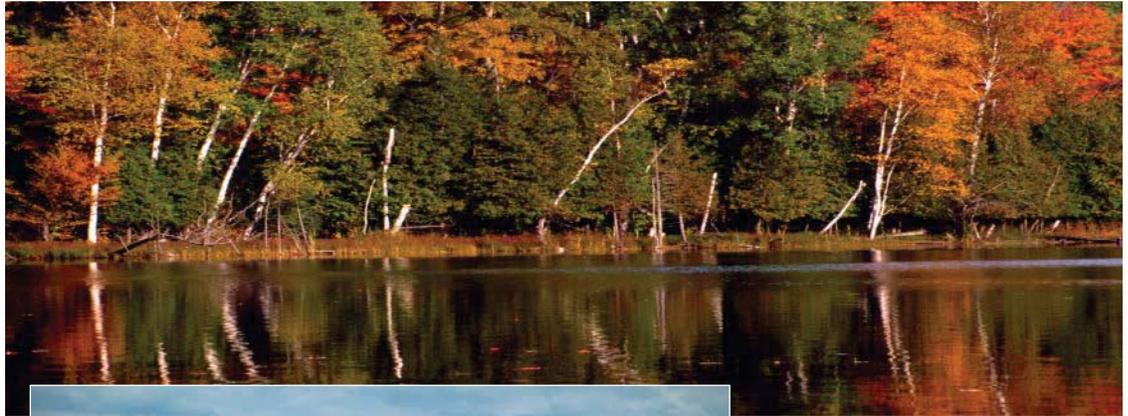


# Rust Township

Montmorency County, Michigan

# Recreation Plan



2017 - 2021



With the Assistance of:  
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
80 Livingston Blvd, Suite 108  
PO Box 457  
Gaylord, MI 49734  
989-705-3730  
[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)



Adopted: February 20, 2017



**Rust Township Recreation Plan  
2017 - 2021**

Rust Township  
Montmorency County, Michigan

**Adopted: February 20, 2017**

*Prepared for:*

**Tuscarora Township Board of Trustees**

Members:

Jonathan Schulze, Supervisor

Carlene Klein, Clerk

Michelle LaFleche, Treasurer

Janice Richiert, Trustee

James Fifield, Trustee

*Prepared by:*

**Northeast Michigan Council of Governments**

80 Livingston Blvd Suite 8

P. O. Box 457

Gaylord, Michigan 49735

[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)

989-705-3730

**RUST TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION PLAN**

Table of Contents

**CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

Extent of Plan Focus.....	1-1
Regional Setting .....	1-1
Transportation .....	1-1
Population.....	1-1
Climate .....	1-3
Geology .....	1-3
Topography .....	1-4
Soils.....	1-4
Water .....	1-4
Groundwater.....	1-4
Surface Water.....	1-5
Wetlands and Woodlands.....	1-5
Fish and Wildlife.....	1-6
State of Michigan Land.....	1-7
Existing Land Use/Land Cover Characteristics.....	1-7

**CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

Administration.....	2-1
Planning Commission.....	2-1
Recreation Committee.....	2-1
Staff/ Parks & Recreation Maintenance .....	2-2
Administrative Chart .....	2-2
Relationships with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers.....	2-2
Programming .....	2-3
Finances/Park & Recreation Maintenance: Current Funding.....	2-3

**CHAPTER 3: RECREATION INVENTORY**

Inventory Procedures.....	3-1
Rust Township Recreational Facilities .....	3-1
Rust Township Hall .....	3-1
Publicly Owned Recreation Properties.....	3-2
Mackinaw State Forest.....	3-2
Michigan Department of Transportation Roadside Park .....	3-2
Privately Owned Recreation Property .....	3-1
Lyons Landing .....	3-2
Status Report on Grant Assisted Recreational Facilities .....	3-2
Regional Recreation Surrounding Rust Township .....	3-3
Water Access.....	3-5
Trails.....	3-5
Other Regional Recreation Opportunities .....	3-6

**CHAPTER 4: DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Rust Township Planning Process .....	4-1
Schedule .....	4-1
Public Input .....	4-2

Notice of Public Input Session .....	4-3
Minutes/Notes From Public Input Session .....	4-4
Notice of Availability .....	4-5
Public Hearing Notice .....	4-6
Public Hearing Minutes & Notes/Comments .....	4-7
Township Board Resolution of Adoption.....	4-8
Submittal Letters .....	4-9

**CHAPTER 5: GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN**

Guiding Principles .....	5-1
Goals Objectives & Action Plan.....	5-2
MDOT, Robert P Zelski Roadside Park .....	5-2
Fletcher Pond Access .....	5-3
Thunder Bay River .....	5-4
Basis for Action.....	5-5
Capital Improvements Plan .....	5-7

**LIST OF MAPS**

Map 1 Regional Location ..... 1-2  
Map 2 Recreational Facilities ..... 3-X

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1-1 Existing Land Use/Land Cover ..... 1-7  
Table 5-1 Capital Improvements Schedule ..... 5-7

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix A:** Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

# Chapter 1 – Community Description

## Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and characteristics within the boundaries of Rust Township, Montmorency County, Michigan. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of the Township and surrounding area to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

## Regional Setting

Rust Township is located in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula of Michigan in southeastern Montmorency County (**Map 1 – Regional Location**). The Township comprises an area of 71.9 square miles and lies within Town 29 and 30 North, Range 4 East. The township is bordered by Hillman Township to the north, Loud and Avery Townships to the west, and Clinton Township in Oscoda County to the south. Green and Ossineke Townships in Alpena County make up the eastern boundary. There are no population centers in Rust Township.

## Transportation

The only State Highway within the Township is M-32 passing generally east and west across its northern part. State Highway M-33 meets M-32 just west of Rust Township, and extends south from that junction. Roads in the Township are county and private, with no roads maintained by the Township. A large number of the roads are unpaved rural roads.

Public transportation is offered by Thunder Bay Transportation Authority, a three-county transit system. There is no railroad access the township. There are no public airports in the Township, although a private airstrip has been developed at Turtle Lake Hunt Club in southern Rust Township.

