

**KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY (KBIC)**

2018-2023

Five Year Recreation Plan



*Developed by the:*

**KBIC**

Natural Resource and Public Works Departments



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **Required Sections**

Community Description.....	3
Administrative Structure.....	3
Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Facilities .....	5
Description of the Planning and Public Input Process.....	9
Goals and Objectives .....	11
Action Program.....	12

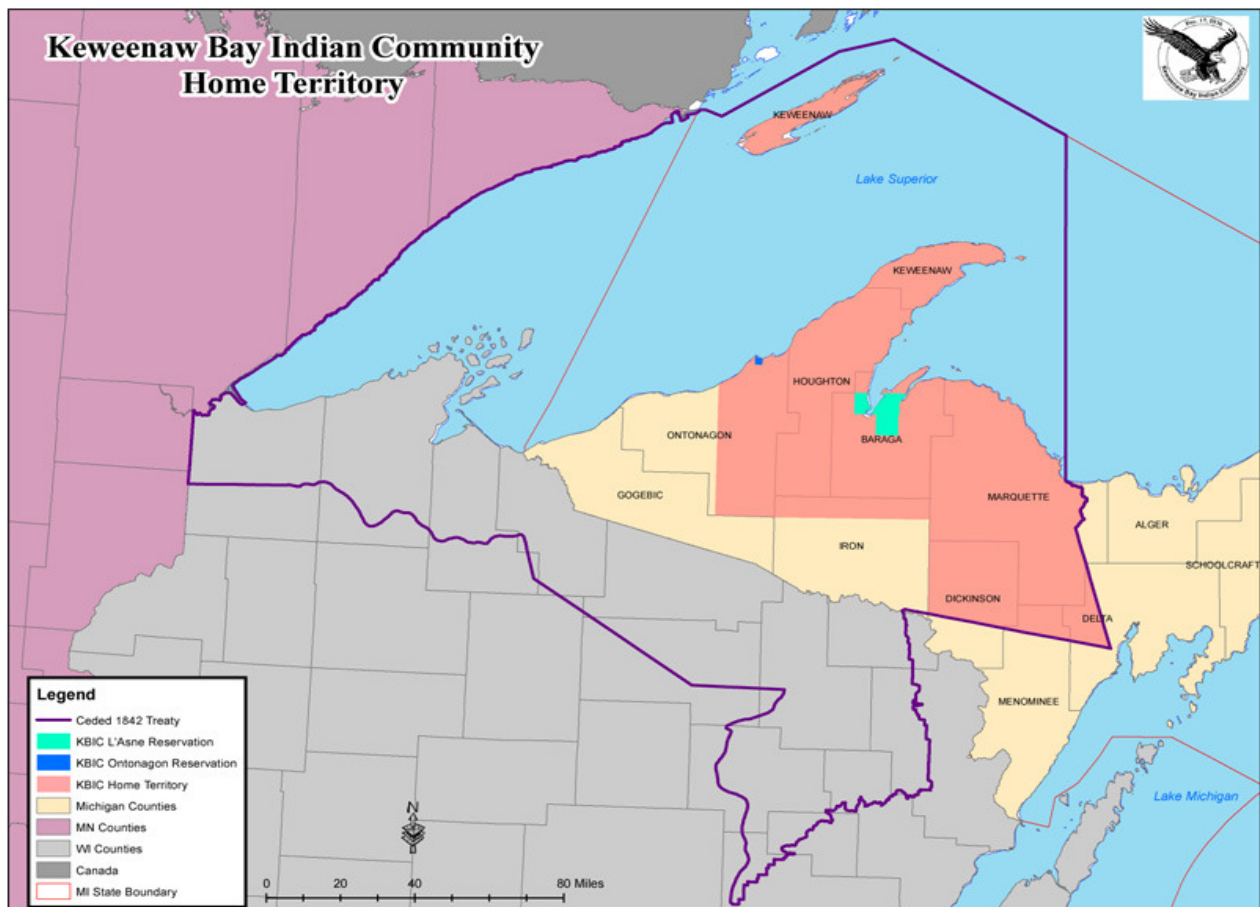
### **Appendices**

A. Non-Motorized Trail Feasibility Study (Sections 1, 5, 6, and 7).....	17
B. Public Meeting Correspondence .....	19
C. KBIC Strategic Plan Pages.....	20
D. KBIC Plan Approval (Will be added to plan in February 2018) .....	22



