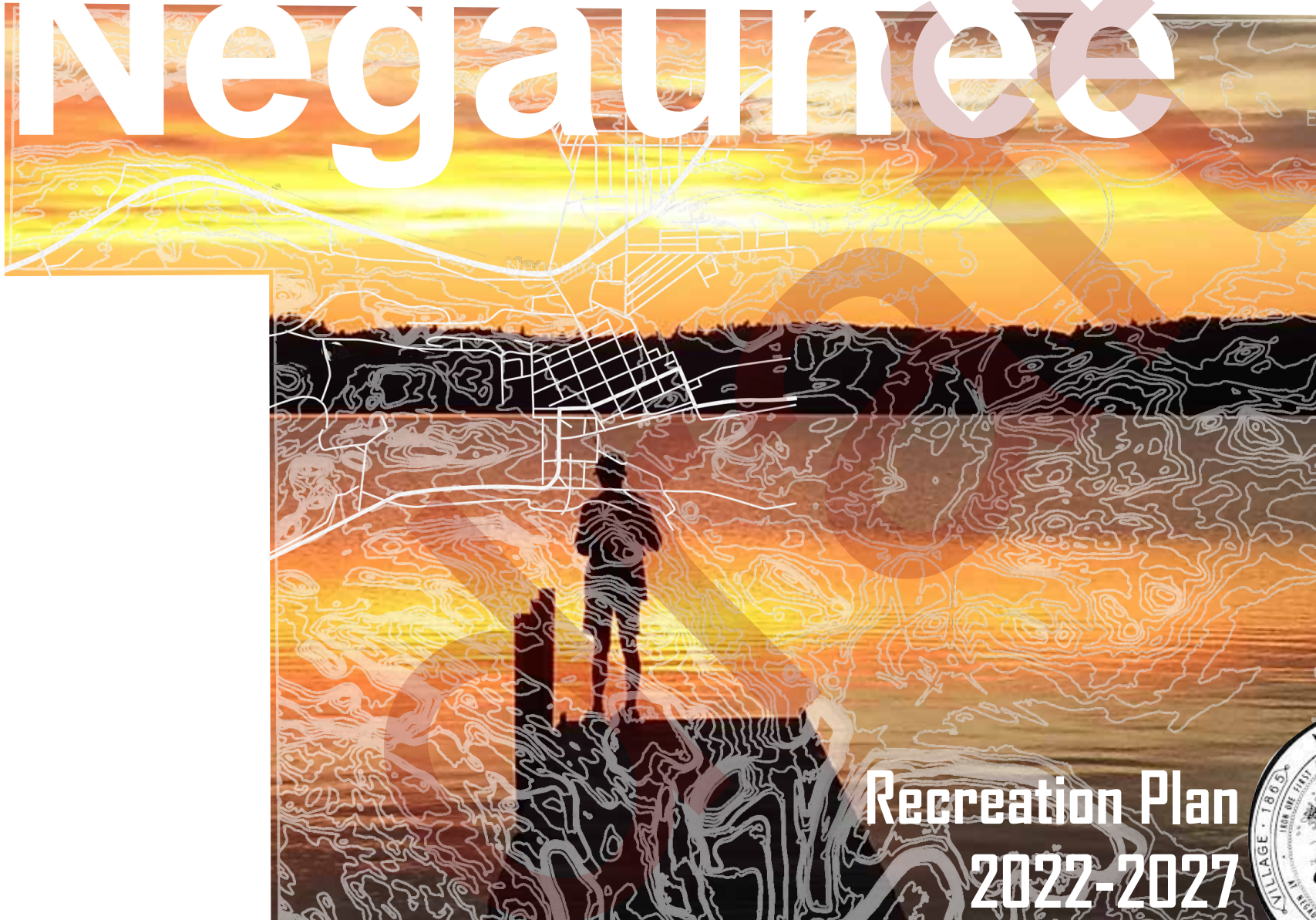


# Negaunee



Recreation Plan  
2022-2027



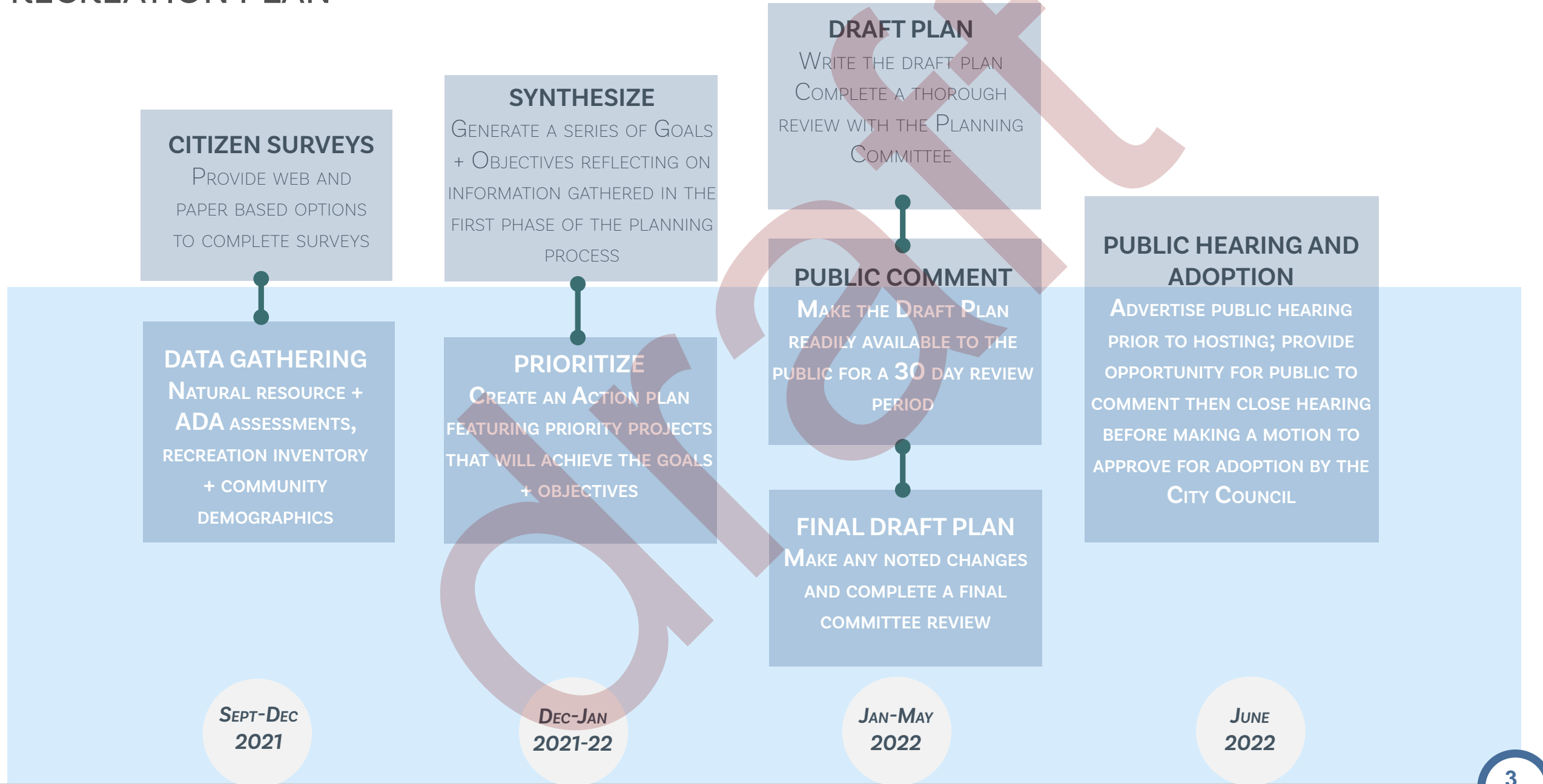
# Resolution

This space reserved for formal resolution and adoption

draft

# Planning Process

## RECREATION PLAN



- 1 INTRODUCTION | WHY A 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN + COVID + RECREATION
  - 2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION | DESCRIPTION, DEMOGRAPHICS + DATA
  - 3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | LANDSCAPE FEATURES, SOILS, VEGETATION, + WILDLIFE
  - 4 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
  - 5 RECREATION INVENTORY
  - 6 COMMENTS + ISSUES SCOPING
  - 7 VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES
  - 8 ACTION PLAN | PRIORITY PROJECTS
- APPENDIX A** | PUBLIC NOTICE + COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS
- APPENDIX B** | GRANT HISTORY
- APPENDIX C** | UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN GUIDELINES

# 1 Introduction

## WELCOME TO THE CITY OF NEGAUNEE RECREATION PLAN

### Why a 5-Year Recreation Plan?

Every 5 years communities throughout Michigan update their recreation plans to ensure qualification for annual Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) funding opportunities.

The 5 year recreation plan must adhere to a format defined by the MDNR and outline priority goals, objectives, and projects with the potential to be completed within the 5-year window and beyond.

This chapter serves as an update to the City of Negaunee's 5-year recreation plan. It will feature data on natural resources, community demographics, existing recreation assets, operational management, citizen input, and community partnerships. The following pages shall serve as an all-inclusive map for recreation in the community. Woven into the fabric of the chapter is an in depth look at community values informing a series of common goals and strategies to achieve the collective community vision.

Looking beyond the 5-year window, this document will serve as a road map for future endeavors improving parks for decades to come. The 2022-2027 Recreation Plan will assist City officials in determining priority projects to nurture an already expansive parks system. It will outline strategies for making parks accessible to all and provide park designs that allow future generations to grow and prosper within. The City will apply a systematic approach for determining sites to invest in while prioritizing improving the quality of life for residents and promoting economic development within the community.

### Covid 19 & U.P. Recreation

Covid-19 and its many variants wreaked havoc on everything we knew to be normal from riding the bus to school in the morning to picking up a cup of coffee at the local shop. Despite these irksome new Covid wary habits, there is at least one silver lining. The outdoors have become our safe haven, friend and family gathering space and vacation destination. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan tourism industry has exploded, boosting local economies.

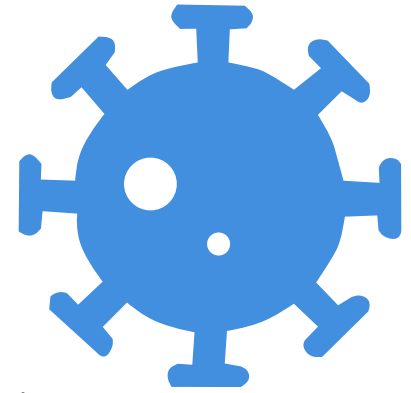
Prior to the Covid era a 2018 study estimated water based tourism and recreation contributed \$255.5 million to Marquette County's economy.<sup>1</sup>

The Covid-19 stimulated spike in socially distanced outdoor tourism and surge in work from home options, paired with the expansion of our U.P. broadband grid has added to a rise in home and property sales.

