



# Charter Township of Portage Recreation Plan 2017-2021

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Adopted February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Charter Township of Portage • 47240 Green Acres Road • Houghton, MI 49931  
Assisted by: Western U.P. Planning & Development Region • P.O. Box 365 • Houghton, MI 49931



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This plan was prepared by the Charter Township of Portage with assistance and administrative guidance from the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region



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## **ACKNOWLEDEMENTS**

The purpose of this Recreation Plan is to set forth a recreation strategy for the Charter Township of Portage that addresses the forces of change and confronts future challenges to provide direction for decision-making regarding investments in recreational projects found in the township. 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 & Environment (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for governmental entities to pursue MDNR-administered grants.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2017-2021 Portage Township Recreation Plan has been developed to guide recreation improvements in the township 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 the Charter Township of Portage. The overall goal of the Plan is to establish a program of improvements that meets the recreational needs of the community. A five-year plan also qualifies Portage Township to apply for Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNR) Trust Passport, Trust Fund, and other grants.

This Plan was developed by the Township’s Recreation Committee on behalf of the Charter Township of Portage assisted by The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region. Public comments, a survey poll, and suggestions were also 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 Township Board adopted the Plan on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## **Portage Township Recreation Committee**

Bruce Petersen - Township Supervisor, John Ollila and Bill Fink - Trustees

## **Portage Township Board**

Bruce Petersen - Township Supervisor  
Heidi Paoli Riutta – Clerk  
Carol Little – Treasurer  
Peggy Anderson - Trustee

Bill Fink - Trustee  
Bill Bingham - Trustee  
John Ollila - Trustee

**Part 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

Portage Township, a Charter Township with a population of 3,221 (2010 census), is located in Houghton County, in Michigan’s western Upper Peninsula. The Township is bordered on the north and east by Portage Lake on the southeast by Chassell Township and Baraga County, on the south by Laird Township and Baraga County, and on the west by Elm River and Adams Townships.

Within the boundaries of the Township there are a number of small unincorporated communities including: Hurontown, Dodgeville, Superior Location, Tapiola, Elo, and Askel. Immediately adjacent to the Township is the City of Houghton, which is the County seat, largest community in the County, and home of Michigan Technological University.

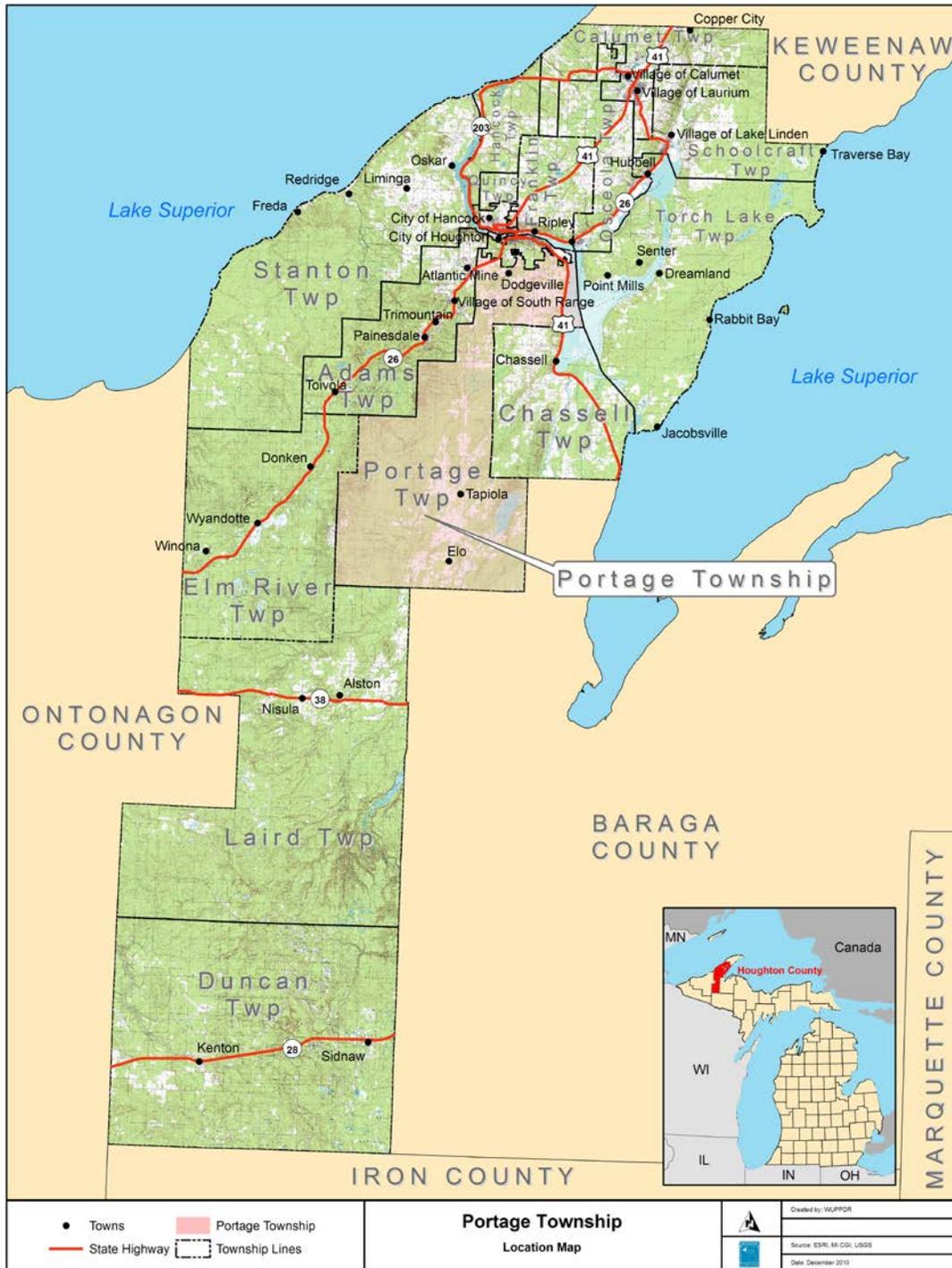
In recreation planning and programming, special consideration should be given to the school age group, but emphasis should be placed on the recreation needs of the general population. Portage Township boasts a wide range of age groups, all with differing recreational needs. Following is Portage Township’s population characteristics. At the time of plan writing, detailed information from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey was used, population and economic data. That information is provided in the tables below.

**Table 1: Portage Township Population Characteristics from 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates**

Population Distribution		
2011-2015 American Community Survey	Total Persons	Percent of Total
Male	1,901	59.6%
Female	1,287	40.4%
Under 5 Years Old	182	5.7%
5 to 19 Years Old	513	16.1%
20 to 34 Years Old	908	28.5%
35 to 64 Years Old	1,005	31.5%
65 Years and Over	580	18.1%
Total	3,188	100.0%

White	2,961	92.9%
Black	58	1.8%
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	16	0.5%
Asian	116	3.6%
Other	37	1.2%
<b>Population</b>		
Portage Township (Census 2000)		3,156
Portage Township (Census 2010)		3,221
Portage Township (ACS 5-Year Estimate, 2011-2015)		3,188
% Population change (2000-2015)		+1.0%
<b>Income Characteristics</b>		
	Total Persons	Percent of Total
Persons Below Poverty Level	545	17.1%
<b>Income Characteristics</b>		
Median Household		\$48,780
Median Family		\$61,250
Per Capita		\$24,402
<b>Other Township Characteristics</b>		
Total Housing Unit		1,612
Occupied Housing Units		1,202
Owner-occupied Housing Units		895
Renter-occupied Housing Units		307
Vacant Unit		410

Figure 1: Portage Township Location



### **Land-Use**

Portage Township's major land use is predominantly forest and farm lands. The northern part of the Township is more urbanized near the City of Houghton and the communities of Dodgeville and Hurontown. The central and southern portions of the Township are rural farmlands scattered with dairy farms and hobby farms as well as rural residential development. Forest lands make up the major land-use in the Township. Somero Enterprises is the only industrial site in the Township, and there is continuing strip commercial development adjacent to the City of Houghton extending out along M-26 south of Houghton. An ongoing land-use trend is large lot residential development adjacent to more populated areas that were traditionally agricultural and forest lands. This development pressure not only increases the need for recreational opportunities, it also puts pressure on other lands that have traditionally been used for hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife habitat and other land-based activities.

### **Economy**

Portage Township residents are dependent on employment opportunities located in the communities of Houghton-Hancock and Baraga-L'Anse. Michigan Technological University is the largest employer in the area with over 1,400 jobs and an enrollment of more than 7,200 students. Other major employers in the area include Finlandia University with an enrollment of about 750, local High Schools, UP Health Systems Portage, Aspirus Medical, Somero Enterprises, the Smart Zone, Celotex, Pettibone, and miscellaneous Units of Government. Recreational pursuits, including motorized and non-motorized activities, exist throughout the Township and County and have a large economic impact. Agriculture and forestry are also important to the Township's economy.

### **Transportation Systems**

Portage Township is served by two major highways, US-41 and M-26. These highways merge at the Portage Lake Lift Bridge, which connects the northern half of the Keweenaw Peninsula to the rest of the Upper Peninsula. Thus, all tourist traffic flowing into the Keweenaw Peninsula must pass through the Township to reach Houghton and communities to the north. This provides the Township an opportunity to attract tourist dollars through improved lodging facilities, commercial establishments, and recreational opportunities. Locally, the Township is primarily served by one major north-south County Road. County Road (P651), otherwise referred to as Tapiola or Otter Lake Road, connects the rural southern communities in the Township and provides access to water-based recreational opportunities provided by the Otter River and Otter Lake. This road is also important as a market access route for both agricultural and forestry products.

The area is served by the regional-based SkyWest Airlines with service through United Express providing service to Chicago. Indian Trails Bus Service is available on a daily basis, and the City of Houghton, City of Hancock, and Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw County Community Action Agency operate local bus transit systems which serve several adjacent areas of the Township. Taxi services from various companies are also available.

### **Topography**

Portage Township has a variable topography with ridges and valleys which run southwest to northeast, similar to the rest of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The ridges vary in height from 800 to 1,000 feet above sea level, while the valleys are drained by the river systems of the Otter and Pilgrim. The Pilgrim River watershed is located near Michigan Technological University Trails System and the Cities of Houghton and Hancock, and this proximity makes the Pilgrim an attractive recreation area. These watersheds and topographic conditions have set the area apart from much of the rest of the State with its rugged terrain, superb views, and natural beauty.

### **Climatic Conditions**

The climate of the area can be characterized as having short, cool summers, and long, cold winters. Total annual precipitation averages about 34 inches, with an average annual snowfall in the Calumet/Houghton areas of 207.8 inches. Average temperature for the coldest month (January) is about 15° Fahrenheit; temperatures for the hottest month (July) average about 65° Fahrenheit. The prevailing winds are southerly during warm weather and northwesterly the remainder of the year. The proximity of the Township to Lake Superior and Portage Lake results in a moderating effect on temperature extremes and contributes to the unusually high amounts of winter lake effect snowfall. The Township usually experiences its first freezing temperatures between September 20-30 and last freezing temperatures between May 20-30. The growing season is roughly 102 days.

The diverse weather conditions result in a need for a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities in Portage Township. Due to the long winter months, skating, Nordic skiing, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing are popular among township residents.

### **Water Resources**

The lakes, rivers, and streams in and around Portage Township are the most prominent of its natural features, particularly Portage Lake. With nearly five miles of shoreline on the lake, the Township has unique opportunities for residential and recreational development. Portage Lake, which bisects the Keweenaw Peninsula, is significant in that it receives, either directly or indirectly, the vast majority of the surface water drainage from the Township.

The Pilgrim River drains directly into Portage Lake. As it flows in a southwest to northeast direction across the upper quarter of the township, it collects surface water from a relatively small but important drainage basin and deposits it in Portage Lake at Pilgrim Point just south of Houghton. There is an active movement originating within the Pilgrim River Watershed, which is 15,544 acres in size, to set aside many acres for non-motorized public use immediately adjacent to the City of Houghton and the MTU ski trails. Grants, land donations, conservation easements, etc. are all being used in an effort to procure these valuable river resource recreational areas.

In addition to the Pilgrim River, there are two other river systems in the township (besides numerous small streams which lead directly into Portage Lake). A relatively small stream begins in the marshy areas west of Dodgeville and gradually drains northward through Huron Lake then along the east side of M-26 and into the ship canal on the west side of the city. Further south, in the rural balance of the township, the many arms of the Otter River generally flow southeasterly until they converge with the North Branch. This branch, in turn, heads south, flows out of the township, meets the West Branch of the Otter (north of Limestone Mountain, Baraga County), then heads northeast and empties into Otter Lake on the south shore. Otter Lake is part of the Sturgeon River drainage system which outlets into Pike Bay east of Chassell. Otter Lake with 935 acres of surface area, is substantially larger than Mud Lake, Pine Lake, Huron Lake and other small natural and man-made “ponds” scattered throughout the Township.

#### **Vegetation and Wildlife**

Northern hardwoods characterize the predominant forest type in Houghton County covering approximately 338,155 acres or about 82 percent. These forest lands are located primarily in the south, central, inland area of the County. Wildlife species found in the county include whitetail deer, black bear, coyote, occasional wolves, fox, otter, bobcats, weasels, fishers, beaver, ruffed grouse, and a large variety of bird species.

