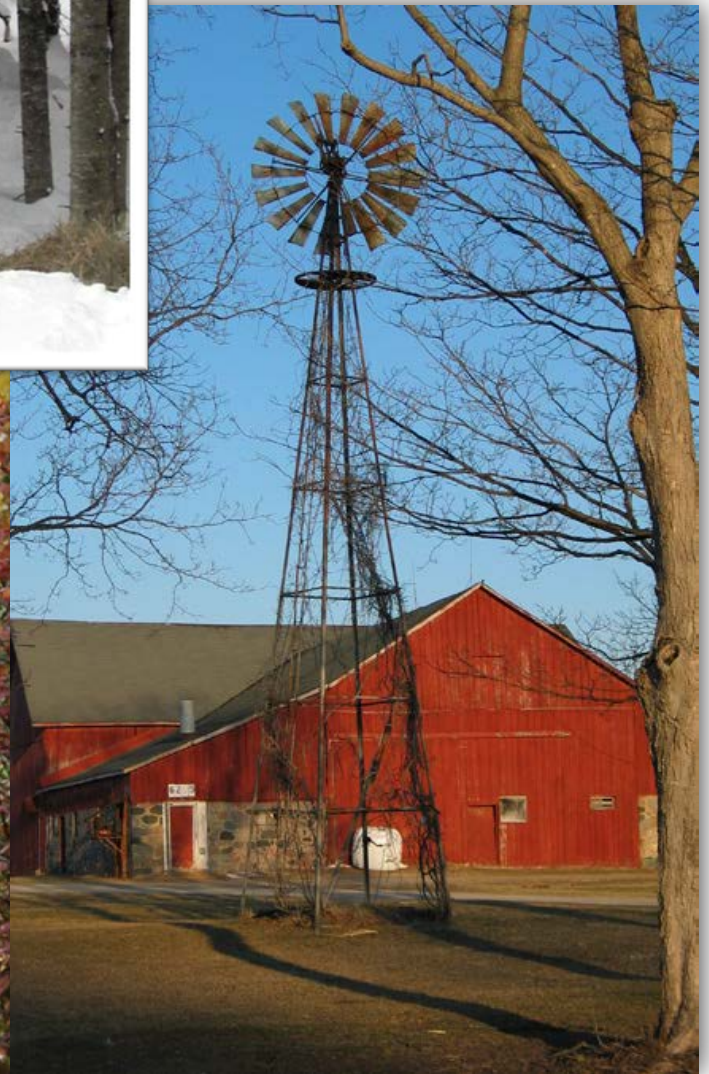


# Ossineke Township

Alpena County, Michigan

## Recreation Plan



2015 - 2019

With the Assistance of:  
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
80 Livingston Blvd, Suite 108  
PO Box 457  
Gaylord, MI 49734  
989-705-3730  
[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)



### Township Board:

Kenneth A. Lobert      Dennis Liske  
Denise Schultz      Jerry Leschinger  
Edie Abbot

Adopted: March 30, 2015

# TOWNSHIP OF OSSINEKE RECREATION PLAN

2015-2019

Prepared For:

Ossineke Township Board

Prepared By:

Ossineke Township Planning Commission

Assisted By:

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite 8

P. O. Box 457

Gaylord, Michigan 49734

[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)

989-705-3730

Planning Staff:

Kyle Robinson, NEMCOG

Adopted:

March 30, 2014

OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN  
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# CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

## Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and plans within the boundaries of Ossineke Township. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of the Township and the surrounding area in order to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

## Regional Setting

Ossineke Township is located in the south-southwestern portion of Alpena County, in the northeastern region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The Township is eighteen miles by six miles and includes three government survey townships for a total of 108 square miles. Ossineke Township lies within T29N and R5E, R6E, and R7E. Rural in nature, Ossineke Township features farming in the eastern area and large tracts of public and private recreational lands to the west. Beaver Lake provides a waterfront environment to many year-round and seasonal residents. Many year-round homes are also clustered in the unincorporated community of Hubbard Lake. Hubbard Lake also provides limited commercial services to area residents. The City of Alpena lies approximately twenty miles to the north and east and provides more extensive services. State highway M 65 travels north-south near the Township's western boundary, while US 23 lies three miles east of the Township's eastern edge. See **Figure 1.1** for the general location of Ossineke Township. **Figure 1.2** shows the Township's topography and water features.

Figure: 1-1 Ossineke Township General Location

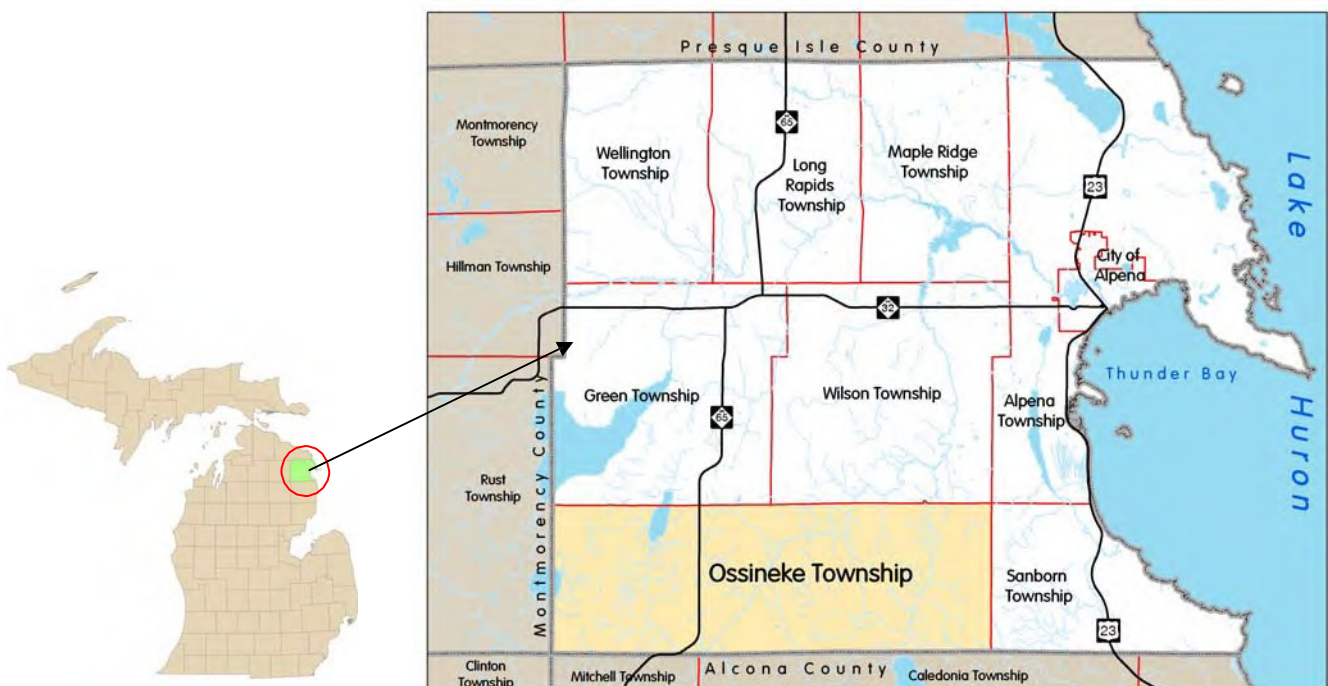
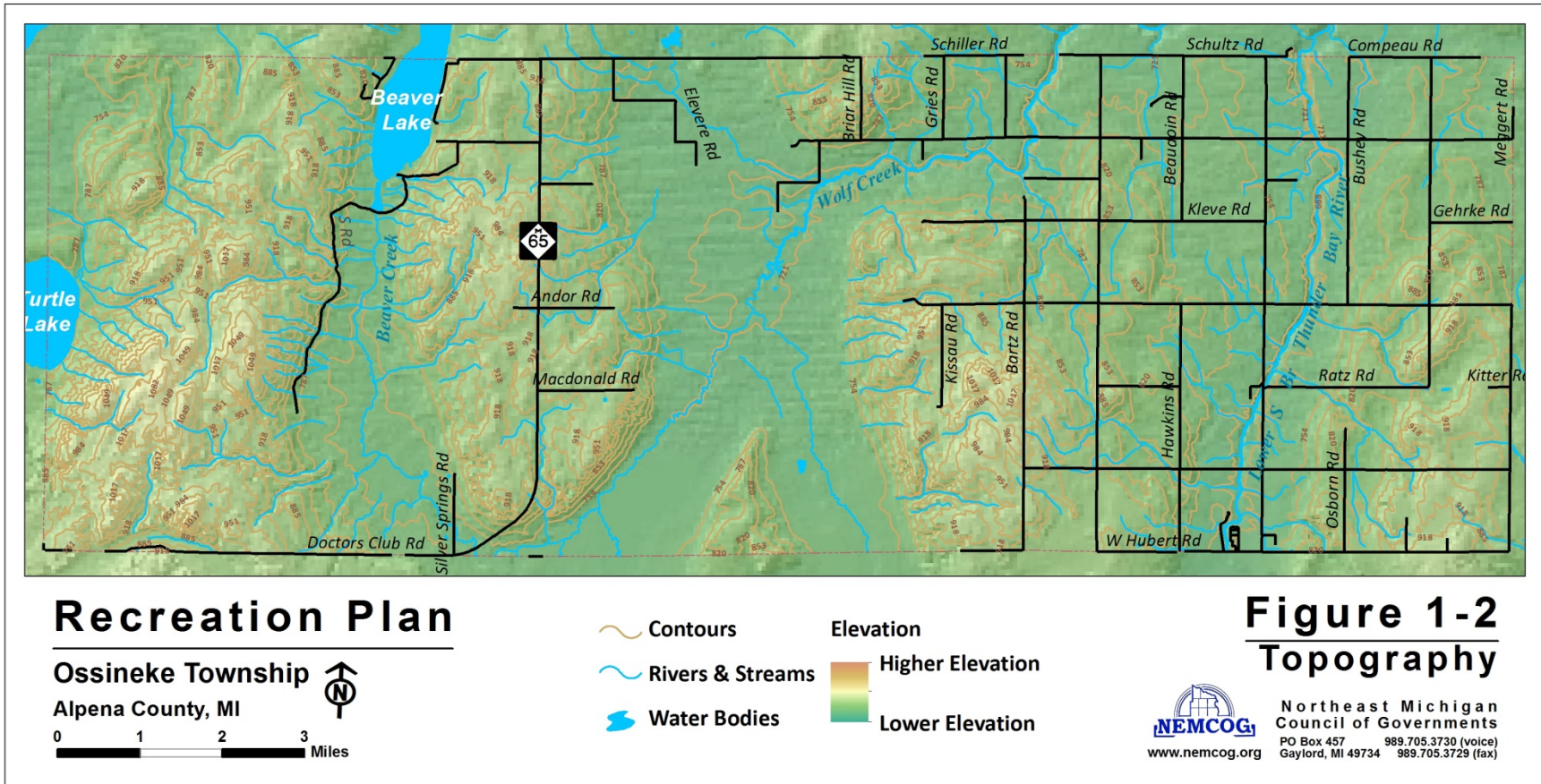


Figure 1-2: Ossineke Township Topography



## **Transportation**

The low density of population combined with large tracts of forested hunting and recreational land makes roads few and far between in Ossineke Township. Roads in R7E are better developed than roads in R5E and R6E. The western portion of the Township contains a large number of private roads and two-tracks. State highway M 65 runs north-south along the dividing line between R5E and R6E. Wolf Creek Road and Hubbard Lake Road are the only other roads which travel the entire north-south distance of the Township. The Michigan Center for Geographic Information maintains the Framework data set that contains up-to-date road information for each county. According to the Framework, in Ossineke Township there are 117 miles of road including over 7 miles of state trunk line (M 65), over 37 miles of county primary roads and over 68 miles of county local roads. There is an additional 3 miles of unclassified roads in the Township. County primary roads include Beaver Lake Road, Hubbard Lake Road, Indian Reserve Road, Hubert Road, Nicholson Hill Road, and Wolf Creek Road (**Figure 1-3**). The Alpena County Road Commission is the agency responsible for maintenance, snow removal and improvements.

