

City of St. Ignace Recreation Plan 2012-2016



**CITY OF ST. IGNACE
RECREATION PLAN
2012-2016**

City of St. Ignace
Mackinac County
Michigan

Prepared for:
St. Ignace City Council



Prepared by:
St. Ignace Recreation Plan Update Committee
With representatives from:
City of St. Ignace, Moran Township, St. Ignace Township

Adopted by City Council
/ / /

CITY OF ST. IGNACE

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1.0 Introduction

Because of the recreational character of Northern Michigan, and the location of the City of St. Ignace as the gateway to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the City Council wishes to formally plan for recreational facilities and activities. The City's last community recreation plan was effective for the years of 2006-2010 and recently expired. This document is an update to that plan.

The City plans to not only continue providing recreational services to its residents, surrounding townships and visitors to the area, to expand and improve those services as necessary.

The St. Ignace City Council recognizes the importance of planning for future recreation services and facilities. A major factor in the provisions of any service is the question of how projects will be funded. Possible sources of funding for recreation projects are the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Clean Michigan Initiative, administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

To become grant eligible for the MDNR funding, a community must have an approved recreation plan. Components of an MDNR approved recreation plan include:

- Community Description (Social and Physical)
- Administrative Structure
- Recreation Inventory
- Description of the Public Input Process
- Goals and Objectives
- Action Program
- Plan Adoption Documentation

Recreation – A Definition

Recreation can be both active (physical) and passive (non-physical) by nature. Some people view recreation as an activity, others as an experience. A crucial factor in the understanding of recreation is the attitude of the participant. Therefore, recreation for the purpose of this plan is considered to be any type of conscious enjoyment. The only criterion is whether or not the participant perceives the activity as recreational. Some sort of recreation is necessary for a sense of fulfillment in one's life.

Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of this plan is:

1. Clarify, prioritize and communicate the overall recreation plans of diverse area agencies and organizations.
2. To provide for a process for coordinating and periodically reassessing the coordination of activities planned by the public and for the public.
3. To help qualify the City of St, Ignace for assorted recreation funds.

Detailed objectives of the plan are:

1. To develop projections about tourism and related demand for facilities.
2. To make an assessment of present and future needs for local recreation facilities.
3. To develop a list of long-range goals for area recreation.
4. To develop a five-year action plan in which specific top priority projects are named, accountabilities are assigned a, and possible funding sources are identified, and accountabilities are assigned, and possible funding sources are identified.
5. To propose public policies and guidelines to guarantee preservation of are resources.

2.0 Community Description

LOCATION AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Location, history, and a strong sense of community are among the primary assets St. Ignace residents share when assessing why they enjoy living in the area. The area has been historically renowned for its location as the connecting passage between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron affording the early European explorers and Native Americans shelter, protection, and resources for survival. Today, the natural features and resources of the region attract new residents and visitors from across the Midwest. St. Ignace was incorporated as a city in 1883; nearly 110 years after the Jesuit Priest Father Marquette arrived and formally named the mission at Michilimackinac “St. Ignace de Michilimackinac”, thereby providing the city its namesake. Location map is provided as **Figure 2-1**.

The main transportation artery used by travelers crossing the Straits of Mackinac is I-75 providing convenient access to the population centers in Southern Michigan including the Detroit Metropolitan area. The Mackinac Bridge, opened in 1957, created the landmark gateway for tourists visiting the region and the Upper Peninsula to experience four seasons of recreation activities and provided an economic lifeline for the community of St. Ignace. In recent years, a number of tourism, recreational, and economic changes have affected the city. Commercial and recreational developments in nearby Mackinaw City and regional shopping centers in Cheboygan, Gaylord, Traverse City, Petoskey and Sault Ste. Marie have changed the competitive position of many city businesses. The advent of casinos combined with the new motels, restaurants, and travel patterns, has changed the face of commercial development in St. Ignace as well as the region. Special events within St. Ignace have ushered in vacationers into the area as a destination location. Events including the Labor Day Bridge Walk, St. Ignace Auto and Truck Shows, Fourth of July Celebration and the Fireworks Celebrations, Bayside Live, Music Festival, Fish Feast, Mackinac Island Festivals, Pond Hockey, and St. Ignace Recreation Department Athletic Tournaments have increased the number of visitors during the summer. Pressures for increased worker housing and recreational/waterfront development have substantially raised land and housing costs. The vast majority of local jobs are in the relatively low-paying service sector. Coupled with the seasonal nature of much of the area’s employment, many residents are experiencing difficulties maintaining their existing standard of living in today’s struggling economy.

Three townships border the City of St. Ignace, Moran Township and the St. Ignace Township. Strong ties are shared between the city and each of these townships. The St. Ignace Area School services the city as well as all these townships. Emergency services are shared by all through “mutual aid” agreements. St. Ignace is the county seat for Mackinac County where the Mackinac County Court House, Mackinac Straits Hospital and the Mackinac County Airport are all located. City water and sewer services extend out into the townships.

Recreation is another important area that adjoining townships share with the city. Moran and St. Ignace Township voters have passed millage to financially participate in the City of St. Ignace Recreation Department. The signed recreation agreement (**Appendix “A”**) spells out the terms of this agreement, which specify the amount of annual financial support and the inclusion of township representation on the City Recreation Committee. Doc Holle’s Silver Mountain ski and tubing hill, which is located in Moran Township, is leased and operated by the city, with an annual financial contribution from the township.

As with other remote, rural communities the ties with surrounding townships are a plus in serving all of the affected populations. It allows all of the governmental units involved to pool their resources and provide more opportunities than if they tried to “go it alone”.

For the convenience of the current and future governmental units of the city and surrounding townships this recreation plan includes as **Appendix “B”**, all of the 2005- 2009 census figures for each of the governmental units. This information is very important in determining changes in demographics between the two census years and in helping to decide what types of recreational opportunities may best suite the affected populations.

