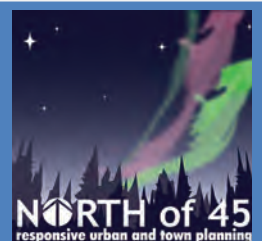


# Parks & Recreation Plan

2024-2028



Charter Township of Calumet, Michigan



## Acknowledgements

### Township Board

Timothy Gasperich, Supervisor  
Lana Hyrkas, Treasurer  
Robin Hicks, Clerk  
Paul Lehto, Trustee  
David Yeo, Trustee  
Jeff West, Trustee  
Tom Helppi, Trustee

### Stakeholders and Partners

Swedetown Trails Club  
Copper Country Curling Club  
Calumet Hockey Association  
Main Street Calumet  
Portage Health Foundation  
Calumet Gun Range  
Calumet Lions Club

We would also acknowledge and thank the many citizens of the Township who participated in the Recreation Plan Open House Workshop.

### Consultant



North of 45 LLC  
Patrick Coleman, AICP

# Charter Township of Calumet Parks and Recreation Plan

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## Introduction

The Charter Township of Calumet is located in the geographic center of the Keweenaw Peninsula, noted as being one of the most scenic, historic and remote locations in the State of Michigan. While some may consider this location as too isolated, cold and snowy, residents celebrate the uniqueness of the Keweenaw and embrace a four-season lifestyle rich in recreational and cultural opportunities.

The citizens of the Charter Township of Calumet are fortunate to benefit from variety of municipal recreational facilities owned and operated by the Township. A major reason the community has these resources is through the hard work of volunteer groups and organizations who work tirelessly to provide ski and bike trails, curling, hockey and figure skating, baseball and softball for the public benefit. These groups partner with the Township to provide maintenance, programming and operational funding for the recreational public facilities owned by the Township.

In addition to the Township's outstanding community partners and support, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has played an important role in the creation and enhancement of recreation facilities through a long history of providing land acquisition and development grants to the Township for these facilities.

This Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared with the assistance and support of these groups, as well as the citizens of Calumet Township who participated in the planning process. The Community Recreation Plan was prepared following the "***Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans***" published by the DNR. Preparing a plan that meets these guidelines enables the Township to tap into the funding available through the DNR Recreation Grants Programs. Without this critical funding, it would be difficult for the Township to implement major improvement projects.

## I. Community Description

The Charter Township of Calumet (Calumet Township) is located in northern Houghton County, on the Keweenaw Peninsula, part of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. It is the northern-most Township in the county and its western boundary is partially formed by Lake Superior. North of the Township is Keweenaw County and approximately eleven miles south are the cities of Houghton and Hancock. Calumet Township once was the center of extensive copper mining activity and its population centers were developed in response to tremendous economic growth during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The historical context of Calumet Township results from the Township's copper mining heritage. As the center of the Calumet and Hecla Copper Mining Company (C&H) consolidated mining operations, the Township, and the Villages of Calumet and Laurium that are located within the Township, were the employment, cultural and commercial focus of the area. It is estimated that the 1920 population of this area exceeded 35,000 persons. Since 1920, the entire "Copper Country" area experienced population loss as a result of the decline of a copper industry that dominated the area economy for a century. In 1968, all Calumet and Hecla Company mining operations ceased operation. Since then, there has been some growth of the community due to Michigan Technological University in nearby Houghton, and a number of small manufacturing and high-tech firms have also developed, providing jobs in the Calumet area. In recent decades tourism has become a major contributor to the area’s economy and stimulated additional growth. The Keweenaw Peninsula is a well-known summer and winter destination known for the variety of outdoor recreation, historical and cultural attractions.

The national significance of the former Calumet & Hecla Mining Company has resulted in establishment of the Keweenaw National Historical Park, which was founded in 1992. The importance and contributions of the development of the Township’s copper resources to the

