

# FOREST TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

*2013-2018*



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**Forest Township**  
Cheboygan County, Michigan

*PREPARED WITH THE  
ASSISTANCE OF*

**Northeast  
Michigan  
Council  
of Governments**  


***Adopted February 26, 2013***

# **Forest Township Recreation Plan**

Forest Township  
Cheboygan County, Michigan

**Adopted: February 26, 2013**

*Prepared for:*

## **Forest Township Board of Trustees**

Members:

Timothy Paulus, Supervisor  
Judy Church, Clerk  
Judy Stevens, Treasurer  
Pam Crowe, Trustee  
Marlene Hopkins, Trustee

## **Forest Township Recreation Advisory Committee**

Members:

Jeremy Addair  
Melinda Hambelton  
Deb Osankowski  
Timothy Paulus

*Prepared by:*

## **Northeast Michigan Council of Governments**

80 Livingston Blvd Suite 8  
P. O. Box 457  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735  
[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)  
989-705-3730

Planning Staff from NEMCOG:  
Lisa Fought

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# CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

## Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and plans within the boundaries of Forest Township. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of Forest Township and the surrounding area in order to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

## Location and Regional Setting

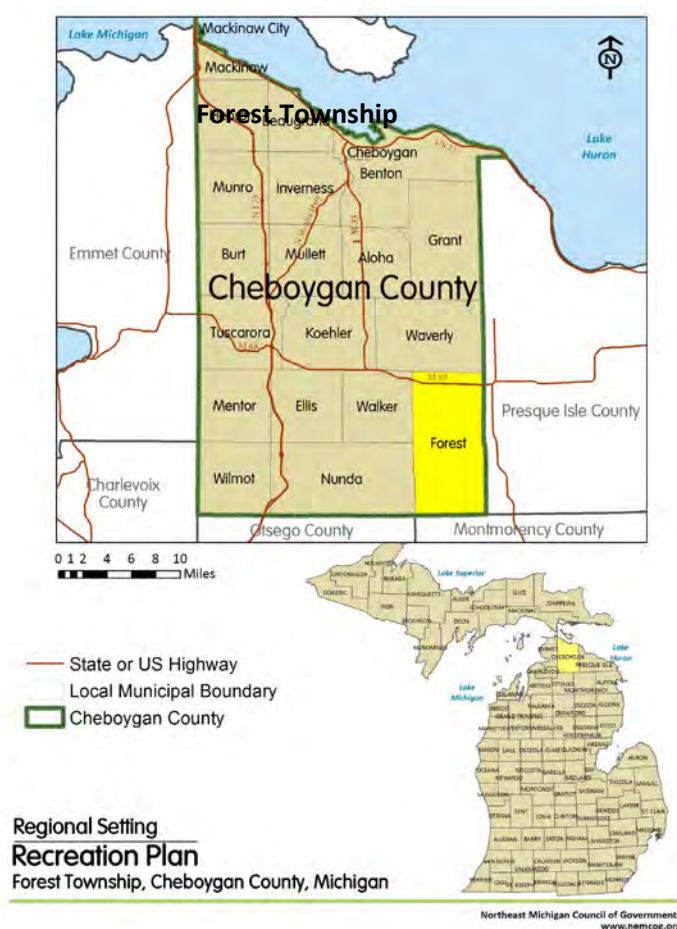


Figure 1 – General Location

Located in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula of Michigan in the southeastern portion of Cheboygan County, Forest Township comprises a total area of 69.6 square miles or 44,544 acres. The Township borders Presque Isle County and the City of Onaway to the east, Montmorency County to the south, Walker and Nunda Townships to the west, and Waverly Township to the north. State highway M-68 runs through the northern portion of Forest Township. This is a primary east/west trunkline, connecting US 31 in Emmet County to US-23 in Presque Isle County. This highway combines with state highway M-33, from Afton to the west of the Township to the City of Onaway, where M-33 continues its typically north/south.

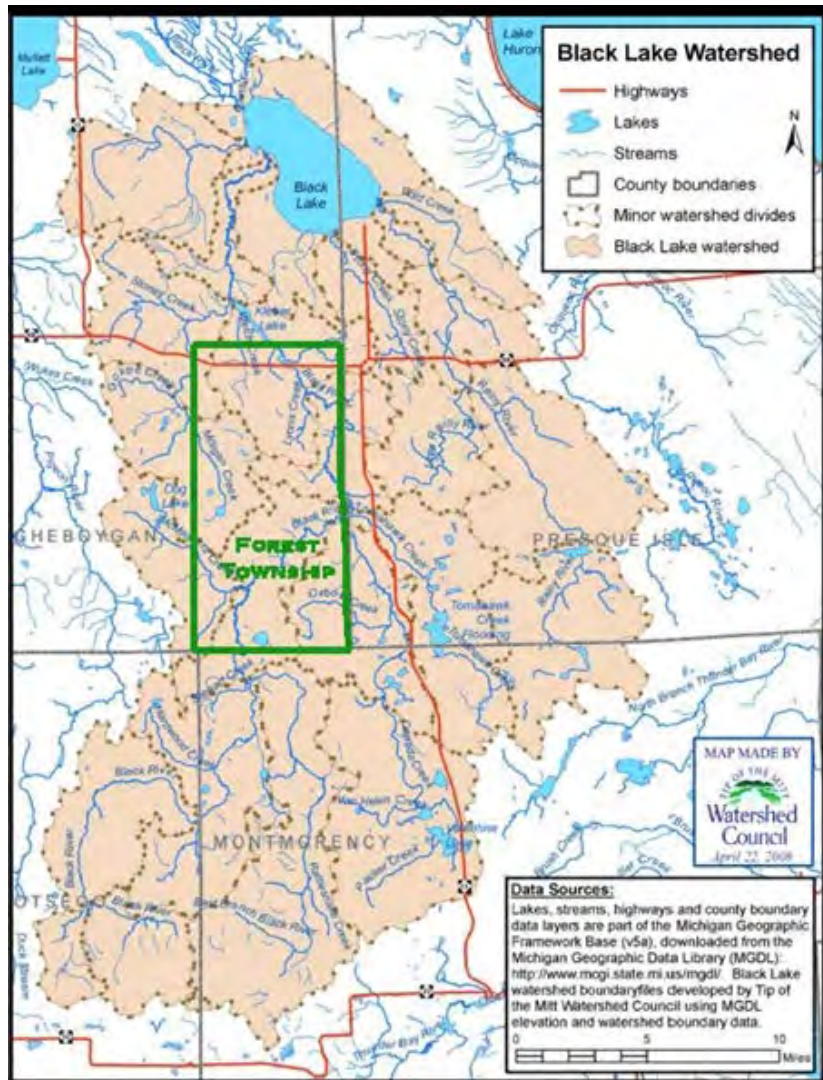
The population of Forest Township was estimated at 1,045 in 2010, according to the US Census, a 3.2% decrease from the 2000 Census. This equates to only 15 persons per square mile, highlighting the rural nature of this community.

The latitude of Forest Township is 45°21'N, approximately halfway between the North Pole and the equator. The Township is located in a rural area with abundant natural resources and recreational opportunities. One unincorporated community, Tower, is located on M-68/M-33, in the northern portion of the Township.

## Wetlands

A wetland is land where water is found, either on the surface or near the surface, at any time during the year. Poorly drained soils and water-loving vegetation also may be present. Wetlands are often referred to as marshes, swamps or bogs. Residents of Michigan are becoming increasingly more aware of the value of wetlands. Beyond their aesthetic value, wetlands improve water quality of lakes and streams by filtering polluting nutrients, organic chemicals and toxic heavy metals. Wetlands are closely related to high groundwater tables and serve to discharge and recharge aquifers. Additionally, wetlands support wildlife, and wetland vegetation protects shorelines from erosion. Wetland areas in Forest Township are typically associated with old glacial drainageways, and can be noted near or adjacent to rivers and their tributaries.

Map 2 depicts forested and non-forested wetlands (data developed from the National Wetlands Inventory (US Fish & Wildlife Service)). A significant amount of forested wetlands are located in Forest Township.



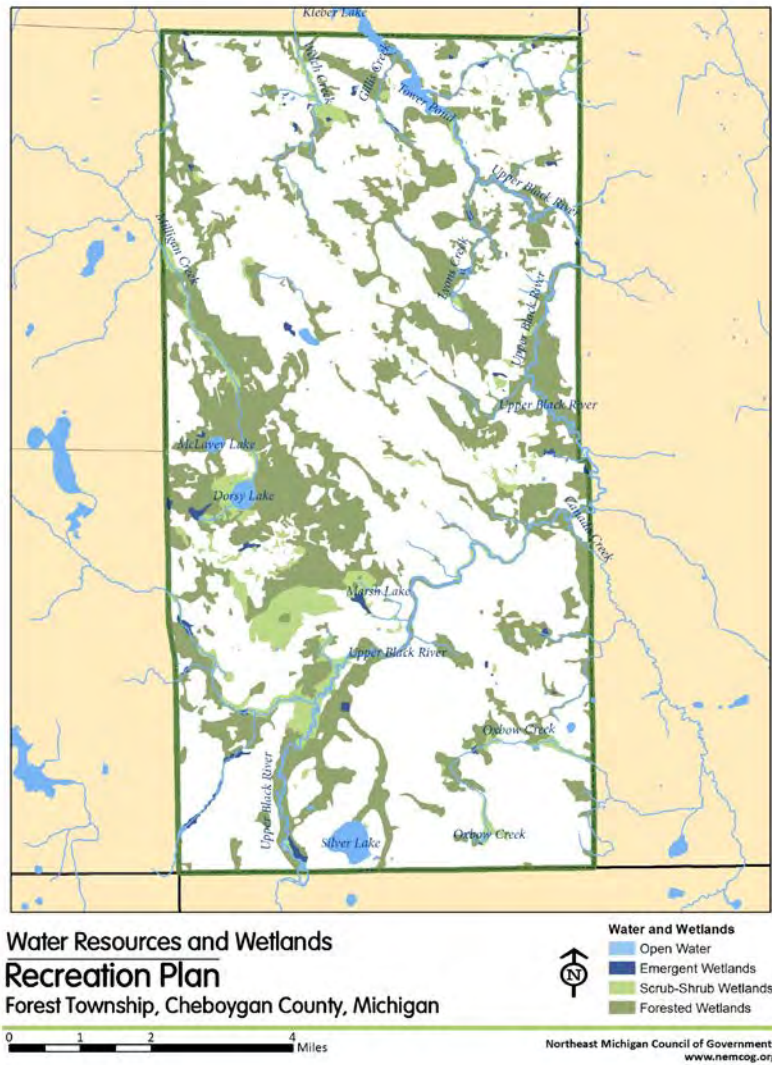
**Figure 2 – Black Lake Watershed**

Source: *Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council*



## Water Resources

Forest Township is home to a number of streams and rivers, all of which are a part of the Black Lake Watershed. The Upper Black River, a designated trout stream, snakes its way through the township, also connecting with Tower Pond, Lyons Creek, and Gillis Creek along with a few other unnamed tributaries. These ultimately flow into Black Lake which is located north of Forest Township in Grant and Waverly Townships. Recognizing the value of this resource, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the Black Lake Association, among others, developed a watershed plan as well as a nonpoint source pollution management plan to protect and manage this valuable environment.



**Figure 3 – Water Resources and Wetlands**

Source: NEMCOG

## State of Michigan Land

State land covers a significant portion of Forest Township. Together, the Mackinaw State forest covers approximately 50% of Forest Township.

## Soil Limitations/Topography

Soil characteristics help to define the land's capacity to support certain types of land uses. Soils most suitable for development purposes are well drained and are not subject to a high water table. Adequate drainage is important to minimizing stormwater impacts and the efficient operation of septic drainfields. Adequate depth to the water table is necessary to prevent



groundwater contamination from septic systems or other non-point source runoff. A high water table also limits the construction of basements. Though civil engineering techniques can be employed to improve drainage and maintain adequate separation from the water table, such techniques are expensive to construct and maintain. Hydric or wetland type soils are scattered throughout the Township and in areas generally adjacent to the Tower Pond. Some of these areas may be considered unbuildable. Although very limited, soils with slopes greater than ten percent are noted on the map, because they may present development challenges. While soil condition information discussed in this report can be used for general guides for the planning process, it should not be used for development of specific sites. More detailed soil and vegetation information for specific sites may be obtained from *Soil Survey of Cheboygan County, Michigan* by contacting the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Cheboygan County.

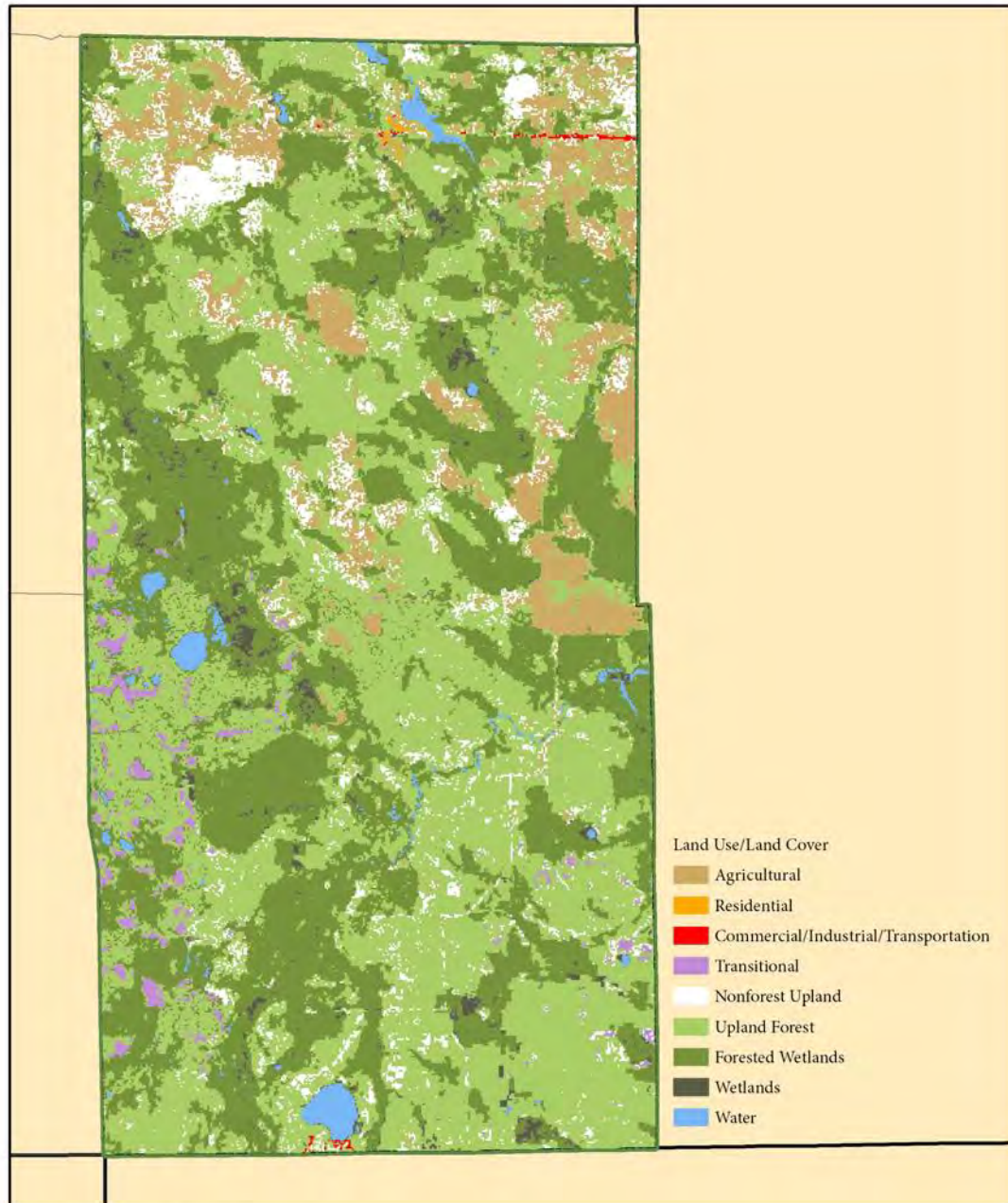
The topography of Forest Township ranges from approximately 715 feet above sea level at the Tower Pond in the northeastern portion of the Township to 852 feet above sea level in the western portion of the Township. There are some occurrences of steep slopes in excess of ten percent. However, these areas are few and limited in Forest Township. Most of the Township is characterized by gently rolling topography, which is suitable for most types of development.

### Existing Land Use/Land Cover Characteristics

**Table 1** provides a breakdown of land cover/land use in Forest Township. Over 80% percent of land in the County is classified as forested land, wetlands, or a combination of both. Nearly 8% of the land area exists as agriculture.

**Map 4** shows that large areas of woodlands occur in the eastern half of the Township (the State of Michigan lands also occur in these areas), while the western half of the Township is evenly spread between woodlands and agriculture.

<b>Table 1: Existing Land Use/Land Cover Forest Township</b>		
<b>LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORY</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Woodlands (Upland Forest)	20,730	46.7%
Nonforest Uplands	2,652	6.0%
Agricultural	3,464	7.8%
Wetlands	586	1.3%
Forested Wetlands	15,785	35.5%
Water	587	1.3%
Residential	18	0.03%
Commercial/Industrial	39	0.07%
Transitional	579	1.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>44,440</b>	<b>100%</b>
Source: MDNR MIRIS base data		



Land Use/Land Cover  
**Recreation Plan**  
 Forest Township, Cheboygan County, Michigan



0 1 2 4 Miles

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)

**Figure 4 – Land Use Forest Township**

Source: NEMCOG

## CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### **Administration**

Forest Township, the only participating community in this Recreation Plan, operates under an administrative structure consisting of a Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer and two Township Trustees. These positions are chosen by registered voters of the Township in an at-large election held every four years. Bylaws adopted by the Township Board determine the order of business and method of conducting regular township business. Meetings are conducted using *Robert's Rules of Order*. In the case of issues that require a vote for making a determination, a simple majority of trustees present is required.

Parks and recreation facilities are under the direct control and responsibility of the Forest Township Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is the body directly responsible for creating the Recreation Plan, with the input from a Parks Recreation Committee. There is no planning commission for the Township.

### **Forest Township**

Timothy Paulus, Supervisor  
Judy Church, Clerk  
Judy Stevens, Treasurer  
Pam Crowe, Trustee  
Marlene Hopkins, Trustee

### **Parks Recreation Committee**

Timothy Paulus, Supervisor  
Jeremy Addair  
Melinda Hambleton  
Deb Osankowski

There is no Planning Commission for Forest Township. Administration of the parks and recreation facilities in Forest Township are the responsibility of the Township officers. The Parks Recreation Committee provides input to the Township Board on recreation matters.

### **Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers**

**1. Onaway Area Little League:** The ball diamonds at Forest Township are utilized all season and draw visitors from all over the region for little league and softball tournaments. The Township works closely with the Presque Isle Women's Softball League, the Tower Co-Ed League, and the Onaway Area Little League for scheduling events, managing concessions, and maintaining the fields.

**2. Forest-Waverly Fire Fighters' Association:** Forest Township partners with neighboring Waverly Township in providing fire protection services to the area, with the fire station located on Forest Township property adjacent to the Village Hall. The firefighters' association also works closely with the Township and other volunteer organizations in supporting youth programs.

**3. Volunteer Committees:** Community members often form committees to work towards implementing a recreation goal or project in the Township. These volunteer committees take on task such as development plans, fundraising, construction/installation of facilities, and maintenance activities. Examples of this in Forest Township are the Forest Township Children's Place Group and the Great Start Parent Coalition. Both groups focus on youth development programs as well as fundraising for new playground equipment adjacent to the Township Hall and ball fields.

**4. Up North Trails Collaborative:** The Township is an active participant in the Up North Trails Collaborative, a group of stakeholders from all over northern Michigan who have joined together to promote economic development in the region by developing a comprehensive trail marketing plan.

## **Programming**

There is no formal, existing recreation programming in Forest Township.

## **Finances/Park & Recreation Maintenance: Current Funding**

Funding for park maintenance and improvement is taken from the General Operating Fund. The Township's budget provides a line item "Hall/Park" that covers expenses for the Township Hall and adjacent park and ball fields. Apart from Township funds, other possible funding sources for recreational improvements in the Township exist as grant opportunities with agencies such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, private foundations, community service organizations, and community fund-raising groups.

<b>Table 2: Current and Future Fiscal Year Budget</b>		
	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014 (proposed)</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Cemetery	\$500.00	\$100.00
Tax Revenue	\$121,100.00	\$128,000.00
Transfer Station	\$11,560.00	\$15,000.00
Hall Rental	\$4,500.00	\$4,000.00
Elections	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Interest	\$1,000.00	\$200.00
F/W Fire Dept.	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00
Miscellaneous/Donations	\$300.00	\$300.00
IMMA Withdrawal	\$51,440.00	\$28,900.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>\$196,800.00</b>	<b>\$182,900.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Community Development	\$0	\$2,000.00
Board	\$15,300.00	\$15,000.00
Board of Review	\$500.00	\$300.00
Cemetery	\$8,200.00	\$8,200.00
Clerk	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00
Elections	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Fire	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
Hall/Park	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00
Misc.	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Highways	\$44,500.00	\$15,000.00
Insurance	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
Liquor Law Wage	\$400.00	\$500.00
Supervisor Wage	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Assessor	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00
Transfer Station	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Treasurer	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
Auditor	\$0	\$4,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$196,800.00</b>	<b>\$182,900.00</b>

## CHAPTER 3: DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING /PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

<b>July 29, 2011</b>	Forest Township publishes a public meeting notice to discuss plans for the park.
<b>August 2011</b>	Forest Township public meeting regarding Forest Township Park is held.
<b>October 2012</b>	Forest Township contracts with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments to draft the Township's recreation plan.
<b>November 2012</b>	NEMCOG meets with the Township Supervisor to discuss the planning process and to establish a timeline for the plan.
<b>December 2012</b>	The Township recreation committee meets to prioritize recreation projects.
<b>January 2013</b>	A draft recreation plan is completed for public review at the Forest Township Hall and <a href="http://www.nemcog.org">www.nemcog.org</a> .
<b>January 17, 2013</b>	The notice of availability of the draft recreation plan is published and appeared in the <i>Cheboygan Tribune</i> .
<b>February 16, 2013</b>	The Public Hearing Notice for the Township Board meeting appeared in the <i>Cheboygan Tribune</i> .
<b>February 26, 2013</b>	The public hearing was held and the Township Board approved the Forest Township Recreation Plan.

### Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. The Recreation Committee opted to hold a public input session to gather comprehensive public opinion and ideas about the future of recreation in the Township. The Township placed an advertisement in the *Onaway Outlook* and distributed meeting flyers. Citizens were present at the session as were members of the Recreation Committee, the Township Board and interested residents. After all public input was gathered and recorded, the Recreation Advisory Board met to prioritize projects for the Action Plan.



# PUBLIC MEETING

FOREST TWP. PARK

AUGUST 3, 2011

2-5 P.M. & 6-8 P.M.

FOREST TWP. HALL

Bring your ideas, we are working on a master plan for the park and want to hear what you want to see done with your park!



Forest Township, Cheboygan County, MI

~~Regular Board Meeting~~

Public Meeting: Park Input  
Guests Voluntary Sign In Sheet

Date: 8.3.11

Please PRINT your first and last name

- |     |                   |              |                               |
|-----|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.  | Mary & Ron (Wife) | 733-4486     | Mary-Gardner<br>Non-Volunteer |
| 2.  | Rick McDonald     | 733-2719     |                               |
| 3.  | Mike Lute         | 733-7960     |                               |
| 4.  | Judy Stevens      | 733-8764     |                               |
| 5.  | LEATON STEVENS    | " "          |                               |
| 6.  | RJ Nelson         | 989-306-8056 |                               |
| 7.  | Gary Bryan        | 989-733-0278 |                               |
| 8.  | Cody Gillan       | 989-733-6328 |                               |
| 9.  | Mary Morrill      | 989-733-2152 |                               |
| 10. |                   |              |                               |
| 11. |                   |              |                               |
| 12. |                   |              |                               |
| 13. |                   |              |                               |
| 14. |                   |              |                               |
| 15. |                   |              |                               |

Rev 6/08

### Notes from Public Input Session

- Multi-purpose ballfields; additional ballfield
- Pavilion
- Grills, picnic tables
- New playground equipment
- Horseshoe pits
- Skate park/BMX park
- Volleyball court(s)
- Bleachers at ball fields
- Beach improvements on Tower Pond
- Walking/Bike trail access through the park
- Acquire adjacent property for an additional ballfield
- Fishing pier/platform
- Improvements to basketball courts

Notice of Availability of Recreation Plan for at least 30 days (notice dated January 17, 2013)

A2 CheboyganNews.com | Cheboygan Daily Tribune | Thursday, January 17, 2013

# Your News

**Winter Clearance!**  
Jan. 18 & 19  
Select Items  
**10%-75% OFF**

Cheboygan County  
**Habitat for Humanity**  
**ReStore**  
9385 N. Straits Hwy., Cheb. • 231-597-9463  
Hours: Tu-Fri 9-5, Sa 9-3, Closed Sun & Mon

**Bookstore**  
Downtown Cheboygan

**30% Off**  
all regularly priced items storewide  
Now thro 1/18

  
LOG MARK BOOKS  
334 N. Main  
231-627-6531

with all the trimmings is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. All proceeds will finance the Mackinaw City Winterfest, Friday, Jan. 18 through Sunday, Jan. 20. A Meet and Greet Reception will be held Friday, Jan. 18 from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to required as seating is limited. For reservations, please call/text Rebecca Cameron (231) 838-2260 on or before Friday, Jan. 18.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW  
FOREST TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN**

The Forest Township Board has prepared a draft Recreation Plan which will be available for review for the next 30 days at the Forest Township Hall and at [www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org). Written comments may be submitted to Lisa Fought, NEMCOG, PO Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734 or by email to [lfought1@charter.net](mailto:lfought1@charter.net).

**Straits Area Chiropractic**

Dr. Michael Burt & Dr. Kristin Gilbert

**Welcoming New Patients**

- All Insurance Plans Accepted -

Now providers of McLaren Health Plan/Medicaid  
401 Elm St., Cheboygan • 231-597-9999

County of Cheboygan, ss  
State of Michigan

Mary Whaley, being duly sworn, says: I am an employee of THE CHEBOYGAN DAILY TRIBUNE, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said paper on the following dates to wit:

January 17 A.D. 20 13  
\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Whaley  
Subscribed and sworn to me this 17  
day of January A.D. 2013

Janis Anne Coryell  
Notary Public, Cheboygan County, Michigan

My Commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Janis Anne Coryell  
Notary Public of Michigan  
Cheboygan County  
Expires 07/04/2019  
Acting in the County of Cheboygan

By SHAWNNA JANKOVIAK  
 Members of the fair  
 board attended the Michi-  
 sthwna@cheboygantribune.com  
 Ron Williams  
 Generating new money for Michigans  
 transportation network

Public Hearing Notice for Township Board meeting of February 26, 2013(notice dated February 16, 2013)

County of Cheboygan, ss  
State of Michigan

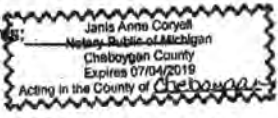
**PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE  
FOREST TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION  
PLAN**  
The Forest Township Board will hold a public hearing on the draft Recreation Plan at the Forest Township Hall on M-68 on February 26, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The draft plan contains an action plan for recreation in Forest Township from 2013-2018. The draft plan is available for review at the Forest Township Hall and at [www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org). Written comments may be submitted to Lisa Fought, NEMCOG, PO Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734.

Mary Whaley, being duly sworn, says: I am an employee of THE CHEBOYGAN DAILY TRIBUNE, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said paper on the following dates to wit:

February 16 A.D. 2013  
\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20\_\_\_\_\_

Mary Whaley  
Subscribed and sworn to me this 15  
day of February A.D. 2013

Janis Anne Coryell  
Notary Public, Cheboygan County, Michigan

My Commission expires: 



**Resolution of the Township Board Adopting the Recreation Plan**

**FOREST TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

**Forest Township Board**

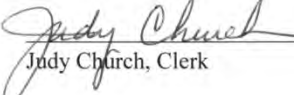
- WHEREAS,** Forest Township Board has undertaken a 5-year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2013-2018, and
- WHEREAS,** A public input session was held on August 3, 2011 at the Forest Township Hall to provide an opportunity for citizens to discuss the future of recreation in the Township, and
- WHEREAS,** A public notice was published in the *Cheboygan Tribune* which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and
- WHEREAS,** Forest Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire community, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Forest Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Forest Township Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Forest Township.

YEAS: 5                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Forest Township Board of Trustees, held on February 26, 2013.

26 Feb 2013  
Date

  
Judy Church, Clerk

## Minutes from the Township Board Meeting of February 26, 2013

### Forest Township Meeting Feb.26, 2013

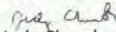
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 Pm with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Lisa Fought, the Economic Development Coordinator, presented the final copy of the Forest Township Recreation Plan, 2013-2018 which was inspected and discussed at some length. She also gave us a resolution for the adoption of the plan, Marlene Hopkins moved and Judy Stevens seconded that the resolution be adopted. Passed unanimously.

Much discussion was held on the 2013 budget and the uncertainties about revenue for the year. Members were sent home with a draft with instructions to review and bring up for consideration for the March meeting.

Board of Review will meet March 11<sup>th</sup> from 3-9 pm, and the 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 am-3 pm. A organizational meeting will be held prior to that.

Bills were presented for payment, Pam moved and Marlene seconded that the bills presented, should be passed. Exceptions for further review were the bill from Cheboygan County for the Nov. Election, and the bill from Chaskey for the Porta-Potty.

Meeting closed.

  
Judy Church  
Clerk



**Copies of Submittal Letters to MDNR, NEMCOG, Cheboygan County Planning Commission**



February 26, 2013

Grants Management  
MDNR  
P.O. Box 30425  
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

To Whom it May Concern:

Enclosed please find a complete copy of the new Forest Township Recreation Plan which was adopted by the Forest Township Board on February 26, 2013.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Paulus", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Timothy Paulus  
Supervisor, Forest Township



February 26, 2013

Cheboygan County Planning Commission  
870 S. Main Street  
Room 103  
Cheboygan, MI 49721

To Whom it May Concern:

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Timothy Paulus  
Supervisor, Forest Township



February 26, 2013

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
P.O. Box 457  
Gaylord, MI 49734

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Timothy Paulus  
Supervisor, Forest Township

## CHAPTER 4: RECREATION INVENTORY

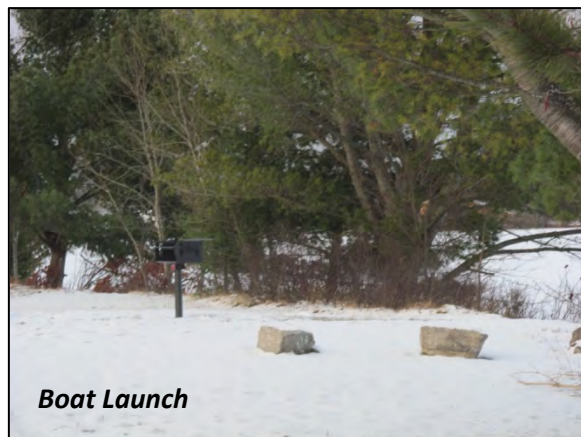
### Township-Owned Property

1. **FOREST TOWNSHIP PARK:** This 9-acre site is located on M-68 directly behind the Forest Township Hall on the Tower Pond. The park features a small swimming area, boat launch, skid pier, baseball/softball field, outdoor ice rink, concessions building with restrooms and a playground. Limited paved parking is available in front of the Township Hall on M-68. Otherwise, visitors park on the roadside on Black River Avenue.

**Type:** Community Park

**Service Area:** Forest Township

**Barrier-Free Accessibility = 2** (some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines)



2. **FOREST TOWNSHIP HALL:** The Township Hall is used for township offices, meeting space, and voting. The hall also has a commercial kitchen and is rented out for special events. The parking lot at the Township Hall is paved.

**Type:** Special Use Facility

**Service Area:** Forest Township

**Barrier-Free Accessibility = 4** (the entire facility meets accessibility guidelines)



*Meeting Space*



*Kitchen Facility*



*Kitchen Facility*

3. **OTHER TOWNSHIP PROPERTY:** The Forest-Waverly Fire Department Hall is located adjacent to the Forest Township Hall on M-68 and is co-owned by the two townships. The Fire Hall is currently used to store fire equipment and is also used for meeting space on a limited basis. The Forest Township Cemetery is located on M-68 just east of the Forest Township Hall.



## **Other Publicly-Owned Recreational Facilities in/adjacent to the Township**

**Pigeon River Country State Forest Area** in the Mackinaw State Forest is located in the southern part of Forest Township, and covers area in Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Montmorency and Otsego Counties. This area has designated equestrian trails, one of which reaches into the southern part of the Township. It also boasts a number of boat water and fishing access sites to the Upper Black River.

**Black Lake State Forest Campground** is located in just north of the neighboring City of Onaway, to the east of Forest Township. This state campground offers camping, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and boat launches. It also offers a designated area for ORV camping.

**Pine Grove State Forest Campground** is located in neighboring Nunda Township. This state campground offers rustic campsites, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, ORV trails and boat launches.

**Onaway State Park** is a 158-acre state park in neighboring Allis Township in Presque Isle County. This park offers fishing, hiking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, full picnic areas, cabins, campsites with electrical hookups, and groomed cross country ski trails.

**Shoepac Lake State Forest Campground** is located just east of the southeastern corner of Forest Township. It offers fishing, hiking, boat launch, rustic campsites, hiking, ORV trails, and watchable wildlife. Shoepac Lake is created by a sinkhole, with other dry sinkholes in the park. These are part of a larger karst system running eastward toward Lake Huron.

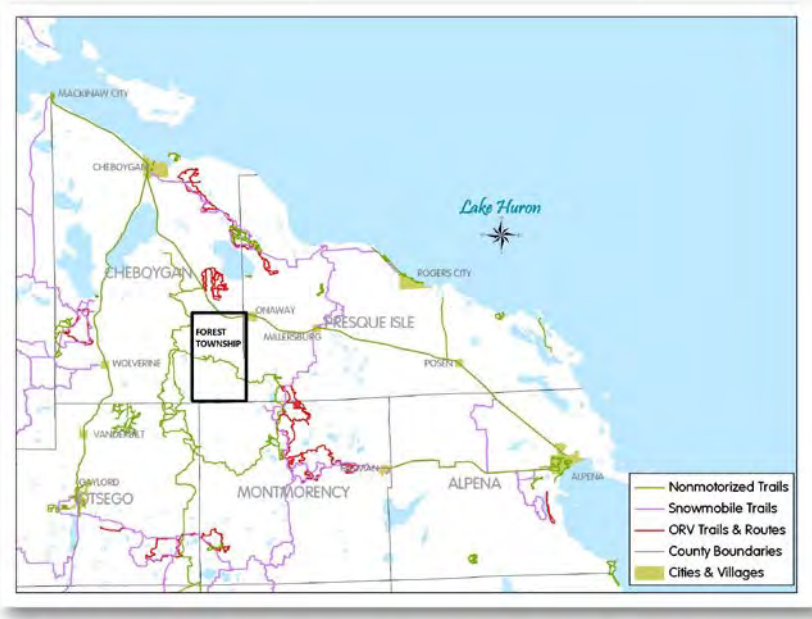
**Cornwall Lake Wildlife Flooding** is a manmade lake in neighboring Nunda Township, to the west of Forest Township. It lies within the Pigeon River Forest, and offers fishing, wildlife viewing and hiking opportunities. Motorized craft are not allowed.

**Dog Lake** is also in neighboring Nunda Twp.in the Pigeon River Forest. This also offers some fishing opportunities, with limited access.



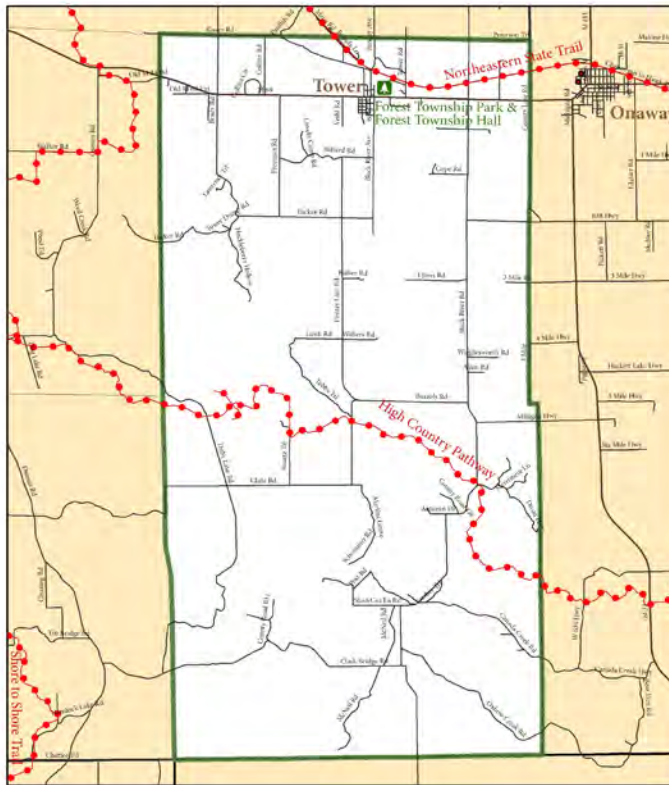
**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in the southern half of Forest Township. Classified as forestland, it is also designated as a multipurpose recreational area. Although the primary recreational use is hunting, opportunities for hiking and nature observation are also available.

**Trails** Multiple recreational trails run through Forest Township. The Alpena to Mackinaw Trail runs along the north side of Tower Pond. The High Country Pathway runs through the



**Figure 5 – Trails of Northeastern Lower Michigan**

Source: NEMCOG



**Figure 6 –Trails in Forest Township**

Source: NEMCOG

mid-section of the Township, through the heart of the Pigeon River State Forest. Both trails connect to other non-motorized trails throughout northern Michigan. In addition, the Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail, which is over 100 miles of ORV trails looping through northern lower Michigan, runs north/south through the middle of Forest Township. Finally, there are designated equestrian trails in the Pigeon River Country of the Mackinaw State Forest, the northern loop of which runs through the southern part of Forest Township.

## **Privately-Owned Recreational Facilities in/adjacent to the Township**

The **Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center** is located on 1,000 acres in neighboring Waverly Township to the north. The center was founded by Walter Reuther as a retreat for UAW (United Auto Workers) members and their families. It offers lodging, swimming, beach, camping, training facilities and other amenities for UAW members.

The site is also home to the **Black Lake Golf Club**, ranked as one of the top 100 public courses in America in 2012 by Golf Digest. The course is open to the public.

**Onaway Speedway** is located on M-33 in neighboring Allis Township, Presque County, to the east of Forest Township. The Speedway is a ¼ stock car race track that also provides some camp facilities.

**Stoney Links Golf Course** is located east of Forest Township on M-68 in neighboring Allis Township, Presque Isle County. This 18-hole golf course is open to the public and also offers restaurant facilities, as well as a spa.

**Schell's Resort** is a privately-owned resort on the southeast shore of Black Lake, just north of Onaway State Park. It offers cottage rentals with full amenities, beach access and aluminum boats with each cottage.

**Wildwood Lake** is located in neighboring Nunda Township to the west of Forest Township. This lake is primarily used for recreational boating. It is primarily surrounded by private homesites, but does have two public access points on Wurns Road and Island Drive.

**Canada Creek Ranch** encompasses over 13,500 acres and is a privately fishing, hunting and recreation club just to the south of Forest Township in Montmorency County. In addition to the main ranch house which has dining facilities, gift shop and library, this property offers homesites, rental cabins and campground facilities.

## **Regional Recreation in Cheboygan County**

Complete information on all public and private recreational facilities can be found in the Cheboygan County Recreation Plan. Most students in Forest Township attend Onaway Public Schools in neighboring Presque Isle County due to proximity. However, additional schools in Cheboygan County are as follows:

- Bishop Baraga Catholic School, Cheboygan
- Cheboygan Public Schools, Cheboygan

- Inland Lakes Public School, Tuscarora Twp
- Wolverine Public Schools, Wolverine

In addition to facilities listed previously, below is a list of recreational sites in Cheboygan County by location.

#### **Aloha Township**

- Aloha Township Hall, mini-park
- Aloha State Park and Campground provides camping facilities, boat water and fishing access, Mullett Lake
- Lake Land Rd. boat water access site, Long Lake
- Coedy Trail boat water access site, Mullett Lake

#### **Benton Township**

- Cheboygan State Park, Benton Township
- Benton Township Park, Benton Township
- Neuman Rd. boat water access site, Upper Black River
- McRae Rd. boat water access site, Cheboygan/Black Rivers
- Beebe Rd. boat water access site, Cheboygan River
- Mullett Lake Woods Rd. boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- Carter and McDonald Rds. boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- McDonald & Orchard Beach Rds. boat water access site, Mullet Lake
- Gower Lane & Beebe Rd. boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- Abrahamson Rd. boat water access site, Duncan Bay, Lake Huron

#### **Burt Township**

- Maple Bay State Forest Campground provides camping facilities, boat water and fishing access, Burt Lake
- White Goose Rd., boat water access site, Burt lake
- Lawless Lane boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Greenman's Point Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Roberts Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Hardwood Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Brutus Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Needles Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Hoppie's Launch boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Maple Bay Marina

#### **Ellis Township**

- Hazard & Afton Rds. boat water access site, Pigeon River
- Scott Rd. boat water access site, Sturgeon River

### **Grant Township**

- Grant Township Hall – mini-park
- Twin Lakes Recreational Area
- Dorvia Beach Rd. boat water access site, Black Lake
- Zolner Rd. boat water access site, Black Lake
- Taylor Rd. boat water access site, Black Lake
- Birch Ridge Rd. boat water access site, Black Lake
- Kuras Drive boat water access site, Upper Black River
- Onaway Dump Rd. public fishing access site, Upper Black River
- Black Mountain Recreation Area
- Black Mountain Pathway Trailhead, Dorvia Beach Rd.
- Black Mountain Pathway Trailhead, Black Mountain Rd.
- Bummer’s Roost Motorcycle Trailhead

### **Hebron Township**

- Dingman Marsh State Wildlife Flooding Area

### **Inverness Township**

- Foote Road Beach, Mullet Lake
- Polish Line Beach, Mullet Lake
- Pully Rd. boat water access site, Cheboygan/Black Rivers
- Mullet lake Rd. boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- Bayshore Drive boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- Silver Beach Rd. boat water access site, Mullett Lake

### **Koehler Township**

- Afton Softball Fields
- Jellystone Park Campground
- Cochran Lake Drive boat water access site, Cochran Lake
- Lakeside Drive & Parrott Point Drive boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- Eddy Rd. boat water access site, Pigeon River
- Big Sky Trail & Skiera Rd. boat water access site, Pigeon River
- Roberts Lake Rd. boat water access site, Roberts Lake

### **Mackinaw Township**

- Historic Mill Creek State Park and Campground
- Nine Mile Point State Roadside Park – US 23
- Point Nipigon State Roadside Park – US 23

### **Mentor Township**

- Haackwood State Forest Campground
- Weber Lake State Forest Campground - boat water access site and Lost Tamarack Trailhead
- White Road boat water access site, Sturgeon River
- S. Straits Hwy & Hackwood Rd. boat water access site, Sturgeon River

### **Mullett Township**

- Topinabee Beach Park
- Mullet Township Park
- Devereaux Lake Rd. boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- Woodruff St. boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- Topinabee softball fields and tennis courts

### **Munro Township**

- Munro Township Picnic Grounds
- University of Michigan Biological Station
- N. Wilson Rd. water boat access site, Douglas Lake
- Bently Point Drive boat water access site, Douglas Lake
- Ashton Bay Rd. boat water access site, Douglas Lake
- Young Rd. boat water access site, Douglas Lake
- Van Rd. boat water access site, Douglas Lake
- S. Pell's Island Dr. boat water access site, Douglas Lake
- Lancaster Lake Rd. boat water access site, Lancaster Lake
- Brandau Rd. boat water access site, Munro Lake
- Tomahawk Motorcycle Trailhead

### **Nunda Township**

- Webb Rd. boat water access site, Pigeon River
- Shady Trail boat water access site, Pigeon River
- Campsite Road boat water access site, Pigeon River

### **Tuscarora Township**

- Burt Lake State Park and Campground – provides camping, boat water access sites, beaches on Burt Lake
- Cooperation Park - softball and soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, outdoor ice rink and warming house
- Plymouth Beach Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Shawnee Ave. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Wahbee Ave. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Ellinger Rd. at King's Pt. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Chippewa Beach Rd., boat water access site, Burt Lake
- East Fisher Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- King Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Rotter Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- North Hamilton Drive and Resort Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Hamilton Rd. and N. Hamilton Drive boat water access site, Burt Lake
- Mundt Rd. boat water access site, Burt Lake
- S. Grandview Beach & Pleasant Beach boat water access site, Mullett Lake
- Fisher Woods Rd. boat water access site, Sturgeon River
- Indian River Marina
- Landings Resort and Marina

- Inland Waterway Trailhead
- Wildwood Hills Pathway Trailhead
- Tuscarora Township Library

### **Walker Township**

- Dog Lake State Wildlife Flooding Area, Walker Twp

### **Waverly Township**

- Stewart Beach Rd. and County Line Rd. boat water access site, Black Lake
- Corbat Rd. boat water access site, Black Lake
- Klieber Rd. boat water access site, Black River/Klieber Pond
- Shanty Rapids Rd. boat water access site, Klieber Pond
- Twin School Rd. boat water access site, Klieber Pond
- Klieber Rd. boat water access site, Klieber Pond
- Osmun Rd. boat water access site, Osmun Lake
- Brady and Waveland Roads public fishing access site, Stoney Creek
- Stoney Creek State Wildlife Flooding Area

### **Wilmot Township**

- Sturgeon River Roadside Park

### **City of Cheboygan**

- Boy Scout Camp Picnic Area
- Cheboygan County Marina
- Cheboygan County Fairgrounds
- Gordon Turner Park – soccer fields, volleyball and shuffleboard courts,
- Washington Park on Cheboygan River
- Kiwanis Park Playground
- Veterans Memorial Park
- Major City Park – health & exercise trail, softball fields, indoor ice rink
- Cheboygan County Soccer Fields, Cheboygan
- James Felix Merchant Neighborhood Park, Cheboygan
- Cheboygan River water boat access site
- S. Cheboygan River water boat access site
- Fisherman’s Landing fishing access site, Upper Black River
- Cheboygan City Marina
- Cheboygan County Marina
- Cheboygan Harbor
- Johnson Marine
- Walstrom Marine
- Ferry to Bois Blanc Island
- Duncan Bay Boat Club
- Bowling alleys
- Cheboygan Golf & Country Club



- Cheboygan Opera House
- US Coast Guard Base
- Cheboygan Dam & Locks
- Indoor racquetball courts
- Cheboygan Youth Center
- Cheboygan Public Library
- Kingston Theatre movie theater

#### **Mackinaw City**

- Indian Pathways Park
- Alexander Henry Waterfront Park
- Sinclair Park
- Depeyster Park
- Scherf Park
- Wawatam Park
- Old School Park
- Arnold Line Playground Park
- Conkling Heritage Park
- Fishing and Observation Pier
- Public Harbor
- Mackinaw City Recreation Complex – softball fields, basketball courts, indoor ice rink
- Courtyard Cinema movie theater

#### **Village of Wolverine**

- Village of Wolverine Park
- Wolverine softball fields

### **Recreation Outside of Cheboygan County**

In addition to recreation within Cheboygan County, Township residents have access to recreational opportunities to the east in Presque Isle County and to the west in Emmet County. In many respects, these counties offer very similar recreational opportunities as Cheboygan County: a large amount of public lands for hunting and fishing; public water access for fishing, boating and swimming; various public parks, campgrounds, playgrounds, sports fields, etc. However, these neighboring counties also offer access to recreational opportunities not available in Cheboygan County. Presque Isle County recreation includes Black Mountain Forest Recreation Area, PH Hoeft State Park, Forty Mile Point Lighthouse Park, Thompson’s State Park, the Presque Isle Lighthouses, Besser Natural Area, Ocqueoc Falls, Onaway State Park, and the Alpena to Cheboygan Trail. Emmet County recreation opportunities include indoor swimming at the Harbor Springs Pool, Dark Sky Park at the Headlands, Camp Pet-o-Se-Ga, Colonial Fort Michilimackinac, and downhill skiing at Nub’s Nob and Boyne Highlands.

## **Inventory Procedures**

The methods used by NEMCOG staff to compile this recreational inventory include site visits to each facility in the Township, compilation of information provided by Forest Township officials, and a compilation of information from the Cheboygan County Recreation Plan and the Presque Isle County Recreation Plan. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

## **Status Report on Grant-Assisted Recreational Facilities**

No Forest Township grant-assisted recreational facilities exist.

## CHAPTER 5: GOALS & OBJECTIVES/ACTION PLAN

**Goals & Objectives:** Goals and objectives were developed from the public input session as well as by input from the Forest Township Board. Table 3 contains the Capital Improvements Schedule.

### A. GENERAL GOALS

1. Improve the quality of life for residents and bring visitors to Forest Township by maintaining, improving and expanding recreation within the Township and surrounding areas by working cooperatively with local and State governmental agencies, community service agencies, and local businesses to create a sense of place within the Township in order to offer a full spectrum of year-round recreational experiences.
2. Install wayfinding, directional, and site signage to direct visitors to and within township recreational facilities.
3. Provide a balance of recreational amenities which are oriented to the aging population to increase the desirability of the community to retirees.
4. Provide recreational amenities which are oriented toward the younger population and families in order to increase the livability of the community to attract young families to the area and retain older youth.
5. Improve the overall local economy by enhancing the livability of the community in order to attract entrepreneurs and encouraging the creation of new tourism-based jobs.

### B. FOREST TOWNSHIP PARK

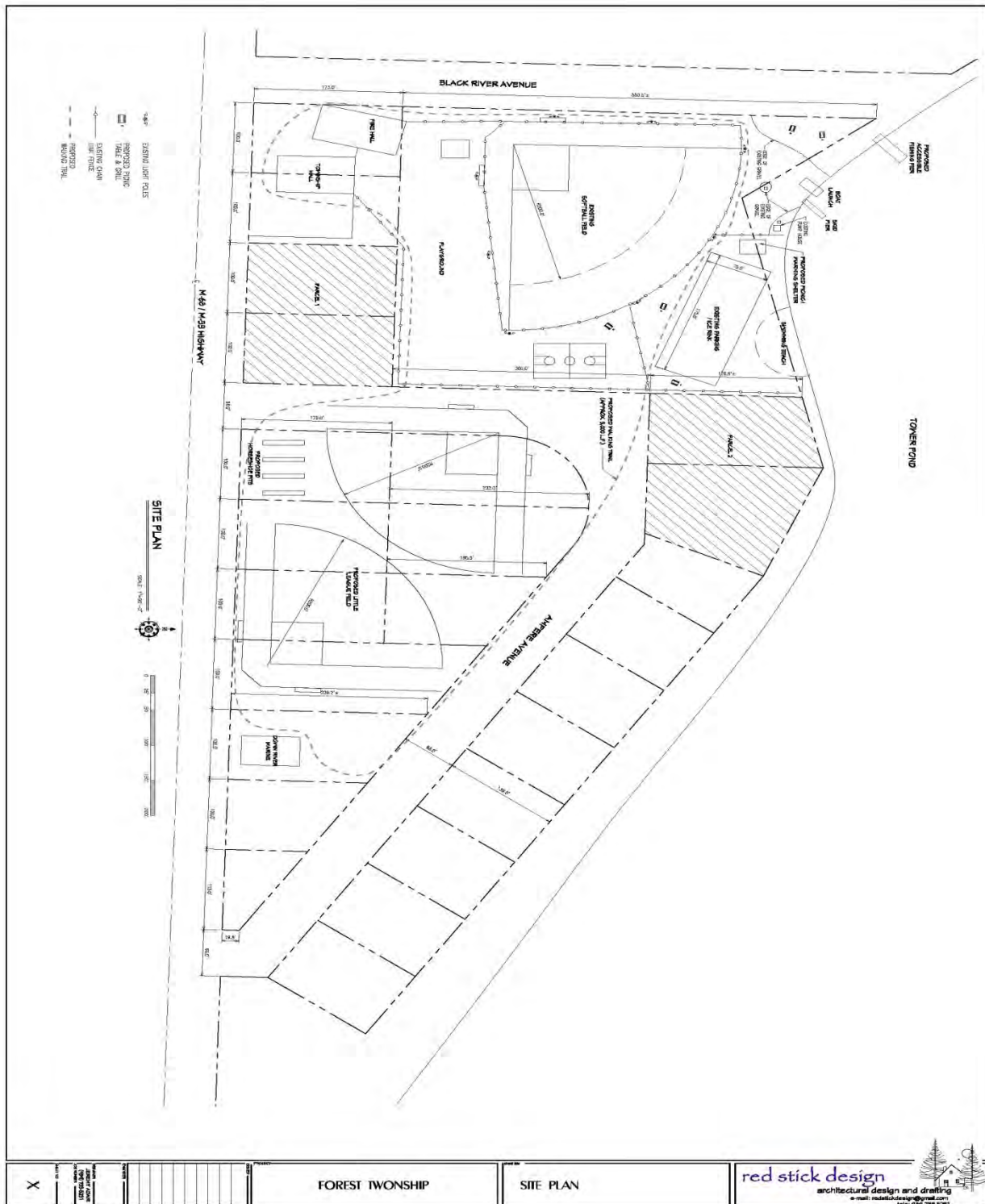
**GOAL:** *Develop and improve Forest Township Park to encourage its use by residents of the Township, the surrounding area, and visitors.*

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the property for all age groups.
  - a. **ACTION:** Acquire neighboring property to expand parking area and add an additional ball field.

- b. **ACTION:** Acquire neighboring property to increase water frontage.
  - c. **ACTION:** Install additional picnic tables, grills, a pavilion, horseshoe pits, and more trash receptacles.
  - d. **ACTION:** build an additional little league ball field.
  - e. **ACTION:** Work with local youth organizations to obtain playground equipment for installation at the park.
  - f. **ACTION:** Increase lighting around ball field and basketball courts.
  - g. **ACTION:** Build a walking trail around Township park perimeter with signage.
2. **OBJECTIVE:** Increase handicapped accessibility at Tower Pond.
- a. **ACTION:** Build a handicapped-accessible fishing pier with the help of local sportsmen’s club.
3. **OBJECTIVE:** Acquire property on the north side of Tower Pond and establish a trail head for the Alpena to Mackinaw Trail.
- a. **ACTION:** Negotiate with current property owner for acquisition.
  - b. **ACTION:** Work with the Trails Collaborative Group to establish a trailhead in this location.
4. **OBJECTIVE:** Beautify the park and provide a more “open” feel.
- a. **ACTION:** Establish coordinated signage with other recreational facilities in the Township or area.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** Forest Township Park is the only recreational facility in the Township and intends to market the location to populations of all ages. According to the 2010 US Census, nearly 45% of the population of the Township is under 44 years of age, indicative age range of parents and children. Plus, there are nearly 7,500 families living in Cheboygan County that could potentially utilize a new family recreational amenity. In addition, 22% of the Township residents as well as 22% of Cheboygan County residents are over 65 in age and over 5,000 people in Cheboygan County are classified as having a disability, nearly 20% of the County’s population. Due to these age and disability factors, the fishing access to Tower Pond is inadequate to serve these

demographics. The Township plans to build a handicapped-accessible fishing pier safe and easy access. The addition of this fishing platform will also serve to increase the use of the park by the aging and less able demographics.



Engaging in beautification, upgrading restroom facilities, and installing picnic tables, grills, a pavilion, and more trash receptacles will create a more family- friendly environment as well as increase the use of the park by visitors. The existing playground equipment is very old and will need to be replaced with safer, sturdier equipment. Building an additional ball field not only provides additional opportunities for local children and families, but allows for more tournament play and thus more tourists to the area. In addition, expanding the parking area will allow more people to use the park as well as provide for a safer environment. Currently the parking is very limited and does not provide enough circulation space to safely maneuver a vehicle.

All of the proposed improvements at Forest Township Park are based upon needs expressed by the Township Board and area residents. The Township hosted a public input meeting and Township residents indicated that the following are important in the Township: fishing access, multi-purpose ball field, grills, new playground equipment, pavilion, and beach expansion.

### C. FOREST TOWNSHIP HALL

**GOAL:** *Provide a usable community center as a focal point for community activities.*

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Improve and promote the use of the Forest Township Hall as a community center.
  - a. **ACTION:** Develop a maintenance and capital improvements schedule for the Township Hall to ensure their upkeep and continued use by the public.
  - b. **ACTION:** Promote the use of the Township Hall as an activity center to attract a wider range of potential users

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** The social landscape of the rural community has changed as more and more people travel long distances to their work places and school. In addition, the internet allows people to do a vast number of things online. The net result of such social change is the decrease in community activity and interaction. However, the demographics indicate that the Township must provide for a population consisting of a wide range of age levels. In addition, median household income for Forest Township in



2010 was \$32,500 - \$5,000 less than Cheboygan County's average, and \$14,000 less than the State's estimate for that same time. The community needs a core place to gather for community cultural events and free recreation. The use of the Township Hall as a general recreational facility will fill these needs by providing a place for community cultural events and active recreation.

## D. TRAILS

***GOAL: Promote the use, development and expansion of motorized and non-motorized trail systems throughout the Township which connect to other trail systems and connect points of interest.***

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Increase the incidence of outdoor recreation, the livability of the community for residents, and the tourism draw for visitors by providing trails, trail routes, and trail connections for motorized and non-motorized uses.

a. **ACTION:** Support the development and marketing of non-motorized trails throughout the Township connecting points of interest along the way and actively participating with the Up North Trails Collaborative.

d. **ACTION:** Assist with promoting the region as a premier motorized and non-motorized trail destination.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** The need for more non-motorized and motorized trail systems speaks, again, to the need to establish the Township as a premier outdoor recreation destination.

Two major trail systems exist in the Township: The Alpena to Mackinaw Trail (non-motorized) and the Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail (ORV).

## E. MARKETING

***GOAL: Market recreational assets in Forest Township and surrounding area as part of a "destination package".***

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Market the area's natural resources and access to motorized and non-motorized trails as a recreational asset to local residents and tourists.

a. **ACTION:** Partner with existing organizations already marketing the region, i.e.

Up North Trails Collaborative, Chambers of Commerce and the US 23 Heritage Route, to develop marketing materials highlighting the area's assets such as wildlife watching, hunting and fishing, winter recreation and trail access, i.e. motorized, non-motorized, equestrian.

**2. OBJECTIVE:** Market bicycle tours and hiking tours as a recreational asset to local residents and tourists.

- a. **ACTION:** Develop marketing materials including maps/brochures showing recommended bicycle tours and hiking tours showing mileage, trail type, topography, road shoulder width, points of interest, local services, emergency services, and cultural and natural history attractions.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** The issue of improving the local economy by establishing the area as a premier outdoor recreation destination is of utmost importance. According to the Federal Reserve Economic Data, unemployment rates for 2012 have fluctuated in Cheboygan County from a high of 17% in the winter months, to a low of 5.3% in late summer. Loss of industrial jobs and the closing of businesses have forced communities to take a new look at employment and the future of jobs in the area. The Township sees an opportunity to re-make itself into a tourism destination by capitalizing on its premier natural assets including the Upper Black River and the proximity to major trail systems. The attraction of visitors to these recreational amenities has the potential to create not only direct tourism-related jobs, but also to increase sales at local establishments which serve those visitors (i.e. local motels, cottage rentals, canoe liveries, restaurants, resorts, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.). In addition, the Township strives to create a community with a defined sense of place and a high livability/quality of life factor which will attract young families who have the option of work mobility (telecommuters) or who have the potential to be entrepreneurs. This livability/quality of life factor will also help to retain local youth who otherwise would leave the area upon reaching adulthood. The retention of youth and the attraction of visitors are two methods with which the Township hopes to begin the much needed economic turn-around.

**Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2013-2018**

**FOREST TOWNSHIP PARK**

<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
High	Acquire property adjacent to Township Hall in order to build an additional ball field and increase parking.	TBD	MDNRE; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2014
Medium	Construction of additional ball field	TBD	MDNRE; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2018
Medium	Picnic tables, grills, horseshoe pits, trash receptacles	TBD	MDNRE; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2015
High	Construct barrier-free fishing platform	TBD	MDNRE; local or private foundations; community service orgs; volunteer labor	2013
Low	Acquire waterfront property on Tower Pond to increase waterfront and beach access	TBD	MDNRE; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2016
High	Obtain and install new, safer playground equipment Install playground safety surface	TBD	MDNRE; local or private foundations, community service organizations; volunteer labor	2014
Medium	Design and construct a walking trail with signage around perimeter of Forest Township Park	TBD	MDNRE; local or private foundations; community service orgs; volunteers	2015
Medium	Improve lighting at ball field, basketball courts	TBD	Township general fund, MDNRE, local/private foundations, community service orgs	2014

†Some flexibility in the timeline may be necessary in order to allow for necessary engineering studies, environmental surveys, contractual scheduling, and the availability of funding.

**Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2013-2018** continued

<b>TRAILS</b>				
<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
High	Acquire property on north side of Tower Pond and work with the area Trails Collaborative to develop a trailhead in that location.	TBD	MDNRE; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service organizations; bike trail organizations.	2013
Medium	Work with regional Trails Collaborative and Cheboygan County to market both the motorized and non-motorized trails in and around Forest Township.	TBD	MDNRE; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service organizations; bike trail organizations.	2014
Low	Install wayfinding signage for the trails and recreational facilities at the park.	TBD	MDNRE; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service organizations; bike trail organizations.	2017
Low	<b>OTHER MARKETING MATERIALS:</b> Partner with other governmental units and community service and recreational groups to include the Township in additional marketing materials based around specific themes such as winter recreation, bird and wildlife watching, hunting and fishing, motorized sports (snowmobiles and ORVs), or active non-motorized sports (bicycling, hiking, horseback riding).	TBD	Local or private foundations; community service orgs; local tourism agencies; recreation orgs.; MDNRE; MDOT; bike trail orgs; ORV & snowmobile associations;	
	<b>WEBSITE:</b> Develop website in conjunction with other governmental units and community service and recreational groups marketing rural Alpena County as a destination.		Local general fund; local or private foundations; community service orgs; local tourism agencies; recreation orgs.	

**FOREST TOWNSHIP HALL**

<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
Medium	Develop a maintenance and capital improvements schedule for the Township Hall to ensure their upkeep and continued use by the public.	TBD	Local general fund	2014

†Some flexibility in the timeline may be necessary in order to allow for necessary engineering studies, environmental surveys, contractual scheduling, and the availability of funding.

## APPENDIX H. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

### COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

*By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants*

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

Name of Plan: Forest Township Recreation Plan 2013-2018		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Forest Township	Cheboygan	February 2013

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>3. RECREATION INVENTORY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</b>



**6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice January 17, 2013

Type of Notice public notice in *Cheboygan Tribune* (newspaper)

Plan Location township hall, online @ [www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 31 days

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice February 16, 2013

Name of Newspaper *Cheboygan Tribune*

Date of Meeting February 26, 2013

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

**7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**8. ACTION PROGRAM**

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: February 26, 2013

2. Official resolution of the Forest Township Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: February 26, 2013

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: February 26, 2013

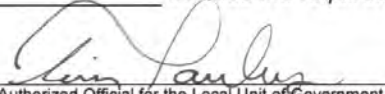
4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: February 26, 2013

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for  
Forest Township*

*includes the required content, as indicated*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Local Unit of Government)  
above and as set forth by the DNR.

  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date 2-26-13  
02/26/2013

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist isn/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grants Management Date \_\_\_\_\_