

Recreation Plan 2019-2023



A Joint Recreation Planning Effort by the Communities of:
Alpena County
Alpena Charter Township
Green Township
Ossineke Township
Wilson Township

A JOINT RECREATION PLANNING EFFORT BY THE COMMUNITIES OF:

Alpena County
Alpena Charter Township
Green Township
Ossineke Township
Wilson Township

Recreation Plan

Adopted _____

Prepared by:

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite 8

P. O. Box 457

Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.nemcog.org

989-705-3730

RECREATION PLAN

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Community Description	1-7
Extent of Plan Focus	1-7
Location and Regional Setting	1-7
A Snapshot of Natural Features of the Community	1-8
Chapter 2 Administrative Structures	2-15
Alpena County Administration	2-15
Alpena Charter Township Administration	2-22
Green Township Administration	2-24
Ossineke Township Administration	2-26
Wilson Township Administration	2-28
Chapter 3 Recreation Inventory	3-31
Alpena County Recreation Inventory	3-31
Alpena Charter Township Recreation Inventory	3-36
Green Township Recreation Inventory	3-39
Ossineke Township Recreation Inventory	3-41
Wilson Township Recreation Inventory	3-43
Other Recreational Properties within Alpena County	3-45
City of Alpena Recreation Inventory	3-48
Privately Owned Recreational Assets	3-58
Recreation Grant Inventories	3-66
Chapter 4 Planning Process	4-68
Chapter 5 Goals, Objectives & Action Plan	5-72
Shared Goals for All Entities	5-72
Alpena County Objectives & Action Plan	5-73
General Objectives	5-73
Facility-Specific Objectives	5-75
Alpena County Action Plan	5-76
Alpena Charter Township Goals & Objectives	5-91
Alpena Charter Township Action Plan	5-91
Alpena Charter Township Basis for Action	5-93

Green Township Goals & Objectives	5-95
Green Township Action Plan	5-96
Ossineke Township Goals & Objectives	5-98
Ossineke Township Action Plan	5-101
Wilson Township Goals & Objectives	5-102
Wilson Township Action Plan	5-103
<i>Chapter 6 APPENDIX A</i>	<i>6-107</i>
<i>Chapter 7 APPENDIX B</i>	<i>7-108</i>
<i>Chapter 8 APPENDIX C</i>	<i>8-109</i>

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 – Location Map	1-8
Figure 1-2 – Alpena County Water Resources Map.....	1-10
Figure 1-3 – Soil Maps.....	1-12
Figure 1-4 – Alpena County Recreation Map.....	1-14
Figure 2-1 – Alpena County Administrative Structure.....	2-18
Figure 2-2 – Alpena Charter Township Administrative Structure	2-23
Figure 2-3 – Green Township Administrative Structure	2-24
Figure 2-4 – Ossineke Township Administrative Structure	2-26
Figure 2-5 – Wilson Township Administrative Structure.....	2-28
Figure 3-1 - Alpena County-owned Recreation Map	3-35
Figure 3-2 - Alpena Charter Township Recreation Map	3-38
Figure 3-3 - Green Township Recreation Map.....	3-40
Figure 3-4 - Wilson Township Wolf Creek Property	3-43
Figure 3-5 – Wilson Township Recreation Map.....	3-44

Chapter 1 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

EXTENT OF PLAN FOCUS

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and plans within the boundaries of Alpena County. This is a joint planning process to provide for recreation planning for the County of Alpena as well as the townships of Alpena, Green, Ossineke, and Wilson. These townships chose to jointly plan for the future of their recreation assets. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of Alpena County and the surrounding area in order to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

LOCATION AND REGIONAL SETTING

Alpena County is located on the shores of Lake Huron in the northeast section of Michigan's Lower Peninsula (see Figure 1-1 – Location Map). Covering 568 square miles, the county includes 363,520 acres. It is bordered by Presque Isle County to the north, Montmorency County to the west, Alcona County to the south and Lake Huron to the east.

Alpena County is 24 miles long from north to south. East to west, the county varies from 20.8 miles to 30.8 miles, because of the irregular shoreline of Lake Huron. Additionally, there are several offshore islands in Lake Huron that are a part of the county. The following townships are located within the planning area for this document: Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn, Wellington and Wilson. Also included in the planning area are the City of Alpena, the Census Designated Place of Ossineke, as well as the unincorporated places of Bolton, Cathro, Herron, Hubbard Lake, Lachine, Leer and Long Rapids.

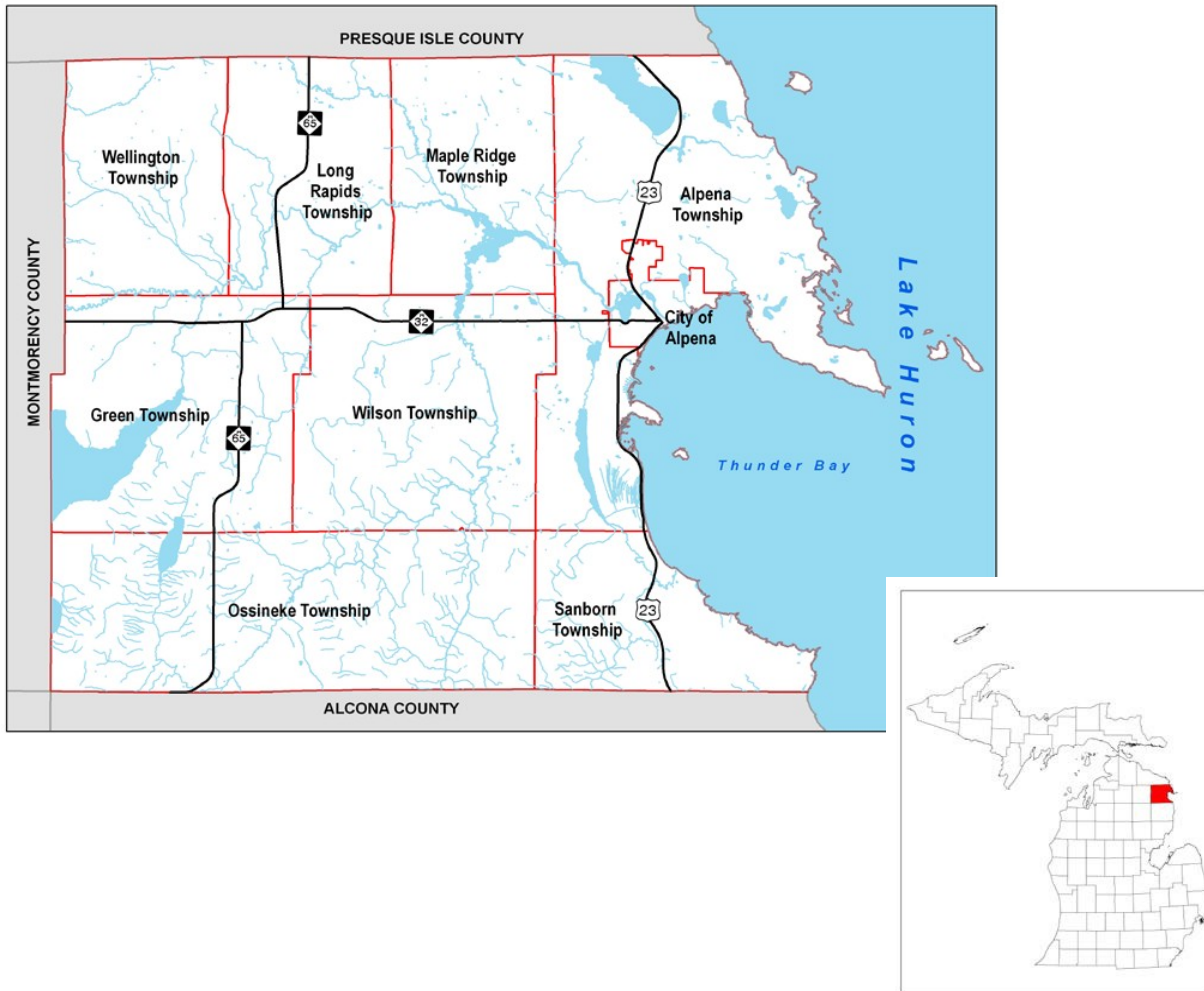


FIGURE 1-1 – LOCATION MAP

A SNAPSHOT OF NATURAL FEATURES OF THE COMMUNITY

WETLANDS

A wetland is land where water is found, either on the surface or near the surface, at any time during the year. Poorly drained soils and water loving vegetation also may be present. Wetlands are often referred to as marshes, swamps or bogs. Residents of Michigan are becoming increasingly aware of the value of wetlands. Beyond their aesthetic value, wetlands improve water quality of lakes and streams by filtering polluting nutrients, organic chemicals and toxic heavy metals. Wetlands are closely related to high groundwater tables and serve to discharge or recharge aquifers. By absorbing excess water when river levels are high and releasing water when levels are low, wetlands help prevent floods and droughts. Wetlands are also dynamic ecosystems, which are home to a wide variety of plants and animals.

There are numerous wetland areas scattered throughout Alpena County totaling over 36 thousand acres. In addition to the many inland wetland areas, Alpena County also has significant coastal wetlands scattered along its 61 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. These wetlands are important resting and feeding spots for migratory birds and help slow shoreline erosion by dissipating wave energy.

WATER RESOURCES

Alpena County is blessed with a great number and variety of water resources located throughout the county. Alpena County depends on its water resources for development, recreation and commerce. Because water resources are such a prominent and important component of the county, it is necessary to identify and review the different types, quantities and qualities of the water resources available in the county.

There are 68 natural and artificial water bodies scattered throughout Alpena County that range in size from under 1 acre to thousands of acres. The largest water body in the county is Fletcher Pond hydroelectric reservoir. Shared with Montmorency County, the reservoir covers a total of 8,970 acres with 5,310 acres in Alpena County. The largest natural lake is Long Lake that covers 2,750 acres. Other large water bodies in the county include Beaver Lake, Turtle Lake, Devils Lake #1 and #2, Lake Winyah, Lake Besser, Sunset Lake, Grass Lake, Crooked Lake and Middle Lake.

The Main Branch of the Thunder Bay River, with headwaters in Montmorency County, flows from west to east across the county into Lake Huron. Wolf Creek and the Lower South Branch of the Thunder Bay River drain southern Alpena County. The South Branch of the Thunder Bay River flows from the south to the north and was dammed for a hydro-electric reservoir creating Fletcher Pond. The North Branch of the Thunder Bay River flows from Presque Isle County through the northern portion of the county. All three branches empty into Seven Mile Lake that is a hydro-electric reservoir.

Although not included as part of the surface water inventory, Lake Huron is vital to the community and economy of Alpena County. Lake Huron is used as a primary source of drinking water for the community. Currently, up to 6 million gallons of water per day can be drawn, and with the completion of planned improvements at the water treatment facility, up to 8 million gallons a day could be taken from the lake. Thunder Bay is home to many charter fishing vessels and it serves as a shipping port for Alpena County industries. Shipping in Thunder Bay has a long and tumultuous history with over 160 shipwrecks spanning over a century. The rich history of Thunder Bay was recognized as a national treasure and it was designated as the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Ossineke Township – The majority of Ossineke Township lies within the Thunder Bay River Watershed. Surface water in the Township exists in mostly in rivers, streams, and two lakes. Beaver Lake, a 675-acre lake in the northwestern portion of the township lies mostly within Ossineke Township while the remainder lies in Green Township to the north. A portion of 841-

acre Turtle Lake lies along the western boundary of the Township with the remainder lying in Rust Township in Montmorency County. While not located in the Township itself, Hubbard Lake is just south of the Township and is an important recreational resource for residents. The two major river systems in the Township are Wolf Creek and the Lower South Branch of the Thunder Bay River. Beaver Creek, Little Wolf Creek, Schmitt Creek, Widner Creek, and Butterfield Creek are all associated with the Wolf Creek system, while Big Ravine Creek, Scott Creek, Simmons Creek, and Doscoba Creek are associated with the Thunder Bay River system.

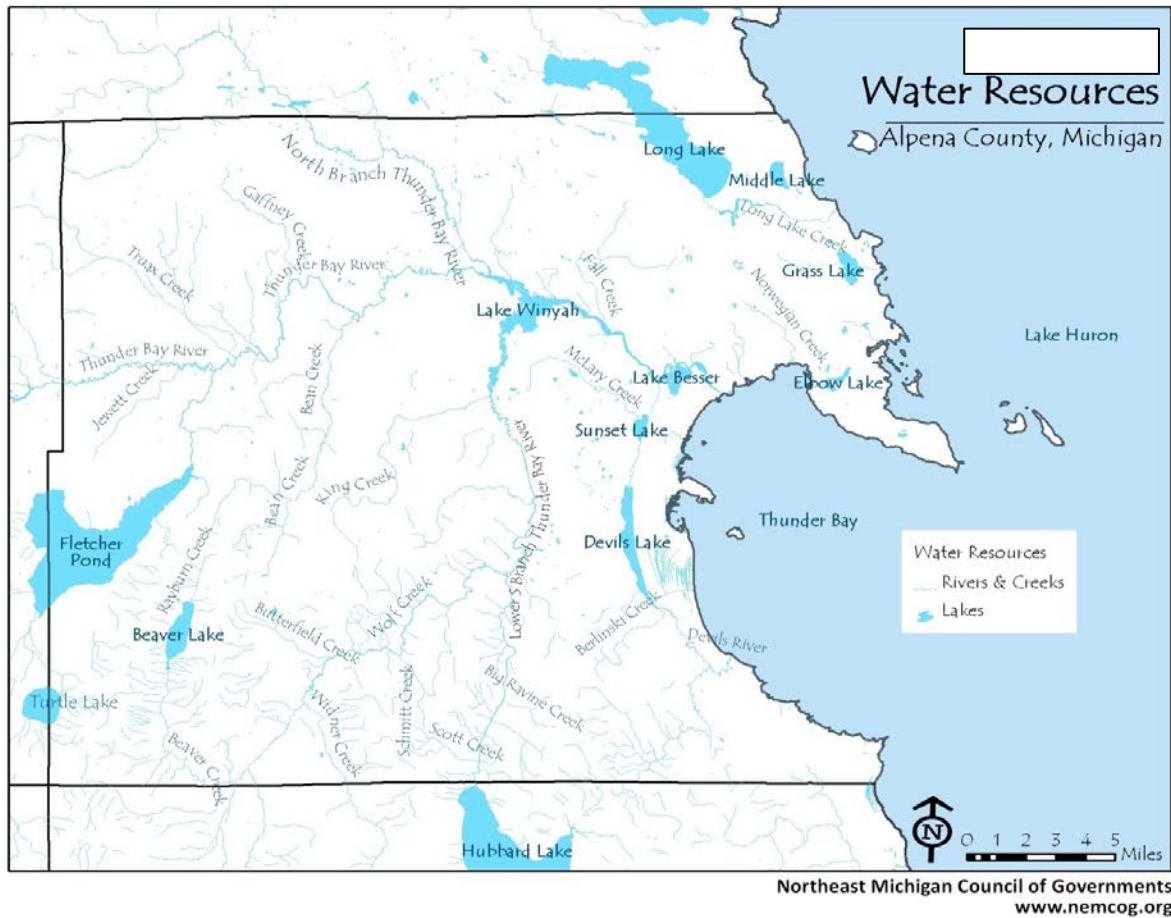


FIGURE 1-2 – ALPENA COUNTY WATER RESOURCES MAP

SOILS

The most noticeable feature of the soils in Alpena County is their sandy texture, along with some soil types that are considered stony and limestone in texture. This characteristic, although rather striking and very important from agricultural and forestry standpoint, is but one of many features considered in classifying soils.

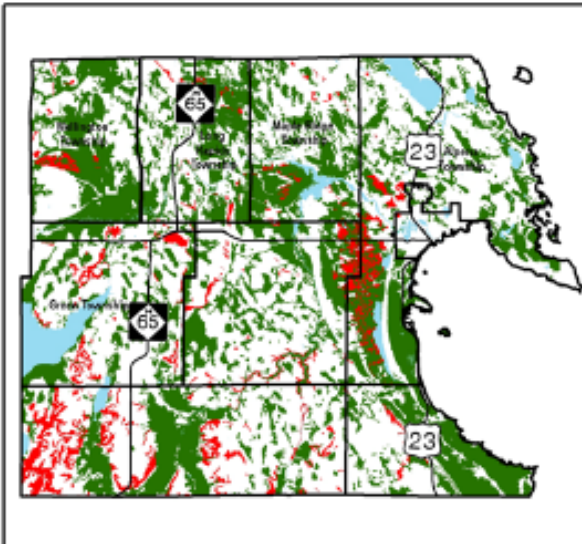
Soils types found in Alpena County are generally classified as sands, loamy sands, sandy loams, loams, fine sandy loams and muck or organic soils. A significant portion of the County contains soils that are considered hydric. The National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils define hydric

soils as soils that form under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. These soils are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation. However, if proper engineering and building techniques are utilized, much of the land would be considered suitable for building. Soil constraints and suitability should be considered when planning park improvements projects.

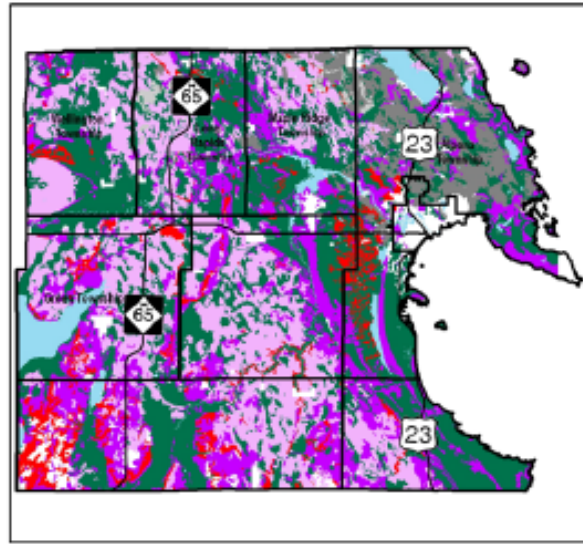
TOPOGRAPHY

The county presents little relief of considerable magnitude as the general elevation ranges from about 580 to 1140 feet above mean sea level, a difference of 560 feet above the level of Lake Huron. The elevation ranges from about 600 feet in the City of Alpena area to the high of 1,140 feet above sea level near the southwest corner of the county.

The county is diversified with strongly sloping and choppy areas, gently undulating areas, low swell or ridges, level plains, small areas of swampy soils and numerous streams and lakes. The broader surface features are expressions of glacial activity. The more hilly areas, for the most part are moraines; glacial outwash deposits underlie the level plains; and the other parts of the level plains of sandy drift were probably deposited under the ice sheet. This topography is well suited for a diverse agriculture, recreation and forest industry. This topography also makes for a beautiful setting in which to live.



Steep Slopes & Hydric Soils



Septic Limitations

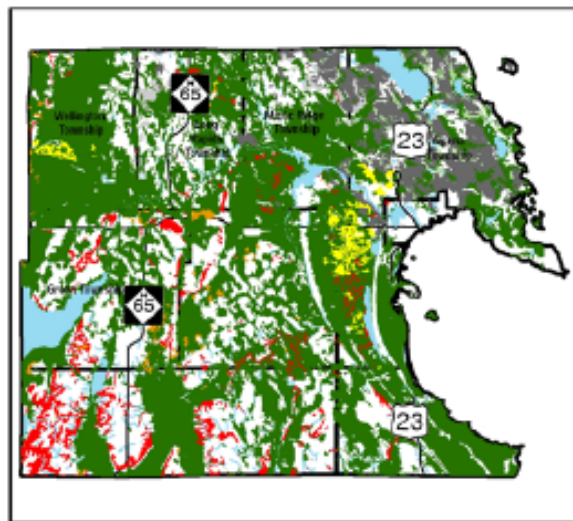
Building Limitations

Buildings without Basements

- SEVERE-SLOPE
- SEVERE-WETNESS
- SEVERE-WETNESS & SLOPE
- SEVERE-WETNESS & BEDROCK
- SEVERE-SHRINK & SWELL
- SEVERE-LARGE STONES
- SEVERE-BEDROCK

Septic Limitations

- SEVERE-SLOPE
- SEVERE-WETNESS
- SEVERE-POOR FILTER
- SEVERE-PERCS SLOWLY
- SEVERE-LARGE STONES
- SEVERE-BEDROCK



Building Limitations
Buildings without basements

Soil Maps

Alpena County



Map produced by the
Northeast Michigan
Council of Governments
April 2008

The digital soils data is provided by Michigan Center for Geographic Information and is derived from the soil map prepared as part of the USDA National Cooperative Soil Survey.

This map is for general planning purposes only. This map is not intended to determine soil suitability for a specific use at a specific site.

FIGURE 1-3 – SOIL MAPS

WOODLANDS

Forestland covers approximately 60 percent of the land area in Alpena County and is the largest single land use in the county. In addition to using the forest resources for timber and fiber, woodlands are also used for all types of outdoor recreation. Large expanses of different forest types offer habitat for a wide variety of species. Forest types include northern hardwood, aspen- birch, northern white cedar, and white, red and jack pine. There are a number of different categories of forest land owners. According to the Resource Assessment of Alpena County prepared by the Alpena Conservation District, the largest amount of forest land is owned by private non-industrial land owners that account for 71.1 percent of the total ownership. Corporations owns 15.4 percent, 12.4 percent is state- and federally-owned and cities and townships own 1.1 percent. The forest industry on private lands contributes greatly to the overall economic wellbeing of Alpena County.

Lowland hardwoods (ash, elm, soft maple and cotton wood) with 70,000 acres, lowland conifers (cedar, tamarack, black and white spruce and balsam) with 58,000 acres and aspen/birch with 45,000 acres are the most predominant forest types in Alpena County.

LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS

Below is a summary of land use characteristics from the 1978 MIRIS land cover/use inventory. Given development trends since the inventory was completed, it is anticipated there is more residential development, particularly low density rural residential development, and less farmland. Expected loss of farmland would be attributed to farms going out of production and not farmland being converted to urban uses.

Alpena County Land Use		
Land Use	Acres	Percent
Residential	9,750	2.5%
Commercial	920	0.2%
Industrial/Extractive/Transportation	4,743	1.2%
Institutional/Recreational	1,565	0.4%
Agricultural	78,037	19.6%
No forest	34,466	8.7%
Upland Forest	85,120	21.4%
Lowland Forest	132,906	33.4%
Wetlands	36,423	9.2%
Surface Water	13,032	3.3%

Source: MIRIS

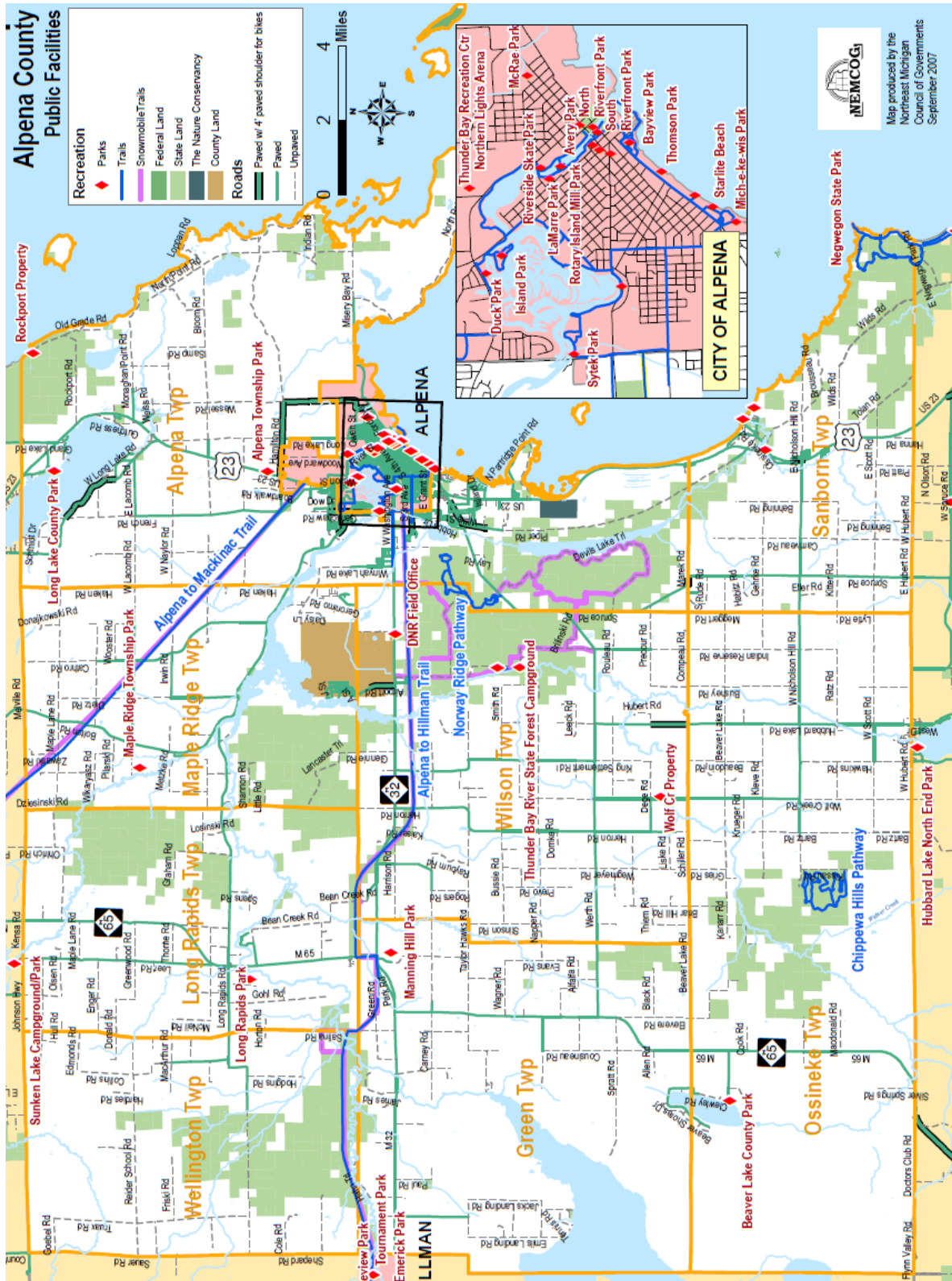


FIGURE 1-4 – ALPENA COUNTY RECREATION MAP

*More recreational assets shown on individual Township maps

Chapter 2 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

ALPENA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Alpena County Parks Commission was established in 1967 under the authority of Public Act 261, as amended by Act 242, P.A. 1966. The Alpena Area Recreation Commission (currently inactive) was established in 2000 under the Urban Cooperation Act, P.A. 7 of 1967. The Alpena County Planning Commission, which acts as the coordinating agency for all planning committees and commissions in the county, was re-established in 2000 under the authority of County Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 282 of 1945 as amended and re-established according to Michigan Planning Enabling Act, P.A. 33 of 2008. The process for review and adoption of the County Recreation Plan is as follows:

Alpena County Parks Commission: Review

Alpena County Planning Commission: Public Hearing, Review and Recommendation

Alpena County Board of Commissioners: Adoption

Recreation Administrative Functions

- Planning - Provide a systematic means of planning the location, acquisition, development, and maintenance of a system of parks, recreation and open space areas, facilities, and activities within the County. Definite criteria for inclusion shall be adopted and periodically revised to keep pace with changes.
- Acquisition – Provide a program of acquisition of adjoining acreage or to acquire unique of strategic scenic, scientific or historical areas for the enjoyment of the residents of the County and visitors to the area. Said areas shall be acquired in an organized systematic manner and shall provide equal opportunity, access and enjoyment for all people regardless of disability, race, creed, or political preferences.
- Development - Provide those activities and facilities commensurate with the needs of the people. All development should be carefully planned and be of a durable nature to minimize maintenance.
- Funding - To explore and utilize every means of financing that is available to the County including State and Federal matching programs, general obligation bonds, general funds, fees, charges, gifts and donations.
- Operation - Provide the necessary personnel to operate the parks as effectively and efficiently as feasible. Adequate supervision should be provided in all areas to protect the facilities and ensure equal opportunity.
- Maintenance - To maintain all parks and facilities in a clean, neat, sanitary and orderly manner in order to protect the public health, safety and enjoyment of its users
- General Administration - To employ qualified and competent personnel to achieve the above function of the parks systems. To maintain and establish the necessary procedures for maintaining an accurate accounting of all funds.

