Village of Newberry
Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan
2011 - 2016

Community Description

Newberry is located in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan and is one square mile in size. Population in the Village is approximately 1,873. This recreation plan has been developed in cooperation with the Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority (hereafter TARA), in part for the purpose of cooperatively developing an outdoor recreational complex for the area.

Newberry was named in honor of John Stoughton Newberry, a United States Congressman and industrialist from the state. Newberry is the county seat of Luce County. In broad strokes, Luce County consists of wilderness river country, with approximately 40% of it classified as freshwater swampland. It has remained largely undeveloped, with a little over half of it contained in the Lake Superior State Forest.

The population in Luce County (corrected for the number institutionalized/ incarcerated) according to the 2000 US Census is 6,028 persons, 2,481 households, and 1,739 families residing in the county with a labor force of 2,975 in 2005. Luce County is characterized by an aging populace with higher than average numbers of retired residents and fewer in the 20-30 age bracket.

Land acres for Luce County are 578,880 and water acres 14,464, for a total of 593,344. There are 296,922 acres of public recreation land - 10,698 in State parks and recreation areas, 262 acres of State boating and fishing sites and 285,962 in State Forest. Luce County is best known for being the home of the Tahquamenon Falls, second largest waterfall east of the Mississippi. The Village of Newberry, which contains a variety of retail operations and residential neighborhoods, is a central starting point for fishing, sporting and recreational excursions. Other popular areas are the Two Hearted River, considered one of Michigan's premiere trout streams, and the 31 miles of undeveloped Lake Superior shoreline at the county's northern edge.

Traditionally, the economy in Luce County is less robust than the state average. The median value of owner-occupied housing units, according to the 2000 census, was $67,800, considerably less than the State median value of $115,600. The median income for a household in the Village was $29,052, and the median income for a family was $36,607. The County has historically had higher than average rates of unemployment, alcoholism, and teen pregnancy. In looking at trends in child well-being, 28.2% of children ages 1-17 in Luce County live in poverty, compared to a state level of 19.3%. A full 75% of the population of the Village of Newberry are in the low to moderate income range. The largest emplyers locally are the Newberry correctional facility, Helen Newberry Joy Hospital and Healthcare Center, Tahquamenon Area Schools and the Lousianna Pacific Plant.

In March of 2010, MDHS reported a total of 1,385 food stamp recipients in Luce County. This number has been steadily increasing, up from 1,292 in 2009, 1,184 in 2008, and 1,126 in 2007. The percentage of people living in poverty in Luce County is 20.3% compared to Michigan which is 14.4%. This percentage has also been on the rise from

16.2% in 2008 and 17.9% in 2009. MI Works reported the unemployment rate in Luce County to be equal to 15.7% in the fourth quarter of 2009. According to the 2007 MI Blueprint to End Hunger Report for Luce County, there are 6 emergency food distribution sites that provided 73,348 pounds of food in 2006. Even with the additional food provided by monthly commodities programs and Meals-on-Wheels, there is a large gap between the food that people living in poverty receive and what they need, equal to about 5.35 meals per week.

According to the 2008 Michigan Behavior Risk Factor Survey, in 2008 30.1% of Michigan adults were obese, a figure that had increased from 25.5% in 2004. Additionally 35.2% of adults were overweight. The cumulative proportion of obese and overweight Michigan adults was 65.3%. In 2008, Michigan was tied for the eighth highest obesity level. An estimated 78.3% of adults did not consume fruits (including juice) and vegetables five or more times per day. Almost fifty percent (49.4%) of adults reported inadequate physical activity with 25.1% not participating in any leisure-time physical activity. The prevalence of diabetes among Michigan adults has increased significantly since 2001 at 7.2% to 9.1% in 2008. Michigan's youth are following the same trends as adults. The percentage of students who are overweight has increased from 13.5% in 2005 to 16.5% in 2007, according to the CDC YRBSS. Only 17% of youth are getting the recommended servings of fruits and vegetables.

In terms of agriculture, the number of farms in Luce County has decreased from 36 to 30, since 1997. The number of acres of land in the county in farms in 2002 was 10,262 or 1.8 percent. The average size farm was 342 acres, with 23.3 percent of farms being more than 500 acres (statewide farms in this category is 9%) Farm employment as a percentage of total employment was just over 32% in 2002, an increase of 5% since 1980. The average age of the principal farm operator was 57.5 years. The market value of agricultural products sold in 2002 was $87,848,000.

Wood products and forest-based recreation and tourism are the two primary elements of the overall forest-based economy, and both elements are beneficial for the development and maintenance of strong rural economies. During 2005, these two combined sectors are estimated to have provided 150,000 jobs and contribute over $10 billion to the state economy. Forest Industry figures for 2006 for Luce County were 3 primary mills, 2 secondary mills, 24 logger/truckers, 339 estimated jobs.

Scenic resources drive the primary economic industry (tourism and resort trade) of northern Michigan. Our scenic quality is also an important economic catalyst for the entire state. It is a land-based industry that shares space with forestry and other land uses. There is a finite area of land in northern Michigan in which to fit a range of uses. Recent development trends are threatening to reduce the scenic quality in the region. The abundant natural resources of the Luce County provide the basis for much of the recreation of local citizens, as well as visitors to the region. The Eastern Upper Peninsula has a world-class snowmobile trail system and there is a growing network of other trails, including those for Off Road Vehicles

Newberry is surrounded by miles of state and national forests and is a gateway to Tahquamenon Falls. Over half a million people visit Tahquamenon Falls annually. Newberry was designated as the Moose Capital of Michigan by the State Legislature in 2002. Having large tracts of wilderness necessary to support large mammals, such as the popular moose, bear, wolf and lynx, is an important asset for the area.

Administrative Structure

The Village of Newberry is guided by a Village Council of 7 seats, six council members and the Village President. They employ a full-time Village Manager. The Manager has oversight of the Superintendent of Public Works, who in turn supervises personnel in the Department of Public Works, Waste Water Treatment Plant and Water and Electric.

The current Village budget allocates $8,050 out of general funds for building and grounds. There are two Department of Public Works employees who perform the maintenance and up-keep of Village Parks, mowing the grass and removing trash.

Park and recreation property owned by the village includes three parcels within the village limits as well as a newly acquired brown-field property.

Programming – None currently under-written by the Village, although other organizations use the facilities for programmed activities (see below).

Funding sources – Currently, the Village does not devote revenue specifically to parks and recreation.

Role of Volunteers – A local teen center regularly cleans up the volley ball and tether courts at Atlas Park. A local church group also does a big clean-up each summer at Atlas Park. Girl Scouts have planted the raised flower bed in Sherman Park for many years.

Relationships with school district, other public agencies or private organizations –
The local school district, Tahquamenon Area Schools, utilizes the softball field at Atlas Park as one of the fields for the girls softball program. The local fire department uses Atlas Park for their annual fund-raising carnival each spring. The Luce-West Mackinac Conservation District donates left over trees from the annual tree sale to the Village for planting in Atlas Park most years.

