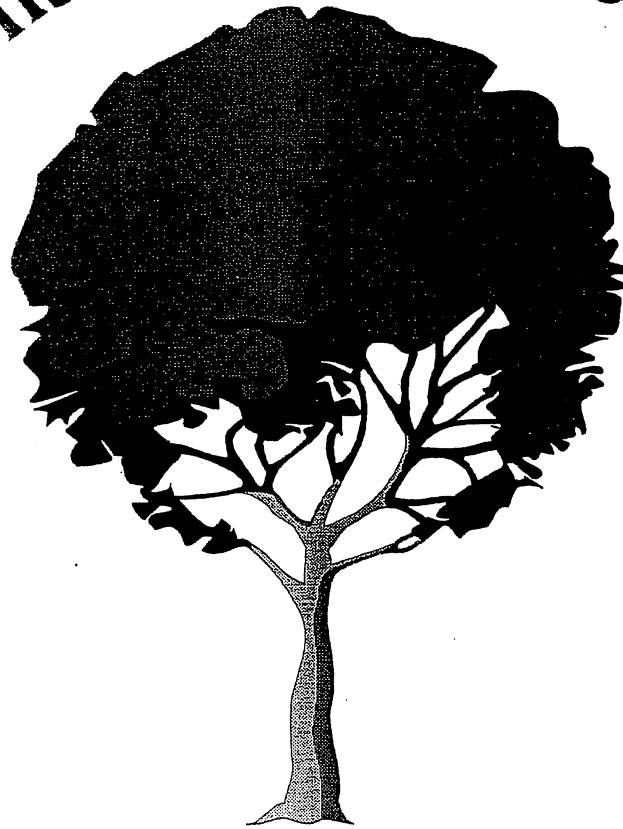


1998 RECREATION PLAN

Charter Township of Chocolay, Michigan



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CHOCOLAY, MICHIGAN

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This plan is constructed in various sections, each directed at different aspects of the Recreation Plan. The introduction begins by describing the history of recreation in the township and the intent of the plan's construction. Within the administrative structure the flow of legislative action is described as well as a list of advisory boards which work within the administration. A community profile is included, addressing the current and future socio/economic status of the community. Also, contained is a profile of the natural features of the township. The inventory addresses township owned recreation areas and other developed recreation areas analyzing each park by describing current site situations. The process of planning this document is also addressed, including the gathering of data and public input, and the plan's cohesive nature in regard to other legal township documents. The short and long term goals for township recreation areas are stated as well as a prioritization of these goals. Throughout the document are maps and various figures that help clarify material covered in the text.

Recreation can and does enhance the quality of life in a community. When recreational opportunities are properly planned, they have a positive impact on the local economy as well as provide creative outlets for people of all ages. The intent of this plan is to define the recreational needs of Chocolay Township and to foster a diversity of recreational opportunities for all to enjoy.

The Chocolay Township Board, its Department of Public Works, and its Department of Planning & Research created this plan to provide a long term planning program that establishes, maintains, and improves recreational opportunities within the township. A sound planning document analyzes the historic, current, and future demand and use patterns. It encourages citizen involvement and provides for public input.

The Chocolay Township Recreation Plan is designed following the Michigan Department of Natural Resources standards along with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements which are necessary for grant approval. The plan will be periodically reviewed and revised as conditions within the township change. This recreation plan will serve as a working guide for an enriched lifestyle for all the residents of Chocolay Township, the surrounding area and for all those who visit.

In the decade between 1966 and 1976 the population had more than doubled. Prior to this era the population was slightly less than 2,200 residents. It was during the rapid growth period that Chocolay Township officials and the residents recognized the need for additional recreational facilities within the jurisdiction. Other than the gymnasium at Silver Creek School, Chocolay Township did not have any other public recreation facilities available for its residents.

In 1949 the Spear family donated approximately 1.08 acres on both sides of the Chocolay River by Green Garden Road. This property was deeded to the township residents specifically for recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating, and picnicking. It remains undeveloped to this date.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (M-DOT) has owned three roadside turnoffs along the M-28 corridor in Chocolay Township for more than forty years. The turnoffs received major improvements in the early 1980s and provide the only direct public access to Lake Superior within the township. The township maintains these sites under contract with M-DOT.

The Silver Creek Recreation Area that exists today was procured and developed in stages over a 39 year period. In 1958, 17.1 acres were purchased by the township along Silver Creek Road with the intentions of developing the property into a major recreational facility. It was not until the mid-1960s through the 1980s however, that a number of construction projects were completed. In 1994, the township expanded the facility by purchasing 6.6 acres adjacent to the original 17.1 acre parcel. Two small access lots to the facility were also acquired that same year. To date about one half of the Silver Creek Recreation Area is developed and the other half is in various stages of planning and completion.

In 1975, the township purchased a privately owned marina in the village of Harvey on the Chocolay River. The Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad Company (LS&I) and Elizabeth Heufelder donated to the township a 78.5 ft. by 150 ft. right-of-way by Main Street in 1983 to furnish improved access to the marina. Since then, a number of improvements have been made to the property.

In 1979, the township purchased 12.33 acres of open space land located adjacent to US-41 just south of the Beaver Grove location. The Voce Creek Recreation Area has a soil profile that is quite unique and is not suitable for development as a conventional recreation site. However, it does have the potential to support environmental recreation activities such as an interpretive bog walk, an experiment station and passive recreational uses.

The property where the Chocolay Township Municipal Complex is currently situated was purchased in three phases. This 2.79 acre parcel along US-41 in the village of Harvey has also been developed as a picnic location for tourists and residents and an ice skating rink in winter.

In 1982 M-DOT constructed a 1.4 acre fishing access site on the Chocolay River by M-28. In 1995, through a transfer of properties, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received ownership of this site along with 5.7 acres adjacent to the site. Since then, the DNR has added a barrier free fishing pier, restroom facilities, and improved parking to the property. All of the M-DOT sites are very popular with the residents of the township as well as with tourists.

The most recent acquisitions for the Chocolay Township recreation directory have been the parcels comprising the Beaver Grove Recreation Area. Similar to the Silver Creek Recreation Area, the Beaver Grove site was purchased and developed in stages. In 1987, 15.11 acres were purchased on the northwest corner of US-41 and CR 480 in the Beaver Grove location. Trails along Big Creek are now completed. Ball fields and soccer fields have been built. In 1990, 14 acres adjoining the north line of the original parcel were purchased. To date it is still used for crop production by MI Department of Corrections Farm System. Plans to develop these parcels for expanded recreation use are still underway.

The Department of Natural Resources sold a three-acre parcel of undeveloped lowland to the township in 1991. The Beaver Grove Swamp is located by US-41 just a few hundred feet north of the Beaver Grove Recreation Area. This property has the potential of being developed as a passive environmental recreation site which could be tied into the Beaver Grove Recreation Area. Action plans for this parcel are pending.

Finally, the Township Board created an Ad Hoc Committee in 1995 to investigate trail development with the Township. This committee is developing a comprehensive plan for multi use trails. The trail system will incorporate the M-DOT bike path along US 41 and tie into trail development heading east of US 41 to the Alger County line, for snowmobile use in the winter months and hiking/biking in the summer months. Additional trails will connect some of the recreational areas with the two elementary Marquette Area Public Schools in Chocolay Township.

Advisory Board/Committee System

On occasion, the Chocoley Township Planning Commission forms committees to assist in the development of recreation policies, goals, and procedures. Currently, an Ad Hoc Trails Committee has been formed to look at the potential for multi-use and snowmobile trails within the township. Any recommendations made by this committee will be presented to the Chocoley Township Planning Commission for review.

Public/Volunteer Organizations

The public has the opportunity to offer input and assistance in nearly every phase of recreation administration. More specifically, the public can make suggestions to the Director of Planning and Research, the DPW Supervisor, the Township Board, and to the Planning Commission. Persons can also serve on Ad Hoc Committees and Boards. In addition, citizens can volunteer individually or with groups who help with the upkeep of the recreation areas within the township. Below is a description of these groups within Chocoley Township.

S.A.Y. Soccer Association--Marquette area wide children's soccer group which uses soccer fields nearly every day in the summer months in Chocoley Charter Township.

Chocoley Township Volunteer Fire Department--Group of approximately 26 persons who volunteer their time to provide fire protection to Chocoley Township. Volunteers carry pagers which notify them of when their services are required.

Chocoley Township Business Association--Group of township and area business owners who share a concern for the development and character of the township.

Chocoley Township Lion's Club--Lion's International volunteer organization within Chocoley Township.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION BY THE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

The role of the Township Board in administration regarding recreation primarily revolves around their ability to decide on financial matters within the township. The operating revenues for township recreation areas are for the most part derived from general tax revenues. Additional funding has been provided in the past via State Grants (LawCon, Trust and Bond Fund, etc.) and local funding sources including the SAY Soccer Association, and local contractors who donate material and time to various projects. However, in recent years state grants have not been available for the types of improvement projects the township has proposed.

