

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

Updated March 1987

## CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The scope of recreation planning and recreation development in Chocoday Township for the most part lies in the hands of the Township in terms of acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreational opportunity. To foster these recreational opportunities and to define the recreational needs of the community, the Township Planning Commission has developed this Recreation Plan.

## **PLAN REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

The Chocoday Township Planning Commission approved this plan for recreational development and amended the Township Comprehensive Plan on February 11, 1985. A Public Hearing was held on February 11, 1985. No public comment was received.

The Planning Commission amended the Plan on March 9, 1987, and the amendments are incorporated into the Plan. The Chocoday Township Board approved the amendments on March 16, 1987.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

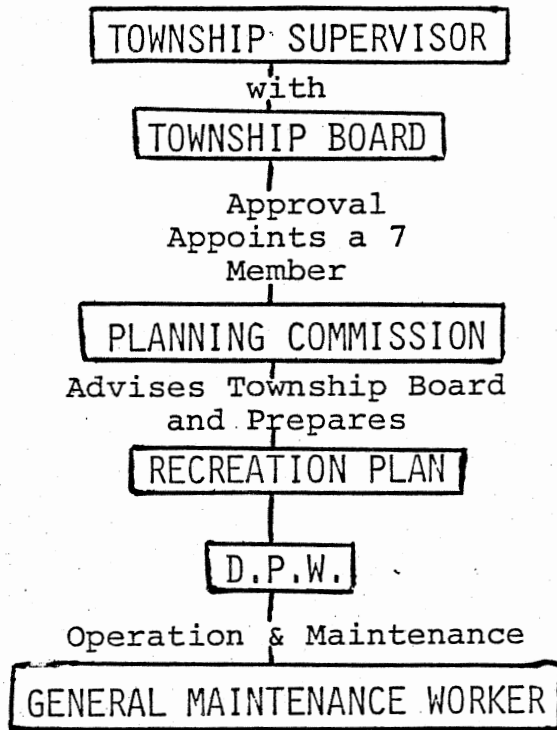
The Township Planning Commission prepares the Recreation Plan as part of the comprehensive planning efforts of the Township. The day to day operations such as scheduling users, maintaining grounds and facilities, cutting of the grass, grooming, collection of waste, preparing the ballfield for use is assigned to the Township Department of Public Works (D.P.W.). A general maintenance worker is assigned to perform these tasks within this department. Special projects are supervised by this department and are often performed with the assistance of volunteer groups and organizations.

The operating and capital improvements budgets are prepared by the Supervisor of the Department of Public Works. This budget request is then reviewed by the Township Supervisor who prepares the actual budget request subject to approval by the Township Board. The flow chart on page four indicates the administrative structure.

## **INTENT**

The intent of this recreation plan is to incorporate and update all existing information on recreation into one planning document and to provide a basis for recreation based on decision making and financing. The intent is to provide a sound planning document for recreation acquisition and development in accordance with the needs and desires of the community and their willingness to support these facilities. The plan analyzes the current situation and conditions, explores demand and use patterns, defines needs, and provides public input and citizen involvement in the overall recreation planning process including a budget plan to carry out these plans.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### SOCIAL

Chocolay Township has been and is expected to continue developing primarily as a residential community. Development patterns indicate development concentrating in three major population areas. These are as follows:

1. Harvey
2. Beaver Grove
3. M-28 and Lakewood Area

### POPULATION

(Figures taken from U.S. Census)

<u>1966</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u>
2235	3299 (48)	4780	5685 (72)

(Number in parenthesis are percent changes over previous decade.)

### CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

	<u>0-20</u>	<u>21-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
1960	47.8	33.6	14.6	4.4
1970	45.4	34.5	15.2	4.9
1977	44.3	36.4	15.4	3.9
1980	38.9	42.1	14.6	4.4

This age distribution shows an unusually large percentage of young child-bearing age 21-44 residents. This percentage has been increasing slightly over the past twenty (20) years indicating the large proportion of new residents (in-migration) are within this age group and even though the 0-20 age group has decreased slightly there still is 38.9 percent of the townships residents below 20 years of age. These age groups will be an important factor in determining recreation demands and needs and recreation opportunities should be suited to fit these characteristics.

### PHYSICAL

Chocolay Township contains 62 square miles and is located approximately five (5) miles south of the City of Marquette running easterly along the south shore of Lake Superior.

The primary land forms within the Township include glacial lake plain, wetlands, and end or recessional moraine with most of Township lying in the sandy glacial lake plain but the general land forms can be described as follows:

1. Northwest central area - glacial lake plain sands
2. Northeast area - wetlands
3. Southwest - moraine or steep hills

These land forms affect the suitability for various land uses with the wetlands and steep hills being generally unsuitable for residential development. (See attached map on p. 35).

Chocolay Township has approximately 12 miles of Lake Superior shoreline, much of which has been developed along the M-28/Lakewood area. Other residential development has taken place south of this area along the glacial lake plain. This large amount of shoreline provides much private recreation as do the wetlands provide fishing and hunting opportunities within a short distance to the community. The Township does not own any property on Lake Superior; however the State Highway Department does in the eastern six miles of the Township. The Township has been working with state officials to develop these areas for their uses as scenic turnouts including providing refuse containers, maintenance of shoreline erosion, walkways and restrooms. This cooperation as well as the recently developed campground in this area should provide increased tourist related recreation in this area.

Chocolay Township also contains many rivers and creek systems. The major river system being the Chocolay River, connects with Lake Superior in the northwest corner of the township near Harvey. Along this river system is located the Township Marina also in the Harvey area. This river as well as the many other rivers and creeks provide for recreational opportunities such as canoeing and fishing as well as many others.

Land ownership patterns can be described as follows. Primary public ownership is located in the southeastern portion east of the Kawbawgam area with much of this land being state owned in the Escanaba River State Forest. In the western portion residential development has utilized much of the land into small tracts. Some large undeveloped tracts still remain in this area however for future development. In the southwestern portion, much of the ownership is private with lot sizes generally 20-40 acres in size with one large farming operation in this area.

## INVENTORY

### Township Owned Recreation Areas:

1. Recreation Area I
2. Recreation Area II Beaver Grove
3. Chocolay Township Marina
4. Green Garden/Chocolay River Site
5. Chocolay Township Open Space Area

### Other Recreation Areas:

1. Chocolay Lions Club Park
2. Gitchee Gumee Campground
3. Michigan State Scenic Turnout
4. Michigan DNR Public Access/Fishing Site
5. Michigan DNR Waterfowl Area - Lake LeVassuer
6. Michigan DNR - Flooding Area - Sand River

See the Locator Map on page 34.

## OTHER FORMS OF RECREATION

In addition to the traditional recreation areas, many Township residents engage in indoor recreation such as utilizing the Silver Creek School Gymnasium on Silver Creek Road for basketball, aerobics, and other indoor sports activities. The Chocolay Township Hall is also utilized for cultural and social activities such as meetings of the Chocolay Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Kennel Club, Overeaters Club, Harvey Homemakers, and the Brownies.

Other non-organized activities include hunting, boating, fishing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, motor cycling, jogging, ORV riding, sledding, etc. These activities are done on private as well as public land.

Additional recreational opportunities exist which are not located within the Township. Due to the Township's close proximity to the City of Marquette, area residents utilize facilities within the City especially in light of the Township's ownership in the Marquette Public School system. However some concern has been expressed with regard to users fees as set by the City of Marquette for non-city groups and organizations utilizing City facilities.

## CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

### RECREATION AREA I

Recreation Area I is located north of Silver Creek Road adjacent to the Marquette Public Schools Silver Creek Elementary School in the northwest corner of the Township.

