

## Chapter 3 RECREATION INVENTORY

The City enjoys a wide variety of recreational facilities that meet the needs of both the local and visitor populations. While many of the recreational facilities are typical of a community of Sault Ste. Marie's size, several unique factors result in a recreational environment that is atypical of a city of this size: 1) a tourism-dominated economy that creates a larger than normal demand for certain outdoor recreational facilities, 2) a riverfront location that creates several waterfront-oriented demands and opportunities ranging from boating access to ship-viewing, 3) the presence of major State and Federal facilities within the City, including the Soo Locks, 4) a climate that places a heavy emphasis on winter sports, 5) a 4-year University that provides a major recreational facility accessible to the resident population, 6) a significant historical environment that creates unique recreational opportunities, and 7) an autonomous Indian Reservation with fully developed recreation facilities including an Olympic-sized hockey rink. Taken together, these factors create a situation whereby recreational facilities and programs are addressed by several different public and quasi-public entities, and where overlap of interests is common.

### **EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

There are approximately 1657 acres of total recreational land in the City. Of this, 623 acres or 38% are City-owned or leased facilities, and the remaining 62 % are properties owned by the local school district, Lake Superior State University, the State and Federal governments, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and others, including private owners.

The Land Use Table below shows the ownership/acreage of the various recreational facilities in Sault Ste. Marie. The listed acreage totals are derived from the City assessor's records and include the total size of the parcel where the facility and/or recreation area is located.

<b>Recreation Land Use Table</b>									
	Mini Parks	Neighborhood /School Parks	Community Parks	Large Urban Parks	Special Use Parks	Sports Complexes	Natural Resource Areas	Total	
City	4.2	12.54	100.78	248.23	190.75		66.82	623.32	38%
School District		14.75				34.84	120	169.59	10%
LSSU						40.65		40.65	2%
Federal and State	2.26		26.5		5.25		411.76	445.77	26%
Sault Tribe	0.24				28.38			28.62	3%
Other/Private	0.76				134		214.7	349.46	21%
Total	7.46	27.29	127.28	248.23	358.38	75.49	813.28	1657.41	100%

The cooperation among these different agencies has been instrumental in providing the Sault with a variety of park facilities that would be difficult for the City to finance on its own.

### **INVENTORY UPDATE**

During the summer of 2009, City employees conducted a comprehensive parks and recreation facility inventory. The inventory included all recreational opportunities available within the City limits. Parks and facilities were identified and inspected for handicap accessibility, barrier-free access, and classified by facility type.

While the inventory includes all parks and recreational facilities within City limits, the focus of this plan only extends to parks and recreational facilities under the City's jurisdiction. Those of other jurisdictions are included to illustrate the broader picture of the Sault's recreational canvas for purposes of planning coordination and cooperation among local recreation providers. Including the facilities of all jurisdictions in the inventory is consistent with the goals and objectives of the plan, illustrating more accurately the needs and deficiencies of the current recreational system.

## **ORGANIZATION AND CONTENT OF THE INVENTORY**

The organization and content of this inventory is based on the recreation plan content requirements set by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE). The inventory includes the following:

**Park Name:** The official legal name of the park facility and/or recreation area.

**Park Size:** The size of each park in acres or length.

In most cases the size is the acreage of the parcel on which the park is located according to the City assessor's records. If tax parcel acreage was not available, the size of the park area was estimated using GIS software. The size of linear parks and trails is measured according to length in miles.

**Park Description:** A short description of each park including its purpose and use.

**Service Area:** The most likely service area of each park.

The service areas included are derived from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) classification system and are based on a radius of service unless otherwise indicated by region, neighborhood number or as, "Community-Wide."

**Number of Facilities:** Number of facilities in the park and/or recreational area.

A facility is defined as an area or place designed or built to serve a specific purpose or service, i.e. a playground, hockey rink, and basketball court are all examples of facilities.

**Accessibility Assessment:** Degree of accessibility indicated by numbered ranking.

Using a system provided by the MDNRE, each park was ranked on a scale of one to five to assess the accessibility of each park by people with disabilities.

<b>MDNRE Accessibility Ranking System</b>	
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 principles of universal design.

This accessibility ranking system is the result of a combination of public laws concerning public buildings covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and the Utilization of Public Facilities by the Physically Limited Act. The MDNRE guidelines recommend using this system to describe accessibility in the inventory.

### **Park Type or Classification and the Organization of the Inventory**

The recreation inventory items are organized according to the recreation facility owner or jurisdiction, with the City-owned or leased facilities presented first. Within each owner/jurisdiction category, the facilities are sorted by classification or park type. The MDNRE guidelines provide park type definitions derived from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) classification system. Each park was compared to the systems classification table below and classified by location, type, and size.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Location Criteria</b>	<b>Size Criteria</b>
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than 1/4 miles distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable-depends on function.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Location Criteria</b>	<b>Size Criteria</b>
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than Neighborhood Park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.
Natural Resource Area	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering	Resources availability and opportunity.	Variable
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resources availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand., usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single - purpose use	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres being optimal.
Private Park/ Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable- dependent on specific use.	Variable.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Description of each type</b>
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment.	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclist / in-line skaters. Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaces trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-lines skaters. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard- or soft-surfaced
Connector Trails	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters located in independent r.o.w. (e.g., old railroad r.o.w.). Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road r.o.w.
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain bikes	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resources areas.
Cross-Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross country skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas
Equestrian Trail	Trail developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource area. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled.

According to the above current classification system, some of the park types and descriptions have changed from those used in the 2005 Master Recreation Plan. For example, a park labeled as a Neighborhood Facility in the 2005 plan is still considered a Neighborhood Facility serving the Neighborhood Unit in the current plan. However, it may be classified as a *Neighborhood Park* or as a *Mini-Park* depending on size.

### **Park Design and Development Plan Drawings**

The Recreation Inventory includes available design and development plan drawings for various City facilities.

### **Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) Recreation Grant Inventory**

The Recreation Inventory chapter concludes with a table listing the various MDNRE recreation grants received by the City of Sault Ste. Marie since 1968.

### **SWOT Analysis**

In addition to the MDNRE requirements, the inventory includes a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. A SWOT analysis is intended to measure park/facility resources and capabilities. Using internal and external analysis of the park area in question, it identifies opportunities for park/facility development and growth. Internal analysis concerns attributes inside of the park/facility. These attributes are labeled Strengths and Weaknesses. External analysis concern attributes around the park/facility area. These attributes are labeled Opportunities and Threats. The SWOT analysis is organized into an easy to navigate matrix of four fields and is included after each park description.

### **PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES LOCATIONS MAP**

The following map shows the locations of 52 parks and recreational facilities within City Limits. All of the park jurisdictions are included on this map and are color coded to indicate under which jurisdiction the park falls.

**CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE PARKS AND RECREATION**

The following parks and recreation facilities are operated under the jurisdiction of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The City owns or leases 28 parks and/or recreation facilities. These park include seven mini-parks, one neighborhood park, seven community parks, and one large urban park. Facilities offered by the City’s park system include two ice rinks, five boats launches, two marinas, a seasonal ice race track, an 18-hole golf course, and two campground facilities, among a great deal of amenities.

**Weber Park (City)**

**0.27acres**

This passive park is located in the City’s downtown by the power canal. Newly developed in 2003, it is the site of the City’s memorial to our recreation benefactress Augusta Hursley Seal.



Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ Mile

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 4

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mini-Park service area</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-accessible and barrier-free</li> <li>-public park</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-very small parcel</li> <li>-no adjacent parking</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good condition</li> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-adjacent to neighborhood 1 and central business district</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on collector street and minor arterial</li> </ul>

**Chandler Park (City)**

**0.62 acres**

Neighborhood 4’s largest park area, Chandler’s Park contains a large adaptable open grassy area and small playground. Park is also located on a slight slope.



Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-services most of Neighborhood 4</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-public park</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-few amenities</li> <li>-few facilities</li> <li>-no parking</li> <li>-no site plan</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-local street road classification</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good to fair condition</li> <li>-located in Neighborhood 4</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-no park signage</li> </ul>

**Shunk Road Park (City)**

**0.4 acres**

Located in Neighborhood 8, this fenced park contains a playground and basketball court.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-serves half of neighborhood 8</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-well maintained</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-no parking</li> <li>-no site plan</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier free</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located in populated area of Neighborhood 8</li> <li>-sidewalk present, concrete, good condition,</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no marked crosswalk</li> <li>-located on urban collector road classification</li> <li>-no signage</li> <li>-no warning signage</li> </ul>

**Market Corner Pavilion (City)**

**0.4 acres**

A recent and welcome addition to Sault Ste. Marie’s park facilities, the Farmer’s Market Pavilion offers the community a unique opportunity to participate in a farmer’s market once a week during the summer months. Pavilion area includes attractive hardscaping with a fountain and a covered parking area. Pavilion cover is



removed during the winter months.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 3

Accessibility Rank: 4

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-serves Central Business District</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-barrier-free and accessible</li> <li>-parking</li> <li>-public park</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-few amenities</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-sidewalks presents, concrete, good condition</li> <li>-located in central business district</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial Classified Road</li> </ul>

### Maple / Ashmun Street (City)

0.6 acres

This is a small passive park that offers limited green infrastructure and open space. It includes a bench, landscaping, and open space with mature trees.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 1

Accessibility Rank: 4

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-serves Central Business District</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-barrier-free and accessible</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-parking</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-few amenities</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-sidewalks presents, concrete, good condition</li> <li>-located in central business district</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial Classified Road</li> </ul>



**Ashmun Street Pocket Park (City)**

**0.11 acres**

This is a small passive park that offers open space with mature trees and a bench.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 1

Accessibility Rank: 4

SWOT Analysis:



<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-serves Central Business District</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-barrier-free and accessible</li> <li>-public park</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-few amenities</li> <li>-no site plan</li> <li>-no circulation path</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-sidewalks presents, concrete, good condition</li> <li>-located in central business district</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial Classified Road</li> </ul>

**Lower Coast Guard Property (City)**

**0.8 acres**

Acquired from the Department of the Interior, the Lower Coast Guard Property offers great promise for development as waterfront viewing location. Currently the park’s open space is used for passive recreation and picnics. This park contains the remains of an abandoned Coast Guard boat launch and docking facility.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities 4

Accessibility Rank 1

SWOT Analysis:



<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-services part of Neighborhood 3</li> <li>-access to St. Mary’s River</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-parking</li> <li>-site development plan on file</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-facilities in very poor condition</li> <li>-lack of facilities and amenities</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-non accessible</li> </ul>
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<b>Opportunities:</b> -sidewalks present, concrete, good condition -located next to Neighborhood 3 -Part of Riverfront Walkway Plan	<b>Threats:</b> -located on Minor Arterial Classified Road -no crosswalks -If park left undeveloped it will fall back into the hands of the Department of the Interior
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## Algonquin Park (City)

**9.83 acres**

Serving all of Neighborhood 14, Algonquin Park offers abundant open space, basketball courts, a baseball backstop, and a small playground. The park also includes a large undeveloped wooded area.



Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Service Area: ½ mile

Facilities: 4

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<b>Strengths:</b> -large neighborhood park -serves all of Neighborhood 14 -partially wooded parcel -public park	<b>Weaknesses:</b> -few amenities -poor quality facilities -non accessible -non barrier-free -no parking -no site plan
<b>Opportunities:</b> -located on Local Street classified road -some sidewalks, concrete, good condition -located in center of Neighborhood 15	<b>Threats:</b> -no crosswalks -no signage -poor sidewalk connections

## St. Mary's Park (Leased to City)

**2.71 acres**

Located on Sault Ste. Mary's downtown island, Saint Mary's Park is the chief recreation provider for Neighborhood 2. The park includes a well developed baseball diamond, tennis court, fenced playground, and basketball courts. The park also offers adaptable open space.



Park Classification: School Park

Service Area: ½ mile

Facilities: 6

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-neighborhood park</li> <li>-services all of Neighborhood 2</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>Available to public</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-facilities in need of maintenance</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-no site development plan</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-bordered on one side by local street and other by urban collector road classification</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, varying condition</li> <li>-located in center of Neighborhood 2</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-some of park space is leased from local church organization</li> </ul>

**Rotary Park (Leased by City)**

**4.16 acres**



This park is located just east of Aune-Osborn and offers a spectacular view of the lake carriers in the St. Mary’s River. There are picnic tables, playground equipment, a pit toilet facility. The parking area on the west side has been paved. This park will become the gateway to the lower river islands development and is included in the Lower River Islands Master Plan of Development. The park is pending a major upgrade including a fishing platform and kayak launch. A fishing pond for children and youth has been created and stocked on the inland side of the park.

Park Classification: Community Park

Service Area: Community

Facilities: 4

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-Community-Wide service area</li> <li>-lots of amenities</li> <li>-access to St. Mary’s River</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-paved parking</li> <li>-new site development plan</li> <li>-entry signage</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-facilities need improvements</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial Class Road</li> <li>-Bike Route connection</li> <li>-across from Municipal Golf Course</li> <li>-part of Riverfront Walkway Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-no sidewalks</li> <li>-poor sidewalk connections</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p>

**Sault Seal Recreation Area (City)**

**32.98 acres**

The Sault Seal Recreation Area, formerly known as Minneapolis Wood, is the City’s premier winter recreation facility. The park’s recreational offerings include a tubing facility complete with wire tubing tow lift, a beginner’s ski hill and snowboarding park complete with a wire tow lift, and a sledding hill. Winter facilities also include trails developed for cross country skiing and snowshoeing and a warming building with concessions, rest rooms, and park viewing. Much of the property is heavily wooded and undeveloped. It continues to be improved through a citizen-led effort called “Project Park”. The City and the Sault Area Public Schools continue to work together on Sault Seal Recreation Area and the adjoining school property at the base of the hill. Recently, a crushed dolomite trail was added to the Area and named the Lynn Trail. Also, in the summer of 2009 a disk golf course was developed on the property.



Park Classification: Community Park

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 7

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large Community Park</li> <li>-city-wide service</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-access to upland woodlands</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-gravel parking</li> <li>-entry signage</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-no site plan developed</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Local Street Classified Roadway</li> <li>-located in the center of the city between Neighborhoods 9 and 10</li> <li>-close to proposed Bike Trail</li> <li>-directly adjacent to High School Backlands</li> <li>-located near snowmobile trail</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no sidewalks</li> <li>-no crosswalks</li> </ul>

**Alford Park (City)**

**2.9 acres**

Located directly on the waterfront, Alford Park includes a lighted waterfront walkway with benches and railing used equally by fishermen and sightseers, a horseshoe pit facility, and open space.

Park Classification: Community Park

Service Area: Community

Facilities: 4

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-services whole city</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-partially accessible</li> <li>-access to St. Mary's River</li> <li>-Partial Site Plan</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-asphalt parking</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-limited area of parcel developed as park</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-site development plan needs update</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial Classified Roadway</li> <li>-located north of Neighborhood 3</li> <li>-next to large undeveloped city owned property</li> <li>-located on bike route</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good condition</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> </ul>



**Aune - Osborn Park (City)**

**16.1 acres**

This is a large waterfront property on the lower St. Mary's River that is functionally divided into two major parts. The western end of the park is used as a tourist campsite area and includes a small playground area and barrier-free rest room / showering facility, as well as pump out facilities. The east end is undeveloped, but is used for sightseeing along the St. Mary's River. Recently 20 new modern campsites were added utilizing CMI grant funds. A fish cleaning station has also been constructed.

