

Introduction

The City of Charlevoix has developed this Recreation Master Plan to serve as a guide to future decision making regarding recreation facilities improvements, and development of new recreation opportunities. Therefore, this document is the basis for policy implementation of improvements and new initiatives that will meet the recreational goals and interests for the City of Charlevoix and its constituents. The Charlevoix Recreation Advisory Board has been fundamental in providing information about the community and guidance for the direction of the recreation plan throughout the planning process.

Before any Recreation Master Plan is adopted and enacted it is critical to have an understanding of the needs of the residents, the recreation opportunities that are already available, the demographic characteristics of an area, and the programs, projects, and facilities that are best suited to the community. This information is all based on public input and careful consideration of the input and suggestions from City residents, City officials, and other community stakeholders. Community input was a critical component to this plan, and all of the voices in the City have united to develop a Recreation plan with the overall goal of enhancing the quality of life for the community members and visitors of the City of Charlevoix.

The foundation for the development of the City of Charlevoix Recreation Master Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community throughout the process of updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Identify and map existing City owned/operated recreation facilities.
- Build common ground among the City of Charlevoix residents and stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs, and priorities of the City.
- Enable the City to be eligible for financial assistance based on the Recreation Plan
- Support the implementation of improvements for barrier-free access to City parks and recreational sites.

Overall, the City of Charlevoix officials intend to use this plan to guide their work on all future recreational and parks projects within the City. It is also a strategic document that articulates specific goals in consideration to parks and recreation acquisition and improvement projects. This plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for *Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans* published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the City of Charlevoix to pursue MDNR-administered grants. This Recreation Plan is written for the City of Charlevoix and covers all aspects of recreation within the community over a five-year period from 2017 through the end of 2021.