#### DEVELOPMENT

Recreation Area I contains seventeen (17.17) acres of land. Existing facilities contained at the site consist of the following:

One Ball Diamond  
Four Tennis Courts  
Playground Equipment  
Picnic Tables  
Soccer Field  
Warming House/Restrooms  
Tot Lot playground

This site was developed utilizing Township personnel for supervision and labor with funding from the State of Michigan Recreation Grant (LAWCON) and Township funds as well as labor from the CETA program, the Youth Corp, and the Township. Additional assistance was given in development of the soccerfield by the Jack's IGA stores establishing the Jack Urbaniak Memorial Soccer Field.

#### SITE INFORMATION AND SURVEY

A property survey was completed in 1983. The attached survey indicates the property lines and the attached maps indicate the site plan layout (see pp. 14-16). In 1983 the Township acquired a 20 foot strip on the east side to eliminate an encroachment.

#### SOILS

Two soil types exist on the property. These are as follows:

South Portion - Deer Park Sand  
0% to 8% Slope

North Portion - Rousseau Fine Sand  
0% to 15% Slope

#### GROUND COVER

The southern portion of the property is cleared. The north portion is wooded and contains jack and red pine mixed with aspen and white birch.

Recommended forest management policies for this area north of the ridge include retention of the natural character of the area



covered by jack pine and red pine. This will preserve the trail system and open space area within the developing Harvey area.

Soil stabilization efforts began in cooperation with the Marquette Public Schools with assistance from the local Soil Conservation Office to stabilize the eroding ridge area utilizing a RC & D soil stabilization program. Efforts include topsoiling, seeding and placing barrier posts on the hillside. The project was completed late in the summer of 1983.

#### **ADJOINING LAND USES**

The parcel is located lying just south of the Village of Harvey. Land uses to the north include residential uses and include detached single family and a 34 lot mobile home park. Land uses to the south include single family residential and a 50 lot mobile home park. Located to the east is the Silver Creek Elementary School site. To the west is unimproved acreage zoned for multi-family development.

#### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The size and location of this recreation site makes it especially suited to a role as a "community playfield". Any long range plans for this site should include this important consideration. The primary positive aspect of this site is its central location and subsequent ability to serve the greater Harvey area.

Existing development utilizes the southern portion of the property. The remaining area is upland forest cover with a small clearing of about one acre. A ridge separates this area from the development in the southern portion.

A concentrated stand of white birch is located in the picnic area. This provides an aesthetically pleasing environment and should be preserved.

Access is provided along an easement from the adjoining school property. An additional access site on the north side of the property connects the property to Hoppock Street, an unimproved County road right-of-way.

A trail system is interspersed throughout the forested area. This provides a unique recreational opportunity within the greater Harvey area.

This site has intensive use by organized softball and soccer teams in the summer and fall.

The Township recently was given a twenty (20) foot strip by the Marquette School System along part of the eastern lot line to eliminate an encroachment.

This site is located adjacent to the Elementary School on Silver Creek Road and cooperation between the School District in providing recreation opportunities as a joint effort should be pursued. Current users include school children using the playground equipment. The school system should be encouraged to improve the existing basketball court area.

## **SHORT TERM**

### PICNIC AREA AND PAVILION

There is an existing picnic area on top of the ridge in the white birch area. This is an aesthetically pleasing area with the white birch stand, surrounding forest and view of the ballfield. The picnic area should be expanded by adding more picnic tables and grills. A pavilion is also recommended to be located just on top of the ridge. Its size on the site plan is 30 feet by 50 feet but nothing would prohibit making it larger or smaller. There is a location near the steps where only a few trees would have to be removed, mostly jack pine, which appears to be an ideal site for the pavilion. Individuals could view the baseball game and enjoy a passive forest, picnic setting. Selective cuttings may be necessary to accommodate an expanded picnic area. Restrooms would also be located conveniently nearby. These restrooms could either be separate facilities or could be attached to the pavilion. The picnic area is adjacent to the proposed relocation of the tot lot/playground equipment.

### RECOMMENDATION/STATUS

1. On-going.
2. Once playground/tot lot is developed, monitor increase use of existing picnic area to review if additional picnic area expansion is necessary.
3. Re-evaluate pavilion uses and needs.

## **LONG TERM**

The entire seventeen acres of the recreation area are interlaced with a trail system. The trail system identified on the site plan is very general and is only intended to portray that there is such a system. The illustrated trail network is not to scale and should not be viewed as such. The trails get fairly heavy use by kids, especially on bikes, and to a lesser extent by walkers, joggers, and cross country skiers. Over time, the trail could be covered with wood chips to keep the vegetation down and further identify it. A future study of only the trail system may be warranted to try to further evaluate how more of the system can be linked together. Many of the trails go off onto adjoining private property and do not return to the Township land. More identification is necessary to inform the users where they are in

respect to the trail system. Use of the trail system in winter by skiers should be promoted.

A fitness strip/trail could be established along the system to attract more joggers. A fitness trip would seem most appropriate through the trail system rather than near the ballfield. There is not much room for a fitness strip in the southern portion of the recreation area. The northern half of the site should remain in as natural a state as possible.

#### FUTURE USE AREA

Included in this site plan is an area, in the northern part of the park, reserved for future use. It is difficult at this point in time to determine what best or most appropriate use should be made of this area. Some of this land is used for the trail system and the vast majority is forested. A street (Hoppock Street) does provide a potential future access point to the recreation area.

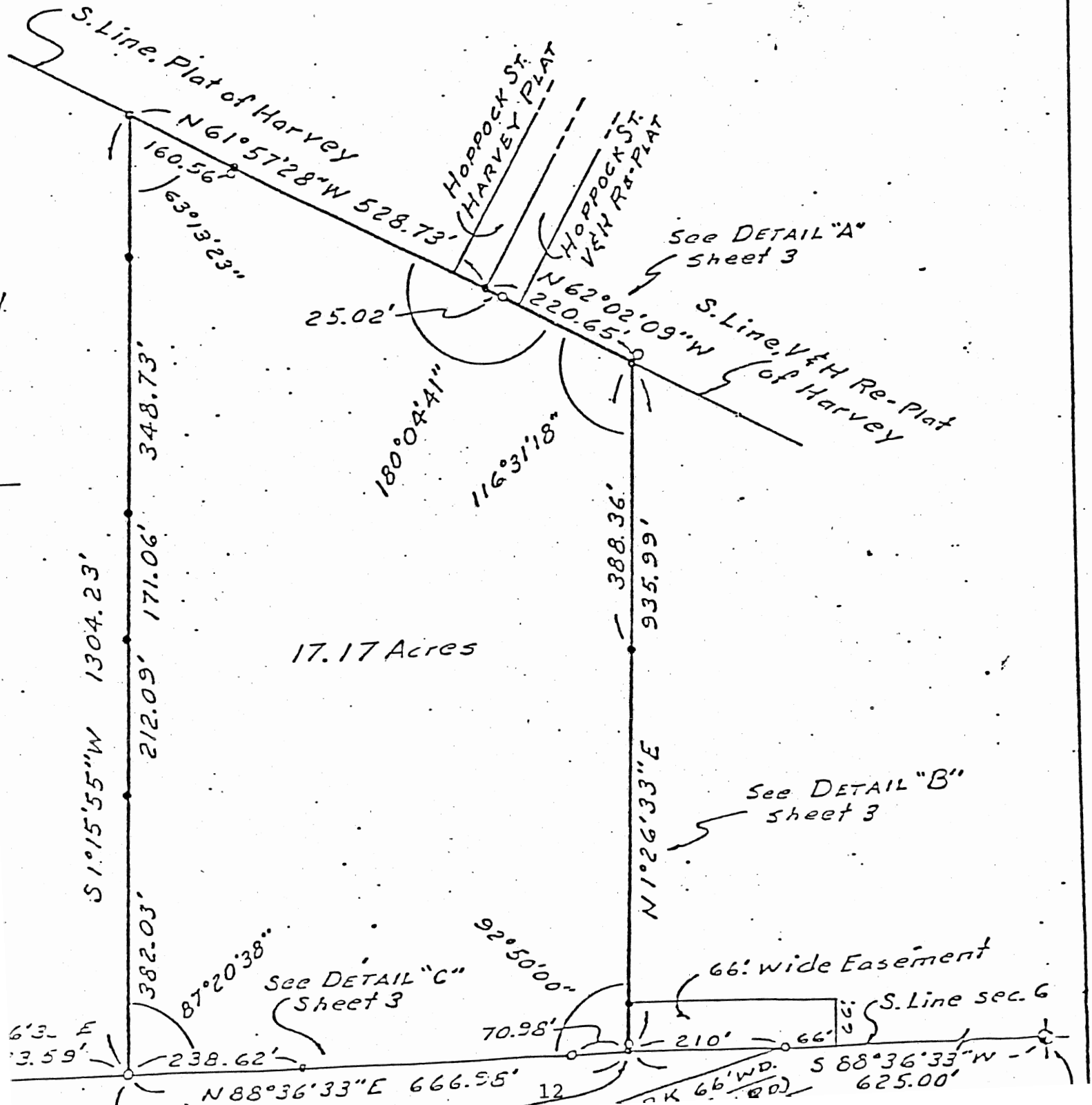
... by solar observation.

