Recreation Plan Prepared By:

City of Caseville Planning Commission

City of Caseville, Huron County, Michigan

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The City of Caseville has created a new Community Recreation Plan to replace its previous plan, which expires on December 31, 2018. This new plan examines the recreational needs of the citizens of Caseville and provides for a planned approach to meet those needs.

This plan was prepared to conform to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidelines for community recreation plans. A MDNR approved recreation plan allows the City of Caseville to be eligible to apply for recreation grants which are administered through the MDNR's Recreation Grants Section. In order to remain eligible for MDNR grants, a community must have an up to date recreation plan. A recreation plan is current for five years. At the end of these five years, a new plan must be created. The new Caseville City Recreation Plan will cover the years 2019 to 2023.

In addition to maintaining grant eligibility, there are a number of other purposes for having an up to date recreation plan. These purposes include:

- Establish short and long term goals that reflect input from residents and realistic plans of city officials.
- Analyze current facilities and determine which ones cater to the needs and desires of Caseville residents.
- Determine what can be modified, or added, and establish budgetary priorities.

A. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

An overview of the City of Caseville's social and physical characteristics provide an important basis for the future development of its recreation infrastructure. The social characteristics section documents a number of relevant demographics, including: population, age and employment data. Ethnic and racial distribution will be considered as a factor despite less than 4% diversity as part of the population. While Caseville shows 777 year round residents, many of the actual households are seasonal. The residential population swells during the year due to the relaxing recreational aspects of the community. It is not unusual for the population to increase by over 200% during any given week throughout the year. Year round population, as well as seasonal population, age, racial and ethnic background, and other demographic information should and will be taken into account when planning for recreational facilities.

The physical factor section will examine such pertinent issues as land use plans, zoning, transportation, soil types, and climate. These aspects are important when determining the appropriate location for recreational activities and facilities.

1. Social Characteristics

Age

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, 65% of the City of Caseville's population is over 45 years of age. This will be taken into consideration on all recreational projects. Caseville's popularity as a seasonal destination requires that youth and family needs be given a high priority. These statistics are illustrated in the following chart:

Table 1: City of Caseville / Age Distribution

	CASEVILLE CITY	HURON COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
Under 5	26 / 3.3%	1,629 / 4.9%	596,268 / 6%
5 to 19 years	75 / 9.7%	5,876 / 17.8%	3,052,599 / 20.8%
20 to 44 years	170 / 21.9%	8,212 / 24.8%	3,111,195 / 31.5%
45 to 64 years	285 / 36.8%	10,203 / 30.8%	2,762,030 / 27.9%
65+years	221 / 28.5%	7,198/21.8%	1,361,530 / 13.7%
Source: 2010 U.S. Census Board	777	33,118	9,883,640

POPULATION BY AGE AND PERCENTAGE

Employment

This page illustrates employment by industry for the City of Caseville. As can be seen from the 2016 chart, there are 310 jobs in the City of Caseville. Employment statistics are illustrated in the following chart:

Table 2: Employment by Industry

RETAIL SALES, OTHER SERVICES	36
CONSTRUCTION	42
FINANCE	5
EDUCATION,	125
ADMINISTRATION, PROFESSIONAL	21
AGRICULTURE	3
MANUFACTURING	61
OTHER	17
TOTAL JOBS	310

2016

Efforts such as barrier free access to the riverfront and a handicap accessible kayak ramp, have been made to encourage enjoyment of the waterfront for those with disabilities. Due to the aging population of Caseville, it is necessary to take into consideration people with physical limitations. While the percentage of people with disabilities is small, it has been and will remain an important factor for consideration when making plans for our community.

Population Trends

Population trends play an important role when planning for future recreational needs of a community. This section examines population trends based on the 1990 Census, 2000 Census, and 2010 Census. Trends in Caseville, Huron County, and the State of Michigan are examined.

