operate within the County (e.g. Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance for Land and the Environment) were contacted to participate in the survey. Ultimately, 181 survey responses were received. Print and online survey data was combined for the purpose of aggregate analysis. An executive summary of the survey’s results and a complete analysis by survey question can be found in Appendices C and D, respectively.

On December 6, 2016, the Planning Commission held a regular meeting which WUPPDR attended to provide an overview of the survey’s results and review the plan status. After reviewing the survey results, the Planning Commission reviewed the goals and objectives of the County’s recreation plan and discussed potential projects to include in the plan’s Action Program. After receiving feedback from the Planning Commission, WUPPDR staff assembled a draft section of the plan’s Goals & Objectives and the Action Plan. This draft was submitted by email to members of the Planning Commission for feedback and revisions on December 20th, 2016. Feedback provided by the Commission resulted in numerous modifications to the draft sections. A draft copy of the full recreation plan was submitted by to the Planning Commission on January 13th, 2017. Feedback from the Commission resulted in plan revisions regarding County-owned recreation assets, community geographic features, additional non-County owned recreation assets, and corrections to the descriptions of previous MDNR funded projects.

A January 19th, 2017 press release (Appendix E) was done to publicize the opportunity for public review of the draft, and an article regarding the plan public comment period was printed in The Ontonagon Herald on January 25th, 2017 (Appendix F). This opportunity was also described in detail in a posting
on the WUPPDR website (Appendix G). The draft was then available for viewing and written comment over a one-month period, starting on the January 20th, 2017 at the Ontonagon County Courthouse front desk and the Ontonagon Township Library as well as online at the WUPPDR website. A significant number of comments were received and are included in Appendix H. The comments identified missing information regarding various recreation assets, recommendations for augmenting the plan’s action plan, and corrections to names used to describe county-owned recreational facilities and volunteer organizations.

Notice of a Public Hearing (Appendix I) to be held on February 21st, 2017 was published in the Ontonagon Herald on February 15th, 2017. The hearing allowed citizens the opportunity to review and comment on the Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan. Representatives from MI-TRALE provided public comments to address issues of information clarification, correction on the amount of trails within Ontonagon County, and recommendations for consistently using the name “Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area” to ensure that the facility will be used by the broader public. Recommendations were also made to change the action plan so that signage for undeveloped recreation areas be postponed until they were ready for public use. A point was also made to emphasize multiuse trails in the plan’s action plan. After no additional comments were received, the public hearing was closed. Following the public hearing, the 2017-2021 Ontonagon County Recreation Plan was adopted by resolution 2017-02 by the County Board of Commissioners subject to public comments being addressed in the final draft.

As described, notices of draft availability and public hearing were publicized to invite citizen comment and review of the new recreation plan. The County Board Minutes and Resolution for Adoption are included in Appendices J and K, respectively.
APPENDIX

A. Recreation Survey Form
B. Recreation Survey Press Release
C. Recreation Survey Results Summary
D. Recreation Survey Full Results
E. Public Comment Period Press Release
F. Public Comment Period *Ontonagon Herald* Article
G. Public Comment Period Website Posting
H. Public Comments Received During Review Period
I. Public Hearing Notice Affidavit from Ontonagon Herald
J. Public Hearing County Board Minutes
K. County Board Resolution for Adoption
Appendix A

Recreation Survey Form
The Ontonagon County Recreation Committee is seeking public input to help plan facility upgrades, access and uses for County recreation sites over the next five years. Your response to this survey will provide information to shape those plans and help guide investments into these community resources.

*This brief survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.* The answers you provide will remain confidential, and your participation is completely voluntary. You are free to stop taking the survey at any point or to skip questions you do not want to answer. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Brad Barnett, Assistant Regional Planner with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region (WUPPDR) at 906-482-7205 (ext 316) or by email at bbarnett@wuppdr.org.

**Survey Return Options:**
- **In-person drop-off:** Ontonagon County Building Front Desk or to WUPPDR, 393 E Lakeshore Drive, Houghton (by November 1st, 2016); or
- **Mail:** WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931 (by November 1st, 2016).
- **Online:** Complete this survey online at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OntonagonCountyRecreation](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OntonagonCountyRecreation)

**Location of County Recreation Sites**
The following questions seek your input on Ontonagon County recreation site improvements. Please take a moment to review the map and familiarize yourself with the location of the sites discussed in this survey in order to help you with your responses.

1. Ontonagon County Park
2. Firesteel River Beach
3. Himanka Hill Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Family Recreation Facility

**Survey Questions**

1. Please indicate your residency status:
   [ ] I am a full time/permanent resident of Ontonagon County
   [ ] I am a seasonal resident (live less than 6 months a year) of Ontonagon County
   [ ] I am not a resident, but I do visit Ontonagon County [skip to question #3 if you select this answer]
   [ ] None of the above

2. If you are a full-time/permanent or seasonal resident, where is your Ontonagon residence (e.g. home or cabin)? (Check only one.)?
   [ ] Bergland Twp.  [ ] Bohemia Twp.  [ ] Carp Lake Twp.  [ ] Greenland Twp.
   [ ] Ontonagon Twp. within Village  [ ] Ontonagon Twp. outside of Village
   [ ] Rockland Twp.  [ ] Stannard Twp.  [ ] Don’t know

3. Please indicate how many persons live in your household using the following age groups:
   0-4 yrs old: _____  5-14 yrs old: _____  15-19 yrs old: _____
   20-39 yrs old: _____  40-64 yrs old: _____  65+: _____
4. Does anyone in your household have a disability or require specialized recreation? **Specialized recreation** refers to accommodations or modifications made to recreation facilities and equipment in order to remove barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from using the facilities or equipment

[ ] Yes   [ ] No  [skip to question #6 if you select this answer]

5. If you answered “yes” to question #4, please explain the disability and needed accommodations of specialized recreation:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

6. Does anyone in your household use or take part in any of the following? (Check **ALL** that apply).

- [ ] Archery
- [ ] Bicycling (mtn.)
- [ ] Camping (RV)
- [ ] Fishing (boat)
- [ ] Horseshoes
- [ ] Skiing (x-country)
- [ ] Snowmobiling
- [ ] Tennis
- [ ] OTHER (Please specify: ______________________________________________________________

- [ ] ATVs (recreational)
- [ ] Bicycling (path/road/trail)
- [ ] Camping (tent)
- [ ] Fishing (shore/dock)
- [ ] Hunting
- [ ] Skiing (downhill)
- [ ] Snowshoeing
- [ ] Volleyball

- [ ] Baseball fields
- [ ] Boating/canoeing
- [ ] Canoe/kayak stream trips
- [ ] Hiking
- [ ] Ice Skating
- [ ] Running/jogging
- [ ] Soccer
- [ ] Walking

- [ ] Basketball courts
- [ ] Campgrounds
- [ ] Dog walking
- [ ] Hockey
- [ ] Kayaking
- [ ] Shooting
- [ ] Snowboarding
- [ ] Softball fields
- [ ] Whitewater rafting

7. Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Ontonagon County Park. Please help the Recreation Committee identify priority projects for this park by assigning a rank (1 through 7) to each project based on your personal preference. A rank of “1” indicates the MOST IMPORTANT project and a rank of “7” indicates the LEAST IMPORTANT project. **USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.**

Establish additional modern campsites on existing public land ..............................................