The recreation operating and capital improvement budget is prepared by the Supervisor of the

DPW. This budget request is then reviewed by the Township Supervisor who makes the recommendation to the Township Board for final approval. Over the past five years the general fund recreation budget for Chocolay Township has been approximately 2% of the total township operating funds. Additionally, the township has over the last five years placed \$65,632.00 into capital improvements for the recreation areas.

equipment, tot lots, and youth recreation programs are very much in demand. The 21-44 age group increased consistently from 1960 to 1980, but the 1990 Census shows a slight reverse in this trend as the group decreased by 1.8%. The 45-64 year age group had been stable until 1990 when it increased by 4.1%. The 65-year age group showed a similar increase of 4.3% in the 1990 Census. Given this increase in residents between the ages of 45 and 64, the recreational demands of these residents must also be met by the recreation plan. The population pyramid found in this section indicates the urgency of the situation by clearly illustrating the large mass of aging baby-boomers (between the ages of 30 and 60) living within Chocolay Township. As this population continues to age, new facilities and activity programs directed toward older populations will be a valuable asset to the community. Trail systems and picnic areas are good examples of new facilities that could be developed to accommodate this age group.

TABLE III.

SEX & RACE					
MALE	FEMALE	WHITE	BLACK	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN
3053	2972	5806	45	127	43

The population of the township is predominately white with the next largest race being Native Americans. The number of Native Americans is expected to increase in the 2000 U.S. Census as a result of the opening of the Native American Housing Development.

TABLE IV.

MOBILITY AND SELF-CARE LIMITATION STATUS BY AGE			
	16-64 YEARS	65-74 YEARS	75+ YEARS
MOBILITY AND SELF-CARE LIMITATION	26	9	23
SELF-CARE LIMITATION ONLY	5	0	8
MOBILITY LIMITATION ONLY	24	26	2
TOTAL PERSONS IN EACH AGE BRACKET	55	35	25

The table above clearly indicates that there are persons living in the township with mobility and/or self-care limitations. It is likely that these figures will increase as the baby-boomers continue to age. Persons with mobility and/or self-care limitations have the same desires for recreation and

leisure opportunities as other township residents. Therefore, it is important that the public recreation facilities within the township be accessible to these residents.

TABLE V.

EMPLOYMENT (Figures based on population 16 years and over = 4388 persons)			
% IN LABOR FORCE	% FEMALE	TOTAL	% UNEMPLOYED
70.4	62.9	3027	6.6

TABLE VI.

INCOME (dollars)			FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL	
PER CAPITA	HOUSEHOLD	FAMILY	NUMBER	PERCENT
12,527.00	33,291.00	36,714.00	127	7.6

TABLE VII.

EDUCATION (Based on persons 25 years and over = 3673 persons)	
% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR HIGHER	% WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER
84.2	27.0

Unemployment in the township is low. This is due in part to the high level of education among the residents of the township. Per capita income is the second highest in the county and is slightly below the state average of \$14,154.00. Family income is the highest in the county and is slightly above the state average of \$36,652.00.

It is expected that the population of the township will continue to grow for a period of time based upon the construction of new homes and businesses that are occurring in and around the City of Marquette, the growth of the regional medical center, and the role that Marquette General Hospital has taken to expand its expertise in various medical disciplines.

Another important fact about the persons in Chocolay Township is that a significant portion of the population is living on some type of fixed income. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, 7.5% of residents are receiving public assistance (excluding SSI and welfare), 5% are benefitting from retirement income, and 6% of residents are receiving social security.

Moreover, 173 children in Chocolay Township live below the poverty line and 40 elderly people in Chocolay live in poverty. This information suggests that several persons in Chocolay Township have limited financial resources. Therefore, public recreation areas are invaluable resources because they provide free sources of entertainment to people who often cannot afford to pay for recreational opportunities. Consequently, without adequate public facilities, these people would be deprived of recreation opportunities.

PHYSICAL/NATURAL/CLIMATIC FEATURES

Physical Features

Chocolay Township encompasses sixty-two square miles and is located approximately five miles south of the City of Marquette running easterly along the south shore of Lake Superior.

The primary geologic features within the township include glacial lake plain, swamp deposits and alluvium, bedrock, and moraines which are the most dominant features of the township. The general geology can be described as follows:

Lakebed- Stratified and sorted layers of fine sand and silt with some clay; occasional local lenses of gravel.

Moraine- Poorly sorted glacial till; locally contains sand and gravel layers and large boulders.

Swamp deposit and alluvium- Silt, muck and peat; may include some stratified sand and gravel in low areas.

Bedrock- Sandstone, igneous and metamorphic rocks.

These geologic features affect the suitability for various land uses with the swamp deposits and alluvium being unsuitable for any developed recreational activity, without intensive maintenance, limited use, special design, or a combination of these measures.

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, dividing it into small tracts. Some large undeveloped tracts still remain in this area for future development. In the southwestern portion, much of the ownership is private with parcel sizes generally 20-40 acres in size. (See Land Ownership Map, Appendix A.)

Soils

Chocolay Township contains soils with a great variety of characteristics. With specific characteristics of moisture, slope, and permeability there may be severe limitation to the development of any recreational uses. Below is a description of some of the limitations for certain recreation development.

Camp areas often require such site preparation as shaping and leveling, stabilizing roads and intensely used areas, and installation of sanitary facilities. Soils best suited for this use have gentle slopes and are not wet or subject to flooding during the period of use. Surface horizons should absorb rainfall readily and not be excessively dusty when dry.

Picnic areas require stabilizing for heavy foot traffic and development for access. Soils best suited for this use are firm when wet, not subject to flooding during the period of use, and are not excessively dusty when dry.

Playgrounds and ball fields require soil which can sustain heavy foot traffic. Soils best suited for this use are almost level, have rapid permeability, not subject to floods during time of use, and are not excessively dusty when dry.

Paths and trails for hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, skiing, and other uses require little site preparation. Soils best suited for this use are not subject to flooding more than once during the annual period of use, and are not excessively dusty when dry.

Figure III. illustrates limitations that soils present at current recreation sites.

The soils most commonly found in the township which present severe limitations to any type of development are Fluvaquents, Carbondale and Tawas muck, and Rousseau sands. (Map symbols are those represented on maps created by United States Department of Agriculture.)

Fluvaquents

These soils are nearly level, poorly drained alluvial soils on flood plains along major streams and are 50 to 1000 feet wide (map symbol 36).

Carbondale and Tawas muck

This soil type consists of deep, nearly level, very poorly drained organic material in depressed areas. The individual areas are linear or irregular in shape (map symbol 20).

significant role in subduing the extent of temperature extremes, and acts as a catalyst for snowfall in the winter. Comfortable temperatures and abundant natural beauty combine for excellent summer recreation, while abundant snowfall and frozen lakes offer skiing, ice fishing, snowmobiling and other activities in the winter.

TOWNSHIP OWNED RECREATION PROPERTIES

TABLE VIII.

Description	Sec. ,T47N R24W	Addressograph
Chocolay River- Green Garden Sites (1949)	25	CO 871, 872
Silver Creek Recreation Area (1958 & 1994)	6	CO 363, 364, 365, 388, 398
Chocolay River Marina (1975)	6	CO 1053
Voce Creek Recreation Area (1979)	22	CO 822-4
Chocolay Municipal Complex (three phases)	7	CO 374
Beaver Grove Recreation Area (1987 &1990)	16	CO 672-1, 681-1
Beaver Grove Swamp (1991)	16	CO 680

PARK BY PARK ANALYSIS**The Chocolay River-Green Garden Site**

This property is located on Green Garden Road approximately 1.5 miles from US-41 in the south central part of the township. It is approximately 1.08 acres in size and currently undeveloped but is used as a local swimming and fishing spot. The site also offers a primitive carry-down boat launch to the river. Both of the parcels that comprise the site are zoned Rural Residential-2 (RR-2). The RR-2 district allows for parks as a conditional use on parcels consisting of a minimum of 20 acres. The deed giving title to Chocolay Township requires that the property be used exclusively for providing a park and other recreational facilities for the children and the members of the public in and about the Township of Chocolay.

The Silver Creek Recreation Area (SCRA)

The SCRA encompasses 23.7 acres adjacent to the Silver Creek Elementary School in the northwest corner of the township. The size and location of this recreation site make it especially suited as a "community play field." Its central location with the highest population density in the township makes it the most widely used recreation facility that the township owns. It's located in a Residential-1 (R-1) district. Existing facilities contained at the site consist of the following:

Four tennis courts, 1 soccer field, 1 baseball diamond, 1 tot-lot/playground, a picnic area, a partially developed hiking and skiing trail system, modern restrooms, warming shelter, and paved drives. The developed portion of the site utilizes the southern half of the property while the trail system is interspersed throughout the southern and forested northern half.

