

# Bearinger Township Presque Isle County



## Adopted:

**Planning Commission: August 14, 2007**

**Township Board: September 10, 2007**

Prepared by: Bearinger Township Planning Commission  
Assisted by: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments



# BEARINGER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

## Bearinger Township

Presque Isle County, Michigan

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BEARINGER TOWNSHIP  
MASTER PLAN

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## Chapter 1 - Introduction

### Purpose and Planning Process

The purpose of the Bearinger Township Land Use Master Plan is to provide guidelines for future development within the community, while protecting the natural resources and rural township character. In compliance with the wishes and desires of the residents and property owners, the Commissioners have strived, through this master plan, to maintain Bearinger Township as a natural and rural community. The master plan provides a legal foundation for the Township Zoning Ordinance. The Township Planning Act 168 of 1959 authorizes townships to develop comprehensive or master plans. As stated in the enabling legislation: *The purpose of plans prepared pursuant to this act shall be to promote public health, safety and general welfare; to encourage the use of resources in accordance with their character and adaptability; to avoid the overcrowding of land by buildings or people; to lessen congestion on public roads and streets; to facilitate provision for a system of transportation, sewage disposal, safe and adequate water supply, recreation and other public improvements; and to consider the character of each township and its suitability for particular uses judged in terms of such factors as the trend in land and population development.*

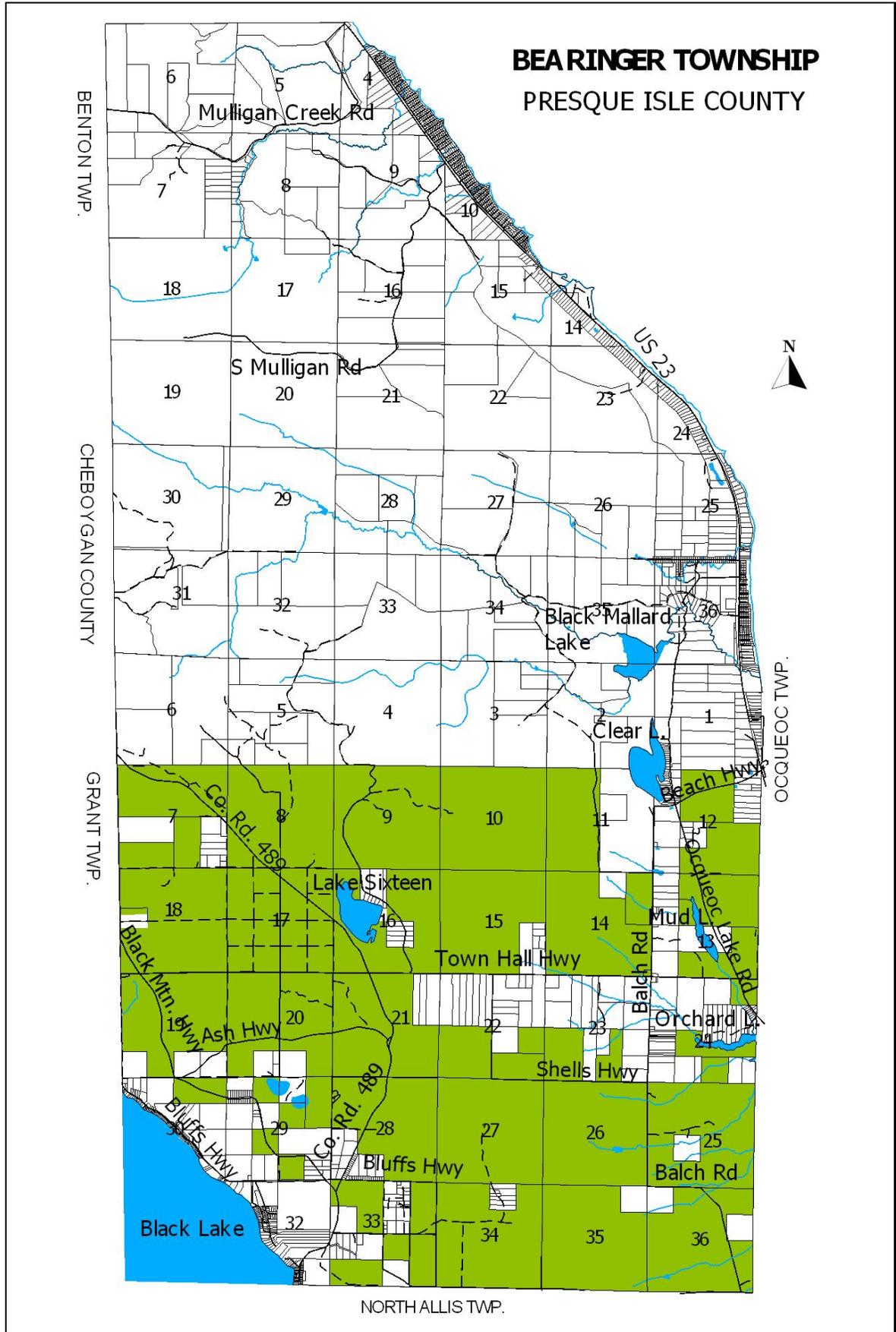
This plan presents background information on social and economic data, natural resources, existing community services and facilities, and existing land uses. The background information is used to identify important characteristics, changes and trends in Bearinger Township. A special community workshop was held to gather input from residents and landowners. Based on information gathered at this workshop and the background data, the Township Planning Commission developed goals and objectives. These goals and objectives, along with a series of maps including soils, ownership, existing land use, and zoning, provide the basis for the Future Land Use Map. The future land use map recommends locations for various types of future development within the Township.

The Bearinger Township Planning Commission developed this Master Plan with the assistance from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG). This plan looks at a twenty year planning horizon, with suggested revisits every five years or sooner if needed. A series of planning workshops were held over the two-year period. All workshops were open meetings with public welcomed and encouraged to comment on the plan. To further gather public input, a community visioning session and three focus group sessions were held. After the draft future land use plan was completed the planning commission held an open house to allow community members to review the document. Bearinger Township is currently under County planning and zoning. Presque Isle County updated its master plan in 2005 and completed a zoning update in early 2007. It is the intention of Bearinger Township to develop and adopt its own zoning ordinance.

### Location and Regional Setting

Bearinger Township is located in the northwestern corner of Presque Isle County. The County is located in the northeastern lower peninsula of Michigan. The adjacent map shows the location of the Township. Cheboygan County borders Bearinger Township to the east and north. Grant and Benton Townships border Bearinger to the west, Ocqueoc Township to the east, and North Allis to the south. The Township geographic area covers over 63 square miles. **Figure 1.1** shows a base map of Bearinger Township.

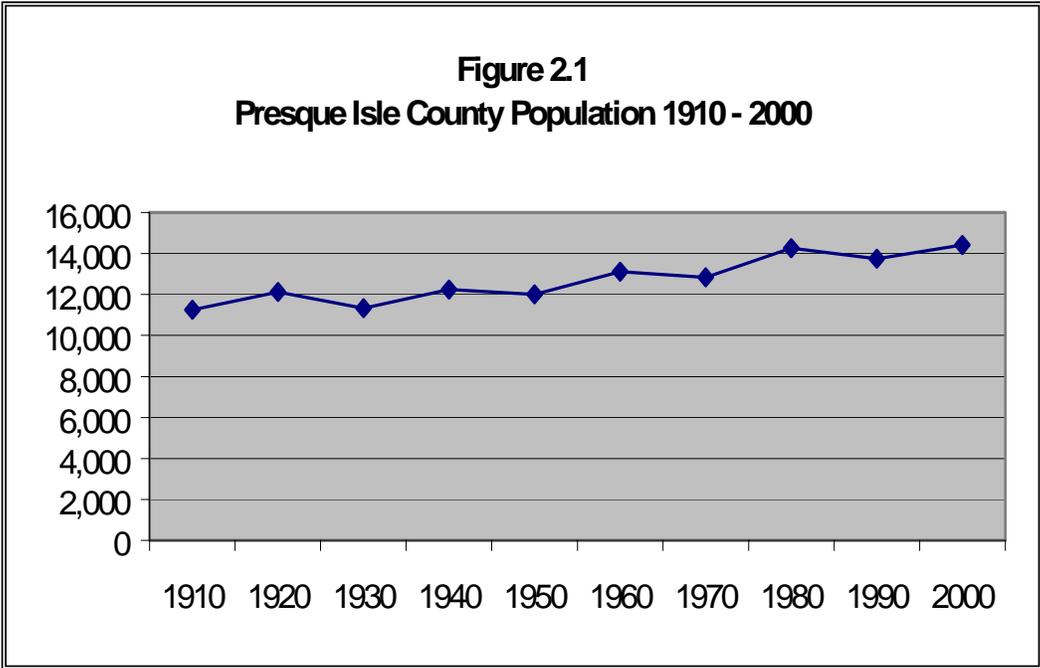




## Chapter 2- Socio-Economic Profile

### Population

The official population count of Presque Isle County according to the 2000 Census was 14,411 persons. The County has experienced a net growth in population over the past 90 years, but there have been several periods of declining population numbers. Since 1910, increases and decreases in population have alternated every 10 years (see **Figure 2.1**). The population of Presque Isle County grew in 1920, 1940, 1960, 1980 and 2000 and decreases in population occurred in 1930, 1950, 1970 and 1990. The result, over time, has been a relatively gradual increase in population in the County. Over the past 90 years Presque County has increased by 3,162 persons or by an average of 0.3 % a year.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Presque Isle experienced a population increase of one percent between 1980 and 2000, far below the State of Michigan’s growth rate of 7.3 % for that period. Bearinger Township, however, significantly out-distanced both the County and State in population growth during those same twenty years with a growth rate of 51.6 % (See **Table 2.1**). This is a strong indication of the attraction Bearinger Township has for those who enjoy the high quality lakes, streams and extensive forests of the area, or for those who simply seek a more rural lifestyle.