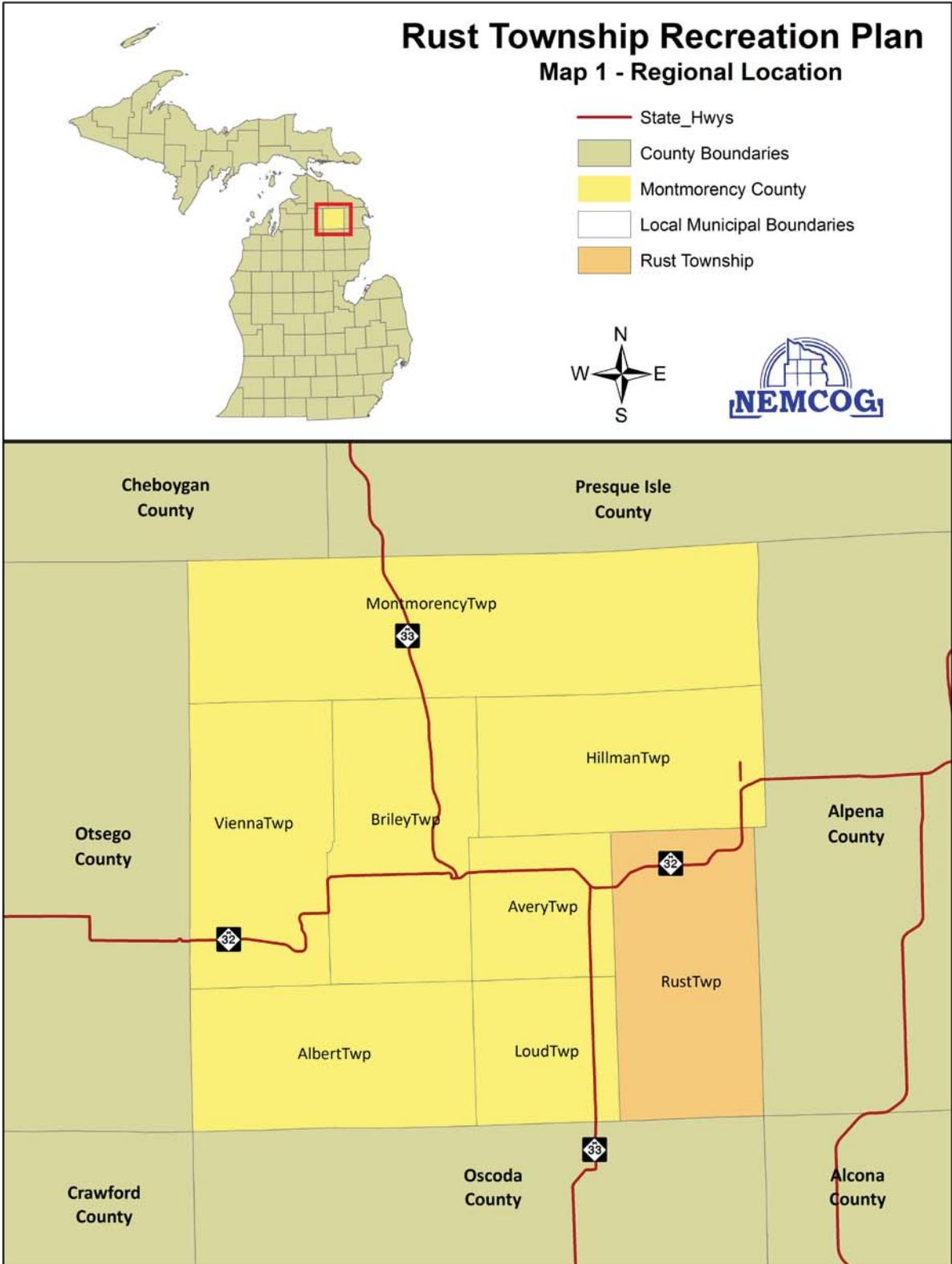
## Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Rust Township in 2010 was 561 persons with median age of 44.5. This represents an increase of 2.2 % during the decade for the Township, while the population for Montmorency County decreased about 5% during the same period. However this does not reflect the seasonal residents of the Township.

Year	Rust Population	% Change	Montmorency Co.	% Change2
1980	502		7492	
1990	514	2.4	8936	19.3
2000	549	6.8	10,315	15.4
2010	561	2.2	9765	-5.3

# Rust Township Recreation Plan

## Map 1 - Regional Location



The Census is taken on April first, and therefore does count residents who winter elsewhere. According to 2010 census data housing characteristics, of a total of 476 housing units 48.1% are listed as seasonal, recreational, or occasional use homes. Based on the average household size (2.52) the expected seasonal increase would be 636 persons, bringing the total township population to 1,197. This figure does not include seasonal or recreational visitors staying in area motels, campgrounds or family homes.

## **Climate**

Rust Township's climatic conditions are typical of Northern Lower Michigan, and is directly related to its inland location resulting in distinct seasonal changes with long cold winters and moderate summers. These distinct seasons provide ample opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and ice fishing are just some of the areas popular winter sports, and summertime activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, and camping can be enjoyed when the weather turns warm. Spring-time brings out the mushroom hunters and bird watchers, while many await the autumn months for hunting and fall color tours.

Although lake effect precipitation is significant over much of the Northern Lower Peninsula, the influences is not as prevalent in Montmorency County. Average rainfall during the May to October growing season is 18 inches, while the usual November to April winter season brings 60 to 80 inches of snowfall. The average summertime temperature is 64 degrees Fahrenheit while the winter average is 19 degrees. 176 days record and average temperature of 32 or below, and generally 23 days record below zero each year. The frost free season usually extends from about June 2 through September 16 providing a growing season of about 106 days.

## **Geology**

The general geology of the region is consistent with that of the entire northern lower peninsula of Michigan. With surface conditions the product of continental glaciation, and with a bedrock geology of sedimentary rock underlying the glacial surface features.

The sub-surface geology of Rust Township's sedimentary bedrock was established during the Paleozoic Era some 250 to 600 million years ago by shallow marine seas that deposited layers of silt, clay and other calcareous materials to form shale, limestone and dolomite bedrock. This bedrock, depending on the depth of the glacial deposits, is located at 40 to 500 feet below the surface. The sedimentary bedrock types trend from east to west beneath the Township, with Barea Sandstone and Bedford Shale predominating in eastern Rust, while Marshall Sandstone and Coldwater and Sundbury Shales in the west. Antrim shale is also present beneath the Township, and contains rich deposits of natural gas that has resulted in numerous producing wells in the Township, and throughout the region.

The surface features of Rust Township were developed 10,000 to 12,000 years ago through continental glaciation. A complex pattern of erosion and depositional features were formed by

numerous glacial advances and retreats across the area. The Township's creeks and wetlands are associated the glacial activity. When ice blocks embedded within the glacial deposition melted the resulting depressions (kettle holes) became lakes and associated wetlands.

## **Topography**

The topography of Rust Township is gently rolling and hilly moraine features bisected by the Thunder Bay River valley across the northwest, and partially bounded on the east by Fletcher Pond in the north and Turtle Lake in the south. The highest points in the Township are located in the southwest and west-central portions with elevations of slightly over 1,100 feet above sea level. The Thunder Bay River as it leaves the Township has an elevation of approximately 754 feet above sea level.

## **Soils**

The soils of Rust Township are a product of its glacial history and consist primarily of coarse and medium textured glacial till, with two bands of outwash sand and gravel extending from north to south. As might be expected, significant extent of hydric soils are noted along Thunder Bay River, creeks and streams in the Township, and in proximity of larger ponds. There are limited steep slopes in Rust Township, in its southern portion, and do not generally present a developmental problem.

