

PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY



RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027

PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
151 EAST HURON AVENUE
ROGERS CITY, MI 49779
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Recreation Plan

PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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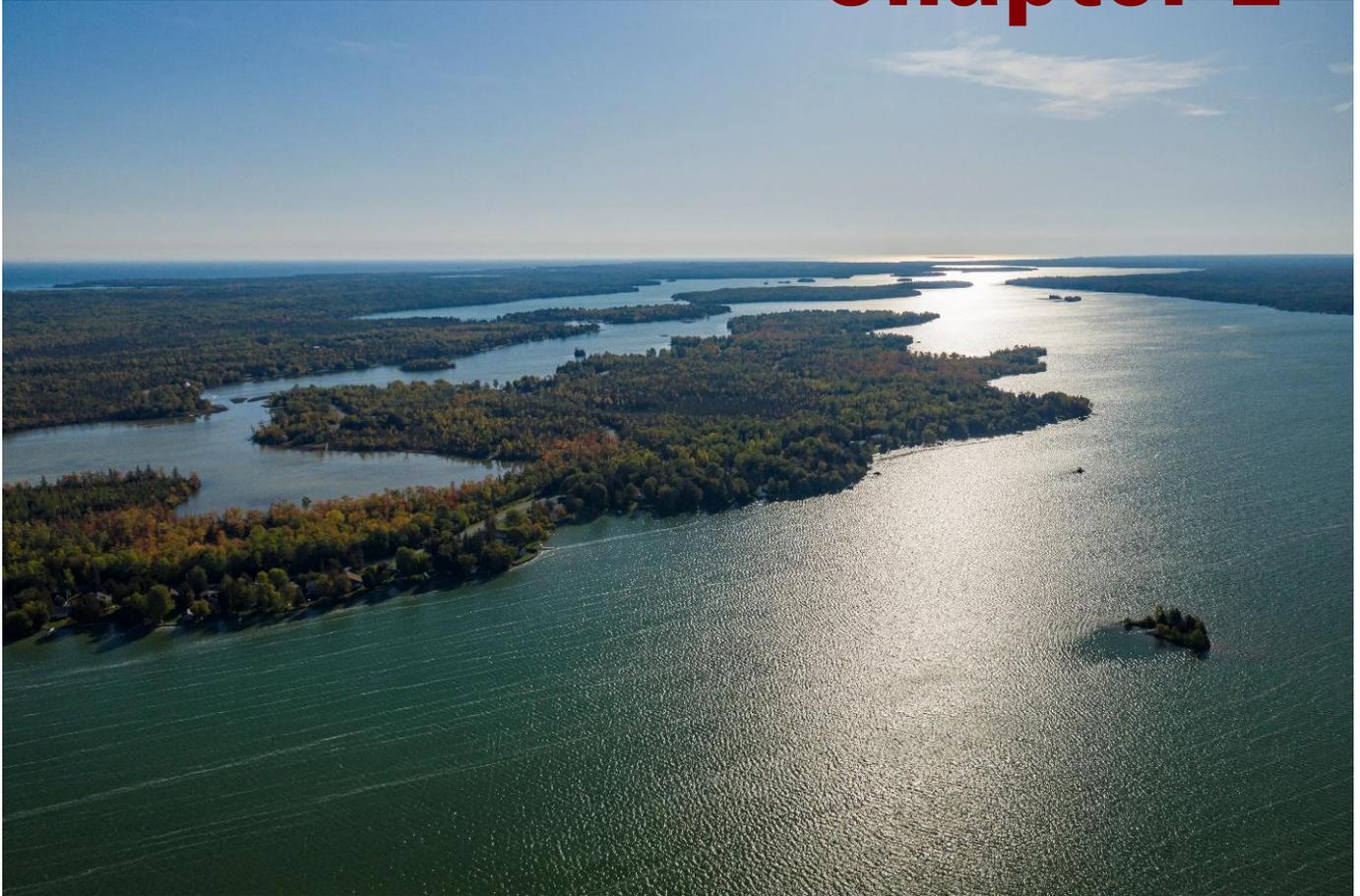
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Chapter 1



Community Description

Chapter 1 – Community Description

Introduction

Because of the recreational character of Presque Isle County and the abundance of water and forest resources, the County wishes to formally plan for recreational facilities and activities. The County's last recreational plan was adopted in January 2017 and expired in December 2022. This document is an update to that plan, specifically for Presque Isle County.

As tourism is very important to the economic well-being of Presque Isle County, the County has provided recreational facilities and services to permanent and seasonal residents and visitors. Therefore, Presque Isle County intends to continue to expand and improve these facilities and services.

A major factor in the provision of any service is the question of how projects will be funded. One possible source of funding for recreation projects is through grants available from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). To become grant eligible for MDNR funding, a community must have an approved five-year recreation plan. Components of an MDNR-approved recreation plan include:

- ❖ Community Description
- ❖ Administrative Structure
- ❖ Recreation Inventory, including accessibility assessment and grant status report
- ❖ Natural Resource Inventory (Optional)
- ❖ Description of the Planning and Public Input Processes
- ❖ Goals and Objectives
- ❖ Action Program
- ❖ Plan Adoption & Supporting Documentation

Community Location and Transportation Links

Presque Isle County is located in the northeastern portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. A location map is provided in **Figure 1-1**. The County has a land area of about 678 square miles (approximately 433,928 acres), which includes 72 miles of shoreline. Roughly triangular in shape, the County's northeast edge borders Lake Huron. Most of the County is rural in nature and is characterized by low population density. The 2020 Census registered a County population of 12,982. The City of Rogers City is the County seat and the largest incorporated community with a population of 2,850. The City of Onaway has a population of 890, while the Villages of Millersburg and Posen have populations of 169 and 270, respectively. The 14 townships within Presque Isle County vary in population from Moltke (291 persons) to Presque Isle (1,698 persons). Census figures reflect the year-round population, but the County has many seasonal

residents as well. Of the County's housing units 36.4 percent are for seasonal or recreational use, so the summertime population is much larger than in winter.

The County's geographic location is remote from the large urban areas of Michigan. From the County seat, it is a five-hour drive to Detroit, four hours to Lansing, and two and a half hours to the Bay City/Saginaw area. On the other hand, the recreation and resort areas of northern Michigan are in close proximity. Portions of Presque Isle County are well within an hour's drive of Mackinaw City and the Straits, Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Gaylord, Indian River, and Cheboygan.

Many County residents travel to work in the nearby regional employment centers of Alpena, Cheboygan, and Gaylord. Major transportation routes in the County are U.S. 23, serving the Lake Huron coast, M-65 and M-33 serving north/south traffic, and M-68 serving east/west traffic. Interstate 75 provides freeway access to the County. It is located 22 miles west of Onaway and 42 miles west of Rogers City.

FIGURE 1-1 Geographic Location Map



A Brief History of Tourism and Recreation in Presque Isle County

Tourism and recreation have been part of the fabric of Presque Isle County since the late 1800s. The Grand Lake area, located southeast of Rogers City along Lake Huron, was probably the first part of the County to actively solicit tourism businesses during the late 1800s, with several resort hotels being constructed along Grand Lake. Before the advent of good roads, tourist access was via steamboat from Lake Huron. The Fireside Inn and the Presque Isle Lodge, both dating from the early 20th Century, are examples of Grand Lake's early leadership in lake resort development.

The Black Lake area, near Onaway, also developed during the early 20th Century. Black Lake is part of Michigan's inland waterway system; a place of summer escape from the hot and crowded urban centers of southern Michigan. Huron Beach, along the northern Lake Huron shoreline, is an early example of recreational subdivision plat development. Further, the County's woods and waters have hosted private hunting camps and hideaways dating from the early part of the 1900s.

Lighthouses were also essential to Great Lakes navigation and early land settlement. Three lighthouses were built in Presque Isle County, and all remain intact as popular tourist attractions. The Presque Isle Lighthouse was built in 1840 and replaced in 1870; 40 Mile Point Lighthouse, north of Rogers City, was built in 1897. Monuments and museums exist in the County to preserve the community's maritime heritage and honor those who lost their lives in the many shipwreck disasters along the coast of Lake Huron.

Public forestlands are also a significant tourist and recreational attraction and are located throughout Presque Isle County. These public holdings are largely the result of tax-reverted private lands coming back to State ownership after the physical ravages of fire or the economic ravages of the Depression. The Depression era presented Presque Isle County with some unexpected treasures: two excellent examples of early state park development. During the Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established the Black Lake CCC Camp (actually located at Ocqueoc Lake). From this base of operations, the CCC built significant recreation facilities at the then-new Onaway and Hoeft State Parks. Most of these Depression-era trail systems and park buildings are still in existence and have been determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The Black Lake CCC Camp itself still remains, now renamed the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center. Presque Isle County assumed ownership of the facility from the State in early 2004.

Nature Resources

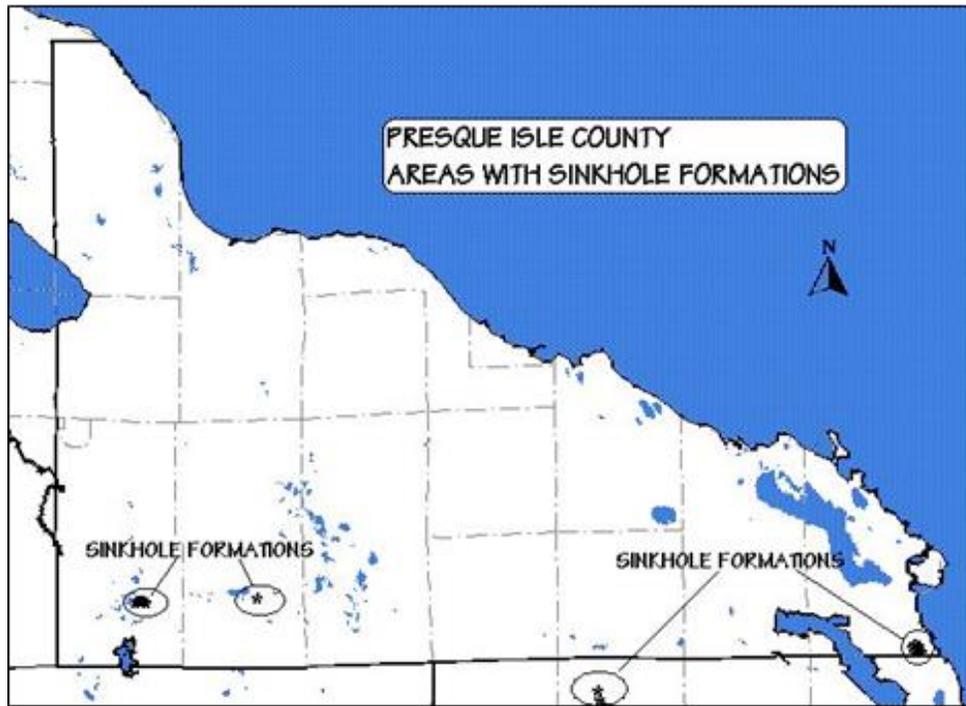
It is the abundance and quality of natural resources that draw people to live and recreate in Presque Isle County. That same abundance of woodlands, wetlands, water, and wildlife drew pioneers here over 100 years ago and Native Americans here thousands of years ago. Today, public lands form a foundation of green space within the County. The public lands are connected by the green infrastructure of forests, wetlands, and open space on private lands.

Topography and Soils

While the County consists of plains, rolling plains, and hilly lands, the variations in elevation are not extreme. The average elevation of Lake Huron is 580 feet above sea level, and the highest points in the County are 950 feet above sea level, located in Moltke, south Allis, and south Case Townships. The greatest local variations in elevations occur between the lake plain west of Rogers City and the Moltke highlands, in areas with numerous sinkholes, and within the lakes region associated with the upper Ocqueoc River.

The soil survey of Presque Isle County identifies soils where the karst bedrock is near the surface. One important feature of the regional bedrock is the occurrence of sinkholes and underground streams. As groundwater flows through cracks and fissures in the bedrock, the limestone gradually dissolves, and the openings are widened. Over a long period of time, underground caverns form and the ceilings become thinner. The ceiling collapses when it becomes too thin to support the weight above, thus forming a sinkhole. "Karst" is the scientific term used to describe a type of topography that is formed in dissolved limestone, dolomite, or gypsum and is characterized by sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage systems. Karst is also a term used to describe a very distinct terrain as well as the process by which it formed.

Karst features are present in several northern Michigan counties but are most prevalent and have the greatest number of exposed features in Presque Isle and Alpena Counties. As **Figure 1-2** shows, groupings of sinkholes are found on the Rockport property in Presque Isle Township and the Shoepac Lake area in Allis Township. In addition to providing an interesting geographic feature, sinkholes also can host unusual plant communities. The relatively moist terrain with bedrock at or near the surface and the partially subterranean shaded location provide an environment, which sustains vegetation not found in the surrounding surface areas.

FIGURE 1-2: Locations of Sinkholes

Areas with these shallow soils have severe development constraints. Of particular concern is that bedrock aquifers are highly vulnerable to surface contamination from septic systems. Effluent from drain fields is treated as it percolates down through the soil. If there is a lack of filtration from the drain field to the bedrock, the effluent is not treated properly by the soil, and it will contaminate the bedrock aquifers with pathogens. In addition, sinkholes have been used as dump areas. The accumulation of refuse is especially dangerous, because of the direct connection to the groundwater, which usually exists in a sinkhole. Local action to protect and preserve sinkholes is recommended both on account of their scenic value and as a groundwater quality protection measure. A notable area within Presque Isle County is Mystic Valley Karst Preserve. Mystic Valley Karst Preserve contains one of the largest karst “collapse valleys” in the Great Lakes Region, along with many dramatic earth cracks and a lake that rises and falls, even disappearing at times. The Mystic Valley Karst Preserve is co-owned by the Michigan Karst Conservancy and the Michigan Nature Association.

Surface Water

Numerous lakes, streams, and swamps are found throughout Presque Isle County. In addition to these larger bodies of water, there are a substantial number of small ponds, kettle holes, and marshes. These smaller bodies of water are characterized by moderate seasonal water level fluctuations and various stages of vegetation encroachment. Many of the lakes and smaller bodies of water are interconnected by streams. According to the USDA Soil Survey, Presque Isle

County has 89 inland lakes, 13 of which are 100 acres or larger. Black Lake, Grand Lake, and Long Lake are all over 2,000 acres in size. Other larger lakes include Lake Augusta, Lake Esau, Big Trout Lake, Lake Nettie, and Tomahawk Creek Flooding, each with surface areas of 250 acres or more. The soil survey shows 16,376 acres of surface water in the County. **A descriptive list of Presque Isle County lakes and streams is included as Appendix.**

There are three major watersheds in the County, which are all part of the Lake Huron drainage basin. The Black River/Black Lake watershed in the western portion includes the Upper Black River, Canada Creek, Tomahawk Creek, Stony Creek, and Rainy River. This surface water eventually empties into Lake Huron in the City of Cheboygan. The Ocqueoc River watershed drains the west-central parts of the County and includes Lake Emma, Lake Nettie, Barnhart Lakes, and Ocqueoc Lake. The Thunder Bay River Watershed extends into the south-central part of the County. The North Branch of the Thunder Bay eventually empties into Lake Huron at the City of Alpena. There are numerous smaller coastal watersheds such as the Black Mallard River, Trout River, Swan River, Little Trout River, Grand Lake, and Long Lake Watersheds.

FIGURE 1-3: Presque Isle County Watersheds



Fish and Wildlife Resources

With over 300 miles of fishing streams and creeks, 89 inland lakes, and Lake Huron, the County has an abundance and variety of fish habitats. Brook, rainbow, and brown trout are established singly or in combination in streams. Lakes offer warm water fisheries such as walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and pan fish. Lake Huron is an excellent salmon and lake trout fishery; the Lake Trout population has had a particularly healthy resurgence in recent years.

Deer, rabbit, grouse, and woodcock are abundant in the County. Bear, coyote, bobcat, and turkey have small to moderate populations that are growing. A small portion of land in the southwest part of the County is home to the managed elk herd of the Pigeon River Country Forest. Wildlife is a resource that brings in hunters and tourists. October and November bring thousands of hunters to

the County for small game hunting, bear, and bow season for deer, peaking sharply in mid-November with the opening day of deer rifle season. Birders are attracted to the Sunrise Coast Birding Trail along the Lake Huron coastline/US 23. This trail provides high-quality habitat for observing common and rare local and migratory birds.

Wetlands and Woodlands

Several sources that depict the presence of wetlands in Presque Isle County. These include the MIRIS Land Cover Inventory, National Wetlands Inventory, and Presque Isle County Soil Survey. Each source was developed independently, with different criteria, and therefore depicts the location and types of wetlands somewhat differently. The MIRIS Land Cover Inventory found forested wetlands to be the dominant wetland type in Presque Isle County. Wetland forest species include lowland conifers such as northern white cedar, black spruce, and eastern tamarack, and lowland hardwoods such as black ash, elm, balsam poplar, aspen, and red maple.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps were compiled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service using color infrared aerial photography and ancillary data. This inventory classified more areas as wetlands than did the MIRIS land cover inventory but still found forested wetlands to be the most prevalent wetland type.

