

2016-2020



# Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan



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**Long Rapids Township**  
Alpena County, Michigan  
Adopted: November 10, 2016

# **Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan 2016-2020**

Long Rapids Township  
Alpena County, Michigan

**Adopted: November 10, 2016**

*Prepared for:*

## **Long Rapids Township Board of Trustees**

Members:

Howard Lumsden, Supervisor  
M. Susan Thomson, Clerk  
Wendy Johnson, Treasurer  
Dale Himes, Trustee  
Thomas Spaulding, Trustee

## **Long Rapids Township Recreation Advisory Committee**

Members:

Todd Precord, Chairperson  
John Faulman, Vice Chairperson  
Karen Wikaryasz, Secretary  
MaryAnn Erickson  
Yvonne Roznowski

*Prepared by:*

## **Northeast Michigan Council of Governments**

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# LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2016-2020

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# CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

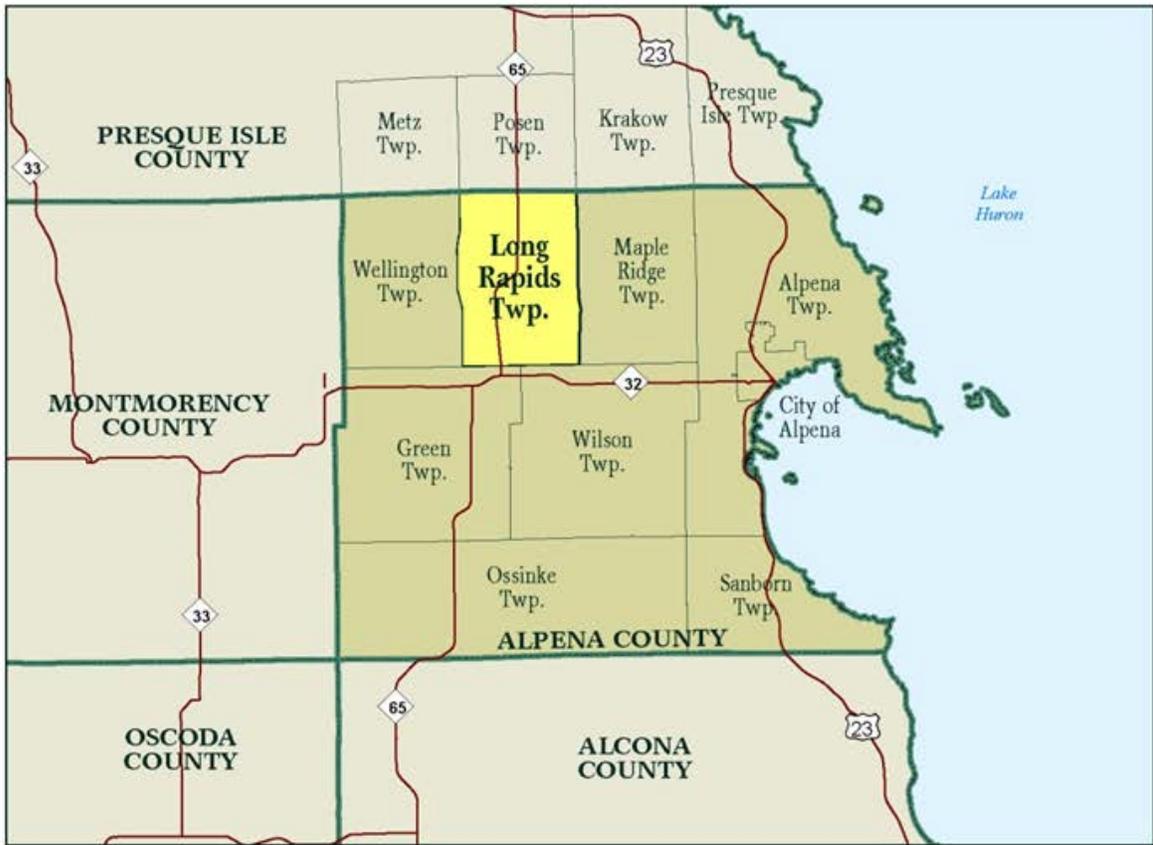
## Location and Regional Setting

Located in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula of Michigan in the northwestern portion of Alpena County, Long Rapids Township comprises a total area of 54.6 square miles or 35,129 acres. The Township is adjacent to Maple Ridge Township on the east, Wilson and Green Townships on the south, Wellington Township on the west, and Posen Township in Presque Isle County on the north. M-65 runs north/south through the Township, connecting the Township to US-23 by way of Posen and to M-32, a major east/west route connecting Alpena to East Jordan. Map 1 shows the general location of Long Rapids Township (selected maps in this recreation plan were taken from the *Long Rapids Township Master Plan*; the balance were created by NEMCOG).

The population of Long Rapids Township was estimated at 954 in 2008, a 6.4% decrease since the 2000 census. The latitude of Long Rapids Township is 45°8'N, approximately half way between the North Pole and the equator. The Township is located in a rural area with abundant natural resource recreational opportunities. The unincorporated communities of Lachine and Long Rapids are located along M-65.

## Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and plans within the boundaries of Long Rapids Township. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of Long Rapids Township and surrounding area in order to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.



**Map 1  
Regional Setting**

- State or U.S. Highways
- County Boundaries
- Alpena County
- Long Rapids Township
- Local Municipal Boundaries

Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library



**Master Plan**  
**Long Rapids Township**  
 ALPENA COUNTY, MI

**WADETRIM**  
 271 West McCoy Road  
 Gaylord, MI 49735  
 989.732.3584



## ***A Snapshot of Natural Features of the Community:***

### **Wetlands**

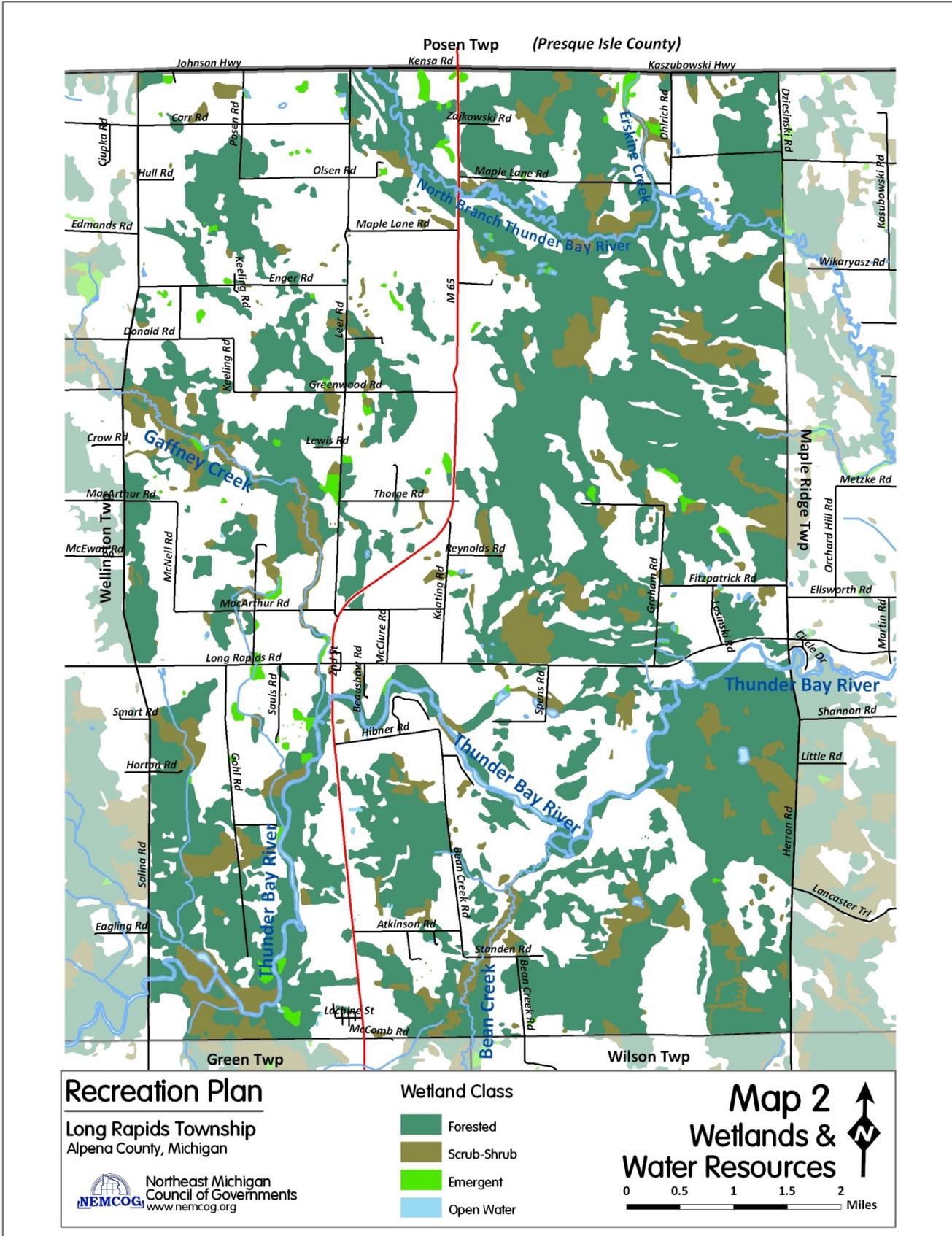
A wetland is land where water is found, either on the surface or near the surface, at any time during the year. Poorly drained soils and water-loving vegetation also may be present. Wetlands are often referred to as marshes, swamps or bogs. Residents of Michigan are becoming increasingly more aware of the value of wetlands. Beyond their aesthetic value, wetlands improve water quality of lakes and streams by filtering polluting nutrients, organic chemicals and toxic heavy metals. Wetlands are closely related to high groundwater tables and serve to discharge and recharge aquifers. Additionally, wetlands support wildlife, and wetland vegetation protects shorelines from erosion. Wetland areas in Long Rapids Township are typically associated with old glacial drainageways, and can be noted near or adjacent to rivers and their tributaries<sup>1</sup>. Map 2 depicts forested and non-forested wetlands (data developed from the National Wetlands Inventory (US Fish & Wildlife Service). A significant amount of forested wetlands are located in Long Rapids Township.

### **Water Resources<sup>1</sup>**

Long Rapids Township abounds with a large amount of high quality streams and rivers. Generally, there are two watersheds, the Thunder Bay River and the North Branch of the Thunder Bay River. Both are part of the larger Thunder Bay River Watershed. Each watershed has its own tributary streams within the Township. Bean Creek, Gaffney Creek, along with a few other un-named tributaries flow into the Thunder Bay River in the southern portion of the Township. Erskine Creek flows into the North Branch of the Thunder Bay River in the northern portion of the Township. Sport fishing is popular along the Thunder Bay River. The Fisheries Division of the MDNR maintains a routine walleye and steelhead fish planting program for the river.

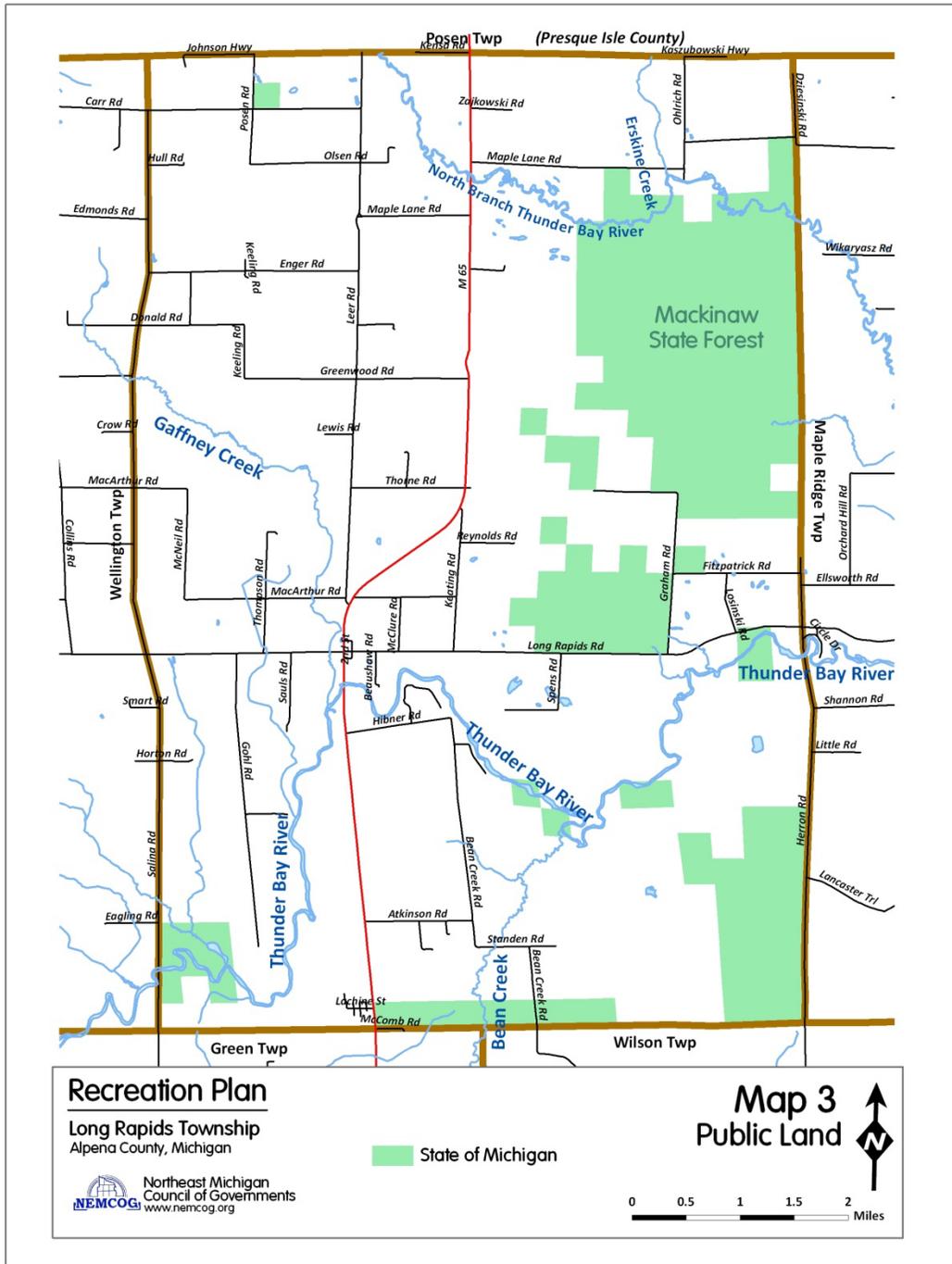
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<sup>1</sup> From the *Long Rapids Township Master Plan*



# State of Michigan Land

State land covers a significant portion of Long Rapids Township (Map 3). Together, the Mackinaw State Forest covers approximately 7,000 acres or over 20 percent of Long Rapids Township.



## Soil Limitations/Topography<sup>2</sup>

Soil characteristics help to define the land's capacity to support certain types of land uses. Soils most suitable for development purposes are well drained and are not subject to a high water table. Adequate drainage is important to minimizing stormwater impacts and the efficient operation of septic drainfields. Adequate depth to the water table is necessary to prevent groundwater contamination from septic systems or other non-point source runoff. A high water table also limits the construction of basements. Though civil engineering techniques can be employed to improve drainage and maintain adequate separation from the water table, such techniques are expensive to construct and maintain. **Map 4** illustrates specific soil conditions, which may pose constraints to building construction. The map shows hydric or wetland type soils scattered throughout the Township and in areas generally adjacent to the Thunder Bay River. Some of these areas may be considered unbuildable. Although very limited, soils with slopes greater than ten percent are noted on the map, because they may present development challenges. While soil condition information discussed in this report can be used for general guides for the planning process, it should not be used for development of specific sites. More detailed soil and vegetation information for specific sites may be obtained from *Soil Survey of Alpena County, Michigan* by contacting the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Alpena County.

The topography of Long Rapids Township ranges from just less than 700 feet above sea level at the Thunder Bay River in the southeastern portion of the Township to 825 feet above sea level in the northwestern portion of the Township. There are some occurrences of steep slopes in excess of ten percent. However, these areas are few and limited in the Township. Most of the Township has gently rolling topography, which is suitable for most types of development.

