

Chapter 6 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the public facilities and services provided to residents in Chocolay Township. These include fire and police protection, governmental administration, solid waste collection and disposal, water, sewage, recreation, education, health, library, cemeteries and others. These facilities are owned and operated by the Township and state government, and in the case of a few recreational facilities, by private owners/operators.

B. TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

The operation of Township business takes place at the Municipal Complex, on a nearly 2.8 acre parcel at 5010 US-41 South, located on the corner of Silver Creek Road and U.S. 41 South, in Harvey. See Map 6-1. A staff of 13 full-time, $\frac{3}{4}$ time or on-call staff members use the office complex 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. See Table 6-1

The municipal complex was built in 1978 by remodeling an old schoolhouse and adding a large addition. Then in 2008, the complex was remodeled once more, as the staff had outgrown the building. The alteration included new offices, break room, trustee office, vault for the Township records, police and fire secured storage rooms. The main office contains offices for all Township departments, including the Supervisor's office, the Clerk's office, the Department of Public Works office, the Department of Land Use Management office, and a front office area utilized by the Treasurer's Department and the secretarial/receptionist support staff. In the old schoolhouse portion of the building, there is a meeting room that is used for board and commission meetings, community groups, and the general public. The Police Department has an office adjacent to the meeting room. Two storage areas are located off of the meeting room. There is an outside storage building for use by the Public Works Department. Funds are set aside annually in the Capital Improvements Fund for major building maintenance.



2007 Township Hall



2008 Addition

Table 6-1
Chocolay Township Employees

Department	Number of Employees
Office staff (.5 time Township Manager, 1 Director of Planning and Zoning, 1 Director of Assessing, 1 Secretary/Records Administrator, .5 Community Coordinator, 1 Deputy Clerk & 3/4 time Treasurer)	4 full-time, 2 part-time and 1 ¾ time
Department of Public Works (1 DPW Foreman, 1 General Maintenance Workers)	3.0
Police Department (4 full-time police officers, two part-time officers, 1 administrative assistant and 1 secretary)	8.0 full-time and part-time

Map 6-1
Chocolay Township Public Facilities

PUBLIC WORKS

The Chocolay Township Public Works Department oversees maintenance of the Township Municipal Complex, Township-owned recreation lands and facilities and the wastewater collection facilities. The Public Works Department has 3 employees.

Wastewater Facilities

The Township installed a sanitary sewer collection system servicing the greater village of Harvey area, built in 1975. The system was extended in 1976 to serve the Ewing Plaza commercial area and in 1977 to the Ewing Park residential subdivision. The latter extension included a pump station. The system consists of gravity lines as well as four large pump stations and three small grinder stations. A large force main was installed to connect the collection system to the Marquette City Treatment Plant where the wastewater receives final treatment.

Capacity of the wastewater plant in Marquette City is 12.6 million gallons per day (mgd). The Township's share of plant capacity is 1.5 mgd. The Township's flow capacity is greater than 2.5 mgd. The Township has five lift stations that are designed to handle raw sewage that is fed from underground gravity pipelines, which are laid at an angle so that a liquid can flow in one direction.

INSERT PICTURE

The area of existing sewer service and areas of planned expansion are shown on Map 6-2.

In rural areas of the Township and in outlying areas of Harvey, private septic systems are utilized. The County Health Department inspects all new systems to verify that soil conditions will allow the system to operate properly and not contaminate streams or wells in the vicinity.

Map 6-2
Chocolay Township Existing and Planned Sewer Service Area

Water Facilities

At present, all Township residents and businesses are served by private wells, each varying in quality and capacity. The Township provides no public system for distribution of water. In 1975, when the sewer was constructed, in anticipation of future needs, crossing pipes were placed under the U.S. 41 highway in Harvey so that the highway would not have to be disturbed when and if water lines are utilized in the future.

Concern over petroleum contamination of several wells in the Harvey area has led to discussion of a municipal water system. Contaminated wells in this area were replaced by drilling to a deeper aquifer, through State of Michigan funding. Mitigation of the contamination plume was also initiated. Chocolay Township has had studies prepared several times in the past 25 years to investigate the potential and costs for the development of a municipal water system to serve the more populated areas of the Township. The latest study was prepared in 2001 by the consulting firm of STS Consultants, Ltd.