A report prepared by the MEDC by Tourism Economics in 2014, found direct spending by leisure travelers equated to \$16.6 billion-nearly 73% of all visitor spending in Michigan. As this report demonstrates, local economies are stimulated by access to recreation opportunities in addition to improving a community's health and vitality.

*Let's keep this momentum going!*

<sup>1</sup>Marquette County 2040 Master Plan; page 12.



# 2 Community Description



IMAGES (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) | 1. JACKSON MINE PIT 1; LOOKING WEST. SOURCE: GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MICHIGAN; UPPER PENINSULA 1869-1873, VOL. 1, PART 1, T.B. BROOKS PG 1 OF 63. 2. A PASSENGER RAIL CAR ON DISPLAY IN NEGAUNEE OLD TOWNE 3. THE NEGAUNEE NATIONAL BANK 4. SAMUEL & HANNAH COLLINS LOG CABIN 5. MIDTOWN BAKERY & CAFE

## History: Art, Culture, and Recreation

People have lived in the greater Negaunee region for at least 12,000 years, verified with Archeological findings. Roughly 10,000 years ago the ice sheets that once covered the Upper Peninsula of Michigan began to retreat. This post ice-age tundra was home to mega-fauna including mastodons. The people who came to this region are thought to have been nomadic hunter gatherers, leaving behind clues in stone and pottery objects. They were the first to discover the minerals this region had to offer, with copper mining recorded as far back as 6,000 years.

Thousands of years later, in 1845, Jackson Mine was established, along with a forge nearby. Small mining companies consolidated during this time to form Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company (CCI) which still operates today and owns many of the recreation properties within and around the City of Negaunee.

Negaunee was established as a city in 1873, its name meaning 'pioneer' in Chippewa. Mining has slowly decreased since 1930. As is noted in the other chapters of this Master Plan, more creative means for developing a strong future job market and industry within the community is near the top of the community's priorities. A vibrant arts, culture, and recreation scene will prove to enhance the potential for attracting and retaining new community members and visitors.

There are many notable historic sites within the City of Negaunee including the Negaunee Historical Museum and the Carp River Forge and Michigan Iron Industry Museum which are open to the public and showcase the history engrained within the City. The Vista Theater, built in 1926 continues to host theater productions to this day. The Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council operates the theater and has invested in restoring many of the building's historic features.

## Volunteers

There are several community volunteer groups that continue to nurture the legacy of art and culture within the City of Negaunee. One such organization is the Negaunee Beautification Committee, providing annual plantings throughout the city as well as assisting with various community events and workshops. Each December the Negaunee Downtown Development Authority partners with local businesses to host "Tinseltown" a holiday event complete with sleigh rides and cookie decorating. Other popular community events include:

- Pioneer Days (4th of July)
- Heikki Lunta (Winter Celebration)
- Tinseltown (Holiday Celebration)
- Yooper's Invitational Hockey Tournament
- Negaunee Farmers Market
- Negaunee City Band Concerts
- Various Bike Races (Including Ore to Shore and Marji)
- Various Walk/Run Events

Much of the recreational programming within the City of Negaunee is organized by local volunteer chapters including the Negaunee Little League, the Iron Range Hockey Association, the Negaunee Senior Men's Hockey League, the Negaunee-Ishpeming Horseshoe League, and the Iron Range Women's Softball League.

The City has also established a formal relationship with both RAMBA (Range Area Mountain Bike Association) and the Negaunee Disk Golf Club to build and maintain trails and facilities specific to their sport.

Little Bella's, a non-profit hosting camps and programs to help girls get involved in mountain biking, often operates within the City of Negaunee. The 906 Adventure Team also hosts youth mountain bikers on local trails within the Negaunee and greater Marquette County region.

The Negaunee Public School recreation facilities are open to the public and some indoor facilities such as the swimming pool, gyms, and an indoor recreation center (currently under construction) are utilized for recreation programs.

The Negaunee Historical Society and Lions Club have also assisted in managing and funding past recreation, parks and architectural restoration projects throughout the City.

## Community Demographics As They Relate to Recreation

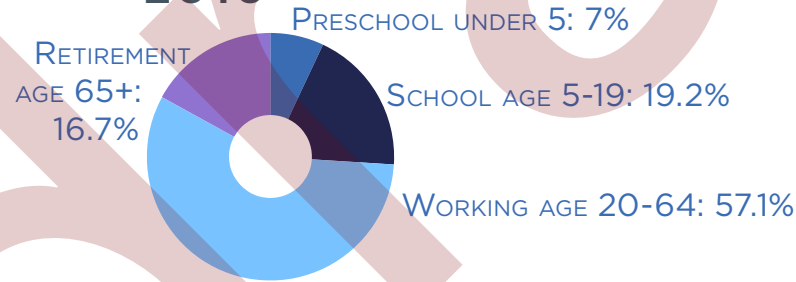
Assessing the number of people in the community and their demographic characteristics helps planners and policy makers to determine the needs of the community. For recreation planning, population data is useful when applying recreation standards to a community. Noting age and other identifying factors can help define what recreational assets might be well-received within a community or others that may no longer be utilized.

While the population in the State of Michigan increased in the last twenty years, Marquette County's has experienced a slight decline. Population trends are shown in the adjacent table. With a 1980 population of 5,189, the 2020 population was recorded at 4,627 persons, marking a 12% increase. In contrast to much of the Upper Peninsula's population, the younger population within Negaunee is actually increasing while the 65 plus population has slightly decreased. These strides in attracting and maintaining a younger demographic could be due in part to a high quality school system and a wide variety of easily accessible recreation opportunities.

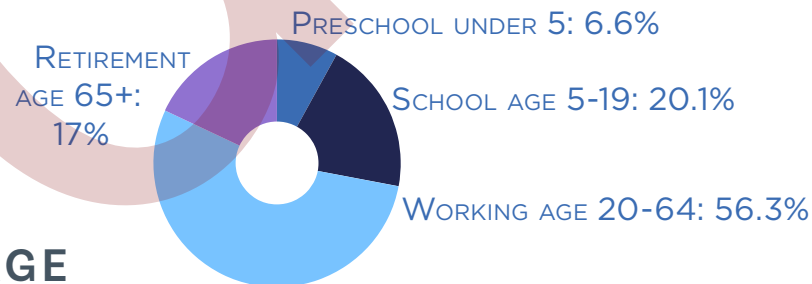
### 2020 US CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

	POPULATION	POVERTY RATE	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
NEGAUNEE	4,627	10.8%	\$52,399
MARQUETTE COUNTY	66,017	11.4%	\$55,148
MI	10,077,331	13.0%	\$59,584

### 2010



### 2020

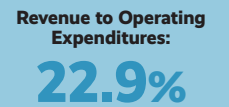
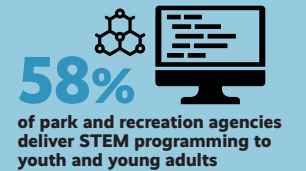
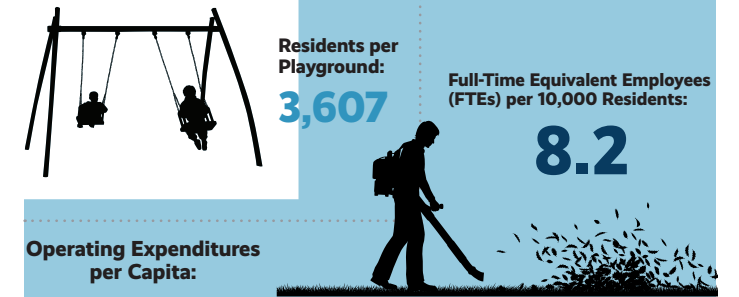


### AGE

## NRPA | National Parks and Recreation Association

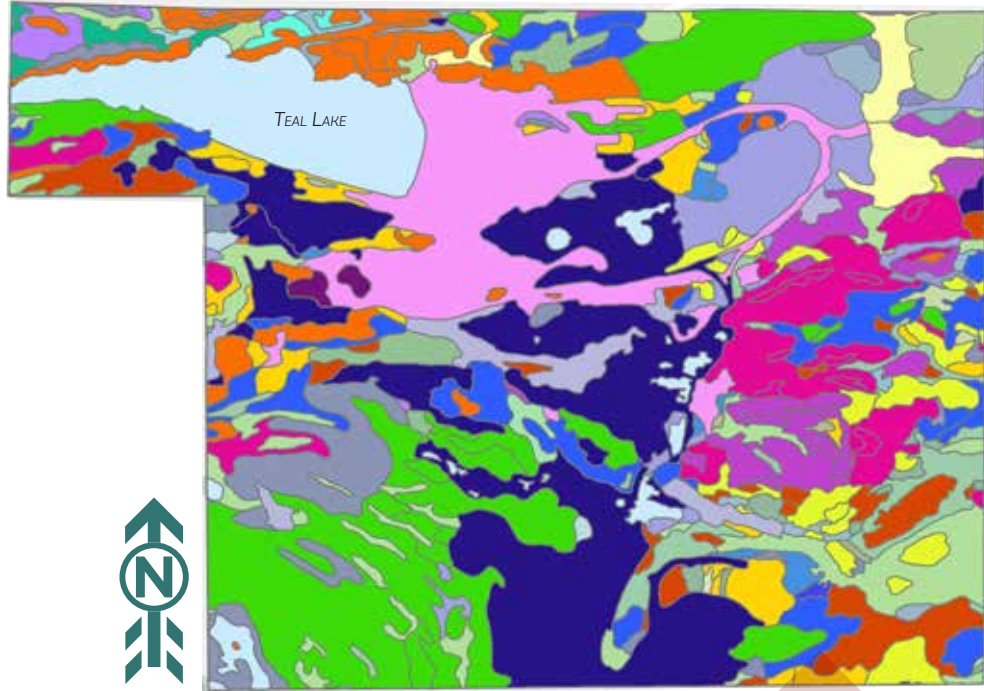
### 2021 KEY FINDINGS

The National Recreation And Park Association [NRPA] has assembled a 2021 Agency Performance Review featuring park metrics throughout the nation. The goal of this document is to help local park systems identify the optimal mix of facilities and programming for their community. Stay on the lookout for these blue boxes as they feature data illustrated in the NRPA 2021 Review.