Establish primitive campsites on west side of M-64 .................................................................

Establish food concessionaire or store ....................................................................................

Install waste pump-out disposal in fish cleaning station ........................................................

Install directional road signage to park from M-28 & US 2 ..................................................

Provide handicap accessibility to the beach .............................................................................

Other (specify: ______________________________________________________________) .................

8. Within the last year, how many times have you visited Ontonagon County Park?

[ ] 1 to 3 times   [ ] 4 to 6 times   [ ] 7 to 9 times   [ ] 10 times or more   [ ] None (skip to question #11)

9. If you did visit the Ontonagon County Park within the past year, how many nights (on average) did you spend at the park each visit?

[ ] Day visit only (no overnight stay)   [ ] 1 night   [ ] 2-5 nights   [ ] 6-20 nights   [ ] 21 or more nights
10. **If you did visit the Ontonagon County Park within the past year**, what has been your overall level of satisfaction?

[ ] Very Satisfied       [ ] Satisfied       [ ] Neutral       [ ] Unsatisfied       [ ] Very Unsatisfied

Comments about the County Park: ____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

**DEVELOPMENT OF HIMANKA HILL ORV FAMILY RECREATION FACILITY**
**PUBLIC LAND NEAR MOUTH OF FIRESTEEL RIVER**
(56 acres on Lake Superior 4-5 miles northeast of the Village of Ontonagon)

11. Within the last year, how many times have you visited the Himanka Hill ORV Family Recreation Facility area?

[ ] 1 to 3 times  
[ ] 4 to 6 times  
[ ] 7 to 9 times  
[ ] 10 times or more  
[ ] None

12. Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Himanka Hill ORV Family Recreation Facility area. Please help the Recreation Committee identify priority projects for this area by assigning a rank (1 through 4) to each project based on your personal preference. A rank of **“1” indicates the MOST IMPORTANT project** and a rank of **“4” indicates the LEAST IMPORTANT project**. **USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.**

- Picnic area .................................................................
- Parking area off Himanka Hill ...........................................
- Signage for trails ...........................................................
- Other (specify: __________________________________________) ...................................

**DEVELOPMENT OF FIRESTEEL RIVER BEACH**

13. Within the last year, how many times have you visited the Firesteel River Beach area?

[ ] 1 to 3 times  
[ ] 4 to 6 times  
[ ] 7 to 9 times  
[ ] 10 times or more  
[ ] None

14. Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Firesteel River Beach area. Please help the Recreation Committee identify priority projects for this area by assigning a rank (1 through 5) to each project based on your personal preference. A rank of **“1” indicates the MOST IMPORTANT project** and a rank of **“5” indicates the LEAST IMPORTANT project**. **USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.**

- Picnic area .................................................................
- Parking area ..............................................................
- Firesteel beach canoe/kayak “rest” area ............................
- Trail to beach from Lakeshore Road ...............................
- Other (specify: __________________________________________) ..........................
15. Within the last year, how many times have you used Ontonagon County public land/bridge access to local streams?

[ ] 1 to 3 times  [ ] 4 to 6 times  [ ] 7 to 9 times  [ ] 10 times or more  [ ] None

16. Ontonagon County offers numerous access to local streams. Below is a list of potential projects/improvements public land/bridge access to streams. Please help the Recreation Committee identify priority projects for these areas by assigning a rank (1 through 4) to each project based on your personal preference. A rank of “1” indicates the MOST IMPORTANT project and a rank of “4” indicates the LEAST IMPORTANT project. Use each number only once.

- Install signage to river rafting entry/exit points for canoes/kayaks
- Publish print materials for river access (canoes/kayaks)
- Improve facilities for fishing, swimming, or canoeing/kayaking/boating
  (Specify how: ________________________________________
   and where: _________________________________________ )
- Other: ____________________________________________________

17. Please rank these potential projects in order of importance to you, (1) being highest priority and (6) being lowest: Use each number only once.

- Develop additional bicycle trails or paths throughout the county
- Establish a “destination” restaurant in conjunction with a recreation facility
- Comments: _____________________________________________
- More opportunities for people with disabilities
- Improve the Ontonagon County Park based on your #1 prioritized project indicated above
- Improve the Himanka Hill ORV Family Recreation Area based on your #1 prioritized project indicated above
- Develop public access to beach near Firesteel River mouth

18. This question concerns possible rate changes at the County Park in order to facilitate upgrades described in this survey (question 7). If the two upgrades you consider most important were to be completed in the next five years, what rate (in whole dollars) would you be willing to pay starting next year (2017) for the following site types? Fill in only the appropriate resident or nonresident rate depending on where you live.

FEE TYPE (includes electric unless noted):  CURRENT RATE:  WILLING TO PAY:
Daily rate, County resident......................... $ 16 .................. $ _______
Daily rate, nonresident ............................ $ 18 .................. $ _______
Daily rate, tent site (cost per tent), no electric.... $ 10 .................. $ _______
Monthly rate, County resident.................... $ 325 .................. $ _______
Monthly rate, nonresident ......................... $ 405 .................. $ _______
Season rate, County resident..................... $ 1,025 .................. $ _______
Season rate, nonresident .......................... $ 1,250 .................. $ _______
Pavilion, Daily........................................... $ 25 .................. $ _______
Comments pertaining to question 18: ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Additional comments/suggestions regarding recreation in Ontonagon County:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Demographics
In order to make sure our survey results are representative of the Ontonagon County population, it is important that we ask you a few questions about your household. This helps us to determine how accurately the survey’s results reflect the characteristics of our community and identifies if groups are over/under represented.

1. What is your gender?
   [ ] Male    [ ] Female    [ ] I’d prefer not to say

2. What was your household’s approximate annual income in 2015?
   [ ] Less than $25,000    [ ] $25,000 to $49,999    [ ] $50,000 to $74,999
   [ ] $75,000 to $99,999    [ ] $100,000 to $149,999    [ ] $150,000 or more

Thank you! Your input is important to help identify and prioritize recreation projects throughout the County.

Survey results will be included in the draft 2017-2021 Recreation Plan, which will be available for public review early next year at least one month prior to a public hearing for its adoption. Notice of the draft’s availability and the hearing will be publicized at the appropriate time. If you would like to be personally notified of the draft Plan’s availability, please leave contact information and, if you prefer mail, a self-addressed stamped envelope:

NAME: _____________________________________________ Phone: _________________________
ADDRESS: _____________________________________________ E-MAIL: _________________________
_____________________________________________
Appendix B

Recreation Survey Press Release
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Brad Barnett, Assistant Regional Planner
906.482.7205, ext. 316
bbarnett@wuppdr.org

October 12, 2016

Recreation Plan Survey Available for Ontonagon County

Ontonagon County is working with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) to update its five-year Recreation Plan. Ontonagon County residents can assist in the planning effort by taking a short survey. The survey is available at www.wuppdr.org/surveys/OCRecSurvey. Paper copies are also available at the Ontonagon County Courthouse at the front desk, located at 725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953.

The survey will be available through November 1st, 2016. For further information, please contact Brad Barnett at 906.482.7205, ext. 316 or bbarnett@wuppdr.org.

