

# **Stambaugh Township 5-Year Recreation Plan - DRAFT**

Stambaugh Township  
Stambaugh Township, Michigan

GEI Project No. 1702677

January 5, 2018

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# 1. Community Description

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Stambaugh Township is located in Iron County, Michigan in the west central part of the Upper Peninsula. Stambaugh Township is bordered on the north, west, south by the Ottawa National Forest and the east by the part of the Ottawa National Forest and the City of Iron River, City of Caspian, and the City of Gaastra. The southern part of Stambaugh Township sits on the border of Michigan and Wisconsin. The township has 190 square miles, or 121,600 acres which is owned either privately, by the State of Michigan, other municipalities, or as commercial forest land. The Township has a USGS Mean elevation of 1,667 ft. above sea level. Figure 1 located in Appendix A illustrates the boundaries of Stambaugh within Iron County, Michigan.

According to the 2010, Census the population of Stambaugh Township is 1,140 residents. That number increases during the summer by 20% due to seasonal residents and tourism, and during fall hunting seasons by as much as 50%. The age of the permanent residents in Stambaugh Township varies, with many older retired people coming home, and younger people leaving the area, but returning for vacations. The working age group that lives within the Township is steady year-round. The population trend over the last several years is steadily decreasing which is also true for all of Iron County.

The primary focus of this plan is to improve the existing recreational facilities within Stambaugh Township. This plan also identifies recreational needs of the Township's residents based on a Township wide survey completed as part of the recreational planning process and incorporates these needs into the plan. The jurisdiction of this recreation plan is solely within Stambaugh Township, however there are residents from the neighboring Iron River City who regularly utilize Stambaugh's recreational facilities and vice versa.

## 2. Administrative Structure

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Stambaugh Township is governed by a community elected Board which consists of five (8) members including the Township Supervisor. There is a Township Board Meeting that is held the first Wednesday of each month at the Township Hall. The current members of the Board and their positions are noted below:

### **STAMBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD**

- Supervisor Kevin Isaacson
- Clerk Theresa Bamgartner
- Treasurer Sharon Rogers
- Trustee Ronald Froblom
- Trustee Sherry Pangrazzi
- Constable Shelley Losey
- Constable Dean Stolberg
- Zoning Administrator Dennis Christensen

Kevin Isaacson, Township Supervisor responsibilities include managing the general activities of the Township, including the operation and maintenance of the Township's parks and recreational facilities. The Stambaugh Township Board has the sole authority to commit funds for parks and recreation facilities, accept grant funding, purchase land on behalf of the community, as well as the amount of money that will be invested for operation and maintenance.

The Stambaugh Township Board nominated and approved members of the current Parks and Recreation Committee based on a pool of residents who volunteered to be on the committee. This is a two-person group that regularly meets to evaluate the condition of the current recreational facilities and generated ideas and recommendations on what should be done regarding recreation planning throughout the Township. The Township's Parks and Recreation Committee has developed proposed improvements to the Township's recreation facilities and has provided the Township Board with the recommendations contained in this plan. The following is a list of the current Parks and Recreation Committee:

### **STAMBAUGH TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

- Kevin Isaacson
- Sherry Pangrazzi

The Township's Public Works Department currently operates and maintains various Township functions including the water distribution system and Township's parks and recreational facility.

The Department of Public Works consists of one full time and one part time crew who reports directly to the Township Supervisor.

For the Township's 2016-2017 fiscal year, there was \$1,060 expended on the operation and maintenance of the Township's recreational facilities including Holmes Park. These funds come out of the Township's general fund which is provided by property tax revenue. These funds are primarily committed to lawn maintenance, trash collection, and supplies.

## **3. Recreation Inventory**

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The following is a Recreation Inventory performed by GEI Consultants of Michigan, P.C. (GEI) in conjunction with the Township's Parks and Recreation Committee. Figure 2 located in Appendix A shows the location of the existing recreational facility within the Township. This map also shows the location of some of the proposed recreational sites, these will be discussed in more detail in the following sections.