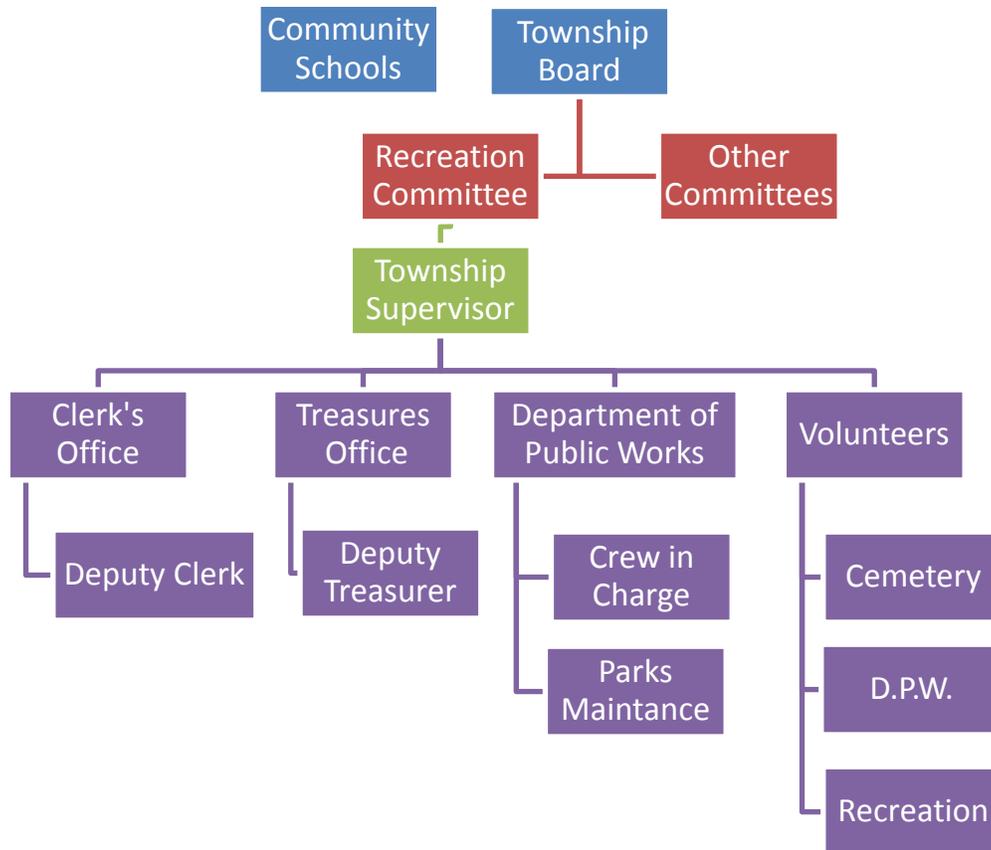
### **Part 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

The Portage Township Board established the Township Recreation Committee to coordinate the management and development of recreational facilities found within the Township. This permanent committee is made up of three individuals appointed every four years or whenever a vacancy may occur and is responsible for identifying recreational needs, obtaining public input into the planning process, obtaining volunteer assistance, and advising the Township Board on the Township’s recreation facility development and management. The Houghton Portage Township School Board also advises the Township Board on educational recreation programming administered by the school system.

The Township Supervisor is responsible for coordinating recreation development and directs the Department of Public Works staff in maintaining recreation facilities. For 2016, the Township has budgeted \$16,700 towards recreation including maintenance/utilities, small improvements, and a small contingency fund. The Township also designates funds for matching monies as needed to complete recreational projects funded by recreational grant projects. The Township also can supply labor, materials and equipment to assist in recreation project completion.

Following is an organizational chart for recreation within the Township:

**Figure 2: Charter Township of Portage Recreation Administrative Structure**



### Part 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

Portage Township maintains access to a number of recreation facilities for both local residents, residents of adjoining communities, and tourists. The following recreation inventory describes the types and location (See Figure 3) of recreation facilities currently available in the Township and nearby. In addition, accessibility assessments and rankings are provided for each site based on the parameters outlined in the “DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans” as follows:

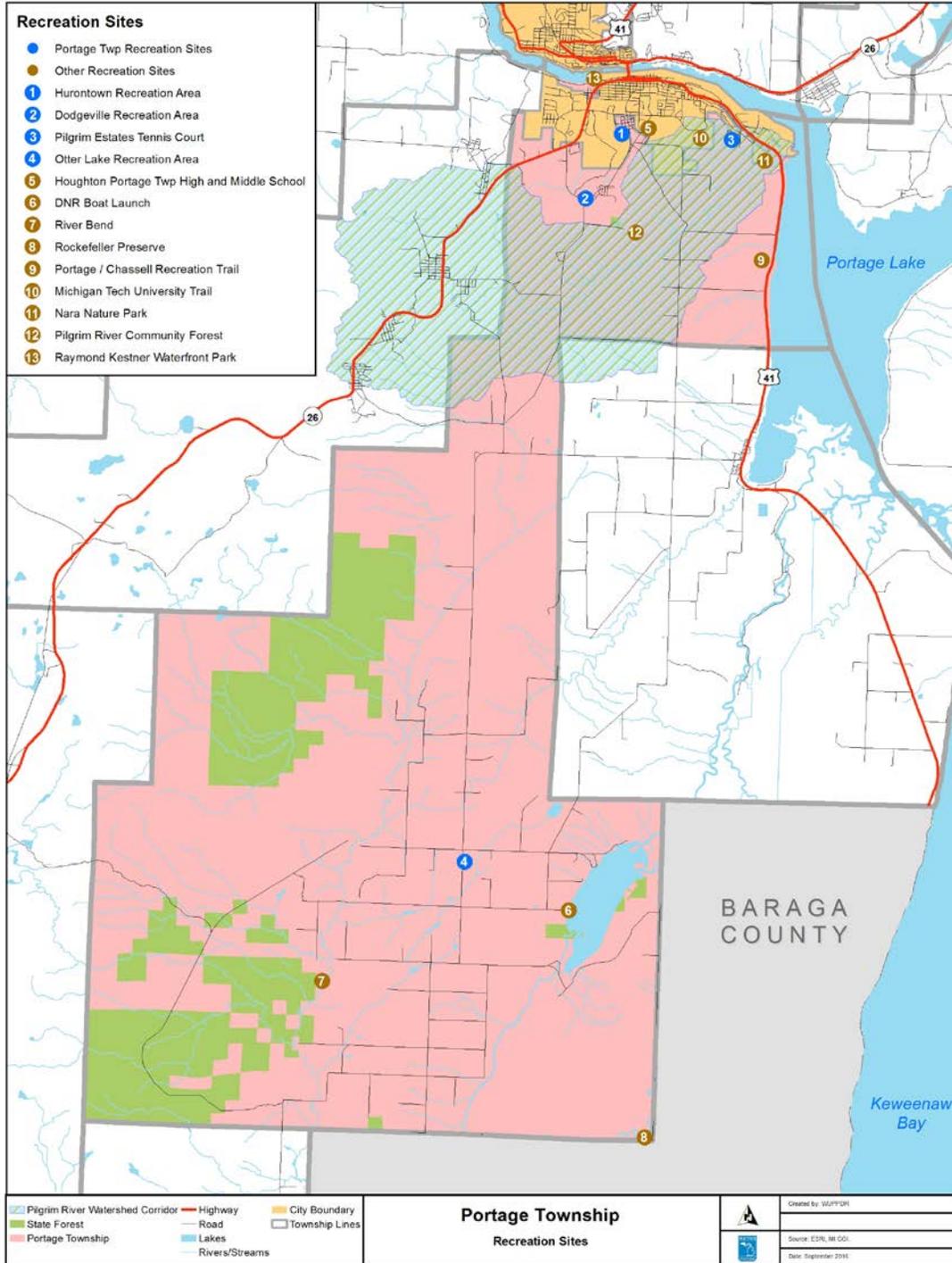
- 1=none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2=some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3=most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4=the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5=the entire park was developed/renovated using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

Based on this inventory the need for improvements and additional recreational facilities can be fully evaluated. The map in Figure 3 identifies the locations of Portage Township recreation sites.

#### Seven Principles of Universal Design

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

Figure 3: Portage Township Recreation Sites



## Township Owned Recreation Facilities

### Hurontown Recreation Area

*Type of Park:* Neighborhood Park

*Size of Park:* ~6 acres

*Service Area:* Residents of Hurontown/Dodgeville, the Copper Country Soccer Association, and the Copper Country Slow Pitch League.

Township-owned neighborhood park including softball diamond with dugouts and bleachers, public restrooms, 4 horseshoe courts, playground equipment, park benches, 10 ft. chain link fence on four sides of softball diamond, gravel off-street parking lot, 2 tennis courts, and multiple soccer fields.

**Accessibility Assessment:**

3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines



A view from the dugouts at Hurontown Recreation Area

### Dodgeville Recreation Area

*Type of Park:* Neighborhood Park

*Size of Park:* ~5 acres

*Service Area:* Residents of Dodgeville and all local residents

Township-owned neighborhood park with lighted covered pavilion with a cement floored ice rink, warming/changing building, playground equipment, basketball court, horseshoe pits, and parking area. Ice surface is maintained by volunteers and supervised during the winter months. The new cement-base ice rink can be used during the summer months for skate boarding, in-line skating, biking, large family meetings, reunions, and other special events.

**Accessibility Assessment:**

4/5 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines and was renovated using the principals of universal design



Playground equipment and pavilion at Dodgeville Recreation Area

**Otter Lake Recreational Area**

*Type of Park:* Neighborhood Park

*Size of Park:* ~33 acres

*Service Area:* Residents of Otter Lake and Tapiola, Events

Township-owned neighborhood park with pavilion/ice rink, softball diamond with dugout, vaulted toilets, Senior Citizen Center meeting facility, and playground equipment. Park facility is used 2-3 times a week for baseball tournaments, fundraisers, reunions, other special events, and neighborhood gatherings. Site is monitored and maintained by volunteers.

**Accessibility Assessment:**

3 = most of the facilities / park area meet accessibility guidelines



Playground equipment at Otter Lake Recreation Area

**Pilgrim Estates Tennis Court**

*Type of Park:* Mini Park

*Size of Park:* less than 1 acre

*Service Area:* Portage Township Residents

Township-owned mini-park with fenced tennis court including basketball nets and parking area.

**Accessibility Assessment:**

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



Pilgrim Estates Tennis Court

## **Non-Township Owned Recreational Facilities**

### **Copper Country State Forest**

*Owner:* Department of Natural Resources and Environment

*Type of Park:* State Forest Land

*Size of Park:* ~ 10,000 acres

*Service Area:* Portage Township and Michigan Citizens

Copper Country State Forest is a State forest in the west-central Upper Peninsula of Michigan operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The State of Michigan acquired these land parcels after they had been stripped of their old growth trees in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The State manages the land mainly for timber production as well as multiple recreational uses.

#### **Accessibility Assessment:**

1=none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

### **Houghton Greenspace Park**

*Owner:* City of Houghton

*Type of Park:* Park and greenspace

*Size of Park:* <5 acres

*Service Area:* City of Houghton

The Houghton Greenspace Park, located between Franklin and Portage Streets, was dedicated in May 2016 and provides a nature area with beautiful views in central Houghton. The property provides habitat for many bird species, and allows the public to access a naturally rugged area of cedars, drooping spruce and white pine trees. The space already contains a number of footpaths, with plans calling for an additional walking paths, parking, and benches.

#### **Accessibility Assessment:**

1=none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

### **Houghton – Portage Township High and Middle School**

*Owner:* Houghton and Portage Township Board of Education

*Type of Park:* School Recreational Facilities

*Size of Park:* <5 acres

*Service Area:* Student body of Portage Township and the City of Houghton

Outdoor facilities include baseball field, football field, and track. Indoor facilities include 100 M lap pool, two gymnasiums with basketball courts, sports deck, elevated walking track and concessions.

**Accessibility Assessment:**

3 = most of the facilities / park area meet accessibility guidelines

**Houghton School Forest**

*Owner:* Houghton and Portage Township Board of Education

*Type of Park:* Park and Trail System

*Size of Park:* 27 acres

*Service Area:* Student body of Portage Township and the City of Houghton

The School Forest is located near the Gundlach Road and Sharon Avenue intersection. The recreation areas features walking trails, approximately 1,000 feet of which are barrier free. The trails connect to the Michigan Tech Trail System. The area is often used by middle and high school teachers for education purposes and classroom activities.

**Accessibility Assessment:**

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

**Mason Nature Area**

*Owner:* Keweenaw Land Trust

*Type of Park:* Park and nature area

*Size of Park:* 1 acre

*Service Area:* City of Houghton

The Mason Nature Area protects 1 acre of rugged land within the City of Houghton. Established in 2011 through a bequest from the late Marilyn Mason, this Keweenaw Land Trust-owned nature area feels like a little slice of Isle Royale transplanted into the heart of the City. Twisting cedars grow along the Scales Creek lava flow, an ancient geological feature that made developing this area particularly challenging. Birds and other animals seek refuge within the Mason Nature Area, and a short trail traverses the property so that visitors can enjoy a piece of the wilderness in their own backyard.

**Accessibility Assessment:**

1=none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

### **Rockefeller Preserve**

*Owner:* Michigan Nature Association  
*Type of Park:* Park and Trail System  
*Size of Park:* 35 acres  
*Service Area:* Houghton and Baraga Counties

The preserve is located on the southern bank of the Sturgeon River on the border of Baraga and Houghton County.

#### **Accessibility Assessment:**

1=none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

### **River Bend**

*Owner:* Michigan Nature Association  
*Type of Park:* Park and Trail System  
*Size of Park:* 42 acres  
*Service Area:* Houghton and Baraga Counties

The surrounding area consists of abandoned homesteads and is little used or explored.

#### **Accessibility Assessment:**

1=none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

### **Michigan DNR Public Access on Otter Lake**

*Owner:* Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
*Type of Park:* Boat launch  
*Size of Park:* 33 Acres  
*Service Area:* Houghton and Baraga Counties

Site provides public access to Otter Lake and day use facilities.

#### **Accessibility Assessment:**

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

### **Pilgrim River Watershed Corridor**

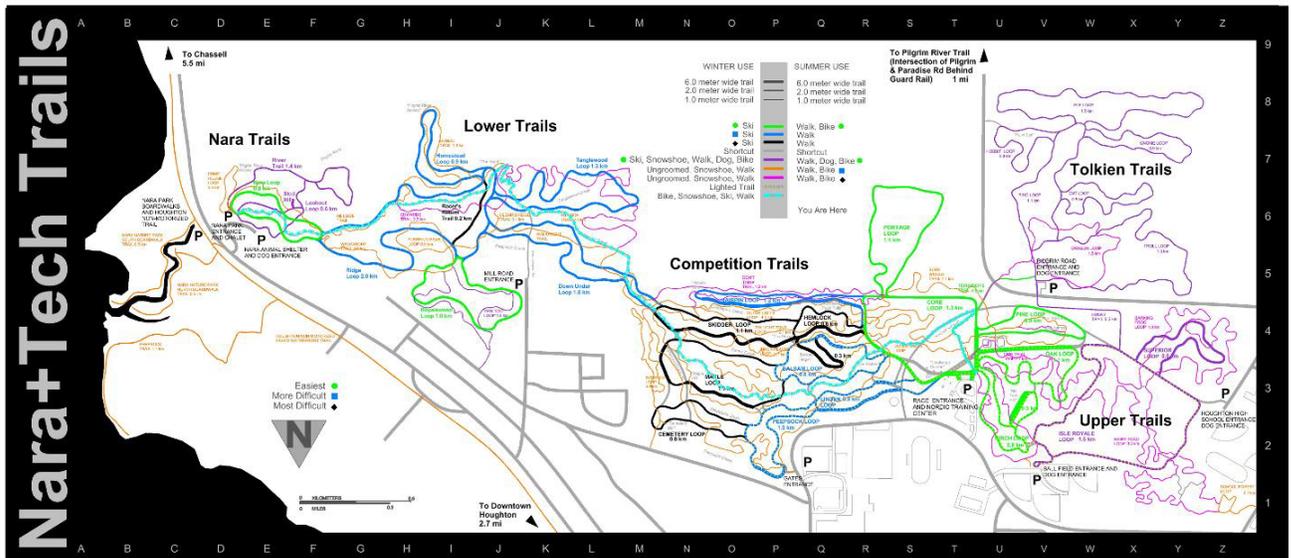
#### **Nara Nature Park & Michigan Tech. University Ski Trails**

*Owner:* Multiple owners (Michigan Tech University, City of Houghton, Private,)  
*Type of Park:* Parks and Trail System

*Size of Park:* ~370 (~270 acres Michigan Tech / ~ 100 acres City of Houghton)  
*Service Area:* Regional

The area includes over 50 miles of trails for hiking, running, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing. The Nara Nature Park also has a sledding hill, chalet, accessible boardwalks (4,500 ft), fishing piers, and interpretive signage. The chalet houses an interpretive display featuring different plant and animal species found in the Park. The building also has a fireplace, restrooms with showers, concession area and can be reserved for group meetings and social gatherings.

