

Alcona County

2027-2031

Recreation Plan

Alcona County
Curtis Township
Township of Greenbush

Our Future
Our Outdoors
Our Community
DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Alcona County, Curtis Township, and Township of Greenbush thank all those who contributed their time, knowledge, and dedication to the development of this 2027-2031 Recreation Plan. Your input and support will help guide decisions that preserve our natural resources, enhance recreational opportunities, and strengthen our community for years to come.

Alcona County Board of Commissioners

Adam Brege, Chairman
Dave Jagst, Vice Chairman
Craig Johnston, Commissioner
Terry Small, Commissioner
Carolyn Brummond, Commissioner

Adopted on xx/xx/xxxx

Curtis Township Board of Trustees

Kevin Perry, Supervisor
Teresa Perkins, Clerk
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Sherry Clouse, Trustee
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Community Description

Provides an overview of the community, its people, setting, and characteristics that shape recreation needs





Chapter 1

Community Description

Recreation Plan Jurisdiction

This Joint Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and characteristics within the boundaries of Alcona County. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic characteristics of Alcona County and the participating jurisdictions to determine the recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements that fit those needs. This joint plan includes Alcona County, Curtis Township, and the Township of Greenbush, hereafter referred to as “the Townships and County”. The plan will focus on all current and future intended recreational opportunities within the boundaries of these municipalities.

Community Location and Recent History

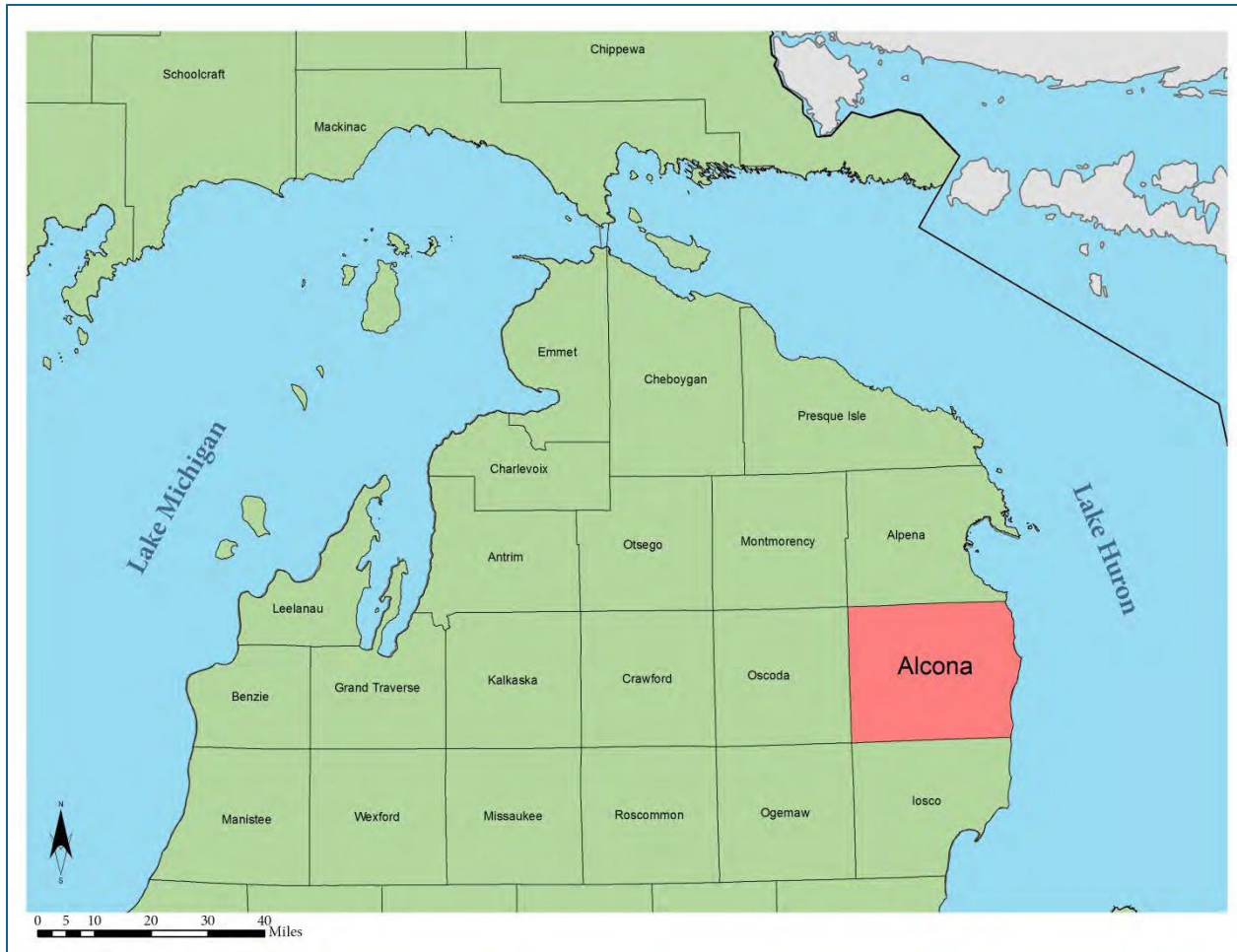
Alcona County is located in the northeastern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan on the western shore of Lake Huron, or what is known as the “Sunrise Side” of the State. Alcona County encompasses approximately 675 square miles of land, or approximately 432,000 acres. Its eastern border is defined by 27 miles of unspoiled beaches along Lake Huron. Surrounding counties include Alpena (north), Montmorency (northwest), Oscoda (west), Ogemaw (southwest), and Iosco (south). Please refer to Figure 1.1 for a Regional Location Map.

Alcona County is composed of 11 townships: Alcona, Caledonia, Curtis, Greenbush, Gustin, Harrisville, Hawes, Haynes, Mikado, Millen, and Mitchell. There are two incorporated communities: the City of Harrisville and the Village of Lincoln. There are also the Census Designated Places of Lost Lake Woods and Hubbard Lake, along with the unincorporated communities of Mikado, Spruce, Barton City, Glennie, Curran, and Greenbush. Refer to Figure 1.2 for the locations of these communities on the Alcona County Area Recreation Map.

Alcona County contains extensive public forest lands, including approximately 112,356 acres of Huron National Forest. These forest lands are an important recreational and natural-resource asset supporting activities such as hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, and trail-based recreation.

Alcona County experienced population decline between 2000 and 2020. The County's population decreased from 10,942 residents in 2010 to 10,167 residents in 2020, a decline of approximately 7.1 percent. More recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates indicate that the population increased to approximately 10,556 residents by July 1, 2025. Alcona County's economy is influenced by its rural character, seasonal population, natural resources, and recreation- and tourism-related activity. *(Data sourced from U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Alcona County, MI).*

Figure 1.1 – Alcona County Regional Location Map



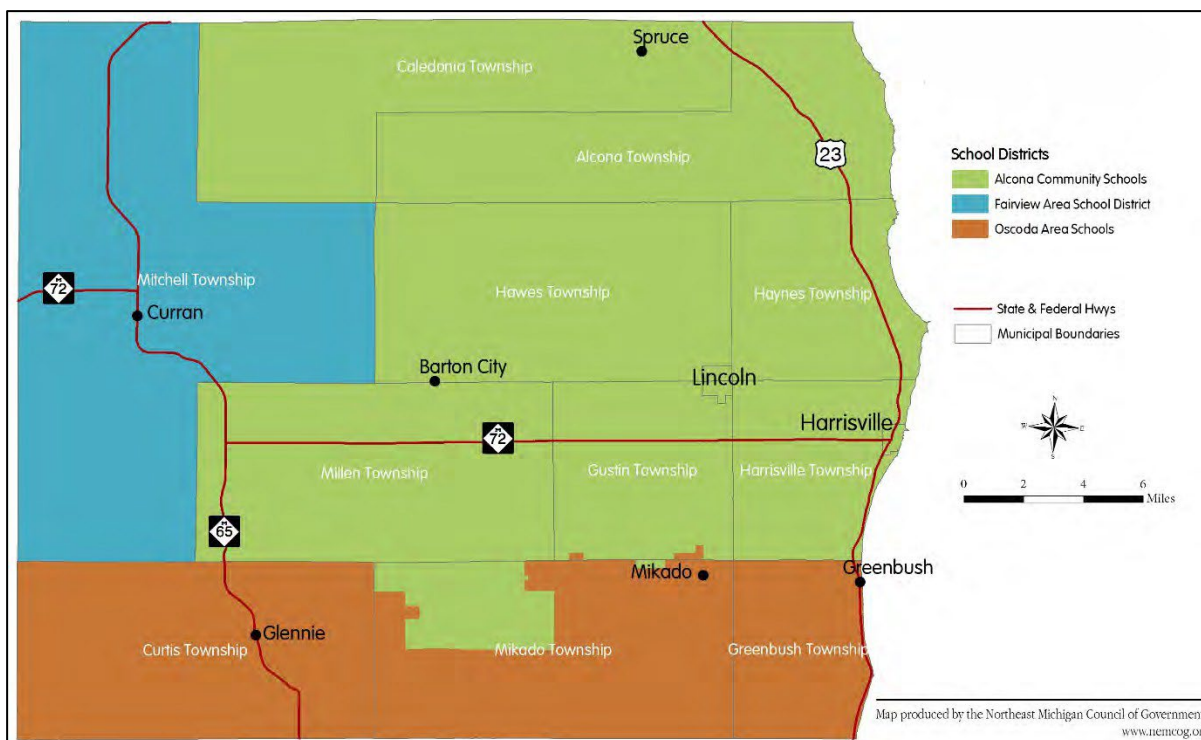


Figure 1.2 – Municipalities and School Districts Map

Transportation

Roads

The road network in Alcona County consists of state highways, county primary, county secondary, city major, and city minor roads. Private and Forest Service roads make up the balance. Seasonally maintained and unimproved public roads can be found in less populated areas. Three highways connect Alcona County to other communities. M-65 runs north-south through the western portions of the County. US-23 essentially follows the coastline, connecting communities from Alpena to the north and the community of Oscoda to the south. The only east-west highway, M-72, connects west to Traverse City and I-75 in Grayling and east to US-23 in Harrisville. According to the Michigan Department of Transportation (2014), average daily traffic was highest along US-23 (in comparison to the road counts along M-72 and M-65), with 2,900 vehicles near the City of Harrisville.

Airports

The only public airport serving Alcona County is located just northwest of the City of Harrisville. The airport is considered a Class “D” airport facility with a turf runway and is able to accommodate small aircraft. Regional commercial freight and passenger air services are available at Alpena County Regional Airport in Alpena and Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City. MBS International Airport near Midland also provides regional as well as international flight service. There are also many privately owned, grass airfields in the County.



Harrisville Airport

The Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport, located on the former Wurtsmith Air Base in southerly adjoining Oscoda Twp. in Iosco County, features an 11,800’ x 200’ runway with ‘heavy’ aircraft capable taxiways and aprons. The airport is capable of handling all types of aircraft and is also equipped with an FAA ‘Category I’ Instrument Landing System (ILS), which supports landing operations during nearly all weather conditions. Fixed Base Operating (FBO) services, including aircraft fuel sales and aircraft and aerospace service providers currently operating flight school, are available through Phoenix Aviation Services.

Railroads

Lake State Railroad runs along the eastern edge of Alcona County. It is primarily used for daily transfer of raw materials and products to and from the industrial users in the Alpena area. The rail line does not provide passenger service.



Marine

There is a Great Lakes port facility located in the City of Harrisville. The Harrisville Harbor provides docking facilities with 97 boat slips, fuel, and pump-out facilities. Public restrooms/shower facilities, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, pavilion, grills, picnic tables,

and playground are associated with the harbor. This recreational harbor is part of the State of Michigan's Harbor of Refuge network.

Public Transit

Thunder Bay Transportation Authority (TBTA) provides public transportation services throughout Alcona County and also serves Alpena and Montmorency Counties and portions of Presque Isle County. Services are generally provided by advance scheduling, with certain trips outside normal operating hours available by prior arrangement. Residents should consult TBTA for current schedules, service availability, and fares.

Intercity passenger bus service is also available through Indian Trails, which maintains a stop in Harrisville and provides connections to destinations outside Alcona County. Current schedules and accessibility information should be obtained directly from Indian Trails.

School Districts

Alcona County is part of three school districts, as shown in Figure 1.2. The Alcona Community School District is part of the Alcona Montmorency Alpena Educational School District (ISD). The Oscoda School District is located in the Iosco ISD; school facilities are located in the community of Oscoda in Iosco County. Fairview Area School District is located in Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Roscommon (COOR) ISD; Middle School and High School buildings are located outside the County in the community of Fairview in Oscoda County. Additionally, the Greenbush Academy is a parochial school, located near the community of Greenbush. Each of the schools owns and operates a variety of recreational facilities, including gymnasiums, sports fields, tennis courts, running tracks, and playgrounds.



Recreational Opportunities

Alcona County contains extensive public forest lands, including more than 112,000 acres of the Huron National Forest, which represents about one-quarter of the National Forest's total acreage (Source: USDA Forest Service, Land Areas of the National Forest System). These forest lands, together with state parks, state forest lands, lakes, rivers, and the Lake

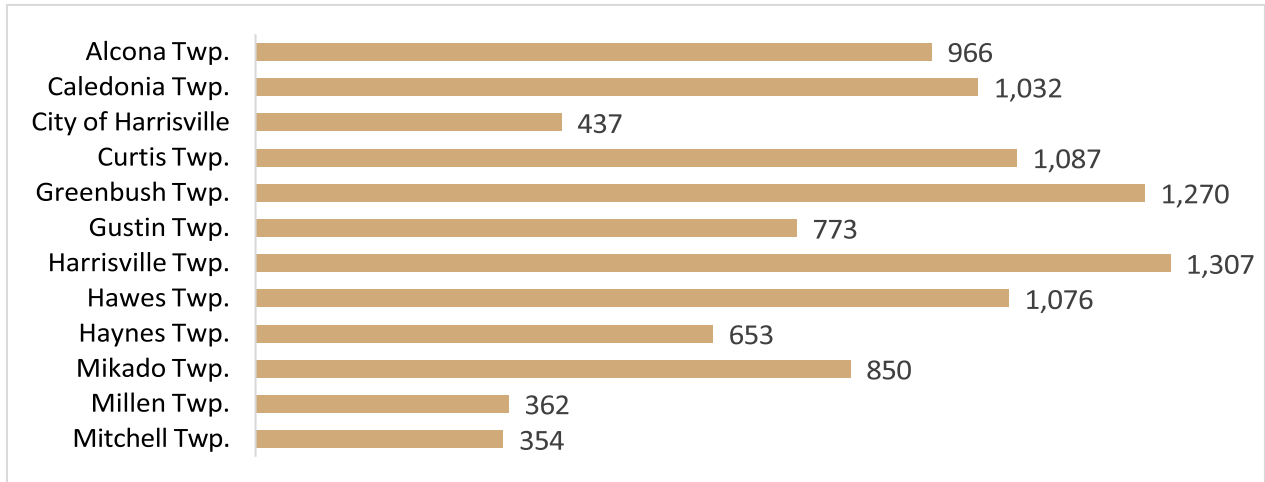
Huron shoreline, provide significant opportunities for outdoor recreation and natural resource-based tourism. The County has leveraged this and other natural resources as destinations for sports enthusiasts and vacationing families. A few of its natural resources and amenities include the Huron National Forest; Au Sable State Forest and Negwegon State Park; US-23 Heritage Route, with shoreline scenic touring; Harrisville Harbor; Cedar, Jewel, Horseshoe, and Hubbard Lakes; Hoist and Reid Lakes Foot Travel Areas; Alcona Park and Campgrounds; Harrisville State Park; and the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse. It should be noted that Alcona County only owns one recreation facility: the Alcona Recreation Area near Lincoln.

Population

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that the County gained in population every ten years from 1960 through 2000. However, between 2000 and 2010, the County lost 6.6% of its population (refer to **Table 1.1**). **Figure 1.3** shows the total population by municipality in Alcona County.

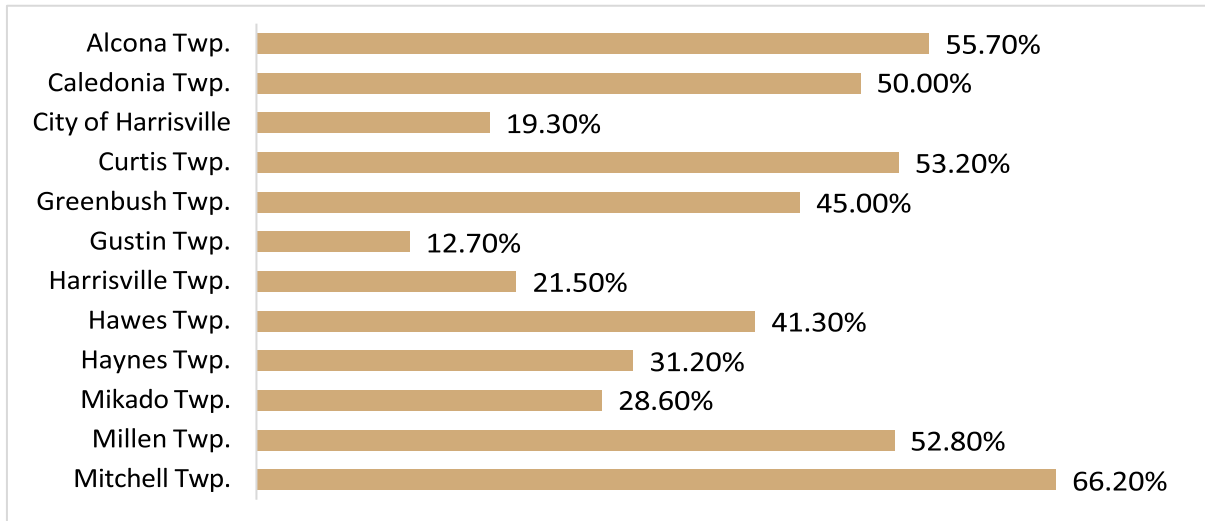
Table 1.1 - Alcona County Population History		
Year	Population (persons)	Change from Previous
1960	6,352	Increase of 496 (+8.5%)
1970	7,113	Increase of 761 (+11.9%)
1980	9,740	Increase of 2,627 (+36.9%)
1990	10,145	Increase of 405 (+4.16%)
2000	11,719	Increase of 1,574 (+15.5%)
2010	10,942	Decrease of 777 (-6.6%)
2020	10,167	Decrease of 775 (-7.08%)
2025	10,556	Increase of 389 (+3.82%) (Census population estimate)
Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1900-2020 ACS 2024 5-year estimate, 2025		

The County's low population density, which averages only 15.1 persons per square mile (as compared to Michigan with a density of 178 persons per square mile), reflects the area's rural setting and mostly undeveloped and recreational land uses (source: ACS 2024 5-year estimate data).

