

Alpena County, Michigan

Adopted: October 29, 2013



Alpena County Master Plan 2013



Alpena County Board of Commissioners

720 Chisholm Street, Suite 7 • Alpena, Michigan 49707



RESOLUTION #13-27 RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION BY THE ALPENa COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Alpena County Master Plan

WHEREAS: Alpena County, Michigan re-established a Planning Commission under State of Michigan Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended, and;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Planning Commission is required by Section 31 of P.A. 33 of 2008, as amended to make and approve a master plan as a guide for the development within the County, and;

WHEREAS: The County retained the services of Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) as its consultant to assist the Planning Commission in preparing this plan, and;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Planning Commission, in accordance with Section 39(2) of the Act, notified the communities within Alpena County and the adjacent communities of the intent to develop a plan and, in accordance with Section 41(2) of the Act, distributed the final draft to the communities within Alpena County and the adjacent communities for review and comment, and;

WHEREAS: The plan was presented to the public at a hearing held on August 22, 2013, before the Planning Commission, with notice of the hearing being published in the Alpena News on August 8, 2013 in accordance with Section 43(1) of the Act;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed plan, considered public comment, and adopted the proposed plan by resolution on September 24, 2013, and;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Board of Commissioners has by resolution asserted the right to approve or reject the plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The content of this document, together with all maps attached to and contained herein are hereby adopted by the Alpena County Board of Commissioners as the Alpena County Master Plan on this 29th day of October, 2013.

Moved by Commissioner Hall and supported by Commissioner Kowalski to adopt this resolution. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Kowalski, Adrian, McKenzie, Hall, Lawson, and VanWormer. NAYS: None. Commissioners Mullaney and Habermehl excused. Motion carried.


Cameron Habermehl, Chairman of the Board

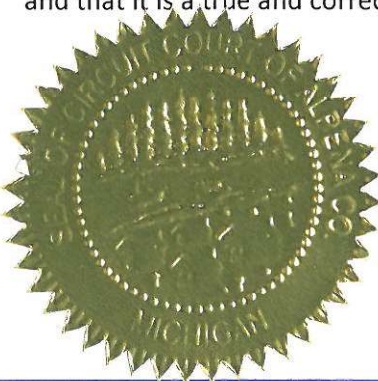
STATE OF MICHIGAN)

County of Alpena)

I, Bonnie Friedrichs, Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County of Alpena, the same of Court of Record and having a seal do hereby certify that I have compared the annexed copy of the October 29, 2013 session and that it is a true and correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at Alpena this 29th day of October 2013.


Bonnie Friedrichs, County Clerk



ALPENA COUNTY MASTER PLAN

Alpena County, Michigan

Alpena County Planning Commission

and

Alpena County Board of Commissioners

Prepared with the assistance of:

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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Adopted:

Planning Commission: September 26, 2013

County Board of Commissioners: October 29, 2013

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (from NEMCOG)

The Alpena County Planning Commission, Alpena County Board of Commissioners, Target Alpena, and residents of Alpena County should be recognized for their assistance during the plan development through meetings and valuable comments throughout the process. Special recognition is given to Mary Dunckel, MSU Extension, for her valuable assistance during the Master Plan process.

Cover photo credits: (left to right) Friends of Rockport; Alpena County Chamber of Commerce; City of Alpena; NEMCOG; Michigan Sea Grant.



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

Planning Staff: Denise Cline

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Alpena County
Master Plan 2013

ALPENA COUNTY MASTER PLAN

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Introduction

Purpose and Planning Process

As a result of increasing growth pressures and related land use problems, a new master plan was deemed essential. A need to document the current situation, the goals and desires of the county and to encourage a more organized and effective growth and development strategy was recognized by the Alpena County Planning Commission.

The purpose of the Alpena County Master Plan is to translate community values and goals into a framework for decisions on growth, land use, public facilities and services. It contains a long-range vision of how citizens want their community to look and function in the future and guidelines for achieving those goals. The master plan is a legally recognized framework for making decisions about land use in the county. It is intended to aid a broad range of public and private users, including community groups, builders, developers, township officials and other government agencies.

The Alpena County Master Plan is a broad policy document intended to guide more specific land use decisions in the future. Regulations such as zoning and subdivision controls are legal standards applied uniformly with little discretion. Although the master plan is adopted by resolution and carries legal weight when applied to specific land use decisions, it is not considered law. This means that the plan has a certain degree of flexibility that allows review and adjustment should conditions change over time.

Location and History

Alpena County is located on the shores of Lake Huron in the northeast section of Michigan's Lower Peninsula (see **Map 1.1**). Covering 568 square miles, the county includes 363,520 acres. It is bordered by Presque Isle County to the north, Montmorency County to the west, Alcona County to the south and Lake Huron to the east.

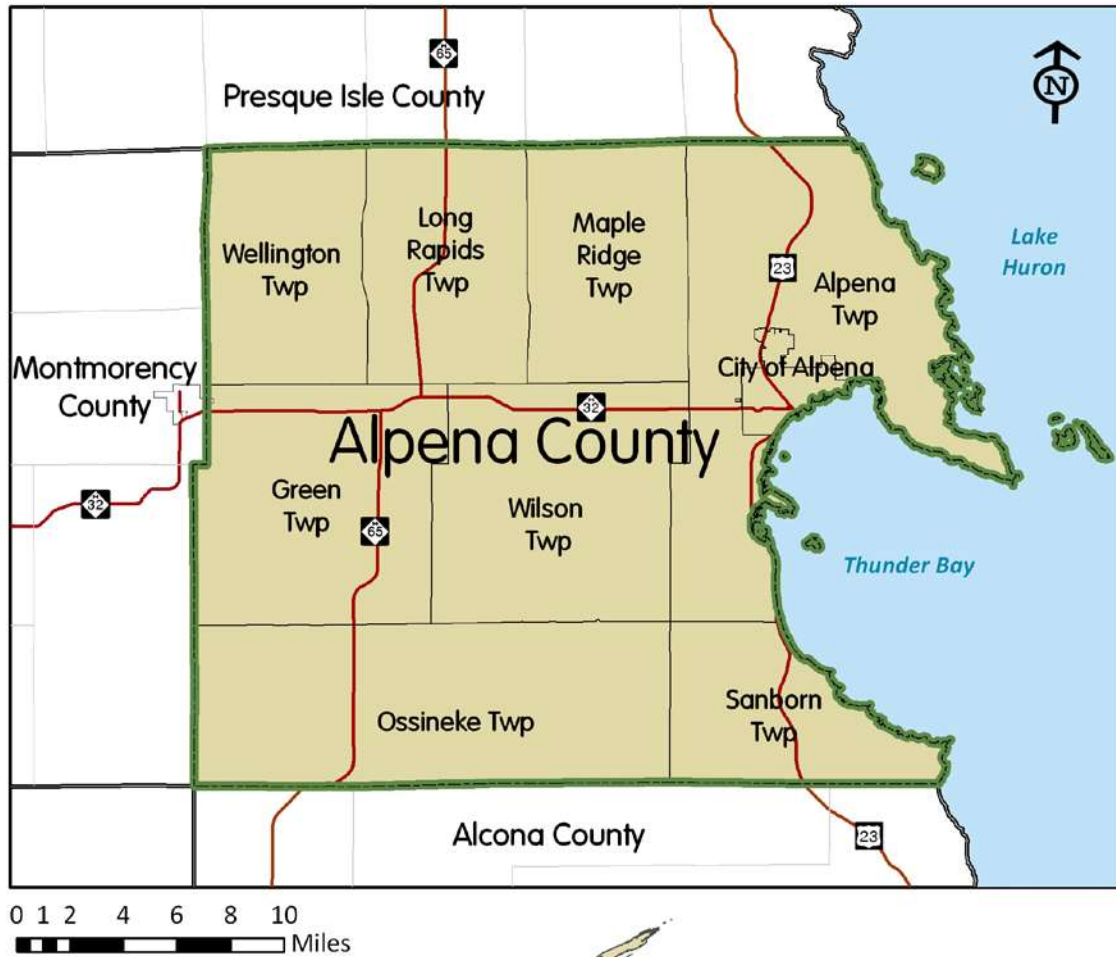
Alpena County is 24 miles long from north to south. East to west, the county varies from 20.8 miles to 30.8 miles, because of the irregular shoreline of Lake Huron. Additionally, there are several offshore islands in Lake Huron that are a part of the county. The following townships are located within the planning area for this document: Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn, Wellington and Wilson. Also included in the planning area are the City of Alpena, the Census Designated Place of Ossineke, as well as the unincorporated places of Bolton, Cathro, Herron, Hubbard Lake, Lachine, Leer and Long Rapids.

The first European-American settlers were attracted to the Alpena area in the mid-1830's. Their initial interest was commercial fishing. In 1857 the State legislature organized Alpena County, which included what was later to become the counties of Montmorency, Oscoda and part of Presque Isle, as well as the modern day Alpena County. The area started to grow in 1860's due to extensive logging activities. The Thunder Bay River was the basic transportation from logging sites to sawmills located in the City of Alpena and its port on Lake Huron. Because the harbor is protected by Thunder Bay it became a commercial fishing center. The great wildfire of 1871 damaged a large area in the northern half of Alpena County and areas in Presque Isle County. Several people died when the settlements of Cathro, Metz, and Posen were destroyed along with thousands of acres of forestlands.

With the Thunder Bay River, Lake Huron and the extension of rail lines, Alpena become a hub of transportation. Logging and milling activities flourished. In the early 1900's companies were formed with activities related to paper production and uses of limestone, which is quarried in the area. The population in 1900 was 18,254.

The Fletcher family built their first dam on the Thunder Bay River in 1908, to generate electricity to support their new paper mill. They later built three more hydro dams and also dammed Hubbard Lake and Fletcher's pond to hold water for power generation. They created Alpena Power which still serves the area. These dams were sold in 1990 and are presently operated by the Thunder Bay Power Company under FERC permits.

Today, Alpena County is the hub of transportation, healthcare, education, commercial and retail services for the neighboring three counties of Alcona, Presque Isle, Montmorency and further west.



- State or US Highway
- Alpena County
- Local Municipal Boundary



Map 1.1
Location Map
Master Plan
 Alpena County, Michigan

Social & Economic Conditions

Population

The 2010 Census showed that Alpena County, with a population of 29,598, continues to be the most populated county in the Northeast Michigan region (Emmet County is included for comparison). Population of the county has decreased by 1,716 people (-5.5 percent) since 2000. Although the county population density is 52.1 persons per square mile, 66 percent of the population is concentrated in Alpena Township and the City of Alpena (see **Table 2.1**). If the land area and population of the City of Alpena and Alpena Township are excluded, the average density for the remaining seven townships is 22.5 persons per square mile. The county population has increased by 59 percent since 1930 (see **Figure 2.1**). Population peaked in 1980 and is currently experiencing a decline. The largest population increase was 28.7 percent (6,367 people) recorded between 1950 and 1960.

Seven of the eight counties experienced population declines from 2000-2010 with only Otsego seeing an increase (see **Figure 2.2**). Oscoda County had the highest population loss in northeast Michigan.

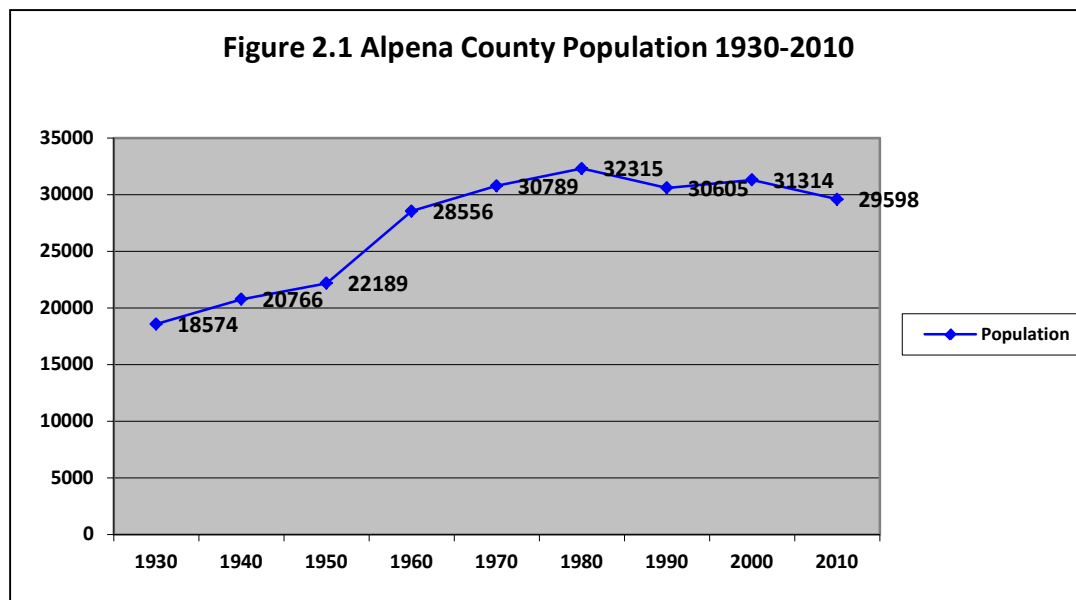
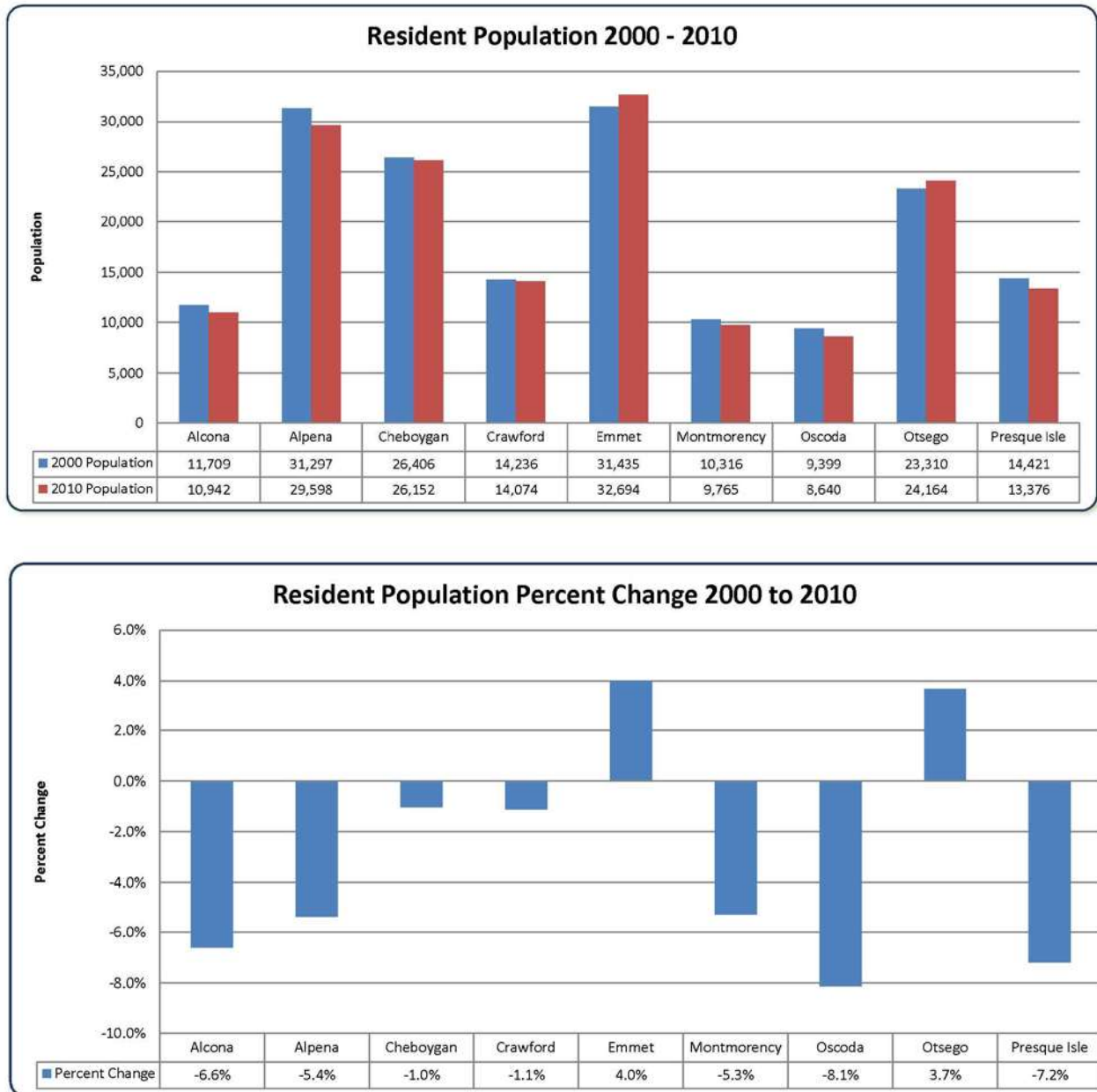


Figure 2.2: Northeast Michigan Population



Source: US Census Bureau. A revised count for 2000 was used (The US Census Bureau issues revised counts to correct for errors which have been challenged as part of the Count Question Resolution (CQR) Program).

<p>Table 2.1 Population For Alpena County & Municipalities, 1980-2010</p>								
Municipality	1980 Pop.	1990 Pop.	% Change '80-'90	2000 Pop.	% Change '90-'00	2010 Pop.	% Change '00 – '10	% Change '80 – '10
Alpena County	32,315	30,605	-5.3%	31,314	2.3%	29,598	-5.5%	-8.4%
City of Alpena	12,214	11,354	-7.0%	11,304	-0.4%	10,483	-7.3%	-14.2%
Alpena Twp.	10,152	9,602	-5.4%	9,788	1.9%	9,060	-7.4%	-10.8%
Green Twp.	1,083	1,095	1.1%	1,205	10.0%	1,228	1.9%	13.4%
Long Rapids Twp.	1,006	1,021	1.5%	1,019	-0.2%	1,010	-0.9%	0.4%
Maple Ridge Twp.	1,572	1,514	-3.7%	1,715	13.3%	1,690	-1.5%	7.5%
Ossineke Twp.	1,607	1,654	2.8%	1,761	6.5%	1,675	-4.9%	4.2%
Sanborn Twp.	2,297	2,196	-4.4%	2,152	-2.0%	2,116	-1.7%	-7.9%
Wellington Twp.	286	269	-5.9%	296	10.0%	307	3.7%	7.3%
Wilson Twp.	2,098	1,902	-9.3%	2,074	9.0%	2,029	-2.2%	-3.3%
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2010								

Between 1980 and 2010, Alpena Township lost over 10 percent of its population while the City of Alpena lost over 14 percent (**Table 2.1**). The City of Alpena's population loss from 2000-2010 was comparable to the loss of 1980-1990. Sanborn Township and Wilson Township also experienced more moderate population losses over that 30 year time period. Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, and Wellington Township all experienced moderate population increases while Green Township experienced a significant population increase of over 13 percent.

Seasonal Population

In 2010, the Census reported that 12.2 percent of the housing units in the county were seasonal. The percentage of Alpena County's housing units that are classified as seasonal is much less than that of the surrounding counties. Obtaining accurate numbers of seasonal residents and tourists is difficult. Because the decennial U.S. Census is conducted in April, the numbers only reflect those persons who live in the county on a year-round basis. A rough estimate of the number of county seasonal residents can be calculated by multiplying the number of county seasonal housing units (1,961) by the county's average number of persons per household (2.27), for a total of 4,451 persons. Seasonal residents, therefore, added another 15 percent to the county's year-round residents, for approximately 34,049 persons, compared to the actual 2010 Census figure of 29,598 persons. This figure does not include those seasonal visitors or tourists staying in area motels, campgrounds or family homes. It is impossible to obtain accurate count of the number of the tourists who annually visit the county. However, see Chapter 5 – Economic Development – for a discussion on area tourism.

Age Distribution

2010 Census data shows that 51 percent of Alpena County's population was 45 years old or older, an 8.9 percent increase since 2000 (see **Table 2.2 and Figures 2.3**). The shift towards an older population is most likely due to the existing residents getting older, rather than a significant amount of in migration. This conclusion is reached by the fact that the county's total population has decreased. The age group 45-64 is the most populous age group in all municipalities. In Alpena County as a whole, the 25-44 age group slightly exceeds the 65+ age group.

Increase in the median age is also evidence of a relatively stable population that is getting older. The median age of residents in Alpena County increased 5.2 years from 40.4 to 45.6 during the period 2000-2010, (see

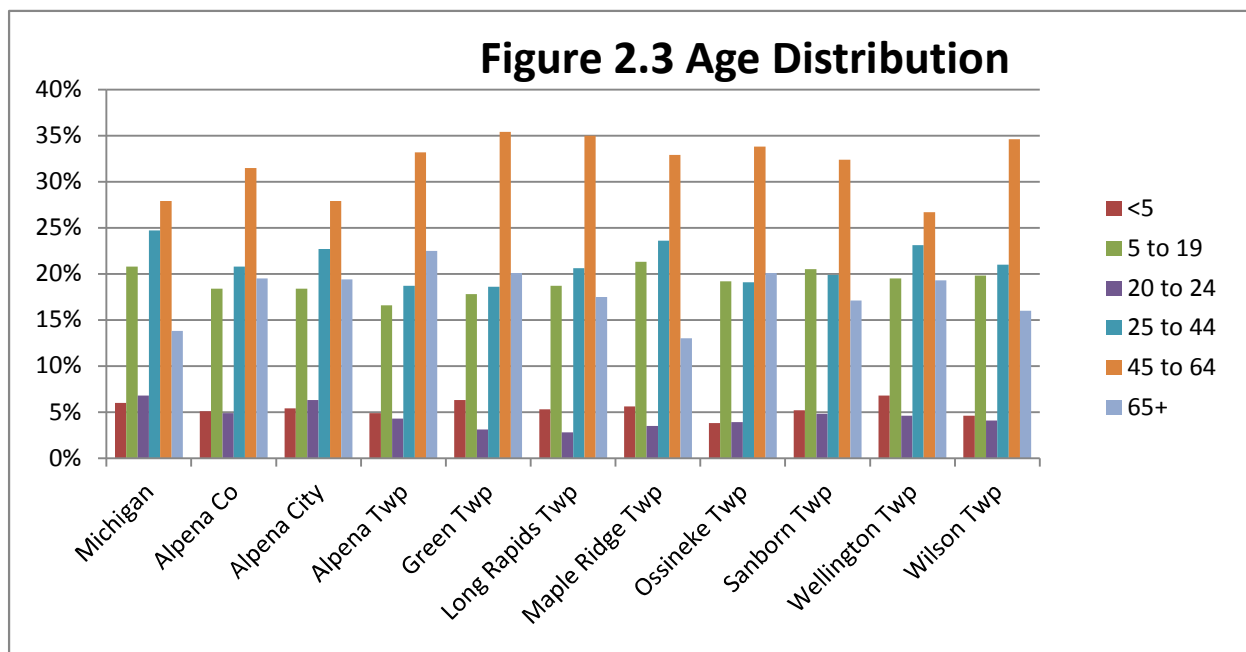
Table 2.2). This is higher than the statewide median age of 38.9. In fact, each municipality exceeds the statewide median age. Green Township has the highest median age in Alpena County while Wellington Township has the lowest.

Table 2.2
Age Distribution for Alpena County and the State of Michigan - 2010

	< 5 Yrs.	%*	5-19 Yrs.	%*	20-24 Yrs.	%*	25-44 Yrs.	%*	45-64 Yrs.	%*	65 Yrs. & >	%*	Median Age
Michigan		6.0		20.8		6.8		24.7		27.9		13.8	38.9
Alpena Co	1508	5.1	5417	18.4	1444	4.9	6149	20.8	9315	31.5	5765	19.5	45.6
Alpena City	561	5.4	1925	18.4	664	6.3	2378	22.7	2921	27.9	2034	19.4	42.5
Alpena Twp	448	4.9	1507	16.6	391	4.3	1696	18.7	3013	33.2	2005	22.5	48.4
Green Twp	60	6.3	219	17.8	38	3.1	229	18.6	435	35.4	247	20.1	48.9
Long Rapids Twp	54	5.3	190	18.7	28	2.8	208	20.6	354	35.0	176	17.5	46.3
Maple Ridge Twp	95	5.6	361	21.3	59	3.5	399	23.6	556	32.9	220	13.0	42.3
Ossineke Twp	64	3.8	323	19.2	65	3.9	320	19.1	567	33.8	336	20.1	47.1
Sanborn Twp	111	5.2	432	20.5	102	4.8	422	19.9	686	32.4	363	17.1	44.7
Wellington Twp	21	6.8	60	19.5	14	4.6	71	23.1	82	26.7	59	19.3	41.4
Wilson Twp	94	4.6	261	19.8	83	4.1	426	21.0	701	34.6	325	16.0	45.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2010

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



Race and Ethnic Composition

Information found below on **Table 2.3** shows that Alpena County has a very small minority population, a situation that has not changed significantly over the last ten years. The number of minorities has increased slightly from 2000 to 2010 with the most significant increase (68 percent) in the Hispanic population. Asian minorities have also increased (47.6 percent) as have American Indians (26.8 percent). While the percentages appear significant, the actual number of people remains low.

Excluding the two or more races category, Hispanic was the largest minority group with 1.03 percent of the population, followed by American Indian and Asian at 0.53 and 0.51 percent, respectively. Persons included in the “Other Races” category made up 0.14 percent of the population.

Table 2.3				
Population by Race And Hispanic Origin For Alpena County: 2000-2010				
	2000		2010	
	#	% of Total Pop.	#	% of Total Pop.
White	30,753	98.9%	28,845	97.5
Black	77	0.2%	79	0.27
Am. Indian	123	0.4%	156	0.53
Asian	103	0.3%	152	0.51
Two or More Races*	218	0.7%	311	1.05
Hispanic or Latino Origin**	181	0.6%	304	1.03
* Census 2010 gave respondents the opportunity to choose more than one race category.				
** Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin may be of any race.				
*** Excludes Hispanic or Latino Origin				
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census				

Disability Status

Data relating to disabled status is estimated by the American Community Survey (ACS)¹ and is based on a self-reported sample (**Table 2.4a**). A significant number of people between the ages of 18-64 have some type of disability with ambulatory disabilities being the most common. Cognitive disabilities are the next most common in this age group and are the most common in the 5-17 year age group. It should be noted that a number of people reporting disabilities have reported multiple disabilities; therefore they appear in more than one row in the table. Data obtained from Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health shows that that agency serving 1,078 individuals with disabilities over the age of 26. Also, the Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District serves 63 individuals aged 26 and under with disabilities. The data shown in **Table 2.4b** gives an indication of the number of disabled people residing in Northeast Michigan. A person was classified as having a disability if they had a sensory disability, physical disability, mental disability, self-care disability, going outside the home disability or an employment disability. The high percentage of disabilities in Northeast Michigan indicates a demand for disabled services. 38.4 percent of the population of Northeast Michigan over the age of 21 is classified as having a disability. More significantly, over 28 percent of households have a household member with a disability that lives alone.

¹ The ACS is an ongoing statistical survey sent to approximately 250,000 addresses across the US monthly.

Table 2.4a	
Disability Status in Alpena County	
Population under 5 years	
With a hearing difficulty	8
With a vision difficulty	0
Population 5-17 years	
With a hearing difficulty	20
With a vision difficulty	17
With a cognitive difficulty	303
With an ambulatory difficulty	34
With a self-care difficulty	64
Population 18-64 years	
With a hearing difficulty	482
With a vision difficulty	305
With a cognitive difficulty	1,167
With an ambulatory difficulty	1,341
With a self-care difficulty	460
With an independent living difficulty	1,096
Population 65+ years	
With a hearing difficulty	1,181
With a vision difficulty	524
With a cognitive difficulty	565
With an ambulatory difficulty	1,187
With a self-care difficulty	444
With an independent living difficulty	775
Disabled population age 26+ (served by Community Mental Health)*	1,078
Disabled population age 26 and younger (served by the Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District)*	63
Source: American Community Survey 2009-2011 3-Year Estimates	
*Data obtained from Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health and the AMA ESD.	

Table 2.4b	
Disability Status in 8-county region* 2005-2007	
% of Population with a disability age 21-64	21.0%
% of Population with a disability age 64+	17.4%
% of Population with a disability who are employed (Ages 16-64)	33.1%
% of Households with member with a disability that lives alone	28.8%
Source: American Community Survey (PUMS: Public Use Microdata)	
*Region includes Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle	

Educational Attainment

Since 2000, Alpena County has made noteworthy increases in educational attainment as shown in **Table 2.5**. The number of people 25 and older who had a high school diploma or more increased from 73.6 percent in 1990 to 83.1 percent in 2000 and has now topped 87 percent in 2010. The percentage of residents with less than a high school diploma dropped while the percentage obtaining a high school diploma or taking some college but not earning a degree stayed relatively constant. However, residents earning degrees increased from 2000 to 2010.

Table 2.5		
Alpena County Educational Attainment 2000 & 2010		
Degree	2000	2010
Less than 9 th grade	7.4%	3.9%
9 th to 12 th no Diploma	9.5%	8.5%
High School Diploma	35.7%	34.9%
Some college no degree	25.1%	25.4%
Associates	9.1%	11.8%
Bachelors	7.9%	9.1%
Graduate or Professional	5.3%	6.4%
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census – American Community Survey 2010		

Income and Poverty

A reliable measure of the economic health of families is median household income which is the midpoint of income for all households. While all eight counties of Northeast Michigan have generally exhibited a steady increase in median income over the past several decades, Northeast Michigan still lags behind the state as a whole. The downturn in the economy in 2008 has resulted in a drop in median income for all counties except Oscoda County. **Figure 2.4** and **Table 2.6** present information on the median household income for counties in Northeast Michigan. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Otsego County continues to have the highest median household income. The 2009 median household income for Otsego County was \$42,831 which was 94.6 percent of State's household income. This is unusual in Northeast Michigan, where the median household income of most counties is much lower than the State rate. All other Northeast Michigan counties also have much higher poverty rates than Otsego County.

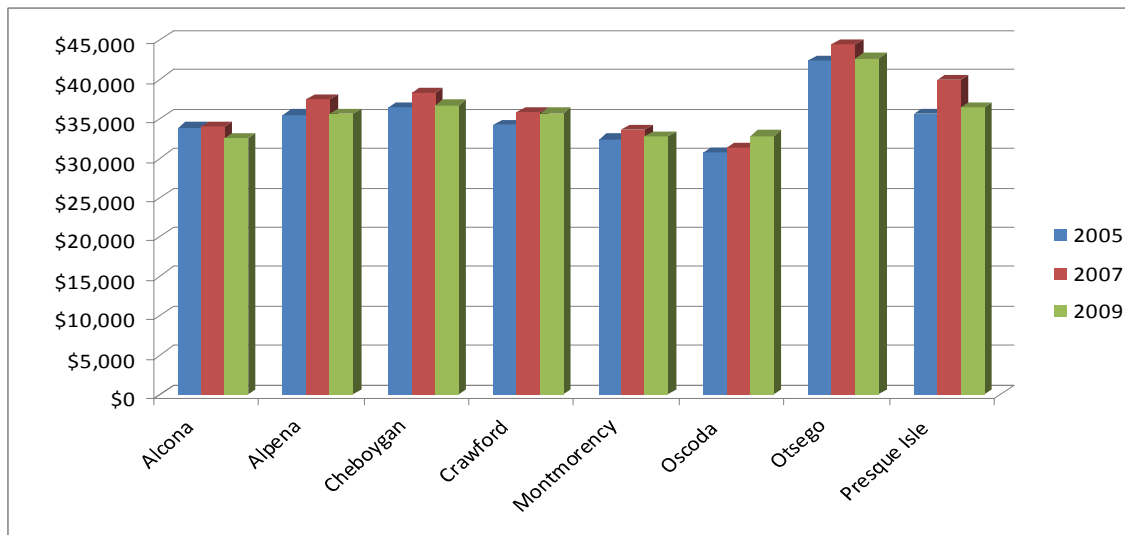
Table 2.6	
Median Household Income: Northeast Michigan	
	2009
Alcona County	\$32,644
Alpena County	\$35,710
Cheboygan County	\$36,860
Crawford County	\$35,866
Montmorency County	\$32,809
Oscoda County	\$32,928
Otsego County	\$42,831
Presque Isle County	\$36,520
State of Michigan	\$48,700
United States	\$51,425
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census	

Generally speaking, individuals who have steady, year-round employment will tend to have higher overall incomes than those who are laid-off for part of the year. As more retirees move into the region and the local economy becomes more reliant on service and tourism job sectors, this trend of widening gaps between regional and state median household incomes is expected to continue. Lower incomes create challenges for balanced economic growth. As expenses for gas, food and housing continue to increase, families will be forced to move to areas that offer higher incomes. This could create an imbalance in the labor force necessary for positive economic growth.

Table 2.7	
Median Household Income by Age: Alpena County	
	2008-2010
15-24 years	\$17,372
25-44 years	\$40,426
45-64 years	\$43,879
65+ years	\$28,793
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census - American Community Survey	

The American Community Survey estimates that median household income in Alpena County from 2005-2009 was \$35,710 (**Table 2-6**). **Table 2.7** breaks down income levels in the county by age group.

Figure 2.4: Median Household Income for Northeast Michigan

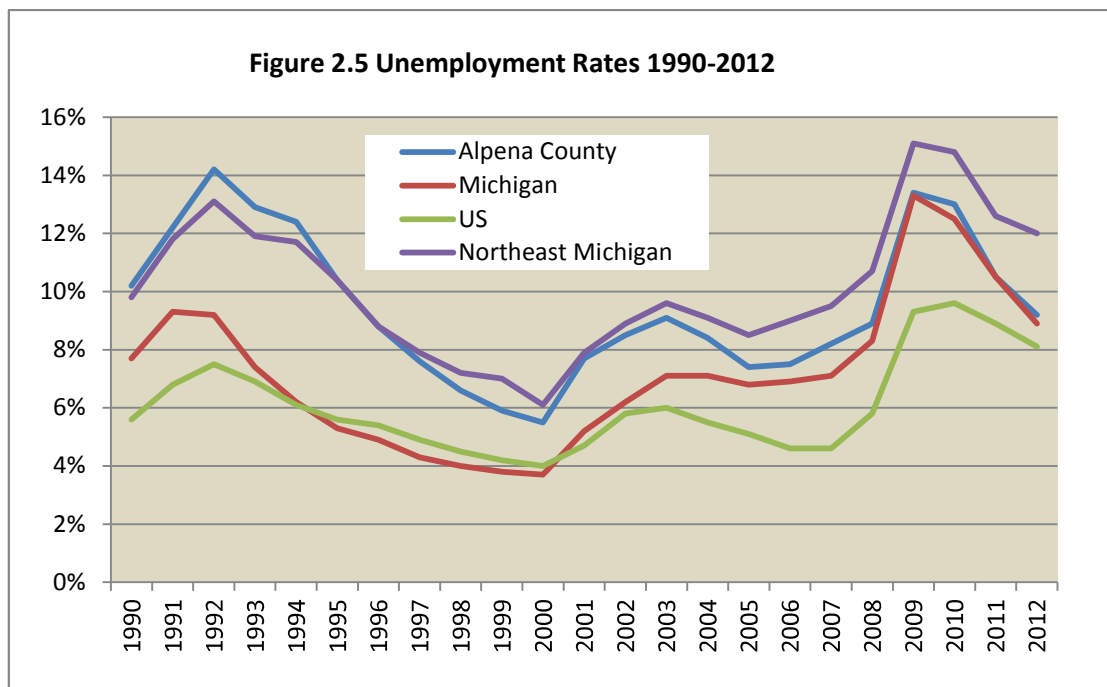


Poverty rates continue to be a problem in Alpena County and the Northeast Michigan region in general. Over 12 percent of all families are estimated to be in poverty. When children are present, this percentage increases for over a quarter. Again, this number increases dramatically (46.9 percent) when a female head of household is present and goes even higher (67 percent) when children under the age of 18 are in the household. This means that approximately 845 families with a female head of household (with children) are living in poverty in Alpena County. However, the percentage of householders 65+ years of age living in poverty has decreased from 6.9 percent in 2000 to four percent in 2010.

Table 2-8	
Alpena County Poverty Rates 2008-2010	
Category	%
Families	12.4
All families w/related children under 18	26.4
Married couple families	5.9
Married couple families w/related children under 18	12.1
Female householder, no husband present	46.9
Female householder, no husband present w/related children under 18	67.0
Householder 65+ years	4.0
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census – American Community Survey	

Employment and Unemployment

Joblessness in Alpena County has been historically high, as compared to the State's figures, but is always much lower than the unemployment rates found in nearby counties. **Figure 2.5** shows that the county's unemployment rate declined dramatically from over 14 percent to 5.5 percent from 1992 to 2000. Historically, Alpena County's unemployment rate has run higher than the State but has mirrored the State's trend. After 2000, the rate climbed until 2003, then dropped again. As with the rest of the State and nation, Alpena County's economy has suffered job losses due to the downturn in the national economy. After 2005, rates began climbing significantly to a high of 13.4 percent in 2009 (matching the State jobless rate). Jobless rates are again on a decrease as the rate appears to be around 10.5 percent at the end of 2011 and 9.2 percent at the end of 2012.



Size of Labor Force

Between 1990 and 2010, the county's civilian labor force remained relatively stagnant (see **Table 2.9**). Between 1990 and 1999, the labor force was in a general growth trend with the exception of 1995. Since 1999, the county has experienced 10 years of labor force decrease with the highest losses coming in 2000, 2002, and 2010.

Table 2.9 Alpena County Civilian Labor Force: 1990-2010		
Year	Civilian Labor Force	
	#	% Dif*
1990	14,329	
1991	14,332	0.02%
1992	14,789	3.1%
1993	14,900	0.8%
1994	15,453	3.7%
1995	15,319	-0.9%
1996	15,533	1.4%
1997	15,901	2.7%
1998	16,054	1.0%
1999	16,028	-0.2%
2000	15,532	-3.0%
2001	15,708	1.1%
2002	15,199	-3.2%
2003	15,211	-0.08%
2004	15,200	-0.07%
2005	15,087	-0.7%
2006	15,007	-0.5%
2007	15,015	0.05%
2008	14,985	-0.2%
2009	14,699	-1.9%
2010	14,199	-3.4%
*Figure shows percent difference from proceeding year. Source: Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget		

Wage and Salary Employment

Making historical employment sector comparisons is difficult due to the change in classification systems in recent years. Therefore, data is being presented in this Master Plan which represents data gathered by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget as well as that gathered by the American Community Survey. Each classify sectors differently, therefore comparisons are kept separate. **Table 2.10** and **Figure 2.6** show data from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget “Industry Census of Employment & Wages.” According to this source, government workers make up the largest sector of the Alpena County economy. This is likely due to the fact that the Alpena Regional Medical Center is counted under the “local government” category. Taking that into account, health care and social assistance is the largest employment sector in the county. Retail trade has surpassed manufacturing in the number of people employed; however manufacturing still remains significant in the Alpena County economy. Although not reflected in the data shown in **Table 2.10**, until the middle 1980's Alpena County's economy was centered in the manufacturing sector. The sectors which have made gains in employment from 2000 to 2010 include finance/insurance, health care and social assistance, state government, and federal government. All other sectors in Alpena County have experienced a loss since 2000. **Figure 2.7** shows that significant losses were experienced by the manufacturing sector (43 percent) and the construction sector (44 percent). Even though it remains a large sector of the economy, retail trade lost approximately 12 percent of its jobs from 2000 to 2010. The accommodation and food services sector lost 33 percent in the same period.

The American Community Survey (2008-2010) classifies sectors in a slightly different manner. According to its findings, the largest sector of the Alpena economy is “health care, social assistance, and education” which makes up nearly 27 percent of the economy. Retail trade makes up approximately 14 percent of the economy. Manufacturing is the third largest sector making up over nine percent of the economy of Alpena County. Therefore, both data sources agree that the top three sectors of the Alpena economy are health care, retail trade, and manufacturing.

Table 2.10
Alpena County Residents Employment by Industry 2000/2010*

Industry	# of establishments		Average employment		Avg weekly wages	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	13	9	53	25	426	437
Mining	3	6	46	56	999	1,154
Utilities	4	4	69	56	947	1,406
Construction	137	112	749	414	607	649
Manufacturing	56	51	2,298	1,301	834	1,096
Wholesale trade	39	35	462	404	558	737
Retail trade	176	140	2,062	1,811	322	432
Transportation & warehousing	29	28	321	222	705	718
Information	15	14	218	189	492	668
Finance & insurance	39	41	354	390	505	680
Real Estate, rental & leasing	20	18	105	95	267	391
Professional, scientific & technical services	38	46	268	207	512	783
Management of companies & enterprises	3	2	21	n/a	807	n/a
Administrative & waste services	33	32	289	156	384	375
Educational services	4	4	17	15	220	583
Health care & social assistance	90	84	1,414	1,655	401	596
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	12	23	126	97	215	276
Accommodation & food services	72	66	906	603	164	202
Other services (except public administration)	90	93	488	399	278	298
†Local Government**	18	17	2,629	2,506	705	806
†State Government	14	11	131	149	1,010	1,077
†Federal Government	17	16	99	128	848	896

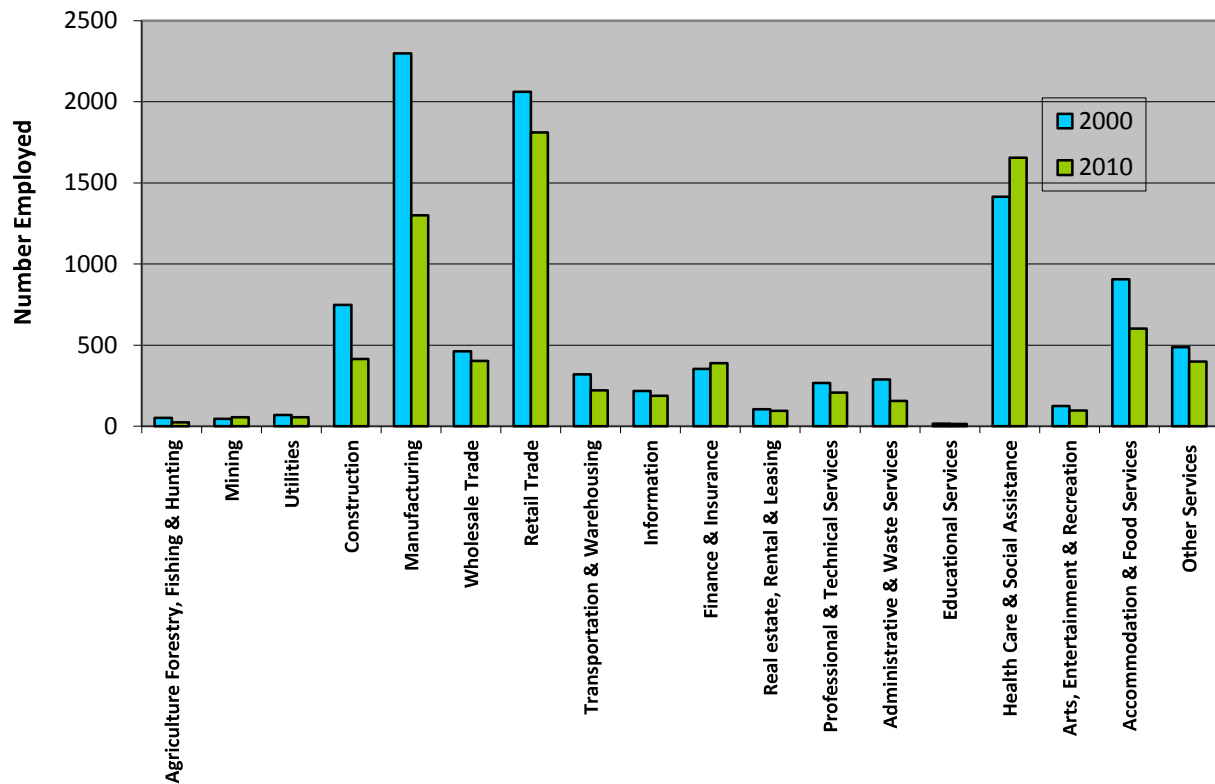
Source: Department of Technology, Management & Budget 2011

*Some state and local government workers, such as those who work at state colleges, universities, elementary and secondary schools, are excluded.

**Includes Alpena Regional Medical Center.

† Data from Local, State & Federal Government employment is only available from 2005, therefore the numbers represented in the “2000” column are from 2005.

Figure 2.6: Employment by Private Industry - Alpena County



**Figure 2.7: Employment by Sector - Alpena Co 2008-2010
(from American Community Survey)**

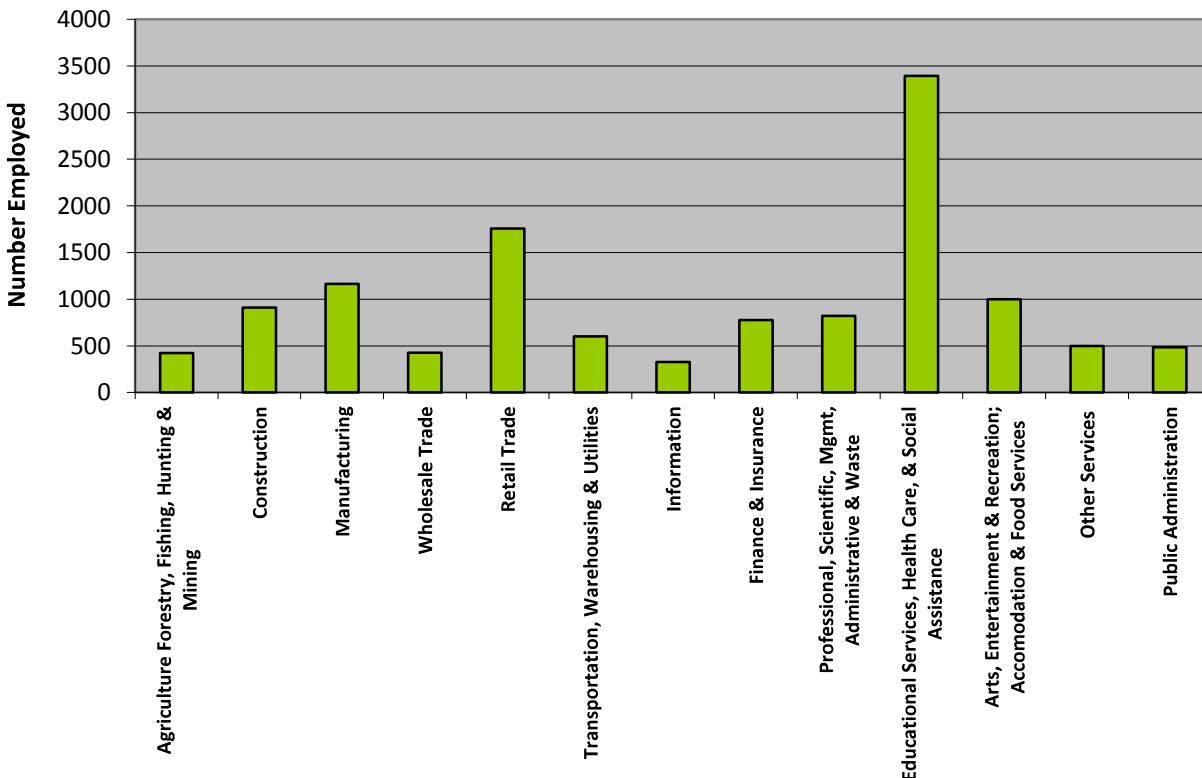
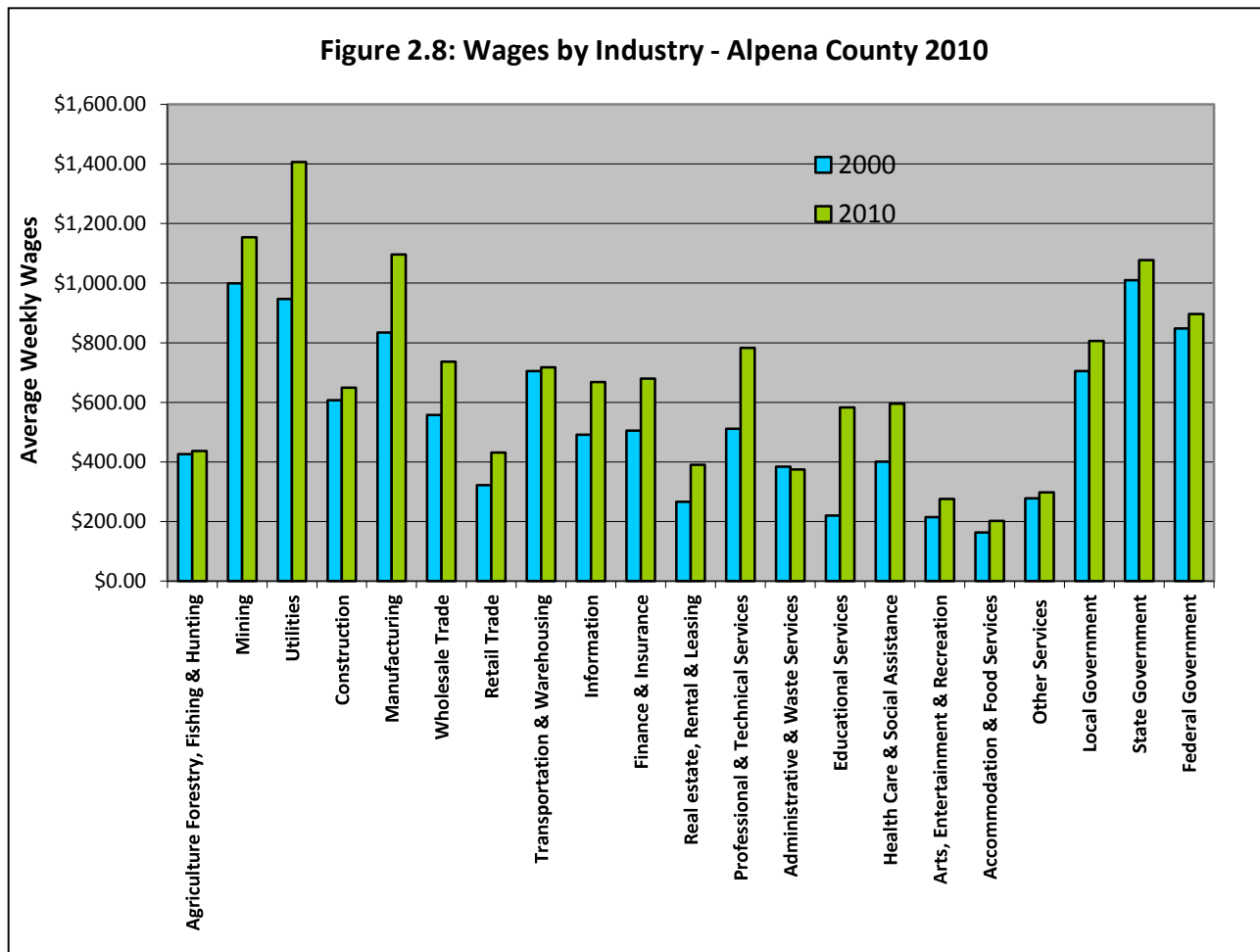


Figure 2.8 depicts wage information from the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (as does **Table 2.10**). The sectors paying the highest wages in 2010 are utilities, mining, manufacturing, and state government. All sectors, except administration and waste services, saw an increase in average weekly wage from 2000 to 2010. Certain sectors experienced significant increases including utilities (48 percent), manufacturing (31 percent), education (165 percent), wholesale trade (32 percent), information (36 percent), professional, scientific and technical (53 percent), and health care (49 percent).



Commuting to Work

As shown by **Table 2.11**, the vast majority (80 percent) of workers in Alpena County travel to work by driving alone. Compared to 2000, a slightly higher percentage of people carpooled from 2008 to 2010, likely due to the higher price of gasoline in recent years. The use of public transportation as a means to get to employment destinations decreased 0.2 at the end of the decade. Walkers and people that work-at-home were not measured by the American Community Survey and commuting to work statistics are not gathered by the 2010 Census. 92 percent of commuters in Alpena County both work and reside in Alpena County. Alpena County commuters have a mean travel time of 15.4 minutes to work with over 28 percent of workers having a travel time of less than ten minutes and nearly 28 percent have a travel time of greater than 20

minutes. This corresponds to the declining population in the county's only urban center, Alpena, and an increase in population in the rural townships.

Table 2.11
Alpena County Work Commute 2000 & 2010

Mode of Transportation	2000		2010	
	#	%		
Drove Alone	11,452	83.8%	9,758	80.0%
Carpooled	1,092	8.0%	1,407	11.6%
Public Transportation (includes taxi)	55	0.4%	25	0.2%
Walked	330	2.4%	n/a	n/a
Worked at home	577	4.2%	n/a	n/a
Other means	160	1.2%	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (2000) and American Community Survey 2008-2010

Housing Characteristics

Housing characteristics for Alpena County are found in **Table 2.12**. There was an increase in housing in the county of five percent since 2000. The county has a relatively limited amount (12.2%) of seasonal housing, an increase of over two-percent from 2000. In comparison, many other counties in Northeast Michigan region have close to 40 percent seasonal housing. Seasonal housing in the City of Alpena is almost nonexistent (1.3 percent). The highest percentage of seasonal housing in the county is found in the outlying townships of Ossineke, Green and Wellington.

In all of the Townships, over 80 percent of the occupied housing units are owner occupied. This rate is significantly lower in the City which recorded a 66.4 percent owner occupied rate in 2010 thereby bringing the total county owner-occupied rate down to 78.8 percent. Throughout the county, the number of vacant houses has increased significantly since 2000 (+32 percent) due to the economic downturn. Owner and renter vacancy rates have increased 75 percent and 48 percent respectively.

Table 2.12
Alpena County: Housing Characteristics - 2010

MUNICIPALITY	Total Housing Units	Total Occupied Housing Units	% Owner Occupied	% Renter Occupied	Total Vacant Housing Units	% Seasonal*	Home-owner Vacancy Rate (%)	Renter Vacancy Rate	% Vacant Change from '00 – '10
Alpena County	16,053	12,791	78.8	21.2	3,262	12.2	2.8	9.6	+32.0%
City of Alpena	5,278	4,734	66.4	33.6	544	1.3	3.2	8.8	+64.4%
Alpena Twp	4,907	3,976	82.5	17.5	931	11.4	2.5	10.1	+29.3%
Green Twp	922	508	92.3	7.7	414	34.4	3.1	9.1	+30.2%
Long Rapids Twp	574	418	91.4	8.6	156	18.6	1.8	12.2	0.0%
Maple Ridge Twp	904	665	90.1	9.9	239	20.4	2.0	4.2	+37.4%
Ossineke Twp	1,102	706	91.9	8.1	396	29.2	3.0	12.3	+7.6%
Sanborn Twp	1,083	845	83.4	16.6	238	13.5	2.8	17.2	+68.8%
Wellington Twp	247	127	87.4	12.6	120	39.7	3.5	0.0	+16.5%
Wilson Twp	1,036	812	90.6	9.4	224	15.3	2.5	7.2	+35.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010

*Figure shows the seasonal housing units as a percentage of the municipality's total housing units.

Information found in **Table 2.13** a shows the year that housing units were built in Alpena County. Generally speaking, the older a housing unit is the more it is likely to be in need of rehabilitation. As a rule of thumb, any housing unit that is older than 50 years may be in need of at least some, if not a great deal of renovation. Over 44 percent of the housing in Alpena County was built prior to 1960 with at least 17 percent having been built prior to 1940. Data indicates that the City of Alpena has, by far, the largest percentage of older housing units within the county (over 34 percent were built prior to 1940). While many of these homes are beautiful, historic and well kept homes; several are in need of repair and renovations.

Table 2.13		
Year Structure Built - Alpena County		
Year Structure Built	2000 %	2010 %
2000 or later		4.6
1990-1999	11.2	9.2
1980-1989	10.3	10.3
1960-1979	33.8	33.4
1940-1959	24.6	24.6
1939 or earlier	19.9	17.0
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 and American Community Survey 2010		

There is not a great deal of older housing stock (housing built in 1939 or earlier) found in other Alpena County municipalities. All local units, except Alpena City, had more than 50 percent of their housing stock built between 1940 and 1970 according to the 2000 census. Due to the age of this housing, some of it is no doubt in need of rehabilitation. Both the City of Alpena and Alpena County have housing rehabilitation programs that help lower income homeowners undertake needed repairs on their houses.

State Equalized Value (SEV)

By analysis of the State Equalized Value (SEV), characteristics of property values can be obtained. Over the past decade the residential portion of the county-assessed value increased from 70 percent to 76 percent. The agricultural classification decreased from a high of 12.7 percent in 2004 to 8.6 percent in 2011. In addition, commercial property decreased from 12.5 percent in 2000 to 11.1 percent in 2011(**Table 2.14** and **Figure 2.9**). Total assessed value rose from 2000 to 2008 and has been declining since.

Table 2.14												
Alpena County Assessed Value: 2011												
Year	Agricultural		Timber Cut-Over		Commercial		Industrial		Residential		Total Real*	Real + Personal Property
	\$*	%**			\$*	%	\$*	%	\$*	%	\$*	
2011	85.7	8.6%	7.9	0.8%	110.2	11.1%	32.7	3.3%	756.0	76.2%	992.8	1,075.5
2010	108.7	10.3%	5.1	0.5%	125.6	11.9%	35.6	3.4%	781.1	74.0%	1,056.2	1,139.0
2009	115.3	10.3%	26.0	2.3%	130.9	11.7%	37.7	3.6%	812.4	72.4%	1,122.5	1,204.0
2008	125.3	10.9%	27.7	2.4%	132.4	11.5%	36.5	3.2%	824.6	71.9%	1,146.6	1,225.8
2007	127.4	11.3%	34.9	3.1%	130.4	11.6%	37.1	3.3%	793.3	70.6%	1,123.0	1,203.6
2006	113.7	10.7%	40.2	3.8%	126.0	11.8%	36.6	3.4%	747.9	70.3%	1,064.4	1,154.7
2005	122.8	11.9%	49.3	4.8%	122.8	11.9%	35.2	3.4%	698.5	67.9%	1,028.5	1,116.6
2004	122.2	12.7%	45.3	4.7%	114.2	11.8%	34.7	3.6%	648.2	67.2%	964.6	1,052.1
2003	106.5	12.0%	45.8	5.1%	103.7	11.6%	33.6	3.8%	601.2	67.5%	890.8	971.5
2002	102.0	12.3%	41.7	5.1%	93.4	11.3%	37.5	4.5%	551.0	66.7%	825.6	910.8
2001	76.1	10.6%	26.4	3.7%	88.5	12.3%	24.6	3.4%	503.2	70.0%	718.9	796.5
2000	70.7	10.6%	23.9	3.6%	83.3	12.5%	24.4	3.7%	463.4	69.6%	665.6	741.6
Source: Michigan Department of Treasury												
*In millions of dollars **% of Total Real Property												

Figure 2.9

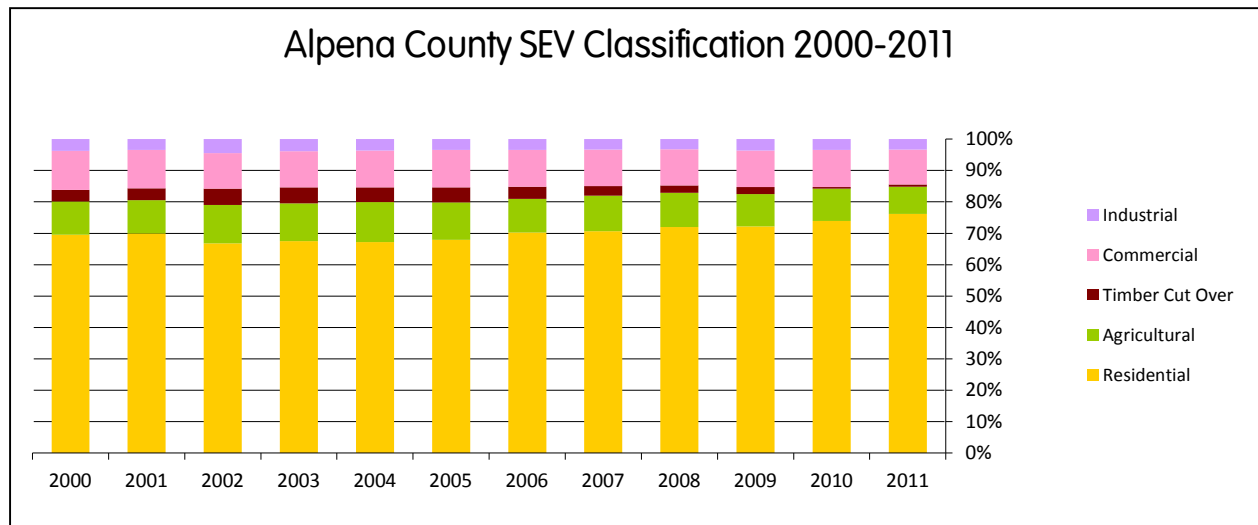
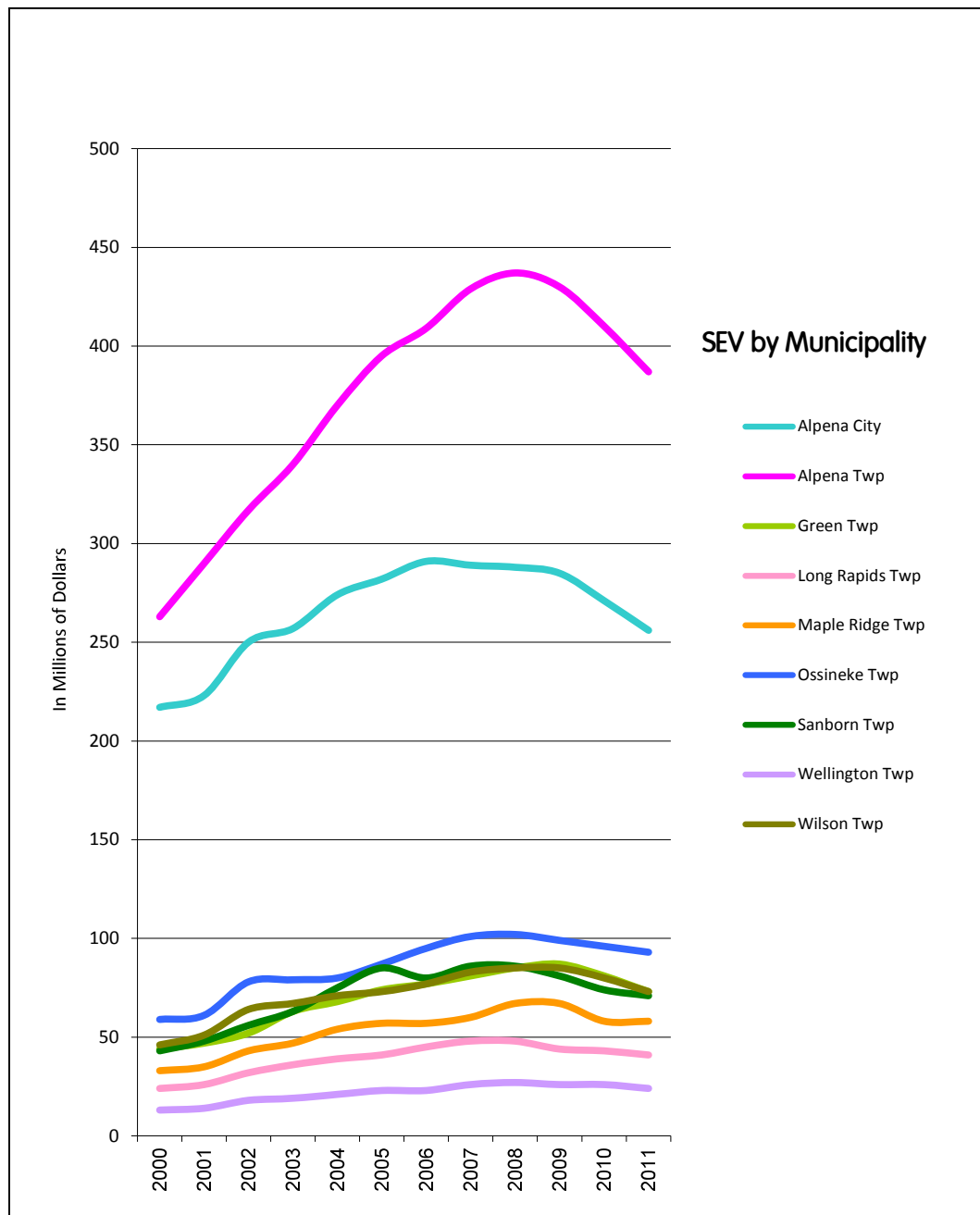


Figure 2.10 shows the change in the SEV in the Alpena County municipalities over the last decade. Nearly two-thirds of the county's SEV is concentrated in City of Alpena and Alpena Township. Over the past ten years the SEV in all the townships was on the increase until 2008 when the values began decreasing. In the City of Alpena, values began decreasing in 2006.

Figure 2.10



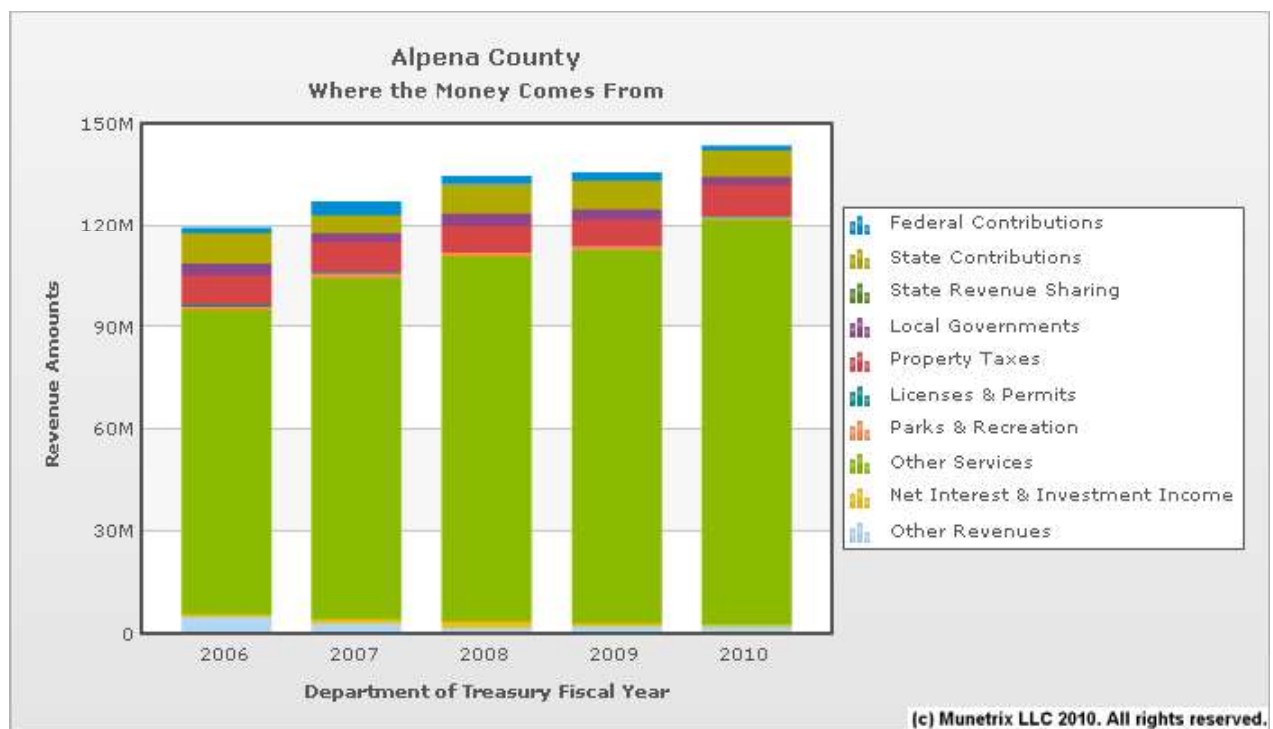
Alpena County Finances

Information contained in this section was generated from F65 forms that the county files with the State of Michigan each year. The data is available through Munetrix LLC because the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments is a Munetrix subscriber. This section is intended to give a summary of the financial health of Alpena County.

Revenue

Revenue is generated from tax dollars received from residents and businesses which are generated from the millage rate multiplied by property valuations. Revenue is also generated from other sources such as State and Federal grants, permits, and fees. **Figure 2.11** shows the sources of revenue for Alpena County. The three largest revenue sources are Other Services, Property Taxes, and State Contributions.

Figure 2.11: Alpena County Revenue Breakdown



Expenditures

As a service provider for the community, expenses cover the costs associated with running the County government. As seen in **Figure 2.12**, the majority of Alpena County expenses are incurred in the category of Community and Information Services. **Figure 2.13** shows the impact of revenue and expenses on total cash and investments.

Figure 2.12: Expenditures

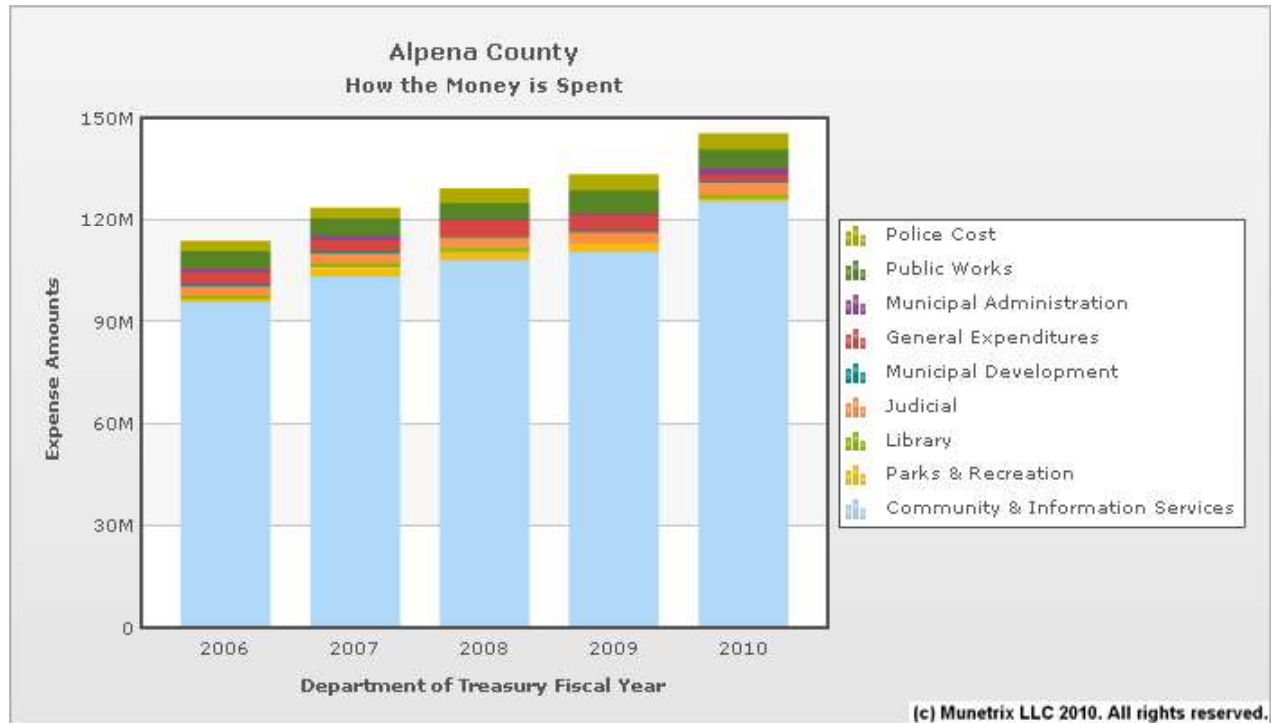
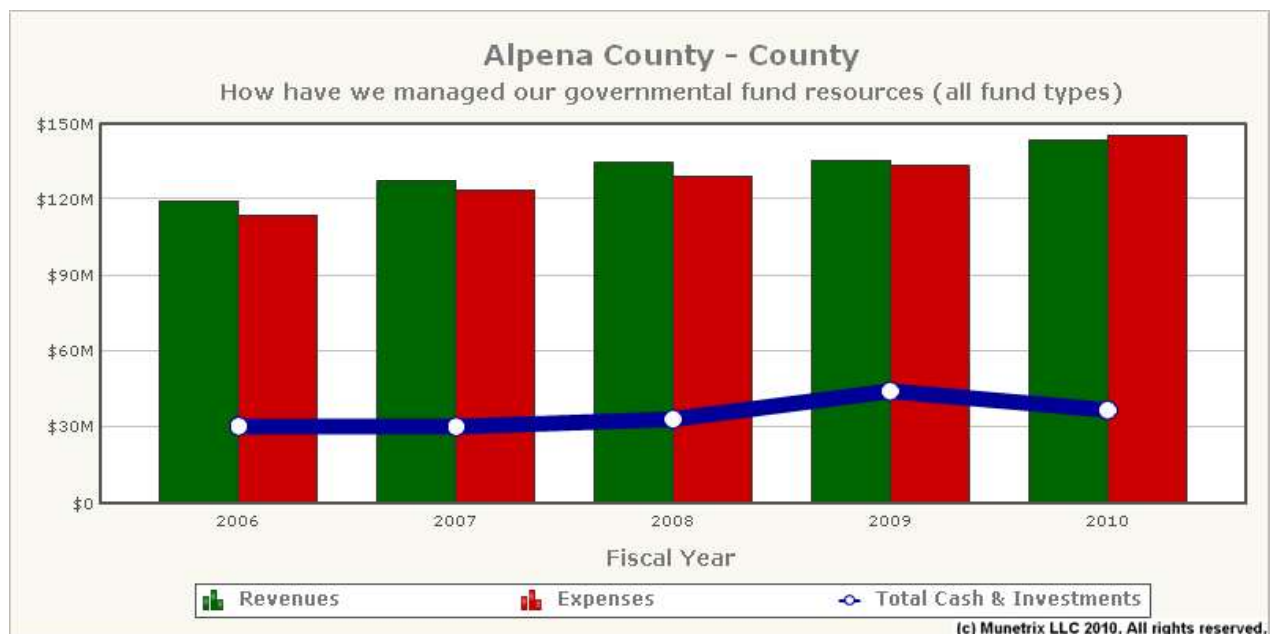


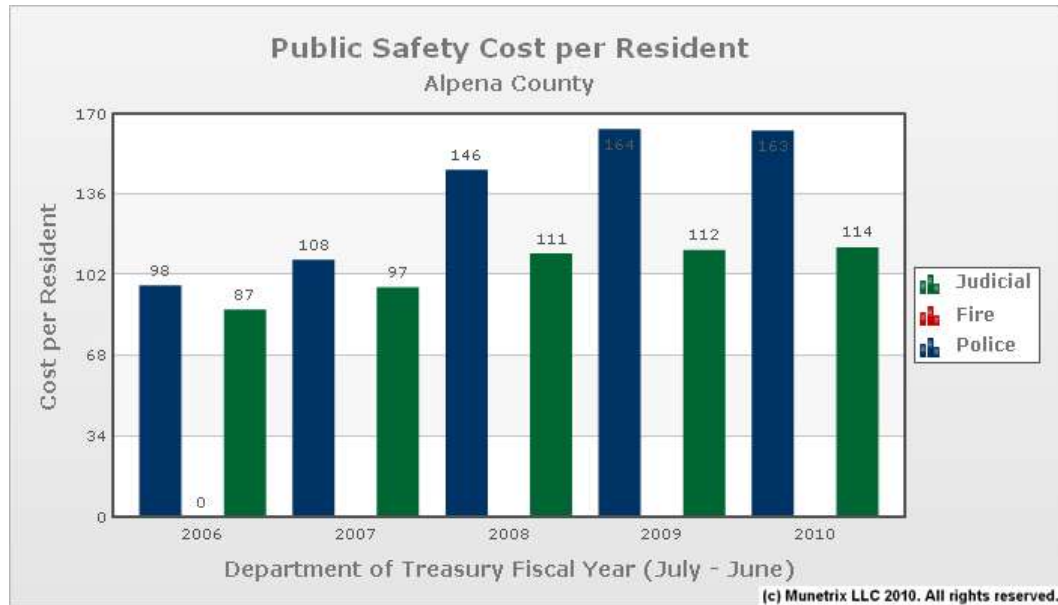
Figure 2.13: Revenue/Expense Comparison



Public Safety Cost per Resident

Figure 2.14 displays the total cost per resident for public safety in Alpena County from 2006 to 2010. In 2006, the cost was \$98 per resident and that has increase to \$163 per resident in 2010.

Figure 2.14: Total Public Safety Cost Per Resident



Financial Stress

The "Stress Meter" provides an overview of Indicator Scores used by the State of Michigan to calculate the financial stress of a municipality. The Indicator Score gives an overall picture of the soundness of local governments, the trend of stability over time, and allows the identification of local units that are most in need of help. Scores are generated based on the criteria of population growth, real taxable value growth, large real taxable value growth, general fund expenditures as

a percent of taxable value, general fund operating deficit, prior general fund operating deficit, size of general fund balance, fund deficits in current or previous year, and general long-term debt as a percent of taxable value. The lower the number the more fiscally sound a local unit is determined to be. There are three categories of scores grouped by color; shades of green, blue and red (**Table 2.15**). The State

Figure 2.15 State of Michigan Fiscal Distress Indicator System		
Points from Scale	Category	State Action
0-4	Fiscally Neutral	No State action needed
5-7	Fiscal Watch	Unit of local government is notified of its relatively high score and is placed on a watch list for the current and following year.
8-10	Fiscal Stress	Unit of local government is notified of its high score, is placed on a watch list for the current and following year, and receives consideration for review.
Source: Munetrix, 2012		

Department of Treasury uses these indicator scores to determine those communities in Michigan which are under the most extreme financial stress. **Figure 2.16** shows the indicator scores for all municipalities in Alpena County. The graph shows a trend of lighter green (more financial stress) since 2006, but most municipalities remain in the Fiscally Neutral category. However, in 2010, some communities began to appear in the Fiscal Watch category. **Figure 2.17** shows the fiscal stress for all of Northeast Michigan. As can be seen, some communities in the region were included in the Fiscal Watch category beginning in 2008 and were included in the Fiscal Stress category in 2010.