## NRPA

# 3 Natural Environment



## Geology and Soils

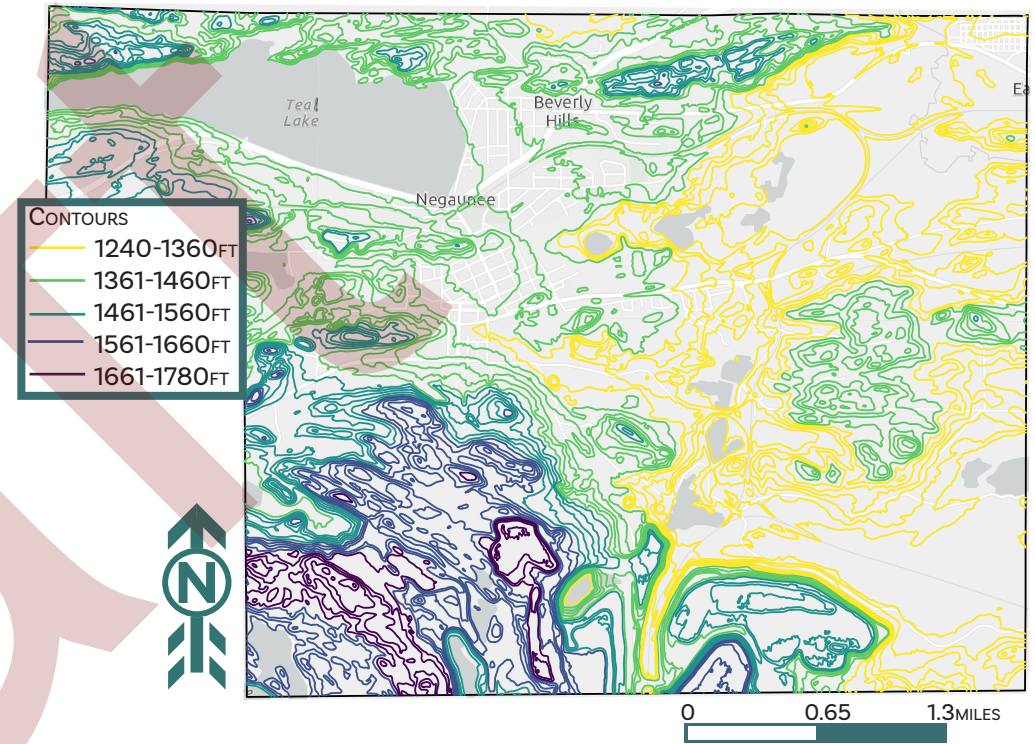
Geology is the foundation of the earth's crust and defines the vegetation, topography, and ability of the earth's surface to be shaped and altered. As mentioned in the history paragraph, Negaunee was founded for its rich minerals and unique geologic structure. As is evidenced in the Soils map featured above, the original landscape of this region has been forever altered with the extensive history of mining within the Marquette Iron Range.

The bedrock found below the surface geology or soils. The bedrock under the City of Negaunee dates back to the Precambrian era, approximately 600 million years ago. The oldest formation is made up of volcanic and sedimentary rocks, including mafic-volcanic and intruded felsic rocks metamorphosed into schist and gneiss. Volcanic and sedimentary rocks are found under a small portion of the northwestern corner of the city and are somewhat younger.



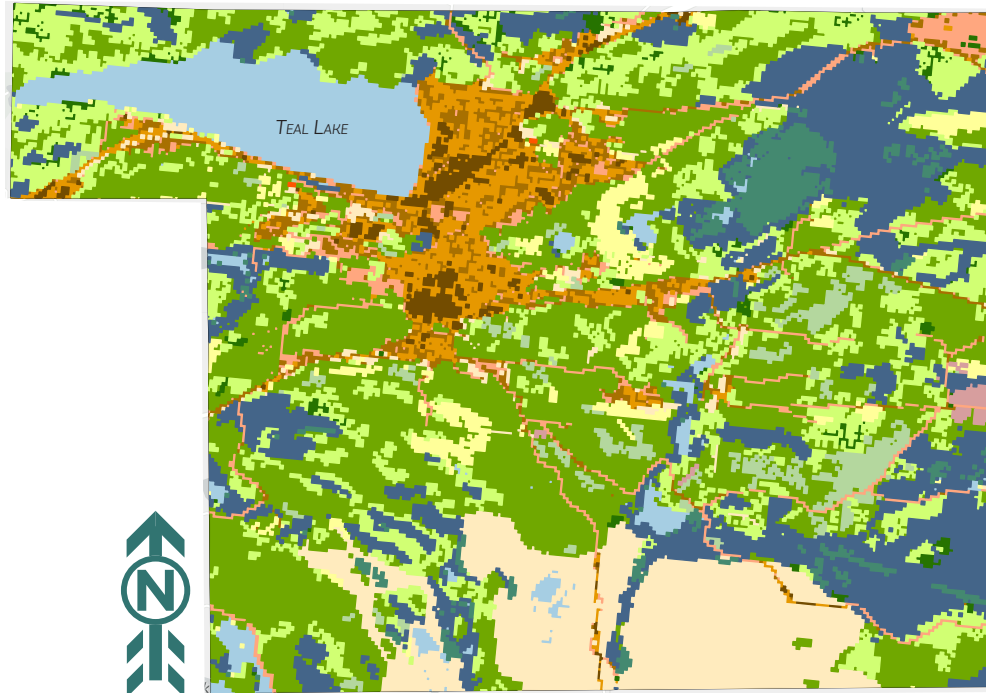
The surface geology of Negaunee is primarily a result of glaciation which occurred 10,000-12,000 years ago. The soils data presented was sourced from the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Much of the developed areas within the City of Negaunee have been altered with fill, paving, and removal of organic material that accumulated post glaciation. Most of the soils within the City's footprint and beyond have poor drainage characteristics and bedrock close to the surface. Each of these characteristics hinders development, complicating the installation of traditional septic systems and foundations with basements. This reduces the potential for feasible development but the shallow and exposed bedrock paired with a variable and rugged terrain can make for spectacular recreational opportunities from mountain bike trails to viewpoints.



## Topography

Topography is the three dimensional surface of the landscape, shaping floodplains, defining flat and steep terrain and dictating what locations are most feasible for development. The terrain within the City of Negaunee is quite variable lending itself to spectacular opportunities for rugged outdoor recreation and adventure. RAMBA (Range Area Mountain Bike Association) has embraced this terrain developing a large network of mountain bike and snow bike trails for all season use. Negaunee also hosts a luge as well as cross country ski, snowshoe and hiking trails.



OPEN WATER



DECIDUOUS FOREST



DEVELOPED LOW INTENSITY



MIXED FOREST + EXPOSED BEDROCK



MAINTAINED TURF



PIT

## Land Cover + Wildlife



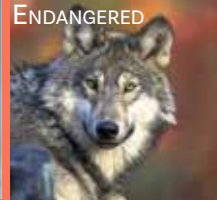



As discussed in the geology, soils and topography sheets, Negaunee's landscape is defined by undulating terrain with bedrock near the surface and poorly drained soils. The landscape typologies are a direct result of these characteristics with much of the undeveloped landscape featuring woody wetlands. The southern portion of the City includes the northern most edge of the mine with no vegetation.

The regions surrounding the developed center of the City include a mix of forest types defined in part by their elevation. The lowest layers in elevation include the woody and herbaceous wetlands. As the elevation increases the forests become a mix of deciduous and mixed forests with a few pockets of evergreen forests at the higher elevations.

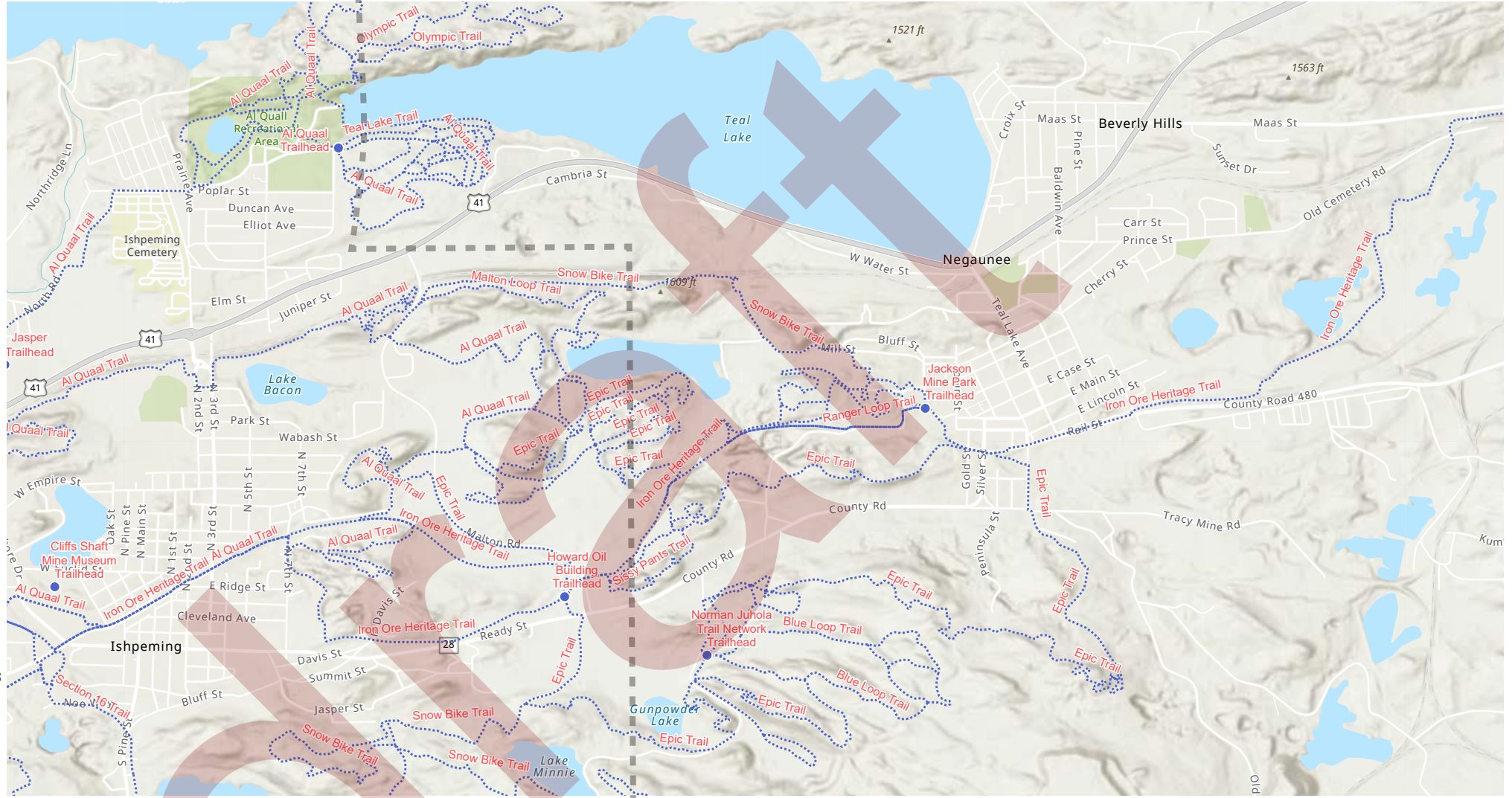
Water bodies also dot the landscape with Teal Lake serving

as a community center point and recreation destination. This variety of vegetation types makes for a very interesting and diverse landscape to explore.