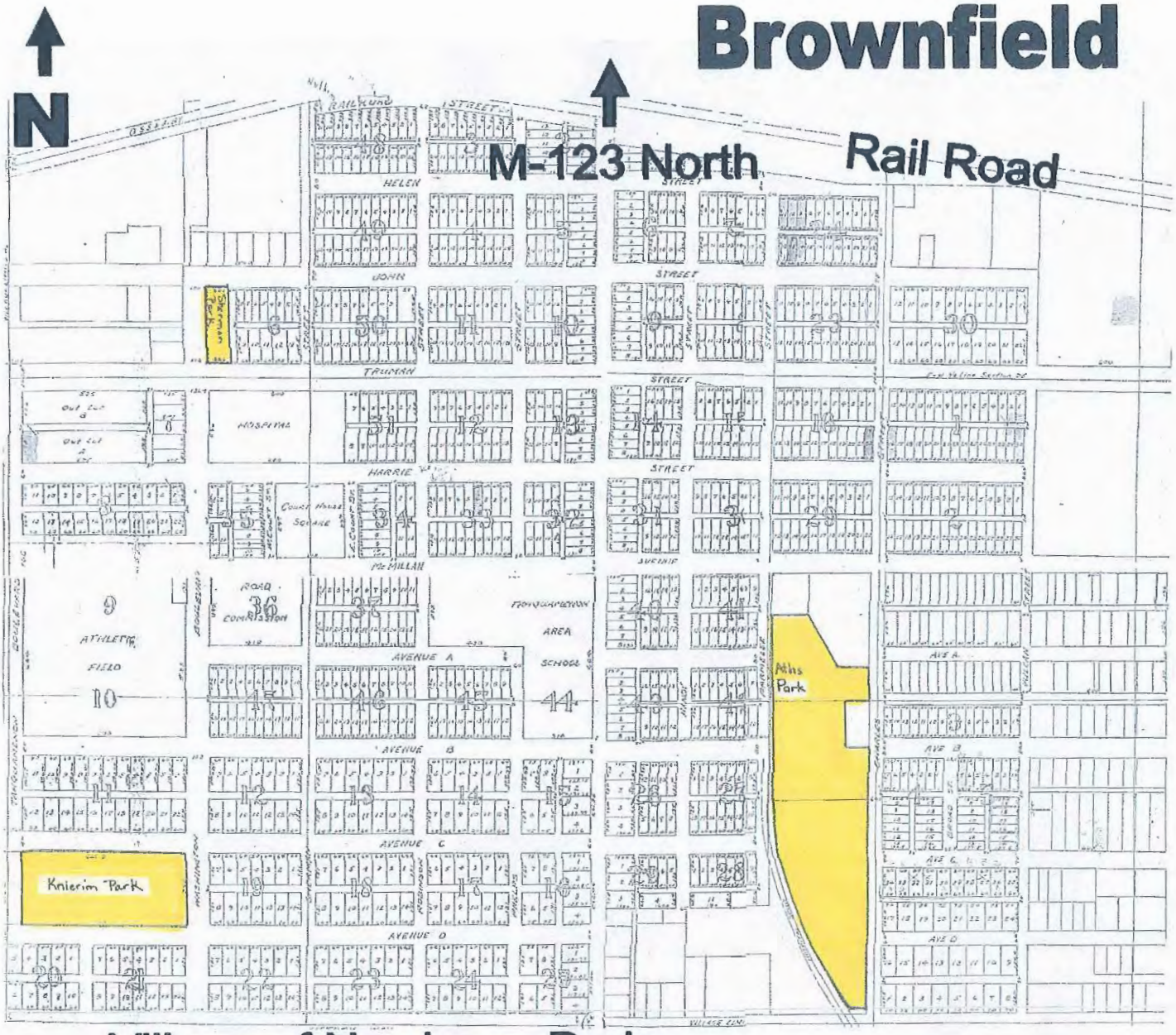
Recreation Inventory

Newberry has three parks located within the Village, all fitting the "neighborhood" designation.

1. The Curt Kneirim Memorial Park (formerly Washington Park) –
   820 X 292 – 239,440 sq. ft

2. Sherman Park
   296 x 90 – 26,640 Sq. ft.

3. Atlas Park
   1800 x 440 – 792,000 sq. ft



Village of Newberry Parks

1. Kneirim Park was recently so named in honor of Kurt Kneirim, a long-serving, former Newberry Water and Light Board member who was killed in an accident. His family has sponsored a new sign for the park.

The park's history is somewhat obscured by the passage of time, but the gentle rolling hills were once crisscrossed with stone lined paths and steps. Historical photos show a fountain once also stood in the park. It was larger in the 1950's and 60's and residents remember it was used as the staging area for an annual carnival and July 4th fireworks.

Over time, the park has lost some area to accommodate placement of vital municipal structures – first the housing authority purchased part for an subsidized public housing apartment building. Recently a new ambulance garage was sited on a small, non-utilized section. There remain some beautiful old trees, areas for picnicking and relaxing. Small children still sled down the gentle hills in winter.

On the property stands the current skating facility. Built in the 1940's, the large barn-like structure has been home to the Newberry skating rink for decades. The skating program is run by the Luce County Park and Recreation Department, although the building is owned by the Village.

The structure is inadequate for hockey league play, because the skating surface is too small. The structure has been reinforced to correct structural problems, but is in need of a new roof, has little warming ability with an out-dated, inefficient and costly furnace and is generally inadequate. The natural ice limits the usability of the facility to only when conditions are right to make ice. Youth in the Newberry hockey program are forced to travel one hour each way to practice in surrounding communities. Parents have to transport children several nights per week and would rather under-write a skating facility in their own town than purchase ice time at other facilities.

Accessibility Rating - 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines. Persons are able to access picnicking and shaded areas via wheelchair. There are no special barrier-free design elements at the park. There is no barrier-free access to the skating facility.

2. Sherman Park has a similar history, in that it was once a larger green space within the village. A section was designated to meet community needs, in this case to provide space for a new hospital. A small neighborhood park remains, across the street from the hospital. Amenities are spare in this park, being limited to a couple of picnic tables, some nice old shade trees and a raised flower bed sponsored by the local Girls Scouts.

Accessibility Rating - 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines. Persons are able to access shaded area via wheelchair. There are no special barrier-free design elements at the park.

Currently Kneirim Park, then Tourist Park Circa 1917

Independence Day Parade Route in 1916

Newberry News 7/6/16 "The parade formed at the corner of Trueman Avenue and Handy Street and headed by the Newberry State Hospital Band, marched north on Handy Street to Helen, west on Helen to Newberry avenue, south on Newberry Avenue to Harrie street and then west to the city park, (present site of HNJ Hospital) where the patriotic exercises of the day were held"

Currently Sherman Park, then City Park Circa 1916

Other excerpts: "unquestionably the most successful Fourth Newberry has ever experienced. Estimated that over one thousand visitors were in the city to make merry and enjoy the celebration. From the first blare of the band in the morning till the last rocket at night there was a constant hum of activity something going on at all times to keep the crowds entertained and amused.

Civic parade in the morning. Participating in the parade were the city officials and firemen, the Newberry Rifle Club a large number of business floats and decorated automobiles. Audience of over two thousaand at patriotic address which was frequently applauded by an audience of over two thousand people.

3. Atlas Park sits on the site of the former Atlas Plywood Plant. In 1989, the Village inquired about the property ownership and discovered the deed was held by a local bank. The bank donated the property to the village to be cleaned up and redeveloped as a park. The Village successfully applied for funds under the Recreation Bond Implementation Act and was awarded a grant in 1990.

A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment was completed in 1991. In 1994, the rubble from the demolition of concrete slabs and footing walls was used to fill in the basement sections of the old plant with $47,100 in grant funds. In 1995, the Luce County EDC contributed $20,300 to the project. In 1996, the Village of Newberry was awarded a grant for the Atlas Plywood Plant Reuse Project, using a Protecting Michigan's Future Recreation Bond Grant. Over $40,000 of additional site work was completed, then nearly $18,000 worth of playground equipment was installed. Currently it is used mostly for playing basketball and baseball.

Accessibility Rating - 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines. Persons are able to access tether ball and playground elements via wheelchair. There are no special barrier-free design elements at the park.

DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

1996 Village of Newberry, Atlas Plywood Plant Reuse, Protecting Michigan's Future Recreation Bond Grant No. BF 89-350

Requested One Year Extension to 12/31/96

Amended 3/1//97, reduction in scope and elimination of scope items – picnic area, landscaping and lighting - reason, lack of funds

Elements currently well maintained and in use at the park are: ball-field, swings, slide, tetherball, volleyball and basketball.

Methods used to conduct the inventory – review of previous plans, maps, and public input surveys; current statements of Village President and Manager and Village Council, physical inspection.

