

# SAGOLA TOWNSHIP

## 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

### ADOPTED 9/4/2018



#### Community Description and Demographics

Located in north central Dickinson County, Sagola Township’s land area includes approximately 104,359 acres inhabited by 1100 people. Most of the land area is forested, approximately 83.4%, while residential development is concentrated in the communities of 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.

As seen in Table 1.1, with the exception of a population decrease from 1960 to 1970, the population of Sagola Township has risen from 1970 until 2010. The percentage of population change from 1960 to 2010 for Sagola Township is 16 percent. While below the national average, this population trend is higher than that of Dickinson County. Age distribution groups are also key to understanding the needs of the community. By analyzing not just the population but also what age community members are, the Recreation Advisory Committee will be able to more clearly grasp the needs of the individuals in which they are representing.

**Table 1.1**  
**Population Changes, 1960-2010**

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
Sagola Twp	952	918	1146	1166	1169	1106
% Change	-20%	-4%	25%	2%	0%	-6%
Dickinson Cty	23,917	23,753	25,341	26,831	27,481	26,168
% Change	-4%	-1%	7%	6%	2.4%	-5%
Upper Peninsula	303,054	302,892	320,272	313,915	317,676	311,361
% Change	.2%	-1%	5%	-2%	1.2%	2%
State of MI	7,820,000	8,870,000	9,260,000	9,300,000	9,952,000	9,878,000
% Change	23%	13%	4%	0.40%	7%	9.2%

Source: U.S. Census, 1960-2010

The age distribution of Sagola Township, as displayed in Table 1.2 shows the retirement age group at 15.1 percent of Sagola Township residents. The proportion of the population which is under 18 years of age has decreased from 1970 to 2010. In 1970 nearly 35 percent of the population was less than 18 years old, but by 2010 the proportion of persons less than 18 had fallen to just over 19.4 percent. For those persons **over the age of 65** the increase in percentage in 1970 went from 16% to 15.1% in 2010.

**Table 1.2  
Population by Age,  
1970-2010**

	<u>1970</u> <u>No. of</u> <u>persons</u>	<u>1980</u> <u>No. of</u> <u>persons</u>	<u>1990</u> <u>No. of</u> <u>persons</u>	<u>2000</u> <u>No. of</u> <u>persons</u>	<u>2010</u> <u>No. of</u> <u>persons</u>
<b>UNDER 18</b>	320	369	330	332	215
% of Population	34.9%	32%	28%	28%	19%
<b>18-64</b>	451	612	664	660	668
% of Population	49%	53%	57%	57%	65.50%
<b>65 &amp; over</b>	147	165	172	177	223
% of Population	16%	14%	15%	15%	15.10%
<b>Total:</b>	918	1,146	1,169	1,169	1,106

Understanding the geographic distribution of poverty in the region is useful as people in this situation are more likely to be in need of public transit and social services. According to 2014 American Community Survey data, 18.4% of the individuals in Sagola Township are below poverty levels. Fewer children under 18 (15.4 percent) were in poverty in Sagola Township than statewide, where the poverty rate for children was 18.2 percent. The rate for elderly (65 years old and over) in the township was 11.6 percent, while statewide it was 10.8 percent.

**Table 1.3  
Family Income, 2010**

<u>Income</u>	<u># of families</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Less than \$10,000	24	6.70%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	6	1.70%
\$15,000 to 24,999	35	9.70%
\$25,000 to 34,999	57	15.80%
\$35,000 to \$49,000	71	19.70%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	91	25.30%
\$75,000 to \$99,000	29	8.10%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	24	6.70%
\$150,000 to \$199,000	16	4.40%
\$200,000 or more	7	1.90%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>360</b>	

Utilizing demographic information such as population, age distribution, and population below poverty level in the planning process helps guide how to best create and maintain recreational facilities and programs for the communities in which they serve.

### **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.

Recently as a result of a lack of appropriations in the Dickinson County budget, Sagola Township assumed ownership of Newberg Park on Sawyer Lake for the price of one dollar. With this transition, the newly established Sagola Township Recreation Advisory Committee has played a vital role in assisting the Township with this change.

The Township funds recreational activities and projects as needed from the Township's general fund. The budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 (\$20,400) is higher than that previous fiscal year as a result of the responsibilities associated with the acquisition of Newberg Park from Dickinson County. During the year the Township has invested in maintenance equipment such as: two commercial grade lawn mowers and weed cutters. Maintenance included repairs of picnic tables, shower, bathroom, pavilion, removal of fallen trees, painting, and numerous other smaller jobs.

The campground at Sawyer Lake does provide income for the Township. The current camping fee at the park for county residents is \$15.00 per night and for a month the rate is \$405.00. For non-county residents the rate is \$19.00 per night and for a month the rate is \$513.00. With the recent acquisition of Newberg Park, the Township has not finalized projected recreation budgets as the income from camping fees at Newberg Park and investments necessary to maintain the park have yet to be determined. The Township will review the revenue and expenditures annually to ensure that proper maintenance of the park continues. It is expected that the projected budgets will be lower than the 2016-2017 fiscal year as a significant portion of the 2016-2017 recreation budget was attributed to start-up costs. Projected budgets will return to a historically normal range, \$6000 per year, with potential increases in budget as projects may warrant.

Sagola Township is very fortunate due to the fact that there is a retired couple that does all the grass cutting, fee collecting, and maintenance for the park in return for free camping.

### **Volunteers/Community Relationships**

The Township provides and maintains recreational facilities for users but does not provide programming. Those recreational uses that require organizing and scheduling are guided by community volunteers. Township officials maintain an oversight role to ensure equitable usage among various groups and that timely and necessary maintenance is completed. The township sponsors the Iron Mountain North Area Little League. Baseball fields, playground equipment, and a pavilion are located in Channing; and are maintained by the township. The township also maintains a ball field and playground in Sagola.

The Township has also benefited from relationships with the volunteer fire department, 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**

### **Sagola Township Community Building**

The new community building was built in 2017, and is located in Sagola, along M69. The old community building will be demolished as funds become available. The new building is 8100 square feet and is available for anyone to rent.

Note: This facility meets accessibility guidelines.

Facilities include:

- community center building
- baseball field
- basketball hoop
- playground equipment



### **Randville Hall**

Located on M95, between Sagola and Iron Mountain. This hall is available for anyone to rent. Also this hall is used as a voting precinct.

Note: This facility meets accessibility guidelines.



**Newberg Park**

Provides camping, picnicking, a swimming beach, playground equipment, fishing, and boating. The park is nearly 25 acres in size and has 1,400 feet of lake frontage. Adjoining to Newberg Park there is a 4-H Camp, not owned by Sagola Township. There are 30 camping sites at Newberg Park and a pavilion that can be reserved for private events.

Note: Most areas at this park meets accessibility guidelines.

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

**Edey Lake**

Four miles northeast of Channing, just off Sawyer Lake Road. A hard-surfaced ramp, in areas of limited water depth or limited size (79 acres) of water body, where launching and retrieving of large boats may be difficult and not recommended. The site is signed. Five parking spaces are available at the access. 80 water acres, that are operated by Department of Natural Resources.

The 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 to 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 good home-cooked meals.



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

### **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.

### **Channing Athletic Complex**

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

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, and fireworks. The Sagola Township Volunteer Fire Department spearheads this event with help from the Sportsmen's Club, the North 95 Community Association, and others from the community.

Note: This facility meets all accessibility guidelines.

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

**Grant History**

2017/2018	Tire Cleanup Program	Project #TN-1822069
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Michigan Department of Equalization granted Sagola Township. \$3000 to clean up scrap tires in the community.

2016/2017	Tire Cleanup Program	Project #TN1722042
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Michigan Department of Equalization granted Sagola Township. \$2000 to clean up scrap tires in the community.

2017/2018	Saw Grant	#1056-01
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Wastewater Asset Management Plan granted Sagola Twp \$160,000 with Sagola Township contributing \$16,000 for a total of \$176,000.

This grant is to evaluate the entire sewer system, starting with complete televising to determine areas that need attention.

**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 as they took the time to evaluate current recreation facilities, and to reach out to those that utilize recreational parks and facilities.

Area surveys have shown that families partake in the following activities such as: fishing (85.4%), boating (81.3%), playground visits (64.6%), watching wildlife (60.4%), and picnicking, watching sporting events, and walking/hiking (58.3%).

For a period of thirty days, the proposed Recreation Plan is available for review and comments by contacting Pam Minerick at 906-282-8680 or by e-mailing Pam at pminerick@gmail.com . The proposed Plan is also on Sagola Township's Website (**sagolatwp.com**). This comment period is from July 14, 2018, and ending on August 14, 2018. The comment period was advertised in the Iron Mountain Daily News on 7/14/18.

The Sagola Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Sagola Township Recreation Plan on September 4, 2018. Comments will also be received at this Public Hearing.

**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 will enhance visitor experience.

*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>PROJECT AT COMMUNITY BUILDING IN SAGOLA</b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>COST ESTIMATE/FUNDING SOURCES</u></b>
Remove old community building	2019	\$50,000 Funding TBD
Build pavilion & picnic tables in place of old hall	2019	\$50,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
New playground equipment	2019	\$20,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
<b>UPDATING OR ACQUIRING THE COMPLEX AREA FROM NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>		

Change bathroom doors so they are ADA approved	2018	\$100 General Fund
Skating rink with benches and lights	2019	\$5000 General Fund
Repair/replace ADA picnic tables & benches around entire park.	2019	\$2000 General Fund
Repair fence near garage	2020	\$2000 General Fund
Garage maintenance: Doors and painting	2021	\$5000 General Fund
Update/repair playground equipment according to ADA	2022	\$20,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
Repair tennis courts & basketball courts.	2022	\$15,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
<b>NEWBERG PARK</b>		
Re-pave all roads within park, inc boat landing & expand parking lot	2019	\$60,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
Walking path with limestone around park and to baseball field	2019	\$10,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
Restore beach area. Add sand, ropes, retaining wall, & raft.	2019	\$10,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
Pavilion lights	2019	\$3000 General Fund
New Tractor and vacuum	2019	\$10,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
Dog walk area with "bags" for disposal of waste	2019	\$1000 General Fund
New posts around parking lot and fix signs	2020	\$5000 General Fund
Remove old trees and stumps	2020	\$2000 General Fund
Update playground equipment, in basketball hoop-ADA	2020	\$20,000 DNR Grant, Local Match
Add grills	2020	\$5000 DNR Grant, Local Match
Add rustic sites	2020	\$2000 General Fund
Benches near baseball field	2020	TBD DNR Grant, Local Match
ADA Picnic tables and benches repair/replace around entire park	2021	\$5000 DNR Grant, Local Match
Update power to 50 amp	2021	TBD, DNR Grant, Local Match
Re-do water system	2021	TBD, DNR Grant, Local Match
New roof on bathroom building	2021	\$2000 General Fund
Changing house near playground equip, inc concession stand	2022	TBD, DNR Grant, Local Match
<b>AROUND SAGOLA TOWNSHIP</b>		
RV/snowmobile trails	2020	Co-op with school, other municipalities, and other groups. DNR Grant, Local Match
Bike Path - Iron Belle Trail (Detroit to Ironwood) Sagola Township would need to purchase land.	2021	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