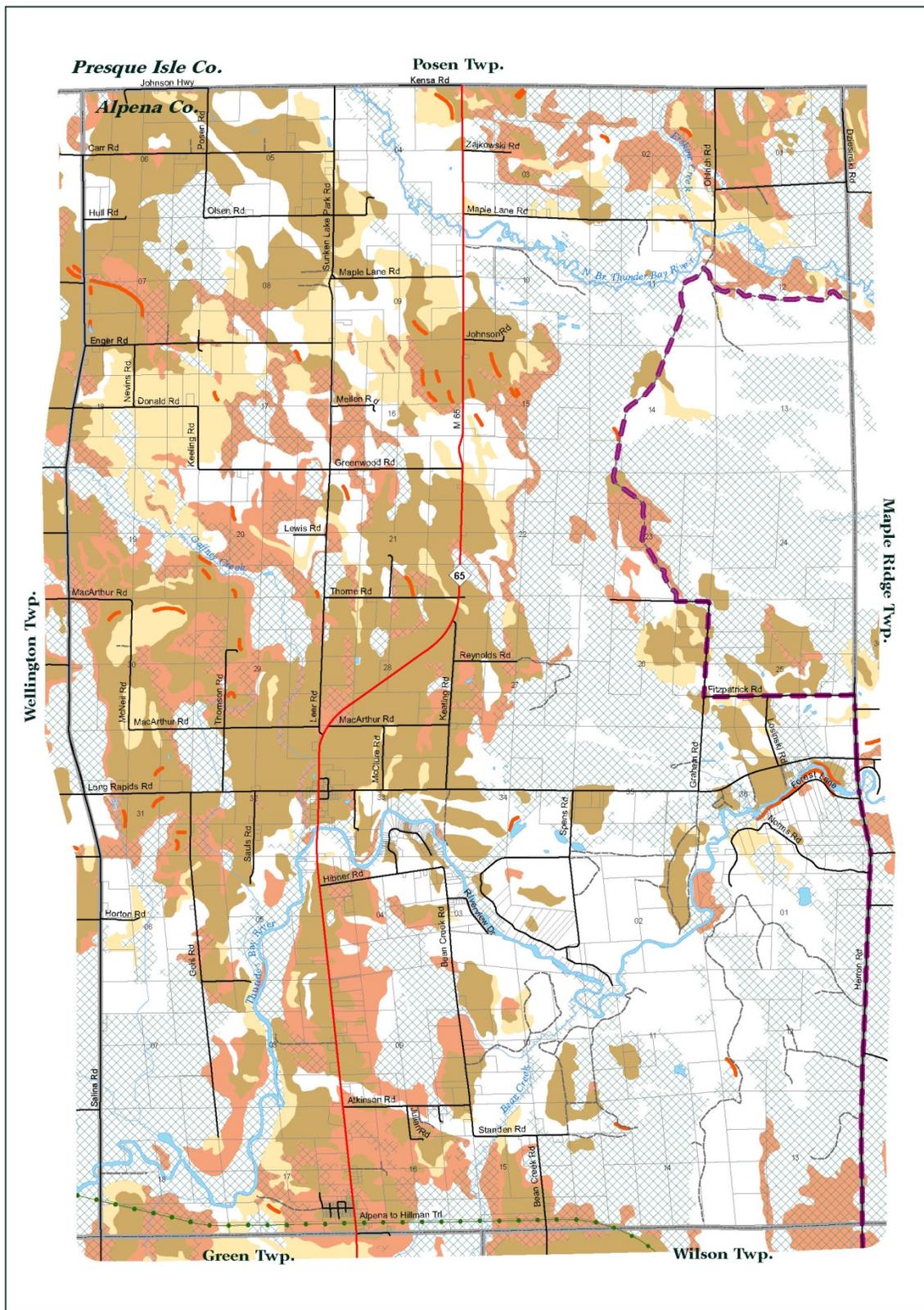
## Existing Land Use/Land Cover Characteristics

**Table 1** provides a breakdown of land cover/land use in Long Rapids Township. Over 54 percent of land in the Township is classified as woodlands, while a quarter of the land area exists as agriculture. **Map 5** shows that large areas of woodlands occur in the eastern half of the Township (the State of Michigan lands also occur in these areas), while the western half of the Township is evenly spread between woodlands and agriculture.

Table 1: Existing Land Use/Land Cover, 2008		
LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORY	ACRES	PERCENT
Woodlands	19,093	54.6%
Agricultural	9,013	25.8%
Wetlands	3,051	8.7%
Open Space/Water	2,595	7.4%
Residential	1,160	3.3%
Institutional	36	<0.1%
Commercial	2	<0.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34,950</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: MDNR MIRIS Aerial Photos, Township Planning Commission Field Check.

<sup>2</sup> From *Long Rapids Township Master Plan*



**Master Plan**  
**Long Rapids Township**  
 ALPENA COUNTY, MI

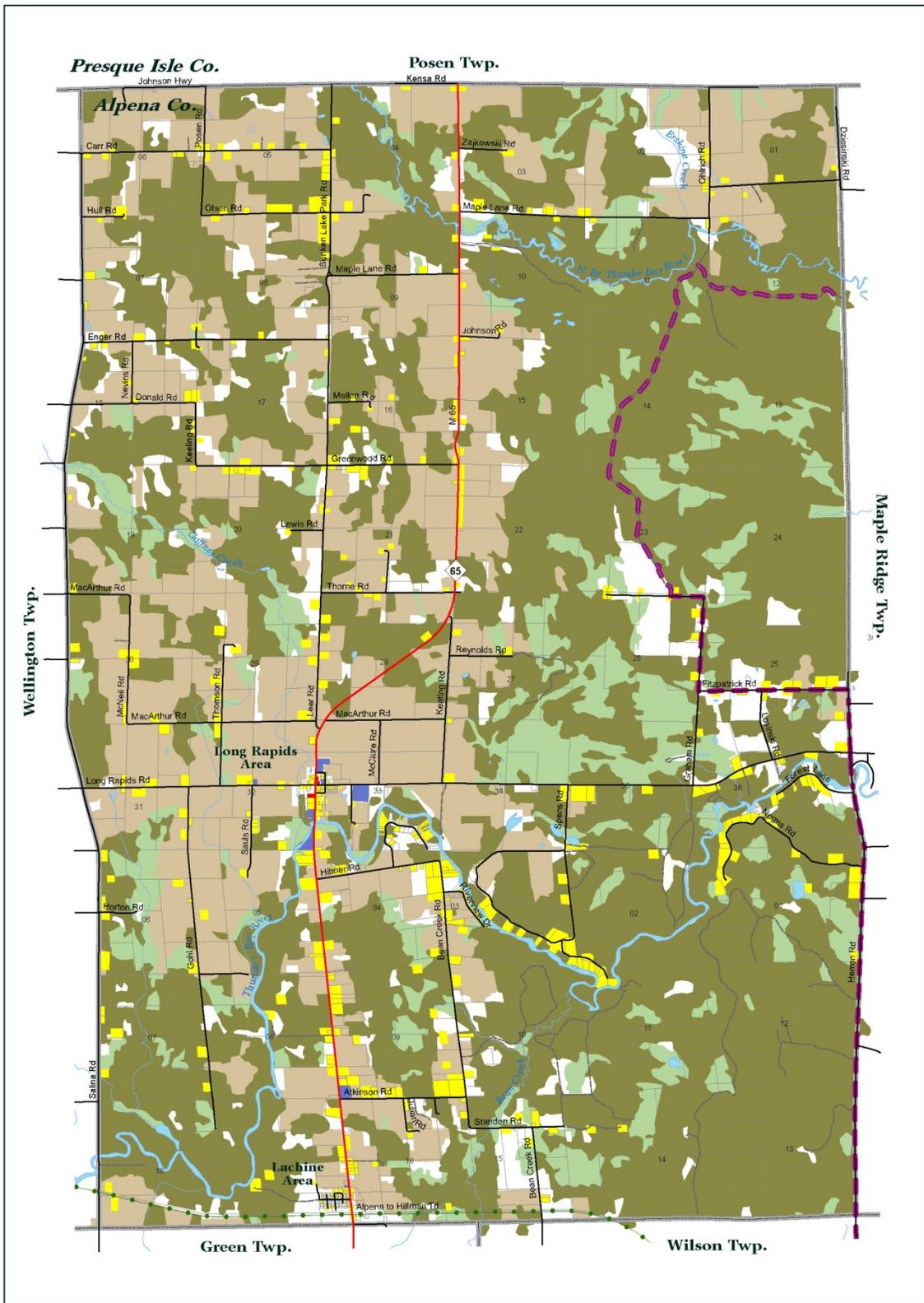
- Slopes Greater Than 10%
- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Local Importance
- Prime Farmland if Drained
- Not Prime Farmland
- Hydric Soils
- State Highways
- Roads
- Private Roads
- Recreational Trail
- Snowmobile Route
- Rivers and Creeks
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parcels

**Map 4**  
**Soil Conditions**



**WADETRIM**  
 271 West McCoy Road  
 Gaylord, MI 49735  
 989.732.3584

Soil Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library, July 2008  
 Parcel Source: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG), July 2008



## Master Plan

### Long Rapids Township

ALPENA COUNTY, MI

Land Use Sources: Long Rapids Township, 2008; MIRIS Land Use/Land Cover, 1978;  
Parcel Source: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG), July 2008

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Residential</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: red; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Commercial</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Institutional</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Woodlands</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Wetlands</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: tan; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Agricultural</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Open Space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> State Highways</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Roads</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Private Roads</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dotted black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Recreational Trail</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed purple; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Snowmobile Route</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Rivers and Creeks</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Bodies</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Municipal Boundaries</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Parcels</li> </ul>
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## Map 5

### Existing Land Use/ Land Cover

WADETRIM  
271 West McCoy Road  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989.732.3584

Highway project by 2010/10/2/10 - 2010/10/2/10

## CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### Administration

Long Rapids Township, the only participating community in this Recreation Plan, operates under an administrative structure consisting of a Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer and two Township Trustees. These positions are chosen by registered voters of the Township in an at-large election held every four years. Bylaws adopted by the Township Board determine the order of business and method of conducting regular township business. Meetings are conducted using *Robert's Rules of Order*. In the case of issues that require a vote for making a determination, a simple majority of trustees present is required. Parks and recreation facilities are under the direct control of the Township Board of Trustees. The Recreation Advisory Board is directly responsible for creating the Recreation Plan.

### Planning Commission

The Long Rapids Township Planning Commission is a five-member body, serving three-year staggered terms. Planning Commission members are intended to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce, industry, government, education, transportation, and so on. Planning commissioners may come from many walks of life, but they all contribute their time and talents to the local planning process. In addition to the responsibility of preparing the Master Plan, the Long Rapids Township Planning Commission is charged with making recommendations on Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map amendments and reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

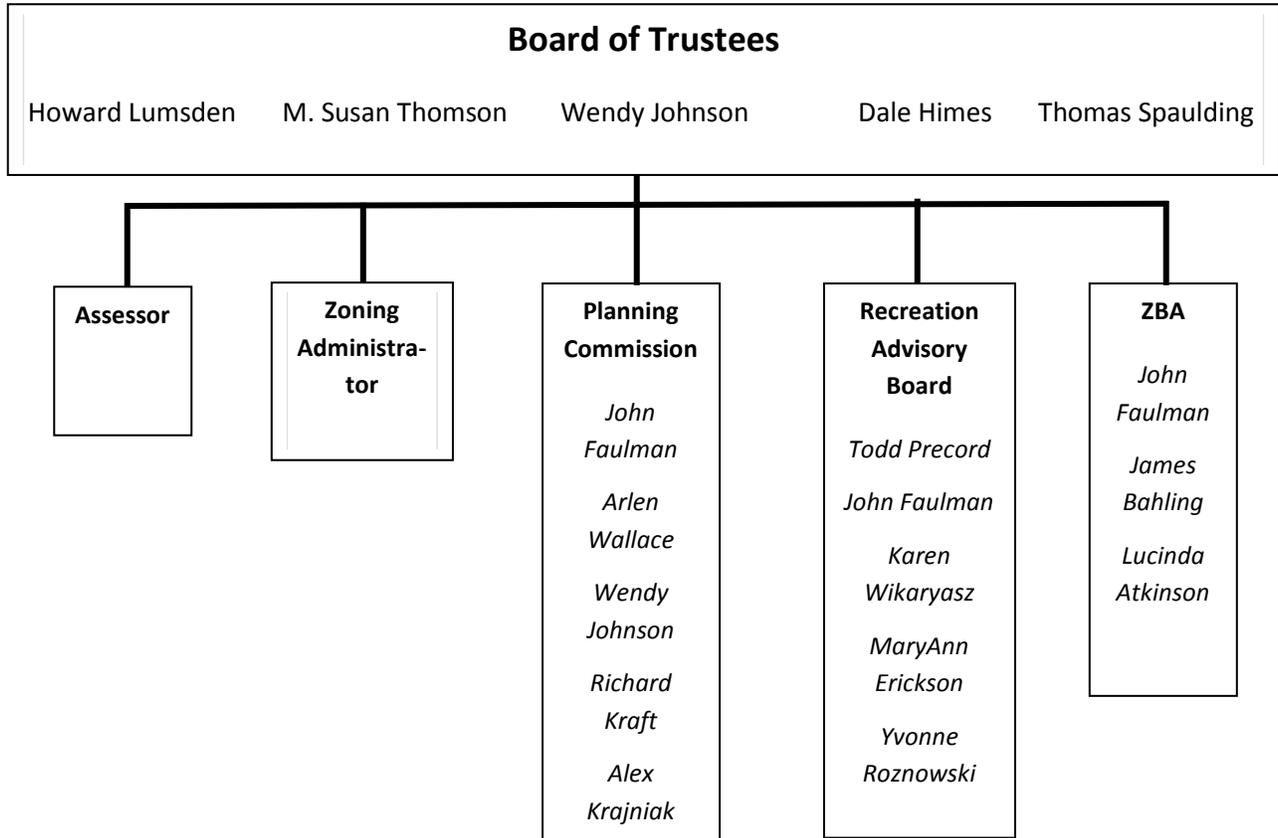
### Recreation Advisory Committee

On November 12, 2009, Long Rapids Township adopted an ordinance which created a Recreation Advisory Committee consisting of five members. The ordinance was effect January 1, 2010. The initial appointments were staggered: one-member for one year, two members for two years, and two members for three years. After the initial board was in place, future appointments are to be for a three-year period. The duties of the Committee are as follows:

- (1) Oversee and advise the Township Board on the use and operation of the parks and other recreation facilities in the Township.
- (2) Work with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments and other professionals retained by the Long Rapids Township Board to develop a Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan.
- (3) Consider and study the reasonable needs and requirements of the Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan and offer suggestions for amendment where applicable.
- (4) Serve in an advisory capacity when so requested.
- (5) Act as a recommending body to the Township Board on matters of general recreation policy.
- (6) Formulate and report its findings from time to time to the Long Rapids Township Board.

## Administrative Chart

Long Rapids Township currently has no recreation or maintenance staff. Organizational chart as follows:



## Relationships with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers

- 1. Alpena Area Recreation Commission:** The Alpena Area Recreation Commission is an intergovernmental commission consisting of Alpena County, the City of Alpena, and Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn, Wellington, and Wilson Townships working together with community representatives to support and promote recreational activities, programs and facilities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Alpena area.
- 2. Alpena Sno-Drifters:** The Alpena Sno-Drifters is a local snowmobile club established in 1969. Monthly meetings are held with programming of interest to snowmobilers. Club members groom and maintain over 70 miles of snowmobile trails in the Alpena area. Trails which are maintained by the Sno-Drifters include trails from Alpena to Hillman, NEST, Norway Ridge, and the Devil's Lake area. The Alpena Sno-Drifters also work toward the establishment of new trails. They maintain a website which covers trail conditions, maps, recent and upcoming events, and club information. In addition, monthly newsletters are sent out to members to keep them informed of club activities, membership, trail conditions, work bees, and other snowmobile issues.

3. **Thunder Bay River Volunteers:** A new citizen volunteer group, *Thunder Bay River Restoration* (TBRR), was formed in 2016 to care for the Thunder Bay River so that it is safe and useable for recreation and emergency boat navigation. The Township and TBRR are exploring the possibility of developing a water trail on the River.

### Programming

There is no existing recreation programming in Long Rapids Township.

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

Funding for park maintenance and improvement is taken from the General Operating Fund. Funding for the Township Hall and associated facilities is taken from “Building & Grounds” while funding for the Township Park is taken from “Community Promotions”. Apart from Township funds, other possible funding sources for recreational improvements in the Township exist as grant opportunities with agencies such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, private foundations, community service organizations, and community fund-raising groups.

<b>Table 2: Current and Future Fiscal Year Budget: Recreational Facilities</b>		
	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16<sup>1</sup></b>
<b><i>Township Facilities:</i></b>		
Building & Ground Wages	\$2,500	\$2,400
Utilities	\$8,000	\$8,000
Repairs/Capital Outlay	\$5,000	\$5,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$9,000	\$6,000
Bond Debt	\$17,200	\$17,200
<b><i>Parks:</i></b>		
Community Promotions (includes grass cutting and rental/servicing of portable toilet)	\$9,500	\$9,500
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>\$51,200</b>	<b>\$48,100</b>
<i>Source: Long Rapids Township operating budget</i>		

The entire Long Rapids Township operating budget is presented on the next six pages of this chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary Budget

**Long Rapids Township  
Proposed Budget  
Revenues**

Account Nbr	Account Title	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Budget Difference	Preliminary 2015-16 Budget
<b>Fund: General Fund</b>					
<b>General Revenues</b>					
	Taxes				
	Taxes - Current Property	157,395.51	141,838.45	-15,557.06	145,000.00
	<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>157,395.51</b>	<b>141,838.45</b>	<b>-15,557.06</b>	<b>145,000.00</b>
	<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>157,395.51</b>	<b>141,838.45</b>	<b>-15,557.06</b>	<b>145,000.00</b>
<b>Program Revenues</b>					
	Licenses and Permits				
	Zoning Permits	12,000.00	6,860.50	-5,139.50	10,000.00
	Planning Commission Fees	1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00	1,000.00
	<b>Total Licenses and Permits</b>	<b>13,000.00</b>	<b>6,860.50</b>	<b>-6,139.50</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>
	State Grants				
	State Revenue Sharing	78,927.70	93,984.00	15,056.30	95,000.00
	Swamp Tax	6,000.00	7,893.18	1,893.18	7,500.00
	grants from other sources	5,000.00	0.00	-5,000.00	5,000.00
	<b>Total State Grants</b>	<b>89,927.70</b>	<b>101,877.18</b>	<b>11,949.48</b>	<b>107,500.00</b>
	Charges for Services				
	Charges for Services - Tel Com Payment	500.00	0.00	-500.00	500.00
	Services Rendered - Wellington Fire Protection	6,300.00	0.00	-6,300.00	6,300.00
	Sales - Cemetery Fees	6,000.00	7,400.00	1,400.00	6,000.00
	<b>Total Charges for Services</b>	<b>12,800.00</b>	<b>7,400.00</b>	<b>-5,400.00</b>	<b>12,800.00</b>
	Interest and Rents				
	Interest & Dividends	1,500.00	1,026.50	-473.50	1,000.00
	Rent	1,500.00	2,745.00	1,245.00	2,000.00
	Other Rents	2,000.00	2,850.00	850.00	2,500.00
	<b>Total Interest and Rents</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>6,621.50</b>	<b>1,621.50</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>
	<b>Total Program Revenues</b>	<b>120,727.70</b>	<b>122,759.18</b>	<b>2,031.48</b>	<b>136,800.00</b>

Long Rapids Township  
**Proposed Budget**  
 Revenues

Account Nbr	Account Title	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Budget Difference	Preliminary 2015-16 Budget
<b>Fund: General Fund</b>					
<b>Special Items</b>					
<b>Other Revenue</b>					
	Sale of Fixed Assets	500.00	3,400.00	2,900.00	500.00
	Refunds	1,000.00	3,391.70	2,391.70	1,000.00
	Transfers In	42,755.79	0.00	-42,755.79	54,972.00
	<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>44,255.79</b>	<b>6,791.70</b>	<b>-37,464.09</b>	<b>56,472.00</b>
	<b>Total Special Items</b>	<b>44,255.79</b>	<b>6,791.70</b>	<b>-37,464.09</b>	<b>56,472.00</b>
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>322,379.00</b>	<b>271,389.33</b>	<b>-50,989.67</b>	<b>338,272.00</b>

**Long Rapids Township  
Proposed Budget  
Expenditures**

Account Nbr	Account Title	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Budget Difference	Preliminary 2015-16 Budget
<b>Fund: General Fund</b>					
<b>General Government</b>					
<b>Governing Body</b>					
	MED - Employer Share	1,500.00	792.52	707.48	1,500.00
	Printing and Publishing	1,400.00	1,148.62	251.38	1,400.00
	Repairs - Snow Plowing	2,600.00	797.50	1,802.50	2,600.00
	Seminars & Education	3,000.00	1,153.30	1,846.70	3,000.00
	Contingency Account	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
	<b>Total Governing Body</b>	<b>33,500.00</b>	<b>3,891.94</b>	<b>29,608.06</b>	<b>33,500.00</b>
<b>Chief Executive</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Supervisor	6,122.00	6,120.72	1.28	6,122.00
	Per Diem - Supervisor	800.00	1,275.00	-475.00	800.00
	Supplies - Supervisor	500.00	455.94	44.06	500.00
	Mileage - Supervisor	400.00	190.89	209.11	400.00
	<b>Total Chief Executive</b>	<b>7,822.00</b>	<b>8,042.55</b>	<b>-220.55</b>	<b>7,822.00</b>
<b>Admin./Manager/Superintendent./Control</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Board of Trustees	2,890.00	1,615.00	1,275.00	2,890.00
	Per Diem - Board of Trustees	680.00	1,700.00	-1,020.00	680.00
	Mileage - Board of Trustees	350.00	59.59	290.41	350.00
	Other Services & Charges - Board of Trustees	15,000.00	16,166.10	-1,166.10	37,000.00
	Community Promotion - Board	9,500.00	6,472.26	3,027.74	9,500.00
	<b>Total Admin./Manager/Superintendent./Control</b>	<b>28,420.00</b>	<b>26,012.95</b>	<b>2,407.05</b>	<b>50,420.00</b>
<b>Clerk</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Clerk	8,900.00	8,699.92	0.08	8,900.00
	Per Diem - Clerk	900.00	835.00	65.00	900.00
	Supplies - Clerk	1,500.00	1,146.99	351.01	1,500.00
	Mileage - Clerk	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
	<b>Total Clerk</b>	<b>11,600.00</b>	<b>10,983.91</b>	<b>616.09</b>	<b>11,600.00</b>

**Long Rapids Township  
Proposed Budget  
Expenditures**

Account Nbr	Account Title	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Budget Difference	Preliminary 2015-16 Budget
<b>Fund: General Fund</b>					
<b>General Government</b>					
<b>Board of Review</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Board of Review	1,500.00	225.00	1,275.00	1,500.00
	Per Diem - Board of Review	280.00	1,335.00	-1,055.00	280.00
	Mileage - Board of Review	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	<b>Total Board of Review</b>	<b>1,880.00</b>	<b>1,560.00</b>	<b>320.00</b>	<b>1,880.00</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Treasurer	8,900.00	8,899.92	0.08	8,900.00
	Per Diem - Treasurer	900.00	510.00	390.00	900.00
	Supplies - Treasurer	4,000.00	2,893.15	1,104.85	4,000.00
	Mileage - Treasurer	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
	<b>Total Treasurer</b>	<b>14,100.00</b>	<b>12,305.07</b>	<b>1,794.93</b>	<b>14,000.00</b>
<b>Assessor/Equalization Department</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Assessor	9,700.00	9,699.96	0.04	9,700.00
	Per Diem - Assessor	800.00	170.00	630.00	800.00
	Supplies - Assessor	2,500.00	964.82	1,535.18	2,500.00
	Mileage - Assessor	300.00	261.11	38.89	300.00
	<b>Total Assessor/Equalization Department</b>	<b>13,300.00</b>	<b>11,095.89</b>	<b>2,204.11</b>	<b>13,300.00</b>
<b>Elections</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Elections	4,000.00	2,569.49	1,430.51	5,000.00
	Supplies - Election	1,207.00	1,520.93	-313.93	1,600.00
	Printing and Publishing	500.00	401.60	98.40	600.00
	<b>Total Elections</b>	<b>5,707.00</b>	<b>4,492.02</b>	<b>1,214.98</b>	<b>7,200.00</b>

Long Rapids Township  
**Proposed Budget**  
Expenditures

Account Nbr	Account Title	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Budget Difference	Preliminary 2015-16 Budget
<b>Fund: General Fund</b>					
<b>General Government</b>					
<b>Building and Grounds</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Building & Grounds	2,500.00	2,200.00	300.00	2,400.00
	Other Services & Charges - Building & Grounds	0.00	175.00	-175.00	0.00
	Utilities - Building & Grounds	8,000.00	6,088.00	1,912.00	8,000.00
	Repairs - Capital Outlay	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
	Repairs & Maintenance	9,000.00	2,538.00	6,462.00	6,000.00
	Principal - Bond Debt	14,000.00	10,750.00	3,250.00	14,000.00
	Interest - Bond Debt	3,200.00	5,145.00	-1,945.00	3,200.00
	<b>Total Building and Grounds</b>	<b>41,700.00</b>	<b>26,896.00</b>	<b>14,804.00</b>	<b>38,600.00</b>
<b>Retirement Board/Department</b>					
	Retirement Benefits (to retirees) - Pension Insurance	7,500.00	7,164.91	335.09	7,500.00
		17,000.00	15,206.00	1,794.00	17,000.00
	<b>Total Retirement Board/Department</b>	<b>24,500.00</b>	<b>22,370.91</b>	<b>2,129.09</b>	<b>24,500.00</b>
<b>Cemetery</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Cemetery	8,000.00	7,151.00	849.00	8,000.00
	Supplies - Cemetery	6,000.00	1,969.33	4,030.67	4,000.00
	Utilities - Cemetery	350.00	256.00	94.00	350.00
	<b>Total Cemetery</b>	<b>14,350.00</b>	<b>9,376.33</b>	<b>4,973.67</b>	<b>12,350.00</b>
<b>Abstract Department</b>					
	Professional & Contractual Services - Abstract	12,000.00	6,680.50	5,319.50	12,000.00
	<b>Total Abstract Department</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>6,680.50</b>	<b>5,319.50</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>
	<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>208,879.00</b>	<b>143,708.07</b>	<b>65,170.93</b>	<b>227,172.00</b>

**Long Rapids Township  
Proposed Budget  
Expenditures**

Account Nbr	Account Title	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2014-15 Budget Difference	Preliminary 2015-16 Budget
<b>Fund: General Fund</b>					
<b>Public Safety</b>					
<b>Fire Department</b>					
	Per Diem - Fire Department	10,000.00	8,090.00	1,910.00	10,000.00
	Supplies - Fire Department	10,000.00	11,023.35	-1,023.35	10,000.00
	Mileage - Fire Dept	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	Communications (Phone, Radio, etc.) - Fire Dept	1,500.00	2,232.50	-732.50	1,500.00
	Electric - Fire Dept	1,700.00	1,266.00	434.00	1,700.00
	Natural Gas - Fire Dept	1,500.00	999.70	500.30	1,500.00
	Repairs - Fire Department	8,000.00	8,684.08	-684.08	8,000.00
	Capital Outlay - Fire Dept	10,000.00	1,771.00	8,229.00	10,000.00
	Debt Service - Bond Debt - Fire Dept	15,500.00	12,250.00	3,250.00	13,000.00
	<b>Total Fire Department</b>	<b>60,200.00</b>	<b>46,216.63</b>	<b>13,983.37</b>	<b>57,700.00</b>
	<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>60,200.00</b>	<b>46,216.63</b>	<b>13,983.37</b>	<b>57,700.00</b>
<b>Public Works</b>					
<b>Road Commission/Street Department</b>					
	Repairs - Road Commission	35,000.00	37,260.07	-2,260.07	35,000.00
	Repairs & Maintenance - Cloride - Road Commission	16,000.00	9,169.92	6,830.08	16,000.00
	<b>Total Road Commission/Street Department</b>	<b>51,000.00</b>	<b>46,429.99</b>	<b>4,570.01</b>	<b>51,000.00</b>
	<b>Total Public Works</b>	<b>51,000.00</b>	<b>46,429.99</b>	<b>4,570.01</b>	<b>51,000.00</b>
<b>Community and Economic Development</b>					
<b>Planning</b>					
	Salaries & Wages - Planning Commission	1,200.00	1,075.00	125.00	1,300.00
	Supplies - Planning Commission	1,000.00	11.25	988.75	1,000.00
	Mileage - Planning Commission	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	<b>Total Planning</b>	<b>2,300.00</b>	<b>1,086.25</b>	<b>1,213.75</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>
	<b>Total Community and Economic Development</b>	<b>2,300.00</b>	<b>1,086.25</b>	<b>1,213.75</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>322,375.00</b>	<b>237,440.94</b>	<b>84,934.06</b>	<b>338,272.00</b>
	<b>BUDGETED CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>33,948.39</b>	<b>33,948.39</b>	<b>0.00</b>

(Note - pg 7 is blank)

LEGAL NOTICE

At a regular meeting of the Long Rapids Township Board of Trustees held on November 12, 2009, the following Ordinance was duly made and adopted:

**LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP RECREATION ADVISORY  
BOARD ORDINANCE**

Sec. 2010-1 Created; composition.

There is hereby created a recreation advisory board which shall consist of FIVE members.

Sec. 2010-2 Appointment and terms of members.

(a) The initial members of the recreation advisory board shall be appointed by the council as follows: one member for one year; two members for two years; and two members for three years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for a three-year period.

(b) The appointment of members of the recreation advisory board shall be made at the meeting of the council in April of each year.

(c) One member shall also be a member of the Long Rapids Township Planning Commission.

Sec. 2010-3. Organization.

The officers of the recreation advisory board shall be a chairman, who shall conduct the meetings of the board; a vice chairman to serve in the absence of the chairman; and a secretary to keep accurate minutes of the meetings. The officers are to be elected for one-year terms.

Sec. 2010-4. Compensation of members.

All members of the recreation advisory board shall serve without compensation.

Sec. 2010-5. Functions.

It shall be the duty of the recreation advisory board to:

- (1) Oversee and advise the Township Board on the use and operation of the parks and other recreation facilities in the Township.
- (2) Work with the Northeastern Michigan Council of Governments and other professionals retained by the Long Rapids Township Board to develop a Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan.
- (3) Consider and study the reasonable needs and requirements of the Long Rapids Recreation Plan and offer suggestions for amendment where applicable.
- (4) Serve in an advisory capacity when so requested.

(5) Act as a recommending body to the Township Board on matters of general recreation policy.

(6) Formulate and report its finding from time to time to the Long Rapids Township Board.

EFFECTIVE DATED: January 1, 2010

M. Susan Thomson  
Long Rapids Township Clerk

## CHAPTER 3: DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING /PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

### Schedule:

<b>December, 2015</b>	Long Rapids Township contracts with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) to update their five-year Recreation Plan.
<b>December 10, 2015</b>	A press release was issued to the <i>Alpena News</i> announcing the public input session to be held December 15, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Long Rapids Township Emergency Facility.
<b>December 15, 2015</b>	The first public input session was held to gather input from Long Rapids Township residents and area recreation groups to assist in planning for recreational improvements in the Township. Eight people attended the meeting. The attendees provided input concerning their specific interests as well as of a general nature. The Township Recreation Advisory Committee facilitated the meeting and following the meeting, met to discuss the Action Plan and prioritize projects.
<b>Dec. 15, 2015- Jan. 4, 2016</b>	NEMCOG drafted an updated recreation plan, incorporating information and feedback provided by the Recreation Advisory Committee and from the public input session.
<b>Jan. 5 – Feb. 5, 2016</b>	The draft Recreation Plan became available for public review at the Alpena County Library Reference Desk and at <a href="http://www.nemcog.org">www.nemcog.org</a> .
<b>January 6, 2016</b>	Notice for 30-day public review session published in the <i>Alpena News</i> .
<b>April 19, 2016</b>	The Recreation Advisory Committee met to pass a Resolution to recommend the adoption of the Recreation Plan by the Township Board.
<b>November 2, 2016</b>	The Public Hearing Notice for the Township Board meeting appeared in the <i>Alpena News</i> .
<b>November 10, 2016</b>	Following a public hearing session, the Long Rapids Township Board passes a Resolution to adopt the Recreation Plan.

## **Public Input:**

Obtaining citizen input on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. The Recreation Advisory Board opted to hold a public input session to gather comprehensive public opinion and ideas about the future of recreation in the Township. A press release was sent to the *Alpena News*, which is published daily, announcing the public input session. Citizens were present at the session as were members of the Recreation Advisory Committee, the Township Board, and the Township Fire Department. Participants discussed the most pressing needs for the Township's recreational facilities as well as general recreational needs in the area.

Additionally, during the development of the 2011-2015 Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan, the Planning Commission conducted a written survey which was mailed to 666 property owners in the Township. 234 completed surveys were returned to the Township, which represented comments from 350 people, as the survey provided space for multiple family members to respond. This survey contained a section relating to recreation in the Township.

Because of the public input session and the high survey return rate, the Recreation Advisory Committee felt that the community was well-represented throughout the planning process. After all public input was gathered and recorded, the Recreation Advisory Committee met to prioritize projects for the Action Plan and to develop an updated capital improvements plan.



December 15, 2015 Public Input Session Notice on Alpena News website:

D=MI&RGID=00001000000&CID=10&Category=5&Classification=505



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Turkey Dinner Benefit for cancer victim Brian Boyk. Saturday, December 12, 2015. 12pm-5pm. \$10 per plate donation. K of C Hall, Hamilton Rd., Alpena 10 - 83384

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Friday, December 11th at Stoney Acres Winery. Sample some amazing wines while shopping at vendors such as Ruby Ribbon, Origami Owl & Mary Kay. 4pm-8pm 10 - 83380

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The Long Rapids Recreational Committee will hold a public meeting, December 15, 2015, at the Long Rapids Emergency Facility at 7:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is receiving public input for updating the recreation plan.