Description of Board, Commissions, and Committees

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The legislative body for Alpena County is the County Board of Commissioners. They have tasked the County Planning Commission with the coordination of this Recreation Plan.

ALPENA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Alpena County Planning Commission, in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, has the statutory authority to develop a county master plan and sub area plans. In addition, the planning commission is responsible for developing the county recreation plan.

ALPENA COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

The Alpena County Parks Commission, in accordance with a county resolution, is responsible for the development, administration and operation of county parks.

ALPENA COUNTY PARK MANAGERS

There are three parks which have managers. They are Beaver Lake Park, Long Lake Park, and Sunken Lake Park.

ALPENA AREA RECREATION COMMISSION (CURRENTLY INACTIVE)

The Alpena Area Recreation Commission, although currently inactive, but is an intergovernmental commission consisting of Alpena County, City of Alpena, and Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn, Wellington and Wilson Township working together with community representatives to support and promote recreational activities, programs and facilities for the enjoyment of residents of and visitors to the Alpena Area.

ALPENA COUNTY YOUTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Committee serves as an advocate for the citizens of the County. The Committee is charged with the sole purpose of distributing millage monies to provide recreational activities for youth and recreation for Alpena County residents, as well as, recreational service and improvement or development of recreational sites. The Committee is also responsible for recommending to the County Board of Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as "Commissioners", the prudent spending of public funds to promote youth and recreational opportunities to Alpena County citizens.

The Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, hereinafter referred to as "Committee", were officially established on September 28, 2010. The committee consists of one representative from each of the districts of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners. Terms of office for representatives from the County Commissioners districts are established to be the same as the elected members of the Board of Commissioners districts, which is a two year term.

The Committee is trying to spread the funds throughout the County, encouraging all the Townships and non-profit organizations, schools, and governmental agencies to apply.

NLAC (Northern Lights Arena Community)

NLAC was formed to help raise funds for the purpose of designing and constructing a facility particularly related to skating sports. Additional purposes involve management of the Northern Lights Arena on a not-for-profit basis and assure affordable recreation. The organization is charged with representing all user groups of the facility. NLAC is a charitable, tax exempt 501c-3 corporation. Members represent Alpena Hockey Association, Alpena Figure Skating Association, Alpena Speed Skating Club, Alpena Independent Hockey Association, AGH All Stars, and Blue Line Club.

PROGRAMMING/PARKS & RECREATION STAFF

Alpena County employs salaried caretakers at Long Lake Park, Beaver Lake Campground/Park, and Sunken Lake Campground/Park. Caretakers are assisted in the operation and upkeep of the parks by volunteers fulfilling work project requirements. Caretakers are the only employees to receive wages.

The County Fairgrounds has a part time manager. A caretaker is employed to manage the Fairgrounds. This caretaker is aided by other County employees who are transferred from other departments. By sharing the work load, it amounts to approximately two full time employee positions. Programs include the annual Alpena County Fair, Alpena Blues Fest, horseshows, cancel walk, 4-H shows, Moto-cross and snowmobile racing, and tool shows.

The Plaza Pool has a full time Director and part time support staff. The Pool Director manages the pool and operates in full-time capacity. In addition, there are part-time positions that include one for maintenance and others for lifeguards and swimming instructors. Programs at the pool include Red Cross swimming and lifesaving training sessions; Infant/Toddler water adjustment classes; Senior citizen physical therapy programs; and family swimming programs. Specific targeted programming include: Senior Fitness, Splash Aerobics, Aqua Chi, Water Walking/Running, Rehabilitation and Social Swimming, Lap and Exercise Swimming, Open Swims, Learn to Swim Instruction, Aerobic Sculpt, Robotic Competition (underwater ROV), Boot Camp and 'Poolates'.

The Northern Lights Arena (NLA) has a full time manager and support staff. Hockey, figure skating and speed skating are primary activities at the arena. Numerous clubs and associations use NLA and include Alpena High School Wildcats, Alpena Hockey Association, Alpena Speed Skating Club, Alpena General Men's Hockey League, Alpena Men's Senior Hockey League, Carhardt Senior Hockey League, Alpena Figure Skating Club, Alpena Thunder Bay Wrecks, and NLA R/C Vehicle Club.

The employees of Plaza Pool and Northern Lights Arena are not Alpena County employees.

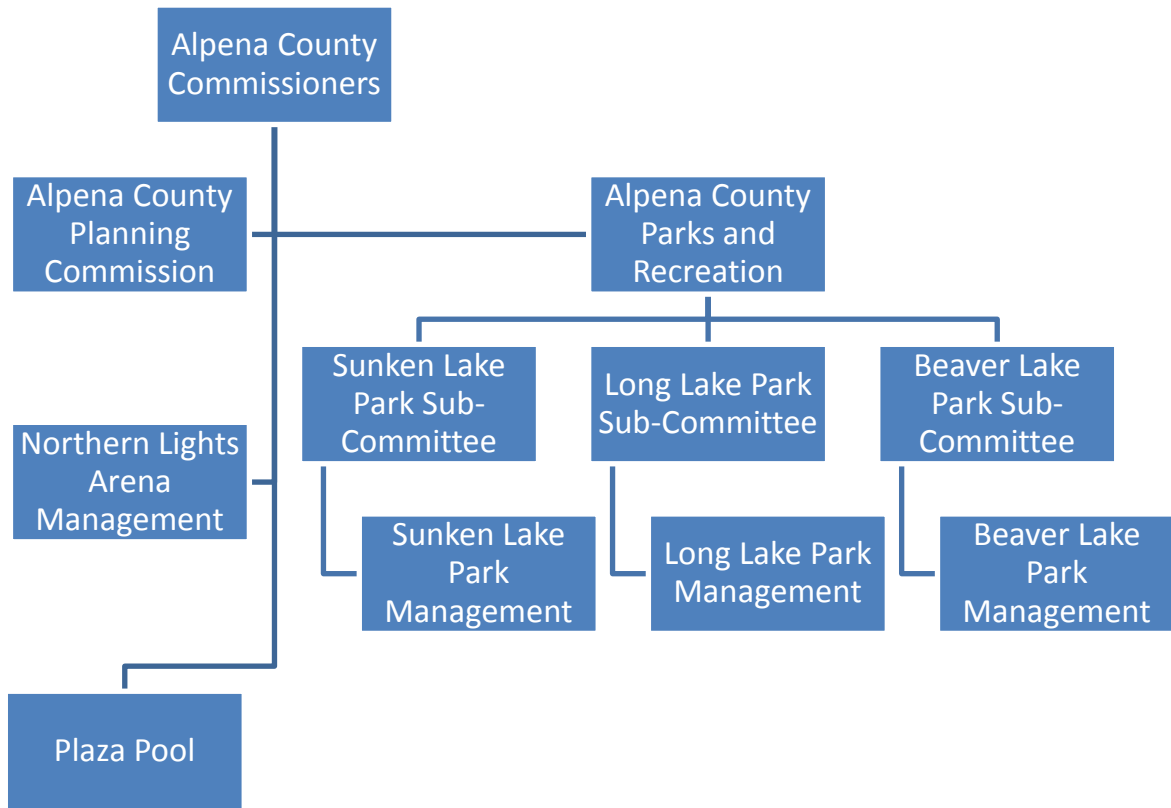


FIGURE 2-1 – ALPENA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Budget 2017-2018

Alpena County Parks & Recreation Budget						
		2016 Activity	2017 Activity	2018 Activity thru 10/18/2018	2018 Amended Budget	2019 Proposed Budget
Fund 208	Parks & Recreation Fund					
	Beaver Lake Park					
	Revenues	48,938	50,999	43,089	44,050	43,100
	Appropriations	42,277	44,486	37,451	46,835	46,198
	Sunken Lake Park					
	Revenues	42,454	56,557	46,753	35,650	40,850
	Appropriations	30,632	34,556	40,480	36,679	38,650
	General Parks					
	Revenues	51,470	137,908	27,760	74,164	224,153
	Appropriations	79,805	201,978	131,766	176,463	250,900
	Long Lake Park					
	Revenues	73,033	92,107	101,655	75,050	80,175
	Appropriations	34,810	50,212	44,279	44,880	49,051
Fund 280	Youth & Recreation Fund					
	Revenues	449,768	482,409	469,992	469,205	477,133
	Appropriations	434,644	540,792	485,797	680,046	572,354
Fund 580	Northern Lights Arena Surcharge Fund					
	Revenues	8,615	7,912	2,230	10,200	5,250
	Appropriations	3,812		2,433	4,002	4,000
Fund 587	Plaza Pool Fund					
	Revenues	244,505	258,027	202,979	285,100	298,449
	Appropriations	258,529	272,860	213,678	271,712	273,382
TOTAL	ALL FUNDS					
	Estimated Revenues	918,783	1,085,919	894,458	993,419	1,169,110
	Appropriations	884,509	1,144,884	955,884	1,260,617	1,234,535

TABLE 2-1 - ALPENA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET

* For more details on the various projects funded in 2018 through the Youth & Recreation Committee, please see the website: <https://www.alpenacounty.org/youth%202018.html>

Relationships with other Agencies/Groups & Role of Volunteers

Alpena County Parks Commission

The Alpena County Parks Commission operates county- owned park facilities.

Alpena County Fair Board

The Fair Board is responsible for operating the annual county fair.

Alpena Sno-Drifters

The Alpena Sno-Drifters is a local snowmobile club established in 1969. Monthly meetings are held with programming of interest to snowmobilers. Club members groom and maintain over 70 miles of trails in the Alpena area. Trails which are maintained by the Sno-Drifters include trails from Alpena to Hillman, Alpena to Posen, Norway Ridge, and the Devil's Lake area. The Alpena Sno-Drifters also work toward the establishment of new trails. They maintain a website which covers trail conditions, maps, recent and upcoming events, and club information. In addition, monthly newsletters are sent out to members to keep them informed of club activities, membership, trail conditions, work bees, and other snowmobile issues.

Exchange Club of Alpena

The Exchange Club of Alpena is part of the National Exchange Club. Unlike other service clubs, Exchange is not an international club and is proud of its promotion of patriotism including distributing flags at the Independence Day parade, providing a Proudly We Hail Program in the community and local schools, as well as displaying Freedom Shrines in area public buildings. The prevention of child abuse is the Club's major national project. The Club supports the prevention of child abuse with support to the Child Abuse and Neglect Team (CAN Team) activities and the Children's Advocacy Center of Northeast MI. The Exchange Club of Alpena is active in supporting softball, baseball, and soccer teams. In addition, the Club is active with crime prevention activities, youth scholarships and programs, and many other community service activities including upgrades to Manning Hill Park, Salvation Army bell ringing and Vietnam Vets gift wrapping. The Exchange Club of Alpena is a charter member of the Michigan Brown Trout Festival which provides funding for many of these projects.

Optimist Club of Alpena

The Optimist Club is a volunteer organization which responds to the needs of the community by engaging in such projects as sponsoring youth athletic leagues, educational enhancement, substance abuse programs, tutoring and mentoring young people, providing food baskets for needy families, assisting disaster victims, weatherizing the homes of the elderly, and conducting oratorical contests for young people.

Sportsmen's Club

The Alpena Sportsmen's Club facilitates sportsmen's activities and meetings in the Alpena area.

Alpena Lions

The Alpena Lions is a community service organization that works to address the needs of the community. The Lions have and continued to provide funding and labor to recreation-related projects in the Alpena area.

Alpena Rotary Club

The Rotary Club is an organization consisting of a diverse group of professional leaders who work to address various community and international service needs.

Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club is a local service organization that works to develop future generations of leaders by revitalizing neighborhoods, organizing youth-sports programs, tutoring, building playgrounds, and performing other projects to help children and communities.

Thunder Bay Trails Association

The Thunder Bay Trails Association (TBTA) is a volunteer organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of non-motorized trail systems in Alpena County and adjoining areas and to reflect their recreational significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure to area citizens. TBTA grooms trails for cross-country skiing. TBTA also works to enhance trail access for mountain bicycling, performs regular trail maintenance, repair, and new facility construction, and acts as an advocate for non-motorized trail systems. TBTA has a Memorandum of Understanding for trail maintenance with the Parks and Recreation Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Plaza Pool

Relationship with school districts, other public agencies and private organizations-Ready, Set, Swim! Program is partially grant funded through the Youth and Recreation fund and offers free swimming lessons to all Alpena County second graders, Friends of the Plaza Pool assists the pool with capital improvements. The Plaza Pool has formed partnerships with Alpena Community College and Bay Athletic Club to offer additional programming to the public. Role of volunteers-Volunteers participate in assisting the Ready, Set, Swim lesson program and various other pool programming such as OPEN KAYAK.

Northern Lights Arena

Almost, 98% of user groups of the arena team help are volunteers. Assisting the full and part time staff of the arena, are volunteers who help clean, assist with special events, serve as ice guards, and many other tasks. Sponsors buy ice time for free open skating and often send their staff to help. The total number of volunteers annually exceeds 260 persons. Numerous clubs and associations use NLA and include Alpena High School Wildcats, Alpena Hockey Association, Alpena Speed Skating Club, Alpena General Men's Hockey League, Alpena Men's Senior Hockey League, Carhardt

Senior Hockey League, Alpena Figure Skating Club, and NLA R/C Vehicle Club. The Alpena Public Schools has been an active participant in the development and use of the NLA.

There are several school clubs that use the facility. It also works with the school district to provide skating programs during the school year. Because of twin sheets of ice, many regional and state hockey tournaments are held here, which impacts the local economy. The arena is planning to expand the school skating program into school districts in neighboring counties. Beside the not for profit various skating user groups, the area also has an indoor walking track open to the public daily for free. Expanded hours in days have occurred by donation funding. There are arena events involving rodeos, horse shoes, travel trailer shows, sportsman shows, concerts, builder shows, gymnastic training and many others.

ALPENA CHARTER TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

In 1978 the Alpena Charter Township Board made two designations to assign parks and recreation duties to various boards and commissions. First, the Township Board designated themselves as the Parks and Recreation Commission under PA 157 of 1905, as amended by PA 32 of 1964. Designated responsibilities include the administration of park properties, acquisition of properties and funding for recreation and pursuit of outside sources of financial assistance.

Later in the same year, the Township Board designated the Alpena Charter Township Planning Commission as the Alpena Charter Township Recreation Planning Committee under PA 168 of 1959. The first recreation plan was adopted by the township in 1978. The Township does not have a recreation staff nor any formal recreation programs. The Township Department of Public Works is responsible for general maintenance along a state-owned bike path along US23.

The Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League maintains the Township-owned ballfields while the township provides electricity and water.

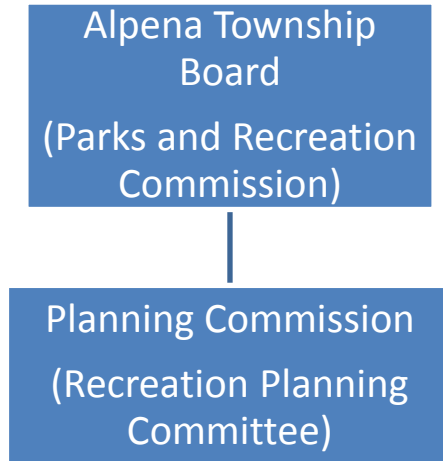


FIGURE 2-2 – ALPENA CHARTER TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Staff/Parks & Recreation Maintenance

Maintenance on Township owned recreation properties is currently handled by contracted personnel. No Township staff provide maintenance duties. Elected officials participate in park planning, oversight, and development. The Alpena Township Department of Public Works maintains the State-owned non-motorized pathway along US 23 South.

Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers

There are a variety of partnerships that the Township currently has with other entities. In addition, there are many volunteers who assist in the upkeep and planning for recreation. There is a partnership with the DNR for the Township to maintain a non-motorized bicycle path along US 23 South. Maintenance and operation of the Babe Ruth League fields is completed in partnership with the Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League and volunteers.

Funding for the Park & Recreation Budget

The following is the budget summary for Alpena Charter Township’s Parks and Recreation activities provided by Alpena Charter Township.

EXPENDITURES		'17-'18	'18-'19
Dept 101	Board of Trustees		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,850
Dept 171	Supervisor		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 700	\$ 700
Dept 191	Elections		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 450	\$ 450
Dept 215	Clerk		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 700	\$ 700
Dept 247	Board of Review		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 1,388	\$ 1,388
Dept 253	Treasurer		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 700	\$ 700
Dept 263	Building & Grounds		

	Bi-path maintenance	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500
	Janitorial Supplies	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
	Janitorial Services	\$ 6,700	\$ 6,000
Dept 330	Liquor Law Enforcement		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 433	\$ 433
Dept 372	Building Inspector		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 700	\$ 700
Dept 410	Zoning Board		
	Gen Liability/Property Insurance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Dept 750	Recreation & Cultural Control		
	Thunder Bay Island Renovation	\$ 12,600	\$ 2,500
	Nature Preserve	\$ 992	\$ 992
Ending Fund Balance			\$ 13,128,984

GREEN TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Structure

The Township Board has requested that the Township Planning Commission oversee the drafting of this Recreation Plan. They also assist with recreation related decision making. The Township does not have any formal recreation department or any designated recreation staff.

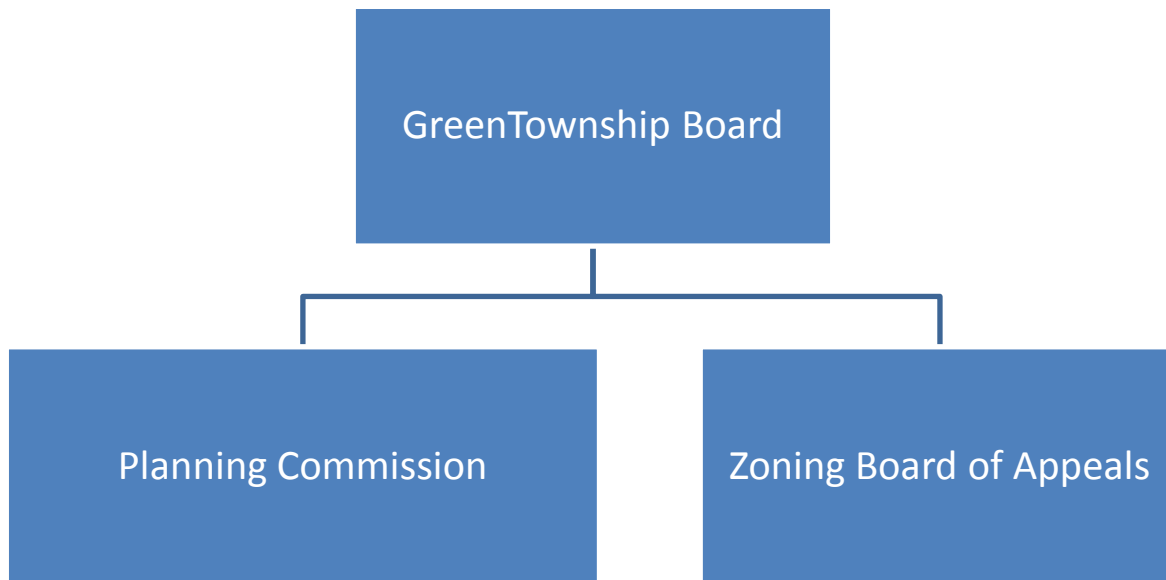


FIGURE 2-3 – GREEN TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Planning Commission

The Township of Green Planning Commission is a seven member body, serving three-year staggered terms. Planning Commission members are intended to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce, industry, government, education,

transportation, and so on. Planning commissioners may come from many walks of life, but they all contribute their time and talents to the local planning process. In addition to the responsibility of preparing the Master Plan, the Green Township Planning Commission also spends a lot of volunteer time developing, organizing and spearheading tourism development in the community.

Funding for the Park & Recreation Budget

The township board supports funding with general funds and grant writing opportunities. The following is a budget summary of Parks & Recreation related activities.

Green Township Parks & Recreation Budget - 2018			
Income		Actual '17-'18	Proposed '18-'19
	Twp Hall Youth & Rec Grant	\$ -	\$ 7,000
	Hall Rental	\$ 2,950	\$ 2,500
Expenses			
Township Board	Youth & Rec Grant	\$ 835	\$ 8,000
	Township Hall	\$ 11,191	\$ 20,900
	Cemetery	\$ 4,616	\$ 5,350
	Ball Diamond	\$ -	\$ 500

Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers

Alpena County - Manning Hill County Park is a joint venture in its maintenance and management. The Alpena County local businesses along with the Alpena Exchange Club also partner with the Township on recreational efforts. Local residents are very dedicated to the recreation projects in Green Township also. The Township also partners with Hillman Village and Ossineke Townships on firefighting efforts as well as river safety rescue efforts, sharing Green Township’s air boat. Training occurs at the local schools with Long Rapids and Wilson Townships to educate children on safety. The Alpena County Parks Commission reviews and makes recommendations concerning county-owned park facilities.

Thunder Bay River Restoration Group is clearing the downed trees on the river to ensure paddlers can navigate. They are also installing mile marker signs along the river. In case of emergency, these mile marker signs will assist rescue personnel.

OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

Ossineke Township Administrative Structure

Ossineke Township operates under an administrative structure consisting of a Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer and two Township Trustees. These positions are chosen by registered voters of the Township in an at-large election held every two years. Bylaws adopted by the Township Board determine the order of business and method of conducting regular township business. Meetings are conducted using *Robert's Rules of Order*. In the case of issues that require a vote for making a determination, a simple majority of trustees present is required. Parks and recreation facilities are under the direct control of the Township Board of Trustees.

Planning Commission

The Township of Ossineke Planning Commission is a five member body, serving three-year staggered terms. Planning Commission members are intended to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce, industry, government, education, transportation, and so on. Planning commissioners may come from many walks of life, but they all contribute their time and talents to the local planning process. In addition to the responsibility of preparing the Master Plan, the Ossineke Township Planning Commission is charged with reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

Staff/Parks & Recreation Maintenance

Ossineke Township employs a part-time sexton to oversee maintenance at the cemetery. Maintenance of the Hubbard Lake Lions Park is the responsibility of the local Lions Club. Snow removal, lawn care and landscaping, and facility maintenance are all duties that fall within their area of responsibility.

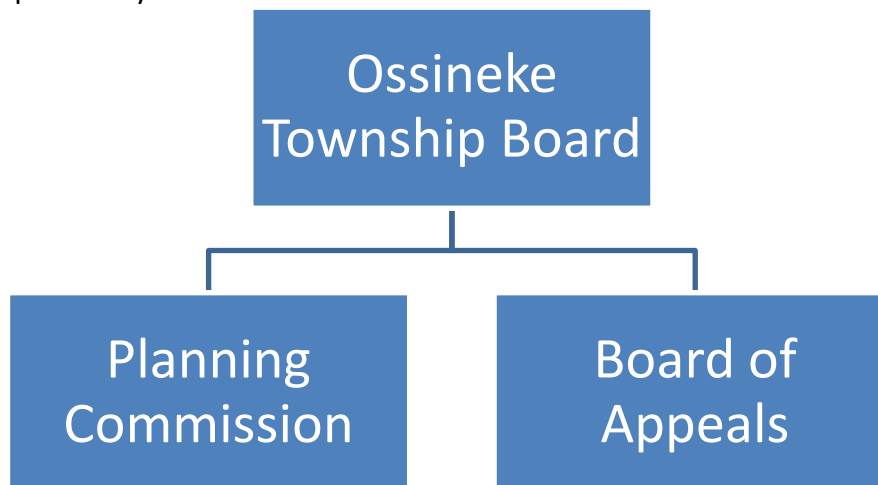


FIGURE 2-4 – OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers

The Township of Ossineke depends very heavily on its community volunteers. These are dedicated individuals who come forward time and again to assist with community improvement projects,

festival preparations and other community events. The Township Board has frequent contact and an excellent rapport with local/adjoining Township Officials and County Representatives with whom they work on various projects.

