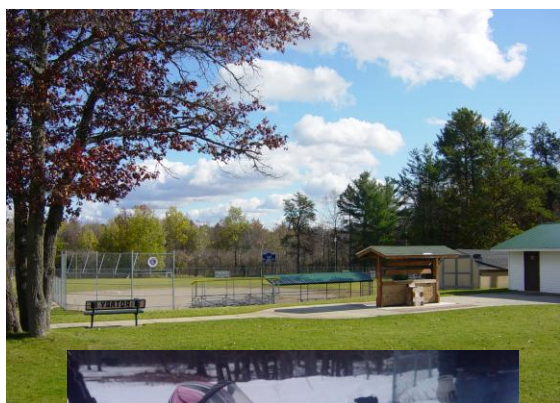


PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

DRAFT

2013-2017

DRAFT




Village of Roscommon
~Working For a Brighter Future~

Village of Roscommon

PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

2013-2017

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Recreation Plan Steering Committee

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Allen Lowe, Village Manager
Beth Shannon, Roscommon High School Student

Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority Board

Sue Jock
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INTRODUCTION

One of the priorities of our modern society is access to recreation. In an effort to provide quality recreational opportunities in the Village of Roscommon and the surrounding area, the Village Council and the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority (RMRA) have created this “Village of Roscommon Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan”. It is a tool to guide the development of the current Village park system as well as future trail and other recreation facilities.

The Village of Roscommon and Higgins Township jointly formed RMRA in 1969 to “operate and maintain any recreational parks and facilities for the use of the general public.” Since its inception, RMRA has become the umbrella organization for five separate recreation associations.



In February of 2012, the Village Council formed a committee composed of representatives of the Village, RMRA, local recreation businesses and the school district to direct the development of this plan. The committee provided ample opportunity for local organizations and the general public to comment on the plan as it developed. It represents the Committee’s attempt to merge the recreational priorities of the community with the fiscal and personnel limitations of the Village.

Since Roscommon is a recreation destination, the plan also considers the desires of tourists who visit the area. Much of the local economy depends on canoeing,

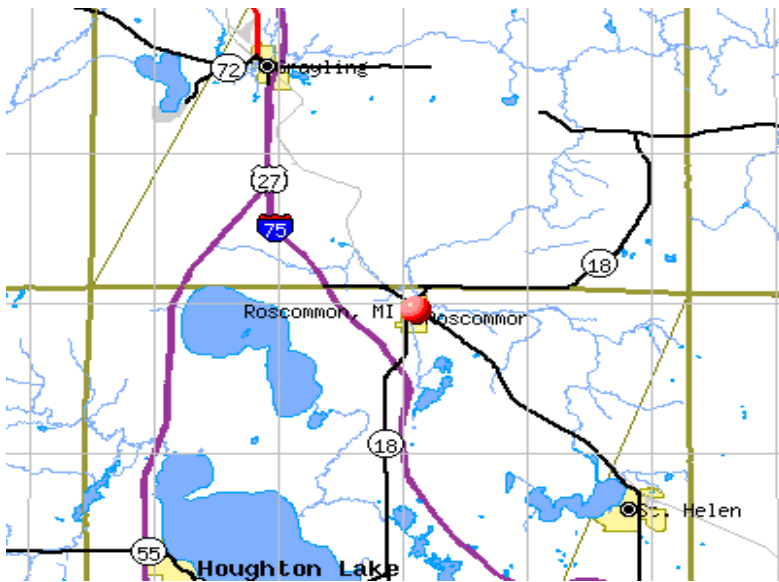


snowmobiling, and other outdoor activities. The community also hosts numerous festivals and celebrations during the year. Many of these have a recreation component. They are a part of this plan as well.

CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Incorporated in 1885, the Village of Roscommon is the county seat of Roscommon County. It is surrounded by and a part of Higgins Township. The Village, with a population of 1,100, has a total area of 1.6 square miles. It is the only incorporated city or village in the county. Two major thoroughfares, M-18 and M-76, intersect in the commercial district. The South Branch of the pristine AuSable River is the main recreation attraction within the Village.

The closest communities to Roscommon are Saint Helen, (12 miles), Grayling (15 miles), Prudenville (15 miles), and West Branch (29 miles). Higgins Lake, one of the world's most beautiful lakes, is about 8 miles west of the Village. Houghton Lake, Michigan's largest inland lake is 14 miles southwest.



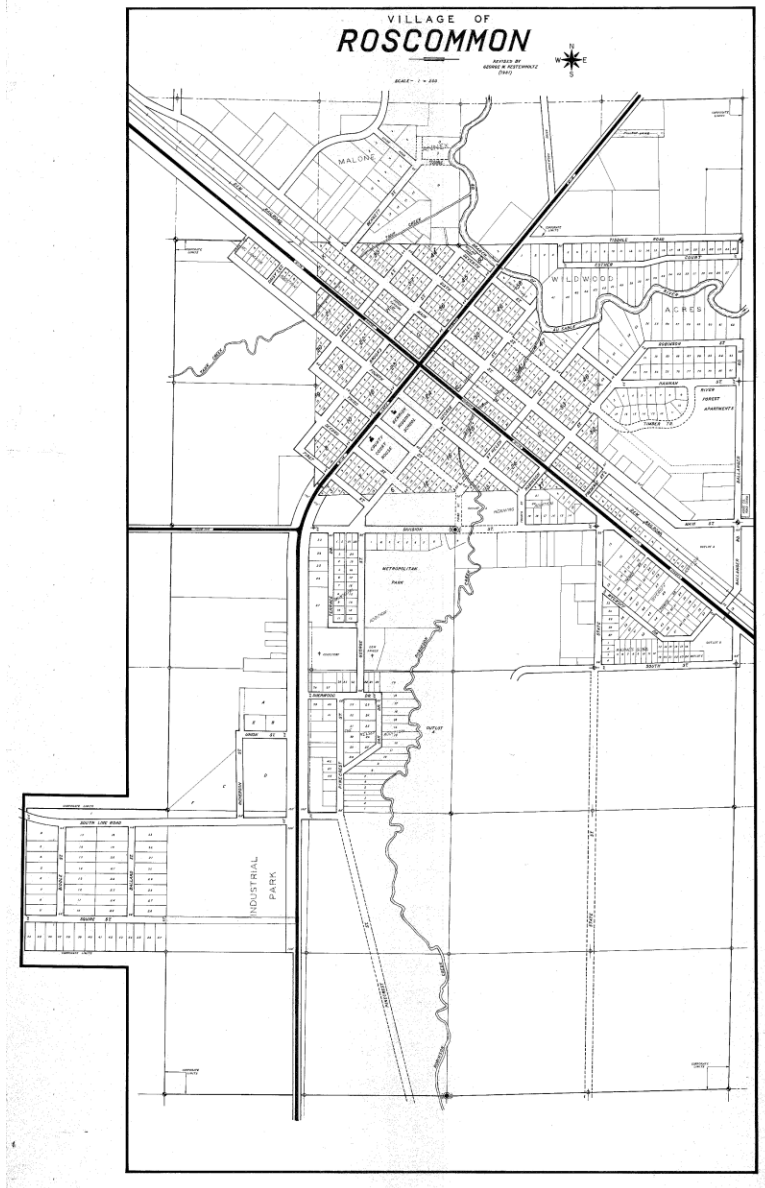
Although the local population is small, tourism generates many visitors to the Roscommon area. Tourism and recreation have long been essential to the local economy. The AuSable River provides individuals the opportunity to canoe, fish, and enjoy its beauty. As a result of the increasing popularity of