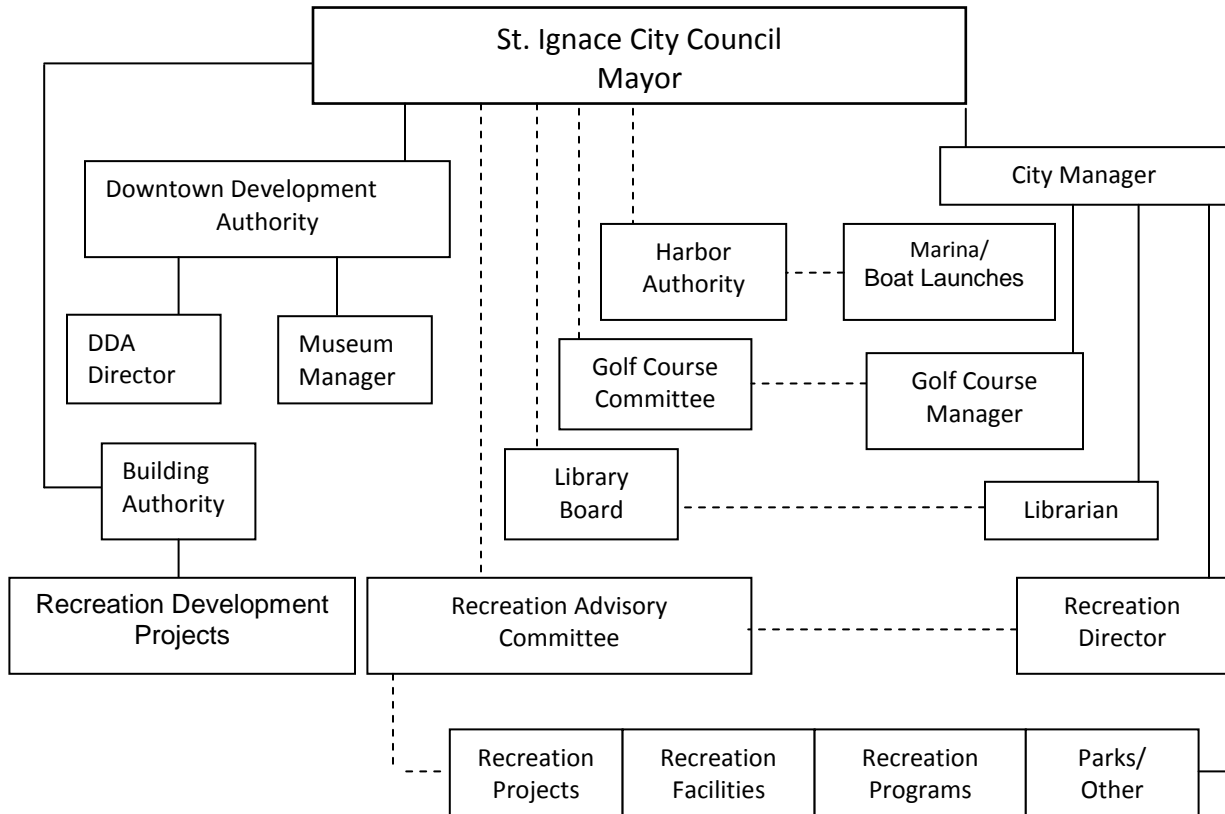
3.0

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR RECREATION

For St. Ignace, local government consists of a City Council, presided over by a Mayor. Day-to-day operations are supervised by a City Manager who is directly accountable to the council. In the provision of recreational services, several other managers (Harbor Master, Golf Course Manager, Librarian and Recreation Director) report directly to the City Manager. While the Council relies on committee (Harbor Authority, Golf Course Committee, Library Board, and Recreation Advisory Committee) recommendations, the Council has final fiscal authority. An organized Downtown Development Authority, reporting to the Council, is also involved in recreational services within the downtown district. A Director and a Museum Manager work for the DDA.

The City of St. Ignace Recreation Advisory Committee was created through Act 156 of 1917, the Michigan enabling legislation for providing public recreation and parks. An organizational chart for the administration of recreational services for St. Ignace is presented as **Figure 3.1**. A more detailed organizational chart for the City's Recreation Program showing programs, facilities and parks is provided as **Figure 3.2**.

Figure 3-2
Recreation Organizational Chart
City of St. Ignace



———— Direct
 Accountability

----- Representation

**Figure 3-3
Organizational Chart for Recreation Program
City of St. Ignace**

**City Council
City Manager**

Recreation Director

Parks

McCann Field
Chief Wawatam Dock
American Legion Park
Kiwanis Beach
Dock 3 Park
Connors Park
Huron Boardwalk

Facilities

Little Bear East Arena
Swimming Pool
Tennis Courts & Basketball Courts
Doc's Silver Mountain Ski Hill

**Recreation Board
Programs/Athletics**

Baseball/Softball
Soccer
Flag Football
Skating Lessons
Punt/Pass & Kick
Other Programs

Finance for 2012-2016

Moran Township	\$13,000
City of St. Ignace	\$13,000
Township of St. Ignace	\$12,030.00
City of St. Ignace	\$66,000.00

Recreation Committee Representation

One – St. Ignace Area School District Member *

Two – St. Ignace Citizens at Large **

Two – St. Ignace City Council Members **

Two – St. Ignace Township Members ***

Two – Moran Township Members ***

One – Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians **

One – St. Ignace Visitors Bureau **

One – St. Ignace Youth Hockey Association **

City of St. Ignace – Recreation Director (Ex-Officio)

City of St. Ignace – City Manager (Ex-Officio)

Yearly (Base) Funding (2012-2016)

City of St. Ignace	-	\$66,000.00
Township of St. Ignace	-	\$12,030.00
Township of Moran-		\$12,030.00

* Appt.'d by School Bd. Pres.

** Appt.'d by Mayor

*** Appt.'d by Twp. Supervisor

City Recreation Program

The City of St. Ignace established a “Recreation Program” and employs a full-time Recreation Director. As part of the Recreation Program, the City provides equipment and personnel to administer a recreation program, including supervision and payroll administration. The City is in charge of all programs and provides necessary personnel, supervision, scheduling, publicity and evaluation of the programs. **Appendix A** is provided for more details of the joint agreement, which establishes the City Recreation Program.

The following is a list of the recreational facilities included in (but not limited to) the agreement:

1. Little Bear East Arena and Community Center/Fitness Center
2. Lake Street Basketball Court
3. Central city double tennis court
4. Dock 3 City Park (picnic shelter, playground, boat launch, basketball court, fish cleaning).
5. Hazelton Street boat launch/fish cleaning station.
6. McCann Athletic Field.
7. Softball, baseball, and soccer fields.
8. Conner’s Park (home of the “Edith Jane” Mackinaw Boat- along downtown boardwalk).
9. Miscellaneous parks and playgrounds
10. Kiwanis Beach
11. Huron Boardwalk
12. Community Swimming Pool
13. American Legion Memorial Park (playground, picnic shelter, restrooms, volleyball, horseshoes).
14. Skateboarding park and basketball court
15. Natural pond on Little Bear East Property
16. Snowmobile trail (former railroad grade through downtown St. Ignace and north).

(#17 - #20 are not covered in the joint recreation agreement between the City and two townships but are still widely used by all surrounding township residents).

17. Nine-hole golf course (located in Moran Township, owned by the city).
18. Doc Holle’s Silver Mountain Ski Area/Disc Golf/Outdoor Skating Rink (operated by the City of St. Ignace under lease from Moran Township).
19. St. Ignace Public Library
20. Marquette Mission Park and Museum of Ojibwa Culture

Activities using these facilities include:

Open Skating & Lessons	Soccer	Downhill skiing and tubing	Golf
Hockey	Aerobics and Exercise Programs	Volleyball	Special Events
Wrestling	Open Swimming and Lessons	Ojibwa Cultural Arts	Basketball
Flag Football		Tennis	Library Services
Baseball & Softball			Park Programs

Relationships with Other Agencies

There are many service organizations and agencies that contribute to the overall effectiveness of St. Ignace area recreation.