Figure 1.3 – Population by Municipality

Seasonal populations can have a significant impact on communities during peak summer times. The U.S. Census Bureau does not report seasonal populations; however, seasonal structures are reported. According to the U.S. Census ACS 2024 5-year estimate data, 43.6%, or 4,479 of the housing units in Alcona County were used as seasonal, recreational, or occasional use homes. **Figure 1.4** shows the percentage of seasonal housing units by municipality in Alcona County. Based on the average household size in the County of 1.99 persons per unit, the expected seasonal increase would be approximately 8,913 persons. In addition, many seasonal or recreational visitors stay at private lodging places, campgrounds, or at the homes of family or friends.

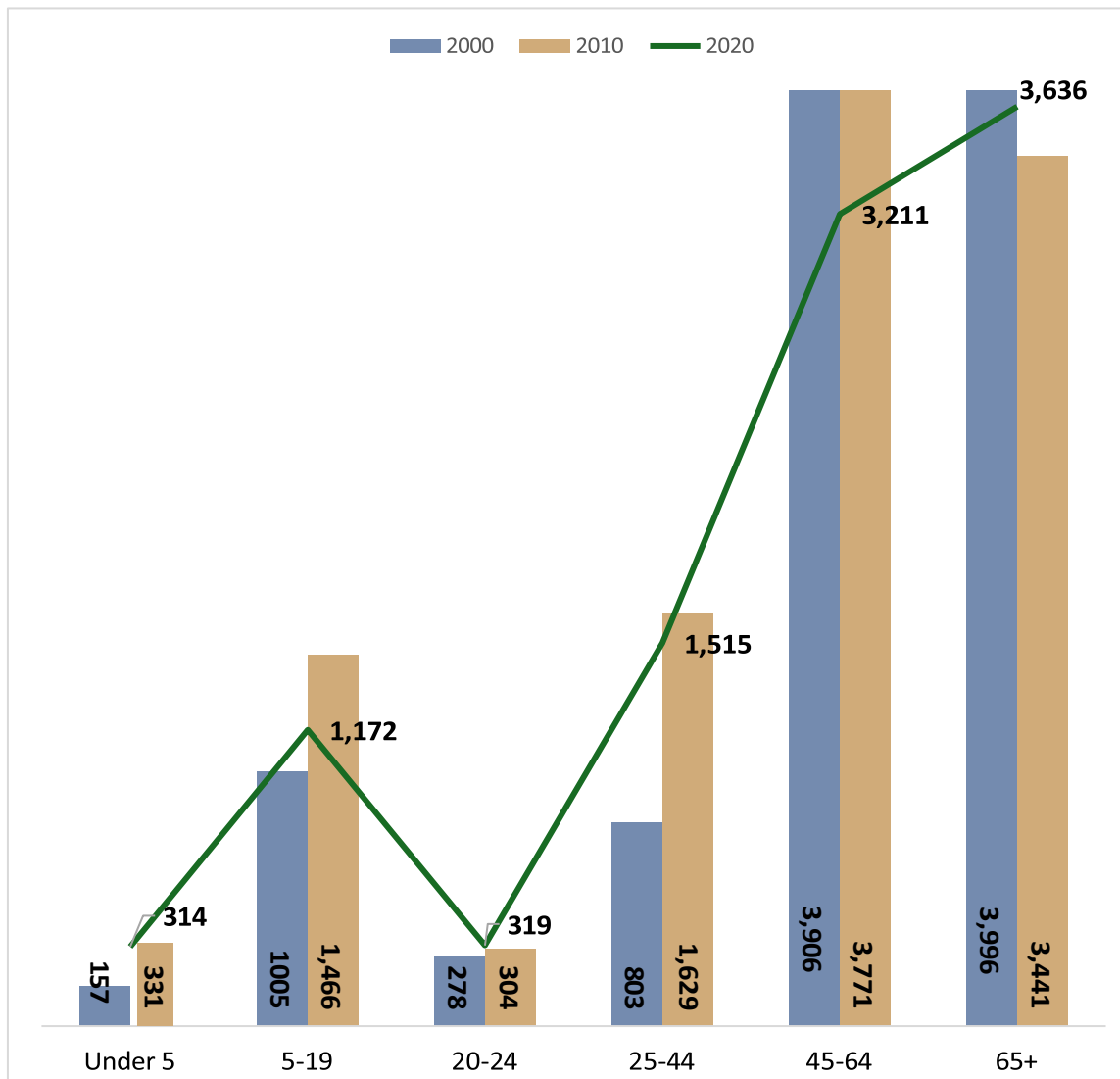
Figure 1.4 – Seasonal Housing by Township



The age groups of Alcona County’s population have also been changing to reflect an older population. **Figure 1.4** compares population age group data from the 2000, 2010, and 2020 censuses. The chart shows that Alcona County’s population is aging. From 2000 to 2020, the number of residents under 25 remained relatively small, while the population aged 45 and older continued to make up the largest share of residents. The 65-and-older population increased from 3,396 in 2000 to 3,636 in 2020, while the 45–64 group declined from its 2000 level but remained substantial at 3,211 residents in 2020.

At the same time, the 25–44 age group declined considerably, from 1,629 in 2010 to 1,515 in 2020, and children under age 5 numbered only 314 in 2020. Overall, the chart indicates a demographic shift toward older age groups, with fewer children and working-age adults.

Figure 1.5 – Population by Age Group in Alcona County



Tourism

Tourism has a major impact on the Alcona County community, including boosts to the local economy and an increased demand on recreational facilities. The County is a popular four-season vacation destination for activities such as swimming, boating, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, fishing, and hunting. Many jobs in the County are highly dependent on tourism.

Natural Resources

Land and Soils

Upland forest is the predominant land cover in the County, with much of that being pine and oak. These drought-tolerant species prefer and thrive on mostly sandy soils. Farmland tends to be concentrated in eastern parts of Caledonia, Mikado, Hawes, and Curtis Townships, and around the communities of Barton City and Curran. According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture 2022 Agricultural Survey, there were 199 farms with 34,916 acres (or 8.09% of the total land area) of farmland in Alcona County. Major farm products include livestock, poultry, and crops (particularly grains, dry peas, and dry beans).

The forested and wetland areas are home to several game and non-game species common to northern Michigan. Game species include white-tailed deer, bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, pheasant, partridge, rabbit, and waterfowl. Other common wildlife species include: squirrel, fox, raccoon, opossum, skunk, woodchuck, weasel, chipmunk, badger, porcupine, and coyote. There is also an abundance of perching birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, and birds of prey.



Water

The Au Sable River, Pine River, Black River, and Thunder Bay River systems, with their interconnected network of smaller streams and creeks, and the many lakes and impoundments provide an abundant source of high-quality surface water features and excellent fishing opportunities for species such as brook trout, salmon, and steelhead.

The most valuable water resource for Alcona County is Lake Huron. The shoreline is primarily developed for



residential and recreational uses, such as boating, sport fishing, diving, snorkeling, swimming, and historical sightseeing. The promotion of “The Sunrise Side” and the US23 Sunrise Coast Byway has made living and vacationing along the shoreline increasingly popular.

Hubbard Lake is one of the largest inland lakes in the State, at 8,850 acres, 7 miles long and 2 miles wide. It has a maximum depth of 85 feet with an average depth of 32.6 feet. The lake spans the three townships of Caledonia, Alcona, and Hawes and has a long-established resort community surrounding it.



2

Administrative Structure

How recreation facilities, programs, funding, and responsibilities are managed.





Chapter 2

Administrative Structure

Administration

The administration of recreational facilities and activities located in Alcona County is divided amongst jurisdictional lines. The Alcona County Board of Commissioners is the administrative body responsible for the final decision-making and fiscal responsibility for all county-owned, managed, and operated recreational facilities. This five-member Board consists of elected positions representing five political districts across the County. Elections are held in two-year increments.

The Township Board of Trustees is the administrative body responsible for the final decision-making and fiscal responsibility for all township-owned, managed, and operated recreational facilities in both Curtis Township and Township of Greenbush.

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Craig Johnston, Member • Terry Small, Member • Carolyn Brummond, Member

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Sherry Clouse, Trustee • Jennifer Petty, Trustee

Township of Greenbush Board of Trustees

C. Lee Major, Supervisor • Melissa Curth, Clerk • Theresa Kehoe, Treasurer
Mark Parent, Trustee • Steve Franks, Trustee

There is also a Parks and Recreation Board for Alcona County. Alcona County established this Board under the authority of Public Act 261 of 1965, as amended by Public Act 242 of 1966.

The Alcona County Parks and Recreation Board serves in an operational and advisory capacity to the Alcona County Board of Commissioners. Board functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **PLANNING** - to provide a systematic means of planning the location, acquisition, development, and maintenance of a system of parks, recreation, and open space areas, facilities, and activities within the County. Definite criteria for inclusion shall be adopted and revised periodically to keep pace with changing demands and habit use patterns.
- **ACQUISITION** - to provide a program of acquisition of adjoining acreage or to acquire unique or strategic scenic, scientific, or historical areas for the enjoyment of the residents of the County and their guests. Said areas shall be acquired in an organized, systematic manner to provide equal opportunity, access, and enjoyment for all.
- **DEVELOPMENT** - to provide those activities and facilities commensurate with the needs of the people. All development should be carefully planned and be of a durable nature to minimize maintenance.
- **FUNDING** - to explore and utilize every means of financing that is available to the Board, including Federal and State matching fund programs, general obligation bonds, general funds, user charges, along with gifts and donations.
- **OPERATION** - to provide the necessary personnel to operate the parks as effectively and efficiently as feasible. Adequate supervision should be provided to all areas to protect the facilities and to ensure equal opportunity for enjoyment by all users.
- **MAINTENANCE** - to maintain all parks and facilities in a clean, neat, sanitary, and orderly manner, to protect the public health, safety, and enjoyment of its users.
- **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** - to employ qualified and competent personnel to carry out the functions and operations described above for the County park system. To maintain and establish those procedures necessary for maintaining an accurate accounting of all funds utilized by the Commission.

Curtis Township and the Township of Greenbush also maintain active Parks and Recreation Boards who act in a similar advisory capacity to their respective Boards of Trustees.

Alcona County Parks and Recreation Board

Ken Kosal, Member ▪ Kevin Boyat, Member ▪ John Bernard, Member
Rick Smith, Member ▪ Doug Lee, Member

Curtis Township Parks and Recreation Board

Steve Sytek, Chairman ▪ Janine Smith, Secretary ▪ Leah Palladeno, Member
Mark Beckius, Member ▪ Laurie Basnes, Member ▪ Jennifer Petty, Liaison

Township of Greenbush Parks and Recreation Board

Jodi Breault, Member ▪ Natalie Johnston, Member ▪ Ruth Doidge, Member

Staff/Parks & Recreation Maintenance

Alcona County does not employ any dedicated parks and recreation staff. The County's Alcona Recreation Area is maintained by volunteers through the Alcona County Fair Board. Dirt, Inc. maintains and improves the motocross track and helps with motocross racing events. The soccer fields are maintained by the Alcona 4-H Soccer organization.

Some municipalities may employ part-time maintenance staff to provide groundskeeping and routine maintenance at parks and recreation facilities. Municipalities that do not employ maintenance staff may contract with outside service providers to perform these services.

Relationships with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers

The County of Alcona depends on its community volunteers. These are dedicated individuals who come forward time and again to assist with community improvement projects, festival preparations, and other community events. The County has frequent contact and excellent rapport with local/adjoining Township Officials and County Representatives with whom they work on various projects. Below is a list of some of the agencies and groups that volunteer time, funds, or materials to improve and/or maintain recreational assets in the Alcona County area.

- Alcona Community School District
- Alcona County 4-H
- Alcona County Chamber of Commerce
- Alcona County Commission on Aging
- Alcona County Conservation District
- Alcona County Fair Board
- Alcona County Fire Department
- Alcona County Quilt Trail Committee
- Alcona County Sheriff's Office
- Alcona Historical Society
- Alcona Master Gardener's Club
- Bay to Beacon Half Marathon Community Organization
- Curtis Township Fire Department
- Dirt, Inc.
- East Shore Art Guild
- Fairview Area School District
- Friends of Negwegon State Park
- Friends of the Alcona County Library
- Friends of the Curtis Township Library
- Township of Greenbush Fire Department
- Harrisville Arts Council
- Harrisville Hoop House Group
- Huron Pines
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan State University Extension
- Oscoda School District
- Sprinkler Lake and Camp Friends Organization
- US-23 Sunrise Coast

Programming and Current Funding

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

Finances/Park & Recreation Maintenance: Current Funding

Alcona County's 2026 budget, outlining sources for revenues and expenses associated with providing recreation, is illustrated below in Table 2.1. Sources for maintenance, operations, and capital improvements are financed through a combination of the County General Fund, public and private grants, private donations, and foundation and community service organization grants and donations.

Table 2.1 - Alcona County Recreation Budget (2026)	
Revenues	
Alcona Recreation Area Fund – Transfer from other County funds	\$ 18,418.00
Alcona Recreation Area Fund – Vendor Rental Fees	2,500.00
County Fair Fund – Interest Income	50.00
County Fair Fund – Special Items (private donations, refunds, etc.)	1,382.00
Park/Recreation Fund – MDNR grants for ORV/snowmobile trails operation/maintenance and interest income	87,900.00
Total Revenue	\$ 110,250.00
Expenses	
Alcona Recreation Area Fund	\$ 22,350.00
County Park and Rec Fund	87,900.00
Total Expenses	\$ 110,250.00

Curtis Township and the Township of Greenbush do not maintain separate parks and recreation funds. Instead, funding for parks and recreation activities, facilities, and improvements is provided through each township's general fund. All parks and recreation expenditures are subject to review and approval by the respective Township Board of Trustees. For 2026, the Township of Greenbush's general budget includes a line-item allocation of \$14,018.67 for parks and recreation expenditures. Curtis Township does not maintain a separate recreational budget allocation, and approved recreation-related expenditures are paid from the Township's general fund.

In addition to township general fund revenues, potential funding sources for parks and recreation programs, facilities, and capital improvements may include County general fund support, state and federal grants, private grants, donations, and other funding opportunities that may become available during the five-year planning period.

3

Recreation Inventory

An inventory of existing
parks, trails, facilities, and
recreation opportunities.





Chapter 3

Recreation Inventory

An inventory of recreation facilities available in Alcona County was completed and is presented in this chapter. The inventory includes recreation facilities and lands owned by Alcona County; local, state, and federal governments; public and private schools; and private entities. Figure 3.1 illustrates the locations of major public recreation sites in the Alcona County area. Alcona County-owned facilities were evaluated for barrier-free accessibility. A description of the barrier-free accessibility rating criteria is provided below.

Figure 3.1 – Recreational Facilities in Alcona County



Inventory Methods, Classifications, and Procedures

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

Accessibility assessments considered both the accessibility of individual facilities and the routes used to access them. Each applicable recreation site was evaluated using the DNR five-point accessibility rating system shown below.

DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM

- 1 **None** of the facility meet accessibility guidelines.
- 2 **Some** of the facility meet accessibility guidelines.
- 3 **Most** of the facility meet accessibility guidelines.
- 4 The **entire** facility meet accessibility guidelines.
- 5 The **entire facility was developed** using the principles of universal design.

Each recreation area and facility was also classified according to the following MDNR definitions and descriptions of typical characteristics.

Mini-park / pocket park - Very small park serving a limited residential area, generally intended for short-duration recreation, informal play, seating, landscaping, or gathering.

Neighborhood park - Local park primarily serving nearby residents. Typical facilities include playgrounds, open lawn, picnic areas, small sports fields, and walking paths.

Community park - Larger park serving several neighborhoods. Usually provides a wider variety of active and passive recreation, such as sports fields, larger playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, courts, and natural areas.

District / regional park - Large-scale recreation area serving multiple communities or a substantial geographic area. May include major athletic complexes, extensive trail systems, beaches, waterfronts, natural areas, campgrounds, or specialized facilities.

Special-use recreation area - Site designed around one primary recreation activity or attraction, such as a skate park, disc golf course, swimming beach, dog park, golf course, shooting facility, or specialized sports complex.

Linear park/greenway - Recreation land organized primarily around a corridor, such as a trail, riverfront, utility corridor, greenway, or connected open-space system used for walking, bicycling, paddling, or ecological connections.

Natural area/preserve - Land where protection of natural resources is a primary purpose, while allowing compatible recreation such as hiking, wildlife/nature study, fishing, or paddling.

Open space/conservation area - Undeveloped or minimally developed land retained for natural-resource protection, scenic value, environmental functions, or passive recreation.

Waterfront/beach area - Recreation property associated with a lake, river, or other water body, typically providing swimming, fishing, boating, shoreline access, picnicking, or waterfront trails.

Campground - Property providing overnight recreation accommodation, ranging from primitive campsites to developed sites with utilities, restrooms, showers, and other support facilities.

