

## Appendix O: Recreation Public Input Process and Summary of Results

Chocolay Township has assessed the park, recreation, and open space needs of the community through citizen surveys, user surveys, focus groups and detailed recreation inventories to determine need. The following data collection opportunities occurred in the years following the adoption of the 2004 Recreation Plan.

- Planning Commission meetings where recreation was discussed:

- 12.8.08
- 2.9.09
- 3.9.09
- 6.8.09
- 10.12.09
- 11.2.09
- 5.2.11
- 6.6.11
- 8.22.12
- 9.10.12
- 11.5.12
- 12.3.12
- 3.4.13
- 5.6.13
- 6.3.13
- 8.26.13
- 9.9.13
- 10.7.13
- 12.3.13
- 1.6.14

**Note** Planning Commission meeting minutes from 8.22.12 to present can be found online at [www.chocolay.org/agendasandminutes/planningcommission.php](http://www.chocolay.org/agendasandminutes/planningcommission.php).

- Township Board meetings where recreation was discussed:

- 6.20.05
- 8.15.05
- 6.19.06
- 6.19.06
- 11.13.06
- 4.16.07
- 12.15.08
- 2.20.12
- 4.16.12
- 8.22.12
- 2.18.13
- 3.13.13
- 4.15.13
- 5.20.13
- 8.19.13

**Note** Township Board meeting minutes from 2.12.12 to present can be found online at [www.chocolay.org/agendasandminutes/townshipboard.php](http://www.chocolay.org/agendasandminutes/townshipboard.php).

- Public meeting - April 12, 2012
- 2006 City of Marquette / Chocolay Township Community Attitude and Interest Survey (see Methods and Significant Results below)
- 2010 Public Opinion Survey of Township residents (see Methods and Significant Results below)
- 2013 Public Opinion Survey of Township residents (see Methods and Significant Results below and Appendix F)
- 2013 Beaver Grove Softball Survey (see Methods and Significant Results below and Appendix F)
- 2013 Lions Field Softball Survey (See Methods and Significant Results below and Appendix F)
- Meeting with DPW and Community Development Coordinator with user groups - June, 2013
- Public Hearing - February 10, 2014 Planning Commission meeting

**2006 CITY OF MARQUETTE / CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY ATTITUDE AND INTEREST SURVEY**

*Methods*

This statistically significant survey was administered by mail and phone to households within the City of Marquette and Chocolay Township. Surveys were mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households in the City of Marquette, and 1,000 households in Chocolay Township. The mailing was followed by an electronic voice message that encouraged respondents to take the survey. Two weeks after the mailing, Leisure Vision contacted households by phone, either to encourage participation by completing the mailed survey or to administer the survey by phone. 1,047 surveys were completed, with 392 coming from Chocolay Township residents, yielding a 95 percent confidence level with a precision of at least +/-3 percent.

*Significant results*

Only 25 percent of respondents had visited parks in Chocolay Township in the previous 12 months. Of these, 77 percent rated Chocolay Township facilities as either excellent or good. A majority of all respondents indicated that they had a need for six facilities, including paved walking and biking trails (81 percent), natural areas / hiking and biking trails (75 percent), picnic shelters / park pavilions (65 percent), historic sites and museums (64 percent), small neighborhood parks (62 percent), and large community parks (62 percent). Less than 50 percent indicated a need for more specialized opportunities such as playgrounds, sledding hills, outdoor ice-skating / hockey, fishing areas, community recreation centers, off leash dog parks, outdoor swimming pools, and other traditional sports facilities such as outdoor basketball, tennis, soccer, baseball, and softball areas.

The majority of respondents indicated a need for running or walking (77 percent), visiting nature areas / spending time outdoors (74 percent), attending community special events (62 percent), and attending live theater / concert performances (60 percent). Programs or facilities that were more

specialized to particular age groups (whether youth or seniors) received much less support, as did facilities or programs for one specialized activity (such as skiing, swimming, and traditional sports). The activities with the highest numbers of respondents indicating they would participate in more if it was available include attending live theater / concert performances, visiting nature areas / spending time outdoors, running or walking, and attending community special events.

The three actions to improve and expand facilities that were most supported are

1. Develop multipurpose trails providing linkages throughout the area
2. Purchase land and develop for passive activities
3. Develop new winter recreation facilities.

The most supported actions for increasing revenues to support park facilities include

- Increase user fees for non-residents
- Increase user fees for all participants

**2010 CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

Results from this survey are available in Appendix O. Information relating to recreation can be found in the following questions:

- #4 - access to parks and recreation as a reason for residing in the Township
- #5 - willingness to allocate money to improvements or maintenance of existing parks and open space or for acquisition of new parks or open space
- #7 - parks and recreation opportunities as a positive aspect of living in the Township
- #8 - lack of parks and recreation opportunities as a negative aspect of living in the Township, and other missing opportunities such as cultural, non-motorized transportation, bicycle/walking paths, community center, ATV trails, swimming facility, and other activities for kids
- #10 - level of support for protection of natural resources and open space

- #11 - level of importance of providing incentives to preserve natural features, install or repair pedestrian and bicycle paths, improve accessibility to open space, or develop more parks and recreation equipment.

**2013 CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

Results from this survey are available in Appendix O. Information relating to recreation can be found in the following questions:

- #10 - related to existing recreation facilities, and whether 1) respondents use the facility, 2) whether respondents are satisfied with the facility, and 3) whether respondents support funding facility improvements.
- #11 - related to potential recreation facilities, and whether respondents or anyone in their household anticipates a use of the potential facility, or supports funding the facility.

**2013 BEAVER GROVE SOFTBALL SURVEY**

*Methods*

This online survey was conducted at the field in September of 2013 during a weekend league tournament and online via the Chocolay Township web site through November of 2013.

*Significant results*

Most respondents were not residents, and were players. Participation was highest for Thursday, Monday, Wednesday, and Tuesday nights, in that order. 53 percent of respondents said the field condition is "good", and 31 percent said "excellent". Only 15 percent said field condition is "fair" or "poor".

The top ranked improvements needed were:

- Restrooms (68 percent)
- Food vendors (43 percent)
- Field (32 percent)
- Bleachers (26 percent)
- Safety (23 percent)
- Playground (19 percent)

- ♦ Parking (15 percent)
- ♦ Dugouts (13 percent)

### 2013 LIONS FIELD SOFTBALL SURVEY

#### Methods

This online survey was conducted at the field in September of 2013 during a weekend league tournament and online via the Chocolay Township web site through November of 2013.

#### Significant results

The survey was almost evenly balanced between resident and non-resident respondents. Most respondents were players. Participation was highest for Wednesday (81 percent) and Thursday (38 percent) nights. 51 percent of respondents said the field condition is "good", and 39 percent said "fair". Only 4 to 6 percent said field condition is "excellent" or "poor".

The top ranked improvements needed were:

- ♦ Restrooms (83 percent)
- ♦ Field (46 percent)
- ♦ Dugouts (46 percent)
- ♦ Bleachers (41 percent)
- ♦ Playground (41 percent)
- ♦ Safety (33 percent)
- ♦ Food vendors (13 percent)
- ♦ Parking (11 percent)