The local service organizations have been vital in providing matching funds for downtown park and boardwalk developments and for the school track, pool and playground developments. Volunteers from these organizations, along with groups such as the local Coast Guard, girls and boys scouting groups, church groups, sports boosters, the St. Ignace Hockey Association, and PTO members all provide labor for various recreation projects throughout the area.

Various agencies are crucial in the recreational planning and development process. They provide technical assistance for local recreation planning and other kinds of help for special recreation projects. This assistance is sought as appropriate from:

Eastern U.P Regional Planning and Development
U.S Forest Service
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Transportation
St. Ignace Area Schools
Michigan State University Extension Service
Mackinac County Board of Commissioners
Moran Township Board
St. Ignace Township Board
Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians
North Country Trail Association

The city has a good working relationship with the St. Ignace Area Schools and provides special classroom rates for the community pool, Little Bear East ice skating rink and the Silver Mountain tubing hill. Another very vital group to the health of recreation in the St. Ignace and the adjoining townships has been the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Their continued financial support for the creation of recreation opportunities in this area has been unparalleled.

The City of St. Ignace Department of Public Works provides park maintenance and helps to enhance many capital improvement projects through in-kind force labor.

City of St. Ignace Community Center Operations- Revenues

Account #	Item	2009	2010
000-586.000	Tourist Assoc Contribution	0	0
000-587.000	DDA Contribution	\$8,500	\$8,500
000-630.000	Conference Rentals	\$20,814	\$20,696
000-633.00	Open Skate	\$8,825	\$11,626
000-648.000	St. Ignace Hockey Assoc	\$43,493	\$38,236
00-652/3	Fitness Center	\$22,011	\$23,806
000-691.000	Transfer from General Fund	\$22,000	\$22,000
000-694.000	Transfer from Recreation	\$49,000	\$49,000
00-638/643/659	Special Events	\$44,805	\$50,998
000-543.000	Sault Tribe Donation	0	\$31,650
000-640.00	Outside Ice Rentals	\$6,790	\$7,710
	Misc Income	\$24,043	\$16,111
00-642.00	Arena Concession	0	\$13,993
Total Revenues		\$250,281	\$294,316

City of St. Ignace Community Center Operations- Expenses

Dept/Fund	2009	2010
549	\$333,128	\$275,705

Operating Budget for Recreation

The following tables demonstrate operating budgets for recreation-related funds and budgets for the most recent full year (2009) and (2010).

City of St. Ignace- Recreation Program - Revenues

Account #	Item	2009	2010
000-403.000	Recreation Tax	\$67,120	\$66,357
000-404.000	Moran Twp. Tax	\$11,568	\$12,030
000-405.000	St. Ignace Twp. Tax	\$11,568	\$12,030
000-583.000	Transfer from General Fund	0	0
000-651.000	Swim Pool Fees	\$3,827	\$2,077
000-652.000	Swim Lesson Fees	\$2,495	\$2,999
000-653.000	Baseball/Softball Fees	\$1,913	\$2,714
000-654.000	Soccer Fees	\$4,519	\$5,034
000-664.000	Interest Earnings	\$754	\$405
000-675.000	Donations	0	0
000-644.000	Flag Football	\$2,193	\$1,965
	Misc Income	\$35,780	\$2,285
000-697.000	Anti Bank Balance	0	0
Total Revenues		\$141,757	\$107,897

City of St. Ignace – Recreation Program – Expenses

Dept/Fund	2009	2010
545	\$138,284	\$123,055

City of St. Ignace – Silver Mt. Ski Area – Revenues

Account #	Item	2009	2010
000-403.000	Rec Dept	\$0	\$0
000-404.000	Moran Twp Contr.	\$13,000	\$13,000
000-404-000	Grants & Donations	0	0
000-650-000	Other	0	0
000-651-000	Memberships	0	0
000-652-000	Rentals	0	0
000-653-000	Tow Fees	\$8,506	\$1,076
000-654	Food & Beverage	\$2,535	\$310.50
000-664-000	Interest Earnings	\$13.38	0
000-676-000	Gen Fund Trans.	\$14,000	\$14,000
000-697	Anti Bank Balance	0	0
TOTAL REVENUES		\$38,054.38	\$28,386.50

City of St. Ignace - Silver Mountain Ski Area - Expenses

Fund/Dept.	Item	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
Wages/Overhead	Administration	\$24,446.17	\$14503.51
Operations	Winter Program	\$15,347.94	\$10,752.06
	Capital Improv.	\$976.17	\$2928.47
TOTAL EXPENSES		40,797.28	28,184.04

(See Appendix "C" for Silver Mountain Statistics)

City of St. Ignace – General Fund/Park Maintenance – Expenses

Account #	Item	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
718-706-000	Salaries & Wages	17,100.58	16,643.83
718-707-000	Wages Temporary	13,947.07	13,355.79
718-740-000	Operating Support	1,133.72	1,111.70
718-751-000	Gas & Oil	1,246.43	1,197.83
718-782-000	Materials	0	0
718-853-000	Communications	60.36	0
718-920-000	Utilities	1,613.76	1,243.02
718-943-000	Equipment Rental	10,515.82	10,702.39
718-956-000	Sundry	0	216.48
718-967-000	Overhead	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$45,617.74	\$44,471.04

City of St. Ignace – General Fund/Municipal Park Construction – Expenses

Account #	Item	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
705-706-000	Salaries & Wages	0	0
705-707-000	Wages Temporary	0	0
705-740-000	Operating Support	0	14.98
705-782-000	Materials	0	0
705-808-000	Consulting Service	0	0
705-943-000	Equipment Rental	1,359.98	164.46
705-956-000	Sundry	0	18.48
705-977-000	Capital Outlay	0	1,000
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,359.98	\$197.92

City of St. Ignace – Boardwalk Maintenance/Capital Improvement – Revenues

Account#	Item	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
000-567-000	MNRTF Grant	0	\$172,000
000-583-000	Trans fm gen fund	0	\$5,000
000-584-000	Trans fm Rec	0	0
000-664-000	Interest earnings	0	0
000-675-000	CZM Grant	0	\$25,000
000-677-001	Trans fm DDA	0	\$23,000
000-695-000	Contri. Serv. clubs	\$10,000	\$18,000
000-696-000	In-Kind City DPW	\$5,000	0
TOTAL REVENUES		\$10,000	\$243,600

City of St. Ignace – Boardwalk Maintenance/Capital Improvement– Expenses

Fund/Dept.	Item	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
499/942	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,000	\$243,000

4.0 Recreation Inventory

An inventory of existing recreational facilities located in the City of St. Ignace and surrounding area is detailed in this chapter. Facilities are grouped according to jurisdictional management and operation. ADA compliance ranking of each facility ranges from 1-5:

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

2 = Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

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

4 = The entire facility/park meets accessibility guidelines

5 = The entire facility/park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Figures 4-1, 4-2 and 4-3 at the end of this chapter illustrate locations of the recreational sites.