A COMPARISON OF SURVEYS

Michigan Resource Information System (MIRIS)

Forested Wetlands	87,071 acres
Shrub-Scrub Wetlands	10,335 acres
Emergent-Aquatic Wetlands	1,828 acres

National Wetlands Inventory Maps (NWI)

Forested Wetlands	124,462 acres
Shrub-Scrub Wetlands	14,790 acres
Emergent-Aquatic Wetlands	9,879 acres

Presque Isle County Soil Survey

Hydric Soils	137,535 acres
Soils with Hydric Inclusions	82,152 acres

In addition to the scenic characteristics of woodlands, forested areas provide a habitat for wildlife, protect the soil from erosion, and act as a buffer from noise on heavily traveled highways. State forestland encompasses approximately 24 percent of the total land area in the County. The most dominant forest type is aspen/birch. The next most prevalent forest types are lowland conifers (cedar, tamarack, and spruce) and lowland hardwoods (black ash, slippery elm, balsam poplar, aspen, and red maple). Other forest types include pine (red, jack, and white), oak (red and white), and northern hardwoods (sugar maple, American beech, and basswood).

Scenic Views

Some of the most scenic views in northern Michigan can be seen from the roadways of Presque Isle County. Vistas such as Lake Huron, forest-covered glacial moraines, river valleys, marshes, hardwood and conifer forests, and farmlands are pleasing sights to travelers in the County. An informal viewshed analysis was comprised based solely on local knowledge, and is not intended to be all-inclusive, nor is it in any particular order of importance. Rather, it is provided to demonstrate the importance of such features and to recommend that they be protected and preserved. Refer to **Figure 1-4**.

1. U.S. 23 at Birchwood, between Rogers City and Hoefft State Park: views of Lake Huron, views of Rogers City, and Michigan Limestone Operations especially at night.
2. Lake freighters along U.S. 23.
3. Sunrise views over Lake Huron.
4. Lake Huron views anywhere along U.S. 23.
5. Views of Grand Lake from U.S. 23.
6. Sunset views over Long Lake from U.S. 23.
7. View of Lake Huron from M-68 at "Radio Hill".
8. North Ocqueoc Road at Ocqueoc River: beautiful valley, stone farmhouse.
9. M-68 at Curtis Road: hills, hardwood forests, and farms, especially in the fall.
10. Little Ocqueoc River at M-68 roadside park.
11. Ocqueoc River/Falls on Ocqueoc Highway.
12. View of large wetland on Town Hall Highway and Ocqueoc Lake Road: Mud Lake and C.R. 646.
13. M-33 at Tomahawk Creek: log cabin and valley.
14. M-68 in Onaway: Onaway Courthouse.
15. Underground river at Silver Creek Road.
16. Black Lake views from Bluffs Highway.
17. North Bay and Presque Isle Harbor from Grand Lake Road.
18. New Presque Isle Lighthouse from Grand Lake Road.
19. "Long Swamp" from Rainy Lake Road.
20. Ocqueoc River in Millersburg.
21. Rainy River wetlands at M-68.
22. Black Lake views from County Road 489.
23. Farmland views on County Road 634 west of Posen and M-65 south of Posen.
24. Elowsky Mill off Leer Road.
25. Mystery Valley of Leer Road.
26. View of Carmeuse quarry and Lake Huron from Business U.S. 23.
27. County Road 451 at county line: deer grazing in open fields.
28. Forest views on West County Road 634.

29. Valley view of Swan River at Swan River Road.
30. Abandoned Lake Huron shoreline in Rogers City residential areas.
31. Herman Vogler Conservation Area
32. 40 Mile Point Lighthouse.
33. Numerous elk viewing areas (not shown on the map.)
34. Seagal Point (not shown on the map)

Chapter 2



Administrative Structure

Chapter 2 – Administrative Structure

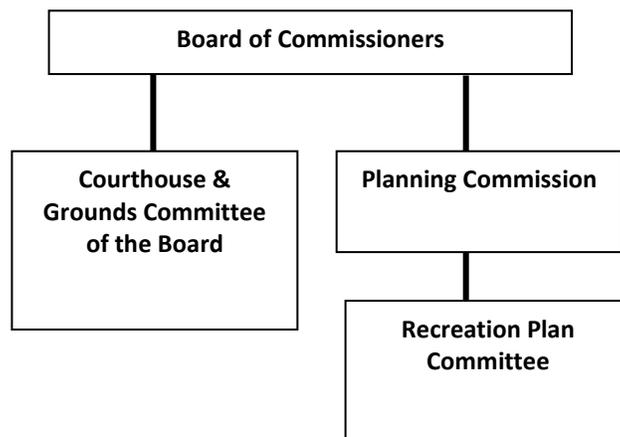
Presque Isle County Administration

The administration of recreational facilities and activities located in Presque Isle County is divided along jurisdictional lines. The Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners is the administrative body responsible for all county-owned, managed, and operated recreational facilities. As such, the final decision-making and fiscal responsibility for 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park and Ocqueoc Outdoor Center are the County Board of Commissioners. This five-member Board consists of elected positions representing five political districts across the county. Elections are held in two-year increments every other November.

All decisions involving parks and recreation facilities in the County are deliberated by the Courthouse and Grounds Committee. Their recommendations are presented to the full Board of Commissioners for final consideration. Jurisdictional responsibilities of the Committee include Airport, Parks, Road Commission, Equalization & Footings, Building Authority, Courthouse, Jail, and Grounds. In its park administrative process, the Committee relies on input from the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society regarding the management and upkeep of 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park and from Friends of the Ocqueoc for the administration of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center.

The County Planning Commission, in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 33 of 2008), has the statutory authority to develop a county master plan and sub-area plans. The Planning Commission is also responsible for developing the county recreation plan. A Recreation Planning Subcommittee of the Planning Commission is responsible for coordinating the updates to the recreation plan and reports to the Planning Commission.

FIGURE 2-1: Presque Isle County Organizational Chart



Current Year & Projected Annual Budgets for Parks & Recreation

For the fiscal year 2022/2023, the total County budget is \$5,667,377. The County budgeted \$8,875 for the fiscal year 2022/2023 for their Parks and Recreation Fund with \$3,000 for building and ground maintenance; the remainder of this fund is used for supplies, utilities, regular operations, and garbage pickup costs of the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse.

In FY 2022/2023, \$16,900 was budgeted in the County's Ocqueoc Outdoor Recreation Fund, which has \$6,750 allocated for ground and building maintenance at the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center. Additional allocations are made on an as-needed basis for specific projects or sites.

The County's budget for FY 2023-24 may fluctuate from its current state from year to year.

The responsibility for the administration of the County budget is through the offices of the County Clerk and the County Treasurer, both elected positions. The administration of grant programs is also the responsibility of those offices, although other departments or organizations may assist, as needed. The County is responsible for any grant-required matching funds. Matching funds may include volunteer labor and donated funds and materials. County budget reports pertaining to the funds described above are included in [Appendix](#).

Partnerships with School Districts

Presque Isle County is not officially associated with the five local school districts (Onaway Area School District, Rogers City Area Schools, Posen Consolidated School District, Hillman Community School District, Alpena Public Schools, and Cheboygan Public School District) or their recreational facilities. However, MSU Extension's Presque Isle County Office coordinates some educational programming with local schools, and the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center is often used for school group outings or 4H youth camps.

Relationships with Public/Private Agencies and Volunteers

40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park and Society

The 40 Mile Point Lighthouse has a onsite caretaker that handles day to day operations. The 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society is a not-for-profit organization established in the mid-1990s after Presque Isle County assumed ownership of the site. The Society is funded by the sale of memberships, donations, and gift shop revenues. There is no admission charge at the park or entry fee into any of the park buildings, but donations are always accepted.

Over the years, the Society has been largely responsible for overseeing the improvements made to the Keeper's House, the tower, and many other park amenities. It fully expects to continue to actively manage, restore, and improve all of the facilities at this park. The Society has been able to leverage a remarkable amount of volunteer labor and donated materials from its members. In 2000, Presque Isle County received a \$112,542 Clean Michigan Initiative Lighthouse Grant (administered by Environment Great Lakes and Energy) to preserve all of the buildings in a

historically correct manner. The County paid the local match of \$37,514 and the Society provided all of the volunteer labor. Activities included minor repairs, painting, and basic improvements to the museum; correction of drainage problems; replacement of picnic tables and the installation of playground equipment.

The Society supported the expansion of the Huron Sunrise Trail from Hoeft State Park to 40 Mile Point Lighthouse, making the park accessible by non-motorized trail to Rogers City. The trail extension has been a great asset for the site.

Additionally, the Society offers a “guest lighthouse keeper” program, which permits people to live in their RV (in the designated campground) for a minimum of two weeks. In exchange, the “keepers” pay a small fee and are responsible to greet visitors, give tours, work in the gift shop, and perform minor routine housekeeping duties as needed.

Glawe School

In addition to county funding to acquire and relocate the one-room school building in 1999, the Glawe (pronounced “*GLOVE-ee*”) School Committee, a non-profit organization, has been instrumental in providing volunteer support for administration, staffing, and improvements. The building’s interior and exterior were repainted, and electricity was installed. The original school bell and doors were recovered and installed. Several desks and other appropriate furnishings have been installed. There is no heat or water in the building, so it is only open from July 4th through Labor Day. Because of limited staffing, there are no regular visiting hours. When the flag is flying, the school is open. There is no charge admission for entrance but gladly accepts monetary donations. Additional financial support for improvements came from the “Communities First Fund”, a charitable trust of Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-operative. The committee has recently dissolved and the Glawe School now falls under the 40 Mile Lighthouse Society. The County does not make routine allocations for the Glawe School but responds to requests for specific needs. The society has continued the process of collecting artifacts and photographs associated with this school and other one-room schools.

Ocqueoc Outdoor Center and Michigan State University Extension

Michigan State University Extension handles reservations for rental at the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center and answers various questions for persons seeking information.

The Board of Commissioners has supported funding for the facility since acquiring the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center and the Board has allocated \$6,750 for the fiscal year 2022-2023 for maintenance and improvements. The Ocqueoc Center has a groundskeeper to assist with the maintenance of the facility.

A volunteer group called “Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center” has formed to discuss goals, formulate promotional plans, prioritize upgrades, and projects. Currently, the County and the Friends group are seeking MDNR funding for upgrades and projects of the property and has been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.

Village of Millersburg NEST Trailhead

Presque Isle County was responsible for overseeing the development of the Millersburg Trailhead on the North Eastern State Trail (NEST) in 2012; the County was then reimbursed for the cost of development from a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant that was awarded to them for the project. The County also currently leases the land on which the trailhead is located from the Village of Millersburg (Village). In return, the Village is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the trailhead facilities, at an approximate cost of \$4,000 annually.

Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce

In March 2014 the Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners teamed up with Target Alpena and the Alpena Chamber of Commerce to work with the local EDC/CDC Board to help support multi-county economic development efforts.

Presque Isle Conservation District

Presque Isle County provides an appropriation to the Presque Isle Conservation District (totaling \$12,500 from the County's General Fund in FY 2022-23). The Presque Isle Conservation District owns the Herman Vogler Conservation Area; therefore, Presque Isle County provides financial support for this facility through the Conservation District. Additionally, appropriated funds from the County are used to cover the cost of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program established through the Environmental Protection Act (Part 91).

Chapter 3



Recreation Inventory

Chapter 3 – Recreation Inventory

Introduction

Existing recreation facilities owned and/or operated by Presque Isle County are described in detail in this chapter, followed by descriptions and lists of other recreational facilities in the County, based on ownership. **Figure 3-5** at the end of the chapter illustrates the location of the most commonly used properties.

The methods used by NEMCOG staff to compile this recreational inventory include site visits (as required), information provided by State and local government agencies, “Friends” volunteer groups, local Chambers of Commerce, and other online information sources. Compiled information from the previous recreation plan was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

Presque Isle County Recreation Facilities

Presque Isle County either owns or maintains the following properties, which are currently being used for recreational purposes.

Barrier Free Accessibility

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to easily identify those parks and facilities which are most and least handicap accessible and usable, based on ADA guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines) to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design).

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance assessment of Presque Isle County parks was conducted during the fall of 2022. The assessment consisted of a visual inspection of each park regarding the access and circulation of the park facilities. As noted in the inventory below, some of the parks do not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. Presque Isle County is dedicated to continuing its efforts towards improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage.

MDNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreational Facilities

1. - None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
2. - Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

3. - Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
4. - The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.
5. - The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park/Glawe School

7323 US-23 South, Rogers City

Type: Special Use Facility

Service Area: Northeast Michigan

Barrier-Free Accessibility: 2 - some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines

More than 20 acres and all historic buildings, except the lighthouse and 2.4 acres surrounding it, were conveyed to Presque Isle County in 1972 by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation under the “Legacy of Parks” program. When the lighthouse was declared surplus and assigned to the Administrator of General Services for disposal, the application was made to have the property conveyed to the County. The U.S. Government conveyed ownership of the lighthouse and the 2.4 acres to the County in November 1998. The County has committed to the upkeep and preservation of the light station and park for over 25 years and will continue to do so. At this time, the Coast Guard is only responsible for maintaining the automated light. The lighthouse has been on the National Register since 1984 and is a Sweetwater Trail site. A historic marker exists on the site.

The lighthouse museum is operated by the non-profit 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society and is open to the public from Memorial Day weekend to mid-October. Hours of operation for the museum/gift shop/outbuildings and Calcite Pilot House are Tuesday – Saturday 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from Noon to 4:00 pm. However, the park is open to the public year-round, from 8 am to sunset, with restroom facilities available in summer only. More discussion on the park administration is found in Chapter 2, Administration. Funds are generated from 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society membership dues, gift shop sales, and donations, and are also allocated in the Presque Isle County annual budget.

Features of the site include:

- Light tower with working Fourth Order Fresnel lens set on an 1872 collar—Visitors may climb the tower during hours of operation and is not barrier-free.
- Light keeper’s house, two-story mirror image duplex—it originally provided dwellings for the keeper’s family and the assistant keeper’s family. One side of the light keeper’s house is now occupied year-round by a caretaker. The other side houses a maritime museum. Much of the museum side of the building has been restored to as near original condition as possible, with original furnishings and housewares. A display case at the base of the lighthouse tower showcases archeological findings of historic residential belongings/rubbish, unearthed from a “dig” conducted on-site by Central Michigan University students. Because of the original architecture, the building is accessible only by steps.

- Bunkhouse/barn— The post and beam constructed building was the original bunkhouse for workers when the tower and keeper’s house were being built. At one point it was used as a barn. It is now used as a gift shop. The building is on ground level and is not barrier-free – a step is required to enter the structure.
- A modern storage barn and chicken coop are located north of the Keeper’s house/lighthouse tower.
- Fog Signal Building - is now an enclosed pavilion with picnic tables, benches, and electricity. With the exception of a non-accessible door entry handle, the building has been made barrier-free with an entrance ramp. Adjacent to the building is a playground with swings, grills, and horseshoe pits.
- Restrooms/changing rooms—not completely barrier-free/ accessible.
- Enclosed pavilion with removable windows (has a stage and electric outlets) and two vault toilets—Barrier-free accessible and open to the public.
- Two brick privies—Original site buildings; open to the public.(viewing only)
- Brick oil house—Original site building; not open to the public.
- Pilothouse from the *Calcite* (built in 1912 and de-commissioned in 1961) is completely furnished and equipped for the period and is open when the museum is open.
- Lifeboat from the *Calcite*.
- Kiosk information center.
- 1905 shipwreck remains of the steamer *Joseph S. Fay* on the beach - steps to the beach are not barrier-free.
- Walking trails and wooded natural areas.
- Abandoned shoreline dunes from glacial Lake Huron.
- Swimming beach.
- International Shipmasters Association Memorial.
- Paved entrance with one-way loop.
- Guest keeper campsites (no dumping station).
- Huron Sunrise Trail – 11.1 mile long paved trail that links 40 Mile Point with Rogers City.

A site map of the park is shown in **Figure 3-1**.



