

6.0 PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

6.1 Introduction

Services and facilities provided by local government are often vital elements in the community's progress and well-being. Services include police and fire protection, municipal water and wastewater systems, and recreation programs. Community facilities include libraries, parks and recreational facilities, cemeteries, schools, and the infrastructure related to municipal water and wastewater treatment systems.

As a part of the comprehensive planning program, the City's public and community facilities were reviewed and evaluated as to their present condition and adequacy to meet the present and future needs of the community.

6.2 Community Facilities and Services

Water System: Municipal water is provided to City of Negaunee residents by the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority. The Water Authority owns and operates the system, which includes wells, storage facilities and the distribution network in the cities of Negaunee and Ishpeming. Funding for the wells is split between the two cities, with the City of Ishpeming responsible for 60 percent of the cost and 40 percent from Negaunee. Each city is responsible for the distribution network, which in the City of Negaunee totals about 20 miles of water main. The Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority is governed by a five-member board, with two members from each of the two cities and the fifth member representing the Marquette County Health Department.

The Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority currently utilizes groundwater as a water source; prior to 1994, surface water from Teal Lake was used for drinking water. Stricter federal requirements which called for filtration of surface water caused several communities to switch from surface water to groundwater around this time. Groundwater is supplied by eight wells, six of which are located near the Carp River outside the City of Negaunee. The other two wells are located behind Snyder Drug in Ishpeming and east of Da Yoopers Tourist Trap in Ishpeming Township. The water is in compliance with all applicable state and federal standards with the exception that the standard for copper is currently being exceeded. The Water Authority has increased the pH of the water in an effort to reduce the level of copper.

One elevated storage tank serves the City of Negaunee. This tank has a capacity of 300,000 gallons, and was built in 1961. The City has an ongoing inspection/maintenance program, and the tank has been well-maintained. The tank is in good condition and is adequate for current needs.

As of January, 1998, there were 1,730 water customers in the City of Negaunee. Of these, 1,634 were residential customers, while 96 were commercial in nature. Some households in outlying areas of the City are not served by the municipal water system, but instead rely on private wells.

It is not economically feasible to provide municipal service to these relatively isolated households.

The City has received \$5.5 million in funding from U.S.D.A. Rural Development for replacement of approximately 50-60 percent of the existing water mains. Of the \$5.5 million project, \$3.27 million is in the form of a grant, with the remaining \$2.23 million as a long-term, low-interest loan. This two-year project, begun in 1997, will improve water pressure and help reduce freezeups by replacing undersized and deteriorated mains, looping mains, and lowering mains to provide protection from freezing. This will result in improved service to residential and commercial customers, and improved firefighting capabilities. The City has also indicated that residents will no longer be allowed to let water run during the winter months once this project has been completed. When Teal Lake was used as a water source, residents were allowed unlimited let-runs; since the groundwater supply has been used, let-runs have been limited to reduce demands on the system. The City continues to urge residents to lower or insulate service lines to prevent freezeups on private property.

Additional water main improvements will be required following the completion of this project, and the City of Negaunee will continue to pursue funding opportunities for water main replacement.

Wastewater Treatment System: The City of Negaunee Wastewater Treatment Plant is located in the east central part of the City, on the south side of CR 480. The plant was put in operation in December, 1953, and underwent a major upgrade in 1979, with the addition of new settling tanks and new digesters. The treatment system provides secondary treatment using the biodisc system. Service is provided to about 1,700 residential and less than 100 commercial customers; the service area includes the City of Negaunee and the existing Marquette County Airport in Negaunee Township. A few households in the outlying areas of the City use on-site septic systems, generally in the same areas which are not served by the municipal water system.

The wastewater treatment plant currently has sufficient capacity for growth, and the ability to absorb potential future growth could be increased if the amount of groundwater infiltration into the sewer system could be reduced. Although the system is currently in compliance with all state and federal standards, the large amount of infiltration means that the plant is treating far greater volumes of effluent than are actually produced by customers. Old, deteriorated mains are allowing groundwater to infiltrate to the extent where the volume of effluent treated at the wastewater plant is more than twice the volume of water used by local customers.

In 1995, the City received a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant which, together with \$405,000 in City funds, was used to upgrade 5,300 feet of sewer mains. The City currently budgets \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year for sewer improvements, together with about \$10,000 per year for cleaning and televising of mains to identify problem areas.

