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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Onota Township, with the assistance of the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission, has developed this five year Recreation Plan. This Recreation Plan for Onota Township should serve several useful purposes. It should serve as (1) a source of information, (2) a guide for correcting deficiencies, (3) an indicator of goals and policies, (4) a framework for making decisions, and (5) a means of stimulating public interest and participation in local community recreation projects.

Located in northwestern Alger County, along the southern shore of Lake Superior, Onota Township's land area is inhabited by approximately 352 people. Onota Township is adjacent to Chocolay Township & Skandia Township in Marquette County as well as Rock River Township & AuTrain Township in Alger County. Total land area of Onota Township is 88.62 square miles or 56,719.7 acres. The location of Onota Township is illustrated at the bottom of **Map 3-1**, found in Appendix A.

Natural resources abound in Onota Township. In addition to the many inland lakes and streams, there is an abundance of wild game, birds and fish. The area supports a wide variety of wildlife, including game animals such as whitetail deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, beaver, muskrat, squirrels, snowshoe hare and rabbits. Non game species found within the Township include raccoon, pine marten, pileated woodpecker, mink, red squirrel, fox, mink, coyote, cougar, and moose. Game fish found within the Township include rainbow trout, lake trout, brown trout, brook trout, Coho salmon, and northern pike. Lake trout and whitefish are fished commercially and two charter fishing operations are based in Onota Township. The shoreline of Lake Superior underscores the natural beauty of the Township. Township residents and visitors enjoy snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, walking and biking in the Township.

## **2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

Planning for and providing recreation services and open space for a community require staff (or volunteers) and funds to purchase land and open spaces to develop, operate and maintain them. This section describes how Onota Township's parks and recreation functions will be carried out.

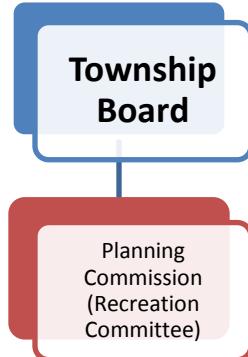
### **2.1 Organizational Structure**

Over the years, Onota Township has had no known organized recreational history. The Onota Township Planning Commission developed a Recreation Plan in 2006. This was the first step by Onota Township to establish public recreation facilities that will provide access to Township residents and visitors to the natural resources of the area and provide future recreation opportunities. The Township has opted-out of participating in Alger Parks and Recreation Department programming due to lack of use by residents.

In 2012, under Public Act 156 of 1917, Onota Township has designated the Planning Commission to also serve as a Recreation Committee and to advise the Township Board on recreation matters.

The Planning Commission has been assigned the task of updating the Township's five year Recreation Plan and soliciting public input from Township residents.

**Figure 2-1**



## **2.2 Community Recreation Partners**

Onota Township plans to work cooperatively with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and US Forest Service to develop recreational opportunities in the area.

## **2.3 Parks and Recreation Budget**

Onota Township assigns \$2,000.00 to the Recreation line item of the General Fund in its Annual Budget for recreational programming. Additional funding is allocated when improvement projects are lined up.

## **2.4 MDNR Grant Status**

Onota Township has not received any recreation grants from the MDNR at this time.

## **3.0 RECREATION INVENTORY**

### **3.1 Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Onota Township does not currently own any parks or recreation facilities. There are numerous recreation sites located in the Township that are owned and maintained by various entities. Recreation sites discussed below are illustrated on [Map 3-1](#) in Appendix A. In the future, should Onota Township develop recreation facilities, they will be evaluated for accessibility. The following rating scale will be used:

- 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

**Table 3-1** Recreational Facilities, Onota Township

Facility	Facilities	Ownership
<b>Deer Lake Public Access Site</b> 	Hard surface ramp, with a courtesy pier, provides access onto Deer Lake, parking for nine vehicles	Parks and Recreation Division, MDNR
<b>AuTrain Bay Boat Launch</b> 	Hard surface ramp with a courtesy pier, parking for 18 vehicles, provides access to Lake Superior, (the site needs considerable work due to ice damage, the site receives considerable use); Onota Township replaced ribbings using Township funds	US Forest Service, Hiawatha National Forest
<b>John H. Hammer Public Access Site</b>	Gravel ramp with access to Laughing Whitefish River near the mouth of the river, parking for 6 vehicles, (the site is in need of considerable work)	Parks and Recreation Division, MDNR
<b>Tyoga Historical Pathway</b>	1.4 mile walking trail through the historic community of Tyoga. New signage	Forest Management Division, MDNR
<b>Au Train Onota School</b> 	Play equipment, parking resurfaced, new roof on gym, heating and windows upgraded; in good condition	AuTrain-Onota Public School
<b>Deer Lake Roadside Park</b> 	Picnic area on M-28 and Deer Lake	MDOT
<b>Rock River Canyon Wilderness</b>	Two canyons, Rock River and Silver Creek, lie within the area. Each canyon is about 150 feet deep. Elevations within the wilderness range between 680 and 1,000 feet above mean sea level. At the edge of the canyons are sandstone outcrops which water and weather have transformed into caves 10 to 40 feet deep. During winter, ice curtains formed by water seeping over the canyon.	Munising Ranger District of the Hiawatha National Forest

**Table 3-1** Recreational Facilities, Onota Township

Facility	Facilities	Ownership
<b>North Hiawatha Snowmobile Trail</b>	Part of the trail system along the Rock River Road and the Onota-AuTrain Road	Trail located within the Hiawatha National Forest
<b>North Country Trail</b>	Part of the North Country Trail System stretching 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota; passes along the Lake Superior shoreline & through nearly 20 miles of the township.	Administered by National Park Service, maintained by volunteers in the North Country Trail Association and partners
<b>Hiawatha National Forest</b>	Hiawatha National Forest is an 880,000-acre National Forest. Commercial logging is conducted in some areas. There are over 100 miles of shoreline within the National Forest.	United States Forest Service
<b>Laughing Whitefish Lake Preserve</b>	The 1,728 acre preserve includes three-quarters of the lake as well as over 1,000 acres of surrounding wetlands and upland forest. Visitors may hike the George Shiras III Discovery Trail mile long marked loop. There is an observation deck along the trail with a view of the lake.	The Nature Conservancy

## 4.0 DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

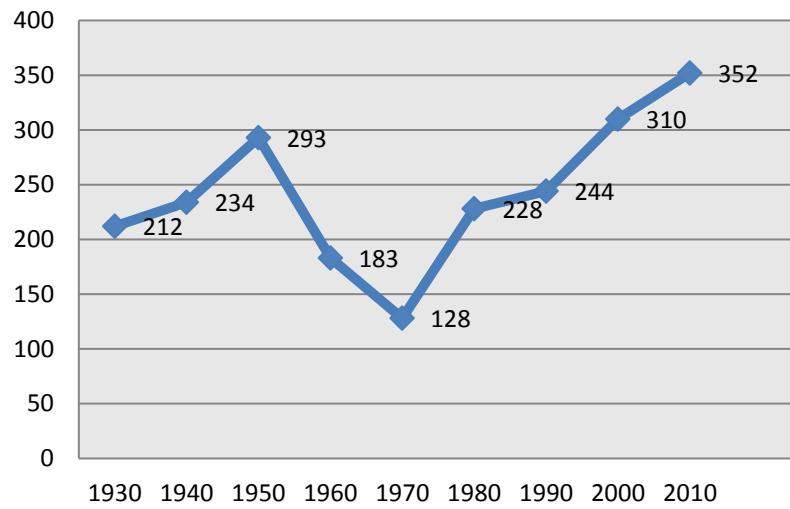
### 4.1 Community Data

#### 4.1.1 Population

For any planning endeavor, careful attention must be given to the analysis of population trends and projections. Such an analysis is necessary to determine existing or future needs based on the characteristics of the area's population. Population analysis assists with determining the direction of local capital improvements and related expenditures. For recreation planning, population data is also useful when applying recreation standards to a community.