The highest density of residential land use occurs in the north Rust Township. Public sanitary sewer system is not available in the Township, and onsite septic systems must be provided. The ability of the soil to accommodate building foundations and septic systems are key factors in determining the cost and impact of development. U.S.D. A Natural Resource Conservation Service has completed a soil survey for Montmorency County and should be consulted to help determine site suitability for development.

## **Water**

One of the valuable natural resources in Rust Township is water, both surface water and groundwater. Since there is no municipal water distribution system in the Township, residents depend on individual wells for their water supply. The Township's moderately to highly permeable sandy soils make drinking water aquifers generally vulnerable to contamination.

## **Groundwater**

According to the Montmorency County Groundwater Protection Manual prepared by NEMCOG, domestic wells showed a high degree of variability. Naturally occurring iron concentrations were generally non-detectable. Less than 25% showed sodium present. Nitrate concentrations were generally non-detectable, with localized problems present in shallow wells. In general, the area has good groundwater quality. The vulnerability of drinking water aquifers to surface contamination is higher in the southern portion of the Township. The northern portion, where most development has occurred provides better filtering action to protect groundwater.

## **Surface Water**

The Thunder Bay River flows to the northeast across North Rust Township, with the Upper South Branch of Thunder Bay River flowing north into Fletcher Pond in South Rust Township. Other named streams include Miller Creek, Weber Creek, Cole Creek, Turtle Creek, and Bullock Creek. Larger water bodies include Fletcher Pond (an impoundment on the Thunder Bay River), Turtle Lake and Lockwood Lake.

Fletcher Pond (also known as Fletcher's Floodwater) is a man-made impoundment covering over 9,000 acres along the eastern boundary of North Rust Township and reaching into Alpena County. In 1931, the Alpena Power Company constructed a dam across the Upper South Branch of the Thunder Bay River in Green Township, Alpena County. The flooding has provided excellent habitat for marine birds, and has become an important attraction for bird watching, fishing and hunting.

Current surface water quality in Rust Township is good, but the threat of point and non-point pollution is always a concern. Minimizing fertilizer/pesticide application near surface water, implementation of septic system regulations, soil erosion and sedimentation regulations, and lake/stream greenbelt regulations will help maintain and improve water quality.

## **Wetlands and Woodlands**

A wetland is land where water is found, either at or near the surface, at any time during the year. Wetlands are often referred to as marshes, swamps or bogs. Wetlands in Rust Township are dispersed across the landscape, typically on old glacial outwash plains. The Upper South Branch Thunder Bay River, Webber Creek, Miller Creek, Turtle Creek and Fletcher Pond include wetlands in their vicinity. There is a concentration of one to five acre pothole wetlands across the Rust Township landscape.

In Rust Township the dominant forest associations are northern hardwoods (sugar maple, American beech and basswood) and oak aspen and pine in the upland areas. Wetland hardwood species include black ash, slippery elm and red maple and lowland conifers such as northern white cedar, black spruce and eastern tamarack.

The northern Michigan forests provide important raw materials for several local industries, including pulpwood, fuel chips, saw logs, firewood, fence posts, Christmas boughs and sap for maple syrup.

## **Fish and Wildlife**

Rust Township's topography, climate, water resources, diverse forest land and open areas provide the basis for extensive fish and wildlife habitat. The fishing and hunting resources of the area are an important component of the local economy, with many people traveling to the area to enjoy the high quality resources.

Sport fishing on the Thunder Bay River and its associated streams and creeks is an important component of Rust Township's recreation and economic activity. Game fish species found in the river include: brown and rainbow trout, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, yellow perch, bullhead, and various panfish species. Designated trout waters means resident populations of trout are supported. Miller Creek in Rust Township is such a designated trout water.

The forested and wetland regions of Rust Township provide habitat for numerous species of birds and mammals typical of the forested ecosystems of northern Michigan. Game species include elk, white-tail deer, black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and snowshoe hare. Michigan Department of Natural Resources biologists recently confirmed gray wolf in the region, the first wolf substantiated in the Lower Peninsula since wolves began returning to Michigan 15 years ago. Non-game species in the area include: fox, woodchuck, beaver, porcupine, raccoon, opossum, skunk, coyote, bald eagle, and many song bird and waterfowl.

Numerous threatened and endangered species occur within the Thunder Bay River basin. These include: Kirtland's Warbler, osprey, caspin tern, common loon, lake sturgeon, channel darter, black sedge, fairy slipper, dwarf lake iris, and pine drops.

## State of Michigan Land

State land covers a large tract of land in northwestern Rust Township. The Mackinaw State Forest, is a 717,500-acre forested area owned by the State of Michigan and operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Slightly over 2,000 acres of Rust Township are included in Mackinaw State Forest.

## Existing Land Use/Land Cover Characteristics

**Table 1** provides a breakdown of land cover/land use in Briley Township. Large areas of woodlands occur throughout the Township, and account for over 70% of the total township land area.

<b>Table 1-1 – Rust Township - Existing Land Use/Land Cover</b>		
<b>Land Use Category</b>	<b>Number of Acres</b>	<b>Percent of Township Area</b>
Residential	1,668	3.63%
Commercial	4	0.01%
Industrial	50	0.11%
Institutional/Recreational	157	0.34%
Agricultural	4,017	8.74%
Non-Forested/Openland	3,595	7.83%
Woodland	32840	71.48%
Wetlands	1,460	3.18%
Water	2,150	4.68%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45941</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Chapter 2 – Administrative Structure

### Administration

Rust Township is governed by an elected Board of Trustees consisting of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Trustees. These positions are chosen by registered voters of the Township in an at-large election held every four years. This board is responsible for all recreation decisions in the Township. The Board receives recommendations from the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is the body directly responsible for developing the township Recreation Plan. The Recreation Committee acts as an advisory panel to the Rust Township Board and Planning Commission regarding the planning, acquisition, development and funding of recreation properties and facilities within the Township. Among other township governmental entities are the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Review.

### Planning Commission

The Rust Township Planning Commission is a five member body. Planning Commission members are intended to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce, agriculture, government, education, transportation, etc. Planning members may come from many walks of life, but all contribute their time and talents to the local planning process. In addition to the direct responsibility of preparing the Master Plan and Recreation Plan, the Rust Township Planning Committee is charged with reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

### Recreation Committee

The Rust Township Recreation Committee is a volunteer committee made up of township officials and residents. Membership on the committee fluctuates based on ongoing projects and time commitments of those involved. The committee makes recommendations and proposals regarding recreation to the Township Board. The general duties of the committee include:

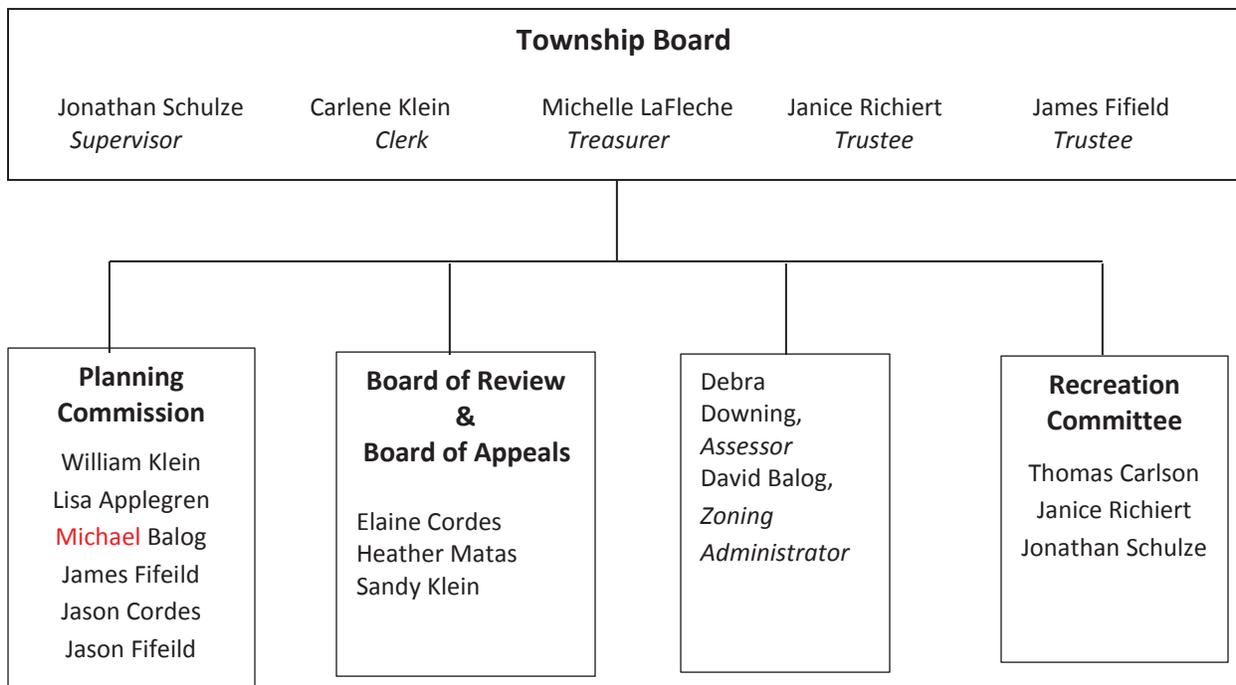
- Consider and study recreational needs of the township and offer suggestions and recommendations to address issues.
- Serve as an advisory committee to the Township Board regarding matters of recreation.
- Formulate and report its findings to the Township Board when requested.

## Staff/Parks & Recreation Maintenance

Rust Township does not employ any dedicated parks and recreation staff. The township does employ one part-time janitorial/maintenance staff at the township hall. Lawn care, snowplowing, and other maintenance activities are contracted on an as needed basis. Should the township acquire or develop additional facilities the maintenance staff employment would be reviewed and adjusted as needed at that time. Numerous community volunteers have contributed time and energy to maintenance activities, landscaping, and facility development projects over the years.

## Administrative Chart

An organizational chart for the Township is as follows:



## Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers

Rust Township depends on its community volunteers. These are dedicated individuals who come forward time and again to assist with community improvement projects and other Township related activities. The Township Board has frequent contact and excellent rapport with local/adjoining Township Officials and Montmorency County Representatives whom they work with on various projects. Included here are organized volunteer agencies and groups that volunteer time, funds, or materials to improve and/or maintain recreational assets in the Rust Township area.

**Rust Ladies Auxiliary** is a non-profit organization of Rust Township women that volunteer their time and abilities to conduct community events (Craft Days) and assist private activities (receptions, showers, funeral dinners, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets etc.) The Auxiliary assists with Township Hall improvements and provides a scholarship program. Meetings of the Auxiliary are held at Rust Township Hall.

**Programming**

There is currently no formal recreational programming in Rust Township. The Township does sponsor or assist with recreational programs through partnerships with other local agencies.

**Finances/Park & Recreation Maintenance: Current Funding**

Apart from the activities occurring at Rust Township Hall there are currently no other recreational facilities supported by Rust Township.

At this time, funding for development of recreational facilities in Rust Township would come from the Township’s General Fund. In the future, it could be possible to finance recreational development in the Rust Township through public and private grants, private donations, foundation and community service organization donations, as well as township funds. The following budget table represents a summary of Rust Township’s finances.

RUST TOWNSHIP 2015			
REVENUES	ADOPTED	ADOPTED 2016	AMMENEDED 2016
CARRY OVER BALANCE			
GENERAL FUND			\$30,301.73
TAXES/REAL & PERSONAL	\$40,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$48,000.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$20,914.00	\$18,073.37	\$18,073.37
ADMINISTRATION FEES	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
SWAMP TAX	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
RENT & ROYALTIES	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
STATE SHARE REVENUE	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
ZONING PERMITS	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$4,106.00	\$1,104.71	\$1,104.71
TOTAL	\$116,820.00	\$117,978.08	\$148,279.81

ACCT. DESCRIPTION	Recommended			
	Adopted 2015	2016	Adopted 2016	Ammened 2016
Assessor	\$9,050.00	\$9,050.00	\$9,050.00	\$9,050.00
Auditor	\$2,600.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Board of Review	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Building Manager	\$960.00	\$960.00	\$960.00	\$960.00
Building Fund	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Cemetery	\$8,150.00	\$8,400.00	\$8,400.00	\$8,400.00
Clerks Mileage	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Clerks Per-Diem	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$210.00
Clerks Salary	\$5,670.00	\$5,840.10	\$5,840.10	\$5,840.10
Conference / Workshop	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Contingency Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Data Processing	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00
Deputy Treasurer	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Deputy Clerk	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Dues / Membership	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Elections	\$500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Electric	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
FICA	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Fire	\$18,543.00	\$18,073.37	\$18,073.37	\$18,073.37
Gas	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Hall Improvements	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$33,801.73
Insurance / Bonds	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Legal	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Maintenance / Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Office Supplies	\$9,200.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Postage	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Printing / Publishing	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Retirement	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00
Road Maintenance	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Supervisors Mileage	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Supervisors Per Diem	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$210.00
Supervisors Salary	\$5,775.00	\$5,948.25	\$5,948.25	\$5,948.25
Telephone/Internet	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Treasurer Per-diem	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$210.00
Treasurers Mileage	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Treasurers Salary	\$5,670.00	\$5,840.10	\$5,840.10	\$5,840.10
Treasurer's Stepin	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Trustee Mileage	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Trustee Per Diem	\$1,330.00	\$1,330.00	\$1,330.00	\$1,330.00
Trustee Salary	\$2,142.00	\$2,206.26	\$2,206.26	\$2,206.26
Zoning Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Planning & Zoning Salaries	\$1,400.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
	\$116,820.00	\$117,978.08	\$117,978.08	\$148,279.81

## Chapter 3 – Recreation Inventory

An inventory of recreation facilities available in Rust Township was completed and is presented in this chapter. The inventory includes a Rust Township owned facility, Montmorency County owned facilities, State and organization owned facilities, and privately owned facilities. The Rust Township owned facility (Rust Township Hall) was evaluated for barrier-free accessibility. A description of the barrier-free accessibility rating criteria is provided below.