### **3.1 Existing Facilities**

#### **3.1.1 Holmes Park**

Holmes Park is the currently the only park within the Township which encompasses about five and a half (5.5) acres lying along the northwest corner of Little Smokey Lake. Holmes Park has 1700-feet of frontage along Little Smokey Lake which contains a decent population of walleye along with northern pike, perch and panfish. Existing facilities at the park include a pay station for the 4 rustic camp sites (one is for the camp host) complete with picnic tables and bond fire pits, gravel access roads, a pit toilet, changing rooms and a small unimproved boat launch. Figure 3 located in Appendix A shows the Site Plan of Holmes Park. The Township also owns 30 acres of vacant land across the road from Holmes Park which could be used to expand the campground if the need arises. This is the primary outdoor recreation facility for the Township's residents and provides outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages. Holmes Park's service area is Stambaugh Township and the neighboring communities.

The overall condition of Holmes Park is fair.

The Township, along with the assistance of GEI conducted an accessibility evaluation of Holmes Park in September 2017. The facilities of this park were evaluated for accessibility based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and ranked Holmes Park a 1, where none of the site elements meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. It is the intent of the Township to apply for a future MDNR Trust Fund grant funding to improve this park and make it accessible in accordance with the latest ADA Standards for Accessible Design which is further described in the Goals and Objectives and Action Plan sections.

#### **3.1.2 Iron County Non-Motorized Heritage Trail (Belle Isle)**

Iron County and its municipalities and non-profit organizations have completed several projects along the Iron Belle trail route. These projects have included restrooms, pavilions, campgrounds, playgrounds, multipurpose recreational complexes, and several trail projects. Completed trail projects have a combined length of more than 14 miles and consist of two segments. One segment runs through the communities of Iron River Township, Iron River, Caspian, Gaastra, and Stambaugh Township. The eastern end of this trail terminates at Pentoga Park in Stambaugh

Township. A second segment runs through the City of Crystal Falls and westward into Crystal Falls Township along Highway US-2 towards Bewabic State Park and is on the Belle Isle Trail route. The most recent project completed includes the latest extension of the Iron County Non-Motorized Heritage Trail project completed in 2015 which runs through Stambaugh Township along County Road 424. This trail segment is owned by Iron County, however is maintained by Stambaugh Township. This project was funded in part by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the Michigan Department of Transportation, Transportation Alternatives Program at a cost of over \$2M. The Stambaugh Township portion of the trail includes 4.5 miles of 10-foot wide asphalt pathway, Trailhead Kiosk at Pentoga Park, benches, and resting areas due to varying topography. The overall condition of the Iron County Non-Motorized Heritage Trail is excellent having been built in 2015.

The Township, along with the assistance of GEI conducted an accessibility evaluation of the Iron County Non-Motorized Heritage Trail in September 2017. The facilities of this trail were evaluated for accessibility based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and ranked the Trail a 3, where most of the site elements meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

### **3.1.3 The Windsor Center**

Stambaugh Township is a member of the Windsor Recreation Authority (WRA) which funds and operates the recreation programs at the Windsor Center located along Highway US-2 in the City of Iron River as indicated on Figure 2 of Appendix A. This building was the former West Iron County High School which was converted to the Windsor Center instead of being demolished. The members of the WRA are the City of Iron River, Iron River Township, Stambaugh Township, and Bates Township. Recreation activities that take place at the Windsor Center are basketball, bocce, exercise, art, woodworking, dance, and more. The Windsor Center has a gymnasium for basketball and other activities; an auditorium which is used for movies, dance recitals, plays, lectures, concerts, open mic night and other activities; cafeteria; a woodshop; bocce courts; art room; computer lab; golf simulator; tennis; pickleball; karate; and various office rooms. The Windsor Center is the primary provider for youth and seniors. The WRA is funded by the member community tax dollars as well as donations from the community, registration fees for activities, and donations from the Friends of the Windsor Center (FOWC) group. So far the FOWC have providing funding for a professional sound system in the auditorium, entry improvements, signage, movie theater equipment, installation of broadband internet and Wi-Fi, installation of donated organ and piano, and numerous building renovations.