###
Appendix C

Recreation Survey Results Summary
Ontonagon County Recreation Survey Results
Executive Summary

A survey was conducted to provide public input into Ontonagon County’s 2017-2021 Recreation Plan. The survey took place during the months of October and November 2016, and solicited feedback from Ontonagon County residents and recreation groups that utilize the County’s recreation assets. Below is a brief summary of the survey result highlights:

- County residents (64%) represent the majority of respondents followed by nonresidents (24%), and seasonal residents (9%).
- The sample has a disproportionate number of female respondents (60%). The 2010 Census shows the County’s female population at 48%.
- The sample over-represents “mid-income” groups between $50,000 and $99,999 (53% of sample). The ACS shows the County has 30% in this income group.
- More than 50% of respondents indicated that a household member participated in the following activities: Boating/canoeing (highest), walking, ATVing, fishing (both boat and shore), hiking, hunting, and dog walking.
- Lowest reported activities include hockey, soccer, tennis, whitewater rafting (all less than 5%).
- 9% of respondents indicated a household member requiring specialized recreation due to disability or other physical challenges. Basic mobility (challenges with walking) was the challenge most often identified by respondents.

The following projects received the highest prioritization for the Ontonagon County Park:
- Improvements to facilitate specialized recreation needs, develop modern campsites, directional signage to the park, and improvements to the fish cleaning station. No clear “winner” between these projects.
  - Other projects like improved horse trails and camping, ORV access, use and camping, RV facility upgrades like electrical, and improved bike trails were often mentioned.
- Parking and trail signage received the highest priority for the Himanka Hill Recreation Area.
- Parking and trails from Lakeshore Road to the beach area received the highest priority for the Firesteel River Beach Area.
- Improved fishing and swimming areas and better signage for rafting/boating entries and exits received the highest priority for improving public stream access in the County.
  - Improvements related to modifications to assist individuals with disabilities and more advertising and outreach were suggested.
  - Flintsteel River, Firesteel River, Ontonagon River, Military Hill, Lakeshore Drive, and Ewen’s Landing were mentioned as locations for improvements.

Overall, no clear recreation priority was established through this survey. Respondents did not distinguish meaningful prioritization differences between topics (e.g. Himanka Hill projects versus Ontonagon County Park projects).
  - Access to streams was ranked the highest but there was little difference between this category and other options with one exception:
    - Respondents placed a low priority on establishing a destination restaurant
- A large number of respondents indicated no knowledge of many areas discussed in the survey and requested more public outreach to make the community aware these locations.
- A large number of respondents requested projects that focused on horse trails and equestrian related camping.
Appendix D

Recreation Survey Full Results
Sample description

1.1 Respondents’ residency status:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am a full time/permanent resident of Ontonagon County</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a seasonal resident (live less than 6 months a year) of Ontonagon County</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not a resident, but I do visit Ontonagon County</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question | 181
skipped question | 0
1.2 Ontonagon County Residency Status

**Where is your Ontonagon residence (e.g. home or cabin)?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bergland Township</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohemia Township</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carp Lake Township</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenland Township</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haight Township</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Township</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMillian Township</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matchwood Township</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon Township (in Village)</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontonagon Township (outside of Village)</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockland Township</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stannard Township</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't know</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 131  
skipped question 50
1.3 Household Size & Age

Sample households contain the following age groups:

- 0-4 years old – 5.78%
- 5-14 years old – 13.87%
- 15-19 years old – 14.45%
- 20-39 years old – 27.75%
- 40-64 years old – 70.52%
- 65 years old or older – 26.01%

Average Household Size: 2.54 people (Std. Dev. 1.54)

1.4 Household Income

What was your household’s approximate annual income in 2015?
What was your household’s approximate annual income in 2015?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $25,000</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $149,999</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 or more</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 149
skipped question 32

1.5 Gender

What is your gender?

- Male: 37.1%, 63 responses
- Female: 60.0%, 102 responses
- I'd prefer not to say: 2.9%, 5 responses

answered question 170
skipped question 11
1.6 Household Recreation Activities

Does anyone in your household use or take part in any of the following? (Check ALL that apply).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boating/canoeing</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATVs (recreational)</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing (boat)</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog walking</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing (shore/dock)</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campgrounds</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe/kayak stream trips</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling (path/road/trail)</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping (RV)</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobiling</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping (tent)</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing (cross country)</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sledding</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing (downhill)</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling (mountain)</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball courts</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running/jogging</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice skating</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball fields</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoes</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboarding</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball fields</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitewater rafting</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>answered question</td>
<td>167</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skipped question</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other activities listed:** Horseback riding (18), swimming (1), photography (1), UTVing (1), leaf peeping (2), waterfall tours (1), and golfing (1)
1.7 Special Recreation Accommodations for Household Members

Does anyone in your household have a disability or require specialized recreation?

Specialized recreation refers to accommodations or modifications made to recreation facilities and equipment in order to remove barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from using the facilities or equipment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answered question 174
Skipped question 7

Comments pertaining to Specialized Recreation and Recreational Accommodations:

- General mobility
  - Difficulty walking (2)
  - Need hard surface walkway
  - Mobility. I need hand rails, and an occasional place to sit.
  - Normal problems for those over age 65, can’t walk as far or fast as we used to so would like more ATV trails open in order to enjoy areas where only foot traffic is allowed now. Easier access would help everyone including those with disabilities/handicaps.
  - Wheelchair dependable, ramps, doors etc. water entrances (x2)
  - T7/8 complete paraplegia. Wheelchair user. Need accessibility.

- Down Syndrome
- Paraplegia
Within the last year, how many times have you visited Ontonagon County Park?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 3 times</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 6 times</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 9 times</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 times or more</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 167
skipped question 14
2.2 Duration of Stay

How many nights (on average) did you spend at the park each visit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day visit only (no overnight stay)</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 night</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-5 nights</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-20 nights</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 or more nights</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 96
skipped question 85
2.3 Satisfaction with Visit

What has been your overall level of satisfaction with your visit(s) to Ontonagon County Park?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Satisfied</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsatisfied</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Unsatisfied</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 95
skipped question 86

Comments on Ontonagon County Park:

- Nice playground for kids.
- One man working was very rude. First time camping here and he was very rude answering questions and kept cutting me off.
- Yooper snack shack food cart located at playground area was a smart idea. Conscience to campers and visitors. Encourage they come next summer. Horse rides awesome idea!
- The park needs better facilities like they have at the State Park. Bathrooms, showers and a good boat launching area would be nice. Also direct access to ATV trails would be really nice!
- Please improve ORV access and possibly create a scramble area. Connect to Mi-Trale routes
- I would like to suggest that our park have more recreational games (Ladder ball, Frisbee golf, horseshoes, water games for families to keep them entertained while camping. Biking and/or
walking trails. Have local music entertainment nights in the park. Possibly life guards on the beach.