The SCRA is extensively used by organized baseball (hardball and softball) and soccer throughout the spring, summer, and fall. The trail system is popular all year for both hikers and skiers alike. The tennis courts, tot-lot/playground, and picnic area are extensively utilized from late spring to late fall.

The Chocoley Township Marina

The township's only marina is located along Main Street in the northwestern corner of the township in the village of Harvey. The marina is situated on the Chocoley River approximately 1500 feet from Lake Superior. The site contains an improved skid pier boat launch and a recently constructed picnic area. It provides boat access to the Chocoley River and to Lake Superior. Unfortunately, the river mouth is often too shallow to permit easy access to Lake Superior, resulting in limited public use. It is located in a R-1 zoning district which allows parks as a conditional use subject to Township Planning Commission approval.

The Voce Creek Open Space Area

This is an undeveloped 12.33 acre parcel located on the east side of US-41 approximately one mile south of the Beaver Grove location. Its soils, topography, and location severely limit it to active recreational opportunities. It contains a considerable sand blowout area and along with a lowland muck area the site would be very costly to develop into a conventional recreation facility. The area has been identified as a passive recreation tract and properly signed to this extent.

The parcel is in a RR-2 zoning district which does not conform to local zoning in terms of lot size. Its distance and lack of a bike path from the developing areas, Harvey and Beaver Grove, pose traffic and accessibility problems for children in the township. The Marquette County Soil Conservation District, in cooperation with the township, currently is using a portion of the property as an experimental beach grass planting and sand dune stabilization project.

The Chocoley Township Municipal Complex

The Chocoley Township Municipal Complex is located on a 2.79 acre parcel with frontage on the west side of US-41 in the village of Harvey. Besides housing the township's governmental facilities the property supports a 30 by 50 pavilion on its northeast corner. Supplied with a

number of picnic tables, a permanent grill, and nestled among towering pines, this location provides an ideal passive recreation site for tourists and residents alike. During the winter months the pavilion is flooded and used as an ice skating rink. It conforms with existing uses since it is located in a PL district.

The Beaver Grove Recreation Area (BGRA)

This is a combination of two adjoining parcels making up a 29.1 acre recreation site. The property is located west of US-41 and north of County Road 480 and is accessible from either road.

The site has considerable frontage on Big Creek which flows along its eastern border. Direct access to the river from a recently developed hiking trail provides fishing opportunities as well as unique passive recreational outlets. Existing facilities provided at this site consist of the following:

One baseball field, 1 soccer field, 1 tot-lot/playground, horseshoe courts, picnic facilities, open space/multi use, a hiking trail, improved parking, and restrooms.

These facilities are all concentrated on the original 15.11 acre parcel to the east. The 14-acre parcel to the west which was purchased in 1990 is currently undeveloped. At present, a strategic plan for all of the undeveloped acreage has yet to be established although it was purchased in light of the recent growth in the area. Residential development has intensified in the south central region of the township, making the BGRA an ideal location for a recreation center. The site is in a R-1 zoning district. It is currently being used for farming.

The Beaver Grove Swamp

This 3-acre parcel is located by the west side of US-41, a few hundred feet north of the BGRA. Zoned RR-1, the Swamp could be approved by the Township Planning Commission as a park through a conditional use permit. To date no action has been taken. Its topography and soils limit its ability to be developed into an active recreation facility. However, it can be designed as an interpretive nature center, a bog walk, or an environmental display/ welcome center. Its proximity to the Beaver Grove Recreation Area makes it a convenient location to complement the variety of active recreational opportunities currently being offered to residents and tourists.

PARK BY PARK GOALS

The Chocolay River-Green Garden Site

Short Term

1. Conduct an official property survey to set property corners before other goals are initiated.
2. Design a site plan to feature public access to the Chocoy River in a park-like setting with picnicking, swimming, fishing, and boating as the primary emphasis.
3. Consider purchasing adjoining properties to provide sufficient room for planned facilities.
4. Apply for grants to develop the site.

Long Term

All long term goals for this site depend on the success of the three short term goals. The site should comply with deed restrictions and be maintained as such.

The Silver Creek Recreation Area

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance programs.
- * 2. Expand parking facility for the soccer field users.
3. Relocate soccer field or install a taller fence between soccer and ball fields to eliminate the hazard of ball being hit onto the soccer field.
4. Expand the current irrigation system for the soccer field.
5. Construct a new access drive to the area. The drive should be constructed adjacent (west) of the current drive. The new drive would eliminate traffic problems with the school driveway which is currently be utilized for the recreation area access.
- * 6. Assess the need for an ice rink.

Long Term

- * 1. Build outdoor basketball courts to complement Silver Creek School's limited basketball facility.
2. Construct covered dug outs for the ball field players.
3. Review existing trail system for improvements and expansion.
- * 4. Develop a site plan for the trail system incorporating a fitness strip and an improved cross country ski trail.
5. Construct the trail system according to the site plan.
- * 6. Construct a pavilion adjacent to the aesthetically pleasing picnic area.
7. Add another soccer field to the area.
- * 8. Construct an ice rink.

The Chocoy Marina

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance programs.
2. Install small docks for temporary mooring of boats.

Long Term

Stabilization and deepening of Chocolay River mouth as an ongoing project. It is critical for safe access to Lake Superior by boaters using the marina. It should help relieve winter and springtime flooding problems. The township should continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Marquette County Soil Conservation District, and the Michigan DNR toward that end.

The Voce Creek Recreation Area

Short Term

1. Review status of property (soils) yearly, considering future use possibilities.

Long Term

1. Continue to use as a unique open space for the township.
2. Consider developing the site as a passive interpretive nature center once stabilization of soils has occurred.

The Chocolay Municipal Complex

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance programs.
2. Add map display with township information in pavilion area.
3. Consider installation of restroom facility in pavilion area.

Long Term

1. Construct restroom facility in pavilion area.
2. Expand picnic area.

The Beaver Grove Recreation Area

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance programs.
2. Expand north parking area.
3. Consider installation of concession stands and scorekeeper's canopies adjacent to backstops at both baseball and soccer fields.
4. Install scoreboards at both fields.

5. Construct a pavilion near the north parking area. It would provide a shelter for users of the recreation area as well as a meeting place for community events and could be used for a winter ice rink.
6. Provide improved signing at the main entrances to the recreation area.
7. Construct covered dug outs for ballfield users.

Long Term

1. Install fencing around primary recreation facility to keep motorized vehicles of all types off play areas.
2. Extend irrigation system to ball fields.
3. Add more spectator seating for the soccer field.
4. As demand increases a plan for more improved parking.
5. Construct a basketball court adjacent to the Tot-Lot. There are no public basketball courts in this area of the township.
6. Construct a tennis court adjacent to the basketball court so both courts could share a common fence. There are no public tennis courts in this part of the township.

The Beaver Grove Swamp

Short Term

1. Conduct an official boundary survey of the property before any development can be initiated.
2. Consider purchasing adjoining properties to the south to connect with the BGRA.

Long Term

1. Continue to use the site as an open space until proper survey and site plans are completed.
2. Design a site plan to feature the use of the property as a bog walk/interpretive nature center.
3. Begin development of the site with signage and parking.
4. Purchase adjacent properties if necessary and available.

OTHER PUBLIC/PRIVATE RECREATION SITES

The Michigan Department of Transportation Scenic Turnouts

MDOT owns three roadside scenic turnouts by the M-28 corridor along the Lake Superior shoreline. The township maintains these facilities under contract with MDOT.

Site #1 is found approximately 6 miles east of the US-41/M28 intersection near the Kawbawgam Road location. It consists of ½ mile of frontage on Lake Superior. It has restrooms, map display case, picnic area, water well, and stairway accessing the beach and Lake Superior.

Sites #2 & #3 are located approximately 7 and 11 miles east of the US-41/M-28. These two sites are a 1.5 mile strip overlooking Lake Superior. Together they have two small picnic areas. All three sites are in OS zoning districts.

These turnouts are very popular with residents and tourists alike since they provide the only public access to Lake Superior in the township. They also offer convenient yet scenic rest stops for tourists.

The Chocolay River Public Access and Fishing Site

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources developed this 5.7 acre site on M-28 approximately one mile east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. It is situated in a R-1 zoning district. This handicap accessible site consists of a new restroom facility, expanded parking, a public fishing pier, and a carry-down boat launch. It is currently only one of two handicap accessible fishing sites in Marquette County.

The Lake LeVassuer Waterfowl Area

The Michigan DNR constructed this public access site to Lake LeVassuer off Kawbawgan Road. It is approximately 8 miles from the US-41/M-28 intersection and situated in a Resource Production (RP) zoning district. The DNR also rebuilt the dam on the west end of the lake to provide improved hunting and fishing opportunities for the public.