The Township, along with the assistance of GEI conducted an accessibility evaluation of the Windsor Center in January 2018. The facilities of the Windsor Center were evaluated for accessibility based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and ranked the Trail a 2, where some of the site elements meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The overall condition of the Windsor Center is fair.

Stambaugh Township has not received any MDNR grant funding for facilities they currently own.

## 4. Description of the Planning and Public Input Process

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There were multiple methods used for planning and public input for this recreation plan which include the following:

- A Recreation Workshop was held at Stambaugh Township Hall on January 3, 2018 and advertised in the newspaper asking residents to attend the meeting for input on the Township's existing parks and recreation facilities and provide feedback on what is most important to them, and what they would like to see added or improved in the Township. A copy of the summary of the meeting comments is included in Appendix B.
- A Public Hearing was held at the Stambaugh Township Hall on February 7, 2018. Prior to this public hearing the draft Recreation Plan was made available to the public at the Stambaugh Township Website and West Iron District Library for review and comments. A copy of the public hearing notice and notice of availability for the draft Recreation Plan is included in Appendix B. Also included in Appendix B is a copy of the meeting minutes from the public hearing and a copy of the resolution to adopt this Recreation Plan is included in Appendix C.
- The Township Board reviewed the final Recreation Plan along with the comments that were received during development of this plan. The public recommendations and goals were incorporated into this Recreation Plan and modified based on the work completed at these sites, changing goals and priorities associated with recreation within the Township, and public comments received during the development of this plan.

This Recreation Plan was adopted at a Regular Meeting on February 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stambaugh Township Hall. A copy of the Public Notice, which was published in the January 9, 2018 edition of The Iron County Reporter is included in Appendix B. Also included in Appendix B is a copy of the meeting minutes from the public hearing. Appendix C includes the adopted resolution by the Stambaugh Township Board.



## 5. Goals and Objectives

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Generally, recreational opportunities available to Stambaugh Township must factor diverse ages and interests within the community which is typical of most communities. Based on Census data, the median age of Stambaugh Township was 48 years with a Median Household Income of \$37,656 with 6.7% of the population below the poverty line. 2010 Census data indicates the total population of Stambaugh Township is 1,140 residents. Of that population, 18.6% are ages 0-17 years (school age), 58.3% are between 18-64 years (working age), and 23.2% are over 65 years (retirement age).

The overall goal of the Township is to improve the existing parks and recreational facilities that the Township offers its residents and tourists who visit the area. Due to limited budget and limited staff, it is the goal of the Township to improve their existing facilities before creating additional recreation sites which would increase operation and maintenance costs. It has been several years since the existing facilities have seen any improvements and most of the facilities have become outdated and are in need of repairs and/or replacement. Also, Stambaugh Township would like to make its facilities accessible to everyone by meeting ADA guidelines and be available for people with all abilities. Below is a summary of the goals and objectives of the Township Recreation Plan.

Goal 1: Provide facilities that are accessible to everyone and which meet ADA guidelines.

Objective 1: Improve all existing facilities by development of accessible parking areas, barrier free pathways and accessible restrooms.

*Based on public workshop input, Township residents felt strongly that the parks should be made more accessible.*

Goal 2: Improve overall condition and quality of existing recreation facilities.

Objective 2: Expand existing facilities/activities and/or upgrade existing facilities to make the Township's parks nicer all around. Update existing park facilities at the parks to improve quality of services.

*Based on public workshop input, Township residents noted that the overall quality and condition of the Township's parks should be improved.*

Goal 3: Provide additional recreational activities not currently provided.

Objective 3: Construct new activities within the Township such as accessible fishing dock, playground, improved boat launch, beach area, horseshoe pits, and volleyball court.

*Based on public workshop input, Township residents noted that they would like to see additional opportunities provided outside of those currently provided as noted above.*

The goals and objectives listed above are aimed at creating a fun, safe place for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy. It is important to make the facilities barrier-free and accessible for everyone. The improvements listed will potentially also attract tourists from other areas and neighboring communities to enjoy the opportunities that Stambaugh Township can present.