- Couldn't find the drinking water access to refill my water bottle
- Vault toilets are unpleasant - better restrooms needed. Campsites and layout are nice.
- Have garbage cans conceded in the park for trash disposal.
- They need better firewood sold, it was green, too big and didn't burn. Camp sites need to be cleared for better views of lake.
- Bathroom needed cleaning
- Need horseback riding trails and campground
- Need updated electrical hookups, updated water fountains and hookups, better roads, better sewage hookups or included in seasonal paying
- Great location!
- I was scoping it out for it's available horse camping facilities. We need to advertise the wonders of the UP and indicate places where horses are welcome. Like other states do.
- Very nice park. People employed at the park doing a great job.
- Could be spaced out more! Tents aren't too close to each other! Needs to be more handicap accessible.
- My experience has been parks. The county needs to create different types of recreation opportunities.
- We only do day visits because you can never get a camping site close to the water..... the campers stay all summer! It should be a two week rotation so others have a chance. Also the beach is always full of seagull poop, it would be nice if someone cleaned it up once in awhile.
- Would like to be afforded more equestrian camping availability, as well as trail access... We come from the Indiana/Michigan state line... More access would result in longer stays and more revenue
- Needs update power boxes, more water faucets our camper is 120 feet from hookup to fill water tank, 8 or more campers to faucet. Playground equipment out of date. Finally going to get shower building. Poor boat launch area, roads in terrible condition, hard to get larger campers into top row sites
Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Ontonagon County Park. Please help the Recreation Committee identify priority projects for this park by assigning a rank (1 through 7) to each project based on your personal preference. A rank of “1” indicates the MOST IMPORTANT project and a rank of “7” indicates the LEAST IMPORTANT project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>Rating Average</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish additional modern campsites on existing public land</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish primitive campsites on west side of M-64</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.22</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish food concessionaire or store</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.25</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install waste pump-out disposal in fish cleaning station</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install directional road signage to park from M-28 &amp; US 2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide handicap accessibility to the beach</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (the following question will allow you to elaborate)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4.98</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 128
skipped question 53
“Other” project options listed:

- Improved horse camping & trails (8)
  - Create rustic or modern campsites for people with horses who would be able to view the scenery and wildlife. For those who come to visit the UP.
- Improve ORV access, use and camping (3)
  - Create destination facilities for all seasonal ATV's at the old railroad station, consistent with the sustainability plan
- RV facility upgrades (3)
  - Upgrade all electrical service in RV sites
  - Better electrical hook ups, better water hook ups, wifi hookups at low cost, sewage removal for seasonal residents, not charging for service…we have sewage on site but can’t use it
  - As stated in previous question, upgrade water and electric, sites 1-6 rarely used because of difficulty getting into them, roads are full of potholes, Dave kept trying to fill them but rain washed them out
- Improved bike trails (2)
  - A peddle bike trail that links into Watersmeet. The Copper Country has some of the best in the country and Not. County has nothing. Biking is very popular
  - Black-topped trails
- Gazebo at the township park which provides handicap access to the beach.
- Improve public beach & day use area
- Advertise/promote/web page for the park
- Revamp of the playground and updated pavilion/swimming area with better amenities. Flush toilet and showers
- Kayak rentals
2.5 Ontonagon County Park Fee Schedule

Fee Type (includes electric unless noted): | Current Rate | Mean WTP  | Standard Deviation |
--- | --- | --- | --- |
- Daily rate, County resident (62) | $16.00 | $17.76 | $4.39 |
- Daily rate, nonresident (39) | $18.00 | $21.49 | $5.74 |
- Daily rate, tent site (59) | $10.00 | $12.78 | $3.95 |
- Monthly rate, County resident (41) | $325.00 | $337.80 | $117.25 |
- Monthly rate, nonresident (32) | $405.00 | $380.94 | $155.64 |
- Season rate, County resident (41) | $1,025.00 | $1,021.46 | $506.47 |
- Season rate, nonresident (29) | $1,250.00 | $1,308.10 | $595.52 |
- Pavilion, Daily (41) | $25.00 | $33.35 | $16.45 |

Comments regarding Ontonagon County Park Fee Schedule:

- You can't ask for much higher rates without providing additional amenities that make the price worth more. Otherwise people will go to the other parks on the lake.
- If you allow folks to ride horses charge a daily bridle fee per horse and rider.
- For all resident and nonresident campers to have equal opportunities for campsites of choice eg. lake side site
- Rates are fine; people don't like to get ripped off
- I don't typically use local campgrounds. I would say a larger difference in resident to non-resident, or eliminate the difference and have one fee. I would overall not be adverse to an increase. Maintaining these sites costs more than most think.
- Rates for campsites with electricity are among the lowest in the region, which is a competitive advantage, but I would be willing to pay slightly more.
- Need to install aquatic invasive species (AIS) signage for those using the river/beach recreationally to prevent the spread of AIS.
- Please give projected estimate fee ranges, high to low, in order for those taking the survey to give an appropriate response.
- Providing kayak rental services and paddle boards would be great for tourists. See if an locals would like to also do sailing cruises. A food/ convenience store should also be on site. Make this great resource we have marketable.
- LOVE this park! Well maintained and clean!!!
- Lowering resident rates may encourage more County residents to use the park for longer periods of time.
- Why have a survey if rates are already established, keep it within reason and more people would use the park more, not much available for travelers, and residents don't have much for shopping or points of interest or things to do at the park , as a resident of over 40 years, the playground area, and picnic area, are the same and in need of upgrades, as no cooking areas are acceptable
- As a non-resident homeowner, I pay much higher taxes on our home than any of our neighbors, yet are forced to again pay more for the above parks which we already pay more to support.
- If we have access to an area we enjoy, rates are not an issue... We are happy to pay for them... Would also be willing to purchase an annual "bridle tag" for each horse in order to ride...
- I know a LOT of my friends who still live in Ontos still camp in the Park... its always a "drive thru" to see who I know there after 30 years of living elsewhere.
Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area

3.1 Visits this year to the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area

Within the last year, how many times have you visited the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Facility area?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 3 times</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 6 times</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 9 times</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 times or more</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 135

skipped question 46
12. Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Facility area. Please help the Recreation Committee identify priority projects for this area by assigning a rank (1 through 4) to each project based on your personal preference. A rank of “1” indicates the MOST IMPORTANT project and a rank of “4” indicates the LEAST IMPORTANT project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Rating Average</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picnic area</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking area off Himanka Hill</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage for trails</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (you will have a chance to specify in the next question)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 79
skipped question 102

Other project options listed for Himanka Hill:

- Build horse trails (5)
  - A minimum of 10 miles if there is no camping. 15 miles at least with a campground.
- ATV Trails (5)
  - You need accessible and clearly marked trails for ATV use. The trails should also be kept free of debris and downed trees
- Didn’t know this existed, maybe some advertising needs to be done (9)
  - We've lived in only 4 miles from this for 20+ years and don't know where it is or that it existed. Maybe better outreach in the community is needed? We hear a lot about the Ontonagon Beach, but the southern portion of the county doesn't seem to get the same radio/newspaper time.
I have lived in Bruce Crossing for 8 years and did not know this park existed! I think signs on 45 would be the first priority as I have never noticed one. I can't decide other priorities until I actually go there.

- Camping (2)
- Improved Boat ramp and Parking at Firesteel river mouth
- Provide signage and/or additional information for users to know where private property is in the area. It is a secluded location with few houses and many will assume that it is all public use property.
- Relocate the facility away from the site indicated on the map which is the Maple Grove Cemetery on Amber Lake.