**Figure 4: Nara Nature Center and Michigan Technological University Trail System**



**Pilgrim Community Forest**

*Owner:* Keweenaw Land Trust  
*Type of Park:* Non-Motorized  
*Size of Park:* 276 Acres  
*Service Area:* Houghton, Keweenaw and Baraga Counties

The Pilgrim Community Forest was established in 2014 to permanently protect the natural resources and provide many public benefits. Grant funding through the U.S. Forest Service, Community Forest Program and matching funds from private foundations and donors made this acquisition possible. The Pilgrim Community Forest provides clean air and water, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and opportunities for outdoor education, research, hunting/fishing opportunities, and permanent public access for recreation. This conservation area has a variety of forest, habitat

types and terrain, with about one mile of the Pilgrim’s main channel and a 2.5 mile recreation trail suited for mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and other low-impact non-motorized activities. As a multiple use area, all visitors should respect other users and enjoy this area safely. The Pilgrim Community Forest advances the goals of the Pilgrim River Watershed Project and was made possible by that partnership’s support. For more information about the Pilgrim Community Forest, contact the Keweenaw Land Trust at 906-482-0820

### **Pilgrim River Watershed Project**

*Owner:* Private Ownership

*Type of Park:* Managed forest and recreation area with trails

*Size of Park:* Approximately 1,500 acres

*Service Area:* Houghton, Keweenaw and Baraga Counties

A community partnership representing a diversity of stakeholder interests came together in 2010 to form the Pilgrim River Watershed Project (PRWP). The coalition of partners involved with this initiative include: Keweenaw Land Trust, Houghton/ Keweenaw Conservation District, Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Copper Country Audubon, Partners in Forestry, Keweenaw Trails Alliance, and the Northwood Alliance. The Pilgrim River valley offers a quality trout fishery, hunting opportunities and a large diversity of recreational possibilities, but public access is not yet secure for much of the acreage that is suited for these activities. The PRWP is working with willing private landowners to protect the natural resources through sustainable forest management and secure permanent public access for a variety of compatible recreation and public uses. The project area includes about 3 miles of the Pilgrim River, much of its headwaters, and is contiguous with the Pilgrim Community Forest. The current owners of the 1,100 acres in the project area have their property enrolled in the Commercial Forest Program that allows public access for hunting, fishing, and trapping. The owners also allow year-round non-motorized recreation on their entire properties. Logging roads and hiking trails constructed by local volunteers provide ample access to the forest, the river, scenic overlooks, and to a couple of picnic areas. The PRWP is led by a steering group of partner organizations and has received financial support through foundation grants and private donations.

For more information about the PRWP, visit: <http://pilgrimriverwatershed.org/>.

## Other Regional Facilities

There are a number of regional recreation facilities around the Hancock/Houghton area that provide opportunities to residents and visitors including:

**Michigan Tech Student Development Complex (SDC)** – Opened on September 2, 1980, this 235,000 square-foot Michigan Technological University recreational complex features an ice arena, multipurpose room, pool, gymnasium, fitness center, racquetball/squash courts, sauna, shooting range, dance room, and a music room. Other year round arenas in the area include the Dee Stadium, Calumet Coliseum, Houghton County Arena, and the Kenner Dome in Osker.



**McLain State Park** – Located along M-203 north of Hancock on Lake Superior, this 443 acre State Park is a popular destination for visitors and locals. Activities at the park include swimming, beachcombing along the two mile shoreline, rock hounding, sightseeing, hiking, skiing and camping. There are 80 modern campsites and a few rustic cabins available.



**Beaches and Campgrounds** – Several sandy beaches are accessible to the public and provide opportunities for swimming and sunbathing. Nearby beaches include: Houghton Bridgeview Park, East Houghton Waterfront Park, Houghton RV Park, Hancock Beach and RV Campground, McLain State Park, and Chassell Township Waterfront Park.



**Trails** – The region hosts a network of snowmobile trails including the Jack Steven’s Rail-Trail from Hancock to Calumet, the snowmobile trail from Hancock to Lake Linden, and the William Nichols Trail. Non-Motorized trails include the MTU Ski Trails, Chassell Ski Trails, Swedetown Trails in Calumet, the Maasto Hiihto Trails in Hancock, and the 770 acre Churning Rapids snowbike and ski trails in Hancock.

**Playgrounds** – Small playgrounds and ballparks are scattered throughout Houghton County, for example the Hancock Driving Park (ball park and trail head for the Maasti Hiihto ski trails)

**Other Recreational/Historic Sites** – Outside of Houghton County are numerous nearby facilities that allow for any number of recreational pursuits, most notably Isle Royale National Park (City of Houghton hosts the park headquarters), Keweenaw National Historical Park, Porcupine Mountain and Twin Lakes State Parks, Ottawa National Forest, and Fort Wilkins State Park. The western Upper Peninsula also has countless sites offering recreational opportunities such as the museums, mine tours, and scenic drives.

## Part 4: RECREATION GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Twp. Recreation Committee has identified the following goals to be accomplished by the Charter Township of Portage Recreation Plan:

**Goal 1:** Provide recreation facilities, programs, and opportunities to sufficiently meet the recreational needs of the Township residents and its visitors.

- **Objective 1.1:** Continue to develop and expand the Township’s recreation trail system.
- **Objective 1.2:** Improve existing soccer and ball field facilities at Hurontown Recreation Area.
- **Objective 1.3:** Build a new soccer field at Hurontown Recreation Area.
- **Objective 1.4:** Construct a new recreation building and improve ice rink at the Dodgeville Recreation Area.
- **Objective 1.5:** Improve tennis and basketball surfaces at the Pilgrim Estates Tennis Courts.
- **Objective 1.6:** Upgrade ice rink, concession facilities and ball fields at the Otter Lake Recreation Area.

**Goal 2:** Provide access to recreation facilities for handicapped citizens and visitors.

- **Objective 2.1:** Eliminate barriers that impede individuals with mobility limitations from utilizing Township recreation facilities.
- **Objective 2.2:** Install location and directional signage able to accommodate visually impaired recreation facility visitors.
- **Objective 2.3:** Improve or develop parking lots at Township recreation areas.

**Goal 3:** Support the creation of a Copper Country-wide “Trails Coordinator” that would assure continued public access, plus pursue needed enhancements to the township’s motorized/non-motorized trail system.

- **Objective 3.1:** Collaborate with other local governments, volunteer organizations, economic development organizations and other community partners to identify resources to support the creation of the “Trails Coordinator” position.

**Goal 4:** Continue developing a network of motorized and non-motorized four season accessible pathways to connect and serve the Township and the adjacent communities.

- **Objective 4.1:** Identify and develop non-motorized four season recreation trails and routes within the Township including in the Pilgrim River Watershed.
- **Objective 4.2:** Support the expansion and protection of motorized recreation trail systems.
- **Objective 4.3:** Identify and enhance the connectivity of both Township motorized and non-motorized trail systems with other local and regional trail systems.
- **Objective 4.4:** Identify and develop trail projects that connect Township recreation facilities (e.g. Hurontown Recreation Area) with other recreation assets, businesses and areas of interest.

**Goal 5:** Work to conserve land and water resources within the Township for future generations, preserve open spaces, and improve public access to the waterfront, watercourses and all other water resources and other natural resources.

- **Objective 5.1:** Support the development and acquisition of public access points along the Otter River
- **Objective 5.2:** Obtain additional land through purchases, acquisitions, and easements to expand the protection, preservation and access to local natural resources.

**Goal 6:** Promote healthy lifestyles and attitudes of all ages by supporting community recreation activities and facilities.

- **Objective 6.1:** Develop or enhance recreation facilities by collaborating with local school systems, volunteer organizations, professional groups, religious groups, and social organizations to provide a wide range of recreation opportunities that appeal to different ages, interests and physical capabilities.
- **Objective 6.2:** Improve playground equipment and other amenities at Township recreation facilities to meet the needs of families with young children.
- **Objective 6.3:** Support and engage in public outreach efforts to identify Township residents' recreation interests and needs.

**Goal 7:** Promote its recreation facilities and a network of four season pathways to attract visitors and residents to the region as a strategy for economic development.

- **Objective 7.1:** Collaborate with economic development organizations to identify opportunities for promoting Township recreation facilities and resources.

- **Objective 7.2:** Develop multi-channel (e.g. online, mobile, print, etc.) marketing materials to promote the Township’s recreation facilities and resources.

**Goal 8:** Support Complete Streets Principles and consider these concepts in all federal and state roadway projects.

- **Objective 8.1:** Identify and participate in Complete Street training programs to increase the Township’s capacity to incorporate this concept in roadway projects.

**Goal 9:** Support the use of public lands within the township for hunting, trapping and fishing.

- **Objective 9.1:** Identify opportunities to obtain access to natural resources through easements to facilitate hunting, trapping and fishing.
- **Objective 9.2:** Work with DNR, volunteer groups, and other stakeholders to develop and maintain programs to promote the sustainable management of local game and other wildlife.

**Goal 10:** Spend and use as match, as efficiently as possible its limited recreation funds, materials, labor and equipment.

- **Objective 10.1:** Proactively identify Township resources to use as match for external funding sources.
- **Objective 10.2:** Development partnerships with local volunteer organizations, community foundations, local governments and other stakeholders to identify matching resources for recreation development projects.

**Part 5: RECREATION NEEDS - BASIS FOR ACTION PROGRAM**

Portage Township is active in pursuing recreational goals as shown through completed capital improvement activities.

**Table 2: Completed Capital Recreation Projects**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
1977	26-01023 Y1	<i>Hurontown Recreation Area</i> Purpose: Baseball and soccer field construction	\$33,004.12	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
1989	BF89-116	<i>Otter Lake Recreation Area</i> Purpose: Development of softball field, picnic pavilion/ice rink, picnic area, parking lot, restrooms and storage building	\$53,662.00	Michigan DNR Bond Fund
1998	BF98-115	<i>Dodgeville Recreation Area</i> Purpose: Additional of playground equipment, restrooms, and paved parking	\$16,000.00	Michigan DNF Bond Fund
2011	RP11-442	<i>Hurontown Recreation Area</i> Construction of a restroom facility, access route, and signage	\$30,000.00	Recreation Passport
2015	N/A	<i>Dodgeville Recreation Area</i> Purpose: Ice Surface and Rink Improvements	\$40,000.00	Twp., Donations & Portage Health Foundation Grant

To determine the recreational needs in the Township, key elements were analyzed to formulate an action plan including public review of the current recreation inventory, as well as a public recreation survey. Additional details of the survey are provided in the **Part 7** of this plan.

A variety of recreation deficiencies and potential improvements were identified based on the survey results and from discussions within the Recreation Committee. The following list identifies some of the current needs at the Township recreation facilities:

- Aging recreational infrastructure and equipment at all of the Township’s recreation areas.
- Expansion and coordination with regional trail initiatives and development of additional non-motorized recreation trails within the Township.
- Facilities for storage, concessions, expansion of facilities and restrooms.
- Need for a focus on water way trail recreation development projects.

**Part 6: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The capital improvement plan provides for the most imminent needs. The plan is not intended to be all inclusive, but rather used as a flexible guide for recreation development.

The following table lists future projects prioritized by year to meet the recreation goals and needs of the township. The Recreation Committee prioritized the projects based on results from the survey and community input.