Natural Resource Concerns in the Eastern Upper Peninsula

Forest Fragmentation – Changing ownership patterns in the Upper Peninsula are having an impact on the resource. As large tracts of forest land formerly held by timber and paper interests are bought by investment companies, localities are faced with the probability that divestment will eventually occur via sales of smaller parcels for recreational and second home use. Forests become fragmented and diminished as land is cleared for buildings, lawns and roads. Fragmentation hinders ecological functions, especially in providing habitat to wildlife.

Forest Health – Forests suffer from poor cutting practices. Some timber harvesting decisions are made on market value rather than sound management strategies. Diseases and pests are having a significant negative impact on the forests of Luce County, in particular from Beach Bark disease. Heavy losses of this major mast producer will impact wildlife food stocks.

Water Quality – major threats to surface water quality are sedimentation and run-off of nutrients and chemicals from private homes and farmland.

Invasive species – Exotic pests and plants have the potential to significantly disrupt and degrade eco-systems.

Critical Dunes, Sensitive Wetlands and Original Landscapes with rare, threatened, and endangered species – There are many sensitive habitats in northern Luce County currently threatened by off-road vehicle traffic.

Luce County is experiencing a declining number of farms and its farms are owned and operated by an older segment of society. Loss of active farms and increasing development pressures threaten open and green spaces.

The Village of Newberry has an aging stock of trees, many of those lining the main corridor. Most of those being cut down as they become hazards are not being replaced.

From MICHIGAN'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN , Eagle, A.C., E.M. Hay-Chmielewski, K.T. Cleveland, A.L. Derosier, M.E. Herbert, and R.A. Rustem, eds. 2005. Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan. Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Lansing, Michigan. 1592 pp. http://www.michigan.gov/dnrwildlifeactionplan

AQUATIC SYSTEMS LAKE SUPERIOR BASIN

Lake Superior Basin - Landscape Context

The Lake Superior basin is the most northerly of the four basins in Michigan. It contains all water that flows north from the Upper Peninsula into Lake Superior.

The Lake Superior basin is 7706 square miles and includes the major watersheds of the Montreal, Black, Ontonagon, Portage/Sturgeon, Dead, Chocolay, Au Train, Two Hearted, Tahquamenon and Waiska rivers plus several small coastal watersheds. This basin is the least developed in the State. Seventy percent of the basin is forested and another 20% is wetlands. Agriculture is present, but it is only 4% of the land use.

Priority Threats

Twelve threats to wildlife and landscape features in this basin were identified as significant by participants at a workshop for this region (see Methods chapter in the Introductory Text & Statewide Assessments section for more information). Invasive species (both established species that require control or eradication, and the potential for more species to colonize) and altered sediment loads were identified as the most severe threats. These were followed by fragmentation and disease, pathogens and parasites. The remaining threats considered significant are, in descending order: dams, forestry practices, mining practices, non-consumptive recreation, altered hydrologic regimes, social attitudes, lack of scientific knowledge, and riparian modifications. The difference in the types of threats recognized in the Lake Superior basin versus other basins reflects the different land uses that occur in this portion of the State; development pressures are at their lowest.

Natural Resource of Primary Focus – The Tahquamenon River

The Tahquamenon River is 94 miles long and drains approximately 820 square miles. It begins in the Tahquamenon Lakes in northeast Columbus Township in Luce County. M-123 runs alongside a portion of the river north of Newberry.

Recorded variously as 'Otikwaminang,' 'Outakwamenon,' 'Tequamenen', 'Tanguamanon,' 'Tanquamanon,' 'Toumequellen' and 'Tahquamenaw', several suggestions on the meaning of its name have been made over the years:

- The origin of the present spelling can be traced to a Jesuit map of Lake Superior published in 1672 that named the small island lying 5 miles (8.0 km) off the river mouth as "Outa koua minan'. The early French travelers called the Great Lakes region natives "Outaouaks".
- "Marsh of the blueberries," though 'menon' (*miinan*) does mean blueberries in the Ojibwa 'tahqua' does not mean "marsh"
- "Ottawa's good land" (*Odaawaag minaang*) due to an Ottawa village that used to be located near the mouth of the river

The current name for the Tahquamenon River in the Ojibwa language is *Adikamegong-ziibi* "River at where the Whitefish are found." This name is also the naming basis for Whitefish Point and Whitefish Bay, both known earlier as "Tahquamenaw".

Tahquamenon Falls State Park is Michigan's second largest park exceeding 40,000 acres. Tahquamenon, the land of Hiawatha, is home to one of the largest waterfalls east of the Mississippi. It stands 200 feet wide and has a drop of nearly 50 feet. Four miles downstream is the Lower Falls, a series of five smaller falls cascading around an island. The Tahquamenon River, which feeds the falls, rises from springs and drains the watershed of an area of more than 820 square miles. From its source, it meanders 94 miles before emptying into Lake Superior.

There are only two sources of discharge into the river, Newberry's municipal waste water treatment plant and Tahquamenon Falls State Park. In the late 1800's and early 1900's Newberry, like many Northern Michigan towns, was a lumbering town, with other industrial processes typical for the day. In the one mile stretch between the railroad and the Tahquamenon River to the north of the growing town were the factory and lumber yard grounds.

Historical uses are well known because the original use was the impetus to the creation of Newberry as a town in the late 1800's. In 1882, some businessmen from Detroit with interests in the railroad, established the Vulcan Furnace Company named for the Roman god of fire. The first industrial process undertaken on the property was making charcoal. The Village of Newberry sprang up around it. Prior to that, the location was known as "Grant's Camp". Vice-president of the furnace company was John S. Newberry, later a state congressman, for whom the town is named.

In the 1910's, another operation was added at the plant – making pig iron. The property had a lumber yard and many railroad spurs. The plant had its own small gauge railroad to move materials around on the property. Slabs that were scrap from the boards sawed was brought to the beehive brick kilns to make charcoal to fire the furnace to melt the iron ore. The molten mix of iron ore and limestone flowed down to the sand casting beds on the floor, producing 90 pound "pigs". At its height, the plant produced 70 tons per year. When this operation closed in 1945, it was one of the last of its kind in the country.

It is interesting to note how the industries utilized the by-products from one process as raw materials for the next. There was also a chemical company on the property which produced wood alcohol from by-products of the other industrial processes. The smoke from the kilns was captured and condensed. There were underground pipelines for tar, "liquer" and water.

But in the end, there were wastes. The tars were "disposed of" in one corner, while aqueous wastes flowed down a wooden pipeway into a "chemical ditch". This emptied into the Tahquamenon River, less than 1 mile north. Indeed the entire I mile stretch between the railroad tracks and the River was the industrialized area, all along the east side of M-123. Today there still stand a couple of company houses where the workers with families lived. In the company town, paying company script, it was the only place to stay for $25/month. Referred to as "Red Row" houses, they faced what is now the M-123 highway.

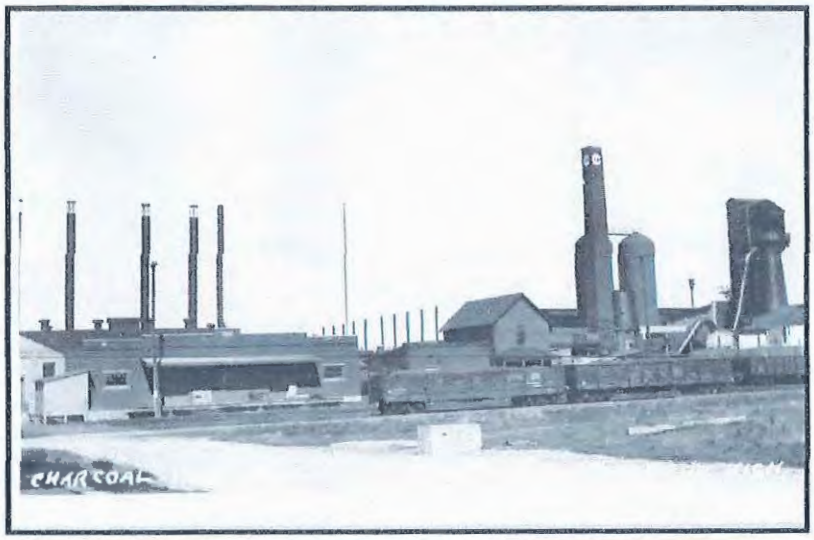
There are old written accounts of the Tahquamenon being "killed off" from the pollution. The neighboring river bottom lands once yielded the vast celery crops that Newberry was known for. There are records of the Iron company paying damages to farmers with failed (i.e.: polluted) crops.