**Firesteel River Beach Area**

4.1 Visits to Firesteel River Beach Area this year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 3 times</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 6 times</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 9 times</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 times or more</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 131

skipped question 50
4.2 Project Rankings for the Firesteel Beach Area

Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Firesteel River Beach area. Please help the Recreation Committee identify priority projects for this area by assigning a rank (1 through 5) to each project based on your personal preference. A rank of “1” indicates the MOST IMPORTANT project and a rank of “5” indicates the LEAST IMPORTANT project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>Rating Average</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picnic area</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking area</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firesteel beach canoe/kayak “rest” area</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail to beach from Lakeshore Road</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (you will have a chance to specify in the next question)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answered question** 85
**Skipped question** 96

**Other project options listed for the Firesteel Beach Area:**

- Horse Trails (2)
  - If this is a sandy beach, then horse access / parking.
  - Create miles and miles of horse trails and people will come and use this area...
- Unfamiliar with area (2)
- Wheelchair access to fishing areas and kayak sites
- Signage (4)
  - There is nothing there to indicate that it is open to the public. Promote/ advertise/ web page for this area.
- Hard to rank these - all are important (3)
- Need to install aquatic invasive species (AIS) signage for those using the river/beach recreationally to prevent the spread of AIS.
- New/Improved boat launch area (3)
  - For canoes and Kayaks- have been told that the launch area is now privately owned.
  - Landing for motorized boat launch
- Boat Trailer Parking at Firesteel River
- Leave it as it is
- Camping (2)
  - Open camping to ORV riders
- Enlarge parking areas and create horse trails for this beautiful area.
- Black topped bicycle trail from Ontonagon

**Access to Local Streams via Public land and bridges**

5.1 Frequency of public land/bridges to access streams this year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 3 times</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 6 times</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 9 times</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 times or more</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 121
skipped question 60
5.2 Public Access to Streams Project Rankings

Ontonagon County offers numerous access points to local streams. Below is a list of potential projects/improvements regarding public land/bridge access to streams. Please help the Recreation Committee identify priority projects for these areas by assigning a rank (1 through 4) to each project based on your personal preference. A rank of “1” indicates the MOST IMPORTANT project and a rank of “4” indicates the LEAST IMPORTANT project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Rating Average</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Install signage to river rafting entry/exit points for canoes/kayaks</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish print materials for river access (canoes/kayaks)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve facilities for fishing, swimming, or canoeing/kayaking/boating</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (you will have a chance to specify in the next question)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other projects options listed for stream/river access in Ontonagon County:

- Create horse trails and folks will come and use all the facilities (2)
- handicap kayak/canoe landing access
- More parking (2)
- Advertise (2)
  - Work with social media and local partners/other agencies to get the word out on these facilities.
  - Advertise in publications aimed at tourists, Green Bay, Minneapolis, Chicago, etc... So many hidden gems only locals know.
- Need to install aquatic invasive species (AIS) signage for those using the river/beach recreationally to prevent the spread of AIS.
- Can’t decide priorities
- Mid-point access to Ontonagon river between Rockland and Ontonagon
- Add a canoe/kayak landing area at the Ontonagon Village Marina in the section by the picnic tables where boats are stored.

Suggestions for where access improvements should be made

- Ewen bridge canoe/kayak access site. One at Victoria too.
- Ewen Landing on South branch
- Ontonagon River or slough for kayaking or canoeing, swimming areas with life guards at the all local parks throughout the county, offer swimming lessons for kids
- Firesteel
- Rose Island slough with access further in town. STAY focused on the sustainability project
- Flintsteel river for canoe and kayaks
- Lakeshore drive beach access.
- Lakeshore drive, Firesteel road, and Victoria road.
- Kayak/canoe launch sites at Military Hill, Flint Steel River on Beck Rd., Lakeshore Drive bridge at Flintsteel River, improve launh site on East Branch at end of East Branch
- Clear the path on the county right of way to be able to launch a canoe at the FLINTSTEEL river bridge on Lakeshore dr

Suggestions for how access improvements should be made

- Signage and print materials would certainly help (2).
- Landing area, deck and outdoor toilets
- Accessibility
  - Make them accessible for everyone and have rest rooms available and shelter buildings available for picnics
  - Make accessible launch sites, such as at Military Hills confluence of East and Middle Branches, and at Flintsteel and Firesteel Rivers out of Ontonagon
  - Make sure access if handicap accessible. It makes it easier for everyone including us with no handicaps (2)
- Overall (1) have suitable parking and (2) suitable signing. Then prioritize any needed access or erosion improvements. This is a largely untapped resource in the county for tourism.
- Decrease erosion from kayak/canoes being put in/out of river through whatever measures necessary to limit the impact of recreationalists on the ecology of the river.
- Make launch area
- Write a grant to provide funding for improving the facilities such as, building restrooms or changing houses.
- Easy parking, marked access and easy entry for kayaks.
- Pull off/ Wide shoulder for parking
- Create places to pull up kayaks and boats along the river with picnic area
- NO, not everyone wants to do those things.
Please rank these potential projects in order of importance to you, with "1" being your highest priority and "7" being your lowest priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>Rating Average</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your #1 prioritized project for the Ontonagon County Park</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your #1 prioritized project for the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your #1 prioritized project for the development of the Firesteel Beach area</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your #1 prioritized project to enhance access to streams through public land/bridges</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More opportunities for people with disabilities</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a “destination” restaurant in conjunction with a recreation facility</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop additional bicycle trails or paths throughout the county</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 99
skipped question 82
Overall comments for Improving Recreation in Ontonagon County