Boating access/launch area - Public access to a lake or river for launching boats or other watercraft. May include ramps, docks, parking, fishing access, restrooms, and related facilities.

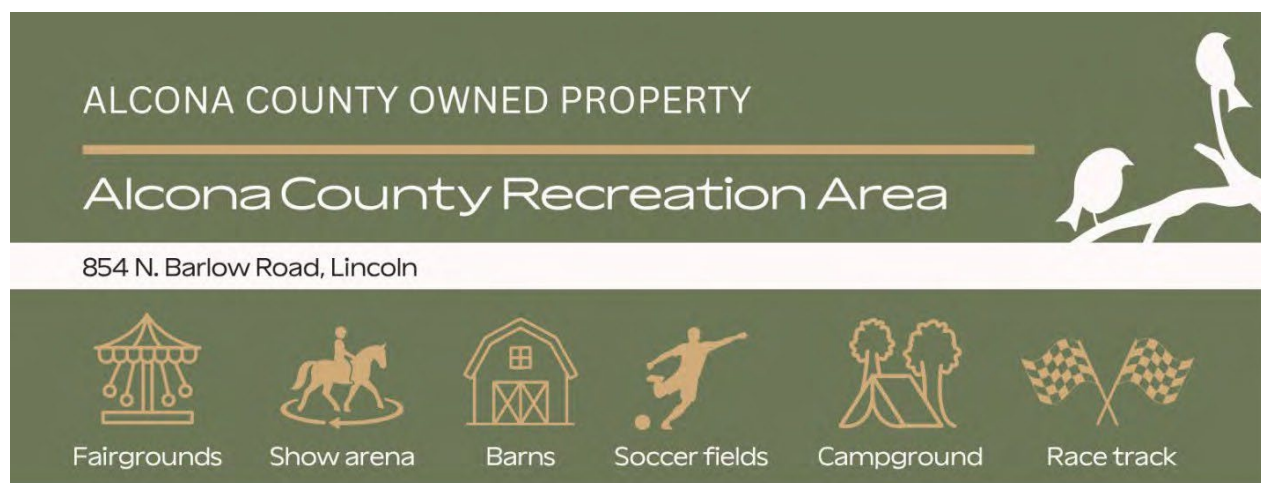
Trail/trail system - Linear recreation facility or connected network designed for walking, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, equestrian use, or ORV use.

Sports / athletic complex - Concentrated area containing multiple organized sports facilities or related spectator/support facilities.

School recreation property - School-owned land and facilities available for community recreation, such as playgrounds, athletic fields, courts, tracks, gyms, or walking areas.

Indoor recreation facility - Building-based recreation facility such as a community center, recreation center, senior center, gymnasium, aquatic center, ice arena, fitness facility, or multipurpose facility.

Civic/public space - Publicly accessible plazas, civic greens, gathering spaces, squares, or similar properties that provide recreation, social, cultural, or community-gathering opportunities.



Classification: District/Regional Recreation

Barrier-Free Accessibility: 3

Size: 121.84 acres

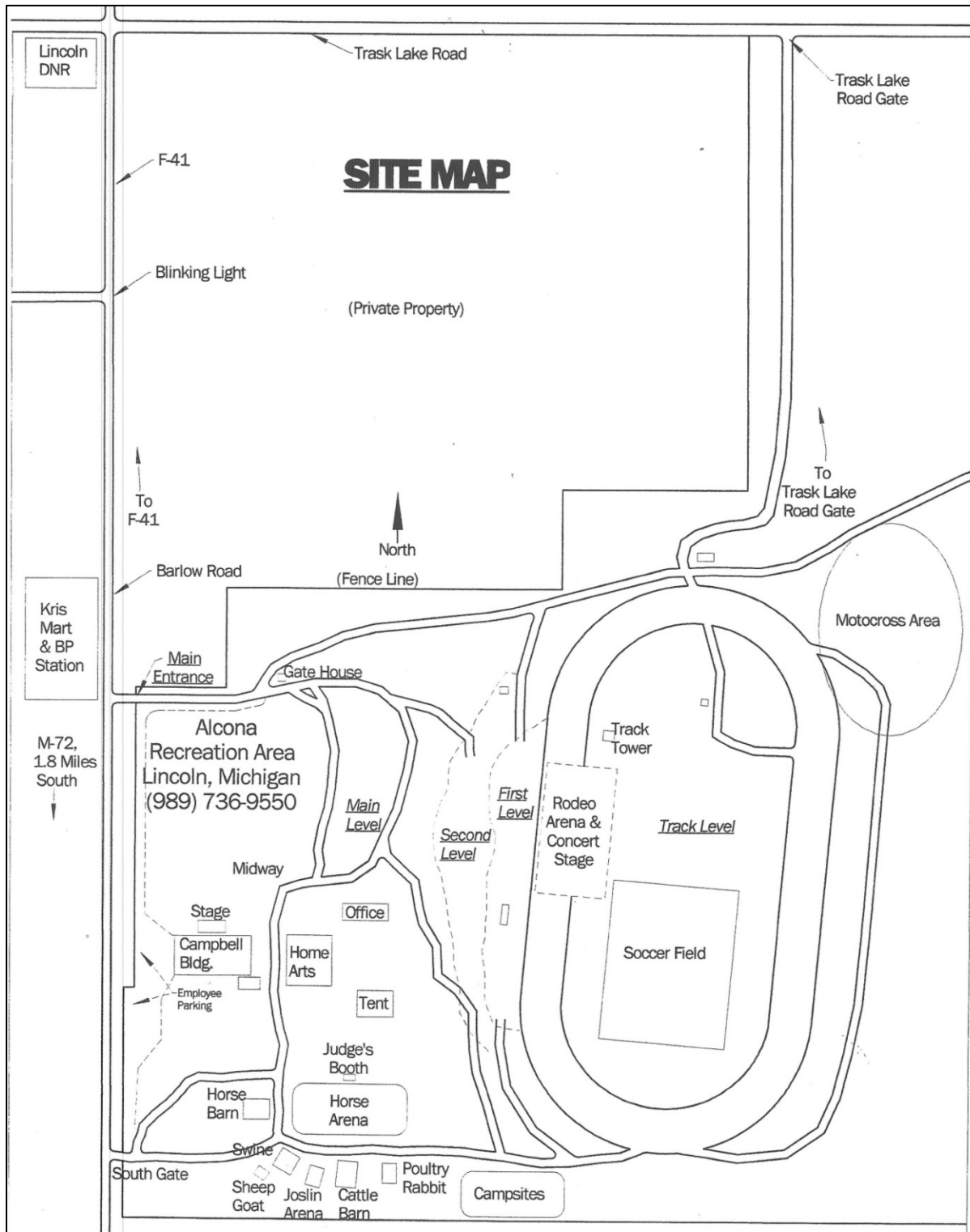
Alcona County owns and operates one recreation facility, the 121.84-acre ARA Site in the northwest corner of Harrisville Township, near the Village of Lincoln. The site is used for the annual Alcona County Fair (held for 5 days in mid-August), snowmobile races and motocross races, in addition to other activities. The site also serves as a recycling drop-off/transfer site for residents every second Saturday of the month, for a \$5 minimum donation. Additionally, the Alcona County Farmers' Market is held here every Saturday, from 9 am to 12:30 pm, late April through mid-November. The market participates with/accepts Food Assistance Benefits programs.

The facility includes one-half mile dirt track for trotter and snowmobile racing, a motocross area track, four pole barns; four animal barns; a multipurpose building for displays, meetings and other events; a horse arena and show arena; an office and maintenance building with flush toilets; an observation/broadcast booth, a gatehouse, four wells, four irrigated soccer fields, and portable toilets. It also encompasses 80 acres of undeveloped forest land, a campsite area, and a Braille Nature Trail. The Recreation Area is served by water and sewer from the Village of Lincoln. A Park Site Map is shown in Figure 3.2.





Figure 3.2 - Alcona Recreation Area Site Map



CURTIS TOWNSHIP

Alcona Park

2550 AuSable River Rd., Glennie



Canoeing



Fishing



Playground



Swimming



Campground



Pavilions

Classification: District/Regional Park

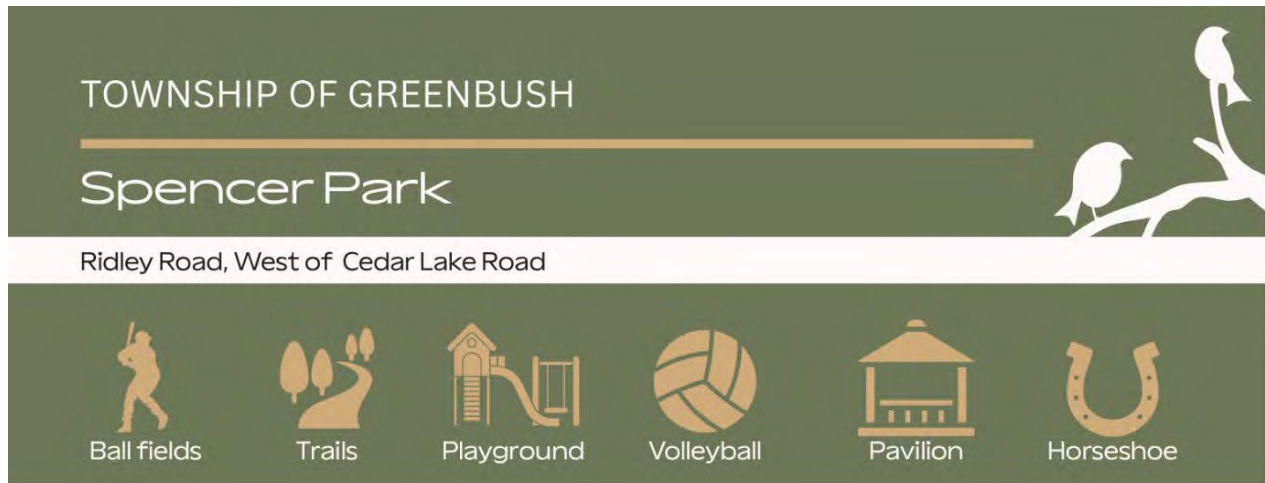
Barrier-Free Accessibility: 3

Size: 1,100 acres

Located on the historic Au Sable River floodwaters above the Alcona Dam and surrounded by the Huron National Forest, this park has three miles of shoreline on each side of this trophy fish-producing river. The park offers over 450 campsites, ranging from primitive to modern, and full service. Camping cabins are also available for rent. Canoeing, boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing are all popular activities for campers and day-use visitors. Other amenities include modern bathhouses and restrooms, laundry facilities, RV dump station, ice and firewood sales, volleyball and basketball court areas, hiking trails, four picnic pavilions, six playgrounds, multiple swim areas and three boat launches. Curtis Township leases the parkland from Consumers Energy and operates the campground. The park is open from April 1 to December 1.







Classification: Community Park

Barrier-Free Accessibility: 3

Size: 34 acres

The Greenbush Recreation Area, also known as the R. Spencer Park & Recreation Area, is a great place to spend time with family and friends. This park offers a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages.

The park features two baseball/softball fields, providing space for practices, games, and friendly competition. Spencer Park also offers a nature trail, a playground, a sand volleyball court, and a basketball court. For those who are looking for an outdoor space for picnicking or a celebration venue, the covered pavilion provides picnic tables and charcoal grills.

Spencer Park is open to the public daily from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.





TOWNSHIP OF GREENBUSH

Cedar Lake Park

4174 Cedar Lake Drive



Swimming



Beach



Playground



Grill



Picnic Tables



Bench

Classification: Waterfront Beach Area and Neighborhood Park

Barrier-Free Accessibility: 3

Size: 1 acre

Greenbush residents enjoy the waterfront beach that offers a swimming area with a floating raft. The park includes a children's playground complete with an accessible swing, a picnic area with charcoal grills, and benches to take in the views and sunset over Cedar Lake.

Cedar Lake Park is open daily from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.





TOWNSHIP OF GREENBUSH

Greenbush Township Hall

5037 Campbell Street



Classification: Civic / Public Space

Barrier-Free Accessibility: 4

Size: 1 acre

The Township of Greenbush Hall serves as the Township Office and location for all public meetings. Residents may rent the township hall and the township pavilion for private events.





Recreation Grant Inventory

Alcona Park

Alcona County has historically leased but never owned the Alcona Park (formerly known as Alcona County Park) site in Curtis Township. Consumers Energy owns the land that comprises Alcona Park. Register of Deeds documentation indicates that Alcona County was the lessee of that property from 1970 until it transferred all of its right, title, and interest as Lessee to Curtis Township in 1982, to continue use of that land for a recreation site. Curtis Township has leased and operated Alcona Park as a park/campground since then.

Grant #26-00210/1970 – Lower Landing Campground at Alcona County Park

- LWCF Grant amount of \$39,500 for a 100-unit modern campground, modern restroom building, underground electric service to all campsites, water system, campsite markers, tables, waste receptacles, and roadways.
- This grant is complete, and all grant-funded amenities are active and operational.

Grant #26-01232/1981 – Alcona County Park Boat Ramps

- LWCF Grant amount of \$8,776.88 to develop three boat ramps, site improvement, and an LWCF sign.
- This project is complete, and all grant-funded amenities are active and operational.

Harrisville Township Recreation Area

Register of Deeds Records indicate Alcona County transferred ownership and operation of land that comprises the Harrisville Township Recreation Area to Harrisville Township in 1994.

Grant #BF 89-530/1989 – Harrisville Recreation Area

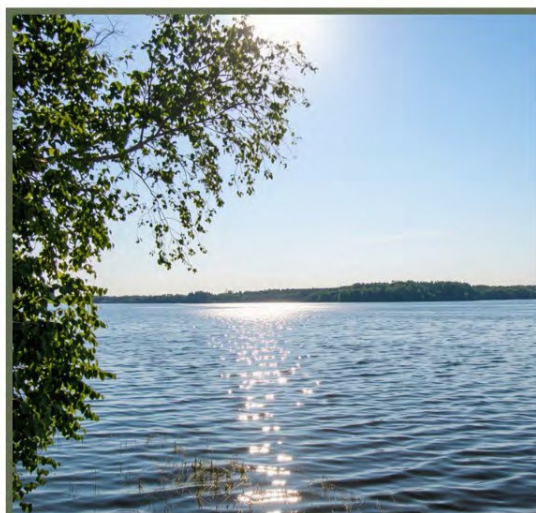
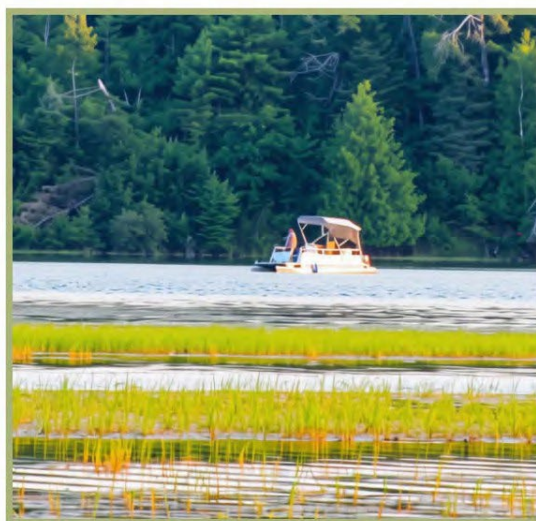
- Bond Fund Grant amount of \$15,000 to renovate two existing baseball diamonds with fencing, benches, a double-wide gate in the east field, and roofs for the dugouts.
- This grant is complete, and all grant-funded amenities are active and operational. However, many are nearing their expected lifespan and need upgrades.

Alcona Recreation Area

Grant #26-01112/1980 – Alcona Recreation Area

- LWCF Grant amount of \$22,000 for the development of two softball diamonds, two vault toilets, softball field access road, campground, dump station, and LWCF plaque.
- This grant was withdrawn.

Based on information received from the region’s MDNR Grant Coordinator, these projects will hold a “transfer” status (not a “conversion status”) until internal review is completed by the MDNR and National Park Service. The sites have continuously remained in recreational use. Post-Completion, Self-Certification Forms for these sites, along with a letter from Alcona County to the MDNR Grants Division describing the transfer status, are included in the supporting documentation contained in Appendix C.



Trail Systems in Alcona County

Approximately 74.5% of the land in Alcona County is forested, with state and federal forest areas comprising approximately 35.6% of it. Most of these areas are open to the public for hunting, hiking, camping, and other outdoor sporting activities. Facilities on federal forests are utilized primarily for primitive camping, hiking, and wildlife observation.

Hiking Trail Systems

Three major hiking trail systems are located in Alcona County – the Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area, Reid Lake Quiet Area, and approximately 14 miles of the Shore to Shore Trail passes through the southwestern portion of the County on its way from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. Hoist Lakes (over 20 miles of trails) and Reid Lake (12 miles of trails) are footpaths for hikers and skiers, while the Shore to Shore Trail is an unpaved multi-use trail for hikers and horseback riders.

Alcona County Quilt Trail

The Alcona County Quilt Trail consists of wooden squares painted with different quilt designs and showcased on the sides of barns and other areas of interest to create a self-guided driving trail throughout the County. Sites for the Alcona County Quilt Trail were chosen by reviewing area history,

structural interest, road conditions, and pull-offs for safe viewing, as well as other criteria. Designs for the quilt squares reflect the site, the people who currently or have formally lived there, and/or an interesting event that has taken place.

Figure 3.3 – Alcona County Quilt Trail Map



MDNR Trail Systems

The MDNR maintains designated motorized recreation opportunities within Alcona County. The Alcona ORV Trail is a 29-mile designated trail system shown on MDNR maps in east and west sections. The trail is designated for ORVs 50 inches or less in width, including off-road motorcycles, and requires an ORV license and trail permit. MDNR mapping also identifies state forest land along portions of the trail and designated parking areas that provide access to the system.

Alcona County is also served by the MDNR-designated snowmobile trail network. The MDNR's Alcona County snowmobile map identifies Trails 96, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, and 971 within or extending through the county, along with designated parking locations and connections across state and federal lands.

