

COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN  
FOR THE VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH  
AND  
BANKS TOWNSHIP

Prepared for the:

Ellsworth Village Board of Trustees  
Banks Township Board of Trustees

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	2
HISTORICAL GROWTH OF ELLSWORTH AND BANKS TOWNSHIP. ....	2
WATER, FISH, AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES .....	2
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS .....	2
GEOGRAPHIC DETERMINANTS. ....	3
LAND USE MAPS .....	5-7
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION. ....	8
Region Map .....	9
Population Charts. ....	10-11
Tourism Profile .....	12-14
Social Characteristic Charts. ....	15-22
INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES .....	23-25
LOCATION AND INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES. ....	26
Maps. ....	27-28
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE .....	29
Commission Organizational Chart .....	31
SCHOOLS. ....	32
Schools District Map. ....	33
DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS. ....	34
DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY'S BARRIER-FREE COMPLIANCE, STATUS, AND UNMET NEEDS .....	35
GOALS AND OBJECTIONS .....	38
DEFICIENCIES ANALYSIS. ....	40
RECOMMENDATIONS. ....	40
IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCIAL ACTION PLAN .....	41
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE .....	43
MAP OF PROPOSAL AREAS AND FACILITIES .....	44-45

## I. Introduction - Purpose

The future economic growth of the Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township depends largely on their ability to attract tourists into their community. The purpose of this plan is to produce a concise and clear presentation of the recreational needs and potentials for Ellsworth and Banks Township. It is also intended that this plan identify recreation goals and objectives for future community recreation needs.

## II. Historical growth of Ellsworth and Banks Township

The first settlers came to the Ellsworth area in the spring of 1866. During this early time period, logging was the major industry in the area.

In 1892 the Village of Ellsworth was plotted and at that time the town had 25 residences with 30 families. In March of 1938 Ellsworth citizens decided to ask for Incorporation. An election was held November 19, 1938, and the voters approved the proposal to Incorporate.

Originally Banks Township was part of Charlevoix County, but was acquired by Antrim County in exchange for Beaver Island.

## III. Water, Fish and Wildlife Resources

One of the most valuable natural resources of Banks Township and the Village of Ellsworth is water. Banks Township contains numerous lakes and streams and its western boundary borders on Lake Michigan. The Village of Ellsworth has Lake St. Clair and Ellsworth Lake which are part of the Chain of Lakes and Elk River Water Shed in its Village Limits and one stream. These provide excellent water activities and fishing for residents and visitors. Sports fishing and hunting are very popular activities in the area.

## IV. Transportation Systems

Major roadways entering the Township and Village are US 31 and County Roads C48 and C65. US 31 runs north and south through the western portion of the Township. C48 crosses through the northern portion of the Township and Village entering east on Ellsworth-East Jordan Road and west on Atwood Road. County Road C65 runs north and south through the Township and Village on Marion Center/Atwood Road, Main Street, and Ellsworth Road. The Ellsworth Village Council is responsible for policy decisions regarding streets within the Village Limits.

The Antrim County Transportation (ACT) provides an on-call dial-a-ride bus service within Antrim County. For transportation needs beyond the County boundaries ACT coordinates with the similar Transportation services in adjacent Counties.

## V. Geographic Determinants

### A. Location

The location of a community is an influential factor and indicator of what changes are likely to take place within a community. Location of a community in relation to major transportation facilities and employment centers will bear directly on the likelihood of growth within the community.

Situated within the Northwest Michigan Region, Banks Township and Ellsworth have experienced a moderate growth rate since 1970. This growth rate can be attributed to the community's close proximity to established resort and recreational facilities, which have continued to expand in the last twenty-five (25) years. Banks Township and Ellsworth are within a fifty- (50) mile radius of some of the major resort communities and recreation facilities in Michigan. Resort Communities such as Bay View, Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, Petoskey, Bellaire, and Traverse City are all within this fifty (50) mile radius. Within a ten (10) mile radius of Banks Township and Ellsworth there are several well-known water bodies such as: Lake Charlevoix, Torch Lake and the Grand Traverse Bay. Passing through Banks Township and Ellsworth is the impressive Chain-o Lakes system. This continuous "chain" of lakes and streams begins in Echo Township: St. Clair Lake, Ellsworth Lake, and Wilson Lake.

