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# **SAGOLA TOWNSHIP**

# **5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN**

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**ADOPTED 2024**  
**DRAFT**

**Community Description and Demographics**

Located in north central Dickinson County, Sagola Township’s land area includes approximately 104,359 acres inhabited by 1026 people. Most of the land area is forested, approximately 83.4%, while residential development is concentrated in the communities of Randville, Sagola, and Channing.

Understanding an area’s population trends helps evaluate a community’s existing and future needs. These statistics will assist Sagola Township in determining the direction of local capital improvements and related expenditures for recreation planning. They are also a useful tool in creating recreation guidelines for the Township.

**Table 1.1  
Population Changes, 1980-2020**

	<b><u>1980</u></b>	<b><u>1990</u></b>	<b><u>2000</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
Sagola Twp	1146	1166	1169	1106	1026
% Change	25%	2%	0%	-6%	-7.7%
Dickinson Cty	25,341	26,831	27,481	26,168	25,874
% Change	7%	6%	2.4%	-5%	-1.1%
Upper Peninsula	320,272	313,915	317,676	311,361	301,608
% Change	5%	-2%	1.2%	2%	-3%
State of MI	9,260,000	9,300,000	9,952,000	9,878,000	10,077,331
% Change	4%	0.40%	7%	9.2%	2%

Source: U.S. Census, 2020

**Table 1.2  
Population by Age,  
1980-2020**

	<b><u>1980</u></b> <b><u>No. of</u></b> <b><u>persons</u></b>	<b><u>1990</u></b> <b><u>No. of</u></b> <b><u>persons</u></b>	<b><u>2000</u></b> <b><u>No. of</u></b> <b><u>persons</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b> <b><u>No. of</u></b> <b><u>persons</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b> <b><u>No. of</u></b> <b><u>persons</u></b>
<b>UNDER 18</b>	369	330	332	215	246
% of Population	32%	28%	28%	19%	24%
<b>18-64</b>	612	664	660	668	523
% of Population	53%	57%	57%	65.50%	51%
<b>65 &amp; over</b>	165	172	177	223	257
% of Population	14%	15%	15%	15.10%	25%
<b>Total:</b>	1,146	1,169	1,169	1,106	1,026

The next graph shows the family income as of 2020 for Sagola. 38 percent of the township's households earn under \$50,000.00 annually.

**Table 1.3**  
**Family Income, 2020**

<u>Income</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>Under \$50,000</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>\$50,000 to \$100,000</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>\$100,000 to \$200,000</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Over \$200,000</b>	<b><u>1%</u></b>
	<b>100%</b>

Utilizing demographic information such as population, age distribution, and income level in the planning process helps guide how to best create and maintain recreational facilities and programs for Sagola Township residents.

### **Recreation Administrative Structure**

The Sagola Township Recreation Advisory Committee is tasked with recommending ways to best meet the recreational needs of the community. The Recreation Advisory Committee is an advisory committee that reports to the Township Board, which is responsible for the provision and administration of local recreation opportunities in Sagola Township. The Township Board has the authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants and purchase land on behalf of the community.

The Township Board includes funding for ongoing maintenance and operation of recreational facilities in the annual General Fund budget. Expenditures are offset from the revenue generated from the [campground fees at Newberg Park, and rental fees at Township buildings]. Funding for capital improvement projects is appropriated when funding sources have been identified or available.

### **Volunteers/Community Relationships**

Sagola Township provides and maintains recreational facilities for users but does not provide programming. The volunteer recreational uses that require organizing and scheduling are guided by a program of community enrichment that allows such programming to be done with no usage fee for facilitates. Township officials maintain an oversight role to ensure equitable usage among various groups with scheduling conflicts addressed by the Township board. All facility use needs to be prescheduled. See township website for scheduling information.

The Township has also benefited from relationships with the volunteer fire department, Sagola Township Community Enrichment, local businesses, and church and youth groups. These groups have either contributed time during the township park clean-up day, skills for labor intensive projects, and/or donation of supplies. The Township has had a long and successful relationship with various community organizations and is interested in expanding and strengthening these partnerships.