Views from the Lighthouse Tower



Dining Room



Lighthouse Tower



Joseph S. Fay shipwreck



Enclosed Pavilion



Keeper's House

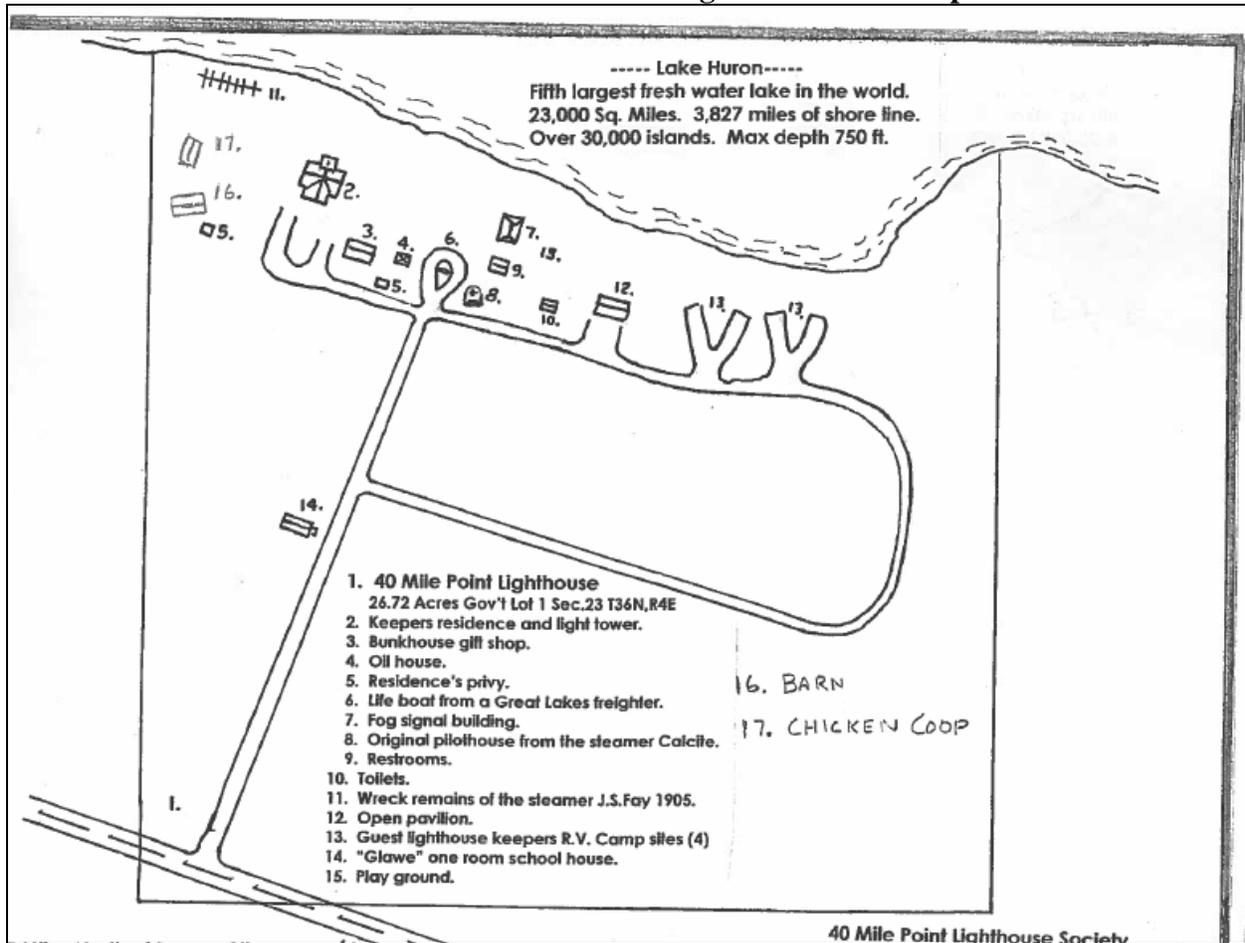
The Glawe School

The one-room school (pronounced *GLOVE-ee*) was moved to the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park site in 1999. Presque Isle County accepted the building from Trinity Lutheran Church when the church was undergoing an expansion project. Originally log construction with wood clapboard siding, the school was built in 1885 in Ocqueoc Township and was in service until 1960. Grades 1-8 were taught in the one-room school. Photographs and artifacts pertaining to one-room schools are being collected and will be on display. Since there is no heat in the building, visitors may enter the school from July 4th to Labor Day; the building is staffed and open when the flag is out. The 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society, a non-profit organization, is working with the County to restore and preserve the school.



Glawe School

FIGURE 3-1: 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park Map



Ocqueoc Outdoor Center

7142 Ocqueoc Lake Road, Millersburg, MI 49759

Type: Special Use Facility

Service Area: Northeast Michigan

Barrier-Free Accessibility: 2 - some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines

Presque Isle County acquired this 18-acre site in April 2004 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources when the agency was considering the demolition of the buildings. The site, located on Ocqueoc Lake, was deeded to the County with a reverter clause stating that the facility would be used for recreational purposes or be returned to the State. The facility was first built and used as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp during President Franklin Roosevelt's time in office. During that time, it was called "Camp Black Lake" named after the surrounding state forest area. The site is currently rented as a group camping and meeting facility. Eight of the original CCC camp buildings remain and two newer buildings have been added to the site. The "Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center" has met to set goals for the property including how to promote usage and priority of upgrades. The Ocqueoc Outdoor Center received the

National Register of Historic Places listed status as Camp Black Lake on April 4, 2021. A copy of the National Register of Historic Places and supplemental materials are included in the [Appendix](#).

While open to the public, this recreation facility can also be rented out for camping/group use by contacting the MSU Extension Office.

Features of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center include:

- Former caretaker residence— This building is planned to be renovated into a health station to help assure the safety of visitors and provide for a more historically accurate context.
- Two bunkhouses—Equipped with bunk beds and mattresses, the buildings can sleep 77 campers. The interior has received new paint, and new doors were installed. The bunkhouses have been renamed “White Pine” and “Old Oak”. They are on ground level and are barrier-free. Air conditioners are available in each bunkhouse.
- Bathroom facilities—Shower and restroom facilities are located in a separate building near the bunkhouses. The shower building was renovated with new paint, barrier-free sinks/vanity tops, and low-flow toilets; in 2010, new showers were installed.
- Dining room/kitchen—To make the dining room ready for use, the interior was thoroughly cleaned and painted and furnished with new chairs and tables in 2004. It is accessible. The building has recently received (2018-2022) several improvements, such as upgraded appliances, the stocking of utensils, the addition of a restroom, and the repair of the porch, foundation, and entry door/screen. Groups using the camp furnish food and cook. The kitchen/mess hall can seat 84 and has two commercial ranges, two refrigerators, commercial sinks, preparation space, a walk-in cooler, and a dry storage area.
- Classroom building—The interior of this building was renovated and is ready for year-round use, with 12 tables (6 for each side) and chairs. The building was renamed the Simon Yarrett Classroom, in honor of the gentleman who resided at and cared for the camp for more than 40 years.
- Counselor’s Building—This building is currently used for housing chaperones for youth camps, as well as general housing for any camp users.
- Outdoor platform/chapel overlooking the lake—Suitable for weddings (reception in the dining room) and meditation.
- Craft Garage – the craft garage has recently been repaired. The Center is working to outfit the craft garage with woodworking equipment and furnishings.
- Lakeside seating (needs to be restored).
- Small beach and two docks.
- Picnic tables—Donated by Harrisville State Park.
- Log Cabin with classroom – built by Onaway Log Cabin class.
- Basketball area
- Archery/shooting range
- Signs have been placed at the entrances (by the Road Commission).



Bunkhouse



Barrier-free ramp



Window



Kitchen



Kitchen



Dining Hall



Dock



Log Cabin with Classroom



Classroom in Log Cabin

FIGURE 3-2: Ocqueoc Outdoor Center Site Map



Presque Isle County Building and 4-H Community Garden

Type: Special Use Facility

Service Area: Presque Isle County

Barrier-Free Accessibility:

Presque Isle County Building: 4 – meets accessibility guidelines

Community Garden: NA

The Presque Isle County Building contains offices for county facilities as well as the courts. The 4-H Community Garden is located across the street from the Presque Isle County Building, adjoining the County's MSUE office on E. Huron Avenue. The purpose of the project is to engage youth (ages 5-19) to learn life skills including planning and organizing, decision-making, the wise use of resources, healthy lifestyle choices, self-motivation, teamwork, community service, gardening, and construction. Participants learn to harvest, prepare, and eat the food they raise and learn how to use tools to build garden beds and compost bins. The garden was removed in 2022 for a planned 3 phase redesigned community garden in the future. However, prior to 2022 the garden consisted of nine raised garden beds, a storage shed, and a large plastic storage bin, which is used to store rainwater for a drip irrigation system. Woodchips and grass surround the garden beds. Materials are stored on site that will be used to build a pedestal to hold the storage bin to gravity-feed the drip irrigation system. The redesigned community garden is planned to have a pergola, concrete pad and pavers, tree plantings, rain water collection and irrigation, pollinator plants, herbs, native plants, and raised bed. [See appendix for anticipated scheduled phases.](#)



The 4-H Youth Community Garden

Millersburg Trailhead for the NEST

Located East of Main Street, between Veterans Drive and Luce Street, in the Village of Millersburg

Type: Regional Park

Service Area: Presque Isle County and Northeast Michigan

Barrier-Free Accessibility: 5 – The facility meets the Principals of Universal Design

Presque Isle County was responsible for overseeing the development of the Millersburg Trailhead on the North Eastern State Trail (NEST) in 2012; the County was then reimbursed for the cost of development from a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant that was awarded to them for the project. The County also currently leases the land on which the trailhead is located from the Village of Millersburg (Village). In return, the Village is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the trailhead facilities. The trailhead adjoins the recently renovated Millersburg Historical Building.

A large, covered shelter houses the restrooms, picnic tables, and faux-log, fire-resistant seating around an open fire pit. Other features include paved parking for vehicles, a large grass/gravel parking area for snowmobiles, interpretive signs, bike racks, a drinking fountain, a skating rink, benches, trash cans, and concrete pathways connecting the site elements. The facility is open year-round except during extremely cold weather when the restrooms are closed to protect water pipes from damage.



Parking Area with Pavilion & Historical Museum Beyond



Trailhead Pavilion



Skating Rink



Firepit inside Pavilion

Fletcher Gilcrest Park

*NOTE: This park is **not** a county-owned facility but is included for informational purposes only.*

Type: Community Park

Service Area: Presque Isle County

Barrier-Free Accessibility: 1 - none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines

Fletcher Gilcrest Park, located on Grand Lake and owned by the Presque Isle County Road Commission, contains a boat ramp and parking area. In addition, a pavilion was built by the Grand Lake Sportsmen's Club and Presque Isle Corporation in conjunction with the Presque Isle County Road Commission and was dedicated in August 1998. The pavilion is convertible from open air to closed. While the pavilion floor is at ground level, no paved walkway exists between the parking lot and the pavilion. In addition, pit toilets are available which are not barrier-free. A small storage shed is also located on the property. In the winter, a free fishing derby is held at the park with prizes available in the pavilion.



Boat Ramp



Pavilion



Pit Toilet

Recreation Grant Inventory

Presque Isle County has received three recreation grants from the MDNR, descriptions of which are provided below. The required Post Completion Self Certification (PCSC) Reports are included in the [Appendix](#).

PROJECT TITLE: Millersburg Historic Depot Regional Trailhead Development

PROJECT NUMBER: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund TF 10-035

PROJECT YEAR: 2010 (awarded in 2011)

GRANT AMOUNT: \$492,100

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: In April 2011, Presque Isle County applied for and received a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to develop a year-round regional facility to serve the North Eastern State Trail (NEST) in the Village of Millersburg. It is located adjacent to the Millersburg Historic Train Depot Museum, a project completed by the Millersburg Historical Society. This project was completed in 2012, with a dedication in January 2013. The project scope consisted of a restroom/pavilion structure, fire pit, paved parking, reinforced lawn area for snowmobile parking, paved walkways connecting site elements, landscaping, lighting, and historic interpretive signage along the trail. A skating rink that can be used for ice skating or roller skating is also included. The project scope originally included a fishing/overlook platform

where the trail crosses the Ocqueoc River. However, that part of the project was unable to be completed as the bridge needed replacement; the MDNR bridge reconstructed was completed in time for the 2016-17 snowmobile season. The trailhead facilities are well-maintained and in excellent condition. The MNRTF grant recognition plaque is displayed inside the pavilion.

Presque Isle County owns the trailhead property. On June 24, 2011, a lease agreement was executed between Presque Isle County and the Village of Millersburg for the subject premises to maintain, operate, improve, and develop a trailway facility. This lease agreement was amended on November 29, 2011, whereby the Village of Millersburg, at their expense, shall maintain the building and grounds including mowing, snow shoveling, plowing, and janitorial services, keep the premises in good repair and be responsible for locking and unlocking the bathroom facilities. This lease agreement, for \$1.00 per year, is for a 20-year term ending on July 31, 2031. The restrooms are open year-round, except during extremely cold weather conditions, to prevent damage to the water lines. The approximate cost for the Village's regular maintenance at the facility is \$4,000 per year.

The Millersburg Trailhead Surface Use lease between the MDNR Forest Management Division and Presque Isle County was executed by the County on November 29, 2011. This lease agreement, for \$0.00 per year, authorizes the County to maintain the premises (via contract with the Village, as described above) as a trailhead facility and trail segment for the NEST. The lease is for a 20-year term, ending at midnight on November 28, 2031, or a later date as provided in paragraph 7 of the lease agreement. The beginning and ending lease term dates may be altered by mutual written consent to reflect the actual date of occupancy.

PROJECT TITLE: Forty-Mile Point Lighthouse

PROJECT NUMBER: Bond Fund BF 89-202

PROJECT YEAR: 1989

GRANT AMOUNT: \$54,563

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Development of the [at that time] County's only park facility, with modern restrooms, and museum renovation. Scope items included: bathhouse roof, drain field, erosion control, a furnace for the museum, main structure roof, museum access ramp, parking lot, museum building renovations, pavilion, restrooms, septic tank, sidewalks, structural brick pointer, and well.

All improvements (that could reasonably be observed) appeared to be functional and in good working condition. Minor maintenance (painting, repairing exterior foundation cracks, etc.) appeared to be needed.

PROJECT TITLE: Presque Isle County Park (40-Mile Point Lighthouse)

PROJECT NUMBER: Land and Water Conservation Fund 26-00293

PROJECT YEAR: 1970

GRANT AMOUNT: \$5,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Development of 24 acres of land to include a picnic area, water system, parking, toilet facilities, and renovation of two existing buildings into change houses.

All improvements (that could reasonably be observed) appeared to be functional and in good and working condition. Minor maintenance (painting, etc.) appeared to be needed. The LWCF recognition plaque is clearly displayed on the exterior of the Fog Signal Building, near the restrooms/change house structure.

(Fill in Grant History Below)

PROJECT TITLE: Ocqueoc Outdoor Center/Camp Black Lake

PROJECT NUMBER: Michigan Trust Fund Grant

PROJECT YEAR: 2018

GRANT AMOUNT: \$(Insert)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Renovation of the Garage Facility on site

State of Michigan Recreation Facilities

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers state parks, state forest campgrounds, harbors/marinas, certain public access sites, trail facilities, and multi-use trails on state forest lands. Other public access sites and roadside parks along U.S. 23 are owned by the State but are maintained by the Presque Isle County Road Commission. In Presque Isle County, the very active Presque Isle Sno-Trails Club, in conjunction with the DNR, maintains and grooms 132 miles of snowmobile trails during the December 1 through April 1 winter season.

Besser Bell Natural Area

This 134-acre tract, maintained by the MDNR, is located in the southeastern portion of Presque Isle Township along more than 4,000 feet of Lake Huron shoreline at False Presque Isle Harbor. The site is the location of the abandoned lumbering era Village of Bell, whose peak population in the 1880s was 100. The Bell Cemetery, where approximately 30 burials occurred, was restored and rededicated in 1989. A stand of virgin pine is located on the site and is maintained as a memorial to the lumbermen who spared the trees. The one-mile foot trail to a small lagoon is used for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and other non-motorized recreational activities.

Black Mountain Recreation Area

This area located in both Presque Isle and Cheboygan Counties offers a wide variety of outdoor activities in a forested setting. Known regionally for its multi-use offerings, the area features:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- 30 miles of trail that is designated as the Black Mountain Pathway. 30 miles of this trail are open for hiking, including a 1.3-mile barrier-free, paved pathway with forest scenery and trail-side shelters. 20-25 miles of the trail are groomed for cross-country skiing and are maintained by the Black Mountain Nordic Ski Club. 30 miles of the trail system are also open to equestrian riding. Vault toilets are available.

- Snowmobile No. 99 runs through this site.
- The 74.1-mile Black Lake Trail & Route and Bummers Roost Trail run through this site, which is open for motorcycling and ORV use.

Hammond Bay State Refuge Harbor

Located in north Bearinger Township, this site was originally developed to provide a safe harbor from Lake Huron storms. This certified “Clean Marina” also provides seasonal and transient boat slips in addition to the following amenities:

- Recently updated comfort building
- Barrier-free restrooms/showers
- Electricity, water, pump-out
- Gasoline/diesel
- Boat launch
- Dog run
- Grills, picnic tables, and ice
- 15 boat slips

Ocqueoc Falls State Forest Campground/Recreation Area

This 15-site rustic campground is located in south Ocqueoc Township on the Ocqueoc River. Site features and activities include:

- Rustic camping—vault toilets and potable water from hand pump well.
- Wildlife viewing
- Fishing
- Picnic area with tables and grills
- Hiking, cross-country skiing and mountain biking are permitted on the 6-mile Ocqueoc Falls Bicentennial Pathway on site, which features view of Ocqueoc Falls, the largest waterfall in the Lower Peninsula.
- An accessible walking trail runs between the falls' overlook area, parking lot, and the campground, and family and friends can enjoy a picnic with accessible picnic tables and grills at the overlook. Visitors can access the water using either a recycled plastic decked ramp or a set of tiered rocks.
- The access routes to the river corridor are intended to provide users a choice in how they access the shoreline that fits their ability and desire for adventure. A recycled plastic decked ramp that complies with Americans with Disabilities Act design requirements provides the easiest route of travel to the river. Other access routes utilize natural rock tiers placed to offer a variety of climbing challenges.
- One of the climbing routes provides transfer stations at the top and bottom of the bluff so an individual with mobility impairments may transfer out of their wheelchair to start their climb.