### B. Climate

Banks Township lies within the Grand Traverse Bay climatic region. The regional climate is moderated by the influence of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes act as a temperature and climate moderator.

The characteristics of Banks Townships climate are best described as follows:

In winter the average temperature is 22.6 degrees F, and the average daily minimum temperature is 14.7 degrees F.

In summer the average temperature is 65.7 degrees F, and the average daily maximum temperature is 78.4 degrees F.

Of the total annual precipitation, 18.8 inches, or 60 percent, usually falls in April through September, which includes the growing season for most crops.

Average seasonal snowfall is 89.9 inches.

The average relative humidity in mid afternoon is about 66 percent. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 85 percent.

The percentage of possible sunshine is 65 summer and 39 in winter.

The prevailing wind is from the south- southwest. Average windspeed is highest in November at 12.4 miles per hour.

An area's climate is not typically deemed a controlling environment factor with respect to the development of a community. However temperature, winds, and precipitation have several effects upon culture and development.

The amount and frequency of rainfall has an affect on ground water recharge and thereby affects water supply.

Rainfall distributed throughout the growing season is conducive to a variety of agricultural activities.

Level of sunlight has numerous implications such as: an alternate energy source, recreation opportunities, need for shade and orientation of building to the sun.

### C. Geology and Topography

Two Primary geological formations underlie Banks Township. The first 100 feet below the surface consists of debris laid down and contoured by the advances and recessions of the glaciers. Below this glacial debris is several hundred feet of sedimentary rock precipitated from the lakes which covered Michigan during the Paleozoic era. This sedimentary rock alternates in layers between limestone, sandstone, and shale.

The glacial action which was responsible for deposits of debris over the many layers of sedimentary rock also created the surface topography of Bank Township and the rest of the region. The area is covered with rolling hills (drumlins) which are forest-covered or used in agricultural production. Elevations in Banks Township vary from a high of 894 feet above sea level in the vicinity of Eaton Road south of Essex Road to a low of 634 feet near the southwest corner of the township in the vicinity of the Grand Traverse Bay.

## VI. Community Description

The Comprehensive Recreation Plan must be based on some reasonable estimate of the number of people who can be expected to reside in the area in the future. In Banks Township and Ellsworth this determination must not only include full-time residents but also the seasonal population. These population estimates help to determine what the future growth rate may be. The projected amount of growth then helps to determine the location, size, and the quantity of park and recreation facilities needed within the township and the village in the future.

The population of Banks Township and Ellsworth was relatively constant from 1950 to 1970. From the period between 1970-1990, the Township and Village experienced an incremental growth of at least 15% (see figures 1 & 2). Figure 3 shows the seasonal population of Antrim County during the period between 1990-2000. The table shows that Antrim County experiences a tremendous influx of visitors during July and August when use of the area's park and recreation facilities is at its peak.

VII. Inventory of Existing Facilities

A. Number of Campsites in State, Village, and Private Campgrounds in Banks Township, Village of Ellsworth and the Vicinity

State - Owned - None

Village - Owned

East Jordan Tourist Park, 92 campsites, located in South Arm Township, Charlevoix County.

Thurston Park, 24 campsites, located in Village of Central Lake.

Wooden Shoe Park, 60 campsites, located in the Village of Ellsworth.

County - Owned

Antrim County Eastport-Barnes Park, 61 campsites, located in Torch Lake Township.

Private

Kathy's Kampground, 50 campsites, located in Eastport Village, in Torch Lake Township.

Whispering Pines, 15 campsites, located in Banks Township.

Banks Township and Vicinity Golf Courses

A-Ga-Ming, eighteen holes, Torch Lake Township.