Found iron

Township Recreation Area  
Code # 364

Witness SW corner Sec. 6, T47N, R24W  
Jack Pine N 70°E, 7.78'  
Jack Pine S 70°E, 3.26'  
" Hard Maple S 50°E, 27.08'  
unconc. monument

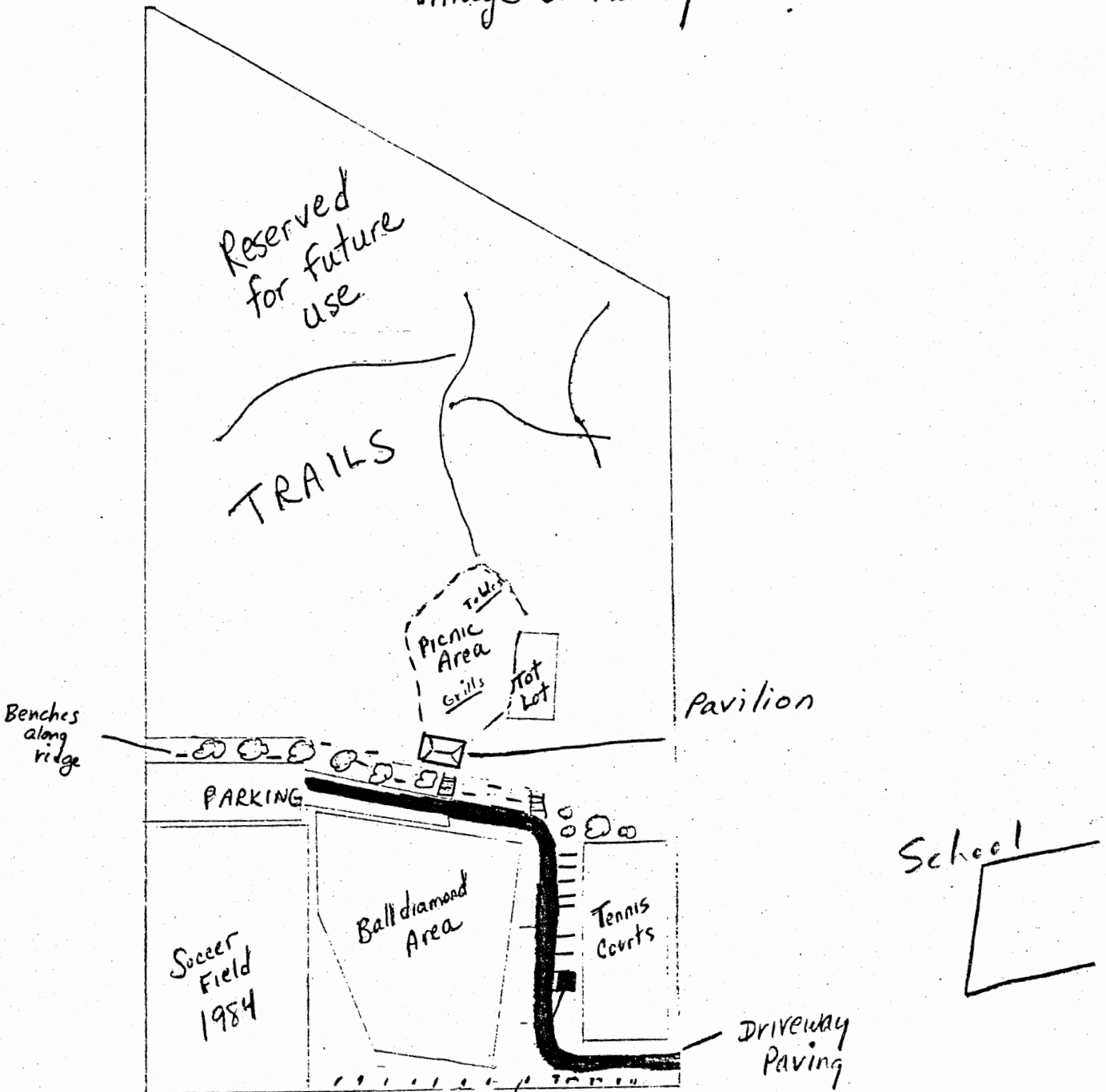
Witness S 1/2 cor. Sec. 6, T47N, R24W  
Found iron pipe  
18" Norway Pine S 70°E, 45.80'  
5" Maple S 30°E, 47.10'  
M.B. Post N 55°W, 29.85'