CITY OF ST. IGNACE

Name: Little Bear East Arena and Community Center and Fitness Center

This large facility, located on a portion of the Railroad Corridor-North Section, was constructed in 1999 with funding from a bond issue and financial support from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The main feature of this facility is the NHL-size ice rink and arena (17,000 square feet) with seating for 400. The ice is used from approximately October 1 to March 1 for the City's hockey program, figure skating, skating lessons and open skating. During the off-season months the arena is used for conferences, exhibitions and special events. The area around the ice surface is used for walking exercise year-round. The center houses a large conference/meeting room (4,300 square feet) seating up to 400, which may be divided into two smaller rooms. It is used for community meetings and gatherings and is available for private functions through rental arrangement. The facility also houses four locker rooms/showers, full concession, caterer's kitchen, restrooms, and offices. A 3,700 square foot fitness center with weight lifting stations, aerobic machines and aerobic/exercise programs was added in 2004 with funding also coming from the Sault Tribe. A small natural pond is located near the facility.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: New carpet in the conference room, rubber flooring in the fitness center, new conference tables, backup ice-surfacing equipment, additional fitness equipment, develop areas adjacent to facility.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 1.

Name: Dock #3 Community Park (grant in 1999)

This 4.25-acre public park area was previously owned by the State of Michigan and used as a "State Car Ferry Dock" before the building of the Mackinac Bridge. In 1975 the City made improvements to the park which included a picnic shelter, unprotected boat launch, interpretive signs and memorial gardens. In 1988, the St. Ignace Recreation Program installed new playground equipment on the non-waterfront portion of the property. In 1995/1996, the City remodeled the existing restrooms to conform to ADA standards and in 2004 upgraded the attached fish cleaning station. The City received a **MNRTF development grant #TF99-026** "Dock #3 Park Development" for improvements to the dock pier area, which included the following scope items: landscaping, lighting, pier railing, concrete sidewalk,

signage, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles. One paved outdoor basketball court was added to the playground area in 2003.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: The park needs expanded playground equipment. The boat launch needs improved protection and moorage, fishing pier and new signage and improved lighting.

ADA Compliance: The park is ADA compliant following the 2001 renovations. The boat launch is not ADA compliant – Ranking 3.

Map Location: 2.

Name: St. Ignace Municipal Marina and Chief Wawatam Dock (MNRTF grant 2008)

This marina was upgraded by an eight million-dollar major improvement project completed in 2003. There are two new breakwalls, 136 boat slips with electric hookups, shower house, restrooms and gasoline pumps. For planning purposes, the Chief Wawatam dock (former car ferry dock) is included with this site, since one of the breakwalls is connected to it and the 52-foot fully operational lighthouse was located there in 2006. The City DDA received a **MNRTF Development Grant #TF08-013** “Chief Wawatam Park” for the development of the rest of this property. Two of the scope items for this development were completed in the fall of 2010, including a fishing dock and decorative fencing around the perimeter. The remainder will be completed in spring 2011 including walkway, children’s educational and play areas, landscaping, electrical, benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Band shell area to hold events, renovation of the former rail car lift area which located at the far east end of the pier.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 3.

Name: City Municipal Boat Launch

This newly developed facility completed in 2001 sits on 3 acres of land and consists of four boat launches, pier with dock, parking for 110 vehicles with boat trailers, fish cleaning station and public restrooms.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, surrounding communities, tourists.

Needs: Sand area for kayak landing; cap breakwall for fishing pier.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 4.

Name: St. Ignace Community Swimming Pool

Constructed in 1973, the pool contains space for six swimming lanes, restrooms, shower and locker facilities for men and women. The pool was enclosed for indoor, seasonal use in 1996.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: Heating/desert air dehumidifier/insulation for year-round use, play equipment.

ADA Compliance: Parking and restrooms are ADA compliant, but a disabled person would need assistance in using the pool – Ranking 3.

Map Location: 5.

Name: St. Ignace Golf and Country Club (located in Moran Twp/owned by City)

This nine-hole golf course consists of clubhouse (built in 1995), other support buildings, sprinkler system and restrooms on 6th tee (these are not ADA compliant at this time).

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, surrounding communities, tourists.

Needs: Acquire property and add nine more holes; preliminary design for new nine holes is in progress; maintenance garage; driving range.

ADA Compliance: Parking and clubhouse are ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 6.

Name: Basketball Court and Skateboard Park

This site is located on a portion of the Railroad Corridor-North Section property (formerly called the “Round House” site) that is approximately 270’ X 235’ of paved parking lot. Part of the parking perimeter was converted to 2 full basketball courts and various free standing skateboard ramps completed in the fall of 2000 funded by donations.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: Lighting, additional skateboard ramps.

ADA Compliance: Accessible parking spaces are not marked; no restrooms are provided at this site, but are available nearby at the Little Bear East facility – Ranking 3.

Map Location: 7.

Name: Lake Street Basketball Court

Constructed in 1974 and restored in 1991, the facility has a 30’ x 50’ blacktop surface, lighting, parking area and basketball boards. With two new basketball courts added since 2000 within 2 blocks (map location #7), this site is not used much anymore.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: Picnic tables, landscaping, fencing, upgrade parking.

ADA Compliance: Accessible parking spaces not marked; no restrooms – Ranking 2.

Map Location: 8.

Name: Community Tennis Courts and Practice Board

Updated fencing, lighting and a double set of practice boards were added in 1987 and new metal nets in 1994.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Resurfacing, new practice board.

ADA Compliance: Accessible parking spaces not marked; no restrooms – Ranking 2.

Map Location: 9.

Name: McCann Field

This site contains one baseball diamond with bleachers and a football field with large home team and visitors’ bleachers, dressing room/field house, restrooms, scoreboard and a basketball court. The fields are used for both St. Ignace School and City athletic programs.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: Football field needs additional parking.

ADA Compliance: Marked parking space is provided outside the fence for handicapped persons wishing to view sporting events from their vehicle. For persons wishing to view events from the bleacher area, parking is provided inside the fence, and wheelchair space is provided via ramp to bleachers. Restrooms are ADA compliant – Ranking 4.

Map Location: 10.

Name: Doc Holle’s Silver Mountain Ski Area (operated by City; leased from Moran Twp)

This approximately 56 acres of land is located in and owned by Moran Township. It contains a ski/snowboard area, which includes a lighted one-run alpine ski hill, lighted tubing hill, 2 tow handle lifts, cross country ski trail (in cooperation with U.S. Forest Service), restrooms, warming shed, equipment garage, and snack bar. Also on site are an outdoor skating rink, cross country trail and a 19-hole disc golf course. Although there is a slight fee for the “hill” activities, all other on-site activities are free to the public. A groomer and snow-making equipment are located on the site.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Upgrade snow making equipment; grooming equipment; paved parking lot; access road improvements.

ADA Compliance: No paved or marked parking areas; doorway to warming building is wide enough but needs more work; bathroom is fully handicapped accessible – Ranking 2.

Map Location: 11.