### Inventory Procedures

The methods used by NEMCOG staff to compile this recreational inventory include verification and compilation of information from the previous Recreation Plan, information provided by Rust Township officials, and site visits to each facility. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

**Accessibility Assessments** - An assessment of the accessibility of each park or facility to people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. The barrier-free accessibility information and sources of assistance given in appendices B and D should be consulted when making this assessment. At a minimum, use the following ranking system for each park:

- 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

### Rust Township Recreational Facilities

#### Rust Township Hall

Rust Township Hall is located on Cohoon Road, just west of Farrier Road, and previously housed Rust Elementary School, as part of the Hillman Community School District. The building was constructed during the 1950s, and was converted to use as Rust Township Hall when the school district discontinued use of the building in the early 1980s. The building is currently used for Rust Township offices, official meetings, community and private events, and as a local poll site location. The facility contains barrier-free restrooms, a kitchen and dining/meeting area. The original Rust Township Hall, now privately owned, was constructed in 1920, and is located approximately 1.5 miles to the west of the current Hall, on Cohoon Road.

**Service Area:** Township

**Type:** Special Use Facility

**Barrier Free Accessibility:** 4 (Facility meets accessibility guidelines)

## **Publicly Owned Recreation Properties**

### **Mackinaw State Forest**

A 717,500-acre forested area owned by the State of Michigan and operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. 2,000 acres within Rust Township. The State Forest is designated for multipurpose recreational use as well as forestry. Hunting is the primary recreational use with hiking and nature observation opportunities available as well.

### **Michigan Department of Transportation – Roadside Park**

The State of Michigan has more than 80 scenic roadside parks, located primarily on rural state highways. Located half way between Hillman and Atlanta on M-32, the Robert P. Zelski is a nicely wooded rest stop that features a fresh water well, picnic facilities and restrooms with vault toilets.

## **Privately Owned Recreation Property**

### **Lyons Landing** (currently for sale)

Although there have been several privately owned campgrounds and fishing resorts located on the West shore of Fletcher Pond in north Rust Township. Currently only Lyons Landing is in operation and has incorporated what was previously Hienes Landing. Lyons Landing occupies approximately 800' of Fletcher Pond frontage including a cement boat ramp. It has 40 campsites, and includes several cabins, two mobile homes, and a rental home, bathhouse w/updated handicap restrooms, fish cleaning house, playground, rental boats, and outboards.

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

Rust Township has not received grant assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

## Regional Recreation Surrounding Rust Township

Complete information on all public and private recreational facilities can be found in the appropriate township and village recreation plans.

<b><i>Albert Township</i></b>	
Public	Private
Buttles Road Park	Buttles Road Park
Lewiston Village Park	Lewiston Village Park
Bingham Park	Bingham Park
Lions Park	Lions Park
East Twin Lake Public Beach	East Twin Lake Public Beach
Lewiston School	Lewiston School
Avery Lake SFCG	Avery Lake SFCG
Little Wolf Lake SFCG	
Buttles Road Trails	

<b><i>Avery Township</i></b>	
Public	Private
Avery Park	

<b><i>Briley Township</i></b>	
Public	Private
Lake Fifteen Boat Launch	Elk Ridge Golf Course
DeCheau Lake Boat Launch	Maple Valley Stable
Voyer Lake Boat Launch	Thunder Bay Canoe Livery
Twin Lake Boat Launch	Win-Sands Motel
Crooked Lake Boat Launches	
Clear Lake-Jackson Lake Pathway	
Clear Lake State Park Trail	
High Country Pathway	
Briley Township Recreation Area	
Briley Township Park	
Davis Field	
Atlanta Senior Citizens Center	
Atlanta Community Schools	
Montmorency County Fair Grounds	
Clear Lake State Park	
Jackson Lake State Forest Campground	

<b>Hillman Township</b>	
Public	Private
Hillman Community Center	Hillman Sportsmen's Club
Hillman Fire Hall	Thunder Bay Golf Resort
Tournament Park	Anchor Creek Ranch
Tiger Paw Park	Northern Shore Lodge
Hillman Community Schools	
Lake Avalon Beach and Boat Launch	
Ess Lake Beach and SFCG	

<b>Loud Township</b>	
Public	Private
Loud Township Park	

<b>Montmorency Township</b>	
Public	Private
Long Lake Public Access	Canada Creek Ranch
Rush Lake Public Access	Sorenson's Grass lake Resort
Clear Lake State Park	St John Lutheran Church
Town Corner Lake SFCG	

<b>Vienna Township</b>	
Public	Private
Vienna Township Hall and Fire Hall	Elk View Cabins & Guide Service
Gaylanta Lake Boat Launch	
McCormick Lake Boat Launch	

<b>Village of Hillman</b>	
Public	Private
Brush Creek Mill	Hillman Senior Center
Brush Creek Mill Area	Thunder Bay Golf Resort
Brush Creek Park	Hillman Public Library
Emerick Park	Hillman Community Schools
Pineview Park	

<b>Green Township, Alpena County</b>	
Public	Private
Green Township Ball Park	Bradley's Paradise Lodge Resort
Green Township Hall	Upper South Dam
Manning Hill Park	Moore's Landing Campground
Fletcher Pond – MDNR Access Site	Jacks landing Resort
	Killions Landing
	Fletchers Landing
	Anglers Hideaway

<b>Ossineke Township, Alpena County</b>	
Public	Private
Hubbard Lake Lions Park	
Beaver Lake Campground/Park	
Chippewa Hills Pathway	

### **Water Access**

In addition to the facilities listed above, Montmorency County has an abundance of pristine lakes and streams to offer numerous recreational opportunities. There are over 100 named lakes accounting for more than 10,000 acres in The County. There are also more than 30 named rivers and streams in the county which together account for more than 300 miles of waterways. Alpena County adds an additional 20 named lakes totaling more than 12,000 acres and another 35 named rivers and streams accounting for more than 300 miles of waterways. In total, there are over 35 boating access sites on the various rivers and lakes in the two county area.

### **Trails**

There are numerous trails of various types that run through Montmorency County. There are over 50 miles of hiking/ski trails, and more than 250 miles of ORV, Snowmobile and Motorcycle trails in the County. In adjacent Alpena County, there are an additional 65 miles of hiking/ski/biking trails, and more than 100 miles of ORV and/or snowmobile trails. Over the next two years, the Alpena to Hillman Trail will be upgraded to a crushed limestone surface.