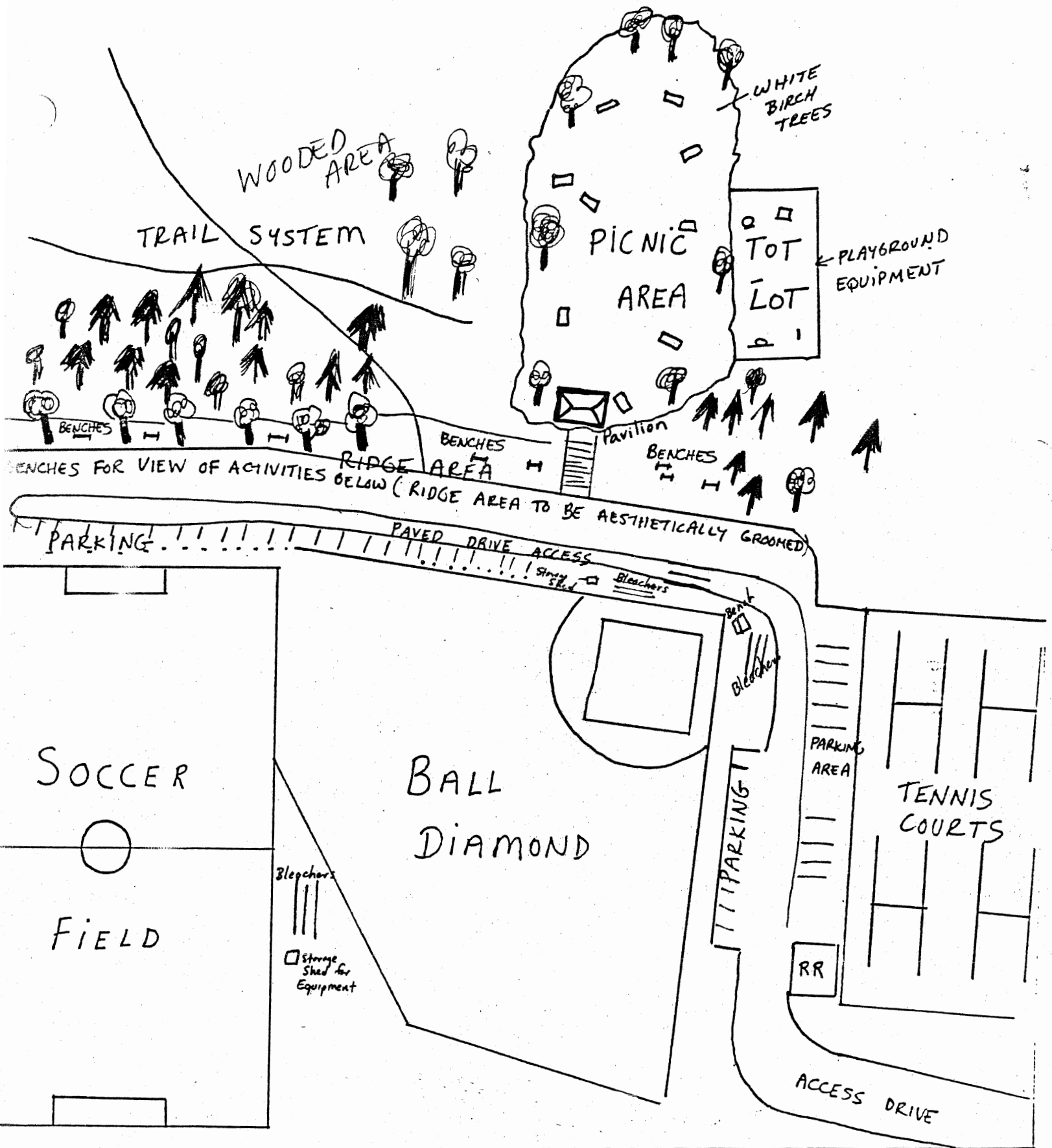
# RECREATION AREA #1



Village of Harvey



Scale 1" = 200



## CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

### RECREATION AREA II, BEAVER GROVE

#### SITE DATE

The Beaver Grove site contains approximately 14 acres. The site has 1000 feet of frontage on County Road 480 and 500 feet of frontage on U.S. 41. Big Creek is the eastern boundary of the property (see map on p. 17).

Access could be provided from either U.S. 41 or County Road 480.

#### ZONING

The site is zoned R-1. The R-1 zoning district permits parks as a conditional use subject to Chocolay Township Planning Commission approval.

#### ADJOINING LAND USES

To the east of the site is the intersection of County Road 480 and U.S. 41 just north of the Beaver Grove area. The community of Beaver Grove contains two small stores and gas stations, a bank and a restaurant, and residential neighborhood as well as residential neighborhood south along U.S. 41, north along U.S. 41 to Harvey and west along County Road 480 to Little Lake Road, and the Briarwood/Country Side Subdivision development.

To the north is idle farmland. Along U.S. 41 north towards Harvey is residential development and several developments just off U.S. 41.

To the west is idle farmland zoned R-1.

To the south is County Road 480 and one residence. Most of the nearby land to the south is held by the Michigan Department of Corrections and is used for farmland.

#### ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The parcel is accessible to the Beaver Grove area.

The parcel has a lot of frontage on Big Creek which provides an opportunity for protecting Big Creek from residential development as well as providing a fishing opportunity and unique passive and scenic aesthetic value.

The western portion of the site seems suitable to typical recreational developments such as a ball diamond and/or soccerfield, playground area, and picnic area.

Priority should be given to Beaver Grove residents in developing a site plan.

Assistance and cooperation with community groups and area residents is recommended in development of this area wherever possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

SHORT TERM

1987	Acquisition; site survey
1987	Conduct public hearing on site development planning
1988-89	Phase I: development of infrastructure (roads, parking, fencing, restrooms, trail) Phase II, Part I: development of facilities: tot lot playground, picnic area, multi-use field
1990	Phase II, Part II: facilities development: soccerfield, baseball diamond





## CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE AREA - BEAVER GROVE

### SITE DATA

The subject property comprising 12.33 acres is vacant and was apparently used for cattle grazing in the past which seriously damaged the stability of the surface cover. The west two-thirds of the area is open (grass and blow sand). The east portion is swamp with Voce Creek traversing the area (see map on p. 20).

The site is currently undeveloped. The parcel was purchased with the use of LAWCON Grants (50-50 match) in 1979.

### SOILS

The East Portion of the property is classified as Tawas Muck (0%-2% slope). A typical Tawas Muck has a very dark grayish brown muck surface layer about four inches thick with other organic layers ranging from sixteen to fifty-one inches deep.

The water table is near the surface most of the year and seldom drops below six to eighteen inches. Runoff is very slow and water tends to pond after snowmelt and after unusually heavy rains.

The West One-Third is Seney Sand which is typically a mixture of black and pinkish gray sand which has rapid permeability and very low available water capacity. Natural fertility is low. The ground cover in this area consists of grasses.

The Center One-Third is classified as a blowout area. Wind erosion has opened this area and it will continue to enlarge unless stabilized. An attempt has been made to stabilize part of the blowout along the north line by planting grass.

### LAND CHARACTERISTICS

The topography of the west two-thirds is gently rolling and dry. The east end is level and wet. Voce Creek, a twenty-four inch wide water course which bisects the swampy area, adds little to the aesthetic value of the property.

Access to the property is provided by frontage on U.S. 41.

### GROUND COVER

The western portion of the site is cleared rolling sand dune. The eastern portion is covered with Tag Alder, Balsam, Cedar and White Spruce. There are some merchantable white spruce and balsam scattered throughout the site but not a sufficient amount to be economically recoverable.

## ZONING

This 12.33 acre parcel is zoned Rural Residential #2. This district provides for "parks" as a conditional use on lots of 20 acres or more.

## ADJOINING LAND USES

The parcel is located just south of Beaver Grove. Adjoining land uses to the north include residential along U.S. 41. To the south is some low density residential and agricultural uses. To the east is located woodland and the western area is adjacent to U.S. 41.

## ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- \* The parcel does not conform to local zoning in terms of lot size.
- \* The parcel contains a sand blowout area. This along with the muck area make the site costly and difficult to develop into typical recreational facilities.
- \* The parcel has frontage on a small watercourse.
- \* The parcel is located a little too far south to be readily accessible the the Beaver Grove developing areas.
- \* The lack of a bike path to this area could pose a traffic problem for children gaining access to this recreation area.