Name: Railroad Corridor-North Section (MNRTF Grant in 1992)

The City received a MNRTF grant to acquire a portion of the 53 acres of the Wisconsin Central Railroad right-of-way lying generally north of Marquette Street (**TF 92-121, Railroad Acquis.**). The site referred to as the “Round House” just south of Marquette Street was also included in the grant-funded acquisition. Phase I and II Environmental Assessments were conducted on the entire site. Contamination on the “Round House” portion was mitigated with grant assistance from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for paving over the area for use as basketball court, skateboard ramps and overflow parking for the Little Bear East facility on the north side of Marquette Street. The corridor varies from 100’ to 800’ wide and includes 2300’ of shoreline along the east-end of Chain Lake. There is a small pond located on this property, just north of Marquette Street. The former railroad track bed is used for snowmobiling in the winter and ATV riding in the non-winter months, connecting to the MDNR trail system.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: Suggestions for use of undeveloped areas include dredging and stocking the pond, nature pathway for walking and running, baseball & soccer fields, bicycle course, fencing, lighting, concession, bathrooms, multi-use trail, canoe launch at Chain Lake.

ADA Compliance: Developed facilities are ADA compliant – Ranking 3.

Map Location: 12.

Name: Railroad Corridor—South Section

This former railroad right-of-way, lying south of Marquette Street, consists of a long narrow section of land running generally parallel to and west of the downtown business district. Except for the “Round House” site, mentioned above, this property was purchased with city funds. The former railroad bed of the South Section, along with the Railroad Corridor-North Section, extends approximately 1.2 linear miles and is used for snowmobiling in winter months and ATVs in non-winter months, connecting to the MDNR trails. The corridor is also used as an alternate vehicular route and overflow parking for the downtown business district. There is a grass roots collaborative effort to create a trail called the “North Huron Scenic Pathway” from downtown St. Ignace traveling north along Lake Huron to Detour Village and on to Drummond Island for a total of approximately 60 linear miles of connecting trailway.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Develop corridor in phases as alternate access for pedestrian and bicycles with paving, beautification, signage and lighting. Work with communities north of the city to create a connecting trail system that will eventually travel as far north as Drummond Island.

ADA Compliance: Accessible where developed – Ranking 3.

Map Location: 13.

Name: St. Ignace Public Library

This new 7,000 square foot facility opened in 2005. Services include the loan of books, books-on-tape, CD-Rom’s, music CD’s, DVD’s, videotapes and magazines. Also available through the library website are numerous databases. Patrons are able to renew items and place items on hold at their home computers as well as view items available at over 30 U.P. libraries. The library has eight public use computers with free high speed internet access. The community room allows for expanded programming. The library offers free public programming such as weekly preschool story hour, eight-week summer reading program, author visits, etc.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Improved signage and landscaping; approaching sidewalk on adjacent street.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 14.

Name: Marquette Mission Park and Museum of Ojibwa Culture (DDA) –

This approximate one-acre park owned and operated by the DDA is the traditional site of the burial of Father Jacques Marquette, is the oldest known archaeological site in the state and is on the National and State Registries of Historic Sites. The church building the museum is housed in is known as the oldest Catholic Church building in the state (originally built in 1837). In 1989, the museum received a grant to return it to the original style, including central fountain, flagstone walkways and Victorian benches. The statue of Marquette was moved to the park to focus the Marquette theme, and an interpretive kiosk was added. The site also includes a high quality museum about Ojibwa culture (which includes a variety of Ojibwa craft and educational classes and demonstrations), Ojibwa Museum gift shop, and outdoor area for interpretation of Huron Village (complete with life-sized Huron longhouse) which once stood on the site. A nominal entry fee is charged for the museum, but the majority of its annual funding comes from the DDA budget.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: The Museum is in need of extensive repairs, including new foundation, siding and windows. An addition with larger restroom facilities, demonstration room, office space and store in on the future “wish list”. Landscaping and interpretation; village needs further development.

ADA Compliance: Barrier-free parking and restrooms are provided; museum and park are ADA compliant; the village grounds area is grass – Ranking 3.

Map Location: 15.

Name: Connors Park - (DDA)

This small 50' X 133' park serves as one of the downtown entryways to the waterfront Huron Boardwalk. The site contains an enclosed display of a historic Mackinaw Boat, which were built in this area in the late 1800's, with interpretive signage, brick sidewalks, landscaped planter, and updated downtown directional signs.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Replace roof on Mackinaw Boat enclosure.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 16.

Name: Kiwanis Beach - (DDA) Waterfront Park (MNRTF Grant in 1997)

This park has 300 linear feet of Lake Huron water frontage at the north entrance to Huron Boardwalk. **MNRTF Development Grant #TF 97-011** “Kiwanis Beach Development”, which included the following scope items: pavilion, landscaping with irrigation, retaining wall between grass area and sand beach, with brick walkway and beach access ramp, low-level lighting, picnic tables, trash receptacles – all are still in excellent condition.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: None.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant with an access ramp to the beach. Accessible parking is provided across the street. Public restrooms at Star Line Ferry north of park - Ranking 5.

Map Location: 17.

Name: American Legion Memorial Park - (DDA) (MNRTF Grants in 1991, 1992 & 2001)

This 1,000 linear foot downtown waterfront community park is located at the southernmost end of the Huron Boardwalk and was purchased and developed with the assistance of 3 MNRTF grants: **Acquisition Grant MNRTF #91-237** “Waterfront Park Development” was used to purchase 672 linear feet of Lake Huron frontage for future waterfront park development. The City already owned property at both ends of this parcel – 263 linear feet to the north and 60 linear feet to the south. **MNRTF Development Grant #TF92-156** “American Legion Memorial Park” for the development of the 263 linear feet of city owned property immediately north of the above purchased parcel with the following scope items: gazebo, picnic tables, walkways, landscaping, memorial plaza w/flags, boardwalk area, lighting, and paved parking area was completed in 1995 and is still in excellent condition. **MNRTF Development Grant #TF01-008** “American Legion Memorial Park” (phase 2) for the development of the 672 linear feet purchased above along with 60 linear feet at the southernmost end of this purchased parcel with the following scope items: walkways, landscaping, playground, picnic pavilion, restroom building, lighting, parking lot paving, tables/trash cans/grills, volleyball & horseshoe areas.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Swing set area; scuba diver's staging platform; goose waste mediation.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 18.

Name: Huron Boardwalk (DDA) (MNRTF grant in 2005)

Shoreline boardwalk along Lake Huron's East Moran Bay includes seating/resting areas and interpretive displays along the route. Phase I of this boardwalk was started in 1982 and to date there have been eight phases built totaling over 5,000 linear feet of handicapped accessible walkway from Kiwanis Beach at the northernmost end through the American Legion Memorial Park at the southernmost end and is signed as part of the North Country Trail system with "Blue Diamonds". The City DDA has written a **MNRTF Development Grant #TF-05-018** "Huron Boardwalk" (Phase IX) has been approved for 2006 construction. The following scope items are included: boardwalk w/railing (1,155' X 8'), fishing platform w/railing (10' X 8'), railing around lighthouse, lighting, signage, blacktop parking, landscaping and trash receptacles.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Complete one easement break across from municipal building of approximately 50 linear feet and Phase X of approximately 750 linear feet.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 19.