Unit of Government	1980	1990	% Change 1980 - 1990	2000	% Change 1990 - 2000	% Change 1980-2000
<b>Bearinger Township</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>51.6%</b>
Presque Isle	14,267	13,743	-3.7%	14,411	4.9%	1.0%
Michigan	9,258,344	9,295,297	0.4%	9,938,444	6.9%	7.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Although the 1990-2000 population in the 18 municipalities of the County fluctuated greatly (see **Table 2.2**), a general growth pattern can be seen. Six townships within Presque Isle County exhibited a 20% or higher growth rate, with Bearinger Township leading at 33.7%. All of the County's high-growth townships had at least one common attribute, the presence of private property development on or near waterfront. In Bearinger Township a large tract of land formerly under ABTCo ownership is now controlled by a private development group, and residential lots with Lake Huron view have been split from the parent parcel. In addition to new residential development, houses that were previously used as vacation homes are being converted to year-round residences as homeowners retire and move north permanently.

<b>TABLE 2.2</b>				
<b>Population for Municipalities in Presque Isle County 1990 &amp; 2000</b>				
Unit of Government	1990	2000	% Change	Number of Persons
<b>Bearinger Township</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>83</b>
Allis Township	887	1,035	16.7%	148
Belknap Township	920	854	-7.2%	-66
Bismarck Township	319	408	27.9%	89
Case Township*	770	942	22.3%	172
Krakow Township	617	622	0.8%	5
Metz Township	403	331	-17.9%	-72
Moltke Township	309	352	13.9%	43
North Allis Township	502	618	23.1%	116
Ocqueoc Township	521	634	21.7%	113
Posen Township**	972	959	-1.3%	-13
Presque Isle Twp.	1,312	1,691	28.9%	379
Pulawski Township	427	372	-12.9%	-55
Rogers Township	857	949	10.7%	92
Rogers City	3,642	3,322	-8.8	-320
Onaway	1,039	993	-4.4%	-46
Village of Millersburg	250	263	5.2%	13
Village of Posen	263	292	11.0%	29

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census  
 \* Case Township numbers include residents of the Village of Millersburg.  
 \*\* Posen Township numbers include residents of the Village of Posen.

Population by Age

Presque Isle County's age distribution, according to the 2000 Census, was similar to its surrounding counties. The two smallest classifications were those 0-4 years old and 18-24 years old. When compared to state figures, northern Michigan has a much smaller population of 18-24 year olds, and a larger population over the age of 45 years old. In Presque Isle County, similar figures apply for all its municipalities (see **Table 2.3**). Bearinger Township exhibits this trend most dramatically, with only 3.3% of its population in the 18-24 year age group and 31.6% aged 65 years and over.

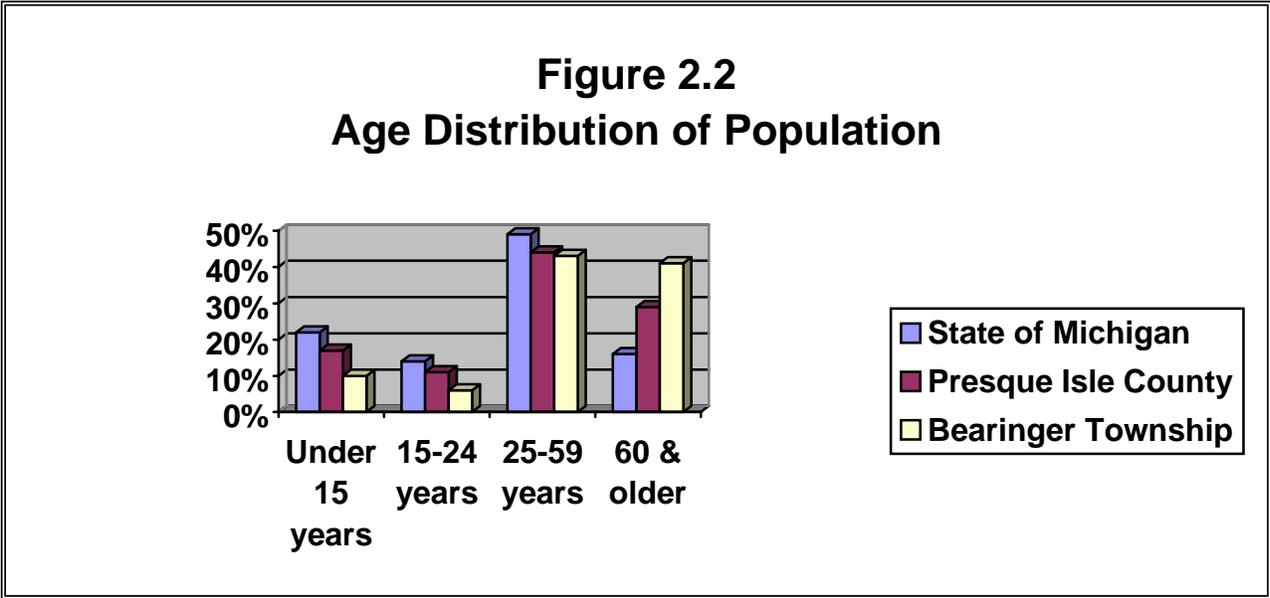
Municipality	0-4 years	5-17 years	18-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years & over	Total	Median age
Bearinger Township	18	22	(3.3%)* 11	49	125	(31.6%)* 104	329	57
Allis Township	59	193	(7.8%) 81	262	278	(15.6%) 162	1,035	40
Belknap Township	42	157	(5.6%) 48	212	235	(18.7%) 160	854	42
Bismarck Township	11	56	(11.0%) 45	92	102	(25.0%) 102	408	51
Case Township**	62	157	(6.4%) 60	219	249	(20.7%) 195	942	42
Krakov Township	23	70	(5.1%) 32	120	189	(30.2%) 188	622	50
Metz Township	17	55	(9.9%) 33	69	95	(18.7%) 62	331	44
Moltke Township	16	75	(4.8%) 17	81	115	(13.6%) 48	352	43
North Allis Township	39	103	(6.5%) 40	148	148	(22.6%) 140	618	43
Ocqueoc Township	25	83	(6.8%) 24	118	187	(31.0%) 197	634	54
Posen Township***	53	179	(7.9%) 76	240	226	(19.3%) 185	959	40
Presque Isle Township	56	240	(4.4%) 74	341	574	(24.0%) 406	1,691	50
Pulawski Township	17	72	(7.5%) 28	77	121	(15.3%) 57	372	42
Rogers Township	34	149	(6.3%) 60	186	332	(19.8%) 188	949	48
City of Onaway	61	198	(10.3%) 103	245	217	(17.0%) 169	993	38
Rogers City	159	518	(7.1%) 238	770	780	(25.7%) 857	3,322	44
Village of Millersburg	17	64	(4.9%) 13	67	53	(18.6%) 49	263	36
Village of Posen	21	48	(8.9%) 26	77	47	(25.0%) 73	292	39
Presque Isle County	692	2,327	(6.5%) 935	3,229	4,008	(22.3%) 3,220	14,411	45

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census  
 \*% of total population      \*\* Case Township numbers include residents of the Village of Millersburg.  
 \*\*\*Posen Township numbers include residents of the Village of Posen.

The population can be divided into four very general age groups:

- Under 15 years of age
- 15-24 years old (Adolescents and young adults who may both work and attend high school/college)
- 25-59 years old (This group makes up the bulk of the workforce and the majority of the population.)
- 60 years and older (Those at or near retirement age)

**Figure 2.2** shows the distribution of these age groups. Bearinger Township has significantly fewer people 24 years old or younger than does the County or the State as a whole. Numbers of persons in the 25 to 59-year age bracket is comparable for all three governmental units, however Bearinger Township has a substantially higher portion of its population in the 60 years and older group. Planning now to ensure the transportation, recreation and health care needs of this aging population are met will help avert a potentially critical situation for the Township.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Another indication of the changing population is the higher median age reported in the last Census. According to the U. S. Census Bureau, the median age of residents within the County increased from 32 years of age in 1980 to 45 years of age in 2000. This upward trend is similar to that found in the rest of the State (from 29 to 36 years) and the Nation (from 30 to 35 years). Median age data is not available at the township level for 1980 or 1990, but records from the 2000 Census indicate that Bearinger Township’s median age of 57 years is significantly higher than that of the County, State, or the United States as a whole. Several other townships in Presque Isle County also have an unusually high median age. A combination of factors may influence this trend, including an aging population, retirees moving into the area, and the tendency for younger persons to leave the area upon completion of high school. In Bearinger Township this is quite evident in the fact that a full third of its population is aged 65 or over, and less than 4% (11 persons) is between the ages of 18 and 24. (See **Tables 2.3 and 2.4.**)

Table 2.4 Median Age 1980-2000			
Governmental Unit	1980	1990	2000
Bearinger Township	Not Available	Not Available	57
Presque Isle	32	39	45
Michigan	29	33	36
United States	30	33	35

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Population Projections

Projections from three different sources are shown below in **Table 2.5**. Using the mean value of six extrapolation techniques developed in Richard Klosterman’s *Community Analysis and Planning Techniques* text, Northeast Michigan Council of Government (NEMCOG) developed population projections through the year 2020. These techniques mathematically fit curves to a time series of data and project values for future periods. NEMCOG predictions and predictions from the University of Michigan (U of M) and from the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB) predict population increases for the County over the next 20 years. Projections from the three agencies, however, differ on the rate of growth the County will likely experience over that period of time.