The James Jeske Flooding - Sand River

The Michigan DNR built this wildlife flooding area on the Sand River approximately 11 miles from the US-41/M-28 intersection. Located just south of the mouth of the Sand River and Lake Superior it covers more than 700 acres of land. It has become a popular fishing and hunting location as well as a passive scenic site. It is in a OS zoning district.

The Chocolay Lions Club Park

This 10.7 acre recreation area is located on M-28, approximately 2.5 miles east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. It is situated in the Varvil Center location and is currently zoned R-1. The property is owned by the Marquette Area Public School District and has been leased from the District by the Chocolay Lions Club for the past twenty-two years. During this period the Lions Club has built a baseball field, an ice skating rink, a half court basketball court, and a large parking lot. About 5 acres remains undeveloped.

This area is one of the three large public recreation areas in the Township. To assure this stays a public recreation area, the Township has discussed with the Marquette Area Public Schools the possibility of selling the property to the Township. The Township would then continue to lease the property to the Lion's Club for operation and assist them in future development.

The Silver Creek School Playground

This playground is situated adjacent to the SCRA. It provides a variety of recreation equipment for the elementary school students as well as an open space area for general recreation activities. It nicely complements the SCRA.

The Cherry Creek School Playground

The recently built Cherry Creek Elementary School is located near the intersection of Cherry Creek Road and Ortman Road one mile west from the US-41/M-28 intersection. This playground has a variety of new recreation equipment for the school children. It also has a large open space area for general recreation activities, a portion of which has been developed as an interpretative nature trail supported by classroom projects. It is located in a R-1 zoning district.

The Gitchee Gumee Campground

This privately owned campground is located 7 miles east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. Constructed in 1980, it consists of a restroom/shower/laundry complex, an office, and 100 campsites. Nearly half of the sites support water, sewer, electrical service, while the remaining sites are considered primitive. This facility is situated in a RR-2 zoning district. It is the only campground in the township and is a popular tourist stop.

Chocolay Downs Golf Course

This partially constructed 36 hole golf course is located on M-28 about 3 miles east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. Privately owned and operated, it fills a large void in offering residents and visitors a modern golfing facility.

The Homestead Golf Course

This privately owned 18-hole golf course is currently under construction. It is located on County Road 480 approximately 1 mile west of the US-41/CR480 intersection. It is situated very close to

the BGRA and a rapidly growing area of the township. It should complement all of the recreation opportunities offered in this section of the township.

Areas of the Wisconsin-Central railroad grade and/or unused seasonal county roads which are located near the grade on the east end of the township may be suitable for snowmobile trails. The Township is however opposed to use of the grade where it enters developed residential areas. Numerous letters and petitions in these areas have strongly opposed motorized trail developed in these parts of the grade.

Public hearings are currently underway to provide for snowmobiles trails within the Township Zoning Ordinance. Non-motorized hiking trails are already provided for by use of a conditional use process. An overlay zone will be used with an approval process similar to a conditional use process.

The Township will have to commit to funding and provide staff support and leadership for the development of trails. Grants are also available and township funds can be leveraged for obtaining grants for acquisition and development of trails. Local interested groups should also be contacted for funding and assistance. The North Country Hiking organization has used volunteers for development and planning. The local 996th Reserve has agreed to assist with bridge building in the Township. Many other individuals and business people can also be counted on to work on this project as Township Recreation has always had broad support.

A non-profit trail foundation should be set up to allow interested parties to participate financially as well as physically. Funds could be divided into motorized and non-motorized trails accounts with monies also being leveraged with local funds and state funds to provide for trail development within the Township.

Commitment to a long term recreation planning effort such as the Ottawa/Muskegon plan should be used as a model for trail development and community relations.

The Ad Hoc Trail Committee encourages multi-use trails for recreational use with Chocolay Township. The children and families of the Township deserve a safe environment in which to live and play. These multi-use trails would encourage use by hikers, bicyclers and motorized winter use. The Committee intends to continue meeting and planning trail development within Chocolay Township and possible connection with trails in adjacent units of government. Future meetings will include connecting trails between the recreation areas and schools.

We encourage the Planning Commission to look for interested people to work with the Township in continuing the development. Cooperation will be required to encourage any trail development. Local groups or other volunteer/service organizations should be asked to help in trail development. Snowmobile clubs, National Guard, North Country Trails, the KBIC and the 996th Army Reserve Unit should all be contacted to assist in trail and possible bridge construction.

A non-auto bridge across the Chocolay River is necessary. MDOT should be encouraged to improve the M-28 Chocolay River Bridge.

The concept of obtaining easements or deeds for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiles should be left to individual groups, i.e., grooming interests, and North Country Trails. Once these groups obtain land easements, they would apply to the Planning Commission for Conditional Use permits when necessary for passage through private properties.

An overlay map should be used as a guideline, specific property owners have not yet been identified. Portions of these trails may be subject to Zoning Ordinance regulations which have not yet been fully resolved.

The Ad Hoc Trail Committee does not support a motorized trail along the proposed abandonment of the Wisconsin Central Railroad grade in the residential areas of Chocolay Township from the Sands Township line through to Section 11 T47N R24W.

The original map of potential trail development sent to the Planning Commission last fall by the Ad Hoc Trails Committee did not show this area as possible trail development. The intent of the Ad Hoc Trail Committee has been to support the trail development along the current bike path.

MDOT has approved the bike path for motorized use from November 30 to April 1. This seems to be a win win situation for the residents and businesses of Chocolay Township.

The Township Board has agreed to give a letter of support to snowmobile grooming interests. This letter will ask residents to support easements for the development of trails through the Township. The same type of letter may be used in the development of multi use trails.

Concerns:

The resident's from the Riverland and Ridgewood areas are concerned about information received in connection with the railroad abandonment and future plans once abandoned. If a state trail is established in this area, more traffic would be expected. They are also concerned with ATV and motorcycle traffic in the summer months. These trails could be gated so that summer use by ATV's and motor bikes would be prohibited.

The snowmobile trail should be on the south side of M-28 when crossing the Chocolay River.

GOALS

Short Term

1. Acquire properties for trail development.
2. Begin bridge building across rivers and creeks.
3. Connect recreational areas within Chocolay Township with this trail system.
4. Connect the two elementary Marquette Area Public Schools with this recreational trail system.

Long Term

1. Acquire additional properties for recreational trail head.
2. Assess the possibility of a culvert under M-28 near US 41.
3. Develop x-country ski trails, dovetailing with North Country hiking trails.
4. Assess the possibility of biking/walking overpass over Cherry Creek Road near the Cherry Creek Elementary School.

The 1998 Chocolay Township Recreation Plan is a separate document from the Chocolay Township Comprehensive Plan, but alike in its structure and purpose. A recreation plan is needed to specifically address the accessibility, quality and diversity of recreational opportunities that a community can and should offer its residents. It ensures a periodic update of the system of recreational facilities and opportunities in a community. This update will provide information regarding the financing, whether private (grants and donations) or public (grants and township funds), timing of improvements, and feasibility of additional opportunities.

The development of the 1998 Draft Chocolay Township Recreation Plan occurs within the planning process. This process is a compilation of gathering and analyzing data into useful information about the current state of the system of recreational facilities and opportunities within Chocolay Township and offers suggestions for its continual maintenance, improvements and advances.

The planning process involved the inquiry and collection of community opinion on the current state and future desires of their recreational facilities and opportunities. A survey was conducted between February 25, 1997 and March 17, 1997 to solicit the input of the township's residents. The township mailed 60 surveys, in equal proportions, to a broad range of individuals including many age cohorts and interests. Three hundred surveys were also placed at commonly visited businesses throughout the community. The survey and its results can be found in Appendix B.

The current and future state of recreational facilities and opportunities was also evaluated by Chocolay Township staff, most importantly the Department of Public Works Supervisor and the Director of Planning & Research.

With this information and help from the above groups, students from the Geography, Earth Science, Conservation, and Planning Department at Northern Michigan University, under the supervision of Dr. M. Jean Ferrill, have played a major role in updating the 1993 Recreation Plan.

The 1998 Draft Recreation Plan was recommended for adoption by the Chocolay Township Planning Commission on February 9, 1998. Prior to the meeting, announcements by the township in *The Mining Journal* on January 18 and February 3 were conducted so that any township resident wishing to discuss any matters of concern regarding the 1998 Draft Recreation Plan could do so at the public hearing section of the Planning Commission meeting on February 9, 1998. The 1998 Draft Recreation Plan was made available for public review prior to the hearing. A copy of the notice of a public hearing can be found in Appendix C.

