

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Menominee Township is located in southern Menominee County. The City of Menominee, the county seat, borders the Township to the south. Mellen and Ingallston Townships border the township to the north and east, respectively. The Menominee River defines the western border of the township. The land area of the Township is 72.67 square miles. The township's topography varies from 581 feet at the water's edge on Green Bay to about 680 feet in the northwest corner of the township. Between these two points are beach areas, lowland swamps, and rolling uplands. See map 1 (attached) for Menominee Township Base Map.

2.0 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION & POPULATION INFORMATION

2-1. For any planning endeavor, careful attention must be given to the analysis of population trends and projections. The population characteristics of an area are necessary to determine existing or future needs. These statistics assist local governments in determining the direction of local capital improvements and related expenditures for recreational planning. They are also useful when applying recreation guidelines to a community.

The population of the Township has shown an overall increase of 48 percent since 1960. However, during that time period, the population has been cyclical, with the population showing a decline in the last two decades. During the 2000's the Township experienced a slight decrease of its population base. During the same period, Menominee County saw its population increase by three percent, during the 2000's the countywide population base increased by almost two percent. See Menominee Township Master Plan pages 2 & 3 for the detailed population trends for Menominee Township and Menominee County.

Age Groups: See Menominee Township Master Plan pages 4-6. Race, sex, origin, household characteristics and other information are also covered in detail in the Master Plan.

2.2 Employment Trends. Chapter 3 of the Menominee Township Master Plan covers this area in great detail. See page 3 for graphic portrayal of Employment by Industrial Sector.

2.3 Natural Features & Land Use.

As stated earlier, the land area of the Township is 72.67 square miles. The township's topography varies from 581 feet at the water's edge on Green Bay to about 680 feet in the northwest corner of the township. Between these two points are beach areas, lowland swamps, and rolling uplands.

The surface topography is the result of the Wisconsin glacial actions. The lowlands near Green Bay were once lake bottoms, with predominant deposit of sand and gravel. The movement of the glaciers formed the egg-shaped ridges or drumlins of varying lengths. These ridges run parallel with the path of the glaciers and form the highest ground in the township. The balance of the township is covered extensively by glacial till. Predominate water features in the township are the Green Bay shoreline, which forms the southeastern border of the township, and the

Menominee River, which forms the western border of the township. There are a number of streams and rivers that flow through the township. Two watersheds are located within the township, the Menominee River Drainage Area, which drains into the Menominee River and the Cedar-Ford Drainage Area, which eventually drains into the Green Bay, an arm of Lake Michigan. FEMA designated flood plains have been mapped for Menominee Township.

A variety of maps are found in the Master Plan that covers the soil composition.

The most predominate land cover in the township is wetlands, representing 38.3 percent of the total land area. Marshes, swamps and lowland hardwoods and lowland conifers are included in this category. County wide this category represents 34.8 percent.

Upland forest areas are shown to be 23.8 percent of the township land cover. Tree heights of 20 feet and over generally dominate these natural features. County wide this category represents 43.9 percent of the land area.

Agricultural areas take in 23 percent of the total township area, as compared to 14.4 percent for the entire county. Agricultural uses include land used for food and fiber production as well as pastures.

Upland fields are areas where grasses and shrubs predominate; within Menominee Township this accounts for 7.7 percent of the total area. County wide this category represents 4.4 percent.

Urban land, areas used extensively and largely covered by structure comprise 6.3 percent of the township. The residential, commercial and industrial uses of the township are included in this category. Countywide this category represents 1.8 percent.

Both game and non-game species of fish abound in the waters surrounding the township.

Of the land area in the township, approximately 70 percent is forest and open lands, 23 percent are agriculture and the remaining is residential, commercial and industrial use. Natural Features is covered in more detail in the Menominee Township Master Plan in Chapter 8.

2.4 Transportation. See Chapter 6 of the Master Plan.

A network of county primary and secondary roads serves Menominee Township. The major transportation routes within the township are US Highway 41, State Highway M-35, and County Road 577 that traverse the township north to south.

3.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

The Township Board determines policy and funding matters regarding parks and recreation for Menominee Township during a budget workshop and strategic planning meeting sessions.

