



## MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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# RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.

*This meeting will be held in-person in the Marquette Township Hall Conference Room.*

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Roll Call/Election of Officers.
3. Approval of the Agenda.
4. Minutes from Previous Meeting – August 19, 2025
5. Public Comment.
6. Unfinished Business.
  
7. New Business.
  - a. Lions Field Pickleball Issues & Opportunities – Discussion
  - b. Master Plan Update Draft – Discussion
  - c. 2026 Meeting Dates – Informational
  - d. 2026 Capital Improvement Program – Discussion
  - e. Koski Woods Trail Concept - Informational
  
8. Information Items/Reports.
  - a. Board Report
  - b. Planning Commission Report
  - c. Road Committee Report
  - d. Planning & Zoning Report
  
9. Public Comment.
10. Committee Member Comment.
11. Adjournment.

***Next Meeting – March 17, 2026***

Marquette Township Recreation Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.  
Marquette Township Hall Conference Room

1) Meeting Called to Order @ 5:30 pm

2) Roll Call: Joe Schetter, Kristy McBride, Tom Fure

Absent: Brian Hummel (Excused), Linda Winslow (Excused)

Staff Present: Jon Kangas, Township Manager

3) Approval of Agenda:

*Motion: To approve the agenda, as amended, to add "Election of Officers".*

*Fure, Moved  
McBride, Supported*

*Carried: Unanimously*

4) Election of Officers:

*Motion: Elect McBride as Vice Chair.*

*Schetter, Moved  
Fure, Supported*

*Carried: Unanimously*

*Motion: Elect Schetter as Chair.*

*McBride, Moved  
Fure, Supported*

*Carried: Unanimously*

*Motion: Elect Fure as Secretary.*

*Schetter, Moved  
McBride, Supported*

*Carried: Unanimously*

5) Public Comment:

- Written comments from Rob Sved were shared regarding pickleball.
- Deanna Sved – expressed concerns regarding park hour restrictions due to one neighbor complaint (pickleball).

6) Unfinished Business:

- Well Road Trailhead: Pavilion is constructed, with some electrical, interior, and trim work remaining. Parking lot is done.
- Sledding: Has there been any discussion of adding sledding at the trailhead?
- Pete's Pass: Project is complete. Future trail connectivity is being considered.

- Ice Rink: Concerns were raised regarding maintenance of the ice surface. Zamboni is being retired. Consider adding the roof over the rink.
- Fair Avenue: Consider adding non-motorized facilities to City limits.

**7) New Business:**

**a. Pickleball Issues & Opportunities**

Since resurfacing the tennis court and providing four (4) portable pickleball nets, the Township has received multiple noise complaints. The Township Board subsequently approved adjustments to the noise ordinance (quiet hours changed from 10 pm – 7 am to 9 pm – 8 am) and added another hour restriction at each end of the day for pickleball use (allowed from 9 am – 8 pm.) Other options being considered are “quiet balls” or “quiet paddles”. Concerns were expressed regarding impacts to the sport and available use of the facilities for children.

***Motion: Request that the Township Board postpone hour changes until additional research can be completed.***

***Schetter, Moved  
McBride, Supported***

**Carried: Unanimously**

**b. 2025/26 CIP**

- Landscaping improvements around tennis court. Drainage and accessibility are a problem.
- Roof over the ice rink.
- Confirm property line on east side of the tennis court.
- Fair Avenue non-motorized facility to the City limits.

**Information Items/Reports:**

**Board Report**

None.

**Planning Commission Report**

None.

**Road Committee Report**

This committee is disbanded.

**Zoning and Planning Report**

None.

**8) Public Comment:** None.

**9) Committee Member Comment:** Schetter expressed the need to have regular meetings.

**10) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM

## Agenda Item 6b - Draft Marquette Township Master Plan – Recreation References

This handout compiles all major references to recreation, parks, trails, and active living found in the Draft Master Plan. It is intended to help the Recreation Committee evaluate whether recreation topics are complete, clearly addressed, and appropriately emphasized throughout the document.