	1990 CENSUS	2000 CENSUS	2010 CENSUS
City of Caseville	857	888	777
Huron County	36,951	36,079	33,118
Michigan	9,295,287	9,817,242	9,883,640

 Table 3: Population

Table 4: Percentage Change in Population

	% CHANGE 1990-2000	% CHANGE 2000-2010
City of Caseville	+ 3.6 %	-12.5%
Huron County	+3.2%	- 8.2 %
Michigan	+ 5.62 %	+6.8 %

 Table 5 illustrates the projected population for the years 2010, 2020, 2030. It is projected that the population within the city will start to increase modestly. The Office of the State Demographer predicts

that the population of the State of Michigan as a whole will continue to increase. As of this writing in 2018, the hope is that the trends will change upwards in Huron County, and that the City of Caseville will benefit from this growth.

A factor which may impact the growth of the Caseville area in the near future is the aging of the overall population in general, and the baby boomer generation, in particular. As more of these people retire, Caseville may see an influx due to its reputation as a retirement and resort community.

	CITY OF CASEVILLE	HURON COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
YEAR OF 2010	777	33,118	9,883,640
YEAR OF 2020	850	36,229	10,454,700
YEAR OF 2030	870	37,059	10,694,172

Table 5: Population Projections

Racial /Ethnic Distribution

The racial and ethnic makeup of the City of Caseville is very homogeneous. According to 2010 Census data, all but twenty-four (24) residents of the City of Caseville were caucasian.

Population Make-up

One other factor which needs to be taken into account is the large influx of part time residents throughout the year. According to the 2010 Census, the City of Caseville has a total of 777 residents. In addition, the City serves as the local center for commerce; so, it also sees an increase in the number of people who are staying in surrounding townships, including but not limited to: Caseville, Hume, Lake and McKinley. Due to the recreational and relaxation opportunities in Caseville, the City swells by more than 1,000 people and the surrounding township by 5,000 people on a regular basis.

In the summer months, there are many recreational opportunities that serve this large population gain. Caseville provides entertainment by sponsoring summer festivals such as RibStock, Cheeseburger in Caseville and an Independence Day celebration. Lake Huron provides swimming, boating, kayaking, canoeing and fishing opportunities.

In the colder months, Caseville hosts PumpkinFest, Hollyberry Fair, Christmas in Caseville and Shanty Days, which are festivals that bring additional people to our area in the fall and winter months. There is a sledding hill at the county park for people to enjoy. Ice fishing is a huge sport in Caseville because of the sheltered harbor which provides a wind block for those fishing. Snowmobiling is another activity in which many people participate. Snowshoeing and cross country skiing can be enjoyed at some of the local parks where there are trails.

2. Physical Factors

Land Use and Zoning

Land use and zoning are important factors which need to be considered when planning for future recreational facility development. Most of the property in Caseville is zoned commercial or residential. There is only a small area of land that is zoned industrial. Because we would like to focus on our commercial district, the Caseville DDA added streetscapes, including attractive hard surfaces and street lighting to make the city corridor more attractive and welcoming. The Downtown Development Authority encourages its merchant members to continuously upgrade and beautify the face of the downtown area by promoting matching grant possibilities.

Topography

Most of the Caseville area is relatively flat land which provides for future development. Development has been concentrated in the City of Caseville, the areas immediately surrounding the City, and along the shoreline. Much of surrounding land is used for farming. Many surrounding townships are home for wind turbine farms which provides unique sites for tourism.

This physical setting has proved to be attractive, and the Caseville area enjoys a reputation as a popular resort and retirement community.

Water Resources, Fish, and Wildlife

The City of Caseville is located at the tip of Michigan's "Thumb" in Huron County. The most obvious physical asset of the City of Caseville is its proximity to Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. In addition, the Pigeon River runs through the City and creates a natural harbor. Since Caseville is on Saginaw Bay, many boaters come to visit our warm waters and sheltered harbor. Fishing is a year round sport. The city is also close to state land for hunting and Rush Lake serves as a state game area. Accessibility is a constant goal for the city planners. In 2013, dredging was completed in the harbor and river and a three year maintenance plan was put into place.

Map # 6. Soils

Soil types should also be considered when planning for development. The three most common soils for the area are covert, plainfield, and tobico. The covert series of soils are deep, moderately well drained soils. These soils are rapidly permeable. 8 The plainfield soils series are also deep and excessively drained. Plainfield soils are also rapidly permeable. The tobico soil series are deep soils but are poorly drained. Tobico soils are also rapidly permeable.