3.1 Local Recreation Management.

An ordinance creating and establishing a Recreation Committee in Menominee Township was adopted by the Menominee Township Board on May 25, 2005. That ordinance requires an amendment outlining some revisions. The Committee that was formed had all resigned except one member who was a Township Board Member. Efforts were made to reestablish a committee but no interest was generated; therefore for several years the Township Board fulfilled the powers and duties of the committee. In the past few years, a Planning Commission was established and by default will assume the responsibilities of recreation planning until another committee is established: Recreation Planning responsibilities include:

1. Develop the Menominee Township Recreation Plan, and submit recommendations, changes and updates of the plan, including the recreation development schedule.
2. Recommend rules and regulations concerning the use of Township recreation facilities to the Township Board.
3. Advise the Township Board of the operations of the Township recreation facilities and present recommendations for improvements in writing.
4. Ensure the Recreation Plan's capital improvements are incorporated in Menominee Township's "Capital Improvements Plan".
5. Any other duties as requested by the Township Board related to recreation planning and development.
6. Development of Site Plans for public facilities (Must be professionally engineered for any plan that exceeds \$15,000.00).

The Planning Commission has been established to provide guidance and recommendations to the Menominee Township Board concerning future land-use, development and usage of the township-owned public land, parks, and other recreational facilities.

3.2 Recreation Budget.

Over the past three years, the Township Board has appropriated - budgeted for capital grounds improvements in the amounts shown below:

FY 2013/4: \$10,000

FY 2014/5: \$10,000

FY 2015/6: \$5,000

The future fiscal years will require more appropriated, dependent on Grant Approvals for proposed ball park road improvements for better traffic flow, parking, trails, a pavilion at the Birch Creek Baseball Park with electricity and other recreational facilities.

FY 2016/7: \$64,000

FY 2017/8 \$61,000

FY 2017/8 \$50,000

3.3 Community Resources.

General funds are used for capital improvements and maintenance activities associated with the recreational facilities. Also, local service organizations and businesses have shown support for Township recreational projects. The support has been verbal, usage of the revitalized ball park

and in the form of extensive volunteer time. The community takes great pride in the involvement of private citizens, businesses and groups that give freely of their time and resources for the betterment of the Township's recreational facilities and programs. A contracted groundskeeper maintains the Birch Creek Baseball Park and the Menominee Township (Roadside) Park grounds. An employee/custodian maintains the township hall building and items located at the Menominee Township Park who also is the Sexton for the Township's Cemetery which is kept immaculate. Additional maintenance is provided by volunteer workers and the team who has adopted the Birch Creek Baseball Park as their home "Field of Dreams".

4.0 PLANNING

The original Recreation Plan was prepared before the Planning Commission existed. The referenced in the Master Plan had expired 2011. This updated plan is intended to provide an the status and current plan designed for the development and improvement of recreational facilities within Menominee Township. The Menominee Township recreation plan serves several useful purposes: 1) as a source of information, 2) a guide for correcting deficiencies, 3) an indicator of goals and policies, 4) a framework for making decisions and 5) a means of stimulating public interest and participation in local community recreation programs.

CUPPAD Regional Commission assisted the original Recreation Committee in the first recreation plan development. CUPPAD also guided the development of the Menominee Township Master Plan with the Menominee Township Planning Commission. The Master Plan has much of the same information identified in Chapter 5 (Recreation) developed by the Planning Commission. A MDNR Passport Recreation Grant for Menominee Township for became available (for statutory fiscal year 2017) for consideration; therefore required a public hearing for support for which this plan was approved during the hearing. A Township Official prepared this updated parks & recreational plan from the previous plan, the Master Plan and from involvement with development of parks & recreation. The plan will be submitted to the Planning Commission for review then forwarded to the Menominee Township Board for approval and adoption. A Township Board meeting was held for the public hearing of the grant and this updated plan on 24 February 2016.

The plan outlines the facilities and programs that may be developed in Menominee Township during the next five years as listed in section 8.0 Recreation Development Schedule. The Planning Commission will continually examine the recreational needs of the community and amend the plan as needed.

This plan will provide a foundation for Township action to improve the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities in Menominee Township. This 5-year plan is only as good as it is maintained. It **requires annual updating** as does the Master Plan and Capital Improvements Plan, keeping everything synchronized and up to date. A re-print is not necessary, but pen and ink changes need to be made and maintained to ensure that the next full update has a record of history to make reprint easier.

5.0 RECREATION INVENTORY

5.1 Township Recreation Facilities

Within and nearby Menominee Township there are a number of publicly and privately owned recreational facilities. These facilities provide a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities that Township residents and tourists/visitors can enjoy year around. The Facilities are listed in the Master Plan with one update. The former named “Birch Creek Roadside Park” is now signed “Menominee Twp Park” and the formerly name “Township Hall Park” is now signed “**Birch Creek Baseball Park**” with a new entrance located south of the Township Hall. (See attached Map – Recreation Locations).

5.2 Area Recreation Facilities. In addition, all the surrounding area local parks & facilities nearby are detailed in the Menominee Township Master Plan (Chapter 5, pages 4-11).

5.3 Barrier-Free Implementation

Barrier-free toilet facilities are available at some of Menominee Township’s existing recreation facilities and future facility development will be fully compliant with accessibility rules promulgated under authority of applicable laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

6.0 GOALS

6.1 GOALS

A set of workable goals and proposed policies are guidelines for recreation related decision-making. Consideration of establishing recreational policies by the township board should lead the community toward the attainment of its long and short-term goals.

Specific development projects and programs should be evaluated with respect to the recreation goals and related policies add to their contribution to the system of recreation for Menominee Township. The proposed goals should not be considered as hard and fast rules for development of recreation facilities, but as guidelines for evaluating specific proposals.

GOAL I: Provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all residents and age groups of Menominee Township.

Proposed Actions:

- A. Projects should be easily accessible to all Township residents, including the elderly and handicapped.
- B. Whenever and wherever possible, facilities should be for multiple and/or year-round use.

- C. Proposed projects should eliminate identified recreation deficiencies as described in this plan.
- D. User fees may be established where feasible to help defray maintenance costs at specific facilities.
- E. Programs should be developed for facility use whenever possible and where applicable.
- F. Make full use of state and federal assistance programs to acquire or develop or rehabilitate recreational areas and facilities.
- G. Coordinate recreational planning and implementation activities to avoid duplicity of services and effort to make optimal use of financial and other resources.

GOAL II: Optimal use should be made of new and existing resources and facilities.

Proposed Actions:

- A. Facilities should be capable of accommodating multi-jurisdictional needs where economically feasible.
- B. Facilities should be of a type that minimizes vandalism.
- C. Sites selected for development of facilities or parks should be suitable in terms of population served (existing and future) and physical properties of the site.
- D. Detailed site plans should be developed to guide new development at township-owned as well as other rural recreation sites by the unit of government with primary responsibility for the site. (Professionally Engineer required if total proposed cost over \$15K if grant money is involved.)
- E. Cooperative or joint development of facilities by adjoining communities is encouraged.
- F. Existing facilities should be upgraded before new facilities are built.
- G. Proper maintenance should be assured for facilities by responsible units of government.
- H. Volunteer efforts by citizen and/or service clubs is encouraged wherever and whenever possible.

Goal III: Facilities should be developed to enhance the cultural, historic, and natural characteristics of the area or site.

Proposed Actions:

- A. Preservation/restoration of historic sites is encouraged.
- B. Site planning should consider natural topographic and scenic characteristics when planning new facilities or rehabilitating existing ones.
- C. Identification of meaningful historic areas in the Township should continue.
- D. Tourist related development should be encouraged, especially in areas already experiencing such use and traffic.
- E. Information should be easily accessible to travelers in the Township at new or existing sites to inform the public of available amenities and facilities.

6.2 Recreation Guidelines

The following standards are guidelines to plan for facilities needed and space requirements.

Recreation Guidelines				
	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Park	Community Playfield	Major or Community Park
Population Served	1,000- 5,000	1,000- 5000	Entire Population	Entire Population
Accessibility	Easy Walking distance (¼ to ½ mile)	Easy walking distance (¼ to ¾ mile)	Walking or biking distance (1 to 1½ miles)	1- 4 miles
Area\Population Acres\1000	2.5	2.0	2/5	5
Minimum Size Acres	5	6	15	20
Desirable Site Size	5- 10	6- 8	15- 25	20- 35

Source: National Recreation and Parks Administration, Local Planning Administration

The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) identified specific standards that would ensure that persons with disabilities have the same opportunities to fully participate, live independently and be economically self-sufficient within society. The Act consists of five sections: Employment, Public Accommodations, Transportation, State and Local Government Operations, and Telecommunications.

