

DRAFT

DICKINSON COUNTY

RECREATION PLAN

2014-2019



PREPARED BY:

**DICKINSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE
AND DICKINSON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

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1.0 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Dickinson County is a 766.4 square mile parcel of land located in the south-central portion of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The County was formed in 1891 on the prosperity and growth of iron ore mining along the Menominee Iron Range. The seat of the County is the City of Iron Mountain, which is located about 52 miles west of the City of Escanaba and about 80 miles southwest of the City of Marquette. This community, like most in the County, was established and settled during the rise of iron ore mining on the Menominee Iron Range in the late 1800s.

The Dickinson County 5-year Recreation Plan is presented to 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.

The County's Parks Committee shapes and guides recreation decisions as they are made by the County Board of Commissioners. The Committee has been actively involved with developing site plans for local parks and recreation areas through the process of interacting with local recreation associations to determine the recreation needs of the County.

The draft plan was prepared jointly by the County's Parks Committee, County Planning Commission, Parks Manager, and County Controller with technical assistance from the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission. The work of the Parks Committee provides the foundation for County action to improve the quality and quantity of recreation opportunities in Dickinson County.

A continuous review or revision of this Recreation Plan and its themes will be necessary to make the plan relevant in light of our changing community. However, modification and periodic revision will have to be tempered with common sense and a thorough review of conditions as they change. Our local recreation planning effort must also be coordinated with the planning being done by cities and townships within the County and agencies affecting the County. Coordinating and relating recreation planning to other levels of government does not necessarily mean that the plans at all levels will, or necessarily should, amicably intercept at all points. A two-way avenue of communication must be maintained to avoid duplication or the omission of factors concerning others.

The Recreation Plan for Dickinson County is a glimpse into the future about how the County can develop its park system over the next five years. In order to achieve the desired community goals set forth in this plan, the citizens must take an active role in County affairs.

Finally, this plan should be unique because it would encourage community leaders and the public to be active participants. The development of areas and facilities should be

based on the kind of programs needed, not on former plans, social groupings, or personal preferences.

This plan was adopted by the County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting of _____, 2014.

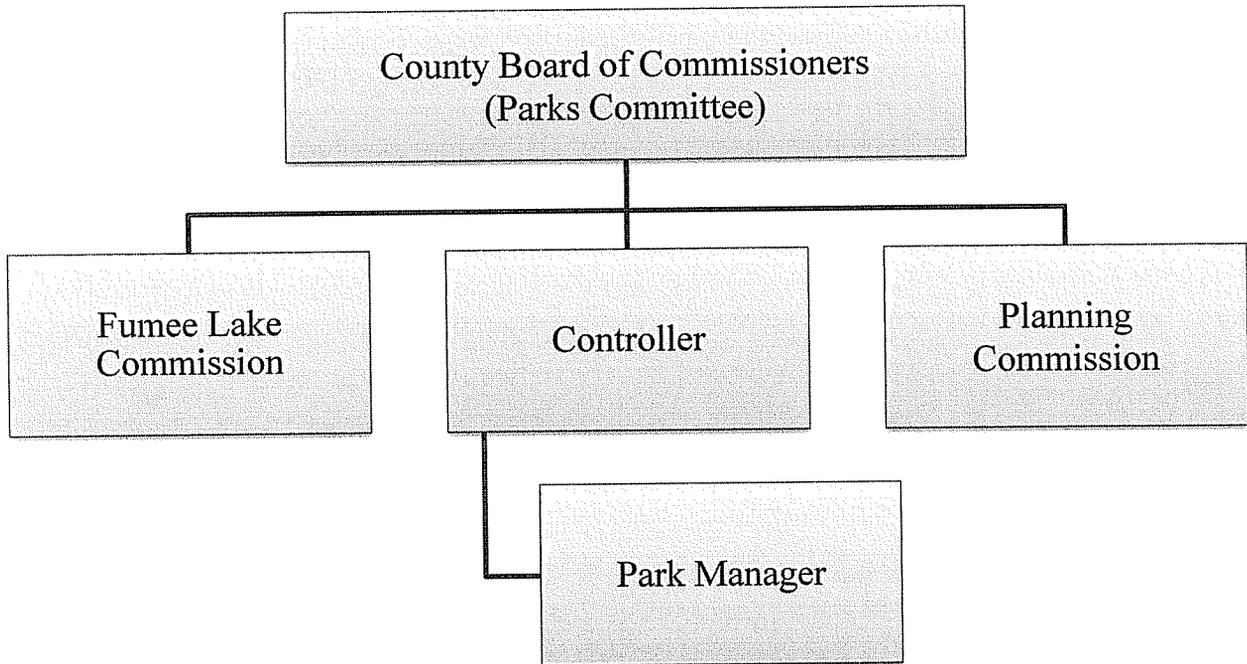
A copy of this plan is on file with the CUPPAD Regional Planning Commission.

2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

2.1 Organizational Structure

Under 1965 Public Act 261, the Dickinson County Parks System is governed by the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners. The Board establishes all park related policies, approves the overall park budget and appropriates necessary operating and capital funds. Figure 2.1 illustrates the organizational structure of the Dickinson County Parks System.

**Figure 2.1
Organizational Structure
Dickinson County Parks System**



In addition to the County Board of Commissioners, the Parks Committee, Planning Commission, County Controller/Administrator, Parks Manager and support staff, and the Fumee Lake Commission all impact policy and the day-to-day operations of the County's park and recreation facilities.

2.1.1 Parks Committee

The Parks Committee is actually a Committee of the Whole of the County Board of Commissioners. The Parks Committee suggests policy relating to parks operations in addition to reviewing and recommending appropriations related to the County Parks Fund.

2.1.2 Fumee Lake Commission

The Fumee Lake Commission, a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation, provides general oversight of the County-owned Fumee Lake Natural Area. Composed of seven "conservation minded persons" the Fumee Lake Commission is appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

2.1.3 Dickinson County Planning Commission

The Dickinson County Planning Commission develops and recommends policy relating to recreational and other land uses and capital expenditures. An example of input from the Planning Commission involving recreation includes the development of land use policies for the Badwater Recreation Area and the County Bike Path.

2.1.4 Park Operations Staff

While the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners creates policy and appropriates monies for the County's recreational facilities, their actual operation is the responsibility of professional staff members who are employed by the Board. The people primarily accountable for the operation of the parks are the County Controller, who carries out the County Board's overall fiscal policies, and the Parks Manager, who, except for general supervision from the Controller, manages the outdoor recreational facilities.

The Parks Manager supervises a seasonal (June to September) staff that maintains and operates the outdoor recreation facilities including campgrounds and parks.

2.1.5 Volunteers

The County does not currently maintain a formal relationship with any volunteer groups, the school districts or other public agencies, but is seeking a partnership with the local Conservation District to collaborate on programming, natural plantings and event planning.

2.2 Recreation Budget

2.2.1 Recreation Operating Budget

The County Controller, with consultation from the Parks Manager, prepares the initial recreation operating budget. The budget is then reviewed by the Parks and Finance

committees, who are both Committees of the Whole. Final adoption of the recreation budget does not occur until a public hearing has been held by the County Board on the entire budget for the County. A separate hearing on the recreation operating budget is not normally held.

2.2.2 Fumee Lake Trust Fund

The Fumee Lake Commission oversees the Fumee Lake Trust Fund which generates interest income used to provide for the operational expenses of the Fumee Lake Natural Area. This fund is included as a fiduciary fund within the overall County budget.

2.2.3 Previous Budget Totals

The County appropriated a total of \$1,445,676 in the last ten years to the park system.

	Parks Budget:	County Appropriation:
2004:	\$238,260	\$142,900
2005:	\$267,426	\$157,606
2006:	\$227,428	\$114,578
2007:	\$234,800	\$110,000
2008:	\$246,200	\$110,000
2009:	\$246,950	\$110,000
2010:	\$255,250	\$158,000
2011:	\$283,500	\$145,000
2012:	\$294,000	\$140,000
2013:	\$286,000	\$130,000
2014:	\$260,092	\$127,592

2.2.4 Funding Sources

The County primarily uses general funds and camping fees to accomplish their recreation activities and capital improvements throughout their County Parks System. Out of these funds, the County makes a contribution to each County lake association which has formulated and implemented a plan to control aquatic invasive species. The 2014 contribution to each lake association varies from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Dickinson County requires a \$5 annual vehicle park permit fee. This permit entitles the permitted vehicle to enter all County parks for the entire year, with the exception of the Fumee Lake Natural Area, which is non-motorized. In 2013, this fee raised \$17,490 of additional revenue, all of which was put back into park operations or improvements.

2.2.5 Five Year Budget Projections

Dickinson County has forecasted a budget of \$250,000 for recreation for the next five years.

3.0 RECREATION INVENTORY

3.1 County Recreation Facilities

From a recreation standpoint, it is important the County provides a broad range of opportunities for its local citizens, as well as tourists. When identifying existing facilities, it helps to understand the types of facilities present. The different categories of recreational facilities are explained below.

Regional Park/Recreation Area: Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses. May include play areas.

Community Park/Recreation Area: Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking.

Mini-Park: Site of specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or the elderly.

Neighborhood Park/Playground: An active recreation site incorporating one or more open space areas designed for field sport and providing play apparatuses. The open space areas should be able to serve the needs of both youth and adults.

Each park facility has also been rated for its accessibility according to the following scale taken from the *Michigan DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans*:

- 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 principles of universal design

Dickinson County has a total of ten outdoor recreation sites within its park system. The sites provide a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities that County residents can enjoy year-round. Map 3.1 shows the location of each County recreation facility in Appendix A.

