

Alpena Area Joint Recreation Plan

Alpena County, Charter Township of Alpena, Green Township,
Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township & Wilson Township



2024-2028

Alpena Area Joint Recreation Plan

Alpena County, Charter Township of Alpena, Green Township,
Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township & Wilson Township

1	INTRODUCTION	
	Extent of Plan Focus	1-1
	Location & Regional Setting	1-1
	Community Data	1-2
2	ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	
	Alpena County	2-1
	Charter Township of Alpena	2-6
	Green Township	2-8
	Ossineke Township	2-10
	Sanborn Township	2-12
	Wilson Township	2-14
Relationship Between Municipalities	2-16	
3	INVENTORY	
	Inventory Method & Classification	3-1
	Alpena County Recreation Facilities	3-2
	Charter Twp of Alpena Rec Facilities	3-12
	Green Township Recreation Facilities	3-21
	Ossineke Township Rec Facilities	3-24
	Sanborn Township Rec Facilities	3-27
	Wilson Township Recreation Facilities	3-37
	Other Area Recreation Facilities	3-41
	Grant History	3-55
4	GOALS & ACTION PLAN	
	Alpena County	4-1
	Charter Township of Alpena	4-12
	Green Township	4-15
	Ossineke Township	4-17
	Sanborn Township	4-19
	Wilson Township	4-23
Basis for Action	4-25	
5	PLANNING PROCESS	
	Planning Schedule	5-1
	Survey Results Summary	5-4
	Documentation	5-12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2024-2028

Recreation Plan assistance provided by:

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG)

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108

PO Box 457

Gaylord, MI 49735

www.nemcog.org

Northeast Michigan
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CHAPTER

1

INTRODUCTION



Alpena Area Joint Recreation Plan

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 **Charter Township of Alpena, Green Township, Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township, and Wilson Township**. 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 the recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

Location and Regional Setting

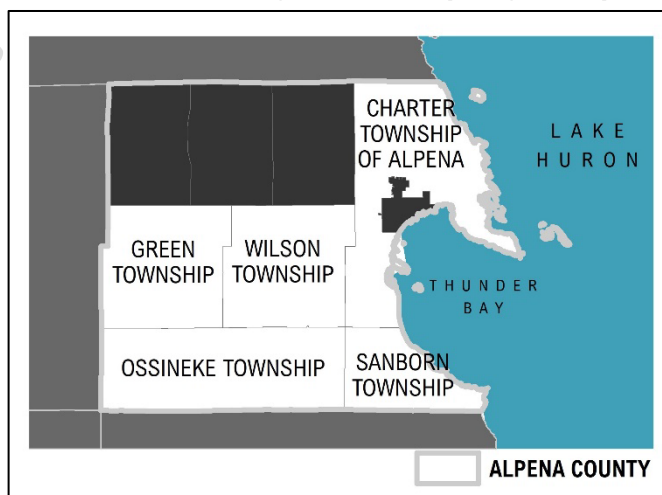
Alpena County is located on the shores of Lake Huron in the northeast section of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula (see **Figure 1-1 – Location Map**). Covering 568 square miles, the county includes 363,520 acres. It is bordered by Presque Isle County to the north, Montmorency County to the west, Alcona County 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 (**Figure 1-2**). 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



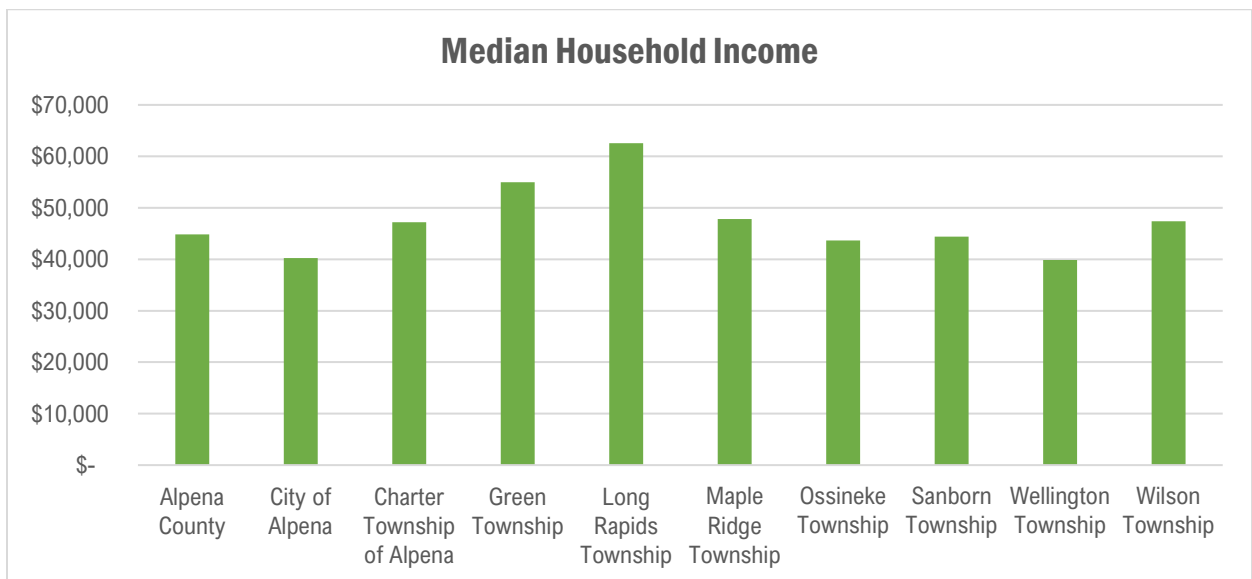
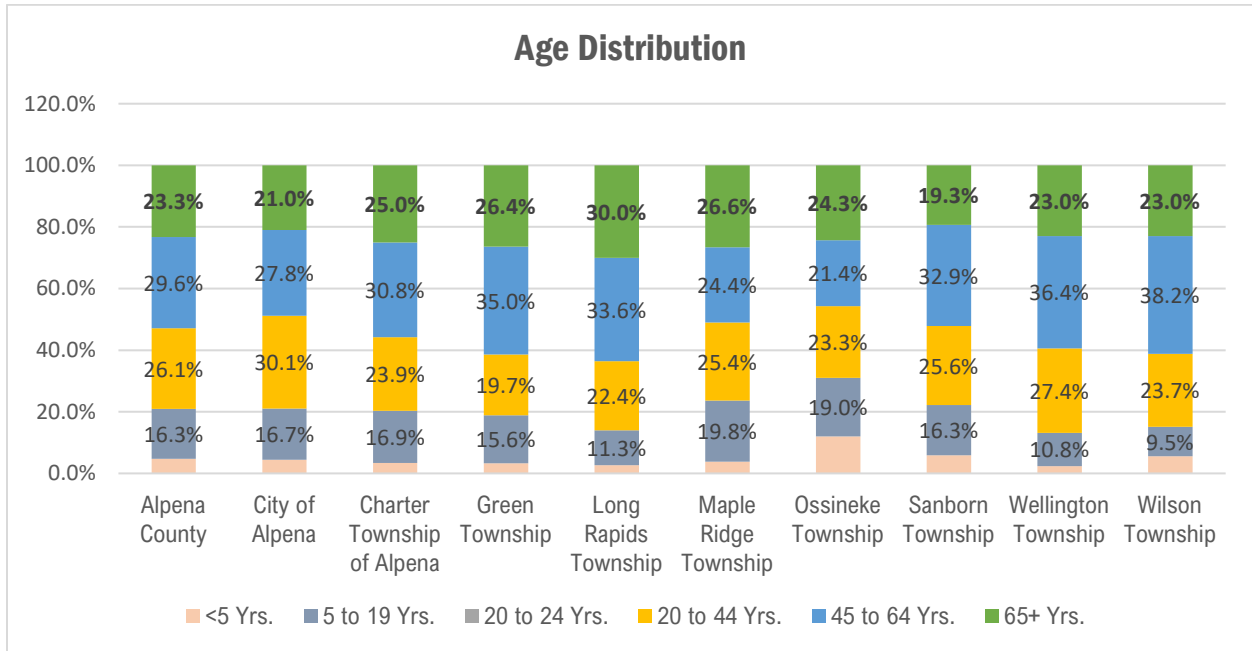
Figure 1-2 Participating Municipalities

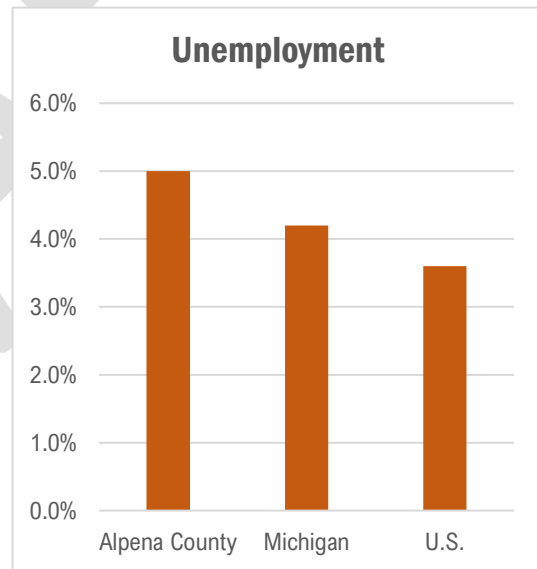
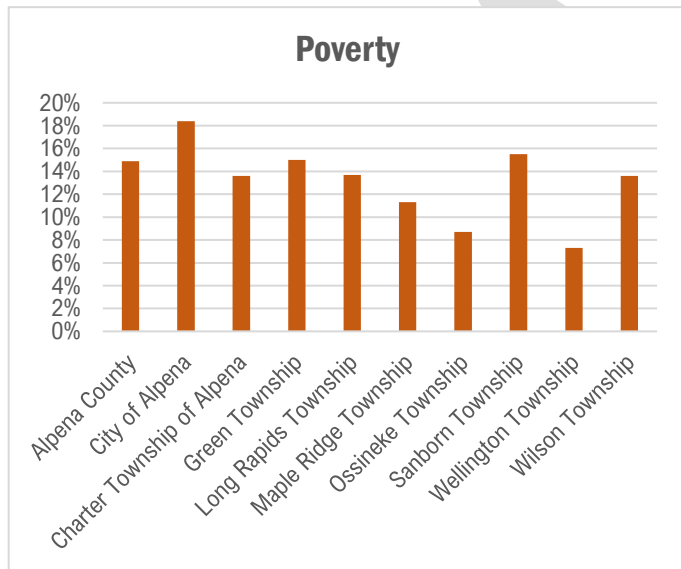
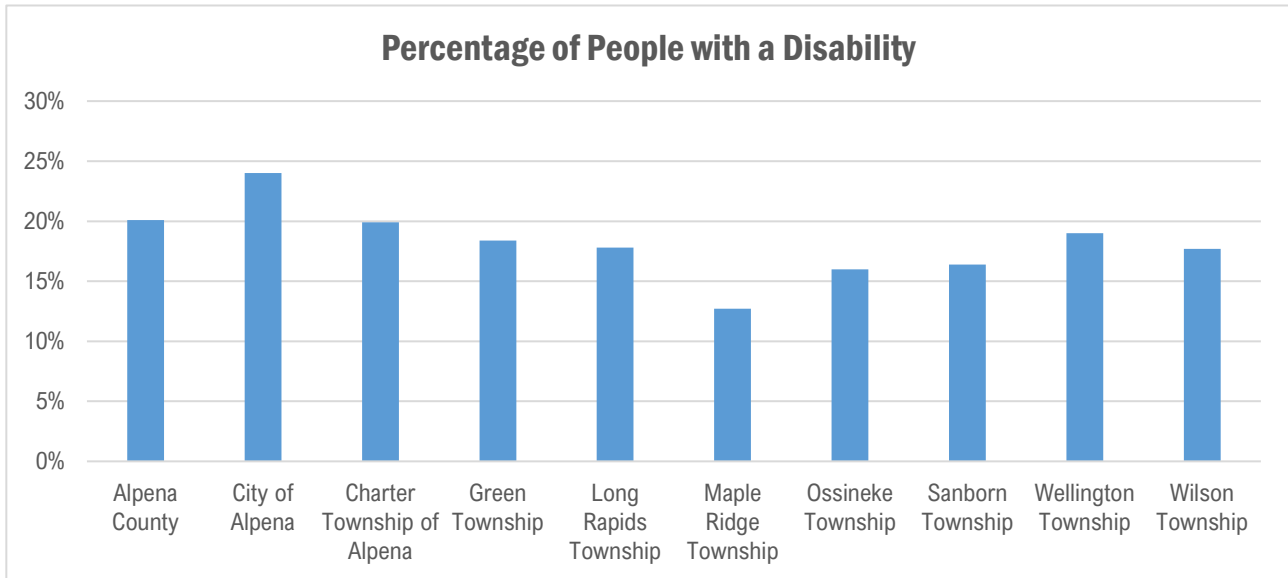


Community Data

The following tables contain data which is relevant to the recreation planning process. These tables are

cited in the Basis for Action in Chapter 4.





CHAPTER

2

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



Alpena Area Joint Recreation Plan

Alpena County

Alpena County Administration

Alpena County Parks Commission was established in 1967 under the authority of Public Act 261, as amended by Public Act 242 of 1966. The Alpena Area Recreation Commission (currently inactive) was established in 2000 under the Urban Cooperation Act, Public Act 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 the County

Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 282 of 1945 as amended and re-established according to Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 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 – Alpena County

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 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

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 that 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, 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 & 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", was 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 ensuring 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 the 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 workload, it amounts to approximately two full-time employee positions. Programs include the annual Alpena County Fair, Alpena Blues Fest, horse shows, 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 a 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

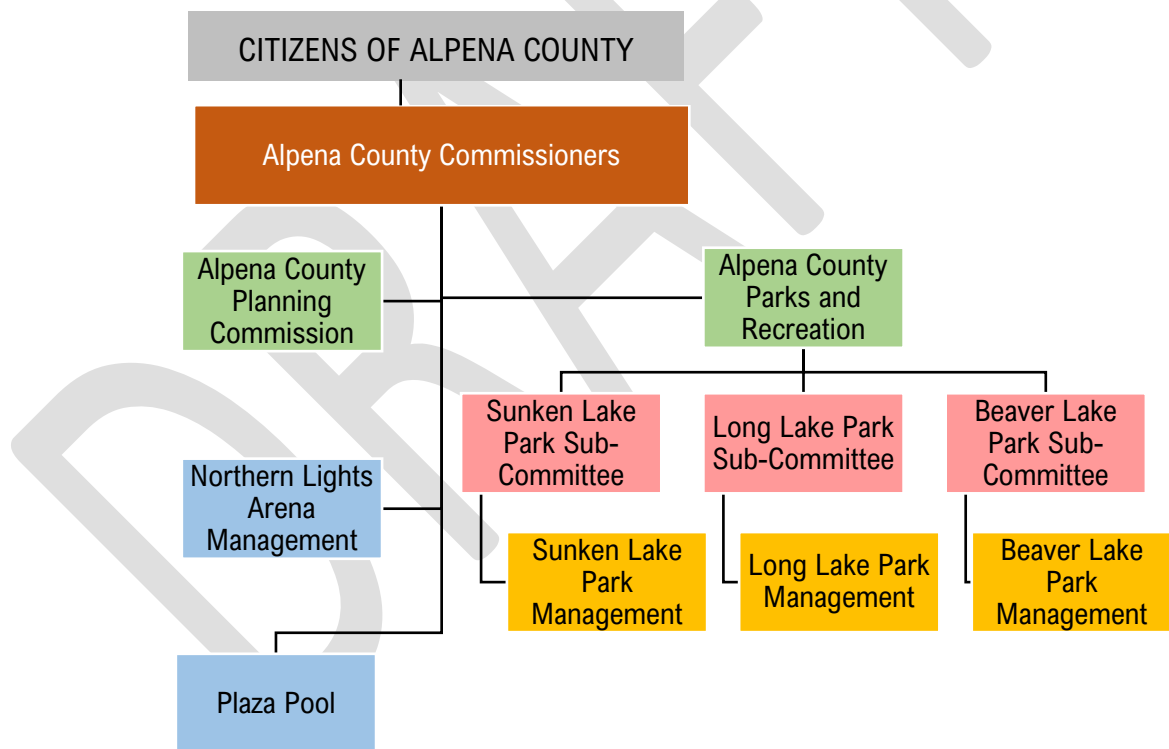
lifesaving training sessions; Infant/Toddler water adjustment classes; Senior citizen physical therapy programs; and family swimming programs. Specific targeted programming includes: Senior Fitness, Splash Aerobics, Aqua Chi, Water Walking/Running, Rehabilitation and Social Swimming, Lap and Exercise 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 including 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 employees of Plaza Pool and Northern Lights Arena are not Alpena County employees.

Figure 2-1 Administrative Chart – Alpena County



Recreation Budget – Alpena County*

	2024 Budget	2025 Projected Budget
Total Estimated Revenue	\$852,685	\$800,000*
Total Appropriations	\$935,955	\$900,000*

*The Alpena County budget begins on January 1, so budget discussions for 2025 won't occur until summer/fall of 2024. However, Alpena County expects revenue and appropriations to be similar to 2024.

Relationships with other Agencies/Groups & Role of Volunteers – Alpena County

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 Snowdrifters

The Alpena Snowdrifters 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 Snowdrifters include trails from Alpena to Hillman, Alpena to Posen, Norway Ridge, and the Devil's Lake area. The Alpena Snowdrifters 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 of 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

The 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 including 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. Besides 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 shows, travel trailer shows, sportsman shows, concerts, builder shows, gymnastic training, and many others.

Charter Township of Alpena

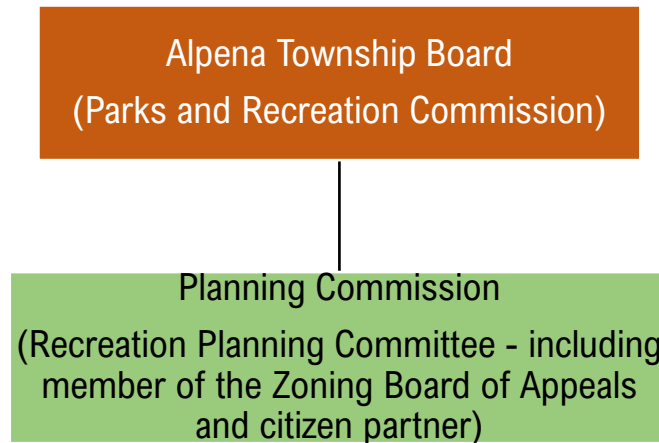
Charter Township of Alpena Administration

The Charter Township of Alpena 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. 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 the bike path along US-23 & M-32 West. The Township is looking to re-establish a Recreation Committee that will consist of members of the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees.

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

Figure 2-2 Administrative Chart – Charter Township of Alpena



Staff/Parks & Recreation Maintenance

Maintenance on Township 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 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 William

Desormeau Complex is completed in partnership with the Alpena Huron Shore Little League and volunteers.

Additional partnerships include:

- Huron Pines
- Nature Conservancy
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

- Steelheaders Alpena Chapter
- NOAA
- Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society
- Thunder Bay River Restoration
- South Bay

Recreation Budget – Charter Township of Alpena

The following is the budget summary for the Charter Township of Alpena’s Parks and Recreation

activities provided by the Charter Township of Alpena.

	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Projected Budget
Building & Grounds		
Bi-path maintenance	\$25,400	\$25,400
Janitorial Supplies	\$3,500	\$3,500
Janitorial Services	\$8,500	\$8,500
Recreation & Cultural Control		
Thunder Bay Island Renovation	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,500
Misery Bay Nature Preserve	\$992	\$1,000
Long Lake Association	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$42,392	\$46,900



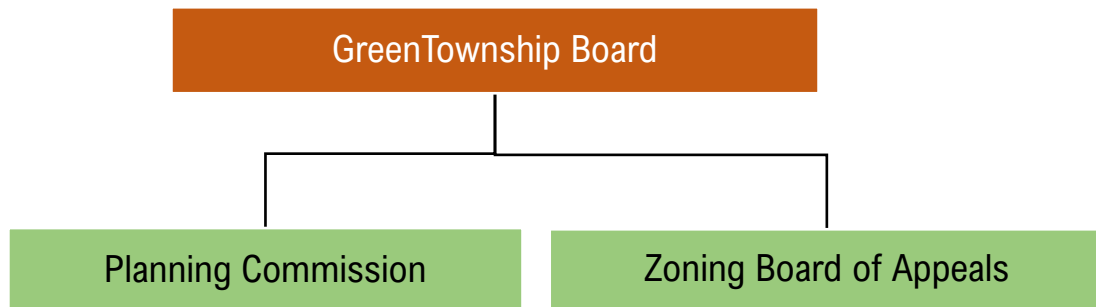
Green Township

Green Township Administration

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 Administrative Chart – Green Township



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.

Recreation Budget – Green Township

The township board supports funding with general funds and grant writing opportunities. The following

is a budget summary of Parks & Recreation related activities.

