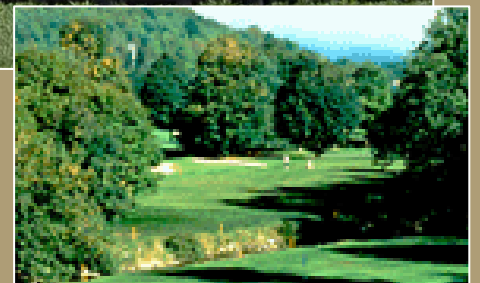
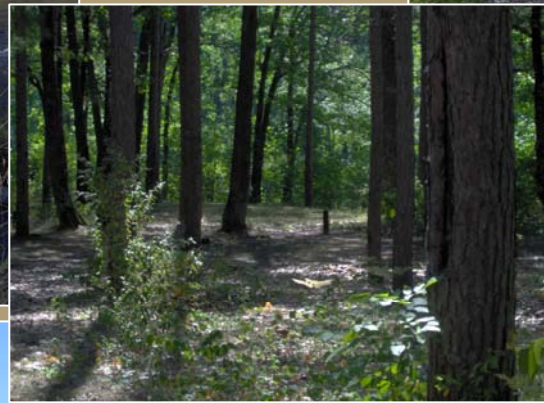


# WILSON TOWNSHIP

Alpena County, Michigan

# RECREATION PLAN

2008 - 2012



Prepared with the assistance of:  
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments



Wilson Township Board:

William Domke

Pamela Walker

Penny Szatkowski

Arnold Domke

Richard King

PLAN ADOPTED APRIL 9, 2008

# **Wilson Township Recreation Plan**

Wilson Township  
Alpena County, Michigan

**Adopted: April 9, 2008**

*Prepared for:*

## **Wilson Township Board of Trustees**

Members:

William Domke, Supervisor  
Pamela Walker, Clerk  
Penny Szatkowski, Treasurer  
Arnold Domke, Trustee  
Richard King, Trustee

## **Wilson Township Planning Commission**

Members:

Gill Vanwagoner, Chairperson  
Allan Trelfa, Vice-Chairman  
Jim Westenbarger, Secretary  
Lynn Wallace  
Wayne Elowsky  
Richard King

*Prepared by:*

## **Northeast Michigan Council of Governments**

121 East Mitchell Street  
P. O. Box 457  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735  
www.nemcog.org  
989-732-3551

Planning Staff from NEMCOG:  
Denise Cline - GIS Specialist/Community Planner

**WILSON TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION PLAN**

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

**Attachment B:** Notice of Availability of the Recreation Plan for Public Review

**Attachment C:** Notice of Public Hearing (Affidavit of Publication)

**Attachment D:** Minutes of Planning Commission Meeting (recommending adoption)

**Attachment E:** Minutes of Public Hearing for Plan Adoption & Township Board Meeting

**Attachment F:** Resolution of Adoption (Township Board)

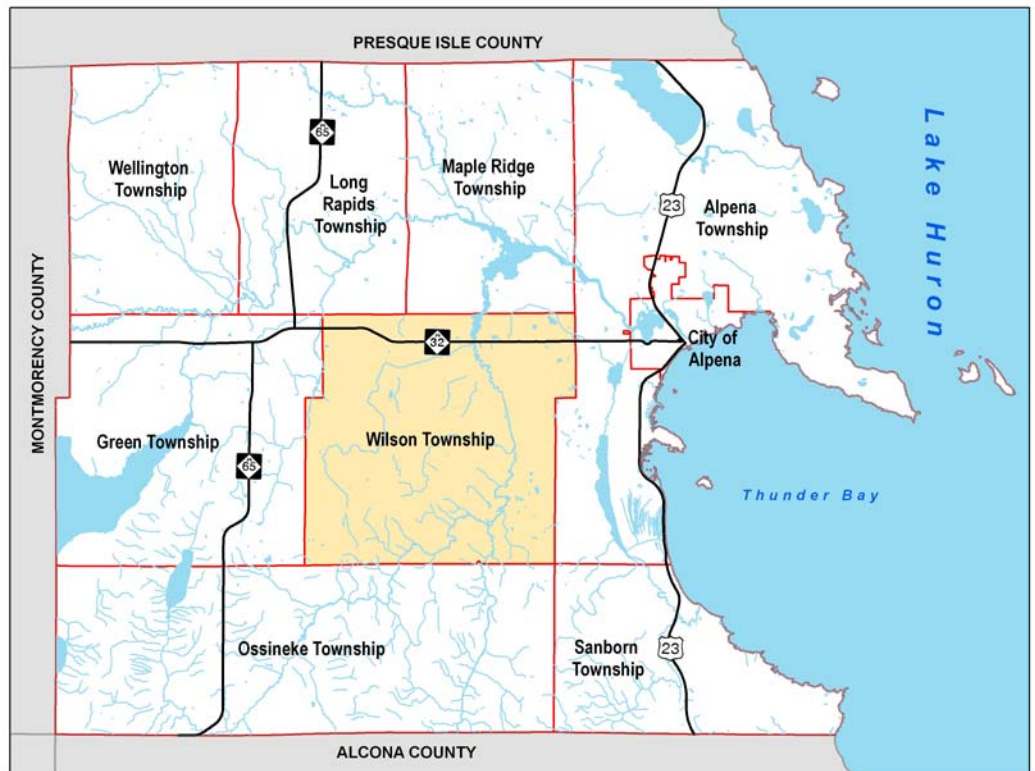
**Attachment G:** Submittal Letters

# CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

## Regional Location

This Recreation Plan is being prepared for Wilson Township and includes all aspects of recreation within the Township boundary. Wilson Township comprises an area of 80 square miles and is situated in Alpena County. The Township lies within T30N R6E, T30N R7E, T31N R6E, and T31N R7E. Wilson Township is centrally located in Alpena County and is bordering by six other townships. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of 2,074 is a 9.0% increase from the 1990 population of 1,902. M-32, the only major highway that traverses the Township, is located in the northern portion of Wilson Township.

MAP 1-2: ALPENA COUNTY BASE MAP



MAP 1-1: ALPENA COUNTY LOCATION



## Social Characteristics

### Population

The 2000 U.S. Census lists Wilson Township’s population at 2,074. This represents an increase of 9.0% from 1990. Wilson Township’s population has fluctuated with a 9.3% population decrease occurring from 1980-1990. Table 1-1 illustrates population trends for all municipalities in Alpena County for census years 1980, 1990, and 2000.

<b>Table 1-1 Population For Alpena County &amp; Municipalities, 1980-2000</b>					
Municipality	1980 Pop.	1990 Pop.	% Change '80-'90	2000 Pop.	% Change '90-'00
Alpena Co.	32,315	30,605	-5.3%	31,314	2.3%
City of Alpena	12,214	11,354	-7.0%	11,304	-0.4%
Alpena Twp.	10,152	9,602	-5.4%	9,788	1.9%
Green Twp.	1,083	1,095	1.1%	1,205	10.0%
Long Rapids Twp.	1,006	1,021	1.5%	1,019	-0.2%
Maple Ridge Twp.	1,572	1,514	-3.7%	1,715	13.3%
Ossineke Twp.	1,607	1,654	2.8%	1,761	6.5%
Sanborn Twp.	2,297	2,196	-4.4%	2,152	-2.0%
Wellington Twp.	286	269	-5.9%	296	10.0%
<b>Wilson Twp.</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>-9.3%</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000

### Households & Income

According to the 2000 Census, of the 768 households in Wilson Township, 602, or 78%, were reported as being family households, and 166, or 22%, as being non-family households. 270 households were families with children under the age of 18. 138 householders lived alone, and of that number, 63 were over the age of 65 years. The average number of persons per household was 2.69.

Median household income in Wilson Township was reported in the 2000 Census as \$37,198. This is higher than the median household income for Alpena County (\$34,177), but still lower than the State median household income at \$44,667.

### Housing Occupancy

Of the 933 housing units reported in Wilson Township by the 2000 Census, 768 (82%) were occupied and 165 (18%) were vacant. Of the occupied units, 700 (91%) were owner-occupied and 68 (9%) were rentals. Of the 165 vacant units, 91 were classified as “seasonal, recreational, or occasional use”.



Table 1-2 Alpena County: Housing Characteristics - 2000								
MUNICIPALITY	Total Housing Units	Total Occupied Housing Units	% Owner Occupied	% Renter Occupied	Total Vacant Housing Units	% Seasonal*	Vacant % Owner	Vacant % Renter
City of Alpena	5200	4874	67.4	32.6	326	0.8	1.8	5.8
Alpena Twp	4757	4037	83.2	16.8	720	10.3	1.4	7.4
Green Twp	789	471	92.4	7.6	318	37.6	2.0	10.0
Long Rapids Twp	560	404	92.8	7.2	156	22.1	1.6	3.3
Maple Ridge Twp	814	640	91.4	8.6	174	15.4	1.8	3.5
Ossineke Twp	1043	675	90.2	9.8	368	29.4	1.6	8.3
Sanborn Twp	979	838	93.3	16.7	141	9.2	1.0	11.4
Wellington Twp	214	111	88.3	11.7	103	43.5	3.0	0.0
<b>Wilson Twp</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Alpena Co.	15289	12818	79.1	20.9	2471	10.2	1.6	6.5
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census * Figure shows the seasonal housing units as a percentage of the unit's total housing units.								

**Housing Characteristics**

The majority of housing units in Wilson Township (70%) were constructed prior to 1980, with 17% having been constructed in 1939 or earlier. The median home value for housing units in Wilson Township was listed as \$76,400 in 2000.

**Age**

The median age of the population of Wilson Township is 39.1 years, as reported in the 2000 U.S. Census; 26% of the total population was under eighteen years of age, while 14% was 65 years and over. The most populous age group in the Township is 25-44 years. **Table 1-3** below illustrates the percentage of age distribution by population for all municipalities in Alpena County.

**Table 1-3  
Age Distribution By Municipality For Alpena County - 2000**

Municipality	< 5 Yrs.	%*	5-17 Yrs.	%*	18-24 Yrs.	%*	25-44 Yrs.	%*	45-64 Yrs.	%*	65 Yrs. & >	%*
City of Alpena	644	5.7	1,954	17.3	945	8.4	2,998	26.5	2,549	21.7	2,214	19.6
Alpena Twp	515	5.3	1,697	17.3	679	6.9	2,544	26.0	2,720	27.8	1,633	16.7
Green Twp	49	4.1	234	19.4	82	6.8	307	25.4	329	27.3	204	17.0
Long Rapids Twp	47	4.6	203	19.9	79	7.8	279	27.4	258	25.3	163	16.0
Maple Ridge Twp	91	5.3	388	22.6	101	5.9	503	29.3	410	24.0	222	12.9
Ossineke Twp	108	6.1	337	19.1	126	7.2	449	25.5	476	27.0	265	15.1
Sanborn Twp	123	5.7	411	19.1	153	7.1	577	26.8	566	26.3	322	15.0
Wellington Twp	14	4.7	59	20.0	20	6.8	77	26.0	77	26.0	49	16.6
<b>Wilson Twp</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>13.7</b>
Alpena Co.	1,716	5.5	5,702	18.0	2,436	7.8	8,309	26.5	7,784	25.0	5,357	17.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

\*Figure shows the percentage each age grouping represents of the local unit's total population.

### **School Enrollment and Educational Attainment**

In 2000, 572 persons in Wilson Township over the age of three years were enrolled in school, 478 in pre-school, elementary or high school, and 94 in college.

Of the 1,338 persons 25 years and older, 505 were high school graduates, while 134 had attended school into the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade with no diploma and 137 had completed less than the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. 315 had received some college with no degree, 125 had Associate's degrees, 88 had earned a Bachelor's degree, and 34 had earned a graduate or professional degree.

### **Disability Status**

Data shown on **Table 1-4**, gives an indication of the number of disabled people residing in Alpena County. A person was classified as having a disability if they had a sensory disability, physical disability, mental disability, self-care disability, going outside the home disability or an employment disability. The Census showed that in 2000 there were 6,632 (21%) disabled persons in Alpena County. The largest number of disabled persons in the county were between the ages of 20 - 64 (3,511). The 65 and over age group had the highest percentage of persons with disability with almost one out of every two having some type of disability (45.5%). Wilson Township alone has 379 disabled residents. With the high number of disable residents within Wilson Township and those living in the surrounding areas, certain recreational facilities

developed within the Township should have handicap accessible features.

<b>Table 1-4</b> <b>Alpena County</b> <b>Disability Status* - 2000</b>						
LOCAL UNIT	Disabled persons 5-20	% Disabled 5-20	Disabled persons 21-64	% Disabled 21-64	Disabled persons 65+	% Disabled 65+
City of Alpena	334	13.2%	1,169	20.2%	892	42.8%
Alpena Twp.	229	11.2%	1,087	19.6%	833	47.0%
Green Twp.	12	4.5%	167	24.9%	80	38.6%
Long Rapids Twp.	13	5.6%	146	24.0%	53	34.2%
Maple Ridge Twp.	44	9.8%	189	19.2%	97	42.5%
Ossineke Twp.	47	12.3%	226	23.7%	118	45.7%
Sanborn Twp.	42	8.4%	265	21%	117	37.3%
Wellington Twp.	17	23.9%	50	34.5%	26	55.3%
<b>Wilson Twp.</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>45.5%</b>
Alpena Co.	773	11.1%	3,511	20.6%	2,348	43.8%
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census *Disability of civilian non-institutionalized persons.						

## Physical Characteristics

### Land Use/Cover Patterns<sup>1</sup>

Existing land use statistics for Wilson Township are shown below as **Table 1-5**. Michigan Resource Information System (MIRIS) land use data compiled by Michigan Department of Natural Resources using 1978 photographs were update using current (1998) aerial photography and May 1999 field inspection. Each of the land use categories shown below is discussed in detail. For reference, a Wilson Township Existing Land Use Map is provided (**Map 1-3**).