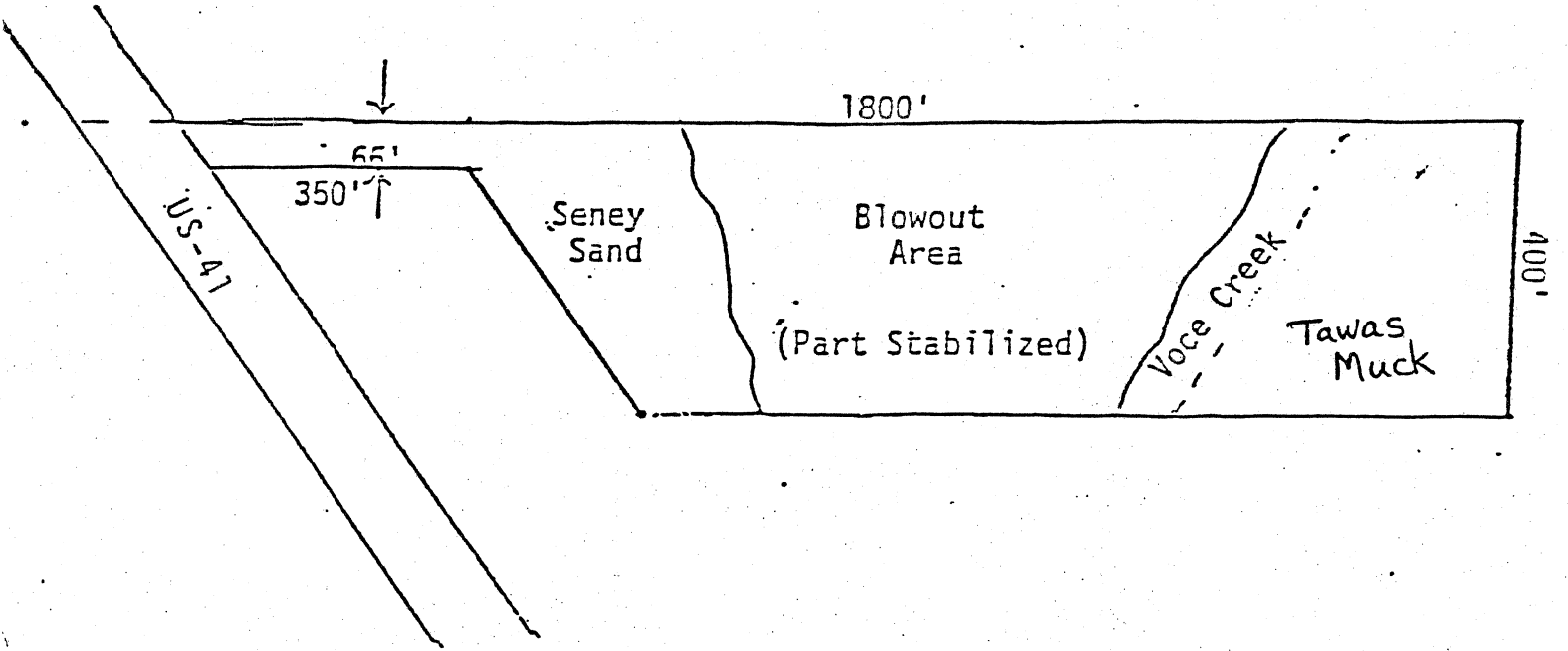
## RECOMMENDATIONS

### SHORT TERM

This property is considered unfeasible for typical recreational development. Future use possibilities should be reviewed.

### LONG TERM

Hold as an open space site. Identify potential needs or hold in open space.



## CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP MARINA

The marina site is located along Main Street in the northern portion of the Village of Harvey along the Chocolay River (see maps pp. 23 and 24).

The Township purchased this property in 1975.

### DEVELOPMENT

The site presently contains a boat launch facility and skid pier.

In 1983 the Township undertook a Resource Conservation and Development project and assisted with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil District. The project was undertaken due to a soil erosion and sedimentation problem caused by a lack of vegetation cover.

The treatment included land grading, shaping, planting of adaptive grasses and legumes, as well as installation of erosion control structures such as rock riprap, diversion, recreation walkway, and barrier posts.

Funding of the projects involved local monies as well as the RC&D funding from the Federal Government. The project was completed in late summer 1983. The Township will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the improvement. This will consist of repairing damaged barrier posts, applying fertilizer, and repairing damaged seeded areas.

The picnic area/grill was developed in 1985 with assistance from the Boy Scouts and Township funds.

Further site identification is on-going as well as plans for installing small docks in 1987.

### SOILS

The soils are Deer Park Sand with 0 to 8% slope. These soils indicate suitability factors which suggest severe limitations for parks due to blowing sand. However, this should be overcome with the recent improvements including adequate maintenance.

### ZONING

The property is zoned R-1.

### ADJOINING LAND USES

The parcel is surrounded by single family residential uses. To the immediate south is the Harvey area.

## ISSUES

- \* The Township should maintain the area to prevent erosion.
- \* The site has frontage on the Chocolay River.
- \* The site provides boat access to Lake Superior. However, the mouth is often too shallow to permit access. The Township should follow up with methods to keep this area open since the marina is located 1/4 mile upstream from Lake Superior.
- \* Future development should be compatible with the site and its future uses.
- \* The ramps and dock require maintenance and repair.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

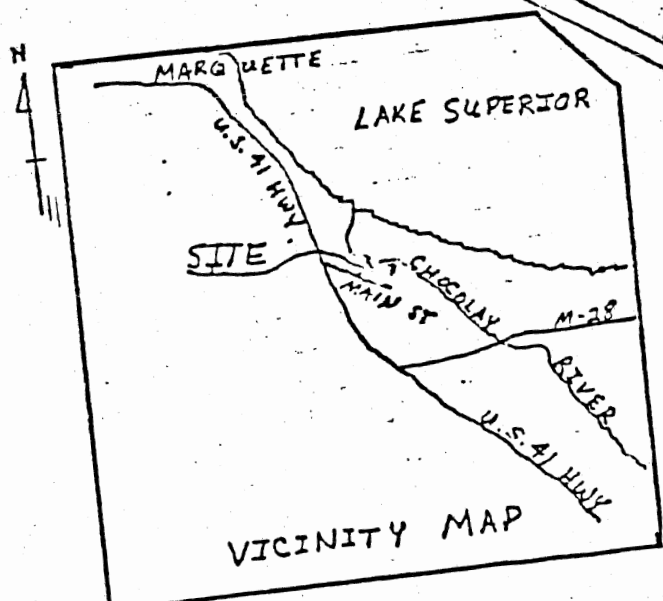
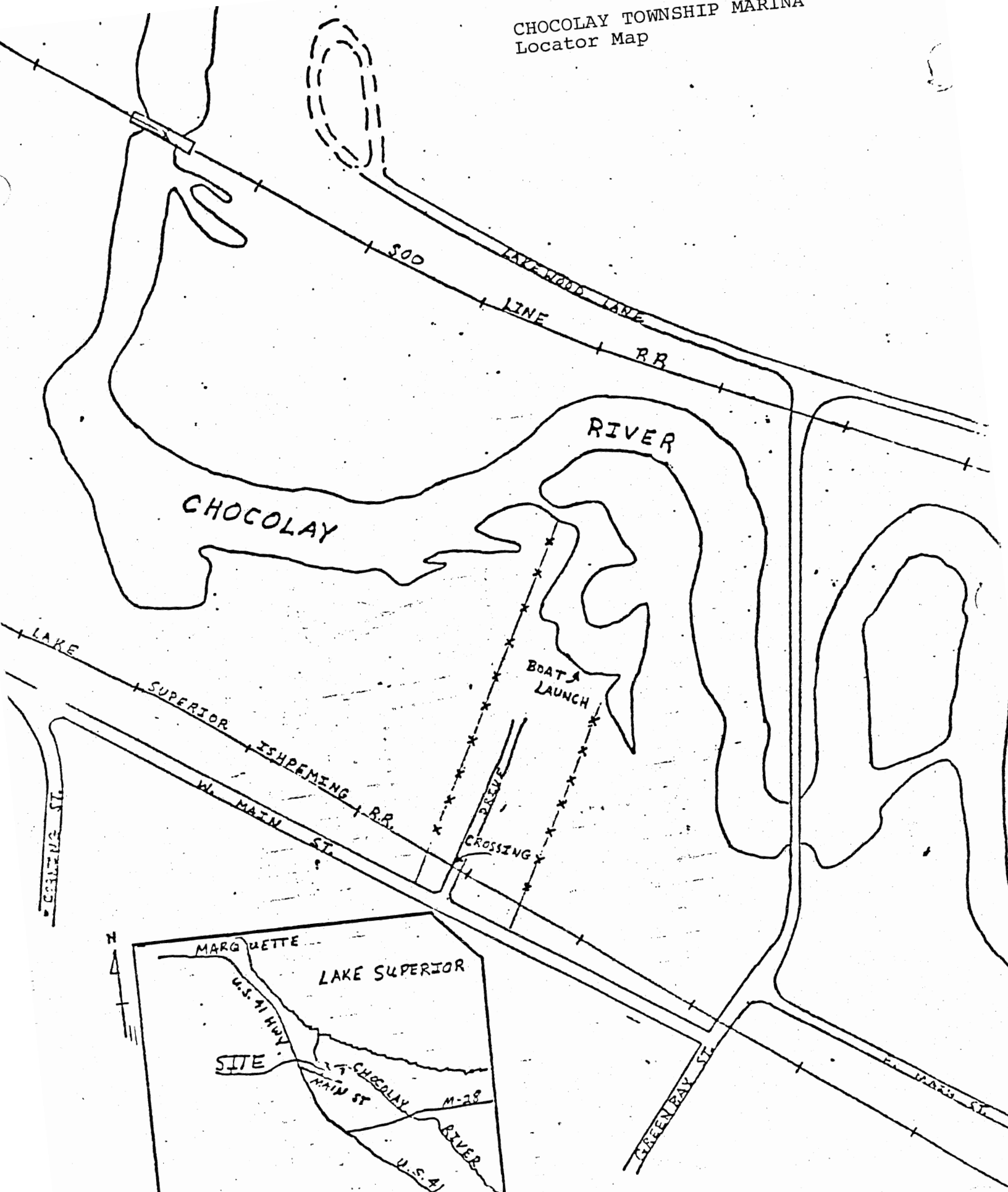
### SHORT TERM

Small docks should be installed to provide a place for boats to be tied up for the fishing and boating season. The docks could be rented out to defray their maintenance costs. The present skid pier is only provided for launching boats.

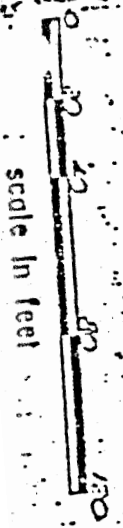
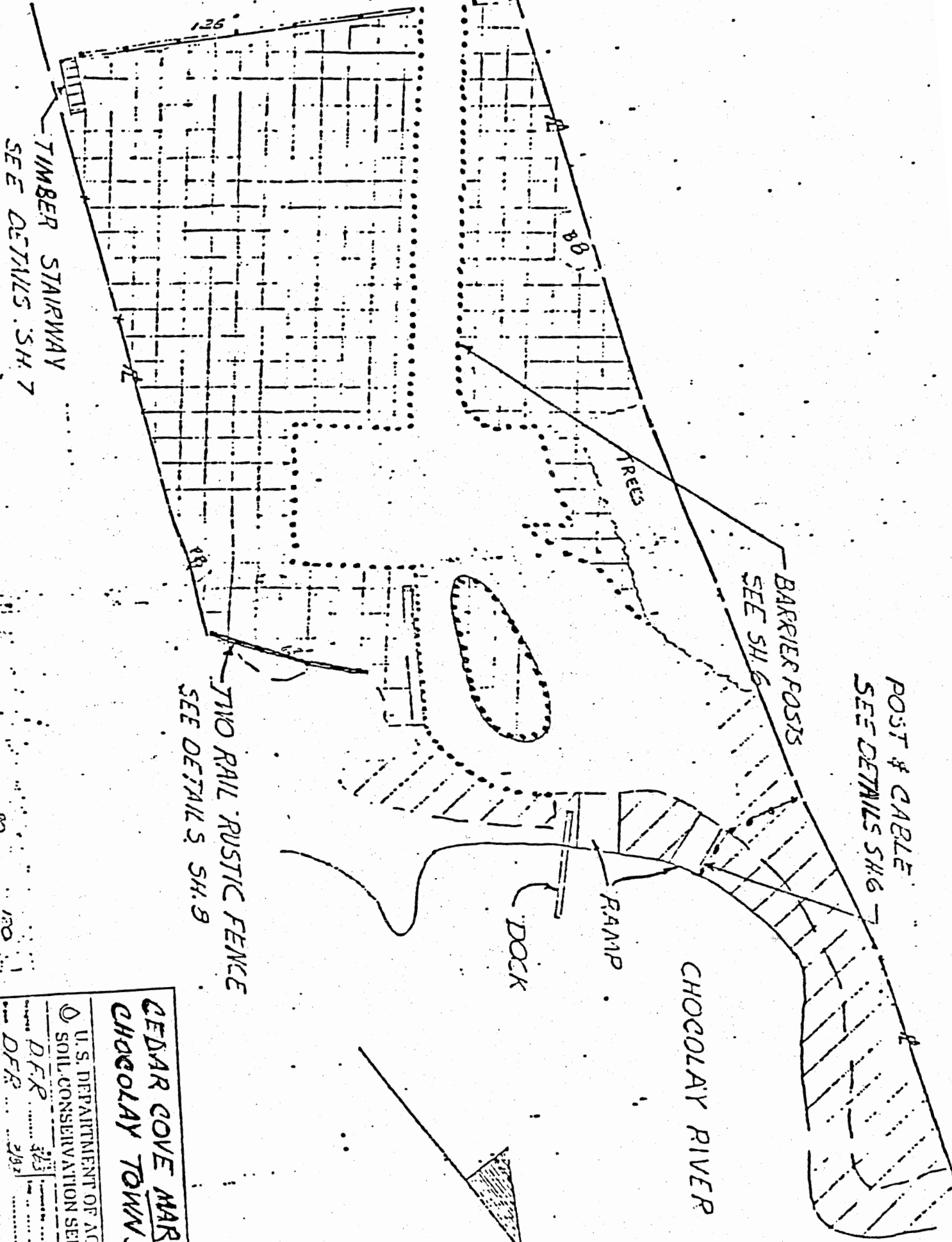
### LONG TERM

Efforts should continue to stabilize and deepen the river mouth to provide a stabilized channel for access to Lake Superior. The channel in its present state can vary daily in depth and location and at times is not navigable except for very small crafts. The Township should continue to work with Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Natural Resources to that end.

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP MARINA  
Locator Map



MAIN STREET.



CEDAR COVE MARINA  
 CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
 D.F.R. 343  
 D.F.R. 2/8/21



## GREEN GARDEN CHOCOLAY RIVER SITE

The Township owns a small site in the south central portion of the Township split by the Green Garden Road where the Green Garden Bridge intersects the Chocolay River. This site was given to the Township in 1949 to provide a park, swimming area and other recreational opportunities for children in the Township. The parcel is located in Section 25, Township 47 N, Range 24 W (see map on p. 27).

### DEVELOPMENT

Both sites are currently undeveloped. Current uses of the property consist of a swimming area, fishing site and boat access site to the Chocolay River. Actual size is undetermined but it is estimated that one site is about 1/3 of an acre with the larger site being about 3/4 of an acre.

### SOILS

The soils are Seney-Rousseau-Ocqueoc complex type.

These soils have severe limitations for picnic areas, paths and trails due to the general excessive slope and sand erosion. One site is covered with wood while the southern site is cleared and fairly level.

### ZONING

The parcels are zoned Rural Residential-2. This allows parks as a conditional use on parcels of 20 acres. These sites are, however, lots of record which exempts them from the minimum lot sizes.

### ADJOINING LAND USES

Surrounding land uses include residential and recreational uses.

### DEED RESTRICTIONS

The deed giving title to the Township contains a requirement that the property be used "exclusively for the purpose of providing a park, swimming and other recreational facilities for children and other members of the public in and about the Township of Chocolay."

### ISSUES

- \* Development of this area should comply with deed restrictions.
- \* This area should continue to provide low intensity recreation.

\* Location of this site near Green Garden Road creates a short site distance to the bridge which could be a traffic problem.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### SHORT TERM

Determine the boundaries of the site by survey or other method. Budgeted for in 1987.

Identify the site by signing the area in 1987.

