

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The *City of Escanaba Recreation Plan 2007* is the sixth of a series of specific recreation plans for the City that has been continuously developed over the last 25 years. The City has developed and submitted approved five-year recreation plans in 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1999. The 2007 Recreation Plan is a completely revised and updated version intended to be used as a guide for park and recreation development through 2012. Although this plan is designed to serve the City of Escanaba, residents from the surrounding areas will undoubtedly use the facilities and opportunities that the City of Escanaba's Recreation Department provides.

Special recognition is in order to those who have created and formulated this plan. A sincere appreciation needs to be given to the Recreation Advisory Board and the volunteer citizen committee, whose members have spent much time, thought, and deliberation on this plan.

Recognition is also in order to the City Engineer's Department and the Central Upper Peninsula Planning & Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission for their technical assistance and aid in gathering up-to-date community data and for formatting this document.



Historical Light House at Ludington Park

This Recreation Plan is designed to provide for the development of recreational activities, programs, and facilities within the City of Escanaba. The plan should serve several useful purposes. It should serve as (1) a source of information, (2) a guide for correcting deficiencies, (3) an indicator of goals and policies, (4) a framework for making decisions, and (5) a means of stimulating public interest and participation in local community recreation progress.

Recognizing the need to provide recreational facilities within the community, the City Council approached civic and community organizations for suggestions and comments for improvements. The recreational needs of the community have continually been discussed at open public meetings of the City Council. The Council appointed a recreation committee to examine and provide recommendations to the City Council. The suggestions are identified in Section 7.0 RECREATION DEFICIENCIES.

Staff at the CUPPAD Regional Commission was approached by the City Council Recreation Committee to review and draft a recreation plan document. Meetings were held to discuss the possible recreational facilities to be constructed in the community. A capital improvement list was formulated. The Plan was drafted and presented to the City Council for their review.