Transportation Systems

The major access route to Caseville is M-25 which starts in Bay City and follows the shoreline of the Thumb through Caseville and ends in the Detroit area.

Tourists travel from the surrounding states and Canada via watercraft. Our harbor is able to house boats up to 50 feet and has transit docks available. Visiting guests with boats up to 100 feet are also welcomed for the day. With Charity Island only 10 miles away, a charter boat is available for guests to visit the island from Caseville. Au Gres is only 20 miles away and it is an easy day trip for visitors by boat. The area also offers Thumb Area Transit and a bike path.

Climate

The climate of Caseville is typical of Midwestern United States. However, the proximity to Lake Huron influences this climate. Caseville's summer temperatures tend to be cooler because of the effect of Lake Huron. During winter, the area also tends to receive a greater amount of snow for this reason. Precipitation tends to be well distributed throughout the year.

3. Implications for Recreation Planning

The social and physical characteristics which have previously been examined have a number of implications on recreation planning for the City of Caseville and its facilities. The most obvious and probably most important physical features of Caseville are its location on the shore of Saginaw Bay, its natural harbor, and its beaches. These features are the main focus of the existing recreational activities within the City.

The tourism industry brings a significant amount of people and income to Caseville. Almost 36% of people employed in the City of Caseville are employed in the retail and service trades. While many of the recreational facilities are enjoyed by both residents and tourists alike, there are some differing needs and desires. The summer residents and tourists are probably most interested in typical summer resort types of facilities and activities. These include such things as beaches, boat launches, marinas, and camping facilities. While many Caseville residents enjoy these activities there is also a need for diversification to include facilities and activities for the rest of the year. These may include such items as an ice skating rink, walking / bicycling paths, a community recreation center, pickleball courts, inline skating facilities, plus canoeing and kayaking routes throughout our river and harbor basin.

One of the social characteristics that was discussed, is the age distribution of the population in the City of Caseville. Given the fact that 65% of Caseville's population is over 45 years of age this will be taken into consideration when planning for recreational facilities. Due to the seasonal popularity as a destination, youth and family needs will also be given high priority. Also, any recreation facility constructed will be ADA compliant to accommodate residents and visitors who may have a mobility limitation.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

1. Budget

The yearly budget for Caseville's Park system is approximately \$42,000 for DiVincentis Park, Pointe Park and the City GAR Park). This amount covers wages and general upkeep of facilities. Any new projects or facilities are funded through separate appropriations by the City Council.

2. Organizational Chart

An organizational chart of Caseville's Recreation system is included below.





Standard Operation Procedures

The administrative structure for the City of Caseville is very direct. The City Department of Public Works is

responsible for general maintenance and day-to-day operations of the parks. The City's Recreation Committee, comprised of 3 council members and the mayor, make recommendations to the council.

In addition, a Harbor Commission oversees the Caseville Municipal Harbor. This Commission is comprised of six (6) appointed members. Three (3) of these members are appointed by the City of Caseville and three (3) are appointed by Caseville Township.

Commission or Advisory Board

The City Planning Commission has been given the responsibility of updating the recreation plan. They also act as an advisory board to the City Council.

Volunteers

Caseville Chamber of Commerce attracts visitors to our community, with volunteers helping with festivals and helping to maintain our positive community image. School children in different programs help the DPW keep the community clean. Another group that helps maintain our community is the jail work crew. They help set up and take down for festivals. Other volunteers are involved with the Caseville Community Christmas Fund, Caseville Community Chest, Historical Society, Library Club, Food Pantry, Kiwanis and Eagles Clubs, and there are additional citizens who volunteer.

C. PLANNING PROCESS

1. Process and Key Persons

The City of Caseville Recreation Plan was developed by the Caseville City Planning Commission with the input of the citizens of the City. The update process commenced in January, 2018 and included input from city residents and members of the various City boards.

