

# OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

2023 - 2027



ADOPTION:  
February 22, 2023

PREPARED BY



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## **INTRODUCTION**

Osceola Township, Michigan is located north of Houghton, runs along a portion of the southern branch of Torch Lake but is otherwise landlocked continuing north to the western edges of the City of Calumet. This area has a deep history of copper mining and many of the ruins from historic use can be seen in parks throughout the area.

The 2023-2027 Osceola Township Recreation Plan (Plan) has been developed to guide recreation improvements in the Township over the next five years. The Plan provides an overview of the community, presents an inventory of existing recreational facilities, and provides a framework for continued improvement and development of recreation facilities in Osceola Township. The goal of the Plan is to establish a program of improvements that meets the needs but is also affordable and achievable for the Township. A five-year plan also qualifies Osceola Township to apply for Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other grants.

This Plan, prepared by Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR), was developed under the guidance of a Recreation Plan Committee on behalf of the Osceola Township Board. Public comments and suggestions were taken under consideration during the development of the Plan. The Plan will continue to be updated, as needed, to address changing needs of the community and its residents. The Osceola Township Board adopted the Plan on March 8, 2023.

**COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**LOCATION**

Osceola Township is located in northern Houghton County, which is found in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Figure 1). The southern tip of the Township is on the Portage Lake and its most northern boundary is close to the Keweenaw County line. It is bounded on the west by Franklin Township, north by Calumet Township, and west by Schoolcraft and Torch Lake Townships. The Township contains the four unincorporated communities of Dollar Bay, Tamarack City, Tamarack Hill Location and Osceola.

**POPULATION, HOUSING AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

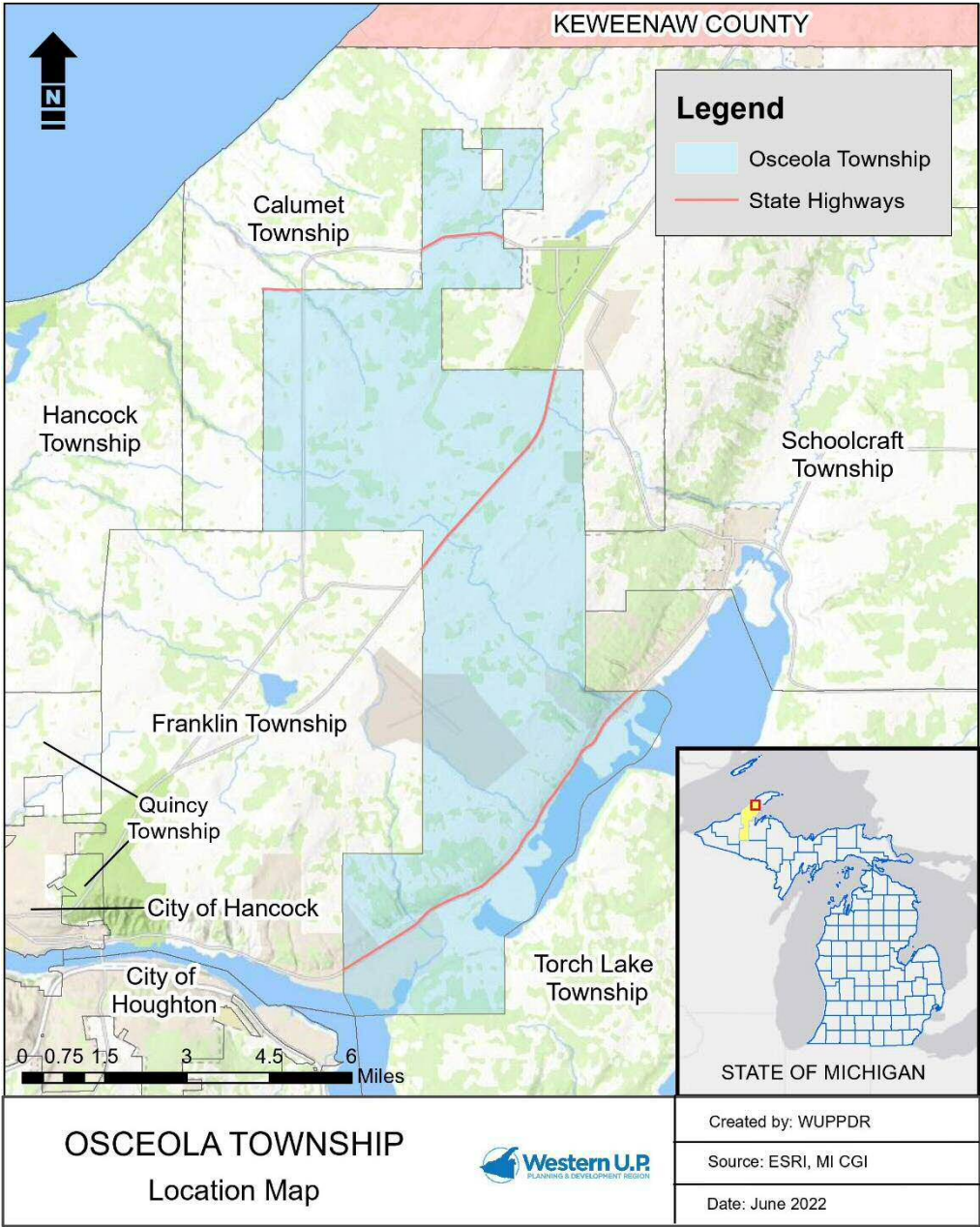
Prior to the 19th century and for many years thereafter, the area’s economy flourished. With the decline of copper mining and lumbering the area experienced a steady out-migration of residents in response to the decline of those industries. Over the years of economic decline many people migrated out of the local area and the western Upper Peninsula. The mining industry eventually closed operations in Houghton County in 1968. The closing of the mines placed the area in a state of economic depression that is still apparent today and resulted in significant population declines. While recent trends indicate the area is stabilizing, the general trend appears to be a slight reduction in total population (Table 1).

**Table 1: Osceola Township Population**

Population	
2010 Census	1,888
2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimate	1,794
2016-2020 American Community Survey (ASC) 5-year Estimate	1,477

*Source: US Census Bureau (2020)*

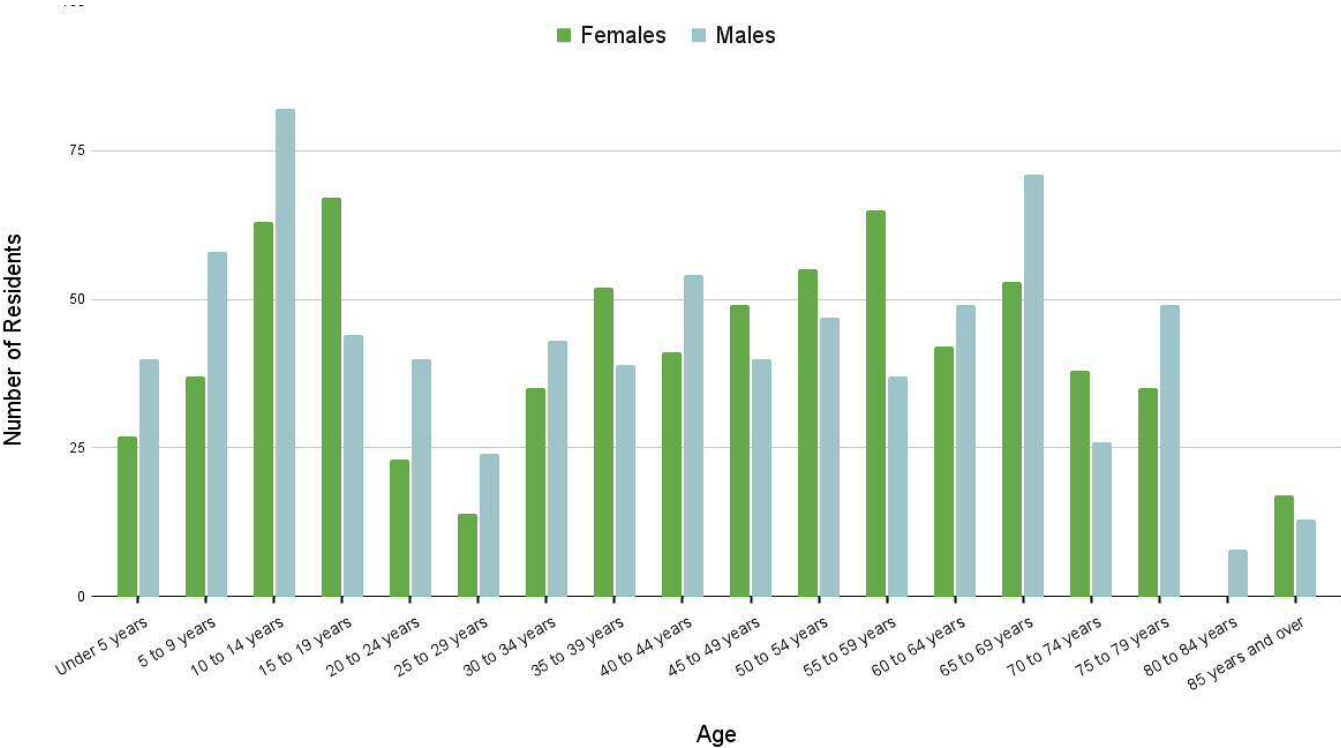
Figure 1: Osceola Township Location Map



**POPULATION AGE DISTRIBUTION**

Analyzing population age distribution characteristics aids in determining the types of recreation and community facilities needed. Figure 2 summarizes the general age distribution of Township residents at the time of the 2020 Census. As the graph indicates, the Township shows the large amount of children present in the community indicating the need for a focus on family oriented recreation.