Ossineke Township has relationships with the following groups:

1. Hubbard Lake Lions Club
2. Beaver Lake Association
3. Thunder Bay Trails, is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-motorized trails advocacy group. TBTA has a, "FRIENDS OF CHIPPEWA HILLS PATHWAY", Memorandum of Understanding with the Parks and Recreation Division of the DNR.
4. Hubbard Lake Association

WILSON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION



Programming/Parks & Recreation Staff: No Wilson Township recreational programming exists currently. Because of the lack of township-owned recreational facilities, Wilson Township does not employ staff for the maintenance of public spaces. However, as recreational facilities are developed by the Township, this situation will be adjusted. Many community service groups exist in the area which, for the short term, could be relied upon to provide some maintenance of new facilities. However, as facilities grow in number and size, a seasonal staff position would need to be created.

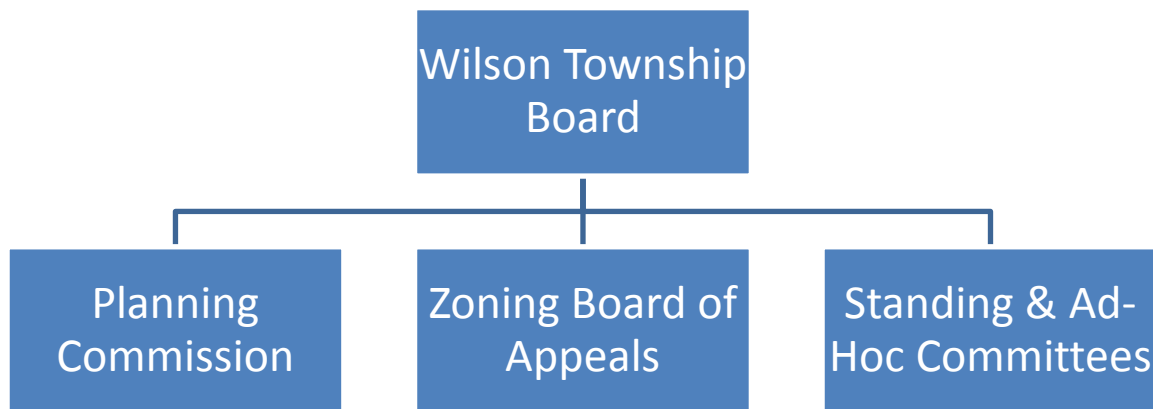


FIGURE 2-5 – WILSON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Funding for the Park & Recreation Budget

Funding for park maintenance and improvement is taken from the General Fund. Apart from Township funds, other possible funding sources for recreational improvements in the Township exist as grant opportunities with agencies such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, private foundations, community service organizations, and community fund-raising groups.

WILSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET 2018			
INCOME/REVENUE	BUDGET	ACTUAL '17	ADOPTED
Hall Rental	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,500
Building & Grounds			
Salaries/Wages	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,084	\$ 6,000
Yard Maintenance	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,729	\$ 2,500
Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 129	\$ 500
Utilities	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,059	\$ 10,000
Mileage/Travel	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
Hall Dep Return	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,500
Capital Outlay	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,620	\$ 15,000
Building Maintenance	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,170	\$ 2,500
Cemetery			
Wages	\$ -	\$ 158	\$ 200
Burials	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,185	\$ 5,000
Supplies	\$ 100	\$ 30	\$ 100
Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
Mileage/Travel	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ -
Education/Training	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
Parks and Recreation			
Grant	\$ 30,000	\$ 21,448	\$ -
Misc	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Grant (DNR)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mem. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

TABLE 2-2 - WILSON TOWNSHIP RECREATION BUDGET

Relationships with Other Agencies/Groups & Role of Volunteers: Numerous groups in Alpena County are involved with the improvement and operation of recreational facilities in the area and are potential partners for recreational opportunity development in Wilson Township.

- 1. Alpena Sno-Drifters:** The Alpena Sno-Drifters is a local snowmobile club established in 1969. Monthly meetings are held with programming of interest to snowmobilers. Club members groom and maintain over 70 miles of trails in the Alpena area. Trails which are maintained by the Sno-Drifters include trails from Alpena to Hillman, Alpena to Posen, Norway Ridge, and the Devil's Lake area. The Alpena Sno-Drifters also work toward the establishment of new trails. They maintain a website which covers trail conditions, maps, recent and upcoming events, and club information. In addition, monthly newsletters are sent out to members to keep them informed of club activities, membership, trail conditions, work bees, and other snowmobile issues.
- 2. Optimist Club of Alpena:** The Optimist Club is a volunteer organization which responds to the needs of the community by engaging in such projects as sponsoring youth athletic leagues, educational enhancement, substance abuse programs, tutoring and mentoring young people, providing food baskets for needy families, assisting disaster victims,

weatherizing the homes of the elderly, and conducting oratorical contests for young people. The purpose of the Optimist Club is to “develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth in the belief that the giving of one’s self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.”

3. **Sportsmen’s Club:** The Alpena Sportsmen’s Club facilitates sportsmen’s activities and meetings in the Alpena area.
4. **Alpena Lions:** The Alpena Lions is a community service organization that works to address the needs of the community. The Lions have and continued to provide funding and labor to recreation-related projects in the Alpena area.
5. **Alpena Rotary Club:** The Rotary Club is an organization consisting of a diverse group of professional leaders who work to address various community and international service needs.
6. **Kiwanis Club:** The Kiwanis Club is a local service organization that works to develop future generations of leaders by revitalizing neighborhoods, organizing youth-sports programs, tutoring, building playgrounds, and performing other projects to help children and communities.
7. **Alpena Area Recreation Commission:** The Alpena Area Recreation Commission is an intergovernmental commission consisting of Alpena County, the City of Alpena, and Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn, Wellington, and Wilson Townships working together with community representatives to support and promote recreational activities, programs and facilities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Alpena area.
8. **Thunder Bay Trails Association:** The Thunder Bay Trails Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of non-motorized trail systems in Alpena County and adjoining areas and to reflect their recreational significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure to area citizens. TBTA grooms trails for cross country skiing, performs regular trail maintenance, repair, and new facility construction, and acts as an advocate for non-motorized trail systems. TBTA has a written trails maintenance contract with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Chapter 3 RECREATION INVENTORY

An inventory of recreation facilities available in Alpena County was completed and is presented in this chapter. The inventory includes publicly-owned facilities, state- and organization-owned facilities, and privately-owned facilities. Facilities owned by the entities participating in this plan were evaluated for barrier-free accessibility. A description of the barrier-free accessibility rating criteria is provided below. Also included is the map of recreational facilities.

Inventory Procedures

The methods used by NEMCOG staff to compile this recreational inventory include verification and compilation of information from the previous Recreation Plan, and information provided by local officials. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

Accessibility Assessments - An assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. At a minimum, use the following ranking system for each park:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

ALPENA COUNTY RECREATION INVENTORY

1. Alpena County Fairgrounds are located on Eleventh Avenue between Charlotte Street and Tawas Street. Situated on 33 acres, this property includes 2,700 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage. Water and sewer services are provided by the City of Alpena. Livestock barns are available for annual fair events. Campground facilities include 69 licensed campsites, with electricity, picnic tables, and a sanitary dump station. A children's playground is equipped with one slide, two swing sets, one merry-go-round, climbing bars, one rocking horse, one bench, and one picnic table. A four foot high chain link fence with a gate encloses the entire playground and protects the children from the River. Maintained by the Alpena Optimist Club, this activity area is available to all children for recreational purposes. Restrooms and showers are available for use by campers and those attending events. An indoor shelter and a storage building for boats and motor homes are also located at this site. Other recreation facilities include a grandstand which seats approximately 5,000

spectators, bleachers used to increase seating capacity for major events, an arena and barn for horse riding events, a race track, a green park for picnics, two horseshoe courts, a fishing area, and two boat launches. The grandstand area is available year round for events.

Accessibility evaluation = 2: An evaluation of accessibility issues noted that the exhibit areas and the grandstands were not barrier free. Provisions for viewing grandstand events are made at ground level to accommodate persons with mobility limitations. A handicapped parking area was not designated and marked. The merchants building bathrooms were compliant when constructed but may need to be upgraded to meet current standards.

- 2. Alpena Plaza Pool** is located at Alpena High School, 3303 South Third Avenue. The pool building measures 130 feet x 110 feet. The pool can accommodate six lanes, 25 yards long, for swim competition. This pool is located in a centrally accessible area and is the only municipal indoor swimming pool in the County. In addition to being used by high school students and the public, it is a major source of training and team competition. Senior citizens and area youth also use the pool for family-oriented activities. The pool can be rented for birthday parties. A full-time director schedules and/or supervises the following pool activities some of which include: Red Cross swimming and lifesaving training sessions; Infant/Toddler water adjustment classes; Senior citizen physical therapy programs; and family swimming programs. Specific targeted programming include: Senior Fitness, Splash Aerobics, Aqua Chi, Water Walking/Running, Rehabilitation and Social Swimming, Lap and Exercise Swimming, Open Swims, Learn to Swim Instruction, Aerobic Sculpt, Robotic Competition (underwater ROV), Boot Camp and Poolates.

Accessibility evaluation = 3: ADA compliant parking area is provided. Access to the facility and pool are barrier free. A lift is available to assist persons with mobility limitations in and out of the pool. Bathrooms/dressing rooms are ADA compliant with the exception of showers. The shower fixtures are not ADA compliant. A new unisex bathroom/dressing room needs to be constructed. A private changing room is available, without a toilet or sink.

Status of Grant Funded Activities: MDNR-Phase 1. 1989 Bond Fund #89-645 has been completed. Phase 2. 1991 #91-157 has been completed.

- 3. Tennis Courts** are located on the grounds of Alpena High School next to the pool building. These four courts are used by students and the public for casual recreation and organized team competition. Recent updates include resurfacing and spectator seating installed.

Accessibility evaluation = 3: The facility is near the Plaza Pool

- 4. Long Lake Park/Campground** is located ten miles north of Alpena, one-half mile off U.S. 23. Situated on the east side of Long Lake, this county park occupies 68 acres. A total of 105 campsites are adjacent to the 5,652 acres of water that make up Long Lake. Water and electricity are available at 80 of these sites with the other 25 sites considered primitive. Park facilities include restrooms/showers, dumping station, store, concrete boat ramp,

three docks, nature trails, two pavilions (with electricity), picnic tables, two playgrounds, two swimming beaches, and outdoor trailer storage. Long Lake Park is open May 1 to October 15. Camping is permitted after October 1st until November 1st on a daily rate schedule. A park caretaker is on-site.

Accessibility evaluation = 2: An evaluation of accessibility issues noted the restrooms and office are not barrier free. Fishing and boating opportunities are limited as the boat launch area and dock are not barrier free. There are no wheel chair accessible picnic tables in the picnic area and there is limited signage and lighting.

- 5. Sunken Lake Park/Campground** is located on Fletcher Park Road at the Presque Isle County line. Adjacent to Sunken Lake's 50 acres of water, this 160 acre county park offers camping, fishing, boating, swimming, and a children's playground. A day use area has picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, and a pavilion. A covered footbridge provides access to an island with nature trails. The camping area offers 60 trailer campsites with water and electricity available. All campsites have picnic tables. There is a bathroom with showers, a dumping station, a boat ramp and dock, a fish cleaning station, a store, and playground equipment. A park caretaker is on-site.

Accessibility evaluation = 2: Bathrooms in picnic area consists of port-a-johns, and are not ADA and access to the pavilion is limited. Sand roads in the camping area limit mobility and access to bathroom. The bathrooms do have ADA stalls but the door handles, showers and shower knobs are not barrier free.

- 6. Beaver Lake Park/Campground** is located 1.2 miles west of M-65 on Beaver Lake Park Road. This county park is situated on 8.19 acres adjacent to Beaver Lake. With a dam to control lake levels, this natural lake covers 665 acres and offers area residents many water-related recreational opportunities. Swimming, boating, and fishing for pike, bass, and pan fish are popular summertime activities. A pavilion, children's playground, and a fenced-in spring separate the boat launch and camping area from the day use area. The day use area provides an open space with picnic tables, swings, and a swimming beach. Overnight camping is available and a park caretaker is on-site.

Accessibility evaluation = 2: An evaluation of accessibility issues noted the restrooms and office are not compliant with ADA guidelines. Fishing and boating opportunities are limited as the boat launch area and dock are not barrier free. There are no wheelchair accessible picnic tables in the picnic area and there is limited signage and lighting.

- 7. Manning Hill Park** is located in Lachine on M-32 near the junction of M-65. Situated on one of the highest points in Alpena County, this two-acre site offers a scenic area with a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. The historic lookout tower has been removed and an easily accessible observation deck and restrooms have been constructed on the former tower pad. A pavilion, four picnic tables, four benches, and three grills provide area residents and visitors with summer recreational opportunities. Electricity has

been installed as well as a drinking fountain. A 16'x16' viewing tower is being constructed at the time of this plan's adoption. A new ADA compliant sidewalk has been constructed between the pavilion and the driveway, continuing to the highest platform, returning to the parking lot. Sledding is a popular winter activity on property adjacent to this park. The park improvements and maintenance are undertaken by Green Township in partnership with Alpena County as well as local residents.

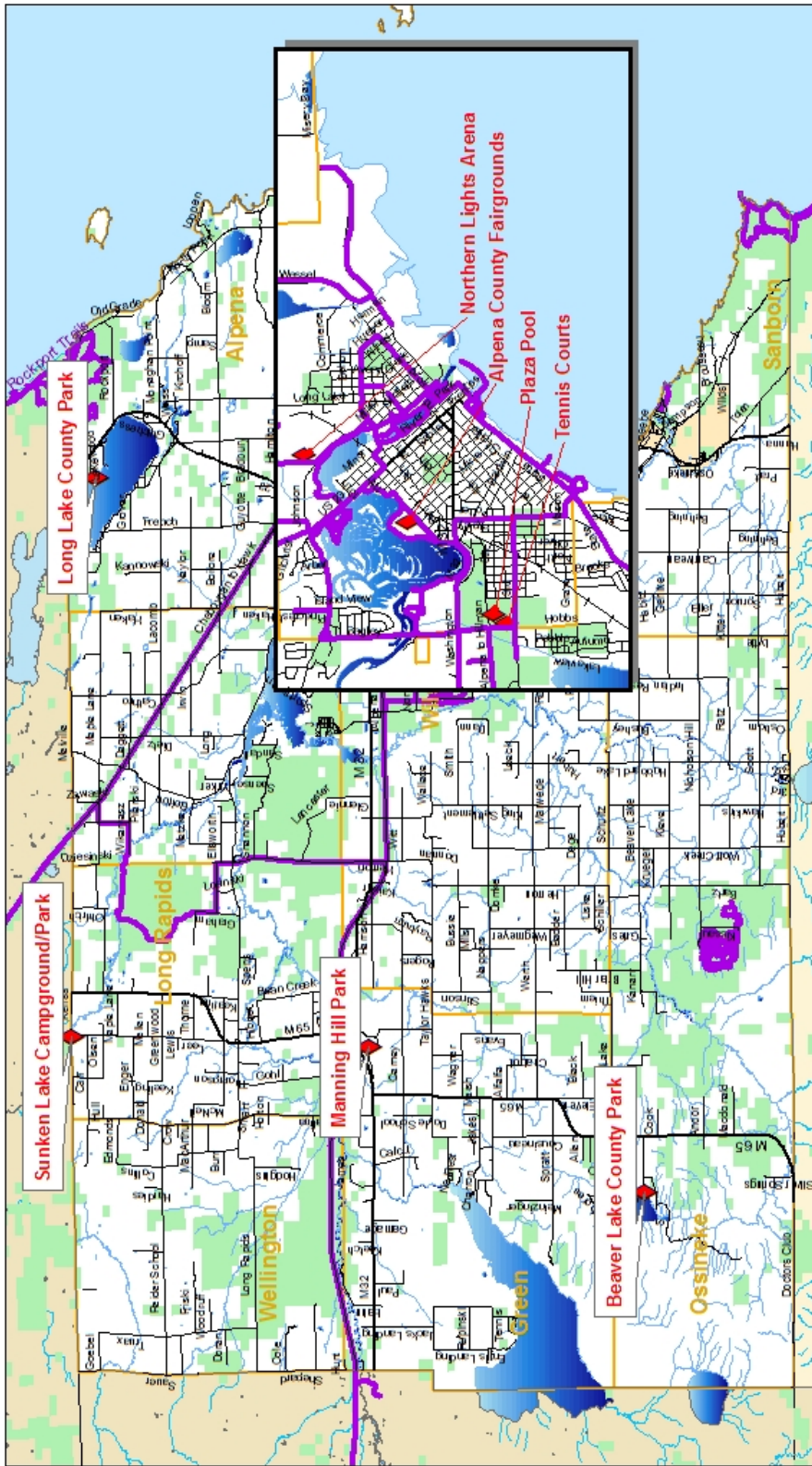
Accessibility evaluation = 2: Paths to the pavilion are now barrier free but there is not a barrier free access onto the viewing platform. The barrier free parking is not marked or identified. Port-a-john is on site during summer months.

- 8. Northern Lights Arena** is a twin-sheet ice facility adjacent to the APlex. It has two NHL regulation-size ice surfaces and is home to the Alpena High School Wildcats, Alpena Hockey Association, Alpena Speed Skating Club, Alpena General Men's Hockey League, Alpena Men's Senior Hockey League, Carhardt Senior Hockey League, Alpena Figure Skating Club, and NLA R/C Vehicle Club. The arena has seating for 900, has two concession stands, a pro shop, an indoor walking/jogging track, exercise/fitness rooms and common areas in the lobby. The 85' x 200' ice rink is large enough to host American Speed Skating Union sanctioned events and will have enough space for figure skaters to practice and perform in front of an audience. The Thunder Bay Soccer Association soccer fields are located north of the Arena.

Accessibility evaluation = 3: Bathroom and parking meet ADA guidelines; however, there is limited access to the full spectator seating areas

Status of Grant Funded Activities: The original construction program was granted \$500,000 from the DNR Clean Michigan Fund in 2000. Since then, there has been no additional funding.

Alpena County Owned Recreation Facilities



Recreational Assets

- ◆ Alpena County-owned Recreational Facilities
- Trails
- State of Michigan

FIGURE 3-1 - ALPENA COUNTY-OWNED RECREATION MAP

ALPENA CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

Alpena Charter Township is the largest geographical subdivision in Alpena County. It is comprised of 112.6 square miles of 72,033.0 acres that surrounds the City of Alpena. Located in the northeast section of the county, it is bordered by Presque Isle County to the north and Lake Huron to the east. An extensive description of the Township's natural resources is presented in the [Alpena Charter Township Master Plan](#), adopted in 2017.

1. Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League Fields

The Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League fields are located behind the township municipal building at 4385 U.S. 23 North. The site is classified as a sports complex. Current facilities consist of four regulation Babe Ruth League ball diamonds, bleachers, dugouts, scoreboards, restroom/concession building, picnic tables, storage building, well house, two automatic sprinkling systems to maintain the fields, and an enlarged parking area with handicap accessibility. Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League maintains the ball fields, and the Township pays the utilities. The facility is not only used for local Babe Ruth League activities, but is a site for regional tournament games.

The ball fields are accessed through the same driveway serving the municipal building, often creating safety issues. The Township purchased adjacent property for the purpose of a separate access drive for the ball field complex.

This little league fields site was a recipient of 2 DNR grants during its development phase. Project #26-01060_Z was awarded in 1978 and provided two ball diamonds with bleachers and concession/storage building. The second was project #BF92-226, awarded in 1992. This grant provided a new ball field

Accessibility evaluation is #4. A barrier-free ramp exists at the entrance to the building. Restrooms are also meet accessibility standards.

2. **A forty-acre plot** of public land is located on West Long Lake Road in Section 8 of T32N, R8E. This property was formerly used as the Township landfill and is now undeveloped. This property may be sold in the future.

Accessibility evaluation is #1. The site is currently being used as a paintball park but is otherwise undeveloped.

3. **A public access site** is located on .8 acre of land at the Weiss Road Bridge in Section 23 of T32N, R8E. The Narrows of Long Lake Creek flow beneath this bridge and the Township Fire Department uses this site to fill water tanks on the fire trucks. An informal boat launch is formed by a graveled slope to the water.

Accessibility evaluation is #2. It has only minor improvements.

4. **Alpena Charter Township Office Building** is located at 4385 U.S. 23 North. It contains offices of the Township Building Inspector, Assessor, Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor.

The Township Water Department and Northside Station of the Township Fire Department are also located at this facility.

Accessibility evaluation is #4. A barrier-free ramp makes entrance to the building readily accessible. Restrooms are also accessible.

5. **Alpena Charter Township Nature Preserve** is located in Section 15 of T31N-R9E and consists of approximately 140 acres with 10,000 feet of Lake Huron Shoreline. The Nature Conservancy partnered with Alpena Charter Township in acquiring this property to preserve it from extensive lakeshore development and to provide public access to unique natural resources. Alpena Charter Township acquired the property with grant support from The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan Coastal Management Program. The property was acquired utilizing a Trust Fund Grant (TF02-128) and DEQ Coastal Zone grants.

The property is used for low impact outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the rich coastal resources. Alpena Charter Township received funding to develop a park management plan from the Michigan Coastal Management Program and completed the plan in the fall of 2008. Important natural resources on the property include karst geologic features in and around El Cajon Bay, coastal fens, coastal marshes, dwarf lake iris, shore birds and migratory birds. The Michigan Natural Features Inventory has identified a number of threatened and endangered plants and animals on the property. Future uses for the property include nature and interpretive trails, water access for canoes or kayaks. In addition, the waters off this property are important for diving and are part of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. The Township is planning to acquire small parcels to provide parking facilities and more direct access to Misery Bay for launching kayaks and canoes.

Accessibility Evaluation is #1. The site is in an undeveloped state.

6. **Old Piper School** is a building which is currently leased on a long-term basis to the Northeast Michigan Alano Club and is located on Piper Road, just off Werth Road in Section 32 of T31N-R8E and is situated on just over one acre.

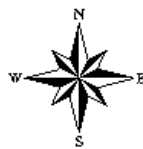
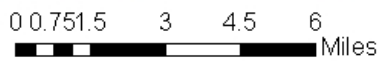
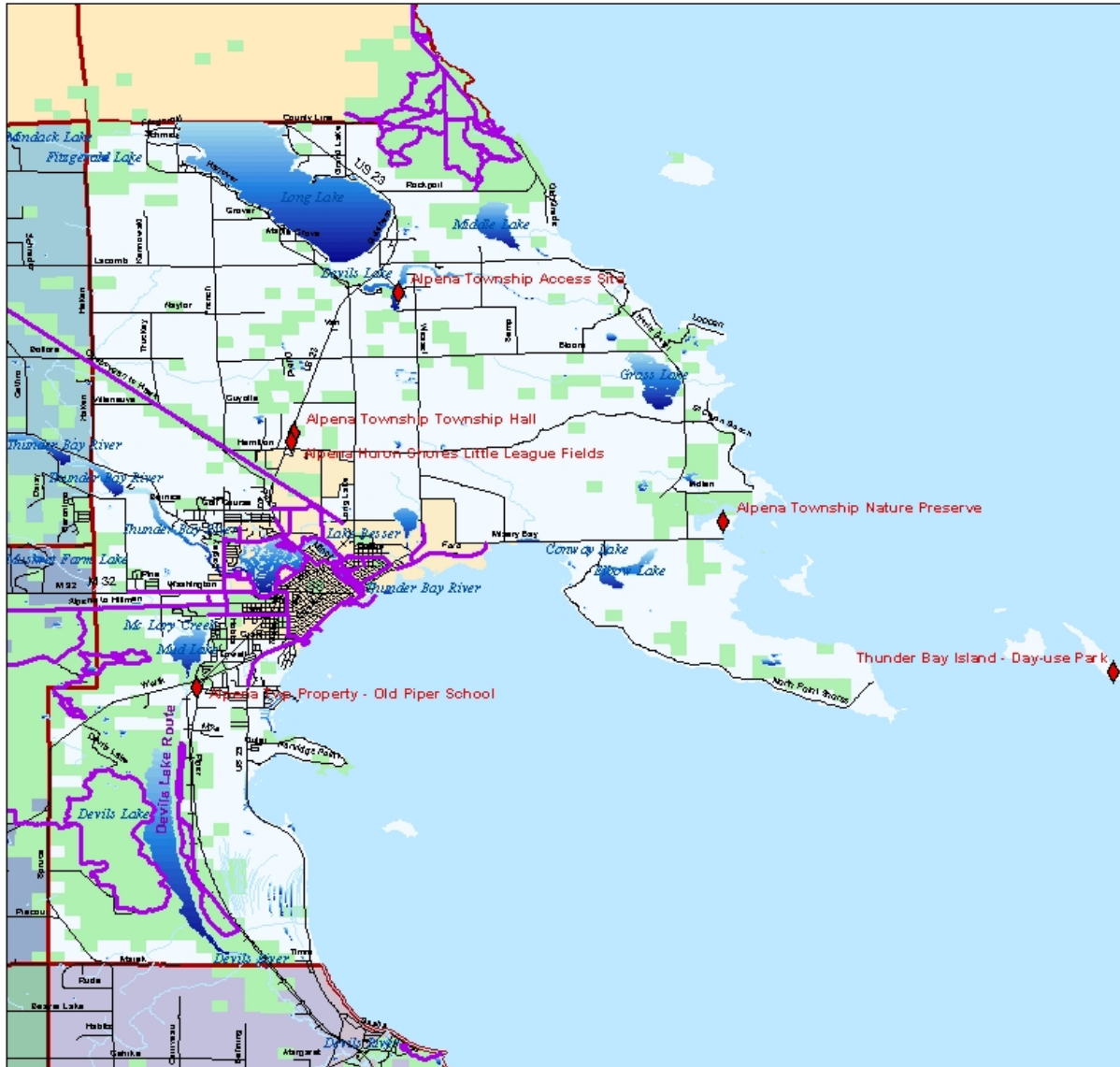
Accessibility evaluation is #2.

