

Goals and Objectives

The goals, objectives and vision articulated in this plan have been prepared based on input from a number of sources - review of past public surveys and recreation plans, public meetings, discussions with community groups and local recreation organizations and discussions within the Recreation Working Committee. The goals address the specific issues identified by community members throughout the planning process as well as an analysis of threats to the current facilities and system.

The goals developed for this plan also take into account the goals articulated in recreation plans developed by the individual jurisdictions in prior years. These goals, copied directly from the individual plans, are also included for reference. This Chapter includes:

- Goal Statements from Existing Plans
- Common Goals found in Existing Plans
- HARBOR Area Community Vision
- HARBOR Area Community Goals and Objectives

GOALS STATEMENTS FROM EXISTING PLANS

City of Harbor Springs (plan year 1994)

Statement of Purpose:

Providing for opportunities to serve the leisure time needs of year-round residents, seasonal or part-time residents and visitors is important to not only enrich the quality of life in the Harbor Springs area, but also to the economic vitality of the area.

Overall Goals and Objectives

- To encourage leisure time and recreational opportunities so that groups of all ages and socio-economic standing may find enjoyment.
- To encourage efforts to maintain open spaces.
- To encourage continued evaluation and participation by the Harbor Springs Public Schools as a community recreation provider.
 - Construct tennis courts.
- To encourage waterfront beautification
- To study water-based recreation needs.

Administrative goals and objectives

- To establish a Parks and Recreation Authority for the Harbor Springs area in order to equitably spread costs among users.
- To support cooperative recreational planning with surrounding governmental units.

Facility Goals and Objectives

- To maintain, improve, and expand first-class recreational parks facilities.
 - Improve skating facility.
 - Improve parking at Hoyt Park, Ottawa Stadium, Zoll Street Beach.
 - Clean up City eyesores at Zoll Street area
 - Provide seasonal restrooms at Zoll Street Beach

- To improved pedestrian walkways throughout the city.
 - Complete sidewalks from Zoll Street to Zorn Park.
 - Provide a scenic outlook at Washington Street access.
- To encourage the establishment of both motorized and non-motorized trails.
 - Snowmobile trails.
 - Biking, running, hiking trails.
 - Cross-country skiing trails.

Program Goals and Objectives`

- To encourage a diversity among athletic, recreational, and cultural activities.
 - Use parks and facilities for exhibitions of music, arts, or crafts.
- To continue providing year-round recreational opportunities
 - Winter - skiing, hockey, skating.
 - Summer - baseball, tennis, soccer, basketball, swimming, playgrounds.
- .To encourage and support the Community Schools program.
- To provide adequate staffing, as needed, at facilities.

Cross Village Township (plan year 2001)

Goals from Emmet County Rec. Plan (as modified for Cross Village)

1. Encourage a variety of recreational programs/facilities, including open space, and utilize natural resource base without adversely affecting those resources
 - Areas with unsuitable development soils should be planned for uses of limited rec. intensity or open space
 - Flood plan and wetlands areas used for open space activities (wildlife, passive rec. and trails)
 - Protect open space resources such as farmland and forest land , manage for farming or logging
 - Encourage development of private enterprise activities which complement/supplement public rec. uses
2. Encourage i.d. and preservation of scenic resources and view areas
 - Consider scenic beauty road /heritage road designations where feasible/applicable
 - Recognize the value of scenic resources in proposed developments, particularly where prominent view of Lake Michigan are available
3. I.D. and preserve significant historical, arch. and or architectural features
 - Promote cooperation between local historical groups and the township for research n historical sites/buildings (township hall, former township school, selected commercial buildings and churches)
 - Work with the State of Michigan History Division for assistance with historical ID, preservation and funding
 - Seek the cooperation of private interests who may own/manage significant historical features
4. Stress safety as a feature in the development of local recreational facilities and programs
 - Provide protective regs and activity guidelines for the protection of people using recreational facilities
 - Encourage safety instruction programs

5. Provide Rec. opportunities in different geographic areas of the township to assure an equitable distribution
 - Utilize fed/state funding programs for rec. facility grants and land acquisition
6. Maintain current Rec. plan as a means of keeping and up-to-date inventory of recreational resources, and a current assessment of recreation demand
 - Research and reassessment should be completed on a near five year interval
7. Acquire strategic recreation lands and strategic natural resources features for recreation/open space purposes, in advance of development
 - Participate in federal-state funding programs to acquire needed or desired land resources for open space /recreation purposes
 - Work with private owners to set aside strategic lands within new developments for open space purposes including flood plain protection areas, storm water control pond sites, critical sand dunes and on-site scenic resources that should be preserved
 - Cooperate with and seek assistance of the Little Traverse Conservancy in efforts to obtain scenic easements and/or conservation easements

Friendship Township (plan year 2001)

Goals from Survey (2000)

- Acquire beachfront property
- Acquire land for local park/future township hall (w/ well, cemetery expansion)
- Provide a recreational area for hiking/nature observation, picknicking, x-country skiing and snow-shoeing

General Goals (outlined by recreation committee)

- Develop parks for recreational enjoyment of all age groups, race, and physical needs of the Township's population based on recreation standards. Plan for a variety of recreational needs and preferences.
- Support acquisition of recreational properties based on geography. Proposed acquisition of property near township hall is geographically located in the center of the township and will service the recreational needs of the township residents
- Support and promote acquisition/development of unique resources as public recreational lands (waterfront, unique topography, wildlife habitat, scenic view, etc.)
- Manage the land for preservation of natural resources

Little Traverse Township (plan year 2005)

1. Encourage a variety of recreational programs/facilities, including open space, and utilize natural resource base without adversely affecting those resources
 - Areas with unsuitable development soils should be planned for uses of limited rec. intensity or open space
 - Flood plan and wetlands areas used for open space activities (wildlife, passive rec. and trails)
 - Protect open space resources such as farmland and forest land , manage for farming or logging
 - Encourage development of private enterprise activities which complement/supplement public rec. uses

2. Encourage i.d. and preservation of scenic resources and view areas
 - Consider scenic beauty road /heritage road designations where feasible/applicable
 - Recognize the value of scenic resources in proposed developments, particularly where prominent view of Lake Michigan are available
3. I.D. and preserve significant historical, arch. and or architectural features
 - Promote cooperation between local historical groups and the township for research n historical sites/buildings (township hall, former township school, selected commercial buildings and churches)
 - Work with the State of Michigan History Division for assistance with historical ID, preservation and funding
 - Seek the cooperation of private interests who may own/manage significant historical features
4. Stress safety as a feature in the development of local recreational facilities and programs
 - Provide protective regs and activity guidelines for the protection of people using recreational facilities
 - Encourage safety instruction programs
5. Provide Rec. opportunities in different geographic areas of the township to assure an equitable distribution
 - Utilize fed/state funding programs for rec. facility grants and land acquisition
 - *Investigate joint park purchases/use/management possibilities with adjacent governmental units*
6. Maintain current Rec. plan as a means of keeping and up-to-date inventory of recreational resources, and a current assessment of recreation demand
 - Research and reassessment should be completed on a near five year interval
7. Acquire strategic recreation lands and strategic natural resources features for recreation/open space purposes, in advance of development
 - Participate in federal-state funding programs to acquire needed or desired land resources for open space /recreation purposes
 - Work with private owners to set aside strategic lands within new developments for open space purposes including flood plain protection areas, storm water control pond sites, critical sand dunes and on-site scenic resources that should be preserved
 - Cooperate with and seek assistance of the Little Traverse Conservancy in efforts to obtain scenic easements and/or conservation easements

Readmond Township (plan year 2000)

General Guidelines followed in making recommendations for recreational needs

1. The township owns three wonderful parks, plus the township hall property. The plan, therefore, emphasizes the maintenance, management and proper control of these existing properties. Exceptions are the planned acquisition of the 20 acre property to the west of the township hall for a community center and recreational facilities and the acquisition of two parcels of private land located in the center of the Readmond Township park preserve.

2. Develop parks for recreational enjoyment of all age groups, race, and physical needs of the Township's population based on recreation standards. Plan for a variety of recreational needs and preferences. Existing township parks are small in size (except for the preserve). Rec. activities are limited to waterfront uses. For this reason the township wants to pursue the acquisition of land to accommodate a Community Center as well as more or a variety of outdoor recreational activities.
3. Support acquisition of recreational properties based on geography. 3 of 4 township rec. properties are on the lakeshore. The proposed acquisition of property next to the township hall is geographically centered and will service recreational needs of both year-round and seasonal residents.
4. Support and promote acquisition/development of unique resources as public recreational lands (waterfront, unique topography, wildlife habitat, scenic view, etc.). Indian Houses
5. Manage the land for preservation of natural resources

COMMON GOALS FOUND IN EXISTING PLANS

Studying the existing plans' goals statements for overlap, the goals (or policies in some instances) cited most commonly are:

- Maintain/establish diversity of recreation types
- Offer recreation in different geographic areas
- Acquire strategic/unique lands ahead of development
- Work cooperatively/seek to establish relationships with surrounding local governments
- I.D. and preserve special/unique scenic, historical, natural resource areas

These common goals developed during earlier planning processes, while very general in nature, complement and reinforce the community-wide data gathered during a number of recreation surveys conducted in the past decade. They also reinforce what was learned through numerous public meetings conducted as part of this process. They served as a foundation from which the following multi-jurisdictional goals were developed.

HARBOR AREA COMMUNITY VISION

A coordinated system of recreation trails and open space that serves the multiple local jurisdictions and organizations, enhances the economic and natural value of local resources and reinforces safe alternative modes of transportation.

HARBOR AREA COMMUNITY GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Build and maintain an interconnected system of non-motorized trails for the purpose of recreation and transportation.
 - Develop a system of passable routes (walkways and trails) within one mile of the public school facilities for safe year-round travel by children.
 - Develop secondary trail routes from the townships into the City of Harbor Springs

- Develop a primary scenic trail route between City of Harbor Springs and Cross Village.
 - Encourage trail easements and the construction of trails concurrently with new residential developments.
 - Encourage development of a variety of trail types as dictated by public demand (cross country ski, water, hiking, equestrian).
 - Encourage development of adequate trailhead and parking facilities to reinforce alternative means of transportation.
 - Encourage development of local trails primarily for the benefit of an individual jurisdiction's population with access to public open space and beaches.
 - Encourage development of a water trail for transportation and recreation
 - Coordinate with and enhance access to state and nationally recognized trail routes including the North Country Trail and the Little Traverse Wheelway.
2. Promote safe and convenient access to high quality public waterfront, forests, view sites and open fields for all residents of the service area. Continue to evaluate, identify and pursue important key parcels and protect existing parcels.
- Attempt to maintain a “standard of access” for public waterfront based population, so that the amount of public waterfront increases with concurrent population gains
 - Promote access to beaches and boat launch facilities.
 - Promote access to and preserve major forested areas, open fields and views.
 - Evaluate open space acquisition, easement and development opportunities.
 - Monitor state land development, maintenance and sale processes.
3. Consider establishing an umbrella organization, system or instrument to assist with management/administration/maintenance for the benefit of the broader community and to guide future development/acquisition so that facilities are located within close proximity to the population served.
- Provide coordination among local organizations and jurisdictions.
 - Share costs for key recreation facilities that are essential to and serve the broader population including maintenance, development and operation.
 - Separate costs for recreation facilities that are owned, maintained and operated primarily for the benefit of an individual jurisdiction's population.
 - Provide recommendations about location of future facilities.
 - Reinforce the clustering of active/organized recreation facilities around Harbor Springs Schools to minimize transportation and support positive land use trends.
 - Utilize marketing, signage and communication to disseminate information.