



METHOD

Planning Process

The planning process for the Camp Sea-Gull master plan began once the park was acquired in January 2014. The Hayes Township Parks and Recreation Committee members identified development grant opportunities and applied for a MNRTF development grant for a boat launch and fishing pier.

The Township retained Landscape Architects and Planners, Inc. to prepare a comprehensive recreational master plan. The master plan process involved:

- Orientation, Community Input, Site Visit
- Inventory and Analysis
- Preliminary Programming Recommendations
- Preliminary Plan Concepts
- Public Input
- Refine Master Plan
- Public Input
- Finalize Master Plan

Public Input

Meetings

Before the property was acquired, Hayes Township held public hearings on February 8, 2012 and March 7, 2012. Each of these hearings was attended by over 100 township residents and yielded extensive public input. At both meetings, comments were supportive of the proposed camp Sea-Gull acquisition.

Once the park was acquired, Hayes Township held several public hearings and meetings to take public comments:

March 6, 2014 – Public hearing to consider a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for a development grant for a boat launch and fishing pier at Camp Sea-Gull.

May 19, 2014 – A site visit at Camp Sea-Gull and a public hearing to take public comment on the recreation development of Hayes Township Park, Camp Sea-Gull.

June 5, 2014 – A Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the final plans for the park open house.

July 21, 2014 – A public hearing on the preliminary findings of the recreation development of Hayes Township Park, Camp Sea-Gull.

September 15, 2014 – A public hearing to review the Park Master Plan for the Hayes Township Park, Camp Sea-Gull.

Method



May 19th Site Visit (Source: Charlevoix Courier)



June 5th Open House (Source: Camp Sea-Gull Facebook)

Surveys

A comprehensive planning survey was initially conducted in 1998 and then again in 2008 and 2013. In the 2008 survey, nearly 75% of the respondents supported the township's specific goals and plan of action to acquire lake-front land. In 2013, Hayes Township conducted a survey of property owners in part to gather input on the recreational desires of the Township residents. The responses to this survey determined the program and master plan for Camp Sea-Gull Park.

Public Vision

The following is a summary of comments received from public input hearings:

Basic Requirements

- Provide day use.
 - Open field, pavilions, and court games.
- Provide access to water.
 - Boat Launch.
 - Swimming/Beach.

Basic Requests

- Improvements to be sensitive to natural features.
 - Limit disturbance from roadwork, parking, buildings, etc.
- Preserve natural habitats – don't encroach.
 - Wetlands, Northern Mesic Forests.
- Prefer rustic, natural theme for new improvements.
- Reuse existing facilities where practical.
- Be responsible with costs.

Protect, preserve, re-use, maintain, and enhance the site's assets.