7. **Thunder Bay Island** 43.08 acres of land within the larger island are owned by Alpena Charter Township which includes an historic lighthouse. The detail of this property and the larger parcel that is the island is located on page 3-46 of this document.

Accessibility Evaluation is #1. The site has been under rehabilitation and is being prepared for an ADA-compliant interactive museum.

Alpena Charter Township Recreation Map

Alpena County



Recreational Facilities	
	Alpena Township
	Trails
	State of Michigan

FIGURE 3-2 - ALPENA CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION MAP

GREEN TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

Green Township is located in the west central portion of Alpena County. Bordered to the west by Montmorency County, Green Township consists of 51,316 acres or 80.2 square miles.

1. **Green Township Hall** is located on 11 acres at the junction of M-32 and M-65 adjacent to the ball field. The hall has cooking facilities, restrooms and a meeting room. The Hall has the capacity to accommodate 100-150 people and is available for rent year-round. There is basketball court, swings, grill, slide, merry-go-round, tether ball pole, volleyball court, and picnic tables at the Township Hall. A pavilion has been constructed. Additional property was purchased to expand the grounds and facilities; a second driveway was put in along with an additional parking area. Plans for further parking expansion are being made.
Accessibility evaluation is 3. The pavilion is accessible.
2. **Green Township Ball Park** is located at the junction of M-32 and M-65 and adjoins the Township Hall. The ball field is fenced and has backstops and two dugouts. It could be used for T-Ball, Babe Ruth League and softball.
Accessibility evaluation is 4. All facilities are barrier free.
3. **Green Township Fire Hall** is situated on 10 acres at the intersection of M-65 and Moore's Landing Road. A small meeting room is at this site. The Township has hosted open houses at this location including pancake dinners and they anticipate future open houses will be held on this site.
Accessibility evaluation = 1 None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
4. **Spratt Cemetery** – this is a township owned cemetery with no additional recreational assets.
Accessibility evaluation = 1 None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
5. **Greely Cemetery** – this is a township owned cemetery with no additional recreational assets.
Accessibility evaluation = 1 None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Green Township Recreation Map

Alpena County

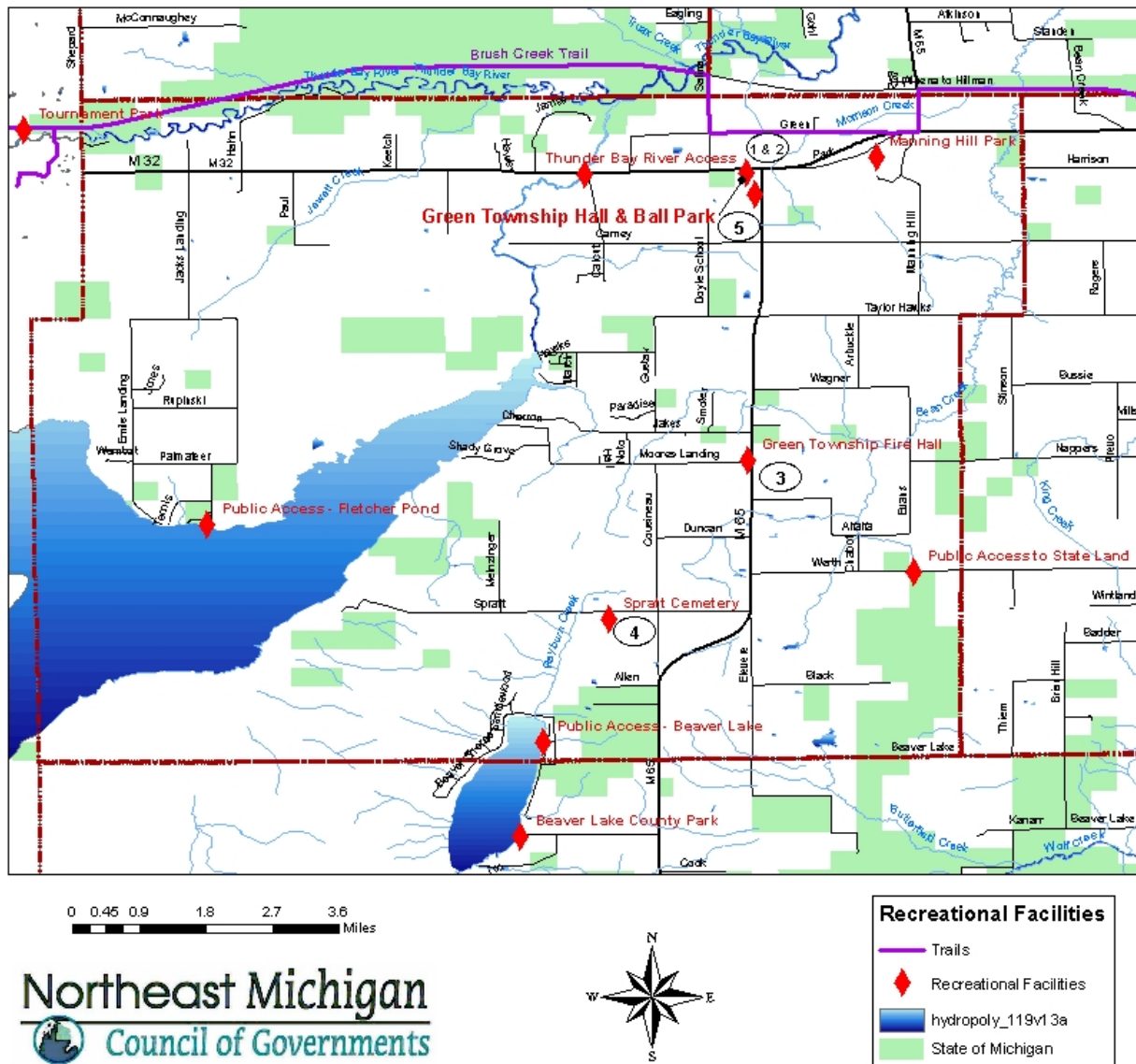


FIGURE 3-3 - GREEN TOWNSHIP RECREATION MAP

OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

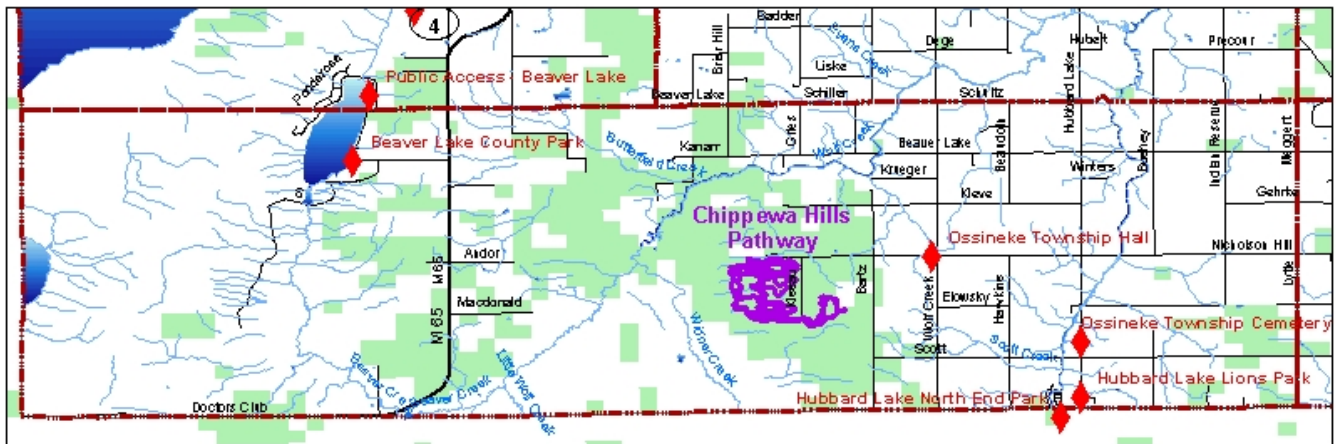
1. **Ossineke Township Cemetery** is located on Hubbard Lake Road in the eastern part of the Township in section 28. It is .2 mile north of the intersection of Hubbard Lake and Scott Roads.
Accessibility evaluation = 1 None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

2. **Ossineke Township Hall** – Ossineke Township Hall is located on 1.86 acres at the intersection of Wolf Creek Road and Nicholson Hill Road. Although it is used for public meetings and other community functions, the Hall is also available for private rental. Complete kitchen facilities are available for banquets and social activities. Folding tables and chairs are included in the rental charges.

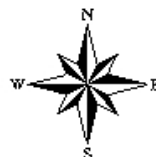


- Accessibility evaluation = 2** Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines. Bathroom and parking meet ADA guidelines. The rest of the property is primarily undeveloped and therefore lacks features and other facilities, which support the recreational needs of the disabled.

Ossineke Township Recreation Map



0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles



Recreational Facilities	
	Trails
	Recreational Facilities
	State of Michigan

3. **Hubbard Lake Lion's Park** is located 0.3 miles north of Hubert Road on Hubbard Lake Road. The 8.1-acre park has the following facilities: two ball diamonds, horseshoe pit, playground, basketball court, a double tennis court, picnic tables, restrooms, walk-in cooler, water well, outdoor ice rink, pavilion and asphalt driveway.

Accessibility evaluation = 2 Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines) There are parking spaces designated that meet ADA guidelines. The main parking lot is gravel and is not ADA compliant. The rest of the property is primarily developed but lacks features (sidewalks) and other facilities that would allow access and support the recreational needs of the disabled.

WILSON TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

Wilson Township is located in the central portion of Alpena County and covers 79.8 square miles of land with 51,128.1 acres.

1. **Wolf Creek Park:** Located off Wolf Creek Road, the 17 acre Wolf Creek property was

acquired by Wilson Township from the Alpena County Road Commission. The property consists of the old Wolf Creek Road right-of-way which varies in width. There are two areas where the right-of-way widens to 100' X 100' both north and south of Wolf Creek. A 50' bridge across the river has been built since the last recreation plan.

Type: Natural Resource Area/Special Use Area.

Barrier-Free Accessibility = 2

As this area is a less developed site, accessibility issues do exist. The future accessibility needs of this natural area continue to be evaluated on an ongoing basis and any needed improvements will be detailed in the action plan.

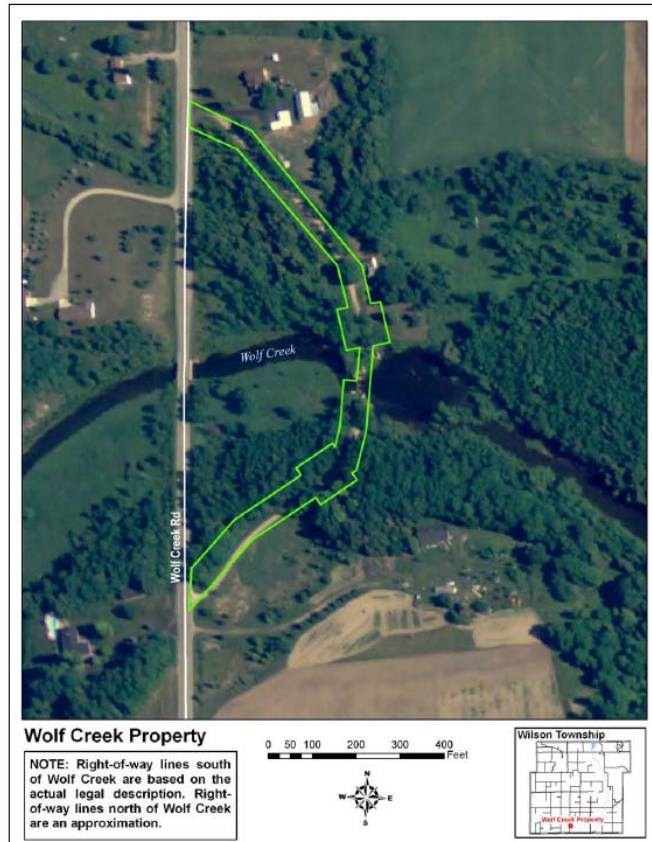


FIGURE 3-4 - WILSON TOWNSHIP WOLF CREEK PROPERTY

2. **Wilson Township Fire Hall and Township Offices** are located three miles south of M-32 on King Settlement Road. The Township Hall is open all year for community and social functions; the Hall is available for rent with banquet facilities and a dance floor. The Wilson Township Fire Hall serves as a location for an echo car service for public safety 2 days per week.

Type: A Special Use Facility. These buildings are the governmental center of Wilson Township.

Barrier Free Accessibility = 4. This facility is barrier-free.

3. **Wilson Township Cemetery** is located on King Settlement Road directly across from the Wilson Township Fire Hall and Township Offices.

Type: A Special Use Facility. These buildings are the governmental center of Wilson Township.

Barrier Free Accessibility = 4. This facility is barrier-free.

Wilson Township Recreation Map

Alpena County

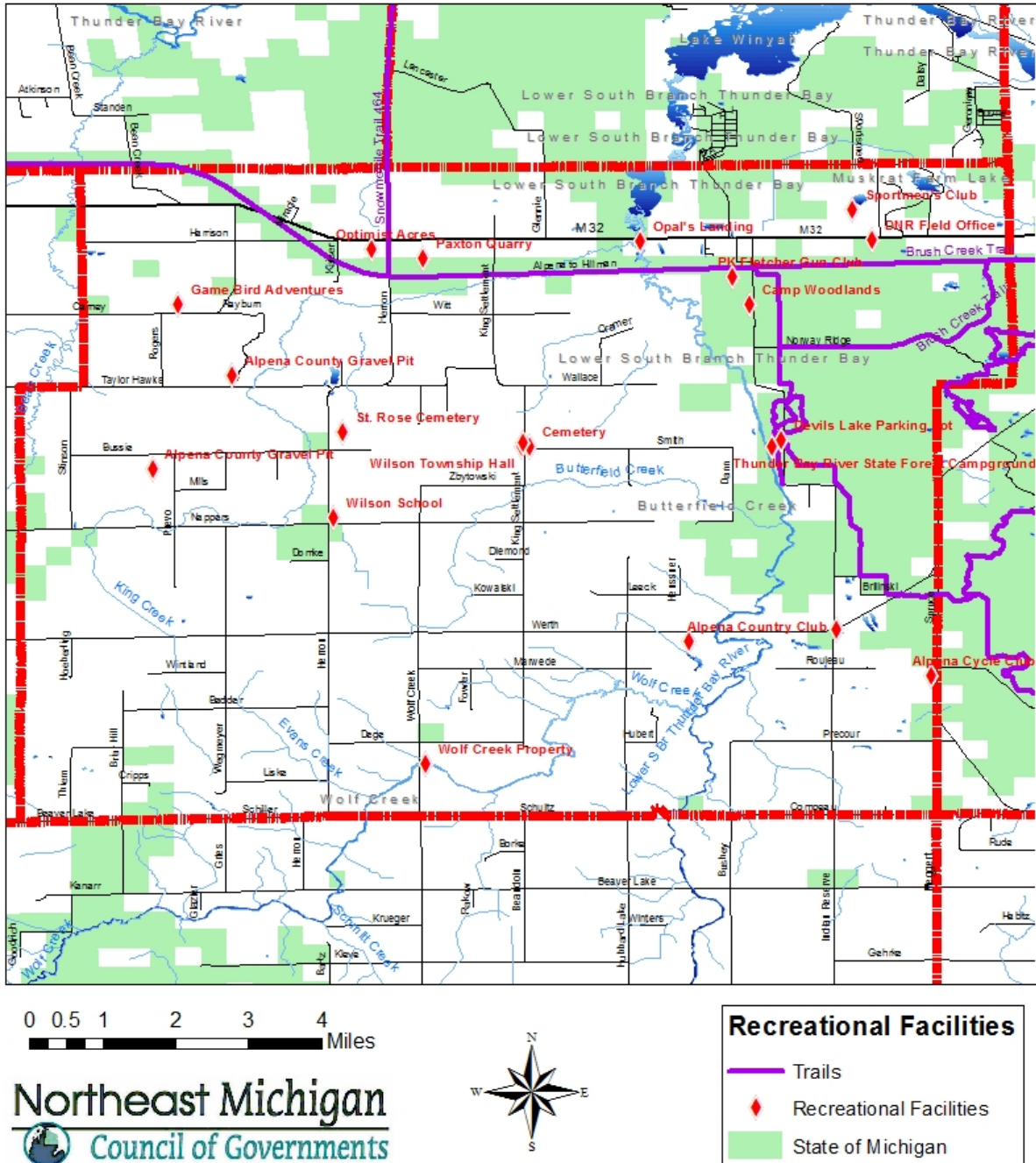


FIGURE 3-5 – WILSON TOWNSHIP RECREATION MAP

OTHER RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES WITHIN ALPENA COUNTY

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve

In October 2000, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve was designated as the nation's first freshwater sanctuary. The 448-square mile sanctuary and underwater preserve is located in Thunder Bay off the coast of Alpena County. It's boundaries extend from the north to south county lines and from the shoreline to longitude 83 degrees west. Not only is the Sanctuary/Preserve the first freshwater sanctuary, it is also the first sanctuary to focus solely on a large collection of underwater cultural resources and the first sanctuary to be located entirely within state waters. The Sanctuary is in the process of expanding its boundaries to include portions of the Alcona and Presque Isle Counties' coastal areas.

The focus of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve is on understanding the region's "maritime cultural landscape." While the shipwrecks of the Thunder Bay region are the most obvious underwater cultural resource, the sanctuary puts the shipwrecks in the larger context of the region's lighthouses, lifesaving stations, shipwreck salvage operations, and maritime economic activities.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve encourages and promotes recreational activities that include:

- Diving: charter, recreational and commercial
- Fishing: charter, recreational, and commercial
- Boating: recreational and commercial
- Research
- Education

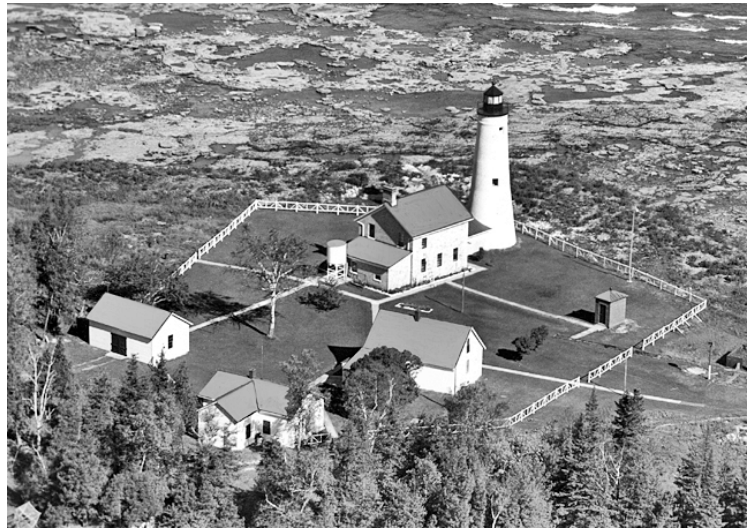
The NOAA protects and manages sanctuaries through the National Marine and Sanctuary System (NMSS). Because the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary and Preserve is entirely within Michigan waters, a Joint Management Committee was established with NOAA and the State participating as equal partners. The involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic in the community is vitally important to the protection of sanctuary resources. To help facilitate community stewardship, a Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) is established which is supported by NMSS. The 15 member council consists of local members from the community representing a variety of disciplines, interests and political subdivisions. Members are appointed by the director of NMSS and mutually agreed upon by NOAA and the State of Michigan. The primary duties of the SAC are to provide recommendations to NOAA and the State of Michigan concerning sanctuary development and to advise the Sanctuary/Preserve manager about management issues. Sanctuary/Preserve activities will focus on resource protection, education, and research. Priority activities include

placing mooring buoys at identified shipwrecks, initiating an inventory and documentation of shipwrecks, and developing a maritime heritage education program.

The Thunder Bay Sanctuary/Preserve Maritime Heritage Center has been developed in a refurbished building within the old Fletcher Paper Mill property along the Thunder Bay River. The museum, education and research center generates considerable activity and has become a focal point in the City of Alpena.

Thunder Bay Island

Thunder Bay Island sits 4 miles offshore from North Point in Alpena County at the northern edge of Thunder Bay. The Island is the outermost island in a group of islands connected to the north point of Thunder Bay by a shallow bank of numerous rocks, most of which are submerged. This 215 acre Island is composed of limestone bedrock and is covered with large boulders and gravel. A thin layer of soil supports a wide variety of plants and the absence of deer allows vegetation to grow without being browsed. The island is an important nesting site for a variety of bird species. Free from major carnivores, except the raccoon, large colonies of ring-billed gulls, common terns, herring gulls and caspian terns can be found raising their young on the island. Federal land use regulations apply to the island and wildlife and wildlife habitats are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Island has been part of the Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge since 1965.



One of the oldest light stations on Lake Huron is located on Thunder Bay Island. The light tower was first constructed in 1832 and was built to warn mariners of the dangerous reefs extending from the island. The lighthouse was built on the SE tip of the island with a tower of stucco covered brick, and a spiral staircase. In 1857 it was raised 10 feet and a fog signal added. The light keepers' quarters are attached. From 1832 to 1939 the Station was run by the U. S. Lighthouse Service, thereafter the U. S. Coast Guard manned it until it was automated in 1983. The lighthouse and accompanying buildings have long been abandoned and signs of deterioration are showing. The facility is currently undergoing restoration by the Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Squatters were attracted to the federally-owned island and by 1845, a large fishing community thrived there. One hundred and sixty people lived on the island with thirty-one fishing boats

harvesting twelve thousand barrels of fish each year. Faced with government action to remove them from the island, the trespassers picked up their belongings and relocated to nearby Sugar Island, where they stayed for years. At the present time, the most immediate concern for the Island is the rehabilitation of the lighthouse. Repairs are needed to keep the structure sound and restoration would be needed prior to public viewing. The Charter Township of Alpena received a land patent for the Bureau of Land Management in October of 2014 for the southern 43.08 acres containing all of the remaining structures including the light tower, keepers' quarters, fog signal building, and oil building (storage).

Multipurpose Rail-Trails

Rail-Trail Corridors provide the foundation of a non-motorized dedicated trail system in the region. The North Eastern State Trail (NEST) and Alpena to Hillman Trail are part of a larger network of regional trails that cover over 280 miles throughout Northern Michigan. These trails connect multiple communities, parks, public forests, private forests and water features.

The NEST was completed in 2011. Users can walk, bicycle, horseback ride or snowmobile 71 miles from Alpena to Cheboygan. The trail runs from Woodward Avenue in the City of Alpena to the Lincoln Street in City of Cheboygan where it merges with the North Central State Trail which runs south 45 miles to Gaylord or northwest 16 miles to Mackinaw City. The NEST has a 10' wide packed crushed limestone surface with two foot shoulders, new safety signs, access control features and mile marker posts. The trail use, determined by the DNR, is for all non- motorized users year round and snowmobiles from December 1 through March 31. This project was a collaboration between two state departments, local governments and a non-profit organization. The Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC) led the effort to help assemble a 3.1 million dollar funding package which included gaining 5% of the project costs from local governments, individuals and organizations. The Michigan Department of Transportation completed the engineering and project oversight while the Michigan Department of Natural Resources oversaw the project implementation and will continue to manage and maintain the facility. The trail now creates a link across northeast Michigan on the former Detroit to Mackinaw Railroad connecting Alpena, Posen, Hawks, Millersburg, Onaway, Aloha and Cheboygan.



Trails of all kinds are promoted in northern Michigan through the UpNorthTrails.org website. All trails whether they are motorized or non-motorized are depicted on an interactive map. Descriptions of the trail as well as the legal trail uses are included on this map. This site can be viewed at www.upnorthtrails.org.

The Alpena to Hillman Trail (also known as the Paxon Spur) is an abandoned rail grade that is 22.3 miles long, connecting the City of Alpena to the Village of Hillman. The trail is primarily used by snowmobiles in the winter, although all non-motorized users may use the trail. The surface is dirt, cinder and ballast, and not currently ADA accessible. There are gates on the trail and they are closed and locked during the summer months. The trails are still opened for non-

motorized use, but the user must enter around the gates. There is a private elk farm right along the trail where users can view the elk.

Some action items for a potential partnership should include:

- a. Improvements and surfacing of the Alpena to Hillman Rail-Trail to allow for expanded year round non-motorized transportation. This would mirror the North Eastern State Trail, which still supports snowmobile usage during months with adequate snow cover.
- b. Add amenities and access points along the NEST.
- c. Improve the surface and accessibility for the Alpena to Hillman Trail.
- d. Add amenities, trailhead and access points along the Alpena to Hillman Trail.

CITY OF ALPENA RECREATION INVENTORY

The City of Alpena is an industrial community located in the northeastern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. With its eastern boundary on the shoreline of Lake Huron, the City borders the Township of Alpena to the north, south and west. As the only city in Alpena County, it is the center for financial, educational, cultural and medical needs for area residents. Recognized as part of the "Sunrise Side" of Michigan, the City of Alpena has become increasingly popular as a vacation and retirement community.

The City of Alpena Parks and Recreation Inventory can be viewed in their most recent [Recreation Plan for 2016-2020](#).

City Recreation Property

Arthur Sytek Park located on the Thunder Bay River at the bridge on Bagley Street. This one-half acre wildflower park was developed by the Thunder Bay Watershed Council. The park has a canoe launch site, a barrier free fishing platform with a roof, a shelter and off-street parking. The park serves as a trailhead for the Bi-Path. The property is leased by the City to the Alpena County Road Commission, which maintains the park.