Antrim Dells, eighteen holes, Banks Township.

The Mallard, nine holes, South Arm Township, Charlevoix County.

Marinas in the Vicinity of Banks Township and Ellsworth

Lakeshire Marina located in the Village of Central Lake.

Ski's Marina located in Torch Lake Village in Torch Lake Township.

Ski Areas in the Vicinity of Banks Township and Ellsworth

Boyne Mountain located in Boyne Valley Township, Charlevoix County.  
Shanty Creek located in Kearney Township.  
Schuss Mountain located in Custer Township.

B. Airports in the Vicinity of Banks Township and Ellsworth

Antrim County Airport, located in the Village of Bellaire.  
Boyne City Airport, located in Boyne City, Charlevoix County.  
Charlevoix County Airport, located in the city of Charlevoix, Charlevoix County.  
East Jordan Airport, located in the city of East Jordan, Charlevoix County.  
Torchport Airport, located in Torch Lake Village  
Torch Lake Township.

C. Movie Theaters in the Vicinity of Banks Township and Ellsworth

Bellaire Theater, located in the Village of Bellaire.  
Charlevoix Theater, located in the city of Charlevoix, Charlevoix County.

D. Bowling Lanes in the Vicinity of Banks Township and Ellsworth

Bellaire Lanes, located in the Village of Bellaire.  
Gemini Lanes, located in the city of East Jordan, Charlevoix County.  
Paul Bunyon Lanes, located in the city of Charlevoix, Charlevoix County.

E. Summer Camps in the Vicinity of Banks Township and Ellsworth

Camp Hayo-Went-Ha (YMCA), located in Central Lake Township.  
Pleasant Valley Bible Camp, located in Echo Township.

F. Miscellaneous Items of Entertainment and Recreation in the Vicinity of Banks Township and Ellsworth

East Jordan Weight Facility located in East Jordan, Charlevoix County  
East Jordan Swimming Pool located in East Jordan, Charlevoix County

G. Festival Events in Antrim County, Michigan

Alba: Firemen's Field Day -- Fourth Saturday in July.

Alden: County Fair Days sponsored by H.O.N.O.R.S.--Last Saturday in July.  
Torch lake Run -- Last Saturday in July.  
Torch Lake Sailboard Summer Regattas -Sunday afternoon and  
Tuesday evenings June-August.

Bellaire: Antrim County Farm and Family Fair and  
4H Summer Show -- Third Saturday in August.  
Brian Bock Memorial Run -- Third Saturday in August.  
Arts and Crafts Fair -- Third Saturday in August.  
Irish Festival -- June.  
Meadowbrook Festival -- Third Thursday in July.  
Autumn Festival -- October.

Central Lake: JULY 4 CELEBRATION

Clam River: Three Lakes Association Annual Race -- Last Sunday in August.

Eastport: UPPER TORCH LAKE ASSOCIATION FIREMAN'S  
FIELD DAY -- FIRST SATURDAY IN AUGUST.

Elk Rapids: Harbor Days -- Second weekend in  
August.  
Arts and Crafts Show -- Last Saturday in August.

Ellsworth: ANNUAL PIG ROAST AND GAMES (FLEA MARKET,  
PARADE, ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW) SPONSORED BY  
THE BANKS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER --  
THIRD SATURDAY IN JUNE.

Mancelona: Subaru White Pine Stampede -- First  
Saturday in February Bass Festival -- First weekend in June.  
Nessett-Petersen Memorial Run -- First weekend in July.

VIII. Location and Inventory of Existing Facilities

The following pages contain maps of each governmental unit showing the location of each recreational facility. The tables identify (whenever possible) such things as size, the opportunities available, and a description of the site.

