

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 (recreation) system over the next five years. In order to achieve the desired community goals set forth in this plan, the citizens ~~must~~ (should?) 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 August 25, 2014 will be adopted by the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting scheduled for April 13, 2020.

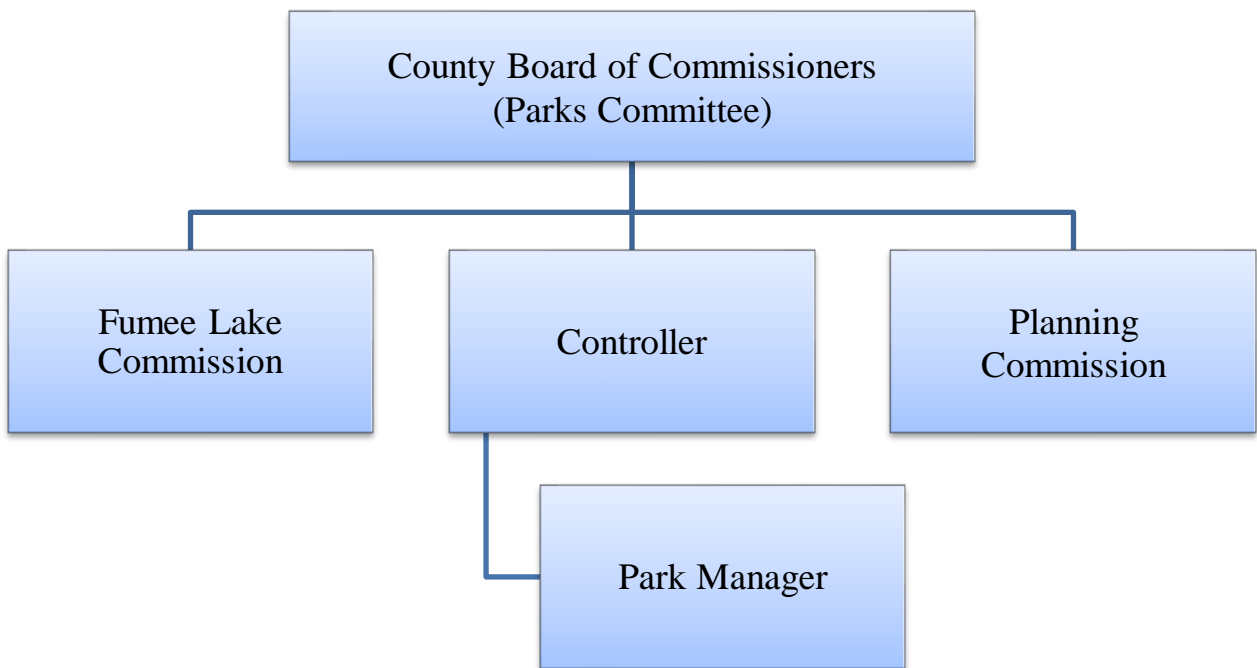
A copy of this plan is on file with the CUPPAD Regional Planning Commission.

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 (and the public) 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 \$229,426 in the last five years to the park system.

| | Parks Budget: | County Appropriation: |
|------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2016 | \$152,797 | \$95,000 |
| 2017 | \$133,487 | \$46,389 |
| 2018 | \$121,801 | \$20,975 |
| 2019 | \$156,597 | \$22,062 |
| 2020 | \$181,921 | \$45,000 |

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 may make a contribution to the Lake Antoine 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. (bicycling, skiing, snowshoeing?)

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 ~~only recreational site within Dickinson the county's park system under the direct jurisdiction of the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners, 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 a very popular recreational area ~~and campground~~ for County residents ~~and visitors alike. individuals from out-of-town to visit.~~ It is operated ~~managed by~~ one permanent full-time employee, ~~and operated with the assistance of two county employees with additional help coming from seasonal employees.~~ ~~Seasonal employees are utilized during the summer months.~~ Daily camping fees are \$20 for County residents and \$24 for non-residents. Facilities include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Picnic Shelters/Pavilions | <input type="checkbox"/> 90 Modern Camping Sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 600+ Parking Spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Wi-fi Internet Access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Tot Lot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball Field | <input type="checkbox"/> 5,000 Feet Waterfront |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Purpose Open Field | <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Launch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Showers/ Flush toilets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dumping Station | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathhouse Dumping Station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honey Wagon | <input type="checkbox"/> Security Gates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Store |

- 2 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 3 Horseshoe Pits
- 3,000 Feet of Buoyed Swimming Beach
- Wheelchair Ramp-Accessible Swimming Beach
- 227-100? Picnic Tables, some Wheelchair Accessible
- Bike, Paddle Board and Kayak Rentals (private vendor contract)
- Permanent Band Shell
- Weekend Security
- Locally-cut Firewood Available

In 2017, Lake Antoine Park Partners (LAPP), a 501(c) 3 was organized to “preserve, improve, promote, and protect Lake Antoine Park for use and benefit of the general public”. LAPP raises funds to improve the park through grant writing and donations. To date, this organization has made numerous improvements to the park, including rebuilding the beach wall, creating an access to the beach for people with mobility challenges, building accessible picnic tables, planting trees and hosting family-friendly events.

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

Project No: ???? (Accessible Playground equipment for 2019)

Project No: ???? (Boat Launch rebuild 2020)

2. 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~~ Through a long-standing lease agreement with Dickinson County, the Kiwanis Ski Club, a 501(c)3, has been maintaining, improving, operating and presenting world-class ski jumping tournaments at Pine Mountain since 1939. A new 99-year lease was signed between Dickinson County and the Kiwanis Ski Club in 2019, which will enable the Kiwanis Ski Club to improve and expand the ski-jumping facilities to comply with Federation Internationale Ski (FIS) rules. Improvements will likely bring additional ski-jumping competitions to Pine Mountain, including the Continental Cup, and Men’s and Women’s World Cup events. In a study completed at the request of the Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance, the economic contribution of the Kiwanis Ski Club, 3- day Ski Jump (Continental Cup) event was determined to have a total impact of \$1,592,137.00, which includes more than \$611,000 in annual wages and \$237,006 in taxes paid. (See Appendix _____)

Facilities currently include:

- World’s Highest Artificial Ski Jump (120 Meter)
- Bulldozer Ski Jump (50 Meter)
- 40 Meter Ski Jump
- 20 Meter Ski Jump
- Spectator Parking Areas
- Horseshoe Pit
- Viewing Platform
- Judging Stand
- Upper Michigan Veterans’ Memorial
- Covered pavilion with grill
- Warming houses for ski-jump competitors
- A full size garrison flag measuring 30 ft. x 60 ft. is flown from atop Pine Mountain.

Accessibility Rating: 1

3. 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 UP. During the warmer months, the trail system is used for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. **In 2019, Dickinson Trail Network (formerly Dickinson county Bike Path) accepted responsibility for grooming the trails for winter use. Winter activities now include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and fat-tire biking.**

Facilities include:

- Scenic Views
- 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
- 5 Miles of Shoreline
- Significant Wetlands
- Hunting in Designated Areas

Accessibility Rating: 1

DNR Grant History:

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

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. During the summer months, the fairgrounds is also used for stock car races, horse shows, **including the Proud Equestrian Program (PEP), and private rentals.** Facilities include:

- Caretaker Home
- Open Horse Arena
- Covered Grandstand
- Beer Stand
- Small Animal Building
- 2 -Story Exhibition Buildings**
- ½ and ¼ Mile Race Tracks
- Large Circular Building with 5 Connecting Barns
- 136-120** RV sites with electric & potable water
- Horticulture Building
- Concession Row Building
- 2 Speed Barns
- ~~Trailer Office~~ office building?
- Poultry Building
- Restroom Buildings
- Clay Pulling Area
- Dump Station
- Bedard Covered Horse Arena

Accessibility Rating: 1

Accessibility Rating: 1

In 2015, due to budgetary constraints, Dickinson County, with the permission of the Department of Natural Resources, transferred all of the outlying county parks to their respective Township Boards of Supervisors. The transfer has proven to be extremely beneficial to the townships and to their park users. Townships have taken pride of ownership in their parks and have made many improvements that benefit them as well as local park users. The following parks were transferred in 2015:

In Sagola Township: 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:

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

Accessibility Rating: 3

DNR Grant History:

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

In Felch Township: 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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40 Picnic Tables | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Camp Sites (with electricity) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 60 Parking Spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball Field | <input type="checkbox"/> 800 Feet of Waterfront |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Launch | <input type="checkbox"/> 300 Foot Swimming Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Pavilion |

Accessibility Rating: 2

DNR Grant History:

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

In Breen Township: 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

In Breen Township: 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

In Waucedah Township: Lake Mary Park: A 6.2-acre community park located about 2 miles south of the community of Loretto, along the south 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

In the City of Iron Mountain 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. Dickinson County transferred ownership of the Crystal Lake Community Center building to the Northern Lights YMCA- Dickinson Center in 2018. See next section for detailed description. and the County are involved in a lease agreement for the operation of this County facility.~~ Facilities include:

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

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

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 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 |
| 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 (US-2) | 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 | |

Table 3.2 Other Recreational Sites in Dickinson County

| General Location | Description | Acreage |
|--|---|---------|
| Groveland Mine Recreation Area | Hiking, Camping, Bike Path, and Parking Area (DTN future biking, snowshoeing & hiking trails and possible toilet facilities) | 600+ |
| Piers Gorge State Park (Menominee River State Recreational Area) ? | Parking Area, Scenic River Rapids and Cascades, Whitewater Rafting, Fishing, Wildlife Viewing, Hiking & biking Trails, and Snowshoeing Trails | 160 |
| 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. DNR funding enabled the City of Iron Mountain to extensively renovate City Park over a four-year period. Matching funds are raised under the auspices of the nonprofit organization, Friends of City Park. That organization continues its efforts to help maintain and improve the park. | 69.2 |
| Northern Lights YMCA | A non-profit 501(c) 3 community recreation facility located along Crystal Lake in the south-central portion of the City of Iron Mountain, just east of Westside Field. Dickinson County transferred ownership of the Crystal Lake Community Center building to the YMCA in 2018, at the expiration of a three-year lease. After a successful capital campaign that raised \$2.4 million, The YMCA has upgraded, expanded and extensively remodeled | |

Table 3.2 Other Recreational Sites in Dickinson County

| General Location | Description | Acreage |
|---|--|---------|
| | <p>the building. The YMCA currently has more than 2500 members.</p> <p>Facilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Basketball Gym <input type="checkbox"/> Paved Off-Street Parking Area <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Racquet Ball Courts <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Swimming Pool <input type="checkbox"/> Game Areas <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Rooms <input type="checkbox"/> Office Complex <input type="checkbox"/> Sauna <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness/Exercise Rooms <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Day Care, up to age 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Kitchen facility | |
| Millie Hill Bat Cave/Viewing Platform/trail systems | Bat Cave adit, Samuel Bassett Scenic Overlook Platform, Scenic Views, DeRidder Pavilion, Benches, Picnic Tables, Hiking, Mille Hill Mountain Bike Trails, and Parking Area (& expansion & Future toilets and lighting) | 30 |
| Lilja Park at Chapin Pit | Picnic Tables, Parking Area, Pavilion, Hiking and Millie Hill Mountain Bike Trail Access | 0.5 |
| Westside Field | Bleachers, Parking Area, Batting Cage, Dugouts, Benches, and Ball Diamond. Adjacent to YMCA. | 9.3 |
| Crystal Lake Park | Soccer Field, Playground Equipment, Picnic Table, Volleyball Poles and Ice Skating | 5.5 |
| Stockbridge Avenue Park | Green Space | 1.0 |
| Forest Street Play lot | Bench, Small Pavilion 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, Pickle Ball courts and off-Street Parking | 5.0 |
| Mountain View Ice Arena | Indoor Ice Rink Complex and off-Street Parking Area. Used extensively by hockey and figure skating clubs, as well as for recreational skating. Also used for exhibitions, craft shows and roller derby meets. | 5.0 |
| Ranger Field | Ball Diamond, Scoreboard, Dugouts, Stands Area, Batting Cage, and Off-Street Parking Area | 1.5 |

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

| General Location | Description | Acreage |
|--|--|----------------|
| 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 |
| Iron Mountain North Elementary School | Picnic Tables, Benches, Basketball Hoops, Concrete Play Area, Playground Equipment, and Off-Street Parking Area. | 14.0 |
| Iron Mountain Junior/Senior High School | Physical Education Building, Indoor Basketball Court, and Auditorium | 3.8 |
| Iron Mountain Central Elementary School | Gym, Basketball Court, and Paved Play Area | 5.0 |
| Our Place Community Center-Imagination Factory Children's Museum (501(c)3) | Interactive play experiences on many educational and fun exhibits. Educational presentations. An intergenerational gathering place. Housed within the Iron Mountain Public School building at 217 W. Hughitt Street. Accessible. | 0.5 |
| 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 Grandstands (with Press box) | 5.0 |
| Michigan Welcome Center | Michigan Tourism Information Available on Location (rest area and picnic tables) | |
| Magee Johnson Stage and Park | Covered Stage With Power, Landscaped Grassy Area With Benches, and Parking Area | |
| Menominee Range Historical Foundation-501(c)3 | Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum-features North America's largest steam engine: Designated as a National Historic Site and National Mechanical/Civil Engineering Landmark, The Cornish Pump, built in 1890, weighs 725 tons, stands 54' tall, features a 40' flywheel; and pumped 3190 gallons of water/minute. Extensive displays of mining equipment and | 1.5 |

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

| General Location | Description | Acreage |
|--------------------------|--|---------|
| | <p>Menominee Iron Range history with artifacts and historic photographs. Exhibit of Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company Plant, Kingsford, which produced 4190 CG-4A gliders and “woodie” station wagons. WWII Glider Museum- features a CG-4A Glider – one of only seven fully restored gliders worldwide – 83’ wing span, 12’ high, 48’ long. Also, Military uniforms from Civil War to Desert Storm; WWII Ford jeep; historic photos and film footage; 1927 Ford Model T Coupe, 1939 Ford V-8 DeLuxe Station Wagon, 1928 Ford AA Fire Engine, 1930 Ford Model A Tudor Sedan, 1930 Ford Model AA Dump Truck. Menominee Range Historical Museum features over 100 exhibits showing life in the late 1800’s, including Native American artifacts. Contains many of the historical archives for Dickinson County.</p> | |
| City of Kingsford | | |
| Breen Street Playground | Playground Equipment, Multi-Purpose Open Field, and Sledding Hill | 0.5 |
| 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 |

Table 3.2 Other Recreational Sites in Dickinson County

| General Location | Description | Acreage |
|---|---|----------------|
| 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 |
| Kingsford High School 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 |
| City of Norway | | |
| North Nelson Street Play lot | Playground Equipment and Basketball Court | |
| 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 |
| Norway 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. Iron Belle Trail access | 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 Trailhead for DTN-built and maintained Norway Ogee Single Track, which | |

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

| General Location | Description | Acreage |
|---|--|---------|
| | provides about 6 miles of trail, with extensions planned for 2020 (& 2021).The winter trails provides about 10 miles of groomed trail: 4 miles ski track and 10 miles for fat-tire biking and snowshoes. | |
| 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 |
| Rock Lake (DNR Access Site) | Gravel Surface Boat Launch, Limited Parking, Scenic Trail, Toilet, and 4 Camping Spaces | 80.0 |
| Strawberry Lake | See Norway Rec plan & trail system | ?? |
| 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 | 3.0 |
| Lake Mary (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 | |

Table 3.2 Other Recreational Sites in Dickinson County

| General Location | Description | Acreage |
|---|---|---------|
| 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 Trail Network (formerly Dickinson County Bike Path) | 95+ miles of county-wide Road and Single-track trails, which are maintained and groomed for winter riding. (Dickinson Trail Network- Dickinson County Bike Path Committee Maps included in Appendix A) (https://www.dtntrails.org/milliehill) | |
| Iron Belle Trail (Biking) | One of the most scenic segments of the Iron Belle Trail in the UP is in Dickinson County. It's nearly 45 miles follows US 2 from the eastern edge of the county into Norway Township/City around Strawberry Lake and back to US-2. Then north on Quinnesec-Lake Antoine Road, circling Lake Antoine to the north; then west to N. Milwaukee Avenue/Bass Lake Rd./County Rd. 607; then north to Randville to MI Hwy 95; north on MI 95 to MI 69; and west on MI 69 to Iron County. county line . The IBT is maintained by the Dickinson Trail Network (DTN) and County Road Commission. | |
| True North Outpost | A private business located on Old Piers Gorge Road, TNO offers a variety of outdoor recreational experiences, including white-water rafting excursions through Piers Gorge on the Menominee River; kayak, canoe, stand-up paddleboard, snowshoe, trail- and snow-bike rentals, and a wall-climbing gym. | |

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, and provides elevation changes that invite the development of hiking and mountain bike trails. 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 (future biking/hiking trail network) |
| Merriman & Browns Lake Truck Trail | Scenic | Breitung, Norway & Waucedah | M-95 to CR 569 | Extensive | Wilderness road, hunting camps | Woods, hunting(future biking/hiking trail network) |

**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 (future biking/hiking trails) |
| 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 (future mountain bike trails & skiing) |
| Piers Gorge & Menominee River State Recreation Area | Scenic | Norway | 1 mi. S of Norway | 100 acres | River rapids and cascade | Undeveloped , except trails |
| 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

Waucedah 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 Waucedah 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 Waucedah 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 Waucedah 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. Piers Gorge in the Menominee River boasts Class III to Class V rapids, depending on the time of year and water levels. 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 (748 acres) and Fumee Lake (507 acres), in the southwestern part of the County, and Sawyer Lake (241 acres) in the northwestern part. There are several hydro-electrical impoundments on the Menominee River and two wildlife and recreational impoundments, including the Hardwood Impoundment, on the East Branch of the Sturgeon River.

4.5 Climate

Iron Mountain is 1135 feet above sea level. Dickinson County receives an average rainfall of 28 inches per year, and 58 inches of snow per year. On average, there are 185 sunny days annually. Average temperatures range from 4 degrees (in January) to 79 degrees (in July). 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.

In 2017, Dickinson County, MI had a population of 25.7k people with a median age of 46.4 and a median household income of \$45,681. Between 2016 and 2017 the population of Dickinson County, MI declined from 25,889 to 25,694, a -0.753% decrease, and its median household income grew from \$43,373 to \$45,681, a 5.32% increase.

~~In 2017, the median age of all people in Dickinson County, MI was 46.4. (repeat from previous par.?)~~ People in Dickinson County, MI are getting younger. In 2016, the average age of all Dickinson County, MI residents was 47.

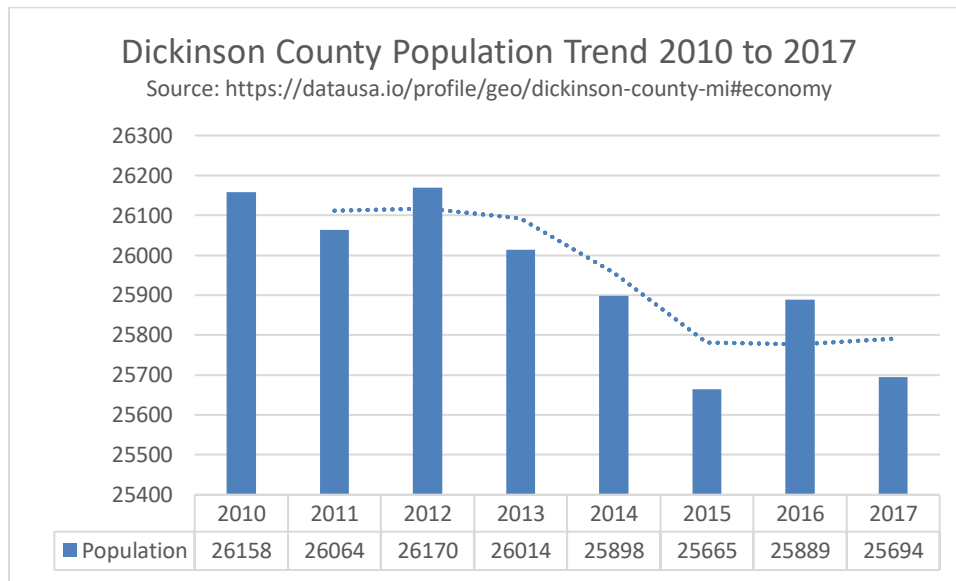
The population of Dickinson County, MI is 95.6% White, 1.42% Hispanic or Latino, and 1.05% Two or More Races. 99.6% are U.S. citizens. 2,519 Veterans live in Dickinson County, which is approximately 10% of the total population. It should be noted that Dickinson County is home to the Oscar G. Johnson Veterans Administration Medical Center that serves Veterans living in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin.

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 continues to experience the largest growth rate in Dickinson County.** ~~during this period, more than doubling its population.~~ Figure 5.1.1 provides a graphic representation of the County's population trends:

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

Source: <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/dickinson-county-mi#economy>



5.1.2 Age Distribution

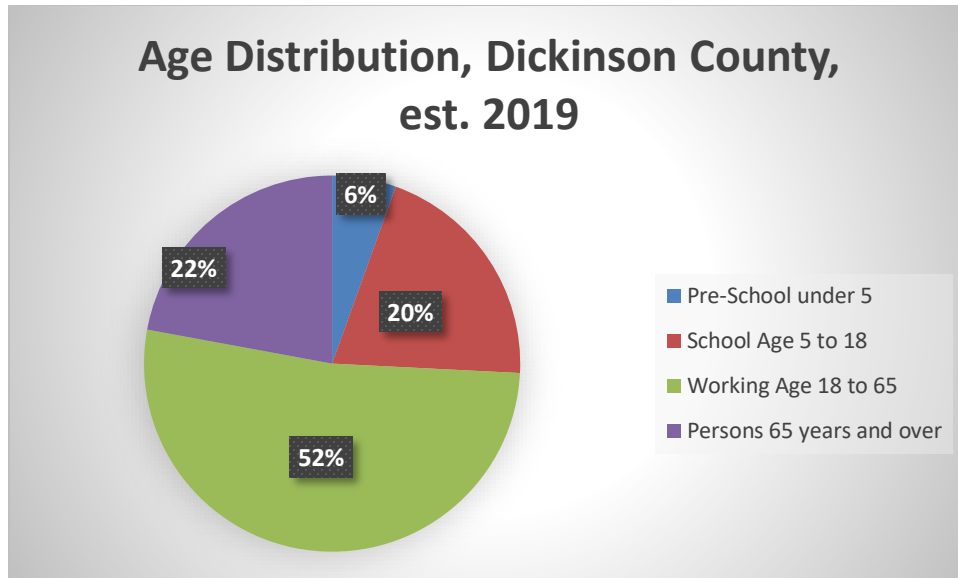
The age of residents of an area may indicate emerging needs for recreational facilities and programming. Figure 5.1.2 graphically represents the age distribution by percentage of Dickinson County. These are 2019 estimates from the US Census Bureau.

In 2017, the median age of all people in Dickinson County, MI was 46.4. In 2016, the average age of all Dickinson County, MI residents was 47. People in Dickinson County, MI are getting younger, although the median age at the time of the 2010 census was 45.4 years. The decrease in the median age may be attributable to the concerted effort Dickinson Area employers, in conjunction with the Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance (DAEDA), have made to attract and retain younger workers.

~~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) 52%; the next largest cohort is that of residents who are 18 and under. People 65 and over (5,822); now constitute is the smallest group (22%). 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. As a side note, there has been a noticeable upswing in the construction and use of single-track bike trails, which are usually utilized by younger individuals. Because our population has a significant numbers of those 65 and over, issues such as site accessibility and programming will be taken into consideration.~~

Figure 5.1.2: Estimated Age Distribution for Census Year 2019, Dickinson County

Source: <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/dickinson-county-mi#economy>



5.1.3 Gender

In 2010, U.S. census data indicated the population distribution of Dickinson County by gender was 4,876 (49.2%) males and 43,292 (50.8%) females. **The U. S Census 2019 estimated proportion of males (51.1%) to females (49.9%) has changed slightly.**

5.1.4 Disability

In **2019** within Dickinson County, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that **13.1% of the population, or 3535 individuals had a disability** ~~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 **2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates indicate that there were 11,092 individuals in the workforce: 4,937 females and 6,155 males.**

Individuals who live and work within Dickinson County number 9,702. 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%.

As of November 2019, the civilian labor force was 12,427, with 11,990 people employed and 437 people unemployed. The unemployment rate was 3.5%. For comparative purposes, the Michigan State unemployment rate for the same period was 4%. The unemployment rate fluctuates considerably due to economic, seasonal and environmental factors, although it has improved and stabilized within the last three years. There remains a strong demand for skilled workers, with an estimated 500+ job openings in a variety of occupations.

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 dominant 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. **The Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association estimate that the tourism industry in Dickinson County contributes nearly \$65 million annually to the local economy. The Pine Mountain Ski Jumping Tournament is substantially (\$1.5M) to that total.** Heritage visitors enjoy touring the WWII Glider and Cornish Pump Museum as well as several other museums, **the UP Veteran's Memorial on the top of Pine Mountain, adjacent to the Pine Mountain Ski Jump,** geographic sites like the Groveland and Chapin Mine Ponds, the Iron Mountain Iron Mine and the Millie Hill Bat Cave. **Bike trails are becoming abundant, with new trails in the Fumee Lake Natural Area, Norway at Marion Park & to the Menomonee River Recreational Area, Millie Hill area and others.** 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, **rivers** and streams offer many opportunities for recreation and Dickinson County claims one of the best grouse hunting sites **and fishing** in the Midwest.

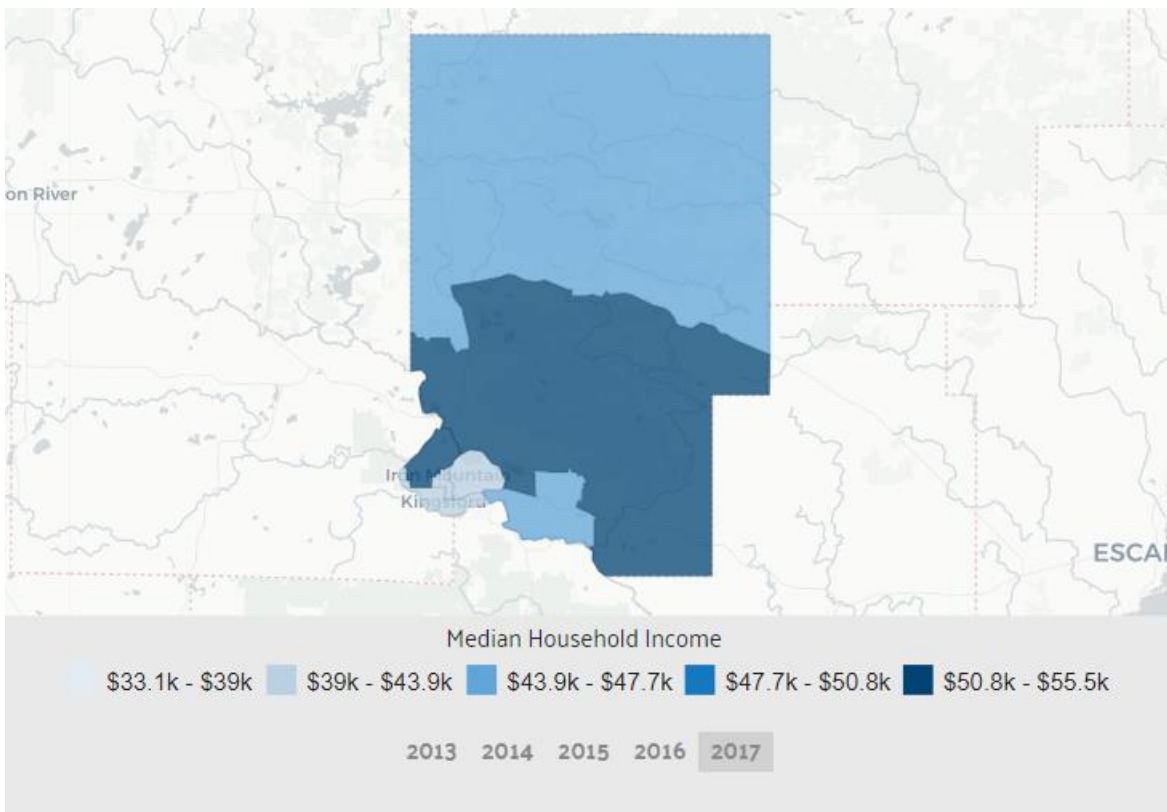
Trail development planning, acquisition and development are ongoing. **In 2019, the pace increased significantly when the Dickinson County Bike Path was reorganized as the Dickinson Trail Network, incorporating the vision to include single track, mountain biking and winter biking into the recreational mix.** 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 Trail Network (DTN (501(c)3) continues to play an integral part in establishing a master plan for a trail system and has marked more than 80 miles of bicycle trail.** There are more than 200 miles targeted for development.

Dickinson County was instrumental in promoting a southern route for the **Iron Belle Trail 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.~~ **The route, encompassing roughly 45 miles through Dickinson County, is now officially designated and is marked with the IBT logo. Significant grants were awarded to DTN for trail**

construction and signage. ~~Once this route is established and marketed,~~ As the route becomes more well-known, it will bring additional tourism dollars to Dickinson County and to the other counties along the route.

According to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (in 2018 dollars), the per capita income for Dickinson county residents was ~~\$28,020~~ \$24,682, which was ~~\$865~~ \$2,336 less than the per capita income for the State.

In 2017, households in Dickinson County, MI have a median annual income of \$45,681. This is in comparison to a median income of \$43,373 in 2016, which represents a 5.32% annual growth. ~~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. In 2017, the tract with the highest Median Household Income (Total) in Dickinson County, MI was Census Tract 9507, with a value of \$55,455, followed by Census Tract 9502 and Census Tract 9501, with respective values of \$51,895 and \$45,568 (https://datausa.io/profile/geo/dickinson-county-mi#economy). 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.~~



Source: <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/dickinson-county-mi#economy>

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.

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

All land use planning will serve to incorporate the ongoing efforts of the Dickinson County Bike Path, whose trail maps are attached in Appendix B, and Little Badwater Recreation Trail, whose Botanical Survey is attached in Appendix C.

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:

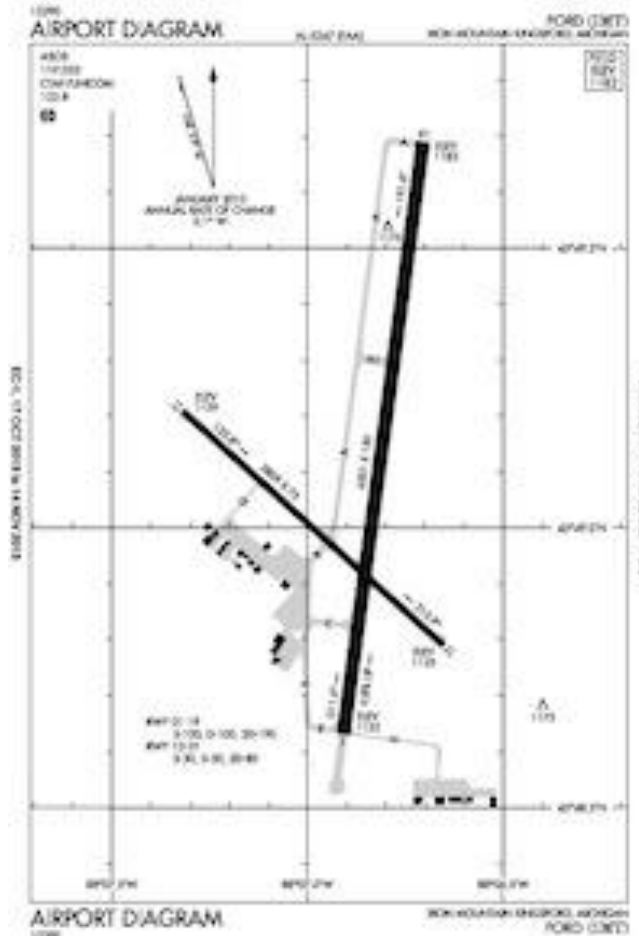
U.S. 2, U.S. 141, and M-95 are the major thoroughfares through Dickinson County. U.S. 2 is the route that links the County to the eastern and western portions of the U.P. This highway runs from Interstate 75, near the City of St. Ignace, to the City of Ironwood, and then continues on to the west coast. 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: **one to Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP), and another to Detroit (DTW). Passenger counts have exceeded 20,000 in 2018 and 2019.** Critical Care Air Ambulance services are provided by Valley Med Flight. 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. **Two large, business hangars were added in 2019, and the main runway was repaved at a cost of \$5.4 million.** 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.

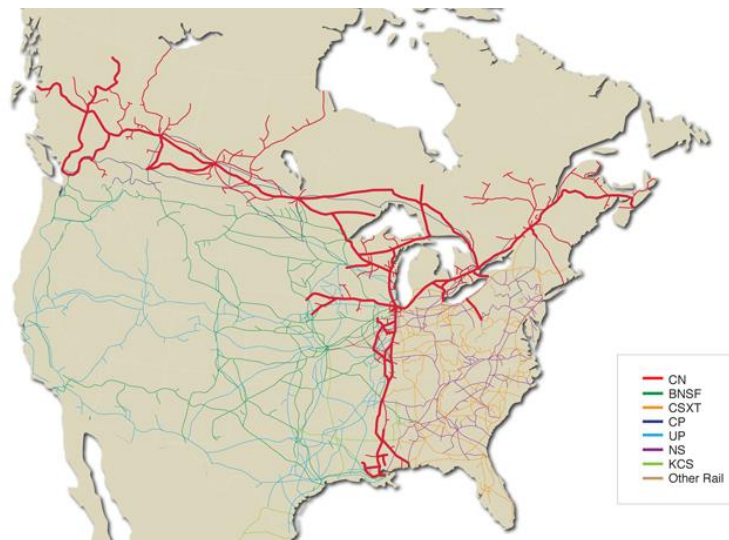
From Channing the rail line runs south to the community of Sagola and onto the City of Iron Mountain. The track then runs east from the City of Iron Mountain to the Village of Powers (Menominee County), with a spur going from the community of Quinnesec to the City of Niagara, WI. From Powers, it runs 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, Waucedah 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 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 encompasses 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 |

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 guidelines under the for outdoor developed areas government. Guidelines for Americans with Disabilities Act separately at a later date. The from recommendations Developed Areas Regulatory advisory panel chartered by ([http://www.access-](http://www.access-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards)



Access Board is first developing Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) managed by the federal non-federal sites covered by the (ADA) will be developed Federal guidelines originate prepared by the Outdoor Negotiation Committee, an the Access Board. [board.gov/guidelines-and-](http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards)

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 D.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, the pathway must be ramped. If the level change is between $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, the levels must be beveled. Where water fountains are available, spouts should be no more than 36 inches above the finished floor. If the fountain is freestanding or built-in and does not have a clear space underneath, a clear floor space of 30 to 48 inches alongside the fountain for a parallel approach must be provided. Wall or post mounted fountains must have a clear knee space under the fountain of at least 27 inches high by 17 to 19 inches deep by 30 inches wide. Controls must be located at the front edge of the fountain and operable with one hand without twisting the wrist.

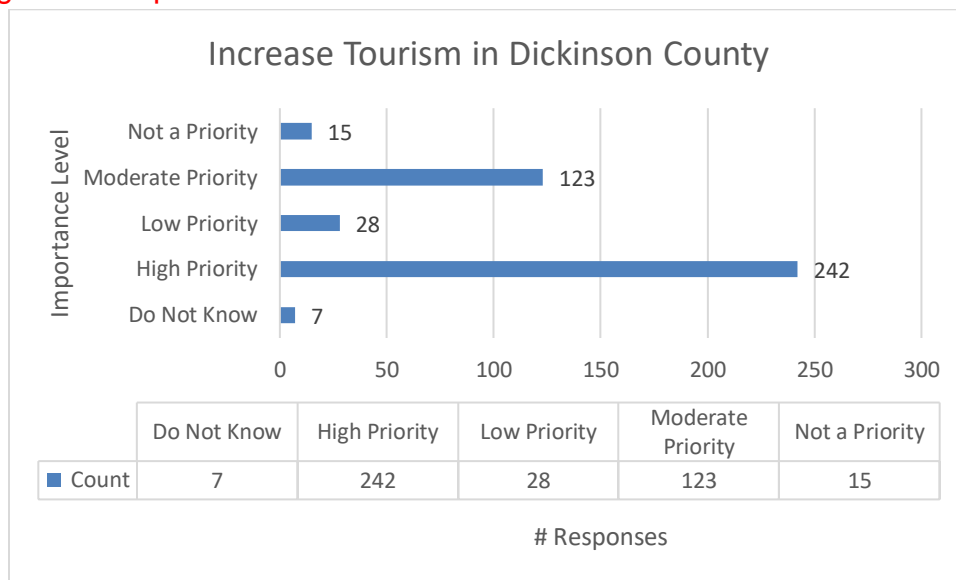
As noted, the recreation sites in Dickinson County are not completely accessible according to the ADA Standards. As funds become available, restrooms, pathways, parking, and general accessibility of all amenities will be evaluated and upgraded according to ADA and USDA Forest Service guidelines over 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 2018, The Dickinson County Planning Commission Board of Commissioners conducted an extensive survey in Dickinson County to determine a number of recreational preferences and other aspects of county services.

A total of 796 415 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 ± 8%. completed either online or on paper. Respondents were asked how they felt about “Increasing Tourism in Dickinson County. Based on the responses, the results were overwhelmingly in favor of expanding tourism options:



Additionally, campground users at Lake Antoine were asked to voluntarily submit surveys on an ongoing basis to determine what park improvements were needed from the users’ point of view. Demographic data was collected and All aspects of park services were surveyed, including the reservation system functionality, check-in and check-out process, current campground ratings, Improvements needed, and recommendation to others. A copy of the complete surveys results are located in the Appendix C.?

Unfortunately, the response rate for the campground survey was less than desirable, and could not provide a statistically significant sample for evaluation. Comments, feedback and concerns regarding the Park were also retrieved from Social Media (FB, Messenger), phone calls and emails. When issues became known, there (they) were addressed.

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

In addition to the survey implemented above, Lake Antoine Park Partners Board of Commissioners also chose to hold held public forums in the spring of 2018 and 2019 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 Dickinson County in developing a 10-year Improvement Plan for Lake antoine Park, which is included with the the Recreation Development Schedule included with this Plan. Lake Antoine Park Partners also developed a Strategic Plan to guide their efforts to improve Lake Antione Park. Include BOTH in Rec. Plan?

The County allowed for a 30 day public review period of the Recreation Plan, which they advertised in the local newspaper on July 18, 2014. The County held a public hearing on August 25, 2014 to hear public comments on the Plan. The County adopted the Plan at their regular meeting on August 25, 2014.

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 Compared to the 2010 census data, it is apparent that the demographics of Dickinson County are changing. The population groups of 64 and older, younger working professionals, 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

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, **Affiliated Recreation/Nonprofit/Tourism entities**, and the general public.

7.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and policies **that** 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 achievable 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 recreational offerings at Lake Antoine Park through marketing efforts. Add amenities to enhance the camping and park experience | <p>2020</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2023</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2020-2025</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>\$100,000 County Funds</p> <p>\$100,000/DC Road Commission/DNR Grant/Local Match</p> <p>\$80,000/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. Lake Antoine Park Partners</p> |

**Table 8.1
Recreation Development Schedule
Dickinson County**

| Project | Year | Cost/Funding Source |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Dickinson County plans to incorporate universally accessible improvements and installations in all future projects.</p> | | |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>2014-2019</p> | <p>DNR Grants, State Grants and MDOT Funds; in-kind match and volunteer services.</p> |
| <p>Sawyer Lake Park/ Gust Newberg Park</p> <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 | <p>2014-2015</p> <p>2016</p> <p>2017</p> <p>2017</p> | <p>\$15,000/DC Conservation District/DC Road Commission/Local Funds</p> <p>\$40,000/LWCF/Recreation Passport/AIS Grant/Local Match</p> <p>\$30,000/ MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match</p> <p>\$50,000/DC Road Commission/DNR Grant/Local Match</p> |
| <p>Norway Lake Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Install New Unisex Bathroom Facility ● Electrical Upgrade to Park Pavilion | <p>2016</p> <p>2017</p> | <p>\$50,000/MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match</p> <p>\$20,000/Local Funds</p> |

**Table 8.1
Recreation Development Schedule
Dickinson County**

| Project | Year | Cost/Funding Source |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beach Improvements Including Addition of Sand, Mechanical Removal of Aquatic Plants and Stabilization of Non-Motorized Boat Access | 2017 | \$15,000/MNRTF/RP Grant and Local Match |
| <p>With the Dickinson County Bike Path Committee, plan for maintenance and expansion of the County-wide bike path system.</p> | 2014-2019 | \$7,500 (Grant Funds) with local match from Dickinson County Bike Path Committee. |
| <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 | 2016 2018 | \$40,000/LWCF/Recreation Passport/AIS Grant/Local Match \$30,000/MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match |
| <p>Construct a Pavilion at the Fumee Lake Natural Area for Patron Use and Natural Resources Education.</p> | 2022-2025 | \$25,000/MNRTF/LWCF/PR Grant and Local Match |
| <p>Lake Mary Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Re-Roof Bathroom Facility ● Replacement of Boat Launch and Install Boat Wash Station and Deck ● Beach Improvements Including Addition of Sand for Beach Access | 2015 2016 2017 | \$8,000/Local Funds \$40,000/LWCF/Recreation Passport/AIS Grant/Local Match \$15,000/MNRTF/RP Grant and Local Match |

**Table 8.1
Recreation Development Schedule
Dickinson County**

| Project | Year | Cost/Funding Source |
|---|-----------|---|
| Restore the historic Twin Falls Bridge on the Menominee River for use by Non-Motorized vehicles, and Establish and Promote the Badwater Recreation Area . | 2025 | Wisconsin-Michigan collaboration for grants and fundraising activities. DTN , Breitung Township and WE Energies lease agreement. |
| Contract with Dickinson County Conservation District for Reforestation, Education and Events Planning. | 2014-2019 | \$5,000/Local Funds |
| Pine Mountain Ski Area | 2019-2023 | See amendments for details to add to plan: \$4 Million expansion project |
| Fumee Lake Natural Area | | See above. Anything else? |
| Dickinson County Fairgrounds | | |
| Dickinson Trail Network | | |
| YMCA | | |
| Menominee Range Historical Foundation ? | | |
| Imagination Factory Children's Museum- Our Place Community Center? | | |

I have included the nonprofits in the Rec Plan, in case they decide to apply for a recreation-type grant. The YMCA, for example, may want to purchase the West side Ball Field to expand their footprint. DTN is in trail-building mode. The Children's Museum is building recreation-related exhibits. BJK

APPENDIX A

Maps
Trails Maps

APPENDIX B

**U.S. Forest Service
Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines**

APPENDIX C

Public Surveys. Results Included in the text. Repeat here?
Park Camping survey
Master Plan Question 19

APPENDIX D

Notices

APPENDIX E

Meeting Minutes and Resolution of Adoption

APPENDIX F

Letters of Transmittal