- I see many vehicles with kayaks and or bicycles. We need to develop recreation for those types of tourists. Equestrian tourism is also growing however Ontonagon County fails to offer much in that area. I would suggest the development of an Equestrian campground such as Himanaka hill and the development of more equestrian trails in addition to kayak and bicycle trails.
- Bike path on Rockland railway please
- Distribute the surveys to a wide range of locations to ensure that people outside the courthouse and downtown Ontonagon can provide input.
- It would be wonderful to have a walking/ bike trail from Kenton on to Ewen. Or even longer.
- I would include some marketing efforts as well.
- Side by sides are growing in popularity, there are not trails in white pine and silver city and people then don't come this way. Our local businesses would definitely benefit from trails being expanded.
- Develop horse trails
- Bicycle trails in our county has been my dream!!! I do bike on our road, but we really need trails. There are ATV/snowmobile trails and even horse trails, but no bike trails that I know of. I LOVE to bike, and this would be AWESOME for locals and bring in tourists!
- Life guards on beach sites would provide safe areas for kids and families to enjoy Lake Superior.
- I was hoping to see questions on the Ontonagon County Park on Lake Gogebic.
- For Restaurant: Have it on Lake Superior. Promote this Park not only to tourist but the residents of the county. Advertise, promote, provide brochures, maps, information for all the areas. Get this information out to tourist information places, put around the county in business, stores, etc. Promote these places online- web page. facebook etc. We need to get the word out that our county is alive and will welcome all who will come. Especially those that use our restaurants, gas stations, stores, etc. We need to get into the 21st century. more on, lets get busy
- Work on Rose Island slough and connect it to the micro park.
- Please work with local organizations, partners, and other organizations to have this be a complete plan. The Ottawa National Forest and Porcupine Mountain State Park represents large recreational and tourism opportunities within the county. Mention of supporting their recreation goals and objectives are beneficial to Ontonagon County and provide more opportunities to work together or apply for grants such as the MI trust fund.
- Need additional educational outreach to ATV’s for invasive species movement. Need additional educational outreach to snowmobiles on usage of trails (not to stray onto private land) and the impacts to private land/fields from snowmobiles (compaction of soil, etc.) Additional snowmobile signage would be helpful- we often have lost snowmobilers stop for directions at our house- sometimes they are 100 miles from where they think they are which is dangerous for them in the really cold months. I really like the idea of designated bicycle paths throughout the county- this has been an economic boom for northern Wisconsin. However, it may be hard to keep the motorized recreationalists from using them. Bikes and horses are not compatible with ATV’s and snowmobiles in terms of multiple-use trails. You will never see a bike using an ATV trail- it just isn't safe. With pricing for recreation, you need to keep in mind the economics of the county. I don't think that a pay-to-play model is a good thing for the county- it discourages those who need to be outside the most from taking advantage of opportunities.
- Make kayak area's handicapped accessible ques. 5 comment: I have a family member who is paralyzed and would love to have beach access on village beaches.
• Try to attract more venture capital startup businesses so that Ontonagon will not have to rely on finding someone to write grants.
• Definitely a restaurant on Lake Superior!!! With access to beach. A casino/hotel would really attract people and business
• Sign Auto tour route along county roads to access waterfalls, fall color tours and historic sites.
• More connecting routes for equestrian trails an ATV/ORV trails. We need to reach out further and be able to travel to the Wisconsin trail system or from Ontonagon County to the top of the Keweenaw with easier access on the Portage Lake Bridge.
• I think there needs to be more ATV trails. It seems to be what most everyone is now doing. County Residents and non-county. ATV's need to be allowed in parks, I know at the State level that is restricted. But you can't get from the east side of Bergland to the west side of town, which eliminates going to the west side of Lake Gogebic unless you go WAY south. Need more ATV trails. It will bring more business
• Awesome place, just need to be more effective at getting the word out about it. I grew up in the area but only knew about one of these places. Now likely to check out the Bergland area park. Might try ORV if there were easy rentals too.
• Allow motor vehicles on all established trails
• Put people on the park board that use the parks, not someone who never uses the camp sites, or outdoors,,
• Promote the Ontonagon Counties Hunting and Fishing opportunities
• Many people with horses and horse trailers/campers are also disabled in many ways and use horses to get around and to see wonderful sights. Some are not really disabled but are older and have money!!! They travel all over the US.
• 1) We must upgrade and upkeep what we already have before moving on to creating new sites. If visitors see some of our recreational sites not being cared for, they will not want to come back so that should be top priority. 2) Better signage guiding tourists to hotspots of tourism. 3) Once the upkeep of the recreation is established and the signage, then we need to concentrate on making more of it handicap accessible. 4)Another area of concern that I have noticed is customer service is lacking in the current restaurants and ice cream shops in the village of Ontonagon; these are high volume places for tourists and if you don't receive good customer service, you will not want to return. (Maybe give awards or certificates to local businesses that receive high scores on customer service will tempt the owners into making this a priority)
• I think you are asking the wrong questions. Most local people don't even use these areas.
• Jobs Jobs Jobs
• Equestrian access is one of the most overlooked activities in Michigan, yet horse census proves that a high number of households in Michigan have one or more horses. Other states surrounding us realize the revenue potential, and openly solicit riders. Michigan has some of the best scenery available. We try to spend all of our available vacation time in the state, however - the lack of equestrian access is driving us out of state to take our vacations....
Appendix E

Public Comment Period Press Release
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Brad Barnett, Regional Planner
906.482.7205, ext. 316
bbarnett@wuppdr.org

January 19, 2017

Ontonagon County Recreation Plan Available for Review

The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) recently updated the Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan.

The draft of the Ontonagon County 2017-2021 Recreation Plan Update will become available on January 20 for a 30-day public review and comment period prior to a public hearing for adoption of the plan at the Ontonagon County Board Meeting on February 21. Copies of the plan will be available for review at the Ontonagon County Courthouse building front desk and the Ontonagon Township Library. The plan will also be available for viewing online at http://www.wuppdr.org.

Written comments must be received by February 20, 2017 and may be mailed to: WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931. They may also be dropped off at WUPPDR’s office at 393 East Lakeshore Drive in Houghton or e-mailed to Brad Barnett, Regional Planner at bbarnett@wuppdr.org.

###
Appendix F

Public Comment Period Ontonagon Herald Article
Ontonagon County Recreation Plan available for review

The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) recently updated the Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan.

The draft of the Ontonagon County 2017-2021 Recreation Plan Update will become available on January 20 for a 30-day public review and comment period prior to a public hearing for adoption of the plan at the Ontonagon County Board Meeting on February 21. Copies of the plan will be available for review at the Ontonagon County Please see Page 4

Ontonagon County Recreation Plan available for review

Continued from Page 1 Courthouse building front desk and the Ontonagon Township Library. The plan will also be available for viewing online at http://www.wuppdr.org.

Written comments must be received by February 20, 2017 and may be mailed to: WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931. They may also be dropped off at WUPPDR’s office at 393 East Lakeshore Drive in Houghton or e-mailed to Brad Barnett, Regional Planner at bbarnett@wuppdr.org.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN )
COUNTY OF ONTONAGON )

Maureen Guzek being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is the Editor of THE ONTONAGON HERALD and in charge thereof, a public newspaper printed, published and circulating in the County of Ontonagon, and that she knows well of her own knowledge the facts herein stated; that the notice, of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in the said newspaper, once in each week for [ ] successive week(s), and that the date(s) of the publication were as follows:

January 25, 2017

Maureen Guzek, Editor
The Ontonagon Herald

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of February, A.D. 2017.

Barbara Kilmer, Notary Public
Ontonagon County, Michigan
Acting in Ontonagon County, MI
My Commission Expires: 09-21-2019
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Ontonagon County will hold a public hearing beginning at 3:30 pm on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at the County Courthouse located at 725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953. The purpose of the hearing is to receive any comment from members of the public regarding the 2017-2021 County Five-Year Recreation Plan. The plan is available for review at the Ontonagon Township Library, the Ontonagon County Courthouse building front desk, and on the WUPPDR website at www.wuppdr.org. Written comments may be submitted to WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931 or emailed to bbarnett@wuppdr.org, through February 20, 2017.

Carl Nykanen, Chairman
Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN )
COUNTY OF ONTONAGON )

Maureen Guzek being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is the Editor of THE ONTONAGON HERALD and in charge thereof, a public newspaper printed, published and circulating in the County of Ontonagon, and that she knows well of her own knowledge the facts herein stated; that the notice, of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in the said newspaper, once in each week for ___ successive week(s), and that the date(s) of the publication were as follows:

February 15, 2017

[Signature]
Maureen Guzek, Editor
The Ontonagon Herald

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of February, A.D. 2017.

[Signature]
Barbara Kilmer, Notary Public
Ontonagon County, Michigan
Acting in Ontonagon County, MI
My Commission Expires: 09-21-2019
Appendix G

Public Comment Period Website Posting
Ontonagon County Recreation Plan Draft Available for Public Review

The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) recently updated the Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan.