## **Other Regional Public Recreation Opportunities**

In addition to recreation within Montmorency County, township residents have access to recreational opportunities in Alpena, 25 miles to the east, as well as Gaylord, 40 miles west. The City of Alpena is the largest city in the northeast Michigan region and offers many recreational properties. Community based recreation in Alpena includes Plaza Pool at Alpena High School and many community parks with swimming and fishing access. Gaylord offers seven recreational properties with many more surrounding Gaylord in Otsego County. The Gaylord area is also a true golf mecca, with approximately 20 courses within a 30-minute drive. The Otsego County Sportsplex is a multi-use facility just south of downtown Gaylord offering a swimming pool, ice rink, walking track, fitness classes, pickle ball, and the Energy Outlet play structure.

It is important to note that, while all of these regional recreational opportunities and many more, are available to residents of and visitors to Rust Township, many require fees and all require travel in order to access them.

## Chapter 4 – Planning Process

### Rust Township Planning Process

Development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The Briley Township Planning Commission was the lead entity in developing the Township Recreation Plan. The Planning Commission sought input from the Briley Township Recreation Committee. Planning Commission and Township Board meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. A timeline for the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

#### SCHEDULE

<b>June, 2016</b>	Township Officials contact Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) requesting collaboration in drafting a recreation plan for Rust Township.
<b>November, 2016</b>	NEMCOG staff conducted site visits to Township owned properties to assess accessibility and gather photos.
<b>November 9, 2016</b>	Notice of a public input session on recreation facilities and activities within Rust Township is posted in the <i>Montmorency Tribune</i> .
<b>November 21, 2016</b>	The Rust Township Board hosts a public input session to gather input and comments on recreation from local residents. <b>Four citizens attended and provided input.</b>
<b>December, 2016</b>	A draft plan is completed and sent to Rust Township officials for review and comment.
<b>December 21, 2016</b>	The draft plan is posted for 30-day public review at the Rust Township Hall and NEMCOG websites. Notice of the plan availability was posted in the <i>Montmorency Tribune</i> .
<b>February 8, 2017</b>	Notice of a public hearing of the Township Board appeared in the <i>Montmorency Tribune</i> .
<b>February 20, 2017</b>	The Rust Township Board holds a public hearing to present the draft Recreation Plan and receive public input. Following the public hearing, the Township Board met in open session and approved and adopted the Recreation Plan.

## Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. Throughout the development of this recreation plan, members of key groups in Rust Township have been involved. Due to the small size of the community, the Recreation Committee opted to hold a public input session to gather comprehensive public opinion and ideas about the future of recreation in Rust Township. The public was notified of the meeting through a public notice in local news media, as well as by word of mouth. **Four citizens attended and provided input.** Because of the small size of Rust Township, the Township Board felt that the community was well-represented throughout the process. After all public input was gathered and recorded, the Township Board met to prioritize projects for the Action Plan and to develop a capital improvements plan.

# Notice of Public Input Session

## Affidavit of Publication



Post Office Box 186, 12626 State Street, Atlanta, Michigan 49709  
Telephone (989) 785-4214 FAX (989) 785-3118

State of Michigan

ss

County of Montmorency

William Pinson, being duly sworn, says: I am the publisher of the Montmorency County Tribune, a newspaper published and circulated in said County.

The attached is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said paper on the following dates to-wit:

November 9, 2016

William Pinson Publisher  
William Pinson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th

day of November A.D. 2016

Tina Juergens Notary  
Tina Juergens

Public, Montmorency County, Michigan.

Acting in Montmorency County, Michigan.

My Commission expires on January 1st, 2017

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Filed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of Probate

## NOTICE

### Public Input Session Rust Township Recreation Plan

A Public Input Session will be held at the Rust Township Hall at 23390 Cohoon Rd, Hillman during the regular Township Board Meeting on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The input session is being held to take public input on the development of the Rust Township Recreation Plan. Public input is key in developing a recreation plan to guide recreational development for the next 5 years. All are welcome to attend and all comments accepted. If you cannot attend please submit comments to Rust Township, PO Box 456, Hillman, MI 49746.

27

**Meeting Minutes from Public Input Session**

# Notice of Availability of Recreation Plan for 30 day Review

## Legal Notices:

### NOTICE

#### Notice Of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Douglas F. Hays, a single person, original mortgagor(s), to Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A., successor in interest to CCO Mortgage Corp., Mortgagee, dated June 3, 2005, and recorded on June 6, 2005 in Liber 267 on Page 114, in Montmorency county records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-One Thousand Five Hundred Three and 13/100 Dollars (\$21,503.13).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Montmorency County, at 10:00 AM, on December 29, 2016.

Said premises are situated in Township of Hillman, Montmorency County, Michigan, and are described as: The East Half of Lot 114 and the West Half of Lot 115, Twin Dams Subdivision, according to the plat recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Pages 1-2, Montmorency County

Records The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Dated: November 30, 2016

For more information, please call:  
FC J (248) 593-1311 Trott Law, P.C.  
Attorneys For Servicer  
31440 Northwestern Hwy Ste. 200  
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-5422  
File #451011F03 (11-30)(12-21)

30-33

### NOTICE

#### Notice Of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Elizabeth Ann Comoford and David R. Comoford, married and Deborah J. Comoford, orig-

inal mortgagor(s), to Morgan Stanley Credit Corporation, Mortgagee, dated January 31, 2006, and recorded on March 10, 2006 in Liber 277 on Page 618, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Citizens Bank N.A. fka, RBS Citizens N.A. and Citizens Bank of Massachusetts as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Montmorency county records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twelve and 86/100 Dollars (\$49,512.86). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Montmorency County, at 10:00 AM, on December 29, 2016. Said premises are situated in Township of Briley, Montmorency County, Michigan, and are described as: The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 23, Town 30 North, Range 2 East less; Commencing at the West Quarter corner of said section 23 Town 30 North, Range 2 East; thence South 00 degrees 40 minutes 57 seconds East along the West line of said section, 330 feet; thence North 89 degrees 11 minutes 43 seconds East 396 feet; thence North 00 degrees, 40 minutes 57 seconds West 330 feet to the East and West Quarter Line; thence South 89 degrees 11 minutes 43 seconds West along the East and West Quarter line to the point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Dated: November 30, 2016

For more information, please call:  
FC H (248) 593-1300  
Trott Law, P.C.  
Attorneys For Servicer  
31440 Northwestern Hwy Ste. 200  
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-5422  
File #458109F02 (11-30)(12-21)

30-33

### NOTICE

#### Rust Township Recreation Plan

The 2017-2021 Rust Township Recreation Plan draft is now available for a 30-day review and comment period. The draft plan can be viewed at the Rust Township Hall, or can be downloaded at the NEMCOG website (www.nemcog.org). Please submit comments to Rust Township, PO Box 456, Hillman, MI 49746.