In 2010, the Township sent out surveys to their residents and there were two questions that dealt with a public water system. The survey showed that our residents were neutral when it came to a water system in the Harvey area, but not for a Township wide system.

Chocolay Township Should:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Offer a water system to residents within the Harvey Area	12.50%	21.40%	32.40%	16.70%	17.00%	448
Offer a water supply to all of our residents	12.80%	11.70%	25.50%	25.50%	25.00%	444

The study found that for the vast majority of Township residents and businesses, individual wells provide an adequate quality and quantity of water. The cost to provide municipal water remains prohibitive for the current population size. However, in the future, it may become feasible to work with Sands Township to connect to the Marquette water system to provide a water distribution system to the more populated areas, and the US-41/M-28 commercial corridor. Until that time, those areas with groundwater contamination should continue to be monitored. If contamination spreads, a public water supply may need to be constructed. The Township should look into offering educational workshops to our residents from wellhead protection classes to private well and septic management.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING

Township residents generate about 25 pounds of solid waste per resident per month. Total residential solid waste is between 65-75 tons per month, depending on the time of year. The Township contracts with private haulers to provide curb-side garbage collection at a rate of \$8 for 5 garbage bags. Businesses hire private waste haulers for their solid waste.

Solid waste is deposited in the Marquette County Landfill, which is located about 9 miles west of the Township. Residents may haul their own waste to the landfill.

Weekly curbside recycling is available and takes place along with garbage collection. Residents are encouraged to recycle clear glass, newspapers, magazines, tin cans and number two plastics. There are no figures on the amount recycled, but sanitation workers report that there are recyclables put out at every nearly home on garbage collection day.

In addition, brush can be dropped off in the spring, fall and in January for Christmas trees. Brush is chipped and provided to residents for landscaping.

There is a metal drop-off in the spring, which is contracted out.



UTILITIES

The Marquette Board of Light and Power and the Alger-Delta Cooperative Electric Association provide electricity to Chocolay Township. SEMCO Energy provides natural gas to homes in the most densely populated areas of the Township. There are no major gas lines through the Township.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

HEALTH CARE

Marquette General Hospital contains over 300 beds. It offers a wide array of emergency, surgical, treatment and wellness services. Family medicine and obstetrics/gynecology services are offered at Lakewood Medical Associates in Harvey.

Ambulance

Marquette General Hospital and Mediride provides Ambulance service. Marquette General is the nearest hospital to Chocolay Township and is located in the City of Marquette, about five miles west of the Township. Recently, Marquette General Hospital located an emergency response vehicle at their Lakeview Clinic, which allows their staff to respond to accidents before an ambulance can arrive, saving time.

Police

The Chocoley Township Police Department consists of a staff of four full-time officers, two part-time officers, and an administrative assistant. The Township currently utilizes two patrol cars, one four-wheel drive sport utility vehicle used exclusively in the winter, and a snowmobile, equipped for a rescue sled if needed, which is used for patrolling the DNR Trail. The police and fire departments share an ATV that is used for patrol and search and rescues in the remote parts of the Township.

The nearest State Police post is about twelve miles west of Chocoley Township in Negaunee Township.

Chocoley Township Police Complaints										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
General Assistance	586	575	685	573	553	527	634	565	576	677
Crimes Against Persons	140	127	110	109	114	132	154	131	205	111
Crimes Against Property	399	406	348	394	511	402	374	403	347	358
Traffic Related	329	330	373	321	271	265	265	253	332	313
Juvenile	55	57	28	36	35	19	43	14	24	28
Animal	106	119	118	62	91	103	74	129	126	115
TOTAL	1,615	1,614	1,662	1,495	1,575	1,448	1,544	1,495	1,610	1,602

Fire

The Township Fire Department has 26 volunteers, including officers. There are two pumpers, one tanker and one unit equipped for extrication and rescue. Because the Township does not have a municipal water system, all water used in fighting a fire must be transported by tanker and mutual aid trucks, or extracted from dry hydrants located along creeks and rivers.