The draft of the Ontonagon County 2017-2021 Recreation Plan Update is now available for a 30-day public review and comment period prior to a public hearing for adoption of the plan at the Ontonagon County Board Meeting on February 21. Copies of the plan are available for review at the Ontonagon County Courthouse building front desk and the Ontonagon Township Library. The plan can be viewed online using the link below:

Click here to view a copy of the 2017-2021 Ontonagon Recreation Plan

Written comments must be received by February 20, 2017 and may be mailed to: WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931. They may also be dropped off at WUPPDR's office at 393 East Lakeshore Drive in Houghton or e-mailed to Brad Barnett, Regional Planner at bbarnett@wuppdr.org.
Appendix H

Public Comment Period Comments Received
1. Page 9: Ontonagon County has the following designated multi-use or ORV trails connecting through the county:
   a. Bill Nicholls – 40 miles in overall length – Greenland to Houghton
   b. Sidnaw to Bergland (SB) – 50 miles in length
   c. Ottawa Connector – 80 miles – Greenland to Iron River
   d. Ontonagon to Rockland – 13 miles
   e. Pioneer (P) – 40 miles – Bergland to Greenland
   f. LL – 35 miles – Land O’ Lakes to Bruce Crossing
   g. You should mention with Lake Superior Water Trail that runs the entire county border and connect Saxon Harbor to Houghton
   h. The comment “Many non-motorized routes also allow equestrian use” is not correct for the NCT. This is the longest non-motorized system in the county and it is closed to equestrian use. All of the designated ORV trails within the county are open to equestrian use.
   i. The plan talks about future connection to the Iron Belle Trail. Note that this currently uses the NCT and US2
   j. Equestrian Trails – Courtney Trail – 14 miles near Courtney Lake Campground on the ONF

2. Page 13: MI-TRALE is incorrectly presented. It should be stated as Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment (MI-TRALE). Also the Himanka Hill project was called “Family Off Road Recreation site and Campground”. This was done to ensure that we include motorized and non-motorized users. Not sure how the word vehicle was added but it emphasizes ORV, which was not the intent. The Ontonagon Valley Sportsman Club should be mentioned under “Role of Volunteers”. Ontonagon Valley Sportsman’s Club is a very active group with significant number of members, promoting fishing and hunting recreation across the whole county, but not mentioned here.

3. Page 16: The box has Himanka Hill Off-Road Vehicle Family Recreation Area. Someone needs to decide what this site will be called so we are consistent. We should call this “Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area” for now in all locations to be consistent.

4. Page 18: This page is all incorrect. The main titles do not agree with what is stated below them. i.e. Himanka Hill in on a beach and is only 56 acres. The wording within the paragraphs needs to be corrected as well. Himanka Hill area is to be a full multi-use area for the family with trails for the motorized and non-motorized users. That would be for, but not limited to, ORV, mountain Bikes, walking, equestrian, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing. This page should be rewritten and corrected.

Page 18 rewrite suggestion:
Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area

Type of Park: Family Recreation with facilities for motorized and non-motorized; All seasons

Size of Park: Total County land of two parcels, 840 & 40 acres

Service Area: Western UP directly, Wisconsin and rest of Michigan indirectly

This area is located just south of Bruce Crossing about 2 miles, then east on Himanka Hill Road another mile and a quarter to the western edge of the parcel. The current entry is located another mile to the east. This park will be located on the new ORV designated trail (LL) that connects Land O’ Lakes, Wisconsin to Bruce Crossing. This connector will provide access to the park from anyway in the Western UP via the current ORV trail system, and provide for day trips to Bond Falls.

They are a few roads located within these parcels that were used for logging. These could be used as a base layout for the park use. The vision is to design the park so that we have a non-motorized only, a shared, and a motorized only section. These would be one way trails, very winding, designed for safety, minimal resource impact, and fun for the users. We would need to make maximum use of the natural geography which is rolling hills, and some wet areas.

The parking area would be designed to accept trailers and allow for easy entry and exit to the park. The initial park would be rustic with Portable Restrooms, and parking. We would need to consider minimal facilities (high lines, hitching posts) for the equestrian users when the layout of the non-motorized parking area is developed. The future could be picnic tables, fire rings, and permanent restrooms for the site. We would need signing explaining how to get to the park and any rules that are developed.

Consideration will have to be taken for the parking design. Do we develop a design that allows for all of the park users in one parking area? This may not work in all cases.

County Owned Forest Lands

Type of Park: Undeveloped Land

Size of Park: Multi separate parcels totaling 4,674 acres

Western UP and Ontonagon County

Several of these parcels are located on maintained county roads and would be accessible year round. Most however, would require that access be developed for public use and additional development to provide recreational use to the public.

I would insert the total paragraph from the REC plan here.................................
5. Page 19: ORV routes, please see #1 for the details. Note that all of the designated trails within the county are full multi-use. That is they are open to motorized and non-motorized users (including equestrian). “C” trail was changed to include the “P” trail for future designation. “C” is no longer.

6. Page 20: Mi-TRALE should be MI-TRALE

7. Page 24: McMillian Township:

There is no mention of the Ewen-Trout Creek School District facilities, offering indoor and outdoor sports fields and a playground.

There is no mention of the kids park on the north end of Ewen, which includes a basketball court and play ground.

There are no longer vaulted toilets at Stusser Lake.

Rockland Township:

Should read Victoria Log HOME restoration not Victoria Log restoration.

8. Page 31: Not sure of the reasoning to have signing to the Himanka Hill area until there is something there. My concern is that this would just promote riding in an area that is not prepared and may damage resources before we can use them. May get a few folks upset as well.

Equestrian Comments:

Page 8 one paragraph copied here:

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is the county’s most significant tourist destination, drawing hikers, backpackers, skiers, bikers, other types of sportspersons, and sightseers from a multi-state region, as the park has many qualities unique even within the Upper Peninsula. Nike Running magazine in 2013 designated the Porkies as the #1 best place to run in the world where “the trails are well-kept and relatively easy”. Other significant tourist attractions include a portion of the U.P.’s largest inland lake; large tracts of the Ottawa National Forest, which offer opportunities for whitewater rafting, hunting, fishing, and camping, among myriad others; and the Adventure Mine in Greenland, which offers not only underground tours but hiking and biking trails. Long sections of the county’s namesake Ontonagon River system are designated as National Wild & Scenic Rivers.

- Yellow highlighted sentence, parts do not make sense: “tracts (land) of the ONF do not offer opportunities for whitewater rafting...the rivers do. This could mention rivers and many small inland lakes and ponds instead.

- Red: There is bit of a personal aspect to this comment....There was a plan put into place for recreation several years ago at my late brother Douglas Johnson’s urging. He had found a loophole in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers act. Here is why it is important as explained to me at the time. I worked for the Federal Govt at the time and learned a bit about it there also. The act dictated that any personal
property bordering the designated river, could not be sold, except to the Federal Government and at the price they determined. It could not be passed down to a families or children or otherwise sold. From there any personal property connected to that already purchased by the government fell under the same determination, where could not be sold except to the Federal Govt, etc. The county having a recreation plan in place blocked such restrictions and impositions of the sale of personal properties. This is the reason Douglas and a few friends started the Ottawa Sportsman’s Club...to promote, prove a determination of outdoor fishing and hunting recreation and preserve the recreation in Ontonagon County. He told me on his death bed that he was very worried about who would take over this effort. We assured him it would not be forgotten.

