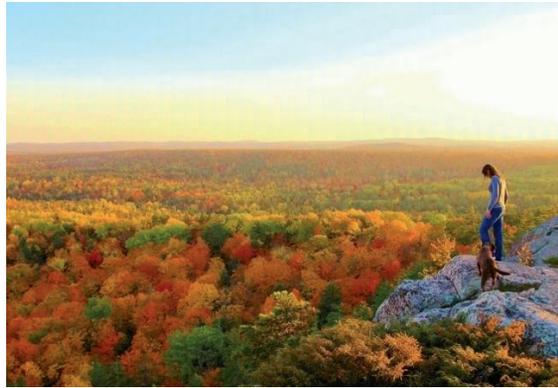


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townships in the spotlight



Marquette Charter Township

Marquette Charter Township (Marquette Co.) originally formed on Feb. 15, 1849. From the first discovery of iron in the 1840s, most that came into the area were involved with surveying, or prospectors and speculators. Mining and forest resource activities played a vital role in the area's development and settlement of its people. As technology progressed in mining and forestry, the community acclimated to provide more diverse opportunities for employment and education. Today, the township serves the community as a commercial, retail, recreational and economic hub for the Upper Peninsula. New mining opportunities have been discovered in recent years and have become a staple in the area's new economy, featuring a blend of service, recreation, tourism, forestry and industrial activities.



The township boasts 54 miles of mostly rugged, recreation-orientated terrain. However, the township also features a bustling highway commercial corridor district. This 2.7-mile section of highway has seen exceptional growth over the last 20 years with national and regional retailers, restaurants and entertainment developments—in fact, the township has experienced, on average, a 7 to 10 percent increase per year in state equalized value over the past two decades.

Recreation, tourism and the “four-season lifestyle” also draw new residents and visitors to the area. Home to some of the best single-track mountain biking in the U.S., paired with 10 miles of pristine Lake Superior shoreline and many other quality recreation assets such as fishing, hiking and festivals, the area has become very attractive for people, old and young. Not only does the community enjoy one of Michigan's Great Lakes, the township also has many inland lakes, rivers and streams that residents can take to for relaxation, fishing and canoeing.

To keep up with the recreation-oriented community, the township recently updated its five-year master recreation plan and is currently working on two major recreation projects. The Schwemwood Park Master Plan focuses on developing the park as Marquette Charter Township's first trailhead/ access point to the 48-mile long Iron Ore Heritage Trail. Several improvements to the Lions Field Recreation Area include new playground equipment, a warming shack for the winter ice rink, added parking, walking path, benches, outdoor grills and a permanent outdoor ice/roller rink surface. Every township-owned park project has involved support from motivated volunteers, including local residents, the business community, trail advocates and service group volunteers.

The township encourages its live, work, play motto and has worked hard to develop a sense of place in the community by holding increasingly popular annual events throughout the year. From the “Catch the Vision” Car Show complete with a car exhibit and prizes to the “Catch the Vision” Community Day softball tournament, music and games. And when winter sets in residents get in the holiday spirit with “Catch the Spirit” Christmas tree lighting and caroling.

Marquette Charter Township not only has breathtaking scenery, great growth and recreation, the township is dedicated to serving its community.



Photos and information courtesy of Marquette Charter Township (Marquette Co.)