## Community Description

The jurisdiction of our Recreation Plan is the L'Anse Indian Reservation in Baraga, Marquette, and Ontonagon Counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula on Lake Superior. This Tribe was established by and signatory to the Chippewa Treaty of 1854, creating the exterior boundaries of the L'Anse Indian Reservation. The members and descendants of the Tribe retain their right to fish, hunt, and gather throughout the ceded territory (1842 Treaty of the Chippewa). The ceded territory encompasses the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This plan was developed by our Natural Resource and Public Works departments and will encompass all aspects of recreation. The L'Anse Indian Reservation covers 59,067 acres with checkerboard ownership by the Tribal community. The entire reservation encompasses nearly one third of the area of Baraga County and small portions of Ontonagon and Marquette County. Baraga County is located at the base of the Keweenaw Peninsula with over 70 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. In addition to Lake Superior, there are several large river systems and large tracts of forested land.





## **Administrative Structure**

The KBIC is a Federally-recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, with a Constitution and bylaws adopted and approved by the Secretary of Interior in December of 1936. It has twelve elected Tribal Council members who govern Tribal policies and regulations. The KBIC Tribal Council provides leadership, determines goals, sets priorities, implements programs, and develops codes, laws, and regulations that support community goals including park and recreation functions. These park and recreation functions have been delegated to the KBIC Natural Resource Department (NRD) and the Public Works Department.

The Tribal Council has the authority to accept grants, commit funds, and to purchase land on behalf of the Community. They delegate the NRD and Public Works to operate and advance parks and outdoor recreational opportunities thru advising and overseeing activities related to recreation and tourism. The current council approved budget from tribal funds for parks operation and maintenance, recreation programming, and capital improvements is approximately \$115,400 annually. This year there were additional funds secured for an emergency shoreline erosion project and the budget is \$189,435. There were also additional specific project budgets within the Health and Natural Resources departments for a viewing tower (\$21,000) and non-motorized trail and fitness stations (\$6,000). The Natural Resources Department also received additional funding for the pollinator friendly demonstration garden upkeep and interpretive signage. There Tribe also received money from the MEDC for the non-motorized trail system sections, which will be discussed later in the plan. Projected budgets for the remaining four years of this plan are set to remain the same as prior years.

This includes planning with the Public Works Department, working with other committees and tribal departments, and collaborating with local county efforts under progress. The major focus of the Public Works Department is on our campgrounds and marinas. The NRD and Public Works team make recommendations to the Tribal Council regarding matters affecting our lands and this Tribal Recreation Plan.