The Action Plan chapter of the 1998 Chocolay Township Recreation Plan lists the Goal, Policies, and Implementation Strategies that will direct the future of recreation within the township. The purpose of an action plan is to establish recreation planning concepts and the means of establishing the goal and policies over the next five years.

The policies and implementation strategies are not listed in order of importance.

The **Goal Statement** is a broad statement that defines the township's position on recreation.

The **Policy Statement** is a more refined statement that addresses the township's desire to achieve the Goal Statement.

The **Implementation Strategy** is a statement which indicates the action that the township will take in order to accomplish the Policy Statement.

Goal

The goal of Chocolay Township is to continually work toward satisfying the recreational desires and needs of the community.

Policies

Chocolay Township supports the following policies regarding recreation:

Support and encourage the recreational issues as stated in the 1995 Strategic Plan.

Support and aid the Trails Committee in the development of a multi-use trail system.

Support the Master Planning process by the DNR for future transition of Wisconsin Central Railroad grade for recreational trail use.

Incorporate public sentiment on recreational issues.

Continually maintain and develop new recreational programs and facilities.

Broaden the definition of recreation, thus providing a diversity of recreational opportunities.

Minimize negative impacts of new developments and other land use activities adjacent to trail corridors, unique cultural features, recreation sites, open spaces and conservation areas.

Provide adequate land, area, and equipment for recreation facilities and programs.

Encourage residents to engage in outdoor recreation and sporting within the township.

Encourage the practice of public access to privately owned land for recreation activities.

Provide a geographical balance of recreational opportunities within the township.

Actively encourage and provide for the participation of disabled persons and the elderly in township recreation.

Encourage the development of private recreation areas and uses.

Implementation Strategies

Develop a Recreation Committee. This Recreation Committee should perform the following responsibilities:

Work jointly with the Trails Committee to study the feasibility of the creation of a multi-use trail system, as a top priority in the Strategic Plan.

Foster strong communication between a variety of nonprofit organizations and local volunteer groups.

Communicate with the local school board on the use and integration of their recreation facilities with the township.

Research information regarding the acquisition of land or the possible granting of easements to fulfill the potential of a trail system as stated in the 1995 Strategic Plan.

Work with township staff to promote recreational facilities as an integrated system, perhaps with similar signs and community events.

Encourage outdoor recreation and sporting within the township's unique environmental settings.

Encourage environmental education of the township's unique area.

Systematically assess, on a yearly basis, the programs and facilities to ensure the absence of deficiencies.

Submit the yearly assessment to the Department of Public Works Supervisor, Director of Planning & Research, Township Board, and the Planning Commission to ensure the implementation of this plan.

Utilize all possible township data, including surveys, budgets and inventories, in the formation of the yearly assessment.

Review park and recreation facility and program budgets.

Classify all parks and open areas according to the Classifying System for Parks and Open Systems in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Community Recreation Plan, Guidelines for Preparing a Community Recreation Planning so as to recognize and correct deficiencies.

Responsible Party: Recreation Committee

Time Frame: Creation of the Recreation Committee should occur within two months from the adoption of the 1998 Recreation Plan.

Estimated Cost: \$ 0

Accomplish the goals of each recreation property and project within their time frames as seen in the Action Plan Matrix.

Responsible Party: Department of Public Works Supervisor

Time Frame: According to the matrix

Estimated Cost: According to the matrix

The Capital Improvement Program is to be reviewed annually and updated to include the recreational deficiencies as stated by the Department of Public Works Supervisor. The Parks and Recreation Program is to actively participate in the C.I.P. so that the goals of each recreational facility may be achieved.

Responsible Party: Department of Public Works Supervisor

Time Frame: Ongoing

Estimated Cost: \$ 0

Continually study the possibility of, and where appropriate submit applications for, grants to obtain money for accomplishing recreational projects and programs.

Responsible Party: Department of Public Works Supervisor in conjunction with the Director of Planning & Research and the Recreation Committee.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Estimated Cost: \$ 0

Assure continued conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Responsible Party: Recreation Committee

Time Frame: Ongoing

Estimated Cost: \$ 0

Create programs and activities that stress participation of the elderly.

Responsible Party: Recreation Committee

Time Frame: Ongoing

Estimated Cost: \$ 0

Develop and conduct a public survey on recreation every three to five years.

Responsible Party: Recreation Committee, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works Supervisor and Director of Planning & Research

Time Frame: Every three to five years

Estimated Cost: Dependent on the number of surveys created and mailed

Enforce and strengthen where necessary, all appropriate land use controls.

Responsible Party: Zoning Administrator

Time Frame: Ongoing

Estimated Cost: \$ 0

Actively encourage citizen participation in recreation planning and programs.

Responsible Party: Recreation Committee

Time Frame: Ongoing

Estimated Cost: \$ 0

Seek the cooperation and participation of private land owners to allow public recreation where appropriate.

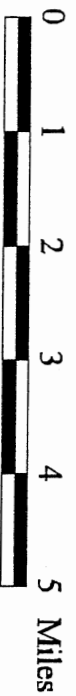
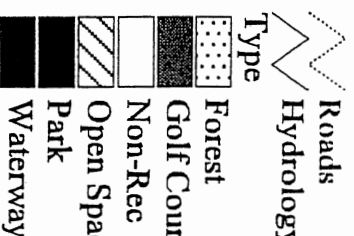
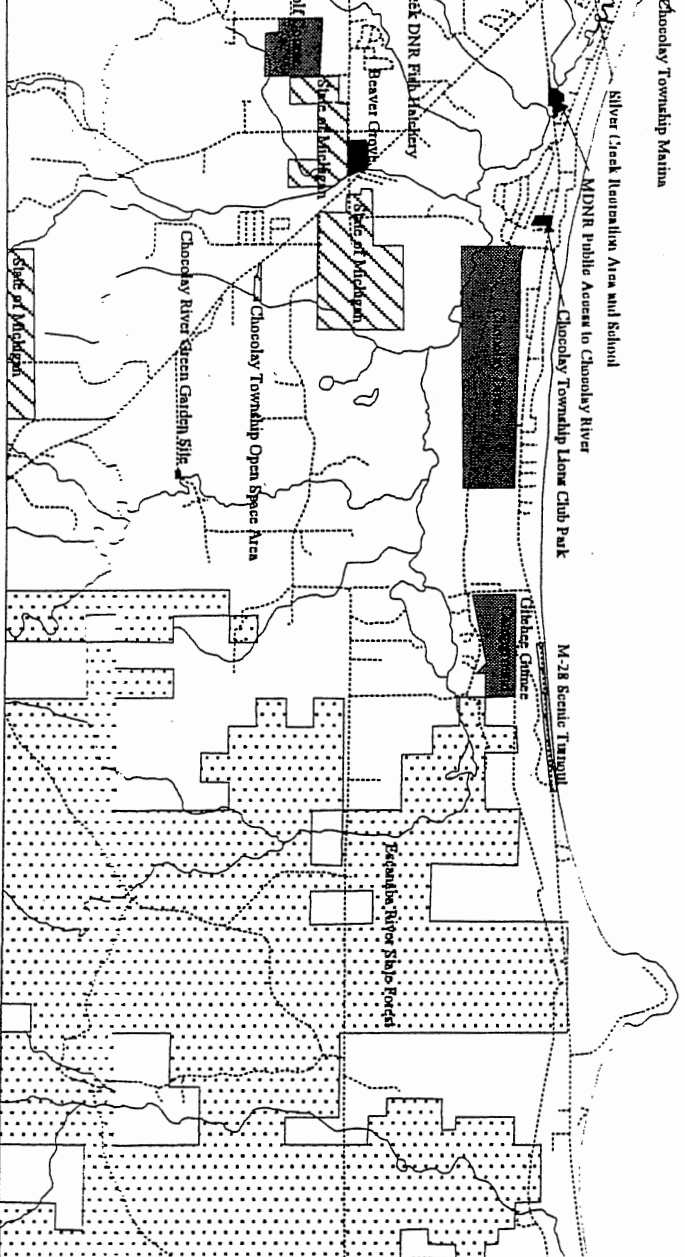
Responsible Party: Recreation Committee in conjunction with the Department of Public Works Supervisor and Director of Planning & Research