**Figure 2: Township Age Distribution by Gender 2020 Census Data**



**Table 2: Population Distribution**

Population Distribution		
2020 Census	Persons	Percent of Total
Male	764	51.7%
Female	713	48.3%
Under 5 Years Old	67	4.5%
5 to 19 Years Old	351	23.7%
20 to 64 Years Old	749	50.8%
65 Years and Over	310	20.9%
Households		
Total Households	572	100.0%
Households with individuals under 18 years	165	28.8%
Households with individuals 60 years and over	268	46.9%

*Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2016-2020*

The residents in the 65 plus age group represent those who were established in the area or are natives of the area who returned to retire in the Township. In recreation planning and programming, special consideration should be given to this age group. While the percentage of the prime working group is less than the norm, the school age group is equitable to the State level so accordingly these groups merit continuation of recreational facility planning and maintenance to meet their demands. The high influx of tourists to the area each summer and winter also creates an additional demand on local recreational facilities. The Township is also giving special consideration to residents with special needs and disabilities. Additional socioeconomic characteristics, identified in the following tables, include income, housing costs and poverty levels.



**Table 3: Income**

<b>Income</b>	
Median Household	\$52,647
Median Family	\$63,472
Per Capita	\$29,014

*Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey (2016-2020)*

**Table 4: Persons with Income below Poverty Status**

<b>Persons with Income below Poverty Status</b>		
2015 ACS	Totals	Percent of Total
All Ages	92	6.2%
Under 18 Years of Age	21	5.5%
Over 18 Years of Age	84	5.7%
Families	22	5.5%

*Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey (2016-2020)*

## LAND USE AND ZONING

The land use in Osceola Township includes everything from urban areas (residential, commercial, etc.) to forests. The primary residential areas are focused in unincorporated communities of Dollar Bay, Tamarack Hill Location, Tamarack City and Osceola. The rest of the Township is interspersed with a mix of agricultural lands with large, forested regions. Osceola Township presently is not zoned.

## ECONOMY

Osceola Township residents are primarily dependent on employment opportunities available in the surrounding communities of Houghton, Hancock, Calumet and Laurium. Michigan Technological University is the largest employer with 1,539 jobs and an enrollment of about 7,009 students as of 2021. Other major employers in the region include Finlandia University, UP Health System Portage, Aspirus Keweenaw, local public K-12 schools, governmental entities, and other private businesses. Employment opportunities within the Township include Horner Flooring and several small service type businesses.

## TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Osceola Township has three major thoroughfares bisecting the north and south ends of the Township. State Highway M-26 runs through the two unincorporated communities of Dollar Bay and Tamarack City. U.S. 41 intersects the Township from southwest to northeast. M-203 crosses the northern portion of the township and connects with U.S. 41. A well-maintained county road system compliments the Federal and State highway system.



Houghton County Memorial Airport Image  
by Houghton County

Air service is provided by United operated by United Airlines at the Houghton County Airport between Hancock and Calumet off U.S. 41. There are two daily flights to Chicago and intercity bus service via Indian Trails is available in the City of Hancock departing to Marquette, Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Chicago.

## TOPOGRAPHY

Osceola Township’s topography varies in elevation of approximately 600 feet along the banks of Portage Lake to nearly 1,200 feet of elevation away from the water. Osceola Township is mostly flat to gently rolling terrain. Slopes within the Township can reach as much as 10-20%. Slopes, soil types, drainage and high water tables inhibit some of the land in the county from being developed.



## GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The bedrock of the western portion of the Upper Peninsula and Osceola Township was formed during the Precambrian Era and is crystalline in nature. The Keweenaw Peninsula bedrock is made up of Copper Harbor Conglomerate, Portage Lake Lava Series and Jacobsville Sandstone with the inactive Keweenaw fault running through the area. The most conspicuous geological features are the rugged hills comprised of exposed bedrock, which can be seen throughout the region. The Keweenaw Peninsula is much like other parts of Michigan, with an uneven blanket of unconsolidated material covering the bedrock surface. This material, glacial drift, is a mixture of sand, gravel, clay, and boulders. Glaciers that migrated south during the Pleistocene Epoch transported this material. The two principal kinds of drift are stratified and unstratified.

## CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Lake Superior has a dominating effect on the climate of Osceola Township. Temperatures are moderated, and annual snowfalls ranging from 210 to 300 inches are created by the lake effect. Excessive snowfall is possible, and in 1978, 355 inches of snow fell at Houghton County’s weather station. Data from the Houghton County Airport weather station indicates that the average annual precipitation is 36.03 inches, while an average of 222 inches of snow falls annually. The coldest month is January when temperatures average 13.7 °F. The hottest month is July, with an average temperature of 77 °F.



Image by Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau

## **WATER RESOURCES**

The lakes, rivers, and streams in and around Osceola Township are the most prominent natural features, particularly Portage Lake and Torch Lake. With many miles of shoreline along both lakes, the Township possesses unique opportunities for recreational development.



## **VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE**

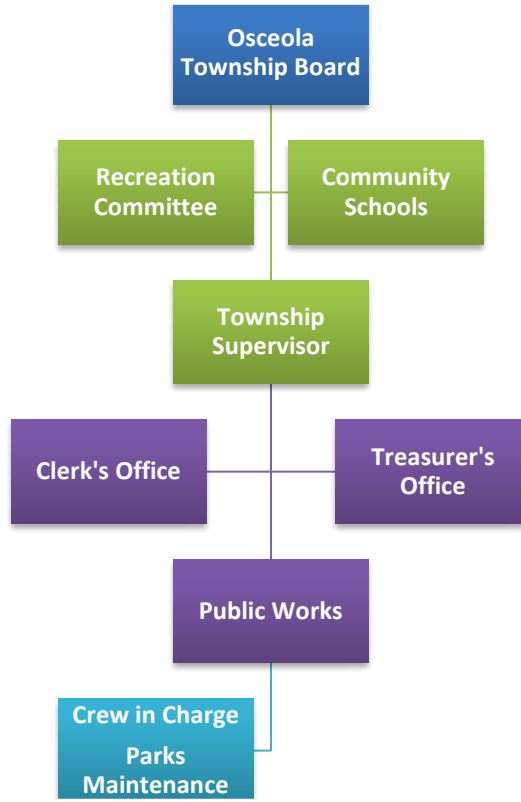
Northern hardwoods characterize the predominant forest cover (of approximately 338,155 acres) in Houghton County. These forest lands are located primarily in the central and inland areas of the County. Osceola Township, partially located inland in the County, has a total of 16,565 acres of which 37% or 6,024 acres are forested. The wildlife within the county includes raccoons, skunks, rabbits, porcupines, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, voles and a variety of bird species. Outside the developed areas, whitetail deer, black bear, fox, otter, and beaver are also present.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

In Osceola Township, park and recreational facilities are managed by the Township Board, with the exception of the school-related properties and snowmobile trails. Current board members are Mark Halkola—Supervisor, Christa Gardner—Clerk, Dominique DiVito —Treasurer, Don Wareham—Trustee, and Aaron Janke—Trustee. Osceola Township supports and maintains recreation facilities through annual budget appropriations. Maintenance for the township is carried out by Township employees. The Annual Recreation budget provides approximately \$26,500 for operations and maintenance of existing facilities. Additional funding is appropriated as needed to match recreation development grants. Figure 4 reflects the current administrative structure for recreation related decisions and activities.

While the Township, County, DNR, and surrounding communities are the primary recreation providers in Osceola Township, they are only one aspect of the community of partners that supports recreational programming in the region. In the Township there are numerous entities that protect public access, provide recreation and education programs, volunteers, funding, and are social outlets for various interests. These partners include: Community garden volunteers; Lake Linden-Hubbell School Baseball Team, led by coach Leon Sutherland; Portage Lake Little League; Keweenaw Little League; Andy Moyle; Aaron Janke for the Ballfield; Onigaming Yacht Club; Tamarack City Volunteer Fire Department, and Community members for the Tamarack City Park. Tamarack City Volunteer Fire Department and Dollar Bay Volunteer Fire Department for annual set up and take down of Veteran’s Banners hung in the respective communities.

**Figure 3: Osceola Township Administrative Structure**



## RECREATION INVENTORY

Osceola Township maintains access to a number of recreation facilities for both local residents and tourists. The following recreation inventory describes the types and location (See Figure 4) of recreation facilities currently available in the Township and nearby. In addition, accessibility assessments and rankings are provided for each site based on the parameters outlined in the “DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans” as follows:

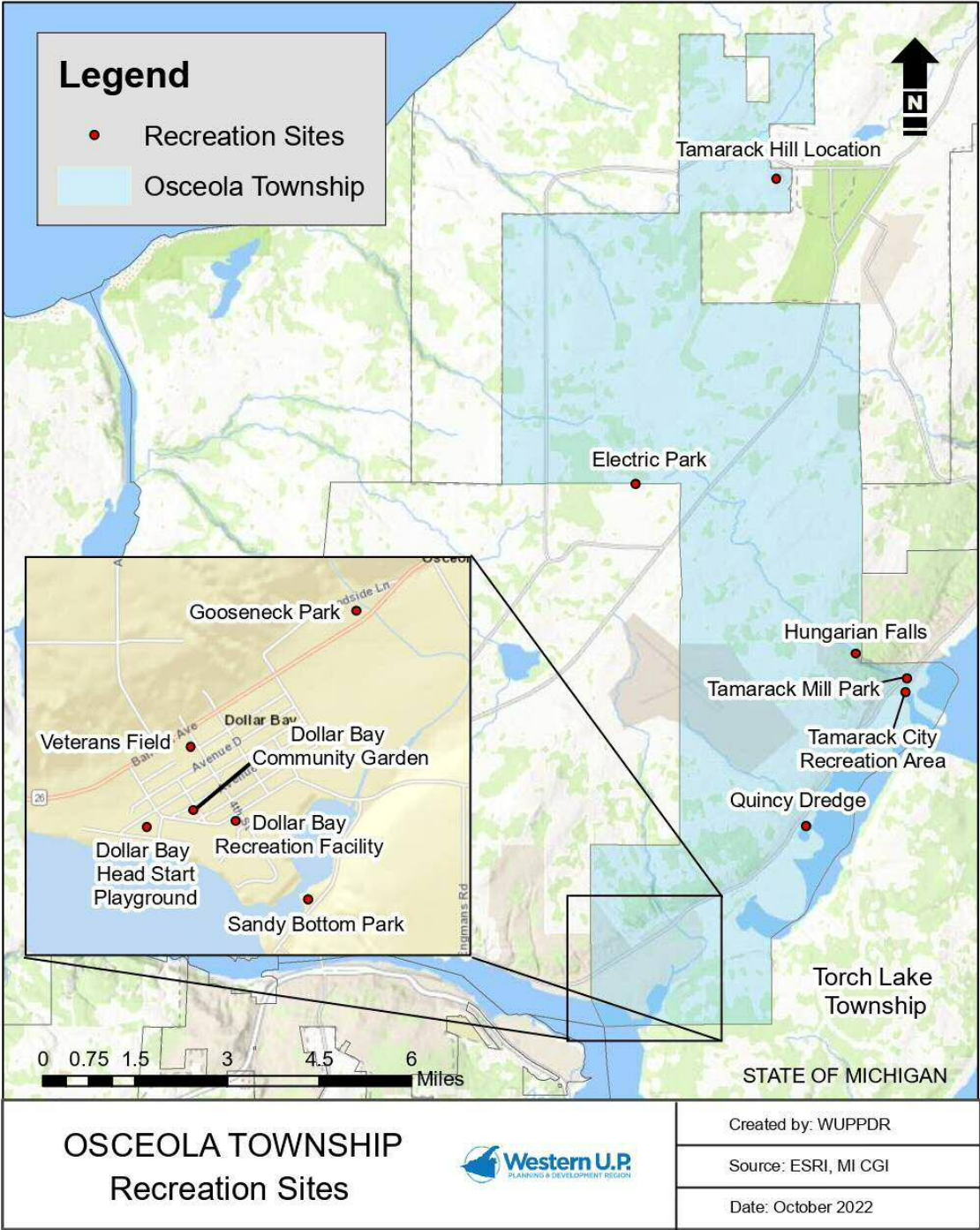
- 1=none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2=some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3=most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4=the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5-the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Based on this inventory the need for improvements and additional recreational facilities can be fully evaluated. Accessibility assessments were completed by the Recreation Committee. Any accessibility deficiencies found in the assessment will be addressed in future site project upgrades as funding becomes available. The map in Figure 3 identifies the locations of Osceola Township’s recreation sites.