M. Susan Thomson  
Clerk of Long Rapids  
Township 10 - 83381

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**WE ARE MOVING!**  
On December 14th the Inspire SalonSpa Team will be

Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan Update  
Public Input Meeting – December 15, 2015

SIGN-IN SHEET

	Name	Address	Phone	E-Mail	Organization
1	Chuck Burrone	212 Pinebrook Dr.	379-3786	cburr3786@charter.net	
2	ELWYN DILL	4995 BLAUSHAN RD	248 420-2133		
3	Todd Meador	9576 M-65A PESON, MI 49776	295-3602	76preece2@hotmail.com	L.R. Rec. comm.
4	MaryAnn Erickson	12793 Thornc Rd Lachine MI 49753	464-2350	sissyschrum@yahoo.com	L.R. Rec. Comm.
5	Howard Lumsden	7870 S. Leck Rd Lachine MI 49753	379-4755	Howardlumsden@Live.com	LRT Board
6	Neil MacArthur	6602 McNeil Rd. Lachine MI 49753	379-2776	nopmac2@gmail.com	LRF D
7	TOM SPAULDING	5925 KEATING RD. LACHINE, MI.	379-2789	jeanntom71@hotmail.com	4RFD
8	PAUL GERSEWSKI, JR	12395 ATKINSON RD LACHINE, MI	464-9635	gersewski441@charter.net	LRF D
9					

Page 1 of 2

**Notes from Public Input Session of Dec. 15, 2015:**

**Long Rapids Township Park**

- Boat launch upgrades
- Pavilion
- Parking lot
- Tree cutting/ clean up
- Restrooms

**Thunder Bay River**

- A volunteer group is being formed to care for the river
- Tree removal/ Salina to M-65 first
- Signage on river
- Maps of river with timetables

**Trails**

- Rails to Trails/ Alpena to Hillman Trail improvements

**Ball field**

- Improvements to ball field
- Possible skating rink

**Other:** Tom Spaulding, a member of the Alpena Youth and Recreation Committee, advised the Recreation Advisory Committee that funds could be possibly available. Tom will be in contact as to when a grant writing workshop will be held.

## Long Rapids Township Citizen Survey Results: Master Plan Survey

The Long Rapids Township Planning Commission would like to thank all those who took the time to complete and return the citizen survey which was mailed out earlier this year. We have tabulated the results below. We will use this information in formulating out Township's new Master Plan and will share these results as well as comments received with the Township Board.

<u>Community and Government</u>		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Generally speaking, how do you like Long Rapids Township as a place to live or own property?	Very Much	<u>196</u>	<u>58%</u>
	Satisfied	<u>128</u>	<u>38%</u>
	Dissatisfied	<u>16</u>	<u>4%</u>
2. What three things do you <u>like most</u> about Long Rapids Township? (write in)			
	<u>Rural, Quiet, Private (154)</u>	<u>River and Park (29)</u>	
	<u>Community and Neighbors (94)</u>	<u>Good Fishing &amp; Hunting (14)</u>	
	<u>Clean, Beautiful, Nature (60)</u>	<u>Recreational Opportunities (14)</u>	
3. What three things do you <u>dislike</u> about Long Rapids Township? (write in)			
	<u>Poor Roads (48)</u>	<u>High Taxes (24)</u>	
	<u>Lack of Stores, Restaurants (31)</u>	<u>Limited Utilities (13)</u>	
	<u>Blight and Junk (29)</u>	<u>Local Government (11)</u>	
4. Since you have been here, what has happened to the Township's quality of life?	Improved	<u>76</u>	<u>24%</u>
	Become Worse	<u>27</u>	<u>8%</u>
	Stayed Same	<u>220</u>	<u>68%</u>
5. Do you wish to retain rural small town atmosphere?	Yes	<u>303</u>	<u>95%</u>
	No	<u>9</u>	<u>3%</u>
	Don't Know	<u>8</u>	<u>2%</u>

6. In your opinion, how important are the following natural resources to the future of Long Rapids Township?			
a. Water quality in the Township's Inland lakes, rivers & streams	Very Important	288	81%
	Important	62	18%
	Not Very Important	4	1%
b. Air quality and fresh air	Very Important	282	83%
	Important	54	16%
	Not Very Important	5	1%
c. Woodlands and timber resources	Very Important	270	76%
	Important	81	23%
	Not Very Important	3	1%
d. Preservation of historic buildings and sites	Very Important	163	48%
	Important	124	36%
	Not Very Important	53	16%
7. Should the Township help protect the natural resources which you have identified as important?			
	Yes	283	83%
	No	24	7%
	Don't Know	35	10%
8. Are you satisfied with the solid waste disposal methods available to you at present in the Township?			
	Satisfied	226	69%
	Dissatisfied	33	10%
	Don't Know	67	21%
9. Do you use the recycling program available in the Township?			
	Yes	121	35%
	No	225	65%
<u>Land Use and Zoning</u>			
10. The overall level of development in Long Rapids Township today, in your opinion, is:			
	Too Little	75	23%
	Too Much	24	7%
	About Right	228	70%
11. Should Township officials encourage <u>commercial</u> development?			
	Yes	141	41%
	No	154	45%
	Don't Know	50	14%
12. Should Township officials encourage <u>industrial</u> development?			
	Yes	96	28%
	No	192	56%
	Don't Know	54	16%

13. Do you think the Long Rapids Township present zoning code needs to be modernized and/or improved?	Yes	<u>99</u>	<u>29%</u>
	No	<u>68</u>	<u>20%</u>
	Don't Know	<u>170</u>	<u>51%</u>
14. Do you think some kind of junk control ordinance is needed in Long Rapids Township?	Yes	<u>211</u>	<u>64%</u>
	No	<u>73</u>	<u>22%</u>
	Don't Know	<u>46</u>	<u>14%</u>
15. Are you satisfied with the Township's fire protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)?	Yes	<u>250</u>	<u>73%</u>
	No	<u>13</u>	<u>4%</u>
	Don't Know	<u>80</u>	<u>23%</u>
16. Are you satisfied with road maintenance and road conditions in the Township at present?	Yes	<u>220</u>	<u>63%</u>
	No	<u>119</u>	<u>34%</u>
	Don't Know	<u>11</u>	<u>3%</u>
17. Are you satisfied with snow removal services on public roads within the Township?	Yes	<u>237</u>	<u>67%</u>
	No	<u>82</u>	<u>23%</u>
	Don't Know	<u>36</u>	<u>10%</u>

18. Please list, in order of importance, the three spring or summer recreational activities which are most important to your household.

<u>Fishing (100)</u>	<u>Camping (57)</u>
<u>Canoe, Kayak, Boat (74)</u>	<u>Garden, Farm (34)</u>
<u>Hiking, Walking (59)</u>	<u>Biking (34)</u>

19. Please list, in order of importance, the three fall or winter recreational activities which are most important to your household.

<u>Hunting (118)</u>	<u>Hiking, Walking (38)</u>
<u>Fish, Ice Fish (55)</u>	<u>Ski (x-country, downhill) (30)</u>
<u>Snowmobile (54)</u>	<u>Skating (12)</u>

20. Do you feel that park and recreational facilities in the Township are adequate?	Too Many	<u>3</u>	<u>1%</u>
	Too Few	<u>105</u>	<u>36%</u>
	About Right	<u>183</u>	<u>63%</u>

21. Please indicate below any additional recreational facilities or social activities you would like to see made available in Long Rapids Township.

<u>More Trails, Hiking, Biking, Ski &amp; ATV (28)</u>	<u>More outdoor activities (8)</u>
<u>More + Improved River Access (10)</u>	<u>More Twp. Hall Activities (9)</u>
<u>More Church, Twp Dinners (10)</u>	<u>Ice Skating Rink (7)</u>

22. Please indicate your residency status in Long Rapids Township.

Year-Round	<u>239</u>
Part-Time	<u>43</u>
Non-Resident	<u>69</u>

23. Please indicate your property interest within the Township (check all that apply).

Our Home	<u>241</u>
Rent Home	<u>1</u>
Own Farm	<u>75</u>
Cabin/Cottage	<u>45</u>
Hunting Land	<u>128</u>
Own Business	<u>10</u>
Other	<u>17</u>

24. How long have you lived in Long Rapids Township?

0-5 Yrs.	<u>50</u>	<u>15%</u>
6-10 Yrs.	<u>18</u>	<u>5%</u>
11-20 Yrs.	<u>55</u>	<u>17%</u>
More than 20 Yrs.	<u>102</u>	<u>31%</u>
Entire Life	<u>47</u>	<u>14%</u>
Do not live in Township	<u>56</u>	<u>18%</u>

25. What is your age group?

0-19 Yrs.	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>
20-39 Yrs.	<u>29</u>	<u>9%</u>
40-64 Yrs.	<u>184</u>	<u>57%</u>
65 + Yrs.	<u>112</u>	<u>34%</u>

**Notice of Availability of Recreation Plan for at least 30 days (Notice in *The Alpena News*, Jan 6, 2016):**

**FIRST DAY**

**Notice of public review Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan**  
 The Long Rapids Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has prepared a draft Recreation Plan which will be available for review for the next 30 days at the Alpena County Library Reference Desk and at

[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)  
 Written comments may be submitted to Howard Lumsden, 7870 S. Leer Rd., Lachine, MI 49753 or by email to [howardlumsden@live.com](mailto:howardlumsden@live.com)

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**THE ALPENA NEWS MONSTER**

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<b>10</b> Announcements	<b>1034</b> - Helping Hands Large wind up dog cage \$50 (989) 727-9027	<b>1002</b> - Events	<b>104</b> - Announcements	<b>1526</b> - Full Time Wanted	<b>3008</b> - Houses for Rent	<b>3032</b> - Wanted to Rent	<b>55</b> Pets & Supplies	<b>6512</b> - Firewood	<b>7004</b> - SUV's
<b>1002</b> - Events	<b>104</b> - Announcements	<b>1002</b> - Events	<b>104</b> - Announcements	<b>1526</b> - Full Time Wanted	<b>3008</b> - Houses for Rent	<b>3032</b> - Wanted to Rent	<b>55</b> Pets & Supplies	<b>6512</b> - Firewood	<b>7004</b> - SUV's
<b>FIRST DAY</b> Alpena Indoor Flea Market for all your arts, crafts & antiques. Open every Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sunday, Noon-5pm. Spaces available. (989) 425-9999	<b>ATTENTION PLEASE! BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR AD</b> for any errors the first day it runs and let us know if there is a problem. We will be happy to make adjustments for one day only. THANK YOU Alpena News Classifieds Department.	<b>FIRST DAY</b> Rondeau Tours (989) 306-1153 call (989) 255-4708	<b>1002</b> - Events	<b>1526</b> - Full Time Wanted	<b>3008</b> - Houses for Rent	<b>3032</b> - Wanted to Rent	<b>55</b> Pets & Supplies	<b>6512</b> - Firewood	<b>7004</b> - SUV's
<b>2016 Casino Trips</b> Wednesday, January 13th - \$45 Bay Mills, Brimley & Kenoway, St Ignace Leave Walmart 8am Return 8pm Wednesday, February 3rd - \$45 Bay Mills, Brimley & Kenoway, St Ignace Leave Walmart 8am Return 8pm Tuesday, February 16th - \$45 Clevea Casino Potoskey Leave Walmart 8am Return 5pm Thursday, February 25th - \$45 Turtle Creek Casino Leave Walmart 8am Return 5pm	<b>15</b> Employment	<b>1002</b> - Events	<b>104</b> - Announcements	<b>1526</b> - Full Time Wanted	<b>3008</b> - Houses for Rent	<b>3032</b> - Wanted to Rent	<b>55</b> Pets & Supplies	<b>6512</b> - Firewood	<b>7004</b> - SUV's
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**Notice of public  
review Long Rapids  
Township  
Recreation Plan**

The Long Rapids Township  
Parks and Recreation  
Advisory Board has prepared  
a draft Recreation Plan which  
will be available for review  
for the next 30 days at the  
Alpena County Library  
Reference Desk and at  
[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org).

Written comments may be  
submitted to Howard  
Lumsden, 7870 S. Leer Rd.,  
Lachine, MI 49753 or by  
email to  
[howardlumsden@live.com](mailto:howardlumsden@live.com)

10 - 83557

**Posting of Draft Recreation Plan for public review on NEMCOG's main webpage and their Planning and Zoning webpage (January 4, 2016)**

**Resolution of the Recreation Advisory Committee Recommending Adoption of the Plan:**

**RECREATION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION OF RECOMMENDATION**

**Long Rapids Township Recreation Committee**

- WHEREAS,** Long Rapids Township has undertaken a 5-Year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2016 – 2020, and
- WHEREAS,** a public input session was held on December 15, 2015, providing residents with an opportunity to comment and guide recreation in the Township, and
- WHEREAS,** a public notice was published in *The Alpena News* on January 6, 2016, which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and
- WHEREAS,** Long Rapids Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Long Rapids Township Recreation Committee hereby recommends the Recreation Plan Update as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Township to the Long Rapids Township Board for adoption.

Yeas: 3 Nays: 2 Absent: 0

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the forgoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the LongRapids Township Recreation Committee, held on 4-9-2016

Date

Signature/Title

4-9-2016

*Yvonne Roznowski/Secretary*



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

**RECREATION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

**Long Rapids Township**

- WHEREAS,** Long Rapids Township has undertaken a 5-Year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2016 – 2020, and
- WHEREAS,** a public input session was held on December 15, 2015, providing residents with an opportunity to comment and guide recreation in the Township, and
- WHEREAS,** a public notice was published in *The Alpena News* on January 6, 2016, which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and
- WHEREAS,** Long Rapids Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire community, and
- WHEREAS,** a public hearing was held on November 10, 2016 at the Long Rapids Township Emergency Facility building to provide residents the opportunity to ask questions and express opinions on the Recreation Plan.
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Long Rapids Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Recreation Plan Update as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Township.

Yeas: 5                                      Nays: 0                                      Absent: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Long Rapids Township Board of Trustees, held on 11/10/2016.

11/10/16  
Date

Matthew J. Clerk  
Signature/Title

## Minutes from the Township Board Meeting:

Long Rapids Township  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
November 10, 2016

The regular meeting of the Long Rapids Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Lumsden at 7:00 PM at the Long Rapids Township Emergency Facility, 5310 M-65 N., Lachine, MI 49753.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Present: Supervisor Lumsden, Trustee Himes, Trustee Spaulding, Treasurer Wendy Johnson & Clerk Thomson Attorney Kane was present. Commissioner McDonald was present.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Supv. Lumsden opened the public hearing meeting for the 5 Year Recreation Plan Resolution Adoption. The plan resolution was reviewed and discussed. Supv. Lumsden closed the public hearing.

Public Comment: Commissioner McDonald thanked Trustee Himes for his many years of service to our Long Rapids Community.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Himes, second by Spaulding to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of October 13, 2016, Minutes: Motion by Himes, second by Spaulding to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy Johnson, Treasurer: General Fund: \$ 311,252.36, Checking Account: \$ 108,259.77, Cemetery Fund: \$ 26,388.84, Emergency Facility Bond Account: \$73,048.29, Hall Restoration Bond Account: \$ 29,159.90, and Property Tax Account: \$4,575.00. Motion by Himes, second by Spaulding to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ayes: Lumsden, Himes, Spaulding, Johnson, & Thomson. Nays: None.

Budget Report: Sue Thomson, Clerk: October, 2016 revenue was \$ 7,101.51 and total of October, 2016 expenditures were \$ 58,008.19. Himes made the motion, second by Spaulding to approve the budget report as presented. Ayes: Lumsden, Himes, Spaulding, Johnson & Thomson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Lappan Agency/Workmen's Comp sent a letter of congratulations to our township for a WorkSafe year. A dividend check was enclosed from our Accident Insurance Company.

Cemetery Report: John Tinker, Sexton: One full burial. Also, the water has been turned off for the winter months.

Fire Department: Neil MacArthur, Fire Chief: 9 medical runs, & 4 fire runs, one which was a mutual aid to Posen. The department received an application from Ethan Himes to serve on the fire department. The department is recommending to the board that he be accepted. Spaulding made the motion, second by Himes to accept the recommendation of the fire department to have Ethan Himes join the department. Ayes: Lumsden, Himes, Spaulding, Johnson & Thomson. Nays: None.

Planning Commission: Wendy Johnson: update on special meeting this past week to approve Northern Promotions building expansion.

Township Hall: Tom Spaulding: elevator inspection has been completed and our furnace boilers have been inspected also.

Seminars: Just a reminder regarding the training in January, 2017 for the New Official's Training/MTA.

Roads: No new business or old business to discuss.

Old Business: Recreation Plan, Resolution of Adoption: Spaulding made the motion, supported by Himes to adopt the new 5 year plan resolution. Ayes: Lumsden, Himes, Spaulding, Johnson & Thomson. Nays: None.

New Business: None.

Monthly Bills: Himes made the motion, second by Spaulding to pay the monthly bills. Ayes: Lumsden, Himes, Spaulding, Johnson & Thomson. Nays: None.

Public Comment: At this time, Supv. Lumsden thanked Trustee Himes for his 32 years of service and dedication as a trustee on our township board. Himes thanked the board and the Long Rapids residents/taxpayers for allowing him to be a trustee for 32 years. He enjoyed working with and for his community.