The Information for Planning and Consultation site hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes the potential existence of several threatened and endangered species within the Negaunee region. Measures taken to preserve habitat and accommodate these species are critical to maintaining their existence. Lake levels along the shoreline can impact nesting sites for Piping Plover and Red Knot. Lynx live in boreal forests that often receive heavy snowfall and are home to snowshoe hares. White nose syndrome threatens the Northern Long-eared Bat. The biggest culprit threatening the Monarchs seems to be the disappearance of milkweed. It is critical communities consider these threatened and endangered species when planning for development.

 THREATENED CANADA LYNX	 ENDANGERED PIPING PLOVER	 ENDANGERED GRAY WOLF	THE IPAC (INFORMATION FOR PLANNING AND CONSULTATION) SITE HOSTED BY THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NOTES THE POTENTIAL OF SEVERAL THREATENED + ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHIN THE GREATER NEGAUNEE REGION.
 THREATENED RED KNOT	 CANDIDATE MONARCH BUTTERFLY	 THREATENED NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT	





## Trails

Negaunee and the greater Marquette Iron Range region is home to an abundance of recreation opportunities including a many trail networks.

As mentioned in the volunteer connections section, the City of Negaunee has an agreement with the Range Area Mountain Bike Association promoting trail development and maintenance. Various bike and other recreation events are hosted year round along the City's trails.

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail runs through the community connecting Negaunee to Marquette, Ishpeming and beyond. New improvements including trail lighting between Negaunee and Ishpeming were installed in 2021. Sections of the trail are also groomed for skiing in the winter months.

The City of Negaunee and Ishpeming were recently awarded a Michigan DNR grant to install accessible kayak launches on each end of Teal Lake, enhancing the current water trail connection between the two communities.

Future trail endeavors are listed in the Action Plan on page 24.

# 4 Administrative Structure

## Staff Organization

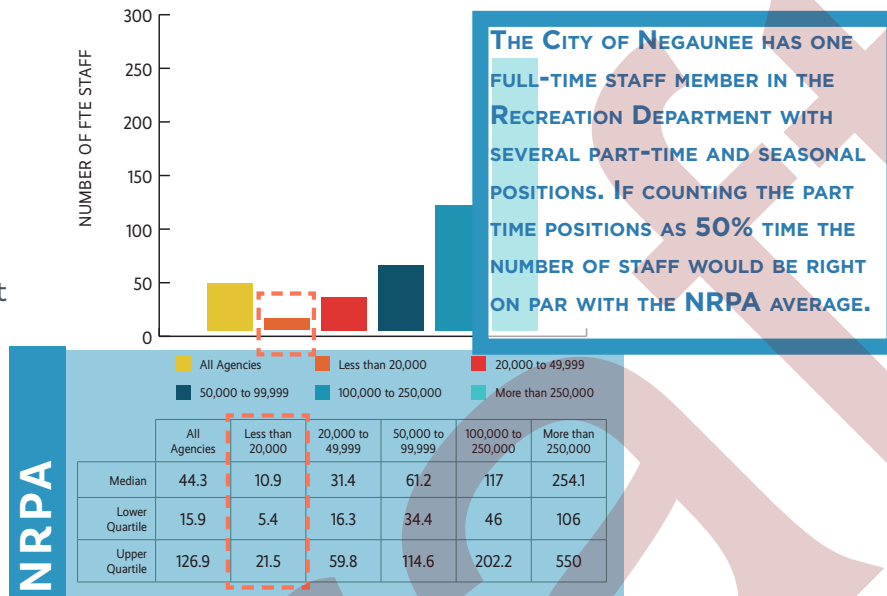
Recreation in Negaunee is managed by the Recreation Director who oversees the Parks and Recreation Department. There is a Recreation Commission that was established in January of 1999. The Commission advises and makes recommendations to the Recreation Director, City Manager, and City Council on recreation related topics including the City's Recreation Plan, recreation fees, current and new projects, and acts as the City's Tree Board.

The Parks and Recreation Director is hired by the City Manager and meets with the Recreation Commission once a month. The Director oversees activities and maintenance in the public playgrounds, parks, athletic fields, recreation centers, and other recreational facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department will hire roughly 7 part-time staff throughout the year. The staff duties include grounds maintenance, ice arena maintenance, and instructors for various recreational activities.

The Recreation Commission members are appointed by the mayor with City Council approval. There are five members that serve 3 year terms. Two non-voting members are also appointed one from each Richmond and Negaunee Townships. The Commission is responsible for reviewing and prioritizing recreation needs for the 5-year recreation plan.



PARK AND RECREATION AGENCY STAFFING FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES



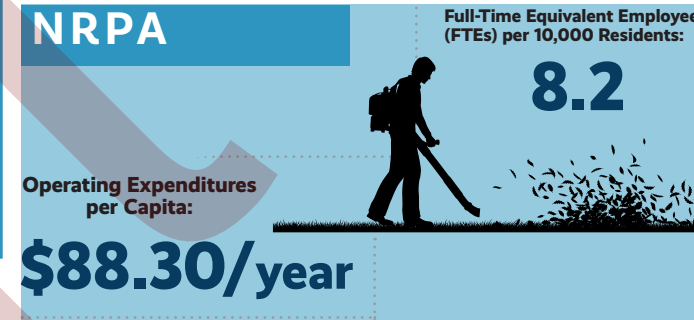
**NRPA**

	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Median	44.3	10.9	31.4	61.2	117	254.1
Lower Quartile	15.9	5.4	16.3	34.4	46	106
Upper Quartile	126.9	21.5	59.8	114.6	202.2	550

## Funding Sources + Budget

The table to the right summarizes the past five years of recreation budgets. This funding pool includes spending dollars for the Negaunee City Band, various special events, part maintenance, the luge, ice arena, and general recreation. Funds are primarily derived from the City's general fund but are augmented by ice arena revenues and periodic donations. In 1998 the City approved a 1 mill increase to the overall millage to assist with funding the Recreation Department. This millage is still in place and provides the City with roughly \$50,000 to \$55,000 in recreation funds each year. The City actively seeks grant fund opportunities and most recently completed a pavilion, restroom, trailhead, and parking area upgrade at Jackson Mine Park funded with a Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant. A playground at Jackson Mine Park is slated for installation in the summer of 2022 also utilizing grant funds.

Prior to 1999, the City of Negaunee and Negaunee Public Schools contributed funds for the operation of the City's Recreation programs. Due to financial constraints, Negaunee Public Schools was unable to provide their half of the funding, thus the City of Negaunee took over complete financial responsibility for recreation and formally established the Recreation Department.



A quick comparison with the NRPA standards for similarly sized communities within the US reveals the City of Negaunee is adequately staffed:

An average of 8.2 full-time equivalent employees per 10,000 residents is the figure the NRPA found to serve as the standard for recreation departments in the US. Negaunee, with a current population of 4,627 would then have  $4,627/10,000=46\%$  of 8.2= 3.7 full time staff. With 7 part time (let's say 50% time staff) and 1 full time staff that would equal roughly 4.5 equivalent to full time staff right on par with the national average.

For a budgetary comparison an average NRPA community spends \$88.30 per capita meaning the annual Negaunee budget would be around:  $4,627 \times \$88.30 = \$408,564$ . The City of Negaunee's Parks and Recreation budget has fluctuated well below and above this figure in recent history. This is in part due to grant funds being awarded and augmenting the budget. The City plans to continue to invest in priority community projects and recreation facilities as revenues streams become available. When projects demand additional funds the City is willing to increase their budget when feasible.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>ACTUAL BUDGET</b>	258,671	287,255	227,943	660,917	489,884	295,765
<b>PARKS + RECREATION EXPENDITURES   2016-2021</b>						

# 5 Recreation Inventory

## Recreation Inventory

### Programming + Mapping Parks

Recreation Programming within the City of Negaunee is very robust. The City partners with local chapters and clubs to host a variety of community events integrating arts, culture, and a greater sense of community into the fabric of everyday life. The City also partners with several local recreation leagues to host a variety of sports. A summary of the various recreation programs is below:

#### EVENTS

- Pioneer Days Events - 4th of July Celebration
- Heikki Lunta - Winter Celebration
- Tinsel Town - Christmas Celebration
- Yoooper's Invitational Hockey tournament - adult
- Numerous - youth hockey tournaments
- Negaunee Farmers Market
- Negaunee City band concerts
- Bike Races - Ore to Shore & Marji
- Numerous walk/run events - Iron Heritage Trail