Improve the access drive and parking area. The parking area should be located on the east end of the parcel.

Provide a boat access ramp. This would require improving the existing trail launch by placing a permanent launch site in its place. This is planned to be developed in 1987.

### LONG TERM

Develop a picnic area for low intensity picnic use.

### PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1. Limited off-road parking
2. Picnic table/grill
3. Limited boat dock

GREEN GARDEN SITE

CHOCOLAY RIVER

GREEN GARDEN ROAD

L.S. & I.R.R.

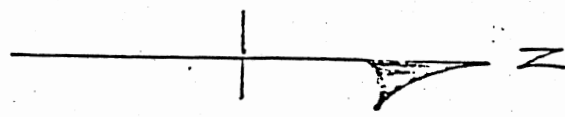
GREENFIELD ROAD

NW1/4 SEC. 28

T 47 N

R 24 W

SHADED AREAS  
INDICATE TOWNSHIP  
OWNED PROPERTY



## OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### CHOCOLAY LIONS CLUB PARK

This site is located on M-28 East near the Varvil Center approximately 2.5 miles east of the intersection of U.S. 41 and M-28. The site is owned by the Marquette Public Schools and is being leased by the Lions Club. The site contains approximately 10.7 acres of land.

#### DEVELOPMENT

The site currently includes one balldiamond and a basketball area. In the winter an area is flooded and used as an ice rink. A second balldiamond is being developed on the southern portion of the parcel.

#### SURVEY AND SITE DATA

No survey has been done on this area.

The site contains 500 feet of frontage on M-28 East and is approximately 1,000 feet deep.

#### ZONING

The parcel is zoned Residential-1.

### STATE OF MICHIGAN SCENIC TURNOUTS

The State of Michigan has two areas along Lake Superior shoreline which provide summer recreation including swimming and picnic areas as well as rest stops for tourists.

Area #1 is located approximately 7 miles east of the U.S. 41/M-28 intersection just past Kawbawgam Road. This area consists of 1 1/2 miles of frontage on Lake Superior and M-28 Highway.

Area #2 is located approximately 11 miles east of U.S. 41/M-28 intersection near Sand River. This area consists of 1/2 mile of frontage on Lake Superior and M-28 Highway.

### GITCHEE GUMEE CAMPGROUND

A privately owned campground (40 sites currently) owned and operated by Jeff Glass, located at 2048 M-28, was developed in 1980. The campground is planned to accomodate 100 sites utilizing between 20 and 30 acres in accordance with a Conditional Use Permit approved by the Chocolay Township Planning Commission in October 1976. The site is located aproximately 7 miles east of the intersection of U.S. 41/M-28. The campground

consists of a large office, shower, restrooms, laundry complex. Approximately 1/2 of the site contains water/sewer and electricity with the remaining sites being unimproved. The parcel is zoned Rural Residential-2.

#### **MICHIGAN DNR PUBLIC ACCESS AND FISHING SITE**

This site is located just east of the intersection of M-28 and U.S. 41 South. The site has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and provides a fishing site and public access to the Chocolay River.

#### **MICHIGAN DNR WATERFOWL AREA**

This site is located just east of Kawbawgam located with access off of Kawbawgam Road. This site provides a fishing and hunting area on Lake LeVassuer.

#### **MICHIGAN DNR FLOODING AREA - SAND RIVER**

This site is located on the east portion of the Township in sections 11, 12, 12, and 14 in Township 47 North, 23 West containing approximately 700 acres. This site is a wildlife flooding area.

#### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- \* The Lions Club Park provides a balldiamond and limited recreation for the M-28 Lakewood Area.
- \* The Township should assist the Lions Park to insure in public ownership of this recreation opportunity.
- \* Overall Recreation Planning within the Township should recognize and complement the long term plans of the Lions Club.
- \* The Township should acquire land for recreation in the M-28 Lakewood Area or consider the Lions Club Park for this area.
- \* The State owned turnouts, public access, and Wildlife Flooding Area provide non-traditional recreational facilities and opportunities within the Township for Township residents.
- \* The scenic turnouts owned by the State Highway Department require maintenance and upgrading. In the summer of 1984 the Township contracted with the State and provided these services. Cooperative efforts such as this should continue between the State and local official to insure that the facilities meet the needs they are intended to provide.

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following standards are compared to facilities currently provided in Chocolay Township (includes semi-public and those provided specifically by the Township). The standards are based on standards of the National Recreation and Parks Association. Included in these guidelines are standards for specific facilities within urban areas.

The Township has utilized these standards as a general basis to measure an excess/deficiency as well as sizing factor. Additionally, the Township considered a opinion questionnaire which indicated the Township residents' desires (1979).

DEMANDS:                      Ball Diamonds                      Tennis Courts  
   Ice Rinks                                  Parks/Picnic Areas

More recent community demands have expressed a desire for a Soccer Facility based on the creation of a soccer league consisting of 600 area youths. The need for a facility is based on the fact that only one facility is available for use within the greater Marquette area. The Chocolay Township Soccer Field (Jack Urbaniak Memorial Soccer Field) was completed in late summer of 1984. Funding was obtained through a donation from Jack's Foods Incorporated and local Township funds. Development of the soccer field was accomplished with labor provided by the Township, Youth Corp crews, and Chocolay resident volunteers.

### COMPARISON OF STANDARDS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

FACILITY	EXISTING	GUIDELINES	DEFICIENCY
Tennis Courts	4	12	-8
Basketball	3	10	-7
Ballfields	3	6	-3
Park Areas	1	1	0
Ice Rink	1	2	-1
Trails	1	1/7	+1
Community Playground	1	1	0

Guideline suggests one community playground of about 15-25 acres serving approximately 1,000 to 5,000 population. This is Recreation Area #1 which is 17 acres in size and serves 5,685 people per 1980 census.

Some recreation opportunities are provided for Chocolay residents due to its close proximity to the City of Marquette.

## DETERMINATION OF RECREATION DEFICIENCY AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The determination of recreation deficiency and needs assessment on a broad scale considers the standards as set forth in the National Recreation and Parks Association. On a local scale the following items are considered:

1. Analyzing demand/supply relationships
2. Opinion Survey Questionnaires
3. Local officials recommendations/interactions
4. Area Service Organizations
5. Multi-Use Potential/Age Groups

The Township Board utilized the interaction between the Township Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator, Public Works Department, local service organizations, Soil Conservation Department, Marquette Area Public Schools officials, Regional and County Planning Commissions to develop a recreational needs analysis. The Township Planning Commission serves in the capacity of a park and recreation advisory board.

Observation as well as the opinion questionnaire indicated support for ball diamonds, park and picnic areas, tennis courts, playground equipment, as well as a saturation of existing facilities. Public hearings are also a part of the Recreation Planning process. The Township Recreation Area #1 adjacent to the Marquette Public Elementary School indicates a user demand for playground equipment and tot lot area adjacent to school facilities.

In 1987, a public hearing was held for recreation projects in the Beaver Grove area. Public comments were received from area residents supporting recreational development of a park for Beaver Grove residents. Additional public comment was received from the Soccer Association and Little League supporting the development for their needs.

## LONG RANGE GOALS (6 years and longer)

The Township's long range goals in recreation include the development of three recreation areas approximately ten to fifteen acres in size in the three major population areas of the Township. These include Recreation Area #1, a 17 acre parcel which is intended to be developed as a multi-use community playground. The other recreation areas are to be approximately ten to fifteen acres in size located in the Beaver Grove area and the M-28 Lakewood Area. These areas will not be as intensely developed as Recreation Area #1 located in Harvey, but will be developed as larger neighborhood park areas including possible facilities such as ball diamonds, picnic areas, playground equipment, etc. The Township should continue to work with the Chocolay Lions Club and Marquette School District to insure that the Lions Club Park on M-28 be utilized and developed to complement the overall Township's long range recreation plans for that area.