Onaway State Park

One of the State's oldest parks, it was dedicated in 1921 and contains buildings constructed during the CCC period. Located on the southeast shore of Black Lake, the park covers 158 acres of generally rustic land. Park amenities and activities include:

- Modern full-service campground—82 sites, closed during the winter. Modern, accessible restrooms.
- Modern enclosed rentable pavilion with fire place
- Shoreline Camper Cabin – sleeps 6, available for rent from April – November.
- Swimming beach.
- Boat launch/dock.
- Fishing
- Children's playground.
- Day-use picnic area—tables and grills.
- Rental canoes, kayaks, and rowboats available.
- Biking—allowed on park roads, but not on the nature trail.
- Hiking or cross-country skiing—three-mile nature trail.

P.H. Hoeft State Park

This heavily wooded, 300-acre park is located five miles northwest of Rogers City and includes one mile of sandy Lake Huron shoreline. Like Onaway State Park, Hoeft was one of the early state parks. The land was donated by Mr. Hoeft in 1922. Portions of the park are listed within the National Registry. Park amenities and activities include:

- Modern full-service campground—143 sites and 1 mini cabin, closed during the winter months.
- Group-use camping area.
- A modernized, 1920s Sears & Roebuck lodge that can sleep up to 8; open for rent year-round.
- Hunting—about one-half of the park is open for hunting on the west side of US-23.
- Children's playground.
- Swimming beach/beach house—one for day-use and one for the campground.
- Two volleyball pits
- Two horseshoe pits
- Day-use picnic area—tables, fire pits, and grills.
- Log and stone picnic shelter/lodge—built by the CCC and listed in the National Register, provides a view of the lake and is available on a first-come, first-served basis or by reservation.
- Biking—Huron Sunrise Trail from the park's day-use area to and through Rogers City.
- Hiking/cross-country skiing—4 ½ mile trail runs through the park and along the Lake Huron shoreline.
- Metal detecting

- Michigan State Park Explorer Program

Presque Isle State Harbor

After nine years of development, construction, and expansion, the MDNR boating facility at Presque Isle Harbor was completed in 1998. Early development and construction phases included the construction of a jetty and break wall to protect the harbor and its users. The breakwall features a long concrete walkway with a safety railing and a fishing platform near the far end. Both are handicapped accessible and provide outstanding harbor views.

The next phase consisted of the removal of existing docks, dredging of the boat harbor and entrance, installation of shore protection, and installation of a permanent launch ramp, entrance lights, and a sound signal. The harbormaster facility and comfort stations were constructed and fuel service for boaters was provided during this phase.

Two floating piers were installed providing 80 slips for transient boaters. The facility was opened on July 1, 1992 and was formally dedicated on August 11, 1992. A third and final pier was added in 1998, providing an additional 40 slips. Amenities include:

- Clean Marina Certified
- Barrier-free restrooms/showers and laundry
- Electricity, water, pump-out
- Gasoline, diesel
- Boat launch
- Fishing pier
- Dog run
- Grills
- Swimming beach—shallow, warm water, sandy beach.

Rockport State Recreation Area

About half of the 4,237 acres of this State Rec Area is located in the southeast corner of Presque Isle Twp.; the remainder is located in southerly adjoining Alpena Twp. in Alpena County. Features include a series of unique sinkholes, deep water-protected harbor, a 300-acre old limestone quarry, a boat launch, a picnic area, and a vault toilet. Activities include bicycling, skiing, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, and snowmobiling. The Besser Natural Area (described previously) is also located here.

Shoepac Lake State Forest Campground

Located in south Allis Township adjacent to Shoepac Lake, the rustic campground offers 28 sites for tent or small trailer use. The natural limestone topography (karst) of the area creates an interesting line of sinkholes, which can be explored along a hiking trail. Site features and activities include:

- Rustic camping—barrier-free vault toilets and potable water from a hand pump well.
- Sinkhole viewing
- Swimming beach

- Fishing
- Hiking and mountain biking at the 2 ½ mile sinkhole trail on site and the High Country Pathway that passes through the site.
- Atlanta ATV Trail—one mile south of the site.
- Boat Launch
- Day-use picnic area
- Mountain biking
- Birding

Thompson's Harbor State Park

Situated on Lake Huron in northern Krakow Township, this undeveloped park features more than 5,000 acres and 7 ½ miles of Lake Huron shoreline. The site is home to the endangered Dwarf Lake Iris. There are no structures on the site, but visitors may participate in the following activities:

- Hunting
- Nature viewing
- Boat Launch
- Fishing
- Biking—on existing roads only
- Hiking/cross-country skiing on 6 miles of trail
- Two rustic cabins- the Cedar Haven (Universally Accessible) and Stone Path - will sleep up to 6 persons with two sets of bunk beds and a pull-out couch. Each has a gas stove and lanterns, outdoor hand pumps, and vault toilets.

Tomahawk Creek Flooding State Forest Campground

This 47-site rustic campground is located in south Allis Township about one mile south of Shoepac Lake State Forest Campground. Site features and activities include:

- Rustic camping for tents and trailers; barrier-free vault toilets; potable water from hand pump well.
- There are two campsites, each with their own boat launch: on the northwest shore (West Unit) and on the northeast shore (East Unit)
- Fishing
- Picnic area
- Wildlife viewing
- Hiking and mountain biking at the 2 ½ mile sinkhole trail, located one mile north, and the High Country Pathway which passes through the site
- Atlanta ATV Trail—nearby

Tomahawk Lake State Forest Campground

Also located in south Allis Township, this rustic campground is situated adjacent to Tomahawk Lake and consists of 26 sites for tent and small trailer use. Site features and activities include:

- Rustic camping—barrier-free vault toilets and potable water from hand pump well.
- Fishing
- Boat launch
- Swimming beach
- Wildlife viewing
- Hiking and mountain biking on the 2 ½ mile sinkhole trail, located one mile north, and the High Country Pathway that passes through the site.
- Atlanta ATV Trail—nearby.

Presque Isle Conservation District

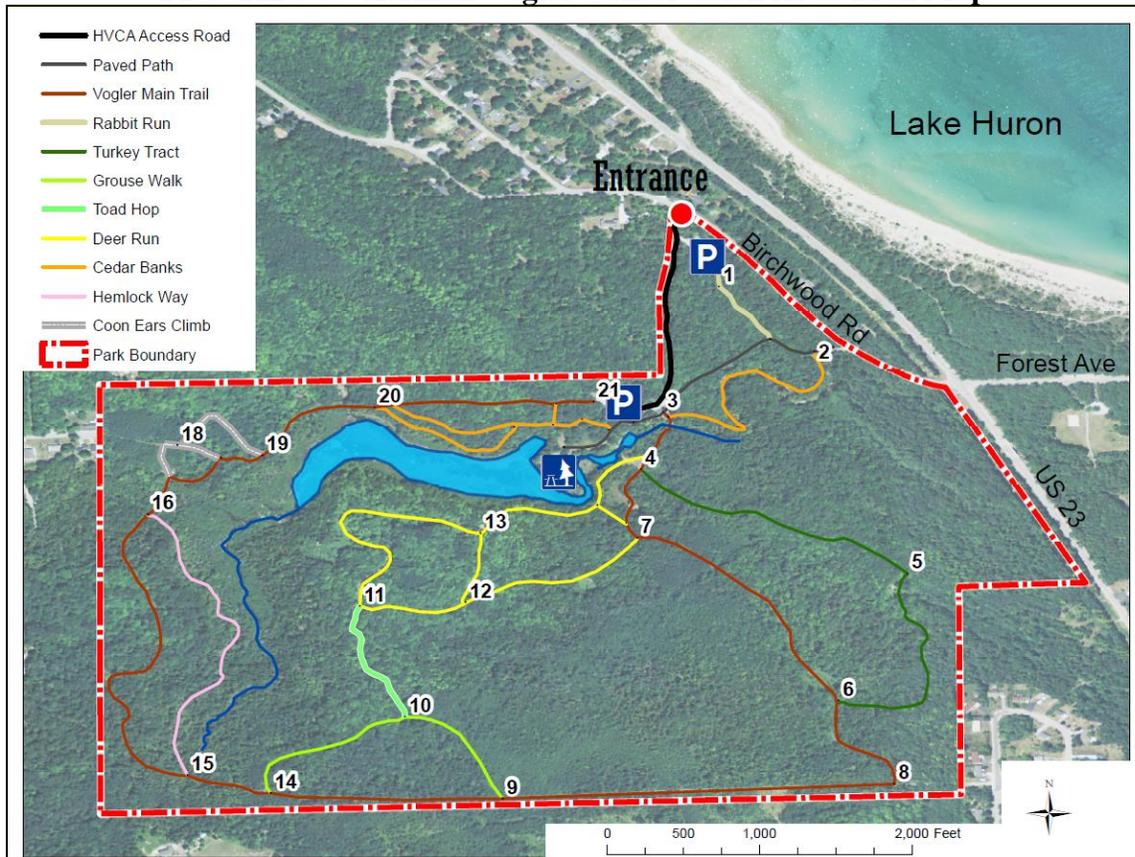
Herman Vogler Conservation Area (HVCA)

The Conservation District acquired the 270-acre property from the MDNR in 1989. This beautiful site is open year-round for a multitude of recreation activities. Approximately one-third of the land lies within the city limits of Rogers City. Seven miles of trails are used by hikers in the warm months and skiers during the winter months; new full color trail signs were installed in 2014. Trout River crosses the property along with several other small creeks. Interpretive signs are posted along the trails and a trail map is posted at the inner parking lot. A portion of the Huron Sunrise Trail enters the park overlooking the pond. Fully accessible restrooms are situated at the parking lot. Game bird and rabbit hunting are permitted along with bow hunting for deer.

In 2015, the HVCA was the recipient of a Wildlife Habitat grant from the MDNR, which was used to replace the Trout River bridge and create 10-12 clearings and brush/shrub plantings for small mammals.

??? A 59-acre timber harvest began on site in 2016 as part of a forest management program and will continue through 2017. The proceeds of the harvest will be used for trail and bridge improvements. ??? (Any Updates)

A current map of the park's trail system is illustrated as **Figure 3-3**.

FIGURE 3-3: Herman Vogler Conservation Area Trail Map

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN ROGERS CITY, ONAWAY, METZ TOWNSHIP, VILLAGE OF MILLERSBURG, VILLAGE OF POSEN, POSEN TOWNSHIP AND PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP

The communities noted above have prepared community recreation plans, and each plan lists several sites giving details about the facilities. For simplicity, the sites are listed with minimal details in this document. Specific amenities can be referenced in the appropriate plan.

Rogers City

- **Seagull Point Day Park**—43-acre park is set along Lake Huron in a natural dune formation; 1 ½ mile bark path; swimming beach; picnic area.
- **Trout River Park**—22-acre wooded picnic and recreational area adjacent to the Trout River with picnic tables, benches, a fire pit, barbeque grills, a volleyball court, and a vault toilet.
- **North Shore Park**—three-acre park along Lake Huron; occupies an abandoned roadbed.
- **Lakeside Park**—the city’s best equipped and most heavily used park is ten acres and is adjacent to the marina; swimming beach and enclosed picnic pavilion; two playgrounds; food concession; extensive picnic areas; two beach volleyball courts; basketball court; gazebo; permanent band shell; sailors’ memorial; restrooms; and accessible boardwalks and sidewalks.

- **Westminster Park**—one of the city’s older parks; occupies two acres downtown; historic band gazebo; picnic; play area; the site of many outdoor events.
- **Riverview Park**—narrow (66 feet) park located at the east end of Riverview Street; grass area and bench; scenic view of the mouth of Trout River at Lake Huron; local residents planted perennials.
- **Sports Park**— a three-acre site houses a ball diamond in summer and an ice rink in winter. A basketball court is also on-site. Barrier-free restrooms and warming shelter; in-line hockey facility.
- **South Shore Park and Little League Fields**—17-acre site includes ½ mile of Lake Huron shoreline; four regulation softball and Little League fields; dugouts; fencing; bathrooms; concession stand; south trailhead for Huron Sunrise Trail. Nearby attractions are **Optimist Park** playground and **Coral Fossil Park** which encourages users to dig for Devonian Period fossils.
- **Rogers City Marina**—Situated in Lakeside Park, the marina features 140 seasonal slips and transient slips, with additional space available for overflow. The break wall was extended for safe dockage and includes a barrier-free fishing platform. Rogers City retail and service establishments are within easy walking distance. Marina amenities include barrier-free restrooms/showers; electricity, water, and pump-out; gasoline and diesel fuel; boat launch; long-term parking; fishing pier; dog run; grills/picnic tables; fish cleaning station; laundry facilities; playground/park adjacent.

According to the Rogers City 2015-2019 Recreation Plan, there are several planned future upgrades to the City Marina facilities over the next five to ten years, such as improvements to the parking lot, fish cleaning station, fuel station, floating docks, and hydraulic boat lifts. The City would like to enhance the marina’s operations to encourage Rogers City to become a major boating destination in northeast Michigan.

- **Public Works Park** – 6 acres with 1,000 feet on Lake Huron and the City’s wastewater treatment facility. The current proposed use at this site is a picnic area and potentially a dog park.
- **Tennis courts**—located on Rogers City School property.
- **Huron Sunrise Trail** – 11.1-mile paved system connecting city parks and outlying attractions. The trail follows the Lake Huron shoreline, providing access to the marina and fishing platform, then winds along a wooded area along the Trout River and ends in Herman Vogler Conservation Area. The trail connects the city to 40-Mile Point Lighthouse Park.
- **Snowmobile Trail** – in 2008, snowmobile trail No. 996 into Rogers City was completed.

Onaway

- **Edna Lound Recreation Area**—three ballfields; fencing; dugouts; tennis courts, basketball courts; horseshoe pits; concession stand; community building.
- **Onaway Historical Museum** – located on the first floor of the Onaway Historic Courthouse.
- **Maxon Field**—ballfield; ice rink in winter.
- **Chandler Park**—pavilion with electric, picnic tables and grills; playground; walking/jogging pathways; site of memorial Christmas tree program.

- **Future potential NEST Trailhead** – as of December 2016, the City of Onaway is considering a location for a new trailhead that will serve users along the NEST and another local park. The City of Onaway intends to apply for an MDNR grant for this project.

Village of Millersburg

- **Trailhead** for North Eastern State Trail, located next to the Millersburg Historical Museum.
- **George W. Russell Memorial Park**—located on the Ocqueoc River; swimming; pavilion; picnic area; basketball court.
- **Millersburg Historical Museum**—the Millersburg Historical Society has restored the only remaining railroad depot in the County into a historical museum.
- **Presque Isle County Fairgrounds**—long-term lease of land to the Presque Isle County Fair Board; Fair Board owns the building.
- **Case Township Community Center** with playground equipment, exercise room, and gym; and library

Presque Isle Township

- **Old Presque Isle Lighthouse Park**—built in 1840 and was lit until 1871; Township acquired in 1995; features tower, keeper’s cottage with the museum, bell. Connects to walking and hiking trails.
- **New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park**—built in 1870 to replace “old” lighthouse; Township acquired in 1998; Coast Guard operates automated light; features tower, original keeper’s house with museum and gift shop, 1905 “new” keeper’s house, Garrity Hall, picnic shelter, playground.
- **Range Light Park**—constructed in 1870; light still guides craft into Presque Isle Harbor. Accessible boardwalks and a picnic pavilion were constructed in 2015.
- **Anishinaabe Trail** - a 5.25-mile paved bike path along the side of Grand Lake Road in Presque Isle County connecting the community center of Grand Lake near Kauffman Bay to the Old and New Presque Isle Lighthouses and museum. This route goes along a narrow land mass separating Grand Lake and Lake Huron.

Village of Posen

- **Posen Village Park** is located on a Michigan Historic Site (50’ X 150’) where the first utility pole (set by Presque Isle Electric Cooperative) was erected in 1937. Established in 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was a New Deal program designed to help cooperatives provide low-cost power to rural areas. In 1937, the Presque Isle Electric Cooperative energized its first 70 miles of line from Norway Dam in Alpena to Moltke Township bringing electricity to 82 families. A historic marker and monument are located at the site. In addition, the park contains playground equipment.

Posen Township

- **The Posen Community Center** is located on a five-acre lot in the Village of Posen. The Posen Chapter of the Knights of Columbus occupies the upper level of the facility. The event facility contains barrier-free parking, a bar, a kitchen, barrier-free restrooms, a stage, and an open area for tables. In addition, the property contains a barn which is used for fee-based boat storage in the winter and events in warm weather.
- A **ballpark** is jointly owned by Posen Township, the Village of Posen, and Posen Consolidated Schools. It is located on 6.8 acres in Posen Township immediately outside of the Village limits. The property is maintained by Posen Consolidated Schools and is used for high school baseball. The North Eastern State Trail is located within 0.5 miles of the ballpark.

Metz Township

- **Metz Fire Memorial & Township Hall** - This site consists of a historic marker denoting the Metz Fire of 1908. Also on-site is the Metz Township Hall where barrier-free parking is available.
- **Metz Fire Historical Trailside Park** – along the NEST and CR 441; described further on [page 3-48](#).