I don’t know if this is even talked about any more at the County Meetings and by this planning board. Might it be prudent to somehow mention that this county plan protects the rights of private land owners?

Page 9 a portion of a paragraph copied here:

The motorized network is supplemented by county road connector routes allowing ORV traffic. Many of the non-motorized routes also allow for equestrian use, whereas most motorized routes do not. Connection with the Iron Belle...

This is misleading as many motorized routes are also open to horses...and I must say, not well publicized.

Page 13

The name and promotion of this park needs to meet the “the first of the Seven Principles of Universal Design” (see page 14), which is: **useful and marketable to any group of users**. Having ORV in the name of the project or park is not meeting that principle.

Page 15

Indicates Ontonagon County Park allows horses, with no clear understanding if trails are available or if they are in the development plan..

Page 27 portion copied here

Objective 1:4 states; Equestrian recreation...“as the most popular form of recreation mentioned in the survey comments section.” So I wonder why it is not being considered for the first goal in the Himanka Hill area plan. Several other sports are taking precedence.

Page 28 portion copied here

Objective 4.1: Establish equestrian-friendly trails on County-owned recreation areas.

Rationale: Equestrian recreation is increasing in Ontonagon County. Results from the community survey indicate that equestrian trail development was the most popular form of recreation mentioned in the survey’s comments section for the Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area.
Here it is appropriately called “Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area”.

AND again, if it is the most popular for the Himanka Hill area, why are ORV trails being developed before Equestrain Trails. I am not prejudice, but this seems very wrong to me.

Page 31  Himanka Hill Recreation Area is appropriately named here.

I have several comments here about the order of things.

2017 there is a plan to develop marketing materials... (I assume that is for existing recreation). There should also be an update during phases of this 5 year plan and finally at the end, so all accomplishments are publicized and recreation is promoted.

2017 Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area directional signs.... should not be developed or placed before the site is developed.

2018 Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area – Establish ATV/ORV trail system..... Should not be established ahead of Equestrian trails as per the survey.

If Non-motorized trails were established it would take care of not only the equestrians, but also all other types of non-motorized users.

2019 Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area – clear and develop parking area for ORV and horse trails.... This could be done ahead of any trail development to accommodate those that will come there to develop the trails.

2020 Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area – Establish hiking, biking, cross country ski trails....

This list should include snowshoeing and equestrian. Consider seasonal use:

1) Combine non-motorized trials for summer recreation:  equestrian, hiking, biking
2) Combine non-motorized trails for winter recreation: cross country ski trails and snowshoeing

2021 Himanka Hill Family Recreation Area – Establish equestrian trails....

I am disappointed that this is not the first trail system developed instead of the last. Seems the planners are discounting their own public survey, which said equestrian trails were the most popular for this Himanka Hill Recreational project.

Also, this could effectively be combined with other non-motorized recreation trial goals as mentioned above. It could also be established at the same time ORV trails are.

2018 Ontonagon County Park – Establish equestrian camp sites, and waste disposal receptacles..... However, are there trails established there? The two go hand-in-hand.
Appendix I

Public Hearing Notice Affidavit from Ontonagon Herald
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Ontonagon County will hold a public hearing beginning at 3:30 pm on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at the County Courthouse located at 725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953. The purpose of the hearing is to receive any comment from members of the public regarding the 2017-2021 County Five-Year Recreation Plan. The plan is available for review at the Ontonagon Township Library, the Ontonagon County Courthouse building front desk, and on the WUPPDR website at www.wuppdr.org. Written comments may be submitted to WUPDPR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931 or emailed to bbwint@wuppdr.org, through February 20, 2017.

Carl Nykanen, Chairman
Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN

) SS.

COUNTY OF ONTONAGON

Maureen Guzek being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is the Editor of THE ONTONAGON HERALD and in charge thereof, a public newspaper printed, published and circulating in the County of Ontonagon, and that she knows well of her own knowledge the facts herein stated; that the notice, of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in the said newspaper, once in each week for ___ successive week(s), and that the date(s) of the publication were as follows:

February 15, 2017

Maureen Guzek, Editor
The Ontonagon Herald

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of February, A.D. 2017.

Barbara Kilmer, Notary Public
Ontonagon County, Michigan
Acting in Ontonagon County, MI
My Commission Expires: 09-21-2019
Appendix J

Public Hearing County Board Minutes
Official Proceedings
Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners
Special Public Hearing: 5 Year Rec Plan
February 21, 2017

The Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom of the Ontonagon County Courthouse. At the call to order the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call showed Commissioner Cane absent. Commissioner Cane arrived at 3:32.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Webber and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Chairman Nykanen opened the Public Hearing regarding the County 5 Year Rec Plan.

Public comment:
Don Helsel (MiTrale) addressed some issues and clarification that need to be addressed in the plan. The Himanka Hill area is referred to in a few different ways and should be consistent as a “family recreation area”. He also stated that there are several ORV trails that are not listed that should be taken advantage of in the plan. He will meet with Brad Barnett to clarify the changes.

Cathy Wainio (Equestrian Committee) addressed issues regarding signage and trail safety on the multi-use trails. She commended the work that was put into the completion of the 5 Year Rec Plan.

There was discussion regarding access and use of the County’s property near the Firesteel River.

There being no other public comment, the public hearing was closed.

By motion of Webber supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to adopt the 5 Year Rec Plan with the issues addressed under public comment to be clarified and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2017-02
Adoption of:
ONTAGON COUNTY FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2017-2021
Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS, the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2017 through 2021, and

WHEREAS, the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners began the process of developing a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Ontonagon County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 21st, 2017 at the Ontonagon County Courthouse to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan 2017-2021, and

WHEREAS, the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners has developed the plan as a guideline for improving
recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Ontonagon County, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt said Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan 2017-2021.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners by motion of Webber supported by Bourdeau hereby adopts the Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan 2017-2021.

Yea: 5  Nays: 0  Absent: 0

I, Stacy C. Preiss, County Clerk & Register do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners at a Special Meeting thereof held on the 21st day of February, 2017.

Stacy C. Preiss, Clerk/Register

There was no other business or public comment.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Cane and carried to adjourn to the call of the Chair at 3:55 p.m.

______________________________  ________________________________
Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chair    Stacy C. Preiss, County Clerk/Register
Appendix K

County Board Resolution for Adoption
Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners
Courthouse, 725 Greenland Road
Ontonagon, MI 49953
Telephone (906) 884-4255
Fax (906) 884-6796

Chairperson: Carl Nykanen
Vice Chairperson: John Cane

Commissioners: Richard Bourdeau
              David Nykanen
              Gray Webber

RESOLUTION 2017-02
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WHEREAS, the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Ontonagon County, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt said Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan 2017-2021.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners by motion of Webber supported by Bourdeau hereby adopts the Ontonagon County Five-Year Recreation Plan 2017-2021.

Yea: 5    Nays: 0    Absent: 0

I, Stacy C. Preiss, County Clerk & Register do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners at a Special Meeting thereof held on the 21st day of February, 2017.

Stacy C. Preiss, Clerk/Register