Avery Park located on N. Second Avenue, on the north side of the Second Avenue Bridge. This 0.4-acre open green space showplaces a large historic four-faced bronze clock, historic gaslights and historic park benches. The park complements the aesthetics of the adjacent "Old Town Alpena" and the historic downtown area.

Bay View Park located on State Avenue on Lake Huron, adjacent to the Municipal Small Boat Harbor. This is one of the City's largest developed parks with multiple year-round uses. It contains four tennis courts, three basketball courts, and a multipurpose open lawn area. There is an area of shoreline, space for picnics and an open field for low profile activity. There is the Fine Arts Band shell, which is used for summer band concerts, community celebrations and by various groups for other occasions. A fenced, fully equipped young children's playground, developed by and maintained in partnership with the Alpena Kiwanis Club, is another of the facilities available at this site. Public restrooms are located on Harbor Drive. The Bi-Path runs

through the park and connects the park to other recreation areas. The Alpena Yacht Club is located within the Park on property leased from the City.

Bi-Path is a bicycle and pedestrian pathway system, which has been developed throughout the City. This marked bikeway connects with the Alpena Charter Township section that parallels US 23 from the city limits at Thunder Bay Avenue to Bare Point Road. Inside the City limits, residents and visitors are able to bike, walk, roller blade and skateboard on the 18.53 miles of paved pathway and can access all the waterfront parks in the city. In a cooperative city/county effort, a section of the bikeway follows the shore of the Thunder Bay River through the Alpena County Fairgrounds. Discussions with the Alpena County Road Commission are ongoing for the possible future extension of the pathway along Bagley Road from M-32 to Long Rapids Road.

Blair Street Park located at the end of Blair Street on Lake Huron. This .4-acre park contains 173 feet of Thunder Bay frontage and a refurbished handicapped-accessible pier for fishing, a picnic area with tables and grills, concrete bike paths connecting the State Avenue bike path to the pier and off-street parking.

Culligan Plaza is a small public space located on Chisholm St. at Second Ave. It contains a water fountain and a large public fountain.

Island Park located on the Thunder Bay River, at the corner of U.S. 23 and Long Rapids Road. This 17-acre island is owned by the City and developed and maintained by the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board with the help of the Alpena Volunteer Center. The island has 4,400 feet of water frontage. This natural area preserves the rich ecosystems with the flora and the fauna natural to the area. Access to this area is gained by way of a concrete bridge, which is closed to vehicles. (A key may be obtained to drive to a handicapped-accessible viewing area.) Nature/hiking trails crisscross the Island, providing abundant opportunity for observation and study of nature and wildlife. The opportunity for fishing is provided by fishing platforms at the water's edge. Canoe, kayak, and bike rentals are available. The City of Alpena developed a comprehensive River Plan in 1995, which includes Island Park and the Thunder Bay River Corridor. The **Wildlife Sanctuary** is located adjacent to the Island Park. It consists of 600 acres and is home to a variety of native fauna and flora.

Adjoining the Island is **Duck Park**. This 2.5-acre park has 1,200 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage. It complements the natural setting of Island Park by offering an area for more developed recreational uses and vehicular parking. It is also the proposed site of the River Center and adjoining boardwalk from which a range of recreational and educational activities relating to the river area can be provided. The site includes picnic tables, an area for rest, as well as off-street parking. Ducks, swan, geese, and other wildfowl gather at this site. Recent improvements to this park include a covered pedestrian bridge to Island Park and a water tower.

Kurrasch Park is located adjacent to the Kurrasch housing project on Fourth Avenue. This 1.48-acre neighborhood park has 1,200 feet of waterfront. Only partially developed, the park has limited playground equipment and an open field area. The housing commission office building is situated on the property and has a community room that is suitable for many indoor recreational activities.

LaMarre Park located at Eighth and River Street intersection, on the Thunder Bay River and owned by the City of Alpena. This 1.5-acre site includes 367 feet of wooden pier at water's edge for fishing; interpretative signs; picnic tables and benches; and off-street parking; and is frequently used as a trailhead to access the City bi-path system.

McRae Park located at the intersection of North Second Avenue and Hueber Street. This park includes four fenced youth/women's ball fields (three 60-foot base fields and one 90-foot base field); two T-ball fields; a children's play area; four tennis courts; two basketball courts; two paved parking lots; a small concession/restroom building; and a park shelter which is used for meetings and social events. General oversight and maintenance of this park is conducted by the McRae Park Association.

Mich-e-ki-wis Park/Starlite Beach located on Lake Huron along State Avenue, between Thunder Bay Avenue and Bingham Street. This park is one of the largest developed City-owned recreation areas in Alpena. The park also includes two children's play areas with three children's play structures; warming building; restrooms with two family restrooms; pavilion; two youth/women's ball fields; a mini skateboard park (designed for beginner and younger skateboard riders); BMX bike park; volleyball courts; picnic areas; two beaches – Starlite and Mich-e-ke-wis; off street parking; and the City's bikeway, the Bi-Path, that runs along the shore. More recently a Rotary Splash Park was created on the site by cooperative effort of the Rotary Club of Alpena and the City of Alpena.



Riverfront Park located near the mouth of the Thunder Bay River, within the City's downtown area. This park actually consists of two park areas separated by the Thunder Bay River: North Riverfront Park and South Riverfront Park.

Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park is located on Ninth Avenue near the Ninth Avenue Bridge. A collaborative effort between a skateboarding/in-line skating group, concerned citizens, and the City resulted in the development of this community recreational skateboarding

park. The project began in 1997 by a group of area youth involved in Get Excited And Rally (GEAR), with the help of many community supporters. As the proposal gained recognition, committees were formed and public information sessions were held. In the spring of 1998, this well-planned project resulted in the selection of Water Tower Park on Ninth Avenue as the location for the skateboarding facility. With youth and adults working together, the central location of Water Tower Park provides recreational opportunities for skateboarding and in-line skating. Stunt bikes are not allowed at the facility. Although the park is youth-oriented, it provides all residents of the City of Alpena with the opportunity to participate in this popular activity in a safe and user-friendly environment. A second mini-skate park for beginners was constructed in 2006.

North Riverfront Park located off Fletcher Street, behind the Post Office. This park has 570 feet of river frontage. A parking lot and boat launch is provided on this site.

South Riverfront Park located on the south side of the River. With approximately 850 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage, it consists of three parcels of land. The first parcel, owned by the City, is that area directly behind the National Guard Armory. Uses of this site include dock fishing, passive recreation and docking of larger watercraft. There are also significant landscaping, lighting, concrete walkways, benches and a parking lot. The second parcel, owned by the U.S. Government, is that area directly behind the Federal Building. It has dock fishing, dockage for large watercraft, paved parking lot and an open green space area. A partial easement has been granted to the City for passive recreational use. The third parcel, owned by the City, is that area directly behind the Alpena Power Company building. Facilities include a parking lot and a walkway along the River. The triangular-shaped property between the parking lot and the river walkway has been landscaped to increase the attractiveness of the entire area. Recreational uses of this park include dock fishing, docking of watercraft and passive recreation.

Thomas Stafford Dog Park – opened in 2018 behind the Alpena Post Office at North Riverfront Park. The dog park provides a completely fenced in beautiful view of the Thunder Bay River, benches, water spigot, mutt mitts, garbage receptacles, and plenty of tunnels and play space.

Thomson Park located on State Avenue on Lake Huron, midway between Starlite Beach and Bay View Park. With 160 feet of Thunder Bay frontage, this park has an excellent swimming beach, which is used quite heavily. Several picnic tables and a bike rack are available. A portable restroom facility is placed at the park during the summer months.

Veteran's Memorial Park is a small "pocket park" located at Washington and Second Avenue in downtown Alpena. It contains benches and a memorial to local veterans.

Washington Avenue Park is located on Washington Ave. at Eleventh Avenue. This 3.8-acre park has 1,650 feet of scenic frontage on the Thunder Bay River. Picnic tables, an area for rest, fishing access and off-street parking is available. This park is also a gathering place for wildfowl.

Cemeteries - Evergreen Cemetery, Hebrew Cemetery, Holy Cross and Grace Lutheran Cemetery are located within the City limits of Alpena on the west side of the City on Washington Avenue. Evergreen Cemetery, located on Washington Avenue near the west entrance to the City, was dedicated to the City in September 1859, and is 61 acres in size. All developed areas of the cemetery are under irrigation. The Grace Lutheran (SIZE) and Hebrew (SIZE) cemeteries are also operated and maintained by the City. The City Bi-Path runs along the Thunder Bay River, between the river's edge and the cemeteries. Holy Cross Cemetery (SIZE), located across Washington Avenue from Evergreen Cemetery is a Catholic cemetery and is operated and maintained by several area Catholic churches. These cemeteries also provide open space in a beautiful setting, with a maintained landscape and an interesting variety of shrubs and trees.

Other Public Parks in the City of Alpena

Alpena Regional Trailhead The project has restrooms, a pavilion, parking areas and bike racks, all near the North Eastern State Trail's southern terminus at Woodward Avenue.

North Riverfront Park is located off Fletcher Street near the mouth of the Thunder Bay River within the City's downtown area, behind the Post Office. This park has 570 feet of river frontage. A parking lot and boat launch is provided on this site. Amenities in the park include benches, picnic tables, walkways, water and power access throughout the park, a drinking fountain, a cantilevered walkway with barrier free access and rail sections allowing fishing for all parties, and an irrigation system to ensure the livelihood of plant material and reduce runoff to the river.

South Riverfront Park is located on the south side of the River within the City's downtown area, behind the former Alpena Power Company building, Federal Building, and Memorial Hall. With approximately 850 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage, the site consists of three parcels of land. In 2005, the amenities of the entire park were upgraded with grant funds received from the State's Cool Cities Pilot Program. A colored, stenciled concrete walkway, the first phase of the City's historic river walk, was constructed. Wrought iron safety railing was installed along the head pier and an irrigation system was installed throughout the park. Historic-style pedestrian lights, gazebo, drinking fountain, and wrought iron benches were also installed. Historic markers detailing the history and use of the Thunder Bay River were developed in partnership with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve and installed along the new walkway. Recreational uses of this park include dock fishing, broadside moorage of watercraft and passive recreation. It is also used as the venue for local festivals.

Rotary Island Mill Park is located in the Thunder Bay River between Sixth and Seventh Streets. Owned by the Rotary Club of Alpena, this park was developed for recreational use with fishing sites and pathways. In 2007, a pedestrian bridge linking the island to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail was installed. This bridge established a connected, non-motorized pathway to both sides of the Thunder Bay River. It also effectively integrated the island into the City park

system. In 2008, the Rotary Club signed a maintenance agreement with the City of Alpena whereas the City will maintain specified improvements on the island in exchange for a public access easement across the island.

School Properties

Aces Academy is located at 700 Pinecrest and is owned by the Alpena School District. Previously used as an elementary school building, this two-acre site has one ball field for unorganized play. ACES Academy offers a nine-hole disc golf course on campus that is free to the public. Disc golf is played like "ball golf" except you throw a special disc. Holes are replaced by baskets and chains. The course is well marked and rules and information on how to play are posted at the entrance, which is located in the front parking lot of the school. Discs can be purchased at Direct Skate Shop in Alpena.

Alpena Community College, Main Campus located at 666 Johnson Street. Within the area bounded by U.S. 23, Hamilton Road, Long Lake Avenue, Johnson Street and/or the Thunder Bay River sprawls 704 acres of property belonging to Alpena Community College. Presently, the central campus buildings are located on this property as well as a 400-acre section devoted to field resource study. An athletic campus features softball fields, nature trails and a skeet range. The property includes 1,600 feet of Thunder Bay frontage and encompasses a portion of the present BiPath system. Between Long Lake Avenue and Woodward exists a large area of property, part of that is woodland; the rest is open meadow. Alpena Community College extends its philosophy of shared partnership with the community to its land uses and the functions such land should carry out. The potential uses of these lands present the opportunity for joint planning with other community partners who share ACC's vision of what is most needed and what can best utilize the recreational resources of this property. The BiPath follows the 1,600 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage along Johnson Street and adjoins the college's main campus. The possibility for other developments utilizing this river frontage is great. Among other options are canoeing, dockage, and other river recreation. The athletic campus contains two men's softball fields, a skeet range, and some nature trails. Expansion of this area offers many possibilities, as does the 400-acre field resource study area.

Alpena Senior High School located at 3303 S. Third Street. This 50-acre site, owned by the Alpena School District, has a natatorium, four tennis courts (both owned by the county); gymnasium a football stadium; hardball field; softball field; two multipurpose fields; an outdoor track, and off-street parking.

Besser Elementary School located at 375 Wilson Street. The four-acre property, owned by the Alpena School District, has a gymnasium, two youth/women's ball fields, a multi-purpose ball field, a playground and off-street parking.

Ella White Elementary School located at 201 N. Ripley. This two and one-half acre site, owned by the Alpena School District, has a gym, one ball field for unorganized play, a basketball court, a playground and off-street parking.

Gordon School Building is located south of the City on Gordon Road. Owned by Alpena Public School District, this site has one baseball diamond that is used by the Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League. A portion of the building serves as administrative offices for the school system and the remaining part of the facility is leased to the Northeast Michigan Community Services Agency.

Hinks Elementary School is situated on 39 acres on U.S. 23 North at the south end of Long Lake, is owned by the Alpena Public School District. Recreational facilities on the site include a gymnasium, nature trails, baseball diamond, basketball hoops soccer field, and a playground. Although these recreational facilities are principally intended for school use, they are open for public use after school hours.

Lincoln Elementary School is located at 309 W. Lake Street. This two-acre site, owned by the Alpena School District, has a gymnasium, a basketball court, a playground, and off-street parking.

Sanborn Elementary School Pukwegee Little League Baseball Diamond/School is located at the intersection of U.S. 23 and Nicholson Hill Road and is owned by Alpena School District. The ball field is fenced and includes a backstop, dugouts, one set of bleachers, two restrooms, a concession stand and a storage building. Playground equipment includes a jungle gym, a slide, a teeter-totter, two basketball hoops, two swing sets and a merry-go-round. Double tennis courts with nets and backstops are also provided. Convenient off road parking invites heavy daytime use during the peak summer season and moderate use, mostly by families and community groups during the off-season.

Thunder Bay Junior High School is located at 3500 S. Third Ave. This 77 acre campus is a single level building, allowing handicapped access to all classrooms. This campus includes a forested outdoor environmental study area with a stream running through the property, two softball fields, track and field course, football field, three outdoor basketball courts, four tennis courts and complete physical education facilities

Wilson School is located at 4999 Herron Road. Owned by the Alpena Public School System, the 10acre property has a school gymnasium, playground and athletic fields. These recreational facilities are primarily intended for school use, but are available for public use after school hours. Many of the playground structures have been upgraded and safety bark has been installed. Playground structures include: three sets of swings, two wooden climbing structures, two metal climbing structures, several slides, a large play structure, tires, a seating area, hanging loops, a funnel ball game, a four-person teeter-totter, learning stations, and a basketball court.

Publicly Owned Recreation Property

Devil's Lake Snowmobile Trail and Devils Swamp Snowmobile Trail are located off Werth Road. These trails circle the length of Devil's Lake and include 26 miles of the Mackinaw State Forest. MDNR owns this land and has developed it for recreational use. The snowmobile trails are maintained by the Alpena Snowmobile Association.

Devil's Lake Wildlife Flooding Area is located around Devil's Lake. This site is owned by the MDNR and although it remains undeveloped, it is of interest to those who enjoy nature and wildlife observation in a quiet setting.

A Public Access Site is located at Partridge Point in Sections 10 and 11 of T30N, R8E. Owned by the MDNR, this site provides access to the waters of Thunder Bay in Lake Huron.

Middle Island Lighthouse is located on Middle Island in Lake Huron, approximately 1.5 miles east of Rockport and is operated by the Coast Guard. The rest of the island, the lighthouse keeper's quarters, two privies, and a tool shed are privately owned and are currently being restored.

Fletcher Pond DNR Public Access to Fletcher Pond is located off Jack's Landing Road on Fishing Site Road. This site consists of approximately 10 acres and is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It has a boat launching ramp, a fishing site, a comfort station and a parking area.

Gleason Ball Field is located three miles north of M-32 on M-65. Situated on M-65, the field has bleachers, a backstop and limited fencing.

Long Rapids Park is located on the Thunder Bay River just south of Long Rapids Road off M-65. The 10-acre natural area is primarily used as a canoe launch. It also serves as a scenic roadside park with a picnic site and outdoor toilet facilities.

Long Rapids Township Hall is located on M-65 in Long Rapids approximately 3 miles north of M-32. This building has a capacity of 400-500 people with meeting rooms, cooking facilities and a gymnasium with a basketball court. In the winter months an area outside the building is flooded for use as an ice rink. For more convenient use of the facility, an elevator is being considered to allow easier handicapped access. The hall is available for rent by community residents for social and recreational activities.

Long Rapids Township Fire Hall is located on M-65 in Long Rapids.

Long Rapids Township Cemetery is located on M-65 in Long Rapids.

Maple Ridge Township Park is located on the west side of LaComb Road on the North Branch of the Thunder Bay River. It is comprised of 45 rustic acres with picnic grounds, hiking trails, and a canoe launch. A popular attraction is the picturesque wooden bridge that leads to an island area. Recent improvements to the park include a newly constructed pavilion and

additional playground equipment. Other playground equipment includes a teeter-totter and a large sanded area. A storage building is located on site and outdoor toilet facilities are available. Although there is no electricity at the park, improvement plans include the addition of power lines.

Maple Ridge Ball Park is located on Cathro Road in Cathro. This township ballpark is used by residents and ball clubs. The facility includes two dugouts, a backstop, bleachers and fencing.

A River Access site is located in section 12 T31N, R7E of the township in lot 5 of the Thunder Bay Village East Shore Subdivision. This property was purchased from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and includes approximately 50 feet of frontage on the Thunder Bay River. This property is undeveloped.

A River Access is located at the end of Mabel Avenue in section 15, T32N, R7E provides access to the South Branch of the Thunder Bay River. This property is undeveloped.

Maple Ridge Township Hall is located at 6010 LaComb Road at the intersection of Dietz Road. Facilities include a meeting room, restrooms and a basement kitchen/eating area. A bar area and separate dance floor are located on the ground floor. The hall is available for rent and can accommodate 150-200 people. Maple Ridge Township offices are located at 6000 LaComb Road. The office is attached to the Township Hall and provides office space for Township officials.

Maple Ridge Township Volunteer Fire Department is located next to the Township Hall on LaComb Road.

Pilgrim's Rest Cemetery is located on Bolton Road on 2.66 acres of Township land.

Sanborn Township Launching Site is located off Washington Avenue near the mouth of the Devil's River. The site has a parking area, pit toilets and a paved boat launch. It is a cooperative effort between the Township and the DNR.

Shin-ga-ba Shores Playground is located on Ossineke Road off of U.S. 23 South and adjacent to the Baseball Fields. The playground was constructed in 1998 by community support and donations. The playground consists of 8,500 square feet of playground equipment that was designed by the children and is a real asset to the Ossineke area. A 26-foot totem pole was added along with picnic tables and a brick walkway with names was installed in 2002. The community maintains the equipment on a yearly basis to keep it looking new.

Ossineke State Forest Campground is located on the shore of Lake Huron. It has 42 campsites, picnic tables, fire pits, water pumps and eight toilets. A small picnic area has four tables, fire pits and grills. The campground also has a non-motorized hiking trail and a sandy beach. There is no boat launch site.

Ossineke Sports Park is located adjacent to the Sanborn School ball diamond in the northwest corner of section 23 T29N, R8E. Alpena Public Schools owns the property and it is currently leased to the Ossineke Chamber of Commerce. With a grant from Michigan's Neighborhood Builder's Alliance Program, improvements were made that included a soccer field, fenced ball diamond, dugouts, a broadcast booth and restroom facilities.

Wellington Township Hall is located on .5 acres of land at the intersection of Long Rapids Road and Collins Road. Used for public meeting and social events, the hall is available for rent.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Boat Launch Site is located off of East Nicholson Hill Road on the shore of Lake Huron. Owned by the MDNR, this four-acre site has one concrete ramp for shallow draft boats. With a parking area for 30 cars, this site would normally receive medium to heavy use, however, Due to the low water levels, this launch has not been used.

Mackinaw State Forest is located in multiple townships. Covering 7,000 acres, this State forest is designated for multipurpose recreational and forestry use. Hunting is the primary recreation with hiking and nature observation opportunities also available.

Alpena to Hillman Trail traverses the northern portion of Wilson Township south of M-32 until the trail crosses M-32 immediately east of Emerson Road. The trail head is located just outside the City of Alpena. The Alpena to Hillman Trail follows State land and is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The trail offers opportunities for snowmobiles, hiking, and mountain biking (some sections impassable for mountain bikers). The trail is groomed in the winter months by the Alpena Sno-Drifters.

Indian Reserve Devils Lake Parking Lot provides parking for trail users in the area (snowmobile, hiking, biking, skiing, and horse).

Negwegon State Park is located in sections 27, 27, 34 and 35 of T29N, R8E in the township. The park consists of approximately 1,720 acres in Alpena County and an additional 1,265 acres is located in Alcona County. The park is a day-use facility with hiking trails, parking and pit toilets, which are located in Alcona County.

Norway Ridge Pathway is located 4.5 miles southwest of the City of Alpena, in the eastern portion of Wilson Township and the western portion of Alpena Charter Township. As part of the Mackinaw State Forest, the pathway has 4.5 miles of groomed trails and is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The Thunder Bay Trails Association assists with trail maintenance and improvement. Recreation opportunities include cross country skiing during the winter months and mountain biking/hiking during the spring, summer and fall. The trailhead for the Norway Ridge Pathway is off Werth Road.

Chippewa Hills Pathway is located approximately 11 miles west of Ossineke on Nicholson Hill Road in the Mackinaw State Forest. It is one of the best groomed cross-country ski trails in northeastern Michigan. It is also open to mountain biking, following a roller-coaster route through cedar swamp and dense trees. For the most part it is high and dry and mostly singletrack. The path, like most other Michigan cross-country pathways, is amply marked and relatively hazard-free, except for a few sandy patches.

Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground is located six miles south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road. Owned by the State of Michigan, this campground is situated in the Mackinaw State Forest on the Thunder Bay River. It covers **20** acres of land and has 17 rustic campsites, well water, picnic tables, fire rings, toilets and a picnic area. This campground offers opportunities for canoeing, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Also, hiking and mountain biking are available on the 1.5-mile Wah-Wah-Tas-See Pathway. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources closed this campground as of July 9, 2007.

PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATIONAL ASSETS

The following is a listing of privately owned recreation property within Alpena County. Due to the difficulty of identifying all sites and the dynamic nature of this economic sector, this is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all private recreation opportunities.

City of Alpena

A-Plex is located on Woodward Avenue across the street from Alpena Community College's student housing and the World Center for Concrete Technology. The facility has a gymnasium, four indoor tennis courts, a fitness facility, conference space, aerobic areas, as well as a spa & sauna. Initially owned by Besser Company, APlex was gifted in 2005 to the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. In 2007, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan granted the facility to the Park Family Foundation, and the Park Family Foundation remains the owner to this day. APlex is home to the Alpena Tennis Association, and has numerous gym rentals for cheerleading/tumbling, karate, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball and soccer. APlex hosts numerous events, such as trade shows, as well social occasions. In spring of 2009, construction of 4 outdoor beach volleyball courts was completed to accommodate and enhance the growing league that utilizes courts at Mich-e-ke-wis.

Alpena Civic Theatre (ACT) is located at 401 River Street. This community-based group presents live theatre for area residents from September through May. Special summertime presentations are designed for audiences with children. Children are included in the cast. The building is owned by the City and leased to ACT.

Alpena Yacht Club is located at 250 Prentiss Street on the Lake Huron shoreline. Situated across from the Small Boat Harbor, this private club provides recreational activities for members/guests.

Alpena Youth Club is located on Long Rapids Plaza. As a private, non-profit agency, this facility offers the youth of Alpena a variety of specialized entertainment options. A flexible programming schedule allows for time, space and equipment to be available for unscheduled recreational activities.

AMC Classic State 3 Cinema is located at 206 N 2nd Avenue in the City of Alpena. With three movie screens, this theater offers residents many entertainment choices all year round.

Boys and Girls Club of Alpena is located at 601 River Street. This private, non-profit organization offers programming, space and equipment for youth recreational and educational activities.

Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan is located at 491 Johnson Street. Bounded by the Alpena Civic and Convention Center to the west and Alpena Community College to the east, the museum is an intricate part of many of Alpena's cultural/recreational opportunities. A recent addition is a fossil park that is open spring, summer and fall.

Charter Fishing boats are available through several private contractors from April through October.

Great Lakes Divers - Centrally located in downtown Alpena, Michigan, Great Lakes Divers has been facilitating underwater adventures in Northeast Michigan and Lake Huron for over 40 years. Great Lakes Divers operates a full-service dive shop, offering sales, dive instruction, air-fills, rentals, repairs, salvage, and dive and snorkel charters.

Lee's Miniature Golf is located at 1016 South State Avenue. It has a mini-golf course with putting green. Game machines are provided in the small rental equipment area. This recreational opportunity is available from Memorial Day to Labor Day and is well lit for evening players.

Ninth Avenue Dam is located at the Ninth Avenue Bridge on the Thunder Bay River. Owned by Thunder Bay Power Company, this one-acre site offers fishing access and parking area.

Sky Theater Planetarium is also a permanent part of the Jesse Besser museum. It offers regularly scheduled as well as special showings in a theater-like setting. Available to all area residents over five years of age, the Planetarium is accessed with an admission fee.

Thunder Bay Shores (City) Marina is located at 400 East Chisholm Street at the Small Boat Harbor. The City contracts with a private company to operate the marina. The facility provides boating related services for residents and visitors to the Alpena area. Acting as a communications center for boaters in the waters of Thunder Bay, the marina cooperates with the U.S. Coast Guard during search and rescue missions. It also posts severe weather warnings. Services include full-time staff, fueling station, 35-ton boat hoist, fish cleaning station, boater's restrooms, a marina store, and marine repair facilities. The City's Bi-Path system runs along the

top of the breakwall. The City Marina contains 58 seasonal and 77 transient boater slips. Courtesy docks, a launch ramp, and broadside moorage are also available.

