

ANTRIM COUNTY PARKS, LANDS AND RECREATION PLAN



**Antrim County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Master Plan - 2013 to 2018**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Natural Resources
- 1.2. Climate
- 1.3. History
- 1.4. Relationship to County Master Plan
- 1.5. The Planning Process

2. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

- 2.1. Social Characteristics and Population
- 2.2. Population Distribution within the County
- 2.3. Households in Antrim County
- 2.4. Age Distribution of Residents in Antrim County
- 2.5. Gender
- 2.6. Senior Citizens
- 2.7. Race
- 2.8. Persons with Disabilities
- 2.9. Antrim County Labor Force

3. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- 3.1. Antrim County Parks and Lands Committee
- 3.2. Antrim County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- 3.3. Staff and Administrative Support Personnel
- 3.4. Contracted and Jointly Managed Facilities
 - 3.4.1. Grass River Natural Area, Inc. (GRNA)
 - 3.4.2. Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission (ACNA)
 - 3.4.3. Wetzell Lake Day Park
 - 3.4.4. Forestland Resources
 - 3.4.5. Elk Rapids Dam Fishing Park
- 3.5. Operational Budget
- 3.6. Inter-Agency Relations
- 3.7. Rules and Regulations Governing the Use of County Parkland
- 3.8. Community Barrier-Free Compliance Status

4. RECREATION IN ANTRIM COUNTY

- 4.1. Regional Recreational Opportunities
- 4.2. Demand for Recreational Opportunities
- 4.3. Tourism in the Region
- 4.4. Equitable Access
- 4.5. Partnerships

5. RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

6. RECREATIONAL NEEDS

- 6.1. Establish a Parks Department within the County
- 6.2. Develop a Connecting Trail System
- 6.3. Increase Public Access to Water
- 6.4. Improved Camping Facilities
- 6.5. Improve Facilities at Day Parks
- 6.6. Improve Facilities at Natural Areas
- 6.7. Create a Parks and Land Classification System
- 6.8. Establish a Long-Term Funding Plan
- 6.9. Natural Resource Planning
- 6.10. Acquisition of Lands
- 6.11. Other Identified Needs

7. ACTION PROGRAM, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE AND RATIONALE

- 7.1 Rationale for the Action Program/Capital Improvements Schedule
- 7.2 Community Goals
- 7.3 Action Program
 - 7.3.1. Grass River Natural Area
 - 7.3.2. Barnes Park
 - 7.3.3. Elk Rapids Day Park
 - 7.3.4. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area
 - 7.3.5. Maintenance of County Forest Lands
- 7.4 Additional Parks and Recreation Plans



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Natural Resources

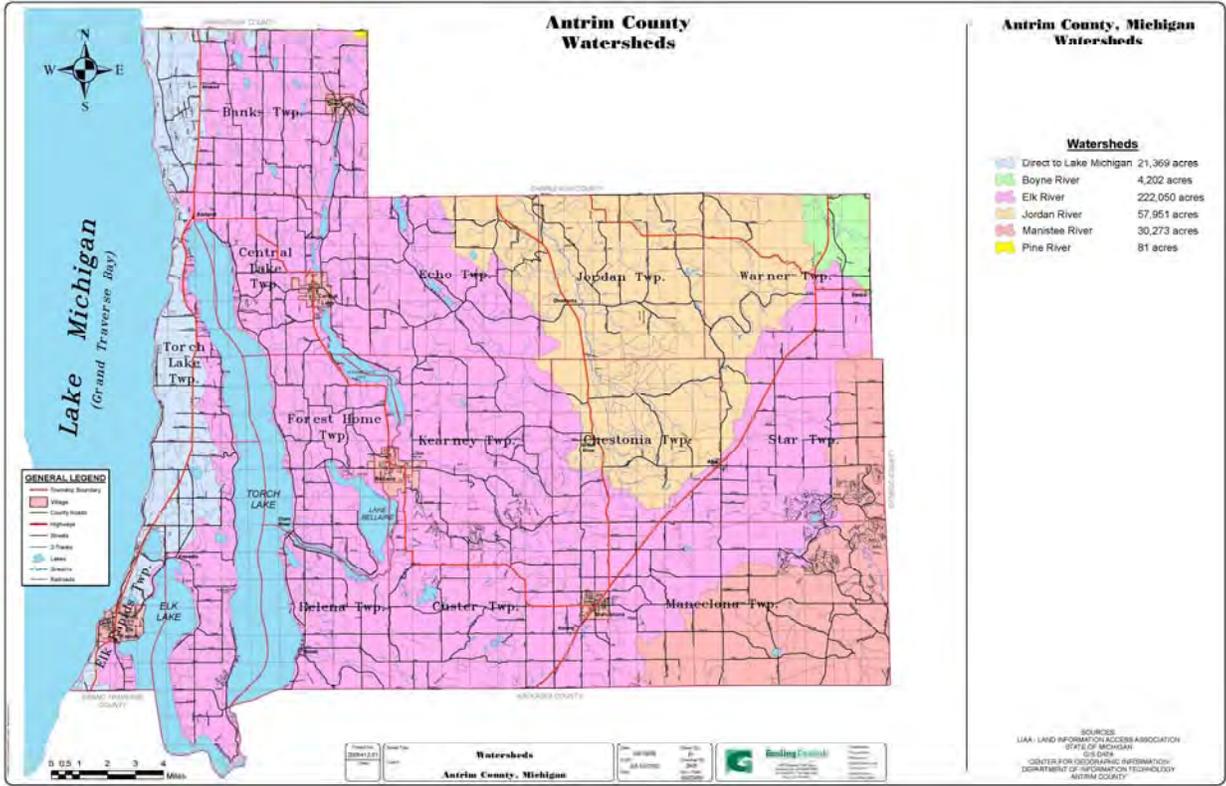
Antrim County contains a wealth of natural resources which are enjoyed throughout the year by visitors and residents alike. The fresh water lakes and rivers in the County comprise nearly 20,480 acres, including the Chain of Lakes, the Jordan River Valley and numerous watersheds. Public and private forests cover nearly half of the County, approximately 280 square miles. Recreation for residents and visitors is year-round, where hunting, fishing, boating and snowmobiling are popular activities. The County attracts a large number of tourists during the Fall Color Season, specifically in the Northeast corner of the County in the Jordan River Valley.

The Elk River/Chain of Lakes Watershed is a major tourist attraction, encompassing approximately 500 square miles in four counties: Antrim, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Charlevoix. Approximately 23% of the basin drainage area is covered by water. There are more than 30,000 acres of wetland soils associated with more than 200 streams that flow directly into the Chain of Lakes. At least 138 miles of recognized trout streams are within the watershed, including 55 miles of designated Class 1 trout streams, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division.

The Upper Chain in the Elk Rapids/Chain of Lakes is above the dam in the Village of Bellaire and consists of Beals Lake, Scotts Lake, Six Mile Lake, St. Clair Lake, Ellsworth Lake, Wilson Lake, Benway Lake, Hanley Lake and Intermediate Lake. Below the dam, Lake Bellaire, Clam Lake and Torch Lake continue the Chain, connected by the Grass River, which is well known for its protection of natural resources and environment.

The Lower Chain begins at the outflow of Torch Lake and includes Skegemog Lake and Elk Lake. The high water quality of the lakes and streams in the Elk Rapids/Chain of Lakes is one of our County’s most important assets.

The Elk River/Chain of Lakes Watershed covers the majority of the western half of the County and is the largest sub-watershed of the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Elk River/Chain of Lakes Watershed contributes nearly 60% of the surface water flowing into Grand Traverse Bay, including fourteen (14) primarily oligotrophic and mesotrophic lakes in its chain. An additional fourteen (14) lakes exist as closed basins or headwaters of minor tributaries. Torch Lake alone accounts for 5% of the total inland lake surface water and 24% of the inland lake water volume in the State of Michigan.



This unique watershed has over 163 miles of shoreline and almost 65 square miles of surface water. The water drops 40 feet in elevation as it flows the nearly 55 miles on its way to Grand Traverse Bay/ Lake Michigan.

1.2. Climate

The Michigan Department of Agriculture, Climatologic Division prepared the follow climate data:

In winter months, the temperature ranges in the high-to-mid-20's for an average high and the average low temperature is in the mid-teens. During the growing season, the average highs are about 70 degrees with lows near 50 degrees at night. The temperatures are influenced and modified in the spring and fall from the lake effect. This "Great Lake Effect" provides cooler temperatures in the spring and warmer temperatures in the fall. The west half of Antrim County lies within the presence of Lake Michigan, which tends to lessen extremes in temperature and creates a climate favorable to production of specialty crops such as cherries, grapes and other various fruits. The inland lakes and soil conditions of this western area permit such types of agriculture not otherwise feasible at this high latitude. During the summer, the off-the-lake air currents tend to prevent high temperatures and maintain humidity. In the autumn months, they retain heat and in the spring help retard premature growth with the cold retained in the lakes.

Growing degree-days are equivalent to the "heat units." During the month, growing degree-days accumulate by the amount that the average temperature each day exceeds a base temperature (50 degrees F.) The normal monthly accumulation is used to schedule single or successive plantings of a crop between the last freeze in spring and the first freeze in fall. The scheduling of pesticide application is also based on degree days.

The total annual rainfall ranges from 30 to 33 inches. Of this rainfall, 18.7 inches usually fall in April through September. The growing season for most crops lies within this period. Evaporation generally exceeds rainfall during the growing season. The average seasonal snowfall, as recorded by the Road Commission, is 156 inches and the winter storage of water in the root zone is important for the production of forest and agricultural crops for the upcoming year. Thunderstorms occur on approximately 31 days of each year.