2. Public Involvement Process

A questionnaire was placed in the Utility Bills that were sent out the first of January, 2018. The completed questionnaires gave valuable input. Many of the suggestions from the public have been included in this new recreation plan in the planning results section. This citizen input, as well as input from the planning commission, provided the base information used in the creation of the action program.

In February, 2018, the Planning Commission reviewed suggestions for recreational activities at a Planning workshop from surveys which had been received. The plan was then sent to Caseville City Council for input and public review. The planning commission will continue to find opportunities for community involvement and input. The City Council was asked for approval on January 14, 2018.

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3. Planning Results

This is a partial list based on public responses of recreational desires.

★ Movie night in park

- ★ Kids Playscape
- ★ Community Recreation / Multipurpose facility
- \star More year round recreation opportunities including ice skating.
- ★ Additional boat launches
- ★ In-line skating facilities
- ★ Winter activity hill
- ★ City walk with additional benches
- ★ Update bathrooms at ball park
- ★ Library
- ★ Summer Rec. Program
- ★ Community pool

The most commonly heard themes were that there needed to be more to do year round and more focus on recreational opportunities for residents.

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D. RECREATION INVENTORY

1. Park Facilities

The waterfront is the main focus of recreation in the Caseville area. With both the County Beach, the City's Breakwall, Pointe Park and the Municipal Harbor, the waterfront is one of the main attractions for tourists. As previously noted, the Caseville Municipal Harbor is run by a Harbor Commission made up of appointees from Caseville City and Caseville Township. The harbor provides boat launch facilities, as well as slips for boats.

In addition to the harbor, the City of Caseville has three parks. The first of these is the City GAR Park. This small 1/2 acre facility consists of paths, benches, monuments, attractive landscaping, and a gazebo. A second larger park, John DiVincentis Park, is located adjacent to the Caseville School and is part of the Caseville Community Recreation Area (C.C.R.A.). This park includes 6 horseshoe pits, 4 barbecue grills, 2 basketball hoops, a pavilion, one slide, a set of swings, spring animals, a T-ball field, a set of monkey bars and a recreation building. The second part of the C.C.R.A. is located on the Caseville School property which has a large playscape, baseball fields, track & field, and three tennis courts. The third park is Pointe Park. This area provides parking for activities along the Pigeon River and on the breakwall that extends into Lake Huron. A boardwalk is available from the parking lot to the beach area and also a boardwalk with a pavilion which extends to the breakwall walkway. This park's facilities have been extensively updated in 2018 and will continue this progress in 2019.

When comparing Caseville's recreational facilities to suggested recreational facility development standards, the City compares favorably. Caseville appears to have enough of the traditional types of facilities; such as basketball courts and baseball fields. There is a need for additional opportunities for year round recreation. Caseville has a high percentage of senior citizens, approximately 28% currently, and there **s**hould be more opportunities for activities such as walking routes, water front and wildlife viewing, picnicking and table and deck games.

2. Private Facilities

7. Caseville Municipal Marina

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In addition to the recreational opportunities provided by the public sector, a number of private facilities exist within the Caseville area. Some of these facilities are not actually located within the City limits.

Outdoor Recreation	Indoor Recreation
1. Giant Slide	1. Roller Skating
2. Caseville Bumper Boats	2. Game Room
3. Mini Golf	
4. Go Cart Track	
5. Bank Shot Basketball	
6. Water Balloon Water Wars	
7. Beach Volleyball	
8. Kayaking & Canoeing	
Marinas	Golf
1. Caseville Resort & Marina	1. Caseville Golf Course
3. Mariner's Cove Marina	2. Scenic Golf Course
4. Riverside Marina	
5. Harbor Light Marina	
6. Kappan Marina &RV Site	

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3. Other Recreation Facilities in Huron County

Other recreation facilities within the county have an impact on the City of Caseville. The following is a partial list.