## **Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Facilities**

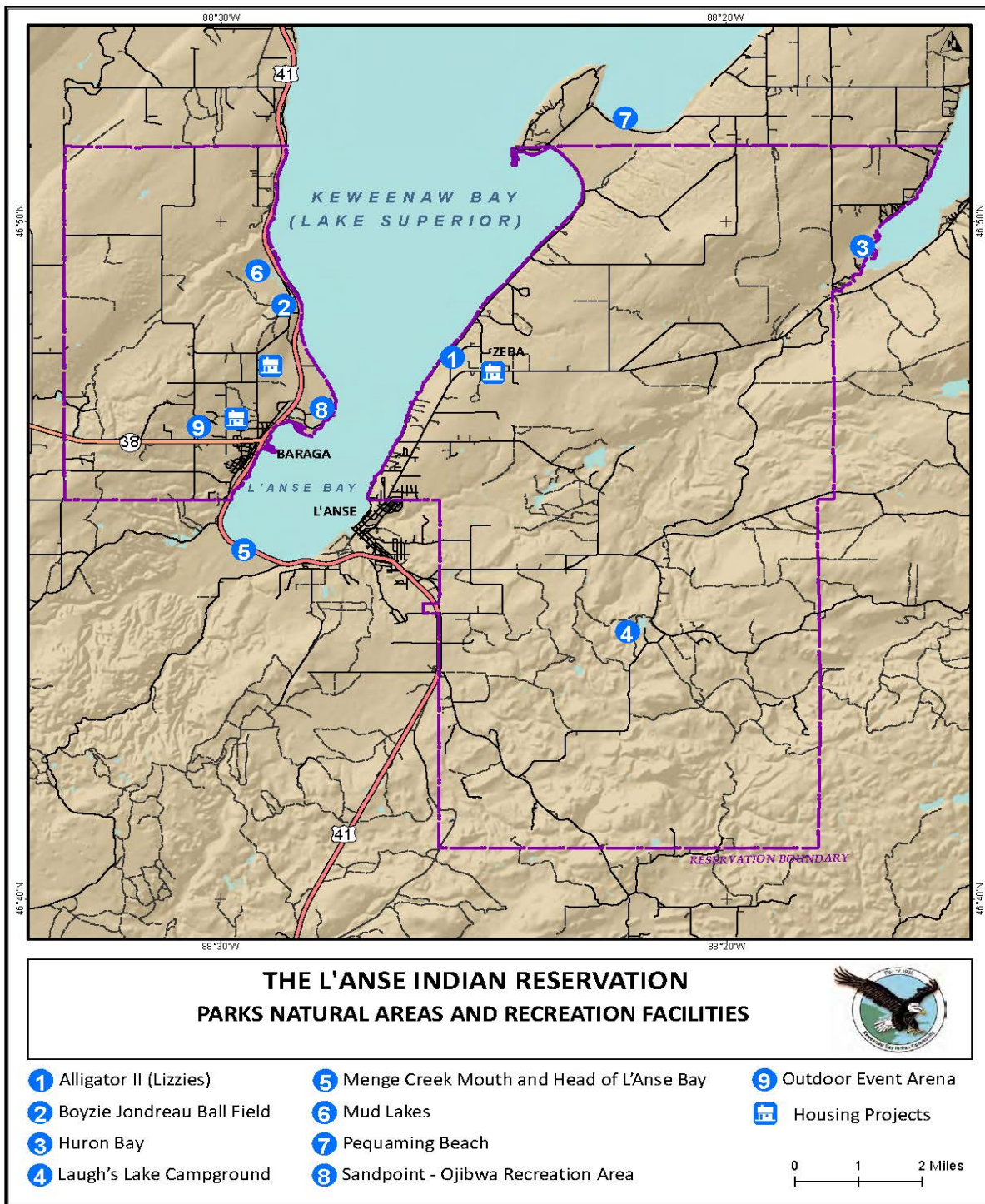
There are many recreational facilities and organized sports with areas available within Baraga County, two Villages, five Townships and private entities which are responsible for the



following: parks, marinas, boat launch, an armory, schools, beaches, campgrounds, recreational buildings, ball fields, tennis court, track, golf course, ski trails, snowmobile trails, and heritage sites. KBIC also owns and manages an indoor gym/basketball court. There are also cultural activities within buildings which are recognized as recreational activities and cultural sites which are of interest but are not included as a focus in this inventory or Plan.

The KBIC has never received a grant from the DNR for our community. The main focus of this Plan is outdoor recreation. In addition, none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines, but a brief description of future adaptation will be covered in the Goals and Objectives section and the Action Program below.

***Baraga County Recreation Lands and Facilities***



### Alligator II (Lizzies)

Located at the bottom of Whirl-I-Gig Road in Zeba, this property is 1.3 acres, with 575 feet of Keweenaw Bay shoreline used as a public swimming beach, boat launch, and picnic site.



### **Boyzie Jondreau Ball Field**

Located two and a half miles north of M-38 in Baraga on US-41 near Assinins cemetery. This is a small area, approximately .....square feet and is not regulation size. It is in poor condition and is not currently being maintained.

### **Huron Bay**

KBIC has a shoreline for recreational and subsistence access to the Huron Bay with wild rice beds and a well-known stream and lake fishery. Future Plans include the building of a dock.

### **Laugh's Lake Campground**

KBIC purchased 80 acres from Michigan DNR which borders on Laugh's Lake. This is the site of a former rural campground. There are three homes on a small portion of the Laugh's Lake. This is also the location of our Community sugar bush for gathering sap and making maple syrup.

### **Menge Creek Mouth and Head of L'Anse Bay**

This wetland area covers 26 acres and is located at the head of the L'Anse Bay. There are around seven acres of open water on the west side of US41 where wild rice/waterfowl enhancement projects are held. This is a prime area for wildlife viewing.

### **Miscellaneous**

There is another basketball court near our Baraga housing projects, a playground/basketball court on Lyons Street near our housing projects, and a playground/basketball court near our Marquette housing properties. We also have a parking lot near Kelsey Creek for our fishermen.