Thunder Bay Scuba is located on Ripley Street. It offers charter services for recreational shipwreck diving. Dockside air stations and rental diving gear is available. Scuba gear sales and service are on-site with scuba diving lessons available.

Thunder Bay Theatre (TBT) is located at 400 North Second Avenue. Situated in Alpena's "Old Town" area, this professional theatre group presents live productions on a year round basis. As the only resident professional ensemble in northeast Michigan, the TBT company ranges in size from eight to thirty actors.

Alpena Charter Township

Dodge Marina and Storage is located at 10782 Long Lake Park Road on the southeast side of Long Lake. Recreational opportunities at this facility include paddleboat and outboard motor rentals, fuel, bait, a game room and snack bar.

Thunder Bowl, Inc. is located at 2192 U.S. 23 South just outside the City limits of Alpena. It features 36 bowling lanes, a snack bar and billiard/game room. League times and open bowling opportunities are available all year long.

Alpena Golf Club is located at 1135 Golf Course Road on 150 acres of land. Although this club is owned by its members, it is open to the public. It features an 18 hole regulation golf course with irrigated fairways, a driving range, a practice putting green and rental electric and pull carts. The clubhouse includes a fully equipped kitchen an enlarged dining room and pro shop. A PGA golf professional is on site and available for lessons for the beginner and advanced golfer.

Four Mile Dam is located on the Thunder Bay River in T31N, R8E of section 17 of Alpena Charter Township. It is owned by Thunder Bay Power Company and has three recreation areas in the vicinity of the Dam and all of them are accessible to the public.

- Access Site #1 is located adjacent to the Dam at the end of Four Mile Road. This 2-acre site provides access to fishing with ample parking near the powerhouse. There is canoe portage around the left end of the Dam. Thunder Bay Power Company Plans to improve the parking and portage areas and provide handicapped accessible toilet facilities
- Access Site #2 is located across the Thunder Bay River from the Dam and provides an informal access to the impoundment for fishing opportunities and nature observation
- Access Site #3 is located .6 mile to the west of both Site #1 and Site #2. This 6-acre site is accessible to the public from Long Rapids Road and offers fishing opportunities with a gravel boat launch. Occasionally this site is used for overnight camping. Thunder Bay Power Company plans to improve the boat launch and parking area.

The Arzo located on US-23 North provides miniature golf, bumper cars, a full size indoor carousel, and other family related activities.

Green Township

Bradley's Paradise Lodge Resort is located at 16991 Taylor Hawks Road in Lachine. This privately owned facility offers access to the waters of Fletcher Pond, 75 camping sites (25 with electricity), bathroom facilities, boat rentals, cabin rentals, a playground and a restaurant.

Upper South Dam is located on the Thunder Bay River in T30N, R5E in section 2 of the township. The Thunder Bay Power Company owns the property and provides two sites for public access.

Moore's Landing Campground is located at 17120 Moore's Landing Road and offers 20 primitive individual sites.

Killions Landing is located at 5428 Emils Landing Road and offers 30 modern individual sites.

Jacks Landing Resort is located at 20836 Tennis Road and offers a restaurant, cabin rentals, 30 modern individual sites and has access to Fletcher's Pond.

Fletcher's Landing is located at 5614 Emils Landing Rd. Fletcher's Landing offers waterfront cabins located on the shores of the 9,000 acre fishing paradise that is Fletcher Pond. Accommodations consist of 14 waterfront cabins and duplexes that sleep three to six persons. Each features its own kitchen and private bathroom. Included is dock space, a campfire pit and picnic table. A boat launch is available or you can rent boats and motors. A tackle shop is also on site for fishing supplies.

Anglers Hideaway is located at 5883 Miller Road and has access to Fletcher's Pond. The resort has nine cabins and is open year round.

Fletcher's Pond - Public Access

Site A is located on 1 acre of land north of the dam. It offers fishing access and parking in the tail water (downstream) section. There is also a canoe portage around the dam. Thunder Bay Power Company has continued plans to organize the parking area, provide handicapped accessible toilet facilities and fishing area, and improve the portage area.

Site B is located on 1 acre of land to the south (upstream) from the dam. It offers an informal boat launch and access to Fletcher's Pond. The parking area and toilet facilities that were developed in 1997 at Site A also provide services for Site B.

Thunder Bay River access is located at the corner of M 32 and Calcut Rd.

Beaver Lake access is located on O'Brian Rd.

Long Rapids Township

Sinkholes are located west of the intersection of Leer Road and Maple Lane. There are two sinkholes located side-by-side at this site and they are referred to as the Stevens Twin Sinks. Purchased by the Michigan Karst Conservancy through donations and membership dues, both of these sinkholes are approximately 200 feet in diameter. One sinkhole is approximately 60 feet deep and the other is about 80 feet deep. Bruski Sink across Leer Road was donated to the Conservancy and made part of the Thunder Bay Karst Preserves.

The Michigan Karst Conservancy has spearheaded a volunteer effort to clean up debris and refuse which has been dumped into these sinkholes. Long-range goals include signs and parking facilities when the sites are opened for limited viewing by the public. In order to protect the unique vegetation and insure safety of viewers, access will be somewhat restricted and prior permission will be necessary before entering the area. Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan is acting as the point of contact since accessibility will likely be gained through guided tours in conjunction with the museum. The Karst Conservancy also owns other property in the Township, which encompasses part of another sinkhole that is privately owned. The Karst group may decide to acquire property that encompasses the entire sinkhole and eventually make available for supervised public viewing. The sinkholes are just a few of over 200, which are found in a 50-mile line from Thunder Bay to Black Lake. Alpena Charter Township's Long Lake is actually a sink. Some of the dry sinkholes in Alpena County range from 100 to 300 feet in diameter and up to 150 feet deep. Because these formations are rare in most areas, they are of interest to geologist and geographers as well as to casual visitors. Botanists are intrigued by the unusual flora, especially ferns and mosses that occur in cool and dark climate of the sinks. Since many of the sinkholes are located on private property, visitors should obtain permission from owners before entering the area.

Maple Rapids Township

Campers Cove Campground is located at 5055 Long Rapids Road on the Thunder Bay River. It offers campsites for tents and recreational vehicles. Some of the sites have electrical hook-ups. This facility has an indoor pool, sauna, game room, mini-golf and shuffleboard courts. Canoe/paddle boat/kayak rentals, fishing and swimming opportunities are available. Restrooms and laundry facilities are also on site.

Wes Point Shore is located at 5315 Long Rapids Road on the Thunder Bay River. The facility offers cabins, camping, boat rental, fishing canoeing and boating.

Norway Point (Seven Mile Dam) is located in section 12, T31N, R7E in the township. Although the property is owned by Thunder Bay Power Company, there are three sites available for use by the public.

Site 1 is a one-acre site located upstream from the Dam and offers access to the impoundment. This area is accessible off Long Rapids Road to the west of the Dam on the north side of the Thunder Bay River. This site includes a boat ramp, a restroom, and

an area for parking. Thunder Bay Power plans to improve the restroom facilities and the parking area. In addition, a shoreline fishing area is being considered as an addition to the existing boat launch. In 2003 a boat launch and small parking area will be developed on the south side of the impoundment.

Site 2 is a one acre site on the north side of the Thunder Bay River at the Dam and offers public access and canoe portage

Site 3 is a two-acre site on the south side of the Thunder Bay River at the Dam and offers tail water access and a parking area. In 2005 Thunder Bay Power Company plans to enlarge the parking area, provide handicapped accessible restroom and fishing area and improve canoe portage to include car top launch.

Ossineke Township

Hubbard Lake Lions Park is located .3 miles north of Hubert Road on Hubbard Lake Road. The 8.1-acre park has the following facilities: two ball diamonds, horseshoe pit, playground, basketball court, a double tennis court, picnic tables, restrooms, walk-in cooler, water well, outdoor ice rink, pavilion and asphalt driveway .

The Lions Park is use for family picnics, organized softball, children’s sports activities and the popular event known as “Manjidiwin Days”. Since 1984 this four-day event has been held the last weekend in June and includes music, street dancing, bike and foot races, a triathlon, tractor pulls, children’s games, and art fair, a softball tourney and other recreational events. A 99-year lease between the township and the Lions Club has made and additional 5.2 acres adjacent to the park available for park use. Reservations for community and social events are accepted for the pavilion.

Turtle Lake Club is the largest landowner in Ossineke Township, and partially within Green Township. With more than 9,300 acres, the Club owns more property in the township than the State of Michigan. This land covers 14 whole sections in T29N, R5E, and two half sections and one quarter section. In addition to the entire shoreline of Turtle Lake, the Club owns property in Montmorency County and Oscoda County. As a nonprofit corporation, Turtle Lake Club is the oldest hunting club east of the Mississippi River.

Sanborn Township

Dinosaur Gardens is located at 11160 U.S. 23 South. Situated on 40 acres, the property is split by the Devil’s River. This prehistoric zoo features life size reproductions of over 25 dinosaurs, birds and other prehistoric animals in a natural outdoor setting. During the warm summer months, an abundance of ferns, wildflowers and many types of trees native to Michigan are found along the picturesque woodland trail. An 18 hole miniature golf course, snack bar and gift shop are also located at this site.

Wilson Township

Camp Woodlands Girl Scout Camp is located three miles south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road and is surrounded by the Mackinaw State Forest. The camp, owned by the Mitten Bay Girl Scout Council, was completed in 1958 and has facilities for 36 people including a complete kitchen, three flush toilets, bunk beds and a large activity room with a fireplace. Camp Woodlands is available for rental and is used for various activities such as Cub Scout Day Camps. It consists of a main lodge building which has restroom facilities.

Alpena Sportsmen's Club is located at 4260 W. M-32. This 120 acre site is privately owned and includes Zim Lake. The 9,000 square foot club house is barrier free and is equipped with a 16 point indoor shooting range with an approved ventilating/air exchange system. The building also contains a meeting area, kitchen facilities and indoor rest rooms. A maintenance garage, a 100 yard shooting range, a 600 yard rifle range, and sporting clays are also located on the grounds. In addition to club members, the indoor range is also used by local police organizations, 4-H groups, rifle/pistol leagues, and archery league. The clubhouse is available for rent for community and social functions with a non-member fee.

Rivers Edge Country Club/Golf Course is located 0.5 mile east of the intersection of Werth Road and Hubbard Lake Road at 6373 Werth Road. Although it is a private club, non-members and guests are welcome. This facility offers an 18-hole golf course with water hazards and wooded terrain. Electric and pull carts are available for rent. A clubhouse with a restaurant, lounge and private banquet area is situated on this site as well as a driving range, putting green, pro shop, tennis court and swimming pool.

The Alpena Sno-Drifters office is located at the intersection of M-32 and Herron Road (description contained in Chapter 2 – Administrative Structure).

Alpena Cycle Club is located three miles south of Werth Road on Spruce Road. The Alpena Cycle Club will have been in existence 50 years in 2008. It began as a road riding motorcycle club, but has expanded to include events such as a Motocross (four were held in 2007), garden tractor pulls, and a Bump and Run.

Opal's Landing is located on M-32 West on the Thunder Bay River. It offers fishing and boat rentals.

Paxton Shale Quarry is located at the intersection of M-32 and King Settlement Road. The former quarry is owned by Lafarge and future plans are to continue to develop the 600-acre area as a wildlife habitat. The former quarry is now a lake which has been stocked with fish. Lafarge employees use the site, and the general public can use the area by making advance arrangements. In 2001, the area received certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council, a nonprofit that promotes habitat preservation on corporate lands.

Alpena Optimist Club has established "**Optimist Acres**" on M-32 at the junction of Herron Road. Located on 43 acres of land donated by LaFarge Corporation, this recreation area is youth

oriented and designed to provide year-round activities. With the Optimist motto “Friend of Youth”, this facility offers recreation opportunities that include a 100’ x 100’ ice skating rink, a pavilion and a ball diamond. The five year plan includes an ATV trail, a cross county running/ski track, a campground area, modern restrooms, portable bleachers and perimeter fencing.

PK Fletcher Gun Club: A Skeet Range owned by P.K. Fletcher is located two mile south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road.

Horse Facilities: Two private horse facilities exist within Wilson Township – A horse riding stable is located on Werth Road and an Arabian ranch is located on Spruce Road.

Game Bird Adventures: A private pheasant and quail hunting preserve is located at 10910 Carney Road. The facility is licensed by the Michigan DNR and has been in existence for 10 years. The facility offers pheasant and quail hunting for a fee.

RECREATION GRANT INVENTORIES

Alpena County Recreation Grant Inventory

Project Title: Long Lake Park

Project Number: 26-00153

Year: 1968

Grant Amount: \$27,000

Project Description: Acquisition of 56 acres, LWCF sign

Current Status: Since acquisition in 1968, the County has made continuous improvements to the park/campground. The park and its facilities are still used extensively and remain in good condition. Maintenance activities are performed continuously to ensure the park is safe and pleasurable to use.

Project Title: Alpena River Street Park

Project Number: 26-01023 Q1

Year: 1977

Grant Amount: \$32,016.94

Project Description:

Current Status: Property ownership transferred to the City of Alpena in February 1997.

Project Title: Plaza Pool Facility

Project Number: B89-645

Year: 1989

Grant Amount: \$45,000

Project Description: Improvements to Plaza Pool Facility to include replacement of roof, heating system repair, replace filters.

Current Status: The facilities are still used extensively and remain in good condition. Maintenance activities are performed continuously to ensure the park is safe and pleasurable to use.

Project Title: Plaza Pool Improvement Phase II

Project Number: BF91-157

Year: 1991

Grant Amount: \$39,600

Project Description: Repair building exterior, repair and repaint ceiling, replace pool vacuum and diving board, provide electronic water treatment unit.

Current Status: The facilities are still used extensively and remain in good condition. Maintenance activities are performed continuously to ensure the park is safe and pleasurable to use.

Project Title: Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility

Project Number: CM00-133

Year: 2000

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Project Description: Construct a new multi-purpose building to include a year-round ice surface, walking/jogging track, public lockers/restrooms, meeting room, concession, and spectator seating. AKA Northern Lights.

Current Status: The facilities are still used extensively and remain in good condition. Maintenance activities are performed continuously to ensure the park is safe and pleasurable to use.

Chapter 4 PLANNING PROCESS

Development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. A joint planning process with multiple jurisdictions provides the opportunity to hear from a wider variety of the community, find commonalities and efficiencies in recreation planning. Many recreational assets that exist in Northeast Michigan extend beyond any one jurisdiction's boundaries. For instance, trails, state forest land, rivers, creeks, and lakes are multijurisdictional and will benefit from local involvement by multiple entities. This joint planning effort is the first of its kind in Alpena County recreation planning efforts and will grow over time.

The Planning Commissions of each entity were the lead entities in developing this multijurisdictional Recreation Plan. Although additional committees and commissions were involved, reviewing individual site's improvement plans. Although specific meetings dates are represented in the Appendix for each entity and committee, a general timeline for the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

Schedule

August 2018

Begin to finalize commitments from all interested entities to participate in a multijurisdictional joint recreational planning process. The participating entities are Alpena County, Green Township, Ossineke Township, and Wilson Township. Alpena Charter Township joins later.

September 2018

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments reviewed expired plan and begin to make updates to the community description, administrative structure and recreation inventory. Information is gathered from partnering agencies.

October 2018

Alpena Charter Township commits to the joint recreational planning effort. Meetings of each group begin to discuss the draft plan and refine their capital improvement plans. End of October and beginning of November the Planning Commissions and individual committees meet and refine specific action plans for each of their recreational assets.

November 2018

Each Planning Commission continues to meet and discuss common themes across jurisdictions, scheduling of final meetings and authorizing of final plan for release to the public.

December 2018

The month of December was the period of public review.

January 3, 2019 A jointly planned public hearing was held at the Alpena Community College. There were 19 people in attendance. The public in attendance heard a brief presentation about the plan and provided some input. Comments were:

- All of northeast Michigan needs to take advantage of the grant opportunities available. Other communities in other parts of the state are getting most of the money.
- Someone should build a sledding hill somewhere. Permission may be sought for sledding on a hill on private property in Green Township.
- A zip line would be a great attraction for the area.
- There is a noticeable lack of ATV/ORV trails in the northeast region.
- There needs to be more focus on Thunder Bay Island and letting people know about this being the location of the first settlers to the area. Promote the natural and cultural history of the area together.
- There needs to be more access to Thunder Bay River for convenience and safety.
- Squaw Bay needs to improve the water quality to bring back fishing of high quality and quantity of pan fish.

Overall, there was an appreciation for the communities that chose to participate and partner on a joint recreation plan.

_____, 2019

The Township Board passed a Resolution of Adoption.

Public Input

Four of the five entities participating in this Recreation Plan as well as the City of Alpena are all conducting Master Plan updates also. These updates also require a public input strategy. In order to get the most information from the public without confusing the general public with multiple surveys, a combined survey was conducted that was well publicized by all entities requesting information on recreation planning matters as well as more general land use planning topics. It is an extensive survey but, nonetheless, received a large number of surveys.

Over the two months that it was available to the public online and by paper, there were 271 responses, which reflects a 75% completion rate.

Public Notice for Survey Availability

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2018

CITY/STATE

THE ALPENA NEWS ■ 1B

City to residents: Tell us what you want

By **STEVE SCHULWITZ**
News Staff Writer

ALPENA — In order to update their comprehensive plans with the ideas and concerns of residents in mind, the City of Alpena, Alpena County, as well as Green, Ossineke and Wilson townships, have shared resources to have a survey created in which the results will be used to craft the next plan in each municipality.

Local governing bodies are required by the state to update master plans every five years. In the past, most of communities in the region did so independently. But, at the suggestion of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, leaders have decided to share costs and conduct the survey together.

Alpena City Planning Director Adam Poll said input from the public is critical. He said the more people take part in the survey, the better feel local government has for establishing goals in coming years.

"We want to know what the community wants," Poll said. "What types of developments they want to see, what they think of our streets, parks, tourism, recreation or any number of things. It covers a lot of topics."

Poll said the survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and is available on the city's website and links to it should be found on social media. He said that, once the survey is done, the Alpena Planning Commission will begin reviewing the plan

and will consider changes to it. Once the changes are made, the final draft will be done by NEMCOG and then approved by the Alpena Municipal Council, and each of the other municipalities.

There will also be several public hearings at which people can comment on the plan and correspondence can be sent in to local governing officials. Poll said partnering with the other governing units offers savings for the cost of the survey, but each municipality will pay NEMCOG for its individual plan update.

"We try to partner with our neighbors whenever possible and for this we just happened to be on the same schedule for the update, so it worked out," Poll said. "It also allows us to reach out to more citizens to hear what they have to say."

The City of Alpena will pay a little over \$9,000 to NEMCOG to lead the project, collect data and craft the new plan before it is adopted.

Poll said the dates and times of the public hearings will be announced once they are scheduled and that the updated plan could be complete and adopted before winter is over.

The survey can be found online at surveymonkey.com/r/alpenasurvey2018.

Steve Schulwitz can be reached at sschulwitz@thealpenanews.com or 989-358-5689. Follow Steve on Twitter @ss_alpenanews.

It's Manufacturing Day!



Courtesy Photo

Students from Jason Loyer's Mechatronics class at Alpena High School toured Ossineke Industries on Thursday and heard a brief presentation on the company and the steps a student would have to take if they wish to pursue employment there.

Today is MFG Day, "a national grassroots movement to enhance the perception of modern manufacturing, connect with the next generation and build a talent pipeline to solve the skills gap crisis," according to mfgday.com. Students will tour Besser Company on Oct. 11 as part of the manufacturing month events, facilitated by the Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium in Alpena.

Public Notice for Survey Availability

A legal ad was printed on December



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD IN PLANNING YOUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

Help us understand your community's needs for the future by completing this Community Survey.

Please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alpenasurvey2018>

Communities in Alpena County are working together to survey the public and they're interested in hearing from you. Partnering communities include the City and County of Alpena and the townships of Alpena, Green, Ossineke, and Wilson. They are all working to update their Recreation Plans and all but Alpena Township are updating their Master Plans (Alpena Township's was recently updated).

We hope you will take the time to fill out the survey in order to participate in this process. Your opinion is highly valued as citizens who choose to live here full-time or part-time. Your opinions will guide the updates to the plans' goals, objectives and strategies for your community. Gathering public input is vital to the planning process, so we thank you for your time! This survey consists of multiple choice questions which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

If you want to follow the survey results and the broader planning process please visit:
<http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/alpenaplans2018.asp>

If you have questions about this process, please feel free to contact NEMCOG Planner, Steve Schnell by email (sschnell@nemcog.org) or by phone at 989-705-3722.

Chapter 5 GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN

SHARED GOALS FOR ALL ENTITIES

The following are common Goals which are shared amongst the entities participating in this Recreation Plan. The goals are based on public input and the demographics of the communities of Alpena County.

1. To protect, promote, and preserve the communities, natural resources, and jobs of our area.
2. To ensure local government involvement in the development, maintenance, and promotion of our recreational assets and our natural resources and recognition by all agencies in our area that recreation is fundamental to the quality of life for residents.
3. To be an active partner in regional collaborations to plan, maintain, develop, and promote new recreational opportunities.
4. To improve the quality of life that is critical to our residents' health, the business environment, and attraction of our area to those visiting and considering moving here.
5. To ensure all people have access to recreation opportunities and facilities regardless of age, sex, income, cultural background, housing environment, or abilities.
6. To preserve and conserve the area's natural resources, protect them from invasive species and degradation, recognizing that they are critical to the long-term sustainability of outdoor recreational activities and quality of life.
7. To ensure that area residents are involved in the recreation planning process.

ALPENA COUNTY OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage the pursuit of outside funding sources, such as State and federal grants, for recreational development and improvements.
2. Work in cooperation with communities and agencies to ensure access is available to surface water resources, such as lakes, rivers, Lake Huron and Misery Bay, for activities such as boating, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and ice boating.
3. Continue to work with land conservancies and public agencies to identify key parcels and set aside undeveloped properties for parks, nature preserves, and future recreational needs.
4. In a cooperative effort, designate snowmobile routes that connect communities to regional snowmobile networks by working with the appropriate local unit of government, snowmobile groups, the County Road Commission, County Sheriff Department and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
5. Support the integration and expansion of non-motorized transportation facilities to link neighborhoods, communities, commercial areas and cultural destinations, parks, schools and regional parks and trails.
6. Promote Alpena as a trail destination. The Recreation Commission OR another organization or committee that includes economic development representatives could work together to develop and promote trails. Work with local businesses, health professionals and hospital to promote biking and walking for health. Support efforts to tie together the various trail systems, existing and proposed such as a South Bay Trail loop as well as the Thunder Bay River water trail project.
7. Encourage improvements to non-motorized recreation trails such as cross-country ski trails, bike trails and horseback riding trails. Work with state agencies and local governments to continue to improve and enhance regional multi-use trails for year round use including the North Eastern State Trail (NEST) and the Alpena to Hillman Trail. Non-motorized transportation may be in the form of on-road bicycle facilities, sidewalks, side-paths, and shared use off-road paths. Great trails have great amenities and there would be need to add rest stops, benches, overlooks, interpretive signs and local access sites along the trails.
 - Trails-related objectives:
 - a. Add amenities and access points along the NEST.
 - b. Improve the surface and accessibility for the Alpena to Hillman Trail.
 - c. Add amenities, trailhead and access points along the Alpena to Hillman Trail.
 - d. Work with and coordinate the many volunteers that are maintaining existing trail.
 - e. Work with the DNR to find the best location for mountain bike trails on existing DNR land.
 - f. Non-motorized transportation facilities and trail connections:

- Connect from Alpena south to Oscoda (NOTE: A Coastal Zone Management Grant has been awarded to do trail planning in this corridor in 2019.) Connect to Partridge Point, Ossineke and Negwegon State Park.
- Connect to Norway Ridge via Werth Road and a connection from the Alpena to Hillman Trail.
- Create a connection from Alpena to Rockport and Long Lake County Park
- Work with the DNR to find a solution to the 2 mile gap of trail corridor between M-65 and Salina Road and then improve trail from M-65 to Hillman
- Connect Alpena to Hillman Trail with Optimist Acres and Alpena Sno-drifters barn

g. Water Trails

- The Huron Blueway trail is planned but needs to be marketed; the County could facilitate a group to mark, sign, and promote this trail.
- Thunder Bay River water trail mapping project is wrapping up the mapping work in 2018. Look at public access and consider improvements, signage, maps and marketing.
- Need livery to provide boats for both the Lake Huron/Thunder Bay water trail, the Thunder Bay River and the water trail in Lake Besser in the City.
 - Because there is a very easy beginner water trail in Lake Besser, plus the islands and shipwrecks in Thunder Bay and Lake Huron PLUS the Thunder Bay River, there is a HUGE opportunity to develop and promote water trails in the area.

h. Create a trailhead for Norway Ridge and the Alpena to Hillman Trail from M-32.