Source	2000	2010	2020
NEMCOG	14,411	15,144	16,225
U of M	14,411	15,035	15,397
DMB	14,411	15,000	15,200

The University of Michigan (U of M) and the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) both project approximately a four-percent growth for the next 10 years. DMB then projects a slower growth rate of 1.3 % from 2010 to 2020. U of M also predicts a slower growth rate from 2010 to 2020 projecting there will be a 2.4% rate of growth adding 362 persons during that period.

The NEMCOG projections for 2010 and 2020 are higher than the projections of U of M and DMB. NEMCOG projects a five percent rate of growth for the next 10 years followed by a seven percent rate for the period of 2010 to 2020. Given the statewide and national trend of increasing age and the decrease in young families having children, it can be assumed that the bulk of the population increase will come as baby boom retirees are moving to the area, and not new children being born into the community. If Bearinger Township continues to grow at a rate higher than that of the County as a whole (as shown in **Table 2.1**), it can be further assumed that a substantial portion of these new residents will relocate within its boundaries.

**Race and Hispanic Origin**

The population of Presque Isle County and Bearinger Township is relatively homogenous, with minorities composing a very small percentage of the population (see **Table 2.6**). In 2000 Presque Isle County’s population was made up of 98% white persons (97% in the Township). The minority population has changed relatively little over the last 10 years. From 1990 to 2000, the minority population increased from 0.7 to 1.9% in the County and from 2.0% to 2.2% in the Township. Probably the biggest factor for the increase was that the 2000 Census was the first time respondents were given the opportunity to choose more than one race category. This new designation was responsible for 43% of the growth of the total minority population. The growth in the minority population probably does not represent influx of new minority residents, but is more likely due to those who previously classified themselves as white selecting two or more races in the 2000 census.

Excluding the ‘two or more races’ category, American Indian was the largest minority group with 0.6% and 0.9% population in Presque Isle County and Bearinger Township, respectively. The



Municipality	5-20 years			21-64 years				65 years and over		
	Total Persons	# with disability	% with disability	Total persons	# with disability	% with disability	% with disability, employed	Total persons	# with disability	% with disability
Bearinger Township	30	2	6.7%	171	15	8.8%	33.3%	117	31	26.5%
Allis Township	214	47	22.0%	596	134	22.5%	39.6%	148	75	50.7%
Belknap Township	177	9	5.1%	449	62	13.8%	45.2%	181	88	48.6%
Bismarck Township	54	6	11.1%	208	34	16.3%	23.5%	99	59	59.6%
Case Township	174	5	2.9%	521	128	24.6%	46.9%	173	71	41.0%
Krakov Township	91	5	5.5%	324	58	17.9%	41.4%	191	75	39.3%
Metz Township	73	3	4.1%	173	26	15.0%	57.7%	77	37	48.1%
Moltke Township	58	5	8.6%	190	43	22.6%	65.1%	66	27	40.9%
North Allis Township	146	26	17.8%	348	89	25.6%	38.2%	113	61	54.0%
Ocqueoc Township	104	0	0%	329	95	28.9%	29.5%	206	70	34.0%
Posen Township	232	14	6.0%	540	121	22.4%	45.5%	165	76	46.1%
Presque Isle Township	285	17	6.0%	901	119	13.2%	47.1%	392	119	30.4%
Pulawski Township	92	4	4.3%	203	26	12.8%	53.8%	68	32	47.1%
Rogers Township	227	30	13.2%	554	102	18.4%	54.9%	168	76	45.2%
Onaway	268	24	9.0%	461	160	34.7%	35.6%	186	106	57.0%
Rogers City	585	50	8.5%	1,662	219	13.2%	40.6%	796	311	39.1%
Village of Millersburg	62	2	3.2%	142	28	19.7%	46.4%	38	21	55.3%
Village of Posen	70	7	10.0%	175	48	27.4%	16.7%	48	22	45.8%
Presque Isle County	2,810	247	8.8%	7,630	1,431	18.8%	42.6%	3,146	1,314	41.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Educational Attainment**

Educational attainment of residents in Presque Isle County has significantly improved over the last decade (see **Table 2.8**). While approximately the same percentage of persons had a high school diploma in 2000 as did in 1990, a larger percentage had taken college courses and/or obtained advanced degrees. Another indicator of educational improvement is the decrease in the percentage



County's, and well over half of the Township's total housing stock is owned by seasonal residents. The percentage of Presque Isle County's seasonal housing units is roughly comparable to that of surrounding counties reflecting the importance of northern Michigan as a tourism/recreation center and retirement destination. This decrease in the region's seasonal housing stock suggests that more retirees are moving to northern Michigan, converting their seasonal units to year round homes.

<b>Table 2.9</b>						
<b>Trends in percent Seasonal Housing Units</b>						
	1990			2000		
Unit of Government	Total Units	Vacant Units	Seasonal Units	Total Units	Vacant Units	Seasonal Units
Bearinger Township	442	334	(72.2%)* 319	503	345	(65.2%) 328
Presque Isle County	8,917	3,541	(34.1%) 3,044	9,910	3,755	(33.1%) 3,278
State of Michigan	3,419,331	428,595	(5.8%) 233,922	4,234,279	448,618	(5.5%) 223,549
*Percent of total housing units that are used as seasonal housing						
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census						

Obtaining accurate numbers of seasonal residents and tourists is difficult. Because the U.S. Census is conducted each decade in April, the numbers only reflect those persons who live in the Township on a year-round basis.

A rough estimate of the number of seasonal residents can be calculated by multiplying the number of the Township's seasonal housing units by its average number of persons per household, for a total of 682 persons. Seasonal residents, therefore, may triple the population of the Township during the summer months to over 1,000 persons, compared to the actual 2000 Census figure of 329. (This figure does not include seasonal visitors or tourists staying in motels, campgrounds or family homes.)

Residential Housing

The number of residential housing units in the County has grown at a rate greater than the population. This reflects the trend toward fewer persons per household, and an increase in seasonal home construction. **Table 2.10** shows that between 1990 and 2000, Presque Isle County's total number of housing units increased by 11.1%, while the population during that same period increased by only 4.9% (**Table 2.1**). Conversely, Bearinger Township showed a 33.7% increase in population, while the number of housing units increased only 13.8% for the same period, and size of household decreased. This clearly shows the transition of seasonal homes to year-round/retirement homes.

The percentage of owner-occupied housing units in the County increased slightly over the past decade, from 4,498 (83.7% of all occupied housing units) in 1990 to 5,266 (85.6% of occupied units) in 2000, an increase of 1.9%. These numbers exceed the average percent of occupied units for both state (73.8 % owner-occupied) and nationally (66.2%). Bearinger Township's owner-occupied housing units, however, decreased by 4.2% and renter-occupied units increased by 4.2%, indicating that a portion of the Township's owner-occupied housing stock was converted to rental housing.

At the same time, vacancy rates in both the County and the Township increased significantly, particularly vacancies in rental units. The number of vacant rental units in the County increased by 61.8% between 1990 and 2000 and the Township, which showed no rental vacancies in 1990, reported 26.7% of all rental units vacant by 2000. When compared to a 5.2% drop in vacant rental

units statewide, these figures seem disproportionately high. The construction of new rental housing in the Township or surrounding area, or the departure of a major local employer might explain this anomaly, however neither of these events have occurred.

Vacancy data is one measure of available housing in a community. Sufficient housing stock, for both owner-occupied and renter-occupied, must be provided to accommodate an expanding population base. According to the Census, Presque Isle County's housing market vacancy rate was remarkably low in 1990, at 1.9 %, and remained unchanged in 2000. Bearinger Township's vacancy rate was a little higher, 3.7% in 1990 but decreasing to 3.3% in 2000. Typical normal vacancy rates of owner-occupied housing are nationally about five percent. The County and Township's low percentage indicates a tight housing market and an inadequate supply of available units for new residents. This situation indicates that the demand for housing is not being met through the existing housing stock.