Onota Township has experienced increases in every decade since 1970. The largest increase occurred from 1970 to 1980 - 78 percent. From 2000 to 2010 Onota Township's population increased by 13.5 percent to 352 persons recorded in the 2010 census. Many townships in the

**Figure 4-1**  
**Onota Township Population: 1930-2010**  
Source: US Census Bureau for years cited.



Upper Peninsula have experienced similar growth, while cities in the region have observed a population decline over the same time period. The City of Munising is an example of a city experiencing a continual large population decrease. After a peak of 4,409 residents in 1940, the city has experienced a total population decline of 46.6 percent to 2,355 in 2010.

Major events such as World War I, World War II, and the Great Depression influenced

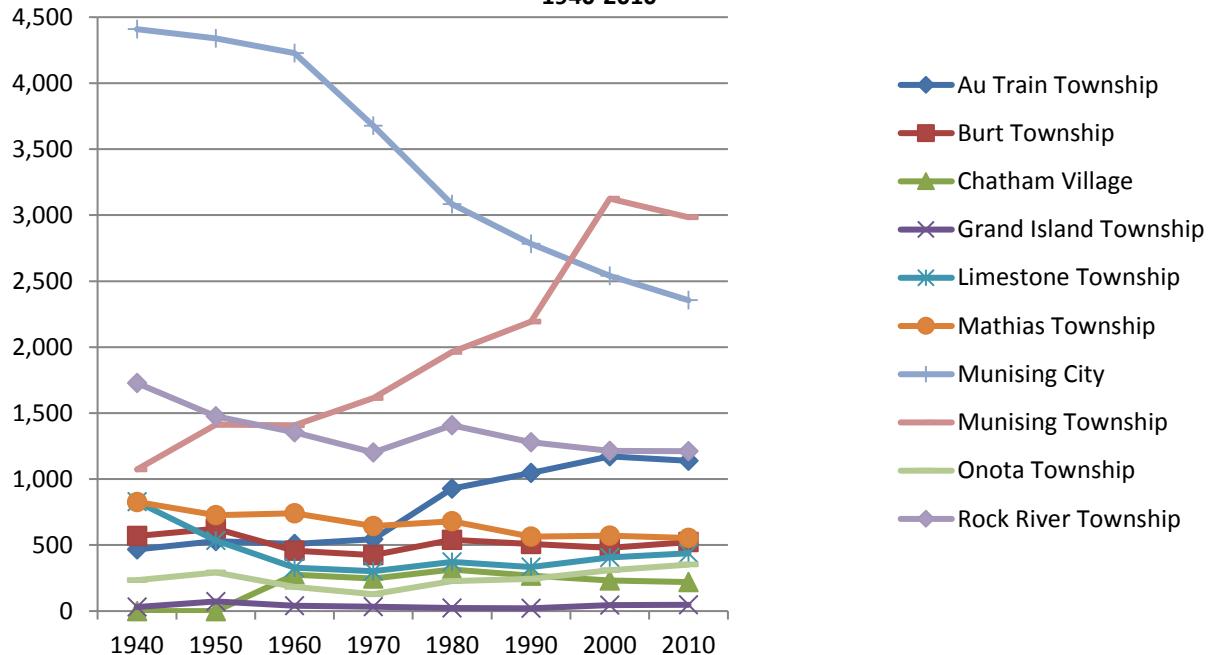
where people lived, how they lived and what jobs they pursued to support themselves and their families. Economic factors of a more local nature such as available timber resources and markets for farm products were primary determinants as well. Official population counts for Onota Township since 1930 are presented on the next page, in **Figure 4-1**.

**Table 4-1** Population, Selected Areas, 1940-2010

Governmental Unit	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	% Change 1940-2010
<b>Onota Township</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>50.4</b>
Au Train Township	467	529	508	545	928	1,047	1,172	1,138	143.7
Burt Township	570	624	457	424	539	508	480	522	-8.4
Chatham Village	-	-	275	246	315	268	231	220	-
Grand Island Township	31	73	40	32	23	21	45	47	51.6
Limestone Township	829	535	330	302	373	334	407	438	-47.2
Mathias Township	827	726	742	644	680	563	571	554	-33.0
Munising City	4,409	4,339	4,228	3,677	3,083	2,783	2,539	2,355	-46.6
Munising Township	1,073	1,412	1,408	1,614	1,963	2,193	3,125	2,983	178.0
Rock River Township (w/ Village of Chatham)	1,727	1,476	1,354	1,202	1,408	1,279	1,213	1,212	-29.8
Alger County	10,167	10,007	9,250	8,568	9,225	8,972	9,862	9,601	-5.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, years cited.

**Figure 4-2**  
**Population, Alger County Municipalities**  
**1940-2010**



#### 4.1.2 Age Characteristics

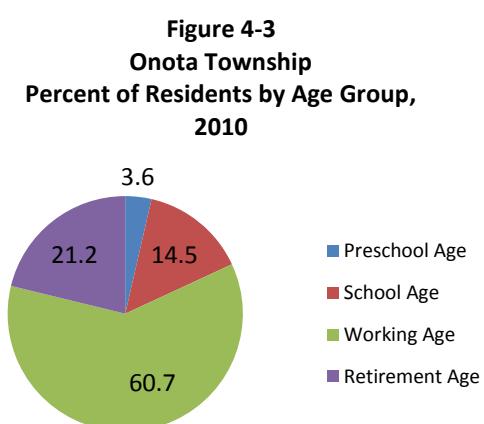
According to data obtained from the 2010 Census, the population of Onota Township is significantly older than Alger County as a whole. Onota Township's median age in 2010 was 57.5 years, higher than that of Alger County (45.0), as well as Michigan (37.6) and the Units States (37.2) overall. From 1980 to 2010, the Township experienced a 21.6 year increase in the median age of its residents. While the median age rose in every municipality in Alger County, Onota

Township's increase was the most dramatic. Burt Township is the only Alger County municipality that reported a higher median age (62.9). **Table 4-2** presents comparative data on median age.

Longer life expectancies and smaller family sizes are the major reasons that the overall population is getting older. Moreover, the largest segment of the population, the "baby boom" generation (born 1946 to 1965), is approaching retirement age. Examination of its age structure is critical to sound decision making within a community.

Area	1980	1990	2000	2010	Change 1980-2010
<b>Onota Township</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>+26.1</b>
Au Train Township	30.1	36.2	42.3	51.7	+21.6
Burt Township	42.2	48.1	56.7	62.9	+20.7
Chatham Village	--	36.2	40.8	42.5	--
Grand Island Township	42.5	37.5	45.8	50.5	+8.0
Limestone Township	32.8	37.8	45.5	51.5	+18.7
Mathias Township	31.6	39.9	44.6	49.1	+17.5
Munising City	34.3	39.7	43.8	45.7	+11.4
Munising Township	28.7	32.4	35.2	37.5	+8.8
Rock River Township	29.9	36.1	42.3	46.3	+16.4
Alger County	31.6	36.7	41.2	45.0	+13.4
State of Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5	37.6	+8.8
United States	30.0	32.9	35.3	37.2	+7.2

Persons ages five through 18 make up the school-age portion of the population - which is further divided into elementary, middle and high school-age groups. The working age population has been generally accepted as those from 18 to 65 years of age. Those persons 18 or older constitute the eligible voting population. Of course, not everyone between the ages of 18 and 64 is in the labor force, and not everyone 18 or older actually votes. However, this breakdown does give communities a sense of how their population is distributed for planning and comparative purposes. In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau reorganized the age groups; the working age group is now reported as ages 20-64.



An analysis of the information in **Figure 4-3** by age cohort provides another perspective on age distribution within the population. By studying the population fluctuations within this and other groups, it is possible to evaluate the important factors of in-migration and out-migration.

In 2010, the age group of 65-74 made up the largest portion of the Township's total population, at 78 persons, or 22.1 percent; the 45-54 age group was the second largest at 61 persons, or 17.3 percent. The elderly population, which includes those 65 years and older, made up 29.2

percent of the total population in 2010. The data indicated that the population of the Township is aging more rapidly than any other Alger County municipality. Growth of the older segment of the population influences the type and cost of services offered by the Township and other providers.

In recent decades, there has been a shift in population from the school age and working age population into the retired age group. This change has occurred almost universally across the country. The proportion of individuals in the preschool and school age groups continues to shrink which contributes to declining school enrollment. The forces of migration – in and out – are important to consider. In rural areas where job opportunities are limited, younger adults find it necessary to move (out-migration) to further their educations or careers. In 2010, the number of residents in the 25-34 year old age group represented only 7.1 percent of the Township's population. As the "baby boomers" begin to reach retirement age, a smaller proportion of the population is participating in the workforce. Persons of retirement age have shown a preference for rural areas, including Onota Township, and further impact the age structure through in-migration. With a diminishing workforce, there are fewer people to contribute to pension funds and additional programs that support retirees. As the number of working persons decreases in comparison to retirees, there is distress over the future of programs such as Social Security.

Table 4-3 AuTrain-Onota School District Enrollment 1997-2011	
School Year	Enrollment
2010-2011 (Pre-K thru 8)	50
2009-2010 (Pre-K thru 8)	50
2008-2009 (Pre-K thru 6)	42
2007-2008 (Pre-K thru 6)	45
2006-2007 (Pre-K thru 6)	42
2005-2006 (Pre-K thru 6)	38
2004-2005 (Pre-K thru 6)	43
2003-2004 (Pre-K thru 6)	34
2002-2003 (Pre-K thru 6)	35
2001-2002 (Pre-K thru 6)	34
2000-2001 (Pre-K thru 6)	34
1999-2000 (Pre-K thru 6)	29
1998-1999 (Pre-K thru 6)	38
1997-1998 (Pre-K thru 6)	48

Source: Fourth Friday Count, Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District.

The AuTrain-Onota School District offers educational Pre-K through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the Deerton School, after which the students have the option of attending schools at Marquette, Superior Central or Munising school districts. In recent years, the school population of the AuTrain-Onota School District has held fairly constant. The rather large decline in school population from the 1997-1998 school year to the 1998-1999 school year was the result of a number of Native American families leaving the area to reside in tribal housing. Enrollment has remained stable the past two years, with 50 students. Enrollment data is presented in **Table 4-3**.

#### 4.1.3 Gender

The majority of the population in Onota Township is female by a slight margin (52.3 percent).

#### 4.1.4 Household Characteristics

Evaluation of the changes in household characteristics in a community can often provide additional insights about population trends. Household relationships reflect changing social values, economic conditions, and demographic changes such as increased lifespan and the increasing mobility of our society.

The Census defines a household as all persons who occupy a housing unit, i.e., a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any group or related or unrelated persons sharing living quarters. A family consists of a householder and one or more persons living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A non-family

household can be one person living alone, or any combination of people not related by blood, marriage or adoption.

In 2010, only 9.8 percent of Onota Township's family households included children less than 18 years of age; this is a sharp decline from 2000 Census results (17.8 percent). The percentages for family households with children under 18 are 20.1 percent for the county and 28.6 percent for the state. Households are smaller in the Township (2.03 persons) than the county (2.20 persons) and the state (2.49 persons). Across the region and the United States, smaller household sizes have been the trend, largely due to an increase in the number of single-parent households. From 2000 to 2010, non-family households have increased from 46 to 50, with an increase in the number of householders living alone. From 2000 to 2010, there was a slight increase in the number of householders over the age of 65 living alone.

Table 4-4 Household Characteristics, Selected Areas, 2000 and 2010							
Household Type	Onota Township				Alger County		State of Michigan
	2000		2010		2010		2010
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
<b>Family Households</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>71.1</b>	2,479	63.6	66.0
With own children under 18 years	26	17.8	17	9.8	785	20.1	28.6
Married-couple family	93	63.7	111	64.2	2,035	52.2	48.0
With own children under 18 years	22	15.1	14	8.1	95	24	18.9
Female householder (no husband present)	4	2.7	7	4.0	276	7.1	13.2
With own children under 18 years	2	1.4	2	1.2	151	3.9	7.3
<b>Non-family Households</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>28.9</b>	1,419	36.4	34.0
Householder living alone	36	24.7	40	23.1	1,232	31.6	27.9
Householder 65 years or older	13	8.9	16	9.2	593	15.2	10.2
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100.0</b>	3,898	100.0	100.0
Average Household Size	<b>2.12</b>		<b>2.03</b>		2.20		2.49

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [Profile of General Demographic Characteristics for Michigan: 2010](#), Table DP-1 and [Profile of General Demographic Characteristics for Michigan: 2000](#), Table DP-1.

#### 4.1.5 Economic Characteristics

- Household Income**

The median household income, as reported in the 2006-2010 American Community Survey estimates was \$41,667. Approximately 17.2 percent of all individuals reported incomes below the established poverty level.

- Economic Base**

Historically, the local economy, like that of the County, is closely related to natural resources and features. The proximity and abundance of forest products provide much of the raw material utilized in commercial enterprises such as paper and lumber mills.



Tourism has been, and continues to be, a major and growing industry in the area. Once limited primarily to the summer season, tourism has become much more of a year-around industry due at least in part, to the popularity of fall “color tours” and winter sports, especially snowmobiling (Michigan leads the nation in the number of licensed snowmobiles). Onota Township offers several resorts and cabins for daily, weekly and monthly rental opportunities.

As an industry, tourism is among the leaders in Michigan. The term “tourism” is comprehensive and includes a range of activities associated with natural and man-made attractions such as products and services for leisure and recreational pleasure. Alger County has an abundance of hiking and skiing trails, snowmobile trails, waterfalls, and opportunities for fishing, boating, kayaking and swimming.

Tourism and recreation have changed over the years as transportation options have increased personal mobility. Today’s tourists are more likely to travel frequently, take shorter trips and stay closer to home. Heritage-tourism and eco-tourism have increased in popularity. Heritage-tourism draws those interested in the historic and cultural offerings of a community or institution. Eco-tourism is popular among those desiring to experience nature through activities such as bird watching, hiking, and kayaking.

There are limited commercial establishments within Onota Township, such as the Pinewood Bed and Breakfast, Brownstone Restaurant, Seacoast Motel, Rock River Beach Cottages, Kimar’s Resort and Charters, Marine Sales and Excavating, Forest Products Land Company, Mike’s PC Repair, Shelter Bay Charters and General Repair, several gravel pits, Whitefish Lodge, logging operation, junkyards, Post Office and several rental cabins. The Township had its beginning with the natural resources based economy, which continues to this day with Heartwood Forestland Fund, charter fishing operations and sand/gravel pits. With 29.3 percent of the population age 65 or greater, the Township is becoming a retirement community as well as bedroom community of both the Marquette and Munising areas. In fact, approximately 46 percent of workers find employment outside of Alger County, presumably in Marquette County. The average employed resident of the Township spends about 24 minutes traveling to work.



**Kimar’s Resort and Charters**

#### **4.1.6 Land Use**

About 27 percent of Onota Township’s land area is publicly-owned, mostly within the Hiawatha National Forest. Most of the state-owned land is part of the Escanaba River State Forest. Private landholdings enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act take in about 30 percent of the entire Township land area. Land meeting the CFA designation requirements must be devoted to commercial forest management, consist of at least 40 contiguous acres, be open to the public for hunting and fishing, and be guided by a professionally prepared management plan. In July 2002,

Heartwood Forestland Fund, a timber investment management organization based in North Carolina, acquired all Kamehameha (Bishop Trust) lands in the Upper Peninsula. The acquisition involved a total of 390,000 acres in ten U.P. counties and about 16,700 acres in Onota Township.

Residential land use is found in the unincorporated communities of Deerton and Onota and is concentrated along Lake Superior shoreline at Shelter Bay, Laughing Whitefish Point Road, Deer Lake, Sand River, Shore Drive and AuTrain Bay. There are limited commercial establishments within Onota Township, such as the Pinewood Lodge; Brownstone Restaurant; Seacoast Motel; Rock River Beach Cottages; Kimar's Resort & Charters, Marine Sales and Excavating; Forest Products Land Company; Mike's PC Repair; the Whitefish Lodge; the Deerton Guest House; Shelter Bay Charters & General Repair; several gravel pits, logging operations, & junkyards; the Deerton Post Office, and private residential rentals. For the most part, agriculture is not a significant land use. There are no large agricultural operations within the township.

About 27 percent of Onota Township is in public ownership. State and federal lands are open to public use and are not available for residential, commercial, or industrial development. About 1,549 acres are owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, of which 1,024 are within the boundaries of the Escanaba River State Forest and 440 acres within the Laughing Whitefish Falls Scenic Park. The Hiawatha National Forest is a large public land owner with 14,846 acres. The Township owns a 10 acre parcel on Deerton Road, in addition to the Deerton Cemetery and the 1 acre parcel where the township hall and fire hall are located. Privately owned lands currently in Commercial Forest Reserve totals about 18,809 acres. Under state law, the lands are available for public use for hunting and fishing on foot only.

Non-profit privately owned lands include those of The Nature Conservancy with approximately 1,400 acres surrounding and adjacent to Laughing Whitefish Lake and the Michigan Nature Association, a non-profit conservation organization, with about 46 acres near the mouth of the Laughing Whitefish River on Lake Superior. Michigan State University owns 440 acres for hardwood research.

#### **4.1.7 Local Transportation System**

M-28 is an east-west state trunkline highway that almost completely traverses the Upper Peninsula, from Wakefield to near Sault Ste. Marie. Along with US-2, M-28 forms a pair of primary highways linking the Upper Peninsula from end to end, providing a major access route for traffic from Michigan and Canada along the southern shore of Lake Superior. M-28 is the longest state trunkline in Michigan numbered with the "M-" prefix at 290.43 miles. The entire highway is listed on the National Highway System, while three sections of M-28 are part of the Lake Superior Circle Tour. M-28 also carries two memorial highway designations along its route. Within Alger County, there are 197.15 miles of county primary roads, with 10.10 miles located within Onota Township. Deerton Road is the only paved primary road within the Township, a distance of about 1½ miles. The road was repaved in 2011. The other two primary roads, Peter White Road and Rock River Road, are gravel.

#### **4.1.8 Zoning**

Land use is regulated by the recently revised Onota Township Zoning Ordinance. The Township Zoning Administrator is responsible for its implementation. The Planning Commission hears conditional use permit and various other requests. The Zoning Board of Appeals hears variance requests.

### **4.2 PLANNING METHODS**

One method to assess community recreation needs is a systems approach to planning. The systems approach to planning incorporates information gained from citizen input and detailed recreation inventories to determine the recreation needs of a community.

#### **4.2.1 The Public Input Process**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that two methods be used to incorporate public input into the recreation planning process. Onota Township advertised that the Planning Commission would be seeking input on the Recreation Plan update at their December 11, 2012 regular meeting as well as taking written comments. A copy of the notice may be found in Appendix B.

Onota Township advertised the draft plan was available for review in the Munising News. The Planning Commission passed a resolution to recommend that the Township Board adopt the Recreation Plan at their April 9, 2013 meeting. After the 30 day public review period, the Onota Township Board secured additional public input and adopted the recreation plan via Resolution at their regular meeting on January 2, 2014. A relevant excerpt of the minutes from this meeting can be found in Appendix B and the resolution of adoption is located in Appendix C.

### **5.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The goals that follow are guides for recreation related decision making. Consideration and observance of recreation policies should ultimately lead a community toward the attainment of its short and long term goals.

Specific development projects and programs should initially be evaluated with respect to the recreation goals and then in terms of the proposal's contribution to the future recreation system of Onota Township. Goals and objectives developed by Onota Township are listed below.

**Goal & Objective:** Establish recreational programs and opportunities which help residents improve their physical, emotional and cultural health and awareness through community recreation.

**Goal & Objective:** To protect natural resources and create opportunities for residents and visitors to benefit from and learn about the local environment and its resources.

## 5.1 Identified Recreation Needs and Recreation Development Plan

Onota Township, through the recreation development schedule, planned a number of necessary and valuable recreation projects to enhance the quality of life for all demographic groups.

Onota Township places accessibility and barrier free facilities and programs very high on all priority lists. It is the policy of the Township to provide recreational opportunities to residents and visitors regardless of their age, sex, financial or physical abilities. All future construction will be subject to barrier-free inspections. Engineering and architectural firms must comply with and exceed all ADA guidelines to receive contract consideration.

The recreation development plan highlights the top priorities of Onota Township as follows:

Table 5-1 Recreation Development Plan: Proposed Projects ( <i>no set order</i> )		
LOCATION	POTENTIAL PROJECTS	PARTNERS
Tyoga Trail	* Maintain / Improve: Access & Signage * Campaign for Campground Reopening & Partnership or Purchase	Michigan DNR
John H. Hammer Public Access Site	* Maintain / Improve: Ramp, Access & Signage	
Shelter Bay - Lake Superior Access Site	* Obtain Property * Build boat launch & related facilities	<i>none</i>
Rock River Canyon & Ice Caves	* Build/Maintain Ski & Hiking Trails	Forest Service, Hiawatha NF
Rock River Kilns Historic Site	* Maintain: Access & Signage	
Onota Township Recreation Area	* Obtain Land ( <i>location to be determined</i> ) * Construct Pavilion & related facilities * Construct & equip seasonal use fields ( <i>i.e. baseball/ice rink</i> )	<i>none</i>
Deer Lake Ski Trail	* Partner or Purchase Site for Ski Trail Operation	MI DNR
Onota Township History	* Create Public Display of Documents, Artifacts, Photos & Signs at Township Hall	<i>none</i>

## APPENDIX A

### MAPS

#### MAP 3-1 Recreational Sites & Landmarks



## **APPENDIX B**

### **PUBLIC INPUT NOTICE**

**NOTICE:  
ONOTA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS  
RECREATION PLAN INPUT NEEDED**

Please be advised that the Onota Township Planning Commission is updating the Township's five year Recreation Plan to submit to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval and is seeking public input at their December 11, 2012 regular meeting to be held at 7:00pm at the Onota Township Hall, located at E1461 Deerton Sand Lake Road, Deerton, MI 49822.

Public involvement is a key consideration in the recreation planning process. The Planning Commission would like input from residents on potential locations for recreation facilities as well as what types of facilities residents would like to see developed. If you cannot attend the meeting, written comments will also be accepted and may be sent to: Onota Township Planning Commission, PO Box 100, Deerton, MI 49822.

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### **MINUTES FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING ON JANUARY 6, 2014**

#### **G. Resolution on Recreation Plan**

A motion was made by resolution to adopt the Recreation Plan, as presented by the Onota Township Planning Commission.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Sarah Redmond  
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: Susan Kerst  
Stephanie Bromley  
Brian Bresette  
Sarah Redmond  
Terry Pihlainen

## **APPENDIX C**

### **RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

#### **ONOTA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Onota Township Board wishes to provide Recreation Services to the residents of Onota Township by adopting an updated Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Onota has undertaken a five (5) year Recreation Plan under MCL 41.421 and MCL 123.51 which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities for the period of 2013-2017; and

WHEREAS, a public review hearing was held on December 3, 2013 at the Onota Township Hall; and

WHEREAS, a public notice was published in the Munising News which began a review period of 30 days; and

WHEREAS, no comments were received regarding the Recreation Plan at said hearing, or in writing prior to the meeting date; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board Of Onota Township, Alger County, hereby adopts the Onota Township Recreation Plan as presented.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member: Brian Bresette  
Second offered by Board Member: Sarah Redmond

Upon roll call vote the following voted  
"aye": Susan Kerst, Stephanie Bromley, Terry Pihlainen, Sarah Redmond, Brian Bresette  
"nay": None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Adopted on this date January 6, 2014.

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Stephanie Bromley , Clerk  
Resolution #2014-01