

RECREATION INVENTORY



INTRODUCTION

Section 3 includes a detailed inventory of Rapid River Township's recreation facilities. The inventory also includes descriptions of other public recreational facilities in Kalkaska County including both Federal and State owned facilities. Lastly, the Recreation Inventory includes an outline of privately owned facilities that provide recreation opportunities.

The inventory was completed with assistance from Township staff, Parks and Recreation Committee Members, the 2009 Recreation Survey, Township Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and on-site inventory completed in April and May of 2010.

INVENTORY CRITERIA

The recreation facilities have been inventoried for park type, size, and service area. The facilities have also been evaluated for accessibility using the accessibility assessment criteria set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Rapid River Township shares a common goal with the State to develop universally accessible recreation facilities and has completed an accessibility assessment on all of the Township recreational amenities and parks. The assessment is ranked on a system of 1-5 and is based on the following definitions:

- 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 principals of universal design

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has developed definitions for park types and defines sixteen types of parks. The following ten park types have been included as they are the most applicable to the Township.

Mini Park (MP) - used to address unique or isolated recreational needs. Typically the park is less than 1 acre in size and is located within ¼ mile of a residential setting.

Neighborhood Park (NP) - serves as a recreational and social focus for the neighborhood. It is usually 5 to 10 acres in size and less than ½ mile from a residential setting.

Connector Trails (CT) - multipurpose trail that provides safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. It is usually a single purpose hard-surfaced trail for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters and is typically located within railroad right-of-ways.

School Park (SP) – park combined with a school site. The location is dependent upon the school property and size can vary depending on the function of the park.

Natural Resource Area (NRA) - land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. There are no size requirements and location is variable.

Special Use (SU) - usually a single purpose recreation facility. The size and location will vary depending on the use.

Community Park (CP) - serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. It usually serves 2 or more neighborhoods and is within ½ mile to 3 mile distance of the neighborhood. The size is usually between 30 and 50 acres.

On-Street Bikeways (BW) – paved segments of roadway that serve as a way to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic. This can be a bike route with designated portions of the roadway for preferential use of bicyclists or bike lane with shared portions of the roadway providing separation between vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.

Greenways (G) - tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. There is no size requirement and location is dependent on availability.

Sports Complex (SC) - consolidation of programmed athletic fields and associated facilities strategically located throughout the community. There is usually a minimum of 25 acres.

RAPID RIVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK

Size: 11.5 acres

Location: The Community Park is located in the center of the Township on Phelps Road just west of US-131.

Background: The Park is located adjacent to the Township Hall. The property is narrow and orientates north and south – a substantially wide utility easement crosses the southern most portion of the property.

Funding / Grants: The Park has not received any previous grant funding.

Facility Evaluation & Inventory:

- Newer Play Structure (Ages 5-12)
- 5" Well
- Shared Parking Lot with Township Hall (32 spaces)
- Barrier-free Parking (3 spaces)
- Successional landscape restoration underway – removal of selected areas of Red Pine/Jack Pine plantation plantings
- Utility easement

Operation and Maintenance: The Township maintenance includes grass cutting, leaf raking, trash removal and general maintenance.

Principal Use: Playground (see current planning efforts)

Park Type / Service Area: The Park serves primarily as a neighborhood park, but due to the limited amount of recreational facilities in the Township it also serves as a community-based park because it serves more than one neighborhood.

Current Planning Efforts: Selected areas of existing Red Pine/Jack Pine plantation plantings have also been removed to begin successional landscape restoration.

The Township also completed a Concept Plan for the Park prior to developing the Recreation Plan that was used as a starting point for the goals and objectives and action program of the Recreation Plan.

As part of the process of this Recreation Plan the Township has created a final Site Master Plan that will be used as a basis for developing cost projections, phasing plans and funding scenarios.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

The park is currently under development.



CROY LAKE PARK

Size: 80 acres

Location: Croy Lake Park is located along the eastern border of the Township on Priest Road.

Background: The Park is currently undeveloped, but recent improvements were made to provide a place to park off of Priest Road so visitors could walk the property. The site was purchased by the Township to provide increased wildlife viewing opportunities and improved recreational opportunities in the Township. The Township is also interested in managing the overall forest health and in 2008 consulted with the Antrim Conservation District to prepare a Forest and Wildlife Management Plan.

Funding / Grants: The Park received an acquisition grant from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund to purchase the property

Facility Evaluation & Inventory:

- (40) acres of plantation type Red Pine
- (15) acres of Northern Hardwoods
- (22) acres of open field
- (3) acres of riparian areas

Operation and Maintenance: The Township currently does not maintain the site.

Principal Use: Forest management, walking, and wildlife viewing

Park Type / Service Area: Natural Resource Area (NRA)

Current Planning Efforts: The Township recently completed a Forest and Wildlife Management Plan in 2008 that provided work plan considerations for 2009. The considerations included parking lot construction and access, property lines, day park, trail development, park policy, budget considerations, open grass land management, hardwood forest management as well as wildlife management and monitoring.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

The Park is currently undeveloped at this time.



OTHER PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE TOWNSHIP

Other significant public recreation facilities include those facilities not owned or operated by Rapid River Township; however, are available to residents. Several of the recreation facilities most readily available to residents and visitors to the Township are provided below. A complete list of recreation facilities in the County is available in the [Kalkaska County Recreation Plan](#).

Table 3.1 – Other Public Recreation Facilities in the Township

Recreation Facility	Location	Summary
Rugg Pond Natural Area	Rapid River Township	Passive recreation; Fishing opportunities
Michigan Cross-Country Cycle Trail (MCCCT)	Statewide	Single track motorcycle trail
Kalkaska Cycle Trail	Rapid River Township	89 Mile ORV Trail
Leetsville Cycle Trail	Rapid River Township	23 Mile ORV Trail
Pere-Marquette State Forest	Rapid River Township	State recreation land

Table 3.2 – Public Schools in the County

Recreation Facility	Location	Summary
Birch Street Elementary	Village of Kalkaska	
Cherry Street Intermediate	Village of Kalkaska	
Rapid City Elementary	Rapid City	
Kalkaska Middle School	Village of Kalkaska	
Kalkaska High School	Village of Kalkaska	
Northside Alternative High School	Village of Kalkaska	
Crawford School	Village of Kalkaska	
Woodland School	Village of Kalkaska	
Mancelona Public Schools*	Mancelona	
Forest Area Public Schools*	Grand Traverse County	

*These school districts are not in Kalkaska County; however, students in the Kalkaska Area School District can choose to attend them.

OTHER PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES IN KALKASKA COUNTY

Table 3.3 – Other Public Recreation Facilities in Kalkaska County

Recreation Facility	Location	Summary
Log Lake Park & Campground	Kalkaska County	Camping; Swimming Beach
Sand Lake Quiet Area	Kalkaska County	Passive recreation; Rustic camping; Hiking; Fishing
North Country Trail	Kalkaska County	Hiking trail from New York to North Dakota
Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail	Kalkaska County	Horse back riding and hiking trail from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
Kaliseum	Village of Kalkaska	Indoor pool; Ice Skating Rink, Conference Rooms; Aerobic & Weight Lifting Facilities; Multi-purpose Rooms
Kalkaska Civic Center Building	Village of Kalkaska (Fairgrounds)	
Kalkaska Area Recreation & Transportation Trail (KART)	Village of Kalkaska	Non-motorized trail
Michigan Cross-Country Cycle Trail	Kalkaska County	Single track motorcycle
Springfield Township Park	Springfield Township	
CCC Bridge Campground	Garfield Township	
Seven Bridges Natural Area	Clearwater Township	Natural Area; Hiking Trails
Heritage Park	Clearwater Township (near Rapid City)	Ball Fields; Picnicking; Open Space; Play Equipment
Freedom Park	Clearwater Township (near Rapid City)	Ball Fields; Picnicking; River Access; Open Space; Play Equipment
Clearwater Township Park	Clearwater Township	Picnicking
Sands Park	Coldsprings Township	Lake Access; Picnicking; Swim Beach; Boat Launch
Imagination Station	Village of Kalkaska (Chalker Park)	
Mill Pond	Village of Kalkaska / Boardman Twp.	
Pickerel Lake State Forest Campground	Kalkaska County	Rustic Camping
Guernsey Lake State Forest Campground	Kalkaska County	Camping
CCC Bridge State Forest Campground	Kalkaska County	Camping
County Fairgrounds	Kalkaska County	Rocking Horse Arena; Comm.Garden; Ball Fields
Lake Access Sites	Big Twin Lake, Indian Lake, Starvation Lake, Blue Lake	Boat Launch; Swimming
Lake Access Sites	Crystal Beach Rd. (S. end Torch Lake)	7 Swimming Access Sites
S. Torch Lake Boat Launches	Birch, Oak, Maple, Cedar, Pine, Division and Lake Street road ends	
Torch River Boat Launch	Arwood Road	MDNR Boat Launch
Baggs Landing	Skegemog Lake	Boat Launch

PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES

Privately owned recreation facilities include those facilities that may require a user fee and have limited access. It is important to understand that these private facilities do contribute to the inventory of recreation and provide an important component to the overall recreation opportunities for residents of Rapid River Township.

Table 3.4 - Privately Owned Recreational Facilities in Kalkaska County

Recreation Facility	Location	Summary
Twin Birch Golf Course	Kalkaska County	Private Golf Course
Grandview Golf Course	Kalkaska County	Private Golf Course
Timberwolf Golf Course	Kalkaska County	Private Golf Course
Rapid River Campground	Rapid River Township – (US-131)	Rustic Campground
KAMPS Kalkaska Area Model Planes (Radio Controlled Aircraft Flying Field)	Rapid River Township	40 acres. Sits on private land. 5 acres cleared for landing strip, grass runway, picnic tables, public welcome, must have AMA card to fly models.
Area 5 Paintball	Kalkaska County	
Au Sable Institute	Kalkaska County	
Torch Grove Campground	Crystal Beach Road	Rustic Campground

(P) Private Club, Limited public access