The current sewer interceptor crosses caving grounds in former mining areas. This puts the interceptor at risk of failure because of caving. As with much of the rest of the collection

network, the interceptor receives a high amount of groundwater infiltration, but repairs to eliminate infiltration and inflow may not be a long term solution. Re-routing the interceptor to avoid caving areas would eliminate both the infiltration hazard and the risk posed by the caving grounds, but is estimated to require several million dollars to complete.

Solid Waste Disposal/Recycling: Weekly curbside collection of refuse and recyclable materials is provided to City of Negaunee residents. Residents pay \$6.50 per month for this service, and the City contracts with Northern Refuse, a private hauler, for pickup. Refuse collected in the City is hauled to the Marquette County Landfill, located in northern Sands Township about five miles east of the City. The City also has a dropoff site available for large items; only Negaunee residents who are garbage system customers may use the dropoff site.

The following recyclable items are accepted for curbside pickup: Newsprint, corrugated cardboard, clear glass, plastic, computer or office paper, junk mail, magazines, metal cans, aluminum, and used motor oil. Recyclable materials must be separated by residents. Because of snow accumulation in narrow streets and alleys, collection of recyclables is more difficult in winter; however, the City has no plans to discontinue collection.

Electrical Service: The City of Negaunee Electrical Utility purchases power from the Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO), and then distributes that power and resells it to City residents. 1998 is the second year of a 10-year contract with UPPCO. The City owns the distribution system, including poles, wires, etc. Utility poles are also used to carry the City's cable television lines.

Cable Television Service: Residents of the City of Negaunee may choose to receive cable television service from one of two local providers. Bresnan Communications cable service is available to all residents, as is service from the City of Negaunee cable system. The City has operated a cable system since the mid 1980s, and offers 32 basic channels and two premium channels. There are about 1,450 customers on the City system, with the remaining households and businesses with cable served by Bresnan. As a result of an out-of-court settlement reached between the City and Bresnan Communications, the City is required to increase rates based on inflation. The most recent rate increase took effect in January, 1998, and included an increase above the amount of inflation to cover improvements to the system.

Law Enforcement: The City of Negaunee Police Department is housed in the Negaunee City Hall, and consists of 11 officers, including the police chief. The department has three vehicles, two marked and one unmarked. The vehicles are taken out of service and replaced once they reach about 80,000 miles. Equipment is inspected regularly, with daily inspections of equipment in vehicles, monthly firearm inspections, and regular uniform inspections. Replacement of equipment occurs as needed based on inspection. Currently the in-car video equipment is in need of replacement.

In 1996, the department's efforts resulted in 327 arrests; investigation of 2,299 complaints, 292 traffic crashes, 2,623 individuals and 1,502 vehicles; 102 ambulance assists; 464 parking

citations; and 502 traffic citations. The department assists other agencies, such as the Michigan State Police, Marquette County Sheriff's Department, etc, and provides assistance as needed. The City has no jail, and prisoners are housed at the Marquette County Jail.

Marquette County has an "enhanced" 911 dispatch system in operation throughout the County, including the City of Negaunee. Emergency calls for fires, medical emergencies, crimes, and other emergencies are accomplished by dialing the number 9-1-1; these calls go to the central dispatch location at the State Police Post in Negaunee Township, where the location of the call is displayed. The appropriate responding unit is then dispatched.

Fire Protection: The fire station is located at 200 S. Pioneer Avenue, and was built in 1894. Although the building is adequate to serve current needs, some repairs are needed. These repairs include a new roof, cement work, paint, and door and window repair.

The fire department is staffed by 30 paid on-call firefighters. Equipment includes the following vehicles:

A 1976 Ford four-wheel-drive pickup, with a 50 gallon per minute (gpm) pumper; the pickup is in fair condition.

A 1973 panel van used for transporting equipment.

A 1968 International tanker with a 50 gpm portable pump and a 1,000 gallon tank; the truck is in poor condition but runs, while the tank condition is fair.

A 1993 Chevrolet Kodiak with a 1050 gpm pump and a 60-foot ladder snorkel, in excellent condition.

A 1976 Ford with a 1,000 gpm pump; the pump is non-operative, but the truck runs. This last piece of equipment will be replaced with a new vehicle in the spring of 1998.

In February, 1998, the City of Negaunee was awarded a grant/loan combination from U.S.D.A. Rural Development to purchase a new fire truck. Approximately 25 percent of the new truck will be paid for using grant funds, while the remainder of the cost will take the form of a 15-year, low-interest loan.

As part of the regular maintenance and upgrading of the water system, the City replaces and adds fire hydrants as needed to insure continued fire protection.