Park Classification: Community Park

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 6



Accessibility Rank: 3

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large Community Park</li> <li>-services entire city</li> <li>-variety of facilities</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-gravel and paved parking</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-lack of amenities</li> <li>-old site plan</li> <li>-partially accessible</li> <li>-partially barrier-free</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial Class Road</li> <li>-Bike Route connection</li> <li>-part of Riverfront Walkway Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-no sidewalks</li> <li>-poor sidewalk connections</li> </ul>

**Community Gardens (Leased to City)**

**2.26 acres**

Located next to the Edison Sault Electric Power Canal, the Community Gardens park facility is the fruit of a local grassroots gardening movement. The park contains a number of garden plots, picnic tables, and City water access. Gardeners enjoyed their first crop harvest in Fall of 2009.



Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Community

Facilities: 3

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small special-use park</li> <li>-community-wide service area</li> <li>-in first stage of development</li> <li>-public</li> <li>-gravel parking</li> <li>-good entry signage</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no site plan on file</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-limited amenities</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-entrance on Urban Collector classified roadway</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good quality</li> <li>-located on proposed multi-use trail</li> <li>-located in Neighborhood 5</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> </ul>

**Malcolm Park (City)**

**44.64 acres**

Malcolm park is the community’s principal ball field facility. The park consists of nine ball fields (fast pitch, slow pitch, softball, women’s, and little leagues) most with complete dugouts and bleachers. Restrooms, storage buildings and parking areas are spread throughout the complex. The facility also includes picnic tables and playground areas. Recent additions to the park include a covered barrier-free and accessible grandstand, a large playground structure, and a pavillion.



Park Classification: Community Park

Service Area: Community

Facilities: 22

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large Community Park</li> <li>-services whole Community</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-recent site development plan</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-gravel parking</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-some facilities in disrepair</li> <li>-facilities in need of ADA upgrade</li> <li>-mostly non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-sidewalks present</li> <li>-located in Neighborhood 6</li> <li>-located on Bike Path</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on an Urban Minor Arterial Class Roadway</li> <li>-poor sidewalk connections</li> </ul>

**Sherman Park (City)**

**72.52 acres**

This is the City’s flagship park, located on the upper St. Mary’s River. It contains the City’s only public beach. Amenities include playground equipment for all ages of children, a large picnic area picnic tables, horseshoe pits, changing rooms, toilet facilities, pavilion, concession stand, large outdoor grill, exercise course, ballfield, volleyball courts, a campground, and a large undeveloped portion that has been used for nature trails and cross-country skiing. A comprehensive Master Plan was



completed in 2002. The first phase of the plan, the beach accessibility upgrade, has been completed, utilizing a grant from the MNRTF.

Park Classification: Large Urban Park

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 15

Accessibility Rank: 3

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large urban park</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-new facilities</li> <li>-partially barrier-free</li> <li>-partially accessible</li> <li>-access to upper St. Mary's River</li> <li>-recent site development plan</li> <li>-public park</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-aging facilities</li> <li>-building poorly maintained</li> <li>-serious accessibility gaps</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on local streets</li> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-close to proposed bike route/trail</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no sidewalk connections</li> <li>-poor connectivity</li> </ul>

**Ashmun Bay (City)**

**175.71 acres\***

This significant land parcel is located in close proximity to the downtown and offers the only major boat launch into the upper river. The site is predominantly undeveloped, although it was used by the Rendezvous du Sault for several years. The City acquired it in 2000 with funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. In 2004 a multi-phased Master Plan was completed. Phases 1 and 2 include property acquisition for trail development and at the entrance and the placement of the historic Fort Street Bridge structure as part of the trail system within the park.

Park Classification: Community Park

Service Area: Community

Facilities: 4

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:



<b>Strengths:</b> -large Community Park -regional service area -access to unique ecosystems -paved and gravel parking -recent site development plan -public park	<b>Weaknesses:</b> -few amenities -non accessible -non barrier-free
<b>Opportunities:</b> -located on Urban Collector Classified Roadway -adjacent to two proposed bike paths -located near tourism zoning	<b>Threats:</b> -no sidewalks -no crosswalks

\*Park acreage includes the bottomlands of Ashmun Bay, dry acreage is approximately 50 acres.

**Lakeshore Park (City)**

**3.26 acres**

Set aside for development as a neighborhood park facility, this parcel of land is awaiting development should the community recognize the need in the future. The park is covered in dense mature vegetation.

Park Classification: Natural Resources Area

Facilities: 1

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<b>Strengths:</b> -would serve half of Neighborhood 15	<b>Weaknesses:</b> -undeveloped
<b>Opportunities:</b> -center of Neighborhood 15 -gravel streets	<b>Threats:</b> -no sidewalks -no crosswalks

**Ravine Park (City)**

**1.06 acres**

This is an undeveloped green area in a steep topographical setting located between North Ravine Street and South Ravine Street. It includes a non-motorized trail over a portion of South Ravine Street between McCandless Street and Hillside Street. This street was closed due to citizen concerns about speeding in Neighborhood 4.



Park Classification: Natural Resources Area

Accessibility Rank: 1

Facilities: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<b>Strengths:</b> -small natural area -public park	<b>Weaknesses:</b> -undeveloped -no site plan
<b>Opportunities:</b> -located on Local Street classified roadways -one sidewalk, asphalt, good condition -located in Neighborhood 4	<b>Threats:</b> -no crosswalks -poor signage

**I-500 Track (City)**

**51.97 acres**

A one-mile banked oval course used once a year by a non-profit organization for the annual I-500 snowmobile race.



Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 4

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<b>Strengths:</b> -very large park -regional service area -public land	<b>Weaknesses:</b> -limited amenities -moderate-poor quality facilities -non accessible -non barrier-free
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no site plan</li> <li>-seasonal use</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Local Street classified roadway</li> <li>-adjacent to Neighborhood 6 and LSSU</li> <li>-close to off-street bike path</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-no sidewalks</li> </ul>

**Harvey Marina (City)**

**3.68 acres**

Located on the lower river, this facility has long served as the City’s principal marina facility with berthing for 30 boats, including utility hookups, restrooms, holding tank and improved boat launch facilities. A major dredging project was completed in 2000 utilizing Waterways Emergency Dredging funds. With the completed Kemp Marina being a major transient marina facility, the Harvey Marina will continue to serve local residents and transients.

Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 6

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-medium sized park</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-adequate amenities</li> <li>-partially accessible</li> <li>-access to lower St. Mary’s River</li> <li>-public park</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-facilities in disrepair</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-old site development plan</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial classified roadway</li> <li>-located on proposed bike route</li> <li>-Located in Neighborhood 9</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-no sidewalks</li> </ul>



**Mission Street Boat Launch (City)**

**11.26 acres**

Located adjacent to the Aune-Osborn Community Park Facility, the Mission Street Boat Launch has a large gravel parking area, a large grassy area and a concrete boat launch with two transient docks. This park is used primarily for launching recreational boats into the



lower St. Mary's River.

Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-medium sized park</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-moderate quality facilities</li> <li>-access to lower St. Mary's River</li> <li>-public park and launch</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-few amenities</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-no site development plan</li> <li>-gravel parking</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial classified roadway</li> <li>-located on St. Mary's River</li> <li>-part of Riverfront Walkway Project</li> <li>-located on bike route</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no sidewalks</li> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>- poor sidewalk connectivity</li> </ul>

### **Pullar Community Building (City)**

**1.76 acres**

This is the City's main indoor community recreation facility, primarily used for hockey and figure skating. The facility has also been used for concerts, teen dances, circuses and other special events throughout the year. Major rehabilitation has been undertaken, and is continuing on this building, with boiler repair, exterior cleaning and tuck point, new signs doors, and landscaping undertaken since 2005. A site development plan was recently completed. The plan includes an accessibility overhaul, new locker rooms, and an accessible viewing platform.



Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 10

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large community building/arena</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-recent site development plan</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-partially non barrier-free and non accessible</li> <li>-parking lot in disrepair</li> </ul>
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<b>Opportunities:</b> -located on Minor Arterial Classified roadway -crosswalks present -sidewalks present, concrete, some in poor condition -located in historic mariner's park adjacent to Neighborhood 2	<b>Threats:</b>
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### **Kaine's Rink (City)**

**0.9 acres**

Located in an historic structure used at one point as a trolley garage, Kaine's rink is a fundamental piece of local hockey culture, and has been used for generations of local hockey players. The rink is seasonal and ice conditions depend largely on local weather conditions. During the summer months the Rink is used for community functions, training, and roller hockey.



Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 4

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<b>Strengths:</b> -large community building -regional service area -public building	<b>Weaknesses:</b> -few amenities -moderate-poor quality facilities -non accessible / barrier-free -no site plan
<b>Opportunities:</b> -located on Minor Arterial classified roadway -located by neighborhoods 5 and 7	<b>Threats:</b> -no crosswalks present -no sidewalks -poor connectivity

### **Municipal Golf Course (City)**

**112.83 acres**

Owned by the City but contracted to the Sault Country Club for management, this golf course is an 18 hole facility located close to the Sugar Island ferry with stunning views of the lower St. Mary's River. The club house includes an outdoor pool available for public use.



Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 6

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large golf course</li> <li>-services entire region</li> <li>-high-moderate quality facilities</li> <li>-publically owned course</li> <li>-paved parking available</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-limited amenities</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-no site development plan</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial Class roadway</li> <li>-on proposed bike route</li> <li>-across from Aune-Osborn and Rotary Parks</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no sidewalks</li> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-poor connectivity</li> </ul>

**Lower River Islands (City)**

**62.5 acres**

This group of three islands totaling 62.5 acres, formerly classified as a “public land opportunity” is now being developed as a park, based on a Master Plan of Development completed in 1996. The master development plan calls for a pedestrian bridge from Rotary Park to the first island, Steere Island, and watercraft access to the other two islands. Steere Island will be the most developed with paved trails, fishing and observation platforms, and use of an existing structure as an information center planned. One of the islands is quite small and will be left much as is. The third island, the largest of the three, will include a rustic campground facility, nature trails and fishing opportunities.

Park Classification: Natural Resources Area

Service Area: Community

Facilities: 3

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large natural area</li> <li>-access to unique natural ecosystems</li> <li>-recent site development plan</li> <li>-public land</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-undeveloped</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located between Rotary Park and Harvey Marina</li> <li>-located on lower St. Mary's River</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-thoroughly check development regulations prior to development</li> </ul>

**Kemp Marina (City)**

**5.34 acres**

Owned by the City, but leased to the Sault de Sainte Marie Historic Sites Inc., this water front facility is directly proximate to the “S.S. Valley Camp” museum ship and the historic home district. The park is the site of the 62-slip Kemp Marina facility completed in 1998.

Park Classification: Special-Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 5

Accessibility Rank: 5

SWOT Analysis:



<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-adequately sized marina</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-accessible and barrier-free</li> <li>-access to lower St. Mary's River</li> <li>-site development plan</li> <li>-paved parking</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Collector Street classified road</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good quality</li> <li>-located in Historic Mariner's Park area on St. Mary's River</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-poor sidewalk connections</li> </ul>

**Shallows Boat Launch (City)**

**0.75 acres**

The Shallows Boat Launch is very small park located in Neighborhood 15, used as the second of two boat launch / access points to the upper St. Mary's River. Not suitable for large boats, this facility is ideal for launching small personal watercraft.

Park Classification: Special-Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 1



## SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-regional service area</li><li>-access to upper St. Mary's River</li><li>-public park</li></ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-old site development plan</li><li>-non accessible</li><li>-non barrier-free</li><li>-facility in disrepair</li><li>-grass parking</li><li>-very small park</li></ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Local Street road classification</li><li>-located in Neighborhood 15</li></ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-no sidewalks</li><li>-no crosswalks</li></ul>

**SAULT AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Sault Area Public Schools (SAPS) operates the following facilities (169.7 acres). These facilities provide recreational opportunities to the people of Sault Ste Marie. These facilities are not under the City’s jurisdiction. They should be considered in recreational planning decision making. Cooperation with SAPS should be encouraged to meet the population’s recreational goals and objectives.

**Washington School Park (SAPS)**

**7.36 acres**

Washington School Park is the chief recreational facility for children ages 5-12 in Neighborhood 6. The park contains a number of play structures, basketball courts, a baseball backstop, and soccer field. The school building contains a gymnasium and kitchen facility available to the public for programs and events.



Park Classification: School Park

Service Area: ½ mile

Facilities: 6

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-School-Park</li> <li>-services half of Neighborhood 6</li> <li>-available to public</li> <li>-gravel and paved parking areas</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-some facilities in disrepair</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on an Urban Collector classified road</li> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good condition</li> <li>-located in center of Neighborhood 6</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p>

**Lincoln School Park (SAPS)**

**7.39 acres**

Located in Neighborhood 7, Lincoln School park is the neighborhood’s primary recreational facility. It includes numerous play structures, basketball courts, a baseball backstop, and an abundance of adaptable open space. The school building contains



a gymnasium and kitchen facility available to the public for programs and events.

Park Classification: School Park

Service Area: ½ mile

Facilities: 5

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:



<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-School Park</li> <li>-services all of Neighborhood 7</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-paved and gravel parking</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-some facilities in severe disrepair</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-no site plan</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Local Street classified roadways</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good condition</li> <li>-located in the center of Neighborhood 7</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-lack of marked crosswalks</li> </ul>

**A.J. Van Citter’s Athletic Field (SAPS)**

**19.14 acres**

The Van Citter’s Athletic field is Sault Area School Districts primary outdoor recreation facility. The complex includes complete track and field facilities, a football field, soccer field, and several practice fields. The complex offers numerous amenities for game functions including stadium seating, press box, concessions area, and restrooms.

Park Classification: Sports Complex

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 12



Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large sports complex</li> <li>-adequate amenities</li> <li>-accessible</li> <li>-partially barrier-free</li> <li>-high-quality facilities</li> <li>-public school property</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-partially accessible/barrier-free</li> <li>-gravel parking</li> <li>-site plan status unknown</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on a Urban Collector classified roadway</li> <li>-located adjacent to Neighborhoods 7 and 8</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, fair-poor condition</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks marked</li> </ul>

**Sault High Sports Complex (SAPS)**

**15.7 acres**

The Sault Area High School and Junior High are combined into one large complex in this inventory. This complex includes two gymnasiums, a pool, a rifle range, fitness facilities, tennis courts, a soccer field, baseball field, basketball courts and a state of the art skateboarding park. This complex is adjacent to The Sault Seal Recreation Area.



Park Classification: Sports Complex

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 13

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sports Complex</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-public school</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-partially barrier-free and accessible</li> <li>-site plan status unknown</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Urban Minor Arterial classified roadway</li> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good condition</li> <li>-located between Neighborhoods 9 and 10</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-needs barrier-free upgrade by January 1, 2010</li> </ul>

## High School Backlands (SAPS)

120 acres

This large area to the South of Sault Area High School is undeveloped and holds great potential for future recreational development.

