

## INTRODUCTION

The *Sault Ste. Marie Master 2010-2014 Master Recreation Plan* is the sixth in a series of specific recreation plans for the City that have been developed periodically over the last 35 years. The recreation plan must be updated more or less every five years for the City to maintain eligibility for various Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) grant programs.

As is the norm, the 2010-2014 plan was developed under the auspices of the Sault Ste. Marie Community Services Board, incorporating the public input process as specified by current MDNRE guidelines. The 2005 Plan served as the starting basis for the new 2010-2014 plan. While the recreational resources base, the goals and objectives, and the long range plan recommendations from the 2005 Master Recreation Plan are not drastically changed, with continued emphasis on waterfront and trail development, the goals and objectives in the new plan also emphasize connectivity and accessibility of recreation areas and support the concept of a walkable 21<sup>st</sup>- century community.

The new plan includes all the required MDNRE content, which has changed somewhat since the last 2005 version. The plan presentation has also changed with the utilization of various computer programs for mapping and photos. In addition to regular City staff, the Planning and Development Department had the services of planning intern Neil Henne (BS Urban and Regional Planning, MSU), who updated the recreation inventory after extensive field work and assisted with conducting the Summer 2009 Park Project Survey and compiling the final plan.

Some of the projects that were completed during the last plan period (2005-2009) include the Sherman Park Beach Accessibility Upgrade (Development Plan Phase 1); Pullar improvements, including boiler repair, exterior cleaning and tuck point, new signs, doors and landscaping; the Lynn Trail at Sault Seal Park; the new Aune-Osborn Campground service building; the Kaine's Rink electrical/restroom upgrade, interior lighting and painting; the James Field stadium seating; and improvements

to the causeway to Rotary Park.

These projects were able to be completed with the continuing efforts of volunteers, the funding provided by the legacy of Augusta Hursley Seal, the generosity of many other individuals and groups, and various grant resources such as the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.