A. Banks Township

- A. Wooden Shoe Park (Village) - 60 campsites, beach, picnic area and access, 9.5 acres.
- B. Village Tennis Courts (2)
- C. Lions Club Basketball Court.
- D. Banks Township Park - beach, picnic area, and access, 2 acres.
- E. Antrim County Property - 40 acres, Lore Road.
- F. Ellsworth Lake Access (DNR).
- G. Lake St. Clair Access (DNR).
- H. Ellsworth High School - 1 Softball diamond.
- J. Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA)
- K. Village Athletic Complex-- Baseball Diamond, Softball Diamond, Little League Field ,Football/Soccer Field, and paved Track
- L. Ellsworth Community Park- to be developed

B. Privately Owned Facilities

- I. Antrim Dells Golf and Tennis Club - 18 holes, tennis courts, restaurant, subdivision, and proposed airfield.

## IX. Administrative Structure

### A. Present Organizations:

The present recreation commission is made up of nine members taken from local government, service organizations, and public at large. This commission meets at least once a year and presently serves in an advisory capacity in formulating goals and objectives to meet the community's present and future recreational needs. As the community's recreational functions expand, the commission's involvement will probably increase.

The village recreation committee is in charge of operation of Wooden Shoe Park and the summer recreation program which includes both Village and Township children. The committee employs apart-time recreation director, a part-time park director, two part-time maintenance persons, and additional people at peak demand. These positions are subject to final approval of the Village Council.

The community's adult recreation programs operate basically on their own financial and organizational setup and include participants outside the Village and Township. These programs operate under the approval of the Village or community school.

### B. Financing:

The park and recreation budget is prepared by the Village Recreation Committee and Village Finance Committee using input from the Township Board, local school, and previous year's directors.

The projected revenue for the 2003 budget is \$32,000 with park expenses at \$18,000 and summer recreation expenses at \$6000. This leaves a balance of \$8000 which will be placed in a reserve fund for future capital improvements. Most smaller capital improvements will be financed from this fund, but help will be needed from outside funding sources for land acquisitions or large recreational developments.

The revenue for operation of Wooden Shoe Park is generated solely by park receipts which has increased substantially since using a LAWCON grant in 1985 to build a new bathhouse and drainfield. The revenue to operate Banks Township Park is provided by the township from its general fund and is administered by the Township Board. The revenue to operate the summer recreation program is provided by the Township and Village along with fees charged to the participants.

### C. Summary of Users:

Area Served - Generally local and migratory.  
User Limitation - Non-restrictive.

D. Problems/Needs:

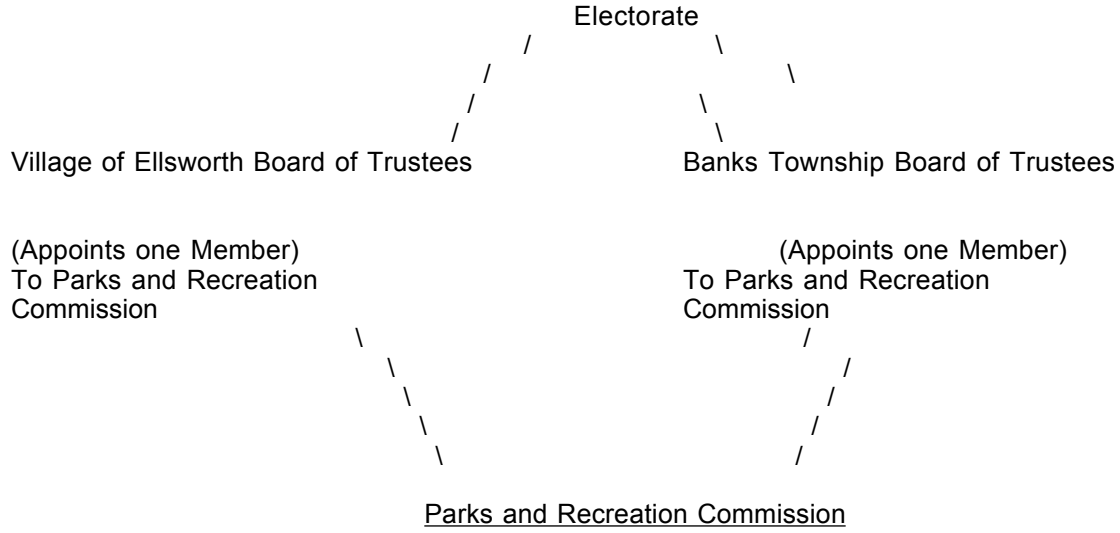
The development of the IDC site for present and  
future recreational activities.