Park Classification: Natural Resources Area

Facilities: 1

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:



<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-extremely large natural preserve</li><li>-regional service area</li><li>-access to unique natural resources</li><li>-snowmobile trail present</li></ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-no amenities</li><li>-no known facilities</li><li>-non accessible</li><li>-non barrier-free</li><li>-no known site development plan</li><li>-no parking</li></ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-located on Local Street classified roadway</li><li>-located adjacent to Neighborhood 15</li></ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-no crosswalks</li><li>-no sidewalks</li></ul>

## **STATE AND FEDERALLY FUNDED RECREATION FACILITIES**

There are several different State and Federal jurisdictions that operate park lands and recreation facilities within the City of Sault Ste. Marie. These recreation providers offer opportunities to City residents and visitors alike and contribute greatly to not only to local recreation, but also to the City’s cultural tapestry. These jurisdictions include the State of Michigan (417 acres), Lake Superior State University (40.65 acres), United States Coast Guard (2.26 acres), Sault Housing Commission (1.6 acres), Corp of Engineers (26.96 acres), and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians (an estimated 19.5 acres). The continued cooperation between these recreational providers and the City allow City residents and tourists to experience world-class recreation in a small-town environment.

### **State Rest Area (State)**

**5.25 acres**

This is a Michigan Department of Transportation Department border information center, and includes restrooms and picnic area.

Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Community

Facilities: 5

Accessibility Rank: 4

SWOT Analysis:



<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-community wide service area</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-paved parking</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Urban Collector classified roadway</li> <li>-crosswalks present</li> <li>-located on proposed off-road bike path</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no sidewalks</li> </ul>

**Algonquin Ski Trail (State)**

**411.76 acres**

This major state DNR land holding contains several miles of trails used in the Winter as cross-country skiing and snow shoeing trails. In the Summer months the trails are utilized by outdoor enthusiasts and hikers. This large piece of land includes a variety of undisturbed natural ecosystems including lakes, marshes, and woodlands. A portion of the trail was lighted following a local fund raising initiative. Local fundraising is keeping the trail maintained following State budget cuts.



Park Classification: Natural Resources Area

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 3

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-very large State Parcel</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-access to unique ecosystems</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-parking in disrepair</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Local Street classified roadway</li> <li>-adjacent to Neighborhood 15</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-no sidewalks</li> <li>-poor entry signage</li> </ul>

**Norris Center (LSSU)**

**40.65 acres**

An extensive concentration of indoor and outdoor facilities including soccer field, five tennis courts, indoor ice arena, diving and swimming pools, weight lifting rooms, racquetball and handball courts, gymnasiums and an indoor track and fitness area. These facilities are available to the general public when not used by the University.



Park Classification: Sports Complex

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 11

Accessibility Rank: 5

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-large sports complex</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-extremely high-quality facilities</li> <li>-accessible and barrier-free</li> <li>-public access for small fee</li> <li>-paved parking</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-public access is occasionally limited due to collegiate functions</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Minor Arterial classified road</li> <li>-sidewalks present, asphalt and concrete, good condition</li> <li>-adjacent to off-road bike path</li> <li>-located close to Neighborhood 4</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p>

**Coast Guard Personnel Park (Federal)**

**2.26 acres**

Intended for use by Coast Guard personnel only, this park includes a fenced tot-lot, large play structure, and a multi-use court. The multi-use court is an adaptable recreational facility that includes basketball, tennis, and ice/roller hockey surrounded by a tall chain fence.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 4

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-services North-West corner of Neighborhood 14</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-non accessible or barrier-free</li> <li>-park not available for public use</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on local class roadway</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good condition,</li> <li>-located on the West side of Neighborhood 14</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p>



**Kimball Street Park (SHC)**

**1.6 acres**

A small park facility located in Neighborhood 7, Kimball Street Park contains a play structure, basketball court, and a bench. This property is managed by the Sault Housing Commission.



Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: 1/4 mile

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Services Southern portion of Neighborhood 7</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-available to the public</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small park</li> <li>-non-accessible</li> <li>-no site plan</li> <li>-no parking</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-local street road classification</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good condition</li> <li>-located in Neighborhood 7</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> </ul>

**Brady Park (Federal)**

**13.71 acres**

Located adjacent to the Soo Locks, this park is the site of the annual City fireworks display. The park is host to several significant historical monuments, displays, and includes a sacred Anishinabee burial ground. A small picnic area near the waterfront is developed.



Park Classification: Community Park

Service Area: Community

Facilities: 6

Accessibility Rank: 1



## SWOT Analysis:

<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Neighborhood Park Considered to be Community Park</li> <li>-serves whole community</li> <li>-offers view of lower river</li> <li>-site plan on file</li> <li>-public park</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-few amenities</li> <li>-majority of facilities in poor condition</li> <li>-non barrier free/accessible</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on an Local Street Classified Roadway</li> <li>-adjacent to Federal St. Mary's Locks Facility</li> <li>-streetscape project to begin shortly</li> <li>-may tie into water front walkway project</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-sidewalk connections very limited</li> <li>-few if any crosswalks</li> </ul>

### Soo Locks Park (Federal)

**13.25 acres**

Considered a primary local attraction, this well-maintained park is located directly adjacent to the Soo Locks. The facility offers viewing overlooks, benches, lighted fountain, several monuments within the park, restrooms and a year-round information center. The park is meticulously maintained and offers contains an arboretum containing rare, hard to find, and local trees.

Park Classification: Community Park

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 9

Accessibility Rank: 3

### SWOT Analysis:

<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Neighborhood Park with unique offerings making it a Community Park</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-ample amenities</li> <li>-partially accessible and barrier-free</li> <li>-public park</li> <li>-paved parking</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p>
<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on an Urban Collector Classified Roadway</li> <li>-sidewalks present, concrete, good to fair condition</li> <li>-adjacent to Federal St. Mary's Locks Facility</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-park access is limited due to national security</li> </ul>



**Shawano Drive Playground (Tribe) 0.137 acres (estimate)**

A small playground area located on the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indian's 85.6 acre reserve.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 1

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis: see Saultier Drive Playground SWOT matrix.



**Saultier Drive Playground (Tribe) 0.10 acres (estimate)**

A small playground area located on the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indian's 85.6 acre reserve.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 1

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

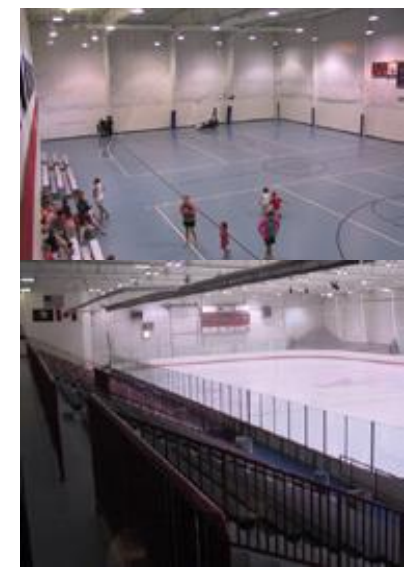


<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-services center of neighborhood 9</li> <li>-high quality facilities</li> <li>-open to public</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-facilities poorly connected</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-no site plan</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-local street road classification</li> <li>-one multiuse trail, asphalt, good condition</li> <li>-located in Neighborhood 9</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-no marked connections or sidewalks</li> </ul>

**Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center (Tribe)**

**19.26 acres (estimate)**

Located on the Tribe's 225-acre Methodist Mission Reserve Property, the arena is available for use by the community. It houses two year-round indoor ice rinks, a gymnasium, exercise facilities, a day care



center, spa, and pro shop. The building also has accommodations for meetings, parties, and concession area. Outdoor facilities include a playground built fall 2009 and a snowshoeing/hiking trail.

Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 7

Accessibility Rank: 4

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-large indoor sports complex</li><li>-regional service area</li><li>-ample amenities</li><li>-accessible and barrier-free</li><li>-facilities available to public for a fee</li><li>-paved parking</li></ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-located on Local Street classified roadway</li><li>-located in center of Neighborhood 9</li></ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-no sidewalks</li><li>-no crosswalks</li><li>-poor connectivity</li></ul>

**PRIVATE PARKS AND RECREATION**

The following private parks and recreation facilities are operated by private entities.

