

Republic Township Recreation Plan

2024-2029

Republic
for all the right seasons.

Table of Contents

Part 1: Community Overview	page 3
Part 2: Administrative Structure	page 4
Part 3: Recreational Inventory	page 5
Part 4: Natural Resource Inventory	page 10
Part 5: Description of the planning process	page 11
Part 6: Public Input	page 12
Part 7: Goals and Objectives	page 12
Part 8: Conclusion	page 13
APPENDICES:	
Appendix A	page 14
Appendix I	page 17
Action Plan	page 18

Part 1: Community Overview

Republic Township is located in the South West corner of Marquette County along the shores of the Michigamme River in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Republic Township offers a diversity of recreational activities because of the many lakes, streams, natural forest, campgrounds, and river located within the Township boundaries.

The communities of Republic and South Republic are the largest population centers within the Township, and are located off of County Road 601, approximately 1 mile east of M-95, and 42 miles South West of the City of Marquette. Republic is located approximately 10 miles South of US. 41, which is a major highway connecting Menominee in the South-Central portion of the Upper Peninsula with settlement in the southern part of the Township, adjacent to M-95.

The communities of Republic and South Republic are located in East-Central Republic Township. Historically, Republic was the first of two communities to develop when mining activities began in the area at the Republic and Columbia (Kloman) Mines around 1872. Unlike some of the early mining towns on the Marquette Range, which developed on squatter parcels around the Mine, a large part of Republic developed within a surveyed recorded plat know as Iron City and subsequent additions to the plat.

South Republic was established as homes for "Park City", a squatter-type development just south of Iron City. Home were moved to permit expansion of the Republic Mine during the late 1950's. South Republic is platted and recorded also.

As in the Upper Peninsula as a whole, the general character of the area is of glacial origin. The terrain is gently rolling too steep in some areas, and most of the area is forested. There are a few areas distributed evenly throughout the Township that possess slopes in excess of 10 percent.

The topography within the platted area of Republic is rolling to flat. Smaller isolated areas of steep slopes (greater than 10 percent) occur, along with numerous rock knobs and outcroppings surround the community. In addition, there are areas of steep slopes along the banks of the Michigamme River to the West.

In contrast to Republic, South Republic was established on relatively flat land which has been used as agricultural. South of the platted land, the terrain becomes hilly and rocky with steep slopes. Areas of steep slopes occur along the banks of the Michigamme River as well.

Part 2: Administrative Structure

The Township is governed by an elected five member board consisting of a supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and two trustees. Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month. At 7:00p.m. Meetings are open to the public. Republic Township operates on revenue generated through taxes on real estate and revenue sharing with the State of Michigan. As with all rural communities, residents of Republic Township donate their time and effort to keep Republic Township a safe and enjoyable place to live. The Lions Club, Moose Country Snowmobile Club, and the Republic Sportsman's Club are good examples of area residents doing their part.

A listing of the various departments and committees is shown below:

- The Township Board
- Planning Commission
- Recreation Committee
- Republic Township Zoning Board of Appeals
- Board of Review
- Michigamme River Basin Water Resources Tax Increment Finance Authority (MRBA)

The Township Board is made up of two Trustees, the Republic Treasurer, the Republic Clerk and the Republic Supervisor. Republic Township Board meets one time per month, unless a special meeting is called, on the fourth Thursday of each month to conduct Township business. Please see the Appendices for a complete current listing of the Republic Township Board.

The Planning Commission meets one time per month, unless a special meeting is called, on the second Monday of each month. They look over zoning ordinances, Master Plan, Recreation Plan and Conditional Use Permits.

The Recreation Committee is a 7 member group of volunteers who solicit ideas from the public, discuss them and formulate potential projects for recreation. They also provide manpower to assist in or complete many of the projects. This committee reports to the planning commission.