**Table 3: 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

Priority	Objective	Project	Cost	Funding Source
<b>2017</b>				
1	1.4	Dodgeville Recreation Area: Renovate recreation building (warming hut / changing area ) add restrooms, new roof, insulation, and new door. – <b>MDNR Passport Grant Secured</b>	\$40,000	<b>SECURED</b>
2	1.6	Otter Lake Recreational Area: Corner boards/brackets, goal nets, and kick plate for ice rink	\$5,500	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown
3	6.2	Dodgeville & Hurontown Rec. Areas: Construct a 10X10 sandbox plus organic mulch below all the equipment.	\$1,800	Volunteer labor, grants and or donated materials
<b>2018</b>				
1	1.2; 2.1; 2.3; 6.2	Upgrade Hurontown Recreation Area Improvements: Playground equipment upgrades, parking lot improvements, access enhancements, and soccer field resurfacing to improve field drainage.	\$50,000	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown
2	1.2; 1.3	Hurontown Recreation Area: Construct an additional dual-purpose baseball/soccer field with irrigation system by procuring the land to the east.	\$10,000	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown

Priority	Objective	Project	Cost	Funding Source
3	1.5	Pilgrim Estates: Resurface both the tennis and basketball courts and install nets and backboard.	\$7,500	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown
<b>2019</b>				
1	5.1; 5.2; 9.1	Easements and land acquisition for stream fishing and canoeing/kayaking on Otter Creek	TBD	MNRTF LWCF
2	6.2	Otter Lake Recreation Area: Site preparation for new playground equipment and procure organic mulch.	\$4,000	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown
3	1.6	Otter Lake Recreation Area: Expand concession facilities to include changing rooms for winter activities	\$10,000	MNRTF Township/Local
4	1.6; 2.1	Otter Lake Recreation Area: (Ball Field) New bleachers, renovate backstop and outfield fence	\$8,000	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown
<b>2020</b>				
1	1.1, 4.1; 4.3	Pilgrim Watershed Trail Development: Continue to develop non-motorized trails and connect with MTU Nara Nature Park trail system	\$1,000- \$3,000/ trail mile	MNRTF Township/Local Volunteer
2	1.4; 2.1	Dodgeville Recreation Area and Rink: Additional benches, waste receptacles, signage, and sunshade to protect the ice installed in the southern end of the rink.	\$3,000	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown
3	2.1; 2.3	Otter Lake Recreation Area: Pave baseball parking area, access road and area in front of warming house. Paint lines on new pavement and erect a basketball backboard.	\$10,000	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown

Priority	Objective	Project	Cost	Funding Source
<b>2021</b>				
1	1.2	Hurontown Recreation Area: Construct a new recreation building with a concession area, changing rooms, storage and restrooms	\$30,000	MNRTF
1	1.6	Otter Lake Recreation Area Renovation: New warming shack affixed to southern end of rink.	\$17,000	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown
3	1.6	Otter Lake Recreation Area: Install a kitchenette in the existing warming house for community functions.	\$4,000	MNRTF LWCF Township/Local Unknown

### Sources of Funding

A number of possible sources of funding for recreation projects within Portage Township are available and include the following:

**Table 4: Possible Funding Sources**

Description	Match	Source
Local Funds	—	Township
Community Foundation/Other (local service organizations and businesses)	—	Local
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	75/25 grant	DNR
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	50/50 grant	DNR
Recreation Passport Program	75/25 grant	DNR
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)	75/25 grant	DNR
Off Road Vehicle (ORV)/Snowmobile Grants	—	DNR
Coastal Zone Management (CZM)	50/50 grant	DNR
Miscellaneous Grants	—	Unknown

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Material Donations	-	Business/TWP
Portage Health Foundation	75/25 grant	Local
Doppelt Family Trail Dev. Grant	grant	Washington, DC
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	grant	Washington, DC

## **Part 7: DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

The Recreation Committee reviewed recreation goals and made project recommendations for the Recreation Plan. Members of the committee included Bruce Petersen—Township Supervisor, John Ollila – Trustee and Bill Bingham - Trustee. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Recreation Plan Committee held a meeting to review materials and develop survey questions for a print and on-line survey. The on-line survey was posted on the Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region’s (WUPPDR) website, the Township’s web-site, and paper copies of the survey were available at Township hall, the Portage Lake District Library, and a number of local businesses. A link to the online survey was also included in the Township’s winter tax bill notifications and posted on WUPPDR’s Facebook page. The survey period from November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. In total, 51 survey responses were returned by mail or online. Survey results are provided in the Appendix section.

The Recreation Committee (Trustee Bill Fink replaced Trustee Bill Bingham on the Committee) met on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to review the survey results. WUPPDR staff presented a summary of the survey’s results, reviewed the recreation plan’s goals and objectives, and discussed individual recreation projects, project timelines and potential funding sources. A preliminary capital improvement plan was developed based on project prioritization data derived from the survey results.

The Portage Township Five-year Recreation Plan was made available for 30 day public review and inspection on January 25, 2017 and received through February 27, 2017. Copies of the plan were made available on-line at [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org) and at [www.portagetownship.info](http://www.portagetownship.info) while print copies were made available at the Township and Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region’s Offices. Written comments received during this period included:

- A request to use organic mulch material instead of recycled rubber on playgrounds;
- A request to include adult exercise equipment at Township playgrounds;
- A request to improve the Pilgrim Estates tennis court surfaces; and
- A request to include the Houghton School Forest and the Houghton Greenspace Park in the recreation inventory.

A Public Hearing, held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, allowed citizens the opportunity to review and comment on the Portage Township Five-Year Recreation Plan. A letter submitted by the Bike Initiative Keweenaw (BIKE!) was presented to the Board of Trustees. The letter expressed that

members of BIKE! requested an amendment to the objectives for Goal 4 so that non-motorized four season routes connecting Township recreation facilities with existing recreation trails and adjacent communities be included. The text of the letter is included in the Appendix. The public comment hearing was adjourned with no further comment.

The 2017-2021 Portage Township Recreation Plan was adopted at the subsequent specially-scheduled Township Board meeting held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

All notices of hearings were publicized to invite citizen comment and review of the new recreation plan. The Township's Resolution of Adoption, meeting notices and minutes are included in the Appendix.

## **APPENDICES**

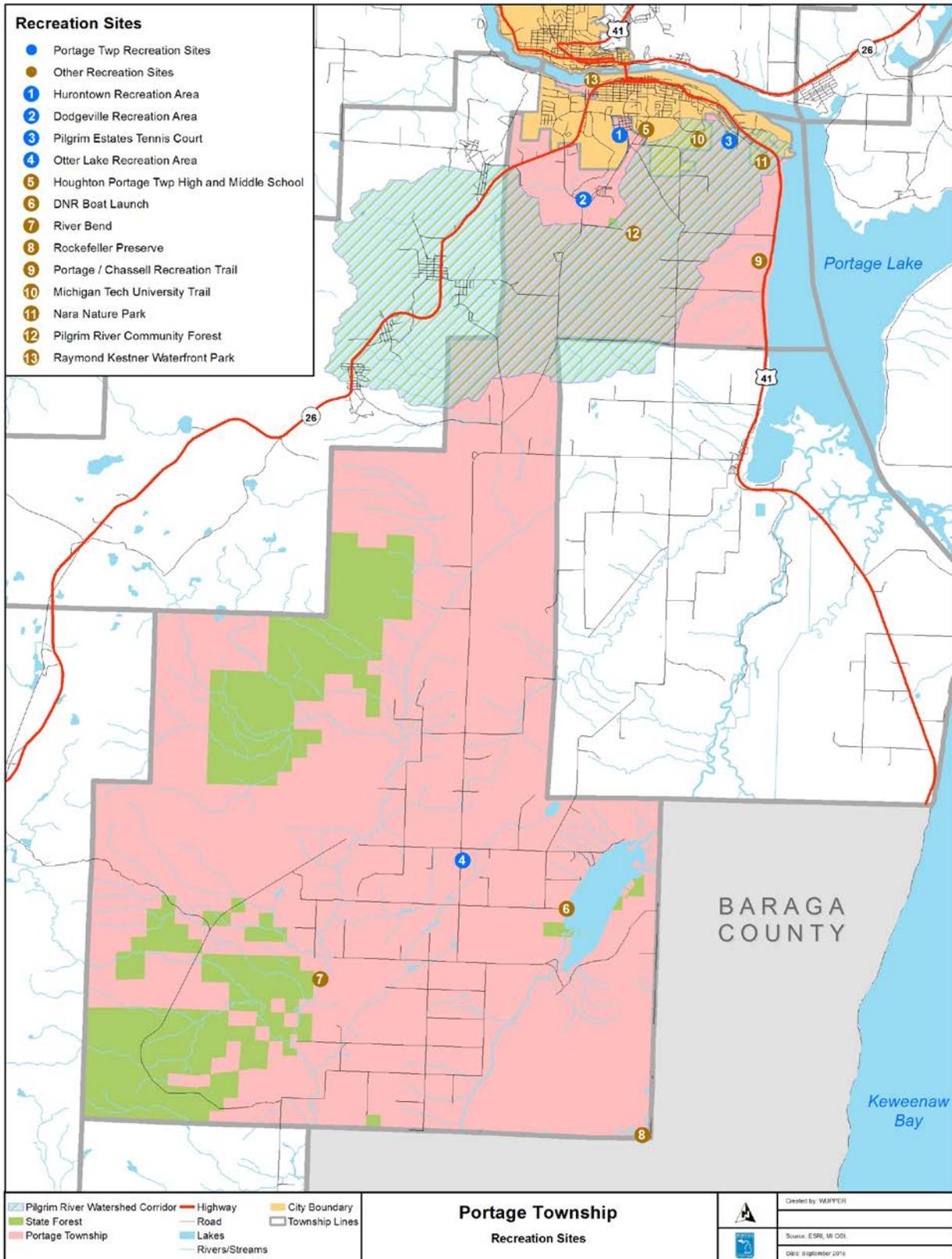
- A. Recreation Survey
- B. Recreation Survey Results
- C. Press Release Announcing Survey
- D. Press Release Announcing 30-Day Public Review of Plan
- E. WUPPDR Website Announcement of 30-Day Public Review of Plan
- F. Summary of Written Comments Received
- G. Daily Mining Gazette affidavit for Public Comment Period & Public Hearing
- H. Minutes from Public Hearing
- I. Resolution for Adoption

## **A. RECREATION SURVEY**



### Location of Township Recreation Sites

The following questions seek your input on improvements to Portage Township recreation facilities and resources. 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.



**DODGEVILLE RECREATION AREA**

Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Dodgeville Recreation Area. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of **"1" indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project** and a rank of **"4" indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project**. *USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.*

Project	Rank
Construct new recreation building (warming hut/changing area/restrooms/concession area)	
Install lights in Parking area	
Construct 10' x 10' sand box	
Other:	

**HURONTOWN RECREATION AREA**

Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Hurontown Recreation Area. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of **"1" indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project** and a rank of **"10" indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project**. *USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.*

Project	Rank
Construct new recreation building (concession stand/equipment storage/changing rooms /restrooms)	
Install new playground equipment and cushioning mulch	
Install new lights in parking area	
Install new lights for soccer fields	
Install new backstop, fencing on outfield and bleachers	
Install new scoreboard and portable P.A. System	
Construct additional adjacent dual-purpose ball field/soccer field	
Parking area improvements; including improved access	
Construct 10' x 10' sand box	
Other:	

**OTTER LAKE RECREATION AREA**

Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Otter Lake Recreation Area. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of **"1" indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project** and a rank of **"7" indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project**. *USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.*

Project	Rank
Construct ball field backstop and outfield fencing	
Construct new bleachers, scoreboard and P.A. system	
Purchase sideboards and new goal nets for ice rink	
Expand concession to include changing room for winter activities	
Parking area improvements	
Construct 10' x 10' sand box	
Other:	

**PILGRIM ESTATES TENNIS COURTS**

Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Pilgrim Estates Tennis Courts. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of **"1" indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project** and a rank of **"5" indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project**. *USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.*

Project	Rank
Resurface tennis/basketball court	
Purchase and install tennis and basketball nets	
Install security lights	
Purchase and install new basketball backboard(s)	
Other:	

**TRAILS: TOWNSHIP WIDE**

Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the local trails. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of **"1" indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project** and a rank of **"7" indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project**. *USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.*

Project	Rank
Support Houghton County to develop County Trail Coordinator	
Support expansion/protection of the motorized (ATV/snowmobile) trail system and connections to Baraga and Keweenaw Counties	
Support expansion/ protection of the non-motorized trail system connections, such as the Copper Heritage Trail on the abandoned Portage to Chassell railroad grade	
Develop trail behind Hurontown connecting ball fields	
Link to existing non-motorized trail systems: City of Houghton through Portage Township to Nara Nature Park, MTU Tech trail system, Pilgrim River Community Forest	
Continue to seek grants to replace failed culverts and enhance pervious surface (e.g. gravel)	
Other:	

**RESOURCE PROTECTION AND PUBLIC ACCESS**

Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to local natural resource protection and public access. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of **"1" indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project** and a rank of **"4" indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project**. *USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.*

Project	Rank
Support the continued development of hiking trails in the Pilgrim River Watershed	
Support the township board to obtain additional land through purchases, acquisition, and easements that support the townships recreation goals	
Support the development and acquisition of public access points along the Otter River	
Other:	

4. Often times, officials have to choose between investing in projects for one area (e.g. Otter Lake Recreation Area) over another area (e.g. township trails). Please rank the following areas/sites to help prioritize recreation facilities improvements for Portage Township. A rank of **"1" indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY area** and a rank of **"6"** **indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY area**. USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE.

Project	Rank
Dodgeville Recreation Area	
Hurontown Recreation Area	
Otter Lake Recreation Area	
Pilgrim Estates Tennis Courts	
Township-wide trails	
Access to and protection of natural resources	

**Demographics**

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

5. What is your gender?  
 Male       Female
6. Do you plan to live to live within Portage Township for the next five years?  
 Yes       No       I don't know       I am not a resident of Portage Township
7. How many people live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Please indicate the number of people living 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+: \_\_\_\_\_
9. 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       Prefer not to answer
10. In the future, we'd like to increase the number of Portage Township residents who participate in our recreation planning survey, so it's important to know which strategies are effective an getting the survey in the hands of community members. How did you access this survey?  
 Portage Township Office       Grocery store       Recreation facility (e.g. park)       A friend  
 Email from a local recreation/civic group       A local newspaper advertisement  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **B. RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS**

# Portage Township Recreation Survey Results

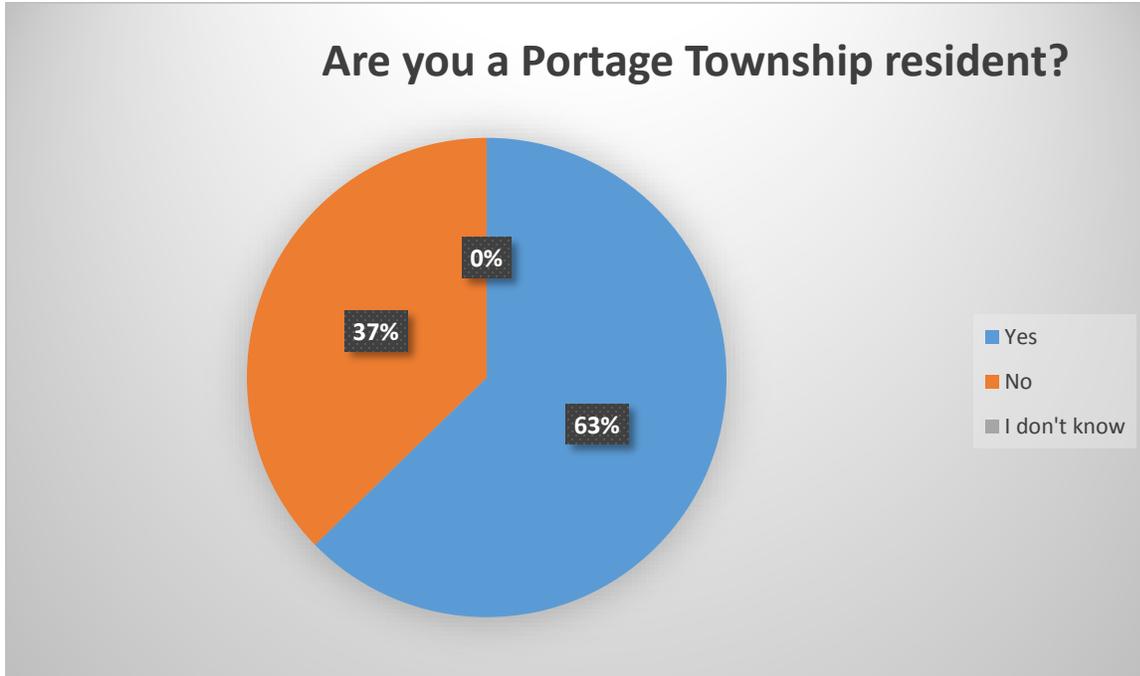
## Executive Summary

A survey was conducted to provide public input into Portage Township's 2017-2021 Recreation Plan. The survey took place during the months of November and December 2016, and solicited feedback from Township residents and recreation group. Overall, 51 survey responses were received. Below is a brief summary of the survey result highlights:

- Approximately 63% of the survey respondents were Township residents, 58% of the respondents were male, and respondents with an annual household income between \$50,000 and \$74,999 accounted for 39.1% of the survey sample.
- Overall, **respondents prioritized improvements to Township trail systems** over other Township recreation assets. Improvements to natural resource protection and public access came in second, followed by improvements to Hurontown and Dodgeville Recreations areas (tied for third).
- Respondents indicated **that supporting the expansion/protection of the non-motorized trail system connections** was the highest priority for improving trail recreation in the Township. The lowest priority was expanding or linking to motorized trail recreation systems. Respondents also highly prioritized projects that linked existing non-motorized trails to other trail systems.
- Respondents **indicated trail system development in the Pilgrim River Watershed** ranked the highest out of potential improvements to Township natural resources and public access. This was followed by support for land acquisitions and easements by the township.
- Respondents indicated that **installing new playground equipment and mulch was the top priority for the Hurontown Recreation Area**. Additional highly rated projects include: parking area improvements, developing a new ball/soccer field, and constructing a new recreation building with a concessions area, changing rooms, storage and restrooms.
- Constructing a new recreation building received the highest priority from respondents for projects at the Dodgeville Recreation Area.
- Resurfacing the tennis/basketball courts received the highest ranking regarding improvements to the Pilgrim Estates Tennis Courts facilities.
- No clear priority was identified for the Otter Lake Recreation Area. The following four projects received similar high ranking scores: expanding concession facilities to include changing rooms for winter activities; purchasing sideboards and new goal nets for the ice rink, improving the parking area, and constructing ball field backstop and outfield fencing.
- The top 5 forms of recreation respondents' household members participate in are:
  - Hiking, running, or walking (74.4%); snowshoeing (56.4%); cross-country skiing (51.3%); stream fishing (48.7%); and canoeing/kayaking (43.6%).
- The bottom 5 forms of recreation respondents' household members participate in are:
  - Horseshoes (0.0%); volleyball (2.6%); tennis (2.6%); BMX bicycling; (2.6%); and skateboarding (5.1%)

# 1. Sample description

## 1.1 Respondents' residency status:



Are you a Portage Township resident?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	62.7%	32
No	37.3%	19
I don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>51</b>

## 1.2 Household Size & Age

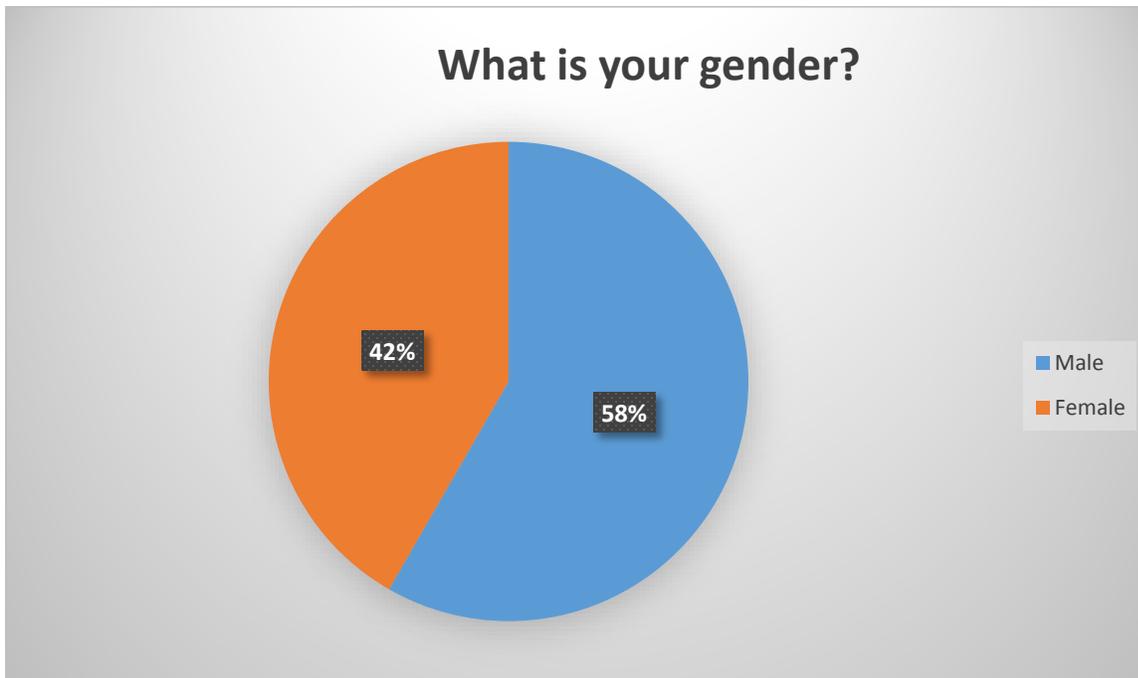
Average household size: 2.8 (24 responses)

Respondents with minors present in household: 40.9% (22 respondents)

Sample households contain the following age groups:

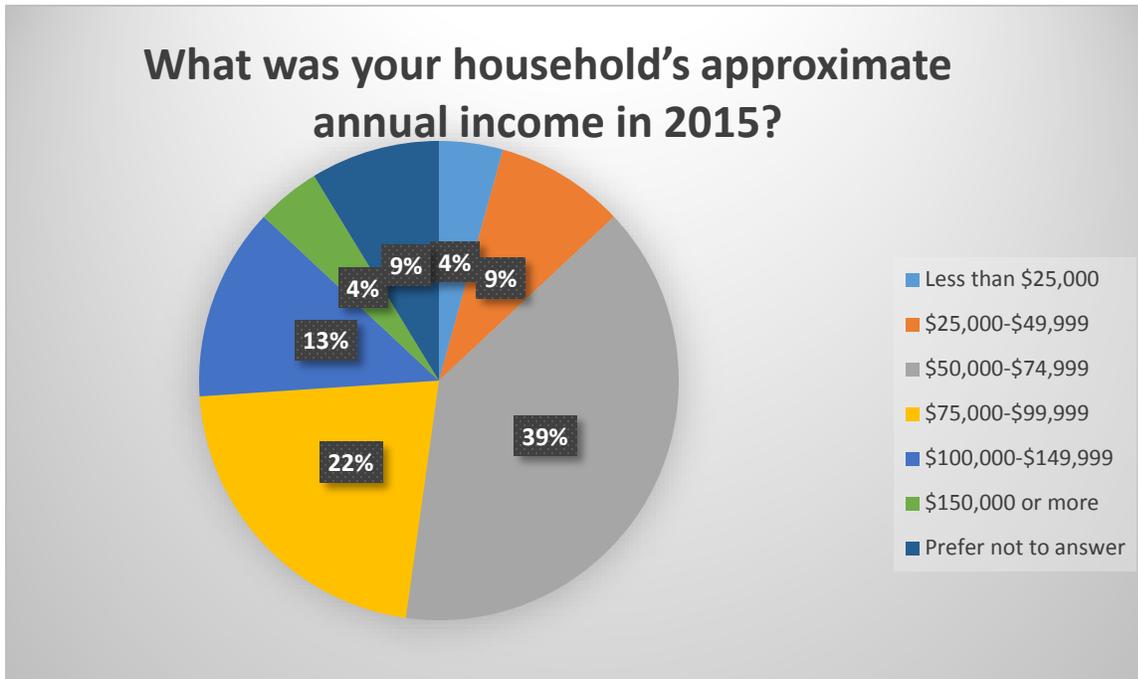
- 0-4 years old – 13.6%
- 5-14 years old – 27.3%
- 15-19 years old – 18.2%
- 20-39 years old – 45.5%
- 40-64 years old – 54.5%
- 65 years old or older – 22.7%

## 1.3 Gender



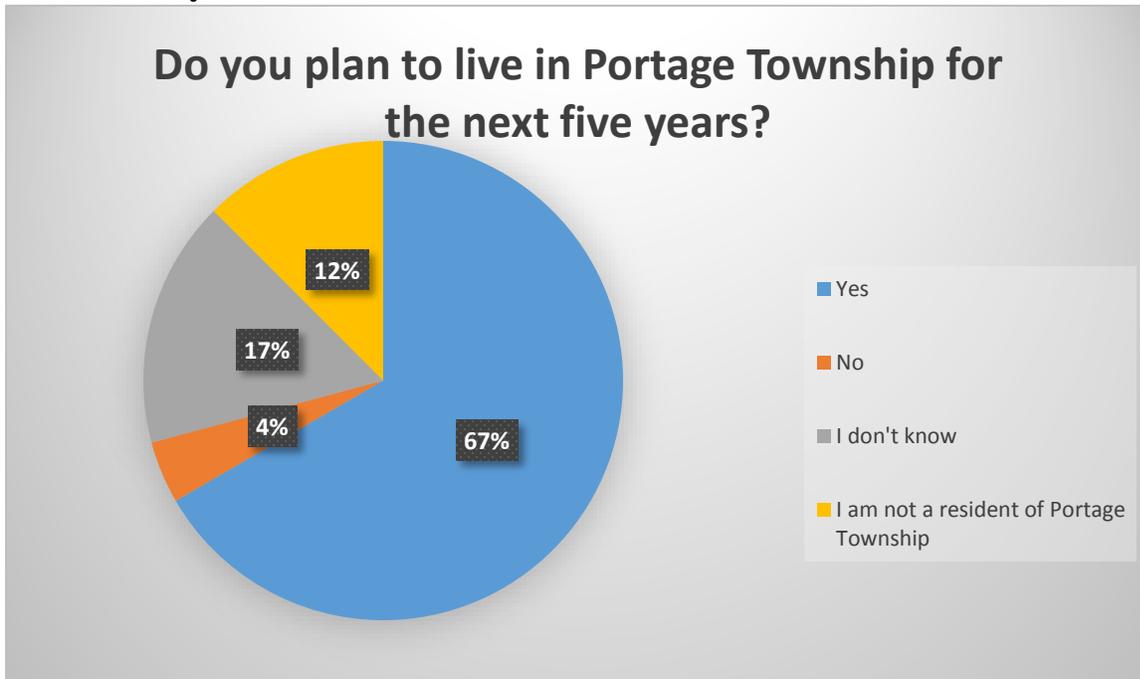
What is your gender?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	58.3%	14
Female	41.7%	10
<i>answered question</i>		<b>24</b>

## 1.4 Household Income



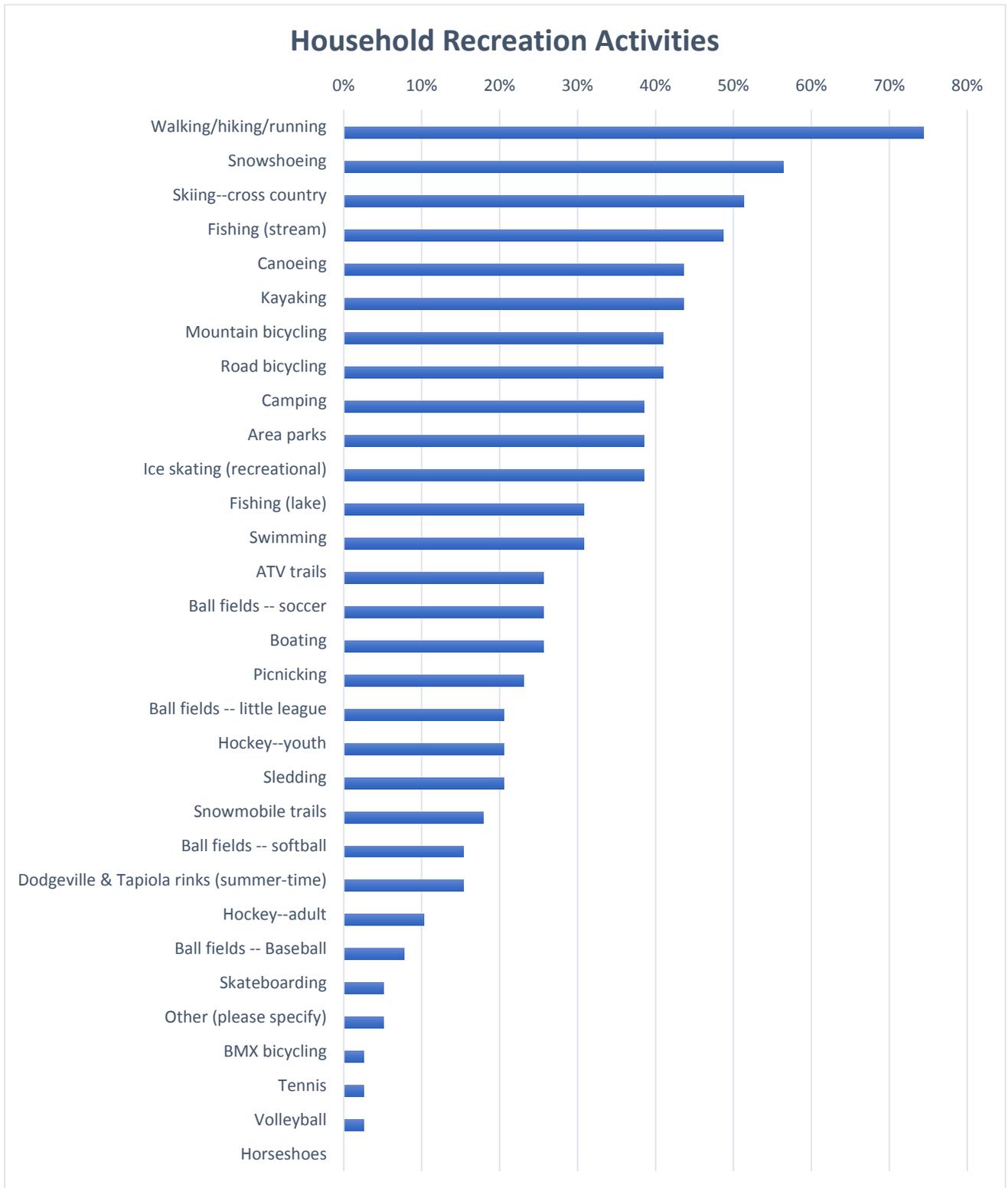
What was your household's approximate annual income in 2015?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than \$25,000	4.3%	1
\$25,000-\$49,999	8.7%	2
\$50,000-\$74,999	39.1%	9
\$75,000-\$99,999	21.7%	5
\$100,000-\$149,999	13.0%	3
\$150,000 or more	4.3%	1
Prefer not to answer	8.7%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>23</b>