**Bridge Village Playground (Private) .537 acres (estimate)**

Intended for use by Bridge Village residents, the Bridge Village Playground is located in the residential development’s central commons area.



Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 1

Accessibility Rank: 1

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-services Neighborhood 6</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-very small playgrounds</li> <li>-few amenities</li> <li>-low quality facilities</li> <li>-non-accessible</li> <li>-non barrier free</li> <li>-non-public park</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-local street road classification</li> <li>-located in Neighborhood 6</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no sidewalks</li> <li>-no crosswalks</li> </ul>

**Edge of the Woods (Private) 0.80 acres**

A very small private park, the Edge of the Woods mini-park contains the only playground in Neighborhood 11.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-services Neighborhood 11</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-very small playgrounds</li> <li>-few amenities</li> <li>-low quality facilities</li> <li>-non-accessible</li> <li>-non barrier free</li> <li>-non-public park</li> </ul>
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<b>Opportunities:</b> -local street road classification -located in Neighborhood 11	<b>Threats:</b> -no sidewalks -no crosswalks
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**Rapids Drive Playground (Private)**

**0.20 acres**

A very small private park, the Rapids Drive mini-park contains the only playground in Neighborhood 10. The private park is part of the Lake Superior Estates Mobile Home Park.

Park Classification: Mini-Park

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 1

SWOT Analysis:

<b>Strengths:</b> -serves densely populated part of Neighborhood 10	<b>Weaknesses:</b> -small playground -few amenities -poor quality facilities -non-barrier free -non-accessible -private park
<b>Opportunities:</b> -local street class roads -located in Neighborhood 10 -adjacent to High School backlands	<b>Threats:</b>

**Tanglewood Golf Course (Private)**

**134 acres**

A private 18 hole golf course designed by a local golf enthusiast, Tanglewood Golf course provides recreational opportunities in a natural setting. The course offers multiple amenities including a clubhouse and bathroom facility.

Park Classification: Special Use

Service Area: Regional

Facilities: 4

Accessibility Rank: 2

SWOT Analysis:

<b>Strengths:</b> -large golf course -services region -paved parking	<b>Weaknesses:</b> -private course
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<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located in Neighborhood 14</li> <li>-located on marked bike route</li> <li>-Local Street road classification</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no sidewalks</li> <li>-no crosswalks</li> </ul>
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**Meyer Preserve (Private)**

**280.16 acres**

A huge wildlife preserve donated to Little Traverse Conservancy in 2005 by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Meyer, this preserve is located in Section 16, Range 1 West of Township 47.

Park Classification: Natural Resources Area

Facilities: 1

Accessibility Rank: 1



<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-extremely large natural preserve</li> <li>-regional service area</li> <li>-access to unique natural resources</li> <li>-snowmobile trail present</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no amenities</li> <li>-no known facilities</li> <li>-non accessible</li> <li>-non barrier-free</li> <li>-no known site development plan</li> <li>-no parking</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-located on Local Street classified roadway</li> <li>-located adjacent to Neighborhood 15</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no crosswalks</li> <li>-no sidewalks</li> </ul>

## **NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL NETWORK INVENTORY**

The City has a variety of non-motorized transportation options located within its boundary. These non-motorized opportunities take the form of hiking trails through natural areas, historical informative trails with kiosks, bike routes connector trails, and multi-use paths. This inventory also includes proposed park trails, multi-use paths, and one street bike routes.

### **Sidewalks (City)**

**129.551 miles**

A summer 2009 by inventory of sidewalk condition, type and location undertaken by the City Engineering Department revealed that Sault Ste. Marie has an estimated total of 129.551 miles of sidewalk facilities. Of those nearly 130 miles of sidewalk facilities, approximately 98.87 miles are in no need of repair; approximately 11.6 miles are passable with minor flush cracks, vegetative overgrowth or debris; approximately 4.33 miles are passable with buckling, minor cracks or vegetative growth; approximately 3 miles have deep cracking, severe settlement or buckling; approximately 5.41 miles have extensive cracking, buckling or vegetative growth; approximately 6.24 miles have extreme cracking and buckling; and approximately 2.0 miles are missing.

Park Classification: Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II.

Service Area: ¼ mile

Facilities: City-Wide sidewalk system

Accessibility Rank: Sidewalks graded 0-2 are considered ADA accessible.

<b>Grading Scale for Sidewalk Inventory</b>	
0	Sidewalk is good no repairs are needed. Sidewalk is free from cracks and buckling.
1	Sidewalk is passable with minor flush cracks, vegetative overgrowth or debris.
2	Sidewalk is passable with buckling, minor cracks or vegetative growth.
3	Sidewalk has deep cracking, severe settlement or buckling.
4	Sidewalk has extensive cracking, buckling or vegetative growth.
5	Sidewalk has extreme cracking and buckling.
6	Sidewalk is missing.
Courtesy City Engineering Department	

Using the Engineering Department inventory as a basis, Planning staff prepared map titled "Sidewalk Condition and Location Map." This map is the result of the labors of City Engineering Department staff to painstakingly geocode the City's infrastructure. Many of the sidewalks with the lowest rankings were repaired shortly following the inventory, are currently under repair, or will be repaired within the next year. The value of the map to the recreation planning process is in the analysis of where connectivity is a large issue, especially along collector streets, minor arterial streets, and areas of connectivity between parks where no walkable connection exists, and school areas.

### **Multi-Use Trails (City)**

A number of connector trails, bike routes, and multi-use trails or pathways make up the City's non-motorized transportation system. The following is an inventory of the City's non-motorized transportation assets. Each portion of the network is described and numbered. The numbers correspond with a map titled "Sault Ste. Marie Bikeways Map." Included on the map are on-road routes, off-road pathways, both existing and planned or proposed. Existing and proposed park loops are also shown.

The non-motorized system includes a 1 1/4 mile bike path that extends along the northwest side of the I-75 Business Spur within the access right-of-way. This path is asphalt surfaced and includes a series of benches along the route. Newer paved sections have been added more recently from the I-75 Business Spur along Davitt Street to 12th Avenue, along 12th Avenue to Meridian Street and along Meridian Street to 8th Avenue. A paved bike/walkway has also been constructed along the recently completed "Portage-Meridian Connector" now called Portage Avenue from the power canal to Magazine. There are also existing bike routes along several sections of the City's road network.

Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Facilities: 2

Accessibility Rank: 2

Length: 8872.99 feet (1.68 miles)

Note: Nine additional trails have been proposed at this time.

Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Facilities: 5

Accessibility Rank: 2

Length: 48459.3 feet (9.17 miles)

Note: Eleven additional routes have been proposed at this time.

### **Non-Motorized Trail Network Inventory**

This is a detailed list of all the non-motorized trails both existing and proposed within the City limits. The inventory includes the length of the trail in feet, type of facility as derived from NRPA Park Classification System, the trail service area, and a description of the trail location.

#### **1. Multi-Use Trail (Business Spur-Meridian-Davitt)**

Length: 4750.36 feet

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Accessible: Yes.

Barrier Free: No.

Notes: Trail begins at LSSU Norris Center, corner of Easterday Ave. W. and Meridian Street, continues on Meridian to Business Spur; loops around 12th Ave. to Davitt Street and back to Meridian Street. The trail then continues along Westerly side of I-75 Business Spur to 8th Street W. A proposed addition would connect Meridian and Ryan.

2. Multi-Use Trail (Shunk Road)

Length: 4122.63 feet (0.778 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Accessible: Yes.

Barrier Free: No.

Notes: Trail begins at 16th Ave. East and runs South to JK Lumsen Way along the East Side of Shunk Road. An on-road bike route is proposed along Shunk from 3 Mile Road to Marquette Ave.