Inland Lake Access Sites

The sites listed below are in addition to the major marinas/harbors. Numerous other informal lake access or road-end sites exist throughout the County and are not listed. Many of these informal sites are maintained by the Presque Isle County Road Commission.

- **Tomahawk Lake SFCG**-DNR operated in Allis Township
- **Little Tomahawk Lake**-DNR operated in Allis Township
- **Shoepac Lake** - DNR operated in Allis Township
- **Bear Den Lake**-DNR operated in Allis Township
- **Lake May**-DNR operated in Bismarck Township
- **Lake Emma**-DNR operated in Bismarck Township
- **Lake Nettie**-DNR operated in Bismarck Township
- **Lost Lake**-DNR operated in Bismarck Township
- **Lake Ferdelman**-DNR operated in Bismarck Township
- **Sunken Lake Campground/Park**-Alpena County operated in Posen Township; also has 60 modern campsites, fishing, boating, swimming
- **Long Lake**-DNR operated in Presque Isle Township
- **Grand Lake**-DNR operated in Presque Isle Township
- **Lake Esau**-owned by Presque Isle Township
- **Black Lake**-Onaway State Park
- **Ocqueoc Lake**-Road Commission maintained in Ocqueoc Township
- **Grand Lake and Long Lake sites along US 23**-MDOT owned, Road Commission maintained in Krakow and Presque Isle Townships
- **Grand Lake sites on Black Bass Road and County Road 638**-Road Commission maintained in Krakow Township

Lake Huron Access Sites

- **Hammond Bay State Refuge Harbor**
- **Grace Road Access**
- **MDOT Roadside Parks**
- **Northshore Park**
- **Lakeside Park**
- **Presque Isle State Harbor**
- **Rockport State Rec Area Boat Launch**
- **South Shore Park**
- **P. H. Hoeft State Park**
- **New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park**
- **Besser Bell Natural Area**
- **Ocqueoc Public Access**
- **Hammond Bay Beach Access Site**
- **Seagull Point Park**
- **Rogers City Marina**
- **Thompson's Harbor State Park**
- **Bell River Access**
- **40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park**
- **Golden Beach**
- **Manitou Beach Road End**
- **Presque Isle Township Range Light Park**

Other Public Recreation Facilities

- **Rogers City Theater**—owned by Presque Isle District Library, live theater, and movies in 3D and digital format.
- **Presque Isle District Library**— District Library Board; locations in Rogers City, Onaway, Posen, Presque Isle Township, and Millersburg.
- **Presque Isle County Historical Museum**—operated by the Presque Isle County Historical Society in the former Bradley House.
- **Onaway Historical Museum**—operated by the Onaway Historical Society in the historic Onaway Courthouse. (the Masonic Hall was purchased in 2012 and is in the process of receiving funds for renovation to accommodate the museum). Open in the summer months every other Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, winter by appointment only.
- **Rogers City Senior Citizens Center**—private non-profit; meals; organized activities.
- **Posen Community Center** - The Community center always has available activities including; venues and event space rentals.
- **Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum**—in Rogers City; private non-profit.
- **Presque Isle County Council on Aging Centers**—locations in Onaway and Posen; congregate meals; organized activities.
- **Kirtland's Warbler Study Area** – south on M-33 near a well-marked area in Onaway.
- **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary** – Located in northwestern Lake Huron, Thunder Bay is adjacent to one of the most treacherous stretches of water within the Great Lakes system. Unpredictable weather, murky fog banks, sudden gales, and rocky shoals earned the area the name "Shipwreck Alley." Today, the 4300-square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects one of America's best-preserved and nationally significant collections of shipwrecks. Fire, ice, collisions, and storms have claimed over 200 vessels in and around Thunder Bay. To date, nearly 100 shipwrecks have been discovered within the sanctuary.

Designated in 2000, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, headquartered in Alpena, Michigan, is one of 14 sites managed by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and the only one in the Great Lakes. Co-managed by NOAA and the state of Michigan, the Sanctuary has become an important part of the regional economy. Through increased

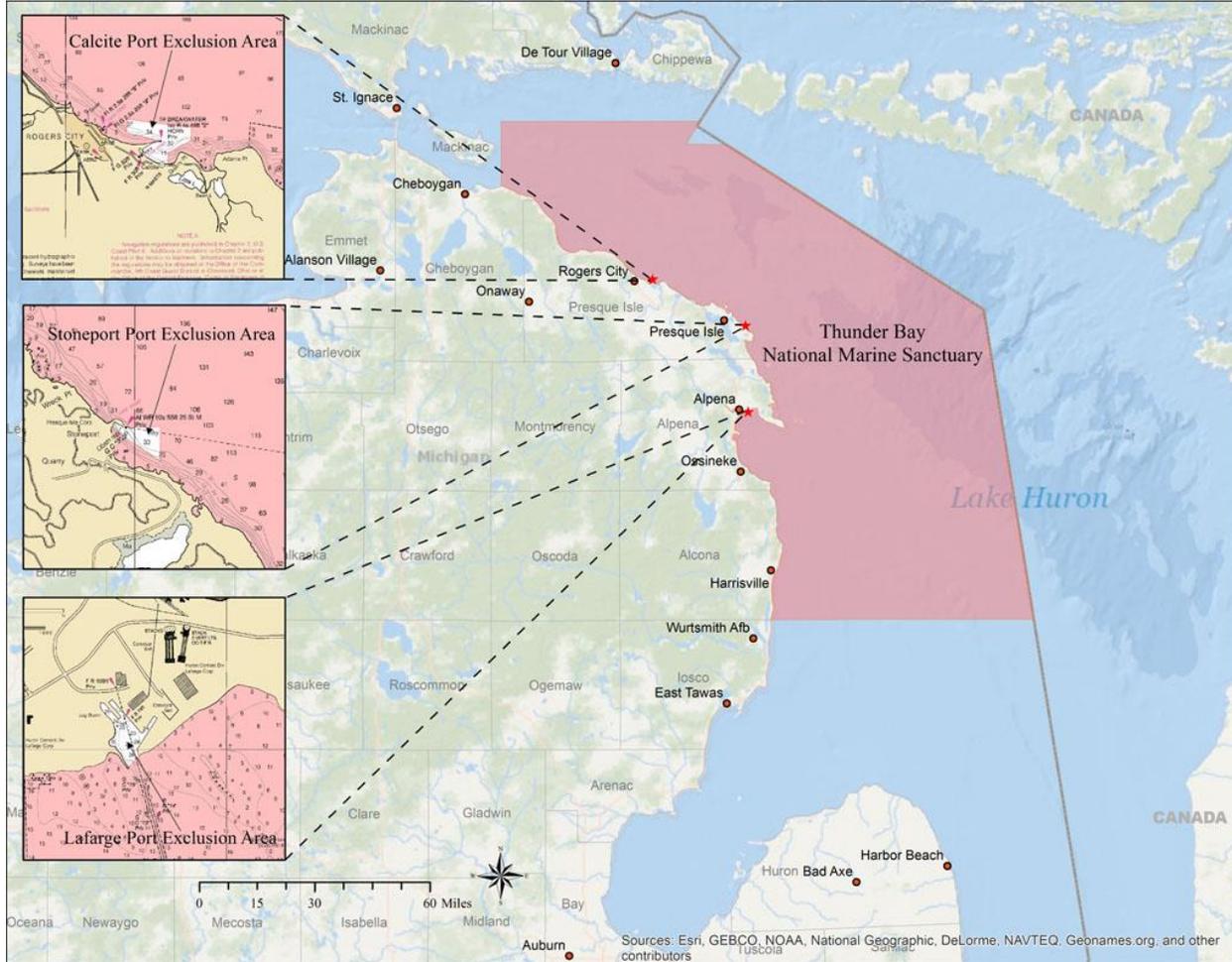
tourism and related business development, the sanctuary is working with various partners to encourage sustainable tourism and foster greater awareness of the Great Lakes and their rich maritime heritage.

On September 5, 2014, NOAA released a final rule and environmental impact statement expanding the boundaries of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron from 448 square miles to 4,300 square miles. **The new boundaries now include the waters of Lake Huron adjacent to** Michigan's Alcona, Alpena, and **Presque Isle counties** to the Canadian border. The expansion was based on several years of research by NOAA and its many scientific partners, and now protects an additional 100 known and suspected historic shipwreck sites. Please refer to the map on the next page for the boundaries of the sanctuary.

The range of depth of the shipwrecks appeals to a variety of diver skill levels and also provides recreational opportunities for non-divers. Local businesses offer glass-bottom boat tours of the shipwreck areas, chartered diving, snorkeling, fishing tours, and kayak and canoe rentals to those who wish to explore the sanctuary's waters. Drawing more than 80,000 visitors annually, the sanctuary's Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, also in Alpena, features more than 10,000 square feet of interactive exhibits and has become a major tourism destination in the region. The sanctuary also hosts events and programs throughout the year, such as the annual Thunder Bay International Film Festival and the annual Maritime Festival.

FIGURE 3-4: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Atlas Map

http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/images/tbnms_expan_map1.jpg



Private and Semi-Private Recreation Facilities

- **Rogers City Country Club**—18-hole membership and public golfing organization.
- **Visitor Information Center**—Rogers City Chamber of Commerce.
- **Nautical Lanes**—private; bowling; restaurant and bar.
- **Driftwood Motel**—Indoor Pool private.
- **Quarry View**— Carmeuse Lime & Stone quarry, the largest open pit limestone quarry in the world.
- **Harbor View** – View the loading of Carmeuse Lime & Stone onto shipping fleets at the harbor.
- **Onaway Motor Speedway and Drag Strip**—private; open seasonally. It offers a ¼ oval asphalt speedway and uphill 1/8 mile asphalt drag track including a variety of divisions for all ages.
- **Hemlock Hills on Mill Pond, LLC**—private; vacation rentals and special event venue.
- **Presque Isle Harbor Association**—private membership; clubhouse with pool, game room, gym, exercise room; North Bay beach/beach house; Grand Lake common area with boat launch, swimming beach, picnic area, playground, boat rentals; 60-site modern campground; Lake Esau Park; Burnham’s Landing Park; nature trails.

- **Presque Isle Lodge** – private; bed and breakfast lodge and special events center in Presque Isle Twp., between Lake Esau and Grand Lake. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Presque Isle County Sportsmen’s Club** – provides a safe place to target shoot archery, handguns, and rifles.
- **Awakon Park in Onaway** – a privately owned/maintained park, open to the public, featuring iron sculptures designed and built by Moran Ironworks of Onaway. Also features the ruins of the American Rim/Lobdell Company built wooden bicycle rims and wooden steering wheels for the emerging auto industry at the turn of the 20th century.
- **Black Lake Sportsmen’s Club** – offers a indoor and outdoor pistol range, 200 yard rifle range, 5 stand clays, and much more.
- **Tour America Bike Shop** at 268 2nd Street, Rogers City – a private business offering bicycle rentals, sales, and service.
- **Grand Lake Association Park** (Birch Hill Subdivision) in Presque Isle Township. The park is maintained by the Grand Lake Association and offers a tennis court, basketball court, volleyball court, and playground equipment. The historic Kauffman House is located on the site and is used as a gift shop.
- **Camp Chickagami** is located at the north end of Lake Esau on 100 acres in Presque Isle Township and is a private recreational group camp owned by the Episcopal Church Diocese of Eastern Michigan. The site contains Fletcher Hall (meals and indoor recreation), St. Andrew’s Chapel, a beach area, fields, trails, campfire sites, three lodges, and cabins and dorm units for lodging.
- **Schell’s Resort** is located on Black Lake offering 10 rentable cabins/cottages that include, fully equipped kitchens and utensils, HDTV, a clean sandy beach and campfire area, and a aluminum boat to explore the beauty of Black Lake.
- **Parker House** is located on US-23 just inside the Presque Isle county line on US-23 with 4 acres, rentable cabins, and docks on Long Lake, and an accommodating Restaurant and Ice Cream shop. Perfect for your four seasons adventures.
- **Fireside Inn** is located on Grand Lake Road offering rentable cabins on Grand Lake and an accommodating Restaurant. Fireside has tennis court, volleyball, ping-pong, horseshoes, shuffleboard, playground area, dockage, canoeing, kayaking, and forested walking trails with a 9-hole disc golf course. Fireside Inn is a historical site accommodating visitors for over 100 years.
- **Shaginapi By the Lake Resort** – is located off of Domke Road on Black Lake offering resort rentals. Shaginapi By the Lake includes a playground area, swimming pool, dockage and a beautiful view of Black Lake.
- **Mystery Valley Karst Preserve and Nature Sanctuary** is located in Presque Ilse County on Leer Road. It contains one of the largest karst “collapse valleys” in the Great Lake region, several dramatic earth cracks, and a lake that rises and falls, and sometimes disappears. The area is co-owned by the Michigan Karst Conservancy and the Michigan Nature Association.

Trails

The 132 miles of snowmobile trails in Presque Isle County are maintained by the Presque Isle Sno-Trails Club with funding from the State, donations, and volunteer labor. The Club and MDNR are in continuous negotiations to expand snowmobile trails, such as completing the Rogers City Spur Trail (off of the NEST in Posen Twp.) into Rogers City and finding a connector route from the Silver Creek Trail (near M-68 and Sno. Tr. # 99) into Rogers City.

- **Huron Sunrise Trail** - The Huron Sunrise Trail is an 11.1-mile paved trail system that connects the Roger’s City parks and Herman Vogler Conservation Area, then extends to the 40-Mile Point Light between US 23 and the Lake Huron shoreline; the extension of the original trail to Hoeft State Park was completed in 2003 and the extension to 40-Mile Point Light was completed in 2009. Both extensions were constructed with Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) enhancement funding from MDOT with the original trail receiving funding through the MDNR Trust Fund grant.
- **North Eastern State Trail (NEST)** —snowmobiling from Dec. 1 to March 31; multi-use non-motorized rest of year; the trail is a 71-mile rail trail that connects Alpena to Cheboygan. Construction was completed in 2011 with a 10’ crushed limestone surface and two-foot shoulders, new safety signs, access control, and mile marker posts. The MDNR, which owns and manages the trail, has been working with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) which completed the engineering for the project and is responsible for project oversight. The Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC) helped create the funding package for the trail project including 60% through a Federal Transportation Grant, 20% from MDOT, 15% from the DNR via the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant, and 5% from local units of government.

Recently, the MDNR received funding to provide the NEST with **wayfinding signs**, which include large trailhead kiosks at Aloha State Park, Tower, Onaway, and through Millersburg, Bolton, Cathro, Hawks, Posen, and Alpena. Each town is going to have a “welcome sign” on the kiosk. Mile markers will also be installed indicating how far it is to the next town. This is a pilot project for the DNR, as an example of what could be done for trail signage on other DNR-owned trails in Michigan. The project was completed in 2017. Signs will be located with enough clearance from the trail so as not to impede snowmobile trail grooming equipment.

In 2016, Metz Township completed the **Metz Fire Historical Trailside Park**, located between the NEST and CR 441. Utilizing an MNRTF Grant awarded to the Township, the project included the construction of a pavilion, playground, bathroom facilities, picnic grills, water fountain, landscaping, and park pathways. Local funds were used to install historic signage at the park describing the catastrophic 1908 Metz Fire. Future plans include developing a few rustic campsites, a rail car display, and in 2018 a replica of the original relief shack built by D & M Railroad for survivors of the 1908 fire was installed.

Just a few miles northwest of Metz along the trail, **Hawks Community Park** offers trail users water facilities and a picnic area.

According to the Top of Michigan Trails Council, the proposed **Rogers City Spur Trail**, which would extend north from the NEST in Posen Township, will connect the Huron Sunrise Trail on Rogers City's east side near the Michigan Limestone Operations Mine. When finally finished the route near the mine property should provide stunning up-close views of a world-class mining operation. The idea of this route has been agreed to by all the parties, but the exact route is still under discussion.

- **The Millersburg Depot Regional Trailhead Park** was completed in 2012, as described on pages 3-8 and 3-9 of this plan. The MDNR completed the reconstruction of the Ocqueoc River Trail Bridge in the winter of 2016-2017.

In December 2016, the City of Onaway is considering a location for a new trailhead that will serve users along the NEST and another local park. In 2019 the MDNR announced that the City of Onaway's new trailhead development was recommended for the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant and awarded \$204,700 towards the project. The plan includes universal access designed family restrooms, a pavilion that will provide a location for a farmer's market, picnicking, and many other activities.