<b>Table 1-5 Existing Land Use Statistics Wilson Township – 1999</b>		
<b>Land Use Category</b>	<b>Number of Acres</b>	<b>Percent of Township Area</b>
Residential	1,636.1	3.18
Commercial	51.5	0.10
Industrial	413.8	0.81
Extractive	835.3	1.63
Institutional	42.7	0.08
<b>Recreational</b>	<b>300.8</b>	<b>0.59</b>
Agricultural	16,489.9	32.27
Non-Forested/Openland	3,954.7	7.73
Upland Forest	6,781.3	13.26
Lowland Forests/Wetlands	20,323.3	39.75
Lakes/Rivers	298.7	0.58
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51,128.1</b>	<b>99.98</b>

Source: Michigan Resource Information System, Michigan Department of Natural Resources;  
Updated by Wade-Trim, Inc. 1999.

### **Residential Development**

As can be seen in **Table 1-5**, only 1,636 acres, or just over three percent of the total land area is used for residential purposes. These figures include farmstead residential, as well as rural residential development and subdivisions. The heaviest concentrations of residential development occur on M-32 and Emerson Road (Herron community) on the west side of the Township; M-32 just west of the airport; M-32 on the east side of the Township; Indian Reserve Road and Werth Road in the southeast corner of the Township; and the north end of King Settlement Road. The remaining is rural residential and farmsteads dispersed throughout the Township.

<sup>1</sup> Land Use text quoted from the Wilson Township Comprehensive Plan Amendment, 1999.

## **Commercial Development**

Wilson Township has limited commercial development, occurring primarily on M-32. Other scattered commercial businesses are noted on the existing land use map on the northeast corner of Werth and Herron Roads, the Werth and Spruce Roads intersection, and at the Dege and Wolf Creek Roads intersection.

## **Industrial Development**

Just over 400 acres (less than one percent) of the Township's total land area is developed for industrial uses. In addition to manufacturing type uses, this category also includes the landfill, transportation (airport) and utilities (major power line and substations.)

## **Extractive Land Use**

When analyzing a community's existing land use, extractive uses are generally categorized with industrial uses. Because extractive uses are so prevalent in Wilson Township, this category is shown separately on the existing land use. Extractive uses (gravel pits, sand pits and shale quarry) cover 835 acres, or 1.6 percent, of the Township's land area. A large shale pit, located on the south side of M-32 in the north-central portion of the Township, is no longer operational. Several large gravel pits are located in the northwest portion of the Township. By comparing the original 1978 MIRIS information with the 1998 aerial photographs, it is evident that these gravel pits have expanded extensively over the past 20 years.

## **Institutional Development**

Land devoted specifically for institutional uses amounts to less than 43 acres, and includes: Wilson Township Hall and Fire Department, churches, cemeteries and school.

## **Recreational Development<sup>2</sup>**

Recreational uses in Wilson Township cover 300 acres or 0.6 percent of the land area. These uses are shown on the existing land use map and include such facilities as the Alpena County Club, Alpena Sportsmen's Club, Alpena Cycle Club, Optimist Acres, PK Fletcher Gun Club, and the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground. Additionally, land categorized as forested or wetlands may also be used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, hiking or rustic camping.

## **Agricultural Land Use**

Land used for agricultural purposes makes up Wilson Township's second largest land use category. Roughly 16,500 acres, or approximately 32 percent of the Township's total land area, is devoted to agriculture. Agricultural properties are located primarily in the western two-thirds, and in the southeast corner, of the Township.

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<sup>2</sup> Complete recreational information is found in Chapter 3: Recreation Inventory.

## **Non-Forested and Openland**

Non-forested land is defined as areas supporting early stage of plant succession consisting of plant communities characterized by grasses and shrubs. Such areas often occur on abandoned agricultural land or recently timbered areas. Typical grass species are quackgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, upland and lowland sedges, reed canary grass and clovers. Typical shrub species include blackberry and raspberry briars, dogwood, willow, sumac and tag alder. Non-forested and openland makes up less than eight percent of the Township's land area and is scattered throughout the Township, as can be noted on the existing land use map.

## **Forests and Wetlands**

The existing land use map shows these categories as "upland forests" and "lowland forests and wetlands." As noted on **Table 1-5**, just over 13 percent of the Township's land area is made up of upland forests. The dominant forest associations in Wilson Township are northern hardwoods (sugar maple, American beech and basswood,) oak, aspen and pine in the upland areas. In addition to scenic characteristics, woodlands provide habitat for wildlife, protect the soil from erosion and act as a buffer from noise on heavily traveled highways. Areas covered with upland forests are found along Indian Reserve Road and on the west side of the Township as noted on the existing land use map.

State-owned land (Mackinaw State Forest) covers more than 8,000 acres of land in Wilson Township. These areas are covered with both "upland forests" and "lowland forests and wetlands."

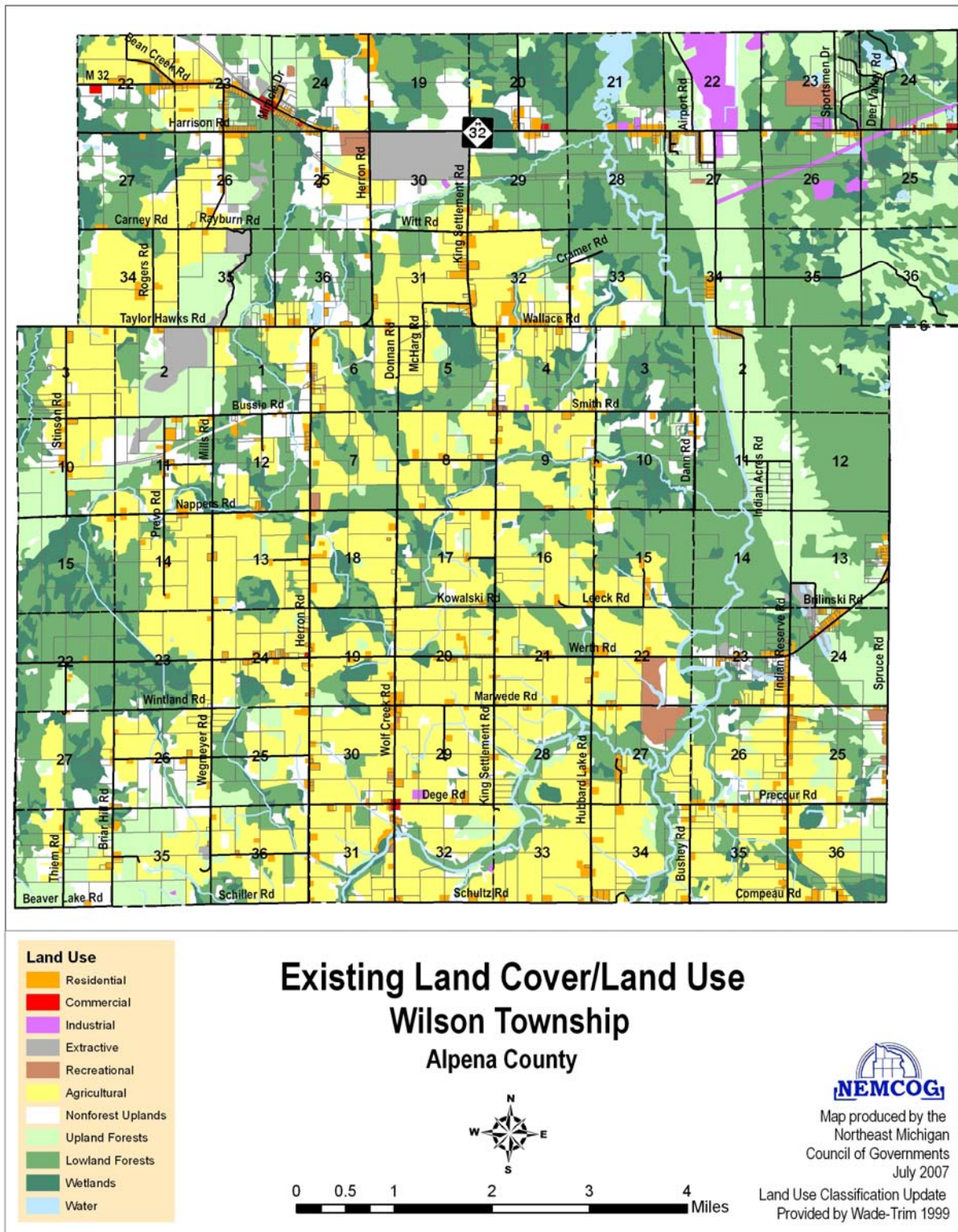
Lowland forests and wetlands are the single largest land cover category in Wilson Township, amounting to more than 20,000 acres, or nearly 40 percent of the total land area. These areas are mapped on the existing land use map. It is important to note that existing land use statistics used in this report are based on MIRIS data. Forested and wetland information contained in the MIRIS data was not verified by field inspection when the data was compiled. Thus, areas shown as wetlands on the MIRIS system may not actually meet State and Federal criteria for legally regulated wetlands. However, the information is still valuable for general land use planning decisions.

A wetland is land where water is found, either on the surface or near the surface, at any time during the year. Poorly drained soils and water-loving vegetation may also be present. Wetlands are often referred to as marshes, swamps or bogs.

Residents of Michigan are becoming increasingly more aware of the value of wetlands. Beyond their aesthetic value, wetlands protect water quality of lakes and streams by filtering polluting nutrients, organic chemicals and toxic heavy metals. Wetlands are closely related to high groundwater tables and serve to discharge and recharge aquifers. Additionally, wetlands support wildlife, and wetland vegetation protects shorelines from erosion.

Wetland forest species include lowland hardwoods such as black ash, slippery elm and red maple and lowland conifers such as northern white cedar, black spruce and eastern tamarack.

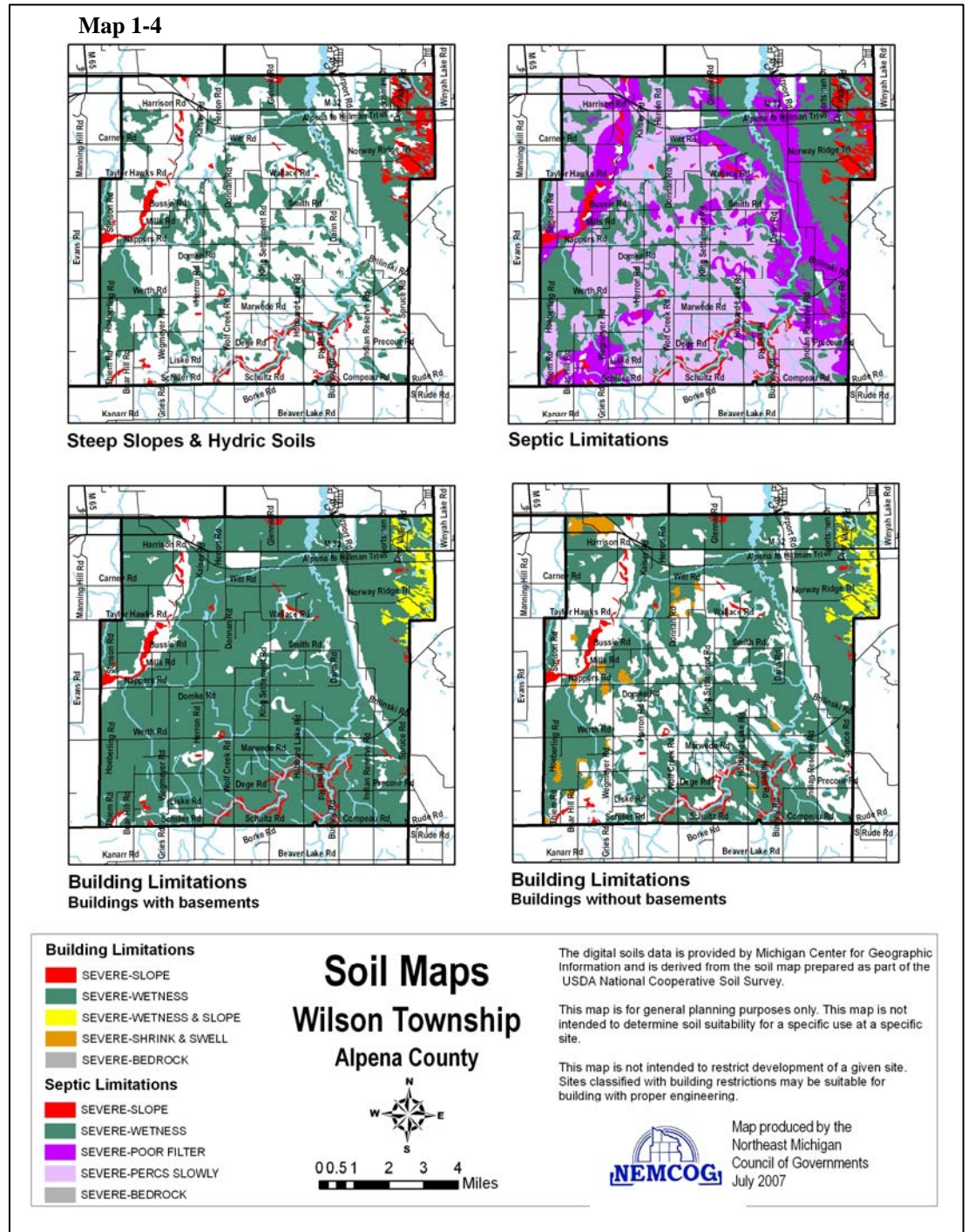
Map 1-3



## Soils

The most noticeable feature of the soils in Alpena County is their sandy texture, along with some soil types that are considered stony and limestone in texture. Soils types found in Alpena County are generally classified as sands, loamy sands, sandy loams, loams, fine sandy loams and muck or organic soils.

**Map 1-4** shows the building and septic limitations that exist for soils in Wilson Township. A significant portion of the Township contains soils that are considered hydric, however, if proper engineering and building techniques are utilized, much of the land would be considered suitable for building.