### Seven Principles of Universal Design

1. **Equitable Use:** The design is useful and marketable to any group of users.
2. **Flexibility in Use:** The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
3. **Simple and Intuitive Use:** Use of the design is easy to understand.
4. **Perceptible Information:** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user.
5. **Tolerance for Error:** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintentional actions.
6. **Low Physical Effort:** The design can be used efficiently and comfortably.
7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach and use

Figure 3: Osceola Township Recreation Sites Map





## Recreational Sites Within Osceola Township

### Dollar Bay Head Start Playground

Owned by Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area Schools, the playground is used by children in the Head Start Program, and is adjacent to Dollar Bay Elementary on North Maple Street. The area is shaded with trees and has a fenced in play area for safety. The playground is also used by school and neighborhood children.



Accessibility assessment=2/5

### Dollar Bay Recreation Facility

The Dollar Bay Recreation Facility is owned by Osceola Township and located on Main Street in Dollar Bay. The park consists of an ice rink, warming hut, basketball court and horseshoe pit. The site is heavily used in all seasons for general recreation by residents of Dollar Bay and surround communities. Fencing surrounding the hockey rink needs repairs as well as the rink side boards. The hockey rink is smaller than the DNR recommended 85' x 200' size. A proposal has been made to build a roof over the rink and construct a covered structure with a kitchen area to allow for community events year-round.



Accessibility assessment=3/5

## **Hungarian Falls**

A prized recreational spot located just inside of the Township’s boundaries, Hungarian Falls is one the most visited destinations for both tourists and residents of the area. A series of impressive waterfalls cascade down the steep gorge before draining into Torch Lake near the small town of Tamarack City. In 2013, the Keweenaw Land Trust (KLT) assumed responsibility for the 10 acres containing the uppermost falls, historic dam, and pond. The surrounding area is owned by the state of Michigan. The Hungarian Falls Nature Area is open year-round to the public.



Hungarian Falls, Image by David C. Riewe

Accessibility assessment = 1/5

## **Gooseneck Park**

Owned by the Township, this approximate 4-acre site is located on M-26 just outside of Dollar Bay. The property transferred ownership to the township from Michigan Department of Transportation for recreation use only. At one time Gooseneck Park was a roadside park complete with picnic and fishing areas. Currently, the site consists of a dirt road and grass areas which are maintained by the Township. Potential projects include park signage, site access through Township-owned property, a privacy screen/barrier separating the park from the adjacent private property, and a parking area.



Accessibility assessment = 1/5

**Quincy Dredge**

The Quincy Dredge is a 6.4 acre historic site owned by Osceola Township located in a historic district on the waterfront of Torch Lake. The site contains a partially submerged dredge (owned by the Houghton County Historic Society) and smokestacks, which provided power to the former mill. Collaboration between the Township and regional partners for maintenance of the site is ongoing. A common photo stop for tourists along M-26 and also viewed from the recreation trail that runs along the site. General access to the site is limited.



Accessibility assessment=1/5

**Sandy Bottom Park**

Sandy Bottom Park is a Township owned 2.7-acre waterfront recreation site located on Lower Point Mills Road providing access to Portage Canal and Portage Lake. It is a day-use park consisting of a swimming beach, picnic area, pavilion, and boat launch. The nearby private Onigaming Boat Club has expressed interest in partnering with the township to dredge the inlet to Dollar Bay allowing access to larger recreation boats. Given its proximity to the Dollar Bay Recreation Area, a pedestrian or biking trail to Sandy Bottom would allow for non-motorized site access. Township residents and visitors are the primary site users.

Accessibility assessment=2/5



## Tamarack Mill Park

Tamarack Mill Park is a 6.12-acre site owned by Osceola Township and is a former stamp mill site that has been partially remediated. A Department of Environmental Quality Grant in 2004 provided soil with seed on the southern portion of the park, and a sidewalk was constructed to provide barrier-free access to much of the site. New developments since include covering sections of the industrial site with soil/sand and vegetation as well as enclosing a well on site. The park also includes a basketball court, playground, pavilion, and electricity. It is used by residents and visitors of Tamarack City and the Township.

Accessibility assessment=2/5



## Veteran's Field

Veteran's Field is a 4.57-acre site owned by Veterans of Foreign Wars and includes a baseball field with dugouts, barbeque pits, a memorial bridge and a monolith that honors the veterans. The baseball field is used by youth and adult community baseball leagues during the summer. Potential improvements include restoration work on the memorial signage; new or repaired bleachers; on-site parking; and field surface improvements.

Accessibility assessment=3/5



**Dollar Bay Community Garden**

A 0.3-acre Community Garden owned by the Township in Dollar Bay on the corner of 5th Street and Fir Avenue. The site provides residents access to fresh, seasonal vegetables. The garden serves local Dollar Bay residents and is also used for educational activities by the Dollar Bay – Tamarack City School students (elementary through high school).

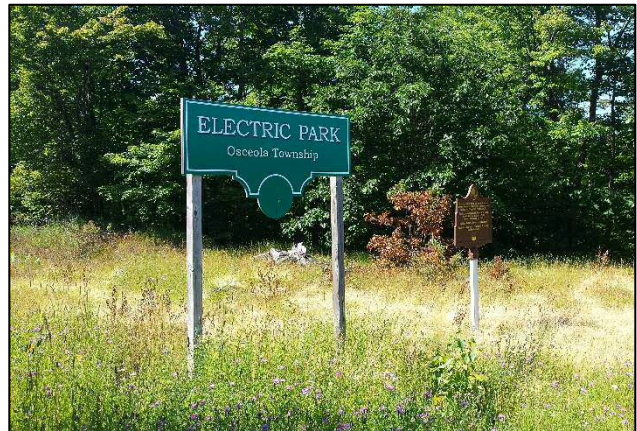
Accessibility assessment = 1/5



**Electric Park**

The Electric Park property is owned by Osceola Township. It is a 40-acre historical site, previously a stop on the 1930s Houghton County Streetcar Company’s route, and the proposed projects will restore the site to its former use as a public recreation area. Potential projects include interpretive signage and trail connections.

Accessibility assessment = 1/5



## **Tamarack Hill Location**

The Tamarack Hills property is 0.5-acre lot currently owned by Osceola Township. There are not presently similar recreational opportunities in the near vicinity, which is located in a well-populated residential area. The site has access to electricity and could include elements such as a basketball court, picnic area or a dog park.

Accessibility assessment = 1/5



## **Tamarack City Recreation Area**

A 2-acre area owned partially by the Township, near the Tamarack Mill Park. The two lots owned by the Township include an unusable basketball court. The remaining site consists of a vacant field owned by C & J Land Development.

Accessibility assessment = No structures/elements on site.



**Status Report for Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Support from Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been instrumental in providing and developing recreational opportunities for Township residents. Below is a list of grants received from DNR received by the Township. All these grant funded facilities are still present and open to the public.

<p><b>Dollar Bay Recreation Facility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project No. 26-00648 (1975)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Source: Land &amp; Water Conservation Fund</li> <li>○ Amount: \$17,938.84</li> <li>○ Project Description: 3 tennis courts/ice rink, basketball court lighting, and funding acknowledgment signage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Veterans’ Field</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project No. TF86-068A (1986)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Source: Michigan DNR Trust Fund</li> <li>○ Amount: \$25,500.00</li> <li>○ Project Description: Acquisition of 13 ½ lots for expansion of baseball fields</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Project No. TF86-068D (1986)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Source: Michigan DNR Trust Fund</li> <li>○ Amount: \$43,500.00</li> <li>○ Project Description: Development of new ballfield with support facilities including vault toilets, dugouts, bleachers, backstop with fencing, utilities and parking.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Sandy Bottom Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project No. TF02-172 (2002)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Source: Michigan DNR Trust Fund</li> <li>○ Amount: \$46,000.00</li> <li>○ Project Description: Provided improvements such as pathways, play area, boat dock, picnic area, retaining wall, parking lot paving, ramps to beach, and toilet facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Electric Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project No. TF03-158 (2003)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Source: Michigan DNR Trust Fund</li> <li>○ Amount: \$27,000.00</li> <li>○ Project Description: Acquisition of the 40-acre Electric Park parcel for historic preservation, open space conservation, and future recreation use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Recreational Sites Within Houghton County

Osceola Township is one of many recreational providers within Houghton County. There are several additional recreational facilities within proximity to Osceola Township that provide opportunities to residents and visitors including. A non-comprehensive list of nearby recreation amenities include:

1. **Houghton County Arena**—Located in the City of Hancock, the arena is a multi-purpose facility serving many County residents through various programs and services year-round. It serves as the primary practice and game facility for over 600 Junior Hockey players including senior and high school teams. Figure skating and public skating for youth and senior citizens are also scheduled at the facility. Ice is maintained at the Arena for six months of the year. The grounds also serve as a rest station for the adjacent Maasto Hiito ski trails. It is used extensively for 4-H, the County Fair, and other recreational and community programs and organizations.
2. **Houghton County Marina**—The marina is located just outside the City of Hancock to the east of the Portage Lake Lift Bridge and three miles west of Dollar Bay. The marina is full-service offering 54 slips, gas/diesel fuel, transient slips, pump-out station, picnic facilities for boaters, ice cooler, and nautical charts.