### 1.5 Residency Duration



Do you plan to live in Portage Township for the next five years?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	66.7%	16
No	4.2%	1
I don't know	16.7%	4
I am not a resident of Portage Township	12.5%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>24</b>

## 1.6 Household Recreation Activities



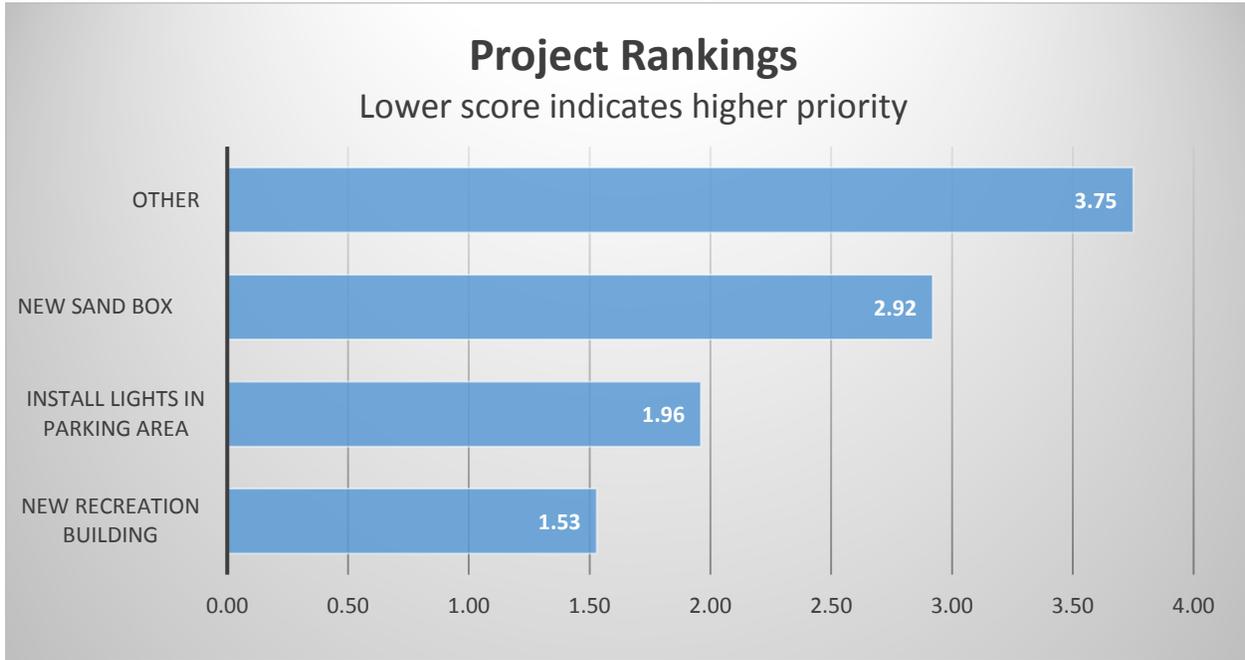
**Does anyone in your household participate in the following activities or use the following facilities within Portage Township? (Check all that apply).**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Walking/hiking/running	74.4%	29
Snowshoeing	56.4%	22
Skiing--cross country	51.3%	20
Fishing (stream)	48.7%	19
Canoeing	43.6%	17
Kayaking	43.6%	17
Mountain bicycling	41.0%	16
Road bicycling	41.0%	16
Camping	38.5%	15
Area parks	38.5%	15
Ice skating (recreational)	38.5%	15
Fishing (lake)	30.8%	12
Swimming	30.8%	12
ATV trails	25.6%	10
Ball fields -- soccer	25.6%	10
Boating	25.6%	10
Picnicking	23.1%	9
Ball fields -- little league	20.5%	8
Hockey--youth	20.5%	8
Sledding	20.5%	8
Snowmobile trails	17.9%	7
Ball fields -- softball	15.4%	6
Dodgeville & Tapiola rinks (summer-time)	15.4%	6
Hockey--adult	10.3%	4
Ball fields -- Baseball	7.7%	3
Skateboarding	5.1%	2
Other (please specify)	5.1%	2
BMX bicycling	2.6%	1
Tennis	2.6%	1
Volleyball	2.6%	1
Horseshoes	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>39</b>

**Other activities listed:** Bird watching (1), rollerblading (1)

## 2. Dodgeville Recreation Area

### 2.1 Dodgeville Recreation Area Project Rankings



Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Dodgeville Recreation Area. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of “1” indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project and a rank of “4” indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project

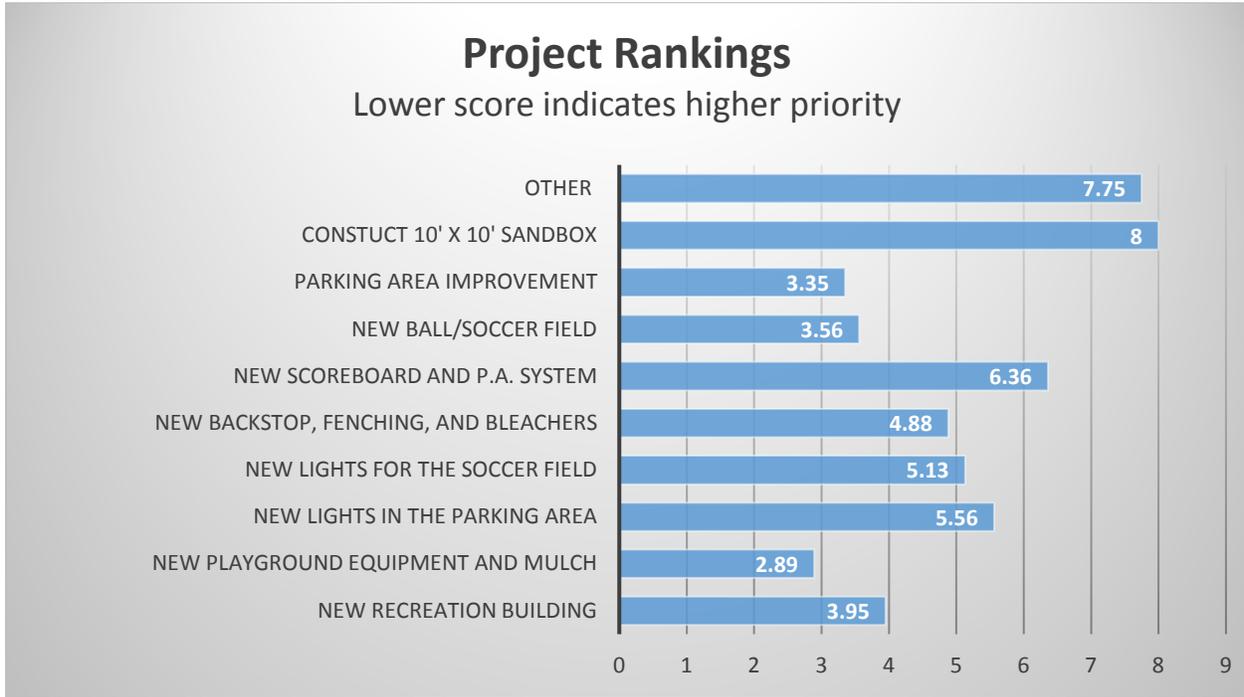
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	Rating Average	Response Count
Construct new recreation building	19	7	3	1	1.53	30
Install lights in Parking area	7	14	4	1	1.96	26
Construct sand box	2	4	12	6	2.92	24
Other	0	0	1	3	3.75	4
<i>answered question</i>						<b>30</b>

#### “Other” project comments for the Dodgeville Recreation Area

- I think the improvements to the Dodgeville hockey rink should be a very high priority because it gets a lot of use. It would be used even more if it had improvements. If we invest money in the rink I think we should also install security cameras to make sure it is not abused.

### 3. Hurontown Recreation Area

#### 3.1 Hurontown Recreation Area Project Rankings



Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Hurontown Recreation Area. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of “1” indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project and a rank of “10” indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project.

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Rating Average	Response Count
Construct new recreation building (concession stand/equipment storage/changing rooms /restrooms)	6	0	1	6	1	1	2	1	1	0	3.95	19
Install new playground equipment and cushioning mulch	4	3	8	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	2.89	19
Install new lights in parking area	1	1	0	4	2	3	1	2	1	1	5.56	16
Install new lights for soccer fields	0	3	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	0	5.13	15
Install new backstop, fencing on outfield and bleachers	0	5	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	0	4.88	16
Install new scoreboard and portable P.A. System	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	4	0	1	6.36	14
Construct additional adjacent dual-purpose ball field/soccer field	9	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	3	0	3.56	18
Parking area improvements; including improved access	3	4	6	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	3.35	20

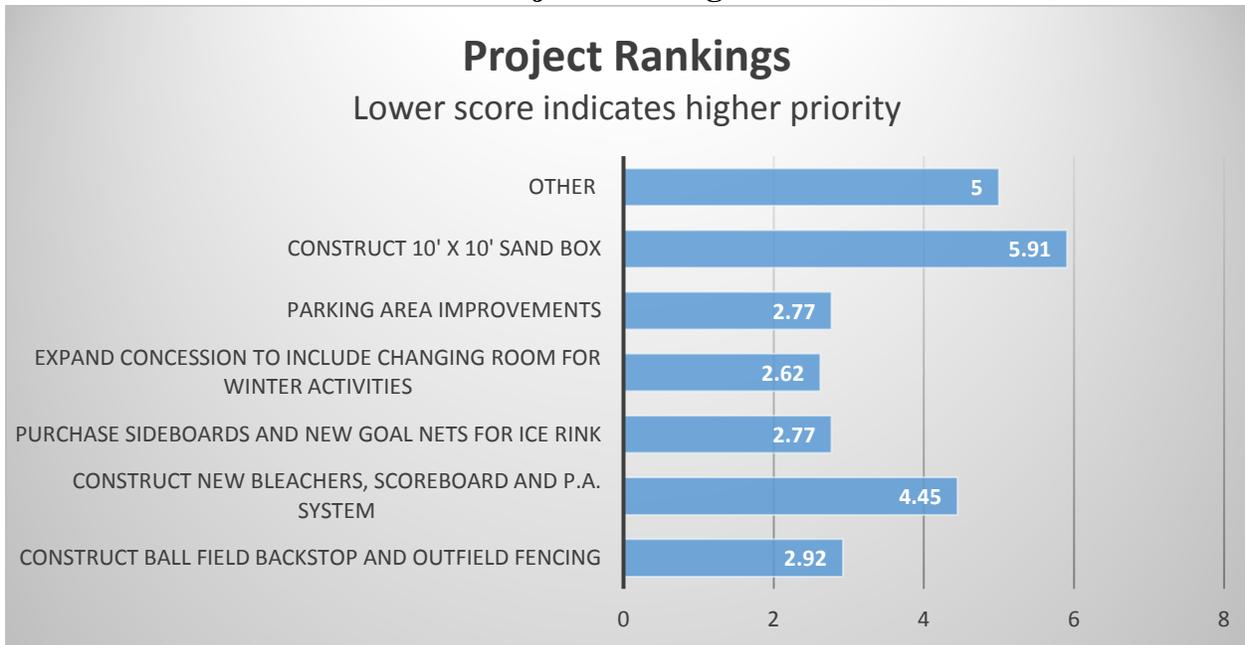
Construct 10' x 10' sand box	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	4	5	2	8.00	14
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7.75	4
<i>answered question</i>												<b>25</b>

**Other project options listed for Hurontown Recreation Area:**

- New park sign
- Improve existing soccer fields, which are uneven, don't drain well, and are full of rocks.

## 4. Otter Lake Recreation Area

### 4.1 Otter Lake Recreation Area Project Rankings



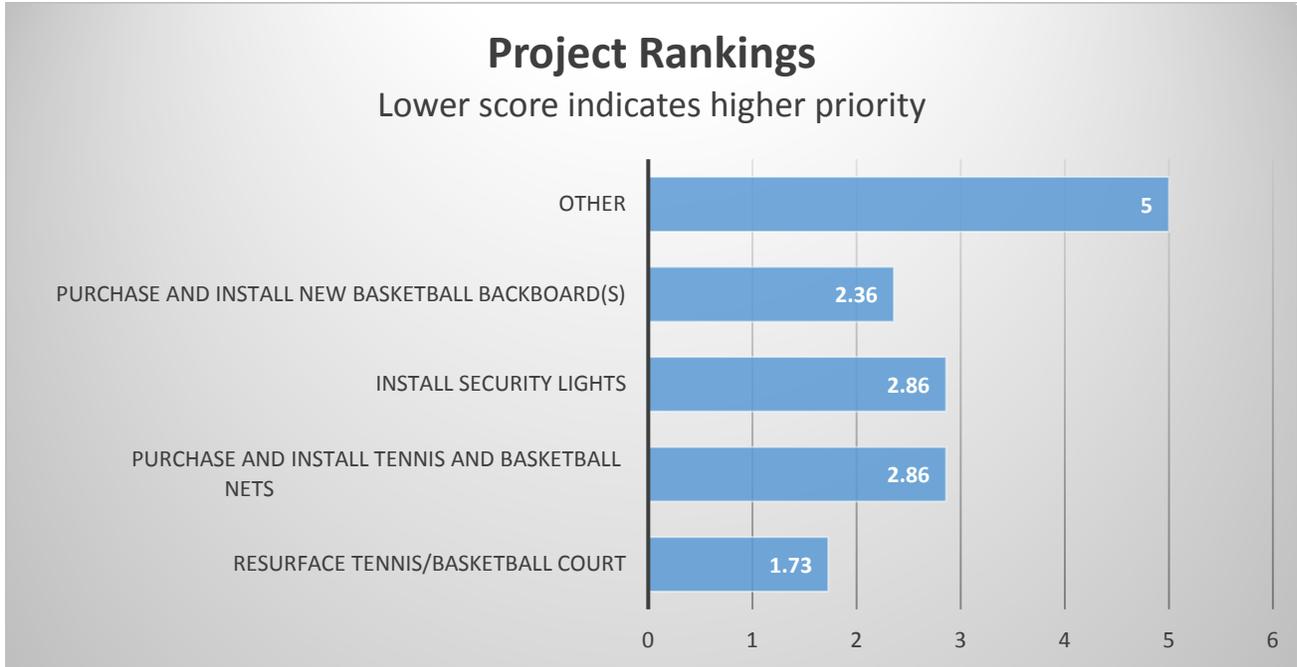
Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Otter Lake Recreation Area. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of “1” indicates the **HIGHEST PRIORITY** project and a rank of “7” indicates the **LOWEST PRIORITY** project.