The City of Negaunee has an insurance rating of seven for its fire protection service, according to Insurance Service Office (ISO) Commercial Risk Inc. The adequacy of fire protection is evaluated by ISO through the use of the Grading Schedule for Municipal Fire Protection. The schedule provides criteria to be used by insurance grading engineers in classifying the fire defenses and physical conditions of municipalities. Gradings obtained under the schedule are

used throughout the United States in establishing base rates for fire insurance. While ISO does not presume to dictate the level of fire protection services that should be provided by a municipality, reports of surveys made by its Municipal Survey Office generally contain serious deficiencies found, and over the years have been accepted as guides by many municipal officials in planning improvements to their fire fighting services. The grading is obtained by ISO based upon their analysis of fire department equipment, alarm systems, water supply, fire prevention programs, building construction, and distance of potential hazard areas, such as the central business district, from a fire station. In rating a community, total deficiency points in the areas of evaluation are used to assign a numerical rating of 1 to 10, with 1 representing the best protection and 10 representing an essentially unprotected community.

Emergency Medical Services: Both the City of Ishpeming Ambulance and Marquette General Hospital provide emergency medical services in the City of Negaunee. The City of Ishpeming has two ambulances and 21 personnel available, while MGH has three ambulances with nine full-time and six part-time personnel. Both services are staffed by paramedics, providing the highest level of life support, with the ability to transport and treat patients.

Recreation: Recreational facilities and programs will be discussed in detail in Chapter 8 of this plan. The City provides a wide range of recreational facilities to its residents and visitors, and the recently-approved grant from the Michigan DNR will enable the cities of Negaunee and Ishpeming to greatly expand the amount of recreational opportunities available locally.

Transportation: Transportation facilities include streets, roads, bridges, railroads, airports, public transit, etc. Chapter 9 of this plan presents a detailed discussion of the City's transportation system, and the overall transportation system which serves the community.

6.3 Public Buildings

City Hall: Negaunee City Hall was built in 1915-1920 at a total cost of \$62,500. Located at 100 Silver Street, the building houses the police department, municipal library, utility billing office, and offices for city staff. Two meeting rooms and the former court room/City Council chambers are located on the second floor. A number of local boards and commissions, such as the Planning Commission, Cable Board/Library Board, Board of Review, etc. hold their regular meetings at City Hall.

Although old, the building is in good physical condition. New double pane windows were installed throughout the building in the 1980s, the roof was repaired, and a new natural gas furnace was installed. A number of relatively minor maintenance items have been identified, including painting, patching of walls, new plumbing fixtures, drop ceilings, carpet, window blinds, etc. A complete list of needed repairs has been developed, and the City is budgeting several thousand dollars each year towards completion of the items on the list. It appears that most offices have adequate space; however, a concerted effort is needed to remove unneeded records and other items, and generally clean up all rooms in order to increase the amount of usable space.

The main floor of City Hall is accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as a result of a wheelchair ramp to the north side of City Hall (library entrance) which was added in 1994. Other improvements at this time included a unisex handicapped-accessible restroom in the library, and the addition of a door connecting the library to other City Hall offices on the main floor. This allows disabled persons access to the library, utility billing office, treasurer's office, and the clerk's and accountant's offices. A meeting room is also available in the library if needed for meeting with disabled individuals. City Council meetings are no longer held in the City Council chambers in the second floor of City Hall, due to lack of ADA accessibility on the second floor. City Council meetings are now held at the Negaunee Senior Center, with special Council meetings occasionally held at the Library.

Municipal Library: Located in Negaunee City Hall, the library serves about 7,000 people from the City of Negaunee and Negaunee Township. The library has a collection of about 30,000 books, and shares a rotating collection of video and audio tapes through a library cooperative. At any one time, 30-40 videotapes and 50-80 audio tapes are available for loan. Three Pentium computers are available for Internet access, or other use, with a fourth computer ordered as of spring, 1998. A copier and fax machine are available for public use for a nominal fee. Books not available at the Negaunee Public Library are available through interlibrary loan.

There is no charge for a Negaunee Public Library card, although there is a \$2 charge to replace a lost library card. The library employs two full-time librarians and a part-time library assistant, and is open Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from September through May from 9 a.m. to noon.

Public Works: The current Public Works facility was built in the early 1960s, after the previous facility was abandoned due to caving. The facility is located at 600 Cherry Street, and includes a block building which houses the Department of Public Works Administrator's office, electric utility/cable office, water/sewer office, and the DPW clerk's office. A storeroom for tools and materials is located in the building, along with a sign painting area, and locker room/shower facility. Attached to this block building is the maintenance garage and vehicle storage area. Other buildings include a transformer storage facility, tar warehouse, Quonset-style building and mower building. A 30 x 80-foot pole building is scheduled for construction in 1998. This will provide additional vehicle storage space, especially in the winter.

