

CHAPTER FIVE: GOALS & OBJECTIVES/ACTION PLAN

Goals and objectives were developed from a public input session as well as by input from the survey results from the 2013 City of Grayling Master Plan update.



Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Implement Phase II improvements to the Au Sable River City Park.

Objectives:

1. Add additional signage around the entire park.
2. Add additional security cameras in the park.
3. Improve the aesthetics of the park through additional landscaping and irrigation including the Memorial Gardens.
4. Building a new enclosed pavilion.
5. Building shuffleboard courts.
6. Designate and develop area for sand sports such as volleyball and horseshoes.
7. Build additional fishing docks on East side of the park.
8. Nature Center improvements
 - a) Improve and replace security system outside of the Nature Center.
9. Improve barrier free accessibility in City parks, where appropriate.
10. Improve and install new playground equipment at City Park.

Goal 2. Make improvements to City Skate Park to enhance quality and user experience.

Objectives:

1. Establish a Bike path trailhead to begin at the Skate Park.
2. Build a warming shed with restrooms.
3. Improve barrier free accessibility in City parks, where appropriate.

Goal 3. Skateboard Park to address youth interest in skateboarding and provide a safe place that is away from the central business district.

Objectives:

1. Work with service clubs, i.e., Rotary and Grayling Youth Boosters to help raise funds to expand the park.
2. Purchase and install new equipment to improve the skatepark.
3. Improve barrier free accessibility in City parks, where appropriate.
4. Pursue funding for equipment.

Goal 4. Water Trails/River Trails Classification.

Objectives:

1. Work with Michigan Department of Natural Resources to establish a Water Trails/River Trails classification for the main stream of the AuSable River.
2. Partner with other local agencies, Emergency Management or the State of Michigan on installing mile markers along the river for better access to people in need of emergency services while on the river.
3. Improve barrier free accessibility in City parks, where appropriate.

Goal 5. Implement Phase III improvements to the AuSable River City Park

Objectives:

1. Build a bridge adjacent to the railroad bridge over the AuSable River for biking, and hiking improvements.
2. Complete the asphalt path around the park from the new bridge described above to the existing bridge.
3. Improve barrier free accessibility in City parks, where appropriate.
4. Create access from city central business district to the Au Sable River City Park.
 - a) Continue to work with MDOT and the City to determine the best path to access the City Park from across I-75 BL.
5. Nature Center Improvements.
 - a) Landscape around the building
 - b) Purchase and place additional information kiosks that can be used to post information including but not limited to: Park rules, maps and current events.
 - c) Build a stage complete with public address system outside the nature center under a band shell.

Goal 6. Purchase Portable Stage System

Objectives:

1. Partner with other civic groups to purchase a portable stage system.

Goal 7. Develop a park on the East Branch of the Au Sable River

Objectives:

1. Acquire rights to use property located behind the Fish Hatchery on the East Branch of the Au Sable River. (Property is currently owned by Crawford County).
2. Develop a natural park for hiking, biking, cross country ski trails, and possibly camping.
3. Develop a public access site for launching small watercraft.
4. Develop a Picnic area and fishing pier.
5. Build a parking lot and seasonal restrooms.

6. Improve barrier free accessibility in City parks, where appropriate.

Goal 8. Expand and enhance non-motorized recreation facilities within the City and support development regional facilities that connect Grayling to other communities and points of interest.

Objectives:

1. Bike Path Signage
2. Connect the City of Grayling to the Rayburn Property located along the Main Branch of the AuSable River (*On-Road Facilities & Side Paths*)
3. Link Grayling Bicycle Turnpike to North Higgins Lake State Park (*On-Road Facilities & Side Paths*)
4. Develop river walkway from Downtown Grayling to Fish Hatchery (*Off-Road Paths*)
5. Establish non-motorized routes along AuSable River from Grayling to Mio, Glennie, Oscoda and Lake Huron. Identify bike routes along the AuSable River Corridor; map and inventory segments to evaluate needed non-motorized facility improvements (*On-Road Facilities*)
6. Bike loop: M-72 west to M-93 to Military Road to North Higgins Lake State Park On-road facilities (*On-Road Facilities*)
7. Bike loop: Grayling M-72 west to Manistee River Road to 612 and east to Frederic (*On-Road Facilities*)
8. Extend Grayling Bicycle Turnpike to Waters (*On-Road Facilities & Side Paths*)
9. Extend shoulders on M-72 from Grayling east to Wakley Lake and Mason Tract (*On-Road Facilities*)
10. Connect Grayling with Old Dam Road (*On-Road Facilities*)
11. Support the Northeast Michigan Regional Non-motorized Transportation Plan
12. Construct pedestrian crossing at bridge in downtown Grayling



