



VIII. Summary of the Planning Process & Adoption

In its continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, Bay County has developed a Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of community park and recreational facilities and locations over the next five years. This plan is the latest effort by Bay County and 14 of its constituent communities to establish recreational goals and objectives for recreation across the county. The plan will also provide the County and the participating communities with eligibility for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist the community in reaching its recreational goals.

Bay County contracted with Spicer Group of **Saginaw**, Michigan, to assist them with completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A steering committee was established consisting of two staff representatives from the County and a representative from each participating community. The steering committee met approximately six times from December of 2007 through December of 2008.

Data was collected about the participating communities including maps, demographics, park information and an inventory of existing facilities. This data was collected from a number of resources such as: forms completed by the participating communities, county staff, the existing

Bay County Recreation Plan, Bay County GIS Department, various web sites and through field observations. This **information** helped determine where the communities were deficient or providing a surplus of various recreation facilities in comparison to various national standards.

Community input was collected during the winter and spring of 2008 via a recreation plan web site, an on-line survey and four separate community input forums held across the county. Based upon the existing information and the community input, each community developed goals and objectives for parks and recreation in their community Bay County. Each community also planned for an action program to accomplish the goals and objectives of the plan.

The consultant completed the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan document and it was made available for **review** at the Bay County Building and four of the branches of the Bay County public library for at least 30 days from mid-November, 2008 until mid-December, 2008. A DPF file of the draft was also available on the Bay County web site. The reviewing opportunities were advertised in the Bay City Times, the Democrat Legal, and the Pinconning Journal.. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public meeting held prior to adoption of the plan. This meeting was held on December 16, at 4:00 p.m. at the County Building. In the weeks following the public hearing, each participating community adopted the joint recreation plan. Copies of those resolutions are **included** in the Appendix.