<b>Table 2.10 Occupied Housing Units 1990-2000</b>						
	Presque Isle County			Bearinger Township		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Total Units	8,917	9,910	11.1%	442	503	13.8%
Total Occupied	5,376	(62.1%)* 6,155	14.5%	108	(31.4%)* 158	46.3%
Owner-Occupied	4,498	(85.6%) 5,266	17.1%	105	(93.0%) 147	40.0%
Renter-Occupied	878	(14.4%) 889	1.3%	3	(7.0%) 11	266.7%
Total Vacant Units**	3,541	(37.9%) 3,755	6.0%	334	(68.6%) 345	3.3%
Persons/Household	2.53	2.31	-8.8%	2.28	2.08	-8.7%

\*Percent of total Housing Units  
 \*\*Includes units that are vacant, for sale or rent; does not include seasonal units  
 Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Residential Construction Activity

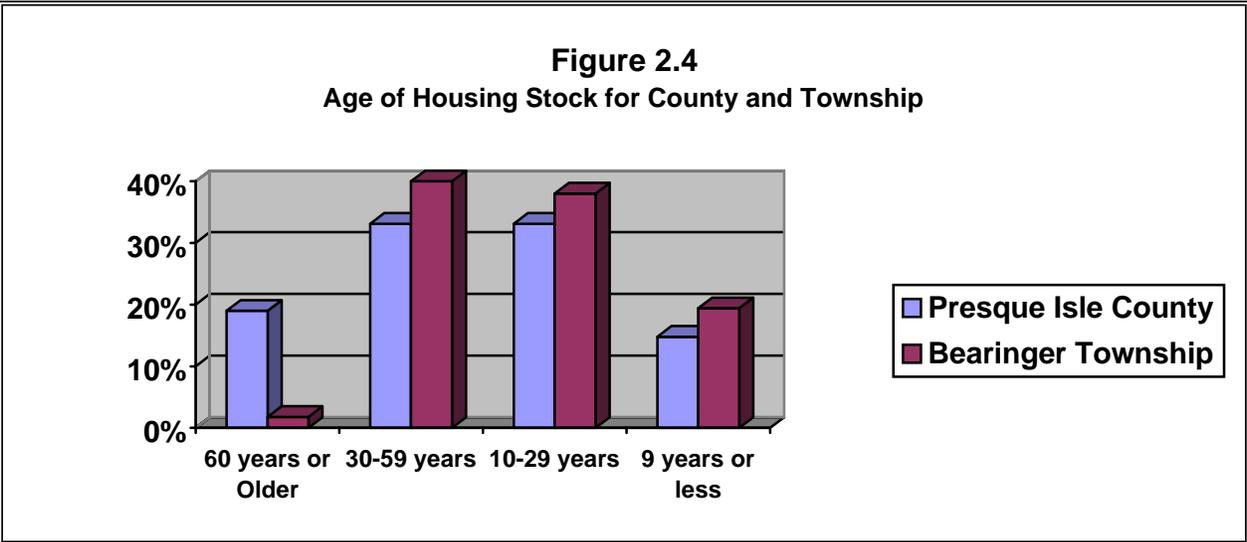
Presque Isle County residential building permits indicate the amount of construction activity within the County for the past ten years. The number of building permits issued per year for the construction has average 476.5 permits per year for the County and 35 for the Township, as illustrated in **Table 2.11**. The table, however provides only the total number of building permits, and does not break the numbers into categories for new construction, additions, or accessory buildings.

Building activity peaked in 1998 with 574 building permits issued, 35 of which were issued in Bearinger Township. When reading the table it appears that the amount of building activity has dropped significantly since that time. In 1999 there was a 17 % drop in building permits issued.

While the number of permits issued countywide in 2005 was the lowest since 1996, the Township recorded 33 permits issued that year, a figure only slightly lower than the Township's average. A change in policy within the County Building Department can explain the apparent decline in permits issued within the County. Prior to 1999, two separate building permits were required for new construction of a dwelling and a garage on the same lot or parcel. In 1999, policy change required only one permit for both structures, thus giving the appearance of a decline in construction activities.

Table 2.11 Building Permits Issued 1996-2005											
Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Bearinger Township	31	38	35	36	42	40	40	27	29	33	351
Presque Isle County	452	503	574	477	498	467	453	499	449	393	4,765

Source: Presque Isle County Building Department.



Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Age of Housing Units

Information found on **Table 2.12** shows the year that housing units were built in both Presque Isle County and Bearinger Township, and **Figure 2.4** shows the relative age of that housing stock. Generally speaking, the older a housing unit is, the more likely it is to be in need of rehabilitation. Housing units older than 30 years may be in need of at least some, if not a great deal of renovation.

When analyzing the age of the County's housing stock, it was found that 53.0 % of all housing units in Presque Isle County and over 40.0% in Bearinger Township were built before 1970. A substantial number of homes within the County were constructed between 1970 and 1980. Over half the County's homes are over 30 years old and 19% were constructed before 1940. The Township also has a large percentage of homes built between 1970 and 1980, but an even greater number were built between 1940 and 1960.

Compared to the County, the Township has very few homes built prior to 1940, however 40% of its housing stock is between 30 and 60 years old. Aging housing stock often translates into deteriorated housing; therefore it would be beneficial to the Township and County to become actively involved in housing restoration and rehabilitation programs.

Year Built	Presque Isle County		Bearinger Township	
	Structures	% of Housing Stock	Structures	% of Housing Stock
1939 or earlier	1,883	19.9%	9	1.8%
1940-1959	2,025	20.4%	131	26.2%
1960-1969	1,259	12.7%	69	13.8%
1970-1979	2,171	21.9%	121	24.2%
1980-1989	1,112	11.2%	73	14.6%
1990-2000	1,460	14.7%	97	19.4%
Total Structures	9,910	100%	500	100%

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census

**Income and Poverty Status**

Income statistics in the 2000 U. S. Census actually reflect income levels for the year of 1999. The median household income for Bearinger Township was \$35,962 per year. The median household income for Presque Isle County was \$31,656 and the State was \$44,667 per year. Median household income includes both family and non-family households. Typical of rural townships in Northeast Michigan, the median household income was \$8,705 lower than the State as a whole. However, Bearinger Township’s median income was \$4,306 higher than that of the County.

The median family income in 1999 for the Township was \$39,792. **Table 2.13** compares median household income, median family income, per capita income and poverty levels for Bearinger Township, Presque Isle County and the State of Michigan. The per capita income (income averaged per person) was \$29,780 in Bearinger Township, \$7,612 more than the per capita income for the State.

The percentage of families living below poverty level in 1999 were comparable for the Township (7.0%), County (6.8%) and State (7.4%) as shown in **Table 2.14**. In the Township, 50% of families living below the poverty level had children.

Governmental Unit	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Percent Families Below Poverty Level
Bearinger Township	\$35,962	\$39,792	\$29,780	7.0%
Presque Isle County	\$31,656	\$37,426	\$17,363	6.8%
State of Michigan	\$44,667	\$53,457	\$22,168	7.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Employment**

The data presented in this section reflects place of residence, not location of employment. **Table 2.15** compares workforce statistics and distribution by occupation in Bearinger Township, Presque Isle County and the State of Michigan.

	Bearinger Township		Presque Isle County		State of Michigan	
Individuals living below poverty level*	37	11.2%	1,469	10.3%	1,021,605	10.5%
18 years and over*	28	8.5%	1,052	7.1%	668,670	6.7%
65 years and over*	4	1.2%	290	2.0%	96,116	1.0%
Total Families	115	100%	4,231	100%	2,591,312	100%
Families living below poverty level	8	7.0%	286	6.8%	192,376	7.4%
With children**	4	50.0%	180	62.9%	151,943	63.3%
Female householder, no husband***	2	25.0%	90	31.5%	110,549	57.4%
With children	2	100%	87	96.7%	99,905	90.3%
*Percent is of total population      **Percent of those families living below poverty level that have children ***Percent of families living below poverty level with female head of household Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census						

At the time of the 2000 U. S. Census, the unemployment rate for Presque Isle County was 5.6% and the statewide unemployment rate was 3.7%. At 2.3%, the unemployment rate for Bearinger Township was lower than that of both the County and the State.

**Table 2.15** shows management and professional jobs constituted 31.5% of employment for the State of Michigan in 2000. Sales and office occupations (25.6%) and service occupations (14.8%) were the second and third largest employment sectors for the State. The top two employment sectors for Presque Isle County are management and professional jobs (25.7%) and sales and office occupations (23.4%) and. Service occupations make up 17.6% of the County's employment. Overall, the employment rate for Presque Isle County is substantially lower than that of the State.

	Bearinger Township		Presque Isle County		State of Michigan	
	#	%				
<b>Population 16 years and &gt;</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,840</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,630,645</b>	<b>100%</b>
In labor force	113	37.0%	6,072	51.3%	4,926,463	64.6%
Civilian labor force	113	37.0%	6,060	51.2%	4,922,453	64.5%
Employed	106	34.8%	5,400	45.6%	4,637,461	60.8%
Unemployed	7	2.3%	660	5.6%	284,992	3.7%
Armed Forces	0	0%	12	0.1%	4,010	0.1%
Management, Professional	27	25.5%	1,386	25.7%	1,459,767	31.5%
Service occupations	20	18.9%	948	17.6%	687,336	14.8%
Sales and office occupations	26	24.5%	1,261	23.4%	1,187,015	25.6%
Farming, Fishing, Forestry	0	0%	127	2.4%	21,120	0.5%
Construction, Mining, Maintenance	17	16.0%	756	14.0%	425,291	9.2%
Source: U. S. Census Bureau 2000						

## Summary

Both Presque Isle County's and Bearinger Township's population is growing and is predicted to continue to increase over the next several decades. Plans to accommodate this projected growth need to be undertaken in advance in order to provide adequate services, housing and infrastructure to the area's future residents.