Designated parking areas provide access to the MDNR motorized trail network in Alcona County. The MDNR map for the Alcona ORV Trail identifies parking locations along the trail, while the MDNR Alcona County snowmobile trail map identifies four parking locations associated with Trails 966 and 962. These include parking along M-65; on the east side of North Stout Road, south of Walker Road; along Federal Forest Road 4231; and near the intersection of Vandercook and Yockey roads. These parking areas provide documented access points to the state-designated trail system.



Figure 3.4 – ORV Alcona Trail East Map

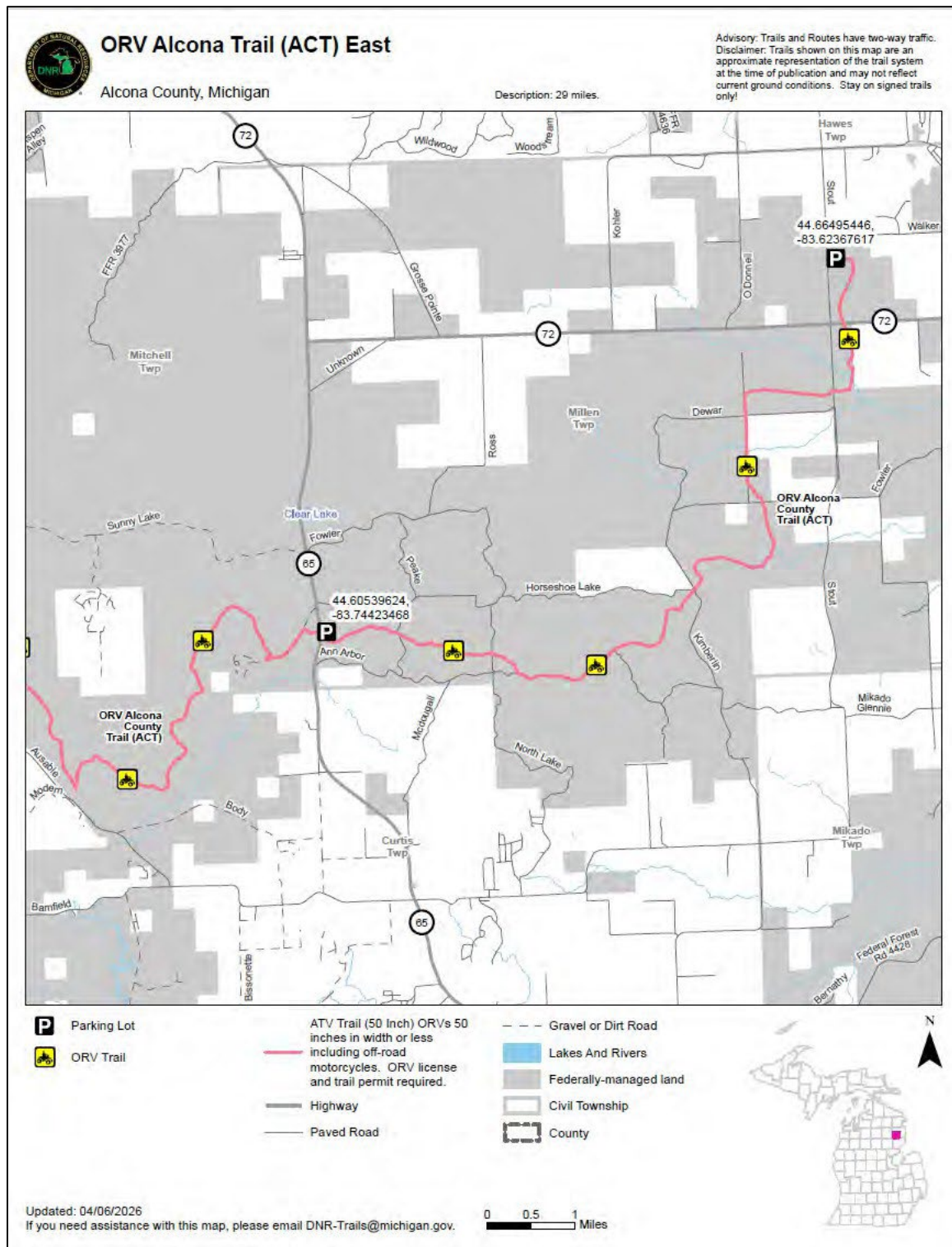


Figure 3.5 – ORV Alcona Trail West Map

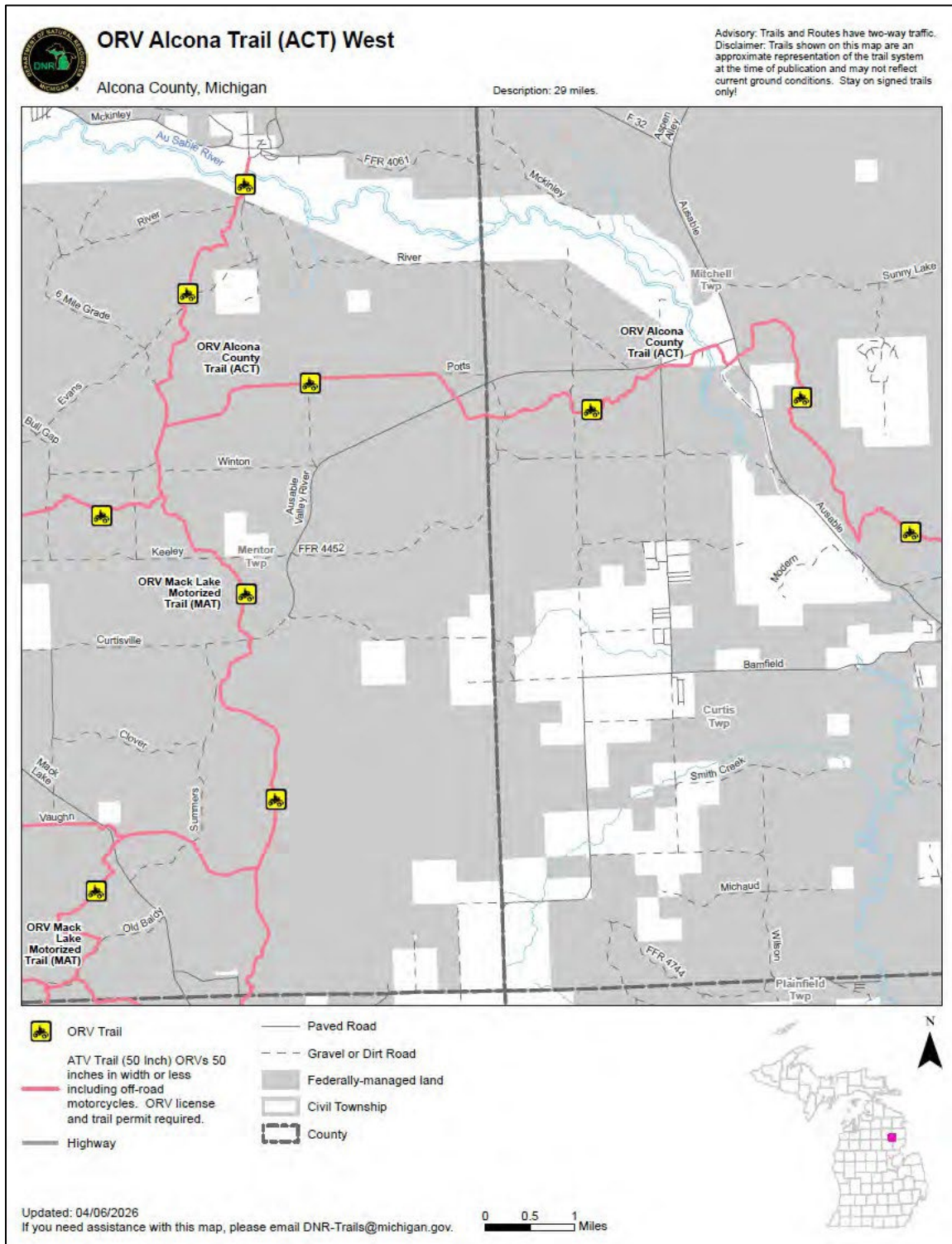
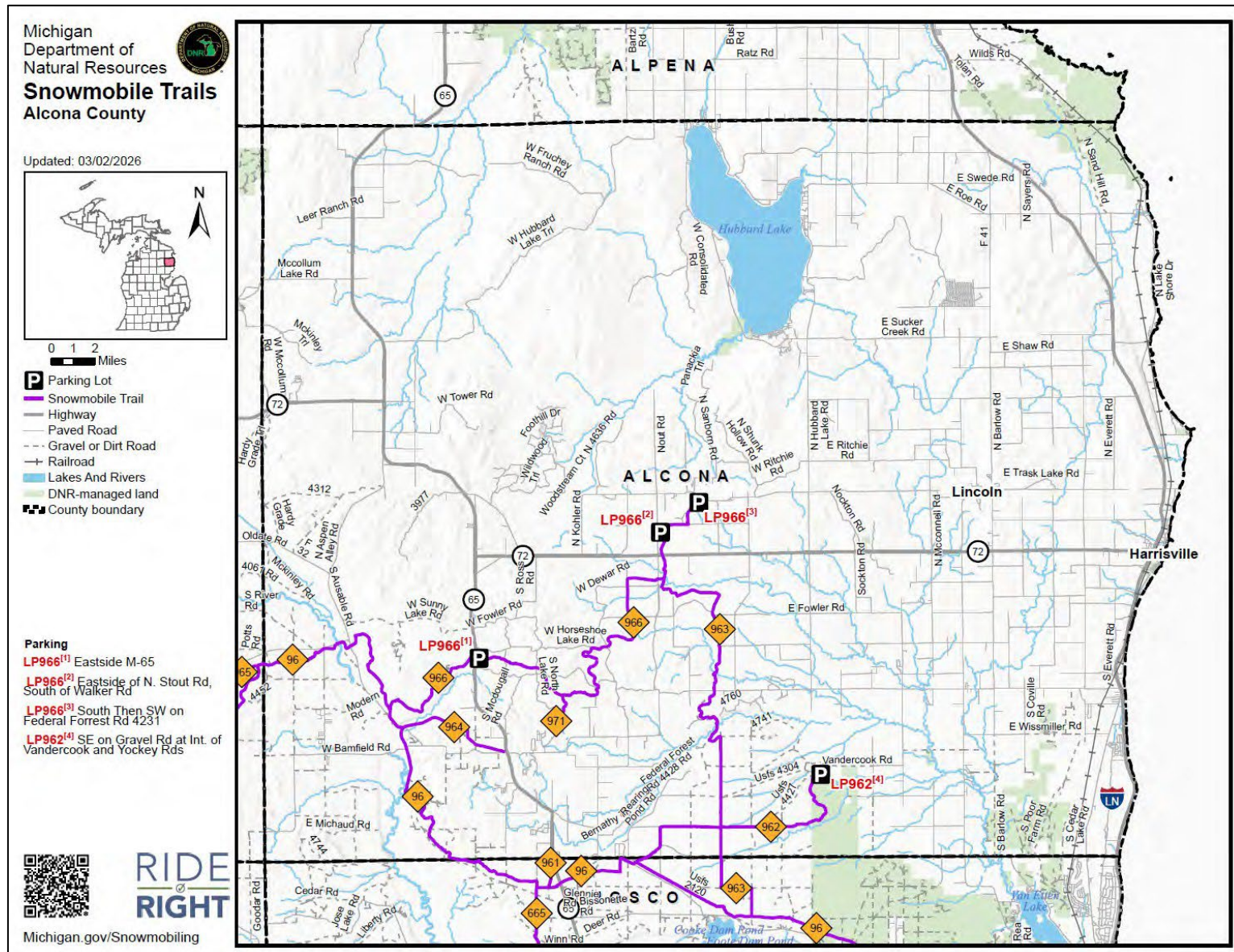


Figure 3.6 – Snowmobile Trails Map



Other Recreational Areas in Alcona County

Alcona Township

Black River/Lake Huron Access Site is a three-acre site that includes 1.5 acres adjacent to the river with 200' of river frontage and 1.5 acres with 160' frontage of sandy beach on Lake Huron. These properties provide a boat launch site, a picnicking area, and a swimming area. They also contain a picnic pavilion, two grills, multiple picnic tables, and minimal playground equipment.

Black River Recreation Area is three acres in the Village of Black River. This area contains a basketball court, one tennis court, a baseball field, a small playground set, one grill, and pit-type toilets. The pond has been/can be used as an ice-skating rink.

Negwegon State Park/State Forest is a 3,738-acre undeveloped state park located in Alcona and Alpena counties. The park offers 11.6 miles of hiking and nature trails, swimming, picnicking, hunting, and four primitive walk-in campsites that can also be accessed from Lake Huron by kayak or canoe. Access is provided by a gravel entrance road and parking area.

Hubbard Lake is an 8,850-acre inland lake spanning Alcona, Caledonia, and Hawes townships, with three public access sites. The MDNR stocks the lake with fish, and recreational uses include boating, fishing, water skiing, swimming, personal watercraft, kayaking, and canoeing. The lake is fed by three streams: Comstock (West Branch River), Sucker, and Holcomb.

East Shore Hubbard Lake Public Access, maintained by the Township, is a 53-by-200-foot lake access site for small boats, canoes, kayaks, and other small watercraft. The site also provides winter access for fishing and snowmobiling. Future improvements include shoreline stabilization and measures to limit vehicle access to ATVs and snowmobiles to reduce shoreline damage.



The Black River Route is a 24-mile round-trip, self-guided bicycle tour beginning in Harrisville and traveling through Greenbush, Haynes, and Alcona townships. The route follows the Lake Huron coast and passes historic sites including the former Village of Alcona, Mt. Joy Cemetery, Low School Site, and St. Gabriel Catholic Church.

Shipwreck Sites off Lake Huron within the boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary include the waters off Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle County to the Canadian border. The sanctuary was designated to protect a significant collection of over 200 shipwrecks that lie in Lake Huron. Visitors can fish, kayak, or snorkel the wrecks.

Lost Lake Woods Resort Community/Association

is a private, approximately 10,000-acre recreational community with four lakes, a clubhouse, year-round residences, and facilities for golf, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and other activities. The property also contains Fire Station #3, which is owned by the Club and houses a Township-owned fire truck through a cooperative arrangement with the Township.

Huron National Forest, owned by the United States Government, consists of approximately 5,400 acres. It includes almost one mile of undeveloped shoreline along Lake Huron. No developed recreational facilities are planned for this area.



Caledonia Township

Caledonia Township Hall is a handicap accessible facility situated on approximately 1.5 acres on Gillard Road in Spruce. This building is used primarily as a community center. The Township Hall contains four handicap parking spaces and a handicap ramp.

Hubbard Lake Access Sites, which are State-owned, provide paved boat launches and parking, including a DNR access site at the end of Tolson Road with two concrete ramps, docks, 68 parking spaces, and a public toilet. The East Bay Park Access site provides 100 feet of lake frontage and is primarily used for swimming and limited picnicking, with no parking or boat launch.

Hubbard Lake North End Park provides approximately 500 feet of Hubbard Lake frontage and includes an accessible boat launch and docks, paved parking, restrooms and

changing rooms, a pavilion, picnic facilities, a lighted walkway, bike racks, and other amenities.

Hickey Hill is a generally undeveloped 80-acre recreation area.

Spruce Park provides a baseball diamond, an outdoor concrete basketball court, a soccer playing area, a sandbox, a swing, and a concrete park bench.

Hansen Road 40 Acre Site is located one-half mile north of Spruce Road on the east side of Hansen Road (Town 28 North, Range 8 East, Section 2). This acreage, a former disposal site, has been reforested and is used for public hunting.

Paul Bunyan “Kampground” is an 80-site campground located at 2498 E. Hurbert Road and includes 60 modern and 20 primitive sites. All sites are grassy pull-through sites with picnic tables and fire pits. Other features include: a large pool, camp/party store, game room, hot showers, laundry room, and a large clubhouse for rent featuring a kitchen and seating for 100.

Rodney McKinnon's Hunting Preserve is a preserve located on Swede Road. The site is open to the public.



Curtis Township

Vaughn Lake Public Access Site offers a beach and boat launch. It has an accessibility rating of 2 and is approximately 1 acre.

North Lake (Trailhead for Snowmobiles) is a Township-owned snowmobile trailhead and a boat launch. It has an accessibility rating of 2 and is approximately 1 acre.

Indian Lakes Day Use and Picnic Area is a Township-owned rustic picnic area. It has an accessibility rating of 1 and is approximately 2 acres.

A forty-acre parcel (west of Healy Road and Body Road) is operated by the Glennie Sportsman Club for a shooting range.

Former Elementary School in Glennie is privately owned and currently vacant. Potential future development for this site includes a community recreation center.

Curtis Township Hall is available for hosting social events; it also features a basketball court.

Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail connects to Alcona Park and, in parts, follows the Au Sable River. The trail's end points are Lake Huron (in Oscoda) and Lake Michigan (in Empire) and is only open to horseback riders and foot traffic (hikers and cross-country skiers). The MDNR owns and/or operates this trail.

Alcona ATV Trail and Snowmobile Trails contain portions of the 29.3-mile Alcona ATV Trail and Snowmobile Trails 96, 964, and 971, which provide connections to Barton City, Alcona Park, Glennie, and neighboring counties. The trails are owned by the MDNR and maintained by Alcona County with MDNR funding.



Alcona Canoe Rental & Campground is a privately owned facility at 6351 Bamfield Road, near Glennie. This site offers seven rentable cabins and eighteen campsites, along with public restrooms, a shower house, laundry facilities, and a party store. They also provide canoes, kayaks, tubes, rafts, and paddleboards for rent, and offer Fall River Color Tours.

Eagle Ridge Golf Course is a privately owned, 18-hole golf course that is open to the public at 3501 State Rd., Glennie. The facility features a bar and grill, driving range, and rentable banquet space.

Township of Greenbush

The Black River Route is a 24-mile round-trip self-guided bike tour beginning in Harrisville (Harrisville Township) and extending south through Township of Greenbush and north through Haynes and Alcona Townships. Travel the Black River Route to historic points along the Huron coast. Historic sites you will view on this trip include the Village of Alcona (now a ghost town), Mt. Joy Cemetery (with graves from as far back as 1855), the Low School Site (which was opened to accommodate students during the lumbering era), and St. Gabriel Catholic Church (which was constructed in 1894 and has not been altered since).



Greenbush Country School has been preserved by the Historical Society and now maintains the 1870 one-room Greenbush School, the oldest structure in the community.

Gustin Township

The Sunrise Center, built in 2025, is located at 807 N. Barlow Road. This community center features a gymnasium, fitness center, dining hall, game room, and banquet facility.

Harrisville Township and the City of Harrisville

Harrisville Township Recreation Area (HTRA) is located on 17 acres, just north of the Harrisville City limits. The site includes three fenced ball diamonds, including bleachers and dugouts, public restrooms, and a small playground with a sandbox and jungle gym.

Harrisville Harbor and Harbor Park is a 4.5-acre City-owned site with 97 boat slips. Harbor amenities include fuel, pump-outs, electrical hookups, restrooms and showers, laundry facilities, and other boater services. The park also offers pavilions, picnic facilities, playground equipment, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a dog run, and summer concerts.

Harrisville State Park, a state-owned facility located just south of the City of Harrisville limits, is sited on 110 acres with 2,750 feet of Lake Huron frontage. The park provides 229 modern campsites, electric hook-ups, a sanitation station, showers, a playground, ball diamond, beach, and a boat launch with fishing facilities. The park also features a roll-out beach mat that allows for universal access to the beach and water's edge.



Harrisville Mill Pond, a City-owned site located on US-23 and formed by the damming of Mill Creek, is stocked with trout and open to public fishing. Site amenities include benches, grills, fire pits, and a water wheel that creates a small waterfall.

DNR Boat Launch and Public Access Site is a State-owned facility located off Lake Street and adjacent to the Harrisville Harbor. Site amenities include two large parking areas, a boat launch, and toilet facilities.

Harrisville Heritage Route Trail is a historic, 2.5-mile, nonmotorized sightseeing route that begins at the Harrisville Harbor and follows along city streets and green space and connects to the Harrisville State Park. Bike rentals for youth and adults are available, as well as three-wheel trikes.

(Former) Veteran's Club Property is located on Lake Street across from Harbor Park and offers recreation opportunities including a former fish hatchery/trails and basketball courts. The site was recently placed under ownership by the City.

Craftmaker's Cabin and Property is a City-owned log cabin and surrounding property located at the corner of highways US-23 and M-72 in downtown Harrisville. It houses a variety of crafts made and sold by local senior citizens during the summer months, when it also serves as an information and visitors' center.

Tennis Courts/Pavilion are City-owned and adjacent to the Harrisville City Offices. It contains two fenced, concrete tennis courts with partial backboards, benches, and an open-air picnic pavilion on a cement pad. This facility is also used for the Harmony Days Craft Show on Labor Day weekend.

Trask Lake Road End is a public access site, located within the County's road right-of-way and provides access to 33 feet of beach on Lake Huron where swimming is available. There is no boat launch at this site, but canoes may be launched from here.

Springport Road End is a public access site located within the County's road right-of-way and provides access to 66 feet of beach on Lake Huron where swimming is available. There is no boat launch at this site, but canoes may be launched from here.

Harrisville Township Hall – This multipurpose space can be rented for public or private events.

Harrisville City Airport is a class "D" airport that serves the needs of recreational flyers from the local flying club and those who fly ultra-light aircraft. It has two grass runways with tie-down facilities.

Greenbush Golf Course is a privately owned golf course, located four miles south of the City of Harrisville. This nine-hole, par 36 facility offers club rental and is open to the public. The facility also features a bar and grill, along with cart and club rental. The course's featured hole is an island green.

Springport Hills & Loggers Trace Golf Courses are located just west of US-23 in the east central portion of the Township. Springport Hills is the original nine-hole par 36 public golf course sited on open rolling hills. Loggers Trace is an 18-hole par 72 course with large elevation changes and fantastic views of Lake Huron from a 100-foot-high overlook. The facility also features a restaurant, driving range, and cart/club rental.

The Black River Route is a 24-mile round-trip self-guided bike tour beginning in Harrisville (Harrisville Township) and extending south through Township of Greenbush and north through Haynes and Alcona Townships. Historic sites you will view on this trip include the Village of Alcona (now a ghost town), Mt. Joy Cemetery (with graves from as far back as 1855), the Low School Site (which was opened to accommodate students during the lumbering era), and St. Gabriel Catholic Church (which was constructed in 1894 and has not been altered since).

Shipwrecks Along Lake Huron Shoreline -The boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary include the waters off Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle County to the Canadian border. The sanctuary was designated to protect a significant collection of over 200 shipwrecks that lie in Lake Huron. Visitors can fish, kayak, or snorkel the wrecks.

Village of Lincoln



Flights of Imagination, a play structure in Lincoln, is located on 11 acres of land in Barlow Park. The park also includes softball and baseball fields, a wooded park and picnic area, tennis courts, and public restrooms.

Lincoln Train Depot is located in the Village of Lincoln's downtown area. It was built in 1886 and served the community and area until 1929; after which it was a private residence. It is now owned by the Lincoln DDA and serves as a gift shop and educational attraction, displaying many of the original furnishings. In December of 1998, the Lincoln Depot was officially recognized as a Michigan Historic Site. It is open July 1 through Labor Day.

The Lincoln Area Multiuse Pathway (LAMP) consists of designated sidewalks in the downtown area as well as a park trail through Barlow Park.

Brownlee Lake Park primarily serves as the local swimming beach within the community.

Lincoln Lakefront is located directly across the street from the Municipal Building and the Playground and Picnic Area. The Village owns a lakefront area along Lincoln Lake approximately 600' along the lake and 30' deep. The site is a favorite spot to observe a variety of waterfowl and songbirds.

Railroad Park (A.K.A. Veteran's Park) contains picnic tables, grills, a fire pit, a balance beam, a climbing structure, a sandbox, a slide, swings, and a basketball court with two basketball hoops. There is also a war memorial dedicated to those from the Village who have served in the armed services.

Brownlee Lake Public Access contains a public access site at the end of Sherman Street. A concrete launch ramp, a dock, and a picnic table are provided at Sherman Street access.

Hawes Township

South Bay Hubbard Lake Public Access Site is a public lake access site that contains 41 parking spaces, an accessible public restroom, and a paved boat launch that will accommodate all but the largest trailerable watercraft.



White Pine National Golf Course (private) at 3450 N. Hubbard Lake in Spruce provides an 18-hole golf course open to members, leagues, and the public, along with a pro shop, driving range, restaurant, and banquet rental space.

Haynes Township

Sturgeon Point Lighthouse is a major tourist attraction. The Alcona Historical Society offers summer tours of the still-operating, Federally-owned facility. The 70 ft. tower and the attached white painted keeper's house are in excellent condition. While the light is still active, the Coast Guard leases the site to the Alcona County Historical Society, which operates the keeper's house as a maritime museum. The museum and lighthouse tower are open to the public on a seasonal basis. The grounds are open all year.



Cedarbrook Trout Farm – This private facility, located at 1543 N. Lakeshore Drive, near Sturgeon Point in Harrisville, offers public fishing at a trout farm. Cedarbrook was licensed as Michigan's first trout farm over 75 years ago. Lakeshore Drive used to be the main road

along the lake, and this place was a watering spot for Native Americans, trappers, logging teams, and explorers. Bait and equipment furnished; no license required. Open 7 days a week, 12-6 pm Memorial Day through Labor Day; then Saturdays and Sundays 12-5 pm through October 15th; then closed until spring.

Mikado Township

Pine River National Forest Campground is located at the former state trout-rearing ponds. This facility offers eleven primitive campground sites with toilets and hand-pumped water, a picnic pavilion, and grills.

Bruce Park is a small, Township-owned park on E. Mikado Road. The park is minimally developed, with some benches, picnic areas, and a vault toilet.

Vander Cook Road Trailhead is located along Vander Cook Road for Snowmobile Trail No. 962, on U.S. Forest Service property.

Millen Township

Jewell Lake National Forest Campground and **Horseshoe Lake Campground Area and Reid Lake Quiet Area** are owned and maintained by the U.S. Forest Service and offer primitive campsites with fire pits, hand-pumped water, picnic areas, outhouses & foot trails. The Reid Lake site also offers a Foot Travel Area with 11.79 miles of trails for cross-country skiing (ungroomed) and hiking use.

Mitchell Township

The Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area is maintained by the U.S. Forest Service in Mitchell Township and has seven small lakes and over 19.6 miles of cross-country skiing/hiking trails. **Part of this site also lies in Millen Township.*

Gabions Campground is a rustic campground that offers four regular campsites, four single RV camping sites, and one group RV campsite on the National Scenic stretch of the Au Sable River. Amenities include vault toilets, five picnicking sites, nonmotorized boat access, and fishing/wildlife viewing opportunities along the river. The Shore-to-Shore Trail passes near the campground; however, Gabions is not a designated horse camp and horse camping is not permitted.

Mitchell Township Park is a Township-owned, 65-acre park with frontage on Crooked Lake. Its features include swimming, a picnic area, an unimproved boat launch, and seasonal bathrooms.

O'Brien Lake is a designated trout lake in the southwest corner of the Township with barrier-free fishing access. Facilities include a 640-foot wooden walkway, a 50-foot T-shaped fishing pier, a barrier-free toilet, and a parking lot.

Regional Recreation

In addition to recreation within Alcona County, residents and visitors have access to recreational opportunities in Alpena, 32 miles to the north, as well as Oscoda, 16 miles south. It is important to note that, while all of these regional recreational opportunities are available to residents of Alcona County, many require fees and all require travel in order to access them.

Oscoda High School has an indoor swimming pool which is open for public use on a limited basis; the community also has a waterfront park on its Lake Huron beach with playground equipment and tennis courts.

A second lake-side park area, located just north of Oscoda on US-23, offers picnicking and swimming. Several campgrounds are located near the Huron National Forest, including the Old Orchard Campground on the Au Sable River. The Lumberman's Monument area on the River Road offers a visitor's center with informative and educational displays depicting lumbering days, a gift shop, an interpretive center, the impressive monument itself, numerous scenic hiking and walking trails, and a spectacular view of the Au Sable River. Picnicking and boating are also available at Van Etten Lake in Oscoda.

The Iosco Exploration Trail is a planned 44-mile nonmotorized pathway across Iosco County and part of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail. The trail is being developed in phases to connect communities and existing trails while providing opportunities for walking, bicycling, and other nonmotorized recreation. Completed segments include portions in the Oscoda/AuSable area and the Loon Lake Trail in Hale. The City of Alpena is the largest in the northeast Michigan region and offers 22 recreational properties. Community-based recreation in Alpena includes Plaza Pool at Alpena High School and many community parks with swimming and fishing access.

Other major recreation destinations outside of Alcona County include the following:

Chippewa Hills Pathway - Located in Ossineke Township

Hubbard Lake Lions Park – Offers a playground and pavilion with grills in Ossineke Township.

Shin-ga-ba Shores and Alpena Huron Shores Babe Ruth League Ballfields – Located in Sanborn Township.

Ossineke Park – Located in Sanborn Township

Ossineke State Forest Campground – Located in Sanborn Township

Dinosaur Gardens – Located in Sanborn Township

Ossineke Sports Park – Located in Sanborn Township

Three Mile Park - Located along US-23 in Oscoda Township (Iosco County), this park is also an MDOT Roadside Park with two parking areas, vault toilets, and trail access to Lake Huron.

River Road National Scenic Byway – Over 40 recreational sites are located south of Alcona County along the Au Sable River in Iosco County. This 22-mile scenic drive begins northeast of Hale at the intersection of M-65 and Rollways Road and travels east along River Road to Oscoda Township and Lake Huron. Recreation amenities along the byway consist of multiple campgrounds, river access points, historic monuments, parks, and scenic areas. Some of the major recreation destinations along the byway include Lumberman’s Monument, Iargo Springs, Footsite Park, and Canoer’s Memorial.

Blackshire at Lakewood Shores – This privately owned facility is located just south of the Township of Greenbush in Oscoda Township, Iosco County. It features four 18-hole golf courses; one of which is called the “Wee Links”, a pitch & putt course designed specifically for use by families with children.

Lumberman's Monument



Foote Site Park



Iargo Springs



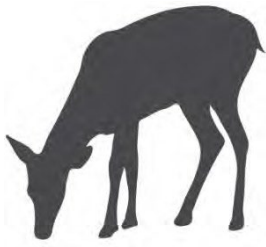
Canoeer's Memorial

4

Goals and Action Plans

Community recreation
goals, priorities, and
planned improvements.





Chapter 4

Goals and Action Plans

Joint Goals

(Alcona County, Curtis Township, and Township of Greenbush)

Goal 1 – Recreation Planning, Access, and Quality of Life

Improve quality of life for residents and visitors by maintaining, improving, and expanding a diverse range of year-round recreational opportunities that serve people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, and income levels.

- a. Engage residents, recreational users, community organizations, and other stakeholders in recreation planning and development.
- b. Review and update the County Recreation Plan at least every five years to reflect changing community needs, recreation trends, and funding opportunities.
- c. Incorporate universal accessibility and the recreational needs of children, families, younger adults, older adults, and persons with disabilities when planning and improving facilities.
- d. Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities that support active lifestyles, healthy communities, quality of life, tourism, and the County's ability to attract and retain residents.

Goal 2 – Partnerships and Recreation Expansion

Expand and enhance recreational opportunities through partnerships, intergovernmental cooperation, strategic land acquisition, and coordinated investment.

- a. Pursue partnerships with local governments, the DNR, nonprofit organizations, businesses, landowners, and other organizations to improve or expand recreation opportunities.
- b. Evaluate strategic land acquisition, easements, leases, and partnerships where they would provide public access, connect recreational assets, or address identified recreation needs.
- c. Pursue opportunities to improve public hunting access and related recreation.

- d. Evaluate opportunities to expand ORV-oriented camping and supporting facilities where appropriate.

Goal 3 – Alcona Recreation Area

Enhance the Alcona Recreation Area (ARA) as a multi-use regional recreation and event destination that serves residents and visitors and contributes to local economic development.

- a. Improve existing buildings, roads, grounds, utilities, and supporting infrastructure to increase functionality, accessibility, use, and revenue-generating potential.
- b. Improve and expand outdoor recreation, nature, and open-space areas to broaden recreational opportunities and accommodate a greater variety of users.
- c. Provide appropriate seating and supporting facilities for the County Fair, concerts, community gatherings, and other special events.
- d. Attract and accommodate additional local and regional events that increase use of the ARA, generate revenue, and draw visitors to Alcona County.
- e. Evaluate opportunities for expanded multi-use of the existing track and other facilities for compatible recreational and special-event activities.

Goal 4 – Trails and Regional Connectivity

Develop and enhance interconnected trail systems that support active lifestyles, affordable and multigenerational recreation, community connectivity, tourism, and regional cooperation.

- a. Evaluate development of a multipurpose pathway connecting the Alcona Recreation Area with nearby community and cultural destinations, including the Lincoln Depot and other appropriate destinations.
- b. Evaluate opportunities to connect Harrisville and other Alcona County communities with the Sunrise Side Pathway, Iosco Exploration Trail, Iron Belle Trail bicycle route, and other regional trail systems.
- c. Pursue opportunities to extend and improve snowmobile and ORV connections to Lincoln, Hubbard Lake, Alpena, and other regional destinations.
- d. Maintain and improve existing motorized and nonmotorized trails and pursue equipment, partnerships, and funding needed for effective trail maintenance and grooming.

- e. Coordinate trail planning with neighboring counties and communities to close gaps and create recreational connections across jurisdictional boundaries.

Goal 5 – Recreation Facilities, Accessibility, Wayfinding, and Safety

Provide safe, accessible, well-maintained, and easily identifiable recreational facilities that accommodate residents and visitors of varying ages and abilities.

- a. Maintain and operate County recreational areas and facilities to provide safe, functional, and high-quality recreation experiences.
- b. Evaluate accessibility and user needs when improving facilities, including pathways and slopes, seating, restrooms, parking, lighting, equipment, and wheelchair access.
- c. Install or improve consistent wayfinding and identification signage to direct visitors to and within County parks, trails, water access sites, and other recreational facilities.
- d. Provide security and safety improvements where warranted, including appropriately located lighting that is shielded, downward-directed, and sensitive to neighboring properties and night skies.
- e. Incorporate age-friendly and family-friendly amenities into facility improvements to better serve older adults, children, families, and younger residents.

Goal 6 – Natural Resource Protection

Conserve, protect, and maintain Alcona County’s natural resources and recreation lands for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

- a. Apply appropriate natural-resource protection practices when planning, developing, and reviewing recreational facilities and projects.
- b. Encourage natural landscaping and native vegetation in parks and recreation areas where appropriate.
- c. Ensure existing and proposed recreational facilities are environmentally suitable and safe for intended public use.
- d. Protect forests, wetlands, shorelines, groundwater recharge areas, coldwater streams, wildlife habitat, and other environmentally sensitive resources when developing or improving recreation facilities.
- e. Encourage recreational development and use that balances public access with long-term stewardship of the County’s natural resources.

Goal 7 – Regional Recreation and Tourism

Strengthen Alcona County's economy and recreational opportunities through regional cooperation and promotion of the County as part of a year-round Northeast Michigan recreation and tourism destination.

- a. Cooperate with cities, villages, townships, neighboring counties, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, tourism organizations, businesses, and other partners on regional recreation planning and development.
- b. Coordinate, where appropriate, with Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda, Ogemaw, and Iosco Counties to improve regional trail, waterway, recreation, and tourism connections.
- c. Develop a marketing strategy and promote Alcona County's parks, trails, Lake Huron shoreline, inland lakes, rivers, forests, ORV and snowmobile opportunities, cultural resources, and community destinations as year-round recreational assets.
- d. Encourage recreation-based tourism that generates visitor spending while also providing facilities and amenities that benefit County residents.
- e. Develop an information portal for public ORV/snowmobile trail information.

Goal 8 – Scenic Byways and Heritage Tourism

Support regional scenic byways and heritage corridors as a means of connecting visitors with Alcona County's recreational, natural, cultural, and community destinations.

- a. Support the US-23 Heritage Route Alcona County Team in promoting recreational and cultural destinations within the County and implementing applicable goals of the US-23 Corridor Management Plan.
- b. Support the River Road National Scenic Byway Management Committee and applicable goals of the River Road National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan.
- c. Recognize Alcona County's proximity to the River Road National Scenic Byway and work with Iosco County and regional partners to encourage connections between Byway attractions and complementary recreation opportunities in Alcona County.
- d. Encourage cross-promotion of the US-23 Heritage Route, River Road National Scenic Byway, Iron Belle Trail, Iosco Exploration Trail, and other regional recreation and heritage assets where these connections can extend visitor stays and encourage exploration of Alcona County.

PRIORITIES, ACTIONS, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

This section provides an overview of the proposed recreation projects for the next five years, which were identified because of input received from the public and County officials. These projects will implement the goals and objectives identified previously, as well as help counter any perceived deficiencies in service that may arise over the next five years. Project costs are not yet known and those identified are estimates as of the time this plan was written. Funding will vary by project with potential sources of local and/or county government general funds, grants, donations, and partnerships.

Alcona Recreation Area

Building, Electrical, and Facility Improvements

1. Upgrade electrical panels in the sheep and cattle barns (approximately \$15,000).
2. Run electrical power approximately 600 feet to the motocross/auxiliary service building (approximately \$15,000).
3. Add lighting to the upper parking area and improve lighting around the Joslin Show Arena.
4. Install at least eight additional tower lights around the track (approximately \$75,000).
5. Insulate and install heating in the ARA administration/office and restroom building, including an approximately 150,000 BTU heating system (approximately \$5,000).
6. Insulate and install a heating system in the Campbell Building to accommodate winter and year-round activities (approximately \$15,000).
7. Remodel the pig barn (approximately \$8,000).
8. Upgrade the sprinkler system and make well enhancements at the soccer area (approximately \$8,000).



Roadway, Parking, and Entrance Improvements

1. Improve internal ARA roadways and access roads (approximately \$65,000 total based on identified phases).
2. Pave approximately 500 feet of driveway at the main entrance (approximately \$15,000).
3. Improve parking-area lighting and overall vehicle and pedestrian access throughout the site.

Campground Development

1. Develop a modern campground, initially providing approximately 30 campsites near the pavilion area for small trailers, motorhomes, and tents (approximately \$50,000 for the identified initial phase).
2. Design campsites and common facilities to provide universal accessibility.
3. Provide electrical service, potable water, and restroom/shower facilities.
4. Develop the campground to support recreational visitors, County Fair participants, special-event attendees, and other multi-day users.
5. Use campground development to increase year-round and seasonal use of the ARA property and generate additional operating revenue.

Pavilions, Picnic Areas, and Outdoor Recreation Amenities

1. Expand pavilion development and outdoor food preparation areas.
2. Provide additional opportunities for picnicking, community gatherings, outdoor culinary activities, and special events.
3. Install appropriate restroom facilities, including chemical toilets, near Trask Lake Road (approximately \$40,000).

New Multipurpose Recreation and Event Building

1. Design and construct a modern, secure, accessible, multipurpose building.
2. Accommodate recreation programs, educational activities, community gatherings, and major events throughout the year.
3. Use the facility to expand year-round programming, increase regional use of the ARA site, and create additional revenue opportunities.

Portable Bleachers and Event Seating

1. Purchase six portable bleacher systems, each consisting of approximately 10 rows and 113 seats (approximately \$8,000 each; \$48,000 total).
2. Use portable seating at the arena, track, and other activity areas to accommodate larger groups and a wider variety of events.



ARA Track Improvements and Expanded Uses

1. Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate opportunities for expanded use of the ARA track.
2. Determine equipment, infrastructure, safety resources, licensing, permitting, and other requirements associated with expanded track activities.
3. Evaluate potential uses that could increase recreational opportunities, attract regional events, and generate operating revenue.
4. Install additional track lighting as identified in the facility improvement projects.

ARA Multipurpose Trail Development

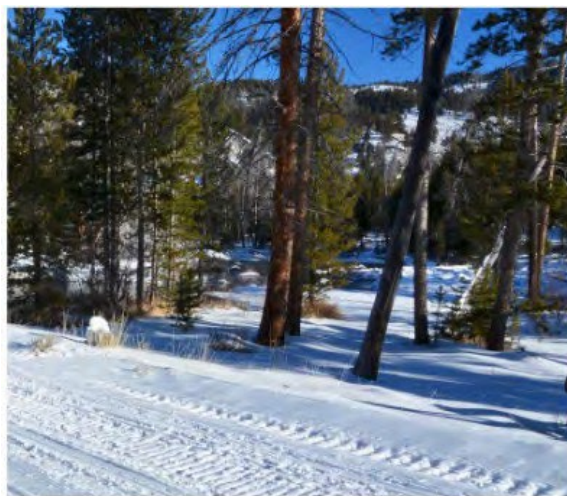
1. Develop designated cross-country skiing and mountain biking trails throughout the ARA property.
2. Explore development of approximately 19–20 miles of multipurpose trails connecting the ARA site with the Lincoln Depot/Craftmaker’s Cabin, City of Harrisville, Harrisville Township, and The Township of Greenbush.
3. Coordinate potential connections with future regional trail systems, including the planned extension of the Sunrise Side Pathway.
4. Use trail development to promote active lifestyles, affordable and multi-generational recreation, community connectivity, tourism, and intergovernmental cooperation.
5. Determine levels of community, governmental, and organizational interest and support.
6. If sufficient support exists, establish a collaborative committee to guide planning, funding, design, and development.
7. Estimated cost for the larger regional multipurpose trail concept: approximately \$5,000,000.

ORV and Snowmobile Trail Improvements

1. Improve the existing ORV and snowmobile trail system.
2. Pursue trail extensions and connections to Lincoln, Hubbard Lake, and Alpena.
3. Coordinate trail improvements with broader regional recreation and tourism initiatives.

Snowmobile Trail Grooming Equipment

1. Purchase new snowmobile trail grooming equipment.
2. Utilize available Michigan DNR funding, where eligible, to support equipment acquisition and ongoing snowmobile trail maintenance.
3. Provide appropriate storage and maintenance space for grooming equipment.



County Equipment Storage and Millen Township Property

1. Acquire suitable property in Millen Township for development of a new County Park and equipment storage site.
2. Construct an approximately 40-foot-by-60-foot storage building for snowmobile trail grooming, trail maintenance, and other County equipment.
3. Estimated land acquisition and building development cost identified in the plan: approximately \$75,000.

Rifle Range and Hunter Education Area

1. Identify a suitable location and develop a rifle range.
2. Provide appropriate facilities for hunters to sight in firearms.
3. Design the facility to accommodate hunter safety and educational programs.
4. Incorporate appropriate safety measures, site controls, and operational requirements into planning and design.

Curtis Township

1. Build a new 2,400 square-foot township hall utilizing grant funds awarded by Consumers Energy. The township hall will also support recreational and community needs by providing flexible indoor space for community gatherings, recreational activities, and other events.
2. Develop water access and hiking trails at Indian Lake Day Use and Picnic Area.
3. Improve existing public waterfront access points through the addition of paved boat launches and vaulted outhouses.
4. Pave the ramp and deck at Vaughn Lake.

Township of Greenbush

Public Access Site

1. Install signage at two Lake Huron access points along US-23 and pave the north site due to its popularity and significant amount of usage.

Cedar Lake Park

1. Site and Landscaping Improvements

- a. Improve landscaping, including addressing overcrowding of existing trees.
- b. Remove the obsolete changing room structure.
- c. Install a horseshoe pit to expand recreational opportunities.

2. Playground and Children's Recreation Improvements

- a. Add additional sand to the children's play area.
- b. Update or replace the existing play structure.
- c. Add a toddler swing to provide recreation opportunities for younger children.
- d. Install an ADA-compliant rubberized playground surface to improve safety and accessibility.



3. Beach and Swimming Area Improvements

- a. Add additional sand to improve the beach area.
- b. Purchase and install a new swim platform.
- c. Install an AED defibrillator and life jacket station to improve water safety and accessibility.

4. Parking and Accessibility Improvements

- a. Pave the existing parking area to improve access, usability, and site conditions.
- b. Incorporate appropriate ADA-accessible routes between the parking area, playground, beach, and other park amenities as part of future improvements.

Spencer Park

1. Improve park safety and security by extending electrical service throughout the park to support the installation of security cameras, enhancing grounds monitoring, protecting park facilities, and improving visitor safety.
2. Add a toddler swing to the children's play area.
3. Redevelop and improve the existing trail area by installing mile markers, improving trail identification and wayfinding, and incorporating nature education stations that highlight local wildlife, plant life, habitats, and other natural features to encourage outdoor recreation and environmental education.
4. Develop a designated, safe, and accessible dog park to expand recreational opportunities and provide a dedicated space for residents and visitors to exercise and socialize their dogs.
5. Update grills and picnicking amenities.
6. Update landscaping with native species.
7. Update signage throughout the park.
8. Replace the swing bench and update the benches and shaded seating area at the children's playground.



BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

Several demographic, economic, and environmental factors influence recreational planning in Alcona County:

1. Alcona County has an older population, with a median age of 58.2 compared to 40.2 statewide, and 35.8% of residents are age 65 or older. Facilities should provide accessible, age-appropriate recreation, including improvements to accessibility at the ARA Site.
2. Residents represent a wide range of ages, requiring a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities for youth, families, adults, and seniors.
3. With a median household income of \$54,993 compared to \$80,734 statewide, affordable and conveniently located recreation is important, particularly for residents with limited transportation resources.
4. The County's natural beauty and rural character are important community assets. Recreation improvements should protect natural resources, scenic areas, and ecological and historic features while supporting tourism.
5. Recreation can contribute to economic development and quality of life by attracting visitors, young families, and entrepreneurs while helping retain local youth.



Future recreational development should therefore emphasize accessibility, affordability, opportunities for all ages and abilities, protection of natural and scenic resources, and sustainable maintenance of existing and new facilities using available staff and volunteer resources.

5

Planning Process

How public input and community priorities guided development of the plan.





Chapter 5

Planning Process

Alcona County Planning Process

Development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The Alcona County Board of Commissioners was the lead entity in developing the County's Recreation Plan. County Board meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. Below is a timeline for the development of the recreation plan.

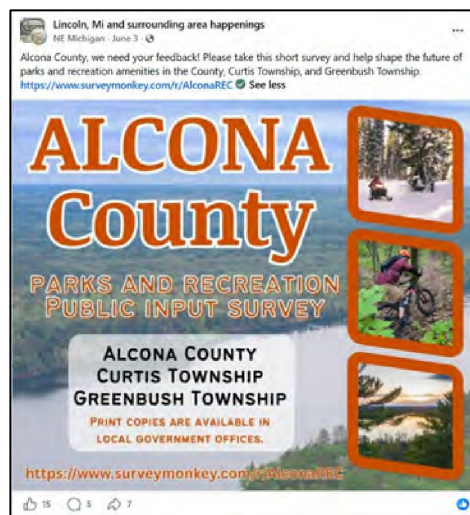
PLANNING SCHEDULE	
Month	Activity
01/2026	County and Township Officials contracted with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) to assist in drafting a recreation plan for the Alcona County Joint Recreation Plan.
02/2026 to 06/2026	NEMCOG drafted an online survey with recreation questions and worked with the representatives from the Townships and County to finalize the survey. The survey was released to the public and made available on the County website and community Facebook pages. Additionally, paper copies of the survey were available at the County Building and Township Offices.
03/2026 to 07/2026	NEMCOG reviewed the prior plan and made updates to the community description, administrative structure, and the recreation inventory.
07/2026	NEMCOG staff conducted on-site visits to each recreational facilities in the County and Townships and conducted an accessibility assessment.
08/2026	NEMCOG staff met with the County and Townships to discuss survey results and formulate goals, objectives, and an action plan.
xx/xxxx	A public notice appeared in the xx advertising the Recreation Plan's availability for review and the date of the public hearing.
xx/xxxx	The Alcona County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the Recreation Plan. After considering public comments, the County Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution of Adoption.
xx/xxxx	The Curtis Township Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the Recreation Plan. After considering public comments, the Board passed a Resolution of Adoption.
xx/xxxx	The The Township of Greenbush Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the Recreation Plan. After considering public comments, the Board passed a Resolution of Adoption.

Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is vital to the development of a recreation plan. An online survey was offered to citizens to gain input about recreation facilities in the County. The Joint Project Team approved the survey, and it was publicized on local government websites and community Facebook pages, and paper copies were available at local government offices. The survey was open to Alcona County residents, property owners, visitors, and other recreation users. The County received 94 survey responses. The survey results can be found in the Appendix.

The Action Plan and Capital Improvement Projects were developed following the collection and documentation of public input. Feedback received throughout the public input process was carefully considered and incorporated into the development of the Action Plan and the Capital Improvement Projects list.

Joint Recreation Public Survey Publicity



Adoption Process

Public Notice



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

89 Livingston Blvd Suite II-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

Notice of Availability and Public Hearing Alcona County Joint Recreation Plan

Alcona County ▪ The Township of Greenbush ▪ Curtis Township

September 20, 2026

The 2027-2031 Alcona County Joint Recreation Plan draft is now available for public review and comment period. This joint plan includes Alcona County, Curtis Township, and the Township of Greenbush.

TO VIEW THE PLAN

1. Download it from one of the following websites: www.nemcog.org, www.alconacountymi.com, www.curtistownship.com, or www.greenbushtwp.net
2. View a copy of the plan at the Alcona County Building, 106 5th Street, Harrisville during normal business hours.

TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

1. Send written comments to NEMCOG, Attn: L. Damer, P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734
2. Send via email to ldamer@nemcog.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Following the public review, the Alcona County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the Alcona County Joint Recreation Plan that includes Alcona County, Curtis Township, and the Township of Greenbush, on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 1:30 pm.

The meeting will take place at the Alcona County Building located at 106 5th Street in Harrisville in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room. The public hearing provides an opportunity to participate in the final development of the Recreation Plan.

To be added:

Meeting Agenda and Minutes – Public Hearing

Meeting Agendas and Minutes – Alcona County BOC meeting, Curtis Township BOT,
Township of Greenbush BOT

Resolutions of Adoption

Submittal Letters

To be added after adoption

6

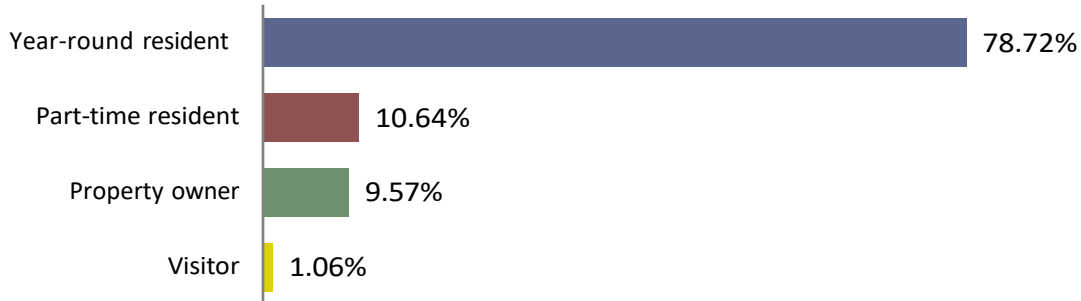
Appendix

Survey results, supporting documents, and records from the planning process.

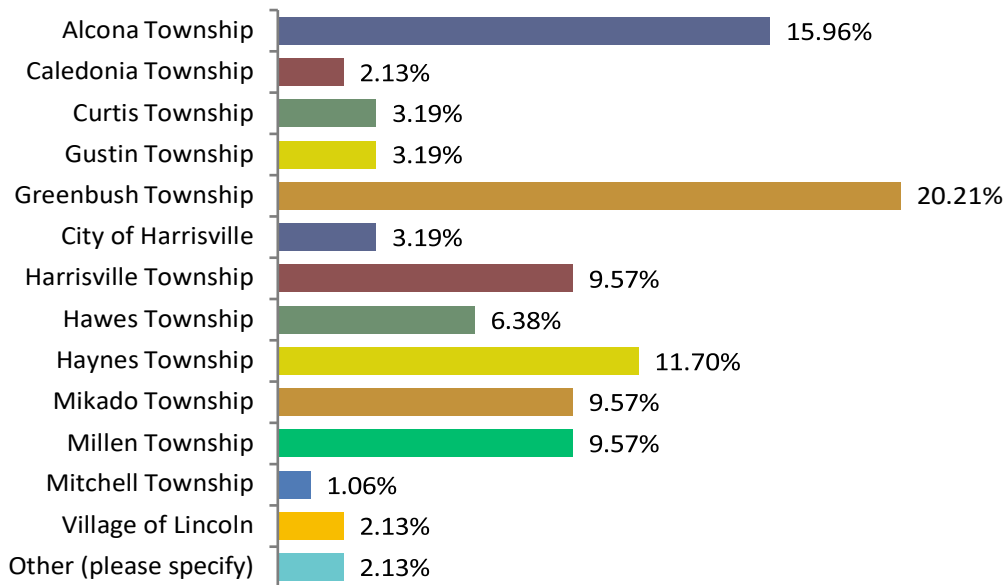


Appendix A: Survey Results

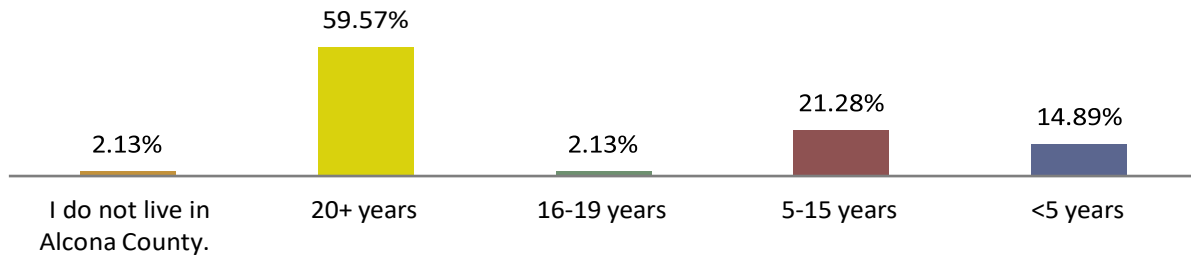
Q1: What is your residency status? (94 responses)



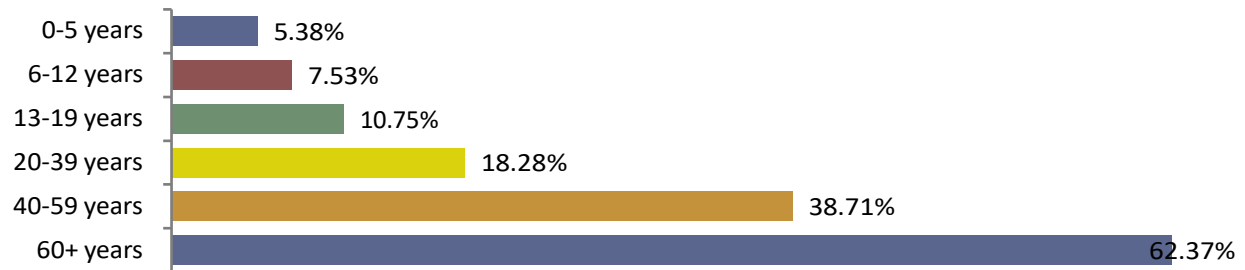
Q2: Where do you live? (94 responses)



Q3: How long have you lived or owned property in Alcona County? (94 responses)



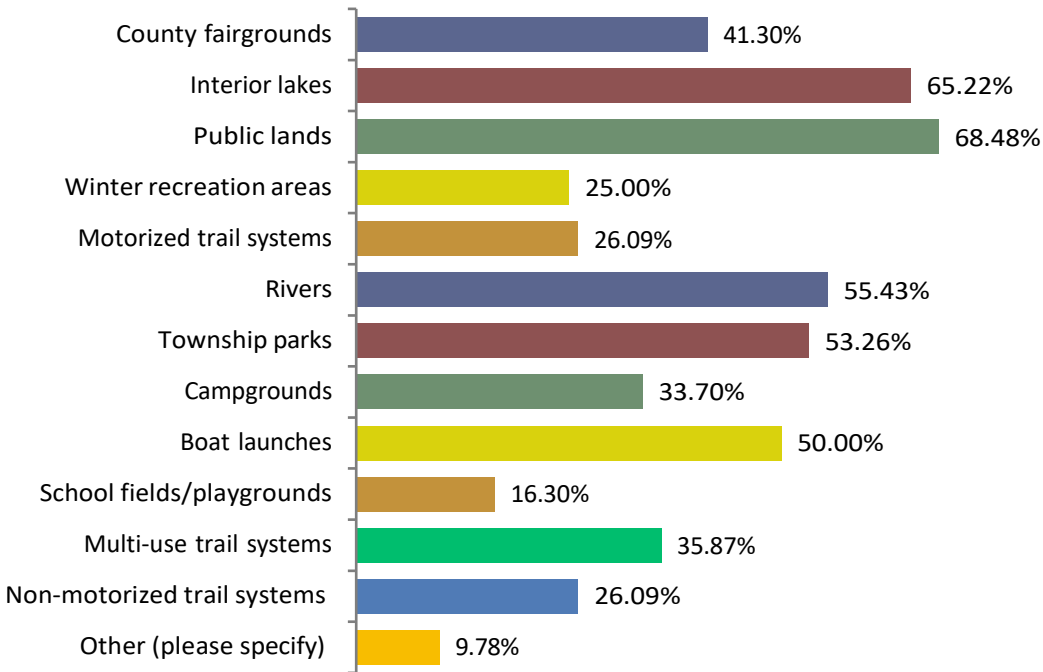
Q4: What are the ages of the members of your household? (93 responses)



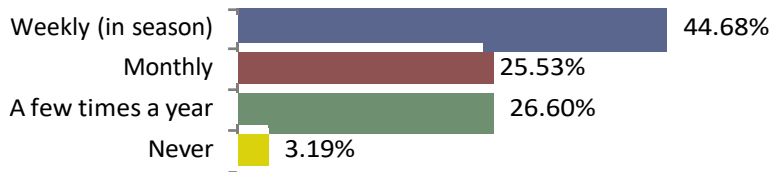
Q5: On a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), how much of a priority are parks and recreation to your quality of life? (90 responses)



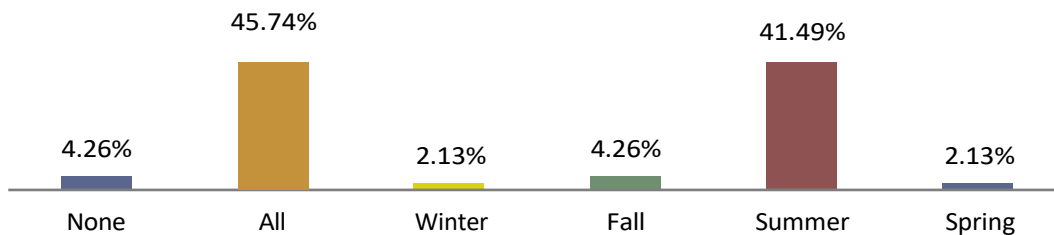
Q6: Which facilities do you use most often? (92 responses)



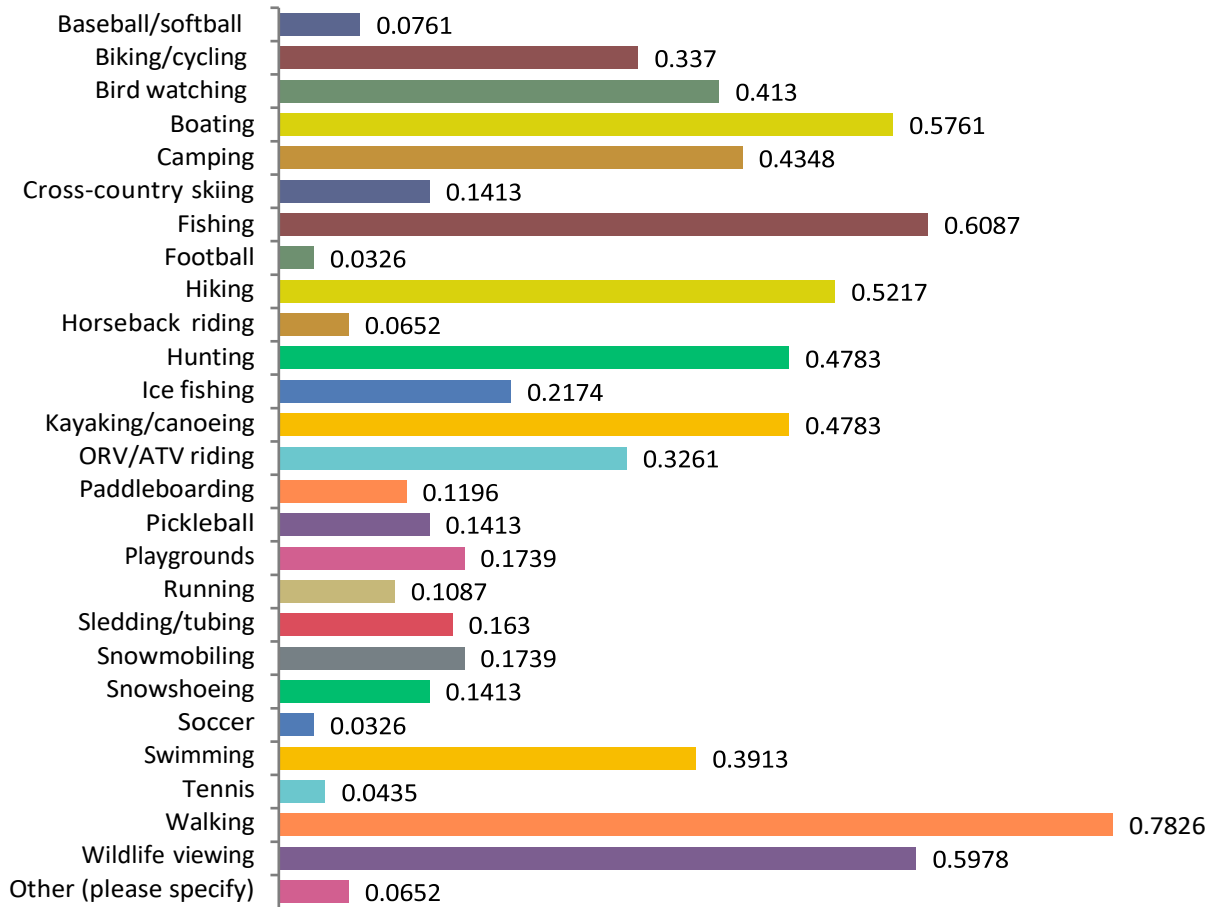
Q7: How often do you use recreational facilities/areas? (94 responses)



Q8: In which season do you use recreational facilities/areas most often? (94 responses)

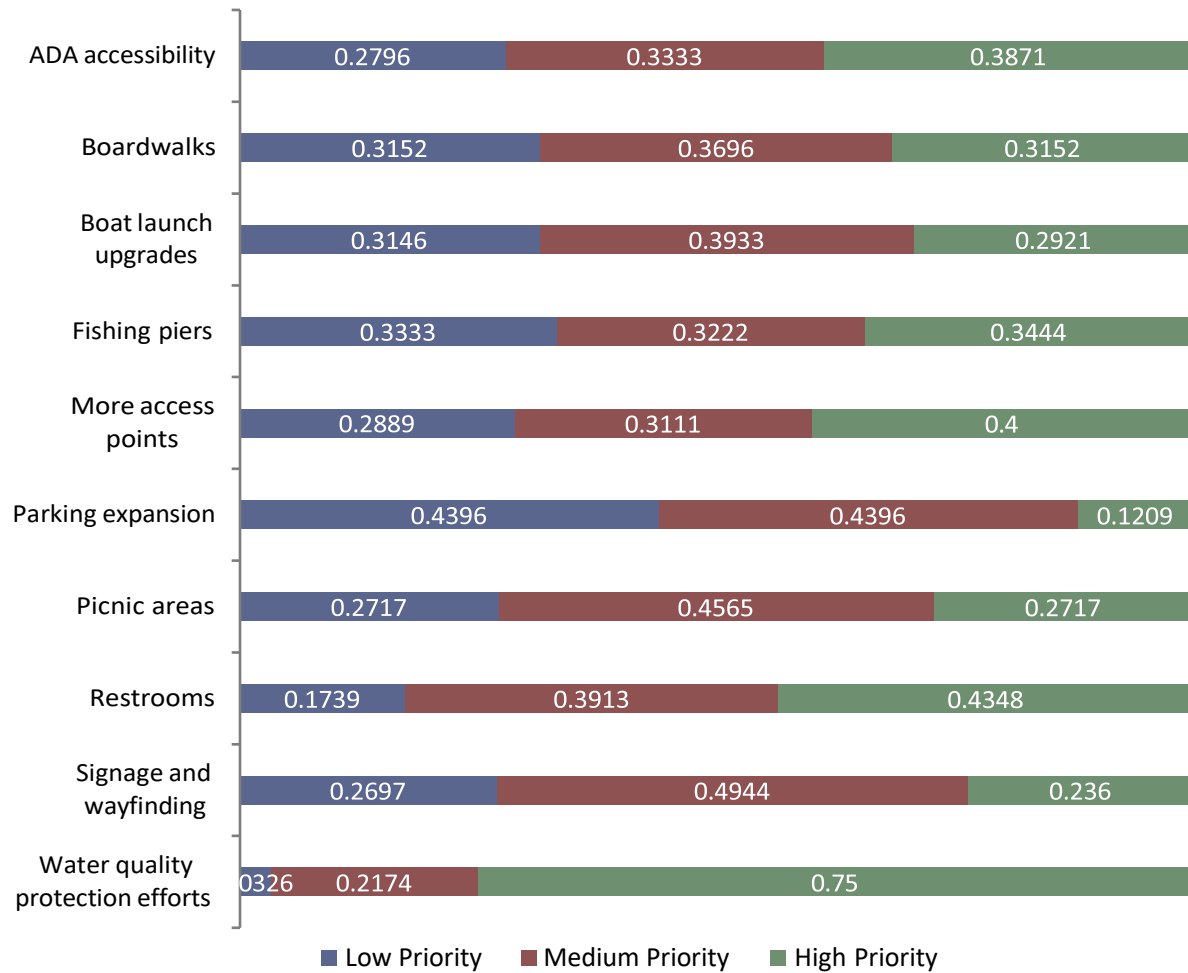


Q9: Which activities do you participate in? (92 responses)



Other: painting, photography, rock collecting, splash pads with the kids, bike riding, sitting on the beach

Q10: How much of a priority are the following waterfront improvements? (93 responses)



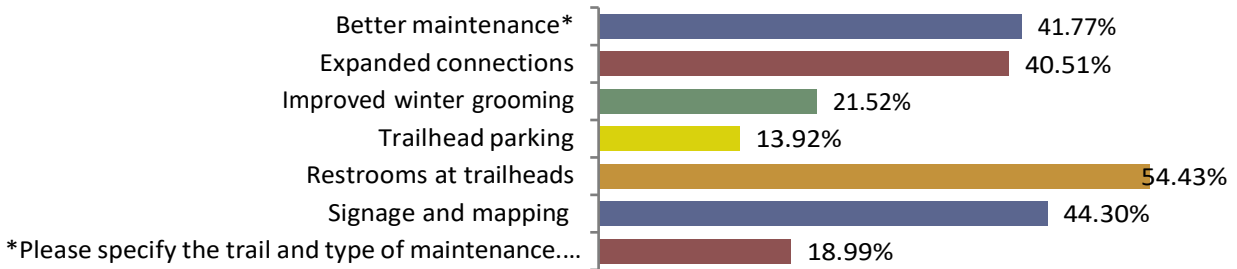
Q11: How would you rate the overall quality of recreation areas/facilities in your community? (94 responses)



Q12: How would you rate current public waterfront access? (94 responses)



Q13: What trail improvements are most needed? (79 responses)

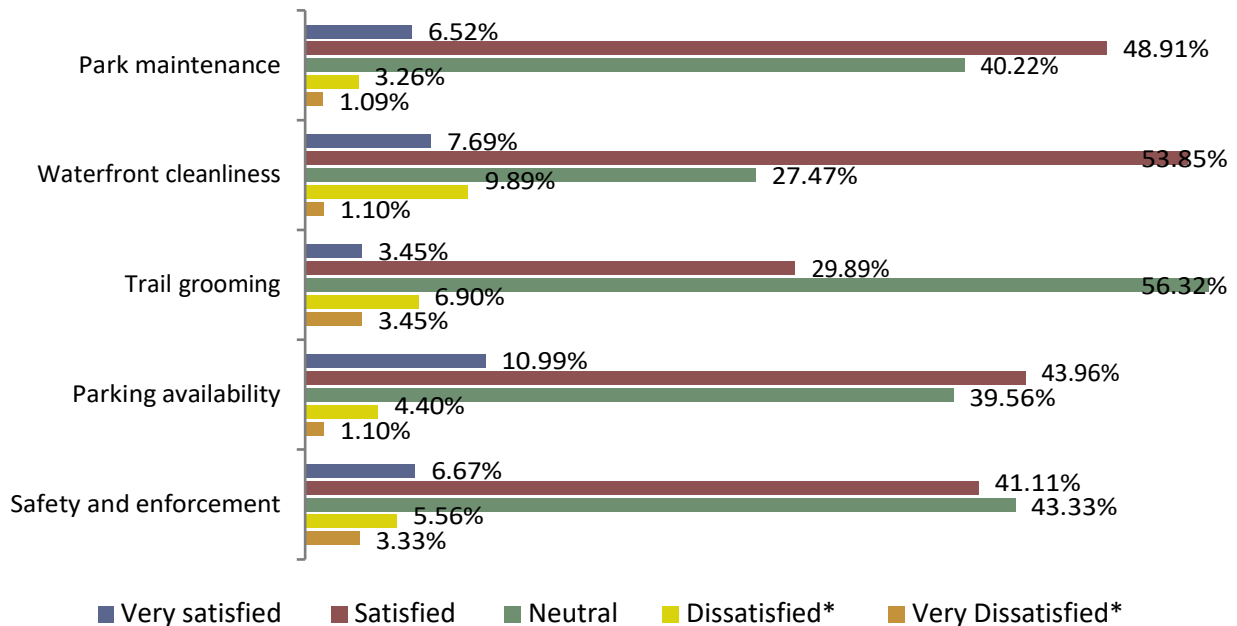


- More water trails designated
- Most trails need to update the maps and signage; upgraded for sxs; accessibility.
- Negwegon Chippewa Hills. Better maintenance and XC grooming
- All need to be cleaned up; trimmed back and surface cared for comfortable walking.
- Grooming ATV trails (2 comments)
- Wider trails to push back tick habitat (2 comments)
- Summer grooming - cleaning brush and fallen trees from trails

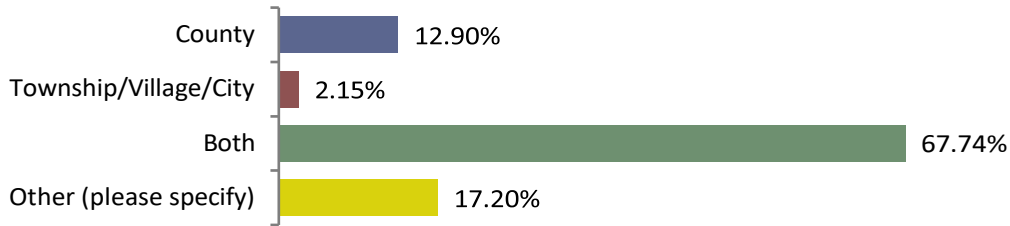
Q14: Which should be the highest priority over the next five years? (92 responses)



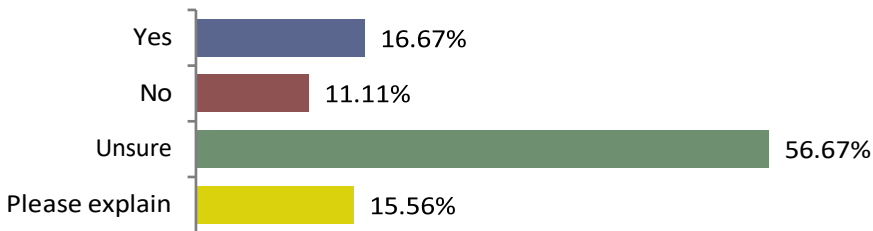
Q15: How satisfied are you with...? (92 responses)



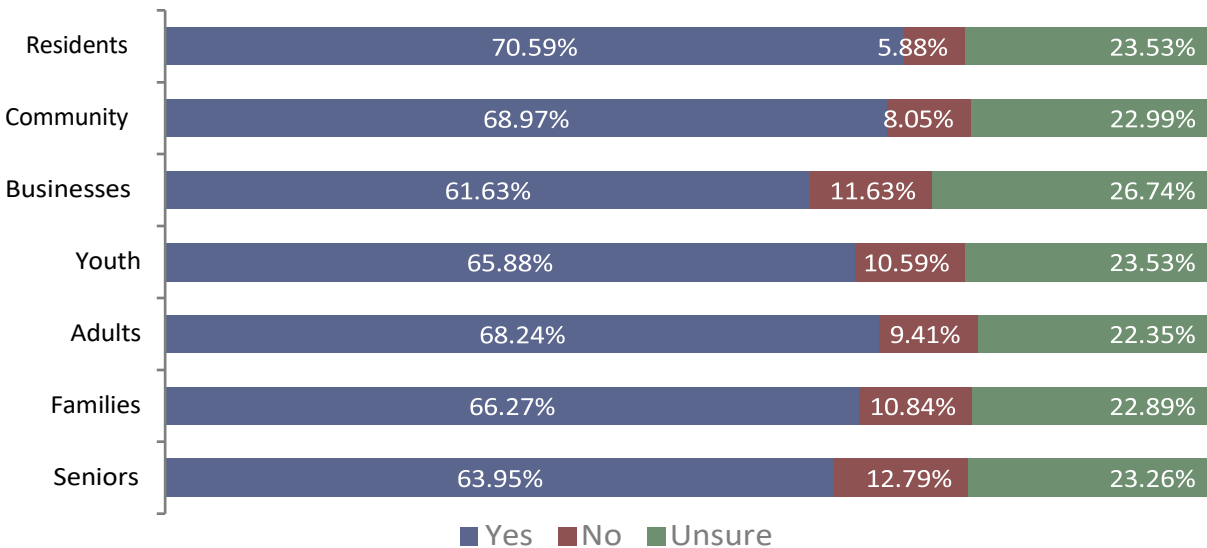
Q16: Who should invest in facilities that support recreation tourism? (93 responses)



Q17: Are there gaps in recreation services that neither your municipality nor the county currently address? (90 responses)



Q18: Are there specific improvements that would most benefit the following groups? (88 responses)



Q19: What recreational facilities, equipment, or amenities would you like to see added to or improved in your local community?

Trails, Biking & Hiking

- Paved/leisure trail around Hubbard Lake
- More bike, mountain bike, walking, and hiking trails.
- Better trail connections, signage, boardwalks, and seasonal grooming.

ATV, ORV & Equestrian

- More ATV/ORV and SxS trails and riding areas.
- Better equestrian facilities.

Beaches & Lake Access

- More public beaches, lake access, and a Lake Huron public park.
- Better lake access at Cedar Lake Park.
- Black River Boat Launch and beach improvements.
- Acquire and preserve Black Rock Beach for public recreation, conservation, and historical significance, potentially using grant funding.

Kayaking, Boating & Fishing

- More kayak/canoe launches, including an accessible launch.
- More fishing, kayaking, and boat rental opportunities.

Children & Families

- More and better playgrounds, splash pads, and play structures.
- Improve maintenance of existing children's parks.
- Add family attractions such as putt-putt golf and picnic areas.

Swimming & Indoor Recreation

- Indoor/community swimming pool.
- Summer swimming lessons.
- Movie venue and more year-round entertainment.

Pickleball, Tennis & Fitness

- More pickleball courts.
- Resurface Harrisville tennis courts for tennis and pickleball.
- Outdoor exercise stations.

Parks & Amenities

- Dog park, benches, gazebos, picnic areas, and ship-viewing platforms.
- Update existing parks and improve maintenance.
- Consolidate facilities to focus resources on higher-quality recreation sites.

Camping & Visitor Services

- County campgrounds, possibly at Sprinkler Lake (partner with Forest Service)
- Park-and-ride locations and a dump station near dry camping areas.

Seniors & Youth

- More senior and youth activities.
- Additional children's opportunities around the Harrisville Mill Pond and elsewhere.

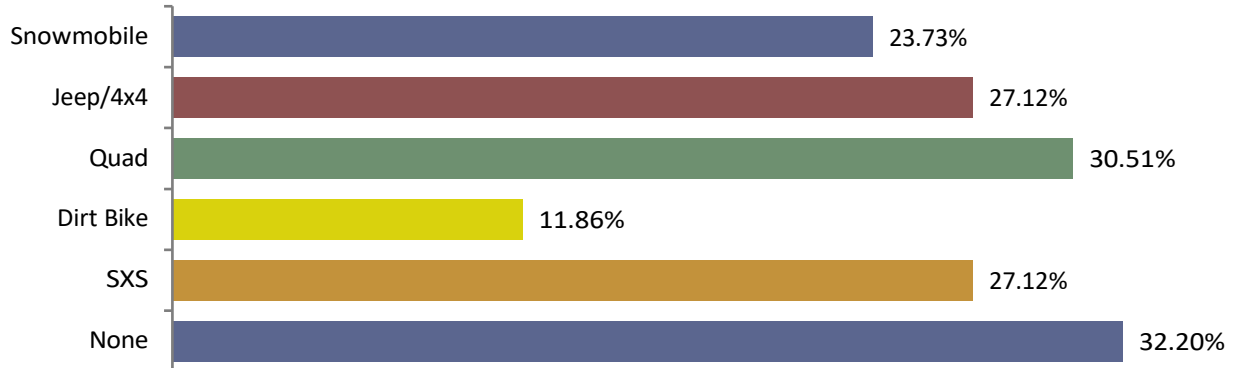
Other Comments

- Maintain the community as it is; avoid new taxes.

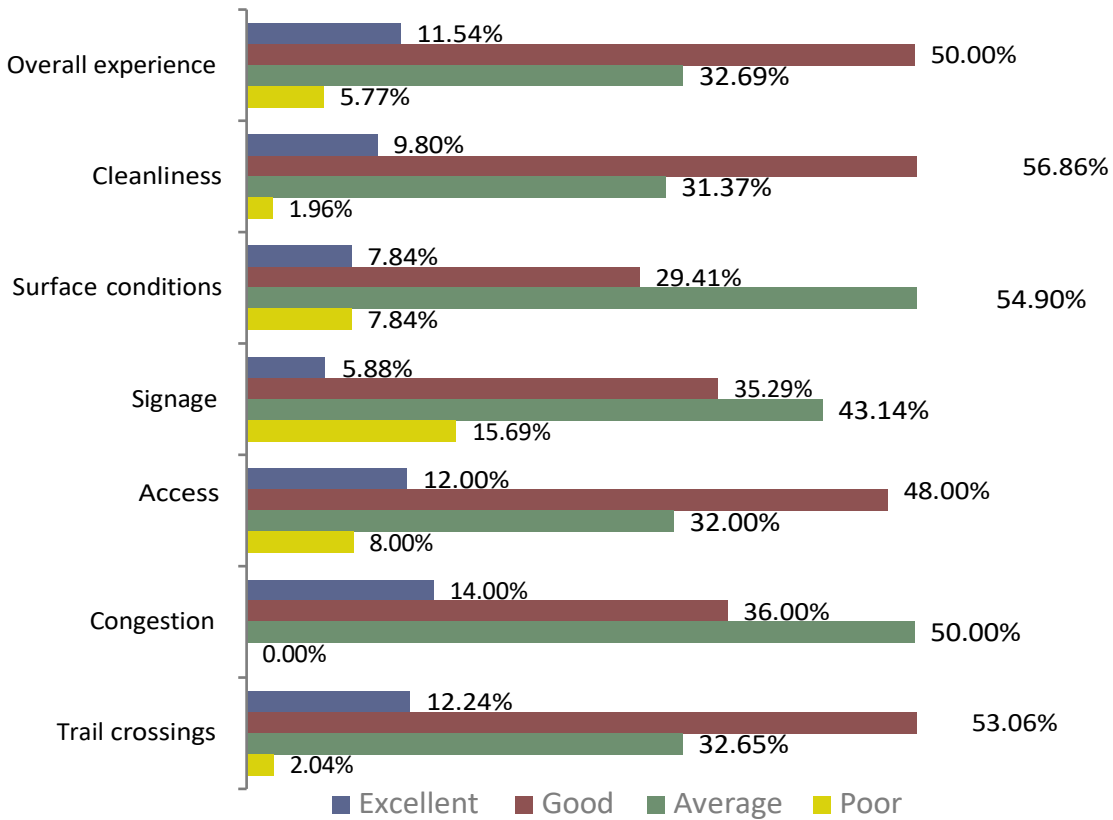
Q20: Do you use the trail system in Alcona County? (92 responses)



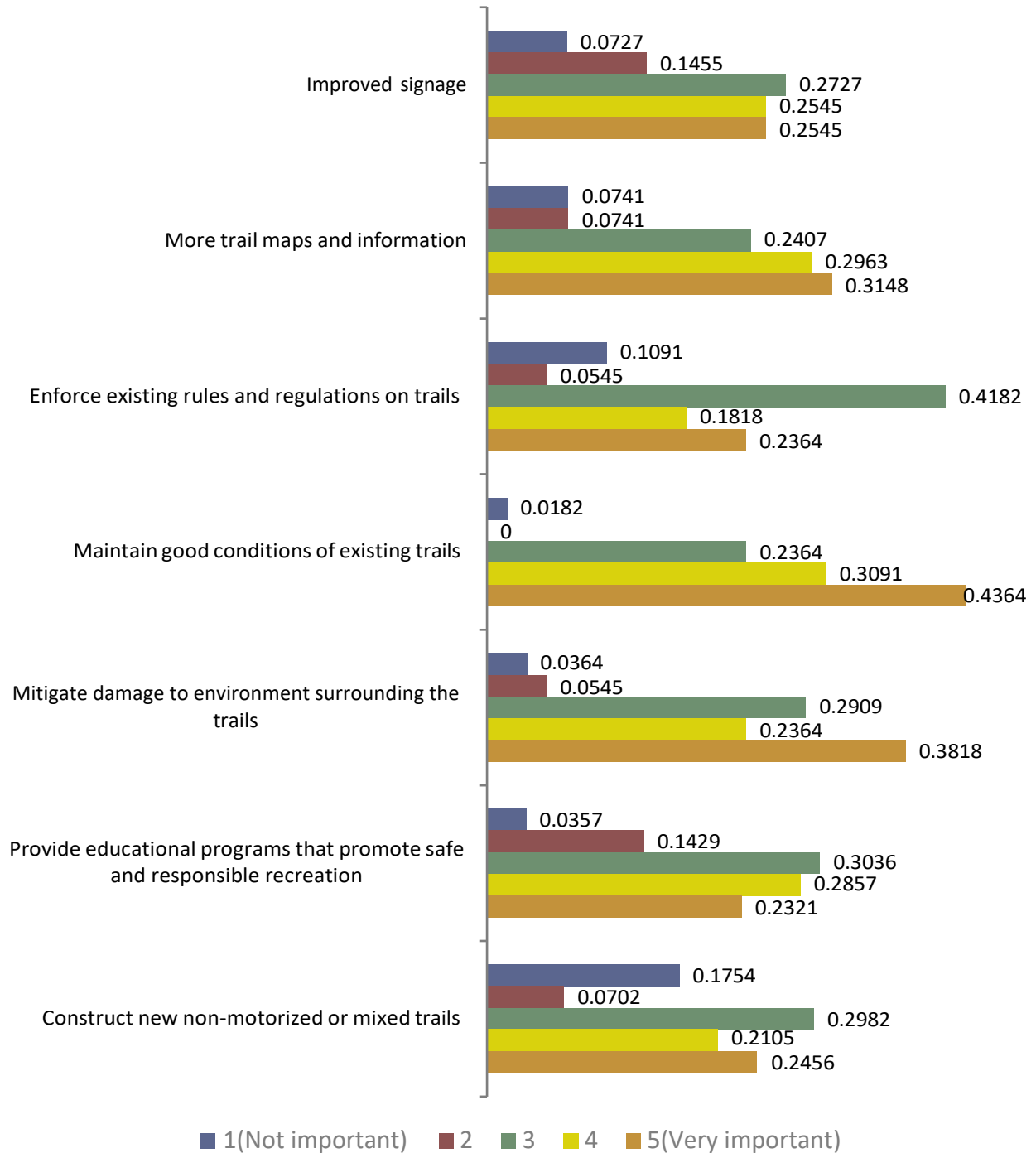
Q21: Which of the following do you use for motorized recreation? (59 responses)



Q22: Please rate the trail system based on the following factors. (52 responses)



Q23: Please rate the following to the degree of importance. (57 responses)



Q24: Is there anything else you would like to add? (21 responses)

Parks, Beaches & Public Access

- Preserve and potentially acquire Black Rock Beach.
- Add more public beaches and waterfront access.
- Improve beach access, parking, and fishing opportunities in Harrisville.
- Maintain and update existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Preserve recognition of the Ken Adair Baseball Field at Spencer Park.

Trails & Snowmobiling

- Develop longer, connected trails across the county.
- Maintain existing snowmobile trails.
- Review snowmobile grooming frequency and practices.

ARA Site

- Expand year-round use of the ARA Site.
- Add hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing opportunities.
- Improve mowing and routine maintenance.
- Develop the site as a community gathering place.

Water & Natural Resources

- Manage weekend tube, kayak, and canoe rentals on the Au Sable River.
- Promote litter prevention and responsible forest use.
- Support efforts involving Sprinkler Lake and Camp Friends.

Tourism & Economic Development

- Better promote recreation opportunities and community assets.
- Improve access to countywide recreation information.
- Consider a countywide Chamber of Commerce.
- Use recreation to support tourism and economic development.

Amenities & Funding

- Provide more pet-friendly recreation options.
- Improve opportunities for family outdoor recreation.
- Prioritize maintenance before adding new facilities.
- Avoid new local taxes for recreation improvements.
- Explore tourism-supported funding and recreation grants.

Appendix B:

Post-Completion, Self-Certification Forms

Lower Landing Campground – Alcona Park

Boat Ramps – Alcona Park

Harrisville Township Recreation Area

Appendix C:

Supporting Documentation



Alcona County Board of Commissioners

Alcona County Building
P.O. Box 308
Harrisville, MI 48740

Voice: (989) 724-9410
Facsimile: (989) 724-9419

October 17, 2016

MI Department of Natural Resources
Finance & Operations Division, Grants Section
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

Attn: Christie Bayus, Program Manager

RE: Alcona County Recreation Grants – "Transfer" Status

Dear Ms. Bayus:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the "transfer" status regarding three (3) recreation grants that Alcona County has received; two projects were for LWCF grants at Alcona Park, and the third project was for a Bond Fund grant at the Harrisville Recreation Area.

1. The Lower Landing Campground at Alcona Park, Project No. 26-00210, LWCF Grant for \$39,500.00 awarded in 1970. The Alcona County Parks Commission was the lessee of this project site (Consumers Energy Co. or the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture have been the lessors) until April 28, 1982, when the lease was transferred to Curtis Township. Curtis Township has since leased and operated the Alcona Park Lower Landing Campground solely for recreational purposes.
2. The Alcona County Park Boat Ramps, Project No. 26-01232, LWCF Grant for \$8,776.88, awarded in 1981. The Alcona County Parks Commission was the lessee of this project site (Consumers Energy Co. or the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture have been the lessors) until April 28, 1982, when the lease was transferred to Curtis Township. Curtis Township has since leased and operated the Alcona Park Boat Ramps solely for recreational purposes.
3. The Harrisville Recreation Area, Project No. BF89-530, Bond Fund Grant for \$15,000.00 in 1989. This property was owned and operated by the Alcona County Parks Commission until they transferred ownership of the site to Harrisville Township on July 22, 1994. Harrisville Township has since owned and operated the site solely for recreational purposes.

Please contact me if you have questions or need more information. I look forward to hearing from you regarding the progress of amending the grant project agreements for these sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin Boyat, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Boyat, Sr., Chairman
Alcona County Board of Commissioners

"Alcona County is an equal opportunity provider and employer"