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Rating Average	Response Count
Construct ball field backstop and outfield fencing	3	3	1	4	2	0	0	2.92	13
Construct new bleachers, scoreboard and P.A. system	0	1	3	1	2	4	0	4.45	11
Purchase sideboards and new goal nets for ice rink	2	5	2	2	2	0	0	2.77	13
Expand concession to include changing room for winter activities	4	3	3	1	1	1	0	2.62	13
Parking area improvements	4	1	3	4	1	0	0	2.77	13
Construct 10' x 10' sand box	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	5.91	11
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5.00	2
<i>answered question</i>									<b>13</b>

No other projects were provided in the comments section for this question.

## 5. Pilgrim Estates Tennis Courts

### 5.1 Pilgrim Estates Tennis Courts Project Rankings



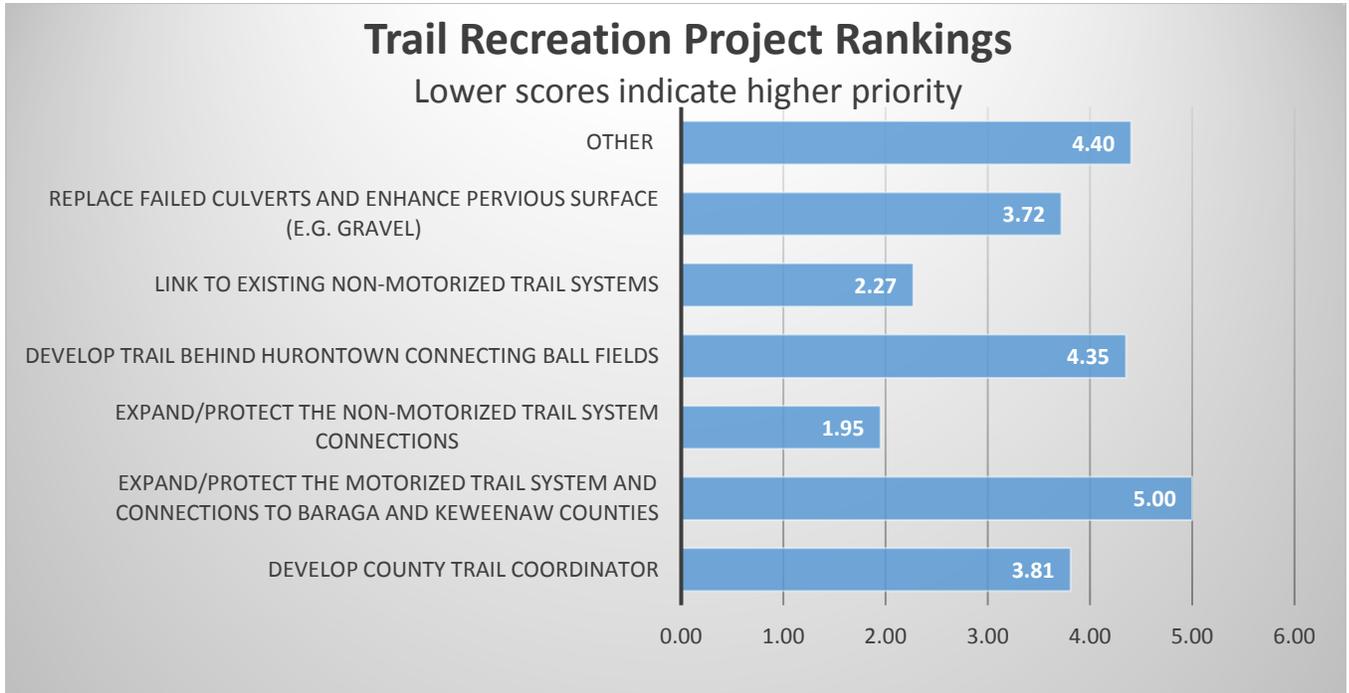
Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to the Pilgrim Estates Tennis Courts. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of “1” indicates the **HIGHEST PRIORITY** project and a rank of “5” indicates the **LOWEST PRIORITY** project.

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
Resurface tennis/basketball court	10	1	2	2	0	1.73	15
Purchase and install tennis and basketball nets	1	3	7	3	0	2.86	14
Install security lights	2	4	2	6	0	2.86	14
Purchase and install new basketball backboard(s)	2	7	3	2	0	2.36	14
Other	0	0	0	0	2	5.00	2
<i>answered question</i>							<b>15</b>

No other projects were listed in the comments section for this question.

## 6. Local Trail Recreation

### 6.1 Project Rankings to Improve Local Trail Recreation



Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to local trails within or nearby Portage Township. Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of “1” indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project and a rank of “7” indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project.

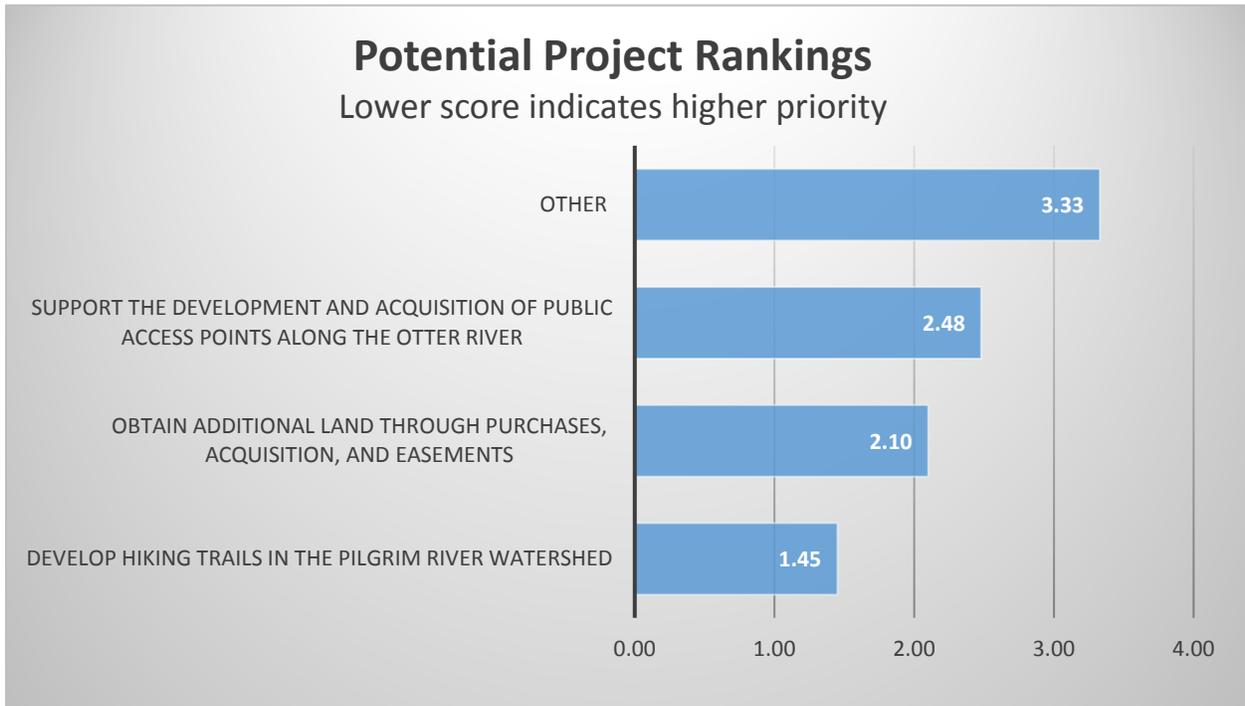
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Rating Average	Response Count
Support Houghton County to develop County Trail Coordinator	0	2	7	2	2	3	0	3.81	16
Support expansion/protection of the motorized (ATV/snowmobile) trail system and connections to Baraga and Keweenaw Counties	1	2	0	4	2	4	5	5.00	18
Support expansion/ protection of the non-motorized trail system connections, such as the Copper Heritage Trail on the abandoned Portage to Chassell railroad grade	13	4	1	0	1	2	0	1.95	21
Develop trail behind Hurontown connecting ball fields	1	2	2	3	4	4	1	4.35	17
Link to existing non-motorized trail systems: City of Houghton through Portage Township to Nara Nature Park, MTU Tech trail system, Pilgrim River Community Forest	6	8	5	2	1	0	0	2.27	22
Continue to seek grants to replace failed culverts and enhance pervious surface (e.g. gravel)	1	2	4	6	4	1	0	3.72	18
Other	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	4.40	5
<i>answered question</i>									<b>23</b>

**Other projects options listed to improve trail recreation in Portage Township:**

- Ban ATVs and Snowmobiles
- Make a parking place on the corner of Pilgrim Rd and Paradise Rd for hiking on the trail up along the Pilgrim River.
- Develop safe bike routes on township roads
- More non-motorized trail opportunities!
- I would like to see more done to provide safe conditions for recreational biking and commuter safety - paved shoulders/bike lanes, signage, etc.
- I certainly appreciate using the trail systems for biking and skiing even if I'm in my older years. I'm out on them 5-6 days a week. Thanks for considering keeping them in shape.
- I would also like to see more cross country skiing/hiking trail options connection township Pilgrim River property with the Nara Trail system.
- Support non-motorized sports. I can hear snowmobiles a mile away from me at night and it is much too loud.

## 7. Local Natural Resource Protection and Public Access

### 7.1 Project Rankings to Improve the Protection of Local Natural Resources and Public Access



Below is a list of potential projects/improvements to local natural resource protection and public access. **Please rank the projects in order of your desire to see the project completed. A rank of “1” indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY project and a rank of “4” indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY project.**

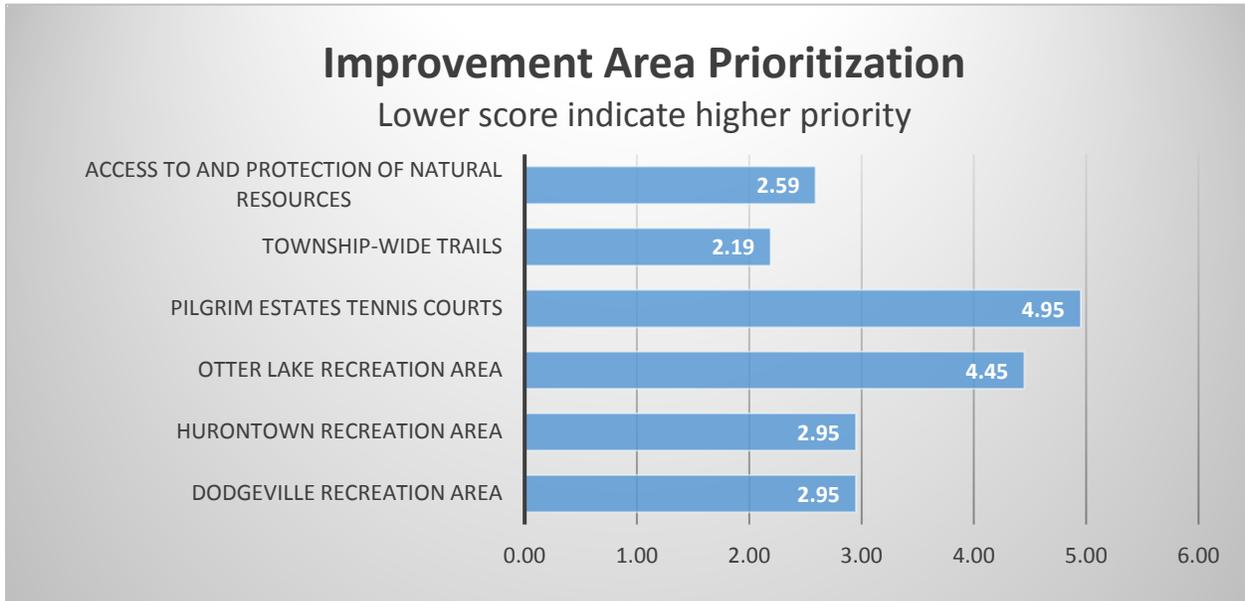
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	Rating Average	Response Count
Support the continued development of hiking trails in the Pilgrim River Watershed	14	6	2	0	1.45	22
Support the township board to obtain additional land through purchases, acquisition, and easements that support the townships recreation goals	7	7	5	2	2.10	21
Support the development and acquisition of public access points along the Otter River	2	7	12	0	2.48	21
Other	0	1	0	2	3.33	3
<i>answered question</i>						<b>23</b>

**Other projects options listed to improve the protection of natural resources and public access:**

- Develop safe parking areas for pilgrim river forest or plow driveway at boundary road in winter

## 8. Overall Project Rankings

### 8.1 Overall Ranking of Focus Area for the Township’s Recreation Plan



Please rank the following areas/sites to help prioritize recreation facilities improvements for Portage Township. A rank of “1” indicates the HIGHEST PRIORITY area and a rank of “6” indicates the LOWEST PRIORITY area.

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Rating Average	Response Count
Dodgeville Recreation Area	3	4	7	3	3	0	2.95	20
Hurontown Recreation Area	6	4	1	4	4	1	2.95	20
Otter Lake Recreation Area	0	0	6	4	5	5	4.45	20
Pilgrim Estates Tennis Courts	0	1	1	4	5	8	4.95	19
Township-wide trails	5	11	2	2	1	0	2.19	21
Access to and protection of natural resources	9	2	5	3	1	2	2.59	22
<i>answered question</i>								<b>23</b>

## 9. Comments on the Survey

- I heard about the survey on the radio, but had I missed that radio story, I would have known nothing about the survey. A sticker on water bills might alert people. I think the survey is great to find out what facilities people are using most or what type of recreating they prefer. Our area appeals to recreating people so we need to be sure we maintain those places, it will stimulate our economy and help our population increase in a good way. Thank you!
- Heard the announcement on WOLF Radio and found the link on the WOLF radio website. Could not find the link on the Portage Township website.
- Are in-person surveys effective/possible?
- Thank you for soliciting feedback.