Figure 2.16: Fiscal Stress for Alpena County Municipalities

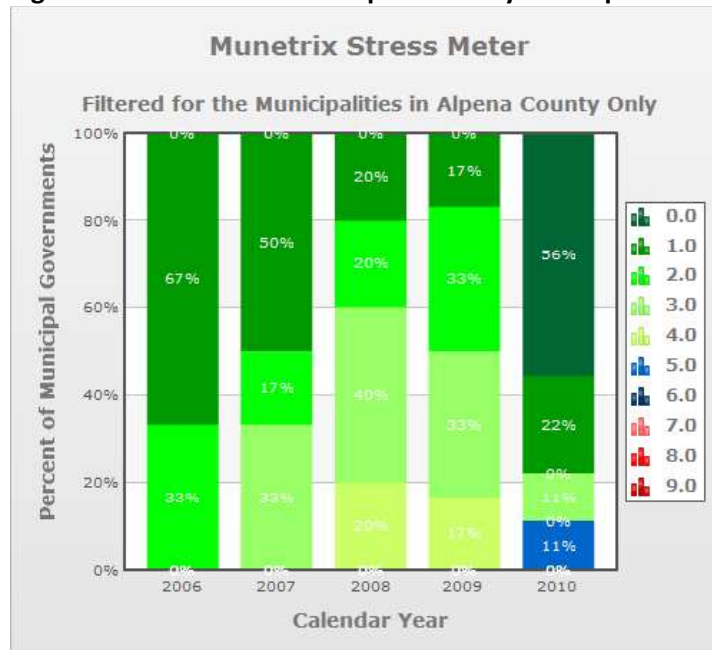
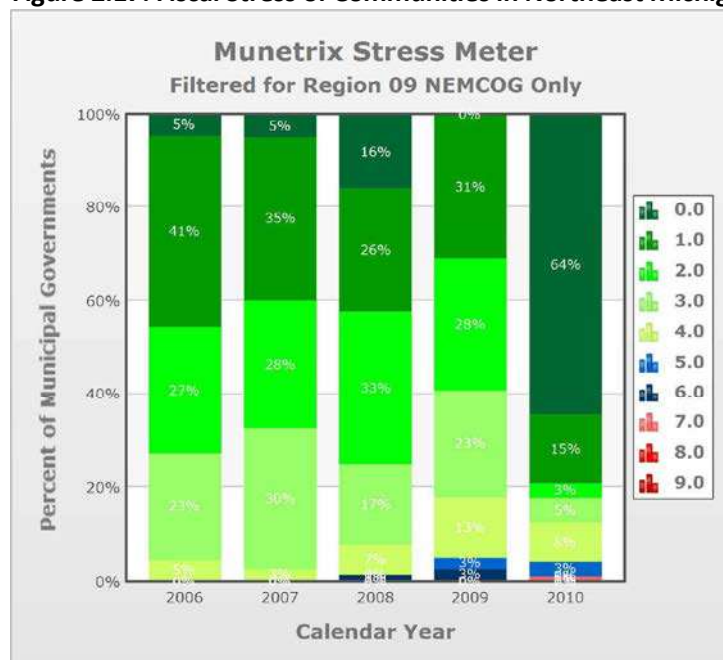


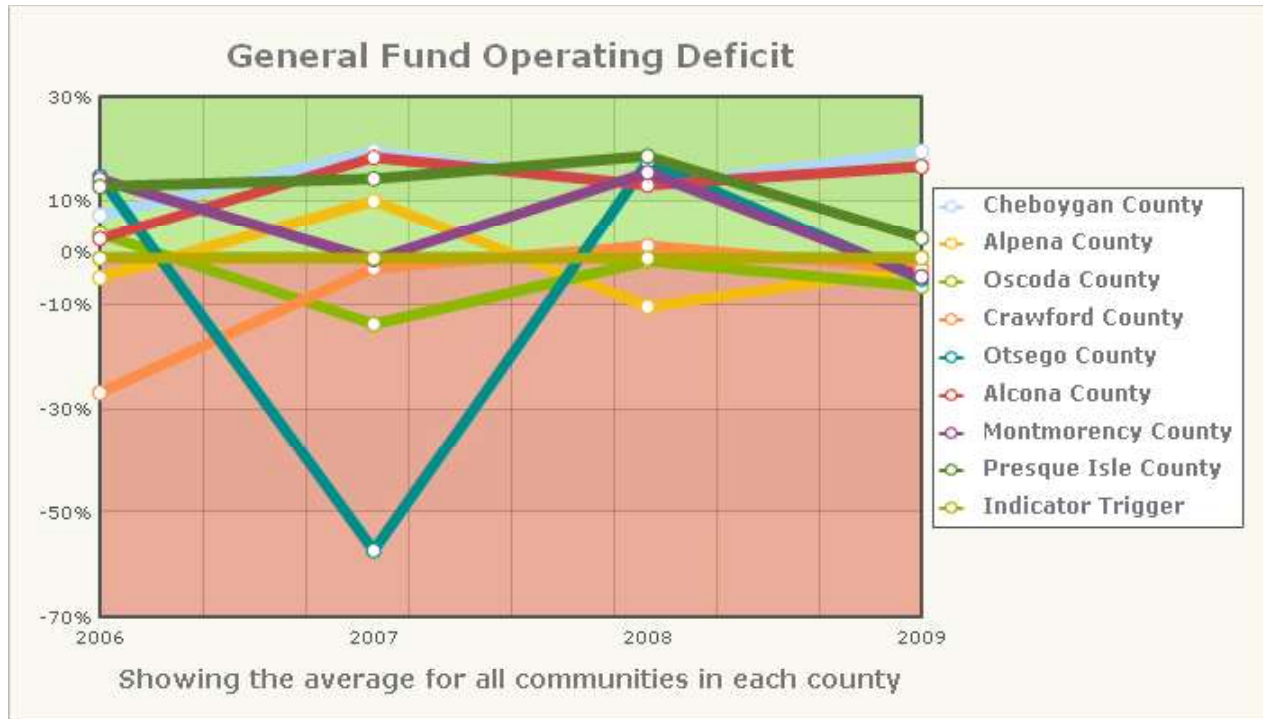
Figure 2.17: Fiscal Stress of Communities in Northeast Michigan



General Fund Operating Deficit

This variable is computed by subtracting general fund expenditures from general fund revenues for a given year. This figure is then divided by general fund revenues. If the number that results is less than -0.01, this indicates a unit has a nontrivial operating deficit and this unit receives a score of 1. If the unit does not have a general fund operating deficit, or if this deficit is trivial, the unit is given a 0. **Figure 2.18** shows a comparison of general operating fund deficit averages from all counties in Northeast Michigan.

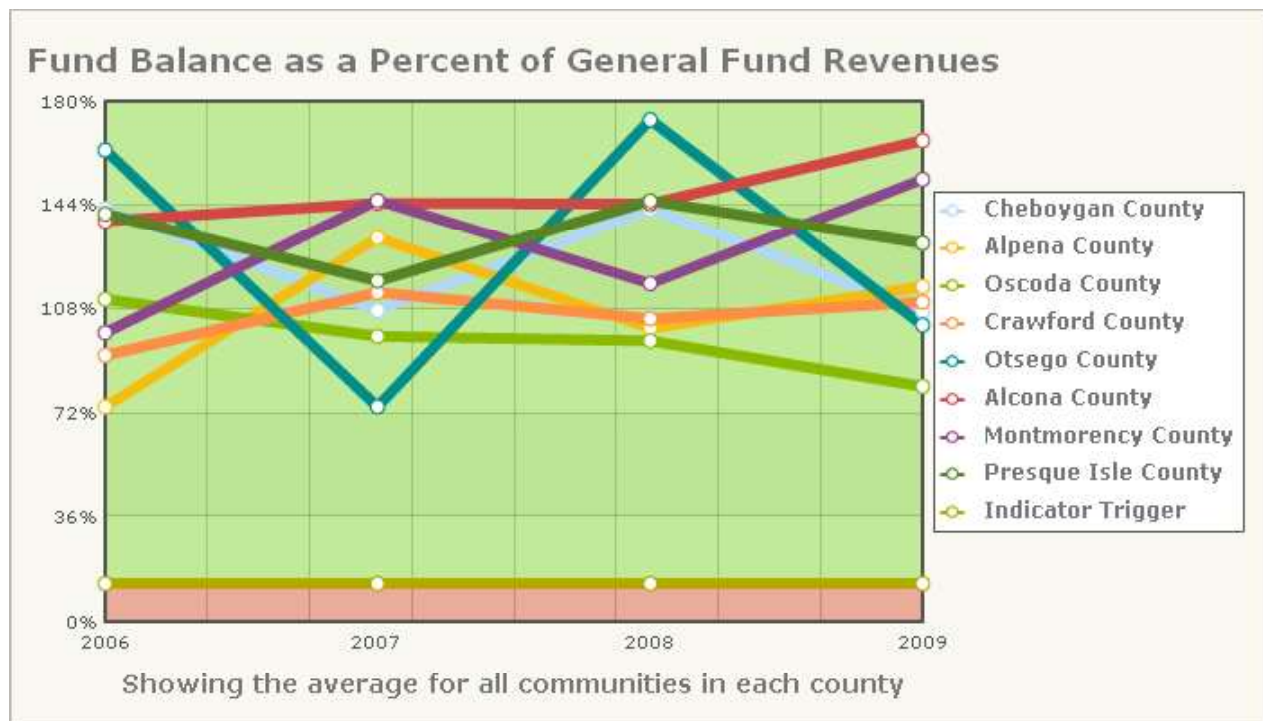
Figure 2.18: General Operating Deficit for Northeast Michigan



Fund Balance as a Percent of General Fund Revenues

Most units maintain a positive fund balance, and it is a sign of fiscal distress if the fund balance is negative. Units typically find it beneficial to keep the fund balance from declining too greatly as this inhibits their ability to cope with unexpected circumstances in either the revenue or expenditure stream. The actual variable constructed for this indicator is the general fund balance as a proportion of general fund revenue. If a unit maintains a general fund balance less than 13 percent of its general fund revenue, it scores a 1. Conversely a general fund balance above the 0.13 level scores a 0. **Figure 2.19** shows fund balance for all of Northeast Michigan.

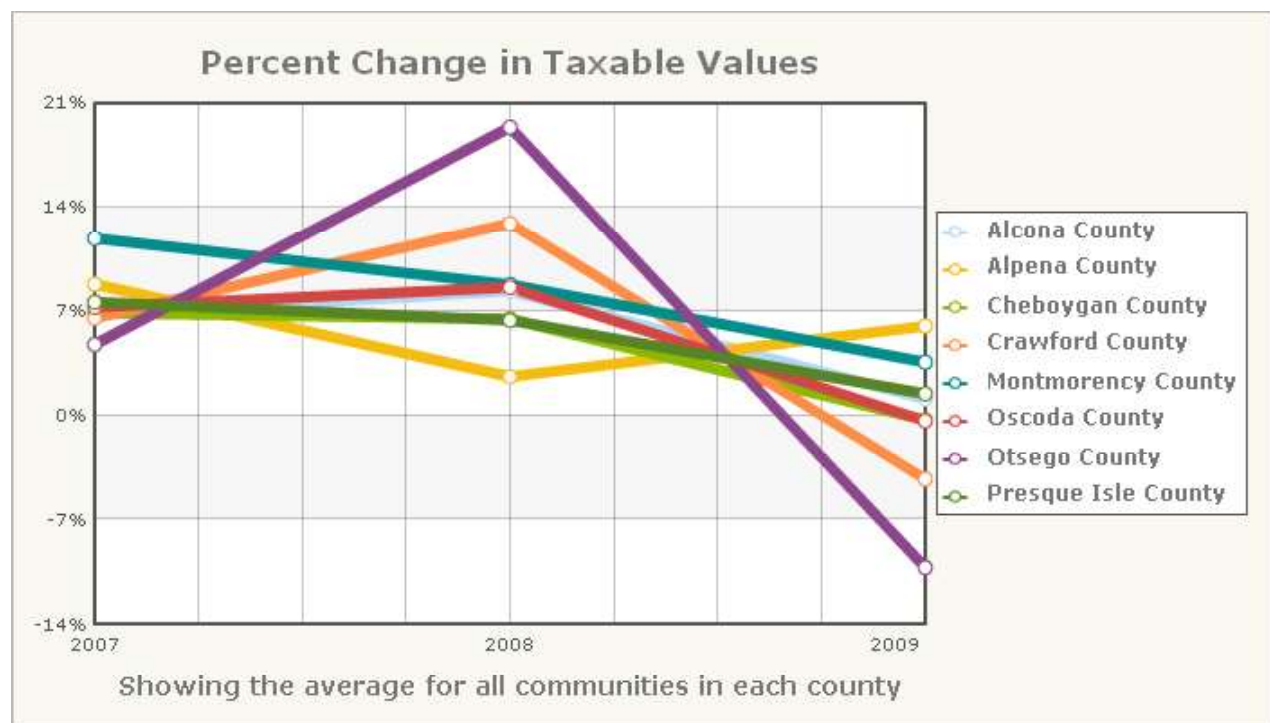
Figure 2.19: Fund Balance as a Percent of General Fund Revenues for Northeast Michigan



Percent Change in Taxable Value

Much as with population growth, there appears to be a relationship between declining taxable value of a unit and its fiscal health. Since many local governments rely heavily upon property taxes, it follows that decreases in taxable value will require major adjustments in expenditures. Two-year growth periods of real taxable value for each unit are computed. Units score a 1 if they demonstrate negative real growth and a 0 if they exhibit positive real growth. To compute real taxable value, the current year taxable value is divided by the adjusted deflator. **Figure 2.20** shows percent change in taxable value for all of Northeast Michigan.

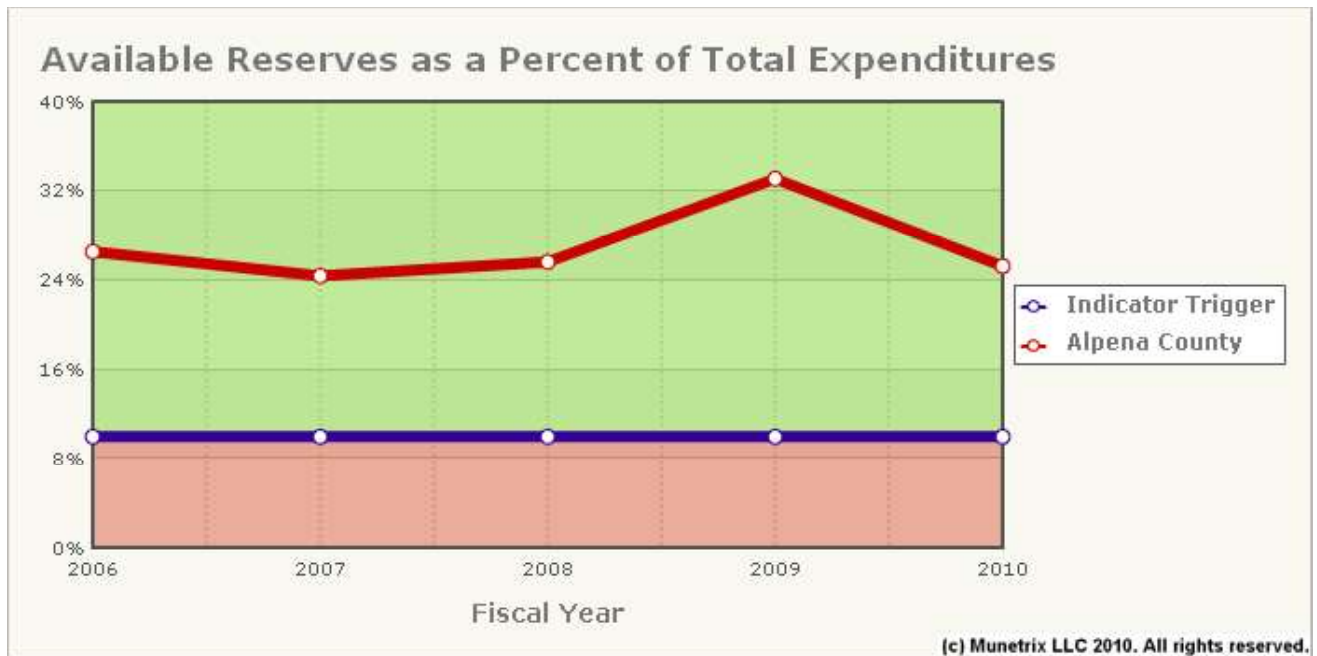
Figure 2.20: Percent Change in Taxable Values for Northeast Michigan



Available Reserves as a Percent of Total Expenditures

Available reserves is the total equity minus any designated and reserved funds) divided by total annual expenditures (includes general fund, enterprise funds, and all other funds but excludes component unit funds. Figure 2.21 gives a picture of the available reserves for Alpena County. As can be seen, reserves in Alpena County fall well above the indicator trigger.

Figure 2.21: Available Reserves as a Percent of Total Expenditures for Alpena County



Community Services & Facilities

Utilities

The county's utility system includes private suppliers of electric, natural gas, telephone, solid waste disposal and cable television services, along with the publicly owned and operated City of Alpena and Alpena Township water and sewer systems. Many of these suppliers are faced with the task of providing services to a relatively low density, dispersed population.

Table 3.1
Alpena County Utility System

	COMPANY	SERVICE AREA
Natural Gas	DTE (eastern portion of county), Presque Isle Electric & Gas (western portion of county)	City of Alpena, Townships of Alpena, Green, Long Rapids and Wilson
Electricity	Alpena Power (eastern portion of county), Presque Isle Electric & Gas (western portion of county), Consumers Energy (southern portion of county)	County Wide
Telecommunications	Telephone: Frontier Wireless: Numerous providers Internet: Numerous providers	County Wide
Water & Sewer	City of Alpena	City of Alpena, Alpena Township and Wilson Township

Source: Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs (Public Service Commission) 2012

Water Supply and Sewage Disposal

Public water and sewer is available throughout the City and in portions of Alpena Township. Service has been extended west along M-32 through Wilson Township to Alpena County Regional Airport. The City of Alpena Water Filtration Plant supplies this water, and all wastewater in the public system is treated at the City of Alpena Water Recycling Plant.

Thunder Bay is the source for all public water, as there is not a water bearing formation in the area adequate to serve as a source for a municipal supply.¹ Constructed in 1905, the City of Alpena Water Filtration Plant is located on the shore of Thunder Bay at the south end of the City of Alpena. The plant draws water from Lake Huron using a primary intake that is located 2,000 feet off shore in 12 feet of water. There is a secondary intake that is 1,000 feet off shore in ten feet of water. The treatment plant

¹ 1966 groundwater investigation conducted by W.G. Keck & Associates

has a firm capacity of 6.0 million gallons per day with a maximum daily demand of 3.99 million gallons per day. The average daily demand is 2.11 million gallons per day.

The original water recycling treatment plant became operational in 1953 and many of the treatment units remain in use today. The Alpena Water Recycling Plant serves 4,747 customers in the City of Alpena and 2,226 customers in Alpena Township. The system consists of 68.6 miles of sanitary wastewater lines and 11 lift stations. The treatment plant has an average design capacity of 5.5 million gallons per day with a maximum pumping capacity of 18 million gallons per day. The average daily treatment is 2.3 million gallons per day. In 1972, the plant was upgraded to improve pollutant removal capability. Using grant funds from the USEPA, secondary treatment was added to the facility. A biological treatment process called Activated Sludge was used to enhance removal of dissolved pollutants from the wastewater. This addition improved pollutant removal rates and the plant regularly achieves 90 to 95% pollutant removal efficiency.

Alpena Township and the City of Alpena each manage, operate and maintain the water and wastewater facilities within their boundaries. Per a 1977 agreement signed with Alpena Township, the City of Alpena provides up to 1.5 million gallons of water to the Township per day and accepts up to two million gallons of sewage per day. Data from Alpena Township Water and Waste Water Feasibility Study prepared by Wade-Trim in July of 2000 shows that the average daily water usage in the Township is approximately 600,000 gallons and the average daily wastewater flow is approximately 500,000 gallons. The Wade-Trim study calculates the average daily water demand for a residential unit is 260 gallons per day, and wastewater flow from a residential unit is 215 gallons per day.

Also per the 1977 agreement, service area boundaries were established (**Figure 3.1**) that limited the extension of the sewer and water infrastructure. When initially established, the boundary went north to Bloom Road, East to Wessel Road, West to the Alpena Township Line and south to Partridge Point. The agreement was amended in 1998 to extend the service area to include sewer and water lines to Alpena County Regional Airport. The agreement was amended again in November 2002 to extend the service area to the south Alpena Township line. The water main was extended south along US 23 to the southern Alpena Township line in 2006. The City and Township continue negotiations for future expansion of the system into Alpena Township. The remainder of the county is served by individual wells and septic tanks for which permits must be obtained from the District Health Department #4.

A Source Water Assessment² (SWA) for the Alpena water supply was prepared by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division in November of 2000. The purpose of the Source Water Assessment was to determine the sensitivity and susceptibility of the community's drinking water. The source water area for the Alpena area intake includes 21 listed potential contamination sources, two storm sewer drainage areas, and urban and agricultural runoff from the Thunder Bay River Watershed. The study determined that the shallow, near-shore intake has a high degree of sensitivity to potential contaminants. Taking into account off shore winds and the Thunder Bay River influence, the Alpena intake is categorized as highly sensitive. However, the SWA acknowledged that, historically, the Alpena WTP has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water standards.

The SWA included recommendations to prevent contamination of the local water supply. The study recommended that the community take steps to evaluate current and future land use in areas of highly permeable soils. In addition, the adoption of best management practices and the development of educational programs for residents helps protect the water supply.

² *Source Water Assessment Report for the Alpena Water Supply, November 2000, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.*

As the areas around the county's lakes continue to be developed, problems maintaining proper levels of water quality may be created. Lakefront communities often crowd residences along their lakeshore. This type of development can directly affect the water quality due to the potential for pollutants from improperly designed or inadequately maintained septic systems. Alternative on-site systems may be appropriate in low-density or cluster lakeshore developments where soil conditions, distance between lots, or shallow bedrock make traditional septic systems or sewer excavations inappropriate. Adequately sized and properly maintained septic systems provide on-site wastewater treatment that is biologically equivalent to many centralized sewage treatment plans. Sewage disposal alternatives include biologically sound on-site disposal systems such as constructed wetlands. Other sewage disposal designs include developing a multi-jurisdictional sewer system.

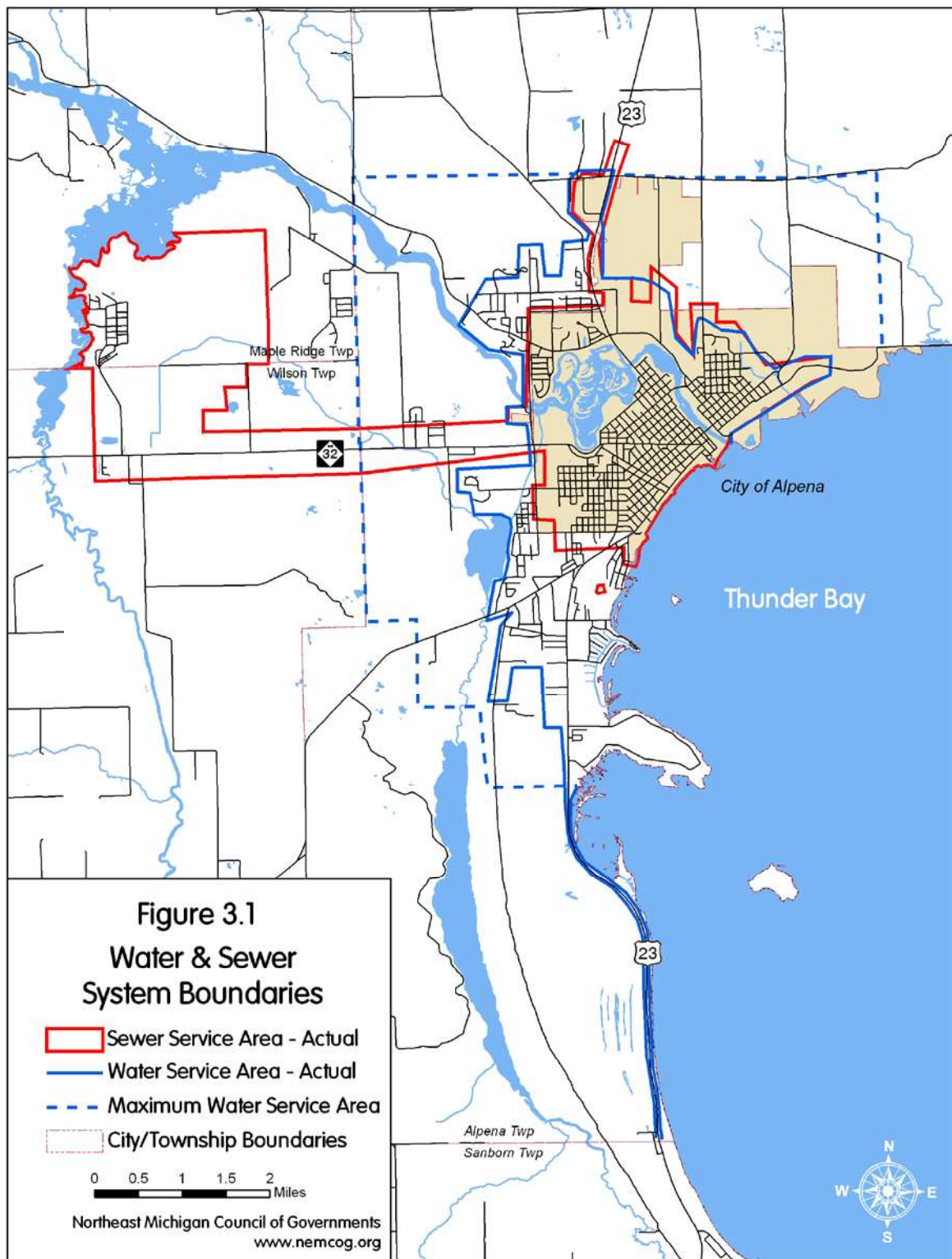
Careful consideration must be given to protecting the county's water resources from the effects of residential, commercial and industrial development. Adequate drain fields and proper maintenance of septic systems are important elements in safeguarding water quality and should be closely monitored. New developments should include provisions for handling household waste efficiently and adequately. Continued growth should not be stifled by environmental restrictions. However, they must be located and designed to best fit in with the character of the county, while having a minimal impact on the area's natural resources.

Solid Waste

Alpena County is a member of the Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena Solid Waste Management Authority (MOASWMA). The MOASWMA landfill in Montmorency County is the primary destination for the County's solid waste.

A recent survey of County residents indicates that 92 percent of respondents' contract with a private hauler for solid waste removal. 5.4 percent burn their solid waste and 4.3 percent haul it to the landfill themselves. 74.4 percent of respondents utilize the recycling program in Alpena County.

The Alpena Resource Recovery Program consists of the Resource Recovery Facility located on M-32 in addition to full-time drop off sites located at Long Rapids Township Hall, Maple Ridge Township Hall, Green Township Hall, Alpena Township Hall, Alpena High School, Sanborn Township Hall, Bob-Lo Store, Neiman's Family Market, and the Habitat for Humanity Restore. The Resource Recovery Facility operates six days a week and accepts electronics, household hazardous waste, paper, tin, batteries, aluminum, plastic, cardboard, garbage, construction debris, mattresses, furniture, appliances, and motor oil at variable rates. They also participate in the "Clean Sweep" program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, which is designed to encourage citizens to turn in hazardous materials. Efforts to promote recycling with the community are having positive impacts as nearly one-third (30.1%) respondents' indicated that they utilize the Resource Recovery Facility.



Fiber Optic Network

On September 6, 2006 the Alpena Regional Fiber Consortium was formed to bring high speed communications network and connectivity to the Alpena region. The mission of the consortium through a collaborative agreement is to facilitate a communication network to promote the development of the community and its goals through improved relationships and infrastructures. By the sharing of resources of agencies which include government, non-profit, medical, and research, the consortium will establish this foundation to support its goals for inter-organizational communications for the community of Alpena and partners nationwide. The Alpena Regional Fiber Consortium is working through Merit Network to expand fiber lines throughout the community.

Transportation

Roads

Alpena County has no interstate highway, but is served by US-23, which runs along Lake Huron from Mackinaw City to Standish. M-32 runs in an east-west direction and connects Alpena with Gaylord and I-75. M-65, running north and south, bisects the western portion of the county. State and federal highways include approximately 72 miles of M-32, M-65 and US-23. The county also supports 205.5 miles of local primary roads and 454.5 miles of local secondary roads.

Each year, an assessment of all federal-aid roads within Alpena County is done by the Alpena County Road Commission, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and NEMCOG using the PASER road rating system. The Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) system was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Transportation Information Center to be used as the State of Wisconsin's standard road rating system. PASER is a "windshield" road rating system that uses a 1 to 10 rating scale, with a value of 10 representing a new road and a value of 1 representing a failed road. Condition ratings are assigned by monitoring the type and amount of visual defects along a road segment while driving the segment. The PASER system interprets these observations into a condition rating. The State of Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council has requested that the information gathered in this survey be reported using the following categories:

- Roads with PASER ratings of 8-10 require Routine Maintenance. Routine maintenance is the day-to-day maintenance activities that are scheduled such as street sweeping, drainage clearing, shoulder gravel grading, and sealing cracks to prevent standing water and water penetration.
- Roads with PASER ratings of 5-7 require Capital Preventive Maintenance. Capital preventive maintenance is a planned set of cost effective treatments to an existing roadway system and its appurtenances that preserves, retards future deterioration and maintains or improves the functional condition of the system without significantly increasing structural capacity. The purpose of capital preventive maintenance fixes is to protect the pavement structures, slow the rate of pavement deterioration and/or correct pavement surface deficiencies. Surface treatments are targeted at pavement surface defects primarily caused by the environment and by pavement material deficiencies.
- Roads with PASER ratings of 1-4 require Structural Improvements. This category includes work identified as rehabilitation and reconstruction, which address the structural integrity of a road.

In 2012, a total of 188.079 miles of federal aid eligible roads were rated. **Table 3.2-3.3** and **Figure 3.2** below summarize the distribution of ratings by mileage and percentage of the total for all roads rated during the project. The City of Alpena is not included in this data. Figure 3.3 classifies the roads needing structural improvements, capital preventative maintenance, and routine maintenance.

Table 3.2 2012 PASER Results by Jurisdiction				
Jurisdiction	8 - 10	5 - 7	1 - 4	Total Mileage Rated
MDOT	10.749	58.067	0.695	69.511
Alpena CRC	34.268	57.532	26.768	118.568
Alpena Co	45.017	115.599	27.463	188.079
Source: NEMCOG				

Table 3.3 Alpena County 2012 PASER Results			
PASER Rating	Prescribed Fix	Mileage	Percent of Total Miles Rated
8 - 10	Routine Maintenance	45.017	24%
5 - 7	Capital Preventive Maintenance	115.599	61%
1 - 4	Structural Improvements	27.463	15%
Source: NEMCOG			

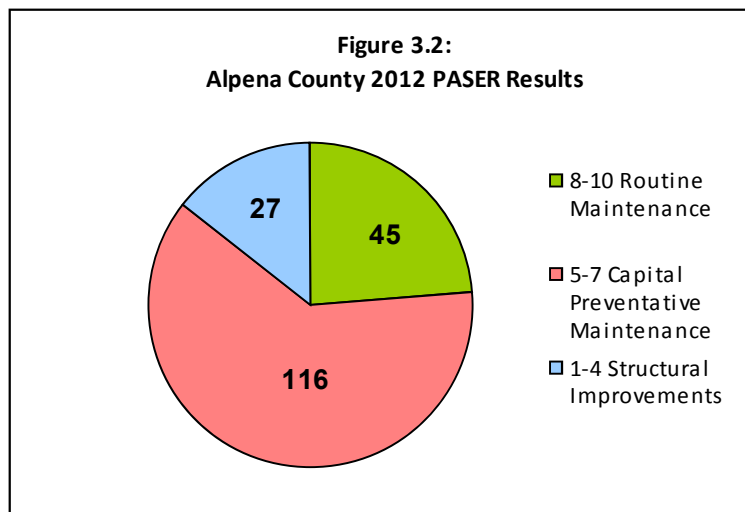


Figure 3.4a and b shows traffic crashes from 2008-2012 and classifies them according to crash type. There were 4,433 traffic crashes in Alpena County during this five-year time span. The most common day of the week for crashes is Friday. Over 62 percent of the crashes occurred with dry roadways. Car/deer accidents make up nearly 42 percent of the crashes (1,847), while drinking is the next most common cause of a crash (178 incidents).

Figure 3.3

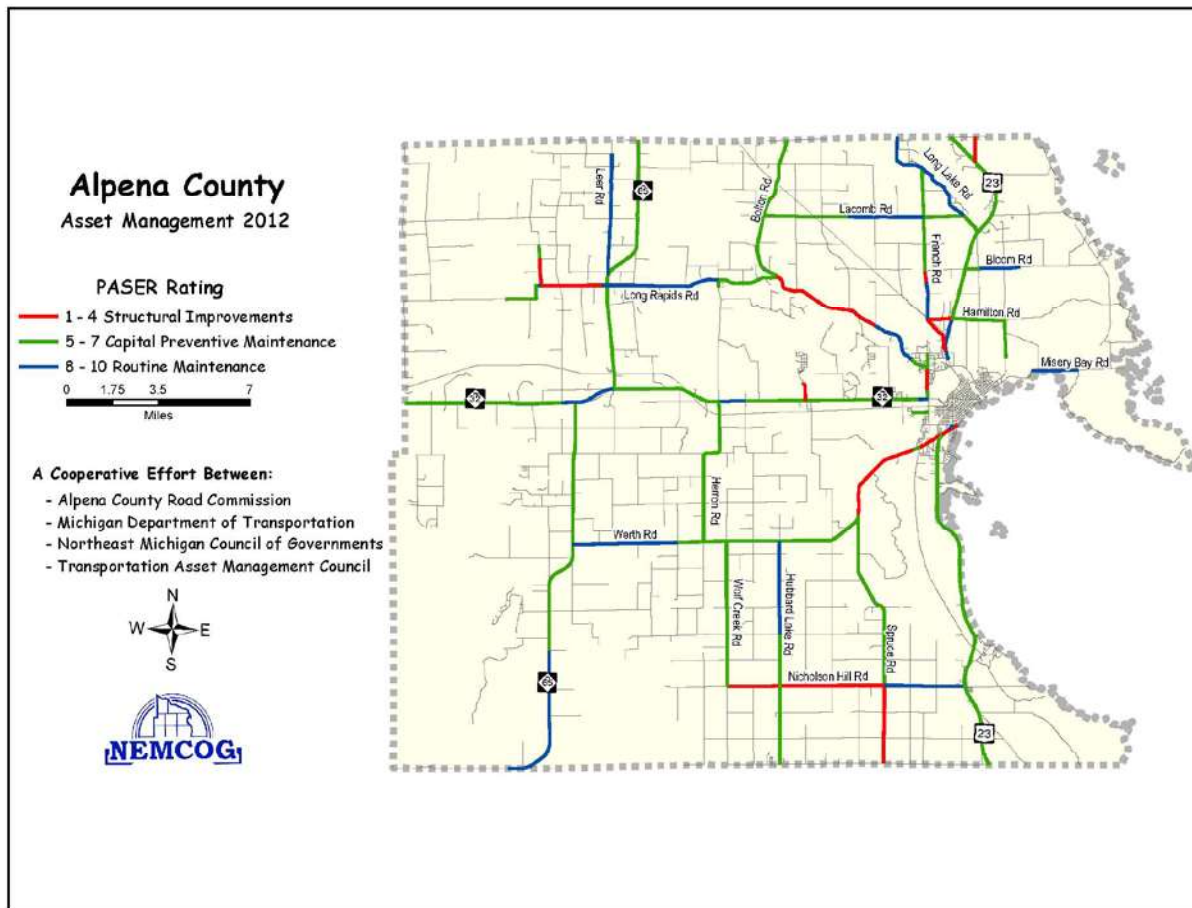


Figure 3.4a

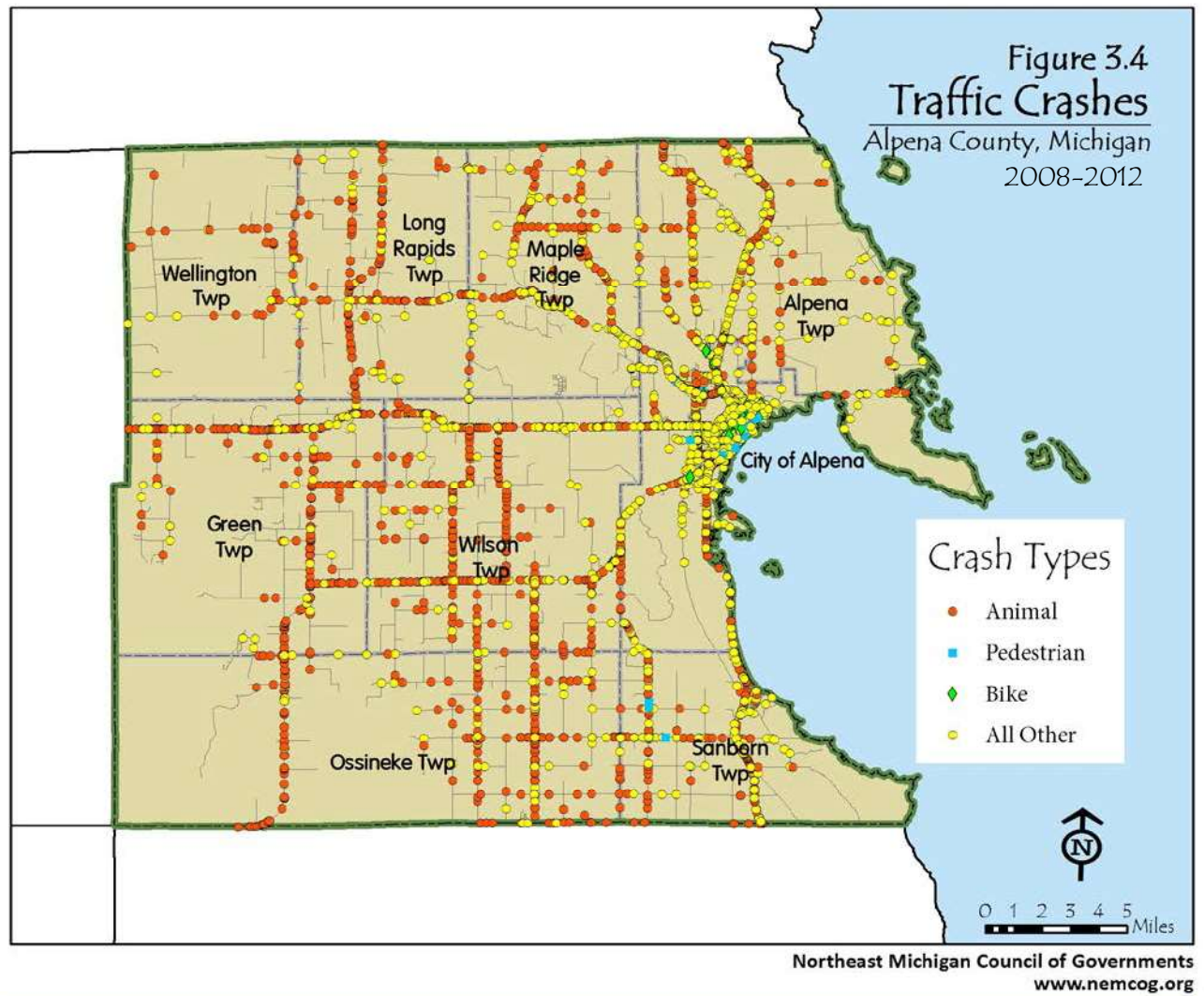


Figure 3.4b

Summary Crash Statistics			
Dates: 1/1/2008 to 12/31/2012			
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRASHES: 4433			
CRASHES BY DAY OF WEEK			
Sunday	=	484	10.9%
Monday	=	653	14.7%
Tuesday	=	611	13.8%
Wednesday	=	621	14.0%
Thursday	=	691	15.6%
Friday	=	768	17.3%
Saturday	=	605	13.6%
CRASHES BY SURFACE CONDITION			
Dry	=	2752	62.1%
Wet	=	605	13.6%
Icy	=	378	8.5%
Snowy	=	424	9.6%
Muddy	=	12	0.3%
Slushy	=	68	1.5%
Debris	=	2	0.0%
Other	=	169	3.8%
Uncoded	=	23	0.5%
CRASHES BY TIME OF DAY			
MDNT-01AM	=	84	1.9%
01AM-02AM	=	71	1.6%
02AM-03AM	=	54	1.2%
03AM-04AM	=	59	1.3%
04AM-05AM	=	81	1.8%
05AM-06AM	=	154	3.5%
06AM-07AM	=	231	5.2%
07AM-08AM	=	274	6.2%
08AM-09AM	=	182	4.1%
09AM-10AM	=	157	3.5%
10AM-11AM	=	168	3.8%
11AM-NOON	=	205	4.6%
NOON-01PM	=	210	4.7%
01PM-02PM	=	217	4.9%
02PM-03PM	=	234	5.3%
03PM-04PM	=	228	5.1%
04PM-05PM	=	248	5.6%
05PM-06PM	=	255	5.8%
06PM-07PM	=	265	6.0%
07PM-08PM	=	229	5.2%
08PM-09PM	=	196	4.4%
09PM-10PM	=	258	5.8%
10PM-11PM	=	192	4.3%
11PM-MDNT	=	161	3.6%
MDNT	=	0	0.0%
Uncoded	=	0	0.0%
Unknown	=	20	0.5%
CRASHES BY LIGHT CONDITION			
Daylight	=	2270	51.2%
Dawn	=	242	5.5%
Dusk	=	171	3.9%
Dark, Lighted	=	249	5.6%
Dark	=	1384	31.2%
Other	=	110	2.5%
Uncoded	=	7	0.2%
CRASHES BY SEVERITY			
Fatal	=	11	0.2%
A-Type	=	51	1.2%
B-Type	=	185	4.2%
C-Type	=	392	8.8%
PDO	=	3794	85.6%
CRASHES BY INVOLVEMENT			
Drinking	=	178	4.0%
Truck/Bus	=	103	2.3%
Snowmobile	=	6	0.1%
Emergency Vehicle	=	21	0.5%
Off Road Vehicle	=	10	0.2%
Pedestrian	=	23	0.5%
Bicyclist	=	33	0.7%
Farm Equipment	=	5	0.1%
Deer	=	1847	41.7%
School Bus	=	14	0.3%
Motorcycle	=	44	1.0%
Train	=	1	0.0%
Hit and Run	=	173	3.9%
Fleeing Situation	=	3	0.1%
CRASHES BY DRIVER VIOLATION			
Careless or Negligent	=	203	4.6%
Fatal + A-Type	=	7	3.4%
Disobeyed TCD	=	91	2.1%
Fatal + A-Type	=	2	2.2%
Drove Left of Center	=	33	0.7%
Fatal + A-Type	=	6	18.2%
Drove Wrong Way	=	3	0.1%
Fatal + A-Type	=	0	0.0%
Fail to Stop ACD	=	507	11.4%
Fatal + A-Type	=	1	0.2%
Failed to Yield	=	450	10.2%
Fatal + A-Type	=	10	2.2%
Improper Backing	=	169	3.8%
Fatal + A-Type	=	0	0.0%
Improper Lane Use	=	41	0.9%
Fatal + A-Type	=	0	0.0%
Improper Pass	=	31	0.7%
Fatal + A-Type	=	0	0.0%
Improper Signal	=	15	0.3%
Fatal + A-Type	=	0	0.0%
Improper Turn	=	61	1.4%
Fatal + A-Type	=	0	0.0%
Other	=	218	4.9%
Fatal + A-Type	=	9	4.1%
Reckless Driving	=	31	0.7%
Fatal + A-Type	=	4	12.9%
Speed Too Fast	=	512	11.5%
Fatal + A-Type	=	18	3.5%
Speed Too Slow	=	4	0.1%
Fatal + A-Type	=	0	0.0%
Ran Red Light	=	212	4.8%
Fatal + A-Type	=	2	0.0%
CRASHES BY TYPE			
Angle Drive	=	90	2.0%
Angle Straight	=	281	6.3%
Angle Turn	=	89	2.0%
Animal	=	1882	42.5%
Backing	=	164	3.7%
Bicycle	=	31	0.7%
Dual Left-Turn	=	2	0.0%
Dual Right-Turn	=	4	0.1%
Fixed Object	=	606	13.7%
Head-on	=	48	1.1%
Head-on Left-Turn	=	54	1.2%
Hit Parked Vehicle	=	27	0.6%
Hit Train	=	1	0.0%
Misc. Multiple Vehicle	=	70	1.6%
Misc. Single Vehicle	=	96	2.2%
Miscellaneous	=	0	0.0%
Other Drive	=	33	0.7%
Other Object	=	26	0.6%
Overturn	=	127	2.9%
Parking	=	16	0.4%
Pedestrian	=	22	0.5%
Rear End Left Turn	=	46	1.0%
Rear End Right Turn	=	31	0.7%
Rear End Drive	=	35	0.8%
Rear End Straight	=	433	9.8%
Side Swipe Opposite	=	78	1.8%
Side Swipe Same	=	141	3.2%
CRASHES BY MONTH			
January	=	464	10.5%
February	=	374	8.4%
March	=	306	6.9%
April	=	249	5.6%
May	=	267	6.0%
June	=	365	8.2%
July	=	331	7.5%
August	=	254	5.7%
September	=	330	7.4%
October	=	437	9.9%
November	=	582	13.1%
December	=	474	10.7%
Unknown	=	0	0.0%
CRASHES BY WEATHER CONDITION			
Clear	=	2210	49.9%
Cloudy	=	1367	30.8%
Fog	=	38	0.9%
Rain	=	253	5.7%
Sleet/Hail	=	8	0.2%
Snow	=	390	8.8%
Wind	=	8	0.2%
Other	=	158	3.6%
Uncoded	=	1	0.0%

Air Transportation

Regional air service is available at Alpena County Regional Airport (Phelps Collins), which is located in Wilson Township. The facility includes an 11,500 feet of concrete runway and state of the art communications and radar systems. The airport has the ability to accommodate any type of commercial or military aircraft and is a U.S. Customs Port of Entry. The airport is also home to the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) of the Michigan National Guard. Passenger service connecting to Detroit and Minneapolis is provided by Skywest. Charter, airfreight and medivac services, as well as flight training and aircraft rentals are available from a variety of companies.

Table 3.4 shows the amount of freight and number of passengers that have traveled through the Alpena Regional Airport from 2005 to 2012. Passenger service at the airport decreased annually from 2005-2008, then began to increase until 2010 when a sharp increase occurred in 2011 (35 percent) and continued over 2012. Since 2005, the airport has seen an overall passenger increase of nearly 29 percent. Both inbound and outbound freight have decreased overall from 2005. From 2005 to 2012, inbound freight decreased by 48 percent and outbound freight decreased by 42 percent. It is interesting to note that inbound freight has outpaced outbound freight for every year shown. This would indicate that there is an opportunity to ship more freight out of Alpena on the airplanes that have delivered goods to the area.

Table 3.4
Alpena County Regional Airport Usage 2005-2012

Year	Freight (inbound) lbs.	Freight (outbound) lbs.	Passengers (inbound & outbound)
2012	649,524	465,811	25,350
2011	631,246	493,640	22,747
2010	657,722	447,923	16,818
2009	518,930	411,489	14,876
2008	869,140	583,223	14,608
2007	963,505	785,840	15,288
2006	1,132,541	794,543	15,625
2005	1,244,849	806,391	19,666

Source: Alpena County Regional Airport

Rail

Freight rail service is provided by Lake State Rail. It is primarily used to deliver raw materials and products to and from the industrial users in the area. No passenger service is offered. Alpena is the end of the line for the rail line and Lake State Rail has one inbound and one out bound train per day, Monday through Saturday. Although the volume of freight is expected to increase, no extension or expansion of the line is anticipated. The rail bridge over the Thunder Bay River was replaced in July 2002 using a partial loan from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Marine Facilities

The Alpena area has two channels used for Great Lakes shipping. One is for the Port of Alpena and the other is for the Lafarge Corporation. The annual shipping season for Alpena Harbor is from mid March to mid December. Shipping has grown steadily since 1991 and peaked in 1999. In 2009, shipping was at its lowest level since 1991 (**Figure 3.5**). **Table 3.5** shows that cement and concrete are the major commodities being shipped out of Alpena with the major receipts being coal, lignite, crude materials, and nonmetal minerals.

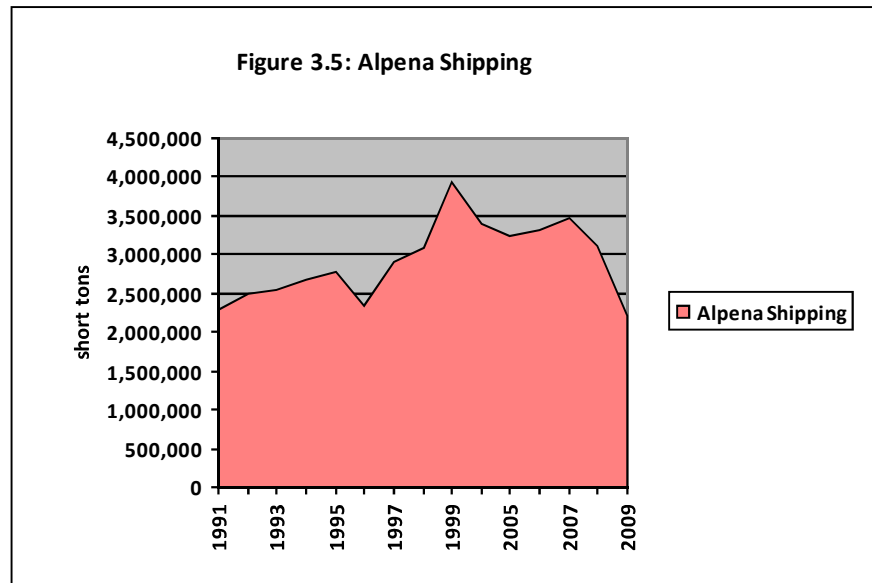


Table 3.5
Alpena Freight Traffic 2009 (short tons)

Commodity	Total	Receipts	Shipments
Coal & Lignite	229,522	229,522	0
Coal Coke	22,859	22,859	0
Petroleum Coke	13,509	13,509	0
Potassic Fertilizer	17,156	17,156	0
Crude Materials (inedible except fuels)	266,161	189,612	76,549
Limestone	124,576	48,027	76,549
Sand and gravel	6,908	6,908	0
Non-metal mineral	134,677	134,677	0
Cement & concrete	1,634,876	0	1,634,876
Fab. Metal Products	15,014	15,014	0
Total Domestic	1,862,976	306,778	1,556,198
Total Foreign	336,121	180,894	155,227
Total	2,199,097	487,672	1,711,425

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterborne commerce of the United States, Waterways and Harbors, Great Lakes

The City of Alpena Marina is a full-service marina and is the only public or private marina in the area. The marina can accommodate both seasonal and transient boats, of a variety of sizes. The marina is sheltered by a breakwall and access to Lake Huron is made via the mouth of the Thunder Bay River.

The City of Alpena Marina contains approximately 177 slips, with full power and water services, launch ramps, courtesy docks, a fuel station, boater restrooms and shower facility, a fish cleaning station, a pump-out station, a marine store, maintenance facilities, and office building. Winter storage and boat launching services are also available. The City of Alpena Marina also participates in the State of Michigan Central Reservation System.

Transit

Thunder Bay Transportation Authority

The Thunder Bay Transportation Authority, a public authority formed under PA 196, provides transportation services for area elderly, handicapped, and special needs passengers. The Authority services Alpena, Alcona and Montmorency Counties as well as Presque Isle County south of M-68, including Rogers City, Onaway and Posen. It operates five days a week and by special contract other times and days and has a fleet of 16 small busses and six vans, of which 20 of the vehicles are equipped with lifts. TBTA has received a \$7.5-million grant to build a new facility which is expected to be completed in 2014. In addition, TBTA has received a \$2.4-million grant to purchase four hybrid buses. FY 2010 saw 119,816 passengers, 35,236 vehicle hours, and 653,796 miles.

The Alpena Dial-A-Ride, now a service of Thunder Bay Transportation Authority, began operations in 1974 and was the eighth small bus system to be started in Michigan. To date, the DART system has logged nearly 7.7 million miles and carried over 4 million passengers. Today the DART system consists of 7 wheelchair lift equipped buses operating 7 days a week on a demand-response basis. DART provides transportation service to all segments of the population within the greater Alpena area, but most notably to the elderly, handicapped, and youth. Funding for the system is derived from State and Federal reimbursements, fares, and a 0.5 mill City property tax levy. The one-half mill tax levy was first instituted in 1976 by a vote of the City electorate and has been renewed every 4 years by an average 3 to 1 vote margin. In 2005, the levy was renewed and increased from 0.5 to 0.65 mills.

Indian Trails, Incorporated

Indian Trails provides statewide public transportation services on a daily basis. The bus route follows US-23 through Alpena County. Buses operate seven days a week, with a southbound run in the morning and northbound run in the afternoon. Buses are wheelchair lift equipped and have space set aside to accommodate wheelchairs. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) subsidizes this transportation service for areas in northern Michigan. This system serves as a daily link between select cities and allows people to travel outside the area to other parts of the state and country.

Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine Services

Demand response public transportation service is provided by private companies operating out of Alpena. A shuttle bus is provided by Holiday Inn between Alpena County Regional Airport and its lodging facility. Passenger van schedules coincide with airline arrivals and departures.

Charter/Rental bus service

Charter bus service is provided by Country Line Tours. The services provided vary by company.

Car rental

Car rental companies are located within the Alpena County Regional Airport and on Chisholm Street. These companies offer local, state and national rentals.

Schools

Alpena Public Schools, which serve the entire county and a small portion of Presque Isle County, are part of the Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District, which includes Alpena County, Montmorency County, and Alcona County. Alpena Public Schools has a student to teacher ratio of 20.7 (up from 18.2 in 2004) has an operating expenditure of \$9,333 per student in 2010/2011. All Alpena Public Schools buildings and facilities are linked by a fiber optic network.

The number of students in the public schools has been declining over the past 30 years. From 1980 to 2000 the total number of public and parochial K-12 students in Alpena County significantly decreased. Enrollment during this period dropped by 26 percent from 7,655 students enrolled in 1980, to 5,639 enrolled in 2000. This trend downward has continued through 2011 to 4,255 students. Four elementary schools have been closed during that time period the most recent of which are Sunset and Long Rapids. Enrollment in the area's private schools also declined between 2004 and 2010 by 23 percent from 235 to 180. Given the current age distribution in Alpena County, the downward trend in school enrollment is likely to continue. The location and enrollment of private schools in the Alpena are shown in **Table 3.7**.

Alternative educational choices are available in the Alpena area. In addition to public elementary, middle, and secondary education, Bingham Arts Academy, a no-cost charter school, opened in 2004. Another education option that has grown in popularity is home schooling. The Alpena Public School District has six elementary schools, one middle school and one secondary school.

Table 3.6
Alpena Public Schools 2009-2011

School	School Type	Location	Enrollment 2009-2010	Enrollment 2010-2011
Besser School	Elementary	375 Wilson St – City of Alpena	442	348
Ella White School	Elementary	201 N. Ripley – City of Alpena	382	402
Hinks School	Elementary	7667 U.S. 23 N. – Alpena Twp.	263	210
Lincoln School	Elementary	309 W. Lake St. City of Alpena	195	153
Sanborn School	Elementary	12170 U.S. 23 S. Sanborn Twp.	286	224
Wilson School	Elementary	4999 Herron Rd. – Wilson Twp.	190	284
Bingham Arts Academy	Charter School	555 S. 5 th Ave. – City of Alpena	142	199
Thunder Bay Junior High	Middle School	3500 West Third Ave – Alpena Township	648	975
Alpena Senior High	Secondary	3303 South Third St. – City of Alpena	1509	1,406
Aces Academy	Alternative	700 Pinecrest Street – City of Alpena	171	173
Pied Piper Opportunity Center	Special Education	444 Wilson Street – City of Alpena	70	34

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics

Table 3.7
Private Schools in Alpena County

School	Location	Enrollment 2009-2010
All Saints School	205 South Ninth St. – City of Alpena	(K-6) 76
Seventh Day Adventist School	4029 US 23 – Alpena Twp.	(K- 7) 9
Immanuel Lutheran School	355 Wilson St. – City of Alpena	(PreK –8) 92

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics

Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District

The Intermediate School District includes Alpena County, Montmorency County, and Alcona County. Known as the Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District, this agency also oversees the operation of the Pied Piper Opportunity Center located at 444 Wilson Street in the City of Alpena. They provide individualized instructional programs in personal care, independent living, language, and physical, vocational, academic and social-emotional education. Pupils are served at the center, at home, in the hospital or wherever needs are best met.

Northeast Michigan Area Vocational Technical Center

Housed by the Alpena High School, the Tech-Ed Center provides a wide range of career and technical programs to students from Alpena, Alcona, Hillman, Atlanta, Posen and Rogers City high schools and to those from the ACES Academy (see below). Adults may also participate in programs that range from studies in agri-science to computer specialists.

ACES Academy (Alternative Choices for Educational Success)

Housed in the former OxBow Elementary School in Alpena, the ACES Academy offers adult and alternative education, as well as community education programs. Its Alternative Education component serves students who have difficulty with the regular program at the Alpena High School. The Adult Education program helps adults earn a high school diploma equivalent (GED).

Alpena Community College

Alpena Community College (ACC) is a two-year institution serving the higher education needs of area residents. Alpena Community College's main campus is located in City of Alpena with a satellite campus in Oscoda (Huron Shores Campus). ACC offers two-year degrees, one-year certificates, and customized training. The college offers Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science and Associate in General Studies Degrees. The Associate in Applied Science degree in Utility Technology is the only Associate Degree program in Michigan designed to specifically prepare students to install business and residential electrical, telephone, and CATV transmission systems. Additionally, the World Center for Concrete Technology has an associate degree concrete technology program and the Blockmakers Workshop program at ACC's campus in Alpena. Alpena Community College is also a member of the Michigan Community College Virtual Learning Collaborative and offers selected courses online to students who have difficulty attending classes on campus. The Madeline Briggs University Center at Alpena Community College houses offices of accredited four-year institutions that are cooperating with ACC to make completion programs for selected bachelors and master's degrees available in Northeast Michigan. These institutions include Ferris State University and Northwood University. In addition, the college will be offering biotech classes in the near future.

Libraries

George N. Fletcher Library

The George N. Fletcher Library is centrally located in downtown Alpena. Established in 1967, it serves Alpena County from a facility that was constructed in 1974 and fully remodeled in 1997. In 2002, the library was expanded into an adjacent building. This addition can be accessed from the second floor of the library via an enclosed walkway with surrounding windows, which afford a view of the adjacent street and plaza area below.

Library services include books, magazines, newspapers, compact discs, audiotapes, films, videocassettes and an art lending library. Inter-library loan services and computers with Internet access are available for public use. Programs are offered for both children and adults. Special services include; the READ (adult literacy program), Job Launch (resume writing, etc.), Books and Brown Bags (lunch hour book review), and the Foundation Grants Center. Authors, musicians, artists, and other specialty speakers are featured frequently. Additionally, the library has informational programs on specific topics, Internet training, and other exhibits. For children, the library offers story hours, a summer book club, and many other individual programs. Visually and physically impaired individuals can be accommodated by the library's special materials circulation.

The range of materials available at the library includes a collection of 72,000 books, 230 magazine subscriptions, 10 newspapers, 1,600 videos, 400 compact discs, 1,300 educational media, and 125 art prints. Special Collections include the Michigan Room where numerous Michigan reference materials (i.e., law, history, and environment) and general materials (i.e., industry, maritime, sports, and wildlife) are available. In addition, genealogy sources with extensive Alpena County records, as well as records from surrounding counties are also available. The Foundation Center Collection includes private & public foundations listings, grants & funding sources, and how-to books.

In 2004, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary & Underwater Preserve established an agreement with the Library to jointly manage the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection, one of the premiere collections on Great Lakes history in the world. The collection includes over 1,000 published works, 65,000 photographs, 56 linear feet of vertical files, 40 feet of periodicals, 60,000 data cards, 100 navigation charts, and 350 shipbuilding plans. Topics of the collection include wooden shipbuilding technology, Great Lakes ports and waterways, docks, cargoes, ships, shipbuilders, machinery and rigging, notable maritime personalities, and shipwrecks. A special feature of the collection is a card index listing most of the ships on the Great Lakes before the turn of the century, a roster of some 15,000 vessels, complete with descriptive data and highlights of the ships' careers and their ultimate losses. In addition to providing the historical basis for the Sanctuary's archeological research, the collection allows Great Lakes historians and Library patrons access to documents and photographs not previously available to the public. Ongoing digitization efforts will provide a comprehensive collection index and make available large portions of the collection online.

The Stephen Fletcher Library

The Stephen Fletcher Library is located on the campus of Alpena Community College. Offering a full range of library services, it is available to the public as well as to students enrolled at the college. On site computers provide library patrons with Internet access. Inter-library loans offer additional resources for research and other educational purposes.

Cultural Facilities

The Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan

The Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan is the only museum in Northeast Michigan accredited by the American Association of Museums. Located in the north part of the City, it is the regional center for art, history and science in northeast Michigan. The Besser Museum offers changing exhibits, lectures, workshops and classes in art, history and science. Besser Museum's galleries feature artworks by painters, photographers, potters and other artists drawn from across the area, state and country. Permanent exhibits include Great Lakes Indian artifacts, lumbering and farming implements, 19th and 20th

century decorative arts, an 1890's Avenue of Shops, and 19th and 20th century arts and graphics. The museum has a planetarium, Foucault pendulum, and eight historic structures on the grounds. Guided tours and planetarium programs are available year round.

On the grounds of the Besser Museum is a group of historic buildings that have been developed into an interactive display. These buildings include the Maltz Exchange Bank, Green School, McKay Cabin and Spratt Church. These buildings, all significant to the area's history, are open to the public during special Museum events, such as, the annual Fall Harvest Day, an observance on the first Saturday in October. A 1928 commercial fishing tug, the Katherine V. also graces the grounds. The museum now offers an opportunity to dig for fossils in their newly constructed fossil park.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary & Underwater Preserve

On October 7, 2000, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary & Underwater Preserve designation was finalized and it became the thirteenth National Marine Sanctuary in a system that extends from American Samoa to Massachusetts. The Thunder Bay NMS/UP protects a nationally significant collection of over 150 shipwrecks, spanning over a century of Great Lakes shipping history. Thunder Bay NMS/UP represents the first Great Lakes sanctuary, the first fresh water sanctuary, the first sanctuary to focus solely on a large collection of underwater cultural resources, and the first sanctuary located entirely in state waters.

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve (TBNMS/UP) encompasses 448 square miles of Northwest Lake Huron. The landward boundary of the sanctuary/preserve is marked by the northern and southern limits of Alpena County, and the sanctuary extends east from the lakeshore to longitude 83 degrees west.

Lake Huron's cold, fresh waters have created a remarkable state of shipwreck preservation that is unmatched by the other sanctuaries' saltwater environments. Thunder Bay's collection of shipwrecks represents the diversity of vessels that navigated the Great Lakes in the 19th and 20th centuries. These sunken ships reflect transitions in vessel architecture and construction while conveying stories of Great Lakes transportation and commerce. Documented shipwrecks are located at depths ranging from 12 feet to as deep as 180 feet. Some of the wrecks remain largely intact while other sites are only remnants of vessels' boilers, engines, rudders, windlasses, and anchors. However, the documented wrecks are only a small section of the total wreckages believed to have occurred.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the State of Michigan have established a partnership to cooperatively manage the sanctuary's underwater cultural resources. A 15-member Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) representing the local community provides recommendations to NOAA and the State of Michigan concerning sanctuary development. The SAC will continue to advise the sanctuary/preserve manager about management issues. Sanctuary activities will focus on resource protection, education, and research. Priority activities include placing mooring buoys at identified shipwrecks, initiating an inventory and documentation of shipwrecks, and developing a maritime heritage education program.

The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center is a 20,000-square-foot facility that highlights the maritime heritage of the Great Lakes and the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay. The facility features a maritime heritage "discovery center" featuring more than 8,000 square feet of exhibits on the Great Lakes, shipwrecks, archaeology, and maritime history.

The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, which also has interpretive shipwreck displays relating to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, has been developed in a refurbished building within the old

Fletcher Paper Mill property along the Thunder Bay River. The exhibits feature a life-size hand-built replica of a portion of a 1800s Great Lakes schooner, a recreation of a shipwreck site, artifact lab, and hundreds of interpretive learning opportunities.

Alpena Civic Theatre

Alpena Civic Theatre (ACT) produces quality entertainment using community volunteers. Regularly scheduled shows provide cultural experiences in all phases of theater including musicals, comedy and drama. Year round productions provide entertaining and educational opportunities for area residents.

Thunder Bay Theatre

Thunder Bay Theatre (TBT) provides cultural enrichment to the Alpena area as the only live professional theater in northern Michigan. Year round productions offer a wide range of educational entertainment to residents of all ages. Professional actors often visit area schools and conduct mini-workshops with school children.

Thunder Bay Civic Arts Center

Thunder Bay Civic Arts Center offers drama classes for area young people. These classes culminate in a special production in the spring of each year.

Art in the Loft

Art in the Loft is an arts center and gallery located on the top floor of the Center Building in downtown Alpena. Its mission is to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Michigan through an arts center that offers learning opportunities and increases public participation in the arts. Art in the Loft hosts special events, activities, exhibits and throughout the year.

Thunder Bay Arts Council and Gallery

The mission of Thunder Bay Arts Council is to promote, support, and preserve the arts through performance, education, and leadership. The Thunder Bay Arts Council has been in continuous service to the community of Alpena and Northeast Michigan for 41 years and hosts over twenty visual artists who display and sell their art work in the TBAC Gallery at 127 W. Chisholm Street. Artists exhibit their work on a rotating seasonal basis. TBAC also hosts a series of Artists In- Residence Exhibits and Receptions on a regular basis. The Gallery features a YouthCore Exhibit of local student artists from Alpena schools.

A-Plex

The APlex offers a variety of features and services including four full tennis courts, a full indoor gymnasium, exercise rooms, conference rooms, banquet facilities, four outdoor volleyball courts and karate lessons. The Interlude Ballroom is available for parties, weddings or conferences.

Media

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

Residents of Alpena County receive full television coverage; both network and cable stations. One station (WBKB-TV) has an office located in the county. Cable television service is available throughout much of Alpena County by "Charter" Cable company. The more rural portions of the county cannot receive cable

service. A wide array of radio stations can be received throughout Alpena County. Radio stations located in the County include WATZ-AM/FM, WHSB-FM/Bay 108 and WQLB/WKJZ (B-Rock).

Medical Facilities

Alpena Regional Medical Center is a 146-bed acute care facility located in the City of Alpena. Alpena Regional Medical Center is the federally-designated rural Regional Referral Center for northeast Michigan and home to the Northeast Michigan Cancer Center which is affiliated with the University of Michigan. The hospital has an emergency department equipped to provide services for minor injuries and illness to trauma. Air and ambulance service is available for patients requiring care not available locally. There are two medical/surgical units that can provide care for adult and pediatric patients. Alpena Regional Medical Center and other local medical providers also offer a wide variety of specialized medical services. Examples include a hyperbaric chamber, kidney dialysis, specialized cancer treatments, behavioral treatment, and treatments for sleep disorders, as well as other services. Alpena Regional Medical Center has a staff of nearly 100 physicians, over 900 employees, and 300 volunteers.

District Health Department #4 service area includes Alpena, Cheboygan Montmorency and Presque Isle Counties. Services are provided through four major divisions; Personal Health Services; Home Health Services; Environmental Health Services and Health Education. Health Department offices are located in Alpena, Cheboygan, Atlanta and Rogers City.

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health provides support services to developmentally disabled persons as well as persons needing mental health services. The Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health service area covers Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, and Presque Isle Counties. In addition, a VA clinic is located near downtown Alpena which provides primary care to veterans.

Public Safety

The Alpena County Sheriff's Department services those areas of the county which do not have municipal police departments. The Sheriff's Department employs 15 certified deputies (including the Sheriff, Undersheriff, and bailiffs) and 11 corrections officers. The Alpena County Jail has a capacity of 68 beds.

In 2012, the City of Alpena had 17 full-time officers to service its residents. Michigan State Police post #74 is located in the City of Alpena, and works with these agencies in patrolling the major roads within the county. As of 2013, the State Police post No. 74 employs 21 sworn officers including four sergeants (3 of which also patrol), 2 detectives/sergeants, 1 lieutenant, and 14 troopers. The next closest State Police posts are located in Gaylord and Lincoln.

Two Department of Natural Resource Conservation Officers are assigned and living in Alpena County. They are certified law enforcement officers tasked, primarily, with conservation law enforcement. However, they do assist law enforcement agencies within the county on other law enforcement matters and/or investigations.

All fire departments in Alpena County have mutual aid agreements. The County has an "all encompassing:" mutual aid agreement with the adjoining counties of Iosco, Alcona, and Oscoda that

Table 3.8
Crime in Alpena County

	2000	2009	2010
Murder	0	2	2
Rape	13	22	13
Robbery	9	7	2
Aggravated Assault	51	53	31
Burglary	141	152	144
Larceny	536	456	524
Motor Vehicle Theft	27	15	20
Arson	9	8	5

Source: Uniform Crime Report

provides for assistance outside the realm of normal emergency services. There are ten fire stations in the county, which are staffed with full time and volunteer firefighters. There are 20 pumpers, 12 tankers, eight rescue units, six airport special units, four boats and other miscellaneous equipment. The fire services are also the medical first responders for the City of Alpena, providing four Advanced Life Support (ALS) staffed and equipped ambulances.

The Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) located at the Alpena Regional Airport has a full time fire department with complete fire, rescue and HAZMAT (hazardous materials) capabilities. The CRTC also has self-contained facilities large enough to house 3,000 persons, up to a maximum of 6,000 persons under emergency conditions.

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team (HUNT) is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force serving the northeast Michigan counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle. The six-person team is comprised of officers from the Michigan State Police (2), the City of Alpena (1), Alpena County (1), Alcona County (1), and Presque Isle County (1), and is dedicated to reducing the trafficking and availability of narcotics in the community, as well as the associated violent crime that often accompanies narcotics activity. The team was formed in 1990, and has since arrested hundreds of criminals, and removed over 4 million dollars worth of drugs from area communities. The vast majority of the team's work is done in Alpena County, specifically in the City of Alpena.

County Facilities

The County of Alpena owns 56 buildings throughout the county, which have an accumulative replacement value of approximately 28.5 million dollars. **Table 3.9** is a complete listing of the county-owned buildings, their insurable replacement value and acquisition cost.

Probably the most prominent and well-known building owned by the county is the Alpena County Courthouse. The 18,000 square foot building is located at 720 West Chisholm, and occupies one city block. The building houses offices of the County Clerk, Register of Deeds, Equalization, County Treasurer, Circuit Court, Commissioners Offices, County Coordinator, and MIS director.

Opened in 1937, the County Courthouse underwent extensive renovations in 2001 which included new hot water boilers, air handling equipment, central air, a new roof membrane, new carpet, furniture and some new office space. Although much of the building has been remodeled, considerable work is still needed to bring the building up to date and compliant with current ADA guidelines. A proposed addition to the building would add an elevator, and barrier free restrooms at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

Across the street from the County Courthouse is the Alpena County Annex Building located at 719 West Chisholm. The facility was originally built as a Boys and Girls Club in the middle 1960's. The 18,000 square foot building houses Probate Court, Family Division Court, the Commissioners' meeting room, Friend of the Court, District Court, Prosecuting Attorney and some miscellaneous offices.

Recent renovations to the building include new entry doors, new membrane on the roof, new carpeting, and some new furniture. A new air conditioner has been installed and, as well as new heating controls. Future needs for this building include carpet, additional furniture, improved heating to the Friend of the Court, replacement of the steam boiler with standby hot water boilers, improved heat control and interior painting.

The Department of Corrections and “911” Services are located at 703 West Chisholm. This building is approximately 6,200 square feet and was constructed in the mid-1970’s as a Girls’ Club. The structure was originally intended to be connected with the County Annex building. The county took possession of the building in 1999 and in 2001 the Department of Correction was moved into the building and in March of 2002 “911” moved into the building. With the exception of some exterior finishes, the building is essentially new and complete.

Alpena County Sheriff Department and County Jail are located at 320 Johnson Street. The building is approximately 18,500 square feet. Originally constructed in 1957, additions to the building were completed in 1989-1990. The County Jail is in considerable disrepair and requires continual maintenance. The building is not adequate for its current use and construction professionals have determined that the building cannot be economically altered or renovated to meet the future needs of the county. If a new facility is not constructed, the county may be forced to pay other counties to house inmates in other jails.

The Family Independence Agency (FIA) building is located at 711 West Chisholm Street. The building is a 19,800 square foot single level office building, which was completed and opened in 1991. The building was constructed using bond money and is leased to the State of Michigan. The FIA building is still relatively new and due to that fact has fewer maintenance problems than other buildings in the county inventory. Short-range plans are for new carpet; long-range plans include establishing a fund for a roof replacement.

Table 3.9
Alpena County Building Inventory

Building	Replacement Value	Acquisition Cost
Court House -721 W. Chisholm	\$3,136,500	\$838,300
County Jail -320 Johnson	\$2,761,824	\$1,306,629
County Annex -719 Chisholm	\$3,219,840	\$1,375,737
Plaza Pool – 3303 Third St.	\$2,319,668	\$576,720
Fairground Residence – 625 11 th	\$68,500	\$42,400
Fairground Office	\$98,350	\$34,886
Fairground Truck Barn	\$47,424	\$18,495
Fairground Maint/rental	\$757,868	\$335,882
Fairground MSU Extension – 603 11 th	\$102,700	\$113,052
Fairground Grandstand	\$1,242,228	\$111,800
Fairground Animal Control	\$55,640	\$10,573
Fairground Draft Horse	\$76,400	\$29,811
Fairground Cattle Barn	\$193,960	\$137,711
Fairground Horse Barn	\$149,760	\$58,406
Fairground Restroom West	\$34,881	\$8,385
Fairground Swine Barn	\$160,160	\$14,414
Fairground Sheep Barn	\$97,178	\$51,059
Fairground Rabbit/Poultry	\$24,731	\$19,780
Fairground Restroom East	\$54,964	\$41,223
Fairground New Poultry	\$21,325	\$19,500
Fairground Ticket Office	\$7,200	\$600
Fairground Dugouts	\$6,300	\$1,560
MDOT – 1540 Airport	\$691,600	\$650,000
Airport Aviation North	\$618,800	\$241,332
Airport Radar	\$15,000	\$4,200
Airport Terminal	\$650,000	\$745,800
Airport Maintenance	\$182,925	\$71,340
Airport Welch Hanger	\$194,792	\$75,968
Airport Runway Lighting	\$1,025,000	\$800,000
Long Lake Residence	\$27,800	\$6,394
Long Lake Store	\$11,900	\$2,737

Long Lake Restroom	\$58,708	\$11,741
Long Lake Shower	\$65,728	\$15,117
Long Lake Pavilions	\$17,500	\$4,025
Long Lake Storage	\$6,300	\$1,449
Northern Lights Arena	\$7,000,000	\$6,000,000
Beaver Lake Residence	\$70,000	\$70,000
Beaver Lake Garage	\$7,100	\$1,633
Beaver Lake Office	\$8,200	\$7,980
Beaver Lake Shower	\$59,050	\$40,744
Beaver Lake Game Room	\$9,900	\$6,830
Beaver Lake Pavilion	\$8,900	\$4,984
Beaver Lake Storage	\$6,200	\$1,426
Sunken Lake Residence	\$94,078	\$21,638
Sunken Lake Restroom	\$58,924	\$32,998
Sunken Lake Pavilion	\$7,100	\$3,976
Sunken Lake Storage	\$6,200	\$3,472
Soil Conservation	\$82,992	\$46,475
FIA	\$1,907,630	\$1,488,908
Adult Probation	\$450,000	\$260,000
Senior Center	\$685,000	\$800,000
Sunken Lake Covered Bridge	\$65,000	\$45,000
Boys & Girls Club	\$550,000	\$407,000
Airport Equipment Storage	\$160,000	\$160,000
Source: Alpena County		

Significant recreation properties owned by Alpena County include the Fairgrounds, the Plaza Pool and tennis courts, Northern Lights Arena, Beaver Lake Park/Campground, Long Lake Park/Campground, Sunken Lake Park/Campground and Manning Hill Park. Detailed information on Alpena County recreational facilities can be found in the Alpena County Recreation Plan.

Human Service Agencies Serving Alpena County

ALPENA AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

501 River Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-3585
<http://www.alpenaseniors.com/>

ALPENA VOLUNTEER CENTER*

665 Johnson
Alpena MI 49707
989-358-7271
<http://www.alpenacc.edu/services/volunteer/>

ALPENA YOUTH CENTER

511 Long Rapids Plaza
Alpena MI 49707
989-354-3213

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION*

100 Woods Circle
Alpena MI 49707
989-356-4087

BOY SCOUTS (LAKE HURON COUNCIL)

3394 M-32 West
Alpena MI 49707
989-354-3423

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ALPENA* BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS

601 River
Alpena MI 49707

CATHOLIC HUMAN SERVICES*

154 South Ripley Boulevard
Alpena MI 49707
989-356-6385

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES*

1044 US 23 North, PO Box 516
Alpena MI 49707
989-356-4567
<http://www.cfsnemi.org/>

CRISIS PREVENTION PROGRAM

2375 Gordon Rd
Alpena, MI 49707
989-471-3277

D.A.R.E.

Alpena City Police Department
501 West Chisholm
Alpena MI 49707
989-356-3371

**DEPRESSIVE & MANIC DEPRESSIVE
ASSOCIATION***

110 Water, PO Box 715
Alpena MI 49707
354-4470

DEVELOPMENTALLYCHALLENGED ADVOCACY

148 Colorado Road
Alpena MI 49707
989-354-8873

GRASP

Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing
Partners in Prevention Office
3022 US 23 S
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-2880
www.grasphelp.org

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

400 W Chisholm St
Alpena, MI 49707
989-354-2141
www.habitat.org

**HOSPICE OF MICHIGAN – NORTHEASTERN
REGION**

112 West Chisholm
Alpena MI 49707
354-5258

MSU EXTENSION

603 S. 11th Ave.
Alpena MI 49707
989-354-9870
http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?pageset_id=26770

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

123 N Second Ave, Ste 4
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-9111

**NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH**

400 Johnson Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-2161

**NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP, INC.***

Alpena MI 49707
989-356-2880

**NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY SERVICE
AGENCY**

2375 Gordon Rd
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-3474
www.nemsca.org

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SERVICES**

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www.michigan.gov/dhs

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Lansing MI 48912
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Alexandria VA 22314-2045
703-836-7100
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*Agency covers Alpena, Alcona & Montmorency
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Natural Resources & Agriculture

Without a doubt, northern Michigan's greatest attractions for residents and visitors are the area's natural environment and rural character. Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, golfing, snowmobiling, boating and a multitude of other outdoor activities attract people from urban areas of Michigan and from other states as well. The area's natural beauty is one factor that convinces many long time visitors to move to the area upon retirement. Because of the abundant outdoor recreation opportunities, the natural environment is a major economic base and income generator.

At the same time, the environment places constraints upon human activities. Certain critical and sensitive parts of the natural landscape cannot be altered without creating problems that are not easily corrected. Increased flooding and soil erosion due to the indiscriminate filling of wetlands and clearing of land are just two examples. Therefore, it is essential that any future development respect the different characteristics of the natural environment. This is important in preserving the attractiveness of this part of the State, preventing potential problems related to undue alteration of the land, and in maximizing the economic benefits of the tourist and recreation industry. An analysis of Alpena County's physical environment can assist government officials in planning for future land uses.

Climate

Temperature data from the Midwest Regional Climate Center has indicated that the climate along the immediate Lake Huron shore is semi-marine in nature and lacks many of the temperature extremes found only a few miles inland. Although Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay River are usually free of ice by the first week of April, water temperatures remain low enough to produce cool breezes reducing the maximum daily temperatures during the spring and summer. Summer temperatures as high as 106 °F (July 13, 1936) have been recorded, but are very unusual. Sub-zero temperatures have been recorded as early as November 15th and as late as April 1st. The lowest recorded temperature was -37 °F on February 17, 1979. In a typical year there will be seven days with temperatures above 90 °F and 17 days with temperatures below 0 °F. On average, January is the coldest month with a mean temperature of 17.8 °F and July is the warmest with a mean temperature of 66.7 °F (**Table 4.1**).

Summer months are usually mild with considerable sunshine. The average annual total precipitation for the county is 28.4 inches. Most of the summer precipitation consists of rain and thunderstorms which normally occur during the months of June, July and August. Thunderstorms will occur on an average of 24 days each year. Michigan is located on the northeast fringe of the Midwest tornado belt. The lower frequency of tornadoes occurring in Michigan may be, in part, the result of the colder water of Lake Michigan during the spring and early summer months, a prime period of tornado activity. During 1951-2011, Michigan has experienced 968 tornadoes. From 1961-2011, 14 tornadoes occurred within Alpena County. There is an average of one hailstorm per summer. The summer growing season is an average of 156 days, while the average date of the first fall frost is October 4th.

Winter months are generally cloudy with frequent light snow flurries. Nearly all of the precipitation in winter is in the form of sleet and snow, usually accumulating in sufficient amounts to form a ground cover for summer grasses and winter grains. The 1971-2010 average seasonal snowfall was 85.3 inches.

The following snowfall extremes recorded for this area are:

- Greatest observation-day total, 18.2 inches, recorded February 22, 1922.
- Greatest monthly total, 49.4 inches, recorded March 1926
- Greatest seasonal total, 166.3 inches, recorded during 1970-71
- Least seasonal total, 26.9 inches, recorded during 1936-37
- Greatest snow depth, 42 inches, recorded February 22, 1924

Table 4.1
Alpena County Average Temperature and Precipitation 1971-2010

	Average Temperature			Average Precipitation	Average Snowfall
Period	Max	Min	Mean	Mean	Mean
January	27.3	11.5	19.4	1.63	22.6
February	29.8	11.4	20.6	1.31	17.2
March	38.7	19.1	28.9	1.84	12.7
April	52.8	31.0	41.9	2.39	6.3
May	65.0	40.5	52.7	2.66	0.2
June	75.0	49.7	62.4	2.62	0.0
July	79.9	55.3	67.6	3.03	0.0
August	77.5	53.7	65.6	3.23	0.0
September	69.4	46.5	57.9	2.92	0.0
October	56.4	36.4	46.4	2.61	0.3
November	43.5	28.3	35.9	2.09	7.4
December	32.1	18.4	25.3	1.72	18.6
Annual	54.0	33.5	43.7	28.04	85.3

Source: NOAA: National Weather Service Forecast Office – Gaylord, MI

For most of the county runoff from the spring thaw poses little danger of flooding. However, over the past 45 years, parts of Alpena County have transitioned from farm and forest to subdivisions, apartments, offices, streets and parking lots. The change from pervious to impervious surfaces has created some flooding and stormwater runoff problems. Buildings and roads have been built where stormwater once flowed, and critical parts of the natural drainage system have been replaced with a haphazard man-made system. As witnessed in the spring of 1998, the combination of a rapid snowmelt and heavy rains can overwhelm parts of the current drainage system and there are areas in the county that can experience a major flood event.

