

Chapter 1. Introduction & Planning Process

1.1 Introduction

An evaluation of the City of Charlevoix's current parks, recreational facilities, and programs demonstrates a strong vision and sustained commitment by both City leaders and active community members throughout the City's history. These highly valued facilities and programs provide valuable amenities for our tourists and visitors, and contribute to the high quality of life for our year-round residents.

Communities across the United States and beyond are recognizing that quality park facilities, recreational opportunities and programs, trails, bike lanes, and "walkable" communities have a tremendous positive impact on quality of life. These facilities, programs, and forms of alternative transportation have a positive impact on the local economy, community health, the environment, natural resource protection, education, and the transportation network. The City of Charlevoix acknowledges these benefits and seeks to improve our facilities, programs, and infrastructure in the future by adopting and implementing the 2011-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The creation of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a critical component necessary to outline specific goals, objectives, action items, and capital improvements necessary to maintain and improve parks and recreation facilities and programs in the future. The Plan provides a roadmap that will help guide community leaders in the future.

While the focus of this plan is the development of parks and recreational opportunities within the City of Charlevoix, it is also necessary to examine the community's larger context, looking for connections and opportunities that exist outside the City that may provide regional amenities for an even larger user group. The City of Charlevoix will continue to seek partnerships and cooperation with the adjacent Townships, Charlevoix County, State and Federal agencies, and other non-governmental organizations.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan examines a series of topics that provide an understanding of the Charlevoix community, documents the desires of its residents, describes the current recreational assets and deficiencies, and proposes a plan for addressing these issues.


1.2 Development

The last update to the previous City of Charlevoix Parks, Recreation, Exercise, and Sports Facilities Plan was adopted by City Council in February of 2000.

The 2011-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to replace that plan and represents the evolving needs and goals of the Charlevoix community and the region.

Initial efforts to create this plan included the development, distribution and data analysis of community surveys that took place in 2009. About 800 community surveys were distributed to property owners, residents, business owners, and civic organizations to seek input on a variety of land use, government, and recreation related topics. To ensure renters, year-round and season residents were included, the sample was based on property tax and voter registration records. The 85 question survey covered everything from housing to parks and recreation. In addition, City Planning staff sought input from four high school government classes seeking input on what recreational facilities and programs they valued most and what they would like to see in the future. The survey results were evaluated and served to help define the community vision, goals and objectives..

In the summer of 2010 a Planning Department intern, under the direction of the City Planner, developed the first draft of this plan. After adoption of the



CITY OF CHARLEVOIX COMMUNITY SURVEY

In accordance with Michigan law (Michigan Planning Enabling Act, M.C.L. 125.3801), the City of Charlevoix Planning Commission must prepare a master plan for the City of Charlevoix. A master plan is a land use and infrastructure plan that sets local goals, objectives, and policies for community growth and/or redevelopment. The Master Plan is essentially a visionary document outlining what the community will look like in the future and how these goals will be accomplished. The Master Plan will cover topics such as future housing needs, economic development, transportation, infrastructure, parks and recreation, etc. Master-planned communities result in higher property values, safer streets and intersections, higher quality of City services, and a more attractive climate for tourism, and new or existing businesses.

As an essential first step in the update of the City of Charlevoix Master Plan, the Planning Department is asking City of Charlevoix residents, businesses, and property owners to complete this survey. The time you spend to answer these questions is critical toward helping shape the new Charlevoix Master Plan, and, in turn, the future of the City of Charlevoix. Please understand the results of this survey will not necessarily result in policy changes, new policy, or discontinuing existing policies. The intent is to gather valuable citizen input to make the City a better place to live, work and/or visit. **Your input is important and appreciated. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers to the survey.** The survey was designed to take less than 15 minutes. If you do not have enough information to answer a question, skip it or check the "no opinion" box. If you have questions or concerns not covered in this survey, you are encouraged to include them in the space provided at the end of this survey. You may also voice them to the Charlevoix City Planner, Mike Spencer (see contact information below).