Time Frame: Ongoing

Estimated Cost: \$ 0

Chocolay Township

Recreational Areas By Type

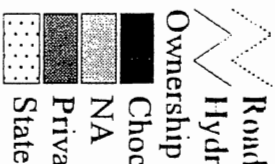
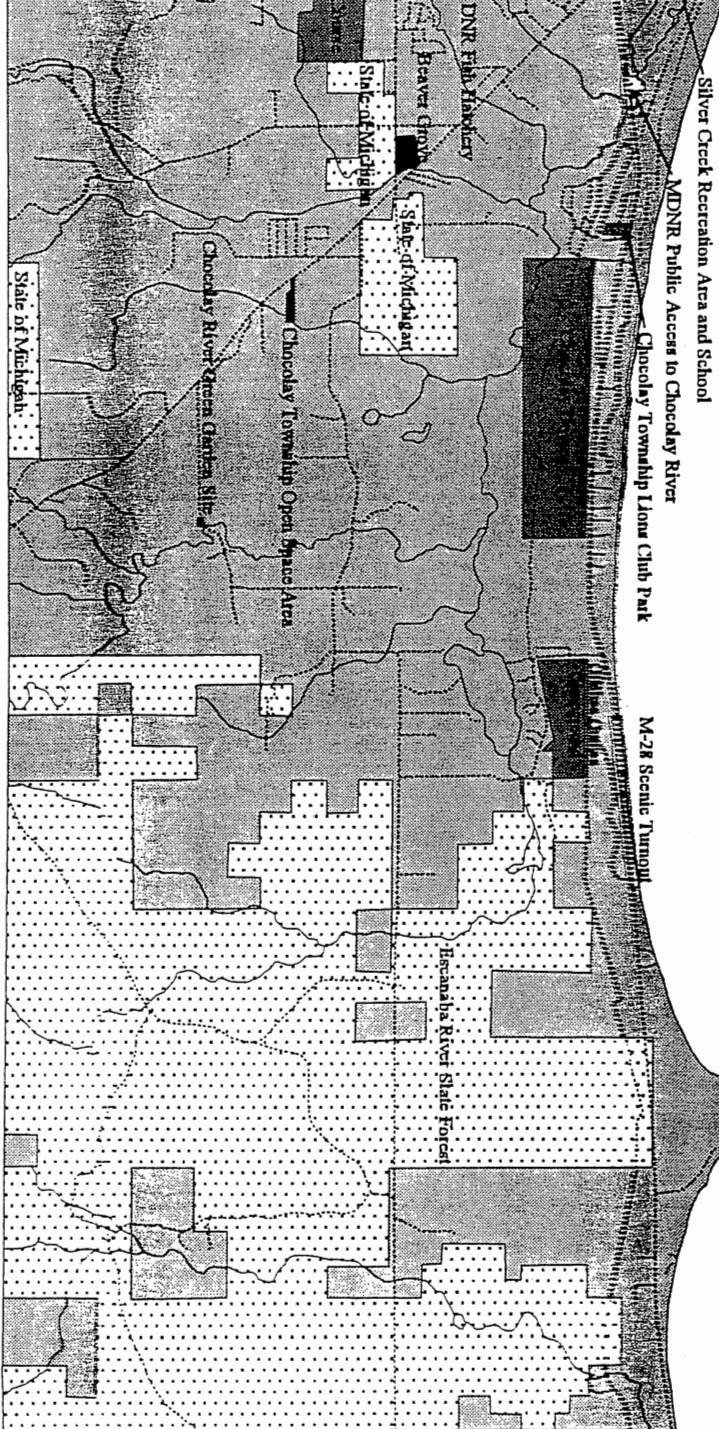


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 Northern Michigan Laboratory for
 Data Source: Chocolay Township
 Date: 4/2/97

Chocolay Township

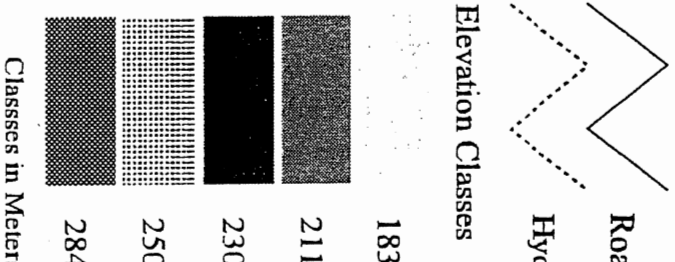
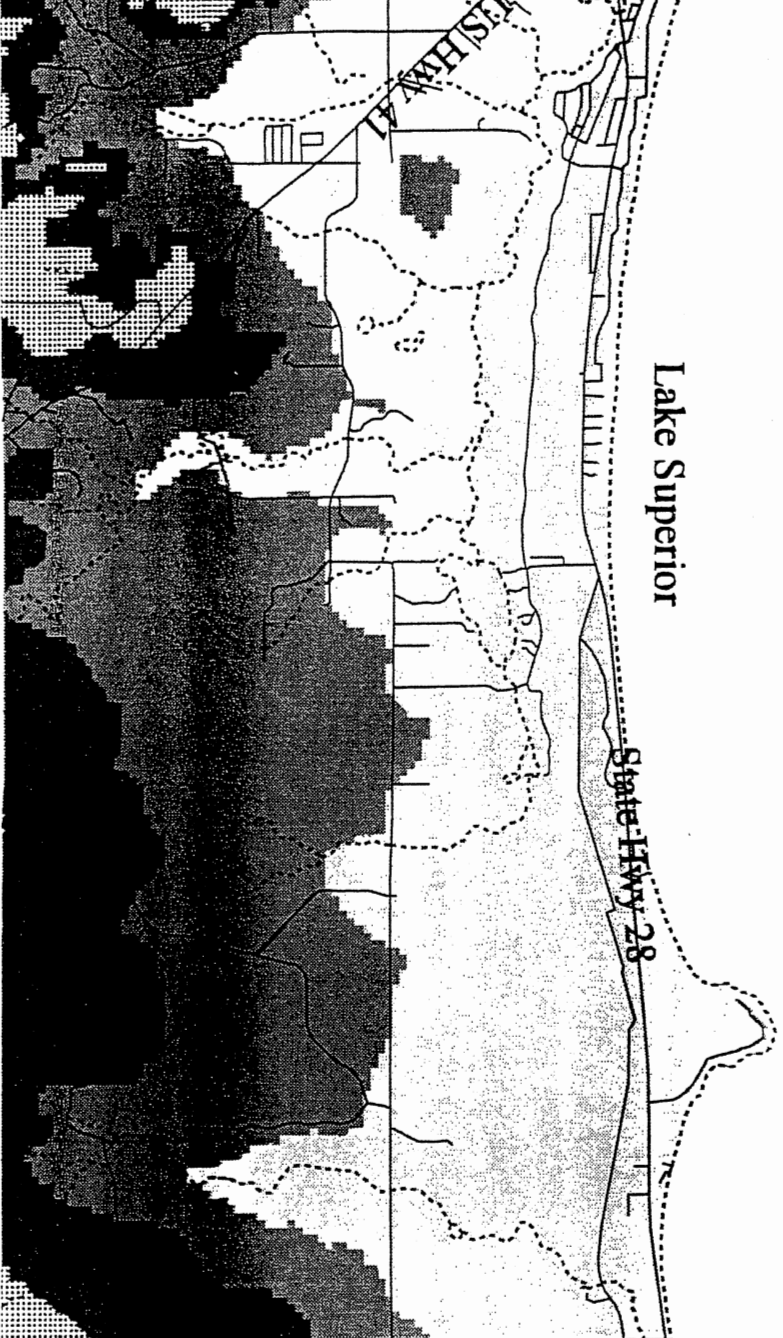
Recreational Areas By Ownership