	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Projected Budget
Income		
Township Hall Rental	\$3,500	\$3,500
Expenses		
Township Hall	\$22,950	\$25,000
Cemetery	\$6,650	\$7,000
Ball Diamond	\$5,000	\$500
TOTALS	\$38,100	36,000

Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers – Green Township

Alpena County - Manning Hill County Park

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. The Township also partners with Hillman Village and Ossineke Townships on

firefighting efforts as well as river safety rescue efforts, sharing Green Township's airboat. 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

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

Ossineke Township Administration

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

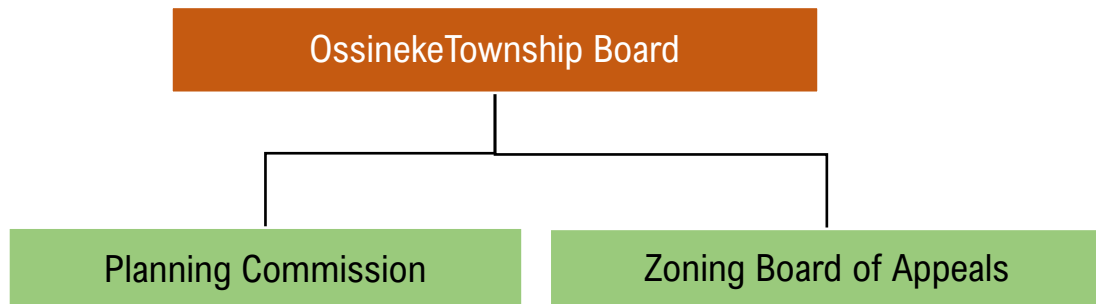
may come from many walks of life, but they all contribute their time and talents to the local planning process. In addition to the responsibility of preparing the Master Plan, the Ossineke Township Planning Commission is charged with reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

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 Administrative Chart – Ossineke Township



Recreation Budget – Ossineke Township

The township board supports funding with general funds and grant writing opportunities. The following is a budget summary of items that are often related

to recreation and facilities which contribute to recreational areas.

	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Projected Budget
Township Hall	\$29,800	\$29,800
Community Programs (including Hubbard Lake Lions Park and the Thunder Bay Trails Association)	\$15,000	\$15,000
TOTALS	\$44,800	\$44,800

Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers – Ossineke Township

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
5. Huron Shores Little League
6. Thunder Bay Trails Association
7. Michigan Nature Conservancy
8. Huron Pines
9. Lions Club & Lions Hubbard Lake Advisory Board
10. Great Lakes Great Responsibility

Sanborn Township

Sanborn Township Administration

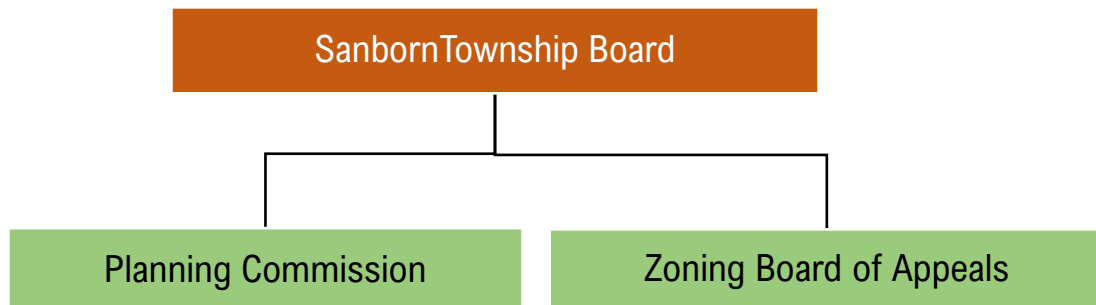
Sanborn is governed by an elected Board of Trustees. Recreation decisions concerning land acquisition, recreation planning, and financial accommodations are the direct responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The Planning Commission advises the board regarding the planning,

acquisition, development, and funding of all other recreation properties and facilities within the Township. Among other township governmental entities are the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Review.

Planning Commission

The Sanborn Township Planning Commission is a five-member body, serving three-year staggered terms. Planning Commission members are intended to represent the township geographically and across a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce, industry, government, education, transportation, and so on.

In addition to the responsibility of preparing the Master Plan and Recreation Plan, the Sanborn Township Planning Commission is charged with making recommendations on Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map amendments and reviewing development projects as they are proposed.



Staff/Parks & Recreation Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of Township-owned recreational properties on a day-to-day basis are provided through contracted labor, with supervision provided by the Township Supervisor. In the past, the Board has welcomed the participation of volunteer groups and service clubs in the

maintenance of Township recreational sites. The involvement of such groups will continue to be strongly encouraged in the future, not only with operation and maintenance but as match labor in certain development projects.

Recreation Budget – Sanborn Township

In the Township, finances are garnered from property taxes, permits, and fees. Finances for the

acquisition, operation, and maintenance of all recreational properties within the Township come

through the Township Board of Trustees. These funds are provided through Township General Funds. Presently, no other funds are used to fund recreation in the Township. If the Township decides to expand recreational opportunities or acquire new

sites, recreation grants and the levying of user fees may be a factor in funding; general funds from the Township Board would also be used.

Need new numbers below:

	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Projected Budget
Park Custodian	\$6,000	\$6,000
Streetscape Project	\$10,000	\$10,000
Rec Plan & Grants	\$15,000	\$15,000
Maintenance & Repairs	\$6,000	\$6,000
Shin-ga-ba Shores Park	\$1,600	\$1,600
Park Equipment	\$1,000	---
Park Equipment Match	\$5,000	---
TOTALS	\$44,600	\$38,600

Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers – Sanborn Township

Sanborn Township depends on its community volunteers. These are dedicated individuals who come forward time and again to assist with community improvement projects, fundraising, festival preparations, and other community events. The Township Board has frequent contact and excellent rapport with local/adjoining Township

Officials and County Representatives whom they work with on various projects. Below is a list of some of the volunteer agencies and groups that volunteer time, funds, or materials to improve and/or maintain recreational assets in the Sanborn Township area.

Ossineke Chamber of Commerce sponsors a skating rink and a movie night at the pavilion.

(NEMSCA) brings together federal and state grand funds as well as dollars from local private and public sources. These resources are directed to programs which aid the poor and disadvantaged of all age spectrums.

Sanborn Elementary has sponsored a family fun night.

Youth Volunteer Core creates volunteer opportunities to address community needs and to inspire youth to a lifetime commitment to service.

Alpena Huron Shores Little League sponsors many baseball leagues and activities and provides maintenance at the various baseball fields.

Alpena Community College creates a culture of educational excellence and service to the community.

Great Lakes Great Responsibility is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the Great Lakes for all people. Volunteers are committed to creating a clean, healthy freshwater resource that can be sustained for generations to come.

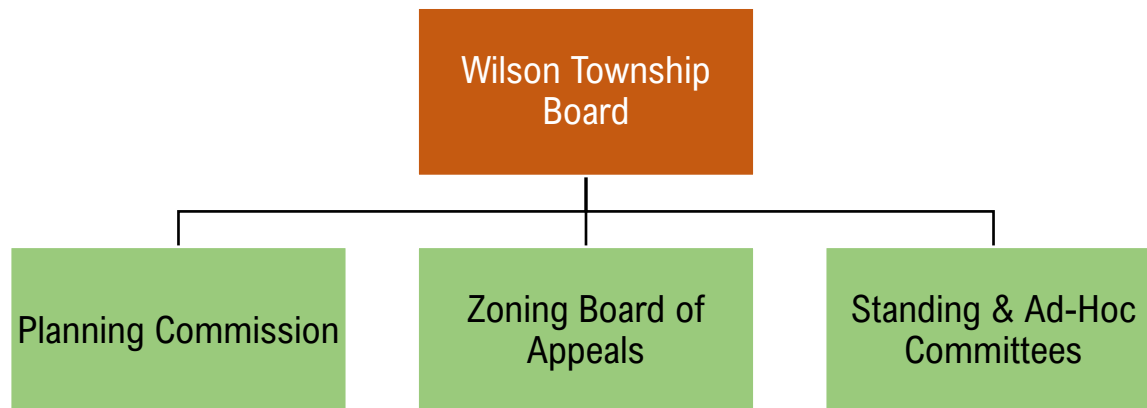
Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency

Wilson Township

Wilson Township Administration

Wilson is governed by an elected Board of Trustees. Recreation decisions concerning land acquisition, recreation planning, and financial accommodations are the direct responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The Planning Commission advises the board regarding the planning, acquisition,

development, and funding of all other recreation properties and facilities within the Township. Among other township governmental entities are the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Review.



Planning Commission

The Wilson Township 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 Wilson Township Planning Commission is charged with reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

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.

Recreation Budget – Wilson Township

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.

	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Projected Budget
Parks & Recreation	\$20,634	\$20,000
TOTALS	\$20,634	\$20,000

Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers – Wilson Township

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.

Alpena Snowdrifters

The Alpena Snowdrifters 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 Snowdrifters include trails from Alpena to Hillman, Alpena to Posen, Norway Ridge, and the Devil’s Lake area. The Alpena Snowdrifters 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.

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.”

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 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 of 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.

Relationship Between Municipalities

Joint Planning Effort!

Participants:

- Alpena County
- City of Alpena
- Charter Township of Alpena
- Green Township
- Ossineke Township
- Sanborn Township
- Wilson Township

The municipalities in Alpena County have worked together to plan for recreation since 2018. In addition, the City of Alpena (which is not part of this multi-jurisdictional plan) participated in the current recreation planning process by adjusting the timing of their recreation plan update to coincide with that of the multi-jurisdictional plan. The communities issued a joint public input survey and collaborated to generate results. In addition, two meetings were held with all of the municipalities present – one of these meetings was the Alpena Intergovernmental Council – which consists of the elected representatives of each municipality. At this meeting, the group discussed how best to move forward jointly in implementing the recreation plan – including funding and programming. In addition, a joint meeting was held with members of the Planning Commissions to continue this discussion. A trails planning group has also formed to discuss how to connect recreational facilities within the county with trail systems and wide paved shoulders to allow park users to travel safely from park to park. This planning is being done in conjunction with the update of the MDOT Active Transportation Plan which seeks to identify those needed connections. The group has identified a need to re-establish an official multi-jurisdictional umbrella group to oversee this into the future.

Shared goals between all of the participating municipalities are presented in Chapter 4.

CHAPTER

3

INVENTORY



Alpena Area Joint Recreation Plan

Inventory Method & Classification System

Alpena County contains a great variety of natural resources including Lake Huron, inland lakes, rivers/streams, beaches, and many different types of recreation areas. Staff from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments visited each recreation facility to do an on-site assessment in order to update the park’s information, accessibility rating, and photos from previous years.

An evaluation of each park’s accessibility was completed during the onsite inventory. This assessment

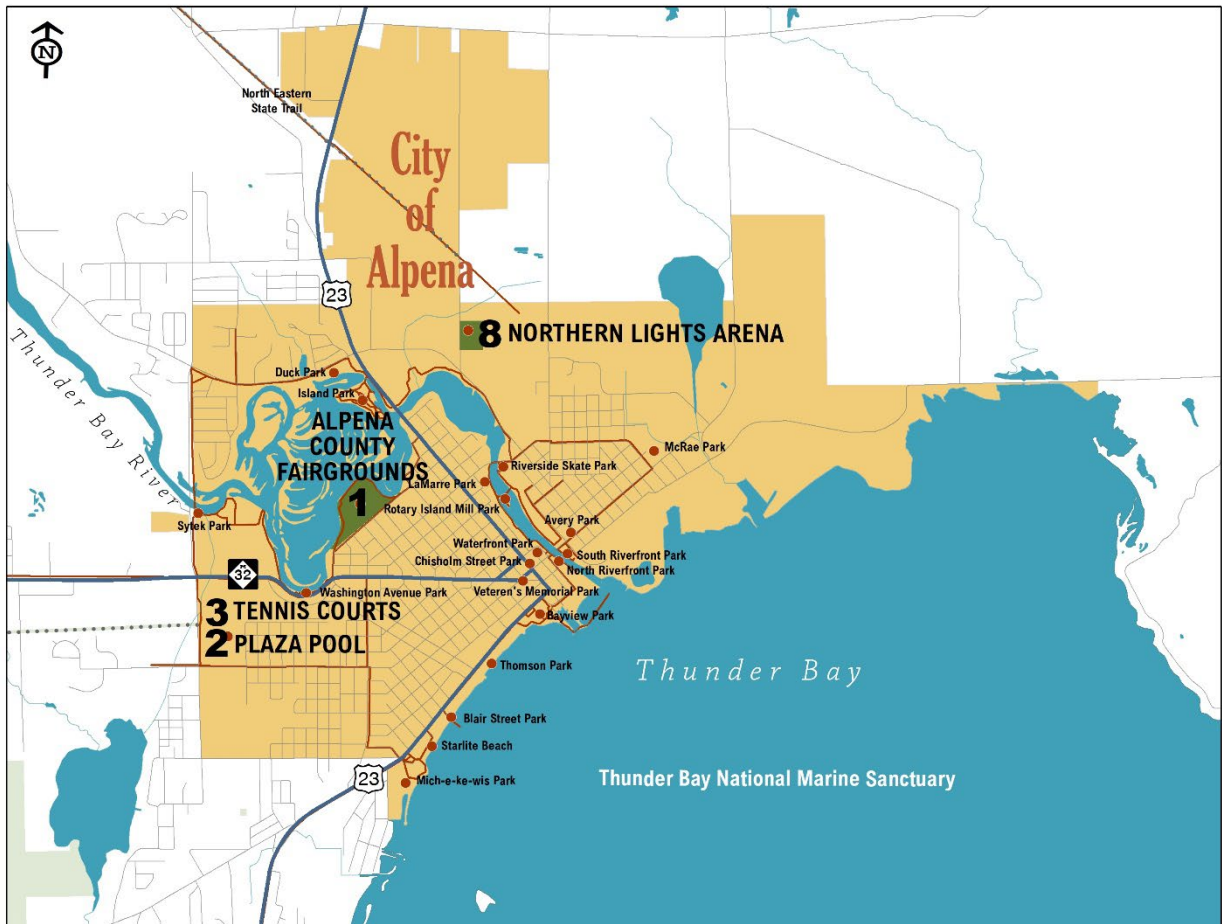
visually evaluated the accessibility of facilities and routes to facilities for persons with mobility constraints. Barrier-free accessibility in parks and recreational facilities is important for current and future programming as it makes these spaces more inclusive and easier for all to use. The assessment followed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ scale for evaluating park accessibility in the 2021 “Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans” on a scale of 1 to 5.

DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

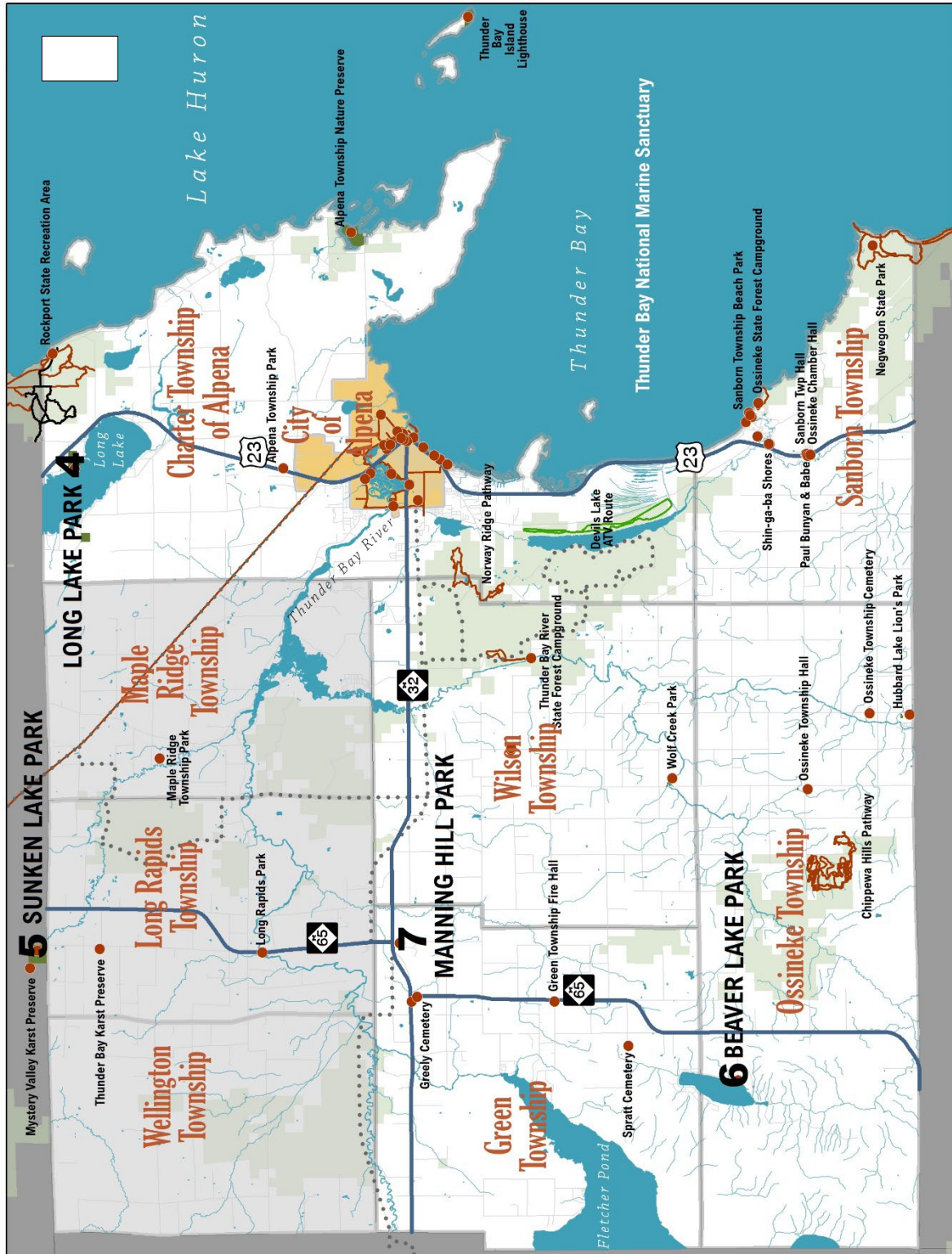


Alpena County Recreation Facilities

Map County of Facilities in City of Alpena



- Recreation Facility
- Recreation Facility Parcel in County Plan
- State of Michigan Land
- Hiking or Biking Trail
- Horse Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- ATV Trails & Routes



1

ALPENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Location: 11th Avenue (between Charlotte Street and Tawas Street)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
33	Special Use: Annual fair events, campground, playground	2	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.

Description

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.



2

ALPENA PLAZA POOL

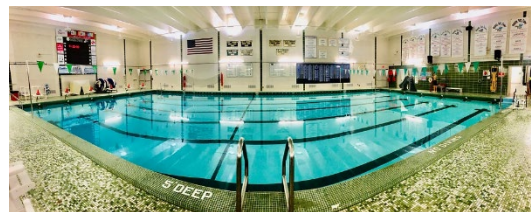
Location: 3303 South Third Avenue (Alpena High School)

Size (sq ft)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
14,300*	Special Use: Swimming for students and the public	3	ADA-compliant parking area is provided. Access to the facility and pool is 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.

Alpena County owns the plaza pool building which is located on the Alpena High School campus

Description

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 includes: 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.

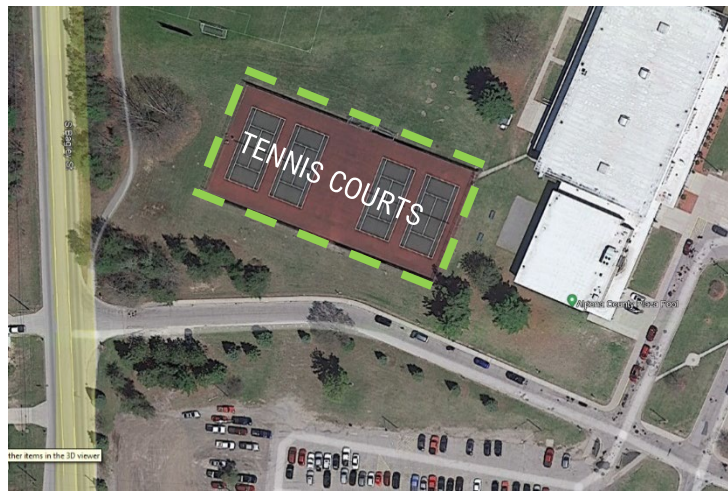


3 **TENNIS COURTS**
 Location: 3303 South Third Avenue (Alpena High School)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1.4	Special Use: Tennis courts for high school and public	3	The facility is near the Plaza Pool

Description

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 competitions. Recent updates include resurfacing and spectator seating installed.



4

LONG LAKE PARK

Location: 10002 Hinks Park Road

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
68	Regional Park; Campground	2	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 wheelchair accessible picnic tables in the picnic area and there is limited signage and lighting. An accessible swing is present.

Description

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, a dumping station, a store, a concrete boat ramp, three docks, nature trails, one pavilion (with electricity), picnic tables, two playgrounds, basketball (1/2 court), three horseshoe pits, two swimming beaches, and outdoor trailer storage. Long Lake Park is open from 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. At the time of the writing of this plan, construction has begun on a new boat launch and a day-use area with picnic tables.



5

SUNKEN LAKE PARK

Location: 10300 South Leer Road

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
160	Regional Park; Campground	2	Bathrooms in picnic area consist 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.

Description

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 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.



6 **BEAVER LAKE PARK**
 Location: 17354 Beaver Lake Park Road

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
8.19	Regional Park; Campground	3	Restrooms and office are compliant with ADA guidelines. The boat launch area and dock are barrier-free. There are no wheelchair-accessible picnic tables in the picnic area and there is limited signage and lighting. An ADA swing exists.

Description

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 walleye, 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, three playgrounds, and a swimming beach. Overnight camping is available and a park manager is on-site. A paved boat launch area, teen center, basketball court, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, benches, picnic tables, and rentable pavilion are also available.



7 **MANNING HILL PARK**
Location: Park Road (Lachine)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
2	Community Park	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.

Description

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, gazebo, four picnic tables, six 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 has been constructed to provide visitors with spectacular views. An ADA-compliant sidewalk exists between the pavilion and the driveway, continuing to the highest platform, and returning to the parking lot. Sledding is a popular winter activity on the 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.



8

NORTHERN LIGHTS ARENA

Location: 751 Woodward Avenue, Alpena

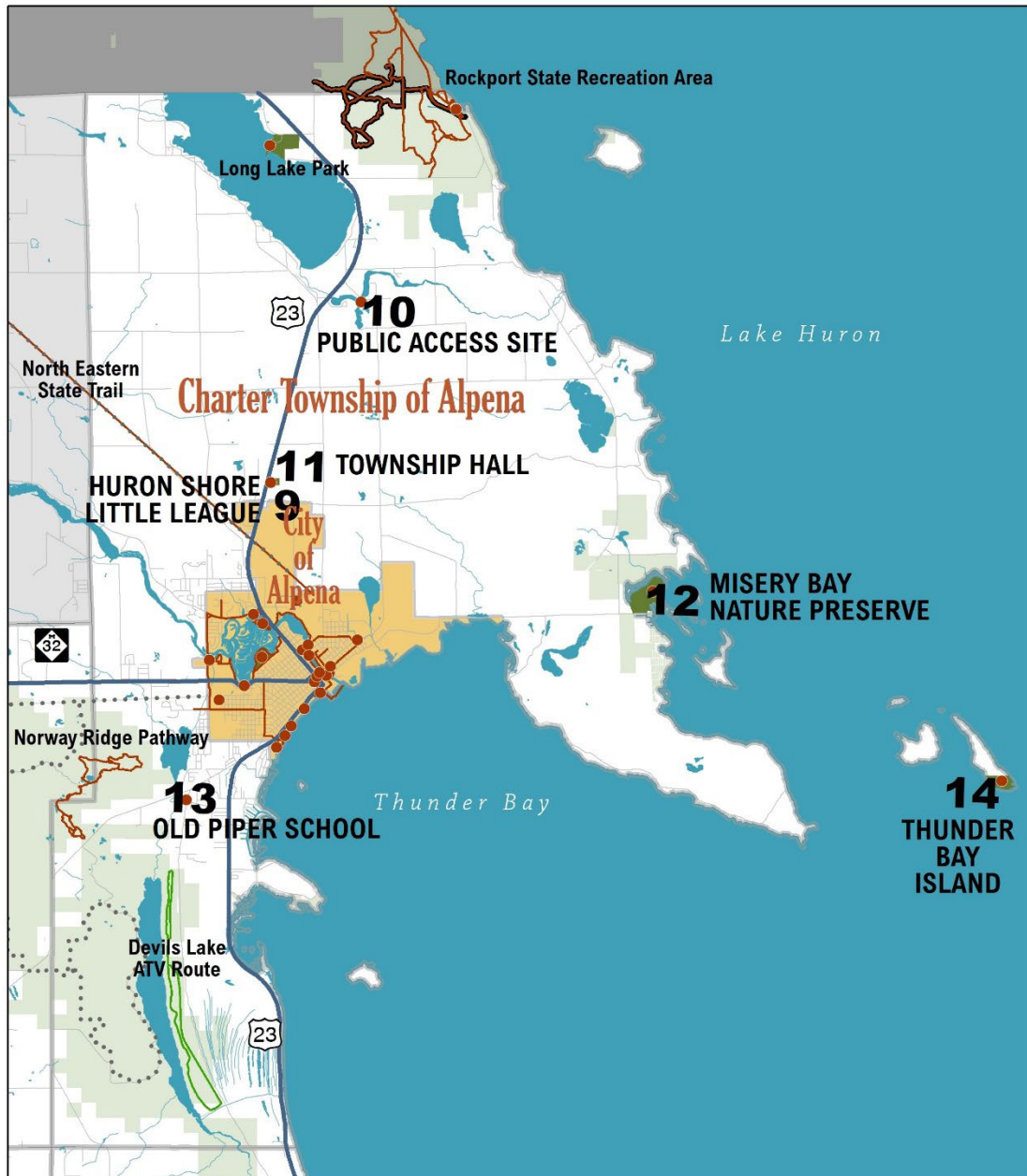
Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
6	Sports Complex	3	Bathroom and parking meet ADA guidelines; however, there is limited access to the full spectator seating areas.

Description

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, 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.



Charter Township of Alpena Recreation Facilities



- | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------------|
|  | Township Boundary |  | Hiking or Biking Trail |
|  | Recreation Facility |  | Horse Trails |
|  | Recreation Facility Parcel in County Plan |  | Snowmobile Trails |
|  | State of Michigan Land |  | ATV Trails & Routes |

9

WILLIAM DESORMEAU COMPLEX – ALPENA HURON SHORE LITTLE LEAGUE

Location: 4385 U.S. 23 North, Alpena

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
11.1	Sports Complex	3	A barrier-free ramp exists at the entrance to the building. Restrooms also meet accessibility standards. Three of the four ball fields do not meet accessibility standards.

Description

The William Desormeau Complex – Alpena Huron Shore Little League fields are located behind the township municipal building at 4385 U.S. 23 North. Current facilities consist of three regulation Little League ball diamonds, bleachers, two batting cages, dugouts, scoreboards, restroom/concession building, picnic tables, storage building, well house, two automatic sprinkling systems to maintain the fields, a playground, a maintenance garage, fencing, and an enlarged parking area with handicap accessibility. Alpena Huron Shore Little League maintains the ball fields, and the Township pays the utilities. The facility is not only used for local Little League activities but is a site for regional tournament games.

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



10

PUBLIC ACCESS SITE
 Location: Weiss Road Bridge, Alpena

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.8	Special Use: Water Access Site	2	Minor improvements have been made.

Description

A public access site is located on 0.8 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.



11 **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ALPENA OFFICES**
 Location: 4385 U.S. 23 North, Alpena

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
11.1	Special Use: Township offices	4	A barrier-free ramp makes the entrance to the building readily accessible. Restrooms are also accessible.

Description

The Charter Township of Alpena Office Building is located at 4385 U.S. 23 North. It contains offices of the Building Department, Clerk, Treasurer, and Supervisor. The Northside Station of the Township Fire Department is also located at this facility.



12 MISERY BAY NATURE PRESERVE
 Location: Misery Bay Rd, Section 15 of T31N-R9E

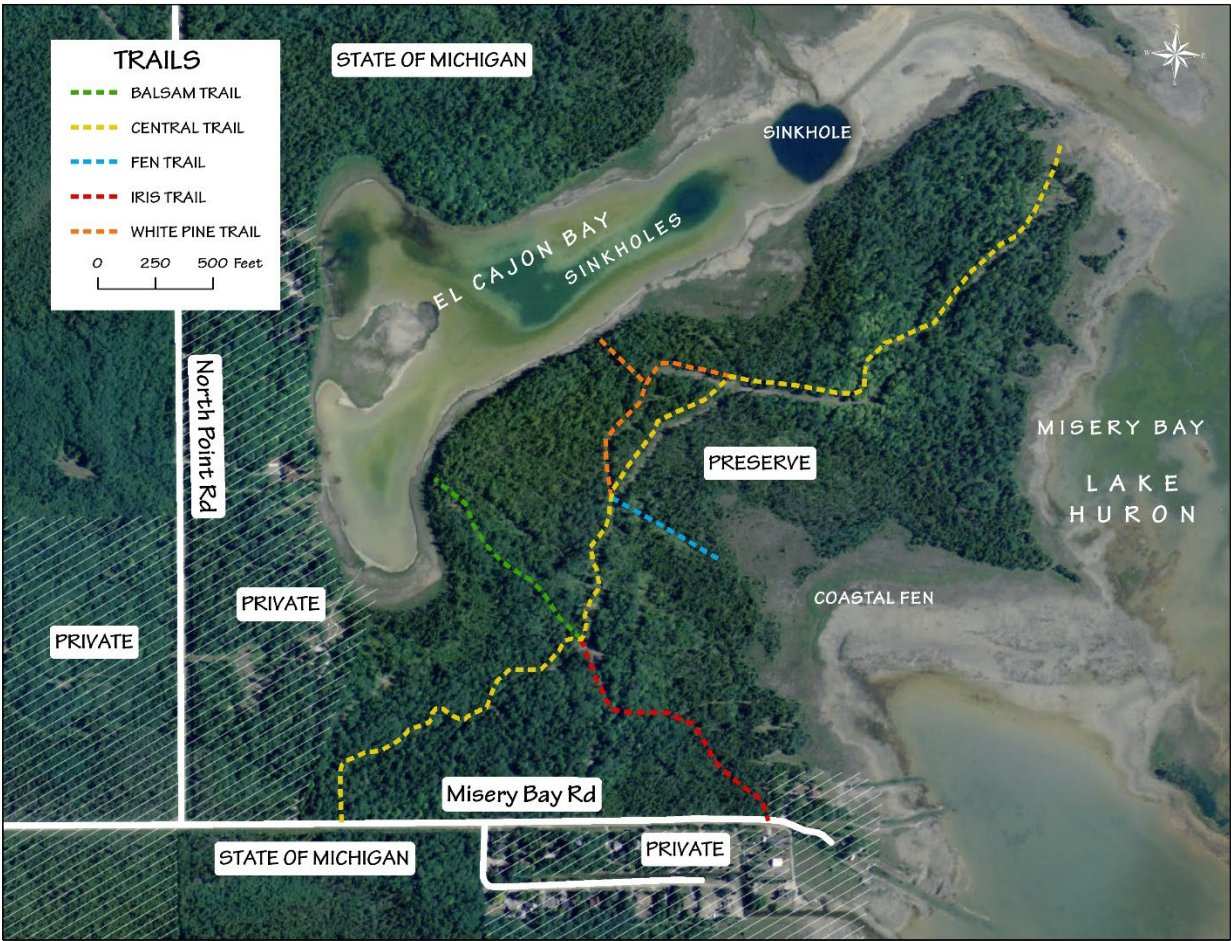
Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
140	Natural Resource Area	1	The site is in an undeveloped state.

Description

Misery Bay 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 the Charter Township of Alpena in acquiring this property to preserve it from extensive lakeshore development and to provide public access to unique natural resources. The Charter Township of Alpena 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. A Management Plan exists for the facility. 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. A group of stewards has made improvements at the preserve including a parking lot, trails, signage, a boot brush stand, kiosk, entrance sign, and benches. 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.





DR

13 **OLD PIPER SCHOOL**
 Location: 3100 Piper Rd, Alpena

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1	Special Use: School Building	2	

Description

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.



14 **THUNDER BAY ISLAND**
Location: 4 miles offshore

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
43.08	Special Use (Lighthouse) & Natural Area	2	The site has been under rehabilitation.

Description

Thunder Bay Island consists of 215 acres of which the Charter Township of Alpena owns 43.08. The island is home to the Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse and adjacent lightkeeper’s quarters. The lighthouse was the third operating lighthouse in Lake Huron and was built in 1831. Thunder Bay Island is located approximately 3 ½ miles offshore from North Point, latitude 45 02 15, longitude 83 11 38. 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 has very little surface soil, however, it supports an abundance of vegetation. According to the Department of Interior research, the alvar on Thunder Bay Island is very rare, and shares commonalities with only one other site on Earth, in the Baltic Sea region.

The islands’ history is inextricably linked to an abundance of and proximity to the natural resources of Northern Michigan, and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula including animal furs, fisheries, forests, and limestone. The surrounding reefs, in conjunction with Lake Huron’s depth and cold water temperatures, created a very healthy fish habitat and a prosperous fishing community. By 1845, a large fishing village thrived on Thunder Bay Island, with over 160 residents and 31 fishing boats harvesting over twelve thousand barrels of fish each year. In 1846, the first store in Alpena County was built on the island, as many of the “firsts” for Alpena originated on the island.



The west side of the island still has remains of the LifeSaving Station that served mariners from 1876 until 1951. During the period from 1877-1915, the crew from the station were credited with saving over 1000 lives. On the east side, the lighthouse built in 1832, still stands. It has the distinction of being the second lighthouse to be constructed on Lake Huron. The light beacon was automated in 1983 when the US Coast Guard decommissioned the station. It still serves as an active aid to navigation after 190 years.

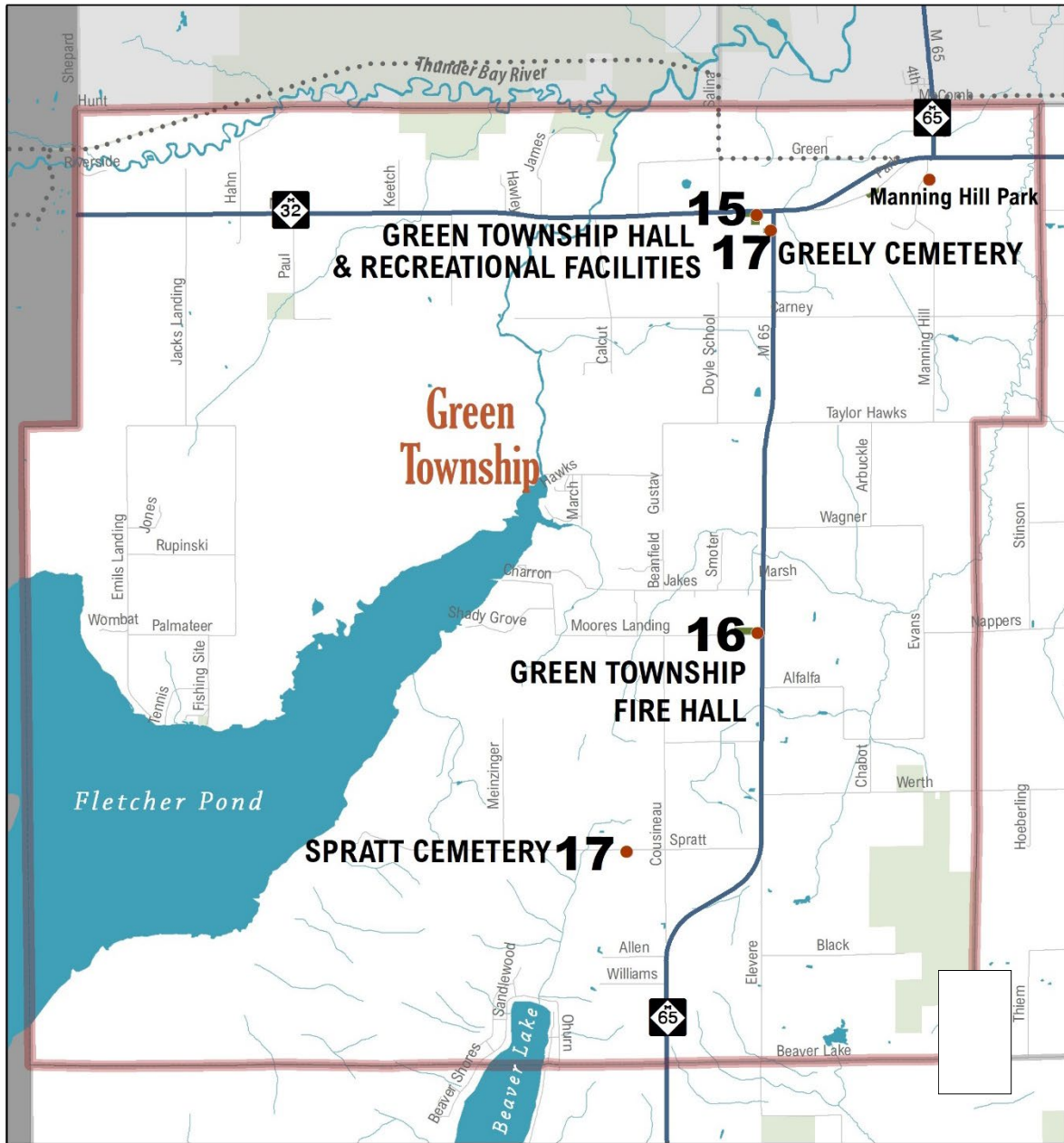
The Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse Complex was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Several structures remain on the island and are being maintained and restored by the Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society since 1996. In 2014, the southern 43.08 acres containing all of the buildings was transferred to the Charter Township of Alpena, with the preservation society serving as their property managers. The management agreement between the two parties exists in perpetuity, with plans to continue to develop the island into a day-use park for the public. Progress can be monitored by visiting the Society's website: **www.thunderbayislandlight.org**.

The Charter Township of Alpena is continuing to work with the Bureau of Land Management to transfer the remaining island property to the township. Once that process is completed, a handicapped-accessible landing and walkway to the shoreline will be constructed to make ingress and egress to the island more available. There currently is a NOAA webcam on the island which rotates every hour to give viewers a panoramic view of the island and Lake Huron. The camera website can be accessed on: **www.glerl.noaa.gov/metdata/tbi**.



All photos courtesy of the Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society

Green Township Recreation Facilities



-  Township Boundary
-  Recreation Facility
-  Recreation Facility Parcel in County Plan
-  State of Michigan Land
-  Hiking or Biking Trail
-  Horse Trails
-  Snowmobile Trails
-  ATV Trails & Routes

15 GREEN TOWNSHIP HALL & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
 Location: 14261 M-32, Lachine

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
11	Special Use: Government Office, Community Center & Ball Park	3	Township Hall
		2	Recreational Facilities

Description

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 a 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.

The 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, Little League, and softball.



16 **GREEN TOWNSHIP FIRE HALL**
 Location: 1500 Moores Landing Rd, Lachine

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
10	Special Use: Fire Station	1	

Description

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.



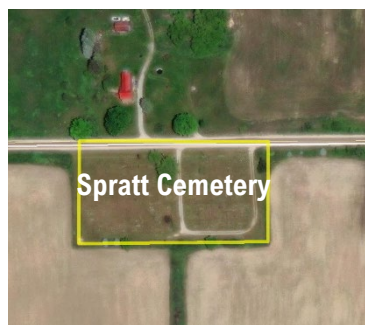
17 **GREEN TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES**
 Location: 1500 Moores Landing Rd, Lachine

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
10	Special Use: Cemetery	1	

Description

Spratt Cemetery – this is a township-owned cemetery with no additional recreational assets.

Greely Cemetery – this is a township-owned cemetery with no additional recreational assets.



Ossineke Township Recreation Facilities



18 **HUBBARD LAKE LIONS PARK**
Location: Hubbard Lake Rd

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
8.1	Neighborhood Park	2	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.

Description

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, a horseshoe pit, a playground, a basketball court, a double tennis court, picnic tables, restrooms, a walk-in cooler, a water well, a pavilion, and an asphalt driveway. A 99-year lease between the Township and the Lions Club has made an additional 5.2 acres adjacent to the park available for park use. Reservations for community and social events are accepted for the pavilion.



19 **OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP HALL**
 Location: 9041 Nicholson Hill Rd, Hubbard Lake

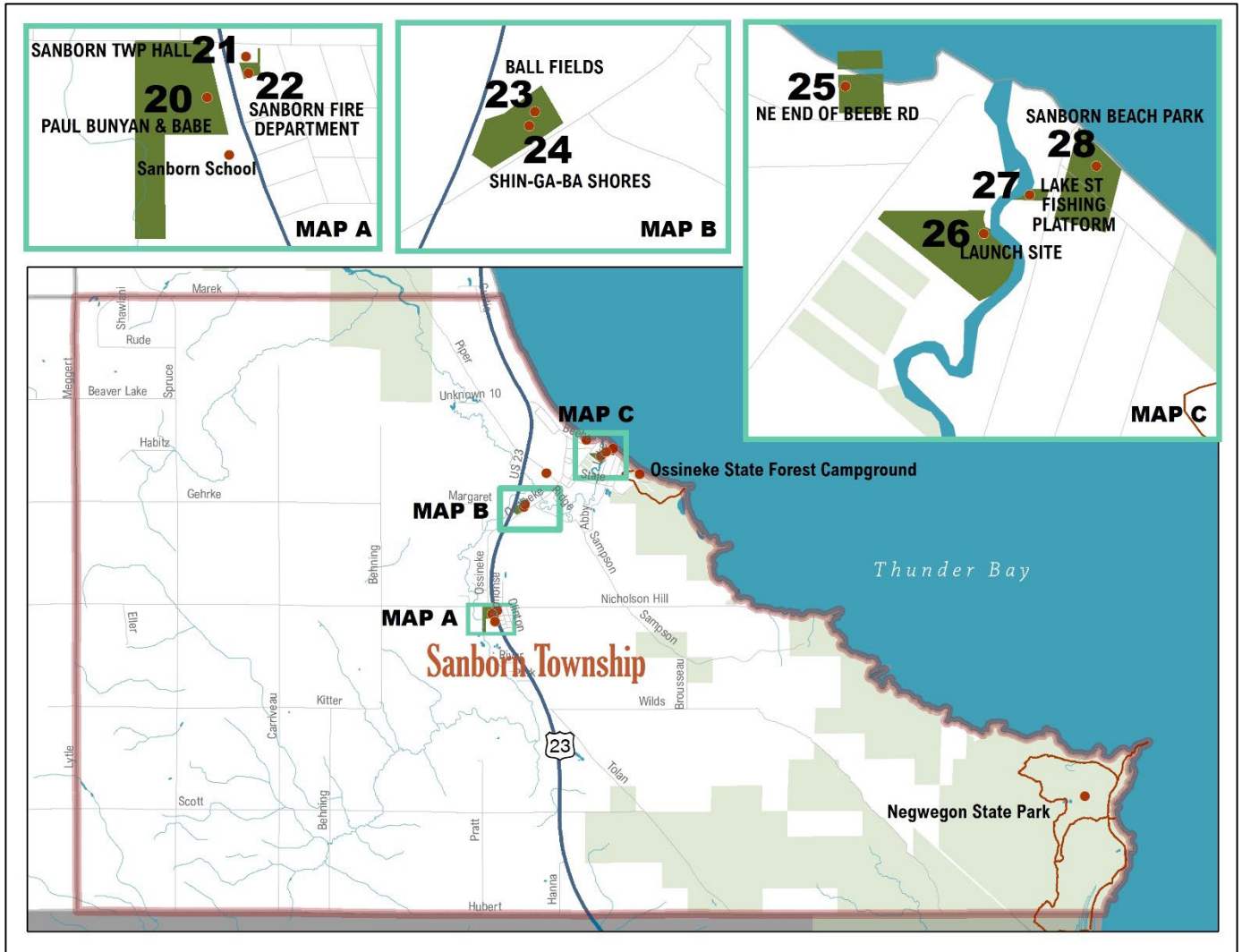
Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1.86	Special Use: Government Offices & Community Center	4	The bathroom and parking meet ADA guidelines.

Description

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.



Sanborn Township Recreation Facilities



- Township Boundary
- Recreation Facility
- Recreation Facility Parcel in County Plan
- State of Michigan Land
- Hiking or Biking Trail
- Horse Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- ATV Trails & Routes

20

SOUTHWEST CORNER OF U.S.23 AND NICHOLSON HILL ROAD

Location: SW corner of Nicholson Hill Rd and US 23, Ossineke

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
8	Natural Resource Area	2	This is mainly a natural resource area. The parking is not barrier-free, but the pathway to the statues is barrier-free .

Description

A statue of Paul Bunyan and Babe makes this wooded area adjacent to the school property a popular photo spot. In addition, picnic tables are available.



21

SANBORN TOWNSHIP HALL

Location: Corner of Nicholson Hill Rd and US 23, Ossineke

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1.9	Special Use Area	4	

Description

The Sanborn Township Hall is located adjacent to Ossineke Chamber Hall to the south. The combined lot size is 236' X 120' X 217.51' X 247.7'. There are plans to renovate part of the building (the former BoJim building) into a community center. Lot 22 of Ranger subdivision (60' X 107.5') adjoins this property and has been purchased by the Township also. This property is currently not in use but could be developed to expand parking at the site.



22

SANBORN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Location: Corner of Nicholson Hill Rd and US 23, Ossineke

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.32	Special Use Area	4	

Description

Located at the corner of Nicholson Hill Road and US 23, the hall sits on a 0.32 acre lot and has been remodeled with barrier-free restrooms and entry. It contains a large meeting room (30' X 30') and a modern kitchen. There are also two and one-half fire bays attached to the building.



23

SANBORN TOWNSHIP BALL FIELDS

Location: US 23 & Ossineke Rd, Ossineke

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
3.2	Special Use Area	3	

Description

Little League Ball Fields are located at the intersection of U.S. 23 and Ossineke Road. Maintained by Alpena Huron Shores Little League and Ossineke Baseball Association, they are used by the Alpena County Baseball leagues and casual baseball teams. One field is fenced, while temporary fencing is used for the other field. Both fields include a backstop, dugouts, and bleachers. Other site amenities include a storage building, batting cage, a concession stand, and a broadcast booth. Off-road parking and two restrooms are provided. A horseshoe pit is also available. This area receives heavy use by the baseball leagues and also by family/friends groups during the summer season.



24

SHIN-GA-BA SHORES PLAYGROUND

Location: Ossineke Rd off US 23 S, Ossineke

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1	Community Park	4	

Description

Located on Ossineke Road off of U.S. 23 South and adjacent to the Baseball Fields, this playground was constructed in 1998 with 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.



25

NORTH END OF BEEBE BLVD ON LAKE HURON

Location: Block 13, Lots 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12; Block 14, Lots 11-16; 19-20

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
2.41	Special Use Area	1	No barrier-free features exist.

Description

This property is in the Ossineke Beach Subdivision area. The majority of this land was acquired from the MDNR. Some of the lots are underwater. Parking lot improvements and picnic tables have been recently added.



26

SANBORN TOWNSHIP LAUNCH SITE

Location: Mouth of the Devils River, Ossineke

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
3.5	Special Use Area	3	

Description

Located near the mouth of the Devil’s River off Washington Avenue, this site is approximately 3.5 acres. There are paved parking facilities for cars/trailers in addition to pit toilets. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources acquired property adjacent to this site. Sanborn Township owns the site and leases it to the DNR which has completed improvements to the site.



27

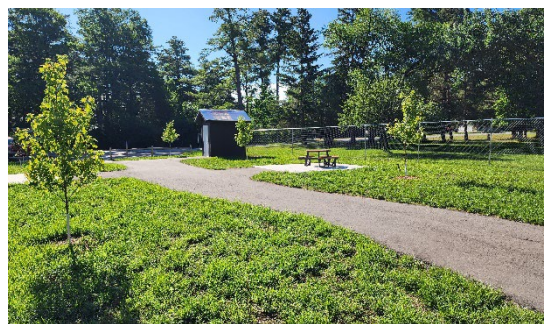
LAKE STREET FISHING PLATFORM

Location: Adjacent to Sanborn Beach Park

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.19	Special Use Area	4	Accessible parking, pathways, and platform.

Description

This property is a 66-foot wide river-front lot located adjacent to Sanborn Park Beach. The park includes benches, a vault toilet, ADA-compliant sidewalks, parking, and a fishing platform.



28

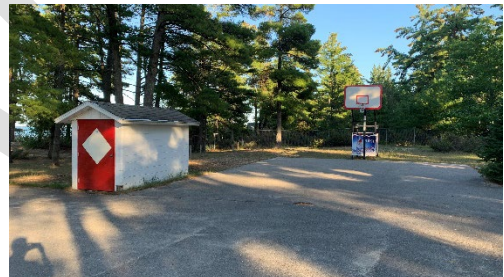
SANBORN PARK BEACH

Location: Lake Street, Ossineke

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
2.83	Community Park	3	The parking lot is barrier-free.

Description

Located off Lake Street on Lake Huron, Sanborn Park Beach (also known as Ossineke Park) has a widely used swimming area with a sandy beach but no boat launch site. The park, which is a day-use area, includes a pavilion, picnic tables and grills, playground equipment, changing rooms, and restrooms in the form of a permanent pit toilet in a block building. No running water is available at the site. Parking is available in a paved parking lot that meets ADA standards; the park is fenced. In addition, an adjacent parcel acquired by the township from the MDNR through a twenty-five year lease agreement greatly increases the township’s recreational capabilities at this expanded location. A grant was obtained from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee to add and remove playground equipment, add a half-court basketball court, volleyball court, ADA walkway and swing, clean up the site, add picnic tables and grills, and repair and paint the pavilion.



29**SANBORN TOWNSHIP CEMETERY**

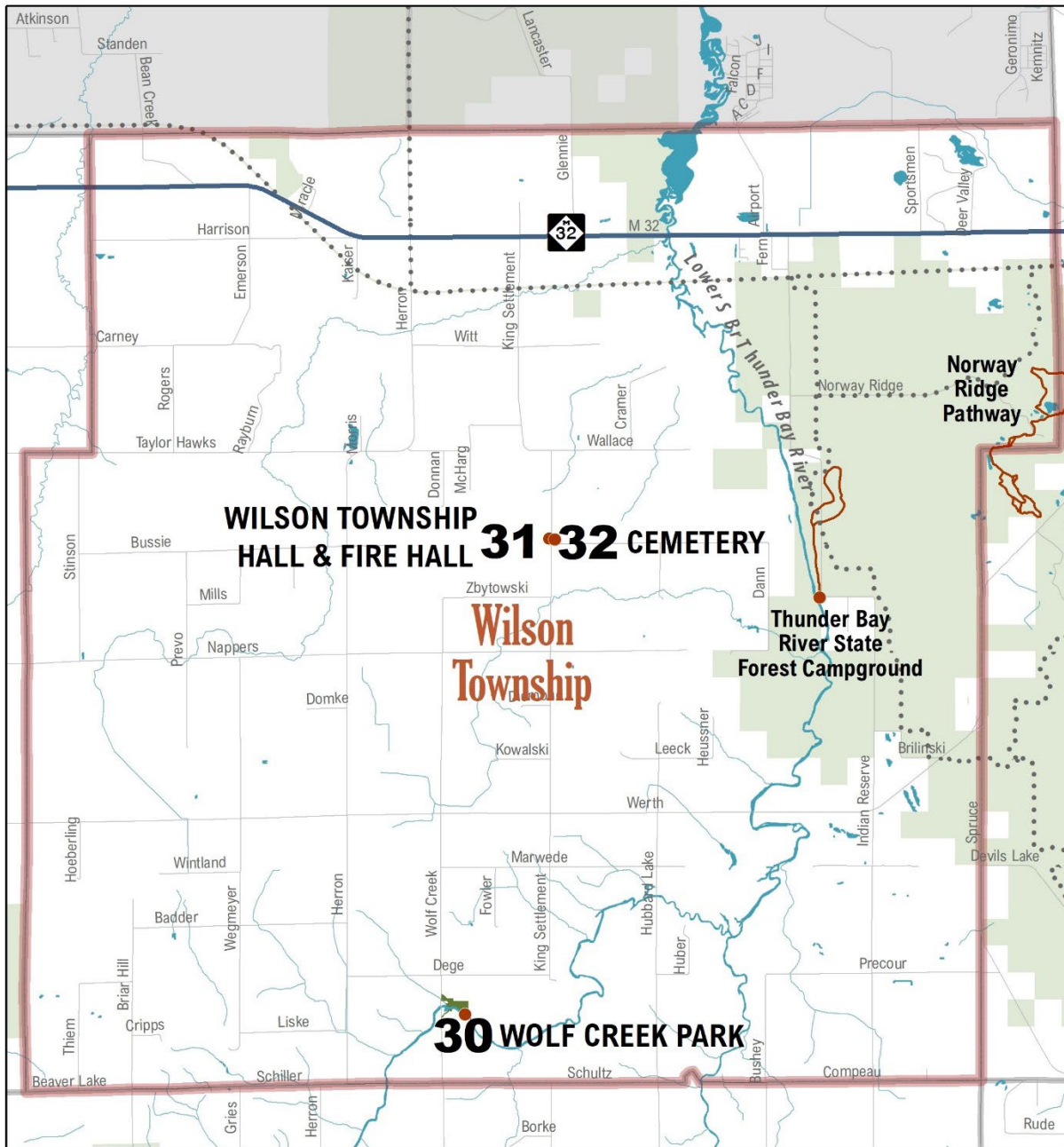
Location: Corner of Nicholson Hill Rd and US 23, Ossineke

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
5	Special Use Area	1	The cemetery property is not barrier-free.

Description

The Sanborn Township Cemetery is approximately five acres in size.

Wilson Township Recreation Facilities



-  Township Boundary
-  Recreation Facility
-  Recreation Facility Parcel in County Plan
-  State of Michigan Land
-  Hiking or Biking Trail
-  Horse Trails
-  Snowmobile Trails
-  ATV Trails & Routes

30

WOLF CREEK PARK

Location: Wolf Creek Rd

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
17	Natural Resource Area/Community Park	3	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.

Description

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 spans the river. The park contains a pavilion, vault toilet, and ADA-accessible sidewalks.



31

WILSON TOWNSHIP HALL & FIRE HALL

Location: 3746 King Settlement Rd

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
2.4	Special Use Area	4	

Description

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 two days per week.



32

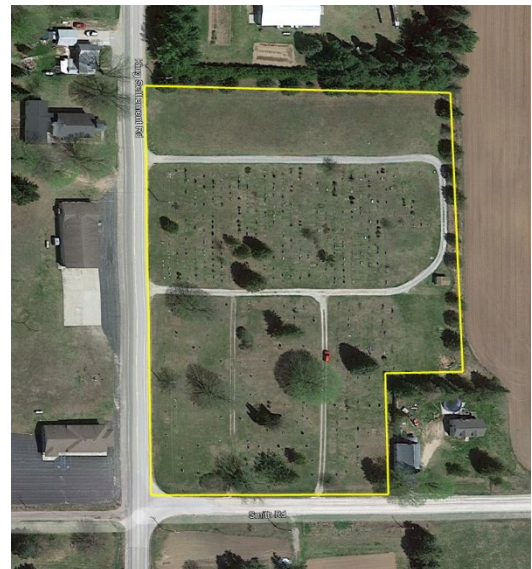
WILSON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

Location: King Settlement Rd

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
2.8	Special Use Area	1	

Description

Wilson Township Cemetery is located on King Settlement Road directly across from the Wilson Township Fire



Other Area Recreation Facilities

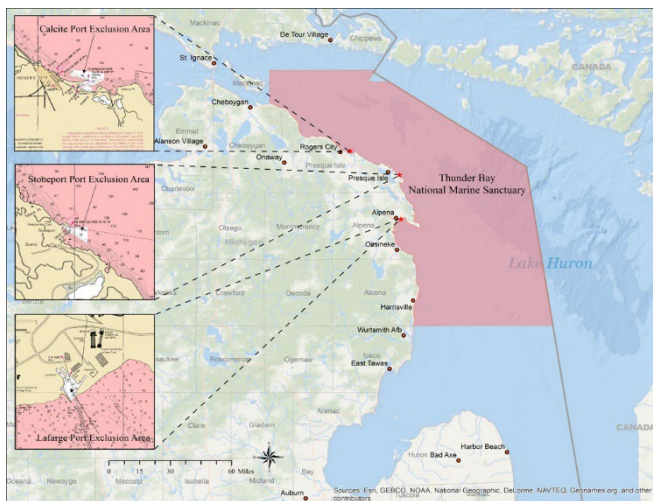
Maritime Facilities in Alpena County

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 4,300-square mile sanctuary and underwater preserve is located in Thunder Bay off the coast of Alpena County, Alcona County, and Presque Isle County. Its boundaries extend from the north Presque Isle County line to the south Alcona County line and east to the Canadian boundary. Not only is the Sanctuary/Preserve the first freshwater sanctuary, but 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

- 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.



within state waters.

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:

Thunder Bay Island

Thunder Bay Island sits four 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.

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 was added. The light keepers' quarters are attached. From 1832 to

Middle Island Lighthouse

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

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 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).

island, the lighthouse keeper's quarters, two privies, and a tool shed are privately owned and are currently being restored.

State of Michigan Facilities

Rockport State Recreation Area is located in the northeast corner of Alpena County and the southeast corner of Presque Isle County. This 4,247-acre recreation area also contains Besser Natural Area. The park houses unique sinkholes, a deep water protected harbor, a 300-acre old limestone quarry, a boat launch, a picnic area, and an outhouse. The park also contains over 23 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails.

Negwegon State 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.

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.

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.

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.

Fletcher Pond DNR Public Access is located off Jack's Landing Road on Fishing Site Road. This site

State of Michigan Trails

Trails of all kinds are promoted in northern Michigan through the **Up North Trails** 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 swamps 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.

The North Eastern State Trail (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 Lincoln Street in the 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.

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 offers opportunities for snowmobiles, hiking, and mountain biking (some sections are impassable for mountain bikers). The trail is groomed in the winter months by the Alpena Snowdrifters. The surface is crushed limestone from Bagley Street to M-32 in Herron. The remainder of the trail is dirt, cinder, and ballast, and is not currently ADA-accessible. There are gates on the trail and they are closed and locked during the summer months. The trails are still open 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.

Devil's Lake Snowmobile Trail and Devil's 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.

Trails Partnership Action Items:

Some action items for a potential partnership include:

1. 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.
2. Add amenities and access points along the NEST.
3. Improve the surface and accessibility of the Alpena to Hillman Trail.
4. Add amenities, trailhead, and access points along the Alpena to Hillman Trail.

City of Alpena Recreation Inventory

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.

Arthur Sytek Park is 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.

Avery Park is located on N. Second Avenue, on the north side of the Second Avenue Bridge. This 0.4-acre open green space showcases 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 is 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 Bandshell, 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 Charter Township of Alpena 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 over 18 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 Street from M-32 to Long Rapids Road. An update was completed on the Bagley Street bridge.

Blair Street Park is located at the end of Blair Street on Lake Huron. This 0.4-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.

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.

The **City of Alpena Marina**, on Lake Huron, is located at 400 East Chisholm Street, adjacent to Bay View Park and the Alpena Yacht Club. The marina sits on eight acres and is the only full-service marina in the area. It provides visitors and residents with all necessary, boating-related services including a full-time staff, a fueling station, 35-ton boat hoist, fish cleaning station, boaters' restrooms, a marina store, and marine repair facilities (full list below). A portion of the City bi-path system has been constructed along the top of the break wall. The City Marina contains 88 seasonal and 44 transient boater slips. Courtesy docks, a launch ramp, and broadside moorage are also available.

Culligan Plaza is a small public space located on Chisholm St. at Second Ave. It contains a water fountain and a large public fountain. The City is currently implementing plans to completely renovate this facility.

Island Park is 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. The island has 4,400 feet of water frontage. This natural area preserves the rich ecosystems with the flora and 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 450 acres and is home to a variety of native fauna and flora.

Duck Park adjoins Island 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, swans, 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. 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 is located at the Eighth and River Street intersection on the Thunder Bay River and is owned by the City of Alpena. This 1.5-acre site includes 367 feet of wooden pier at the 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 is 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; six pickleball 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 is 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; a warming building; restrooms with two family restrooms; a 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 a cooperative effort of the Rotary Club of Alpena and the City of Alpena.

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 are 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.

Pocket Park is located between Second and Third Ave. It contains a walkway, benches, and plantings. A small portion of this park is leased by a local restaurant to provide outdoor dining. This pocket park is maintained by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

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.

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 where the City will maintain specified improvements on the island in exchange for a public access easement across the island.

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. Uses of this site include dock fishing, passive recreation, and docking of larger watercraft. There is also significant landscaping, lighting, concrete walkways, benches, and a parking lot. 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. A wrought iron safety railing was installed along the head pier and an irrigation system was installed throughout the park. Historic-style pedestrian lights, a gazebo, a drinking fountain, and wrought iron benches were also installed. Historic markers detailing

School Properties

Alpena Community College, Main Campus located at 665 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

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 a venue for local festivals.

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 is 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 are available. This park is also a gathering place for wildfowl.

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 Bi-Path 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 (including Aces Academy) is 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); a gymnasium a football stadium; a hardball field; a softball field; two multipurpose fields; an outdoor track, and off-street parking.

Besser Elementary School is 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 is located at 201 N. Ripley. This 2.5 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.

Family Partnership Program is located at 1421 Hobbs Drive in the former Sunset School building. This site contains a playground and ballfield.

Gordon School Building is located south of the City on Gordon Road. Owned by the Alpena Public School District, this site has one baseball diamond that is used by the Alpena Huron Shore Little 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, 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, a 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.

Pied Piper School is located at 444 Wilson Street in Alpena. The two-acre has newly installed playground equipment including a mix of adaptive and traditional equipment. In addition, two ball fields exist to the east of the school building.

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 Public 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, a track and field course, a 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 District, the 10-acre property has a school gymnasium, playground, and athletic fields. 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.

All Saints School is located on N 2nd Ave. A fully

equipped, fenced children's playground, a basketball court, and off-street parking are available.

Immanuel Lutheran School is located at 355 Wilson. The property includes a children's playground, a volleyball court, a youth/women's ball field, a soccer field, and off-street parking.

Other Publicly-Owned Recreation Property

Long Rapids Township

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. **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.

Maple Ridge Township

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. 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. **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 a 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.

River Accesses

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, located off Long Rapids Road in section 31, T32N, R7E, provides access to the Main Branch of the Thunder Bay River. This property is undeveloped.

Wellington Township

Wellington Township Hall is located on 0.5 acres of land at the intersection of Long Rapids Road and Collins

Road. Used for public meetings and social events, the hall is available for rent.

Other Major Recreational Properties & Programs

Mystery Valley Karst Preserve

The 76-acre Mystery Valley Karst Preserve and Nature Sanctuary is located in Presque Isle County just a few miles north of the Thunder Bay Karst Preserve. It contains one of the largest karst “collapse valleys” in the Great Lakes region, several dramatic earth cracks, and a lake that rises and falls and sometimes disappears.

Visitors to the preserve can follow two self-guided trails: Earthcrack Trail and Valley Trail. Not surprisingly, Earthcrack Trail passes a series of cracks, including two that converge into one that’s several hundred feet long and nearly 15 feet deep. Following the Valley Trail, visitors can see fossils of marine invertebrates such as brachiopods, bryozoa, and crinoids that lived some 350 million to 400 million years ago.

Thunder Bay Karst Preserve

The Thunder Bay Karst Preserve combines two adjoining preserves. The Stevens Twin Sinks Preserve is a 31-acre property with two sinkholes separated by a fragile saddle ridge, each about 200 feet in diameter and 85 feet deep. The 2.5-acre Bruski Sink is located across Leer Road w.

The sinkholes are just a few of over 200, which are found in a 50-mile line from Thunder Bay to Black Lake. The Charter of Township’s Alpena 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 geologists and geographers as well as to casual visitors. Botanists are intrigued by the unusual flora, especially ferns and mosses that occur in the 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.

US 23 Heritage Route

An officially designated *Pure Michigan Byway*, the US 23 Heritage Route extends 200 miles from Standish to Mackinaw City.



The communities and organizations along the route serve on an active Heritage Route Management Council which works toward implementing projects in the US 23 Heritage Route Management Plan. The US 23 program maintains a tourism website (us23heritageroute.org) which promotes over 2,000 things to see and do along the Byway, produces tourism materials for the route, produces short videos as promotional tools, and engages in many other projects contained within the Management Plan. NEMCOG manages the US 23 Heritage Route program as part of a contract with MDOT which oversees and administers the Pure Michigan Byway program.