**Charter Township of Calumet**

**2020 Demographic Summary**

Population: 6,510

Median Age: 41.1

18-74 years: 57%

Under 18 years: 25%

+65 years: 18%

Per Capita Income: \$26,727

Median Household Income: \$42,102

Persons below poverty line: 16.7%

High School grad or higher: 90.1%

Bachelor’s degree or higher: 17.6%

Housing Units: 3,492

Occupied: 78%

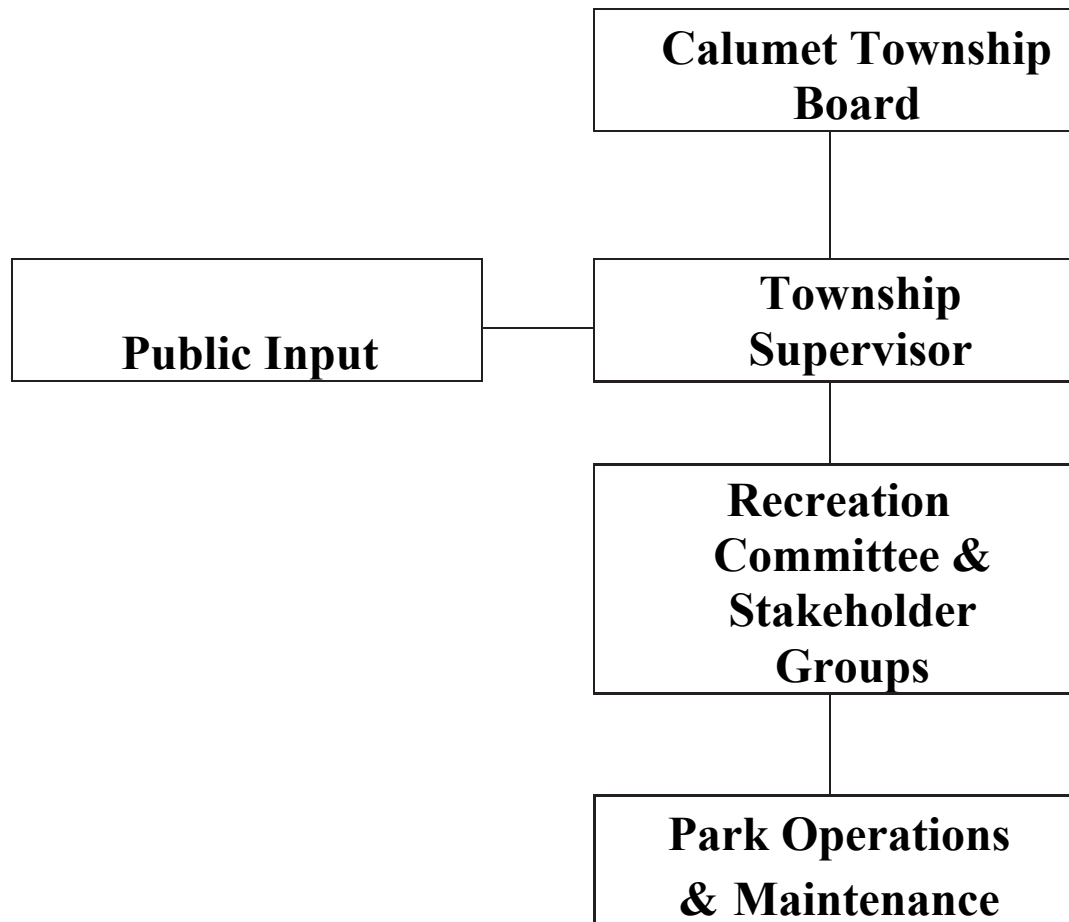
Source: ACS, 2020

history and development of Michigan and the United States presents a unique story. The Keweenaw National Historical Park interprets a variety of themes that appeal to various public interests. This broad appeal is already evidenced by the current visitation and tourism experienced in the area. Further development of these historic resources will expand this interest and result in additional tourism.

## II Administrative Structure

The Township Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Calumet has appointed a Recreation Committee to assist the Township supervisor in the planning of improvements to existing recreation facilities and to analyze potential new recreation services and facilities. The recreation committee meets as requested by the township supervisor. The Recreation Committee reports directly to the Board of Trustees. The stakeholder groups who manage and maintain Township facilities are an important part of this Committee.

The Township Supervisor carries out the directives of the Township Board. Calumet Township is responsive to the recreation needs and desires of citizens by providing for community based decision-making through public meetings and hearings on recreation issues, plans, and applications for grant funding.



Charter Township of Calumet provides an annual budget for recreation. In 2023, the Township budgeted approximately \$65,000 for operations and maintenance of park and recreation facilities. The current funding is from property tax revenues.

When the Township took over the Calumet Coliseum ice arena, voters approved an on-going millage for operating the facility. The annual 1 mil levy generates \$120,000 for operations and maintenance of the facility.

Calumet Township has numerous active partners that work in cooperation with it to construct and/or maintain recreational resources. Those community groups include: the Swedetown Trails Club, the Calumet Hockey Association, the Calumet Figure Skating Association, the Calumet Lions Club, the Copper Country Curling Club, a group of volunteers who operate the Township Shooting Range, the CLK Sportsman's Club, the Keweenaw Snowmobile Club, and the Keweenaw ATV Club.

In addition, the Township works closely with the CLK (Calumet-Laurium- Keweenaw) School District when it comes to recreational facilities, playgrounds, ball fields, etc. The Township is also working closely with local health care providers on recreational facilities. The health organizations are taking an increasing role in promoting fitness programs (and offering donations to support the programs) which utilize Township recreational lands and facilities. Local civic organization and clubs play a vital role in the Township's recreation plans. First and foremost, various clubs operate several facilities on behalf of the public. These organizations also inform the Township board of their needs and desires to keep the facilities operating for the benefit of the public. These organizations also sponsor a variety of activities; for example, the Swedetown Trails Club sponsors the Great Bear Chase Ski Marathon and the Great Deer Chase Mountain Bike Race. Such events are becoming increasingly popular with local residents as well as visitors, and the Township offers its cooperation with organizers and supports their efforts.