- **Anishinaabe Trail** – a 5.25-mile paved bike path along the side of Grand Lake Road in Presque Isle County connecting the community center of Grand Lake near Kauffman Bay to the Old and New Presque Isle Lighthouses and museum. This route goes along a narrow land mass separating Grand Lake and Lake Huron, allowing access to both lakes, lighthouses, Presque Isle Harbor, and historic features.
- **Silver Creek Snowmobile Trail**—Millersburg connecting to Black Mountain Snowmobile Trail
- **Connector Snowmobile Trail to Montmorency County**—Millersburg connection to Atlanta
- **Thompson's Harbor State Park Trail System**—bicycles on designated roads; hiking/cross-country skiing on three loops for a total of 6.4 miles
- **Shoepac Sinkhole Trails**—hiking/cross-country skiing on two loops for a total of 2.25 miles
- **Ocqueoc Falls Bicentennial Pathway**—hiking, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking on three-, four- and six-mile loops
- **Black Mountain Recreation Area**—Presque Isle and Cheboygan counties; 40 miles for hiking/XC skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding; 80 miles of snowmobile trails; 60 miles of ORV trails
- **High Country Pathway**—The High Country Pathway is a 70+ mile trail system that runs through the heart of Pigeon River Country, primarily in Montmorency and Otsego Counties, but also through Allis Twp. in southwest Presque Isle County. It is designed to serve the more enthusiastic backpacker or mountain biker and connects to Tomahawk Lake and Shoepac Lake State Forest Campgrounds.
- **Seagull Point Nature Trails**—walking/hiking; Rogers City
- **Onaway State Park**—walking/hiking
- **P. H. Hoeft State Park**—walking/hiking/cross-country skiing
- **Besser Bell Natural Area**—one-mile trail through a stand of virgin pine and abandoned Village of Bell; walking/hiking/cross-country skiing; in Rockport SRA.
- **Vogler Conservation Area**—7 miles of walking/hiking/cross-country skiing trails

- **Huron Shores Heritage Route (Coastal Water Trail)** — Presque Isle County’s Lake Huron coastline is part of this designated Michigan water trail, which is comprised of about 200 miles along the Lake Huron shoreline, from Standish to Mackinaw City. It offers non-motorized boaters access to some of the most extensive and significant recreational, ecological, historical, and cultural sites in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Key destinations in Presque Isle County include Hammond Bay, the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse, the Ocqueoc River, Rogers City Harbor, local parks, and Thompson’s Harbor with multiple bays and points, quarries, two lighthouses, and a false island.
- **Sunrise Coast Birding Trail** – orange signs have been placed along this designated bird-watching trail, which follows US-23 along the coast of Lake Huron. Birders can visit the several parks and viewpoints along the coast to spot many species of birds, common or rare, or local or migratory.

Festivals and Events

- Black Mountain 31K Nordic Classic and 10 KM Tour—February; Black Mountain Recreation Area
- Nautical Frost Festival – February; Rogers City
- Grand Lake Sportsmen’s Club Ice Fishing Contest - February
- Girls on the Run “Color Run” – May; Rogers City
- 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Open House/Arts & Crafts Show – May at the Lighthouse, N. of Rogers City
- Spring Fest – June; Westminster Park, Rogers City
- Wooden Boat Show—June; Presque Isle Harbor
- 4th of July Festival—July; Onaway
- 40 Mile Point Lighthouse/Encampment/Rendezvous - July
- Fat Hogs Fishing Frenzy Ladies’ Fishing Tournament – July; Rogers City
- Grand Lake Sportsmen’s Club Fishing Contest - July
- Meteors and S’mores –August; Rockport State Recreation Area
- Nautical Festival—August; Rogers City
- Fishing Tournament—August; Rogers City
- 5K Wellness Walk/Run – August; Chandler Park, Rogers City
- Nautical Sprint Triathlon – September; Rogers City
- Posen Potato Festival—September; Posen
- Fall Fest – September, Westminster Park, Rogers City
- 40 Mile Point Lighthouse/ Night at the Lighthouse – October
- Lake Huron Discovery Tour – October; US 23 Heritage Route
- Haunted House “Scream in Wolverine” —October; Onaway
- Scarecrow Contest – October; Rogers City
- Discover Rogers City Scavenger Hunt – October
- Shop Local Xmas Passport – November, Rogers City
- Chandler Park Tree Lighting—November; Onaway
- Christmas Decorating Contest – December; Rogers City

- Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade in Rogers City – December
- The Art Walk – June or October; Roger City

Recreational Facilities in School

- Rogers City Area Schools—High School practice football field, track, gym, weight room; Elementary School playground, gym; Gilpin Field football field, baseball, and softball fields; Tennis courts on school property are owned by Rogers City.
- Onaway Public Schools (K-12) – Gym, playground, football field, 2 multi-purpose fields, basketball court, track (not fully developed).
- Posen Consolidated Schools—gym, weight room, playground, football field, track. The school was updated in 1995-96 to be ADA-accessible.
- St. Ignatius Elementary School Rogers City—gym, playground
- St. John’s Lutheran School Rogers City—playground
- Seventh Day Adventist School Onaway—playground
- Rogers City Montessori and playground
- Rogers City Baptist Academy—playground
- The Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMIGLSI) provides conservation education programs to students in the local school districts. NEMIGLSI strives to build vibrant, sustainable communities committed to empowering young people as environmental leaders and social entrepreneurs. The NEMIGLSI network achieves this vision by facilitating school-community partnerships; funding innovative, collaborative student-driven projects; providing targeted training opportunities for students and teachers and coordinating communities of learning.

US 23 Heritage Route

The US 23 Heritage Route extends 200 miles from Standish to Mackinaw City and is called the “Huron Shores Heritage Route”. Each county along the route has an active Heritage Route Team and participates in an overseeing Management Council. The Presque Isle 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. The “Sunrise Coast” partnership in the Pure Michigan campaign has also helped to increase the exposure of recreation in Presque Isle County. Therefore, the US 23 Heritage Route program assists with the promotion of public and private recreational facilities in the county.

Refer to **Figure 3-5: Recreation Inventory Map** on the next page to view the majority of publicly available recreation facilities in the County.

FIGURE 3-5: Recreation Inventory Map



Presque Isle County Recreation Inventory

- County-Owned or Leased Recreational Facilities
- Other Public Recreational Facilities
- Snowmobile Trails
- Non-Motorized Trails
- Proposed Trail
- ORV Trails
- ORV Routes
- State Roads
- Roads
- Rivers & Streams
- State Land
- Cities & Villages
- Water Bodies

DISCOVER
Northwest Michigan
EAST OF EXPECTED
Map created by NEMCOG
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

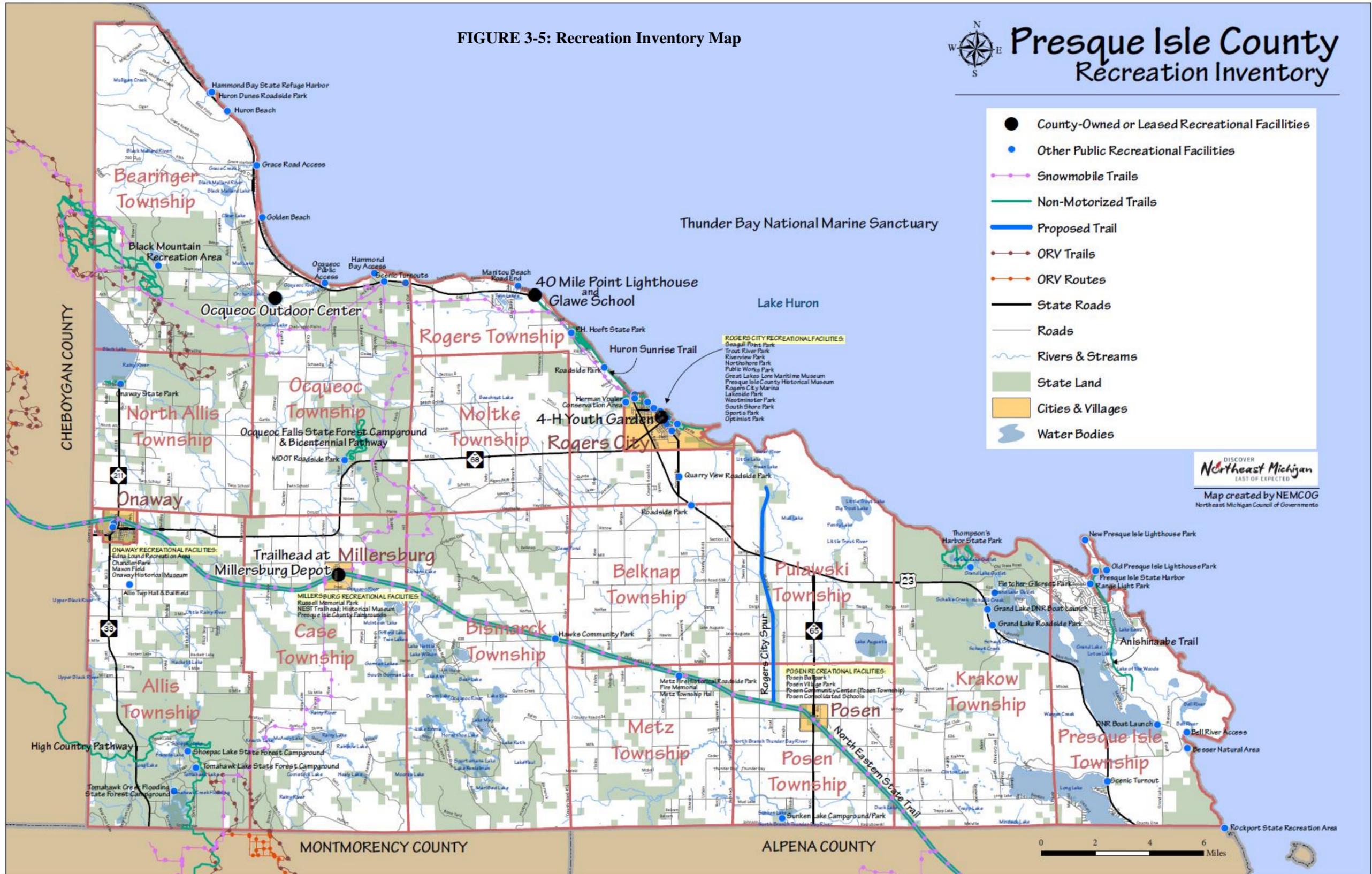


TABLE 3-1: Cultural & Historical Tourism Sites In Presque Isle County

Lumber/Farming/Settlement Sites	Date	City/Township
1. Kauffman House	1862	Presque Isle Twp.
2. Town of Bell (ghost town)	1870's	Presque Isle Twp.
3. Kitchen House	1870's	Rogers City
4. Elowsky Grist Mill	1870's	Posen Twp.
5. Glawe School	1885	Ocqueoc/Rogers Twp.
6. Lobdell Office (Masonic Temple)	1901	City of Onaway
7. Metz Fire Memorial	1908	Metz Twp.
8. Onaway Courthouse	1908	City of Onaway
9. Millersburg Railroad Depot	1917	Village of Millersburg
10. Onaway Fire Hose Tower	unknown	City of Onaway
11. Bearinger Township Hall	1920	Bearinger Twp.
12. Paul Hoeft Crypt	unknown	Rogers City
Mining/Steelmaking/Shipping History	Date	City/Township
13. Crawford's/Calcite Quarry	1912	Rogers City
14. Calcite Pilot House	1912	Rogers Twp.
15. Bradley House (museum)	1914	Rogers City
16. Calcite Power House	1920's	Rogers City
17. Calcite Screening Tower	1920's	Rogers City
18. Calcite Worker Housing	1920's	Rogers City
19. Bungalow Row	1920's	Rogers City
20. Great Lakes Lore Museum	NA	Rogers City
Maritime History Sites	Date	City/Township
21. Sacred Rock (Native American)	Pre-1870	Rogers Twp.
22. Old Presque Isle Lighthouse	1840	Presque Isle Twp.
23. F.T. Barney Shipwreck	1855-68	Lake Huron
24. Burnham's Landing	1860's	Presque Isle Twp.
25. Presque Isle Range Light	1870	Presque Isle Twp.
26. New Presque Isle Lighthouse	1871	Presque Isle Twp.
27. Hammond Bay Lifesaving Station (USF&W lab)	1876	Ocqueoc Twp.
28. 40 Mile Point Lighthouse	1897	Rogers Twp.
29. Steamer Fay Shipwreck	1905	Rogers Twp.
Resorts/Recreation/Tourism	Date	City/Township
30. Fireside Inn	1908	Presque Isle Twp.
31. Presque Isle Lodge	1920	Presque Isle Twp.
32. Mystery Valley	1920's	Posen Twp.
Depression Era Sites	Date	City/Township
33. Onaway State Park	1920	North Allis Twp.
34. Sunken Lake County Park (Alpena Co.)	1920	Posen Twp.
35. Hoeft State Park	1921	Rogers Twp.
36. Camp Black Lake CCC Camp	1933	Ocqueoc Twp.
37. Posen REA Memorial	1937	Village of Posen
38. WPA Airport Hangar	1937	Rogers City
39. WPA Aerial Sign	late 1930's	Rogers City
40. WPA Mural-Rogers City Post Office	1941	Rogers City

Refer to **Figure 3-6 Historic and Cultural Sites Map** on the next page.

Chapter 4



Planning Process & Public Input Methods

Chapter 4 – Planning Process & Public Input Methods

Development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The Presque Isle County Planning Commission was the lead entity in developing this recreation plan. County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. Below is a timeframe for the development of the recreation plan update.

Schedule

January 2022	Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners contract with NEMCOG for assistance in updating the 2023-2026 Recreation Plan.
February 2022	NEMCOG staff drafts questions for the public input survey.
March 21, 2022	Recreation Survey is available to the public and posted on Facebook pages including; Council on Aging, 40 Mile Point Lighthouse, Michigan’s Sunrise Coast, and Heritage Route 23. Included in Appendix .
April 7, 2022	An article is published in the <i>Presque Isle County Advance</i> announcing the availability of the recreation survey.
May 30, 2022	The recreation survey closes; 226 people responded to the survey. NEMCOG provides a summary of the survey to the Planning Commission.
July 27, 2022	<i>Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center</i> hold a meeting to obtain updates to goals, objectives, and funding sources for the Center over the next five years.
September 12, 2022	<i>40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society</i> holds a meeting to obtain updates to goals, objectives, and funding sources for the Lighthouse over the next five years.

September 30, 2022	NEMCOG staff attended County Planning Commission/Recreation Plan Subcommittee meeting to review and revise the draft plan and review the timeline for completing the plan.
Fall 2022	NEMCOG staff completed site visits and barrier-free assessments of recreation facilities as needed for the plan update.
October 26, 2022	The Planning Commission or Board of Commissioners reviewed the draft recreation plan and approved the plan for the 30-day public review period
(Insert Date)	An article appears in the <i>Presque Isle County Advance</i> announcing the draft plan is available for 30-public review; a hard copy of the plan is also made available at all Libraries within Presque Isle County Library. The notice is also publicized on the local radio stations and Facebook pages for local Chambers of Commerce, as well as NEMCOG's webpage.
(Insert Date)	The 30-day public review period ends. Comments received on the plan are appended.
(Insert Date)	The Presque Isle County Planning Commission passes a Resolution of Recommendation for the plan at their regular meeting and also recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt the plan. A notice is published in the <i>Presque Isle County Advance</i> announcing a public hearing on the draft plan to be held on January 27.
(Insert Date)	The public hearing was held, and the Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners approved the Recreation Plan.
(Insert Date)	The completed Recreation Plan was sent to the Department of Natural Resources (via MiRecGrants online system), Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, and Presque Isle County.

Public Input

During the planning process for this Recreation Plan update, an online public survey instrument was used to offer residents the opportunity to provide input about recreation in Presque Isle County. The survey was open for approximately 70 days and was publicized in the *Presque Isle County Advance* newspaper. A total of 226 people participated in the survey, although not every person elected to complete all the survey questions. The Planning Commission felt that the community was adequately represented, given that if a public input session would have been held, likely fewer people would have shown up to participate via that method. Participants were

asked to identify recreation needs or desires, what recreation facilities they use, and what recreation activities they participate in.

A brief analysis of the survey results is provided below:

- The 40 Mile Point Lighthouse/Glawe School is the most utilized county park facility, with 66% of respondents indicated they use the facility occasionally. The 4-H Youth Garden is used less frequently, with 10% of respondents saying they use it occasionally and 90% saying they never use it. Only 58% of respondents use the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center (39% say they never use it).
- The top four to five (out of 16) activities participated in at the County's parks are:
 - 40-Mile Point Lighthouse/Glawe School
 1. Nature Viewing
 2. Lighthouse Tower
 3. Other Historic Features
 4. Hiking
 5. Biking
 - Ocqueoc Outdoor Center
 1. Nature Viewing
 2. Hiking
 3. Swimming
 4. Biking
 5. Picnicking
 - 4-H Youth Garden
 1. Gardening
 2. Volunteering
 3. Nature Viewing
 4. Special Events/Workshops

Suggested Improvements from 40-Mile Point Lighthouse Society:

- Provide more parking in an organized fashion – Pave a circle drive in front of the lighthouse.
- Continue renovations to the Lighthouse with the 40 Mile Point Society continuing operations
- Continue Special events
- Handicap accessible restrooms.
- Convert Fog Signal Building to Museum.
- Add ADA Video Kiosk for virtual tours.

- Glawe School – add bell tower to the School and continue maintenance, renovations, and the search for artifacts.

Suggested Improvements from survey 40 Mile Point Lighthouse/Glawe School

- More parking
- Shoreline erosion and protection.
- ORV Trails

Suggested Improvements from Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center:

- Renovate former caretaker residence into a health station.
- Develop a comprehensive plan to redesign and renovate the current shooting ranges.
- Outfit the woodworking shop with equipment and furnishings in the new garage/craft classroom.
- Construct an open air picnic pavilion.

Suggested Improvements from survey to Ocqueoc Outdoor Center

- More advertising
- More signage
- Spray for poison ivy
- Clear more walking trails
- ORV trails

Suggested Improvements from survey to the 4-H Youth Garden:

- More advertising

What recreational opportunities are missing in the County?