### **Mud Lakes**

This wetland area covers 113 acres and is located on the north end of Mission Road. This area is composed of a series of small lakes with a water control structure. There have been wild rice/waterfowl enhancement projects in this area, the addition of a viewing tower, boardwalks, and trail improvements. Maintenance and repairs are needed on a regular basis for upkeep of this area.

### **Non-Motorized Trail**

KBIC received a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to perform a feasibility study for a non-motorized pathway connecting the community of Zeba



with the Sand Point Recreation Area, via the villages of L'Anse and Baraga. U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. (UPEA) was retained by the KBIC to assist them with the professional analysis required to complete this feasibility study. In addition, funding has been secured for Section 5, 6 and 7 of this trail and construction will be completed for section 7 in 2018. Funding and support for construction of these sections is through KBIC, MEDC, NRCS, Village of Baraga, Baraga State Park, Michigan Department of Transportation and Natural Resources. The entire project is supported by a large-scale partnership with the previous mentioned entities along with Baraga County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and Recreation and Trails in Motion and the Village of L'Anse.

### **Ojibwa Recreation Area**

Located on Sand Point, this area is a special resource offering an extensive stretch of open beach area, with public access. This entire area covers 28 acres; the combination of beautiful Keweenaw Bay vistas, great swimming beaches, vast open space and natural areas, campgrounds, pow-wow grounds, picnic areas, walking trails, boardwalk, a fishing pond, a marina, cultural areas and an historic lighthouse make this site a unique place. No other shoreline property within Baraga County has such an expansive multi-use area for public access to Keweenaw Bay and Lake Superior.

The area north of the lighthouse has suffered from past deposition of vast quantities of stamp sand along the shore. Reclamation of this property was addressed through EPA Brownfield Assessment (2001) and Cleanup funding (2003) resulting in the placement of a soil cap and vegetation on approximately 34 acres of the site and the creation of a walking trail , native pollinator friendly demonstration garden, fitness stations, and interpretive signage. With the location of the property being next to Lake Superior, shoreline erosion is a factor in maintaining this area.

### **Outdoor Event Arena**

A (acres or square feet) field/lot located next to the Niiwin Akeaa Center and behind the Early Childhood Development building is utilized to hold events such as soccer games, mud drag races, and winter festivals.

### **Pequaming Beach**





Located on the north end of First Sands and the south end of Pequaming off Bayshore Rd in L'Anse. First Sands is a public beach 40 ft. wide between the road and shoreline 4500 ft. or .8mile long. Tribal property borders Keweenaw Bay with 400 ft. of shoreline.

### ***Marquette County Reservation Land***

Marquette County Reservation is approximately 200 acres and there is a playground and walking trail in the Housing Project. In addition, the Tribe has met with the Chocolay Township on plans to improve upon some of their existing sites; Kabawgam Pocket Park and Beaver Grove. They also have given input on the Chocolay Bayou Preserve for interpretive signage.

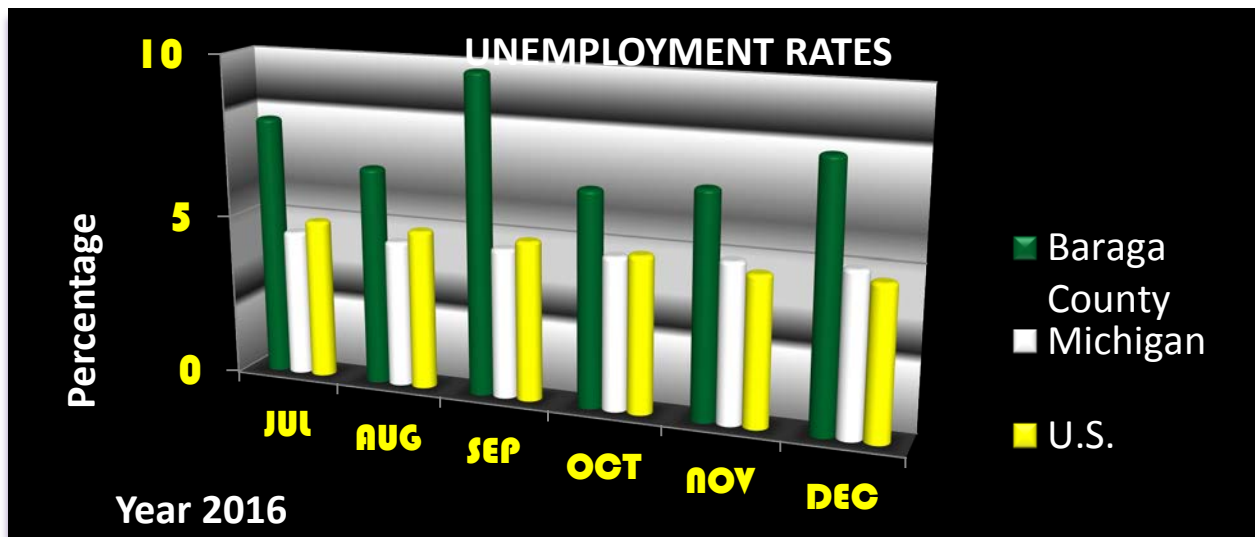
### ***Ontonagon County Reservation Land***