Geology

Starting some two million years ago, in the Pleistocene era, continental glaciers formed in the Hudson Bay area. Several times during this era the massive sheets of ice built up and inched their way south across what is today Michigan. The massive ice sheets, more than one mile thick, advanced in a southerly direction, bulldozing their way across the landscape. The glacier pushed material in front of it, incorporated rocks and soil into the debris laden ice; and scraped, ground and broke apart the sedimentary bedrock of the Michigan Basin.

Each advance and retreat of the continental glaciers took tens of thousands of years. This reoccurring process shaped and reshaped the land; first obliterating and then creating hills, valleys, rivers and lakes, swamps and marshes. The last glacial period, called the Wisconsin Era, created the modern landscape. The glacier left behind boulders, rocks, cobble, sand, gravel, silt, clay and loam. In some

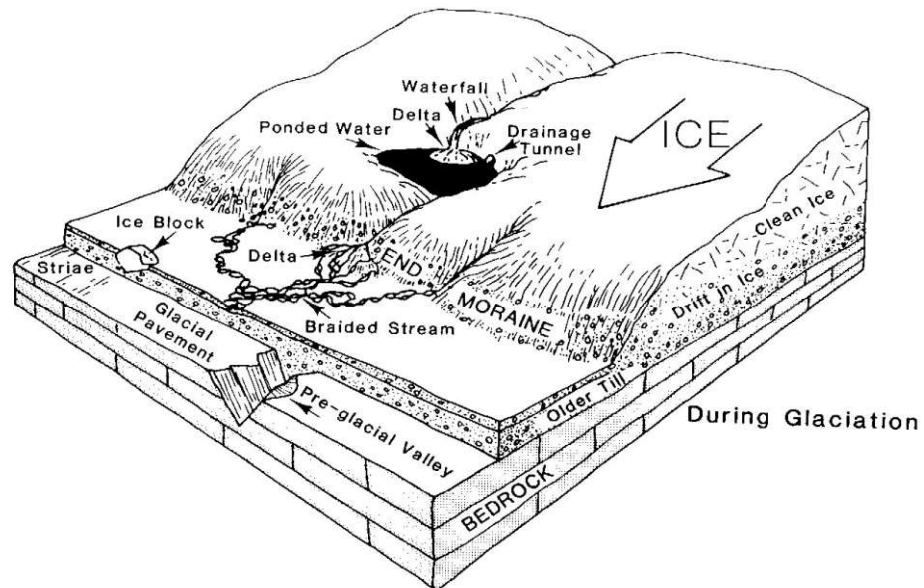
areas the material was deposited in unsorted masses called till plains, ground moraines and end moraines. Water flowing from the melting glaciers also sorted materials, creating outwash channels, sand deltas, kames and eskers. Fine materials, captured in the fast moving glacial meltwater, settled to the bottom of expansive glacial lakes creating lacustrine clay and silt plains.

Figure 4.1 from the “Glacial Lakes Around Michigan” by Kell and Farrand, shows the formation of glacial landforms. Some of the landforms found in Alpena County are the ground moraines, eskers, deltas and drumlins. Moraines formed as material picked up by the glacial ice was deposited in large uniform areas. Eskers are drainage tunnels that formed under the ice that later filled with sediment. Deltas were formed where glacial streams emptied into lakes and ponds. Drumlins are spoon-shaped hills composed of glacial till. According to the map prepared by W. A. Burgess and D. F. Eschman (**Figure 4.2**), titled “Landform Units in Northeastern Lower Michigan,” Alpena County is divided into several distinct landform units. The two predominant land form types in the county are the Fletcher Pond Channeled Uplands located in the southwestern quarter and the Devils Lake Karst Topography located in the northeastern quarter. Several eskers bisect the midsection of the county and drumlin fields can be found in the northeast and north central areas of the county. In the southern portion of the county, along the Lake Huron shoreline and extending several miles inland, are the Ossineke Beach ridges. This beach ridge and swale complex was formed as glacial lake waters receded and left behind a series of ridges and depressions that parallel the shoreline.

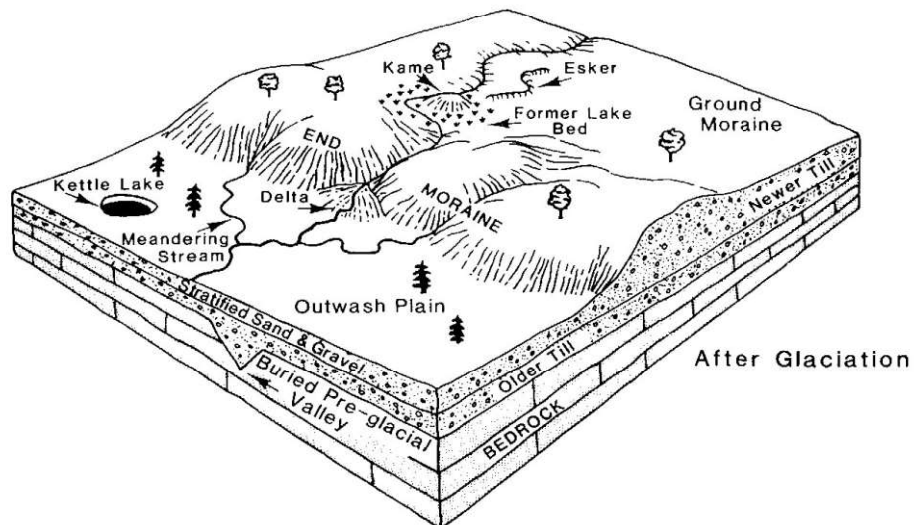
Alpena County is located on the northeastern flank of the Michigan Basin, a depressional bedrock feature centered in Gratiot County. The general dip in this area is toward the center of the basin at less than one degree, or 70 feet per mile. The basin consists of over 5,000 feet of sedimentary rocks. These sediments were deposited as ancient seas slowly entered and ebbed from the basin some 400 million years ago. Sand, silt and clays were carried to the seas. Marine animals took lime from the sea water to make their shells and build reefs. When they died, their shells were added to the lime mud. At times life was scarce and little sediment was brought from the land. The climate was arid and chemical actions caused the deposition of calcium carbonate, dolomite, salt, gypsum and anhydrite. As layer upon layer of sediments accumulated, they squeezed together and eventually compacted to solid rock; sandstone from the sands; shale's from the silt; limestone and dolomites from the limy muds; as well as mixtures of these various sediments. Thus, the bedrock of Alpena County formed.

The bedrock formations underlying the northern part of Alpena County belong to the Traverse Group of middle Devonian age. The Traverse Group consists primarily of limestone formations with some shale beds. The easily soluble limestone formations of the Traverse outcrop are only thinly veiled by glacial drift throughout the area. Because of this and other hydrogeologic factors, the northern portion of Alpena County contains known and suspected karst areas. Karst is defined as a type of topography that is formed over limestone, dolomite, or gypsum by dissolving or solution. Karst is characterized by closed depressions or sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage. Overlying the Traverse Group and subcropping the central and southern portions of the county is the Antrim shale formation of late Devonian age.

Figure 4.1 Glacial Landforms

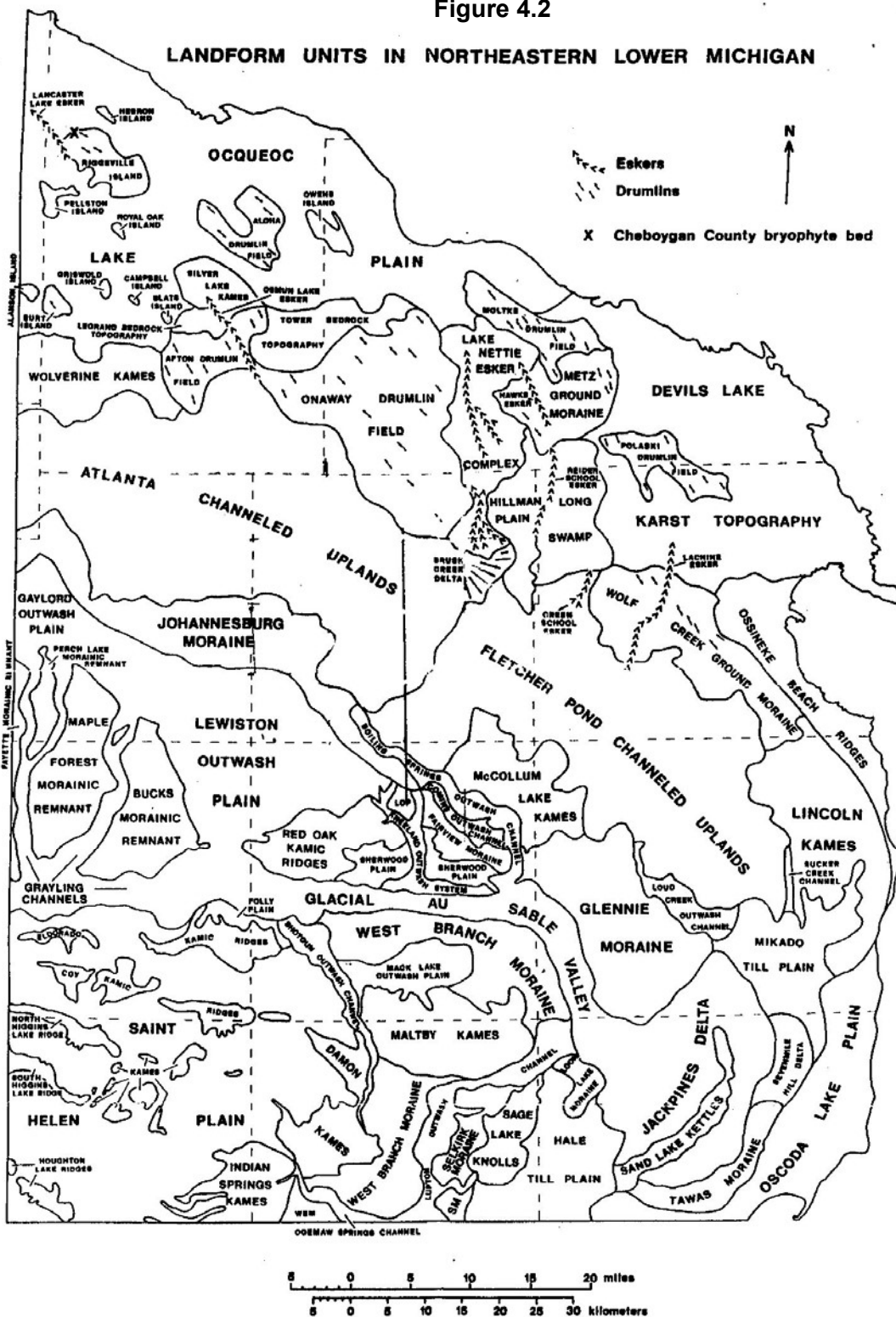


Features originating at a glacier front occur in a definite order.



Landforms of continental glaciation are unmistakable.

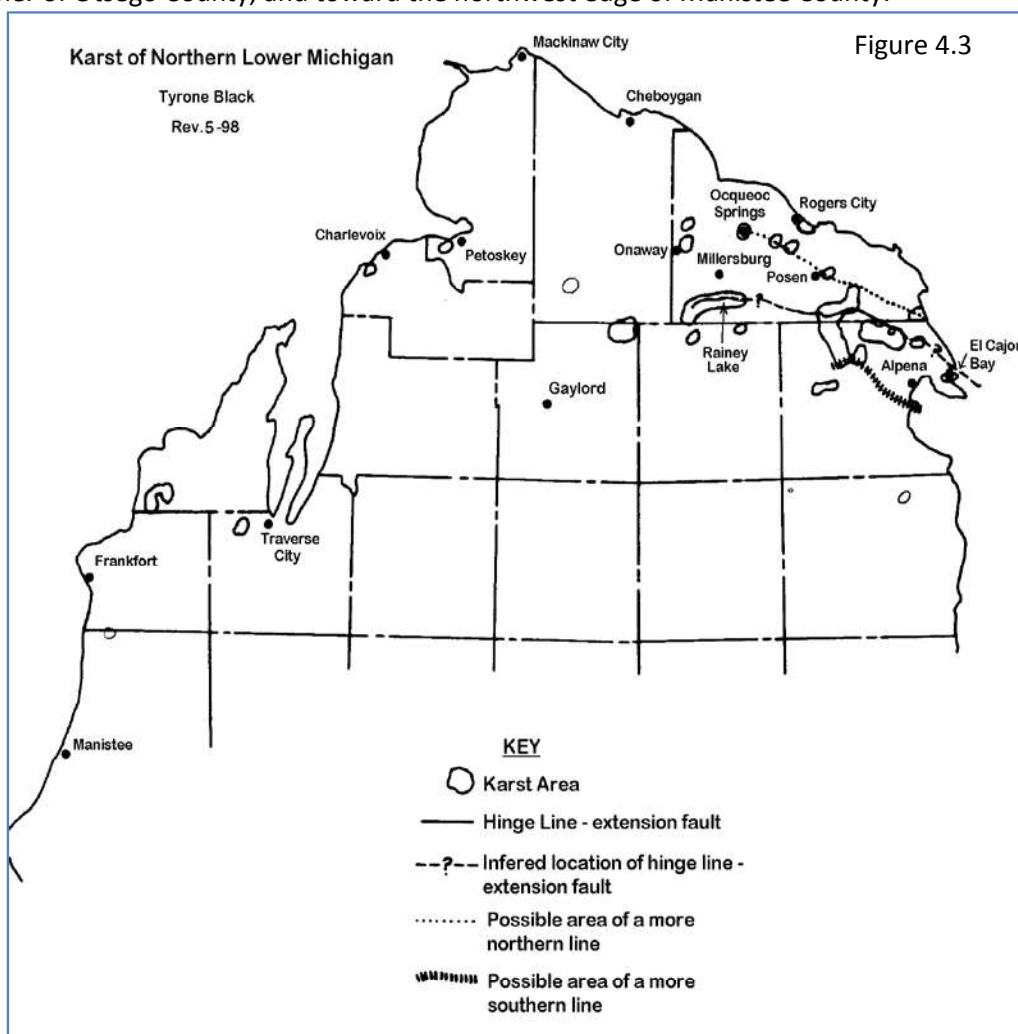
Figure 4.2



Arguably, the most interesting geologic feature of Alpena County is the karst topography. Sinkholes are perhaps the most dramatic karst features. Sinkholes and sinkhole lakes are found throughout the northeast part of the county. New sinkholes are constantly being formed, taking several decades to appear on the surface. Where underlying rock dissolves more readily than surface rock, underground cavities form. As erosion continues, the roof rock is weakened and eventually collapses into the cavity forming a steep sided collapsed sink. Sinkholes in Alpena County range in size from less than ten feet to more than 1,300 feet in diameter.

The following discussion on sinkholes is from a narrative by Tyrone J. Black, Geologist for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, titled "How and Why of Michigan Sinkholes".

"Geologists believe that a hinge-line fault (Map 4.3), serving as a pathway for subterranean drainage, interconnects several sinkholes and sinkhole controlled lakes before emptying into Lake Huron at El Cajon Bay. There are sinkholes in the bedrock from near the Mackinac Bridge (where rock formations are in general collapse due to wide-spread solution of evaporates) to the general East-West trend of sinkholes that extend from Misery Bay, near Alpena, to Rainy Lake-Shoepac Lake area, to the north-east corner of Otsego County, and toward the northwest edge of Manistee County.



Only sinkholes "active" since the retreat of the last glacier (approximately 10,000 years ago), have become visible at the surface. The active sinkholes appear to be limited to areas of relatively thin glacial overburden (less than 50 feet with exceptions in Leelanau-Grand Traverse area) or near the

major fault line and vigorous groundwater drainage. The area of the fault line and vigorous drainage is marked by the southern extent of sinkholes described in the paragraph above.

"Stagnate" sinkholes have been excavated by all the major rock quarrying operations in Northern Michigan except for in Alpena and the Rockport Quarry. These are sinkholes that have no evidence of swallowing soils or collapse either within or above their rims since the retreat of the last glacier. They may however be swallowing water as it filters through the plugs of glacial drift and collapsed formation. These plugs all date from the last glacial advance or earlier.

Thick drift and rubble have created a "gravel pack" and plug over most of the sinkholes. This condition prevents the active flow or erosion of rock or soil matrix into any voids that may exist. If there is no movement of soil or rock into lower voids, then there is no slumping or collapse of overburden or the surface. There are two types of areas where active sinkholes are found in northern Michigan, areas of thin overburden and areas with active solution of salts in the subsurface along a fault or fracture line.

The first type of area is located where natural acids from rain or organic decay are carried into the ground by water. As these acids travel through the subsurface, they react with and are neutralized by carbonates and other minerals. Chemical erosion, the solution, of the limestone rubble or bedrock is retarded by a thicker overburden. The glacial drift has a high percentage of carbonates, especially in the clays. Where the drift is thick almost all the acids have been spent before they can penetrate to bedrock.

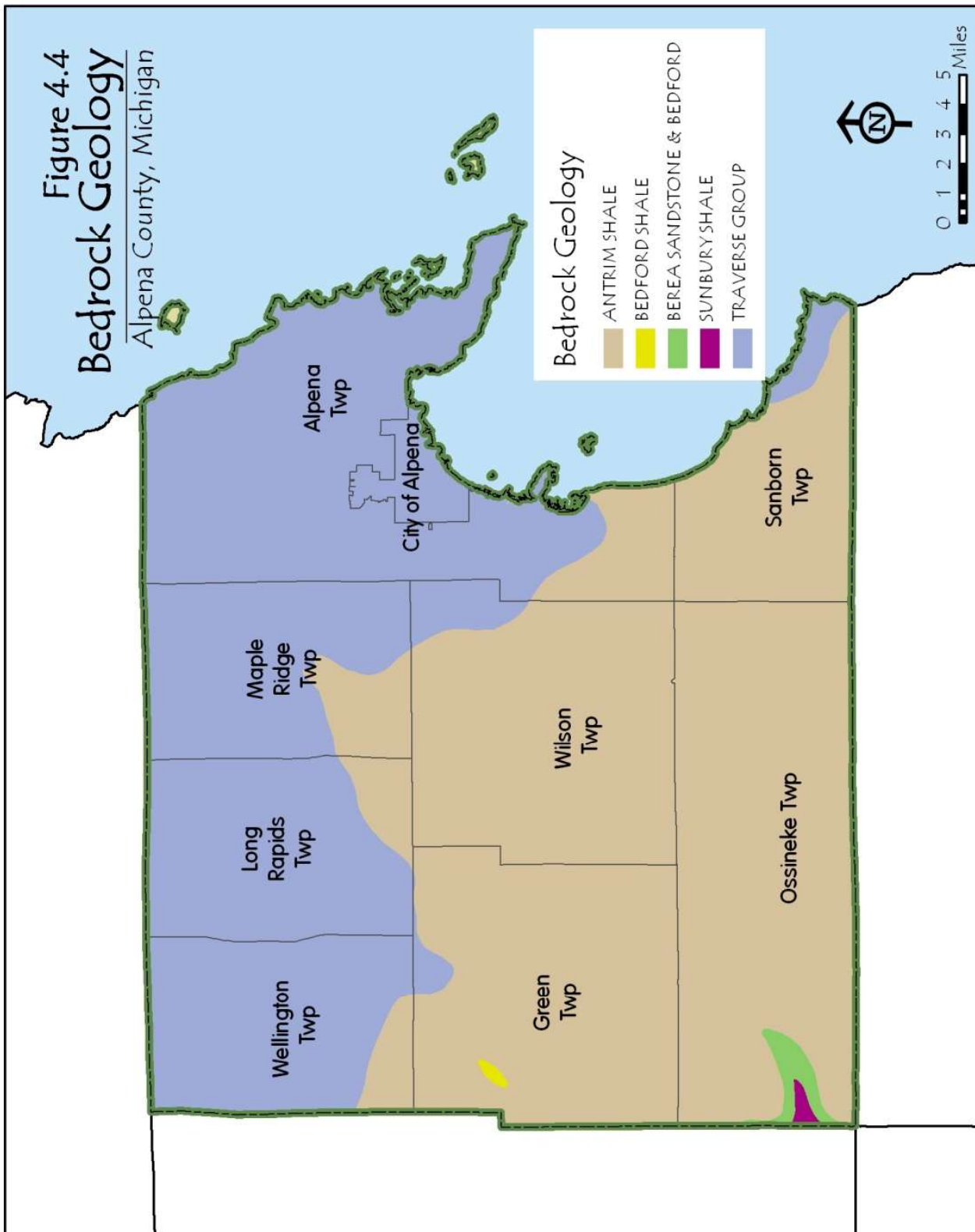
A second type of area where we see active sinkholes is along the edge of places where evaporate minerals (salts) are still present in the Detroit River Group. The Detroit River Group is a bedrock formation made up of a sequence of limestones, shales and evaporate minerals. Natural fissures and faults in the rock have provided a path for ground water to enter the formation and dissolve the evaporates. Once the layers of evaporates are dissolved the formation settles. Some of the settling occurs unevenly and results in localized collapses, sinkholes. These sinks then act as funnels to bring in a greater volume of water focused into the sink area of the formation. This promotes flushing of overburden (materials over the sink) into the cavities developed. This is what is/has happened along the Shoepac Lake-Rainy Lake and Sunken Lake to Misery Bay line of sinkholes and sinkhole lakes.

If the sinkhole has swallowed enough overburden or occurred in the right location, it may capture all or a portion of a stream. The water may then find its way to the bedrock without being acid-buffered by the glacial drift. Active chemical erosion of the carbonate bedrock can then take up where the salt solution left off. But the solution carbonate minerals is a much slower reaction than solution of the salts.

The third area exists toward a cavernous system along a major fault line that in turn drains to Lake Huron. One can easily trace this system through a series of sinkholes and valleys from the Shoepac Lake area to Kelsey Lake and Sunken Lake to Misery Bay by Alpena. There are other faults and probably cavernous systems that branch off of the major system which also act as drains in their areas of influence. This influence is mostly limited to the groundwater at the base of the drift deposits and may not have a significant effect on groundwater flow closer to the surface.

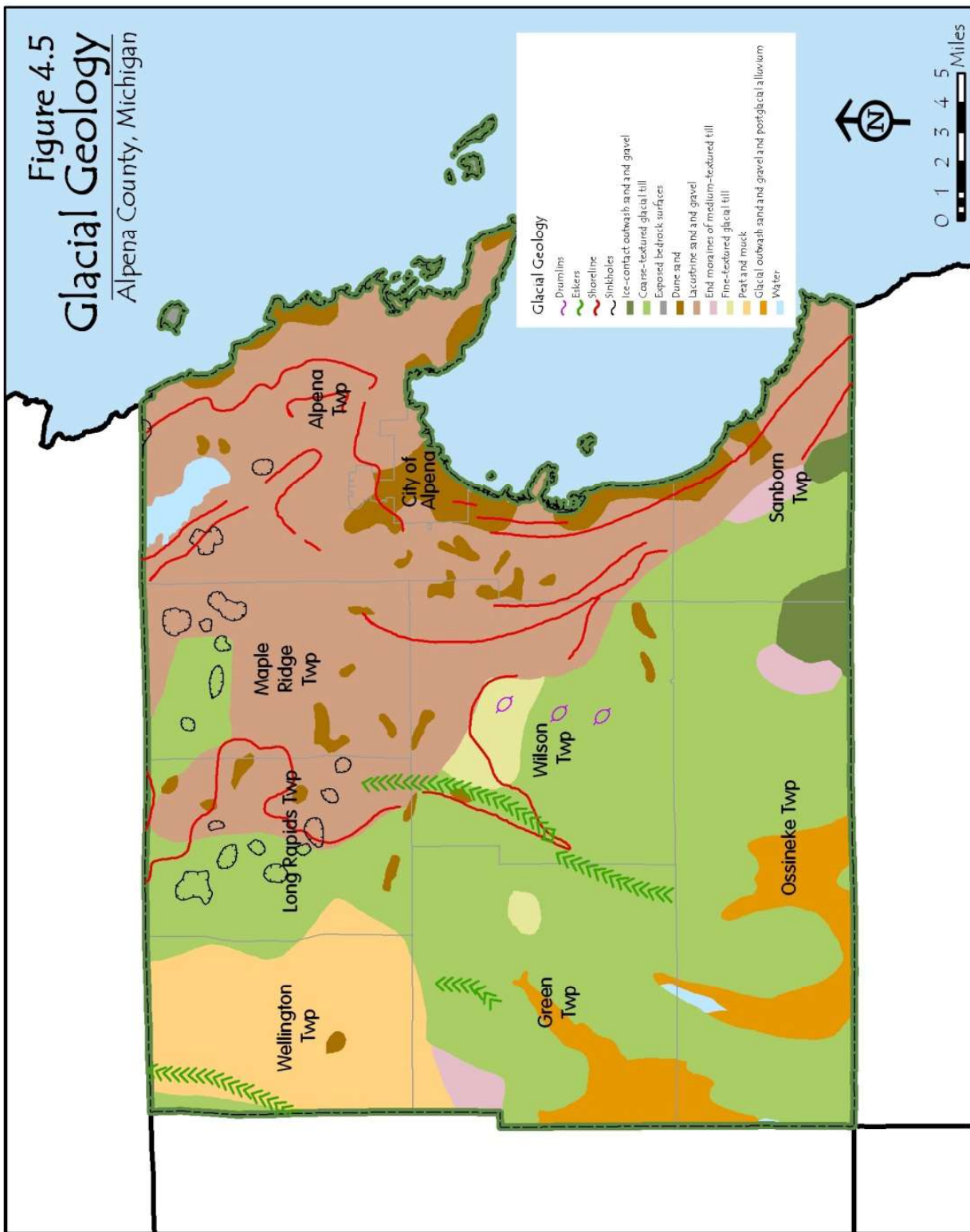
Figure 4.4
Bedrock Geology

Alpena County, Michigan



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
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Figure 4.5
Glacial Geology
 Alpena County, Michigan

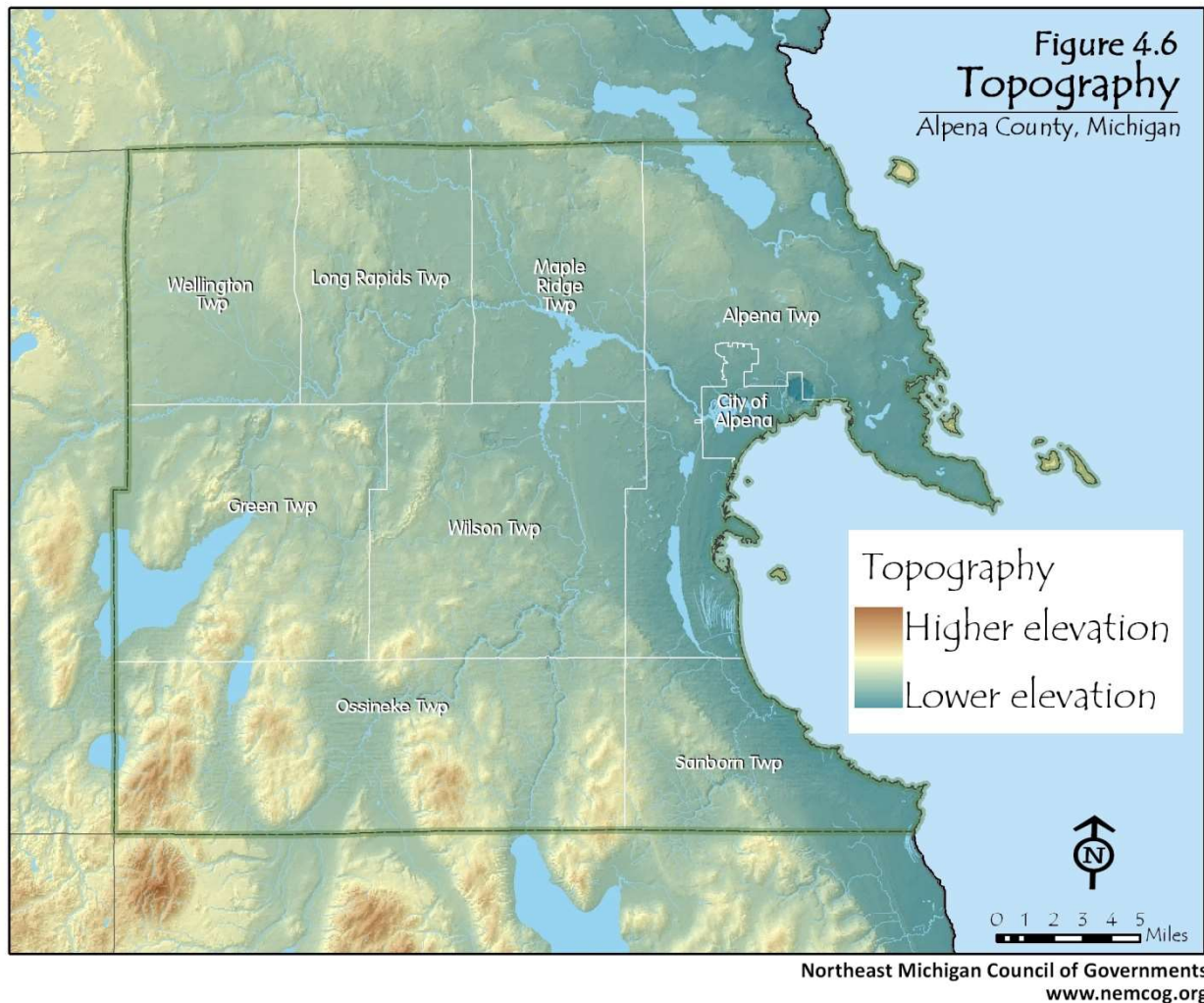


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Topography

The county presents little relief of considerable magnitude as the general elevation ranges from about 580 to 1140 feet above mean sea level, a difference of 560 feet above the level of Lake Huron (**Figure 4.6**). The elevation ranges from a low of about 600 feet above sea level in the City of Alpena area, to a high of 1140 feet above sea level near the southwest corner of the county.

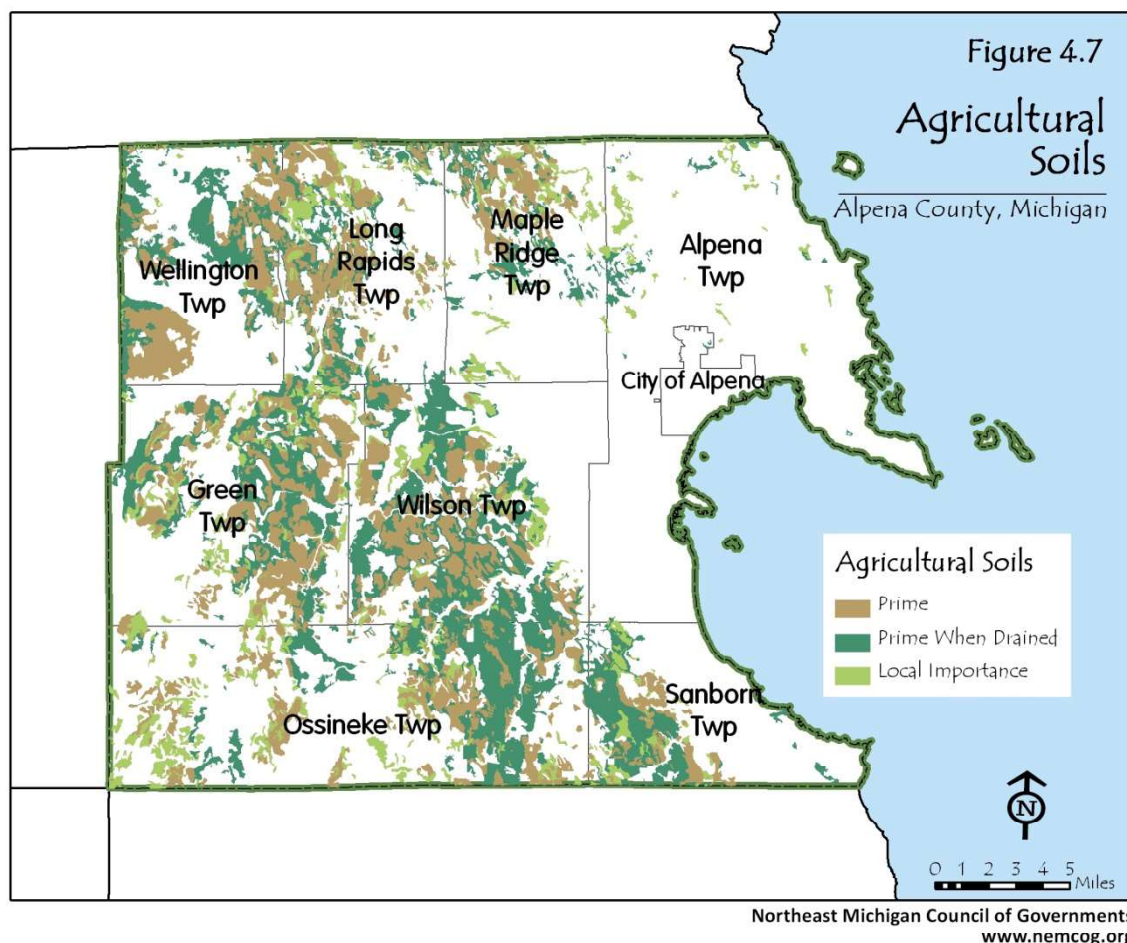
The county is diversified with strongly sloping and choppy areas, gently undulating areas, low swell or ridges, level plains, small areas of swampy soils and numerous streams and lakes. The broader surface features are expressions of glacial activity. The more hilly areas, for the most part are moraines; glacial outwash deposits underlie the level plains. Other parts of the level plains of sandy drift were probably deposited under the ice sheet. This topography is well suited for a diverse agriculture, recreation and forest industry, as well as making for a beautiful setting in which to live.



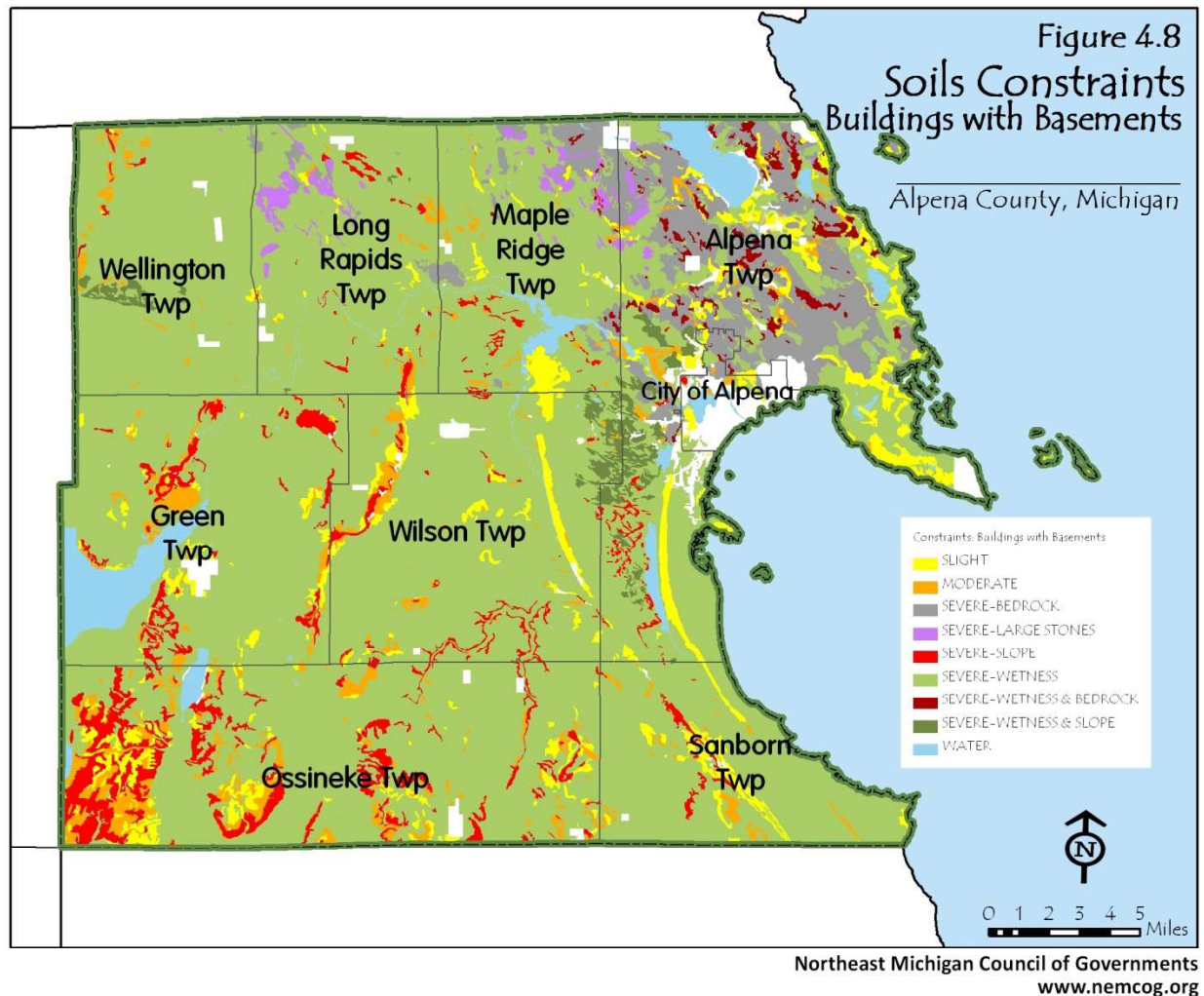
Soils

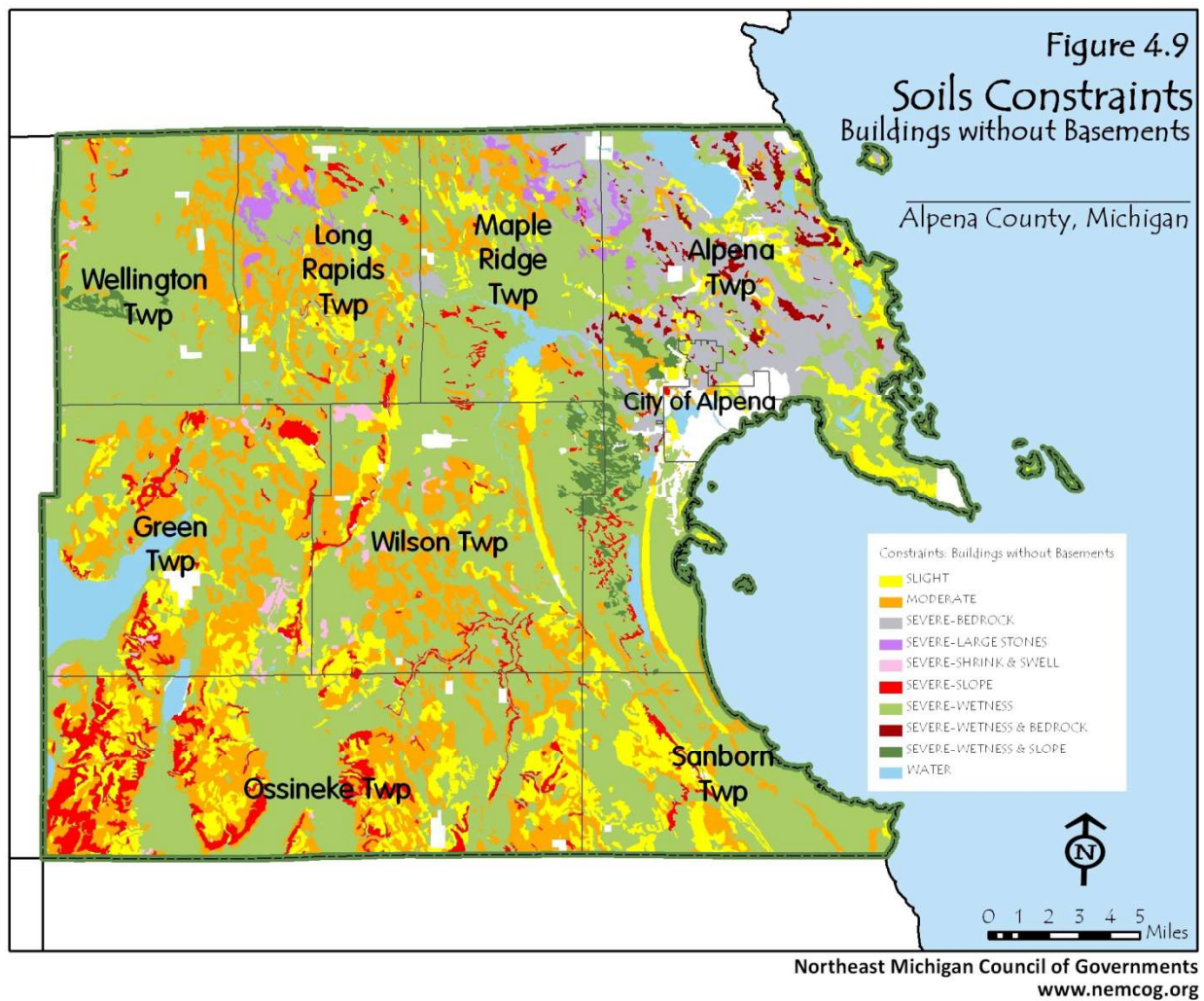
Soil characteristics help define the land's capacity to support certain types of land uses. Soils most suitable for development purposes are well drained and not subject to a high water table. Adequate drainage is important to minimizing storm water impacts and to maximize the efficient operations of septic drain fields. An adequate depth to the water table is necessary to prevent groundwater contamination from septic systems. A high water table also limits the construction of basements. Though civil engineering techniques can be employed to improve drainage and maintain adequate separation from the water table, such techniques are expensive to construct and maintain.

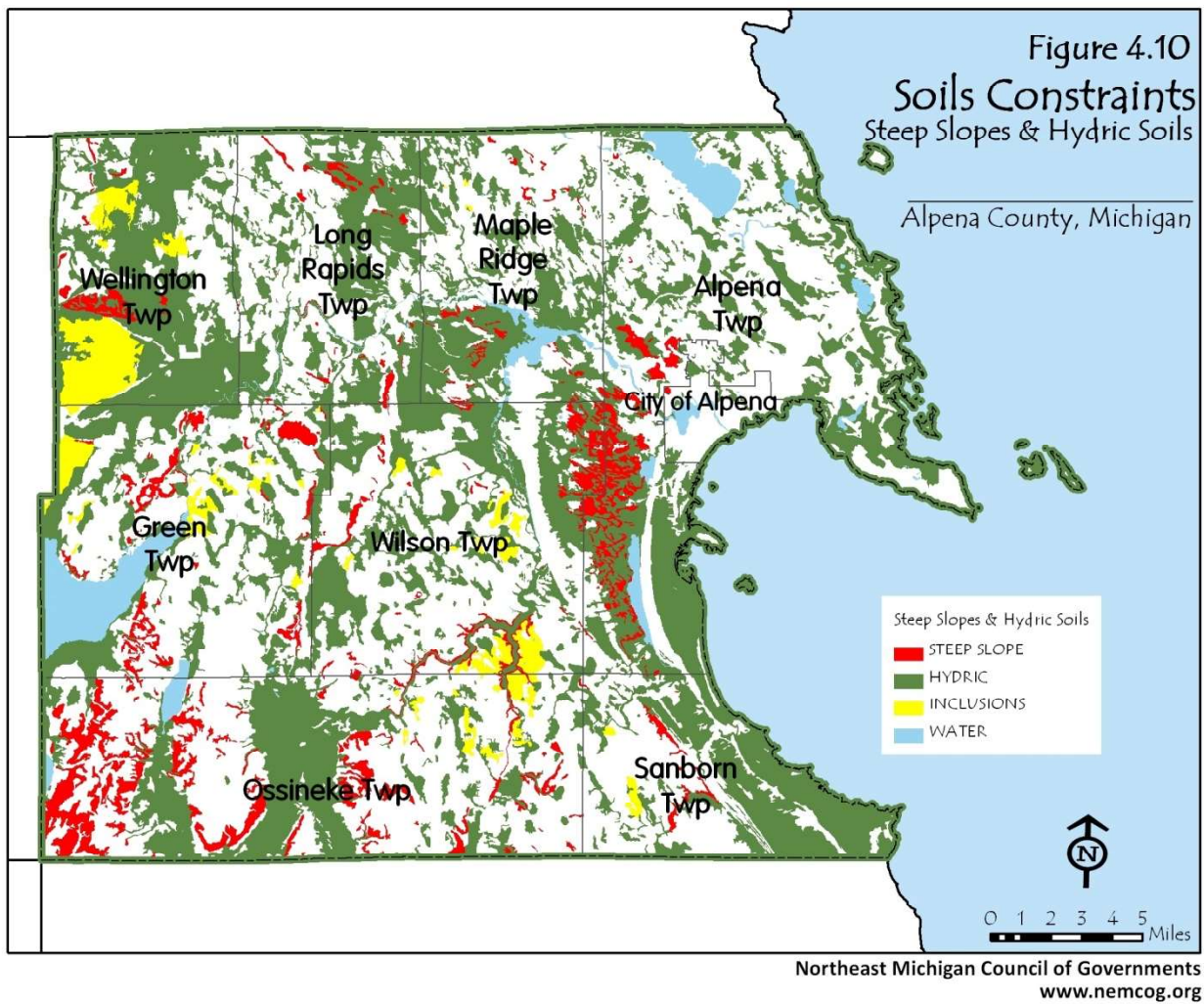
Soils play an important role in the food supply system. The Natural Resource Conservation Service identifies soils that are well or uniquely suited to crop production. **Figure 4.7** shows the soils best suited for agricultural production in Alpena County. When making land use decisions, it is important to consider the value of certain soils for agricultural purposes. Once land is converted from agricultural use to urban uses, the soils are permanently altered and its utility for agricultural production is greatly diminished, if not destroyed. The agriculture industry is important to the local economy. Planners and public officials should carefully consider any development proposals that threaten this non-renewable resource. Soils most suitable to agricultural production are located in a northwest-southeast trending band across the county. Wilson, Green, Wellington, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Sanborn and Ossineke Townships all have significant areas of agricultural soils while Alpena Township and the City of Alpena have nearly none.



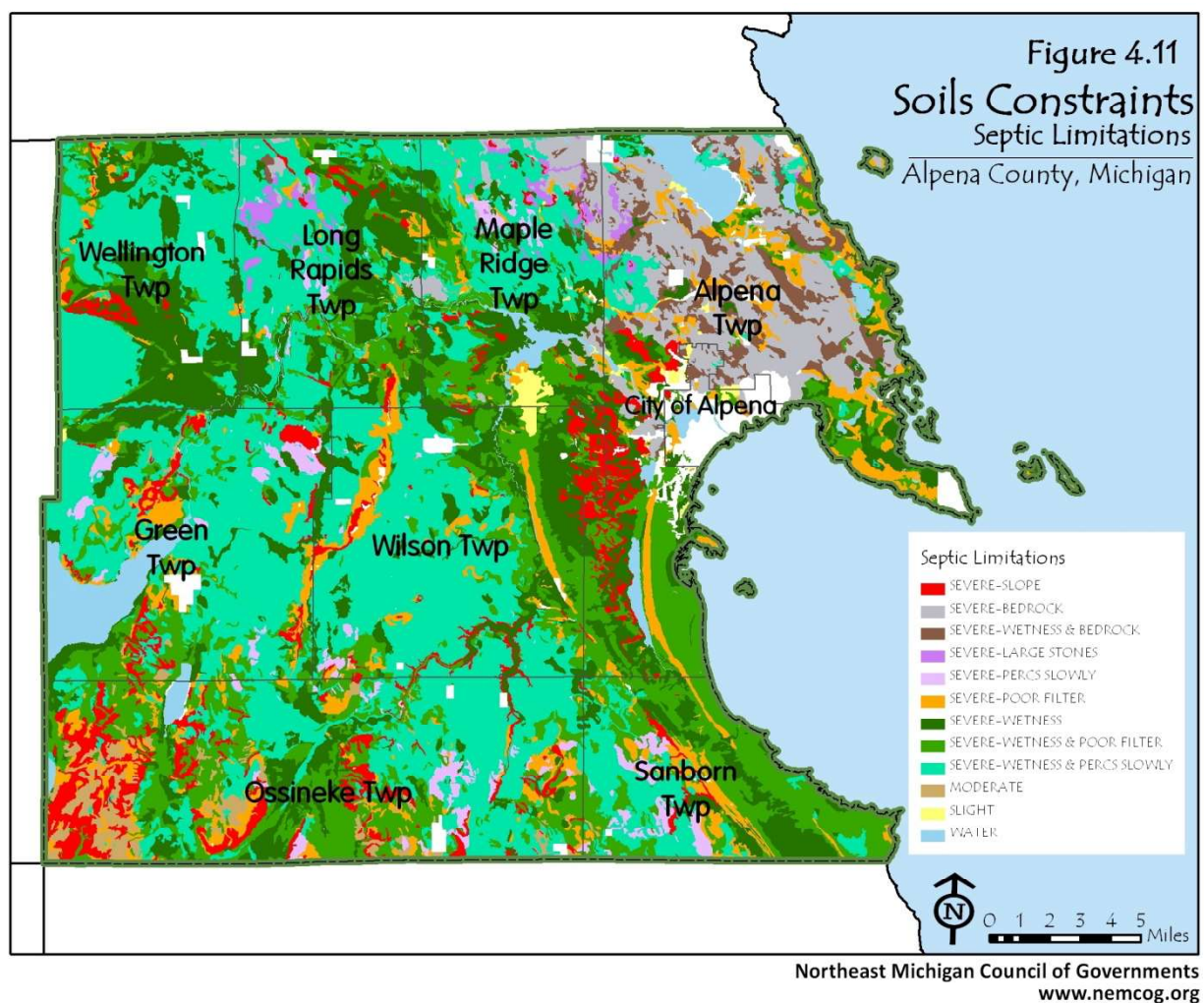
The USDA Soil Survey of Alpena County also rate soils for various uses such as building site development and identifies the limiting factors for building, such as steep slopes, soil types, or high water table (**Figures 4.8, 4.9, and 4.10**). Areas with well drained soils and slopes less than ten percent tend to have slight limitations for building development. Areas with slopes greater than 18 percent, high water tables and organic soils or rocky soils have severe limitations. Based on criteria established by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), building constraints maps were developed showing soils with limitations for buildings with and without basements as well as those with steep slopes and hydric characteristics (including hydric inclusions).







Using a geographic information system, soils maps have been color coded to show areas with moderate to severe septic system limitations as defined by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Criteria include depth to water table, wetness, filtering capacity and ability to perk water. **Figure 4.11** is a septic system limitation map. Generally, most of the county has severe limitations due to poor filtration of septic effluents. This is a critical issue when the water table is close to the surface or when high-density development occurs. Limiting types and density of development or making public water and sewer available for high-density development are the best options for protecting the groundwater resources.



Water Resources

Alpena County is blessed with a great number and variety of water resources located throughout the county (**Table 4.2 and Figure 4.12**). Alpena County depends on its water resources for development, recreation and commerce. Because the county is so dependent upon their water resources, it is necessary to identify and review the different types, quantities and qualities of these within the county.

Surface Water

There are 67 natural and artificial water bodies scattered throughout Alpena County that range in size from under one acre to thousands of acres (**Table 4.3**). The largest water body in the county is Fletcher Pond hydroelectric reservoir. Shared with Montmorency County, the reservoir covers a total of 8,970 acres with 5,310 acres in Alpena County. The largest natural lake is Long Lake that covers 2,750 acres. Other large water bodies in the county include Beaver Lake, Turtle Lake, Devils Lake #1 and #2 (“The Narrows”), Seven Mile Pond, Ninth Street Pond, Sunset Lake, Grass Lake, Crooked Lake and Middle Lake.

The main branch of the Thunder Bay River, with headwaters in Montmorency County, flows from west to east across the county into Lake Huron. Wolf Creek and the Lower South Branch of the Thunder Bay River drain southern Alpena County. The Upper South Branch of the Thunder Bay River flows from the south to the north and was dammed for a hydroelectric reservoir creating Fletcher Pond. The North Branch of the Thunder Bay River flows from Presque Isle County through the northern portion of the county. All three branches empty into Seven Mile Lake, which is a hydro-electric reservoir.

Although not included as part of the surface water inventory, Lake Huron is vital to the community and economy of Alpena County. Lake Huron is used as a primary source of drinking water for the City of Alpena. Thunder Bay is home to many charter fishing vessels and it serves as a shipping port for Alpena County industries. Shipping in Thunder Bay has a long and tumultuous history, with over 160 shipwrecks occurring over the course of the last century. The rich history of Thunder Bay was recognized as a national treasure and it was designated as the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, which opened in October 2000.

Table 4.2
Alpena County Surface Water Composition

Origin of Surface water	Number of water bodies	Area in Acres
Natural Lakes and Ponds	38	1,631
Natural Lake with a dam	2	3,415
Artificial Lake	1	26
Artificial Pond	20	11
Hydroelectric reservoirs	5	7,389
Fish and wildlife flooding	1	900

Source: NEMCOG

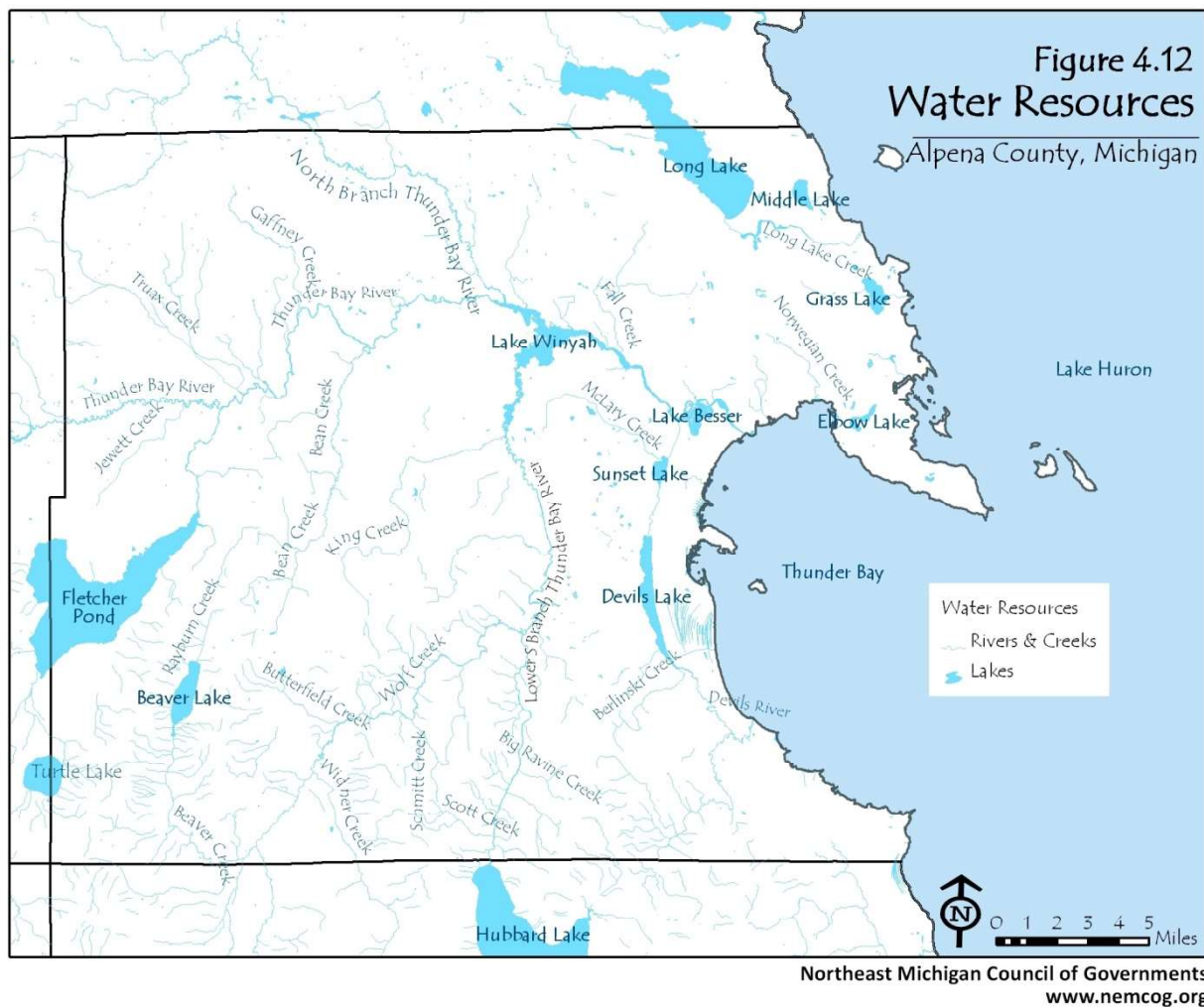


Table 4.3
Alpena County Lakes Inventory

Name	Location	Section	Acres	Description	Public Access
Beaver	29n5e, 30n5e	2,3, 35	665	Natural Lake w/ Dam	X
Combs	31n5e	24	4	Natural Lake	
Conway	31n9e	20	11	Natural Lake	
No Name (Crapo)	31n9e	9	24	Natural Lake	
Elbow (Crooked)	31n9e	20,21,29	170	Natural Lake	
No Name (Danokowski)	32n8e	6	6	Natural Lake	
Denton	32n7e	16	6	Natural Lake	
Devil's (#1)	30n8e	8,17,20,28,29,33	900	Fish & Wildlife Flooding	
Devil's(#2) (The Narrows)	32n8e	23,24	100	Natural Lake	
Fitzgerald	32n7e	1,6	34	Natural Lake	
Fletcher Pond (Floodwater)	30n5e	2,7,10,11, 15-22, 28-31	5310	Hydroelectric reservoir	X
Four Mile Pond	31n8e	7	98	Hydroelectric reservoir	X
Grass	31n9e,	33, 4	123	Natural Lake	
Jacob	32n7e	16	3	Natural Lake	
Long	32n8e	3,4,5,9,10,11,14,15	2750	Natural Lake with Dam	X
McKay Dam	29n8e	26	0	Artificial Pond	
Middle	32ne	7,12,13,18	264	Natural Lake	
Mindack	32n7e	2	32	Natural Lake	
Sunset Lake	31n8e	29,32	183	Natural Lake	
No Name (Mud)	31n9e	20,29	16	Natural Lake	
Muskrat Farm	31n7e	24	23	Natural Lake	
Zim (Nash)	31n7e	23	8	Natural Lake	
Ninth Street (Lake Besser)	31n8e	15,16,21,22	392	Hydroelectric reservoir	X
No Name	31n9e	35	7	Natural Lake	
No Name	30n5e	9	0	Natural Lake	
No Name	32n9e	18	20	Natural Lake	
No Name	30n8e	9,16	100	Natural Lake	
No Name	30n8e	27	14	Natural Lake	
No Name	30n8e	21,22	32	Natural Lake	
No Name	31n9e	35	15	Natural Lake	
No Name	31n9e	18	21	Natural Lake	
No Name	31n9e	34,35	5	Natural Lake	
No Name	31n9e	20	5	Natural Lake	
No Name	31n8e	15,22	26	Artificial	
No Name	31n9e	10	33	Natural Lake	
No Name	32n9e	28,29	28	Natural Lake	
Seven Mile (Lake Winyah)	31n7e	1,2,3,9,10	1530	Hydroelectric reservoir	X
Spratt Hunting	30n5e	12	10	Natural Lake	
Sylvester	31n5e	34	6	Natural Lake	
Turtle	29n5e	18,19	275	Natural Lake	

Source: Michigan State University, Department of Resource Development Michigan Lake Inventory Bulletin Number 4

Lakes can be classified into three types based on water quality or the level of productivity. Oligotrophic lakes have very little nutrient accumulation and as a result have little aquatic plant and algae growth. The water is very clear and the lakes can support cold water fish. In mesotrophic lakes, there is a greater presence of nutrients, which results in lowered clarity and the presence of aquatic plants. Eutrophic lakes have large amounts of aquatic plants due to higher nutrient levels and the presence of suspended algae, which cause the water to be turbid. The aging eutrophication of a lake from a high quality (oligotrophic) lake to warm, weedy, poor quality (eutrophic) lake is a natural process. However, this process can be greatly influenced by human activity. Changes in the watershed can alter the quality and quantity of runoff that, in turn, can influence the rate of eutrophication.

In 1979, the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments prepared a water quality survey of 51 water basins in the northeast region. These water bodies were given “water quality” ratings (see **Table 4.4**). The premise for the classification system is based on the relationship between water clarity, algae concentration and the presence of phosphorus; the primary nutrient responsible for algae growth. Using these variables, a Trophic State Index (TSI) is derived. The TSI is a numerical measurement that corresponds to a scale of 0-100. Lakes with a value under 39 are more oligotrophic, lakes with a value between 39 and 49 are more mesotrophic and lakes with value 50 and above are more eutrophic.

Table 4.4 Alpena County Water Quality		
Water Body	TSI	Rank
Fletcher Pond	49.98	45
Long Lake	47.06	40
Beaver Lake	43.33	32
Sunset Lake	41.47	21
Devil’s Lake	39.63	9
Source: NEMCOG		

In Alpena County, the water bodies studied were Fletcher Pond, Beaver Lake, Long Lake, Devil’s Lake and Sunset Lake (**Table 4.4**). All of Alpena County lakes in the sample were classified as mesotrophic. Fletcher Pond was the most eutrophic with a TSI of 49.98. The study revealed that the majority of lakes in the region are showing definitive signs of eutrophication. The one striking conclusion found in the study was that 85 percent of the lakes in the study had significant oxygen depletion. Although it could not be ascertained whether or not the oxygen depletion was due man’s impact, it is important to note that riparian lake management activities can be implemented to reduce controllable sources of nutrients and sediments.

All of the water based recreation areas in the county are receiving increased pressure from development. The orderly changes in this land use process will impact the land cover in Alpena County, but if done properly, will not greatly impact surface water quality or sediment and nutrient delivery rates into lake and streams.



Proper placement and maintenance of septic systems, the restricted use of fertilizers near shorelines, erosion control practices, lower density development near lakes and streams and the use of green belts and buffers are a few of the management techniques that can be implemented to help safeguard water quality. Maintaining high water quality in all of the county’s lakes, ponds and rivers will be highly beneficial to the community and its people.

Groundwater

Contaminated groundwater is often a dangerous problem because it generally travels unobserved until detected in a water supply well. Some contamination may remain undetected because no odor, taste or color is evident. Once contaminated, groundwater is difficult and expensive to clean up. The contaminant disperses in the groundwater, is difficult to remove, and may persist for decades. It is always simpler, cheaper and easier to prevent groundwater contamination than it is to clean it up.

In many areas in the county the depth to groundwater within this matrix of sand, gravel and clay is less than 50 feet below the soil surface. Near lakes, streams and wetlands the depth to ground water is shallower and commonly can be found only a few feet below the soil surface. Because of the abundance of shallow groundwater in the county, many drinking water wells are also shallow, just deep enough to reach the uppermost region of the aquifer. This special combination of factors places the groundwater of Alpena County at risk of contamination. For groundwater protection planning it should be assumed that the entire county is vulnerable to contamination. A wide variety of contaminants have already been discovered in the ground water at sites throughout the county, and it is likely that there are a number of other sites that have not yet been discovered.



Sinkhole areas are often conduits to groundwater pollution. Historically, many sinkholes have been used as dump sites and some continue to be used in this manner. Agricultural drainage from pastures, feedlots, bean, potato, corn and small grain fields enters the aquifers through karst features such as swallow holes, sinkholes and fractures at the ground surface. Water contamination from agricultural byproducts, nitrates, infectious disease, septic systems and sediment has been documented to the result of the unique karst

terrain. Action to protect and preserve sinkholes can be recommended both on account of their value as a scenic feature and as a groundwater quality measure. Abandoned wells can also pose a major threat to groundwater. If not capped, contamination can have a direct conduit into the groundwater through the well. Assistance in properly capping a well is available from the Alpena County Conservation District.

All groundwater in Michigan will eventually discharge to the surface. Most will discharge into the Great Lakes through entry into surface streams or from the subsurface directly into the lake bottom. Groundwater can emerge where surface topography cuts below the surface of the groundwater level. Where ground water is under confinement, it can develop pressure (a high hydrostatic head) and break through to the surface as an artesian spring. Groundwater can also be drawn off into areas of lowerground water pressure (low hydrostatic head). These areas can be layers of coarse materials or they can be open fissures and voids in bedrock that discharge the water efficiently elsewhere.

Basically groundwater will flow down gradient, quickly through caverns and fissures, slowly through coarse materials and very slowly through fine materials. Clays act as barriers to downward flow of water. Clay, however, is not present everywhere as it varies in thickness and horizontal extent.

The storage and use of pesticides and fossil fuels can also pose a threat to groundwater. If stored and used properly, these substances do not pose a serious threat to groundwater. Spills, leaking storage tanks, accidental discharge or misapplication is the greatest concern. Because of its high solubility in water, road salt is another significant and common threat to groundwater. Tons of rock salt is applied to the roads each year. The primary sources of contamination are from unprotected salt storage facilities and road runoff that infiltrates through recharge zones into groundwater.

Wetlands

A wetland is land where water is found, either on the surface or near the surface, at any time during the year. Poorly drained soils and water loving vegetation also may be present. Wetlands are often referred to as marshes, swamps or bogs. Residents of Michigan are becoming increasingly aware of the value of wetlands. Beyond their aesthetic value, wetlands improve water quality of lakes and streams by filtering polluting nutrients, organic chemicals and toxic heavy metals. Wetlands are closely related to high groundwater tables and serve to discharge or recharge aquifers. By absorbing excess water when river levels are high and releasing water when levels are low, wetlands help prevent floods and droughts. Wetlands are also dynamic ecosystems, which are home to a wide variety of plants and animals.

While wetland ecosystems are unique, they are not independent habitats. Wetlands are vital to the health of other ecosystems, wildlife and humans. Because of their cleansing benefits and by helping control water flow, wetlands have been called "nature's kidneys". Figure 4.13 shows the cycling of energy and materials through a wetland. Many of the plants and animals that live in a wetland have symbiotic relationships with the wetland and each other.



There are numerous wetland areas scattered throughout Alpena County totaling over 36 thousand acres (**Figure 4.14**). In addition to the many inland wetland areas, Alpena County also has significant coastal wetlands scattered along its 61 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. These wetlands are important resting and feeding spots for migratory birds and help slow shoreline erosion by dissipating wave energy.

Figure 4.13

Cycling of Energy and Material through a Wetland Ecosystem

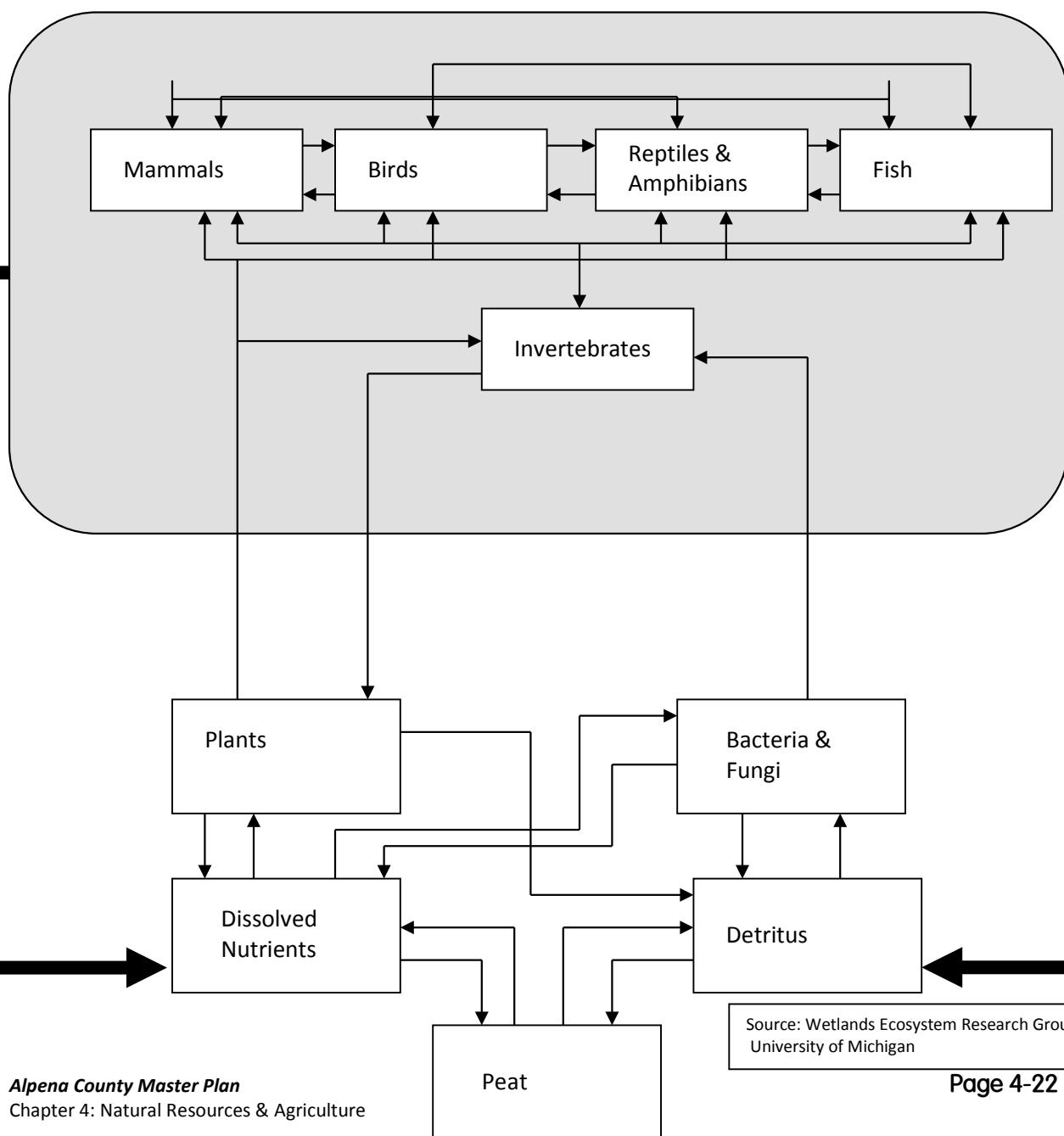
1. Energy
4. Nutrients

2. Gases
5. Sediments

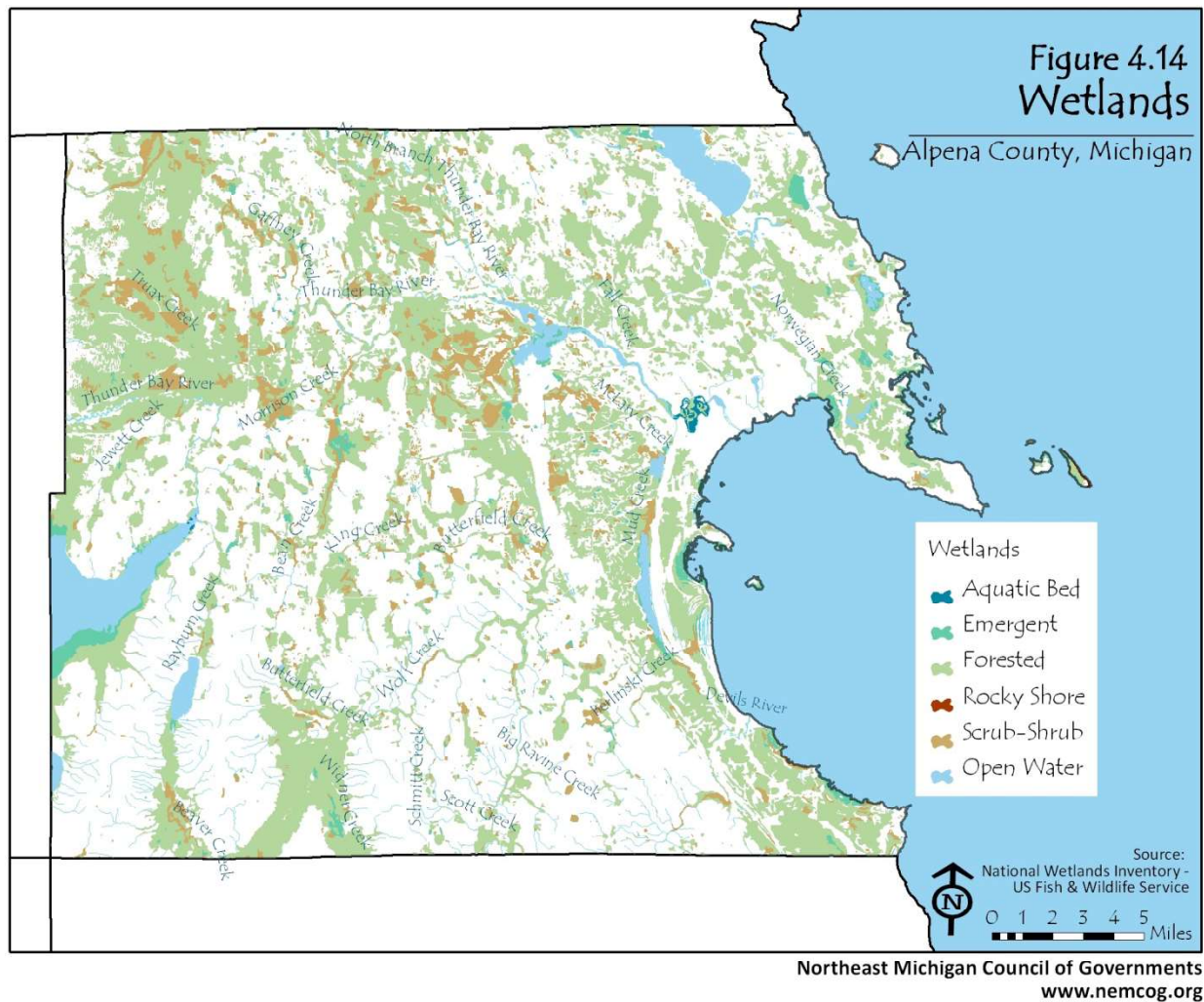
3. Water
6. Animals

Inputs

Outputs



Source: Wetlands Ecosystem Research Group,
University of Michigan



Fish & Wildlife

Sheltered by evergreen and hardwood forest, Alpena County's wildlife includes raccoon, fox mink beaver, wildcat, deer, elk, black bear, ruffed grouse, and turkey. Hunting for white tailed deer and small game species such as cottontail rabbit, tree squirrels, wild turkey and ruffed grouse attracts many people to the county annually. Other game species of importance to trappers are beaver, otter, muskrat, raccoon, opossum, skunk and weasel. Alpena County also provides prime waterfowl habitat that is supplemented by private ponds, beaver dams, pothole wetlands and wooded flood plain areas. Alpena County is part of the Mississippi flyway for migrating birds.

Fishing

Alpena County offers the sport fisherman an abundance of fishing opportunities. The many lakes, rivers and streams, as well as the near shore waters of Lake Huron, offer a wide range of warm, cool and cold water species. Historically, the Thunder Bay River provided an important link between inland habitats and Lake Huron, with the fish using the corridor for spawning and nursery habitats. Although most of

the riverine habitat is now inaccessible to Lake Huron fish, due to the presence of hydro-power projects, the watershed is still providing nutrient input to the near-shore waters of Thunder Bay and is important to the fishery resources from an energy standpoint.

Alpena County offers multiple opportunities for sport fishing on rivers, lakes and Great Lake. In addition to world class catches of brown trout, pan fish, crappies and salmon, waters of the county also support rainbow trout, lake trout, brook trout largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, perch, walleye and pike.

Lake Huron offers many fishing opportunities. Brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout and salmon are all plentiful. Public launching ramps on Lake Huron are located at Rockport, off Fletcher Street in Alpena, at the Alpena Small Boat Harbor, and on the Devil's River in Ossineke. Charter boat services are available at the Alpena Small Boat Harbor. Undeveloped possible access sites from public land are at Ossineke, Squaw Bay and Partridge Point. Since 2000, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources fish stocking report, Lake Huron has been stocked with over 4.9 million fish including brown trout, lake trout, and a small number of walleye.

One of the most scenic and rustic waterways in the area is the 8,970 acres of Fletcher Pond. Located on the extreme western border of Alpena County, this impoundment was created by damming of the Thunder Bay River. It is Michigan's 12th largest inland body of water, but the maximum depth is only ten feet. Although the shallow, stump-laden waters hamper powerboats, Fletcher Pond offers some of the best largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing in the State. Pike, crappies, perch and other pan fish are also abundant in this water body. Year-long fishing activities include ice fishing.

Long Lake is located on the northern border of Alpena County. Covering 5,652 acres, its maximum depth is 25 feet. Long term fish stocking programs make walleye abundant in these waters. Largemouth and smallmouth bass, pike and pan fish are also commonly caught here.

Beaver Lake covers 665 acres and is located in the southwest part of the county. This lake contains largemouth and smallmouth bass, perch, pike, and other pan fish. Since 2000, the DNR has stocked the lake with 180,000 fish including northern pike and walleye.

The Thunder Bay River is a picturesque river that winds its way along the countryside, through the City of Alpena and into Lake Huron. Most of Michigan's game and pan fish are found along this river. The river and its various major branches cover most of the county. There are several impoundments along the river's path, varying in size from Fletcher Pond to smaller Lake Winyah. Formed when the Seven Mile dam was constructed, Lake Winyah is a favorite area for those seeking the challenge of landing northern pike. Since 2000, The DNR has stocked the Thunder Bay River with over 430,000 fish including brown trout, rainbow trout, and walleye.

Hunting

Hunting opportunities are available in Alpena County for most species of animals and game birds common to Michigan (**Table 4.5**). White tail deer are abundant for the big game hunter and black bear populations, though low overall, are high in areas of dense forest. Along with privately owned forest lands, more than 43,000 acres of State land provide ample habitat for wild turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock and other upland birds. Small game such as the cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare and squirrel are also common in these woodlands. State owned lands are open to the public for hunting, unless otherwise posted.

Although the State of Michigan attained Bovine TB accredited-free state status in 1979, it is now thought that during earlier periods of high TB reactor rates there was spillover of Bovine TB from

infected cows into Michigan's white-tailed deer population, a result of shared pastures. In 1994, a TB infected deer was killed by a hunter in Alpena County. In 2001, Presque Isle County had one deer test positive for TB. Unfortunately, large deer populations, combined with indiscriminate feeding practices, were contributing factors to the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in Alpena County and across northern Michigan. TB is a serious disease caused by bacteria attacking the respiratory system. In 2002, of the 1,236 deer that were tested, 9 tested positive for TB in Alpena County. In 2003, 9 deer tested "preliminary positive." There are three main types of TB - human, avian, and bovine. Human TB is rarely transmitted to non-humans, and avian TB is typically restricted to birds. Bovine TB - also known as 'cattle TB' is the most infectious of the three, and is capable of infecting most mammals. Primarily found in hoofed animals, it is generally not considered a significant health risk to humans. However, humans can and have contracted Bovine TB. The disease has also been found in coyotes, raccoons, black bear, bobcat, red fox and opossum.

The effort to eradicate the disease has led to an aggressive TB testing campaign and the creation of a surveillance zone and Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452. Hunters in the surveillance area are asked to submit deer heads for testing. In DMU 452 testing is mandatory. Adjacent Presque Isle County (DMU 071) is in the infected area, but is not a part of DMU 452. Efforts to eradicate the disease led to changes in deer feeding rules, deer harvest increases, extension of the number of hunting days, and the banning of new deer or elk farms. In November of 2011, the Natural Resources Commission voted to remove the baiting ban in Presque Isle County effectively allowing hunters to use up to two gallons of bait. Baiting remains illegal in the counties of Alpena, Montmorency, Alcona, and Oscoda.

Cormorant

In Alpena County, and throughout the Great Lakes Basin, the Double Crested Cormorant, a deep-diving fish predator, has substantially increased in numbers. Since the abatement of some pesticides, over the past twenty years, these birds have made a remarkable comeback. The high density of birds combined with their observed fish eating behaviors have led to their implication in declines of both commercial and recreational fisheries throughout the Great Lakes. Scientists, however, have found it difficult, if not impossible to identify the actual mechanisms(s) or causes behind fish population declines.

Central Michigan University and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Fisheries Division initiated an intense population sampling in May of 1999. Compared to similar data gathered by researchers at CMU nearly 20 years ago, it was found that not only was the smallmouth bass population down by an astounding 75-80 percent, but other fish species, including brown bullhead and rock bass have declined by as much as 98 percent. Cormorant diets often include species that are of little commercial value but may be important to community trophic dynamics. Therefore, cormorants may have a secondary effect on sport fisheries by competing with desired species for forage fish.