You must be a **REGISTERED VOTER** or **PROPERTY OWNER** or **BUSINESS OWNER** in the City to complete this survey. You must submit this cover page and the survey. Once staff verifies that you are a registered voter or property owner the surveys will be counted anonymously. We have to ensure that the information gathered is valid and not affected by special interests or individuals outside the Community. This will also ensure that we gather information from a broad sample of individuals throughout the City.

How do I get a copy of the Survey and what do I do once completed? Roughly 1000 surveys are being mailed out to a random sample of city property owners and registered voters. If you do not receive one in the mail, but would like to complete the survey, it can be downloaded from the City Website at www.cityofcharlevoix.org. They can also be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed upon request. Once completed, the surveys can be mailed to the City Planning Office. Prepaid postage envelopes can be provided upon request. Completed surveys may also be returned by fax or e-mail to the City Planner.

SURVEY DUE DATE April 24, 2009	Mike Spencer, City Planner 210 State Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720 msspencer@cityofcharlevoix.org Phone: 231-547-3265, Fax: 231-547-3617
-------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Name: _____
City of Charlevoix Address: _____

Community survey results can be found in the Appendices at the end of the Master Plan

City of Charlevoix's Land Use Master Plan in February of 2011, City staff was able to focus more on the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The draft 2011-2016 Master Plan was reviewed first by City staff and was then distributed to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, whose members were appointed in April of 2011.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provided valuable input, which resulted in a number of additions and changes to the draft plan. Once the amendments were finalized by the Planning Department, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was published on the City website. Despite being available for public comment for the previous six months, the City actively sought additional comments by publishing a public notice, and asking for an article on the plan in the Charlevoix Cou-

rier. The Charlevoix Courier published the story covering the Master Plan and seeking comment on November 2, 2011. On the same day the notice of public hearing was published in the Petoskey News Review . The public had the opportunity to comment on the draft at three public meetings with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and two meetings with the Charlevoix City Council.

1.3 Purpose

The Recreation Plan serves as a guide for recreation locations, activities, and opportunities within the City of Charlevoix and the plan jurisdiction. The plan not only provides current recreation information but incorporates the potential for future enhancement and expansion of local recreation opportunities. The plan addresses the City’s current recreation inventory, identifying strengths and weaknesses of each facility, and outlines plans for future improvement. Furthermore, it highlights the current and future needs of the community, and provides the means for meeting those needs for the next five years.

In addition to the comprehensive overhaul, the 2011 plan meets the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for qualifying for Federal and State funding assistance.

This plan, adopted on November 21, 2011, serves as the master plan for all parks and recreation facilities and activities from 2011-2016. The development

of the plan was accomplished through the efforts of the Charlevoix City Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Charlevoix City Staff.

The Planning process included visits to each of the parks and recreational facilities, staff interviews, extensive review of existing documents, review of other community parks and recreation master plans, multiple public meetings, as well as formal public review before adoption. This document is based on the “Guidelines for the Development of Community Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plans” provided by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources. (November 5, 2010 Edition)

1.4 Plan Jurisdiction

This plan covers parks and recreation areas owned by the City of Charlevoix, as well as state and local units of government and school districts. The parks and recreation facilities detailed in this plan are frequently enjoyed by individuals of all ages from many locations throughout the region, the State of Michigan and beyond.

For the purpose of this master plan the City of Charlevoix considered the five surrounding townships as part of the planning area, since those township residents also frequently use City parks and recreation facilities, while City residents use township facilities. In addition, Charlevoix County and the Charlevoix School system are important organizations who own parks and/or rec-

recreation facilities in the planning area. The following communities and districts are wholly or partially included in the planning area:

- City of Charlevoix
- Charlevoix County
- Charlevoix Township
- Hayes Township
- Eveline Township
- Norwood Township
- Marion Township
- Charlevoix Area Schools