Goal 9: Create a City Greenways System that connects features within the City and connects to regional features

Objectives:

1. Develop a detailed site-specific greenways plan that identifies critical and resource sensitive areas, parcels to be protected, precise location of pathways and funding options.
2. Establish policies in the City's planning and zoning documents to develop greenways and protect open space.
3. Work with land conservancies and private landowners to protect natural areas along the AuSable River.



4. Develop a river walkway from the Downtown to the Fish Hatchery.
5. Create the East Branch Park as a nature recreation facility, develop hiking trails within the park and connect the park to other community facilities with a pathway.
6. Support efforts to extend trails from Grayling to other communities and State Parks.
7. Connect the City of Grayling to the Rayburn Property located along the Main Branch of the AuSable River.
8. Work with adjacent communities to develop interconnected greenways that reach beyond the city boundaries.
9. Create a portage on the Main Branch of the AuSable over N. James Street

Goal 10: Advance elder-friendly community concepts in public environments that support independence and livability by being sensitive to the physical needs and limitations of older adults.

Objectives:

1. Streets, sidewalks and paths are well maintained all year.
2. Sidewalks and pathways are suitable for persons requiring motorized scooters and wheelchairs; are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, motorized scooters and pedestrians.
3. Pathways are multi-purpose, (i.e., suitable for walking, running and biking).
4. Pathways are barrier-free and can be used by persons with disabilities.
5. Pathways have sufficient width with acceptable surfaces and slopes and allowing for safe passing.
6. Pathways have clearly marked signs and trail markings.
7. Pathways connect to neighborhoods, parks, other bike lanes, streets, retail centers and other common destinations.
8. Pathways and public spaces have appropriately situated resting areas with benches.
9. Signals are timed to allow anyone to cross comfortably and safely and where appropriate have pedestrian devices such as buttons that stop traffic and walk/don't walk signals are available to allow safe crossing.
10. Intersections have safety features such as bright, reflective lane markings, directional signals and overhead indicators that are present for turning lanes and left turn lanes.
11. Crosswalks and curb ramps are well signed and striped appropriately; are well lit at night; are low, textured for traction, and have the appropriate slope and width for persons with disabilities.
12. Indoor facilities provide environments for year-round recreational activities.



Priority	Site	Proj. #	Property Improvements	Est. Cost	Funding Source (s)	Year
High	City Skate Park	16	Establish a Bike path trailhead to begin at the Skate Park	\$500,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2021
Medium	City Skate Park	18	Purchase and install additional skateboard equipment	\$50,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2022
Low	AuSable River City Park Phase III	26	Expand the Wi-Fi at the Nature Center to cover park.	\$1,100.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2015
Low	AuSable River City Park Phase III	28	Purchase Portable Stage and/or bandshell	\$110,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2015
Medium	AuSable River City Park Phase III	36	Greenway rehabilitation the river's edge within the City Park	\$250,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2015
Medium	Charles Moore Memorial Park	30	Additional Landscaping at Charles Moore Park	\$10,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2015
High	City AuSable River City Park Phase III	37	Collaborate to connect a non-motorized pathway between Otsego Lake State Park & North Higgins Lake State Park	\$500,000.00	DNR, MEDC, MDOT, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2016
Medium	AuSable River City Park Phase III	7	Walkway to cross I75 Business Loop to City Park	\$10,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2016
High	AuSable River City Park Phase II	4	Landscaping in City Park including Memorial Gardens	\$50,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2017
High	AuSable River City Park Phase II	12	Build additional Fishing Pier & Picnic area at City Park	\$250,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2017
Medium	Elm Street AuSable River City Park Phase III	19	Develop Property for Children's Park	\$500,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2017
Low	AuSable River City Park Phase III	24	Purchase property downtown for a pathway and demolish any current buildings on it	\$300,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2017
Low	AuSable River City Park Phase III	25	Landscape around the Nature Center Building	\$5,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2017
High	AuSable River City Park Phase II	9	Designate Fitness Trail to City Park	\$500,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2018
Low	East Branch of AuSable River	33	Develop public canoe/kayak launch at the park and/or in the City Limits.	\$500,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2018

Low	Downtown City Au Sable River City Park Phase III	34	Develop downtown Pocket Park w/Restrooms	\$500,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2018
Medium	Au Sable River City Park Phase III	21	Build bridge adjacent to the railroad bridge over the Au Sable River	\$300,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2019
Low	Au Sable River City Park Phase III	22	Complete the asphalt path around City Park from new bridge to existing bridge	\$300,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2019
Low	East Branch of Au Sable River	31	Acquire property behind Fish Hatchery	\$500,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2019
Medium	City	1	Add additional Historical & Factual Signage around City	\$250,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2022
Low	East Branch of Au Sable River	32	Develop property into Natural Park for hiking, biking, cross country skiing, etc.	\$500,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2019
Low	East Branch of Au Sable River	35	Build a parking lot and seasonal restrooms at the Natural Park behind Fish Hatchery	\$500,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2019
Low	City	20	Community Center	\$10,000,000.00	DNR, LOCAL & PRIVATE	2024

Project #	Justification
1	Improved signage will enhance users' ability to enjoy everything the City has to offer.
4	Improving aesthetics of the park will improve the quality of experience at the park and will attract additional users. Irrigation will allow for proper maintenance of the landscaped improvements.
7	A designated walkway crossing the I-75 Business Loop would provide pedestrians a safe and convenient way to come and go between businesses and the City Park.
9	A fitness trail will allow residents of all age's access to more active and recreational activities.
12	A Fishing platform will allow residents of all ages and abilities to fish and enjoy viewing, and a picnic area would draw residents and visitors to the Au Sable River and be consistent with implementing a greenways system within the community.
14	Art in the park will improve the quality of experience at the park and will attract additional users.
16	Constructing a trailhead will support users of the Grayling Bicycle Turnpike by providing a convenient staging area in-town. This will draw people from out of the community to park and use the facility.
18	Our skate park is one of the best in the area and adding additional equipment will only enhance the wonderful park we already have.
19	The Children's Park will provide access to recreational opportunities for residents, in particular young families, along with creating green space in the area.
20	A Community Center could serve as an affordable place for residents to exercise, enjoy nature and spend time with their family and friends.
21	The bridge would be built to accommodate both pedestrian and snowmobile/orv traffic. A bridge at this location would expand access to trails for residents and would connect the community to regional trail systems.
22	A paved pathway will improve use of the park for walkers and bicyclers. Trail expansion will increase walkability within the community.
24	Adding links to the pedestrian network will increase walkability and therefore encourage residents to embrace a healthier life style.
25	Landscaping will improve the quality of experience at the park and will attract additional users.
26	An expanded Wi-Fi will allow for educational & recreational opportunities for the residents and park users.
28	Construction of a band shell or a portable stage will allow outdoor performances and draw residents and visitors to the downtown.
30	Additional landscaping will improve the quality of experience at the park and will attract additional users.
31 and 32	This will allow for the development of a park behind the fish hatchery. It would be consistent with implementing a greenways system within the

	community.
33	Water access for canoes and kayaks will enable people to use the Au Sable River in town and be consistent with implementing a greenways system within the community.
34	Downtown pocket park w/restrooms would give people a place to rest & relax downtown as well as have use of public restrooms.
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36	Maintaining and improving the City Park's greenways will be beneficial both ascetically environmentally.
37	Collaborating and expanding and enhancing the non-motorized pathway to connect Grayling to other communities and points of interest will be very beneficial to tourism.

Priority	Site	Proj. #	Property Improvements	Year Completed
High	Au Sable River City Park Phase II	2	Purchase new playground equipment for City Park	2013
High	Au Sable River City Park Phase II	3	Install security camera in Park and Nature Center restrooms	2012
High	Au Sable River City Park Phase II	5	Adding benches, tables, trash receptacles and drinking fountains to City Park	2013
High	Middle School Recreation Field	6	Adding new roof to pavilion to City Park	2013
High	Charles Moore Memorial Park	8	Dog gone pick-up stations in City Park	2013
Medium	Au Sable River City Park Phase III	10	Repair electrical system and add lighting to City Park	2009
Medium	City All Purpose Skate Park	11	Install bike parking	2014
Medium	Children's Park	13	Purchase and install security cameras both inside and outside of Nature Center building	2013
	Grayling Middle School Field	15	Purchase Portable Ice Rink	2013
	City Concrete Skate Park	17	Build a warming shed	2010
	City of Grayling Elm Street	19	Purchase property for Children's Park and/or pocket park	2013
	City of Grayling	23	Repave and stripe City Park parking lot	2010
	Au Sable River City Park Phase 11	27	Purchase and place an information kiosk outside of Nature Center building	2012
	City of Grayling	29	Gazebo for Charles Moore Memorial Park	2013
	City of Grayling	30	Landscape Charles Moore Memorial Park	2013
High	Au Sable River City Park Phase II	14	Have a mural painted or purchase art for the wall behind the window in front of the Nature Center	2015
Medium	Au Sable River City Park Phase III	36	Greenway rehabilitation the rivers edge within the City Park	2016
Medium	Charles Moore Memorial Park	30	Additional Landscaping at Charles Moore Park	2015

Low	East Branch of the Au Sable River	33	Develop public canoe/kayak launch at the park and/or in the City Limits.	2019
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Basis for Action

The Total population is 1849; the demographics of the City of Grayling indicate that a majority (55.8%) of the City exists as family households. There are 461 children under the age of 20 (25%); while 32.5% of Grayling residents are over the age of 55. There are 419 disabled residents in the City of Grayling. Due to the large number of residents



who are able to pursue active recreation as well as the high number of households with children and disabled persons, the City of Grayling must plan recreational facilities that appeal to a wide variety of people. In addition, with the median income of Grayling being \$24,000 in 2013 with 16.8% of Crawford County population and 32.7% of City of Grayling Population being below the poverty level, recreation must be fairly affordable.

The City intends to capitalize on its natural assets to fulfill the needs of outdoor recreation in the community. With the surrounding fishing, camping, snowmobiling and skiing opportunities, the City of Grayling will lean towards the development of the city's outdoor recreational facilities. Therefore, the City of Grayling intends to develop its outdoor recreation to suit the needs of differing age groups, income levels, and physical abilities of City residents and visitors. Added pedestrian facilities will improve the walkability in the community, which would benefit all age groups and in particular the elder population and youth. The connection of residential areas to businesses and institutional facilities with pathways will support a more physically active community, thus improving community health and safety. Development of recreation facilities with a focus on meeting ADA guidelines will address the needs of residents with disabilities and the aging population. Parks and playgrounds provide safe outdoor gathering places for families. In addition, community facilities that offer no-cost recreation opportunities for residents will enhance quality of life for all residents. Access to art, whether visual or performing, further adds to the quality of life in a community.

Au Sable River City Park

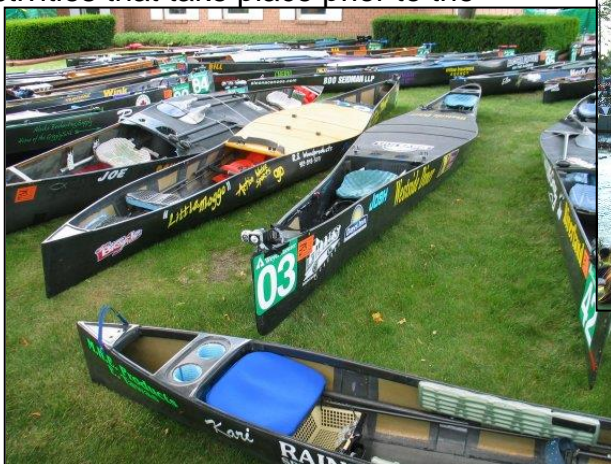
In 2005, The City of Grayling received a Michigan Department of Natural Resource Land Trust grant to make improvements to the Au Sable River City Park. However, the improvements needed were much greater than the funds available to complete the project.



In 2007, the City in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resource made some major improvements to the park. These improvements include: The major renovation of a building that sits on the property creating a “Nature Center” and public restrooms. A new ADA compliant bridge was constructed over the Au Sable River, a fishing pier and a kayak launch was also constructed. We added a walking path that brings both sides of the park together and allows easy access around the park for walkers and bikers alike. Attention was given to the parking lots that surround the park, making them more user-friendly.

The Au Sable River City Park is a valuable community facility, as well as an important tourist destination. The annual Au Sable Marathon, a 120-mile canoe race begins very near this location and ends in Oscoda.

This event draws more than 10,000 people to the City of Grayling. Many of the activities that take place prior to the



marathon occur in the park. Other community events that are held in the park are the Annual Au Sable River Fine Arts and Crafts show, the Rotary

Barbeque, Chamber of Commerce Kids Day, and various concerts that are held throughout the summer.

This highly utilized park would offer much more to the community with additional signage, playground equipment, security cameras, landscaping, benches, tables, drinking fountain and trash receptacles. A new pavilion will bring additional user opportunities to complement the future shuffleboards, volleyball and band shell. Bike parking, electrical repairs including additional lighting will enhance resident experiences at the park. Fishing docks on the east-side of the Park will allow fishing opportunities for all groups including residents with disabilities. Proper irrigation will assist in maintaining the aesthetic enhancements developed in the park.

Phase II will follow ADA guidelines allowing greater use among the residents. Paving the path from the new bridge and the parking lot will allow more residents to utilize the park, especially residents with special needs. Community activities occurring at a band shell within the park will add to the utilization and awareness of the facility. Creating easy access is vital to the use of the park.

Skate Park

With 662 residents between the ages of 5-34 (35.8%), the skate park has been well used recreational opportunity within the City of Grayling. In 2004 the city created a new skate park next to the City offices/City Police department. The skate park is within walking distance to the Primary, Elementary and Middle schools. The park is well lit and is used from December (weather permitting) to the end of March. The availability of the park is solely dependent on the weather. Once the weather is below freezing the DPW floods the surface with water and continues to maintain the ice throughout the winter months.

Improvements to the rink will provide for better ice formation and ice skating. The reconstruction would also improve warm weather use of roller skating, rollerblading and skateboarding. The warming building and restrooms will enhance year-round use of the park. Constructing a trailhead will support users of the Grayling Bicycle Turnpike by providing convenient staging area in-town. Planned improvements will benefit young families and middle-aged users.

Children's Park

To help reduce the rate of obesity, the city will build a children's park adjacent to the middle school. The school owns the center of the entire city block that has identified as an area to build the Children's Park. The City of Grayling plans to purchase the designated property and then merge with the existing school property. The school would be involved in determining the two age specific play areas for the children. This joint venture with the schools and the Kiwanis is an excellent joint venture with local volunteers and community working together to benefit the youth of the city. The park

would benefit young families by providing a safe place for active outdoor recreation. Senior citizens would benefit by having another in-town park within walking distance from their homes along with providing multi-generational interaction.

Nature Center

The Nature Center is a community meeting center within the Au Sable River Park with public restroom facilities and will house a historic story of Grayling's environmental features. The building will be more appealing when the landscaping and the mural are completed. Phone and Internet accessibility within the building will enhance its educational abilities for visitors. Security cameras will limit vandalism and protect investment in the building and grounds. Construction of a band shell will allow for outdoor performances and draw residents and visitors to the downtown. The nature center will benefit all age groups in the community. Place-based education programs would permit high school students to participate in the development of gardens, nature displays and historic displays. Senior citizens would have the opportunity to work with students on displays, resulting in building cross-generational relationships. The center has the ability to become a focal point and source of community pride.

Charles Moore Memorial Park

The Charles Moore Memorial Park is a small triangle piece of land located across the street from Mercy Hospital. The park was dedicated to Charles Moore in 1973 and is a historic park in Grayling. Sidewalks and roads surround the park. On this small quaint piece of property there sits a bench with a memorial plaque that is no longer readable. Hospital staff and walkers use this park. The park is in need of a facelift as ground cover primarily consists of moss and benches need painting or upgrading. A new gazebo and landscaping will restore the overall aesthetics and usability of the park. The park will most benefit older age groups as well as hospital employees by providing a place to relax, while reflecting on the significance of the history of Grayling.

Proposed Park on the East Branch of the Au Sable River

Developing a park behind the Hatchery is an excellent extension of the current use of the property. The Hatchery receives 5,000 – 7,000 visitors each year. As the hatchery continues to be improved upon, these numbers will only increase. The Senior Center could be housed on the Hatchery property and the proposed park will provide a pleasant setting for senior citizens to enjoy their beautiful surroundings. Collaborating with the County on this project is another example of the City of Grayling working with other organizations and volunteers. The activities planned for the park – hiking and cross-country ski trails, picnic area, canoe/kayak launch and a fishing pier will also be accessible from a bridge by the hospital. The improvements will be ADA accessible there for all ages and abilities will enjoy the recreational opportunities in this proposed park. The proposed park would be consistent with implementing a greenways system within the community. The park would benefit all age groups by providing a natural area within the City that offers a close-by escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life, where residents can enjoy beauty and sounds of nature.