Huron County Parks

- 1. Caseville County Park
- 2. Sebewaing County Park
- 3. Philp County Park
- 4. Oak Beach County Park
- 5. McGraw County Park
- 6. Bird Creek County Park
- 7. Lighthouse County Park
- 8. Stafford County Park
- 9. Wagener County Park

Other Facilities

- 1. Huron County Nature Center arid Wilderness Arboretum
- 2. Verona State Game Management Area
- 3. Wildfowl Bay Game Management Area
- 4. Gagetown State Game Management Area
- 5. Rush Lake Game Management Area
- 6. Canoe and Kayak Rental Facilities

Harbors

- 1. Harbor Beach Harbor 4. Bay Shore Marina
- 2. Port Austin Harbor 5. Beadle Bay Marina
- 3. Sebewaing Harbor 6. Caseville Municipal Harbor

State Parks

- 1. Port Crescent State Park
- 2. Albert E. Sleeper State Park

4. Evaluation of Existing Facilities

Most of the existing facilities in the City of Caseville are handicap accessible. Budgetary constraints have made making all restrooms accessible, a challenge. The City has applied for a grant to add accessible bathrooms in Pointe Park, which is the one area that needs the most improvement. The existing vault toilets there are not accessible. GAR Park and the John DiVincentis Park meet most handicap requirements. However, new bathroom facilities and storage are needed by the ball field area.

5. Evaluation of Existing Programs

The City of Caseville does not have organized recreation programs. If, in the future, the City does decide to provide organized programs it ensures that these programs will be barrier free compliant.

6. Transition Plan

One major improvement of the recreational facilities within the City of Caseville will be to address the barrier free shortcomings of the Pointe Park area. The city is currently undertaking over \$500,000- in renovations made possible by grants from the Michigan DNR (\$296,000) and Saginaw Bay WIN (\$35,000). Improvements include: a seawall along the riverfront, handicapped accessible fishing access, lighting and parking lot paving making these facilities accessible for all.

A paved parking area, easier access to fishing opportunities and new, modern, barrier free bathrooms will provide easier access for handicapped users. A handicap accessible, paved route to view the water front would benefit many mobility impaired individuals. Also, the current bathrooms are not ADA compliant and adding accessible bathrooms will allow for mobility impaired individuals to enjoy a more convenient place to spend the day.

7. Barrier Free New Facilities Design

It is the policy of the City of Caseville to make its recreation facilities available to all segments of the population. In particular, the City of Caseville is committed to ensuring that all new facilities will be barrier free. This commitment by the City can be **seen from the** Pointe Park improvements. The issue of barrier free access is especially important to the City of Caseville because of its reputation as a retirement community and its relationship with Special Olympics. City planners have joined with the Water Warriors Program for the last **28** years, which raises money for Special Olympics.

8. Accessibility issues at existing facilities addressed

Some of the accessibility issues in Caseville's recreation facilities have already been addressed. For example, the boardwalk at Pointe Park was specifically designed to be handicap accessible, but funding is needed to improve access to restrooms. Other facilities such as GAR Park are compliant, or require minor modifications. DiVincentis Park requires minor modifications to achieve compliance. These issues have previously been examined in this section

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E. ACTION PROGRAM, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE, AND RATIONALE

1. Action Program

COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS

2018 Replace lighting at Pointe Park2018 Seawall installation at Pointe Park along river2018 Pave Pointe Park parking lot

2. Capital Improvement Schedule

Table 6: Action Program and Capital Improvement ScheduleYear 2019

YEAR	PROJECT	BENEFITS	COSTS AND ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES
2019	Install new modern restrooms at Pointe Park	 Handicap Accessibility Elimination of offensive odors Provide easier year round access Serves both local and tourist population 	• \$130,000 • Local / DNR
2019	Acquire land for future recreation facilities	 Provides for greater variety of activities 	• \$2,000,000 • Local / DNR
2019	Dredging of existing waterways along with additional waterways.	☑ Enhance Boating	Cost Uncertain Army Corps
2019	Summer Recreation Program	Serves both local and tourist population	• City

Table 7: Action Program and Capital Improvement ScheduleYear 2020

YEAR	PROJECT	BENEFITS	COSTS AND ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES
2020	City Walk with additional benches Safe walk ways to School and recreation facilities. Replace brick pavers in sidewalks.	 Serves both local and tourist population Enhance aesthetics Provide for more passive recreation activities: walking Safety 	• \$600,000 • CDBG / Local / DNR • DDA
2020	Construct Playscape – construct new and update existing playground equipment to UDADA standards throughout the city.	Serves both local and tourist population	• \$50,000 • Local / DNR
2020	Bike Paths within the City (host Triathlon)	Serves both local and tourist population	City approx. \$5,000.Part of MDOT program
2020	Ice Rink	Skating and Hockey	• City

Table 8: Action Program and Capital Improvement ScheduleYear 2021

YEAR	PROJECT	BENEFITS	COSTS AND ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES
2021	New restrooms at Ball Park	 Serves both local and tourist population 	• \$100,000 • C.A.R.A.
2021	Construction of Jet Ski /Boat launch	I Free up limited existing launch	• \$100,000 • Local / DNR

Table 9: Action Program and Capital Improvement ScheduleYear 2022

YEAR	PROJECT	BENEFITS	COSTS AND ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES
2022	Construction of Community Recreation / Multipurpose Center	 Provides for year round activities Provides for greater variety of activities Provide activity center for elderly population 	 \$2,000,000 Local / DNR Private foundation
2022	Additional Breakwall located near Yacht Club	 Safe Harbor Calmer water for boats docked along River and Marinas 	• Army Corps

Table 10: Action Program and Capital Improvement ScheduleYear 2023

YEAR	PROJECT	BENEFITS	COSTS AND ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES
2023	Splash Park	 Provide activity Serves both local and tourist population 	• Local / Grant
2023	Visitor Center	 Serves both local and tourist population 	• Local / Grant
2023	Winter Activity Hill	⊠ Sledding	• Local / Grant
2023	Disc golf and pool at school	☑ Provide activity	• Local / Grant
2023	Band shell and concession at the beach	☑ For movies and concerts	• Local / Grant

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3. Rationale for Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule

The Action Program takes into account the unique demographic, social, and physical characteristics of the

Caseville area. This action program covers the five years from 2019 to 2023.

An item on the Capital Improvement Schedule for the year 2019, shown in **Table 6**, is continued work on Pointe Park. Pointe Park is one of the last large, public waterfront areas in the City of Caseville that is now paved. This area has already seen a number of improvements which include shore fishing opportunities, a lighted seawall and canoe/kayak launch. These facilities have proven to be very popular, however; there are also a couple of problems which have been identified. First there are a number of problems with the vault toilets at the site. A new modern ADA compliant facility with flush toilets would alleviate this problem. One of the recurring themes which came out of the public hearings was that there was a definite need for year round activities. There has been a recent increase in the number of people utilizing the area for ice fishing and new facilities would enhance their experience. All the new facilities would also be handicap accessible. The current facilities are not handicap accessible.

The Capital Improvement Schedule for 2019, shown in **Table 6**, also calls for acquisition of land for future recreational facilities, as well as the construction of a playscape. The acquisition of land is necessary for the future development of Caseville's recreational facilities. This land will allow for a location to place future facilities such as an ice rink/inline skating facility. River dredging is also important to the future of Caseville's recreation plate for better navigation of the river and will allow for additional boat docking areas.

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The Capital Improvement Schedule for 2020 is illustrated in **Table 7**. Replacing brick pavers for safe walks through the city and to the public school. Also constructing a Playscape at Pointe Park for the local and

visiting children.

The Capital Improvement Schedule for 2021 is illustrated in **Table 8**. Replacing existing bathrooms at the Ball Park, located behind the school, with new handicap ones. Also construction of a Jet Ski/ boat launch in the City.

The Capital Improvement Schedule for 2022 is illustrated in **Table 9**. Construction of a Community Recreation/Multipurpose facility is one of the top priorities due to the number of older citizens within the City. This project will provide for more recreational opportunities for this segment of the population. Also working with the Corp to add an additional breakwall to stop destructive waves from entering the river leading to the marinas.

The Capital Improvement Schedule for 2023 is illustrated in **Table 10**. A winter activity hill for sledding and tobogganing fun would allow the residents and visitors of Caseville an additional recreational opportunity for winter months. Also constructing a Visitor Center and Splash Park.