In 1996-1997, new vinyl siding was installed on the block building, and the maintenance garage was repainted. Three underground fuel storage tanks used were removed in 1996, and no leaks or presence of petroleum products have been discovered. The Public Works buildings are all in compliance with ADA.

With the addition of the new pole barn in 1998, space for City departments will be adequate, and no further needs other than routine maintenance have been identified.

Negaunee Senior Center: The Negaunee Senior Center is located at 410 Jackson Street. Built in 1982, the original building was 60 x 80 feet. In 1989 a 30 x 60 foot recreational room was

added, and in 1996 a wall was added to create two offices. The building is used daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for senior citizens' activities; Negaunee City Council meetings are held at the Senior Center due to lack of ADA accessibility at City Hall. The building is occasionally rented to seniors for private activities, and is used for card games and other social functions. Storage space is limited, and parking is inadequate for current usage. More handicapped parking is also needed.

Negaunee Ice Arena: Built in 1986, the Negaunee Ice Arena is located at 141 Rail Street. It seats 800 people, and has a 200 x 80 foot ice rink. The building is used for youth and adult ice hockey, public skating, social events such as birthday parties and wedding receptions, meetings and conferences, and a supervised play area for children. The Ice Arena also serves as the polling place for Precinct No. 1.

A new chiller/compressor system was installed in 1997, and there are plans to renovate the second floor mezzanine area to allow for additional seating, viewing and filming. The building is in compliance with ADA. Identified needs include expanding the locker rooms, installing shower facilities, adding a referee changing room, enlarging the parking lot and adding office space. An updated Zamboni will also be needed in the future.

Band Shell: Built in the 1920s, the Negaunee bandshell is located at the corner of Case and Kanter streets. The building is no longer usable as a band shell, since the front doors can no longer be opened. In 1991, the City contracted with a local architectural/engineering firm for an analysis of the structure. At that time it was estimated that renovation of the structure would take just over \$79,000.

The building is currently used only to store band instruments and sheet music, and as a practice facility. Space is limited, and the building is not handicapped accessible. The City band and the City have begun to set aside funds for future construction of a new facility that would serve not only as a practice facility and venue for outdoor band concerts, but also for outdoor plays or other community events.

Former Waterworks Building: This building, located at the intersection of Croix Street and U.S. 41/M-28, formerly housed the pumping equipment for the City's water system. Although overall construction is solid, some repairs are needed. The structure is not handicapped-accessible, and the multiple levels inside the building make accessibility difficult. The Master Plan for the Teal Lake Park suggested that the building may be able to be used in connection with the park. The building is located on land purchased using recreation grant funds when Teal Lake Park was developed, which restricts the City's ability to sell the property.

Cemetery: The City of Negaunee Cemetery is located on approximately 80 acres of City-owned land in the northeast corner of the City, off CR 492. The area is fenced, and about 60 acres are in use or suitable for future use. This cemetery location was established in 1910 after the original cemetery, located in the general area of the Prince Street extension by the DPW garage/warehouse, was closed due to caving. Approximately 6,200 bodies were transferred to

the present location; as of March, 1998, there were over 19,600 burials in the cemetery, including transfers.

A building housing the sexton's office and equipment garage was built in 1990. The building contains a break room, workshop, and a large garage for equipment storage. The combination chapel, vault and storage facility was built in 1997, replacing a building that collapsed under heavy snow load. The vault area can hold 27 cadavers, and the vault and chapel are separated from the equipment storage area by a cement block wall.

City officials feel there is a need to plat more of the fenced area, since existing platted sites are diminishing. The water system should have an ongoing replacement/maintenance program, and the roads in the cemetery should be signed and resurfaced or patched in places. Work is currently underway to computerize the burial records. The site is several miles from a gas station, meaning that equipment, such as a backhoe, must be refueled using 5-gallon containers. An above-ground fuel storage tank could alleviate this problem. Additional vehicle storage may be needed in the future, primarily for winter needs. An addition to the garage on the sexton's building would be one potential solution.

6.4 Other Public Facilities and Services

Educational Facilities: The City of Negaunee is a part of the Negaunee School District, which also includes Negaunee and Richmond townships. The total area of the district is about 109 square miles, with a population of about 8,000 people. Negaunee Public Schools operates four schools: Negaunee High School, grades 9-12; Negaunee Middle School, grades 6-8; and Lakeview and Pineview elementary schools, grades K-5. Pineview Elementary also houses a preschool program for children from three months of age. All of these schools are located in the City of Negaunee, except for Pineview Elementary, which is located in Palmer.