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In 2008, the Township held a millage to purchase a new fire apparatus and additional fire protection equipment. The millage passed and the department was able to purchase a 2008 Pierce Pumper truck with a 2000 gallon water tank and the capacity to hold 6 volunteers.

The fire hall is located in the municipal complex. It is a 36' by 50' building with a 20' by 50' addition. The Township has mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities. These agreements allow equipment and manpower to assist in fire calls reciprocally with these units of government.

There is a current plan to construct a new fire hall, as the current building is failing. The proposed fire hall would give the department room for training and additional storage space for their equipment and apparatuses. The Township has set up a capital improvement account for the proposed fire hall.

Homeowner and business insurance is tied to ratings of the fire suppression capability of the community. The Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating for all of Chocoday Township is 9. This is a high number, and is likely reflected in relatively high insurance premiums. The Fire Department continually works to reduce the ISO rating, which would indicate safer conditions for residents and lowered insurance premiums. Reduction in the ISO rating could come from the installation of an elevated water storage tank or other options for rapid filling of firefighting equipment, or the installation of a municipal water system in the Harvey area. A fire department has been working on reducing the Township's ISO rating from a 9 to 8.

EDUCATION

Children in Chocoday Township attending public schools do so in the Marquette Area Public School system. The entire Township is within the Marquette Area Public School District (MAPS). Total enrollment is around 3,000. The enrollment numbers have been staying steady over the years. The school district does lose some kids the local charter school, but they also attract other students from the neighboring districts. They have three other elementary schools, Sandy Knoll, Superior hills, Cherry Creek and some 5th graders attend Bothwell Middle School. The middle school houses 5-8 graders and the High School is 6-12 grades. Recently the School District closed down one elementary school, due to decreasing enrollment numbers. The school has been leased to the Y of Marquette, who uses the space for a child care facility and MAPS has retained two classrooms for their Kindergarten classes.

Cherry Creek Elementary School is located on Ortman Road in Chocoday Township. It had an enrollment of 349 in 2010. It is the only public school in the Township. Our Township is home to several in home day centers and one private school, located at the old Silver Creek Elementary building.



Cherry Creek Elementary School

RECREATION FACILITIES

The Township is in the process of updating their recreation plan, but majority of the information can be reviewed below. The Plan is reviewed by the Planning Commission to review, prioritize, and budget for recreation activities, and updated every five years in order to obtain certification from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Recreation Plan provides an inventory of existing recreation-related facilities and lays out plans for improvements and expansions. In the past, the Township has relied heavily upon grants to fund recreational facilities, such as the Lawcon grant for the Silver Creek Recreation Area I and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for Recreation Area II. For a complete description of recreation facilities in the Township, please refer to the Recreation Plan, which is kept on file in the office of the Department of Land Use Management. Table 6-2 and the following text provide a brief overview of recreation facilities and their features.

In 2011, Chocolay Township was approached by the City of Marquette to partner with them on forming a joint recreation committee. The Township along with Marquette Township, the Y of Marquette, NMU, and Marquette Area Public Schools and the City of Marquette formed a joint recreation committee. The committee hopes to collaborate together to develop a list of community-generated recreation objectives, prioritize those objectives and implement them as cost-effectively as possible. The committee has looked at sharing cost of equipment, software, gear and even fields. All of the entities have recreation fields that are underutilized, yet cost money to maintain. The hope is that this group will be successful in cutting the cost down for each entity, while still maintaining the same level of service that our residents expect.

Table 6-2

Chocolay Township Recreation Facilities

CHOCOLAY RECREATION FACILITIES																		
	Playground Equip.	Ice Skating/Hockey	Soccer Field	Baseball Diamond	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	X-Country Skiing	Camping	Hiking/Nature Trail	Horseshoe Court	Fishing	Swimming	Hunting	Boat Launch/Access	Open Space	Restrooms	Golf	Pavillion/Other
TOWNSHIP OWNED																		
Silver Creek Rec Area	X		X	X	X	X			X						X	X		
Beaver Grove	X		X	X	X					X					X	X		
Township Marina								X			X	X		X		X		
Twp. Municipal Complex		X																X
Green Garden Site								X			X							
Lions Field		X		X	X										X	X		
Kawbawgam Pocket Park	X				X													
Kawbawgam X-Ski Trail							X		X									
Brower's Rec Area							X		X									
STATE AGENCY OWNED																		
M-28E Turnouts												X			X	X		
Voce Creek									X									
Lake LaVassuer									X		X		X					
Jeske Flooding							X	X			X		X	X				
M-28 Chocolay Access Point									X	X							X	
INSTITUTION OWNED																		
Cherry Creek Elementary	X		X		X				X									
NMU Golf Course																		X
PRIVATELY OWNED																		
Gitchee Gumees CG								X							X			
Lakenenland									X									X
Gentz Golf Course																		X