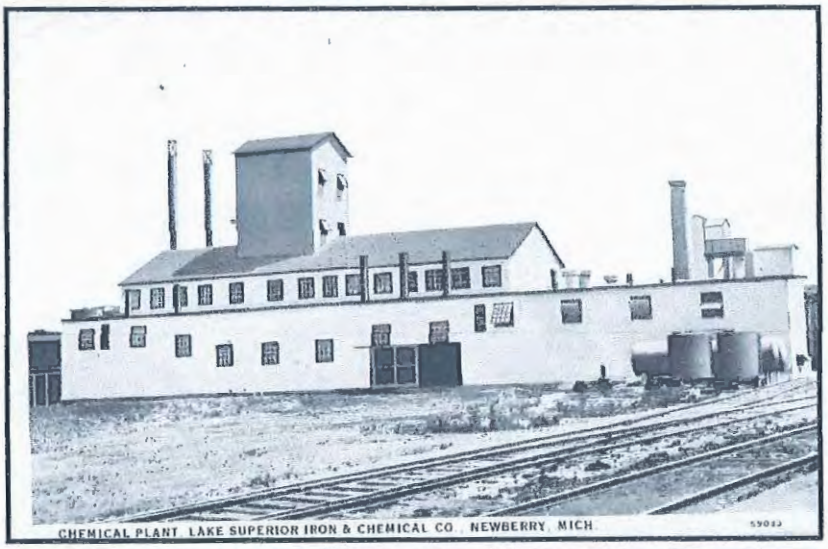
Chain of title records, historical maps and other records identify the following companies which operated in all or a portion of the property from 1882-1940's:

- Vulcon Furnace Company (1882 – 1888)
- Newberry Furnace Company (1888 – 1900)
- Burrell chemical Company (1888 – 1900)
- Michigan Iron Company (1900 – 1907)
- Superior Chemical Company (1903 – 1915)
- Lake Superior Iron and Chemical Company (1907 – 1915)
- Charcoal Iron Company of America (1915 – 1929)
- Newberry Lumber and Chemical Company (1929 – 1945)
- Newberry Manufacturing Company (1945 – 1946)
- West End Iron and Metal Company (1946 – 1950)
- Duluth SS&A Railroad/ now Canadian National (1880 – present)
- Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company (1932 – 1933)

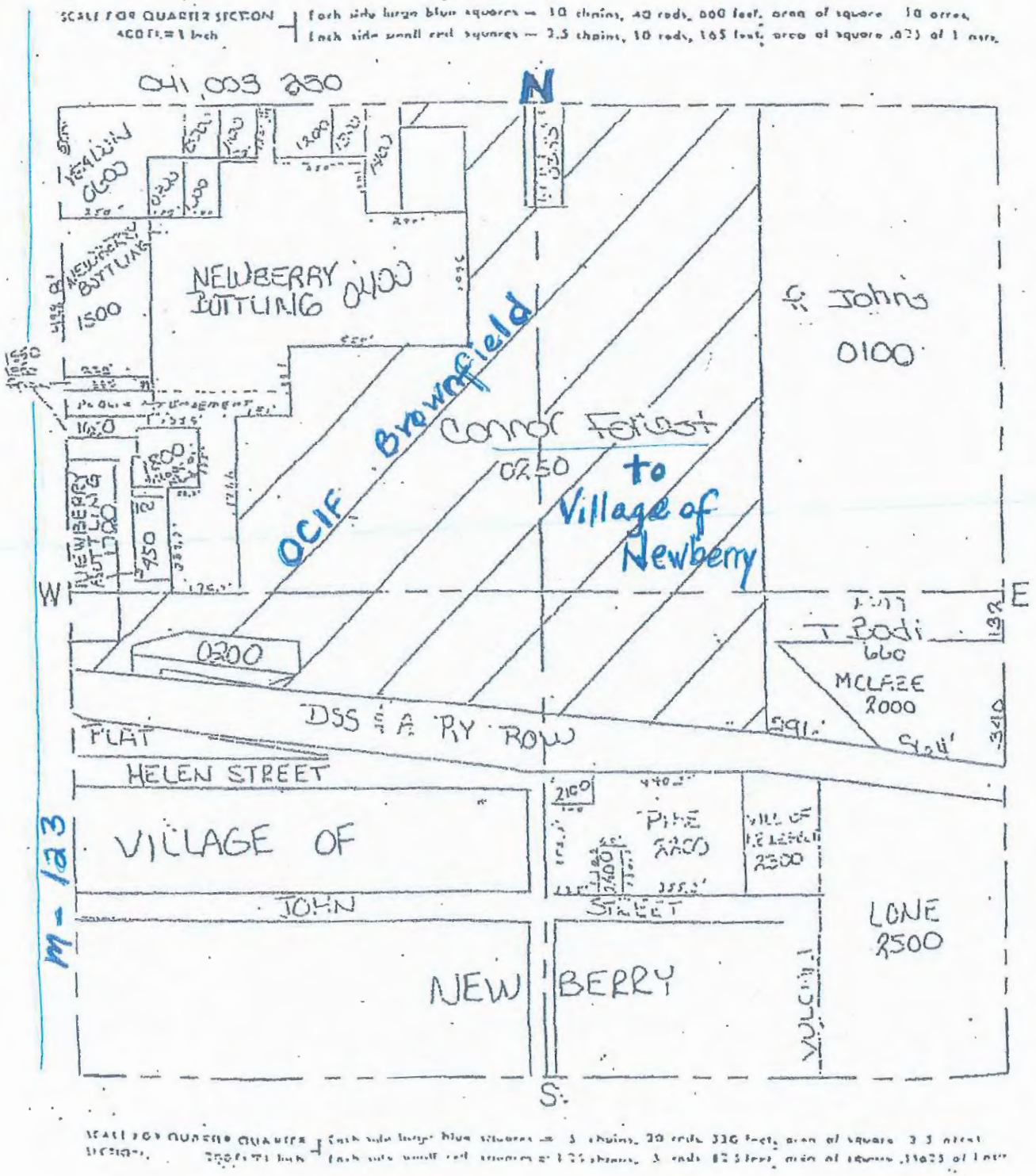
The industrial processes conducted on the premises were intensely polluting to the surrounding soil and wetlands. Cleanup of the site was conducted in the 21st century by State funds through the MDEQ.

All photos courtesy of Jim Dwyer





Section 25, T46N, R10W, NW ¼ ONLY - McMillan Township, Luce County



Charcoal Grade Rd
Falls Rd
123
Soldier Bay
Co Rd 462
Duma Rd
Co Rd 462 E
McPhee Landin
Brownfield
Old Charcoal Iron Facility
Railroad St
Co Rd 403
Newberry
Dollarville
Washington Blvd
E McMillan Ave
E Victory Way
Co Rd 466
N Prison Rd
Co Rd 428
Cherry Hill Dr
Co Rd 457
Co Hwy 407
Co Hwy 407
Foley Hill Rd
Newberry Ave
Zenker Rd
28
Twin Lakes
Co Rd 460
Newberry Country Club
Lee Mill Rd
Co Rd 457
Luce County Hale Airport

Description of the Planning Process

Planning for the Recreation Plan was conducted by the Village and the Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority (TARA). Previous recreation use surveys were reviewed, as well as other community plans. Village Council members were interviewed and public input was sought. A survey was printed in the local newspaper as well as being promoted as a web poll on the Authority's website. A 10 item goals statement tool was developed and utilized to elicit feedback from the public after reviewing the plan. Village Council members also responded to the 10 items during interviews about Village recreation assets. Consultation with the regional planning director occurred.