The average relative humidity in mid-afternoon is about 63%. The sun shines 75% of the time possible in summer and 40% in winter. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. Lake Michigan, on the western portion of the County, impacts the weather for an average distance of 10 to 15 miles inland.

1.3. History

Historically, Antrim County was originally known as Meguzee County. As an unorganized County, Meguzee was laid out in 1840. In 1843 the name was changed to Antrim. Antrim County began to become a serious recreational and tourism destination in the 1920's after the decline of the then dominant lumber industry. The County was also home to several of the earliest summer camps in northern lower Michigan, the first being

founded on Clam Lake in 1895. In 1998 Michigan State University Extension estimated that Antrim County had 44,445 acres devoted to public recreational use

In the late 1930's the County began acquiring lands for the purposes of parkland development and forestland management with the purchase of 50 acres on the shore of Lake Michigan for \$1,000 that later became the first county park, Barnes Park, which today provides excellent camping facilities, swimming and hiking trails for residents and visitors. Tax reverted lands were added to the County's land base throughout the early 1940's. The Grass River Natural Area represents the first area dedicated as an official Natural Area and is well known as an outdoor educational area today. The Grass River Natural Area includes 69 parcels totaling nearly 1,443 acres.

The County continues to develop its stewardship ethic towards its natural resources and recreational areas. Today, the County faces a number of influences in regards to its recreational areas and land uses that did not necessarily exist in the past.



The County's population growth will continue to affect its stewardship, as since the 1960's Antrim County has experienced a demographic transition from a declining population to a population undergoing rapid, sustained growth. The challenge related to this population growth is the potential for sprawling development competing for the County's remaining undeveloped areas.

There continue to be challenges associated with providing recreational opportunities for a wide variety of recreational pursuits, with the County making parks more accessible to tourists while preserving the natural resources. Addressing these challenges will impact how the County can continue to provide recreational opportunities in a way that keeps pace with the changing population and shift in tourism as well as balance the need to protect and enhance our natural resources for the foreseeable future.

1.4. Relationship to the County Master Plan

The 2012 Antrim County Master Plan recognizes the need for a strong Parks and Recreation program to help with the continued development of the County. The 'Human Element' section summarily states: "Social Planning, that is understanding the needs and human trends of human environment, is often overlooked". This statement reflects the need for balance between growth and environmental practices. The summary also adds that Parks and Land Use should work together with Social Planning elements to attain the most benefits for Antrim County residents. The 'Human Element' section continues by incorporating community surveys designed for the County Master Plan which have been directly used in creating the Parks and Recreation Plan, which also identifies the main priorities of the 2010 Parks and Recreation Plan.

1.5. The Planning Process

This Plan development was prepared under the direction of a dedicated, eight member Parks and Recreation Advisory Board appointed by the Antrim County Board of Commissioners. The committee was composed of the following members:

Mike Crawford, County Commissioner
Jerome Dobrzelewski, Antrim County Road Commission
Mike Meriwether, Antrim Conservation District
Don Schuiteman, Citizen Appointment
Linda Gallagher, Citizen Appointment
Al Hurd, Citizen Appointment
Stan Moore, MSU Extension

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meet monthly in an open public meeting. They conduct public workshop sessions with special interest and conservation groups and met with local township officials and other agencies. The Board has been working for two years to develop a plan that presents a road map to guide in the acquisition, planning, development, programming, management and funding of the county parks and recreation areas throughout Antrim County. As with the previous Plan, it was determined that so much information was different from the prior plan, that a complete

re-evaluation of existing facilities was required to effectively identify and prioritize recreation needs in the community.

The development of this Plan was a multi-objective process. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board continues to attempt to prioritize the County recreational needs, including updating and improving the facilities, developing a local recreational inventory, and continuing to implement the plans brought forth from public forums and discussions.

In preparation for the planning process, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board held two public forums to set preliminary priorities for this Plan. The Advisory Board, staff from the Office of the Coordinator/Planner, County Commissioners, park employees, staff from both the Antrim Conservation District and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (identified supporting agencies), and general public identified many issues as priorities for this Plan, such as: watershed protection, open space protection, economic development issues, maintenance of existing facilities, non-motorized trails, boat launches and public access to water.

Local townships, villages and planning commissions were contacted, with a copy of the past recreational inventory being mailed to each unit, requesting the inventory be reviewed for accuracy and completeness. Subsequent communications clarified changes and new facilities added to the inventory. As the inventory developed, copies pertaining to each local unit of government were mailed to them for their review and approval of the compiled inventory.

Two individual Parks and Recreation Forums were held for the local units of government, residents and the general public to bring further information and insight to the Advisory Board regarding what the County may wish to concentrate on to improve recreational needs. These forums were open to the public, and the information from those forums is the basis for some of the future developments the County could undertake. The people present reviewed a list of preliminary projects, developed by the staff and Advisory Board members, after review of the recreation inventory in its entirety.

Additional projects were discussed in some detail. These items were then prioritized based on the preliminary prioritization, the ability of the staff or other groups to carry out the action items and the degree of effort required to see long-term goals moved along. Judging criteria was based upon the ability of a particular item to satisfy the guidelines, are the resources in place to successfully complete the action item, and can a reasonable portion of a long term project be accomplished within the scope of this Plan.



2. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

2.1. Social Characteristics and Population

The 2010 U.S. Census revealed Antrim County's population as 23,580 residents, distributed among 15 townships and 5 incorporated villages. This represents a **2% increase** over the 2000 Census figures of 23,110 residents. .

Table 1.1 shows the growth and decline in population in the County and in each of the fifteen townships and five villages within the County. Note that the Village of Bellaire lies partly in Kearney Township and partly in Forest Home Township.

Table 1.1 – Population Distribution

	1970	1980	1970-1980	1990	1980-1990	2000	1990-2000	2010	2000-2010
	Census	Census	% Change						
Antrim County	12,612	16,194	28.40%	18,185	12.29%	23,110	27.08%	23,580	2.00%
TOWNSHIP/--VILLAGE	1970	1980	1970-1980	1990	1980-1990	2000	1990-2000	2010	2000-2010
	Census	Census	% Change						
Banks	1,231	1,515	23.07%	1513	-0.13%	1813	19.83%	1609	-11.25%
--Ellsworth	362	436	20.44%	418	-4.13%	483	15.55%	349	-27.74%
Central Lake	1,482	1,766	19.16%	1919	8.66%	2254	17.46%	2198	-2.48%
--Central Lake	741	895	20.78%	954	6.59%	990	3.77%	952	-3.84%
Chestonia	386	433	17.66%	401	-7.39%	546	36.16%	511	-6.41%
Custer	381	490	28.61%	630	0.29%	988	56.83%	1136	14.98%
Echo	542	723	33.39%	766	5.95%	928	21.15%	877	-5.50%
Elk Rapids	1,631	2,086	27.90%	2374	13.81%	2741	15.46%	2631	-4.01%
--Elk Rapids	1,249	1,504	20.42%	1626	8.11%	1700	45.50%	1642	-3.41%
Forest Home	1,080	1,333	23.43%	1410	5.78%	1858	31.77%	1720	-7.43%
--Bellaire (part)	392	499	27.30%	483	-3.21%	492	18.60%	481	-2.24%
Helena	515	781	51.65%	837	7.17%	878	4.90%	1001	14.01%
Jordan	303	410	35.31%	583	42.20%	875	50.09%	922	5.37%
Kearney	997	1,241	24.47%	1487	19.82%	1764	18.63%	1765	0.06%
--Bellaire (part)	505	564	11.68%	621	10.11%	672	8.21%	605	-9.97%
Mancelona	2,258	2,720	20.46%	173	16.65%	4100	29.22%	4400	7.32%
--Mancelona	1,255	1,432	14.10%	1370	-4.33%	1408	27.70%	1390	-1.28%
Milton	853	1,271	49.00%	1468	15.50%	2072	41.14%	2204	6.37%
Star	331	453	36.86%	575	26.93%	745	29.57%	926	24.30%
Torch Lake	391	711	81.84%	762	7.17%	1159	52.10%	1194	3.02%
Warner	249	261	4.82%	287	9.96%	389	35.54%	416	6.94%

Since 1960 Antrim County has experienced a demographic transition from a declining population to a population undergoing rapid, sustained growth. This phenomenon, started in the 1960's, accelerated during the 1970's and 1980's, and continued through the 1990's. Due to largely economic changes, this slowed in the 2000s.