## **Water Resources and Fish and Wildlife**

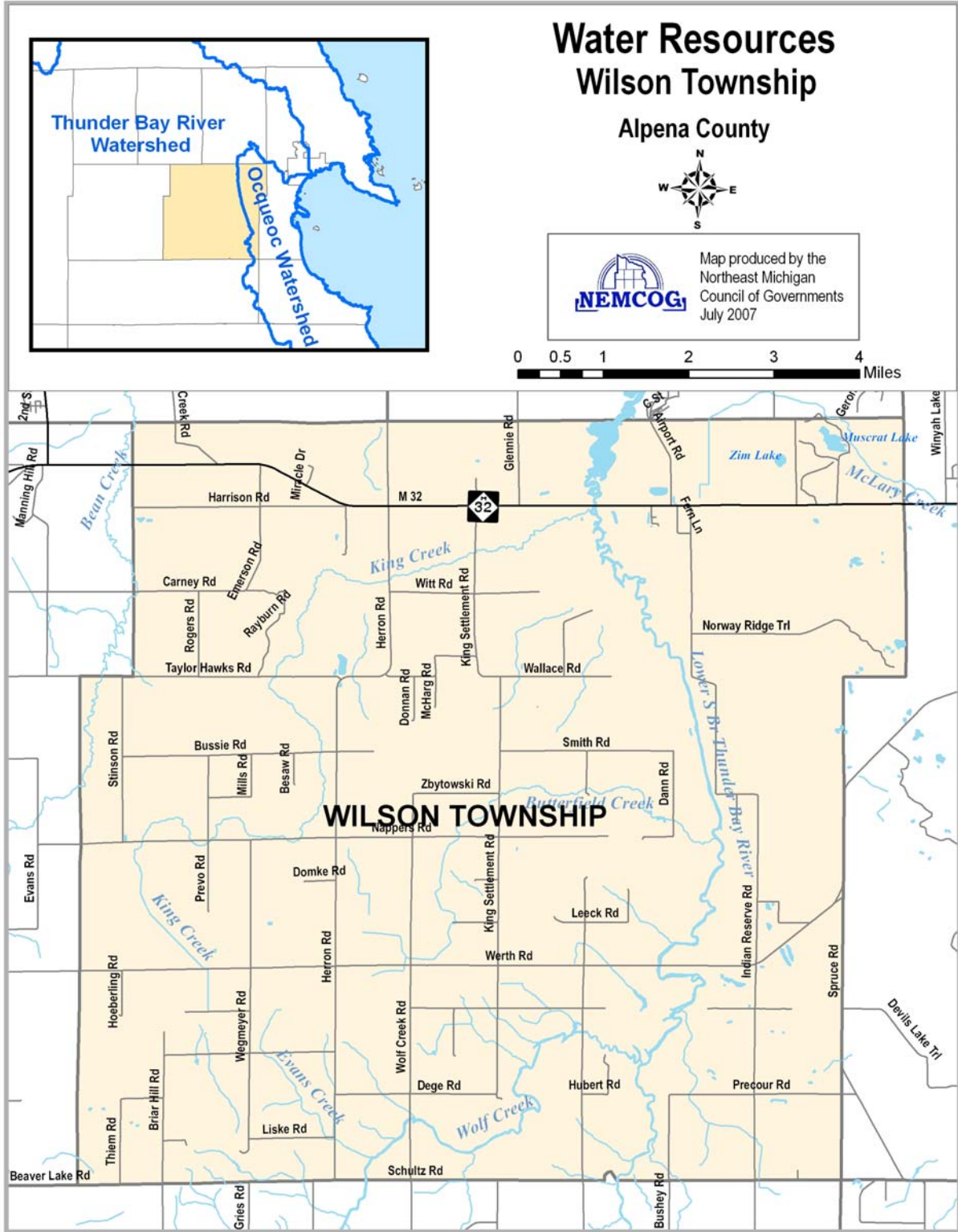
The majority of Wilson Township exists within the Thunder Bay River Watershed. Surface water in the Township exists in creeks such as King Creek, Wolf Creek, and Butterfield Creek which flow into the Lower South Branch of the Thunder Bay River. The extreme western edge of the Township is drained by Bean Creek which flows directly into the Thunder bay River. The eastern portion of the Township is located within the Ocqueoc Watershed, which drains toward Lake Huron. Only two small lakes exist in Wilson Township. Zim Lake, found in section 23 (T31N R7E), is a natural, warm water lake. Zim lake is 7.5 acres in size and is approximately 36 feet in depth. Muskrat Lake, found in section 24 (T31N R7E), is also a natural, warm water lake and is approximately 23 acres in size. Both lakes contain primarily pan fish. **Map 1-5** depicts water resources in Wilson Township.

The existing forested areas of the Township are suited to both small and large game. Small game includes cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, squirrel, raccoon, beaver, fox, woodchuck, and other small species. White-tail deer are found abundantly in the Township, and black bear are found in the more isolated areas. The western portion of the Township is particularly well-suited for both bobcat and wild turkey. The north central portion is best suited exclusively to the bobcat while the southeastern portion is better suited to the turkey.

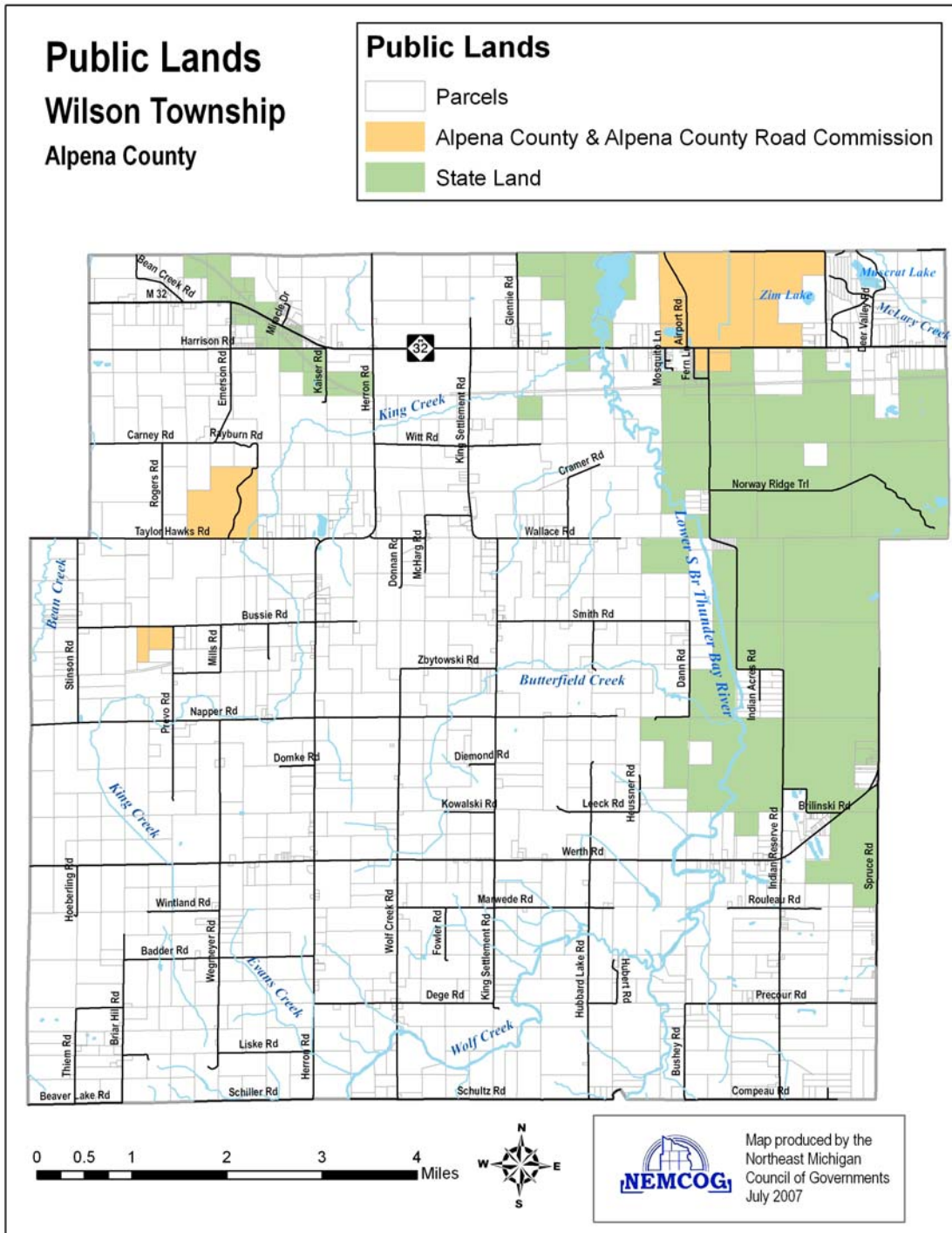
## **Public Lands**

State lands account for 8,490 acres as part of the Mackinaw State Forest in the western portion of Wilson Township (**Map 1-6**). Land under the ownership of Alpena County total 1,049 acres and incorporate the Alpena County Airport. Wilson Township owns parcels including site of the Township Hall, fire station, cemetery, and property on Wolf Creek.

Map 1-5



Map 1-6



## **Climate**<sup>3</sup>

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

Summer months are usually mild with considerable sunshine. The average annual total precipitation for the county is 28.8 inches. Most of the summer precipitation consists of rain and thunderstorms which normally occur during the months of June, July and August. Thunderstorms will occur on an average of 24 days each year. Michigan is located on the northeast fringe of the Midwest tornado belt. The lower frequency of tornadoes occurring in Michigan may be, in part, the result of the colder water of Lake Michigan during the spring and early summer months, a prime period of tornado activity. During 1950-87, Michigan has averaged 15 tornadoes each year. During this same period, 4 tornadoes occurred within the county. Hailstorms average less than one per summer. The average length of the summer growing season is 156 days. The average date of the fall frost is October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Winter months are generally cloudy with little sunshine and frequent snow flurries. Nearly all of the precipitation in winter is in the form of sleet and snow, usually accumulating in sufficient amount to form a ground cover for summer grasses and winter grains. The 1961 through 1990 average seasonal snowfall was 87.4 inches. The following snowfall extremes, based on the time period of this station's published record, are: greatest observation-day total, 16.3 inches, recorded January 26, 1978; greatest monthly total, 49.4 inches, recorded March 1926; greatest seasonal total, 166.3 inches, recorded during 1970-71; least seasonal total, 26.9 inches, recorded during 1936-37; and greatest snow depth, 35 inches, recorded February 18, 1936.

## **Utilities**

Electrical power is provided by Alpena Power Company and Presque Isle Electric and Gas, and natural gas is provided by DTE Energy. Verizon North provides regular telephone service while cellular telephone service is provided by various providers. Water and sewer service

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<sup>3</sup> Climate data taken from the Alpena County Recreation Plan 2003-2007 and incorporates all of Alpena County.

has been extended from the City of Alpena along M-32 to the Alpena County Airport.

### **Transportation Systems**

M-32, the only major highway located in Wilson Township, traverses east-west across the Township in the northern portion. The remaining roads in the Township are county and private roads. Portions of the Alpena County Airport are located in Wilson Township.

### **Media**

Newspaper coverage is provided by the Alpena News, the County's only local newspaper. Located in the City of Alpena, the Alpena News supplies local, regional and national news to County residents. It is published six days a week. Other newspapers circulated to area readers include the Detroit News/Detroit Free Press, the Bay Times, USA Today and various advertising media.

Residents of Alpena County receive full television coverage; both network and cable stations. One station (WBKB-TV) has an office located in the county. Cable television service is available in a portion of Alpena County by Charter Communications. The more rural portions of the county cannot receive cable service. A wide array of radio stations can be received throughout Alpena County. Radio stations located in the County include WATZ-AM/FM, and WHSB-FM/Bay 108.

## CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### Wilson Township – Standard Operational Procedures & Role of Planning Commission & Township Board:

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

Parks and recreation facilities are under the direct control of the Township Board of Trustees. The Planning Commission is the body directly responsible for creating the Recreation Plan.

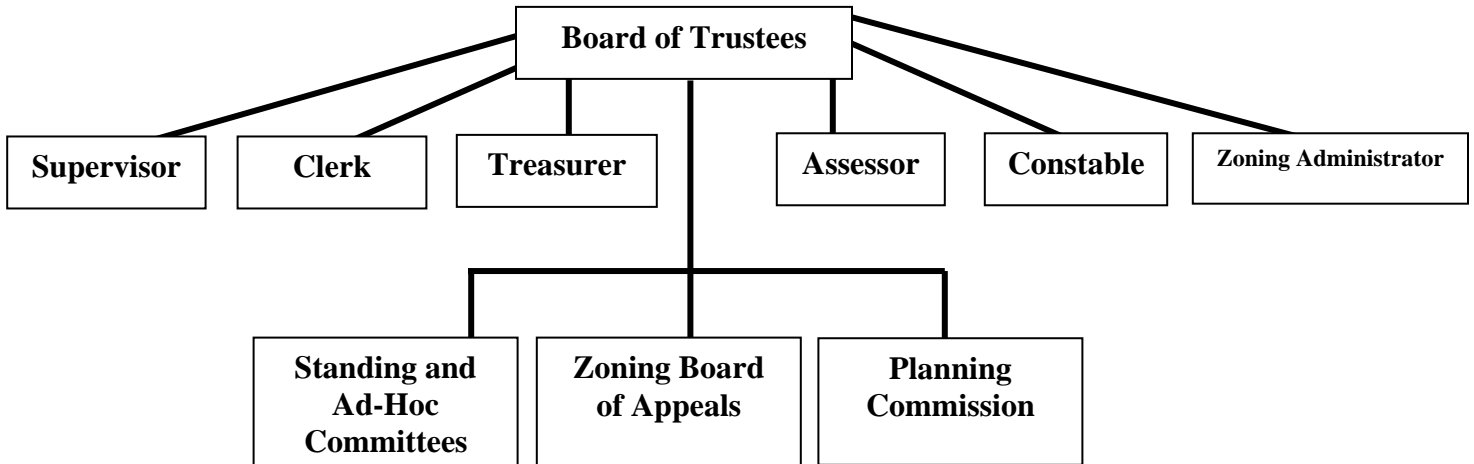
<b>Table 2-1: Wilson Township Elected Officials</b>	
William Domke	Supervisor
Pamela Walker	Clerk
Penny Szatkowski	Treasurer
Arnold Domke	Trustee
Richard King	Trustee
Norman Szatkowski	Constable

<b>Table 2-2: Wilson Township Appointed Officials</b>	
William Domke	Assessor
Larry Rettell	Building Inspector

<b>Table 2-3: Wilson Township Planning Commission</b>
Gill Vanwagoner, Chairperson
Allan Trelfa, Vice-Chairman
Jim Westenbarger, Secretary
Lynn Wallace
Wayne Elowsky
Richard King

<b>Table 2-4: Wilson Township Zoning Board of Appeals</b>
Lynn Wallace
William Domke
Richard Couture
Richard Ableidinger (alternate)
Raymond Wegmeyer (alternate)

**Organizational Chart  
Wilson Township**



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

**Current Year and Projected Annual Budgets:**

	<b>2007/2008<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2008/2009<sup>2</sup></b>
Salaries	\$437	\$2,250
Utilities	N/A	N/A
Maintenance	\$450	\$1,000
Insurance	\$60	\$900
Equipment Rental	N/A	\$100
Capital Outlay <sup>3</sup>	N/A	\$68,500
Misc.	N/A	\$500
Social Security/Medicare	\$33	\$180

*Source: Wilson Township operating budget*

<sup>1</sup> Assume 1% of total budget for administrative salaries, benefits, and insurance. Assume 1% of *Grounds Maintenance* and *Dust Control* budgets for township property.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated figures only. Previous estimates increased from 1% of budget to 5% for time allocated to recreation projects.

<sup>3</sup> Capital Outlay estimates calculated from Action Plan and Capital Improvements Schedule. Actual expenditures shall be based upon availability of local funds, grants, or other acquired funding and budget priorities established by the Wilson Township Board.

## **Funding for the Park & Recreation Budget**

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

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

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

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

- 3. Sportsmen’s Club:** The Alpena Sportsmen’s Club facilitates sportsmen’s activities and meetings in the Alpena area.
- 4. Alpena Lions:** The Alpena Lions is a community service organization that works to address the needs of the community. The Lions have and continued to provide funding and labor to recreation-related projects in the Alpena area.
- 5. Alpena Rotary Club:** The Rotary Club is an organization consisting of a diverse group



of professional leaders who work to address various community and international service needs.

6. **Kiwanis Club:** The Kiwanis Club is a local service organization that works to develop future generations of leaders by revitalizing neighborhoods, organizing youth-sports programs, tutoring, building playgrounds, and performing other projects to help children and communities.
7. **Alpena Area Recreation Commission:** The Alpena Area Recreation Commission is an intergovernmental commission consisting of Alpena County, the City of Alpena, and Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn, Wellington, and Wilson Townships working together with community representatives to support and promote recreational activities, programs and facilities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Alpena area.
8. **Alpena County Parks Commission:** The Alpena County Parks Commission reviews and makes recommendations concerning county-owned park facilities.
9. **Thunder Bay Trails Association:** The Thunder Bay Trails Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of non-motorized trail systems in Alpena County and adjoining areas and to reflect their recreational significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure to area citizens. TBTA grooms trails for cross-country skiing, performs regular trail maintenance, repair, and new facility construction, and acts as an advocate for non-motorized trail systems. TBTA has a written trails maintenance contract with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is a partner with Active Michigan Initiative.

WILSON TOWNSHIP BUDGET  
2007-2008

ACCOUNT (COST CENTER)	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
ADMINISTRATION (24,100.00)			
101-229-250			
702 MEETINGS	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
702 SALARIES/TRUSTEES	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	200.00	0.00	200.00
703 COMPUTER INPUT	1,500.00	0.00	1,200.00
802 ATTORNEY SERVICES	1,000.00	450.00	3,000.00
803 AUDIT&ACCTING	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
804 ASSN. DUES&SERVICES	1,600.00	1,351.85	1,600.00
900 PRINTING/PUBLISHING	450.00	397.39	450.00
956 EDUCATION/TRAINING	650.00	80.00	650.00
957 MISC OFFICE	300.00	127.01	300.00
970 NEW OFFICE EQUIP.	2,500.00	84.75	2,500.00
806 DEL. TAX DISPURSE	6,000.00	1,688.79	6,000.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	22,400.00	7,779.79	24,100.00
SUPERVISOR (14,300.00)			
101-229-171			
702 MEETINGS	1,500.00	920.00	1,500.00
702 SALARY	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
727 OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	250.00	152.09	250.00
956 ED./TRAINING	750.00	180.00	750.00
957 MISC.	100.00	0.00	100.00
703 COMPUTER INPUT	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
804 ASSN.DUES/MEMBERSHIPS	0.00	0.00	200.00
TOTAL SUPERVISOR	14,100.00	10,252.09	14,300.00
ELECTIONS (5,900.00)			
101-229-191			
702 MEETINGS	500.00	0.00	500.00
702 WAGES	3,000.00	1,732.50	3,000.00
727 BALLOTS/SUPPLIES	700.00	601.78	700.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	200.00	0.00	200.00
956 ED./TRAINING	500.00	400.00	500.00

970 MAIN VOTING MACHINE	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
TOTAL ELECTIONS	5,900.00	2,734.28	5,900.00

## ZONING

(27,150.00)

101-229-410

702 MEETINGS	1,900.00	1,520.00	5,000.00
702 SALARIES/WAGES	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
727 OFFICE SUPPLIES	200.00	6.50	200.00
804 ASSN. DUES/MEMBERSHIPS	200.00	156.81	200.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	250.00	24.48	250.00
900 PRINTING/PUB.	300.00	368.94	1,000.00
956 ED./TRAINING	1,100.00	1,083.00	2,000.00
703 COMPUTER INPUT	1,500.00	573.20	1,500.00
702 BRD OF APPEALS/PER DIEM	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
956 PLANNING COMM. SUPPORT	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
TOTAL ZONING	11,450.00	9,726.43	27,150.00

## BUILDING&amp;GROUNDS

(69,200.00)

101-229-265

702 MEETINGS	400.00	0.00	400.00
702 SALARIES/WAGES	4,000.00	2,629.40	4,000.00
705 YARD MAINT.	2,500.00	2,040.07	2,500.00
727 SUPPLIES	1,200.00	1,173.77	1,200.00
850 UTILITIES	7,400.00	6,295.94	8,000.00
860 MILEAGE&TRAVEL	100.00	0.00	100.00
956 HALL DEP. RETURNED	3,000.00	2,300.00	3,000.00
970 CAPT. OUTLAY	45,000.00	6,126.73	45,000.00
727 BUILDING MAINTENANCE	0.00		5,000.00
TOTAL BUILD.&GROUNDS	63,600.00	20,565.91	69,200.00

## LIQUOR

(5,900.00)

330-229-301

702 INSPECTIONS	4,000.00	2,400.00	2,500.00
702 LIQUOR INSP. STOPS	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
702 MEETINGS	400.00	120.00	400.00
957 SUP.FUND	1,500.00	78.68	1,500.00
TOTAL LIQUOR	5,900.00	2,598.68	5,900.00

## CLERK

(15,850.00)

101-229-215

702 SALARY	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
702 DEPUTY	250.00	250.00	250.00
702 MEETINGS	700.00	280.00	700.00
727 POSTAGE	350.00	243.59	350.00
727 SUPPLIES	300.00	184.34	300.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	100.00	75.48	100.00
956 ED./TRAINING	400.00	280.00	400.00
957 MISC.	50.00	0.00	50.00
703 COMPUTER INPUT	1,500.00	498.86	1,500.00
804 ASSN. DUES/MEMBERSHIPS	0.00	0.00	200.00
TOTAL CLERK	15,650.00	14,202.12	15,850.00

## BOARD OF REVIEW

(3,900.00)

101-229-247

702 PER DIEM (BOR)	1,700.00	1,680.00	2,500.00
702 MEETINGS	200.00	40.00	200.00
702 WAGES	0.00	0.00	0.00
727 SUPPLIES	100.00	0.00	100.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	200.00	176.00	300.00
900 PRINT/PUB.	100.00	42.15	100.00
956 ED./TRAINING	300.00	280.00	500.00
804 ASSN DUES/MEMBERSHIPS	0.00	0.00	200.00
TOTAL BOARD OF REVIEW	2,600.00	2,218.15	3,900.00

## TREASURER

(19,650.00)

101-229-253

702 SALARY (REG)	10,500.00	10,500.00	10,500.00
702 DEPUTY	250.00	250.00	250.00
702 MEETINGS	400.00	120.00	400.00
727 POSTAGE/SUPPLIES	3,500.00	2,945.17	3,500.00
727 TAX ACCT. MAINT.	500.00	0.00	500.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	500.00	0.00	500.00
956 ED./TRAINING	800.00	40.00	800.00
702 SUMMER TAX COLL. WAGES	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
703 COMPUTER INPUT	1,500.00	958.58	1,500.00
804 ASSN DUES/MEMBERSHIPS	0.00	0.00	200.00
TOTAL TREASURER	19,450.00	16,313.75	19,650.00

## INSPECTIONS

(30,150.00)

101-229-371

702 BLDG INSP WAGES	15,000.00	7,515.21	15,000.00
702 MEETINGS	100.00	0.00	100.00
727 OFFICE SUPPLIES	150.00	0.00	150.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAV.	100.00	0.00	100.00
806 P&M INSP.	7,500.00	4,258.00	7,500.00
957 MISC.	100.00	0.00	100.00
807 ELECTRICAL INSP.	7,000.00	5,078.00	7,000.00
900 PRINTING/PUBLISHING	0.00	0.00	200.00
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	29,950.00	16,851.21	30,150.00

## CEMETARY

(10,120.00)

101-229-276

702 WAGES	1,100.00	360.80	1,100.00
702 BURIALS	4,650.00	4,649.28	6,000.00
727 SUPPLIES	500.00	134.37	500.00
702 MEETINGS	400.00	0.00	400.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	20.00	0.00	20.00
956 ED./TRAINING	100.00	0.00	100.00
957 MISC.	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
TOTAL CEMETARY	6,470.00	5,144.45	10,120.00

## ROAD WORK

(120,000.00)

101-229-446

930 ROAD MAINT.	80,000.00	26,174.75	80,000.00
932 DUST CONTROL	40,000.00	19,470.71	40,000.00
TOTAL ROAD WORK	120,000.00	45,645.46	120,000.00

## ASSESSOR

(20,550.00)

101-229-209

702 SALARY	9,600.00	9,600.00	9,600.00
702 MEETINGS	200.00	0.00	200.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	250.00	111.50	250.00
727 POSTAGE	600.00	507.00	600.00
956 ED./TRAINING	1,100.00	790.00	1,100.00
727 MAPS&SUPPLIES	200.00	0.00	200.00
805 TAX ROLL	6,900.00	6,259.10	6,900.00

703 COMPUTER INPUT	1,500.00	615.00	1,500.00
804 ASSN DUES/MEMBERSHIPS	0.00	0.00	200.00
TOTAL ASSESSOR	20,350.00	17,882.60	20,550.00
FIRE DEPT			
(59,100.00)			
101-229-336			
702 WAGES/SALARIES	10,200.00	10,116.00	15,000.00
702 MEETINGS	500.00	400.00	500.00
727 MAINT./SUPPLIES	16,000.00	14,673.49	17,000.00
804 ASSOC. DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	500.00	175.00	500.00
860 MILEAGE/TRAVEL	2,100.00	896.36	2,100.00
956 ED./TRAINING	4,500.00	3,550.38	4,500.00
957 MISC.	7,000.00	3,346.76	7,000.00
703 COMPUTER INPUT	1,500.00	439.89	1,500.00
970 NEW EQUIPMENT	11,000.00	2,407.50	11,000.00
TOTAL FIRE DEPT	53,300.00	36,005.38	59,100.00
BENEFITS&INSURANCE			
	22,000.00	13,665.00	22,000.00
(22,000.00)			
101-229-601			
INSURANCE&BONDS			
(6,000.00)			
101-229-602			
CONTINGENCY	67,490.00	732.89	138,330.00
(138,330.00)			
101-229-970			
PAYROLL TRANSACTIONS			
(11,400.00)			
FICA			
M-CARE			
PENSION			
TOTAL PAYROLL TRANS.	9,400.00	7,249.73	11,400.00
SERVICE CHARGES			
(300.00)	300.00	5.00	300.00

UNCATAGORIZED EXPENSES (20,000.00)	20,000.00	1,015.00	20,000.00
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	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
TOTAL EXPENSES (COST CENTER)	516,310.00 (623,900.00)	232,664.92	623,900.00

## CHAPTER 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

(MAPS 3-1 & 3-2)

### Recreational Facilities within Wilson Township

#### *Wilson Township Facilities*

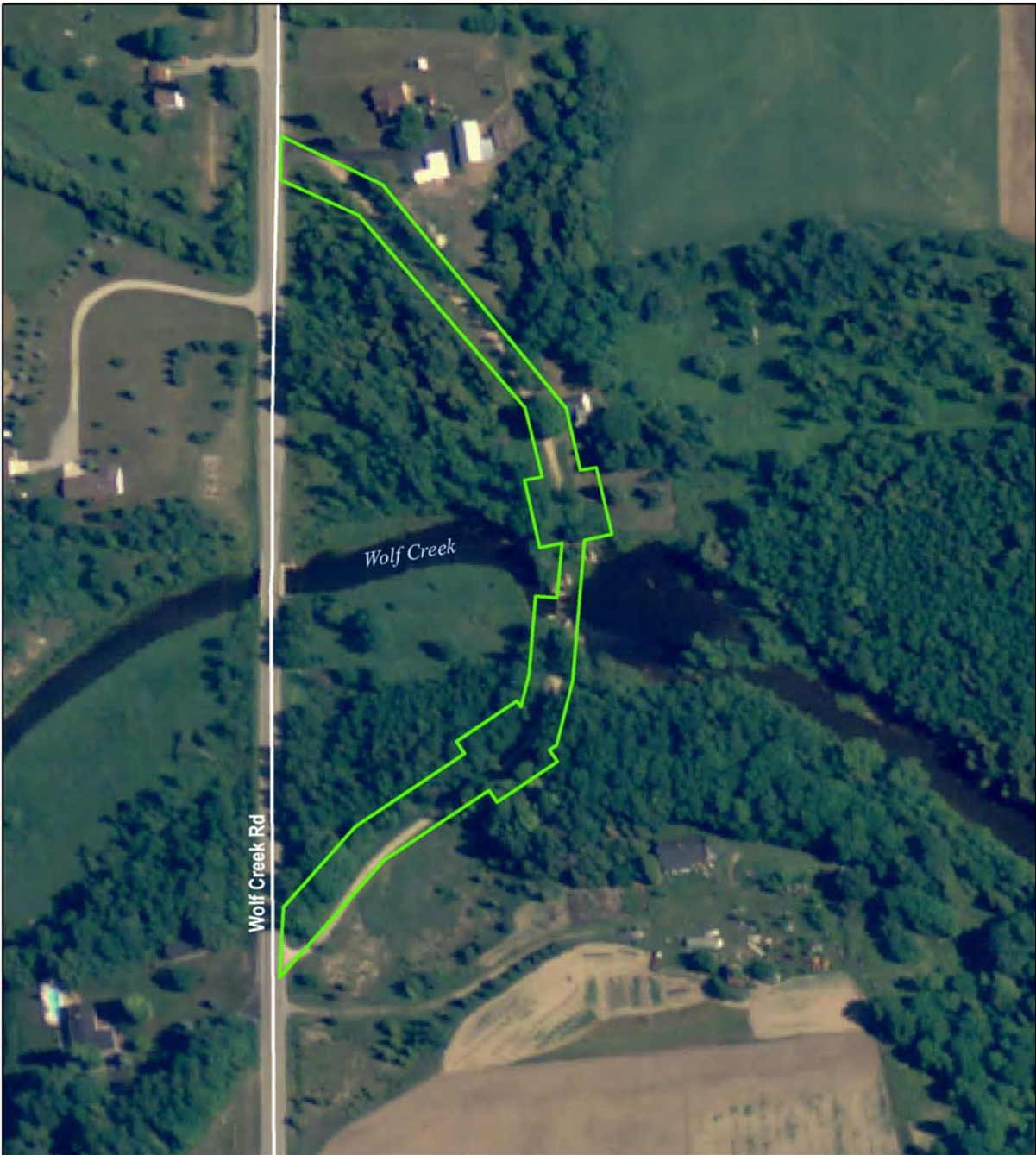
1. **Wolf Creek Property:** Located off Wolf Creek Road, the Wolf Creek property was acquired by Wilson Township from the Alpena County Road Commission. The property consists of the old Wolf Creek Road right-of-way which varies in width. There are two areas where the right-of-way widens to 100' X 100' both north and south of Wolf Creek. The property leads to Wolf Creek and a portion of an old bridge which formerly spanned Wolf Creek.

**Type:** Natural Resource Area/Special Use Area.

#### **Barrier-Free Accessibility = 1**

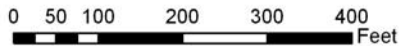
As this area is an undeveloped site, accessibility issues currently do not exist. The future accessibility needs of this natural area continue to be evaluated on an ongoing basis and any needed improvements will be detailed in Chapter 5 (Action Plan).





**Wolf Creek Property**

NOTE: Right-of-way lines south of Wolf Creek are based on the actual legal description. Right-of-way lines north of Wolf Creek are an approximation.



2. **Wilson Township Fire Hall and Township Offices** are located three miles south of M-32 on King Settlement Road. The Township Hall is open all year for community and social functions, the Hall is available for rent with banquet facilities and a dance floor.

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

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

3. **Wilson Township Cemetery/Building** is located on King Settlement Road across from the Wilson Township Hall.

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

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

### ***Other Publicly Owned Recreation Properties***

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

**Ownership:** State of Michigan

**Type:** Natural Resource Area.

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 1.** The Mackinaw State Forest is an undeveloped site.

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

**Ownership:** State of Michigan

**Type:** Snowmobile Trail System.

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 1.** No portions of the snowmobile trail are handicap accessible.

6. **Alpena to Hillman Trail** traverses the northern portion of Wilson Township south of M-32 until the trail crosses M-32



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

**Ownership:** State of Michigan

**Type:** Multi-Use Trail System.

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 1.** No portions of the trail are handicap accessible

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

**Ownership:** State of Michigan

**Type:** Special Use Area.

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 2.** The parking area is paved.



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

**Ownership:** State of Michigan

**Type:** Multi-Use Non-Motorized Trail System.

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 1.** No portions of the trail are handicap accessible.



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

**Ownership: State of Michigan**

**Barrier-Free Accessibility = 1**

The accessibility needs of this facility continue to be evaluated on an ongoing basis and any needed improvements are addressed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



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

**Ownership: Alpena Public Schools**

**Type:** School-Park.



**Barrier Free Accessibility = 2.** Portions of the playground area are handicap accessible (i.e. basketball courts). The accessibility needs of the recreational portions of this facility are monitored on an ongoing basis. Identified needs are addressed by the Alpena Public School system.



11. **Michigan Department of Natural Resources Field Office** is located on M-32. This facility is owned and operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

**Ownership:** State of Michigan

**Type:** A Special Use Facility.

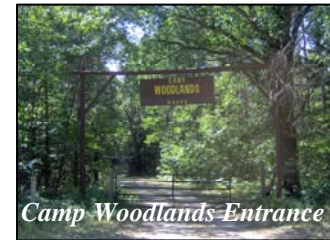
**Barrier-Free Accessibility:** This facility is not open for general public use. The accessibility needs of this facility continue to be evaluated on an on-going basis and any needed improvements are addressed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

### ***Privately Owned Recreation Property***

12. **Camp Woodlands Girl Scout Camp** is located three miles south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road and is surrounded by the Mackinaw State Forest.. The camp, owned by the Mitten Bay Girl Scout Council, was completed in 1958 and has facilities for 36



people including a complete kitchen, three flush toilets, bunk beds and a large activity room with a fireplace. Camp Woodlands is available for rental and is used for various activities such as Cub Scout Day Camps. It consists of a main lodge building which has restroom facilities.



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

14. **Alpena County Club/Golf Course** is located 0.5 mile east of the intersection of Werth Road and Hubbard Lake Road at 6373 Werth Road. Although it is a private club, non-members and guests are welcome. This facility offers an 18-hole golf course with water hazards and wooded terrain. Electric and pull carts are available for rent. A clubhouse with a restaurant,



lounge and private banquet area is situated on this site as well as a driving range, putting green, pro shop, tennis court and swimming pool.

15. **The Alpena Sno-Drifters** office is located at the intersection of Werth Road and Indian Reserve Road (description contained in Chapter 2 – Administrative Structure).
  
16. **Alpena Cycle Club** is located three miles south of Werth Road on Spruce Road. The Alpena Cycle Club will have been in existence 50 years in 2008. It began as a road riding motorcycle club, but has expanded to include events such as a Motocross (four were held in 2007), garden tractor pulls, and a Bump and Run.



17. **Opal's Landing** is located on M-32 West on the Thunder Bay River. It offers fishing and boat rentals.
  
18. **Paxton Shale Quarry** is located at the intersection of M-32 and King Settlement Road. The former quarry is owned by Lafarge and future plans are to continue to develop the 600-acre area as a wildlife habitat. The former quarry is now a lake which has been stocked with fish. Lafarge employees use the site, and the general public can use the area by making advance arrangements. In 2001, the area received certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council, a nonprofit that promotes habitat preservation on corporate lands.
  
19. **Alpena Optimist Club** has established "**Optimist Acres**" on M-32 at the junction of Herron Road. Located on 43 acres of land donated by LaFarge Corporation, this recreation area is youth oriented and designed to provide year-round activities. With the Optimist motto "Friend of Youth", this facility offers recreation opportunities that include a 100' x 100' ice skating rink, a pavilion and a ball diamond. The five year plan includes an ATV trail, a cross county running/ski track, a campground area, modern restrooms, portable bleachers and perimeter fencing.



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



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

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

## Recreational Facilities Outside Wilson Township<sup>1</sup>

### *City of Alpena*

- Bay View Park
- Alpena Municipal Marina

<sup>1</sup> Information taken from the Alpena County Recreation Plan 2003-2007 and the City of Alpena Recreation Plan 2004-2009.

- Thomson Park
- Blair Street Park Mich-e-ke-wis Park/Starlite Beach
- North Riverfront Park
- South Riverfront Park
- Island Park
- Duck Park
- Arthur Sytek Park
- Avery Park
- LaMarre Park
- McRae Park
- Bi-Path
- Alpena Civic and Community Center
- Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park
- Washington Avenue Park
- Chisholm St. Park
- Waterfront Park
- Culligan Plaza
- Veteran's Park
- Alpena County Fairgrounds
- Alpena Plaza Pool and Tennis Courts
- Thunder Bay Community Recreation Complex
- Northern Lights Arena
- Alpena County Library
- Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve and Underwater Sanctuary
- Island Mill Park

***City of Alpena: School Properties***

- Alpena Senior High School
- Besser Elementary School
- Ella White Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Aces Academy
- Sunset Elementary School
- Thunder Bay Jr. High School
- Alpena Community College, Main Campus
- Pied Piper Opportunity Center
- All Saints School
- Immanuel Lutheran School

***City of Alpena: Private Recreational Facilities***

- Alpena Civic Theatre (ACT)



- Thunder Bay Theatre (TBT)
- Creative Arts Center
- GKC/Royal Knight Cinema
- GKC/State Cinema
- Alpena Youth Club
- Boys and Girls Club
- Jesse Besser Museum
- Alpena Yacht Club
- Lee's Miniature Golf
- Ninth Avenue Dam

### ***Alpena Township***

- Long Lake Park/Campground
- Alpena Township Nature Preserve
- Middle Island Lighthouse
- Hinks Elementary School
- Decksider Marina
- Dodge Marina and Storage
- Gary Tiffany Property
- Thunder Bowl, Inc.
- Alpena Golf Club
- Alpena Health and Racquet Club
- Four Mile Dam
- JJ's Awesome Acres

### ***Green Township***

- Manning Hill Park
- Jacks Landing Resort
- Green Township Ball Park
- Paradise Lodge Resort
- Upper South Dam
- Moores Landing Campground
- Killions Landing

### ***Long Rapids Township***

- Sinkholes
- Sunken Lake Park/Campground
- Long Rapids Park
- Gleason Ball Field

### *Maple Ridge Township*

- Norway Point (Seven Mile Dam)
- Maple Ridge Township Park
- Campers Cove Campground

### *Sanborn Township*

- Sanborn Park
- Dinosaur Gardens
- Shin-ga-ba Shores

### *Ossineke Township*

- Beaver Lake Park/Campground
- Hubbard Lake Lions Park
- Turtle Lake Club

### *State and Federal Recreational Facilities*

The following State and Federal recreational facilities are located in Alpena County

- **Mackinaw State Forest** covers approximately 45,900 acres of Alpena County. These State Forest lands are designated for multipurpose recreational usage as well as forestry. Although hunting is the primary recreational use, hiking and nature observation opportunities area also available.
- **Alpena to Mackinaw Trail** is located along an abandoned railroad corridor. The trail begins in the northern portion of the City of Alpena and traverses in a northwesterly direction through Alpena Township and Maple Ridge Township and continues on in Presque Isle County. This trail system offers hiking, mountain biking, and snowmobiling and is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Alpena to Posen portion of the trail is groomed in the winter by the Alpena Snowdrifters.
- **Devil's Lake Snowmobile Trail and Devils Swamp Snowmobile Trail** are located off Werth Road. These trail circle the length of Devil's Lake and include 26 miles of the Mackinaw State Forest. MDNR owns this land and has developed it for recreational use. The snowmobile trails are maintained by the Alpena Snowmobile Association.
- **Alpena to Hillman Trail** traverses the northern portion of Wilson Township south of M-32 until the trail crosses M-32 immediately east of Emerson Road. The trail head is located just outside the City of Alpena. The Alpena to Hillman Trail follows State land and is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The trail offers opportunities for snowmobiles, hiking, and mountain biking (some sections impassable

for mountain bikers). The trail is groomed in the winter months by the Alpena Sno-Drifters.

- **Devil's Lake Wildlife Flooding Area** is located around Devil's Lake. This site is owned by the MDNR and although it remains undeveloped, it is of interest to those who enjoy nature and wildlife observation in a quite setting.
- **A Public Access Site** is located at Partridge Point in Alpena Township. Owned by the MDNR, this site provides access to the waters of Thunder Bay in Lake Huron.
- **Thunder Bay Island** is located in sections 33 and 34 of T31N, R10E and section 3 of T30N, R10E of Alpena Township. Owned by the U.S. Government, this island is situated in Lake Huron's Thunder Bay and is used as a wildlife refuge.
- **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve** located off Thunder Bay in Lake Huron. The area has been designated by the State as an Underwater Preserve and by the Federal Government as a National Marine Sanctuary.
- **DNR Public Access** to Fletcher Pond is located off Jack's Landing Road on Fishing Site Road. This site consists of approximately 10 acres and is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It has a boat launching ramp, a fishing site, a comfort station and a parking area.
- **Chippewa Hills Pathway** is located southwest of Ossineke on Kissau Road. With three groomed trails, it is one of Alpena County's major hiking and cross county ski areas. Trail #1 is 1.3 miles, trail #2 is 2.5 miles and trail #3 is 4.5 miles. These trails have four loops with rolling to hilly terrain and are designated novice to expert. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has proposed improvements at the site, including a track for skate-skiers.
- **Ossineke State Forest Campground** is located on the shore of Lake Huron. It has 42 campsites, picnic tables, fire pits, water pumps and eight toilets. A small picnic area has four tables, fire pits and grills. The campground also has a non-motorized hiking trail and a sandy beach. There is no boat launch site.
- **Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground** is located six mile south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road. Owned by the State of Michigan, this campground is situated in the Mackinaw State Forest o the Thunder Bay River. It covers **20** acres of land and has 17 rustic campsites, well water, picnic tables, fire rings, toilets and a picnic area. This campground offers opportunities for canoeing, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Also, hiking and mountain biking are available on the 1.5-mile Wah-Wah-Tas-See Pathway. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources closed this campground as of July 9, 2007 until at least October 1, 2007.
- **Negwegon State Park** is located in the southeast portion of Alpena County and northeast

portion of Alcona County. The park consists of approximately 1,720 acres with an additional 1,265 acres, a portion of which is located in Alcona County, to be added in the future. This property is a rustic, undeveloped open area for hunting and hiking. The terrain is a mixture ranging from low land areas with small ridges to mature pine forests with some hardwoods and aspen with some pockets of open meadows. Negwegon has an undeveloped sandy beach on Lake Huron.

- **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Boat Launch Site** is located off of East Nicholson Hill Road on the shore of Lake Huron. Owned by the MDNR, this four acre site has one concrete ramp for shallow draft boats. With a parking area for 30 cars, this site would normally receives medium to heavy use, however, Due to the low water levels, this launch has not been used.
- **Norway Ridge Pathway** is located 3.5 miles southwest of the City of Alpena on Werth Road. As part of the Mackinaw State Forest, the pathway is maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). It has 4.5 miles of groomed trails in section 6 of T30N, R8E. Recreation opportunities include cross country skiing during the winter months and mountain biking/hiking during the spring, summer and fall. The MDNR has proposed some improvements at this site that include: Removing conifers along the trail that interfere with snow depth; Make a double set a tracks on the loops closest to the Werth Road parking lot that receive the heaviest use; Make a single set of tracks with adjacent packed surface for skate-skiers on the loops farthest from the parking lot.
- **Rockport Property** is located about ten miles north of the City of Alpena on Lake Huron. Situated on the Alpena/Presque Isle County line, east of U.S. 23, the property covers nearly six square miles. This picnic sight was brought about through a partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Roughly 2,300 acres are within Alpena Township boundaries. The property was transferred from the Consumers Power Company to the State of Michigan. The Township of Alpena has a lease agreement with the Michigan DNR for 2 acres to provide a picnic site. Site features include and inactive limestone quarry, a deep water harbor with boat launch, trails, parking and picnic areas, eight large and several small sinkholes and several miles of forested land.

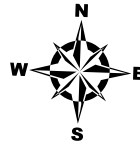
## **Inventory Procedures**

The methods used to compile this recreational inventory include site visits to each facility, compilation of information provided by Wilson Township officials, and a compilation of information from the Alpena County Recreation Plan and the City of Alpena Recreation Plan. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

## **Status Report on Grant-Assisted Recreational Facilities**

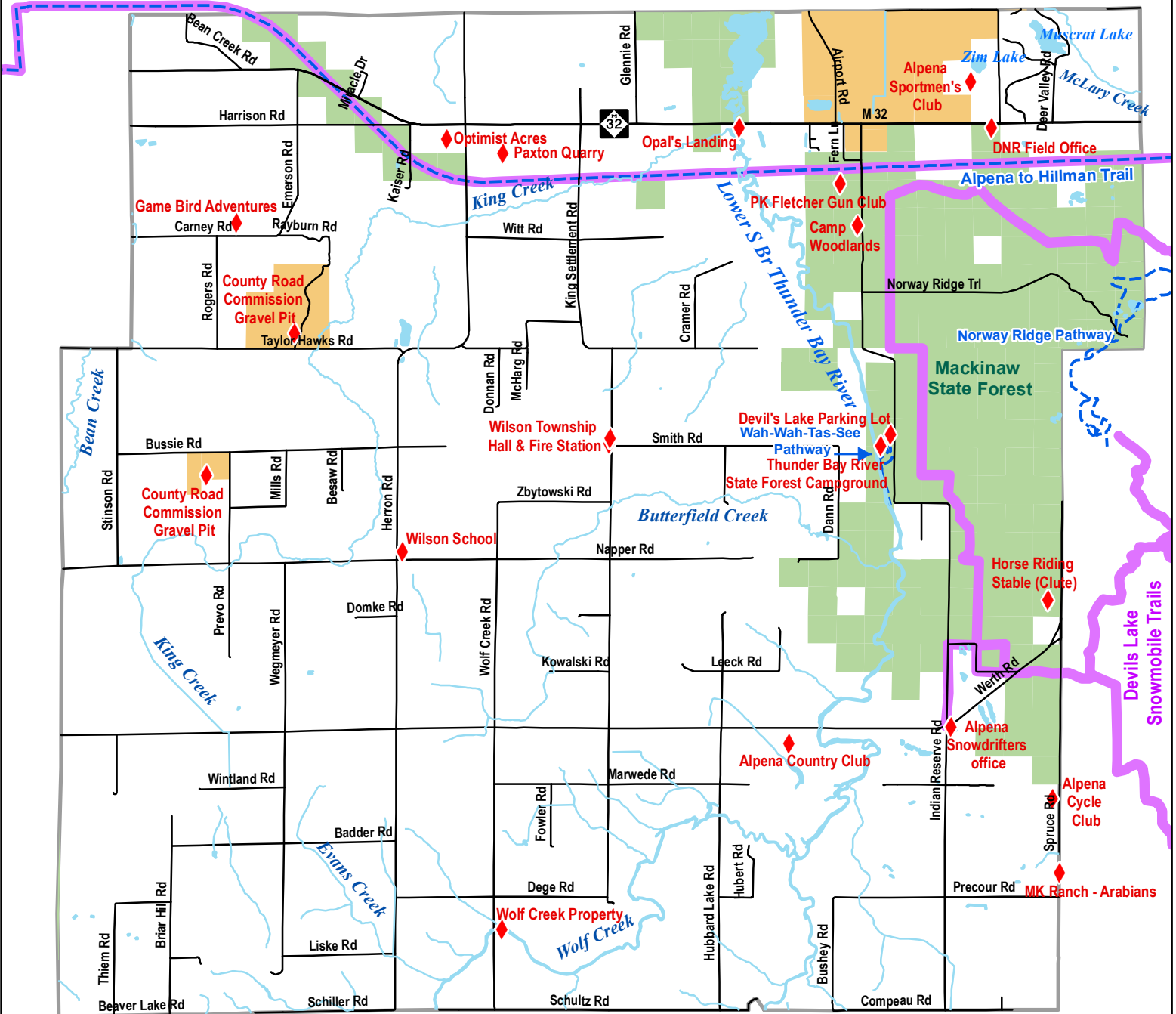
No Wilson Township grant-assisted recreational facilities exist.

# Recreation Map Wilson Township Alpena County

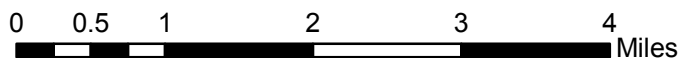


## Recreational Facilities

- ◆ Recreational Facilities
- Trails
- Snowmobile Trails



- Alpena County & Alpena Co Road Commission
- State of Michigan



Map produced by the  
Northeast Michigan  
Council of Governments  
September 2007

DRAFT

# Recreation Map

## Alpena County

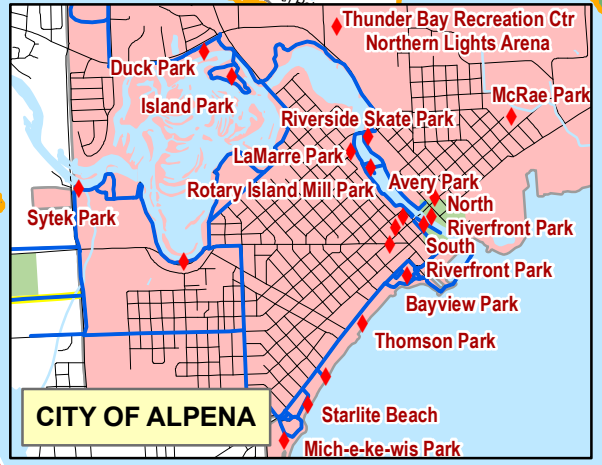
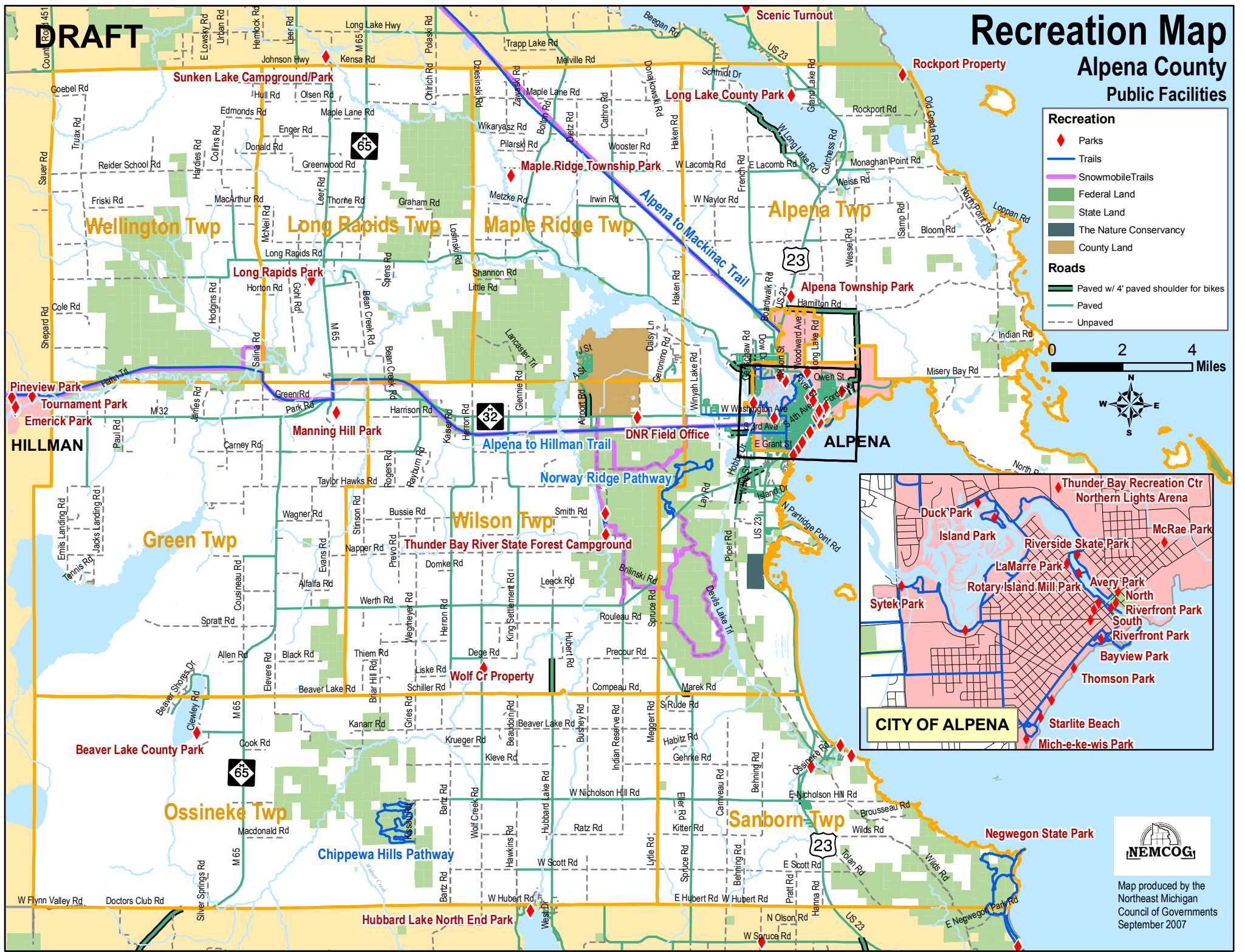
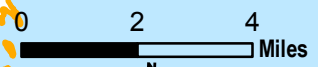
### Public Facilities

**Recreation**

- ◆ Parks
- Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- Federal Land
- State Land
- The Nature Conservancy
- County Land

**Roads**

- Paved w/ 4' paved shoulder for bikes
- Paved
- Unpaved



Map produced by the  
Northeast Michigan  
Council of Governments  
September 2007

## **Chapter 4: Description of the Planning Process**

### **Schedule:**

- August 7, 2007** Denise Cline of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments met with the Wilson Township Planning Commission to discuss the planning process and to establish a timeline for the plan update. In addition, the community description chapter was presented.
- September 2007** The recreation inventory was completed and compiled by Denise Cline.
- October 2, 2007** Denise Cline of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments met with the Wilson Township Planning Commission to present the following chapters: Administrative Structure and Recreation Inventory. In addition, the Planning Commission scheduled a public input session for October 30, 2007.
- October 12, 2007** Press releases were issued to the Alpena News, 107.7 The Bay, and WATZ announcing the public input session to be held October 30, 2007 at 7:00 pm at Wilson Township Hall. In addition, flyers were distributed and personal phone calls were made to stakeholders.
- October 30, 2007** A public input session was held to gather input from Wilson Township residents and area recreation groups to assist in planning for recreational improvements in the Township. 21 people attended the meeting including representatives from Alpena Sportsmens Club, Game Bird Adventures, Alpena Snowmobile Association, PK Fletcher Gun Club, Alpena Optimists, and LaFarge Corporation. The attendees provided input concerning their specific interests as well as of a general nature. The meeting was facilitated by staff from NEMCOG.
- December 4, 2007** The Planning Commission met with Denise Cline of NEMCOG to discuss the draft Goals and Objectives and the Action Plan to make any necessary changes. Several projects were added. Projects were also given a priority level.

**February 5, 2008**

The Planning Commission met with Denise Cline of NEMCOG to review the final draft of the Recreation Plan. No changes were made. The plan will be available at the library for a 30-day public review period. The public hearing will be held at the regular Planning Commission meeting on April 1, 2008.

**February 14, 2008**

An article was published in the Alpena News stating that the draft Wilson Township Recreation Plan was available for public review for a 30 day period at the George N. Fletcher Library in Alpena and online at [www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org). The notice also included an address for the submittal of comments.

**April 2, 2008**

A public notice was published in the Alpena News stating that a public hearing would be held by the Wilson Township Board of Trustees on April 9, 2008 at 7:00 pm at Wilson Township Hall.

**April 9, 2008**

A public hearing was held at 7:00 pm. Following the public hearing, the Wilson Township Board of Trustees adopted the 2008-2012 Recreation Plan.

**Public Input:**

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. Throughout the development of this recreation plan, members of key groups in Wilson Township were involved. The Planning Commission opted to hold a public input session to gather comprehensive public opinion and ideas about the future of recreation in the Township. The public was notified of the meeting through a press release appearing in the Alpena News. The meeting was also announced on the radio (107.7 FM The Bay). Meeting flyers were also distributed. Members of the Planning Commission contacted citizens by phone. In addition, representatives from area recreation groups were asked to attend the meeting. Citizens representing various recreational groups in the Township were present at the session as were other interested citizens. Each participant was encouraged to discuss the current state of Township recreational facilities as well as what they would like to see for the future. Overall, throughout the plan preparation, all parties with an interest in recreation in Wilson Township did submit their comments and ideas either in person or by email. Because of the rural nature of Wilson Township as well as the lack of developed recreational facilities, the Recreation Committee felt that the community was well-represented throughout the process. After all public input was gathered and recorded, the Planning Commission met to prioritize projects for the Action Plan and to develop a capital improvements plan.



## **COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC INPUT SESSION OCTOBER 30, 2007**

### **WOLF CREEK PROPERTY**

- Road right of way was obtained from the Alpena County Road Commission
- Township should acquire property between the ROW and Wolf Creek (currently in private ownership)
- Canoe launch area
- Fishing platform
- Rebuild bridge
- Small boat launch

### **HIKING AND SNOWMOBILE TRAILS**

Snowmobile:

- 93 miles of snowmobile trails in Alpena County
- 100% volunteer effort
- Sign, brush and groom trails (2500 miles of trails groomed per year)
- Not used for ORV in Alpena County
- Aim to protect adjacent property owners.
- 100% user funded
- Local contractors are hired
- Signage is needed, however many signs are stolen each year

Hiking:

- Need for hiking trails in the county
- Staging Points
- Look at Norway Ridge/Devils Lake Block Plan by DNR
- Handicap path from Camp Woodlands to Thunder Bay River

### **PAXTON QUARRY**

- 2001 – designated by the Wildlife Habitat Council. Worked with schools, Ducks Unlimited, and other groups.
- Trees; fish stocking; Mallard nesting
- Future – continue with wildlife enhancement
- Corporate Lands for Learning certification
- Open to Lafarge employees, retirees, and guests
- “Wilson Township Day” – desired.
- High walls – safety

### **OPTIMIST CLUB**

- Given by LaFarge
- Cross country; mud bog; bathrooms, showers; playground; ball field; club house; horse event area.
- Money is needed to keep the facility open and to improve and maintain
- Distance from town is a problem

- Ideas are in the planning stages
- Cross country trail – developed better

#### **GAME BIRD ADVENTURES**

- Preserve licensed by State
- Not much room to expand.
- Open August 15 – April 30

#### **PK FLETCHER GUB CLUB**

- 40 members
- Skeet, trap; shotguns only
- Open Spring through Fall
- Land is leased from DNR; 1.75 acres

#### **SPORTSMENS CLUB**

- Shooting facility
- Banquet facility
- 120 acres
- Nonprofit
- Small, primitive campground
- Township needs the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground to remain open

#### **GENERAL**

- Improve public access to water (ex: Werth Road – access to river)
- Parking facilities

weather

**cloudy**

Low: 38

Winds 5-15 mph. Forecast 10A.

## VICTORIOUS

The Alpena IceDiggers top Traverse City Friday at Northern Lights Arena. **Story, Sports.**



## REVIVAL

Alcona fall tour returns as memorial to its founder **Story, 1C.**



# THE NEWS

NorthEastern Michigan's Newspaper

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13-14, 2007

### Wilson hosting public input forum

Wilson Township has begun the process of creating a recreation plan with the assistance of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. The purpose of the recreation plan is to inventory recreational facilities in the township and to provide an action plan for future recreational improvements. In addition, recreation plans that have been approved by the Department of Natural Resources allow the township to be eligible for state recreational grant funding.

A public input session will be held Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. at Wilson Township Hall to give the public the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

All members of the public who are interested in the future of recreation in Wilson Township are encouraged to attend. The public will be asked to participate in identifying assets and problems as well as outlining a future vision for recreational facilities in the township.

Draft community background and current recreation inventory chapters of the plan are available online at [www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org).



All members of the public are invited to attend:

# WILSON TOWNSHIP

## RECREATION PLAN

### PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

**Date:** TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Location:** WILSON TOWNSHIP HALL  
 3746 King Settlement Road



Wilson Township is creating a Recreation Plan with the assistance of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. The purpose of the Recreation Plan is to inventory recreational facilities in the Township and to provide an action plan for future recreational improvements. In addition, Recreation Plans that have been approved by the Department of Natural Resources allow the Township to be eligible for State recreational grant funding.

A public input session is being held to give the public the opportunity to participate in the planning process. All members of the public that are interested in the future of recreation in Wilson Township are encouraged to attend. The public will be asked to participate in identifying assets and problems as well as outlining a future vision for recreational facilities in the Township.



Draft community background and recreation inventory chapters are available online at [www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org).

Questions? Please contact Denise Cline at [dmcline@nemcog.org](mailto:dmcline@nemcog.org) or (989) 354-5970 or Lynn Wallace, Wilson Township Planning Commission: (989) 379-4415

**Public Input Session Sign-In Sheet**

Wilson Township Recreation Plan 10/30/07

Name	Title	Representing
Denise Clure	Planner	NEMCOG
Katherine Rettell	Visitor	
LARRY RETTELL	BLOS INSP	WILSON TWP
Mike Arthur	President	Alpena Sportsmen Club
Clair Diamond	Treasurer	P.K. Fletcher Club
Bick Fluharty	Resident	Home Co.
FLOYD MONTIE		GAME BIRD ADVENTURES
Mike Dennis	Alpena Optimist President	
Gil Peterson	Env. Engineer	LeTonge
KENNETH REICKMAN		Home Owner
Darryl Prammer		Alpena Snowmobile Club
BOBEIER	elher@alpena.ca, ed	ALPENA SNOWMOBILE ASSOC
ARNIE DONKE		WILSON TWP ZONING
Penny SZATKOWSKI		" " Treasurer
Pam Walker		WILSON TWP CLERK
Dick King		ZONING/TWP Board
LYNN WALKER		ZONING Chair
Wayne Kowalski		ZONING/Planning
Gil Vanagon		" "
AL. TRELFA		" "
BILL DONKE		WILSON TWP Supervisor

**WILSON TOWNSHIP**

# Township looks for input on rec plan

By **PATTY RAMUS**  
News Staff Writer

Wilson Township residents have the opportunity to provide public comments on the final draft of the township's recreation plan.

The document is available for review at the Alpena County Library reference desk and at [www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org) until April 1.

"They're looking for confirmation from the public on this is where they want to go. If the public has new ideas beyond what has already been put in the plan we can include that," said Denise Cline, Northeast Michigan Council of Governments community planner/GIS specialist.

Cline said the purpose of a recreation plan is to inventory what the community has now and discuss specific projects it wants to do in the future.

According to Arnold Domke, township zoning administrator, the recreation plan is one part of the townships process of completing a comprehensive plan. The township began the process of doing a recreation plan about a year ago.

"We haven't had a recreation plan. In the past there have been some civic groups that have done some planning but not for the entire township," he said. "Basically the rec plan allows us to apply for (Department of Natural) grants and other grants and that was what spear-headed doing it right now."

Cline said the proposed plan outlines improvements to a piece of property located on Wolf Creek Road at the southern part of the township. These improvements would include a parking area, canoe launch, barrier-free fishing deck and a pedestrian bridge across wolf creek.

A map also is included that shows points of interest the township would like to link with nonmotorized trails, Cline said.

Once all of the public input is gathered the township planning commission will conduct another public hearing. The planning commission would then approve the plan and send its recommendation for approval to the township board.

If approved by the board, the plan would be sent off to the DNR for final approval, Cline said.

Comments can be sent to Cline via e-mail at [dmcline@nemcog.org](mailto:dmcline@nemcog.org) or by mail at P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49784.

*Patty Ramus can be reached via e-mail at [pramus@thealpenanews.com](mailto:pramus@thealpenanews.com) or by phone at 358-5687.*

108TH YEAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

2 SECTIONS - 50 CENTS

North Eastern Michigan's Newspaper

# THE ALPENNA NEWS

# Public Input Session Minutes

Untitled

WILSON TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC HEARING  
ZONING  
OCTOBER 30, 2007

Public hearing opened at 7:00 P.M. Zoning Board members present were Lynn Wallace, Dick King, Gill Vanwagoner, Wayne Elowsky, and Al Trelfa. Absent Jim Westenbarger.

Public attendance:

Denise Cline-Rec. Planner/NEMCOG  
Arnie Domke-Zoning Adm./Wilson Township  
Katherine Rettell-Visitor  
Larry Rettell-Bldg. Inspector/Wilson Township  
Mike Arthur-Alpena Sportsmen Club(President)  
Clair Diemond-P.K. Fletcher Club(Treasurer)  
Rick Fluharty-home owner/Wilson Township  
Floyd Montie-Game Bird Adventures/Owner  
Mike Dennis-Alpena Optimist Club(President)  
Gil Peterson-Lafarge(Env. Engineer)  
Kenneth Brickman-home owner/Wilson Township  
Larry Marzean-Alpena Snowmobile Club  
Bob Eller-Alpena Snowmobile Club  
Penny Szatkowski-Treasurer/Wilson Township  
Pamela Walker-Clerk/Wilson Township  
William Domke-Supervisor/Wilson Township

Zoning Administrator Arnie Domke began the public hearing by explaining to those in attendance the process involved in creating a recreational plan, the advantages and some of our township's recreational needs. The floor was open to public comment.

Bob Eller and Larry Marzean from the Alpena Snowmobile Club: Alpena Snowmobile Club has the 2 main trails that lead to anywhere in the Northern U.S. The club is run with 100% volunteers. Majority of their financing comes from annual renewable grants from the DNR. They also have an agreement with the State Of Michigan to protect land-owners along the trails. Restriction of use of the trails is mandated by the DNR. The club purchases everything locally, such as construction project materials, fuel and materials, therefore, more than a quarter million dollars is put back into our local economy. Currently there is a problem maintaining safety signage along the trails, due to theft. The Club wishes to help and support our recreational plan. Some projects they would like to see in the future are: a trail that goes through the City of Alpena, more trails for biking, walking, hiking and horseback riding. ORV trails are something that they are interested in, but they would require more funding to maintain them.

Gil Peterson from the Lafarge Corp.: Paxton Quarry is owned by the Lafarge Corp. They stopped use of it in 1995. In 2001 it was certified with the wildlife Council. Many area groups and schools helped to improve the quarry with wildlife Enhancement projects such as, stocking the lake with fish and tree planting. Plans for the future include continuing with enhancement projects. The quarry is currently only available to Lafarge employees and their families, however Lafarge does allow school groups, boy/girl scouts in if prior arrangements are made. There are no plans in the near future to open the quarry to the public.

Untitled

Mike Dennis from Alpena Optimist Club: Optimist Acres consist of 40 acres(donated by Lafarge Corp.) It offers cross-country trails, playground, ice skating as well as hosting mud bogs and horse club events. It has bathrooms with showers. Currently experiencing cut-backs in funding. They are looking for more funding to further develop and improve their cross country trails.

Floyd Montie from Game Bird Adventures: Game Bird Adventures is a game preserve licensed through the State of Michigan. Seventy-five percent of business is from downstate. Hunts are primarily on the weekends. Would like to expand either in Green Township or on Indian Reserve Rd. They are also experiencing signage theft. Hunting of game birds is a growing sport and getting bigger every year.

Clair Diemond from P.K. Fletcher Club: situated on one and three quarter acres, on Indian Reserve Road. Property is leased from the DNR. Public is welcome. They offer skeet shooting. They have 2 skeet fields. They receive no funding from the State. Would like to expand in the near future.

Mike Arthur from Alpena Sportsmen Club: The Sportsmen Club offers a complete shooting facility, with outdoor and indoor ranges, skeet, archery, and 3D archery courses. Outdoor practice ranges and indoor ranges for leagues, archery 4-H group. Would like to get more kids involved with the club. They offer fishing(catch and release) as well as hunter safety classes several times a year. There is a banquet hall with seating for 350 people and a primitive camp ground. Everyone is welcome. Membership fees are: \$40.00/yr for singles or \$70.00/yr for family. The police and military often use the outside ranges for training purposes. The property is owned by the Sportsmen for use a sportsmen club only, if the club closes the property reverts back to the county or the state. They have basically utilized all of their property, but are always trying to improve what they have.

William Domke from Wilson Township/Old Wolf Creek Rd property: Bill explained how the property was acquired and plans to someday turn it into a park and canoe launch. He asked for comments or suggestions on the project.

Most in attendance were in agreement that a canoe launch was needed. All express concern over the lack of access to public waterways in our area.

Concern was also expressed over the closing of local campgrounds and the State's involvement in those closures.

Motion to adjourn public hearing was made by Lynn Wallace, supported Dick King.

Hearing adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Regular Zoning meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M.

Motion was made by Al Trelfa, supported by Gill Vanwagoner, to set dates for 2008 zoning/planning meetings as follows:

February 05, 2008  
April 01, 2008  
June 03, 2008  
August 05, 2008  
September 02, 2008



Untitled

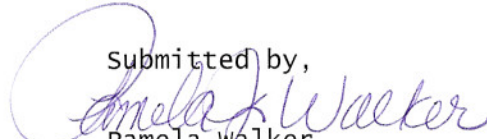
October 07, 2008

All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gill Vanwagoner, supported by Al Trelfa.  
All in favor, motion carried.

Zoning meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Submitted by,



Pamela Walker,  
Wilson Township Clerk

# CHAPTER 5: GOALS & OBJECTIVES/ACTION PLAN

**Goals & Objectives:** Goals and objectives were developed from public input session as well as by input from the Wilson Township Planning Commission.

## **1. Develop and Improve Wolf Creek Property**

- a. Explore opportunities to expand the property beyond the original Road Commission right-of-way.
- b. Develop and implement an action plan to bring about improvements that will increase usage of the Wolf Creek property as well as make it more accessible.
- c. Focus development upon existing natural features: i.e. canoe launch, fishing platforms, foot bridge, etc.
- d. Install amenities to improve the overall usability of the property.
- e. Pursue funding for land acquisition.

## **2. Promote use of township recreational assets**

- a. Encourage residents and visitors to make use of the existing township recreational assets by bringing about necessary improvements to increase the availability of recreational amenities.
- b. Partner with other local agencies or the State of Michigan on recreational development projects, where applicable.

## **3. Develop trails and trail connections for motorized and non-motorized uses.**

- a. Support the State of Michigan in its Indian Reserve/Devil's Lake Block Plan.
- b. Research ways to expand local trails in conjunction with state trail expansion plans.
- c. Support the continued maintenance of local snowmobile trails within the township.
- d. Research the development of ORV trails within the township.
- e. Research ways to improve and expand parking facilities at various trailhead staging areas throughout the township.
- f. Improve barrier free accessibility on township trails, where appropriate.

**4. Explore the expansion of township camping opportunities**

- a. Work with local agencies on the expansion of camping opportunities, where appropriate.
- b. Encourage the State of Michigan to reopen the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground.
- c. Explore the feasibility of leasing and operating the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground in the advent it remains closed by the State of Michigan.
- d. Research the development of a Township Park/Campground.

**5. Maintain and promote existing township community centers.**

- a. Develop a maintenance and capital improvements schedule for township community buildings to ensure their upkeep and continued use by the public.
- b. Consider development of a plan to promote greater use of township community centers by the public.

**6. Develop a program to promote Wilson Township recreational facilities.**

- a. Establish wayfinding, directional, and site signage to direct visitors to township recreational facilities.
- b. Consider the development a recreational brochure and map for Wilson Township recreational facilities.
- c. Consider partnerships with Alpena Public Schools, the State of Michigan, and/or local private recreational facilities to promote all township recreational resources.

**7. Explore ways to expand public water access.**

- a. Explore ways to improve the public's access to the Thunder Bay River.
- b. Work with other state and local agencies, where appropriate, to secure additional public access.

**Table 5-1: Capital Improvements Schedule**

**WOLF CREEK PROPERTY**

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>EST. COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE(S)</b>	<b>YEAR*</b>
HIGH	Wolf Creek Property	Site Clean-Up	\$10,000	Local foundations; community service organizations	2008
HIGH	Wolf Creek Property	Creation of Property Development Plan	\$50,000	MDNR; MDOT; local foundations; community service organizations	2008
HIGH	Wolf Creek Property	Road Improvements & Parking Area	\$50,000	MDNR; private foundations; community service organizations	2009
HIGH	Wolf Creek Property	Fencing	\$35,000	MDNR; local foundations; community service organizations	2009
HIGH	Wolf Creek Property	Restrooms	\$90,000	MDNR; local foundations; community service organizations	2010
MEDIUM	Wolf Creek Property	Installation of Canoe Launch	\$20,000	MDNR; local foundations; community service organizations	2010
MEDIUM	Wolf Creek Property	Construct barrier-free fishing deck	\$30,000	MDNR; private foundations; community service organizations	2011
MEDIUM	Wolf Creek Property	Construct Pedestrian Bridge	TBD	MDNR; DOC; MDOT; private foundations	2011
MEDIUM	Wolf Creek Property	Pavilion, signage, beautification, picnic tables, benches, grills, etc.	\$60,000	MDNR, local foundations, community service organizations	2011
MEDIUM	Wolf Creek Property	Property Acquisition (between Township road right-of-way and Wolf Creek)	TBD	MDNR; local foundations; community service organizations	2012
LOW	Wolf Creek Property	Nature trail development on	TBD	MDNR; local	2012

		acquired property between the Township road right of way and Wolf Creek.		foundations; environmental education organizations; private foundations; community service organizations	
<b>PROPERTY ACQUISITION</b>					
MEDIUM	Thunder Bay River	Acquire property to increase public access points along the Thunder Bay River	TBD	MDNR; local foundations; community service organizations	2010
LOW	Location to be determined	Acquire property to develop a Township-owned park/campground in an area of the Township where none currently exists.	TBD	MDNR; local foundations; community service organizations	2011
<b>TRAILS</b>					
MEDIUM	Non-motorized trails (See Map 5-1)	Link the following (see map): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Optimist Acres (M-32)</li> <li>➤ Wilson School (along Herron Road)</li> <li>➤ Wilson Township Hall (along King Settlement Road)</li> <li>➤ Wolf Creek Property (along Wolf Creek Road)</li> <li>➤ State-Owned Facilities (Mackinaw State Forest; Norway Ridge Trails)</li> </ul>	TBD	MDNR; MDOT; local foundations; community service organizations; private foundations; bike trail organizations.	2008-2012
LOW	Trailhead Parking Areas	Establish trailhead parking areas at strategic points along the Wilson Township internal trail system.	TBD	MDNR; MDOT; local foundations; community service organizations; private foundations; bike trail organizations.	2008-2012
<b>TOWNSHIP PARK/CAMPGROUND</b>					
MEDIUM	Thunder Bay River SF Campground	Possible lease from State of Michigan	TBD	Community service organizations; local recreation groups.	2009

LOW	Township Park/Campground	Site improvements for a park/campground (to be established on acquired property).	TBD	MDNR; local foundations; community service organizations	2012
<b>OTHER IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
HIGH	Wilson Township	Wayfinding Signage	\$6,000	Local foundations; community service organizations	2008
HIGH	Wilson Township	Informational Brochures	\$2,500	Community service organizations, local foundations.	2008
*Some flexibility in the timeline may be necessary in order to allow for necessary engineering studies, environmental surveys, contractual scheduling, and the availability of funding.					

**BASIS FOR ACTION:**

The demographics of Wilson Township indicate that a large majority (78%) of the Township exists as family households. 270 households have children under the age of 18. Over half of the Township residents are between the ages of 25-64. Also, there are 379 disabled residents in Wilson Township. Due to the large number of residents who are able to pursue active recreation as well as the high number of households with children and disabled persons, Wilson Township must plan recreational facilities that appeal to a wide variety of people. In addition, with the median income of the Township being \$37,198, recreation must be fairly affordable.

Because it has not yet developed recreational facilities, Wilson Township does not currently employ staff to manage these types of facilities. If facilities requiring staffing are to be developed, there must be a revenue source to employ additional people.

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

## **Wolf Creek Property:**

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

A pedestrian bridge across the river would allow the public access to both sides of the river without utilizing Wolf Creek Road. Without a pedestrian bridge available at the river, one currently has to travel approximately 0.5 miles using the Township right of way, Wolf Creek Road, and the right of way to the other side of the river.

Other property improvements are needed to clean up the area to make it an attractive site for the public. Restrooms, a picnic area and benches will be a great asset to those who wish to use and those who simply visit the site. Signage is needed at both right of way accesses on Wolf Creek Road to indicate that the site is a Township facility and open to the public. In addition, fencing is needed in order to delineate public and private property in order to prevent trespass on private lands.

It is the Township's intent to continue to pursue the acquisition of the property located between the current Township road right of way and Wolf Creek. The property is currently in private ownership but would be a great Township asset. If acquired, the property could be designated as a natural area and funding for the construction of hiking and interpretive trails could be pursued.

## **Township Park/Campground**

A Township-owned park/campground is lacking in Wilson Township. It is the desire of the Township that the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground be re-opened in order to facilitate tourism in the area. However, a Township-owned park/campground facility would be a great asset in order to fill a recreational gap in the inland portion of Alpena County. The establishment of a campground in addition to multi-use trails (discussion to follow) would provide recreational amenities to an area that is currently underserved. The majority of recreational facilities in Alpena County are located near Lake Huron, therefore tourism traffic remains concentrated along the coastline. A park/campground facility along with connecting trails would bring this tourism traffic inland to enjoy the natural resources of Wilson Township.

In order to establish this type of facility, the Township will pursue funding to purchase available property in a wooded and/or riverfront setting. In order to develop a park/campground facility, amenities will be needed such as camp sites, restrooms, drinking water, fire pits, a waste disposal system, and a playground area for campers and day-users. Staffing measures will also need to be addressed.

## **Trails**

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

The Township wishes to pursue the establishment of non-motorized trail systems which link current and future recreational facilities (**see Map 5-1**). In particular, trails are needed which will link the following facilities: Wolf Creek Property, Wilson School, Wilson Township Hall, Optimist Acres, and the State-owned facilities in the Mackinaw State Forest such as the Norway Ridge Pathway and the Devil's Lake Parking Lot. On a larger scale, this internal Wilson Township trail system could then be linked via the M-32 MDOT Bike path in Alpena Township and through the Mackinaw State Forest with any existing and future trails in Alpena Township and, ultimately, to the Bi-Path in the City of Alpena and any future trail systems planned for the US 23 Heritage Route. As the development of region-wide trail connections progresses, Wilson Township will be at the forefront.

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

## **Thunder Bay River Access**

The Township sees the need to research and pursue funding to establish greater public access to the Thunder Bay River along Werth Road. The recent closure of the Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground has decreased public access to the Thunder Bay River. In addition, property owners along Werth Road have experienced trespass due to the public attempting to gain access to the river across private property. A public access point at this location would alleviate this problem and be a great asset to the community.

## **Wayfinding Signage/Informational Brochures**

Many visitors and Township residents are not aware of the recreational opportunities available within Wilson Township. The Township intends to develop wayfinding signage to direct visitors and residents to the public and private recreational facilities which are listed in the recreation inventory and are located within Wilson Township. This signage will include name, direction, and distance information. Preliminary locations where such signage is needed include: (1) M-

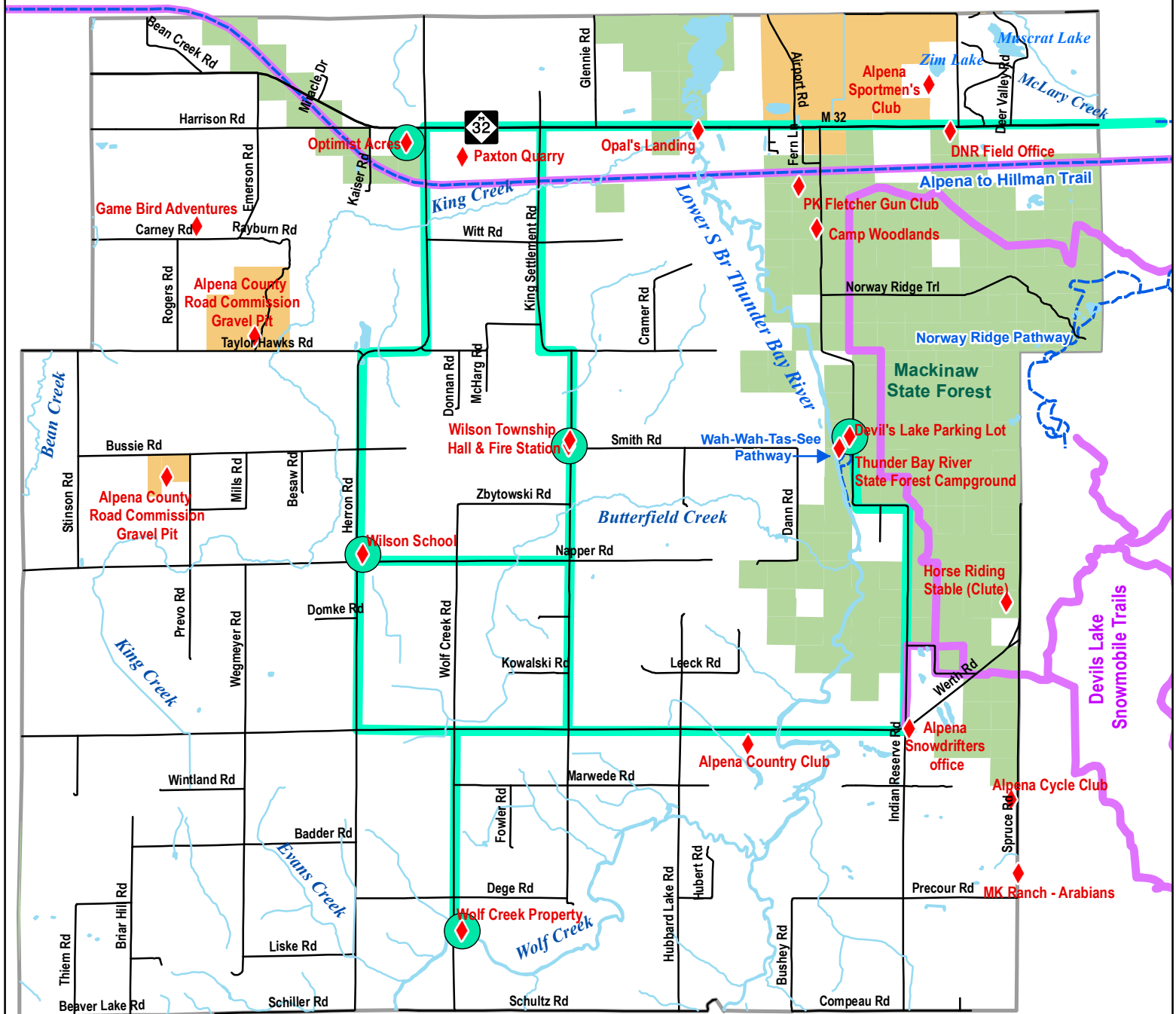


32/Herron Road (2) M-32/King Settlement Road (3) M-32/Indian Reserve Road (4) Herron Road/Werth Road (5) Wolf Creek Road/Werth Road (6) Indian Reserve Road/Werth Road (7) Werth Road/Spruce Road and (8) King Settlement Road/Werth Road. In addition to signage, the Township plans to develop color brochures/maps highlighting recreation in Wilson Township to be distributed throughout the area and which could be available for download on various websites such as the Alpena CVB website and NEMCOG's website.

# Future Non-Motorized Trail Connector Points & Routes

## Wilson Township Alpena County

This map depicts a generalized route to begin planning for the future of non-motorized trails in Wilson Township. Key facilities to be connected by trails are identified as well as roads which could serve as connectors between these points. Road rights-of-way and private easements are possibilities for trail placements. Exact locations of trail routes will be identified as opportunities for funding develop.



### Recreational Facilities

- Key recreational facilities to connect with trails
- Generalized non-motorized route to connect points
- Current Recreational Facilities
- Current Nonmotorized Trails
- Current Snowmobile Trails

- Alpena County & Alpena County Road Commission
- State of Michigan




Map produced by the  
Northeast Michigan  
Council of Governments  
September 2007