There are 2,400 acres of wilderness acres, which also include Lake Superior frontage.

### **Description of the Planning and Public Input Process**

Tribal, Federal, State, and local agencies, stakeholder organizations and other parties interested in conservation and recreation concerns help guide the identification and prioritization of projects. KBIC Staff works with these entities in its efforts to protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreational activities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.

The economy of this area is tenuous; the KBIC conducted a survey of adult members living on the Reservation in November of 2013 in which 39% identified themselves as not employed and 36.7% had annual incomes under federal poverty levels. In fact, the past five years Baraga County has continually ranked among the highest unemployment rates in the nation and as you can see below in 2016 doubling the United States average in September:





Overall, the per capita income, availability of positive Community assets and educational attainment in the rural communities of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is significantly lower than that of the remainder of Michigan. Similarly, the unemployment rates and numbers of persons relying on public assistance are higher than the averages for Michigan and the nation as a whole. Add to this a well-documented high prevalence rate for the occurrence of the debilitating health risks of diabetes and heart disease, as well as the extensive devastation of Native communities by alcohol abuse and its related problems. Residents of Baraga County, and in particular its Native American Community, are among those with the greatest needs and fewest opportunities.

The availability of our recreation areas will significantly improve KBIC's ability to assist community members in managing and improving their overall health status. KBIC Health Department conducted a health assessment whereas 281 valid surveys were completed by Tribal members in our community. The 2015 results state that 58% of respondents reported that they have been told by Health professionals that they have certain health conditions, 30% reported being told they had hypertension; of those with a hypertension diagnosis, 83% were taking medication for their high blood pressure. Over 70% of participants had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their entire life; among these individuals, 51% reported they are still smoking every day. Finally, 56% of participants had Body Mass Indexes (BMIs) that fell into the obese category, while 28% were considered overweight.

Conservatively, over 500 KBIC Tribal members obtain licenses to hunt, fish, trap and gather on an annual basis. The KBIC Natural Resources Department (KBNRD) conducts periodic surveys of license holders to estimate extent of harvest and to document and assess natural resources management concerns and comments from the Tribal membership.

Through the years, concerns expressed via surveys, accounts from KBIC elders, anecdotal reporting to KBNRD from the KBIC membership, etc., have resulted in the establishment of areas of protection, exclusive of certain harvest rights. These areas have included but are not limited to residential zones, public beaches, trails, and campgrounds. These public areas are included in this Plan.

We have chosen a Systems Approach to Planning; which seems to fit our area the best due to the fact that most of our parks and recreation areas do not meet national park guidelines



and/or are not fully developed or meet standards for handicap accessibility, plus we do not plan on any property acquisitions in the near future. This approach involves citizen surveys and detailed recreation inventories to determine the recreation needs of a community.

### **Public Input Process**

Our first step to involve the public was through a community meeting/luncheon workshop to incorporate their input into our recreation planning process to draft our written plan. We solicited comments from all Tribal members, other recreational providers, private and public partners, plus any regional organizations. In addition, for those that were unable to attend, such as low-income, elderly, or disabled populations, an article was placed in the local newspaper inviting them to send their comments directly to our Grant Writer and her contact information was provided (phone, email, and address) as well as an invite to stop by her office if they wish.

The workshop consisted of providing attendees with: a survey which is being used to complete Baraga County's Five Year Recreational Plan (our Grant Writer contacted their planner to ensure that the questions of whether the participant is a Tribal Member and whether they live on the reservation were included as questions on the survey) before the workshop/meeting; DNR grant/plan guidelines; and 5-year Recreation Plan action items worksheet.