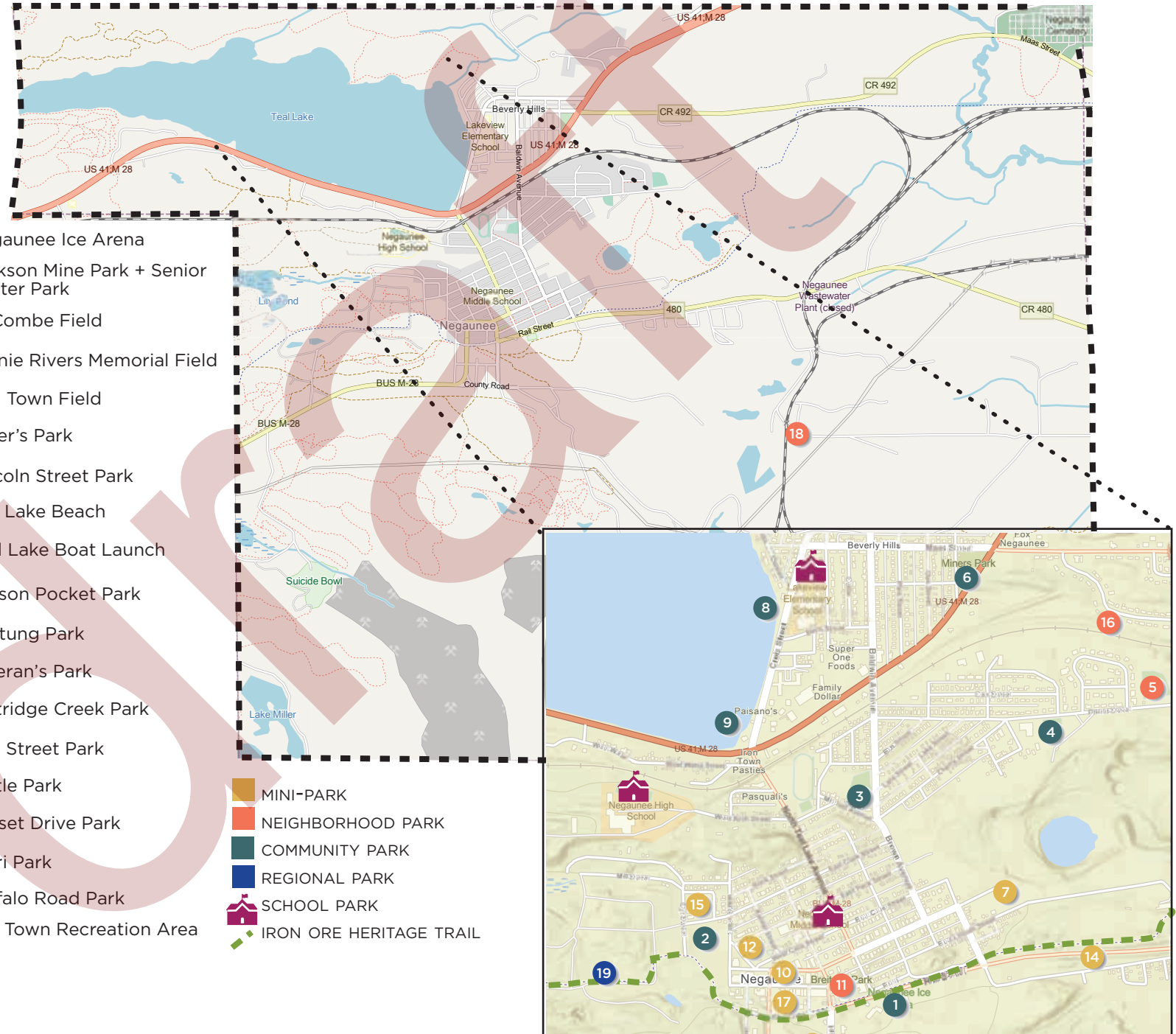
#### RECREATION PROGRAMS

*\*Community schools manage the programming often utilizing City facilities*

- Negaunee Little League - (t-ball + developmental league)
- Softball (run by high school)
- Iron Range Women's softball league
- Negaunee Legion Baseball
- Superior land Adult baseball
- Iron Range Hockey Association
- Negaunee Senior Men's Hockey league
- Community Schools
- High school football program runs flag football
- Youth basketball camps run by high school
- basketball programs

- 1 Negaunee Ice Arena
- 2 Jackson Mine Park + Senior Center Park
- 3 LaCombe Field
- 4 Bernie Rivers Memorial Field
- 5 Iron Town Field
- 6 Miner's Park
- 7 Lincoln Street Park
- 8 Teal Lake Beach
- 9 Teal Lake Boat Launch
- 10 Ericson Pocket Park
- 11 Breitung Park
- 12 Veteran's Park
- 13 Partridge Creek Park
- 14 Ann Street Park
- 15 Bartle Park
- 16 Sunset Drive Park
- 17 Chiri Park
- 18 Buffalo Road Park
- 19 Old Town Recreation Area

- MINI-PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- COMMUNITY PARK
- REGIONAL PARK
- SCHOOL PARK
- IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL



# Recreation Inventory

## Programming

The City of Negaunee and broader Marquette County are incredibly fortunate to have a variety of dedicated recreation clubs. A list of the organizations that influence Negaunee recreation in some capacity include:

ORGANIZATION	RECREATION TYPE
Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN)	Mountain biking, Running, XC-Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing
Range Area Mountain Bike Assoc. (RAMBA)	Mountain biking, Running, XC Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing
Iron Ore Heritage Trail Assoc. (IOHT)	Biking, Running, XC Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing
Negaunee Disc Golf	Disk golf
Upper Peninsula Luge Club	Sliding
Little Bella's	Mountain biking
Marquette Rowing Club	Rowing
Ishpeming Ski Club	Skiing
906 Adventure Team	Mountain biking

PARK/FACILITY	ACTIVITY
NEGAUNEE ICE ARENA	
JACKSON MINE/SENIOR CENTER PARK	
LACOMBE FIELD	
BERNIE RIVERS MEMORIAL FIELD	
IRON TOWN FIELD	
TEAL LAKE PARK + BOAT LAUNCH	
BREITUNG PARK	
LINCOLN ST. PARK	
COPPER ST./PARTRIDGE CREEK	
SUNSET DRIVE PARK	
BUFFALO ROAD PARK	
ANN STREET PARK	
BARTLE PARK	
VETERAN'S PARK	
CHIRI PARK	
OLD TOWN RECREATION AREA	

**RECREATION ACTIVITY KEY**

Boat Ramp	Fishing	Biking	Hockey	Cross-Country Skiing	Sightseeing + Wildlife Viewing
Playground	Swimming	Ball Sports	Hiking	Snowshoeing	Camping
Picnic Area	Paddling	Sledding	Mountain Biking	Arts + Culture	Disk Golf

## Volunteers



The City relies upon volunteer groups to facilitate some recreation programming, events, and community beautification. The Negaunee Little League, Iron Range Hockey Association, Senior Men's Hockey League, Negaunee-Ishpeming Horseshoe League, and the Iron Range Women's Softball League all host recreation programs within the City. The all-volunteer Negaunee Beautification Committee (NBC) donates time and materials to maintaining the appearance of the community and parks. Other local recreation clubs and chapters are listed on the following pages. Negaunee Public Schools hosts several recreation facilities that are open to the public.

# Recreation Inventory

## Mapping Negaunee's Parks

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a scale to help measure an existing recreation system's park facilities and provide a baseline standard for equitable park access within a community.

A typical park and recreation system offers one park for every 2,277 residents served, with 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Due to its lower density population Michigan's Upper Peninsula trends toward having a much greater number of parks per 2,277 residents. Below is a chart illustrating the different open space typologies defined by NRPA and the desired minimum amount of park space per community.

The City of Negaunee has a large number of parks for the size of its community. Many of these parks would be characterized as mini parks as illustrated in the chart below.



The previous page features each recreational site paired with activity icons.



Stars adjacent to park titles denote particular sites that would benefit from additional maintenance and general upgrades or contain great potential for enhancement projects.



PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	SIZE (ACRES)	ACRES/1,000 POP	NEGAUNEE MANAGED PARKS	USES
Mini-Park	<1/4mi	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	1.15 to 2.3 <b>Currently:</b> 4.05	Specialized facility serving a concentrated or limited population
Neighborhood Park	1/4 to 1/2mi	15+	1 to 2	4.6 to 9.2 <b>Currently:</b> 7.3	Hosts intense recreation activities: Play, sports fields/courts, picnicking etc.
Community Park	1 to 2mi	25+	8 to 10	37 to 46.2 <b>Currently:</b> 34.9	Diverse environmental quality; may include sports complexes or more natural forms of outdoor recreation
Regional Park	1 hr drive	200+	5 to 10	23 to 46 <b>Currently:</b> 116.7	Area of natural quality for outdoor recreation; boating, swimming, camping, trail use etc.



Residents per Playground:  
**3,607**

The inventory of recreation facilities and programs within the City was completed via site visits, reviewing previous recreation plans, and discussions with the Recreation Director.

The facilities were evaluated for accessibility via site visits by CUPPAD with the Recreation Director in attendance on August 5th. Additional site visits were completed by Julia Cogger within September 2021 as well. Tools utilized in conducting the assessments included the ADA Checklist found at ADAchecklist.org and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. Each facility was graded according to the scale featured below with more detailed descriptions of the facility's accessibility features and shortfalls in Appendix C. The recommended accessibility improvements were integrated into the action plan and priority project lists for the community.

### DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5. The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents: **9.9**

Residents per Park:

**2,277**



**NRPA**

The City of Negaunee has 7 mini parks, 4 neighborhood parks, 6 community parks, and 1 regional park. Not counting the regional park the total acreage of parkland is 46.25 acres which translates to 10 acres per 1,000 residents nearly identical to the 9.9 acres per 1,000 residents in the NRPA data.

There is a larger proportion of mini parks within the community. Many of these simply provide a small space for respite, but could be readily enhanced to better accommodate a larger portion of the population and prove more useful. Also, the neighborhood and community parks are smaller in scale to the NRPA average. This means there are a lot more small properties for the recreation department to manage rather than fewer properties with more refined amenities.