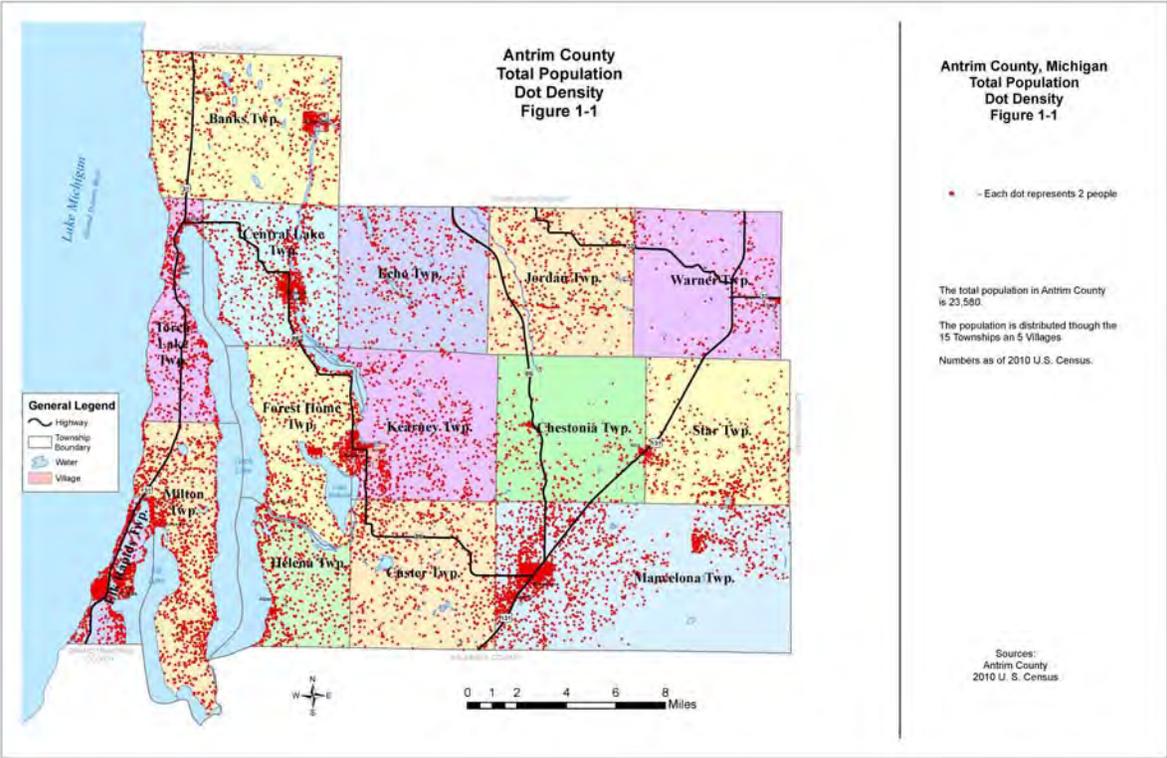
This return migration process has greatly altered the socioeconomic patterns of Antrim County over the last 25 years. The socioeconomic structure of the County has depended upon recreation/tourism activities for the majority of this century, and this dependence continues to grow. The reverse migration process of individuals seeking a rural setting to escape the pressures and strains of urban life, along with the large seasonal population within the County, continues to increase demands for local public services, specifically recreational services. This constitutes a strain on existing facilities within the County. This increase in population continues to present challenges to planning and services the

County will face for the foreseeable future and perhaps into the next century.

2.2. Population Distribution within the County

While Table 1.1 tabulates the distribution of the 23,580 residents by township, Figure 1.1 below gives a graphical representation of the actual location of the residents as recorded by the Census database.

Figure 1.1



2.3. Households in Antrim County

The 2010 census counted 9,890 households in Antrim County, a 6.75% increase over 2000. 69.1% of those households were one- or two-person households. During this period the majority of residential growth within the County has been in those townships that contain, or border Lake Michigan and/or major inland lakes. Another growth area has been in and around Mancelona Township in the eastern part of the County. The average was 2.47 persons per household in 2000, and an average family size of 2.89 persons. The Census shows 64% of the respondents claimed to be, or have been, married. Tables 1.2 and 1.3 present additional household statistics for Antrim County.

Table 1.2 - Antrim County Households

	1970	1980	1970-1980 %	1990	1980-1990 %	2000	1990-2000 %	2010	2000-2010 %
Number of Households	3928	5723	45.70%	6980	21.96%	9222	32.12%	9890	6.75%
Persons Per Household	3.2	2.8	-12.50%	2.58	-7.86%	2.47	-4.07%	2.36	-4.66%
Married Couple Families	2920	4045	0.39%	4419	9.25%	5627	27.32%	5668	0.72%
-- as a percent of total Households	74.30%	70.70%	-4.92%	63.30%	-10.40%	61.00%	-3.62%	57.31%	-6.44%

Table 1.3 – Persons in Households

PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	1980	1990	1980-1990	2000	1990-2000	2010	2000-2010
	% Total Households	% Total Households	Absolute Change	% Total Households	Absolute Change	% Total Households	Absolute Change
One Person	18.30%	21.30%	3.00%	23.48%	2.18%	25.47%	1.99%
Two Persons	35.90%	38.80%	2.90%	41.06%	2.26%	43.63%	2.57%
Three Persons	0.16%	15.30%	-0.50%	13.81%	-1.49%	12.71%	-1.10%
Four Persons	15.30%	14.20%	-1.10%	12.88%	-1.32%	10.47%	-2.41%
Five Persons	8.70%	6.90%	-1.80%	5.61%	-1.26%	4.82%	-0.79%
Six or More Persons	5.90%	3.60%	-2.30%	3.12%	-0.48%	2.90%	-0.22%

2.4. Age Distribution of Residents in Antrim County

According to 2010 Census data, the median age in Antrim County increased by 6.3 years between 2000 and 2010. In 2000 the median age for the County was 41.1 years, increasing to 47.4 in 2010. Census data also shows that age groups over 45 experienced population increases between 2000 and 2010 while all age groups under 45 saw decreases. Table 1.4 shows the relative changes in the various age groups over the past four censuses. Increases in middle age individuals, coupled with strong increases in retirement age people, presents interesting planning problems for recreational use.

Table 1.4 - Antrim County Population by age group

			1970-1980		1980-1990		1990-2000		2000-2010
	1970	1980	% Change	1990	% Change	2000	% Change	2010	% Change
Age Group									
Under 5 Years	1,085	1,185	9.22%	1,281	8.10%	1,235	3.43%	1,155	-6.48%
5-9	1,307	1,232	-5.74%	1,316	6.82%	1,558	18.39%	1,387	-10.98%
10-14	1,403	1,372	-2.21%	1,301	-5.17%	1,746	34.20%	1,444	-17.30%
15 - 19	1,163	1,437	23.56%	1,219	-15.17%	1,497	22.81%	1,417	-5.34%
20 - 24	669	1,144	71.00%	913	-20.19%	969	6.13%	914	-5.68%
25 - 29	644	1,237	92.08%	1,208	-2.34%	1,087	-10.02%	1,004	-7.64%
30 - 34	651	1,039	59.60%	1,400	47.40%	1,292	-7.71%	1,029	-20.36%
35 - 39	602	918	52.49%	1,339	45.86%	1,668	24.57%	1,119	-32.91%
40 - 44	622	847	36.17%	1,123	32.59%	1,796	59.93%	1,510	-15.92%
45 - 49	624	731	17.15%	963	31.74%	1,681	74.56%	1,697	0.95%
50 - 54	661	812	22.84%	940	15.76%	1,496	59.15%	1,931	29.08%
55 - 59	656	879	33.99%	913	3.87%	1,536	68.24%	1,934	25.91%
60 - 64	772	917	18.78%	1,115	21.59%	1,426	27.89%	1,823	27.84%
65 - 69	599	880	46.91%	1,054	19.77%	1,234	17.08%	1,729	40.11%
70 - 74	475	633	33.26%	935	31.91%	1,119	34.01%	1,325	18.41%
75 Years and Up	679	91	37.11%	1,265	35.88%	1,680	32.81%	2,062	22.74%
Total	12,612	16,194	28.40%	18,185	12.29%	23,110	27.08%	23,580	2.03%
Median Age	29.1	32.4		36.8		41.1		47.4	

2.5. Gender

The distribution of Antrim County population by gender is shown in Table 1.5. Overall, males and females are evenly distributed. However, more senior citizens are female

Table 1.5 – Population by Sex

Population by Sex	1980	% of total	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	2010	% of Total
Male	7980	49.28%	8903	48.96%	11545	49.96%	11674	49.51%
Female	8214	50.72%	9282	51.04%	11565	50.05%	11906	50.49%
Age 65 and over	1980	% of total	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	2000	% of Total
Male	1114	45.58%	1423	45.00%	1867	46.29%	2497	40.48%
Female	1330	54.42%	1739	55.00%	2166	53.71%	3672	59.52%

2.6. Senior Citizens

Table 1.6 also lists the population of senior citizens (aged 65 and over) by township and for the County as a whole. While 22% of County residents are aged 65 or over, the lakeshore townships tend to have higher proportions of senior citizens. Antrim County's senior population increased by 1,083 from 2000 to 2010 while the county added only 530 residents over that period of time.

An aging population presents numerous challenges to Antrim County in the provision of public facilities and services. For recreational facilities, the question of access to handicapped patrons becomes a major design, construction, and cost issue. The relative distribution of *types* of recreation facilities may also become a factor as the demographics of the local population continue to evolve.

Age Group	Banks	Central Lake	Chestonia	Custer	Echo	Elk Rapids	Forest Home	Helena	Jordan	Keamey	Mancelona	Milton	Star	Torch Lake	Warner	Antrim County
Under 5 Years	81	105	23	53	34	94	67	37	62	78	316	92	52	33	28	1155
5-9	95	106	39	55	61	135	74	50	75	101	349	127	55	29	36	1387
10-15	107	141	20	62	58	132	100	47	53	113	351	123	60	39	38	1444
15 - 19	108	122	38	66	68	173	68	33	68	107	319	124	53	38	32	1417
20 - 24	55	90	26	40	26	93	44	23	43	66	265	62	38	29	14	914
25 - 34	138	197	45	78	81	171	123	68	119	165	483	151	106	57	51	2033
35 - 44	200	246	55	163	119	239	148	93	132	177	573	234	124	76	50	2629
45 - 54	278	358	89	185	147	371	282	145	171	269	619	330	143	166	75	3628
55 - 59	149	177	46	88	74	217	157	95	81	132	280	199	77	136	26	1934
60 - 64	118	184	34	104	54	235	165	108	66	91	248	183	74	142	17	1823
65 - 74	175	285	75	159	112	374	281	197	78	227	368	349	88	260	26	3054
75 Years +	105	187	21	83	43	397	211	105	44	239	229	230	56	189	23	2162
Total	1609	2198	511	1136	877	2631	1720	1001	992	1765	4400	2204	926	1194	416	23580
Median Age	45.7	48.2	46.2	47.3	44.7	53	53.4	55.6	41	48.1	37.4	51.5	42.8	59.8	37	47.4

Pop. under 65	1329	1726	415	894	732	1860	1228	699	870	1299	3803	1625	782	745	367	18374
Pop. over 65	280	472	96	242	155	771	492	302	122	466	597	579	144	449	49	5216
% Under 65	83%	79%	82%	79%	84%	71%	72%	70%	88%	74%	87%	74%	85%	63%	89%	78%
% 65 and over	17%	21%	18%	21%	16%	29%	28%	30%	12%	26%	13%	26%	15%	37%	11%	22%

2.7. Race

Antrim County is predominantly a single-race community, with 97% of the community identifying itself as white. However, the proportion of members of other races, while small, has continued to grow over the years.