Many of the responses to this question pertained to the improvement and expansion of the non-motorized and motorized trail systems in the County:

- Connection of current and addition of more ORV and snowmobile trails.
- Trail system connecting Presque Isle Township to the other County wide ORV & Snowmobile trails

Other suggestions:

- More playground areas (outside of Rogers City)
- DNR or Public shooting range
- More cross country skiing areas
- Dark sky viewing areas
- Recreational Equipment rental shops.

The majority of respondents indicated they would support the expansion and protection of non-motorized and motorized trail network and trail amenities in the County, as well as the development of a new public park in Ocqueoc Township to showcase Karst topography/underground river.

The top ten recreational activities that survey respondents enjoy are:

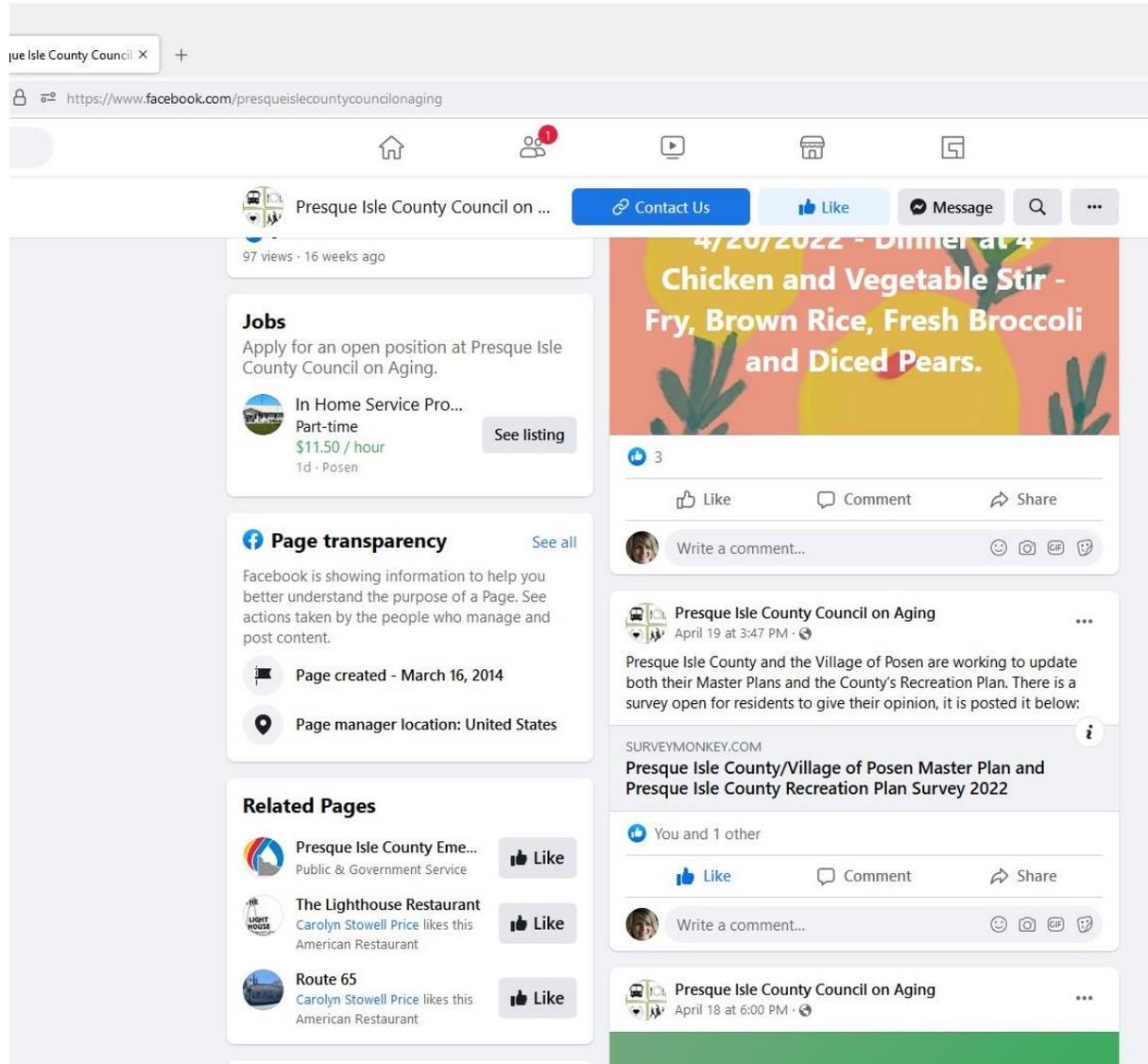
1. Fishing (80.00%)
2. Walking (76.36% each)
3. Boating/Sailing (74.55%)
4. Hiking (69.09%)
5. Swimming (67.27%)
6. Bicycling (63.64%)
7. Wildlife/Nature Viewing (61.82%)
8. Kayaking (56.36%)
9. Festivals (54.55%)
10. Bird Watching, Canoeing, Camping and Concerts (50.91% each)

The majority of survey respondents (27%) or 48 respondents were of age 61 or older; (23%) or 42 persons were aged 41-60 years, and (18%) 32 respondents were of age 21-40 years old. While most of them live year-round in the County, 6 respondents have permanent residences outside the county.

Following are images of the advertisements for the public input methods used in developing this recreation plan, as well as documentation of the final public hearing and adoption process. Documented public input received as part of the review of the draft plan is included as **Appendix**. A copy of the Recreation Survey questions and responses is included as **Appendix**.

Online Recreation Survey Publicity

Recreation Plan Survey Advertised on Facebook Pages for Council on Aging, 40 Mile Point Lighthouse, Michigan’s Sunrise Coast, and Heritage Route 23



Tools Help

(5) 40 Mile Point Lighthouse | Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/40-Mile-Point-Lighthouse-100123155547515

40 Mile Point Lighthouse

Send message Liked

About See all

40 Mile Point Lighthouse is located on the northern shoreline of Lake Huron 7 miles north of Rogers City, Michigan. The park is open to the public yea... See more

569 people like this including 1 of your friends

647 people follow this

<https://fortymilepointlighthouse.org/>

(989) 734-4907

Send message

fortymilepointlighthouse@gmail.com

Nonprofit Organization · Landmark & Historical Place

Photos See all

Create post

Photo/video Check in Tag friends

40 Mile Point Lighthouse April 22 at 5:22 PM · Public

The Planning Commission for Presque Isle County has created an online survey for residents to give their opinion on various issues. Below is the link where you can share you thoughts of what is important to you along with contact information if you have any questions.
Thanks for your participation.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PICounty>
Denise Cline... See more

SURVEYMONKEY.COM

Presque Isle County/Village of Posen Master Plan and Presque Isle County Recreation Plan Survey 2022

You and 3 others

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

40 Mile Point Lighthouse April 13 at 7:01 PM · Public

Greetings, We still have a few spaces left!! We are looking for handmade products by Craft Vendors for the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Craft Show over Memorial Day Weekend. This is our 17th year of our 2 day show the price is \$45 for the 2 days. Last year we had around 40 vendors and it was a lovely show. Easily located 7 miles north of Rogers City on the grounds of our lovely lighthouse. If you are interested please contact Shawn Williams at fortymilenointlighthouse@gmail.com.

Tools Help

Michigan Sunrise Coast | Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/MichiganSunriseCoast

Michigan Sunrise Coast

Learn How

Create ad

How would you like to grow your business?

- Create new ad: Make an ad using text, photos or videos to promote your business
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- Automated Ads: Get personalized ads that adjust over time to help you get better results.

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- Add a Get Quote button: Get more quote requests for your business by enabling a "Get Quote"...
- Post templates: Quickly create visually pleasing posts with free, pre-made creative assets.
- Sell your products: Set up a shop on your Page to start selling products online
- Add appointment bookings: Display your services and availability so that people can book an...

Michigan Sunrise Coast

Published by Denise Becker Cline · April 21 at 9:02 AM

Heritage Route 23

April 21 at 9:02 AM

Presque Isle County is updating its Master Plan and Recreation Plan (the Village of Posen is partnering with the county to update their Master Plan as well). Pl... See more

616 People reached, 11 Engagements, - Distribution score

Boost a post

7 Likes, 1 Share

Like Comment Share

0329/photos/a.686961374655867/5376501815701776/?_cft__[0]=AZVUyHV4UbPgrFaOmUVg5U15z6fCj_5Wt4go7PjyUbPzMO9mrzJ5...8AZgXi0jpN9U5RK3u6p86bcnr55Q3Myrz0ye7ZM8BAjo9-AVO32Yk1Jn5Yc4c--cBRLO76wSGGT8Z0Nv6UWpjmcQy7BwDmCpYy

Tools Help

Heritage Route 23 | Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/Heritage-Route-23-233650133320329

Heritage Route 23

+ Add a button Promote

Create ad See all
How would you like to grow your business?

- Create new ad
Make an ad using text, photos or videos to promote your business
- Boost a post
- Automated Ads
Get personalized ads that adjust over time to help you get better results.

Free Facebook Business Tools

- Post templates**
Quickly create visually pleasing posts with free, pre-made creative assets.
- Sell your products**
Set up a shop on your Page to start selling products online
- Add appointment bookings**
Display your services and availability so that people can book an...
- Host paid online events**
Create online events that people can pay to access.

Show more

Heritage Route 23
Published by Denise Becker Cline · April 21 at 9:02 AM

Presque Isle County is updating its Master Plan and Recreation Plan (the Village of Posen is partnering with the county to update their Master Plan as well). Please participate in this survey to give input on future growth and needs! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PICounty>

2,030 People reached 122 Engagements - Distribution score Boost post

2 Likes 8 Shares

Like Comment Share

Comment as Heritage Route 23

Heritage Route 23
Published by Denise Becker Cline · April 7 at 10:02 AM

Notice of Survey Publication Presque Isle Advance, Thursday, April 7, 2022

recommended as the tank (continued on page 3)

County, Posen release survey for master plan update, ask for input

Presque Isle County and the village of Posen, with assistance from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments are updating its master plans, which contains the community's long-term vision. In addition, the county is updating its five-year recreation plan in order to qualify for grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The specific facilities appearing in the recreation plan include 40-Mile Point Lighthouse, Ocqueoc Outdoor Center and the 4-H Youth Garden at the county building.

The planning process incorporates a community participation element that encourages input from citizens.

The county and the village have chosen to partner with each other to gather this public input in an online survey. The survey contains just over 30 questions and is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PICounty>. Citizens can pick up a hard copy of the survey at the Presque Isle County offices and the village of Posen offices.



Year	Make	M
2010	Toyota	P

Notice of Availability of Recreation Plan for 30 Days

Public Hearing Notice

Presque Isle County Planning Commission Recommendation of Adoption

Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners Resolution of Adoption

Minutes of the Presque Isle County Board Meeting (including Public Hearing)

Copies of Submittal Letters

Chapter 5



Goals & Objectives/Action Plan

Chapter 5 – Goals & Objectives/Action Plan

General Goal for Recreation in Presque Isle County

Ensure the preservation of recreational resources at a level that will meet the needs of permanent and seasonal residents and visitors.

Identified Objectives

1. Expand the County's role as a recreation provider by adopting and maintaining a Recreation Plan with updates at five-year intervals and by relying on citizen volunteer services and support.
2. Identify and apply for appropriate grant funding for recreation projects.
3. Maintain and improve the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse facilities, as existing and future needs require.
4. Maintain and improve Ocqueoc Outdoor Center as a place for outdoor recreation and education.
5. Encourage the expansion and connection of snowmobile/motorized trails and non-motorized trails within the County.
6. Promote tourism and economic growth through recreation facilities development and management.
7. Promote and facilitate activities for youth through MSUE 4-H programs.
8. Establish a working relationship with the DNR in the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities.
9. Install wayfinding signage to direct visitors to and within area recreational facilities.
10. Provide a balance of recreational amenities which cater to the aging population to increase the desirability of the community to retirees.
11. Provide recreational amenities oriented toward younger persons and families to increase the livability of the community, attract young families to the area and retain older youth.
12. Improve the overall local economy by enhancing the livability of the community to attract entrepreneurs and encourage the creation of new tourism-based jobs.
13. Improve the economy of the Presque Isle County area by marketing the area as part of a destination package that offers year-round tourism.
14. Support the US 23 Heritage Route Presque Isle County Team in their efforts to promote the area as a recreation destination.

15. Support the Pure Michigan Sunrise Coast campaign.

The action plan is presented below. Anticipated funding sources will be in the form of cash from the County general fund, non-profit organizations, private contributions, donated labor and materials, and several grant sources. MDNR grant sources include the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport Grants, and Land & Water Conservation Fund Grants. MDEQ grant sources include Clean Michigan Initiative and Coastal Management. MDOT funding for non-motorized transportation improvements is the Transportation Alternatives Program. Other appropriate grant programs will be explored as needed.

TABLE 5-1 Capital Improvements & Programs – Five Year Plan¹

40- Mile Point Lighthouse Park		
Year	Improvement or Program	Estimated Cost/Anticipated Funding Source
2023-2027	1. Continue renovations to Lighthouse with 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society continuing operations.	1. County funds, plus Society funds and in-kind
	2. Continue “Night at the Lighthouse” in early Oct., and continue other special events	2. Society funds 3. County funds
	3. On-site caretaker	4-8. County funds, society funds, in-kind, and grant programs including MDNR and historic grant sources.
	4. Signage (trees, flora, etc.)	4. \$2,500
	5. Conversion of Fog Signal Building to a museum.	5. TBD
	6. Virtual Video kiosk (with views of the interior) to be placed in Fog Signal Building to help meet ADA compliance.	6. \$10,000 7. \$10,000
	7. Handicap-accessible restroom entrance	8. \$9,000
	8. Pave from circle drive to in front of the lighthouse.	

¹ All costs are estimates only 2023. Actual costs may be less than or greater than the estimates. Projects may be implemented contingent upon the availability of grant funding and are not listed in any prioritized order.

Glawe School		
Year	Improvement or Program	Estimated Cost/Anticipated Funding Source
2023-2027	1. Continue artifact search	1. Donations
	2. 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society to continue operations	2. Society Funds
	3. Addition of a Bell Tower to Glawe School.	3. \$14,000
	4. Continue improvements, maintenance, and renovations by County with assistance from the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society.	5. \$3,000

Ocqueoc Outdoor Center ²		
YEAR	PROJECT	EST. COST ³
	General Upgrades	
2023-2027	1. Inspect and upgrade/replace roofs as needed*	\$70,000
	2. Control pest issues*	\$4,000
	3. Upgrade wiring*	\$30,000
	4. Repair and replace sidewalks*	\$12,000
	5. Update heating/cooling in all buildings*	\$40,000
	6. Turn log cabin into a heritage center with exhibits; pest control*	\$60,000
	7. Repair or replace septic tank/drain field*	\$25,000
	8. Upgrade outdoor lighting	\$15,000
	9. Construct open-air pavilion, fire circle, and install pit toilets*	\$50,000
	10. Maintain and expand trail system to tie in with adjacent trails	\$10,000
	11. Weatherproof buildings	\$10,000
	12. Upgrade entrance ramps to meet building codes for accessibility	\$21,000
	13. Replace/enlarge entry awnings	\$5,000
	14. Renovate Counselor's Building	\$40,000
	15. Fishing platform	\$25,000
	16. New windows/screens	\$40,000
	17. Continue marketing campaign with ads, open house, letters, fundraising committee.	\$10,000
	18. Repair entrance and perimeter fencing	\$5,000

² Projects denoted with an "*" are considered higher priority projects for the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center

³ Funding sources include MNRTF, Recreation Passport, & LWCF grants; local foundations/grants; donations; & in-kind services.