Table 4.5
Alpena County Inventory of Game Species

Species	Relative abundance	Management Potential
Deer	High	Good. Timber cuttings on private land could increase deer carrying capacity
Bear	Low overall High in places	Limited. Population holding at low level. High in less populated forestland held for hunting recreation. Gradual reduction is expected.
Bobcat	Medium overall	Good. Long range maintenance of swamplands is vital.
Raccoon	Moderate	Good. Moderate hunting and

		trapping pressure maintains population at a desired level
Squirrel	Moderate	Good. Population fluctuates with winters and crops.
Snowshoe Hare	Up and Down	Good. Fluctuate on 10 to 15 year cycle. Continued survival depends on large areas of swamp land
Ruffed Grouse	Moderate	Good. Population numbers are Increasing. Habitat improves with clear cutting coniferous cover
Waterfowl	Low to Medium	Canada Geese number increasing. Wood Duck numbers have Increased with local nest box placement. No change in mallard numbers.
Wild Turkey	Moderate	Good. Population is expanding numbers continue to increase
Fox, Beaver, Badger, Muskrat	Low to Moderate	Low level. Populations fluctuate.
Source: Tom Carlson, DNR Wildlife habitat biologist, Atlanta MI. 1989		

Threatened and Endangered Species

Alpena County is also home to a number of different plants and animals that are threatened endangered or are of special concern (**Table 4.6**). The following list presents the Endangered (E) or Threatened (T) plant and animal species of Alpena County which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of the State of Michigan (Public Act 203 of 1974 as amended). This list also includes plant and animal species of Special Concern (SC).

Table 4.6 Alpena County Endangered and Threatened Species			
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS
Acipenser fulvescens	Lake sturgeon		T
Adlumia fungosa	Climbing fumitory		SC
Alasmodonta viridis	Slippershell		T
Ammodramus henslowii	Henslow's sparrow		E
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper sparrow		SC
Armoracia lacustris	Lake cress		T
Asplenium rhizophyllum	Walking fern		T
Botrychium hesperium	Western moonwort		T
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered hawk		T
Cacalia plantaginea	Prairie indian-plantain		SC
Calypso bulbosa	Calypso or fairy-slipper		T
Carex scirpoidea	Bulrush sedge		T
Charadrius melodus	Piping plover	LE	E
Chlidonias niger	Black tern		SC
Cirsium pitcheri	Pitcher's thistle	LT	T
Coregonus artedii	Lake herring or Cisco		T
Crataegus douglasii	Douglas's hawthorn		SC
Cypripedium arietinum	Ram's head lady's-slipper		SC
Dorydiella kansana	Leafhopper		SC
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male fern		SC
Emydoidea blandingii	Blanding's turtle		SC
Flexamia delongi	Leafhopper		SC

<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common loon		T
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood turtle		SC
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle		SC
<i>Iris lacustris</i>	Dwarf lake iris	LT	T
<i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i>	Migrant loggerhead shrike		E
<i>Notropis anogenus</i>	Pugnose shiner		E
Source: Michigan County Element Lists - March 15, 2012, Michigan Natural Feature Inventory			
State Status: E = endangered; T = threatened; SC = special concern			
Federal Status: LE = listed endangered; LT = listed threatened			

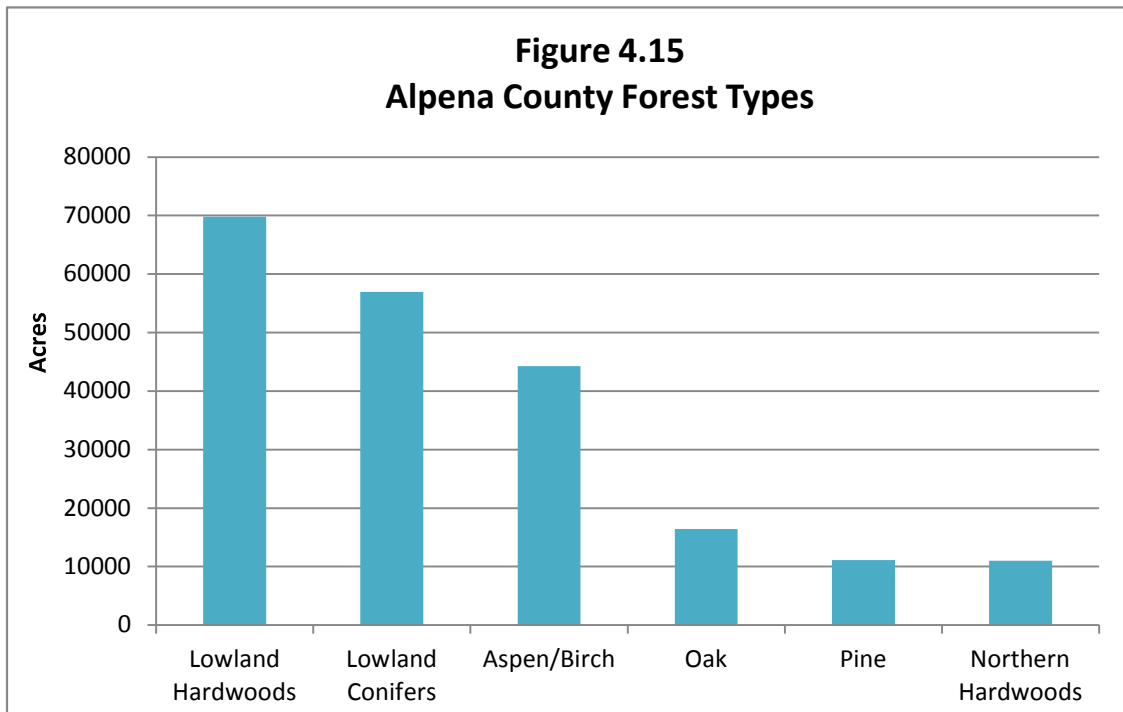
While not afforded legal protection under the act, many of these species are of concern because of declining or unreliable populations in the state. Should these species continue to decline, they would be recommended for Threatened or Endangered status. Protection of Special Concern species before they reach dangerously low population levels, would prevent the need to list them in the future by maintaining adequate numbers of self-sustaining populations.

Woodlands

Forests cover approximately 60 percent of the land area in Alpena County, making it the largest single land use in the county. In addition to using the forest resources for timber and fiber, woodlands are also used for all types of outdoor recreation. Large expanses of different forest types offer habitat for a wide variety of species. Forest types include northern hardwood, aspen-birch, northern white cedar, and white, red and jack pine.

There are a number of different categories of forestland owners. According to the Resource Assessment of Alpena County, prepared by the Alpena Conservation District, the largest amount of forestland (71.1%) is owned by private non-industrial landowners. Corporations own 15.4 percent of the county's forestland, 12.4 percent is state or federally owned, while cities and townships own 1.1 percent. The forest industry on private lands contributes greatly to the overall economic well-being of Alpena County.

As can be seen by **Figure 4.15**, predominant forest types in Alpena County are lowland hardwoods (ash, elm, soft maple and cottonwood) with 70,000 acres, lowland conifers (cedar, tamarack, black and white spruce and balsam) with 58,000 acres, and aspen/birch with 45,000 acres.



Sites of Environmental Contamination

The Michigan Environmental Response Act 307 of 1982, as amended provides for the identification, evaluation and risk assessment of sites of environmental contamination in the State. The Environmental Response Division (ERD) is charged with administering this law. A site of environmental contamination, as identified by ERD, is “a location at which contamination of soil, ground water, surface water, air or other environmental resource is confirmed, or where there is potential for contamination of resources due to site conditions, site use or management practices”. The agency publishes a list of environmentally contaminated sites by county showing the sites by name, pollutant(s) and site status (**Table 4.7**). A Site Assessment Model (SAM) score is computed to assess the relative risk a site may pose and to help determine the aggressiveness of clean up efforts. SAM scores range from 0 to 48 with 0 being the least contaminated and 48 the most contaminated. In some instances where the score is high and further contamination is possible, immediate response may be required. Conversely, a location where the score is low and the conditions of the site are not likely to change, no action may be the preferred course. In Alpena County there are currently 47 listed contamination sites. **Table 4.8 and 4.9** show sites which contain open and closed leaking underground storage tanks (LUST).

Table 4.7 Alpena County Contamination Sites				
Site ID & Status	Location	Source	Pollutant	Score (out of 48)
04000003 Remedial Action in progress	M-32 3.3MI W of Bagley St	Refuse Systems	Lead , Benzene , Zinc	30
04000005 See LUST	US 23N Former Kurvan Bait Shop	Sporting goods store	Benzene , Xylene, Toluene	20
04000006 No Action Taken	4197 Long Lake Rd Lancewicz Dump	Refuse Systems	Fe; Mn	27
04000007 No Action Taken	5558 Lacombe Rd Maple Ridge Twp Disposal	Landfill	Domestic Comm	9
04000009 Interim response in progress	S Phelps Collins A N G Base	National security	1,2,4 TMB; 1,3,5 TMB; Ethylbenzene; Naphthalene; PCE; Toluene; Xylenes	27
04000012 Evaluation conducted	2441 US 23S Scheuner Construction Dump	Refuse Systems	1,2,4 TMB; 1,3 DCB; Al; Ba; Fe; Mg; Ni	40
04000013 No Action Taken	DUBEY GRAVEL PIT	Chem product mfg	Al; B; Fe; Sr; Sodium borate	29
04000015 Interim response in progress	N Long Lake Homant Oil Company	Petro Bulk Storage	1,2,4 TMB; 1,3,5 TMB; Benzene; Ethylbenzene; Xylenes	27
04000017 Interim response in progress	2222 US 23 S Harry's Oil Co	Gas Station	Acenaphthene; Acenaphthylene; Benzene; Ethylbenzene; Fluoranthene; Fluorene; Naphthalene; Phenanthrene; Toluene; Xylenes	32
04000021 No Action Taken	10628 Ossineke Rd L & M Salvage	Scrap Metal Yard	Gasoline; Oil; Solvents	17
04000022 No Action Taken	Spruce Road Dump	Refuse Systems	Solid wastes	11
04000024 No Action Taken	132 Tuttle	Private Residence	Fuel Oil	28
04000026 Interim response in progress	2919 Garden St Alpena Manufacturing	Metal Working Machinery	Fluoranthene; Phenanthrene; Cutting oil; Oil	20
04000027 No Action Taken	Thunder Bay Island USCG	Transportation Services	Cd; Pb	28
04000030 No Action Taken	620 West Campbell Alpena Oil	Petroleum Bulk Stations & Term	benzene , toluene , xylenes	25
04000031 No Action Taken	9883 M-32 Jerry Duby Excavating	Auto Repair Services & Garage	Waste Oil	14
04000039 Interim response in progress	416 Ford Avenue Abitibi-Price Corp	Misc Manufacturing Industries	Ethylbenzene; Xylenes	36
04000051 No Action Taken	5436 Cathro Rd. Cathro Auto Parts	Motor Vehicle Parts	As; Pb	21
04000055 Interim response in progress	10401 Piper Road Ossineke Industries	Special Dies Tools Jigs & Fixt	TCE	27

04000057 Interim response conducted – no further action	5221 US-32 North Lee's Auto Parts	Scrap & Waste Materials	Antifreeze; Diesel fuel; Gasoline; Waste motor oil	22
04000066 See LUST	235 Water Street Alpena Oil Company	Petroleum Bulk Stations & Term	Petroleum Products	23
04000074 No Action Taken	1055 Lynn Drive	Private Households	As; Pb	22
04000075 Delisted	2341 Third Avenue	Private Households	Metals	32
04000077 No Action Taken	Third Avenue Soil Piles	Nonclassifiable Establishments	As	21
04000081 Interim response conducted – no further action	5 Wood Street Tandem Transport	Truck Terminal Facilities	As	23
04000083 Interim response conducted – no further action	15027 Third Street	Private Households	Gasoline , Diesel Fuel	22
04000094 Evaluation in progress	1435 Ford Ave Lafarge Corporation	Chemicals & Allied Products	As; Methylene chloride; PCE; Hg	23
04000095 Interim response in progress	Ford and North Point Roads National Gypsum	Portland cement manufacturin	As; Hg; Heavy metals	38
04000115 No action taken	1002 Long Lake Avenue Lake State Railway	Railroad Transportation	1,3,5 TMB; As; Fluorene; Se; BEHP; Hg	30
04000116 Interim response in progress	off Pinecrest Oxbow Park	Refuse Systems	Pb; Se; PCE	29
04000120 No action taken	4170 US-23 South (former Scrap Yard)	Scrap & Waste Materials	Cd; Pb	20
04000121 No action taken	Second Avenue NE of Herman Street Second Avenue Former Salvage Yard	Scrap & Waste Materials	Metals	20
04000125 Interim response conducted – no further action	1000 Highland Court	Private Households	Fuel oil	20
04000126 Interim response in progress	1357 M-32 West Alpena Bus Garage Fuel Spill	Bus Terminal & Service Facil	1,2,4 TMB; 1,3,5 TMB; Benzene; Ethylbenzene; Naphthalene; Toluene; Xylenes	37
04000127 No action taken	Wessel Road Quarry	Concrete Work	Al; Mn; Se; Na; V; Hg; Industrial waste	43
04000128 Interim response conducted – no further action	Third & River Streets Riverview Condos	Unknown	Benzene; Pb; Methylene chloride; Se; VC; cis-1,2 DCE	31
04000129 Interim response conducted – no further action	318 W. Fletcher Street Fletcher Paper	Paper and Allied Products	As; Benzene; Cl; Fe; Se; PCE; Toluene; TCE	41
04000130 Interim response conducted – no further action	2389 US 23 South Chroniger's Radiator & UHaul	Automotive Repair Shops	Pb	35

04000136 No action taken	500 Palm Street	Agricultural Production-Crops	Cd	26
04000139 No action taken	4174 US-23 South (former Fisher Recyclign)	Scrap & Waste Materials	Metals	26
04000140 Interim response conducted – no further action	1295 DeVere Drive	Scrap & Waste Materials	Ba; Benzene; Cd; Cr+3; Cu; Pb; TCE; Zn	24
04000141 No action taken	324 North 11th Avenue	Petroleum Bulk Stations & Term	1,2,4 TMB; 1,3,5 TMB; Benzene; Ethylbenzene; Xylenes	36
04000142 No action taken	901 W. Chisholm Street Former Werth Dry Cleaners	Coin Laundry & Dry Cleaners	PCE; TCE	36
04000144 Interim response conducted – no further action	Middle Island Light Station	Paints & Allied Products	As; Pb; Paint sludge; Paint waste	17
04000147 Interim response conducted – no further action	2707 Pearl Road	Auto Repair Services & Garage	As; Fe; Se	39
04000149 Interim response conducted – no further action	10303 Chippewa Road			
04000152 Interim response conducted – no further action	1135 West Chisholm	Gasoline Service Station	1,2,4 TMB; 1,3,5 TMB; Benzene; Ethylbenzene; Naphthalene; Xylenes	33
04000154 No action taken	100-190 North State Avenue Harborside Mall	Dry Cleaning Plants	PCE; VC	34
Source: Department of Environmental Quality				

Table 4.8 Open Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) Sites		
LUST Site	Release Date	Substance Released
Sparkle Mart North	Jun 18 1998	Unknown
Alpena Cnty Rd Comm	Jun 4 1996	Diesel
Alpena Cnty Rd Comm	Feb 20 1991	
Alpena Cnty Rd Comm	Aug 14 1996	Diesel
Alpena Oil Co - Water St	Dec 27 1994	Diesel,Used Oil
Alpena Oil Co - Water St	Dec 29 1994	Gasoline
Diamond's Point Self-serve	Nov 19 1996	Unknown
Quick & Convenient Store	Nov 2 1989	
Alpena Power Co - 9th St	Aug 29 1992	Gasoline
Alpena Public Schools - Bus Garage	Jul 12 2000	Gasoline,Diesel
Kur-van's, Inc. South	Jun 6 1990	
Huron Oil Co. - Alpena	Sep 29 1992	Gasoline
Harry's Oil Company	Oct 15 1990	

Harry's Oil Company	Mar 10 2011	Gasoline,Kerosene,Gasoline,Diesel,Gasoline,Other,Other
Alpena South E-Z Mart (former Harry's Oil Co.)	Mar 3 2011	Other
Bob-a-lu Market	Jul 11 1990	
Cap & Bottle Party Store	Jul 9 1993	Unknown
City Of Alpena - Hwy Garage	Jun 7 1994	Other,Unknown
City Of Alpena - Hwy Garage	May 24 1999	Unknown
Carter Street Right of Way	Apr 3 2008	Gasoline
City Of Alpena - Boat Harbor	Jun 9 1994	Gasoline,Diesel
Alpena County Sheriff's Dept	Jul 8 1998	Gasoline
Hubbard Lake General Store	Aug 9 1999	Unknown
Hubbard Lake Garage	Aug 11 1999	Unknown
Downtown Union 76	Aug 17 1990	
Downtown Union 76	Sep 27 1990	
Woody's Grocery	Aug 25 1988	
Kihn's Superette Facility	Jul 10 1992	Gasoline
Summit Sports	Jan 24 2008	Gasoline,Gasoline,Gasoline
Fletcher Coated Products	Aug 8 1996	Unknown,Unknown
Fletcher Coated Products	Oct 13 1998	Unknown
311 Taylor St	Jun 4 1996	Gasoline
Garant's Office Supply	Oct 10 1994	Gasoline
The Barn	Mar 28 1992	
The Barn	Apr 10 1991	
Huggler Oil Company	Dec 16 1992	Gasoline
Lakeview Grocery	Jul 18 1997	Unknown
Richardson Auto Repair	Nov 1 1994	Gasoline
Richardson Auto Repair	Nov 1 1994	Gasoline
Midas Muffler & Brake Shop	Nov 10 1997	Unknown
L & K Sunoco	Jun 22 1998	Gasoline
Bj's Country Corner	May 30 1990	
Schultz's Market & Gas Station	Aug 31 1989	
Long Lake Super Market	Sep 24 1998	Gasoline
Brown Jug Party Store	Mar 14 1991	
Male's Grocery	Jun 15 1999	Unknown
Male's Grocery	Sep 8 1990	
Northland Market	May 18 1998	Gasoline
Kur-van's, Inc.	May 31 1990	
Opechee Inc	Dec 17 1998	Unknown
Opechee Inc	Feb 8 1991	
Francis Service Center	Apr 10 1991	

Action Auto Property - Alpena	Nov 30 1990	
Long Rapids Market	Oct 26 1990	
Perry Oil Co - Campbell	Jun 2 1995	Unknown
Dan's Party Store (former)	Dec 9 1991	Unknown
Dan's Party Store (former)	Sep 22 1999	Unknown
Sheldon's Grocery	Oct 3 1990	
State St Lube	Jan 14 1999	Unknown
Stockade General Store	Dec 19 1990	
Total Petroleum #2587 (former)	Jul 25 1997	Unknown,Unknown
Source: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality 2012		

Table 4.9
Closed Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) Sites

LUST Site	Release Date	Substance Released	Release Closed Date
Sparkle Mart South	May 13 1998	Gasoline,Unknown	Feb 16 2011
Alpena County Regional Airport	Dec 22 1989		Dec 19 1996
Alpena General Hospital	Dec 11 1992	Diesel	Feb 26 1993
Alpena Oil Co - Chisholm St	Aug 26 1992	Gasoline	Sep 27 1996
Alpena Power Co - M-32 West	Aug 28 1992	Gasoline	Nov 5 1998
Arlie Black Excavating	Dec 21 1999	Unknown	Mar 14 2000
Beaver Lake Service Center	Aug 26 1991	Unknown	May 15 1996
Perry Oil Co - Ripley	Jul 28 1992	Gasoline,Unknown	Aug 28 2002
Besser Company	Nov 10 1995	Unknown	Nov 12 1996
Huggler Oil Co M-32	Aug 6 2010	Diesel,Diesel,Diesel,Gasoline,Gasoline,Gasoline	Jun 29 2011
City Of Alpena - Water Plant	Jun 7 1994	Diesel	Jan 11 1996
City Of Alpena - Wwtp	Jun 8 1994	Used Oil	Dec 5 1994
Cliff Anschuetz Chevy-olds-nissa	Sep 21 1998	Gasoline,Unknown	Nov 1 2001
Coca Cola Bottling Co.	Aug 8 1991	Unknown	Apr 14 1993
Wegmeyer Garage	Jun 20 1990		Jan 5 2000
Conveyor Systems, Inc.	Mar 9 1992	Gasoline	Sep 25 1992
Ez Way Store	Jun 1 1992	Unknown	Jul 6 2011
Fuel Gas Div. - Emro Propane Co.	May 14 1990		Dec 8 1994
Everett Goodrich, Inc.	Dec 17 1998	Diesel	Jul 25 2001
FAA - Alpena Vortac	Dec 16 1996	Diesel	Sep 30 2002
First Of America Bank - Alpena	Sep 19 1988		Dec 27 1994
Earl's Diesel Repair	Aug 17 1995	Unknown	Apr 16 1997
Gte North Inc	Jun 22 1992	Gasoline	Jan 12 1995
Holiday Station #177 - Alpena	Jan 17 1989		Feb 12 1998
Klarich Property	Jun 17 1993	Gasoline,Unknown	Sep 15 1994
Cramer Truck Stop	Oct 3 1996	Unknown	Dec 17 1999

Cramer Truck Stop	Aug 14 1996	Kerosene	Dec 17 1999
Jones Transfer Company	Jul 12 1990		Dec 29 1995
Lafarge Corporation	Jun 9 1995	Unknown	Apr 26 1996
Lafarge Corporation	Aug 24 1994	Other	Sep 29 1995
Lafarge Corporation	Oct 3 1997	Unknown	Dec 7 1998
Lee's Auto Parts	Jul 19 1993	Diesel	Mar 7 2002
H & N Kurvan's Inc. North	Nov 21 2000	Unknown	Jun 12 2003
Louis Motor Sales	Aug 2 1991	Unknown	Jan 29 1997
Alpena State Police Post #74	Nov 2 1992	Gasoline,Unknown	Apr 22 1998
Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.	Dec 5 1989		Aug 26 1996
Alpena Crtc	Oct 31 1996	Diesel	Aug 18 1997
Alpena Crtc	Oct 29 1991	Unknown,Unknown	Dec 3 1992
Alpena Dixon Ford	Dec 12 1989		Feb 2 1995
D & M General Store	May 28 1991		Apr 2 1993
Partridge Point Marina	Aug 7 2000	Unknown	Apr 30 2001
R.A. Townsend	Aug 28 1991	Unknown	Mar 7 2005
Shalla's Service Station	Oct 12 1993	Gasoline	Mar 7 2003
Shalla's Service Station	Jul 6 1993	Kerosene	Mar 7 2003
Shalla's Service Station	Jul 14 1993	Unknown	Mar 7 2003
Thompson Sales And Service	Dec 18 1989		Mar 27 1992
Ups - Alpena	Sep 1 1993	Other	Oct 18 1993
Via-tech Corp.	Oct 22 1991	Unknown	Feb 10 1993
Sparkle Mart South	May 13 1998	Gasoline,Unknown	Feb 16 2011
Alpena County Regional Airport	Dec 22 1989		Dec 19 1996

Source: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality 2012

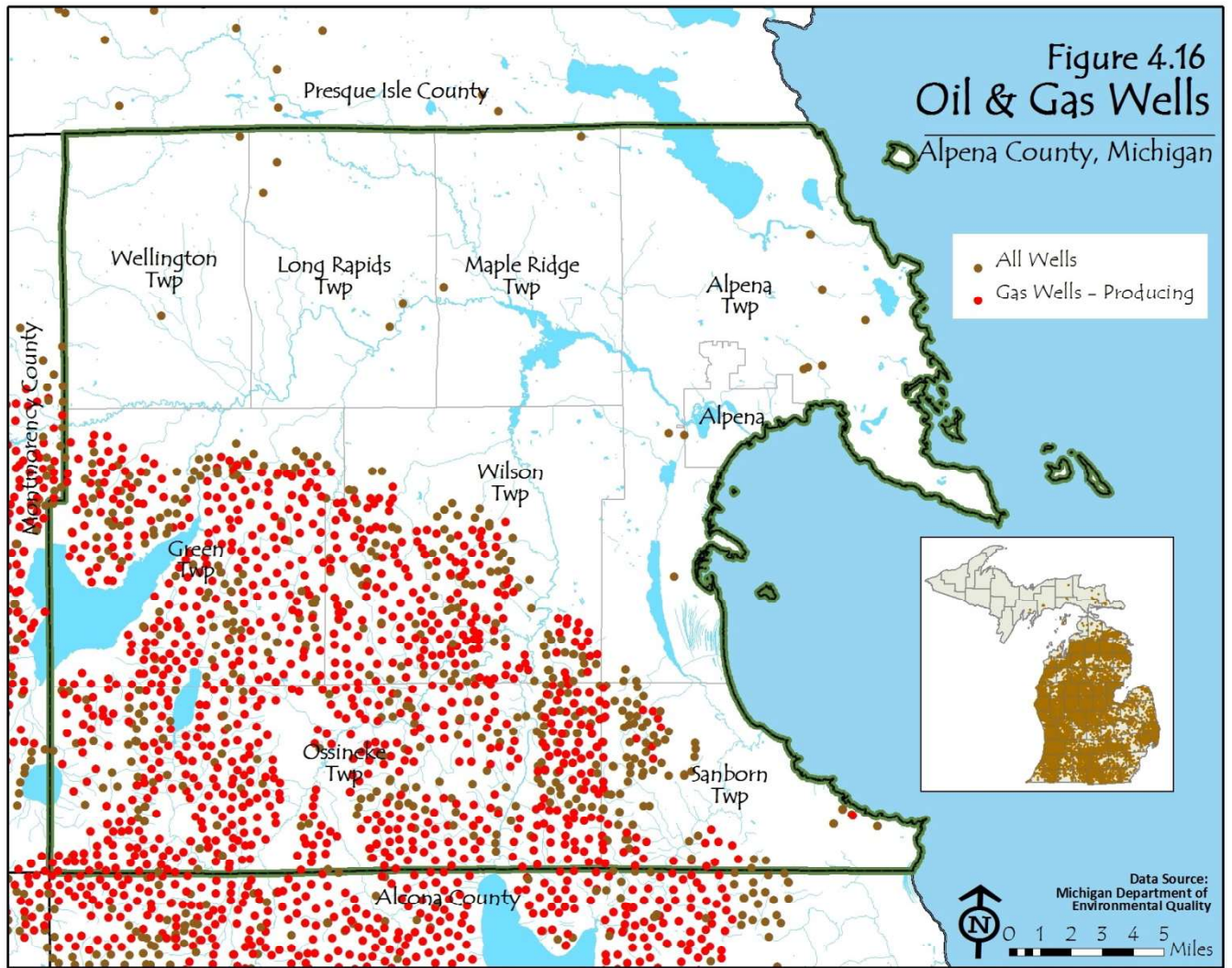
Oil & Gas Wells

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality reports that there are 1,464 oils and gas wells in Alpena County; most of those wells occur in Green, Wilson, and Ossineke Townships with a smaller portion occurring in Sanborn Township. The majority (895) are gas wells which are producing.

Table 4.10
Alpena County Oil & Gas Wells

Well Type	Number and Status of Wells
Gas	895 Producing; 7 Plugging Approved
Brine Disposal Well	38 Active; 1 Temporarily Abandoned
Dry Hole	85 Plugging Approved; 1 Plugging Complete
Gas Storage	2 Plugging Approved
Lost Hole	5 Plugging Approved
Location Only	419 Terminated Permit; 2 Drilling Complete; 1 Plugging Approved; 2 Plugging Complete; 6 Permitted Well

Source: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
www.nemcog.org

Agriculture

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture, the amount of land being farmed in Alpena County has increased from 73,790 acres in 2005 to 85,947 acres in 2007. 46,450 acres of cropland were harvested in 2007. Corn for grain (5,285 acres), corn for silage or greenchop (2,525 acres), wheat (3,695 acres), oats (2,474 acres), sunflower seeds (2,199 acres), and soybeans (for beans) (2,802 acres) are the primary crops in Alpena County. 25,265 acres of land is used for hay and all haylage, grass silage, and greenchop. In 2007, there were 11,336 heads of cattle, 514 hogs and pigs, 277 sheep and lambs, 1,534 chickens (layers), and 740 chickens (broiler/other meat type). The total market value of agricultural crop production in Alpena County totaled \$21,458,000 with crop sales reaching \$6,430,000 and livestock production reaching \$15,028,000. **Table 4.11** through **4.13** highlight agricultural statistics for Alpena County.

In 1974, Public Act 116 (now known as Part 361, Farmland and Open Space Preservation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, P.A. 451 of 1994) was passed into state law to provide tax relief to farmers that agreed to keep their farms in substantially undeveloped condition. To qualify for the tax credit a farmer must enter into a “farmland development rights agreement” in which they agree to impose a restrictive covenant on the property that limits the development of the property for any uses other than the farming operation. The agreements stay with land and must last a minimum of ten years and may be renewed. Once an application is approved, the property owner would continue to pay property taxes as before, but any amount that exceeds 3.5 percent (reduced from seven percent in 2002) of the owners annual household income becomes a tax credit applied to the state income tax. If the credit is larger than the taxes owned, the balance is refunded to the owner by direct payment. Records from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development show that Alpena County farms have 54 active agreements covering approximately 5,600 acres. There are also two pending agreements covering 154 acres at the time of this writing.

Table 4.11 Agriculture in Alpena County	
Farms (number)	573
Land in farms (acres)	85,947
Land in farms - Average size of farm (acres)	150
Land in farms - Median size of farm (acres)	79
Estimated market value of land and buildings (average per farm)	\$387,180
Estimated market value of land and buildings (average per acre)	\$2,581
Estimated market value of machinery and equipment (average per farm)	\$66,222
Farms by size - 1 to 9 acres	16
Farms by size - 10 to 49 acres	195
Farms by size - 50 to 179 acres	246
Farms by size - 180 to 499 acres	79
Farms by size - 500 to 999 acres	29
Farms by size - 1,000 acres or more	8
Total cropland (farms)	525
Total cropland (acres)	59,577
Total cropland - Harvested cropland (farms)	420
Total cropland - Harvested cropland (acres)	46,450
Irrigated land (farms)	18
Irrigated land (acres)	34
Market value of agricultural products sold (average per farm)	\$37,449
Total farm production expenses (average per farm)	\$30,420
Net farm income (average per farm)	\$9,251

Farms by value of sales - Less than \$2,500	264
Farms by value of sales - \$2,500 to \$4,999	68
Farms by value of sales - \$5,000 to \$9,999	75
Farms by value of sales - \$10,000 to \$24,999	70
Farms by value of sales - \$25,000 to \$49,999	28
Farms by value of sales - \$50,000 to \$99,999	21
Farms by value of sales - \$100,000 or more	47
Principal operator by primary occupation - Farming	217
Principal operator by primary occupation - Other	356
Cattle (farms)	178
Hogs and pigs (farms)	26
Sheep and lambs (farms)	17
Chickens – meat (farms)	8
Chickens – layers (farms)	55
Corn for grain (farms)	86
Corn for silage or greenchop (farms)	47
Wheat (farms)	40
Oat (farms)	49
Barley (farms)	9
Sorghum (farms)	8
Soybeans (farms)	21
Dry edible beans (farms)	4
Potatoes (farms)	7
Forage (farms) (land used for hay and all haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	344
Sunflower seeds (farms)	9
Vegetables (farms)	25
Land in orchards (farms)	24
Hired farm labor (workers)	335
Source: The Census of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, 2007	

Table 4.12 Alpena County Key Agricultural Products		
Key Products	Production	Revenues
Corn, soy, and wheat	14,307 acres	\$2,554,000
Vegetables	85 acres	\$182,000
Fruit and tree nuts	103 acres	\$175,000
Dairy farms	39 farms	\$12,409,000
All animal operations	281 operations (16,537 animals)	\$15,028,000
Michigan Department of Agriculture – July 2009		

Table 4.13
Alpena County Total Acreage by Crop

Key Products	Acres
Corn	6,056.5
Sorghum	11.1
Soybeans	6,442.8
Sunflower	392.3
Sweet Corn	0.2
Pop or Orn Corn	1.6
Barley	199
Winter Wheat	4,371.2
Rye	152.8
Oats	692.1
Alfalfa	28,940.9
Other Hay/Non Alfalfa	9,152.4
Sugarbeets	13.8
Dry Beans	1,307.7
Potatoes	401.2
Clover/Wildflowers	241.1
Radishes	11.6
Christmas Trees	1.1
Total Acres in Use	58,389.4
United States Department of Agriculture	

Table 4.14
Alpena County Potential Tillable Acres

Key Products	Acres
Deciduous Forest	63,733.6
Evergreen Forest	16,705.8
Mixed Forest	2,710.5
Shrubland	742.4
Grassland Herbaceous	12,081.8
Pasture/Hay	5,989.5
Fallow/Idle Cropland	4,056.0
Total Acres	106,019.6
United States Department of Agriculture	

Economic Development

Economic Sectors

The major sectors which make up Alpena County's economy are industrial, retail, service, governmental and agricultural. A brief analysis of each of the sectors is found in the following sections.

Table 5.1
Alpena County Business Patterns*

	Paid Employees**	Total Establishments	Annual Payroll
Total for all sectors	9,778	852	\$297,267,000
Forestry, fishing, hunting, and Agriculture Support	0-19	6	a
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0-19	3	\$1,448,000
Utilities	63	4	\$4,351,000
Construction	366	97	\$14,865,000
Manufacturing	1,174	45	\$49,169,000
Wholesale trade	479	36	\$19,859,000
Retail trade	1,802	160	\$40,324,000
Transportation and warehousing	298	35	\$8,854,000
Information	211	19	\$6,462,000
Finance and insurance	387	46	\$13,504,000
Real estate and rental and leasing	114	19	\$2,159,000
Professional, scientific, and technical services	228	48	\$7,883,000
Management of companies and enterprises	20-99	5	a
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	166	26	\$3,473,000
Educational services	35	8	\$437,000
Health care and social assistance	2,862	90	\$101,933,000
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	90	13	\$1,524,000
Accommodation and food services	910	72	\$9,870,000
Other services (except public administration)	512	114	\$8,329,000
Industries not classified	0-19	6	\$65,000

* Does not include public sector jobs

** Paid employees as of mid-March 2009

(a) - Information withheld to avoid disclosing information about individual companies

Source: County Business Patterns - U.S. Census Bureau - 2009

Table 5.2
Alpena County Business Patterns – Size of Establishments*

	Number of Establishments by Employee-Size Class							
	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999
Total for all sectors	479	162	116	66	19	7	1	2
Forestry, fishing, hunting, and Agriculture Support	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Construction	85	1	7	3	1	-	-	-
Manufacturing	17	7	6	9	3	3	-	-
Wholesale trade	18	10	3	3	-	2	-	-
Retail trade	79	37	28	12	2	1	1	-
Transportation and warehousing	18	6	8	2	1	-	-	-
Information	8	4	3	3	1	-	-	-
Finance and insurance	25	8	9	3	1	-	-	-
Real estate and rental and leasing	16	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Professional, scientific, and technical services	28	14	6	-	-	-	-	-
Management of companies and enterprises	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	20	2	2	1	1	-	-	-
Educational services	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Health care and social assistance	30	28	14	9	6	1	-	2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	7	2	3	1	-	-	-	-
Accommodation and food services	29	15	10	16	2	-	-	-
Other services (except public administration)	79	20	13	2	-	-	-	-
Industries not classified	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Does not include public sector jobs

(a) - Information withheld to avoid disclosing information about individual companies

Source: County Business Patterns - U.S. Census Bureau - 2009

Table 5.3
Alpena County Principal Employers*

Principal Employer	Type	# of Employees
1. Alpena Regional Medical Center	Health Care	950
2. Alpena Public Schools	Education	461
3. Alpena Community College	Education	441
4. Walmart	Department Store	400
5. Decorative Panels International, Inc	Hardboard Manufacturer	300
6. Lafarge North America	Cement	265
7. DeVere Construction	Global Construction Design	150
8. Tendercare Alpena	Nursing & Convalescent Home	150
9. Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency	Social Service	150
10. Neiman's Family Market	Grocer	145
11. Home Depot	Home Center	125
12. Michigan Air National Guard	Air Base	120
13. Great North Foods	Grocers – Wholesale	120
14. NEMROC, Inc	Vocational Development Services/Manufacturer	115
15. Kmart	Department Store	101
16. Besser	Concrete	97
17. Alpena Montmorency Alcona Educational Service District	Education	75
18. Tendercare Greenview	Nursing & Convalescent Home	72
19. Panel Processing, Inc.	Hardboard Finishing	70
20. JC Penney	Department Store	70
21. Northeast MI Community Mental Health	Mental Health Services	70
22. Service Master Clean	Cleaning Services	70
23. Alpena News	Newspaper	66
24. Holiday Inn	Hotel	65
25. Dial A Ride	Transportation	63
26. Ossineke Industries	Cutting & Machine Tool	60
27. Turning Brook	Retirement Living	59
28. The Omni Group	Custom Handling Equipment	55
29. Alpena Medical Arts	Health Care	55
30. RA Townsend	Heating Equipment & Systems	55
31. Leelin Home Health Care	Health Care Instruction	50
32. First Federal of Northern MI	Bank	50
33. Cliff Anschuetz – Chevrolet	Car Dealership	50
34. Big Boy	Restaurant	50
Source: Reference USA from Infogroup *50+ employees		

Overall, business with 1-4 employees far outweigh larger businesses in Alpena County. These small businesses account for 479 of the establishments, while businesses with over 50 employees only account for 26 establishments.

Health Care & Social Assistance

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry makes up the largest economic sector in Alpena County. Over 2,800 people are employed at 90 establishments making up a payroll of nearly \$102-million. Table 5.2 indicates that there are two establishments which employ over 500 people. One of these is Alpena Regional Medical Center (950 employees) while the other is a combination of “other individual and family services”.

Industrial Development/Construction/Wholesale Trade

Until the middle 1980’s the Alpena County economy was centered in the manufacturing sector with a few large industries making up a majority of the industrial base. Although the large industrial plants still are a vital component to the regional economy, the recent trend has been towards the development of smaller businesses with fewer employees. There are 17 establishments in Alpena County with only one to four employees and only three or four which employ more than 100 (this number fluctuates). However, manufacturing still plays a vital role in Alpena’s economy in that it employs over 1,100 people in approximately 45 establishments. This has a total annual payroll of approximately \$49-million. Down from second in 2001, industry now has the third highest number of employees and the second largest payroll in Alpena County. Decorative Panels International is the fifth largest employer in Alpena County and the largest industrial employer followed by LaFarge and Devere Construction at sixth and seventh.

Wholesale trade accounts for nearly \$20-million in payroll in Alpena County employing 479 people in approximately 36 establishments. The Construction industry employs 366 people in over 97 establishments for a total payroll over \$14.8-million. Devere Construction is the seventh largest employer in Alpena County.

In 2012, the \$28-million dollar Alpena Biorefinery is slated to open in the City of Alpena. The facility will employ 21 people and could be the beginning of an “Island of Biotech” in the city. The biorefinery will utilize wood sugar rich waste from Decorative Panels International’s (DPI) manufacturing process as the feedstock to produce ethanol. The plant has been awarded grants from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and from the Department of Energy. It is one of the only cellulosic ethanol facilities in the U.S. and is garnering national and international attention. Other manufacturers are also expanding including Besser, which is considering diversification and F&T Fur Traders which is headquartered in Ossineke and opened a manufacturing facility in Alpena. If these trends continue, Alpena County may see a resurgence in an industrial-centered economy in the near future.

Retail

Alpena County, especially the Township and City of Alpena, serves as a regional shopping destination for residents of nearby counties. The importance of retail trade on the area's economy is found in **Table 5.1**. As of 2009, that sector had the third highest payroll in the county at \$40-million and employed 1,802 persons in 160 establishments. This is nearly equal to the amount in 2001, indicating that the retail sector has weathered the economic downturn fairly well. Most retail establishments employ between one and four employees (79 establishments), while a fair number (37) employ between five and nine. Walmart, employing 400 people, is the fourth largest employer in Alpena County. Neiman’s Family Market, with

145 employees, is the 10th largest employer. Home Depot and Kmart round off the list of retail establishments that employ more than 100 people.

Services

The services sector is made up of all sectors listed below Transportation and Warehousing in Table 5.1. The service sector makes up the majority of Alpena County's economy. Without factoring in health care services, all other service sectors employ over 2,600 people for a total payroll over \$53-million. This data reflects the trend toward a service-based economy. Accommodation and food services alone employs over 900 people for a payroll of over \$9.8-million. While public educational employees are not factored into the Census statistics listed in Table 5.1, Alpena Public School is the second largest employer in Alpena County at 461 employees.

Government

The government sector makes up another important part of the economy in the county. Data on **Table 5.1** does not include governmental employment. Information found in **Chapter 2**, however, does reveal the importance of the governmental sector in Alpena County. State government employees garner the third highest weekly wages in Alpena County.

Military

The Combat Readiness Training Center, located at the Alpena County Regional Airport has an estimated \$90 million impact on the community. The largest airspace training zone east of the Mississippi River, the CRTC has 147,000 acres available for ground maneuvers. The CRTC offers support facilities, instruction, and training facilities for use by DOD, DHS, and civilian emergency responders. 20,000 military and civilian personnel visit the CRTC annually for training.

Tourism

With over 13,000 acres of lakes, 300 miles of streams and tributaries and 61 miles of Lake Huron shoreline, Alpena County's water resources are a major tourism draw. The tourism sector is a subset of both the retail and service sectors of the county's economy. It is difficult to find exact numbers regarding the impact of tourism on an economy. Fishing and hunting play a vital role in the economy of Alpena County. **Table 5.4** shows the number of licenses issued for each within the county.

Table 5.4
2011 Fishing and Hunting Licenses – Alpena County

FISHING LICENSES		HUNTING LICENSES CONTINUED			
RES Restricted Fish	4,753	Mgt Assist Permit Deer D	17	RES PVT Antlerless Deer	7
SR Restricted Fish	723	Turkey Fall Appl	1	RES OTC PVT Antlerless	4,255
NR Restricted Fish	678	RES Fall Turkey	1	NR OTC PVT Antlerless	25
RES Upgd All Species Fish	149	Turkey Spring Appl	287	RES Mltary Small Game	1
SR Upgd All Species Fish	8	RES Spring Turkey	218	RES Mltary Firearm Deer	7
NR Upgd All Species Fish	7	SR Spring Turkey	70	RES Mltary Archery Deer	2
RES All Species Fish	2,815	Elk Appl Res	499	MLT OTC PVT Antlerless	10
SR All Species Fish	767	Elk License Receipt	2	MLT OTC PUB Antlerless	2
Young Anglr All Spec Fish	6	Bear Application	922	RES Pub Ld 273 Antlerless	4
NR All Species Fish	112	RES Bear	66	APC RES Small Game	5
24 Hour Fish	993	SR Bear	18	APC JR Small Game	14
24 SR Hour Fish	8	RES Bear NO KILL TAG	11	APC Waterfowl Hunting	3
72 Hour Fish	328	SR Bear NO KILL TAG	2	APC RES Fur Harvester	1
72 SR Hour Fish	1	RES Fur Harvester	259	APC JR Fur Harvester	1
Lake Sturgeon Fishing Tag	3	SR Fur Harvester	49	APC RES Hunt234 SpgTurkey	2
RES Mltary All Spec Fish	47	JR Fur Harvester	28	APC Res LO Spring Turkey	3
TOTAL FISHING LICENSES	11,398	RES Fur Trap Only	8	APC RES Firearm Deer	12
		JR Fur Trap Only	4	APC JR Archery Deer	7
HUNTING LICENSES		Bobcat Tag Unit A or B		APC RES OTC PUBAntlerless	
RES Small Game	1,347	Bobcat Tag Unit A C or D	159	APC RES COMBO RegularDeer	6
SR Small Game	353	RES LO Fall Turkey	4	APC JR COMBO Regular Deer	18
JR Small Game	158	Res LO Spring Turkey	198	APC RES COMBO RestrictDeer	6
NR Small Game	20	SR LO Spring Turkey	52	APC JR COMBO RestrictDeer	18
3 Day NR Small Game	12	Lifetime Bear Application	1	APC JR Firearm Deer	33
Waterfowl Hunting	478	SR LO Bear	1	APC RES OTC PVTAntlerless	10
Appl Resrv Waterfowl Hunt	12	Marten/Fisher Kill Tag	25	Crossbow Stamp	472
Daily Area Use Waterfowl	1	Otter KillTag Unit A or B	81	Bear Appl Post Transfer	4
Annual Area Use Waterfowl	8	Otter KillTag Unit A or B	81	TOTAL HUNTING LICENSES	21,058
Gamebird Hunting Preserve	9	Otter KillTag Unit A or C	81	TOTAL LICENSES	32,456
RES Firearm Deer	2,597	Pure Michigan Appl 2011	26		
SR Firearm Deer	767	RES COMBO Regular Deer	1,936		
NR Firearm Deer	127	SR COMBO Regular Deer	452		
JR Firearm Deer	214	JR COMBO Regular Deer	183		
RES Archery Deer	352	NR COMBO Regular Deer	9		
SR Archery Deer	88	MLT COMBO Regular Deer	7		
JR Archery Deer	22	RES Hunt234 Spring Turkey	184		
NR Archery Deer	10	SR Hunt234 Spring Turkey	43		
Appl PUB Antlerless Deer	57	RES COMBO Restricted Deer	1,936		
RES PUB Antlerless Deer	35	SR COMBO Restricted Deer	452		
NR PUB Antlerless Deer	1	JR COMBO Restricted Deer	184		
JR Antlerless Deer	1	NR COMBO Restricted Deer	9		
RES OTC PUB Antlerless	709	MLT COMBO Restricted Deer	7		
NR OTC PUB Antlerless	1	Appl PVT Antlerless Deer	17		

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2011

In addition to water activities, the Alpena area offers camping at the fairgrounds, pool, nature trails, an island park, waterfowl sanctuary, Northern Lights Arena, Thunder Bay Recreation Center, and many parks

in the city. An 18.5 mile Bi-Path travels through several of Alpena's scenic parks and beaches as it winds through the City along the Thunder Bay River and the Lake Huron shoreline. Alpena County has two state parks (Negwegon State Park and Rockport State Park), two state forest campgrounds (Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground – closed at the time of this printing and Ossineke State Forest Campground), three county campgrounds (Long Lake, Sunken Lake, and Beaver Lake), and four commercial campgrounds with a combined total of over 400 campsites. In addition, a scenic overlook is located at Manning Hill Park.

Spending at tourism related business is at its highest between June and September, peaking in July. Tourism spending declines in the fall then has a significant increase December. Receipts are at their lowest in January and February and then begin to increase in the spring.

Golf courses and tennis courts provide outdoor recreation. The Thunder Bay Recreation Center and Northern Lights Ice Arena provide a combination of indoor recreation. Two live performance theatres and two movie theatres, both with multiple screens provide indoor entertainment. The Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan, the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Library, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, and the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center offer cultural and historical opportunities. Tourists arriving along the City of Alpena's major corridors will also view historic homes that have been restored and preserved. Many of these homes are typical of the early lumbering era and date back to the 19th century.

Organizations in Alpena County sponsor several annual festivals and other activities. These special events help to attract large groups of tourists to the area. Annual festivals held include the Michigan Brown Trout Festival, Art on the Bay, the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival, the Alpena Blues Festival, the Maritime Festival, and many others. The Alpena County Fair also takes place at the Alpena County Fairgrounds.

Maritime Heritage Tourism

Maritime Heritage Tourism has become a significant economic driver in the Alpena area. Over 75,000 people visited the Maritime Heritage Center in 2011. Alpena Shipwreck Tours launched in 2011. Owned by John Madigan of Picture Rocks, Apostle Island, and Sleeping Bear Dunes Boat Tours, the tours were enthusiastically received. More than 5,000 people were taken out on the glass-bottomed "Lady Michigan" to view shipwrecks in 2011.

Trails

The North Eastern State Trail (NEST) was completed in 2011. Users can walk, bicycle, horseback ride or snowmobile 71 miles from Alpena to Cheboygan. The trail runs from Woodward Avenue in the City of Alpena to the Lincoln Street in City of Cheboygan where it merges with the North Central State Trail which runs south 45 miles to Gaylord or northwest 16 miles to Mackinaw City. The NEST has a 10' wide packed crushed limestone surface with two foot shoulders, new safety signs, access control features and mile marker posts. The trail use, determined by the DNR, is for all non-motorized users year round and snowmobiles from December 1 through March 31. This project was a collaboration between two state departments, local governments and a non-profit organization. The Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC) led the effort to help assemble a 3.1 million dollar funding package which included gaining 5% of the project costs from local governments, individuals and organizations. The Michigan Department of Transportation completed the engineering and project oversight while the Michigan Department of Natural Resources oversaw the project implementation and will continue to manage and maintain the facility. The trail now creates a link across northeast Michigan on the former Detroit to Mackinaw Railroad connecting Alpena, Posen, Hawks, Millersburg, Onaway, Aloha and Cheboygan.

Other notable trail systems within Alpena County include Norway Ridge Pathway, Chippewa Hills Pathway, and a snowmobile trail system throughout the county.

Pure Michigan Campaign and Alpena CVB

The Alpena Convention and Visitors Bureau's Alpena Pure Michigan Partnership and Sunrise Coast Partnership have been successful and have caused the CVB's website position on search engines and generated visits to climb. 2011 showed a 40% increase from the previous summer. Alpena Pure Michigan partnership clicks were up 10% from 2010 to 2011. In 2011, Alpena was the 25th most clicked on property on www.michigan.org compared to the 37th most clicked on in 2010. Sunrise Coast clicks were up 8% from 2010 to 2011. Alpena was the most clicked on property in the Sunrise Coast campaign. Direct phone and email inquiries were up slightly in 2011 from 2010. In 2011, the CVB raised the room assessment which significantly increased the CVB's ability to market the area.

Opportunity Assessment

In 2011, Destination Development International (DDI) was hired to conduct an Opportunity Assessment product development program to give the community an objective look through the eyes of a visitor. The second phase, Destination BrandCamp, will take place in 2012. This program will create a specific, identifiable brand and marketing plan to allow the CVB and the community to market the Alpena area more effectively.

US 23 Heritage Route

The US 23 Heritage Route extends 200 miles from Standish to Mackinaw City and is a tourism-focused promotional program. Each county along the route has an active Heritage Route Team and participates in an overseeing Management Council. The Alpena County Heritage Route Team consists of volunteers interested in tourism and history. Each year, the county teams and the Management Council work toward implementing projects which are stated in the US 23 Heritage Route Management Plan. A landmark project has been the award-winning website www.heritage23.com which provides an interactive one-stop shop of things to see and do along the county-wide Heritage Route corridor. In addition, the Heritage Route publishes maps and brochures highlighting recreational amenities. Therefore, the US 23 Heritage Route program assists with promotion of public and private recreational facilities in the county.

Building Activity

An analysis of the building permits issued in the county can give insight to growth trends in a given area. Recent building permit data from all of the county's local governmental units are found on **Table 5.5**. Overall, the numbers of new residential units being built in the county has remained relatively stagnant over the last five years compared to the late 1990's and early 2000's. By far the majority of new residential units are being built in Alpena Township (similar to the trend from 2000-2006). 82 new homes were built in Alpena Township, while only 10 were built in Long Rapids and Maple Ridge Townships (each), and only nine were built within the city limits. The decrease in the rate at which new homes are being constructed in Alpena County reflects the stagnant economy and the out-migration of population resulting from job losses.

The number of new commercial units being built in the county has also remained fairly stagnant during the last five years and is down significantly from the rate of commercial building in the early part of the decade. Again, Alpena Township has seen the greatest percentage of commercial building in the county with 12 permits being issued. The City of Alpena had eight new commercial building permits during this timeframe. Commercial building remains low in the remaining townships. It is no surprise that the

majority of new commercial establishments are being built in Alpena City and Township, as this is where infrastructure such as municipal water and sewer services are found.

Table 5.5
Alpena County Building Permits: 2007-2011

Permit Type	TOTAL		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	COMM	RES	New Res	New Comm	New Res	New Comm	New Res	New Comm	New Res	New Comm	New Res	New Comm
Alpena City	8	9	3	2	2	2	1	1	0	1	3	2
Alpena Twp	12	82	21	7	21	0	15	2	14	0	11	3
Green Twp	1	8	3	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
Long Rapids Twp	0	10	4	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Maple Ridge Twp	0	10	4	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ossineke Twp	1	7	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Sanborn Twp	2	6	4	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wellington Twp	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wilson Twp	2	18	9	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	4	0

Source: Township and City Building Officials

Economic Development Organizations and Renaissance Zones

Economic Development Organizations

Housed under the umbrella of the Alpena Chamber of Commerce, Target Alpena Development Corporation is the primary economic development organization in the county. The Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce and Michigan State University Extension partner with other organizations in order to promote economic development in the area. Other more specialized economic development entities include Alpena's Downtown Development Authority and the Alpena Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Target Alpena

Founded in 1989, Target Alpena Development Corporation is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that was established for economic development purposes in Alpena County. It is the primary conduit for economic activity in Northeast Michigan. Target Alpena is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from financial institutions, businesses, individuals, governmental entities, foundations, utilities, and grants.

North Industrial Park was created by the Greater Alpena Industrial Corporation. In the mid 90's the corporation was absorbed by Target Alpena which received the assets of the corporation and assumed the responsibility of recruiting business into the industrial park. Since that time, Target Alpena filled eight of the remaining nine lots. In a cooperative effort with the City, Target also developed the Commerce Industrial Park. Development of the park was financed by lot sales in North Industrial Park, a Rural Development grant, and a CDBG infrastructure grant.

Target Alpena activities focus largely on five areas:

1. Business development and assistance using a regional, collaborative perspective.
2. Job creation through retention and expansion of local businesses, attraction of new compatible businesses, and business start-ups.
3. Providing assistance to governmental entities on issues such as grant programs concerning infrastructure and transportation, revitalization projects and other relevant economic development issues.
4. Ongoing marketing and promotion of Alpena to cultivate growth potential of the Alpena area.
5. Education on current economic trends and policies as they relate to Alpena.
6. Providing financial assistance to area businesses through the Alpena County Revolving Loan Program and the Target Alpena Micro Revolving Loan Program.
7. Linking businesses by facilitating networking.
8. Developing new markets.
9. Liaison to state and federal governments.

Target Alpena's Revolving Loan Fund Program has played a key role in economic growth in the community. Since its inception, it has made 70 loans amounting to \$1,300,000 resulting in \$13,000,000 invested in the community. The loan program can be attributed to creating over 200 jobs and retaining an additional 2000 jobs. Target also administers a Micro Loan program across a 6-county area. The program has made 182 loans for a total value of \$2,076,400.

Renaissance Zones

In 1998, six Renaissance Zones were designated by the State in Alpena County. Four of the zones are in the City of Alpena and two are in Wilson Township at the Alpena County Regional Airport. The Renaissance Zone designation promotes economic development through tax exemptions from State Income Tax, the Single Business Tax, General Property Tax (not including debt retirement and special assessments), and the Education Tax for eligible businesses. Business property owners and residents located in a Renaissance Zone are exempt from State taxes for a period of up to 15 years. Although that time period begins at the time of the State designation, extensions can be requested. The following zones have been designated.

Commerce Industrial Park Sub Zone 1 (Expires 12-31-14)

This 21.76 acre light industrial park is owned by Target Alpena Development Corporation and is a Michigan Certified Business Park. The 15 development lots average one acre in size and are intended for small industrial and commercial uses. A limitation that prevents more than two lots being combined was established to promote smaller industrial users; however, this policy can be waived based on the merits of an individual development proposal. Underground utilities and a paved road system are established. The park is currently under development, with one lot under development; additionally 2½ lots have recently been sold with substantial development pending.

Oxbow Park Sub Zone 2 (Expires 12-31-17)

This 39.7 acre former City landfill was owned by the City of Alpena but sold to a private developer in 2002. The general landfill closed in the 1950's and was most recently used for recreation and as a City dumping site for inert materials. A site plan for a neo-traditional mixed-use development has been approved as a project called Oxbow Village. Planned uses for the development include a combination of residential, office, recreation, and institutional. The City obtained grant funding that was used to perform environmental activities on the site and bring infrastructure to the area in support of the redevelopment of the property. Private development of the site is currently underway.

National Guard Armory Site Sub Zone 3 (Expires 12-31-17)

This historic structure was dedicated in the 1920's as Memorial Hall, in honor of the veterans of World War I. In the 1950's, this 0.70 acre site became a state-owned National Guard Armory Building. The State divested itself of the property in 2006 to local private developers following the relocation of the National Guard to the Combat Readiness Training Center in mid 2000. The property is zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD) and final development plans are currently in progress. The City of Alpena has completed a historic district study of the site and has established a single-resource historic district on the property.

Southwest Residential Site Sub Zone 4

This is a city-owned 14.85 acre site originally platted in 1893. The property was never developed due to the low nature of the terrain and lack of infrastructure. A wetland delineation prepared by Global Environmental Engineering shows that 9.75 acres of the property is wetland. Consequently, the property is unlikely to be developed. Half of the site is now preserved as wetland to mitigate the development of a ¾ acre parcel of wetland in North Industrial Park.

Alpena County Regional Airport, West Side Sub Zone 5 (Expires 12-31-14)

This 87-acre site is located on the main entrance drive the airport. The site is adjacent to M-32 and sewer, water and fiber optics are available.

Alpena County Regional Airport, East Side Sub Zone 6 (Expires 12-31-14)

This 120-acre site is located on the east side of the airport property abutting the north side of M-32. Airport related office or light industrial uses are anticipated for the site. Water, sewer, and fiber optics are available.

Alpena Downtown Development Authority

The Alpena City Council adopted Ordinance No. 110 on April 21, 1980, creating a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) under Public Act 179 of 1975. The intentions were to strengthen the downtown business district, promote economic growth and revitalization, encourage commercial revitalization, and historic preservation. The DDA provides the community with the necessary legal, monetary, and organizational tools to revitalize economically distressed areas either through public-initiated projects or with private development projects. The initial DDA district covered the core downtown area. Since that time the boundaries have been expanded to include properties along Washington Street, Fifth Street and the old Fletcher Paper Mill site on the Thunder Bay River. In July of 1981, the first Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan were adopted for the DDA. These plans were amended in January of 2005. The DDA's Strategic Plan was finalized in 2003. Traditional brick and mortar projects as well as historic preservation activities have remained key elements of the DDA's initiatives.

The Downtown Development Authority Mission as established by Public Act 197 of 1975 is: *To correct and prevent deterioration in the established DDA district; to encourage historic preservation; to acquire and dispose of interests in real and personal property; to create and implement development plans in the district; and to promote the economic growth of the district.*

The primary goal of the DDA is to implement positive economic, physical, and aesthetic changes in downtown Alpena according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Main Street" 4-points approach. According to the organization:

The National Trust Main Street Center offers a comprehensive commercial district revitalization strategy that has been widely successful in towns and cities nationwide. Described below are the four points of the Main Street approach which work together to build a sustainable and complete community revitalization effort.

- **Organization** involves getting everyone working toward the same goal and assembling the appropriate human and financial resources to implement a Main Street revitalization program.
- **Promotion** sells a positive image of the commercial district and encourages consumers and investors to live, work, shop, play and invest in the Main Street district.
- **Design** means getting Main Street into top physical shape. Capitalizing on its best assets — such as historic buildings and pedestrian-oriented streets — is just part of the story. An inviting atmosphere, created through attractive window displays, parking areas, building improvements, street furniture, signs, sidewalks, street lights, and landscaping, conveys a positive visual message about the commercial district and what it has to offer.
- **Economic Restructuring** strengthens a community's existing economic assets while expanding and diversifying its economic base.

The DDA works to promote activities in the business district by selling the image and promise of Downtown to all prospects by marketing the district's unique characteristics to shoppers, investors, new businesses, and visitors. An effective promotion strategy forges a positive image through advertising, retail promotional activity, special events, and marketing campaigns.

The parking committee continues to review the downtown parking plan for all day and two hour parking. The two hour parking zones were established to guarantee a regular turn-over in the most convenient spaces on the streets and in parking lots, so that our visitors can be assured that a convenient parking space will be available when they come to downtown.

In the fall of 2004, the DDA initiated a Façade Grant Program that provides a 50% match up to \$5,000 for exterior renovations of store fronts and backs. Renovations must be made in the historical context of the building. A design committee meets with the landowner to review and approve proposed renovations. The DDA façade grants programs awards grants under the program in any amount requested from a minimum award of \$500.00 up to a maximum award of \$ 5,000.00. Applicants for a grant must provide a matching amount to their grant request based on a dollar for dollar basis. An applicant's proposed improvement project total can exceed \$ 10,000.00; however the DDA's participation will still be limited to a maximum amount of \$5,000.00.

The DDA worked with the City of Alpena to initiate the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) and the downtown rental rehab grant program. In addition, the DDA offers a downtown business support team and provides a retail incentive program. The DDA recently completed a wayfinding program and launched a new website at <http://www.alpenadowntown.com>.

Alpena Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Alpena Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) was created in 1984 under Public Act 59 of 1984. The organization is funded primarily from a five percent assessment on rooms in hotels with 10 or more rooms. The organization markets Alpena County and the eastern coastal areas of Presque Isle County to bring visitors into the region. The CVB works with convention groups to provide a "packaged" event experience. Marketing is accomplished through a visitor's guide, web site, travel writers, participation in the Pure Michigan campaign, and other media. Marketing strategies focus on maritime heritage, parks and trails, and local attractions. The bureau partners with other community organizations such as the

Chamber of Commerce and DDA. As the community has expanded its tourism base, the Convention and Visitors Bureau has taken on an increasingly important role in economic development and function as a “Destination Marketing Organization.”

Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce

The Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce is an organization that serves and represents its business members. It is a 501(c)6 structured to be a lobbying organization. Founded over 90 years ago and officially incorporated in 1947, the organization has a long history of community involvement and creating a stimulus for community growth. Its mission statement is *“by serving our members, the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce actively champions economic development and the advancement of the community’s quality of life.”* The chamber partners with local government, Alpena Community College, Target Alpena, DDA, and Alpena Convention and Visitors Bureau to work towards realizing its mission. Services for members include a group health care plan, reduced credit cards processing fees, insurance discounts for cars and homes, and a small business loan program through a local bank. The Chamber works to create a positive business climate in Northeast Michigan, is a member of the Northern Michigan Regional Chamber Alliance, promotes Alpena, and provides networking and affordable educational opportunities to its members.

The 2012 merging of the Chamber and Target Alpena will:

- ◆ present a stronger relationship with a variety of partners
- ◆ be a full service stop for entrepreneurs and existing businesses looking for assistance
- ◆ have a more streamlined approach to assisting business start-ups and expansions
- ◆ have a combine financial audit
- ◆ build a stronger effort for economic development in the region
- ◆ have a more efficient system internally

City of Alpena Economic Development Activities

There are a number of economic development activities administered by the City. Staff responsible for these efforts includes the City Manager, City Planner and City Engineer. Programs include brownfield redevelopment, renaissance zones, infrastructure improvements, and CDBG grants.

Brownfield Redevelopment

The Alpena City Council established a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority with the adoption of Resolution 1997-7 on March 17, 1997, pursuant to the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Michigan Public Act 381. The Council designated its incorporated boundaries as the boundaries of the brownfield zone. The City is considered a “core community” by the State and is able to offer financial assistance for cleanup and revitalization activities on three categories of eligible property. These categories include: blighted property, contaminated property and functionally obsolete property. Costs associated with cleanup and redevelopment of an eligible property are funded through Tax Increment Financing. Qualified taxpayers that own or lease the brownfield site may be eligible for State Single Business Tax Credits.

Alpena developed a Brownfield Redevelopment Plan in 2001. The plan identified eight perspective eligible properties. Projects have been developed for the former Fletcher Paper Mill property at 318 W. Fletcher Street (site of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center project and Fletcher Street Brewing Company project), Lafarge Midwest, Inc, Alpena Site at 1435 Ford Avenue, and Dean Arbor Ford on US 23 North. Brownfield Redevelopment activities have yielded tangible successes and supported economic growth in the core of the City, particularly along the waterfront.

Residential Programs

Alpena has initiated several residential rehabilitation and development programs. MSHDA grants through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program support the Downtown Rental Development Area and Lincoln School Neighborhood Target Area projects. The purpose of the Downtown Rental Development program is to increase the downtown's residential population by creating rental housing units for moderate and market rate income households in vacant or underutilized areas of the upper floors of existing commercial buildings (retail, office or institutional use) within a designated portion of the City's downtown. Increasing residential populations in business districts tends to increase business activity and growth, while creating a healthy, more vibrant downtown.

The City has also established Neighborhood Enterprise Zones under P.A. 147 of 1992. Neighborhood Enterprise Zones promote neighborhood revitalization and encourages owner-occupied housing and new investment in core communities. The revitalization and new construction programs focus on the central business district to encourage a mixed use development pattern.

Economic Summary

Summary Statistics from the Edward Lowe Foundation

The website www.youreconomy.org, a product of the Edward Lowe Foundation, has provided summary statistics for the Alpena County economy from 2000-2010. According to YourEconomy.org, from 2000-2010, jobs in Alpena County decreased by 4.2 percent and sales fell 13.9 percent. Primarily, the job loss was caused by establishments that went out of business during this time. The number of job losses would have been greater if the expansions of existing companies had not added jobs during the same period. About 1.3 percent of job losses came from companies moving. As job losses were felt in the Stage 2 and Stage 3 companies, the number of self-employed rose by over 86 percent. Nonresident companies (those headquartered out of state) actually experienced job gain and an increase in sales.

Table 5.6
Establishments Summary
2000-2010

	2000	2010	Change	%
TOTAL	2,097	2,763	666	31.8%
Noncommercial	186	183	-3	-1.6%
Nonresident	77	70	-7	-9.1%
Resident	1,834	2,510	676	36.9%
Self-Employed (1)	546	1,016	470	86.1%
Stage 1 (2-9)	1,008	1,259	251	24.9%
Stage 2 (10-99)	260	223	-37	-14.2%
Stage 3 (100-499)	17	9	-8	-47.1%
Stage 4 (500+)	3	3	0	0.0%

Source: Edward Lowe Foundation www.youreconomy.org

Table 5.7
Jobs Summary
2000-2010

	2000	2010	Change	%
TOTAL	18,461	17,680	-781	-4.2%
Noncommercial	2,166	1,551	-615	-28.4%
Nonresident	1,564	1,787	223	14.3%
Resident	14,731	14,342	-389	-2.6%
Self-Employed (1)	546	1,016	470	86.1%
Stage 1 (2-9)	3,653	3,913	260	7.1%
Stage 2 (10-99)	5,922	5,333	-589	-9.9%
Stage 3 (100-499)	2,588	1,850	-738	-28.5%
Stage 4 (500+)	2,022	2,230	208	10.3%

Source: Edward Lowe Foundation www.youreconomy.org

Table 5.8
Sales Summary
2000-2010

	2000 (dollars)	2010 (dollars)	Change (dollars)	%
TOTAL	1,747,354,594	1,504,271,440	-243,083,154	-13.9%
Noncommercial	73,297,915	28,570,790	-44,727,125	-61.0%
Nonresident	202,007,600	238,662,800	36,655,200	18.1%
Resident	1,472,049,079	1,237,037,850	-235,011,229	-16.0%
Self-Employed (1)	58,435,829	64,454,887	6,019,058	10.3%
Stage 1 (2-9)	351,652,880	315,833,580	-35,819,300	-10.2%
Stage 2 (10-99)	547,052,428	539,372,983	-7,679,445	-1.4%
Stage 3 (100-499)	302,412,742	111,507,300	-190,905,442	-63.1%
Stage 4 (500+)	212,495,200	205,869,100	-6,626,100	-3.1%

Source: Edward Lowe Foundation www.youreconomy.org

Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Characteristics

The map of existing land use, shown as **Figure 6.1**, illustrates the distribution of land uses throughout the county. Michigan Resource Information Systems (MIRIS) land cover/use classification categories were used to map the existing land use. The MIRIS map was updated through aerial photographs and extensive field checking. Several municipalities have recently updated their existing land use maps, therefore the updated data was used in this plan. Ossineke Township was updated in 2011, Maple Ridge Township in 2010, Wilson Township and Long Rapids Township in 2009, Green Township and the City of Alpena in 2007, and Alpena Township and Sanborn Township in 2004. The updated digital information was utilized to produce the existing land use map (**Figure 6.1**) and statistics. **Table 6.1** presents the land uses, with number of acres and percent of the county in each of the land use categories. Each of the land use categories is discussed later in this chapter.

Table 6.1 Existing Land Use Characteristics		
Land Use	Acres	Percent
Residential	12,436	3.3%
Mixed Use	67	0.02%
Commercial	1,221	0.3%
Industrial/Extractive/Transportation	5,259	1.4%
Institutional/Recreational	2,194	0.6%
Agricultural	65,442	17.2%
Non-Forested Uplands	26,538	7.0%
Upland Forest	85,676	22.5%
Lowland Forest	141,831	37.3%
Wetlands	25,690	6.8%
Surface Water	14,115	3.7%
Source: MIRIS Data, updated from local sources		

Residential

Residential land use includes residential dwelling structures such as: single family or duplexes, multi-family low-rise residential, multi-family medium & high rise residential, and mobile home parks. The total residential land use in Alpena County is approximately 12,436 acres or 3.3 percent of the total land area of the county. By far the largest concentration of residential development is located in the City of Alpena and around its periphery in Alpena Township. Smaller concentrations of residential development are found around the community centers of Ossineke, Hubbard Lake and Lachine. Some waterfront areas have high concentrations of residential development, which are a combination of new development and the transition of seasonal cabins to year-round homes. Almost all of the shoreline of Long Lake in Alpena County has some residential development. Long Lake, Sunset Lake, Lake Winyah, Beaver Lake and portions of the Thunder Bay River have a concentration of residential development. Several portions on the Lake Huron shoreline have also been residentially developed. At the interior of the county, residential development is occurring along county roads as larger parcels are split into ten-acre and smaller parcels. The actual percentage of residential land uses in Alpena County is likely slightly

higher than the reported 3.3 percent due to the differing methods of recording land use in each community. For example, Green and Long Rapids Townships chose to only designate areas as “residential” when there was a high concentration of residential development in an area. For most of the land area of those two townships, the primary land cover was used in classification (i.e. agricultural, upland forest, etc.). However, other townships such as Wilson and Ossineke chose to classify each parcel with a residence in existence as “residential”.

Commercial

The commercial land use category includes classifications related to the sale of products and services such as: central business districts, shopping centers/malls, strip commercial, and neighborhood compact groups of stores that are surrounded by noncommercial uses. This category includes parking areas related to the commercial businesses. According to the composite land use map, the total commercial land use in Alpena County is approximately 1,221 acres or 0.3 percent of the land area of the county. Commercial uses are primarily found in the City of Alpena, along M-32 and U.S. 23 north and U.S. 23 south in Alpena Township and in Sanborn Township in the unincorporated community of Ossineke. Small nodes of commercial uses can be found scattered throughout the county, located at primary crossroads and in the unincorporated community of Hubbard Lake. These establishments are generally convenience commercial stores that cater to local residents and tourists.

Mixed Use

Mixed use development includes a mix of residential, commercial, service and institutional. In the City of Alpena, 67 acres of mixed uses occur in the form of Planned Unit Developments.

Industrial/Extractive/Transportation

Industrial land use includes extractive industries, manufacturing and industrial parks, light industries that fabricate or package products, oil & gas drilling and production facilities, lumber mills, chemical plants, brick-making plants, large power facilities, waste product disposal areas, areas of stockpiled raw materials, and transportation facilities. The total industrial/extractive/transportation land use in the county is approximately 5,259 acres or 1.4 percent of the land area. Much of the industrial land use is comprised of the Lafarge Corporation quarry and cement processing facility. Other large areas of industrial uses include the Alpena Regional Airport and various gravel pits throughout the townships.

Institutional/Recreational

This category includes institutional uses such as churches, schools, museums, hospitals, cemeteries, public buildings, military facilities, and recreational facilities. Institutional and recreational uses are fairly well distributed throughout the county. However, large areas are found within the City of Alpena (various schools, multiple parks, and Alpena Community College) and in Maple Ridge Township (military).

Agricultural

The agricultural land use category generally includes land that is used for the production of food and fiber, but also includes land used for non-food livestock such as horses. These classes are: cropland, orchards, confined feeding operations for livestock of any kind, permanent pasture lands, farmsteads, greenhouse operations, and horse training areas. The total agricultural land use in Alpena County is approximately 65,442 acres or 17.2 percent. The majority of the agricultural uses are found, not surprisingly, in the prime agricultural soils that generally bisect the county from the northwest to the southeast. Wilson Township (15,084 acres), Ossineke Township (12,187 acres), and Green Township (9,505 acres) have the largest amount of land being used for agricultural purposes.

Non-Forested Upland

Nonforested upland includes “open land” and rangeland classifications such as barren land, herbaceous open land, and shrubland. Herbaceous open land is usually subjected to continuous disturbance such as mowing, grazing, or burning, and typically it can have a variety of grasses, sedges, and clovers. Shrubland is land in transition from being open to becoming an eventual forest. There are native shrubs and woody plants like blackberry, dogwood, willow, sumac, and tag alder. The nonforested uplands in the county total approximately 26,538 acres or 7 percent of the county. Much of the nonforest land is found in the active farming belt mentioned above and consists of abandoned farms. Other areas may be the result of turn of the century logging operations or reclaimed mining areas. Typical grass species found in these areas are quackgrass, brone grass, upland and lowland sedges, red canary grass and clover. Typical shrub species found include blackberry and raspberry briars, dogwood, willow, and sumac and tag alder.

Upland Forest

Forestland use areas are generally at least ten percent stocked by trees of any size. The upland forest category includes upland hardwoods like maple and beech, other upland species like aspen and birch, upland conifers such as red, white or jack pine, white spruce, blue spruce, eastern hemlock, and balsam fir. Upland forest in the county is approximately 85,676 acres or 22.5 percent of the land area. Large areas of upland forest can be found in the western portion of Ossineke and Green Townships.

Lowland Forest

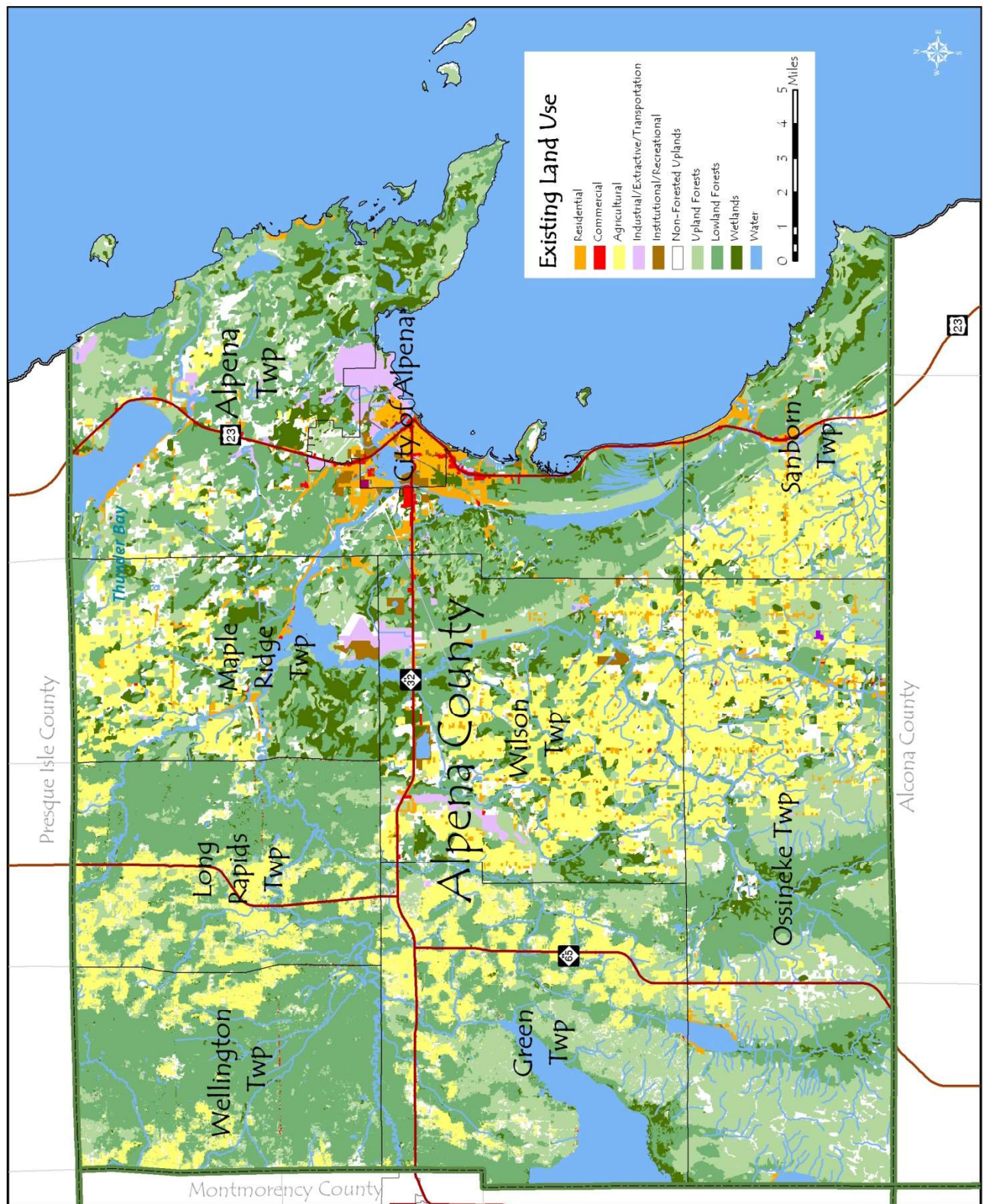
Lowland forest areas are dominated by species that grow in very wet soils. Lowland hardwoods include ash, elm, red maple and cottonwood. Lowland conifers include cedar, tamarack, balsam fir, black and white spruce. Lowland forest is the largest land use in the county with approximately 141,831 acres or 37.3 percent of the land area. Large uninterrupted areas of lowland forest can be found in Wellington and Long Rapids Townships. In addition, the eastern portion of Sanborn Township and much of Alpena Township consist of lowland forest.

Wetlands

Wetlands are those areas where the water table is at or near the land surface for a significant part of most years. Examples of wetlands are marshes, mudflats, wooded swamps, shallow areas along rivers or lakes or ponds. Wetland areas include both non-vegetated mud flats and areas of hydrophytic vegetation. The wetland category in Alpena County is approximately 25,690 acres or 6.8 percent of the county. Wetlands are found throughout the county along river systems but are especially concentrated in the southern portion of Maple Ridge Township and the North Point area of Alpena Township.

Surface Water

The surface water category includes areas such as lakes, reservoirs, impoundment's, ponds, rivers, and streams. Surface water in the county is approximately 14,115 acres or 3.7 percent of the county. Fletcher Pond, Long Lake, Lake Winyah, Devils Lake, Beaver Lake, Turtle Lake, Grass Lake, Middle Lake, Sunset Lake and the three branches of the Thunder Bay River comprise the majority of the surface water in the county.



Master Plan
Alpena County, Michigan

Map 6.1
Existing Land Use

Status of Planning & Zoning

Introduction

Planning and Zoning are the principal tools that local communities have to manage growth, preserve community character, protect property values and enhance the economic viability of the area. Planning helps establish and focus the desired future of the community. Zoning ordinances are used as one of the primary ways to implement the community master plan and achieve the goals of the community.

The purpose of this chapter is to present the status of planning and zoning in Alpena County. Furthermore, the presence of key zoning regulations such as signs and access management in each community will be documented. It is not the intention to compare the strengths and weaknesses of zoning regulations among the various zoning ordinances, but to give a comprehensive perspective on planning and zoning throughout the county.

Community Planning & Zoning

Table 7.1 presents the status of planning in municipalities that make up Alpena County. At the present time, the City of Alpena and all the townships have their own zoning authority, and all except Wellington Township have adopted a zoning ordinance. In January of 2000, the County of Alpena reestablished a County Planning Commission, which had been dissolved in 1985.

Table 7.1 Status of Planning & Zoning			
Political Unit	Master Plan Date Adopted	Zoning Ordinance Date Adopted	Other Planning Documents
City of Alpena	2007 (currently being updated)	2010	Recreation Plan 2010-2014 Capital Improvements Plan
Alpena Township	2004 (updated 2009)	1983 (last amended 2010)	Recreation Plan 2006-2010
Green Township	2007	2009 (last amended 2012)	--
Long Rapids Township	2009	1990 (last amended 2008)	Recreation Plan 2011-2015
Maple Ridge Township	2010	1974	
Ossineke Township	In process	Currently being re-written	--
Sanborn Township	2003	1974	Recreation Plan 1994-1999
Wellington Township	--	--	--
Wilson Township	2010	2011	Recreation Plan 2008-2012
County of Alpena	In process	No zoning authority	Recreation Plan 2009-2013
Source: NEMCOG			

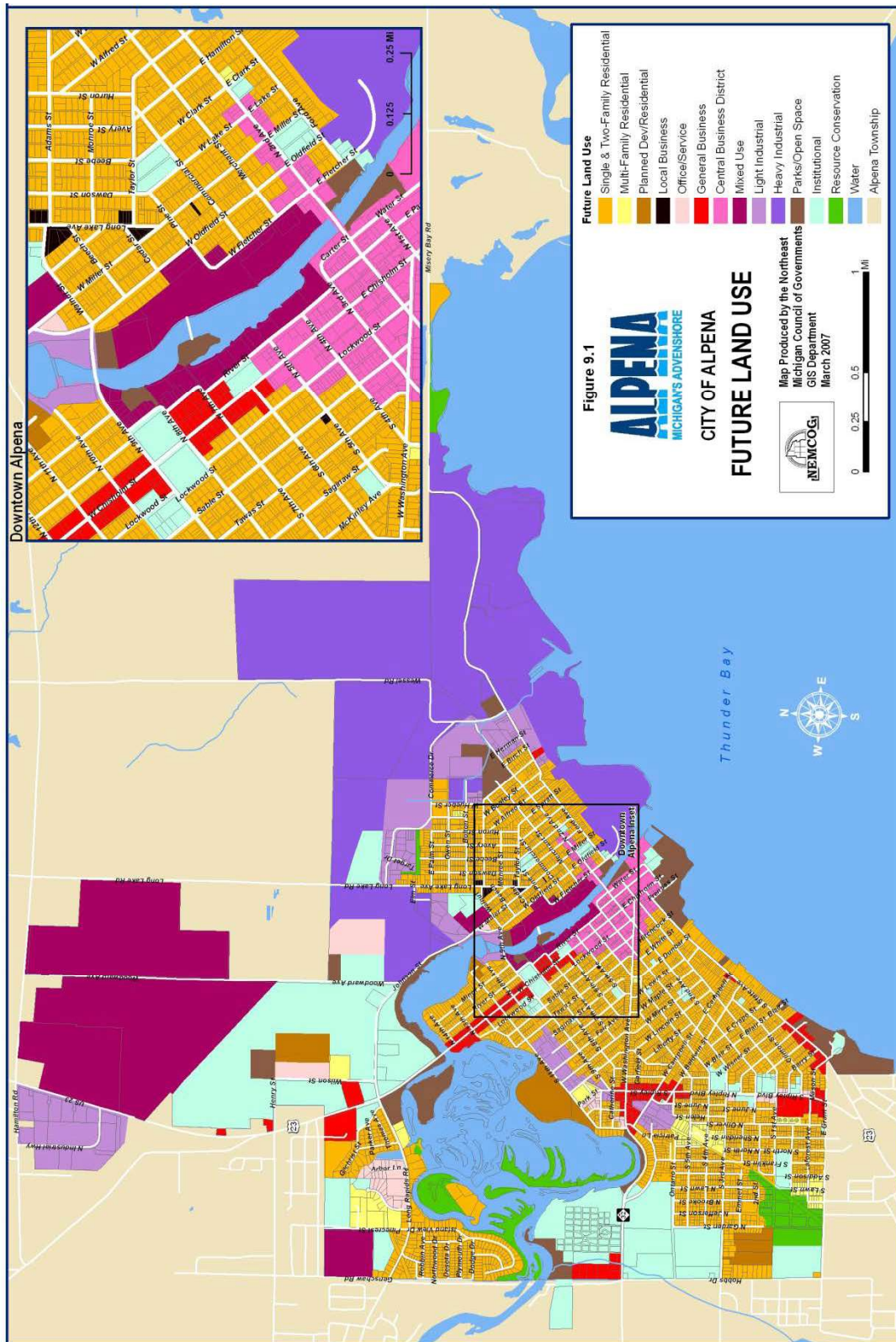
Future Land Use Plans

These community future land use plans present desired future land use for the city and townships in Alpena County. Future land use is a vision of how each community would like to develop over the planning horizon, usually 20 years. Future land use plans typically consist of a map that displays future land use areas and accompanying text describing compatible uses in each land use area. The following are tables of the future land use categories for each community and the corresponding future land use

Table 7.2 City of Alpena Future Land Use	
Category	Description
One and Two Family Residential	This category includes one and two family detached dwellings along with other related facilities such as parks, churches and schools. Infill development and redevelopment should be considerate of existing neighborhood character. The community recognizes some larger homes have been divided into 3-4 family rental units. It is the intension to discourage further conversion of large single family homes into multi-family rental units and to encourage the re-conversion back into single and two family dwellings.
Multi-Family Residential	This designation is intended to provide locations for apartments, townhouses and condominiums. This category is intended for residential development with a density greater than six units per acre. Higher density residential uses can generate a significant amount of traffic, and therefore should be located directly adjacent to a major thoroughfare. Higher density residential uses can serve as a transition between non-residential districts and lower density residential areas.
Planned Development/Residential	This designation encourages the use of the property as a residential Planned Unit Development (PUD). The PUD/Residential category allows residential uses in a manner that would encourage innovative or creative housing design. If designated within older neighborhood areas, the housing must complement the historical character of the City. The PUD could include a mix of densities such as attached or detached housing, as well as generous setbacks, open space, landscaped areas, and architectural design that is complementary to adjoining structures.
Office/Service	This classification is intended for uses such as office buildings and mixed-use service districts which may include office buildings, banks, services business, convention centers, public facilities, medical facilities, social service agencies and churches. The designation could include privately owned facilities as well as public or quasi-public institutions.
Local Business	This land use category is designed to provide opportunities for local services and convenience centers for the day-to-day needs of the surrounding neighborhood. Local business would not include intensive or highway commercial related uses. Protection of the abutting and surrounding residential land use is important, therefore uses that create hazards, offensive or loud noises, vibration, smoke, glare, large truck traffic, high traffic volumes or late hours of operation are not compatible. The designation would include commercial uses in predominately single-family residential neighborhoods where the prevailing land use is residential, and where the commercial use abuts local streets, not considered major thoroughfares.
Central Business District	The Central Business District provides for commercial development that is pedestrian oriented and offers a mix of uses within a central core. Downtowns provide convenient, safe access to shopping, restaurants, nightclubs, theater, cultural events, parks and services for the local community and visitors. A strong orientation and connection to the waterfront is encouraged. Streets, designed to provide efficient traffic flow, as well as centralized parking are critical to accommodating a population orientated to automobiles. At the same time, the City must continue to focus on a walkable, pedestrian friendly environment. A vibrant downtown draws families into the community center for

	entertainment, cultural events and festivals. Upper story apartments and condominiums over first floor retail and office space, in conjunction with healthy adjacent residential neighborhoods, breathe life into the downtown and contribute to its vitality and viability. Small parks, benches, street cafes, river walks and public art add to the pedestrian atmosphere.
General Business	This district is intended for the widest and most intensive variety of retail and service businesses. Businesses that meet the commercial needs of the automobile dependent public are typically associated with roadways having high traffic volumes. Typical uses in this district include drive through restaurants, auto service establishments and commercial uses serving a regional clientele. The uses within this district are auto dependent and benefit from the exposure of high traffic volume thoroughfares. At the same time the City will work towards providing safe pedestrian access.
Mixed Use	This designation could include areas proposed under a unified development scheme incorporating either a singular land use or a mixture of office, commercial or residential uses. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) may incorporate innovative or creative design that promotes open space, trails, bike paths and landscaping within a campus style plan as well as more densely developed urban designs. A PUD could also be incorporated within a multi-year long-range development plan. The mixed-use future land use area on Alpena Community College property, north of the railroad, contains environmentally sensitive areas influenced by high water table and bedrock. Development on those sites should be designed to minimize impacts and incorporate natural features.
Light Industrial	The light industrial district is designed primarily to accommodate wholesale activities, warehouses and industrial operations whose external and physical effects are restricted to the immediate area and have a minimal effect on surrounding districts. This designation allows uses such as manufacturing, compounding, processing, packaging and assembly of finished or semi-finished products from previously prepared materials. "Clean" industries (research and high-tech) are included in this designation.
Heavy Industrial	This category is designed to provide locations for general or heavy industrial activities such as those which involve the use of heavy machinery, extensive amounts of contiguous land, service by railroad lines or major thoroughfares, processing of chemicals or raw materials, assembly, generation of industrial waste, noise, odor, or traffic problems of similar characteristics. These uses require service by large trucks, rail or deep port shipping. Heavy industrial uses should be adequately screened and buffered from adjacent residential uses.
Institutional	This public and quasi-public designation includes government buildings, water treatment plant, sewage treatment facility, cemeteries, libraries, museums, indoor recreational facilities, community centers, hospitals, nursing homes, churches, schools and associated facilities, and colleges. City Hall and government buildings in the downtown are included in the Central Business District.
Park/Public Open Space	This classification includes public parks, quasi-public parks and the City Marina. The category is designed to provide protection to existing recreation property and identifies areas planned for future recreation use.
Resource Conservation	There are environmentally sensitive areas within the City that are not suitable for intensive development. Consistent with the natural resource goals and objectives; the plan designates those areas as resource conservation. It should also be recognized there are other environmentally sensitive areas not mapped as part of this land use plan. When development occurs in and around those sites, efforts should be made to minimize impacts and incorporate natural features into site development plans.
Water Resources	Water is central to the daily life and community identity of the City of Alpena. The Thunder Bay River, Wildlife Sanctuary, Besser Lake and Lake Huron provide over twenty miles of waterfront and considerable opportunities for recreation. The plan recognizes the importance of water resources in the community's quality of life and the need to protect water quality.
Source: City of Alpena Comprehensive Plan 2007	

Figure 7.1 City of Alpena Future Land Use



9-5

Table 7.3
Alpena Township Future Land Use

Category	Description
Environmental Conservation	This category includes lands that were identified as having unique or fragile environmental characteristics. Land in the category is intended to be protected from potential dense development.
Forest/Recreation	This category is intended to preserve the open and natural characteristics of the area and provide extensive hunting and recreational lands as well as provide areas for timber supply.
Agricultural	The agricultural designation is based on the soil capability of the area and is intended to preserve good farm soils for productive agricultural activities.
Waterfront Residential	Much of the existing residential development has occurred on shorelines and waterways. This designation is intended to identify areas that need special residential development standards necessary to protect the water resources from the specific and typical development problems found in water front areas.
Mixed Residential	This category identifies areas of mixed second tier development around existing residential development.
Single Family Residential	This designation is intended to incorporate all existing subdivided areas in the Township.
Commercial	The primary areas designated for commercial development are the U.S. 23 South corridor, the U.S. 23 North corridor to Bradbury Road and the M-32 corridor.
Industrial/Extractive	Industrial and Extractive areas include land where industrial or mining activities currently exist or where land is zoned for that purpose. Commercial activities compatible with industrial are also recommended in this area. Uses should be environmentally-friendly and should use landscape buffers.

Source: Alpena Township Master Plan 2009

Figure 7.2 Alpena Township Future Land Use

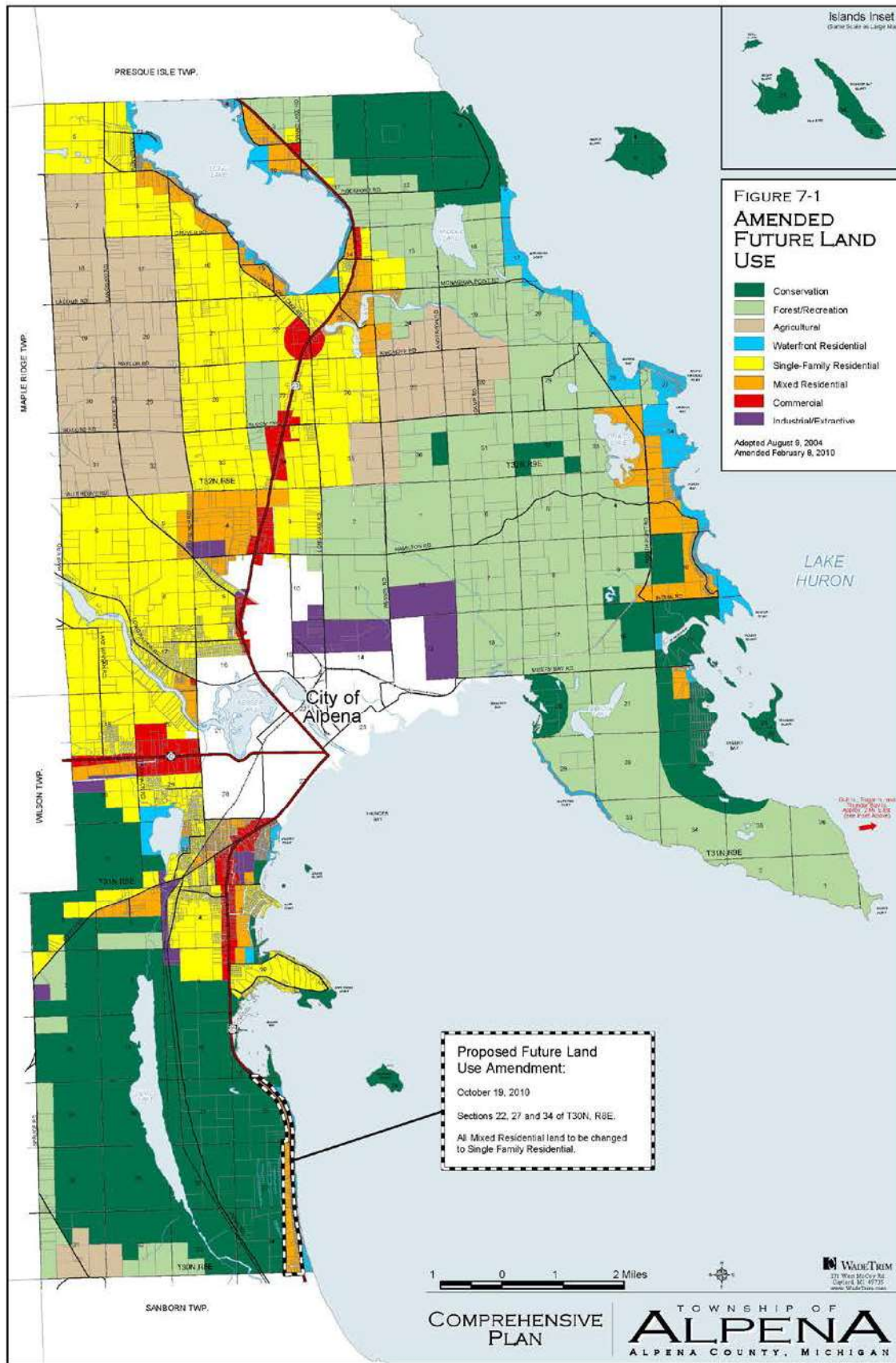


Table 7.4
Green Township Future Land Use

Category	Description
Medium Density Residential	The Medium Density Residential development category is primarily designed to accommodate single-family dwellings on lots with a minimum size of one-quarter of an acre. The medium density residential category is intended to preserve existing residential development where land has already been subdivided into smaller lots.
Agricultural Residential	Green Township has made it a high priority to continue the farming tradition of the community. Farmland not only contributes significantly to the scenic and rural character of the township, but also represents a way of life that the character of the community is built upon. The Agricultural-Residential land use designation is the second most extensive land use category in the township and is intended to encourage the continued existence and expansion of farms in the township.
Resource Conservation	Green Township recognizes the presence of environmentally sensitive lands which contribute significantly to the quality of life and the rural character of the community. The Resource Conservation category is designed to provide protection to environmentally sensitive areas. Locations recommended for the Resource Conservation category include a large area south of Fletcher Pond as well as a 400-foot buffered area along the riparian areas within the township.
Farm & Forest	Current land use patterns in Green Township result in a large portion of the township being forested. The presence of this landscape is a major factor resulting in the community character and quality of life that Green Township residents enjoy. The township has placed a high priority on maintaining quality natural resources and the current “character” of the community. Therefore, the Farm and Forest category is the most extensive land use category recommended for Green Township. Much of the land that is currently zoned Farm and Forest has been included in the Farm and Forest category. However, the boundaries were generally drawn around land that is forested in nature and not being used for agricultural purposes at the present time. The creation of this land use category allows the township to preserve large tracts of forested land while still allowing farming operations outside of the Agricultural-Residential areas.
Highway Commercial	Located at the intersections of M-32 and M-65 north and M-32 and M-65 south, these areas are designed to serve both local needs and motorists passing through Green Township. Highway commercial businesses, which are heavier traffic generators, are located to serve vehicular traffic. Development should consider access management, buffering, signs and landscaping to maintain traffic safety and minimize any negative visual impacts of development along the main roads. Compatible uses include gas stations, vehicle service and repair businesses, auto sales and service, retail operations that require large outside storage areas, public buildings, drive-in food and drink establishments, hotels and motels. These areas are designated with a red asterisk on the Future Land Use map indicating that these commercial areas are not restricted only to the parcels abutting the above intersections. As these commercial centers develop, they could expand out from these intersections, as needed.
Neighborhood Business	Much of the major retail and service needs of the township are met by facilities in the city of Alpena, however Green Township wishes to set aside areas to accommodate neighborhood business services that will meet the immediate needs of residents. Uses that would be allowed in neighborhood commercial zones would include retail and service stores without outside storage areas, professional offices, banks, public buildings, schools, restaurants, taverns and fraternal organizations. In granting approval to such operations, buffer zones, access management, and parking should be considered.
Light Industrial	Industrial parks are located in the communities of Alpena and Hillman. These facilities provide necessary utilities and services, and have sites available for industrial type operations. Furthermore, an analysis of soil conditions in the natural resource section found

	<p>soils to be poorly suited for septic fields. Given existing industrial parks in adjacent communities and the lack of public water and sewer service in Green Township, large scale industrial development is not accommodated in this plan. The Light Industrial future land use category is designed to provide sites for wholesale activities, warehouses, retail operations that require large outside storage areas, light manufacturing operations, and gravel pits. Operations are subject to performance standards relative to impacts on the community. This district is compatible with a business district, but not compatible with residential districts without a required buffer.</p>
Source: Green Township Master Plan 2007	

Figure 7.3 Green Township Future Land Use

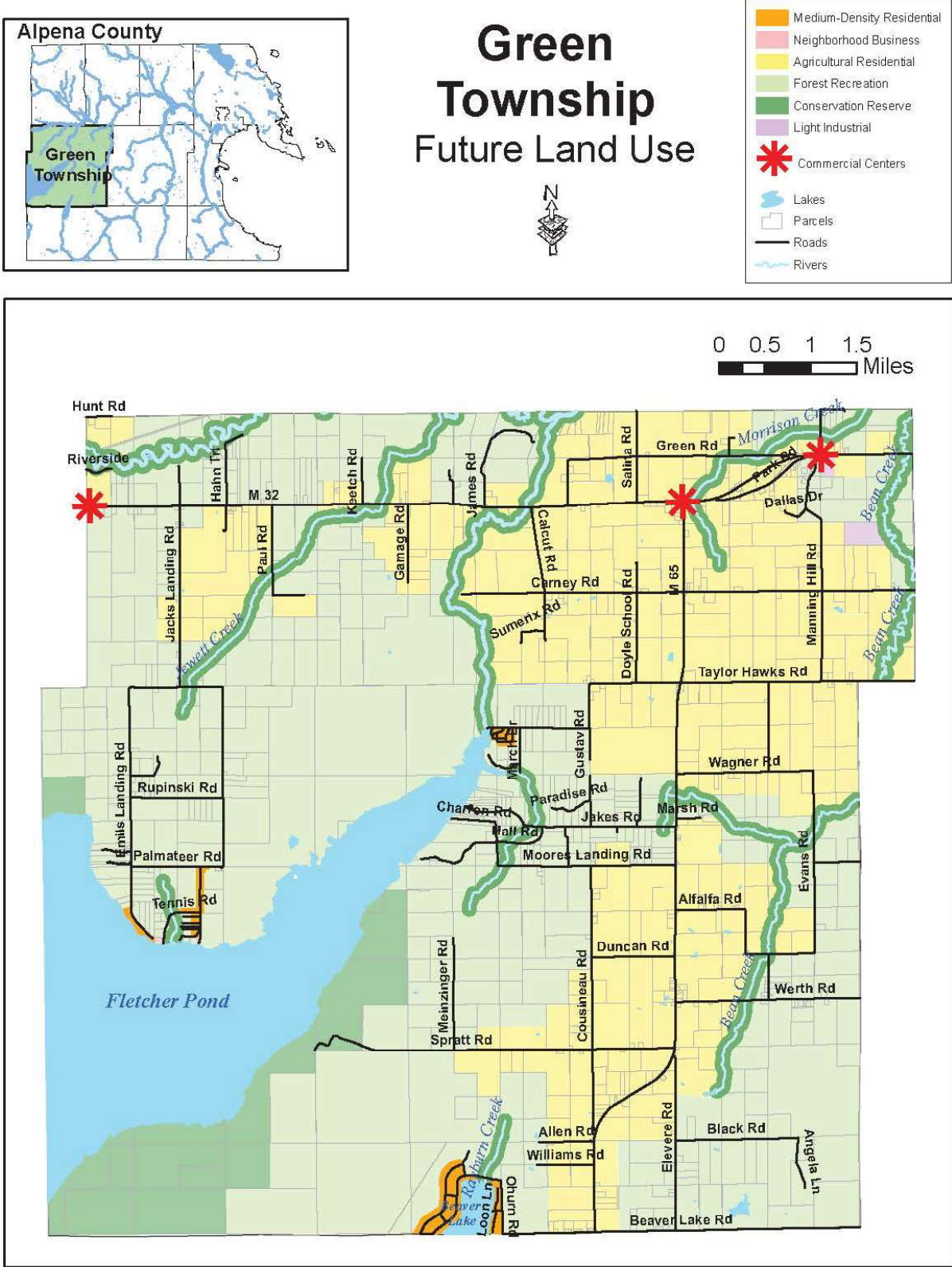


Table 7.5
Long Rapids Township Future Land Use

Category	Description
Residential	Residential development, primarily designed to accommodate single-family dwellings on a range of lot sizes.
Community Centers	Community centers of Long Rapids and Lachine designate unincorporated areas that are intended to provide for a concentration of residential, commercial, and institutional uses in a small community setting. Community centers are primarily intended to provide for residential neighborhoods, convenience shopping, services, and community facilities. A variety of housing opportunities may be available in a community center, including single-family or multiple-family at medium to high densities. A variety of social and civic functions occur in a community center, including government offices, recreation facilities, churches, cemeteries, personal services, and retail trade. In some cases low impact industrial uses may be appropriate when buffered from other less intense uses.
Forest Recreation	The forest recreation areas include areas used for timber harvesting, as well as extensive hunting and recreational pursuits. Privately owned lands within this land use category may be used for single-family residences (both year-round and seasonal) on lots at least one acre in size, hunting camps, forest products harvesting, recreational uses, and farming where soil conditions are suitable. The protection of forested land, wetlands, and non-forested open space is critical to preserving the rural character of Long Rapids Township.
Agricultural	Long Rapids Township has large productive agricultural areas. Sparsely scattered residential uses and home occupations may occur on lots one acre or larger. More intensive uses such as, golf courses, landing strips, kennels, livestock feed lots, farm implement sales, and similar uses would require special consideration and need Planning Commission approval
Environmental Conservation	Areas with unique or fragile environmental characteristics were identified during the planning process. These areas are intended to be protected from potential dense development and environmental degradation by appropriate zoning restrictions. These future land use recommendations do not restrict privately owned parcels from all development. Rather, the intent is to maintain a set of regulations as an “overlay zone” in areas adjacent to the Township’s waterways. These regulations would include greater setbacks from the water, natural greenbelt retention, larger parcel size and depth, and storm water control measures. The Township’s many sinkholes also deserve special protection from storm water runoff, waste material dumping, and erosion.

Source: Long Rapids Township Master Plan 2009

Figure 7.4 Long Rapids Township Future Land Use

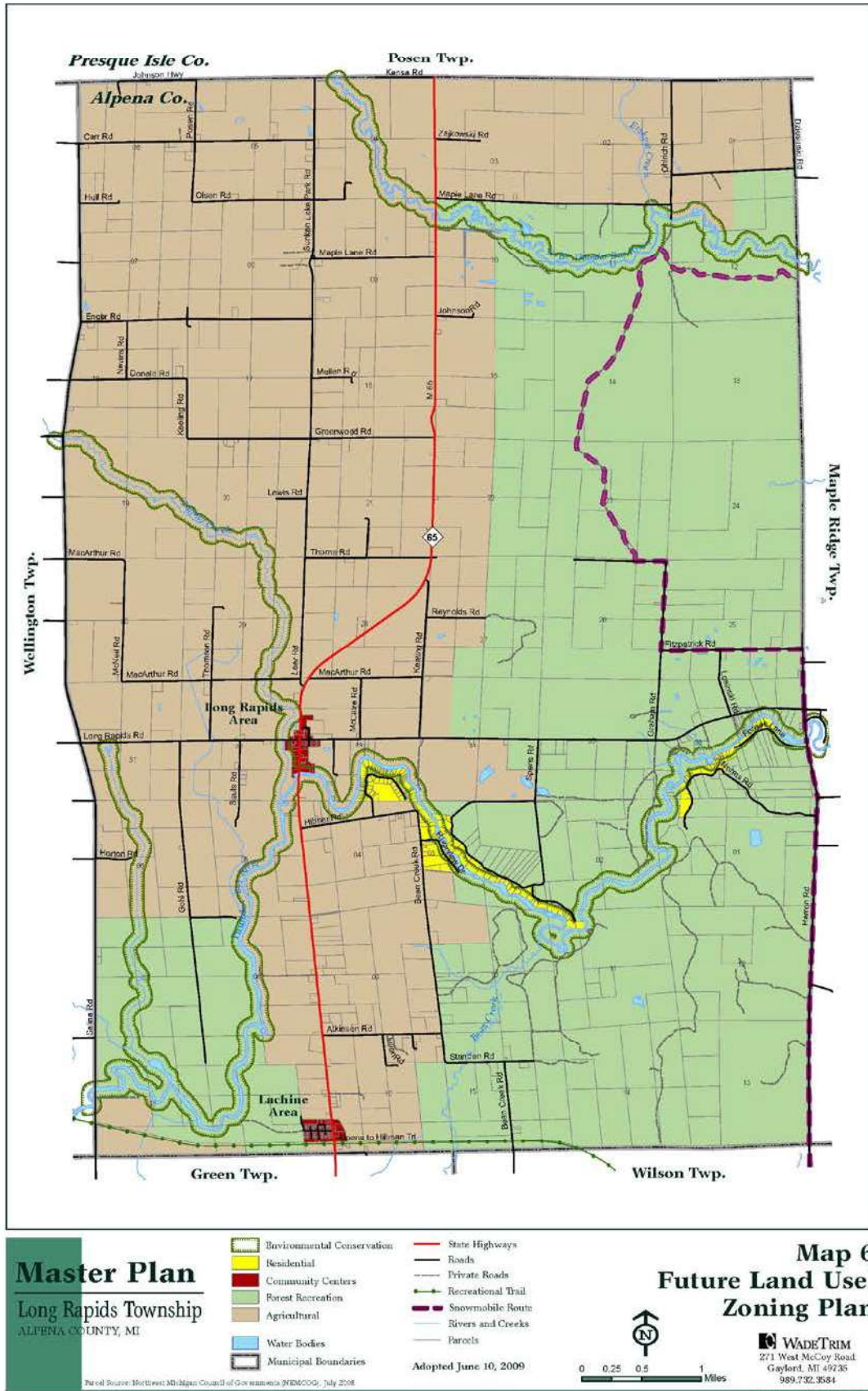
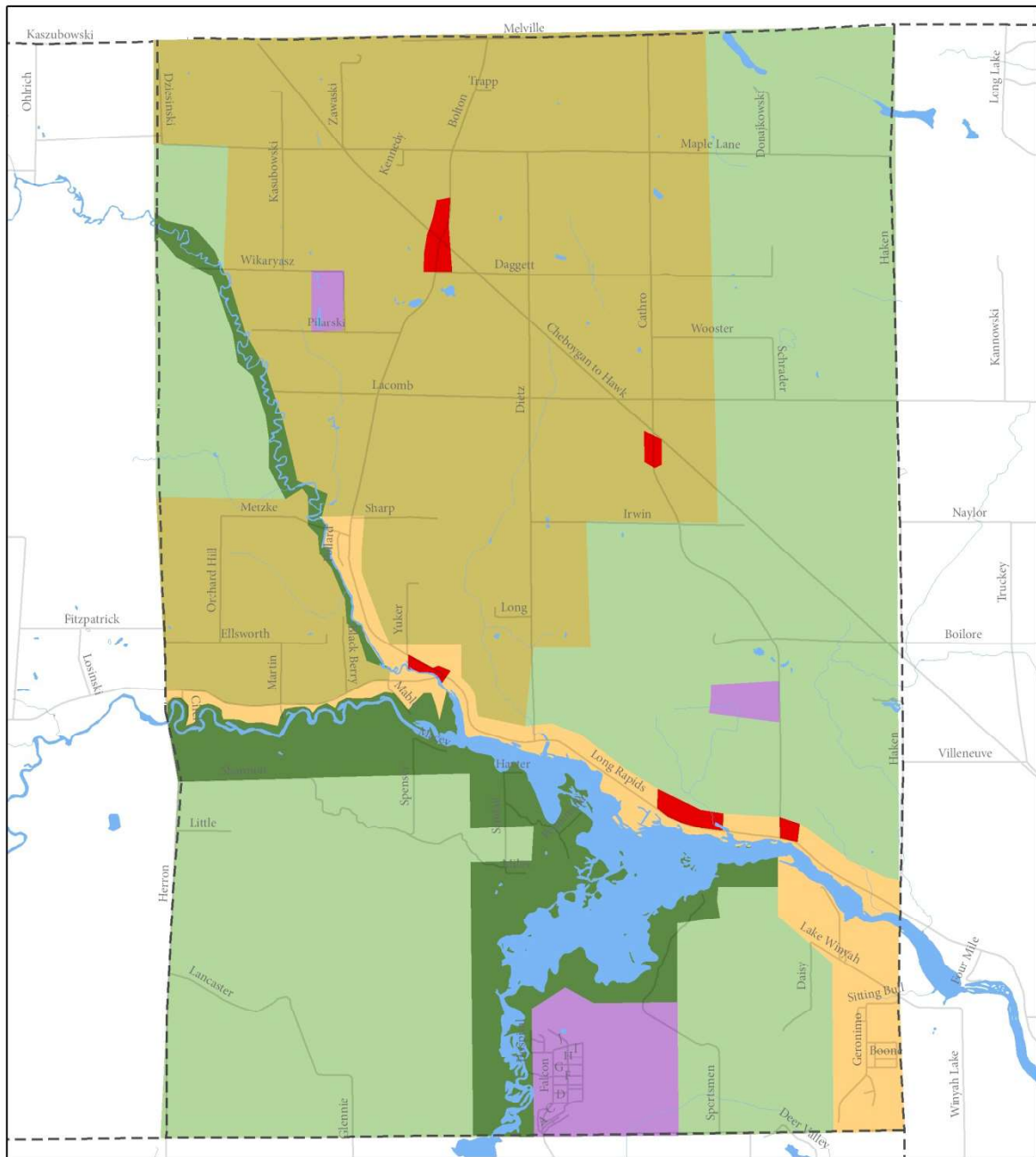


Table 7.6
Maple Ridge Township Future Land Use

Category	Description
High Density Residential	This category is primarily designed to accommodate single-family dwellings on small lots. Community uses such as public parks, churches, libraries, schools, cemeteries or other similar uses may also be allowed in this area if designed to be compatible with the residential setting. The high density residential designation is intended to preserve existing residential development where land has already been subdivided into smaller lots
Low Density Residential	The intended uses within the low-density development area are single family dwellings on large lots or parcels of approximately one to ten acres. Large lots for this type of residential development will be complimentary to the Township's rural character. Public facilities as described for the high-density residential areas will also be allowable in the low-density residential area. In addition, small scale farming activities will be allowed.
Commercial	Recommended uses for general commercial areas include: retail stores, business and personal services, professional offices, lodging facilities, theatres, restaurants, bowling alleys, auto and farm equipment sales, and other similar uses.
Industrial/Utilities/Military/Transportation	The largest land area in this category includes Alpena County Regional Airport and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. Utility uses such as the hydro-electric dam on the Thunder Bay River and Presque Isle Electric and Gas facility in Bolton are also included. Light non-polluting industries, warehouses, storage facilities, extractive operations, and similar uses are also allowed.
Forest/Recreation	Many areas in the Township are existing forested lands. Preservation of these lands is intended for uses complimentary to forest and recreation activities such as: forestry and timber processing, hunting camps, single-family residences, and vacation homes on larger parcels, parks, and private retreats or resorts (as distinct from commercial establishments). Farming where soil and terrain conditions are suitable will also be allowed.
Agricultural	Areas recommended for future agricultural development cover nearly all the northwest portion of the township as shown on the future land use map. These areas basically coincide with areas where active farming currently exists.
Environmental Conservation	Areas with unique or fragile environmental characteristics are found in this category. These areas are intended to be protected from dense development and environmental degradation. The intention of this area is to maintain a set of regulations as an "overlay zone" in areas adjacent to the Township's waterways.

Source: Maple Ridge Township Master Plan 2010

Figure 7.5 Maple Ridge Township Future Land Use



Future Land Use

General Future Land Use

- Residential
- Agricultural
- Forest; Farm/Forest
- Conservation
- Commercial
- Industrial/Heavy Commercial

**Maple Ridge Township
Future Land Use**
Alpena County, Michigan



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Table 7.7
Ossineke Township Future Land Use

Category	Description
General Residential	The General Residential land use category is primarily designed to accommodate single-family dwellings on lots which have a minimum width of 150 feet. This category is intended to preserve existing residential development on these smaller lots as well as to allow larger lots within these areas to be subdivided into 150-foot lots to accommodate the need for higher density residential development in select areas of the Township.
Recreational Residential	The Recreational Residential land use category is a fairly small current zoning district located on the western border of the Township on Turtle Lake and on the southwestern portion of Beaver Lake. This area is designed to accommodate cottage and seasonal home developments including year-round single-family homes in a recreational setting. The allowed recreational amenities include parks, recreation lands, trails, and golf courses. This category is not intended to mix other type of uses (commercial or institutional) with the recreational residential character.
Neighborhood Business	Neighborhood Business, is intended to allow the establishment of small neighborhood businesses that meet the needs of local residents and are not dependent upon passerby traffic. In addition, businesses which meet the needs of tourists would also fit into this category. Uses that would be allowed in neighborhood business areas would include low impact uses such as retail and service stores without outside storage areas, professional offices, public buildings, schools, restaurants, taverns and fraternal organizations.
General Business	Businesses that meet the commercial needs of the automobile dependent public are typically associated with roadways having high traffic volumes. These uses should be separated from residential uses and located along major thoroughfares. Commercial development in this district will be evaluated with an updated site plan review process.
Conservation & Resources	Ossineke Township recognizes the presence of environmentally sensitive lands which contribute significantly to the quality of life and the rural character of the community. The Conservation and Resources category is designed to provide protection to environmentally sensitive areas adjacent to rivers and streams. The Conservation and Resources areas should be protected from intense development without denying private property owners reasonable economic use of the land. This plan encourages the retention of contiguous resource areas, river greenbelts, wetlands, scenic areas and wildlife habitat. This land use category is essentially an overlay zone in the areas designated.
Farm & Forest	The Farm and Forest category is designed to promote the use of wooded and rural areas in a manner that will retain the value of the natural resources and provide enjoyment to residents and visitors while maintaining an economic benefit to property owners. The presence of these mixed agricultural and forested areas is a major factor in the character of and quality of life in Ossineke Township.

Source: Ossineke Township Master Plan 2013

Figure 7.6 Ossineke Township Future Land Use

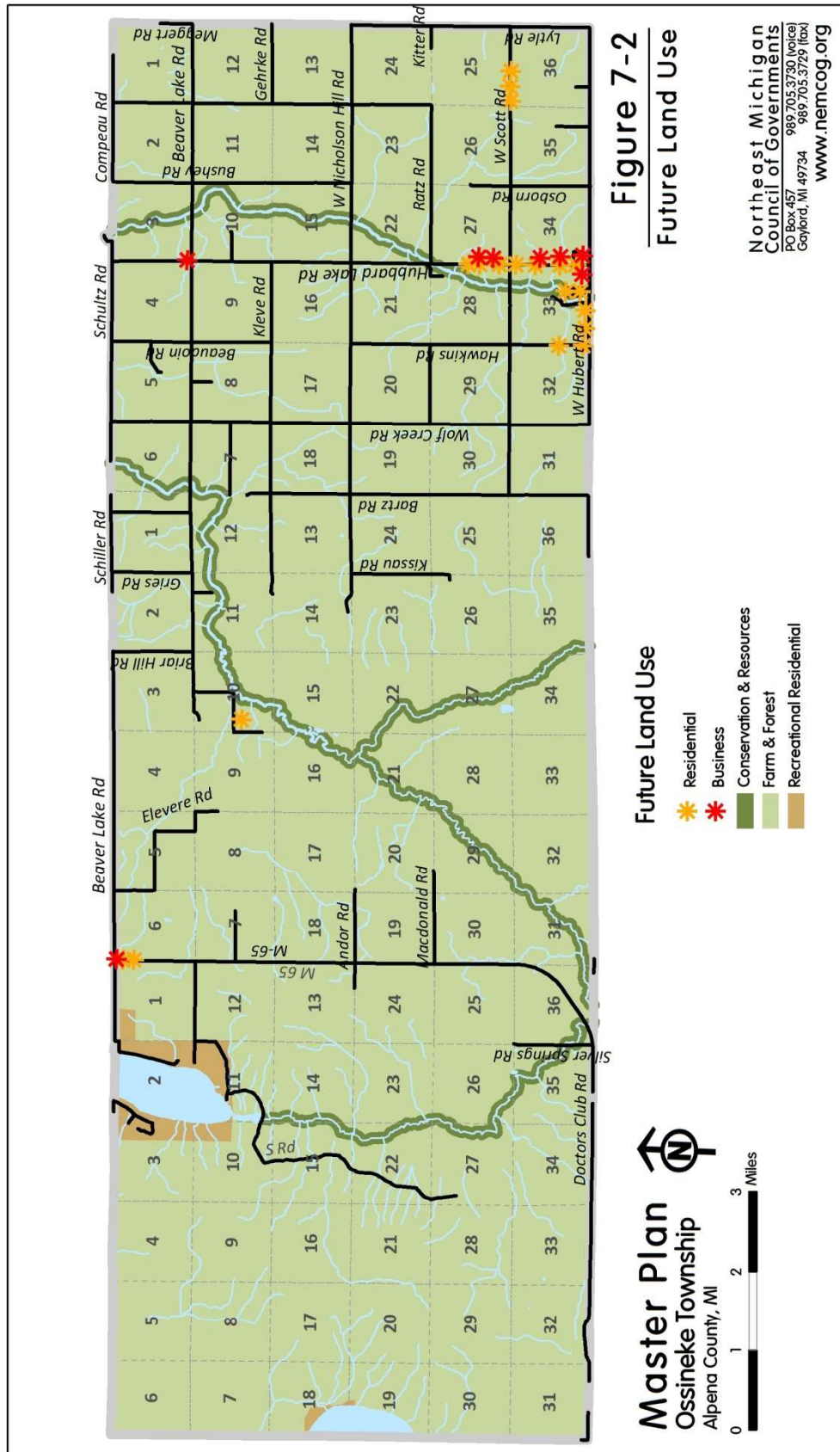


Table 7.8
Sanborn Township Future Land Use

Category	Description
Commercial and Industrial	The current activity center lies at the corner of Nicholson Hill Road and U.S. 23. This corner serves as the economic and social focus of the township as the majority of all commercial, government and institutional land uses are located there. This function is retained in the future land use plan. A major objective of the plan includes the coordination of development to promote growth while maintaining traffic flow. The existing limited industrial areas are located away from residential uses while offering easy access to U.S. 23; these factors should be considered by the committee appointed to locate and promote the creation of an industrial park in the Township
Residential	Future residential growth is shown clustered around the current population center in Sanborn, the unincorporated village of Ossineke. This clustering could facilitate installation of a water system, and make fire and police protection easier to provide. In addition, it may encourage residential development within the township while attempting to preserve existing productive farmland.
Agricultural	Agricultural production in Sanborn Township is limited, but represents the principal means of income to a number of township residents. While actions the township take to preserve farmland is somewhat restricted, review of the zoning ordinance which places agricultural under R-2 residential, may help to avoid the possibility of conflict between working farms and residential dwellings.
Parks and Open Space	It is assumed that current park facilities, State Forest and State owned land will remain in its current uses. The Township supported the State Master Plan for Negwegon State Park and will continue to support funding of that plan and will encourage further development and use of the Ossineke Sports Park. With regard to recreation land and activity, the Township will attempt to create a recreation program suitable for use by all ages. Facets of this project will include exploring possibilities within the township owned property; supporting and promoting continued development of boat launching facilities; and encouraging the enhancement and redevelopment of Sanborn Park.
Transportation	The Township will continue to support improvements of the US-23 corridor. It will also continue to encourage the operation of public transportation and promote the construction of a direct all-season link between Sanborn Twp. and M-65.
Utilities	Investigation of funding for installation of a public water system remains a possibility. Township support will be directed toward development of a regional solid waste plan. The Township will encourage development of improved communication's systems.
Environmental Concerns	Due to the combination of forest and shoreline found in Sanborn Township, there are concerns for the protection of wetlands, floodplains and high-risk erosion areas as well as conservation of forests. These can be addressed in part through strict adherence to existing laws, codes and ordinances, and through the promotion of responsible timber and wetlands management.

Source: Sanborn Township Master Plan 2004

Figure 7.7 Sanborn Township Future Land Use

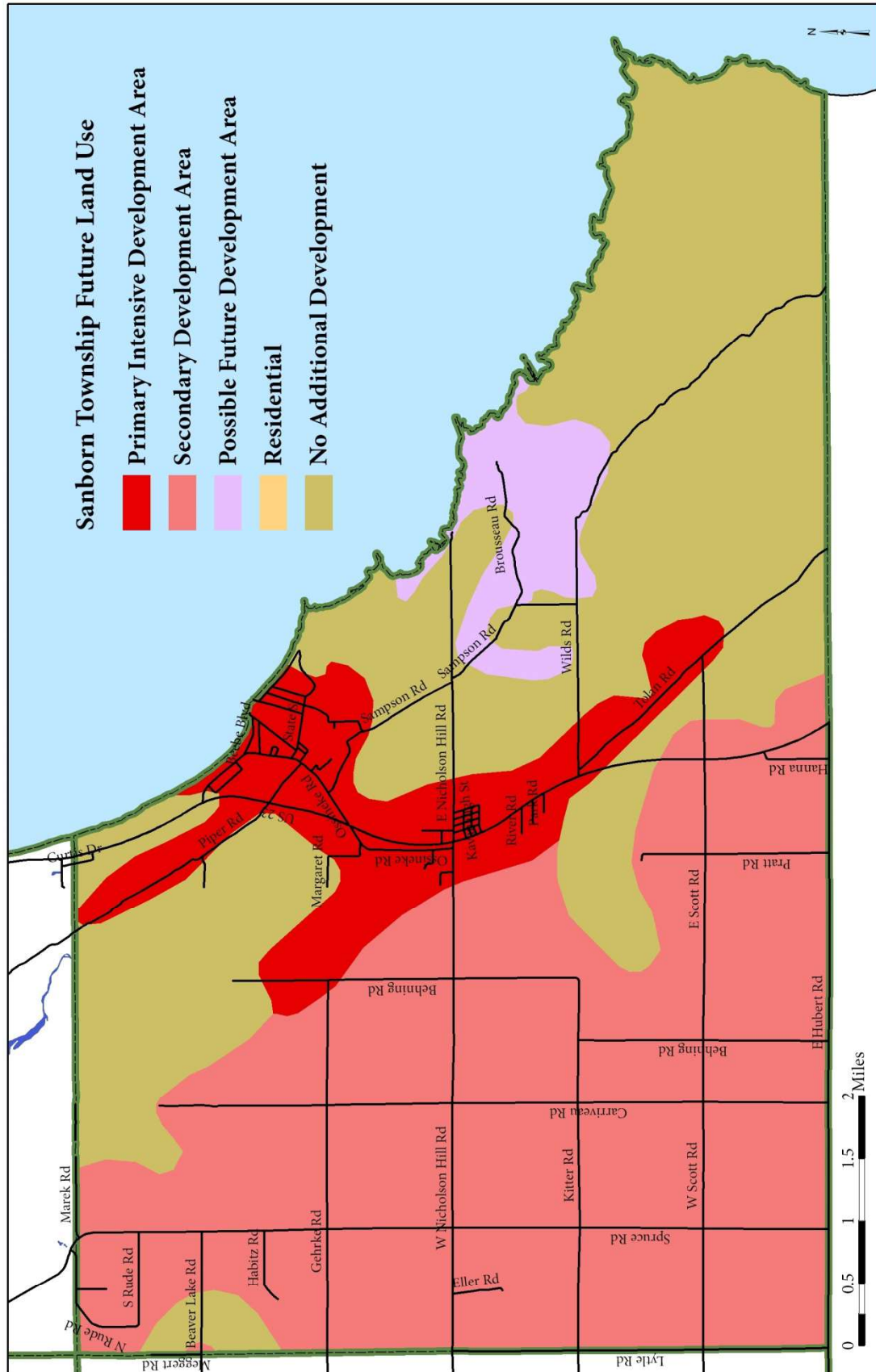
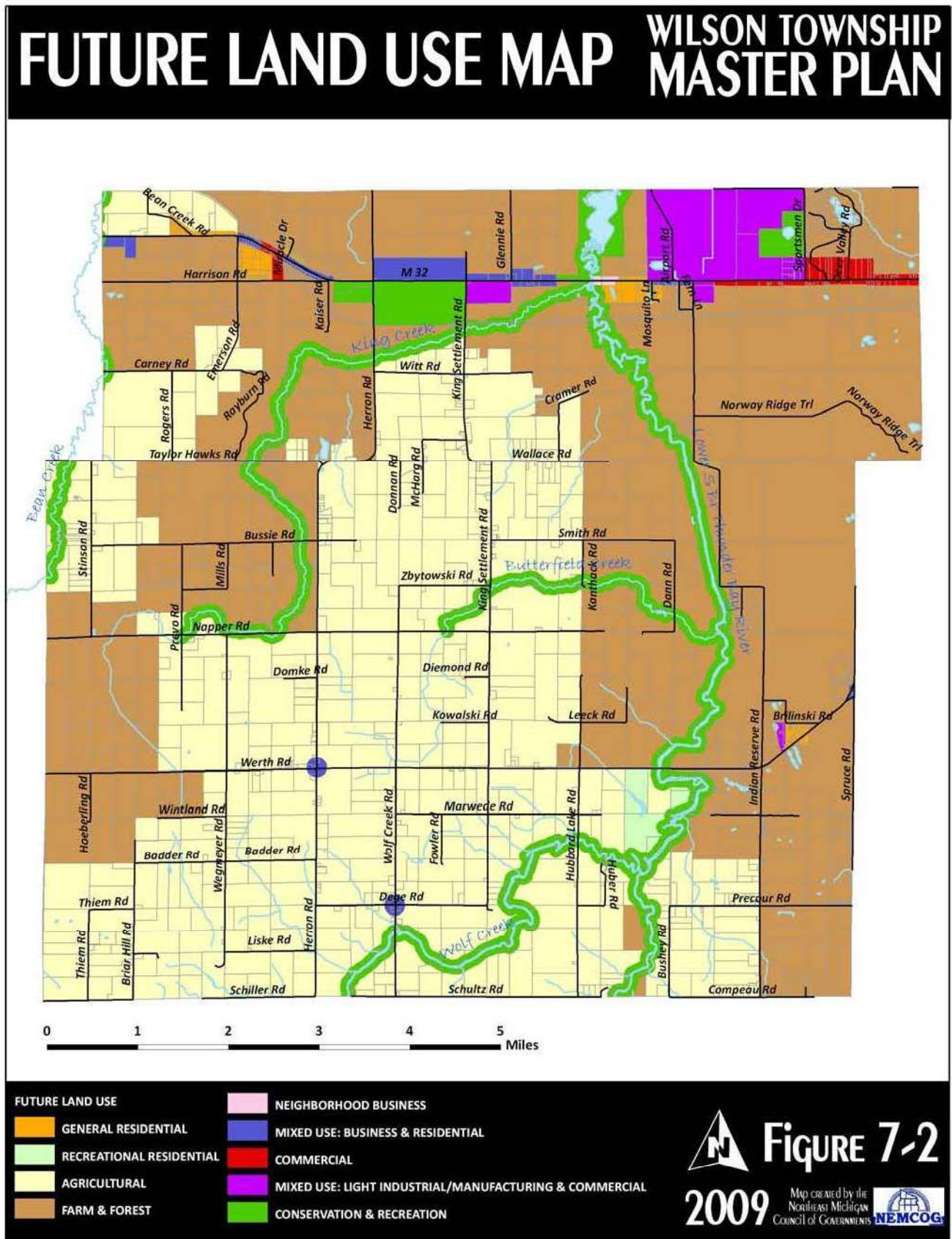


Table 7.9
Wilson Township Future Land Use

Category	Description
General Residential	The General Residential land use category is primarily designed to accommodate single-family dwellings on lots which have a minimum width of 100 feet. This category is intended to preserve existing residential development on these smaller lots as well as to allow larger lots within these areas to be subdivided into 100-foot lots to accommodate the need for higher density residential development in select areas of the Township.
Recreational Residential	The Recreational Residential land use category is a fairly small area located in the southeastern portion of the Township adjacent to the Conservation Recreation area on the Thunder Bay River. This area is designed to accommodate cottage and seasonal home developments in a recreational setting. The allowed recreational amenities include parks, recreation lands, trails, and golf courses. This category is not intended to mix other type of uses (commercial or institutional) with the recreational residential character.
Mixed light industrial and commercial	The mixed light industrial and commercial district is designed primarily to accommodate airports, airport support activities, establishments which are compatible with airport activities, wholesale activities, warehouses and industrial and manufacturing operations whose external and physical effects are restricted to the immediate area and have a minimal effect on surrounding districts. This designation allows uses such as manufacturing, compounding, processing, packaging and assembly of finished or semi-finished products from previously prepared materials. "Clean" industries (research and high-tech) are included in this designation. Support uses for industrial developments, such as training facilities, are also allowable.
Commercial	This category is intended for the widest and most intensive variety of retail and service businesses which serve a regional clientele. Businesses that meet the commercial needs of the automobile dependent public are typically associated with roadways having high traffic volumes.
Mixed residential and business	The mixed residential and business designation exists to recognize the fact that there are portions of the Township that are not divided into homogeneous land uses. In the past, various land uses developed out of necessity and prevailing development patterns at that time. While the trend since this development has occurred has been to try to separate land uses, Wilson Township recognizes that areas of mixed business and residential development will naturally occur surrounding commercial or industrial areas and can serve as either a transition from areas of commercial development to rural areas or as small commercial centers which primarily serve the needs of local residents.
Neighborhood business	The neighborhood business future land use category is intended to allow the establishment of small neighborhood businesses that meet the needs of local residents and are not dependent upon passerby traffic. In addition, businesses which meet the needs of tourists would also fit into this category. While this category is similar to the Mixed Use: Residential & Business category, it is meant to be applied to single lot uses in appropriate areas in the Township rather than as a "mixed business/residential center".
Conservation & Recreation	Wilson Township recognizes the presence of environmentally sensitive lands which contribute significantly to the quality of life and the rural character of the community. The Conservation and Recreation category is designed to provide protection to environmentally sensitive areas as well as significant recreational areas.
Agricultural	This category encourages the continuation of farming in the Township. Farm dwellings and agricultural accessory buildings are allowed, as well as crop production and the raising of livestock normally associated with farming activities. The plan recommends this category accommodate single family dwellings at a low density. Child care facilities, educational facilities, plant nurseries, greenhouses, bed and breakfast inns, churches, recreation areas, clubs and lodges, and forest and wildlife preserves would also be allowed. Home occupations and cottage industries are encouraged in order to diversify the local economy

	and provide options for families to supplement their farming income in order to continue farming agricultural lands in the Township.
Farm & Forest	The presence of these mixed agricultural and forested areas is a major factor in the character of and quality of life in Wilson Township. The Farm and Forest category is designed to promote the use of wooded and rural areas in a manner that will retain the value of the natural resources and provide enjoyment to residents and visitors while maintaining an economic benefit to property owners.
Source: Wilson Township Master Plan 2010	

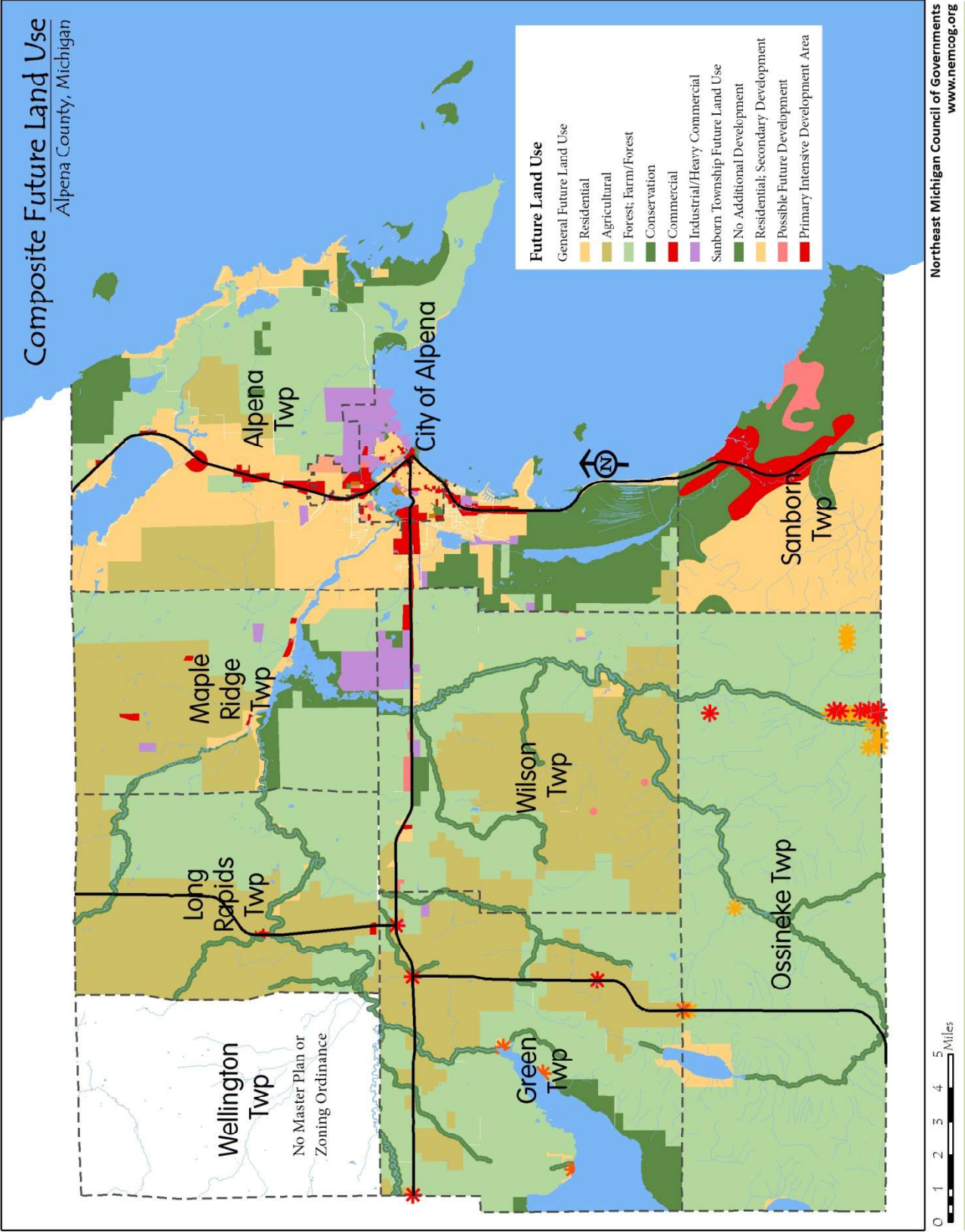
Figure 7.8 Wilson Township Future Land Use



Composite Future Land Use

For the purposes of this Master Plan, future land use categories were generalized and are shown in composite form in **Figure 7.9**. For example, all future land use categories which were generally residential in character were merged in order to show an overall view of future land use patterns in the county. An exception is Sanborn Township due to the fact that there are currently no standard future land use categories contained within the Sanborn Township Master Plan. Rather, development is shown in categories of “no development”, “residential development”, “possible future development”, and “primary intensive development”. The plan did not specify whether the intensive development that is desired is residential or commercial in nature.

Figure 7.9 Alpena County Composite Future Land Use



Zoning Districts

Master plans, including the future land use plans, are implemented through zoning, capital improvement programs and recreation planning. Zoning is the primary tool used by most communities to implement their master plan. Zoning regulates the type, intensity and location of development in a community. Within Alpena County, the Townships of Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn and Wilson and the City of Alpena have zoning authority.

City of Alpena Zoning Districts

R-1 and R-2 One-Family Residential Districts are designed to be the most restrictive of the residential districts. The intent is to provide for an environment of predominantly low density, one-family detached dwellings along with other residentially related facilities which serve the residents in the district.

Minimum lot area:	R-1: 9,600 sq. ft.	R-2: 8,400 sq. ft.	
Minimum setbacks:	Front 20 ft.	Sides 6 ft.	Rear 25 ft.
Minimum lot width:	R-1: 80 ft..	R-2: 70 ft.	

The Thunder Bay Neighborhood Overlay District is designed to encourage the development of single family detached housing compatible with the existing residences in the neighborhood – both in terms of their site development and general building characteristics. The City recognizes the diversity of architectural styles within the neighborhood, which give it its unique character. It is not the intent of these regulations to dictate a particular architectural style, but to provide general development and design parameters to protect, enhance and complement the existing character of the neighborhood.

The RT Two Family Residential District is designed to afford a transition of use in existing housing areas by permitting new construction or conversion of existing structures between adjacent residential and commercial, office, thoroughfare or other uses which would affect residential character. This district also recognizes (1) the existence of older residential areas of the City where larger residences exist and (2) the need to extend the economic life of these structures and allow the owners to justify the expenditures for repairs and modernization. This district also allows the construction of new two family residences where slightly greater densities are permitted

Minimum setbacks:	Front 20 ft.	Sides 6 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	50 ft.		

RM-1 and RM-2 Multiple-Family Residential Districts are designed to provide sites for multiple-family dwelling structures, and related uses, which will generally serve as zones of transition between the nonresidential districts and lower-density single family districts. The multiple-family district is further provided to serve the needs for the apartment type of unit in an otherwise medium density, single - family community.

Minimum setbacks:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		
Density:	RM-1 Up to six (6) units per net acre		
	RM-2 Greater than six (6) units per net acre		

The Waterfront Development District is intended to promote mixed commercial, residential and institutional uses that incorporate the waterfront into the development and permit and encourage public access and use of the waterfront. Within Alpena’s central core, the waterfront (in particular the

integrated appearance while providing safe and convenient access for both vehicles and pedestrians. Upper story residential provides transition to abutting established residential neighborhoods. The CCD is divided into the following three corridors: (1) Washington/Ripley; (2) Chisholm Street; and (3) State Avenue.

Development standards within the CCD regulate such things as building materials, facades, transparency, and sidewalk encroachment. Setbacks differ depending on the corridor itself with front setbacks being larger on State Avenue. Side and rear setbacks are generally not required unless abutting a residential district.

OS-1 Office Service District is designed to accommodate uses such as offices, banks and personal services which can serve as transitional areas between residential and commercial districts and to provide a transition between major thoroughfares and residential districts.

Minimum setback: Front 20 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 10 ft.

B-1 Local Business District is designed to meet the day-to-day convenience shopping and service needs of persons residing in adjacent residential areas.

Minimum setbacks: Front 10 ft. Sides 0 ft. Rear 10 ft.

B-2 General Business District is designed to provide sites for more diversified business types requiring a city-wide general market area and/or arterial exposure. The General Business Districts are thus typically located along major thoroughfares.

Minimum setback: Front 20 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 10 ft.

B-3 Commercial District is designed to provide sites for more diversified business types requiring a city-wide general market area and/or arterial exposure which, due to the nature and potential diversity of the land uses of the District, could result in external physical effects. Through proper planning and development controls, potential effects should be limited to the District.

Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 10 ft.

The I 1 Light Industrial District is designed so as to primarily accommodate wholesale activities, warehouses and industrial operations whose external, physical effect are restricted to the area of the district and in no manner affect in a detrimental way any of the surrounding districts. The I 1 District is so structured as to permit, along with any specified uses, the manufacturing, compounding, processing, packaging, assembly and/or treatment of finished or semi-finished products from previously prepared material. It is further intended that the processing of raw material for shipment in bulk form, to be used in an industrial operation at another location, not be permitted.

Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 10 ft. (20 ft. abutting residential) Rear 10 ft. (20 ft. abutting residential)

The I-2 General Industrial District is designed primarily for manufacturing, assembling and fabrication activities including large scale or specialized industrial operations, whose external physical effects will be felt to some degree by surrounding districts. It is the intent of the City to work with these industries to minimize to the extent possible these external impacts, to ensure that these industries comply with all federal and state environmental regulations and obtain all necessary permits prior to construction and

during operation. The I-2 District is so structured as to permit the manufacturing, processing and compounding of semi-finished or finished products from raw materials as well as from previously prepared material. Uses within this district must comply with development standards which minimize negative impact on the surrounding community.

Minimum setback: Front 50 ft. Sides 20 ft. Rear 20 ft.

Rear and side setbacks shall be 100 ft. when abutting a residential district and 80 ft. when abutting any other district.

The P-1 Vehicular Parking District is intended to permit the establishment of areas to be used solely for off street parking of private passenger vehicles as a use incidental to a principal use. The district will generally be provided by petition or request to serve a use district which has developed without adequate off street parking facilities. The P-1 District serves as a transition between commercial and residential areas.

The CR Conservation and Resources District is intended to permit the establishment of natural resource conservation areas in order to preserve these areas for the benefit of the public and to protect and enhance the ecological resources in the City of Alpena and the Thunder Bay Watershed. Development standards are approved on a case-by-case basis.

Planned Unit Development District: The City of Alpena recognizes that many site developments do not readily fit within the confines of the use and design standards of the typical zoning district classifications of the City Zoning Ordinance. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) District is designed to encourage quality land development and site design outside the typical zoning standards. Through the use of flexible design and use standards developments can make more efficient and effective use of the land and infrastructure to the benefit of the entire community. Creativity is promoted and the needs of the City can often be more effectively satisfied. While permitting greater latitude in the mix of uses and the development standards incorporated into a project, the District also provides the City with increased oversight and guidance in the design process. To this end the use of PUD's is intended to achieve the following purposes:

1. Provide flexibility in development regulations, including street and right-of-way standards.
2. Encourage creativity and innovation in land use and design.
3. Promote development compatible with existing adjacent development.
4. Ensure that future development occurs in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, as amended.
5. Foster integrated development incorporating a mix of uses where appropriate – residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, etc.
6. Ensure compatibility with existing road networks and promote alternate modes of transportation (bicycle, pedestrian, bus, etc.)
7. Promote efficient use of public services.
8. Encourage innovative re-use of existing buildings and sites.
9. Preserve significant natural, historic and architectural features.
10. Encourage development that preserves open space and unique site characteristics.
11. Provide a variety of housing options.

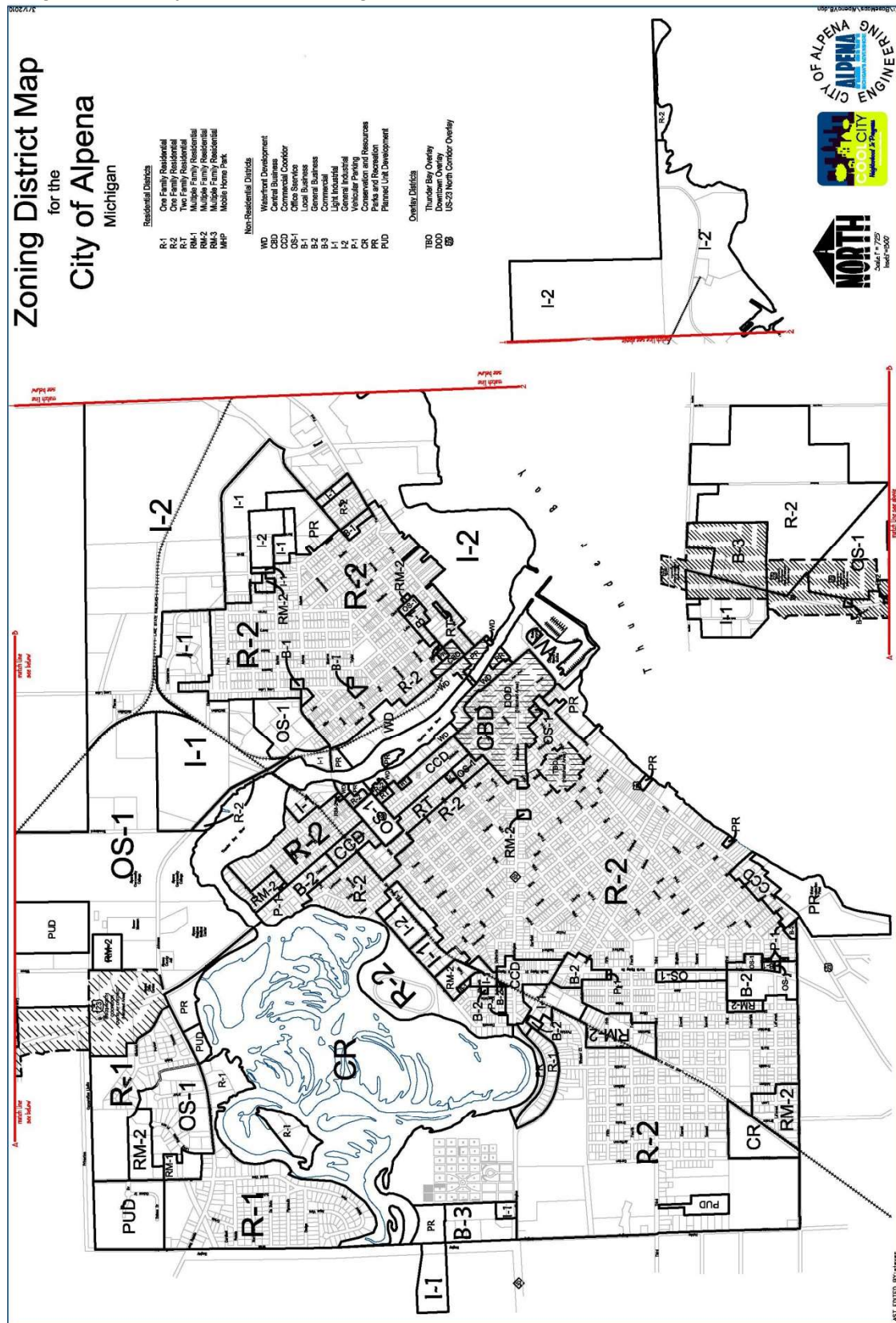
Minimum lot area: Flexible (determined during the review and approval process)

Minimum set back: Flexible (determined during the review and approval process)

Minimum lot width: Flexible (determined during the review and approval process)

The US 23 North Corridor Overlay District between Long Rapids Road/Johnson Street and Hamilton Road is the primary entry corridor into the City of Alpena from the north. The jurisdictional boundaries between the City and Township of Alpena are irregular along this stretch of US 23 resulting in no definitive or clear visual boundary line between the two jurisdictions for travelers utilizing the highway. This has resulted in inconsistent zoning and development standards for corridor properties, whether across or on the same side of the highway. In an attempt to improve the quality of development and the visual character of the corridor, while simplifying the standards for potential developers, the Planning Commissions of the City and Township have agreed to develop similar zoning and developmental standards for the corridor. Each jurisdiction has agreed to amend the applicable sections of their respective zoning ordinance to achieve this end. Development standards within this overlay regulate setbacks, driveways, and greenbelts.

Figure 7.10 City of Alpena Zoning Map



Alpena Township Zoning Districts

The Township of Alpena administers its own zoning ordinance. The Ordinance was adopted on August 15, 1983 and last amended February 1, 2010. The current ordinance establishes thirteen zoning districts.

The C - Conservation District is intended to designate large tracts of land for recreational and resource conservation purposes. The district includes State-owned forest and park lands as well as privately held recreational property. In addition, the Conservation District includes environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, offshore islands, sinkhole areas and other natural features which preclude intensive development.

Minimum lot area:	5 acres		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	300 ft.		

The FR-Forest Recreation District is designed to promote the use of wooded and rural areas of the Township in a manner that will retain the basic attractiveness of natural resources, and provide enjoyment for both visitors, and the community at large.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	150 ft.		

The A - Agricultural District is designed to conserve large tracts of productive agricultural land for active farming use. The district is intended to include agricultural accessory uses, one-family dwelling units and other open space or low-density recreational uses consistent with an agricultural setting.

Minimum lot area:	10 Acres (farm)	40,000 sq. ft. (residential)	
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	300 ft.		

The WR - Waterfront Residential District is primarily established to provide residential sites and uses on Lake Huron, inland lakes and streams within the Township in keeping with the master plan. In addition to waterfront residential uses, the district will allow as a special approval use certain commercial and recreational developments which are water-related, providing such development is designed to be compatible with the residential character of neighboring properties. Further, all development plans are intended to insure the continued maintenance of high environmental quality in Township waters and shoreline areas.

Minimum lot area:	15,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 25 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

The One-Family Residential district is designed to provide for one-family dwelling sites and the residentially related uses in keeping with the master plan of residential development in Alpena Township. The uses permitted by right and on special condition are intended to promote a compatible arrangement of land uses for homes, with the intent to keep neighborhoods relatively quiet and free of unrelated traffic influences.

Minimum lot area:	20,000 sq. ft. (9,600 sq. ft.. if served by water and sewer)		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 25 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft. (80 ft.. if served by water and sewer)		

The R-2 Rural Residential District is designed to provide one family home sites in areas more rural in character. The inclusion of farm and agricultural uses is most important in differentiating from R-1 District.

Minimum lot area:	20,000 sq. ft. (9,600 sq. ft.. if served by water and sewer)		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 25 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft. (80 ft.. if served by water and sewer)		

The R-3 Mixed Residential District is designed to provide one-family and multiple family home sites in Township areas where the character of existing uses is somewhat mixed. There may be incidences of business and mobile homes among one-family residences.

Minimum lot area:	15,000 sq. ft.. (9,600 sq. ft.. if served by water and sewer)		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 25 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft. (80 ft.. if served by water and sewer)		

The OS Office Service District is intended to accommodate various office, professional, and personal service uses. This district can serve as a transitional area between the higher-intensity retail and commercial uses and the lower-intensity residential uses. This district is specifically intended to prohibit retail commercial establishments which require high volume, short-term parking.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

The B-1 Restricted Business District is designed to give Alpena Township a business district that is somewhat more selective than a General Business District, to provide for the establishment of neighborhood shopping areas, personal services and professional office areas that are primarily compatible with and of service to Township residential uses.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

The B-2 General Business District is designed to provide sites for more diversified business types and is often located to serve passerby traffic.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 25 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

The B-3 Community Business District is established to cater to the needs of a larger consumer population and is generally characterized by an integrated or planned cluster of establishments served by a common parking area and generating large volumes of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 75 ft.	Sides 50 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

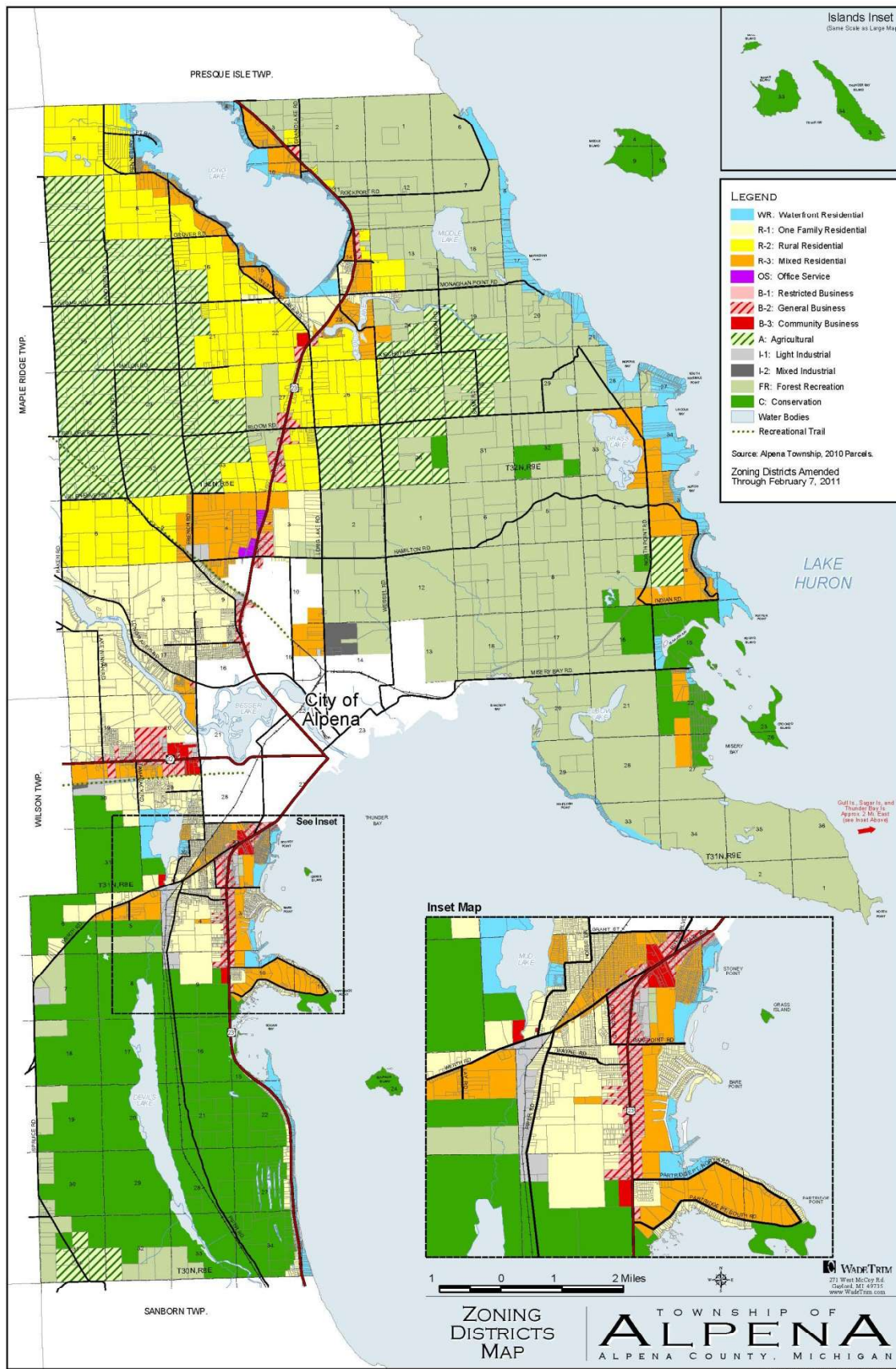
The I-1 Light Industrial District is designed so as to primarily accommodate wholesale activities, warehouses, major repair operations, manufacturing and other industrial activities whose external, physical effects are such that it should be restricted to the area of the district and in no manner affects in a detrimental way any of the surrounding districts.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 30 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

The I-2 Mixed Industrial District is designed primarily for manufacturing, assembling, and fabrication activities including large scale or specialized industrial operations, whose external physical effects will be felt to some degree to surrounding districts. The I-2 District is so structured as to permit the manufacturing, processing and compounding of semi-finished products from raw materials.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 50 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 40 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

Figure 7.11 Alpena Township Zoning Map



Green Township Zoning Districts

R-1 Residential District - The purpose of this district and its accompanying regulations is to provide a stable and sound medium-density residential environment for single family housing neighborhoods free from other uses, except those which are (1) normally accessory to and (2) compatible with, supportive of, and convenient to the various types and compositions of families living within such residential land use areas.

Minimum lot area: 16,900 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 20 ft. (Loon Lane: 40 ft.) Sides 5 ft. Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width: 65 ft.

R-2 Agricultural District - This zoning district provides for a mix of agricultural and residential use with limited commercial uses relating chiefly to agriculture.

Minimum lot area: 40,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 100 ft.

R-3 General Residential District - The purpose of this district and its accompanying regulations is to provide a stable and sound residential environment for single-family and multiple-family dwelling units along with business uses which are (1) normally accessory to and (2) compatible with, supportive of and convenient to the various types and compositions of families living within such residential land use areas. The size of lots and parcels should be planned to be of such area and width so that they can sustain healthful and sanitary on-site water supply and wastewater disposal.

Minimum lot area: 40,000 sq. ft..
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. (65 ft. multiple family dwellings) Sides 10 ft. (20 ft. multiple family dwellings)
Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 100 ft..

RR Recreational Residential District - The purpose of this district is to accommodate single-family dwelling units along with certain low-impact public and private recreational uses along the waterfront.

Minimum lot area: 40,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 100 ft.

CR Conservation and Resources Overlay District - The intent of this district is to protect and conserve natural and scenic resources along river corridors in Green Township in order to promote environmental quality and retain community character. The Conservation and Resources Overlay District includes the river channel and extends landward radially or at right angles from the ordinary high water mark four hundred (400) feet on both sides of the Thunder Bay River and portions of Bean Creek.

Minimum lot area: 40,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 75 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 150 ft.

FF Farm and Forest District - This zoning district is provided to promote the proper use, enjoyment, and conservation of the forested and rural areas of the township by providing a district for residential, agriculture and forestry-related uses.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setback:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Depth to width ratio:	4 to 1		

B-1 Neighborhood Business District - The purpose of this district and its accompanying regulations is to provide for stable and sound neighborhood shopping areas, tourist services, personal services, and professional offices that are compatible with and of service to residential uses.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

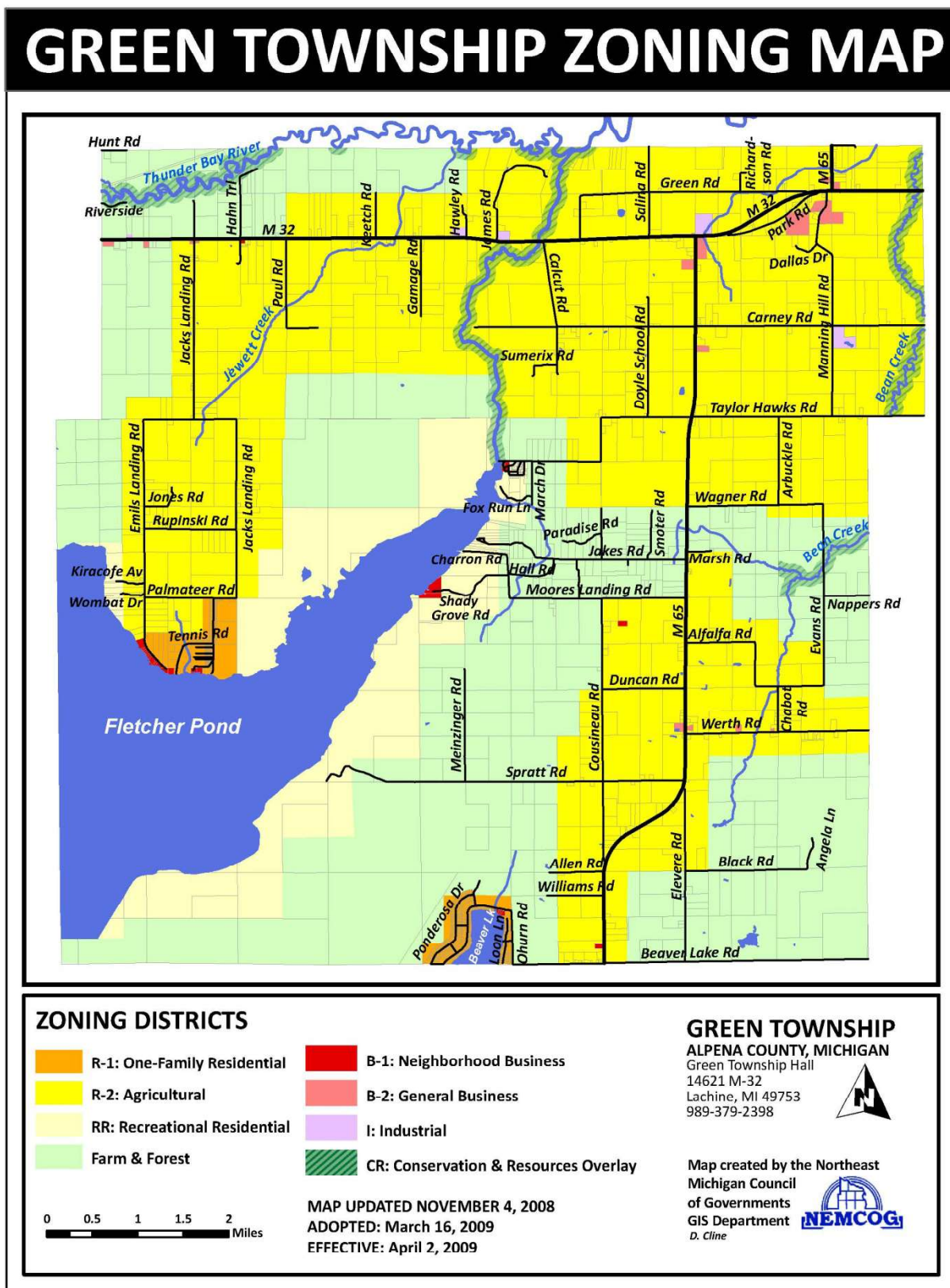
B-2 General Business District - The purpose of this district and its accompanying regulations is to provide for a general commercial district which contains commercial uses of a more diverse nature which cater to the entire community and the needs of highway traffic.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

I Industrial District - The purpose of this district is to accommodate heavier commercial and light industry, wholesale activities, warehouses and other industrial operations whose external physical effects are restricted to the area of the district and do not affect in a detrimental way any of the surrounding districts. It is the intent of this district to permit only those industrial operations having characteristics which emit a minimum amount of discernible noise, vibration, smoke, dust, dirt, glare, toxic materials, offensive odors, gases, electromagnetic radiation or any other physically adverse effects which are discernible beyond the lot lines of the parcel upon which the industrial activity is located. Since this area is not anticipated to be served by public water or sewer systems in the foreseeable future, development regulations will contain groundwater protection standards.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setback:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 40 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

Figure 7.12 Green Township Zoning Map



Long Rapids Township Zoning Districts

A - Agricultural Districts are designed to protect and stabilize the essential characteristics of agricultural areas within the township. Additionally, they help to insure proper maintenance of conditions for healthful and economically productive agricultural activities by preserving those areas which are predominately agricultural in nature and which are most appropriate for present and future agricultural expansion. They are designed to prevent unwarranted premature urban development from encroaching upon legitimate agricultural areas, thus disrupting the agricultural resources, environment and economy, including the tax base. It is essential that development in areas which are predominately agricultural be based on sound principles which realize the importance of such activities to the economy and welfare of the township.

Minimum lot area: 1 acre

Minimum setbacks: Front 20 ft.; Sides 10 ft.; Rear, 20 ft..

FR - Forestry-Recreation District is to promote the proper use and economic return from forest land and woodlot, and promote the conservation and enjoyment of the streams and the animal and vegetative resources of this district. To facilitate this goal, certain uses may only be provided by Special Approval.

Minimum lot area: 1 acre

Minimum setbacks: Front 20 ft.; Sides 10 ft.; Rear, 20 ft..

R - Residential District is to provide areas dedicated primarily to residential use, with each dwelling located on an individual lot or premises. The lots should be adequate in size to provide safe water/sewage disposal facilities and limit spread of fire. It should also be set-back from public thoroughfare to provide safe exit from and entrance to the premises. Since certain property uses are generally accepted as compatible with residential developments, if properly integrated, the inclusion of such uses is provided by Special Use Approval.

Minimum lot area:	12,000 sq. ft. (single-family)	15,000 sq. ft. (two-family)	10,000 sq. ft. (multiple- family)
Minimum setbacks:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft. (single-family)	100 ft. (two-family)	150 ft. (multiple- family)

EC - Environmental Conservation District - Consistent with the public policy of Long Rapids Township and in the interest of the residents of Long Rapids Township, the Township Board of Long Rapids Township finds that uncoordinated and unplanned land development within and around the wetlands, floodplains, watercourses and other environmentally sensitive lands within Long Rapids Township, which development, if allowed to continue, will result in; (1) loss, damage, despoiling, pollution or elimination of these natural environments; (2) increased potential for flooding of low lands causing damage to real and personal property and threatening human life; (3) the destruction of valuable ground water recharge areas which supply public and private water needs; (4) increased possibility for subsequent expensive construction of public water and/or wastewater systems and facilities; (5) loss of natural filtering processes which would otherwise protect and enhance the water quality of lakes and streams and; (6) loss of wildlife and fish habitats. These sensitive environments; if preserved and maintained in an undisturbed and natural condition, constitute important physical, aesthetic, recreation and economic assets to this community and its residents. It is public policy to encourage a coordinated and planned land and water management program in Long Rapids Township which will locate permanent structures and artificial obstructions so as not to interfere with the passage and natural flow

of waters nor destroy the natural wetlands, floodplains and other environmentally sensitive lands of Long Rapids Township.

Therefore, it is the intent of the Environmental Conservation Overlay District (EC) to:

1. Reduce the danger to public health by protecting the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater supplies from conflicting land-use activities by providing sufficient storage, filtering and recharge of these resources.
2. Reduce the financial burdens imposed upon Long Rapids Township and the individuals therein caused by increased flooding, the need for new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities or public water supply systems or other public and private expenses which would otherwise not be required.
3. Permit and encourage land use developments which will not impede or alter the natural flow of surface and ground-water resources nor cause danger to life or property.
4. Permit and encourage land uses which are compatible with the preservation and maintenance of these sensitive environments and their natural functions, including the providing of fish and wildlife habitat.
5. Avoid increased runoff of surface waters from developed areas to prevent pollution from directly entering lakes, streams, or other public waters.
6. Provide sufficient land area to absorb and store abnormal flows of storm water in periods of heavy precipitation which would prevent expenditure of public funds in emergencies resulting from otherwise inadequate holding capacity if developed.
7. Prevent the placement of artificial fill or obstructions which restrict the natural flow and functions of floodplains, watercourses, wetlands, and other water-related environments.

The EC District includes all land area along rivers, streams or tributaries for a horizontal distance of 1/4 mile (1320 feet) or to an appropriate physical boundary from the waters edge thereof. Those river systems include: Thunder Bay River, Gaffney Creek and Bean Creek.

Minimum lot area:	66,000 sq. ft.. (220 ft. in width X 300 ft.. deep)
Minimum greenbelt:	Water's edge 100 ft. (no permanent structure within greenbelt)
Minimum lot width:	220 feet for parcels fronting the shore.

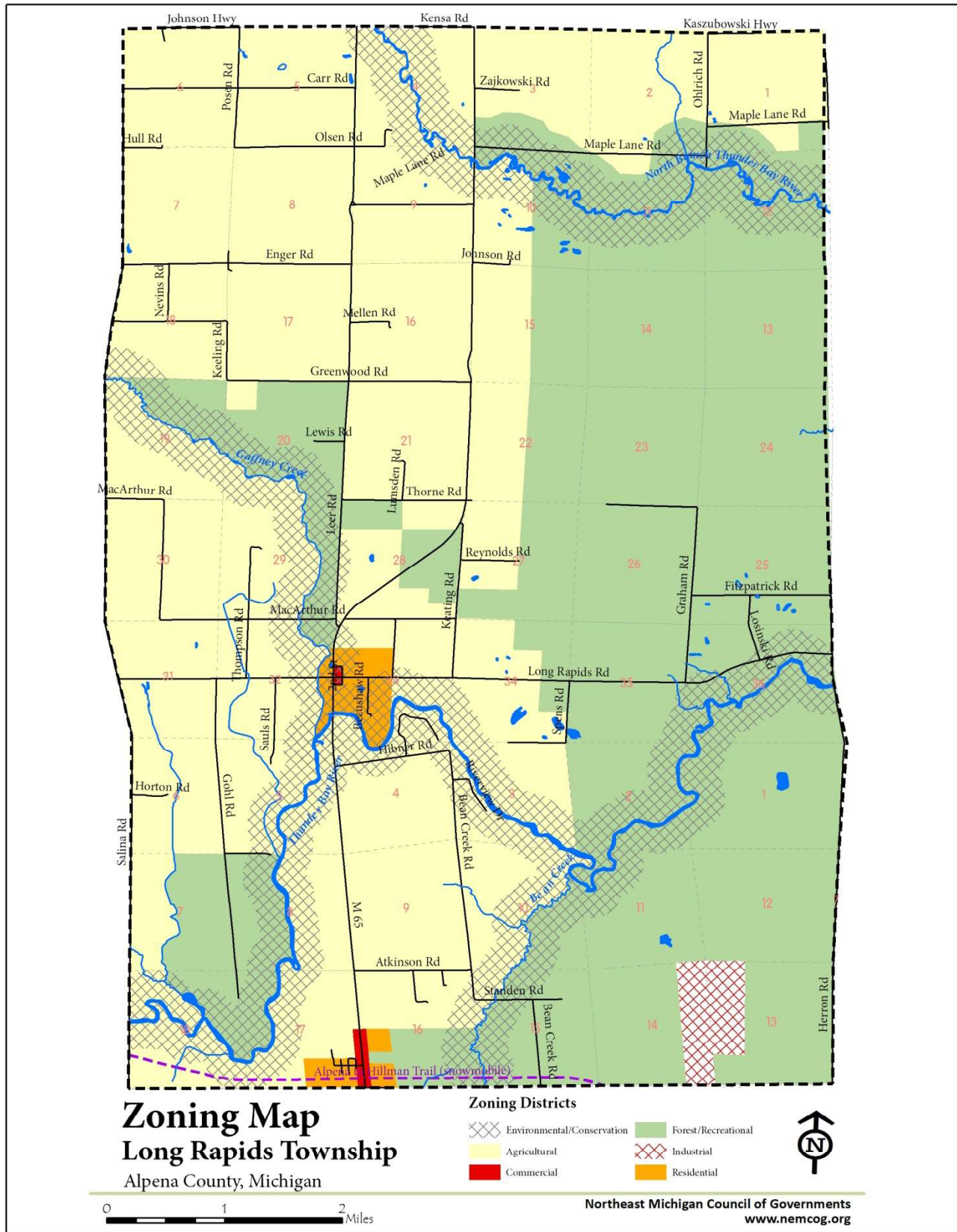
C Commercial District is to provide areas suitable for a variety of commercial and service establishments including personal, professional, and other services commonly associated with local commercial and business centers.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setbacks:	Front 20 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

I Industrial District is intended for uses that manufacture, assemble, compound, and process raw or previously prepared materials.

Minimum lot area:	Four times building area		
Minimum setbacks:	Front 20 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	150 feet		

Figure 7.13 Long Rapids Township Zoning Map



Maple Ridge Township Zoning Districts

R-1 Residential District is designed to provide for one-family dwelling sites and the residential related uses. The uses permitted by right and on special approval are intended to promote a compatible arrangement of land uses for homes, while keeping neighborhoods relatively quiet and free of unrelated traffic influences.

Minimum lot area:	20,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setbacks:	Front 30 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 25 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

R-2 Agricultural District is designed to serve farm and agricultural uses in rural areas. The inclusion of farms and agricultural uses are most important in differentiating from R-1 districts.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setbacks:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

R-3 General Residential District is designed to provide for multiple-family structures which may be necessary to meet the needs of apartment dwellers. This district is further intended to be a transition use district.

Minimum lot area:	12,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setbacks:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

RR Recreational Residential District is designed to accommodate cottage and seasonal home developments. It is intended that the seasonal home areas be reasonably homogeneous by discouraging the mixing of recreation home areas with commercial resorts, business services, and major institutional or community services.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setbacks:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

CR Conservation and Resource District is designed to protect and conserve natural and scenic resources and promote environmental quality and preserve community character. The CR district applies to stream and river corridors, lakeshores, impoundment waters, and/or scenic highways as deemed appropriate.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setbacks:	Front 40 ft.	Side 10 ft.	Rear 35 ft..
Minimum lot width:	150 ft.		

FF Farm and Forest District is designed to promote the use of wooded and rural areas in a manner that will retain the basic attractiveness of natural resources, and provide enjoyment for both visitors and the community at large. The intent of the District is to hold rural areas for resource purposes, and to allow some multiple uses of marginal farm-forest lands.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum setbacks:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 35 ft.

Minimum lot width: 150 ft.

B-1 Local -Tourist Business District establishes a business district that is more selective than a General Business District. It provides for the establishment of neighborhood shopping areas, personal services and professional office areas that are compatible with, and of service to, residents. Tourist services are included as being in character with the District.

Minimum lot area: None
Minimum setbacks: Front 40 ft. Sides 5 ft. Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width: None

B-2 General Business District is designed to provide sites for more diversified business types and are often located to serve passerby traffic.

Minimum lot area: None
Minimum setbacks: Front 40 ft. Sides 5 ft. Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width: None

I Industrial District is designed to accommodate wholesale activities, warehouses, major repair operation, manufacturing and other industrial operations. These activities are subject to certain performance requirements relative to their impact on the community and adjacent non-industrial districts, even when in adjacent municipalities.

Minimum lot area: None
Minimum setbacks: Front 30 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width: None

Zoning Map
Maple Ridge Township
 Alpena County, Michigan

Scale: 0 to 2 Miles

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
www.nemcog.org

Zoning Districts Legend:

- R1 (Residential Single-Family)
- R2 (Residential Medium-Density)
- R3 (Residential High-Density)
- RR (Rural Residential)
- FF-1 (Future Fertilizer)
- CR (Community Residential)
- B1 (Business Professional Office)
- B2 (Business Medium-Density)

Ossineke Township Zoning Districts

R-1 Residential District - One is designed to provide for one-family residential sites. The uses permitted by right and on special approval are intended to promote a compatible arrangement of land uses for homes, keeping neighborhoods relatively quiet and free of unrelated traffic influences.

Minimum lot area: 30,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 150 ft.

R-2 Residential District - Two is designed to serve farm and agricultural uses in rural areas. The inclusion of farms and agricultural uses is most important in differentiating from R-1 Districts.

Minimum lot area: 30,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 150 ft.

R-3 General Residential District is designed to provide for multiple family structures which may be necessary to meet the needs of an apartment dwelling. This district is further intended to be a transitional use district.

Minimum lot area: 30,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 20 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 150 ft.

RR Recreational Residential District is designed to accommodate cottage and seasonal home developments. It is intended that the seasonal home areas be reasonably homogeneous by discouraging the mixing of recreation home areas with commercial resorts business services and major institutional or community services.

Minimum lot area: 30,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 100 ft.

CR Conservation and Resource District is intended to apply to stream and river corridors, lake shores, impoundment waters, and/or scenic highways, as deemed appropriate.

Minimum lot area: 40,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 150 ft.

FF-1 Farm and Forest District is designed to promote the use of wooded and rural areas in a manner that will retain the basic attractiveness of natural resources, and provide enjoyment for both visitors, and the community at large. The intent of the District is to hold rural areas for the resource purposes, and to allow some multiple uses of marginal farm-forest lands.

Minimum lot area: 40,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setback: Front 40 ft. Sides 20 ft. Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width: 150 ft.

B-1 Local Tourist Business District established a Business District that is more selective than a General Business District. It provides for the establishment of neighborhood shopping areas, personal services, and professional office areas that are compatible with and of service to residents. Tourist services are included as being in character with the district.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

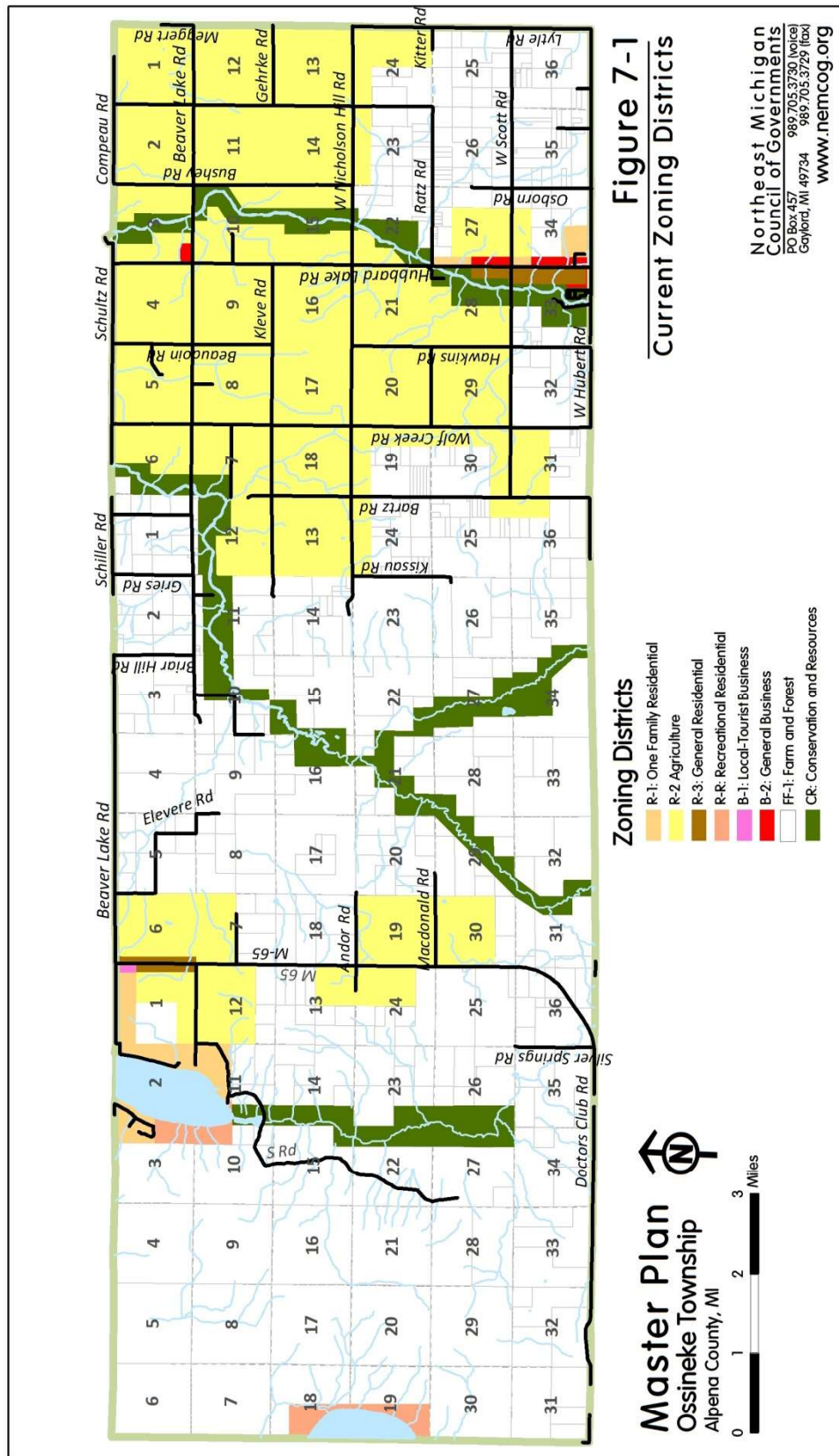
B-2 General Business District is designed to provide sites for more diversified business types and are often located to serve passerby traffic.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

I Industrial District is designed to accommodate wholesale activities, warehouses, major repair operations, manufacturing and other industrial operations, subject to certain performance requirements relative to their impact on the community and adjacent non-industrial districts, even when in adjacent municipalities.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum setback:	Front 30 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

Figure 7.15 Ossineke Township Zoning Map



Sanborn Township Zoning Districts

R-1 Residential District - One is designed to provide for one-family dwelling sites and the residential related uses in keeping with the master plan of Sanborn Township. The uses permitted by right and on special conditions are intended to promote a compatible arrangement of land uses for homes, with the intent to keep neighborhoods relatively quiet and free of unrelated traffic influences.

Minimum lot area: 12,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setbacks: Front 25 ft. Sides - one 5 ft. combined -15 ft. Rear 25 ft.
Minimum lot width: 80 ft.

R-2 Residential District - Two is designed for single family home sites in areas more rural in character. The inclusion of farm and agricultural uses is most important in differentiating from the R-1 district.

Minimum lot area: 5 acres
Minimum setbacks: Front 25 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 330 ft.

R-3 Residential District - Three is designed to provide single family home sites in areas where the character of existing uses is somewhat mixed. There may be incidences of business and mobile homes among single family residences.

Minimum lot area: 12,000 sq. ft.
Minimum setbacks: Front 25 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 80 ft.

F Forestry District is designed to promote the use of wooded and rural areas of the Township in a manner that will retain the basic attractiveness of natural resources, and provide enjoyment for both visitors, and the community at large.

Minimum lot area: 5 acres
Minimum setbacks: Front 40 ft. Sides 20 ft. Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width: 150 ft.

B-1 Restricted Business District is designed to give the Township a business district that is somewhat more selective than a General Business District. It may provide for the establishment of neighborhood shopping areas, personal services, and professional office areas that are compatible with and of service to residents.

Minimum lot area: None
Minimum setbacks: Front 25 ft. Sides 5 ft. Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width: None

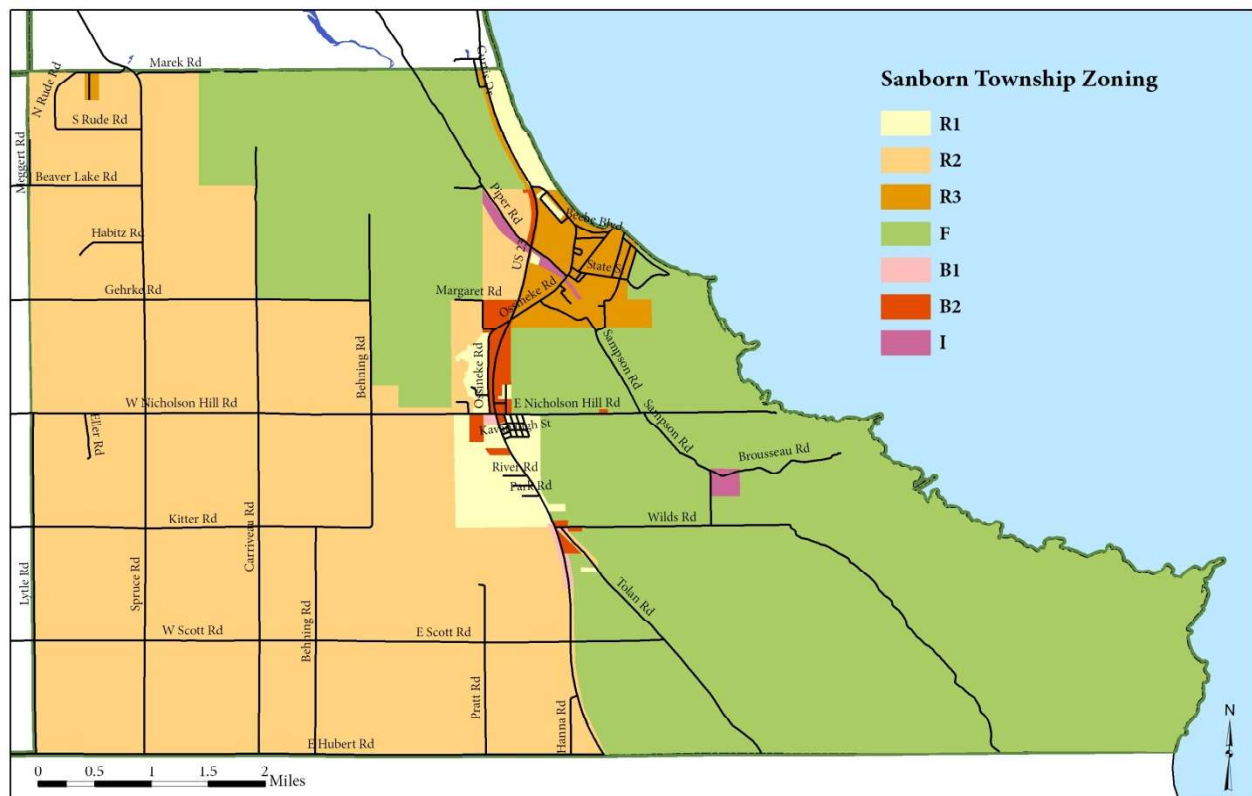
B-2 General Business District is designed to provide sites for more diversified business types and are often located to serve passerby traffic.

Minimum lot area: None
Minimum setbacks: Front 25 ft. Sides 5 ft. Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width: None

I Industrial District is designed to primarily accommodate wholesale activities, warehouses, major repair operations, and other industrial activities whose external, physical effects are such that it should be restricted to the area of the district. The activities should not have a negative impact on the surrounding districts.

Minimum lot area: None
 Minimum setbacks: Front 30 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 20 ft.
 Minimum lot width: None

Figure 7.16 Sanborn Township Zoning Map



Wilson Township Zoning Districts

Wilson Township’s original zoning ordinance was adopted in May of 1974. A comprehensive revision was completed in September of 2011.

R-1 One Family Residential District is designed to provide for one-family dwelling sites and residentially related uses. The uses permitted by right and on special approval are intended to promote a compatible arrangement of land uses for homes, keeping neighborhoods relatively quiet and free of unrelated traffic influences.

Minimum lot area: 20,000 sq. ft.
 Minimum set back: Front 30 ft. Sides 10 ft. Rear 25 ft.
 Minimum lot width: 100 ft.

R-2 Agricultural District is designed to serve farm and agricultural uses in areas which are rural and farm in character.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum set back:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

R-3 General Residential District is designed to provide for multiple-family structures which may be necessary to meet the needs of apartment dwellers. This district is further intended to be a transitional use district.

Minimum lot area:	20,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum set back:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

Recreation Residential District is designed to accommodate cottage and seasonal home developments. It is intended that the seasonal home areas be reasonably homogeneous by discouraging the mixing of recreation home areas with commercial resorts, business services, and major institutional or community services.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum set back:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	100 ft.		

Conservation and Resources District - Because there exists in the Township, certain natural and scenic resources that should be protected and conserved to promote environmental quality and community character, this CR District is intended to apply to stream and river corridors, lake shores, impoundment waters, and/or scenic highways, as deemed appropriate.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum set back:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	150 ft.		

FF Farm and Forest District is designed to promote the use of wooded and rural areas in a manner that will retain the basic attractiveness of natural resources, and provide enjoyment for both visitors and the community at large. The intent of the District is to hold rural areas for resource purposes, and to allow some multiple uses of marginal farm-forest lands.

Minimum lot area:	40,000 sq. ft.		
Minimum set back:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 35 ft.
Minimum lot width:	150 ft.		

B-1 Local and Tourist Business District establishes a business district that is more selective than a General Business District. It provides for the establishment of neighborhood shopping areas, personal services and professional office areas that are compatible with, and of service to, residents. Tourist services are included as being in character with the District.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum set back:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

B-2 General Business District is designed to provide site for more diversified business types and are often located to serve passerby traffic. Tourist services are included as being in character with the district.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum set back:	Front 30 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

B-3 Business and Light Manufacturing District is designed to provide sites for light manufacturing and wholesale storage and as a distribution area to retail stores or industrial users. These sites do not necessarily have to abut or be adjacent to a primary or secondary county road but must have access to these roads without passing through a residential district. The entrance and exit must be approved in written form by the County Road Commission.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum set back:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 5 ft.	Rear 20 ft..
Minimum lot width:	None		

I Industrial District is designed to accommodate wholesale activities, warehouses, major repair operations, manufacturing and other industrial operations, subject to certain performance requirements relative to their impact on the community and adjacent non-industrial districts.

Minimum lot area:	None		
Minimum set back:	Front 30 ft.	Sides 10 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	None		

A - Airport District is designed so as to primarily accommodate airport activities, logistical activities, wholesale activities, warehouses, military operations, animal care, human care and social assistance facilities, limited forest products and agricultural activities, public facilities, commercial and office activities, and limited manufacturing operations whose external, physical effects are restricted to the area of the district and in no manner affect in a detrimental way any of the surrounding districts. The Airport District contains an airport approach zone overlay which regulates density, land use, vegetation, lighting, and utilities.

Minimum lot area:	1 acre		
Minimum set back:	Front 40 ft.	Sides 20 ft.	Rear 20 ft.
Minimum lot width:	150 ft.		

ZONING MAP
WILSON TOWNSHIP
ALPENA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Zoning Districts

- R-1 One-family Residential
- R-2 Single-Family Residential
- R-3 General Residential
- RR: Recreation & Resources
- C/R: Conservation & Resources
- FF: Farm & Forest
- B-1 Local Tourist Business
- B-2 General Business
- B-3 Business/Light Manufacturing
- A: Airport District
- I: Industrial

Township Boundary

- Parcels
- State Hwys
- Roads

Map amended 6-12-10
to create airport district

Map created by the Northeast
Michigan Council of Governments
Gaylord, MI 49735
989.705.3730
989.705.3729

Legend:

- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- Zone 5

Inset Map: Airport District: Airport Approach Zones

This inset map shows the Airport District, which is divided into five zones. The zones are color-coded: Zone 1 (blue), Zone 2 (orange), Zone 3 (green), Zone 4 (yellow), and Zone 5 (purple). The map also shows the location of the airport and surrounding roads.

Goals & Objectives

Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish the goals, objectives and action steps that will guide future growth and development in a manner that will reflect the county's unique character. In developing community goals and objectives, it is important to analyze demographics, housing, economic conditions, services and facilities, cultural and natural resources and existing land use. Preceding chapters of this Master Plan have documented the above characteristics.

An equally important step in developing goals is community input. The County Planning Commission commissioned a county-wide survey that was available online to all County residents. The survey was coordinated with the City of Alpena Comprehensive Plan survey. Both surveys were available on the Alpena County website and the City of Alpena Website. In addition, hard copy surveys were also available at the Alpena County Government Center and the George N. Fletcher Public Library. Press releases were issued to inform the public about the availability of the surveys. 100 completed surveys were received.

Participants were asked a number of different questions, including the identification of assets in Alpena County; the identification of negative issues about Alpena County; and a number of different questions regarding government services, community facilities, natural resources, housing, economic development, transportation, and quality of life. Lastly, participants were asked to provide suggestions on improvements that could be undertaken by Alpena County in the future. Input was received from one hundred people and responses were carefully compiled and analyzed. With guidance from the community survey results, the Planning Commission established the goals, objectives, and action steps identified in this chapter.

Survey Summary

- *Respondents:*
 - 94 Full-Time Residents
 - 5 Non-Residents
 - *No Seasonal Residents Responded to the Survey*
 - 95% of Respondents own their own home
 - 86% of respondents are age 40 and above
 - 45% of respondents occupy the professional/managerial category
 - 58% of respondents are from Alpena Township; 19% are from the City of Alpena; 15% are from Wilson or Maple Ridge Townships or from areas outside of Alpena County

County Assets

The people living in Alpena County value the water resources and the “small town” nature of the community. The quality and abundance of the hunting, fishing and natural resources was also indicated as one of the premier assets of the County. The tranquility and peace of living in a rural environment is also high on their list of County assets; as is its recreational resources, the schools and general community facilities.

The following items were the most identified by survey respondents as being the most liked reasons for living in Alpena County:

Most Liked Aspects of Living in Alpena County – Most Common Responses

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Access to Lakes and Water Resources | • Safe Community/Low Crime |
| • Small Town Environment | • Arts, Culture & Entertainment Activities |
| • Outdoors & the Environment (Natural Resources, Wildlife, Hunting/Fishing etc.) | • Airport & Air Base |
| • Recreation | • Marine Sanctuary |
| • Schools & Facilities | • Historic Assets |
| • People | • Quality Local Government |
| • Waterfront Community | • Family |
| • Beautiful | • Local Businesses & Jobs |
| | • Farms |

The following illustrate a number of positive issues about living in Alpena County that were identified by survey participants.

SATISFACTION: 93% of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied living in Alpena County.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY: 59% believe that there is a sense of community in Alpena County. However, a number of comments were received that indicated that newcomers are not particularly well received within the community.

LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT: Over 60% of respondents say that the County has too little development, while 36% say that the level of development within the County is “just right.” However, 52% of respondents state that Alpena County has to begin to grow in order to thrive. Economic development to increase jobs, shopping options, provision of stable income, and a better quality of life were the most frequent reasons stated for this opinion. A need to see more young families moving to the area was also noted as one way to growing the community.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Near unanimous agreement (96%) among respondents supported the growth of commercial development within the County. Some comments were noted that cautioned a balance between commercial and agricultural development.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: Over three-quarters (81%) of respondents desire additional industrial development within the County. In addition, 83% of respondents indicated support for the approval of tax abatements to support future industrial development. However, a number of comments were received that indicated opposition to additional industrial development along the waterfront.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT: 60% of respondents wish to see continued residential development within the County.

SENIOR HOUSING & SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY: Nearly two-thirds of respondents are supportive of exploring options for senior housing and believe that there are adequate services in the County for the elderly. However, over three-quarters (77%) of respondents stated that they never use the Senior Center and 22% of the remaining respondents indicated that their use of the facility was limited to 1-2 times/year. Given the demographic breakdown of the survey, this could have had an influence on the indicated level of use and could require additional follow-up.

EDUCATION: 77% of responses indicate satisfaction with educational opportunities within the County. However, some comments were noted regarding concern over the quality of management of the public school system.

FARMLAND: Nearly three-quarters of respondents desire to see agricultural growth within the County. A majority of respondents support protection of large tracts of farmland and a clear majority support the promotion of agricultural tourism.

TOURISM & AGRICULTUREAL DEVELOPMENT: A majority of respondents support tourism, agricultural tourism, and agricultural development.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Nearly three-quarters (71%) of the responses believe that public transportation services are adequate. Some comments regarding wait times, lack of standard routes, and lack of information about transportation services beyond the City of Alpena were noted. This could warrant additional investigation.

RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE: Three-quarters of respondents are satisfied with both solid waste disposal and recycling options within the County. The most noted comments regarding lack of use of the recycling program included hours of operation, location of drop-off facilities, and lack of information about the program.

WIND TURBINES: 72% are supportive of allowing residential wind turbines on private property. 56% are supportive of the idea of large-scale commercial wind turbines being built within the County.

PUBLIC SAFETY: An overwhelming majority of respondents support public safety services. The data, along with other responses, suggest very strong support for local fire and EMS services; likely because the majority of firefighters and EMS crews are local volunteers. Very solid support for 9-1-1 operations also exists; with many comments being made regarding the professionalism and responsiveness of the dispatchers. Interestingly, support for law enforcement was evenly split. This could warrant additional investigation.

ROADS: There is overall satisfaction with road conditions, especially with snow removal operations. Comments suggest that there are some strong opinions about certain road maintenance issues, especially related to road grading and to the seal coating of roads.

The most identified road segments needing improvement include:

- Wayne Road
- Indian Reserve Road
- Herron Road
- All gravel roads
- Long Lake Road
- Weiss Road
- Maple Grove Road
- Grant Street
- North Point Shores
- Emerald Acres subdivision
- Misery Bay Road
- El Cajon Road
- Werth Road
- Hubert Road
- Hamilton Road
- Bare Point Road
- Bean Creek Road
- Boilore Road
- Wessel Road
- Pearl Road

- Dietz Road
- Lake Street
- Beaver Lake Road
- Woodward Avenue
- Grover Road
- Dawson Street
- Gutches Road
- Bloom Road.

NATURAL RESOURCES: The data shows overwhelming support for natural resource protection. There is very strong support for all categories of resource protection, including cultural and historic resources.

Natural Resources Importance (All Received Majority or Plurality of votes):

- River/Lake Water Quality
- Ground Water
- Air Quality
- Fish & Wildlife
- Woodlands & Timber Resources
- Lakefront Land Use
- Farmland
- Cultural & Historic Resources
- Scenic Vistas
- Wetlands & Floodplains
- Quarry/Limestone.

The data also suggests that there is overwhelming public support for the implementation and enforcement of natural resource protection regulations. This could warrant additional follow-up.

RECREATION & CULTURAL FACILITIES: Regarding the significant recreational and cultural facilities within the County: 91% of respondents indicated that they never or rarely use the Plaza Pool; 55% of the responses indicate an occasional use (1-2-times/year) of the Northern Lights Arena, and 40% of respondents indicated that they use the George N. Fletcher Public Library 1-2-times/month.

County Issues

A wide range of concerns were expressed by the respondents. Rising crime rates and the lack of law enforcement resources was, overwhelmingly, the most noted concern. Included within these responses were multiple comments about the role of local shelters in contributing to the local crime problem. The second most noted concern was the perceived continuous in-fighting and discord among the local units of government within the County. Included with these comments were responses noting the overlap and duplication of government services and the lack of “vision” and/or resistance to change and the lack of implementation of new ideas.

The lack of quality jobs and economic opportunities in the County also ranked as one of the top concerns of respondents. Respondents also rated the lack of shopping, entertainment, restaurants, and hotels equally with the lack of economic opportunities. Blight and lack of enforcement is also a major issue within Alpena County.

The following items were the most identified by survey respondents as being the most disliked reasons for living in Alpena County:

Most Disliked Aspects of Living in Alpena County – Most Common Responses

- Rising Crime and Lack of Law Enforcement Resources
- Government Discord and a Lack of Vision for the Future
- Lack of Jobs and Economic Opportunities
- Lack of Amenities/Stores
- Blight and Lack of Ordinance Enforcement
- Poor Road Maintenance
- Poor Waterfront Development and Permitting Industrial Development on the Waterfront
- Negative Attitudes about the Community; Lack of Community Pride

- Lack of High-Speed Internet, Cell Phone Coverage, and Utility Services
- Declining Property Values and Rising Tax Rates
- Lack of Consolidation of Services among Local Governments
- Gas Prices
- Pollution
- Lack of a Freeway
- Poor Quality Medical Facilities
- Many of the People
- Flooding and Drainage Issues
- Too Much Focus on Senior Activities
- Poorly Managed Schools
- Lack of Recreational Amenities
- Too Much Focus on the Airport
- Insufficient Tourism Promotion

The following illustrate a number of potential problem issues about living in Alpena County that were identified by survey participants.

QUALITY OF LIFE: Approximately 42% of respondents believe that the County's overall quality of life has declined. More than one-third of respondents see no change in the County's quality of life, while less than 25% of respondents believe that the County's overall quality of life has improved.

JOBS: 92% of respondents believe that there are inadequate job opportunities within the County.

AGE: The majority of respondents were between the ages of 30-70. Only five responses (5%) were from individuals under the age of 30 and none were under the age of 20 and only seven respondents (7%) were age 70+, with no responses from anyone above the age of 79. The significance of this is unclear, but this demographic breakdown could influence views upon services to the elderly within the County.

GOVERNMENT: 51% of respondents are unsure of what County government does for them. However, two-thirds of response also indicated that collaboration with other units of government needs to become a priority. In addition, many comments were noted regarding the lack of vision or innovation, the lack of working with other units of government, and the lack of service consolidation. This could warrant additional investigation.

BLIGHT: 82% of respondents expressed support for the enforcement of regulations to address junk, blight, and nuisances. Blight in Alpena Township was noted most often.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Three-quarters of respondents indicated that they leave the county for shopping experiences 1-2-times/month (61%) or 1-2/week (13%). 62% of respondents also indicated that they leave the county for entertainment opportunities either monthly or weekly. The impacts upon the local economy are likely significant and should generate additional follow-up.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Clear majorities of respondents strongly believe that 74% believe that cell phone coverage is inadequate within the County. A majority of respondents also believes that the level of access to high-speed Internet within the County is inadequate.

AIRPORT: 89% of respondents indicated that they never or rarely use the County Airport. A number of comments were also received regarding the perceived level of law enforcement resources committed to the airport.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Respondents were equally split regarding satisfaction with Law Enforcement. An analysis of submitted comments indicate concerns over diminishing levels of law enforcement patrols, rising crime rates, increases in violent crimes, lack of night and weekend patrols and the perceived role of local shelters contributing to rising crime rates. There were also a number of comments regarding "excessive" law enforcement resources dedicated to local courts and to the airport. These issues might warrant further exploration.

LOW-INCOME HOUSING: A clear majority of respondents do not support the development of low-income housing units. An analysis of the submitted comments suggests that perceptions of this issue are influenced by attitudes regarding law enforcement. This could warrant further investigation.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: There is a clear split regarding satisfaction with medical facilities in the County. While a narrow majority (52%) of respondents supports ARMC, 45% dislike the quality of medical facilities. The most noted issues regarding medical care within the community were the lack of specialists and the perceived poor quality of the ARMC Emergency Room.

Additional suggestions offered to the County:

- Expand law enforcement and address rising crime rates.
- Focus on Economic Development and creating job opportunities.
- Focus on supporting the local jurisdictions to implement better blight enforcement.
- Elected officials need to focus on moving the community forward and making improvements.
- Focus on tourism.
- Prioritize development along the US 23 corridor.
- Promote tourism along inland lakes and inland areas.
- Implement aquatic weed control along the lake and river shorelines.
- Consider constructing a new jail.
- Improve Senior Center operations
- Preserve assets such as NLA, the airport, the library, and the Plaza Pool.
- Develop a campground with Lake Huron access.
- Expand ARMC.
- Restore the Thunder Bay Fishery.

Goals & Objectives

Note: Goals within each category have been prioritized by the Alpena County Planning Commission.

Community Character & Quality of Life:

A community's "character" is an intangible item which identifies the attributes which make a community unique. While a community's character will continually change over time, attempting to preserve it can be a very important part of maintaining a community's cultural heritage and traditions. A community's "quality of life" are those factors, when taken in totality help define the viability of a community as a place to live, work, and play.

Goal 1:

Maintain and enhance the overall quality of life of Alpena County.

Objectives:

- A. Implement stated objectives that will improve the overall quality of life for county residents.
- B. Strive to balance future growth and development in the County while maintaining its rural character.
- C. Promote the quality of life in Alpena County in order to recruit new families to the County.
- D. Encourage public feedback regarding ongoing efforts to improve the County's quality of life.
- E. Build on a sense of place by implementing placemaking programs throughout the community.

Action Items:

1. Implement the goals and objectives of the County Master Plan.
2. Coordinate with the County Board of Commissioners and appropriate departments, agencies, and organizations.
3. Actively engage in strategic planning to ensure goals and objectives are being met.
4. Implement active communication with local units of government.
5. Encourage public feedback and input.
6. Investigate placemaking funding opportunities.

Goal 2:

Maintain and enhance the appearance and character of Alpena County.

Objectives:

- A. Encourage all communities to preserve the integrity of existing neighborhoods by protecting them from the intrusion of incompatible uses.
- B. Enhance community gateways through the implementation of land use controls, landscaping and screening.
- C. Strive to balance future growth and development in the county while maintaining its rural character.
- D. Investigate the implementation of conservation-based open space or cluster development options as a means to protect community character.

Action Items:

1. Actively engage in strategic planning to ensure goals and objectives are being met.
2. Implement the goals and objectives of the County Master Plan.
3. Explore the concept of forming beautification efforts to enhance the appearance of public facilities and gateways into the County.
4. Work with and encourage the County Board of Commissioners to expand community clean up days and recycling programs.
5. Encourage public feedback and input through online forums and public meetings.
6. Investigate the feasibility of burying utility lines where appropriate.
7. Provide support to local jurisdictions for blight enforcement.

Government Services

Governmental institutions owe their constituents an efficient and open organization by continually seeking ways in which to operate in the most cost-effective manner. Efficient and consistent delivery of services to the public is critical in achieving this goal. Cooperation and collaboration between local units of government is also an important part of achieving this goal. Open lines of communication with the public will help to assure constituents that this is being pursued.

Goal 1:

Cooperate and collaborate with other units of government.

Objectives:

- A. Work with the County Board of Commissioners to investigate ways to coordinate and collaborate with other units of government.
- B. Explore joint meetings and areas of coordination or cooperation with other county or local planning commissions.
- C. Investigate ways to generate economies of scale and cost savings through collaboration and coordination with other units of government.
- D. Encourage cooperation between local units of government within the County.

Action Items:

- 1. Support the uniform development and adoption of land use controls among other local units of government.
- 2. Implement active communication between all local planning commissions and recognize communities for outstanding planning and zoning efforts.
- 3. Develop procedures for consistent and timely exchange of information between the County Planning Commission, the townships and the City.
- 4. Participate with townships and the City of Alpena in annual joint meetings.
- 5. Investigate the feasibility of the creation of multi-jurisdictional planning commissions with other local units of government.
- 6. Explore the feasibility of the purchase of development rights or conservation easements as a land use tool. Disseminate this information to local planning and zoning entities.
- 7. Encourage the County Board of Commissioners to continue to participate in meetings of the Michigan Association of Counties.
- 8. Encourage continued County participation in the Alpena Intergovernmental Council.
- 9. Focus on cross-jurisdictional issues when reviewing community master plans and zoning ordinances.

Goal 2:

Encourage the implementation of effective blight and nuisance controls within the County.

Objectives:

- A. Promote effective zoning regulations to control blight and nuisances.
- B. Encourage the adoption of uniform blight ordinances between neighboring units of government.
- C. Support the enforcement of existing blight ordinance regulations.
- D. Investigate programs with the goal of assisting local jurisdictions in blight elimination.

Action Items:

- 1. Support local planning commissions in developing and implementing effective zoning regulations to control blight and nuisances.
- 2. Support collaboration between local planning commissions, local elected officials to enforce blight and nuisance regulations.

3. Investigate the feasibility of multiple local units of government adopting and enforcing uniform blight and nuisance control regulations.
4. Work with the County and local units of government to increase public awareness regarding the need for blight and nuisance regulations.
5. Seek out grant funds to assist local jurisdictions in blight elimination.

Goal 3:

Communicate effectively with the public.

Objectives:

- A. Support the County Board of Commissioners in informing the public about the scope and value of County services.
- B. Encourage public feedback on issues impacting Alpena County.
- C. Encourage public feedback from a wider array of County residents.
- D. Increase public awareness and the effectiveness of the County Planning Commission.

Action Items:

1. Implement annual strategic planning sessions and encourage public participation.
2. Revisit annual goals and objectives quarterly and encourage public participation.
3. Solicit public feedback from all demographic sections of the County.
4. Publish planning-related information and resources on the County web page.

Goal 4:

Ensure effective and efficient County responses to public needs.

Objectives:

- A. Work with the County Board of Commissioners on ways to deliver county services in a wise and efficient manner.
- B. Collaborate with the County Board of Commissioners on planning for future issues impacting Alpena County.
- C. Work with the County Board of Commissioners to ensure continued funding and support for the Alpena County Planning Commission.

Action Items:

1. Implement annual strategic planning sessions to organize effective service delivery.
2. Revisit annual goals and objectives quarterly to ensure effective implementation.
3. Increase public awareness of and the effectiveness of the County Planning Commission.
4. Work with the County Board of Commissioners to implement the Goals and Objectives of the County Master Plan.
5. Work with the County Board of Commissioners to ensure funding for adequate ongoing training for Planning Commission members and staff.
6. Explore the feasibility of annual joint meetings with the County Board of Commissioners.

7. Focus on cross-jurisdictional issues when reviewing community master plans and zoning ordinances.

Transportation Services

Maintaining and improving a community's transportation system is another essential part of ensuring a vital and healthy community. Transportation systems are complex and expensive to maintain and expand. Changes in transportation infrastructure can have a profound impact on a community's environmental conditions and land use patterns. It is therefore necessary to continually and carefully plan for ongoing improvements.

Goal 1:

Develop, maintain and fund a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system.

Objectives:

- A. Plan and prepare for the future transportation needs of the entire county.
- B. Support the County Road Commission to plan and implement road improvements across the County.
- C. Support and promote implementation and funding of the Road Inventory Asset Management System, the Alpena Area-Wide Transportation Plan and the US-23 Heritage Route Management Plan.
- D. Promote new commercial development at designated hubs and corridors through the County Master Plan.
- E. Encourage the continued development of public transportation options for the benefit of county residents.
- F. Support the enhancement and improvement of the deep water port in the City of Alpena to better facilitate commercial shipping and tourism.
- G. Support the continued development of the Alpena County Regional Airport as a regional commercial hub.
- H. Maintain and improve rail service in Alpena County.
- I. Advocate uniform transportation access control across the county.
- J. Promote the use of planning and zoning techniques to maintain the rural appearance of Alpena County.
- K. Investigate a county-wide wayfinding program designed to enhance tourism opportunities and promotion.
- L. Promote and support implementation of the County Recreation Plan; specifically the maintenance and expansion of recreational trails. Investigate the development of a county trails plan to establish a network of connected non-motorized and motorized trails across Alpena County. Identify existing trails and propose connectors that would link existing systems.

Action Items:

1. Support the implementation of land use controls that discourage linear strip development along state highways and primary county roads.

2. Support the implementation of land use techniques, such as clustering, shared parking, access management, and landscaping, to regulate commercial development along state highways and primary county roads.
3. Work with the County Board of Commissioners, the County Road Commission, local communities, property owners, developers, residents and other entities to ensure road maintenance priorities are established and implemented.
4. Work with the County Board of Commissioners and the County Road Commission to implement more frequent maintenance activities such as dust control, road grading, and road striping.
5. Work with the County Board of Commissioners and the County Road Commission to ensure adequate and timely snow removal operations are maintained.
6. Include planned road system improvements in a County Capital Improvements Plan.
7. Explore the development of a wayfinding program with the County Board of Commissioners and the County Road Commission.
8. Conduct public education sessions regarding the merits of a wayfinding program.
9. Work with the Thunder Bay Transportation Authority to ensure sufficient public transportation option for County residents.
10. Work with the Thunder Bay Transportation Authority to educate the public regarding public transportation services.
11. Work with the City of Alpena and private facility owners to enhance and improve the deep water port to better facilitate commercial shipping and tourism.
12. Support participation in the Small Harbors Coalition and the Port Cities Collaborative.
13. Explore ways to expand and develop the Alpena County Regional Airport.
14. ~~Maintain and~~ Improve rail service in Alpena County.
15. Encourage and support the adoption of uniform transportation access control by local units of government.
16. Explore with the County Board of Commissioners, County Road Commission, MDNR, user groups, and the public ways to expand and improve recreational trails within the county.

Natural & Cultural Resources

The protection of a community's natural environment is imperative in maintaining the quality of life and ensuring that future generations live in healthy surroundings. A clean and attractive environment helps to attract new businesses, residents and tourists. Economic development and environmental protection are both necessary for a healthy community.

Goal 1:

Preserve the natural environment by protecting groundwater, surface water, air quality, fisheries and wildlife, forests, farmland, waterfront lands, wetlands, and scenic vistas.

Objectives:

- A. Work cooperatively with communities, agencies and organizations to develop studies and institute programs that address watershed, woodlands, wildlife and ecosystem management.

- B. Support studies that identify ways in which to protect critical resources, wildlife habitat, water resources, ecological corridors, scenic areas and vistas, and other important ecological resources.
- C. Encourage the adoption of model zoning language that protects greenbelts, farmlands, forestlands, groundwater, and surface water.
- D. Encourage the preservation of open spaces at strategic locations within the County.
- E. Encourage county departments to effectively administer and enforce regulations such as soil erosion and sedimentation control and adopt needed ordinances such as storm water control.
- F. Support natural resource education and technical programs that assist landowners, businesses and communities.
- G. Explore ways to work with other local units of government for the protection of natural resources.

Action Items:

- 1. Explore with the County Board of Commissioners the development of local ordinances and policies to protect natural resources within Alpena County.
- 2. Develop model zoning ordinance language to protect greenbelts, farmlands, forestlands, groundwater, and surface water. Encourage local units of government to adopt them and to cooperate with adjacent local units for the protection of these resources.
- 3. Encourage the development and enforcement of appropriate stormwater protection regulations.
- 4. Encourage county and local officials to meet to ensure proper enforcement of existing regulations.
- 5. Explore the implementation of wellhead protection zones in appropriate areas.
- 6. Explore ways to preserve open spaces and scenic vistas within the County.
- 7. Explore the feasibility of the purchase of development rights or conservation easements as a land use tool. Disseminate this information to local residents.
- 8. Work with the County Board of Commissioners on informing the public about natural resource protections and regulations.
- 9. Work with the County Conservation District, MSU Extension, the County Drain Commissioner, and the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments to develop natural resource education and technical programs that assist landowners, businesses and communities.

Goal 2:

Recognize the importance of agricultural lands as an economic base, the heritage of, and way of life in Alpena County.

Objectives:

- A. Promote agricultural growth and recognize the importance of small family farms in Alpena County.
- B. Encourage and support the preservation of farmland and woodlands where feasible.
- C. Discourage the conversion of farmland into other more intensive uses. Recognize farmland as contributing to the scenic and rural character of the County.
- D. Discourage residential and farming land use conflicts.
- E. Encourage the use of “Purchase of Development Rights”, “Transfer of Development Rights”, Clustering, and Conservation Easements to help farmers retain their agricultural acreage.
- F. Recognize farmland as part of the County’s active economic base and potential source of jobs for county residents.
- G. Support the maximization of the most beneficial agricultural use of agricultural lands in Alpena County, while encouraging environmentally sensitive farming practices to protect local surface and ground water quality without unnecessarily limiting the economic rights of agricultural landowners.

- H. Encourage agricultural landowners to work cooperatively with supportive public agencies, such as the local Michigan State University Extension, Alpena Conservation District, USDA, and National Resource Conservation District offices.
- I. Encourage farmers to produce, process, and market at wholesale and retail the products grown on their property.
- J. Educate residents and local officials on Michigan's Right to Farm Act.
- K. Encourage the use of Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs).
- L. Establish Alpena County as a regional "local food hub".

Action Items:

- 1. Preserve the economic viability of farming by working with local, regional and state organizations to attract "value-added" industries for agricultural products.
- 2. Encourage the adoption of zoning ordinances to include regulations that encourage and promote agricultural tourism activities.
- 3. Encourage the use of "Purchase of Development Rights", "Transfer of Development Rights", Clustering, and Conservation Easements to help farmers retain their agricultural acreage. Disseminate this information to local residents.
- 4. Support the development of zoning ordinance language that preserves large tracts of farmland.
- 5. Encourage the implementation of zoning ordinance language that creates rural residential transition zones to minimize residential and farmland land use conflicts.
- 6. Support the development of web-based and print marketing to promote local foods.

Goal 3:

Preserve historic resources within the county.

Objectives:

- A. Work cooperatively with communities, agencies and organizations to develop studies and institute programs that protect historic resources.
- B. Support the creation of historic districts within the County.
- C. Encourage private efforts to protect valuable historic resources.
- D. Support historic resource education that assists landowners, businesses and communities.

Action Items:

- 1. Collaborate with the County Board of Commissioners to promote the development of local ordinances and policies to protect historic resources within Alpena County.
- 2. Encourage county and local officials to meet to ensure proper enforcement of existing regulations.
- 3. Investigate and promote the adoption of zoning ordinance language to protect historic resources.
- 4. Work with agencies and officials to inform the public about the benefits of historic preservation.
- 5. Investigate the creation of historic districts within the County.
- 6. Encourage the inclusion of properties on the National Historic Register.
- 7. Support the expansion of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Community Services & Facilities

In addition to the transportation infrastructure, other types of facilities, infrastructure and services (i.e. water, sewer, fire, police, schools, etc.) constitute the backbone of a community. Having well designed and managed infrastructure and services greatly adds to the “livability” of a community. The continued maintenance of these facilities is essential and requires constant oversight. The expansion of infrastructure and services is extremely expensive and places additional funding burdens on the public. Expansions which are not carefully planned can inadvertently add to environmental degradation and undesirable sprawl.

Goal 1:

Continue to maintain and expand, as needed, the community facilities, infrastructure and services which accommodate the needs of residents and businesses in the County.

Objectives:

- A. Include planned improvements to community facilities and public infrastructures in an adopted County Capital Improvements Plan.
- B. Work to position Alpena County to secure state and federal funding for infrastructure improvements.
- C. Identify services that need attention during annual goal setting sessions.
- D. Solicit public input regarding upgrades to community facilities.
- E. Support the investigation of a water and sewer authority to oversee public water and sewer services within the populated areas of the county and adjacent communities.

Action Items:

- 1. Develop and implement an annual Capital Improvements Plan.
- 2. Participate in the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments’ annual Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process.
- 3. Coordinate with the County Board of Commissioners regarding the need for maintenance and improvements to community facilities and infrastructure.
- 4. Conduct annual goal-setting sessions that include discussions of community facilities and infrastructure.
- 5. Work with local units of government to investigate joint utility authorities.
- 6. Encourage public feedback regarding ongoing efforts to improve the County’s community infrastructure and facilities.

Goal 2:

Ensure efficient delivery of emergency services within the County.

Objectives:

- A. Encourage efficient deployment of law enforcement services within the County.
- B. Encourage expanded levels of Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service volunteers.

- C. Plan for upgrades to existing public safety equipment to ensure provision of efficient services.
- D. Plan for decreased response times to public safety incidents.
- E. Plan for future telecommunication needs for public safety services.
- F. Support the ongoing improvement of 9-1-1 operations.
- G. Support Emergency Management operations.
- H. Support coordination of public safety services between communities with the goal of the efficient use of tax dollars.
- I. Investigate collaboration or consolidation of public safety services between local units of government.
- J. Plan for the effective present use and future needs of the county jail.

Action Items:

- 1. Encourage the County Board of Commissioners, the Alpena County Sheriff's Department, the MI State Police, the City of Alpena Police Department, and the MDNR to collaborate to ensure that adequate levels of law enforcement coverage exist within the County.
- 2. Encourage collaboration to ensure adequate staffing of fire departments and emergency medical services.
- 3. Encourage public feedback regarding ongoing efforts to improve the County's level of public safety services.
- 4. Investigate the development of a county Capital Improvements Plan to plan for future upgrades to County public safety equipment.
- 5. Support continued funding and training for County 9-1-1 operations.
- 6. Plan for the continued maintenance and improvement of 9-1-1 telecommunications facilities.
- 7. Support continued funding and training Emergency Management operations.
- 8. Participate in and collaborate with Emergency Management planning and exercise operations.
- 9. Work with the County Board of Commissioners and the Alpena County Road Commission to ensure that the county road network is of adequate quality to ensure quick and efficient travel of public safety vehicles.
- 10. Encourage the implementation of land use controls that require sufficient private road access for emergency vehicles.
- 11. Encourage the County Board of Commissioners to consider collaboration or consolidation of public safety services with other local units of government.

Goal 3:

Ensure efficient and accessible solid waste disposal methods within Alpena County.

Objectives:

- A. Support and encourage solid waste and recycling efforts by the Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena Landfill Authority.
- B. Support and promote the Alpena County Resource Recovery Facility and encourage local recycling efforts.
- C. Inform the public about solid waste and recycling options available in the County.
- D. Encourage gasification efforts at the landfill.

Action Items:

1. Investigate the placement of recycling drop-off sites within the County.
2. Work with the Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena Landfill Authority and the Alpena County Resource Recovery Facility to educate the public about solid waste and recycling options available to County residents.

Goal 4:

Support the construction of efficient communication networks within the County.

Objectives:

- A. Investigate ways to improve cell phone service coverage within the County.
- B. Explore ways to upgrade available Internet services to high-speed capability.

Action Items:

1. Work with Target Economic Development Corporation, Alpena County Emergency Management and private vendors to find ways to upgrade cell phone coverage within the County.
2. Work with Target Economic Development Corporation and private vendors to find ways to provide high speed Internet to the County.
3. Investigate the development and deployment of countywide fiber optics or Wireless Internet networks.
4. Support and collaborate with the Alpena County Fiber Optics Consortium.

Goal 5:

Support the growth of the educational sector within the County.

Objectives:

- A. Support the expansion of college-level educational opportunities.
- B. Maintain the high quality of primary and secondary education in the community.

Action Items:

1. Encourage increased funding from the State of Michigan for public schools.
2. Support the expansion of four-year degree programs at Alpena Community College.

Goal 6:

Encourage the expansion of the community as the quality medical services hub of Northeast Michigan.

Objectives:

- A. Encourage the establishment of medical specialists in the community.

Recreation

Alpena County is blessed with many natural resources and recreational opportunities. This helps to add to the quality of life and makes the community a more enjoyable place in which to live and work. The area's many recreational facilities and opportunities are also very important in attracting tourists and new residents and businesses. Maintaining and improving these recreational facilities and opportunities is vital for present and future generations.

Goal 1:

Preserve and improve indoor and outdoor recreational, historical, and cultural opportunities, programs and facilities for the enjoyment of residents, visitors and future generations.

Objectives:

- A. Encourage the pursuit of outside funding sources, such as State and federal grants, for recreational development and improvements.
- B. Provide ample and quality recreational sites for residents and visitors.
- C. Ensure recreational amenities are designed for a variety of demographics.
- D. Work with private landowners and State government to preserve and expand access to high quality recreation and hunting lands.
- E. Support and encourage the continued development and expansion of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve and other water related recreational opportunities.
- F. Support and encourage improvements to area indoor and outdoor recreational, historical and cultural facilities and programs in accordance with locally adopted recreation plans or other officially adopted documents.

Action Items:

- 1. Maintain an updated County Recreation Plan that identifies and prioritizes needed community recreational facilities.
- 2. Study existing and anticipated demographics to ensure that planned recreation improvements are targeted to the correct age brackets and ensure efficient use of County resources.
- 3. Implement the elements of the County Recreation Plan.
- 4. Support cooperative recreational planning and development with adjacent governmental units.
- 5. Work with the County Board of Commissioners to preserve and maintain public recreation areas and access sites.
- 6. Update and maintain playground equipment.
- 7. Pursue outside funding sources, such as grants, for land acquisition and recreational development.
- 8. Provide a sufficient number of public amenities (restrooms, picnic tables) in key recreation locations around the County.
- 9. Encourage public input on planned and future recreational improvements.
- 10. Support the development and implementation of zoning language to minimize land use conflicts between high quality recreation lands and other non-compatible uses.
- 11. Actively investigate any opportunities to expand hunting and recreational areas.
- 12. Support and encourage continued County involvement on the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.
- 13. Work with local units to implement provisions of locally adopted recreation plans.

Goal 2:

Market Alpena County as a recreation destination.

Objectives:

- A. Promote recreational amenities within the County.

Action Items:

1. Support the marketing of recreational amenities in and around the County to residents and visitors.
2. Develop a signage/wayfinding program for recreational facilities.
3. Work to develop promotional recreation and trail tour maps of the County.
4. Investigate other promotional/marketing efforts to promote county recreational amenities.
5. Participate in the Pure Michigan campaign – Alpena County and Sunrise Coast.
6. Participate in the US 23 Heritage Route program.
7. Participate in the Up North Trails Initiative.

Goal 3:

Support the expansion and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails within the County.

Objectives:

- A. Encourage improvements to non-motorized recreation trails such as cross-country ski trails, hiking trails, bike trails, and horseback riding trails.
- B. Encourage expansion and improvement of motorized snowmobile and ORV trails within the county.
- C. Facilitate trail routes which allow trail users to access local businesses.

Action Items:

1. Support the designation of snowmobile routes that connect communities to regional snowmobile networks by working with the appropriate local units of government, snowmobile groups, the County Road Commission, County Sheriff Department and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
2. Work with local snowmobile groups and neighboring communities to ensure the maintenance of designated snowmobile routes to enhance the winter recreational base throughout Alpena County.
3. Investigate the continued expansion of recreational trails throughout the County.
4. Work with local units of government, the MDNR, the County Road Commission and user groups to explore the development of new types of recreational trails.
5. Encourage public feedback on recreational trail development within the County.
6. Work with local jurisdictions to ensure there are trail routes into town.

Goal 4:

Utilize recreational amenities within the County to enhance the overall quality of life.

Objectives:

- A. Support the development of recreational events and programs that enhance the quality of life.

Action Items:

- 1. Promote community events using existing recreational facilities.
- 2. Support community groups that develop new or expanded community events.
- 3. Investigate the development or promotion of eco-tourism-oriented events.

Goal 5:

Protect and ensure public access to waterways.

Objectives:

- A. Support the retention and improvement of public water access sites for residents, seasonal residents and visitors.
- B. Support the promotion and marketing of public boating facilities.
- C. Support the continued development and expansion of public boating facilities.

Action Items:

- 1. Ensure that private property owners are not encroaching upon public water access sites.
- 2. Work with the County Board of Commissioners and local units to maintain and improve public water access sites.
- 3. Work with appropriate agencies and departments to ensure the enforcement of access to public water access sites.
- 4. Explore the development of a wayfinding signage plan to public water access sites.
- 5. Explore the possibility of wayfinding signage along water routes.
- 6. Initiate opportunities to educate the public concerning keyhole development.
- 7. Explore options to address dockage and boating issues on inland lakes.
- 8. Support participation in marketing and collaborative efforts such as the Small Harbors Coalition and/or the Port Cities Collaborative.

Residential Development

A diverse and well-maintained selection of housing choices is another vital component of a community. The strength of a local economy is based, in part, on the affordability and selection of the housing stock. As a strong economy is an essential element of a healthy community, adequate housing choices must be available for residents to feel economically secure. In order to have productive community members and attract new citizens to an area, a local community needs a broad mix of demographics to develop a well-rounded economy. This helps to add to the quality of life and makes the community a more enjoyable place in which to live and work. Housing choices impact more than just what type of structure an individual buys. Access to and the affordability of housing choices impacts overall community development by influencing such factors as access to quality education, church attendance, community organizations, and convenient shopping opportunities. Therefore, a local community must actively seek ways in which to encourage desirable residential development.

Goal 1:

Provide for suitable housing opportunities for all income levels and age groups and preserve and enhance existing small-town and rural character.

Objectives:

- A. Ensure adequate and suitable housing is available to all residents. Investigate the use of State and federal funding programs to meet these objectives.
- B. Support the construction of new or renovation of existing housing to meet the needs of all residents regardless of income.
- C. Encourage a mix of housing development within the County.
- D. Balance new residential growth with the existing rural character of the County.
- E. Maintain the tranquil quality of existing residential areas.
- F. Encourage the maintenance of the existing housing stock to keep residential areas in good repair, appearance, usefulness and safety.
- G. Explore the development of residential wind turbines within the County.
- H. Encourage the development and installation of fiber optic/WiFi to residential areas.

Action Items:

- 1. Support the implementation of zoning language in local jurisdictions to protect residential areas from intrusion by incompatible uses.
- 2. Encourage quality infill development that is compatible with existing housing stock and rural character and will strengthen residential areas.
- 3. Explore ways to assist homeowners in preserving and maintaining older homes as owner-occupied, single family dwellings.
- 4. Support and collaborate with the County housing program.
- 5. Work with the County housing program and local building departments to affect the elimination of structures in disrepair by use of incentive programs and legal approaches.
- 6. Support the implementation of zoning language in local jurisdictions to direct higher density housing to lands with the capacity to support such development and are adequately served by public services.
- 7. Work with the County Board of Commissioners to pursue grant funding to encourage restoration and rehabilitation of older homes.
- 8. Promote neighborhood enhancement programs such as street tree plantings, clean-up days, neighborhood gardens, etc., including community pride programs.
- 9. Work with local units to explore the possibility of secondary dwelling units within the County.
- 10. Encourage public feedback regarding the development of different mixes of dwelling units.
- 11. Plan for medium- and high-density residential development only in those areas that are suitable for such use.
- 12. Work with the County housing program and appropriate agencies to explore and pursue affordable housing funding programs.
- 13. Plan for the mixing of residential uses with commercial and offices uses where possible.
- 14. Work with the County housing program, the County senior program and local units to identify appropriate locations for senior and assisted living housing.
- 15. Support the development and implementation of zoning language in local jurisdictions to implement minimum size standards for single- and multi-family housing.
- 16. Support the implementation of rental housing programs that ensure that high standards are maintained in single- and multi-family rental housing.

17. Explore housing preservation options through the implementation of historic preservation techniques.
18. Work with local units to develop standards to regulate the construction and use of residential wind turbines.

Economic Development

A strong economy is an essential element of a healthy community. Residents must have the opportunity to earn family-sustaining wages in order to be productive community members. A strong economy does not usually just “happen” without the local community actively seeking ways in which encourage desirable development. The U.S. and world economies are changing rapidly, which is profoundly affecting local economies, as well. Alpena County has seen first-hand how quickly communities can lose high-paying employment, due to new technological advances and competition from abroad. It is imperative, therefore, to plan ahead in order to insure a vital economic future.

Goal 1:

Provide for economic growth that creates a diversified economic base and improves the competitiveness of the county's economy by enhancing employment opportunities for residents and the profitability of businesses and industries, while maintaining the community character and environment.

Objectives:

- A. Encourage local units and community organizations to continue strategies that build on Alpena's status as a regional market place for Northeast Michigan.
- B. Support and cooperate with regional economic development organizations to explore ways that help promote and develop all of Northeast Michigan.
- C. Support reasonable land use and development regulations and the development of infrastructure and facilities necessary to support economic development in a planned and managed way.
- D. Encourage economic expansion through the promotion and attraction of new businesses to the State designated Renaissance Zones.
- E. Support the attraction of health related businesses and services to the Alpena area, which will build on the location of a regional hospital and other medical services already available in the area.
- F. Strengthen the partnership between the county and the Alpena Combat Readiness Center to seek ways to expand the center's training activities.
- G. Strive to balance economic development with the rural character of the County.
- H. Encourage a diverse mix of new businesses.
- I. Promote the concept of compact development design to maximize potential land uses.
- J. Encourage that parking needs, either private or public, are a consideration for all expansions and new developments.

Action Items:

1. Support the implementation of zoning language to protect commercial areas from intrusion by incompatible uses.

2. Support the implementation of zoning ordinance language to concentrate future development in desired areas.
3. Work with appropriate economic development agencies to promote business retention, expansion, and diversification.
4. Promote worker education and training programs.
5. Work with appropriate agencies to expand high-speed telecommunication coverage within the County.
6. Investigate the creation of Downtown Development authorities, Corridor Improvement authorities, or Tax Increment Finance authorities in appropriate areas to improve local economic conditions.
7. Support the implementation of streetscape projects to increase the attractiveness of commercial areas.
8. Work with Target Alpena Development Corporation to implement existing business retention programs.
9. Support the expansion of economic opportunities at the Alpena County Regional Airport.
10. Continue to investigate and implement methods to develop high speed telecommunication service in rural areas, while maintaining a rural character.
11. Work with Target Alpena Development Corporation to encourage economic expansion through the promotion and attraction of new businesses.
12. Encourage the expansion of the infrastructure required to make the County attractive to commercial, industrial, and home-based business.
13. Investigate the feasibility of a County Brownfield Authority.

Goal 2:

Support the retention and expansion of existing businesses and jobs.

Objectives:

- A. Strive to attract young people and young families to the County.
- B. Develop goods, services, recreation and employment opportunities needed to retain families.
- C. Support development that expands family sustaining job opportunities.
- D. Encourage partnerships between community organizations, Alpena Community College, and Michigan Works in order to insure that education and training programs continue to meet the needs of the area's present employers and possible new businesses.

Action Items:

1. Work to attract "daily shopping needs" types of businesses into locations that are walkable for residents and visitors.
2. Support the implementation of programs and policies that encourage a "family-friendly" environment.
3. Actively seek out the development of entertainment-based businesses.
4. Work cooperatively to ensure that activities exist for all age-groups.
5. Encourage entrepreneurial training programs to assist residents in starting and maintaining their own small businesses.

Goal 3:

Expand commercial development opportunities within the County.

Objectives:

- A. Diversify business opportunities by making Alpena County a vibrant community and a desirable place to live and work.
- B. Balance new commercial growth with the existing rural character of the County.
- C. Work with the Chamber of Commerce, Target Alpena Development Corporation and the business community to develop and maintain healthy and vibrant community centers.
- D. Investigate the development of a business incubator within the County.
- E. Support the development of the County's Renaissance Zones.
- F. Encourage the retention of basic services for County residents.
- G. Explore the development of commercial wind facilities within the County.

Action Items:

- 1. Form public-private partnerships to improve the local economy.
- 2. Seek out and encourage the establishment of businesses that serve to fill gaps in the year-round needs of the County.
- 3. Support the maintenance of identifiable central business districts.
- 4. Support the development of mixed land uses in appropriate areas.
- 5. Encourage the development of home-based businesses.
- 6. Develop innovative planning and zoning techniques, such as design standards, to maintain the rural character of the County.
- 7. Investigate tax incentive and abatement programs to encourage commercial development.
- 8. Support zoning regulations that establish and enforce standards to require businesses to maintain an aesthetically desirable appearance.
- 9. Investigate and support business façade improvement programs.
- 10. Encourage the return of small neighborhood businesses that serve residents and support a walkable community environment.
- 11. Support and encourage a coordinated effort for marketing and recruitment of small businesses.
- 12. Develop standards to regulate the construction and use of commercial wind turbines for local jurisdictions.
- 13. Encourage public feedback on commercial development efforts.

Goal 4:

Promote and encourage tourism and agricultural-based tourism activities.

Objectives:

- A. Promote cultural, historical, industrial and environmental attractions to a broad market.
- B. Work to establish Alpena County as a year-round tourism destination.
- C. Promote eco-tourism opportunities.
- D. Promote agricultural tourism opportunities.

Action Items:

- 1. Work with local communities, Chambers of Commerce, and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau to develop additional strategies for marketing the area as a tourism destination.
- 2. Encourage community organizations to develop strategies that build the idea of Alpena County as a destination.

3. Support the promotion of Alpena area as the “Sanctuary of the Great Lakes”.
4. Promote year-round sustained tourism, i.e. spring, summer, fall and winter festivals and other activities that will draw people to the County.
5. Support the tourism promotion and marketing efforts of regional entities such as the US 23 Heritage Route, the Sunrise Coastal Coalition, and the Michigan Arts & Culture Northeast.
6. Support the continued development and expansion of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve.
7. Support the continued improvement of recreational facilities within the County.
8. Encourage sale of local produce within the County’s commercial areas and by home-based businesses.
9. Preserve the economic viability of farming by working with local, regional and state organizations to attract “value-added” industries for agricultural products.
10. Investigate the development of a tourism-oriented wayfinding program.

Goal 5:

Investigate and support opportunities for the expansion of the County’s industrial base.

Objectives:

- A. Provide the necessary services, facilities and programs to expand industrial development opportunities within Alpena County.
- B. Initiate public education regarding the nature and economic impact of industrial development.
- C. Balance new industrial growth with the existing rural character of the County.
- D. Investigate suitable locations for industrial development.

Action Items:

1. Support the implementation of zoning language to protect industrial areas from intrusion by incompatible uses.
2. Support the implementation of zoning language to direct industrial development toward land that has the capacity to support such development and is adequately served by public roads and utilities.
3. Investigate tax incentive and tax abatement programs to encourage industrial development.
4. Encourage the expansion of infrastructure required to make the County attractive to industrial development.

Implementation & Adoption

Plan Coordination & Review

As required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008 (P.A. 33 of 2008 as amended), notification of intent to develop the Alpena County Master Plan was sent on January 20, 2012, to all adjacent communities and other relevant entities to request cooperation and comment. A copy of the notice letter, affidavit of mailing and entities notified can be found at the end of this chapter.

After the draft plan was completed by the Alpena County Planning Commission with the assistance of NEMCOG, a draft was transmitted to the Alpena County Board of Commissioners for approval to distribute the plan for review and comment. The draft plan was transmitted on May 2, 2013 to entities notified at the initiation of the plan development. After the required comment period, a public hearing notice and notice of plan adoption of the final plan was transmitted to all required entities. A copy of all relevant information can be found at the end of this chapter.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed Master Plan for Alpena County, as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008 (P.A. 33 of 2008 as amended) was held on August 22, 2013. Section 43 of the Act requires that 15 days' notice of the public hearing be given in a publication of general circulation in the municipality. A notice of the public hearings was published in the Alpena News. Copies of the public hearing notice are reproduced at the end of this chapter. The purpose of the public hearing was to present the proposed Master Plan and to accept comments from the public.

Plan Adoption

The Alpena County Planning Commission formally adopted the Master Plan on September 26, 2013. The Alpena County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution of adoption of the Master Plan on October 29, 2013.

Plan Implementation

The Master Plan was developed to provide a vision of the community's future. It will serve as a tool for decision making on future development proposals. The plan will also act as a guide for future public investment and service decisions, such as the local budget, grant applications, road maintenance and development, future capital improvements, community group activities, tax incentive decisions, and administration of services.

On an annual basis, the Alpena County Planning Commission will review the goals and objectives of the Master Plan and identify and prioritize three to four working objectives per year. These identified priority items will be the focus of the Planning Commission's activity throughout that particular year. This will allow the Planning Commission to work on a proactive basis in order to better accomplish the goals identified in the Master Plan.

The Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008 (P.A. 33 of 2008 as amended) recommends that all master plans be reviewed and updated, as necessary, every five years. The Alpena County Planning Commission will review the Master Plan on a five-year schedule and develop updates as necessary.

Grants and Capital Improvement Plan

The Master Plan can also be used as a guide for future public investment and service decisions, such as the local budget, grant applications and administration of utilities and services. Many communities prioritize and budget for capital improvement projects, (such as infrastructure improvements, park improvements, etc.). A Capital Improvements Program (CIP) typically looks six years into the future to establish a schedule for all anticipated capital improvement projects in the community. A CIP includes cost estimates and sources for financing for each project. It can therefore serve as both a budgetary and policy document to aid in the implementation of a community's master plan.

Recreation Plan

Alpena County will update its DNR-approved Recreation Plan every five years. The goals and objectives relating to recreation in Chapter 8 will guide future Recreation Plan updates and the implementation of recreation related capital improvement projects. In addition, the goals pertaining to recreation found in both the Master Plan and Recreation Plan will facilitate grant applications to fund identified projects.

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A MASTER PLAN

I, P. Papendick certify that the communities and agencies on the attached list were notified of Alpena County's intent to prepare a Master Plan. The notification was sent on January 20, 2012 by first class mail and in accordance with Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended.

1. Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
2. Montmorency County Planning Commission
3. Presque Isle County Planning Commission
4. Alpena County Board of Commissioners
5. Oscoda County Planning Commission
6. City of Alpena Planning Commission
7. Alpena Township Planning Commission
8. Sanborn Township Planning Commission
9. Wilson Township Planning Commission
10. Green Township Planning Commission
11. Long Rapids Township Planning Commission
12. Maple Ridge Township Planning Commission
13. Ossineke Township Planning Commission
14. Wellington Township Board of Trustees
15. Alpena Township Planning Commission
16. Caledonia Township Planning Commission
17. Mitchell Township Planning Commission
18. Rust Township Planning Commission
19. Clinton Township Planning Commission
20. Village of Hillman Planning Commission
21. Hillman Township Planning Commission
22. Montmorency Township Planning Commission
23. Metz Township Board of Trustees
24. Posen Township Board of Trustees
25. Krakow Township Planning Commission
26. Presque Isle Township Planning Commission
27. Michigan Department of Transportation - Alpena TSC
28. Alpena County Road Commission
29. Thunder Bay Transportation Authority
30. Verizon North
PO Box 920041 Dallas, TX 75392-0041
31. Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op
19831 M-68 Highway
Rogers City, MI 49765
32. Alpena Power Company
401 N 9th Avenue
Alpena, MI 49707
33. Consumers Energy
Lansing, MI 48937-0001
34. Frontier Communications

Patricia Papendick

ALPENA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

603 S. Eleventh Ave.
Alpena, MI 49707
Ph: (889)354-9870
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Phone Office:
9350 L Summerfield Dr
Traverse City, MI 49784
231.421.5384 & website: nemo.org

Notice of Intent to Update Master Plan: ALPENA COUNTY

January 20, 2012

Dear Sir/Madam:

Alpena County has begun working with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments in the update of their Master Plan.

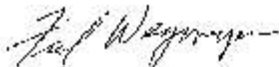
As required by Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, notification is being sent to all adjacent governmental entities, utilities, and transportation agencies to request cooperation and comment.

ADJACENT GOVERNMENTAL UNITS: Prior to and after adoption of the Master Plan, draft and final copies of the plan will be sent to all adjacent governmental units, as defined in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, for review and comment. The plan will be transmitted via CD unless the governmental unit requests a printed copy (send request to Denise Cline at NEMCOG at the address below).

UTILITIES & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES: Utilities and public transportation agencies must request copies and may be charged for copies, and postage (send request to Denise Cline at NEMCOG at the address below). Note: there will be no charge to utilities that choose to receive the plan on CD or via email.

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to your participation in this important project.

Sincerely,



Chairman, Alpena County Planning Commission

Please send correspondence to:

Denise Cline, NEMCOG

PO Box 457

Gaylord, MI 49734

231.421.5384

dmcline@nemcog.org

By building on the strengths of the past, the Alpena County Planning Commission promotes orderly, informed and deliberate development and growth for the greater Alpena County region through input, guidance and cooperation.

Alpena County Planning Commission
March 28, 2013

Call to Order

The Alpena County Planning Commission met on Thursday, March 28th in the Howard Male conference room of the courthouse annex building. The meeting was called to order by Fred Wegmeyer at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Brenda Fournier
Juergen Thusat
Bret Finzel
Chuck LeFebvre
Jeff Kowalski
Dane Werth
Darlene Wilmot
Fred Wegmeyer

Members Excused: Billi Edmonds
Sue Grulke

Ex-officio Present: Mary Dunckel, MSU Extension

Others Present: None

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was introduced by Bret Finzel, supported by Darlene Wilmot. Ayes all.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was introduced by Brenda Fournier, supported by Bret Finzel. Ayes all.

Current Business

Alpena County Master Plan

The commission reviewed the entire plan. The following changes and suggestions will be sent to D. Cline.

Chapter 2, first paragraph: Why does it say (excluding Emmet County)? The members didn't think Emmet was part of NE region.

Third paragraph on 2-1 seems to duplicate information presented in 1st and 2nd.

Page 2-5, first paragraph last sentence: delete comma after appear

Chapter 3, 3-3 last paragraph: Clean Sweep should be two separate words (not Cleansweep)

3-10 air service: is there still passenger air service that connects Detroit and Sault Ste Marie? SkyWest offers service to Detroit and Minneapolis.

3-12, car rental: location is no longer at Cliff Anschutz. Enterprise is now located at 901 W. Chisholm

3-18: State Police numbers should be updated....3 new hires this week and the plan has 2000 numbers

3-22 MSUE phone number is (989) 354-9870

4-29 Table 4.7, the group wondered if we should indicate that Harry's Oil is now Blarney Castle?? Harry's also appears in

subsequent tables.

Table 4-8, do you want to spell out bus garage

Table 5.3: Turning Brook has 59 employees and we wonder if they should be added to the table

Table 5.5 needs new Wilson twn. numbers

Chapter 8: need to change additions (underlined text) and deletions.

8-16 Goal 6, obj. A-extra period at end of sentence

Commissioner Thusat made a motion to forward the plan, with noted changes, to the county board of commissioners for distribution to adjacent entities. The motion was supported by Commission Werth. Ayes all.

Reports

Parks and Rec: The commission is currently reviewing projects under consideration for the youth and recreation millage grant. The group was represented at the Recreation Summit held at the APlex. Investigating options for internet access and service which needs to be improved at all parks.

County Commissioners: The family of Rich Fortier recently received a plaque commemorating his dedication and service to the county. Working on transferring the plans that were approved by for Wilcox Engineering to Huron Engineering Service. Working on a request for proposal for the management on Northern Lights Arena. The commission has a new commissioner, Eric Lawson.

Future Business

Next Meeting Date: April 25, 2013

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Thusat, supported by Commissioner Fournier to adjourn at 5:30 pm. Ayes all.

Respectfully submitted: Mary Dunckel

ALPENA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

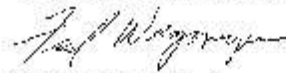
603 S. Flanneth Ave.
Alpena MI 49707
Ph: (989) 354-9870
Fax: (989) 354-9898

To: Alpena Board of Commissioners
From: Alpena County Planning Commission
Date: April 23, 2013

In January of 2012, the Alpena County Planning Commission began working with Denise Cline, community planner for the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) to update the county's master plan. At their regular meeting on March 28th, 2013, the Alpena County Planning Commission voted to forward the draft of the 2013 Alpena County Master Plan to the board for your review. With your approval the draft will be forwarded to adjacent governmental units for their review.

Planning commissioners have been working diligently on the plan and are very pleased to present it to the Board of Commissioners. Current members of the commission are: Fred Wegmeyer, Chair; Juergen Thusat, Vice Chair; Chuck Lefebvre, Secretary; Darlene Wilhoit; Dana Werth; Bret Pinzel; Sue Gräke; Bill Edmunds; Brauca Pournier and Jeff Kowalski. Don Wood, Alpena County Drain Commissioner and Mary Dunneal, MSU Extension Educator provide technical assistance to the commission.

Thank you for your assistance.



Fred Wegmeyer, Chair
Alpena County Planning Commission

PW/trd

By building on the strengths of the past, the Alpena County Planning Commission, promotes orderly, informed and deliberate development and growth for the greater Alpena County region through input, guidance and cooperation.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD ACTION #28

TO: Alpena County Planning Commission Chairman Fred Wegmeyer and Mary Dunkel

FROM: Alpena County Board of Commissioners

SUBJECT: Planning Commission: DISTRIBUTION OF DRAFT MASTER PLAN

BOARD ACTION:

DISTRIBUTION OF DRAFT MASTER PLAN

ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to distribute the draft copy of the Alpena County Master Plan to adjacent communities.

Moved by Commissioner Kowalski and supported Commissioner Adrian to adopt the above board action.

Roll call vote was taken.

Motion carried.

draft is in
Laura's office
on shelf
 **E-MAILED**
5-8-13

This action was xx APPROVED DISAPPROVED

BY: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Excused 1, Absent 0, Abstaining 0

Alpena County Board Chairman's Signature: [Signature]

Alpena County Board Vice-Chairman's Signature _____

Date of the Board Meeting April 30, 2013

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD ACTION #27

TO: Alpena County Planning Commission Chairman Fred Wegmeyer and Mary Dunckel

FROM: Alpena County Board of Commissioners

SUBJECT: Planning Commission: DRAFT OF ALPENA COUNTY MASTER
PLAN/RESOLUTION #13-11

BOARD ACTION:

DRAFT OF ALPENA COUNTY MASTER PLAN

Fred Wegmeyer, Alpena County Planning Commission Chairman, presented
the draft of the Alpena County Master Plan.

RESOLUTION #13-11

ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to adopt Resolution #13-11 - Alpena
County Master Plan - Alpena County Board has authority
to make final approval or rejection.

Moved by Commissioner Kowalski and supported Commissioner Hall to adopt
the above board action.

Roll call vote was taken.

Motion carried.

*Denise Clive
Mexico +
Mary Dunckel
will distribute
drafts before
LE 1/5-2/13*

This action was xx APPROVED DISAPPROVED

BY: Ayes 7 , Nays 0 , Excused 1 , Absent 0 , Abstaining 0

Alpena County Board Chairman's Signature



Alpena County Board Vice-Chairman's Signature

Date of the Board Meeting April 30, 2013

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

NOTICE OF MAILING OF DRAFT PLAN – ALPENA COUNTY MASTER PLAN

P. Papendick certify that the communities and agencies on the attached list were sent a draft copy of the Alpena County Master Plan. The draft plan was sent on May 2, 2018 by first class mail and in accordance with Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended.

1. Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
2. Montmorency County Planning Commission
3. Presque Isle County Planning Commission
4. Alpena County Board of Commissioners
5. Oscoda County Planning Commission
6. City of Alpena Planning Commission
7. Alpena Township Planning Commission
8. Sanborn Township Planning Commission
9. Wilson Township Planning Commission
10. Green Township Planning Commission
11. Long Rapids Township Planning Commission
12. Maple Ridge Township Planning Commission
13. Oshtemo Township Planning Commission
14. Wellington Township Board of Trustees
15. Alcona Township Planning Commission
16. Caledonia Township Planning Commission
17. Mitchell Township Planning Commission
18. Rust Township Planning Commission
19. Clinton Township Planning Commission
20. Village of Hillman Planning Commission
21. Hillman Township Planning Commission
22. Montmorency Township Planning Commission
23. Metz Township Board of Trustees
24. Posen Township Board of Trustees
25. Krakow Township Planning Commission
26. Presque Isle Township Planning Commission
27. Michigan Department of Transportation – Alpena TSC
28. Alpena County Road Commission
29. Thunder Bay Transportation Authority

Patricia Papendick

ALPENA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

603 S. Everdell Ave.,
Alpena, MI 49707
Ph: (989) 864-9870
Fax: (989) 354-3838

May 2, 2013

RE: Alpena County Master Plan Draft Review by Adjacent Communities

Alpena County is submitting a copy of the draft Alpena County Master Plan for your review and comment. This draft is being submitted to you pursuant to Section 41 of Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended. Your community has a maximum of 63 days from the receipt of this draft plan to submit comments on the draft plan to the Alpena County Planning Commission.

Please submit comments to:

Denise Cline
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
PO Box 457 Gaylord, MI 49734

Or via email:

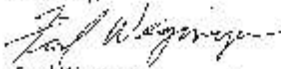
dcline@nemcog.org

Following is a list of entities to which the draft Alpena County Master Plan was submitted:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Northeast Michigan Council of Governments | 15. Alpena Township Planning Commission |
| 2. Montmorency County Planning Commission | 16. Caldonia Township Planning Commission |
| 3. Presque Isle County Planning Commission | 17. Mitchell Township Planning Commission |
| 4. Alpena County Board of Commissioners | 18. Rust Township Planning Commission |
| 5. Oscoda County Planning Commission | 19. Clinton Township Planning Commission |
| 6. City of Alpena Planning Commission | 20. Village of Hillman Planning Commission |
| 7. Alpena Township Planning Commission | 21. Hillman Township Planning Commission |
| 8. Sanborn Township Planning Commission | 22. Montmorency Township Planning Commission |
| 9. Wilson Township Planning Commission | 23. Maltz Township Board of Trustees |
| 10. Green Township Planning Commission | 24. Posen Township Board of Trustees |
| 11. Long Rapids Township Planning Commission | 25. Krakow Township Planning Commission |
| 12. Maple Ridge Township Planning Commission | 26. Presque Isle Township Planning Commission |
| 13. Ossineke Township Planning Commission | 27. Michigan Department of Transportation - Alpena ISC |
| 14. Vreilington Township Board of Trustees | 28. Alpena County Road Commission |
| | 29. Thunder Bay Transportation Authority |

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to your comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Fred Wegmeyer
Alpena County Planning Commission Chair

By building on the strengths of the past, the Alpena County Planning Commission promotes orderly, informed and deliberate development and growth for the greater Alpena County region through input, guidance and cooperation.

shes swim hauling bricks

and to make sure he was OK.

Dreyer said he had a number of hallucinations, including one at night that he described as a vision of Jesus.

"I saw some ghost ships. I know they are not real so it's almost entertaining. They come up to me and dissipate and I laugh," he said. "And, I saw a guy in a white robe standing on the water right in front of me. I swam up to him and he disappeared. So I'm thinking he was the Big J.C."

Dreyer, whose birthday falls next week, downplayed the role of age in his adventures.

"I didn't plan on doing this because I'm turning 50," he said. "If I can use it to show people that 50 is the new 40 or maybe the new 30 — or let's go for the new 20 — why not? Age doesn't really matter."



AP Photo
Jim Dreyer, a long-distance swimmer, arrives at Belle Isle in Detroit Wednesday. Dreyer took off from the Clinton River Boat Club in Glay Township on Monday to swim 22 miles across Lake St. Clair while hauling dinghies filled with 2,000 pounds of bricks. Dreyer made it to Belle Isle in nearly 51-hours and while losing one of the dinghies. The event raised funds and awareness for Habitat for Humanity.

SC orders Cherokee girl transferred from Oklahoma

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A Cherokee girl living in Oklahoma should be immediately turned over to her adoptive parents in South Carolina after her biological father missed a scheduled meeting with them accompanied by the girl, a judge has ordered.

The case file is sealed, but Monday's order from South Carolina Family Court Judge Daniel Martin was obtained by WCBD-TV of Charleston and posted on its website.

Matt and Melanie Capobianco have been trying to adopt 3-year-old Veronica since her birth in 2009 and raised the girl for two years. She has been living with her biological father, Dusten Brown, in Oklahoma since 2011, when

South Carolina's Supreme Court ruled that federal law governing the placement of American Indian children favored him as her custodian.

The high court based its

ruling on the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, which seeks to keep Indian children from being taken from their homes and placed with non-Indian adoptive or foster parents.

ALPENA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

The Alpena County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing for their Master Plan update on August 22, 2013 at 4:30 pm in the Board of Commissioner's Room.

Written comments can be sent to:

720 West Chisholm St.,
Alpena, MI 49707

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ALPENA COUNTY MASTER PLAN

I, Patricia Papendick certify that the communities and agencies on the attached list were sent a notice of public hearing for the Alpena County Master Plan. The notice was sent on 8/7/13 by first class mail and in accordance with Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended.

1. Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
2. Montmorency County Planning Commission
3. Presque Isle County Planning Commission
4. Alpena County Board of Commissioners
5. Oscoda County Planning Commission
6. City of Alpena Planning Commission
7. Alpena Township Planning Commission
8. Sanborn Township Planning Commission
9. Wilson Township Planning Commission
10. Green Township Planning Commission
11. Long Rapids Township Planning Commission
12. Maple Ridge Township Planning Commission
13. Ossineke Township Planning Commission
14. Wellington Township Board of Trustees
15. Alpena Township Planning Commission
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19. Clinton Township Planning Commission
20. Village of Hillman Planning Commission
21. Hillman Township Planning Commission
22. Montmorency Township Planning Commission
23. Metz Township Board of Trustees
24. Posen Township Board of Trustees
25. Krakow Township Planning Commission
26. Presque Isle Township Planning Commission
27. Michigan Department of Transportation - Alpena TSC
28. Alpena County Road Commission
29. Thunder Bay Transportation Authority

Patricia Papendick

**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION
BY THE ALPENA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Alpena County Master Plan**

WHEREAS: Alpena County, Michigan, re-established a Planning Commission under State of Michigan Public Act 83 of 2008, as amended, and;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Planning Commission is required by Section 31 of P.A. 33 of 2008, as amended to make and approve a master plan as a guide for the development within the County, and;

WHEREAS: The County retained the services of Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) as its consultant to assist the Planning Commission in preparing this plan, and;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Planning Commission, in accordance with Section 39(2) of the Act, notified the communities within Alpena County and the adjacent communities of the intent to develop a plan and, in accordance with Section 41(2) of the Act, distributed the final draft to the communities within Alpena County and the adjacent communities for review and comment, and;

WHEREAS: The plan was presented to the public at a hearing held on August 22, 2013, before the Planning Commission, with notice of the hearing being published in the Alpena News on August 15, 2013 in accordance with Section 43(1) of the Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The content of this document, together with all maps attached to and contained herein are hereby adopted by the Alpena County Planning Commission as the Alpena County Master Plan on this 26th day of September, 2013.

Motion: Charles LeFebvre

Second: Brenda Fournier

Ayes: Juergen Thusat, Mark Hunter, Sue Grulke, Jeff Kowalski, Billie Edmonds, Charles LeFebvre and

Brenda Fournier

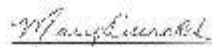
Nays: None

Absent: Fred Wegmeyer, Darlene Wilmot, Dane Werth, Bret Finzel

Certification

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at the September 26, 2013, meeting of the Alpena County Planning Commission.

 , Chair
Alpena County Planning Commission

 , Secretary
Alpena County Planning Commission

**Alpena County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
September 26, 2013**

Call to Order

The Alpena County Planning Commission met on Thursday, September 26th in the Howard Male conference room of the courthouse annex building. The meeting was called to order by Juergen Thusat at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Brenda Fournier
Juergen Thusat
Mark Hunter
Sue Grulke
Chuck LeFebvre
Jeff Kowalski
Billi Edmonds

Members Excused: Fred Wegmeyer
Darlene Wilmot
Dane Werth
Bret Finzel

Ex-officio Present: Mary Dunckel, MSU Extension
Don Wood, Drain Commissioner

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was introduced by Brenda Fournier, supported by Jeff Kowalski. Ayes all.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of 8/22/13 was introduced by Brenda Fournier, supported by Sue Grulke. Ayes all.

Current Business

Resolution to adopt the Alpena County Master Plan

Resolution of adoption of the Alpena County Master Plan was introduced by Chuck LeFebvre; supported by Brenda Fournier. Ayes all.

Maple Ridge Zoning Ordinance Amendment

The commission reviewed and discussed the Maple Ridge zoning ordinance amendment and elected to not take any action as the intent was unclear. Motion to not take any action was introduced by Mark Hunter and supported by Sue Grulke. Ayes all

Presque Isle County Master Plan

After review and discussion of the Presque Isle County Master Plan a motion was introduced by Mark Hunter, supported by Jeff Kowalski to suggest that more recent data be included in the update. Ayes all.

Reports

Parks and Rec: The commission conducted a special meeting to review the 2014 budget. Plans are in place to include an update of the digital reservation system in the budget. Parks are showing good numbers. Future goals include updating restroom facilities; implementation of a system to take internet reservations and credit card payments and installation of a steel roof at Sunken Lake Park.

County Commission: With a recent retirement, the board is looking to hire a soil erosion officer. They are also preparing

for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and studying employee insurance options. The tennis courts at Alpena High School are receiving new pavement. The commissioners are continuing to wait to hear about the drone project and the Center for Excellence application.

Drain Commissioner: County dams will soon be inspected.

Education: Students are back to school. The members were updated about the effects of “cyber schools” on those working with students and on the community as a whole.

Transportation: Dial-A-Ride has seen a 7% growth and serves more than 80,000 riders in the city alone. The trolley, which will have a fixed route in the city, may be here by January 2014. Also there are plans to build a new transportation facility as the company recently purchased land on US 23 north.

Future Business

Next Meeting Date: October 24, 2013

Alpena County Board of Commissioners Meeting: October 29th at 1:00 pm in the Annex. Resolution to adopt the master plan will be considered.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Kowalski, supported by Commissioner Hunter to adjourn at 5:28 pm. Ayes all.

Respectfully submitted: Mary Dunkel



Alpena County Board of Commissioners

720 Chisholm Street, Suite 7 • Alpena, Michigan 49707



RESOLUTION #13-27 RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION BY THE ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Alpena County Master Plan

WHEREAS: Alpena County, Michigan re-established a Planning Commission under State of Michigan Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended, and;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Planning Commission is required by Section 31 of P.A. 33 of 2008, as amended to make and approve a master plan as a guide for the development within the County, and;

WHEREAS: The County retained the services of Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) as its consultant to assist the Planning Commission in preparing this plan, and;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Planning Commission, in accordance with Section 39(2) of the Act, notified the communities within Alpena County and the adjacent communities of the intent to develop a plan and, in accordance with Section 41(2) of the Act, distributed the final draft to the communities within Alpena County and the adjacent communities for review and comment, and;

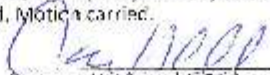
WHEREAS: The plan was presented to the public at a hearing held on August 22, 2013, before the Planning Commission, with notice of the hearing being published in the Alpena News on August 8, 2013 in accordance with Section 43(1) of the Act;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed plan, considered public comment, and adopted the proposed plan by resolution on September 24, 2013, and;

WHEREAS: The Alpena County Board of Commissioners has by resolution asserted the right to approve or reject the plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The content of this document, together with all maps attached to and contained herein are hereby adopted by the Alpena County Board of Commissioners as the Alpena County Master Plan on this 29th day of October, 2013.

Moved by Commissioner Hall and supported by Commissioner Kowalski to adopt this resolution. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Kowalski, Adrian, McKenzie, Hall, Lawson, and VanWormer. NAYS: None. Commissioners Mullarney and Habermehl excused. Motion carried.

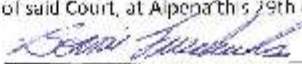

Cameron Habermehl, Chairman of the Board

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

County of Alpena)

I, Bonnie Friedrichs, Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County of Alpena, the same of Court of Record and having a seal do hereby certify that I have compared the annexed copy of the October 29, 2013 session and that it is a true and correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at Alpena this 29th day of October 2013.


Bonnie Friedrichs, County Clerk



Telephone: (989) 364-9500

Fax: (989) 354-9648

www.alpenacounty.org

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 29, 2013

1:00 p.m.

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met in the Howard Male Conference Room in the County Annex building in the City of Alpena on October 29, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman VanWormer who called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Kip Burke representing the Gideons group.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called, the following Commissioners present: Kowalski, Adrian, McKenzie, Hall, Lawson, and VanWormer. Commissioners Mullaney and Habermehl excused.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Kowalski and supported by Commissioner Hall to adopt the agenda with the addition of Budget Committee - Healthcare. Motion

Page 1 of 20

above line items to a new line item to be set up. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Kowalski, Adrian, McKenzie, Hall, Lawson, and VanWormer. NAYS: None. Commissioners Mullaney and Habermehl excused. Motion carried.

ALPENA COUNTY MASTER PLAN

Darlene Wilmot, representing the Alpena County Planning Commission, presented the Final Alpena County Master Plan.

ACTION ITEM: Recommendation to adopt Resolution #27 - Alpena County Master Plan

Moved by Commissioner Hall and supported by Commissioner Kowalski to adopt the above action item. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Kowalski, Adrian, McKenzie, Hall, Lawson, and VanWormer. NAYS: None. Commissioners Mullaney and Habermehl excused. Motion carried.

AIRPORT CERTIFIED WEATHER OBSERVER

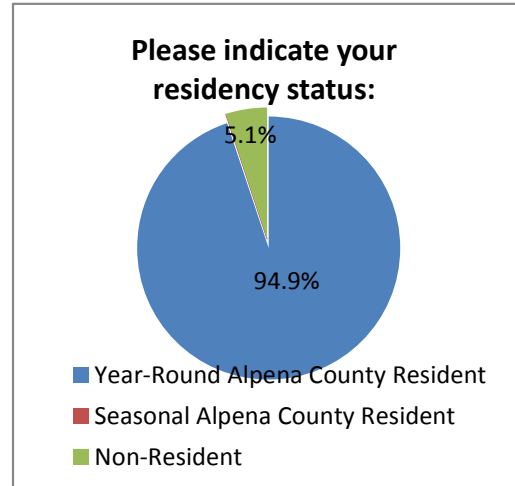
Billi McRoberts, Airport Manager, presented a recommendation as follows on the Airport Certified Weather Observer.

ACTION ITEM: Recommendation to approve the cost for Aviation North to provide back-up weather observation services in the amount of \$2,000 upfront, due once observer and facility are approved and ready to perform services, and a \$300 per

Appendix A

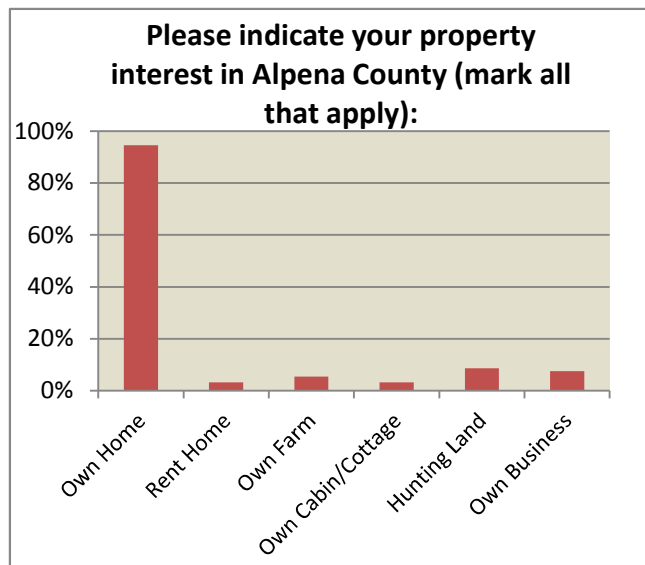
Survey Results

1. Please indicate your residency status:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Year-Round Alpena County Resident	94.9%	94
Seasonal Alpena County Resident	0.0%	0
Non-Resident	5.1%	5
If non-resident, indicate place of residence		3
answered question		99
skipped question		1



If non-resident, indicate place of residence	
1	Indiana
2	Presque Isle Township, Presque Isle County
3	Hillman

2. Please indicate your property interest in Alpena County		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Own Home	94.6%	88
Rent Home	3.2%	3
Own Farm	5.4%	5
Own Cabin/Cottage	3.2%	3
Hunting Land	8.6%	8
Own Business	7.5%	7
Other (please specify)	5	
answered question		93
skipped question		7

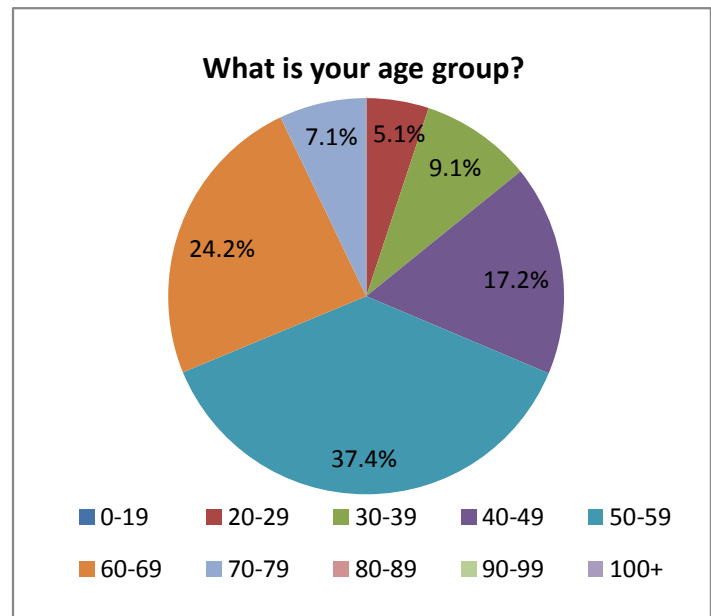
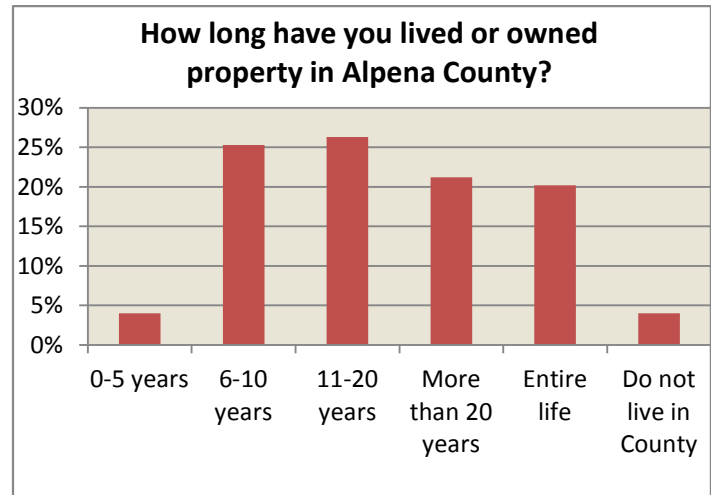


Other (please specify)	
1	Own Rental Home, Own Resort
2	Frequent visitor, family still lives there
3	Employment. Lived in Alpena County for 45 years.
4	Employed here.
5	Live at home of someone who owns

Appendix A

Survey Results

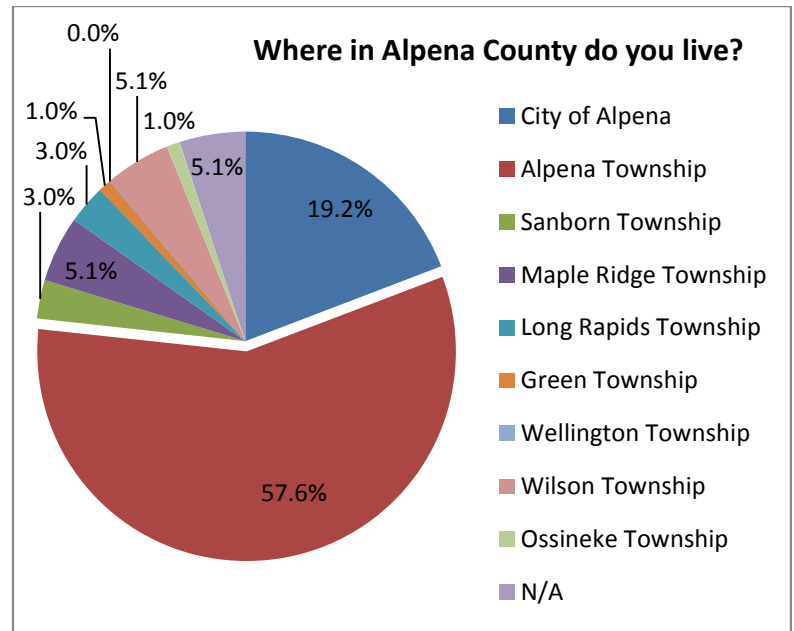
3. How long have you lived or owned property in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0-5 years	4.0%	4
6-10 years	25.3%	25
11-20 years	26.3%	26
More than 20 years	21.2%	21
Entire life	20.2%	20
Do not live in County	4.0%	4
answered question		99
skipped question		1
4. What is your age group?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0-19	0.0%	0
20-29	5.1%	5
30-39	9.1%	9
40-49	17.2%	17
50-59	37.4%	37
60-69	24.2%	24
70-79	7.1%	7
80-89	0.0%	0
90-99	0.0%	0
100+	0.0%	0
answered question		99
skipped question		1



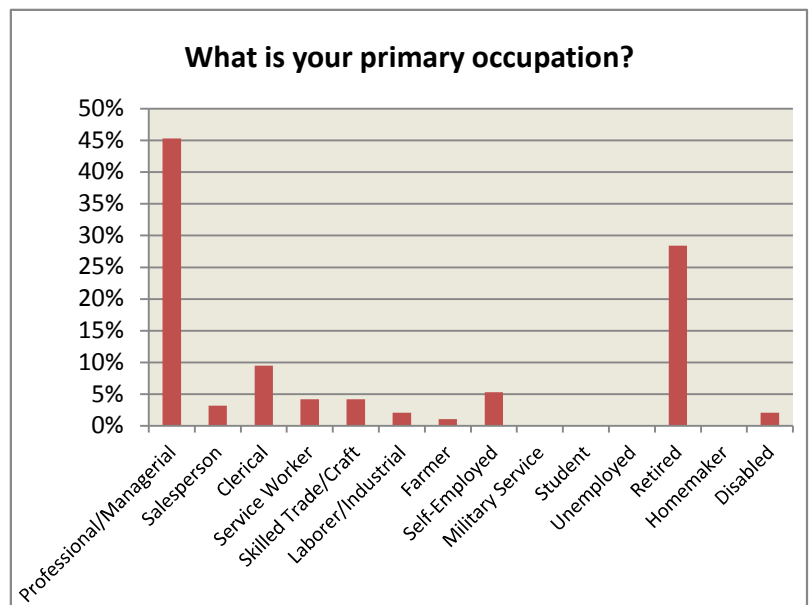
Appendix A

Survey Results

5. Where in Alpena County do you live?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
City of Alpena	19.2%	19
Alpena Township	57.6%	57
Sanborn Township	3.0%	3
Maple Ridge Township	5.1%	5
Long Rapids Township	3.0%	3
Green Township	1.0%	1
Wellington Township	0.0%	0
Wilson Township	5.1%	5
Ossineke Township	1.0%	1
N/A	5.1%	5
answered question		99
skipped question		1



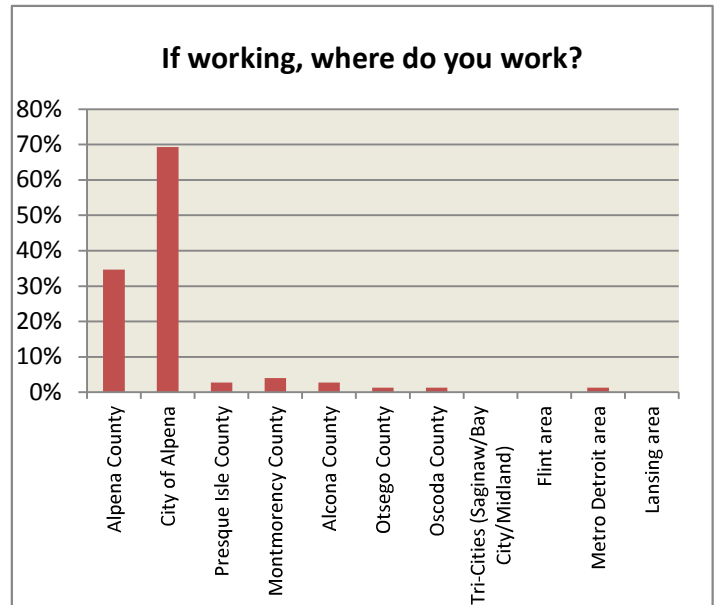
6. What is your primary occupation?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Professional/Managerial	45.3%	43
Salesperson	3.2%	3
Clerical	9.5%	9
Service Worker	4.2%	4
Skilled Trade/Craft	4.2%	4
Laborer/Industrial	2.1%	2
Farmer	1.1%	1
Self-Employed	5.3%	5
Military Service	0.0%	0
Student	0.0%	0
Unemployed	0.0%	0
Retired	28.4%	27
Homemaker	0.0%	0
Disabled	2.1%	2
Other (please specify)		6
answered question		95
skipped question		5



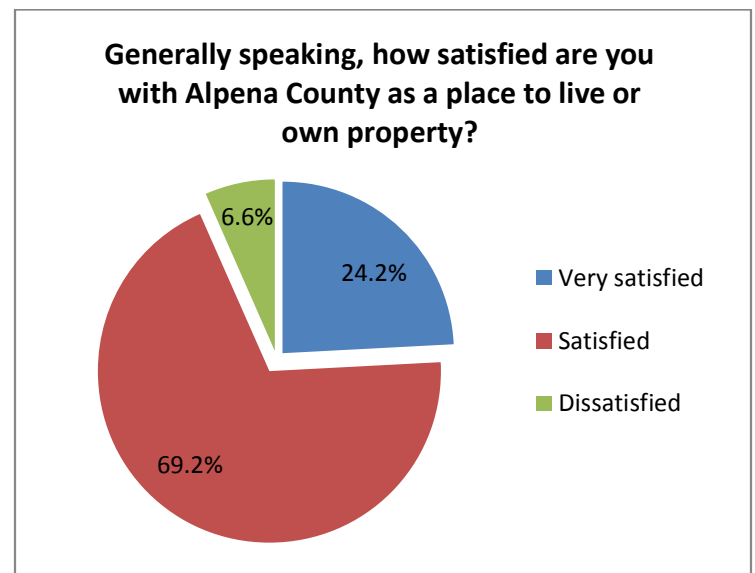
Appendix A

Survey Results

7. If working, where do you work?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Alpena County	34.7%	26
City of Alpena	69.3%	52
Presque Isle County	2.7%	2
Montmorency County	4.0%	3
Alcona County	2.7%	2
Otsego County	1.3%	1
Oscoda County	1.3%	1
Tri-Cities (Saginaw/Bay City/Midland)	0.0%	0
Flint area	0.0%	0
Metro Detroit area	1.3%	1
Lansing area	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		3
answered question		75
skipped question		25



8. Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with Alpena County as a place to live or own property?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very satisfied	24.2%	22
Satisfied	69.2%	63
Dissatisfied	6.6%	6
answered question		91
skipped question		9



Appendix A

Survey Results

9. What 3 things do you like most about Alpena County (3 biggest assets)?

NUMBER			
1	LAKE HURON	OLD VICTORIAN HOMES	FARMS
2	WATER	FACILITIES	HUNTING
3	FRIENDLY PEOPLE	SIZE OF THE TOWN	LAKES, RIVER
4	WATER	OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	NO TRAFFIC CONGESTION
5	LAKEFRONT/RIVER	PEOPLE	ARTS, THEATERS, MUSIC
6	WATER		
7	BEAUTIFUL OUTDOORS	LOTS OF ACTIVITIES	FRIENDLY AND ACC
8	LAKE HURON	RURAL	
9	PROXIMITY TO LAKES	AMOUNT OF STATE LAND TO HUNT	SMALL TOWN/COMMUNITY FEEL
10	PLEASANT RURAL AREA TO LIVE	WATER/RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	NOAA
11	RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	SMALL TOWN FEEL	PROXIMITY TO LAKES
12	ACCESS TO LAKE HURON	NATURAL AREAS	COMMUNITY COLLEGE
13	LAKESHORE	AIRPORT	IMPORTANCE OF FAMILIES
14	RESORT LIKE COMMUNITY	HUNTING/FISHING CLOSE BY	AMOUNT OF STATE LAND IN COUNTY
15	RURAL LIVING	SAFE ENVIRONMENT	AFFORDABLE
16	NATURAL BEAUTY	PRIDE OF RESIDENTS IN COMMUNITY	SAFE, WHOLESOME ENVIRONMENT
17	OPEN COUNTRY SPACES		
18	LAKE HURON	THUNDER BAY RIVER	SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERE
19	HUNTING & FISHING OPPORTUNITIES	SMALL TOWN "FEEL"	RELAXED PACE
20	WATERFRONT/RESORT LIKE COMMUNITY	SLOWER PACE	JUST ABOUT ENOUGH DIVERSIONS/ ENTERTAINMENT
21	RURAL SETTING - DO NOT HAVE TO LIVE IN THE CITY	ABUNDANCE OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AND HOME GROWN MEAT	GOOD ROADS TO OUTLYING COMMUNITY AREAS
22	NOT OVER POPULATED	RELAXED ATMOSPHERE	THE CHANGE OF 4 FULL SEASONS
23	BEAUTIFUL AREA		
24	RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	SMALL TOWN FEEL	GOOD LOCAL ROAD SYSTEM
25	WATERFRONT COMMUNITY	RELAXED ATMOSPHERE & PACE	FRIENDLY PEOPLE (EXCEPT 3 MONTHS OF SUMMER WHEN THE TRUNKSLAMMERS ARE HERE)
26	RELAXED ATMOSPHERE	NOT A LOT OF TRAFFIC	VIEWS OF WOODS/WATER/FARMS
27	WATER	WOODS	SMALL COMMUNITIES, GOOD SCHOOLS
28	LAKE HURON WATERFRONT	THUNDER BAY RIVER ACCESS	CLEAN AND NEAT AREAS IN PARKS AND BIKE PATH
29	SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERE	THE NUMEROUS TRAILS TO ENJOY THE NATURAL BEAUTY	PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL SITES-THEY MADE ALPENA WHAT IT IS
30	MORE RELAXED PACE	WATERFRONT COMMUNITY	
31	PROXIMITY TO WATER	STATE HUNTING LAND	
32	CLOSE TO WATER AND WOODS		

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Survey Results

33	RURAL LIFESTYLE	ALPENA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER- GREAT TO HAVE BUT MAYBE BECAUSE IT IS SOMETHING VERSUS NOTHING	SMALL TOWN POLITICS
34	SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERE	SCHOOLS	LIBRARY
35	ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL SPORTS	COUNTY GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION	ROAD COMMISSION SEEMS TO BE MAINTAINING THE ROADS
36	ENVIRONMENT - WOODS, LAKES, OUTDOORS	LOCATION	PEOPLE
37	AIRPORT/BASE	EXPANDING HOSPITAL	AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
38	NOAA	BI-PATH	PARKS
39	RESORT/WATERFRONT LIKE COMMUNITY	BIKE PATHS AROUND TOWN	CONCERTS IN PARK
40	NORTHERN LIGHTS ARENA/APLEX	M-32 AREA - WALMART,HOME DEPOT AREA	AIRBASE
41	LAKE	RIVER	PARKS
42	OUR STATE FOREST	OUR LARGE AIRPORT	OUR INLAND LAKES
43	LAKES	SCENERY	CHANGE OF SEASONS
44	LAKE FRONT/WATER	PEACEFUL/SAFE COMMUNITY	RELAXED LIFESTYLE
45	GREAT LAKE	4 SEASONS	SMALL FEEL
46	LOCATION	PROXIMITY TO FAMILY	WATER
47	SMALL TOWN FEEL	SENSE OF COMMUNITY	WATER RELATED ACTIVITIES
48	WE LIVE ON LAKE	RESORT COMMUNITY	4 SEASON CHANGES
49	AIR BASE	LOCATION	PEOPLE
50	RESORT COMMUNITY FEEL	SMALL TOWN FEELING	LAKE/RIVER DEVELOPEMENTS
51	LOW POPULATION	SIMPLE LIFESTYLE	LITTLE TRAFFIC
52	LOCATION	SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	FAMILY ATMOSPHERE
53	THE TOPOGRAPHY	SENSE OF COMMUNITY	HISTORY
54	QUALITY OF FIRE AND EMS SERVICES	NATURAL RESOURCES	
55	SMALL TOWN FEEL	RELAXED PACE	OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
56	LAKES	RIVERS	JOB
57	OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	GOOD RATIO OF LAND USAGE (IE FARMLAND:WOODLAND: OPEN/ FALLOW LAND:DEVELOPED)	AMISH COMMUNITY
58	THE WATER	STRONG COMMUNITY	NICE AREA TO RAISE A FAMILY
59	LAKE	PEOPLE	ATMOSPHERE
60	LAKES	FISHING	NO TRAFFIC
61	LAKE HURON AND ACCESS TO INLAND LAKES	TRAILS TO HIKE, BIKE, SKI, ETC.	LOCAL BUSINESSES DOWNTOWN
62	WATER, LAKES RIVERS	NATURAL BEAUTY	HISTORY
63	LAKE HURON	CLEAN AIR	SMALLNESS
64	WATER FRONT COMMUNITY	SMALL TOWN FEEL	LOW CRIME RATE
65	WATERFRONT	ARTS	FARMERS MARKET
66	LOCATION	PEOPLE	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
67	THE LOCATION NEAR LAKE HURON	OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES	THE PEOPLE
68	BIKE PATHS	CLOSE TO NATURE; GREEN SPACE IN CITY	LAKES AND RIVERS

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Survey Results

69	SMALL TOWN FEEL	LOWER CRIME RATES	SCHOOL SYSTEM
70	OUTDOOR RESOURCES	GENERAL LACK OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY	CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES
71	LAKE HURON	HUNTING	RECYCLING
72	LAKE HURON/THUNDER BAY	SMALL COMMUNITY WITH MANY THINGS TO OFFER	WITHOUT QUESTION, THE PEOPLE ARE FRIENDLY
73	HURON WATER FRONT & BI-PATH IMPROVEMENTS	MARITIME HERITAGE CENTER/DRAWING PEOPLE TO ALPENA	DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS/ OUTSTANDING!
74	IMPROVED WATER FRONT (LAKE AND RIVER)	MARITIME CENTER	RECENT CO-OPERATION IN NLA
75	RECREATION	LAKES	FAIRLY RESPONSIVE GOVT
76	FRIENDLY PEOPLE	QUIET LIFE	NATURAL BEAUTY
77	OUTDOORS	QUIET ATMOSPHERE	FAMILY

10. What 3 things do you dislike most about Alpena County (3 biggest problems)?

Number			
1	AIR QUALITY IN CITY	BLIGHT	LACK OF THINGS TO DO
2	GOVERNMENT IN-FIGHTING	POORLY MANAGED SCHOOLS	NO SHOPPING
3	NO FREEWAY	GRAVEL ROADS	LACK OF GOOD RESTAURANTS
4	LACK OF JOBS	DISTANCE FROM OTHER AREAS	LACK OF VARIETY IN STORES
5	POOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATERFRONT	NARROW-MINDED COUNTY LEADERS	ALWAYS BEHIND THE TRENDS
6	NEED TO CONSOLIDATE POLICE/FIRE	JOBS NEEDED	
7	HUNT	LACK OF GOVERNMENT COOPERATION	DUPLICATION OF SERVICES
8	TOO MANY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT	NEED MORE JOBS	LET MORE RETIRED PEOPLE KNOW WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE THIS IS TO LIVE
9	POLLUTION		
10	LACK OF POLICE PROTECTION CAUSING RISING CRIME	VACANT HOMES & BUSINESSES ALL UP AND DOWN US23	ARERA ATTRACTING VAGRANTS AND CRIMINAL FROM DOWNSTATE
11	SOME POOR ROAD CONDITIONS	LACK OF SHOPPING	ACCESS FOR SOME TYPES OF MEDICAL CARE
12	RISING CRIME	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT	INFLUX OF CRIMINALS FROM DOWNSTATE
13	INDUSTRIALIZATION OF LAKE FRONT AREAS	PRIVATIZATION OF WATER FRONT AREAS	POOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE
14	OLD SCHOOL GOVERNMENT		
15	INCREASING CRIME/LACK OF DEPUTIES ON STREET	SUNRISE MISSION DRAWING CRIMINALS FROM OTHER PARTS OF STATE	CAN'T LEAVE DOORS/WINDOWS UNLOCKED ANYMORE, SO LOSING SMALL TOWN FEEL
16	DOWNTOWN NEEDS MORE REFURBISHING	NEED MORE RECREATION /ENTERTAINMENT	BETTER RESTAURANTS
17	FEAR/RESUSTANCE TO CHANGE	NAY-SAYING TO INNOVATION	SELF-DENIGRATION OF REGION BY RESIDENTS

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Survey Results

18	LACK OF JOBS	LACK OF PROMOTION OF TOURISM	LACK OF PARKS
19	RIISING CRIME	NOT ENOUGH POLICE OFFICERS ON STREET	COUNTY SEEMS TO BE ATTRACTING MORE CRIMINALS AND UNEMPLOYED TO AREA
20	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT	VACANT & ABANDONED HOMES /BUSINESSES	FOCUS AND MONEY SPENT ON AIRPORT
21	TRAFFIC IN THE CITY AND ALPENA TOWNSHIP	LACK OF SPECIALITY STORES	DOWNTOWN STORES NOT OPEN IN THE EVENINGS
22	LACK OF JOBS, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT	MORE CRIME THAN EVER BEFORE	AMOUNT OF TIME/MONEY BEING SPENT ON AIRPORT
23	LACK OF SHOPPING	NEED MORE REASONABLY PRICED STORES IN THE CITY	
24	LACK OF TWO-LANE FREEWAYS TO GET HERE.	LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES	
25	MORE CRIME	BLIGHT	LACK OF JOBS
26	INCREASING CRIME	PLUMETING PROPERTY VALUES	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT
27	RIISING CRIME AND FELONIOUS SEVERITY OF IT	LACK OF POLICE PROTECTION	PLUMETING PROPERTY VALUES
28	NO FAST INTERNET	NO CELLULAR SERVICE	CABLE EXORBITANT
29	HIGH WATER BILLS IN ALPENA TOWNSHIP	VANDALISM TO PROPERTY, AND NOT BEING CAUGHT	LP SMELL COMING FROM THEIR PLANT ON FORD AVE.
30	THE SMALL TOWN POLITICAL GARBAGE-SAME PEOPLE, BASED ON YOUR FAMILY NAME, NOT EXPERIENCE OR EDUCATION, FROM GOVERNMENT TO ATHLETICS-VERY SAD	THE RISE IN CRIME IN OUR BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY	LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR LEADERS-AS LONG AS THINGS SEEM TO RUN WITHOUT PROBLEMS, GOVERNMENT DOESN'T LOOK HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE ITS RUNNING RIGHT.
31	BLIGHT-EMPTY,VACANT, UNKEPT PROPERTIES	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT	INCREASE IN BOTH QUANTITY AND TYPES OF CRIME
32	INFLUX OF PEOPLE THROUGH SUNRISE MISSION FROM OUT OF AREA	CRIME ON RISE (SEE ABOVE)	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL AGES
33	BLIGHT IN MANY AREAS OF COUNTY	CRIME GOING UP	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT
34	EMPTY AND ABANDONED HOMES AND BUSINESSES	INCREASING CRIME	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT
35	CRIME ON RISE	LACK OF BUSINESSES/ EMPLOYMENT	VACANT HOMES/BUSINESSES
36	CRIME	ALP REG MED CENTER..HAS A TERRIBLE REPUTATION, WELL DESERVED AFTER LISTENING TO MANY PEOPLES HORROR STORIES	POLICE ABSENCE AFTER 10PM
37	FALLING PROPERTY VALUES	INCREASING CRIME	SUNRISE MISSION ATTRACTING UNDESIREABLES FROM DOWNSTATE
38	BLIGHT	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT	
39	GARBAGE ON CITY BEACHES AFTER RAIN	WATERFRONT AT BAY VIEW	RUNDOWN NEIGHBORHOODS
40	LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUTH		
41	LACK OF WORK	LOCAL ECONOMY/POLITICS	PEOPLE

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Survey Results

42	LACK OF SHOPPING OF LARGE RETAILERS	LACK OF INDUSTRY FOR GOOD PAYING JOBS	ENFORCEMENT OF JUNK ORDINANCES
43	LACK OF SHOPPING	HIGH GAS PRICES	HOTEL ON THE WATERFRONT
44	THE JUNKY,VACANT BUILDINGS ALONG US23	SUNRISE MISSION BRINGING TRANSIENTS INTO AREA	CINDY JOHNSON AND ALL HER PETTY SMALL TOWN POLITICS!
45	BLIGHT	LACK OF SERVICES-RUBBISH,LAWN PICK UP	DRAINAGE ISSUES
46	LACK OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAY	SMALL TOWN IDEAS	CLICKS
47	EXISTING ROADS ARE BAD	GRAVEL ROADS NEVER NEWLY PAVED	NATURAL GAS RUNS BY BUT YOU CANT GET IT
48	TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT	COMMUNICATION AMONGST ALL LEVELS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT	EACH LEVEL EXPECTS CONTROL AND POWER. POWER STRUGGLE
49	NOT FORWARD THINKING ENOUGH	TOO CONSERVATIVE/NOT PROGRESSIVE ENOUGH	MORE GROUPS AND GOVERNMENT NEED TO WORK BETTER TOGETHER TO PROMOTE AND BUILD OUR COMMUNITY AND TO HELP CREATE JOBS
50	LACK OF VISION	DO NOT SEEM TO BE PROGRESSIVE	UNWILLING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW
51	LACK OF RESTAURANTS/HOTELS	LACK OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
52	INCREASING CRIME	BLIGHT	MORE BLIGHT
53	NO JOBS TO KEEP PEOPLE HERE	NO PLACE TO SHOP HERE/LACK OF ENTERTAINMENT	TOO MANY SENIOR CITIZENS
54	INCREASING CRIME	BLIGHT	SUNRISE MISSION'S IMPORTING ALL THE TROUBLE MAKERS FROM OTHER AREA'S.
55	INSUFFICIENT SHOPPING	POOR CONDITION OF BEACHES	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
56	EMPTY/ABANDONED BUSINESSES & HOMES	BLIGHT, JUNK, GARBAGE, UNCUT LAWNS	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT
57	CRIME	DRUGS	BLIGHT
58	ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES	EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	NEED MORE SHERIFF DEPUTIES
59	INCREASING CRIME	EMPTY AND DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS	HOMELESS HANGING AROUND CITY STREETS/CORNERS
60	NOT ENOUGH SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES	HOSPITAL HAS INADEQUATE SERVICES, ER IS TOO SMALL	COMMERCE IS IN AND AROUND CITY ONLY
61	BLIGHT	INFLUX OF CRIMINAL ELEMENT	SMALL TOWN POLITICS
62	LACK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE.	LACK OF SNOW REMOVAL ON MAIN ROADS.	LACK OF A GOOD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
63	CRIME (HOME INVASIONS, DRUGS)	LACK OF ROUTINE LAW ENFORCEMENT PATROLS.	LACK OF "MIDDLE-CLASS LIFESTYLE" JOBS.
64	DISCORD AMONG COMMUNITY LEADERS	WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE BUSINESSES OPEN UP	UNEMPLOYMENT
65	BLIGHT	BLIGHT	BLIGHT
66	UNEMPLOYMENT	LACK OF NEW BUSINESSES	CATERS TO OLDER ADULTS

Appendix A

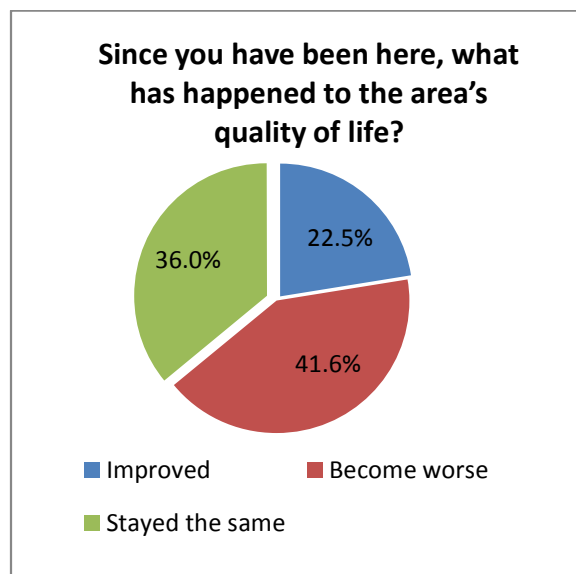
Survey Results

67	US-23 DRIVING INTO TOWN AND ALONG THE LAKE COULD LOOK A LOT NICER. SOME OF THE BUSINESSES ARE UGLY AND NEED TO DO SOME UPDATES. I HATE THAT WE GIVE BEAUTIFUL LAKE FRONT PROPERTY TO FAST FOOD PLACES AND RUN DOWN LOOKING BUSINESSES.	I DISLIKE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MANY HOUSES THAT ARE RUN DOWN/ABANDONED IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR TO MINE IS ABANDONED AND IT MAKES THE WHOLE BLOCK LOOK HORRIBLE.	I WISH THE BUSINESSES WERE OPEN LATER AND THERE WERE MORE PLACES TO HANG OUT.
68	FOCUS ON MANUFACTURING	TOO MANY LEVELS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT	RESISTANCE TO CHANGE
69	NEEDS MORE STORES AND RESURANTS	NEEDS MORE POLICE	NEEDS TO BRING MORE THINGS FOR FAMILIES TO DO
70	CITY COUNCIL	LACK OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION	TAXES
71	AREAS OF BLIGHT/EMPTY BUSINESSES	SUNRISE MISSION BRINGING IN PEOPLE FROM DOWNSTATE	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH
72	LACK OF PROGRESS	LACK OF NICE HOTEL (WATERFRONT?)	LACK OF OPTIMISM
73	STEREOTYPING AS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY	TOO MUCH FOCUS ON TOURISM	MENTALITY THAT FOLKS MUST LEAVE HERE FOR JOBS
74	NEGATIVE ATTITUDES ABOUT OUR FUTURE	ROADS THAT NEED WORK	INFIGHTING BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL UNITS
75	POLITICAL TURMOIL	GAS CARTEL AMONG GASOLINE PROVIDERS	FLOODING ISSUES
76	LACK OF SHOPPING	LACK OF RESTAURANTS	GAS PRICES
77	GOVERNMENTS' BELIEF EVERYTHING SHOULD BE TAXED OR FEE IMPOSED	PRICE OF GAS AND GROCERIES	LACK OF "REAL" COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES
78	LACK OF POLICE SERVICES	ROAD COMMISSION--ROADS NOT KEPT UP, MOWED	NOT ENOUGH EMPHASIS ON TOURISM
79	COUNTY, CITY, ALPENA TOWNSHIP NEED TO BAN TOGETHER		
80	ALPENA TWNSHP/CTY ALPENA/SHOULD BE COMBING SRVCES	ELCTD OFFICIALS/OUT OF \$'S/NOT DOING WHAT IS NECESSARY	RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS/GOES WITH NOT WANTING CHANGE
81	UNWILLINGNESS TO TALK ABOUT ANNEXATION		
82	NONE		
83	LAKE OF ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS	LACK OF JOBS	
84	LACK OF SHOPPING	LACK OF SPORTS BAR (BUFFALO WILD WINGS)	NO FOREIGN CAR DEALERS

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Survey Results

11. Since you have been here, what has happened to the area's quality of life?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Improved	22.5%	20
Become worse	41.6%	37
Stayed the same	36.0%	32
Explanation or comment:		25
answered question		89
skipped question		11



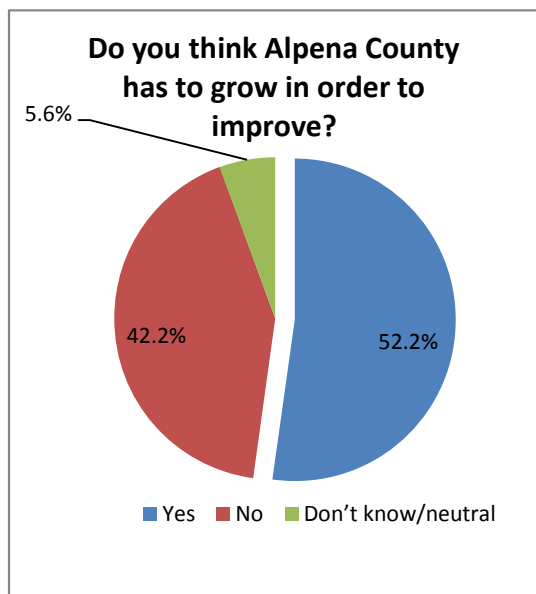
	Explanation or comment:
1	U.S. 23 South Water Project hurt us economically
2	Fishing, hunting and employment opportunities are much worse. Big game fishing and dredging ban have ruined trout fishing areas and small species fishing. Poor management of deer herd has ruined hunting.
3	Amenities like hike/bike trails & paths, downtown renovations, assets like Marine Sanctuary
4	Here less than a month
5	Lack of employment due to factory closings

6	The quality of life has improved, but no more than any other similar community. The technological advancements that have improved our quality of life are the same for all MI residents.
7	physically improved but deteriorating now
8	Crime has risen, drugs are more prevalent, taxes and fees rise, yet leaders don't seem affected by cuts, continual loss of people due to lack of opportunities.
9	Reading the Alpena News, I am of the impression that crime is flourishing and becoming more assaultive
10	Crime on increase
11	The bad elements of society that coddled and encouraged to move here....expansion of the mission.
12	Alpena is a dying town. People who have/had the power to change and give people a reason to stay have not done so.
13	Population has decreased, student population decreased, services cut or reduced
14	Not moving forward
15	Roads are getting worse. Werth rd
16	The poverty level is extremely high here, not enough employment
17	high unemployment
18	Loss of workforce levels at cement plant, Besser's, DPI, closing of Fletcher's, Thunder Bay Manufacturing etc... has created a large disparity between many households. The loss of this income/tax base has created shortfalls in feelings of personal safety and loss of services. While I understand and accept the fact that any government can/should only spend what it takes in, there has to be a way to achieve a better balance between different services.
19	Plants shut down or running at bare minimum, many jobs lost, area business' cannot stay open, and no motivation by city/county officials to do a THING to promote tourism, create jobs, and be open minded toward new activities
20	crime has risen, due to law enforcement cutbacks, and to Sunrise Mission
21	I think there are people trying to make Alpena better for the future and I like hearing about their progress.
22	Cement dust controlled; Burning of chemical waste stopped; improved pollution controls at DPI; more outdoor activity opportunities
23	Although the population has gotten older, there is little consideration for the real issues related to aging, declining health and income
24	Less services, police protection
25	Alpena has always been known as City that does not like change - however, change is what we need!

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Survey Results

12. Do you think Alpena County has to grow in order to improve?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	52.2%	47
No	42.2%	38
Don't know/neutral	5.6%	5
If yes, in what area?		34
answered question		90
skipped question		10



	If yes, in what area?
1	Quality jobs
2	Our minds, population, educational attainment, entrepreneurial spirit and support.
3	Larger stores. More medical specialists.
4	Need to attract more professionals and less industry.
5	Promotion of tourism, Alpena needs to become a 'destination'
6	specialty stores, expand M-32 corridor with more

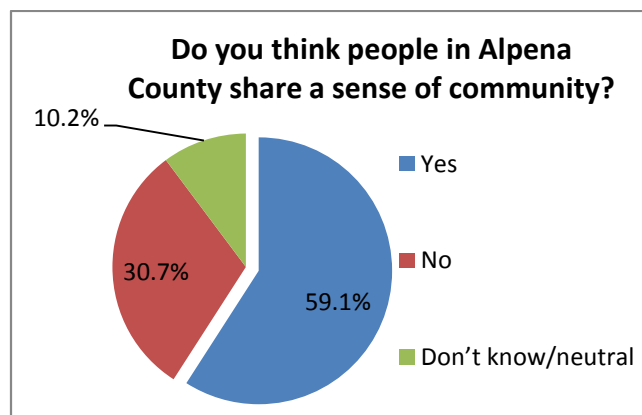
	businesses
7	High Tech Industries.
8	Whatever really improves the economy without destroying the quality of life
9	More chain stores and eating places
10	Obviously increased population will help our community, but to have that, there must be increases in opportunities to get people to come here and stay here! Stop thinking of the political answers and think more of the community answers!
11	Need interstate highway connection
12	Manufacturing..you need jobs that pay well enough to keep people proud of their work, and homes, to keep the city clean and deter crime.
13	not necessary
14	We must promote the development of the business environment. This means actively seeking businesses.
15	Unless we grow, we will not get new industry, new jobs, better schools.
16	Need to have industry, new or expanding businesses to provide jobs that encourage people to stay or move here.
17	Improved roads, better connections to interstates.
18	Economically !!!!
19	Develop more areas to attract businesses and industry. Open the water front up to development. Make governmental units easier to work with and more cooperative to interested companies and industries. Streamline rules and regulations so things can happen faster for development. Development person who has the power to help move things along walk them through so to speak.
20	This County needs to grow or it will only continue to get worse.
21	promote and recruit businesses other economic development
22	Increase law enforcement and attract business to the area
23	More Police coverage for the County, more sheriff's deputies
24	Jobs.
25	employment
26	The area is large enough, but not too large. If the blight could be replaced with new business, or razed and taken care of the size would be right.
27	industry, business, culture
28	It has to grow to improve because we are an aging community (retirees). We have to grow our young adult population (30-40) year olds with families. But we also have to have jobs to offer these people if we expect them to move here or stay here.

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29	We need to bring business decision makers to the area. A better quality hotel (prefer waterfront) with amenities that would attract a better clientele would be a start. This hotel, in partnership with APlex, Northern Lights, Days Inn, Holiday Inn, might be enough to attract some convention business. We just need to get business owners and managers to visit... that would be a start.
30	I think we need a more stable income for the county. I think more people need to have a decent income to raise their families.
31	Attract more tourists, people to move here instead of leaving
32	We are no longer a city where everyone is going to work where their mother or father worked. It is time people start to realize this and stop saying there is nothing in Alpena!
33	Industry and manufacturing
34	Shopping

13. Do you think people in Alpena County share a sense of community?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	59.1%	52
No	30.7%	27
Don't know/neutral	10.2%	9
Explanation or comment:		19
answered question		88
skipped question		12



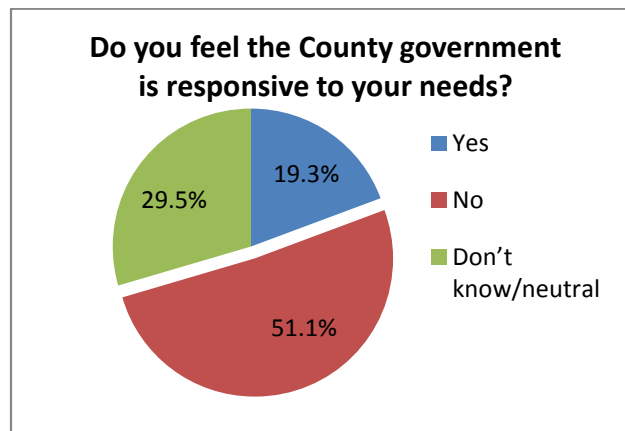
	Explanation or comment:
1	Yes, but limited in scope.
2	But it could be raised collectively to a higher, more positive level.
3	Absolutely. Community pride is wonderful. I do miss the flowers that used to line the corridors coming in M-32 and on the bridges on 23 - City needs to be more inviting and dressed up. Love the flowers that line the bike path on Washington - that is the prettiest I have seen it.
4	Unless you have strong ties to the city of Alpena and vice versa. I live in the twp and have strong ties to the City. I seldom have a county "sense" except when I see the poor look of the fairgrounds and need my road graded.
5	People are always ready to help others in need
6	As in any community, some do and some don't. I think the older generations are afraid of change, and though that is understandable, some changes are necessary to move forward. I think most people want our community to thrive, but lets face it, for many citizens, this is a poor community.
7	I think we are a lot like all society...I have mine, leave me alone. This inhibits volunteerism in many projects and activities.
8	I believe that a great many do but the vocal minority influences to many.
9	It seems when people are in need whether it be a fire or serious illness, neighbors, family, and friends come together to help.
10	too many small clicks
11	Yes a very strong sense of community!
12	Sometimes but need to look ahead.
13	People here are very proud to be from Alpena and support local businesses and activities.
14	but not always welcoming to newcomers or those who may be different
15	I have, however, found that it takes a long time to break through the clique of people who were born and raised in Alpena. Even though I had friends, I felt like an outsider for many years.
16	Boundaries have been drawn by the governmental entities. Those boundaries are imposed and maintained by each entity which tend to restrict the sense of community. Further, the belief some hold that the area should be sectioned off so as to "market" any one area on it's own merits violates that overall sense of community.

Appendix A

Survey Results

17	Each area is a clique, excludes the rest. Alpena city acts like by itself, doesn't include outlying areas in its plan, all need to work together to improve area.
18	How many firetrucks and ambulances (just a few items) can we purchase and maintain, along with updates.
19	each governmental wants their own domain instead of looking for the whole

14. Do you feel the County government is responsive to your needs?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	19.3%	17
No	51.1%	45
Don't know/neutral	29.5%	26
Explanation or comment:		22
answered question		88
skipped question		12



	Explanation or comment:
1	No. They don't listen to anyone but their own obnoxious voices. Consolidate!
2	They have spent so much time and effort on the airport while ignoring the problems the residents have. Any drone project at the airport will not provide so much as one more job for any of the locals unless they're at McDonalds or Burger King to feed the people that move into the area to work on the drones.

3	Absolutly not! They put more effort into the airport than into the citizens that they profess to represent. There are twice as mant deputies at the airport than are working in Alpena County.
4	County government is working all the time to promote the area and to keep the needs of the people fulfilled on very limited funds. In relationship to surrounding counties, Alpena County is the most stable of the counties.
5	Balancing the budget is imperative, but I fail to understand why the airport has more police/better protection than the citizens of the county.
6	No explanation necessary – it's the "good ol' boy" government and I don't see that ever changing. As stated previously, it's not what you know, it's who you know and what your last name is or was, or who your family is or was. Happens everywhere, but it's very disappointing.
7	Paying too much attention to airport and not enough to lowering crime rate by adding deputies to patrol. Why does the airport have more deputies working there, than are on the road throughout the entire county?
8	I believe that they are spending money in the wrong places. Why are all of the sheriff's deputies in court protecting the judges while as residents we have to fend for ourselves at night?
9	Lack of police presence in the county and on the city streets. There does not seem to be one commissioner that supports law enforcement. As with many counties I also wonder why they show no interest in seeing what goes on in the areas of the committees they sit on. How do they make decisions when they sit in a board room looking at papers which contain only the information that someone else wants them to see.
10	It does seem that they are beginning to get the idea.
11	The only thing the commissioners seem to have any interest in is the airport. The increase in crime is not even on their radar. More drug use, more homes/camps being broken into, more vandalism.
12	too concerned about spending cutback and not actual citizen's needs.
13	somewhat, provide the and let us growth
14	No always willing to listen or change. "That's the way we have done it for years!" time for new ideas and Fresh Thinking!
15	They fail to address the need of economic development.
16	Crime is increasing and yet there are fewer deputy's working the streets
17	Not enough emphasis on Law Enforcement. 24 hour patrol, Investigative Deputies (Detective), lack of concern for the Law Enforcement needs of the out county area also.

Appendix A

Survey Results

18	I feel the County Board does little to stay in contact with their constituents. Having open meetings is a good thing but not all constituents can attend. Board members should hold town-hall style meetings on a routine basis (2-3 times per year minimum) to allow people to attend at their township hall in lieu of traveling to central location to air their concerns etc...
19	Crime on increase and is not being addressed thru either hiring additional deputies or more efficient use of them on road patrol
20	I am concerned about the flooding issues that have occurred in many areas of the county, primarily in Alpena Township. I am also concerned about maintenance of our roads and bike paths and bike trail.

21	Each commissioner seems to have their own agenda. The only time there is a consensus is when it serves to restrict or impose or on some pie-in-the-sky project that actually adds little or nothing to the area. An example would be its continued support of trails for bikes, orv's and snowmobiles.
22	All three!

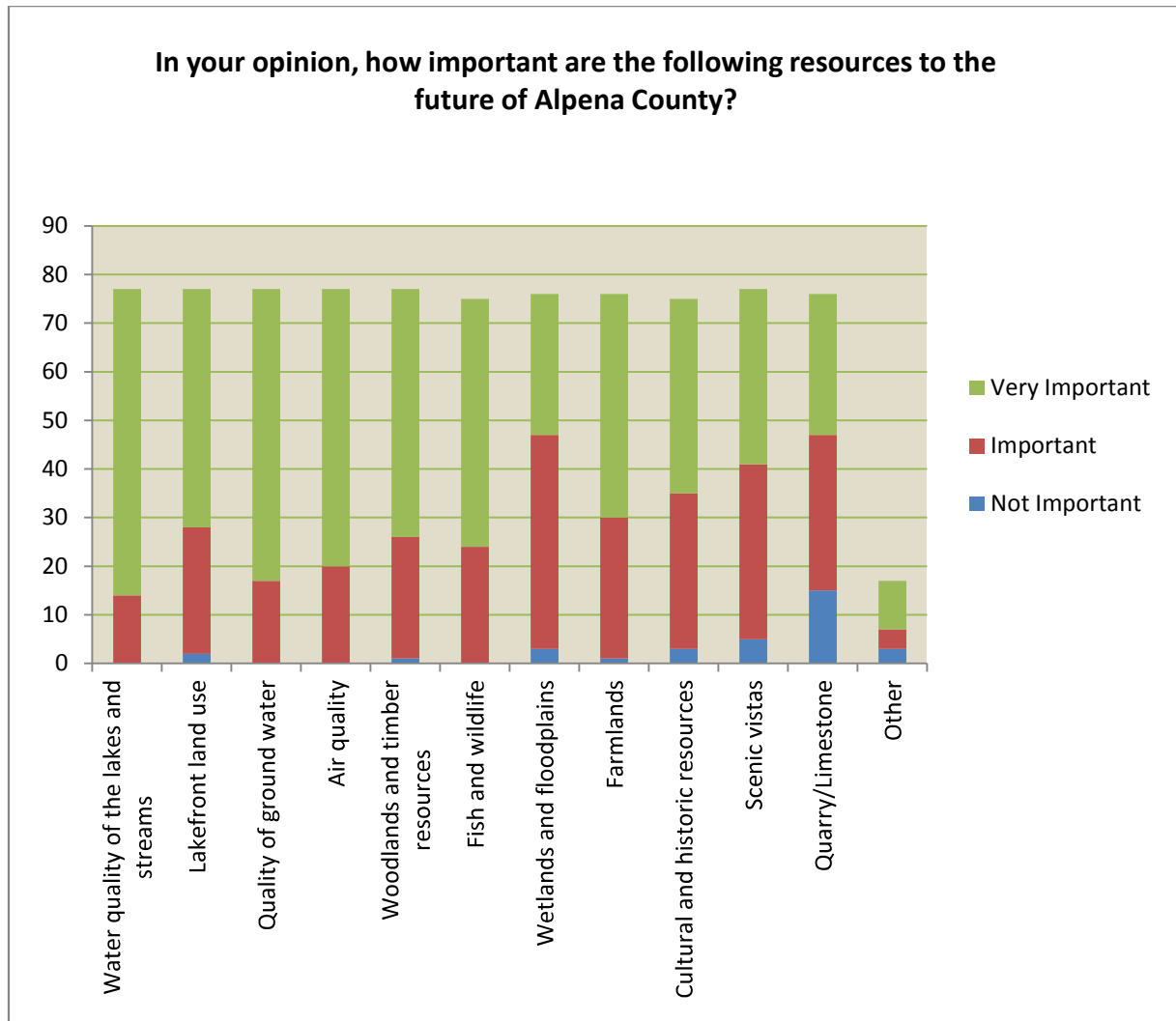
15. In your opinion, how important are the following resources to the future of Alpena County?				
Answer Options	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Response Count
Water quality of the lakes and streams	63	14	0	77
Lakefront land use	49	26	2	77
Quality of ground water	60	17	0	77
Air quality	57	20	0	77
Woodlands and timber resources	51	25	1	77
Fish and wildlife	51	24	0	75
Wetlands and floodplains	29	44	3	76
Farmlands	46	29	1	76
Cultural and historic resources	40	32	3	75
Scenic vistas	36	36	5	77
Quarry/Limestone	29	32	15	76
Other	10	4	3	17
Other (please state)				14
answered question				77
skipped question				23

Other (please specify)

- Up to date hospital
- Schools - educational opportunities
- Health care and educational resources
- Better Education
- Better interstate highway access
- The CRTC and the possibility of the drone program coming to Alpena.
- Work
- We should control our own state forest NOT Atlanta
- 4 season recreation
- Development of Land in Alpena Twp and expansion of the airbase
- new business
- Parks/Bell Bay/Norway Ridge/Bike Path

Appendix A

Survey Results

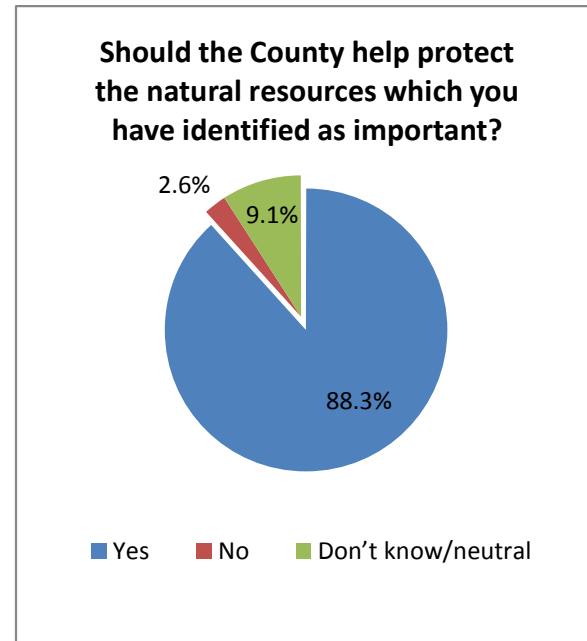


Appendix A

Survey Results

16. Should the County help protect the natural resources which you have identified as important?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	88.3%	68
No	2.6%	2
Don't know/neutral	9.1%	7
Explanation or comment:		12
answered question		77
skipped question		23

	Explanation or comment:
1	Yes, but don't over-regulate. Much of that is handed down from the State level and is out of County hands.
2	Water resources and parks are important.
3	There is a lack of county parks - preservation of natural resources at a local level.
4	By ordinances and education. No fertilizers near water, greenbelts all along the rivers, streams, creeks and wetlands.
5	Dumb question - its the natural resources in northeast Michigan that bring people here! Trails, wildlife, open areas - not more buildings that can stand empty and add blight!
6	Pressure on state reps to fund and identify problems, as well as organizing volunteer organizations to help with select ideas where a local effort can make a difference.
7	They would be stupid to not protect our environment and resources.
8	We need to be very proactive to protect our lakes, rivers and streams. Save our shoreline too.
9	To a point -we need to allow USEAGE of our state forests for the people not just ALANTAS forest harvesting program
10	If our natural resources need to be altered somewhat to attract more businesses then it is okay.
11	Protect them but not to the extent that inhibits growth in our community... ie: a "scenic vista" is nice, but we have a lot of that in the area. If protecting a "scenic vista" wins over the building of a beautiful hotel/resort on our lakefront... that is just backward. The same goes for wetlands and flood plains, Lakefront land use and woodlands to some extent. (Like "saving the trees" by the old Fletcher Motel... that is just ridiculous!
12	at least do no harm



Appendix A

Survey Results

17. In deciding to live or own property in Alpena County, how important is:				
Answer Options	Very important	Important	Not Important	Response Count
Living near water	47	20	15	82
Living near woods	33	38	9	80
Access to hunting and fishing	30	33	15	78
Clean air	56	21	0	77
Good soil for crops	22	36	17	75
Rural atmosphere	24	41	12	77
Change of seasons	40	29	11	80
Proximity to Alpena	29	39	8	76
Job location	31	29	14	74
Family nearby	29	30	21	80
Other	5	2	5	12
Other (please specify)				7
answered question				82
skipped question				18

Other (please specify)

Easy and quick access to stores and medical

Having a good career.

How the community and the people who govern respect their natural resources

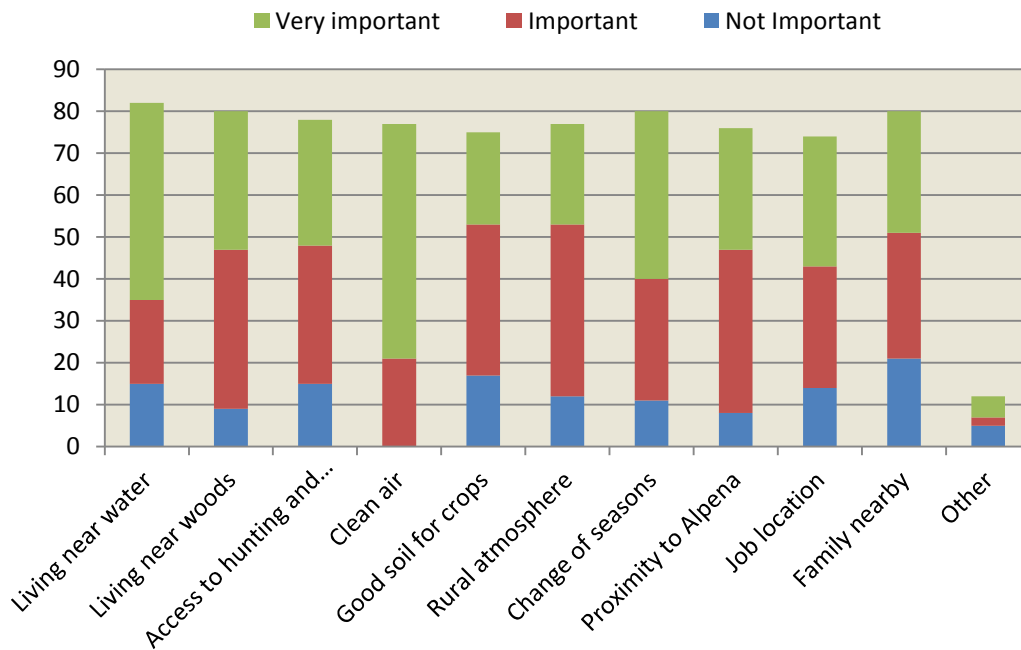
When I moved here 16 years ago, I had lost my husband and it was a better place to raise my young children alone. Crime has grown so much it makes me wonder how long before its like the big city we got away from.

Wish my family was nearby.....

Quality medical care

Affordability of property

In deciding to live or own property in Alpena County, how important is:



Appendix A

Survey Results

18. How much of a problem are these issues in Alpena County? Check one choice for each item.					
Answer Options	Not a problem	Small problem	Medium problem	Big problem	Response Count
Water quality	23	39	14	4	80
Air quality	13	35	19	13	80
Unsanitary or unsuitable business operations	6	27	16	36	85
Lack of affordable housing	54	17	11	2	84
Condition of roads	15	37	20	12	84
Lack of employment	1	8	14	66	89
Decreasing property value	3	13	27	48	91
High taxes	14	26	36	12	88
Lack of medical services	18	22	31	15	86
Lack of services for seniors	36	28	11	1	76
Lack of recreational opportunities	27	24	17	10	78
Other	2	0	1	4	7
Other (please specify)			8		
answered question			91		
skipped question			9		

Other (please specify)

Negative people

DPI smell

Poor management of hunting and fishing opportunities.

Healthy environment (air and water) important

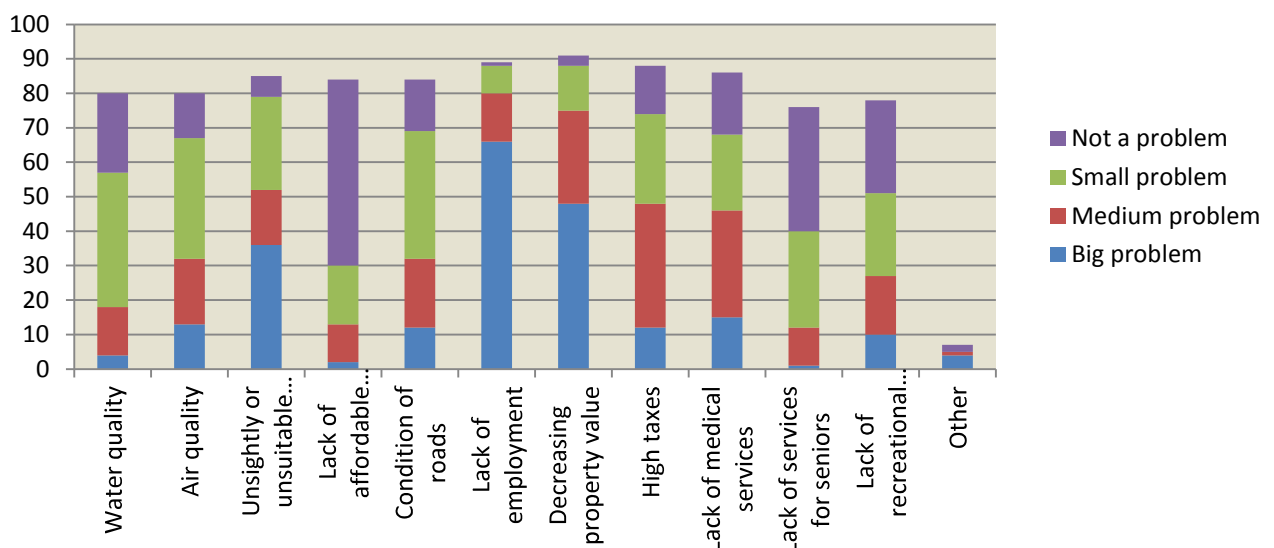
Having to leave the area for most medical problems is a BIG issue! We do not offer enough to get "great" drs here, so we have to settle for the most part. Not in every case.

ARMC ER is too small, inadequate

Homeless coming to Alpena from out of area

Stench from DPI keeps me out of Alpena

How much of a problem are these issues in Alpena County?



Appendix A

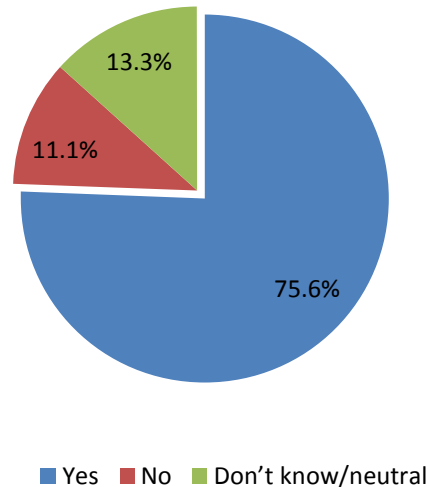
Survey Results

19. Are you satisfied with the solid waste disposal methods available to you in the County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	75.6%	68
No	11.1%	10
Don't know/neutral	13.3%	12
Explanation or comment:		6
answered question		90
skipped question		10

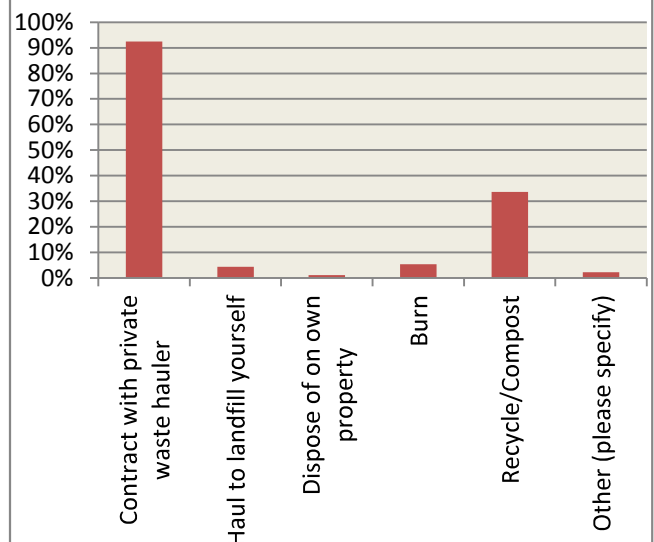
	Explanation or comment:
1	Need more recycling.
2	Recycling should be required by law. Burning of trash should be banned.
3	Would like a place for the disposal of old appliances without a large cost.
4	should be more affordable to those that are less fortunate
5	would like more available recycle places
6	Need more large disposal times, keep people from dumping in woods,

20. How do you handle your trash/solid waste?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Contract with private waste hauler	92.4%	85
Haul to landfill yourself	4.3%	4
Dispose of on own property	1.1%	1
Burn	5.4%	5
Recycle/Compost	33.7%	31
Other (please specify)	2.2%	2
answered question		92
skipped question		8

Are you satisfied with the solid waste disposal methods available to you in the County?



How do you handle your trash/solid waste?

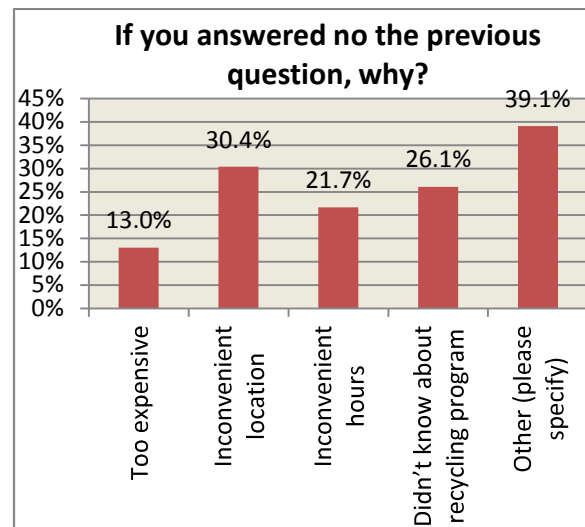
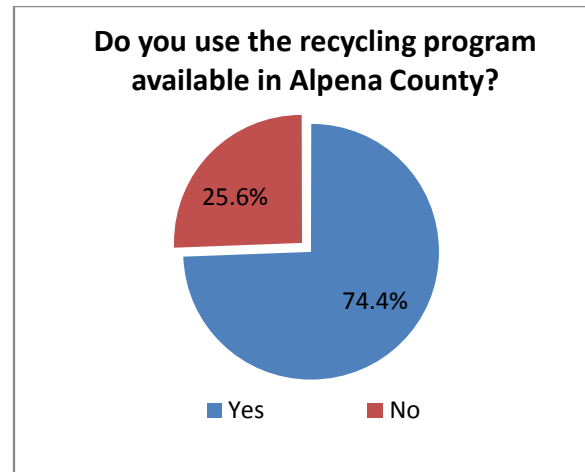


Appendix A

Survey Results

21. Do you use the recycling program available in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	74.4%	67
No	25.6%	23
Explanation or comment:		12
answered question		90
skipped question		10

	Explanation or comment:
1	Travel to Hawks to recycle glass.
2	Can't understand why you would charge citizens to recycle. It should be mandatory, as in other cities, and it should be done on citizen's regular garbage day with a specific bin for recycling. It works in other cities, but Alpena found a way to charge its citizens for something else.
3	It is a big bother and there is an added cost for me to do that. There should be no cost for recycling.
4	Great to have drop boxes in so many locations.....would like one in Hubbard Lake, however. Ossineke is closest and I think more people would use it if they saw it daily in their local community.
5	this should NOT be payed for by taxing
6	sometimes not always
7	I think I would use it if we had recycle bins and a truck that came to pick it up, like trash removal. I don't really want to sort and drive the recycling out myself.
8	not sure how it works
9	And I resent having to opt out every year. It should be that if a person wants to recycle, they arrange to participate from a private firm. The county needs to get out of the recycling business!
10	Container is often full when I try to use it in Sanborn
11	But I did not oppose the recycling program. I may need it in the future.
12	newspaper only

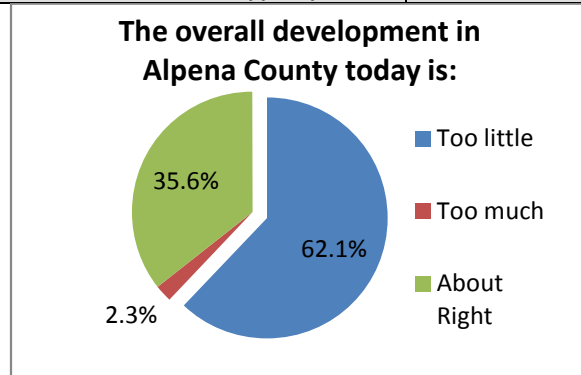


	Other (please specify)
1	Don't believe in it
2	don't live there, but do use the one in preque isle when renting a cottage
3	should not be payed for by taxes
4	Do not recycle
5	I don't have anything to recycle
6	Spouse works for waste hauler and don't really have time or don't know a lot about recycling
7	Refer to previous response.
8	Lazy!
9	never got into the habit

Appendix A

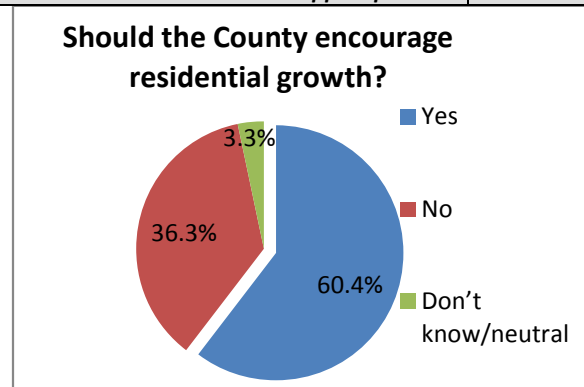
Survey Results

22. The overall development in Alpena County today is:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too little	62.1%	54
Too much	2.3%	2
About Right	35.6%	31
Why?		11
answered question		87
skipped question		13



	Why?
1	Would more improve the economy?
	Instead of working to improve what we have, you want to build or bring in other companies, that then shut down what we have, again, leaving more vacant buildings. Work with what is here!!
2	
3	We need more jobs.
	We need more development to bring jobs. Need to develop out US 23 south....eliminate one vacant motel and close the other that is a eyesore....both at Bear Point Road.
4	
5	Need to attract more businesses or industry
	there is never newly paved roads just grading gravel
6	OVER and OVER is a big waste
	Alpena needs to create jobs and not cater to the senior citizens
7	
8	no jobs
	Could use more small business or light industry
9	
10	But development needs to be oriented to population needs first, tourist second.
11	not enough jobs

23. Should the County encourage residential growth?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	60.4%	55
No	36.3%	33
Don't know/neutral	3.3%	3
Why or why not?		17
answered question		91
skipped question		9

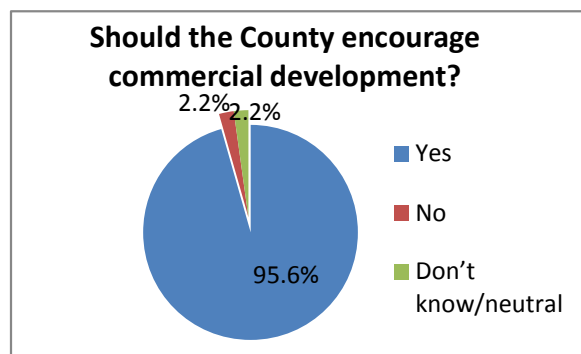


	Why or why not?
1	How many homes are vacant now?
	To help ease the burden of current residents to maintain infrastructure.
2	
3	It is growing slowly. We have less to offer because people can't afford better.
4	How many homes are currently vacant in the county?
5	Unsold homes currently flooding market
6	there is enough housing stock
	Because the area cannot support the citizens we have now. Too many unemployed citizens, too many lazy ones who expect/feel they are owed something and expect/feel they should be paid for laziness.
7	
8	We need young families to stay in our area/this will grow our schools
9	More residents means a larger tax base
10	Too many vacant homes now
11	many vacant city homes
12	look around
13	Too many empty homes now!
14	JOBS-building trades
	We have to grow in order to keep money coming into our community.
15	
16	Many empty homes in area, no employment to support growth
17	as long as it doesn't cost taxpayers any \$\$

Appendix A

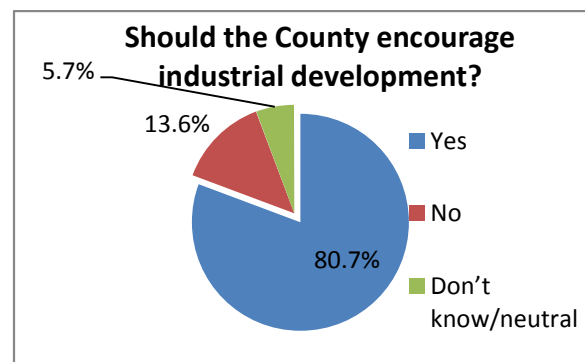
Survey Results

24. Should the County encourage commercial development?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.6%	86
No	2.2%	2
Don't know/neutral	2.2%	2
Why or why not?		15
answered question		90
skipped question		10



	Why or why not?
1	Clean commercial development
2	Same as above, and create better job opportunities.
3	But, only if it bring money into the community and gives workers a good wage
4	yes, its needed for growth, but we have to find a way to work with the buildings we have here. Too many closed buildings, abandoned homes and property.
5	jobs
6	Because it creates jobs.
7	Jobs and diversification of shopping/services
8	would mean more jobs and more people paying taxes
9	cause we have room
10	jobs
11	Yes Big Time... Help bring jobs to Alpena and Northern Michigan
12	But should address current empty buildings-tear them down
13	JOBS-service industry
14	This will bring more jobs to Alpena.
15	As long as it is environmentally friendly. There are already too many polluters in the area.

25. Should the County encourage industrial development?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	80.7%	71
No	13.6%	12
Don't know/neutral	5.7%	5
Why or why not?		18
answered question		88
skipped question		12

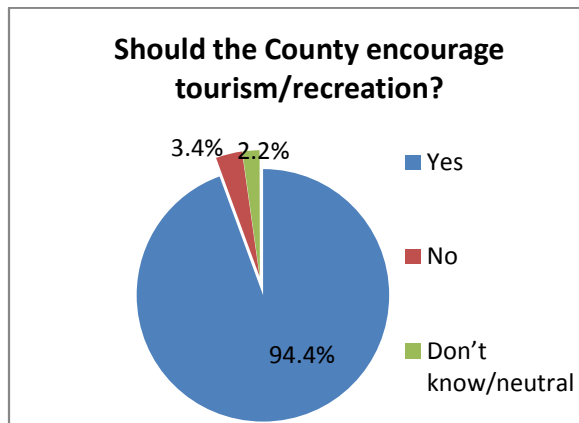


	Why or why not?
1	But not on the water
2	Again clean
3	Same as above, and create better job opportunities.
4	Clean industries. No ifs or buts - industries and construction that promises to restore the environment but can't quite get to it or pay a fine instead.
5	jobs
6	Because it creates jobs.
7	Jobs
8	same as above
9	yes only in industrial zones
10	jobs
11	And help get here! Develop more areas for industrial parks and make it easy for industry to move and settle here.
12	JOBS-historic middle-class lifestyle
13	We have a lot of this already.
14	Declining sector, this area is uncompetitive when compared nationally
15	something with a future... yes
16	Particularly light industry
17	see previous comment
18	jobs

Appendix A

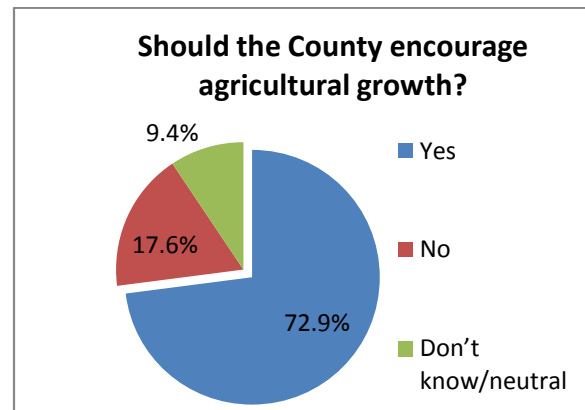
Survey Results

26. Should the County encourage tourism/recreation?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	94.4%	84
No	3.4%	3
Don't know/neutral	2.2%	2
Why or why not?		12
answered question		89
skipped question		11



	Why or why not?
1	But don't go overboard
2	Passive recreation. No ATV, wave runners, and we have enough snowmobiles.
3	\$\$\$
4	Jobs
5	If you attract tourists, it helps the economy and may encourage people to relocate here
6	beautiful surroundings
7	Help promote and encourage tourism! Make our community user friendly to recreation people more like the UP! We have very little to loose by being a warm and inviting friendly community where people can come and "Pay To Play!"
8	recreation, somehing for the younger generation to do
9	tourism is only temporary income and low paying jobs
10	We have a beautiful area and tourists equal income for area services providers
11	We have a BEAUTIFUL place, why not share it?
12	Absolutely! This is the gateway to future residential and commercial growth. But we need the decision makers.

27. Should the County encourage agricultural growth?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	72.9%	62
No	17.6%	15
Don't know/neutral	9.4%	8
Why or why not?		6
answered question		85
skipped question		15

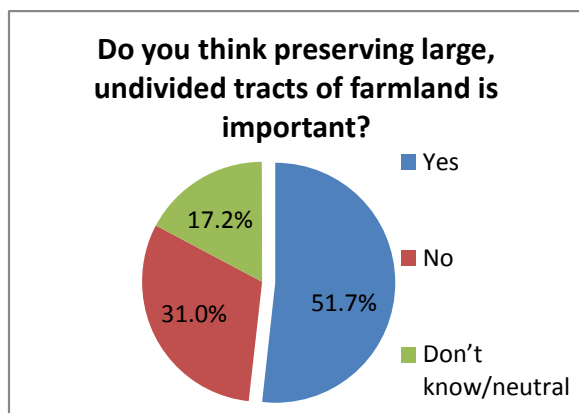


	Why or why not?
1	Agribusiness is one of the largest areas of growth for tourism.
2	Less dependence on importing food crops.
3	Locavorism. Buying food that is grown in the area is safer and healthier.
4	Jobs, food
5	Why not, we need farmers and their crops and animals
6	I think if there are people who want to do this, why not?

Appendix A

Survey Results

28. Do you think preserving large, undivided tracts of farmland is important?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	51.7%	45
No	31.0%	27
Don't know/neutral	17.2%	15
Why or why not?		6
answered question		87
skipped question		13

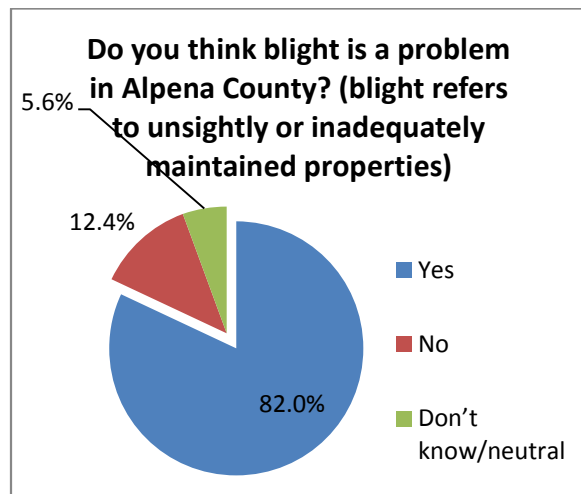


Why or why not?	
1	Haven't researched it enough yet.
2	Absolutely essential to every facet of what we think is important, that is what makes Alpena County what it is
3	We must remain diverse in case of catastrophes.
4	There are plenty of other places for residences other than breaking up farmland. Farmers need large pieces, not small pieces here and there.
5	Once existing farmland is gone, it is pretty much gone for ever. I for one loved seeing the Amish move into Sanborn Township. They immediately began utilizing under-used farmland for its historic use. This farmland once again became economically useful for something other than Tax Revenue only.
6	We do not have a great growing season

Appendix A

Survey Results

29. Do you think blight is a problem in Alpena County? (blight refers to unsightly or inadequately maintained properties)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	82.0%	73
No	12.4%	11
Don't know/neutral	5.6%	5
Indicate area of blight:		39
answered question		89
skipped question		11



	Indicate area of blight:
1	Alpena Township - US 23 south of town
2	Alpena Township
3	Alpena Township
4	Waterfront areas
5	All up and down US23 vacant homes and businesses are visible. Lawns not cut, signs still up on businesses that have been vacant for almost a decade (or more).
6	Wilson Township (M-32 corridor) - very unsightly
7	There are many vacant and abandoned properties along US23.
8	Blight ordinances are not enforced. It's getting out of control.
9	Are there any blight ordinances in Alpena County? If there are, they aren't being enforced. Who does the enforcement?
10	Does the county have anyone that addresses these issues? Blighted properties are seen by first time/repeat visitors to the area and this is the impressions that they have of Alpena County.

11	Though the sinkholes have been much improved
12	Old motel on 23 South is an eye sore coming into Alpena from the South
13	Too many to list! Look at all the abandoned buildings, homes, private land. It looks terrible, and yet, we want to bring in "new" companies and families. Residents and business owners need to be responsible and held accountable for cleaning up what is already here before we bring in new ones to do the same thing.
14	Uncut lawns at both homes & businesses. Uncollected or piled up rubbish in and around both residential and commercial properties. This is what visitors see when they come into Alpena. Not a pretty sight!
15	Along all stretches of US23, giving visitors a very bad impression of Alpena County.
16	It sure is in Alpena Township!
17	23S and some of the stores/buildings on Chisholm
18	The main drag of US23 both north and south of the city.
19	neighborhoods around Chisholm; some neighborhoods on north side; east side of Chisholm between 7th & 10th
20	North side, trailer parks, areas around the county are spread out. It depends on the slobbs living there.
21	They are here and there all over the county.....fencing is not the answer. Clean up is. I realize clean up is expensive so should be allowed at a slow, progressing rate. Much can be done by just cleaning up the recyclable materials (iron, tin, plastics)....sorting, straightening, piling lumber or metal. Cut the weeds/deters mice
22	Empty and vacant, junky looking properties on US23 both north and south of the city of Alpena
23	your property is YOUR property
24	I think we have some areas that need work, but overall not too bad!
25	US 23 South old motel and Dunkin Donuts
26	I do believe this has improved; however, there are a lot of poor individuals who cannot afford to repair/maintain their homes. We also have a lot of vacant/bank-owned homes due to housing market in Alpena County.
27	Almost everywhere you look in Alpena Township. People have crap lying all around their yards, empty businesses. Especially up and down US23. Aren't there any blight ordinances in the township? If there are, why aren't they being enforced?
28	Need to enforce ordinances. All unused and abandoned buildings need to be taken down or kept in a compliant condition.
29	US23 mainly in Alpena Township (both north & south of Alpena City)

Appendix A

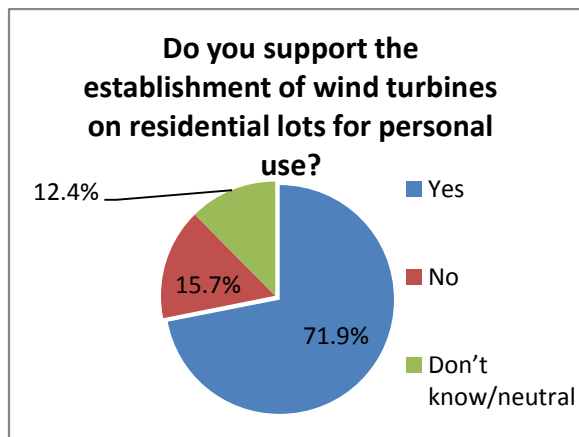
Survey Results

30	businesses located when approaching Alpena city area
31	All up and down US23, empty decaying buildings, uncut grass.
32	a little bit on the old north side
33	HUGE PROBLEM! Abandoned Motels on US-23 South, Lake Front property owners on US-23 (motels, mini golf, bowling alley, need to look much nicer, they look run down), Property on Fletcher Street on the river that is empty and horrible looking, Houses (abandoned home on 4th Ave in between Maple and Lewis, I'm sure there are several other, but that is the one in my neighborhood), Empty businesses on Chisholm, Naylor's, The Hardware store that is "for sale."
34	Large numbers of empty or abandoned businesses on US23 both North & South of Alpena City. Many homes on US23, from Squaw Bay to city limits. As visitors come into area, these are the (first) impressions they have of Alpena, both city and county.
35	US23 South is the main entry to City of Alpena. Could be much more attractive.
36	City of Alpena – Northside Alpena Township
37	Truckey Road along the bike trail has some huge "unsightly" areas. Burned homes or dilapidated homes sit empty far too long before being torn down.
38	US 23 S (south of Squaw Bay, trailers) Long Rapids Road (past Wyndham) Lots of junky yards out that way. Does Alpena Twp even see the problem?
39	Sanborn township, specifically property owned by Frey on State st, township supervisor won't do anything.

Appendix A

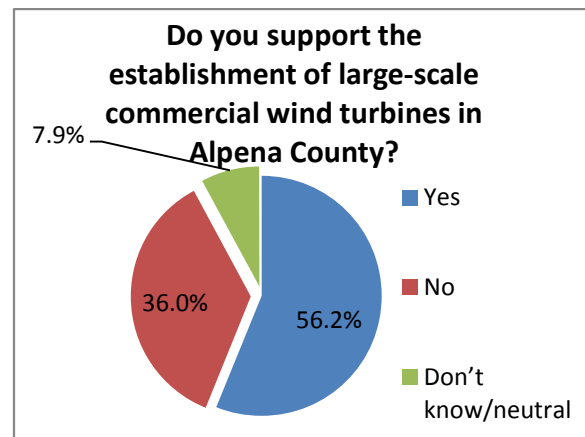
Survey Results

30. Do you support the establishment of wind turbines on residential lots for personal use?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	71.9%	64
No	15.7%	14
Don't know/neutral	12.4%	11
Why or why not?		10
<i>answered question</i>		89
<i>skipped question</i>		11



	Why or why not?
1	Rural areas
2	Good clean energy source.
3	Noise
4	Only if the residence is located on acreage.
5	rural yes, city no
6	Within limits
7	Within zoning restrictions.
8	Would need to know more about them...noise, any other problems.
9	Not sure what it would involve or how big they would be
10	Noise, dangerous, not economically feasible

31. Do you support the establishment of large-scale commercial wind turbines in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	56.2%	50
No	36.0%	32
Don't know/neutral	7.9%	7
Why or why not?		10
<i>answered question</i>		89
<i>skipped question</i>		11

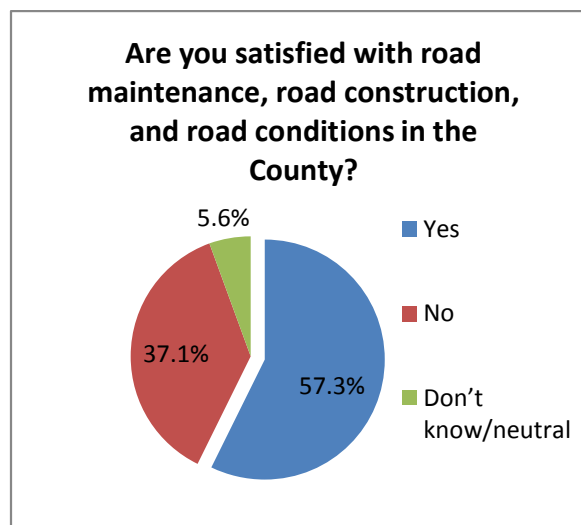


	Why or why not?
1	Good clean energy source.
2	need more info
3	If it helps give the citizens a choice in power and possibly reduce the rates.
4	Energy and jobs. As long as they are not too noisy. Located in a place away from residential/depending on how much noise they generate.
5	It would provide a source of electricity to use or sell plus it befits those that rent their property for the installations.
6	Yes if it bring jobs, and increases tax revenues
7	clean energy-love it!
8	If we can find an area where they will work without interfering with residents and if the residents will benefit from them.
9	Not perfected yet. Cost vs benefit
10	waste of taxpayers \$\$

Appendix A

Survey Results

32. Are you satisfied with road maintenance, road construction, and road conditions in the County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	57.3%	51
No	37.1%	33
Don't know/neutral	5.6%	5
Explanation or comment:		15
answered question		89
skipped question		11



	Explanation or comment:
1	Need new bridge on Bagley Street for pedestrians, bikes, and snowmobiles.
2	winter road maintenance could be better; grading of gravel roads could happen more often
3	I believe the Road Commission is working with all local governments to share in road projects.
4	Some roads are in dire need of repair but I know the local road commissions don't have the money. If residents want their roads fixed, they either have to pass a millage, get on their state/federal reps. or pass an assessment.
5	No we need lots of work there, but we all know that takes money we just don't have
6	Seems like some projects are a waste like Herron Road south of M32
7	Several roads are in need of repair. I do not like when seal coating is used. This seems to be the "cheap" way to fix roads here.
8	Road conditions are horrible. The city is constantly patching roadways where the water mains create

	holes.
9	Current roads deteriorating from heavy trucks using our roads.
10	need more paved roads
11	NEED 24 hour SNOW REMOVAL! Not starting at 5 and work their way out from town.
12	Unpaved roads in Sanborn Township are in need of more grading. Many miles were improved with crushed limestone over the last few years and that has helped, but grading a road once in spring and once in fall creates a lot of chuckholes, chatter bumps, etc...
13	Most roads have lots of pot holes
14	Do not like sealcoat surfaces; asphalt is so much better. Trucks on side roads damage roads quickly.
15	Could be improved

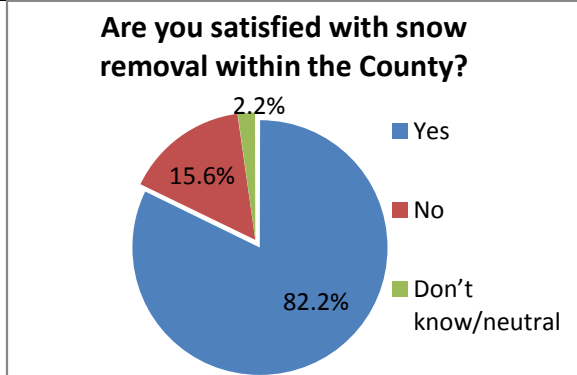
33. Road you would like to see paved:

- Weiss Rd
- Emerald Acre subdivision in Lachine was paved and let go
- Herron Road Between M-32 and Long Rapids Rd
- Misery Bay Road
- Wayne Rd
- Wayne road is a real mess
- Roads leading to El Cajon Beach Rd.
- Wayne Road needs repaving badly
- Werth
- Maple Grove road
- Grant street
- Maple Grove gravel roads in the township of Alpena
- Long Lake Road
- Herron Road, M-32 to Long Rapids Road.
- Grant St
- Dawson Street (also needs sidewalks and curbs)
- Indian Reserve Road
- Herron Rd
- Gutches Rd
- Bloom Rd
- Any gravel city road.
- Hubert Rd from US-23 to Spruce Rd
- North Point Shores Rd
- Weiss Rd.
- I think Hamilton, between US 23 and French will need new asphalt soon.
- Wayne Road
- Bare Pointe Area
- Bean Creek Road
- Boilore Road
- Beaver Lake Rd
- Woodward Ave
- Indian Reserve (Werth to M-32)
- Long Lake area
- Grover Rd

Appendix A

Survey Results

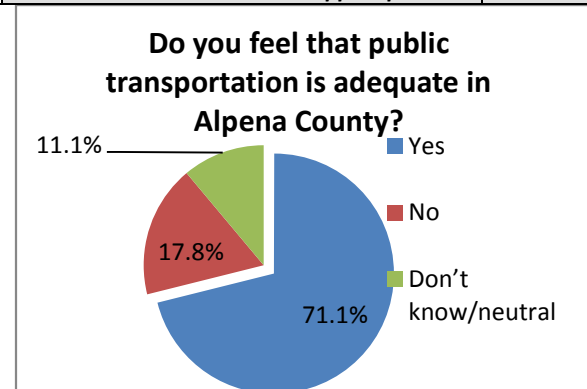
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	82.2%	74
No	15.6%	14
Don't know/neutral	2.2%	2
Explanation or comment:		16
answered question		90
skipped question		10



	Explanation or comment:
1	Decline in some services - get out late on some.
2	But we live on US 23 which gets first service
3	for the most part it is good; it is controlled by budgets
4	have had 2 mailboxes broken due to county plow
5	very good snow removal
6	Limited funding prohibits plowing as in the past...
7	They do a very good job. However, would like a little left on the shoulders for snowmobiles. They buy lots of gas and food but cannot run in the county due to gravel on shoulders. I would like to ride from my house to have a pizza/burger and back but cannot unless fresh storm/before cleanup
8	Roads need to be kept as free of snow and ice as possible as the consequences of cutting back these services will cost lives.
9	Plow when not needed & need to make a pass on all roads in major storm before going up & down 23/32
10	Although the pinch could be felt last winter and that was a mild one.
11	The farther You go from the city, the less attention the roads get. Too much dependency on State Grant funds so those roads get first and often only plowing.
12	if you cut back as you say you want to, it will be a huge problem
13	2-3 days to plow roads after a storm is unacceptable.

14	Usually it is okay. Not as much of a concern for me now that I am retired. I DO wish that drivers would try harder not to bury my driveway after I have obviously spent a great deal of time clearing it.
15	Very little effort is made to assist homeowners, many of which are limited in their ability to remove snow from their driveways. The most common scenario is that after snow has been cleared, a plow comes through filling the drive with snow again.
16	Side roads take too long

35. Do you feel that public transportation is adequate in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	71.1%	64
No	17.8%	16
Don't know/neutral	11.1%	10
Explanation or comment:		7
answered question		90
skipped question		10

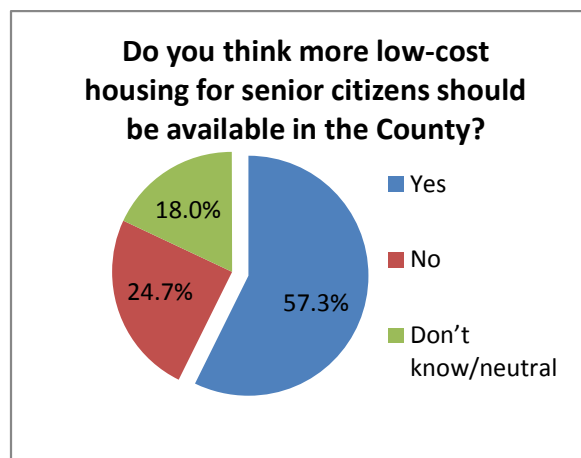


1	Need established routes.
2	Bussing hours should be extended for nightlife in the City of Alpena and they need to establish routes for college students.
3	Too many empty buses, too long of a wait to be picked up. Our community deserves better.
4	need more in the township
5	Have not used TBT much.
6	Only available in alpena, don't know aboutmit
7	We need to support this 100%

Appendix A

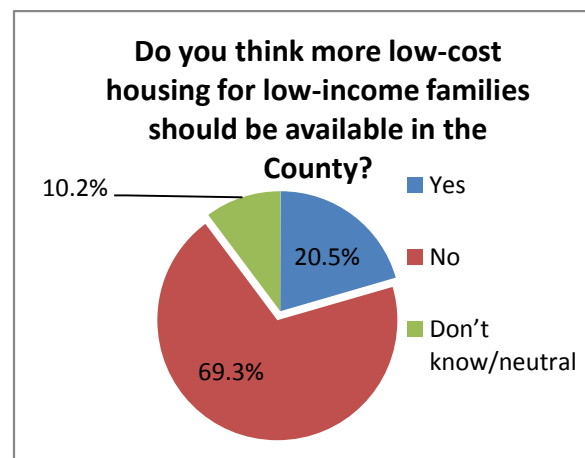
Survey Results

36. Do you think more low-cost housing for senior citizens should be available in the County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	57.3%	51
No	24.7%	22
Don't know/neutral	18.0%	16
Explanation or comment:		8
answered question		89
skipped question		11



	Explanation or comment:
1	Population is aging.
2	The baby boomers are going to increase the need
3	housing is already fairly low-cost
4	I believe there is enough
5	Need to provide more for younger generation
6	I'm not familiar with what is currently available at this time.
7	Seems like it could be helpful, but I am not sure if need exceeds supply.
8	Don't know what is available now

37. Do you think more low-cost housing for low-income families should be available in the County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.5%	18
No	69.3%	61
Don't know/neutral	10.2%	9
Explanation or comment:		11
answered question		88
skipped question		12

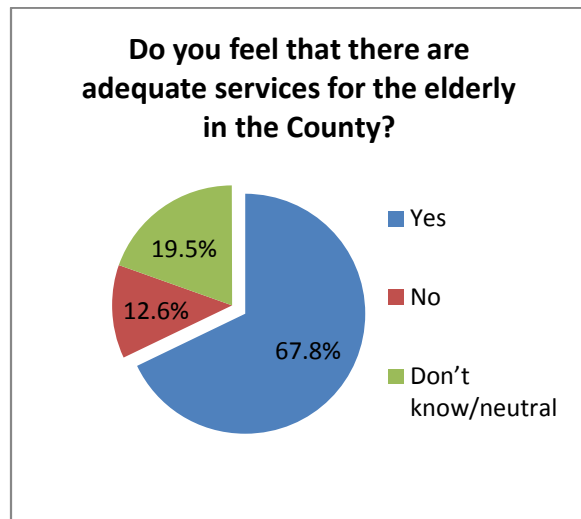


	Explanation or comment:
1	Not unless you want more low income families
2	That's just what we need, more unemployed people squatting in homes that they turn into a ghetto
3	Make use of what we have--improve what is out there so people don't refer to them as the "projects". This is a low income community - give them some pride in where they live and maybe they will be more community minded.
4	Too much low cost housing now.
5	The Sunrise Mission and other places receiving State money bring to many people in to bring up their quotas. Don't encourage people who won't work or contribute to the city/county to live here.
6	There already is enough
7	well if we had more decent job opportunities, that would not be necessary
8	if it's not lumped together as housing unit, such as the one on Ripley and Fair
9	low income housing brings more crime. We have less police now
10	Again, not sure if need exceeds supply.

Appendix A

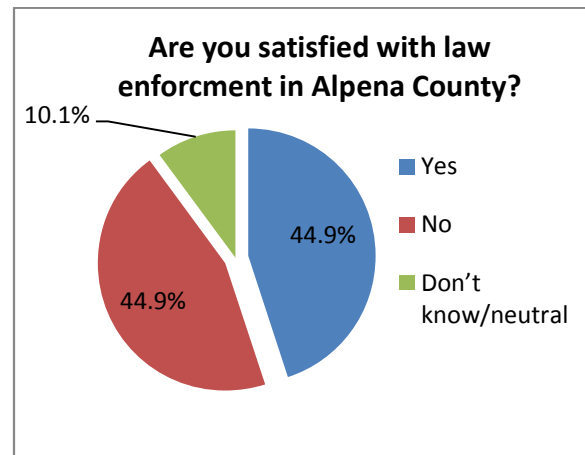
Survey Results

38. Do you feel that there are adequate services for the elderly in the County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	67.8%	59
No	12.6%	11
Don't know/neutral	19.5%	17
Explanation or comment:		3
answered question		87
skipped question		13



Explanation or comment:	
1	Need senior recreation: bocce, horse shoes, croquet
2	more than enough
3	Too much

39. Are you satisfied with law enforcement in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	44.9%	40
No	44.9%	40
Don't know/neutral	10.1%	9
Explanation or comment:		50
answered question		89
skipped question		11



Explanation or comment:	
1	Not enough road patrols after 11 pm
2	The State has failed in supporting local law enforcement. Secondary road patrol funds have been cut. We need more local law enforcement. State spend millions of dollars for a handful of troopers going to large cities, waste of money and not directed correctly.
3	We have needs not being met and keep hiring idiots - someone who knew someone. Think outside of the box.
4	Eliminate HUNT - it wastes money and resources
5	Hate HUNT
6	Not enough officers to deter crime.
7	have not had any personal experience
8	Not enough police on streets to combat rising crime. They're all at the courts providing protection for the judges. Who by the way must have more of a right to be protected than the rest of the voting public.
9	Not enough officers on road to keep up with rising crime.

Appendix A

Survey Results

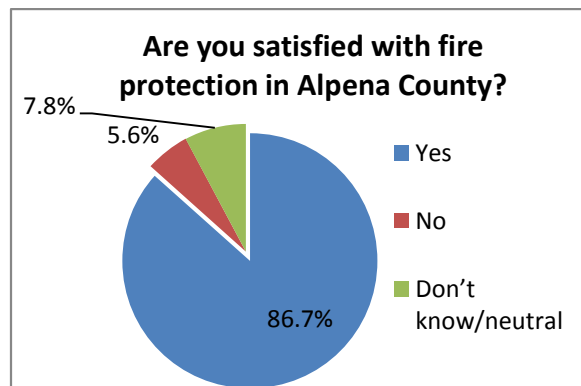
10	Not enough officers on road to deter crime
11	Not satisfied with quantity of sheriff's deputies working the roads, preventing crime.
12	I only see county police cars parked at either the jail or at one of the courts, never patrolling our roads
13	No cars on at night
14	Due to insufficient numbers of officers on street, amount of, and severity of, crime on increase.
15	Not in the quality, only in the quantity.
16	I think Steve Kieliszewski has done wonders to clean up the Sheriff's Dept! Kudos to him! Now, if he could do the same for the State Police, we would be in a better situation.
17	Crime is on rise and commissioners doing nothing to prevent it
18	The Sheriff is allowing the courts and the commissioners to interfere with his ability to protect the citizens who voted for him.
19	Need to see more police presence on the roads to deter crime.
20	Take some of the deputies from the airport where they're not needed and put them on the streets fighting the increasing crime in the county.
21	I don't see any police patrols
22	10pm and all the city cops are in the station.
23	Need to see more police officers on road to combat increasing crime.
24	Not enough deputies on road patrol.
25	Unfortunately their budget shrinks. We need more officers on patrol at night/during the weekends. When you have 1 deputy/car on duty at night/weekend and something happens at the opposite end of the county the citizen needing the help suffers.
26	Have not had to call/don't know response time.
27	Not enough police on road to stop crime from increasing
28	too many. hunt is not needed in this small county, seems like a power struggle to me
29	just need to see more Deputies
30	I do believe the City and Sheriff's Dept. could become one with the size and population of this County.
31	The lack of officers on the street ia the reason crime is on the increase here. We need more patrol officers!
32	Deputies are great, just wish there were more.
33	Insufficient amount of deputies on road. EVEN Alcona County has 24 hr road patrol
34	Not enough police officers to go around
35	very professional would like to see more Deputies
36	I don't ever see Sheriff's cars on the road unless its at the jail or parked at the courts protecting the judges.

37	Not Enough Sheriff's deputies
38	Lack of road patrol-not enough deputies on road
39	WAY UNDERSTAFFED! AT ALL LEVELS.
40	Too many cutbacks, not enough coverage
41	they seem to have legal issues themselves.
42	Almost too much, maybe consolidate
43	Not enough police officers on the road
44	Not enough patrol officers working road patrol to control crime.
45	Hire more deputies and quit counting on MSP. MSP not responsible to residents as county Sheriff is!
46	Increased presence in evenings and weekends in outlying areas would be preferred
47	I think they do a great job, but the numbers of officers have been cut significantly and that causes enforcement problems
48	More emphasis on crimes with victims as opposed to victim-less "crimes" i.e. marijuana, truancy.
49	Too few officers, patrols. Stupid to have Taxes for recreation when we need more police services
50	I do not believe in the lay off of law enforcement in Alpena County

Appendix A

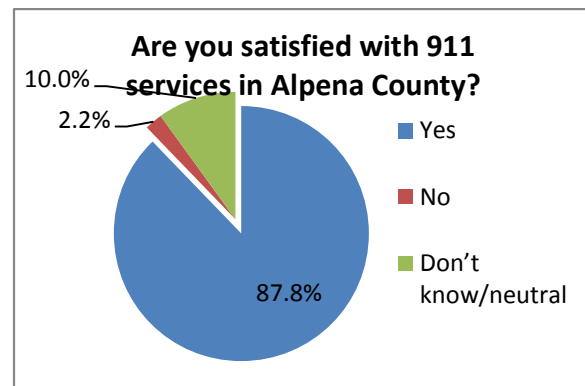
Survey Results

40. Are you satisfied with fire protection in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	86.7%	78
No	5.6%	5
Don't know/neutral	7.8%	7
Explanation or comment:		14
answered question		90
skipped question		10



	Explanation or comment:
1	Consolidation of departments is needed.
2	no personal experience
3	Alp Twp firefighters do a fantastic job with the resources available to them.
4	They will never reach my house in time but that's the risk of living where I like to live.
5	Quick responses
6	I live in the city
7	Never needed their services and hope I never will.
8	Have not had to call/don't know response time.
9	suggest sharing equipment instead of purchasing constant new and expensive equipment
10	In Alpena Township.
11	But only speaking for Alpena Township
12	combine city and township fire
13	City & Alp Township OK, all other areas lacking manpower and slow response times.
14	I think it would be beneficial for City and Township and perhaps other twps. to be combined. I know there is mutual aid, but that involves time delays. Also, Alpena Twp has delays and never knows how many, if any, firefighters will show up.

41. Are you satisfied with 911 services in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	87.8%	79
No	2.2%	2
Don't know/neutral	10.0%	9
Explanation or comment:		14
answered question		90
skipped question		10

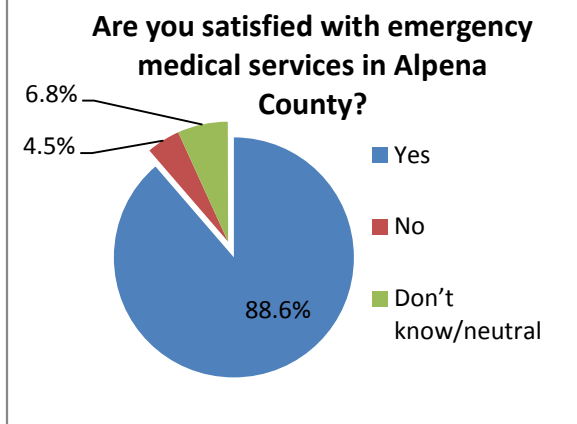


	Explanation or comment:
1	Still very short of 24/7 sheriff and State police.
2	Extremely well qualified, knowledgeable staff. Highest degree of professionalism.
3	I have heard no complaints
4	Knowledgeable, professional employees. Always helpful even in matters that are not 911 related
5	Very helpful, professional and knowledgeable. Extremely helpful with ill next door neighbor when we called 911
6	Never needed their services and hope I never will.
7	Very Fast response. Knowledgeable staff.
8	Knowledgeable, helpful & very caring.
9	Professional staff
10	Quick response when needed.
11	Very knowledgeable staff. Very helpful
12	Always answer phones quickly. Prefessional behavior. Knowledgeable staff.
13	Seem to be okay, but I have no personal experience
14	Satisfied with the services, but not what we pay. Further, too much time is spent on non-emergency calls. i.e. "lift assists".

Appendix A

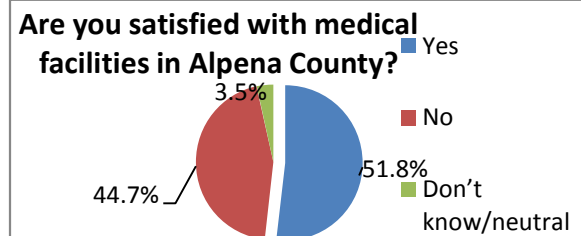
Survey Results

42. Are you satisfied with emergency medical services in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	88.6%	78
No	4.5%	4
Don't know/neutral	6.8%	6
Explanation or comment:		14
answered question		88
skipped question		12



	Explanation or comment:
1	But need to send lodge main ambulance to our areas.
2	City Ambulance/Township EMS workers are great professionals.
3	I believe they are working to correct this issue. It has improved.
4	City Ambulance is filled with qualified and exceptionally compassionate people.
5	It will get worse if the economy doesn't improve
6	City Ambulance-yes, Lack of qualified doctors-NO!
7	Had major emergency/ARMC was fast and efficient.
8	City ambulance is to be commended for their professionalism and care given to people
9	City Ambulance most professional, caring people in county.
10	City Ambulance/EMS great people. Very professional
11	ambulance service is good, ER is not
12	Need more personnel in outlying areasNot enough professionals.
13	My oldest son got excellent emergency medical services when he had meningitis. Otherwise, we have had weekend illnesses, cuts with stitches and fractures and sprains. Treatment was adequate.
14	need highly trained paramedics in areas distant from Alpena

43. Are you satisfied with medical facilities in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	51.8%	44
No	44.7%	38
Don't know/neutral	3.5%	3
Explanation or comment:		21
answered question		85
skipped question		15

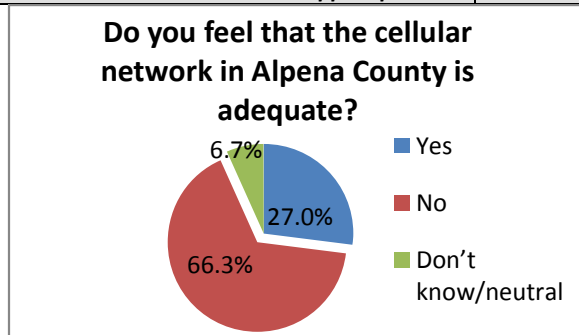


	Explanation or comment:
1	Alpena Regional Medical Center ER is a joke.
2	We are still short of heart doctors.
3	Need more medical specialists.
4	Don't like hospital
5	for the most part; more specialists would be nice
6	issues with proper diagnosing of medical conditions
7	ARMC is filled with inept and rude doctors. I do not go there except in cases of emergency's and even then, I'll leave or be transferred as soon as possible.
8	Doctors at ARMC (especially E/R) are inept & rude.
9	They have an absolute terrible reputation, not only with local citizens, but many downstate Dr.s who see where the pt. was referred from and then will roll their eyes and order a complete new set of tests.
10	But need to keep expanding line of specialists.
11	armc is excellent
12	I would like to see better facilities for treating heart patients being able to do more advanced procedures here to help those patients
13	Often, people must go out of town to see specialist.
14	Would like to see hospital continue to grow
15	ARMC is inadequate, ER is too small
16	Need more professional/high quality physicians in ER
17	ARMC has a bad reputation for a reason
18	We need to draw doctors/ nurse's/ emt's to area.
19	Mixed feelings. Fortunately, our family is healthy and has not needed a lot of medical services.
20	Could use rheumatologist, have to go to Petoskey, Rogers city

Appendix A

Survey Results

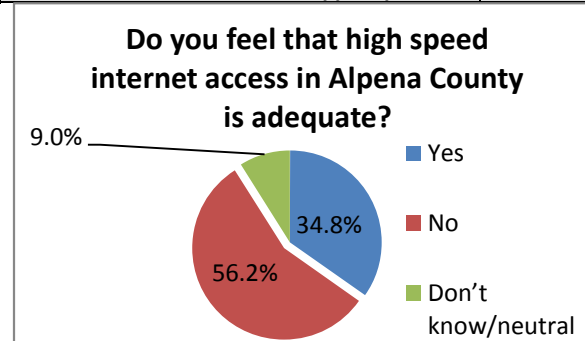
44. Do you feel that the cellular network in Alpena County is adequate?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	27.0%	24
No	66.3%	59
Don't know/neutral	6.7%	6
Explanation or comment:		17
answered question		89
skipped question		11



	Explanation or comment:
1	We still don't have 4G!
2	There are areas that do not have cell phone coverage and this is concerning - mainly the southwest corner of the county
3	I live 7 miles out of Alpena, can't get it. It stops after 4 miles. Not enough "development" in my area.
4	Its terrible!!! No service in so many areas. It should be covered in the entire county! Not just portions of it. I shouldn't have to move around my parent's home on Werth road for a signal!!! They are only 6 miles out of town!!!
5	There are still some dead areas in our rural area.
6	I have poor coverage at my home but they keep expanding with new towers.
7	Still needs improvement!
8	We still seem to have several "dead" areas in the County.
9	Need more service coverage
10	We need better service and faster connection. I moved here from Lansing and my cell service and internet connection was a lot better. I think it would be nice if a few more towers and 4G were available here.
11	Need more service coverage
12	Only 1 full service provider no 4G. Only 3 or 2G!
13	Service interruptions on a regular basis, and having

	only one carrier that services this area is unfortunate.
14	Much better now than it used to be, although I am told there are still areas with poor/no reception
15	Cell service at my house is not good
16	Poor reception in some areas, Herron, Ossineke, none at Squaw Bay
17	AT&T doesn't have 3G

45. Do you feel that high speed internet access in Alpena County is adequate?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	34.8%	31
No	56.2%	50
Don't know/neutral	9.0%	8
Explanation or comment:		10
answered question		89
skipped question		11

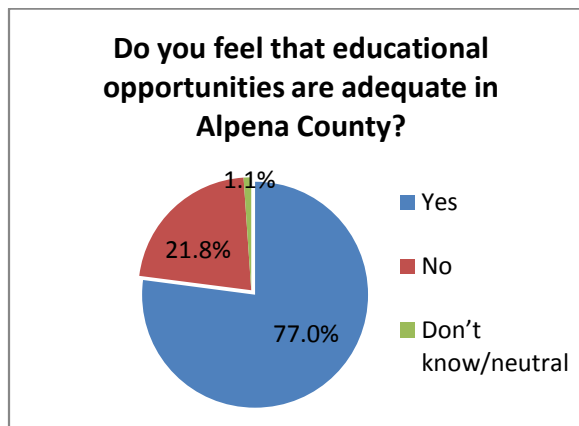


	Explanation or comment:
1	Would be nice to have choices - I think Charter is expensive
2	Don't have that either. Home is at the end of 1/5 mile driveway. \$10,000 for cable that my neighbors on the road have.
3	There is no cable tv/internet service available in many portions of Wilson Township. Have to pay for satellite or wireless internet, which is very costly
4	Rural areas don't have adequate internet yet
5	Still needs improvement!
6	need more
7	Many areas of the county cannot get inexpensive broadband.
8	but expensive
9	It's fine for me in the city, but I'm not sure about people living in outlying areas.
10	Only viable option for most is Charter and is expensive.

Appendix A

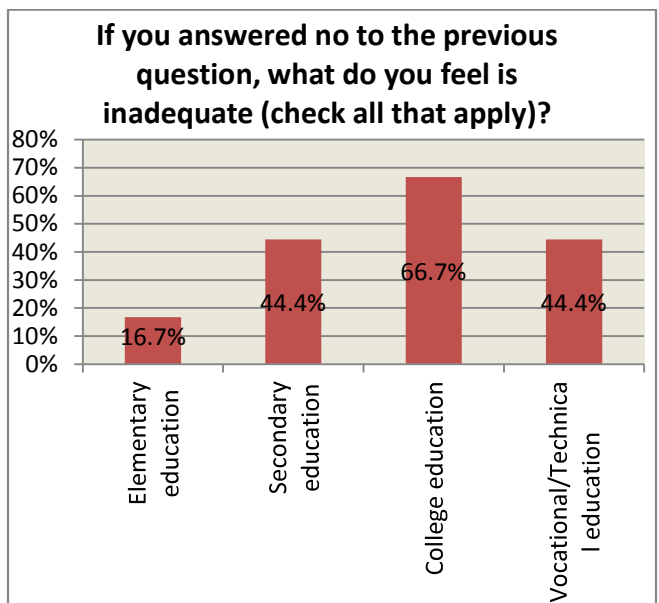
Survey Results

46. Do you feel that educational opportunities are adequate in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	77.0%	67
No	21.8%	19
Don't know/neutral	1.1%	1
answered question		87
skipped question		13



47. If you answered no to the previous question, what do you feel is inadequate (check all that apply)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Elementary education	16.7%	3
Secondary education	44.4%	8
College education	66.7%	12
Vocational/Technical education	44.4%	8
Other (please specify)		13
answered question		18
skipped question		82

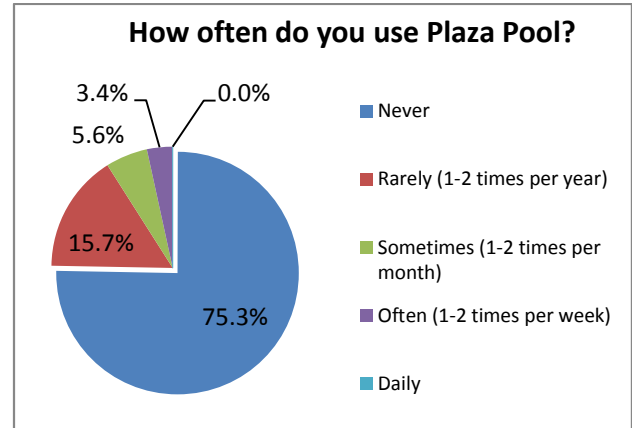
Other (Please Specify)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school system is very poorly managed. Need more options! The area I have the most concern with is the school system bringing the children in closer to Alpena. Parents choose to live where they do as to allow their children to attend rural schools in order to build better character in the students. By closing those elementary schools, choices have been taken away. more specialties at the community college level. outreach to small communities Our kids are not prepared for the "big" world for the most part. need 4 year college university here would bring immense opportunities for students, local businesses and overall growth Need to offer more opportunities More professional development opportunities. Should look at expanding to offer a full 4 year university My children got an excellent education, but we had to pick and choose teachers because several at the high school are inadequate at what they are supposed to do. ACC has lost their way. Their focus on programs and athletics has led them to making decisions such as eliminating the only counselor for the average student on campus. Today's economy, need to expand to train kids for jobs that don't need college



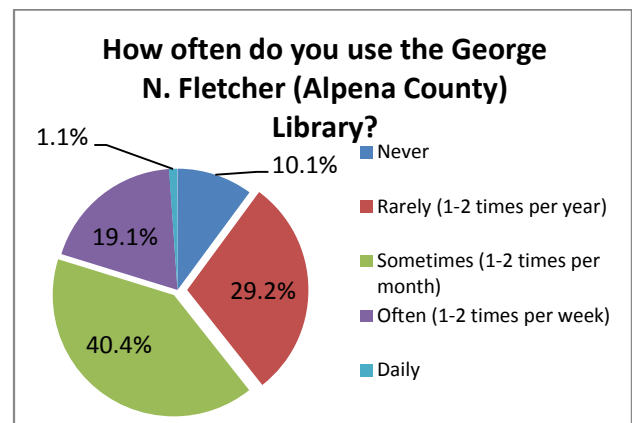
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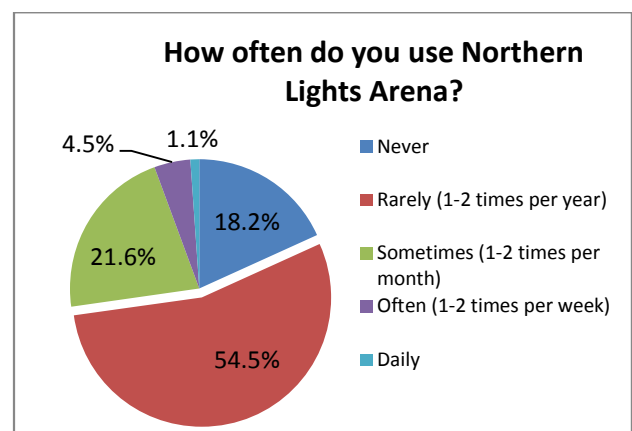
48. How often do you use Plaza Pool?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	75.3%	67
Rarely (1-2 times per year)	15.7%	14
Sometimes (1-2 times per month)	5.6%	5
Often (1-2 times per week)	3.4%	3
Daily	0.0%	0
answered question		89
skipped question		11



49. How often do you use the George N. Fletcher (Alpena County) Library?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	10.1%	9
Rarely (1-2 times per year)	29.2%	26
Sometimes (1-2 times per month)	40.4%	36
Often (1-2 times per week)	19.1%	17
Daily	1.1%	1
answered question		89
skipped question		11



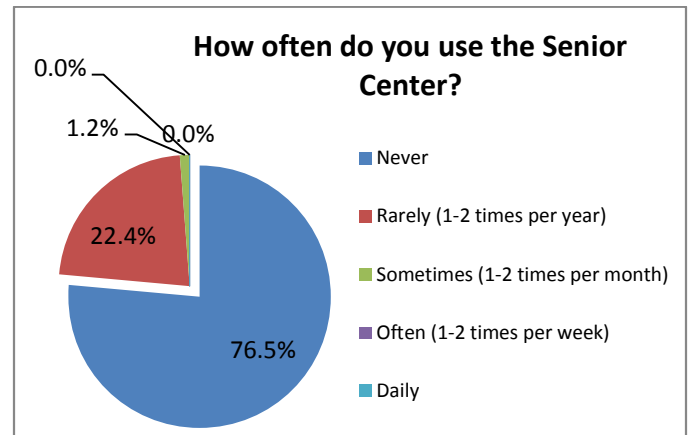
50. How often do you use Northern Lights Arena?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	18.2%	16
Rarely (1-2 times per year)	54.5%	48
Sometimes (1-2 times per month)	21.6%	19
Often (1-2 times per week)	4.5%	4
Daily	1.1%	1
answered question		88
skipped question		12



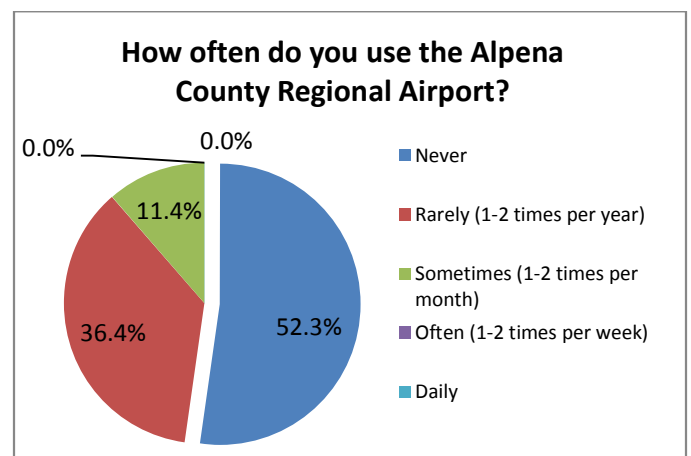
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51. How often do you use the Senior Center?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	76.5%	65
Rarely (1-2 times per year)	22.4%	19
Sometimes (1-2 times per month)	1.2%	1
Often (1-2 times per week)	0.0%	0
Daily	0.0%	0
answered question		85
skipped question		15



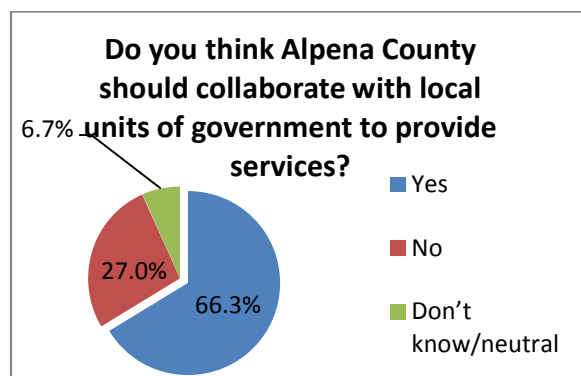
52. How often do you use the Alpena County Regional Airport?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	52.3%	46
Rarely (1-2 times per year)	36.4%	32
Sometimes (1-2 times per month)	11.4%	10
Often (1-2 times per week)	0.0%	0
Daily	0.0%	0
answered question		88
skipped question		12



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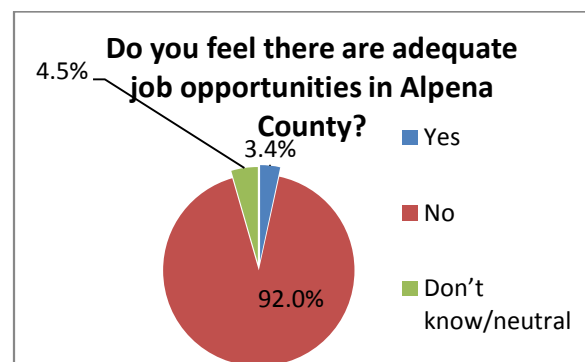
Survey Results

53. Do you think Alpena County should collaborate with local units of government to provide services?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	66.3%	59
No	27.0%	24
Don't know/neutral	6.7%	6
Explanation or comment:		10
answered question		89
skipped question		11



	Explanation or comment:
1	Can't stress this enough. Stop wasting tax dollars!
2	Exploring this would be positive. Changes should make sense and not done for the sake of change.
3	Whenever both sides go in with an open mind and find that it would work and save money.
4	working together saves money
5	absolutele
6	But not at expense of eliminating jobs
7	I don't understand this question.
8	Only to enhance services, not to reduce manpower/coverages.
9	Absolutely, I think the way that the city, county and townships cannot work together is laughable and sad
10	Alpena County should be THE governmental entity for the area. The city and townships are redundant. A county government can be a representative government for all existing entities.

54. Do you feel there are adequate job opportunities in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	3.4%	3
No	92.0%	81
Don't know/neutral	4.5%	4
Explanation or comment:		13
answered question		88
skipped question		12

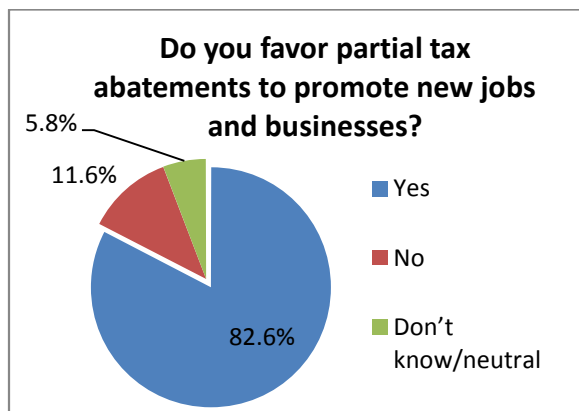


	Explanation or comment:
1	Get out of the way!
2	Lots of low paying jobs in retail. Need larger stores, health benefits.
3	There are job opportunities here?
4	Which is the major reason our crime numbers are going up.
5	Not jobs that can support families. Most are low paying small businesses....we need industry. Also need to have Besser reopen.
6	We need to make our community ready, willing, and able to invite and entice new opportunities of business and industry
7	The demographics for Alpena are not in line with the national demographics. Unemployment is too high.
8	need more employment opportunities
9	There are some, but not enough to bring more families here.
10	Our focus on manufacturing industrial jobs is not helping
11	Have not been looking, but more jobs would always be nice
12	I had an x-ray at ARMC and the tech moved here from Saginaw for the job! No one in Alpena qualified?!

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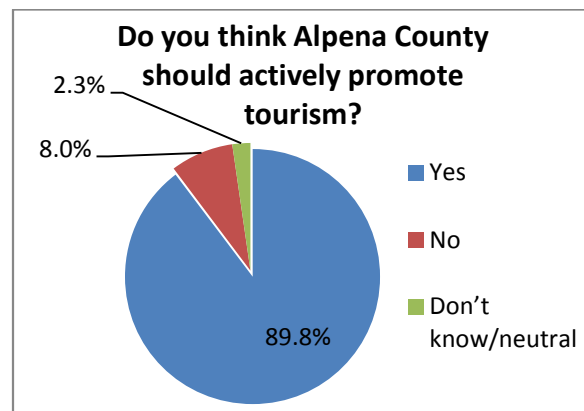
Survey Results

55. Do you favor partial tax abatements to promote new jobs and businesses?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	82.6%	71
No	11.6%	10
Don't know/neutral	5.8%	5
Explanation or comment:		9
<i>answered question</i>		86
<i>skipped question</i>		14



	Explanation or comment:
1	But someone else will have to pay more
2	But with a lot of requirements so that business doesn't harm environment, disregard ordinances, is clean, is part of community
3	Hold the companies/individuals who receive them responsible to follow through with their end of the deal.
4	If offset by jobs created
5	<i>Edited due to personal attack.</i>
6	But they need to create jobs and invest in the local property as criteria
7	AND MAINTAIN PRESENT JOBS! Take care of those who have been here. Keep them here!
8	But I would need more information about amounts and how we are affected.
9	as long as strictly controlled and enforced

56. Do you think Alpena County should actively promote tourism?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	89.8%	79
No	8.0%	7
Don't know/neutral	2.3%	2
Explanation or comment:		7
<i>answered question</i>		88
<i>skipped question</i>		12

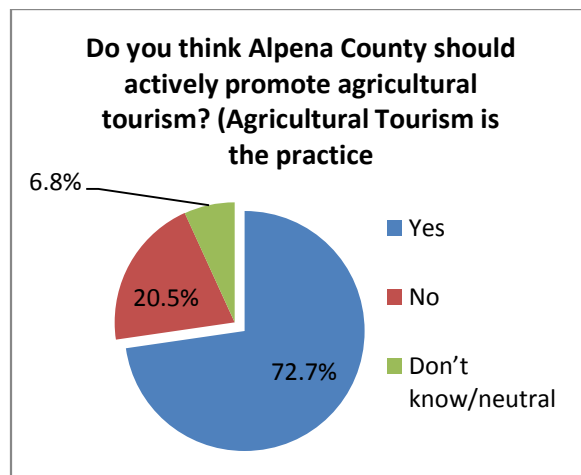


	Explanation or comment:
1	Support the CVB - don't duplicate efforts. Fund CVB.
2	We have lots to share.
3	I believe that the Chamber of Commerce should work harder to promote businesses in all areas of the County. I believe they do not know areas outside of the city or Alpena Township. Every area in Alpena County should be promoted and assisted through the Chamber.
4	people like it here, they might stay, and bring their money and make our community better
5	Just because ever county should promote anything they have...beggars can't be choosy.
6	We have a beautiful County.
7	Yes it needs all the help we can give it!

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57. Do you think Alpena County should actively promote agricultural tourism? (Agricultural Tourism is the practice of visiting an agribusiness, horticultural, or agricultural operation, including a farm, orchard, winery, greenhouse, hunting preserve, companion animal or livestock show, for the purposes of recreation, education, or active involvement in the operation).		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	72.7%	64
No	20.5%	18
Don't know/neutral	6.8%	6
Explanation or comment:		6
<i>answered question</i>		88
<i>skipped question</i>		12

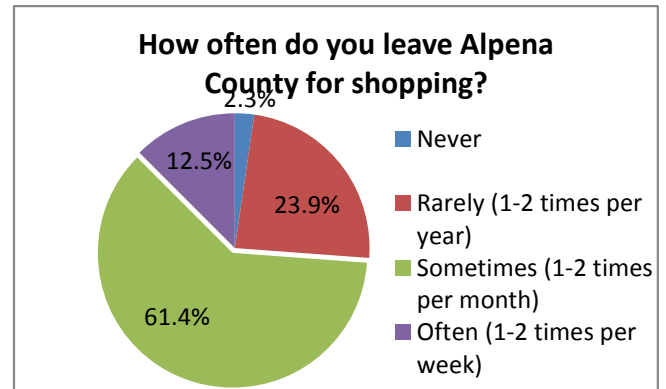


	Explanation or comment:
1	Support the CVB.
2	Essential to our community. The Chamber of Commerce should be promoting agribusiness in all areas.
3	same as above...we need anything to be considered, then decisions need to be made what can be done financially as with all considerations
4	Look at Knaebe's apple orchard. People travel from all over every year to visit there.
5	Why not give them a hand!
6	Winery tourism is what's helping Traverse City area weather downturns in economy

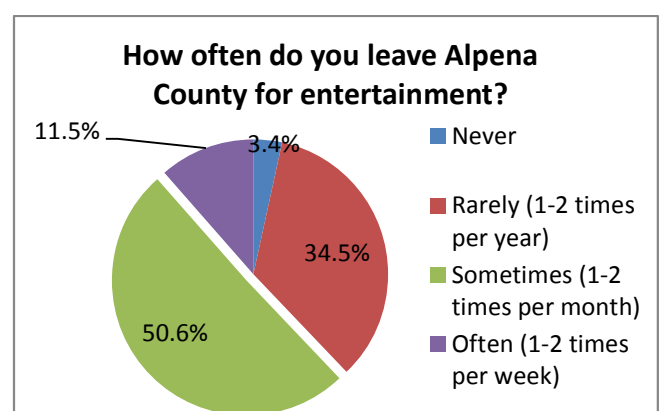
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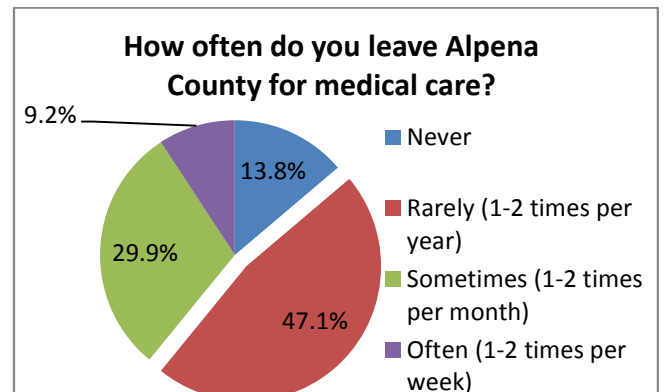
58. How often do you leave Alpena County for shopping?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	2.3%	2
Rarely (1-2 times per year)	23.9%	21
Sometimes (1-2 times per month)	61.4%	54
Often (1-2 times per week)	12.5%	11
answered question		88
skipped question		12



59. How often do you leave Alpena County for entertainment?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	3.4%	3
Rarely (1-2 times per year)	34.5%	30
Sometimes (1-2 times per month)	50.6%	44
Often (1-2 times per week)	11.5%	10
answered question		87
skipped question		13



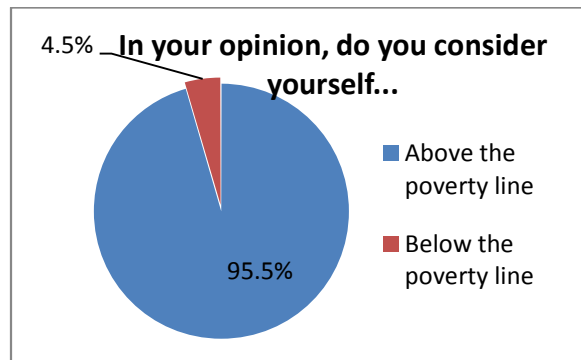
60. How often do you leave Alpena County for medical care?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never	13.8%	12
Rarely (1-2 times per year)	47.1%	41
Sometimes (1-2 times per month)	29.9%	26
Often (1-2 times per week)	9.2%	8
answered question		87
skipped question		13



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61. In your opinion, do you consider yourself...		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Above the poverty line	95.5%	84
Below the poverty line	4.5%	4
Explanation or comment:		6
answered question		88
skipped question		12



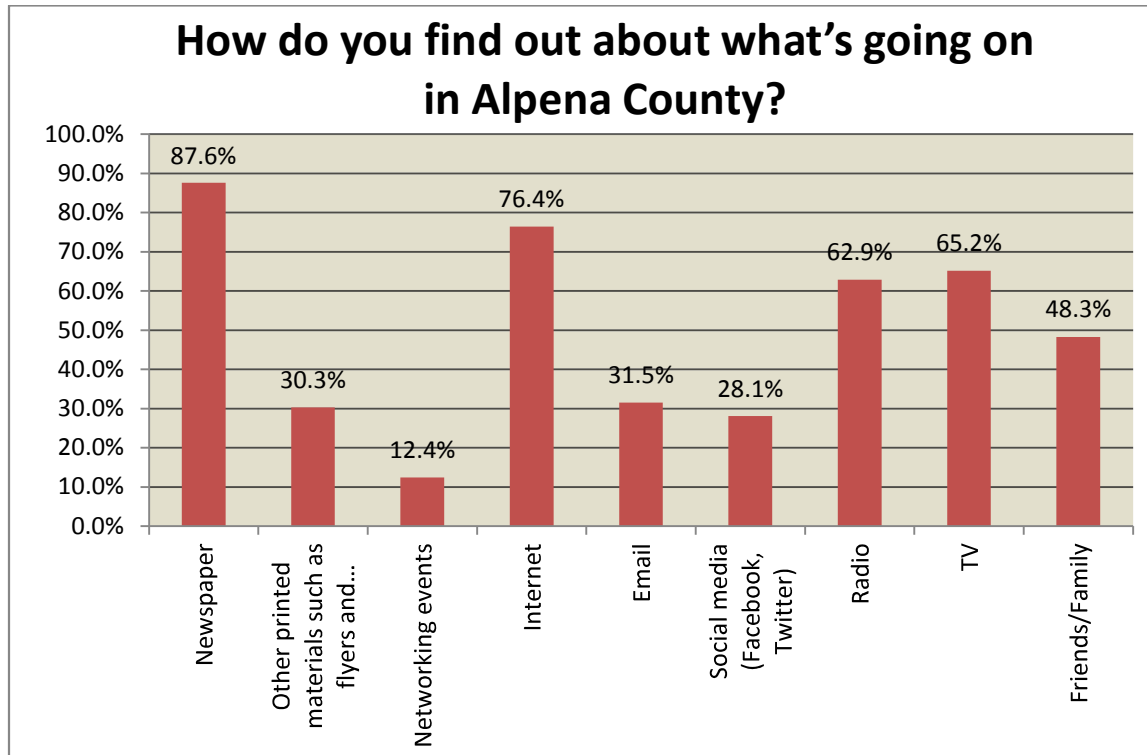
	Explanation or comment:
1	But it doesn't feel like it.
2	There is no explanation necessary, I'm a single woman in a man's world. No breaks for us in taxes, and no growth in wages.
3	Neither. I am happy where I am at and that I can still provide for my family.
4	But we are struggling to stay there with kids at college age...In the doughnut....no financial aid but paying all by ourselves is difficult even though we saved.
5	I am retired middle class, or lower middle class
6	Fixed income

How do you find out about what's going on in Alpena County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Newspaper	87.6%	78
Other printed materials such as flyers and brochures	30.3%	27
Networking events	12.4%	11
Internet	76.4%	68
Email	31.5%	28
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	28.1%	25
Radio	62.9%	56
TV	65.2%	58
Friends/Family	48.3%	43
Other (please specify)		4
answered question		89
skipped question		11

	Other (please specify)
1	Chamber of Commerce.
2	There are so many events in Alpena that you could not possibly attend a small fraction of what is offered. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful, caring community.
3	no family here, no fast internet available, listen to NPR, no TV
4	WBKB is an absolute joke for "news". Its rarely Alpena news, and if it is, it isn't anything important to the community. Its a laughing stock to visitors.

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	Please use this space to make any additional comments which might help County officials plan for the community's future:
1	Control weed growth in Thunder Bay River, control types of fertilizer used near or around water. Kill and /or harvest weeds in river to make boating possible, dredging of river should be done. Open waters would bring people to area to use river. Upper river needs cleaning - too many dead trees. Move fairgrounds. Condos on river would make the area look alive. County jail should be moved. New county jail and courthouse would save \$100'sk annually.
2	Set the bar for counties in Michigan. Do what's right for Alpena even if it's not what is popular or will make you look good. Stand behind your mistakes - own them and learn from them.
3	Kudos to the Alpena County Commissioners for the fine job you are doing.
4	The county commissioners have lost touch (and reality) with the residents that they are supposed to represent. There are no jobs, crime is rising and they want to engage in projects that are not going to benefit the community as a whole.
5	Alpena needs job opportunities for young people. We are losing are next generation because of this.
6	Question to the commissioners; Why are there twice as many officers assigned to protect an airport that few of us use, as compared to the county as a whole where my family and property is?
7	I do mail order things I can't find in Alpena - like a swimsuit in a hard to find size to use at the Plaza pool. Some clothes, better quality, and green products which aren't always available here. Try to shop locally
8	Hope drone project comes to the Alpena airport. It would certainly give this area a boost.
9	Take a good hard look at what is happening at the Alpena Sr. Center. Just because it "seems" to run well, doesn't mean it is.
10	Although the commissioners may have their eye on the future for the county, the present is being ignored. We have a large influx of unemployed through Sunrise Mission that are after a short period of time, dumped on the streets of

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	Alpena. These people are the criminals that other missions couldn't wait to get rid of so they give them a ONE WAY bus ticket to Alpena. We will soon be buried under a mound of drunks, criminals, junkies and thieves. Give us more police protection! More crime =lower property values.
11	Keep on working to get businesses into the area. Put some pressure on state representatives and congress persons to promote our efforts to get more employers.
12	Create jobs. Do something to keep people here.
13	Even though I don't use the pool, library, Northern Lights or airport very often, they are very, very important assets and I value them greatly. I just do not drive the 20 miles to Alpena very often. I fully support these assets and would NOT want to see us lose any of them.
14	The county needs to provide campgrounds with access to Lake Huron
15	The officials need to address the blight issues in the county. This affects how we as a county are perceived by tourists. One look at the general condition of the county, and they aren't coming back! It's also affecting what my home is worth, so while they're worried about the airport, or their own little fiefdom, I'm losing home value. Is there any reason that there are no blight ordinances?, or why this issue is not being addressed?
16	A place to vote on all issues via paper or internet is very important to the people
17	job growth is #1. eliminating township government
18	Just listen to the people and try harder! It's your opportunity to make a difference by working together and planning for the future. Take action now and be progressive, it's time for change. Move us forward don't be afraid to act. We are all looking for action now!! Move on it!!! Make it happen, we will all be proud!
19	Need to look at all recreation opportunities such as snowmobiles & maybe even use of golf carts in summer months
20	If a community is seen or perceived as being a haven for crime, you cannot attract businesses to the area. It's difficult enough to succeed without worrying about being ripped off because of the increasing crime.
21	The county officials seem to be focused on the airport/airbase. The amount of jobs provided there are so small that it hardly seems worth the effort. And why??? is a district court judge's safety more important than the residents of the county? To have 2 or 3 deputies assigned there because of Judge Johnson's fear is the biggest waste of county funds I can think of!
22	Expand the Sheriff's Dept, Expand Services at ARMC, Build a new and larger ER (one three times as big is required.)
23	I can't adequately express my frustration over Sunrise Mission drawing in criminals from outside of the area. If a mission downstate has a trouble maker, he/she is the 1st person that they give a one way ticket to Alpena. The mission is importing higher crime and increasing the drug problem here. These are the folks that we see passed out (mostly in the city) on the sidewalks and in the bushes at 10 or 11 in the morning. It is such a disgusting black eye on both the city and the county.
24	More cooperation with the entire US23 corridor is needed. We need to get higher income visitors to the area. We need to get people who can make a decision to site their business in NEMI to come here. Our cultural/historical/natural resources are very good. We need to raise the level in hotel/hospitality.
25	More emphasis needs to be placed on restoring a viable fishery for the average person. Very few can afford the size of boat needed to fish Lake Huron. Thunder Bay fishery must be restored to the extent that people can catch fish from shore that are just as good as the ones being caught nine miles out, i.e. walleye, perch, trout.
26	Need to promote tourism, fishing on small lakes. Places to fish without boat. Manning Hill for scenic, picnicking. These kinds of things. Advertise, tourism magazines, Midwest Living magazine.