Chocolay Township, Michigan



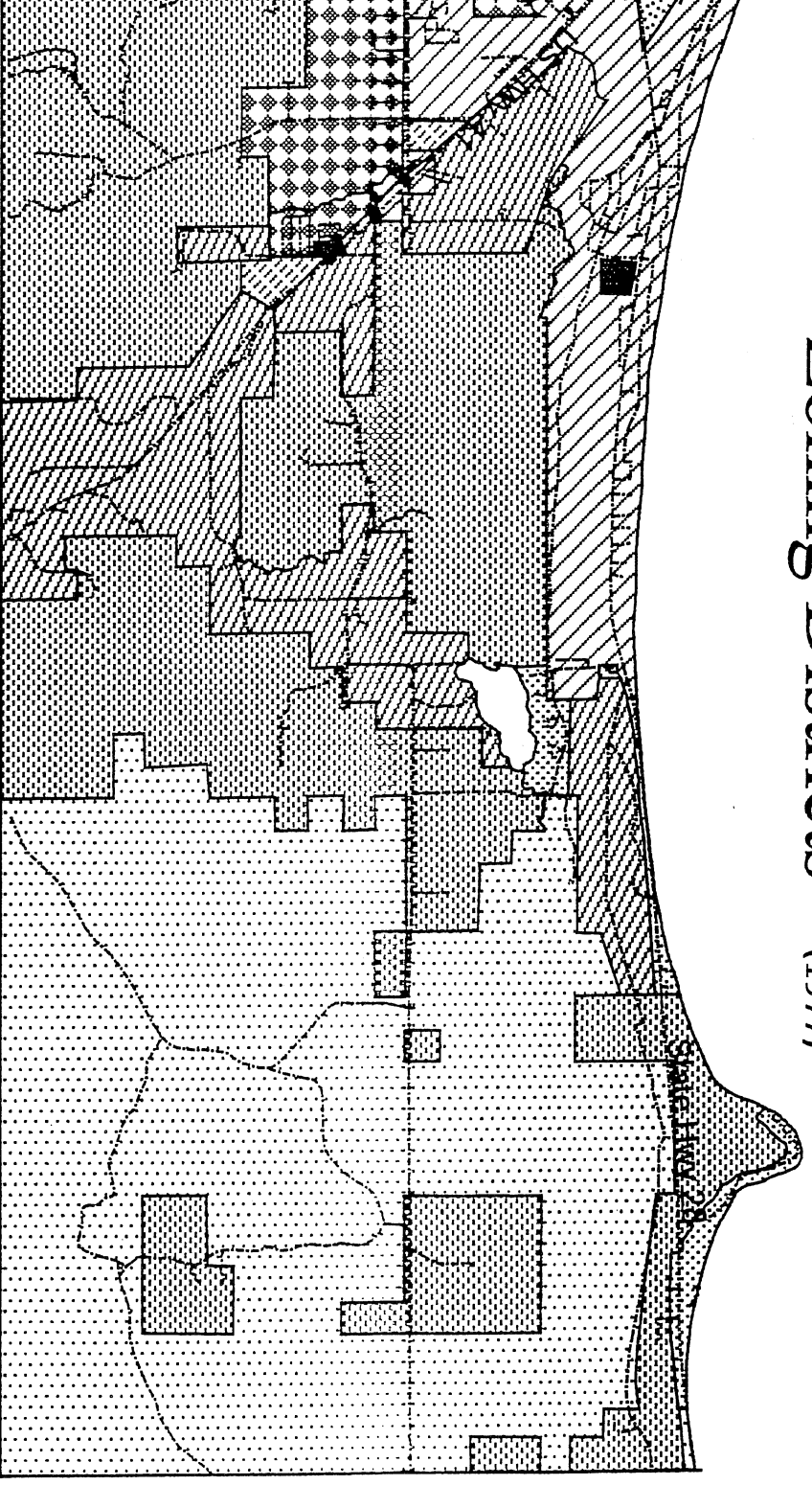
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 Date: 4/2/97

Chocolay Township Elevation Model



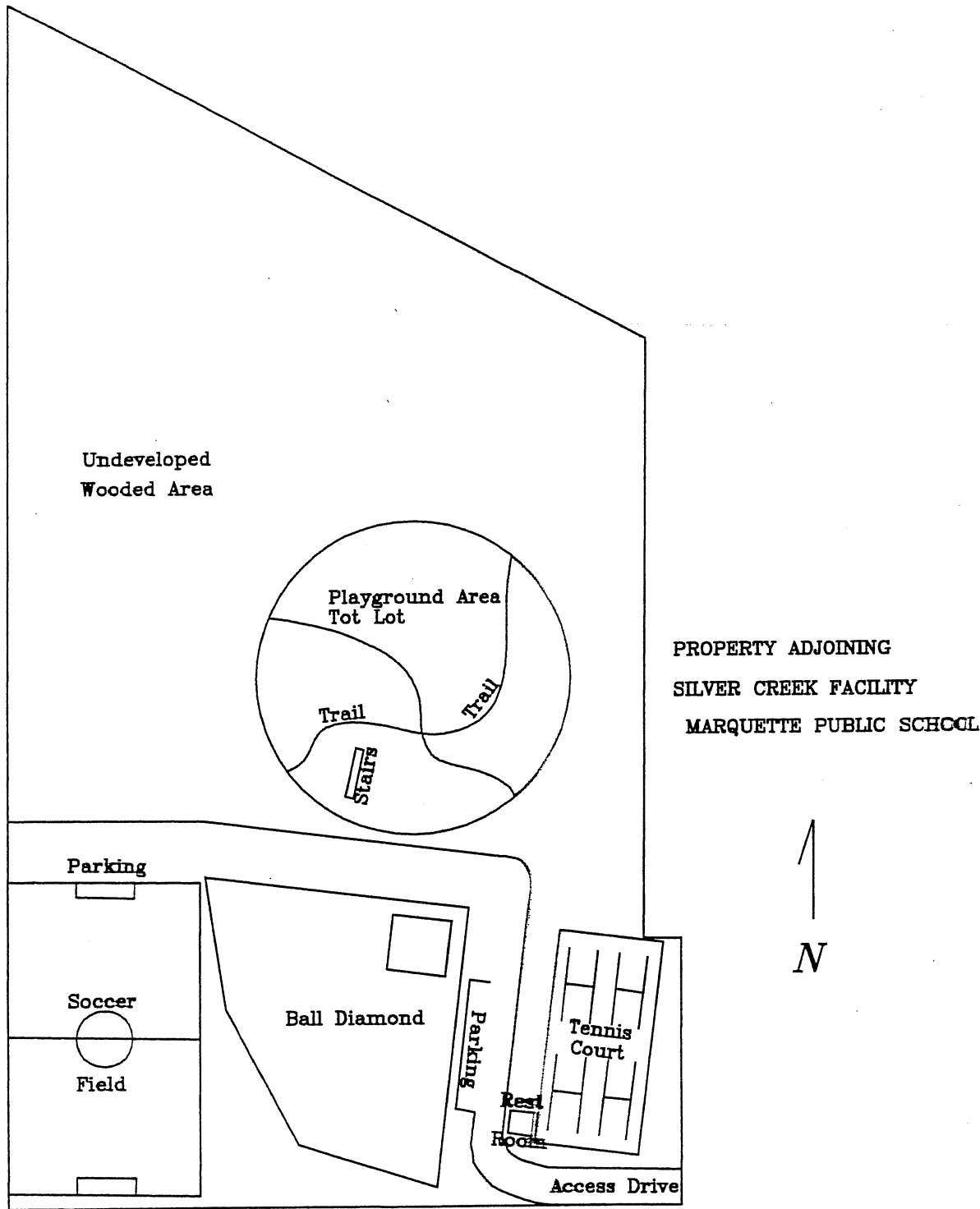
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 Northern Michigan Laboratory &
 Data Source: USGS Digital Elevation
 Model
 Scale of Data: 1:250,000

Chocolay Township Zoning Districts (1977)

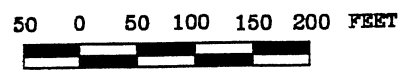


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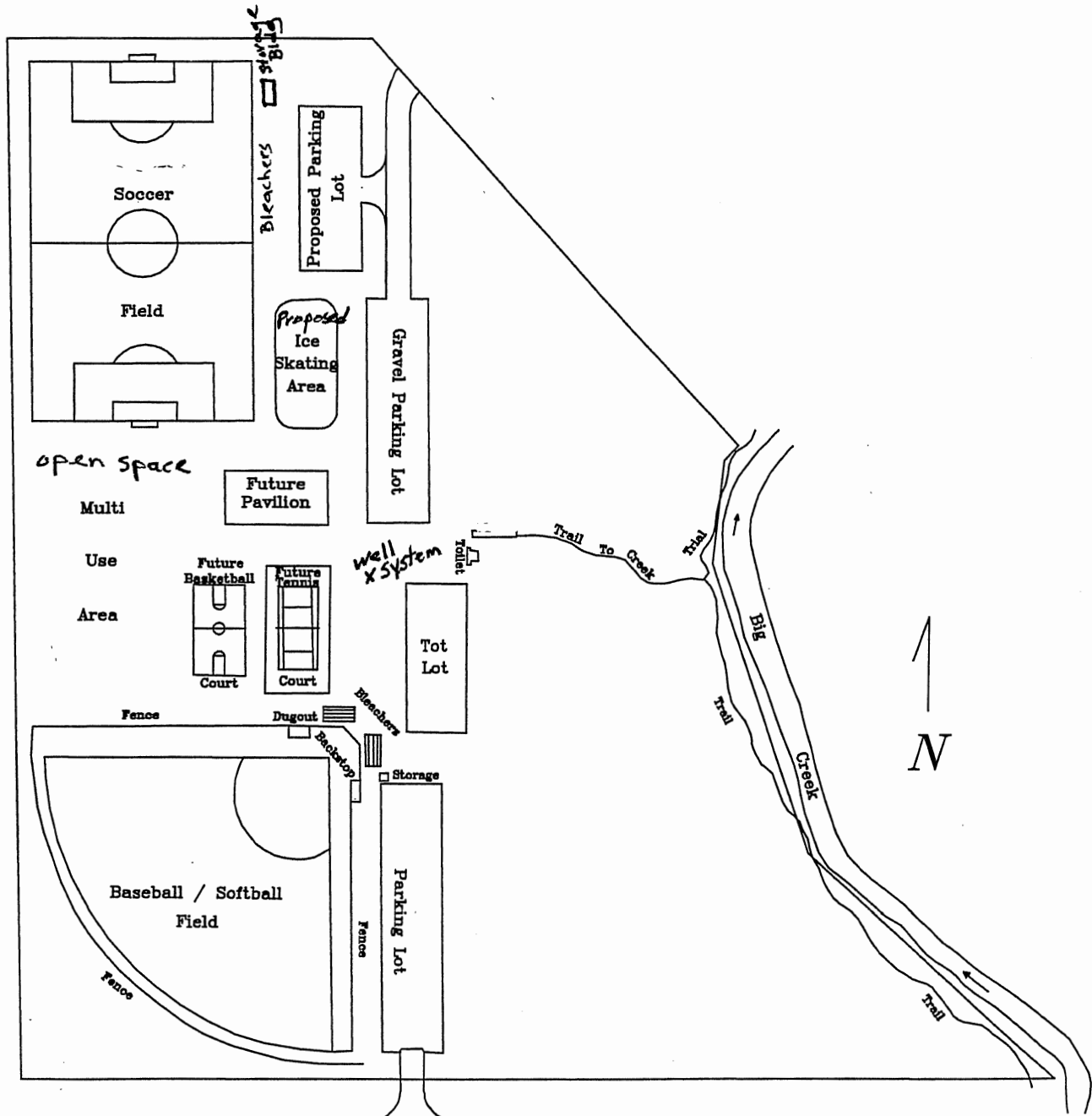
SILVER CREEK RECREATIONAL AREA



