

History of Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority



The Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority was formed in 1969 under the auspice of Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon. At that time the property consisted of an eight acre parcel two blocks from the county court house. The park contains three baseball diamonds, two tennis courts, basketball court, tiny tot playground, slides, swings, a pavilion and restrooms. In recent years the Authority has added additional property to its responsibility. The C.R.A.F. Center was added in 1993, the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve in 1995 and the AuSable River Center in 1998.

The C.R.A.F. Center was an old middle school building that has been renovated into a Community Recreation, Activity and Fitness Center. The building contains two gymnasiums for basketball and volleyball, two fitness rooms and aerobics room. Classes are available for dance, clogging, karate, yoga, tai chi, aerobics and gymnastics. Long-term leases are available for private and public rental. It is the center of activity for several Chamber of Commerce Festivals and the Summer Concerts Series.

The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve is a sixty acre natural area which includes an interpretive cabin, a handicapped accessible interpretive trail, a towering growth of pine forest, headwaters for Tank Creek, a pond, and a well mark trail. This site is well utilized by visitors and school classes as it serves to educate everyone about the value of conservation. It provides a quiet area close to downtown and schools for reflection and nature study. There is a naturalist on staff and programs conducted spring, summer and fall.

The AuSable River Center was the former DNR Headquarters built by the C.C.C. and was relocated within the Village. The 2300 sq. ft. building was renovated to accommodate displays of river history, river craft, artifacts and other educational material. The mission statement reads: "To educate the public about the heritage, artifacts, wildlife and environment of the great AuSable River. To provide a forum for those interested in keeping the river as a viable entity for its natural and recreational opportunities."

Mission Statement:

RMRA is dedicated to providing quality recreation programs for residents and visitors of all ages