Contact information for all boards and committee runs through the office located in Town Hall:

Republic Township
Attn:(Proper job title, commission, or committee)
PO box 338
279 Kloman Ave

Phone: 906-376-8827
Fax: 906-376-2383

Republic, MI 49879

Website: www.republicmichigan.com

Part 3: Recreational Inventory

This inventory information was collected using Township records, local knowledge of Township officials, and actual onsite inspections. Maps with the locations of these sites are included as Appendix A.

NORTH REPUBLIC

1. **Republic Beach:** Located at the intersection Co. Rd. LG (River Rd.) and M-95 this 21 acre beach facility was acquired by the Township in 1996 through a land swap with the Koeber Mining Co.

The beach which is on the North side of Co. Rd. LG (River Rd.) is sand sloping down gradually to a water depth of approximately 15 feet. There is a swimming raft, and accessible beach house with a hard surface walkway, 2 swings sets, a commercial plastic playground set for children 4 to 12 years, a small pavilion, a fenced in basket ball court and a volleyball court. There is also a boat launch with a 40 foot floating boat dock. On the South side of the Co. Rd. LG (River Rd.) are twelve lighted horseshoe courts. These facilities are maintained by the Republic Twp. DPW.

ADA rating: 2



2. **Paul's Park:** Located on Republic Avenue, this small park is approximately one acre and for children 12 years and

younger. The Township would like to continue to develop this property. The park contains:

- One adult sized 6-swing set
- Junior sized climbing sets
- One slide and Two Euclid tires

ADA rating: 1

- Munson Park:** Located at the intersection of Co. Roads LLK and 601 on the Michigamme River. This park was developed by the Republic Lions Club. Facilities include a pavilion, several picnic tables, and a historical marker. There is also a seasonal 30 foot roll out dock. The DPW maintains this park.

ADA rating: 3

- IOHT Welcoming Center/Trail Head #1:** Located on the corner of Kloman and Front Street, an empty bank building was purchased with a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and a MDARD grant to convert into a trail interpretive center. There is access to a uni-sex restroom 24/7 from the outside of the building. There is also a uni-sex bathroom located inside the facility. Currently the building houses historical information on Republic Township.



ADA rating: 5

- Northern Lights Campground:** Located on Co. Rd. LLK next to Munson Park. This facility was developed using a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, EGLE and CCI Foundation. It features 11 RV sites with electricity, water, Cable TV and Wi-Fi, 12 tent sites and 2 vaulted toilets. The campground is maintained by the DPW.

ADA rating: 5



6. **Co. Rd. 601 boat launch:** Located on Co. Rd. on the Michigamme River. This is a very small (approximately ¼ acre) unimproved roadside launch site. It has a removable dock and is maintained by the DPW.

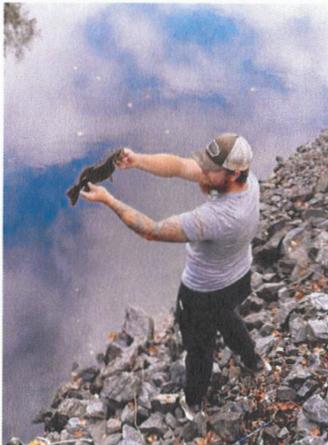
ADA Rating: 1

7. **Iron Ore Heritage Trail:**

The beginning of the IOHT is located in North Republic. The IOHT Authority has placed benches and a bicycle repair rack near the trailhead. The Iron Ore Heritage Trail Head #1 Welcoming Center is located in Republic. The Republic DPW maintains the building, the entrance is ADA compliant.



ADA Rating: 3



8. **School Lake Fishing Dock:** Located on Republic Avenue, on the north side of school lake here is a seasonal handicap accessible floating dock. There is no launch site and it is maintained by the DPW.

ADA Rating: 3



9. **Moose County Snowmobile Trail:** The club headquarters are located in North Republic on Co. Rd. LF (Kloman Avenue). Trail is maintained and groomed by the Moose Country Snowmobile Club under contract with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The trail is approximately 150 miles long, interconnecting across the Upper Peninsula in Marquette and surrounding counties. Access by trail is provided to surrounding areas such as Amasa, Big Bay, Gwinn and Ishpeming.