### Primary Recreation Goals & Objectives (Chapter 10)

- Goal 4: Preserve and enhance public access and enjoyment of unique natural amenities and create a community that supports year-round active living and recreation environments (pp. 132–137).
- Objective 4.1: Make recreational opportunities more accessible to all Township residents and visitors.
- Objective 4.2: Update the Township Recreation Plan every five years and submit it to MDNR for approval to maintain grant eligibility.
- Objective 4.3: Implement the goals, objectives, and action plan of the 5-Year Recreation Action Plan.
- Objective 4.4: Identify and apply for appropriate grant funding for recreation projects.
- Objective 4.5: Review existing and proposed recreation sites for ADA-compliant, barrier-free accessibility.
- Objective 4.6: Explore adding amenities at existing park sites (e.g., dog parks, pickleball courts, covered ice rink at Lions Field).
- Objective 4.7: Develop active and passive recreational opportunities for all age groups and special populations.
- Objective 4.8: Promote recreation that preserves natural features in forested land.
- Objective 4.9: Support development and expansion of multi-use trails consistent with the Transportation and Recreation Plans.
- Objective 4.10: Encourage volunteerism and stewardship to assist with recreation implementation.
- Objective 4.11: Foster partnerships with recreation stakeholders (City, County, NTN, IOHRA, MDNR, schools, etc.).
- Objective 4.12: Encourage establishing funding or a millage to acquire natural, cultural, and scenic properties for preservation.

### Land Use & Recreation (Chapter 9)

- Forest Recreation Future Land Use category: Lands intended for low-impact recreation, trail use, wildlife areas, and natural resource preservation, with limited residential development (pp. 117–118).
- Resource Production areas include hunting, fishing camps, outdoor recreation facilities, and

forest-based recreation uses.

- Zoning districts recognize recreation as a compatible use in designated areas, particularly Forest Recreation and Resource Production.

### **Transportation & Trails (Chapter 10 – Goal 2)**

- Objective 2.3: Identify and map Township motorized and non-motorized transportation systems to inform updates to Transportation and Recreation Plans.
- Objective 2.8: Prepare a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian pathway plan to support a connected regional network.
- Objective 2.9: Implement Complete Streets principles to support multi-modal transportation, including trails and snowmobile routes.
- Objective 2.10: Prioritize non-motorized transportation networks within the Capital Improvements Plan.
- Objective 2.11: Create priority pedestrian corridors connecting destinations, including recreation sites.

### **Natural Resources & Recreation**

- Objective 1.12: Protect contiguous forest lands for conservation, recreation, wildlife habitat, and timber management.
- Objectives 1.18 and 1.19: Preserve forest lands, scenic views, open space, shorelines, and road corridors for recreational and aesthetic value.
- Watershed and shoreline protection objectives indirectly support water-based recreation and environmental quality.

### **Climate & Year-Round Recreation**

- Climate change discussion notes shorter winters, changing snowfall patterns, and increased precipitation, which have implications for winter recreation and four-season facility planning (p. 32).
- The Plan implies a need for adaptable recreation facilities but does not list specific climate-resilient recreation strategies.

### **Implementation & Recreation Planning**

- Recreation Plan updates are identified as a required five-year action within the Implementation Priority Guide.
- Recreation investments are tied to grant readiness, capital planning, and intergovernmental coordination.
- Ongoing plan review processes allow recreation priorities to be updated as conditions change.

### **Areas for Recreation Committee Review**

- Are recreation goals sufficiently detailed and specific?
- Are all major recreation assets and needs reflected in the Plan?

- Is the relationship between the Master Plan and the 5-Year Recreation Plan clear?
- Are funding, partnerships, and implementation responsibilities adequately addressed?
- Are any recreation topics missing or underemphasized?

# Charter Township of Marquette

## 2026 Meeting Dates

<u>Township Board</u> 5:30 pm	<u>Planning Commission</u> 6:00 pm	<u>Recreation Committee</u> 5:30 pm	<u>DDA</u> 3:00 pm
January 7	January 14	January 20	January 13
January 21	January 28	February 17	April 14
February 4	February 11	March 17	July 14
February 18	February 25	April 21	October 13
March 4	March 11	May 19	
March 18	March 25	June 16	
April 1	April 8	July 21	
April 15	April 22	August 18	
May 6	May 13	September 15	
May 20	May 27	October 20	
June 3	June 10	November 17	
June 17	June 24	December 15	
July 8	July 15		
July 22	July 29		
August 5	August 12		
August 19	August 26		
September 2	September 9		
September 16	September 23		
October 7	October 14		
October 21	October 28		
November 4	December 9		
November 18			
December 2			
December 16			

**NOTE:**

Township Board meets at 5:30pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Township Hall.

Planning Commission meets at 7:00pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Township Hall. The Planning Commission Only has (1) One Meeting in November and December.

Recreation Committee meets at 5:30pm on the third Tuesday.

DDA meets at 3:00pm on the second Tuesday of each quarter.

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# Koski Woods Trail Concept

2025



Prepared By: NTN | PO Box 746 | Marquette MI, 49855

For: Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority | PO Box 326 | Negaunee, MI 49866

With Funding Support From: MTGA Catalyst Fund

# Koski Woods Trail Concept

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## 1. Introduction

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail Authority-owned Koski Woods property presents a unique opportunity to expand non-motorized recreation options in Marquette County while honoring the site's natural resource values. NTN was contracted to assist the Iron Ore Heritage to create a concept for trails on this newly acquired property. This plan provides an overview of the property's history, soils, terrain, access points, and outlines potential trail development concepts that balance recreation, stewardship, and connectivity.

## 2. Property History

**Ownership & Use:** Located on the boundary between Marquette and Negaunee Townships along the Iron Ore Heritage Trail (See Map 1) the William Koski Family property was historically managed for small-scale forestry, fuelwood, and traditional hunting access. In 2024, 180 acres of the 200-acre Koski property was sold to the IOHT with the support of a Michigan Natural Resources grant and in-kind donation from current owners, Koski descendants Carol Schwemin and Joyce Britton.



Map 1: IOHT Koski Woods Location Map

**Conservation Value:** The property was acquired and gifted with the intent of protecting green space and creating public trails that could connect to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail corridor and nearby trail systems.

**Community Role:** Positioned between established trail hubs, and accessible from the IOHT immediately adjacent to the overhead rail trestle, the land provides an ideal location for nonmotorized recreation. It is easily accessible from the IOHT at a convenient and popular stopping point, and the land provides extended opportunities for walking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing, and taking in nature in close proximity to Marquette.

### 3. Land & Trail Evaluation

NTN was initially approached to evaluate potential for trail development during the land acquisition process. With preliminary review favorable for non-motorized trail development, in Spring of 2025 with grant support from Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (MTGA) Catalyst Fund, Jeremiah Johnston, NTN Trail Manager, walked the property with Bob Hendrickson, IOHT Administrator to assess access, terrain, and vegetation. On the ground info, map assessment, and conversations with neighboring property owners provided a picture of trail potential and concerns. A review of the property considered a number of elements including:

#### Soils & Ecological Considerations

- **Soils:** Predominantly sandy loam with pockets of glacial till. These well-drained soils are generally favorable for trail construction, with cautious development in lower-lying clay-rich depressions where compaction and wetness may occur.
- **Vegetation:** Mixed northern hardwoods (sugar maple, yellow birch, red oak) dominate the majority of the property, conifers (hemlock, balsam fir, white pine) frame the edges, with scattered aspen and birch throughout.
- **Ecological Sensitivity:** Seasonal wetlands and ephemeral streams are present in small pockets where trail development would not be recommended. Signs of deer and other native animals are present. Trail layout should be designed to avoid sensitive areas or incorporate boardwalks/bridges where necessary.



Photos: Vegetation and streams at Koski Woods.