Adjournment: Himes made the motion, second by Spaulding to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

M. Susan Thomson, Clerk

**Copies of Submittal Letters:**

Long Rapids Township  
Alpena County

December 22, 2016

Ms. Diane Rekowski, Executive Director  
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
80 Livingston Blvd., Ste. 108  
P.O. Box 457  
Gaylord, MI 49734

Re: *Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan 2016-2020*

Dear Ms. Rekowski,

Please find enclosed a complete copy of the 2016-2020 Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan, which was adopted by the Long Rapids Township Board on November 10, 2016.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Howard Lumsden  
Supervisor, Long Rapids Township  
989-379-4755  
[howardlumsden@live.com](mailto:howardlumsden@live.com)

Long Rapids Township

Alpena County

December 22, 2016

Alpena County Planning Commission  
720 W. Chisholm St.  
Alpena, MI 49707

Re: *Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan 2016-2020*

Please find enclosed a complete copy of the 2016-2020 Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan, which was adopted by the Long Rapids Township Board on November 10, 2016.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Howard Lumsden  
Supervisor, Long Rapids Township  
989-379-4755  
[howardlumsden@live.com](mailto:howardlumsden@live.com)

# CHAPTER 4: RECREATION INVENTORY

An inventory of recreation facilities available in Long Rapids Township and surrounding communities was completed and is presented in this chapter. The Township’s facilities, as well as some of the County-owned facilities (as stated in the current County Recreation Master Plan), were evaluated for barrier-free accessibility.

## INVENTORY PROCEDURES

The methods used to compile this recreational inventory include compilation of information provided by Long Rapids Township representatives, as well as verification and compilation of information from the previous Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan, the Long Rapids Township Master Plan (2009), the Alpena County Recreation Plan (2014-2018), the City of Alpena Recreation Plan (2010-2014), and the City of Alpena’s Trail Towns Master Plan (2013). Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

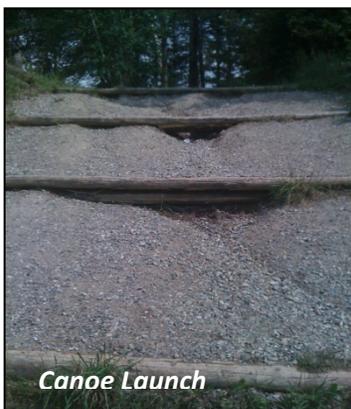
### ***Township-Owned Property (Map 6)***

1. **LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP PARK:** This 7.25-acre site is located on M-65 on the Thunder Bay River. The park features a canoe launch, fishing area, and an outdoor restroom along with a portable toilet. The park also serves as a scenic roadside park with a picnic area. Two ingress/egress drives access M-65, and a gravel parking lot provides limited parking.

**Type:** Community Park

**Service Area:** Long Rapids Township

**Barrier-Free Accessibility = 1** (none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines)



*Canoe Launch*



*Access Drive*



*Outdoor Restroom*

2. **GLEASON FIELD:** Gleason Field, a ball field located on M-65 in the southern portion of the Township, has bleachers, dugouts, backstop, limited fencing and a concession building. It is generally used for Little League baseball and may also be used by residents and the general public.

**Type:** Community Park

**Service Area:** Long Rapids Township

**Barrier-Free Accessibility = 1** (none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines)



3. **LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP HALL (OLD TOWNSHIP HALL):**

The two-story stone Township Hall, built in 1935, has a gymnasium, meeting rooms, full kitchen, barrier-free restrooms, and an elevator. The hall is rented out for special events and is open to residents for exercise and basketball. The addition of an elevator is being considered to allow for more convenient use of the facility. The parking lot at the Township Hall is paved with two handicap accessible spaces. In the winter months an area outside the building is flooded for use as an ice rink.



**Type:** Special Use Facility

**Service Area:** Long Rapids Township

**Barrier-Free Accessibility = 4** (the entire facility meets accessibility guidelines)

The parking lot contains two barrier-free parking spaces and the building contains an elevator which accesses both floors, and restrooms are barrier-free.



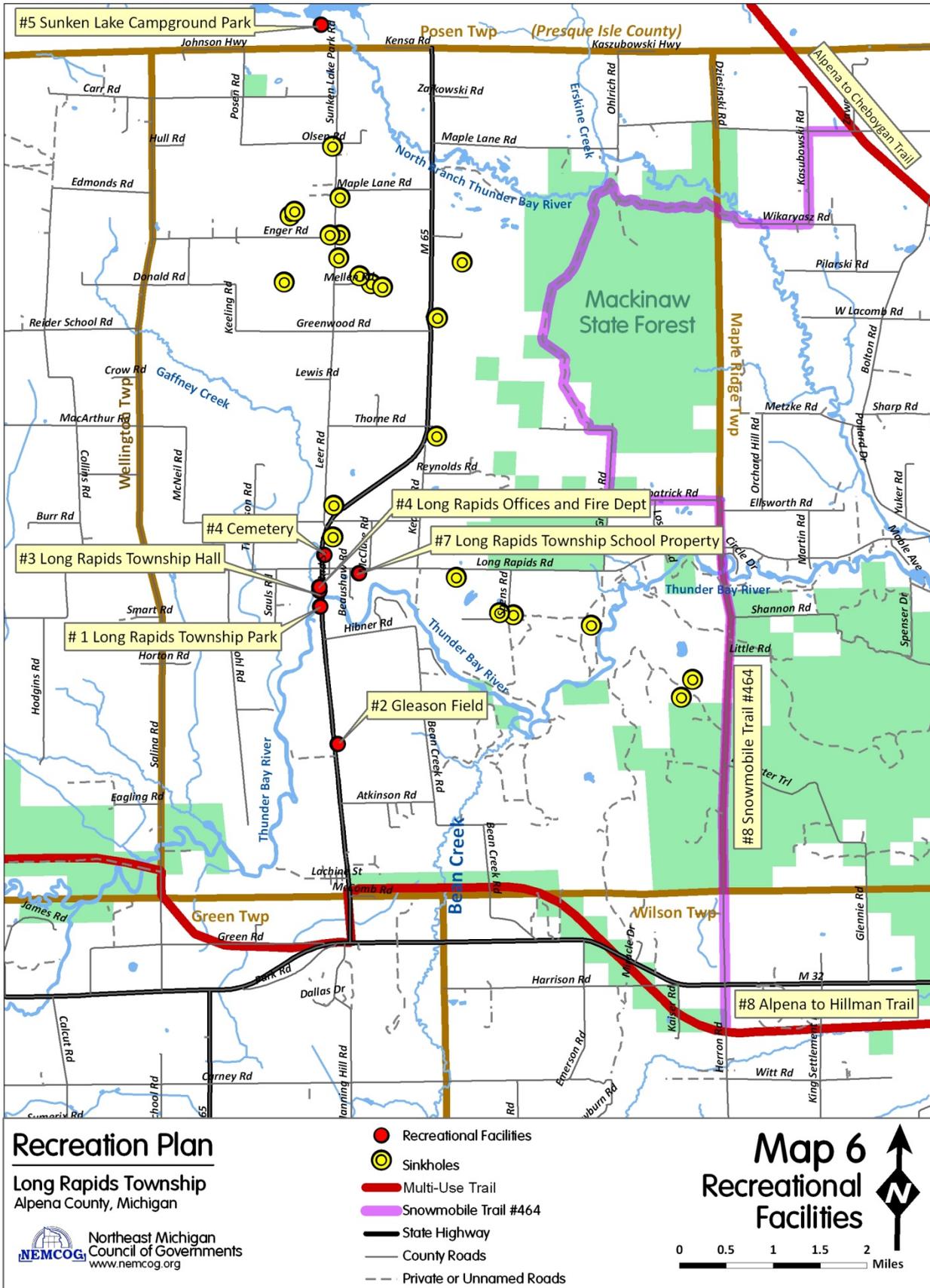
*Basketball Court*



*Gymnasium*

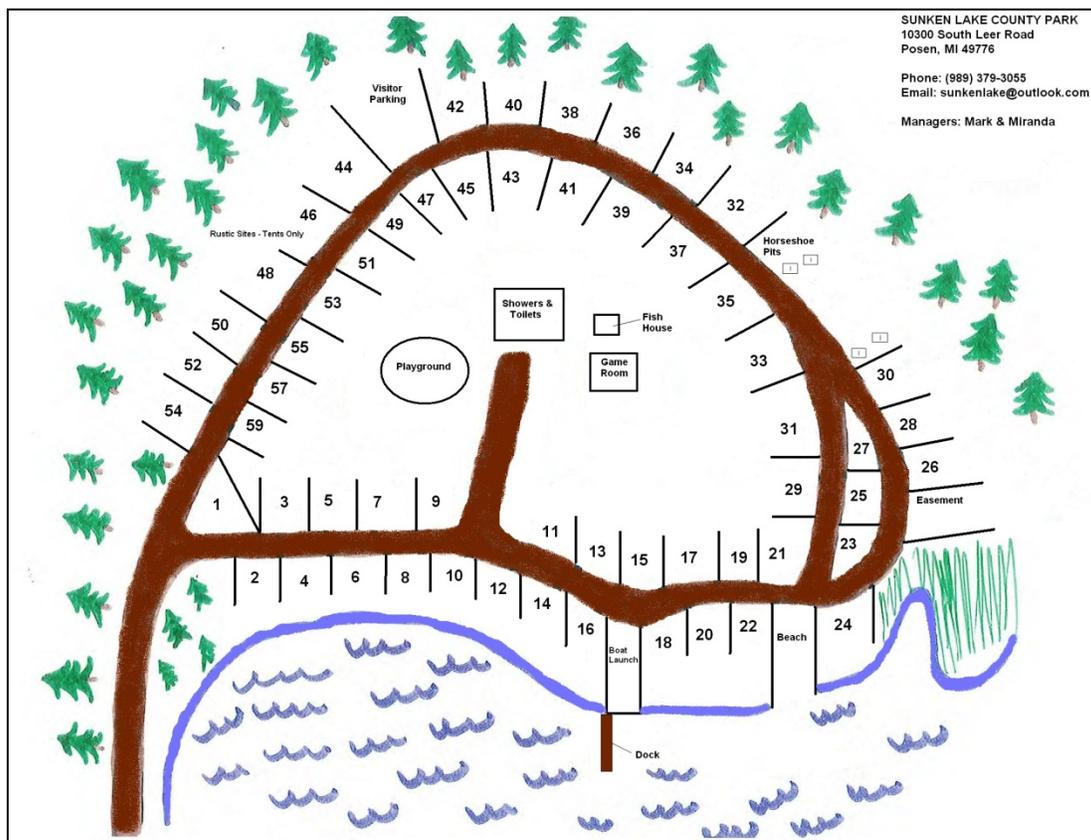


4. **OTHER TOWNSHIP PROPERTY:** A newer Township building houses the Township offices, meeting space, voting facility, and fire department. The old Township Fire Hall is currently used to store a fire rescue trailer and truck. Both facilities are located on M-65 near the old Township Hall. The Long Rapids Cemetery, operated jointly with Wellington Township, is located on M-65 just north of the community of Long Rapids.



## Other Publicly-Owned Recreational Facilities in/adjacent to the Township

5. **SUNKEN LAKE PARK/CAMPGROUND**, owned by Alpena County, is located on Fletcher Park Road at the Presque Isle County line. Adjacent to Sunken Lake's 50 acres of water, this 160 acre county park offers camping, fishing, boating, swimming, and a children's playground. A day use area has picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, and a pavilion. A covered footbridge provides access to an island with nature trails. The camping area offers 60 trailer campsites with water and electricity available. All campsites have picnic tables. There are two bathrooms with showers, a dumping station, a boat ramp and dock, a fish cleaning station, a concession stand, and playground equipment. A park caretaker, employed by the County, is on-site. The park is operated and maintained by the caretaker, the Youth Volunteer Corps, and volunteers fulfilling work project requirements through the Family Independence Agency. Access to the park is gained from Long Rapids Township, and many Township residents utilize this park. Alpena County has issued an updated map of the park:



Alpena County has rated this park's **barrier-free accessibility as a 2**: Bathrooms in picnic area consists of port-a-johns, and are not ADA and access to the pavilion is limited. Sand roads in the camping area limit mobility and access to bathroom. The bathrooms do have ADA stalls but the door handles, showers and shower knobs are not barrier free.

6. **MACKINAW STATE FOREST** is located in the eastern and southeastern parts of Long Rapids Township and totals approximately 5,731 acres or about 16 percent of the area of the Township. Classified as forestland, it is also designated as a multipurpose recreational area. Although the primary recreational use is hunting, opportunities for hiking and nature observation are also available.
7. **LONG RAPIDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BALL FIELD** is located on Long Rapids Road east of M-65. Due to budget cuts in the Alpena Public School System, the Long Rapids School was closed in June 2010.
8. **TRAILS:** Two designated recreational trails run through Long Rapids Township on State land. The *Alpena to Hillman Trail* (also known as the Paxon Spur) is an abandoned rail grade runs east-west along the southern boundary of the Township. This trail is 22.3 miles long and connects the City of Alpena to the Village of Hillman. The trail is primarily used by snowmobiles in the winter, although all non-motorized users may use the trail. The surface is dirt, cinder and ballast, and not currently ADA accessible. The trail is open to non-motorized users year-round and snowmobiles from December 1st thru March 31st. However, due to the inconsistent surface and gates that make the trail appear closed in the summer months the trail is primarily used by snowmobilers.

Priority improvements for the trail, according to the Alpena County Recreation Plan and the City of Alpena's Trail Town Master Plan, include:

- Improving the surface and accessibility of the trail to accommodate year-round non-motorized use, similar to the crushed limestone resurfacing project that was completed on the North Eastern State Trail (NEST).
- Adding amenities, trailhead and access points along the trail.
- Re-configuring the access gates to allow permitted users to better access the trail.
- Potentially extending the trail east into the City of Alpena to connect to the Bi-Path.

In an effort to achieve some of those goals, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board recommended in late 2015 that the Michigan Legislature fund a \$300,000 grant to Alpena County to improve the first phase (13.5 miles) of the trail, from Franklin Street in Alpena to M-65 in Lachine (Long Rapids Township). The proposed project will improve surfacing and bridge crossings to provide access to multiple types of users and bring the trail up to current state and federal standards.

The second trail, known as *Snowmobile Trail #464*, runs generally north-south through State land to Herron Road along the eastern boundary of the township. This trail is a connector between the NEST and the Alpena to Hillman Trail.

The trails are owned and maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. However, the Alpena Sno-Drifters snowmobile club helps to maintain the trail in the winter. A map of these trails can be found at:

[http://www.upnorthtrails.org/userfiles/filemanager/6941/VVMap\\_Alpena\\_2230.pdf](http://www.upnorthtrails.org/userfiles/filemanager/6941/VVMap_Alpena_2230.pdf)

### ***Privately-Owned Recreational Facilities in the Township:***

**SINKHOLES** are located west of the intersection of Leer Road and Maple Lane. There are two sinkholes located side-by-side at this site and they are referred to as the Stevens Twin Sinks. Purchased by the Michigan Karst Conservancy through donations and membership dues, both of these sinkholes are approximately 200 feet in diameter. One sinkhole is approximately 60 feet deep and the other is about 80 feet deep. Bruski Sink across Leer Road was donated to the Conservancy and made part of the Thunder Bay Karst Preserves.

The Michigan Karst Conservancy has spearheaded a volunteer effort to clean up debris and refuse which has been dumped into these sinkholes. Long-range goals include signs and parking facilities when the sites are opened for limited viewing by the public. In order to protect the unique vegetation and ensure safety of viewers, access will be somewhat restricted and prior permission will be necessary before entering the area. Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan is acting as the point of contact since accessibility will likely be gained through guided tours in conjunction with the museum. The Karst Conservancy also owns other property in the Township, which encompasses part of another sinkhole that is privately owned. The Karst group may decide to acquire property that encompasses the entire sinkhole and eventually make available for supervised public viewing. The sinkholes are just a few of over 200, which are found in a 50-mile line from Thunder Bay to Black Lake. Alpena Township's Long Lake is actually a sink. Some of the dry sinkholes in Alpena County range from 100 to 300 feet in diameter and up to 150 feet deep. Because these formations are rare in most areas, they are of interest to geologist and geographers as well as to casual visitors. Botanists are intrigued by the unusual flora, especially ferns and mosses that occur in cool and dark climate of the sinks. Since many of the sinkholes are located on private property, visitors should obtain permission from owners before entering the area.

### ***Regional Recreation in Alpena County (Map 7)***

Complete information on all public and private recreational facilities can be found in the Alpena County Recreation Plan (2014-2018). Below is a list of recreational sites in Alpena County. The significant recreational sites are listed below, which include descriptions and are designated by numbers on **Map 7: Regional Recreation**.

**The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve/Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (#9):** The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated as the nation's first freshwater sanctuary in October of 2000. The 448-square mile sanctuary and underwater preserve is located in Thunder Bay off the coast of Alpena County. Its current boundary extends from the north to south county lines and from the shoreline to longitude 83 degrees west. The Sanctuary is in the process of expanding its boundaries to include portions of the Alcona and Presque Isle Counties' coastal areas. Not only is the Sanctuary the first freshwater sanctuary, it is also the first sanctuary to focus solely on a large collection of underwater cultural resources and the first sanctuary to be located entirely within state waters. The focus of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve is on understanding the region's "maritime cultural landscape." While the shipwrecks of the Thunder Bay region are the most obvious underwater cultural resource, the sanctuary puts the

shipwrecks in the larger context of the region's lighthouses, lifesaving stations, shipwreck salvage operations, and maritime economic activities.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve encourages and promotes recreational activities that include:

- Diving & snorkeling: charter, recreational and commercial
- Boating/kayaking: recreational and commercial
- Fishing: charter, recreational, and commercial
- Research
- Education

The NOAA protects and manages sanctuaries through the National Marine and Sanctuary System (NMSS). Because the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary and Preserve is entirely within Michigan waters, a Joint Management Committee was established with NOAA and the State participating as equal partners. The involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic in the community is vitally important to the protection of sanctuary resources. To help facilitate community stewardship, a Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) is established which is supported by NMSS. The 15 member council consists of local members from the community representing a variety of disciplines, interests and political subdivisions. Members are appointed by the director of NMSS and mutually agreed upon by NOAA and the State of Michigan. The primary duties of the SAC are to provide recommendations to NOAA and the State of Michigan concerning sanctuary development and to advise the Sanctuary/Preserve manager about management issues. Sanctuary/Preserve activities will focus on resource protection, education, and research. Priority activities include placing mooring buoys at identified shipwrecks, initiating an inventory and documentation of shipwrecks, and developing a maritime heritage education program.

The Thunder Bay Sanctuary/Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center has been developed in a refurbished building within the old Fletcher Paper Mill property along the Thunder Bay River. The museum, education and research center generates considerable activity and has become a focal point in the City of Alpena. The exhibits feature a life-size hand-built replica of a portion of a 1800s Great Lakes schooner, a re-creation of a shipwreck site, artifact lab, and hundreds of interpretive learning opportunities.

### Alpena Township

#### **PUBLIC**

- **Long Lake Park/Campground (#10)** is located ten miles north of Alpena, one-half mile off U.S. 23. Situated on the east side of Long Lake, this county park occupies 68 acres. A total of 105 campsites are adjacent to the 5,652 acres of water that make up Long Lake. Water and electricity are available at 80 of these sites with the other 25 sites considered primitive. Park facilities include restrooms/showers, dumping station, concession stand, concrete boat ramp, three docks, nature trails, two pavilions (with electricity), picnic

tables, two playgrounds, two swimming beaches, and outdoor trailer storage. Long Lake Park is open May 15 to October 1st. Camping is permitted after October 1st until November 1st on a daily rate schedule. A park caretaker is on-site. **Barrier-Free Accessibility = 2:** An evaluation of accessibility issues noted the restrooms and office are not barrier free. Fishing and boating opportunities are limited as the boat launch area and dock are not barrier free. There are no wheel chair accessible picnic tables in the picnic area and there is limited signage and lighting.

- **Huron Shores Little League Fields**
- **Forty-acre plot of public land**
- **Public access site**
- **Alpena Township Nature Preserve (#11)** is located in Section 15 of T31N-R9E and consists of approximately 140 acres with 10,000 feet of Lake Huron Shoreline. The Nature Conservancy partnered with Alpena Township in acquiring this property to preserve it from extensive lakeshore development and to provide public access to unique natural resources. Alpena Township acquired the property with grant support from The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan Coastal Management Program. The property is used for low impact outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the rich coastal resources. Alpena Township received funding to develop a park management plan from the Michigan Coastal Management Program and completed the plan in the fall of 2008. Important natural resources on the property include karst geologic features in and around El Cajon Bay, coastal fens, coastal marshes, dwarf lake iris, shore birds and migratory birds. The Michigan Natural Features Inventory has identified a number of threatened and endangered plants and animals on the property. Future uses for the property include nature and interpretive trails, water access for canoes or kayaks. In addition, the waters off this property are important for diving and are part of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. The Township is planning to acquire small parcels to provide parking facilities and more direct access to Misery Bay for launching kayaks and canoes.
- **VanWormer Field**
- **Rockport Property (#12)** is located about ten miles north of the City of Alpena on Lake Huron. Situated on the Alpena/Presque Isle County line, east of U.S. 23, the property covers nearly six square miles. The DNR maintains a public access/boat launch facility. The Township of Alpena has a lease agreement with the Michigan DNR for 2 acres to provide a picnic site. Site features include an inactive limestone quarry, a deep-water harbor with boat launch, trails, parking and picnic areas, eight large and several small sinkholes, several square miles of forested land and historic sites.
- **Rockport Picnic Area (#12)** provides gravel parking for use of picnic tables and grills, an access gate, observation benches, signage, and landscaping. This two acre site was recently developed in partnership with DNR and is adjacent to the Rockport boat launch site in Section 6 of T32N-R9E. Alpena Township has a long-term lease from the DNR for this picnic site.
- **Thunder Bay Island**
- **Mackinaw State Forest**

- **Norway Ridge Pathway (#13)** is located 3.5 miles southwest of the City of Alpena on Werth Road. As part of the Mackinaw State Forest, the pathway is maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). It has 4.5 miles of groomed trails in section 6 of T30N, R8E. Recreation opportunities include cross-country skiing during the winter months and mountain biking/hiking during the spring, summer and fall.
- **Devil’s Lake Snowmobile and ORV Trails/Devil’s Swamp Snowmobile Trail (#14)** are located off Werth Road. The trail circles the length of Devil’s Lake and include 26 miles of the Mackinaw State Forest. MDNR owns this land and has developed it for recreational use. The snowmobile trails are maintained by the Alpena Snowmobile Association.
- **Devil’s Lake Wildlife Flooding Area**
- **North Eastern State Trail (NEST) (#25)** serves as a foundation for a major a non-motorized dedicated trail system in the region and connects to a larger network of regional trails that cover over 280 miles throughout Northern Michigan. The NEST was completed in 2011. Users can walk, bicycle, horseback ride or snowmobile 71 miles from Alpena to Cheboygan. The trail runs from Woodward Avenue in the City of Alpena to the Lincoln Street in City of Cheboygan where it merges with the North Central State Trail which runs south 45 miles to Gaylord or northwest 16 miles to Mackinaw City. The NEST has a 10 foot wide packed crushed limestone surface with two foot shoulders, new safety signs, access control features and mile marker posts. The trail use, determined by the DNR, allows non-motorized use year round and snowmobiles from Dec. 1 – Mar. 31.

This project was a collaboration between two state departments, local governments and a non-profit organization. The Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC) led the effort to help assemble a 3.1 million dollar funding package which included gaining 5% of the project costs from local governments, individuals and organizations. The Michigan Department of Transportation completed the engineering and project oversight while the Michigan Department of Natural Resources oversaw the project implementation and will continue to manage and maintain the facility. The trail now creates a link across northeast Michigan on the former Detroit to Mackinaw Railroad connecting Alpena, Posen, Hawks, Millersburg, Onaway, Aloha and Cheboygan. Maps of the trail can be found at: <http://www.trailsCouncil.org/north-eastern-state-trail-michigan/>.

In addition, the City of Alpena received a MNRTF grant in 2014 for the development of a new trailhead near the NEST’s southern terminus at Woodward Avenue. Features include restrooms/storage building, pavilion, paved parking, snowmobile parking, access paths, landscaping, a drinking fountain, security lighting and camera, and other necessary site amenities. Construction began in Fall 2015.

- **Public Access Site**
- **Thunder Bay Island and Lighthouse**
- **Middle Island Lighthouse**
- **Bike Paths**
- **Gordon School Building**

**PRIVATE**

- Decksider Marina
- Dodge Marina and Storage
- Partridge Point Wetlands Property
- Thunder Bowl, Inc.
- Alpena Golf Club
- Alpena Health and Racquet Club
- Four Mile Dam
- JJ's Awesome Acres

**Green Township**

**PUBLIC**

- Green Township Ball Park
- **Manning Hill Park (#15)** is located in Lachine on M-32 near the junction of M-65. Situated on one of the highest points in Alpena County, this two-acre site offers a scenic area with a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. The historic lookout tower has been removed and an easily accessible observation deck was constructed on the former tower pad. A pavilion, three picnic tables, and two grills provide area residents and visitors with summer recreational opportunities. Sledding is a popular winter activity at this park. **Barrier-Free Accessibility = 1:** Paths to the pavilion and viewing platform are not barrier free and there is not a barrier free access onto the viewing platform. The barrier free parking is not marked or identified. Port-a-john on site during summer months.
- DNR Public Access to Fletcher Pond
- Mackinaw State Forest

**PRIVATE**

- Paradise Lodge Resort
- Upper South Dam
- Moores Landing Campground
- Killions Landing
- Jacks Landing Resort
- Fletchers Landing (Anglers Hideaway)
- Public Access on Fletchers Pond

**Maple Ridge Township**

**PUBLIC**

- **Maple Ridge Township Park (#16)** is located on the west side of LaComb Road on the North Branch of the Thunder Bay River. It is comprised of 45 rustic acres with picnic

grounds, hiking trails, and a canoe launch. A popular attraction is the picturesque wooden bridge that leads to an island area. Recent improvements to the park include a newly constructed pavilion and additional playground equipment. Other playground equipment includes a teeter-totter and a large sanded area. A storage building is located on site and outdoor toilet facilities are available. Although there is no electricity at the park, improvement plans include the addition of power lines.

- **Maple Ridge Ball Park.**
- **River Access sites**
- **Mackinaw State Forest**
- **Norway Point (Seven Mile Dam)**
- **NEST (#25)** is located in the northern half of the township, extending in an NW-SE direction.

#### ***PRIVATE***

- **Campers Cove Campground**
- **Norway Point (Seven Mile Dam)**

### **Ossineke Township**

#### ***PUBLIC***

- **Beaver Lake Park/Campground (#17)** is located 1.2 miles west of M-65 on Beaver Lake Park Road. This county park is situated on 8.19 acres adjacent to Beaver Lake. With a dam to control lake levels, this natural lake covers 665 acres and offers area residents many water-related recreational opportunities. Swimming, boating, and fishing for pike, bass, and pan fish are popular summertime activities. A pavilion, children's playground, and a fenced-in spring separate the boat launch and camping area from the day use area. The day use area provides an open space with picnic tables, swings, and a swimming beach. Overnight camping is available and a park caretaker is on-site. **Barrier-Free Accessibility = 2:** An evaluation of accessibility issues noted the restrooms and office are not compliant with ADA guidelines. Fishing and boating opportunities are limited as the boat launch area and dock are not barrier free. There are no wheelchair accessible picnic tables in the picnic area and there is limited signage and lighting.
- **Mackinaw State Forest**
- **Chippewa Hills Pathway (#18)** is located southwest of Ossineke on Kissau Road. With three groomed trails, it is one of Alpena County's major hiking and cross county ski areas. Trail #1 is 1.3 miles, trail #2 is 2.5 miles and trail #3 is 4.5 miles. These trails have four loops with rolling to hilly terrain and are designated novice to expert. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has proposed improvements at the site, including a track for skate-skiers.

#### ***PRIVATE***

- **Hubbard Lake Lions Park**
- **Turtle Lake Club**

## Sanborn Township

### **PUBLIC**

- **Ossineke Park (#19)** is located east of U.S.23 South on the Lake Huron shore. Also known as Sanborn Park, it has a day use area with picnic tables, grills and pavilion, playground equipment, changing rooms, restrooms and newly paved parking lot that meets ADA accessibility standards. The park has a sandy beach for swimming, but there is no boat launch.
- **Sanborn Township Launching Site**
- **Babe Ruth Ball Field and Ossineke Ball Field**
- **Sanborn Township and Huron Shores Little League Baseball Diamond**
- **Shin-ga-ba Shores Playground**
- **Mackinaw State Forest**
- **Ossineke State Forest Campground (#20)** is located on the shore of Lake Huron. It has 42 campsites, picnic tables, fire pits, water pumps and eight toilets. A small picnic area has four tables, fire pits and grills. The campground also has a non-motorized hiking trail and a sandy beach. There is no boat launch site.
- **Negwegon State Park (#21)** is located in sections 27, 27, 34 and 35 of T29N, R8E in the township. The park consists of approximately 1,720 acres in Alpena County and an additional 1,265 acres is located in Alcona County. The park is a day-use facility with hiking trails, parking and pit toilets, which are located in Alcona County.
- **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Boat Launch Site**
- **Ossineke Sports Park**

### **PRIVATE**

- **Dinosaur Gardens**

## Wellington Township

### **PUBLIC**

- **Mackinaw State Forest**

## Wilson Township

### **PUBLIC**

- **Wolf Creek Park, (#22)** located off Wolf Creek Road, contains walking trails, a picnic area, and access to Wolf Creek for fishing and canoeing/kayaking.
- **Mackinaw State Forest**
- **Devil's Lake Snowmobile Trail (#14)** is located in the eastern portion of Wilson Township in the Mackinaw State Forest. The trail is 21 miles long with 11 miles of which are located in the Township. The trail is groomed by the Alpena Sno-Drifters.

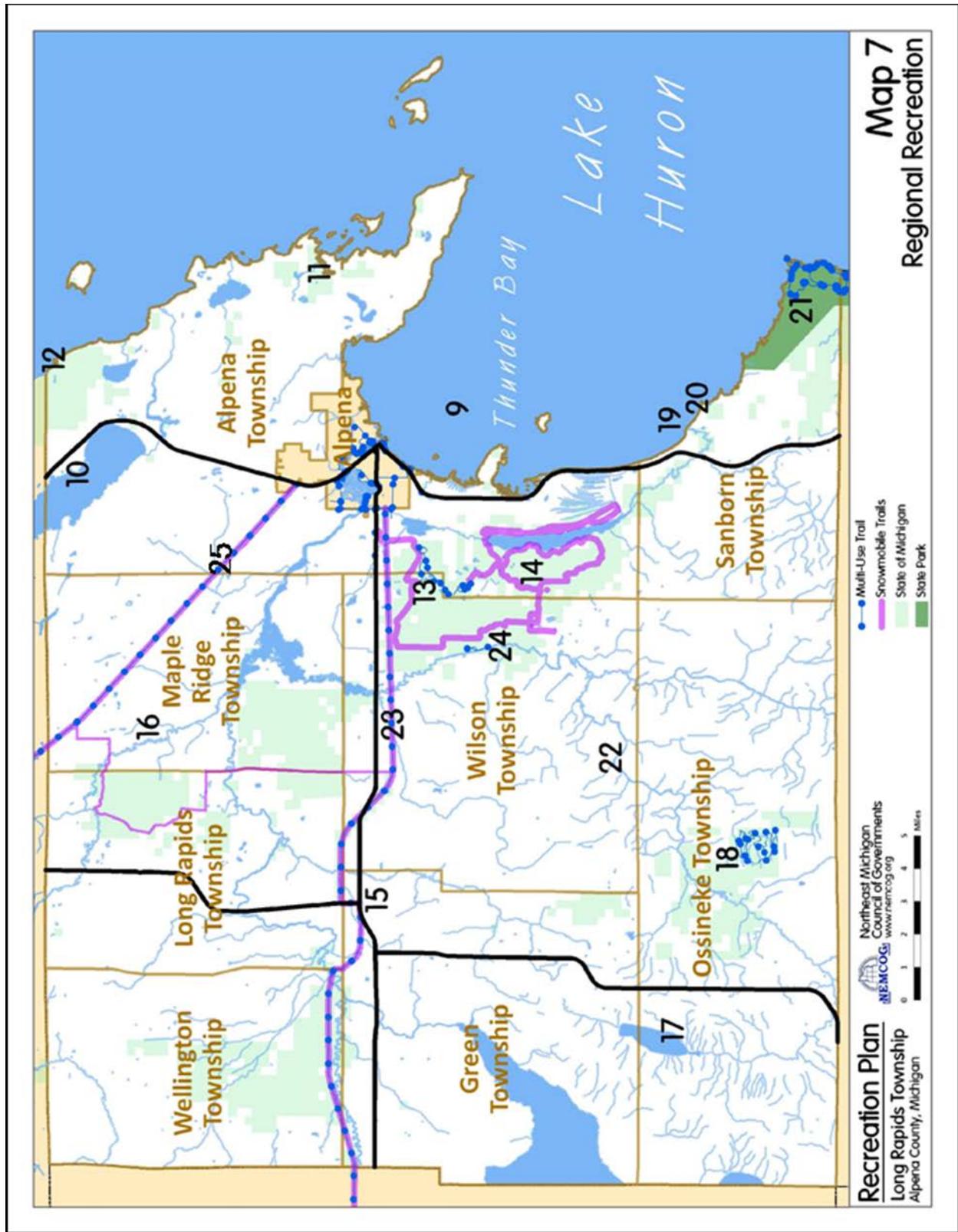
- **Alpena to Hillman Trail (#23)** traverses the northern portion of Wilson Township south of M-32 until the trail crosses M-32 immediately east of Emerson Road. The trail head is located just outside the City of Alpena. The Alpena to Hillman Trail follows State land and is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The trail offers opportunities for snowmobiles, hiking, and mountain biking (some sections impassable for mountain bikers). The trail is groomed in the winter by the Alpena Sno-Drifters.
- **Indian Reserve Devils Lake Parking Lot**
- **Norway Ridge Pathway**
- **Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground (#24)** is located six miles south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road. Owned by the State of Michigan, this campground is situated in the Mackinaw State Forest on the Thunder Bay River. It covers 20 acres of land and has 10 rustic campsites, well water, picnic tables, fire rings, toilets and a picnic area. This campground offers opportunities for canoeing, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Also, hiking and mountain biking are available on the 1.5-mile Wah-Wah-Tas-See Pathway. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources closed this campground as of July 9, 2007.

