

SANDS TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

Sands Township now has an official Parks and Recreation Committee. (PRC) This committee began as a Citizens' Advisory Committee, and now has blossomed into a formal township committee with bylaws (available at Sands Township Website). The purpose of the PRC is to implement the Township's Recreation Plan, represent the recreation interest of the community, and enhance recreational opportunities for residents.

Sands Township Parks & Recreation Committee:

Jen Wixtrom (chair)	346-4642
Carrie Miller	249-4321
Michelle Redlon	346-9956
Sue Smedman	249-9534
Sherry Soetaert	249-1239
Shawn Sitar	346-4919

PARKS AND RECREATION WEBPAGE

The webpage on the recently updated Sands Township webpage that is hosted by Marquette County may be reached by typing "Sands Township" in any of the major internet search engines. Or URL is www.mqtinfo.org/government0002.asp. Plans for the new Township Park, PRC bylaws and calendar of events can be found at the web page. Should you have any questions regarding Sands Township recreation, please feel free to contact the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Dates to remember:

August 5: 10am-12pm: **Open House** for the Sands Township park development at the township office.
 August 26: "Adopt a River" 10-12 am meet at the township office, traveling to Escanaba river. Picnic lunch provided. Contact Jen Wixtrom
 August 31: Deadline for park naming contest. Prizes for the top three suggestions will be awarded.

Submitted by : Recreation Committee

NAME THE SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK

CONTEST

The park should be called:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

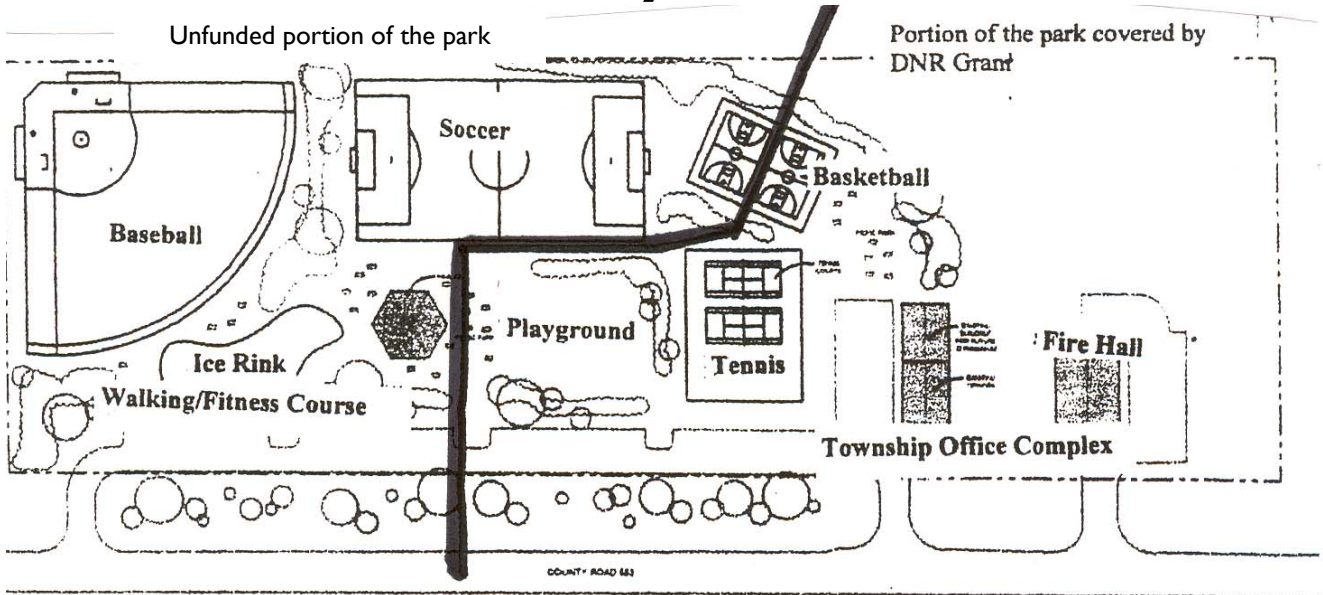
Contest ends August 31, 2006 Drop off or Mail to the Township Complex



STRAWBERRY LAKE

Strawberry Lake is township recreation property. Follow the access road west off M-553, near the Marquette County Fairgrounds, turn to the South on the gravel road and follow it to the lake. The park is open daily. This is a DNR designated lake with special state regulations. NO live bait is allowed. Size and amount limitations apply, please be aware of them. In order to prevent contamination, no motorized boats or jet skis allowed.

Park layout Plan



NEW SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK COMPLEX

Most citizens are unaware that the township has a Recreation plan and formal plans for a Township park complex (see Sands Township web page.) The new park complex will be located adjacent to the Township office to the south. Recently Sands Township had the honor of being one of two U.P. communities to be awarded the National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Grant for \$95,500. This a matching grant, which means that the grant recipient has to match the award amount. Unfortunately, this grant only funds about half of the planned Township Park. The two tennis courts, one of two basketball courts, the playground, pit toilets, and half of the parking lot were funded in this grant. The major features of the park that were not funded include the baseball field, soccer field, the pavilion, and the other parking lot. The Sands Parks and Recreation Auxiliary was formed to seek donations to help complete the park complex. If you are interested in donating to help complete our park, please contact Michelle Redlon at 346-9956 (maredlon@hotmail.com)

Submitted by : Recreation Committee

MILLAGE PROPOSAL FOR RECREATION OPERATIONS

Another major recreational facility in the Township is the indoor basketball court/multipurpose complex that has not been completed in the rear of the township office complex. This complex can be used for basketball as well as a room for parties and receptions. A major obstacle to the completion of the indoor recreational complex is the lack of funds for maintenance and repair. The township recreational facilities will incur annual maintenance and operational costs that is estimated to be about \$26,000 per year. In light of this concern, the township board recently passed a resolution to put a millage proposal in the primary election on August 8, 2006. This millage proposal requests a half mill increase for a period of ten years. As an example, what this translates for a property with a market value of \$100,000, it would mean about a \$25 increase in your yearly taxes, for maintaining our indoor recreational multipurpose complex, the new township park, and Strawberry Lake recreation area. Submitted by: Recreation Committee