10. **Small craft boat launch:** Located on the North West corner of M-95 and Co. Rd. LLG (River Rd.)

ADA Rating:

11. **Boat launch:** Located 1000 feet from M-95 on LLG (River Rd.)

ADA Rating: 1

12. **Moose Rapids Campground:** Located 5 miles North West on Co. Rd. LG (River Rd.) this park was acquired by a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. It is a 12 site rustic campground with a hand well pump and portable toilets. At present, payment for use is on the honor system. Maintenance at the campground is handled jointly between the Republic Sportsman's Club and the Republic DPW. The Township would like to continue to develop this property.

ADA Rating: 3

SOUTH REPUBLIC

1. **Republic-Michigamme School:** Located in South Republic on Maple Street, grades Kindergarten through 12th. The school has an extensive playground system and sports equipment. The playground was recently updated to meet State of Michigan Guidelines. Playground equipment includes: three sets of adult 6-unit swings, a ladder with snail shaped climbing unit, regular teeter totter, and a jungle gym climbing unit. The school has two fenced tennis courts, two single basketball backboards with hoops are attached to the tennis court fence. A regulation quarter mile track with long jump and pole vault pit are used for school athletic events and by the general public. School personnel maintain these facilities.

ADA Rating: 5



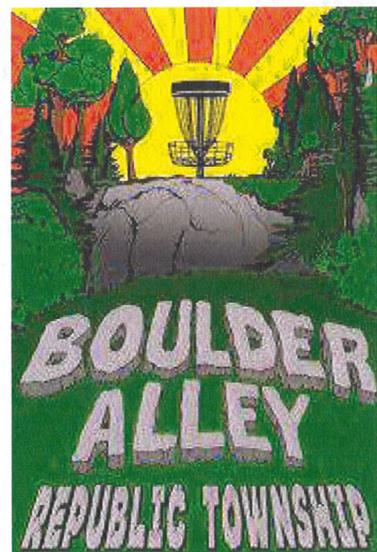
2. **Baseball Field:** Located on Evergreen Street, directly behind the Marquette County Road Commission District Garage. There is a concession stand and restrooms. It is currently open to the public and the DPW maintains and monitors the field during the summer months. The field is used regularly for youth little league. The field is kept locked to prevent vandalism, but is available to the public on a request first come/first served basis. Through the efforts of volunteers over the past two years, the in-field has been improved and plans are to continue to upgrade the facilities to attract local softball and baseball tournaments. In the winter months, the DPW floods an outdoor ice rink behind the ball field.

ADA Rating: 3

3. **Moto-Cross Track and Driving Range:** Owned by the Township and situated on 26.5 acres. With the assistance of local contractors, the Lions Club, and the Republic Township Fire Department, an AMA approved regulation Moto-Cross track and a golf driving range were developed on 26.5 acres. Moto Cross offers well needed activities for families and kids to use during all seasons. The DPW maintains both of these facilities.

ADA Rating: 1

4. **Republic Disc Golf Course:** Located between M-95 and Hawk's Drive within the driving range and moto-cross track 26.5 acres. It currently consists of 9-holes with two natural tee pads per hole. A road sign is located at the M-95 entrance, and sponsor signs and tee signs have been installed. This course has hosted fundraising tournaments to help with the expansion, as well as a successful crowdfunding campaign through Michigan Economic Development Corporation. There are plans to expand to an 18-hole course that will provide our community members with a great recreation activity that can be enjoyed by a variety of people of all ages and skill levels.



ADA Rating: 1

5. **Sledding Hill:** Located at the intersection of M-95 and Co.Rd. LLL. an abandoned ski hill has been renovated to be utilized for sledding. The sledding hill is located on Township property and the Sportsman Club hosts a sledding event yearly for the community. The site is maintained by the DPW.

ADA Rating: 1

6. **Small craft boat launch:** Launch site located at the end of Willow drive just past the bridge. The site is maintained by the DPW.