### III. Recreational Facilities Inventory

The Calumet Township Board of Trustees is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the following recreational facilities identified in this plan. There is a recreation policy on file at the Township office.



**CALUMET TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES**

The following recreation inventory describes the type and location of recreational facilities currently available. Accessibility assessments and rankings are provided for each sited based on the ADA Standards for Accessible Design

- 1 = None of the site elements meet standards
- 2 = Some site elements meet standards
- 3 = Most site elements meet standards
- 4 = All site elements meet standards
- 5 = The facility meets the Principles of Universal Design

## Calumet Township Waterworks Park

The Township has been very active in the development of the Calumet Township Park on Lake Superior. This 16-acre park was acquired by the Township in 1979 with matching funding provided by the LAWCON grant program. Other LAWCON and Coastal Zone Management grants and local funds have provided for improvements such as toilets, picnic areas, pavilions, gazebos, playgrounds, a volleyball court, basketball court, baseball area and a handicapped ramp to access the beach. The Waterworks Park is popular for rock hounding, swimming, and enjoying the beauty of Lake Superior. It has become a popular destination for viewing the northern lights when conditions are favorable.



Part of this park is 43 acre wooded parcel adjacent to the lake frontage. This parcel contains a one mile nature trail, a primitive campsite used mostly by groups such as the boy scouts and girl scouts. It also has on site a drilled water well which is used for drinking water for the park.



The park has developed into one of the finest day-use parks on the Keweenaw. The Township provides regular maintenance such as garbage pickup, grass cutting, painting, cleaning of toilets, etc.

**Accessibility assessment = 4:** The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.

## Calumet Ballfields

Local civic and sports organizations assisted the Township in creating new baseball ball fields and an informal soccer field on Township property on M-203. Volunteer efforts were critical in the creation of the field and all the improvements. The ball field needs a number of improvements to fully serve the public. Currently it has no permanent restroom facility (portable toilets are being used); no drinking water; no parking lot; and some storm-water drainage issues that limit access and facility use. While the baseball field is well along in development, more improvements are needed and on the smaller areas that serve soccer enthusiasts.

**Accessibility assessment:** 1 = None of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design



## Lions Club Park

Lions Park is located on Calumet Lake, a small impoundment, in the Township. This property was once part of the holdings of C&H Mining Company and has been owned by the Township for more than 20 years. Until 2005 the park was on the Environmental Protection Agency's Super Fund list of environmentally contaminated properties.



After the EPA mitigated the contamination, the park was created by the Township in partnership with the Calumet Lions Club. In recent years the club has donated thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of volunteer time. The park features a 27-hole course disc golf course; picnic areas with tables, a barrier-free walking trail and parking lot, 3 vault toilet restrooms, horseshoe courts, drinking water and a large grassy area for informal games and special events. There is an area to launch canoes or kayaks. Winter use includes trails for snowshoeing, walking and snow biking.



The park has received several grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for pathway development. A pathway that encircles the lake is the ultimate goal. The Lions Club volunteers have completed more than 60 percent of that goal, and in the coming years plan on finishing the trail. Lions Park is a testament of what can be done to recover contaminated lands when Federal, State, and Local units of government work together.

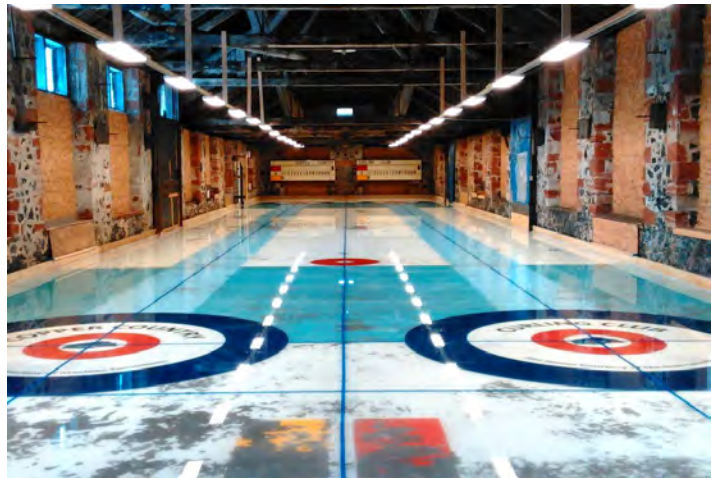
**Accessibility assessment = 3:** Most of the park meets accessibility guidelines

### **Copper Country Curling Club**

The Copper Country Curling Club (CCCC) is proud to say that it has completed a major Historical Building Renovation for its curling facility. In cooperation with the Keweenaw Historical National Park and Calumet Township, the CCCC converted the former Calumet and Hecla Mining Company's Drill Shop into a permanent curling facility. The project represents the combined efforts of the Copper Country Curling Club, Calumet Township, and the National Park Service - Keweenaw National Historical Park.