Population by Race	White	Black	Native American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other	Hispanic (of any Race)
1980	16,019	15	119	20	21	65
% of Total	98.92%	0.09%	0.73%	0.12%	0.13%	0.40%
1990	17,985	23	211	24	32	96
% of Total	98.41%	0.13%	1.16%	0.13%	0.18%	0.53%
2000	22,419	45	247	57	70	272
						284

% of total	97.01%	0.19%	1.07%	0.25%	0.30%	1.18%	1.23%
2010	23,176	35	224	55	316	404	
% of Total	98.2%	0.14%	0.94%	0.23%	1.34%	1.71%	

2.8. Persons with Disabilities

The 2011 American Community Survey shows a drop in disabled individuals from 2000. In 2000 just over 21% of Antrim County claimed some form of disability while in 2011 it was 15%.

With such high percentages of the County's population suffering from some form of disability, accessibility issues must be an integral part of all future recreational planning projects.

Disability by Gender and Sex	Male	Female	Combined
Under 5 Years	0%	0%	0%
5-17 Years	5.6%	10.5%	8.0%
18-34 Years	3.4%	3.6%	3.5%
35-64 Years	16.9%	11.0%	13.9%
65-74 Years	30.1%	15.3%	23.1%
75 Years and Over	44.1%	45.9%	45.1%
Total Antrim County	16.0%	13.4%	14.7%

2.9. Antrim County Labor Force

The information for Antrim County's labor force was compiled by the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) using data from the Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD) and the Employee Service Agency. It provides a detailed picture of the employment situation in Antrim County between the years of 2000 and 2009. The overall labor force residing in Antrim County increased by 5.4%. However, the number of unemployed increased by 198.80% in the nine years (2000-2009) while the number of employed workers decreased by 5.4%.

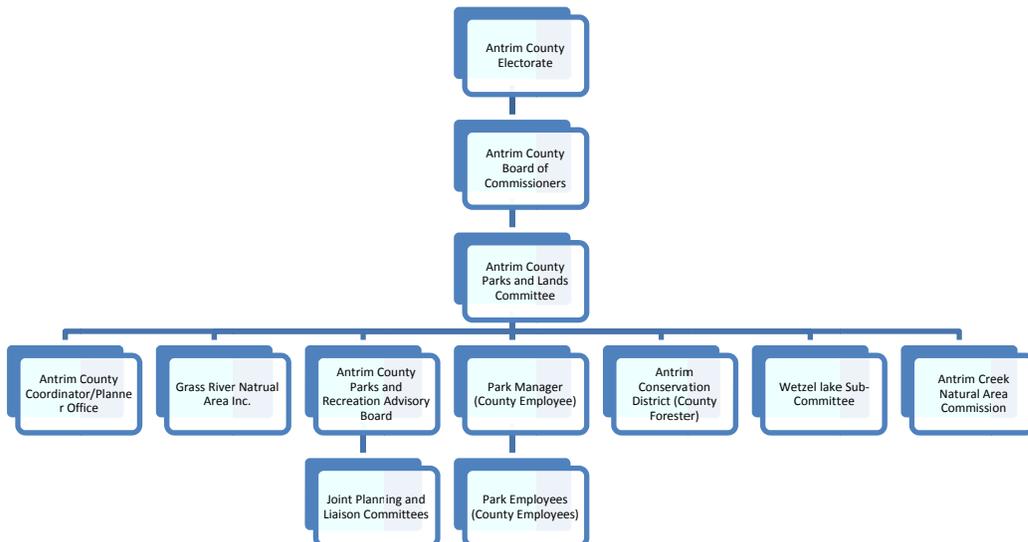
The change in total labor force in Antrim County is shown in Table 1.9 below.

	1990	2000	1990-2000 % Change	2010	2000-2010 % Change	2012
Total Labor Force	8849	10955	23.8%	10757	-1.8%	10066
Employed	7931	10370	30.8%	9100	-12.25%	9023
Unemployed	918	585	-36.3%	1657	183.25%	1043
Unemployment Rate	10.4	5.3	-49.0%	15.4	190.57%	10.4



3. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Antrim County does not have a Parks Department, nor does it have a Parks Director. The County manages its recreational facilities by a mixture of direct management using a combination of County staff and by contracting management of specific facilities. The figure below shows the management system for the park system in Antrim County.



Recent land acquisitions have brought the current holdings of County-owned property to approximately 5,300 acres. Other assets include public road endings that serve as water access points, ball field sites, an industrial site, lake and stream frontages.

3.1. Antrim County Parks and Lands Committee

In January of 2009, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners combined the Parks Committee and the County Lands, Agriculture, and Forestry Committee to form the current Parks and Lands Committee. This Committee is comprised of three County Commissioners whose purpose is to oversee the development and management of the physical parks and forest lands within Antrim County. The Committee meets monthly to hear from the Parks Manager, the County Forester, Grass River Natural Area and the County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The Parks and Lands Committee advises and reports to the Board of Commissioners with recommendations and plans which may increase the recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of Antrim County.

3.2. Antrim County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Antrim County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board serves as an advisory body to the Parks and Lands Committee. As an advisory body, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board works on planning and implement projects, and reports directly to the Parks and Lands Committee any and all findings. This body is not a PA 261 organization; it serves purely as an advisory board to the Parks and Lands Committee and is comprised of 8 members. Membership can include a member of the County Road Commission, the County Conservation District Forester, and County Extension Director. Specific to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is the preparation of the Parks Plan itself and the administration of the annual Petoskey Stone Festival.

Antrim County's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is overseen by the County Parks and Lands Committee, which has no standing budget. The Parks and Lands Committee acts as the budgetary oversight Committee for the County park system on behalf of the County Finance Ways and Means Committee. By acting as a budgetary oversight Committee the County Parks and Lands Committee can help ensure project priorities, reduce waste and inefficiency, and provide much closer budgetary review. The County Parks and Lands Committee oversees all of the budgetary processes for the County's parks and forestlands.

Capital budgets for the various County-managed recreational entities are, whenever possible, provided by the County General Fund. However, the recent financial crisis that many counties face, including Antrim, has forced an almost exclusive reliance on outside grant funding, both public and private, for capital improvements. Antrim County has applied for grants from the Rotary Charities, the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, Coastal Zone Management, Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund, the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust, the Norcross Foundation, as well as various federal agencies. These grant applications have met with varying degrees of success. In most grant budgets, the County will typically provide some percentage of the total project cost with a local cash match.

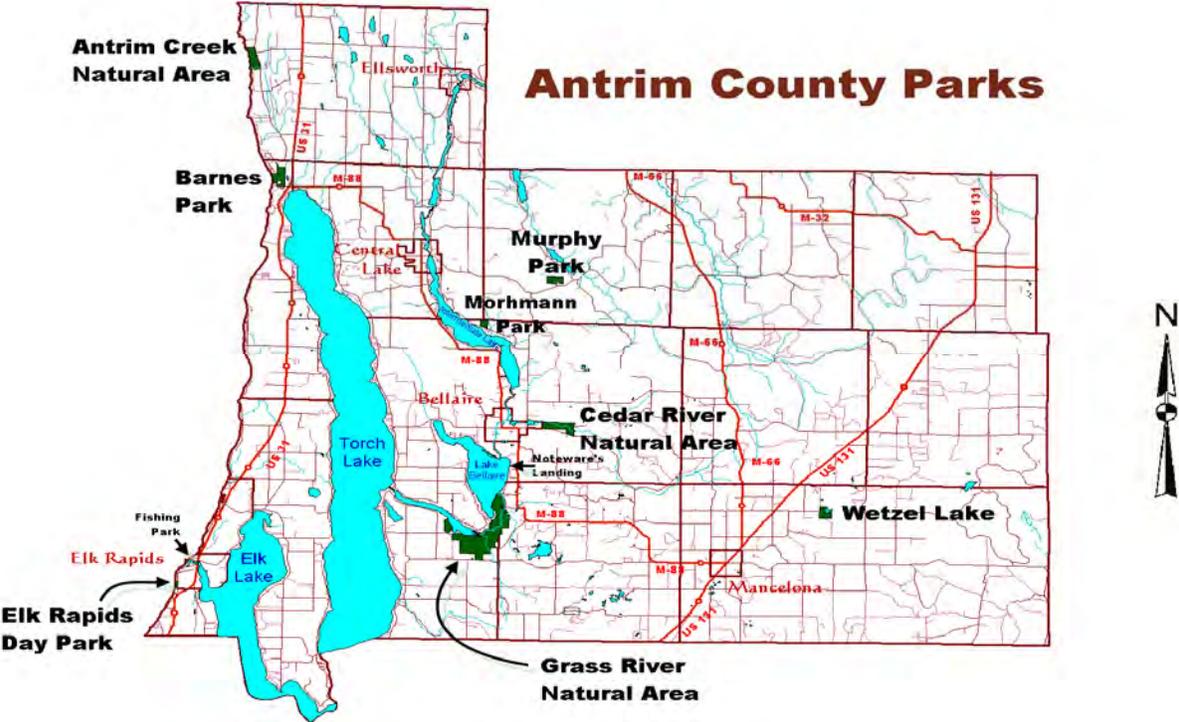
In the future, should funding through grants and the general fund alone be drastically insufficient to meet the needs of the parks and recreation system in Antrim County, other types of funding could be pursued by the County. A general countywide millage is

one possibility. Another possibility would be purchase of stickers required to enter and use County recreation facilities. Special assessment districts may, in some cases be possible and appropriate. Such steps can only be taken after a thorough consensus develops in the County over the direction and long-term objectives that are articulated in the Parks and Recreation Plan.

3.3. Staff and Administrative Support Personnel

Antrim County employs one seasonal Park Manager and numerous seasonal attendants at the County owned campground, Barnes Park. It is the role of the Park Manager to oversee the day-to-day operation of Barnes Park, Noteware’s Landing, and the Elk Rapids Day Park and report any items of concern that may develop to the Parks and Lands Committee. The Parks Manager and staff also perform occasional maintenance at the Antrim Creek Natural Area and other County parks. The Parks and Lands Committee reserves the right to assign additional duties to the Park Manager and staff as they see fit.

The staff of the County Administration and Planning Office administers any and all functions associated with County parks and/or recreation opportunities, i.e. grant administration, park development, trail implementation, etc. The staff of the Administration and Planning Office is the official record taker of all minutes for the Parks and Lands Committee, the Antrim Creek Natural Area Advisory Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The same office holds all documents and files associated with the Parks and Lands Committee, Antrim Creek Natural Area Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.



3.4. Contracted and Jointly Managed Facilities

3.4.1. Grass River Natural Area, Inc. (GRNA)

With the completion of the Grass River Education Center, Grass River will be primarily concentrating on educational programs for elementary students and adults. Over the next 5 years, Grass River Natural Area will work towards extending their educational programs to middle school and high school students. Continuing environmental education through the grades, and combining it with leadership training, will be the best way to ensure respect and stewardship of our natural resources in and around Antrim County.

The County provided an annual contribution of \$54,150 in 2013 to the Grass River Fund for operational expenses. Grass River Natural Area, Inc. provides nearly all of the rest of the funds for the management of the Grass River Natural Area. The majority of operational funds are generated through a variety of sources (membership, donations, fund-raising events, program fees, etc.). The Grass River Master Plan calls for acquisition of additional wetland areas, which is typically accomplished through grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and from private funding sources.

3.4.2. Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission (ACNA)

The Antrim County Board of Commissioners has chosen to create the Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission to oversee the development of a 154 acre natural area, which includes nearly a mile of shoreline along Grand Traverse Bay. The Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission is a collaborative effort between Antrim County, Banks Township, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. The County directly appoints three members of the Commission and the remaining two members are appointed by the County based upon the recommendations by Banks Township. Annual operational expenditures for the Antrim Creek Natural Area are made from the Antrim County General Fund. An Endowment Fund has also been established for the preservation and maintenance of the Natural Area. This Endowment Fund is overseen by an Endowment Committee, chaired by the Antrim County Drain Commissioner, and managed on a day-to-day basis by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

3.4.3. Wetzel Lake Day Park

In partnership with Mancelona Township and the Antrim Conservation District, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners has established a Day Park at Wetzel Lake. The land the park sits on is owned by the State of Michigan but Antrim County has a long-term lease agreement for the site through the forestry management unit of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

3.4.4. Forestland Resources

Antrim County has an agreement with the Antrim Conservation District (ACD) to manage its forest resources and provide private forest land management to

residents free of charge. As part of its contractual obligations, the ACD, through the County Forester, manages 31 parcels containing 3,947 acres of forest, parklands and natural areas that lie entirely within the County forest lands under its jurisdiction. These include Mohrmann Park, Murphy Park, and the Cedar River Natural Area among others.

3.4.5. Elk Rapids Dam Fishing Park

The Elk Rapids Dam Fishing Park is located at the tailrace area of the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric dam and hydroelectric power plant. The park is maintained by the Village of Elk Rapids through a lease agreement with the County for the land and the adjoining beach area.

3.5. Operational Budget

The Antrim County Board of Commissioners appropriates funds from the Antrim County General Fund for the operations of the County park system on a yearly basis. The 2013 budgets for the Antrim County Parks and Recreation system include eight line items: Barnes Park-Operations and Maintenance, Elk Rapids Dam Fishing Park-Operations & Maintenance, Grass River Natural Area, Antrim Creek Natural Area, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Cedar River Natural Area, Noteware’s Landing Wetzal Lake, and Willow Day Park, Mohrmann Park, and Forest Land Management. In addition, there has been an endowment fund set up for Antrim Creek Natural Area.

Antrim County Park-related Operating Budget Items 2013 Funding Levels

<u>Item</u>	<u>2013</u>
Barnes Park	\$226,867.00
Elk Rapids Day Park	\$ 16,794.00
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	\$ 4,034.00
County Appropriation: Grass River Natural Area	\$ 54,150.00
Antrim Creek Natural Area	\$ 5,070.00
Cedar River Natural Area	\$ 3,000.00
Wetzal Lake, Notware’s Landing, and Willow day Park.	\$ 5,000.00
Forestry	\$ 75,000.00

3.6. Inter-Agency Relations

Coordination between the County Parks and Lands Committee and the various reporting entities is handled in a number of ways:

1. One County Commissioner from the Parks and Lands Committee also serves as a member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. This helps ensure information coordination and exchange between both bodies, consultation on maintenance and infrastructure improvement projects, and facilitation of recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board or his/her designee also delivers an update on Parks & Recreation activities at the monthly Parks and Lands Committee meetings.

2. A County Commissioner also serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors of Grass River Natural Area, Inc. This helps to ensure County input and oversight into the operations of Grass River Natural Area, Inc. and the management of the Grass River Natural Area.

3. The County Parks Manager, the Director of the Grass River Natural Area, and the County Forester (or other staff of the Conservation District) regularly report at the meetings of both the County Parks and Lands Committee and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. This ensures communication and coordination between staff and administrative bodies on various projects and in areas of overlapping administrative authority.

4. The staff of the County Office of the Administration and Planning Department serves as administrative staff to both bodies. This helps to ensure a proper flow of information and coordination of projects of mutual jurisdiction and interest.

5. The Chairman of the Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission is a County Commissioner

6. At every meeting of the joint Wetzel Lake Committee, there is a representative of the Parks and Lands Committee, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, Mancelona Township, and the Antrim Conservation District. A Conservation District representative is the District Director, who also serves as the chair of the joint committee. The Director typically reports on Wetzel Lake activities to the Parks and Lands Committee and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Similarly, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board coordinates with various park-related entities around the County. Through regular meetings with joint planning committees and liaison meetings with civic groups interested in furthering recreational facilities in Antrim County, the Board facilitates:

1. Liaison and coordination meetings between members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and local units of government when joint projects are being planned.

2. Information and coordination of meetings with members of civic groups such as local Rotary Clubs, Lion Clubs and others that have an interest in facilities such as non-motorized trails through Antrim County that join the existing trails of neighboring counties.
3. Planning and convening the semi-annual County Parks & Recreation Forum, which gathers local officials, civic groups, and interested county residents and provides a common forum to exchange information and develop useful contacts for future joint planning.
4. Coordination of on-going multi-jurisdiction projects including Wetzel Lake Park, Elk Rapids Day Park, and, as funding allows, the Elk Rapids Fishing Park project.
5. Development of future projects that will most certainly involve numerous townships and the County in the establishment of the Antrim County leg of a regional non-motorized trail (between Mackinac and Frankfort), as well as the establishment of new parks in the eastern half of Antrim County.
6. A member of the Antrim County Road Commission who serves on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, facilitating communication between the two entities.
7. County forest lands (and associated recreational facilities and natural areas) are managed by contractual service with the County Forester. The County Forester also reports monthly to the Parks and Lands Committee regarding forestland activities.

3.7. Rules and Regulations Governing the Use of County Parkland

Rules and regulations governing the use of County Park and Forestlands have been established and amended by the vote of the Board of Commissioners. Typically these Rules are posted at the park. In the case of Barnes Park, rules are printed on the registration form/ticket for the campsite.

In special cases, where inter-jurisdictional agreements are involved, an ordinance for the establishment of the park or natural area may be enacted, with specific rules of use being part of such an ordinance. The Antrim Creek Natural Area Ordinance is an example of such an ordinance.

The County ordinances governing forestlands serve as an umbrella for the management of the parks and natural areas by the Antrim Conservation District. The specific rules and regulations governing each parcel is laid out in the parcels forest management plan written by the County Forester and approved by the County Board of Commissioners. Ordinances for County properties include: the Antrim Creek Natural Area Ordinance, the Barnes Parks Ordinance, the Grass River Natural Area Ordinance, the Jordan River (Motor Boats) Ordinance, the County ORV Ordinance and the Torch Lake and Clam

Lake Rivers Ordinance.

3.8. Community Barrier-Free Compliance Status

All County recreational facilities are evaluated for accessibility on an on-going basis. This occurred as part of the recreation inventory process by the Parks and Recreation Commission along with the managing agencies in 1999. As part of the recreation inventory process in 2004, all local units of government (townships and villages) were asked to report their degree of barrier-free compliance at all their facilities. All local units of government were also asked to report any planned improvement schedules in regards to making the facilities barrier-free.

Antrim County continues to address and resolve all identified accessibility issues at all major county recreation areas. Recent projects that have increased accessibility to our recreational resources include an accessible bathhouse and accessible playground equipment at Barnes Park. The recently completed Antrim Creek Natural Area includes construction of two barrier-free trails and utilizes accessible portable toilet units. The Action Plan and Capital Improvements Schedule, **identified in Section 5**, call for the construction of an accessible office at Barnes Park, and for the construction of a new Interpretative Center at the Grass River Natural Area. It should be stressed that all accessibility improvements will conform to the guidelines listed in *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) and to the guidelines developed by the *Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board*

Until all accessibility action items have been completed, Antrim County will continue to implement the following transition methods: The Grass River Natural Area, Inc. will continue use of an accessible, wooden entrance ramp at the Grass River Natural Area Interpretive Center until a new facility can be constructed. Continued use of accessible portable toilet units will occur at the Antrim Creek Natural Area until all accessible measures identified in the Antrim Creek Natural Area Master Plan have been implemented.

Many individuals have chosen Antrim County as their retirement community. With this aging population, Antrim County is very committed to maintaining and increasing accessibility to our recreational resources. All future facilities and programs will be developed in compliance with ADA guidelines and the guidelines developed by the *Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board*.



4. RECREATION IN ANTRIM COUNTY

Antrim County is rich in the natural resources that attract visitors year-round to enjoy our outdoor and nature-based activities. The abundance of beautiful natural scenery to admire, fresh waters and streams for fishing, canoeing, kayaking and boating, as well as hiking trails, golf courses and ski hills continue to make Antrim County a repeated destination site for families and visitors for generations.

The County's fresh water resources including the Chain of Lakes, the Jordan River Valley and access to Lake Michigan, as well as many other areas, provide constant opportunity for hunters, fishermen, hikers and snowmobilers alike.

The Antrim County Parks and Recreation Board and the staff of the Administration and Planning Department completed a comprehensive inventory of community recreational resources in 2000. In 2004 and 2010, the Administration and Planning Department, along with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, updated the list. A comprehensive, updated inventory was required before effective identification and prioritization of community recreational needs could be accomplished. Data was compiled with the goal of placing the information in a searchable database on the Antrim County web site (see www.antrimcounty.org).

For easier reference geographically, all County properties/facilities, local public properties/facilities, and all school and private properties/facilities within the County have been organized and listed by Township. Included in this inventory are facility location maps that illustrate the location and spatial distribution of all recreational facilities within Antrim County

4.1. Regional Recreational Opportunities:

After compiling its county recreational inventory, the Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission (2000) also tabulated an inventory of recreational facilities outside of the county. The purpose of this regional inventory was to provide a broader perspective to available recreational opportunities, thereby permitting the County to better assess community recreational needs.

In compiling this regional recreation inventory the Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission choose to only inventory those counties immediately adjacent to Antrim County. The Commission believed that the counties adjacent to Antrim County would provide the best perspective in which to analyze community recreation needs. It should also be noted that this regional recreation inventory is not exhaustive (many local recreational facilities and perhaps some county facilities were not accounted for). The purpose of the regional recreation inventory was to better assess recreation needs within Antrim County. Therefore only the most significant recreational facilities within the adjacent counties were inventoried.

The immediate recreational opportunities lying to the north of Antrim County are located within Charlevoix County. Recreational opportunities within Charlevoix County include:

- Fisherman's Island State Park on the shore of Lake Michigan.
- Numerous skiing and golfing opportunities at Boyne Mountain Resort
- Non-motorized trail opportunities; as typified by the Petoskey - Charlevoix Trail
- Numerous boating and fishing opportunities available on Charlevoix County's inland lakes, specifically Walloon Lake and Lake Charlevoix and Round Lake.

Recreation opportunities located to the east of Antrim County are found primarily within Otsego County:

- Otsego State Park
- Pigeon River Country State Forest
- Hartwick Pines State Park
- Hidden Valley Resort
- Sylvan Treetops Resort
- Numerous motorized and non-motorized trails, including the 47-mile Cheboygan -

Gaylord Rail-Trail, highlight the opportunities found within this county.

The majority of immediately accessible regional recreation opportunities are found to the south and west within the counties of Kalkaska and Grand Traverse. Significant acres of State Forest land are located within Kalkaska County. Within State Forest land areas, and along the heavily used Boardman River and Manistee River are numerous State, county, and privately owned camping and canoeing facilities.

- The Village of Kalkaska is home to the Kaliseum recreational complex.
- Kalkaska County has many motorized (Kalkaska Area ORV Trail, the Blue Bear Snowmobile Trail, several MDNRE snowmobile and ORV trails) and non-motorized trails (including North County Trail, the Shore to Shore Trail, Kalkaska Winterfest Trail, and the Boardman River Water Trail) within its borders.
- Kalkaska County recently added a new little league park in Rapid City based on their Recreation Plan.
- The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy manages two nature preserves (Seven Bridges Natural Area and Skegemog Swamp Pathway) within the County.
- Mackinaw State Forest

Grand Traverse County, the most heavily populated county in the immediate region, contains the largest variety of recreational opportunities in the area. Grand Traverse County contains several natural areas and state parks.

- Sand Lakes Quiet Area
- Maple Bay Natural Area
- Ptobego Wildlife Management Area
- Skegemog Wildlife Area
- Brown Bridge Quiet Area
- Traverse City State Park
- Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve

Numerous non-motorized trail opportunities are found within Grand Traverse County including:

- The North American Vasa Trail
- Single-track mountain biking path
- Traverse Area Recreation Trail (TART)
- The North County Trail
- Shore to Shore Horseback Riding Trail
- Boardman River Water Trail

In addition, to non-motorized opportunities, several motorized trail opportunities exist, including Boardman Valley Snowmobile Trail and the Grand Traverse ORV Cycle Trail.

Numerous private skiing, golfing, and gaming opportunities exist within the County. Highlighting these opportunities are the Grand Traverse Resort, the Turtle Creek Casino and Resort, and the Holiday Hills Recreational Area.

4.2. Demand for Recreational Opportunities

The most popular and demanded recreational activities are related to access to our water resources. Boating, fishing and beach activities are primary uses. Public land hunting, snowmobiling, and hiking support a number of seasonal activities on public lands and golf and skiing are provided on private lands. All of these recreational activities are considered high on the demand list.

4.3. Tourism in the Region

Currently Antrim County hosts a variety of tourist-based festivals and recreational attractions. An annual Petoskey Stone Festival is held yearly at Barnes Park, located on the shore of Lake Michigan, which draws people from outside Michigan as well as around Northern Michigan, to celebrate the State Stone. Antrim County is also home to a series of parades and festivals throughout the summer months, such as the Rubber Ducky Festival in downtown Bellaire, Harbor Days in Elk Rapids, the Bass Festival in Mancelona, the Central Lake Car Show, the annual Alden Days, Fireman Day in Alba and the Ellsworth Pig Roast. Weekly events are scheduled during the summer evenings to continue to promote tourism in the downtown areas of Bellaire, Alden and Elk Rapids.

4.4. Equitable Access

Recreation close to home and work is important to residents in Antrim County. This is consistent with the Antrim County Board of Commissioner's desire to make Antrim County a good place to visit, raise a family, start a business and to retire. Creating a highly valued quality of life can be supplemented by having a recreational system that can be accessed throughout the County.

4.5. Partnerships

Many proposals for enhancing park and recreational opportunities within Antrim County cannot be achieved without the cooperation between multiple service providers, agencies and user groups. Grants and funding will continue to be necessary, as well as working with the various clubs and organizations in Antrim County. Local village and township zoning officials work with the County in order to locate and secure recreational areas that can be used by both visitors and residents alike. Antrim County has had a great record of working with various local units of government to accomplish various projects in the County. Examples include, working with the Antrim Conservation District and Mancelona Township to create and maintain the Wetzel Lake Day Park, work with Banks Township to create and operate the Antrim Creek Natural Area, and work with Forest Home Township in the creation of Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area.



5. RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

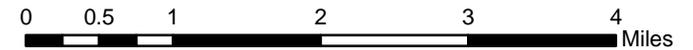
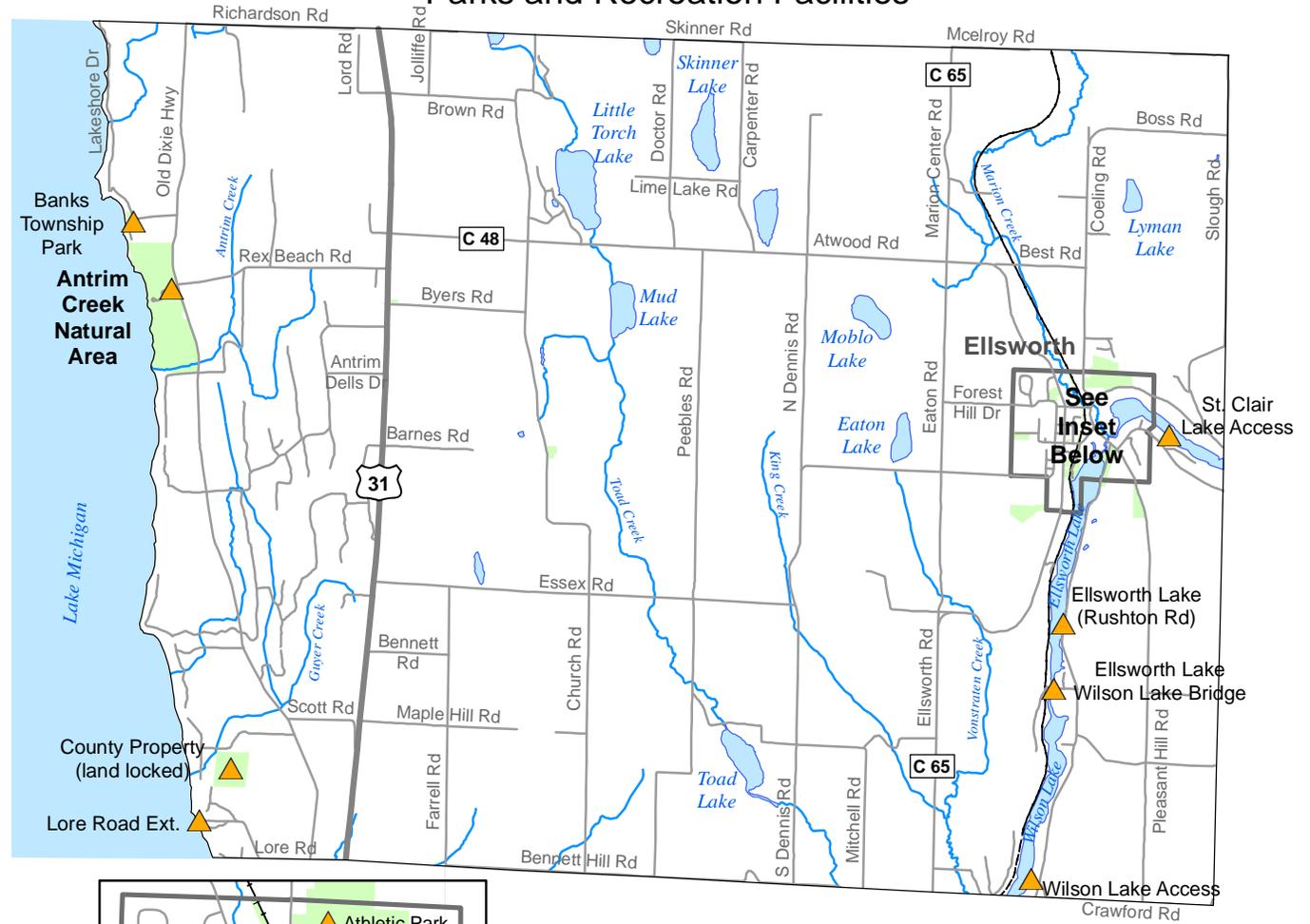
The following pages contain the maps and recreational inventory for Antrim County. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, working with the local units of government and the Township officials have denoted places of interest, parks, forest lands, recreational facilities and camping areas residents and visitors alike. In some instances, road accesses surrounding the lakes incorporated in the Chain O' Lakes act as boat launches and swimming areas. This plan represents the most complete listing of these areas for future planning and use issues. The inventory is alphabetical in regards to the Townships. Appendix A is a comprehensive list of past grants that Antrim County has received for park acquisition and development.

Banks Township Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010

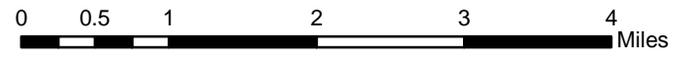
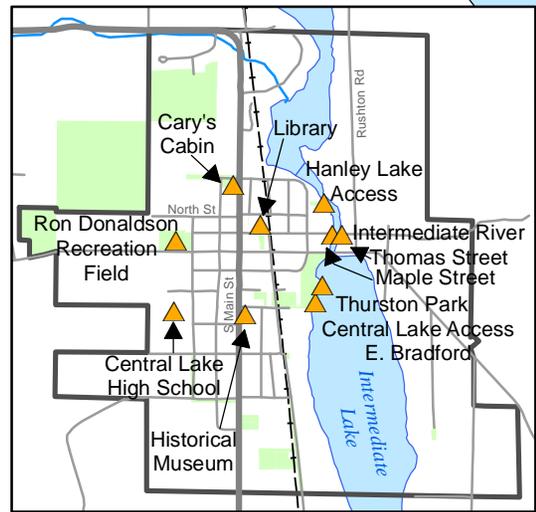
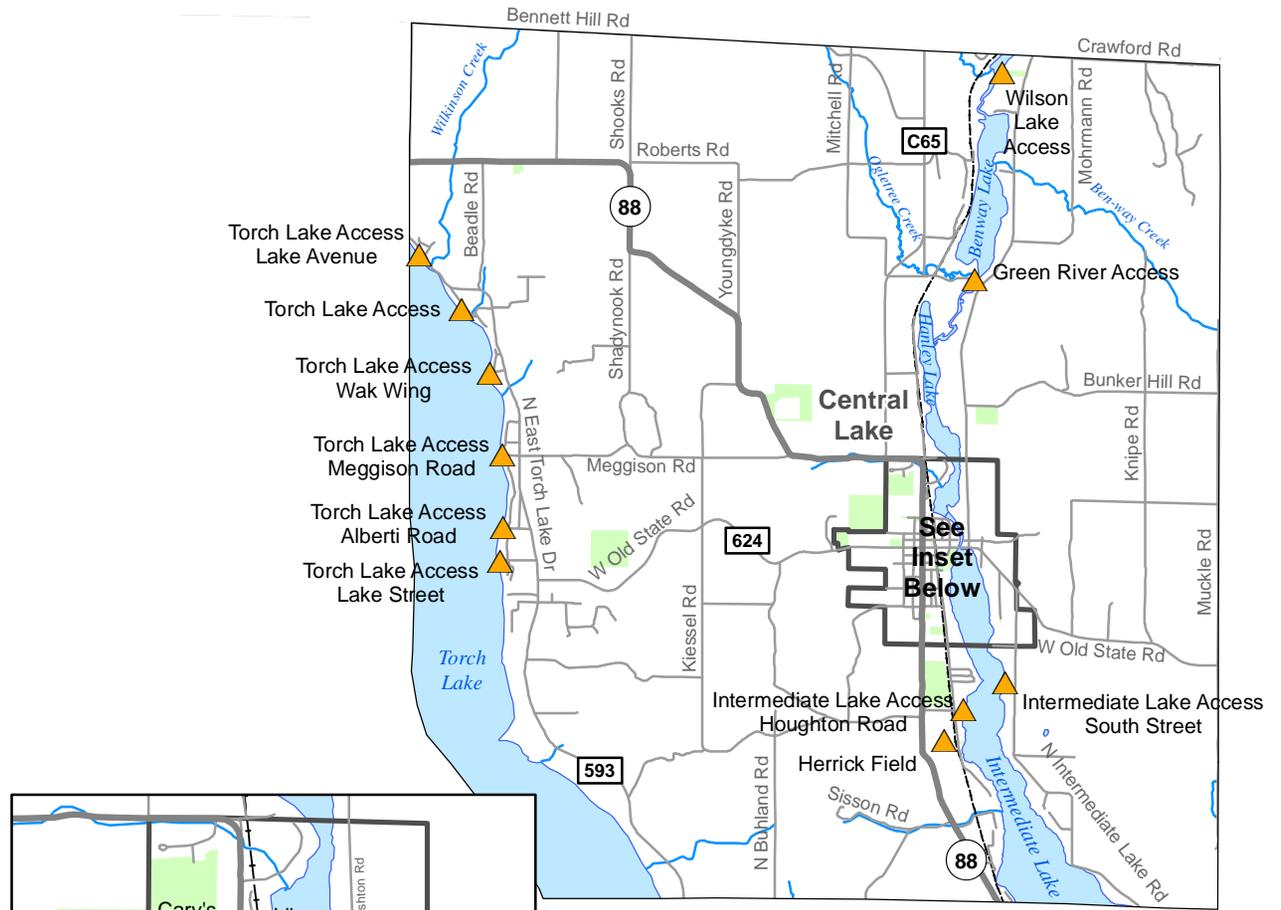
Central Lake Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010

Central Lake Township

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Controlling Authority</i>	<i>Asset</i>	<i>Handicap Accessible</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Electrified Campsites (qty)</i>	<i>Rustic Campsites (qty)</i>	<i>Beach</i>	<i>Restrooms</i>	<i>Bath House</i>	<i>Play Ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>	<i>Nature Trails</i>	<i>Track & Other Field</i>	<i>Fishing</i>	<i>Volleyball</i>	<i>Tennis Courts</i>	<i>Basketball Courts (qty)</i>	<i>Equestrian Trails</i>	<i>Groomed X-Country Ski Trails</i>	<i>X-Country Ski Rentals</i>	<i>Ice Skating</i>	<i>Softball Fields (qty)</i>	<i>Baseball Fields (qty)</i>	<i>Golf Holes</i>	<i>Boat Launch (see notes for type)</i>	<i>Connected Water body</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Central Lake High School	Board of Education	Recreation Field	x				x					x											1				
Central Lake Library	Central Lake Twp	Library	x				x																				
Green River Access	Central Lake Twp	Access Site	x																							Green River	
Herrick Field	Central Lake Twp	Recreation Field		13			x			x		x				2							1				
Intermediate Lake Access - Houghton Rd	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Intermediate Lake	
Intermediate Lake Access - South Street	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Intermediate Lake	
Intermediate River - Maple Street	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Intermediate River	
Intermediate River - Thomas Street	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Intermediate River	
Torch Lake Access - Alberti Access	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Torch Lake	
Torch Lake Access - Lake Avenue	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Torch Lake	
Torch Lake Access - Lake Street	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Torch Lake	
Torch Lake Access - Meggisson Road	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Torch Lake	
Torch Lake Access - Wak Wing	Central Lake Twp	Access Site																								Torch Lake	
Central Lake Access - E. Bradford	Vlg. of Central Lake	Access Site	x																						x	Central Lake	
Wilson Lake Access	DNR	Access Site	x				x																		x	Wilson Lake	
Ron Donaldson Recreation Fields	Vlg. of Central Lake	Recreation Field	x	1			x		x			x				2	1						1				
Thurston Park	Vlg. of Central Lake	Campground	x	4	36	x	x	x	x	x				x											x	Intermediate Lake	
Hanley Lake Access	Vlg. of Central Lake	Access Site																								Hanley Lake	