Huron Blueways

The Huron Blueways is a 265-mile water trail stretching from the Straits of Mackinac down to Saginaw Bay. The water trail is highlighted on the US 23 Heritage Route. A waterproof paddling atlas has been produced which displays maps, points of interest, access points, amenities, at each access point, latitude/longitude of access points, and distance between access points.

Up North Trails

Up North Trails is a public multi-regional collaborative program that maps and promotes all nonmotorized and motorized trail systems in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The program is maintained by the regional planning agencies including the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, Networks Northwest, Eastern U.P. Planning and Development Region, Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission, and the Western U.P. Planning and Development Region. Recently the Genessee-Lapeer-Shiawassee Planning and Development Committee joined the program. Over 10,000 miles of trails are promoted on upnorthtrails.org using interactive trail maps.

Sunrise Coast Birding Trail

The Sunrise Coast Birding Trail is a 145-mile birding trail along coastal Lake Huron from Oscoda/AuSable to Mackinaw City. With approximately 30 birding trail stops along the coast, it also connects to the Saginaw Bay

Birding Trail (142 miles around Saginaw Bay). The birding trail stops are marked with signage and guidebooks are available.

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, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan granted the facility to the Park Family Foundation, and the Park Family Foundation remains the owner to this day. The APlex is home to the Alpena Tennis Association and has numerous gym rentals for cheerleading/tumbling, karate, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, and soccer. Four outdoor beach volleyball courts accommodate league activity. The APlex hosts numerous events, such as trade shows, as well as social occasions.

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.

Boys and Girls Club of Alpena, located at 801 Miller Street, is a private, non-profit organization that 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 Besser Senior Living 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.

Diver Charters are available 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 a parking area.

Sky Theater Planetarium is also a permanent part of the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan. 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 Theatre 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 theatre company ranges in size from eight to thirty actors. The theatre is temporarily closed for renovation.

Charter Township of Alpena

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 a 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 a 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 a 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. 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.
- Access Site #2 is located across the Thunder Bay River from the Dam and provides informal access to the impoundment for fishing opportunities and nature observation
- Access Site #3 is located 0.6 miles 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 boat launch.

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

Green Township

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 tailwater (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) of 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.

Maple Ridge 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.
- 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 tailwater access and a parking area.

Ossineke Township

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, 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 clubhouse 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 restrooms. 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 leagues. The clubhouse is available for rent for community and social functions with a non-member fee.

Rivers Edge Golf Club is located 0.5 miles 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 Snowdrifters office is located at the intersection of M-32 and Herron Road.

Alpena Cycle Club is located three miles south of Werth Road on Spruce Road. 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 Holcim 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. Holcim 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 (now Holcim), 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 is a Skeet Range owned by P.K. Fletcher is located two miles south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road.

Grant History

Grant History – Alpena County				
YEAR	GRANT #	NAME OF GRANT	PURPOSE	NOTES
1968	26-00153	Long Lake Park	Acquisition of 56 acres, LWCF sign	Park continues to be upgraded.
1977	26-01023 Q1	Alpena River Street Park		This park was transferred to the City of Alpena in 1997 and is now known as LaMarre Park
1989	BF89-645	Plaza Pool Facility	Improvements to the Plaza Pool facility include the replacement of the roof, heating system repair, and replacement filters.	Site is inspected regularly and maintenance is performed as needed.
1991	BF91-157	Plaza Pool Improvement Phase II	Repair building exterior, repair, and repaint ceiling, replace pool vacuum and diving board, and provide electronic water treatment unit.	Site is inspected regularly and maintenance is performed as needed.
2000	CM00-133	Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility	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.	Facility continues to provide indoor recreation.
2018	RP18-0059	Long Lake Boat Launch Project	Development to renovate the boat launch at Long Lake Park and campground in Alpena County.	Park continues to be upgraded.

Grant History – Charter Township of Alpena

YEAR	GRANT #	NAME OF GRANT	PURPOSE	NOTES
1978	26-01060 Z	Alpena Township Park	Two ball diamonds with bleachers, parking lot, concession/storage building, LWCF sign.	Park continues to be used.
1992	BF92-226	Alpena Township Park	Develop ball field, parking area, playground area, picnic area, and an open pavilion.	Park continues to be used.
1999	TF99-262	Rockport Picnic Fishing Pier	Development of improvements at a Rockport boating access site to provide barrier-free picnic area, fishing, scenic views and parking.	Park continues to be used.
2002	TF02-128	Acquire Houghmaster Property	Acquire in fee simple 132-acre peninsula with 9,632 feet of Lake Huron shoreline for township park. Site contains heavily-wooded area, Great Lakes marsh, Karst geologic features and habitat for endangered plants, shore and migratory birds.	Alpena Township Nature Preserve developed.

Non-DNR Grant:

2003	453705-76	MDEQ-CZM	Tower repair	Lighthouse complex continues to be restored
------	-----------	----------	--------------	---

Grant History – Green Township

YEAR	GRANT #	NAME OF GRANT	PURPOSE	NOTES
------	---------	---------------	---------	-------

Green Township has not received grants from the Michigan DNR.

Grant History – Ossineke Township

YEAR	GRANT #	NAME OF GRANT	PURPOSE	NOTES
------	---------	---------------	---------	-------

Ossineke Township has not received grants from the Michigan DNR.

Grant History – Sanborn Township				
YEAR	GRANT #	NAME OF GRANT	PURPOSE	NOTES
1995	TF95-016	Sanborn Park Improvement	Enhance Sanborn Park on Lake Huron through improvements to the pavilion and restrooms, renovation of existing bathhouse and addition of playground equipment.	Improvements were developed and park continues to be utilized.
2020	RP20-0015	Sanborn Township River Lot Development	The proposed project developed a small park and fishing platform on a lot along the Devils River. The river lot is directly adjacent to and considered a part of their Sanborn Township Beach and Park facility. The project included paved ADA parking, an ADA walkway to the river, a fishing platform, a vault toilet, and benches and picnic tables.	

Grant History – Wilson Township				
YEAR	GRANT #	NAME OF GRANT	PURPOSE	NOTES
2011	TF11-124	Wolf Creek Park Improvements	Development to include installation of barrier-free accessible privy, accessible fishing platform, landscaping and crushed limestone pathways.	Park continues to be maintained and utilized.

CHAPTER

4

GOALS & ACTION PLAN



Alpena Area Joint Recreation Plan

Shared Goals for All Municipalities

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.

- A. Protect, promote, and preserve the communities, natural resources, and jobs of our area.
- B. **COLLABORATION:** Ensure local cooperation and involvement of all local government in the planning, 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.
 1. Be an active partner in regional collaborations by forming a County Recreation Committee to foster communication and coordination between all local units of government and other recreation-related organizations.
 2. Collaborate on the sharing of resources to reduce overall maintenance costs and improve efficiencies.
 3. Collaborate on common goals regarding the acquisition of new parcels for the expansion of existing facilities or the potential creation of new facilities.
- C. **QUALITY OF LIFE:** Improve the quality of life that is critical to the health of our residents, the business environment, and the attraction of our area to those visiting and considering moving here.
- D. **ACCESS TO RECREATION:** Ensure all people have access to recreation opportunities and facilities regardless of age, sex, income, cultural background, housing environment, or abilities. Continuous improvement and maintenance are crucial for access to recreation.
- E. **PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION:** Preserve and conserve the area's natural resources, and 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.
- F. **OUTREACH:** Ensure that area residents are involved in the recreation planning process.
- G. **TRAILS:** Work together to address overall connectivity and walkability by establishing connections between recreational facilities, schools, and key community facilities. See maps showing desired trail connections on pages 4-28 and 4-29.
- H. **WATER TRAILS:** Inventory all lake access sites, expand kayak launch facilities, and provide information/materials with maps showing accesses, amenities, distances, and conditions.
- I. **SIGNAGE:** Implement a coordinated signage program with uniform design for recreational facilities, land trails, and water trails.
- J. **PROMOTION:** Coordinate marketing and promotion of recreational amenities throughout the county through collaboration with municipalities and organizations.
- K. **PROGRAMMING:** Coordinate programming in recreational facilities to:
 1. Ensure programming is available for a wide variety of age groups and interests.
 2. Ensure that natural features programs are available to the public.
 3. Promote recreation programming by volunteer recreation organizations.
 4. Provide a coordinated calendar for programs.

Alpena County

Objectives

A. General Objectives

1. **Facility Improvement:** 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.
2. **Funding:** Encourage the pursuit of outside funding sources, such as State and federal grants, for recreational development and improvements.
3. **Oversight Group:** Form a multi-jurisdictional commission to work cooperatively on facility upgrades, maintenance, trail connections, funding, programming, and promotion. Partner with other area entities to implement this plan.
4. **Water Access:** Work in cooperation with communities and agencies to ensure access is available to surface water resources, such as lakes and rivers for activities such as boating, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, ice fishing, snowmobiling, ice boating, and other activities.
5. **Acquisition:** 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.
6. **Trails:**
 - a. **Motorized Trails:** In a cooperative effort, designate snowmobile and ORV routes that connect communities to regional snowmobile and ORV networks by working with the appropriate local unit of government, snowmobile groups, ORV groups, the County Road Commission, County Sheriff Department and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
 - b. **Non-Motorized Trail Links:** Support the integration and expansion of non-motorized transportation to link neighborhoods, communities, commercial areas, cultural destinations, parks, schools, and regional parks and trails.
 - c. **Water Trails:** 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.
 - (1) Encourage the development of infrastructure to implement successful water trails (i.e. accesses, launches, signage, restrooms, maps, etc.).
 - (2) Promote the Huron Blueways water trail by distributing the paddling atlas. Facilitate a group to mark, sign, and promote this trail.
 - (3) Promote the Thunder Bay River water trail. Look at public access and consider improvements, signage, maps, and marketing.
 - (4) 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.
 - d. **Trail Promotion:** Promote Alpena as a trail destination. 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. Provide signage and maps for established trail systems.

e. Trail Improvements:

- (1) Encourage improvements to non-motorized recreation trails such as cross-country ski trails, bike trails (including mountain biking), and horseback riding trails.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Ensure great amenities such as rest stops, benches, overlooks, wayfinding signs, interpretive signs, and local access sites along the trails.

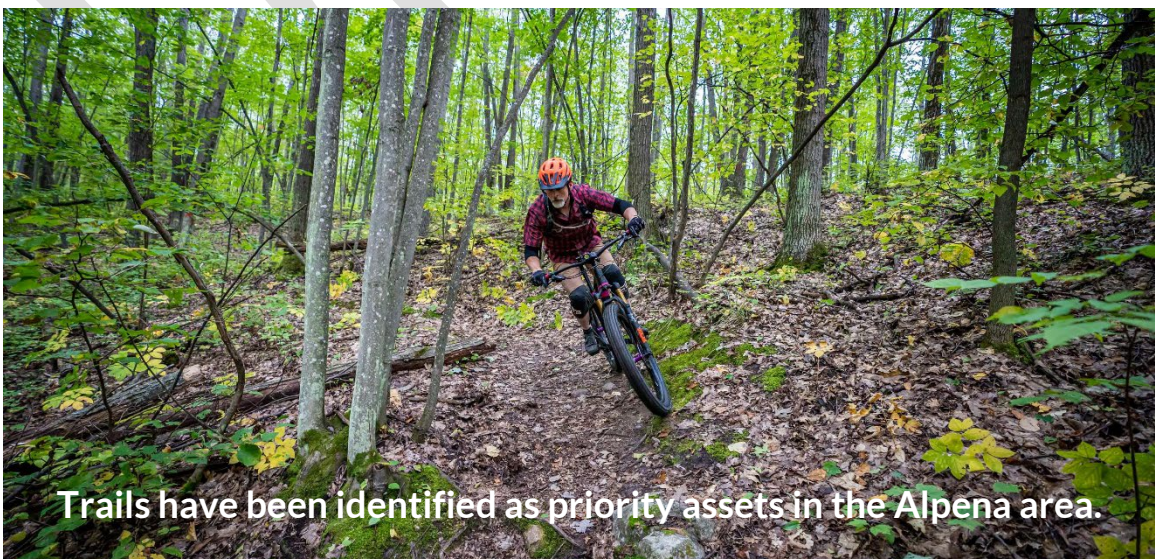
f. Trail Expansion and Management: Utilize oversight group to build, manage, and maintain regional trail systems and coordinate with trail groups.

g. Trail Connections:

- (1) Connect from Alpena south to Oscoda by implementing the Sunrise Coastal Trail Plan.
- (2) Connect Norway Ridge to the Alpena to Hillman Trail.
- (3) Create a connection from Alpena to Rockport and Long Lake County Park
- (4) Work with the DNR to find a solution to the two-mile gap of trail corridor between M-65 and Salina Road and then improve the trail from M-65 to Hillman
- (5) Connect Alpena to Hillman Trail with Optimist Acres and Alpena Snowdrifters barn

7. Public Involvement: Continually seek input from the public for planning future recreation needs and to promote the safe use of recreational opportunities.

8. Education: Encourage educational and training programs for the preservation and safe use of recreational assets to increase participation in recreational activities including boating and hunting.



Trails have been identified as priority assets in the Alpena area.

B. County Park Objectives

1. Increase usage of the parks and recreation through improved advertising and working with local and state tourism organizations.
2. Continue to make improvements to campsites and associated facilities to improve user experience.
3. Address Americans Disability Act (ADA) guidelines when making improvements to campground facilities.
4. Expand family-oriented activities and activities for kids.
5. Improve boating and fishing opportunities.
6. Provide opportunities for winter recreation at Manning Hill Park.
7. Develop partnerships with community service clubs, organizations, and agencies to assist with maintenance and improvements to parks.
8. Seek funding from a variety of sources to support operations and capital investments.
9. Conduct water quality testing.

C. Plaza Pool Objectives

1. Design and develop a new aquatic facility. Until a new facility is built, continue to upgrade the existing facility.
2. Provide a variety of programming offered to all age groups, abilities, and fitness levels, including education as to the health benefits of swimming and safety issues.
3. Enhance marketing and advertising efforts to increase awareness of public pool access to Alpena County residents.
4. Develop partnerships with local clubs and area businesses to facilitate new user groups.
5. Seek funding from a variety of sources to support operations and capital investments.
6. Continue to explore opportunities to operate the pool in an energy-efficient and cost-effective manner.
7. Continue to make needed improvements to the facilities, including addressing ADA guidelines.

D. Northern Lights Arena Objectives

1. To continue to focus NLA as one of the economic centers for growth in the County of Alpena.
2. Continue to explore opportunities to operate the arena and facilities in an energy-efficient and cost-effective manner.
3. 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.
4. Seek the development of a modern toboggan run to elevate Alpena as a destination for winter tourists.
5. Continue to provide the community with excellent arena space for special events requiring large areas and seating for 1,000 to 1,500 persons.
6. 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.

- 7. To continue to raise funds and/or seek funding for capital improvement of the facility and supporting projects.
- 8. Continue to make needed improvements to the facilities, including addressing ADA guidelines.
- 9. In the summer, serve as the head point in Alpena for bikers and hikers using the rail-to-trails program.
- 10. Continue to engage in the upkeep and maintenance of the facility.

E. Alpena County Fairgrounds Objectives

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



Alpena County Action Program

Alpena County Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule ALPENa COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
1. Install additional water hook-ups at campsites.	A.1, E.1, E.2	D
2. Paint fence around property.	A.1, E.1	D
3. Road paving & drainage project.	A.1, E.1, E.3	D
4. Purchase new picnic tables.	A.1, E.1, E.2, E.3	D
5. Replace grandstand (either total or partial).	A.1, E.1, E.3	D
6. The restroom in the merchants' building will be remodeled with changes to accommodate ADA guidelines & provide easier access to facilities.	A.1, E.1, E.3	D
7. Remodel restroom by MSU building.	A.1, E.1, E.3	D
8. Renovations of existing kitchen equipment in the merchants' building and replacement of appliances.	A.1, E.1	D
9. Install fishing piers along the river.	A.1, E.1, E.2, E.3	D
10. Add two bays to truck barn.	A.1, E.1	D
11. Upgrade electrical system.	A.1, E.1	D
12. Install new grills.	A.1, E.1, E.2	D
13. New tables & chairs & carts.	A.1, E.1	D
14. Construct storage facility, built onto Merchants' Building.	A.1, E.1	D
15. Plant trees to provide additional privacy for campers & to increase the beauty of the riverfront.	A.1, E.1, E.2	D
16. Make improvements to the city water supply to the fairgrounds.	A.1, E.1	D
17. Construct pathways to the various exhibit areas.	A.1, E.1, E.3	D
18. Construct barrier-free surfaces in the exhibit buildings.	A.1, E.1, E.3	D
19. Replace swine barn shutters.	A.1, E.1	D
20. New animal control facility.	A.1, E.1	D
21. Update caretaker storage.	A.1, E.1	D
22. Purchase equipment: tractor, zero-turn mower, sissor or boom lift.	A.1, E.1	D

**Alpena County Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule
LONG LAKE PARK**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
1. Construct new, relocated double boat launch area with new approach, ramp, road and parking (in process).	A.1, B.5	D
2. Pedestal additions to convert rustic/primitive sites to powered sites (near new/moved boat launch).	A.1, B.2	D
3. Replace pavilion that gets removed with new Boat Launch Project so campers and public can access.	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
4. Renovation & expansion of the South Beach bathhouse & addition of washer/dryers for campers.	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
5. Building improvements: Long Lake Park Bathhouse - by lake, Long Lake Park Home, Long Lake Park New Bathhouse, Long Lake Park Storage.	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
6. Picnic tables and refuse containers - annual maintenance.	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
7. Site development, land leveling and landscaping on 21 campsites.	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
8. Upgrade electrical to 50 amp service for 30 campsites (1 panel per year).	A.1, B.2	D
9. Upgrade 25 rustic camp sites to modern campsites with electricity and water (5 per year).	A.1, B.2	D
10. Continue oversight and review of park's dead trees and removal as necessary. Add shade trees.	A.1	D
11. Purchase a used four-wheel drive pick-up truck.	A.1	D
12. Update park campsite posts/pads to remove permanent markers.	A.1	D
13. Upgrade playground equipment.	A.1, B.2, B.3, B.4	D
14. Construct an 40' x 40' pole barn type structure to store necessary tools and equipment.	A.1	D
15. Develop new road through park's rustic wooded area to create new campsites.	A.1	D
16. Purchase new tractor.	A.1	D
17. Restore beaches.	A.1	E

**Alpena County Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule
BEAVER LAKE PARK**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
1. Install additional signage to identify barrier-free pathways, parking & restrooms.	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
2. Resurface asphalt throughout park improving existing roads (including driveway).	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
3. Repair drainage issues.	A.1	D
4. Boat launch (new, single).	A.1, A.4, B.2, B.5	D
5. Expand & improve swim area (increase size & ADA compatibility).	A.1, A.4, B.2	D
6. Improve spring area.	A.1	D
7. Upgrade county-owned home (doors, windows).	A.1	D
8. Build more cabins.	A.1, B.2	D
9. Create day use area.	A.1, B.2, B.4	D
10. Acquire land in the northeast corner of the park to expand park facilities & increase security.	A.1, A.5, B.2	D

**Alpena County Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule
SUNKEN LAKE PARK**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
1. Improvements to walking bridge (bracing, decking, painting, & lighting).	A.1	D
2. The improvement of hiking trails, work with Karst Conservancy to expand hiking trails into the conservancy land, place signs, & add interpretative kiosk.	A.1, A.6, B.3	G
3. Purchase adjoining property for campground & trail system expansion.	A.1, A.6, B.2	B.3
4. Fence & light beach area.	A.1	D
5. Construct fishing piers.	A.1, B.3, B.5	D
6. Construct restroom facilities on the island.	A.1, B.3	D
7. Dumpsite cleanup.	A.1	D
8. New ADA bathroom.	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
9. Impervious pathways are needed to facilitate movement to the bathroom.	A.1, B.3	D
10. Wheelchair-accessible picnic tables.	A.1, B.3	D
11. Install additional signage.	A.1	D
12. Picnic tables and refuse containers - annual maintenance.	A.1	D
13. Manager's residence - Replace all galvanized pipe with modern standards; improve flow and water pressure & install new water softer.	A.1	D
14. Expand either rustic or improved campsite to hill.	A.1, B.2	D
15. Renovate playground & day use areas to include more & diverse equipment, ADA accessibility and improvements to swim area (larger, drag for more sand & better swim area markings in water).	A.1, B.3	D
16. New construction of a pole barn/storage facility for tractor & other large equipment - as well as shop space. Heated space with concrete floor, drainage, power & water.	A.1	D
17. Remove trees in main campground, River's Edge area & at house. Remove logs, stumps & clear area.	A.1, B.2	D
18. Purchase fencing & lighting for beach improvement.	A.1	D
19. Add new campsites along back of existing day-use area; improved sites (water and power) - potential of 30 sites if trees removed along drive.	A.1, B.2, B.3	D
20. Electrical panel upgrades in main campground.	A.1, B.2	D
21. Replace zero-turn lawnmower, grinder for fish station, purchase golf cart for managers.	A.1	D
22. Upgrades for old bathhouse addition.	A.1, B.3	D

**Alpena County Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule
MANNING HILL PARK**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
1. Construct road entrance signs at both entrances to the park.	A.1	I
2. Additional Picnic Tables.	A.1	D
3. Additional Parking Area.	A.1	D
4. New Fencing.	A.1	D
5. Regular maintenance.	A.1	D

**Alpena County Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule
NORTHERN LIGHTS ARENA**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
1. Replace &/or re-engineer de-humidification system - possible full HVAC redesign.	A.1, D.2, D.10	D
2. Women's Skating Center including locker space, open training/meeting space, showers-office; Also maintenance with equipment storage, heated workshop, critical part storage, & movable equipment storage.	A.1, D.3, D.8	D, K
3. Mobile maintenance equipment: 60 ft. lift, hi-low, tractor with mower/blower.	A.1, D.2, D.10	D
4. Multi-sports equipment: Floor, curling, baseball nets.	A.1, D.3, D.8	D, K
5. Unheated storage building for the multi-sports floor & other appropriate equipment.	A.1, D.3, D.10	D
6. Parking lot repair & expansion.	A.1, D.3, D.8, D.10	D
7. Purchase new zamboni (replacement).	A.1, D.3, D.10	D
8. Seating improvements for 1,000 or 1,500.	A.1, D.3, D.5, D.8	D, K
9. Cooling towers.	A.1, D.2, D.10	D
10. Build new egress stairwell at second sheet of ice. (Engineering plans completed; stairwell put together (welding) & concrete work done, door threshold & installation.)	A.1, D.3, D.8, D.10	D
11. Seal exterior block of building. Clean & seal coat all areas of exterior block.	A.1, D.2, D.10	D
12. Upgrade women's locker room with addition.	A.1, D.3, D.8, D.10	D

**Alpena County Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule
PLAZA POOL**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
1. Option 1: Construct new pool facility.	A.1, C.1	D, K
2. Option 2: Upgrade current facility #3-5 below).	A.1, C.1, C.7	D, K
3. Replace all the lockers. Replace sections of lockers throughout the next five years. (170 lockers)	A.1, C.1, C.7	D
4. Replace entryway glass with insulated panels	A.1, C.1, C.7	D
5. Replace pool circulating motor & pumps.	A.1, C.1, C.7	D

**Alpena County Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule
TENNIS COURTS**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
1. Purchase viewing bleachers for 80 spectators.	A.1	D, K
2. Seal practice area & repaint warm-up area.	A.1	D

Charter Township of Alpena

Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Develop procedures and a system that streamlines the recreation planning and development process.

Objective 1: Establish an active Parks & Recreation Board

Objective 2: Annually review the Capital Improvement Plan. Assuring equipment, maintenance, and improvements exceeding \$5,000 are identified in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Objective 3: Maintain an active Recreation Plan with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Objective 4: Identify the most appropriate methods to gather citizen input for the recreation plan, potential undeveloped recreational sites, and decision-making.

Objective 5: Work cooperatively with state, county, non-profit, and other agencies in parks and recreation planning efforts of mutual concerns.

Objective 6: Develop plans for recreational facilities and trails on unutilized or underutilized vacant township property.

Goal 2: Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation facilities.

Objective 1: Leverage all funding sources for capital improvements, operations, and maintenance, including local sources, state and federal programs, local businesses, and any additional sources.

Objective 2: Coordinate with State, County, and other agencies on acquisition, disposal, lease agreement, exchange, and/or development for recreational use of publicly owned lands in the Township.

Goal 3: Maintain and improve existing Township Recreation Facilities.

Objective 1: Annually identify maintenance and equipment upgrades and improvements to improve facilities.

Objective 2: Improve ADA accessibility at all parks.

Objective 3: Maintain non-motorized transportation trails and pathways.

Goal 4: Expand parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of all segments of the population and year-round conditions.

Objective 1: Implement plans for undeveloped park facilities.

Objective 2: Improve river and lake access sites to provide for a variety of recreational opportunities.

Goal 5: Protect natural and cultural features, such as karst topography, wooded areas, natural drainage ways, and historical structures.

Objective 1: Protect sensitive natural resource areas and recognize historical and cultural sites, including Rockport, Thunder Bay Island, Misery Bay Nature Preserve, Partridge Point (Birding), etc.

Objective 2: Develop and utilize recreational sites in a manner that results in a greater appreciation

of the Township’s natural resources.

Objective 3: Work with state, county, non-profit, and other agencies on continued protection and preservation of publicly owned land.

Goal 6: Improve active transportation access and connectivity within the Township.

Objective 1: Expand active transportation routes throughout the Township.

Objective 2: Identify areas where active transportation connectivity is desired.

Objective 3: Expand and maintain hiking, biking, and motorized trails and signage.

Goal 7: Utilize parks and recreation facilities to promote and grow the Township.

Objective 1: Develop and promote programs or materials for year-round recreation within the Township.

DRAFT

Action Program

Charter Township of Alpena Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
Thunder Bay Island		
1. Acquire the remainder of Thunder Bay Island (over 132 acres).	4.1	B.3, E
2. Implement action items within the Thunder Bay Island Management Plan.	4.1	D, E
3. Develop access site that provides access to Thunder Bay Island (barrier-free).	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	D, E
4. Clear & create trails.	3.2, 3.3, 4.1	G
5. Create a day-use park with maps for self-guided tours of the island.	3.2, 4.1, 7.1	D, K
6. Develop/install interpretive signage at historic sites.	4.1, 7.1	I
7. Construct a kiosk & barrier-free picnic table (with shelter).	3.2, 4.1	D
8. Develop eco-tours.	4.1, 7.1	K
William Desormeau Complex – Alpena Huron Shore Little League		
1. Maintain Little League fields.	3.1	D, K
Trails		
1. Maintain current bike path.	3.2, 3.3	G
2. Enhance and extend current bike path along US 23 South to 45th parallel & build a roadside park.	3.2, 6.1	G
3. Develop feeder bike route to the Birdsong Bay Alvar Shoreline & include a kayak livery.	6.1	G
4. Nature walk & parallel bike path along US 23 South to create a loop.	6.1	G
5. US 23 North Bike Route.	6.1	G
6. Develop an active route from East Ripley Street to Grant Street near the former Michigan State Police Post building.	6.1, 6.2	G
7. Develop an active transportation bypass from Third Street to Tamrack Road to M-32.	6.1, 6.2	G
8. Develop an active transportation route from Princeton Avenue along US 23 corridor to the North Eastern State Trail.	6.1, 6.2	G
9. Develop an active transportation route from Island Drive to North Partridge Point.	6.1, 6.2	G
Weiss Road Access Site		
1. Develop an access site on Weiss Road (narrow bridge)	4.2	D
Acquisition		
1. Acquire property on Long Lake for fishing, boating, parking, & other recreational activities with handicap accessibility.	4.2	B.3
2. Acquire Thunder Bay Island Boat House & acreage.	4.2	B.3
3. Acquire recreation property with Long Lake Frontage.	4.2	B.3

Green Township

Goals & Objectives

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

Objective 1: 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.

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

Objective 1: 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.

Goal 3: The Township will promote a wide variety of recreation opportunities within the township.

Objective 1: 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.

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

Objective 1: 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.

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

Objective 1: The Township will encourage sustainable management of the resources for the long-term health of the residents and the economy.

Goal 6: Explore opportunities to expand and improve recreational opportunities within the Township

Objective 1: Plan for future recreational opportunities while finding feasible ways to purchase or lease properties to provide a variety of recreational opportunities within the Township.

Objective 2: Identify and work to implement additional recreational opportunities that are not currently offered to Township residents and people in the area.

Green Township Action Program

Green Township Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule		
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
Green Township Ball Park		
1. Upgrade dugout, bleachers, & fencing.	4.1	D
Green Township Fire Hall		
1. Add on or replace facilities, upgrade equipment & vehicles as needed.	4.1	C
2. ADA compliance at the fire hall & build classroom for continuing education.	4.1	C
3. Develop plans for the future expansion.	4.1	C
Green Township Hall & Recreation Facilities		
1. Expand parking lot, paving driveway, & hill for safety.	4.1	D
2. Develop plans for future expansion.	6.1, 6.2	D
3. Continued to add playground equipment.	4.1	D
4. Landscaping & lighting.	4.1	D
5. Expand recreational opportunities available.	6.2	D
Manning Hill Park		
1. Although this is a county park, the township participates in the maintenance & is invested in the success of this park as it exists in the Township & 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.	1.1	B.2

Ossineke Township

Goals Objectives

A. 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.

Objective 1: Improve the recreation center of the Park by addressing the needs of existing facilities.

Objective 2: Expand existing park facilities to meet existing demand, and/or encourage expanded use.

B. Beaver Lake

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

Objective 1: Provide amenities to improve the overall

usability of the park.

C. 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.

Objective 1: 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.

D. Expand Township Recreation Facilities

Goal: Explore opportunities to expand and improve recreation facilities within the Township.

Ossineke Township Action Program

Ossineke Township Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule		
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
Hubbard Lake Lions Park		
1. Improve signage, access road, parking/road lighting, & landscaping at the park.	A.1, A.2	D, I
2. Add lighting for baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, & tennis courts to allow extended hours of usage.	A.1, A.2	D
3. Replace benches & tables to maintain quality park amenities.	A.1	D
4. Install ADA-accessible playground equipment to meet the needs of the disabled population in the community.	A.1, A.2	D
5. Develop a rustic campground.	A.1, A.2	D
6. Repair current tennis courts to accommodate tennis & pickleball.	A.1, A.2	D
7. Pave parking lot and provide ADA access from parking lot to park facilities to increase ADA accessibility.	A.1	D
Beaver Lake County Park (not owned by Ossineke Township)		
1. Provide waste receptacles to dispose of used fishing lines, keeping dock area clear of debris.	B.1	D
2. Work with the County to improve boat launch.	B.1	B.2, D
Chippewa Hills Pathway (not owned by Ossineke Township)		
1. Work with Thunder Bay Trails Association to obtain grant funding for the development of non-motorized trails at Chippewa Hills Pathway.	C.1	B.2, K
2. Work with local equestrian clubs to obtain grant funding for the development of equestrian trails at Chippewa Hills Pathway.	C.1	B.2, K
3. Improve signage, benches, and sitting areas and add other placemaking assets.	C.1	D, I
Expansion of Facilities (General)		
1. Plan for future recreational opportunities while finding feasible ways to purchase or lease properties to provide a variety of recreation opportunities within the Township.	D	B.3
2. Identify and work to implement additional recreation opportunities that are not currently offered to Township residents & people in the area.	D	B.1
3. Develop the Thunder Bay River as a “Blueways” trail (including access points, signage, amenities, & promotional materials).	D	H

Sanborn Township

Goals & Objectives

A. General Goals

1. To protect, promote, and preserve the area.
2. To develop and maintain strong local government involvement in recreational and tourism planning and projects.
3. Improve the quality of life for residents and bring visitors to Sanborn Township by maintaining, improving, and expanding recreation within the Township.
4. Provide a balance of recreational amenities which are oriented to the aging population to increase the desirability of the community to retirees.
5. Provide recreational amenities which are oriented toward the younger population and families in order to increase the livability of the community to attract young families to the area and retain older youth.
6. Support cooperative regional recreation planning and development with Alpena County, the Michigan DNR, and other surrounding communities.
7. To encourage tourism as an economic resource for the community, yet recognize the need to provide other recreational opportunities to the residents.
8. Improve the overall local economy by enhancing the livability of the community in order to attract entrepreneurs and encourage the creation of new tourism-based jobs.
9. To provide outdoor recreational facilities for the enjoyment of local residents, sports enthusiasts, and visitors to Sanborn Township.

B. Sanborn Township Beach Park

Goal: Enhance the recreational opportunities at the Sanborn Township Beach Park to encourage its

establishment as a primary recreational facility in the Township.

Objective 1: Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the park.

Objective 2: Improve overall park appearance and protect from deterioration.

C. Lake Street Property on Devil's River

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

Objective 1: Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the park.

D. Sanborn Township Boat Launch on Devil's River

Goal: Continue partnership with, and support the MDNR in the maintenance and operation of the launch site.

E. Shin-ga-ba Shores Playground & Ball Fields

Goal: Enhance the recreational opportunities at the Shin-ga-ba Shores Playground to encourage its continued use as a primary recreational facility in the Township and maintain community partnerships in that effort.

Objective 1: Continue to provide and enhance amenities to improve the overall usability of the park.

Objective 2: Continue partnership with and support of Alpena Huron Shores Little League and Ossineke Baseball Association in the maintenance, operation, and enhancement of the ball fields.

F. Beebe Street Property

Goal: Create a development plan for the property and enhance the recreational opportunities at this unimproved site to expand and enhance the recreational opportunities in the Township.

Objective 1: Develop this access site and provide limited site amenities in such a way as to improve the overall usability of the park.

Objective 2: Develop a park improvement plan for the site.

G. Devils River

Goal: Enhance recreational opportunities available on the Devils River.

Objective 1: Restore the Devils River while providing navigable waters and a healthy habitat for plant, aquatic, and animal species.

H. Sanborn Township Hall

Goal: Enhance the recreational opportunities at the Sanborn Township Hall to encourage its establishment as a recreational and community facility in the Township.

Objective 1: Renovate the back of the building (BoJim building) as a community center.

I. Ossineke Chamber Hall

Goal: Enhance the recreational opportunities at the Ossineke Chamber Hall.

Objective 1: Renovate the building to allow a more complete utilization of the building.

J. Active Transportation

Goal: Expand active transportation opportunities within the Township.

Objective 1: Develop active transportation routes within the Township connecting local sites.

Sanborn Township Action Program

Sanborn Township Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
Sanborn Beach Park		
1. Construct ADA accessible ramp to water.	A.9, B.1	D
2. Expand parking area.	A.9, B.1	D
3. Clean beach area of debris.	A.9, B.2	E
4. Clean & improve Lake St road end to provide lake access for canoes/kayaks.	A.9, B.2	D
5. Clear vacant lot behind restrooms for future expansion of park facilities.	A.9, B.1	D
6. Renovate vault toilet facilities.	A.9, B.1	D
Lake Street Property on Devil's River		
1. Dredge the mouth of the Devils River.	A.9, C.1	E
Shin-ga-ba Shores Playground & Ball Fields		
1. Replace Totem Pole.	A.9, E.1	D
2. Perform necessary maintenance to sustain the life of the wooden play structure.	A.9, E.1	D
3. Construct shade structures (canopies or pergolas) over benches.	A.9, E.1	D
4. Install additional benches, picnic tables, & garbage receptacles.	A.9, E.1	D
5. Construct multi-use pickleball & tennis courts.	A.9, E.1	D
Beebe Street Property		
1. Driveway & parking improvements.	A.9, F.1	D
2. Sign as a public facility.	A.9, F.1	I
3. Gather public input regarding potential uses of the property.	A.9, F.1	F
4. Create a development plan for the property.	A.9, F.2	D
Wooded 8 Acres (US 23 & Nicholson Hill Rd)		
1. Create a limited parking area.	A.9	D
2. Install informational signage regarding Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox.	A.9	I
3. Construct a viewing platform for photo opportunities of Paul Bunyan & Babe statues.	A.9	D
4. Install benches, picnic tables, & garbage receptacles.	A.9	D
5. Remove deadfall & other debris.	A.9	D

6. Create a Veterans Memorial Area.	A.9	D
7. Mulch nature pathways.	A.9	G
8. Install signage identifying trees & other natural fauna.	A.9	I
Sanborn Township Hall		
1. Renovate former BoJim building to include community center with an activity room, kitchen, & restrooms.	H.1	D
Devils River		
1. Restore the Devils River as a navigable waterway.	A.9, G.1	H
2. Identify & develop a kayak launch along the Devils River.	A.9, G.1	H
3. Develop material to promote the Devils River.	A.1, A.7, A.9	J

Wilson Township

Goals Objectives

A. General Goals

1. Focus on creating more regional partnerships 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.
2. Improve accessibility to public parks.
3. Improve navigability of the waterways within the township for the boaters' enjoyment.
4. Create more trail experiences whether by land or water.
5. Maintain and promote existing township community centers.

B. Wolf Creek Park

Goal: Develop and improve Wolf Creek Park.

Objective 1: Explore opportunities to expand the property beyond the original Road Commission right of way.

Objective 2: 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.

Objective 3: Focus development upon existing natural features.

C. Promotion

Goal: Promote the use of Township recreation assets.

Objective 1: 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.

Objective 2: Partner with other local agencies or the State of Michigan on recreational development

projects, where applicable.

Objective 3: Develop a program to promote Wilson Township recreational facilities.

Objective 4: Consider partnerships with Alpena Public Schools, the State of Michigan, and/or local private recreational facilities to promote all township recreational resources.

D. Trails

Goal: Develop trails and trail connections for motorized and non-motorized uses.

Objective 1: Support the State of Michigan in its Indian Reserve/Devil's Lake Block Plan.

Objective 2: Research ways to expand local trails in conjunction with state trail expansion plans.

Objective 3: Support the continued maintenance of local snowmobile trails within the township.

Objective 4: Research the development of ORV trails within the township.

Objective 5: Research ways to improve and expand parking facilities at various trailhead staging areas throughout the township.

Objective 6: Improve barrier-free accessibility on township trails, where appropriate.

E. Water Access

Goal: Explore ways to expand public water access.

Objective 1: Explore ways to improve the public's access to the Thunder Bay River.

Objective 2: Work with other state and local agencies, where appropriate, to secure additional

public access.

(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.

Objective 3: Support water trail usage in the township by supporting efforts to open the creek

Wilson Township Action Program

Wilson Township Action Plan – Capital Improvements Schedule		
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
Wolf Creek Park		
1. Pursue funding for land acquisition.	A.1, B.1, C.2	B.3
2. Designated any newly acquired property as a natural area & building hiking & interpretive trails.	A.2, A.4, B.3	E, G
3. Install additional amenities to improve the overall usability of the property including new barrier-free fishing platforms, canoe launch, etc.	A.2, B.2, B.3	D, H
4. Build an additional concrete walkways for increased accessibility.	A.2, B.2, B.3	D, G
Promotion		
1. Establish wayfinding, directional, & site signage to direct visitors to township recreational facilities.	C.1, C.3	I
2. Consider the development a recreational brochure & map for Wilson Township recreational facilities.	C.1, C.3, C.4	J
Water Access		
1. Secure additional public accesses (work with state and local agencies).	A.4, E.1, E.2	H
2. Add more water trail signage for convenience of waterways travelers & increased safety for more effective rescue efforts.	A.4, C.1, C.3, E.3	H, I
3. Enhance the experience of those traveling the river by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing ash deadfall for better and safer boating experience. • Improving the river bank near the fishing pier. 	A.3, A.4, E.3	H
3. Building more waterfront trails and walkways.		
Community Centers		
1. Develop a maintenance & capital improvements schedule for township community buildings to ensure their upkeep & continued use by the public.	A.5	D
2. Develop a plan to promote greater use of township community centers by the public.	A.1, A.5	D
Trails		
1. Establish trails to link Wolf Creek Property, Wilson School, Wilson Township Hall, Optimist Acres, & the State-owned facilities in the Mackinaw State Forest such as the Norway Ridge Pathway & 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 & through the Mackinaw State Forest with any existing & future trails in Alpena Charter Township &, ultimately, to the Bi-Path in the City of Alpena & any future trail systems planned for the US 23 Heritage Route.	A.4, D.1, D.2, D.3, D.4, D.5, D.6	G

Basis for Action

Basis for Action – General

With the population in mind, the following factors also influence recreational development in the Alpena area:

1. All residents and visitors should have access to safe routes that connect recreational facilities, residential areas, and local attractions throughout the area. Consideration of public safety, accessibility, and inclusivity will be taken into account when planning for recreational opportunities within the area.
2. The Alpena area has an abundance of natural and recreational spaces with amenities that improve the quality of life in the area. Providing year-round recreational opportunities in these spaces will attract visitors and offer a means of enjoyment for residents. These spaces will also provide opportunities for social interaction and educational programming.
3. All residents and visitors should be able to enjoy recreational opportunities in the area. When planning, consideration will be given to the type of parks, their location, their distribution, and the type of recreational activities that are offered.
4. The maintenance and operation of existing and new recreational facilities will balance the preservation of the natural environment and scenic areas with tourism potential.

Basis for Action – Alpena County

Recreation planning in Alpena County should consider its population.

1. The County has a large mid-life population. The County's median age is 48.1 years old, which is older than the State of Michigan's median age of 39.8 years old and the U.S. median age of 38.8. Individuals 45 to 64 years of age make up 29.6% of the population, while individuals aged 65 and older make up 23.3%. Therefore, this population should be given consideration when planning for recreational activities.
2. Young people, under the age of 19, make up 21% of the County's population, while individuals between the ages of 20 to 44 years represent 26.1% of the population. Given the population makeup, the recreational facilities in the county need to appeal to diverse age groups.
3. The County's median household income is \$44,864 compared to the state's median income of \$63,202 and the U.S. median income of \$69,717. The County's unemployment rate is 5% compared to 4.2% statewide and 3.6% nationwide. Approximately 14.9% of the population of Alpena County lives below the poverty line. Consideration should be given to whether or not residents can afford to incur the cost of recreational activities and the drive time and expenses associated with traveling to recreational facilities.
4. Over 20% of the population of Alpena County self-report as having a disability. Considerations should be taken to make all recreational facilities accessible for those with all forms of disabilities.

Basis for Action – Green Township

Recreation planning in Green Township should consider its population.

1. The Township has a large mid-life population. The Township’s median age is 54.1 years old, which is older than the State of Michigan’s median age of 39.8 years old and the U.S. median age of 38.8. Individuals 45 to 64 years of age make up 35% of the population, while individuals aged 65 and older make up 26.4%. Therefore, this population should be given consideration when planning for recreational activities.
2. Young people, under the age of 19, make up 18.9% of the Township’s population, while individuals between the ages of 20 to 44 years represent 19.7% of the population. Given the population makeup, the recreational facilities in the township need to appeal to diverse age groups.

3. The Township’s median household income is \$55,000 compared to the state’s median income of \$63,202 and the U.S. median income of \$69,717. The County’s unemployment rate is 5% compared to 4.2% statewide and 3.6% nationwide. Approximately 15% of the population of the Township lives below the poverty line. Consideration should be given to whether or not residents can afford to incur the cost of recreational activities and the drive time and expenses associated with traveling to recreational facilities.
4. Over 18% of the population of Green Township self-report as having a disability. Considerations should be taken to make all recreational facilities accessible for those with all forms of disabilities.

Basis for Action – Charter Township of Alpena

Recreation planning in the Charter Township of Alpena should consider its population.

1. The Township has a large mid-life population. The Township’s median age is 49.9 years old, which is older than the State of Michigan’s median age of 39.8 years old and the U.S. median age of 38.8. Individuals 45 to 64 years of age make up 30.8% of the population, while individuals aged 65 and older make up 25%. Therefore, this population should be given consideration when planning for recreational activities.
2. Young people, under the age of 19, make up 20.3% of the Township’s population, while individuals between the ages of 20 to 44 years represent 23.9% of the population. Given the population makeup, the recreational facilities in the township need to appeal to diverse age groups.

3. The Township’s median household income is \$47,167 compared to the state’s median income of \$63,202 and the U.S. median income of \$69,717. The County’s unemployment rate is 5% compared to 4.2% statewide and 3.6% nationwide. Approximately 13.6% of the population of the Township lives below the poverty line. Consideration should be given to whether or not residents can afford to incur the cost of recreational activities and the drive time and expenses associated with traveling to recreational facilities.
4. Over 19.9% of the population of the Township self-report as having a disability. Considerations should be taken to make all recreational facilities accessible for those with all forms of disabilities.

Basis for Action – Ossineke Township

Recreation planning in Ossineke Township should consider its population.

1. The Township has a large mid-life population. The Township’s median age is 40.5 years old, which is slightly older than the State of Michigan’s median age of 39.8 years old and the U.S. median age of 38.8. Individuals 45 to 64 years of age make up 21.4% of the population, while individuals aged 65 and older make up 26.6%. Therefore, this population should be given consideration when planning for recreational activities.
2. Young people, under the age of 19, make up 31% of the Township’s population, while individuals between the ages of 20 to 44 years represent 23.3% of the population. Given the population makeup, the

recreational facilities in the township need to appeal to diverse age groups.

3. The Township’s median household income is \$43,672 compared to the state’s median income of \$63,202 and the U.S. median income of \$69,717. The County’s unemployment rate is 5% compared to 4.2% statewide and 3.6% nationwide. Approximately 8.7% of the population of the Township lives below the poverty line. Consideration should be given to whether or not residents can afford to incur the cost of recreational activities and the drive time and expenses associated with traveling to recreational facilities.
4. Approximately 16% of the population of the Township self-report as having a disability. Considerations should be taken to make all recreational facilities accessible for those with all forms of disabilities.

Basis for Action – Sanborn Township

Recreation planning in Ossineke Township should consider its population.

1. The Township has a large mid-life population. The Township’s median age is 47.1 years old, which is older than the State of Michigan’s median age of 39.8 years old and the U.S. median age of 38.8. Individuals 45 to 64 years of age make up 32.9% of the population, while individuals aged 65 and older make up 24.3%. Therefore, this population should be given consideration when planning for recreational activities.
2. Young people, under the age of 19, make up 22.2% of the Township’s population, while individuals between the ages of 20 to 44 years represent 25.6% of the population. Given the population makeup, the recreational facilities in the township need to appeal to diverse age groups.

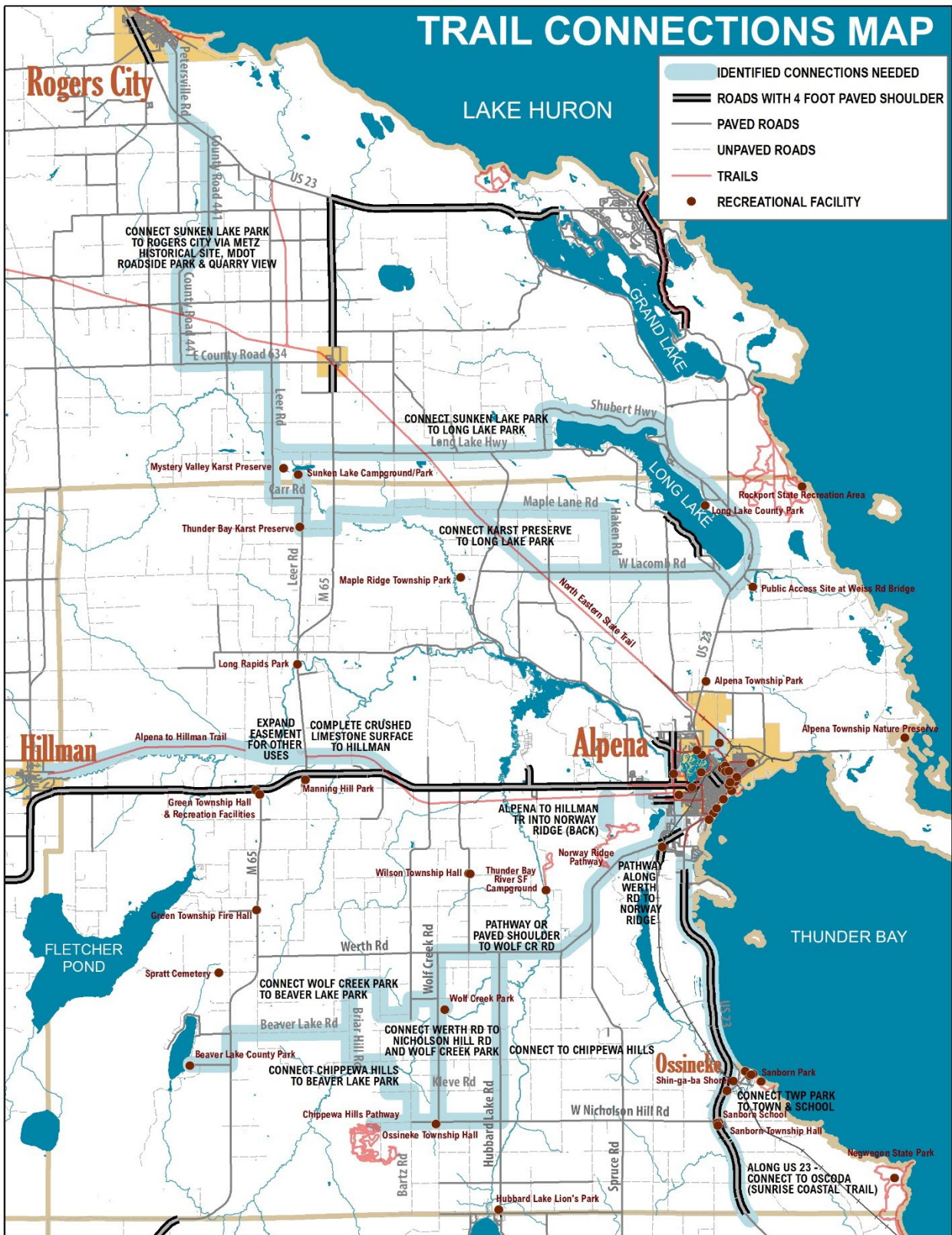
3. The Township’s median household income is \$44,402 compared to the state’s median income of \$63,202 and the U.S. median income of \$69,717. The County’s unemployment rate is 5% compared to 4.2% statewide and 3.6% nationwide. Approximately 15.5% of the population of the Township lives below the poverty line. Consideration should be given to whether or not residents can afford to incur the cost of recreational activities and the drive time and expenses associated with traveling to recreational facilities.
4. Approximately 16.4% of the population of the Township self-report as having a disability. Considerations should be taken to make all recreational facilities accessible for those with all forms of disabilities.

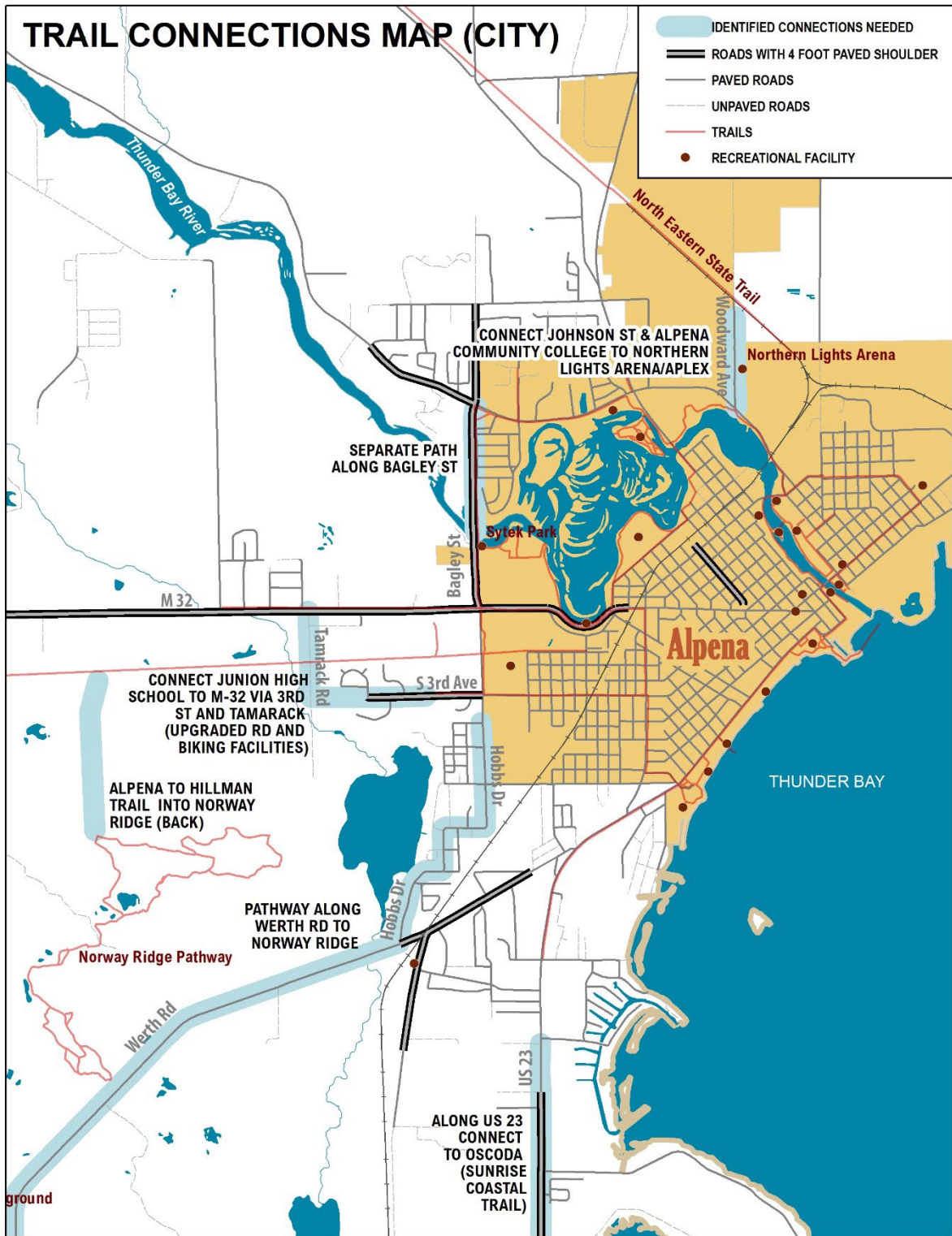
Basis for Action – Wilson Township

Recreation planning in Wilson Township should consider its population.

1. The Township has a large mid-life population. The Township's median age is 50.6 years old, which is older than the State of Michigan's median age of 39.8 years old and the U.S. median age of 38.8. Individuals 45 to 64 years of age make up 38.2% of the population, while individuals aged 65 and older make up 23%. Therefore, this population should be given consideration when planning for recreational activities.
2. Young people, under the age of 19, make up 15.1% of the Township's population, while individuals between the ages of 20 to 44 years represent 23.7% of the population. Given the population makeup, the recreational facilities in the township need to appeal to diverse age groups.
3. The Township's median household income is \$47,393 compared to the state's median income of \$63,202 and the U.S. median income of \$69,717. The County's unemployment rate is 5% compared to 4.2% statewide and 3.6% nationwide. Approximately 13.6% of the population of the Township lives below the poverty line. Consideration should be given to whether or not residents can afford to incur the cost of recreational activities and the drive time and expenses associated with traveling to recreational facilities.
4. Approximately 17.7% of the population of the Township self-report as having a disability. Considerations should be taken to make all recreational facilities accessible for those with all forms of disabilities.

Figures obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.





CHAPTER

5

PLANNING
PROCESS



Alpena Area Joint Recreation Plan

Planning Schedule

The 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 and 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 meeting 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:

May 1, 2023

Commitments to participate in a multijurisdictional planning process from all interested parties were finalized. The City of Alpena chose to coordinate with Alpena County and the five townships to update its recreation plan one year early in order to be on the same schedule and share in the public input process.

May 22, 2023

A virtual meeting was held with the ad-hoc Alpena Recreation Plan Committee (consisting of members of each participating jurisdiction). The committee discussed survey questions proposed for an online survey to gather public input.

May 25, 2023

The Alpena County Planning Commission met with NEMCOG staff to review the draft survey questions.

June 1, 2023

The public input survey was made live. A press release appeared in the Alpena News on June 17, 2023 (see image at right). Notices were also placed in the tax bills for the City of Alpena, the Charter Township of Alpena, and Green Township. In addition, a link to the survey appeared in social media posts including the City of Alpena, Alpena County, US 23 Heritage Route, and Michigan Sunrise Coast. The participating communities also placed the survey link on their websites. See social media and website notices on the following page.

July 31, 2023

The survey was closed on July 31, 2023. A total of 461 responses were collected (approximately 1.6 percent of the total population of the county). The communities felt that this was a significant percentage of the population. Survey results were transmitted to the communities.

IN BRIEF

Public input sought on parks and rec plans

Alpena County, the City of Alpena, Alpena Township, Green Township, Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township, and Wilson Township are working together to update their recreation plans which guide the future enhancement and development of recreation in the Alpena area.

A recreation plan needs to be approved by the Michigan DNR in order for the communities to qualify for grant funding for recreational improvements.

If you would like to give your opinion on parks and recreation in the Alpena area to help them plan for future recreational improvements, please take the online survey at surveymonkey.com/r/AlpenaAreaRecreation.

Printed surveys are also available at the Alpena County Building, Alpena City Hall, or at the Township Offices. The deadline is July 31.


City of Alpena, MI - Information
July 14 at 3:09 PM

The Alpena area is known for having amazing recreational amenities! Alpena County, the City of Alpena, the Charter Township of Alpena, Green Township, Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township, and Wilson Township are working together to update their recreation plans which guide the future enhancement and development of recreation in the Alpena area.

A Recreation Plan needs to be approved by the Michigan DNR in order for the communities to qualify for grant funding for recreational improvements. Citizen input is critical to help the communities write these plans.

Here's how you can help! The communities have made a recreation plan survey available to gather public opinions and they are hoping to hear from everyone who uses recreational facilities in the Alpena area. If you would like to give your opinion on parks and recreation in the Alpena area to help them plan for future recreational improvements, please take the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlpenaAreaRecreation>

Printed surveys are also available at the Alpena County Building, Alpena City Hall, or at the Township Offices. The survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete. The deadline is July 31, 2023. Thank you for your participation!



City of Alpena RECREATION PLAN

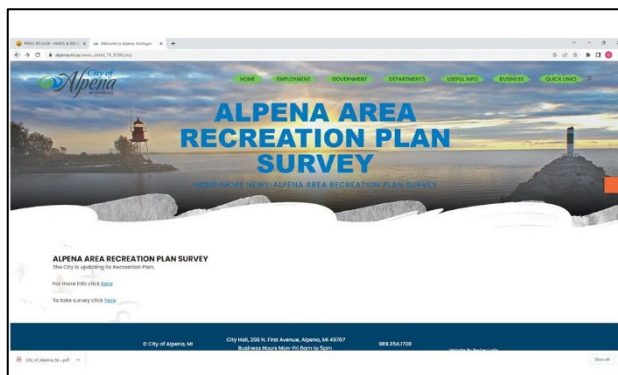
The City is updating its Recreation Plan and we value your input...please take our Alpena Area Recreation Plan Survey to help us plan for recreation!

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

Hard copies of the survey are available at City Hall at 208 N First St

SURVEY DEADLINE July 31, 2023

A multi-jurisdictional project in Alpena County



ALPENA AREA RECREATION PLAN SURVEY

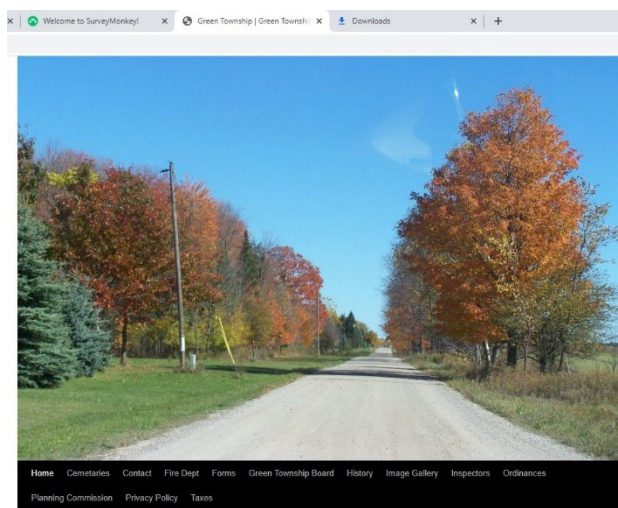
ALPENA AREA RECREATION PLAN SURVEY
The City is updating its Recreation Plan.

ALPENA COUNTY

1d

Alpena County is conducting a Recreational Plan Survey. Please follow the link below to complete the survey.

Alpena Area Recreation Survey
Take this survey powered by surveymonkey.com. Create your own surveys for free.



Green Township Recreation Survey

Posted on July 5, 2022 by James

Green Township is working on their Recreation Plan in conjunction with the County of Alpena, other townships and the City of Alpena. Please let your input be known. Please click on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlpenaAreaRecreation>.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Comments Off

Archives

- July 2022
- June 2023
- April 2023
- March 2023
- February 2023
- January 2023
- December 2022
- November 2022
- October 2022

June through September, 2023

NEMCOG staff visited every recreation facility in the participating jurisdictions to inventory the facility, assess barrier-free facilities, and gather photos.

August 7, 2023

NEMCOG staff met with the Green Township Planning Commission to review the survey results and review and edit goals, objectives, and action items.

September 6, 2023

Wilson Township Planning Commission met to review the survey results and review and edit goals, objectives, and action items.

September 18, 2023

NEMCOG staff met with the Sanborn Township Planning Commission to review the survey results and review and edit goals, objectives, and action items.

September 20, 2023

NEMCOG staff met with the Ossineke Township Planning Commission to review the survey results and review and edit goals, objectives, and action items.

September 28, 2023

NEMCOG staff met with the Alpena County Planning Commission to review the survey results and review and edit goals, objectives, and action items.

October 5, 2023

NEMCOG staff met with the Alpena Intergovernmental Council to review the survey results and lead a discussion on how best to collaborate on planning, funding, and implementation of recreation plan action items.

October 18, 2023

NEMCOG staff met with the Charter Township of Alpena Planning Commission to review the survey results and review and edit goals, objectives, and action items.

October 23, 2023

NEMCOG staff met with an ad-hoc trails planning group to review and discuss trail connections across the county.

November 9, 2023

Members of the Planning Commissions from each municipality (including the City of Alpena) met with NEMCOG staff at Ossineke Township Hall to discuss joint goals, objectives, and action items.

December 1, 2023

The Alpena County Multijurisdictional Recreation Plan was available for public review. (insert notices)

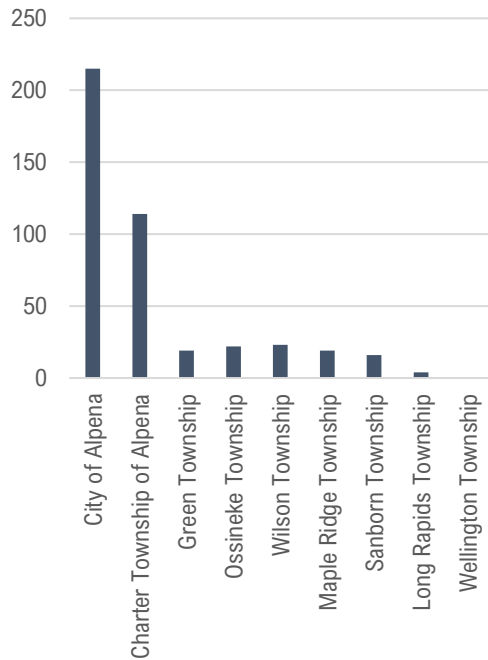
January xxxx, 2024

Insert public hearing dates and adoption dates.

Survey Results Summary

Question 1 & 2

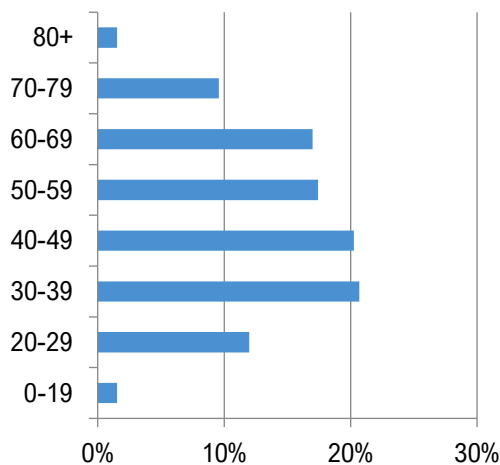
Where do you live (within Alpena County and outside of Alpena County)?



Nearly half of survey respondents (215) live within the City of Alpena while over 26 percent live within the Charter Township of Alpena. The survey also generated responses from 15 Presque Isle County residents, 10 Alcona County residents, and two Montmorency County residents. Two survey respondents live out of the region (Providence, Rhode Island and Lansing, Michigan).

Question 3

What is your age group?



Survey respondents represented a very good distribution of age groups. These results show that the jurisdictions within Alpena County should be planning recreational facilities for a wide variety of age groups. Over a quarter of the survey respondents were in the retirement age group. This indicates that planning for an aging population is critical.

Question 4

Which of the following recreational facilities do you use and how often?

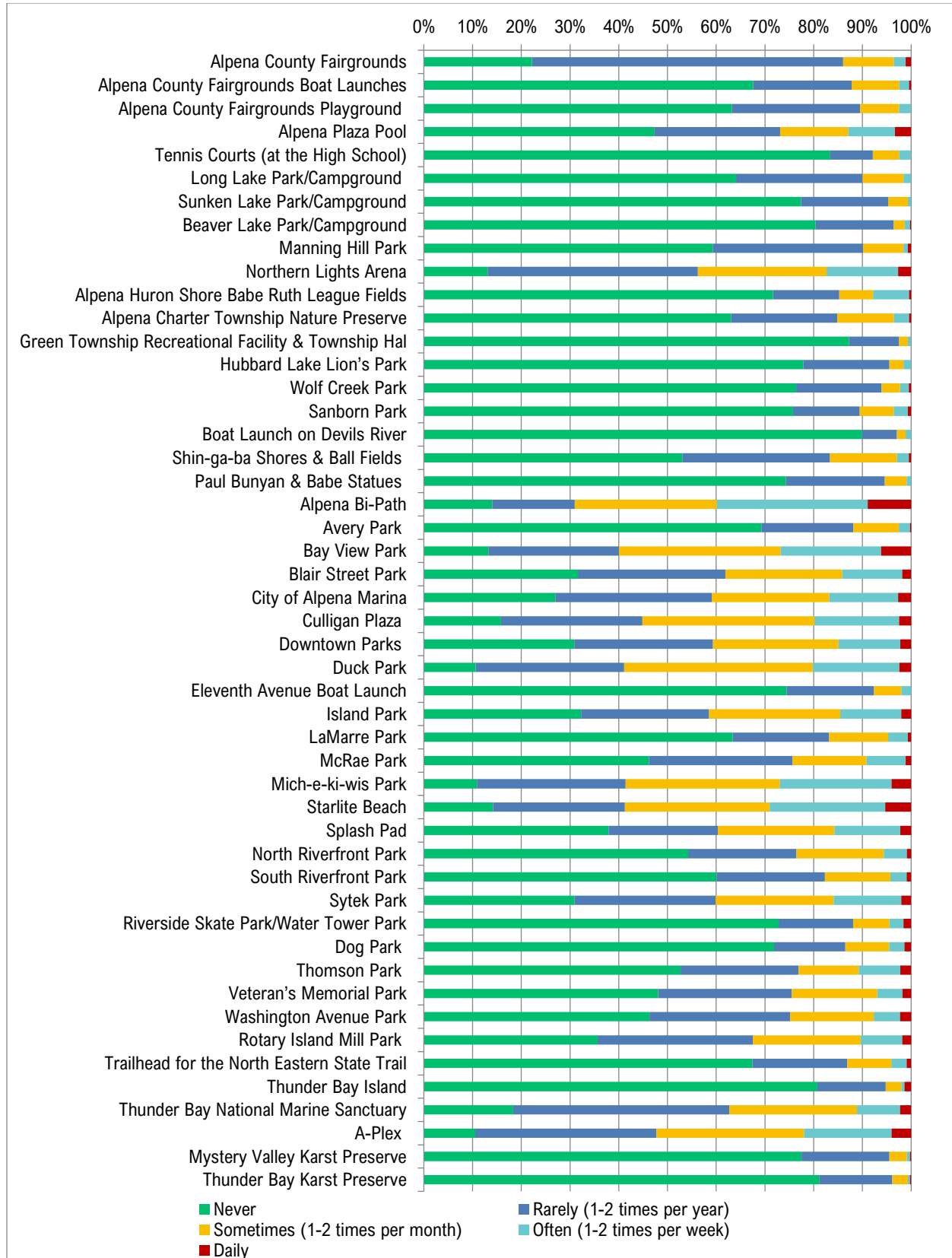
The following tables group the results by ownership and are in descending order using the answer “more than once per month.” The City of Alpena survey results are shown as well because the city parks receive the heaviest use. Northern Lights Arena is the highest use facility with the Plaza Pool coming in second. Shin-ga-ba Shores Park ranked third with the Misery Bay Nature Preserve (Alpena

Township Nature Preserve) and the Alpena Huron Shore Little League Fields both ranking fourth. Note that other facilities which are not under the control of the municipalities were also included in the survey. If these are factored in, then the A-Plex ranks the most heavily used with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary ranking second. The next page shows the usage graphically.

Location	Facility Name	1-2 Times per Year or Less	1-2 Times per Year or Less	More than Once Per Month	More than Once Per Month	Total Responses
Alpena County	10. Northern Lights Arena (Woodward Ave)	253	56%	197	44%	450
Alpena County	4. Alpena Plaza Pool (at the High School)	329	73%	121	27%	450
Alpena County	1. Alpena County Fairgrounds (11th Ave)	388	86%	63	14%	451
Alpena County	2. Alpena County Fairgrounds Boat Launches (11th Ave)	395	88%	55	12%	450
Alpena County	3. Alpena County Fairgrounds Playground (11th Ave)	402	90%	47	10%	449
Alpena County	6. Long Lake Park/Campground (US 23)	406	90%	45	10%	451
Alpena County	9. Manning Hill Park (M-32)	403	90%	44	10%	447
Alpena County	5. Tennis Courts (at the High School)	411	92%	35	8%	446
Alpena County	7. Sunken Lake Park/Campground (Leer Rd)	426	95%	21	5%	447
Alpena County	8. Beaver Lake Park/Campground (M-65)	433	96%	16	4%	449
Alpena Twp	12. Alpena Charter Township Nature Preserve (Misery Bay Rd)	381	85%	68	15%	449
Alpena Twp	11. Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League Fields (US 23)	382	85%	66	15%	448
Green Twp	13. Green Township Recreational Facility & Township Hall (M-32)	435	98%	11	2%	446
Ossineke Twp	14. Hubbard Lake Lion's Park (Hubbard Lake Rd)	427	96%	20	4%	447
Wilson Twp	15. Wolf Creek Park (Wolf Creek Rd)	418	94%	27	6%	445
Sanborn Twp	18. Shin-ga-ba Shores & Ball Fields (US 23)	371	83%	74	17%	445
Sanborn Twp	16. Sanborn Park (Lake Huron)	399	89%	47	11%	446
Sanborn Twp	19. Paul Bunyan & Babe Statues (US 23)	420	95%	24	5%	444
Sanborn Twp	17. Boat Launch on Devils River (Sanborn Township)	435	97%	13	3%	448

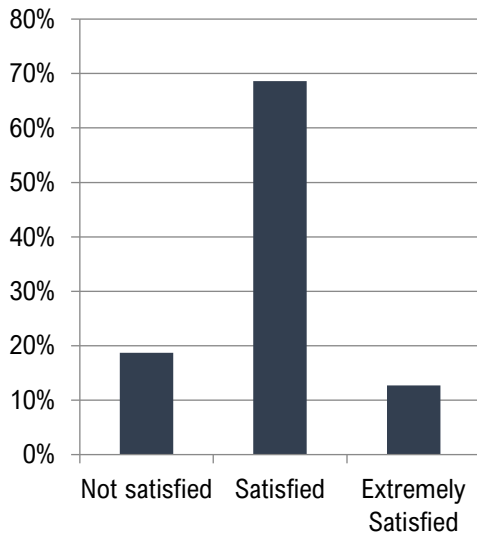
Location	Facility Name	1-2 Times per Year or Less	1-2 Times per Year or Less	More than Once Per Month	More than Once Per Month	Total Responses
City of Alpena	20. Alpena Bi-Path	139	31%	310	69%	449
City of Alpena	22. Bay View Park (includes bandshell, tennis courts and basketball courts) - 19. State Ave	181	40%	271	60%	452
City of Alpena	27. Duck Park (Long Rapids Rd)	185	41%	265	59%	450
City of Alpena	33. Starlite Beach (State Ave)	186	41%	265	59%	451
City of Alpena	32. Mich-e-ki-wis Park (State Ave)	186	41%	263	59%	449
City of Alpena	25. Culligan Plaza (downtown)	201	45%	247	55%	448
City of Alpena	29. Island Park (Long Rapids Rd)	261	59%	185	41%	446
City of Alpena	24. City of Alpena Marina	267	59%	185	41%	452
City of Alpena	26. Downtown Parks (Chisholm Street Park or Waterfront Park on Carter St)	267	59%	183	41%	450
City of Alpena	37. Sytek Park (off Bagley St)	267	60%	179	40%	446
City of Alpena	34. Splash Pad (State Ave)	272	60%	179	40%	451
City of Alpena	23. Blair Street Park (State Ave)	276	62%	170	38%	446
City of Alpena	43. Rotary Island Mill Park (in Thunder Bay River)	299	67%	144	33%	443
City of Alpena	42. Washington Avenue Park	333	75%	110	25%	443
City of Alpena	41. Veteran's Memorial Park (Washington Ave)	336	76%	109	24%	445
City of Alpena	31. McRae Park (2nd Ave & Hueber St)	339	76%	109	24%	448
City of Alpena	35. North Riverfront Park (Fletcher St)	341	76%	105	24%	446
City of Alpena	40. Thomson Park (State Ave)	343	77%	103	23%	446
City of Alpena	36. South Riverfront Park (Water St)	367	82%	79	18%	446
City of Alpena	30. LaMarre Park (River St)	370	83%	75	17%	445
City of Alpena	39. Dog Park (Fletcher St)	384	86%	60	14%	444
City of Alpena	38. Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park (9th Ave & Oldfield)	392	88%	53	12%	445
City of Alpena	21. Avery Park (2nd Ave)	387	88%	52	12%	439
City of Alpena	28. Eleventh Avenue Boat Launch	412	92%	34	8%	446

Location	Facility Name	1-2 Times per Year or Less	1-2 Times per Year or Less	More than Once Per Month	More than Once Per Month	Total Responses
Other	47. A-Plex (Woodward Ave)	213	48%	233	52%	446
Other	46. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary	277	63%	165	37%	442
Other	44. Trailhead for the North Eastern State Trail (off Woodward Ave)	384	87%	58	13%	442
Other	45. Thunder Bay Island	418	95%	23	5%	441
Other	48. Mystery Valley Karst Preserve (Leer Rd)	425	96%	20	4%	445
Other	49. Thunder Bay Karst Preserve (Leer Rd)	424	96%	17	4%	441



Question 5

Overall, how satisfied are you with the recreational opportunities in Alpena County (including the City of Alpena and all townships)?



Over 81 percent of survey respondents are satisfied with recreational opportunities. A separate analysis was done on the 84 respondents who said they were not satisfied with recreation to determine any trends. Generally, they do not have a high usage of any facility. Over 72 percent of these unsatisfied respondents answered that they would like to see more programming in the parks and that they are interested in concerts, walking, camping, festivals, bicycling, hiking, kayaking, and theaters (all of the types of activities that the Alpena area recreational facilities offer). This suggests that they feel improvements are needed at the current facilities rather than constructing new facilities.

Question 6

List your three favorite facilities and the reasons why. Include improvements you'd like to see there.

FACILITIES LISTED AS "FAVORITE"	
1.	Alpena Bi-Path
2.	A-Plex
3.	Starlite Beach
4.	Bay View Park
5.	Duck Park
6.	Mich-e-ke-wis Park
7.	Plaza Pool
8.	Splash Pad
9.	Sytek Park
10.	City of Alpena Marina
11.	Northern Lights Arena
12.	Island Park
13.	Thomson Park
14.	Culligan Plaza
15.	McRae Park

When asked to indicate their favorite facilities, the City of Alpena facilities ranked highly among most survey respondents. Several facilities within the jurisdictions covered within this plan were also listed within the top 20: Alpena Plaza Pool (ranked 7th), Northern Lights Arena (ranked 11th), Shin-ga-ba Shores (ranked 16th), and Sanborn Park (ranked 17th). Improvements suggested have been reviewed and the action items in Chapter 4 reflect those responses.

Question 7

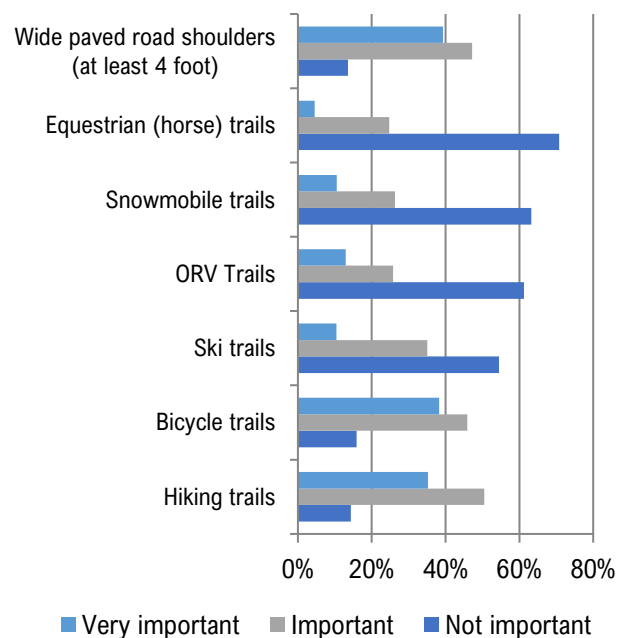
List your three LEAST favorite facilities and the reasons why. Include improvements you'd like to see there.

FACILITIES LISTED AS "FAVORITE"	
1.	Alpena County Fairgrounds
2.	McRae Park
3.	Mich-e-ke-wis Park
4.	Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park
5.	Plaza Pool
6.	Bay View Park
7.	Dog Park

When asked to indicate their least favorite facilities, the Alpena County Fairgrounds ranked number one. Only those that received at least 10 votes for least favorite are listed in the table to the left. It should be noted that this question generated a very low number of responses. The least favorite facility only received 29 votes for least favorite (contrasted with the most favorite facility from the previous question received 81 votes). The most common reasons given (and improvements needed) were issues that the communities were already aware of and are addressing within this plan.

Question 8

How important are each of the following to you?



Question 8 focused on trail systems in the area. Bicycling trails, hiking trails, and four-foot paved shoulders were indicated as "very important" to people. Over 84 percent of respondents felt hiking trails and biking trails were either "important" or "very important." Over 86 percent felt that four-foot wide paved shoulders were very important along area roads. This speaks to the desire of the community to create nonmotorized connections between recreational facilities. The three types of trails that ranked least important to respondents were equestrian trails, snowmobile trails, and ORV trails. In the comments, many people indicated the importance of connections between water accesses and the city Bi-Path in addition to connections along the M-32 corridor and to Birdsong Bay. ORV users desire connections to trails and restaurants.

Question 9

What improvements would you like to see at trailheads in the county?



When considering trailheads in the area, many people indicated that they would like to see signage, paper maps, potable water, better parking, lighting, trash disposal, and restrooms. An example of better signage is shown at the left. These sign designs are available for use by all communities in the area.

Question 10

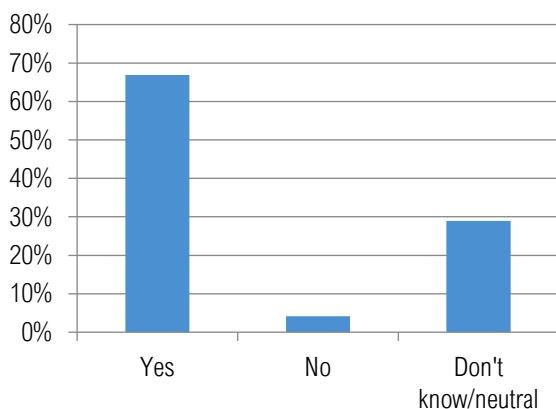
What additional recreational facilities would you like to see in the Alpena area?

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES DESIRED
Bathrooms
Campgrounds
Expanded indoor recreation/community center
Park improvements
New pool
Expanded trails
Water access
Winter activities

When asked what additional facilities the respondents would like to see in the area, the issues indicated in the table were most often mentioned.

Question 11

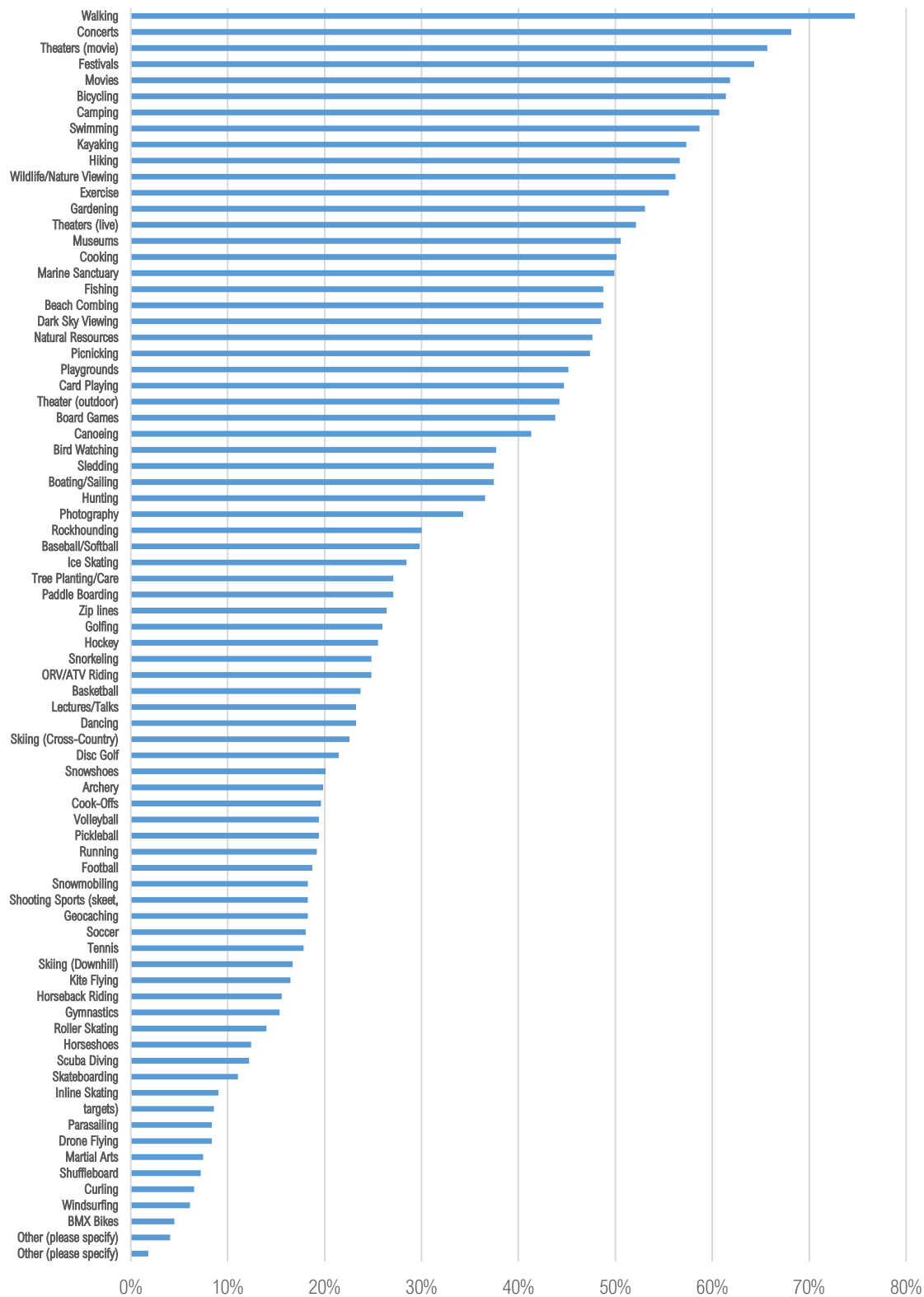
Would you like to see scheduled recreation programming in the parks (for example: youth and adult sports programs, lifelong learning programs)?



Over 66 percent of respondents answered that they would like to see programming in the parks. Many people gave individual ideas about the programming they would like to see including kids activities, archery, disc golf, air rifles, boating classes, nature classes, survival classes, pickleball, water sports, skating, free fishing, conservation education, foraging, yoga, adult recreation leagues, skiing, star gazing, fossil/rock hunting, plant/bird/rock identification, soccer, and exercise events.

Question 12

What recreational activities do you and/or your family enjoy?



Question 13

Please use this space to let us know of improvements you would like to see at specific recreational facilities and also to make additional comments to help plan for the future of recreation in the Alpena area.

IMPROVEMENTS
Alpena County: New swimming pool
Charter Township of Alpena: South end improvements (US 23 south), trail opportunities
City of Alpena: Improvements to Bayview, McRae, and Mich-e-ke-wis, Bi-path/crosswalk safety
Ossineke Township: Convert Lions Park tennis courts to pickleball
General Comments: Regular maintenance of what we already own, visibility to public recreation assets, safety, recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities

Approximately 128 individuals commented on this question. The table at the left indicates the general themes (the comments made most often). However, the tables in the Appendix contain all of the comments submitted during the survey.