**PRIVATE**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • <b>Alpena Sportsmen’s Club</b>               | • <b>Paxton Shale Quarry</b>                     |
| • <b>Rivers Edge County Club/Golf Course</b>   | • <b>Alpena Optimist Club (“Optimist Acres”)</b> |
| • <b>Alpena Sno-Drifters/Alpena Cycle Club</b> | • <b>PK Fletcher Gun Club</b>                    |
| • <b>Opal’s Landing</b>                        | • <b>Horse Facilities</b>                        |
|  | • <b>Game Bird Adventures</b>                    |

**School Properties in Alpena County**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • <b>Alpena Senior High School</b>                   | • <b>Sanborn Elementary School</b>                      |
| • <b>Besser Elementary School</b>                    | • <b>Pukwegee Little League Baseball Diamond/School</b> |
| • <b>Ella White Elementary School</b>                | • <b>Thunder Bay Jr. High School</b>                    |
| • <b>Lincoln Elementary School</b>                   | • <b>Aces Academy</b>                                   |
| • <b>Sunset Elementary School (closed June 2010)</b> | • <b>Pied Piper Opportunity Center</b>                  |
| • <b>Hinks Elementary School</b>                     | • <b>All Saints School</b>                              |
| • <b>Wilson School</b>                               | • <b>Immanuel Lutheran School</b>                       |



*City of Alpena (MAP 8)*

***PUBLIC***

***Civic Center***

***Sytek Park***

***Avery Park***

***Bay View Park***

***Bi-Path***

***Blair Street Park***

***City of Alpena Marina***

***Culligan Plaza***

***Chisholm Street Park***

***Waterfront Park***

***Duck Park***

***Island Park***

***LaMarre Park***

***McRae Park***

***Mich-e-kis-wis Park***

***Starlite Beach***

***North Riverfront Park***

***Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park***

***Rotary Island Mill Park***

***South Riverfront Park***

***Thomson Park***

***Veteran's Memorial Park***

***Washington Avenue Park***

***Eleventh Avenue Boat Launch***

***Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary &***

***Underwater Preserve***

***PRIVATE***

***Thunder Bay Recreation Center/Northern Lights Arena***

***Alpena Civic Theatre (ACT)***

***APlex***

***Thunder Bay Theatre (TBT)***

***Creative Arts Center***

***GKC/Royal Knight Cinema***

***GKC/State Cinema***

***Alpena Youth Club***

***Boys and Girls Club***

***Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan***

***Sky Theater Planetarium***

***Alpena Yacht Club***

***Thunder Bay Divers***

***Lee's Miniature Golf***

***Ninth Avenue Dam***

***Charter Fishing Boats***

***Thunder Bay Shores Marina***



## ***Recreation Outside of Alpena County***

In addition to recreation within Alpena County, Township residents have access to recreational opportunities to the north in Presque Isle County and to the south in Alcona County. Presque Isle County recreation includes Black Mountain Forest Recreation Area, PH Hoeft State Park, Forty Mile Point Lighthouse Park, Thompson's State Park, the Presque Isle Lighthouses, Besser Natural Area, Ocqueoc Falls, Onaway State Park, and the NEST. Alcona County recreational opportunities include Harrisville State Park and sites within the Huron National Forest including the Reid Lake Foot Travel Area, Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area, Horseshoe Lake Campground, Gabions Campground, and Pine River Campground. Farther south in Iosco County residents can visit the Au Sable River along the River Road National Scenic Byway. To the west, Township residents have access to village parks in Hillman as well as numerous State Forest campgrounds. It is important to note that while all of these regional recreational opportunities are available to Township residents, many require fees and all require travel in order to access them.

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

In 2016, Long Rapids Township submitted a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for the development of new features at the Long Rapids Township Park, which include: an accessible canoe/kayak launch with transfer bench and boat roller system; an accessible fishing dock/wildlife viewing platform with lowered railings; accessible parking; a paved accessible path to connect the new features; interpretive signage with QR codes for viewing or listening from a web-enabled device; and bank stabilization/restoration along the Thunder Bay River. The total estimated cost of the grant project is \$140,000, with a 50% match being provided (\$40,000 cash donation from Alpena County and \$30,000 from Long Rapids Township General Fund). The proposed improvements will provide new and/or additional opportunities for universally accessible water recreation (connecting to the proposed future Thunder Bay River Water Trail), fishing, bird watching, nature viewing and nature interpretation/education.

## CHAPTER 5: GOALS & OBJECTIVES/ACTION PLAN

**Goals & Objectives:** Goals and objectives were developed from the public input session as well as by input from the Long Rapids Township Planning Commission and Recreation Advisory Committee. **Table 3** contains the Capital Improvements Schedule.

### A. GENERAL GOALS

1. Improve the quality of life for residents and bring visitors to Long Rapids Township by maintaining, improving and expanding recreation within the Township and surrounding areas by working cooperatively with local and State governmental agencies, community service agencies, and local businesses to create a sense of place within the Township in order to offer a full spectrum of year-round recreational experiences.
2. Install wayfinding, directional, and site signage to direct visitors to and within township recreational facilities.
3. Provide a balance of recreational amenities which are oriented to the aging population to increase the desirability of the community to retirees.
4. Provide recreational amenities which are oriented toward the younger population and families in order to increase the livability of the community to attract young families to the area and retain older youth.
5. 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.

### B. LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP PARK

**GOAL:** *Develop and improve Long Rapids Township Park to encourage its use by residents of the Township, the surrounding area, and visitors.*

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Facilitate access to the Thunder Bay River to provide safe and easy canoe and kayak launching.
  - a. **ACTION:** Improve canoe launch through the construction of steps with railings and a new “roller” system to launch canoes/kayaks.
2. **OBJECTIVE:** Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the property for all age groups.

- a. **ACTION:** Expand the parking area.
  - b. **ACTION:** Upgrade restroom facilities.
  - c. **ACTION:** Install picnic tables, grills, a pavilion, and more trash receptacles.
  - d. **ACTION:** Negotiate with the former Long Rapids School to obtain playground equipment for installation at the park.
3. **OBJECTIVE:** Promote the site as a stopping point for canoers and kayakers along the Thunder Bay River.
- a. **ACTION:** Investigate the feasibility of developing rustic campsites at the park.
  - b. **ACTION:** Investigate the feasibility of developing a water trail from the park to other sites.
  - c. **ACTION:** Install wayfinding and informational signage along the water to attract canoers and kayakers to explore the park.
4. **OBJECTIVE:** Promote the site as a primary fishing location in the Township.
- a. **ACTION:** Develop a fishing platform to promote the site as a primary fishing location in the Township.
  - b. **ACTION:** Install wayfinding and informational signage to attract fishermen and promote the park as a prime fishing destination.
5. **OBJECTIVE:** Beautify the park and provide a more “open” feel.
- a. **ACTION:** Trim vegetation to provide a view of the river and increase the amount of sunlight in the park.
  - b. **ACTION:** Establish coordinated signage with other recreational facilities in the Township or area.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** Long Rapids Township Park is the primary recreational facility in the Township. The Township intends to use the key location of the park along the Thunder Bay River to promote its usage by canoers and kayakers as a family recreational activity. According to the 2000 US Census, nearly 41% of the population of the Township is between 25-54 years of age (the age where there would typically be children living at home). Plus, there are also over 7,000 families living in Alpena County that could potentially utilize a new family recreational amenity. In addition, over 21% of the Township residents and over 22% of Alpena County residents (nearly 7,000 people) are over 60 in age and over 6,600 people in Alpena County are classified as having a disability.

Because of the age and disability factors, the current canoe launch area is inadequate to serve these demographics. The Township plans to improve the canoe launch to provide safe and easy river access. The addition of a handicap-accessible fishing platform will also serve to increase the use of the park by the aging and less able demographics.

Canoers and kayakers on the Thunder Bay River are interested in shorter trips and more stopover points than ever before (as indicated by input from local business owners). The creation of rustic campsites at this location would fill a need for a stopping point at an easily accessible location.

Engaging in beautification, upgrading restroom facilities, and installing picnic tables, grills, a pavilion, and more trash receptacles will create a more family-friendly environment as well as increase the use of the park by visitors and river travelers. In 2010, Long Rapids School was closed and, as a result, the playground facility available to children in the area will not soon be available. The addition of this playground equipment to Long Rapids Township Park will maintain the level of recreational equipment available to elementary age children. In addition, expanding the parking area will allow more people to use the park as well as provide for a safer environment. Currently the parking is very limited and does not provide enough circulation space to safely maneuver a vehicle.

All of the proposed improvements at Long Rapids Township Park are based upon needs expressed by Township and area residents. In 2009, 291 Township residents responded to a survey which included questions about recreational facilities in the Township. Township residents indicated that the following are important in the Township: Fishing (100 respondents ranked as important), Canoeing/Kayaking/Boating (74), and Camping (57). In addition, 36% of the respondents indicated that there are too few recreational facilities in the Township.

## C. THUNDER BAY RIVER

***GOAL: Develop the use of the Thunder Bay River as a primary recreational attraction.***

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Improve access points at various intervals along the River.
  - a. **ACTION:** Investigate the feasibility of purchasing property at access points on the Thunder Bay River to facilitate access site improvements such as improved launch facilities and parking areas.
2. **OBJECTIVE:** Create an “experience” along the river by providing information to the river traveler about features and services available.
  - a. **ACTION:** Develop maps of the Thunder Bay River showing details of the river landscape, mileage, points of interest, services available near the river, access

points, places to stop, hazard areas, portage areas, and fishing areas. Maps would also give information about the cultural and natural history of the river.

- b. **ACTION:** Develop signage to be installed along the river which gives information about mileage, river conditions, nearby service facilities, emergency information, and which would correspond to the river maps through a coordinating coding system.
3. **OBJECTIVE:** Increase the safety of the river for canoers, kayakers, tubers, and fishermen.
    - a. **ACTION:** Work with local service groups, the Michigan DNR, and riparian land owners to clear the river and river access points of fallen trees and other vegetation in order to facilitate safe access to the river and for emergency responders.
    - b. **ACTION:** Investigate the feasibility of establishing tubing as a river activity. Look at navigation for tubes and access points.
  4. **OBJECTIVE:** Establish the Thunder Bay River as a premier canoe/kayak destination in Michigan.
    - a. **ACTION:** Work to market a packaged experience which incorporates canoe/kayak trips with other types of recreation in the immediate area.
    - b. **ACTION:** Work toward establishing events on the river to which draw spectators (i.e. canoe race).

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** Much of the basis for action for this category is contained in the basis for action for the Long Rapids Township Park. The demographics of the community indicate that action is needed to establish a greater presence of canoeing and kayaking as a family and senior recreational activity and that improved and easier access is badly needed. From personal experiences related at the public input session, it was determined that the safety of river trips needs to be improved as well. Currently, public safety personnel have a difficult time responding to emergency situations on the river, so pathways which are clear of vegetation and fallen trees are needed. Many times, river travelers are not aware of their own location, thereby necessitating signage as reference points along the river. *(Please see Basis for Action for (H) "Marketing" for a discussion of the importance of the Thunder Bay River in area tourism and the local economy.)*

## D. SINKHOLES

**GOAL:** *Encourage the establishment of the sinkholes as a primary recreational attraction in the Township.*

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Provide safe public access to area sinkholes.
  - a. **ACTION:** Work with the Michigan Karst Society and private land owners to develop agreements for public access to area sinkholes.
  - b. **ACTION:** If public access is to be provided, implement safety provisions around those sinkholes.
  - c. **ACTION:** Work with private land owners to eliminate liability concerns.
  - d. **ACTION:** Investigate the feasibility of purchasing land containing sinkholes to develop as public attractions.
  - e. **ACTION:** Work with Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan to expand guided, educational tours.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** Long Rapids Township contains 22 sinkholes, most of which are in private ownership. Over 200 sinkholes exist in a 50-mile line from Thunder Bay to Black Lake. Long Rapids Township sees this unique geological landscape as a key opportunity to attract visitors to the Alpena/Presque Isle County area. While most are currently inaccessible due to their location on private lands, great tourism and educational opportunities exist should these features be opened to the public. *(Please see Basis for Action for (H) "Marketing" for a discussion of the importance of the sinkholes in area tourism and the local economy.)*

## E. TRAILS

**GOAL:** *Promote the use, development and expansion of motorized and non-motorized trail systems throughout the Township which connect to other trail systems and connect points of interest.*

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Increase the incidence of outdoor recreation, the livability of the community for residents, and the tourism draw for visitors by providing trails, trail routes, and trail connections for non-motorized uses.
  - a. **ACTION:** Support the development of non-motorized trails throughout the Township connecting points of interest such as the communities of Long Rapids and Lachine, parkland, State forest land, the Thunder Bay River, publically

accessible sinkholes, Sunken Lake Campground Park, and local service providers (shopping, restaurants, etc.).

- b. **ACTION:** Construct local non-motorized trails or wide-paved road shoulders in the Township to connect to larger trail systems such as the NEST, Alpena to Hillman Trail, and the City of Alpena Bi-Path.
  - c. **ACTION:** Work with neighboring communities, the County Road Commission, MDOT and the MDNR to establish these trail systems along roads and across State land.
  - d. **ACTION:** Develop a plan to groom future trails for cross-county skiing and snowshoeing, to ensure all season access to the local trail system.
  - e. **ACTION:** Construct parking facilities at trailheads throughout the Township.
  - f. **ACTION:** Improve barrier-free accessibility on trails in the Twp. where appropriate.
  - g. **ACTION:** Promote use of non-motorized trails through marketing materials such as maps showing trails, trail difficulty, trailheads and other access points, points of interest, and nearby services.
2. **OBJECTIVE:** Increase outdoor motorized winter activity for residents and visitors.
- a. **ACTION:** Support the development of more snowmobile trails throughout the Township.
  - b. **ACTION:** Support the continued maintenance of local snowmobile trails within the Township.
  - c. **ACTION:** Promote the use of snowmobile trails through marketing materials such as maps showing trails, trailheads and other access points, staging areas, points of interest, and nearby services.
  - d. **ACTION:** Assist with promoting the region as a premier snowmobile destination.
3. **OBJECTIVE:** Increase outdoor spring, summer and fall motorized activity for community residents and visitors.
- a. **ACTION:** Support the development of ORV trails within the Township.
  - b. **ACTION:** Promote use of ORV trails through marketing materials such as maps showing roads open to ORVs, ORV trails, trailheads and other access points, staging areas, points of interest, and nearby services.
  - c. **ACTION:** Assist with promoting the region as a premier ORV destination.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** The need for more non-motorized and motorized trail systems speaks, again, to the need to establish the Township as a premier outdoor recreation destination. *(Please see Basis for Action for (H) “Marketing” for a discussion of the importance of the trails in area tourism and the local economy.)* The desire for more trails (hiking, biking, ski and ORV) was the number one recreational improvement residents would like to see made.

Nearly one-third of survey respondents listed non-motorized trail use as one of the most important recreational activities in the Township. The proximity of the Township to key trail systems in the region makes trail development within the Township very important. Two major trail systems exist north and south of the Township: the North Eastern State Trail (NEST), which was recently improved for all non-motorized users. In addition, the City of Alpena Bi-Path (over 18 miles of bi-path) runs along Long Rapids Road inside the city limits. The opportunity for on-road connections via a wide paved shoulder or bike lane exist along M-65 and Long Rapids Road. A bike lane along M-65 could connect the NEST and the Alpena to Hillman Trail (as well as provide access to both communities in the Township, the Long Rapids Township Park and ball field) and a bike lane along Long Rapids Road could connect to the City Bi-Path. Establishing these non-motorized connections would require working with neighboring townships, the Alpena County Road Commission, MDOT, and the MDNR. If the goal of facilitating public access to the sinkholes comes to fruition, then non-motorized routes could be provided along local roads to provide trail loop access to the sinkholes.

Nearly 20% of survey respondents listed snowmobile trails as one of their top three winter recreational activities in the Township. A trail system currently exists which allows snowmobiles to travel north-south through the Township and west along the southern edge of the Township to Hillman. The Township supports the development of more localized snowmobile and ORV trails to connect points of interest and service providers in the Township.

## **F. LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP HALL**

***GOAL: Provide a usable community center as a focal point for community activities.***

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Improve and promote the use of the Long Rapids Township Hall as a community center.
  - a. **ACTION:** Increase the days of the week the Hall is open for basketball, coordinating parent volunteers to provide continuous supervision, maintaining open hours for walking, and investigating the purchase of exercise equipment.

- b. **ACTION:** Investigate the feasibility of the creation of outdoor basketball courts.
- c. **ACTION:** Promote the use of the Township Hall as an activity center to attract a wider range of potential users.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** The social landscape of the rural community has changed as more and more people travel long distances to their work places and school (with the closing of Long Rapids School). In addition, the internet allows people to do a vast number of things online. The net result of such social change is the decrease in community activity and interaction. However, the demographics stated in item B (Long Rapids Township Park) indicate that the Township must provide for a population consisting of a wide range of age levels. In addition, median household income for the Township in 2000 was \$36,083 (over \$8,500 less than the State average). The community needs a core place to gather for cultural events and free recreation. The use of the Township Hall as a general recreational facility will fill these needs by providing a place for community cultural events and active recreation in the form of indoor/outdoor basketball and exercise equipment.