## Recreation Inventory

### Mapping Negaunee's Parks

#### 1 Negaunee Ice Arena

**3.5 ACRES** This **Community Park** is located on Rail Street, south of downtown Negaunee. Negaunee features a full sized arena, new locker rooms and rest rooms as of 2021, a lobby, kitchen, concession area, two offices, meeting room and large parking lot. The arena is owned by the City. Accessibility rating: 3



#### 2 Jackson Mine Park + Senior Center Park

**5 ACRES** This **Community Park** is located on Tobin Street in downtown Negaunee. It is owned by the City and part of the larger Old Town recreation area. Recent updates include lighting along the Iron Ore Heritage Trail to Ishpeming, a new pavilion with rest rooms, a new parking area and a soon to be new playground. Accessibility rating: 4



#### 3 LaCombe Field

**3.3 ACRES** This **Community Park** is located on Baldwin Street between Water Street and Mitchell Avenue. It features a lighted softball field, batting cages, press box, rest room and storage facility, and an open area used for football/soccer practice. New, high school student built dugouts and an accessible sidewalk are currently proposed improvements for the site. It is owned by Cleveland Cliffs, Inc. (CCI) and leased to the City. Accessibility rating: 1



#### 4 Bernie Rivers Memorial Field

**2.1 ACRES** This **Community Park** is located on Prince Street, east of Vine Street. It contains a baseball field, lighted horseshoe courts, a basketball court, playground, portable rest room, pavilion, concessions and storage building. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City. Accessibility rating: 3



#### 5 Iron Town Field

**4.3 ACRES** This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Prince Street east of Camelot Drive. It is owned by the CCI and leased to the City. The site includes a baseball field, concession stand, rest room and storage building. Accessibility rating: 2



#### 6 Miners Park

**2.25 ACRES** This **Community Park** is located on the north side of Hwy 41 between Maas and Maple Streets. It hosts the largest play structure in the community, a picnic pavilion that is frequently rented, illuminated basketball courts, horseshoe courts, a volleyball court, historical marker and rest rooms. Several parents have expressed the need for a fence as the playground is adjacent to Hwy 41. The City owns this park. Accessibility rating: 2



**7 Lincoln Street Park**

**1 ACRE** This **Mini Park** is located east of Healy Street and north of Lincoln Street. It is owned by the City and has a basketball court and a picnic table. Accessibility rating: 1

**9 Teal Lake Boat Launch**

**21 ACRES** Teal Lake Boat Launch is a facet of the Teal Lake Beach Park. The facility was installed in 1995 with partial funding from a DNR Trust Fund Grant. The site includes a paved boat launch and accessible fishing dock. Accessibility rating: 4



**11 Breitung Park**

**1 ACRES** This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Pioneer Ave. near the fire station in downtown Negaunee. It is owned by the City and contains a band shell with grassy area and benches. Accessibility rating: 1



**8 Teal Lake Beach**

**21 ACRES** This **Community Park** is located on the Eastern shore of Teal Lake along Croix Street. The City plans to extend the current storm water culverts that run to the beach into the water and rehab the existing timber retaining wall. Many survey respondents commented on water quality issues and excessive goose poop at this site. The site is owned by the City and features several picnic tables and a swimming area. Accessibility rating: 1

**10 Ericson Pocket Park**

**0.1 ACRES** This **Mini Park** is located between Iron and Jackson Streets. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City. It features a winding concrete path with picnic table. Accessibility rating: 3



**12 Veteran's Park**

**0.75 ACRES** This **Mini Park** is located in front of the City Hall in Downtown Negaunee. The park has benches, a concrete pathway, a fountain, and a memorial. Accessibility rating: 3



**13 Copper St/Partridge Creek Park**

**0.8 ACRES** This **Mini Park** is located on the corner of Copper and Division Streets. It hosts a basketball court and grassy area. Accessibility rating: 1

**14 Ann Street Park**

**1 ACRES** This **Mini Park** is located on Ann Street in downtown Negaunee. It hosts a basketball court, sand volleyball, and swing set. Accessibility rating: 1

**15 Bartle Park**

**0.15 ACRES** This **Mini Park** is located at the corner of Cyr and Lombard Streets. The park features an open grassy area with a gazebo. Accessibility rating: 4

**16 Sunset Drive Park**

**1 ACRES** This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Sunset Drive in the Northeast corner of the City. It hosts a basketball court, grassy field, playground equipment, and picnic area. Accessibility rating: 1

**17 Chiri Park**

**0.25 ACRES** This **Mini Park** is located at the corner of Iron and Silver Street in Downtown Negaunee. It hosts a grassy area with a bench. Accessibility rating: 1



**18 Buffalo Road Park**

**1 ACRES** This **Neighborhood Park** is on the southern edge of the City's property at New Buffalo Road. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City. It contains a swing set, basketball court, and picnic area/table. Accessibility rating: 1



**19 Old Town Recreation Area**

**116.7 ACRES** This **Regional Park** serves as the community gateway to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. It hosts a trailhead to the RAMBA mountain biking trail network, a volunteer built disk golf course, and several interpretive stops showcasing the rich history of the region. The City owns this park and adjoining property. Accessibility rating: 3

**Old Town Recreation Area**





## Recreation Inventory

### Facilities not maintained by the City

#### Iron Ore Heritage Trail

**47 MILES** This **Regional Park** runs through the City of Negaunee on its 47 mile journey through the northern U.P. It is a destination for all those who recreate in Michigan's upper peninsula creating connections to communities and parks alike. The entire trail is open to hikers and mountain bikers. Jackson Miner's Park features a formal trailhead with amenities.



#### Community Play Field

**5.5 ACRES** The Community Play Field is a 5 ½ acre park that is located. The park is owned by CCI and leased to the schools. The park includes an 1,800 person capacity stadium, track, practice fields, rest rooms, lockers, weight lifting room, and concession building. The facility also has an adjacent wrestling and weight-lifting room, lavatory facilities and locker room.

The facility is receiving a major upgrade with the construction of a year round indoor recreation facility. The playground, volleyball and tennis courts previously on site have been removed to make way for this improvement due to be completed sometime in the summer of 2022.

#### 1.4 ACRES Negaunee Middle School

The Middle School is located on Case Street Between Pioneer Street and Teal Lake Avenue. It is owned by the school district.

The school has a gym, outdoor basketball court, and hard surface play area.

#### 17.4 ACRES Negaunee High School

The High School is located on Arch Street. It hosts a 50x75' indoor pool, auditorium, 75x42' gym, and 8 outdoor tennis courts.



PHOTO CREDIT TSUNNY 101.9

#### 5.8 ACRES Lakeview Elementary

This school is located on Teal Lake Avenue. It is owned by the school district.

The school features playground equipment, 2 tennis courts, 1 basketball court, and open field, and a gym.

#### Vista Theater

This theater is located on Iron Street in downtown Negaunee it provides youth theater programs in the summer via the Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council.

#### Negaunee Luge

The luge is located on Lucy Hill at 230 E County Road. The property is owned by CCI and leased from the City. It includes warming shacks, a maintenance building, starting house, equipment rental and a parking lot.



PHOTO CREDIT TYLER SHAY; MICHIGAN BLUE MAGAZINE

#### Michigan Mining Museum

This museum is located at 73 Forge Road. It is owned and operated by the State. It features an auditorium and hosts concerts and lectures.

#### Veterans of Foreign Wars

This VFW hall is located at 208 Gold Street and hosts 3 horseshoe courts.

#### Suicide Ski Center

This ski center is on Suicide Bowl road south of M-28 in the eastern part of the City. The Site is owned by CCI and leased to the Ishpeming Ski Club. The site hosts a 90 meter ski jump and cross country ski trails.

## Recreation Inventory

### Facilities in the Vicinity of Negaunee

#### Marquette Township

- Forestville Dead River Public Access Sites: These connect to the North Noquemanon Trails Network and serve as an elaborate multi-use trails system for hikers, runners, walkers, and mountain bikers.
- Little Garlic River Trail, falls, and public fishing access.

#### Ishpeming Township

- Ishpeming Township Park, 7.0 Acres  
Softball diamond, little league diamond, tennis courts, pavilion, playground, restrooms, concession stands, horseshoe court, shuffleboard, volleyball court, basketball court, picnic table and grills

#### Negaunee Township

- Negaunee Township Park, 71 acres.  
Basketball court, pavilion, warming/concession building, playground area, little league baseball field, babe ruth baseball field, softball field, tennis court, cross-country ski trail, picnic tables & snowmobile trail access.
- McClure Storage Basin Access Site, 1.03 acres.  
Hard-surface launch ramp, toilets and parking
- Hoist Basin Access Site, 1.82 acres.  
Hard-surface launch ramp, toilets and parking
- Rod & Gun Club  
Private club at 355 North Road.  
Skeet shooting, rifle range, trap shooting, pistol range, muzzle loading range, rim fire target range, handgun shooting, Indian archery range, horseshoe and basketball courts

#### City of Marquette

- Presque Isle Park, 323 acres peninsula, forested with areas for walking, climbing, beach visits, picnicking and a playground.
- Tourist Park Campground, A 40 acre wooded campground
- Heartwood Forestland Property, including Noquemanon Trail Network's Sough Trails, walking paths and stream corridors totaling 2,385 acres.
- Ellwood A. Mattson Lower Harbor Park, 22 acres with a large grassy area for community events, parking, playground, rest rooms, boat launch, and picnic area.
- Shiras Park, 31 acres at the Northeast end of Marquette with a long beach on Lake Superior, restrooms, parking, cooking facilities, and playground.
- McCarty's Cove, the southernmost coastal pieces of Shiras Park includes a swimming beach equipped with lifeguard stand and water rescue station, parking, sand volleyball, sitting areas, rest rooms and a playground.
- South Beach Park, Hosts lifeguard watch stations, a large swim beach, play area, parking, and rest rooms.
- Fit Strip (Cemetery) and Cross Country Ski Trail; Lit ski trails and fit strip winding through the cemetery property. There is also a community garden area.
- Marquette Commons, the downtown square hosting community events including the farmers market and skating in the winter months.
- Founder's Landing, South of the Ore Dock a brownfield site now has a new life as a continuation of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail with beach access and restrooms.
- A variety of smaller playgrounds and community play fields pepper the Marquette City landscape.

#### Tilden Township

- Tilden Township Recreational Complex, 6.0 acres hosts tennis courts, baseball field, horseshoe courts, basketball

- court, playground area, pit toilets, parking and picnic area.
- National Mine Trails for skiing and snowshoeing.

#### Sands Township

- Blueberry Ridge Pathway hosting a trail system for cross-country skiing, mountain biking and hiking
- Marquette County Fairgrounds, 60 Acres, hosting an exhibition building, American Legion building, 4H building, horse show arena, 2 cattle show rings, horse barn, poultry & small animal building, large live stock building, office building, barrier-free restroom/utility building, 2-storage structures, large lighted parking area, outside speaker system, ½ mile oval race track, mud drag strip, paved go-cart track, large carnival area, outside horse stall, 2-outdoor pavilions & bleachers

#### City of Ishpeming

- National Ski Hall of Fame, Constructed in 1992 on a 1 acre site. Museum with historical displays and artifacts of skiing from all countries.
- National Guard Armory; gymnasium, pistol and rifle range
- Al-Quaal; A 200 acre recreation site utilized year round with tennis, basketball, baseball, horseshoes, volleyball, mountain biking, hiking, swimming, picnicking, boating & fishing, and skiing, sledding, tobogganing, ice fishing and snowmobiling in winter months. Facilities include: ball diamond, rest room building, ski ticket & patrol shelter, two basketball courts, picnic area, play area, backstop, 16-horseshoe courts, three cross-country trails, lighted sledding area, mountain bike trail system, toboggan house & slide (1500' toboggan run w/water lines & lighting, clubhouse, pavilion, ski warming shelter, three ski tow buildings, two tennis courts, picnic tables, seven swing sets, two merry-go-rounds, two slides, flagpole, three downhill ski slopes & snowmobile trail & tubing.