## SHORT TERM GOALS (1 to 5 years)

1. Acquire and development a recreation park in the Beaver Grove area. 1987-1991.
2. Develop docks at the marina. 1987.
3. Survey the Green Garden site and develop a development plan. 1987.
4. Maintain and monitor the uses at Recreation Area I.

## SHORT TERM PRIORITY LIST

- 1987      Acquire site in Beaver Grove for recreational development.  
            Develop small docks at the marina.  
            Survey the Green Garden Chocolay River site. Develop a boat launch.
- 1988-      Recreation Area II Beaver Gove  
1989      Phase I Development of Infrastructure: road access, parking, restrooms, trail to Big Creek  
            Phase II, Part I Development: playground, picnic area, multi-use field
- 1990      Recreation Area II Beaver Grove  
            Phase II, Part II Development: soccerfield, ballfield
- 1991      Review and upgrade existing facilities at Recreation Area I

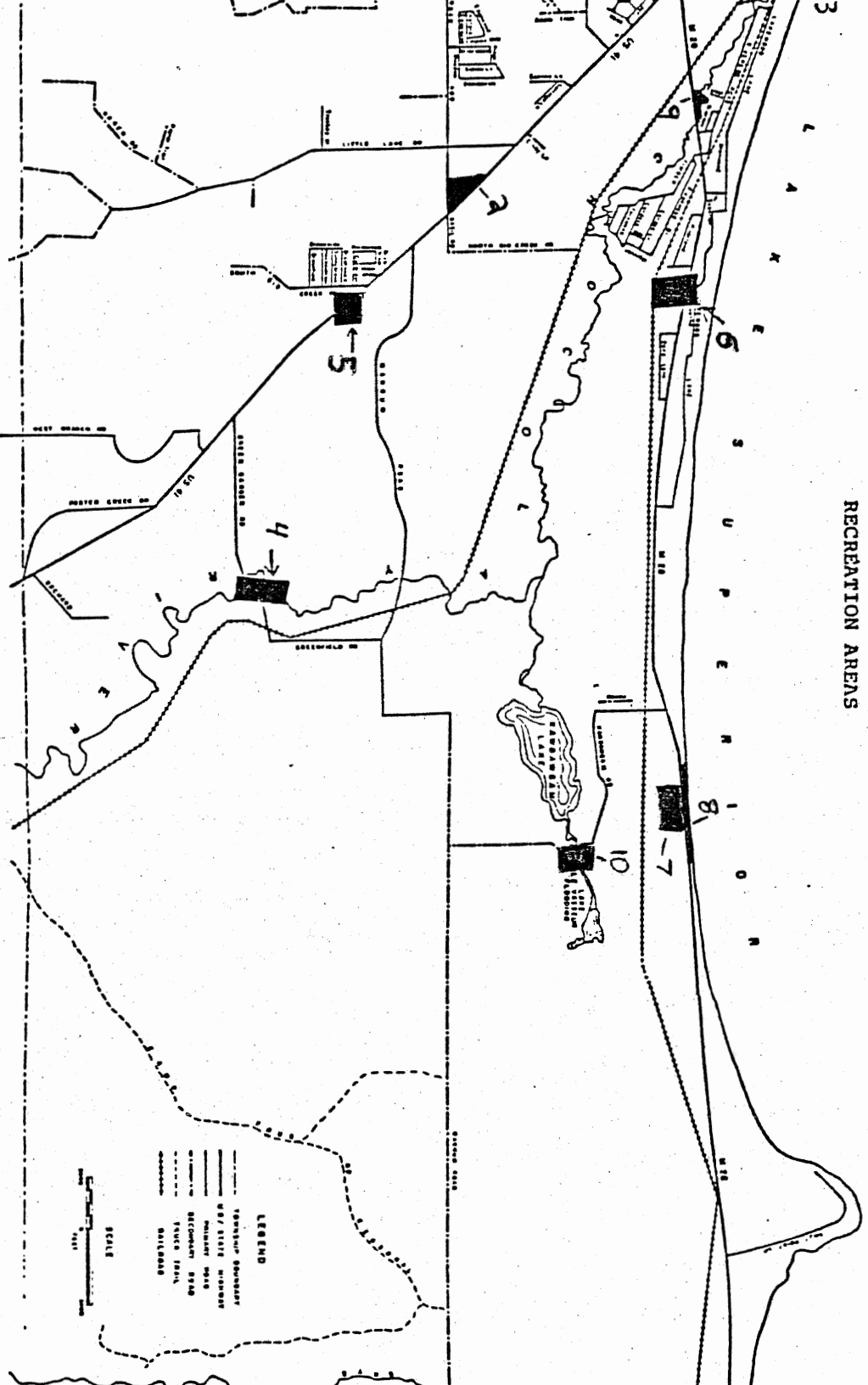


**FINANCIAL PLAN**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FUNDING AND SOURCE</u>
1987	Acquire site for Recreation Area II Beaver Grove	\$16,400 (25% Capital Outlay Township Budget and 75% MNRTF aquisition grant)
	Green Garden Chocolay River Site: survey, improve access, boat launch, possibly picnic table	\$1,500 from Township Capital Improvement Fund Labor donated by Lions Club
	Township Marina: install docks	\$5,360 from Township Capital Improvement Fund
1988-89	Recreation Area II Phase I development, infrastructure and trail access. Phase II, Part I development Tot Lot/playground, picnic area, multiuse field	\$32,637 (75% MNRTF, 25% local match, to be applied for)
1990	Recreation Area II Phase II, Part II development	\$30,000 (75% MNRTF, 25% local match, to be applied for)
1991	Maintenance of Recreation Area I	\$10,000

# CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP

## RECREATION AREAS



**STATE OWNED:**

- 1. Recreation Area I (17.17 acres)
- 2. Recreation Area II (14 acres)
- 3. Chocolay Township Marina
- 4. Chocolay River Green Garden Site
- 5. Chocolay Township Open Space Area

**OTHER:**

- 6. Chocolay Township Lions Club Park
- 7. Gitchee Gumee Campground
- 8. Michigan State Scenic Turnouts
- 9. Michigan DNR Public Access - Chocolay
- 10. Michigan DNR Waterfowl Area - Lake Lew
- 11. Michigan DNR Flooding Area - Sand Riv

# CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP LAND USE



## LEGEND

- MAP UNIT # LAND
- 1 URBAN BUILT
- 2 RESIDENTIAL
- 3 COMMERCIAL
- 4 INDUSTRIAL
- 5 PETROCHEMICAL
- 6 TRANSPORTATION UTILITIES
- 7 AIR TRAFFIC
- 8 COMMUNITY
- 9 ELECTRIC & IRRAWAY
- 10 GAS STORAGE
- 11 PETROL
- 12 SOLID WASTE
- 13 SEWAGE
- 14 WASTE WATER
- 15 MISC
- 16 EXTRACTIVE
- 17 OPEN PIT
- 18 SHAFT
- 19 WELLS
- 20 OPEN SPACE
- 21 OUTDOOR RECREATION
- 22 AGRICULTURE
- 23 CROP AND FOREST LAND
- 24 RANGELAND
- 25 HERBAGEOUS
- 26 SHRUB RANGE
- 27 FOREST LAND
- 28 BROADLEAF CONIFEROUS
- 29 MIXED BROADLEAF
- 30 WATER
- 31 STREAMS AND LAKES
- 32 RESERVOIRS
- 33 GREAT LAKES
- 34 WETLANDS
- 35 AQUATIC BENTHIC
- 36 FLATS
- 37 SHRUB/SHRUB FORESTED
- 38 BATHING
- 39 SAND DUNE
- 40 BARE EXPOSED

SCALE: 1" = 1 mile