**Houghton County Marina Image by  
Marinas.com**



3. **Mont Ripley**—Mont Ripley is a ski hill owned and operated by Michigan Technological University. It is open during the winter season and offers a complete rental shop and skiing and snowboarding lessons. A snow machine supplements the 20 feet of natural snow Mont Ripley receives each year. Mont Ripley hosts a racing league for adults as well as ski and snowboard cross racing and is home to various school-based ski teams. A National Nordic Ski Patrol provides first-aid and other services.



**Mont Ripley Map, Image by Michigan Technological University**

4. **Pilgrim Community Forest**—Located in Portage Township, the Pilgrim Community Forest is a 276-acre property acquired in 2014 for public recreation, natural and scenic qualities, and sustainable forestry. The property was a result of a partnership between the Keweenaw Land Trust, Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and local landowners. The Pilgrim Community



**Pilgrim Community Forest, Image by Keweenaw Land Trust**

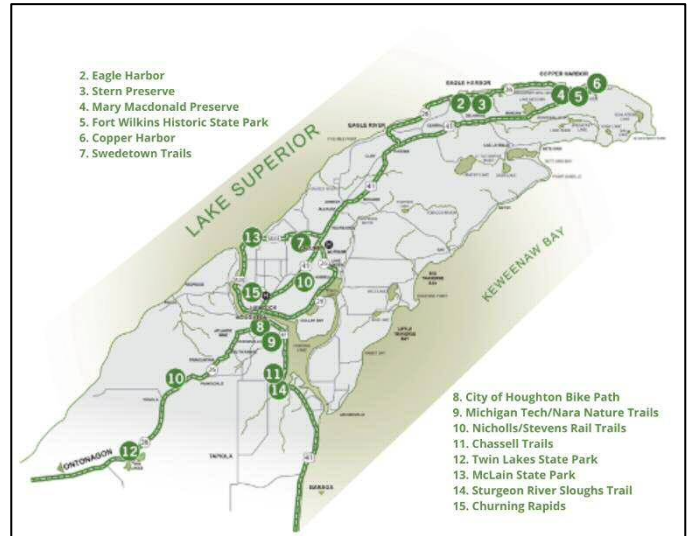
Forest has a 2.5-mile recreation trail open for hiking, snowshoeing, mountain biking, and backcountry skiing. The river is a notable cold-water trout stream popular with local fishermen, while the forest is enrolled in the Michigan Commercial Forest Program and available for hunting. A trailhead for hikers and bikers can be found near the intersection of Pilgrim and Paradise Roads in Houghton County. This project started with partnerships from Copper Country Audubon, Copper Country Trout Unlimited, Keweenaw Land Trust, Keweenaw Trail Alliance, Partners in the Forestry Coop and Northwoods Alliance.

5. **Quincy Mine**—One of the largest tourist draws and historical assets in the Keweenaw, Quincy Mine is located in Franklin Township just north of the City of Hancock. Once known as “Old Reliable” due to its consistent economic profitability, copper mining operations at the Quincy Mine have been closed since 1945. The Quincy Mine properties are owned and operated by the Quincy Mine Hoist Association, and the site is preserved as a cooperating site of the Keweenaw National Historical Park. Visitors are able to participate in guided tours of the grounds, the Nordberg steam-powered hoist engine and hoist house, a ride on a cog-rail tram car down to the mine entrance, and an underground mine tour. The site also contains a museum and a video-tour of the No. 2 Shaft-Rock House.
  
6. **Quincy Mine Smelter**—The historic Quincy Smelter is located in Ripley, MI on M-26 near the Portage Canal. The smelter is the only intact copper smelter from the American Industrial Revolution around the turn of the 20th Century. The Quincy Smelter Association preserves the site and hosts tours monthly. Much of the original machinery remains that used to turn ore into copper ingots.
  
7. **Beaches**—Several sandy beaches are accessible to the public and provide opportunities for swimming and sunbathing. Nearby Houghton County beaches include Lake Linden Recreation Area, Hancock Beach and Campground, Houghton Waterfront Park, and Calumet Waterworks Park.



**Houghton Waterfront Park, Image by  
City of Houghton**

**8. Trails**—The region hosts a network of snowmobile/multipurpose trails including the Jack Steven’s Rail-Trail from Hancock to Calumet, the snowmobile trail from Hancock to Lake Linden, the Chassell-Houghton Rail-Trail, MTU Ski Trails, the Swedetown Trails in Calumet and the Maasto Hiihto/Churning Rapids trails. Opportunities for these trails provide motorized and non-motorized activities such as biking, cross-country skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, skijoring, ATV and snowmobiling.



**Map of Major Trails in the Region, Image by Keweenaw Convention and Visitor's Bureau**

Houghton County also serves as one of the primary gateways to Isle Royale National Park. The Western Upper Peninsula also has countless sites offering more passive recreational opportunities and would include the Keweenaw National Historical Park, Copper Country Trail National Byway, museums, mine tours, scenic drives, etc.

Outside of Houghton County are numerous facilities that allow for any number of recreational pursuits, most notably the Porcupine Mountains State Park, Ottawa National Forest, and Fort Wilkins State Park.



**Copper Country Trail National Byway, Image by Keweenaw Convention & Visitor's Bureau**

## **RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Through this recreation plan, Osceola Township desires to define an affordable and achievable recreation improvement program that will provide for the needs of residents and visitors and increase use and user satisfaction at Township-owned facilities. The township is active in pursuing recreation improvements at all its recreational sites to provide for a wide range of needs related to its diverse range of residents and long winter months. Goals and objectives are as follows:

- Goal: Updating existing facilities to accommodate the needs of the community
  - Objective: Improve sports and playground facilities for youth, families, and spectators
  - Objective: Improve park infrastructure for expanded, safe, and accessible use
- Goal: Expand recreation sites to provide a wider range of activities
  - Objective: Carry out facility expansions at recreation sites to provide opportunities more equitably throughout the township
  - Objective: Create new recreation areas that are under current ownership but need to be developed before public use can occur
- Goal: Extend the use of current facilities
  - Objective: Maintain existing facilities for continued public use
  - Objective: Install pavilion infrastructure to protect and extend current the life of current facilities
- Goal: Increase public access to water
  - Objective: Install and expand water access infrastructure to existing waterfront properties
- Goal: Acquire additional recreation sites for public access and use
  - Objective: Pursue potential land ownership opportunities with an emphasis on sites that provide accessible recreation in the township
- Goal: Improve collaboration with other agencies to optimize use of all recreation facilities in the township, regardless of ownership
  - Objective: Encourage regional non-motorized trail improvements
  - Objective: Keep in communication with the Houghton Recreation Authority for these improvements

Goals and objectives for each location are described in greater detail in Appendix: G.

**ACTION PROGRAM**

To expand and extend the use of facilities as well as add to the current inventory, several projects have been proposed. These projects were identified in previous plans and through community input. Recreation projects were identified based on results from a community survey (see Appendix A), previous plans, and according to the current and projected needs of Osceola Township determined by the Recreation Committee. The projects are addressed in the following five-year capital improvement schedule. The capital improvement schedule will be reviewed annually by the Recreation Committee and Township Board and acted upon based on available funding and changing priorities or needs. It is the intent of Osceola Township to review and amend this plan and implementation schedule as needed to support local efforts in recreational programming.

**Table 5: Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

Year	Project	Cost	Funding Source
<b>2023</b>			
	Dollar Bay Rec Area — Resurface recreation area for seasonal ice rink and basketball court	\$143,000	Township/Other
	Tamarack Hill Location—Install picnic tables	\$500- \$1,000	Township/ Volunteers
	Veterans’ Field — Upgrades and enhancements to baseball fields including adding new seating and bleachers, and dugout upgrades	\$25,000	Township/ Volunteers
<b>2024</b>			
	Dollar Bay Rec Area – Repair fencing and sidewalls around ice rink, and installation of pavilion cover	\$75,000	MDNR/Township/Other
	Tamarack City Mill Park— Fence in pillars and add historical signage	\$30,000	MDNR/Township/Other
	Gooseneck Park—Install fencing for dog park and initiate other park improvements (picnic tables, benches)	\$25,000	MDNR/Township/Other

2025			
	Tamarack Hill Location—Install children’s play area	\$30,000	MDNR/Township/Other
	Veterans Field—Infrastructure improvements such as new bleachers and surface improvements	\$5,000- \$10,000	MDNR/Other
2026			
	Tamarack City Mill Park—Install safety fencing along industrial site pillars and add parking barriers to basketball courts	\$9,000	Township/Other
	Sandy Bottom Park – Buoy replacement, improved bathroom facilities, resurfacing parking areas and boat launch, and enhancements to picnic area, 8 ft channel for boats, a professional assessment and proposed treatment plan for the Eurasian Watermilfoil	Varies based on project	Township/MDNR/ Onigaming Yacht Club /Other
2027			
	Electric Park – Install historical signage	\$2,000	Township/Other
	Tamarack City Recreation Area – Construct nature trail with interpretive signage	\$15,000	MDNR/Township/Other

Rationale for improvements at each site includes:

**Electric Park**

Project rationale: The Electric Park property is owned by Osceola Township. It is a 40-acre historical site, previously a stop on the 1930s Houghton County Street Car Company’s route, and the proposed project would honor those stories through the installation of historical signage. There is also potential collaboration for content with neighboring communities and the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

**Tamarack Hill Location**

Project rationale: The Tamarack Hills property is an undeveloped site currently owned by Osceola Township. The Township does not have any recreation facilities in the near vicinity, which is in a well-populated residential area, although there are some owned by neighboring

municipalities. Proposed projects include installing playground equipment of school-aged children and picnic facilities (e.g. tables, seating, grills, etc.) for residents. Enhancing this space will provide recreational opportunities within walking distance for community members.

## **Tamarack City Mill Park**

Project rationale: The park features several large, unstable and degrading concrete pillars and machinery which are both historic as well as public safety hazards. To mitigate safety hazards to park visitors and historical enthusiasts, fencing needs to be installed between the industrial structures and the park's playground. The community survey also indicated a high priority interest in adding historical education signage.

## **Tamarack City Recreation Area**

Project Rationale: This area is located at the south east end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Tamarack. Hidden behind some trees is a basketball court than can be accessed via a small dirt trail. Adjacent to the basketball court is a large field owned by C & J Land Development, who also owns some of the surrounding properties. The township aims to develop a nature trail area with interpretive signage.

## **Sandy Bottom Park**

Project Rationale: According to the community survey, a playground for children and a water line are the highest rated priorities for the site. Respondents also indicated support for developing a non-motorized trails connecting Sandy Bottom to the nearby Dollar Bay Recreation Facility so that residents can safely walk or bike to the beach without walking on the roadside. Over the next five years and beyond, community members also requested a campground located across the street from the beach, upgrade to bathroom facilities, resurfacing of parking area, dredging of boat channel, buoy replacement, and development of a two-way boat launch. During the Plan's public hearing, residents voiced a need for county-wide management of the aquatic invasive plant, Eurasian Watermilfoil as it continues to expand throughout local waterways destroying fish habitat and negatively impacting regional water recreation.

## **Dollar Bay Recreation Facility**

Project Rationale: The facility is already a heavily used recreation area and resurfacing the tennis and basketball courts for multipurpose use will expand its accessibility. The site also needs repair/replace fencing and sideboards around the ice rink, an identified high priority from the community survey.



## **Veterans Field**

Project Rationale: Veterans Field is a heavily used facility that requires additional surface upgrades and improvements to the bleachers. The topic of improving to the ball field has come up regularly during Township board meetings.

## **Gooseneck Park**

Project Rationale: Gooseneck Park is an undeveloped greenspace on the north side of M-26 in Dollar Bay. The property is owned by the Township, but many residents are unaware that it exists. The space could be used by residents for picnicking and public gatherings with the installation of benches, tables and grills. Community survey respondents indicated an interest for installing fencing for a dog park.

**SOURCES OF FUNDING**

A number of possible sources of funding for recreation projects within Osceola Township are available and include the following:

**Table 6: Possible Funding Sources**

Description	Match	Source
Township Funds	—	Township
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	—	GLRI
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	75/25 grant	MDNR
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	50/50 grant	MDNR
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)	75/25 grant	MDNR
Off Road Vehicle (ORV)/Snowmobile Grants	—	MDNR
Coastal Zone Management (CZM)	50/50 grant	MDNR
National Scenic Byway Grant Program (NSBG)	80/20 grant	NSBG
Community Foundation/Fundraising/Other (local service organizations and businesses)	Varies	Other

## **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS**

The Osceola Township board recognizes the need for a recreation plan in order to effectively maintain current recreational resources and identify opportunities for new recreation investments to enhance recreation opportunities for Township residents and visitors. The Township Supervisor appointed a recreation plan committee to represent interests of the Township as a whole and facilitate the recreation plan update process. The Board contracted with Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) to work with this committee in updating this plan.

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the recreation committee held a kick-off meeting and met with WUPPDR representatives to overview the plan update process. The committee reviewed the previous recreation asset inventory and discussed opportunities for public engagement and input. The committee determined that a community survey was the most effective means of gathering preliminary public input from its wide array of stakeholders. The committee also reviewed the previous plan's stated goal and determined that the language was suitable. A number of necessary revisions were identified including updates to Township recreation asset descriptions, addition of new Township recreation assets, updating non-Township recreation assets and their descriptions, updating the Township community description, and brainstorm potential projects for the new Recreation Plan cycle.

Members of the recreation committee visited each Township recreation asset site to identify needed facility improvements/projects and conduct facility accessibility assessments. Pictures were taken of each site to document the current status of recreation sites and its equipment and facilities.

A survey of Township residents was conducted to gather public input to inform the plan's recreation goals, action plan and project justifications. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A. Beginning on September 2, 2022, the survey was distributed to residents by paper copy and hosted online using Survey Monkey. Links to the survey were provided on WUPPDR's website and Facebook page as well as the Township's website. Paper surveys were available at "high traffic" locations such as the Township Office, Dollar Bay Post Office, Hubbell Post Office, Richie's Market in Dollar Bay, Campioni True Value in Calumet, Holiday Gas Station in Calumet, and Copper Mine Restaurant in Tamarack City. A notice of the survey (Appendix B) was submitted to local radio, television, newspaper, and online news outlets on September 2, 2022. The survey generated responses from 97 participants (survey results are located in Appendix C). Based on survey results and needs identified by the committee during a meeting on November 17, 2022, a list of prioritized recreation projects was created.

A public draft of the recreation plan was made available online on the Township’s website, its Recreation Committee’s Facebook Page, and WUPPDR’s website. Printed copies were made available at the Township Office in Dollar Bay. A notice (Appendix D) was published in the Daily Mining Gazette on January 13th, 2023, announcing the 30-day public review period and announcing the date and location of a public comment session. Residents were instructed to submit written comments to WUPPDR via mail or email by February 12, 2023.

The Township Board called a public meeting for citizens after the 30-day public review period to comment on the proposed recreation plan update. The public hearing was held at 5:30 pm on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. The meeting agenda and minutes are provided in Appendix E. The public comments discussed include:

- Install a new potable water line and fire hydrant at the Sandy Bottom picnic area and remove the submerged, abandoned water line and burial overburden from the entrance channel to the boat launch and bay
- Remove bottom debris and old crib from the entrance channel and boat launch approach to improve navigability safety in and out of the bay
- Assess the extent of Eurasian milfoil growth (an invasive seaweed) in the bay and develop a mitigation plan to treat it
- Install a floating, handicap accessible, fishing pier extending from the beach back along the channel to the boat launch area
- Expand the boat launch ramp to be able to accommodate two boat trailers simultaneously with a 6-8 ft x 60 ft floating dock placed in the middle of the expanded ramps
- Create a pedestrian/biking path to Sandy Bottom from Dollar Bay along the existing Lower Point Mills Road shoulder right of way
- Install fencing around the perimeter of the township’s old sand pit to better restrict access to stop dumping, and reduce liability from off-road vehicle joy riding and firearms use in the residential/park area

The plan was subsequently adopted by resolution (Appendix F) by the Osceola Township Board at a special Board meeting held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

All notices of hearings were publicized to invite citizen comment and review of the new recreation plan.

**APPENDIX**

- Appendix A: Recreation Survey
- Appendix B: Recreation Survey Press Release
- Appendix C: Recreation Survey Results
- Appendix D: 30 Day Public Review Announcement & Public Hearing Notice
- Appendix E: Public Comment Session Agenda & Minutes
- Appendix F: Plan Adoption Resolution
- Appendix G: Goals and Objectives by Location

## Osceola Township Recreation Survey – 2022

The Osceola Township Recreation Committee is seeking public input to help plan improvements to township recreation sites over the next five years. The survey can be completed **online** (preferred method) at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OsceolaTWPreC> or the **QR code** to the right.



If you choose to complete this paper version, return it by October 6th, 2022 to the location where you obtained it or mail it to the Western U.P. Planning and Development Region office located at 400 Quincy St. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hancock, MI 49930.

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1. Please indicate your residency status (check **one**):

- I am a full-time resident of Osceola Township
- I am a seasonal resident of Osceola Township (Less than 6 months per year)
- I am not a resident, but I visit Osceola Township
- None of the above

2. How many persons in your household falls into each of the following age groups:

0-5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6-12 \_\_\_\_\_ 13-19 \_\_\_\_\_ 20-39 \_\_\_\_\_ 40-64 \_\_\_\_\_ 65+ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does anyone in your household have a physical disability, mental disability, or require specialized recreation? Specialized recreation refers to accommodations or modifications made to recreation facilities, activities, and equipment to remove barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from participating in recreational activities.

- Yes
- No

If “**Yes**”, and if you feel comfortable, could you explain those needs?

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4. Overall, how would you rate the quality of recreational opportunities in Osceola Township?

Poor

Average

Excellent

Unsure

5. Does anyone in your household participate in any of the following recreation activities? (check **all that apply**)

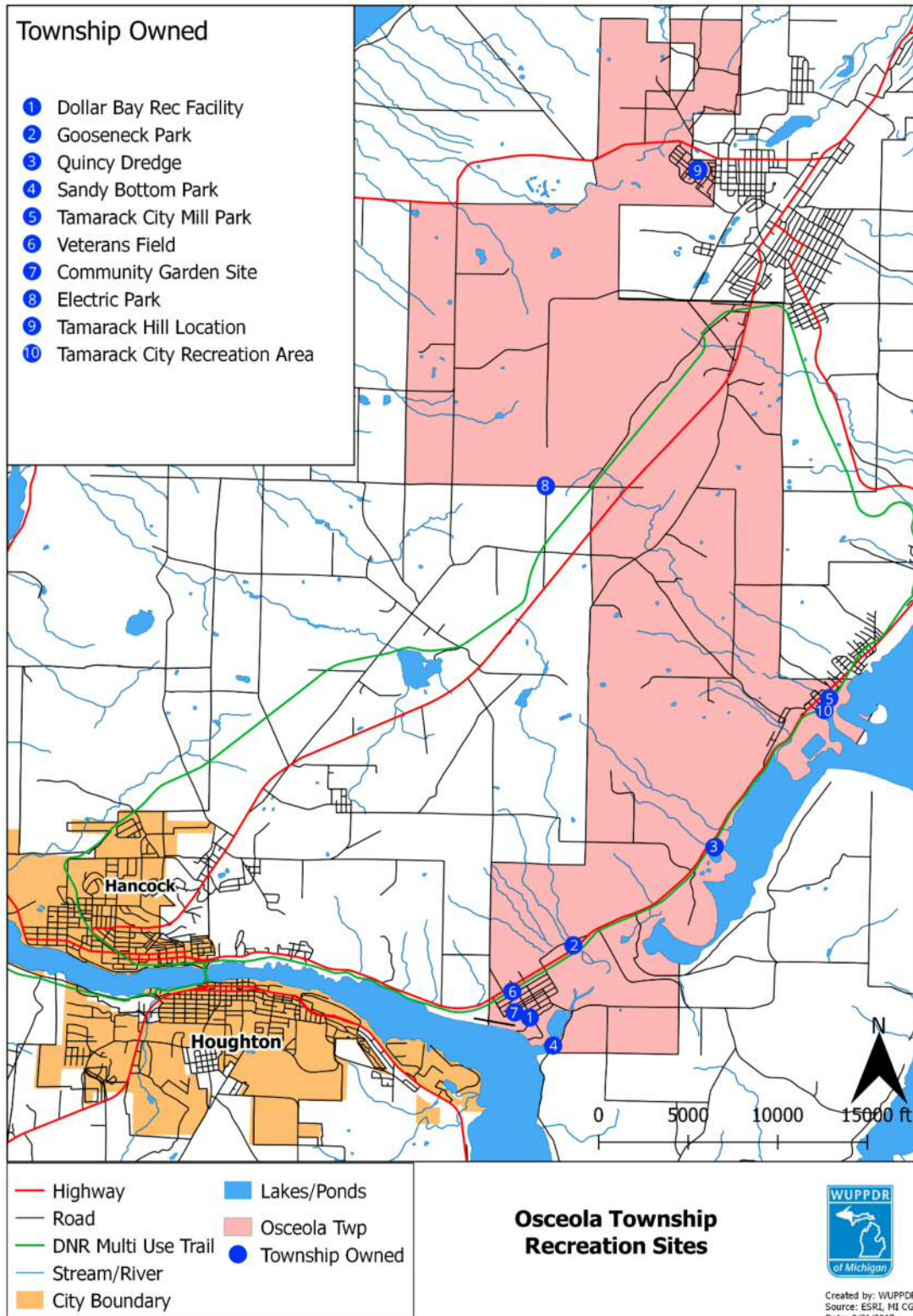
- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Archery                          | <input type="radio"/> Disc golf or frisbee      | <input type="radio"/> Sailing                    |
| <input type="radio"/> ATV/ORV trails                   | <input type="radio"/> Exercise Classes          | <input type="radio"/> Shooting (target practice) |
| <input type="radio"/> Backpacking                      | <input type="radio"/> Fishing - boat            | <input type="radio"/> Shuffleboard               |
| <input type="radio"/> Baseball/Softball                | <input type="radio"/> Fishing - ice             | <input type="radio"/> Skateboarding              |
| <input type="radio"/> Basketball                       | <input type="radio"/> Fishing – shore or wading | <input type="radio"/> Skiing – cross country     |
| <input type="radio"/> Beach activities                 | <input type="radio"/> Foraging                  | <input type="radio"/> Skiing – downhill          |
| <input type="radio"/> Bag Toss (corn hole, bags)       | <input type="radio"/> Gardening                 | <input type="radio"/> Skijoring                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycling (electric, e-bike)     | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                | <input type="radio"/> Sledding                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycling (mountain)             | <input type="radio"/> Golf                      | <input type="radio"/> Snowboarding               |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycling (path/road)            | <input type="radio"/> Hiking                    | <input type="radio"/> Snowmobiling               |
| <input type="radio"/> Bird watching                    | <input type="radio"/> Hockey                    | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                |
| <input type="radio"/> Boating – motorized              | <input type="radio"/> Horseshoes                | <input type="radio"/> Soccer                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Boating – non-motorized          | <input type="radio"/> Hunting                   | <input type="radio"/> Swimming                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Campgrounds – RV/tent hookups    | <input type="radio"/> Ice Skating               | <input type="radio"/> Tennis                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Campgrounds – RV/tent no hookups | <input type="radio"/> Indoor Recreation         | <input type="radio"/> Tubing                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Camping – dispersed              | <input type="radio"/> Photography               | <input type="radio"/> Visiting Historical sites  |
| <input type="radio"/> Climbing (indoor)                | <input type="radio"/> Pickleball                | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Climbing (outdoor)               | <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                | <input type="radio"/> Wakeboarding               |
| <input type="radio"/> Dancing                          | <input type="radio"/> Playgrounds               | <input type="radio"/> Walking                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Dark sky viewing                 | <input type="radio"/> Quilting                  | <input type="radio"/> Water Skiing               |
| <input type="radio"/> Dirt Biking                      | <input type="radio"/> Rockhounding              | <input type="radio"/> Yard Games                 |
|  | <input type="radio"/> Roller Skating/Blading    | <input type="radio"/> Yoga                       |
|  | <input type="radio"/> Running/jogging           |  |

**Other** (please specify)

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The following questions seek your input on Osceola Township's recreation site improvements. Please take a moment to review the map and familiarize yourself with the location of the sites discussed in the survey to help you with your responses.





6. Before this survey, were you aware of the following recreation sites owned by the Township?

- |   |                           |                          |                              |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Dollar Bay Recreation Area</b>           | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |
| <b>Electric Park</b>                        | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |
| <b>Gooseneck Creek</b> (Potential dog park) | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |
| <b>Quincy Dredge</b> (Land)                 | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |
| <b>Sandy Bottom Park</b>                    | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |
| <b>Tamarack City Mill Park</b>              | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |
| <b>Tamarack City Recreation Area</b>        | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |
| <b>Tamarack Hill Location</b>               | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |
| <b>Veterans' Field</b> (Dollar Bay)         | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Unsure |

7. Below is a list of potential projects at each recreation site being considered by the Township. Rank how you would prioritize each project using the provided scale where "1" = "Low Priority" and "5" = "High Priority". (Circle one number per project)

**DOLLAR BAY RECREATION AREA**

	Low Priority	←————→			High Priority
Construct roof over ice rink	1	2	3	4	5
Construct four-seasons community shelter for events	1	2	3	4	5
Repair fencing and sidewalls around ice rink	1	2	3	4	5
Resurface tennis and basketball courts for multipurpose use (e.g. Pickleball, Basketball, Tennis)	1	3	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____					

**ELECTRIC PARK**

	Low Priority ←————→ High Priority				
Install historical signage	1	2	3	4	5
Create a non-motorized trail system	1	2	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____					

**GOOSENECK CREEK**

(Potential Dog Park)

	Low Priority ←————→ High Priority				
Install fencing for dog park	1	2	3	4	5
Develop parking lot and road access	1	2	3	4	5
Install seating area (benches, drinking fountain)	1	2	3	4	5
Construct vaulted toilet facility	1	2	3	4	5
Install water access	1	2	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____					

**QUINCY DREDGE**

(Land around the Dredge is owned by the Township, the Dredge itself is not owned by the Township)

	Low Priority ←————→ High Priority				
Install interpretive signage	1	2	3	4	5
Construct picnic area	1	2	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____					

**SANDY BOTTOM PARK**

	Low Priority	←	→	High Priority	
Add two handicap accessible fishing piers	1	2	3	4	5
Install additional picnic tables	1	2	3	4	5
Install new water line to toilet building & pavilion	1	2	3	4	5
Install new roof over pavilion	1	2	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____					

**TAMARACK CITY MILL PARK**

	Low Priority	←	→	High Priority	
Construct toilet facility near pavilion	1	2	3	4	5
Install Safety fence along M-26	1	2	3	4	5
Fence in pillars and add historical education signage	1	2	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____					

**TAMARACK CITY RECREATION AREA**

	Low Priority	←	→	High Priority	
Build ice rink & warming shack	1	2	3	4	5
Construct baseball/softball field	1	2	3	4	5
Create nature walk with interpretative signage	1	2	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____					

**TAMARACK HILL LOCATION**

	Low Priority	←	→	High Priority	
Construct basketball courts	1	2	3	4	5
Construct children's play area	1	2	3	4	5
Install picnic tables	1	2	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5
_____					

**VETERANS' FIELD**

(Dollar Bay)

	Low Priority ←————→ High Priority				
Continue upgrades and enhancements of the baseball field	1	2	3	4	5
Add parking area	1	2	3	4	5
Add new seating/bleachers	1	2	3	4	5
Add/improve ballfield dugouts	1	2	3	4	5
Other suggestions: _____	1	2	3	4	5

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**MISCELLANEOUS RECREATION**

	Low Priority ←————→ High Priority				
Build a dog park(s)	1	2	3	4	5
Enhance and/or build new motorized recreation trails	1	2	3	4	5
Enhance and/or build new non-motorized recreation trails	1	2	3	4	5
Enhance and/or develop new water trail routes for paddle craft	1	2	3	4	5
Increase public access to rivers and streams	1	2	3	4	5
Increase public access to Portage Lake Shoreline	1	2	3	4	5
Create new green spaces (e.g., parks, open areas)	1	2	3	4	5
Preserve and/or enhance public access to historical sites	1	2	3	4	5
Enhance bike-“ability” of Township communities	1	2	3	4	5
Increase indoor winter recreation opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Enhance parking at Portage Lake boat access site in Dollar Bay	1	2	3	4	5
Develop RV overnight parking sites with hookups	1	2	3	4	5
Continue improving and upgrading the community garden	1	2	3	4	5
Increase recreational opportunities for individuals with mobility challenges	1	2	3	4	5

Please use the space below to list additional recreation projects you would like to see in Osceola Township, or provide comments/suggestions you think will be helpful for the Osceola Township Recreation Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you! Your input is important to help identify and prioritize Township recreation projects.** Survey results will be included in the draft 2023-2027 Osceola Township Recreation Plan, which will be available for public review in late 2022. Notice of the draft’s availability will be publicized at the appropriate time.



# Western U.P.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

400 Quincy St, 8th Floor, Hancock, Michigan 49930  
906-482-7205 Fax: 906-482-9032 e-mail: [info@wuppdr.org](mailto:info@wuppdr.org)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Rachael Pressley, Regional Planner  
906.482.7205, ext. 116  
[rpressley@wuppdr.org](mailto:rpressley@wuppdr.org)

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

### **Recreation Survey Available for Osceola Township**

Osceola Township is working with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) to update their joint five-year recreation plan. In addition to guiding improvements to the township recreation facilities and sites, the plan will ensure the township is eligible for certain grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Members of the public can have a voice in the planning effort by taking a short survey. In addition to general questions about recreation interests, the survey requests feedback on a number of potential projects.

*Online responses are preferred* and can be provided at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OsceolaTwpRec>. Alternatively, paper copies can be obtained at Osceola Township Office located at 48545 Main St., Dollar Bay, MI 49922, the WUPPDR office located at 400 Quincy Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hancock, MI 49930 and at the Dollar Bay Post Office, Hubble Post Office, Richies Market in Dollar Bay, Campioni True Value in Calumet, Holiday Gas Station in Calumet, and the Copper mine in Tamarack City.

Survey responses will be accepted through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. For further information, contact Rachael Pressley at [rpressley@wuppdr.org](mailto:rpressley@wuppdr.org) or (906) 482-7205 ext. 116.

###

## 2022 Osceola Township Recreation Survey – Results Summary

The Township received 97 responses to the 2022 Osceola Township Recreation Survey. Printed copies of the survey were available to the residents at a variety of locations throughout the Township and accessible online.

Over half of the respondents were permanent residents of Osceola Township (67.0%). The rest either did not live in the Township (26.8%) or were seasonal residents (5.2%). According to the responses, these data represent about 456 people. Children under the age of 19 make up about 55.3% of these people, while adults over the age of 65 make up 4.8%. Majority of people were between the age of 20 to 39 years old (68.0%). Three people reported that they have a disability or require specialized recreation. These included age-related impairments and developmental disabilities.

When asked about how they would rate the quality of recreational opportunities in the Township, 59.4% responded “Average” 2.1% responded “Excellent” and 36.5% responded “Poor”. Of the nine Township owned recreation sites, Sandy Bottom Park (93.9%) and Veteran’s Field (92.7%) were the most well-known, and the least known were Electric Park (61.7%) and Gooseneck Creek (61.3%).

Respondents were asked to rank miscellaneous recreation opportunities they would like the Township to maintain, develop, and/or improve. The top five opportunities were the following: Enhance and/or build new nonmotorized recreation trails (42.3%), Create new green spaces (38.5%), Increase public access to Portage Lake Shoreline (38.0%), Increase indoor winter recreation opportunities (38.0%), and Enhance bike-"ability" of Township communities (34.2%).

Respondents were also asked whether any members of their household participated in any of the activities. The top five were bicycling (69.1%), beach activities (69.1%), walking (66.0%), swimming (62.9%), and ice skating (59.8%). The activities with the least amount of participation include tennis (6.2%), sailing (6.2%), skijoring (2.1%), shuffleboard (2.1%), and quilting (2.1%).

Many of the top and bottom “priority” recreation activities aligned with the activities that respondents actually participate in. Residents obviously favor investment in the activities that they already do. When asked to prioritize a list of potential recreation focus areas for the Dollar Bay Recreation Area, respondents indicated that they wished to see the Township resurface tennis and basketball courts for multipurpose use (e.g. Pickleball, Basketball, Tennis) (50.6%, indicated this is a high priority), construct roof over ice rink (45.0% indicated this is a high priority), and repair fencing and sidewalls around the ice rink (41.3% indicated this as a high priority). Interesting comments include:

- *This place is especially used in the winter for ice skating. A roof would be a HUGE improvement!*
- *Repave ice rink*

For Electric Park, respondents indicated high priority goals as creating non-motorized trail system (21.1%) and installing historical signage (11.5%). Interesting comments include:

- *This is a HUGELY underused asset. ANY investment would help.*
- *Directional signage*

For Gooseneck Creek, respondents indicated high priority goals to install fencing for dog park (20.0%) as well as constructing vaulted toilet facility (19.5%). Respondents also indicated high priority status for installing water access (19.2%) and developing parking lot and road access (17.7%). Interesting comments include:

- *Don't touch gooseneck. Construction and people who own land nearby have ruined it enough. Every time I fish the river, I always walk back with a ton of trash. Even had an entire transmission get dragged back once. Please. Don't ruin it more. People will litter and ruin the river beyond fixing. The fish there are struggling enough with kids pulling 10-15 brookies out a day and keeping them all regardless of size or the 5 fish bag limit.*
- *Signage would be nice, I have no idea what land is owned by the township here*

For Quincy Dredge, respondents indicated that they wished to see the Township prioritize installation of interpretive signage (17.7%) more than the construction of a picnic area (13.9%).

- *When built this was the worlds deepest dredging dredge capable of digging to 110'. It's working of the Torch Lake stamp sands have left a profound impact on our communities. This is certainly worthy of recognition. (I believe its' sister hull is currently owned by Julio Marine and Salvage and is floating in Ripley with a crane on it's deck.)*
- *Is it Osceola Twp property or the Houghton County Historical Museum property? You will need to figure out how to make it safe. It is a big liability now as is the building across the highway. Also how will you stop the swimmers-it is deep and dangerous in areas.*

For Sandy Bottom Park, respondents indicated high priority goals as installing a new water line to toilet building & pavilion (33.8%) and additional picnic tables (22.2%). Interesting comments include:

- *I have several suggestions for the park and bay. This is a heavily used resource, both picnic/beach area and particularly the boat launch. 1. We live a few hundred feet from it and see numerous boats coming and going every day from May to the end of October. During the summer it's not uncommon to see four to six boats waiting in line to either launch and/or be pulled out. The single launch ramp becomes a real bottle neck. I suggest redesigning it as a single dock with two ramps; one on each side. 2. The launching ramp dock is also heavily used by fishermen, creating some competition for space. Create a walkway/fishing pier that parallels the entrance channel from the beach to the boat launch. On either pilings or floating, it would not impact the inshore wetlands but rather make for a better viewing of them. 3. Remove the remnants of a submerged crib near the boat launch which poses a threat to deeper draft boats even in high water years and smaller craft in low water years when it is covered by as little as 1'*



of water. 4. Remove the abandoned park waterline and its' burial overburden, that crosses the channel entrance into the ramp and bay. Also clear the entrance of channel of log debris and pilings that partially obstruct navigation. In low water years these obstructions can prohibit entry of boats with greater than 5' drafts. This significantly decreases the usability of the OYC boat club mooring field by larger craft and threatens the ability to access the waterfront of two residents on the bay who have sailboats requiring greater than 5' depths. 4. Develop a treatment plan to control invasive eurasian milfoil which has grown to where it restricts navigation and is impacting fishing and water quality in the bay. 6. Create a bike path/pedestrian walk on the edge of the road from Dollar Bay to Sandy Bottom. There is enough space within the road right-of-way to do so. Many, many pedestrians and cyclists travel this distance now but have do so by being in the traffic lanes of the heavily travelled Lower Point Mills Rd where occasionally drivers exceed 50 mph. Improving the usability of the Dollar Bay waterway will significantly improve shoreline values and encourage future development within this area of the township. I believe at least some of the existing waterfront owners would be willing to partner with and contribute matching funds to a township grant proposal for such improvements. Some of the above ideas were included in the 1997 Dollar Bay Recreation Area Coastal Zone Grant Project assembled by Traverse Engineering Services, P.C.. Other parts are from the MTU "Dollar Bay Planning Study"; a student study prepared in 2006, in part for the Onigaming Yacht Club. Copies of both should be in the Township files.

- Reed Construction installed a roof about three/four years ago.
- Playground equipment?

For Tamarack City Mill Park, respondents indicated a high priority goal is for the Township to Install a safety fence along M-26 (13.0%). However, respondents did not highly prioritize the project to fence in pillars and add historical education signage (40.3% indicated low priority ranking). One interesting comment stated:

- *Why would you want toilets near an area where people will be eating? Gross. Fences would be nice if they are maintained and look good.*

For Tamarack City Recreation Area, respondents indicated a high priority goal is for the Township to build ice rink & warming shack (23.1%), followed by creating nature walk with interpretive signage (22.5%).

For Tamarack Hill Location, respondents indicated high priority goals as installing picnic tables (23.1%) and a children's play area (21.8%). Respondents did not highly prioritize the construction of basketball courts, with 39.0% giving the project the lowest priority ranking. One interesting comment stated:

- *Need to get something for that end of Osceola Township.*

For Veterans' Field, respondents indicated high priority goals to continue upgrades and enhancements of the baseball field (21.8%) and adding new seating/bleachers (21.8%). Lowest

priority rankings were given to Add parking area (35.4%) and Add/Improve ballfield dugouts (29.9%). Interesting comments include:

- *Are the residents of Osceola Twp going to pay for these improvements and let LL school and Portage Lake little league use them for free or is there going to be a fee for them. They need to pay for the use of other fields and for the toilets. Why don't we charge. Are you donating to the fund raiser for the honor roll?*
- *The field has plenty of parking, could definitely use the money elsewhere, like fixing the fire pit and adding a wider roof to accommodate for the bbq we have every year*

Additional comments received to suggest additional recreation projects or make suggestions to the Osceola Township Recreation Committee:

- *I am filling out this survey on behalf of the Onigaming Yacht Club (OYC). Myself and my family are weekly visitors to Dollar Bay and Sandy Bottom Park, and are thankful for the opportunity to share this corner of the world. Proposed improvements to the entrance channel and milfoil situation in Dollar Bay are copacetic to the interests of all the watercraft users of the bay and the public water access at the park.*
- *Thank you for providing the opportunity to contribute to the development of the recreation plan.*
- *Trails and ice skating in Tamarack City would be a really nice addition! The most peaceful spot to walk/ride a bike is Osprey Ave and we all use the same spot. Gets a little crowded at times if you're looking to enjoy the quiet with your dog or even yourself.*
- *Decide on plan for sandpit area and seek input. Lots of unauthorized use and dumping. Make it safer for individuals and families to safely walk from town to sandy bottom park. Cars drive too fast and unauthorized use of motor bikes, 4 wheelers, dirt bikes. Needs for enforcement for those abusing roads. Create a fishing pier at sandy bottom. Lots of people use boat ramp dock. Control milfoil in bay. Seems the township is in a "make do" instead of creating a welcoming environments.*
- *Convert old gas station in Dollar Bay to rest stop area or a Food Pantry*
- *Additional benches for adults at children's play areas, and garbage cans :)*
- *Not recreational based, but I am happy to see this survey out. I would love to see more communication from the Township.*

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

IN THE MATTER OF  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON SS

Kelly Jensik

Being first duly sworn, says that he/she is the agent of the Publisher of The Daily Mining Gazette, a newspaper published in the English Language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper in which order was published on the following dates:

January 13, 2023

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, AND PUBLIC HEARING**

The 2023-2027 Osceola Township Recreation Plan draft is available for mandatory 30-day public review period (January 13, 2023 – February 12, 2023). Following the required period, Osceola Township Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing on February 22, 2023, at the Township Hall located at 48545 Main Street, Dollar Bay, MI 49931 beginning at 5:30 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to receive any public comments regarding the 2023-2027 Osceola Township Five-Year Recreation Plan. Following the Hearing, there will be a special Township Board of Trustees meeting to consider those public comments and possibly move to adopt the Five-Year Recreation Plan. The Recreation Plan draft is available for public comment and can be viewed online at WUPPDR's website [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org). Printed copies are available at the Township Hall during normal business hours, Monday through Wednesday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Written comments can be submitted to WUPPDR, 400 Quincy Street, 8th Floor Hancock, MI 49930 or emailed to [rpressley@wuppdr.org](mailto:rpressley@wuppdr.org) through February 12, 2023.

Mark Halkola, Osceola Township Supervisor

Kelly Jensik  
Agent of the Publisher of The Daily Mining Gazette  
Subscribed and sworn before me this 30<sup>th</sup>  
Day of January A.D., 2023

Yvonne Marie Robillard  
Notary Public, Houghton County, Michigan  
Acting in and for the County of Houghton, Michigan

**Yvonne Marie Robillard**  
Notary Public  
Houghton County  
State of Michigan  
Comm. Exp. 12/06/2028

Mark Halkola, Supervisor  
Christa Gardner, Clerk  
Dominique DiVito, Treasurer  
Don Wareham, Trustee  
Aaron Janke, Trustee



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Osceola Township 5-Year Rec Plan Public Hearing Minutes  
February 22, 2023, 5:30 PM

A Public Hearing for the Osceola Township 5-Year Rec Plan was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on February 22, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Osceola Township office Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham. Absent was Dominique DiVito.

Rachael Pressley from the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region gave a brief history of the Rec Plan and offered introductory remarks.

The Public Hearing comment period was then opened.

Jim Spence from Lower Point Mills Road was glad for this process and in turn learned more about the township. He previously sent in written comments. Some specific suggestions to edits in the plan include: page 10 to include Onigaming Yacht Club, as they have been putting channel buoys in the water for the last 20 years. On page 16 requested it state 'expressed interest in partnering with the township'. Questioned on pages 27 and 28 Capital Improvement Plan why it doesn't mention Sandy Bottom at all and requests its inclusion. Questioned the Tamarack City Park allotment of \$500,000 for an ice rink and warming shack, wondering if that included a land purchase. Wonders if the board has considered projects at Sandy Bottom. He also mentioned that the Onigaming Yacht Club has a capital fund and would be willing to partner financially with the township to get some projects at Sandy Bottom done. Mentioned that in previous rec plans it talked about creating a walking/biking path from Dollar Bay to Sandy Bottom. Emphasized how it would be safer for the people due to high traffic on the road. He suggested the possibility of taking some room from the shoulder to create the path.

Gregg Spence was interested and asked questions about a proposed campground area across from Sandy Bottom.

Deb Kinzie is a member of the Onigaming Yacht Club and mentioned that the water is filling up with milfoil, which is an invasive weed. She offered that Torch Lake Township might be a good resource, as they have treated their bay for it in the past. Also suggested making a two-way boat ramp a higher priority, as there is so much boating traffic coming in and out of the water.

Theresa Spence lives across from the boat launch. She reiterated that it is used constantly all summer long. Wondered if it has ever been considered to charge people using the launch as a source of revenue. Mentioned that Chassell Township has a donation 'pipe' by theirs. Also suggested looking into grants through the Keweenaw Historical Park for the dredge to assist with current reclamation efforts.

Mike Irish, a sailor, and fisherman, spends a lot of time in Dollar Bay. He noted that the fish population is beginning to diminish due to the milfoil in the area. Mentioned that there is a lot of usage by fishermen in that area as well.

Hugh Hosafros from Dollar Bay would like to see a roof put over the ice rink to help the amount of snow and give some amount of shelter. Wondered about the stamp mill in Tamarack City if the Keweenaw Historical Park would have an interest in it. Also mentioned that currently people have been using the ballpark as a dog park and thought a doggy bag station there would be helpful.

Mark Halkola, Supervisor  
Christa Gardner, Clerk  
Dominique DiVito, Treasurer  
Don Wareham, Trustee  
Aaron Janke, Trustee



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Mark Halkola, township supervisor, emphasized that this plan is a “living document” and can be continually changed and updated over the next five years as needed.

The Board offered comments, answered questions, and gave suggestions on other improvements.

Significant to note was a lot of discussion and ideas pertaining to Sandy Bottom.

Mr. Halkola called for any additional comments. With no additional comments to be made, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:25 PM.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:15 PM in the Osceola Township Board Room.

*Christa M. Gardner, Clerk*

Mark Halkola, Supervisor  
Christa Gardner, Clerk  
Dominique DiVito, Treasurer  
Don Wareham, Trustee  
Aaron Janke, Trustee



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Osceola Township Special Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2023

The special meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on February 22, 2023, at 6:32 PM at the Osceola Township office Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham. Absent was Dominique DiVito.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to approve the agenda, and to continue to accept public hearing comments during the two public comment sections. AVIF

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:34 PM. No public comment was offered.  
Public Comment closed at 6:35 PM.

The Board discussed the proposed changes to the 5-Year Rec Plan that came about after the Public Hearing. It was questioned if the DNR could extend our plan in order to make the changes discussed and adopt the plan at the March 8, 2023 regular Board Meeting. It was proposed to have a draft ready by March 3, give feed back by March 6, and have it be available to post on the website before the meeting on March 8. Ms. Pressley said that should be doable.

Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to table the adoption of the 5-Year Rec Plan to the March 8, 2023 regular Board Meeting, pending the changes made and time to review. AVIF

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:44 PM. Jim Spence wanted to know if the draft of the Rec Plan could be posted to the website prior to the Board meeting. He would be willing to help if needed. He also requested his written feedback be forwarded to all Board members. Theresa Spence thanked the Board for this process.  
Public comment closed at 6:49 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to adjourn at 6:50 PM. AVIF

The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:15 PM in the Osceola Township Board Room.

*Christa M Gardner, Clerk*

# Resolution of Adoption

## OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027 Osceola Township Board

*WHEREAS, the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Board has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027, and*

*WHEREAS, the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Board began the process of developing a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and*

*WHEREAS, residents of OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and*

*WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and*

*WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 22, 2023 at the Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Five-Year Recreation Plan 2023-2027, and*

*WHEREAS, the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Board has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP, and*

*WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Board voted to adopt said OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Five-Year Recreation Plan 2023-2027.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Board hereby adopts the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Five-Year Recreation Plan 2023-2027.*

Motion made by **Gardner** Seconded by **Wareham** to approve this resolution.

AYES - 3

NAYS - 0

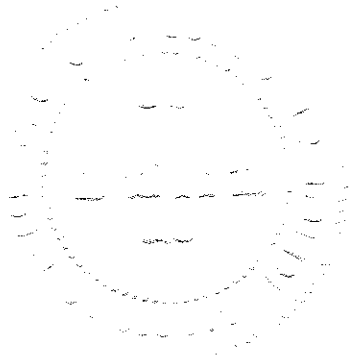
ABSENT - 2

ABSTAIN - 0

*I, Christa Gardner, OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP Board at a Meeting thereof held on March 8, 2023*

Signature

*Christa M Gardner*



# Appendix G: Goals and Objectives by Location

Location	Goals and Objectives
Gooseneck Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Fence area for dog park</li> <li>• Toys and training equipment</li> <li>• Poop bag stations</li> <li>• Picnic tables with wheelchair accessibility</li> <li>• Water fountain</li> <li>• Bathroom facilities</li> </ul>
Sandy Bottom Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovate bathroom facilities</li> <li>• Security cameras</li> <li>• Paved parking area</li> <li>• Restore boat launch</li> <li>• Fishing pier with mobility accessibility</li> </ul>
Veteran's Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concrete floors for dugouts</li> <li>• Utility shed with power</li> <li>• Scoreboard</li> <li>• Backstop upgrade</li> <li>• Complete the grass infield</li> <li>• Fence safety cap</li> <li>• Municipal water</li> <li>• Paved parking area</li> <li>• Viewing platform for wheelchairs</li> </ul>
Dollar Bay Recreation Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavilion cover</li> <li>• Resurfacing of seasonal basketball court/ice rink</li> <li>• Pickle ball court</li> <li>• Accessibility improvements to warming shack and rink</li> <li>• Lighting improvements</li> <li>• Paved parking area with disability parking</li> </ul>



<b>Location</b>	<b>Goals and Objectives</b>
Tamarack City Mill Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance existing playground equipment</li> <li>• Additional restroom facility</li> <li>• Enclose the pavilion</li> <li>• Fencing to close off access to old infrastructure</li> <li>• Paved parking area with handicap access</li> <li>• Picnic tables with wheelchair accessibility</li> </ul>
Quincy Dredge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade access</li> <li>• Viewing platform</li> <li>• Historic signage</li> <li>• Accessibility improvements</li> </ul>
Tamarack Hill Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic/park area development with accessibility improvements</li> <li>• Parking area</li> <li>• Picnic tables with wheelchair accessibility</li> </ul>