

# City of Hancock Recreation Plan 2021-2025

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*Adopted XXXXXX*

*Prepared for: City of Hancock • 399 Quincy Street • Hancock, MI 49930*



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## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2021-2025 City of Hancock Recreation Plan (hereinafter referred to as the *Plan*) has been developed to guide recreation improvements in the City over the next five years. The Plan provides an overview of the community, presents an inventory of existing recreational facilities, and provides a framework for continued improvement and development of Hancock recreation facilities. The overall goal of the Plan is to establish a program of improvements that meets the recreational needs of the City of Hancock. A five-year plan also permits the City to apply for Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other grants.

This Plan was developed by a Recreation Plan Committee on behalf of the City of Hancock Recreation Commission for the Hancock City Council. A survey was sent to all residents of the City of Hancock input. Public comments and suggestions were taken under consideration during the development of the Plan. The Plan will continue to be updated, as needed, to address changing needs of the community and its residents. The Recreation Commission approved the draft Plan distribution on November 10, 2020; the City Council adopted the Plan via resolution on December 16, 2020.

### **City of Hancock Recreation Commission:**

Deb Mann (Chair), Amanda Jackson (Vice Chair), John Diebel (Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club Representative), Michael Lancour (Hancock Public Schools Board of Education Representative), Bill Marlor (Director of Public Works), Jeff Kelley (Planning Commission Representative), Dan Seguin and John Haeussler (Council Representatives), Craig Pellizzaro and Dave Dow.

### **City of Hancock City Council:**

Paul LaBine (Mayor), Will Lytle (Mayor ProTem), Whitney Warstler, Ron Blau, John Haeussler, Dan Seguin (term ended November 17, 2020), John Slivon.

**Part 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

The City of Hancock (2010 population: 4,634) was platted in 1859 and established as a village in 1863. The City is located on the south shore of Copper Island in Houghton County, Michigan (see Figure 1). Bordered by Franklin, Quincy and Hancock Townships to the east, north and west, respectively, the City has a total land area of 2.43 square miles (1,557 acres). The City, in its development, was sculpted out of the steep hillside northern bank of Portage Lake, is separated from the “mainland” by the Portage Lake shipping canal, and is connected with the rest of the county by the Houghton-Hancock Portage Lake Lift Bridge.

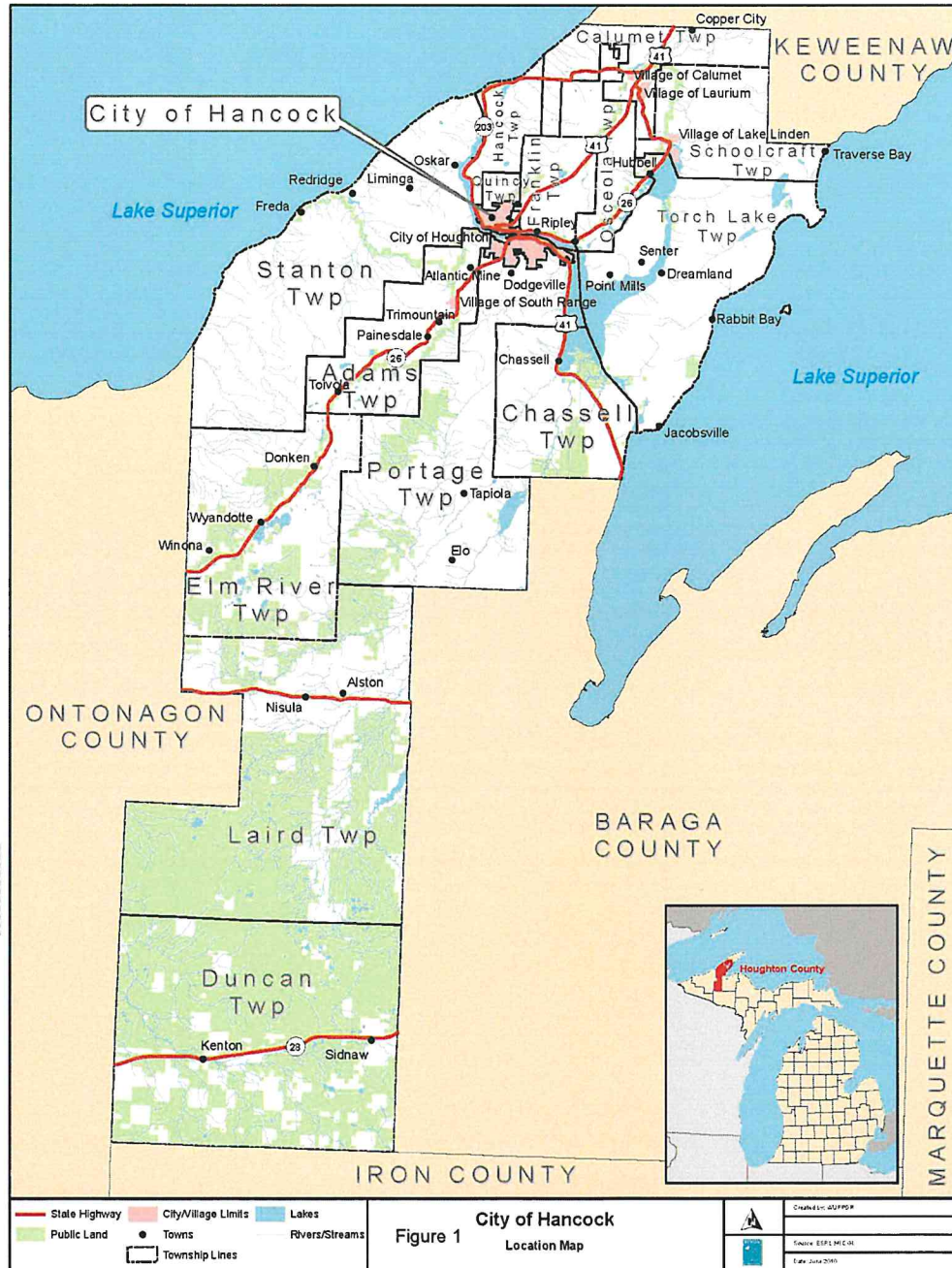
Prior to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and for years after, the economy of Hancock and the Keweenaw Peninsula flourished with strong copper mining and smelting industries. However, in the mid-1910s economic issues began to plague these industries, and virtually all mining activities ceased by 1968. Today, two universities (Finlandia University in Hancock and Michigan Technological University in Houghton), UP Health System-Portage, governmental agencies and four-season tourism provide diversity to the economy.

The population of Hancock reached its zenith in 1910 when the Census Bureau recorded 8,981 residents at the height of the copper boom. However, since then the City has, along with other Upper Peninsula communities, experienced a steadily declining population due to dwindling employment. The 2000 Census total was 4,323 Hancock residents; in 2010, that number was 4,634, an increase of 7.2%. University students who live in Hancock and attend Finlandia University or Michigan Technological University bring the total population of Hancock to about 5,000.

<i>Population (all figures from 2010 U.S. Census)</i>	
City of Hancock (2010)	4,634
% Population change (2000-2010)	+7.2%



Figure 1: City of Hancock Location Map



Population information from the 2010 Census is provided in the following table.

**Table 1: City of Hancock Population Information from 2010 Census**

<b>City of Hancock Population Distribution</b>		
<b>2010 Census</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Male	2,294	49.5%
Female	2,340	50.5%
Under 5 Years Old	236	5.1%
5 to 17 Years Old	538	11.6%
18 to 64 Years Old	2,966	64.0%
65 Years and Over	894	19.3%
White	4,387	94.6%
Black	55	1.2%
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	49	1.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	78	1.7%
Other	65	1.4%

Sources: U.S. Census, USA.gov

The City of Hancock’s location offers potential for drawing visitor dollars. The inherent “funnel effect” in play when traversing the Portage Lake Lift Bridge into Hancock steers visitors destined for the Keweenaw Peninsula directly into the City’s primary traffic stream. A strong winter tourism season exists due to the area’s heavy snowfall, while summer tourism is fostered by the areas many lakes, forests and parks. A large number of snowmobilers and skiers now visit the Keweenaw Peninsula due largely to an outstanding trail system, reliable snow conditions, favorable temperatures and breathtaking beauty. People choose Hancock to work, live and play because of its easy access to the outdoors and the many recreational opportunities available.

Two major highways, U.S. Route 41 and Michigan Route 26 (the Portage Lake Lift Bridge), serve the City of Hancock. A third highway, Michigan Route 203, is a lakeshore spur route that connects Hancock with the Village of Calumet to the north. Houghton County Memorial Airport (CMX) is located 6.5 miles northeast of the City via U.S. Route 41.

## **Part 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

The City uses a council-manager form of government and is governed by a 7-member council. A Recreation Commission is in charge of recreational programming and reports to the City Council. Upon the recommendations of the Recreation Commission and Planning Commission, the City Council designates funds as necessary for programming and capital improvements. The City Manager coordinates recreation development and directs the Public Works staff in maintaining recreational facilities. The City’s recreation programming and sites are supplemented by Hancock Public Schools and Finlandia University facilities, which are available to local residents. In the last few years, Finlandia has invested millions of dollars on its outdoor and indoor recreation facilities, many of which are open to the public.





**Figure 2: City of Hancock Administrative Structure**



The City also partners with the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club (KNSC), a local non-profit, to maintain and coordinate improvements at the Maasto Hiihto Ski Trail System. The City maintains an Operation Recommendation for the Trail Partnership that includes the following:

1. *City to support the development of the KNSC and volunteers*
2. *KNSC to assist the City in fundraising for the trails and trail grooming equipment*
3. *City employs operators to groom Maasto Hiito/Churning Rapids ski trail system on a seasonal basis with supervisory assistance from KNSC*
4. *KNSC to assist the City in operating the Four Season Chalet at the Driving Park*
5. *City and KNSC to collaborate on the restoration of a Swedetown Gorge through trail*
6. *City to rent Port-a-Johns for trailheads*
7. *KNSC to offer brush cutting, signage and other maintenance assistance on existing trails, including Churning Rapids*
8. *City and KNSC to continue to work with land owners to secure appropriate trail use permissions*
9. *City and KNSC to coordinate with property owners in bridge and boardwalk construction and gating control*



The City of Hancock recreation budget varies by year depending on the Recreation Millage and taxable value. The current budget for 2020-2021 Hancock City Council allocates funds as needed for operations and capital improvements.

### **Part 3: RECREATION INVENTORY**

The City of Hancock maintains access to a number of recreation facilities for both local residents and tourists. The following recreation inventory (see Figure 3) describes the types and location of recreation facilities currently available in the City and nearby. In addition, accessibility assessments and rankings are provided for each site based on the parameters outlined in the *"DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans"* as follows:

- ◆ 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

Based on this inventory, the need for improvements and additional recreational facilities can be fully evaluated. Figure 3 identifies the locations of the City of Hancock's recreation sites.

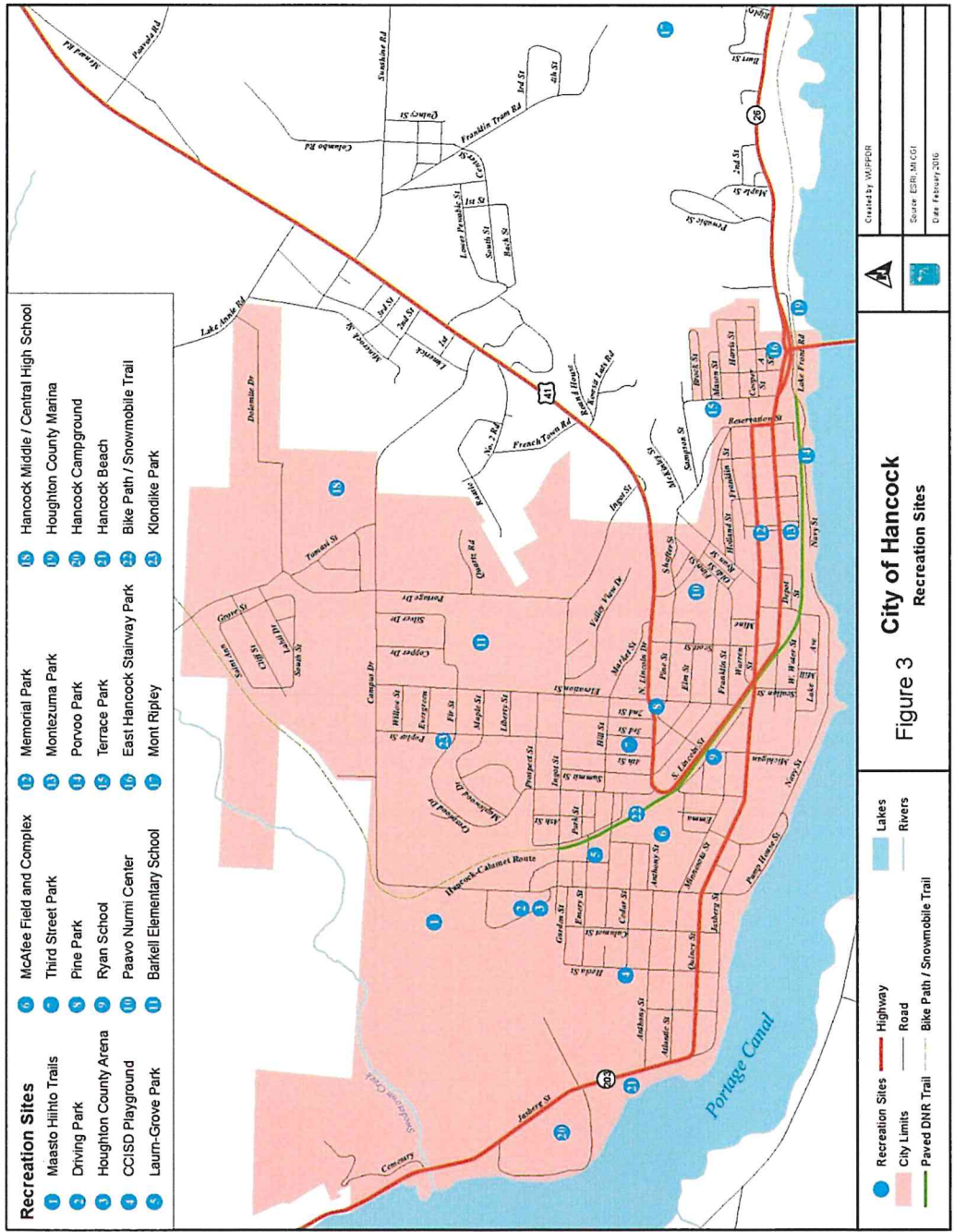


Figure 3: City of Hancock Recreation Sites

**City of Hancock Recreation Facility Inventory (refer to Figure 3):**



**1. Maasto Hiihto Ski Trails** – Community multi-use recreation trails (skiing, biking, and walking) on mostly private land maintained for winter use by the City in partnership with the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club through annual agreements with land owners. Trails are accessible from Driving Park, Sledding Hill, Christensen Road (private property) and Tomasi Road trailheads and connect to the Churning Rapids Trails (located on private land protected by conservation easements). The number of groomed kilometers varies each season, but the

Maasto Hiito/ Churning Rapids trail system includes approximately 26 kilometers. A map of the Maasto Hiito/ Churning Rapids trail system is offered as Figure 4. Accessibility assessment = 1.

**2. Driving Park** – Community park owned by the City/Houghton County composed of 16.3 acres including regulation baseball and softball diamonds, youth baseball field, multi-purpose building/ski chalet, parking area, equipment storage, Houghton County Arena, fairgrounds and 4-H building. Accessibility assessment = 3.

**3. Houghton County Arena** – County-owned multi-purpose facility located in Hancock that serves a large number of county residents through various programs and services. The Arena has recently undergone major





renovations with a new refrigeration system, energy efficient lighting and ADA compliant bleachers. The Arena is used for a variety of activities throughout the year. It serves as the primary practice and game facility for over 600 junior hockey players, including senior and high school teams. Figure skating and public skating for youth and senior citizens are also scheduled at the facility. Ice is maintained at the facility for at least six (6) months of the year and it is one of three managed ice rinks available in the Houghton/Hancock area. The grounds are used extensively for 4-H, the County Fair, a rest station for the adjacent Maasto Hiihto Ski Trails, and other recreational and community programs. Accessibility assessment = 2.

**4. Copper Country Intermediate School District (CCISD) Playground** – School-owned neighborhood park sited on .3 acres with playground and basketball court. Accessibility assessment = 3.

**5. Lurn-Grove Park** – This City-owned park is dedicated to two Hancock sailors killed during World War II. This neighborhood park sits on 1.3 acres with skating rink/ basketball court, updated tennis court, pickle ball court, warming shelter and playground equipment. Accessibility assessment = 3.





Figure 4: Maasto Hiihto Ski Trail Map



**6. McAfee Field & Complex** –McAfee Field (formerly Condon Field), refurbished in 2011, is home to the Finlandia University soccer teams (men's and women's) and NCAA Division III men's football program, which began competition in 2015. It also hosts the Hancock Central High School varsity and JV football teams. The complex now features an 11.4-acre park with lighted Pro Grass artificial turf playing surface and a state-of-the-art Daktronics LED video scoreboard. Finlandia redesigned and is renovating the entire site, which will include a competition football and soccer field, an Indoor Training Complex, a new grandstand and locker rooms, softball diamond with lighting, nature trail, and alumni pavilion. Figures 5-6 show plans and photos of the new facilities. Accessibility assessment = 3.

**Figure 5: Finlandia University Outdoor Sports Complex (artist's rendering)**





**Figure 6: McAfee Field, Finlandia University**



**7. Third Street Park** – City-owned neighborhood park, .5 acres with playground equipment, outdoor basketball court and covered picnic table. Accessibility assessment = 3.



**8. Pine Park** – City-owned neighborhood park, .45 acres with playground structure, park benches, and perennial flower beds. Accessibility assessment = 3.

**9. Ryan School** – Operated by Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Child Development Board as a child center. The facility includes playground equipment. Accessibility assessment = 2.

**10. Paavo Nurmi Center** – Owned and operated by Finlandia University, this facility enjoyed a full renovation in 2014-15 and now features indoor fitness facilities including gymnasium, 5,000-SF Strength and Wellness Center, aerobic studio, fitness classes, and community locker areas with sauna. Open to the public on a pass basis for a nominal fee. Accessibility assessment = 3.

**11. Gordon G. Barkell Elementary School** – School-owned facilities including 20 acres with two (2) playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, soccer fields, small pavilion and gymnasium. Accessibility assessment = 3.



**12. Memorial Park** – City-owned neighborhood park of .1 acres with Veteran’s Memorial Monument, flower gardens, benches and tables. Accessibility assessment = 4.

**13. Montezuma Park** – City-owned neighborhood park, 1 acre with flower gardens and playground equipment. Accessibility assessment = 2.







**14. Porvoo Park** – City-owned waterfront community park named for Hancock’s “sister city” in Finland, .3 acres with pavilion, stairways, picnic tables, fishing, restrooms, swing set, dual swing and boardwalk. Park is accessible from paved pedestrian path. Accessibility assessment = 3.

**15. Terrace Park** – City-owned neighborhood park, 1.3 acres with tennis courts, playground, basketball court, outdoor playground equipment and rustic baseball area. Accessibility assessment = 3.



**16. East Hancock Stairway Park** – City-owned community park, .3 acres with benches and landscaping, overlooking Portage Lake Lift Bridge with historic Great Depression-era stairway to East Hancock. Accessibility assessment = 1.

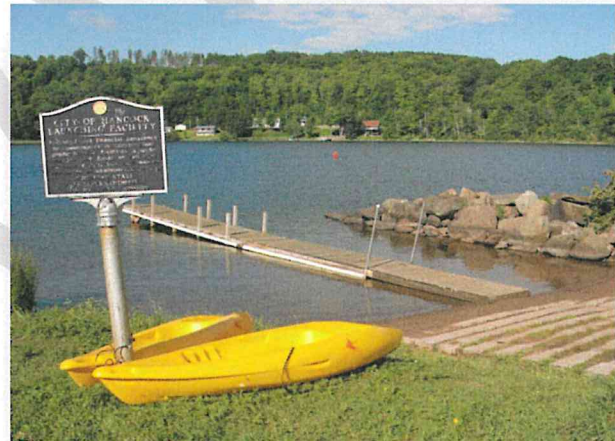
**17. Mont Ripley** – A ski hill operated by Michigan Technological University located just outside the City of Hancock in Ripley, east of the Portage Lake Lift Bridge. It is open during the winter season, and offers a complete rental shop and skiing and snowboarding lessons. High-tech snow machines supplement the 20 feet of natural snow Mont Ripley receives each year. Mont Ripley hosts a racing league for adults as well as ski and snowboard, border

cross racing, and is home to various school-based ski teams. A local National Ski Patrol chapter provides first aid and other services as needed. Accessibility assessment = 2.

**18. Hancock Middle/Central High School** – School-owned facilities with playground, football field, regulation soccer field, basketball courts, two gyms with basketball courts and a nature trail. Accessibility assessment = 3.

**19. Houghton County Marina** – County-owned marina located just outside the City of Hancock east of the Portage Lake Lift Bridge. The marina is full service offering 54 slips, transient slips, gas/diesel fuel, pump-out station, and picnic facilities for boaters, ice cooler and nautical charts.

**20. Hancock Campground** – City-owned campground of 19 acres with campground area, boat launch, water, showers, toilets, laundry, electricity, sanitary disposal and 71 sites—56 with electricity and 15 tent sites. Construction is to be in the summer of 2021 to create ADA accessible showers. Accessibility assessment = 3.



**21. Hancock Beach** – City-owned community park, 10 acres with picnic area, swimming beach, recreational pier, concession building, toilets, handicap swings, play-ground



equipment, change house, parking area, pavilion, sand volleyball courts (3) and horseshoe pits (2). Accessibility assessment = 3.



**22. Bike Path and Snowmobile**

**Trail** – Paved DNR trail from Portage Lake Lift Bridge to just north of Ingot Street. Portions of the trail run parallel paved (motorized) and gravel (non-motorized) segments to accommodate all traffic types. Trail connects to greater Keweenaw unpaved trail system. Accessibility assessment = 2.

**23. Klondike Park** – City-owned park of .1 acres with views and foliage at the northwest corner of Poplar Street and Crestwood Drive at the site of the onetime Bulldog Water Tank. A large, cleared concrete area provides opportunity for benches or other future developments. Playground equipment will be installed in the summer of 2021. Accessibility assessment = 3.

## Other Facilities

There are a number of regional recreation facilities around the Hancock/Houghton area that provide opportunities to residents and visitors, including:

### **Michigan Technological University**

#### **Student Development Complex (MTU**

**SDC)** – Opened on September 2, 1980, this 235,000-square-foot (SF) university recreational complex features an ice arena, multi-purpose room, pool, gymnasium, fitness center, racquetball/squash courts, dance room, and a music room.



**F.J. McLain State Park** – Located along M-203 north of Hancock on Lake Superior, this 443-acre State Park is a popular destination for visitors and locals. Activities at the park include camping, hiking, rock hounding, beachcombing, swimming, sightseeing and skiing. There are 92 modern

campsites and a few rustic cabins available. This park also offers three picnic shelters with grills (two with fireplaces), two playground locations, a dedicated area friendly for leashed pets, and (during camping season) a concessionary/store.



**Beaches** – Several sandy beaches are accessible to the public and provide opportunities for swimming and sunbathing. Nearby beaches include: East Houghton Waterfront Park, F.J. McLain State Park and Chassell Centennial Park.



**Trails** – The region hosts a network of snowmobile/multipurpose trails that complement Hancock’s offerings, including the Jack Stevens Rail Trail from Hancock to Calumet, the snowmobile trail from Hancock to Lake Linden, the Chassell-Houghton Rail Trail, the MTU Ski Trails and the Swedetown Trails in Calumet. Opportunities for these trails provide motorized and non-motorized activities such as biking, cross-country skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, skijoring, ATV and snowmobiling.

**Playgrounds** – Small playgrounds and ballparks are sprinkled across Houghton County.

**Various** – Outside of Houghton County are numerous facilities that allow for any number of recreational pursuits, most notably Isle Royale National Park (Houghton hosts the park headquarters), Porcupine Mountain State Park, Ottawa National Forest, the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, and Fort Wilkins State Park.

The western Upper Peninsula also has countless sites offering more passive recreational opportunities such as the Keweenaw National Historical Park, museums, mine tours and scenic drives. Waterfalls are numerous and accessible to moderately abled walkers/hikers.

**Part 4: RECREATION GOALS**

The City of Hancock has identified a number of goals for recreation within the community. Following are goals identified by the updated City of Hancock Recreation Plan:

- ◆ To provide recreational facilities, programs and opportunities to sufficiently meet the recreational needs of all residents of the City of Hancock and its visitors.
- ◆ To conserve land and water resources within the City for future generations including preservation of open space and improving public access to the waterfront.
- ◆ To improve boardwalks and docks along water to increase access to the City for watercraft users.
- ◆ To spend limited recreational funds efficiently as possible.
- ◆ To provide access to all recreational facilities for handicapped citizens and visitors.
- ◆ To continue developing a network of non-motorized pathways to serve the community during all four seasons.

**Part 5: RECREATION NEEDS — BASIS FOR ACTION PROGRAM**

The City of Hancock is active in pursuing recreational goals as improvements are ongoing, shown through completed capital improvement activities since 2016.

**Table 2: City of Hancock Completed Recreation Projects since 2016**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Funding Source(s)</i>
Beach Recreational Pier	\$380,000	City/Recreation Millage/DNR
3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Park Playground	\$25,000	City/Recreation Millage
Driving Park – Fence Extension	\$20,000	City/Recreation Millage/Portage Lake Little League
Terrace Park Tennis Court & Playground	\$50,000	City/Recreation Millage/PHF
Laurn-Grove Park –pickle ball	\$1,000	City/Recreation Millage

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<i><b>Project</b></i>	<i><b>Cost</b></i>	<i><b>Funding Source(s)</b></i>
Houghton County Arena – 5 Yr. Capital Contribution	\$60,000	City/Recreation Millage
Beach Install Handicap Swings	\$4,000	City/Recreation Millage/KCF
Bike Fix it Station/Bike Racks	\$4,500	City/Recreation Millage/KCF
Driving Park Playground Equipment	\$30,000	City/Recreation Millage
Porvoo Park Companion Swing	\$1,000	KNSC/Foundations/ City
Montezuma Park Playground	\$16,500	City/Recreation Millage
Bike & Pedestrian signage	\$2,835	City/Recreation Millage
Maasto Hiito Middle Bridge Replacement	\$26,000	City/KNSC/Foundations
Trail Equipment	\$35,000	Recreation Millage/KNSC
Hancock Campground Bathhouse	\$240,000	MNRTF/City/Recreation Millage
Hancock Beach Kayak Launch	\$20,000	MNRTF/City
Driving Park Infield Upgrades/Stipends	\$30,000	MNRTF/City

In order to determine the current needs for recreational opportunities in the City, several key elements were analyzed to formulate an action plan including: a review of the current recreation inventory as well as the needs of the community through recreation surveys. A recreation survey made available via postal mail and email and at Hancock locations (including City Hall) was open to anyone using City recreation sites, although the majority of participants were City of Hancock residents. The survey generated response from 326 individuals. The survey, along with complete response, is presented as Item 1 of Appendix A.

A variety of recreation deficiencies and potential improvements were identified based on the survey results and from discussions with the Recreation Plan Committee and City

Manager. The following list identifies some of the current unmet needs at the City recreation facilities:

- ◆ Campground showers are not ADA accessible, construction 2021;
- ◆ Upgrades needed for the Maasto Hiihto Ski Trail facilities and operations; *and*
- ◆ Develop agreements with land owners for use of Maasto Hiihto Ski Trail system in non-winter months.

**Part 6: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The capital improvement plan provides for the identified needs which are most evident at the present time and for which developing trends indicate an imminent need. Also, the plan addresses ADA deficiencies that still need to be met according to a 1995 study by Hitch, Inc. The improvement plan is not intended to be all inclusive, but used rather as a guide for recreation development. This recreation plan should remain somewhat flexible to account for changing lifestyles, increased leisure time and new ideas so that it will always be consistent with contemporary needs and strive to provide the best overall recreation opportunities available for the City of Hancock residents and visitors.

The following table lists future projects prioritized by year to meet the recreation goals and needs of the City. The Recreation Commission prioritized the projects based on results from the recreation surveys and on ideas from the Recreation Commission and community.

**Table 3: 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>
1	2021	Campground – Rehab shower/restrooms to ADA standards	\$48,500	City/Recreation Millage
2		Maasto Hiihto Ski Trail Equipment Purchase	\$35,000	Millage/KNSC/ Foundation
3		Klondike Park – Playground Equipment	\$18,000	Gametime Grant & Recreation Mileage



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<i>Priority</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>
4		Maasto Hiihto Ski Trails – Flood Repairs	\$250,000	FEMA/City/KNSC
5		Storage Shed for Schaaf Field	\$4,000	City
<b>1</b>	<b>2022</b>	Dog Park – location unknown	\$20,000	City/Recreational Millage
2		Access Trail between beach and campground	\$4,000	City
3		Maasto Hiihto Ski Trails– Signage for summer use	\$2,500	City/KNSC
4		Campground – Continue to upgrade electrical service at sites	\$80,000	City
5		New Driving Park maintenance equipment building	\$50,000	City/KNSC/ Foundations
6		New ski trail maintenance equipment building	\$300,000	City/KNSC/ Foundations
<b>1</b>	<b>2023</b>	Disc golf course construction	\$5,000	City
2		DNR Trail – Pave trail from Hancock to Lake Linden	Unknown	DNR
3		Mouth of Swedetown Creek boardwalk/ nature walk, parking lot upgrade, kayak launch area	\$300,000	MNRTF/City
4		Maasto Hiihto Ski Trails – Secure easement for access to Churning Rapids	Unknown	City/KNSC
5		Maasto Hiito Ski Trails - equipment replacement	\$20,000	City/KNSC/ Foundations
<b>1</b>	<b>2024</b>	Campground – Expand boat launch and install transient boat slips/ finger piers	\$100,000	BIG
2		DNR Trail – Pave Prospect St. north and add fitness stations along length of trail	\$125,000	DNR
<b>1</b>	<b>2025</b>	Maasto Hiihto Ski Trails – improve trail head access at sledding property on M203	\$50,000	City/MNRTF/ DNR
2		Navy Street bicycle/pedestrian paved trail (provides connectivity going west)	\$100,000	City/MNRTF/ Foundations

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>
3		Maasto Hiihto Ski Trails – Purchase new grooming vehicle	\$20,000	City/KNSC/ Foundations
4		Driving Park Ball Fields – Irrigation	Unknown	City/volunteers/ Foundations
5		Swedetown Creek – Acquire ski trail land	\$1,200,000	MNRTF/Local

### Sources of Funding

The City of Hancock utilizes several funding sources for recreation projects, including:

**Table 4: Possible Funding Sources**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Source</b>
Local Funds	—	City/ Millage
Community Foundation/Other (local service organizations and businesses)	—	Local
Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club (KNSC)	—	KNSC
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	—	GLRI
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	75/25 grant	DNR
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	50/50 grant	DNR
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)	75/25 grant	DNR
Off Road Vehicle (ORV)/Snowmobile Grants	—	DNR
Coastal Zone Management (CZM)	50/50 grant	DNR
Miscellaneous Grants	—	Varied

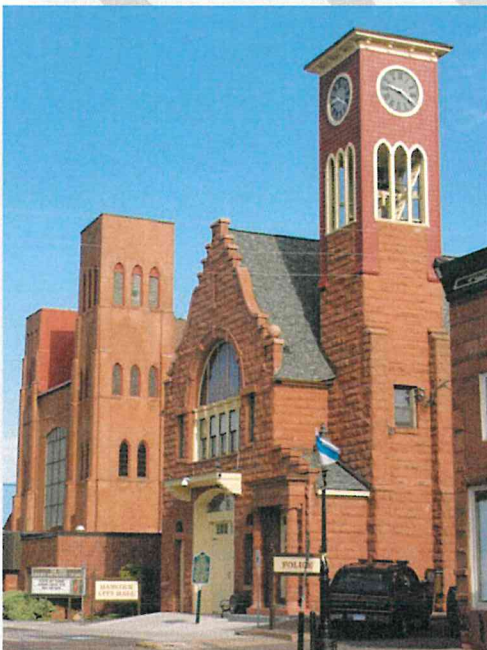
### Part 7: DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

The City of Hancock began working on this latest update to its Recreation Plan during 2020.

In July and September, the Recreation Committee held meetings to review materials and

develop survey questions for a print and online survey. As noted on page 20, the online survey was posted on both the City of Hancock website, while paper surveys were mailed to residents and available from the City website and from City Hall. In September 2020, the full Recreation Commission met to review the five-year capital improvement schedule, prioritize projects, and make amendments. In November 2020, the Recreation Commission approved the draft plan for review by the Planning Commission, City Manager, and City Council concurrent with public review.

Another local committee had input into this Recreation Plan. In 2012, a group of Hancock citizens formed the **City of Hancock Bike and Pedestrian Committee (CHBPC)**. The group, which includes citizens who walk and bike to and within Hancock as well as the City Manager and representatives from the City Council, Planning Commission, and Police and Public Works Departments, advocated for a Complete Streets ordinance enacted in 2014, and gathered input through surveys and public meetings for a non-motorized transportation network plan. During 2015, the CHBPC designed and distributed a comprehensive survey regarding bicycle and pedestrian issues in the City of Hancock, including trails access and connectivity, safety, signage, coordination with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and related issues. The Non-Motorized Transportation Network Plan was reviewed by the Planning Commission and adopted on March 15, 2017 by the Hancock City Council.



At a regularly scheduled City Council meeting on November 18, 2020, and in a concurrent paid advertisement in a local newspaper, it was announced that a draft of the City of Hancock 5-year Recreation Plan was available for public review and inspection.



Six comments were received during this 30-day review period. Plan copies were made available online at [www.cityofhancock.com](http://www.cityofhancock.com) , while print copies were made available at Hancock City Hall and at the Hancock Public Library, which serves Hancock and is located in Hancock Central High School.

A Public Hearing held on December 16, 2020, allowed citizens the opportunity to provide comment on the new City of Hancock 5-Year Recreation Plan. One comment was received at the public hearing. The 2021-2025 City of Hancock 5-Year Recreation Plan was adopted at the subsequent regularly scheduled City Council meeting, also held on December 16, 2020.

All notices of hearings were publicized to invite citizen comment and review of the new recreation plan. The City Council Resolution of Adoption, meeting notices and minutes are included as Appendix B.

DRAFT

## **Appendix A: SURVEYS AND RESULTS**

1. Recreation Survey/Results

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1luBQku\\_CcXFM\\_P1DdPj888p4uGH08TmerPWj\\_ggPFuSY/viewanalytics](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1luBQku_CcXFM_P1DdPj888p4uGH08TmerPWj_ggPFuSY/viewanalytics)

## **Appendix B: CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICES AND MINUTES**

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