

COUNTY OF ALCONA  
RECREATION MASTER PLAN

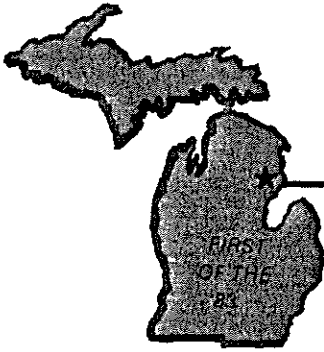
January 1, 1985

Prepared for:

Alcona County Parks and Recreation  
Committee

by

Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, Inc.  
Community Development Division  
2373 Gordon Road  
Alpena, Michigan 49707



# ALCONA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ALCONA COUNTY BUILDING - HARRISVILLE, MICHIGAN 48740


December 10, 1984

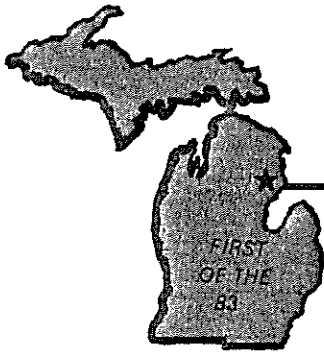
Northeast Michigan Council  
of Governments  
114 N. Court  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for review is a copy of the 1985 Recreation Master Plan for Alcona County, Michigan. If you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact Carol Shafto, Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, Inc., 2373 Gordon Road, Alpena, Michigan 49707, who was the technical assistant to the project.

Sincerely,

  
GERALD JASINSKI, Chairman  
Alcona County Board  
of Commissioners



# ALCONA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ALCONA COUNTY BUILDING - HARRISVILLE, MICHIGAN 48740

December 10, 1984

Mr. Ronald O. Skoog, Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
Stevens T. Mason Building  
Box 30028  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Skoog,

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the 1985  
Recreation Master Plan for Alcona County, Michigan.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns,  
please contact Carol Shafto, Northeast Michigan  
Community Service Agency, Inc., 2373 Gordon Road,  
Alpena, Michigan 49707, who was the technical  
assistant to the project.

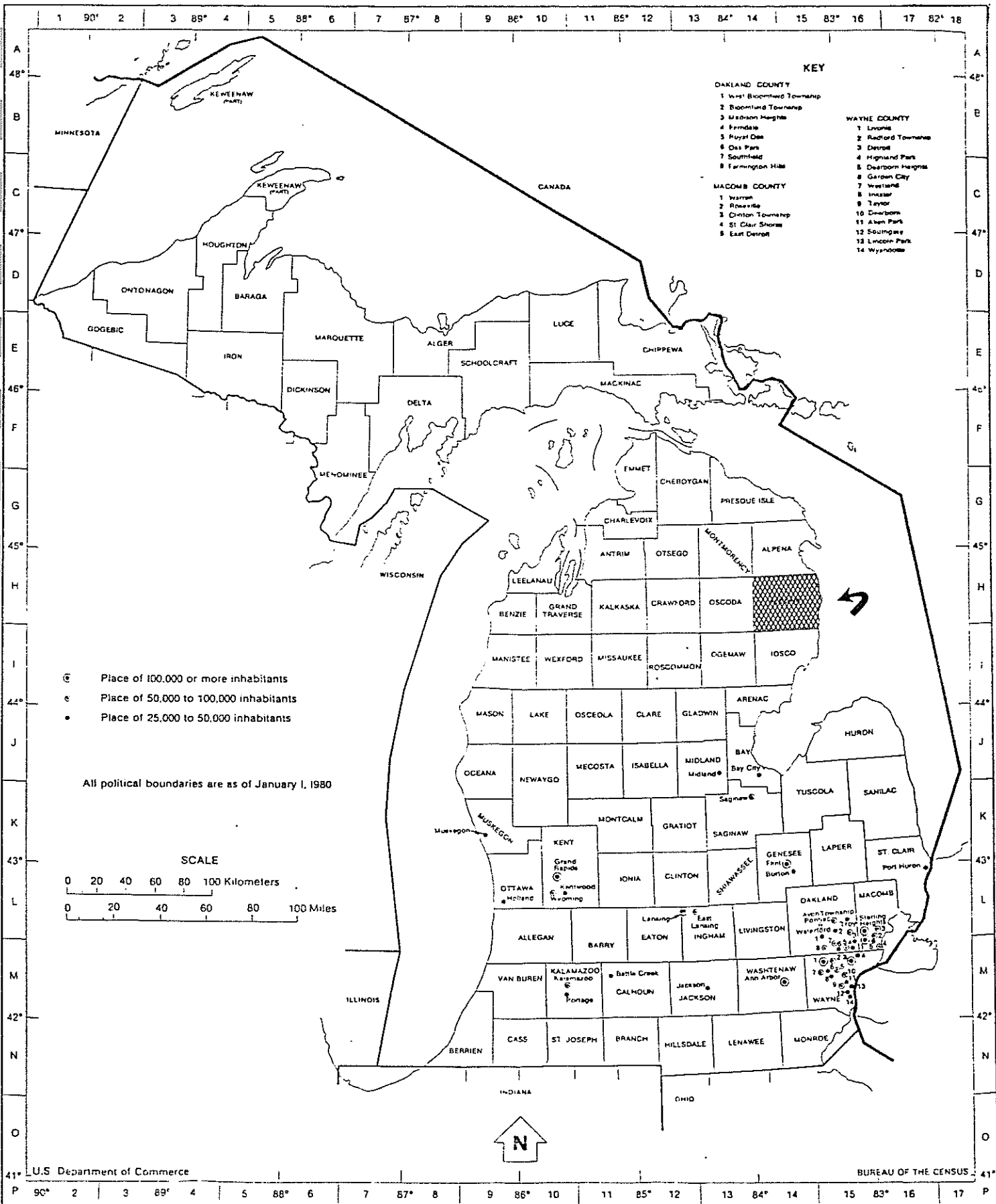
Sincerely,

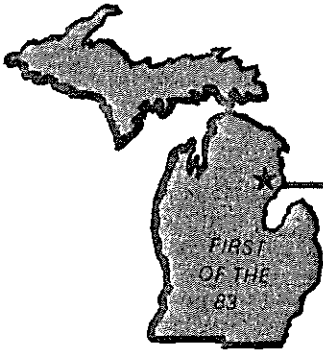
  
GERALD JASINSKI, Chairman  
Alcona County Board  
of Commissioners

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# MICHIGAN





# ALCONA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ALCONA COUNTY BUILDING — HARRISVILLE, MICHIGAN 48740

November 14, 1984

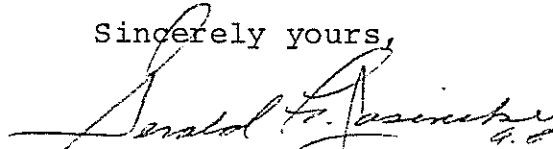
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to acknowledge the completion of the 1985 Alcona County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

We would like to express our appreciation to the staff of Northeastern Michigan Community Service Agency, Inc. for reviewing, updating and composing this draft.

If there are any questions concerning materials or information in the Plan, please contact Ms. Carol Shafto, Northeastern Michigan Community Service Agency, Technical Assistant for the Project, (Telephone No. 517-356-3474).

Sincerely yours,

  
GERALD F. JASINSKI, Chairman  
Alcona County Board  
of Commissioners



ALCONA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

ALCONA COUNTY BUILDING — HARRISVILLE, MICHIGAN 48740

December 1, 1984

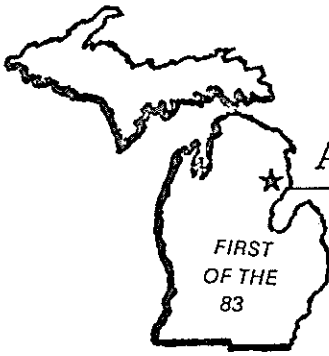
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to acknowledge the completion of the 1985 Alcona County Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

We would like to express our appreciation to the staff of the Northeastern Michigan Community Service Agency Inc. especially Carol Shafto, for reviewing, updating, printing, and composing this draft.

Sincerely Yours,

John Grzeskowiak  
Chairman  
Alcona Cty Parks & Recreation Commission



ALCONA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

ALCONA COUNTY BUILDING — HARRISVILLE, MICHIGAN 48740

Carol Shafto  
NMCSA  
2373 Gordon Rd.  
Alpena, Mich. 49707

Dec-21-84

Dear Carol:

Please be advised that at the regular meeting of the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission on Dec-20-84 that a motion was made by Jennings and seconded by Bowman to accept the draft copy of the Alcona Cty Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Upon roll call vote the following voted "aye"

Grzeskowiak  
Jennings  
Dorr  
Bowman  
Shreve

Upon roll call vote the following voted "nay"

None.

The chairman declared the motion carried and resolution duly adopted on Dec.20-84 .

Sincerely  
Chuck Dorr  
Sec.



## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### Regional Location

Alcona County is located in the northeastern part of the lower peninsula of Michigan and includes 679 square miles, or approximately 434,560 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: 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 they are considered in relationship to the townships within which they are located. They include Curran in Mitchell Township; Glennie in Curtis Township; Greenbush in Greenbush Township; Hubbard Lake and Spruce in Caledonia Township and Mikado in Mikado Township.

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

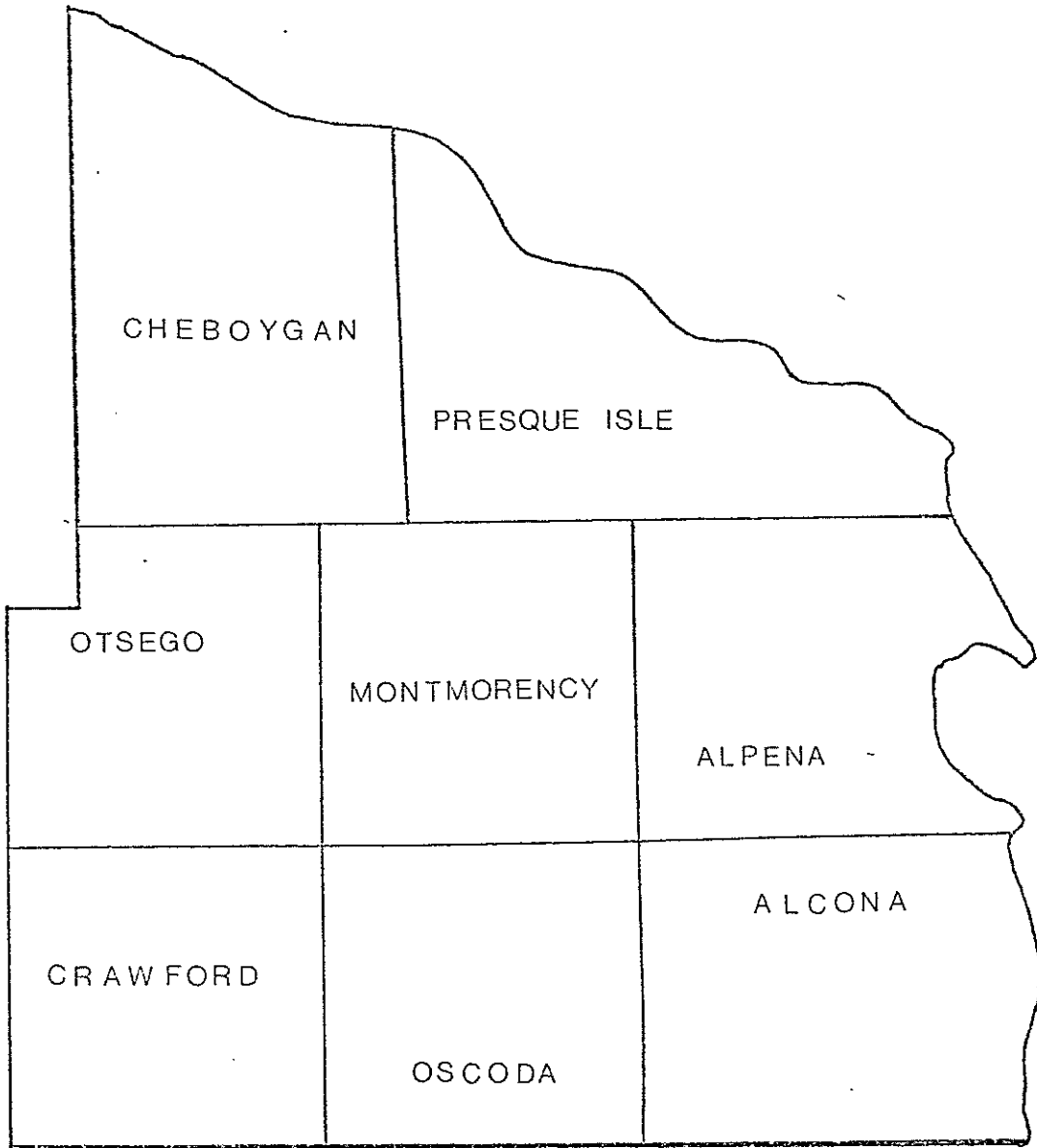
## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Climate

The climate of Alcona County is relatively mild. January temperatures average 23.3 degrees (F) and July temperatures average 67.6 degrees (F) (Harrisville Station). The minimum of record is minus 21 degrees and the maximum of record is 105 degrees. The length of the 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. 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 northwest and southwest 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.



REGION IX

## Inventory of Streams in Alcona County

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

<u>Name of Water</u>	<u>Description of Water</u>
<u>AuSable River</u>	Canoeing and fishing, shoreline mostly. Consumers Power Company property; river famous for its natural and scenic beauty and excellent trout fishing.
<u>South Branch Pine River</u>	Fishing; flows almost entirely through National Forest property; undisturbed stream of trout; flowing through heavily wooded area.
<u>VanEttan Creek</u>	Livestock; water; some fishing near headwater; runs mostly through private property; spring fed stream; pollution from sediment and livestock; stream warmed by lack of cover along banks.
<u>McGillis Creek</u>	Fishing; flows through both private and National Forest property; spring fed stream of trout quality.
<u>West Branch Pine River</u>	Trout fishing; flows mostly through National Forest property; spring fed stream of trout quality; several beaver dams on stream.
<u>Backus Creek</u>	Trout fishing; flows through both private and National Forest property; trout quality stream with stable flow.
<u>East Branch Pine River</u>	Trout fishing; flows through clubs and farmlands; spring fed stream; receives some pollution from livestock; warmed in some areas due to lack of bank cover.
<u>Little Wolf Creek</u>	Trout fishing; flows entirely through private private hunting club property; spring fed stream of trout quality; natural and undisturbed.
<u>Black River</u>	Cold, stable flow; trout quality fishing; flows mostly through private property.
<u>McGinn Creek</u>	Trout fishing; flows entirely through private club property; cold, spring fed stream; little disturbance.

Inventory of Lakes in Alcona County

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

<u>Name of Lake, Location &amp; Area</u>	<u>Description of Water</u>
<u>Bamfield Pond</u> Sec.3,4,8 & 9, T25N R5E, 1008 acres	County Park and campground on east shore. Hydro-electric reservoir on AuSable River; good warm water fishing.
<u>Curtis Lake</u> Sec.4 & 9, T25N R6E, 29 acres	Undeveloped; natural lake 66 feet deep with mineral shoreline; warm water fishing.
<u>Jenkins Lake</u> Sec.5, T25N, R6E 12 acres	Undeveloped; 100% organic shoreline; surrounded by marsh and steep banks.
<u>North Lake</u> Sec. 10 & 15, T25N, R6E, 90.5 acres	Shoreline subdivided; public access; maximum depth of 90 feet; mineral shoreline; panfish and pike.
<u>Indian Lakes</u> Sec.10,11,14,& 15 T25N, R6E, 39.2 acre	Undeveloped; south lake mostly on Huron National Forest, others mostly on private property. Group of three lakes ranging in size from 9.9 to 9.10 acres; panfish and pike.
<u>Hunters Lake</u> Sec. 16 & 21, T25N R6E, 42 acres	Shoreline subdivided; public access; maximum depth, 86 feet; mineral shoreline; panfish and pike.
<u>Thompson Lake</u> Sec. 17 & 20, T25N, R6E, 12.5 acres	Undeveloped; panfishing.
<u>Vaughn Lake</u> Sec. 20,21,28 & 29 T25N, R6E, 115 acres	Mostly mineral shoreline; subdivided; maximum depth, 65 feet; 90% mineral shoreline; panfishing.
<u>Little Bear Lake</u> Sec.27, T25N, R6E, 15 acres	Undeveloped natural lake with organic shoreline.
<u>DeLap Lake</u> Sec.5, T25N, R7E, 13 acres	Privately owned; mineral shoreline; youth camp on east shore; panfish and pike.
<u>Cedar Lake</u> Sec. 15,22,27,& 34 T25N, R9E	Much of shoreline subdivided or being developed; public access; 11 foot maximum depth; 98% mineral shoreline.

Byron Lake  
Sec. 15, T25N, R5E  
13.7 acres

Huron National Forest; 90% mineral shoreline;  
panfishing.

O'Brien Lake  
Sec. 18, T26N, R5E  
10.3 acres

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

Sunny Lake  
Sec.35, T26N, R5E  
10 acres

Huron National Forest; panfishing.

Horseshoe Lake  
Sec.36, T26N, R5E  
15.6 acres

Huron National Forest Campground; 32 feet deep;  
mineral shoreline; trout fishing.

Trout Lake  
Sec.10, T26N, R6E  
16 acres

Undeveloped; private property; natural lake with  
100% organic shoreline.

Reid Lake  
Sec. 14 & 15, T26N, R6E  
13 acres

Huron National Forest; panfishing.

Bliss Lake  
Sec. 36, T26N, R6E  
44 acres

Undeveloped; private property; 85% mineral  
shoreline.

Jewell Lake  
Sec.4 & 5, T26N, R7E  
193 acres

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

Tubbs Lake  
Sec. 31, T26N, R7E  
43 acres

Undeveloped; private property; 100% organic  
shoreline; panfish; good waterfowl habitat.

Sprinkler Lake  
Sec. 32, T26N, R7E  
34 acres

Undeveloped; private property; 100% organic  
shoreline; panfish.

Lincoln Lake  
Sec. 1 & 2, T26N, R8E  
71 acres

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

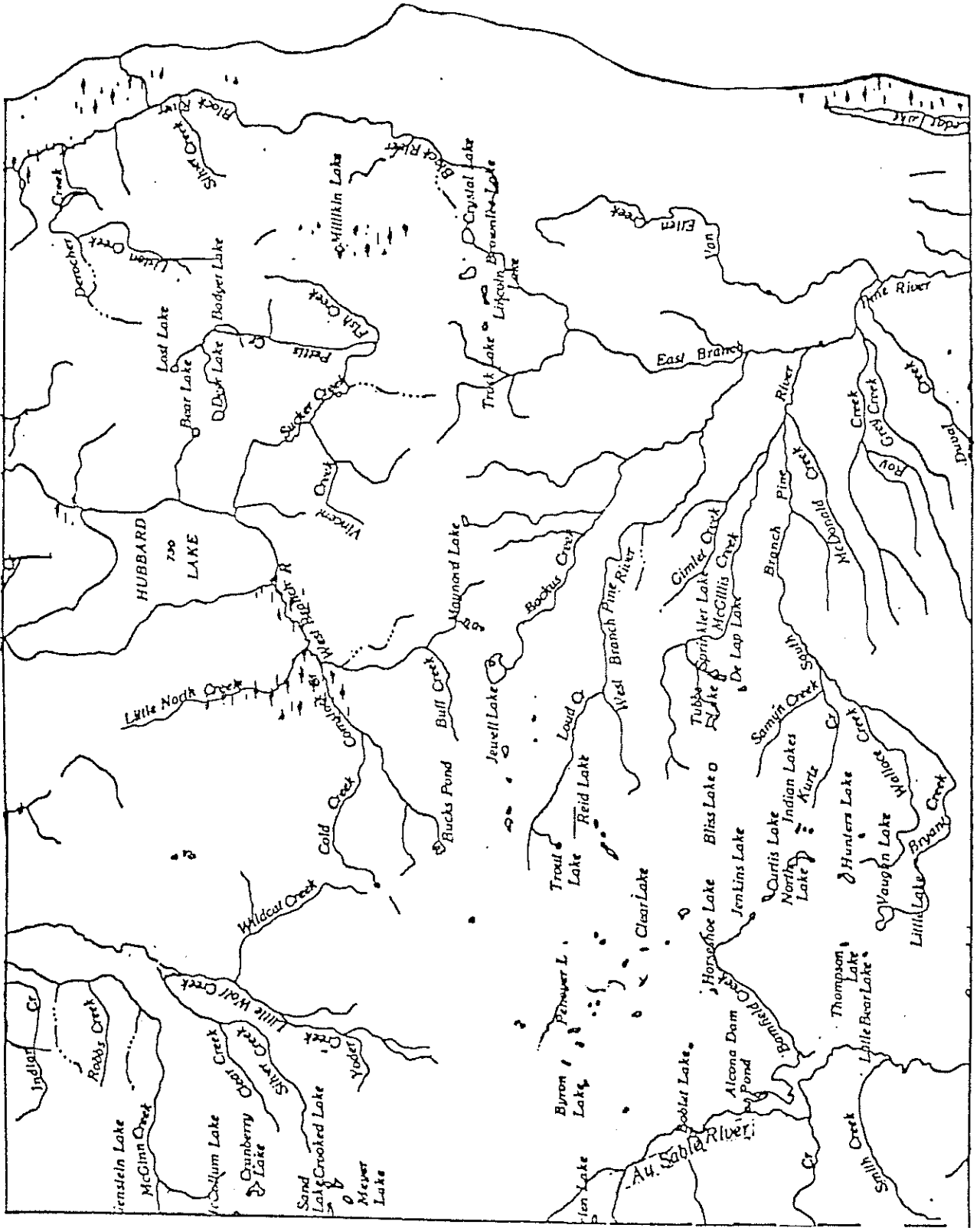
Hubbard Lake  
Sec. 4,9,15,16,23,24,28,29,  
35 & 36, T28N, R7E, 8,000 acres.

Subdivided shoreline; public access sites.

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

ALCONA COUNTY

Surface Water Features



## 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 five 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

- Limitation 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 Recreational 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.

## 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.

ALC COU

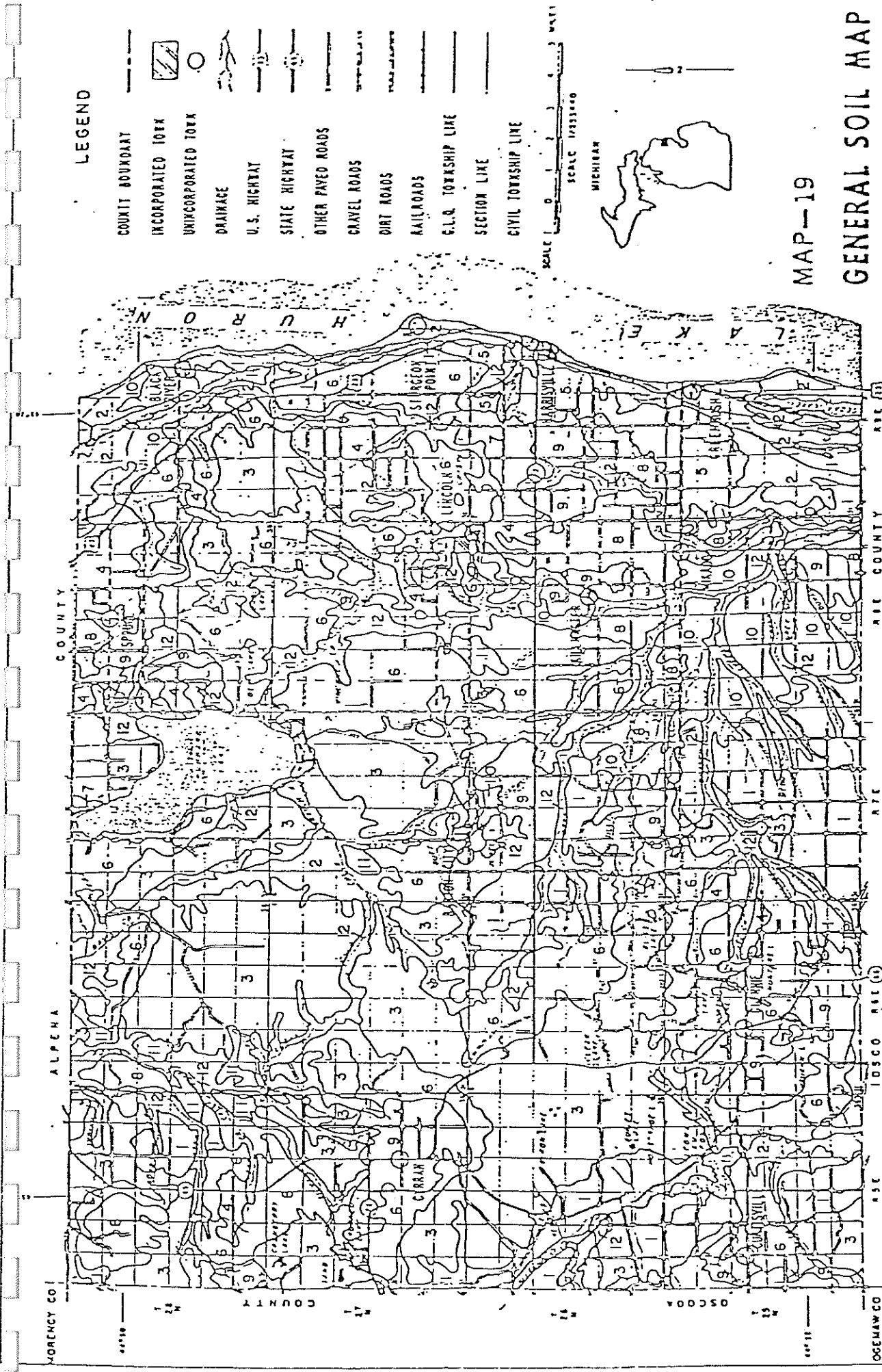
# Soil Limitations for Residential Development with Onsite Sewage Facilities



Degree of Limitation

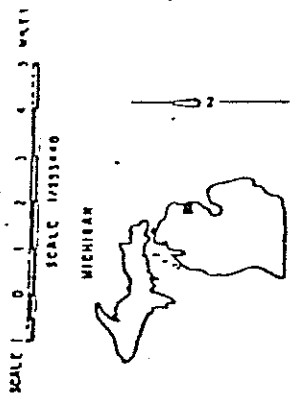
- Slight
- ▨ Moderate
- ▩ Severe





**LEGEND**

- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- INCORPORATED TOWN
- UNINCORPORATED TOWN
- DRAINAGE
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- OTHER PAVED ROADS
- GRAVEL ROADS
- DIRT ROADS
- RAILROADS
- E.L.O. TOWNSHIP LINE
- SECTION LINE
- CIVIL TOWNSHIP LINE



MAP-19

**GENERAL SOIL MAP**

**ALCONA COUNTY**

**MICHIGAN**

**SOIL ASSOCIATIONS**

- AREAS DOMINATED BY NEARLY LEVEL TO HILLY, WELL DRAINED TO POORLY DRAINED SANDY SOILS.
  - 1 GRAYLING-RUBICON ASSOCIATION: nearly level to undulating.
  - 2 RUBICON-EASTPORT-MONTICALLY ASSOCIATION: nearly level to moderate slope.
  - 3 GRAYLING-GRAYCAL-MONTICALLY ASSOCIATION: undulating to hilly.
  - 4 LUKATEL-ORANTAY ASSOCIATION: undulating to rolling.
  - 5 ROUSSEAU-ALCONA-MONTICALLY ASSOCIATION: undulating to rolling.
  - 6 MONTICALLY-LUKATEL ASSOCIATION: undulating to hilly.
- AREAS DOMINATED BY NEARLY LEVEL TO HILLY, WELL DRAINED TO POORLY DRAINED LOAMY AND CLAYEY SOILS.
  - 7 BONHOMME-BIRMINGHAM-ROPER ASSOCIATION: nearly level to undulating.
  - 8 KESLER-KAYAKAWING-SHINE ASSOCIATION: nearly level to undulating.
  - 9 KESLER-GRUBLY ASSOCIATION: undulating to rolling.
- AREAS DOMINATED BY NEARLY LEVEL TO STERTLY UNDRULATING, SOMEWHAT POORLY DRAINED AND POORLY DRAINED SANDY SOILS AND VERY POORLY DRAINED ORGANIC SOILS.
  - 10 BALVORAT-TOICO ASSOCIATION: nearly level to gently undulating.
  - 11 AUGLES-FORUDHUGH ASSOCIATION: nearly level.
  - 12 CARBONDALE-LUPON-LINKWOOD ASSOCIATION: nearly level.

THIS MAP, DEVELOPED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, PROVIDES GENERAL SOIL INFORMATION AND IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DETAILED PLANNING OR PLANNING ONLY.

Of the County's 434,560 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 southcentral 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 portion of Caledonia Township west of Hubbard Lake are owned by private hunting camps and clubs.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Utilities

Electric power is provided by Consumers Power Company in all of Alcona County except the northwest 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, LP gas 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 built 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 37%, or 986 Alcona County residents, commuted to work outside of the County in 1980. Of the 2,664 employed persons, 2,250 traveled to work in a private vehicle; 19 used public transportation; 13 bicycled; 185 walked; and 54 used other means. One hundred and forty three persons worked at home.

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 Mackinac and New York Railroads provide limited service handling of freight only. With the new Railpax System, service will be even more restricted.

Alcona County maintains only a small aircraft and emergency landing field. Commercial service is available in 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 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 would greatly benefit area residents, particularly those in the tourist business. To date, this freeway has been completed to Standish approximately 50 miles south of the 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 five 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. This 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 farmsteads with substantial living quarters and operations that are interesting to urban people.

Hunting area developments may need the organization of hunting cooperatives or 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 farm potentials used here (from the 1982 Census of Agriculture for Alcona County, Michigan) are:

The number of farms is 295 (up 2.8% from 1978)

The number of acres in farmland is 53,183 (down 4.6% from 1978)

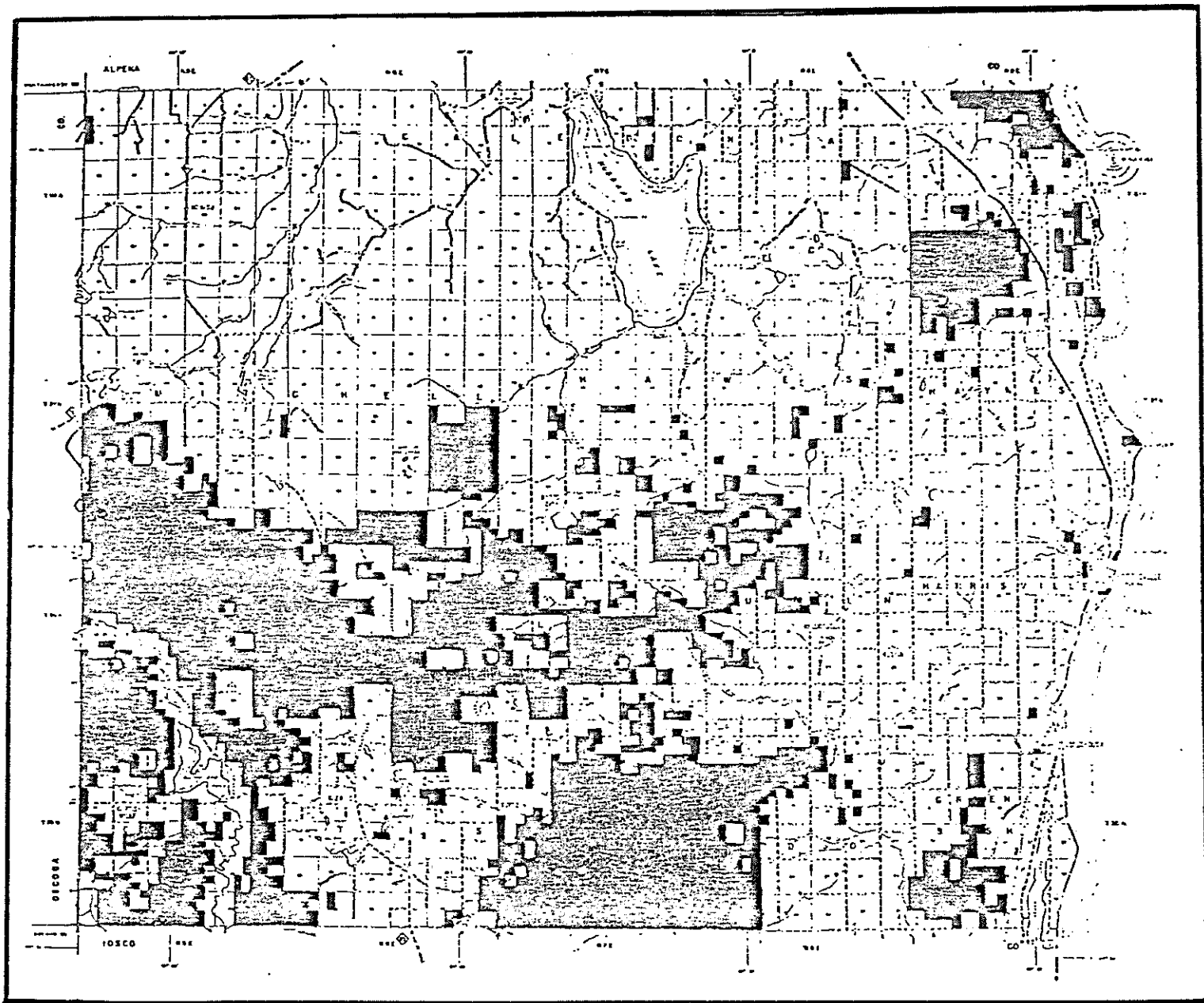
The average farm size is 180 acres (down 7.7% from 1978)

The average value of land and buildings per farm is \$117,159 (up 30.4% from 1978)

The average value per acre is \$633 (up 23.4% from 1978)

There are 271 individual or family farms; 23 partnership farms and 1 family held corporate farm.

Alcona County  
PUBLICLY OWNED LAND



Land Ownership:



Public



Private

Source: Atlas and Plat Book Alcona County, Michigan, 1974.

Approximately 6,200 acres of the large or corporate ownership in Alcona County is Consumers Power Company property located along the AuSable River in Curtis and Mitchell Townships. Another 63,000 plus acres is primarily large hunting camps.

Total land uses were tabulated by Michigan State University. These figures show that the land use for Alcona County is:

Total Area:	444,160 acres	
Inland Water	10,560 acres	
Land Surface	433,600 acres	
Forested	322,800 acres	(74.4%)
Agriculture	55,941 acres	(12.9%)
Transportation	8,976 acres	(2.1%)
Recreation	1,822 acres	(0.4%)
Urbanization	244 acres	(0.1%)
Other	43,837 acres	(10.1%)
Total:	433,600 acres	(100%)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

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

Previously, part-time personnel administered 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 Parks 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 local, 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 parks 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. 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 horticulture materials 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 and Recreation Chairman and Commissioners

1. Keep Commission members informed as to the 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 liaison between the Park and Recreation Commission and the employees of the System. Also act as a liaison 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 complaintants 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:

Alcona County Board of Commissioners  
Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission  
Parks and Recreation Director  
Maintenance Foreman  
Park Supervisors  
Park Rangers

## Functions of the Parks and Recreation System

The function of the Parks and Recreation Commission includes, but is not necessarily 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 as effectively and efficiently as feasible. Adequate supervision should be provided all areas to protect the facilities and to insure the equal opportunity for enjoyment of 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 systems, and to maintain and establish the necessary procedures for maintaining an accurate accounting of all funds utilized by the Commission.



ALCONA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

John Grzeskowiak, Chairman

George Jennings, Treasurer

Chuck Dorr, Secretary

Don Gillard, Member at Large  
Chairman, Alcona County Road Commission  
Chairman, Alcona County Drain Commission

Gerald Jasinski  
Chairman, Alcona County Board of Commissioners

Duane Bowman

Henry Bell

Dick Shreve

ALCONA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
1984-85

Gerald Jasinski, Chairman

Willard LeClair

Carolyn Brummand

J. Duncan Campbell

John T. Small

## Finances

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

The Lincoln Hall (funded under County and BOR sponsorship) operates on user fees. This jointly operates on an annual budget. Alcona County assumes full responsibility for this indoor activity center.

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 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 non-profit 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 and mineral-fuel resources and the geologic structure of the United States.
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.
6. Cooperative Extension Service - Educational Assistance  
The Cooperative Extension Service provides educational assistance and advise 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 in 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 - Corp of Engineers

The Civil Works functions of the Corps of Engineers embraces comprehensive multi-purpose development of the Nation's water and related 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 for rebuilding or restoring slum and blighted areas.

(Neighborhood Facilities Grants)

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

(The Open Space Act)

The Open Space Act helps communities to 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 recreational 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)

This is a study of a nationwide program of scenic roads and parkways. It provides information useful to States, their political sub-divisions 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 1960-1980

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 attention should be directed toward the characteristics and influences of the transient or seasonal residents upon the demand for public services.

The population of Alcona County increased 36.5% (2,627 persons) from 1970 to 1980, totalling 9,740 persons compared to 7,113 in the previous decade. This was significantly higher than the State of Michigan's growth rate of 4.3% for the same period and more than double the the Nation's growth rate of 11.4%. The growth rate for Alcona County is exhibiting a historical pattern of increase. The population grew by 8.5% from 1950 to 1960; by 12.0% from 1960 to 1970; and by 36.5% from 1970 to 1980. Population projections which were done in 1970 (and proved to be extremely accurate by the 1980 actual census count) show this trend continuing. The projection is for a 31.9% increase from 1980 to 1990 and 21.1% for 1990 to 2000. If the projection continues to be accurate, the County will have experienced a growth rate of 173% is the half-century 1950-2000.

Population Change 1950-1980

<u>Area</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			
	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>
Alcona County	5,856	6,352	7,133	9,740
Balance NEMI Region	65,761	76,610	86,974	106,039
State of Michigan	6,371,766	7,823,194	8,881,826	9,262,078
United States	150,697,000	179,325,175	203,302,031	226,545,805

<u>Area</u>	<u>PERCENT OF INCREASE</u>		
	<u>1950-60</u>	<u>1960-70</u>	<u>1970-80</u>
Alcona County	8.5%	12.3%	36.5%
Balance NEMI Region	16.5%	13.5%	21.9%
State of Michigan	22.8%	13.5%	4.3%
United States	19.0%	13.4%	11.4%

## Migration

Migration patterns showed two major trends in the past decade. The out-migration, which is basically attributable to relocation for employment opportunities; and in-migration in which a major portion are retirees sixty years of age or older. The population of Alcona County continues to become older. In 1970, 24.0% of the population was over aged sixty. In 1980, 28.6% of the population was sixty years of age or older. In the single decade, 1970-80, there was a 63.4% increase in this age group.

All of the growth of Alcona County is attributable to in-migration. There were 1,026 births and 1,146 deaths from 1970 to 1980 (a net loss of 120 persons). During this period the total population grew by 2,627 persons, thus the gain of 2,747 persons due to in-migration. This is a major shift in population change patterns from that recorded in the 1960's. During the period 1960 to 1970, the population grew by 761 persons. Of this, there were 1,026 births and 782 deaths resulting in a growth from births of 244 persons. The number attributable to in-migration was 517.

### 1965-1970

The only net losses in population for Alcona County during this period were in the age groups 15-19 and 20-24. A total of 545 persons in this age group relocated out of the county during this period (196 in-migrated for a net loss of 249 young people).

Highest in-migrations were shown in the age groups 45-64 and 65 and older. 782 persons in these age categories moved in and 301 moved out for a net in-migration of 481 older persons.

### 1975-1980

The above pattern was repeated a decade later. The only net loss in population was in the age group 20-24 where 359 persons left and 191 came in to the County for a net migration of -168. In the 15-19 age grouping, there was a slight positive net migration of 37 (211 young persons moving out and 248 coming in).

Highest in-migrations, again, were shown in the age groups 45-64 and 65 and older. In these age categories, there were 968 immigrants and 400 outmigrants for a net migration of 568 older persons.

Sources: 1980 Census of Population, Characteristics of the Population, General Population Characteristics.

1980 Census of Population, Gross Migration for Counties: 1975-1980

POPULATION DATA FOR GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

<u>Townships</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Growth#</u>	<u>Growth%</u>
Alcona	486	811	325	66.8%
Caledonia	763	1,065	302	39.5%
Curtis	718	1,082	364	50.6%
Greenbush	760	1,292	532	70.0%
Gustin	*613	*796	183	29.8%
Harrisville	*1,443	*1,652	209	14.5%
Hawes	*811	*996	209	14.5%
Haynes	416	569	153	36.7%
Mikado	636	865	229	36.0%
Millen	270	364	94	34.8%
Mitchell	197	248	51	25.8%
Total County	7,113	9,740	2,627	36.9%

\* = includes incorporated places

Incorporated Places

City of Harrisville	541	559	18	+3.3%
Village of Lincoln	371	361	-10	-2.7%

## Industries and Businesses

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 37% 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. Lake Huron is another major tourist draw. Hubbard Lake is the largest inland lake and is encircled by private cottages. 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 among 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 which has definitely increased the resort business. The one drawback with the Alcona County Lake Huron 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 the County. Of the 295 farms in the County, 200 have cattle inventories. In the most recent Census of Agriculture (1982), Alcona County showed an increase in the number of farms but a decrease in both acres in farmland and in the average size of the farms. Of the 433,600 acres of land surface, 34,297 (7.9%) is cropland and there is nothing to indicate that more land will be cleared for farming in the near future.

There are several small saw mills throughout the County. Pulp wood cutting and logging are the most important non-agriculture industries.

According to the most recently completed publication of County Business Patterns (1982) the following data is available for Alcona County:

### Employees, Payroll and Establishments, 1982

<u>Industry</u>	<u># of Employees</u>	<u>Annual Payroll</u>	<u># of Establishments</u>
Total	798	\$1,941,000	151
Agricultural Services	(a)	(d)	1
Contract Construction	42	477,000	19
Manufacturing	313	3,698,000	30
Lumber/wood products	118	819,000	13
Logging	57	329,000	9
Wood pallets and skids	(b)	(d)	2
Stone,clay,glass products	55	663,000	4
Machinery,except electrical	129	2,147,000	11
Metalworking machinery	81	1,255,000	6



Transportation	(a)	(d)	4
Wholesale trade	7	62,000	4
Retail Trade	217	1,945,000	61
Auto dealers, service stations	62	189,000	15
Eating & drinking places	60	432,000	21
Finance, insurance, real estate	22	148,000	6
Services	184	1,537,000	21
Health services	100	910,000	4
Non-classifiable	(a)	(d)	5

a= 0-19

d= withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual companies

### Income

In the 1980 census, Alcona County reported a per capita income of \$5,111 compared to \$7,688 for the State and \$7,298 for the Nation. Median household income was \$10,730 (\$19,223 for the State and \$16,841 for the Nation) and median family income was \$12,301 (\$22,107 for the State and \$19,917 for the Nation). Forty-four percent of Alcona County residents receive Social Security income (compared to 25% for the State) for an annual total of \$10.1 million dollars. Nine percent of the residents receive Public Assistance (which is also the State average) and 16% of the total population is at or below the poverty level (10% for the State).

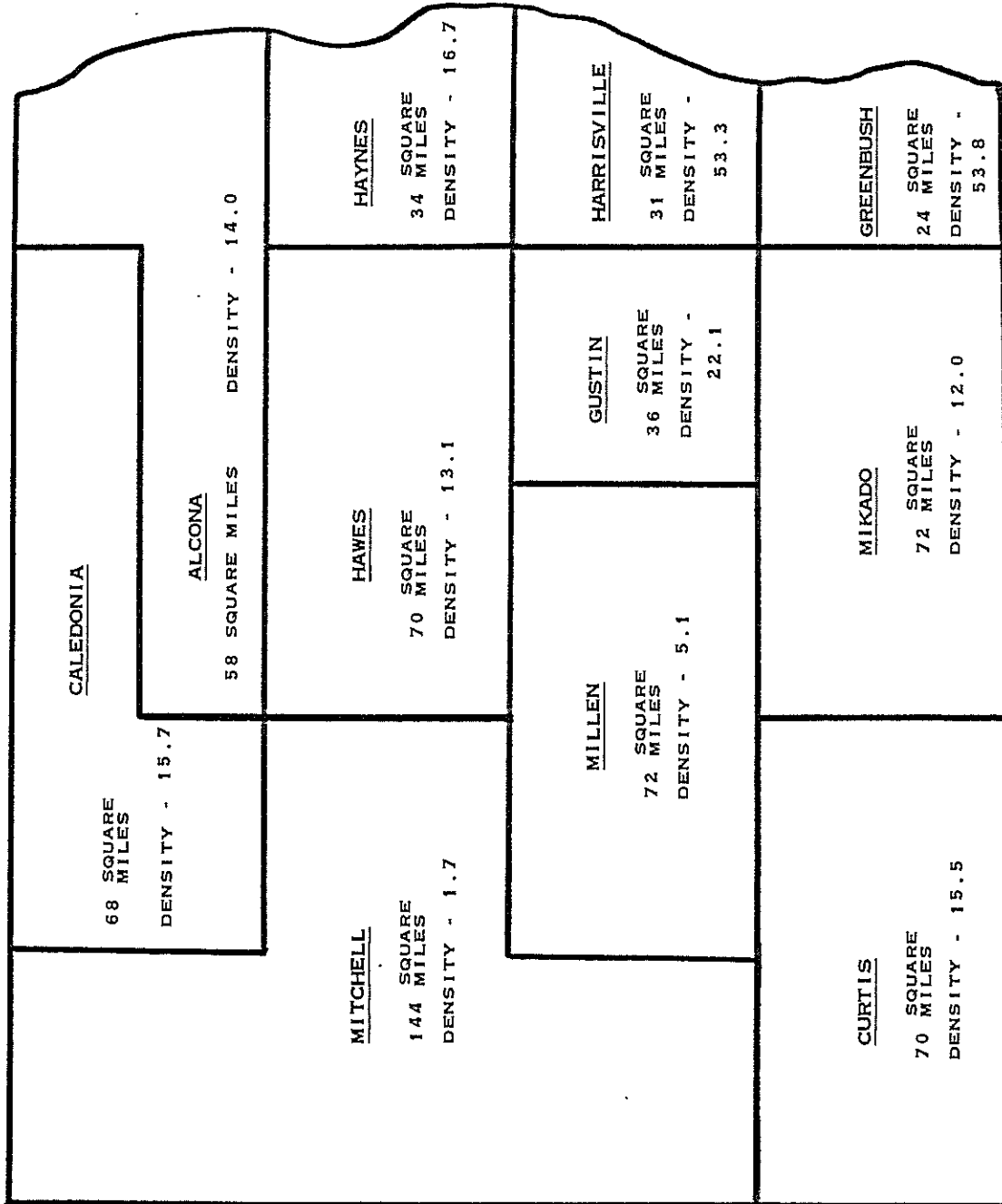
### Concentrated Areas of Growth

There are no areas in Alcona County that may be defined as Urbanized Areas. 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 3.3% increase in population from 1970 to 1980. Harrisville Township increased 14.5%, or 209 persons, during this period.

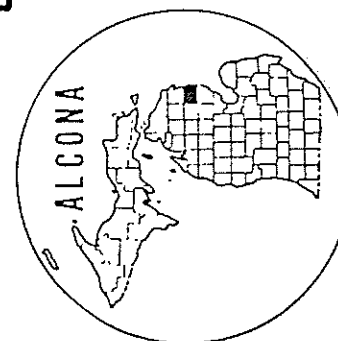
The Village of Lincoln is located five miles west and two miles north of the City of Harrisville on M-72 and showed a 2.7% decrease in residents from 1970 to 1980.

Caledonia, Alcona and Hawes Townships which contain Hubbard Lake showed a population increase of 39.4% for this decade gaining 812 residents.



LAND AREA - 679 SQUARE MILES

DENSITY (POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE) - 14.3



## Employment

The most recent annual average of Civilian Labor Force and Wage and Salary Estimates (1983) shows the following employment data:

### Civilian Labor Force

<u>Area</u>	<u>Total Labor Force</u>	<u>Employment Total</u>	<u>Unemployment</u>	
			<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Alcona County	3,575	2,800	775	21.7%
Balance NEMI Region	46,475	36,950	9,525	20.5%
Michigan	4,303,000	3,693,000	610,000	14.2%

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. Although the annual unemployment average for 1983 for Alcona County was 21.7%, seasonal unemployment rates vary greatly. In 1983, for example, the unemployment rate for July was 16.4% and for January was 23.9%. 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.

## Age Distribution

### Age Distribution by Population - 1980

<u>Area</u>	<u>Median Age</u>	<u>%</u>					
		<u>-5</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-59</u>	<u>60+</u>
Alcona	40.3	5.7%	14.4%	14.2%	20.2%	16.9%	28.6%
Balance NEMI Region	32.1	7.4%	16.4%	17.5%	24.5%	15.5%	18.7%
State MI.	28.8	7.4%	16.6%	19.4%	27.4%	15.1%	14.1%

## Urban and Rural Population

Approximately 72% of the population 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 the lakefront properties on Lake Huron, Hubbard Lake and Cedar Lake.

Educational Characteristics

	<u>School Enrollment and Type of School</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Alcona County</u>
Nursery School		68	
Public		56	
Church-related		2	
Other private		10	
Kindergarten		133	
Public		133	
Church-related		0	
Other private		0	
Elementary (1-8 years)		1,149	
Public		1,147	
Church-related		2	
Other private		0	
High School		701	
Public		698	
Church-related		0	
Other private		3	
College		128	
Public		123	
Private		5	

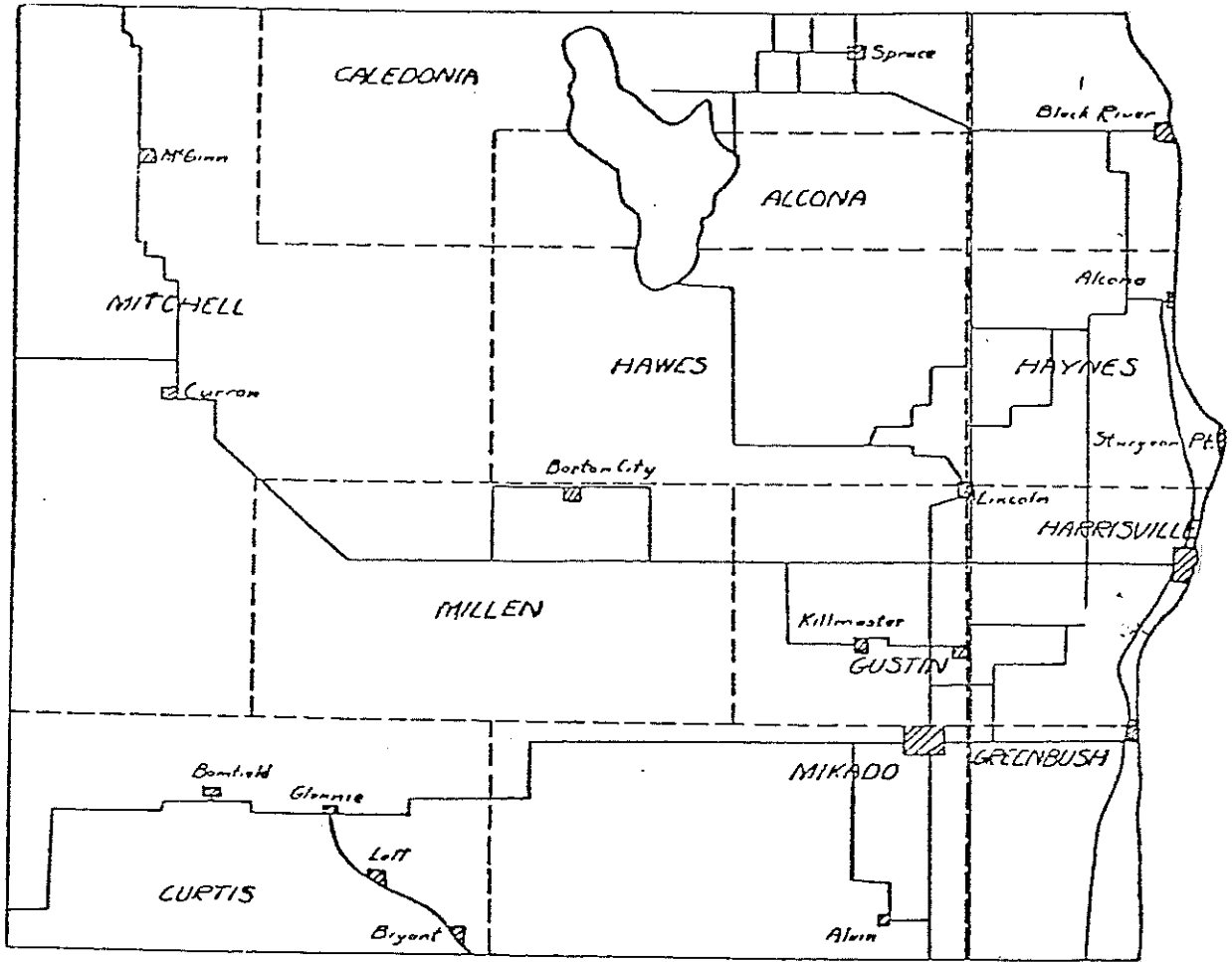
Years of School Completed - 1980

Percent of Persons 25 Years of Age and Older

<u>Area</u>	<u>8 yrs. or less</u>	<u>9-11 yrs.</u>	<u>H.S. Grad. or G.E.D.</u>	<u>1-3 Yrs. College</u>	<u>College Grad.</u>
Alcona	21%	20%	42%	10%	7%
Balance NEMI Region	19%	17%	41%	14%	9%
State MI.	15%	17%	38%	16%	14%

Source: 1980 Census of Population, Characteristics of the Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics.





ALCONA COUNTY

## INVENTORY

Our tremendous resources make this area an exceptionally appealing mecca for the camper, fisherman, hunter and vacationer. Recreation plays a big 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 great 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 this. 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 northwestern portion of the County. Game animals of significance include: deer, bear, fox, rabbits, raccoon, squirrel, and bobcat. Game fowl include: 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.

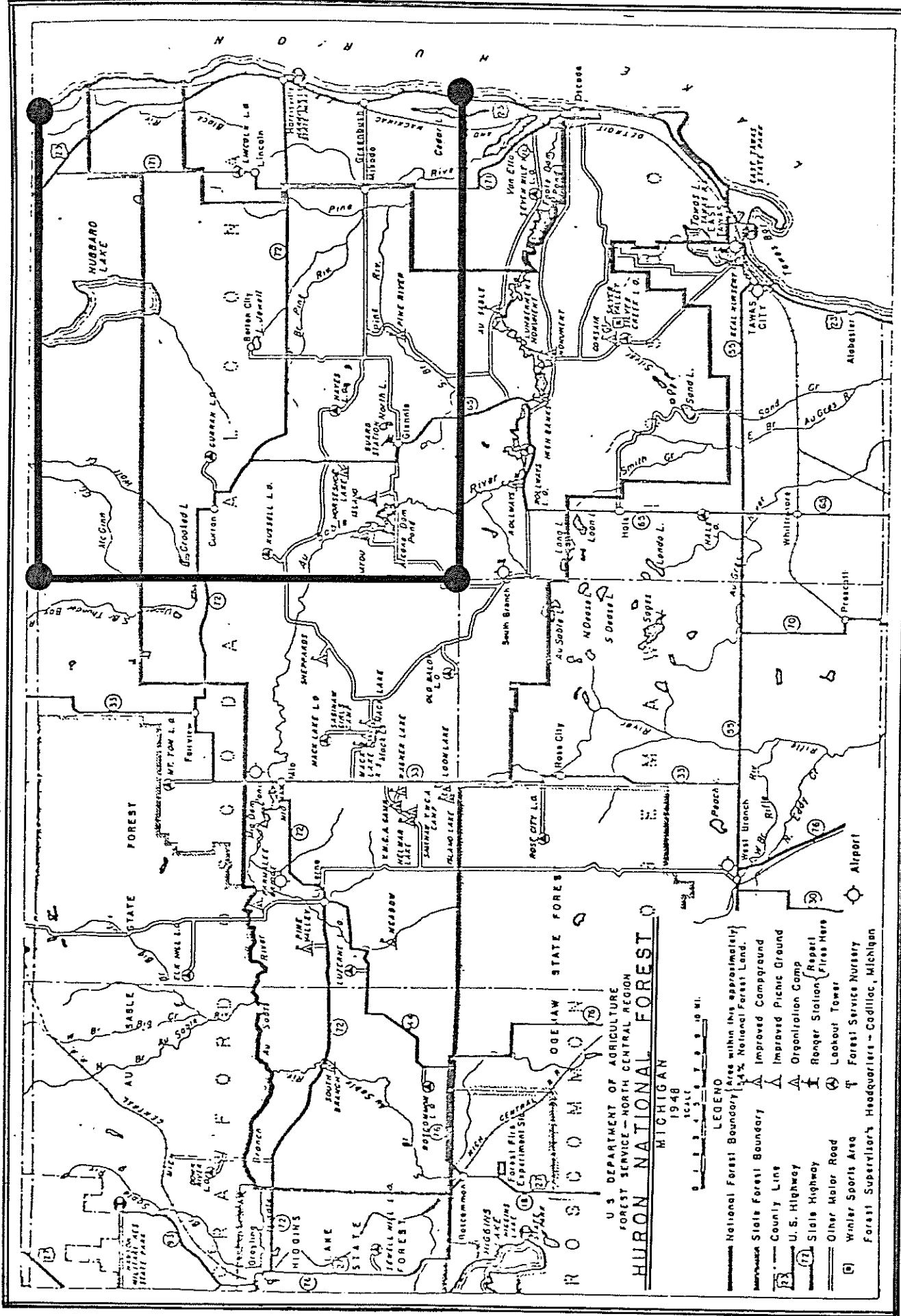
A new State Park campground is currently being developed north of Black River. This is also a primitive facility, but it is hoped that it will absorb some of the overflow from the Harrisville State Park during peak periods.

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 the catches of trout, bass and perch, fishermen converge on the area to snare 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.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 FOREST SERVICE - NORTH CENTRAL REGION  
**HURON NATIONAL FOREST**  
 MICHIGAN

- 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MI.  
 SCALE
- 1948
- LEGEND**
- National Forest Boundary (Area within this approximately 34% National Forest Land)
  - State Forest Boundary
  - County Line
  - U. S. Highway
  - State Highway
  - Other Major Road
  - ⊠ Winter Sports Area
  - ⊠ Forest Supervisor's Headquarters - Cadillac, Michigan
  - ⊠ Improved Picnic Ground
  - ⊠ Organization Camp
  - ⊠ Ranger Station (Respect Fires Here)
  - ⊠ Lookout Tower
  - ⊠ Forest Service Nursery





## ALCONA TOWNSHIP

Alcona Township is located in the northeast part of the County and borders Lake Huron. The Township contains approximately 58 square miles of land area and 9 square miles of Hubbard Lake.

The population increased 66.8% from 486 persons in 1970 to 811 in 1980. Most of the people reside in the Hubbard Lake area and along U.S. 23 on Lake Huron.

### Inventory and Deficiencies

#### Property:

1. Black River - 200' frontage/1.5 acres property used considerably as a boat launch site. Future plans include this property to be used in conjunction with a future harbor site. However, no improvements need to be made on this property.
2. Lake Huron - 160' frontage/1.5 acres used for swimming and picnicking. Deficiencies - put in water system-well and build a bath house with toilet/shower facilities. More picnic facilities are needed.
3. Ball field adjacent to Black River Elementary School - This ball field once belonged to the Township and was sold to the school system for the sum of \$1.00. It consists of approximately 2.5 acres. The school is no longer in use and the Township is in hopes of buying back the ball field for the token fee. They would also like to acquire three more acres adjacent to the ball field. Future plans include improving the field and building bathroom facilities.
4. Public Access Sites - The Township maintains two launch/access sites on Hubbard Lake which are used considerably. Sizes are approximately 53' wide by 200' long and 50' wide by 300' long. These sites seem to be adequate for what they are used for. There is a possibility that boundary markers could be obtained through the State Forestry Service.
5. County Line State Park or Neywagon State Park - five miles of lake frontage/approximately 200 acres. Owned by the State - undeveloped. No road access available, only four-wheel drive vehicles have been able to get in. The Township would like to see the State develop road access and some wilderness camping sites, snowmobile trails, and hiking and ski trails.
6. Black River Recreation Area - three acres in the Village of Black River. Contains two tennis courts, a Little League baseball field, pit-type toilets and an area dug out for a skating rink. The Township would like to see electricity put into this area, and a water system and playground added. Long range plans include bathroom facilities.

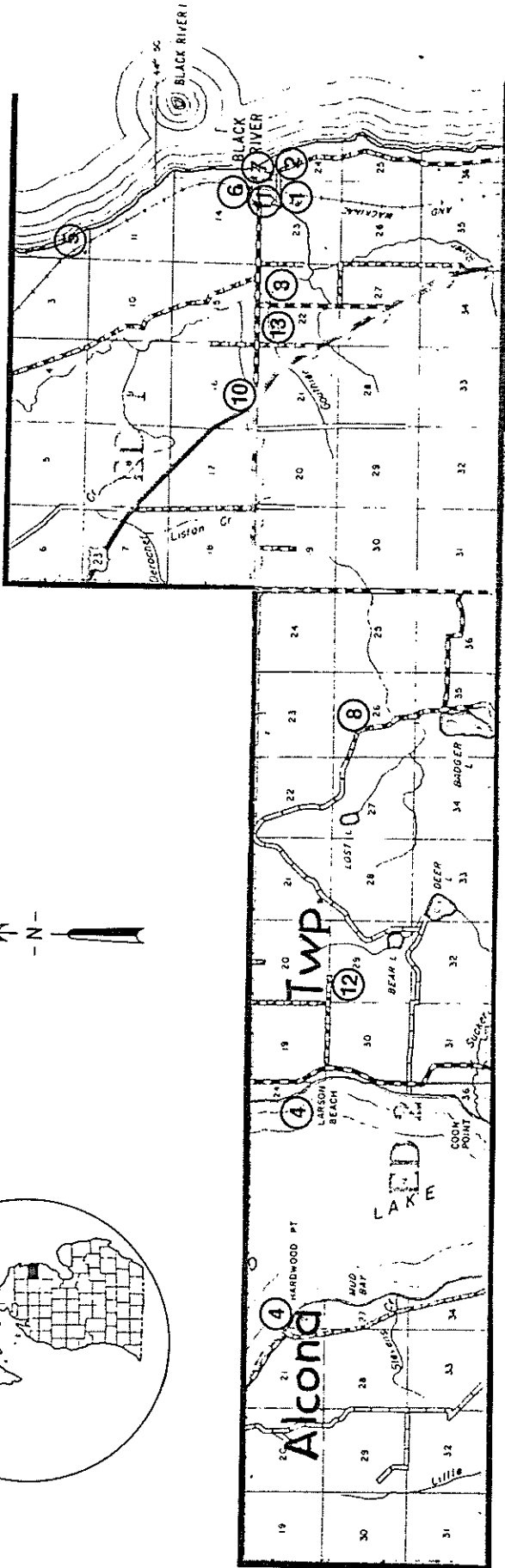
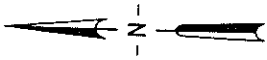
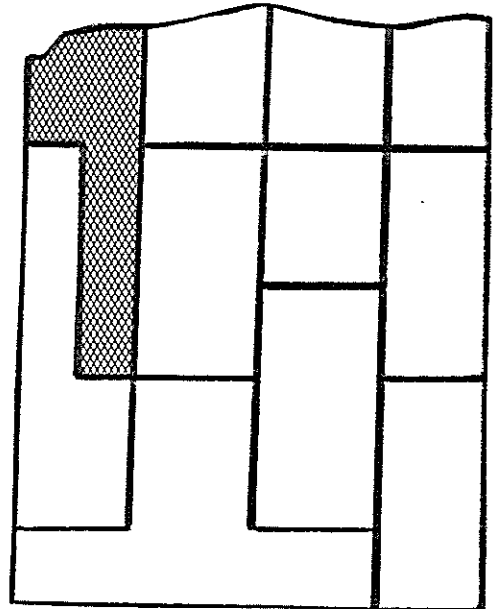
In addition to the above Township properties, the following, although privately owned, are open to the public and should be included as part of the Township inventory.

7. Olde Fish House - Combination restaurant, sporting goods store, cabin rental and boat livery on the Black River in the Village of Black River.
8. Lost Lake Woods Club - This is a private club consisting of approximately 10,000 acres, a 40 room clubhouse and four private lakes. The club has complete recreational facilities including hunting, fishing, hiking trails, snowmobile and riding trails, a riding stable, 18 hole golf course, archery range, skeet and rifle ranges and year-round homes. The club, although private, has a tremendous impact on Alcona Township and Alcona County.
9. Alcona Township would like to see the State of Michigan provide a harbor of refuge at the mouth of the Black River. This would include dredging the mouth of the river to provide visiting, as well as local, residents with access to Lake Huron.

#### Alcona Township Public Buildings

10. Township Hall and Fire Station #1 - Located at the corner of Black River Road and U.S. 23. Consists of approximately 2 acres. Building is 7 years old and is a combination fire hall and Township hall.
11. Fire Station #2 - Approximately 1 acre. This property is used solely as a fire hall. No plans in sight for improvement.
12. Fire Station #3 - In Lost Lake Woods Club - This station, owned by Lost Lake Woods Club is used with the Township on a cooperation basis in exchange for return fire station services.
13. Black River Elementary School - Has been unused since 1975. The building and grounds belong to the school system and is not readily available for public use. The Township has no plans for renovation or use of this building.

ALCONA TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



## CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

Caledonia Township consists of 72 square miles of which approximately 4 square miles contain the northern portion of Hubbard Lake. Most of the area is made up of private hunting camps with 36 square miles in the western part of the Township being completely void of any hard surfaced roads and only one accessible road.

Population is largely concentrated around Hubbard Lake and increased 39.5% from 763 residents in 1970 to 1,065 in 1980.

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

### Inventory and Deficiencies

#### Properties:

Caledonia Township owns three parks or access sites to Hubbard Lake which are as follows:

1. The smallest consists of 100' frontage by 200' deep (approximately .5 acres). The park is in a semi-developed condition. There is adequate parking, no picnic facilities, and it is now used for swimming and boat launching. The Township does not want the lot to be used for boat launching and would like to limit use to swimming and picnicking. Future plans include building a bathhouse/restroom facility and obtaining boundary markers for the lot lines.
2. The second access site consists of one acre on a 166' lot. Two concrete ramps and a dock are provided for boaters. Limited swimming and picnicking facilities are offered. The State of Michigan owns the 100' lot adjacent to this site and would like to develop both into an adequate fishing site.
3. The third access site consists of 320', approximately 10 acres; lake frontage with swimming and picnicking facilities. Adequate parking exists for 50 cars. There is a baseball diamond on the property and pump-type well water is available. A launch ramp and boat dock are also on the property. The Township recently invested \$5,000. in building two pit-type toilets. The State of Michigan owns half of this park. The Township would like to make a lease-trade with the State so that Caledonia Township would manage and maintain this third site completely and the State of Michigan would manage and maintain the second site completely. Future plans include preservation of the existing shoreline to prevent erosion.
4. Hickey Hill - Caledonia Township owns 80 acres which is generally undeveloped. Future plans include developing nature and cross country trails, wilderness camping, a parking lot and a lookout tower. They would like to improve the existing road and put up boundary markers.

5. 40 Acres - Town 28 North, Range 8 East, Section 2. This land was a former disposal site. It has been reforested and is used for public hunting. The Township has no future plans for this site.
6. Gravel Pit - Consists of 5 acres of land. It is open to Township residents and is used strictly as a gravel pit. No future plans exist for development.
7. Pleasant View Cemetery - One-half mile south of Spruce on Gillard Road. This five acre piece is maintained by the Township. The Township is in the process of negotiating the purchase of an adjacent 20 acres to expand this facility. The Township has expressed interest in obtaining funding through a grant for this purchase if necessary.

In addition to the above listed properties, Caledonia Township is interested in acquiring a ten acre parcel of land on which to develop two or three ball diamonds.

The Township would also be interested in acquiring the following property:

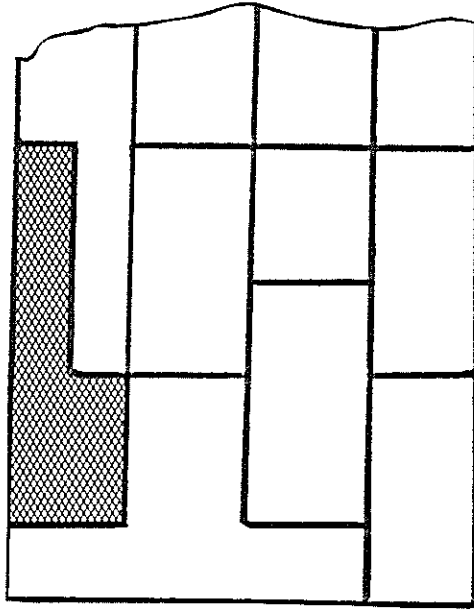
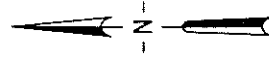
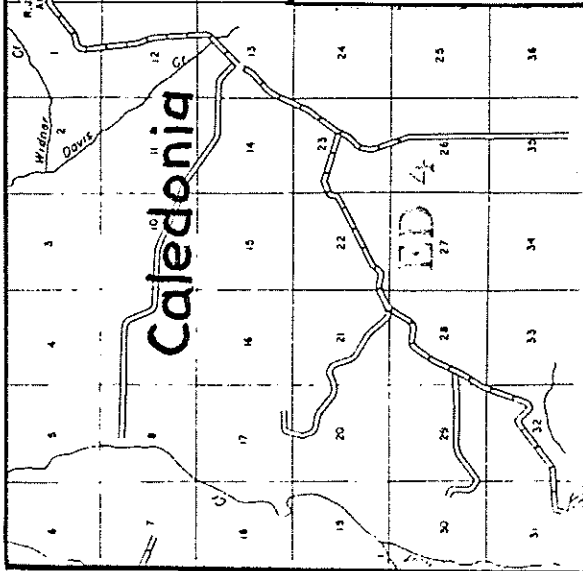
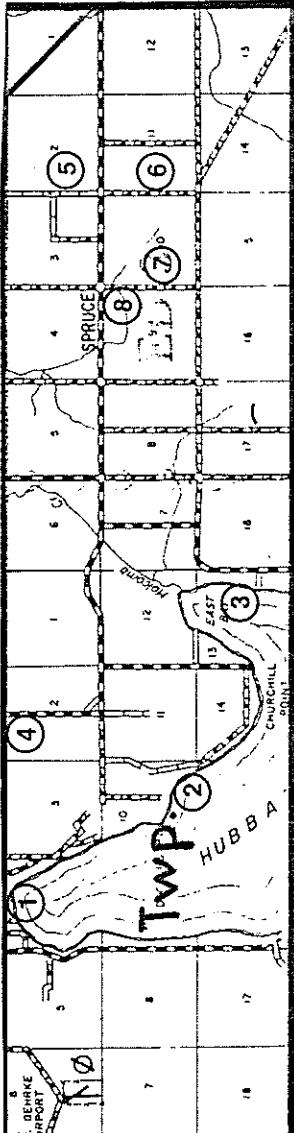
40 acres - Town 28 North, Range 7 East, Section 12.  
 This land lies at the mouth of Halcomb Creek. The State of Michigan owns the adjoining 40 acres north of this piece. The property is privately owned and negotiations have begun for its purchase. It has been appraised at the value of \$12,000. The Township would be interested in a 50-50 grant to purchase this property if possible.

#### Caledonia Township Buildings

8. Caledonia Township Hall - Located one block south of Spruce, this building is located on approximately 1.5 acres. The Township recently remodeled the entire hall at a cost of \$50,000. Space and facilities are adequate for current use and future plans are not necessary except for a possibility of refinishing the existing floor. Estimates for this have been made and range from \$3,000. to \$5,000. The cost for this will come from revenue sharing and/or anti-recession monies. The building is used often by many groups and is considered a community center.

#### Privately Owned Recreation Points

9. Paul Bunyon and Babe the Blue Ox - Scenic Attraction
10. Haltners' Hall of Ancient Man - Scenic Attraction
11. Will's Gun Shop - Target Range, Skeet and Trap
12. South Bay Marina - Boat Livery



CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN

## CURTIS TOWNSHIP

Curtis Township is made up of 70 square miles of land area and approximately 2 square miles of inland water. The major water area is made up of Bamfield Pond. Curtis Township is located in the southeast portion of Alcona County. The National Forest Service maintains 17,370 acres of the Township's 44,800 acres of land area as part of the Huron National Forest. Consumers Power Company owns approximately 4,350 acres located along the banks of the AuSable River which bisects the western 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 and Hunters 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 1980 population was 1,082 compared to 718 in 1970, a 50.6% increase. Most of the population is centered in and around the unincorporated area of Glennie 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 and Deficiencies

#### Property:

1. Curtis Township Park - is located two miles east of Glennie on Glennie Road. This park consists of approximately five acres. The existing facilities include a picnic area, toilets, and a boat dock providing access for fishing. The people of Curtis Township would like to see the following improvements made in the next five years. The boat launching site could be improved and expanded, an open air shelter built, barbecue stoves installed and some landscaping of the beach, including bringing in beach sand. The Township plans to obtain money for this project through fund raising activities such as bingo. Another alternative of a State grant is also being considered.
2. Alcona County Park - This park consists of approximately 500 acres on the Alcona Dam Pond. The land is owned by Consumers Power Company and the County has a 99 year lease on the property. The park has been developed and has a written plan which the Township is in agreement with. The Park is currently being used as a loading point for 62 miles of "rough completed" snowmobile trails.



3. 80 Acre Landfill - at the junction of Healy Road and Body Road. Seven years ago this land was excavated by a team of workers from the United States Air Force. The land was excavated into a bowl type area where the following plans are hoped to be implemented within five years: a baseball diamond and football field completed, bathrooms, parking facilities, lighting, skeet shooting and target areas and landscaping of the grounds. Because this area is only two miles east of the Alcona County Park and because it is surrounded by State forest, Township residents feel that the landfill could be developed into an access site for the snowmobile trails, cross country ski trails, and nature trails provided on State and Federal Forest land. Funds for these projects would be provided by a grant or 50-50 match monies.

4. Public Access Sites-Three access sites are located in the following areas:

Vaughn Lake- consisting of public beach and primitive boat launch site.

North Lake- 300 acres frontage/35 acres. Picnic facilities and bathroom facilities as well as primitive boat launch sites are included in the site owned and maintained by the U.S. Forest Service.

Winter Sports Park - 500' frontage - access site including a dock, parking area, and a primitive boat launch is owned by the Township. The dock was improved in 1978 and the Township plans to improve the launching site in the near future.

Hunters Lake - Very little public access. Used by swimmers and fishermen.

The residents of Curtis Township feel that these sites should be cleaned up, but that further use should be discouraged. The above lakes are becoming polluted and further development of the sites would only add to the problem. These lakes have been placed on a priority list by the Northeast Michigan Council on Governments (NEMCOG) for clean water testing. The only possible improvement might be the public access site at North Lake. There is a possibility of some picnic and bathroom facilities, but of a primitive nature since use by the public is not encouraged.

#### Public Buildings

5. Curtis Township Hall - This building rests on a two acre lot and is used as a community center by the public. Recently, \$40,000. was provided for renovating the upstairs of the building (\$7,289. was provided by the State of Michigan for the purchase of kitchen equipment, \$10,265. was provided by Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency [NEMCSA] for materials, and approximately \$10,000. was provided by the Federal government in the form of CETA labor). Because such a great amount of money has been put into the building for renovation, no improvements are foreseen in the next five years. The Township would like to acquire some adjacent land (from 10-38 acres) to provide a playground, picnic area, and possibly a baseball diamond. Discussions concerning the acquisition of the property have begun with the owner. All social activities in the Township are conducted in this building.

School children in grades K-8 use it as a basketball court. It is used for school plays, Grange meetings, Citizen Band Watch monthly dinners, weekly bingo games, roller skating, dances, karate instruction, weddings, and Township Board meetings. Also, a two-day fair is conducted annually. The Curtis Township Citizen Watch Patrol hosts an annual "Coffee Break" each May. The Hall also includes a branch of the Alcona County Library. Future plans include a Head Start Program and senior citizen dinners five days per week. Movies are shown periodically in conjunction with the County Library System and are also shown independently by local groups. It is the home of the shuffle board league. All local non-profit groups use the building at no charge.

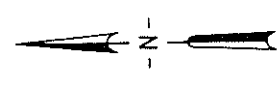
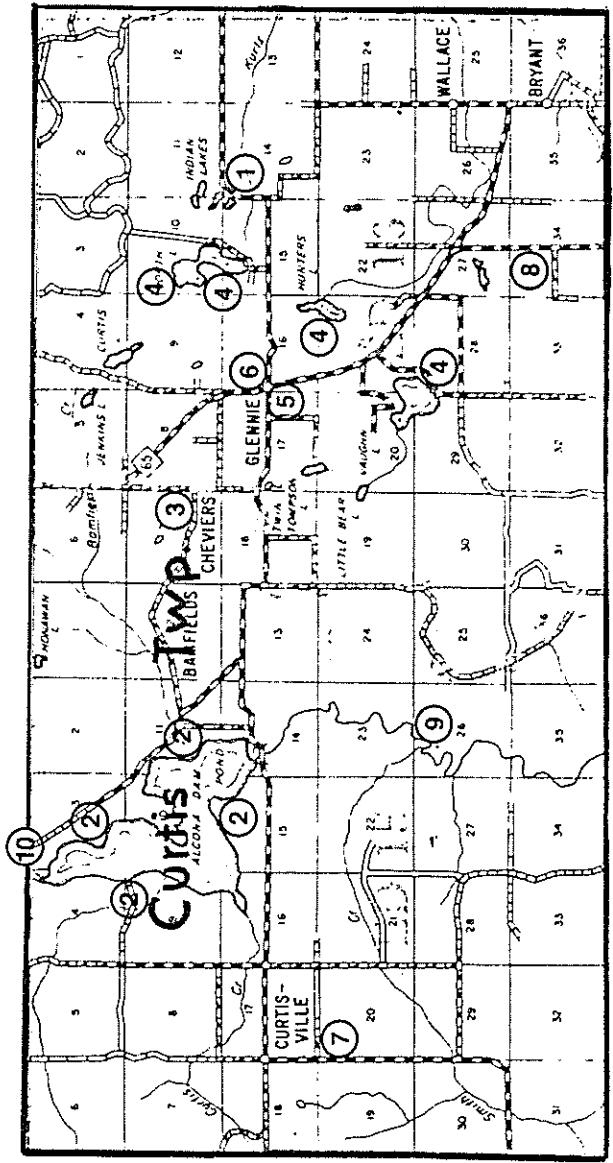
6. Glennie Elementary School - This school is still in use by the public school system. However, in exchange for use of the basketball court at the Curtis Township Hall, the school system allows public access to the baseball field for local leagues in the summer.
7. Curtisville Community Hall - Located in the western portion of the Township, this consists of an older building on one acre of land. The Hall is used for public meetings usually by residents of the immediate area. Outside work has been performed in the way of landscaping. Within the next two years, plans include installing bathroom and kitchen facilities. The money will be provided through local fund raising.

Privately Owned Recreation Points:

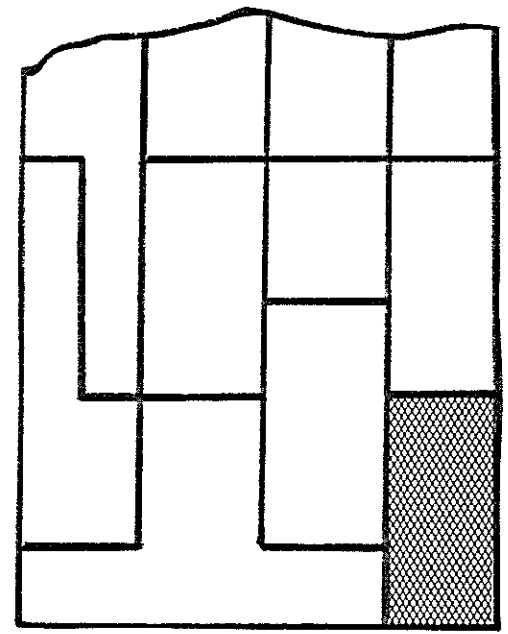
8. Glennie International Speedway - stock car and snowmobile races.

Other Points of Interest

9. AuSable River - Scenic Attraction
10. Huron National Forest - some riding and hiking trails.



CURTIS TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



## GREENBUSH TOWNSHIP

Greenbush Township is located in the southeast part of the County on Lake Huron and consists of approximately 15,360 acres. Approximately 3,120 acres are maintained by the State of Michigan as part of the Alpena State Forest. Greenbush Township's population increased by 70% during the past decade, growing from 760 residents in 1970 to 1,292 in 1980. The main concentration of growth occurred along Lake Huron frontage from the east boundary of the Township.

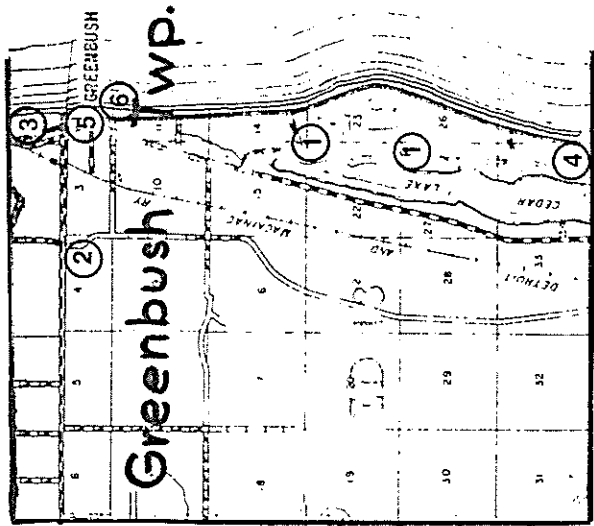
### Inventory and Deficiencies

#### Property:

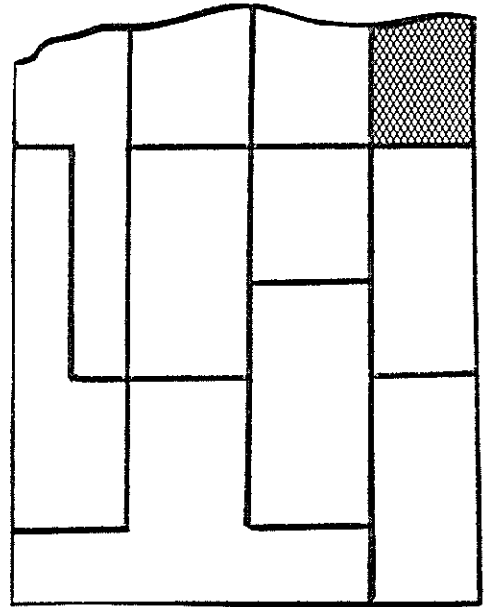
1. Access Site of Cedar Lake - 120' frontage x 300' deep on Cedar Lake Drive. This site is used mainly by swimmers. Picnic facilities are not available nor will they be necessary in the future since in the past it has been difficult to keep the facilities on the site. There are no boat launching sites because the lake is too shallow for boating. No improvements are planned within the next five years for this site.
2. 10 Acres - former dump on F-30. This site has not been developed nor are there plans to develop this site in the future.
3. Greenbush Golf Course - although the majority of this property is not within Greenbush Township, a shed sitting on approximately 50 feet extends into the Township. No plans for this exist since it is a privately owned facility. The Township also has two public access sites, although not large, on Lake Huron. These sites are not used enough to warrant construction or renovation of any type.
4. Timberlakes Subdivision - this recreational community, located within the Township is privately owned and consists of a subdivision, access to Lake Huron, a restaurant (open to the public) and a boat club and ramp on Cedar Lake.
5. Thirty-four acres acquired in 1984, .5 miles east of the Village of Greenbush on Ridley Road. The Township plans a recreation site which will include a ball field, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, nature trails and outdoor and indoor picnic areas. Finishing is planned with volunteer labor and funding from Township general funds and grants.

#### Public Buildings:

6. Greenbush Township Hall - rests on four lots approximately 2 acres total, on Campbell Street. The Hall is used for various activities and is available for private rental use. In the past seven years, remodeling has taken place and no further renovation is foreseen in the next five years.
7. Fire Hall - A modern building containing five pieces of fire equipment. This building also contains a meeting and recreation room plus a kitchen and facilities. This building is accessed by a large blacktop parking area and basketball courts are located in the rear.



GREENBUSH TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



## 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 796 in 1980 and increased 29.8% from the 1970 census of 613 residents. The part of the Village of Lincoln that is located in the extreme northeast part of the Township recorded 188 residents in 1980.

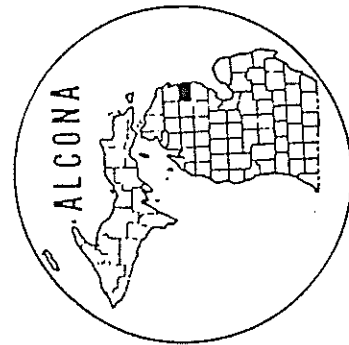
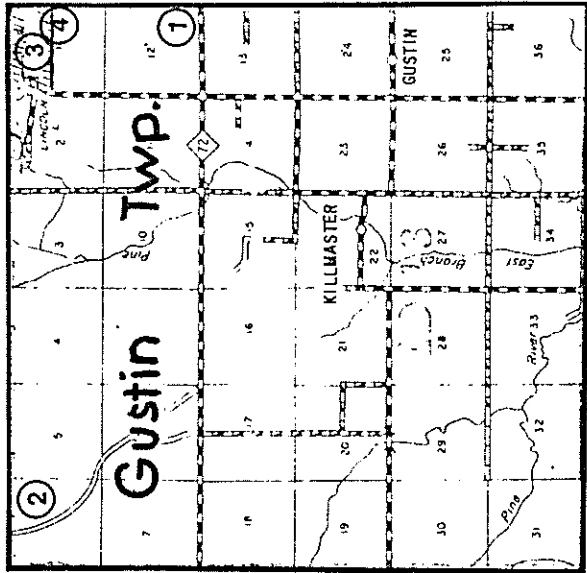
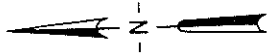
Lincoln Lake and part of the Trask Lake are located in the northeast part of the Township. The Pine River flows southward through the Township fed by Backus Creek and the East and West Branches of the Pine River.

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

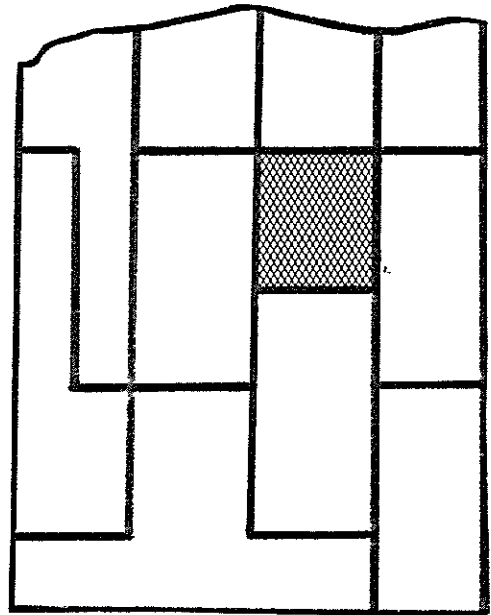
### Inventory and Deficiencies

#### Property:

1. Alcona County Community Schools - owns 54 acres. The property consists of an outdoor play area and a gymnasium. This parcel is for expanding school programs.
2. Alcona Community Schools - owns 40 acres. This land is generally undeveloped and used only for limited outdoor studies. This land is in plantation in Sec.6, T26N, R8E, SW1/4 of NE1/4.
3. Gustin Township owns no buildings. Residents rent the former Veteran's Hall owned by Alcona County. Gustin Township is adjacent to the new County Park.
4. Lincoln Elementary School - 20 acres. Has a playground and ballfield; currently used by the school system.



GUSTIN TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



## HARRISVILLE TOWNSHIP

Harrisville Township is located in the east central portion of the County and includes approximately 19,840 acres or 31 square miles. The City of Harrisville is located in Harrisville Township and is the County seat.

The Township population was 1,652 in 1980 which was a 14.5% increase from the 1,443 residents recorded in 1970. Of this population, 33.8% or 559 persons reside in the City of Harrisville. The other major area of population density occurs along the shore of Lake Huron which forms the western boundary of the Township.

### Inventory and Deficiencies

#### Property:

1. Harrisville State Park - The 80 acre park on Lake Huron provides 229 modern campsites. Day use includes picnicking and swimming. A bathhouse and playground are located in the park.



CITY OF HARRISVILLE

Inventory and Deficiencies

Property:

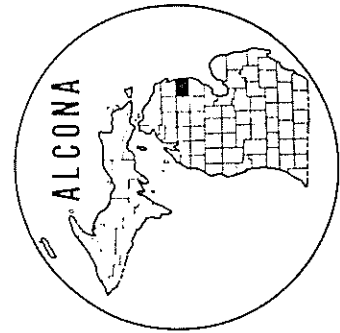
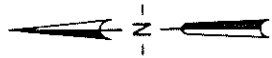
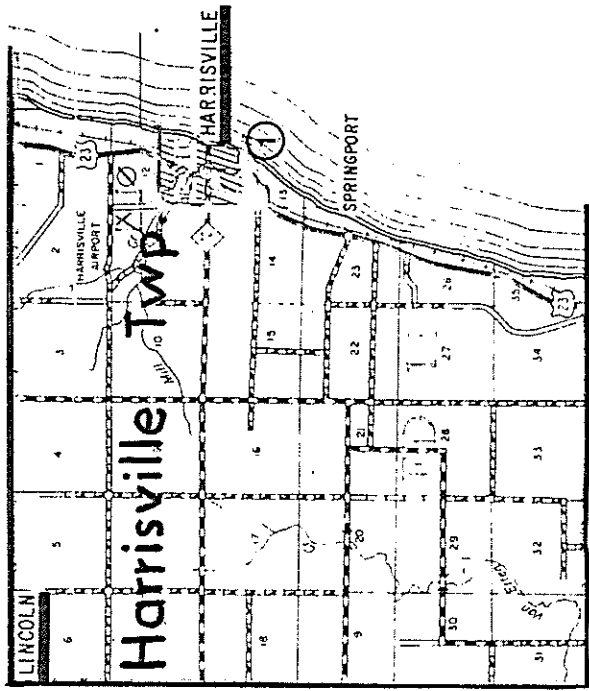
1. Ball diamond - owned by Alcona Community Schools. Located at the Middle School in Harrisville.
2. Tennis Courts - two concrete courts, fenced on two city lots. No future plans other than possible lighting of courts.
3. Childrens Playground - on approximately one acre of land. This area is in a state of flux due to uncertain plans of the Water Resource Department for harbor plans.
4. DNR Launch Site and Public Access - State of this facility is unknown.
5. Band Shell - wood frame shell located at the County Annex Building. Used primarily for summer programs such as concerts.
6. Old County Fairgrounds - currently called "Harrisville Park" - This 17 acre parcel is the site of a new multi-use recreation facility as outlined in the Short Range Objectives.
7. Harrisville Mill Pond - owned by the State of Michigan, this pond is stocked with trout and is open for public fishing. It is the site of an annual childrens' fishing outing and other related activities.
8. Harrisville Harbor - Although inadequate because of design and construction errors, the Harbor break wall is slated for major rebuilding. In addition, current plans call for additional dockage, beach area repair, and other items.

Privately Owned Recreation Facilities

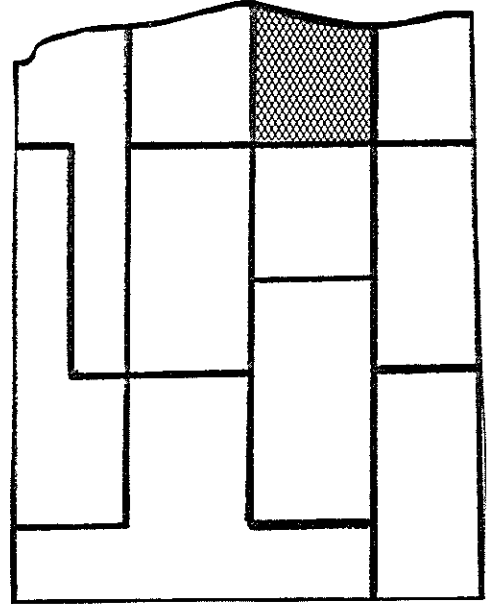
9. Kerby Lanes - bowling alley
10. Alco Theater - movies

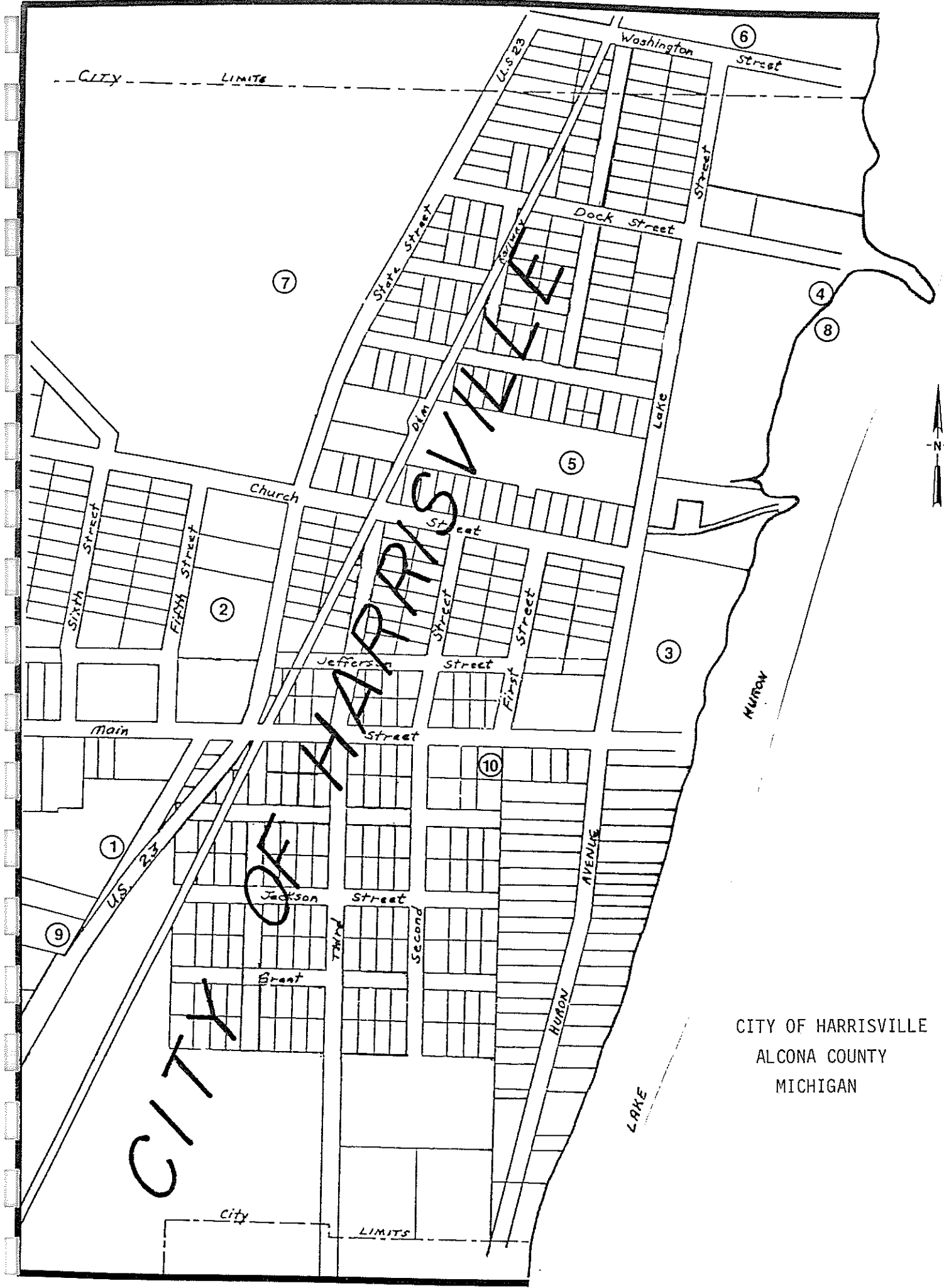
Publically Owned Buildings

Harrisville City Hall  
Alcona County Courthouse  
Alcona County Courthouse Annex  
Alcona County Sheriff's Department  
Alcona County Department of Social Services  
United States Forest Service  
Tourist Information Bureau



HARRISVILLE TOWNSHIP  
 ALCONA COUNTY  
 MICHIGAN





CITY LIMITS

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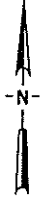
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9

CITY OF HARRISVILLE

CITY OF HARRISVILLE  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



Washington Street  
U.S. 23  
Dock Street  
Lake Street  
Church Street  
Jefferson Street  
Main Street  
Jackson Street  
Breat Street  
Second Street  
Huron Avenue  
LAKESIDE  
R.R.  
SIXTH STREET  
FIFTH STREET  
THIRD STREET  
FIRST STREET  
MURON LAKE  
CITY LIMITS  
CITY LIMITS

VILLAGE OF LINCOLN

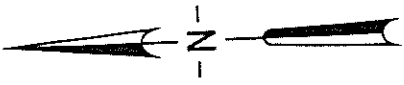
Inventory and Deficiencies

Property:

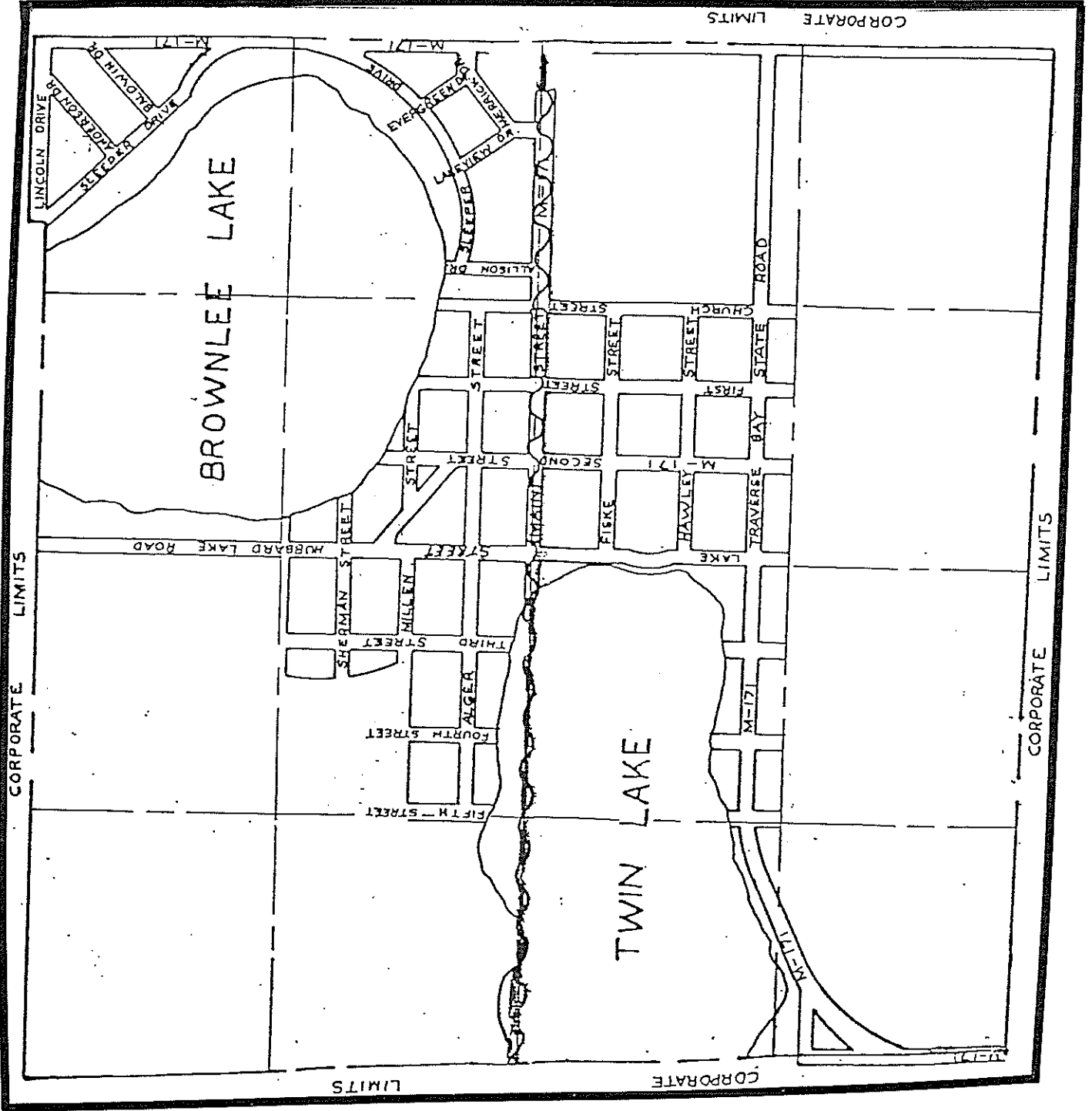
1. Village Park - consists of picnic area which is restricted to day use only.
2. Recreational Park - consists of two tennis courts and a ball diamond.
3. Brownlee Lake - public access and swimming.

Public Buildings:

4. Lincoln Community Hall - used for senior citizen dinners and meetings and other community activities.
5. Village of Lincoln Fire Hall.



VILLAGE OF LINCOLN  
GUSTIN/HAWES TOWNSHIPS  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



## HAWES TOWNSHIP

Hawes Township is located in the north central part of Alcona County and contains approximately 72 square miles of which 2 square miles are made up of the South Bay of Hubbard Lake and Maynard Lake.

The population increased 19.1% from 811 persons in 1970 to 996 in 1980. The part of the Village of Lincoln that is located in the extreme southeast part of the Township reported a 23.2% decrease in population from 225 in 1970 to 173 in 1980. The unincorporated area of South Hubbard Lake is located in part in Hawes Township, as is Barton City.

The Township contains a land area of 44,800 acres of which 1,900 are maintained by the U.S.F.S. and 840 acres are maintained by the State of Michigan.

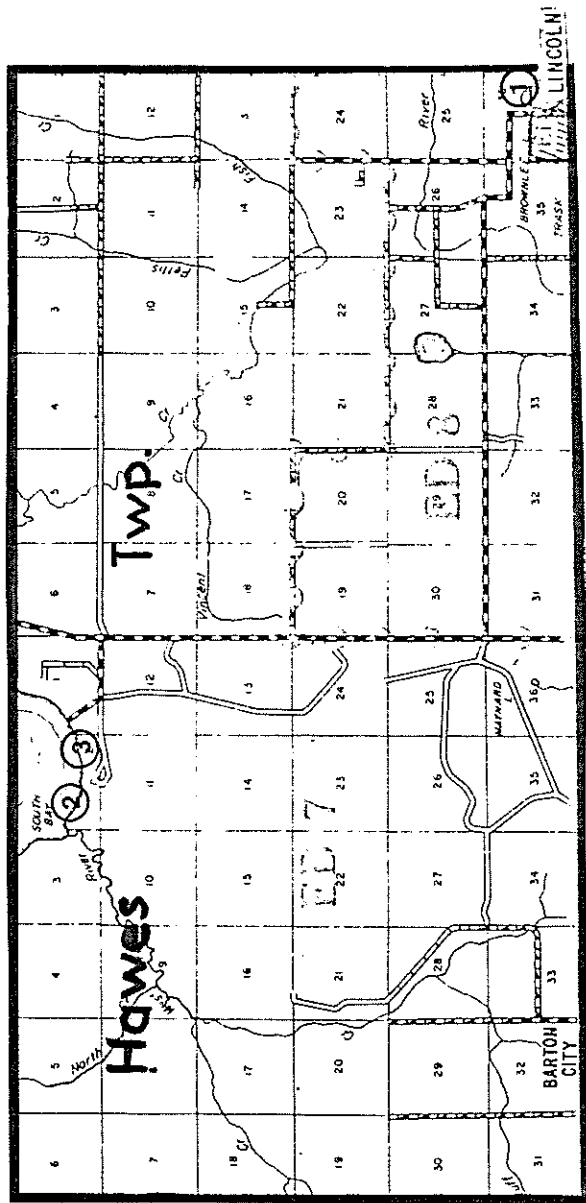
### Inventory and Deficiencies

#### Property:

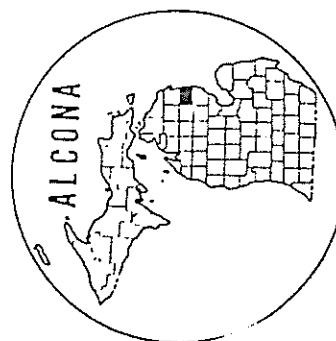
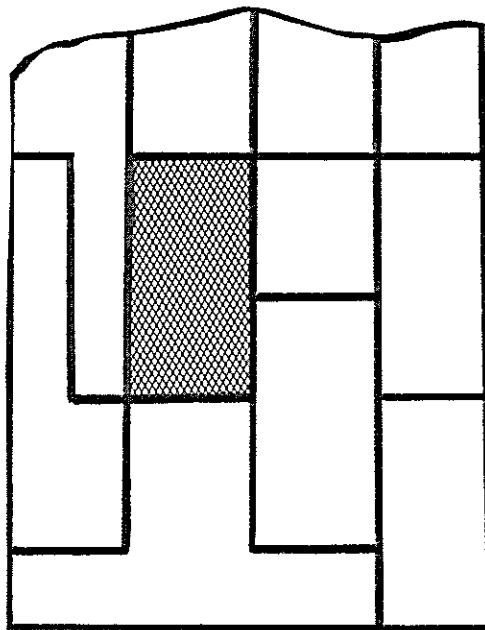
1. Brownlee Lake Park - 1 acre with beach. Used for swimming. There are no developments planned for the next five years.
2. Public Access Site - on the West Branch River, maintained by the State Waterways Division. A private marina adjoins this site.

#### Privately Owned Property

3. Mt. Maria - primarily a ski and winter sports area, it is also a scenic attraction.



HAWES TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



## HAYNES TOWNSHIP

Haynes Township is located on the shore of Lake Huron in the northeast part of Alcona County and consists of approximately 34 square miles or 21,700 acres of land. The population increased 36.7% from 416 persons in 1970 to 569 in 1980. Most of the population is located 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-surfaced road.

Lake Huron forms the east boundary of the Township. Milliken 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 or facilities in the Township.

### Inventory and Deficiencies

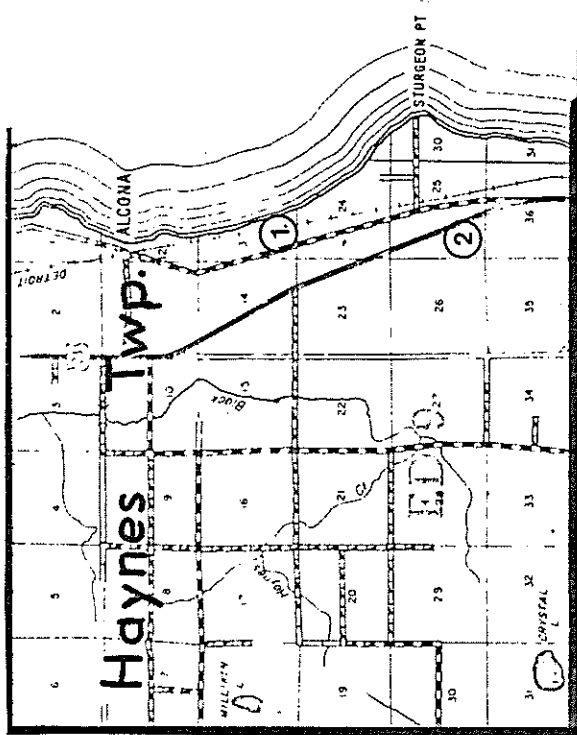
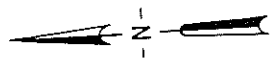
#### Property:

Haynes Township has no recreational areas available to its residents. There are 40 acres within the Township surrounding Sturgeon Point. The land belongs to the State of Michigan, while the Lighthouse itself is Federally owned. According to the Township supervisor, the State has no intentions in the immediate future of developing this property. The land owners surrounding the 40 acres object to any development of the property. There is a road running through the property which is causing some controversy also.

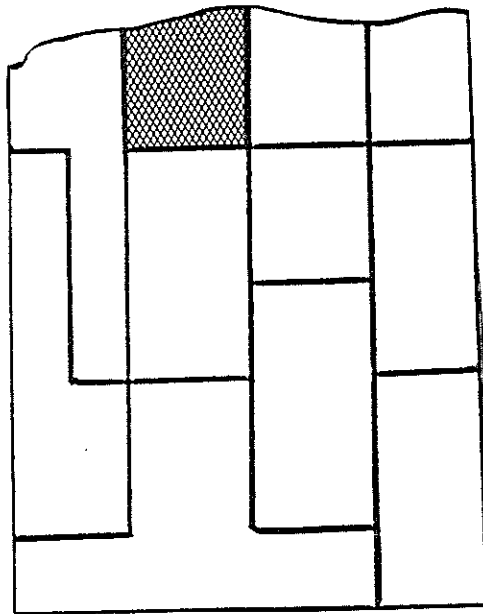
#### Privately Owned Areas of Recreation

1. Cedarbrook Trout Farm - fishing attraction.





HAYNES TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



## MIKADO TOWNSHIP

Mikado Township consists of 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, Gilmet, McGillis, Grey, Duval and Ettam Creeks. Good to excellent trout fishing is found on all the tributaries.

Mikado Township had 636 residents in 1970 and 865 persons in 1980 which represents a 36% increase for the decade. The main concentration of residents are around the unincorporated area of Mikado and along State Highway 171 located in the eastern portion of the Township.

### Inventory and Deficiencies

#### Property

1. Bruce Park - on the north side of F-30. 2-3 acres. No plans currently exist to expand or improve existing facilities.
2. Ball Parks -  
5 acres on F-30 approximately .5 miles east of Mikado and .25 miles north. This park is leased by the Township and will soon be given up. The Township has plans to build another ball diamond at the location of their new hall.  
  
5 acres on the east side of F-41 at the south end of Mikado. This diamond is used mainly by leagues and ball clubs.

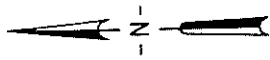
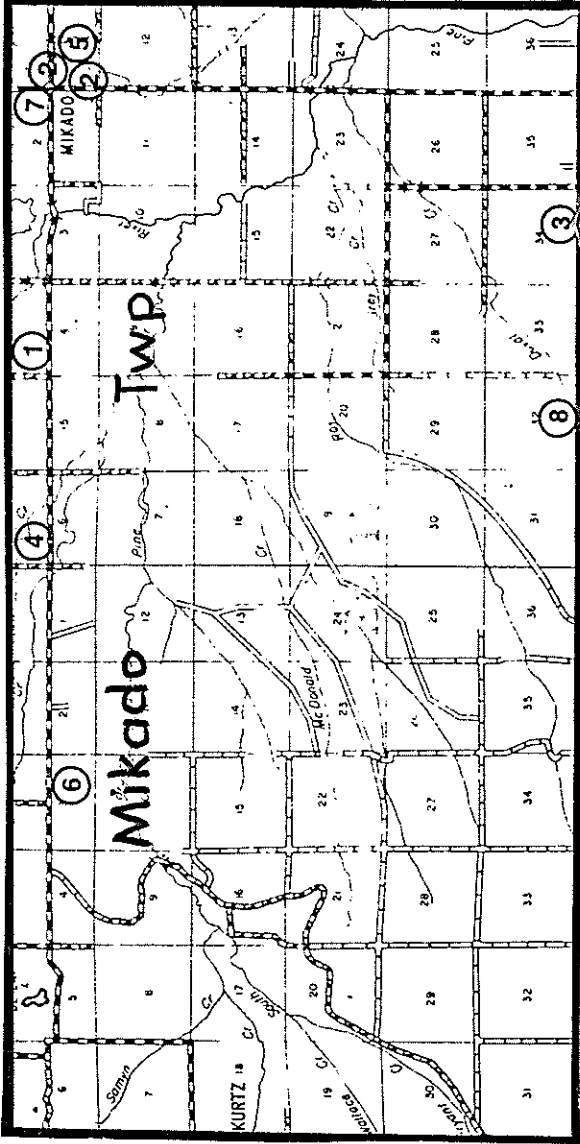
#### Public Buildings

3. Old Township Hall - on approximately one acre. The building has been condemned. Plans are to tear down the building and construct a new fire hall. Money for the fire hall will come from local fund raising and other sources not specified at this time.
4. Old Bailey School - 6 miles west of Mikado on F-30 near Bean Hill Road. Approximately one acre. The school has been converted into a historical site and museum. It is maintained by the local historical society and improvements have been paid for through their own fund raising activities.
5. New Township Hall - on F-41. Approximately 3 acres. This is a new building which is being leased by the Township. This building includes a 90' x 120' auditorium, kitchen, library, and a conference room. It is a multi-use facility and is available for wedding receptions, etc. The Township has plans to purchase this building with revenue sharing monies.

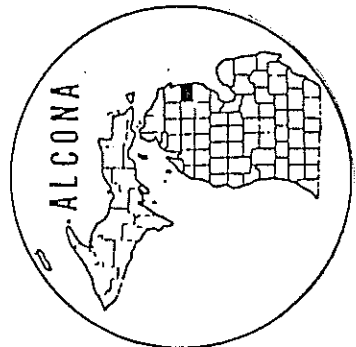
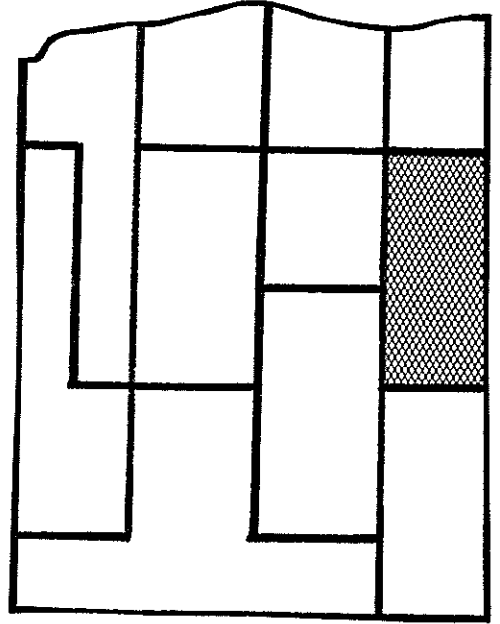
6. The Township also owns a 10 acre cemetery on F-30. No plans within the next five years to expand.

Other Areas of Recreational Interest

7. Chippewa Indian Settlement - historic attraction
8. Pine River National Forest Campground - primitive camping and fishing. Loading point for 62 miles of "rough completed" snowmobile trail that connects to the Huron Snowmobile Trails System in Oscoda County.



MIKADO TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN



## MILLEN TOWNSHIP

Millen Township is located in the central part of Alcona County and consists of 72 square miles, or 46,080 acres. The U.S.F.S. maintains approximately 28,500 acres in the Huron National Forest in Millen Township.

Lakes include Trout, Clear, Horseshoe, Reid, Little Trout, Bliss, Jewell, Tubbs and Sprinkler. The Pine River flows through the Township fed by Loud, McGillis, Gilmet and Backus Creeks.

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

The population in 1970 was 270 persons and increased to 364 in 1980, a 34.8% gain. Most of the population is located around Jewell Lake in the unincorporated area of Barton City.

### Inventory and Deficiencies

#### Property

1. Barton City Community Park - 4.3 acres. Has easement to Jewell Lake. Park entrance is on Trask Lake Road. Existing facilities include a ball diamond, picnic facilities and playground equipment. Residents would like to see the following facilities developed in the park: an outdoor pavillion, a tennis court and an outdoor basketball court. The money would be raised through contributions, local monies, and possibly some form of grant.

Millen Township has no other park facilities of its own. The majority of property within Millen Township is Federal Forest land (over 50%). The following parks within the Township are Federally owned:

2. Jewell Lake Campground - 40 acres maintained by the U.S.F.S. Facilities include a boat ramp, primitive campsites, pump-type water, and primitive restroom facilities.
3. Horseshoe Lake Campground - maintained by the U.S.F.S. This is a small campground with primitive campsites. The park is surrounded by the Huron National Forest.
4. Reed Lake Campground - owned and maintained by the U.S.F.S. Primitive campsites and pump-type water.
5. Millen Township owns a cemetery on Trask Lake Road, 1 mile east of Barton City. This 5 acre parcel may need to be expanded in the future and negotiations with neighboring property owners will need to be made.

Public Buildings

6. Millen Township Hall - on a one acre lot, two miles east and one mile south of Barton City on Walker Road. Some remodeling has been done. The building seems to be in good shape for now. Any future repairs will be done with local funds.
7. Fire Hall - in Hawes Township is a joint venture with Millen Township. No repairs are anticipated within the next five years.
8. Barton City Elementary School - on 20 acres is used as a high school currently. Within the next ten years, it is possible that the school could be used or taken over by the Township, but plans have not been made.



## MITCHELL TOWNSHIP

Mitchell Township consists of 144 square miles or approximately 92,160 acres, located in the northwest part of Alcona County.

The population of Mitchell Township was 248 in 1980 increasing 25.8% from the 197 residents ten years previous.

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

The AuSable River flows through the southwest part of Mitchell Township. Consumers Power Company maintains 2,160 acres along its banks. Lake in the Green, Bucks Pond, and O'Brien, Byron, Penoyer, Hoist, Sunny, Horseshoe, McCollum, Cranberry, Sand, Meyer, Crooked, and McFee Lakes are located within the Township. Penoyer and Liverpool Creeks drain into the AuSable 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 and Deficiencies

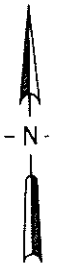
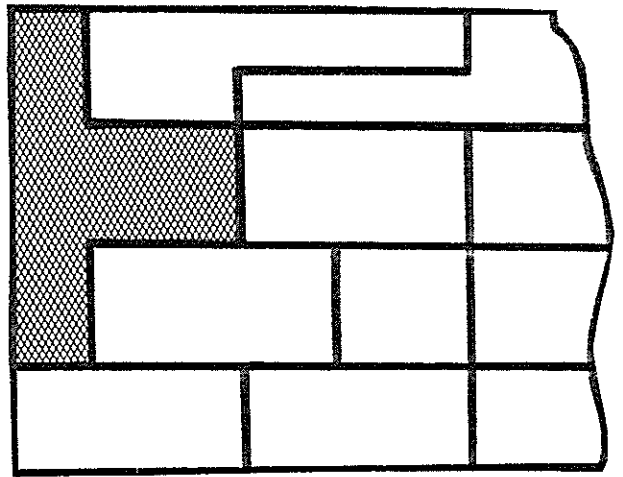
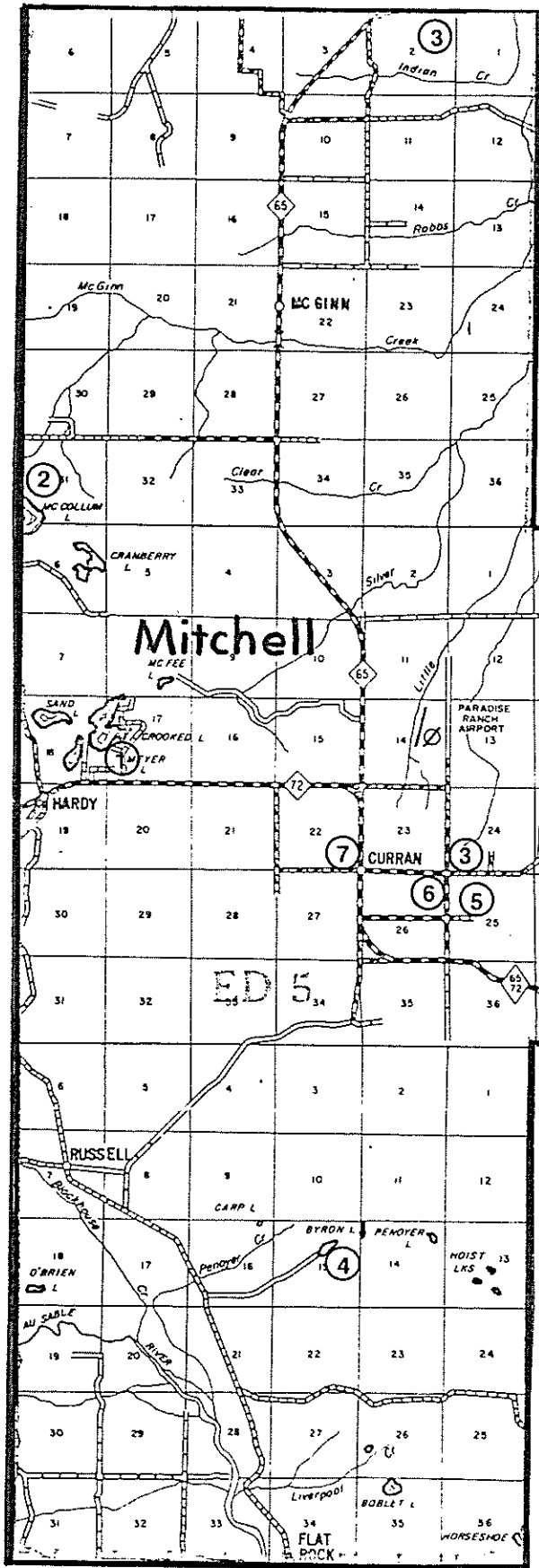
#### Property:

1. Mitchell Township Park - located on M-72, .35 miles west of Curran, consists of approximately 65 acres with .25 miles of frontage on Crooked Lake. The park is used mainly for swimming and picnicking. Bathhouses and toilets are provided for users as well as an outdoor pavillion and a crude boat launch site. There are no future plans within the next ten years for developing the land further. The feelings of Township residents are to keep the park use limited to residents of the Township. There has been an on-going project, funded through Township monies, to upgrade and maintain the beach area.
2. McCollum Lake - there is a park on the west side of the Township consisting of approximately 3/8 mile of lake frontage. This park has camping sites, toilets, water and fireplaces. It is owned and maintained by the State of Michigan.
3. Gravel Pits - the Township owns two gravel pits, one located one mile east of Curran on Tower Road and the other on M-65 in the northern part of the Township. Each pit is approximately two acres and is open for use by the Township residents. There are no future plans for either of these sites.
4. Bryon Lake - approximately 20-30 acres owned by the Federal Government surrounds this lake. The area is undeveloped and it is believed there is walk-on privileges.



Public Buildings

5. Mitchell Township Hall - formerly the Curran Elementary School, rests on four acres. The hall is used for weekly and annual meetings as well as being open for public use. It has recently been renovated with the funding coming from local monies and revenue sharing. No plans for further renovation are foreseen for the next five years. The grounds surrounding the hall have a picnic area, tennis courts, a ball diamond and a playground area. There are no plans for developing the grounds any further other than a possible expansion of the playground facilities. This will most likely be funded with Township money.
  
6. Fire Hall services are provided by a contracted private group called the Curran Volunteer Fire Fighters.



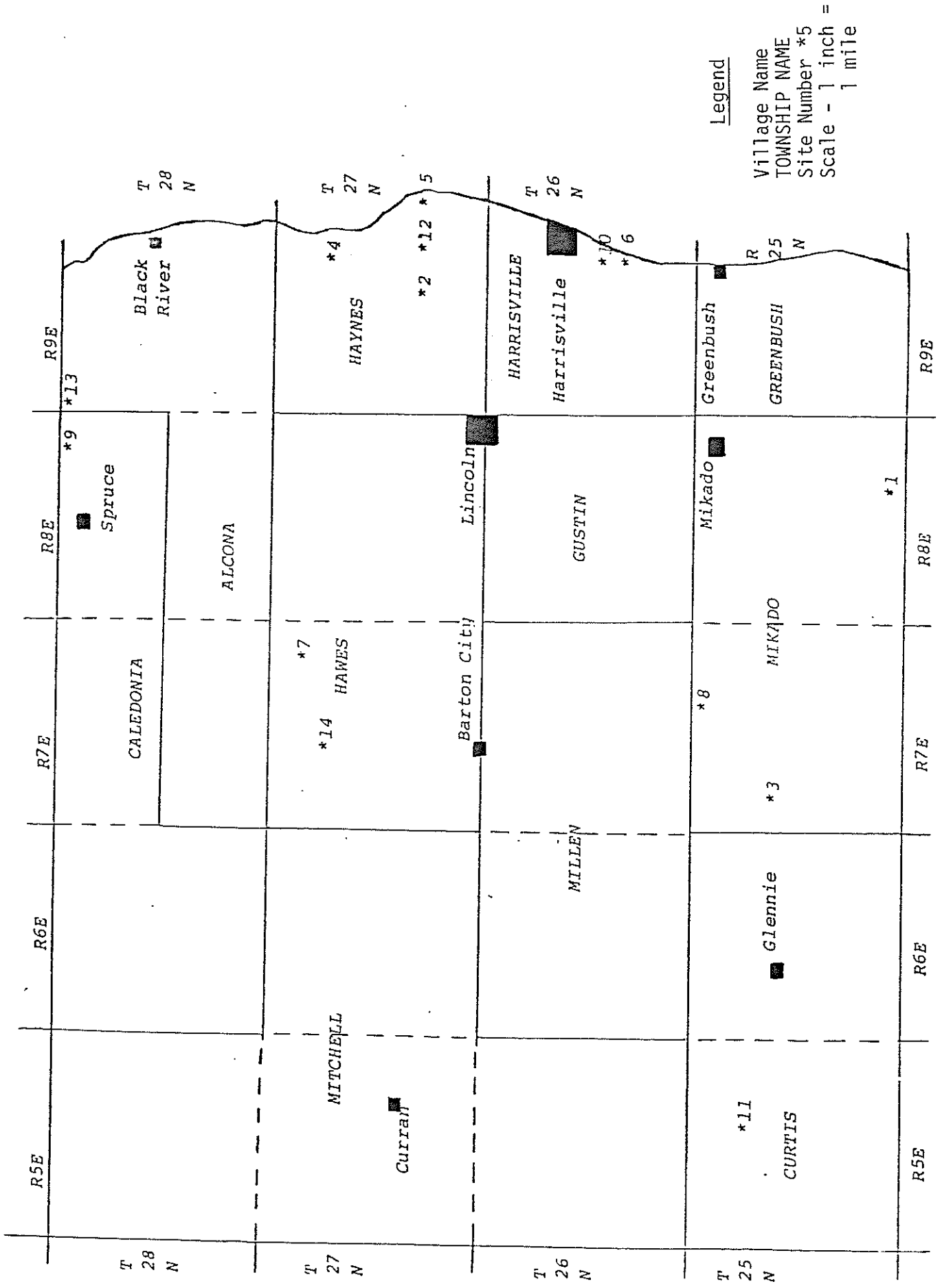
MITCHELL TOWNSHIP  
ALCONA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN

INVENTORY OF SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS

Map No.	Name or Identity of Area	Type of Area	Location		Description of Area	Present Use of Area
			Township	Highway		
1	Chippewa Indian Reservation	Historic	Mikado T25N, R8E	King's Corner Rd	Indian Settlement - homes, church and burial ground	Indian Settlement
2	Indian Corn Fields	Historic	Haynes T27N, R9E	Poor Farm Road	Old Indian planting ground, 25 acres of corn hills	Idle - woodland
3	Indian Fort	Historic	Mikado T25N, R7E	Stout Road	Earth embankments of 2-3 acre fort last stand of vanished Indian tribe	Second growth woods
4	Alcona Ghost Town	Historic	Haynes T27N, R9E	Alcona Road	Abandoned settlement - museum	Museum
5	Sturgeon Point Lighthouse	Historic	Haynes T27N, R10E	Point Rd.	Lighthouse erected in 1969 - stands on farthest east point of land along the shore between Saginaw Bay and Straits	Undeveloped - abandoned in 1941
6	Black Rock	Historic	Harrisville T26N, R9E	US-23	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	Mt. Maria Road	High hill on south end of Hubbard Lake overlooking lake	Skiing enterprises
8	Log School House	Historic	Mikado T25N, R7E	Mikado & Glennie Roads	One of few remaining log schools in the State	Tourist or hunter's cabin
9	Paul Bunyon and Babe his Blue Ox	Scenic	Caledonia T28N, R8E	US-23	Statue of Paul & Babe and lookout tower overlooking Lake Huron and Alpena	Tourist Attraction
10	Springport	Historic	Harrisville T28N, R8E	US-23	Springport Inn, home of early settler remains of boat dock	Resort and residential
11	AuSable River Overlook	Scenic	Curtis T25N, R5E	AuSable Road	Scenic point overlooking AuSable River and Bamfield Pond	County Park
12	Scenic View	Scenic	Haynes T27N, R9E	US-23	Scenic hill overlooking wooded shoreline, Sturgeon Point Lighthouse and Lake Huron	Idle Grassland
13	Hall of Ancient Man	Historic	Caledonia T28N, R8E	US-23	Museum containing historical items from Alcona County & surrounding area	Museum
14	Indian Mound	Historic	Hawes T27N, R7E	No nearby Road	Indian Mound at Junction of Little North and West Branch - campground and meeting place for Indians	Woodland - private hunting club

Map No.	Name or Identity of Area	Type of Area	Location		Description of Area	Present Use of Area
			Township	Highway		
15	Indian Mounds	Historic	Alcona T28N, R8E	Fox Road	Indian mounds located near Badger Lake	Private Club
16	Chicago Junction	Historic	Mitchell T27N, R6E	Trask Lake Rd.	Furthest point to which railroad extended during logging days, freight unloading point for logging camps beyond	Undeveloped - Woodland
17	Black River	Historic	Alcona T28N, R9E	Black River Road	One time fishing village, later lumber day metropolis, then fishing village foundations and some buildings still standing	Village

SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS - ALCONA COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Legend

Village Name  
 TOWNSHIP NAME  
 Site Number \*5  
 Scale - 1 inch =  
 1 mile

## DEFICIENCIES AND NEEDS

The low density of population in Alcona County coupled with high unemployment, a high proportion of senior citizens and a low tax base resulting from transfer payments and a weak economic base contribute to the overall deficiencies in park and recreation areas, and facilities and programs in Alcona County. With current taxing power and limited tax funds, the County is quite restricted as to what facilities and programs can be supported on a seasonal or year-round basis.

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

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 approached for recreation facility development.

The Alcona County Parks and Recreation Committee had a manager who, in getting the Commission on its feet, concentrated his efforts on bringing the Alcona County Park up to standards. The Commission expresses its deepest appreciation for the effort and work that this man exerted during his lifetime. His dedication to the recreation interests of Alcona County helped to get the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission on its feet. The future roles of the Commission will be to create and improve 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 Townships' supervisors were called together to discuss their individual problems. The Board of Supervisors met jointly with the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission and representation 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 was the major single deterrent 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 the 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 concentrated effort more costly than the monies available.

After many meetings, several major conclusions were reached:

1. That all of 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, the Alcona County Park be developed as funds permit to generate revenues to initiate the above goals.

Since the operation of the 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.

## GENERAL 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 intra-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 benefiting will pay the cost. Coordination 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 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.

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

### Alcona County and Other Local Governments

Alcona County should encourage, through planning, consultation and other services, the provision of adequate local neighborhood and community facilities and programs by municipalities, townships, and other intra-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 AND STATE GOVERNMENT

The State 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 in 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 recreational values of significance to the entire Nation. Federal agencies responsible for multiple-use management of Federal lands should integrate 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 programs.

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 seventy-five percent 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 would include the provision of access roads, where feasible and where traffic volume will justify, to permit 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, maintenance and operation of parks and recreation areas, facilities and programs 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 view 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.

## LONG RANGE GOALS

Twenty-seven percent of Alcona County consists of Federal or State Forest land. Of the remaining land, 13% is considered to be rural farm property.

Population figures for Alcona County are currently 9,740. Projected figures for the year 2000 show that the population of Alcona County will increase to 15,964. This is a 63.9% increase over the present. Further, the majority of immigrants are persons aged 60 or older. Almost 40% of the current population are persons on fixed incomes. This is coupled with the fact that 16% of the total population is at or below the poverty level and 25% are in the near-poor category (125% of poverty levels). Median household income is nearly half of that of the State as a whole. This information supports the need for local recreation facilities which would serve low income residents as well as tourists who may have higher incomes.

Energy conservation is one of the most important areas of concern of Americans today. Residents and tourists of the future will not be able to travel for long distances to make use of recreational facilities. Therefore, multi-use facilities will need to be developed to serve and accommodate many people with varieties of interests. Efforts to coordinate future public transportation systems with the recreation needs of residents and tourists will also be considered.

Economic development is another major concern of the residents of Alcona County. An economic development group has purchased 40 acres of land in the Village of Lincoln. If successful, industry would provide jobs for many residents as well as attract new residents to the area. Planning for these future recreational needs is imperative. The Alcona Recreation Area is located in the Lincoln vicinity and would provide for these needs as a multi-use facility.

A great number of rural residents are becoming increasingly aware of the revitalization of the cattle and sheep industry. The rural lands of Alcona County are far better suited for this than conventional crop growing. With this revitalization comes the need for education, promotion and community support for such an industry.

The Alcona Recreation Area has been designated as the location for the Alcona County Fair. An important aspect of rural life, the County Fair is not simply a tradition. It is a place for growth of interest, education and community strength. The residents of Alcona County proved such support by their volunteer efforts in the construction of the fairgrounds, exhibition rings and buildings. Their foresight not only includes the annual fair activities but it also provides a place for education workshops and seminars for County-wide projects (Cooperative Extension Services), school (F.F.A.) and club activities (4-H).

Another area of concern for residents of Alcona County is the growing interest in seasonal fishing. Already peak seasons situations have arisen where there was no room for campers or accommodations for other overnight fishermen. Overcrowding on shorelines, river banks and dam ponds has taken a toll on both the residents and the property of Alcona County. There is a great need for the

development of more camping facilities throughout the County to support this growing sport.

Because of the growing interest in snowmobiling and cross country skiing as wintertime sports; and biking, hiking and riding as summertime sports, the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission has expressed interest in the development of such trails through and with the cooperation of the State and Federal Forest Service. These trails would be developed on County, State and Federal lands with possible combination of access points and parks.

The development of three major recreational facilities for immediate future use by residents and tourists, would be developed based on the current issues as stated, to provide recreational facilities that would:

1. Be easily accessible by residents from all areas of the county;
2. Provide adequate facilities so that it is not necessary for residents to travel long distances to reach a desired activity;
3. Provide a large enough facility so that residents as well as the overflow of tourists and fishermen can be accommodated;
4. Provide sites which will accommodate daily use as well as overnight facilities; and
5. Provide recreation sites which will accommodate a variety of activities for diverse interests as well as diverse incomes.

Taking these goals into consideration, the following three areas have been designated as multi-use facilities to be developed over the next five years.

1. Harrisville Park - located in Harrisville
2. Alcona Recreation Area - located in Lincoln
3. Alcona County Park - located on Alcona Dam Pond near Curtisville

While it is understood that these three areas are not equidistant from each other, nor are they at equidistant points from any one area in Alcona County, the reasons for developing these facilities at these sites are obvious. These sites are already in existence, thus diminishing developmental costs; they are well established points of interest to tourists as well as residents; and each site is located on main roadways which have established upkeep systems through the County Road Commission.

It is the intent of the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission to develop these three sites, so that they will eventually become self generating. It may take a few years of matched monies from various contributors, but the Commission feels these facilities will become self sufficient.

#### SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

According to a regional planning agency, the influx of tourists during peak recreation seasons causes population levels to rise almost 2 1/2 times normal figures. If this remains constant, by 1990, in peak seasons, it is possible that nearly 33,000 people would be taking advantage of recreation activities in Alcona County. During peak fishing seasons the numbers of fishermen in Alcona County increase dramatically. The Lake Trout season also sees the influx of 15,000 to 20,000 fishermen to Alcona County.

Based on projected needs, the following short term objectives are proposed in the development of three previously stated multi-use facilities:

I. Harrisville Park

When completed, this 17.2 acre facility will include the following items: multi-use ball diamonds, tennis courts, skating (outdoor) rinks, both ice and roller, parking for overflow camping and fishing, providing electric and water hook-up, a dump station for recreational vehicles, a picnic pavillion with bathroom facilities, an administration building, outdoor basketball courts, shuffleboard courts, parking lot, and the possibility of a target range is being investigated.

The following yearly schedule for development has been established by the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission:

Year 1: Revitalization of two existing ball daimonds. Since these facilities are already there, the County plans to use the local road commission and some volunteer labor and material to bring them up to standard.

Approximate Cost .....\$15,000.

Overflow parking/camping facilities. It is hoped that Federal and State as well as local matched monies can be obtained for the development of 25 sites complete with water and electric hook-up, and dump station. Local share would come from County General Funds and donations.

Approximate Cost .....\$20,000.

Year 2: Administration Building: to include office space, rest rooms, and open air pavillion.

Approximate Cost .....\$60,000.

Funding sources for the above will be local as well as regional monies, as well as possible match funding from State and Federal sources.

Year 3: Outdoor ice skating rink.

Approximate Cost .....\$20,000.

Funding sources - possible Land and Water Conservation Funds and private donations.

Year 4: Two tennis courts complete with net and fencing.

Approximate Cost .....\$40,000

Funding sources will be the County General Fund, donations, partial funding hoped to be obtained by park operation profits. Other alternatives include State and Federal matched monies.

Year 5: Outdoor shuffleboard and basketball courts.

Approximate Cost .....\$20,000.

Funding same as above.

Long range - indoor pool and recreation building.

II. Alcona Recreation Area

When completed this 120 acre site will include the following:  
County fairgrounds, winter sports area, camping area, administration center and sports area.

The following yearly schedule for development of the Alcona County Recreation Area has been established by the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission:

Year 1. Development of camping facilities, bathhouse and picnic pavillion, ball diamonds and tennis courts.  
Approximate Cost .....\$175,150.

Funding will be requested through Land and Conservation Funds, Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, with the remaining balance being shared by County General Funds.

Year 2: Parking facilities, road development, shuffleboard courts for remainder of sports area.  
Approximate Cost .....\$27,000.

Funding will be sought through local, regional and State sources.

Year 3: Road improvements, landscaping.  
Approximate Cost .....\$20,000.

Funding will be sought through donations, County General Funds, and volunteer labor.

Year 4: 100' x 200' Administration building - this will be strictly a shell, the interior to be completed in subsequent years.  
Approximate Cost .....\$60,000.

Funding sources: State and Federal as well as local matched share.

Year 5: Completion of offices and bathrooms in above shell.  
Approximate Cost .....\$50,000.

Funding sources: Regional, State matching funds as well as use of local organizations and volunteer labor.



### III. Alcona County Park

When completed, this 80 acre area will include the following: camping, both primitive and modern, boat ramps, docking facilities, administration center, bathhouses to accommodate year-round campers, playground and general road, parking and service improvements.

The following yearly schedule has been established for the development of the Alcona County Park by the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission:

Year 1: Three boat ramps located at various points on Alcona Dam Pond.  
Approximate Cost .....\$30,000.

Funding sources: The Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as the Waterways Division. The DNR has been approached for funding. This will be matched by local funds.

Year 2: Entrance change, gatehouse, move and add fence.  
Approximate Cost .....\$10,000.

This will be done locally with volunteer labor and donations. Hopefully some park profits can be used for this project.

Year 3: Additional Camping  
Approximate Cost .....\$10,000.

Volunteer labor, donations, local fund raising will be the source of funding for this project.

Year 4: Service building - general improvement, heat conversion, insulation, etc.  
Approximate Cost .....\$15,000.

Funding source: park profit, donations, County General Funds.

Year 5: Development of the following:

Picnic Pavillion  
Approximate Cost .....\$20,000.

Playground  
Approximate Cost ..... \$5,000.

Fire Pits  
Approximate Cost ..... \$5,000.

These items will be financed through State, regional, local as well as Park funds.

In the event that construction or development is delayed in any year because of lack of funding, that project would become the following years project. Thus all phases would be extended one year into the future. For every year construction is delayed, the above costs may increase by an inflation factor of up to 15%.

## METHODOLOGY

Using the "Minimum Local Recreation Standards" as set up by the Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, as guidelines, some of Alcona County's requests are listed in the following chart. Arriving at these deficiencies was difficult because of the following:

1. According to the above mentioned standards, Alcona County is deficient in many facilities which are not requested in the Short Range Objectives of this plan. It is suggested that these areas be considered in future evaluations of the Alcona County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
2. Those facilities listed in the minimum standards were obviously inventories derived from more metropolitan areas, since the longest accessibility distance of a facility from each home is listed as three to four miles. In a rural community, the distances driven to reach such facilities would be much greater. It is suggested that the Department of Natural Resources direct their attention to this aspect in future dealings with rural communities. It would be helpful for the same type of minimum standards to be expressed in terms of rural settings.
3. Rural communities encounter special problems from the stand point of population base in relation to recreation needs. The fact that many northern rural communities support a tremendous tourist industry does not seem to be acknowledged. The overwhelming growth during peak recreation seasons should be taken into consideration when evaluating recreation needs.

Because of these areas of concern, the methods for determining the recreation deficiencies in Alcona County was arrived at by using projection of need and comparison of standards. It is our hope that this combination will give a clearer picture of the needs expressed.

It is obvious that Alcona County's existing facilities are not enough to support its own population, much less the increase due to tourism. The Alcona County Parks and Recreation Commission feels the proper amount of facilities needed falls somewhere between the number of needed facilities for residents and that of the increase allowing for tourists. Some of those items expressed in the short term objectives were not listed simply because a minimum local standard could not be found for that particular facility. Intangible items such as road improvement, landscaping, etc. could not be measured in statistical form for comparable useage.

As an example of the need for additional camping facilities, which cannot be justified statistically according to the Department of Natural Resources Standards, consider the effects of the influx of fishermen at peak seasons in the City of Harrisville. Additional camping facilities have been prioritized in Alcona County at two of the designated multi-use facilities.

There are two campgrounds in Alcona County at the present time which supply facilities to campers beyond that of wilderness camping (electric and water hook-up). The State Park in Harrisville offers 229 campsites. Approximately 15 miles north of Harrisville there is a K.O.A. Campground, privately owned, which offers 65 such campsites. During the past few years, as mentioned previously, seasonal fishing has grown to dramatic proportions in Alcona County. During salmon season, it is estimated that on any given weekend in the City of Harrisville (resident population 559), 3,000 to 4,000 fishermen invade campgrounds, local motels and other overnight facilities. Unfortunately, these "other overnight facilities" consist of day-use-only parking lots, roadside picnic areas and shoulders of local highways. Not only are these areas used to accommodate these overnight campers, they are also used as dumping stations for multitudes of solid waste. Using an average of three persons per campsite, if one were to completely fill the two mentioned campgrounds, there would still be a need for additional camping facilities. These existing campgrounds are not fully utilized for many reasons. It is the general feeling that although tourists enjoy the natural setting of the forest to camp, they still require the closeness of a town or village for recreational activities and shopping. Many tourists dislike having to purchase varieties of camping stickers to obtain entrance to parks as well as pay to stay in the facilities. Often motor homes or campers are the only form of transportation available to the family on vacation. It is unreasonable for a family to have to unhook facilities, break camp and drive a cumbersome vehicle to an area where shopping and recreation facilities are located. These areas would not only take care of the overflow of fishermen and tourists during peak seasons, but would also provide such family oriented facilities as they are needed.

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>Minimum Per/1,000 People</u>	<u>No. Facilities in existence in A.C. Open for Public Use</u>	<u>No. Needed* by 1985</u>	<u>No. Needed** by 1990</u>	<u>No. Needed* by 1995</u>
1) Playground	1 facility per 3,000	2	3	4	4
a) using resident population					
b) using resident and tourist increase					
2) a) Baseball diamond	1 field per 6,000	1	8	10	11
b)			2	2	2
3) a) Softball diamond	1 field per 3,000	3	4	5	5
b)			3	4	4
4) a) Skating rink (ice outdoor)	1 field per 3,000	0	8	10	11
b)			3	4	4
5) a) Swimming Pool	1 facility per 10,000 (15 sq. ft. per swimmer)	0	1	1	1
b)			2	3	3
6) a) Tennis Courts	1 facility per 2,000	4	5	6	7
b)			12	14	16

\*According to Minimum Local Recreation Standards, COOP Extension Service, M.S.U., May, 1970.

\*\*Based on Population Projections, Goldberg Study

ACTION AND FINANCIAL PROGRAM

YEAR	SITE AND ACTIVITY	TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE		
			COUNTY GENERAL	PARK SYSTEM REVENUE	STATE/FEDERAL*
1	HARRISVILLE PARK -revitalize two (2) ball diamonds	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 10,000
	ALCONA RECREATION AREA -camping facilities -bathhouse -picnic pavillion -ball diamonds (2) -tennis courts (4)	175,150	15,200	2,830	157,120
	ALCONA COUNTY PARK -boat ramps (3)	30,000	6,000	1,500	22,500
	HARRISVILLE PARK -administration building -restrooms -open air pavillion	60,000	14,400	3,600	42,000
2	ALCONA RECREATION AREA -road improvements -shuffle board courts	30,000	5,000	1,000	24,000
	ALCONA COUNTY PARK -gate house -fencing	10,000	2,000	1,000	7,000
	ALCONA COUNTY PARK -picnic pavillion -playground development -fire pits	30,000	3,000	7,000	20,000
	*Principle funding sources: LAWCON, UGLAC, Revenue Sharing				

*City Of Harrisville*  
BOX 278  
*Harrisville, Michigan 48740*

December 11, 1984

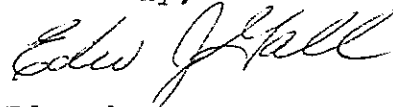
To Whom It May Concern:

I have reviewed the County of Alcona Recreation Master Plan. I find it to be quite complete and informational.

I feel the plan is an accurate statement of the present recreational facilities in Alcona County.

It is also a reasonable assessment of what needs to be done, for the future recreational needs of Alcona County.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Gall  
Mayor  
City of Harrisville

# VILLAGE OF LINCOLN

ALCONA COUNTY, MICHIGAN



January 3, 1985

To Whom It May Concern:

I have reviewed the County of Alcona Recreation Master Plan. I find it to be complete and informational and an accurate statement of the current recreational status of the County. I believe that the outlined goals and objectives will meet the needs of Alcona County during the next five years.

I also feel the plan is an accurate statement of the current recreational facilities of the Village of Lincoln. I thereby endorse the 1985 Alcona County Recreation Plan as written.

Sincerely,

Tom Lappan, President  
Lincoln Village Council

Huron-Manistee National Forests  
Harrisville, Michigan 48740

December 5, 1984

Alcona County Board of Commissioners  
Alcona County Building  
Harrisville, Michigan 48740


We have reviewed the draft 1985-1990 Recreation Master Plan for Alcona County and found it to be very interesting and informative. Throughout the draft report, when we noted some factual discrepancies, we have made minor corrections or suggestions in the margins of the report for your consideration. Most of our comments dealt with Huron National Forest informational updating.

I am pleased and proud that Alcona County is updating its comprehensive Recreation Plan. In our ever changing society, this plan will be extremely valuable in providing for the recreational needs of the local populations and the growing numbers of tourists who are attracted to Alcona County's rich natural resource base. The Alcona Recreation Area, Alcona County Park, and the Harrisville State Park are very important and receive much support and interest. The proposed orderly developments of these 3 key areas as addressed in the plan are supported by us.

At the same time, the recreational opportunities as provided by the Huron National Forest and private landowners are an important consideration. The Huron National Forest helps to meet the many dispersed recreational needs in the area such as hunting, fishing, camping, motorized and non-motorized trail uses, nature study, and hiking. The recreational opportunities of Alcona County can best be provided through coordination and cooperation of all parties concerned.

I look forward to the completion of the Plan.

Sincerely,

  
DON E. KREJCAREK  
District Ranger