We believe the chosen methods represented the whole community, especially those groups that may not be likely to attend meetings, the potential users for special use areas (for example, skate parks) and those who may be greatly affected (positively or negatively) by these recreation areas. A copy of the newspaper public participation ad, Baraga County survey, meeting agenda, and the meeting worksheet are all included as Attachment B.

Our second means of soliciting public input was an advertisement explaining that we held a community input meeting to obtain the views of attendees on creating an inventory of our parks and recreational areas, plus any projects or activities they would like to see in or on these areas over the next five years. We also told them that a draft of the plan will become available at the end of December for a 30 day public review and comment period prior to an open meeting for adoption by the Tribal Council in February. The public hearing will be listed as a separate agenda item and will occur prior to the adoption of the resolution by Tribal Council. The approved Resolution will be included as Attachment D.



## Goals and Objectives

The Baraga County Survey results were quite similar to ours and 36% of respondents said they live on the Reservation and 13.22% identified as being KBIC Tribal members. One write in comment suggested that Baraga County should work in some manner with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for recreational efforts. The following is a summary of the information and goals or activity suggestions received from all above mentioned sources:

- Indoor/Outdoor Public Swimming Pool
- Outdoor Skating Rink at Zeba Hall
- Tennis Courts
- Ojibwe Signage at all Recreation Areas (change some of the names of these areas)
- Sledding Hill Exercise Stations (All Ages and Abilities)
- Preserve Sand Pointe Shoreline
- Public Beach (Lifeguard, Shower, Obstacle Course, Place Slide in Water)
- More Plants and Trees everywhere
- ORV trails
- Archery/Gun Shooting Range Paintball and Laser Tag (Indoor and Outdoor)
- Skate Park
- Mini Golf
- Improve/Repair Mud Lake
- Tables, Grills, and Restroom at the Silver River in Zeba
- Outdoor Bathrooms and Garbage Cans at all areas
- Make Assinins Ball Field regulation size
- Make all areas handicap accessible wherever possible
- Nice playgrounds, not crappy ones like pow wow grounds and RV park
- Non-motorized trail from Assinins to Zeba
- Make a recreation complex area between Beartown and Mission Roads
- Separate Marquette housing projects from Casino property (Trees, Berm, etc.)

The goal of KBIC is to advance parks and recreational opportunities through maintenance of current recreational properties and improvements to campgrounds and marina. Shoreline stabilization is also an issue with piles of discarded concrete slabs and tires being used along the



shoreline. The KBIC would like to develop all areas mentioned above with the proper Planning and design assistance to protect the resource while developing the infrastructure needed to realize the potential of this community asset for locals and tourists alike.

A detailed design plan and construction documents are needed to insure our resource are developed and protected properly. We will work with the Army Corps of Engineers and any required professional design assistance from a landscape architectural and engineering firm to present the community with a working document complete with a design plan, site specifications, construction documents and cost estimates.

The cornerstone of all the Tribe's visions, goals, objectives, and activities has been outlined in the Tribe's Strategic Plan. The portions of the Strategic Plan that pertain to this Recreation Plan are attached as (Attachment C). Tribal staff, public input meetings, advertising, display booths, and Council Member were instrumental in the development of our Strategic Plan as well.

### **Action Program**

We will prepare construction documents including design, site specifications and estimates that are needed to insure our resources are developed and protected properly, especially providing recreational facilities and areas for disabled patrons utilizing ADA compliance. Since this is our first Recreational Plan for the State of Michigan we would to address all of the above mentioned goals and objectives as much as possible.

KBIC is dedicated to the protection of its resources and preservation of the culture and traditions of its community. KBIC is committed to improving recreational opportunities and tourism in order to support the community's quality of life and economy. This Plan and future activities and improvements will make it possible to apply for grants that would make these visions possible.

The KBIC will continue to pursue funding for additional projects and improvements. A number of possible sources of funding for recreation projects have been researched and include the following:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Source</b>
Local Funds	Tribal
Land and Water Conservation Fund	DNR



Coastal Management Grants	DNR
Brownfield	EPA
Transportation Enhancement Grant	DOT
NRCS	USDA

It is the hope of the KBIC to encourage successful projects by regular reviews of goals and objectives. KBIC Departments holds monthly meetings and seeks public input thru use of the Tribal newsletter, radio station, public meetings, and its website. Additional input is given by Tribal government offices and other committees.