### **Terrain Review**

- **Topography:** There is gently rolling terrain with ~100 feet of elevation change across the property. A large transmission line does bisect the property from North to South which will not negatively impact trail opportunities.
- **Features:** Small ridges and rocky knolls provide scenic overlooks, while low-lying drainages and streams support wetland vegetation and also provide areas for wildlife viewing.
- **Suitability for Trails:** Slopes under 12% dominate the landscape, ideal for sustainable singletrack development. Steeper knolls may host short, technical routes for advanced trail users.

### **Access & Connectivity to IOHT**

- **Primary Access** will be off the IOHT directly adjacent to the rail trestle on the northwest corner of the property. A short challenging build on the steep hillside next to the IOHT will be needed to provide proper “green” easy access to the remainder of the property.

This initial access trail will be a difficult build, requiring extra time and rock work. At the top of this climb/access, there is an excellent location for a main trailhead, map kiosk, interpretive signage, benches, etc. The direct connection to IOHT creates opportunities for commuting to site, family-friendly loops, and broad access providing a unique trail space.

- **Secondary Access:** It is recommended to explore a secondary access from the County Road 492 side of the property to enhance connectivity. It is recommended to seek and identify a trail friendly property owner. Access from the South would provide a future linkage to NTN South Trails and further improve connectivity of the regional trail network.
- **Future Access Notes:** Land purchase could also be explored to provide nearby parking accessible from US41.

#### 4. Trail Recommendations

Upon review of soils, topography, access, features, the recommended trail type is multi-use singletrack to provide for a variety of users and offer a high quality trail experience. Trails should be designed for mountain biking, hiking, and trail running with potential for winter snowshoeing, backcountry skiing. *Due to winter access restricted by snowmobile use of IOHT, winter season access may be limited and possibly discouraged due to safety concerns at this time.* This doesn't limit surrounding landowners from utilizing property or future development of public winter trail access and potential singletrack grooming.

**From the primary access/main kiosk location adjacent and accessible from the IOHT, trails should be designed in a stacked loop format with variable finished trail width of 24-36". A stacked loop system adds each loop onto an existing loop, allowing users to combine loops and progress as they desire for a custom route and length.**

Several design principles developed by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) are recommended in the layout of trails for both sustainability and quality trail experience.

- Sustainable grades (<10% average, <15% max).
- Outsloped tread and grade reversals for drainage.
- Avoidance of wetlands and riparian areas.
- Buffering of neighboring properties to maintain an isolated feel.

## **5. Public Input**

An online survey was distributed to the public in Fall 2025 to garner feedback on a preliminary trail concept and map. From 102 responses, the following was collected.

### **Koski Woods Trail Input – Survey Summary**

#### **Respondent Location**

The vast majority of respondents live within the City of Marquette or Marquette Township. This indicates the project's primary stakeholder base is local and directly connected to the proposed trail area.

#### **Use of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail**

Most respondents regularly or occasionally use the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. Very few reported not using it. Key takeaway: This user group is already highly engaged with local non-motorized trail systems.

#### **Types of Trail Recreation**

Across the responses, common activities include:

- Mountain biking (including Class 1 e-MTB)
- Trail running
- Hiking
- Walking/dog walking
- Nordic skiing and fat biking (mentioned in some multi-choice responses)

This reinforces that the Koski Woods concept should support multi-use, natural-surface trail recreation.

#### **Interest in More Natural -Surface Trails**

Nearly all respondents answered YES when asked if they'd like more natural-surface singletrack connected to their neighborhood or local system.

Strong conclusion: There is overwhelming support for building additional singletrack in and around the Koski Woods area.

## **Volunteer Interest**

Many respondents indicated a willingness to help with:

- Trail building or maintenance
- Community support
- General volunteer efforts

Several provided contact info for follow-up.

## **Key Comments & Themes**

Respondent comments, while varied, shared consistent themes:

- Excitement about the proposed concept (“Gonna be sweet!”)
- A desire for more connectivity, particularly north–south links
- Interest in trails that feel raw, natural, and fun
- Beginner/Intermediate trail opportunities for longer excursions connecting the entire property.
- General enthusiasm for expanding neighborhood trail access

No notable objections or concerns were identified in the dataset.

## **Overall Survey Summary**

The survey showed strong community support for developing the Koski Woods trail system. Respondents are engaged trail users who value connectivity, natural-surface experiences, and local access. Feedback indicates both readiness and enthusiasm for the project, including willingness from multiple participants to volunteer or stay involved.

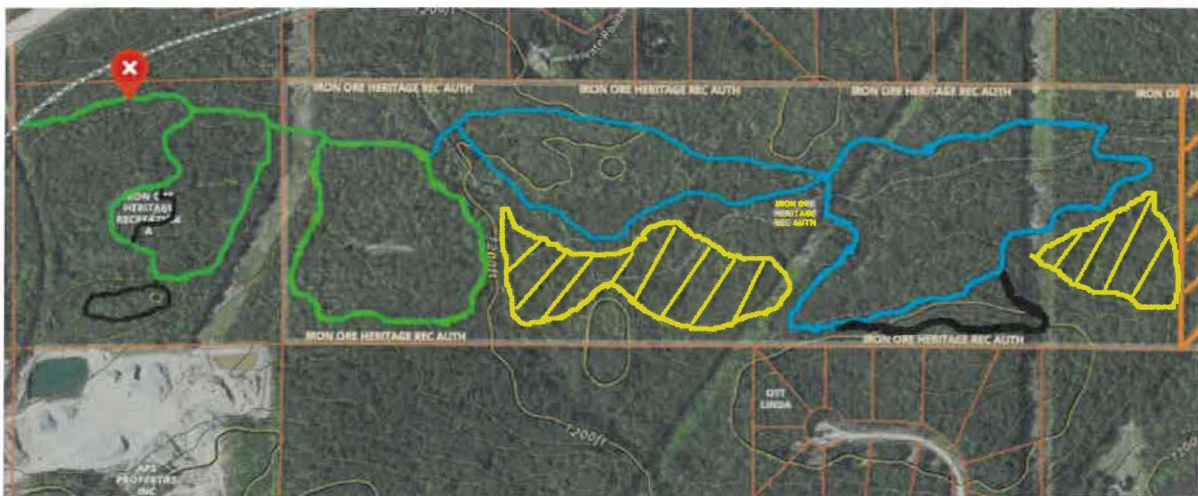


Photo: Volunteers headed out to support a dig day.

## 6. Final Trail Layout Concept

The public input provided additional guidance that enhanced the project to include a trail layout of four primary loops with additional technical sections. See Map 2. Note yellow hashed areas on map are known wetland areas.

- **Access from IOHT (Easy/Beginner)** ¼ mile, some significant rock work necessary to complete this section. Red pin on map is a natural flat area with picturesque rock walls that would make an attractive main kiosk area.
- **Green Loop 1 (Easy/Beginner)** ½ mile, stays west of power line. Short and approachable, an introduction to the property, with two optional advanced side loops on interesting rock terrain (two small black loops on map).
- **Green Loop 2 (Easy/Moderate)** ¾ mile, good rolling terrain for approachable skills features. Some of this area has been logged, and is a little more open. The inside of this loop could be filled in with more small loops of green or blue level learning features.
- **Blue Loop 1 (Intermediate)**, 1-¼ miles, avoids wet areas and deer bedding areas on the south side of property (yellow zone). Lots of potential for more advanced side features.
- **Blue Loop 2 (Intermediate)**, 1-½ to 1-¾ miles, lots of interesting rock and terrain to use. Avoids wet areas and deer bedding areas on the southeast portion of property (yellow zone). The longest and farthest loop out for the longest ride. Proposed as blue level based in part on community feedback. Could be changed to a black level trail.
- **Black Loop (Advanced/Technical)**, ½ mile, potential very cool technical rock area. Steeper terrain will require more advanced building technique.



Map 2: Trail Layout Concept

## 7. Trail Construction Costs

Per mile trail construction cost estimates vary widely and are largely based on terrain, trail type (hand-built vs. machine built), features, access to site, and whether you include planning/design/permits:

- **Basic natural singletrack** (hand-built on moderate terrain):  
~\$15,000–\$40,000 per mile (natural surface trails)
- **Trail organization & industry estimates** (machine built):  
~\$10,000–\$45,000 per mile (including permitting, tools, labor)
- **IMBA / industry planning budgets:**  
~\$21,000–\$63,000 per mile for traditional singletrack in some planning docs.
- **High end / premium builds:**  
Trails with major earthwork, features (berms, jumps), or difficult terrain increasingly *reach or exceed* ~\$75,000–\$100,000+ per mile and some local project bids have come in at ~\$110,000+ per mile recently.
- **Volunteer-heavy, low-feature builds:**  
With lots of volunteer labor and minimal shaping, costs can be significantly lower (sometimes < \$10,000 per mile), though quality and sustainability vary.

NTN is estimating initial construction costs based on NTN's history of recent contracts for professionally machine-built trails and known difficulty or ease of build. Costs may vary from preliminary estimates based on final approved and flagged routes. **The estimates below are for initial construction and based on the Trail Layout Concept Map presented in this plan.**

**Access from IOHT:** ¼ mile, mostly rock or topsoil, extremely limited by terrain, significant rock work necessary in some areas. **10k-20k**

**Green Loop 1:** ½ mile, sandy loam with bits of rock. **12k-20k**

**Green Loop 1 Alternate Lines:** ¼ mile. **8k-12k**

**Green Loop 2:** ¾ mile, sandy loam, lots of space to play with. Could easily become a more windy trail with more side features to make more distance from this space. **18k-30k**

**Blue Loop 1:** 1-¼ miles, mix of sandy loam and rock. **30k-50k**

**Blue Loop 2:** 1-¾ miles, mix of sandy loam and rock. **42k-70k**

**Black Loop:** ½ mile, steep terrain with technical rock features. **10k-20k**

**Total estimate for build out of entire property: 130k - 222k**

## **8. Implementation**

**Flagging of proposed trail routes will be completed by NTN Staff in Spring, 2026.** Time of year will allow better examination of standing and flowing water providing for a more sustainable build. The preliminary flagging will be followed with on the ground review with IOHT representatives and adjustments made as needed. Construction can begin as funding and/or partners for the build are in place.

A phased construction is recommended to first establish good access to the property for users as well as emergencies, followed by construction of the first loop. Public energy can then be rallied to fundraise around ongoing construction of remaining loops.

## **9. Stewardship**

Ongoing maintenance of natural surface trails is necessary and could be coordinated with volunteer crews and partner organizations to ensure stewardship of the trails and land. Each year, at a minimum, Spring and Fall trail clearing and inspection is needed. IOHT could implement an adopt-a-trail program that encourages a stronger connection to the property. Potential partners may include:

NTN with trail adoption as part of regular seasonal maintenance of network trails.

Volunteer stewards that could include nearby landowners who assist in maintenance and protection of the land.

Local Youth Organizations could adopt the system as a stewardship project. Potential youth organizations include Start the Cycle, 906 Adventure Team, MCIC, or Scouts.

Northern Michigan University Clubs and Programs may be interested in studies on the land and helping with maintenance.

## 10. Potential Funding Sources

**Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** - Created to help protect valuable lands and expand outdoor recreation opportunities for the public in Michigan. It plays a key role in how Michigan acquires natural areas and develops public recreation spaces like parks, trails, boat launches, and other outdoor facilities.

**Recreation Passport Grant Program** - Provides funding to local units of government for the development of public recreation facilities. This includes the development of new facilities and the renovation of old facilities.

**Philanthropic Organizations** - Local and non-local funding sources that may support public health initiatives, outdoor facilities, and trail related activities.

**Gifts and Private Donations** - Cultivated giving opportunities that provide for solicited and unsolicited support of projects and programs. Social campaigns around donations have been successful locally for all types of trail projects.

**Business and Corporate Partnerships** - IOHT as the owner of the Koski property has the ability to develop programs for corporate giving and sponsorship of trail segments.



Photo: Typical trail maintenance tools.