1. **Lake Antoine Park:** This 51-acre regional park is located in Breitung Township, just east of the City of Iron Mountain, along the east shore of 748-acre Lake Antoine. The park is the predominant recreational site within Dickinson County's Park System and is used for day activities and camping. It is an access point for individuals using Lake Antoine for swimming, fishing, water skiing, and other water-related activities and also a very popular recreational area for County residents and individuals from

out-of-town to visit. It is operated by one permanent full-time employee, with additional help coming from seasonal employees. Daily camping fees are \$20 for County residents and \$24 for non-residents. Facilities include:

- 227 Picnic Tables
- 90 Modern Camping Sites
- Playground Equipment
- Softball Field
- Multi-Purpose Open Field
- Boat Fishing
- Dumping Station
- Honey Wagon
- Nature Trail
- 2 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 3 Horseshoe Pits
- 3,000 Feet of Buoyed Swimming Beach
- Wi-fi Internet Access
- 2 Picnic Shelters/Pavilions
- 600+ Parking Spaces
- Tot Lot
- 5,000 Feet Waterfront
- Boat Launch
- Shower
- Bathhouse Dumping Station
- Security Gates
- Camp Store
- Permanent Band Shell
- Weekend Security
- Firewood Available

Accessibility Rating: 3

DNR Grant History:

- Project No.: 26-00036; Project Period: 7/1/1965 – 12/1/1967
- Project No.: 26-00422; Project Period: 12/31/1975
- Project No.: 26-01327; Project Period: 12/31/1989

2. Gust Newberg Park/Sawyer Lake Park: This regional recreational site is a 24.6 acre parcel of land in the northwest portion of Sagola Township, just west of M-95. The park is located along the north shore of Sawyer Lake and is used for day recreational activities and camping. The park is a popular area for residents of the County and visitors from out-of-town to stop or camp. Daily camping fees are \$15 for County residents and \$19 for non-residents. Large parcels of state forest and CFR land are available near the park for hunting. Facilities include:

- 64 Picnic Tables
- 30 Camping Sites
- Playground Equipment
- Multi-Purpose Open Field
- Bathhouse
- Site of 4-H Summer Camp
- 500 Feet of Buoyed Swimming Beach
- 1 Picnic Shelter
- 70 Parking Places
- Softball Field
- Fishing and Boat Launch
- Dumping Station
- Walking Nature Trail

Accessibility Rating: 3

DNR Grant History:

- Project No.: 26-00037; Project Period: 9/1/1965 – 7/31/1967

3. **Norway Lake Park:** This 15-acre regional park is located in the southeast portion of Felch Township, along the eastern shore of Norway Lake, about 5 miles north of the community of Felch. Only non-motorized boats are allowed on the Lake. The park is close to Gene’s Pond, an excellent fish and wildlife area. Daily camping fees are \$12 for County residents and \$16 for non-residents. Facilities include:

- 40 Picnic Tables
- 60 Parking Spaces
- Softball Field
- Boat Launch
- Fishing
- 20 Camp Sites (with electricity)
- Playground Equipment
- 800 Feet of Waterfront
- 300 Foot Swimming Beach
- Pavilion

Accessibility Rating: 2

DNR Grant History:

Project No.: 26-00035; Project Period: 9/1/1965 – 8/31/1966

4. **Stromberg Park:** This regional park is a 110-acre parcel of land located in the southeast part of Breen Township, north of M-69 on the 1,200-acre Hardwood Impoundment. A developed launch is located at the park for boat access to the Impoundment. Daily camping fees are \$10 per night. Facilities include:

- Boat Launch
- Picnicking area
- Beach area
- 20 Rustic Camping Sites
- Pit toilets

Accessibility Rating: 1

5. **Lake Mary Park:** A 6.2-acre community park located about 2 miles south of the community of Loretto, along the north shore of Lake Mary within the Hamilton Lake chain. Facilities include:

- 30 Picnic Tables
- 75 Parking Spaces
- 400 Feet Water Frontage
- Volleyball Court
- Buoyed Swimming Beach
- Picnic Shelter/Pavilion
- Playground Equipment
- Bathhouse
- 4 Horseshoe Pits
- Modern Restrooms

Accessibility Rating: 2

DNR Grant History:

Project No.: 26-00038; Project Period: 1/1/1966 – 9/30/1967

6. **Northern Lights YMCA:** A community recreation facility located along Crystal Lake in the south-central portion of the City of Iron Mountain, just east of Westside Field. Northern Lights YMCA and the County are involved in a lease agreement for the operation of this County facility. Facilities include:

- Indoor Basketball Gym
- 2 Racquet Ball Courts/Walleyball Courts
- Game Areas
- Office Complex
- Fitness/Exercise Room
- Paved Off-Street Parking Area
- Indoor Swimming Pool
- Meeting Rooms
- Sauna

Accessibility Rating: 3

DNR Grant History:

Project No.: BF89-464; Project Period: 1/1/1966 – 9/30/1967

Project No.: CM99-043; Project Period: 2/1/2000 – 2/28/2002

7. **Pine Mountain Ski Jumping Area:** This 40-acre recreation area is located in Breitung Township next to Pine Mountain Lodge and Ski Area, along Pine Mountain Road. Dickinson County owns the property that makes up the ski jumping area; however, it is operated and maintained by the Kiwanis Ski Club through a lease agreement. Facilities include:

- World’s Highest Artificial Ski Jump (120 Meter)
- 40 Meter Ski Jump
- Parking Area
- Viewing Platform
- Upper Michigan Veterans’ Memorial
- Bulldozer Ski Jump (50 Meter)
- 20 Meter Ski Jump
- Horseshoe Pit
- Judging Stand
- Covered pavilion with grill

A full size garrison flag measuring 30 ft. x 60 ft. is flown from atop Pine Mountain.

Accessibility Rating: 1

8. **Fumee Lake Natural Area:** This 1,808-acre regional natural area is located northeast of the community of Quinnesec in Breitung Township. The original 1,092-acre parcel, which includes Fumee and Little Fumee Lakes, was purchased from the City of Norway in 1993. No fishing is allowed on either of the lakes. Included within the Natural Area is an 11 mile trail system, which in the winter is considered one of the premier cross-country ski trail systems in the central U.P. During the warmer months, the trail system is used for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Facilities include:

- Scenic Views
- 5 Miles of Shoreline

- Diverse and Natural Forests
- Parking at both East and West Ends
- Non-Motorized Primitive Water Craft Lakes Access
- Rare and Abundant Wildlife
- Trail Systems around Little Fumee Lake, Big Fumee Lake, and Indiana Mine
- Pit Toilets at both East and West Ends
- Significant Wetlands
- Hunting in Designated Areas

Accessibility Rating: 1

DNR Grant History:

Project No.: TF94-265; Project Period: 9/1/1995 – 12/31/1996

9. Dickinson County Fairgrounds: This 77-acre parcel of land is located in the southern portion of Norway Township, along U. S. 8, across the street from Marion Park. It is the site of the County Fair held yearly for 5 days on Labor Day weekend. The fairgrounds are also used for stock car races and horse shows during the summer months. Facilities include:

- Caretaker Home
- Open Horse Arena
- Covered Grandstand
- Beer Stand
- Small Animal Building
- 2-Story Exhibition Building
- ½ and ¼ Mile Race Tracks
- Large Circular Building with 5 Connecting Barns
- 136 RV sites with electric & potable water
- Horticulture Building
- Concession Row Building
- 2 Speed Barns
- Trailer Office
- Poultry Building
- Restroom Buildings
- Clay Pulling Area
- Dump Station
- Bedard Covered Horse Arena

Accessibility Rating: 1

10. Morgan Mill Pond: A 70-acre park located in the western portion of Breen Township, within the community of Foster City, along the East Branch of the Sturgeon River. Only about 8 acres of this site are currently developed. Facilities in the developed portion include:

- Picnic Table
- Shore Fishing
- Ice Rink (set up and maintained by local residents in the winter months)
- Light Natural Swimming Beach
- Pit Toilet

Accessibility Rating: 1

3.2 Other Recreational Sites located within the County

Table 3.2 gives an inventory of recreation sites in Dickinson County owned and maintained by other public entities. The data comes from current recreation plans of some minor civil divisions within the County.

Table 3.2
Other Recreational Sites Located in Dickinson County

General Location	Description	Acreage
Breitung Township		
Chuck Nelson Baseball Field	Fenced-in Baseball Field	1.5
Deer Lake	Playground	0.5
East Kingsford Recreation Area	Playground Equipment, Baseball Field, Tennis Court, Outdoor Basketball Court, Multi-Purpose Open Field, Illuminated Ice Rink, Warming Shelter, and Multi-Purpose Room	3.2
Pine Creek Community Hall	Tennis Court and Baseball Field	1.0
Eskil Memorial Park	Grills and Hiking	8.0
Forgette's Field	Baseball Field	2.8
Moon Lake	Baseball Field	3.7
Quinnesec School	Playground Equipment, Partially Fenced-in Double Tennis Court, Multi-Purpose Open Field, Soccer Field, Ice Rink, and Warming Shelter/Restrooms/Storage Facility	3.8
Bodelin (DNR Access Site)	Hard-Surface Launch Ramp, Handicap-Accessible Toilets, and Gravel Parking Area	1.3
Fumee Creek Roadside Park	Rest Area, Picnic Tables, Toilets, Water Pump, Historical Marker, and Waterfalls	2.0
Badwater Recreation Area	Boat ramp, 3 Mile Hiking Trail, Historic Iron Bridge with Pedestrian Path	
Groveland Mine Recreation Area	Hiking, Camping, Bike Path, and Parking Area	600+
Piers Gorge State Park	Parking Area, Scenic River Rapids and Cascades, Whitewater Rafting, Fishing, Wildlife Viewing, Hiking Trails, and Snowshoeing Trails	160

**Table 3.2
Other Recreational Sites Located in Dickinson County**

General Location	Description	Acreage
Felch Township		
Solberg Lake (DNR Access Site)	Gravel-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	
Six Mile Lake (DNR Access Site)	Hard-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	
Gene's Pond State Forest Campground (DNR Access Site)	14 Sites, No Swimming, Scenic Area, Hard-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	
City of Iron Mountain		
Iron Mountain City Park	Bocce Courts, Benches, Picnic Tables, Pavilion, Double Sand Volleyball Court, Playground Equipment, Water Faucets, Restrooms, Log Shelter, Stone Fire Stoves, Soccer-Football Fields, Tennis Courts, Walking Trail, Enclosed Deer Yard, Illuminated Ice Rink, Lighted Sledding Area, Lighted Cross-Country Ski Trail, Bike Path, Snowmobile Trail Access Site, Disc Golf, Skateboard Park, and Parking Area	69.2
Millie Hill Bat Cave/Viewing Platform	Scenic Views, Benches, Picnic Tables, Hiking Trail, and Parking Area	
Lilja Park at Chapin Pit	Picnic Tables, Parking Area, Pavilion, Hiking Trail Access	
Westside Field	Bleacher, Parking Area, Batting Cage, Dugouts, Benches, and Ball Diamond	9.3
Crystal Lake Park	Soccer Field, Playground Equipment, Picnic Table, and Volleyball Poles	5.5
Stockbridge Avenue Park	Illuminated Ice Rink	1.0
Forest Street Play lot	Bench and Playground Equipment	0.5
Jess Tidmore Memorial Courts	Bench and Tennis Courts	0.3
Pewabic Playfield	Bench, Picnic Table, and Playground Equipment	5.0
Eastside Recreation Complex	Ball Diamond, Scoreboard, Dugouts, Bench, Tennis Courts, Storage Shed, Water Faucet, Ice Rink, and Off-Street Parking	5.0

**Table 3.2
Other Recreational Sites Located in Dickinson County**

General Location	Description	Acreage
Mountain View Ice Arena	Indoor Ice Rink Complex and Off-Street Parking Area.	5.0
Ranger Field	Ball Diamond, Scoreboard, Dugouts, Stands Area, Batting Cage, and Off-Street Parking Area	1.5
Northside Ball Field	Ball Diamond, Dugout, Bleacher, Water Faucet, and Playground Equipment	7.5
West Lake Antoine Launch/Park	Launching Piers and Off-Street Parking	4.5
Hercheids Campo Sportivo	Benches, Tennis Courts, and Playground Equipment	1.5
East Elementary School	Bike Racks, Benches, Gym, Outdoor Basketball Court, and Playground Equipment	7.5
Stanton Street Center	Playground Equipment	0.2
North Elementary School	Picnic Tables, Benches, Basketball Hoops, Concrete Play Area, Playground Equipment, and Off-Street Parking Area.	14.0
Iron Mountain Senior High School	Physical Education Building, Indoor Basketball Court, Auditorium, and Indoor Stadium	3.8
Central Elementary and Iron Mountain Junior High Schools	Gym, Basketball Court, and Paved Play Area	3.0
Bishop Baraga Catholic School	Paved Play Area, Playground Equipment, and Outdoor Basketball Court	0.2
Iron Mountain Stadium	Running Track, Football Field, Storage Building, Electric Scoreboard, Concession Stand, Ticket Booths, Player Benches, Restroom Building, Practice Field, Backstop, and Grand Stands (with Press box)	5.0
Michigan Welcome Center	Michigan Tourism Information Available on Location	
Magee Johnson Stage and Park	Covered Stage With Power, Landscaped Grassy Area With Benches, and Parking Area	

**Table 3.2
Other Recreational Sites Located in Dickinson County**

General Location	Description	Acreage
City of Kingsford		
Breen Street Playground	Playground Equipment, Multi-Purpose Open Field, and Sledding Hill	1.1
LoDal Park	Parking, Playground Equipment, Fitness Strip, Baseball Fields, Tennis Courts, Horseshoe Pits, Multi-Purpose Open Field, Soccer Field, Restrooms, Basketball Court, and Picnic Tables	21.0
Cowboy Lake Park	Picnic Area, Picnic Tables, Parking, Multi-Purpose Open Field, 500 Feet Water Frontage, Bathhouse, 100 Foot Swimming Beach, Boat Launch and Fishing Pier, and Pavilion	3.5
Ford Park	Playground Equipment, Tennis Courts, and Natural Open Area	5.6
Triangle Court Park	Playground Equipment and Multi-Purpose Open Field	1.1
Fulton Street Park	Baseball Field, Multi-Purpose Open Field, and Ice Skating	0.5
Terrace Park	Open Space, Tennis Courts, Picnic Area, and Basketball Court	0.9
Lyman Street Park	Multi-Purpose Open Field	0.5
Beech Street Park	Softball Field, Multi-Purpose Open Field, and Illuminated Ice Rink	1.5
Menominee River Recreation Area	Picnic Area, Grills, Parking, and Port-o-Pot	6.6
Olympic Street Park	Tot Lot, Benches, and Playground Equipment	0.3
Waverly Street Park	Ice Rink and Multi-Purpose Open Field	0.6
Balzola Field	Baseball Field and Soccer Field	4.0
Secondary Complex	Parking, Tennis Courts, Outdoor Basketball Courts, Indoor Basketball Courts, Open Field, Gymnasiums, Softball Fields, Stadium, and Auditorium	34.0
Woodland Elementary School	Parking, Outdoor Basketball Courts, Indoor Basketball Court, Soccer Fields, Softball Fields, Gymnasium, and Playground	26.5

**Table 3.2
Other Recreational Sites Located in Dickinson County**

General Location	Description	Acreage
City of Norway		
North Nelson Street Play lot	Playground Equipment and Basketball Court	1.0
Ice Rink	Multi-Purpose Open Field, Illuminated Ice Rink, and Warming Shelter	5.0
Lake Mary Park	300 Feet Water Frontage, Playground, Swimming, and Pavilion	1.0
City Hall	Band Shell With Bench Seating	0.5
Strawberry Lake Area	Playground Equipment, Walking Trail, 2 Fishing Piers, Picnic Tables, Benches, Restrooms, Ball Field, BMX Track, Cross-Country Ski Trail Access, Ice Rink, and Parking Area	30.0
Norway High and Elementary School	Parking, Playground Equipment, Tennis Courts, Indoor Basketball Court, Multi-Purpose Open Field, Gym, Meeting Rooms, and Football Field	26.8
Jake Menghini Museum	Display of Historical Items	
Hanbury Lake Park	Boat Launch, Picnic Tables, Horseshoe Courts, Playground Equipment, Restrooms, Nature Trail, Multi-Purpose Open Field	28.0
Norway Township		
Norway Recreation Area (Marion Park)	Picnic Area, Picnic Tables, Playground Equipment, 2 Baseball Fields, Restrooms, 2 Pavilions, Horseshoe Courts, Storage Shed, 4 Tennis Courts, and Access to Trail Loop	180.0
East Vulcan Playground	Picnic Area, Parking, Playground Equipment, Baseball Field, Tennis Court, Basketball Court, and Hard-Surfaced Multi-Purpose Area	4.0
Vulcan Middle School	Playground Equipment, Indoor Basketball Court, Gym, and Meeting Rooms	2.6
Norway Reservoir (DNR Access Site)	Hard-Surfaced Ramp, Courtesy Pier, Toilets, and Parking Area	0.9
Carney Lake State Forest Campground and DNR Access Site	11 Sites, Swimming Area, Scenic Area, Pathway, Hard-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	8.5

**Table 3.2
Other Recreational Sites Located in Dickinson County**

General Location	Description	Acreage
Rock Lake (DNR Access Site)	Gravel Surface Boat Launch, Limited Parking, Scenic Trail, Toilet, and 4 Camping Spaces	80.0
Sagola Township		
Silver Lake (DNR Access Site)	Hard-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	
Edey Lake (DNR Access Site)	Gravel-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	
Waucedah Township		
Waucedah Township Recreation Site	Baseball Field, Basketball Court, and Playground	
Mary Lake (DNR Access Site)	Hard-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	
Hamilton Lake (DNR Access Site)	Hard-Surfaced Ramp, Courtesy Pier, Toilets, and Parking Area	
West Branch Sturgeon River (DNR Access Site)	Hard-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	
West Branch Township		
Pickerel Lake (DNR Access Site)	Gravel-Surfaced Ramp, Toilets, and Parking Area	
West Branch State Forest Campground and DNR Access Site	24 Sites, Pathway, Carry-Down Launching Area, Toilets, and Parking Area	
Lower Dam State Forest Campground and DNR Access Site	5 Sites, Carry-Down Launching Area, Toilets, and Parking Area	
Other Locations of Recreation Opportunities in County:		
Copper Country State Forest	Public Lands Available for a Variety of Outdoor Recreational Opportunities	
Commercial Forest Reserve (CFR) Lands	Private Lands Available to the Public for a Variety of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities	70,177
Michigan Snowmobile Trails	Lake Antoine Trail, Loretto-Felch Trail, Loretto Loop, Fumee Lake Trail, and Felch Grade Trail	
Dickinson County Bike Path	70+ Miles of County-wide Designated Bike Routes (Dickinson County Bike Path Committee Map included in Appendix A)	

4.0 RESOURCE INVENTORY

4.1 Topography

Topography within Dickinson County varies from almost level to very steep. The change is abrupt in many areas, giving the County an interesting topographic structure. Average County elevation is approximately 1,200 feet, varying from 800 feet in the southeast to 1,600 feet in the northwest.

**Table 4.1
Topographic Features
Dickinson County**

Topographic Feature	Location	Elevation	Vertical Rise
Millie Hill	Iron Mountain	1,560 ft.	400 ft.
Pine Mountain	Iron Mountain	1,523 ft.	347 ft.
Fumee Mountain	North of Fumee Lake	1,520 ft.	447 ft.
Briar Hill	Vulcan	1,520 ft.	420 ft.
Ridges	Along Pine & Fern Creek	1,140 to 1,250 ft.	280 ft.

Fumee Mountain rises from the Fumee Lake elevation of 1,073 feet to 1,520 feet, a total vertical rise of 447 feet. This is one of the highest vertical rise features in the County, although many lower ridges and hills are equally as scenic. The highest recorded elevation in Dickinson County is at the site of the Sagola lookout tower, with an elevation of 1,609 feet.

Other notable County land features include:

1. Gently rolling lowland plains along the southern border with some instances of higher hills and ridges.
2. A plateau of high, rolling land along the eastern boundary including parts of Waucedah, Breen, and Felch Townships.
3. Rock Knob highlands exist in the south-central area. Cliffs and domes rise from 200 to 400 feet above the narrow valleys; a highly scenic region.
4. Stony, loamy plains with sand drifts occur along Sagola Township's western boundary. Hills and ridges rise 30 to 40 feet. Some swamp land is also present.
5. In the extreme northwest area along the Escanaba River, a small area eastward from Sawyer Lake, and in northern Waucedah Township along the Sturgeon River, there are lowlands, sand plains, valleys, and swamplands.

4.2 Scenic Sites

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has compiled a list of natural, scenic, and historic areas within Dickinson County. It includes roads and activities through wilderness areas, wildlife flooding projects, several picturesque lakes, rock outcroppings, scenic overlooks, and ski areas. Many of these areas contain facilities for camping, swimming, boating, fishing, and hunting. A list of these areas is found below in Table 4.2, which includes the name and type of area, location, size, description, and present use.

**Table 4.2
Scenic Sites in Dickinson County**

Name	Type	Township	Highway/ Road	Size/MI	Description of Area	Present Use
Katie's Grade & Katie's Lake	Natural	West Branch	Off CR 581, 22 mi. NE of Ralph	640 acres	Natural lake and wilderness area. Remote camping, hiking, etc.	Hunting and fishing
Lake 36	Scenic	West Branch	Off CR 581, 0.5 mi. W of Marquette Co. Line	640 acres	Wildlife flooding project, scenic access road	Hunting
CR 581 Parallel to W. Branch Escanaba River, Breitung Twp. School Camp	Scenic	West Branch	5 mi. of CR 581, 8 mi. NE of Ralph	1,500 acres	Interesting forest area-outdoor education camp, trout stream	Camping areas, fishing, hunting, school camping
Skelly's Ranch	Historic/ Scenic	West Branch	CR 581, 6 mi. N of Ralph	640 acres	Old beef and sheep ranch dating back to old logging days	Hunting-reforested
Floodwood-O'Neil Lake – Swartz Creek Road	Scenic	West Branch, Felch & Sagola	From M-95 to CR 581	Extensive	Logging, reforestation, game management area, scenic overlook on Swartz Creek Floodwood Plains	Wilderness area, Campground

**Table 4.2
Scenic Sites in Dickinson County**

Name	Type	Township	Highway/ Road	Size/MI	Description of Area	Present Use
Silver Lake – Swartz Creek Road	Scenic	West Branch, Felch & Sagola	From M- 95 at Silver Lake to CR 551	Extensive	Logging, reforestation, game management, scenic outlooks, burned over areas, remnants of old logging days	Wilderness Area
Michigamme Backwater	Scenic	Sagola	4 mi. N of Channing off Sawyer Lake Rd	2,000 acres	Manmade hydroelectric reservoir	Cottages, hunting, fishing
Village of Ralph	Scenic	West Branch	CR 581	100 acres	Smallest church in the world, old lumberjacks, natives, quaint village	Residential
Turner Truck Trail	Scenic	Sagola & West Branch	M-95 at Channing to CR 581 at Ralph	Extensive	Scenic wilderness road, pulpwood landing	Woods, wildlife
Leeman Road	Scenic	Sagola & Felch	M-95 at Sagola to CR581	Extensive	Scenic wilderness road, pulpwood landing	Woods, wildlife
Northland Truck Trail	Scenic	Breen & Felch	CR from Norway Lake to Northland Truck Trail	Extensive	Wilderness road, virgin timber, old logging camps, wildlife	Hunting camps, woods, wildlife
Merriman & Browns Lake Truck Trail	Scenic	Breitung, Norway & Waucedah	M-95 to CR 569	Extensive	Wilderness road, hunting camps	Woods, hunting

**Table 4.2
Scenic Sites in Dickinson County**

Name	Type	Township	Highway/ Road	Size/MI	Description of Area	Present Use
Calumet Mine Road	Scenic	Felch & Breen	Merriman Truck Trail to Felch	Extensive	Wilderness road, hunting camps	Woods, Hunting
Felch Flooding Project	Natural	Felch	2 mi. NW of Felch	40 acres	Flooding for waterfowl	Duck hunting
Hancock Creek Flooding Project	Natural	Waucedah	3 mi. S of Foster City, off CR 569	300 acres	Flooding for waterfowl	Duck hunting, picnicking
Blomgren's Marsh	Natural	Waucedah	3 mi. S of Foster City, 3 mi. W of CR 569	80 acres	Waterfowl marsh	Developing Duck Marsh
Felch School Forest	Scenic	Felch	3 mi. N of Felch off CR 581	300 acres	Plantations, managed forest, geologic area w/rock outcrop and glacial evidence	Woods, hiking, camping
Rock-Carney Lake- Spring Lake Road System	Scenic	Breitung	Off M-95 at Merriman, 2.5 mi. E	10,000 acres	Wilderness lakes, rock outcrop, scenic overlooks, timber	Cottages, camping, picnicking, swimming
Twin Falls Dam & Backwater	Scenic	Breitung	3 mi. N of Iron Mountain, CR 607	1,000 acres	Scenic island, color tour, water based recreation	Boating, fishing camping
Hydraulic Falls Dam & Backwater	Scenic	Breitung	2 mi. S of Iron Mountain	1,000 acres	Scenic overlook, fishing area, Indian portage	Boating, fishing

**Table 4.2
Scenic Sites in Dickinson County**

Name	Type	Township	Highway/ Road	Size/MI	Description of Area	Present Use
Pine Mountain Winter Sports Area	Scenic	Breitung	1 mi. N of Iron Mountain	200 acres	World's largest artificial ski slide, ski area, trails	Winter sports
Piers Gorge & Menominee River	Scenic	Norway	1 mi. S of Norway	100 acres	River rapids and cascade	Undeveloped, except trail
Sturgeon Falls Power Dam	Scenic	Norway	3 mi S. of Vulcan off CR 577	100 acres	Backwater area, good fishing area	Fishing
Pine Creek Road	Scenic	Norway & Breitung	CR 396, Iron Mountain to Norway	Extensive	Scenic road, rock outcrops	Farms, timber, wildlife
Fumee Lake Natural Area	Scenic	Breitung	1 mi. N of Quinnesec	1,808 acres	Scenic, undeveloped lake, fishing prohibited	Hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, biking, hunting in designated areas

Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service, 1995.

4.3 Soils

The distribution of various soil types throughout Dickinson County is related to geology, landform, slope, climate and natural vegetation patterns. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service has classified the soils of Dickinson County into 66 different mapping units, each of which possess unique characteristics. These mapping units are grouped into eight soil associations, each with a distinctive pattern of soils, relief, and drainage. An association typically consists of one or more major soils and some minor soils, and generally responds similarly to use and development. The following is a brief description of the soil associations found within the County:

Soil Association 1: Emmet-Carbondale-Cathro Association: Nearly level to hilly, well-drained and very poorly drained, loamy and mucky soils that formed in glacial till and organic deposits. This association is used primarily for woodland in Dickinson County, although some areas are cultivated. This association is found in much of Breen

and Waucesha Townships, and in small areas of Norway, Felch, and West Branch Townships.

Soil Association 2: Pemene-Emmet-Cathro Association: Nearly level to hilly, well-drained and very poorly drained, loamy and mucky soils that formed in ice-contact drift, glacial till and organic deposits. It is primarily used for woodland; however, cultivated areas do occur in areas of Pemene and Emmet soils. This soil association occurs in over half the County, in all local units. It makes up most of Sagola, Felch, and Breitung Townships, and much of the cities of Iron Mountain and Norway.

Soil Association 3: Pemene-Emmet-Rock Outcrop Association: Rock outcrop and gently rolling to hilly, well-drained loamy soils that formed in ice-contact and glacial till. This association is found on bedrock-controlled moraines and till plains, and is used mainly as woodland. This association is found in all townships except West Branch, although it is most prevalent in Norway and Waucesha Townships.

Soil Association 4: Oconto-Mancelona-Karlin Association: Nearly level to rolling, well drained and somewhat excessively drained, loamy and sandy soils that formed in glacial drift and outwash. This soil association is used primarily as woodland. It is found mainly in the northern part of Norway and Waucesha Townships, and in scattered areas of Sagola Township.

Soil Association 5: Pence-Vilas Association: Nearly level to rolling, loamy and sandy soils that formed in glacial drift and outwash. The principal use of this association is woodland. It is found mainly in Breitung Township and the cities of Iron Mountain and Kingsford, close to the Menominee River.

Soil Association 6: Mancelona-Rubicon Association: Nearly level to rolling, somewhat excessively drained and excessively drained, sandy soils that formed in glacial outwash. The major use of this soil association is woodland. However, cultivated areas do occur in areas dominated by Mancelona soils. The Mancelona-Rubicon soil association is found in the City of Norway, the southern portion of Norway Township, and in small areas of Breitung and Waucesha Townships.

Soil Association 7: Rubicon-Cathro Association: Nearly level to rolling, excessively drained and very poorly drained, sandy and mucky soils that formed in glacial outwash and organic deposits. This association is primarily used as woodland. It occurs only in a portion of Sagola and Felch Townships in the northwest part of the County.

Soil Association 8: Zimmerman-Cathro-Rousseau Association: Nearly level to hilly, excessively drained, very poorly drained and well drained sandy and mucky soils that formed in glacial drift, glacial outwash, and eolian (wind-deposited) and organic deposits. This association is principally used as woodland. It can be found in West Branch, Felch and Sagola Townships in the northern third of the County.

4.4 Water Features

Dickinson County has five major drainage systems. These are the Michigamme River, the West Branch of the Escanaba River, the Ford River, the Sturgeon River, and the Menominee River. Many of the rivers or at least portions thereof are classified as “top quality” main streams or tributaries. Many small natural lakes also occur in the County. The largest are Lake Antoine and Fumee Lake, in the southwestern part of the County, and Sawyer Lake in the northwestern part. There are several hydro-electrical impoundments on the Menominee River and two wildlife and recreational impoundments on the East Branch of the Sturgeon River.

4.5 Climate

The County’s interior location results in a vastly decreased Great Lakes climatic influence. This is most noticeable with the increased cloudiness with northwesterly winds during the fall and early winter months. The cloud cover helps to moderate temperatures associated with cold air from Canada. However, as the lakes cool and ice builds up, the lake influence is diminished. Thus, the area’s climate, while predominately continental in character, does experience some marine influence.

The County’s mean monthly temperature ranges from 13 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 67 degrees Fahrenheit in July, with a mean annual temperature of 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Total precipitation in the County averages 30 inches per year. The County has about 112 frost-free days annually.

5.0 DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

5.1 Planning Data

5.1.1 Population

For any planning endeavor, careful attention must be given to the analysis of population trends and projections. Knowledge of the population characteristics of an area is necessary to determine existing or future needs. These statistics help local governments to determine the direction of local capital improvements and related expenditures for recreational planning. They are also useful when applying recreation guidelines to a community.

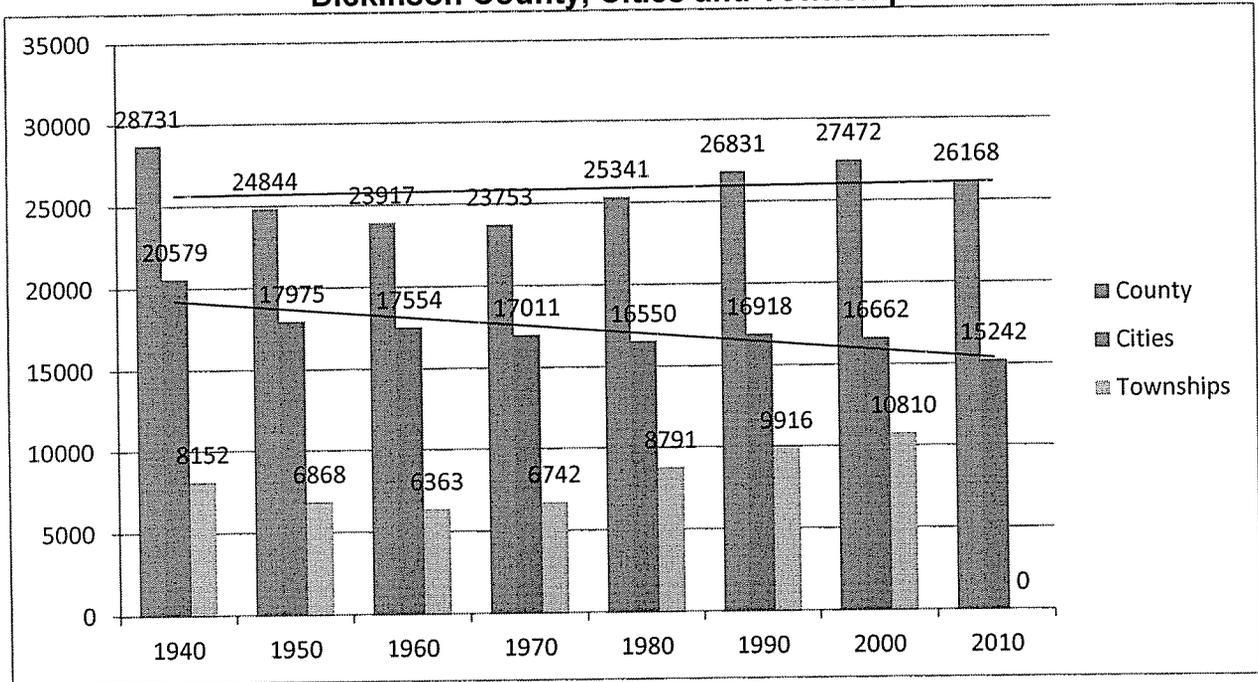
Based on U.S. Census data, the population of Dickinson County decreased from 27,472 in 2000 to 26,168, a loss of 4.7%, in 2010.

The population of Dickinson County from 1940 to 2010 decreased by 2,563 persons, or 8.9% (Figure 5.1.1). The largest percent decline during the seventy year period occurred between 1940 and 1950, when the County’s population declined from 28,731 to 24,844, a 13.5% decline. The large decline during this period is attributed to the

closure of the Ford Motor Company plant in the City of Kingsford. From 1950 to 1970, the County's population continued to decline, but at a more gradual pace. In 1970, the population of the County was at 23,753, a 60-year low. From 1970 to 2000, the County's population grew to 27,472, an increase of 15.7%. This growth was primarily the result of increased industrial activity, led by Champion International's (now Verso Paper) construction and operation of a pulp and paper mill within the County.

The populations of the County's three cities (Iron Mountain, Kingsford and Norway) from 1940 to 2010 all declined, with the largest decline, like the County, occurring between 1940 and 1950. Through 2000, three of the County's seven civil townships; Breitung, Norway and Waucedah, experienced growth. Breitung Township experienced the largest growth during this period, more than doubling its population. Figure 4-1 provides a graphic comparison of the County's population trends:

**Figure 5.1.1: Population Trends
Dickinson County, Cities and Townships***



*2010 Census data not available for Townships

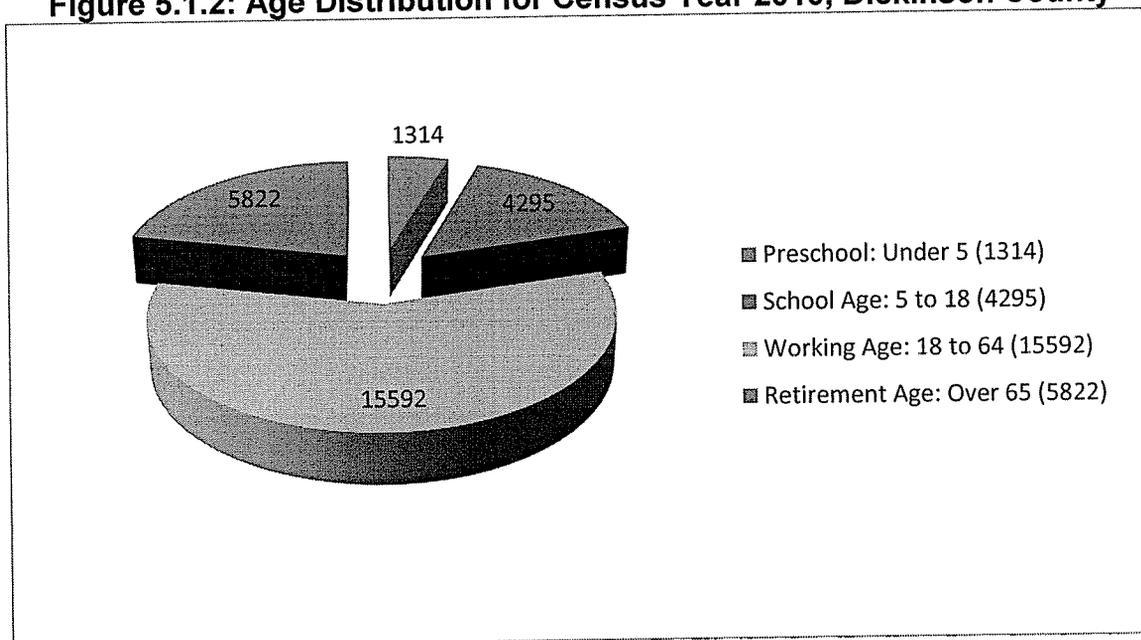
5.1.2 Age Distribution

The age of residents of an area may indicate emerging needs for recreational facilities and programming. Figure 5.1.2 graphically represents the age distribution of Dickinson County.

In 2010, the median age of County residents was 45.4 years, an increase of 5.4 years from the 2000 census. The largest cohort of the County's total population is that of

working-age adults (15,592); the next largest cohort is that of people 65 and over (5,822); the smallest group is comprised of residents who are 18 and under. It would appear that the County is home to an aging population, and fewer young people. These data portend implications for recreational planning, since the population is aging. Issues such as site accessibility and programming will be taken into consideration.

Figure 5.1.2: Age Distribution for Census Year 2010, Dickinson County



5.1.3 Gender

In 2010, U.S. census data indicated the population distribution of Dickinson County by gender was 1,876 (49.2%) males and 13,292 (50.8%) females. Although the population has decreased, the ratio of males to females is identical to the 2000 census figures.

5.1.4 Disability

In 2010 within Dickinson County, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 3,863 individuals had a disability, with a margin of error of +/- 367, or 15% of the population. Of working age adults (18 to 64 years of age), 2,120 were estimated to have a disability with a margin of error of +/-320, or 13.6% of that age group. The State of Michigan data indicated a 29.1% employment rate among working-age adults with any disability. Imputed total persons with disabilities in the workforce for Dickinson County would be 616 out of 2,120, with a margin of error of +/- 106.

Additionally, there are 139 military veterans who are certified by the Veteran's Administration as 100% disabled or Individually Unemployable. It can be assumed that these numbers have been included in the total number of individuals with disabilities.

Dickinson County has a higher than usual number of veterans with disabilities because of the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center located in Iron Mountain.

5.1.5 Unemployment

In Dickinson County, the 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates indicate that there were 6,091 females in the labor force. Of these females, 484 were not employed, which yields an unemployment rate of 7.9%. There were 6,678 males in the labor force and 5,946 were employed, with an unemployment rate of 8.9%.

5.1.6 Economic Characteristics

In the past, the economy of Dickinson County was principally based on the iron ore mining industry. The County lies on the historic Menominee Iron Range, the State's second largest, which was discovered in 1873. Mining on the Menominee Iron Range was a dominate force in the economy of the County for about 50 years. What remains of mining today are abandoned mine shafts, the Menominee Range Mining Museum (Cornish Pump), the Chapin mine ponds and historical markers from that era.

Although mining was the primary industry, most of the County contained rich timber lands as well. From the 1860's to about 1918, timber from the County was floated on the Menominee River to sawmills located in the cities of Menominee and Marinette (WI). In 1920, the County's economic structure began to evolve from mining and lumbering to manufacturing. As the price of iron ore declined sharply and mechanization made it possible to produce iron ore with less labor, hundreds of miners throughout the Upper Peninsula lost their jobs. However, the Ford Motor Company announced that it was establishing a saw mill and an automobile body plant in Kingsford. Ford's investment in Dickinson County was critical in the preservation of jobs and industry in Dickinson County while other communities struggled through the lean years.

Peak employment at Ford Motor Company was reached in 1925, when more than 7,500 men were on the payroll. There was a gradual reduction in employment in the 1930's and 1940's. During WWII, the factory converted its use to constructing Waco CG-4A Gliders for the war effort. In June 1942, a contract was arranged with the Ford Motor Company for 1,000 CG-4A gliders. The entire Kingsford facility was converted to glider production, with 4,500 people working around the clock in eight-hour shifts. During their peak production period, the workers at Kingsford turned out eight gliders per day. The Kingsford plant eventually turned out 4,190 CG-4As, more than twice the number of gliders produced by any other company during the war. Ford's price tag of only \$15,400 per CG-4A demonstrated the economy of streamlined and efficient mass production. Nearly all of the other 15 manufacturers of CG-4As charged Uncle Sam a minimum of

\$25,000 for their gliders. The Ford Motor Company was twice given the *E for Excellence* award by the United States War Department. In 1951, after 31 years of operation, the Ford Motor Company closed down its operations in Dickinson County.

Wood products, one of the predominant industries earlier in the 20th century, and always a factor in the local economy, is again a major employer in Dickinson County. Verso Paper Corporation, in Quinnesec, employs 475 people (2012), and provides a market for the logging and forest management industry in Dickinson County and the surrounding area.

Tourism has also become a significant source of local income. Heritage visitors enjoy touring the WWII Glider and Cornish Pump Museum as well as several other museums, geographic sites like the Groveland and Chapin Mine Ponds, the Iron Mountain Iron Mine and the Millie Hill Bat Cave. Sites on the National Register of Historic Places include the Iron Mountain Downtown District and the Old Iron Bridge over the Menominee River (Breitung Township) that connects Wisconsin and Michigan. Local lakes and streams offer many opportunities for recreation and Dickinson County claims one of the best grouse hunting sites in the Midwest.

Trail development planning, acquisition and development are ongoing. Although snowmobile and ORV trails are present in abundance, in the last several years there has been a concerted effort to develop recreational bicycle trails within and throughout the County. The Dickinson County Bike Path Committee (501(c) 3) has played an integral part in establishing a master plan for a trail system and has marked more than 60 miles of bicycle trail. There are more than 200 miles targeted for development.

Dickinson County has been instrumental in promoting a "southern route" for the Governor's Showcase Trail by collaborating with the six other southern counties of the Upper Peninsula and more than 60 local units of government and organizations. It was announced by the DNR in August, 2013 that the southern route would approximate US-2 from St. Ignace to Ironwood and that it would be a bicycle route. Once this route is established and marketed, it will bring additional tourism dollars to Dickinson County and to the other counties along the route.

According to the 2008-2012 American Community Survey (5 Year Estimates), the per capita income for Dickinson county residents was \$24,682, which was \$865 less than the per capita income for the State.

The median household income in the same period was \$44,272, \$4,199 less than that of Michigan as a whole. Dickinson County's median family income was \$54,602, \$6,146 less than Michigan's median family income. A disparity in earnings by gender

still exists. The median earnings for male, full time, year-round workers totaled \$44,675, while the median earnings for female, full-time, year-round workers totaled \$29,371.

The civilian labor force in 2012 was 13,225, with 12,375 people employed and 750 unemployed. The County unemployment rate was 6.5% while the State rate was 8.9% in December, 2012. The unemployment rate fluctuates considerably due to economic, seasonal and environmental factors.

5.1.7 Land Use

Dickinson County has a total of 777.05 sq. mi. (493,472 acres). Its land mass is 761.4 square miles (478,296 acres) and water comprises 15.65 square miles (10,016 acres). The current land use inventory of Dickinson County indicates the 399,510 acres of land, or 80% is forested. In terms of total acreage, this land use category is followed by wetlands and non-forest uses, which total 32,406 and 21,963 acres, respectively. Forty-six percent of Dickinson County acreage is owned by the State of Michigan. Table 5.1.7 shows the existing land use in the County.

**Table 5.1.7
Dickinson County Land Use**

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Multi-Family	2.0	-
Single Family, duplex	5,831.3	1.17
Mobile Home Park	88.9	0.02
Commercial	651.4	0.13
Industrial	1,907.8	0.38
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities	1,160.8	0.23
Extractive	2,320.9	0.47
Open Land	56.3	0.01
Outdoor Recreation	804.7	0.16
Cemeteries	140.3	0.03
Agriculture	21,168.8	4.26
Non-Forested	21,963.1	4.44
Forested	399,510.2	80.47
Water	7,260.6	1.46
Wetlands	32,406.2	6.53
Barren	1,180.1	0.24
Total Acreage	496,453.4	100.00

Source: MIRIS

5.1.8 Local Transportation System

The County's road network is broken down into state trunkline, primary, and local roads. There are 510.18 miles of roads within the County, 81.74 miles of state trunkline, 176.76 miles of primary, and 251.68 miles of local. The following details the state trunklines that run through the County:

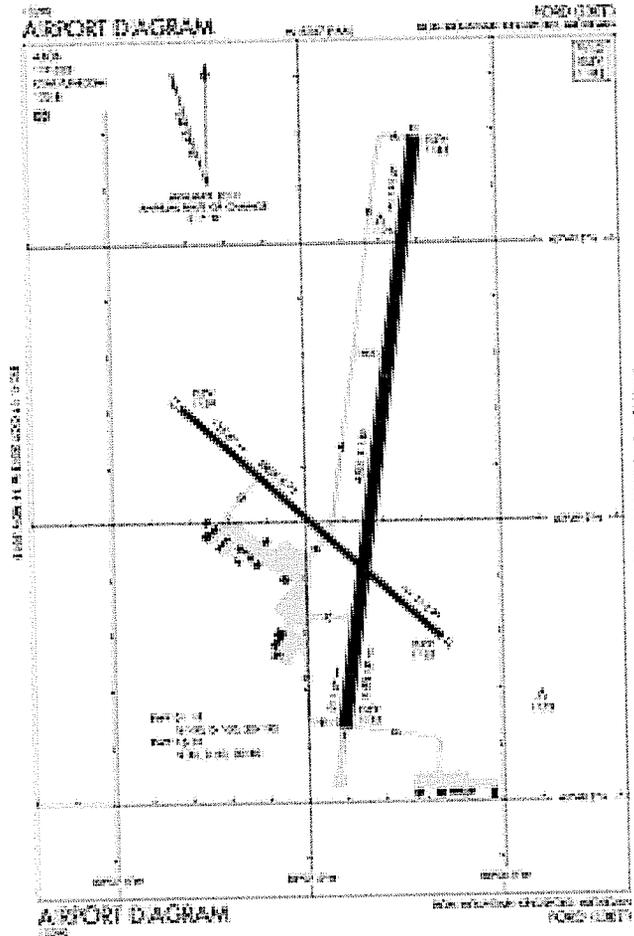
U.S. 2, U.S. 141, and M-95 are the major thoroughfares through Dickinson County. U.S. 2 is the route that links the County to the eastern and western portions of the U.P. This highway runs from Interstate 75, near the City of St. Ignace, to the City of Ironwood, and then continues on to the west coast. A multi-lane stretch of U.S. 2 runs within Dickinson County from the City of Norway's eastern limit to about one-mile north of the City of Iron Mountain.

U.S. 141 is an important north/south highway route in the west-central portion of the Upper Peninsula. It runs from the U.S. 41/M-28 intersection in Baraga County, through the cities of Crystal Falls and Iron Mountain, then to the City of Niagara, WI and beyond. With the Iron Mountain/Kingsford urban area, it runs north from Niagara, through a small portion of south-central Breitung Township, connects with U.S. 2 just west of the community of Quinnesec, and then runs with U.S. 2 through the City of Iron Mountain. In Iron Mountain, U.S. 141 and U.S. 2 merge with M-95 in the central portion of the City, and separate from M-95 about one-mile north of Iron Mountain and runs westerly into Spread Eagle, WI.

M-95 is an important north/south state trunkline that links the County to the cities of Ishpeming, Negaunee, and Marquette via U.S. 41/M-28. It runs from the Wisconsin border, through the cities of Kingsford and Iron Mountain, northern Breitung Township, the communities of Sagola and Channing, and then terminates at U.S. 41/M-28 in Marquette County. M-69 is a "cut-across" route that can be used by east-west travelers in the U.P. wanting to avoid the U.S. 2 urban congestion in the Iron Mountain area. It runs east-west from western Delta County, through the northern portion of Menominee County, central Dickinson County, and western Iron County, and then ends at the intersection with U.S. 2/141 in the City of Crystal Falls.

Ford Airport (IMT), located 3 miles from Iron Mountain, serves Dickinson County. It is 1182.0 feet above sea level at Latitude 45-49-06.1000N (45.818361) and Longitude 088-06-52.4000W (-88.114556). Commercial jet passenger service is provided by Delta Airlines operating as SkyWest Airlines, under a contract for Essential Air Services. SkyWest offers two flights daily to Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP). Critical Care Air Ambulance services are provided by Integrated First Response. Based at Ford Airport, they offer emergency transport from any city in the west-central Upper Peninsula to

medical centers in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and beyond. Non-emergent medical flight services are provided by a non-profit organization, Northwoods Air Lifeline. A number of private planes are also hangared at Ford Airport. The airport is located within the City of Kingsford. The airport facility is owned and operated by Dickinson County.



The Rail service in the County is provided by the Escanaba and Lake Superior Railroad (E&LS), the line incorporated in 1898. E&LS is a privately owned shortline railroad company operating in Northeastern Wisconsin and the upper Peninsula of Michigan. Under current ownership, the E&LS has expanded from the original core line of 65 miles that was purchased in 1978, to over 235 miles of operating railroad in 2005. The E&LSRR is headquartered in Wells, MI, where they operate a freight car repair and paint facility. E&LS maintains an additional office located in Green Bay, WI.

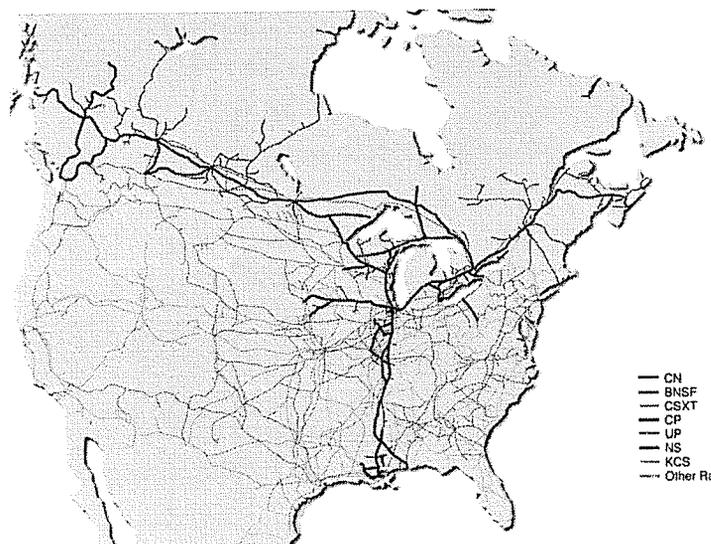
E&LS operates freight service from Wells (Delta County), MI to Ontonagon (Ontonagon County), MI, and from Republic, MI to Green Bay, WI, with the two lines crossing at Channing, MI. E&LS maintains track in Sagola, Felch and West Branch townships within Dickinson County.

From Channing the rail line runs south to the community of Sagola and onto the City of Iron Mountain. The track then runs east from the City of Iron Mountain to the Village of Powers (Menominee County), with a spur going from the community of Quinnesec to the City of Niagara, WI. From Powers, it runs south to the cities of Menominee and Marinette and then south-southwesterly through the cities of Peshtigo and Oconto, WI. The track eventually terminates at its regional hub in the City of Green Bay, WI.

The line was owned and operated by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Co. (C&NW) from the 1860's until April of 1995, when it was purchased by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, as part of a nationwide takeover of the entire C&NW system. About two years later, E&LS purchased this line along with the rest of the C&NW lines in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin from Union Pacific. The E&LS operates on trackage rights over the Canadian National Railroad from North Escanaba, MI to Pembine, WI. The E&LS connects with the Canadian National at Green Bay, North Escanaba, Pembine, and Iron Mountain, MI. E&LS's major customer in Dickinson County is Louisiana Pacific (LP) in Sagola Township.

In 2012, E&LS abandoned rail siding on the north side of Iron Mountain. It is now being used for recreation: running and biking in the summer; snowmobiling in the winter.

Canadian National Rail serves as the primary east-west connector route between northern Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls) and the Eastern Upper Peninsula and into Canada. Canadian National has rail in Breitung, Waucesdah and Norway townships in Dickinson County.



Canadian National Rail Map

5.2 Planning Method

One method to assess community recreation needs is the Standards System. Standards that have been developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provide a scale against which an existing recreation system can be measured so the guidelines for future needs can be created. Standards link the number of acres to the community's population.

Open space needs are usually assessed using space standards, the most common and widely used measure of a recreation system's adequacy. Total park and recreation space is usually expressed as acres per population. These space standards are useful in assessing current and future open space needs and demand. Table 5.2.A depicts local and regional open space standards.

**Table 5.2.A
Local and Regional Open Space Standards**

Park Type	Service Area	Size (Acres)	Acres/1,000 Population	Uses
Mini-park	< ¼ mile radius	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group, such as tots or senior citizens
Neighborhood Park/ Recreation Area	¼ to ½ mile radius	15 +	1.0 to 2.0	Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, crafts, playground apparatus areas, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.
Community Park/Recreation Area	1 to 2 mile radius (several neighborhoods)	25 +	5.0 to 8.0	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreation 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

DICKINSON COUNTY

FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

				the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.
Regional Park/Recreation Area	1 hour drive time (several communities)	200+	5.0 to 10.0	Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail use; may include play areas.

Source: Roger A. Lancaster, Ed. 1983, *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*, Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association.

A community's park system under NRPA standards should have a minimum of 6.25 to 10.50 total acres of developed open space per 1,000 count in population. Dickinson County with a population of 27,472 would have to provide 6.87 to 13.74 acres of mini parks, 27.47 to 54.94 acres of neighborhood parks/playgrounds, 137.36 to 219.78 acres of community parks/recreation areas, and 137.36 to 274.72 acres of regional parks/recreation areas.

Dickinson County possesses about 2,979 acres* of public owned recreational land (county, city, township, and school owned sites). The breakdown of this recreation land includes: 15 acres of mini parks, 72 acres of neighborhood parks/recreation areas, 196 acres of community parks/recreation areas, and 2,696 acres of regional parks/recreation areas (Table 5.2.B). Comparing NRPA standards with the number of acres of recreational land found in the County, the County has excess acreage of land in mini parks, neighborhood parks/playgrounds, and regional parks/recreation areas and the recommended acreage for community parks/recreation areas. The total acreage of recreation land in the County is more than adequate for the current population.

*Total acreage figure does not include Copper Country State Forest land and facilities.

**Table 5.2.B
Existing Public Open Space
Dickinson County**

Park Type	Park Land Area (Acres)	Land Area Standard (Acres)
Mini Parks	15	6.87 to 13.74
Neighborhood Parks/Recreation Areas	72	27.47 to 54.94
Community Parks/Recreation Areas	196	137.36 to 219.78
Regional Park/Recreation Areas	2,696	137.36 to 274.72
Total Parks/Recreation Areas	2,979	309.06 to 563.18

Note: Does not include land or facilities in Copper Country State Forest.

5.3 Park Accessibility

The American 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 is comprised 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 January 26, 1992. Remodeling or new construction of facilities and buildings had the same deadline date to become accessible to persons with disabilities. 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 ADA of 1990 required that “reasonable accommodation” be made to the needs of the estimated one in five people in this country who have a disability. 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.

The American Disability Act Amendments of 2008 broadened the definition of disability. In the 2010 ADA Amendments, Part 35 specifically relates to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in State and Local Government Services.

On September 26, 2013 the U.S. Access Board issued new accessibility guidelines for outdoor areas on federal lands. The guidelines provide detailed specifications for accessible trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas when newly built or altered. They also provide exceptions for situations where terrain and other factors make compliance impracticable.

Requirements for trails and pedestrian access routes address surface characteristics, width, grade, and cross slope. Exceptions are included for these and other provisions under certain conditions stipulated in the guidelines. Departures are allowed where compliance is not practicable because of terrain or prevailing construction practices. Exceptions are also recognized where compliance would conflict with mandates such as the Endangered Species Act and other laws or where it would fundamentally alter a site's function or purpose.



Accessible natural-surface trail

Under this rulemaking, the Access Board is first developing guidelines under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) for outdoor developed areas managed by the federal government. Guidelines for non-federal sites covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be developed separately at a later date. The Federal guidelines originate from recommendations prepared by the Outdoor Developed Areas Regulatory Negotiation Committee, an advisory panel chartered by the Access Board. (<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards>)

Until such time as Guidelines for non-Federal sites covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are developed separately through a subsequent rulemaking, the USDA Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Facility and Trail Accessibility Guidelines will be applied to any new construction or updates to existing facilities. The guidelines established by the USDA Forest Service for improving the accessibility of recreational areas and trails are detailed in Appendix B.

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

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

Stable barrier-free pathways providing linkages from one recreation amenity to another will be needed at most of the County's outdoor 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 ¼ 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.

As noted, the recreation sites in Dickinson County are not completely accessible according to the ADA Standards. As funds become available, restrooms, pathways, parking, and general accessibility of all amenities will be evaluated and upgraded according to ADA and USDA Forest Service guidelines over the next few years to assure that all people are given the same opportunities for recreational access in Dickinson County.

6.0 THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that two methods be used to incorporate public input into the recreation planning process. In 2013, The Dickinson County Board of Commissioners conducted a survey of users of Lake Antoine Park. The goal of the survey was to determine what park improvements were needed from the users' point of view.

A total of 796 surveys were mailed to individuals who had reserved a campsite or pavilion at Lake Antoine Park in 2011 and 2012. A total of 140 surveys were returned

for a response rate of 17.5%, which yielded a sampling error rate of $\pm 8\%$. Demographic data was collected and all aspects of park services were surveyed, including the reservation system, check-in and check-out process, current campground ratings, Improvements needed, and recommendation to others. The complete survey results are located in the Appendix C.

The results indicated needs in key areas, which are addressed throughout the Recreation Plan. The commissioners felt it was important to reach out to our citizens for input to encourage the perception of ownership of the County parks and empowering them to have a stake in future park planning.

In addition to the survey implemented above, the Board of Commissioners also chose to hold an open meeting to specifically discuss park issues and potential future park improvement projects. A public forum was held on March 10, 2014 and input was gathered from meeting participants, which included administrative staff and board members from the Dickinson County Conservation District. The information obtained assisted the commissioners in developing the Recreation Development Schedule included with this Plan.

The County allowed for a 30 day public review period of the Recreation Plan, which they advertised in the local newspaper on _____. The County held a public hearing on _____ to hear public comment on the Plan. The County adopted the plan at their regular meeting on _____.

The County's Parks Committee is the primary facilitator in identifying local recreation needs for Dickinson County, with the County Planning Commission serving as a secondary facilitator. During the development of this recreation plan update, the Planning Commission spent time meeting with people who use the County's recreation facilities, civic and community groups, and local sporting associations, who addressed local recreation needs.

6.1 Recreational Needs Assessment

Dickinson County's long-term commitment to recreation services is clear. The long- and short-range goals and policies of this plan underscore the growing importance of recreation on a County-wide basis. One thing seems clear, and that is to provide for use of these recreation resources by a broad segment of the population, including persons with disabilities. Based on 2010 census data, it is apparent that the demographics of Dickinson County are changing. The population groups of 64 and older, as well as persons with disabilities, must be taken into consideration when

planning for new or upgrading existing facilities. They must be designed to accommodate access and enjoyment by people with disabilities, the elderly, and those who are able-bodied, since all parks are in the public trust.

Recreation needs assessment for Dickinson County takes a multi-dimensional approach. The whole process of needs assessment involves, for the most part, interactive thinking and evaluation by a number of groups and individuals. The process for evaluation is the responsibility of the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners has the financial responsibility of implementing recreation needs and thus must coordinate these needs with available financial resources.

6.2 Specific Recreation Facility Needs

The specific recreation facility needs should be based on the expressed desires of the residents of Dickinson County, which is accomplished through an interactive process involving the Board of Commissioners, Parks Committee, Planning Commission, County staff (Controller and Park Manager), Fumee Lake Natural Area Commission, and the general public.

7.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and policies which follow were used as guides for recreation related decision making. Consideration and observance of recreation policies should ultimately lead a community toward the attainment of its short and long term goals.

Specific development projects and programs should initially be evaluated with respect to the recreation goals and policies and then in terms of the proposal's contribution to the recreation system of Dickinson County.

GOAL I: Provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all residents of Dickinson County.

Related Policies:

- Projects should meet or exceed current ADA recommendations and standards wherever possible.
- Future development of recreation facilities should exceed minimum ADA recommendations and standards.
- Facilities should be for multiple and/or year-round use.
- User fees should be established where feasible to help defray maintenance cost at specific facilities.
- Proposed projects should be directed toward the elimination of the deficiencies (needs) referenced in this plan.

- Maximize the utilization of state and federal assistance programs to acquire, develop or rehabilitate recreational areas and facilities wherever possible.
- Coordinate recreation planning and implementation activities between adjoining communities to avoid duplicity of services and effort to make optimal use of financial and other resources.

GOAL II: Optimal use should be made of new and existing resources and facilities.

Related Policies:

- Facilities should be capable of accommodating multi-jurisdictional needs where economically feasible.
- Sites selected for development of facilities or parks should be suitable in terms of population served (existing and future) and physical properties of the site.
- Sites should be preserved for future recreation development endeavors, especially in areas with the greatest potential for residential growth.
- Site plans should be created to guide the development of recreational facilities.
- Cooperative or joint development of facilities by neighboring communities should be encouraged whenever feasible.
- Proper maintenance should be assured for facilities by the responsible unit of government.
- Volunteer efforts by citizens and service clubs should be encouraged whenever feasible in all aspects of operations and maintenance of recreational areas.

GOAL III: Facilities should be developed to enhance the cultural, historic, and natural characteristics of the area or site.

Related Policies:

- Preservation and restoration of historic sites is encouraged.
- Site planning should take into consideration natural topography, vegetative cover, scenic characteristics, and the historical significance of the location to be developed.
- Tourist-related recreational development should be encouraged.
- The identification of historic areas should continue within the County.

8.0 ACTION PROGRAM

Under ideal conditions a plan should always result in an action; however, this circumstance is not always attained. Thus, communities need to maximize their efforts toward attaining the general goals identified within a particular plan. Dickinson County has formulated the following capital improvement program and development schedule for implementing its recreation plan (Table 8.1). It is the County Board of

Commissioners' intention that this Development Schedule should be followed as closely as possible. References to the Natural Resources Trust Fund are meant to embrace other forms of State and Federal funding as well.

**Table 8.1
Recreation Development Schedule
Dickinson County**

Project	Year	Cost/Funding Source
Mitigate Conversion of Fumee Lake Natural Area Easement.	2014-2015	\$5,000/Local Funding
<p>Lake Antoine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Plan of Lake Antoine Park with Infrastructure Locations • Purchase and Installation of new Playground Equipment • Build New Main Bathroom and Shower Facility • Electrical Service Upgrade to 50Amps • Road Improvements to Include Paving, Improved Parking Delineations, Upgrade of Barriers for Improved Traffic Flow/Control and Installation of Kiosk to Serve Patron Information Needs • Replacement of Boat Launch and Boat Wash Station to Alleviate AIS Infestations • Upgrade Water and Sewage Systems • Expand community events and 	<p>2014</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2016</p> <p>2016</p> <p>2017</p> <p>2017</p> <p>2018</p> <p>2014</p>	<p>No Cost – will be prepared in-house.</p> <p>\$50,000 MNRTF/LWCF/RP Grant and Local Match</p> <p>\$300,000/MNRTF/LWCF/RP Grant and Local Match</p> <p>\$150,000/ MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match</p> <p>\$100,000/DC Road Commission/DNR Grant/Local Match</p> <p>\$40,000/LWCF/Recreation Passport/AIS Grant/Local Match</p> <p>\$100,000/ MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match</p> <p>No Cost – will be accomplished in-house.</p>

**Table 8.1
Recreation Development Schedule
Dickinson County**

Project	Year	Cost/Funding Source
recreational offerings at Lake Antoine Park through marketing efforts. Dickinson County plans to incorporate universally accessible improvements and installations in all future projects.		
With MDOT, DNR and others, establish routing for the Governor’s Showcase Trail that will provide multiple bicycling options along safe, scenic/historical and sheltered routes within Dickinson County. Collaborate with other Counties along the proposed route to promote the trail and to insure connectivity.	2014-2019	DNR Grants, State Grants and MDOT Funds; in-kind match and volunteer services.
Sawyer Lake Park/ Gust Newberg Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion Control Project • Replacement of Boat Launch and Boat Wash Station to Alleviate AIS Infestations • Electrical Service Upgrade • Road Improvements to Include Shouldering and Repaving 	2014-2015 2016 2017 2017	\$15,000/DC Conservation District/DC Road Commission/Local Funds \$40,000/LWCF/Recreation Passport/AIS Grant/Local Match \$30,000/ MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match \$50,000/DC Road Commission/DNR Grant/Local Match
Norway Lake Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install New Unisex Bathroom Facility 	2016	\$50,000/MNRTF/LWCF/PR

**Table 8.1
Recreation Development Schedule
Dickinson County**

Project	Year	Cost/Funding Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical Upgrade to Park Pavilion • Beach Improvements Including Addition of Sand, Mechanical Removal of Aquatic Plants and Stabilization of Non-Motorized Boat Access 	<p>2017</p> <p>2017</p>	<p>Grant and Local Match</p> <p>\$20,000/Local Funds</p> <p>\$15,000/MNRTF/RP Grant and Local Match</p>
<p>With the Dickinson County Bike Path Committee, plan for maintenance and expansion of the County-wide bike path system.</p>	<p>2014-2019</p>	<p>\$7,500 (Grant Funds) with local match from Dickinson County Bike Path Committee.</p>
<p>Stromberg Lake Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of Boat Launch and Install Boat Wash Station • Construct Chemical Pit Toilets to Serve Campground 	<p>2016</p> <p>2018</p>	<p>\$40,000/LWCF/Recreation Passport/AIS Grant/Local Match</p> <p>\$30,000/MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match</p>
<p>Construct a Pavilion at the Fumee Lake Natural Area for Patron Use and Natural Resources Education.</p>	<p>2014-2019</p>	<p>\$25,000/MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match</p>
<p>Lake Mary Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-Roof Bathroom Facility 	<p>2015</p>	<p>\$8,000/Local Funds</p>

**Table 8.1
Recreation Development Schedule
Dickinson County**

Project	Year	Cost/Funding Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of Boat Launch and Install Boat Wash Station and Dock • Beach Improvements Including Addition of Sand for Beach Access 	<p>2016</p> <p>2017</p>	<p>\$40,000/LWCF/Recreation Passport/AIS Grant/Local Match</p> <p>\$15,000/MNRTF/RP Grant and Local Match</p>
<p>Restore the historic Twin Falls Bridge on the Menominee River for use by Non-Motorized vehicles, and Establish and Promote the Badwater Recreation Area.</p>	<p>2014-2019</p>	<p>Wisconsin-Michigan collaboration for grants and fundraising activities. Breitung Township and WE Energies lease agreement.</p>
<p>Contract with Dickinson County Conservation District for Reforestation, Education and Events Planning.</p>	<p>2014-2019</p>	<p>\$5,000/Local Funds</p>