33-36

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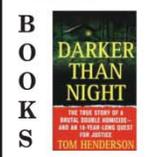
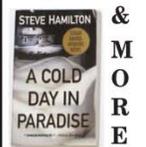
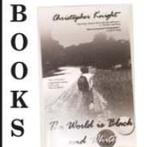
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## Legal Notices

### NOTICE MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

DEFAULT having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Patricia A. Wurtsmith, a single woman, whose mailing address is 10870 Park Drive, Atlanta, MI 49709, to Community Financial Credit Union f/k/a Community Financial Members Federal Credit Union, 500 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170, dated July 6, 2012, and recorded on July 6, 2012 in Liber 328, Pages 810-824, Montmorency County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date of this notice the sum of \$50,664.86, plus interest, at a rate of 3.875% per annum, together with any additional sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned as provided for in said mortgage, and no suit or proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. local time, the undersigned will: At the Montmorency County Courthouse, in Atlanta, Michigan, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, the premises described in said mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due on said mortgage, including all legal costs, charges and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises. Which said premises are described as follows: PARCEL A, according to the survey recorded in Liber 5 of Surveys, Page 394, Montmorency County Records, more particularly described as: commencing at the South 1/4 corner of Section 33, Town 31 North, Range 2 East; thence North 00 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds East 1314.98 feet along the North and South 1/4 line; thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 12 seconds East 1324.84 feet along 1/8th line to 1/8 corner and point of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 53 minutes 44 seconds West 394.56 feet along 1/8 line; thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 12 seconds East 662.42 feet; thence North 00 degrees 53 minutes 44 seconds East 394.56 feet; thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 12 seconds West 662.42 feet along 1/8 line to the point of beginning, being a part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 33, Town 31 North, Range 2 East. Commonly known as: 13145 Light Road, Atlanta, MI 49709 Tax Identification No.: 003-133-000-140-01

The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with 1948 CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Dated: January 25, 2017  
 Mortgage Community Financial Credit Union  
 500 S. Harvey  
 Plymouth, MI 48170  
 Pamela S. Ritter (P47886)  
 Attorney for Mortgage Community Financial Credit Union Strobl and Sharp, P.C.  
 300 E. Long Lake Road, Suite 200  
 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
 (248) 540-2300  
 (02-01)(02-22) 39-42

### NOTICE MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

DEFAULT having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Sandra C. Nichols, a single woman, whose mailing address is 888 Charlton Road, Lake Villa, IL 60046-5228, to Community Financial Credit Union f/k/a Community Financial Members Federal Credit Union, 500 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170, dated December 9, 2009, and recorded on December 10, 2009 in Liber 313,

### NOTICE FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES)

AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017  
 The Montmorency County Tribune 15  
 POSE. NOTIFY (248) 362-6100 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

**MORTGAGE SALE** - Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Linda O. Lafleur, single woman of Montmorency County, Michigan, Mortgagee to PNC Bank, National Association dated the 17th day of September, 2013, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Montmorency and State of Michigan, on the 30th day of September, 2013, in Liber 338, Page 113 of Montmorency County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of \$40,343.02 (forty thousand three hundred forty-three and 02/100) plus accrued interest at 4.64% (four point six four percent) per annum. And no suit proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof.

Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on, the 2nd day of March, 2017, at 10:00:00 AM said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the Courthouse in Atlanta, MI, Montmorency County, Michigan, of the premises described in said mortgage. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Township of Briley, in the County of Montmorency and State of Michigan and described as follows: to wit: Situated in the Township of Briley, County of Montmorency and State of Michigan: Lot 65, Azure Park, according to the Plat recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 22, Montmorency County Records. Commonly known as: 12510 Stevens St Parcel Number: 003-540-000-065-00

If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 1, 2017  
 By: Foreclosing Attorneys At-Law  
 Welfman, Weinberg and Reis Co., L.P.A.  
 2155 Butterfield Drive, Suite 200-S  
 Troy, MI 48064  
 WWR# 10143106  
 (02-01)(02-22) 39-42

### NOTICE Public Hearing Rust Township Recreation Plan

The Rust Township Board of Trustees will host a Public Hearing on the draft Recreation Plan prior to adoption of the plan. The meeting will be held during their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday Feb. 20, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at the Rust Township Hall at 23390 Cohoon Rd. Hillman. The draft plan contains an action plan to guide recreation in Rust Township from 2017-2021. The draft plan is available for review on the NEMCOG website at www.nemcog.org. All are welcome to attend and all comments accepted. If you cannot attend please submit comments to Livingston Township, P.O. Box 1848, Gaylord, MI 49734.

**Public Hearing Meeting Minutes and Comments Received**

**Resolution of the Township Board Adopting the Recreation Plan**

**Copies of Submittal Letters**



## Chapter 5 – Goals, Objectives & Action Plan

### Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles were developed through community input and will provide overall guidance in all recreational planning and development.

1. To protect, promote and preserve the inherent natural and cultural characteristics of Rust Township.
2. To encourage tourism as an economic resource for the community, yet recognize the need to provide other recreational opportunities for the residents.
3. Improve the overall local economy by enhancing the livability of the community in order to attract entrepreneurs and encouraging the creation of new tourism-based jobs.
4. To develop and maintain strong local government involvement in recreational and tourism planning and projects.
5. Improve the quality of life for local residents as well as bring visitors to Rust Township by maintaining, improving and expanding recreation within the Township and surrounding areas through cooperative interaction with local and State governmental agencies, community service agencies, and local businesses.
6. Provide a balance of recreational amenities in Rust Township, oriented to an aging population in order to increase the desirability of the community to retirees.
7. Provide recreational amenities applying to the younger population and families in order to increase the livability of the community attracting young families to the area and retain older youth.
8. Support cooperative regional recreation planning and development with surrounding communities and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
9. To provide outdoor recreational facilities for the enjoyment of local residents, sports enthusiasts and visitors to Rust Township.
10. Develop recreational facilities in a manner that enhances water access and recreational opportunities, yet supports the environmental sustainability of the areas high quality water resources.

## Goals, Objectives & Action Plan

### Rust Township Hall

**Goal:** Enhance the recreational opportunities at the Rust Township Hall to encourage its establishment as a primary recreational facility in the Township.

1. **Objective:** Provide amenities to improve overall usage of the Township Hall facility.
  - a) **Action:** Improve and enlarge parking area.
  - b) **Action:** Construct pavilion with picnic area, additional seating, lighting, and outside cooking facility.
  - c) **Action:** Construct children’s playground and sandbox.
  - d) **Action:** Construct outside hard surfaced basketball facility with lighting.
  - e) **Action:** Construct regulation size horseshoe pits.
  - f) **Action:** Develop Shuffle Board Courts
  - g) **Action:** Construct handicap accessible walkway extension for pavilion area to main entrance to Rust Township Hall.
2. **Objective:** Generate discussion of expanding and developing additional recreational opportunities at Rust Township Hall.
  - a) **Action:** Consider possibility of acquiring additional acreage.
  - b) **Action:** Research site potential to develop a disc golf course.

### Michigan Department of Transportation, Robert P. Zelski Roadside Park

**Goal:** Enhance the recreational opportunities of Rust Township and surrounding area by establishing a nature trail and community events information display as a component of the Robert P. Zelski Roadside Park.