# 6 Comments + Issue Scoping

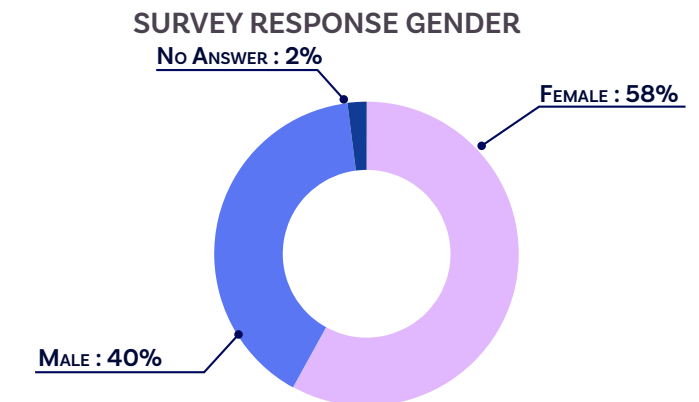
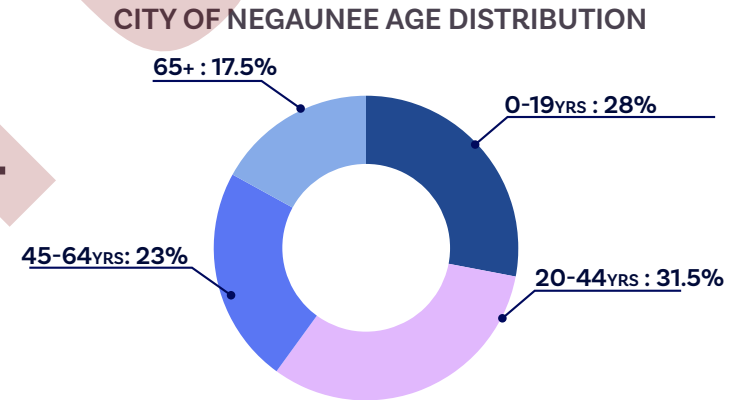
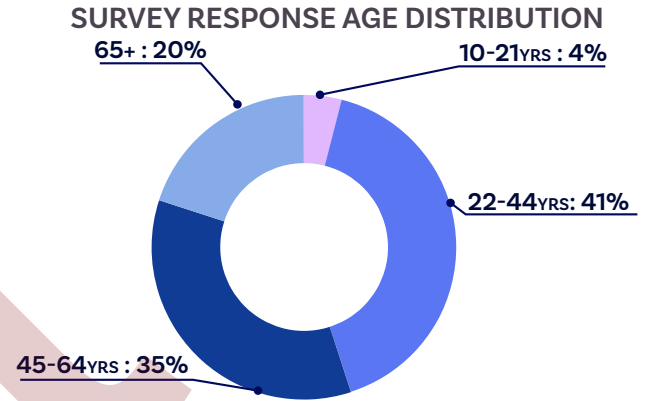
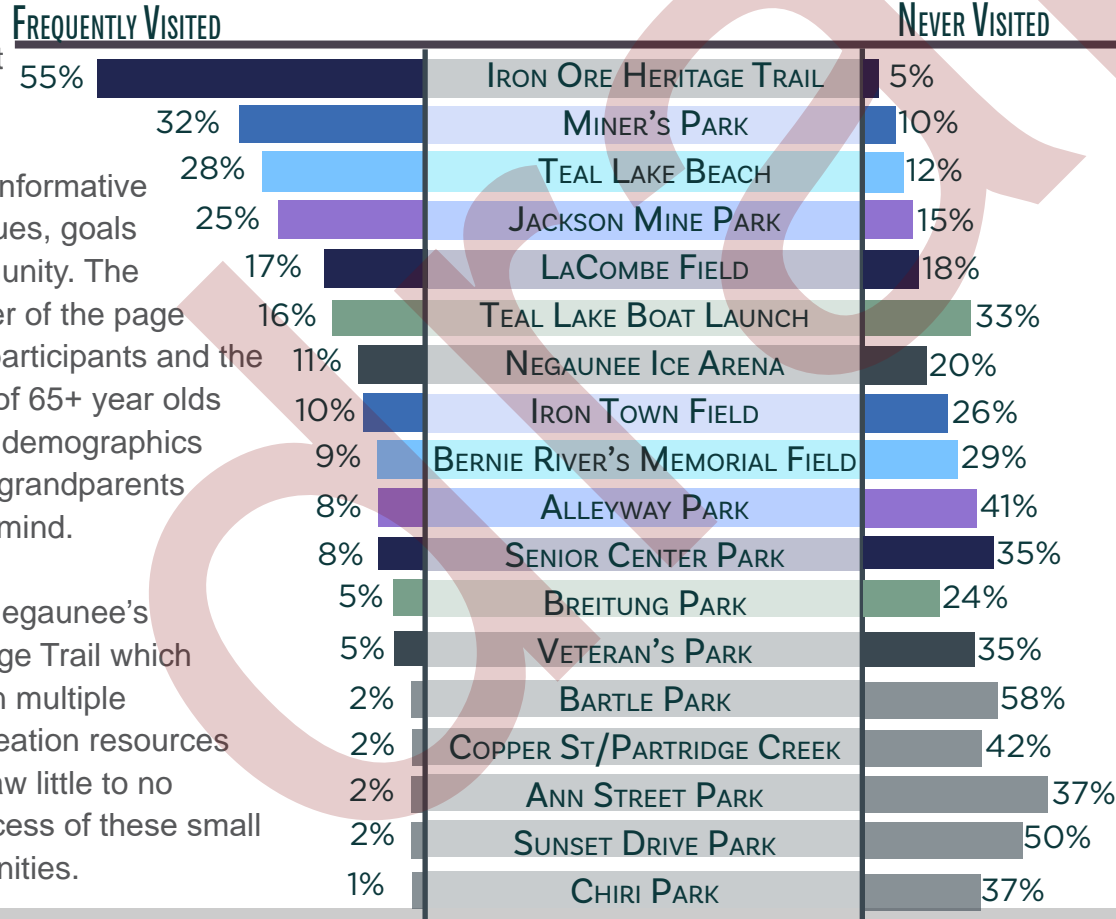
## Initial Public Input

A community survey was launched in May of 2021 paired with the master planning process survey. The survey was shared via multiple methods including social media, the City website, mailers, and a short televised interview with a CUPPAD team member encouraging participation. A paper survey focussing on the interests of kids in the area was also distributed at the Pioneer Days Event. 314 survey responses were received with a handful of kid survey responses from the Pioneer Days Event as well.

The feedback garnered was extremely informative and helped in generating recreation values, goals and priority improvements for the community. The pie charts on the upper right hand corner of the page illustrate the age distribution of survey participants and the community in general. A larger percent of 65+ year olds and much lower percent of the younger demographics participated. It is assumed parents and grandparents responded with their child's interests in mind.

The most frequently visited site within Negaunee's recreation system is the Iron Ore Heritage Trail which provides a multi-modal corridor between multiple communities and connects various recreation resources within the community. The mini parks saw little to no visitation indicating there may be an excess of these small grassy areas featuring very limited amenities.

PLEASE RATE YOUR LIKELINESS TO VISIT THE FOLLOWING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE CITY.



IN THE LAST YEAR, WHAT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATED IN?

walking  
 biking  
 hiking  
 boating tennis snowshoeing  
 disk golf hockey skiing swimming running  
 playground visits  
 paddling fishing

ACTIVITIES SURVEY RESPONDENTS MOST FREQUENTLY PARTOOK IN. THE LARGER THE FONT THE MORE RESPONDENTS WHO LISTED THE ACTIVITY.

Top ranked activities included walking, biking and playground visits. Others unique to the City included paddling and skiing. Hobbies that deserve a mention include arts and crafts, gardening and simply being outside. Based on the responses received in the surveys, Negaunee is a very active outdoor oriented community. It is also evident any recreational resources and amenities provided will be utilized by this active community.

LESS FREQUENT MENTIONS:

- 6 - TRAVELING
- 6 - SOFTBALL
- 6 - PLAYGROUNDS
- 5 - HOCKEY
- 5 - VOLUNTEERING
- 5 - YOGA
- 5 - GAMES/GAMING
- 3 - SHOOTING
- 3 - DOWNHILL SKIING/SNOWBOARDING
- 2 - TENNIS
- 2 - PICKLEBALL
- 2 - DISC GOLF
- 2 - HORSEBACK RIDING
- 1 - ENTERTAINING
- 1 - SLEDDING
- 1 - BIRD WATCHING



DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

Survey questions ranged from broad requests for interpretations of the community and honed in on potential improvements such as a desire for equipment rental facilities.

Participants were asked what slogan they would write for the City. Some of the proposed slogans are noted in the blue bubbles on this section's pages. These helped inform over arching goals for recreation within the community. Survey participants were also asked to rank Negaunee's values from a list of more than 20 options. Some of the top ranked values included: small town character, historic, friendly, heritage and pride. The highest ranking categories are featured in the graph to the right.