# Sagola Township Recreation Sites

Members of the Recreational Advisory Committee conducted an inventory of the Township's recreational sites. Sites were evaluated visually and updated information was incorporated into the plan. The Township owned facilities were evaluated for accessibility and determined the facilities are in need of updates to improve the accessibility for all users; accessibility improvements are included as objectives in this plan. The following rating scale was used:

- 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

## Sagola Township Community Building (3 Acres)

The Township's new 8,100 square-foot community building was built in 2017, and is located in Sagola, along M69, at 300 First Street. The construction incorporated universal design features to ensure accessibility. The Sagola Township Board and other boards and committees use the building for regular meetings. The Community Building and pavilion are available for rent; see current rates on the Sagola Township Website: [sagolatwp.com](http://sagolatwp.com)

Facilities include:

- community center building
- full kitchen,
- bathrooms
- pavilion
- baseball field
- basketball hoop
- playground equipment
- picnic tables and benches



Accessibility rating: 4

## Sagola Township Pavilion

The pavilion was built in 2022 and is 40' x 60'. There are electrical outlets, lights, water, and picnic tables available for community use. See current rates on the Sagola Township Website: [sagolatwp.com](http://sagolatwp.com)

Accessibility rating: 3



## Sagola Township Playground

A new playground was added in 2023, including a playscape, swings, bouncy rides and climbing structure. This provides facilities for children ages 2 to 12 years of age.

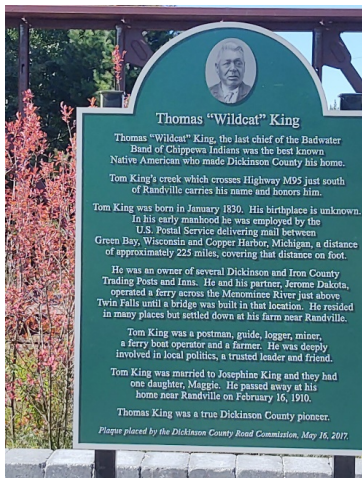
Accessibility rating: 2



## Randville Hall

Randville Hall is located on M95, between Sagola and Iron Mountain. The hall is used a venue and community space by township residents, and is available for rent. A small memorial on the site remembers Dickinson County pioneer Tom King, an influential entrepreneur in the community.

Accessibility Rating: 2



**There is a memorial on site to Dickinson Co Pioneer Tom King.**

**Newberg Park (25 acres)**

Newberg Park is located on Sawyer Lake in the northern portion of the Township. The facility provides camping, picnicking, a swimming beach, playground equipment, public boat launch, fishing, and boating. The park is nearly 25 acres in size and has 1,400 feet of lake frontage. There are 30 camping sites at Newberg Park and a pavilion that can be reserved for private events. Current rental rates are on Sagola Township Website: [sagolatwp.com](http://sagolatwp.com).

Accessibility Rating: 2

Facilities include:	swimming beach	campsites with electricity
	picnic tables	water
	public boat launch	parking area
	pavilion with electricity	sanitary dump facility
	playground equipment	benches
	bathrooms	shower house

The Township reviews the revenue and expenditure annually to ensure proper maintenance and management of the park.

**Channing Athletic Complex**

The Channing Athletic Complex is located in Channing on East Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets. The facilities at the complex include a pavilion with electricity, picnic tables, two baseball fields, playground equipment, tennis courts and bathrooms. The Complex is utilized for baseball games and practices.

The Township’s annual Independence Day festivities are usually held at the Complex on the Saturday before July 4th. They include a parade down M-95 ending at the Athletic Complex where there are games for children and adults, music, food and beverages, bingo, corn-hole tournament, and fireworks. The Sagola Township Volunteer Fire Department spearheads this event with help from the Sportsmen's Club, Sagola Township Enrichment Committee, and others from the community.

Accessibility Rating: 2

Facilities include:	pavilion with electricity	picnic tables
	playground equipment	two baseball fields
	bathrooms	tennis court
	basketball court	

## **Additional Recreation Facilities in Sagola Township not owned by Sagola Township**

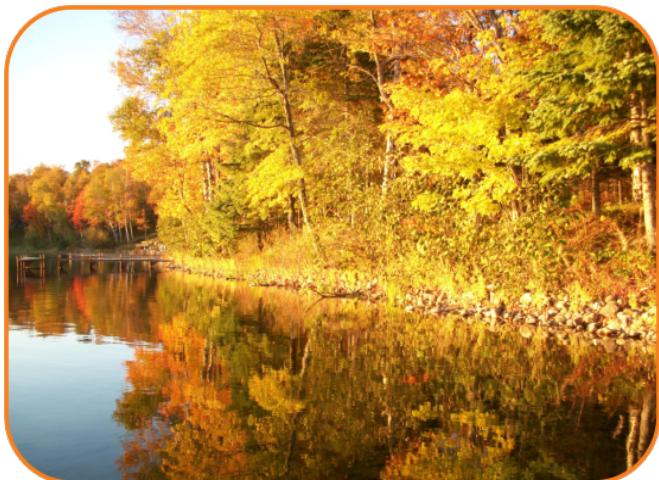
### **Camp Molinare at Sawyer Lake**

Camp Molinare is located just 25 miles north of Iron Mountain on Sawyer Lake. The Camp is owned by Camp Molinare board, who hosts summer camps and educational events at the site. The camp is also available to rent as a venue for the general public. It offers two dormitory style bunk houses (sleeps 40 total), each with their own bathrooms and showers. There is a full kitchen and dining hall connecting the dorms, which includes tables/benches, cookware/dinnerware, gas range and a convection oven. There are three additional cabins on site which also have showers and bathrooms. The Camp has access to swimming, canoeing, hiking, outdoor sports and recreation, campfires and ATV trails. Contact [campmolinare@gmail.com](mailto:campmolinare@gmail.com) for more information.



### **Edey Lake**

The lake is 79 acres which is located four miles northwest of Channing just off Sawyer Lake Road. The boat launch is a hard-surfaced ramp where launching and retrieving of large boats may be difficult and not recommended. Five parking spaces are available at the access, along with a rustic outhouse. This site is operated by Department of Natural Resources.



### **The Sportsman's Club**

The Sagola Township Sportsman's Club is located on Edey Lake. The club was founded in the 1940's, its current membership stands at 200. The club encompasses 40 acres which includes a beautiful log clubhouse, an outdoor pavilion, a trap range, sporting clays range, 100 yard rifle range, and archery range. Every spring the members conduct a Hunters Safety Class and field day for area youth and any Michigan resident free of charge. The 4H Big Shooters meet, and hold their monthly shoots here. The club is available for rent for weddings, graduation parties, private functions, and seminars.

This facility meets most of the accessibility guidelines.

For more information, please visit their website at [www.stsportsmen.com](http://www.stsportsmen.com)



### **Silver Lake**

Silver Lake Resort is a full-hookup RV campground located on State Highway M-95, five miles north of Channing. This is a private campground with 30 sites. Silver Lake Resort Restaurant and Store serves a wide variety of foods and beverages. They also offer DNR hunting, fishing and ATV/ORV licenses.

Public lake access is available with a boat ramp on the North end of Silver Lake located west off Highway M95.

This site is operated by Department of Natural Resources.





## **Race Landing**

Race landing is located just over four miles northwest of Channing and provides access to the Michigamme River. Facilities include a boat launch and vault toilet; it is operated by WE Energies. Directions to the site follow Sawyer Lake Road approximately two miles north of Channing and turn left at Race Road, follow the road for another two miles to the end.

## **Library**

Sagola Township has two "Little Free Libraries" with children's and adult books available to be taken by anyone. People are free to leave a book, or return the one they borrowed; but they are not required to do so. The two locations are: N12846 Sawyer Lake Road and at the North 95 Welcome Center next to the Channing Post office.

## **Grant History**

The Township Board and Recreational Advisory Committee have identified that additional funding through grants offered by the DNR is needed to support planned upgrades and amenities at Newberg Park. These projects are outline in the action plan below.

## **Planning Process**

The Sagola Township portion of the Recreation Plan was updated to correspond with the changing recreation needs of the area. The Sagola Township Recreation Advisory Committee was instrumental in preparing this plan and initiated the update. Committee members evaluated current recreation facilities, and to reached out to those that utilize recreational parks and facilities through a public survey. The survey was available online through web site and was available in print form at the Township Hall, Channing and Sagola post offices, church, public events and Senior Center. 47 surveys were completed. The survey feedback showed that 62% of residents feel that the Township's recreational facilities and programs are important to the community. Nearly half of respondents were neutral in their assessment of Township recreational facilities, indicating that there may be additional room for improvement. 46% of township residents would support funding additional improvements through a tax increase or other funding method.

## **Survey of Township residents:**

A survey was made available to the Township residents. The results of the survey are as follows:  
30% of residents use the recreational facilities monthly, 21% weekly.

Hiking, fishing, boating and swimming were what most residents participated in.

45% of residents were neutral on satisfaction of current recreational facilities with 30% satisfied.

62% of residents felt recreational facilities and programs were important or very important to the community.

45% of residents do not feel there are enough recreational opportunities for different age groups.

46% of residents agreed to pay for additional recreational programs or facilities through tax increase or other funding.

79% of residents heard about activities through word of mouth.

A copy of the completed survey with results can be found in Appendix A.

For a period of thirty days, the proposed Recreation Plan is available for review and comments by contacting the township board at a regularly scheduled board meeting. The proposed Plan is also on Sagola Township's website (sagolatwp.com). This comment period is from December 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2023. The comment period was advertised in the Iron Mountain Daily News on December 1, 2023. [Description of any public comment received]

The Sagola Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Sagola Township Recreation Plan on TBD. Comments will also be received at this Public Hearing. The public hearing was noticed in the Iron Mountain Daily News on [date] and a notice was available at the Township Hall and on the website. [Description of any public comments from the public hearing.]

The Sagola Township Board adopted the Recreation Plan by resolution at its regular meeting held on [date]. A copy of all notices, public comment, and the resolution are available in Appendix [appendix].

### **Goals and Objectives**

The objectives identified in this plan help guide recreation related decision-making. Consideration of the recreational policies should lead the community toward the attainment of its goals. The following goals and objectives should serve as guideline toward development strategies.

*Maximize use of recreational opportunities offered by the area's natural environment while also placing an emphasis on maintenance and continuous improvement of facilities.*

### **Objectives:**

- \*Facilities should be designed to complement the surrounding natural quality of the area.
- \*Whenever possible, the Township and private interests should coordinate the development of recreation facilities and programs.
- \*Proper maintenance should be ensured for all facilities.
- \*When suitable, existing facilities should be repaired before new ones are built.
- \*The Township and concerned organizations and individuals should develop programs and incorporate designs to reduce vandalism.
- \*Bring all township facilities up to Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

### **Basis for Objectives:**

Maintenance and continuous improvement of facilities and parks is a most widely supported priority. Complementing the surrounding natural quality of the area is an important aspect in creating recreational spaces that are valued by residents and visitors. Ensuring that recreational facilities are safe is a priority and efforts to reduce vandalism and enhance visitor experience.

*We aim to provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all residents and visitors of Sagola Township.*

- \*Projects should be easily accessible to all residents and visitors.
- \*Whenever possible, facilities should be for multiple and/or year-round use.
- \*Develop and maintain trails and pathways
- \*When appropriate, amenities such as restrooms, night lighting, and electrical power should be incorporated.