Description of the Public Input Process

Significant planning for the redevelopment of the brown-field has taken place for nearly 15 years. Beginning in April 1997, The Luce County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) began talking to the owners of the former Charcoal Iron Property, Conner Forest Industries (CFI) about cleanup and redevelopment for the site. A Brownfield Redevelopment Assessment (BRA) was completed by MDEQ with EPA funds in 1999. In 2000, the principles decided to pursue funding for a development plan. The EDC received a technical assistance grant to prepare a Brownfield Redevelopment Land Use Plan and Baseline Environmental Assessment. CFI provided the local match for the $45,000 award.

The firm of Wade Trim/NTH was hired to lead the planning process through public input meetings and local leadership/stakeholder meetings. The information was distilled into three separate development scenarios and presented to the EDC board in May 2002. The board chose the scenario that included downtown/trailhead parking, welcome center, convention center/ice arena, RV/ORV parking and storage, vocational education center, business offices, retail center and snowmobile/recreation trailhead. The Downtown Newberry Economic Enhancement Strategy completed in 2002 by Hyett Palma reaffirmed the importance of the project, saying it would be a boost for both downtown and Newberry as a whole. Clean up of the property was started May 2003 under a Clean Michigan Initiative Grant.

As part of the 2005 planning for the Luce County Parks and Recreation Department, public input was sought by the distribution of a survey in November of that year. The survey was designed with the assistance, nongratis, of Katherine Rosier, Professor of Sociology at Central Michigan University. It was mailed to all residences in the county. Her analysis of the survey data determined the results were representative of Luce County residents. Respondents were balanced in terms of gender, were older than the median age of US population (reflecting County realities), were exactly the same in terms of average household size and approximated the geographic dispersion of county residents between village and townships.

Relevant sections analysis follows:

2005 Luce County Comprehensive Recreation Survey

Analysis conducted/report prepared by Katherine B. Rosier Associate Prof of Sociology, CMU

(Excerpt, Sections 3 and 4 - Civic Center Survey Analysis)

Several questions in **Section 3** concern respondents' funding preferences for a multi-purpose Civic Center. Respondents were asked if they would be willing to support two different millage propositions (one for construction, and one for operation and maintenance), and if they would be willing to assist in fund-raising, for the Civic Center. Although Section 2 responses demonstrate that increases in taxes are not generally the *preferred* method of raising funds, most respondents say they *would* support the millage proposals:

53.4% would support a millage request (e.g., 1.75 mils) for Civic Center construction;

67.2%, a full two-thirds, would support a millage request (e.g., .5 mil) to support on-going operations and maintenance;

16.8% would be willing to help in fund-raising efforts

So, while previous Section 2 responses demonstrate that fund-raising is generally the most popular method of raising funds, only 16.8% said they would be willing to help in such fund-raising efforts for a Civic Center. While this is relatively small percentage, if these people are sincere, their contributions of time and effort could be quite significant. (16.8% of this sample equals 43 individuals who indicated their willingness to help in fund-raising.)

Section 3 of the survey also asked respondents what the proposed Civic Center should include. They were asked to rank-order their preferences for an ice arena; a gym; a conference center; a fitness center; a pool; and an indoor track. The percentage of respondents who indicated the item was their highest priority is displayed below, along with the mean ranking for the item.

	% ranking #1	mean ranking (1 is highest priority)
Ice Arena	56.0%	2.17
Indoor Track	10.3%	3.34
Gym	9.6%	3.50
Pool	15.5%	3.57
Conference Center	10.4%	4.27
Fitness Center	7.6%	4.29

Inclusion of an ice arena was clearly the strongest preference, while respondents showed much less interest in either a conference center, or a fitness center.

Finally, **Section 3** also asked respondents how important it is that the Civic Center be located within the village limits. This was clearly *not* a priority for respondents: over 60% indicated that location within the village is either unimportant (44.5%) or somewhat unimportant (17.7%), while only 23.2% and 14.6% said in-village location is important and somewhat important, respectively.

Crosstab Analysis

RANK CIVIC CENTER FEATURES, by AGE

There are significant differences by age for the ranking of the conference center, and the ranking of the fitness facility. Young people are significantly less likely to rank the conference center highly, and older people are significantly less likely to rank the fitness facility highly. Older people are also somewhat more likely to rank the track highly, but this difference is not "statistically significant."
There is no significant difference by age in the importance of in-village location.

RANK CIVIC CENTER FEATURES, by GENDER

There is only one significant difference by gender for the ranking of civic center features; Males are significantly less likely to highly rank a pool.
There is no significant difference by gender in the importance of in-village location.

RANK CIVIC CENTER FEATURES, by LOCATION (IN VILLAGE or NOT)

There is only one significant difference by gender for the ranking of civic center features; those respondents who live in Newberry are somewhat more likely than those who live outside the village to rank the fitness facility highly.

However, here we see a very strong, significant difference by location in the importance of in-village location for the civic center – 55% of those who live in Newberry say in-village location is very important or somewhat important, compared to only 29% of those who live outside the village who say this is very important or somewhat important.

Section 4

WILL MILL #1

Support for the construction millage is remarkably strong across all categories. But Newberry residents are significantly more likely to say they'd support this millage (62%) than non-village residents (49%). More than half of both males and females support the millage, and the slightly higher support by females is not statistically significant. Predictably, the older respondents are less likely to support the millage than are the younger respondents – the difference here is not quite statistically significant.

WILL MILL #2

Support for the maintenance millage is also very strong across all categories. Here, there is no difference by location. Females are somewhat more likely to support the millage than males, and the older respondents are somewhat less likely to support the millage than are the younger respondents. These differences approach but do not quite achieve statistical significance.

WILLING TO HELP

There is no difference in willingness to help by location, or by gender. Those in the middle age category, however, are slightly more likely than young respondents, and considerably more likely than the oldest respondents, to say that they are willing to help. This difference does not quite meet the criteria for statistical significance.

A community engagement visioning session was held in May 2007 to explore the potential creation of the Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority. The multi-jurisdictional unit of government which resulted has spearheaded the drive to develop a facility ever since.

In September 2008, a Public Visioning Session was planned through a collaborative effort of TARA, the original civic center group (TACCC) and the LMAS District Health Department. This session allowed organizers to share their vision of the Recreation Site, gather public comments and input and continue to generate grass-root support for the project.

The Tahquamenon Area Civic Center Committee (TACCC), with TARA and the Health Department embarked on an effort to involve their community in determining the facility's needed elements. The public visioning session was coordinated with the help of a private consultant that was hired to facilitate the visioning session and develop schematic architectural plans and a construction budget for the project. The visioning session was advertised in the local media for approximately two weeks prior to the event. Posters were distributed throughout the community,

TACCC and TARA were interviewed on the local radio station, and the event was listed on the community calendar of the local television station. The visioning session was held at the Elks Lodge located in downtown Newberry on the evening of September 29, 2008. Approximately 40 people attended the event which began with a presentation describing elements included in facilities in other communities. Also presented were a number of sustainable building practices that could reduce the environmental impact of the proposed center.

The visioning session included a brainstorming exercise where participant's ideas were recorded and posted for closer inspection by participants. Each person was then given five colored dots for voting for the five program elements most important to them. Also included in the exercise was the documentation of outdoor activities that could be supported by the new facility.

The original idea to construct a multi-purpose skating facility with artificial ice began when the area's local hockey team won the State Hockey Championship in 1989. A renewed effort was launched in 2002 to build not only an ice arena, but a multi-purpose facility that would meet many of the area's needs with the formation of the Tahquamenon Area Civic Center Committee (TACCC).

The function of the TACCC was to advocate for the project, manage the project's business planning and to conduct fund raising and fund development activities for the project. The Committee's vision is: *"To improve the quality of life in our local community for years to come by increasing opportunities for recreation and economic development. We will build a facility that is economically sustainable, energy efficient, and accessible to all".*

The TACCC volunteers determined after years of trying to move the project forward that the only way the community would ever be able to build and support a multi-purpose facility would be through community collaboration. The collaboration had to include

municipalities and organizations identified as being key partners for the project. The magnitude of the project inhibited any one municipality or organization to fund and/or manage the project. After much research, it was determined the best instrument available was an intergovernmental recreation authority. The enabling legislation, Public Act 321 of 2000, was seen as a viable tool for our community to transform a grassroots project into a governmental undertaking.

The TACCC was successful in creating the Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority (TARA) with their Articles of Incorporation being filed with the Secretary of State in February 2008. Both the TACCC and the TARA were named to reflect the region known as the "Tahquamenon Area" in order to encompass the vast rural area the proposed facility would draw local users from. In addition to four municipalities, the Village of Newberry, Luce County, Pentland Township and McMillan Township, the Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority is comprised of five additional entities. They include the Tahquamenon Area School District (which encompasses portions of five counties and is the largest school district geographically east of the Mississippi), the Newberry Area Chamber of Commerce, the Tahquamenon Area Youth Hockey Association, Helen Newberry Joy Hospital and Healthcare Center and the Tahquamenon Area Civic Center Committee. The TARA governing board is comprised of nine board members, with one representative from each entity.

The TARA was created for the expressed purpose of enriching recreational and economic opportunities in the Tahquamenon Area through the construction of a multi-purpose facility. Various surveys and studies have documented the need. The community fully supports the goal of developing this facility, as is evidenced by the number of municipalities and organizations collaborating on the project. TARA strives to represent the Tahquamenon region, which has no formal boundaries, but which local people could agree expands beyond Newberry and Luce County to encompass other small communities located across county lines into Chippewa, Schoolcraft and Mackinac Counties. These small communities include Paradise and Hulbert to the northeast, Eckerman to the east, Grand Mairis to the northwest, McMillan, Seney and Germfask to the west and Engadine, Naubinway and Curtis to the southwest.

Copy of Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice - February 16, 2011
Type of Notice - Newberry News, Public Notice
Plan Location - Public Library
Draft Plan was available for download at the TARA website – www.torcitup.com
Public review of plan promoted through social media – TARA facebook page

Copy of Notice for Public Meeting held after the one month public review period and before the plan's adoption by the governing body

Date of notice – March 9, 2011
Name of Newspaper – Newberry News
Date of Meeting – March 21, 2011
Copy of the minutes from the public meeting – see attachments

Findings: The Plan - Interpretation of Results and Plan Development

Several focus areas have arisen from the research and public input for this plan, as well as adding impetus to the brownfield redevelopment project currently underway. Unlike many other areas, the Upper Peninsula has continually suffered from lack of economic resources. While most places contain a manufacturing, commercial or agricultural base, the UP relies primarily on tourism and limited forestry and mining operations. Furthermore due to the lack of business(es) and employment opportunities, this region experiences a sparse population, with limited tax revenues, resulting in limited resources to develop community assets such as a recreation facility. The actual formation of the Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority is a direct effort to pool resources and funding sources to serve a larger population and spread the risk and responsibility for undertaking the brownfield redevelopment recreation project.

Health and fitness issues of the citizenry are of concern to public officials. The Village Council would like to try to maximize public assets to meet public needs. Obesity and life-style related health problems occur in above-average numbers locally. To help motivate youth and adults to greater physical activity, easily-used and fun recreational facilities should be developed.

Safety and cleanliness are always concerns and are addressed by regular maintenance. This is an important key to encouraging use. The low incomes of Village residents must be factored in to any fee schedules developed, with scholarships and sponsorships options explored. This project serves the population of Village of Newberry, which has a low to moderate income percentage of 75%.

The brownfield redevelopment project underway responds to these community needs. The variety of outdoor recreation activities envisioned for the complex is geared toward youth in many ways. Several non-traditional elements are planned in hopes of encouraging increased physical activity, specifically skateboarding and the paintball course. Disc golf is a fun activity that can be enjoyed by people of almost any ability level. And of course the walking trails could be enjoyed by everyone.

The first feature to be developed on the property is the four-season, outdoor skating rink, with a sheltering cover. Because hockey has been the impetuous to all the fund-raising over the years, the rink is the principle feature. Youth hockey is the user group responsible for sustaining the drive for the project to move forward and has devoted 100's of hours to the project. The ice arena was the top priority element in the 2005 survey.

Our plan for the **T**ahquamenon **O**utdoor **R**ecreation **C**omplex (TORC) is to energize our town and stimulate the economy while providing needed programming for youth and physical fitness opportunities for all in a sustainable facility. The outdoor, four-season skating rink will utilize a cutting edge synthetic material to keep energy use to a minimum, making the project earth-friendly and fiscally-sustainable for our small town. The year-round availability will be a unique training opportunity for hockey programs, bringing in people and dollars and creating jobs. A sheltered fitness track will encircle the rink, encouraging physical activity by all age groups, no matter the harsh winter weather here in northern MI.

The multi-use facility will offer events, youth programming and open-air summer markets. The rink is envisioned as the first of many recreation elements to be developed on the outdoor recreation complex grounds.

A survey asking which outdoor recreation elements should be developed next has been before the community since Dec 22, 2010. First published in the Newberry News as part of a half-page ad, the same poll was offered on our website from 2/9/11 to 3/15/11. The results thus far in descending order of popularity are:

Skateboarding park, walk/bike trails, disc golf, splash-park, paintball, soccer fields, 3-D Archery range and rock climbing.

Providing non-motorized bike trails and footpaths were 2 of the top 4 items identified as "Good Ideas" for future projects in Section 6 of the 2005 survey. The analyst writes: "*Whether one looks at the percentage of respondents who think the future project is a "good idea," or the percentage who do not rank the project in their top five future projects ... development of Non-motorized Bike Trails are (among) the most popular future projects.*"

Another finding from all the past surveys and visioning sessions has been the identification of the brownfield as a good staging area and trailhead for motorized recreation vehicles, in addition to hiking and biking. The transportation corridor headed north of Newberry is fragmented (no northbound trail connecting to town for ORV's) and somewhat unsafe. Snowmobilers must make an ill-defined crossing at the railroad tracks and then must cross the Tahquamenon on the highway bridge on M-123. TARA has pledged $10,000 in cash match to a Federal Byways grant to fund a feasibility study for all forms of recreational travel leaving Newberry headed north. A second crossing of the Tahquamenon may be sought. There is the old "Charcoal Grade" running on the east side of the highway that runs almost to Tahquamenon Falls. Many have suggested this be developed as a hiking and biking trail as well.

Developing trails in the Tahquamenon region has significant economic development potential. Hiking is one of America's fastest growing recreational activities. In 2002, almost one third of Americans (73.3 million people) went hiking. The USDA is predicting 80% increases in hiking in the next 50 years. As trail use grows and more trails are developed near population centers, communities will realize economic, social and health benefits of trails and hiking. An organized trail system is a desirable amenity and can contribute to the economic vitality of a community. Trails would be utilized for nature and wildlife viewing, as well as exercise and relaxation.

Outdoor recreation has been trending upward since it was first measured in the 1960's. Ever since then, the simple activities are the most popular –driving, walking, swimming, picnicking. Water has been a focal point of outdoor recreation, to sit by, swim in, ski across, and run boats over.

In 2000, the Forest Service RPA Assessment found outdoor recreation continues to be immensely popular, with 90.7% of 16+ years participating in 2000. The four most popular single activities were walking, going to the beach, family gatherings outdoors and sightseeing.

Activity	in 1983	in 1995	in 2000	(83-2000)
Backpacking	8.8	15.2	27.9	+217.1
Bird Watching	21.2	54.1	65.0	+206.6
Hiking	24.7	47.8	69.8	+182.6
Snowmobiling	5.3	7.1	10.7	+101.8
Walking	93.6	133.7	172.3	+ 84.1
Downhill Skiing	10.6	16.8	19.3	+ 82.1
Off-Road Driving	19.4	27.9	35.0	+ 80.4
Swimming/river, lake,or ocean	56.5	78.1	94.8	+ 67.8
Cross-country Skiing	5.3	6.5	8.8	+ 66.0
Boating (overall)	49.5	58.1	76.7	+ 54.9
Bicycling	56.5	57.4	86.2	+ 52.6

Youth

Excerpt from Special Report on Youth by The Outdoor Foundation

Today's young hikers, campers, climbers and paddlers are tomorrow's adult outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists, but sadly fewer and fewer youth are heading outdoors each year. In recent decades — amidst changing technological and social landscapes — the American childhood has rapidly moved indoors, leading to epidemic levels of childhood obesity and inactivity. The United States is now facing an unprecedented public health and conservation problem. Reconnecting youth with the outdoors has become critical to the health of future generations and the health of our natural landscapes. Our children are desperate for the physical, mental and social benefits of a healthy, active outdoor lifestyle, and our natural landscapes need the support and protection of individuals with a strong connection to the outdoors.

The report seeks to provide youth organizations, public agencies, businesses and non-profits with insights needed to get youth outside. Based on the largest national survey of American participation in outdoor recreation, the report dives deep into youth participation in outdoor activities — from detailing the demographics of youth outdoor participation to examining the motivations of participants and non-participants. A few of the key findings in this report include: Total Participation — Nearly 60 percent of American youth ages 6 to 24 participate in outdoor recreation. In recent years, participation has fallen each year. Frequency of Participation — American youth made an estimated 4.26 billion outdoor excursions in 2008. Gender Disparities — Males of all ages participate at a higher rate than females. 56 percent of youth outdoor participants ages 6 to 24 are male. Ethnic Participation — Minority populations are underrepresented in outdoor recreation. 79 percent of youth outdoor participants are Caucasian. Top Activities — Running, bicycling, fishing, camping and hiking are the most popular outdoor activities among youth. Youngest Activities — Skateboarding, BMX bicycling, snowboarding, climbing and triathlon have the highest percentage of youth participants and lowest percentage of adults. Motivations — Parents, friends and family introduce the most youth to the outdoors. Most youth enjoy the fun, relaxation

and exercise of outdoor activities most. Barriers — A lack of interest and a lack of time are the top barriers keeping youth non-participants in outdoor recreation indoors. Adults with Children in Their Household — Adults 18 and older with children, ages 1 to 17, in their household participate in outdoor recreation at higher levels than adults without children in their household.

Economics

There are economic as well as health benefits to outdoor recreation. The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy is a vital force in the national economy, yet is often overlooked. It supports nearly 6.5 million jobs and impacts all geographical regions of the country. It is inclusive of all gender, racial, ethnic, and religious groups. It pumps capital into major sectors of U.S. industry. The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy is sustainable year after year.

Furthermore, the $730 billion figure established by this report is just a small fraction of the deeper value that Americans place on the opportunity to recreate in nature. Major corporations make decisions on where to build and invest based upon the quality of life they can offer employees. Real estate and land near outdoor recreation opportunities has been shown to increase in value. There are compelling non-market benefits to a healthy Active Outdoor Recreation Economy (education, science, research, biodiversity), which can also multiply the economic contribution.

Beyond business, active outdoor recreation improves the physical health of the nation. Over 30 percent of adult Americans and 16 percent of children and teens are obese. Increased participation in outdoor recreation is a natural solution to this obesity crisis. Getting more Americans to participate in a stronger Active Outdoor Recreation Economy also reduces health-care costs and creates a greater sense of well-being and happiness for everyone.

Active outdoor recreation's $730 billion contribution is essential to our economic foundation. The recognition and stimulation of this market force should be a prime concern to all Americans who value a flourishing, sustainable economy. But the true value of outdoor recreation cannot be quantified. It is a priceless American treasure.

The most obvious boost the Active Outdoor Recreation Economy gives to the nation comes at the cash register. Participants spend their money on both gear and trips.

• Quality gear is key to a fulfilling outdoor experience, and Americans spend $46 billion each year on their equipment, apparel, footwear, accessories, and services.

• Americans want to spend money on active outdoor excursions, and they spend $243 billion on trips ranging from a summer camping vacation to an afternoon family bike ride.

That adds up to a whopping $289 billion spent annually on active outdoor recreation gear and trips, a bigger direct expenditures contribution to the U.S. economy than that of the securities, commodity contracts, and investments industry ($277 billion).

The brownfield redevelopment project has always been seen as a means to stimulate the local economy. Directly by creating jobs in maintenance, vendors and marketing. Indirectly by bringing people to town for special events and sporting competitions. Open air markets, shoulder season events and other uses could be developed.

Community recognition of the importance of the project is well documented in the following plans: MDOT Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route Management Plan, Luce West Mackinac Conservation District Five Year Plan, The Luce County Economic Development Corporation's annual plans.

In addition to all the above, early on in the process our leaders determined that an energy-efficient facility would be the only affordable facility for the Newberry area. Proponents of synthetic ice presented convincing arguments about energy savings. No costly ice-making mechanical systems to purchase and run and maintain. No big chillers. No huge water use. No Zamboni to run. We believe we have hit upon a compromise which will allow our small community an affordable, efficient and sustainable alternative to an artificial ice arena that we cannot afford.

It is the "green-ness" of our solution which attracted the Grants Management Division of the brownfield redevelopment of MDNRE to our project. The brownfield redevelopment funds available for this project are to "level the playing field" between redeveloping this property with that of a greenfield development.

Trailways leading around the recreation complex and points north also provide opportunities for conservation education. Kiosks explaining the value of our prized Tahquamenon River, the early uses by the indigenous peoples, the injuries caused by industrial practices and our community's determination to clean up past mistakes could enlighten visitors and residents alike.

Lastly, the goals, objectives and action plan were endorsed by 23 out of 24 respondents to the latest survey device. This attitudes survey was developed to evaluate the views of village leadership and was administered during telephone interviews to 2 Village Council members, the Council President, and the Village manager. The survey was then available, along with the draft recreation plan at a popular event sponsored by MSU Extension in Luce County, Winter Break for Knowledge. Nineteen additional surveys were completed by individual self-selection.

Development Plan for Brownfield Site

The proposed Tahquamenon Outdoor Recreation Complex is located on a 43 acre site on the northern edge of the Village of Newberry. The site is a brownfield, having been the location of lumbering, iron ore smelting and chemical plant operations over many decades into the 1950s. The site underwent major clean-up efforts during the past decade including removal or capping of contaminated soils, removal of buildings and removal or reduction of building foundations, and capping or removal of abandoned industrial below-grade infrastructure.

The park site is essentially flat. Vegetation is relatively sparse and includes a significant amount of non-native plants. The contaminated soils and sand or gravel used to replace or cap them have generally not provided favorable growing conditions for native plants. Eighteen acres of the site have been identified in broad terms as wetlands. Specifically, the northeast quadrant of the site was a railroad yard consisting of parallel tracks running north – south. It is the areas between the old railroad beds, constructed in significant part of gravel and slag, that have reverted to wetlands. The northern edge of this wetland area, along County Road 462, has evolved into the most mature section of wetland. Wetland areas in the southern part of this area are less mature and harbor a broader mix of non-native plants.

The park site is bordered by M-123 and the Newberry Bottling Company to the west, railroad tracks immediately along its southern edge, downtown Newberry immediately on the other side of the railroad tracks, and a mixture of woodlands and farms to the east and north. The railroad tracks are active and need to be considered relative to safety concerns as they relate to park access and development. An overhead electrical line runs approximately north – south through the non-wetland portion of the site. Both water and sanitary sewer are directly available to the park site.

The development of this site as a park was first seriously proposed and planned for in 2001. That initial interest gave momentum to site clean-up efforts four years later. Fund-raising began in earnest and public discourse ensued regarding specific recreation objectives for the project. Over time, numerous objectives were identified and considered. This process ultimately resulted in the formation of the Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority and an effort between the Authority and the Village of Newberry to have a master plan prepared for the park site. This step was initiated in early 2011.

The goals set forth for the project can be summarized as follows:

- Provide recreation opportunities for local and regional residents and for tourists
- Provide recreation opportunities for as diverse a set of population characteristics as possible
- Create opportunities for social interaction
- Restore the ecological health of the site through improvement of the soil, safe management of remaining contaminants, the introduction of native plantings on a site-wide basis, the restoration of wetland areas, and the expansion of habitat for native fauna
- Protect water resources in terms of ground water and wetlands
- Provide environmental education opportunities through the story of the site's industrial history and reclamation efforts
- Provide historical education opportunities through the stories of the many former uses of the site, the role of those uses in terms of regional economic development, World War II support, and so on
- Provide recreation opportunities accessible to people with physical limitations and disabilities
- Provide universally-accessible play/exercise opportunities for children and adults
- Provide recreation opportunities to people who cannot afford to pay for such opportunities

- Provide recreation opportunities that are accessible via walking and biking
- Provide recreation opportunities that can result in lower obesity in children and adults through active recreation activities

With the establishment of these goals, the plan for the park was developed. The centerpiece of the park is an ice rink. The rink will utilize synthetic ice, offering year-round skating under any weather conditions. The rink will be configured as a regulation hockey rink, suitable for practice, games, and local and regional tournaments. (Local residents currently must make at least a 100 mile round trip to enable their children to play on a regulation-size hockey rink.) The rink will be perfectly suitable for recreation skating. Synthetic ice rinks enabling year-round skating are relatively rare. Thus, it is anticipated that the rink will attract a broad range of users from both the local area, the region and from tourist activity.

The rink will be an outdoor facility, but will be covered by a roof structure. Heavily vegetated berms will surround the edges of the rink to reduce the effects of prevailing winds. An area around the rink will also be covered by the roof structure accommodating team benches and spectator areas. Most notably, a walking path around the rink will also be covered by the roof structure and protected by the vegetated berms, thus providing year round opportunity for walking as exercise.

A support building will be developed in close association with the ice rink, providing restrooms, skate rentals, concessions and locker facilities. This support building will also have a modest welcome center component in service to the park as a whole. A gathering/warming area will be provided between the support building and the ice rink, with tables and heaters suspended from a protective roof.

The ice rink will provide recreation opportunities for local and regional residents as well as for tourists. It will be available to anyone who is physically able to skate. It will provide numerous opportunities for social interaction and provide opportunities for reduction in obesity through both its skating and walking components.

In addition to the ice rink, Tahquamenon Outdoor Recreation Complex will include a large picnic shelter that will also be used for farmer's market activities, a skate park facility, a practice/learning disc golf facility, a sports field, boundless universally accessible play apparatus and areas for children, accessible, multi-generational play/exercise apparatus and areas for adults – particularly older adults, a dedicated dog park area, horseshoe facilities, extensive walking, biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing trails, spaces for community events, festivals and concerts, the development of environmental and historical education displays, and the restoration of wetlands, native plantings and wildlife habitat.

The park will be accessible from downtown Newbery via pedestrian and bike paths along M-123. Vegetation and fencing will be used to safely separate park activities from the railroad. All park facilities will be, at a minimum, ADA accessible. Specific play facilities for children and adults will be designed to be universally accessible. Environmental and historical education displays will be integrated along trails and at nodes throughout the site. The development of this park site makes active recreation opportunities and social interaction opportunities readily available to Village residents

and opens opportunities to attract regional and tourist-based use, thus offering a modest economic potential to the community as well. Park development will transform brownfield conditions into a recreational and environmental asset.

Plan Goals and Objectives

1. Goal One – To help create a physically active, socially-connected community.
   Objectives (as evidenced by):
   a. providing safe, well-maintained grounds which attract use of recreation facilities by individuals, families and groups.
   b. maintaining adequate staff and equipment to perform maintenance requirements.
   c. increasing the types of activities available and appealing to a broader range of people of differing ages and abilities
   d. increasing the number of organized events and activities offered to increase participants in recreational activities.

2. Goal Two – To develop a green infrastructure of non-motorized trails that provide alternate access routes to schools, residences, shops, libraries, and other destinations in addition to parks. When possible and practical, all municipal / publicly-owned green space should be connected by trails and greenways in order to form a walking path system which serves the transportation needs of the community. The greenways should be planned to preserve existing green space and maximize protection of environmentally sensitive areas, riparian and wetland areas in particular (Walking and Biking Trails development was consistently ranked among the top three choices for which elements should be developed next at the outdoor recreation complex on the 2011 survey and Priority 6 in the 2005 survey mean ranking)
   Objectives (as evidenced by):
   a. the development of new trails with cooperative agreements or acquisitions with local landowners and groups/municipalities and linear park areas when possible to create green-space trails within and across the community and connect park areas.
   b. the development of user groups which lend support to the greenways system.

3. Goal Three – to increase utilization and support of assets by residents and visitors.
   Objectives (as evidenced by):
   a. increasing programming for children and teens. (2005 survey priorities 3 and 4 in mean ranking. The analyst states: " *Notably, regardless of how you look at the data, keeping existing facilities well-maintained and safe, providing recreation facilities and programs for teens and children, and preserving environmentally sensitive places are among the most important")*
   b. improving/developing the assets closet to the population center by expanding amenities and support structures, facilities.
   c. Increasing the number of users and hours of recreation enjoyed at each facility.

4. Goal Four - to improve cost-efficiency and effectiveness by working with community groups which share our goals and mission. Work to solve community problems sustainably and with others.

Objectives (as evidenced by):

1. Support of the Tahquamenon Outdoor Recreation Complex project which will meet many of the community's needs. The 2005 Survey results support the community's desire to have an ice arena, with indoor walking track. Replacement of the ice rink is of highest priority, as it was the lowest rated facility in the survey. The analyst states "*All aspects of the Ice Rink are believed to be in "poor" condition by most survey respondents. Less than 10% believe any aspect of this facility is in good condition. Clearly, survey respondents believe the Ice Rink facility is, by far, the most problematic public facility considered in this survey*"

2. Work cooperatively with user/ groups to develop/expand facilities to meet their needs.

Action Plan

A. To pursue funding for the improvements to accomplish the goals adopted in this plan. Explore all avenues (write grants, compete in contests) to expand amenities at existing parks and green spaces.

B. Develop a way-finding system for the Newberry area, making recreational and cultural attractions easy for visitors and residents to locate. Continue to work with multi-jurisdictional and regional organizations to jointly develop local assets. Explore submission of joint applications for federal byways funds to implement signage programs.

C. Continue to practice regionalism and place-making strategies. Explore new relationships for projects to further develop the Tahquamenon Region's identity, with Newberry the Gateway to Wilderness, promoting respectful exploration of our beautiful area while appreciating the natural resources.

D. To support the Intergovernmental Tahquamenon Area Recreational Authority and assist in the implementation of the Tahquamenon Outdoor Recreation Complex Master Plan. Specifically to:

1. Work with TARA and its agents to complete and submit an application to the MNRTF to partially fund the recreational development.
2. Work with TARA and its agents to complete and submit a Brownfield Redevelopment Grant Application for the following specific eligible activities:
    a. Investigation (soil boring, test pitting and utility clearance)
    b. Due Care activities
    c. New construction of paved areas and berms.

3. To develop a management agreement with TARA for operation of the recreation facilities.
4. To provide support to the project through provision of one or more of the following services: road maintenance; electricity; water and sewer; grounds maintenance.
5. Provide bookkeeping and billing support for grants administration.