

CHAPTER 3 – COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Key factors that contribute to the quality of life of a community are the type and variety of services available to residents and visitors. Unlike more populated communities, smaller rural communities do not have the financial resources to provide many of the services that would normally be considered essential. In the case of fire and ambulance, many rural communities work cooperatively with adjacent communities to provide essential services.

The potential location for future development must be analyzed according to the types of existing land uses, amount of vacant land within each land use type, the character of the land itself, and the availability of certain utilities, services or facilities. Although these services may be sufficient for the needs of the current population, future development may increase the demand to upgrade or expand the services and facilities to maintain a satisfactory living environment.

This chapter will explore the location and extent of existing services. Services are provided in many ways by public or quasi-public agencies or by private enterprise. Each service provider makes the service available to the best of its capabilities. The resulting service levels determine the capacity of a given location to attract various types of land development.

Water Supply and Sewage Disposal

No municipal sewer service exists within Krakow Township. There are several homes located in the Presque Isle Association that have access to a community water system. District Health Department #4 is the permitting agency for private wells and septic systems. Soil conditions such as hydric soils or bedrock close to the surface may pose challenges to siting a traditional septic system. Lakefront communities often crowd residences along the shoreline, which can directly affect both groundwater and surface water quality by increasing the potential for pollutants from improperly designed or inadequately maintained septic systems. Alternative on-site systems, such as raised drain field systems or hold and pump systems, may be appropriate in high-density or cluster lakeshore developments where soil conditions, distance between lots, or shallow bedrock make traditional systems inappropriate. Septic systems that meet the Health Department Code and that are properly maintained provide on-site wastewater treatment that is biologically equivalent to a municipal sewage treatment plant. Careful consideration must be given to protecting the County's surface water and groundwater resources.

Solid Waste

Under the provisions of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 or 1994, Part 115, each county is required to have a Solid Waste Management Plan approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). As noted in the *Presque Isle County Solid Waste Management Plan*, the County's solid waste is accepted at the Elk Run Sanitary Landfill in Allis Township, at City Environmental Services, Inc. of Waters (Crawford County), or Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena Sanitary Landfill in Loud Township (Montmorency County). All three facilities are Type II Landfills, which means they are designed to accept municipal waste. The waste management plan indicates that the Elk Run facility may also accept solid waste from several other northern Lower Peninsula and eastern Upper Peninsula counties.

Residents and business owners generally contract with private waste haulers to pick up refuse, and the waste haulers deliver the waste to one of the three landfills. Household trash may also be delivered for a per-bag price to transfer stations in Rogers City, Krakow Township or Ocqueoc Township. Additionally, dumpsters are located at several businesses around the County, where trash is accepted at a per-bag price.

Presque Isle County operates a voluntary recycling program, providing six recycling stations where recyclable materials may be deposited. These are located at the transfer stations in Rogers City, Krakow Township and Ocqueoc Township, in the communities of Millersburg and Hawks, and at the North Allis Township Hall. Newspapers, glass, tin and #2 HDPE plastics are accepted at the recycling stations.

The *Solid Waste Management Plan* encourages residents to compost yard waste, but the County does not have a formal composting program. The plan states, "Composting is expected to remain the responsibility of the individual."

Utilities

Energy

The Presque Isle Electric and Gas (PIE&G) provide electric power in Krakow Township. Three-phase power is available in along Long Lake Road. Three-phase power is needed to support some types of commercial and industrial activities, particularly in businesses that operate heavy machinery or equipment. Developed parts of the Township have natural gas provided by Presque Isle Electric & Gas (PIE&G).

Communications

Except for remote locations, local telephone service is provided throughout the County by Frontier, formerly Verizon. Residents have the option of choosing long distance service from several long distance carriers. In recent years, calling areas for the local exchanges have been expanded to offer a wider range of toll-free calling. A number of cellular telephone services are available throughout the area, and several communications towers are located in the Township to enhance reception. However, reception and transmission may be limited in areas away from major roads or in areas with low elevation.

Charter cable television service is available in more densely populated areas of Krakow Township. Because of the rural nature of the Township, many residents rely on private satellite dishes, where reception is comparable to that of cable providers. Depending upon ones location internet is available through cable, DSL, dial-up, and satellite.

Postal Service

Most residents of Krakow Township receive postal service through the United States Post Office located in Posen and Presque Isle. Residents in the Long Lake area are served by the Alpena Post Office.