ADA Rating: 1

Republic Township has budgeted \$5,000 for facility maintenance for this fiscal year. An additional \$20,000 is allocated for park improvements.

Part 4: Natural Resource Inventory

Iron Ore Heritage Trail
Michigamme River
Perch Lake
Horseshoe Lake Boat Launch
Squaw Lake Campground
Moose Rapids Campground
Republic Wetland Preserve
Sunsons Lake (Humboldt Township)

Part Five: Description of the Planning Process

1. Ideas for projects are received for the members of the Recreation Committee in their daily dealings with the public. The Recreation Committee discusses the idea. If it is determined to be worthwhile, the Committee then moves to present it to the Township Planning Commission.
2. The Project is received by the Township Planning Commission and then voted upon to move either to a Public Hearing (In accordance with Michigan State Law) or to the Township Board.
3. If needed, a Public Hearing is then scheduled and Public Testimony is sought upon the project.
4. The Planning Commission then votes upon the project according to testimony received, budgetary concerns, research, and either sends it on to the Township Board with a recommendation to proceed, or a recommendation not to proceed.
5. The Township Board then votes upon the project, taking all information into consideration, either to move ahead, send it back for more development, or not to move ahead on the project.

Part Six: Public Input

Citizens of Republic Township are always invited and encouraged to attend Republic Township Board and Republic Township Planning Commission meetings. This Recreation Plan results from many years of public input, both formal and informal. Republic Township had maintained a recreation plan on file with the Department of Natural Resources for many years. The current Republic Township governing body has committed itself to providing quality recreational opportunities to residents and visitors alike.

The draft version of this plan was put on file at the Republic Township Hall for review on **(insert date)** copy of this notice of availability is included in the Appendices. An advertised, formal public hearing was held on **(insert date)** at the Republic Township Hall to hear comments on the plan before submittal to the Department of Natural Resources. The public meeting advertisement that served as the agenda for the public meeting is included in the Appendix. The public meeting minutes are included in the Appendix.

Part Seven: Goals and Objectives

1) To bring currently non-compliant (when applicable or feasible) ADA rated facilities up to compliance.

In order to do this, we will be applying for recreational passport grants, donations, and volunteers in order to complete the work that is currently needed. Of particular interest are the Beach, Paul's Park, Munson Park, and Moose Rapids Rural Campground.

2) The Recreation Committee would like to up upgrade existing playgrounds.

This would be done by individual contributions, donations, applying for grants and again, seeking out volunteers to assist.

3) To install 9 more disc golf baskets at the Republic Boulder Alley Disc Golf course.

The Republic township Board approved an expansion from 9 holes to 18 holes in 2022. The Republic Recreation Committee applied for and was awarded a matching grant. The Recreation Committee successfully raised \$9,000.00, and awarded a \$9,000.00 matching grant. The Boulder Alley disc Gold Course will expand from 9 to 18 holes with MVP Gravit

4) To develop the River Road Township property into a multi-purpose recreational area. There was a donation of 90-acre property locally known as the “Coffee Property” to Republic Township to develop and maintain for recreational use. The Republic Township Board approved the purchase of a concept plan of mountain biking, hiking, and walking trails. Grants are being filed.

6) Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. owns a 2300-acre wetland preserve adjacent of the former Republic Mine. The goals for this area are to develop barrier-free non-motorized trails in this area, put up interpretive signs and benches, and a parking area. Cleveland Cliffs have been approached to assist in this matter.

Part Eight: Conclusions

1) Natural features throughout Republic Township provide a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors all year.

2) Every effort should be made to finish upgrading all facilities to meet ADA guidelines.

3) The Township should continue to support the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. This trail has already brought many visitors to the area.

4) Environmentally safe recreation via responsible behavior should be promoted throughout the Township in order to preserve recreation and natural areas for future generations.

5) In all future developments, use environmentally appropriate building and construction methods so as to improve and not degrade the area.

Appendix A: Recreation Inventory Map

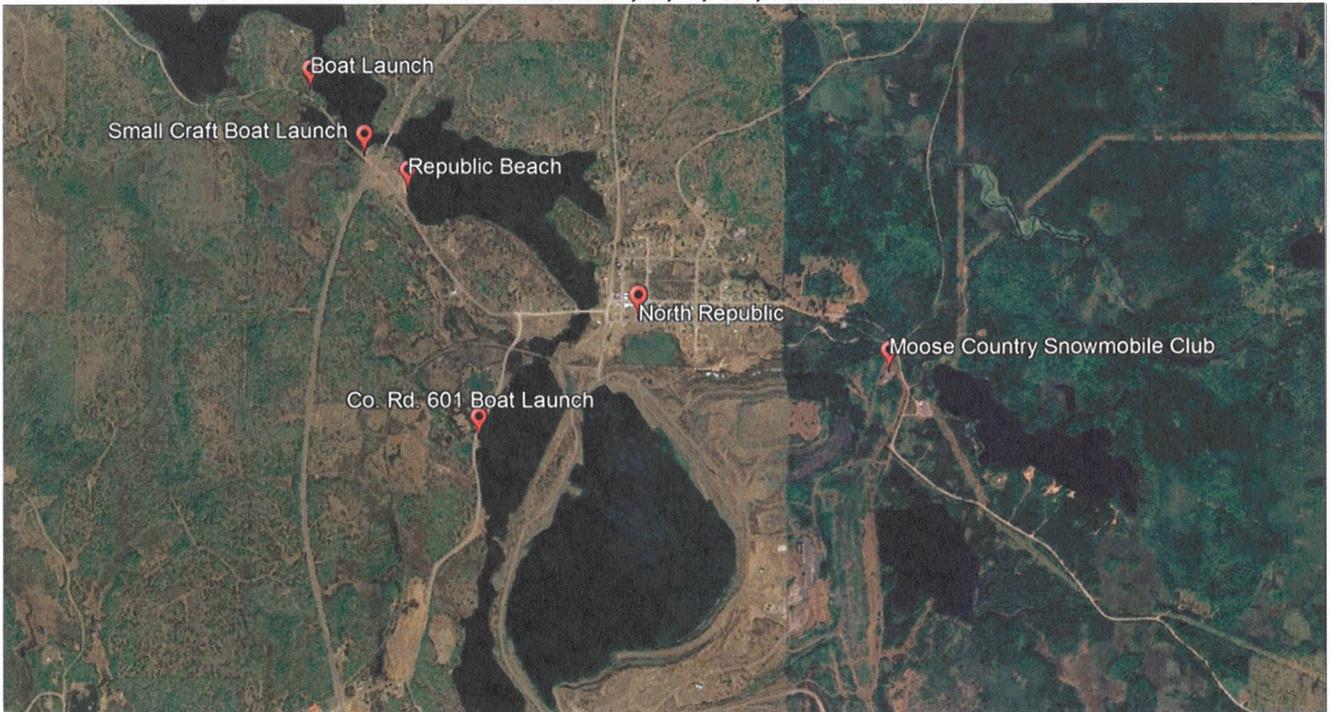
Overall Republic Township Map



North Republic
Items: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8



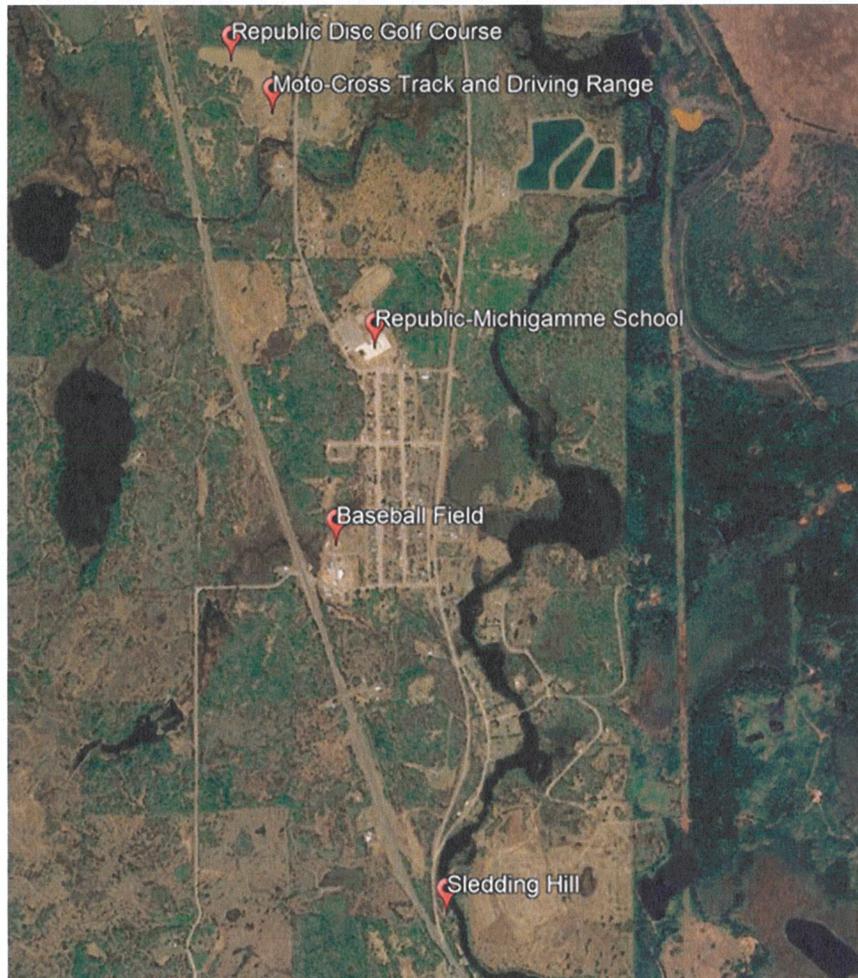
North Republic
Items: 1, 6, 9, 10, 11



**North Republic
Item 12**



**South Republic
Items:1-5**



Appendix I
Township Board & Planning Commission
Recreation Committee Chair

Republic Township Board:

Republic Township Supervisor:	James Brennan
Republic Township Treasurer:	Kristina Koski
Republic Township Clerk:	Anna Griepentrog
Republic Township Trustee:	Frank Haslip
Republic Township Trustee:	John Ison

Republic Township Planning Commission:

Chairperson: Irene Dishno

Vice-Chairperson: Dennis Harold

Commissioners: Frank Haslip, Stephanie Christian, Deborah Harold, Carrie Biolo

Republic Township Recreation Committee:

Chairperson: Stephanie Christian

Vice-Chairperson: Daniel Roberts

Members: Kim Issacson, Daniel Roberts, Drew Griepentrog, Melanie Brennan, Kasey Skogman-Saari, Anita Reid, Carrie Biolo, Alex Sylvester

Anna Griepentrog, Clerk
Treasurer

James Brennan Supervisor

Kristina Koski,

Frank Haslip, Trustee

John Ison, Trustee

Republic Township
279 Kloman Avenue
Republic, Michigan 49879
www.republicmichigan.com
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Action Plan:

- Non-motorized trail system for hiking, biking and bird watching within the Cliffs Natural Resources wetland preserve including parking, landscaping, bathroom facilities and a kiosk with

information and maps. (**Utilize Township funds, private funds and MDNR Trust Fund Grants**)

- Improvements to Republic Beach facilities with concentration on ADA accessibility (**Utilize Township funds and MDNR Trust Fund Grants**)
- Develop 9 addition disc golf baskets at the Republic Boulder Alley Disc Golf course. The Republic Recreation Committee has been awarded a \$9,000.00 grant with matching funds of \$9,000.00. (**Utilize crowding funding with matched funds raise for Boulder Alley, and proceeds from local tournament held at Boulder Alley**)
- Develop 2.5 miles of mountain biking, bicycling, walking and hiking trails on Township owned property. (**Utilize Township funds and MDNR Trust Fund Grants**)

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