Ocqueoc Outdoor Center, Continued:		
YEAR	PROJECT	EST. COST
	New Garage Craft Classroom	
2023-2027	1. Outfit the woodworking shop with all necessary equipment and furnishings.	\$3,500
	Former Caretaker Residence*	
2023-2027	1. Renovate building into a health station	\$75,000
	Bunkhouses	
2023-2027	1. Replace lights with caged lights	\$2,000
	Archery & Shooting Range	
2023-2027	1. Create a comprehensive plan to re-design and renovate the current archery and shooting range.	\$7,000

Non-Motorized Trails		
YEAR	PROJECT	Estimated Cost and Anticipated Funding Source
2023-2027	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of a trail on Rogers City Spur or a similar route connecting NEST to Rogers City 2. Development of trail connecting Onaway to Onaway State Park and Black Mountain Recreation Area 3. Development of trail or bike lane connecting Millersburg Historic Depot to Ocqueoc Falls Park 4. Trailhead facility in Village of Posen (restrooms, parking, bathrooms, pavilion) 5. Trailhead facility in Onaway (restrooms, parking, bathrooms, pavilion) 6. North Eastern State Trail – trailside amenities including signs, benches, and overlooks – at scenic locations outside of communities. 7. Trail loop and birding overlook of Duck Lake (in Posen and/or Krakow Township) 8. Bench site and interpretive sign about Big Cut in Bismarck Township 9. Promotional materials 10. Trail development for horseback riders 11. Trail from US 23 to Ocqueoc Outdoor Center 12. Trail from Onaway to Allis Twp Park 13. Trail from Allis Twp Park to High Country Pathway 14. Extend Presque Isle Twp Trail to Besser Natural Area 	<p>Township funds, county funds, city funds, in-kind, MDNR, MDOT, Top of MI Trails Council. Costs are to be determined per individual project scope.</p>

Motorized Trails		
YEAR	PROJECT	Estimated Cost and Anticipated Funding Source
2023-2027	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Snowmobile trails into Posen Village 2. Work with DNR and other local agencies to open roads in State facilities to snowmobiles. 	<p>Township funds, county funds, village funds, in-kind, MDNR, MDOT, Snowmobile Associations</p> <p>1-2 - TBD</p>

General Basis for Action

There are several issues pertinent to recreation planning in the County:

1. The area has a significantly older population. Individuals 65 years of age and older comprise an estimated 22.7% of the population of Presque Isle County, compared to the state average of 16.8%. The majority of in-migration is also due to the relocation of persons aged 60 or older. Therefore, thought must be given to planning for this large population group which has the time and desire for age-appropriate recreational activities.
2. It is estimated that just under one-third of the population (30.7%) of Presque Isle County is under the age of 45. Due to its rural nature, the county offers little in the way of commercial recreation for young people. An abundance of active recreational activities is needed.
3. Presque Isle County's estimated median household income as of 2020 is \$48,734 compared to that of the State average of \$59,234. Accordingly, to truly be accessible, recreation must also be affordable.
4. Natural beauty and history abound in Presque Isle County. It is important to those planning for its growth and development that effort be made to balance ecological concerns with tourism potential. The protection of natural resources and scenic areas must be a key element of the planning process.
5. The issue of improving the local economy by establishing the area as a premier recreation destination is of utmost importance. The loss of industrial jobs and the closing of businesses have forced communities to take a new look at employment and the future of jobs in northeast Michigan. The County sees an opportunity to re-make itself into a premier tourism destination by capitalizing on its location on Lake Huron. The attraction of visitors to coastal recreational amenities has the potential to create not only direct tourism-related jobs but also to increase sales at local establishments which serve those visitors (i.e. local motels, cottage rentals, watercraft rentals, restaurants, resorts, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.). In addition, the City strives to create a community with a defined sense of place and a high livability/quality of life factor which will attract young families who have the option of work mobility (telecommuters) or who have the potential to be entrepreneurs. This livability/quality of life factor will also help to retain youth who otherwise would leave the area upon reaching adulthood.

With these issues in mind, other factors to be considered in recreational planning for the County include:

1. Development of recreation opportunities that are appropriate to the area's major population groups. Both active and passive recreation opportunities require easy access to allow use by those with limited transportation and resources, including the elderly and youth of the area.
2. Development and maintenance of recreational opportunities for people with diverse incomes, including recreation available at a no-cost or low-cost basis, as well as appealing to upscale, urban visitors.
3. Maintenance and operation of existing and new recreational facilities in a manner that preserves their ecological and scenic value, with limited staff.

Basis For Capital Improvements

The following goals, objectives, and actions were developed directly from the input received at the public input sessions conducted as part of the 2022 Recreation Plan, as well as from current input received from the County Planning Commission, volunteer groups, and the online recreation survey.

40 Mile Point Lighthouse

GOAL: Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners and 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society is committed to the historically correct restoration and continued operation of this site as a key recreation and tourism site in Presque Isle County and Northeast Michigan Region.

Objective 1: Restoration of the lighthouse

Action 1: Continue renovations to Lighthouse with the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society continuing operations

Action 2: Convert the Fog Signal building into a museum

Objective 2: Maintain operations

Action 1: 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Society to maintain operations

Objective 3: Provide disabled visitors with a lighthouse experience

Action 1: Handicap accessible entrance to outdoor restroom

Action 2: Virtual Video tour & Video Kiosk

Objective 4: Provide visitor experience

Action 1: Continue existing special programs and events, such as “Night at the Lighthouse” in October; Open House/Arts/Crafts Show in May; and Encampment/Rendezvous in July.

Action 2: Expand events

Action 3: Expand marketing

Action 4: Expand the paved area from circle drive to the front of the lighthouse.

Glawe School

GOAL: To preserve and promote the historical significance of this one-room schoolhouse from 1885.

Objective 1: Continue operations and efforts of the Glawe School (volunteer) Committee.

Action 1: Continue to secure donations and committee funds

Action 2: Continue photographs and artifacts search of the Glawe School and other one-room schoolhouses.

Action 3: Addition of bell tower.

Basis for Action: Due to historic restrictions, the lighthouse cannot be made completely ADA-accessible. Therefore, the Lighthouse Society would like to provide a unique experience to disable visitors by allowing them to view the interior of the lighthouse on a screen at a kiosk. In northeast Michigan, over 38% of residents are classified as having some type of disability. Furthermore, National Scenic Byways has reported that people interested in visiting historic sites make up 20% of travelers on scenic byways/heritage routes and they are, on average, 51 years of age. These facts, along with the high number of older resident visitors, make disabled access a priority.

Enhancing the availability and exhibits at the Glawe Schoolhouse would add to the variety of historical features for the public to visit and learn about at the 40-Mile Lighthouse Point site.

The 40 Mile Point Lighthouse and the Glawe School are popular tourism draws for the area and need to be maintained. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation reports that over 13% of visitors that visit coastal northeast Michigan stop at a historic site.

Ocqueoc Outdoor Recreation Center

GOAL: To provide a unique gathering place in a relaxed, natural environment for educational, recreational, and social activities. The preservation and improvement of this site is important not only for the operation of an outdoor recreational facility but because of its historical significance as a former CCC camp.

Objective 1: Have the Center open for public and private use from Spring through Fall, weather permitting.

Action 1: Add supplemental heating /cooling in all buildings

Action 2: Weatherproof buildings

Objective 2: Renovate the former caretaker's residence into a health station.

Action 1: Remodel residence into the health station

Objective 3: Create a "Heritage Center" museum emphasizing the New Deal CCC Era in the County.

Action 1: Evaluate the scope of work needed to upgrade the log cabin building into a museum

Action 2: Eliminate pests (bats and insect damage to the wood logs) in the log cabin building

Action 3: Create exhibits and signage

Objective 4: Continue to provide an educational facility for youth.

Action 1: Host training programs for children in area schools

Action 2: Advertise the availability of the Center's facilities

Action 3: Work with youth groups and other volunteers to provide new equipment/facilities needed to enhance educational programming at the Center

Objective 5: Provide an upgraded facility to expand possible uses.

Action 1: Schedule a work bee day in May to clean up the beach and camp

Action 2: Maintain the existing maintenance positions

Action 3: Upgrade outdoor lighting

Action 4: Develop an open-air pavilion by the lakeside with fire pit and pit toilets

Action 5: Develop a trail system that ties into adjacent trail systems (hike, bike, equestrian use)

Action 6: Upgrade building entrance ramps to meet building codes for accessibility

Action 7: Renovate the Counselor's building

Action 8: Upgrade wiring in all buildings as needed

Action 9: Update heating/cooling in all buildings

Action 10: New fishing platform

Objective 6: Keep up on the maintenance of the facility.

Action 1: Maintain a list of maintenance tasks for each building

Action 2: Control pest issues

Action 3: Repair and replace sidewalks

Action 4: Inspect and replace roofs as needed

Action 5: Repair and expand entry awnings

Action 6: Re-build fire pit and seating by the lakeside

Action 7: New windows/screens

Action 8: Replace and or repair the septic tank/drain field

Action 9: Seasonal clean-up of lake & camp area

Action 10: Replace lights with caged lights in bunkhouses

Action 11: Repair fencing at the entrance and along the perimeter of the property

Objective 7: Increase knowledge of the facility to area residents and visitors.

Action 1: Place ads in local tourism guides

Action 2: Hold an open house for the public

Action 3: Direct mailings to target groups

Action 4: Continue the work of the fundraising committee

Action 5: Create Heritage Center/Museum

Action 6: Install interpretive and wayfinding signage

Basis for Action: The Ocqueoc Outdoor Center is a unique recreational and historic facility that is badly in need of repairs, maintenance, and upgrades. This facility has great potential for use

by schools, the community, and private groups. If properly upgraded, it could serve as a regional draw for locals and visitors alike. Its unique setting, its history, and its proximity to many other recreational amenities only serve to reinforce its importance to the community.

Non-Motorized Trails

GOAL: Expand and promote the network of trail systems in the area.

Objective 1: Expand the non-motorized trail network.

Action 1: Development of trail on Rogers City Spur or similar route connecting NEST to Rogers City

Action 2: Development of trail connecting Onaway to Onaway State Park and Black Mountain Recreation Area

Action 3: Development of trail or bike lane connecting Millersburg Historic Depot to Ocqueoc Falls Park.

Action 4: Trail loop and birding overlook of Loon Lake (in Posen and/or Krakow Township)

Action 5: Trail from US 23 to Ocqueoc Outdoor Center

Action 6: Trail from Onaway to Allis Twp Park

Action 7: Trail from Allis Twp Park to High Country Pathway

Action 8: Extend Presque Isle Twp Trail to Besser Natural Area

Objective 2: Expand motorized trail networks.

Action 1: Plan for snowmobile trails into Posen for access to businesses.

Action 2: Work with DNR and other local agencies to open up new areas to snowmobilers

Objective 3: Provide trail amenities for trail users

Action 1: Trailhead facility in Village of Posen (restrooms, parking, bathrooms, pavilion)

Action 2: Trailhead facility in Onaway (restrooms, parking, bathrooms, pavilion)

Action 3: North Eastern State Trail – trailside amenities including signs, benches, and overlooks – at scenic locations outside of communities.

Action 4: Bench site and interpretive sign about Big Cut in Bismarck Township

Objective 4: Expand knowledge of area trail systems**Action 1:** Develop promotional materials**Action 2:** Continue to support US 23 Heritage Route efforts**Action 3:** Support other regional marketing efforts

Basis for Action: Trails and ecotourism in Presque Isle County rival those in any other part of the country. There are over 700 miles of nonmotorized trails in Presque Isle, Alpena, and Alcona counties alone as well as over 250 “greenway” attractions. This area has a huge potential for visitor development due to its natural resources. Due to the economic struggles of the area (with an unemployment rate above 8% and in recent years as high as 18%) tourism development is greatly needed.

Snowmobiling in Presque Isle is a popular winter recreational activity and is important to the local economy. While the trail system is extensive through the west and central portions of the County, there is no connection to Rogers City or the east side of the County. Discussions are ongoing to open the “Posen spur” of the Alpena to Mackinaw City Rail-to-Trail facility. The MDNR and the Presque Isle Sno-Trails Club are instrumental in these actions. The Sno-Trails Club is also working to identify a trail north from Rogers City connecting to the Silver Creek Trail near the mouth of the Ocqueoc River. This *Recreation Plan* supports the expansion and linkage of the snowmobile system in Presque Isle County. These trails are not only used for wintertime snowmobiling but are available year-round for multiple uses.

This *Recreation Plan* supports the concept of a ten-mile trail system that would connect the Rogers City trail system to the Presque Isle Township trail system. The opening of the “Posen spur” would achieve half this goal. The remaining seven miles from Swan River to Old State Road in Thompson’s Harbor State Park would need to be constructed, as well as a two-mile connector from Thompson’s Harbor State Park to the existing trail on Grand Lake Road.

In summary, this *Recreation Plan* supports the goal of multi-purpose trail expansion and linkage throughout Presque Isle County.

US 23 Heritage Route

Following are the goals and objectives which are part of the *2015-2019 US 23 Corridor Management Plan*. Presque Isle County fully supports the goals of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council and Presque Isle County Team. Please refer to that plan for detailed strategies for each objective.

Goal for Attractions: Encourage the preservation, maintenance, improvement, and expansion of natural, recreational, historical, and cultural attractions along the US 23 Heritage Route.

Objective 1: Work with local communities to preserve, maintain, improve, and expand attractions along the route.

Goal for Highway Safety & Multimodal Transportation: Ensure that the US 23 Heritage Route remains safe and inviting for all modes of transportation.

Objective 1: Ensure that US 23 is an enjoyable driving experience for the automobile traveler.

Objective 2: Ensure that alternative forms of transportation are available along US 23.

Goal for Community Development: Encourage the communities along the US 23 Heritage Route to continue to improve their attractiveness.

Objective 1: Work with local communities to improve gateways, reduce blight, and investigate local mechanisms to implement improvements.

Goal for Forests, Open Space & Scenic Views: Encourage the preservation and enjoyment of the forests, open spaces, and scenic views along the US 23 Heritage Route.

Objective 1: Protect and preserve forests, open spaces, and scenic views along the route.

Objective 2: Facilitate the public's enjoyment of forests, open spaces, and scenic views along the route.

Goal for The Environment: Encourage the preservation of the natural environment along the US 23 Heritage Route, including air, water, native vegetation, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Objective 1: Ensure US 23 is a clean and beautiful highway.

Objective 2: Protect environmentally sensitive areas along the corridor.

Objective 3: Preserve and protect the native vegetation along the Route.

Objective 4: Protect wildlife and wildlife corridors along the Route.

Objective 5: Support educational activities on the natural environment that target both landowners and visitors.

Objective 6: Ensure good air quality in the coastal region.

Goal for Merchandising: Develop logo products to promote the route and provide income to the program.

Objective 1: Offer products for sale online and in local establishments.

Goal for Sponsorships: Utilize sponsorships to increase exposure to heritage sites and to generate revenue.

Objective 1: Implement Heritage Route Business Sponsorship and Corporate Sponsorship program.

Goal for Michigan Byways Program: Participate in the Michigan Byway Program to offer visitors unique corridor destinations in Michigan.

Objective 1: Work with MDOT to develop and maintain a comprehensive Statewide Michigan Byway program.

Goal for Events: Ensure the US 23 Heritage Route has a visible presence in events along the corridor.

Objective 1: Promote and take part in events along the corridor.

Goal for Outreach: Increase public awareness of the US 23 Heritage Route among the local communities and engage local organizations, businesses, youth, and other stakeholders in the program.

Objective 1: Utilize successful and adaptive public outreach methods to keep the program “fresh” in the eyes of the local communities and to engage local stakeholder groups to participate in all strategies contained within this plan.

Goal for Branding: Establish a well-recognized brand for the route and coastal area.

Objective 1: Ensure that the brand of the program is established and protected.

Goal for Finances: Develop a program income to implement the Corridor Management Plan.

Objective 1: Generate program income sufficient to provide full-time staffing and financial resources to implement other strategies of the Corridor Management Plan.

Goal for Services: Encourage tourism-related public sector attractions and private sector businesses to provide quality services to Heritage Route travelers.

Objective 1: Provide service support to private and public sector attractions.

Goal for Product Development: Provide visitors with quality information, guidance, and wayfinding along the US 23 Heritage Route.

Objective 1: Develop interpretive information for the US 23 Heritage Route.

Objective 2: Continue the “Stories of the Sunrise Coast”.

Objective 3: Develop guided and self-guided tours.

Objective 4: Develop site signage and wayfinding signage along the US 23 Heritage Route.

Objective 5: Provide visitor information in a variety of formats.

Objective 6: Manage visitors, energy, products, and safety in a responsible manner.

Objective 7: Ensure visitor information is readily available across the State and along the Route.

Goal for the Website: Maintain and improve the US 23 Heritage Route website.

Objective 1: Ensure that the US 23 website meets the needs of the US 23 program & visitors.

Goal for Advertising: Engage in an advertising campaign in order to increase visitor awareness of the US 23 Heritage Route.

Objective 1: Advertise to Target Markets.

Objective 2: Engage in Cooperative Advertising.

Objective 3: Advertise in print publications.

Objective 4: Advertise on the ground.

Objective 5: Advertise with television and radio using Pure Michigan.

Objective 6: Issue media releases to travel and tourism journalists.

Objective 7: Engage in Familiarization (FAM) tours to enable trade and media contacts and partners to experience the US 23 Heritage Route first-hand.

Objective 8: Develop a PR Kit for the US 23 Heritage Route.

Objective 9: Ensure the US 23 Heritage Route is represented at Trade and Consumer Shows.

Objective 10: Engage in Direct Marketing, including mail and e-mail.

Objective 11: Advertise on the Internet to reach target markets.

Objective 12: Engage in effective social media to increase brand awareness.

Objective 13: Use other online tools to increase brand awareness.

US 23 Heritage Route Projects Specifically for the Presque Isle County Team

1. Support the development of a connection and “gateway” from US-23 to:
 - a. The Ocqueoc “Chain of Lakes” water trail
 - b. The Black Mountain/ Black Lake State Park area
 - c. The Presque Isle State Harbor area
 - d. The Posen agribusiness area
2. Support the extension of the non-motorized pathway from Presque Isle Harbor to connect with Alpena. Support trail from Presque Isle to Rockport via the Negwegon, Rockport, and Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH) Committee.
3. Support the development of a nature and geological features trail through the Presque Isle/Alpena County karst areas.
4. Grand Lake Township Park expansion and improvements.

Depression Era Sites

Presque Isle County is blessed with several sites where CCC and WPA construction activities occurred and now the County is the owner of the premier site, Ocqueoc Outdoor Recreation Center, formerly “Black Lake CCC Camp”. This *Recreation Plan* supports the identification and promotion of these sites in promotional literature.