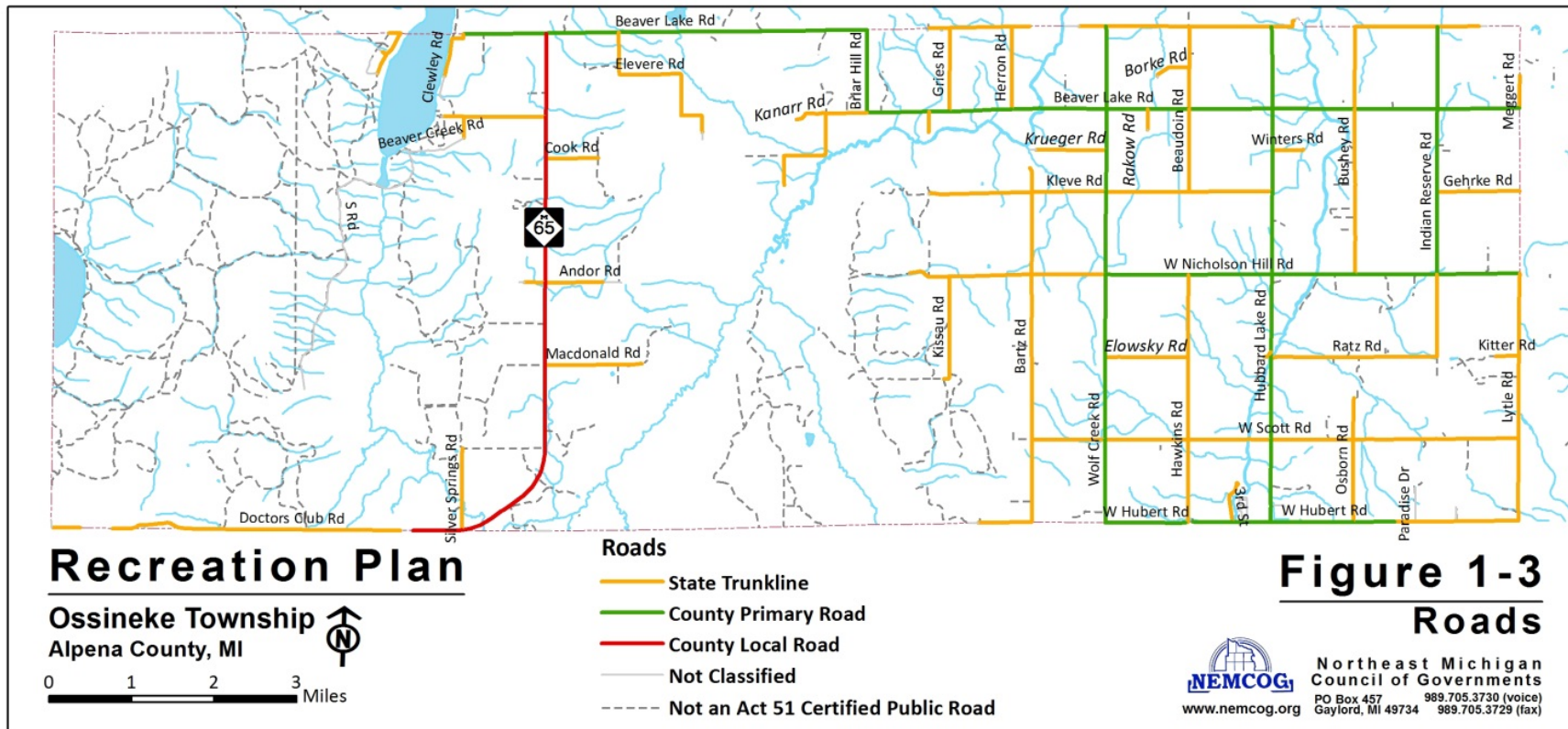
## **Transit**

Thunder Bay Transportation Corporation (TBTC), a non-profit corporation, provides transportation services for area elderly, handicapped and special needs passengers. TBTC operates five days a week, Monday through Friday, and by special contract other times and days. TBTC operates a fleet small buses and vans of which 20 of the vehicles are equipped with lifts. The Thunder Bay Regional Ride, in cooperation with medical care facilities in the region, provides inter-county transportation for medical and other needs. The County is supporting a multi-county transportation authority. The system functions under Thunder Bay Transportation and is designed to provide a higher level of public transportation than currently available in the County.

## **Population**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population for Ossineke Township in 2010 was 1,675 persons. In reviewing the 2010 Census data, the figures presented for housing characteristics show 1,102 total units and 322 units as seasonal, recreational, or occasional use homes. Based on the average household size in Ossineke Township of 2.37, the expected seasonal increase would be approximately 763 persons. In addition, many seasonal or recreational visitors stay at private lodging places or at the homes of family or friends.

Figure 1-3: Ossineke Township Roads





## Climate

Temperature data from the Midwest Regional Climate Center has indicated that, while the climate along the immediate Lake Huron shore is semi-marine and therefore more moderate in nature. Larger temperature extremes can be found only a few miles inland in locations such as Ossineke Township. Although Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay River are usually free of ice by the first week of April, water temperatures remain low enough to produce cool breezes reducing the maximum daily temperatures during the spring and summer. On a county-wide basis, summer temperatures as high as 106 °F have been recorded but are unusual. Sub- zero temperatures have been recorded as early as November 15 and as late as April 1. The lowest recorded temperature was -37 °F on February 17, 1979. In a typical year there will be seven days with temperatures above 90 °F and twenty days with temperatures below 0 °F. On average, January is the coldest month with a mean temperature of 17.6 °F and July is the warmest with a mean temperature of 67.1 °F.

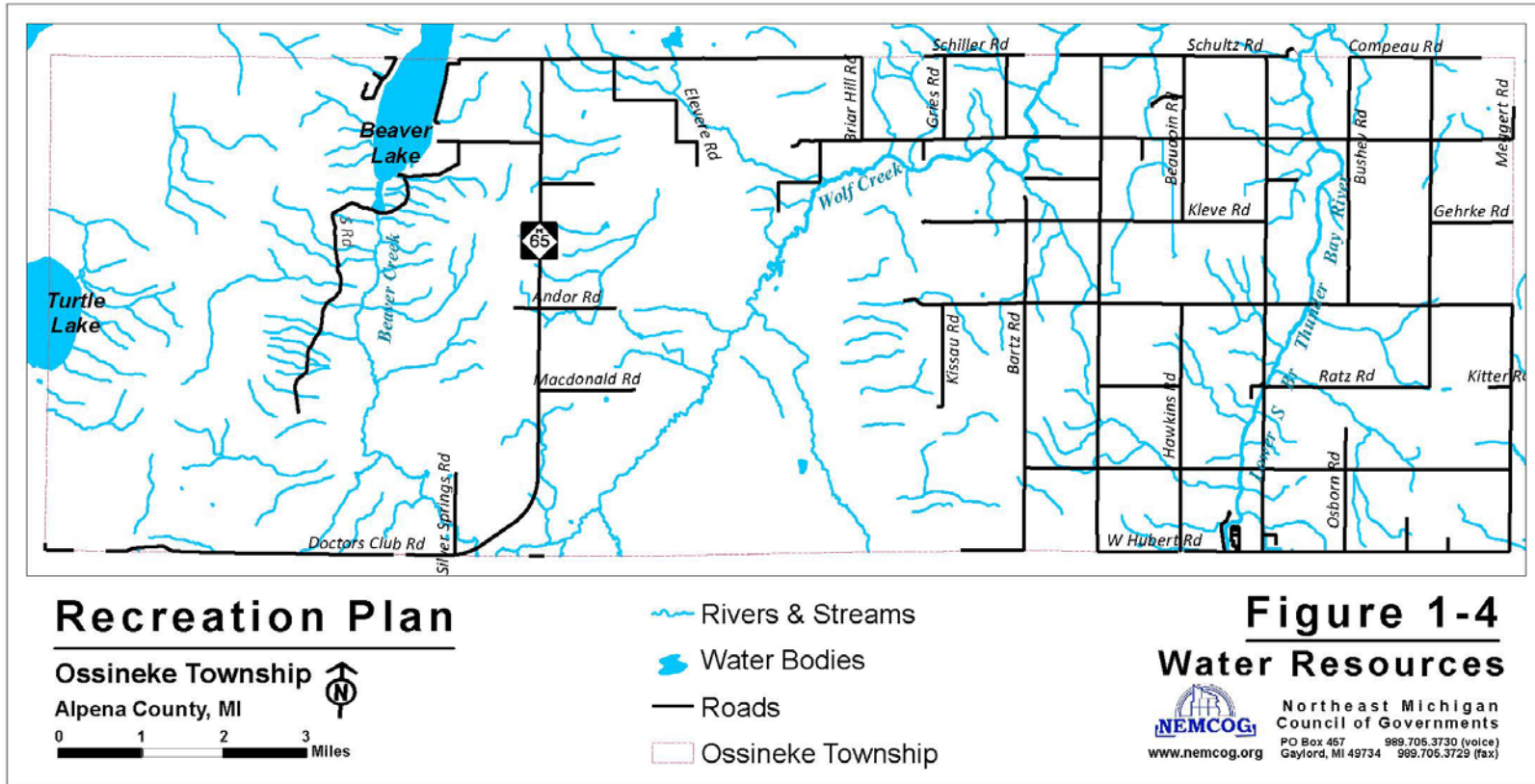
Summer months are usually mild with considerable sunshine. The average annual total precipitation for the county is 28.8 inches. Most of the summer precipitation consists of rain and thunderstorms which normally occur during the months of June, July and August. Thunderstorms will occur on an average of 24 days each year. Michigan is located on the northeast fringe of the Midwest tornado belt. The lower frequency of tornadoes occurring in Michigan may be, in part, the result of the colder water of Lake Michigan during the spring and early summer months, a prime period of tornado activity. During 1950-2010, 1,052 tornadoes were recording in Michigan. During this same period, 14 tornadoes and 43 hailstorms occurred within Alpena County. The average length of the summer growing season is 156 days. The average date of the fall frost is October 4th.

Winter months are generally cloudy with little sunshine and frequent snow flurries. Nearly all of the precipitation in winter is in the form of sleet and snow, usually accumulating in sufficient amount to form a ground cover for summer grasses and winter grains. The 1961 through 2002 average seasonal snowfall was 84.6 inches. The following snowfall extremes, based on the time period of this station's published record, are: greatest observation-day total, 16.3 inches, recorded January 26, 1978; greatest monthly total, 49.4 inches, recorded March 1926; greatest seasonal total, 166.3 inches, recorded during 1970-71; least seasonal total, 26.9 inches, recorded during 1936-37; and greatest snow depth, 35 inches, recorded February 18, 1936.

## Water Resources

The majority of Ossineke Township lies within the Thunder Bay River Watershed. Surface water (**Figure 1-4**) in the Township exists in mostly in rivers, streams, and two lakes. Beaver Lake, a 675-acre lake in the northwestern portion of the township lies mostly within Ossineke Township while the remainder lies in Green Township to the north. A portion of 841-acre Turtle Lake lies along the western boundary of the Township with the remainder lying in Rust Township in Montmorency County. While not located in the Township itself, Hubbard Lake is just south of the Township and is an important recreational resource for residents. The two major river systems in the Township are Wolf Creek and the Lower South Branch of the Thunder Bay River. Beaver Creek, Little Wolf Creek, Schmitt Creek, Widner Creek, and Butterfield Creek are all associated with the Wolf Creek system, while Big Ravine Creek, Scott Creek, Simmons Creek, and Doscoba Creek are associated with the Thunder Bay River system.

Figure 1-4: Ossineke Township Water Resources



## CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### Administration

Ossineke Township, the only participating community in this Recreation Plan, 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. The Parks and Recreation Commission is the body directly responsible for creating the Recreation Plan.

### 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 Tuscarora Township Planning Commission is charged with reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

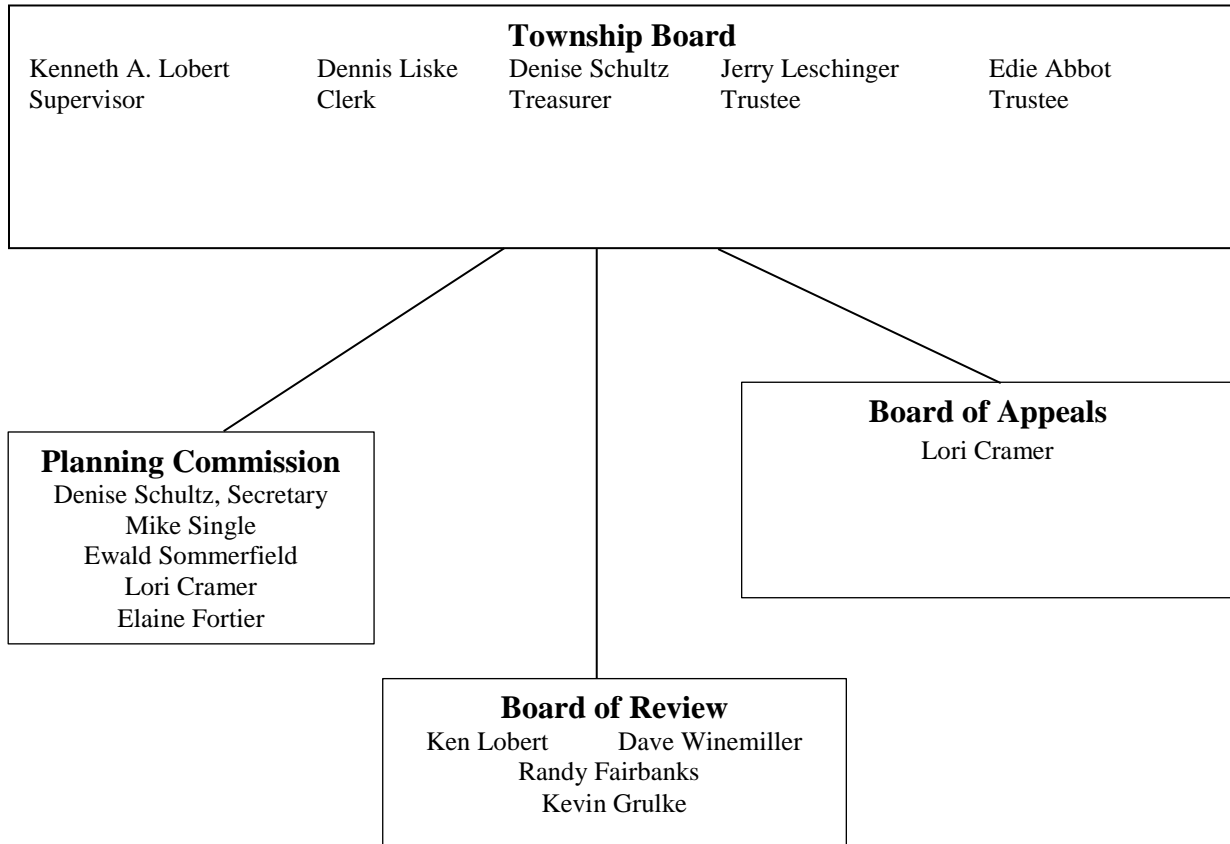
### Staff/Parks & Recreation Maintenance

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.

## Administrative Chart

An organizational chart for the Township is as follows:

Figure 2-1



## **Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers**

The Township of Ossineke depends very heavily on its community volunteers. These are dedicated individuals who come forward time and again to assist with community improvement projects, festival preparations and other community events. The Township Board has frequent contact and an excellent rapport with local/adjoining Township Officials and County Representatives with whom they work on various projects.

Ossineke Township has relationships with the following groups:

1. Hubbard Lake Lions Club
2. Beaver Lake Association
3. Thunder Bay Trails
4. Hubbard Lake Association

# Ossineke Township Budget

## OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP Clerk's Proposed Budgets for fiscal year 2014-2015

<u>GENERAL FUND REVENUES</u>	<u>AMENDED BUDGET 2014-15</u>	<u>ACTUAL THRU 03/31/14</u>	<u>PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-15</u>
101-401 Property Taxes	75,000.00	74,013.81	75,000.00
101-404 Special Assessments	0.00	0.00	0.00
101-405 Trailer Taxes	80.00	60.00	80.00
101-406 State Ed. Tax	5,000.00	9,656.31	10,000.00
101-408 3% Penalty	600.00	262.76	600.00
101-412 Swamp Tax	5,000.00	4,295.00	5,000.00
101-447 PTAF	19,000.00	21,516.99	22,000.00
101-451 Permits - Zoning	300.00	270.00	300.00
101-456 Permits - Electrical	3,000.00	3,024.00	4,000.00
101-457 Permits - Mech. & Plumb.	3,000.00	4,639.00	4,000.00
101-460 Permits - Building	8,000.00	6,368.25	8,000.00
101-574 Shared Revenue	110,000.00	124,518.00	125,000.00
101-602 Cemetery Deeds	600.00	200.00	600.00
101-607 Chgs. For Services	2,500.00	450.00	2,500.00
101-664 Interest Earned	5,000.00	293.44	5,000.00
101-668 Hall Rental	1,500.00	800.00	1,500.00
101-673 Misc. Income	5,000.00	958.52	5,000.00
101-675 Election Reimbursement	800.00	224.45	800.00
101-702 Hall Deposits	800.00	0.00	800.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$245,180.00</b>	<b>\$251,550.53</b>	<b>\$270,180.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
<b><u>TOWNSHIP BOARD 101-101</u></b>			
702 Salaries - Trustees	5,000.00	3,075.00	5,000.00
703. A Matching Medicare	725.00	570.47	725.00
703. B Matching FICA	0.00	0.00	0.00
703. C Matching Pension	4,000.00	3,498.90	4,000.00
704 Clerical Assistant	600.00	0.00	600.00
727 Office Supply	4,000.00	4,561.46	4,000.00
802 Data Processing	4,300.00	0.00	4,300.00
810 Legal	4,000.00	2,081.34	4,000.00
850 Telephone & Internet	1,200.00	792.14	1,200.00
860 Transportation & Travel	700.00	646.11	700.00
880 Economic Development	0.00	0.00	0.00
900 Advertising & Printing	1,000.00	914.37	1,000.00
910 Insurance & Bonds	2,000.00	1,193.00	2,000.00
956 Education - Trustees & Bds.	1,300.00	865.00	1,300.00
970 Capital Outlay	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Dues	1,500.00	1,277.37	1,500.00
Misc.	4,000.00	4,624.53	4,000.00
700 Sub. Township Board	<b>\$44,325.00</b>	<b>\$24,099.69</b>	<b>\$44,325.00</b>
<b><u>SUPERVISOR 101-171</u></b>			
702 Salary	8,500.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
703 Education	1,500.00	1,425.00	1,500.00
706 Deputy	400.00	400.00	400.00
860 Travel	1,800.00	1,199.98	1,800.00
956 Education Tuition	1,000.00	1,273.00	1,500.00
700 Subtotal Supervisor	<b>\$13,200.00</b>	<b>\$12,797.98</b>	<b>\$13,700.00</b>

	AMENDED BUDGET 2014-15	ACTUAL THRU 03/31/14	PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-15
<b><u>ELECTIONS 101-191</u></b>			
702 Inspectors Salaries	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
727 Supplies	4,000.00	228.39	4,000.00
805 Machine Set-Up	600.00	0.00	600.00
806 Machine Repair	100.00	90.03	100.00
860 Mileage	250.00	0.00	500.00
700 Subtotal Elections	<u>\$7,950.00</u>	<u>\$318.42</u>	<u>\$8,200.00</u>
<b><u>ASSESSOR 101-209</u></b>			
702 Salary	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
703 Reassessment	5,000.00	470.00	5,000.00
860 Travel	1,200.00	349.93	1,200.00
Fees	475.00	175.00	475.00
956 Educational Tuition	725.00	17.00	725.00
700 Subtotal Assessor	<u>\$16,400.00</u>	<u>\$10,011.93</u>	<u>\$16,400.00</u>
<b><u>CLERK 101-215</u></b>			
702 Salary	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
703 Educational Fee	1,000.00	900.00	1,000.00
706 Deputy	500.00	500.00	500.00
860 Travel	1,200.00	591.78	1,200.00
Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
956 Educational Tuition	500.00	390.00	500.00
700 Subtotal Clerk	<u>\$15,200.00</u>	<u>\$14,381.78</u>	<u>\$15,200.00</u>
<b><u>TREASURER 101-253</u></b>			
Salary: No Summer Tax	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Summer Tax Collection	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
702 Subtotal Salary	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$12,000.00</u>
703 Educational Fee	500.00	75.00	500.00
706 Deputy	400.00	400.00	400.00
860 Travel	200.00	0.00	200.00
956 Educational Tuition	300.00	99.00	300.00
700 Subtotal Treasurer	<u>\$13,400.00</u>	<u>\$12,574.00</u>	<u>\$13,400.00</u>
<b><u>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</u></b>			
<b><u>Township Hall 101-265</u></b>			
702 Hall Deposit Returns	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
702. A Manager Salary	600.00	600.00	600.00
702. B Janitor Wages	2,000.00	960.00	2,000.00
702. C Grass Maintenance Wages	800.00	600.00	800.00
702. D Snowplowing Wages	700.00	680.00	700.00
727 Janitor Supplies	500.00	135.30	500.00
910 Insurance	6,500.00	5,350.00	6,500.00
920 Lights	1,500.00	1,499.52	1,500.00
921 Heat	3,000.00	3,774.89	4,000.00
930 Bldg. Main't & Repair	4,000.00	278.00	3,000.00
700 Subtotal Township Hall	<u>\$21,100.00</u>	<u>\$13,877.71</u>	<u>\$21,100.00</u>
<b><u>CEMETERY 101-276</u></b>			
702 Sexton Salary	700.00	700.00	700.00
703 Educational Fee	45.00	0.00	45.00
704 Grounds Maintenance (Contractual)	2,300.00	2,050.00	2,300.00
705 Grave Openings	3,000.00	450.00	3,000.00
727 Supplies	300.00	158.10	300.00
930 Maintenance & Repair	800.00	0.00	800.00
700 Subtotal Cemetery	<u>\$7,145.00</u>	<u>\$3,358.10</u>	<u>\$7,145.00</u>



	AMENDED BUDGET 2014-15	ACTUAL THRU 03/31/14	PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-15
<b><u>AUDITING 101-290</u></b>			
815 Audit Contracted	\$2,400.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00
<b><u>BUILDING INSPECTOR 101-371</u></b>			
704 Inspection Fees	\$8,000.00	\$6,368.25	\$8,000.00
<b><u>PLUMBING, MECH. INSPECTOR 101-373</u></b>			
704 Inspection Fees	\$4,639.00	\$4,639.00	\$5,000.00
<b><u>ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR 101-375</u></b>			
704 Inspection Fees	\$3,024.00	\$3,024.00	\$4,000.00
<b><u>PLANNING COMMISSION 101-400</u></b>			
702 Wages	2,000.00	2,005.00	2,500.00
727 Supplies	100.00	0.00	100.00
830 Consultant Fee	15,000.00	9,543.10	15,000.00
700 Subtotal Planning Commission	<u>\$17,100.00</u>	<u>\$11,548.10</u>	<u>\$17,600.00</u>
<b><u>ZONING ADMINISTRATOR 101-410</u></b>			
702 Salary	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
703 Court Appearances	360.00	0.00	360.00
704 Inspection Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
705 Meeting Attendance	540.00	450.00	540.00
727 Supplies	250.00	57.30	250.00
700 Subtotal Zoning Admin	<u>\$3,650.00</u>	<u>\$3,007.30</u>	<u>\$3,650.00</u>
<b><u>BOARD OF REVIEW 101-411</u></b>			
702 Salary	\$1,800.00	\$1,575.00	\$1,800.00
<b><u>TOWNSHIP PROJECTS 101-446</u></b>			
851 Community Programs	10,000.00	6,018.78	10,000.00
969 Road Maintenance	118,000.00	121,753.99	100,000.00
700 Subtotal Township Projects	<u>\$128,000.00</u>	<u>\$127,772.77</u>	<u>\$110,000.00</u>
<b><u>STREET LIGHTS</u></b>			
101-450-920	\$600.00	\$369.90	\$600.00
<b><u>CONTINGENCY</u></b>			
	\$15,000.00	\$1,663.00	\$15,000.00
<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>			
	\$307,933.00	\$251,923.93	\$290,120.00
2013-14 FISCAL YEAR END G.F. BALANCE AS OF 3/31/14		\$579,685.09	
2014-15 ESTIMATED REVENUE		\$270,180.00	
2014-15 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES		\$290,120.00	
3/31/15 PROJECTED UNDESIGNATED G.F. BALANCE		<b>\$559,745.09</b>	

	AMENDED BUDGET 2014-15	ACTUAL THRU 03/31/14	PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-15
<b>LIQUOR FUND</b>			
<b>REVENUES 212-000</b>			
465 License Fees	1,550.00	1,250.15	1,550.00
664 Interest	50.00	2.04	50.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>\$1,600.00</u>	<u>\$1,252.19</u>	<u>\$1,600.00</u>

<b>LIQUOR FUND</b>			
<b>EXPENDITURES 212-330</b>			
702 Inspectors Salary	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
705.A Matching Medicare	20.00	15.96	20.00
705.B Matching Pension	66.00	66.00	66.00
727 Supplies	20.00	115.29	20.00
850 Telephone	10.00	0.00	10.00
851 Communitie Programs	1,000.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>\$2,216.00</u>	<u>\$1,297.25</u>	<u>\$1,716.00</u>

2013-14 FISCAL YEAR END BALANCE AS OF 3/31/14	890.57		
2014-15 ESTIMATED REVENUE		1,600.00	
2014-15 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES		<u>1,716.00</u>	
3/31/15 PROJECTED UNDESIGNATED LIQUOR FUND BALANCE		<u>\$774.57</u>	

<b>FIRE PROTECTION &amp; EQUIPMENT FUND</b>			
<b>REVENUE 206-000</b>			
664 Interest	700.00	43.45	700.00
675 Millage Revenue	65,100.00	67,779.51	73,558.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>\$65,800.00</u>	<u>\$67,822.96</u>	<u>\$74,258.00</u>

<b>FIRE PROTECTION &amp; EQUIPMENT FUND</b>			
<b>EXPENDITURES 206-336</b>			
801.A Hubbard Lake Association Contract	32,667.00	32,667.00	36,779.00
801.B Green Township Contract	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
956 Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
970 New Equipment Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
977 Green Township Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>\$37,667.00</u>	<u>\$37,667.00</u>	<u>\$41,779.00</u>

2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR ENDING BALANCE AS OF 3/31/14	71,526.61		
2014-2015 ESTIMATED REVENUE		74,258.00	
2014-2015 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES		<u>41,779.00</u>	
3/31/15 PROJECTED UNDESIGNATED FIRE PROTECTION AND EQUIPMENT FUND BALANCE		<u>\$104,005.61</u>	

*Dennis A. Liske*

Dennis A. Liske, Clerk

## CHAPTER 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

An inventory of recreation facilities available in Ossineke Township was completed and is presented in this chapter. The inventory includes Ossineke Township owned facilities, Alpena County and City of Alpena owned facilities, state and organization owned facilities, and privately owned facilities. Ossineke Township owned facilities were evaluated for barrier-free accessibility. A description of the barrier-free accessibility rating criteria is provided below, on page 3-1.

### INVENTORY PROCEDURES

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

### OSSINEKE TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

Ossineke Township is located in the lower western and central sections of Alpena County. It is bordered to the west by Montmorency County and to the south by Alcona County. Ossineke Township is the second largest township in Alpena County with 68,938 acres or 107.7 square miles.

Figure 3-1: Accessibility Assessment Chart

**Accessibility Assessments** - An assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. The barrier-free accessibility information and sources of assistance given in appendices B and D should be consulted when making this assessment. At a minimum, use the following ranking system for each park:

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

## Township Recreation Property

- 1. 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.



**Type:** Special Use Area

**Service Area:** Township

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

- 2. Hubbard Lake Lions Park** is located .3 miles north of Hubert Road on Hubbard Lake Road. The 8.1-acre park has the following facilities: two ball diamonds, horseshoe pit, playground, 2 basketball courts, a double tennis court, picnic tables, restrooms, walk-in cooler, water well, concession stand, pavilion and asphalt driveway . The Lions Park is use for family picnics, organized softball, and children’s



sports activities. A 99-year lease between the township and the Lions Club has made and additional 5.2 acres adjacent to the park available for park use. Reservations for community and social events are accepted for the pavilion.

**Type:** Community Park

**Service Area:** Township and surrounding areas

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

## Township Owned Property



**Ossineke Township Cemetery** is located on Hubbard Lake Road in the eastern part of the Township in section 28. It is .2 mile north of the intersection of Hubbard Lake and Scott Roads.

**Barrier-Free Accessibility = 1** (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines)

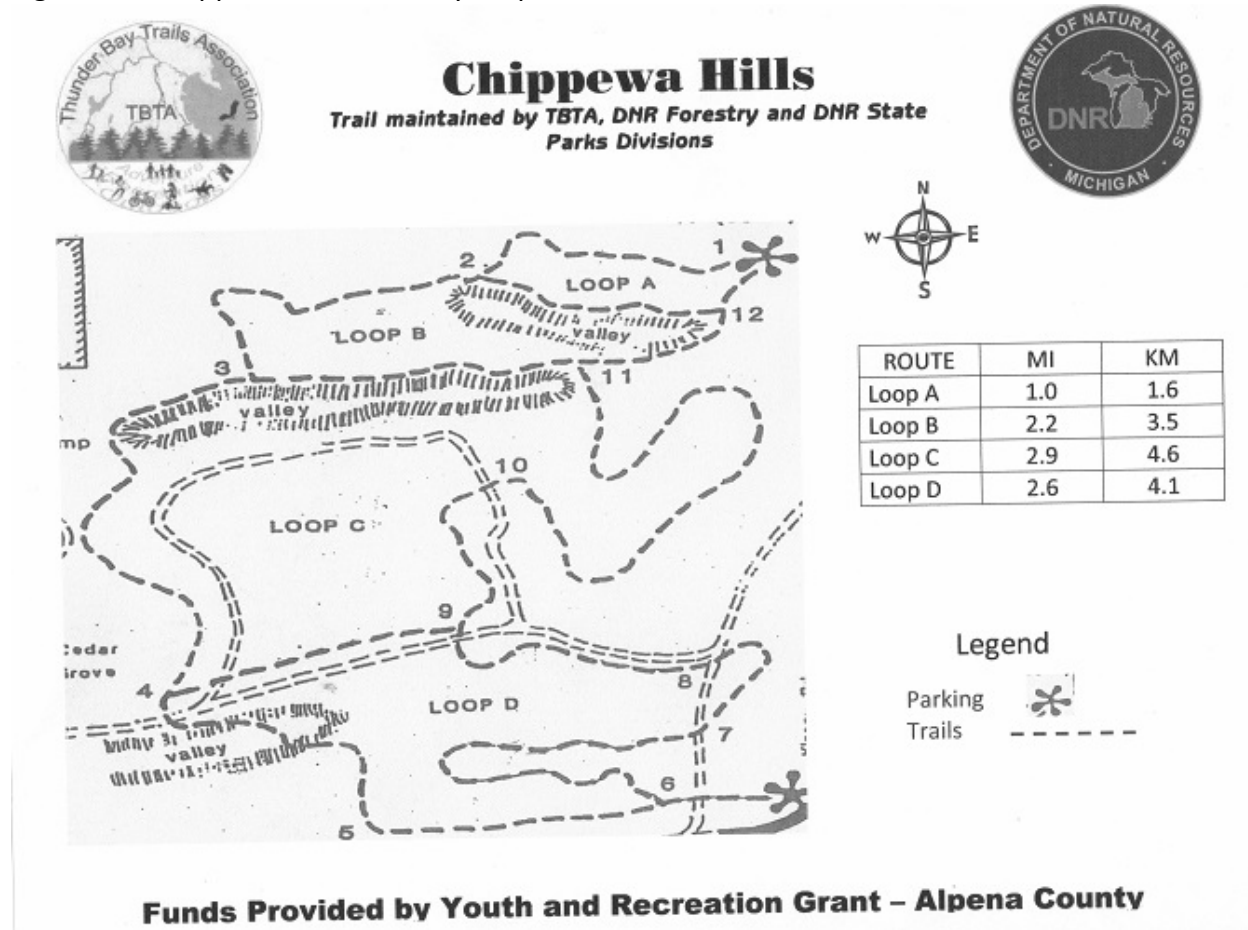
## Publicly Owned Recreation Property

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

**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in the central section of the township at the intersection of Widner Creek and Wolf Creek. This State forest covers approximately 5,000 acres and includes lands formerly designated as the Wolf Creek Public Hunting Grounds. Chippewa Hills Pathway occupies most of the upland parcels within this State forestland. The remaining land includes forested wetlands that are primarily cedar swamps. These lands are managed for wildlife fiber, not commercial timber production. Although deer hunting is the primary use, these State lands are also open for other recreational uses. Fishing, hiking, and wildlife observation opportunities area limited due to the dense growth, wet terrain and a lack of access roads.

**Chippewa Hills Pathway** is located southwest of Ossineke on Kissau Road. With three groomed trails, it is one of Alpena County's major hiking and cross country ski areas. Trail #1 is 1.3 miles, trail #2 is 2.5 miles and trail #3 is 4.5 miles. These trails have four loops with rolling to hilly terrain and are designated novice to expert. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has proposed improvements at the site, including a track for skate-skiers.

Figure 3-2: Chippewa Hills Pathway Map



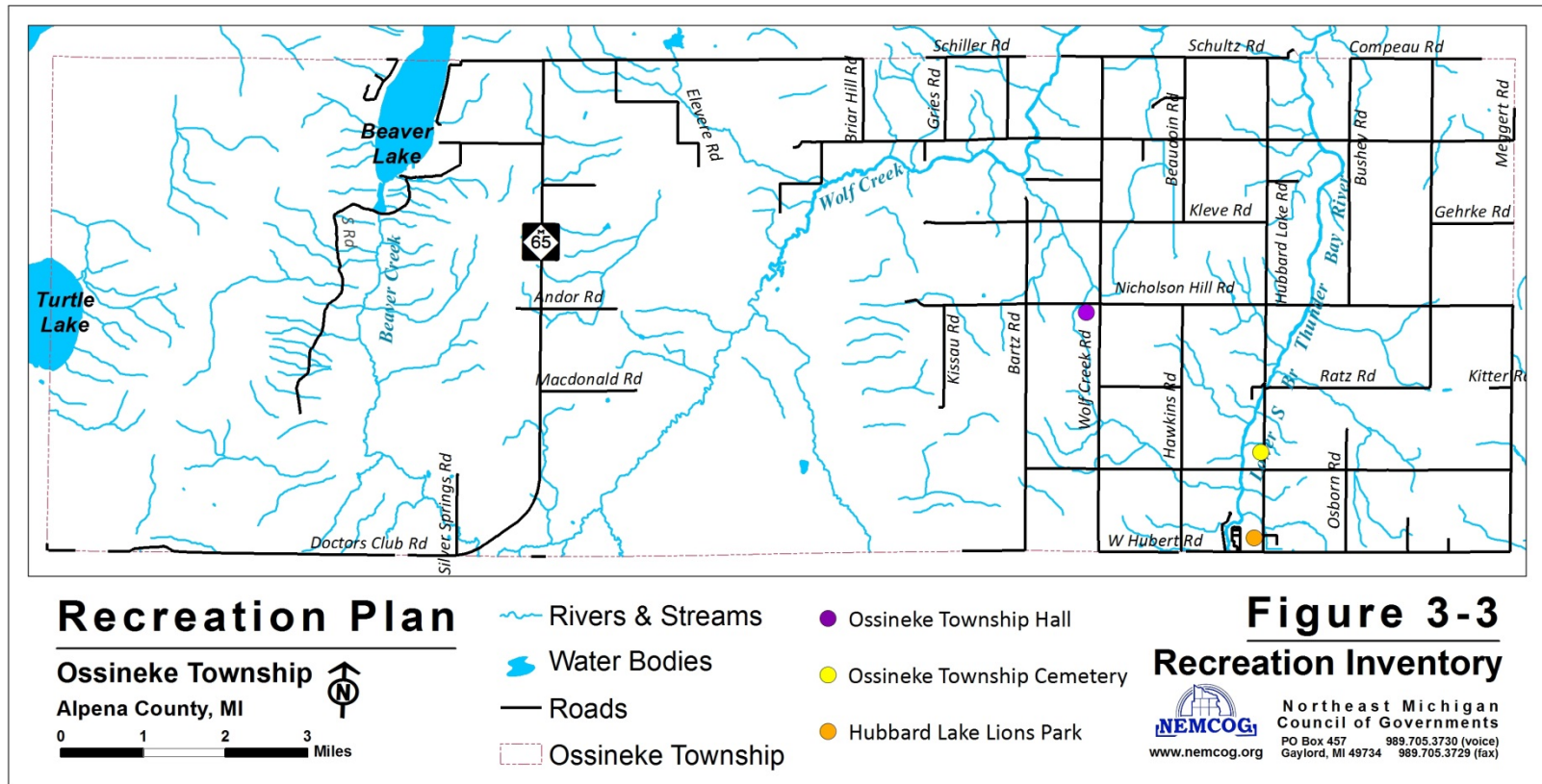
Privately Owned Recreation Property

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

**RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY**

Ossineke Township has not received grant assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Figure 3-3: Ossineke Township Recreation Inventory



## **OTHER RECREATION AREAS AND INITIATIVES**

### Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve

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

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

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

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

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



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

### Thunder Bay Island

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

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

Squatters were attracted to the federally-owned island and by 1845, a large fishing community thrived there. One hundred and sixty people lived on the island with thirty-one fishing boats harvesting twelve thousand barrels of fish each year. Faced with government action to remove them from the island, the trespassers picked up their belongings and relocated to nearby Sugar Island, where they stayed for years. Currently the Island is owned by the U.S. Coast Guard and is leased to the Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society. Access to the island is limited to the U S Coast Guard, U S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and members of the Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society. 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. Alpena Township is working to acquire the property around the lighthouse and fog horn house to facilitate the restoration of structures.

## Multipurpose Rail-Trails

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

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

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

- 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.
- Add amenities and access points along the NEST.
- Improve the surface and accessibility for the Alpena to Hillman Trail.
- Add amenities, trailhead and access points along the Alpena to Hillman Trail.

## RECREATION INVENTORY FOR NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES IN ALPENA COUNTY

Alpena County is blessed with an abundance and variety of natural resources. There are 67 lakes, ponds and rivers covering over 13,000 acres in Alpena County and the County has over 50 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. Forested lands cover almost 60 percent of the county of which over 85 percent is owned privately. The geology and karst features found in Alpena County is unique to northeast Michigan and the County is home to a large number of sinkholes and sinkhole lakes.

While there is a relatively large amount of sensitive and unique natural features in the County, it is recognized that protection and conservation is needed to insure these natural resources are protected and preserved for future generations. Alpena County supports public and private efforts to preserve and protect unique and sensitive natural resources through the use of smart growth design, conservation easements and procurement.

### COUNTY OF ALPENA RECREATION INVENTORY

- 1. Alpena County Fairgrounds** are located on Eleventh Avenue between Charlotte Street and Tawas Street. Situated on 33 acres, this property includes 2,700 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage. Water and sewer services are provided by the City of Alpena. Livestock barns are available for annual fair events. Campground facilities include 69 licensed campsites, with electricity, picnic tables, and a sanitary dump station. A children's playground is equipped with one slide, two swing sets, one merry-go-round, climbing bars, one rocking horse, one bench, one picnic table, and a sand box area. 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, portable 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** is located at Alpena High School, 3303 South Third Avenue. The pool building measures 130 feet x 110 feet. The pool can accommodate six lanes, 25 yards long, for swim competition. This pool is located in a centrally accessible area and is the only municipal indoor swimming pool in the County. In addition to being used by high school students and the public, it is a major source of school training and team competition. Senior citizens and area youth also use the pool for family-oriented activities. The pool can be rented for birthday parties. A full-time director schedules and/or supervises the following pool activities some of which include: Red Cross swimming and lifesaving training sessions; Infant/Toddler water adjustment classes; Senior citizen physical therapy programs; and family swimming programs. Specific targeted programming include: Senior Fitness, Splash

Aerobics, Aqua Chi, Water Walking/Running, Rehabilitation and Social Swimming, Lap and Exercise Swimming, Open Swims, Learn to Swim Instruction, Aerobic Sculpt, Robotic Competition (underwater ROV), Boot Camp and Poolates.

- 3. Tennis Courts** are located on the grounds of Alpena High School next to the pool building. These four courts are used by students and the public for casual recreation and organized team competition. Recent updates include resurfacing and spectator seating installed.
- 4. Long Lake Park/Campground** is located ten miles north of Alpena, one-half mile off U.S. 23. Situated on the east side of Long Lake, this county park occupies 68 acres. A total of 105 campsites are adjacent to the 5,652 acres of water that make up Long Lake. Water and electricity are available at 80 of these sites with the other 25 sites considered primitive. Park facilities include restrooms/showers, dumping station, concession stand, concrete boat ramp, three docks nature trails, two pavilions (with electricity), picnic tables, two playgrounds, two swimming beaches, and outdoor trailer storage. Long Lake Park is open May 15 to October 15. Camping is permitted after October 1<sup>st</sup> until November 1<sup>st</sup> on a daily rate schedule. A park caretaker is on-site.
- 5. Sunken Lake Park/Campground** is located on Fletcher Park Road at the Presque Isle County line. Adjacent to Sunken Lake's 50 acres of water, this 160 acre county park offers camping, fishing, boating, swimming, and a children's playground. A day use area has picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, and a pavilion. A covered footbridge provides access to an island with nature trails. The camping area offers 60 trailer campsites with water and electricity available. All campsites have picnic tables. There are two bathrooms with showers, a dumping station, a boat ramp and dock, a fish cleaning station, a concession stand, and playground equipment. A park caretaker is on-site.
- 6. Beaver Lake Park/Campground** is located 1.2 miles west of M-65 on Beaver Lake Park Road. This county park is situated on 8.19 acres adjacent to Beaver Lake. With a dam to control lake levels, this natural lake covers 665 acres and offers area residents many water-related recreational opportunities. Swimming, boating, and fishing for pike, bass, and pan fish are popular summertime activities. A pavilion, children's playground, and a fenced-in spring separate the boat launch and camping area from the day use area. The day use area provides an open space with picnic tables, swings, and a swimming beach. Overnight camping is available and a park caretaker is on-site.
- 7. Manning Hill Park** is located in Lachine on M-32 near the junction of M-65. Situated on one of the highest points in Alpena County, this two-acre site offers a scenic area with a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. The historic lookout tower has been removed and an easily accessible observation deck was constructed on the former tower pad. A pavilion, three picnic tables, and two grills provide area residents and visitors with summer recreational opportunities. Sledding is a popular winter activity at this park.

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

## **CITY OF ALPENA RECREATION INVENTORY**

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

### City Recreation Property

**Bay View Park** located on State Avenue on Lake Huron, adjacent to the Municipal Small Boat Harbor. This is one of the City's largest developed parks with multiple year-around uses. It contains four tennis courts, four basketball courts, and a multipurpose open lawn area. There is an area of shoreline, space for picnics and an open field for low profile activity. There is the Fine Arts Band shell, which is used for summer band concerts, community celebrations and by various groups for other occasions. A fenced, fully equipped young children's playground is another of the facilities available at this site. In the northeast section, the boat harbor provides mooring for boats and offers boat launching for sail and motorized craft. A walkway/observation deck has been constructed along the break wall. A harbormaster's office has been added to the existing restroom/shower building and a fish cleaning station has been built adjacent to the harbor. Additional restrooms are located on Harbor Drive. A bikeway runs through the park and connects the park to other recreation areas. Private recreational property (Alpena Yacht Club) is also located on this site.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Island Park** located on the Thunder Bay River, at the corner of U.S. 23 and Long Rapids Road. This 17-acre island is owned by the City and developed and maintained by the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Committee with the help of the Alpena Volunteer Center. The island has 4,400 feet of water frontage. This natural area preserves the rich ecosystems with the flora and the fauna natural to the area. Access to this area is gained by way of a concrete bridge, which is closed to vehicles. (A key may be obtained to drive to a handicapped-accessible viewing area.) Nature/hiking trails criss-cross 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.

Adjoining the Island is Duck Park. The 2.5-acre park has 1,200 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage. It complements the natural setting of the Island by offering an area for more developed recreational uses and vehicular parking. It would also be the proposed site of an environmental interpretive center and adjoining boardwalk from which a range of recreational and educational facilities relating to the river area could be provided. The site includes picnic tables, an area for rest, as well as off-street parking. Ducks, geese, and other wildfowl gather at this site.

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

**Avery Park** located on Second Avenue, on the north side of the Second Avenue Bridge. This .4-acre open green space showplaces a large historic four-faced bronze clock, historic gaslights and historic park benches. The park complements the aesthetics of the adjacent Second Avenue area, which has and continues to undergo restoration based on the “Old Town Alpena” theme.

**LaMarre Park** located at Eighth and River Street intersection, on the Thunder Bay River and owned by the City of Alpena. This 1.5-acre site includes 367 feet of wooden pier at water’s edge for fishing; interpretative signs; picnic tables and benches; and off-street parking.

**McRae Park** located at the intersection of North Second Avenue and Hueber Street. This park includes three fenced youth/women’s ball fields; two other ball fields used for T-ball and minor league play; a children’s play area; four tennis courts; two basketball courts; two paved parking lots; a small concession/restroom building; and a park shelter which is used for meetings and social events.

**Kurrasch Park** Is located adjacent to the Kurrasch housing project on Forth Avenue. This 1.48-acre neighborhood park is under the jurisdiction of the City of Alpena Housing Commission. 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.

**BiPath** is a bicycle and pedestrian pathway system, which has been developed throughout the City. This marked bikeway connects with the Alpena Township section that parallels US 23 from the city limits at Thunder Bay Avenue to Bare Point Road. Inside the City limits, residents and visitors are able to bike, walk, roller blade and skateboard on the 11 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 on going for the possible future extension of the pathway along Bagley Road from M-32 to Long Rapids Road.

**Water Tower Skateboard 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 a community recreational skateboarding park. 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.

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

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.

**Alpena Regional Trailhead** is planned for construction in 2014. The project will build restrooms, a pavilion, parking areas and bike racks, all near the North Eastern State Trail's southern terminus at Woodward Avenue, according to site development plans. Matching funds will be provided by several area organizations, including the city through in-kind donations and the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Fund. The \$245,000 grant will be matched with \$105,000 in local donations, totaling \$350,000 for the project.

#### Publicly Owned Recreational Properties

**Alpena County Fairgrounds** located on Eleventh Avenue between Charlotte and Tawas Streets. This 33-acre site, owned by Alpena County, has 2,700 feet of Thunder Bay frontage. Reflecting the variety of functions, which occur at this site, many types of facilities are available. These include general facilities, campground facilities, a shelter, restrooms, picnic tables, fishing pier, boat launch, a walkway system, an equipped children's playground, two horseshoe courts, and other recreation-related items.



**Alpena Plaza Pool** is located at Alpena High School, 3303 South Third Avenue. The pool building measures 130 feet x 110 feet. The pool can accommodate six lanes, 25 yards long, for swim competition. This pool is located in a centrally accessible area and is the only municipal indoor swimming pool in the County.

**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 Hockey League, Alpena Figure Skating Club, and The Alpena Street Cats. The arena has seating for 900, has two concession stands, a pro shop, an indoor walking/jogging track, exercise/fitness rooms and common areas in the lobby. The 85' x 200' ice rink is large enough to host American Speed Skating Union sanctioned events and will have enough space for figure skaters to practice and perform in front of an audience. The Thunder Bay Soccer Association soccer fields are located north of the Arena.

**Alpena County Library** located at 211 N. First Avenue. This County-owned facility is situated in a building of approximately 20,000 square feet and contains over 40,000 volumes. In addition to the book collection, the library circulates magazines, newspapers, films, art prints, toys, video and audiocassettes. An inter-library loan system provides access to many other libraries. Regular services include an adult literacy program, an employment information center, a children's story hour, a noontime book review program, computers for public use and the Maritime Collection. In addition, the library sponsors a summer reading club for children, an annual literary conference, as well as a variety of other cultural events.

**Alpena Regional Medical Center** located at 1501 W. Chisholm Street. This 2.3-acre site includes 625 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage. An area for rest and off street parking is available. A portion of the BiPath is also located along this section of the river.

**Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve and Underwater Sanctuary, and Maritime Heritage Center.** "Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary was established to protect a nationally significant collection of over 100 shipwrecks, spanning over a century of Great Lakes shipping history. The Sanctuary encompasses 448 square miles of northwest Lake Huron, off the northeast coast of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The landward boundary of the sanctuary is marked by the northern and southern limits of Alpena County, and the sanctuary extends east from the lakeshore to longitude 83 degrees west<sup>1</sup>." The area has been designated by the State as an Underwater Preserve and is a National Marine Sanctuary. The Maritime Heritage Center is located along the Thunder Bay River in a building once associated with the old Fletcher Paper Plant. The sanctuary offer a variety of outdoor, cultural and historic based recreational opportunities. Scuba diving, snorkeling, boating and kayaking are several ways that visitors can view the many wrecks within the Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve and Underwater Sanctuary.

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<sup>1</sup> Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary web site <http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/welcome.html>

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

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

**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. There is a bridge connecting the park to the north side of the Thunder Bay River.

## **SCHOOL PROPERTIES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sunset Elementary School** is located at 1421 Hobbs Drive. The Alpena School District owns this 40-acre site. It has a gym, an area available for nature study, hiking and biking, a youth/women's ball field, a playground and off-street parking. **CLOSED**

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

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

**Alpena Community College, Main Campus** located at 666 Johnson Street. Within the area bounded by U.S. 23, Hamilton Road, Long Lake Avenue, Johnson Street and/or the Thunder Bay River sprawls 704 acres of property belonging to Alpena Community College. Presently, the

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

**Pied Piper School** located at 444 Wilson. This two-acre site, owned by the Alpena Montmorency Alcona Educational Service District, offers a playground and off-street parking.

#### Parochial School Property

**All Saints School** located at N. 2<sup>ND</sup> Avenue. A fenced children's playground, a basketball court, and off-street parking is available.

**Immanuel Lutheran School** 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.

### **ALPENA TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

Alpena Township is the largest geographical subdivision in Alpena County. It is comprised of 112.6 square miles of 72,033.0 acres that surround the City of Alpena. Located in the northeast section of the county, it is bordered by Presque Isle County to the north and Lake Huron to the east.

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

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

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

**Southside Fire Hall** is located at 2201 U.S. 23 South. This facility is situated on two lots just outside of the boundaries of the City of Alpena. In addition to township fire protection services, it is also used for voting purposes.

**Alpena Township Office Building** is located at 4385 U.S. 23 North. It contains offices of the Township Building Inspector, Assessor, Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor. The Township Water Department and Northside Station of the Township Fire Department are also located at this facility. A barrier-free ramp makes entrance to the building readily accessible. Restrooms are also accessible.

**Alpena Township Nature Preserve** is located in Section 15 of T31N-R9E and consists of approximately 140 acres with 10,000 feet of Lake Huron Shoreline. The Nature Conservancy partnered with Alpena Township in acquiring this property to preserve it from extensive lakeshore development and to provide public access to unique natural resources. Alpena Township acquired the property with grant support from The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan Coastal Management Program. The property is used for low impact outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the rich coastal resources. Alpena Township received funding to develop a park management plan from the Michigan Coastal Management Program and completed the plan in the fall of 2008. Important natural resources on the property include karst geologic features in and around El Cajon Bay, coastal fens, coastal marshes, dwarf lake iris, shore birds and migratory birds. The Michigan Natural Features Inventory has identified a number of threatened and endangered plants and animals on the property. Future uses for the property include nature and interpretive trails, water access for canoes or kayaks. In addition, the waters off this property are important for diving and are part of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. The Township is planning to acquire small parcels to provide parking facilities and more direct access to Misery Bay for launching kayaks and canoes.

**VanWormer Field** is located on the corner of Bloom Road and Long Lake Road in Section 27 of T32N-R8E, this 5.46-acre site was the home to the old township hall. The building was sold and removed, and the ballfield remains the only use of the site. Alpena Huron Shores Babe Ruth League uses and maintains the field. There is no water on-site, but port-a-potties are provided during the season.

**Rockport Picnic Area** provides gravel parking for use of picnic tables and grills, an access gate, observation benches, signage, and landscaping. This two acre site was recently developed in partnership with DNR and is adjacent to the Rockport boat launch site in Section 6 of T32N-R9E. Alpena Township has a long-term lease from the DNR for this picnic site.

#### Publicly Owned Recreation Property

**Long Lake Park** is located off U.S. 23 approximately ten miles north of the City of Alpena. Situated on the east side of Long Lake, this county owned park occupies 68 acres of land with 105 campsites. Water and electricity are provided at 80 campsites while the other 25 sites are primitive. Park facilities include picnic tables, three docks, a concrete boat ramp, two playgrounds, two pavilions with electricity, a concession stand, a dumping station, and outdoor trailer storage. In addition, there are two swimming beaches and several nature trails.

**Mackinaw State Forest** covers 8,500 acres in several areas of Alpena Township. The largest acreage is in the southern section of the township. This State owned land is used for forestry and is designated for multipurpose recreational use. Hunting is the primary recreational use with hiking and nature observation opportunities also available.

**Norway Ridge Pathway** is located 4.5 miles southwest of the City of Alpena on Werth Road. As part of the Mackinaw State Forest, the pathway is maintained by the Thunder Bay Trails Association. It has 7 miles of groomed trails in section 6 of T30N, R8E. Recreation opportunities include cross-country skiing during the winter months and mountain biking/hiking during the spring, summer and fall.

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

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

**Thunder Bay Island and Lighthouse** is located in sections 33 and 34 of T31N, R10E and section 3 of T30N, R10E of Alpena Township. Owned by the U.S. Government, this island is situated in Lake Huron's Thunder Bay and is used as a wildlife refuge. The Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse is being restored by the Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse Preservation Society. Alpena Township is working to acquire the land around the lighthouse to enable the community to pursue grants for restoration and management.

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve** located off Thunder Bay in Lake Huron. The area has been designated by the State as an Underwater Preserve and by the Federal Government as a National Marine Sanctuary. More details about the Underwater Sanctuary and Preserve are listed in the action plan.

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

**Bike Paths:** 1.4 mile paved pathway runs along the east side of U.S. 23 South from the Michigan Department of Transportation to Mich-e-ki-wis Park. Another pathway is located on the north and south side of M-32 from Bagley Street, west one mile to Walter Road. The trails also extend into the City of Alpena with recreational opportunities for bicycling, walking and jogging. The Bike Paths are owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation and Alpena Township is responsible for the maintenance.

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

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

**Rockport Property** is located about ten miles north of the City of Alpena on Lake Huron. Situated on the Alpena/Presque Isle County line, east of U.S. 23, the property covers nearly six square miles. The DNR maintains a public access/boat launch facility. The Township of Alpena has a lease agreement with the Michigan DNR for 2 acres to provide a picnic site. Site features include and inactive limestone quarry, a deep-water harbor with boat launch, trails, parking and picnic areas, eight large and several small sinkholes, several square miles of forested land and historic sites. There is also a unique conservation effort on the property to protect critical bat habitat for several species of bats.

**North Eastern State Trail (N.E.S.T)** is located throughout the Township and offers year round recreation opportunities such as snowmobiling, skiing, hiking and horseback riding.

## **GREEN TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

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

### Township Recreation Property

**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 is regularly used for T-Ball, Babe Ruth League and softball.

### Township Buildings

**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 available at this site.

**Green Township Hall** is located on 8 acres at the junction of M-32 and M-65 adjacent to the ball field. The hall has cooking facilities, restrooms and a meeting room. The Hall has the capacity to accommodate 100-150 people and is available for rent year-round. There is basketball court, swings, and picnic tables at the Township Hall. There are plans to build a pavilion this year.

### Township Property – Cemeteries

**Greeley Cemetery** is located on M-65 just south of M-32

**Spratt Cemetery** is located 2 miles west of M-65 on Spratt Road.

### Publicly Owned Recreation Property

**Manning Hill Park** is located on M-32 near the M-65 junction. This 2-acre site is owned by Alpena County and offers an outlook on one of the highest points in the county. Picnic table, grills, and a pavilion are available for year round use.

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

**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in several areas of the township. Approximately 1,377 acres of State Forest are in Green Township. These State Forest lands are designated for multipurpose recreational use as well as forestry. Although hunting is the primary recreational use, hiking and nature observation opportunities are also available.



## **LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

Long Rapids Township is located in the north central portion of Alpena County. Bordered on the north by Presque Isle County, the township is comprised of 35,129 acres or 54.9 square miles.

### Township Recreation Property

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

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

### Township Buildings

**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.

### Publicly Owned Recreation Property

**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in the eastern and southeastern parts of Long Rapids Township. Approximately 5,731 acres of this forest are located in the township. Classified as forestland, it is also designated as a multipurpose recreational area. Although the primary recreational use is hunting, opportunities for hiking and nature observation are also available.

**Long Rapids Elementary School Ball Field** is located on Long Rapids Road east of M-65.

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

## MAPLE RIDGE TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

Maple Ridge Township is located in the north central section of Alpena County and is bordered on the north by Presque Isle County. The township consists of 34,519 acres or 53.9 square miles.

### Township Recreation Property

**Maple Ridge Township Park** is located on the west side of LaComb Road on the North Branch of the Thunder Bay River. It is comprised of 45 rustic acres with picnic grounds, hiking trails, and a canoe launch. A popular attraction is the picturesque wooden bridge that leads to an island area. Recent improvements to the park include a newly constructed pavilion and additional playground equipment. Other playground equipment includes a teeter-totter and a large sanded area. A storage building is located on site and outdoor toilet facilities are available. Although there is no electricity at the park, improvement plans include the addition of power lines.

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

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

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

### Township Buildings

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

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

### Township Property

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

## Publicly Owned Recreation Property

**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in the southwest part of the township. With approximately 4,500 acres of land, the State forest is described as forestland with multipurpose recreational use. The land is used primarily for hunting with opportunities for hiking and nature observation also available.

## **SANBORN TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

Sanborn Township is located in the southeast corner of Alpena County. Consisting of 28,267 acres, the township covers 44.2 square miles of land. It is bordered to the south by Alcona County and the east by Lake Huron. The large Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox are two recognizable US-23 roadside features in the Township.

### Township Recreation Property

**Ossineke Park** is located east of U.S.23 South on the Lake Huron shore. Also known as Sanborn Park, it has a day use area with picnic tables, grills and pavilion, playground equipment, changing rooms, restrooms and newly paved parking lot that meets ADA accessibility standards. The park has a sandy beach for swimming, but there is no boat launch.

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

**Babe Ruth Ball Field and Ossineke Ball Field** are located at the intersection of U.S. 23 and Ossineke Road. Maintained by Alpena Huron Shores Babe Ruth League and Ossineke Baseball Association, they are used by the Alpena County Baseball leagues and casual baseball teams. The fields are fenced and include a backstop, dugouts, bleachers, a storage building, a concession stand and a broadcast booth. Off road parking and two restrooms are provided. This area receives heavy use by the baseball leagues and also by family/friends groups during the summer season.

**Sanborn Township and Alpena Huron Shores Babe Ruth League Baseball Diamond** has a backstop, dugouts, bleachers, fencing, a concession stand, storage building, toilets and off road parking.

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

## Township Buildings

**Sanborn Township Hall** is located on .32 acres of land at the corner of Nicholson Hill Road and U.S. 23. It has a barrier free entry, barrier free restrooms, a large meeting room and a modern kitchen. There are also two and one-half fire bays attached to the building.

**Sanborn Annex Building** is located adjacent to the township hall. The combined lot size is 236' x 120' x 217.52' x 247.7'. Adjoining property, lot 22 of Ranger Subdivision, is 60' x 107.5' and is also owned by the township.

## Township Property

**Sanborn Township Cemetery** is located off old Ossineke Road on five acres of land.

## Publicly Owned Recreation Property

**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in the eastern part of the township. These State forestlands are classified as forestry and used for multipurpose recreational activities. Hunting is the primary recreational use with hiking and nature observation opportunities also available.

**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.

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

**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.

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

**Sanborn Elementary School Pukwegee Little League Baseball Diamond/School** is located at the intersection of U.S. 23 and Nicholson Hill Road. 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.

## **WELLINGTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

Wellington Township is located in the northwest corner of Alpena County. It is bordered to the north by Presque Isle County and to the west by Montmorency County. The township has the smallest population in the county and is 34,210 acres and covers 53.5 square miles of land.

### Township Buildings

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

### Publicly Owned Recreation Property

**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in the eastern portion of Township. Covering of 6,600 acres of land, this State forest is designated for multipurpose recreational use in addition to forestry use. Hunting is the primary recreation with hiking and nature observation opportunities also available.

## **WILSON TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

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

### Township Property

**Wolf Creek Park:** Located off Wolf Creek Road, the 17 acre Wolf Creek property was acquired by Wilson Township from the Alpena County Road Commission. The property consists of the old Wolf Creek Road right-of-way which varies in width. There are two areas where the right-of-way widens to 100' X 100' both north and south of Wolf Creek. There are plans to build a 50' bridge across the river.

**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.

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

#### Other Publicly Owned Recreation Properties

**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in the north and mid-sections of the east side of the township. These 7,000 acres of State forest land are designated for multipurpose recreational use as well as forestry. Hunting is the primary recreational use with hiking and nature observation opportunities available as well.

**Devil's Lake Snowmobile Trail** is located in the eastern portion of Wilson Township in the Mackinaw State Forest. The trail is 21 miles long with 11 miles of which are located in the Township. The snowmobile trails are maintained by the Alpena Sno-Drifters.

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

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

**Norway Ridge Pathway** is located in the eastern portion of Wilson Township and the western portion of Alpena 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.

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

**Wilson School** is located at 4999 Herron Road. Owned by the Alpena Public School System, the property has a school gymnasium, playground and athletic fields. These recreational facilities are primarily intended for school use, but are available for public use after school hours. Many of the playground structures have been upgraded and safety bark has been installed.

Playground structures include: three sets of swings, two wooden climbing structures, two metal climbing structures, several slides, a large play structure, tires, a seating area, hanging loops, a funnel ball game, a four-person teeter-totter, learning stations, and a basketball court.

## **PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATION INVENTORY**

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

### City of Alpena

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

**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.

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

**Royal Knight Cinema** is located at 101 South Second Avenue. With three movie screens, this theater offers residents many entertainment choices all year round.

**GKC/State Cinema** is located at 204 North Second Avenue. With five movie screens, this theater offers residents many entertainment choices all year round.

**Alpena Youth Club** is located on Long Rapids Plaza. As a private, non-profit agency, this facility offers the youth of Alpena a variety of specialized entertainment options. A flexible

programming schedule allows for time, space and equipment to be available for unscheduled recreational activities.

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

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

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

**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.

**Thunder Bay Shores Marina** is located at 400 East Chisholm Street at the Small Boat Harbor. The facility provides boating related services for residents and visitors to the Alpena area. Acting as a communications center for boaters in the waters of Thunder Bay, the marina cooperates with the U.S. Coast Guard during search and rescue missions. It also posts severe weather warnings.

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

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

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

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

### Alpena Township

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



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

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

**Alpena Health and Racquet Club** is located at 2490 U.S. 23 South. Open year-round, this facility offers memberships that include the use of a gymnasium, a weight room and racquetball courts. Group aerobic exercise classes as well as individual exercise programs are available.

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

Access Site #1 is located adjacent to the Dam at the end of Four Mile Road. This 2-acre site provides access to fishing with ample parking near the powerhouse. There is canoe portage around the left end of the Dam. Thunder Bay Power Company Plans to improve the parking and portage areas and provide handicapped accessible toilet facilities

Access Site #2 is located across the Thunder Bay River from the Dam and provides an informal access to the impoundment for fishing opportunities and nature observation

Access Site #3 is located .6 mile to the west of both Site #1 and Site #2. This 6-acre site is accessible to the public from Long Rapids Road and offers fishing opportunities with a gravel boat launch. Occasionally this site is used for overnight camping. Thunder Bay Power Company plans to improve the boat launch and parking area.

**JJ's Awesome Acres** is located at 1120 U.S. 23 North just outside the Alpena City limits. It offers an 18-hole miniature golf course and other family related activities. It is closed in the winter.

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

### Green Township

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

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

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

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

**Jacks Landing Resort** is located at 20836 Tennis Road and offers a restaurant, 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.

#### **Public Access on Fletcher's Pond**

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

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

\*The information for Thunder Bay Power facilities (both in this township and in other townships within the county) was obtained from sections of their Recreation Plan dealing with these properties. Information was also supplied by AR Blystra & Associates, Ltd. Consulting Engineers, Valparaiso Indiana.

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

**Beaver Lake** access is located on O'Brian Rd.

## Long Rapids Township

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

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

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

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

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

### Sanborn Township

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

### Wilson Township

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

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

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

**The Alpena Sno-Drifters** office is located at the intersection of M-32 and Herron Road.

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

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

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

**Alpena Optimist Club** has established "**Optimist Acres**" on M-32 at the junction of Herron Road. Located on 43 acres of land donated by LaFarge Corporation, this recreation area is youth oriented and designed to provide year-round activities. With the Optimist motto "Friend of Youth", this facility offers recreation opportunities that include a 100' x 100' ice skating rink, a pavilion and a ball diamond. The five year plan includes an ATV trail, a cross county running/ski track, a campground area, modern restrooms, portable bleachers and perimeter fencing.

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

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

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

## CHAPTER 4: PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

### Ossineke Township Planning Process

Development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The Ossineke Township Board was the lead entity in developing the Township Recreation Plan. The Township Board sought input from the Ossineke Township Planning Commission. Planning Commission and Township Board meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. A timeline for the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

#### SCHEDULE

<b>July 2014</b>	Township Officials contact Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) requesting collaboration in drafting a recreation plan for Ossineke Township.
<b>September, 2014</b>	NEMCOG staff contacted the Ossineke Township Secretary to discuss the planning process and to establish a timeline for the plan update.
<b>November 19, 2014</b>	NEMCOG staff attended an Ossineke Township Planning Commission meeting to share progress and receive input on the draft recreation plan.

## **Public Input**

**Public Input Notice for Planning Commission meeting on, 2014:**

**Planning Commission Meeting Minutes (Public Input Meeting) for, 2014.**

**Notice of Availability of Recreation Plan for at least 30 days/Public Hearing Notice**

**Notice of Availability of Recreation Plan**

**Notice of Public Input Meeting Flyer**

**Notice of Township Board Meeting Adopting Plan Flyer**

**Resolution of the Planning Commission Recommending Adoption of the Recreation Plan:**

**Minutes from the Planning Commission Meeting of ,2014:**

**Resolution of the Township Board Adopting the Recreation Plan:**

**Minutes from the Township Board Meeting of, 2014:**

**Copies of Submittal Letters:**

## CHAPTER 5: GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN

After reviewing community input and demographic characteristics of the Township, the following goals and objectives were developed to provide overall guidance in recreational project development for the Planning Commission, community groups and organizations. Table 5.1 contains the Capital Improvement Schedule.

### Goals & Basis for Action

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. To actively expand and improve upon the recreational needs of the community.
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. Improve the quality of life for residents and bring visitors to Ossineke Township by maintaining, improving and expanding recreation within the Township and surrounding areas by working cooperatively with local and State governmental agencies, community service agencies, and local businesses.
8. To encourage tourism as an economic resource for the community, yet recognize the need to provide other recreational opportunities to the residents.
9. Improve the overall local economy by enhancing the livability of the community in order to attract entrepreneurs and encouraging the creation of new tourism-based jobs.



To provide outdoor recreational facilities for the enjoyment of local residents, sports enthusiasts and visitors to Ossineke Township; specifically:

## 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.

1. **Objective:** Improve the recreation center of the Park by addressing needs of existing facilities.
  - a. **Action:** Improve signage, access road, parking/road lighting, and landscaping at the park.
  - b. **Action:** Add lighting for baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts to allow extended hours of usage.
  - c. **Action:** Replace benches and tables to maintain quality park amenities.
  - d. **Action:** Install ADA accessible playground equipment to meet the needs of the disabled population in the community.
2. **Objective:** Expand existing park facilities to meet existing demand, and/or encourage expanded use.
  - a. **Action:** Pave parking lot to increase ADA accessibility.
  - b. **Action:** Construct an asphalt walking track around park.

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

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

## B. Beaver Lake

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

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

a. **Action:** Provide waste receptacles to dispose of used fishing line, keeping dock area clear of debris.

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

### Basis for Action Program

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

1. The median age of residents in Ossineke Township is 47.1 years old, compared to the state's median age of 39.1.
2. Young people ages 0-19 comprise 22.9% of the Township population and 42.7% of the population is between 20-54 years of age (the age where there would typically be children living at home). When planning recreational facilities for the younger population, careful consideration should be given to both location (close to population) and ease of access (non-motorized access to facilities).
3. Residents of retirement age (65 +) comprise 19.6% of the Township population. Thought must be given to planning for this large resident population which has both the time and desire for age-appropriate recreational activities.
4. Ossineke Township's median household income is \$36,067 compared to that of the state average of \$48,411. Nearly 45% of the households in the township include Social Security recipients, compared to 32.3% statewide. Twenty-five percent of households have retirement income, compared to 22.7% statewide. Accordingly, to truly be accessible, recreation must also be affordable.
5. Ossineke Township is very proud of its natural beauty and rural character. It is important to those planning for its growth and development that every effort be made to balance ecological concerns with tourism potential. Protection of natural resources and scenic areas must therefore be a major element of the planning process.

6. The issue of improving the local economy by establishing the area as a recreation destination is of utmost importance. Unemployment rates in Ossineke Township are reported at 14.6% (October 2014), and all of Northeast Michigan remained significantly higher than the state average. The Township strives to create a community with a defined sense of place and a high quality of life which will attract young families and entrepreneurs. This quality of life will also help to retain local youth who otherwise would leave the area upon reaching adulthood. The retention of youth and attraction of visitors are two methods with which the Township hopes to continue its economic turn-around.

*Figures obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2009-2013 5-year estimates. Unemployment rate obtained from Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.*

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

1. Development of recreation opportunities which are appropriate to the Township's major population groups. Both active and passive recreation opportunities require easy access to allow use by those with limited transportation resources, including the elderly and youth of the Township.
2. Development and maintenance of recreational opportunities for individuals with diverse incomes, including recreation available at a no-cost or low-cost basis, as well as appealing to upscale, urban visitors.
3. Maintenance and operation of existing and new recreational facilities in a manner that preserve their ecological and scenic value, with limited staff.

## Capital Improvement Plan

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

<b>Table 5-1: Capital Improvements Schedule 2015-2019</b>				
<b>Hubbard Lake Lions Park</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
High	Install ADA accessible playground equipment	\$15,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2015
High	Pave parking lot	\$25,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2015
High	Install walking track around park	\$45,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2015
Low	Install Lighting for sports fields	\$75,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2017
Medium	Replace picnic tables and benches	\$15,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2019
<b>Beaver Lake</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Medium	Used Fishing Line Receptacles	\$500	Local, State, Private Donations	2018
<b>Thunder Bay Trails</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
High	Trail Expansion	\$10,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2017-2019