The Calumet & Hecla Mining Company built the Drill Shop around 1885 to manufacture and maintain the drills used in their local copper mines. Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) was interested in preserving and restoring the Drill Shop for its historical value.



Calumet Township finds curling to be a highly compatible use for the Drill Shop. The building is located just a few hundred feet from Calumet High School and is also close to other winter sport activity centers. There is potential for both a high school physical education and weekend youth curling program.



For the CCCC, the Drill Shop provides the opportunity for a distinctive home to base the growth of Curling in the Copper Country. The current configuration offers room for 2 sheets of ice, locker rooms, concession, social area, raised viewing, Wi-Fi, storage and physical plant. The building has space for a cold weather farmers market, as a venue for weddings and receptions, and an indoor archery range. A portion of the building is currently reserved for future expansion. A second wing with two more ice sheets may be added in the future.

**Accessibility assessment = 4:** The entire building meets accessibility guidelines

### Calumet Recreation and Community Depot

Calumet Township acquired the former railroad depot with their own funds. The Township wishes to use the dilapidated but historic facility as a trailhead center and possibly for other community functions. The Township is currently looking at options to fund improvements. Meanwhile, a group of volunteers have started the restoration



process by cleaning up the site and building. Among the public's ideas for the facility include renting second floor office space; housing units on the second floor; live-work space; motorized and non-motorized trailhead center; retail business space; historical interpretive site; and many other ideas. Funding sources will ultimately determine its future.

**Accessibility assessment:** Not applicable as the site is not open to the public yet.

## Calumet Colosseum

The Calumet Colosseum is the oldest still-in-use indoor ice arena in the world. But it isn't just about having a long legacy, it's about the fact that the building is still in great shape. The building is home to passionate home crowds, great hockey on a daily basis all winter and many of the modern amenities you'd expect from an ice arena in the 21st century.



The Calumet Colosseum is a one-sheet facility with 6 large locker rooms, elevator, and emergency generator. A concession stand is operated during both practice and game times. Recent improvements include new lighting, sound system, ice plant and dehumidifier.



In addition to skating, the building is used for receptions, community use, and as a public voting site.

The Colosseum was honored by being named recipient of the Kraft Hockeyville award and designation in 2019, as the result of a tremendous community-driven effort. In addition to receiving funds for improvements, the Colosseum hosted a NHL exhibition game on September 26, 2019, between the Stanley Cup Champions St. Louis Blues and the local favorite Detroit Red Wings.

**Accessibility assessment = 3:** Most of the facility meets ADA guidelines

## Swedetown Recreation Area

The Township and the North Houghton County Water and Sewer Authority own 1,900 acres which comprises the Swedetown Recreation Area. The area has over 35 kilometers of ski trails, 10 Km of snow bike trails, 10 Km of snowshoe trails, sledding and snowboarding hills. Some 5 Km of ski trails are lighted to allow evening skiing. Some multi-use trails allow dogs as well. Swedetown is largely managed by a publically-formed community group known as the Swedetown Trails Club (STC). It collects modest user fees from those who can afford to pay (individuals and families who are low-income may request waiver of fee). To support families and to encourage engagement of youth in active outdoor recreation, no fees are charged to youth under 18. Club membership revenues pay the vast majority of expenses. STC pays for signs and maps, grooming equipment, fuel and operator costs for grooming the ski trails and sledding hill, maintenance and repair of the equipment, utilities and insurance for the groomer garage, utilities for the Chalet during ski season, liability insurance for STC board members and Chalet volunteers and mowing and preparation of the trails during off season. STC hosts the Great Bear Chase Ski race with over 700 participants per year, the vast majority of which are from out of the three-county region. In the last 5 years the club has invested heavily in the trails, chalet improvements and equipment necessary to operate a 12-month trail recreation facility.



During warm months, the Township is responsible for the expenses associated with operating the chalet. During those months Swedetown trails are used by hikers, trail runners, and mountain bikers as well as over 200 participants in the annual Great Deer Chase Mountain Bike Race. The Swedetown Trails Club has built and maintains 30 miles of single-track mountain bike trails at Swedetown.



In 1990, recreation bond grants and local donations enabled Calumet Township to construct a 2,200-square foot building (the Chalet) to serve as a warm-up facility for the ski trails and the adjacent lighted sledding and snowboarding hill. Trails club members volunteered many hours during the construction of the Chalet. The Chalet includes an access road, large plowed parking lot, trailhead signs and maps and a small grounds area.

After more than 33 years of service, the Chalet is in need of improvements and renovation. The Trails Club are currently developing plans to completely renovate the Chalet and parking facility to comply with the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA).



The Club is also working on an alternative trailhead on Spruce Street to include a stadium for viewing race events and additional parking.