8. Consider re-activating the Recreation Commission to build, manage, and maintain regional trail systems and coordinate with trail groups. Trail opportunities exist for all trail user groups (ATV/ORV, motorcycle, equestrian, non-motorized, bicycling, mountain biking, water trails, snowmobiles, and hiking).
9. Support and encourage improvements to area indoor and outdoor recreational, historical and cultural facilities and programs in accordance with locally adopted recreation plans or other officially adopted documents.
10. Create a Karst Discovery Trail that you could drive and or bike ride to each site. Consider purchase of the karst property along the NEST on Maple Grove Road as a day use park and trail destination. Work with the Michigan Karst Conservancy.
11. Encourage more and safer enjoyment of hunting and fishing.
12. Continually seek input from the public for planning future recreation needs and to promote safe use of recreational opportunities.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

County Parks

Objectives:

- A. Increase usage of the campgrounds through improved advertising and working with local and state tourism organizations*
- B. Continue to make improvements to camp sites and associated facilities to improve user experience*
- C. Address Americans Disability Act (ADA) guidelines when making improvements to campground facilities*
- D. Expand family oriented activities and activities for kids*
- E. Improve boating and fishing opportunities*
- F. Provide opportunities for winter recreation at Manning Hill Park*
- G. Develop partnerships with community service clubs, organizations and agencies to assist with maintenance and improvements to parks*
- H. Seek funding from a variety of sources to support operations and capital investments.*
- I. Conduct water quality testing*

Plaza Pool

Objectives:

- A. Enhance marketing and advertising efforts to increase awareness of public pool access to Alpena County residents*
- B. Provide a variety of programming offered to all age groups, abilities and fitness levels, including, education as to the health benefits of swimming*
- C. Develop partnerships with local clubs and area businesses to facilitate new user groups*
- D. Seek funding from a variety of sources to support operations and capital investments*
- E. Continue to explore opportunities to operate the pool in an energy efficient and cost effective manner*
- F. Continue to make needed improvements to the facilities, including addressing ADA guidelines*

Northern Lights Arena

Objectives:

- A. To continue to focus NLA as one of the economic centers for growth in the County of Alpena*
- B. Continue to explore opportunities to operate the arena and facilities in an energy efficient and cost effective manner*
- C. To become the center of Winter Sports in Northeastern Michigan, involving every form of ice-skating indoors and outdoors, cross-country skiing, snowmobile head point on the State and Regional Rails to Trails programs, snowshoeing trails, plus other opportunities*

- D. *Seek development of a modern toboggan run to elevate Alpena as a destination for winter tourists*
- E. *Continue to provide the community with excellent arena space for special events requiring large areas and seating for 1,000 to 1,500 persons*
- F. *To seek funding and sponsorships for various programs for all age groups and families to use the assets of NLA to improve the quality of life in Alpena*
- G. *To continue to raise funds and/or seek funding for capital improvement of the facility and supporting projects*
- H. *Continue to make needed improvements to the facilities, including addressing ADA guidelines*
- I. *In the summer, serve as the head point in Alpena for bikers and hikers using the rail to trails program*
- J. *Work with Alpena County, Alpena Community College, APlex, local government and other groups to implement the Woodward Avenue Vision Plan and Center of Recreation*

County Fairgrounds

Objectives:

- A. *Continue to provide the site for the Alpena County Fair and other community activities and events*
- B. *Provide opportunities for camping, open space, outdoor recreation and water access to the Thunder Bay River*
- C. *Continue to make needed improvements to the facilities, including addressing ADA guidelines*
- D. *Seek funding from a variety of sources to support operations and capital investments*
- E. *Develop partnerships with public and private entities to expand opportunities for community use of Fairground facilities*

ALPENA COUNTY ACTION PLAN

After gathering data on county recreational assets and public input, Alpena County developed a Recreation Action Plan. The County believes providing a robust system of recreational assets is essential the health of its residents as well as the region's economy. With so many opportunities, Action Plans can be lengthy and overwhelming. For this reason, the County is providing their top 5 Action Items to provide focus for a mostly-volunteer effort and to ensure action is taken and progress is made in the coming 5 years.

1. Make the desired improvements to the County Parks and Recreation system as outlined in the Capital Improvements Schedule.
2. Partner with other agencies in Alpena County and throughout the region to promote the recreational assets. Immediately seek partners in this effort and develop a team to create promotional opportunities. Educate each other on the recreational opportunities in the region by holding a summit with local, regional, and statewide partners including the DNR, trail advocacy groups, and user groups. Develop action items which can be implemented to

create accomplishments immediately. The UpNorthTrails.org website can be utilized to promote local trails and park systems right away, sharing the web link with local chambers, businesses, residents and visitors. Local and regional economic development agencies are in this business and can help identify more entrepreneurial opportunities in the outdoor recreation business to grow more jobs.

3. Cultivate volunteer groups from all demographics of the community. Volunteers are already providing significant work to preserve the natural resources of Alpena County as well as maintaining recreational assets. A first effort would be to create a partnership to promote recreational assets. This can be expanded to include a volunteer management team. This team can create volunteer opportunities, matching volunteers with local need.
4. Develop the trail connections necessary to close the loops. There are trail connections needed to the west toward Hillman and Grayling/Gaylord as well as to the south to connect to the Iron Belle Trail in Iosco County. These loops create exponentially more recreational opportunities.
5. Promote Alpena as a trail destination. The Recreation Commission OR another organization or committee that includes economic development representatives could work together to develop and promote trails. Work with local businesses, health professionals and hospital to promote biking and walking for health.

There are many organizations which will be very willing and effective partners to assist in achieving the County's Action Items:

1. Municipalities within Alpena County
2. Trail user groups
3. Chambers of Commerce & Visitors Bureaus
4. Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
5. Local businesses in the outdoor industry
6. Thunder Bay Trail Association
7. Cruise and tour companies
8. Local service clubs such as Lion's Club, Exchange Club, and Rotary
9. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
10. Local historic preservation organizations
11. Alpena economic development professionals

Overall Basis for Action

The 2010 Census showed that Alpena County with a population of 29,598 continues to be the most populated County in the Northeast region. Although the county population density averages 51.8 persons per square mile, two thirds of the population is concentrated in Alpena Charter Township and the City of Alpena. The population distribution clearly supports more developed recreational facilities and more cultural opportunities being located in the eastern sectors of the County. The Plaza Pool is the only publicly owned pool facility in Alpena County and the adjacent three counties. The same holds true for the Northern Lights Arena, which is the only indoor ice arena in the four county region. Resource based, recreational activities such

as camping and hunting are best located within the more rural areas of the County. There is only one state park campground located in Alpena County, the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground. It was closed for a few years but has recently re-opened. The County provides full service camping opportunities at four locations.

The 2010 census data shows that 51 percent of Alpena County's population was 45 years of age or older, a 14.7 percent increase since 2000. The breakdown of County's population by age grouping shows a significant shift in the 25-44 and the 45-64 age groups from 2000 to 2010. The percentage of those in the 45-64 age groups grew by 19.5 percent while the 25-44 age group declined by 26 percent. Corresponding to this trend was a decrease in the number of children 19 and under as there were less young families with kids and more "empty-nester" families without children. Still 23.5 percent of the population was 19 years and younger. The senior population (65 years and older) has grown over the last decade, which parallels the increase in median age to 45.6 years. A balanced recreation program is warranted to satisfy the needs of County residents, both young and old.

The 2010 Census reported there were 5,101 (17.4%) disabled persons in Alpena County. A person was classified as having a disability if they had a sensory disability, physical disability, mental disability, self-care disability, going outside the home disability or an employment disability. Some 5 percent of the population from two to 18 years was disabled. The largest numbers of disabled persons in the county were between the ages of 18 - 64 (2588) 14.6 percent of this age group. The 65 and over age group had 38.8 percent some type of disability. These statistics clearly show the need for facilities to strive to meet ADA guidelines and ensure programs are available for persons of all ages and physical abilities.

The median household income for Alpena County from 2012-2016 was \$39,832, more than \$10,900 lower than the State of Michigan. The lower median income level of County residents suggests pricing of recreation must remain relatively affordable to encourage use. Alpena County's economy is shifting from a manufacturing base to a more diverse economy. Tourism and recreation sectors of the economy will continue to grow. Facilities such as the Northern Lights Arena, Plaza Pool, County Campgrounds, County Fairgrounds, Maritime Heritage Center and Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and extensive regional trails draw people into the community to visit, enjoy local recreational opportunities and help support local businesses.

Capital Improvements Plan

This section formulates a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), with supporting basis for action. The CIP presents a list of proposed improvements, estimated costs, year of activity, funding sources and priority. Each facility has identified accessibility improvements to address ADA guidelines.

**Alpena County Fairgrounds
Capital Improvements Schedule**

Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2019	Additional water hook-ups will be installed at campsites	\$25,000	General Funds & Grants	High
2020	Continue renovating ball field; work to include fence repair and concession stand	\$20,000	General Funds Grants User Group & Private Donations	Medium
2020	Paint fence around property	\$10,000	General Funds & Grants	Medium
2023	Convert racetrack into modern campsites along NE riverfront	\$75,000	General Funds & Grants	Medium
2021	Road paving and drainage project will begin as soon as funds are available.	\$250,000	General Funds & Grants	High
2019-2024	New picnic tables will be purchased as needed	\$150 each	General Funds & Grants	High
2023	The grandstand wood trim and roof to be recoated or replaced	\$200,000	General Funds & Grants	High
2022	The restroom in the Merchants' building will be remodeled with changes to accommodate ADA guidelines and provide easier access to facilities.	\$45,000	General Funds & Grants	High
2022	Renovations of existing kitchen equipment in the Merchants' building and replacement of appliances	\$50,000	General Funds & Grants	High
2022	Remodel restrooms near barns to conform to ADA regulations	\$50,000	General Funds & Grants	High
2023	Install fishing piers along the river	\$150,000	General Funds & Grants	Low
2020	Add 2 bays to truck barn	\$100,000		High
2021	Remodel restroom by MSU building	\$75,000		High
2021	Build a pavilion by Green Park	\$25,000		High
2020	New Grills to be installed	\$2,000		High
2020	New tables and chairs and carts	\$20,000		High
2020	Construct storage facility, built onto Merchants' Building	\$40,000		Medium

Long-range projects: Trees will be planted to provide additional privacy for campers and to increase the beauty of the riverfront. Make improvements to the City water supply to the fairgrounds.

Accessibility Improvements: Alpena County Fairgrounds

Pathways to the various exhibit areas are needed and barrier free surfaces are needed in the exhibit buildings. Designated parking areas with signage are needed. Existing bathrooms need to be renovated or a new ADA compliant bathroom facilities need to be constructed.

Basis for Action: Alpena County Fairgrounds

These additions, improvements, and upgrades will provide more recreational opportunities, allow easier handicapped access, and enhance usage of this important community asset.

- Because many of the roads are in serious need of repair, a paving and drainage project will begin when funds are available. These unpaved roads have been difficult to maintain with dust and potholes becoming a health and safety concern for increasing numbers of visitors and campers.
- New kitchen equipment will help modernize the Merchant’s building and provide better food service and more tables and chairs for the building will be purchased.
- Make improvements to the City water supply to the fairgrounds. This is necessary due to the closed loop system that dead-ends by the Merchants Building. Currently water lays dormant in the 6” supply casting causing rust to form which eventually shows up in the faucet and water closet. The old water distribution system at the barns will be improved to provide a more reliable supply of water for cleaning and animal consumption and water hookups will be installed at the campsites.

Funding for these action projects may be acquired from Fairgrounds revenues, Alpena County general fund, state and federal match funds, MDNR, community service organizations, foundations, private contributions and appropriate grant funding sources.

Beaver Lake Campground Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2019-2020	Add 360 sq.ft. addition to bathhouse facility and that will make the facility ADA compliant and hope to finish the renovation of the existing bathhouse facility.	\$100,000	DNR, local foundations, general fund	High
2020	Replace windows and doors of County owned home	\$5,000	DNR, local foundations, general fund	High
2020	Resurface asphalt throughout park improving existing roads	\$10,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2021	Acquire new pickup truck	\$20,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium

Beaver Lake Campground Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2021	Repair drainage issues	\$5,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2021	Boat launch	\$100,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2022	Update electrical service and water to campsites and extend water lines to east end of park	\$10,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2023	Replace zero-turn lawnmower	\$7,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2023	Improve spring area	\$2,500	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
Long range projects include: pave driveway, build more cabins, and day park.				

Accessibility Improvements: Beaver Lake Campground

Construct new barrier free bathrooms and office. Impervious pathways are needed to facilitate movement through the park and to the bathroom. Additional signs to identify barrier free pathways and handicap accessible parking and bathroom facilities are needed.

Basis for Action: Beaver Lake Campground

These additions, improvements, and upgrades will provide more recreational opportunities, allow easier handicapped access, and enhance the scenic values on Beaver Lake.

- b. Although the road into the park is now blacktop, the road in the picnic area is still in poor condition and requires annual repair.
- c. Existing restrooms do not meet ADA guidelines; existing facilities need to be upgraded and new handicap accessible restrooms need to be constructed.
- d. Plans include the acquisition of land located in the northeast corner of the park. This additional property will allow for the expansion of present park facilities and increase park security. Presently, access to the park cannot be restricted due to private landowners in this section who use the road leading into the park to access their property. Once this property belongs to the park, this section will be secured and the adjoining landowners will access their property from separate entry point.
- e. The electrical system in the park was upgraded with planning for future expansion areas.
- f. Back lots of the park are rustic camping, extending water and electrical hook-ups increase usage of that site.

- g. New informational signs need to be erected as needed.

Funding for these action projects will be acquired from Beaver Lake Park revenues, Alpena County Parks Commission, State and federal match funds, MDNR, community service organizations, foundations, private contributions and appropriate grant funding sources.

Long Lake Campground Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
Yearly	Picnic tables and refuse containers will require annual maintenance.	\$1,200	Local, Youth & Rec	High
2019	Install back-up battery powered lighting system in the restroom area to provide emergency lights during power outages for safety.	\$500	Local, Youth & Rec	High
2019	Repair caretaker's office (office is the store)	\$10,000		High
2019	Site development, land leveling and landscaping on 21 campsites	\$7,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2019	Relocate boat launch and docking area to park cove. Include a handicap accessible pathway to the new facility	\$300,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2019-2022	Upgrade electrical to 50 amp service for 30 campsites (1 panel per year)	\$10,000 per year	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2019-2023	Upgrade 25 rustic camp sites to modern campsites with electricity and water (5 per year)	\$10,000 per year	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2019-2023	Replace or repair 2 pavilions	\$15,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2019-2023	Continue oversight and review of park's dead trees and removal as necessary	\$1,000 annually	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2020	Replace zero-turn mower	\$10,000	Local, Youth & Rec, DNR	Medium

Long Lake Campground Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2020	Construct new fish cleaning station near the proposed new boat launch facility	\$5,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2020	Purchase a used four-wheel drive pick-up truck	\$10,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2020	Update park campsite posts/pads to remove permanent markers	\$1,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2021	Update south bathhouse plumbing, etc.	\$75,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2022	Upgrade playground equipment	\$10,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2023	Construct an 40' x 40' pole barn type structure to store necessary tools and equipment	\$40,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2023	Develop new road through park's rustic wooded area to create new campsites	\$12,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
Long-range projects include additional fire pits are needed at approximately 65 campsites, expansion of campground area and facilities, and a tree planting/replacement program needs to be explored and ultimately implemented.				

Accessibility Improvements: Long Lake Campground

A new impervious pathway engineered with barrier free slopes down to the pavilion needs to be constructed. Impervious pathways are needed to facilitate movement through the park and to the bathroom. A boat launch facility with barrier free parking and barrier free dock needs to be constructed. Additional signs to identify barrier free pathways, handicap accessible parking and bathroom facilities are also needed.

Basis for Action: Long Lake Campground

These additions, improvements, and upgrades will provide more recreational opportunities, allow easier handicapped access, and enhance the scenic values on Long Lake.

- The electrical service on the 80 lots with power and water is outdated and inadequate for modern camping equipment. Since many recreational vehicles and camper-type trailers

now require upgraded electrical hook-ups for their power source, improvements from 30 to 50-amp service would better accommodate campers.

- There are 21 campsites that are not level thus and causing much difficulty in setting up camping equipment. With a differential of up to three feet, this uneven terrain causes water to accumulate in low areas and drainage becomes a problem at these sites.
- Inadequate drainage in low areas will be corrected with drain tile and gravel. These low lots are often soggy or underwater during rainstorms and snow melt. A raised roadway that runs through these lots has caused this excess water to be trapped in a dam-like situation. When this water reaches an overflow level, the runoff has caused boat launch and dock areas to wash out. An additional comfort and health-related problem has developed with increased infestations of mosquitoes and other undesirable insects breeding in these stagnant water areas. The County will consult with a local contractor for professional input before any work is done. It is anticipated that gravel will be donated and most of the labor will be provided by the current County staff.
- An emergency lighting system in the restroom area would provide emergency lights during periods of power outages. Unavoidable circumstances, such as thunderstorms, frequently cause the power to go out in the campground. When this happens, campers in the bathroom facility are left in total darkness. This back-up unit will allow campers to exit the building safely and return to their campsites.
- The current boat launch/docks are located in an area with high winds that cause frequent damage to the docks and to the boats that are moored at or near them. Since the existing docks are not designed for commercial use, they have received extensive damage. If the nearby cove were developed, it would provide natural protection for all boating activities. Before any work begins, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will be consulted regarding regulations for dredging and developing this area.
- A new dock will be placed at the proposed cove site. It is anticipated a floating dock that will provide ease of maintenance. It will allow freedom of movement during high winds and heavy rain, but remain protected in the calmer cove environment. This floating dock will be commercial grade and incorporate all the necessary requirements for a barrier-free design. A new, larger fish cleaning station will be built at the back of the parking lot near the proposed launch site and docking area. A paved handicap accessible pathway needs to be constructed to access this area.
- The existing 24' x 24' tool shed is no longer large enough to accommodate the maintenance equipment. An 80' x 80' pole barn type structure is needed to store these necessary tools, etc.
- Many of the trees in the campground need to be removed and replaced with a species that will thrive in the park conditions and act as a method of soil erosion control.

Funding for these action projects will be acquired from Long Lake Park revenues, Alpena County Parks Commission, State and federal match funds, MDNR, community service organizations, foundations, private contributions and appropriate grant funding sources.

Sunken Lake Campground Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
Yearly	Picnic tables and refuse containers will require annual maintenance.	\$6,000	Local, Youth & Rec	High
2019	Upgrade current bathroom	\$5,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2019	Guardrail and posts for the road (safety due to drop off areas)	\$10,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2020	Improvements to walking bridge (bracing, decking, painting, and lighting)	\$20,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2021	Construct dock with handicap access	\$50,000	Local, volunteers, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2022	The improvement of hiking trails, work with Karst Conservancy to expand hiking trails into the conservancy land, place signs and add interpretative kiosk	\$45,000	Local, volunteers, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2023	Construct new bathrooms that meet ADA requirements	\$200,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	High
2023	Build unisex bathroom and fish cleaning station, provide electrical service to area beside dump station area	\$25,000	Local, foundations, Youth & Rec, and MDNR	Medium
2024	Replace zero-turn lawnmower	\$9,000	Local, Youth & Rec	Medium
2024	Fence and light beach area	\$10,000	Local, Youth & Rec	Medium
2024	Purchase a pick-up truck	\$20,000	Local, Youth & Rec	Medium
Long-range projects include construction of fishing piers (\$20,000). Other long-range projects without cost estimates include restroom facilities on the island and a dumpsite cleanup.				

Accessibility Improvements: Sunken Lake Campground

The campground bathroom needs renovation to improve the shower stalls and fixtures. Impervious pathways are needed to facilitate movement to the bathroom. New ADA bathroom facilities are needed. Lighting for the pavilion is needed. Wheel chair accessible picnic tables need to be provided. Additional signage needs to be installed.

Basis for Action: Sunken Lake Campground

These additions, improvements, and upgrades will provide more recreational opportunities, allow easier handicapped access, and enhance the natural beauty of the scenic area surrounding Sunken Lake.

- Selected areas of the park will be landscaped with top soil and seeded to prevent further soil erosion. As more funds become available, stumps will be removed and the ground will be leveled and seeded. Once cleared and landscaped, these areas of the park will become accessible and provide additional recreational opportunities.
- A dock will replace the permanent dock. Due to the constantly changing water levels, the existing dock is often submerged and unusable.

Funding for these action projects will be acquired from Sunken Lake Park revenues, Alpena County Parks Commission, State and federal match funds, MDNR, community service organizations, foundations, private contributions and appropriate grant funding sources.

Manning Hill Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
Yearly	Park facilities will receive regular maintenance rather than costly improvements.	NA	Local, foundations, MDOT and MDNR	High
2019	Construct road entrance signs at both entrances to the park	NA	Local, foundations, MDOT and MDNR	High
2020	Playground equipment	\$20,000	Local, foundations, MDOT and MDNR	Medium
2021	Additional Picnic Tables	\$5,000	Local, foundations, MDOT and MDNR	Medium
2021	Additional Parking Area	TBD	Local, foundations, MDOT and MDNR	High

Manning Hill Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2022	New Fencing	\$10,000	Local, foundations, MDOT and MDNR	Medium
2023	Taller Tower Facility	\$75,000	Local, foundations, MDOT and MDNR	Medium
Long-range projects include the continuation of fence repair and searching for a service club or community organization that will volunteer to provide general maintenance and cleanup of the park.				

Accessibility Improvements: Manning Hill Park

Install signs and pavement markings for barrier free parking. Grade and install impervious barrier free pathways to the pavilion and the viewing platform. Construct a ramp onto the viewing platform.

Basis for Action: Manning Hill Park

Improvements and upgrades will provide more recreational opportunities and preserve one of the county's premiere sites for extended scenic views of rural landscapes. Funding for these actions will be acquired from Alpena County Parks Commission, State and federal match funds, MDNR, MDOT, community service organizations, foundations, private contributions and appropriate grant funding sources.

Northern Lights Arena Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2020	Women's Skating Center including: locker space, open training/meeting space, showers-office; Also maintenance with equipment storage, heated workshop, critical part storage, and movable equipment storage	\$400,000	Grants and donations	High
2021	Mobile maintenance equipment: 60 ft. lift, hi-low, tractor with mower/blower	\$150,000	Donations, Operating NLA Capital	Medium
2021	Multi-sports Equipment: Floor, curling, baseball nets	\$150,000	Donations & Grants	Medium
2021	Unheated storage building for the multi-sports floor and other appropriate equipment	\$96,000	Donations & Grants	High

Northern Lights Arena Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2019	Parking lot repair	\$200,000	Donation & lease fees	High
Long range projects include: dehumidification system, Zamboni, mechanical systems, seating improvements for 1,000 to 1,500, and cooling towers				

Accessibility Improvements: Northern Lights Arena

There is limited access to the full spectator seating area. An elevator to the second floor would provide more ADA seating.

Basis for Action: Northern Lights Arena

The Northern Lights Arena (NLA) is the only full service indoor ice arena in Alpena County and adjacent three counties. Ice skating and winter sports have been in the community culture for over 130 years and have had a positive economic influence on Alpena. The NLA is all about families, fun and living. The Northern Lights Arena has involved the entire community, both private contributions and governmental efforts. These additions, improvements, and upgrades will provide more recreational opportunities and allow easier handicapped access.

- There is no separate locker space, open training/meeting space, showers-office to adequately accommodate women skating activities. There has also been an increase in female team members on hockey teams. Construction of a Women’s Skating Center is needed to meet present and projected demands, while accommodating all user groups.
- There is no heated maintenance workshop and storage facility. Construction of a maintenance facility would reduce operation costs and improve efficiency of operations.
- In order to reach the ceiling for maintenance purposes, it is necessary to rent lifts, which constrains maintenance to availability of rental equipment.
- A multi-sports floor would allow the ice to be covered for other non-skating functions, without having to take down the ice and refreeze the ice. The process of taking down the ice and re-freezing the rink is time consuming and costly. As a result, the use of the arena for other community activities is infrequent. A community activity center would also expand opportunities for hosting other community events. Another factor to consider is storage of the multi-sports floor, which would require an unheated storage building. The building could be used for storing other items.

Funding for these projects will be acquired from NLA Operating Fund, NLA capital fund, voter millages, local general funds, State and federal match funds, MDNR, community service organizations, foundations, private contributions and appropriate grant funding sources.

Plaza Pool Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2019	Replace 8 filter elements	\$3,200	Local, foundations, and MDNR	High
2019-2024	Replace all the lockers. Replace sections of lockers throughout the next five years. (170 lockers)	\$35,000	Local, foundations,	High
2020	Replace entry way glass with insulated panels	\$5,000	Local, foundations, and MDNR	High
2021	Replace pool circulating motor and pumps	\$15,000	Local, foundations, and MDNR	High
2021	Replace roofing as necessary	\$35,000	Local, foundations, and MDNR	Medium
Long-range projects include expansion of existing facility or construction of new facility to include zero entrance pool area, wading pool, Jacuzzi, competitive diving capability and regulation size pool.				

Accessibility Improvements: Plaza Pool

A new unisex bathroom needs to be constructed. Additional signage is needed in the facility. Renovate boys and girls bathrooms to be ADA compliant.

Basis for Action: Plaza Pool

The community pool is the only public pool available in a four county area. Pool programs offer a wide variety of water based recreation activities for all age groups, abilities and fitness levels. These additions, improvements, and upgrades will provide more recreational opportunities and allow easier handicapped access to the pool facility.

- The existing lift and circulating motors and pumps have been rebuilt at least twice in the last 10 years. Existing units can be kept for spares.
- The rest room partitions are mostly original equipment. Miscellaneous parts have been replaced over the years but thoughts of new units should be considered.
- Replace all shower towers and showerhead units. They have been rebuilt many times and parts are wearing out. Parts are becoming obsolete.
- The lockers are original equipment and need to be upgraded. Additional new lockers need to be installed as replacements for those that have been overused beyond the point of repair.

Funding for these action projects will be acquired from Alpena County general funds, State and federal match funds, MDNR, community service organizations, foundations, private contributions and appropriate grant funding sources.

Tennis Courts Capital Improvements Schedule				
Year	Proposed Improvement	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
2021	Repaint chain link fence	\$3,000	General Funds & Grants	Medium
2022	Purchase windscreens and nets	\$5,000	General Funds & Grants	Medium
2023	Purchase viewing bleachers for 80 spectators	\$15,000	Grants	Low
2023	Seal practice area and repaint warm-up area	\$6,000	General Funds & Grants	Low
2023	Construct pavilion over bleachers	\$15,000	General Funds & Grants	Low
2022	Build single unisex bathroom – freestanding	\$60,000	General Funds & Grants	Medium

Basis for Action: Tennis Courts

Tennis Courts are located on the grounds of Alpena High School next to the pool building. These four courts are used by students and the public for casual recreation and organized team competition. Bleachers and pavilion will improve spectator numbers.