The continued development of the Village Athletic Park.

Pedestrian/bicycle pathways connecting the above mentioned facilities

Continued improvements to Banks Township Park

Ellsworth and Banks Township  
Parks and Recreation Commission Organizational Chart



1. Village Representative
2. Township Representative
3. Representative from the Ellsworth School District
4. Representative from the Summer Softball League
5. Representative from the IDEA
6. Representative from the Lions Club
7. Representative from the Lioness Club
8. Representative from Ellsworth Senior Citizens
9. Representative –at- Large

## X. Schools

Two colleges located near Banks Township and Ellsworth provide educational opportunities beyond the secondary level.

### A. Northwestern Michigan College

Northwestern Michigan College is located in Traverse City, has an enrollment of approximately 4173 full-time students, and is increasingly being used by area residents. Student athletic programs emphasize intramural or club sport activities. Facilities include a gymnasium, 6 tennis courts, an athletic field, and 180 acres of open land available for hiking and other outdoor activities.

### B. North Central Michigan College

This college is located in Petoskey with a full-time enrollment of approximately 2,248 students. On campus activities include one handball court and two tennis courts.

### C. Three school districts serve Banks Township; they are:

The Central Lake School system operates an elementary school and a high school with a total population of 512 in 2002. The elementary school has a small equipped playground. The high school facilities include a full gymnasium, football field, and ball diamond. The school also leases 136.8 acres of forest land from the state for use as a forest and natural area.

The Charlevoix Public School system operates a high school, middle school, and elementary school with total population of 1406 in 2002.

The Ellsworth Public School has an enrollment of 245 in 2002. Facilities at the elementary school include a multipurpose room and playground, while the high school has a full gymnasium and ball diamond. The school district also operates a 140 acre school forest. (Another 48 pupils are enrolled at the Ebenezer Christian School, a private school located on White Street in Ellsworth.

## XI. Description of Planning Process

This plan was basically developed in 1984 by the Ellsworth recreation committee with the assistance of the Antrim County planning Department and District Soil Conservation Service. In 1994 and again in 2002 the Banks Township and Ellsworth Parks and Recreation commission along with the Village Parks and Recreation committee took on the task of updating the plan. The four year plan and Capital Improvements Schedule were formulated through the efforts of the Village Council, IDEA, Village Attorney, community schools, local service groups, and Township board. Help was received in improving the existing plan from the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division Technical Assistance to Communities. The plan was then presented by the committee to the community at a public meeting where it received a favorable reaction. At the January meeting of the township board and Village Council, the plan was presented and discussed after which both groups voted unanimously to accept the plan.

In December of 2002 a trustee of the Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township met along with the Parks and Recreation Commission to review the Plan and make recommendations for updates. The representatives also met with the Antrim County Planner to coordinate the local plans with the county's.

The governing bodies of both municipalities wholeheartedly supported the revisions along with the community. Past history has shown the community to be very supportive of efforts to procure, protect and provide for recreational opportunities.

XII. Description of Community’s Barrier-Free Compliance, Status, and Unmet Needs

**Barrier Free Status of Parks**

Table ___ Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township Recreation Sites Barrier Free Status	
Park Name	
Ellsworth Community Park	
Wooden Shoe Park (Upper Area)	
Lower Park	
Village Athletic Complex	
Village Tennis Courts	
Lions Club Basketball Court	
Banks Township Park	
Antrim Creek Natural Area	
H = Handicap Accessible P= Proposed NA = Not Applicable / Feature or Facility not present	

**Ellsworth Community Park** – This park is currently undeveloped. This park is located in the heart of Ellsworth and is a high priority in terms of re-development. The site was turned over to the Village following an extensive MDEQ clean up of contamination from former industrial activities. Plans are being prepared to develop this park as with a handicap accessible pavilion, restrooms, picnic areas, parking area landscaping and a labyrinth. This site will serve as one end of a proposed multi-purpose pathway and provide accessible restrooms and parking for pathway users.

**Wooden Shoe Park (Upper Portion)**—This park primarily consists of a 60 site campground on two levels. While none of the sites are officially designated as handicap accessible sites, the campground has been managed in a way to offer the sites on the upper level to anyone with physical movement limitations. The Village proposes to add a separate accessible unisex restroom/ shower facility, as well as providing some accessible picnic tables at some of the sites.

**Lower Park** – This portion of the park is located on Ellsworth Lake, with a gravel parking area, pavilion, grills, picnic tables and play equipment. Designated parking and an accessible route should be provided from the parking area to the pavilion.

IV. Village Athletic Complex—**This facility includes athletic fields, track and parking. The proposed multi-purposed pathway through the Village will connect this facility to the school and the Community Park. Accessible parking and restrooms are part of the planned future development of this facility.**

**Village Tennis Courts**—There are two separate courts. There is no parking lot; but parking is available close to the gates which make them fairly accessible.

**Lions Club Basketball Court**-- There is no parking lot; but parking is available close to the south end which has no fence making it fairly accessible.

**Banks Township Park**—The township has tried to keep this park on Lake Michigan pretty much barrier.

**Antrim Creek Natural Area**—This park is operated by the Antrim County.

#### A. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone regardless of physical or mental impairment.

When evaluating the accessibility of parks and facilities, barriers should be recognized from the perspective of the participant. These perspectives aid in preparing the design and planning future improvements to both current and existing facilities. Therefore, we can determine whether a site, building, and/or facility is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

##### I. Perspectives to Consider

- Could a person with vision impairment have a reasonable means of identifying the facilities?
- If a person is physically disabled, is there a means to access all facilities and if there are barriers, is an alternate route available?
- If a person has a reading disability, could the person recognize standard symbols indicating parking, restrooms or trailway?
- If a person uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, could the person participate with a group in facilities and move from the arrival place (parking area) to the activity area?

An evaluation of the Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township parks and recreational system accessibility to persons with disabilities has been conducted and is summarized below

## **B. Transition Plan**

Much of the transition plan for Village of Ellsworth and Banks Township consists of the removal of small-scale accessibility barriers, which is readily achievable through using the general fund expenditures. This would include the systematic upgrade of play areas, the removal of uneven surfaces and sidewalk obstructions, the placement of accessible parking space signage, and the procurement of additional wheelchair accessible picnic tables.

Capital improvement expenditures are targeted for more comprehensive accessibility remediation projects, which will be incorporated into the overall improvements of existing facilities. All new, playground equipment, site furnishings, landscaping and facilities included in the capital improvements plan shall be designed and installed in compliance with the latest adopted U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board and U.S. Department of Justice standards.

### XIII. Goals and Objectives

#### A. Goals and Objectives of a Comprehensive Recreation Plan

The establishment of goals and objectives is an important element in the formulation of a Comprehensive Recreation plan. The following goals and objectives were developed in order to provide a variety of recreation programs and facilities for all people according the current and projected township and village needs.

GOAL 1: Provide a well established, continuing recreation system, responsive to the needs and desires of present and future residents of Banks Township and the Village of Ellsworth.

Objectives:

- Acquire, develop, operate and maintain the Townships and Villages parks through the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Promote the overall coordination of resources within the parks and recreation system.
- Provide a system that keeps pace with the growing demand for recreational activities.
- Where possible, encourage the multiple use concept for recreation areas, open space areas, forest lands and flood plains.
- Donations of private land for public parks and recreation purpose should be encouraged.
- Continually assess state and federal programs offering financial assistance for recreational development.
- Encourage the private sector to develop facilities complementing public uses.
- Broaden and intensify interpretive and education programs to foster appreciation and understanding of the outdoors.
- Promote the importance of recreation as a contributor to the improvement of the quality of life.