3. Proposed Multi-Use Trail (“Soo/Strong’s Trail”)

Length: 14774 feet (2.8 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed trail would run from South Street to city limits. Snowmobile trail already in place continues to Brimley.

4. Proposed Multi-Use Trail (Ashmun Bay-South Street)

Length: 8851.4 feet (1.674 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed trail would follow South Street into Ashmun Bay, together with proposed multi-use Trail 5 would connect Ashmun Bay Park to Sherman Park.

5. Proposed Multi-Use Trail and Bike Route ( West 4<sup>th</sup> Sherman Park)

Length: 5645 ft (1.070 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II and Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed trail and on-road routes would run along 4th St Avenue W. to Sherman Park from South Street.

6. Proposed Multi-Use Trail (Through Trail Tunnel)

Length: 11794.3 (2.231 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Trail would run approximately from Easterday Ave. W along 12th Street W. to 8th Ave. R.O.W. to 11th Street W. under I-75 through existing trail tunnel into Airport Backlands property along existing snowmobile trail and connect with I-75 Business Spur Multi-Use Trail 1.

7. Proposed Multi-Use Trail (Power Canal Trail)

Length: 6317.1 feet (1.198 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed trail would run along south side of Power Canal from Portage Ave. E. through the Community Gardens area to Kimball Street and on to Johnston Street.

8. Proposed Multi-Use Trail (Ashmun/M-129)

Length: 5038 feet (0.954 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed trail would begin at Multi-Use Trail 1 on Business Spur and continue South on M-129 to 3 Mile Road.

9. Proposed Multi-Use Trail (Mission Reserve Bikeway)

Length: 4854 feet (.9983 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed Trail would start at Marquette Ave. and move southeast to utility line R.O.W. and turn East to Riverside Drive.

10. Proposed Multi-Use Trail (9th Street Area Bikeway)

Length: 8154 feet (1.546 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed trail would start at Marquette Ave. and move South past 15th Ave. East and continue to 3 Mile Road.

11. Proposed Multi-Use Trail (High School Backlands Bikeway)

Length: 8154 feet (1.546 miles)

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed trail would run through High School Backlands property from Marquette Ave. South towards 3 Mile Road, partially along existing snowmobile trail.

12. Riverside Dr. Bike Route

Length: 21909 feet (4.14 miles)

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Route runs along Riverside Drive from city limits to Bingham Ave. Wide shoulders and signage present.

13. Portage Ave. West Bike Route

Length: 2994 feet (0.558 miles)

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Route runs along Portage Ave. West from Magazine to south side of power canal.

14. Bike Route (12<sup>th</sup> Ave./Marquette)

Length: 8626 feet (1.63 miles)

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Route travels East along 12<sup>th</sup> with off-road section on Marquette Hill between Ashmun and Bingham, then along Marquette Ave. to Shunk.

15. Bike Route (Easterday Ave. W.)

Length: 3272 feet (.6267 miles)

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Route follows Easterday Ave. W. from 12th Street W. to Portage Ave. Proposed additional route extends to connect to Ryan Avenue to the east and Oak Street to the west.

16. Bike Route (Sherman Park Loop)

Length: 6396 feet (1.22 miles)

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Route starts at Sherman Park and travels south along 24th Street W. and continues on 16th Ave. W and Oak to form a loop.

17. Proposed Bike Route (Three Mile Road)

Length: 10030 feet (1.89 miles)

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed route would run along 3 mile between Riverside and Shunk Road and between the Business Spur and the proposed 9<sup>th</sup> St. area off-road path.

18. Proposed Bike Route

Length: To be determined.

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed route would run along 20<sup>th</sup> St. W. from 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 3 Mile Road.

19. Proposed Bike Route (East Spruce)

Length: 3925 feet (.7435 miles)

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed route would start at Johnston Street and travel along Spruce to Ord Street and on to Portage Ave.

20. Proposed Bike Route (Spruce/Ridge)

Length: 5780 feet (1.094 miles)

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed Route would start at Portage Ave. W. following Spruce to Magazine Street, Magazine both to Ridge and back to Portage and Ridge across Ashmun to Bingham.

21. Proposed Multi-Use Trail and Bike Route (W. Portage)

Length: To be determined.

Facility Type: Connector Trail: Type II and On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed route along W. Portage from Easterday to Power Canal would include both on-road route and off-road pathway.

22. Proposed Bike Route (Minneapolis/Bingham)

Length: To be determined.

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: The proposed north/south route would run along Minneapolis and Bingham from Marquette to Portage, moving from Minneapolis to Bingham along Newton.

23. Proposed Bike Route (Ryan/Fort Street)

Length: To be determined.

Facility Type: On-Street Bikeway: Bike Route

Service Area: community

Notes: This proposed north/south route would run along Ryan and Fort from 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Spruce.

24. Algonquin Ski Trail Loop

Length: To be determined.

Facility Type: Park Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: The Algonquin Ski Trail loop is comprised of several loops integrated into a cross-country ski trail system, one loop is lit, trails are used for hiking and biking in Summer months.

25. Sault Seal Park Trail Loop

Length: To be determined.

Facility Type: Park Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: The Sault Seal Park Trail, known as the “Lynn Trail” is an excellent example of a backlands hiking trail. It is covered in crushed dolomite, covers rolling terrain and, incorporates two bridges. The trail is used for cross-country skiing in the winter months and hiking, running and, biking during the summer months.

#### 26. High School Backlands Nature Trail

Length: To be determined

Facility Type: Park Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Trail includes a boardwalk and viewing platform/pavilion overlooking a natural pond and marsh area, used for education and nature observation.

#### 27. Ashmun Bay Trail Loop

Length: To be determined.

Facility Type: Park Trail: Type II

Service Area: community

Notes: Proposed in the Ashmun Bay Site Development Plan.

### **Theme Trails (City)**

Two pedestrian theme trail systems have been developed over the last twenty years. The Historic Walkway extends along the Sault waterfront for approximately a mile. The trail winds through the Locks Park, Fort Brady, the Historic Home complex and the “Valley Camp”, and passes many of the historic buildings and sites in the community. It has become one of the important tourist linkage in the Sault and will be incorporated into the Waterfront Walkway.

The Historic Church Pathway is a marked trail that leads to the five historic downtown churches, all of which are open during the tourist season for visitors.

### **Waterfront Walkway**

The City has also completed a master plan for an integrated waterfront walkway that would incorporate existing parklands and the historic walkway into a connected walkway which would extend along the St. Mary’s riverfront from the West Pier above the Locks to the Lower River Islands. The phases of this plan are included in future project planning. A map of the districts of the Waterfront Walkway has been included at the end of this chapter.

## **Snowmobile Trails**

The City is connected to the vast Eastern Upper Peninsula trail system by the Sault - Brimley trail along the abandoned rail grade. The City continues to explore ways to connect this trail to the City's business and hotel district. A multi-purpose trail tunnel under I-75 was constructed in 2003. The snowmobile trails are seasonal and offer opportunities for development during the summer months. A Snowmobile Trails Map is included at the end of this chapter to show the City's existing snowmobile trail system.

Type: Snowmobiling Trails

Number of Trails: 5

Length: 52864.9 feet (10.0 miles)

## **HISTORICAL FACILITIES**

Over fifty different historical sites have been documented in the City, and several more are known to exist. The City itself is of major historical significance, not only in European settlement history (the first non-Indian settlement in the Midwest), but archeological evidence points to an aboriginal history reaching back more than 8,000 years.

### **National Register Historic Sites**

1. St. Mary's Falls Canal - Soo Locks (Listed 11/13/66) The site of the original canal system that over time was transformed into a succeeding series of locks to bridge the 19 foot difference in water level between Lake Superior and the lower lakes. The property is owned by the federal government.