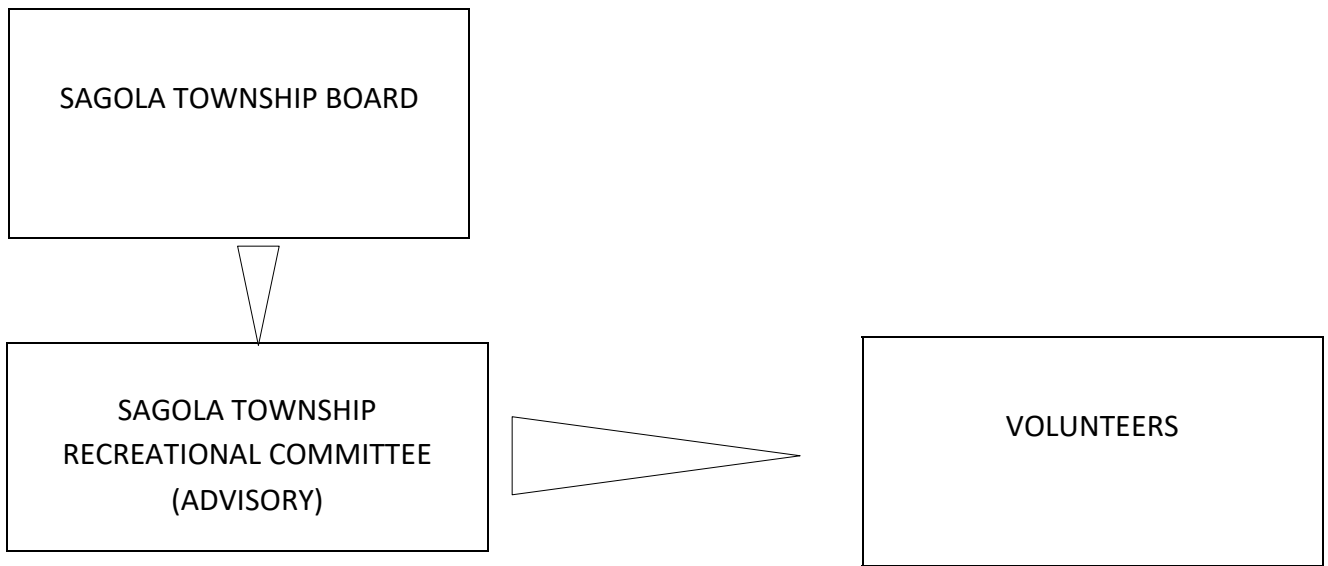
## Action Program

The recreation development schedule reflects a number of valuable recreation projects to enhance the quality of life for all demographic groups. Projects reflect the needs of the community as expressed through public input and under the guidance of the Sagola Township Recreation Advisory Committee. These projects were selected in accordance with the identified goals and objectives.

<b>SAGOLA HALL/PAVILION</b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>COST ESTIMATE/FUNDING SOURCES</u></b>
Gazebo to house the old Sagola School bell	2024	\$5,000.00
Port-a-potty for pavilion (3 month)	2024	\$1,600.00
Relocate Basketball court	2026	\$10,500.00
“book exchange” library	2024	\$500.00
One ADA swing	2025	\$2,000.00
Back wall and Counter tops	2024	\$2,500.00
<b>CHANNING COMPLEX AREA</b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>COST ESTIMATE/FUNDING SOURCES</u></b>
One ADA swing	2024	\$2,000.00
New mulch	2027	\$1,000.00
Pickle ball court (resurface tennis court)	2028	\$2,000.00
<b>NEWBERG PARK</b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>COST ESTIMATE/FUNDING SOURCES</u></b>
Update power to 50 amp and water hook ups	2028	DNR Grant/Local Match
New dump station with enlarged parking area	2024	\$3,500.00
Re-pave all roads within park	2028	DNR Grant/Local Match
Update playground equipment with one ADA swing	2025	\$3,000.00
A post with sign, for dog waste.	2024	\$150.00
Repair boat launch	2028	DNR Grant/Local Match
New 50’ long boat dock	2028	DNR Grant/Local Match
Kayak Launch	2024	DNR Grant/Local Match
<b>AROUND SAGOLA TOWNSHIP</b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>COST/ESTIMATE SOURCES</u></b>
RV/snowmobile trails	2028	TBD
Bike Path - Iron Belle Trail (Detroit to Ironwood) Sagola Township would need to purchase land.	2028	Co-op with school, other municipalities, and other groups. DNR Grant, Local Match
NOTE: ADA means "Americans with Disabilities Act"		

The Recreation Development Schedule is the product of what the Sagola Township Recreation Advisory Committee believes to be the best means to meet the current and future recreational needs of Sagola Township residents and visitors. The township recognizes that in planning for an ever-changing recreational future, projects may not become apparent until after this plan has been completed. With that being said, the township is committed to fulfilling the identified goals and objectives of the recreational plan.

**SAGOLA TOWNSHIP PARK & RECREATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



# Appendix A - SURVEY

The Sagola Township Recreation Advisory Committee would appreciate your input for the Sagola Township Recreation 5-Year Plan 2023. Please fill out and return this form by October 1, 2023. Survey's can be placed in the drop box at the Sagola Township Community building, Sagola, or mailed to: Patti Roell, N6648 M-95, Iron Mountain, MI 49801. Thank you in advance for your input. 47 surveys received back.