## 6. Action Program

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To meet the recreational goals and objectives of the Township, many improvements have been identified. These projects were identified through Recreation Committee meetings and the public information and planning process that the Township conducted. The completion of these projects depends heavily on the availability of funds. It is expected that the Township will apply for grant funding for the completion of these projects over a period of several years. These grant funds when combined with budgeted funding as well as donations of funds, materials, and/or labor are expected to fund recreation improvements within the Township. Below is a list and brief description of the proposed improvements at each site.

1. **Holmes Park:** The results of the Recreation Workshop indicated that the highest priority for improvements to the Township's existing recreational facilities is Holmes Park. This park is located on Little Smokey Lake which provides multiple outdoor recreation activities and is widely used by all age groups. Based on results of the community survey and Recreation Committee member discussions the following is a list of possible improvements to be made to Holmes Park and is not all inclusive of what could be done at this park:
  - Sheltered Pavilion with Changing Rooms
  - Playground Equipment
  - Potable Water Well with Services to Camp Sites
  - Accessible Parking Area
  - Accessible Paths throughout Park
  - Accessible Toilet Facilities
  - Accessible Fishing Dock
  - Improved Boat Launch
  - Improved Beach Area
  - Improved Camp Sites
  - Horseshoe Pits
  - Volleyball Court
  - Picnic Tables
  - Grills
  - Site Lighting
  - Security Cameras
  - Litter Receptacles
  - Recycling Center
  - Benches
  - Additional Campsites on Township Property Across Road

2. **Iron County Non-Motorized Heritage Trail:** The Iron County Heritage Trail Group recently secured a 2017 Belle Isle Trail Funding Planning Grant to plan the final route and details which will link the east and west side trail segments together. This final route includes continuing the terminus at Pentoga Park in Stambaugh Township to Crystal Falls Township. Figure 2 in Appendix A, shows the recently completed trail segment in Stambaugh Township. A study is currently under way by the Iron County Heritage Trail Group to plan the final segments of the Iron County Non-Motorized Heritage Trail (Iron Belle) Trail which will link the east and west sides of Iron County together. The completion of this segment of the trail will provide direct access to three campgrounds, seven lakes and many restrooms and other developments along this section of the trail. The goal of this project is to plan a route that will connect to the two ends of the county to make one unified trail.
  
3. **Windsor Center:** In 2012 the Windsor Recreation Authority hired an architectural firm to complete a study of the feasibility for continued use of the Windsor Center building. The study concluded the building is structurally sound but in need to energy conservation measures to reduce operating costs. In addition, accessibility, safety, and egress improvements were also recommended to bring the facility up to current building codes and standards. The following is a list of recommended improvements to building to address the issues identified during the study but not limited to the following:
  - Replace Roofs
  - Tuckpoint Exterior Brick
  - Structural Repairs as Necessary to Preserve Building
  - Insulate Exterior Walls
  - Remodel Restrooms for Water Conservation and make Barrier-Free
  - Replace Exterior Doors
  - Install Fire Suppression System
  - New Wall and Flooring Finishes
  - Replace Door Hardware to make Barrier-Free
  - Repair Terrazzo Flooring
  - Increase Daylighting
  - Heating and Ventilation Improvements
  - Install Air Conditioning Units
  - Plumbing Improvements
  - Upgrade Electrical Service and Wiring in Building
  - Install Backup Electrical Generators
  - Upgrade Lighting System to LED Fixtures
  - Upgrade Mechanical Equipment