Township Owned Recreation Properties

This section summarizes Township-owned properties used for active and passive recreation. See Map 6-1 for their locations.

Chocolay River – Green Garden Site

This property is located on Green Garden Road approximately 1.5 miles from US-41 in the south central part of the Township. It is approximately 1.08 acres in size and currently undeveloped but is used as a local swimming and fishing spot. The site also offers a primitive carry-down boat launch to the river. Both of the parcels that comprise the site are zoned Municipal Properties (MP). The deed giving title to Chocolay Township requires that the property be used exclusively for providing a park and other recreational facilities for the children and the members of the public in and about the Township of Chocolay.

Silver Creek Recreation Area (SCRA)

The SCRA encompasses 23.7 acres in the northwest corner of the Township. The size and location of this recreation site make it especially suited as a “community play field.” Due to its central location the SCRA, is the most widely used recreation facility the Township owns and is in a Public Lands district. Existing facilities at SCRA consist of the following: four tennis courts, soccer field, baseball diamond, basketball hoop, tot-lot/playground, picnic area, restrooms, and paved drives. The developed portion of the site utilizes the southern 1/2 of the property while a primitive trail system is interspersed throughout the western and forested northern 1/2.

The SCRA is extensively used for organized baseball, softball, little league and soccer throughout the spring, summer and fall. The trail system is utilized year-round. The tennis courts, tot-lot/playground, and picnic area are used extensively from late spring to late fall.

The Township has set aside funds in their annual and capital improvement budgets, to add new playground equipment with a universal design. The Township has added one new slide. There has been a community interest to start up a community garden at this site as well. The community garden would resemble the ones in the City of Marquette, and would include an ADA planter box.



Chocolay Township Marina



The Township's only marina is located along Main Street in the northwestern corner in the village of Harvey. The marina is situated on the Chocolay River approximately 1500 feet from Lake Superior. The site contains an improved skid pier boat launch, pit toilet and picnic area. It provides boat access to the Chocolay River and to Lake Superior. Unfortunately, the river mouth is often too shallow to permit easy access to Lake Superior, resulting in limited public use. It is located in the Municipal Properties zoning district that allows parks as a conditional use subject to Township Planning Commission approval.

In 1999, the Township purchased a small island adjacent to the marina shoreline. This island is recommended as a possible campsite of the NTN Water Trail and open for passive recreation use.

In 2009, the Township was able to install kayak lockers, two tent platform, bridge, fishing pier and boardwalk as part of a DNR grant. The Township worked with the Hiawatha Trail Association on securing the grant and the construction of the tent platforms. To complete the fishing pier and board walk, the Township used workers as part of the Marquette County Jail release program.



The objective of the 120 mile Hiawatha Water Trail development is to connect the communities of the South Shore of Lake Superior, inform users of the location of public/private lands and promote safe and responsible sea kayaking. The Hiawatha Water Trail development will identify public access points by map and signage so they can be located; develop kayak lockers for users to visit and stay in the communities; identify and develop campsites for users to enjoy outdoor stays.

The Voce Creek Open Space Area

This undeveloped 12.33 acres, located east of US-41, is approximately 1 mile south and east of the Beaver Grove location. Its soils, topography, and location severely limit its use for active recreational opportunities. It contains a considerable sand blowout and low land areas that would be very costly to develop into a conventional recreation facility. The area has been identified as a passive recreation tract.

The parcel is in the Municipal Properties zoning district. Its distance and lack of a bike path from the developing areas of Harvey and Beaver Grove pose traffic and accessibility problems for children in the Township. The Marquette County Soil Conservation District and the Lake Superior Watershed Association in cooperation with the Township, currently is using a portion of the property as an experimental American Beachgrass planting and sand dune stabilization project.

The Chocoley Township Municipal Complex



The Chocoley Township Municipal Complex is located on a 2.79 acre parcel with frontage on the west of US-41 in the village of Harvey. Besides housing the Township's governmental facilities, the property supports a 30' by 50' pavilion on its northeast corner. Supplied with a number of picnic tables, a permanent grill, and nestled among towering pines, this location provides an ideal passive recreation site for tourists and residents alike. During the winter months a small ice rink is constructed near the pavilion to allow beginners a place to try ice skating. If a new fire hall is constructed the pavilion would have to be moved to another Township owned recreation site. It conforms to existing permitted uses since it is located in the Municipal Properties zoning district.

Beaver Grove Recreation Area (BGRA)

This is a combination of two adjoining parcels making up a 29.1 acre recreation site. The property is located west of US-41 and north of County Road 480 and is accessible from either road.

The site has considerable frontage on Big Creek that flows along its eastern border. Direct access to the river from a recently developed hiking trail provides fishing opportunities, as well as unique passive recreational outlets. Facilities at this site consist of a baseball field, soccer field, basketball court, pavilion, tot-lot/playground, horseshoe courts, picnic facilities, multi-use open space, hiking trail, improved parking and restrooms.

These facilities are all concentrated on the original 15.11 acres. The adjoining 14 acre parcel was purchased in 1990 and is currently undeveloped. It is currently leased for agricultural purposes. This site is in the Municipal Properties zoning district.

In January of 2001, Chocoley Township received a matching grant from the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Recreation Bond Project of the Department of Natural Resources. This grant provided 65% of the total cost required for the purchase/construction of the following upgrades:



basketball court, pavilion, fencing, irrigation, spectator seating, entrance signs, scoreboard, display cases, additional parking and covered dugouts.

At present, a strategic plan for the undeveloped acreage has yet to be established. Residential development in the south central region of the Township makes this section of the BGRA an ideal location for future recreational development.

Beaver Grove Swamp

This 3 acre parcel is located west of US-41, a few hundred feet north of the BGRA. Its topography and soils limit development as an active recreation area. However, it could be designed as an interpretive site, a bog walk, or environmental education resource. Its proximity to the Beaver Grove Recreation Area makes it a convenient location to complement the variety of active recreational opportunities currently being offered to residents and tourists.

Brower’s Property

The Brower property is located on 50 acres, approximately 8 miles southeast of Harvey, Michigan. It is predominately lowland with a mix of trees dominated by spruce, cedar, hemlock, birch and maple. There is a small stream that bisects the property. This parcel was donated in 1999 to the Township with the stipulation that it will be used exclusively for educational and recreational activities.

In 2002, the Township received a DNR grant to develop the Brower property as a demonstration area that promotes forest stewardship, while providing passive recreational opportunities. It is in the Municipal Zoning District, so any proposed trails would be a permitted use.

Lions Club Park

This 10.7- acre recreation area is located on M-28, approximately 2.5 miles east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. It is situated in the Varvil Center area and is currently zoned Municipal Properties. In 2000, this property was purchased from the Marquette Area Public Schools.



The Lions Club Park has a baseball field, ice-skating rink, 1/2 basketball court, pit toilet and large parking lot. Approximately 5 acres remain undeveloped.

Kawbawgam Cross Country Ski Trail

The Kawbawgam Cross Country Ski Trail is located on state land and is approximately 2 miles south of M-28. The parking area is located on the Lake Le Vasseur public access road.



This trail has 2 loops. The beginning loop is 1.5 miles long and rated easy. The LeVasseur loop is 3.9 miles long and rated difficult. The Kawbawgam Cross Country Ski Trail is groomed and offers spectacular views of forested hills overlooking Lake Le Vasseur.

Kawbawgam Pocket Park

The Pocket Park is located on Kawbawgam Road just south of M-28. This small neighborhood park contains a basketball court, swings, picnic table, pit toilet and parking lot.

Green Bay Street Park



This property on the corner of Green Bay Street and Lakewood Lane runs along the Chocolay River and was donated to the Township in 2001. It has functioned as a fishing site for residents for many years.

The Township requested, and received, a conditional use permit for a "park" designation in 2002. A grant was obtained through the Marquette County Conservation District and the Lake Superior Watershed Partnership to address critical erosion problems. Funds were used to stabilize the stream bank, install stairways and fencing, improve parking and establish plants to help control erosion.

These improvements have curtailed further erosion and enhanced access for residents, especially seniors, and the improved parking has corrected an existing hazardous parking situation.

Other Public and Private Recreation Sites (See Map 6-1)

Michigan Department of Transportation Scenic Turnouts

MDOT owns 3 roadside scenic turnouts by the M-28 corridor along the Lake Superior shoreline. The Township maintains these facilities under contract with MDOT. Site #1 is approximately 6 miles east of the US-41/M-28 intersection near Kawbawgam Road. It consists of ½ mile of frontage on Lake Superior. It has restrooms, map display case, picnic area, well water, and a stairway accessing the beach.

Sites #2 and #3 are located approximately 7 and 11 miles east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. These turnouts are a 1.5 mile strip overlooking Lake Superior. Together they have 2 small picnic areas.

These turnouts are very popular with residents since they provide the only public access to Lake Superior in the Township. They also offer convenient, yet scenic, rest stops for tourists.

James Jeske Flooding at Sand River

The Michigan DNR built this wildlife flooding area on the Sand River approximately 11 miles from the US-41/M-28 intersection. Located just south of the mouth of the Sand River and Lake Superior it covers more than 700 acres of land. It has become a popular fishing and hunting location as well as a passive scenic site. The dam was opened in 2004, and while the flooded area will be reduced dramatically, it will remain a natural area.

Chocolay River Public Access Fishing Site

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources developed this 5.7 acre site on M-28 approximately one mile east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. It is situated in a R-1 zoning district. This handicap accessible site has restroom facilities, expanded parking, a public fishing pier, and carry-down boat launch. It is currently only 1 of 2 handicap accessible fishing sites located in Marquette County.



Lake Le Vasseur Waterfowl Area



The Michigan DNR constructed this public access site to Lake Le Vasseur off Kawbawgam Road. It is approximately 8 miles from the US-41/M-28 intersection and situated in a Resource Production zoning district. The DNR also rebuilt the dam on the west-end of the lake to provide improved hunting and fishing opportunities for the public.

Cherry Creek School Playground

The Cherry Creek Elementary School is located near the intersection of Cherry Creek Road and Ortman Road, 1 mile west from the US-41/M-28 intersection. This playground has a variety of recreation equipment for school children. It also has a soccer field and large open space area for general recreation activities, a portion of which has been developed as an interpretative nature trail supported by classroom projects.

Gitchee Gumee Campground

This privately owned campground is located 7 miles east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. Constructed in 1980, it consists of a restroom/shower/laundry complex, an office, and 100 campsites. Nearly 1/2 of the sites support water, sewer, electrical service, while the remaining sites are considered primitive. It is the only campground in the Township and is a popular tourist stop.

Northern Michigan University Golf Course

This planned 36 hole golf course is located on M-28 about 3 miles east of the US-41/M-28 intersection. The course was donated by a private citizen in 2009. The course also offers many amenities, including power and pull carts, club rentals, a golf shop and driving range.



Homestead Golf Course

This privately owned 9 ho U.S. Army Reserve Center le golf course is currently under construction for 9 additional holes. It is located on County Road 480 approximately 1 mile west of the US-41 and County Road 480 intersection. It is situated very close to Beaver Grove Recreation Area and complements all of the recreation opportunities offered in this section of the Township.

Park and Facility Goals

The following section (derived from the 2010 Recreation Plan) discusses short term and long term Township goals for various park, recreation and other Township facilities.

Chocolay River – Green Garden Site

Short Term

1. Continue an official property survey to set property corners before work on other goals is initiated.
2. Design a site plan to feature public access to the Chocolay River in a park-like setting with picnicking, swimming, fishing and boating as the primary emphasis.
3. Consider purchasing adjoining properties to provide sufficient room for park facilities.

Long Term

1. All long-term goals for this site depend on the success of the three short-term goals. The site should comply with deed restrictions and be maintained as such.

Silver Creek Recreation Area

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance programs.
2. Expand parking facility for soccer field users.
3. Create a spot for the community gardens
4. Add new playground equipment
5. Construct covered dug outs for ball field players.
6. Construct toilet facilities near soccer field.
7. Repair tennis courts

Long Term

1. Review existing trail system for improvements and expansion.
2. Develop a site plan for trail system.
3. Construct trail system according to site plan.

Chocolay Marina

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance programs.
2. Move the pavilion from the Township Hall to this location.

Long Term

1. Continue efforts to stabilize and deepen the mouth of the Chocolay River.
2. Expand the parking lot.
3. Look into expanding community garden to this location.

Voce Creek Recreation Area

Short Term

1. Review status of property soils yearly; considering future use possibilities.

Long Term

1. Continue to use as a unique open space.
2. Consider developing the site as a passive interpretive natural resource once stabilization of soils has occurred.

Chocolay Municipal Complex

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance programs.
2. Add map display with Township information in pavilion area
3. Construct new Township Fire Hall.

Long Term

1. Purchase adjoining property that is west of existing drive to relocate drive further west to reduce car stacking at intersection of Silver Creek Road and US-41.

Beaver Grove Recreation Area

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance programs.

Long Term

1. Construct a tennis court.
2. Research future recreational options for the undeveloped 14 acre plot.

Beaver Grove Swamp

Short Term

1. Conduct an official boundary survey of the property before any development can be initiated.

Long Term

1. Continue to use the site as an open space until proper survey and site plans are complete.
2. Design a site plan to feature the use of the property as a bog walk/interpretive area.
3. Begin development of the site with signage and parking.

Brower Property

Short Term

1. Develop non-motorized trails according to management plan.
2. Develop interpretive trails according to management plan.
3. Seek volunteer help to implement management plan.

Long Term

1. Maintain management plan and review plan every 5 years.
2. Research future recreational and educational options.

Lions Club Park

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance program.

Long Term

1. Research future recreational options for the undeveloped 5 acre plot.

Kawbawgam Pocket Park

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance program.

Long Term

1. No plans for further development are under consideration.

Kawbawgam Cross Country Ski Trail

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance program.

Long Term

1. No plans for further development are under consideration.

Green Bay Street Park

Short Term

1. Continue maintenance program.
2. Construct additional parking spot.
3. Place barricades near trail entrance to stop vehicles from driving on trail.

Long Term

1. No plans for further development are under consideration.

COUNTY LANDS AND FACILITIES

The Marquette County Community Corrections Detention Center can house up to 60, minimum security, male inmates. The facility is located off of US 41 South on Basil Road in Beaver Grove.

STATE LANDS AND FACILITIES

Escanaba River State Forest

The largest state holding in Chocolay Township is the Escanaba River State Forest. The area within the State Forest boundary in Chocolay Township is about 16,000 acres, but only about 11,000 acres are in State ownership. The remainder is in private in-holdings. The State Forest is used primarily for recreational activities such as hunting, hiking and skiing.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

MDOT owns nearly 2 miles of Lake Superior shoreline in two parcels in Chocolay Township. These are along M-28 in the eastern part of the Township. Within the two parcels are 3 scenic turnouts. The Township maintains picnic facilities at the three sites and these are the primary source of public access to Lake Superior in the Township.

Department of Natural Resources Marquette State Fish Hatchery



The fish hatchery is located at the far western edge of Chocolay Township on Cherry Creek Road. It is the primary broodstock and rearing facility for brook and lake trout that are used in both inland and Great Lakes waters. The facility also rears brown trout and splake (a brook trout – lake trout hybrid) for both Great Lakes and inland waters. This hatchery has both indoor and outdoor rearing facilities. The hatchery uses both well water and water from Cherry Creek for use in the rearing tanks.

The hatchery is open to the public and has interpretive facilities.

FEDERAL FACILITIES

The Township is home to a U.S. Army Reserve Center that is located off Cherry Creek road.