Title II of the ADA, Public Accommodations, is relevant to the level of accessibility and equal provisions of service at publicly owned outdoor recreation sites. This title states that discrimination against persons with disabilities is prohibited in all services, programs, or activities provided by public entities. The general requirements set forth under this section came into effect on January 26, 1992. Remodeling or new construction of facilities and buildings had the same deadline date to become accessible to the disabled. In existing buildings and facilities, nonstructural changes to improve accessibility were required by January 26, 1992, while all structural improvements of the facilities and buildings were required by January 26, 1995.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires that "reasonable accommodation" be made to the needs of the estimated one in five people in this country who are disabled. That is, all public and private goods and service providers and employers must remove all structural and communication barriers from facilities, or provide alternative access where feasible.

Currently, there are no written standards on making outdoor recreation facilities totally accessible to the disabled. Many suggestions on outdoor recreation facilities accessibility have been made; therefore, recommendations regarding outdoor play equipment, picnic facilities, pathways, and trails, have been incorporated into this plan.

Recommendations regarding buildings, restrooms, slopes of ramps, and parking stalls should be seriously considered. These types of facilities all have current standards set by the Americans Disabilities Act of 1990.

ADA Standards: The recreational sites in Menominee Township, like many communities, are not completely accessible according to the ADA standards. Restrooms, pathways, parking, and general accessibility of all amenities must be examined closely over the next few years to assure that all people are given the same opportunities within the community.

Where more than one **restroom facility** exists, at least one must be accessible by persons with disabilities. In some cases, this would require minimal remodeling; in others, it could require substantial modification.

At least one **picnic table** and one **grill** designed to accommodate persons in wheelchairs should be available at each park (if these types of facilities are not currently available). These facilities should be identified with a sign showing the universal symbol of accessibility.

At least one in 25 **parking stalls** should be designated for disabled parking. These stalls must be the closest spaces to the park or facility entrance, have a direct route to and from the stalls, and must have a marked adjacent access aisle of 60 inches and an unobstructed vertical sign that shows the universal symbol of accessibility. Slope of these spaces and aisles cannot exceed 1:50.

Stable, barrier-free **pathways** which provide linkages from one recreation amenity to another will be needed at most of the Township's outdoor recreation facilities. They must be at least 36 inches wide, and a 60 x 60 inch passing space or turnaround must be provided every 200 feet. If a pathway level changes more than ½ inch, the pathway must be ramped. If the level change is between ½ inch and 1/4 inch, the levels must be beveled.

Where **water fountains** are available, spouts should be no more than 36 inches above the finished floor. If the fountain is freestanding or built-in and does not have a clear space underneath, a clear floor space of 30 to 48 inches alongside the fountain for a parallel approach must be provided. Wall or post-mounted fountains must have a clear knee space under the fountain of at least 27 inches high by 17 to 19 inches deep by 30 inches wide. Controls must be located at the front edge of the fountain and operable with one hand without twisting the wrist. A complete guideline list based on standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 for various types of facilities and recommendations established by the USDA Forest Service for improving the accessibility of recreational areas are detailed in Appendix A at the end of the plan.

7.0 RECREATIONAL DEFICIENCIES

Specific recreation facility deficiencies and needs should be based on the expressed desires of the residents of Menominee Township. The following suggestions have been presented to the Township Board for consideration.

1. Capital Improvements and further maintenance for the Birch Creek Baseball Park

The Menominee Township Parks & Recreation 5 Yr Plan is outlined in the attached schedule and is presented to the Township Board for 2016-2021.

2. Improvements at the Menominee Township Park (Roadside).

- A. Remove old gates (completed early 2015).
- B. Consideration for construction of handicapped accessible, vault toilet
- C. Construction of walking/hiking trails within the park. The park has a beautiful setting and an interpretive trail system could be designed with the help of high school biology students or as an Eagle Scout project.

3. Implement the proposed Heritage Route designation along the M-35 corridor from Gladstone to Menominee. The route will be singled out for its scenic, historic, and recreational attractions. Implementation would bring more visitors to the region along with potential economic opportunities

8.0 RECREATION DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Menominee Township has formulated the following development schedule for implementing its parks & recreation plan. The locations of the facilities are listed on the Recreation Development Schedule Map (Attached).

8.1. Recreation Development Schedule: (See most current updated schedule)

8.2. With the help of MDNR grants and continued volunteer help, we feel this plan will continue to improve Menominee Township's parks and recreation supporting goal 10-5 of the Master plan as well as supporting the "Pure Michigan" theme.