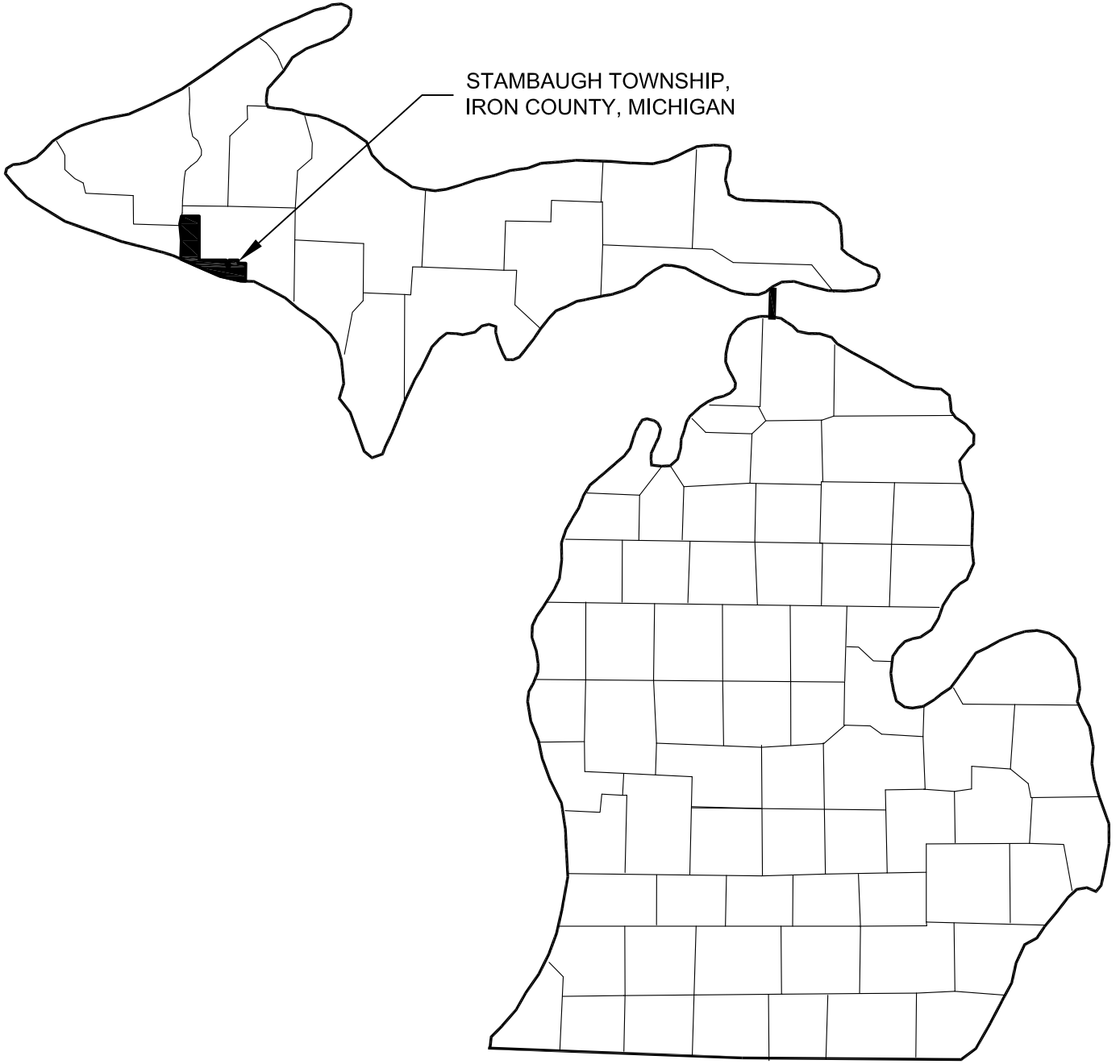
4. **Additional Outdoor Recreational Activities:** The Recreation Committee and public workshop input indicated that an outdoor volleyball court should be constructed at Holmes Park as well as horseshoe pits and hiking/biking trails to provide additional recreation opportunities not currently provided in Stambaugh Township.

# Appendix A

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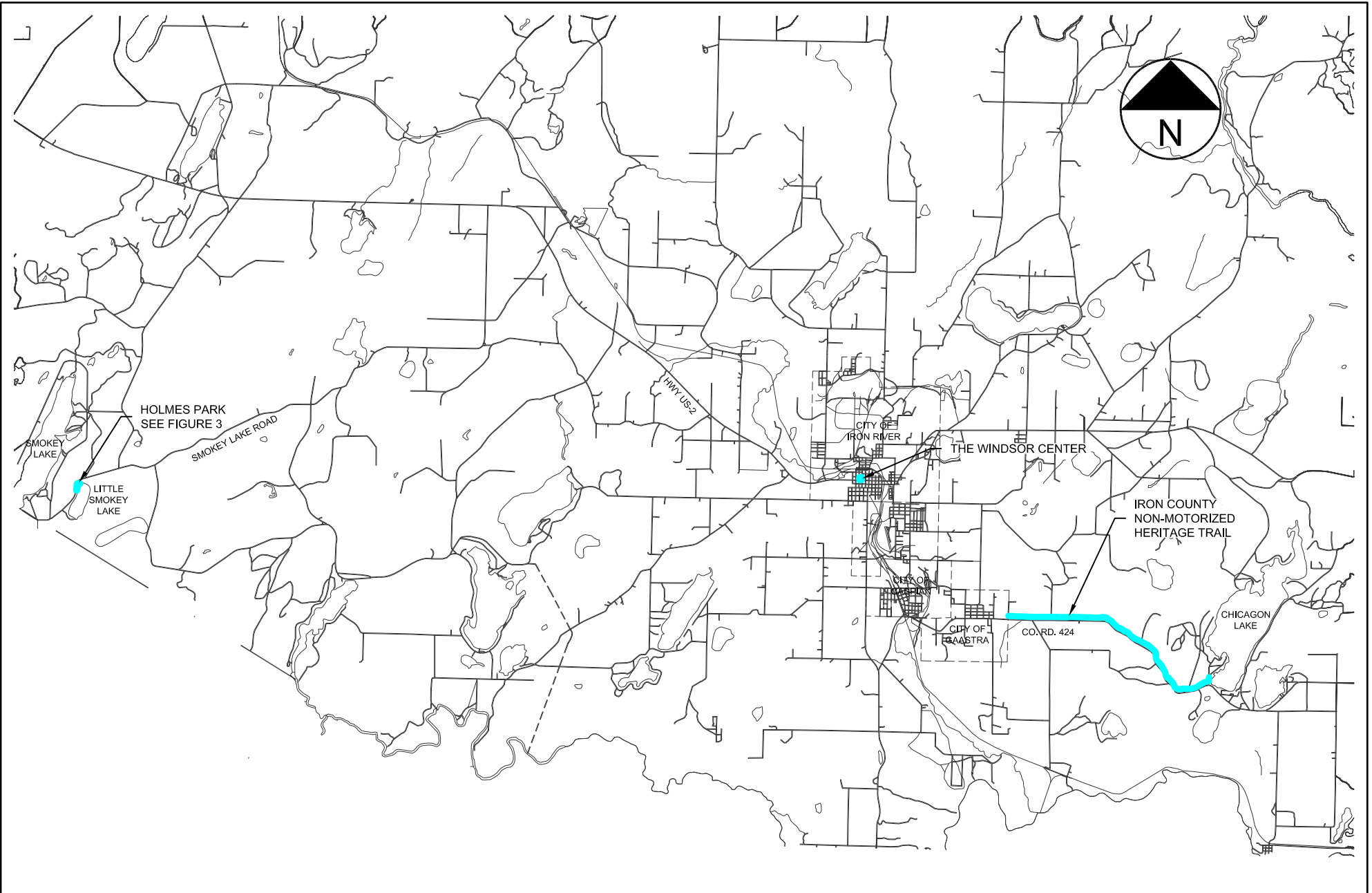
## Maps and Figures


1. **Figure 1 – Location Map**
2. **Figure 2 – Recreation Inventory Location Map**
3. **Figure 3 – Holmes Park Site Plan**



STATE OF MICHIGAN

MDNR Recreation Plan		LOCATION MAP	
Stambaugh Township, Michigan	Project 1702677	FEBRUARY 18, 2018	FIG. 1



<p>MDNR RECREATION PLAN</p>		<p>RECREATION INVENTORY LOCATION MAP</p>
<p>Stambaugh Township, Michigan</p>	<p>Project 1702677</p>	<p>February 7, 2018 <span style="float: right;">Fig. 2</span></p>





MDNR Recreation Plan		HOLMES PARK SITE PLAN
Stambaugh Township, Michigan	Project 1702677	FEBRUARY 7, 2018 FIG. 3

# Appendix B

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## Public Input Process

## **Appendix C**

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### **Resolution of Adoption**

## **Appendix D**

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### **Copy of Transmittal Letters to Planning Agencies**