Schools

Krakow is primarily located in the Posen Consolidated School District, while the southeastern part of the Township is located in the Alpena Public School District. Students can also attend the Bingham Charter School in Alpena. In addition to public schools, several private elementary schools provide educational opportunities for Krakow Township. Private schools in the area include St. Ignatius Catholic School and St. John's Lutheran School (both in Rogers City), St. Michael's Lutheran School (in Belknap Township), Rogers City Baptist School (west of Rogers City) and the Seventh Day Adventist School (west of Onaway).

Alpena Community College (ACC) in Alpena and North Central Michigan College (NCMC) serve the higher education needs for the region's population. Both are two-year institutions that offer several associate degree programs, career and technical training, liberal arts and transfer programs. In addition, both have joint agreements with Spring Arbor College offering bachelor and master degree programs in several fields. Many other state universities have learn-at-home programs, where students earn credit via the Internet.

Libraries

The Presque Isle District Library has four branches to serve the cities, villages and townships of Presque Isle County. The library offers a wide variety of services and programs including internet service, inter-library loans, children's activities, specialized book sections such as Michigan/Great Lakes History, genealogy, and Natural History. The five branches of the library system are the Rogers City Library (main branch of the District Library) located on East Erie Street, Rogers City, the Grand Lake Library on East Grand Lake Highway, Presque Isle, the Onaway Library on State Street, Onaway, Millersburg Library, and the Posen Library, on M-65, Posen.

Public Safety

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement protection for Presque Isle County is primarily the responsibility of the Presque Isle County Sheriff Department. The department operates the county jail, maintains 24-hour road patrol, court services, marine patrol, snowmobile patrol, animal control, and emergency dispatch. The Michigan State Police from the Rogers City post provide patrols of state highways and provide additional support to the Sheriff Department as necessary. Countywide enhanced 911 emergency services, operated out of the Sheriff Department, receive calls for fire, emergency medical services and law enforcement and dispatch calls to the appropriate service providers.

Fire Protection

Posen Fire Department, Posen MI. 49776
Pumpers - 2, Tanker - 1, ATV - 1, Grass Rig - 1, & Rescue Truck - 1.
Staff and Volunteers: 20
Budget: \$58,000
Posen, Pulaski, Krakow, and Metz Twps.
Population served; 2284

Emergency Medical Services

Emergency medical services in Krakow Township is provided by the Rogers City Area Ambulance Authority for emergency medical services. The authority contracts with Allied EMS Systems, Inc. of Harbor Springs to provide 24-hour, full life-support and transport services. The local facility is located at the industrial park in Rogers City.

Allied EMS 500 Park Drive, Rogers City, MI 49779

Ambulances - 3

Staff: 14

Budget: \$800,000

Bearinger, Belknap, Bismark, Krakow, Metz, Moltke, Ocqueoc, Posen, Pulawski, and Rogers Twps., along with the City of Rogers City.

Population served; 9132

Transportation

Roads

Presque Isle County's road network is critical to providing the flow of goods and services and for enabling residents to move efficiently to and from employment, shopping and recreational activities. Two major highways provide access to the Township, US-23 and M-65.

US-23 is a scenic route that runs adjacent to or near the Lake Huron shoreline. M-65 is the major north-south route on the east side of Presque Isle County, from U.S. 23 through Posen and points south. Presque Isle County Road Commission maintains these state and federal roads under contract arrangements with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

In addition to these major highways, several primary paved county roads connect outlying portions of the County with the major road network. Also, an extensive system of gravel and dirt roads cover all portions of the County, providing access to residences, forest management, and recreational activities in lake and forest areas. Transportation routes in Krakow Township consist of paved county roads and gravel and dirt roads. Highway U.S. 23 is the only major highway within the Township.

The County Road Commission maintains county primary and county local roads in partnership with the townships. As well as routine maintenance and snow removal, the Road Commission maintains schedules annual projects to improve or replace road surfaces, to improve drainage features, and to upgrade bridges and stream crossings.

A constraint to any northern Michigan county road system is that during the spring thaw, weight restrictions must be placed on any road not meeting certain construction standards. This necessary action may restrict the flow of goods to cities and townships throughout the County for approximately six weeks. Several of these seasonal routes have been upgraded in recent years. **Table 3.4** details the "All Season Routes" for Presque Isle County.

TABLE 3.4	
All Season Routes in Presque Isle County	
Road Name	Location
U.S. 23	North/south route east side of County
M-65	U.S. 23 south to Alpena County line
County Road 451	U.S. 23 south to Montmorency County line
634 Highway	County Road 451 east to Posen
Ocqueoc Road	U.S. 23 south to M-68
Rainy Lake Road	Wildcat Highway south to Five Mile Highway
County Road 638	West from County Road 451 one mile
Long Lake Highway	M-65 east to Smigelski Road
Grand Lake Highway	M-65 east to U.S. 23
Heythaler Highway	County Road 451 west to South Ward Branch Road
Long Lake Highway	Alpena County line to Smigleski Road
Bolton Road	Long Lake Highway south to Alpena County line
638 Highway	From Highway 451 west 3.5 miles
Source: Presque Isle County Road Commission	

Public Transit

While Presque Isle County does not have an overall public transportation system, there is a limited transit system in place. In 1999 the *Presque Isle County Transportation Coordination Study* was conducted with funding assistance from MDOT. The purpose of the study was to inventory existing transportation services, to estimate the overall transportation needs, and to provide a coordination plan for the present transit system. The inventory determined that with three buses, the Presque Isle County Council on Aging (PICCA) was the major provider in the County. The buses are available for the general public as well as senior citizens and handicap persons. Services are provided on a demand/response basis, in addition to regularly scheduled out of town trips. Thunder Bay Regional Transportation provides limited services in the Township.

Several other agencies, including Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health, Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle Education Service District, Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, and Presque Isle County Family Independence Agency provide transportation services to their clients.

Bus Service

Indian Trails provides statewide public transportation services on a daily basis. A bus route runs through Presque Isle County, stopping in Rogers City and Onaway to drop off and pick up passengers. The company has two 44-passenger buses assigned for this route. Both are wheelchair lift equipped and have space to accommodate wheelchairs. The original US-23 route directly to Cheboygan was recently changed to US-23, M-68 and M-33 to Cheboygan. This change was made to better serve residents on the western side of Presque Isle County. MDOT subsidizes this transportation service for areas in northern Michigan.

Air Service

Regional air service is available at either Alpena County Regional Airport or Pellston Regional Airport. The County of Presque Isle owns and operates two public airports, a Tier 3 basic utility

airport in Onaway and a Tier 1 general utility airport in Rogers City. These airports accommodate general aviation private planes for both business and recreational use.

Rail Service

No active rail lines currently exist in Krakow Township Presque Isle County. Former D&M railroad corridor from Alpena to Cheboygan was acquired by Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and for a number of years was used as a snowmobile. In 2011, a joint effort between the MDNR, MDOT and local units of government upgraded the rail-trail to a compacted limestone surface that converted the trail to a year round multi-use trail. The upgraded facility has been named the North East State Trail. With completion of the rail-trail bikers can ride from Alpena to Mackinaw City or Gaylord without having to ride on a road. Future plans are to upgrade the rail-trail from Mackinaw City to Petoskey, which will result in the first coast to coast continuous bike trail in Michigan.

Recreation

The lakes, streams and woodlands of the area provide a remarkable source for recreation activities, such as fishing, boating, camping, hunting and hiking, just to list a few. These activities are important economic factors for the region. A Countywide recreation plan was developed by the Presque Isle Planning Commission and approved by the MDNR in 2012. The plan provides a means by which the county and local governments may apply for recreation funding for projects listed in the plan. Recreational facilities in Krakow Township

- Thompson's Harbor State Park: Situated on Lake Huron in northern Krakow Township, this undeveloped park features more than 5,000 acres and 7 ½ miles of Lake Huron shoreline. The site is home to the endangered Dwarf Lake Iris. There are no structures on the site, but visitors may participate in the following activities: hunting, nature viewing, birding, kayaking, fishing, biking on existing roads only, and hiking/cross-country skiing.
- Grand Lake and Long Lake sites along US 23—MDOT owned, Road Commission maintained in Krakow and Presque Isle Townships
- Grand Lake sites on Black Bass Road and County Road 638—Road Commission maintained in Krakow Township
- North Eastern State Trail: snowmobiling in winter; multi-use non-motorized rest of year; the trail is a 71-mile rail trail which connects Alpena to Cheboygan. It was resurfaced as a 10' wide packed crushed limestone surface with two-foot shoulders. The trail is owned and managed by the Michigan Department of Transportation and funded through a federal transportation grant from MDOT, a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant, and from local units of government.
- Sweetwater Trail: Highway trail along Great Lakes coastline identifies sites of interest
- Huron Shores Greenways and Blueways: A system of land and water trails for Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties.
- US-23 Heritage Route: Asset to the local tourism industry