**Accessibility assessment = 2:** Some of the park and facilities meets accessibility guidelines

### Swedetown Ponds Recreation Area

Near the access road to the Swedetown Trails is a recreation site that provides fishing, wildlife viewing and walking trails. The Township has developed a pavilion, pathways, vault toilet, and fishing decks. The recreation area hosts an annual youth fishing derby, sponsored by the CLK





Sportsman’s Club, which attracts about 180 kids. The CLK Sportsman’s Club plants fish in the ponds.

**Accessibility assessment = 4:** All of the park and facilities meets accessibility guidelines

### Calumet Township Indoor Shooting Range

The Calumet Township Indoor Shooting Range is open for public shooting. The range has year-round shooting, a ventilation system, four shooting booths and five lanes, as well as target movers with a 50-foot maximum target distance. On-site supervision is provided by a team of volunteers with NRA Range Safety Officer certification.



**Accessibility assessment = 2:** Some of the park and facilities meets accessibility guidelines

### Paul Lehto Baseball Diamond

Formerly known as the Wolverine Ball Field, this ballfield was renamed in honor of Paul Lehto, who served as the Township Supervisor for many years, and a great supporter of youth sports.

**Accessibility assessment = 2:** Some of the park and facilities meets accessibility guidelines



## Recreation Park

In recent years, the Township has begun to develop a vacant site for outdoor recreation. Located near the south gateway to the Village of Calumet, this site provides a highly visible and centrally located area for a small park area. A master plan for the site has been prepared and a children’s playground installed. A unique pavilion is currently being constructed on the site.



**Accessibility assessment = 4:** All of the park and facilities meets accessibility guidelines

## Other Local Recreational Facilities

The Township maintains other facilities such as the Wolverine and Centennial Heights playground and also a W.P.A. project stone boat that was renovated as a memorial for WWI, WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans.

## George Gipp Ice Arena

In addition to the Calumet Colosseum, the Township helps support another indoor ice arena, the George Gipp Arena, owned by the Village of Laurium. This facility provides ice related activities such as youth hockey and open skating.

## Multi-Use Trail

A DNR multi-use trail, formerly a rail corridor, runs through the Township, connecting the Calumet area to Houghton-Hancock and the Keweenaw Peninsula. This trail is groomed for snowmobiling, and used by ATVs, bicycles and pedestrians.

A citizen-led group has initiated efforts to use this corridor as a key segment in creating a non-motorized trail circling the Villages of Calumet and Laurium. With the assistance of the Keweenaw National



Historical Park, a concept for this and other non-motorized transportation has been prepared. A more detailed Master Plan is needed for this trail corridor to guide future investment and decision-making.

## Recreation Grant History

The Charter Township of Calumet and its citizens have greatly benefitted from investment in recreation facilities through various DNR Grants. The following list identifies these grants. The required Post Completion Form for each grant is included in the Appendix.

### **Project No. 26-01047 Project Year: 1978**

Project title: Calumet Township Waterworks Park Acquisition

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$40,390.71

Project Description: Acquire 10.7 acres for outdoor recreation

Status: Park is still being used.

### **Project No. 26-01360 Project Year: 1984**

Project title: Calumet Township Waterworks Park

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$12,225.43

Project Description: tot lot, 2 picnic shelters, 2 vault toilets

Status: Park is still being used, funded facilities are in good condition.

### **Project No. TF1053 Project Year: 1985**

Project title: Lake Superior Park Expansion

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$14,000.00

Project Description: To acquire 43.47 acres of land immediately adjacent to Calumet Township Lake Superior Park.

Status: Park is still being used.

### **Project No. BF89-523 Project Year: 1989**

Project title: Swedetown Rec. Area

Project Status: Grant Closed Grant Amount: \$67,500.00

Project Description: Establish the Swedetown Recreation area as a premier ski touring facility through the construction of a chalet, site work, trail work, parking and lighted hill and trails.

Status: Park is still being used. Facilities are now in need of upgrades.

**Project No. TF96-183 Project Year: 1996**

Project title: Swedetown Trails Land Acquisition

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$209,475.00

Project Description: Acquisition of 931 acres in Calumet and Osceola Townships to protect the existing Swedetown Trail system and to secure permanent access to the recreation area.

Status: Park is still being used.

**Project No. TF97-096 Project Year: 1997**

Project title: Lakeshore Park Improvements

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$27,225.00

Project Description: Construction of a pavilion, accessible trail, parking improvements and a water well.

Status: Park is still being used, funded facilities are in good condition.

**Project No. TF03-026 Project Year: 2003**

Project title: Lakeshore Park Restroom Facility

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$42,000.00

Project Description: Construction of new lavatory building and septic field in Lakeshore Park on Lake Superior.

Status: Park is still being used, funded facilities are in good condition.