winter recreation, the area is a popular tourism destination in that season as well.

Due to its geographic location, the Village of Roscommon and surrounding area have many recreational businesses that are tourist and seasonally related. These provide goods and services for activities including canoeing, hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, cycling, camping, hiking, natural areas and ORV trails. Roscommon is also the home to many annual festivals and events celebrating our beauty and culture.

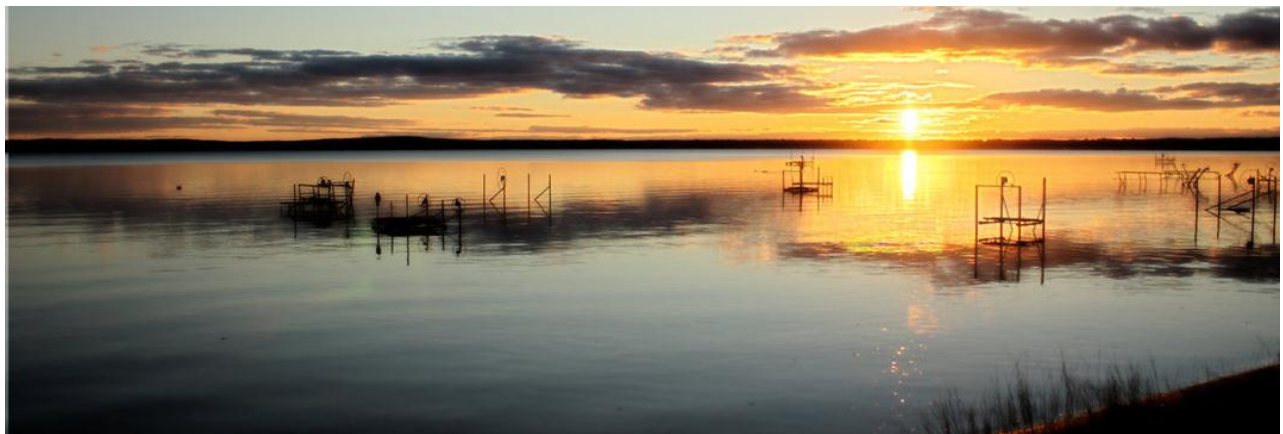
The focus of this plan is to identify and examine all aspects of recreation in the Roscommon area. The committee will use this updated plan to recommend improvements to our park and recreation system. Improving our park facilities and equipment and securing grant funding are primary goals of this planning process.





This plan is not an attempt to be all-inclusive, but rather to establish parameters from which scheduled improvements can take place. It is the intent of this plan to be flexible and to accommodate both active and passive recreational facilities. This document reviews the condition of existing recreation opportunities, enumerates the recreational goals of the community, and establishes a blueprint for future improvements.

Even though this plan focuses primarily on the corporate limits of the Village, it does take into consideration other uses in close proximity. It anticipates improvements to existing resources and the development of additional parks, trails and recreation opportunities.



CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Village of Roscommon prides itself on providing park and recreation facilities to residents and visitors alike. With the growing need to maintain existing facilities, meet changing needs and update equipment, the Village must play a proactive role in delivery of these activities.

Parks and recreation functions within the Village of Roscommon are supported by a collaborative group of authorities, Village employees and partnerships with community organizations. The Village and Higgins Township established the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority (RMRA) under MCL 123.951 the Building Authorities Act. RMRA was established, “to acquire, furnish, equip, own, improve, enlarge, operate and maintain any recreational parks and facilities for the use of the general public.”



RMRA now serves as the umbrella for several recreation organizations:

- The Community Recreation and Fitness (CRAF) Center operates several community based fitness programs as well as Gazebo Concerts through a grant from Kirtland Community College.
- Gahagan Nature Preserve is a privately funded organization that hosts school and summer programs on nature and conservancy.
- The AuSable River Center is a museum of canoeing history. They also host the Roscommon Farmers' Market, which offers local produce and crafts weekly.
- METRO Park is the home to the community Little League fields. There are also aging tennis and basketball courts and a playground.



Volunteers play a vital role in the development of the park and recreation system within the Village. In November 2007, volunteers from the Roscommon Rotary Club and other community organizations completed a new restroom facility in Wallace Park located on the South Branch of the AuSable River. Volunteers also make up the RMRA Board which oversees the recreational facilities described above.

Integrated community planning with other public agencies have demonstrated an active process towards goal attainment and project development. In 2012, a walking path will be constructed from the Roscommon Area Public School District to the Village limits. It will be funded by a Safe Walk to School Grant.