1. How often do you and your family engage in recreational activities within our township?

- Daily 15%
- Weekly 21%
- Monthly 30%
- Rarely 23%
- Never 9%

2. Which of the following recreational activities do you or your family members participate in? (Select all that apply)

- Walking/hiking 55%
- Biking 21%
- Picnicking 26%
- Sports (e.g., soccer, basketball, tennis) 13%
- Playground use 19%
- Swimming 30%
- Fishing/Hunting 45%
- Boating 45%
- Arts and crafts 13%
- Fitness classes 4%
- Cultural events 15%

3. On a scale of 1 to 5, how satisfied are you with the current recreational facilities and opportunities in our township?

- 1 (Very Dissatisfied) 2%
- 2 (Dissatisfied) 9%
- 3 (Neutral) 45%
- 4 (Satisfied) 30%
- 5 (Very Satisfied) 11%

4. How important is it for the township to offer programs and facilities that promote health and wellness, such as fitness classes and walking trails?

- Not Important 9%
- Somewhat Important 23%
- Important 28%
- Very Important 34%

5. Do you feel that there are enough recreational opportunities for different age groups in our township (children, teens, adults, seniors)?

- Yes 28%
- No 45%
- Not Sure 28%

6. Are you aware of any safety concerns related to our recreational areas, such as poorly lit path-ways or insufficient security measures? If yes, please describe. 42% answered

Not sure

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

Picnic tables at Channing are broken and in need of repair

No

No

Not aware

No

No

No

Who is liable for dock that was installed at the campground on Sawyer Lake in case someone gets hurt?

7. Would you be willing to support a tax increase or additional funding for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities and programs in our township?

· Yes taxes 40% also just yes not designated

· Yes not taxes 6%

· No 26%

· Undecided 19%

8. How do you typically find out about upcoming recreational events or programs in our town-ship?

(Select all that apply)

· Township website 2%

· Social media 21%

· Flyers or posters 26%

· Word of mouth 79%

· Other (please specify) 6%

Post office board

Do check website but rarely has info on events

9. Are there any specific events or activities you would like to see organized in our township in the future? 53% answered

No

None

I would love to see like Zumba or some sort of weekly “exercise” classes in community bldg..

Baseball

Biking trails – fitness programs

Christmas event

Musical Events

Musical Events

Guided hikes

More use of the Channing ball field area – hosting more baseball games or cornhole tournaments

Holiday events – Christmas, Halloween & Easter

More community events – bingo, sports events (all ages)  
More activities for senior citizens.. Bingo at the comm Bldg & fitness classes for seniors  
A pickleball court  
Bingo  
Bingo for seniors & others @ comm bldg.  
Bingo at comm bldg.  
Local members of township for cornhole, horseshoe on Sat or Sun that others could come watch  
No  
None  
Exercise classes for seniors (yoga, Pilates) silver sneakers

10. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions related to recreation in our township.

Not much going on 32% answered

No

None

The movies in the park were fun – we should do that again

Nice Pavilion

Do more movies nights/game nights for all ages

Would love to see a walking trail and other upgrades at Sawyer lake

Walking trails, cross country ski trails bike trails

The parks are not kept up very well. Weeds along the fences and need to paint at the Channing park

Fix the baseball and tennis courts

The tennis courts need maintaining & also basketball courts – could be used for pickle ball

None

Consider mechanisms for better communication so all township residents are reached regarding surveys,

11. What specific improvements or additions would you like to see in our recreational facilities or programs? 37% answered

Tighten picnic tables

None

I am not aware of any rec programs that are even offered

More community thing

Unaware of current recreational facilities beyond the playground

Do a haunted house for community

Weeds along fence lines in Channing ballpark need to be taken care of on a regular basis.

Ballfields are cut horrible with all the weeds and tennis courts are full of weeds again

More use of the field in Sagola – soccer for kids, volley ball for other kids and teens or a putting range for kids & adults

Sawyer lake park needs better elec to support larger RV's

Channing ballfields need better maintenance and a flag on the pole

The garage needs to be fixed for the July 4th bingo

Move the pavilion next to the township hall

Sawyer lake park

12. Are there any accessibility issues with the current recreational facilities or programs that need to be addressed? 32% answered

Make sure everything is accessible for those with any kind of disability,

No

None

No

No

The flower baskets along the highway look great!!!

No everything is awesome – keep up the good events

Some handicap accessibility issues with playgrounds and sports venues

No

Needs grass around pavilion not asphalt let the church fund their own parking – one spot for each member like in township ordinance

Handicap

No

Thank you!

Generic comments

Love the new playground for the kids!!