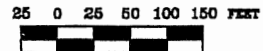
COMPILED BY: Timothy Gordon
PROGRAM: AutoCAD Release 12
DATA SOURCE: Chocolay Township
Engineering Drawings
DATE: 03-27-97
Northern Michigan University
Laboratory for Mapping



BEAVER GROVE RECREATIONAL AREA



COMPILED BY: Timothy Gordon
 PROGRAM: AutoCAD Release 12
 DATA SOURCE: Chocolay Township
 Engineering Drawings
 DATE: 03-27-97
 Northern Michigan University
 Laboratory for Mapping



M.S.
1/8/98

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Chocolay Township**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Chocolay Township Planning Commission on Monday, February 9, 1998 at 7:30 PM at the Chocolay Township Hall, 5010 U.S. 41 South, Marquette, MI to receive public comment on the following:

REZONING #99: The applicant, the Chocolay Township Planning Commission, has petitioned the Chocolay Township Board to amend the Chocolay Township Zoning Ordinance with new language that will:

Develop an Overlay Zoning District of Snowmobile Trails

RECREATION PLAN UPDATE – The Chocolay Township Planning Commission will be reviewing the updated Recreation Plan. Comments and suggestions will be received.

Applications, maps, plans and zoning ordinances are available for review and inspection at the Township Office Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM; Monday, February 9, 1998.

Respectfully submitted, Karen M. Chandler Director of Planning and Research.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CHOCOLAY

5010 U.S. 41 South

Marquette, MI 49855

(906) 249-1448
FAX (906) 249-1310

FEBRUARY 18, 1998

I hereby certify that the following motion is a true and complete copy of a motion duly adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Chocolay, County of Marquette, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on February 16, 1998 and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan 1976, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting notice by publication or posting at least eighteen hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary L. Sanders".

Mary L. Sanders
Deputy Clerk
Chocolay Township

Bohjanen moved Denton second to approve the 1998 Draft Recreation Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission. The final adopted plan will then be sent to the DNR, Central Upper Peninsula Planning & Development and the Marquette County Planning Commission.

AYES: 7

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CHOCOLAY

5010 U.S. 41 South

Marquette, MI 49855

(906) 249-1448
FAX (906) 249-1313

This survey has been designed by Chocolay Township and a class of Planning students at Northern Michigan University. Your answers will assist in guiding decisions for future recreational opportunities in the township. Your cooperation in completing this survey will be greatly appreciated.

******Please return the survey, using the enclosed, stamped envelope
before Monday, March 17, 1997.******

1. Please indicate your support for public/private development or improvements of the following types of recreational sites or activities in Chocolay Township:

	Strongly Oppose		Uncertain		Strongly Support
Soccer fields	1	2	3	4	5
Baseball fields	1	2	3	4	5
Ice rinks	1	2	3	4	5
Parks & picnic Areas	1	2	3	4	5
Playgrounds/Tot-lots	1	2	3	4	5
Campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
Pocket parks	1	2	3	4	5
Fit-strips	1	2	3	4	5
Pavilion	1	2	3	4	5
Exercise Facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Golf Course	1	2	3	4	5
Tennis courts	1	2	3	4	5
Handball/Racquetball courts	1	2	3	4	5
Basketball courts	1	2	3	4	5
Bike Paths	1	2	3	4	5
Hiking Trails	1	2	3	4	5
X-Country Ski Trails	1	2	3	4	5
Snowmobile trails	1	2	3	4	5
Improved Marina	1	2	3	4	5
Public access to waterways	1	2	3	4	5
Swimming	1	2	3	4	5
Canoeing/Tubing	1	2	3	4	5
Fishing	1	2	3	4	5
Boating	1	2	3	4	5
Shooting Sports	1	2	3	4	5
Other _____					

2. How do you think public recreation should be funded?

- a 5 With local taxes - general fund
- b 0 With a special Recreation Millage
- c 9 By user fees
- d 42 A combination of the above

3. Which of the following recreation areas within Chocolay Township have you visited?

Silver Creek 44 Beaver Grove 37 Township Marina 16
 Lions Club Park 23 M-28 Turnouts 49 School Playgrounds 32
 DNR M-28 Chocolay River Public Access 31

4. Check the facilities listed that you visit most often? When do you visit? (S=summer, W=winter, B=both)

Silver Creek 30-S 8-B Beaver Grove 29-S 6-B Township Marina 13-S 2-B
 Lions Club Park 11-S 4-B M-28 Turnouts 34-S 9-B School Playgrounds 12-S 12-B
 DNR M-28 Chocolay River Public Access 25-S 3-B

5. Overall, do you enjoy more recreational opportunities within the township or outside of the township?

Inside 16 Outside 39

6. To be sure Chocolay Township can serve all residents within the Township, please indicate your age below.

Less than 20 3 20-25 5 26-30 5 31-35 3
 36-40 5 41-45 11 46-50 12 51-55 4
 Over 55 7

7. Is your household

with children 27 without children 23 With retired person(s) 4

8. If you have not used the township recreational facilities, please explain why not?

9. Please feel free to list any suggestions you have for recreational facilities within Chocolay Township. Attach separate sheet if necessary for additional comments.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation.

Info. on multi-use trail along M-28 from US-41 to Superior St. including needed bridge over Chocoday River

Info. on Kawbawgam Ski Trail

Info. on Cherry Creek Road Reconstruction (Bike Path??)

Short and Long Term Goals

- Chapter 8 **Planning Process:** Update
Recreation Committee Formation
Staff Reorganization
New Survey
* Must emphasize public involvement in plan (notices, hearings, meetings, survey, etc.)
- Chapter 9 **Action Plan:**
Update all Goals and Policies
Update Action Program Chart
Update all \$ figures (estimates)
- Appendix A Update Maps (Carol Hicks)
Add Lions Park
Kawbawgam Pocket Park/Ski Trail
Include new survey and results/discussion

RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

SUBCOMMITTEE OUTLINE (ACTION PLAN)

- Chapter 1 **Summary:** Update - Should be completed last, minor changes to current text.
- Chapter 2 **Intent:** To include language regarding work of Recreation Committee
- Chapter 3 **History:** Add recreational changes (property acquisition, new development, etc.) since February 1998 (last Rec. Plan update). To include:
- Lions Park Acquisition
 - Brower Property Acquisition
 - Kawbawgam Ski Trail/Park
 - Beaver Grover Grant
 - Trail Update
 - Formation of Recreation Committee
- Chapter 4 **Administrative Structure:**
- Add Recreation Committee
 - Add New Position - Director of Recreation & Grants Administration
 - Language Re: Coordination between Recreation Committee and AdHoc Trails Committee
- Chapter 5 **Socio/Economic Characteristics:**
- Add updated census info. if available (timing)
 - Update Figure III Chart to include Brower Property & Kawbawgam Ski Trail/Pocket Park property
- Chapter 6 **Inventory:**
- Add Brower Property, Lions Park, Kawbawgam Ski Trail/Park to inventory (include short description of each).
 - Develop Short and Long Term Goals for each of above (in consistent manner with other listed facilities).
 - Update Figure IV - Recreation Facilities Matrix to add Brower and Kawbawgam Ski Trail/Park Property
- Chapter 7 **Multi-Use Trail Development:** Update Info. on North Country Trail