2. John Johnston House (Listed 07/08/70) Erected in 1822, this is the second oldest building in the northwest. Henry Rowe Schoolcraft wed Jane Johnston here. The City owns the building.

3. Old Fort Brady (Listed 03/11/71) Erected in 1822 and in use for 71 years until the Fort was moved to a new location on the hill. Many buildings and stockade existed during its use, none of which remain. Site of many historical events, including the lowering of last British flag to fly over American soil. The site includes the Federal Building property, now owned by the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

4. New Fort Brady (Listed 01/13/72) Constructed in 1892, the new Fort was in active operation until 1946, when the Fort was converted into the Sault Branch of Michigan Technological University. The school became independent as Lake Superior State College in 1969, and is now known as Lake Superior State University.

5. “SS Valley Camp” (Listed 02/01/72) The berthed lake carrier has been transformed into an action Museum ship. The ship is managed and owned by the Le Sault de Sainte Marie Historic Sites.

6. Henry Rowe Schoolcraft House (Listed 02/25/74) Schoolcraft moved into this 15 room federal style residence in 1827. The Indian Agency office was in one of the two building dependencies. The building has been under active restoration and reconstruction to its original design over the last few years. The City and “Sault Historic Sites” have been cooperatively working on this building.

7. Old Federal Building (Listed 09/09/77) Standing on the ground of the Old Fort Brady, the building was constructed during 1908 and 1910, and occupied in 1910. After being in private hands for several years, the building has been donated to the City and is being renovated into a new location for City Hall. The building is in excellent condition.

8. Chippewa County Courthouse (Listed 09/13/84) The oldest continuously used courthouse in the state, this imposing structure has been completely renovated and restored and is in excellent condition.

9. Central Methodist Church (Listed 12/17/84) This is one of several striking sandstone churches in the downtown constructed around the turn of the century. The church was completed in 1894.

11. St. James Episcopal Church (Listed 04/01/98) This is another one of the striking sandstone churches in the downtown constructed around the turn of the century.

10. St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral (Listed 12/27/84) Built from local bricks in 1881, this is the third structure on the site, and the fifth in the immediate area dating back to 1668 when the first church was constructed, marking the founding of the settlement. It was renovated in the 1980's.

12. Edison Sault Electric Powerhouse Placed into operation in 1902, this hydropower facility was constructed at the same time as the power canal that channels the water. It is the longest building in the world devoted to power production, at approximately 1360 feet. The building is still in active use as a powerhouse. It is owned by the Edison Sault Electric Company, a private utility.

### **Other Historically Significant Sites**

There are an additional 15 sites in the downtown of historical significance. Many of these are of equal quality and significance as the National Register sites, and are likely to be on the National Register in the future. Among these are: The City Fire Hall, the Bishop Baraga residence, the Elijah Allen house, the Old Weather Bureau Building at the Locks Parks, the old City Water Tower (still in use), the Michigan Meridian (the point of departure for all surveys in the state) and the site of the old French Fort de Repentigny.

In addition, there are another 55 homes, businesses and sites in the central part of the City that have above-average historical significance. The possibility of a designated "Historical District" was once explored for this area, and the concept may be worthy of additional consideration in view of this enormous concentration of historical buildings

and sites. A management study for the historic homes area along Water Street has been completed by Gray and Pape and a Historic Structures Management Committee established by the City. The City's Historical Development Commission is also again active, overseeing the disbursement of the new Osborn Trust funding for historical activities.

### **Museums/Art Centers**

Six museums and art interpretive centers are located in the downtown. The "SS Valley Camp" is an actual lake carrier open for viewing and serving as a site for various marine related displays and interpretations. The John Johnston House is operated by the Chippewa County Historical Society, and is open during the summer and fall. The Soo Locks Information Center displays the history of the locks development as well as displaying a working model of a lock. The Alberta House is an art and craft gallery located in a unique historical structure near the locks. The "River of History Museum", which opened in 1992, is now located in the Sault Tribe Administration building. The museum displays the entire history of the region from prehistoric glaciation to the present. Also on Ashmun Street across from the Museum is the Soo Theatre, currently being renovated and open for show, movies and theatre arts classes. The Steere Room at the Bayliss Public Library is the prime source for early documents and historical records of the area.

### **BARRIER-FREE STATUS OF CITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a comprehensive civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The ADA requires that newly constructed and altered state and local government facilities, places of public accommodation, and commercial facilities be readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities.

The City Parks and Recreation Department is working to make all of its facilities, parks, and other recreation areas compliant with state and federal barrier-free guidelines,

incorporating the principals of universal access as possible. Upgrading facilities is a priority and improvements are being made as funding permits.

The Municipal Golf Course, I-500 Track, and Algonquin Park (Andary Ave) are all City owned properties, but the facilities on those properties are owned and managed by agencies other than the Parks and Recreation Department.

The many neighborhood parks located throughout the City have barrier-free access; most of the parks have roadside parking. There is playground equipment located at many of the neighborhood parks. Benches and tables that are located at some of the parks do not meet barrier-free standards.

Ravine Park, the Lower River Islands, Lower Coast Guard Park, the Carbide Dock Property, Alford Park, and Lakeshore Park are relatively undeveloped. Any future development on any of these properties will comply with barrier-free guidelines.

The following tables list the MDNRE Accessibility Ranking system and the City's parks and recreation facilities. The second table lists the parks and park facilities from worst to best to illustrate how improvements might be scheduled to take place regarding barrier-free access.

<b>MDNRE Accessibility Ranking System</b>	
<b>1</b>	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
<b>2</b>	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
<b>3</b>	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
<b>4</b>	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.
<b>5</b>	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

<b>Park / Facility Name</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Acreeage</b>	<b>Number of Facilities</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>
Saint Mary's Park	Leased by City	2.71	6	1
Chandler's Park	City	0.62	2	1
Shunk Road Park	City	0.4	2	1
Lower Coast Guard Property	City	0.8	4	1
Algonquin Park	City	9.83	4	1
Sault Seal Recreation Area	City	32.98	7	1
Harvey Marina	City	3.68	6	1
Mission Street Boat Launch	City	11.26	2	1
Shallows Boat Launch	City	0.75	2	1
Community Gardens	Leased by City	2.26	3	1
I-500 Race Track	City	51.97	4	1
Kaine's Rink	City	0.9	4	1
Lower River Islands	City	62.5	3	1
Ravine Park	City	1.06	2	1
Lakeshore Park	City	3.26	1	1
Rotary Park	Leased by City	4.16	4	2
Alford Park	City	2.9	4	2
Malcolm Park	City	44.64	22	2
Ashmun Bay Park	City	175.71	4	2
Municipal Golf Course	City	112.83	6	2
Pullar Building	City	1.76	10	2
Aune-Osborn Park	City	16.1	6	3
Sherman Park	City	72.52	15	3
Weber Park	City	0.27	2	4
Ashmun Street Pocket Park (Ridge Street)	City	0.6	1	4
Ashmun Street Pocket Park (Arlington Street)	City	0.11	1	4
Farmer's Market Pocket Park	City	0.4	3	4
Kemp Marina	City	5.34	5	5

## **PARKS FACILITIES AND AMENITIES CHECKLIST**

The following table contains information about each park discussed in the inventory. It includes the name of the park and/or facility, the number of facilities, the facilities offered, and other amenities. It offers a convenient and quick reference and is a result of the most recent Barrier-Free and Accessibility Inventory during the Summer of 2009.

## **SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND SUPPORTING MAPS**

Multiple consultant groups have worked with the City over the years to produce a variety of different site development plans. These plans are the result of community visioning sessions, design charrettes, and the Master Recreation Plan's Goals and Objectives throughout the history of recreation planning in Sault Ste. Marie. The most recent, relevant, and viable site development plans have been included at the end of this inventory.