A further examination of Census statistics shows that like most of the rest of the nation, the County's and Township's population is aging. Over the past three decades, the number of persons over the age of 25 years has increased, while the number of those under 25 years has declined. Shifting population bases create new demands on community services. While communities with a high concentration of children need to plan for the construction of schools and recreational facilities, communities with a larger elderly population need to concentrate more on plans for expanded health care and emergency services.

Nationally, according to the Administration on Aging report "*A Profile of Older Americans: 2001*", one in four persons over the age of 65 rates their health as poor, and the average hospital stay for an older person is four times longer than that of someone under the age of 65. More than half of older Americans reported having at least one disability, and over a third reported at least one severe disability. Over 20 % of those 65 years and older indicated that they had difficulties with daily activities such as shopping, preparing meals, doing housework and taking medication. Older consumers average more than \$3,000 per year in out-of-pocket health care expenses and 11 % of their total expenditures is on health care.

In addition to the expanding and aging population, statistics show that there are now fewer persons per household than has been found in the past. Between 1990 and 2000, Presque Isle County's persons per household decreased from 2.53 to 2.31 persons, and Bearinger Township's dropped from 2.28 to 2.08. This is a trend found throughout the region, state and nation. If the population continues to increase while persons per household declines, there will be a need for additional housing units to be constructed in both the County and the Township.

Assessing the age and condition of the Township's housing stock is an important planning tool. After a house is fifty years old, it is typically in need of rehabilitation or replacement, depending upon the construction quality and history of continued maintenance. As of March 2000, more than a quarter of the homes in Bearinger Township were built prior to 1960, and more than 40% of the Township's total housing was over 30 years old. Many of these older homes are most likely in need of some type of rehabilitation or replacement.

As indicated, many of the housing units in the County are seasonal, meaning they are second and even possibly third houses of persons with primary residency in other vicinities. Many people, upon reaching retirement, spend a greater amount of time and often permanently move to houses that were previously secondary, seasonal homes. This scenario could result in an increase in demand for various public and human services in Bearinger Township.

## 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 water or sewer service exists within Bearinger Township. 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) company headquartered in Onaway provides the majority of electric power in Presque Isle County. Three-phase power is available in two areas of Bearinger Township. At the western edge of the Township, three-phase power lines roughly parallel Bluffs Highway along Black Lake, then continue north, loosely following Black Mountain Road. Three-phase power lines also run parallel to the Lake Huron shoreline along the Township's eastern boundary. Three-phase power is needed to support some types of commercial and industrial activities, particularly in businesses that operate heavy machinery or equipment.

Three different natural gas providers serve Presque Isle County; DTE Energy, Aurora Gas, and Presque Isle Electric & Gas (PIE&G). Both PIE&G and Aurora Gas hold franchises to provide natural gas to Bearinger Township. Aurora Gas provides gas to customers in the western portion of the Township, mainly along the Black Lake shoreline parallel to Bluffs Highway. PIE&G has gas lines along US 23 on the Township's east coast, and a few short gas mains west of US 23.

### Communications

Except for remote locations, local telephone service is provided throughout the County by Verizon, formerly General Telephone and Electronics (GTE). 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 (NPI Wireless, Cellular One, Alltel, and Nextel) are available throughout the area, and several communications towers are located in Presque Isle County to enhance reception. However, reception and transmission may be limited in areas away from major roads or in areas with low elevation.

Michigan State University (MSU) and NEMCOG are involved in a project called *Link Michigan*, whose goals include "the development of a plan to bring broadband services to unserved areas with no service and to implement a plan to bring basic telephone service to unserved residents and businesses." The project area includes NEMCOG's eight-county region. *Link Michigan* is made possible with funding from Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

There is no cable television service available in Bearinger 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. Satellite dish providers offer high-speed Internet services, as well.

### **Postal Service**

Most residents of Bearinger Township receive postal service through the United States Post Office located in Onaway. The Millersburg Post Office, however, serves persons living in the southeastern portion of the Township.

### **Schools**

Presque Isle County is divided into four public school districts. The Alpena Public Schools serves students in the easternmost portion of the County. Posen Consolidated School District, the Rogers City Area Schools and Onaway Area Schools serve other portions of the County. Students in Bearinger Township attend school in Onaway.

In addition to the County's public schools, several private elementary schools provide educational opportunities for Bearinger 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 four 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, and the Posen Library, on M-65, Posen.

### **Cemeteries**

Thirty-four cemeteries lie throughout Presque Isle County. Bearinger Township Cemetery, located a mile north of Town Hall Highway on Balch Road, is the only cemetery found in Bearinger Township.

**Public Safety**

Crime Rate

One of the factors to be considered by prospective new residents to a community is the crime rate. **Table 3.1** illustrates crime statistics comparisons for the last eight years as reported by the Michigan State Police. During the eight years studied, no murders occurred in Presque Isle County. Of the eight "index" crimes larceny was the most prevalent with 623 cases, followed by burglary (388 cases). Of the "non-index" crimes 'driving under the influence of alcohol/narcotics' occurred most often (539 cases), followed by vandalism (523 cases) and assault (425 cases).

County crime statistics are a compilation of data from three sources: the Onaway Police Department, the Rogers City Police department, and the Michigan State Police. At first glance it would appear that Presque Isle County had a significant drop in both index crime and non-index crime between 2003 and 2004. Further research revealed, however, that while Rogers City did actually experience 22 fewer crimes in 2004 than in 2003, a substantial portion of the apparent reduction was due to the fact that the Onaway Police department only submitted data for four months of that year.

<b>TABLE 3.1 Criminal Offenses for Presque Isle County, 1997-2001</b>								
	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Population Served	13,743	13,743	13,743	14,411	14,364	14,338	14,314	14,306
Index Crimes*	139	112	148	193	192	166	138	96
Non-Index Crimes**	436	294	363	532	489	320	362	293
Total Offenses	575	406	511	725	681	486	500	389
*Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, arson and motor vehicle theft. These crimes serve as a common indicator of the nation's crime experience because of their seriousness and frequency of occurrence.								
**Non-Index Crimes include negligent manslaughter, non-aggravated assault, forgery, counterfeiting, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property, vandalism, weapons, sex offenses (except rape), narcotics, gambling, liquor laws, DUI, and disorderly conduct.								
Source: Michigan State Police Uniform Crime Reports and U.S. Bureau of the Census								

**Table 3.2** compares index crime rates for Presque Isle County against rates for neighboring northeast Michigan counties. Of the counties compared, only Montmorency County has a lower index crime rate than Presque Isle County, when calculating the number of crimes per 10,000 population. As can be seen, crime rates for both Presque Isle and Montmorency counties are much less than for Michigan as a whole.

<b>TABLE 3.2 Criminal Offenses, Presque Isle County, Surrounding Counties and State, 2004</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Index Crimes</b>	<b>Non-Index Crimes</b>	<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b># Index Crimes Per 10,000 Population</b>
Alpena	713	2,014	2,727	227.8
Cheboygan	689	1,971	2,660	260.2
Montmorency	107	306	413	103.8
Otsego	615	1,243	1,858	263.9
Presque Isle	96	293	389	66.6
Michigan	356,753	641,161	997,914	358.9
Source: Michigan State Police Uniform Crime Reports				

## 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. A victim services unit was recently added. The Michigan State Police from the Rogers City post on U.S. 23 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. With assistance from NEMCOG, Presque Isle County developed a *Hazard Mitigation Plan*. A representative from the Sheriff Department participated in the development of the plan. The *Hazard Mitigation Plan* should be referenced and included in the implementation of this *Comprehensive Plan*.

## Fire Protection

Fire protection in Presque Isle County is provided by six different all-volunteer fire departments, and all provide mutual aid throughout the County as needed. The Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Department, located on U.S. 23 just north of Ocqueoc Road, serves all of Bearinger Township and most of Ocqueoc Township.

## Emergency Medical Services

By calling 911, Presque Isle County residents needing emergency medical treatment or ambulance transport will receive care from the appropriate service provider, depending on the caller's location.

In addition to the City of Onaway, the Onaway Area Ambulance located on M-211 serves several townships surrounding the city, including Bearinger Township, as well as portions of Cheboygan and Montmorency Counties. The ambulance provides full life-support and transport services, and has three paid paramedics. Ambulance drivers are volunteers.

## **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. Five major roads provide access within the County and to other regions of the state. U.S. 23 is a scenic route that runs adjacent to or near the Lake Huron shoreline. M-68 is the major east-west route across the County, and provides access to I-75. M-33 is the major north-south route on the west side of the County from Onaway to Montmorency County and points south. M-65 is the major north-south route on the east side of the County, from U.S. 23 through Posen and points south. M-68 and M-65 are frequently used by residents of northeast Michigan traveling to and from "downstate". M-211 is also a state trunk line from Onaway to Onaway State Park at Black Lake. Presque Isle County Road Commission maintains these state and federal roads under contract arrangements with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The County's only traffic light is located at the intersection of Third Street (Business U.S. 23) and Erie Street (M-68) in downtown Rogers City.

