

Law Stenbacher

**ALCONA COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION PLAN**

**BY
ALCONA COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION
COMMISSION**

**1975
DRAFT REVISION**

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Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission

BOX 281

HARRISVILLE, MICHIGAN 48740

STATEMENT OF REVIEW

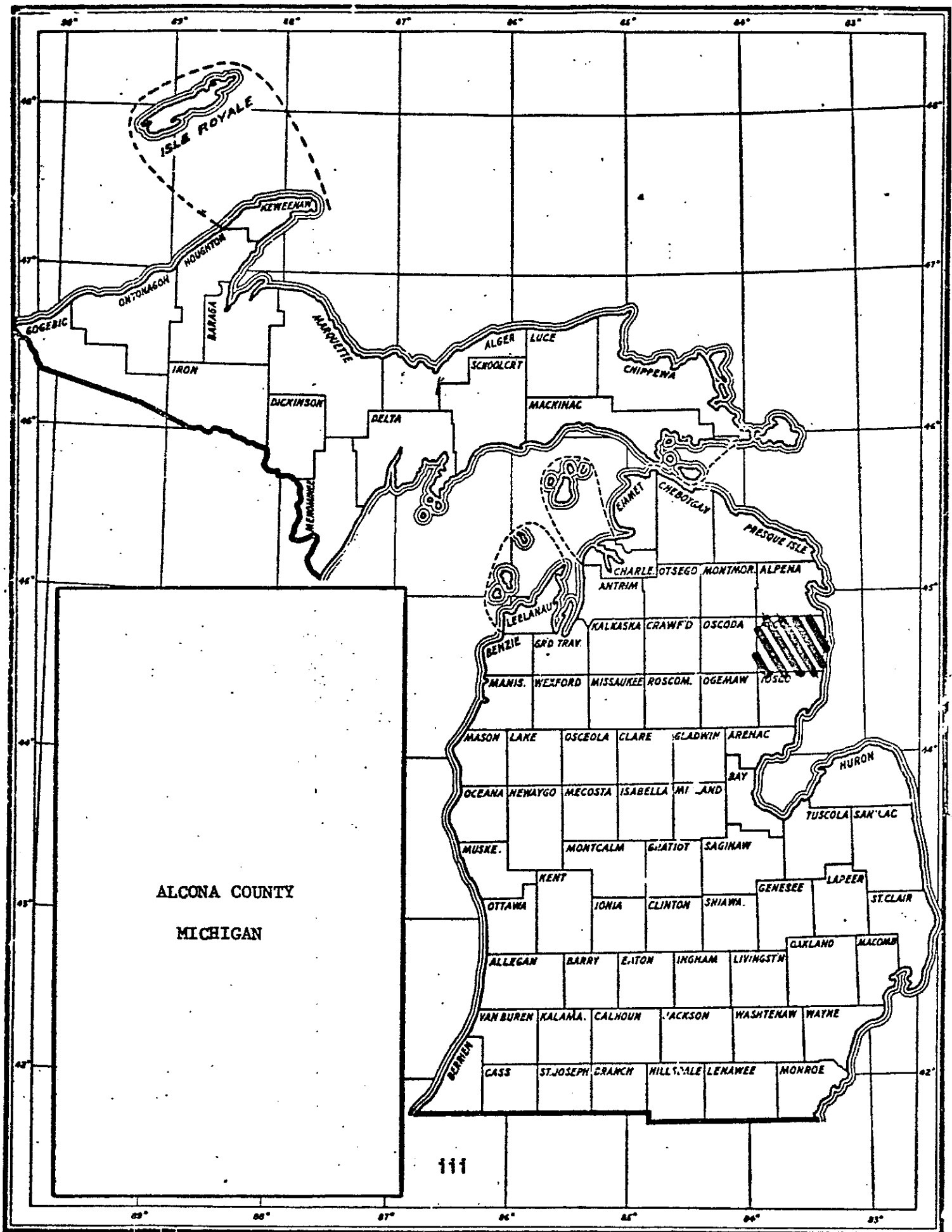
The Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission has been operating from its first recreational plan that will soon be five years old. This updated version of the basic plan outlines new priorities and recreation potentials.

Commission members have received copies of this update and will soon finalize their review.

We see an expanded role for the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission. This plan fosters such a move in Alcona County.

James O. Frederick

James Frederick
Commission Chairman
Sept. 8, 1975

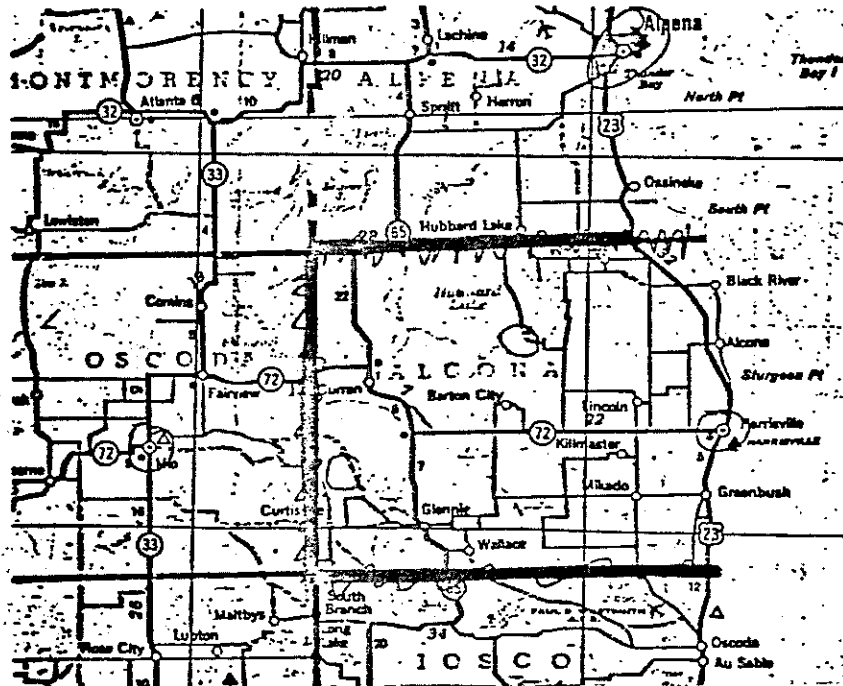


ALCONA COUNTY
MICHIGAN

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

REGIONAL LOCATION

Alcona County is located in the northeastern part of the lower peninsula of Michigan and includes 677 square miles or approximately 433,260 acres. Located on the west shore of Lake Huron, Alcona County



is bordered by Alpena County on the north, Oscoda County on the west, Iosco County on the south, and the Great Lake on the east. The area is twenty-four miles from north to south and thirty miles from east to west. The following townships are located within the planning area: Alcona, Caledonia, Curtis, Greenbush, Gustin, Harrisville, Hawes, Haynes, Mikado, Millen and Mitchell. Two incorporated areas are also located in the planning area: the City of Harrisville in Harrisville Township, and the Village of Lincoln in Gustin and Hawes Townships. Several unincorporated settlements exist within the County but are considered in relation to the Townships in which they are located; they include Mikado in Mikado Township, Glennie in Curtis Township, Curran in Mitchell Township, Hubbard Lake and Spruce in Caledonia Township and Greenbush in Greenbush Township.

Much of the economic activity in Alcona County is dependent upon the City of Alpena, 16 miles north of the County line and Oscoda and the Wurtsmith Air Force Base located 5 miles south of the County line.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Climate

The climate of Alcona County is relatively mild. January temperatures average 23.2 degrees above zero and July temperatures average 67.6 degrees. (Harrisville Station.) The minimum of record is minus 21 degrees and the maximum of record is 105 degrees. The length of growing season is 138 days compared to 150 days for Alpena County and 97 days for Oscoda County. The average annual precipitation is 27.94 inches and the annual snowfall is 53.6 inches (unmelted). Winds from the southwest and west generally produce warmer temperatures in the summer and cooler temperatures in the winter. Cool comfortable breezes often occur from the northeast and southwest winds from Lake Huron.

Rivers and Streams

There are approximately 60 streams in Alcona County providing generally good trout fishing. Most notable is 13 miles of the AuSable River in Curtis Township in the southwest section of the County. The Bamfield Pond provides the terminus of a 44 mile stretch of the famous AuSable River designated as part of the "Wild Rivers" Program in 1970. It is also the location of Alcona County Park.

INVENTORY OF STREAMS IN ALCONA COUNTY

These are the longer and larger streams in the county. There are another 52 streams totaling another 195 miles. Many of these have excellent trout fishing.

Name of Water, Location, Length

Description of Water

AuSable River

Flows across SW corner of county through Curtis Twp.
13 Miles

Canoeing & fishing, shoreline mostly Consumers Power Co. property, river famous for its natural and scenic beauty and excellent trout fishing.

South Branch Pine River

Flows east through Mikado Twp.
10 Miles

Fishing, flows almost entirely through National Forest Property, Undisturbed stream of trout quality flowing through heavily wooded area.

VanEttan Creek

Flows south thru Harrisville & Mikado Twps. to the Pine River
13.5 Miles

Livestock, water, some fishing near headquarters, flows mostly through private property, spring fed stream, pollution from sediment & livestock warmed due to lack of cover along banks.

McGillis

Flows southeast from Millen Twp. into the South Branch of Pine River in Mikado Twp.
9.5 Miles

Fishing, flows thru both private and National Forest property, spring fed stream of trout quality.

West Branch Pine River

Flows southeast to Pine River thru Millen & Gustin Townships
13 Miles

Trout fishing, flows mostly through National Forest property, spring fed stream of trout quality, several beaver dams on stream.

Backus Creek

Starts at Jewel Lake and flows SE through Hawes & Gustin Twp. to the West Branch of the Pine River
12.5 Miles

Trout fishing, flows thru both private and National Forest property, trout quality stream with stable flow.

East Branch Pine River

Starts north of Lincoln and flows south thru Hawes and Gustin Twp. to the Pine River
13.5 Miles

Trout fishing, flows thru private clubs and farmlands, spring fed stream, receives some pollution from livestock, warmed in some areas due to lack of bank cover.

Little Wolf Creek

Flows north to Alpena Co. thru Mitchell & Caledonia Township
12 Miles.

Trout fishing, flows entirely thru private hunting club property, spring fed stream of trout quality, natural & undisturbed.

Black River

Flows north thru Haynes & Alcona Twp. to Lake Huron at Village of Black River
14.5 Miles

Cold, stable flow, trout quality fishing flows mostly thru private property.

McGinn Creek

Flows east and north thru Mitchell Twp. to Alpena County
11 Miles

Trout fishing, flows entirely thru private club property, cold, spring fed stream very little disturbance.

INVENTORY OF LAKES IN ALCONA COUNTY

Over 22 lakes are located in Alcona County covering 17 square miles or 10,880 acres. Hubbard Lake is the largest and covers approximately 14 square miles or 9,000 acres.

Name of Lake, Location, Area

Description of Water

Bamfield Pond

Sec. 3, 4, 8 & 9, T25N R5E
1008 Acres

County park & campground on east shore. Hydro-electric reservoir on AuSable River, good warm water fishing.

Curtis

Sec. 4 & 9, T25N, R6E
29 Acres

Undeveloped. Natural lake 66 feet deep with mineral shoreline, warm water fishing

Jenkins
Sec. 5 T25N R6E
12 Acres

North
Sec. 10 & 15 T25N R6E
90.5 Acres

Indian Lakes
Sec. 10, 11, 14 & 15, T25N R6E
39.2 Acres

Hunters
Sec. 16 & 21, T25N R6E
42 Acres

Thompson
Sec. 17 & 20 T25N R6E
12.5 Acres

Vaughn
Sec 20, 21, 28 & 29 T25N R6E
115 Acres

Little
Sec. 27 T25N R6E
15 Acres

De Lap
Sec. 5 T25N R7E
13 Acres

Cedar
Sec 15, 22, 27 & 34 T25N R9E

Byron
Sec. 15 T26N R5E
13.7 Acres

O'Brien
Sec. 18 T26N R5E
10.3 Acres

Sunny
Sec. 35 T26N R5E
10 Acres

Horseshoe
Sec. 36 T26N R5E
15.6 Acres

Trout
Sec. 10 T26N R6E
16 Acres

Undeveloped. 100% organic shoreline,
surrounded by marsh and steep banks.

Shoreline subdivided, public access.
Maximum depth of 90 feet, mineral shore-
line, panfish and pike.

Undeveloped, south lake mostly on Huron
National Forest, others mostly on private
property. Group of 3 lakes ranging in
size from 9.9 to 19.0 acres, panfish & pike

Shoreline subdivided, public access.
Maximum depth 86 feet, mineral shoreline,
Panfish and pike

Undeveloped, panfishing.

Most of mineral shoreline subdivided.
Maximum depth 65 feet, 90% mineral shore-
line, panfishing.

Undeveloped natural lake with organic
shoreline

Privately owned mineral shoreline, youth
camp on East Shore, panfish and pike

Much of shoreline subdivided or being
developed, public access. 11 foot max-
imum depth, 98% mineral shoreline.

Huron National Forest. 90% mineral shore-
line, panfishing.

Huron National Forest. 50% organic
shoreline, 30 feet deep, trout fishing

Huron National Forest, panfishing.

Huron National Forest Campground, 32 feet
deep, mineral shoreline, trout fishing

Undeveloped, on private property. Natural
lake with 100% organic shoreline

Reid

Sec 14 & 15 T26N R6E
13 Acres

Huron National Forest, panfishing

Bliss

Sec 36 T26N R6E
44 Acres

Undeveloped, private, 85% mineral shoreline

Jewell

Sec 4 & 5 T26N R7E
193 Acres

Partially undeveloped, Huron National Forest Campground, maximum depth 20 feet
60% mineral shoreline, panfish and pike

Tubbs

Sec 31 T26N R7E
43 Acres

Undeveloped, private, 100% organic shoreline, panfish, good waterfowl habitat

Sprinkler

Sec. 32 T26N R7E
34 Acres

Undeveloped, private, 100% organic shoreline, panfish

Lincoln

Sec. 1 & 2 T26N R8E
71 Acres

Mostly undeveloped 70% mineral shoreline, shallow, good waterfowl habitat

Hubbard Lake

Sec 4, 9, 15, 16, 23, 24, 28, 29
35, 36 T28N R7E
8,000 Acres

Subdivided shoreline to public access sites.

Alcona County claims 25 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. Of this total less than 3 miles are publically owned. Most of the 3 miles is within the proposed Negwegon State Park site on the north end of the county.

Soils

A soil resource area map was made from a study of the many soil conditions in Alcona County. Those properties important to the use of the soil such as soil texture, natural drainage and slope were considered in separating the soil resource areas. The uses that were evaluated were for drainage suitability for septic systems.

The soil resource area map may be used for broad planning. Each area is described in a general way on the basis of the major soil characteristics.

Soil limitations pertain to each area in general and are not specific for small areas or sites. Small areas with different conditions and use limitations may be found in any or all separations.

The soil is evaluated to a depth of 5 feet or less. Soils are rated on the basis of four classes of soil limitations as follows:

- Slight - Relatively free of limitations or limitations are easily overcome.
- Moderate - Limitations need to be recognized but can be overcome with good management and careful design.
- Severe - Limitations are severe enough to make use questionable.
- Very Severe - Extreme measures are needed to overcome the limitations and usage generally is unsound or not practical.

Use of Soil for Recreation Development

Although soil limitations impose varying degrees of hazard for selected recreation uses, certain major soil limitations are applicable to most types of recreational activity.

The presence of a high water table interferes with operation of trench type sewage systems. A saturated soil condition can also hinder vehicle and foot traffic during wet seasons of the year.

Organic soils commonly have a high water table. In addition, organic material is highly compressible with poor capacity to support loads. This material also shrinks and settles readily when drained.



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Vegetation

Alcona County is 75% forested and holds a vast inventory of valuable timber products. Most of these forested acres are held by either the U.S. Forest Service or the large private hunting clubs.

Of the County's 433,260 acres, 109,000 acres are maintained by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Huron National Forest. These lands are primarily located in the southwest and south central portions of the County. Additional large acreage is located in the northeast section of the County in Haynes and Alcona Townships. Approximately 5,000 acres is maintained by the U.S. Forest Service and 3,000 acres by the State of Michigan in the Alpena State Forest. Mitchell and a large part of Caledonia Township west of Hubbard Lake are owned by private hunting clubs and camps.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Utilities

Electric power is provided by Consumers Power Company in all of Alcona County except the NW corner known as the 'club country'.

Michigan Consolidated Gas Company supplies natural gas to Greenbush, Harrisville and Lincoln. All other heat sources are fuel oil or wood.

Michigan Bell Telephone Company provides phone service to Greenbush and General Telephone Company covers the rest of the county except for the Glennie area which is served by a local private phone company (Continental.)

The City of Harrisville is the only area served by a central water system. The Village of Lincoln has engineering plans for both a central sewer and water system. Harrisville will build their central sewer system in 1976.

All other areas in Alcona County have private wells and septic systems. Few problems have become apparent from these private systems.

Circulation

Approximately 25% or 548 Alcona County residents commuted to work outside of the County in 1960. An estimated 334 travelled to Iosco County principally to Wurtsmith Air Force Base for employment, 131 commuted to Alpena County. Only 75 persons commuted to Alcona County for employment.

Only one interstate and one intrastate trucking firms pass through the area. Deliveries are often delayed until sizable orders can be "blocked" together to make delivery justifiable. Due to the high freight costs, raw materials are considerably higher than in southern markets.

The Detroit and Mackinaw and New York Central Railroads provide limited service handling freight only. With the new Railpax System, service will be even more restricted.

Alcona County maintains only a small aircraft and emergency landing field in the County. Commercial service is available at Alpena on a limited basis.

Alcona County is principally accessible via U.S. 23 and M-65 from the north and south and via M-72 from the west.

The retail center at Alpena, 16 miles to the north, is accessible via U.S. 23 and indirectly via M-65 and M-32 to residents in the west portion of the county.

Interstate 75 is approximately 40 miles west of the County line. An Interstate loop has been proposed to extend from Bay City to Alpena which will greatly benefit area residents, particularly those in the tourist business. To date this freeway has been completed to Standish approximately 50 miles south of Alcona County.

Circulation within the County is decidedly better than to major markets. U.S 23 parallels the Lake Huron shoreline and F-41 provides an alternate route 5 miles inland and serves Mikado, the Village of Lincoln, and Hubbard Lake residents. M-65 runs north and south and parallels the west boundary approximately 10 miles east. The State Highway provides a short cut for vacationers and travelers entering the region at Standish. M-72 runs east to west beginning at Harrisville about midway between the north and south boundaries of the County. It intersects with U.S. 23, F-41, and M-65 enroute to Grayling and Interstate 75.

Land Use Pattern

The ownership and land use pattern of rural areas have particular bearing on the potentials for developing vacation farms and hunting areas. The potential for vacation farms depends in part upon the existence of farms with substantial farmsteads of living quarters and operations that are interesting to urban people.

Hunting area developments may need the organization of hunting cooperatives or else large enough properties to organize hunting enterprises.

This ownership element may also have some relevance to other types of developments such as Natural, Scenic and Historic Areas.

The key statistics relative to vacation farm potentials used here are:

Farms from 100-259 acres total 30,951 acres or 42% of the total acres in farms.

The 1964 Agricultural Census data showed 194 farms or 46% of the total were dairy, livestock and general farming. The others were poultry, miscellaneous and unclassified.

118 farms were part time with the operator working off the farm for 100 days or more a year. 73 farms were part retirement with the operator 65 or over.

The statistics relative to hunting areas potential used here are:

Acreage of farms over 180 acres in size	— 50,394 acres
Acreage of large or corporate ownership	— 69,338 acres
Acreage of public land open to hunting	— 114,900 acres
Total public, corporate and farms over 180 ac.	— 234,632 acres

These total about 54% of the county.

Approximately 6,200 acres of the large or corporate ownership is Consumers Power Company property located along the AuSable River in Curtis and Mitchell Townships. The other 63,000 plus acreage is primarily the large hunting clubs that exist in the county. Those included in this figure were only the ones 500 acres or larger. A considerable amount of land is in this type of ownership in smaller parcels from 40 to 80 acres to the 500 acre class.

A recent Cooperative Extension Service land ownership study in Alcona County tabulated all private parcels 20 acres and larger. The results were:

	Acres	Parcels	Average
Residential	104,944	1156	91A
Agriculture	58,732	667	88A
Forest	<u>78,179</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>117A</u>
Total	241,855	2492	97A

Total land uses were tabulated by Michigan State University. Their figures show Alcona County has:

Total Area		444,160 Acres
Inland Water	10,560 A	
Land Surface	433,600	
		<hr/> 444,160 Acres
Forested	322,800	74.4%
Agriculture	55,941	12.9
Transportation	8,976	2.1
Recreation	1,822	0.4
Urbanization	224	0.1
Other	43,837	10.1
	<hr/> 433,837 Acres	100%

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Alcona County has established a Park and Recreation Commission under the authority of Public Acts 261, as amended by Act 242, P.A. 1966. This Commission was organized in 1969 and established in 1970.

At present part-time personnel did administer the parks and recreational facilities and programs of the County. A full time park and recreation director was hired to administer the County Parks System.

The County Parks Manager is responsible to the County Park and Recreation Commission.

Duties of the Parks and Recreation Director

1. Build an effective organizational structure to achieve basic objectives and policies adopted by the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission.
2. Select personnel who will provide necessary skills best suited for the duties and responsibilities of the job requirements.
3. Develop personnel policies that will develop loyal, efficient, and cooperative staff members.
4. Develop a supervisory organization and program that will yield maximum results from all personnel.
5. Interpret the policies of the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission to the Public.
6. Evaluate the desirability of future parks, sites, activities, and facilities in view of need, cost, durability and so on.
7. Evaluate the desirability of future park sites for inclusion in the Alcona County Parks System.
8. Evaluate park facilities, structures, and equipment needs and methods for financing.
9. Administer the business operations of the park system and all revenue producing activities and facilities including the operation and supervision of any related offices, bank accounts, stores of supplies, and materials.
10. Set up a record and reporting system - financial, program, health, personnel, and so on -- and to devise a system of securing, organizing, and utilizing records and reports.
11. Establish a system of controls for purchasing activities and the maintenance of inventory records and identification.
12. Evaluate all aspects of the operation of the Alcona County Parks System and to insure the achievement of all park policies and objectives in as efficient and economical a manner as possible.

Responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Director

1. Preparation of the annual budget and supervision of conformity to it.
2. Developing good public relations with organizations and agencies interested in the betterment of the Alcona County Parks System.
3. Eliminating park hazards and problems and adopting the most effective means of providing protection through an effective yet economical insurance program.
4. The care, maintenance, and storage of equipment.
5. Legal aspects of park operations and procedures for complying with legal requirements, including taxation, laws affecting workers, health, liability, licensing, and so on.
6. Care and maintenance of areas, structures and facilities.
7. The physical planning of the park system. It is his responsibility to either prepare, or have prepared, plans and specifications that are presented to the Commission for approval. It does not necessarily follow that these plans must be in blueprint form. Minor changes may be in verbal or sketch form. In the event that architects, engineers, or consultants are employed by the Commission to prepare plans, studies, or reports, he should assist in every way to reflect the wishes of the Commission to expedite the work of these technicians.
8. The selection of all horticultural material and the planting and preservation of same.
9. The construction of all new parks and facilities whether done by contract or force accounts.

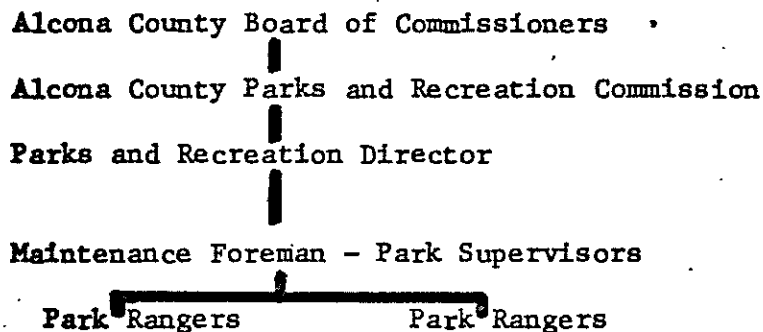
Relationship Between the Parks Director and the Commissioners

1. Keep Commission members informed as to desirable park procedures and other problems that arise from day to day or month to month in the community. Alert the Commission on any and all conditions that might affect the System adversely or otherwise.
2. Work with the various committees inspecting parks and whatever other problems that affect their efforts. Write whatever reports are deemed necessary by them to submit to the Commission.
3. Attend all stated Commission meetings and whatever other committee meetings or special meetings to which an invitation is extended by the Commission Chairman.
4. Act as a liason between the Park and Recreation Commission and the employees of the System. Also act as a liason between the Commission and the public.

5. In the area of public relations, prepare all data for publication and submit it to the newspapers after approval by the Public Relations Chairman. In this area, provide for photographs and special material that is deemed necessary for education of the public as it relates to the Parks.
6. Provide material for the Commission in the determination of policy.
7. Personally contact complainants of park operations and programs and in serious matters keep the Commission informed.
8. Submit an annual report to the Park and Recreation Commission and the Recreation Administrative Services Division of the Department of Natural Resources as required by Act 26.

Staff Operations

The chain of authority should be as follows:



Functions of the Parks and Recreation System

The function of the Parks and Recreation Commission includes, but not necessarily be limited to all of the following functions:

Planning - to provide a systematic means of planning the location, acquisition, development, and maintenance of a system of parks, recreation and open space areas, facilities, and activities within the County. Definite criteria for inclusion shall be adopted and revised periodically to keep pace with changing demands and habit use patterns.

Acquisition - to provide a program of acquisition of adjoining acreage or to acquire unique or strategic scenic, scientific, or historical areas for the enjoyment of the residents of the County and their guests. Said areas shall be acquired in an organized, systematic manner so as to provide equal opportunity, access, and enjoyment for all people, regardless of race, creed, or political preferences.

Development - to provide those activities and facilities commensurate with the needs of the people. All development should be carefully planned and be of a durable nature to minimize maintenance.

Funding - to explore and utilize every means of financing that is available to the Commission including Federal and State matching Fund Programs, general obligation bonds, general funds, fees and charges, if justified, and gifts and donations.

Operation - to provide the necessary personnel to operate the Parks effectively and efficiently as feasible. Adequate supervision should be provided all areas to protect the facilities and to insure the equal opportunity for enjoyment to all users.

Maintenance - all parks and facilities will be maintained in a clean, neat, sanitary, and orderly manner, to protect the public health, safety and enjoyment of its users.

General Administration - to employ qualified and competent personnel to achieve the above functions of the Park System, and to maintain and establish the necessary procedures for maintaining an accurate accounting of all funds utilized by the Commission.

ALCONA COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

George Crowell

Henry Bell, Treasurer

Marshall J. McGuire, Sr.

Archie Cordes

Florence Keenan, Member at Large

Virgil Rasche

J. B. Wilcox

Wm. C. Farrow, Secretary

George Sweet, Ex. Officio

James Frederick, Chairman

Harold Fletcher, Chairman

Ralph Mills

John Becker, Park Manager

Road Commission Chairman

County Board of Commissioners

County Planning Commission Chairman

ALCONA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1975 - 1976

Harold Fletcher, Chairman

John Frechette

Gerald Jasinski

Gerson Kahn

Marshall McGuire, Sr.

Finances

The Alcona County Board of Commissioners pays the costs of operating the Park Commission.

The Parks and Recreation Commission operates the Alcona County Park (located on the AuSable River) on a \$40,000 annual budget. User fees generate this funding at this one park.

The Lincoln Hall (funded under County and BOR sponsorship) operates on user fees and Village of Lincoln allocation. This jointly operates on about a ten to \$12,000 annual budget. Alcona County may assume full responsibility for this indoor activity center in 1976.

The County's philosophy is for each facility to pay its own way through the fees it generates.

The Parks and Recreation Commission works to keep up with available Private, State and Federal Assistance for Outdoor Recreation. Among these programs are:

1. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

(Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act provides for grants to States and through States, to their political subdivisions for planning, acquisition, and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

2. Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

The Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 4, 1954, provides that State and local governments, and qualified nonprofit organizations, can acquire certain Federal lands for recreation use, and for other purposes.

3. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Through programs of cooperative research, cost-sharing, information demonstrations, and technical assistance, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife assists States, public agencies, organizations and individuals to realize the full recreational potential of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources.

4. Geological Survey

(Mineral Resources Surveys and Mapping)

The Geological Survey conducts a wide-range program of field and laboratory research in geology to determine and appraise the mineral and mineral-fuel resources and the geologic structure of the United States.

Topographic maps, basic to many activities including recreation, are available from the Geological Survey.

5. Farmers Home Administration

The Farmers Home Administration makes loans for the development of recreational facilities by organizations operating on a non-profit basis such as recreation associations and small towns of 5,500 population or less and other rural political subdivisions.

The Farmers Home Administration makes loans to individual family farmers who are unable to get needed credit elsewhere to develop income-producing outdoor recreation enterprises.

Watershed loans and advances, including funds for developing recreation facilities, may be made to finance the local share of costs of improvements in watershed projects which have been approved by the Soil Conservation Service.

6. Cooperative Extension Service - Educational Assistance

The Cooperative Extension Service provides educational assistance and advice to individuals and groups who are interested in developing or operating recreation enterprises or community recreation programs.

7. Forest Service

Through its cooperative State-Federal programs, the Forest Service works closely with State Forestry Departments in urging multiple use including recreational development of private woodlands. The Forest Service also assists States in their programs of forest fire control and management of forest lands, including recreation areas.

8. Rural Community Development Service

The Rural Community Development Service has a small staff of specialists in Washington, D. C. It does not have a field staff. The function of this Service is to provide general stimulation and coordination of Federal activities, including programs for outdoor recreation and open space, at the Washington level to help people in rural communities achieve a more permanent social and economic improvement.

9. Rural Electrification Administration

REA will consult, draw upon, and cooperate with other interested agencies, local, State and Federal, in promoting community development activities.

10. Economic Development Administration

Under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, EDA is authorized to provide financial assistance to areas of high unemployment and low median family income to enable them to stabilize and diversify their economies and create new and permanent job opportunities.

11. U. S. Army -- Corps of Engineers

The Civil Works functions of the Corps of Engineers embraces comprehensive multiple-purpose development of the Nation's water and related land resources.

The Federal government assumes all the cost for construction and maintenance of projects for the restoration and protection of Federally owned shores.

12. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(Historic Preservation Grants)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development may provide grants to States and local public bodies to assist in the acquisition, restoration, or improvement of sites, structures or areas of historic or architectural significance.

(Model Neighborhoods in Model Cities)

H.U.D. provides grants and technical assistance to plan, develop and carry out comprehensive programs or rebuilding or restoring slum and blighted areas.

12. Department of Housing and Urban Development (continued)

(Neighborhood Facilities Grants)

The Neighborhood Facilities Program provides grants to local public bodies or agencies to help finance the development cost of multi-purpose neighborhood centers.

(The Open Space Act)

Helps communities acquire and develop land for park, recreation, conservation, scenic, or historic purposes in urban areas.

(Public Facility Loans Program)

Under title II of the Housing Amendments of 1955, loans may be made to small communities for the construction and improvement of local public facilities, including recreation facilities.

(Comprehensive Planning Assistance Program)

Under section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, grants may be made for two-thirds (or up to three-quarters in certain instances) of the cost of all aspects of comprehensive planning to meet urban and regional needs, including outdoor recreation.

13. Department of Transportation

(Bureau of Public Roads)

The Bureau of Public Roads cooperates with the highway departments of the States in developing systems of highways on which the most popular form of outdoor recreation, driving for pleasure, is experienced, and along which many types of outdoor recreation are served.

(Scenic Roads and Parkways Study)

Is a study of a nationwide program of scenic roads and parkways. It provides information useful to States, their political subdivisions and others concerned with designing and developing such projects.

14. United States Coast Guard

Of primary concern are the administration of laws and the promulgation and enforcement of regulations for the promotion of the safety of life and property at sea covering all matters not specifically delegated by law to some other executive department.

POPULATION

Population Change 1950-1970

People are the major determining factor influencing the demand for public services and utilities, including parks, recreation and open space. As population continues to increase, so will the demand for public services, not only from residents from within the County but also from residents in adjoining counties, and outstate metropolitan centers. However, primary emphasis should be directed toward meeting the immediate needs of permanent County residents both now and in the foreseeable future; secondary but equal attention should be directed toward the characteristics and influences of the transient or seasonal residents upon the demand for public services.

Population increased 12.0% or 761 persons in Alcona County from 1960 to 1970, totalling 7,113 persons compared to 6,352 in the former decade. This was slightly lower than the State's 13.4% increase but higher than the seven county Northeast Michigan Regional Planning and Development District's 11.0% increase for the same period.

The 1960-1970 growth rate reflected a more definite increase as compared with the 1950-1960 increase of 8.5% for Alcona County. The NEMRP District's growth rate was almost double at 15.6% during the same period. At the same time the State increased 22.8% and the Nation 19%.

The rate of growth (1960-1970) for Alcona County was slightly higher than the Nation's rate of growth of 11.7%.

Population Change 1950-1970

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
				<u>1950-60</u>	<u>1960-70</u>
Alcona County	5,856	6,352	7,133	8.5	12.0
Northeast Michigan Region	67,466	77,991	81,635	15.6	11.0
State of Michigan (000)	6,371	7,823	8,875	22.8	13.4
United States (000)	150,697	179,325	2,109,802	19.0	11.7

Source: Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, & "1970 Census of Population" Final Population Counts, January 1971.

Alcona County experienced slight variations in its population due to natural increase - the total difference between the total number of births and the total number of deaths; however, migration patterns had a greater affect on the growth and makeup of the area population during the last decade. Many of the younger people of the area are leaving the County for better opportunities in the industrial cities of the State. From 1960 to 1965 it is estimated that the population of the area declined from 6,352 to 6,100 as the general economic activity of the area continued to decrease while opportunities in other areas of the State increased. In 1967 new developments at Cedar Lake in Greenbush

Township and Hubbard Lake in Hawes, Caledonia, and Alcona Townships initiated an in-migration of former residents who had left the area earlier in life and retirees seeking semi-permanent residences on the lakes. The net result is that the 1970 population showed a net increase of 761 persons or 13.4% with 7,113 people. The greatest growth occurred in Greenbush Township and Hawes Township with a 41.8% and 30.0% increase, respectively.

Population in 1970 in the County was distributed as follows:

Population Data for Governmental Units

	<u>1960*</u>	<u>1970*</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Alcona Twp	381	486	27.6
Caledonia Twp	654	763	16.7
Curtis Twp	664	718	8.1
Greenbush Twp	536	760	41.8
Gustin Twp	696	613	-11.9
Harrisville Twp	787	902	14.6
Hawes Twp	624	811	30.0
Haynes Twp	368	416	13.0
Mikado Twp	617	636	3.1
Millen Twp	318	270	-15.1
Mitchell Twp	220	197	-18.9
City of Harrisville	487	541	11.1
Village of Lincoln	441	371	-19.9

* Source: 1960 Census of Population, Final Population Counts, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, January 1961.

** Source: 1970 Census of Population, Final Population Counts, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, January 1971.

Industry and Business

There are several manufacturing plants in the County which are located in Harrisville and Lincoln. Tourism, agriculture, wood industry and services are the other important phases of the economy requiring labor. Nearly all of the labor force is composed of semi-skilled and unskilled labor. About 25 percent of the labor force commute to other areas outside of the County to work.

Alcona County depends upon the tourist trade for a large part of its economy. The tourists are attracted to the area because of the large number of lakes, streams and forests and too, it borders on Lake Huron. Hubbard Lake is the largest inland lake and is encircled by private cottages and summer residents. There is a great potential to develop parks and recreation areas in the 109,000 acres of public forest lands but there seems to be very little enthusiasm amongst private enterprise to promote this potential. There is one ski resort in the area which helps to stabilize employment during the winter months. The fishing industry is being revised in the Great Lakes, it has definitely increased the resort business, The one drawback with the Alcona shoreline is that there

are no bays or peninsulas to break the direct sweep of the big lake waves. However, the Waterways Division has established a fine marina at Harrisville in a man-made harbor.

Dairy and feeder cattle are the most important farming operations carried on in this County. The trend in Alcona County, as is true for most of the northern counties, is for a decrease in the number of farms but an increase in acreage per farm. Only 10 percent of the land is cropland and there is nothing to indicate that more land will be cleared for farming in the future. Many of the idle farms are being bought up by city people for investment and a place of retirement.

There are several small saw mills throughout the County. Pulp wood cutting and logging are the most important non-agriculture industries. The Air Force Base at Oscoda provides more civilian employment too. The ski resort near Lincoln in the northern part of the County affords some seasonal work during the winter months which helps to alleviate the unemployment problem which is the most critical at that time of year.

Income

In 1971 Alcona County reported \$2,555 per capita compared with \$4,455 per capita for the State and \$4,164 per capita for the Nation. Median income in 1969 was \$5,842 for Alcona County residents as compared to \$11,032 for Michigan. While current statistics are not available, it is estimated that both gauges of income remain considerably lower than State and National figures reflecting the income potentials of County residents.

CONCENTRATED AREAS OF GROWTH

There are no areas in Alcona County that may be defined as Urbanized Areas (cities with a population of 50,000 or more population)., however, population densities have occurred along U.S. 23 and the Lake Huron shoreline, along the shore of Hubbard Lake and in the Village of Lincoln and the City of Harrisville.

The City of Harrisville is located on the Lake Huron shoreline in the east central section of the County and reported a 11.1% increase or 54 residents from 1960-1970 compared to a negligible increase of 2 residents from 1950-1960. Harrisville Township increased 14.6% or 115 residents from 1960 to 1970. Combined the population totalled 1443 residents for this area.

The Village of Lincoln is located 5 miles west and 2 miles north of the City of Harrisville on M72 and showed a 18.9% decrease of 70 residents from 1960-1970. The north portion of the Village located in Hawes township increased by 30 residents or 15.4% and contributed to the 30.0% or 187 resident increase in the Township while the south part is located in Gustin Township and decreased by 100 residents or 40.7% resulting in a net 11.9% or 83 resident loss in this area.

Population Density - Alcona County - 1970

	72 sq. mi.	CALEDONIA	66 sq. mi.
	10.6/sq. mi.		7.35/sq. mi.
		ALCONA	
MITCHELL 144 sq. mi.		72 sq. mi. -- HAYNES	35 sq. mi. HAYNES 11.9/sq. mi. (Village)
		Barton City (Uninc.)	Lincoln
	72 sq. mi. --		31 sq. mi. 25.9/sq. mi.
		76 sq. mi. 17.03/sq. mi.	HARRISVILLE
	72 sq. mi. --		
		3.75/sq. mi.	
		MILLEN	
	72 sq. mi. --		
		72 sq. mi. -- 9.97/sq. mi.	27 sq. mi.
		CURTIS (Uninc.)	GREENBUSH
		Glennie (Uninc.)	28.1/sq. mi.
		MIKADO (Uninc.)	
		MIKADO	
		72 sq. mi. -- 8.83/sq. mi.	

LAKE

HURON

City of Harrisville

ALCONA COUNTY

MICHIGAN

Alcona County 677 square miles - Land Area

10.5/square mile - Population Density/square mile

Employment

The significantly lower rate of participation in the labor force in Alcona County is indicative of the employment problems within the County and North-east Michigan Region; due to the limited employment opportunities people become discouraged and drop out of the labor force or resort to social and welfare programs

ALCONA COUNTY - 1972

Selected Areas of Economic Change

EARNINGS 1959-1967

	Dollars	% Change
Agriculture	\$253,000	-36%
Manufacturing	1,119,000	162%
Wholesale, Retail Trade	945,000	91%

PERSONAL INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT DATA

	1960	1970	% Change
Per Capita Income	1,198	2,514	109.8%
Work Force	2,198	2,074	-5.6%
Employment	1,895	1,820	-4.0%
Unemployment	303	254	-16.2%
Total Population	6,352	7,113	12.0%

US Census

Michigan Employment Security Commission unemployment based on those actively seeking work, 16 years of age and older: 1972 annual average - 9.0%. Average annual unemployment rate for the past five years, 8.0%.

In February 1973, Rolled Products Company, located in adjoining community of Oscoda in Iosco County was destroyed by fire. Employment approximately 225. This company will not rebuilt. This situation has resulted in 60-80 persons from Alcona County to be out of work.

Seasonal Unemployment

The Alcona County Labor Force is greatly affected by seasonal variations in employment due to its dependency upon tourist, resort, and natural resource oriented industries.

Greater emphasis must be directed toward reducing the wide fluctuations in employment within the County. If the area is to continue to rely upon tourist and recreational activity as a significant portion of its economic base, efforts must be exerted to expand facilities and activities to include all seasons and other sources of income.

The total effect is that the Village of Lincoln (371) combined with Gustin Township (613), Harrisville Township (902) and the City of Harrisville (541) accounted for 2,281 residents or 32.1% of the County's 7,113 population.

Based upon the 1970 County Census of 7,113 the population density per square mile was 10.5. The highest densities in excess of the County figure were Harrisville (46.5), Greenbush (28.1), Gustin (17.0), Haynes (11.9), Hawes (11.3), and Caledonia (10.6) townships in that order. Combined these areas total 4,806 residents or 67.5% of the County's population located in the east half of the County.

In summary 32.1% or 2,281 residents are located in Harrisville and Gustin Townships including the population of the City of Harrisville and the Village of Lincoln (part of Hawes Township). Approximately 10% or 760 residents are located in Greenbush Township primarily in the south half near Cedar Lake and along the Lake Huron Shoreline. Approximately 30% or 2,135 residents of the County's population is located around Hubbard Lake in Caledonia, Alcona and Hawes Townships.

The balance of the County's population is located in the remaining Townships with approximately 10% or 716 residents being located in Curtis Township in the southwest section of the County.

Age Distribution

The median age of Alcona County residents was 32.0 in 1960 which was considerably higher than the State at 28.3 and the Nation at 29.5. By 1970 it had shifted to 36.9 years.

Age Distribution by Population 1970

	<u>Med Age</u>	<u>%under 5</u>	<u>%5-14 yrs</u>	<u>%15-24 yrs</u>	<u>%25-44yrs</u>	<u>%45-64yrs</u>
Michigan	26.3	9.1	21.4	17.8	23.5	19.8
NE Region	28.3	8.5	23.4	15.1	21.1	20.8
ALCONA	36.9	7.1	19.7	12.6	17.8	25.8

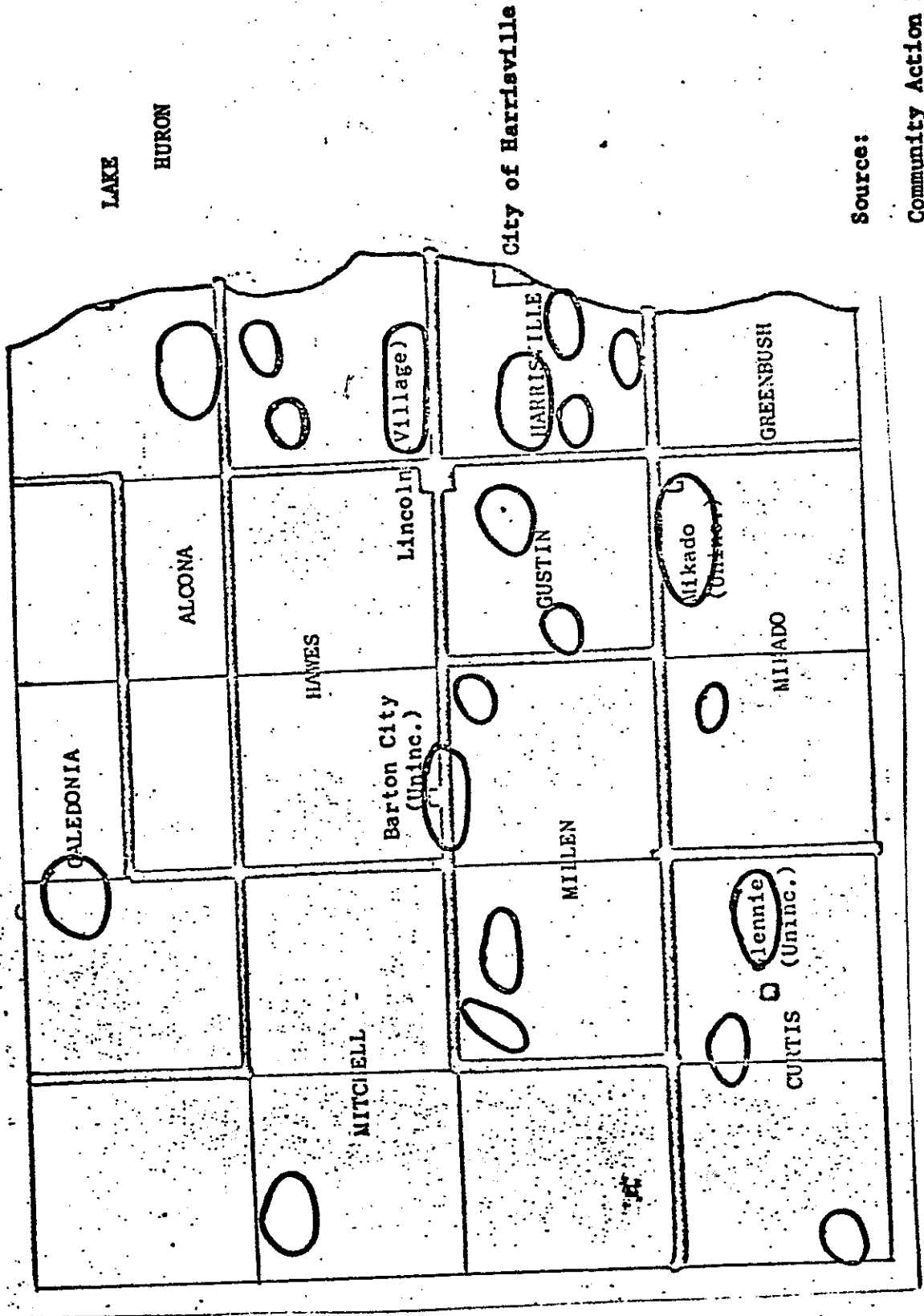
Urban and Rural Population

Approximately 72% of the population in 1960 of Alcona County is rural, non-farm which is generally typical of the Upper Great Lakes Region. Most of the population is settled around Harrisville, Lincoln and lakefront properties on Lake Huron, Hubbard Lake and Cedar Lake.

Location of Low Income Families

The location of low-income families are generally scattered throughout the County with small concentrations occurring around old settlements and inland lakes. In the eastern half of the County, the low income families occur in the older portions south and west of the City of Harrisville, south and east of the Village of Lincoln, west of the unincorporated settlement of Mikado and in portions of Haynes, and Alcona County near U.S. 23

LOCATION OF LOW INCOME FAMILIES



LAKE

HURON

City of Harrisville

Source:

Community Action Program
February 1969

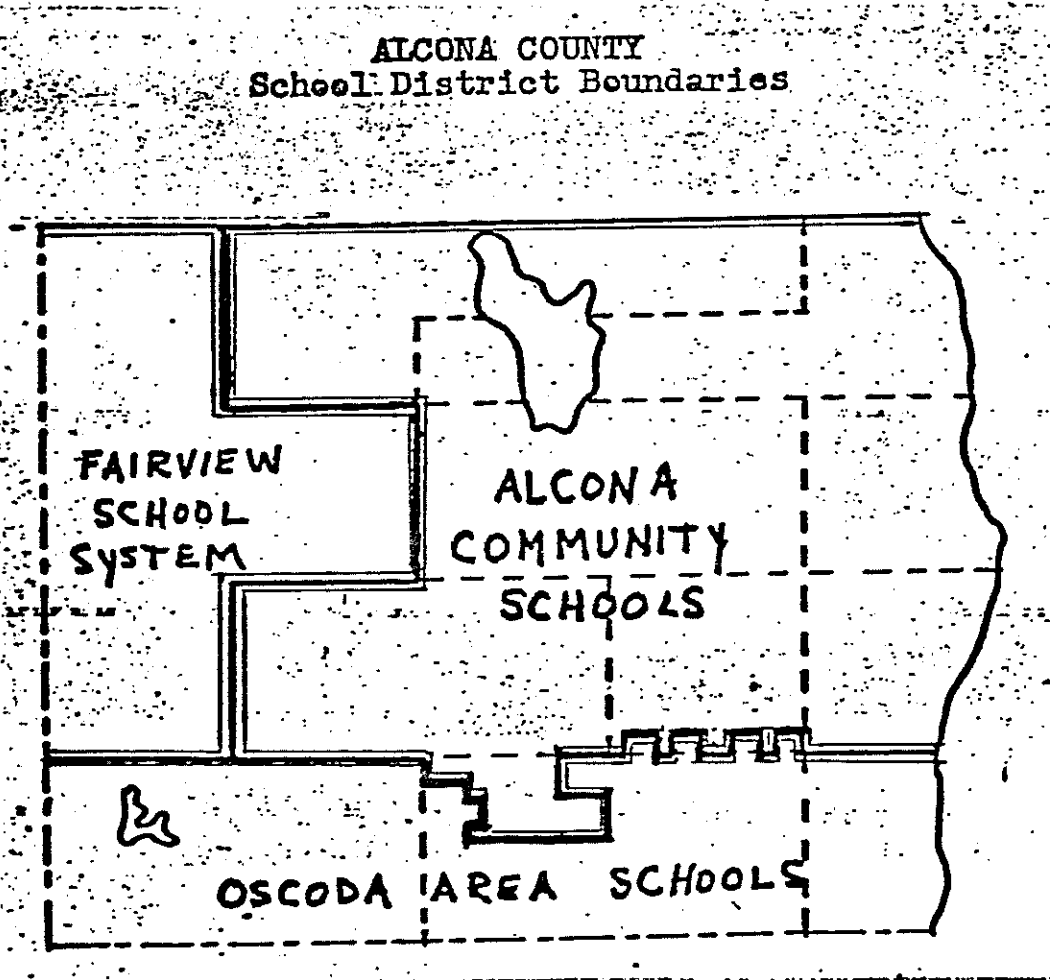
Other concentrations occur at the old settlements established at Hubbard Lake in Caledonia Township, in and around Curran in Mitchell Township, in and northwest of Barton City (uninc.) and northwest and east of Glennie.

Educational Levels

Alcona County had shown a marked decrease in school enrollment primarily due to consolidation of the area's school system into new districts which overlap adjoining County boundaries, and the declining number of young families in the County. But recent immigrations in the 1970's is bringing the enrollment back up again.

ALCONA SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>
Total Enrollment	1,599	1,306	1,415



INVENTORY

Our tremendous resources make this area an exceptionally appealing mecca for the camper, fisherman, hunter and vacationer. Recreation plays a tremendous part in the economic and land use pattern of Alcona County and the various facilities and recreational activities draw not only the transient tourist, but also a tremendous number of summer residents. Although summer is generally considered the resort season, the trend has been toward expanding the winter recreational opportunities to make tourism a year-round activity.

Approximately 74.5% of the land in Alcona County is forested, and State and Federal Forest areas comprise about 28.1% of these forests. Most of these areas, because of public ownership, are open to the public for hunting, hiking, camping, and other sporting activities. Private hunting clubs comprise a vast number of acres, particularly in the north westerly portion of the County. Game animals of significance include: deer, bear, fox, rabbits, raccoon, squirrel, bobcat, as well as ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, woodcock and turkey.

Facilities on the federal forests are utilized primarily for primitive camping. The State Park in Harrisville and the County Park at Alcona Dam Pond near Glennie offer complete camping facilities.

A new State Park campground is currently being developed north of Black River also as a primitive facility, but it is hoped that it will absorb some of the overflow from the Harrisville State Park during peak periods.

Another significant part of Alcona's tourism is attributed to the 362 miles of streams, the 233 inland bodies of water and the 25 miles of Lake Huron shoreline that are found in the County. These water resources are utilized for the full range of water related activities. In addition to catches of trout, bass and perch, fishermen converge on the area to snare the Coho and Chinook salmon which were recently planted in Lake Huron.

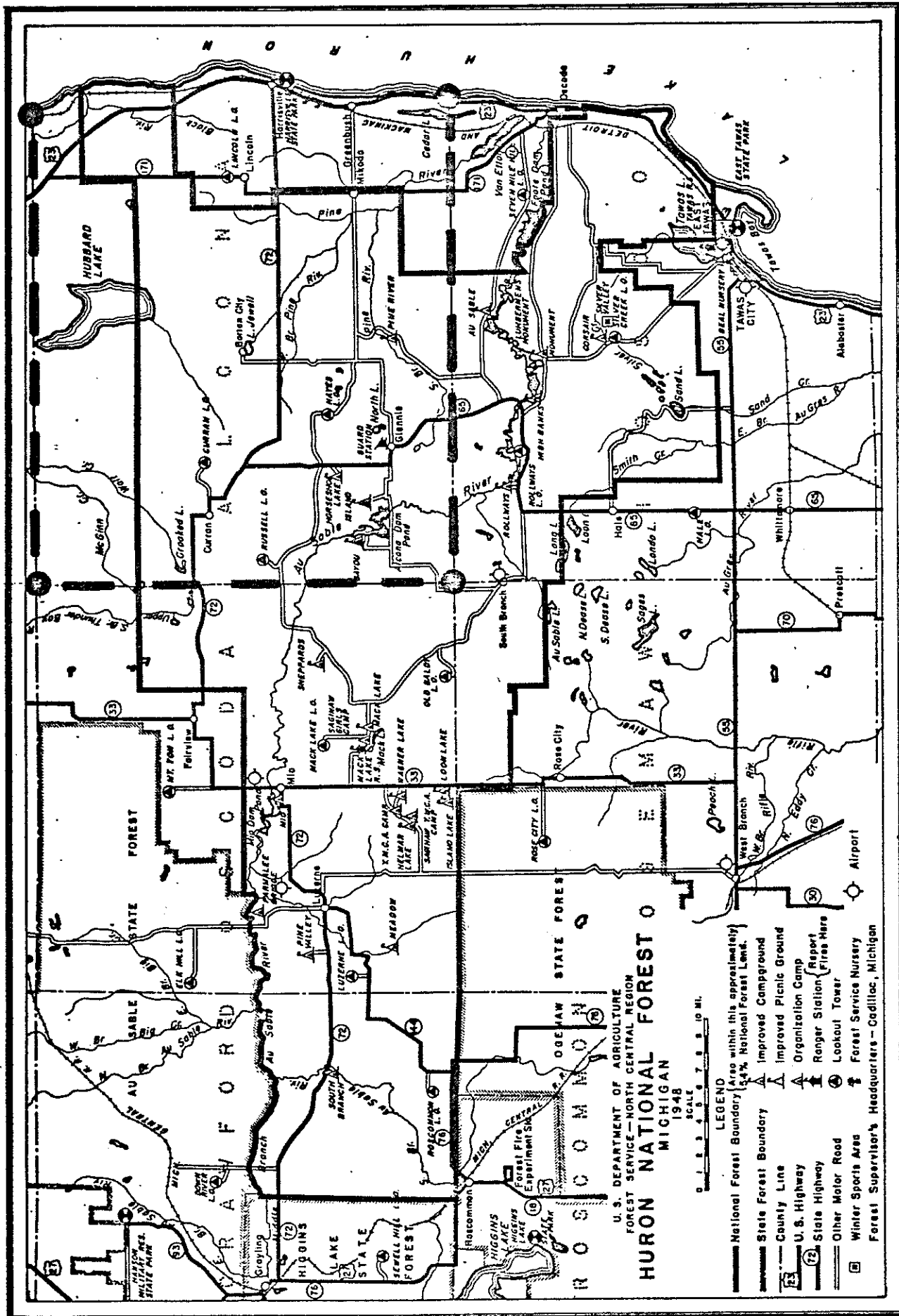
There are numerous public access sites, which in most cases have facilities for boat launching. In addition to these is Harrisville Harbor, the County's primary marine facility, which accommodates the pleasure craft traveling on Lake Huron.

Other public facilities include: snowmobile trails, ball fields, community buildings and fairgrounds. Commercial and private facilities though less plentiful are also very important in considering the recreational amenities of the area.

The following list of public facilities defines available recreation places. The Soil Conservation Service has listed scenic and historic areas located on private lands.

ALCONA COUNTY Recreational Facilities & Points of Interest

<u>name</u>	<u>description</u>
<u>Alcona Township:</u>	
1. Newagon State Park	camping, picknicking, swimming
2. Lost Lake Woods	recreational community
3. Olde Fish House	boat livery



Caledonia Township:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4. Caledonia Twp. Parks | boating, picknicking, swimming |
| 5. Paul Bunyon & Babe the Blue Ox | scenic attraction |
| 6. Haltner's Hall of Ancient Man | scenic attraction |
| 7. Will's Gun Shop | target range, skeet & trap |
| 8. South Bay Marina | boat livery |

Curtis Township:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 9. Alcona County Park | 480 campsites, boating, fishing,, swimming |
| 10. Curtis Twp. Park | picknicking; fishing |
| 11. Alcona Dam | |
| 12. Glennie International Speedway | stock car and snowmobile races |
| 13. AuSable River | scenic attraction |
| 14. Huron National Forest | riding and hiking trails |

Greenbush Township:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 15. Lakewood Shores | recreational community |
|---------------------|------------------------|

Village of Lincoln:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 16. Lincoln Community Hall | community activities |
| 17. Village Park | picknicking |

City of Harrisville:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 18. VFW Band Shell | "Harmony Week-end" concert |
| 19. Harrisville Mill Pond | fishing |
| 20. Shuffleboard Courts | |
| 21. Harbor of Refuge | boating, fishing, playground |
| 22. Kerby Lanes | bowling |
| 23. Alco Theater | movies |
| 24. Side Pocket | pool & amusements |
| 25. Harrisville State Park | 229 campsites, boating, swimming, picknicking |
| 26. Springport Golf Course | 9 holes |
| 27. Greenbush Gold Course | 9 holes & miniature golf |
| 28. County Fairgrounds | |

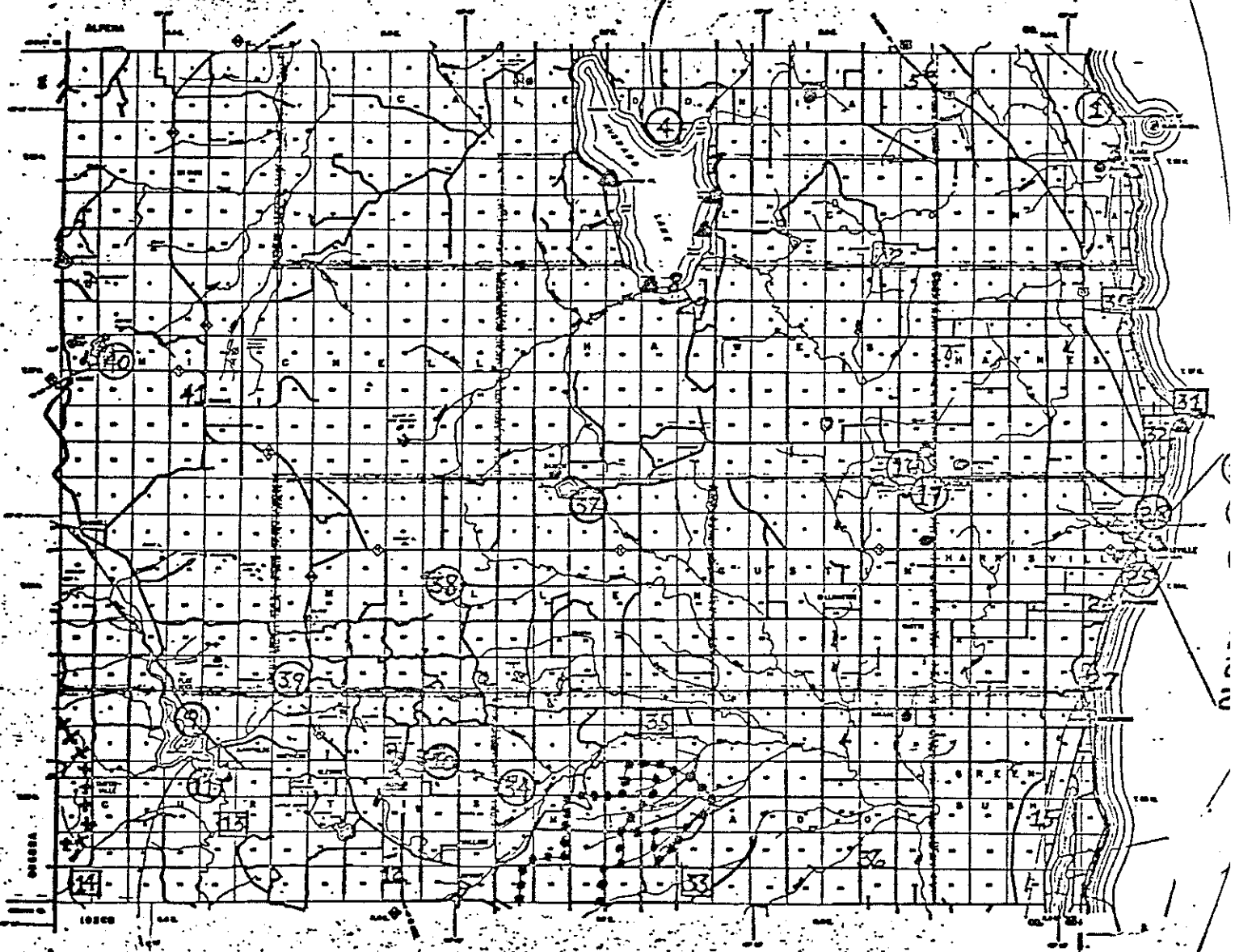
Hawes Township:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 29. Mt. Maria | skiing, scenic attraction |
|---------------|---------------------------|

Haynes Township:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 30. Alcona Ghost Town | historic attraction |
| 31. Sturgeon Point Lighthouse | historic attraction |
| 32. Cedarbrook Trout Farm | fishing |

ALCONA COUNTY
Recreational Facilities & Points of Interest



Mikado Township:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 33. Chippewa Indian Settlement | historic attraction |
| 34. Pine River National
Forest Campground | camping, fishing |
| 35. Old School House | historic attraction |
| 36. Golden Arrow | horseback riding, camping, snowmobile trails |

Millen Township:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 37. Jewell Lake National
Forest Campground | 30 campsites, boating, fishing |
| 38. Reid Lake National
Forest Campground | primitive camping |
| 39. Horseshoe Lake National
Forest | camping |

Mitchell Township:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 40. Mitchell Twp. Park | camping, picknicking |
| 41. Rocky-R-Ranch | riding stable |

ALCONA COUNTY
Location of Public Buildings & Facilities

Alcona Township:

- Alcona Twp. Fire Station
Lost Lake Woods Fire Hall
So. Shore Fire Hall
Black River Elementary School

Caledonia Township:

- Caledonia Twp. Memorial Hall
Hubbard Lake Fire Station
Caledonia Elementary School

Curtis Township:

- Curtis Town Hall
Curtis Fire Station
Glennie Elementary School

Greenbush Township:

- Greenbush Town Hall
Greenbush Fire Station

Gustin Township:

- Alcona Junior-Senior High School

Mikado Township:

- Mikado Town Hall
Mikado Fire Barn

Millen Township:

- Millen Town Hall

Mitchell Township:

- Mitchell Town Hall

City of Harrisville:

- Alcona County Building & Courthouse
Alcona County Sheriff's Office & Jail
Alcona County Dept. of Social Services
Harrisville Elementary School
Forest Service-Ranger Station USDA
Secretary of State's Office

Village of Lincoln:

- Alcona County Road Commission
Alcona Community School District
Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation
Service USDA

Harrisville Township:

Fisher-Grange Hall

Hawes Township:

Alcona County Sanitary Land Fill

Barton City Fire Hall

Barton City Elementary School

Haynes Township:

Haynes Town Hall

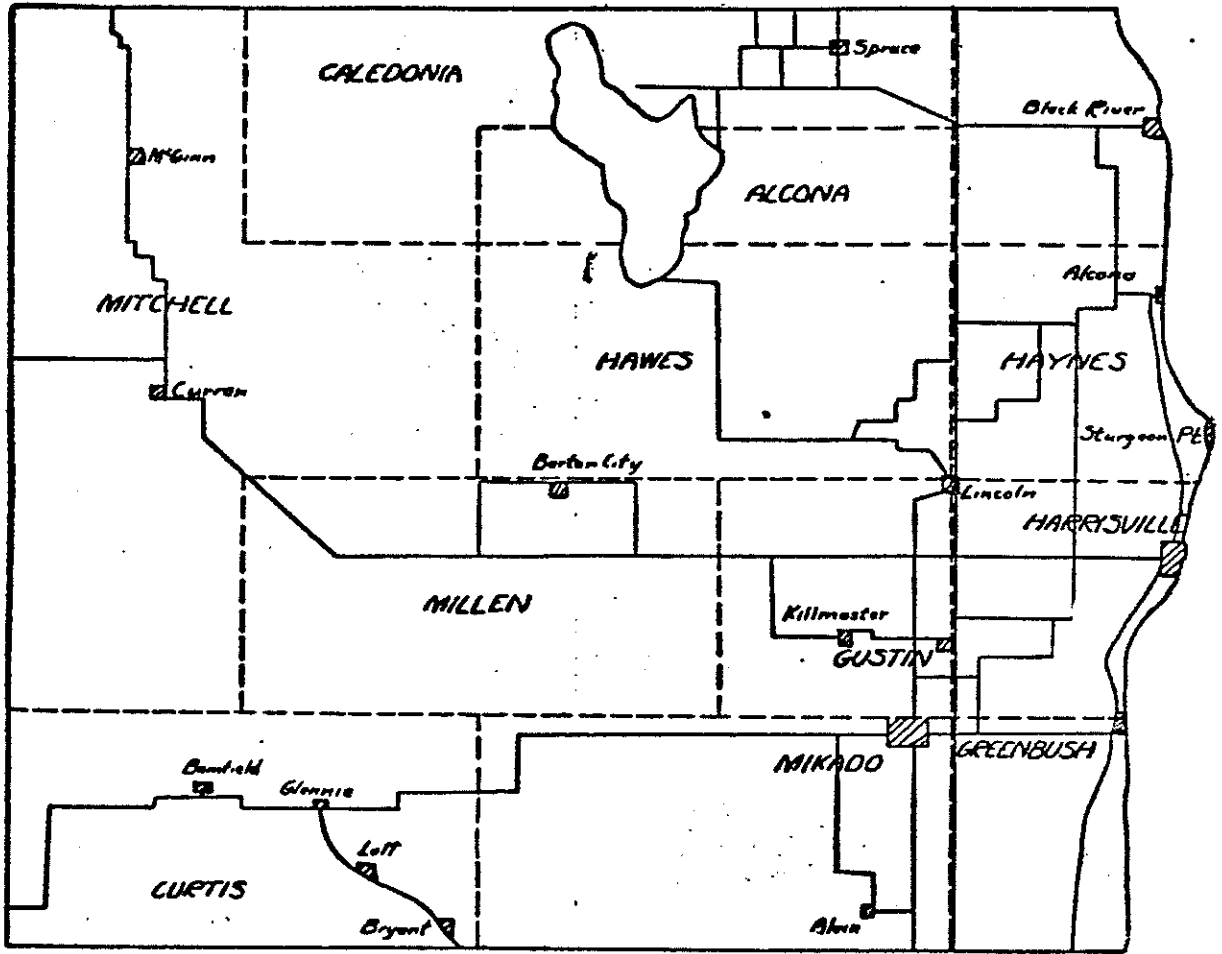
USCG Lighthouse

Village of Lincoln (continued)

Lincoln Community Center

Lincoln Fire Hall

Michigan DNR Office

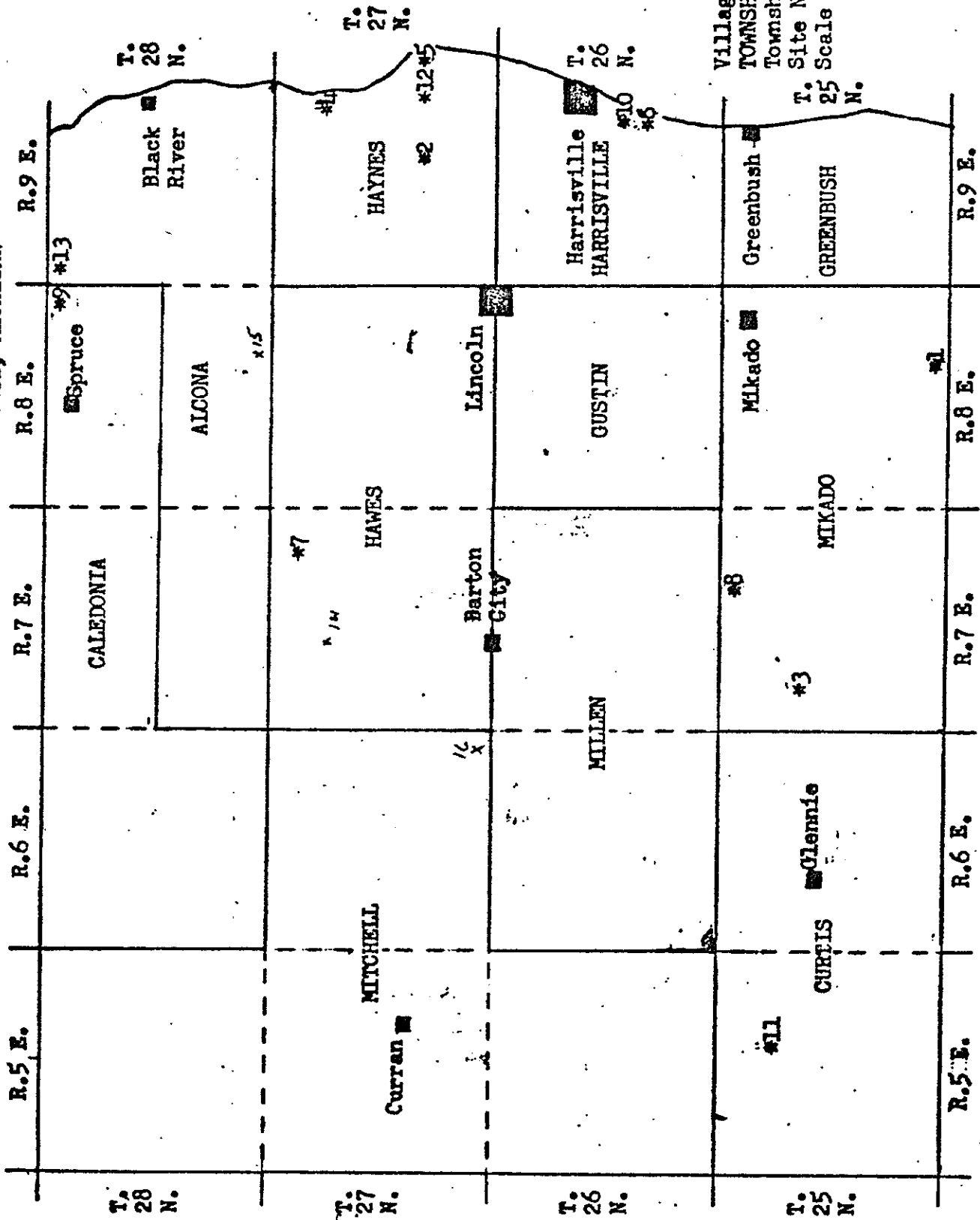


ALCONA COUNTY

INVENTORY OF SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS

Map No.	Name or Identity of Area	Type of Area	Location	Description of Area	Present Use of area
1	Chippewa Indian Reservation	Hist.	Township Mikado T25N, R8E	Indian settlement - homes, church, burial ground	Indian settlement
2	Indian Corn Fields	"	Haynes T27N, R9E	Old Indian planting ground 25 acres of corn hills	Idle - woodland
3	Indian Fort	Hist.	Mikado T25N, R7E	Earth embankments of 2-3 acre fort last stand of vanished Indian tribe	Second growth woods
4	Alcona Ghost Town	Hist.	Haynes T27N, R9E	Abandoned settlement-Museum	Museum
5	Sturgeon Point Lighthouse	Hist.	Haynes T27N, R10E	Lighthouse erected in 1869- stands on farthest east point of land along the shore between Saginaw Bay & Straits	Undeveloped - abandoned in 1941
6	Black Rock	Hist.	Harrisville T26N, R9E	Large black rock on Lake Huron Shore south of Springport - used as landmark and gathering place for Indians.	Undeveloped
7	Mt. Maria	Scenic	Hawes T27N, R7E	High hill on south end of Hubbard Lake overlooking lake	Skiing enterprise
8	Log School House	Historic	Mikado T25N, R7E	One of few remaining log schools in the state	Tourist or hunter's cabin
9	Paul Bunyon & Babe his Blue Ox	Scenic	Caledonia T28N, R8E	Statue of Paul & Babe and lookout tower overlooking Lake Huron & Alpena	Tourist attraction
10	Springport	Hist.	Harrisvi. T26NR9E	Springport Inn, home of early settler, remains of boat dock	Resort & residential
11	Ausable River overlook	Scenic	Curtis T25N, R5E	Scenic point overlooking Ausable River and Bamfield Pond	County Park
12	Scenic View	Scenic	Haynes T27N, R9E	Scenic hill overlooking wooded shoreline, Sturgeon Point Lighthouse and Lake Huron	Idle Grassland
13	Hall of Ancient Man	Hist.	Caledonia T28NR8E	Museum containing historical items from Alcona Co & surrounding area	Museum
14	Indian Mound	Hist.	Hawes T27N, R7E	Indian mound at Junction of Little North & West Branch - campground & meeting place for Indians	Woodland --private hunting club
15	Indian Mounds	Hist.	Alcona T28N, R8E	Indian mounds located near Badger Lake	Private Club
16	Chicago Junction	Hist.	Mitchell T27N, R6E	Furthest point to which railroad extended during logging days, freight unloading point for logging camps beyond	Undeveloped - woodland
17	Black River	Hist.	Alcona T28N, R9E	One time fishing village, later lumber day metropolis, then fishing village, foundations & some buildings still stand	Village

SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS --- ALCONA COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Curtis Township

Curtis Township consists of two ranges and includes approximately 72 square miles located in the south east portion of Alcona County. The National Forest Service maintains 17,370 acres of the Township's 46,080 acres as part of the Huron National Forest. Consumers Power Company owns approximately 4,350 acres located along the banks of the Au Sable River which bisects the west part of the Township from north to south. The Alcona Dam operated by Consumers Power Company has created the Bamfield Pond which forms the setting for Alcona County Park leased by the county.

Alcona County Park includes the Lower Landing Campground which consists of 100 modern campsites, nearing completion with Land and Water Conservation Funds, Reed's Point, and the Upper Landing Campgrounds containing 200 and 60 campsites, respectively, and the West Shore campground which offers 120 primitive campsites.

Lakes in the Township include Jenkins, Curtis, North, Indian, Twin, Thompson, Little Bear, Vaughn, Hunters, Little, and Bear Lakes. All of these Lakes are located in the east part of the Township and are small in size. Hunters, Vaughn, and North Lakes are currently being platted into small lots.

Bamfield, Smith, Kurtz, Wallace, and Bryant Creeks provide trout fishing streams.

The 1970 population was 718 people compared to 664 in 1960; a 4.2% increase. Most of the population is centered in and around the unincorporated area of Glennie located in the east central part of the Township.

Primary access to the Township is via M 65 which runs north and south through the east part of the Township.

Inventory

Curtis Township

The following facilities are located in Curtis Township:

1. Glennie - Curtis Township Hall. This facility consists of two acre parcel with the Curtis Township Hall. This facility is used for public meetings and hearings and is available for club and social activities.

2. Curtis Township Park. This 5 acre park is located 2½ miles east of Glennie on Indian Lakes and provides primitive facilities for picnicking and fishing.

3. Alcona County Park. This park is located approximately five miles west of Glennie on the Bamfield Pond and is maintained and operated by the County. (See Program description) and consists of 398 acres used for camping primarily.

4. Glennie International Speedway. This privately owned speedway was constructed in 1970 as a facility for national snowmobile races and features an annual feature race.

5. Public Fishing Sites. Public access sites are provided at the Alcona Dam by Consumers Power Company, and at the south end of North Lake by the U.S.F.S.

Recommended Developments

1. Alcona County Park. An extensive program has been initiated at Bamfield Pond to develop the land leased by the County from Consumers Power Company. (See Program Outline) Facilities will include a Community Center, day-use picnic areas, marina, and campgrounds.

2. Curtis Township Hall. Efforts have been initiated to establish a ballfield either adjacent to the Hall or in the vicinity of Glennie.

3. General Comments. Local officials could assist the U.S. Forest Service in acquiring parcels within the National Forest boundaries. Recent contacts may result in the U.S.F.S. acquiring the 600 acre parcel surrounding Jenkins Lake.

Mikado Township

Mikado Township consists of two ranges and includes 72 square miles or 46,080 acres of land located in the south central portion of the County.

The U.S. Forest Service maintains approximately 18,960 acres of land in the Huron National Forest and the State of Michigan maintains 1,720 acres in the State Forest in Mikado Township.

DeLap Lake is the only lake located in the Township.

The Pine River is the main tributary flowing through the Township and is fed by Samyn, Kurtz, Wallace, Bryant, McDonald, Roy, Gimlet, McGillis, Grey, Duval, and Ettam Creeks. Good to excellent trout fishing is found on all the tributaries.

Mikado Township had 617 residents in 1960 and 636 residents in 1970 which represents a 3.1% increase for the decade.

The main concentration of residents are located around the unincorporated

area of Mikado and along State Highway 171 located in the easterly portion of the Township.

Inventory

Mikado Township

1. Pine River Campground. Approximately 125 acres have been developed by the U.S.F.S. as a federal campground in Section 16 of the west part of the Township on the Pine River.

2. Mikado Township. Approximately 35 acres are owned by the Township one mile east of Mikado on Mikado Road. Ten acres have been used for cemetery purposes and three acres for a township hall. No other plans have been established.

Recommendations

See General Recommendations

Greenbush Township

Greenbush Township is located in the south east part of the County on Lake Huron and consists of approximately 18,000 acres. Approximately 3,120 acres are maintained by the State of Michigan as part of the Alpena State Forest.

Greenbush Township increased 41.8% in population during the past decade going from 536 residents to 760 in 1970. The main concentration of growth occurred along Lake Huron and on Cedar Lake in the Lakewood Shores development.

Cedar Lake is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and is located in the east part of the Township. Over 6 miles of Lake Huron frontage forms the east boundary of the Township.

Inventory

Greenbush Township

1. Greenbush Golf Course. This 9-hole golf course is located at the unincorporated area of Greenbush in the north east part of the Township between U.S. 23 and Lake Huron. A miniture course is also provided at the site.

2. Greenbush Township Hall. A fire barn and township hall is located just west of U.S. 23 near Cedar Lake. The site consists of approximately 5 acres.

3. Public Access Site. A public access site is located on Cedar Lake and maintained by the State Waterways Division.

Recommended Developments

Greenbush Township

1. The Township would like to develop a ballfield in the vicinity of the Township Hall near Cedar Lake. A survey should be made of the site to determine its feasibility.

Harrisville Township

Harrisville Township is located in the east central portion of the County and includes approximately 20,000 acres or 32 square miles. The City of Harrisville is located in Harrisville Township and is the County seat.

The City population was 541 in 1970 compared to 487 in 1960, a 11.1% increase. The total Township population increased 14.6% from 787 in 1960 to 902 in 1970. The heaviest densities of population occur around the City of Harrisville and along the shore of Lake Huron which forms the east boundary of the Township.

Inventory

City of Harrisville

1. Harrisville Ballfield. Formerly this site was the County Fairgrounds but since the dissolution of the facility its 12 acres have been converted to a ballfield with limited facilities for picnicking. Generally the site is undeveloped. The park is leased by the local Lions and maintained by them.

2. Harrisville Elementary School. This 4 acre site is adjacent to the Elementary School and includes a ballfield and some playground apparatus.

3. Shuffleboard Courts. Two shuffle board courts are located in a small triangular site across from the County Building. Limited use is experienced at the site.

4. Harrisville Harbor. The State Waterways Division has developed a Harbor at Harrisville. The City appoints a Harbor Commission annually and they maintain the facility from revenues. In addition to boat docking, facilities, restrooms, picnic tables and playground apparatus are provided at the site.

5. Launch Ramp. An informal Launch Ramp is maintained near the Harbor in the City of Harrisville. Limited use occurs at the site.

6. Mill Pond. A small 2 acre mill pond is located along U.S. 23 at the north end of the City of Harrisville. Maintained by local service clubs, the roadside park offers little facilities other than occasional fishing and rest relaxation.

7. Harrisville State Park. This 80 acre park is located in the City of Harrisville and provides 229 campsites, 200 parking spaces, for day-use activities including swimming, picnicking, and camping. A Bath house, ballfield, and playground apparatus area are located at the park.

8. Cedar Brook Trout Ponds. Several small trout ponds are located in the City of Harrisville and maintained by a private owner.

9. Harrisville Vet's Club. The Harrisville Veterans of Foreign Wars maintains a clubhouse, ballfield, freeplay area, and bandshell in the City of Harrisville. The site consists of approximately 5 acres along Mill Creek. Various Community and social events are featured at the facility.

10. Alcona County Building and Library. The Alcona County Library is housed at the County Building. Also benches, and turfing areas are provided on the grounds.

11. Commercial Recreation. An 8 lane bowling alley and 300 seat movie theater are located in the City of Harrisville.

Recommendations

Harrisville Township

1. Mill Pond. A plan should be developed to improve the overall appearance and use of the Mill Pond. Additional fish may be planted, along with vertical landscape elements, picnic tables, and restrooms. Formal parking areas should also be developed.

2. The County should investigate the State's long range plans for Harrisville State Park.

3. The County should discuss the Harbor Commission's plans and programs and determine if assistance is required.

4. A master plan should be developed for the Old Fairgrounds in order to develop additional facilities for the community.

Gustin Township

Gustin Township is located in the central part of Alcona County and consists of 36 square miles or 23,040 acres. The total population was 613 in 1970 and decreased 11.9% from the 1960 census of 696 residents. Part of the Village of Lincoln is located in the extreme northeast part of the Township and recorded 146 residents in 1970.

Part of the Trusk and Lincoln Lakes are located in the northeast part of the Township.

The Pine River flows southward through the Township fed by Backus, Creek and the East and West Branches of the Pine River.

Approximately 4,200 acres are maintained in the County by the U.S.F.S. and 240 acres by the State of Michigan.

Approximately 194 acres are owned by the Alcona County Community Schools in Gustin Township.

Inventory

1. Alcona County Community Schools. The Alcona Community Schools has developed a Junior - Senior High School on 29 acres at the intersection of M 72 and Barlow Road in the east part of Gustin Township. Facilities include an outdoor sports play area, gymnasium with evening play periods, classrooms, and cafeteria.

The school system also owns 160 acres in the northwest portion of the County north of M 72. This land is currently used for limited outdoor studies.

Recommendations

1. Continued expansion of the school facilities should be encouraged to include night adult classes, technical training assistance, and more complete outdoor recreational facilities. ✓

2. The possibility of exchanging the forest lands owned by the school for more desirable lands that fit school needs should be fully studied.

Millen Township

Millen Township is located in the central part of Alcona County and consists of two ranges or 72 square miles, or 46,080 acres.

The population in 1960 was 318 persons and decreased to 270 in 1970, or 15.1%. Most of the population was located around Jewell Lake in the unincorporated area of Burton City.

The U.S.F.S. maintains approximately 28,500 acres in the Huron National Forest in Millen Township.

The area is accessible via M 65 north and south in the west part of the Township and via M 72 east and west.

Lakes include: Trout, Clear, Horseshoe, Reid, Little Trout, Bliss, Hewell, Tubbs, and Sprinkler.

The Pines River flows through the Township fed by Loud Creek, McGillis, Creek, Gimlet Creek, and Backus Creek.

Inventory

1. Jewell Lake Campground. The U.S.F.S. maintains a campground at the southeast end of Jewell Lake near Burton City. Facilities include a boat ramp, 30 campsites, water and pit type toilets.
2. Horseshoe Lake Campground. The U.S.F.S. maintains a small campground on the east shore of Horseshoe Lake in the extreme south west part of the Township.
3. Reid Lake (Old Lance Farm) A water pump has been installed at Reid's Lake by the U.S.F.S. to permit primitive camping.
4. Barton City Elementary School. A 20 acre site is located near Barton City and provides Headstart and Kindergarten classrooms, a ballfield, and some apparatus for play.
5. Barton City Ballfield. The local Vets and the Township maintain a ballfield in the unincorporated area of Barton City near the Township Hall and fire barn.

Recommendations

1. A joint program of development should be considered with the U.S.F.S. at Reid's Lake.

2. A survey should be made of the future use of the school facility to determine if its use will be discontinued. If so the Township may be able to develop a nice facility at this site.

Mitchell Township

Mitchell Township consists of four ranges, 144 square miles or approximately 92,160 acres, located in the north west part of the County.

The population of Mitchell Township was 197 in 1970 declining 10.5% from the 220 total in 1960.

Approximately 27,000 acres are maintained by the U.S.F.S. as part of the Huron National Forest.

The Au Sable River flows through the southwest part of Mitchell Township. Consumers Power Company maintains 2,160 acres along its banks.

O'Brien, Byron, Penoyer, Hoist, Sunny, Horseshoe, McCollum, Cranberry, Sand, Meyer, Crooked, Lake in the Green, Bucks Pond, and McFee's Lakes are located in the Township.

Penoyer and Liverpool Creeks drain into the Au Sable River, while McGinn, Indian, Robbs, Clear, Silver, Little Wolf and Wildcat Creeks drain into the Thunder Bay River.

Access to the area is limited to M 65 a north-south State Highway and in part to M 72 an east-west State route.

Inventory

1. Curran Elementary School. This facility is maintained by the Alcona Community Schools and provides a small classroom facility and playfield.

2. Mitchell Township Park. Approximately 65 acres on the south part of Crooked Lake are maintained by the Township for Township residents. Camping and picnicking are permitted. The Township has limited plans for this site.

Recommendations

1. The area has extensive acreage used by numerous private hunting clubs. Local officials should notify the U.S.F.S. as parcels become available that will complement the Huron National Forest.

Hawes Township

Hawes Township is located in the north central part of Alcona County and consists of two ranges, 72 square miles or 45,080 acres. The population increased 30% from 624 in 1960 to 811 in 1970.

The Village of Lincoln is located in the extreme southeast part of the Township and reported a 15.4% increase from 195 in 1960 to 225 in 1970.

There are approximately 1,900 acres in the Township maintained by the U.S.F.S. and 840 acres maintained by the State.

The unincorporated area of Hubbard Lake is located in part in Hawes Township, as is Barton City.

Inventory

1. The Village of Lincoln currently maintains a small lakeside park on Lincoln Lake. This park consists of approximately 3 acres. Because of the mucky shoreline, use is limited.

2. The local service club maintains a small acre or less beach at the end of a road on Brownie Lake.

3. Lincoln Elementary School. A kindergarten to 6 grade elementary school has been built on a 20 acre site in the Village of Lincoln. Facilities also include playground apparatus and a ballfield.

4. Mount Marina Ski Area. A ski facility is currently being developed overlooking Hubbard Lake. This facility will provide good skiing when completed but will depend on varying snowfall conditions.

5. A public access site has been developed on the West Branch River by the State Waterways Division. A private marina has also been developed adjoining the site.

6. V.F.W. Hall.- Village of Lincoln. A former V.F.W. Hall has been given to the Village of Lincoln for community activities. The building is located adjacent to the elementary school and has been used for community and social functions as well as school physical education programs. Limited funds and general improvements are needed to generate full use of this facility which includes stage-auditorium (which doubles as a gymnasium), library, cafeteria, and meeting rooms.

Recommendation

1. The V.F.W. hall should be acquired by the County and converted to a County-wide community center. The structure is centrally located to the greatest number of County residents and would serve a multiplicity of groups and programs.

Caledonia Township

Caledonia Township consists of 72 square miles or 46,080 acres. Most of the area is made up of private hunting camps with 36 square miles in the west part being completely void of any hard surfaced woods and only one accessible road.

Population is largely concentrated around Hubbard Lake and increased 16.7% from 654 in 1960 to 763 in 1970.

Little Wold, Davis, and Widner Creeks flow into the Thunder Bay River in Alpena County and Holcomb Creek flows into Hubbard Lake.

Inventory

1. Caledonia Township Parks. The Township maintains three parks providing a total of 700' on Hubbard Lake. The smallest park consists of a 100' wide lot offering swimming, and picnicking. Tables and rubbish containers are provided but no restrooms.

The second park consists of approximately 5 acres on the east shore of the lake and includes a road right-of-way and a 160 foot lot. A concrete ramp is located at the end of the road to launch boats and a dock is provided for boaters. Swimming and picnicking is offered with limited facilities with few tables and pit-type toilets.

The third area is located on the north side of the lake and includes a launch ramp, boat dock, ballfield and picnic area.

Recommendations

1. The smallest site with the single lot was donated to the Township by a developer and has limited uses except by the owners of platted backlots. The township should attempt to sell this lot to the home owners as a group.

2. The second area is also small but additional land is available adjoining the site. Efforts should be made to obtain this property and a plan developed to improve facilities.

3. The third park should have a master plan developed including better facilities such as; restrooms, picnic area, landscaping, etc.

Haynes Township

Haynes Township is located on the shore of Lake Huron in the northeast part of Alcona County and consists of approximately 21,000 acres of land.

Population increased 13.0% from 368 in 1960 to 416 in 1970. Most of the population is located in scattered homes along Lake Huron and U.S. 23.

Circulation in the Township is provided via State Highway U.S. 23 and South Shore Drive and Poor Farm Road, all north and south routes. East-west travel is facilitated via McNeil Road, a County hard-surface road.

Lake Huron forms the east boundary of the Township. Millikin and Crystal Lakes are located in the west part of the Township. Haynes Creek and Sucker Creek flow into the Black River and provide good trout fishing.

The State maintains 300 acres in the Township as part of the Alpena State Forest, and the U.S.F.S. manages 760 acres in the Township as part of the Huron National Forest.

There are no developed public recreational areas of facilities in the Township

Recommendations

1. The State owns a 60 acre parcel called Sturgeon Point with an old lighthouse now phased out of service. This site would make a very nice park facility and should be considered for a County Facility.

Alcona Township

Alcona Township is located in the northeast part of the County and includes the south half of two ranges and most of a third range bordering on Lake Huron. Approximately 42,200 acres or 66 square miles are included in the Township.

Population increased 27.6% from 381 in 1960 to 486 in 1970. Most of the people reside around Hubbard Lake and along U.S. 23 on Lake Huron.

There are 5,140 acres of land maintained by the U.S.F.S. and 2,245 acres by the State of Michigan.

Inventory

1. 200 feet of land on the Black River. This site is currently being used for boat launching. No additional facilities have been developed.
2. 160 feet of land on Lake Huron 1/8 mile north of the Black River mouth. The site is used for picnicking and swimming and some tables are provided.
3. A ball diamond is located adjacent of the Black River Elementary School. (Grades 4-5) located between Black River and U.S. 23. Some play apparatus is located at the site.
4. Public Access Sites. The Township maintains 3 launch and/or public access sites on Hubbard Lake. These sites are actually the extension of road right-of-ways and offer no formally developed improvements.
5. County-Line State Park. The State owns approximately 5 miles of frontage on Lake Huron in Alcona County and Alpena County and proposes to develop a State Park providing campground facilities, picnic area, and swimming beach. This project is due to start in 1971-1972 and should be completed by 1975.

Recommendations

1. Additional land should be acquired at the Black River Mouth and bathing, picnicking and boating facilities should be developed.
2. The Black River School may be acquired and/or additional facilities may be developed.
3. A snowmobile trail may be developed in the U.S.F.S. land located in Alcona Township.
4. Every effort should be extended to provide access to the proposed State Park.

DEFICIENCIES & NEEDS

The low density of population of Alcona County coupled with high unemployment, a high proportion of senior citizens and a low tax base resulting from a weak economic base contribute to the overall deficiencies in park and recreation areas, facilities and programs in Alcona County.

The livelihood of most of the County's population is dependent upon governmental services, particularly the Air Base at Oscoda, educational programs, utility companies, and tourism.

Without the traffic generated by transients enroute to this area on other destinations, there would be little interest for residing in the County but to "get away from it all."

With current taxing power and limited tax funds, the County is quite restricted as to what facilities and programs that can be supported on a seasonal or year round basis.

It is obvious from the inventory that many of the recreational sites have been "inherited" either as right-of-ways or delinquent properties reverting to one agency or another. While some offer potential, most are too small or offer limited potential particularly on a County scale of improvement.

In contrast, the United States Forest Service has grouped over 109,000 acres of forest land as part of the Huron National Forest and over 8,500 acres are owned by the State of Michigan as part of the Alpena State Forest. In addition to these holdings, the Consumers Power Company owns in excess of 6,500 acres of land along the AuSable River.

The net effect is that most of the prime lands in the County are owned by other agencies that must determine their own priorities and programs of development. Little consideration has been shown between agencies. Local units develop facilities as funds and interest of local residents permit. State and federal assistance recently have been tapped for recreation facility development.

The Parks Commission has had a manager for only the past couple of years who has concentrated his efforts on bringing the Alcona Park up to standards. His future role needs to stress other recreation operations across the County.

Once established the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission sought the assistance of state and federal advisors and private consultants in order to develop the first comprehensive plan. All of the Township's supervisors were called in to discuss their individual problems. The Board of Supervisors met jointly with the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, and representatives of the Alcona County Community Schools. Numerous problems were discussed and preliminary drafts of the comprehensive plan were reviewed. The major problems were then summarized as follows:

1. The general lack of funds were the major single deterrant to developing parks and recreational facilities and programs.

2. Low population densities and contrasting age groups were further deterrents to establishing facilities and programs.
3. Lack of qualified leadership either on local level or County levels deterred initiation of any continuous effort.
4. State and Federal funding programs were complicated and expensive to initiate. This was particularly true of the State Bond Funds which were limited to a per capita basis. The low densities of population resulted in small grants that made any concerted effort more costly than the monies available.

After several meetings several major conclusions were reached.

1. That all the Townships should relinquish their interest in the Recreation Bond Funds to enable the County to make one application of merit to all of the communities.
2. That the County establish a balanced program of areas and facilities that would be self-supporting if possible while serving the needs of the County residents. This requires the County to establish revenue-producing facilities and areas that appeal to transients yet provides day-use activities and facilities.
3. That the County hire a full time competent administrator to direct the program and facilities.
4. That in order to achieve the preceding objectives, Alcona County Park be developed as funds permit to generate revenues to initiate the above goals.

Since the operation of Alcona County Park was seasonal in nature it was determined that year-round facilities and programs were needed. Consequently the design features of the Lower Landing Campground provided for year-round operation to permit use by hunters, winter-sports enthusiasts and fishermen.

To accommodate the needs of area residents it was determined that an indoor community center be established to provide for a multiplicity of activities and programs.

From population studies, it was determined that the majority of the population was located in the east half of the County and that the year-round population resided along F-41 in Mikado, Lincoln, Barton City, and Hubbard Lake. The remaining concentration occurred at Harrisville and Greenbush.

Because of the variety of facilities located at the City of Harrisville and the trend of the Village of Lincoln involving as the commercial center of Alcona County and the accessibility of Lincoln via F-41 and M-72 it was decided that a facility should be developed in this vicinity.

Surveys uncovered the former V.F.W. Hall that had been given to the Village. Cautious investigations were made to determine the condition and usefulness of the structure for a County program. Several major conclusions were derived from these proceedings:

1. The building was structurally sound and in generally good condition.
2. The building adjoined the Lincoln Elementary School and a 10 acre parcel of land suitable for outdoor activities including baseball, sledding, free play activities and playground apparatus.
3. The building was actively in use by the Schools, Village, numerous service groups and organizations.
4. However, the Village was burdened by the expenses of operating and maintaining the facility and had to restrict use to certain groups due to the design limitations. The lack of a ceiling contributed to expensive heating costs. Windows needed repairs and partitions needed to provide more diversity of activities. Improved lighting was needed for evening activities and a program director was needed.
5. From the foregoing it was decided that the building could be adapted to use as a Community Center and that the County could implement the necessary alterations to provide a greater scope of uses, and that the County Park and Recreation Administrator could direct programs and activities and that the County could support the burden of operating the center.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Role of The County:

The role of Alcona County is to acquire, develop, and maintain parks, recreation areas, and open spaces, and to administer public recreation programs that will serve the needs of communities broader than the local neighborhood or municipality, but less than state-wide or national in scope.

In addition, Alcona County should plan and coordinate local neighborhood and community facilities with cooperation of the villages, cities, townships, and other intr-county units, and should itself cooperate in state and federal planning and coordinative activities.

Where there is no existing unit of local government except the County to provide needed local neighborhood or community facilities and programs, Alcona County may provide, where feasible, such facilities and programs, utilizing County service districts, local assessments, and other methods by which those benefited will pay the cost. Coordinating with the Alcona County Community Schools will include adoption of the park-school concept of building park sites adjacent to schools. Furthermore, Alcona County shall encourage close coordination with local and county intermediate school districts responsible for special education programs to extend their programs to include leisure non-school activities and facilities for handicapped students and their families.

Internal Organization

The responsibility of administering of administering the County Parks and Recreation program shall be that of the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall keep the Board of Commissioners informed of its programs, policies, procedures, and objectives.

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall coordinate its efforts with that of the Alcona County Planning Commission.

The County Parks and Recreation Commission shall maintain a full-time Parks and Recreation Director and staff qualified by education and experience to administer, implement, and manage and assist in planning the Park and Recreation program. In addition, they should fully utilize the wide range of technical services that are available through various state and federal departments and the several national parks, recreation and conservation organizations.

County Park and Recreation responsibilities involve several facets of county government. Other county departments should be kept fully informed and requested to cooperate in the development of these programs, and share mutual interest and responsibilities.

External Organization

Park and recreation facilities and programs serving a community larger than an Alcona County, but of less that state-wide scope, should be administered jointly through cooperative arrangements between two or more counties. In the event that creation of a new unit of government is necessary to attain an effective and economically feasible solution of regional park and recreation problems, the final responsibility for its administration should be vested in the elected county governing bodies involved.

Alcona County and Other Local Governments

Alcona County should encourage, through planning, consultation and other services, the providing of adequate local neighborhood and community facilities and programs by municipalities, townships, and other intr-county units of government. Municipal governments should be encouraged to step up their efforts to secure open space and recreation areas, particularly in and around urban centers.

Municipal, township and other intra-county units should coordinate their programs with existing County plans. Their requests for technical and financial assistance should be made first to the Park and Recreation Commission. If the County is unable to provide such assistance, it should forward the request to the appropriate state agency and should support the local unit in its request. All such requests should be restricted to those instances in which the County lacks the resources to provide the requested services on its own behalf.

Alcona County should also, where appropriate, enter into intergovernmental contracts or agreements with municipalities, townships, and other intra-county units for the joint use of personnel and for joint administration of park and recreation facilities and programs.

ALCONA COUNTY & STATE GOVERNMENT

The states should consult formally with the local governments involved, from the inception of their planning process, before deciding to acquire or withdraw lands from tax rolls for state park and recreation programs.

Where state and federal recreation or park areas are being used primarily by residents of a single county, the state and federal governments should give consideration to offering such areas to the county government for operation.

Alcona County and the Federal Government

The excellent Report to the President and to the Congress in January, 1962, entitled "Outdoor Recreation for America," by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, is strongly recommended as a source of information of lasting usefulness. Alcona County government endorses the basic recommendation of this bi-partisan group that the primary responsibility for adequately meeting the nation's recreation and park demands lies with "private enterprise, the states, and local government" and that the role of the federal government should not be one of domination, but of cooperation and assistance in meeting the nation's park and recreation challenge.

The federal government should acquire, develop and maintain park and recreation areas which have scenic, scientific, historic or special recreation values of significance to the entire nation. Federal agencies responsible for multiple-use management of federal lands should intergrate recreation land use, whenever feasible with other federal land uses. In all federal land use planning for management, withdrawal or disposal of federally designated recreation areas and general multiple-use lands, county governments should be consulted and invited to participate from the earliest stages of investigation.

In the disposition of federal surplus land, including military reservations or bases, the states and local governments should be given a preference if they are able and willing to accept and manage such lands for public park and recreation purposes. In such cases, the federal government should transfer these lands to the state or local agencies for a nominal consideration. Acquisition of surplus federal land by states and local governments for park and recreation purposes should be in accordance with long range plans and with the ability of the states or local units to finance the maintenance and administration of the facilities and program.

Alcona County government supports a program of federal grants-in-aid to states and local governments for planning, acquiring and developing park and recreation facilities, along the lines recommended by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission

Alcona County and the Private Sector

Some three fourths of the county's land is privately owned. Collectively, these lands have an enormous potential for park and recreation development, at private expense, which has been only partially realized. Alcona County should seek opportunities to stimulate such development. County cooperation should include the provision of access roads, where feasible and traffic volume will justify, to permit the park and recreation development of private lands.

Alcona County should support state legislation exempting private owners of land from tort liability where lands are opened for general public recreational use without charge to the public.

Alcona County should encourage their agricultural extension agents to provide advice and demonstrations of the recreational development of private lands for profit.

Public agencies should acquire conservation easements over private lands, where feasible, to preserve open spaces in and around urban areas.

Alcona County should cooperate with and support in every way possible the efforts of private businesses and of charitable, service and civic organizations to acquire and appropriately manage recreation and park sites which serve public needs.

Some of the immediate goals and objectives of the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission are as follows:

1. To maintain a Comprehensive Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Alcona County.
2. To define standards and criteria for inclusion of areas and facilities to serve as a guide for planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance and operation of parks and recreation areas, facilities and program for the benefit of residents and visitors of Alcona County.
3. To enlist all means available for financing and operating a comprehensive Parks and Recreation system including but not limited to state and federal grants, taxation, municipal bonding, user fees, etc.
4. To work in cooperation with all levels of government in abating pollution and the sources of contamination of the environment.
5. To solicit the views of and to encourage citizens and civic, service, social, and other groups and organizations both public and private to participate in planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, operation and financing of county administered parks, recreation, and open space programs.

ACTION PROGRAM

The Park and Recreation program is looking at several potential developments between 1975 and 1980.

No. 1 - Alcona County Outdoor Activity Area

This 120 acre open tract of land is located near Lincoln. It is at the County's population center and located on a main paved highway running through Alcona County.

This project has the support of County, Village, Civic, Fair and sportsmen's interest. It presently has an N.R.A. sanctioned rifle range. It is the only range in the County.

The County Fair needs a new site for fair grounds. Lions and Sportsmen's clubs need a site for rodeos and snow machine racing.

The Village of Lincoln wants to move the ball diamonds to a new location near town.

No. 2 - Sturgeon Point Coast Guard Light House

This federally owned tract has some valuable Lake Huron water frontage. The County has less than 3 miles of Great Lakes frontage, most of which is in Negwegan and Harrisville State Parks.

Sturgeon Point is centered along the County coastline. It is 10 minutes from Harrisville.

The Lighthouse has historic significance related to the early development of this County.

These grounds have potential for day use leisure recreation and interpretive value for the public.

No. 3 - Water Access

Hubbard Lake - More and better access sites are necessary on this 6,000+ acre lake. Four access sites along its 20 mile coastline can't serve the total demand.

Some County roads end at the shoreline and have potential for access sites. Existing public sites need upgrading.

Lake Huron - Several road ends offer access to the lake. Each site now needs an improved design. There is potential for acquiring land at these sites for expanded facilities.

Parking and litter pick up present the greatest problem at this time

No. 4 - Alcona County Park on the AuSable River

Severe erosion problems have resulted from the existing use patterns in the park. A new park layout is needed in the primitive area to prevent further erosion.

A program for correcting the present damage will become necessary in the future.

The financial resources for accomplishing these programs will come from State and Federal agencies like:

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Resource Conservation & Development
Economic Development Administration

Technical and in kind assistance can be found in the:

Michigan National Guard
Wurtsmith AFB Engineers
Soil Conservation Service
Alcona County Road Commission

Local funding has sources from:

Alcona County
Local Units (Township & Village)
Civic Clubs (Lions)
Sportsmens Club
Private Donations

Each project will require its own specific working plan and the appropriate resources will be matched with the needs.

September 26, 1975

Supplement No. 1

ACTION PROGRAMS

Priority action programs have been based on the current needs of the community and availability of resources.

No. 1 Priority - Alcona Civic Park

This 120 acre public tract of land is located adjacent to the Village of Lincoln. Lincoln is the population center of Alcona County. Easy access is available from four directions on hard surfaced roads.

The Alcona High School is within a 2 minute drive from this area. One of the five elementary schools is located in Lincoln.

Alcona County completely renovated the Lincoln Community Center. This large facility offers the space for large assemblies, dinners and meetings.

The 120 acre site provides the space for upgraded and improved facilities for Alcona County. Some of the needs are:

- a. Ball diamonds in Lincoln are crowded and occupy prime commercial-industrial sites
- b. The only public rifle and skeet range in the county carries an N.R.A. sanction but needs to be improved.
- c. Civic clubs and sportsmen's groups hold annual rodeos and snow machine races on marginal sites. Rodeos are held on the school football field. Snow machines have been racing on the inland lakes.
- d. County Fair facilities are spilling over their 5 acre site in downtown Harrisville.
- e. There are no public tennis courts in the County at this time.
- f. The area does not have a secured ice skating nor hockey area anywhere in Alcona County.
- g. The Lincoln area does not have any camping facilities in its immediate area.
- h. There are no designed environmental education facilities near this area that could be used by the elementary and secondary schools.
- i. There are no hiking, biking, riding or snow mobile trails near the county's population center. The closest snowmachine trail is 15 miles Southwest of Lincoln in the Huron National Forest. It is the only trail in the whole county.

Because of these needs the Alcona Civic Park is rated on top. This project would also serve the greatest number of people.

The support for developing this 120 acre tract will be sought from: Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Economic Development Administration and Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Project.

Local commitment has already been made by the County, Village of Lincoln, Alpena Savings Bank and private individuals and local civic groups.

The total development has three activity areas:

A. Display and show area

1. One-half mile track
2. 1000 seat grand stand
3. Show barns (4)
4. Show arena
5. 500 car parking lot and entrance road
6. Administration and Maintenance building
7. Water systems
8. Outdoor Lighting
9. Public Address System
10. Water Impoundment

B. Games & Sports Area

1. Softball diamond (2)
2. Hardball diamond (2)
3. Ice skating - ice hockey
4. Outdoor Lighting
5. Tennis court
6. Hard court for multi use - basketball, shuffle board
7. 100 car parking lot and service road
8. Outdoor Lighting
9. Water supply
10. Bleachers for 300 people

C. Camping, picnic and Gun Range

1. Camp sites (20 to 30)
2. Skeet range
3. Rifle range
4. Trails for hiking, horseback, and snow machine
5. Environmental Education
6. Water well
7. Rustic toilets
8. Picnic grounds, tables, shelter
9. Service roads
10. Security lights