Several commissions and organizations that are concerned with the development and expansion of parks and recreational facilities in the Roscommon area are:

The Roscommon County Board of Commissioners
The Roscommon County Planning Commission
The Roscommon County Road Commission
The Roscommon Area Public School District

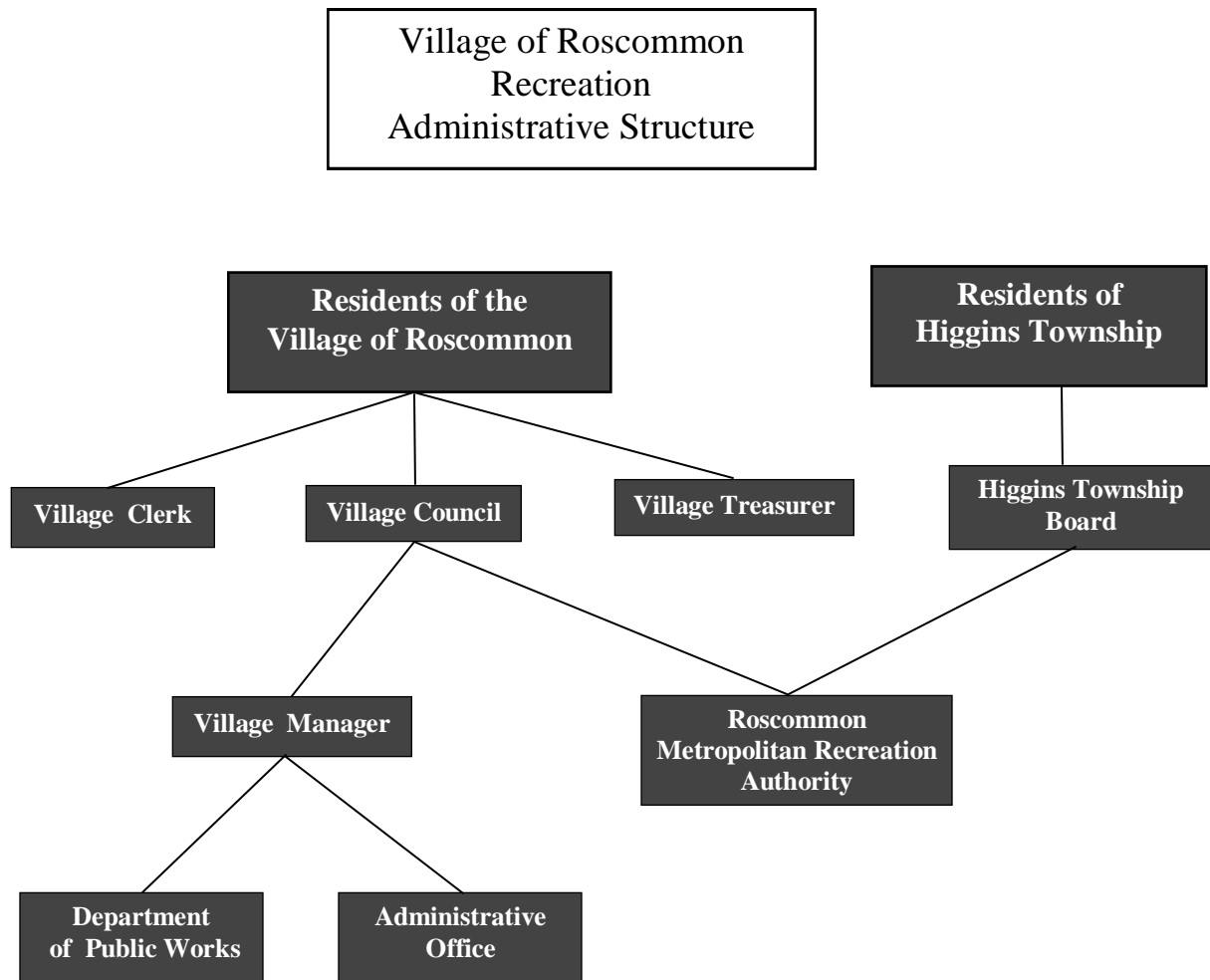
The responsibility for Roscommon park and recreation facilities lies primarily with three area entities: the Village of Roscommon, Higgins Township and the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority. The Higgins Lake Roscommon Chamber of Commerce and the Roscommon Area Public Schools were also involved in the production of this plan and its implementation. The development and execution of this Recreation Plan is a collaborative effort by these authorities and governing bodies of the entities.



The Village of Roscommon includes in its annual budget funds for recreation in the Village including activities and maintenance for Wallace Park. The recreation budget is included as a part of the general fund of the Village. The Village Manager presents the proposed budget to the council on an annual basis. After making changes the Council then approves the budget including funds for parks and recreation. The Village Department of Public Works maintains the park system and reports to the Village Manager.

RMRA is independent from the Village of Roscommon and Higgins Township. In the past, both entities budgeted funds for RMRA's administrative costs. They now will partner with them for infrastructure and programming. The 2011 budget includes:

Wallace Park Maintenance	2,300
Park Irrigations System	1,080
Retaining Wall Grant Match	3,000
Little League Field Irrigation	7,000



CHAPTER 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

One of the first tasks of the members of the Recreation Committee was an inventory of recreation and activities in the area. Each member individually listed the currently existing recreation opportunities; then compiled into this comprehensive list of recreation facilities in and around the Village of Roscommon.

PARKS and NATURE AREAS

Wallace Park

104 N. Seventh Street

Wallace Park is located on the banks of the South Branch of the AuSable River within the Village limits and close to downtown. The roof of the large pavilion was replaced in 2011. The beautifully renovated dock includes a handicapped accessible ramp. Frontage along the South Branch of the AuSable River provides both public and commercial launching of canoes, kayaks and tubes. The park has two bathrooms, picnic tables and Wi-Fi.



Roscommon Village Metro Park

George Street (between Division and Sherwood)

The eight acre park is located two blocks from the Roscommon County Building. It is the home to three irrigated Little League fields. In a residential neighborhood, there is a tiny tot playground with jungle gym, slides, swings, play ship and small carousel. A pavilion houses a sheltered picnic area as well as concessions during ballgames. There are two tennis courts and two basketball courts all of which are currently in need of maintenance. The area has municipal water and sewer on site, which supports two indoor bathrooms.



Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve

209 Maplehurst

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve is a non-profit organization operated by volunteers and funded by its members, generous donors and the endowment left by Marguerite. It provides environmental education for many of the schools in the surrounding counties. The 60 acre Preserve is open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, birding and many other uses. The Preserve has an asphalt and boardwalk trail that is wheelchair friendly. It travels through woods and wetlands and along the beginnings of Tank Creek.



The Mason Tract

Chase Bridge Road

From Chase Bridge near Roscommon to Smith Bridge in neighboring Crawford County there is a special place in the annals of fly fishing. The Mason Tract is a section of undeveloped land that was conveyed to the State of Michigan in 1955 by the late George W. Mason in a perpetual trust to insure it remains undeveloped. It includes 1500 acres bordering the stream and an additional 1330 acres acquired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1957 that extended its borders. This special tract is also known as the Mason Retreat.