ALPENA CHARTER TOWNSHIP GOALS & OBJECTIVES

After reviewing community input and demographic characteristics of the Township, goals and objectives were developed to provide overall guidance in recreational project development for the Planning Commission, community groups and organizations. Alpena Charter Township shares the recreation goals as presented on page 5-72.

In addition, the Charter Township of Alpena has additional objectives which it will strive to accomplish, in partnership with others within the community and with its neighbors. Also, the Township has as a priority to ensure improvements to township's recreation improvements meet ADA compliance.

Alpena Charter Township will make necessary arrangements to enable the Township to acquire new properties for recreational purposes as they become available. Actions should be taken to ensure the Township's leadership is enabled to seek property acquisition, either through purchase or lease.

ALPENA CHARTER TOWNSHIP ACTION PLAN

The Action program is presented in the table below, showing near-term goals for the next 5 years. This table shows projects which, if funding becomes available, would be accomplished. The preferred timing of the projects may change depending on funding source availability and priorities of potential funders. Below the following table are the long-term action items, not shown in any priority but expected to take longer than 5 years to initiate.



Action Program 2019-2023			
Action Item: Acquisition, Development, Maintenance, or Improvement	Estimated Costs*	Funding*	Timeframe
Maintain bike path	TBD	Alpena Charter Township General Fund	Annual
Participate with multi-jurisdictional groups for county-wide recreational facilities and programs	TBD	In-kind Administrative	Annual
Maintain Little League fields	TBD	Volunteer time and equipment from Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League, Alpena Charter Township pays utilities	Annual
Bagley Street Bridge – Multi-use path	Value unknown	Alpena County Road Commission, MEDC, MDOT, DNR, other	2020-2023
Acquire property on Long Lake for fishing, boating, parking and other recreational activities with handicap accessibility.	Value unknown	MNRTF, Alpena Charter Township	2019-2023
Enhance and extend current bike path along US 23 South to 45 th parallel and build a roadside park	Value unknown	Coastal Zone Management, MDOT, Alpena Charter Township, local community volunteers	2019-2021
Develop feeder bike route to the Squaw Bay Alvar Shoreline and include a kayak livery.	Value unknown	MDOT, volunteers and fundraising	2019-2023
Nature walk and parallel bike path along US 23 South to create a loop	Value unknown	Local community volunteers, MDOT	2019-2023
*Some flexibility in the costs and funding sources may be necessary. Projects will be completed based on availability of funds.			

Long Term Action Items

- US 23 North Bike Route
- Acquire Thunder Bay Island Boat House and acreage
- Acquire recreation property with Long Lake Frontage

ALPENA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BASIS FOR ACTION

An important part of Alpena Charter Township's identity is in its capacity as a year-round recreation and vacation destination. The key elements of this identity are the natural environment and history of the area. In addition, the Township recognizes that the population here and in the region is increasing in average, the younger population is decreasing as a percentage of the total population. The economy of the township is dependent on its natural resources and the ability to retain young talent and maintain the quality of life of the area. This is the basis for the Township's recreation goals.

The demographics of Alpena Charter Township indicate that a large majority (83.1%) of the Township housing is owner-occupied. The population in the Township under the age of 18 is 13.6% of the total Township population. The Township population is on average older than the state of Michigan and the United States. Alpena Charter Township median age is 52.2 while the state of Michigan is 39.5 and the nation median age is 37.7. On average, the Township has a higher percentage of households that are living on retirement income (30.7%) compared to the State (22.7%). Due to the older median age of its population, the need to retain younger members of the population and to constantly improve quality of life for its residents, Alpena Charter Township must plan for quality recreational facilities that appeal to a wide variety of people. In addition, with the median household income of the Township being \$42,347, recreation must be affordable. Data obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-2016 5-year estimates, unless stated otherwise.

Bike Path Maintenance – The Township is under contract with the MDOT to maintain the state owned pedestrian bicycle path running parallel to US 23 South. The path was constructed in 1981 based on public request that there was a need for the facility.

Bagley Street Bridge – This bridge improvement should include non-motorized accommodations due to nearby connecting paths.

Babe Ruth League Fields Maintenance – In cooperation with Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League, the Township Developed a tournament-quality baseball and softball sports complex. Much of the development was accomplished with Natural Resources Trust Funding. Since then, the League Fields have been maintained through a cooperative agreement with Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League and the Township using volunteer time and equipment from the League. Alpena Charter Township provides utilities to the site. This site is looking to expand so that they would be state tournament certified. Land is available to the rear of the complex.

Upgrade Launch Site at Devil's Lake (aka the Narrows) - The launch itself is located on Devil's Lake which is a connecting body of water that starts at Long Lake, from Long Lake there is a low-head weir that spills into Long lake creek, that becomes Devil's lake Devil's Lake continues to flow Easterly and eventually narrows and again changes names and turns back into Long lake Creek and flows into Lake Huron.

Charter Township of Alpena Nature Preserve – The nature preserve contains 133 acres with direct access to Misery Bay (Lake Huron). The intent is to provide reasonable access while protecting the fragile nature of the property. Improvements would include a parking lot, provide direct water access and develop ADA compliant boardwalks that will minimize negative human impacts.

Acquire North Point Property – This approximate 1400 acre site is located at the tip of the North Point of Thunder Bay and consists of several thousand feet of Lake Huron shoreline. Alpena Charter Township wishes to acquire this property to provide passive recreation and for conservation purposes. Important natural resources on the property include geologic features, dwarf lake iris, shore birds, and migratory birds. Uses recommended for this property are nature and interpretive trails (crushed stone or wood chips) and small boat access for canoes and kayaks. In addition, the water off this property are important for diving since it is part of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Nature Conservancy purchased this property to preserve it from extensive lakeshore development and to provide public access to unique natural resources.

GREEN TOWNSHIP GOALS & OBJECTIVES

After reviewing community input and demographic characteristics of the Township, goals and objectives were developed to provide overall guidance in recreational project development for the Planning Commission, community groups and organizations. Green Township shares the recreation goals as presented on page 5-72.

Township Goals & Objectives

1. The Township seeks to build partnerships with neighboring agencies in the creation of recreation opportunities.

Objective: Green Township will continue to create effective partnerships with other neighboring agencies in the management and promotion of recreation opportunities. Building on the partnership managing Manning Hill Roadside Park, the Township and the County should continually seek new partnerships. Partnerships with the DNR and private and non-profit entities will also be sought.

2. The Township will work to expand recreational trail opportunities.

Objective: Work with the County and the DNR to expand trail opportunities within the township. Just outside of the township boundaries, there is a snowmobile trail along M65 to the north. There are efforts underway to determine a non-motorized pathway along a similar corridor. Providing opportunities for township residents to more easily access this trail either with signage or feeder trails should be explored.

3. The Township will promote recreation opportunities within the township.

Objective: The Township will continue to maintain and promote a recreation brochure which promotes all local attractions, businesses, and services related to recreation and the outdoors. A brochure was printed in 2014 and the information should be updated regularly and shared more broadly along with other promotional efforts.

4. Provide recreation opportunities for all populations of the township.

Objective: The Township will ensure that all recreational assets in the community will be built as best as possible for all residents and visitors. ADA compliant designs for new construction of recreational assets will be incorporated into any potential new parks and recreation improvements.

5. The Township will encourage tourism as an economic driver.

Objective: The Township will encourage sustainable management of the resources for long-term health of the residents and the economy.

GREEN TOWNSHIP ACTION PLAN

After gathering data on Township recreational assets and public input, Green Township developed the following Action Plan. The Township believes providing a robust system of recreational assets is essential the health of its residents as well as the Township's economy. They include eventual improvements to Township properties as outlined in the objectives above as well as implementing the Capital Improvements Schedule as shown below.

Green Township Ball Park

1. Upgrade dugout, bleachers and fencing

Green Township Fire Hall

1. Add on or replace facilities, upgrade equipment and vehicles as needed
2. ADA compliance at the fire hall and build classroom for continuing education

Green Township Hall and recreation facilities

1. Expand parking lot, paving driveway and hill for safety
2. Expansion of building
3. Continued to add playground equipment
4. Landscaping and lighting

Manning Hill Park

* Although this is a county park, the township participates in the maintenance and is invested in the success of this park as it exists in the Township and serves many Township residents as well as travelers through the Township. For these improvements, please see the Park's plan in the chapter on Alpena County.

There are many organizations which will be very willing and effective partners to assist in achieving the Township's Action Items:

1. Municipalities neighboring Green Township and throughout the County
2. Trail user groups
3. Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
4. Local businesses in the outdoor industry
5. Thunder Bay Trail Association
6. Cruise and tour companies
7. Local service clubs
8. Regional economic development professionals

Capital Improvements Schedule 2019-2023

Green Township Ball Park

Priority	Improvement	Estimated Costs*	Funding*	Timeframe
Medium	Upgrade dugout, bleachers and fencing	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2019-2021

Green Township Fire Hall

Priority	Improvement	Estimated Costs	Funding	Timeframe
Medium	Add on or replace facilities: upgrade equipment and vehicles as needed	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2020- 2023
Medium	ADA compliance at the fire hall and build classroom for continuing education	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2019-2023

Green Township Hall and Recreation Facilities

Priority	Improvement	Estimated Costs	Funding	Timeframe
High	Expand parking lot, paving driveway and hill for safety	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2019-2023
Medium	Expansion of building	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2019-2021
Medium	Continued to add playground equipment	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2019-2021
Medium	Landscaping and lighting	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2019-2021

*Some flexibility in the costs and funding sources may be necessary. Projects will be completed based on availability of funds.

OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP GOALS & OBJECTIVES

After reviewing community input and demographic characteristics of the Township, goals and objectives were developed to provide overall guidance in recreational project development for the Planning Commission, community groups and organizations. Ossineke Township shares the recreation goals as presented on page 5-72.

In addition, the Township has the following goals for each park:

Hubbard Lake Lions Park

Goal: Continue to develop and improve Hubbard Lake Lions Park to provide multi-generational recreation opportunities for the enjoyment of year-round and seasonal residents, tourists and visitors.

1. **Objective:** Improve the recreation center of the Park by addressing needs of existing facilities.
 - a. **Action:** Improve signage, access road, parking/road lighting, and landscaping at the park.
 - b. **Action:** Add lighting for baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts to allow extended hours of usage.
 - c. **Action:** Replace benches and tables to maintain quality park amenities.
 - d. **Action:** Install ADA accessible playground equipment to meet the needs of the disabled population in the community.

2. **Objective:** Expand existing park facilities to meet existing demand, and/or encourage expanded use.
 - a. **Action:** Pave parking lot and provide ADA access from parking lot to park facilities to increase ADA accessibility.

Basis for Action: Hubbard Lake Lions Park is a highly used recreational facility. Replacing and/or reconditioning park amenities will assure its continued use by all age groups within the Township and surrounding areas. Constructing an asphalt walking track is important in providing active recreational opportunities that the Townships aging population will find desirable. Today more than ever, seniors remain physically active and look for quality recreational facilities to support these activities. In addition, all of these activities provide excellent multi-generational recreational activities. Currently, township residents interested in these activities must travel long distances to participate or compete.

Lighting the ball fields would provide for extended hours of use by area youth and the potential for more organized sporting events. Improving overall lighting in the park areas would increase parent perception of a safe environment for their children promoting more use and a healthy lifestyle.

Beaver Lake

Goal: Enhance the recreational opportunities at Beaver Lake to encourage its establishment as a primary recreational facility in the Township.

1. **Objective:** Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the park.
 - a. **Action:** Provide waste receptacles to dispose of used fishing line, keeping dock area clear of debris.

Basis for Action: Beaver Lake is a highly used recreational area. Providing receptacles for proper disposal of fishing waste and other waste will allow greater awareness of protecting the quality of the recreation area.

Chippewa Hills Pathway

Goal: Expand and improve the existing trail system so that it would become a destination point for hikers, cross country skiing, equestrian use and mountain biking.

1. **Objective:** Form a working relationship with the Department of Natural Resources, (Forest Resources Division, Wildlife Division and the Parks and Recreation Division), Thunder Bay Trails Association, and local equestrian clubs that will be conducive to reaching the expressed goal.
 - a. **Action:** Work with Thunder Bay Trails Association to obtain grant funding for the development of non-motorized trails at Chippewa Hills Pathway.
 - b. **Action:** Work with local equestrian clubs to obtain grant funding for the development of equestrian trails at Chippewa Hills Pathway.

Basis for Action: Chippewa Hills Pathway is one of the nicest non-motorized trail systems in northeast Michigan. The existing trail system encompasses approximately 500 hundred acres. The potential for expansion that will be beneficial for all non-motorized user groups is tremendous.

Basis for Action Program

There are a number of issues to consider when planning for recreational facilities in Ossineke Township:

1. The median age of residents as of the 2012-2016 Census American Community Survey (ACS) in Ossineke Township is 44.7 years old, a decrease from 47.1 years of age in 2010, compared to the state's median age of 39.5.
2. Young people ages 0-19 comprise 23.7% of the Township population in the 2012-2016 ACS; an increase from 22.9% in the 2009-2013 ACS. The population between the ages of 20 and 54 (the age where there would typically be children living at home) comprise 39.9% of the population. This is decrease from 42.7%. When planning recreational

facilities for the younger population, careful consideration should be given to both location (close to population) and ease of access (non-motorized access to facilities). Recreational improvements that can help attract young talent and families will be important.

3. Residents of retirement age (65 +) comprise 21.2% of the Township Population. Thought must be given to planning for this large resident population which has both the time and desire for age-appropriate recreational activities.
4. Ossineke Township's median household income is \$41,215 compared to that of the state average of \$48,411. Nearly 53% of the households in the township include Social Security recipients (an increase from 45% in the 2009-2013 ACS), compared to 32.3% statewide. Households that have retirement income include 25.8% of the township, compared to 22.7% statewide. More than half (53.6%) of the families with a female head of household and no spouse present and with related children under the age of 18 had income below the poverty level. Accordingly, to truly be accessible, recreation must also be affordable and available for all ages.
5. Ossineke Township is very proud of its natural beauty and rural character. It is important to those planning for its growth and development that every effort be made to balance ecological concerns with tourism potential. Protection of natural resources and scenic areas must therefore be a major element of the planning process.
6. The issue of improving the local economy by establishing the area as a recreation destination is of utmost importance. The unemployment rate in Ossineke Township is 8.9% and all of Northeast Michigan remained higher than the state average of 8.5%. A significant difference in the unemployment rates in all of northeast Michigan when compared to the nation and the State of Michigan is the month to month changes due to the seasonality of business activity in the region. The Township strives to create a community with a defined sense of place and a high quality of life which will attract young families and entrepreneurs and to attract the seasonal visitors to become year-round residents. This quality of life will also help to retain local youth who otherwise would leave the area upon reaching adulthood. The retention of youth and attraction of visitors are two methods with which the Township hopes to continue its economic turn-around.

Figures obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-2016 5-year estimates, unless stated otherwise.

With these issues in mind, other factors to be considered in recreational plan development for Ossineke Township include:

1. Development of recreation opportunities which are appropriate to the Township's major population groups. Both active and passive recreation opportunities require easy access to allow use by those with limited transportation resources, including the elderly and youth of the Township.

2. Development and maintenance of recreational opportunities for individuals with diverse incomes, including recreation available at a no-cost or low-cost basis, as well as appealing to upscale, urban visitors.
3. Maintenance and operation of existing and new recreational facilities in a manner that preserve their ecological and scenic value, with limited staff.

OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP ACTION PLAN

The Capital Improvement Schedule found below describes what recreational improvements the parks and recreation committee as well as the Township would like to pursue over the next five years.

Capital Improvements Schedule 2019-2023				
Hubbard Lake Lions Park				
Priority	Improvement	Estimated Costs*	Funding*	Timeframe
High	Install ADA accessible playground equipment	\$80,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2019-2020
High	Pave parking lot; provide ADA access to facilities	\$50,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2020-2021
Low	Install Lighting for sports fields	\$75,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2023
Medium	Replace picnic tables and benches	\$30,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2021
Beaver Lake				
Priority	Improvement	Estimated Costs	Funding	Timeframe
Medium	Used Fishing Line Receptacles	\$500	Local, State, Private Donations	2020
Thunder Bay Trails				
Priority	Improvement	Estimated Costs	Funding	Timeframe
High	Trail Expansion	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2019-2023
*Some flexibility in the costs and funding sources may be necessary. Projects will be completed based on availability of funds.				

WILSON TOWNSHIP GOALS & OBJECTIVES

After reviewing community input and demographic characteristics of the Township, goals and objectives were developed to provide overall guidance in recreational project development for the Planning Commission, community groups and organizations. Wilson Township shares the recreation goals as presented on page 5-72.

Wilson Township expressed interest in focusing on creating more regional partnerships, improving accessibility to their public parks, improving navigability of the waterways within their township for the boaters' enjoyment, and in creating more trail experiences whether by land or water.

In addition, the Township has the following objectives:

1. Develop and Improve Wolf Creek Property
 - a. Explore opportunities to expand the property beyond the original Road Commission right of way.
 - b. Develop and implement an action plan to bring about improvements that will increase usage of the Wolf Creek property as well as make it more accessible.
 - c. Focus development upon existing natural features: i.e. canoe launch, fishing platforms, foot bridge, etc.
 - d. Install amenities to improve the overall usability of the property.
 - e. Pursue funding for land acquisition.
 - f. Build an additional concrete walkway for increased accessibility.
2. Promote use of Township recreation assets
 - a. Encourage residents and visitors to make use of the existing township recreational assets by bringing about necessary improvements to increase the availability of recreational amenities.
 - b. Partner with other local agencies or the State of Michigan on recreational development projects, where applicable.
3. Develop trails and trail connections for motorized and non-motorized uses.
 - a. Support the State of Michigan in its Indian Reserve/Devil's Lake Block Plan.
 - b. Research ways to expand local trails in conjunction with state trail expansion plans.
 - c. Support the continued maintenance of local snowmobile trails within the township.
 - d. Research the development of ORV trails within the township.
 - e. Research ways to improve and expand parking facilities at various trailhead staging areas throughout the township.
 - f. Improve barrier free accessibility on township trails, where appropriate.
4. Maintain and promote existing township community centers.
 - a. Develop a maintenance and capital improvements schedule for township community buildings to ensure their upkeep and continued use by the public.

- b. Consider development of a plan to promote greater use of township community centers by the public.
- 5. Develop a program to promote Wilson Township recreational facilities.
 - a. Establish wayfinding, directional, and site signage to direct visitors to township recreational facilities.
 - b. Consider the development a recreational brochure and map for Wilson Township recreational facilities.
 - c. Consider partnerships with Alpena Public Schools, the State of Michigan, and/or local private recreational facilities to promote all township recreational resources.
- 6. Explore ways to expand public water access.
 - a. Explore ways to improve the public's access to the Thunder Bay River.
 - b. Work with other state and local agencies, where appropriate, to secure additional public access.
 - c. Support water trail usage in the township by supporting efforts to open the creek (remove deadfall) to get to Thunder Bay from the Wolf Creek Park. Partner with the Thunder Bay River Restoration, a newer organization of volunteers dedicated to navigation of the river.
 - d. Add more water trail signage for convenience of waterways travelers and increased safety for more effective rescue efforts.

WILSON TOWNSHIP ACTION PLAN & BASIS FOR ACTION

The demographics of Wilson Township indicate that a large majority (87.9%) of the Township housing is owner-occupied. Nineteen percent of the population in the Township is under the age of 18. The Township population is on average older than the state of Michigan and the United States. Wilson Township median age is 49.2 while the state of Michigan is 39.5 and the nation median age is 37.7. On average, the Township has a higher percentage of households that are living on retirement income (28.7%) compared to the State (22.7%). Due to the older median age of its population, the need to retain younger members of the population, and to constantly improve quality of life for its residents, Wilson Township must plan for quality recreational facilities that appeal to a wide variety of people. In addition, with the median household income of the Township being \$48,041, recreation must be affordable. Data obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-2016 5-year estimates, unless stated otherwise.

Wilson Township does not currently employ staff to manage these types of facilities. If facilities that require staffing are to be developed, there must be a revenue source to employ additional people. The Township pays to have some maintenance done at the Wolf Creek Park mostly in the form of lawn care and brushing.

Much has been done to improve the Wolf Creek Park since the last Recreation Plan. The Township has accomplished construction of a pedestrian bridge over the creek, fishing pier,

pavilion, ¼ mile path with benches, bathrooms, canoe/kayak launch and signage at the park. Their next steps are to construct more trails at the park and a concrete path from the pavilion to the fishing pier to increase accessibility to the pier. Also, the Township will work to improve the canoe/kayak launch with improvements to make it universally accessible.

Due to the fact that there are more developed recreational facilities and more cultural opportunities in the nearby City of Alpena, Wilson Township intends to capitalize on its natural assets to fulfill the needs of outdoor recreation in Alpena County. With 40% of the Township existing in lowland forests and wetlands, 32% as agricultural land, and 13% as upland forests, land cover patterns in Wilson Township lend themselves naturally to the development of outdoor recreational facilities. Therefore, Wilson Township intends to develop its outdoor recreation to suit the needs of differing age groups, income levels, and physical abilities of Township residents and visitors.

The Township intends to continue to work with volunteers to coordinate and encourage efforts to do the following priority projects:

1. Enhance the experience of those traveling the river.
 - a. Clear ash deadfall for better and safer boating experience.
 - b. Improve the river bank near the fishing pier.
 - c. Build more waterfront trails and walkways.
2. Partner with neighboring agencies in the region including the townships, county, DNR, and non-profits to preserve, enhance, and promote local recreational opportunities such as trails, rivers, parks and state land.

Wolf Creek Property

Wilson Township plans to utilize the natural assets of this property in order to provide the public access to the natural amenities available at this site. Access improvements are needed in the form of road improvements and a parking area for site users. The right-of-way widens on the south side of the river which provides a natural location to construct a parking area. Township residents have expressed the need for a barrier-free fishing deck and canoe launch area due to the lack of such facilities on Wolf Creek in particular and in other areas of the Township in general. Environmental issues will be taken into consideration as these facilities are developed in order to minimize bank erosion, etc.

A pedestrian bridge across the river has been constructed and allows the public access to both sides of the river without utilizing Wolf Creek Road. Other property improvements have been made to clean up the area to make it an attractive site for the public. Restrooms, a picnic area, signage, and benches were a goal of the last recreation plan and have been achieved.

It is the Township's intent to continue to pursue the acquisition of the property located between the current Township road right of way and Wolf Creek. The property is currently in private ownership but would be a great Township asset. If acquired, the property could be

designated as a natural area and funding for the construction of hiking and interpretive trails could be pursued.

Township Park/Campground

Since the last recreation plan, at which time the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground had been closed, the campground has again been opened to the public. If this was to close again, the Township values having a campground in the Township enough to assist in establishing a reliable and enjoyable camping experience.

Trails

Bike trails, hiking trails, horse trails, ski trails, and snowmobile trails are currently concentrated in the eastern portion of Wilson Township. The exception is the Alpena to Hillman Trail which traverses the Township east-west in the northern portion. The central, southern, and western portions of Wilson Township have no trail systems. The snowmobile trail system has already been established and is nearing maximum capacity for the Alpena Sno-Drifters to maintain. Therefore, the Township wishes to focus on the establishment of non-motorized trails because there is a lack of such facilities in the central and western portion of Alpena County.

The Township wishes to pursue the establishment of non-motorized trail systems which link current and future recreational facilities. In particular, trails are needed which will link the following facilities: Wolf Creek Property, Wilson School, Wilson Township Hall, Optimist Acres, and the State-owned facilities in the Mackinaw State Forest such as the Norway Ridge Pathway and the Devil's Lake Parking Lot. On a larger scale, this internal Wilson Township trail system could then be linked via the M-32 MDOT Bike path in Alpena Charter Township and through the Mackinaw State Forest with any existing and future trails in Alpena Charter Township and, ultimately, to the Bi-Path in the City of Alpena and any future trail systems planned for the US 23 Heritage Route. As the development of region-wide trail connections progresses, Wilson Township will be at the forefront.

As funding is pursued, Wilson Township will work with the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Alpena County Road Commission to identify opportunities to establish non-motorized trails along existing State and County road right-of-ways. If necessary, the Township will also work with willing private property owners to establish easements across private property. In addition, as trails are developed, the location of parking areas along strategic points of the Wilson Township internal trail system will be determined and funding for such will be pursued.

Thunder Bay River Access

The Township sees the need to research and pursue funding to establish greater public access to the Thunder Bay River along Werth Road. The recent closure of the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground has decreased public access to the Thunder Bay River. In addition, property

owners along Werth Road have experienced trespass due to the public attempting to gain access to the river across private property. A public access point at this location would alleviate this problem and be a great asset to the community.

Wayfinding Signage/Informational Brochures

Many visitors and Township residents are not aware of the recreational opportunities available within Wilson Township. The Township intends to develop wayfinding signage to direct visitors and residents to the public and private recreational facilities which are listed in the recreation inventory and are located within Wilson Township. This signage will include name, direction, and distance information. Preliminary locations where such signage is needed include: (1) M-32/Herron Road (2) M-32/King Settlement Road (3) M-32/Indian Reserve Road (4) Herron Road/Werth Road (5) Wolf Creek Road/Werth Road (6) Indian Reserve Road/Werth Road (7) Werth Road/Spruce Road and (8) King Settlement Road/Werth Road. In addition to signage, the Township plans to develop color brochures/maps highlighting recreation in Wilson Township to be distributed throughout the area and which could be available for download on various websites such as the Alpena CVB website and NEMCOG's website.

Chapter 6 APPENDIX A

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

Chapter 7 APPENDIX B

SURVEY RESULTS

View at:

<http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/alpenarecplan.asp>

Chapter 8 APPENDIX C

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT