

Chapter 6. Public Input, Community Vision and Goals.

6.1 Public Input.

The City of Charlevoix recognizes that public input is an important part of creating and implementing this plan. The City thanks the many individuals and groups who contributed input and feedback for the Master Plan. The following is a brief synopsis of the ways in which public input was used to create and pass this master plan.

Initial efforts to create this plan included the development, distribution and data analysis of community surveys that took place in 2009. About 800 community surveys were distributed to property owners, residents, business owners, and civic organizations to seek input on a variety of land use, government, and recreation related topics. The 85 question survey covered everything from housing to parks and recreation. In addition, City Planning staff sought input from four high school government classes seeking input on what recreational facilities and programs they valued most and what they would like to see in the future. The survey results were evaluated and served to help define the community vision, goals, objectives and action items.

The draft 2011-2016 Master Plan was reviewed first by City staff, and was then distributed to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, whose members were appointed in April of 2011. The

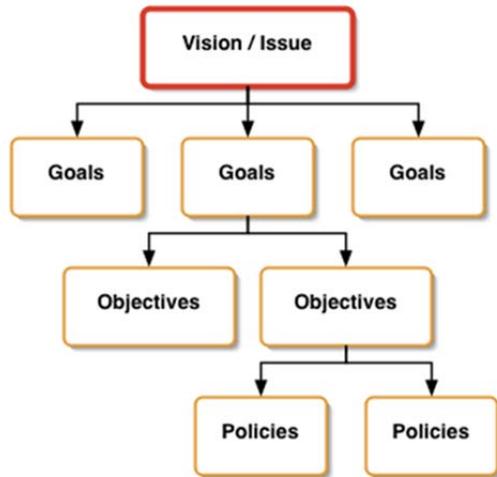
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provided valuable input, which resulted in a number of additions and changes to the draft plan. Once the amendments were finalized by the Planning Department, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was published on the City website.

Despite being available for public comment for the previous six months, the City actively sought additional comment by publishing a public hearing notice in the Petoskey News Review, and asking for an article on the plan in the Charlevoix Courier. The Courier published the story on November 2nd, 2011. The public had the opportunity to comment on the draft at three public meetings with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and two meetings with the Charlevoix City Council. The City will continue to take public comments and document the comments as a basis for future amendments.

6.2 Community Vision

The chapter begins with a short vision statement that describes community values and a future direction for Charlevoix. Following that are broad goals, which help define *how* the community will achieve its vision.

Each goal is further supported by more focused and specific objectives.



While the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an expression of Charlevoix’s commitment to future parks and recreation facilities and programs, the following vision statement is its underpinning:

“Charlevoix will build on past success and strive to streamline and improve parks and recreation facilities, and programs for the benefit of future generations. The City recognizes the physical, social, economic, and community benefits of quality parks and recreational facilities and programs, and will make every effort to implement this Master Plan based on public participation, responsible budgeting, and the needs of the Community.”

6.3 Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives

Goal: Provide and maintain multi-generational recreational opportunities and activities for people of all abilities, both mentally and physically, within the community.

Objectives:

- a. Provide activities and experiences that can be enjoyed together with persons of all ages and abilities.
- b. Involve the Char-Em Intermediate School District and the Bergmann Center to determine recreational needs and values of disabled students and citizens.
- c. Develop new facilities that integrate ADA accommodations and may be seamlessly used by all residents within the community.
- d. Interview elderly citizens and the Commission on Aging as a basis to consider implementing recreation activities valued by the aging population. (Examples may include shuffle board, and walking trails.)

Goal: Retain all existing park and recreation lands for use and enjoyment by the public.

Objectives:

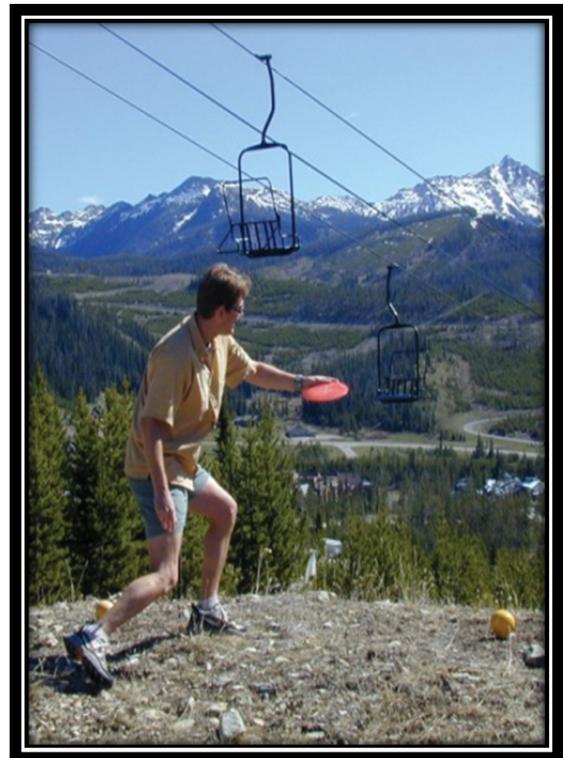
- a. Consider implementing deed restrictions or similar protections to ensure future enjoyment and protection of park lands and facilities.
- b. Consider streamlining properties by changing park boundaries to exclude areas not used, or essential to the recreational activities.

Goal: Continue to provide diversified natural experiences and maintain high environmental standards in Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Objectives:

- a. Work with the Little Traverse Conservancy or other organizations on encouraging conservation easements that protect public and private natural resource areas in the planning area.
- b. Consult with appropriate staff or professionals to evaluate natural areas within parks, such as Michigan Beach Park and Mt. McSauba, to make recommendations on the following
 - Tree removal or pruning.
Planting new trees or other vegetation.
 - Erosion control
 - Storm Water Management.
 - Removal of invasive species.
 - Chemical or pesticide sprays.
- c. Evaluate City parks and recreation facilities and consider replacing grass with native vegetation or grass that does not require maintenance.
- d. Evaluate the trail system at Mt. McSauba and the North Point Preserve to ensure connectivity and consider removal of unused or infrequently used trails. Consider using maps and signage to keep people on marked trails.

- e. Consider implementing alternative energy systems, such as solar or wind, in parks and recreation facilities. Evaluate costs, impacts, and funding sources for green technologies in parks and recreation buildings or grounds.
- f. Ensure construction and future use of the disc golf course at Mt. McSauba minimizes impacts to the natural environment. Use erosion control techniques whenever required and consider moving holes to re-establish natural areas when needed.



Goal: Evaluate and streamline City parks and recreation facilities, operations, and programs to decrease costs to the taxpayers.

Objectives:

- a. Hold an annual meeting with appropriate City staff to discuss costs, benefits, participation, changes in preferences, and ideas to streamline operations and maintenance.
- b. Actively seek public comment from residents, visitors and students as a basis to implement improvements, new activities or programs, or to cut activities or programs not being utilized.
- c. Work with area townships to consider a recreation district or authority to spread costs out evenly to the users of the facility or program.

Goal: Continue the development of a "Complete Street" transportation network that incorporates walking paths, sidewalks, and bike lanes.

Objectives:

- a. Seek grant and private funding to construct and expand the Lake to Lake Trail System.
- b. Evaluate all City infrastructure projects for potential sidewalks and bike lanes based on the overall transportation network

and budget. Include capital improvements whenever possible.



- c. Coordinate with the area schools to implement "safe routes to schools" into the transportation network. Provide support to the school district for crosswalks, signs, and other traffic safety measures.
- d. Pursue grant funding for the design and installation of an underpass under U.S. 31 adjacent to the golf course that accommodates golfers, bikers, and pedestrians walking. This underpass will create the only safe crossing for the north side accommodating a variety of users.
- e. Publish maps and work with local organizations to encourage walking and biking in the com-

munity and smart commute initiatives.

- f. Amend zoning regulations to require trails, bike lanes, and/or sidewalks to be integrated into new development projects where practical. Ensure these new designs are integrated into the overall City transportation network.



Goal: Support and encourage cooperative discussions, efforts and relationships with Federal, State, and local governmental units, as well as non-profit organizations.

Objectives:

- a. Hold an annual meeting with the County and surrounding townships to evaluate parks, recreation, and programs to coordinate efforts and avoid repetitive facilities or uses.

- b. Work closely with MDOT on appropriate crossing locations, signage, and other traffic safety measures with any park or recreational activity utilizing U.S-31 or M-66.
- c. Continue to work with Charlevoix Area Hospital and other community members on establishing a smart commute week for the Charlevoix area.

Goal: Maintain and improve public access to water bodies including Round Lake, Lake Charlevoix, and Lake Michigan.

Objectives:

- a. Improve walking paths and steps accessing the water at Michigan Beach Park, West Dixon, and two locations on the west side of Michigan Avenue.
- b. Improve the City property adjacent to the Coast Guard Station (Coast Guard Park) to include a fishing dock and associated amenities. Encourage public use and enjoyment of this facility.
- c. Encourage additional fishing tournaments and waterfront events to promote Charlevoix as a quality waterfront community and support the local economy.



- d. Publish maps and work with the Chamber of Commerce to market the numerous ways the public can access the water.
- e. Harbormaster staff should work proactively to encourage additional boat rendezvous at the City Marina in the shoulder seasons.
- f. Explore options to improve usability of Ferry Beach Pier for boaters and swimmers.
- g. Seek grant funding to extend the current floating break wall, or install an additional floating break wall at the Ferry Avenue Boat Launch.