GOAL 2: Encourage the development of recreation programs that consider proper utilization of natural resources without environmental damage.

Objectives:

- Encourage the preservation of areas with soils unsuitable for intensive development.
- Encourage the use of flood plain and wetland are as for open space activities such as wildlife refuges, hunting and fishing areas, and passive recreational activities.
- Encourage the protection of suitable agricultural lands from development.
- Develop areas for recreational vehicles which will minimize damage to rivers, streams, lakes and forests.

- Encourage the development of commercial recreation in such a manner that there is optimum utilization of appropriate locations with minimum conflicts of adjoining land uses.

GOAL 3: Insure that the recreation system is aware of changing populations, population concentration and other forces within the township and village.

Objective:  
- Annually update the priority guidelines for needed facilities.

GOAL 4: Stress safety in the development of township and village recreation facilities and programs.

- Support the establishment of laws and ordinances for the protection of people using recreational facilities.

GOAL 5: Identify and preserve scenic roads and scenic areas.

GOAL 6: Acquire and preserve unique natural areas and access to these areas.

GOAL 7: Encourage the identification and preservation of historical and archaeological elements within the township and village.

Objectives:  
- Promote accessibility to these sites.  
- Investigate methods of funding for historical and archaeological projects.

GOAL 8: Develop an open space system that is compatible with county and regional goals and policies.

Objectives:  
- Adopt development control measures which recognize recreation as a vital element of community responsibility.  
- The acquisition of land for additional water access sites should be pursued for the benefit of those residents who do not own waterfront property.

#### XIV. Deficiencies Analysis

Generally Banks Township and Ellsworth appear to have a sufficient amount of recreational facilities to serve the present population. Gains in year around population and very large gains in seasonal residents/homeowners and tourists has emphasized the need for more recreational facilities to adequately serve the increasing numbers. Both township and the village are expected to make substantial gains in population in the next twenty (20) years. The existing recreational facilities might not be adequate for future population projections, so, serious consideration should be undertaken in developing a recreational program that can attract and adequately serve the increased number of expected residents and tourists in the Northwest Michigan region.

The following is a list of problems or deficiencies facing the township and village:

A. Banks Township - Banks Township residents and tourists rely heavily on surrounding communities for facilities for recreation. Beaches located in Charlevoix, Central Lake, East Jordan, Norwood, and Eastport (all within 15 minutes of Banks Township) are utilized by residents and tourists. Banks Township currently maintains one Township Park located on Lake Michigan in the Northwestern portion of the Township. This facility has a small beach, picnic area and toilet facility. It is used extensively and frequently during the summer and fall months with the parking lot filled to capacity.

A. Ellsworth - The navigating of boats between St. Clair Lake and Ellsworth Lake has become a major problem. The culvert supporting the bridge for Bridge Street is too small some boats and pontoon boats. Fill has accumulated to the point it has hampered the navigating the water way between the lakes. Facilities at Wooden Shoe Park could be expanded to enhance the use of disabled persons.

#### XV. Recommendations

##### A. Short Term (1-5 Years)

1. Review the Comprehensive Recreation Plan annually to determine its adequacy. Specific recommendations should be examined to set new priorities as projects are accomplished.
2. Extra effort to make sure facilities are easily available to the disabled/handicapped.
3. Work with the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy and Antrim County to acquire (through purchase) additional Lake Michigan frontage in the area.
4. Work with local and state/federal municipalities and agencies to continue to improve and maintain public access sites to insure public ownership.

5. Encourage and implement the improvement of fishing facilities on St. Clair Lake and Ellsworth Lake.
6. Work with the DNR in developing the IDC property.
7. Transform portion of the IDC property acquired by the Village into a Community Park and open space.
8. Additional improvements of Wooden Shoe Park and other recreational facilities with emphasis on the disabled.
9. Continued development of Banks Township Park.