## G. GLEASON FIELD

***GOAL: Increase the incidence of ball games and other outdoor community activities.***

1. ***OBJECTIVE: Improve the ball field on M-65 to provide better facilities for ball games and to provide active winter recreation.***
  - a. **ACTION:** Build and maintain an outdoor ice skating rink.
  - b. **ACTION:** Add lighting to facilitate use of skating rink in the evenings.
  - c. **ACTION:** Replace or renovate dugouts.
  - d. **ACTION:** Replace fencing around ball fields.
  - e. **ACTION:** Improve ball field area.
  - f. **ACTION:** Improve access to property.
  - g. **ACTION:** Investigate the construction of outbuildings to serve as concession stand and/or warming shelter.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** In recent years, Township residents have seen a decrease in the incidence of ball games being held at Gleason Field on M-65. However, over 18% of the Township is age 14 or younger, so a significant population exists which could utilize such a facility. The field, however, is in need of improvements and the Township feels that if improvements are made, this facility will see a significant increase in use. In addition, the Township feels that the lack of outdoor winter recreational activity for this age group could be remedied by the construction of

an outdoor ice skating rink on this property. Lighting is needed to ensure safety during winter evening use and a warming shelter would add to the comfort of the skaters.

## H. MARKETING

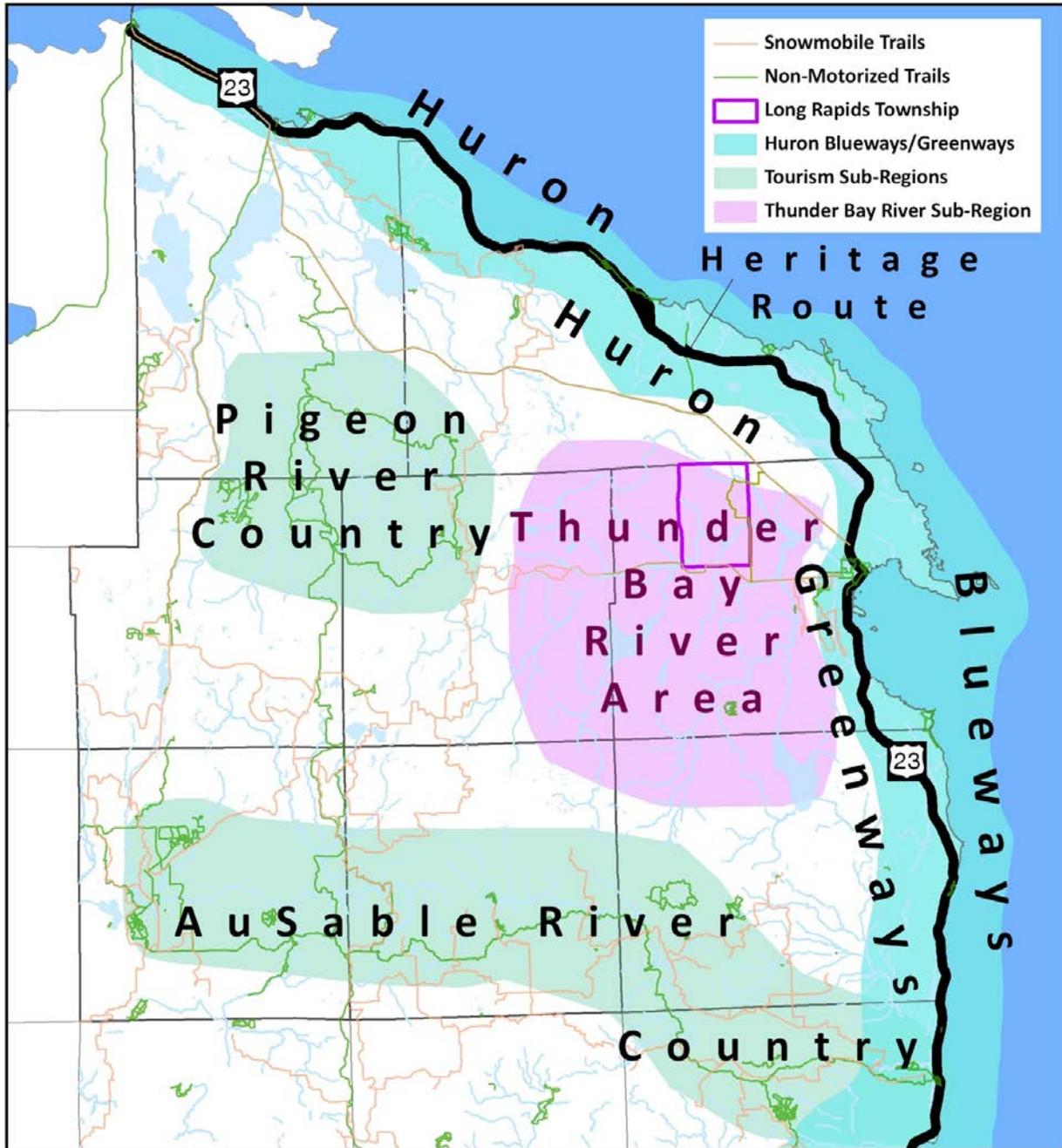
**GOAL:** *Market recreational assets in Long Rapids Township and surrounding area as part of a “destination package”.*

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Market the Thunder Bay River as a recreational asset to local residents and tourists.
  - a. **ACTION:** Develop marketing materials including maps/brochures showing Thunder Bay River trips with details of the river landscape, mileage, points of interest, services available near the river, access points, places to stop, hazard areas, portage areas, fishing areas, and cultural and natural history of the river.
2. **OBJECTIVE:** Market bicycle tours and hiking tours as a recreational asset to local residents and tourists.
  - a. **ACTION:** Develop marketing materials including maps/brochures showing recommended bicycle tours and hiking tours showing mileage, trail type, topography, road shoulder width, points of interest, local services, emergency services, and cultural and natural history attractions.
3. **OBJECTIVE:** Market pre-set themed tours to specific market niches.
  - a. **ACTION:** Develop marketing materials including maps, brochures, and guidebooks which highlight pre-set tours and give detailed information based around specific themes such as natural history, arts and culture, agri-tourism, winter recreation, bird and wildlife watching, hunting and fishing, motorized sports (snowmobiles and ORVs), or active non-motorized sports (bicycling, hiking, horseback riding). Brochures, maps, and guidebooks would be coded with numbers/colors to work together using an overall general map to coordinate with more detailed maps, brochures, or guidebooks.
4. **OBJECTIVE:** Create a brand for rural Alpena County as a defined portion of a larger regional recreation package to fit it with such recreational sub-regions as “Pigeon River Country”, “Au Sable River Country”, and coastal programs such as “Huron Blueways”, “Huron Greenways”, and the “Huron Shores Heritage Route”. Investigate the possibility of using the Thunder Bay River as the anchor feature of this brand. See Map 9 on page 5-12.

- a. **ACTION:** Partner with other rural Alpena County governmental units to create a website which presents rural Alpena County as a recreational destination.
- b. **ACTION:** Partner with other rural Alpena County governmental units to engage in an active media marketing campaign to bring visitors to rural Alpena County (examples: work with Travel Michigan, magazine ads and articles).
- c. **ACTION:** Market rural Alpena County to attract film companies with an interest in wilderness areas, rivers, and karst topography.

**BASIS FOR ACTION:** The issue of improving the local economy by establishing the area as a premier outdoor recreation destination is of utmost importance. Unemployment rates for 2010 have fluctuated in Alpena County from 13% to 16.5%. Loss of industrial jobs and closing of businesses have forced communities to take a new look at employment and the future of jobs in the area. The Township sees an opportunity to re-make itself into a premier tourism destination by capitalizing on its premier natural assets including the Thunder Bay River, the sinkholes, and the proximity to major trail systems. The attraction of visitors to these 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, canoe liveries, restaurants, resorts, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.). In addition, the Township 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 local youth who otherwise would leave the area upon reaching adulthood. The retention of youth and the attraction of visitors are two methods with which the Township hopes to begin the much needed economic turn-around.

## Map 9: Recreation Sub-Regions



**Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2016-2020**

**LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP PARK**

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>EST. COST</b>	<b>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</b>	<b>YEAR†</b>
High	Canoe Launch Improvements including steps with railing and roller system. If possible, expand to include boat launch for small fishing boats.	\$45,000 (TBD if small boat launch is included)	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2016
Low	Upgrade restroom facilities	\$25,000	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2017
Medium	Pavilion	\$27,000	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2017
Medium	Picnic tables, grills, trash receptacles	\$22,000	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2017
Low	Construct barrier-free fishing platform	\$30,000	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2017
Low	Develop rustic campsites	\$5,000	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2020
High	Obtain playground equipment from Long Rapids School; Install playground safety surface	\$15,000	MDNR; local or private foundations, community service organizations; Alpena Public Schools; volunteer labor	2016
High	Trim vegetation, clear trees to provide view of river and to provide expanded parking. Look into reconfiguring parking area to increase parking spaces and safety, including engineering and feasibility studies.	\$15,000	Township general fund; MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs; volunteers	2016

†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.

**Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2016-2020 continued**

**THUNDER BAY RIVER**

<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
High	Acquire property to increase public access points along the Thunder Bay River	TBD	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2018
High	Access point improvements including the addition of steps, canoe/kayak launches, and parking areas.	TBD	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs	2018
High	Develop signage to be installed along the river which gives information about mileage, river conditions, nearby service facilities, emergency information, and which would correspond to the river maps (listed under “Marketing” through a coordinating coding system.	\$7,000	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service organizations; special interest orgs dedicated to natural resources education/conservation	2017
High	Clear the river and river access points of fallen trees and other vegetation in order to facilitate safe access to the river and for emergency responders.	\$5,000	Community service orgs, MSUE.	2016

**SINKHOLES**

<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
Low	Develop agreements for public access to sinkholes (i.e. easements, purchasing property).	TBD	Community service orgs; local recreation groups; Michigan Karst Society, MSUE.	2019
Low	Implement safety provision around sinkholes.	TBD	MDNR; local foundations; community service orgs; Michigan Karst Society, MSUE.	2019
Low	Work with Besser Museum to expand guided tours.	TBD	Local foundations	2019

†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.

**Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2016-2020** continued

<b>TRAILS</b>				
<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
Medium	<p><b>NONMOTORIZED TRAILS:</b> Link the following points of interest (with barrier-free trails where appropriate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Long Rapids &amp; Lachine</li> <li>➤ Local parks</li> <li>➤ State forest land</li> <li>➤ Thunder Bay River</li> <li>➤ Sinkholes open to the public</li> <li>➤ Sunken Lake Campground Park</li> <li>➤ Local service providers</li> </ul>	TBD	MDNR; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service organizations; bike trail organizations.	2019
Medium	<p><b>NONMOTORIZED TRAILS:</b> Link the following trail systems through Long Rapids Township:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ North Eastern State Trail (NEST)</li> <li>➤ Alpena to Hillman Trail</li> <li>➤ Alpena Bi-Path</li> </ul>	TBD	MDNR; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service organizations; bike trail organizations.	2019
Medium	<p><b>NONMOTORIZED TRAILS:</b> As trail systems are established, construct parking facilities at trailheads.</p>	TBD	MDNR; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service organizations; bike trail organizations.	2019
<b>LONG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP HALL</b>				
<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
High	Increase the days of the week the Hall is open for basketball, coordinating parent volunteers to provide continuous supervision, maintaining open hours for walking.	n/a	Local volunteers	2016
High	Purchase exercise equipment.	\$15,000	Local foundations; community service organizations.	2017
High	Investigate the feasibility of the creation of outdoor basketball courts.	\$5,000	Local foundations; community service organizations.	2016
†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.				

**Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2016-2020 continued**

**GLEASON FIELD**

<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
High	Outdoor ice skating rink	\$15,000	Local general fund; local or private foundations; community service organizations.	2018
High	Lighting	\$20,000	Local or private foundations; community service organizations; utility companies.	2018
Medium	Replace/renovate dugouts	* See note	Local or private foundations; community service organizations.	2018
Medium	Replace fencing	* See note	Local or private foundations; community service organizations.	2018
High	Improve field	* See note	Local or private foundations; community service organizations.	2018
Medium	Concession stand/warming shelter	TBD	Local or private foundations; community service organizations.	2018
High	Access improvements	TBD	Local or private foundations; community service organizations.	2018

†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.

\*Estimate for field improvements (including irrigation), fencing, dugouts, and foul poles: \$100,000. Estimate is based on similar improvements in a nearby community.

**Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2016-2020 continued**

<b>MARKETING</b>				
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>EST. COST</b>	<b>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</b>	<b>YEAR†</b>
Medium	<b>THUNDER BAY RIVER MAPS:</b> Develop and print maps of river showing details of the river landscape, mileage, points of interest, services available near the river, access points, places to stop, hazard areas, portage areas, fishing areas, and cultural and natural history.	\$15,000	MDNR; local or private foundations; community service orgs; special interest orgs dedicated to natural resources education & conservation.	2017
Medium	<b>NONMOTORIZED, SNOWMOBILE, &amp; ORV TRAIL MAPS:</b> Create and print maps showing trails, trail difficulty, trailheads and other access points, roads open to ORV uses, points of interest, and nearby services.	\$25,000	MDNR; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service orgs; bike trail orgs; ORV/snowmobile orgs.	2019
Medium	<b>OTHER MARKETING MATERIALS:</b> Develop marketing materials include maps, brochures, and guidebooks which highlight pre-set tours and give detailed information based around specific themes such as natural history (sinkholes), arts and culture, agri-tourism, winter recreation, bird and wildlife watching, hunting and fishing, motorized sports (snowmobiles and ORVs), or active non-motorized sports (bicycling, hiking, horseback riding). Brochures, maps, and guidebooks would be coded with numbers/colors to work together using an overall general map to coordinate with more detailed maps, brochures, or guidebooks.	\$75,000	Local or private foundations; community service orgs; local tourism agencies; recreation orgs.; MDNR; MDOT; bike trail orgs; ORV & snowmobile associations; Michigan Karst Society	2019
Low	<b>WEBSITE:</b> Develop website in conjunction with other governmental units and community service and recreational groups marketing rural Alpena County as a destination.	\$15,000	Local general fund; local or private foundations; community service orgs; local tourism agencies; rec. orgs.	2018
Low	<b>OTHER MEDIA:</b> Investigate other media to market the area (i.e. magazine ads, Travel Michigan, newspaper ads).	TBD	Local general fund; local or private foundations; community service organizations; local tourism agencies; recreation orgs.	2018
†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.				

**Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2016-2020 continued**

**SIGNAGE**

*Signage could be developed in conjunction with surrounding communities as part of a “Thunder Bay River Area” program.*

<i>PRIORITY</i>	<i>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>EST. COST</i>	<i>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)</i>	<i>YEAR†</i>
Medium	<p>WAYFINDING SIGNAGE THROUGHOUT TOWNSHIP: Develop coordinated wayfinding signage for all recreational facilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ parks</li> <li>➤ trail systems</li> <li>➤ river access points</li> <li>➤ publically accessible sinkholes</li> <li>➤ ball field</li> <li>➤ township hall</li> </ul>	TBD	MDNR; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service orgs; special interest orgs; bike trail orgs; ORV/snowmobile orgs; Michigan Karst Society;	2018
Low	<p>INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE WITHIN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: Develop coordinated informational signage for use within recreational facilities including Long Rapids Township Park, along the Thunder Bay River, within publically accessible sinkhole areas, and along existing and future motorized and non-motorized trail systems.</p>	TBD	MDNR; MDOT; local or private foundations; community service orgs; special interest orgs; bike trail orgs; ORV/snowmobile orgs; Michigan Karst Society	2018

**†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.**

## **APPENDIX**

### **Recreation Plan Certification Checklist**

# APPENDIX I. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

## COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

*By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants*

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

### PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan: <b>Long Rapids Township Recreation Plan 2016-2020</b>		
List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
<b>Long Rapids Township</b>	<b>Alpena</b>	<b>November 2016</b>

### PLAN CONTENT

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

**1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

- Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
  - Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
- Current Funding Sources
- Role of Volunteers
- Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

**Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only**

- Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- Articles of Incorporation

**3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

- Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- Accessibility Assessment
- Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

**4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**

**5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

**6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
  - Date of the Notice January 6, 2016
  - Type of Notice Public notice in The Alpena News
  - Plan Location Alpena County Public Library Reference Desk and online at www.nemcog.org
  - Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 32 days
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
  - Date of Notice November 2, 2016
  - Name of Newspaper The Alpena News
  - Date of Meeting November 10, 2016
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting (public hearing and meeting where the plan was adopted)

**7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**8. ACTION PROGRAM**

NA  **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)** Not Applicable

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: November 10, 2016
- 2. Official resolution of the Long Rapids Township Recreation Committee Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: April 19, 2016
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: December 22, 2016
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: December 22, 2016

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

Long Rapids Township

(Local Unit of Government)

*above and as set forth by the DNR.*

*includes the required content, as indicated*

  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government      12-22-2016  
Date

PR1924-1 (Rev. 12/26/2012)

**This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants**