

6.0 GOALS & POLICIES

A set of workable goals and policies are guidelines for recreation related decision-making. Consideration of recreational policies should lead the community toward the attainment of its long and short-term goals.

Specific development projects and programs should be evaluated with respect to the recreation goals and related policies as to their contribution to the system of recreation for The City of Escanaba. The proposed goals should not be considered as hard and fast rules for development of recreation facilities, but as guidelines for evaluating specific proposals.

6.1 GOALS & POLICIES

This plan will attempt to use policy as a course of action. It is the intent of this plan to promote the flexible dimension of policy as a method for coping with significant change within our City caused by internal and external factors.

The following goals and their corresponding policies should serve the City as flexible guidelines toward developmental, operational or financial strategies over the next five-year period.

Goal I: To meet the intent and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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| <u>Policy I - A</u> | Implement the modification of existing park and recreation structures and/or the construction of new park, recreation and leisure facilities to insure accessibility to all citizens regardless of ability. |
| <u>Policy I - B</u> | Continue to work toward inclusionary programming of park and recreation activities. |
| <u>Policy I - C</u> | Educate and inform private providers of recreation services who use public facilities of their responsibility to provide inclusionary opportunities for persons of all ability levels. |

Goal II: To develop or expand upon recreation and park facilities and programs with service clubs, community groups or corporate sponsors.

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| <u>Policy II - A</u> | Actively pursue the "Adopt-a-Park"/"Adopt-a-Program"/"Adopt-a-Flower Bed" concepts embracing large ongoing commitment to one-time programs. |
| <u>Policy II - B</u> | Create a "catalogue" of potential project possibilities or equipment purchases for groups or individual donors. |
| <u>Policy II - C</u> | Encourage and support community volunteer groups and solicit new groups and ventures that provide recreation services at minimal cost to supplement tax supported facilities and programs. |

Policy II - D Develop realistic staffing plans and consideration for the administration of volunteer "Adopt-a" or other contributing programs.

Goal III: To commit to the development of park and recreation facilities and programs as a means of maintaining and improving our citizen's quality of life.

Policy III - A Continued maintenance of our existing parks, recreation areas and programs through the City's General Fund as a primary means of promoting our quality of life and economic vitality.

Policy III - B Develop and/or maintain certain specialized facilities that meet our unique needs; i.e., indoor winter facilities, outdoor winter facilities.

Policy III - C Continued maintenance and improvements within the City/regional park, Ludington Park, that meets a broad range of citizen interests and preferences.

Policy III - D Reaffirm the City's user fee policy as a means of addressing most adult and specialized facilities and programs which can provide alternative and supplemental format of financing operational, and in some cases, capital costs.

Policy III - E Prudent use of "user fees" as a means to supplement General Fund support and exercise care to not exclude segments of the population that may be financially incapable of sponsoring fees and charges for basic facilities and programs.

Goal IV: To promote our park and recreation facilities as a means of attracting tourists and visitors to our City.

Policy IV - A Continue to provide support for local events/festivals that will attract local citizen participation and visitor interest.

Policy IV - B Continue to support the maintenance and development of Ludington Park for its tourism value as well as for its own local citizens.

Policy IV - C Continue to support the U.P. State Fair, U.P. Steam and Gas Engine complex and other like facilities as a means to attract the tourist to local facilities and events.

Policy IV - D Continue to support the development of the Escanaba Marina as a transient boater destination

Policy IV - E Support local historical attractions; i.e., lighthouse, museum, malls, etc., as a means to encourage tourism in our City.

Goal V: To promote cooperation with other local government jurisdictions.

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| <u>Policy V - A</u> | Avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities and services by working closely with school districts, the community college, townships and other cities. |
| <u>Policy V - B</u> | Make every attempt to regionalize activities/facilities that have a broad range of interest. |
| <u>Policy V - C</u> | Encourage the continued development of the regional bike path/bike route system. |
| <u>Policy V - D</u> | Develop use policies consistent with other governmental units to encourage citizen use of recreation and park facilities across jurisdictional boundaries. |

6.2 RECREATION GUIDELINES

To determine what type of recreation facilities should be developed for the size and quantity of open space in a given community, it is necessary to follow guidelines or standards for parks, open space, recreation areas or recreation facility development. Standards, however, are not specifically applicable to a given community and are only intended to serve as a guide as each community's needs slightly differ. Therefore, the needs and deficiencies identified through the application of standards will be tempered, modified or added based upon the views and opinions of citizens, the Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board, Escanaba Recreation Department staff and the City Council.

The standards and facility development guidelines identified in this section are taken from:

Community Recreation Planning, 1989, Phillip Wells, Planning Program Manager, MDNR Parks and Recreation Division, Page 15 - 19

Source material for the MDNR Community Recreation Planning, recreation and facility development standards are:

Roger A. Lancaster, Ed. 1983, Recreation and Park Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Alexandria, Virginia: NRPA Page 56 - 57 and Page 60-61; and MDNR 1986, Building Michigan's Recreation Future, Appendix B, Pages 100 - 101.

Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Open Space

This classification system is intended to serve as a guide to planning - not as an absolute blueprint. Sometimes more than one component may occur within the same site (but not on the same parcel of land), particularly with respect to the special uses within a regional park. Planners of park and recreation systems should be careful to provide adequate land for each functional component when this occurs.

NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a "core" system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 residents. The size and amount of "adjunct" parklands will vary from community to community, but must be

taken into account when considering a total, well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas.



TABLE # 13A
 CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
 LOCAL/CLOSE-TO-HOME SPACE:

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>SERVICE AREA</u>	<u>DESIRABLE SIZE</u>	<u>ACRES/1,000 POPULATION</u>	<u>DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS</u>
Mini Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to .5	Within neighborhood and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouses development or housing for the elderly.
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ - ½ mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population - geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school/park facility.
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0	May include natural features, such as water bodies and area suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

TOTAL CLOSE-TO-HOME SPACE = 6.25 - 10.5 A/1,000

TABLE #13B
CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
REGIONAL SPACE

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>SERVICE AREA</u>	<u>DESIRABLE SIZE</u>	<u>ACRES/1,000 POPULATION</u>	<u>DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS</u>
Regional/ Metropolitan Park	Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail uses; may include play areas	Several communities 1 hour driving time.	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0	Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.
Regional Reserve Park	Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management with less than 20% used for recreation development.	Several communities 1 hours driving time.	1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed.	Variable	Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna topography.

TOTAL REGIONAL SPACE = 15 - 20 A/1,000

6.3 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STANDARDS

The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) identified specific standards that would insure that persons with disabilities have the same opportunities to fully participate, live independently and be economically self-sufficient within society. The Act consists of five sections: Employment, Public Accommodations, Transportation, State and Local Government Operations, and Telecommunications.

Title II of the ADA, Public Accommodations, is relevant to the level of accessibility and equal provisions of service at publicly owned outdoor recreation sites. This title states that discrimination against persons with disabilities is prohibited in all services, programs, or activities provided by public entities. The general requirements set forth under this section came into effect on January 26, 1992. Remodeling or new construction of facilities and buildings had the same deadline date to become accessible to the disabled. In existing buildings and facilities, nonstructural changes to improve accessibility were required by January 26, 1992, while all structural improvements of the facilities and buildings were required by January 26, 1995.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires that "reasonable accommodation" be made to the needs of the estimated one in five people in this country who are disabled. That is, all public and private goods and service providers and employers must remove all structural and communication barriers from facilities, or provide alternative access where feasible.

Currently, there are no written standards on making outdoor recreation facilities totally 100% accessible to the disabled. Many suggestions on outdoor recreation facilities accessibility have been made; therefore, recommendations regarding outdoor play equipment, picnic facilities, boat docks, pathways, and trails, have been incorporated into this plan.

Recommendations regarding buildings, restrooms, slopes of ramps, and parking stalls should be seriously considered. These types of facilities all have current standards set by the Americans Disabilities Act of 1990.

ADA Standards: The recreational sites in Escanaba, like many communities, are not completely accessible according to the ADA standards. Restrooms, pathways, parking, and general accessibility of all amenities must be examined closely over the next few years to assure that all people are given the same opportunities within the community.

Where more than one **restroom facility** exists, at least one must be accessible by persons with disabilities. In some cases, this would require minimal remodeling; in others, it could require substantial modification.

At least one **picnic table** and one **grill** designed to accommodate persons in wheelchairs should be available at each park (if these types of facilities are not currently available). These facilities should be identified with a sign showing the universal symbol of accessibility.

At least one in 25 **parking stalls** should be designated for disabled parking. These stalls must be the closest spaces to the park or facility entrance, have a direct route to and from the stalls, and must have a marked adjacent access aisle of 60 inches and an unobstructed

vertical sign that shows the universal symbol of accessibility. Slope of these spaces and aisles cannot exceed 1:50.

Stable, barrier-free **pathways** which provide linkages from one recreation amenity to another will be needed at most of the City's outdoor recreation facilities. They must be at least 36 inches wide, and a 60 x 60 inch passing space or turnaround must be provided every 200 feet. If a pathway level changes more than ½ inch, the pathway must be ramped. If the level change is between ½ inch and 1/4 inch, the levels must be beveled.

Where **water fountains** are available, spouts should be no more than 36 inches above the finished floor. If the fountain is freestanding or built-in and does not have a clear space underneath, a clear floor space of 30 to 48 inches alongside the fountain for a parallel approach must be provided. Wall or post-mounted fountains must have a clear knee space under the fountain of at least 27 inches high by 17 to 19 inches deep by 30 inches wide. Controls must be located at the front edge of the fountain and operable with one hand without twisting the wrist.

A complete guideline list based on standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 for various types of facilities and recommendations established by the USDA Forest Service for improving the accessibility of recreational areas are detailed in Appendix A at the end of the plan.

A handicapped accessibility checklist is found as Appendix B.