B. Long Term (5-15 Years)

1. If the population growth warrants, an advisory body consisting of township and village residents should be established by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
2. Acquisition of the portion of the old IDC property that is still owned privately that contains lake frontage on Ellsworth Lake.
4. Establishment of a year-round recreation program for village and township.
5. Continued development of the Village Athletic Park.

XVI. Implementation and Financial Action Plan

In the recommendation section this Plan listed short and long term project proposals which are necessary in order to create an adequate recreation system for Banks Township and Ellsworth. As in most public projects the money available for implementation is difficult to obtain and must be carefully allocated. The most appropriate method of determining and allocation schedule is to assign priorities to projects within the plan.

Common sense dictates that the highest priority be assigned to those projects which meet an existing deficiency within the park and recreation system. The projects desired by township and village residents should be developed first to bring the recreation system to an adequate level. High priority should also be assigned to proposals which fulfill a primary goal and objective or a series of goals and objectives.

Priority status need also be assigned to projects which serve multiple age groups; which are designed to be barrier free to handicapped persons; which recognize the needs of local residents, seasonal residents and visitors; which have a multiple use character; and which preserve natural resources while providing recreational opportunities.

This portion of the Community Recreation Plan should be reviewed at each meeting, if not annually. The highest priority project must be recognized and scheduled to meet immediate demands.

The most important implementation ingredient is money. At the local level general fund allocations move slowly through the budgetary process. Alternative methods of funding are available which can accelerate the whole process of implementing a project.

A common source of recreational project funds are grants from either the state or federal government. The Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (LAWCON) made matching funds available to local units. The funds are available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. This is a 50-50 grant program with allocation generally based upon population diversity and where recreational land and facility needs are the greatest.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) is available to acquire Land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or its scenic beauty, and to develop public recreation facilities. Local units of Government must provide a local match of at least 25% of total project costs.

Funds from the Recreation Bond program made possible by the passage of Proposal D on the November, 1988, Michigan ballot are now depleted. The local unit of government had to provide 25% of the total projects cost. Bond program priorities were:

- recreation redevelopment of abandoned industrial sites
- recreation infrastructure renovation
- community recreation
- waterfront recreation projects that will encourage private investment.
- tourism-stimulating recreation projects
- environmental education facility development by intermediate school districts

Other sources of funding are:

- The Resource Conservation and Development Program. This program is a 50-50 match and is coordinated at the county level by the Soil Conservation Service. (This plan does not require a recreational plan for matching funds).
- Kammer Land Trust Fund.
- Gifts from individual persons, groups, or organizations.
- Low interest loans can be utilized as well.
- MDOT 80-20 grants for non motorized pathways for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Rotary Charities of Traverse City
- Great Lakes Energy – The People Fund
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Cost &amp; Anticipated Funding Sources</u>
1999 2002	Enlarge and improve camp sites, extend road, and tile showers and floor of bath house at Wooden Shoe Park.	\$60,000 Village
2001 2002	Construction of Little League field at Village Athletic Park	\$15,000 Village
2001 2002	Construction of a Track and Football/Soccer Field at Village Athletic Park	\$125,000 Village
2002	Multiple use surface for the Track	\$27,000 Local
2002	Acquisition of Elmer Crain property for Community Park	\$30,000 Village
2003 2005	Nonmotorized vehicle (pedestrian/bicycle) trail through the Village Athletic Facilities; Nonmotorized trail from Village Athletic Facilities to the abandoned rail road; Continue trail south on abandoned railroad to Community Park; Continue trail through and around Community Park.	\$225,000 MDOT Enhancement Local funds
2003 2004 2005	Develop the Community Park (former IDC property)-- Pavilion, Labyrinth, Parking area, picnic sites, benches, Public docks, etc.	\$375,000 LWCF Local funds
2003	Acquisition of land adjacent to Village Athletic Facilities	Cost to be determined Donated locally
2003 2004	Paving of Township Park access road, driveway and parking lot.	Cost to be determined LWCF Local Funds