**Project No. TF05-119 Project Year: 2005**

Project title: Swedetown Recreation Area Acquisition

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$105,200.00

Project Description: Acquisition in fee simple of 280 acres including 80 acres of wetlands and an 8 acre pond for public recreation, including hunting, fishing and hiking.

Status: Park is still being used.

**Project No. TF08-004 Project Year: 2008**

Project title: Lions Club Park Nature Trail

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$20,400.00

Project Description: Development will include an approximately 1/2 mile nature trail around the north end of Calumet Lake.

Status: Park is still being used, funded facilities are in good condition.

**Project No. TF11-074 Project Year: 2011**

Project title: Calumet Lions Park Trail Improvements

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$29,000.00

Project Description: Development to include non-motorized path around Calumet Lake that continues the barrier-free path.

Status: Park is still being used, funded facilities are in good condition.

**Project No. RP14-0102 Project Year: 2014**

Project title: Hockey boards and glass replacement

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$45,000.00

Project Description: The Calumet Colosseum hockey rink's boards and safety glass are well past their useful life. The township wishes to replace the boards behind the goalie ends of the rink.

Status: Facility is still being used, funded facilities are in good condition.

**Project No. RP15-0050 Project Year: 2015**

Project title: Phase 2 Hockey boards and glass replacement

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$45,000.00

Scope Item

Phase 2: completion of boards and glass

Universal Access Ice Rink Sleds

Project Description: Complete replacement of boards and glass around the ice and Universal Access Ice Rink Sleds

Status: Facility is still being used, funded facilities are in good condition.

**Project No. TF19-0073 Project Year: 2019**

Project title: Acquisition at the Swedetown Recreation Area.

Project Status: PA Executed

Grant Amount: \$66,000.00

Project Description: Acquisition of 30 acres at Calumet Township's 1900-acre Swedetown Recreation Area. Two parcels are desired; one 20-acre and one 10-acre parcel. One parcel is wooded with excellent terrain that is used for cross-country ski trails while the other parcel provides an excellent spectator and parking area for the popular Great Bear Chase ski marathon event. Swedetown is a valued community asset for year-round non-motorized recreation that benefits local residents and attracts many tourists to the area.

Status: Park is still being used.

**Total Amount of Recreation Grants: \$803,416.14**

## IV. Natural Resource Inventory

Citizens of the Charter Township of Calumet are truly blessed with ample recreational opportunities to enjoy in all seasons. This section of the Recreation Plan outlines some of the numerous opportunities.

### **Houghton-Douglass Falls**

Located in Calumet Township, the Houghton-Douglass Falls is the tallest in Michigan estimated at about 110 feet. The falls had been a very popular area for hiking and viewing, even though it was located on private property. The landowner had graciously permitted access, however, over time, increasing concerns about liability and site degradation caused the landowner to close off public access.

At the urging of the Township and Houghton County, the State of Michigan acquired the site in 2018, and is currently exploring options for public use.

### **Nearby State Parks**

McClain State Park

Fort Wilkins State Park

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

Twin Lakes State Park

**State Land**, including the Keweenaw Point area.

**Downhill Skiing** at Mount Bohemia, Mont Ripley, and the Porcupine Mountain Ski Area.

**Nordic Skiing** trails at Swedetown, MTU, Chassell, Porcupine Mountains, Eagle Harbor, and Copper Harbor.

**Hunting and berry picking** on substantial CFA private forest and State Forest lands throughout the Keweenaw.

**Fishing** on Lake Superior, its tributaries, Portage and Torch Lakes, and numerous smaller lakes.

**Numerous publicly-owned beaches and parks** along the Lake Superior shoreline.

**Indoor recreation and fitness opportunities** at the Student Development Complex at MTU.

**Extensive motorized trails systems** for snowmobiling and ATVs.

## V. Recreation Planning and Description of the Planning Process

The Charter Township of Calumet provided three opportunities for community engagement as part of this planning process, as described below:

### Stakeholder and Recreation Partner Workshop

The Township convened a workshop with stakeholders and recreation partners on April 26, 2023. Representatives included:

- Swedetown Trails Club
- Calumet Hockey Association
- Calumet Figure Skating Association
- Calumet Lions Club
- Copper Country Curling Club
- Township Shooting Range
- CLK Sportsman’s Club
- Main Street Calumet
- Calumet Township Board

The workshop included a review of the current Recreation Plan to provide updates to facility descriptions, recreation goals, and a discussion of the need for improvements to Township Parks and the sites operated by recreation partners.

### Community Open House Event

On June 27, 2023, from 4-6 pm, Calumet Township held an Open House Recreation Planning Event. Notice of the open house event was published in the Daily Mining Gazette on June 3, 2023, and posted at the Township office and on the Township webpage.

A display panel for each park and recreation facility was on display so that community members could leave a note with their ideas and concerns. The event was well-attended, as citizens dropped by to express their views. Listed below are the written comments received for each facility.



### **Calumet Lions Park**

- Some sort of dock, maybe clear out some trees in an area to facilitate visiting more.
- Fishing dock
- Ice cream/concessions
- 27-hole disk golf

### **Mineral Range Train Depot**

- Restore and use as either a museum or as a commercial usage with historical intentions.
- Stabilize and sell/lease for commercial use/restaurant or bar or an A TV /snowmobile/bike corridor.

### **Curling Club (Drill Shop}**

- Pickle ball courts
- Uses so far are good perhaps improve heating throughout the whole building
- Can more of the building be used for recreation? Mini golf or mini disc golf.

### **Colosseum**

- While I like the idea of a puck pit, the high school band does need somewhere to sit.

### **Calumet Township Waterworks Park(Bucky's}**

- Improve hiking across the road. Add disc golf, geocaching? Other ideas? Beautiful forest there!
- Clean up the area between parking lot and the beach near the fence area. It doesn't look too welcoming. Improve this whole area for local families, kids. Great that it's close to town!
- Restore or replace old facilities such as playground equipment and railings. Both are outdated. Fix trails across Lake Shore Drive.

### **Calumet Area Recreational Trail System**

- This would be great (referring to trail concept map overview).
- I like this as well. St-153 needs to be improved regardless and having connectors in the south would allow quick access for Florida Location residents to St-17.
- I like this but having paved/gravel paths all the way around pond would be nice.
- While another ball field is nice, we should not center around baseball as our main sport. There are already 6 fields in the township.

### **Paul Lehto Ball Field**

- Improve dugouts and announcers shack across the road.
- Follow through with 2nd field, but place parking lot elsewhere in the event of home runs.



### **New Recreation Area**

- Pickle ball courts.
- Follow current plan listed on the signs but leave space for Fire Department parking. They use both sides of the hall.
- Mini golf
- Covered ice rink
- Mini golf
- Beginner disc golf

### **Smith Ave Playground**

- Improve the basketball court, and add an ice rink that was once there.
- Ice rink with a warming shack.

### **WPA Water Fountain (on M-203)**

- Restore stone fountain as heading outside of Calumet on M-203. If you can't get the H2O running again, restore fountain, maybe add a picnic bench/table. Perhaps a little hiking trail behind it.

Add this note also-Perhaps a permanent plaque/sign designating the WPA sites(Centennial Heights, Wolverine Area, Keweenaw Mountain Lodge} for people who live in the UP and enjoy local history.

## **Public Hearing**

The draft **Recreation Plan** was available for public review and comment 30 days prior to the public hearing. A combined notice of draft Plan availability and public hearing was published in the Daily Mining Gazette on September 25, 2023. The draft plan was available for review at the Township office and on the Township website.

The public hearing was conducted by the Calumet Township Board on the draft Recreation Plan on October 27, 2023.

A copy of the combined notice is included in the Appendix.

## VI. Goals and Objectives

Calumet Township is an ideal location for outdoor recreation. The wide variety of trails, public access and recreation sites has a direct impact on livability of the Township. The four season outdoor recreation lifestyle helps the region create a sustainable economy by attracting/retaining residents, and appealing to visitors who are interested in the natural environment and historical landscape of the Township. A primary goal of Calumet Township's recreation programs and plans focuses on the livability of the Township for local and regional residents.

With an abundance of snow and cold weather, activities such hockey and cross-country skiing are a fundamental part of recreational opportunities provided by the Township. The Swedetown Recreation Area is home to the region's premier recreation area for winter enthusiasts. Swedetown has a sledding and snowboarding hill for families, many trails for skiing, snow biking and snowshoeing. The same trails are used in summer and fall by bikers, hikers, and trail runners.

The Calumet Colosseum serves many people who participate in hockey either as players or spectators.

The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department reports that obesity in the western Upper Peninsula is a huge concern that carries a very high cost to society in terms of health care costs. Creating opportunities for all seasons physical recreation to help fight the obesity problem in adults and children is a primary goal of Calumet Township's recreation programs.

Additional benefits of the Township's programs include providing children with safe opportunities to grow mentally and physically, and providing family-oriented opportunities that can sustain one's interest for a lifetime.

Recreation opportunities that appeal to the Township's tourists and visitors include hiking, biking, running, walking, snowshoeing, and skiing, as well as the full spectrum of motorsports. The Township's goal includes expanding the opportunity for natural resource-based recreation by providing appropriate facilities for local citizens as well as visitors and tourists. Strengthening the recreation system will not only serve the local residents, but will strengthen the local economy which so many residents depend on for their livelihood. Recreation opportunities for visitors are based on the region's unique weather characteristics and the rugged Northwoods environment.

## Specific Goals and Objectives

The following recreation Goals and Objectives have been developed for Calumet Township. These are based upon the following *guiding principles*:

- Take care of what we have before allocating resources on new projects.
- Enhance existing parks and facilities after we have taken care of what we have.
- Create new opportunities when we have made the enhancements that are needed to existing facilities
- Protect the environment.
- Provide health and wellness opportunities.
- Provide safe places for children and families to play.

**Goal 1: Maintain Township parks and recreation facilities to provide the public with safe, useable, and attractive recreational opportunities.**

### Objectives:

1. Replace/upgrade aging facilities and equipment.
2. Remove barriers to universal access.
3. Provide and maintain appropriate signage for each park or facility.

**Goal 2: Engage the community when planning for improving parks and adding new park facilities.**

### Objectives:

1. Promote citizen input when making decisions related to recreation facilities.
2. Continue to collaborate with the Township's recreation partners, stakeholders and community groups who volunteer to assist the Township maintaining, creating, or improving recreation facilities and programs.
3. Continue to seek grants from the State of Michigan and continue to ask local groups and individuals to fund the local match requirements for those grants.

**Goal 3: Improve existing recreation facilities to increase ADA accessibility where appropriate.**

### Objectives:

1. Make accessibility improvements so that facilities meet ADA requirements.

**Goal 4: Promote recreational programming and recreation facilities that help people overcome social isolation, especially in the winter season, as people who are socially engaged are healthier, happier, and live longer.**

**Objectives:**

1. Continue to work with community groups and individuals who promote activities that encourage social engagement.
2. Continue to sponsor and host community recreation and sporting events.

**Goal 6: Collaborate with other local units of government, stakeholders and special interest groups to offer improved recreational opportunities.**

**Objectives:**

1. Be open to any local government and organized group that seeks partners to jointly develop new recreation trails or facilities.

## VII. Action Program

The following tables identify priority projects, costs, and possible timeframes for improving recreational opportunities in Calumet Township in the next 5 years.

### Swedetown Recreation Area

Goal	Project	Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1, 3, 4	Ski, bike, and hiking trail drainage, width, slope, and sustainability improvements	2028	\$80,000	Local, Trust Fund, Recreation Passport
1, 3, 4	Land purchases to facilitate expanding trail area	2028	\$100,000	Local, Trust Fund, Land and Water
1, 3, 4	Chalet accessibility, expansion, and landscaping for erosion control	2027	\$950,000	Local, Trust Fund, MEDC
1, 3, 4	Chalet access road and parking lot paving	2028	\$200,000	Local and Trust Fund
1, 3, 4	Finish improving road from water towers to M203	2025	\$15,000	Local
1, 3, 4	Mountain bike pump track, jump line, slalom course, skills area	2028	\$60,000	Local, Trust Fund, Land and Water
1, 3	Skate park	2027	\$400,000	Local fundraising by skate park group and Swedetown Trails Club, skate park project grants, other grants
1, 3, 4	New multi-use trail (chalet to stadium to 6th Street and Tamarack Loop)	2026	\$250,000	Local, Trust Fund, Land and Water
1, 3, 4	New ski trails (New bear loop, Birch loop extension, current multi-use trail, etc)	2027	\$40,000	Local, Trust Fund, Recreation Passport
1-3	New and re-routed biking and hiking trails	2028	\$400,000	Local, Trust Fund, Recreation Passport
1-3	Trail lighting	2028	\$60,000	Recreation Passport
1-3	Husky groomer replacement	2028	\$400,000	Local, other grants

### Calumet Township Waterworks Park

Goal	Project	Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1	Replace/rebuild/repair site amenities, mew disc golf course, parking	2024	\$100,000	Local/DNR

### Lions Club Park

Goal	Project	Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1	Bandstand, electric service	2025	\$75,000	Local/DNR

### Coliseum

Goal	Project	Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
4	Roof, heating system	2026	\$1,000,000	Local/DNR

### Calumet Ball Fields

Goal	Project	Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1	Site work, toilets	2026	\$200,000	Local/DNR

### Copper Country Curling Club

Goal	Project	Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1, 3, 4	roof	2028	\$200,000	Local/DNR
1, 3, 4	Windows, masonry,	2028	\$200,000	Local/DNR

### Lehto Baseball Diamond

Goal	Project	Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1	Site work, dugouts, toilets	2029	\$100,000	Local/DNR

### Recreation Park

Goal	Project	Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1	Pickleball, fencing, parking, walkways, dog park,	2025	\$200,000	Local/DNR

### Potential Funding Sources

Description	Minimum Local Match	Source
Local, Township/Community Foundation/Other (local service organizations and businesses)	N/A	Local
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) (\$15,000-300,000 grant for development projects)	25%	DNR
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) (\$30,000-\$150,000 grant)	50%	DNR
Recreation Passport Grants (Up to \$150,000 grant in 2022)	25%	DNR
Dam Management Grant Program	10%	DNR
Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Program	N/A	DNR

## **VIII. Appendix and Supporting Documentation**

Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports

Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Recreation Planning Notice and Open House Summary

Notice of the Draft Plan Availability for Public Comment and Public Hearing

Public Hearing and Township Board Meeting Minutes and Resolution

Transmittal Letters to the County Planning Commission and WUPPDR