

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALUMET RECREATION PLAN



2019 through 2023

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Charter Township of Calumet is located in northern Houghton County, on the Keweenaw Peninsula. It is the northern-most Township in the county and its western boundary is partially formed by Lake Superior. North of the Township is Keweenaw County and approximately eleven miles south are the cities of Houghton-Hancock. Calumet Township once was the center of extensive copper mining activity and its population centers were developed in response to tremendous economic growth during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

For the purpose of this plan, the “community” is defined as the area encompassed by the Township’s political boundaries. The development of this plan was initiated by the Township Supervisor working in cooperation with the Township Board of Trustees as well as local citizens. Township recreational lands and facilities are often used by people who live in the region but do not necessarily live in the township proper. Residents of the Township as well as non-residents of the Township have participated in the creation of this plan.

As recently as the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the economy of the Keweenaw Peninsula has traditionally been based upon major extractive industries, primarily copper mining and timber production.

In recent decades tourism has become a major contributor to the area’s economy. The Keweenaw Peninsula is a well-known summer destination and in recent years has attracted significant numbers of winter visitors for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, and downhill skiing. A two-county ATV trail system has also been developed but local officials are looking at improvements.



## **Keweenaw National Historical Park**

The national significance of the former Calumet & Hecla Mining Company has resulted in establishment of the Keweenaw National Historical Park, which was founded in 1992. Prior to that, in 1989, a portion of the Township was designated as the Calumet National Historical Landmark.

The importance and contributions of the development of the Township's copper resources to the history and development of Michigan and the United States presents a unique story. The National Historical Park has the opportunity to interpret a variety of themes that will appeal to various public interests. This broad appeal is already evidenced by the current visitation and tourism experienced in the area. Development of the historic resources will expand this interest and result in additional tourism.

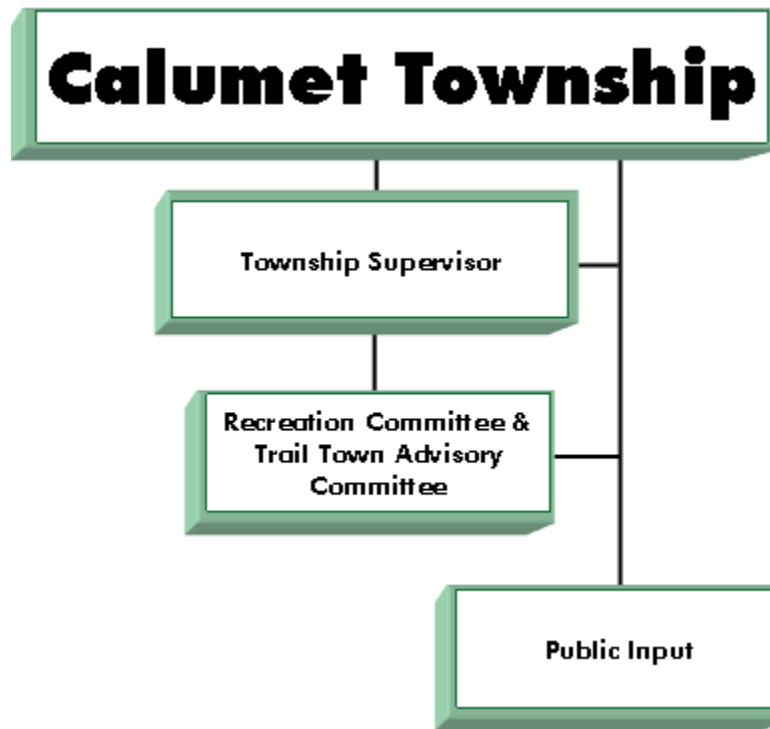
Complimenting historic facilities are other community assets which in one way or another played a role in Calumet's copper history. Those facilities include the Swedetown Recreation Area, Lions Club Park at Calumet Lake, the Colosseum, and other sites. A trail system, motorized and non-motorized, utilizes a former railroad right-of-way that goes through the Township that once served the copper mining industry in a multitude of ways.

Calumet Township's existing recreation sites and the township's copper mining heritage are inextricably linked. Sites that once played a role in mining have often been repurposed into recreation sites.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

The Township Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Calumet has appointed a Recreation Committee to assist the Township supervisor in the planning of improvements to existing recreation facilities and to analyze potential new recreation services and facilities. The recreation committee meets as requested by the township supervisor. The Recreation Committee reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Township Supervisor carries out the directives of the Township Board. Calumet Township is responsive to the recreation needs and desires of citizens by providing for community based decision-making through public meetings and hearings on recreation issues, plans, and applications for grant funding.



Charter Township of Calumet provides an annual budget for recreation. In 2018 the Township budgeted approximately \$50,000 for operations and maintenance of park and recreation facilities. The current funding is from property tax revenues.

Calumet Township has numerous active partners that work in cooperation with it to construct and/or maintain recreational resources. Those community groups include: the Swedetown Trails Club, the Calumet Lions Club; and the Copper Country Curling Club located in the former C&H Drill Shop. In addition, the Township works closely with the CLK (Calumet-Laurium-Keweenaw) School District when it comes to recreational facilities, playgrounds, ball fields, etc. The Township is also working closely with local health care providers on recreational facilities. The health organizations are taking an increasing role in promoting fitness programs (and offering donations to support the programs) which utilize Township recreational lands and facilities.

Local civic organization and clubs play a vital role in the Township's recreation plans. First and foremost, various clubs operate several facilities on behalf of the public. These organizations also inform the Township board of their needs and desires to keep

the facilities operating for the benefit of the public. These organizations also sponsor a variety of activities; for example, the Swedetown Trails Club sponsors the Great Bear Chase Ski Marathon and the Great Deer Chase Mountain Bike Race. Such events are becoming increasingly popular with local residents as well as visitors, and the Township offers its cooperation with organizers and supports their efforts.



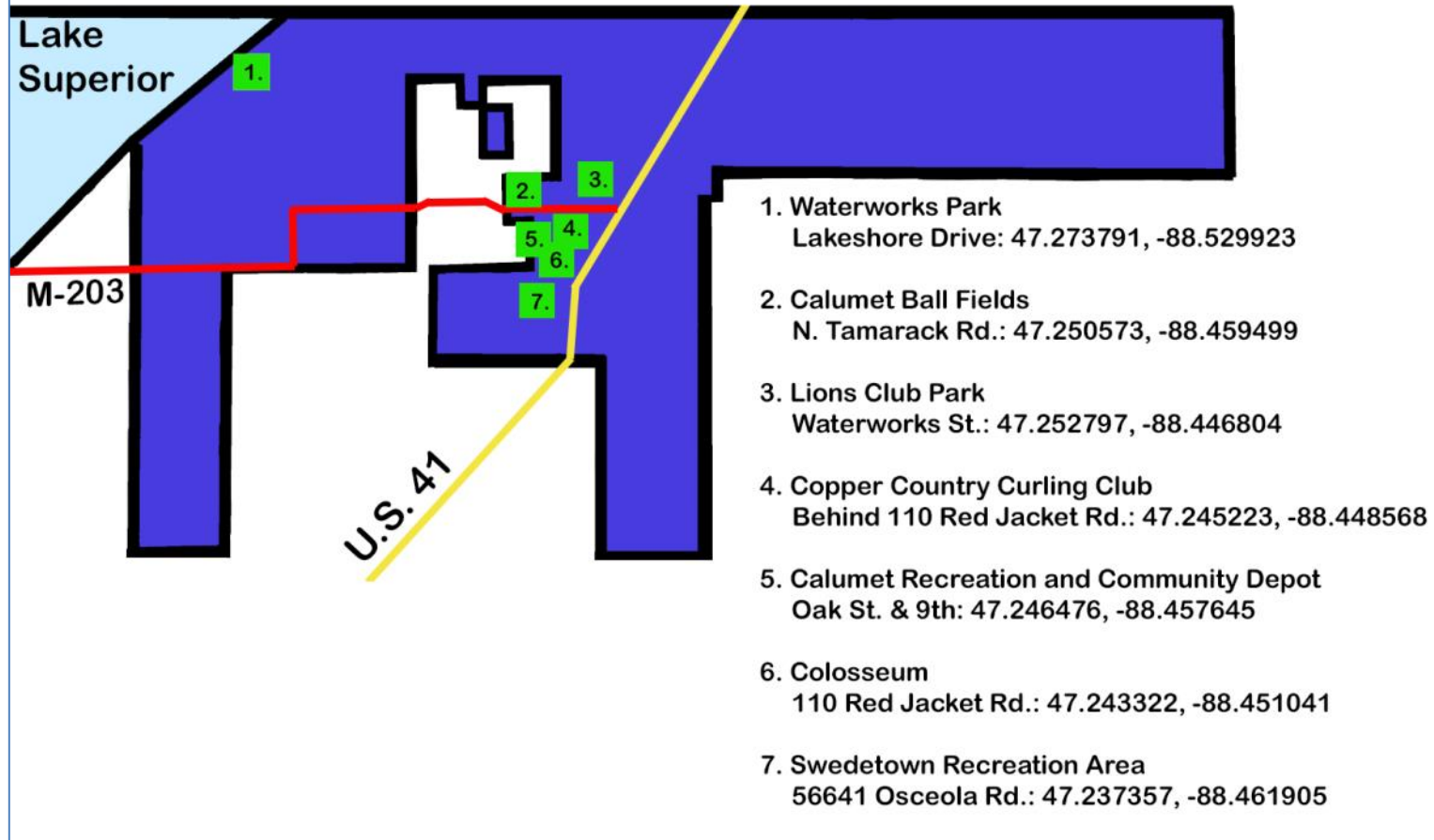
## TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Calumet Township Board of Trustees is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the following recreational facilities identified in this plan. There is a recreation policy on file at the Township office:

The following recreation inventory describes the type and location of recreational facilities currently available. Accessibility assessments and rankings are provided for each sited based on the parameters outlined by the DNR:

- 1 = None of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2 = Some
- 3 = Most
- 4 = All
- 5 = The facility meets the Principles of Universal Design

# Calumet Township Map of Recreation Sites





# 1. Calumet Township Waterworks Park



The Township has been very active in the development of the Calumet Township Park on Lake Superior. This 16-acre park was acquired by the Township in 1979 with matching funding provided by the LAWCON grant program. Other LAWCON and

Coastal Zone Management grants and local funds have provided for improvements such as toilets, picnic areas, overhead



pavilions, gazebos, playgrounds, a volleyball court, basketball court, baseball area and a handicapped ramp to access the beach. Calumet Township also owns a 43 acre wooded parcel adjacent to the lake frontage. This parcel contains a one mile nature trail, a primitive campsite used mostly by groups such as the boy scouts and girl scouts. It also has on site a drilled water

well which is used for drinking water for the park. The park has developed into one of the finest day-use parks on the Keweenaw. The Township provides regular maintenance such as garbage pickup, grass cutting, painting, cleaning of toilets, etc.

Accessibility assessment = 4: The entire park meets accessibility guidelines



## 2. Calumet Ball Fields



In the last four years, local civic and sports organizations assisted the Township in creating new ball fields on Township property on M-203. Volunteer efforts were critical in the creation of the field and all the improvements. The ball field needs a number of improvements to fully serve the public. Currently it has no permanent restroom facility (port-a-potties are being used); no drinking water; no parking; and some stormwater drainage issues that limit access. While the baseball field is well along in development, more improvements are needed on it and on the smaller areas that serve soccer enthusiasts.

Barrier-free assessment: 1 = None of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design







### 3. Lions Club Park



Lions Park is located on Calumet Lake in the Township, which was once part of the holdings of C&H Mining Company and has been owned by the Township for more than 20 years. Until 2005 the park was on the Environmental Protection Agency's Super Fund list of environmentally contaminated properties.

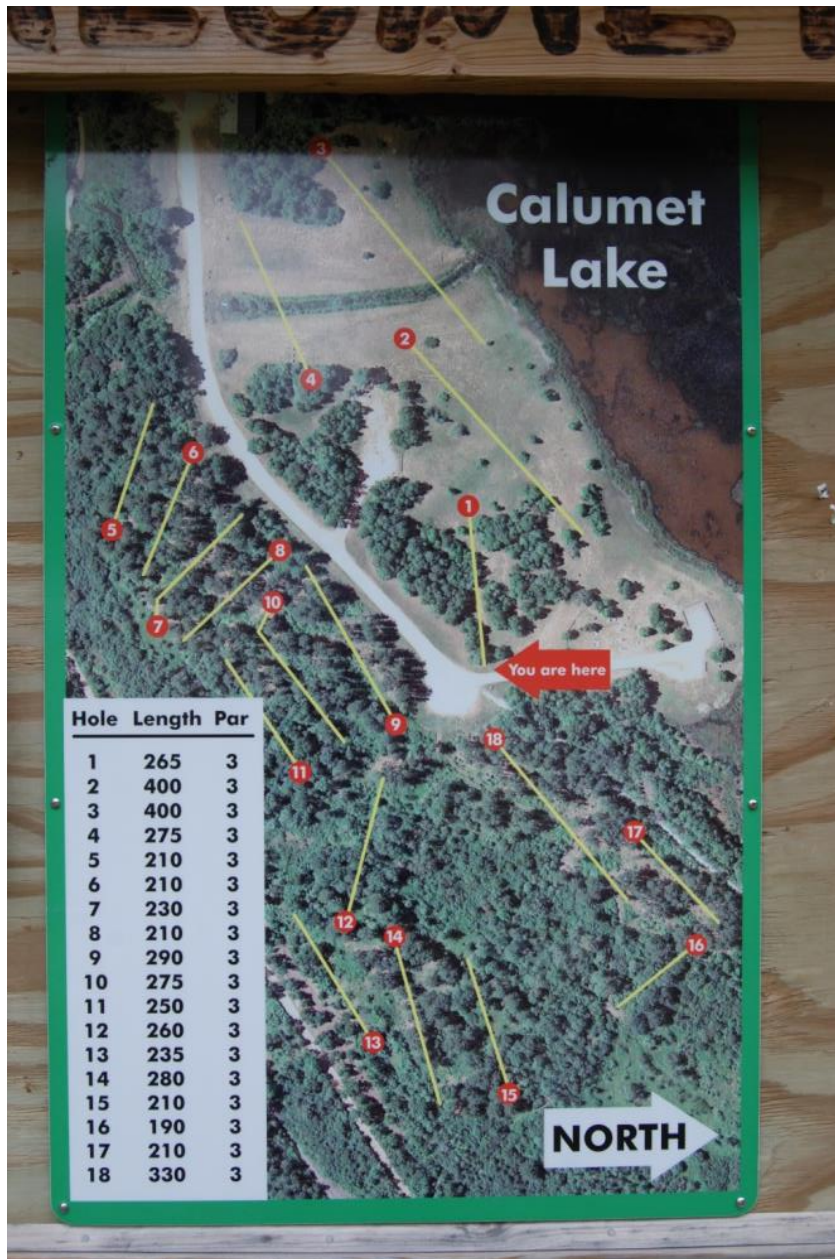




Above: disc golf at Lions Club Park

But after the EPA mitigated the contamination, the park was created by the Township in partnership with the Calumet Lions Club. In recent years the club has donated thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of volunteer time. The park features a 27 hole course disc golf; picnic areas with tables, a barrier-free walking trail and parking lot, and a large grassy areas for roaming or playing ball.





# Calumet Lake

Hole	Length	Par
1	265	3
2	400	3
3	400	3
4	275	3
5	210	3
6	210	3
7	230	3
8	210	3
9	290	3
10	275	3
11	250	3
12	260	3
13	235	3
14	280	3
15	210	3
16	190	3
17	210	3
18	330	3

NORTH

It also features a horse shoe pit. There is an area to launch canoes or kayaks. The park has received several grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for pathway development. A pathway that encircles the lake is the ultimate goal. The Lions Club volunteers have completed more 60 percent of that goal and in the coming years plan on finishing the trail. Lions Park is a testament of what can be done to recover contaminated lands when Federal, State, and Local units of government work together.

Accessibility assessment = 3: Most of the park meets accessibility guidelines



Above, a portion of the barrier-free pathway. Below, picnic spots at the lake.



## 4. Copper Country Curling Club



The Copper Country Curling Club (CCCC) is proud to say that it has completed a major Historical Building Renovation for its new curling facility. In cooperation with the Keweenaw Historical National Park and Calumet Township, the CCCC converted the former Calumet and Hecla Mining Company's Drill Shop into a permanent curling facility. The project represents the combined efforts of the Copper Country Curling Club, Calumet Township, and the National Park Service - Keweenaw National Historical Park.

The Calumet & Hecla Mining Company built the Drill Shop around 1885 to manufacture and maintain the drills used in their local copper mines. Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) is interested in preserving and restoring the Drill Shop for its historical value. The KNHP considers curling to be an ideal use for the Drill Shop because it does not require significant modifications that would change the historic structure internally or externally.



Calumet Township finds curling to be a highly compatible use for the Drill Shop. The building is located just a few hundred feet from Calumet High School and is also close to other winter sport activity centers. There is potential for both a high school physical education and weekend youth curling program.

For the CCCC, the Drill Shop provides the opportunity for a distinctive home to base the growth of Curling in the Copper Country. The current configuration offers room for 2 sheets of ice, locker rooms, concession, social area, raised viewing, storage and physical plant. A portion of the building is currently reserved for future expansion. A second wing with two more ice sheets may be added in the future.

Accessibility assessment = 4: The entire building meets accessibility guidelines

## 5. Calumet Recreation and Community Depot

Approximately two years ago Calumet Township acquired the former railroad depot with their own funds. The Township wishes to use the dilapidated but historic facility as a trailhead center and possibly for other community functions. The Township is currently looking at options to fund improvements. Among the public's ideas for the facility include renting second floor office space; housing units on the second floor; live-work space; motorized and non-motorized trailhead center; retail business space; historical interpretive site; and many other ideas. Funding sources will ultimately determine its future.



Barrier-free assessment: Not applicable as the site is not open to the public yet.







## 6. Calumet Colosseum

The Calumet Colosseum is the oldest still-in-use indoor ice arena in the world. That's a claim we're proud of, and when our opponents and their fans step foot in the building, they'll be reminded of that immediately. But it isn't just about having a long legacy, it's about the fact that the building is still in great shape. The building is still home to passionate home crowds, great hockey on a daily basis all winter and many of the modern amenities you'd expect from an ice arena in the 21st century.



The Calumet Colosseum is a one-sheet facility with four large locker rooms. A concession stand is operated during both practice and game times.

Accessibility assessment = 3: Most of the facility meets ADA guidelines

## 7. Swedetown Recreation Area



The Township and the North Houghton County Water and Sewer Authority own 1,900 acres which comprises the Swedetown Recreation Area. The area has over 35 kilometers of ski trails, 10 Km of snow bike trails, 10 Km of snowshoe trails, and a sledding hill. Some 5 Km of ski trails are lighted to allow evening skiing. Swedetown is largely managed by a publically-formed community group known as the Swedetown Trails Club (STC). It collects modest users fees from those who can afford to pay

(individuals and families who are low-income may request waiver of fee). To support families and to encourage engagement of youth in active outdoor recreation, no fees are charged to youth under 18. Revenues pay the vast majority of expenses. STC pays for signs and maps, grooming equipment, fuel and operator costs for grooming the ski trails and sledding hill, maintenance and repair of the equipment, utilities and insurance for the groomer garage, utilities for the Chalet during ski season, liability insurance for STC board members and Chalet volunteers and mowing and preparation of the trails during off season. A \$260,000 Prinoth trail groomer was purchased in 2016 by the club. STC hosts the Great Bear Chase Ski race with over 700 participants per year, the vast majority of which are from out of the three county region. In the last 5 years the club has invested heavily in the trails, chalet improvements and equipment necessary to operate a 12 month trail recreation facility.

During warm months, the Township is responsible for the expenses associated with operating the chalet. During those months Swedetown trails are used by hikers, trail runners, and mountain bikers as well as over 200 participants in the annual Great Deer Chase Mountain Bike Race. The Swedetown Trails Club has built and maintains over 25 miles of single-track mountain bike trails at Swedetown.

In 1990, recreation bond grants and local donations enabled Calumet Township to construct a 2,200 square foot building (the Chalet) to serve as a warm-up facility for the ski trails and the adjacent lighted sledding and snowboarding hill. Copper Island Cross Country Ski Club (now Swedetown Trails Club) members volunteered many hours during the construction of the Chalet. After more than 20 years of service, the Chalet is in need of improvements and renovation. While the situation at the Chalet is not “dire,” improvements will be made when local residents and users deem that the current building functionally obsolete. The Chalet includes an access road, large plowed parking lot, trailhead signs and maps and a small grounds area.





The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. Swedetown Recreation Area does host users who have a variety of disabilities. The Chalet has ground-floor restrooms that are partially accessible (but are not wheelchair accessible). The Chalet does not have barrier-free access to its second floor accommodations, which includes a warming area and a concessions stand that offers refreshments. The Chalet does

not meet regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Township acknowledges that improvements to the Chalet, including those that make it barrier-free are simply a matter of time and of community involvement. The Township has spoken with a professional architect about making the facility barrier free. Preliminary plans have been discussed. Any future project at the Chalet that changes the fundamental nature of the building will result in it becoming barrier free and fully compliant with ADA regulations.

Accessibility assessment = 2: Some of the park and facilities meets accessibility guidelines





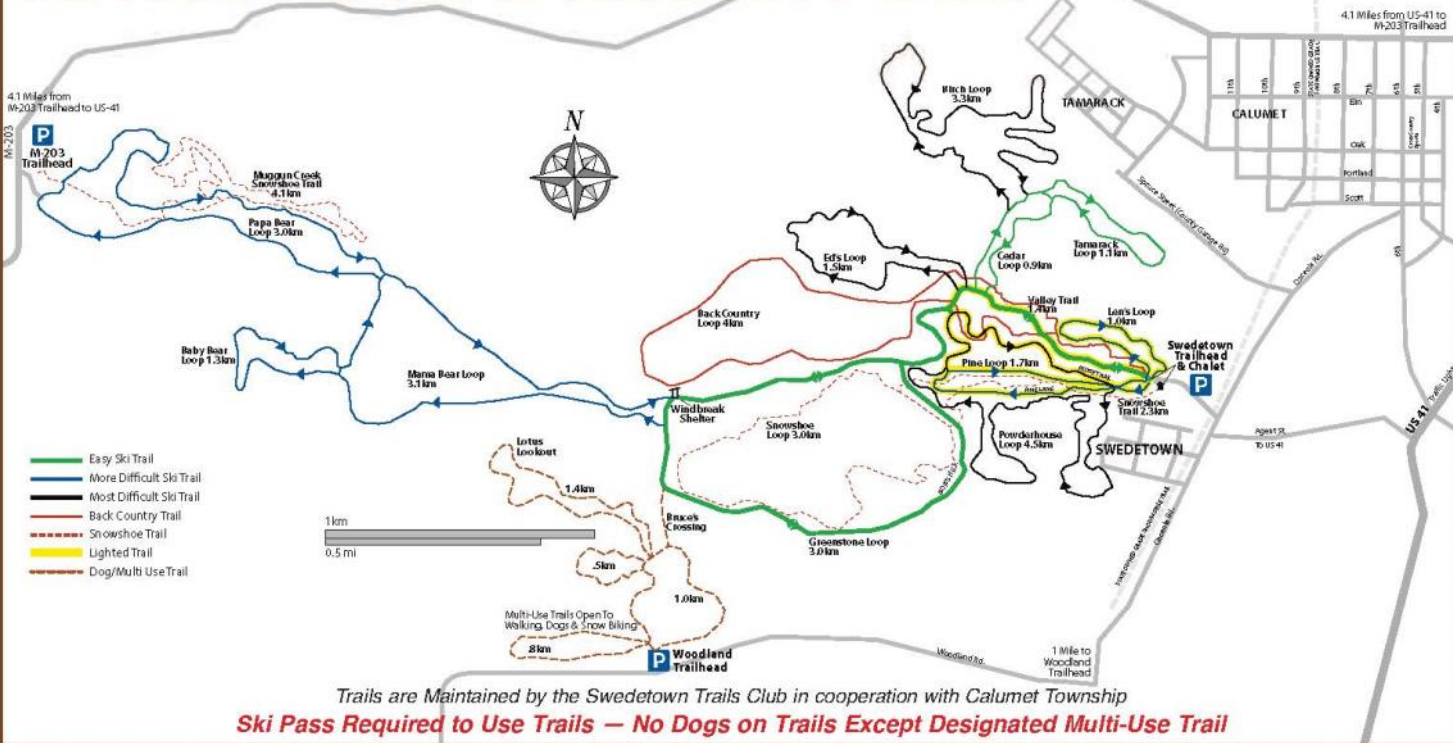
Above, the view of Chalet's exterior.



Above, the second-floor warming area.



# Swedetown Ski & Snowshoe Trails



## Swedetown Trails Club

PO Box 214 • Calumet, MI 49913 • Chalet Phone: 906-337-1170

[www.swedetowntrails.org](http://www.swedetowntrails.org) • [www.facebook.com/SwedetownTrails](http://www.facebook.com/SwedetownTrails)

[www.GreatBearChase.com](http://www.GreatBearChase.com) • [www.keweenawtrails.com](http://www.keweenawtrails.com)

Area Info: [www.keweenaw.info](http://www.keweenaw.info) • [www.mainstreetcalumet.com](http://www.mainstreetcalumet.com) • [www.CalumetTownship.org](http://www.CalumetTownship.org)

Revised 12/20/16



Above: Swedetown Ponds

# OTHER LOCAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Township maintains other facilities such as the Wolverine and Centennial Heights playground and also a W.P.A. project stone boat currently being renovated as a memorial for WWI, WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans.

The Township helps support two indoor ice arenas, one in The Calumet Colosseum now owned by Calumet Township and one in Laurium, the George Gipp Arena. The Township has been instrumental in receiving grants and funds through donations to provide for improvements in both facilities. These two facilities provide for ice related activities such as youth hockey, figure skating, high school hockey, men's hockey leagues, senior citizen skating and numerous spectator events from October 1st through March of each winter season.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INPUT

Public involvement for the recreational portion of this plan included a public outreach by the Township supervisor and public meetings.

### Public Outreach

Supervisor Paul Lehto gets ideas for recreation projects from talking to constituents. And he generates plenty of his own ideas. The one thing the supervisor absolutely doesn't do is wait for people to come to him – if he hears of a good idea he chases it down, talks to people who will help the Township implement it, and creates a schedule for planning and construction. Ideas also come from other Township board members, people outside the Township, and generally talking to people.

### Public Charrette

The Township held a public charrette on December 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, December 14, 2018, to hear ideas from the public. A representative from Swedetown Trails Club attended and offered suggestions to the draft plan which have been incorporated into the final document.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Calumet Township is an ideal home for natural-resource-based recreation. This has a direct impact on livability of the Township. And it helps the region create a sustainable economy by attracting visitors who are interested in a pristine natural environment.

A primary goal of Calumet Township's recreation programs and plans focuses on the livability of the Township for local and regional residents. With an abundance of snow and cold weather, activities such hockey and cross country skiing are a fundamental part of recreational opportunities provided by the Township. The Swedetown Recreation Area is home to the region's premier recreation area. For winter enthusiasts Swedetown has a sledding hill for families, many trails for skiing, snow biking and snowshoeing. The same trails are used in summer and fall by bikers, hikers, and trail runners. The Calumet Colosseum serves many people who participate in hockey either as players or spectators.

The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department reports that obesity in the western Upper Peninsula is a huge concern that carries a very high cost to society in terms of health care costs. Creating opportunities for summer- and winter-based physical recreation to help fight the obesity problem in adults and children is a primary goal of Calumet Township's recreation programs.

Additional benefits of the Township's programs include providing children with safe opportunities to grow mentally and physically, and providing family-oriented opportunities that can sustain one's interest for a lifetime. Providing outlets for physical activities is critical to the livability of the Township.

Recreation opportunities that appeal to the Township's tourists and visitors include hiking, biking, running, walking, snowshoeing, and skiing, as well as the full spectrum of motorsports. The Township's goal includes expanding the opportunity for natural resource-based recreation by providing appropriate facilities for local citizens as well as visitors and tourists. Strengthening the recreation system will not only serve the local residents, but will strengthen the local economy which so many residents depend on for their livelihood. Recreation opportunities for visitors and tourists are based on the region's unique weather characteristics and geological/topographical elements.

Calumet Township's focus on physical and sustainable recreational opportunities, both motorized and non-motorized, is critical to the local community and the community at large.

## **SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal 1 - Facility Maintenance and Improvements**

Maintain Township parks and recreation facilities to provide the public with safe, useable, and attractive recreational opportunities.

#### ***Objectives:***

1. Replace/upgrade aging facilities and equipment;
2. Remove barriers to universal access;
3. Provide signage to each park or facility;

### **Goal 2 – Obtain a steady flow of public input through personal contacts and public meetings to encourage new ideas for recreation facilities and services.**

Be open to public input at every opportunity. Encourage the average citizen to engage with Township officials on what they want to see in terms of recreation facilities or recreational programming.

*Objectives:*

1. Promote citizen input. Township officials at every level should engage with the public to hear how to make recreation a better experience for everyone.
2. Continue to collaborate with public civic organizations and other community groups who volunteer to assist the Township maintaining, creating, or improving recreation facilities and services.
3. Continue to seek grants from the State of Michigan and continue to ask local groups and individuals to fund the local match requirements for those grants. Use Township general funds for local match purposes as a last resort.
4. Board's Recreation Committee becomes an important element in recreation planning.

**Goal 3 - Accessibility**

Improve existing recreation facilities to increase ADA accessibility where appropriate.

*Objectives:*

1. Make accessibility improvements based on facilities based on input from citizens and the Michigan DNR.

**Goal 4 – Social Engagement**

Promote recreational programming and recreation facilities that also help people socially engage. People who are socially engaged are healthier, happier, and live longer.

*Objectives:*

1. Continue to work with community groups and individuals who promote activities that encourage social engagement.
2. Continue to sponsor and host community recreation and sporting events.

**Goal 5 – Become a Pure Michigan Trail Town**

Apply to the State of Michigan for the Pure Michigan Trail Town designation. The designation will assist the Township getting the word out that the Township is a great place to visit and an even better place to live.

*Objectives:*

1. Begin working toward designation as described in a document titled “Pure Michigan® Trail and Trail Town Designation Program” that is found on the world wide web.

**Goal 6 – Collaborate with other local units of government**

The Township believes that local governments can offer improved recreational opportunities if they work together.

*Objectives:*

1. Be open to any township, county, or municipality that seeks partners to jointly develop new recreation trails or facilities.

**ACTION PROGRAM**

**Calumet Township Waterworks Park**

Goal	Proposed Project	Projected Year	Estimated Costs	Funding Source
Goal 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace amenities that are dilapidated</li> </ul>	2019-2023	\$ 30,000	Local & Trust Fund

**Swedetown Recreation Area**

Applicable Goals	Proposed Project	Projected Completion Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Funding Source
Goal 1 Goal 3 Goal 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ski, bike and hiking trail drainage, width, slope and sustainability improvements</li> </ul>	2020	\$ 30,000	Trust Fund
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land purchase to ensure long term access to trails and race start/finish area</li> </ul>	2021	\$ 85,000	Local, Trust Fund, Land and Water

Goal 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chalet architectural accessibility study</li> </ul>	2020	\$10,000	Local
Goal 1 and Goal 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chalet expansion, accessibility and landscaping for erosion control</li> </ul>	2021	\$ 215,000	Trust Fund
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chalet access road and parking lot pavement</li> </ul>	2021	\$125,000	Local and Trust Fund
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mountain bike pump track, Jump Line, Slalom course, skills area</li> </ul>	2022	\$40,000	Local, Trust Fund and Land and Water







Cost estimates for parking improvements at Swedetown Chalet, February 1, 2019

### Lions Club Park

Applicable Goals	Proposed Project	Projected Completion Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Funding Source
Goal 1 Goal 3 Goal 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repair existing water impoundment</li> </ul>	2019-2023	\$ 80,000	Local and State of Michigan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New pavilion</li> </ul>	2021-2023	\$ 100,00	Local and Trust Fund
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve ADA accessibility</li> </ul>	2019-2023	\$50,000	Local and Trust Fund
Goal 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve tee-off area on 1<sup>st</sup> hole</li> </ul>	2020	\$5,000	Local
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two-post shelters for rest points on the disc golf course (Quantity: 4)</li> </ul>	2021	\$2,000	Local

### Drill Shop and Copper Country Curling Club

Applicable Goals	Proposed Project	Projected Completion Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Funding Source
Goal 1 Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New concrete floor</li> </ul>	2022	\$ 40,000	Unknown
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish new recreation opportunity in Drill Shop</li> </ul>	2022	\$ 115,000	Local, Trust Fund
Goal 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12' by 12' addition and water purification system.</li> </ul>	2021	\$16,000	Local and Grants

### Calumet Colosseum

Goal 1 and Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make seating area ADA accessible</li> </ul>	2021	\$5,000	Local

### Calumet Ball Fields

Goal 1 and Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make seating area ADA accessible</li> </ul>	2020	\$5,000	Local
Goal 1 and Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create parking with barrier-free access</li> </ul>	2021	\$30,000	Local and Trust Fund
Goal 1 and Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create permanent barrier-free restroom with concession stand and potable water</li> </ul>	2022	\$30,000	Local and Trust Fund
Goal 1 and Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create additional soccer or baseball fields as organized by local boosters</li> </ul>	2022	\$30,000	Local and Trust Fund

### Calumet Recreation and Community Depot

Goal 1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilize and Renovate depot</li> </ul>	2021	\$700,000	Local and Grants