Red Pine Natural Area

County Road 603 and F-97

The trail, located 15 miles east of Roscommon near the Kirtland Community College campus, covers 164 acres. There are 34 acres of virgin pines in the middle, most of them red pine. Winding through this stand of 200 year old trees is a 1.5 mile interpretive trail with sixteen stops and an accompanying brochure.

South Higgins State Park

106 State Park Drive

South Higgins Lake State Park is located 9 miles southwest of Roscommon. It contains almost one mile of shoreline along Higgins Lake, which is a large spring-fed body of water known for its clarity and fishing. There are multiple trails, a modern campground, picnic area, sandy beach, boat launch, playground and many other amenities.

Marl Lake and Trail

County Road 100 (Across from South Higgins State Park)

Just off County Road 100 south of South Higgins Lake State Park is Marl Lake. It has trail loops of 2.0, 3.5, and 5.5 miles for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. It is a quiet wooded path that wraps around the shoreline and through treed areas. There is a small boat launch with vault toilets. The lake is perfect for canoes and kayaks.

North Higgins Lake State Park

11747 N. Higgins Lake Drive

North Higgins State Park is located 8 miles west of Roscommon. It boasts 175 modern campsites, picnicking, swimming, two mini-cabins and a boat launch. Over 8 miles of trails are available for hiking, cross-country skiing and biking. Features included on site



are The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, nature and fitness trails and a forest nursery interpretive area. The Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center is located adjacent to the park. This educational center serves state and federal agencies, educational groups and other nonprofit organizations in a natural setting away from the distractions of home and the workplace.

Gerrish Township Park:

109 Carlos Avenue

This lakefront park with approximately 400 ft of public beach offers public swimming access, a gazebo, picnic areas, grills, restrooms with bath house, children's play equipment, volleyball net, universally accessible boardwalk, tetherball and paved parking.

Gerrish Municipal Park

2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive

This park adjacent to the township hall has a pavilion, picnic tables, grills, restroom facilities (inside the hall), tennis courts, children's play equipment, playfields, basketball court, tetherball and paved parking.

Gerrish Township Community Park Marina

103 Mill Road

This lakefront park area currently operates a 133 slip marina facility, and offers marina gas sales, fishing, grills, boating and ATV safety classes and lake access. Winter activities include ice fishing and ice skating

Firemen's Memorial Park

1295 E. Robinson Lake Road



The park is two miles from the downtown area and is approximately 4 acres in size. A local firemen's Memorial Committee provides all maintenance for this site which contains the memorial, a small playground, rest rooms, and a walk-through artifact site of fire equipment and memorabilia. The project has grown immensely popular as a visiting site and draws many people in a year's time as well as during the Firemen's Memorial Festival held in September each year.

TRAILS

Roscommon Snowmobile Trail

The Roscommon Snowmobile Trail connects Grayling to Saint Helen through the Village of Roscommon. The Grayling trail head (Route 489) is on Billman Road in Crawford County. It continues south to its end at Federal Highway, then turns east on North Central Drive through the Village. It ends at South Street at the head of the Saint Helen Trail (Route 69). The trail was recognized by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in April 2011. The trail is currently not groomed in the Village but consists of shoulder road right-of-way along Village streets.



Tisdale Triangle Pathway

Tisdale Road and Wisner Road

This trail located one half mile east of Roscommon via M-18 consists of 10.1 miles of multiple loops. It is a non motorized trail where cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and biking are permitted. The terrain is relatively flat with a few rolling hills.



Roscommon Area Public Schools Walking Trail

10600 Oakwood Drive

The paved 2 mile walking path located on the campus of The Roscommon Area Schools.

East Walking Trail

3075 E. Higgins Lake Drive

Located behind the Gerrish Township Police station, the walking trail offers two ½ mile loops of natural pathways through wooded area

RIVERS and LAKES

Higgins Lake



Eight miles west of Roscommon, Higgins Lake has been noted as one of the world's most beautiful lakes. The lake is named after Sylvester Higgins, the first state topographer. The crystal clear lake was formed as a glacial ice sheet retreated. The Cut River connects Marl Lake to Higgins Lake giving ample opportunity to fish for perch, trout

and pike. Two state parks and public access points provide excellent beach facilities, camping, launch sites, hiking trails and cross county skiing.

South Branch of the Au Sable River



The South Branch of the Au Sable River, which flows through the Village of Roscommon, is one of the finest trout streams in the country. Anglers and canoeists are taken back in time when following this meandering river through a pristine wilderness as it flows from its headwaters towards the mainstream of the Au Sable. Kayakers and canoeists enjoy the relatively flat waters. Roscommon is the host for the annual Pro Am Canoe Classic Race in early May featuring C2 and C1 races held at Wallace Park.

Kelly Beach

Kelly Ave. (off Flag Point Dr)

Owned by Roscommon County Road Commission, this beach area is actually the roadway of Grosbeak Avenue. It hosts a swimming area and association maintained boat launch and dock. There is no public parking within two blocks.

West Higgins Lake Boat Launch

Off County Road 200

Public boat launch with parking.

HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

Roscommon Area Historic Model Train Club

815 Lake Street

Come and see the trains of years past and learn about their importance to Roscommon and the surrounding area. The train club operates an eighth scale passenger train next to the River Center every Saturday in the summer.

Roscommon Area Historical Society

404 Lake St.

The Roscommon Area Historical Society preserves and protects artifacts and archives from the Roscommon and Higgins Lake Areas. The society maintains its museum in the 1880's era Gallimore Boarding House that operated from 1904-1931. The rooms are furnished in period style, and exhibits depict the history of the area. Richardson School House served the community from 1914-1955 and now displays an interior setting with many artifacts from Roscommon and surrounding area.

**The AuSable River Center**

211 North Main Street

The mission of the AuSable River Center is to educate the public about the heritage, artifacts, wildlife and environment of the great AuSable River. It provides a forum for



those interested in keeping the river as a viable entity. The Center provides outdoor education, information and growth for all interested individuals. It houses exhibits promoting the history of canoeing and kayaking and the AuSable River. Each year, volunteers build a cedar strip canoe. The canoe is raffled during the Firemen's Memorial Festival in September to raise funds for the Center.

OTHERS

Roscommon Village Market

Roscommon River Center

This open Market features local produce and various other Michigan made products. The Market is open Saturdays from Memorial Weekend through the summer. Hours are 10-3



Roscommon Community Center

510 South St.

The Community Center is located on the east side of the Village and is a focal point for several public programs. A very active senior group has the daily meal program there followed by recreational activities such as cards, bingo, dance, arts and crafts. Various public meetings for planning purposes are also conducted in the Community Center. Two acre site has walking, croquet, and horseshoes during the summer months.

Roscommon County Fire Training Grounds

290 Ballanger Road

The 20 acre Fire Training Grounds are located just east of the Village. Firemen from around the state use the facility for training at various times throughout the year. There is a large parking area, two buildings, bathrooms and a large pole building constructed by the Firemen's Memorial Committee for use during their



annual festival. Various public functions use the grounds annually, including the county fair and Fourth of July fireworks.

Community Recreation, Activities and Fitness Center (CRAF Center)

606 Lake Street

The CRAF Center's Mission is to enable a healthier community by implementing effective programs and providing facilities to enhance levels of fitness, recreation and leisure satisfaction. The Center offers:

A Fitness Center with free weights, Cybex circuit machines, a complete cardio vascular section with treadmills, elliptical machines, stair steppers, stationary bikes, and a rowing machine.

Aerobics Classes with both step and floor aerobics.

Personal Trainer on site and available for public sessions.

Recreational Activities includes youth drop-in, men's recreation, women's volleyball league, co-ed volleyball.

Adult Enrichment Classes Yoga, Tai Chi, Tang Soo Do, ballet for 2 1/2 years to adult, jazz, clogging, karate, tumbling, gymnastics, and rock and gemology.

Silver Sneakers® is a group exercise program for older adults to improve muscular strength and range of movement.

Community Meetings Village and county open hearings, Boy Scouts, Girl Scout Leaders, Soccer coaches, Little League try outs, 4-H Basketball games, Middle school dances, Circle Square Dance Club, Literacy Council, and Chamber of Commerce Committees.

Gym & Room Rentals for meetings, classes, training seminars, parties, receptions, showers, accommodating 30 to 300 people. Tables and chairs are available.



Roscommon North Youth Soccer Association Fields

Pinewood and County Rd. 100

The five soccer fields are owned by C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District and operated by the Roscommon North Youth Soccer Association. Pee Wee football fields are currently in the design phase.



Pioneer Hill

County Road 100 adjacent to C.O.O.R. ISD

Large open hill area utilized for downhill sledding and Higgins Lake Winterfest activities. There are also trails for hiking or snowshoeing.

Camp Westminster

116 Westminster Drive

Camp Westminster provides a setting for Christian summer camps, retreats, mission trips and outdoor summer worship in northern Michigan on beautiful Higgins Lake.

Kirtland Community College

10775 N. St. Helen Road

Kirtland Community College provides open access to education, as well as cultural opportunities, to enrich the lives of the people in Northern Michigan.

The Kirtland Performing Arts Center is the home of the Kirtland Center for the Performing Arts, the Kirtland Center's Performing Artist Series, the Kirtland Youth Theatre and Kirtland Center Players. The Performing Arts Center is an 846-seat modified thrust theatre which is used for both professional and educational performing arts events, as well as major campus-wide events.

**Bambi Lake Conference Center**

3468 East Robinson Lake Road

Bambi Lake Baptist Retreat and Conference Center, commonly referred to as "Bambi Lake" is a 240 acre site owned by the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. There are many recreational activities such as boating, swimming or fishing in the private 20-acre lake, playing putt-putt golf, walking the wooded hiking trails, winter sledding down Monster Hill.



FESTIVALS

Kirtland Performing Arts Concerts and Events (Throughout the year)

Higgins Lake-Roscommon WinterFest (February)

Great Egg Scramble and Bike Give-Away (March or April)

Annual Roscommon Business Expo (May)

Pro Am Canoe Race (May)

Annual DOE Day Golf Outing (June)

CRAF Center Gazebo Concert Series (June through August)

Annual July 4th Fireworks and Parade (July)

Annual Roscommon Art Festival (July)

Chamber of Commerce Poker Walk (July)

Roscommon Rotary Annual Duck Race (July)

AuSable River Center Annual Show and Sell Outdoor Market (July and August)

Roscommon County Fair (August)

AuSable River Festival (August)

Annual Made in Roscommon Market (September)

Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival (September)

Girls' Night Out in Roscommon (November)

Christmas in the Village (December)



DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

In 2001, the Village of Roscommon received a MDNR Grant to improve the accessibility of Wallace Park. The program funded through the Clean Michigan Initiative Recreation Bond Program (Project Number CM 99-217) had a final construction cost of \$10,135. The Village constructed a 3,540 square foot, barrier free park walkway from Seventh Street to the major features of the park. The walkway is used frequently and remains in good condition.



CHAPTER 5: DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS and PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Planning Process

The Roscommon Village Council appointed a Recreation Committee, comprised of the following members to direct the development of this plan.

Bruce Yannatta, Village Council Member, Chair
Connie Allen, Higgins Lake Roscommon Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director
Sue Jock, Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority, Chair
Diane Lippert, Village Council Member
Mike Looney, Department of Public Works
Allen Lowe, Village Manager
Beth Shannon, Roscommon High School Student

The committee implemented a multi-step process to gather information with the goal of involving as many segments of the community as possible.

Step 1 - Review the current Village Recreation Plan: Was the plan effective? Was the Village able to implement portions of the goals? Are there portions of the plan that can be incorporated into the new plan?



Step 2 – Update the Community’s Description: What are the major features of the Roscommon area? What is the impact of recreation on the residents and visitors?

Step 3 – Inventory of the Community’s Recreation Opportunities: What recreation resources currently exist in the Village and surrounding area?

Step 4 – Determine the Community’s Recreation Needs and Desires: What improvements are necessary to the current recreation infrastructure? What other opportunities does the public want?

Step 5 – Install Action Program to Meet Community Needs and Desires: This program prioritizes the broad based goals from the community input and identifies specific objectives necessary to accomplish them. The Action Program identifies what the key players must accomplish over the five-year period to



make each item a reality. These groups include the Village, DDA, Higgins Township, RMRA, and several local service organizations.

Step 6 – Draft the Recreation Plan: Using the guidelines from the Department of Natural Resources, complete a plan that will guide the community in reaching the identified goals.

Step 7 – Adopt the Recreation Plan: Take the plan through all the necessary steps for ultimate approval by the Village Council.



CHAPTER 6: PLANNING METHODS

The Village of Roscommon Recreation Committee was charged with the task of drafting a new Recreation Plan, guiding it through the approval process and submitting it to the State of Michigan. This involved a multi-step process.