Name: Lake Huron Access Points (at Street Ends)

Several city streets dead-end at the Lake Huron shoreline. Although these sites are not developed, they are used informally for accessing the waterfront for swimming, scuba diving, picnicking and similar activities. These sites are located at the water's edge on Hombach Street, South State Street and Bertrand Street on Figure 4-1 (South St. Ignace) and on Hazelton Street and Antoine Street on Figure 4-3 (North St. Ignace).

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: Develop swimming beaches, picnic areas and small-boat launches at selected sites.

ADA Compliance: Undeveloped, not ADA compliant – Ranking 1.

Map Locations: 20.

ST. IGNACE AREA SCHOOLS

Name: School Ball fields and "Kiwanis Track"

This site includes one fenced softball field and one fenced baseball field (whose outfield is also used as a soccer field), both fields have dugouts; multi-purpose track, practice football area, athletic field, concession area, scoreboards, bathrooms, press box, batting cage and general play area.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: Lighting, additional seating and additional parking.

ADA Compliance: Handicap parking is provided at the high school building parking lot, but it is some distance from the fields. Only port-a-johns are provided for restrooms at the fields, but completely accessible restrooms are currently being built on site - Ranking 2.

Map Location: 21.

Name: LaSalle High School Gymnasium

In addition to use for school activities (organized competitive sports and physical education classes), the gym is available to the public for exercise classes and adult basketball through the City's recreation program – floor completely redone in 2005.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: Upgrade of locker room facilities.

ADA Compliance: Parking, restrooms and facilities are fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 22.

Name: St. Ignace Middle School Playground and Gymnasium

Playground and gym are generally used for school programs and activities, but may be made available for public use through arrangement with the school.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Need: None.

ADA Compliance: Parking, sidewalks, restrooms fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 23.

Name: St. Ignace Elementary School Playground and Gymnasium

Playground and gym are generally used for school programs and activities, but may be made available for public use through arrangement with the school.

Service Area: City and surrounding townships.

Needs: None

ADA Compliance: Parking, sidewalks, restrooms fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 24.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Name: Straits State Park (Department of Natural Resources)

This 180-acre park contains a campground with 270 modern camping sites (w/20-30-50 amp electricity, fire pit, picnic table), four restroom buildings with showers, toilets and sinks, picnic area with toilets, beach area, playground equipment, and two dumping stations. In 2000 sewage lift station was replaced. In 2003, 80 sites received upgraded electrical service to 50 amp to accommodate larger recreational vehicles.

Hiking trails throughout the park are signed with “yellow diamonds”; North Country Trail travels from Welcome Center trailhead into park and follows these trails with “blue diamonds”; both trails lead to a platform viewing deck and a second viewing area of the Straits of Mackinac and Mackinac Bridge.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: New ADA compliant restroom facilities.

ADA Compliance: The newest restroom building was built in 1975 and the oldest one in 1947, but at least one shower, toilet and sink for each gender are provided through more recent renovation. Ranking – 1.

Map Location: 25.

Name: Marquette National Memorial Museum (Department of Natural Resources)

This 80-acre park area includes an amphitheater/pavilion, picnic area, restrooms, scenic lookout and walking trails. A museum about Father Marquette's life and works was originally on the site, but the building burned during the Summer of 2000. Remainder of facilities are in good condition and open to the public.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, surrounding communities, tourists.

Needs: The Department of Natural Resources and the Secretary of State's Office (historic preservation) have committed to rebuilding the museum building, but no time schedule has been established.

ADA Compliance: The restrooms are fully accessible; barrier free parking is provided; and the gravel-surface trails are five-percent grade or less – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 26.

Name: Snowmobile/ATV Trails (Department of Natural Resources)

During the winter/non winter months, the Railroad Corridor within the city limits and owned by St. Ignace is used for snowmobiling/ATV riding to access several MDNR trails. From St. Ignace, snowmobilers and ATV riders can easily reach the Cedarville, DeTour, Drummond Island, Kinross and Trout Lake trails. These trails are generally developed through coordinated efforts among the MDNR, U.S. Forest Service, local snowmobile clubs, local ATV clubs, local units of government and private property owners.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, visitors.

Needs: More ATV Trails.

ADA Compliance: Due to the nature of this activity, snowmobiling is rarely an activity pursued by handicapped persons, without the assistance of able-bodied companions.

Map Location: 27

Name: Bridge View Park (Mackinac Bridge Authority)

This 8.5 acre public park was constructed in the Spring of 2002, and includes an observatory building with historical displays and restrooms, picnic shelters, shoreline walkway with benches, parking and landscaping.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, visitors.

Needs: None.

ADA Compliance: All facilities ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 28.

Name: St. Ignace Welcome Center (Michigan Economic Development Corporation)

Very large pull-off park includes restrooms, picnic area, scenic overlook, parking and trails (trailhead for North Country Trail – parking at east end of Welcome Center parking lot). Extensive tourist information and wildlife displays are also available. This facility was previously under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: New permanent facility.

ADA Compliance: Fully ADA compliant – Ranking 5.

Map Location: 29.

Straits Underwater Preserve (Department of Natural Resources)

This underwater preserve area encompasses the Straits of Mackinac, which connects Lakes Michigan and Huron at St. Ignace and Mackinaw City. The preserve contains unusual underwater geologic formations and numerous shipwrecks, and is provided to the public for scuba diving and exploration. The designation as an underwater preserve protects the shipwrecks from removal of historic artifacts.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Location: Straits of Mackinac (not shown on maps).

Needs: Diving platform, currently being considered by the DDA for the downtown waterfront.

ADA Compliance: Not evaluated.

UNITED STATES (U.S. Forest Service)

Cross Country Ski Trails

The U.S. Forest Service, custodians of the Hiawatha National Forest provide several cross-country ski trails throughout the Upper Peninsula. The seven-loop Sand Dunes Trail is located nearest to St. Ignace on Brevort Road about 0.4 miles north of US-2. The Silver Mountain Cross-County Ski Club grooms the trail. The trail is closed to motorized vehicles, but may be used for hiking in the off-season months, and is in excellent condition.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: More ATV Trails.

ADA Compliance: Due to the nature of this activity, this sport is generally not pursued by less than able-bodied individuals.

Map Location: 30.

Lake Michigan Sand Dunes

Several miles of sand dunes and beaches located along the north shore of Lake Michigan are available to the public for swimming, sunbathing, and hiking the winding sand dune trails. The dunes and beaches, located adjacent to U.S. 2 West, are made accessible from several pull-off parking areas. The area is also noted for beautiful summer sunsets over Lake Michigan.

Service Area: City, surrounding townships, tourists.

Needs: Trash management.

ADA Compliance: Selected pull-off parking areas provide boardwalks and ramps for access to the beach.

Location: North Lake Michigan shoreline along U.S. 2 West (not shown on maps).

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone regardless of physical or mental impairment.

When evaluating the accessibility of parks and facilities, barriers should be recognized from the perspective of the participant. These perspectives aid in preparing the design and planning future improvements to both current and existing facilities. Therefore, we can determine whether a site, building, and/or facility is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Perspectives to Consider

- Could a person with vision impairment have a reasonable means of identifying the facilities?
- If a person is physically disabled, is there a means to access all facilities and if there are barriers, is an alternate route available?
- If a person has a reading disability, could the person recognize standard symbols indicating parking, restrooms or trailways?
- If a person uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, could the person participate with a group in facilities and move from the arrival place (parking area) to the activity area?

An evaluation of St. Ignace parks and recreation system accessibility to persons with disabilities has been conducted as a component of the recreation inventory found in this chapter. Each site was inventoried for their accessibility status and it is noted under the discussion of each facility in this chapter.

St. Ignace Recreation Survey ran in the St. Ignace News for 2 weeks and distributed to the St. Ignace

Area 7th grade and 11th grade. Survey was posted on the Little Bear Website and on Facebook.

120 responses.

Recommendations	7th	11th	Adults	Total
Cooking Classes	1	0	0	1
Lacrosse Program	2	3	0	5
Designated Swimming Area downtown	1	1	0	2
New Pool/Improvements	2	4	2	8
High School Soccer Team	0	5	0	5
Swim Team	2	2	0	4
City Recreation Basketball League	2	2	0	4
Dance Classes	2	2	0	4
Gymnastics	0	1	0	1
Inline Hockey	6	6	1	13
Tennis Court Improvements	0	1	0	1
Outdoor Skating Rink	0	1	0	1
Snowboarding	0	1	0	1
Go Carts	1	4	0	5
18 Hole Golf Course	0	1	2	3
Laser Tag	0	7	0	7
Beach Activities	0	1	0	1
Volleyball	1	4	1	6
Singing/Talent Shows	0	1	0	1
Music Classes	0	1	0	1
More Girl Activities	0	0	1	1
Paintball	1	4	0	5
High School Baseball	0	1	0	1
Movie Theatre	6	16	0	22
More shopping/restaurants	11	20	1	32
Skateboard Park	2	4	1	7
Protective Netting all the way around rink	1	0	0	1
Rec Center	4	2	0	6
Truck/Tractor Pull & Mud Runs	0	1	0	1
Fishing Tournaments	0	1	0	1
Mixed Martial Arts Classes	1	1	0	2
Video Game Tournaments	0	5	0	5
Rock Climbing Wall	0	1	0	1
Skating Lessons	1	0	0	1
Sailing Lessons	0	0	1	1
Dog Park	0	0	1	1

Book Club	0	0	1	1
Basketball Camps and Tournaments	10	2	2	14
Hunting Classes	1	0	0	1
Dirt Bike Track	5	0	0	5
Walking Path/Bike Trails	0	0	5	5
Improve School Weight Room	0	1	0	1
Water Park	0	1	0	1

6.0 Goals, Objectives and Action Program

GOAL A: CONTINUE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Maintain an open and broad-based planning and implementation process for recreation development and maintenance characterized by:

- Continued communication with the community through the Little Bear East Website at littlebeararean.com.
- Continued communication and cooperation with units of government, agencies and organizations involved in recreation development and programming such as:
 - ❖ Townships
 - ❖ Schools
 - ❖ State agencies
 - ❖ Federal agencies
 - ❖ County
 - ❖ Tribal government
 - ❖ Library
 - ❖ Museum
 - ❖ Recreation Advisory Committee
 - ❖ Golf Course Committee
 - ❖ Ski Hill Committee
 - ❖ Downtown Development Authority
 - ❖ Harbor Authority
 - ❖ Chamber of Commerce
 - ❖ Visitors Bureau
- Maximize use of existing information and funding resources such as:
 - ❖ Soil, vegetative and climatological data
 - ❖ Land use plans and zoning ordinances
 - ❖ Tourism studies
 - ❖ Local, state and federal assistance programs
 - ❖ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - ❖ Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 - ❖ Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
 - ❖ US Forest Service
 - ❖ Mackinac Bridge Authority
 - ❖ MSU Extension Service
 - ❖ EUP Regional Planning and Development
 - ❖ NMU's economic development program
 - ❖ National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Objective 1: To update this recreation plan every five years or amend as required. The Recreation Director will call a meeting involving all parties with an interest in this plan to discuss and coordinate plans for the upcoming year.

Rationale: Plans are helpful only when they are frequently used, discussed and amended. Because execution rarely follows a projected path, it is important to communicate on a regular basis to update and re-prioritize.

Accountability: Recreation Director

Objective 2: To guarantee the open-to-the-waterfront charm of the City of St. Ignace by enacting and/or enforcing zoning and other regulations or incentives necessary.

Rationale: St. Ignace's uniqueness as a lakefront town is dependent upon maintaining its downtown open waterfront. This will require careful attention and consistent application of regulations.

Accountability: City Manager, Downtown Development Authority, Planning and Zoning Boards

Objective 3: To encourage the involvement of the private sector and tribal government in recreation development and, where appropriate, to participate in funding for support services such as shoreline protection, water and sewer, and other infrastructure systems. Such development might include marina, waterfront parks, boardwalk, campgrounds, resorts, playgrounds, swimming facilities, miniature golf courses, etc.

Rationale: Economic development is in the City's best interest. When the private sector shows a willingness to invest in the City, the city needs to be willing to support that investment in whatever way is appropriate and feasible.

Accountability: City Manager

Objective 4: To encourage development of township, county, state and federal lands in the St. Ignace area for recreational use.

Rationale: The Upper Peninsula has the "great outdoors" to offer residents, potential residents, and visitors. A wide variety of recreational activities are feasible when every public landholder is committed to enhancing enjoyment of the outdoors.

Accountability: All public entities participating in this plan.

Objective 5: To encourage the Mackinac Island State Park Commission in its development of sites in the St. Ignace area.

Rationale: The addition of attractions to the St. Ignace area, which will increase length of visitors' stay, is beneficial to all.

Accountability: City Manager

Objective 6: Secure city property adjacent to the north of the Little Bear East Area extending to Cheeseman Road to include the ponds, railroad grade, and the city gravel pit for future develop for athletic fields, park, walking path, fishing dock, and fair grounds.

Rationale: The focus is to provide more opportunities while preserving the natural setting.

Accountability: City Manager, St. Ignace Recreation Director

GOAL B: DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN RECREATION FACILITIES

Develop and maintain recreational facilities in the City of St. Ignace which:

- Provide a wide variety of affordable recreational opportunities for all age groups
- Are available to both residents and tourists/visitors
- Are available to all persons regardless of physical ability
- Are designed wherever possible for multiple and year-round use
- Are related to use capacity of the environment
- Are planned to produce a unified image for the region

Objectives to accomplish this goal are demonstrated below in tabular format.