To demonstrate the amount of traffic passing through Presque Isle County, MDOT traffic count statistics for the year 2000 are provided in **Table 3.3** below.

<b>Table 3.3</b> <b>Average Daily Traffic Counts for Presque Isle County in 2000</b>		
Highway	Section Studied	Average # of Vehicles Daily
U.S. 23	Between the Alpena County line and M-65	4,800
U.S. 23	Just south of Rogers City	5,200
U.S. 23	Just north of Rogers City	5,600
M-68	Between Onaway and Rogers City	3,400
M-65	Between U.S. 23 and the Alpena County line	1,200
M-33	Between Onaway and the Montmorency County line	4,300
M-211	Between Onaway and Black Lake	2,200
Source: Michigan Department of Transportation		

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 Bearinger Township consist of paved county roads and gravel and dirt roads. Highway U.S. 23 follows the Lake Huron shoreline along Bearinger’s eastern boundary and is the only major highway in 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.

<b>TABLE 3.4</b>	
<b>All Season Routes in Presque Isle County</b>	
<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
M-211	Onaway to Onaway State Park
U.S. 23	North/south route east side of County
M-33	Onaway south to Montmorency County line
M-65	U.S. 23 south to Alpena County line
M-68	East/west route through County
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
Millersburg Road	M-68 south to County Road 638
County Road 638	Millersburg Road east to County Road 451
Wildcat Highway	Millersburg Road west to Rainy Lake Road
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
North Allis*	Ocqueoc Road west to Cheboygan County line
*To be completed in 2007	
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.

Along with studies conducted by neighboring counties, the *Presque Isle County Transportation Coordination Study* resulted in the creation of the Straits Area Regional Ride bus system. The bus system covers a four-county service area (Cheboygan, Emmet, Otsego and Presque Isle) and provides regional access to medical appointments, employment, shopping or entertainment in Alpena, Cheboygan, Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Gaylord and other regional destinations. Presque Isle County also participates in the Regional Ride effort to coordinate bus services with Alpena and Alcona counties.

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 northbound bus passes through the County around 8:00 p.m., with St. Ignace as its final destination. The southbound bus passes through the County around 8:00 a.m. with Detroit as the final destination. 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. Commercial air service is provided by Mesaba Airlines operating as Northwest AirlinK and from Detroit Metro Airport three times daily. Flights into Alpena from Detroit continue on to Sault Ste. Marie, while flights into Pellston from Detroit continue on to Escanaba.

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. The Leo Goetz County Airport in Onaway includes a 2,600' paved and lighted runway and a 1,365' crosswind sod runway. The airport terminal was scheduled for replacement in 2003 or 2004, but plans for a new building have temporarily been put on hold, due to funding issues. Six private hangars are located on lease lots, adjacent to the terminal. The airport serves recreational traffic to nearby Black Lake and other forest recreation properties in the area and also provides air access for the Onaway Renaissance Zone and industrial park.

At Rogers City, the County Airport presently features an east/west 3,000' paved and lighted runway and terminal. Because the State of Michigan has classified this as a Tier I field, it is eligible for State and Federal grant dollars for improvement projects. Presque Isle County received a \$2.5 million, grant-funded five-year improvement project at the Rogers City field. The project included lengthening and widening the runway, installation of new lighting and navigation systems, an on-field automated weather station, new aprons and taxiways, County-owned lease hangars and a fueling system. The new runway was completed in 2003.

The County also plans to develop and adopt airport zoning, to preserve safe approaches to the new field. This airport provides access to the Rogers City Renaissance Zone and air industrial park, as well as serving recreational and general business traffic on the eastern side of the County.

Deep Water Ports

Port of Calcite in Rogers City (operated by Michigan Limestone Operations, a division of Oglebay/Norton), and Port of Stoneport in Presque Isle Township (operated by Lafarge Corporation) are major commercial port facilities for Great Lakes and international shipping. At the ports of Calcite and Stoneport, limestone is the primary commodity that is shipped to several Great Lakes ports. These ports are important to the limestone producing industry, providing ready transport for a resource that is located near Lake Huron. Boats using the ports also transport limited amounts of other commodities such as fuel oil for boat refueling. The opportunity for lake-transport of other commodities should be explored by enterprises needing

to move large quantities of heavy items. Recent discussions have centered on a proposal to raise power lines crossing M-68 to accommodate the transport of tall items from the western side of the County to the Port of Calcite.

### Rail Service

No active rail lines currently exist in Presque Isle County. Former D&M tracks have been sold or leased to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and have been converted to snowmobile trails. For the past several years, snowmobilers have been able to travel the former grade from Hawks in Presque Isle County to Mackinaw City. The former grade from Alpena to Hawks through Posen was opened for snowmobiling for the first time in the winter of 2002-2003. One of the goals listed in the 2005 *Presque Isle County Recreation Plan* is to “encourage the expansion and connection of snowmobile trails and motorized and non-motorized trails within the County. The snowmobile trail system in and through Presque Isle County is discussed in detail in the recreation plan.

### **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 2005. 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 Bearinger Township include Hammond Bay Refuge Harbor and the Black Mountain Recreation Area, both maintained by the State of Michigan. The County-owned Ocqueoc Outdoor Center located in Ocqueoc Township, just east of Bearinger Township and the Onaway State Park located on Black Lake, just north of the Township both offer additional recreational opportunities. These and other recreational facilities found throughout Presque Isle County are described below.

- Hammond Bay State Refuge Harbor—located in Bearinger Township; offers safe harbor during severe weather. Amenities include seasonal and transient boat slips, barrier-free restroom and showers, electricity, water, gasoline and pump-out facilities, boat launch, dog run, and grills.
- Black Mountain Recreation Area—provides abundant fishing and hunting opportunities, as well as 40 miles of hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding trails, 60 miles of ORV trails, and 80 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.
- Ocqueoc Outdoor Center—includes two bunkhouses equipped to accommodate 24 campers and 2 counselors each. Center also has shower and restroom facilities, a kitchen/dining area, a classroom building, a media center/first aid station, a beach, a fishing platform and picnic tables.
- Onaway State Park—features a 96-site full service campground, swimming beach, boat launch/dock, playground, picnic area with tables and grills, an enclosed pavilion and a three-mile nature trail for hiking or cross-country skiing.
- 40-Mile Point Lighthouse Park—includes light tower with Fourth Order Fresnel Lens, museum, Calcite Pilot House, light keeper’s house, bunkhouse/barn, fog signal building, pavilion, shipwreck remains, shoreline dunes, swimming beach, hiking trails and wooded natural area, International Shipmasters Association Memorial, the one-room Glawe School, and barrier-free restrooms.
- P.H. Hoeft State Park—encompasses 300 acres and includes a mile of Lake Huron shoreline, 144 full service campsites, playground, swimming beach/beach house, picnic

area with tables and grills, picnic shelter, 4 ½-mile hiking/cross-country ski trail and a large area that is open for hunting.

- Thompson’s Harbor State Park—This 5,000-acre natural area features 7 ½ miles of Lake Huron Shoreline and provides hunting, bird/wildlife viewing, fishing, biking, hiking and cross-country skiing opportunities.
- Shoepac Lake State Forest Campground—offers 28 rustic campsites, swimming, fishing, hiking, a hand-pump well, and barrier-free vault toilets. A portion of the High Country Trail transects the campground, and sinkholes are present onsite.
- Tomahawk Creek Flooding State Forest Campground—provides 36-site rustic campsites, barrier-free vault toilets and a hand-pump well. Recreational opportunities include canoeing, fishing, wildlife and sinkhole viewing, and hiking on a portion of the High Country Trail that cuts through the campground.
- Tomahawk Lake State Forest Campground—has 26 rustic campsites, a boat launch, swimming beach, barrier-free vault toilets, and a hand-pump well. Also provides opportunity for wildlife viewing, fishing, and hiking on a section of the High Country Trail that passes through the campground.
- Ocqueoc Falls State Forest Campground/Recreation Area—offers 15 rustic campsites, picnic area with tables and grills, vault toilets and a hand-pump well. Site of the Ocqueoc Falls, the largest waterfall in the Lower Peninsula, and the six-mile Ocqueoc Falls Bicentennial Pathway. Recreational opportunities include wildlife viewing, fishing, hiking cross-country skiing, and biking.
- Besser Natural Area—located on the site of the abandoned Village of Bell, a former lumbering community, the area encompasses 134 acres of forest and includes over 4,000 feet of Lake Huron shoreline. The site also includes the restored Bell Cemetery and a stand of virgin pine dedicated to the lumbermen who spared the trees. A one-mile trail leads to a small lagoon, and can be used for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and other non-motorized activities.
- Presque Isle Harbor—features boat slips for transient boaters, barrier-free restrooms and showers, electricity, water and pump-out facilities, boat launch, fishing pier, dog run, grills, and swimming beach. Gasoline and diesel fuel are also available.
- Herman Vogler Conservation Area—270 acres of varied terrain features seven miles of hiking/cross-country ski trails. Recreational opportunities include small game hunting, and deer hunting during bow-season only. Barrier-restrooms are located adjacent to the parking lot.
- Huron Sunrise Trail—four-mile paved trail connects Rogers City parks, Herman Vogler Conservation Area and Hoeft State Park.
- Seagull Point—43-acre park features natural dune formations, hiking path, swimming beach and picnic area.
- Lakeside Park—in Rogers City, park is located on ten acres adjacent to the marina and offers a swimming beach, picnic pavilion, two playgrounds, food concession, picnic areas, beach volleyball courts, basketball court, gazebo, permanent bandshell, and a sailors’ memorial.
- Rogers City Marina—features 72 seasonal slips, 74 transient slips, a barrier-free fishing platform, barrier-free restrooms/showers, electricity, water, and pump-out facilities, boat launch, long-term parking, fishing pier, dog run, picnic tables and grills, fish-cleaning station, and laundry facilities. Gasoline and diesel fuel is also available, and a park with playground is adjacent to the marina.
- Edna Lound Recreation Area—offers three ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, horseshoe pits, a community building and a concession stand. Located in Onaway.
- Maxon Field—this Onaway ball field features an ice rink in winter.
- Chandler Park—in Onaway, features a pavilion, picnic tables, grills, playground, and pathways.

- George W. Russell Memorial Park—located on the Ocqueoc River, offers swimming, a pavilion, picnic area and a basketball court.
- Presque Isle County Fairgrounds—located in Millersburg.
- Old Presque Isle Lighthouse—features lighthouse tower, bell, and a keeper’s cottage that houses a museum.
- New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park—features an automated light operated by the Coast Guard, the tower, the “new” (1905) keeper’s house, Garraty Hall, a picnic shelter and a playground. The original keeper’s house has been converted to a museum/gift shop.
- Range Light Park—a working light that guides boats into Presque Isle Harbor.
- Presque Isle District Library—branches in Rogers City, Onaway, Posen and Presque Isle Township.
- Presque Isle County Historical Museum—Located in historic Bradley House
- Onaway Historical Museum—located in historic Onaway Courthouse
- Rogers City Senior Citizens Center—offers meals and organized activities
- Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum
- Presque Isle County Council on Aging Centers—locations in Onaway and Posen, offers meals and organized activities.

## Appendix A - Bearinger Township Public Forum Summaries

September 28, 2006  
 Bearinger Township Hall

<b>Bearinger Township</b> <b>Assets to Protect</b>	
<b>Natural Resources</b> Wildness, trees, wildflowers Feeling of wilderness Unpolluted shoreline and waterways Sand beach Hammond Bay, eagles/wildlife Diversity of plants and animals/threatened and endangered species Clean Air Black Lake * Appreciates Nature wetlands/shoreline meadows Plant diversity along roads Wild berries Hunting & fishing Groundwater River & streams & creeks & lakes	<b>Community Services/Infrastructure</b> Continue underground utilities Good roads Black Mountain Rec. area Hammond Bay Refuge Harbor Emergency services PICCA & Straits Regional Transit
	<b>Planning/Zoning/Regulations</b> Fragile environment quality - need stewardship Responsible elected officials Zoning
<b>Community Character</b> Sunrise State treasure mix of public and private Strong Community Support Friendly Peace & Quite Everyone knows each other People who live here Concerned citizens Unpolluted sky/no lights	<b>Development</b> Not industrialized Low traffic volumes Farms (outside twp) Small population Lack of development Lack of blight (billboards & signs) Natural lawns High quality of life

<p><b>Bearinger Township</b>  <b>Issues to Address</b></p>	
<p><b>Natural Resources</b>                  Development on Black Mallard – concerns about water quality and quantity                  Lawns to roadside                  Fragile aquifers – need to protect                  Sanitary issues associated with high density development                  Soil erosion from ORV                  Sanitary technology for water quality</p>	<p><b>Community Services/Infrastructure</b>                  Gravel roads need to be maintained                  Limited public transportation                  Need to have underground utilities township wide                  Aging population – strain on services                  Lack of broad band internet                  Lack of natural gas                  Ditch maintenance impacts plants                  Training &amp; equipment must be supported                  Taxes too high                  Low revenue/tax base                  Keep emergency response in pace with development                  Law Enforcement/code enforcement</p>
<p><b>Planning/Zoning/Regulations</b>                  Occupancy permits are a protection from sub standard facilities                  Need to set guidelines to manage growth                  Grandfather issue – non conforming lots issues                  Enforcement of existing codes                  Unkempt/abandoned structures in residential blighted homes                  Update planning and zoning                  Lack of Enforcement of planning and zoning                  County’s highway commercial/industrial ordinance                  Noise from pleasure vehicles</p>	<p><b>Development</b>                  Lack of managed commercial development                  Lack of jobs                  Not willing to encourage development                  Too many houses for sale/not selling                  Existing Small Lots                  Camping &amp; travel trailers on lots/extended use</p>

<p><b>Bearinger Township Vision 2026</b></p>	
<p><b>Natural Resources</b>                  Still have state lands                  Still have eagles and other T &amp; E species                  Still large natural areas                  High quality water                  Abundant forests even within developed areas                  Planted ground cover</p>	<p><b>Community Services/Infrastructure</b>                  Civic Center/Education facility/welcome center                  Parks                  Improved – enlightened services for elderly – assisted care, senior residence                  New roads have adequate row to handle emergency vehicles                  Township owned parks, trails, nature areas around township                  Less state land/higher tax base                  Full time fire department/EMS                  Improved water quality monitoring                  Infrastructure in place for industrial development</p>
<p><b>Development</b>                  No fast food restaurants                  Larger lots/open space (2 acres)                  2-story single family                  Common areas in subdivisions                  Clean/Environmental friendly industry                  Minimal commercial on US-23                  Diversity of residential                  New subs and commercial &amp; industrial – have commons areas, curing roads, large trees, open space, common sanitary systems                  Elder hostels                  High tech industry                  No bottled water facilities                  Low tech agriculture organic/greenhouses                  More Tourism/RV parks                  Wind turbine/solar                  Improved economy will provide for growth                  Golf course                  Manufacturing/environmental friendly</p>	<p><b>Planning/Zoning/Regulations</b>                  Commercial/industrial in confined centralized location                  Blight enforcement                  Residential and commercial with open space                  Local Planning &amp; Zoning                  Permeable parking lots                  No substandard mobile homes                  Environmental assessments for industry (independent assessment)</p>
	<p><b>Community Character</b>                  Still ample areas for outdoor sports – hunting, snowmobiling, fishing                  US-23 can still see Lake Huron                  Grandchildren living and working here                  Low traffic volumes</p>

## **Appendix B - Bearinger Township Focus Group Summaries**

**September 30, 2006  
Bearinger Township Hall**

### **Black Lake Focus Group**

#### **Question 1: Why do you choose to live/own property in Bearinger Township?**

- Nature, low population, dark at night, quiet, clean air, clean water, lakes
- Family vacationed
- No chain stores just local business
- Affordability of property
- Public Lands
- Unspoiled landscape
- Outdoor recreation
- Used to visit the area and liked everything about it

#### **Question 2: The rich and abundant natural resource base has been identified a key element to the quality of life in Bearinger Township. What do you see as the role of the Township in protecting the valued resources in the community?**

- Force the State to maintain public lands and ownership
- Communication method to constituents
- Enforce ordinances
- No wind turbine generators
- Some wind turbine generators
- Keyhole ordinance
- Limit commercial development
- Light/noise/water regulations
- Land regulation to maintain north woods character
- Good plan with involvement with people
- Enforce regulations
- Protect against night sky light pollution
- Noise
- Regulate signage such as business signs and billboards

#### **Question 3: What type of development/redevelopment would you like to have happen in Bearinger Township over the next 20 years?**

- Cemetery
- Maintain Black Mountain Recreation Area
- Kid friendly parks in the community
- Keep public access
- Direct mobile homes to appropriate places – minimize the number in the community
- Need for commercial and industrial development today

- Managed commercial and industrial
- Meet all housing needs – including multi family residential

**Question 4: What is the one message I should take to the planning commission?**

- Maintain Sprit of Northwoods
- Protect water & forest resources
- Maintain area “as is” the best you can
- Buy open space where appropriate
- Be reasonable with P & Z – use common sense

## Huron Beach Focus Group

### Question 1: Why do you choose to live/own property in Bearinger Township?

- On the Lake (multi comments)
- Beauty of area
- Natural Resources – trees
- Sandy Beach
- Hammond Bay
- Clean Natural Environment
- Pristine quality of Hammond Bay
- Diversity of Wildlife
- Restful/able to enjoy life
- Family loves the place
- East shore can watch the sunrise
- Diversity of Vegetation
- Safe places to walk
- Woods/water/wildlife
- Opportunity be part of a growing community
- Friendly and kind people
- Can watch the moon rise
- No night lights
- Skyscape
- Abundance of T & E – State & Fed.
- Rural quality
- No Condos
- Wetland (coastal)

### Question 2: The rich and abundant natural resource base has been identified a key element to the quality of life in Bearinger Township. What do you see as the role of the Township in protecting the valued resources in the community?

- Managing/planning for locations of residential and commercial development
- Plan for safety – police, fire and EMS
- Protect environmental integrity while allowing for dev. – have environmental regulations
- Staff available to help residents
- Make sure Fed/State/Local regulations are enforced
- Master Plan – make sure the intent of Master Plan is being followed
- Transparency – all township actions are out in the open
- Proper management and enforcement of development
- Mission & vision that incorporate the will of the community
- No partiality
- Shared approach to resource base
- Protection of roadsides
- Planning and zoning should be practical and workable – sustainable development
- Township Board – keep the master plan updated
- Understand interest of all landowners
- No spot zoning

- Consistent rules & regulations
- Public lands
- Encourage investigation of sensitive areas

**Question 3: What type of development/redevelopment would you like to have happen in Bearinger Township over the next 20 years?**

- More residential development
- Bike Paths
- Nature Trails
- Make places for all land uses
- Structural predetermined place for business
- Architectural standards
- Perilous surfaces
- Low Density residential
- Allow for development but maintain the current community character
- Cooperation with adjacent communities
- US-23 Nature area – roadsides
- Managed residential, commercial & industrial growth
- Health & Human Services
- Fiber Optic/cell phone coverage

**Question 3: What is the one message I should take to the planning commission?**

- Well defined list of community priorities
- Should protect health and safety
- No spot zoning
- Enforcement of zoning
- Preserve what God gave us – respect and enjoy the area
- Need to designate places for stores & restaurants
- Be accessible to the public
- Environmentally responsible development
- Make provisions for enforcement of regulations
- Practicability, fairness, open mindedness
- Maintain wild treasures, protect health of Lake Huron
- Require public involvement
- Execute mission of Master Plan with eye on future of Bearinger Twp.
- Preserve our laid back lifestyle

## **Forest Interior Focus Group**

### **Question 1: Why do you choose to live/own property in Bearinger Township?**

- Family close by – found right piece of land
- Low population for people
- Privacy
- Price of land
- Spouse
- Strong past experiences in the area
- Parents bought property
- Undeveloped, large tracts, getaway
- Easy to establish/move business

### **Question 2: The rich and abundant natural resource base has been identified a key element to the quality of life in Bearinger Township. What do you see as the role of the Township in protecting the valued resources in the community?**

- Reasonable zoning – directing development density
- Better to P & Z at local level – close by
- Help establish private road maintenance agreements
- Maintain access for emergency vehicles
- Large lot zoning in the forest interior areas

### **Question 3: What type of development/redevelopment would you like to have happen in Bearinger Township over the next 20 years?**

- More residential
- Commercial/industrial?? Lack of year round population
- Identify areas for future commercial & industrial
- Township park with trails
- Access to water for non-waterfront residents of the community

### **Question 4: What is the one message I should take to the planning commission?**

- Reasonable zoning
- Reasonable enforcement
- Private road maintenance agreements
- Enforcement of zoning
- Protect against junk & junk trailers
- Remember why people bought here

## **Resource Friendly Community**

**There were discussions about being resource friendly community. All focus groups were asked if the following items should be addressed in their master plan. All three groups concurred the items should considered in their plan.**

- Greenbelts
- Keyhole development
- Shoreline protection
- Non point source pollution
- Soil erosion & sedimentation control
- Wildlife habitat
- Wetlands
- Forest Resources
- Water Resources
- Roadsides

# **Bearinger Township**

## **Public Forum**

### ***"Our Road Map to the Future"***

**Meeting Location and Time:  
Bearinger Township Hall  
17034 Town Hall Highway, Ocqueoc, MI  
September 28, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.**

Bearinger Township is in the process of developing its first community master plan. The Bearinger Township Planning Commission and Township Board is seeking input from residents, businesses and community leaders to help guide development of the master plan. Come to a meeting and share your thoughts: what makes your community a great place to live, what are some problems that should be addressed, and what you like the community to be 20 years from today.

**For additional information contact:**

Richard Mowers, Bearinger Township: 989-734-4935  
Tom Harkleroad, Planning Commission 989-938-6210  
Richard Deuell, NEMCOG: 989-732-3551 ext. 14

# **Bearinger Township Master Plan**

## ***"Black Lake Focus Group Session"***

**You are invited to attend a special public input session related to the development of Bearinger Township's first Master Plan**

*The Bearinger Township Planning Commission would like to extend this personal invitation to attend and participate in a community planning focus group session. Your commitment will entail attending this one session and being an active participant by sharing your ideas with the planning commission's representative.*

As you may be aware, the Bearinger Township Planning Commission is developing the Township's first Master Plan. To date background studies have been completed that profile the community (Where are we now?) and analyze the trends (Where are we going?) The next critical step is to create a vision of where the community wants to be in the future. To accomplish this important step, the Planning Commission, with the assistance of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, is holding a series of meetings to gather input from the community. Information from these public input sessions will be used to develop goals and objectives and the future land use components of the Master Plan.

As a follow-up to a large community-wide public forum, to be held the middle of September, a series of three small **focus sessions** will be held in the community. Focus group sessions will target the following sectors within the community: Huron Beach residents, Black Lake residents, and Forest Interior landowners. The sessions will be by invitation only. The goal is to have between six to twelve people in each session. Each group will be asked 3 to 4 questions in turn, with everyone present given a chance to answer each one. A short summary of each person's answer will be written on a flip chart. The answers to a key question will be prioritized by each group.

Please consider accepting this invitation and attending the session. ***If you are interested, you must complete the form on the next page and return it by September 18, 2006.*** You can also RSVP by calling Rick Deuell, NEMCOG, 989-732-3551 ext. 14. Note: Depending upon the responses for the three focus group sessions, we may have to shift times or combine groups; therefore an accurate account of those attending is important. So, if you intend on attending the meeting, please RSVP.

To view Bearinger Township's Master Plan, log onto to NEMCOG's web page at [www.nemcog.org/](http://www.nemcog.org/) For further information on the master plan and the community input sessions, please contact: Rick Deuell, NEMCOG, 989-732-3551 ext. 14.

# ***“Our Road Map to the Future”***

## **Focus Group Session for Black Lake Area**

**Date: Saturday, September 30, 2006**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**Location: Bearinger Township Hall, 17034 Town Hall Highway, Ocqueoc**

**Please complete and return the RSVP by September 18, 2006.**

**Please either fax, send or email this information:**

Richard Deuell, AICP  
Community and Natural Resource Programs  
NEMCOG  
P. O. Box 457  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Phone Number: (989) 732-3551 Ext. 14

FAX Number: (989) 732-5578

Email address: [rldeuell@nemcog.org](mailto:rldeuell@nemcog.org)

**\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in participating in the Black Lake Focus Group Session.**

**\_\_\_ I am NOT interested in participating in the Focus Group Session. However, I would suggest you invite \_\_\_\_\_ to the focus group.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Bearinger Township Master Plan**

## ***"Huron Beach Focus Group Session"***

**You are invited to attend a special public input session related to the development of Bearinger Township's first Master Plan**

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As you may be aware, the Bearinger Township Planning Commission is developing the Township's first Master Plan. To date background studies have been completed that profile the community (Where are we now?) and analyze the trends (Where are we going?) The next critical step is to create a vision of where the community wants to be in the future. To accomplish this important step, the Planning Commission, with the assistance of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, is holding a series of meetings to gather input from the community. Information from these public input sessions will be used to develop goals and objectives and the future land use components of the Master Plan.

As a follow-up to a large community-wide public forum, to be held the middle of September, a series of three small **focus sessions** will be held in the community. Focus group sessions will target the following sectors within the community: Huron Beach residents, Black Lake residents, and Forest Interior landowners. The sessions will be by invitation only. The goal is to have between six to twelve people in each session. Each group will be asked 3 to 4 questions in turn, with everyone present given a chance to answer each one. A short summary of each person's answer will be written on a flip chart. The answers to a key question will be prioritized by each group.

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# ***“Our Road Map to the Future”***

## **Focus Group Session for Huron Beach Area**

**Date: Saturday, September 30, 2006**

**Time: 1:00 p.m.**

**Location: Bearinger Township Hall, 17034 Town Hall Highway, Ocqueoc**

**Please complete and return the RSVP by September 18, 2006.**

**Please either fax, send or email this information:**

Richard Deuell, AICP  
Community and Natural Resource Programs  
NEMCOG  
P. O. Box 457  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Phone Number: (989) 732-3551 Ext. 14

FAX Number: (989) 732-5578

Email address: [rldeuell@nemcog.org](mailto:rldeuell@nemcog.org)

**\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in participating in the Huron Beach Focus Group Session.**

**\_\_\_ I am NOT interested in participating in the Focus Group Session. However, I would suggest you invite \_\_\_\_\_ to the focus group.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Bearinger Township Master Plan**

## ***"The Forest Interior Focus Group Session"***

**You are invited to attend a special public input session related to the development of Bearinger Township's first Master Plan**

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# ***“Our Road Map to the Future”***

## **Focus Group Session for Forest Interior Landowners**

**Date: Saturday, September 30, 2006**

**Time: 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: Bearinger Township Hall, 17034 Town Hall Highway, Ocqueoc**

**Please complete and return the RSVP by September 18, 2006.**

**Please either fax, send or email this information:**

Richard Deuell, AICP  
Community and Natural Resource Programs  
NEMCOG  
P. O. Box 457  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Phone Number: (989) 732-3551 Ext. 14

FAX Number: (989) 732-5578

Email address: [rldeuell@nemcog.org](mailto:rldeuell@nemcog.org)

**\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in participating in the Forest Interior Focus Group Session.**

**\_\_\_ I am NOT interested in participating in the Focus Group Session. However, I would suggest you invite \_\_\_\_\_ to the focus group.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_