1. The existing recreation facilities and programs were evaluated by collecting the relevant data.
2. Community needs were established by several means of collecting recreation priorities of residents.
3. Community priorities and existing facilities were assessed.
4. Identified deficiencies were addressed through broad Recreation Goals.
5. An Action Plan was developed to specific projects to reach those goals.
6. Budgetary and scheduling components were added to that plan
7. Community residents and stakeholders reviewed the completed Recreation Plan and gave input regarding the plan details.
8. The committee made revisions to the plan based on the public input.

CHAPTER 7: PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Recreation Committee decided to utilize two forms of input to gather public opinion in an attempt to address all age groups within the community.

INPUT METHOD #1: Town Hall Meeting

This meeting was well publicized in the local media, flyers, and on the Village webpage. Attending was a large volume of community members, business owners and media. The meeting was an open forum where residents gave their priorities for Village infrastructure improvements. All data was gathered and the following are the recreation projects listed in order of priority:

1. More and better sidewalks
2. Hiking trails
3. A bike friendly community
4. New playground equipment
5. ATV/snowmobile trailhead connecting existing trails
6. Quiet water promotion
7. Improvements to Tisdale Trail
8. Trail from the Village to the Firemen's Memorial
9. Basketball courts

INPUT METHOD #2: Community Questionnaires

This method was used to determine the interests from a broad age range of residents. Questionnaires were distributed through a high school History class, Little League Registration and the Senior Center. A copy is included as an appendix. Questionnaires were also available at the public library and on the Village and Chamber of Commerce websites. In order of priority the survey results are:

RESULTS OF PRIORITIES FROM QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. Non-motorized trails
2. New playground equipment
3. Youth activities
4. Ice rink
5. Basketball courts
6. Game rooms
7. Swimming pool
8. Before and after school activities
9. Tennis courts
10. Skate park
11. Volleyball courts

CHAPTER 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Basis for Action Plan

The Recreation Committee revised the issues, goals and objectives from the 2004 Village Recreation Plan. The changes were based on the results of the town hall meeting, community questionnaire, and Village staff. The Village Council will use this information as it updates the Village capital improvement plan.

Issue #1

The Roscommon area has a limited trail system for walking, running and bicycling.

The 60-plus age group comprises 27.5 percent of the population in the Village. This demographic, either by choice or of necessity, uses non-motorized transportation. Both the town hall meeting and community questionnaire named sidewalks and trails as a top priority with all age groups.

Goal

To enhance and develop non-motorized pathways linking schools, parks and businesses.

Objectives

- A. Identify existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to pathway access in the community factoring in all safety concerns of the public.
- B. Develop a pathway system that will provide a safe walk/bike ride to schools, parks and businesses, connecting non-motorized trails throughout the community and into the Village limits.
- C. Develop a conceptual, multiphase plan for pathway development.
- D. Acquire necessary land or obtain easements for pathway development.
- E. Involve community groups to fund, promote and maintain the trail systems.

Issue #2

Amenities in Roscommon's parks need to be updated and expanded.

One-third of all households in the Village have children under the age of 18. Upgrades to the public parks was the second most often requested community improvement.

Goal

To provide public parks to meet the recreational needs of the community and visitors.

Objectives

- A. Recreation opportunities will be preserved, renovated or replaced to provide an avenue for recreation within the community as well as promotion of events to the community and out-of-town visitors.
- B. Playground equipment will be updated, renovated and replaced with safe age appropriate recreation equipment.

- C. Identify threats to child safety and put in place measures to make the community a safe place to live, work and play.
- D. Conduct regular and thorough inspections of all recreation facilities and equipment, maintaining current safety standards. Quickly and effectively address public safety concerns.

Issue #3

Visitors as well as community members are unaware of area activities and recreation offerings.

The typical family of four will spend \$300.00 per day in a community while vacationing. We need to bring visitors to the areas and inform residents what activities are available locally.

Goal

To increase knowledge and awareness of existing recreation opportunities.

Objectives

- A. Identify the strengths and weaknesses in the marketing of Roscommon recreation
- B. Implement a master plan to disseminate information regarding the varied area activities.
- C. Network with area agencies to promote and share recreation and activity events through:
 - a. Electronic signage
 - b. Cooperative efforts with Chambers of Commerce & Tourism Bureau
 - c. Community signs and marquees
 - d. Newspapers & radio, recreation guides
 - e. Free website posts
 - f. Flyers
- D. Develop and maintain partnerships with community groups and educational institutions.

Issue #4

The Roscommon community provides limited group activities across the age spectrum. With 13.4 percent of the population under the age of 14 and another 24.7 percent above the age of 65, it is necessary to plan improvements to accommodate every age group.

Goal

To provide community activities to increase recreational and socialization for all ages and abilities.

Objectives

- A. Identify and create activities that are suitable to the community and offer age related recreational activities.

- B. Provide opportunities to promote a healthy lifestyle and, in turn, a healthy community.
- C. Promote and market the parks, recreation programs, facilities and the benefits that are provided to the public.

Issue #5

ORV, ATV and snowmobile users avoid Roscommon due to poor access.

There are state recognized trails on three sides of the Village, yet limited ability to patronize Village businesses. With an unemployment rate of 14.2 percent and over one-third of the households earning less than \$25,000, it is essential to provide easy access to the town.

Goal

To develop connections for current motorized trails into and through the Village.

Objective

- A. Develop a well-marked, clear pathway through the Village.
- B. Offer a direct route for ATV/ORV/Snowmobile riders to gain access to area businesses, parks and event facilities.
- C. Market area assets and businesses that would benefit from riders to the area.
- D. Identify area clubs and include them in the planning and implementation of trails.

Issue #6

Future population growth will place increasing demands on recreational land in the Roscommon area.

The years from 2002 to 2010 showed the first decline in population in Roscommon in many decades. The projection over the next several years is for moderate population growth. This will be the result of individuals seeking the quality of life available in the area. These opportunities must increase with the population.

Goal

To preserve sufficient open space that will provide opportunities for recreation now and in the future.

Objectives

- A. Provide land for recreation in quantities sufficient to meet the existing and future recreations need of the population and to preserve the natural resources and identity of the community and surrounding area.
- B. Secure donations, gifts, endowments, Corporate Partnerships, sponsorships or other contributions toward maintaining and developing the recreation system need to be encouraged for specific projects.

CHAPTER 9: ACTION PLAN

The Roscommon Recreation Committee, in cooperation with the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority, compiled a prioritized list of projects for implementation for 2013 through 2017. The Committee based this list on the various public input sessions and surveys, as well as the Village staff and demographic data. This Action Plan was developed to carry out the goals and objectives set forth in the Recreation Master Plan. These projects are subject to availability of funding through Village funds and grant acquisition.

Each year, funds are allocated for improvements and maintenance of the parks in the Village. These expenditures are not included in this chapter. They are typically smaller projects that can be paid for through the Village general fund.

It is impossible to design a single project to meet all the recreational needs of a community. We believe the mix of projects that are included in the plan will accomplish most of those needs. The following section will describe those projects in some detail and show their locations when appropriate.

2013

Tisdale Trail Dog Stations

Many individuals use the Tisdale hiking and ski trails to walk their dogs. Pet waste can interfere with biking and walking. Available dog stations would increase the use and enjoyment of the trail.

Tisdale Signage

The signs at the trailhead and along the trail are showing signs of age. This natural area is used year-round and would attract more users with a facelift.

Community Bike Racks

Community Bike Racks would give Roscommon residents the option of non-motorized access to area business, governmental buildings and park areas promoting a lifestyle of healthy living.

Draft RMRA Fundraising Plan

A detailed fundraising plan is essential for RMRA to develop a sound financial basis to develop and maintain recreational programming.

Park Surveillance Cameras

Safety is of primary importance to the Roscommon community. Vandalism is becoming an increasing problem. Park Surveillance Cameras would help maintain a level of awareness and security.

Recreation Program Plan

Developed from the community survey, the plan would identify additional recreation opportunities and activities within the Roscommon Area. This plan must be multi-generational to address the needs of a diverse population.

Develop Snowmobile / ATV Trail Connection Plan

A comprehensive connection plan will facilitate connecting the existing trails to the north and south of the Village. This will provide access for vacationers and bring business to the Roscommon area.

Nonmotorized Trail Phase 1 (Wallace Park to Hilltop)

Demographics show that the population in northern Michigan is aging. From the public input process, we know that this group wants opportunities to walk. The younger residents are also looking for places to bike and jog. This multi-year project will connect residential areas, Village parks and the downtown. The first phase (approximately 1/3 mile) connects Wallace Park on the South Branch of the AuSable River to the Hilltop area, a nursing home and housing development.

Replace Downtown Sidewalks

Many of the sidewalks in the core of the Village are showing signs of age. Some streets in the downtown lack sidewalks completely. Developing walking routes will provide safety and mobility to areas within this vital area of the Village.

2014

METRO Park Playground Equipment

METRO Park has outdated playground equipment. The Recreation Authority will assesses, renovate, replace and update the equipment to provide safe areas for children to play.

Quiet Waters Event

With the AuSable River flowing through the Village, canoeing, kayaking and fishing are popular recreation activities with residents and visitors. RMRA and the Chamber will work with local organizations to promote Quiet Water Events within the community.

Replace Wallace Park Seawall

The seawall in Wallace Park Seawall is in disrepair. The replacement will maintain the integrity of the banks, retard erosion and provide safe water entrances.

Install Wayfinding Information boards

With diverse recreation opportunities in the Roscommon area, it is important for visitors to have easy access to the information. Installing Way-finding Information Boards within the community will help area residents and visitors locate areas of recreation, businesses and local attractions.

Nonmotorized Trail Phase 2 (bike paths)

The second phase will stripe Village streets for bike lanes where possible.

2015

Basketball Courts

Teens and young adults identified basketball as one of their preferred activities. The courts located in METRO park need to be completely renovated. The surface, baskets, and fencing all need to be replaced. Courts, Ice Rinks and Tennis courts will be developed to accommodate recreation needs for the community.

Ice Rink

Northern Michigan winters make it difficult for some to enjoy the out-of-doors. The Village has been able to maintain an outdoor skating rink during some winters. With the proper equipment, that would be possible in mild winters as well.

Nonmotorized Trail Phase 3 (Library to Senior Center)

The third phase is approximately 3/4 mile and would cross Robinson Creek. It would run through a remote area on the south end of the Village. This trip is over 1 ½ miles by road.

2016

Tennis Courts

Like the basketball courts, the municipal tennis courts need to be relocated and renovated. The nearest courts to town are eight miles west in Gerrish Township.

Nonmotorized Trail Phase 4 (Senior Center to Fire Training Grounds)

The fifth phase would connect the Senior Center and Senior Apartments to the Fire Training Grounds, the site of the County Fair and many other activities. Its route is approximately ½ mile and falls almost entirely within Village right-of-way.

2017

Nonmotorized Trail Phase 5 (Fire Training Grounds to Hilltop)

The final phase is approximately ¾ mile and would be the most difficult. It would necessitate crossing the South Branch of the AuSable River. Utilizing existing sidewalks and bike lanes, the loop would be more than three miles around the Village of Roscommon.

Water Feature in METRO Park

Installing a water feature in METRO Park will be a safe alternative to hot days for children in this residential area. It would also attract visitors from the tourist area around the Village.

APPENDICES

Resource Inventory

Community Questionnaire

Recreation Related Articles from newspapers

To be added

Newspaper Notices Draft, Public Meeting

Letters of Support –Higgins Township, RAPS,

Minutes – RMRA, PC

Maps with locations

Transmission letters, County Planning, EMCOG

Council Resolution

RESOURCE INVENTORY

The Recreation Committee and the Roscommon community have identified open space in and around the Village that they desire to preserve because of the properties' natural features. This chapter also lists existing natural areas that should be protected for future recreation opportunities.

Currently protected land:

1. South Branch of the AuSable River
2. Wallace Park
3. Metro Park
4. Tisdale Trail
5. Michigan Fire Training Grounds
6. DNR Airport
7. Firemen's Memorial Park
8. Village property between Seventh St. and South Branch, southeast of M-18

Open Space Areas to Protect:

1. Vacant land behind Post Office
2. 10 acres bounded by Main, Robinson, Hannah, and Ballanger
3. M-18 South of Village limits to Firemen's Memorial
4. North of DPW property to Tisdale Trail
5. 40 acres east of Gahagan

VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON
HIGGINS TOWNSHIP
ROSCOMMON METROPOLITAL RECREATION AUTHORITY

Parks and Recreation Survey

Please carefully read and answer all questions. This survey will be used to assess need, usage and plan recreational improvements in and around Roscommon.