1. **Objective:** Provide travelers an opportunity to experience a local natural habitat, and acquire information about local events, activities and recreational opportunities.
  - a) **Action:** Collaborate with Michigan Department of Transportation, local schools and Montmorency Conservation Club to develop recreation potential of Robert P. Zelski Roadside Park.
  - b) **Action:** Develop plans for a handicap accessible nature trail with informational signage, benches and scenic overview.

- c) **Action:** Collaborate with MDOT and local organizations to construct a handicap accessible nature trail with signage.
- d) **Action:** Plan and construct kiosk to inform travelers of events, activities, and local recreational opportunities in the local area.
- e) **Action:** Develop materials to place in kiosk such as informational brochures, maps and other promotional materials that highlight recreational offerings in Rust Township and surrounding communities

## Fletcher Pond (Floodwater) Access

**Goal:** Enhance recreational opportunities in Rust Township by exploring the possibility of developing an access site on the west shore of Fletcher Pond.

1. **Objective:** Explore options available to develop a boat access site on Fletcher Pond.
  - a) **Action:** Work with local residents, waterfront landowners, and natural resource and recreation organizations to identify key properties to be acquired and developed to serve as a public park and boat access site.
  - b) **Action:** Collaboration with Michigan Department of Natural Resources, natural resource related organizations, private citizens, and business owners to support the continued use of Lyons Landing as a recreational facility and boat access site.
    - i. *Option 1:* Support efforts to find a purchaser who will maintain the property as a recreational and boating access site.
    - ii. *Option 2:* Encourage and support the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in acquiring all or part of the property to develop a public boating access site.
    - iii. *Option 3:* Acquire property and develop as a Rust Township park and boating access site.

### Additional Action items for Option 3

- Develop plan to utilize recreational opportunities at site.
- Develop operation and maintenance cost projections and establish accurate estimates of potential income and expenses to determine if site could be self sustaining.
- Work in collaboration with Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Audubon Society, Montmorency Conservation Club, Montmorency Conservation District, and other related organizations to develop

handicap accessible shoreline nature trail with informational signage, benches, scenic overview and other necessary elements for successful user experience.

## Thunder Bay River

**Goal:** Promote and encourage the use of the Thunder Bay River as a valuable recreational asset in Rust Township.

1. **Objective:** Increase the use and awareness of the Thunder Bay River for recreational purposes by providing better access, amenities and navigation.
  - a) **Action:** Support the ongoing efforts of local groups to establish a Thunder Bay River Water Trail.
  - b) **Action:** Collaborate with State and local agencies, natural resource groups, and local residents and landowners to develop safe and easy access for canoeists and other users to the Thunder Bay River at M-32.
  - c) **Action:** Work with local groups and citizens implement and construct needed improvements identified in access plan.
  - d) **Action:** Organize river clean-up day to remove navigation hazards and obstructions in the immediate area of the access site.

## Basis for Action

There are a number of issues to consider when planning for recreational facilities in Rust Township:

1. The median age of residents in Rust Township is 44 years old, compared to the state's median age of 39.1. With a higher median age comes a high percentage of wheelchair use.
2. Young people ages 0-18 comprise 21.5% of the Township population and 55.5% of the population is between 18-65 years of age. Recreational facilities in the Township need to appeal to a diverse age group.
3. Residents of retirement age (65 +) comprise 23% of the Rust Township population. Significant attention must be given to planning for this large resident population which has both the time and desire for age-appropriate recreational activities.
4. Rust Township's median household income is \$30,870 compared to that of the state average of \$48,411. 46% of the households in the township include Social Security recipients, compared to 32.3% statewide. Accordingly, to truly be accessible, recreation must also be affordable which means that nearby facilities should be enhanced to lessen the driving time and expenses that residents would incur to travel to facilities farther away.
5. Rust Township is very proud of its natural beauty and rural character. It is important to those planning for its growth and development that every effort be made to balance ecological concerns with tourism potential. Protection of natural resources and scenic areas must therefore be a major element of the planning process.
6. The issue of improving the local economy by establishing the area as a recreation destination is of utmost importance. Unemployment rates in Rust Township are reported at 8.3% (10/2016), and all of Northeast Michigan remained significantly higher than the state average. The Township maintains a strong sense of community with a defined sense of place and a high quality of life which will attract young families and entrepreneurs. The retention of youth and attraction of visitors are two methods with which the Township hopes to continue its economic turn-around.

*Figures obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-2016 5-year estimates and 2010 census figures. Unemployment rate obtained from Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget.*

With these issues in mind, other factors to be considered in recreational plan development for Rust Township include:

1. Development of recreation opportunities which are appropriate to Rust Township's major population groups. Both active and passive recreation opportunities require easy access to

allow use by those with limited transportation resources, including the elderly and youth of the Township.

2. Development and maintenance of recreational opportunities for individuals 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 preserve their ecological and scenic value, with limited staff and funding availability.
4. With much of Rust Township forested it is well suited to provide outdoor recreation. Therefore, Rust Township intends to develop its outdoor recreation to suit the needs of differing age groups, income levels, and physical abilities of Township residents and visitors.

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

PRIORITY	SITE	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	EST. COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)	YEAR*
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Improve and enlarge parking area		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Construct Pavilion with lighting and outdoor kitchen facility		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Construct children’s playground and sandbox		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Construct hard surfaced basketball court with lighting		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Install horseshoe pits		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Shuffle Board courts		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Construct accessible walkway to pavilion and Hall entrance		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Consider acquisition of additional acreage	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Rust Township Hall	Research and determine site potential for disc golf course		Local funds and Volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	MDOT Roadside Park	Collaborate to determine recreational potential of site		Local funds and Volunteer efforts	

HIGH MEDIUM LOW	MDOT Roadside Park	Develop plan for accessible nature trail and amenities		Local funds and Volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	MDOT Roadside Park	Construct nature trail through collaborative efforts		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds, volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	MDOT Roadside Park	Construct Kiosk		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds, volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	MDOT Roadside Park	Develop promotional material for kiosk		Local funds and Volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Fletcher Pond Access	Identify potential key parcels for acquisition and access development		Local funds and Volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Fletcher Pond Access	Option 1 – support private purchase of Lyons Landing as a continued recreation and access site		Volunteers	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Fletcher Pond Access	Option 2 – Encourage DNR acquisition and development of site		Volunteers	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Fletcher Pond Access	Option 3 – Acquire Lyons Landing site and develop	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Fletcher Pond Access	Develop plan to utilize and develop property		Local funds and Volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Fletcher Pond Access	Develop income & expenses Determine sustainability		Local funds and Volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Fletcher Pond Access	Develop accessible nature trail and amenities		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	

HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Thunder Bay River	Support establishment of TBR Water Trail		Local funds and Volunteer efforts	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Thunder Bay River	Collaborate to improve access at M-32 crossing		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	
HIGH MEDIUM LOW	Thunder Bay River	Organize river clean-up day		DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds	

**\*Some flexibility in the timeline may be necessary in order to allow for necessary engineering studies, environmental surveys, contractual scheduling, and the availability of funding.**

