



Recreation Advisory Board  
**MEETING AGENDA**  
July 12, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

*Members:*

- Karen Moore, Chairperson*
- Randy Kleiman, Vice Chairperson*
- Joe Kaplan, Board Member*
- Valarie Norman, Board Member*
- Vacancy*

- Kim Peterson, Recreation Director*
- Brooks Bougie, Recreation Assistant*
- James V. O'Toole, City Manager*
- Ralph Blasier, Council Liaison*

Meeting Location: Council Chambers, Escanaba City Hall, 410 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49829  
Recreation Advisory Board

**Tuesday, July 12, 2016; 6:00 p.m.**

- CALL TO ORDER
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- ROLL CALL
- APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - Regular Meeting – June 14, 2016
- APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy.**  
**Explanation:** The Board will review prioritizing sections within the City for connecting a city-wide non-motorized pathway.
2. **Five-Year Recreation Plan.**  
**Explanation:** Administration will obtain input on updating the Five-Year Recreation Plan. General discussion will take place on projects of importance in the community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Project Updates:**
  - a. Civic Center Usage Update/Program and Activity Update.
  - b. Dog Park – Information will be reviewed on possible locations.
  - c. Various.

- MISCELLANEOUS
- GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
- ADJOURNMENT

The City of Escanaba will provide all necessary, reasonable aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon five days notice to the City of Escanaba. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Escanaba by writing or calling at (906) 786-9402.

Respectfully Submitted

Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

**ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 14, 2016**

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center.

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Karen Moore, Boardmembers Joe Kaplan and Valarie Norman and City Council Liaison Ralph Blasier

**BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT:** Vice Chairperson Randy Kleiman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Peterson, Recreation Director  
Brooks Bougie, Recreation Office Assistant  
Anne Milne, CUPPAD, Community Planner

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2016**

A motion was made by Boardmember Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Norman, to approve the meeting minutes of May 10, 2016. Motion was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the plan is continuing along with another steering committee meeting to be held next week. There is a training wheels session on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, that MDOT is conducting with approximately twenty key stakeholders in the community and surrounding areas. This education course is for the planning and design of on-road bicycle paths. The group will analyze the types of on-road paths presently available and what is needed. This session will allow a hands-on look at the bike path system throughout the City by way of a biking tour.

Anne Milne stated letters have been sent to each township with an inventory of trails they currently have and this will allow them to comment on such. CUPPAD is focusing on planning public participation input sessions. There is currently a survey on line that has not been publicized yet, but CUPPAD is still trying to obtain information. The plan will be completed by December 2016.

### **Five-Year Recreation Plan**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the process of updating the Five-Year Recreation Plan has started with CUPPAD.

Anne Milne stated they are currently working on updating the Five-Year Recreation Plan and hope to have a rough draft to the Board in September. Public participation will be sought and various ways of obtaining information will be done.

Items that were discussed by the Board that they would like to see incorporated in the updated Five-Year Recreation Plan area as follows:

- Disc golf at the ski hill area
- Bocce ball within Ludington Park
- Skate park
- Dog park
- Tree replacement (ash trees)
- Identifying property boundaries which are owned by the City
- Move ski hill access to behind the Great Lakes Sports Club on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- Development of Veteran's Park
- Migratory bird enhancement
- Reassess the ski trails on the west side ski park off of North 30<sup>th</sup> Street
- Define borders on North 30<sup>th</sup> Street to include a property inventory of ground cover

The Board discussed having more opportunities for teens to do within the community. Possibly reaching out to the vet's office and Delta County Animal Shelter on a survey for a dog park. Discussed storm water management and green infrastructure with a progressing tree planting strategy.

Recreation Director Peterson will reach out to Iron Mountain on their bocce ball courts to find out where the balls are stored or if they rent them out.

### **Letter of Support**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the Recreation Advisory Board sent a letter of support on the Park and Play Structure as part of two DNR grants that were applied for on a consensus of the board as there was not a quorum and the grant paperwork needed to be submitted before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Valarie Norman, seconded by Karen Moore, to approve a letter of support that was submitted on behalf of the Recreation Advisory Board on the Park and Play Structure.

**Ayes: Boardmember Norman and Chairperson Moore**

**Nays: Boardmember Kaplan**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Project Updates**

#### **A) Civic Center Usage/Program and Activity Update.**

The Civic Center Usage Report will be e-mailed out to boardmembers and is located on the City's website. Average daily usage was 98 for May 2016. Pickleball is becoming extremely popular with more people joining and taking an interest in playing which is held at the Civic Center in the gym.

#### **B) Summer Programs**

Summer programs are starting with the soccer program for 6/7 year olds starting on Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Tennis was cancelled as only two people signed up – this will be evaluated next year. It is hoped to open the beach up within the next week based on weather. The Webster Wading Pool needs to be painted and will be open within a couple of weeks.

#### **C) Dog Park**

Recreation Director Peterson urged boardmembers to tour the water department area in front of the facility for the possibility of a dog park location. There would be restrooms available at the marina nearby and a water source would be in the area as well. Fencing, benches, garbage receptacles and dog bag dispenser would be needed.

#### **D) Various**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the ski hill area is being patrolled for motorized vehicles and illegal dumping. A joint effort is taking place with the DNR, Escanaba Public Safety and the Sheriff's Department for patrols. Brick barricades have been placed on North 48<sup>th</sup> Street and behind the ski hill area to prevent motorized vehicles and illegal dumping and seems to be working to

date. This will continue to be monitored and the bricks behind the ski hill area will be moved for snowmobilers when the season comes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**MISCELLANEOUS**

None

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Boardmember Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Norman, to adjourn the meeting with the time being 7:05 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson  
Recreation Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Moore, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Excerpt from the Escanaba Planning Commission Recommended Capital Improvement Plan FY2015-2020:**

**City of Escanaba Non-Motorized Pathway Design**

**Description:** As part of the City of Escanaba Non-Motorized Pathway System Master Plan, a 10' wide pathway system will be engineered to include project costs for the following areas:

- 1) Willow Creek Road between 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to <sup>3<sup>rd</sup> AN</sup> ~~Ludington Street~~ 5200'
- 2) Municipal Dock to North 4<sup>th</sup> Street 1400'
- 3) North 10<sup>th</sup> Street from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North 1400'
- 4) 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North from North 10<sup>th</sup> Street to Stephenson Avenue 2700'
- 5) Stephenson Avenue to Sheridan Road 2600' 3<sup>rd</sup> AN to 8<sup>th</sup> AN
- 6) Sheridan Road to City limit 7200'
- 7) North 26<sup>th</sup> Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to North 26<sup>th</sup> Street to Danforth Road 1500'
- 8) 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South from South Lincoln Road to Ludington Park 6200'
- 9) Lake Shore Drive from Ludington Park to M35 11,000'

## List of possibilities to include in the Five-Year Recreation Plan

Disc Golf Course - Ski Hill

Bocce Ball – Ludington Park

Skate Park

Dog Park – Near Water Department

City-Owned Property - Tree Replacement (ash)

City-Owned Property - Identify property boundaries

West Side Ski Park - Move ski area access from North 30<sup>th</sup> Street to behind the Sports Club off 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue North

West Side Ski Park - Reassess ski trails

West Side Ski Park - Define borders on North 30<sup>th</sup> Street – property inventory (wetlands, uplands, etc.), secure area of unwanted activities, promote growth and wildlife

Vet's Park Development

Migratory Bird Enhancement



Bocce court

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# Court Dimensions

While regulation Bocce courts are 91 feet by 13 feet, the dimensions of home courts can be whatever size fits into your backyard. Variations are acceptable provided foul lines for throwing, mid court lines for first throw of the pallina, and inbound markers are clearly established.

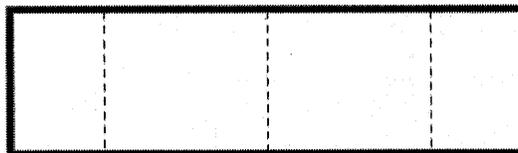
The court surface may be composed of stone dust, dirt, clay, grass or artificial surface provided there are no permanent or temporary obstructions in the court that would interfere with the straight line delivery of a ball from any direction. These obstructions do not include variations in grade or consistency of terrain.

A court with side and backboards can permit more strategic play by allowing for shots that can be banked or rebounded off of the walls. The side and backboards of the court may be composed of any material provided they would not move during play and be at least as high as the Bocce balls.

Backyard Bocce portable courts can be set up on clay, dirt, sand, or grass, with grass being the ideal surface. All our courts are based on the following dimensions:

- Length-60 feet
- Width-12 feet
- Foul line for throwing-10 feet from end line
- Center court line-30 feet from end line

*13x91' regulation size*



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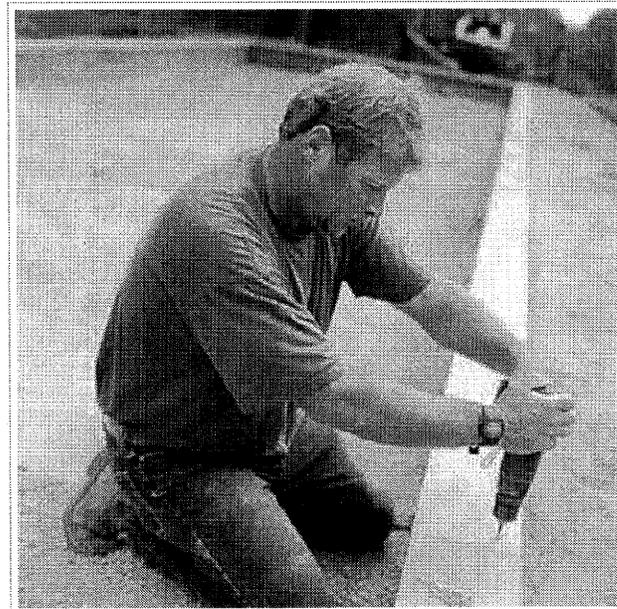
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## A Backyard Built for Playing Games

Turn a ho-hum lawn into a hub of activity with a sport court for horseshoes, croquet, or bocce. *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook shows you how

BY SAL VAGLICA, THIS OLD HOUSE MAGAZINE



Photograph: Keller and Keller

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### Building the Bocce Court

1. Roger excavated the 16.5-by-61-foot area for the bocce court 26 inches below grade, then dug 6-inch trenches around the perimeter and filled them with 2 inches of gravel.
2. He set the first course of 8-foot-long 6x6 timbers in the trenches on top of the gravel, butting the wood end-to-end along the walls and end-to-side at the corners. Once the timbers were set, he drilled through them every 2 feet and drove 18-inch rebar through the timbers and a foot into the ground.
3. For the next four courses of timbers, Roger staggered the joints along the walls by 4 feet so they didn't line up with the course below. He also alternated the timbers at the corners to make lapped joints. He drove timber screws through each new course and into the one below—two at each corner and every 18 inches along the sides—to tie them together. He capped the timbers with 2x12 cedar rails.

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Turn a ho-hum lawn into a hub of activity with a sport court for horseshoes, croquet, or bocce. *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook shows you how

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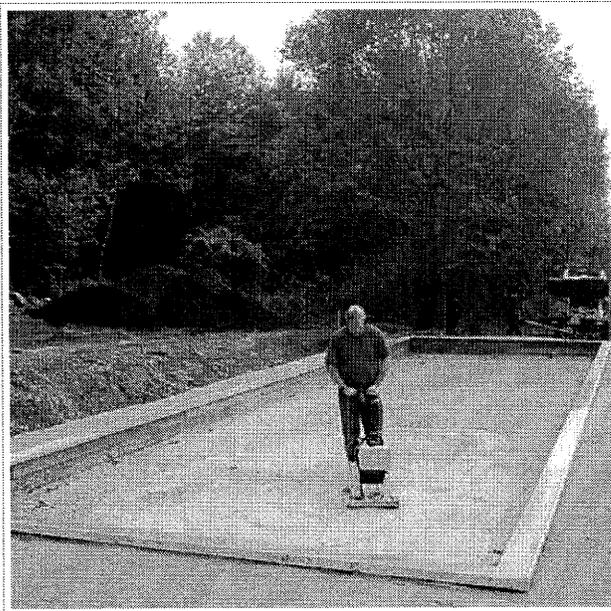
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Photograph: Keller and Keller

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### Building the Bocce Court

4. To prep for the court surface, Roger laid a 6-inch-thick base of compacted gravel inside the timber walls. Then he wrapped a 4-inch perforated flexible pipe in filter fabric and laid it along the inside edge of the entire court. He capped one end and routed the other end through a hole in a timber he'd cut before he built the wall, so the pipe can drain rainwater away from the court surface. Once the pipe was set, he put down another 6-inch layer of compacted pack, a mix of gravel and stone dust.

5. He lined the exposed inner face of the walls with 1x12 composite decking screwed to the timbers.

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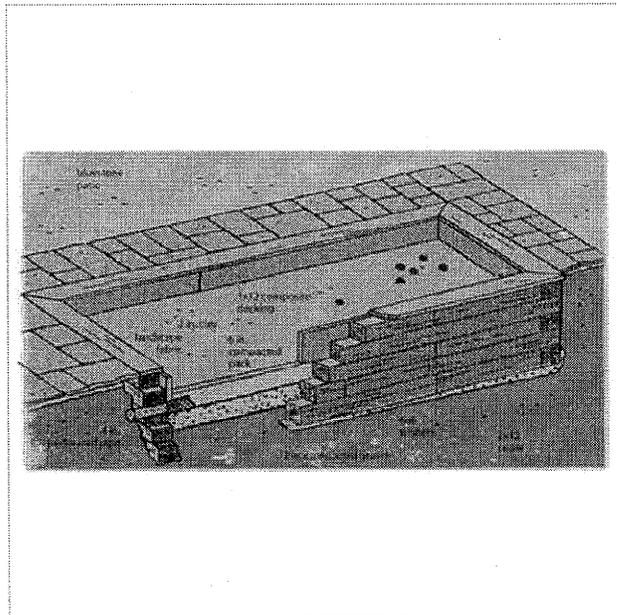


Illustration: Carl Wiens

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### Building the Bocce Court

6. To lay the clay surface, Roger set down metal poles that span the width of the court every 6 to 8 feet. Then he filled between the poles with 2 inches of clay, screeding off the excess by pulling a straightedge across two poles at a time. Once the entire surface was laid, screeded, and level, Roger took up the poles and filled in the voids. Using a water roller, he gently compacted the clay, working across the width of the court, then down the length twice to leave a smooth, even surface.

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**Zimbra****kpeterson@escanaba.org**

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**Skate Park**

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**From :** Kim Eliassen <keliassen@mqtcty.org>

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 11:24 AM

**Subject :** Skate Park**To :** kpeterson@escanaba.org

Hello Kim:

I have spoke with our department head. The Skatepark Plaza was a project that was handled through the Marquette Community Foundation due to it being a fund raising project. The director, Gail Anthony should be able to give you \$ amounts, etc. Her contact information is: [ganthony@marquettecommunityfoundation.org](mailto:ganthony@marquettecommunityfoundation.org) 906-226-7666. I hope you can gather all the info you are looking for. :))

If I can do anything more to help, please contact me.

Have a fab day!

Kim

--

Kim R. Eliassen  
Community Services Administrative Assistant  
City of Marquette  
Community Services  
401 E. Fair Avenue  
Marquette, MI 49855  
[keliassen@mqtcty.org](mailto:keliassen@mqtcty.org)  
906/228-0460  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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# Marquette Skatepark

Making Marquette even more awesome with an enhanced skatepark downtown for the whole community!



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Marquette+Skatepark!&url=https://www.patronicity.com/project/marquette\_skatepark) (mailto:friend@email.com?subject=I just backed Marquette Skatepark on Patronicity, join me in helping to make it happen!&body=I just supported Marquette Skatepark, an awesome project on Patronicity. It's a crowdfunding campaign, so they need lots of small contributions from donors, or 'Patrons' like you and me to make it happen. %0D%0A%0D%0AYou can read more about how this works at <https://www.patronicity.com/how-it-works%0D%0A%0D%0A>Please visit the project here, read more about it, choose a giving level and share with others as well!

[https://www.patronicity.com/project/marquette\\_skatepark](https://www.patronicity.com/project/marquette_skatepark)



# Marquette Skate Plaza Patronicity Campaign



📍 Marquette, MI 📍 Other

# \$12,470

funded of \$10,000 goal

# 86

patrons

Project Closed

Success!

All donations are tax-deductible!

The Marquette County Community Foundation is a registered 501c3, Tax ID 38-3040125.

This project was successfully funded on Sep 28, 2014 4:00 AM



The Michigan Economic Development Corporation will contribute \$10,000 if we meet our goal!

## Marquette - A Community for All!

A community that listens to and addresses the needs of its youth and provides healthy activities to challenge the mind, body and soul is a community where families choose to live!



Marquette is one such community where families come to raise healthy, happy children and participate in a generous array of enrichment opportunities within a beautiful natural setting. We are a unique city that seeks to foster and nurture the empowerment of its citizens to work together to cause and realize change. Marquette citizens work tirelessly in making community improvements and solving community problems, together.

## Marquette Skatepark - A Community Effort

Eight years ago citizens of Marquette listened to a group of their young people. Those young people cried for help after being chased off the city's streets and staircases where they were ticketed for skate boarding. They had nowhere to go.

In response, the group of citizens listened and rose to the need. They asked the kids what they wanted and **the youth themselves** designed a skate plaza which included all the urban elements they were being chased from.

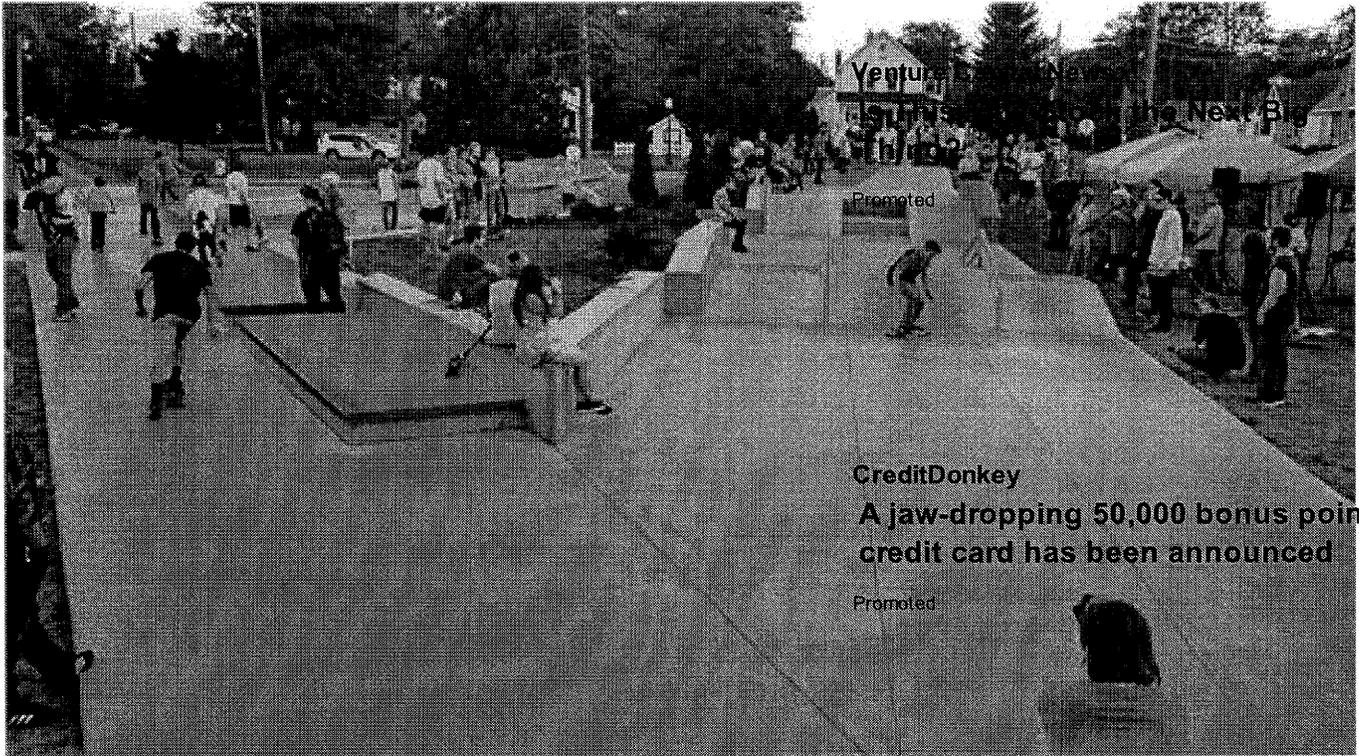
After eight long years of hard work these citizens made a dream come true. They raised over \$200,000 from individuals, corporations, foundations and the city to build a state-of-art skate plaza for their youth. HUNDREDS of volunteers came out to help. The Marquette Area Skate Plaza has become a place not only for skateboarders but is welcoming to everyone in the community!



Marquette Area Skate Plaza welcomes participants of all ages. Marquette is a community that supports its youth and realize by doing so improves the city for everyone. GREAT communities have skate parks!!! Great communities rise to the needs of their youth.

## From Around The Web

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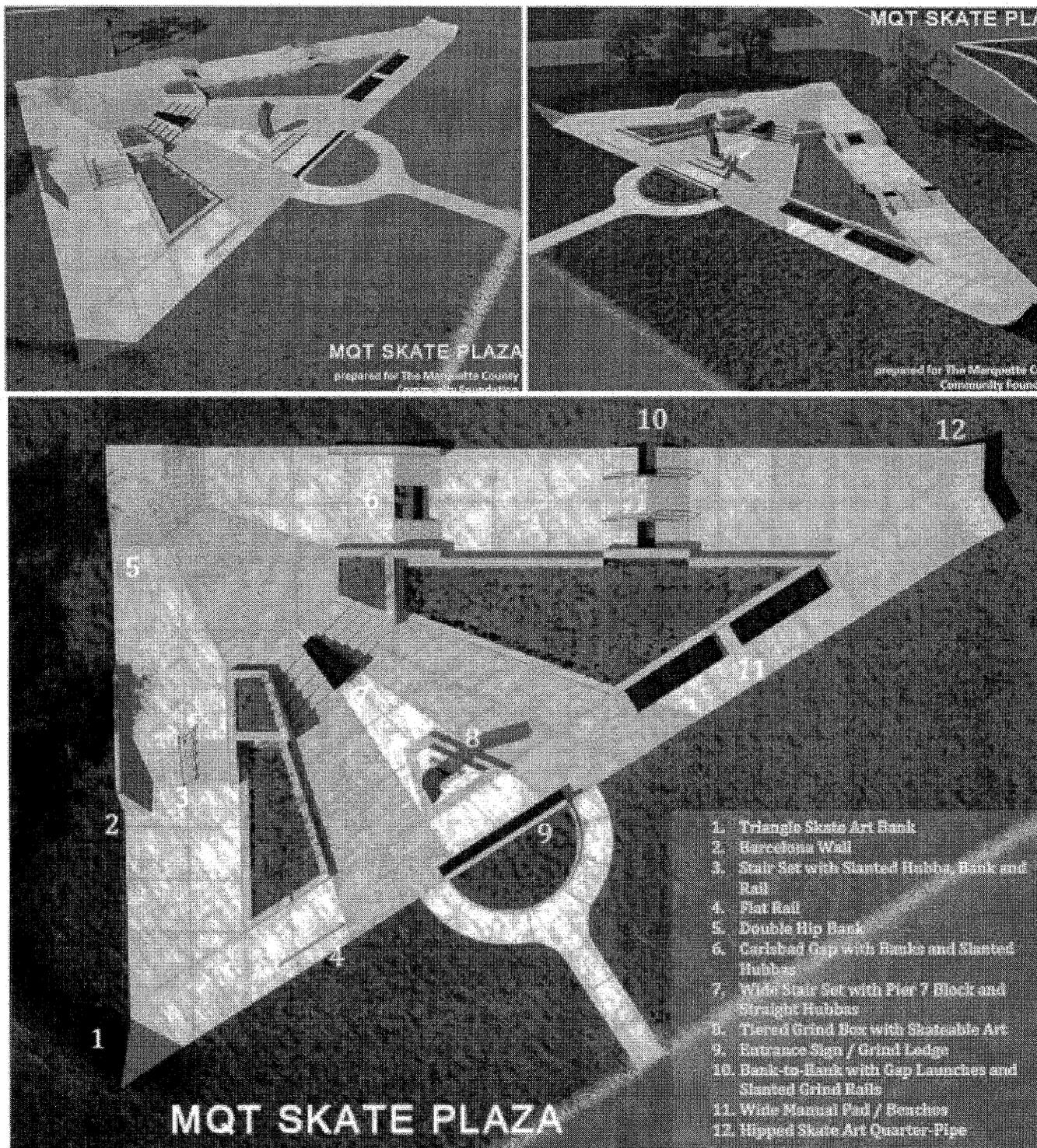


# Striving for AWESOME!

Beverly Hills MD

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Although the Marquette skate plaza has been built and is busy each day IT IS FAR FROM DONE, and it's still a step away from AWESOME. There are more dreams to fulfill for the boarders and for the entire community, please join us!

Here's what we're looking at:

- **Landscaping** - Secure the landscaping around the features that need extra foundation to assure the elements won't continue to erode. Our Upper Peninsula climate can be harsh and our first winter was long and tough.
- **Benches** - Add unique benches so boarders can rest, and so the community can come out to enjoy the amazing boarding going on.

- **Skate-able Art** - Add kid-skater-designed super unique and cool skate-able art; a feature(s) that is unique to us, will challenge our boarders and add to the visual appeal of the Skate Plaza. We'd like to work with Northern Michigan University art and design department to make this happen.
- **Community Recognition** - Add embedded recognition signage in unique and visually appealing ways.

# Join Us in Making Marquette Even More Awesome!

We want people to drive by this plaza and comment --- WOW, that's AWESOME! Let's reach AWESOME! It's up to us to make that happen. Please join our quest.

project by:



**Nheena Ittner (/users/view/nheena\_ittner)**

·profile (/users/view/nheena\_ittner)·website  
(<http://www.marquettecountycommunityfoundation.org>)

## Give \$1 or more

3 claimed

### Every Bit Counts!

Every little contribution matters! Receive an awesome e-postcard thanking you for your support

## Give \$50 or more

33 claimed

### Wall of Fame!

Get your name (or of a loved one) added to our "Wall of Fame" within the plaza that we will be adding.

**Give \$100 or more**

8 claimed

**Wall of Fame + Video Thank You**

In addition to having your name added to the Wall of Fame, we will send you a personalized video from the skate park thanking you for your support. Want tickets to the children's museum? We will throw those in too!

**Give \$200 or more**

1 claimed

**Wall of Fame + Lessons**

In addition to the Wall of Fame and personal video thank you, receive a free skateboarding lesson! We'll provide everything, just bring a smile!

**Give \$1000 or more**

1 of 6 claimed

**Bench Plaque**

Have your name (or loved one, or business!) prominently displayed on one of the 6 unique benches being added to the park!

**Give \$2500 or more**

0 of 3 claimed

**Skate-able Art**

Have your name (or loved one, or business!) displayed prominently on the unique skate-able art piece to be featured in the skate park!

Give \$5000 or more

0 of 1 claimed

### Golden Skateboard

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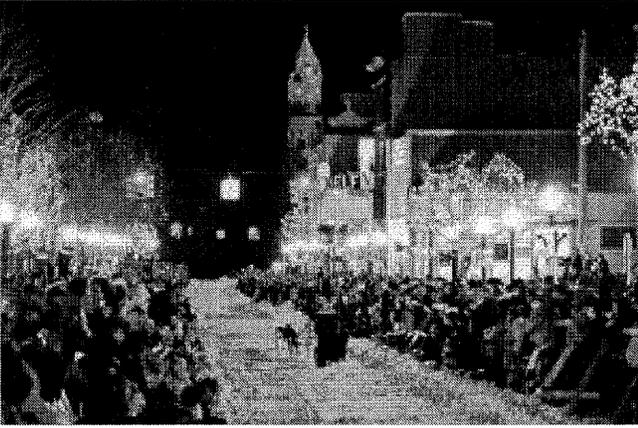


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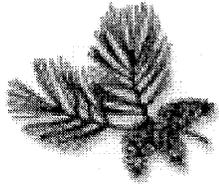
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Pure Michigan - MEDC & MSHDA



(/community/marquette\_city)

Marquette City



**Marquette County**

**community foundation**

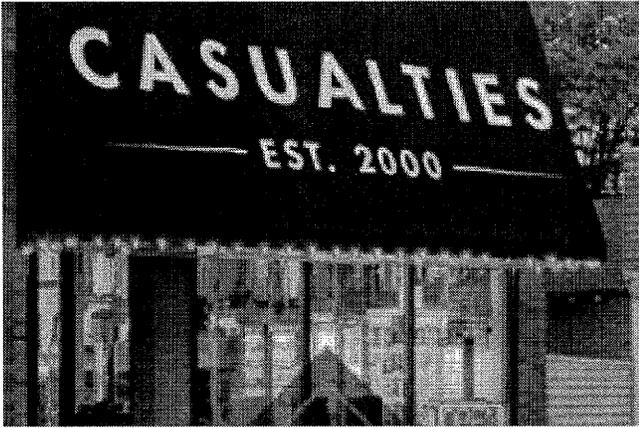
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The Marquette County Community Foundation



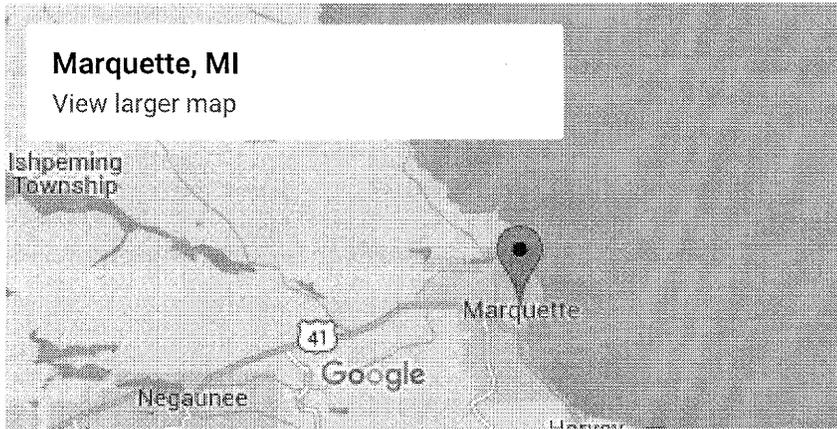
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The Upper Peninsula Children's Museum



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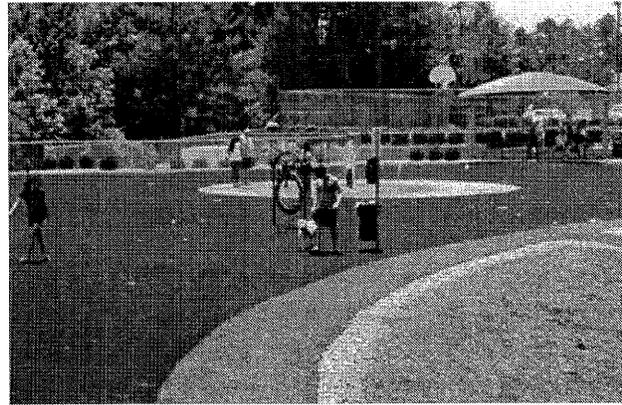
Area 1.7/6  
Perimeter 1.150 m



space required  
1/2 acre to 1 acre

## TIPS FOR BUILDING SUCCESSFUL DOG PARKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Park managers today are more frequently being asked to consider dedicating a portion of their parks to be used as off-leash areas for people and their pets. While not always without controversy, these areas often become one of the most popular areas within a park system. Good planning will help you eliminate or reduce many of the problems associated with creating dog parks.



Here are the 20 most common considerations to address as your community moves towards opening a very successful dog park:

**Big Benefits to the Community** – Dog parks are truly a multigenerational park activity for all ages. Despite what opponents say, dog parks are more for people than for dogs, because they attract the adult users who vote to support parks and who are more vocal in the community. Relatively low construction costs and low maintenance costs also yield the greatest amount of recreation opportunities for the investment, and there is a low (if any) user cost. Dog parks also provide outdoor exercise for the majority of park users who do not otherwise participate in organized sports.

**Community Support** – Informal groups, petitions, and 501C-3 non-profit groups promoting dog parks in your community can generate interest and successfully work within the system to create and support local dog parks. However, overzealous or disorganized groups can quickly sink a well engineered plan. Groups must learn to work *with* local agencies, instead of always trying to fight them, in order to be successful. Donations of labor and materials or funding from local businesses generate goodwill and can help get the rest of the community on board with the idea.

**Volunteer Groups** – Volunteers can be a tremendous asset to the dog park to help stretch already strained maintenance budgets. Volunteers can coordinate projects such as raking leaves, spreading surfacing material, installing or repairing fencing, installing agility and exercise equipment, brush clearing and more. Advance sign-ups are critical so that volunteers commit to specific times and show up when expected. Volunteer groups are also often responsible for monitoring the area for trash and dog waste, and replacing pickup bags in the dispensers.

**Know the Users** – Selling the concept to a reluctant community can be challenging; however, your dog park will serve a wide variety of residents. There are nearly 73 million dogs in the US, and 59% of the households have at least one dog. Most park facilities are currently geared towards a narrow range of users such as ages 2 to 12 for playgrounds, or ages 12 to 35 for most ball fields. Dog parks are one of the few multi-generational park activities that offer recreation for almost every age and ability level.

**Choosing a Location** – As in real estate, a good location is a key to success. While neighbors' concerns are sometimes over-exaggerated, they still need to be considered. They may be concerned about barking, loose dogs, smells and inadequate parking, but all of these issues can be resolved. Once established, a dog park becomes a huge recreational asset to the local families as well as the entire community, sometimes even increasing property values. Be sure to avoid locating dog parks adjacent to schools or playgrounds to reduce potential conflicts with children.

**Allow Adequate Space** – The popularity of most dog parks may require a minimum area of half an acre or more, although many smaller urban dog parks are also very successful. Overgrown, neglected and unmanaged areas can become great dog parks; consider re-purposing existing ball fields, lawn bowling or tennis courts, or equestrian arenas, even if doing so is just temporary or seasonal. Inadequate parking can be a big problem especially on weekends, so overflow parking spaces should be considered even if they are unpaved.

**Overcoming Legalities** – Some communities today still have archaic ordinances forbidding pets to be off-leash in *any* public areas. This means the city government may first need to amend local laws to allow your dog park to exist. Instead of attempting to amend your community's entire dog ordinance, consider requesting a special use exemption. A temporary "special use" authorization may help to at least get your park established, and often those temporary locations end up becoming a permanent fixture in the community.

**Professional Design Assistance** – Consider using the talents of an experienced Dog Park Consultant (like us!) or Landscape Architecture firm. They know how to best utilize a space and will factor in weather, access, utilities, drainage, vegetation, visibility and parking. They are also very experienced at presenting plans to the community and public officials, and can act as an important third-party advocate for the park.

**Fencing** – Good fences make good dog parks. Fences should be five feet or higher and be absolutely escape-proof; bury several inches of the fence beneath the surface to help prevent dogs from digging their way out. Self-closing double gates with a 10' transition space are a must to reduce the possibility of dogs escaping unexpectedly. Help prevent aggression and fighting by using closely spaced fence slats between adjacent dog park sections to reduce visibility, and also try to avoid using 90-degree corners which can help prevent more aggressive dogs from trapping unwilling victim dogs. Don't forget to include a maintenance entrance for large equipment like mowers, and consider planning multiple entries into the park to help reduce worn areas. Typical installed costs are about \$25-\$30/linear foot for heavy duty chain link fencing, 6' high, with gates and accessories.

**Water** – Drinking fountains are absolutely essential in any dog park for the health of both dogs and people after exercising. Without drinking fountains, users may be forced to bring buckets of standing water which can be unsanitary; they can spread disease to other dogs or can create mosquito havens. Consider water-spray features or dog wash stations, but ensure you have provided proper drainage as mud quickly becomes a huge problem in dog parks. Irrigation systems can help maintain turf grass in any climate, and reduce smells from urine especially in arid climates. Consider installing two adjacent drains to prevent flooding if one drain happens to become clogged.

**Exercise Equipment** – Without exercise equipment for dogs, your off-leash area is much like a park without a children's playground. Exercise components are for *people* to use in a non-competitive environment with their dogs! Choose components that offer a variety of activities like ramps, tunnels, jumps and weave poles to accommodate the many different skill levels of both the dogs and their owners. Equipment can be in its own area, or be an integral part of the main play area. Arrange components 15-25' apart from each other and arrange them in an evenly spaced, but random fashion which allows users to create a different course each time they visit the park. These activities make your dog park more of a destination and will increase the time users stay at the park and how often they visit.

Because dog urine is highly corrosive, components need to be manufactured with rustproof materials like aluminum, HDPE plastic and stainless steel. All hardware should be stainless steel, and avoid any products made from brittle PVC pipe, steel (which rusts) or lumber. Public parks are also vandalism prone, so choose heavy duty materials that have been created specifically for public dog parks. Unsupervised children sometimes play on dog park equipment, even though it's not intended for their use, so it needs to be extremely durable and safe. For the safety of dogs and park users, immediately remove any unauthorized equipment; injuries caused by unauthorized (but condoned) equipment can quickly lead to expensive lawsuits.

**Park Furniture** – Dog parks help build strong community and social ties. To encourage conversation with other dog owners, consider arranging your benches in an L or U shape. Locate benches away from congested entrance areas to better distribute use throughout the park. Tables with a single center post will help prevent the corrosive effects of dog urine, and make sure your furnishings have rust-proof aluminum frames. Recycled plastic furniture is also a popular choice for dog parks as it highly durable and won't rust or rot over time.

**Accessibility for All** – Off-leash areas should have wide gates and accessible surfacing materials to allow wheelchair and stroller access. Besides paved surfaces, other materials such as rubber matting, turf and certified engineered wood fiber are considered to be ADA accessible and will help to make your dog park a place everyone can enjoy regardless of ability.

**User Control** – Since many communities restrict use to only their residents or to those with passes, some form of an easy-to-monitor control system should be used. Dog tags, parking passes, card swipes, electronic pay stations and radio frequency ID (RFID) tags have all been successful to help monitor park users. In some cases when residents are required to purchase a dog-park pass, the fees should only be used for dog-park maintenance and improvements, instead of going into the city's general funds.

**Sanitation** – Pickup stations and receptacles are absolutely critical for a clean facility. Make sure the bags you offer are oxo-biodegradable and are designed to break down in landfills. Receptacles can be located on the outside of the fences to make trash pickup easier for maintenance staff, and using several small receptacles will make unloading easier than large ones. Consider using signage and/or color coding your receptacles for specific uses like “Trash Only” or “Dog Waste Only.”

**Lighting** – Timed lighting helps to extend the hours of use, but consider using the services of a sports lighting design specialist to avoid spill lighting into the neighborhood. Solar lighting has become very popular in dog parks and is an efficient and affordable solution.

**Restroom Facilities** – While dogs are not too particular about where they go, their owners will expect some sort of facility, even if it is just a portable toilet. This becomes critical at larger destination parks. Video cameras on the building (even fake ones, or just signs that say video cameras are being used) can greatly help to reduce vandalism in your park.

**Surfacing** – While grass is ideal, it will become worn out by enthusiastic canines. Consider reinforcing high-use areas with crushed rock, decomposed granite, artificial turf, rubberized grid or a certified engineered wood fiber. Wood fiber interlocks to stay in place far better than ordinary chips and helps to eliminate the mud problems that can often close a park. The grass adjacent to the fence line is especially susceptible to damage, so consider creating a gravel perimeter track and only maintaining the grass in the middle of the park.

**Shade** – Shade shelters or gazebos are highly recommended to help shield park users from rain, UV rays and hot sun, even in northern climates. Fabric shade shelters are quite inexpensive and may not even require a building permit. However, the fabric roof needs to be removed seasonally in locations where snow is likely. Larger hard-roofed park shelters are a more permanent solution and can become an important gathering and social location in your park.

**Signage** – Good signage can be an effective user-education tool, while bad signage will be completely ignored. Signs should have friendly and colorful graphics, and the text should take a positive tone instead of a long list of “Don’ts.” Keep the rules brief and provide a phone number to contact parks staff in case there is a maintenance issue or other problem at the park. Materials like fiberglass and lexan are easily cleaned of spray paint or markers, since any flat surface can become a graffiti target. Fast removal sends a signal to vandals that graffiti is not tolerated and shows park users that you care.

These tips will help make your dog park more successful, from concept through the grand opening. If you have any additional suggestions on how to create better dog parks, please send your tips to us at [sales@dog-on-it-parks.com](mailto:sales@dog-on-it-parks.com).

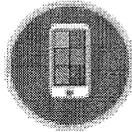
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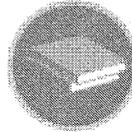
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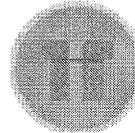
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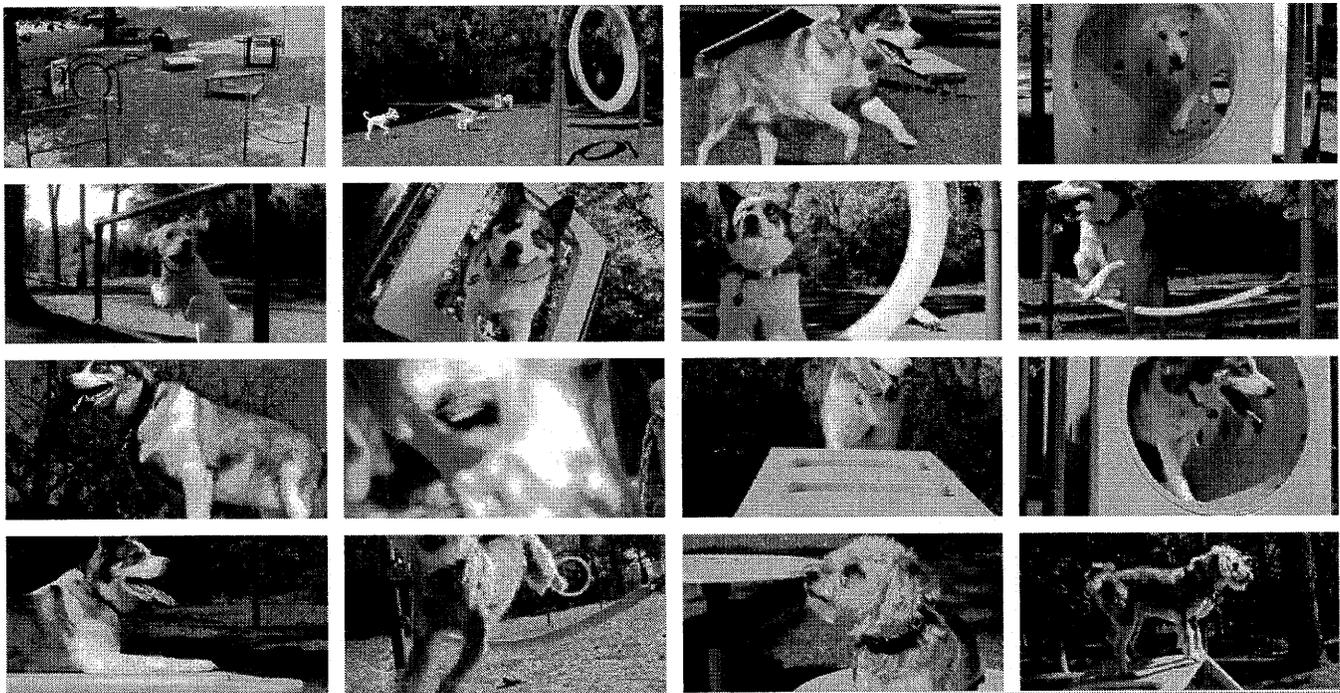


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# DOG PARKS



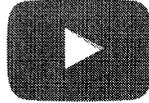
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# DESIGNING A DOG PARK

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For most people, pet dogs become a part of their family. Dog owners greatly appreciate the leash-free areas where their loved pets can spend some time in natural surroundings. The philanthropic movements of animal lovers have significantly contributed to the growing demand of dog parks as a popular destination of social gathering and community participation. The dog parks have never been so popular and more and more people are putting pressure on the apartment builders, pet care / boarding facilitators and municipal bodies to develop dog parks as part of their neighborhood amenities. Unfortunately, these facilitators are burdened with the responsibility of creating a dog park without understanding the basic facets of designing the dog parks.



## **WHY YOU SHOULD DESIGN A DOG PARK WHEN THE PUBLIC PARKS ARE AVAILABLE?**

The public parks have been designed to serve as the playground for small children and provide the opportunity to spend some time in the natural surroundings. Some of these parks support special sporting activities like ball fields, tennis courts and exercise equipment to cater the needs of the young generation in the specific age groups. The public parks are not designed to handle the dogs and issues that might arise when aggressive dogs are allowed a leash-free space in the park. On the other hand, the dog parks are specifically designed to provide a confined leash-free environment for the dogs with separate sections for different types of dogs. These dog parks serve as a gathering point for dog lovers in the community and provide the most enjoyable experience to people across the age-groups. In comparison to the public parks, it is more economical and rewarding to create and maintain the dog parks as they require low project cost and minimal maintenance. People from a wider span of voters visit these dog parks, and so their interest articulation has created pressure for the creation and maintenance of the dog parks.

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## **KNOW THE USERS:**

The real challenges of marketing a concept arise when you try to target people from reluctant and unresponsive communities. Fortunately, this is not the case with the concept of designing a dog park. In the United States, almost 59 percent families own at least one dog. The popularity of pet dogs in the US has significantly extended the potential market of this business concept. Against the massive population of approximately 73 million dogs in the United States, leash-free areas for the loved pets are quite limited. Most of the parks have been designed to serve as an entertaining playground for the children in the age group of 2 to 12 years. The supported activities like ball fields and other sporting events in some parks cater people in the 2-35 year age groups, hardly any park has been designed to facilitate people who wish to spend time with their pet dog. Dog parks hold the potential of catering multi-generational park activities, providing recreational avenues for people in any age groups and ability levels. In terms of construction and maintenance cost, designing a dog park is one of the most viable concepts that can deliver more recreation opportunities and user satisfaction than any other activity in the parks.

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## **CHOOSING A LOCATION FOR YOUR DOG PARK:**

Just like any other investment in real estate, the right location of a dog park is the most important factor for its success. The neighbors might raise issues regarding loose dogs, disturbance from barking, foul smells and inadequate parking space. You cannot ignore these concerns regardless of their unrealistic or exaggerated complaints. All the issues that might really affect the neighbors should be resolved. As a precaution, the dog parks should not be located near schools or playgrounds because it can raise safety issues by creating conflicts with children. Once you find the right location and resolve these issues, the community will quickly assimilate a dog park as it provides unprecedented recreational opportunities, particularly to the families who own dogs.

---

## **ALLOW ADEQUATE SPACE:**

The dog parks should ideally serve as the leash-free playground for the dogs. So, a dog park should have at least ½ acre of available space to become popular among the dog owners. Although, smaller dog parks in urban areas can be considered, larger areas should be allocated when possible. The existing areas for ball fields, hockey rinks, tennis courts, lawn bowling, and equestrian arenas can be repurposed to temporarily (seasonally) or permanently increase the available space of dog parks. In fact, many successful dog parks use this strategy to provide sufficient space for leash-free activity. However, neglected, overgrown and unmanaged areas are great for dog parks. Insufficient space is the most common problem that should be avoided while designing a dog park. Inadequate parking space is another major problem, particularly on weekends when lots of families visit the dog parks. Including unpaved overflow parking space in your design can solve this problem.

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## **ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF YOUR DOG PARK**

Some people are born with creativity and landscape designing talent, but it will be better to discuss your plans with a Landscape Architect firm or take the services of an experience Dog Park Consultant. They hold requisite experience for incorporating hassle-free access, visibility, vegetation, weather, drainage, parking, and other utilities that might influence the popularity of your dog park. The Dog Park Consultants and Landscape Architect firms specialize in presenting the development plans to the public

officials and the community and can be very instrumental in obtaining legal permission. You will definitely need third party experts to resolve the concerns of neighbors and the objections of the public officials.

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## **ADEQUATE FENCING:**

The dogs inherit the hereditary behavior of wolf packs; and therefore, installing adequate fences is very important for adequately addressing the security concerns of the neighbors. Nobody can imagine a dog park without good fences.

Your dog park should provide absolutely secured confinement by installing at least five feet or higher fences.

Make sure to bury several inches of the fences into the ground because the dogs can dig or find weak spots to escape from their confinement.

You should also install self-closing double gates, allowing a transition space of 10' between the gates. The double gates will prevent any possible escape of leash-free dogs while people enter the park.

Consider more than one entry into your dog park as it will prevent excessive worn out of the main entry point. The dogs are known for fence fighting. So, reduce the visibility between different sections of your dog park by installing closely spaced wood slants between them. Your fences should not create 90 degree corners because the aggressive dogs can use these tight corners to trap the unwilling or weaker dogs.

Make sure that your entry gates are wide enough to support comfortable entry of people on wheelchairs or strollers.

Install at least one large gate to facilitate the entry of maintenance equipment like lawn mowers, etc.

You should create smaller sections for shy dogs, but develop the main area as a longer / linear park for facilitating activities like fetch balls or sticks.

Normally, you will have to bear the expenses of \$25 – \$30 per linear foot for installing 6 feet high chain linked heavy duty fences with gates and other required accessories.

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## **WATER FOUNTAINS**

The provision of safe drinking water for people and their pet dog is very important for sustaining the popularity of your dog park. People can easily carry water bottles, but it will be very inconvenient for them to bring buckets of drinking water for their pet dogs. In case people bring water, it will be very difficult to control mosquito breeding, sanitary conditions and possibly spread disease to other dogs. Therefore, installing water drinking fountains is essential for maintaining sanitary conditions of your dog park and providing an enjoyable experience to the visitors. If you can maintain proper drainage, additional facilities like water sprays or dog wash stations can really boost the popularity of your dog park.

However, make sure to incorporate two adjacent drain points because dog hairs can clog the drain, causing flooding. If water accumulates in your park, the resulting mud may create lots of problems in your dog park. Make sure to maintain a good irrigation system in your dog park as it will be very useful in maintaining turf grass and preventing the odors from stinking urine, particularly during the summer seasons.

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## **DOG PARK AGILITY EQUIPMENT**

Can you imagine a park for kids without the playground? You cannot provide an enjoyable experience for the dog and their owners without installing exercising equipment in your dog park. You are supposed to create a non-competitive environment where people can exercise and train their dogs.

So, try to incorporate several activities like jumps, ramps, tunnels and weave poles, ensuring that these activities support different skill levels. Depending on your design, you can include this equipment as an integral part of the main play area or install them in the areas dedicated to these activities.

Make sure to separate the equipment by a distance of 15 -25' between them and install them in random orders rather than creating a circle of components. Randomly placed equipment will allow the visitors to create variations on their exercise routine and make it more interesting each time they visit your dog park.

The ability to introduce variation in training routines will increase the popularity of your park, transforming it into a perfect destination for dog training.

While selecting the components and exercising equipment, make sure to prefer rust-free materials like plastic, aluminum, galvanized or stainless steel because dog urine is very corrosive. Public parks are prone to damage from careless activities of visitors;

and therefore, stainless steel hardware and heavy-duty materials specifically designed for dog parks should be used. The equipment made from brittle PVC material may be quickly damaged, requiring replacement.

Installing quality dog park equipment is necessary for addressing safety issues. Your dog park is supposed to provide an enjoyable experience for the whole family. Unauthorized equipment can cause injury to unsupervised kids who might be playing with the equipment of your dog park. Therefore, you should immediately replace unauthorized equipment because lawsuits arising out of these condoned equipment can swipe your dream of attaining financial freedom.

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## **PARK FURNITURE- SITE AMENITIES**

Your dog park is supposed to foster community participation by serving as a meeting place for neighbors, particularly the dog owners.

The placement of furniture in your dog park should be designed to encourage conversation and social ties.

Make sure to arrange the benches in L or U shape. The dogs are known for urinating on the bench posts.

Use benches and tables with center post to minimize corrosion from dog urine.

Avoid placing the benches near entrance areas and distribute them throughout the park to prevent unnecessary congestion near the entrance of your dog park.

Don't place any bench within 6' of fences so that the dogs can run along the fence line without facing any hurdles.

You can introduce climbing areas like contours, mounds, and hills in your dog park, but these areas have to be evaluated for resulting erosion problems. However, mountains created by large boulders can provide a very interesting landscape to the dogs for playing King of the Hill.

---

## **ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL**

As already mentioned, you should design your dog park to make it accessible for all. Make sure to provide entry into the leash-free area through wide gates so that people on wheelchairs and strollers can easily access the park with their dogs. In combination with paved surfaces, other materials like rubber matting and engineered wood fibers can be used to design a disabled friendly dog park.

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## **SANITATION**

Good sanitation practices are critical to promote and sustain the popularity of your dog park.

Make sure to use proper receptacles and pickup stations to maintain a clean facility.

Avoid placing rolled bags, and dispense individual bags attached or packed inside a sachet because the kids can take the costly biodegradable rolled bags and play around the park. Place the receptacles at the right location, preferably outside the fenced areas so that maintenance staff can easily collect the trash.

It would be more convenient to use small receptacles rather than large containers, which are difficult to unload. However, don't forget to use separate receptacles for trash and dog waste and appropriately mark them with different color coding or signs.

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## **LIGHTING**

If you can install lighting system in your dog park, it will extend the service hours. However, always use the services of expert technicians to install sports lighting system and avoid lighting spill over into the neighboring areas as it may cause unwanted troubles.

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## **RESTROOM FACILITIES**

The sanitation and restroom facilities hardly matter for the dogs, but these facilities are very critical for their owners. They won't mind if you can install a portable toilet, but dog parks without restroom facilities are not going to attract people from distant places. Small neighborhood dog parks can manage without providing restroom

facilities for the dog owners, but if you want to establish your dog park as a destination park for the dogs, you have to invest in restroom facilities. In order to protect your investment from park vandalism, install video cameras on buildings, or create fake signs, indicating that the property is being monitored.

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## SURFACING

Grass provides the most natural outdoor ambience to a park, but the dogs can really wear out and damage it. Therefore, the areas prone to extensive damage should be reinforced with materials like concrete, crushed rock, decomposed granite, asphalt, artificial turf, hog fuel, tanbark, rubberized grid or engineered wood fibers that are used for surfacing the playgrounds for children.

In comparison to ordinary chips:

Engineered Wood Fiber is more durable and known for providing wheelchair accessibility. Engineered Wood Fiber also resolves the mud problems in the park.

Make sure to install the wood mulch at a depth of 3-6 inches, but never use GeoTextile or other landscape fabric because the dogs find it quite adventurous to dig and tear these landscape fabrics and play with them by dragging it throughout the park.

The aggressive dogs become very excited when they attack the fence lines and completely destroy the grass surface near the fences. Therefore, the tracks near the fence lines should be reinforced with gravel or crushed rocks.

The turf grass is only suitable for surfacing the middle areas of the park.

---

## SHADE STRUCTURES | SHADE SAILS

The dogs as well as their owners visiting to your dog park are not supposed to spend the entire period in the open air. Even in the milder weather conditions of northern climates, they need shade shelters or gazebos at the strategic locations of your dog park to protect themselves from the hot sun, UV rays and rain.

Fabric shade structures can be used as a very cost-effective solution to provide shelter at any location of your dog park. You don't need building permits, in some cases, for installing fabric shade shelters, but in locations where lots of snow fall occurs, these

shelters have to be removed during the winter season. So, if you can manage hard-roofed park shelters, they will serve as the hotspots of social activity in your dog park and provide a permanent solution to the shelter problem.

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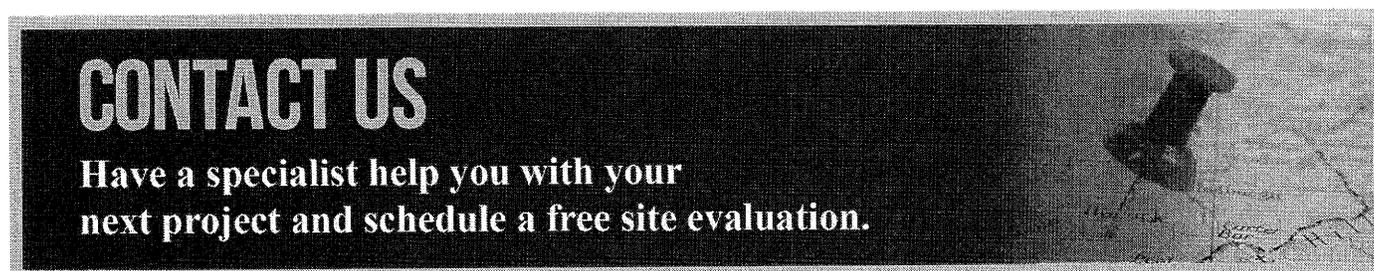
## SIGNAGE

Make use of colorful graphics to portray your signs and messages. Always focus on connecting with the visitors with a positive note rather than depicting the huge list of Don'ts in your dog park. Empirical observations indicate that good signage is instantly taken while bad signage is completely ignored. So, keep things simple by slashing down the rules to the extent possible, and display the staff phone numbers at several locations of the parks so that people can easily contact them when they need maintenance service or face any other problem in the dog park. The flat display boards can become the target of graffiti enthusiasts and so, use fiberglass and lexan, which can be easily cleaned of spray paints or other markers. Prompt cleaning of these display boards will send the message that graffiti is not allowed or tolerated in the dog park. When people see that the park operators care about them, they will cooperate in maintaining the park. These tips will not only materialize your concept into a grand opening, but also ensure the success of your dog park.

Whether it is for a community park or an open field, these exercise ramps, jumps, tunnels and other stations turn them into a haven for dogs.

Free of their leashes, your furry companions can enjoy themselves with other dogs and with their owners as well, while getting the exercise and mind stimulation they need to keep healthy.

Let your pooches have some doggone fun with dog parks from KorKat.



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In just a few short years, KorKat has grown to be one of the largest distributors in the country of commercial recreation equipment. Supported by 15 sales reps and four full-time installation crews, we provide much more than successful distribution for customers like you.

Shane Lanier, Company Owner

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"We must embrace pain and burn it as fuel for our journey." #QuoteOfTheDay

8 Feb

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Mind Shift

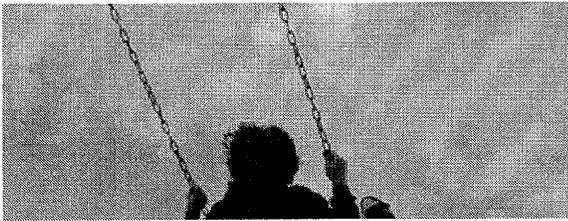


**MindShift**  
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If We Know Play-Based Learning Works, Why Don't We Do It?ow.ly/T94t4 #edchat #play #parenting #earlyed pic.twitter.com/qlNo8DGtr5

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7 Oct



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## Veteran's Park Development

1. Memorial area  
Sell bricks for a portion of funding
2. Add boardwalk (elevated) to viewing platform
3. Continue adding planting areas
4. Recreate veteran's housing historical sites
5. Add paved pathway from Lake Shore Drive to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South diagonal serpentine ending at kid's play area
6. Construct wooden igloo
7. Continue repopulating pine area with understory (planted 200-300 various pines and cedars)

NOTE: All of the Norway Maples are dying and should be replaced



Photo: Ken Cravillion

***Planting a future for birds:  
The Escanaba Migratory Bird Enhancement Initiative (EMBEI)***

**Introduction**

Millions of North American songbirds traverse the Western Hemisphere during their annual spring and fall migrations. The Great Lakes present a formidable challenge to birds navigating these huge inland seas, and consequently shoreline areas that congregate birds often provide critical resources enabling them to continue their long journeys. As numerous songbird species have experienced precipitous declines over the past half-century, their conservation - including the identification and protection of stopover areas utilized during migration - has become a top priority for many state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations.

Recent research focused on the importance of stopover areas for maintaining bird populations indicates that migratory birds congregate in close vicinity of the Great Lakes where large insect hatches occur. In addition, birds flying over the Great Lakes at dawn orient themselves to the nearest landmass, which often includes prominent peninsulas, islands, and even small patches of natural habitat contained within the urban environment. Some of the best known stopover sites for migratory birds in the Great Lakes region include Point Pelee National Park (Ont), Duluth (MN), Whitefish Point (MI), Tawas Point (MI), and Montrose Harbor (IL). Given the importance of these stopover areas for bird conservation it is critical to identify additional sites and develop management plans to enhance their use by migratory birds.

In 2003, The Nature Conservancy initiated an effort in the Great Lakes to educate the public and model the attributes important for migrant songbirds. Their public-friendly classification includes three general types of stopover habitat, all of which are important to migratory birds:

- *Fire escapes* like a freighter or a small island in Lake Michigan are places where birds can drop in and rest but there is little or nothing to eat.
- *Convenience stores* are typically a little larger area that has enough shelter and food for birds to refuel to continue their migration.
- *Full-service hotels*, areas of extensive habitat where birds can rest for several days and “carb load” before continuing the next leg of their journey.

Delta County is situated in the Upper Peninsula at the top of Lake Michigan, and forms part of a land bridge to the south shore of Lake Superior. Recent fieldwork in the county has garnered the attention of the birding community, as surprising numbers of migrants have been documented in Escanaba, Gladstone, and the Stonington and Garden Peninsulas. Escanaba, the third largest city in the Upper Peninsula, is positioned prominently on Little Bay de Noc, and has recorded over 260 bird species. Several city-owned properties offer excellent potential as stopover sites for migratory birds including *Ludington Park* (Aronson Island and Sand Point), *Veteran’s Memorial Park*, and wooded lots along *Lakeshore Drive* in the bay of Portage Marsh (Figure 1).



*Figure 1. Location of proposed sites for the Escanaba Migratory Bird Enhancement Initiative (EMBEI). A finer scale map is available.*

***Bay de Noc Community College*** – a leader in lifelong learning that empowers students and engages communities. Dr. Brian Black maintains a greenhouse at Bay that is available for native plant propagation to produce stock that will benefit migratory birds.

***Bay de Noc Gobblers, chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation*** - a non-profit dedicated to the conservation of Wild Turkey has donated (Ken Buchholtz) red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) seedlings as part of their Operation SOS (set out seedlings) cooperative to benefit Wild Turkeys and other wildlife.

***Bay de Noc Naturalists Club*** – A chapter of Michigan Audubon, the oldest conservation organization in Michigan organized in 1904. Michigan Audubon connects birds and people for the benefit of both through conservation, education, and research efforts in the state of Michigan. Wendy Irish will coordinate EMBEI interpretation, outreach, and education efforts.

***Central Upper Peninsula chapter of Wild Ones*** – a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization that promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Laurie Johnson will coordinate volunteers to help implement the EMBEI and assist Bay College in the propagation of plants for the initiative.

***City of Escanaba*** – The third largest city in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula situated on the shores of Little Bay de Noc. The City of Escanaba maintains the 180 Ludington Park that provides natural areas for migratory birds and hosts a Purple Martin colony, one of the few left in the Upper Peninsula. The Park’s offshore sand islands odd Aronson Island are a designated Important Bird Area for nesting Piping Plover and Common Tern. Our city partners include Jim O’Toole (City Manager), Bill Farrell (City Engineer), Tom Penegor (Recreation Director), and Steve Pach (Park Maintenance).

***Common Coast Research & Conservation*** - A non-profit organization dedicated to the study and protection of Great Lakes migratory birds and the lands and waters upon which they depend. CCRC biologist Joe Kaplan will provide technical assistance for implementing the EMBEI, coordinating volunteers, and assisting Escanaba in pursuing grant opportunities.

***esky150.org*** – A planning committee to oversee Escanaba’s sesquicentennial celebration in 2013. Marilyn Kinsey is chair the “Esky 150 Trees” a project to plant 150 “landscape” quality native trees throughout Escanaba. The Esky 150 Tree project will coordinate with the EMBEI to establish groves of native trees and shrubs in several areas of Ludington and Veteran’s Memorial Parks.

***Michigan Department of Natural Resources*** – To benefit migratory birds Craig Albright and Bill Rollo will partner with the EMBEI to provide 14-acres for tree planting in the 600 acre Portage Marsh State Wildlife Management Area. The MDNR will also provide in-kind match for grants from ongoing efforts in the Portage Marsh to control invasive Phragmites. Rich Mergener of the DNR’s Wyman Nursery in Manistique will provide surplus bare-root conifers for planting efforts.

In fact, the offshore sand islands along the corridor between Aronson Island and Portage Marsh are designated Important Bird Areas for nesting Common Tern and Piping Plover.

In order to fully realize the potential of these areas to benefit migratory birds we propose the *Escanaba Migratory Bird Enhancement Initiative (EMBEI)* to increase the availability of food and cover available to migratory birds through increasing native plantings in coastal parks, control of non-native invasive species, and providing supplemental nest boxes for cavity nesting species. Areas proposed for the EMBRI are accessible to the public and contribute to the quality of life of Escanaba residents and the visiting public. If managed appropriately, these sites may provide a new recreational benefit to the city as bird watching is one of the most popular pastimes in the United States with birders spending upwards of \$20 billion a year in bird related activities including, travel, food, lodging, bird feeding, and equipment purchase.

### **Proposed Enhancement Sites**

We propose implementing the EMBEI program in three of the City's protected areas: Ludington Park, Veteran's Memorial Park, and city-owned lots along Lake Shore Drive (Figure 1). In addition to improving conditions for migratory birds we identify the following attributes as ancillary benefits for Escanaba for implementing the EMBEI; 1) low cost implementation, 2) reduced maintenance costs, (3) opportunities for community involvement, 4) increased public awareness and enjoyment of birds, 5) improved aesthetics of public areas, 6) increased tourism base, and 7) new funding opportunities through grants and partnerships.

***Ludington Park*** –We propose to identify areas where a combination of understory trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers can be planted to create or/or enhance habitat within the Park with the objective of increasing cover and potential food sources for migratory birds. The most promising areas within the park are on Aronson Island, the woodlot at the south entrance of Ludington Park, and Sand Point along the shoreline west of the parking area across from the water treatment plant, the fenced area surrounding the water treatment plant, and the area just east of the Historical Society building, which currently supports a small group of conifers.

Although the existing vegetative growth within park areas currently provides some habitat for migratory and resident birds, it also harbors a large component of undesirable invasive non-native species, such as glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tartarica*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), and Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). The proposed habitat enhancement initiative would reduce and/or remove non-native invasive species from the vegetative component, replacing them with native species that are both suitable for the existing soil conditions and provide food and cover for wildlife. Desirable shrubs and trees to plant to include:

common juniper ( <i>Juniperus communis</i> )	northern red oak ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> )
red osier dogwood ( <i>Cornus stolonifera</i> )	sugar maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )
willow ( <i>Salix sp.</i> )	white pine ( <i>Pinus strobus</i> )
staghorn sumac ( <i>Rhus typhina</i> )	jack pine ( <i>P. banksiana</i> )
smooth sumac ( <i>R. glabra</i> )	red pine ( <i>P. resinosa</i> )
ninebark ( <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> )	white spruce ( <i>Picea glauca</i> )
choke cherry ( <i>Prunus virginiana</i> )	no. white cedar ( <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> )
sand cherry ( <i>P. pumila</i> )	basswood ( <i>Tilia americana</i> )
pin cherry ( <i>P. pensylvanica</i> ),	showy mountain-ash ( <i>Sorbus decora</i> )
downy arrow-wood ( <i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i> )	crabapple ( <i>Malus sp.</i> )
common blackberry ( <i>Rubus allegheniensis</i> )	

Some of these species currently grow at the sites; the proposed enhancement would expand their availability and utility to migratory birds. Additionally, it is recommended to plan for the replacement of all ash trees (*Fraxinus sp.*) in Escanaba parks as they may succumb to the invasive emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). Replacement trees should be introduced to the site while the ash are still alive to give new stock a chance to mature so that abrupt changes to the current landscape condition can be avoided.

In addition to plantings and invasive species control, we propose expanding use of nest boxes in Ludington Park to encourage breeding by native cavity nesting birds such as Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, House Wren, and Black-capped Chickadee. Purple Martins in particular will be the focus of management efforts given their precipitous decline in northern Michigan over the past 20 year; the approximately 30 pairs breeding in Ludington Park are among the few still found in the Upper Peninsula.

***Veteran's Memorial Park*** – We propose enhance habitat for migratory and resident birds in Veteran's Memorial park through planting of additional tree and shrubs along the existing watercourse and in the open areas adjacent to the natural areas, and removal of non-native invasive species, particularly common burdock (*Arctium minus*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). We also recommend promoting nesting by Purple Martins to expand the colony from Ludington Park.

***City-owned woodlots along Lake Shore Drive*** –These small wooded lots already provide habitat and refugia for migratory birds, although invasive species (e.g. glossy buckthorn [*Rhamnus frangula*] and Japanese knotweed [*Fallopia japonica*]) are an issue. Initially, we propose to inventory current vegetative communities and make recommendations for invasive species control and/or habitat improvement.

### **Community Partners and Supporters**

We envision engaging a broad spectrum of local residents and businesses with this community-supported initiative. Our current partners and supporters include:

*Vande Water Natural Resource Services* – Glenn Vande Water a botanist and wetlands specialist will provide organizational and technical assistance for implementing the EMBEI in addition to coordinating volunteers and assisting Escanaba with grant opportunities.

*Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County* – a non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife, habitat protection, and hunting in Delta County. Wildlife Unlimited member Bob Schmeling will coordinate the donation of Purple Martin and Eastern Bluebird nest boxes (built by the USFS) and several flowering crabapple trees.

### **Budget**

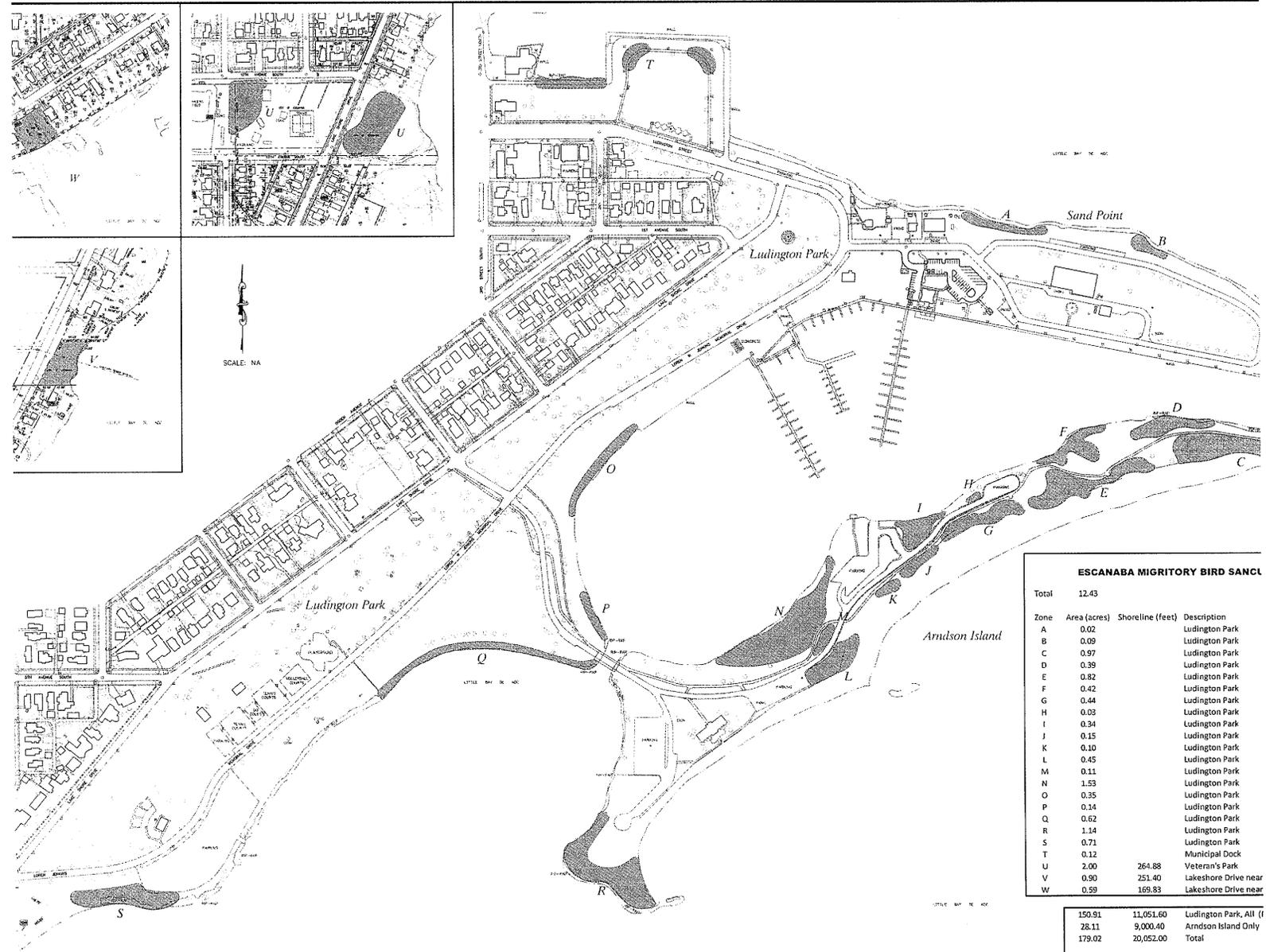
The City of Escanaba allocated \$3,000.00 in the 2011 budget help initiate this project. These funds will be used to purchase tree and shrubs, soil amendments, watering equipment, appropriate signage, nest boxes, and provide match for additional grant support. A Sustain Our Great Lake Grant for \$60,000 was applied for in February 2012.

### **Contact**

For more information on the EMBEI please contact Joe Kaplan at 906-370-1231 or email [commoncoast@gmail.com](mailto:commoncoast@gmail.com).



A “Birdseye” view of Ludington Park with Aronson Island (left) and Sand Point (right) prominently featured in the foreground (photo courtesy of the Delta County Historical Society).



**ESCANABA MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY**

Zone	Area (acres)	Shoreline (feet)	Description
Total	12.43		
A	0.02		Ludington Park
B	0.09		Ludington Park
C	0.97		Ludington Park
D	0.39		Ludington Park
E	0.82		Ludington Park
F	0.42		Ludington Park
G	0.44		Ludington Park
H	0.03		Ludington Park
I	0.34		Ludington Park
J	0.15		Ludington Park
K	0.10		Ludington Park
L	0.45		Ludington Park
M	0.11		Ludington Park
N	1.53		Ludington Park
O	0.35		Ludington Park
P	0.14		Ludington Park
Q	0.62		Ludington Park
R	1.14		Ludington Park
S	0.71		Ludington Park
T	0.12		Municipal Dock
U	2.00	264.88	Veteran's Park
V	0.90	251.40	Lakeshore Drive near
W	0.59	169.83	Lakeshore Drive near

150.91	11,051.60	Ludington Park, All (f
28.11	9,000.40	Arndson Island Only
179.02	20,052.00	Total
14.07	3,718.35	Sand Point Only (incl

PREPARED BY:  
**CITY OF ESCANABA**  
 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
 410 LUDINGTON STREET ESCANABA  
 (900) 766-1842 or 768-3739