Age: 12 and under 13-19 20-35 36-55 55+
Gender: __Male __Female

Please identify which park and facilities that your or a member in your household utilize in Roscommon.

Facilities	Often	Sometimes	Once	Never but interested	Never, not interested
CRAF					
Wallace Park					
Au Sable River Center					
Gahagan Nature Preserve					
Wallace Park					
Metro Park					

As a community resident how would you rate the following:

Facilities	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
CRAF					
Wallace Park					
Au Sable River Center					
Gahagan Nature Preserve					
Wallace Park					
Metro Park					

How would you rate our current park and recreation facilities for ages:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Pre-School					
Elementary School Age					
Middle School					
High School					
Adults <55 years old					
Adults >55 years old					

How often do you or members of your household participate in the following activities?
Not all listed are currently available in Roscommon

Activities	Often	Sometimes	Once	Never but interested	Never, not interested
Art/Crafts					
Baseball					
Basketball					
Bicycle					
Bingo					
Boating					
Camping					
Canoeing					
Card/board games					
Ceramics/pottery					
Climbing wall					
Cooking					
Creative writing					
Dancing					
Educational/Enrichment Classes					
Exercise (cardio/weights)					
Exercise Classes					
Field Hockey					
Fishing					
Fitness Trails					
Football					
Golf					
Hiking					
Music					
Open Gym					
Out of Town Group Trips					
Photography					
Quilt Making					
Racquetball/Squash					
Roller Hockey/Blade					
SCUBA Certification					
Skateboard					
Soccer					
Swimming					
Tennis					
Theater					
Therapeutic Recreation					
Volleyball					
Outdoor Concerts					
Other Activities:					

Below is a list of facilities or activities the Recreational Authority could consider developing or enhancing. Please indicate the level of priority you feel should be considered.

Facilities	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
Before/After School Care				
Basketball Courts				
Bicycle Paths				
Daytime Youth Activities				
Dog Parks				
Game room (pool table, table tennis, air hockey, etc)				
Ice Rinks/Hockey				
Nature Trails				
Pet Waste Stations				
Pool				
Playgrounds				
Racquetball/Squash				
Skateboard Park				
Tennis Courts				
Volleyball Court				
Other:				

Your comments are important to us. If you have any other ideas or comment please list:

RETURN SURVEY TO VILLAGE OFFICE

OR FAX: 989-275-5998

Tisdale Trails Community Clean-up Ready to Go

The Tisdale Trailway clean-up is scheduled for Sunday, April 29 at noon. The effort will begin at the trailhead off of Tisdale Rd. Volunteers from St. Michael's Youth Group and Hilltop Manor will be par-

ticipating. According to event organizer Sue Jock they could use more community members to volunteer for the undertaking. "We are in need of chain saws, rakes and muscle" notes Jock. The lower trails have rec-

some attention thanks to the efforts of Dan Fishell, Bill Torongo, and Bernie Milnes but Jock says the "upper trails are in dire need of clearing".

Village Clean-Up Results in Full Dumpster

The Village of Roscommon held their 5th Annual Village Clean-up on Saturday, June 2. A 40 yard container was placed lot of the Vill-

Diane Lippert spent a portion of the day assisting people with the unloading of trucks and trailers. Roscommon student Alex Dodge volunteered to assist Lippert for the day. Dodge is a member of the National Honor Society and is required to com-

plete community service as part as part of the National Honor Society's Code of Civic Responsibility.

According to Lippert the day proved worthwhile with the dumpster being topped off by 2:00 pm.

Local Instrumental Bands to Perform in Community

The Roscommon Steel Drum Bands will kick off the summer concerts at the Gazebo on the CRAF Center lawn in Roscommon June 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Both the student and adult bands will perform.

The student band has performed all across the state for various festivals and concerts. The group nizea perform NWL. Their unique are a

either a student member or the director, thus creating their own music library.

The adult band, known as The Panhandlers, is also directed by Seth Kilbourn. They practice year round, performing at various venues in the area. The group consists of community members, teach-

ported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Kirtland Community College Foundation, Gannon Broadcasting Systems, Dawson & Stevens Classic 50's Diner and the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be in the CRAF Center gymnasium.

Village to host town hall meeting on March 19

The Village of Roscommon will be holding a town hall style meeting on March 19 from 7-9 p.m. at the CRAF Center for discussion on infrastructure projects.

Some of the topics the public is invited to speak on includes discussion on improvement projects to make the village a better place to live and ways to promote new business.

The plan for the meeting is to provide an environment where positive and constructive input from the public can be used to complete projects on streets, utilities, recreation opportunities, trails and other projects with limited resources.

The CRAF Center is located at 606 Lake St., Roscommon. For information on the meeting contact the Village of Roscommon at 275-5743.



Council member Diane Lippert assists resident Phil Niederer with the disposal of some old barn lumber. Alex Dodge also assisted for the day as part of his community service commitment to the National Honor Society.

June 1, 2012

Roscommon

Village Markets Kicks Off Summer with Re-Opening over Memorial Weekend



summer opening at 10am and closing at 3pm. The market takes place at the AuSable River Center in Roscommon. Call Erine at 989-281-1260 to reserve your space.

In addition to regular market activities there will be several events throughout the summer. Those events include a "Show and Sell

SEASONS MAGAZINE-SUMMER, 2012

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Village Council President took on position of Market Manager back on track. Chris Smith, who was sellin

By Scott Marshall

The Village Market re-opened last Saturday for are vegetable and fruit growers to sell their goods to the community. According to

Higgins Lake/Roscommon Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Connie Allen said like every year, the 43rd Annual Roscommon Arts Festival will be "fantastic."

This year's festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 14 at the CRAF Center lawn and along Lake St. in Roscommon.

The 1,500 people who are slated to attend the festival will have an opportunity to browse 70 vendors who will have items like fine art including oil and water paintings, jewelry, textiles, yard art, metal art, stained glass and food samples like kettle corn. Allen added there will also be several non-profit organizations educating people on their services.

43rd Roscommon Arts Festival July 14



ART IN THE STREET

May 16, 2012

Roscommon

RADL Blooms with Programming and New Art



arts Festival will be held July 14. Some of the products on hand are, yard art and food.

(Photo by Thomas Reznich)

The poker walk will last until 3 p.m. when Allen said card hands will have to be turned in. Prizes for the poker walk will include gift certificates to area

stores.

For information on the festival and walk, call the chamber at 275-8760.