Enrollment in the Negaunee Public Schools has dropped since K.I. Sawyer AFB closed, with the peak enrollment occurring in 1994. The district-wide enrollment trend since 1990 has shown generally increasing enrollment through 1994; from 1995 through 1998, enrollment dropped to below 1990 levels. The sharpest enrollment declines occurred between 1994 and 1995, and between 1996 and 1997, but the decline appears to have tapered off.

TABLE 6-1 NEGAUNEE SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT, 1990-98		
Year	Enrollment	% Change from Previous Year
1990	1674	--
1991	1663	-0.7
1992	1690	1.6
1993	1703	0.8
1994	1753	2.9
1995	1707	-2.6
1996	1668	-2.3
1997	1625	-2.6
1998	1620	-0.3

Source: Negaunee Public Schools, 1998

School district officials have not identified any major needs or deficiencies with regard to educational facilities in Negaunee. Routine maintenance projects are carried out on an annual basis, with such projects as resurfacing and expansion of the high school parking lot and development of a pedestrian walkway planned for the future. An outdoor physical education facility may be developed on the north side of the high school in the future.

Local residents looking for higher education opportunities can turn to Northern Michigan University, located about ten miles from Negaunee in the City of Marquette. Northern offers baccalaureate and masters' degree programs, as well as technical training in a variety of fields. Other institutions of higher learning in the Upper Peninsula include Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba, 65 miles away; Gogebic Community College in Ironwood; Michigan Technological University in Houghton; and Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie.

Health Care: The City of Negaunee is located in close proximity to two hospitals, Bell Memorial in the City of Ishpeming and Marquette General in Marquette. Marquette General Hospital has 397 beds, while Bell Memorial Hospital has 69 beds. Physicians in the area provide a broad spectrum of health care services, including cardiology, dermatology, urology, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, etc., along with family practice. Dentists, optometrists and ophthalmologists, and other specialties round out the range of choices for local residents, and home care and hospice services are available from offices located in Marquette.

In February, 1998, the Negaunee Medical Associates clinic, associated with Marquette General Hospital, opened in the City of Negaunee. This is a family practice clinic. The Teal Lake

Medical Clinic, affiliated with Bell Memorial Hospital, provides family practice and obstetrics services to local residents.

Telephone Service: Ameritech provides local telephone service to the City of Negaunee and surrounding area. Local residents and businesses may choose from many long distance service providers which serve the area. There are also several providers of local access numbers for Internet service in the Marquette-Negaunee-Ishpeming urban area.

Natural Gas Service: Southeast Michigan Gas Company (SEMCO) provides natural gas service throughout the City of Negaunee and in the surrounding area. All area of the City have access to natural gas if they choose to hook up.

6.5 Issues and Opportunities

Following the completion of the current water system improvement project, there will still be deteriorated or undersized water mains in need of repair or replacement.

There is a significant amount of infiltration into the City's sewer mains, greatly increasing the volume of effluent which must be treated by the wastewater treatment plant. These deteriorated mains can also provide the opportunity for untreated effluent to enter the groundwater under certain conditions.

The existing sewer interceptor crosses caving grounds, and also experiences significant infiltration. Relocation of this interceptor could prove very costly; however, the current location poses a potential hazard.

Some residents of the City are not hooked up to the municipal sewer and water systems. As long as private wells and septic systems continue to provide safe and sanitary facilities for these households, there is no need for concern; however, if wells or septic systems fail, there may be a need to extend municipal service in the future.

The Negaunee Fire Hall is in need of repairs, including a new roof, cement work, paint, etc.

An extensive list of needed repairs, most of them relatively minor, has been identified for Negaunee City Hall.

The Negaunee Senior Center is in need of additional storage space, and current parking is inadequate for the Center's needs.

Several expansion and improvement projects are needed at the Negaunee Ice Arena, including locker room expansion, showers, parking, office space, etc.

The existing bandshell has experienced significant deterioration, and it is no longer usable as a site for concerts or other activities. It appears that the cost of repairing the structure would exceed its value.

The Negaunee Cemetery has several needs, including additional platting, road repairs, water system repairs, etc.

The Negaunee Public Schools have experienced a decline in enrollment over the past few years, although this decline appears to have leveled off. A further drop in enrollment could result in curtailment of programs, staff cutbacks, etc.; however, the development of new housing in the City and adjacent areas may bring an increase in students.