**Table 6-4
Action Plan/Capital Improvements Schedule for Implementing Goal B**

Objective 1: Continue development and improvements of existing facilities					
Site	Improvements	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Funding Sources
Little Bear East	Develop area to the north of the Little Bear to include baseball field, soccer fields, walking path around the pond, fishing dock, concession stand, bleachers, dirt bike course, gravel track around the soccer field.	Currently our soccer fields are not large enough to accommodate the older youth. We need another baseball diamond to accommodate our schedule. The pond area is currently unappealing and could become a beautiful landmark in our community.	2012-2016	300,000	MDNR Grant Donations City Service
Little Bear East	Back-up ice surfacing equip.	We need a backup just in case of failure.	2012-2016	\$60,000	Donations/City
Basketball Court & Skateboard Park	Additional skateboard ramps	Used by neighborhood residents	2012-2016	\$100,000	Donations/City
Lake Street Basketball Court	Picnic tables, landscaping, upgrade parking	Used by neighborhood residents	2012-2016	\$10,000	Foundation Grant/ City
Double Tennis Court	Resurface courts, new lighting	Courts not regulation size, surface deteriorating, use in demand	2012-2016	\$100,000	MDNR Grant/City/ Service Clubs

Objective 2: Continue development of the Huron Boardwalk and waterfront parks in downtown the St. Ignace DDA District to enhance the City's image of being "the City with a waterfront open to the public"					
Site	Improvements	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Funding Source
Huron Boardwalk	Complete easement break of 50', Phase IX of 1,155' & Phase X of 750' with boardwalk & shoreline protection	Maintain waterfront view, promote continuous walkway along waterfront	2006-2010	\$400,000	MNRTF/CZM/City/DDA
American Legion Waterfront Park	Add swing set area and scuba diving platform area – (All other park components completed)	Maintain an open waterfront and guarantee continued public access to Lake Huron	2006-2010	\$50,000	MNRTF/City/DDA/Kiwanis/American Legion/Lions
Connors Park	Roof on Mackinaw Boat structure	Maintenance of waterfront parks	2008	\$5,000	DDA
Kiwanis Beach	Improvements made in 1999	No new projects planned for 2006-2010			
Objective 3: Continue development of marina facilities.					
Site	Improvements	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Funding Source
Dock #2 Marina	(1) Light house erected in harbor (2) renovate Chief Wawatam dock	(1) Promote safe water recreational activities (2) provide protection for the marina, use as fishing pier, provide dockage for larger boats; beautify into public park area; preserve and interpret historical dock	(1) 2006 (2) 2006-2010	(1)75,000 (2) \$500,000 - \$1 million	(1) DNR Waterways/City/DDA (2) MNRTF/CZM/City/DDA/Local Service Groups /MDOT
Hazelton Access Site	Four boat launches, pier with dock, parking, restrooms	Improvements completed in 2000, no new projects planned for 2001-2005			
Objective 4: Expand the St. Ignace Golf Course					
Site	Improvements	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Funding Source
Golf Course	Acquire property & add nine additional holes	Course is heavily used by residents & tourists, demand for nine additional holes	2006-2010	\$1M	City/Golf Course Revenues/Revenue Bond
Objective 5: Develop facilities which interpret rich history of St. Ignace					
Site	Improvements	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost & Anticipated Funding Source	
Marquette Mission Park & Museum of Ojibwa Culture	Museum renovation & expansion. Huron Village needs further development	Provide facility to reflect the history, culture and social life of St. Ignace during the 17 th Century	2006-2010	USDA Rural Development/ DDA/ City/ Grants/ Foundations/ Private Donations/	
Unknown	Develop history museum to focus on St. Ignace history 1800-present era	Existing museum opportunities focus generally on pre-European era, nothing later	Unkn own	Unknown	Under investigation

Objective 6: Designate, mark, map and make available to tourists: a system of scenic routes, utilizing existing streets and roads, recreational trails, the boardwalk, facilities, attractions and businesses					
Improvement	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Funding Source	
Provide maps indicating the above	Can be included as a layer of a GIS system that is under development	2010	\$10,000	DDA/City/County/DNR/MDOT	
Objective 7: Develop and support sedentary activities for passive recreation					
Site	Improvements	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Funding Source
Library	Improved signage and landscaping; connecting sidewalks	Information and beautification; safety	2007/2008	\$25,000	Donations/City
Objective 8: Convert the abandoned railroad right-of-way to mixed use trails					
Site	Improvements	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Funding Source
Corridor-North, also reference Little Bear East	Pave multi-use trail (restrict the use of motorized-wheeled vehicles), landscaping, benches – Connectivity Trail traveling north (“North Huron Scenic Pathway” to Drummond Island)	Trail now only used by snowmobiles, a paved trail will provide accessibility for hiking, biking & wheelchair use, will contribute to the Rails-to-Trails concept, will enhance year-round recreational opportunities	2006-2010	\$500,000	MDNR Grant/City/MDOT-TEA21
Corridor-South development/ also acquisition of property in DDA for trailhead parking	Multi-use trail, benches, landscaping, lighting, overflow parking in wide r-o-w, bury utilities (Part of “North Huron Scenic Pathway” ref above)	Currently used as alley or alternate to State Street, needs to be resurfaced to encourage recreational uses/connecting trail 60 miles north	2006-2010	\$500,000	MDNR Grant/City/TEA21/Utility Companies
Objective 9: Acquire additional recreational properties					
Site	Improvement	Rationale	Year	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Funding Source
Unknown/to be located	Property acquisition/as it becomes available – particularly trailhead parking property for connecting trail	A wider scope of activities can be realized by acquiring properties with the potential for recreational development.	2006-2010	Unknown	Under investigation

GOAL C: ADDRESS THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Many sources of funding assistance are available to municipalities in Michigan. Michigan law allows communities to target or set aside certain current or future tax revenues for public facilities and programs. A few of the current programs are noted below. Each program has its own rules and procedures. Any comprehensive municipal funding effort is likely to employ many of the approaches noted here. New opportunities are created on a regular basis, and must be constantly monitored for applicability to City needs.

Objective 1: Tax Revenue Allocation Approaches

- General Obligation Bonds
- Revenue Bonds
- Special Assessment Districts

Objective 2: Selected Grant and Loan Programs

- Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Michigan Initiative Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Recreation Snowmobile Trail Grants Program
- Inland Fisheries Resources Grants
- Boating Facilities Grants
- Recreation Improvement Fund
- Transportation Grants and Enhancement Grants
- Community Development Block Grants
- Brownfields Program Grants
- National Endowment for the Arts Grants
- Coastal Zone Management
- State Aid to Libraries

Competition for public grant funding is generally intense, and local matching funds are usually required. Securing funding through such sources is an important part of implementing the public facility and land development goals of any active community today.

Beyond such well-known funding programs, many local communities have been able to tap support closer to home. Especially for small-scale projects, local civic and charitable organizations, as well as local businesses, are frequently ready to assist communities with public projects through donated cash, materials or volunteer labor. In tight-knit communities like St. Ignace these opportunities for local support are frequently evident. It is essential that the Recreation Advisory Committee create and maintain ties to local civic groups, foundations, and businesses and invites them to partner with the City in achieving plan goals.