## **C. PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING SURVEY**



## Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission

P.O. BOX 365, HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN 49931

906-482-7205 FAX 906-482-9032 ' E-MAIL: [info@wuppdr.org](mailto:info@wuppdr.org)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Brad Barnett, Assistant Regional Planner

906.482.7205, ext. 316

[bbarnett@wuppdr.org](mailto:bbarnett@wuppdr.org)

November 14, 2016

### **Recreation Plan Survey Available for Portage Township**

Portage Township is working with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) to update its five-year Recreation Plan. Portage Township residents can assist in the planning effort by taking a short survey. The survey is available at [www.wuppdr.org/surveys](http://www.wuppdr.org/surveys). Paper copies are also available at the Portage Township Office, located at 47240 Green Acres Road, Houghton, MI 49931.

The survey will be available through December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. For further information, please contact Brad Barnett at 906.482.7205, ext. 316 or [bbarnett@wuppdr.org](mailto:bbarnett@wuppdr.org).

###

**D. PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW OF PLAN**



## Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission

P.O. BOX 365, HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN 49931

906-482-7205 FAX 906-482-9032 ' E-MAIL: [info@wuppdr.org](mailto:info@wuppdr.org)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Brad Barnett, Regional Planner

906.482.7205, ext. 316

[bbarnett@wuppdr.org](mailto:bbarnett@wuppdr.org)

January 25, 2017

### **Portage Township Recreation Plan Available for Review**

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

The draft of the Portage Township 2017-2021 Recreation Plan Update will become available on January 26 for a 30-day public review and comment period. Copies of the plan will be available for review at the Portage Township office building located at 47240 Green Acres Road in Houghton, MI and the WUPPDR office building located at 393 E. Lakeshore Drive in Houghton, MI. The plan will also be available for viewing online at <http://www.wuppdr.org>.

Written comments must be received by February 24, 2017 and may be mailed to: WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931. They may also be dropped off at WUPPDR's office or e-mailed to Brad Barnett, Regional Planner at [bbarnett@wuppdr.org](mailto:bbarnett@wuppdr.org).

###

## E. WUPPDR WEBSITE ANNOUNCEMENT OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW OF PLAN



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://wuppdr.org/portage-township-recreation-plan-draft-available-for-public-review/>. The browser's address bar also shows several open tabs: "Journal & Co", "H-Net Job Guide", "National Statistical Se", and "GIS Exchange". The website header features the WUPPDR logo (a blue square with a white outline of Michigan and the text "WUPPDR of Michigan") and the text "Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development" and "Michigan Planning Region 13 | Fax 906.482.9032 | Ph 906.482.7205". A navigation menu includes "HOME", "PROGRAMS & SERVICES", "RESOURCES", and "RPI". The main content area has a blue heading: "Portage Township Recreation Plan Draft Available for Public Review". Below this, the text reads: "The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) recently updated the Portage Township Five-Year Recreation Plan." The next paragraph states: "The draft of the Portage Township 2017-2021 Recreation Plan Update is now available for a 30-day public review. Hard copies of the plan are available for review at the Portage Township building front desk and the WUPPDR office building located at 393 E. Lakeshore Drive in Houghton, MI. The plan can be viewed online using the link below:" A green link is provided: "Click here to view a copy of the 2017-2021 Portage Township Recreation Plan". The final paragraph says: "Written comments must be received by February 24, 2017 and may be mailed to: WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931. They may also be dropped off at WUPPDR's office or e-mailed to Brad Barnett, Regional Planner at [bbarnett@wuppdr.org](mailto:bbarnett@wuppdr.org)." At the bottom of the page, a copyright notice reads: "Copyright © 2009-2017 Western Upper Peninsula".

\*Posted January 25, 2017

## **F. SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Date	Comment	Source
1/30/2017	<p>I looked over the Portage Township Recreation Plan and most of it is quite exciting. There is a need for improvements to our local recreational areas and it's nice to know that the township is aware and has an active plan to make improvements, especially a new soccer field which will be so helpful to the local soccer association. I do have a few comments regarding some of the details.</p> <p>In the playground projects it is said that recycled rubber mulch will be placed below all equipment. I have a 7 year old and a 2 year old, we play in local parks during the summer when we can. All local parks that I have visited use sand (Chutes and Ladders in Houghton), pea gravel (Pine Park in Hancock) or wood chips/wood mulch (the others). I would really prefer untreated wood chips/wood mulch and urge you to reconsider the decision of recycled rubber. My number one reason to prefer wood chips is for the safety of my children and those in our community. Recycled rubber is typically from recycled tires which contain a multitude of unknown chemicals. Even rubber that is not from recycled tires is not proven to be safe around children when it's in small chunks and as it turns into powder when it degrades. As this article points out, <a href="http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/4018819-parents-ask-duluth-school-district-remove-rubber-playground-mulch">http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/4018819-parents-ask-duluth-school-district-remove-rubber-playground-mulch</a> children are very curious about their world and will chew, pile, bury in it and do all sorts of creative play with whatever is used as a filler under playgrounds. I have seen it done in my own children and others when playing at playgrounds. I understand that the rubber mulch typically lasts longer, is safer than pea gravel for head injuries and doesn't compost like the wood chips do but I would still prefer that the township consider and factor in the cost of replacing the wood chips/mulch more often than investing in the rubber mulch. If you'd like more details on the safety of recycled rubber mulch I can provide links but I don't want to bombard you in this email. Let me know if you'd like to see more. Also, from an environmental aspect, when it is time to replace the rubber mulch it will have to be disposed of in some way whereas wood chips/wood mulch can simply go to a compost pile or even remain in place as new wood chips/mulch are added.</p> <p>I was born and raised in the Copper Country and I know often we are the last to pick up on trends and new improvements. Usually this characteristic of ours is frustrating, but in the case of the rubber mulch and pour in rubber playground material I'm grateful we have yet to follow that trend. We are a unique area where people value nature and I feel our parks and playgrounds should continue to celebrate that fact. Let's follow Copper Harbor's lead having recently updated their playground very tastefully and without rubber mulch.</p> <p>Instead of being a trend setter with rubber mulch, I'd love to see Portage Township be the local playground trend setter by considering the installation of outdoor [adult] exercise equipment in a playground like this link discusses <a href="http://www.dac.dk/en/dac-cities/sustainable-cities/all-cases/health/beijing-exercise-opportunities-for-all/">http://www.dac.dk/en/dac-cities/sustainable-cities/all-cases/health/beijing-exercise-opportunities-for-all/</a> How cool would it be for moms, dads, grandparents, or just fellow community members to have a place to exercise along with kids! With adult obesity so high in our area I imagine there might be grants available and/or local organizations and businesses might be even more willing to donate toward a playground project that could also benefit teens, adults, and the elderly.</p> <p>Thank you again for creating the recreation plan. Thank you also for your time and your consideration of my comments.</p>	Email

2/1/2017	<p>Mr. Peterson,</p> <p>As an avid tennis player I wanted to give my full support to the plan to fix up the Peepsock tennis courts. They have become impossible to play on. The only playable courts are indoor at tech. For the average person that becomes unaffordable.</p> <p>Thank you for your hard work for our community.</p>	Email
2/3/2017	<p>I didn't see any mention of the Houghton School Forest in your recreation plan. Was it simply an oversight? The School Forest is used by many people, especially in spring/summer/fall, has a barrier-free section, and is connected to the MTU trails. I hope it will be added to the plan -- it is a feather in our collective cap!</p>	Website
2/21/2017	<p>I am a senior citizen and retired resident of Houghton, and I read with interest your Recreation Plan for Portage Township. May I offer the following comments to your comprehensive report?</p> <p>While I have grown children now, I continue to have concern for the safety of our local children when they are at play on our local playgrounds. I have included a link to an article from the internet whose authors work for the National Center for Health Research. It outlines the potential health risks to children who play on surfaces made with recycled tires. I urge Portage Township to reconsider its plan to use tire shreds in place of a safer alternative of wood chips when installing playgrounds.</p> <p>On page 13 (Non-Township owned), <b>Houghton Portage Township School</b> also owns a school forest across from the Houghton Fire Station near the corner of Sharon Avenue and Gundlach Road. Part of this trail is handicap accessible, and there are bike trails that connect it to the MTU trail system</p> <p>Also in the same section on Non-Township owned, please add the new <b>Central Houghton Greenspace</b> located in Houghton on Seventh Avenue between Portage and Franklin Streets. I am sure the City of Houghton can provide details on the ownership, type of park, size of park and service area.</p> <p>Thank you for your effort on behalf of the residents.</p>	Email
2/27/2017	<p>To: Charter Township of Portage  From: BIKE Initiative Keweenaw (BIKE!)  Date: February 27, 2017  Subject: Comment on draft Township Recreation Plan 2017-2021</p> <p>Bike Initiative Keweenaw (BIKE!) is a bike advocacy organization serving the Keweenaw Peninsula. Our mission is to empower people to ride bikes more often.</p> <p>Some of the members of BIKE! have reviewed the draft Township Recreation Plan and have one statement and one suggestion.</p> <p><b>Houghton-Chassell Trail</b></p> <p>Bike Initiative Keweenaw members support public access for bicyclists on the former railroad grade through Portage Township from Houghton to Chassell along Portage Lake, and also support investments in trail improvements and maintenance to keep it a safe and bike-friendly non-motorized route. This route benefits pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities for recreation and transportation as a pleasant, comfortable, and scenic alternative to using the shoulders on US-41.</p>	Mail

**Non-Motorized Routes**

Regarding Goal 4, we suggest an objective specifically addressing non-motorized connecting routes to reinforce the goal statement (“Continue developing a network of motorized and non-motorized four season accessible pathways to connect and serve the Township and the adjacent communities.”) A suggestion is below.

“Identify and develop non-motorized four season routes connecting Township recreation facilities with existing recreation trails and adjacent communities.”

Thanks for your hard work to make Portage Township and the Keweenaw an even better place for year-round recreation. Please let us know if there’s anything our group can do to assist your efforts.

Joshua Myles  
Kristen Schmitt  
Ray Sharp  
Keren Tischler  
Bryant Weathers  
Curt Webb

**G. DAILY MINING GAZETTE AFFIDAVIT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD & PUBLIC HEARING**

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF HOUGHTON SS

YVONNE ROBILLARD

Being first duly sworn, says that he/she is the agent of the Publisher of The Daily Mining Gazette, a newspaper published in the English Language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper in which order was published on the following dates:

February 1, 2017

**Public Hearing Notice**  
Charter Township of Portage will conduct a public hearing on Monday, February 27, 2017 at the Township Hall located at 47240 Green Acres Road, Houghton, MI 49931 beginning at 3:00 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to receive any public comments regarding the 2017-2021 Township's Five-Year Recreation Plan. Following the Hearing there will be a Special Township Board of Trustees meeting to consider those public comments and possibly move to adopt the Five Year Recreation Plan. The Recreation Plan can be viewed online at both the Township's website [www.portagetownship.info](http://www.portagetownship.info) and WUPPDR's website [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org) or in written form at the Township Office during normal business hours, Monday through Thursday. Written comments can be submitted to either WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931 or to Portage Township or emailed to [bbarnett@wuppdr.org](mailto:bbarnett@wuppdr.org) through February 27, 2017.

Yvonne Robillard  
Agent of the Publisher of The Daily Mining Gazette

Subscribed and sworn before me this 7<sup>th</sup>

Day of February A.D., 2017

Catherine O'Connell Ricci  
Notary Public, Houghton County, Michigan

Acting in and for the County of Houghton, Michigan

CATHERINE O'CONNELL RICCI  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES Aug 10, 2018  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Houghton

## **H. MINUTES FROM PUBLIC HEARING**

# Charter Township of Portage

## Special Meeting Minutes

To

## Review the Township's 2017-2021 Recreation Plan

47420 Green Acres Road  
Houghton, MI 49931  
(906) 482-4310

**Called to Order:** 3:30 P.M. after the Public Hearing was adjourned.

**In Attendance:** Supervisor, Bruce Petersen, Clerk, Heidi Paoli Riutta, and Trustees; Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, John Ollila, and Bill Fink.

**Absent:** Treasurer, Carol Little

**Public Present:** Brad Barnett – WUPPDR Regional Planner

### Discussion Items:

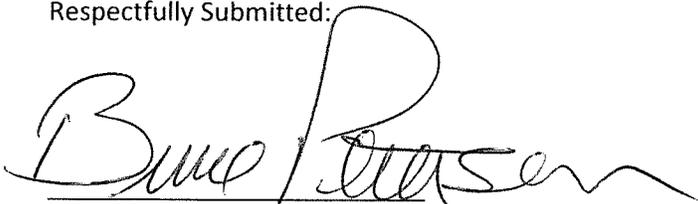
- The 2017 – 2021 Charter Township of Portage five-year Recreational Plan was discussed.
- Brad Barnett discussed the overall planning process, the public disclosure process and the dates that were met by the Township during the public comment period. He indicated that there is a checklist of needed materials that have to be submitted through the MI Rec Grants on-line portal.
- John Ollila asked if during the course of the next five years could the plan be modified given unforeseen circumstances. The plan is a “living document” – it can be modified to evidence unexpected/unforeseen circumstances.
- A resolution to accept the Township's five year Recreation Plan was made by John Ollila, Seconded by Bill Fink, passed unanimously by all the members present.

### Public Comments:

There were no public present

**Adjourned:** John Ollila – First, Bill Fink – Seconded at 3:20 PM:

Respectfully Submitted:



Bruce Petersen, Twp. Supervisor

## **I. RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION**

## RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PORTAGE FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2017-2021 Charter Township of Portage Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Portage Board of Trustees 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 Charter Township of Portage Board of Trustees 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 the Charter Township of Portage 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Charter Township of Portage Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Charter Township of Portage Five-Year Recreation Plan 2017-2021, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Portage Board of Trustees has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Portage, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Charter Township of Portage Board of Trustees voted to adopt said Charter Township of Portage Five-Year Recreation Plan 2017-2021.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township's Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Charter Township of Portage – Recreation Plan.

Yeas: 5      Nays: 0      Absent: 1

I, Heidi Paoli Riutta, Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Charter Township of Portage Board of Trustees at a Special Meeting thereof held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017.

  
(signature)