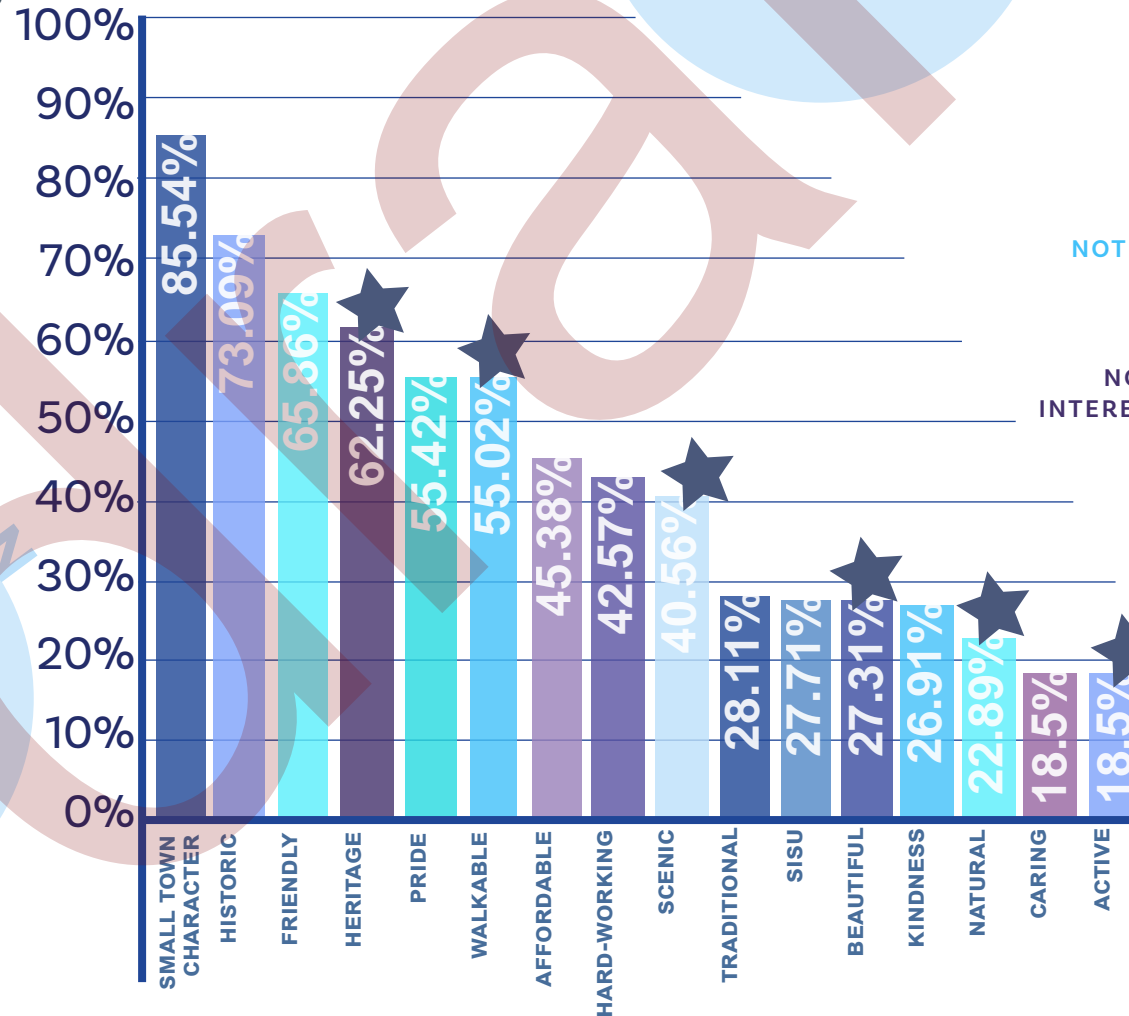
On more detailed questions participants noted a need for access within Negaunee's recreation sites and mixed reviews as to whether or not equipment rentals would be beneficial.



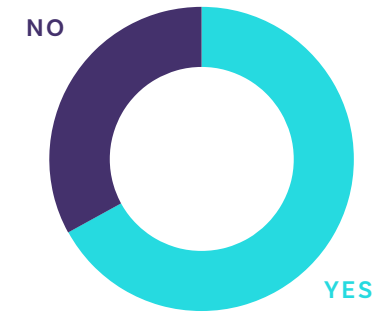
**"A PLACE TO LIVE, A PLACE TO EXPLORE, A PLACE TO CALL HOME."**  
-LOCAL RESIDENT

**"NEGAUNEE, THE SPIRIT OF THE U.P."**  
-LOCAL RESIDENT

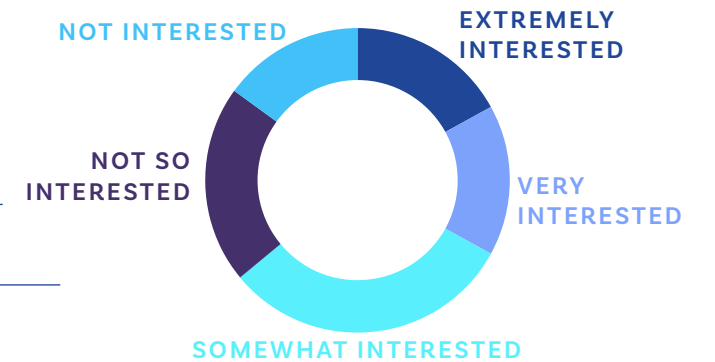
WHAT ARE THE TOP COMMUNITY VALUES YOU THINK NEGAUNEE EMBODIES?



IS ACCESSIBILITY AT NEGAUNEE'S PARKS A FACTOR IN WHETHER YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WOULD VISIT THEM?



HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN EQUIPMENT RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES?



★ Starred columns signify community values that reflect parks and recreation attributes within the City.

# 7 Values, Goals + Objectives

## Community Values

Survey participants were not asked directly what their values and goals were for the City's future of recreation, but their responses to related questions clearly defined priorities. When asked a comprehensive community values question several of the top ranked responses incorporated facets of parks and recreation. These included values such as embracing community heritage, walkability, scenery, beauty, natural assets, and active lifestyles. In addition hobbies listed and popular recreation activities featured many similar insights.

Beyond the most commonly mentioned activity and hobby responses including walking, hiking, hunting/fishing, and biking other responses, unique to the community, were featured with great frequency. These included gardening, paddling, and doing arts and craft projects (including woodworking).

These activities paired with the broader community values helped define the recreation values for the City of Negaunee featured in the chart to the right.



### RECREATION VALUES

We VALUE the rich history and character of the region paired with its exquisite scenery

We VALUE having an abundance of opportunities to explore and recreate

We VALUE having a walkable and active community accessible to all

### RECREATION GOALS

1. Showcase Negaunee's historical assets while embracing the beautiful scenery.
2. Promote a walkable community and active lifestyles through the development of a well-connected recreation system.
3. Enhance Negaunee's recreation opportunities through additional programming and facility development.

### RECREATION OBJECTIVES

- Continue to support and promote community club involvement in developing and maintaining new and existing facilities.
- Partner with neighboring communities and environmental organizations to enhance recreational opportunities on a regional scale.
- Identify potential trail connections and under utilized park spaces that can serve as future nodes for recreation programming and community gathering.
- When feasible provide access to Negaunee's historical features and showcase its scenic resources.

# 8 Action Plan

## Priority Projects

The City of Negaunee has aggressively pursued parks and recreation improvements in its recent history including successful grant funded projects at Jackson Mine Park and the Senior Citizen Center. Others include an accessible kayak launch at Teal Lake and planned accessibility improvements at LaCombe Field. The ice arena has also seen multiple upgrades to its locker rooms and restrooms in the past year. The City has applied for a grant to establish a campground off of HWY 480 just inside the City limits.

With continual improvements underway the City of Negaunee is helping define a new standard for small urban recreation within Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The images and list to the right indicate other requests that were mentioned within the community surveys.

This Action Plan attempts to channel the many ideas provided via community input, recreation board and staff feedback and develop a prioritized list of park and recreation improvements within the coming years. By no means is this a comprehensive list as interests, demographics, and the environment are constantly evolving. The City will continue to revisit its recreation plan within the future and amend these lists as needed.



- Add pickle ball
- Add Iron Ore Welcome Center
- Promote tourism
- More ORV/Snowmobile trails
- Clean up the parks

- Host festivals downtown/ close off streets for peds
- Too much \$ spent on Iron Ore Heritage Trail
- Secure Port-a-johns

- Stop swimmers itch occurrences
- No jet skis on Teal Lake
- No Motorboats/Allow Motorboats
- Fence at Miner's Playground

# Action Plan

Local + Regional Projects

## GOAL #1

Showcase Negaunee's historical assets while embracing the beautiful scenery.

### TEAL LAKE IMPROVEMENTS

Close off a portion of Croix Street to vehicular traffic and develop a lake front park and multi use trail. This site will serve as the community gathering space.

### COMPREHENSIVE SIGNAGE AND MAPPING PLAN

Develop a signage and mapping design plan that creates a cohesive look throughout the community. Showcase historic nodes as well as park regions within the greater community. Highlight natural features and interpretive opportunities.

### INCREASE ACCESS TO ABANDONED MINING PITS

Create safe, accessible routes to explore the rich history of Negaunee's mining culture and the healing landscape it has left behind.

### DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT

The Negaunee downtown commercial district has recently been added to the National Register of Historic Places. With this new designation the community plans to provide improvements to the streetscape including adding street trees and additional park spaces. Art will be integrated into much of the streetscape's improvements

## GOAL #2

Promote a walkable community and active lifestyles through the development of a well-connected recreation system.

### TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Provide a trail connection ultimately to Big Bay for multiple user types including equestrians, snowshoers, cross country skiers, and hikers.

Promote all forms of trail development including water trails, equestrian trails, motorized and non-motorized trails.

Provide a trail along the northern edge of Teal Lake. Construct rustic cabins for rent as well.

Create a trail connection with neighboring communities for ORV snowmobile trail users.

### TRAIL AMENITIES + CAMPGROUNDS

Develop a campground catering to ORV and snowmobile users situated on the southeast end of town off of County Road 480 as well as an ORV/snowmobile trailhead.

Work with the City of Ishpeming to develop additional trail connections and amenities between the two communities. This could include an equestrian campground, trailhead amenities and multi-use trails.

Create an equestrian trail hub in Negaunee complete with a HWY 41 trail crossing for pedestrians and equestrians.

Develop a rustic walk in campground paired with a few rustic cabins for hikers and bikers within the Old Town Recreation Area.



# Action Plan

## Individual Park Projects

### GOAL #3

Enhance Negaunee's recreation opportunities through additional programming and facility development.

### TEAL LAKE BOAT LAUNCH

Restore water works building and utilize as a seasonal museum as well as, office space, restrooms, and recreation rental center.

### OLD TOWN AREA

Create a pond with a simple aeration device allowing the City to shovel it off in the winter and host ice skating.

Create spaces for small groups to gather around campfires.

Develop a designated rock climbing area.

Develop an indoor/outdoor archery facility

### ACQUISITIONS

Acquire the luge site and ski hill property from Cleveland Cliffs and continue to make site improvements.

- ANN STREET PARK** | Develop a sensory park with play features that can accommodate kids of all ages and ability levels.
- LINCOLN STREET PARK** | Utilize City owned equipment to create a skate park.
- VETERAN'S PARK** | Rehabilitate in conjunction with City Hall improvements.
- SUNSET PARK** | Update facility to meet accessibility requirements.
- CHIRI PARK** | To serve as the site for a refurbished trolley car that used to run between Ishpeming and Negaunee.
- BERNIE RIVERS** | Complete general updates and improvements.
- LACOMBE FIELD** | Complete site upgrades to meet ADA compliance and move parking to a safer location.
- IRON TOWN FIELD** | Create storage space under bleachers.
- MINER'S PARK** | Complete project to reduce soil compaction and improve infiltration on site.
- TEAL LAKE BEACH** | Complete ADA access upgrades, double the beach area by removing timber retaining walls, and reroute storm sewer. Add amenities such as outdoor showers and plantings.

*draft*