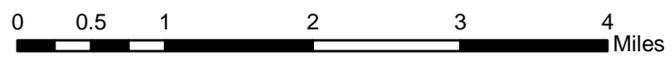
Chestonia Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

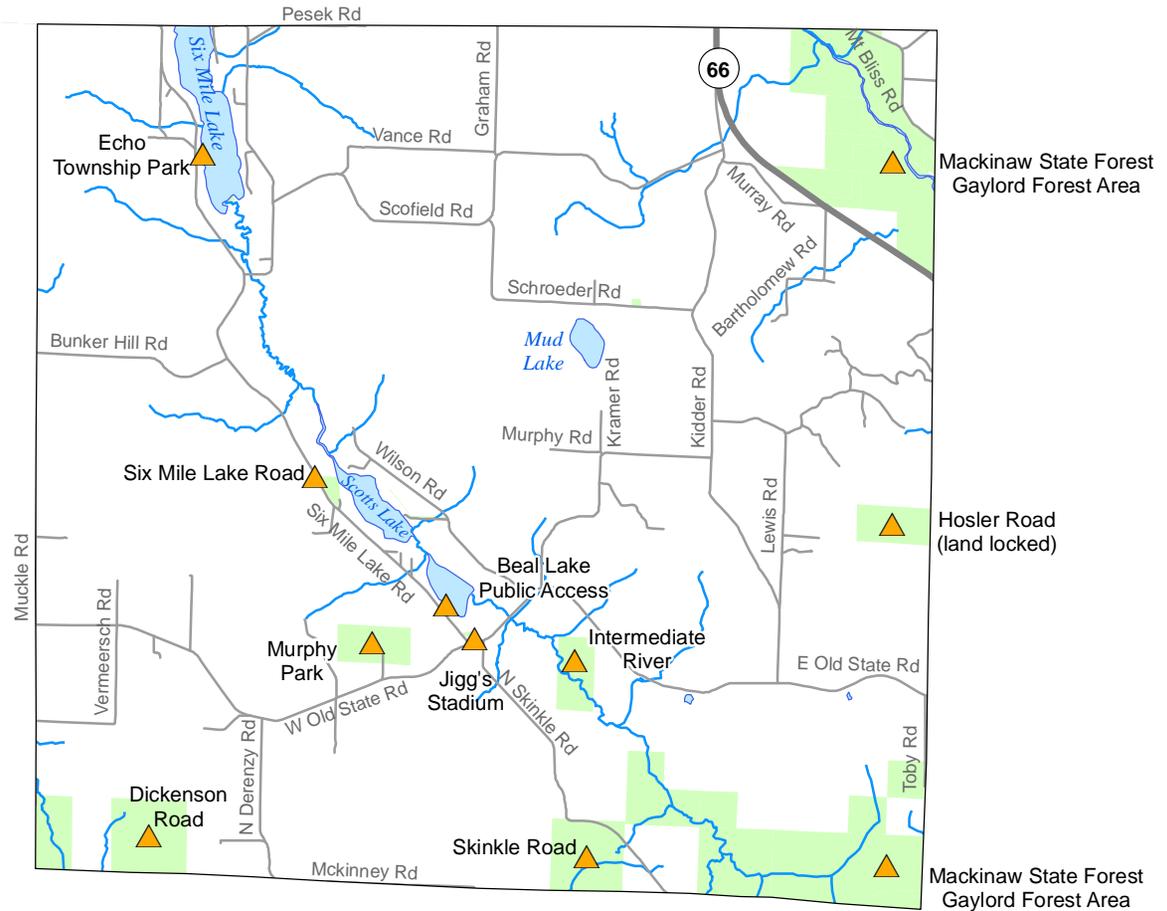
- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010

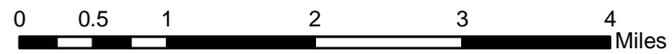
Echo Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010

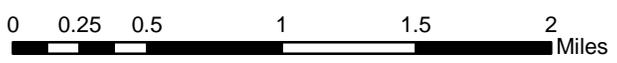
Elk Rapids Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



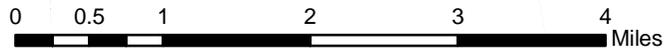
Forest Home Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010

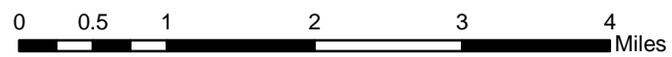
Helena Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010



Jordan Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

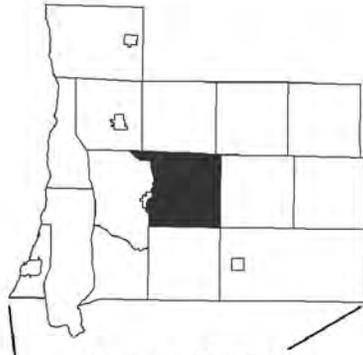
- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



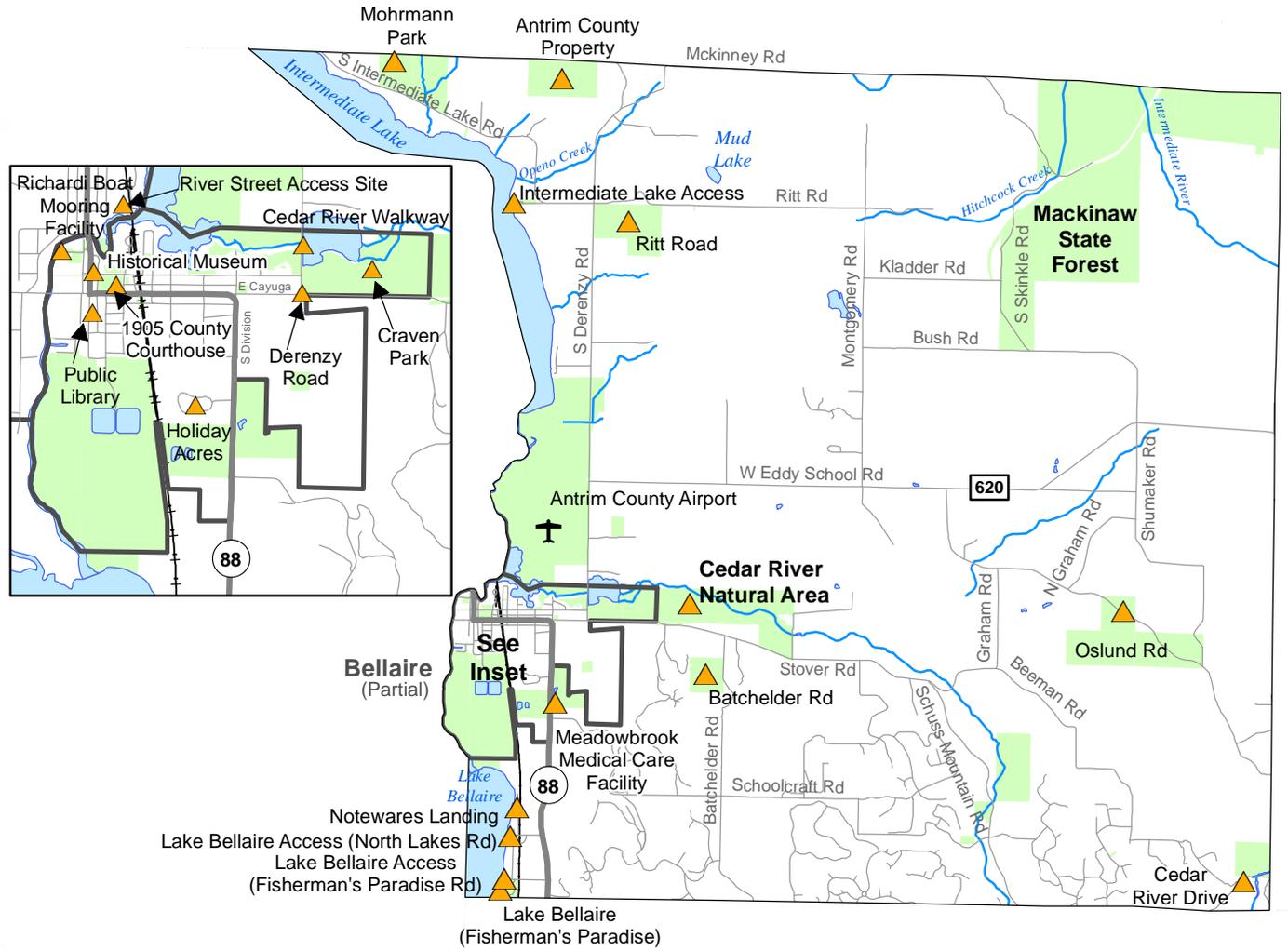
Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010

Kearney Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities

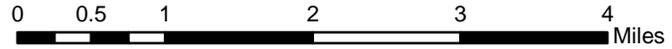


Kearney Township
Antrim County, Michigan



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
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- Public Lands/Forest



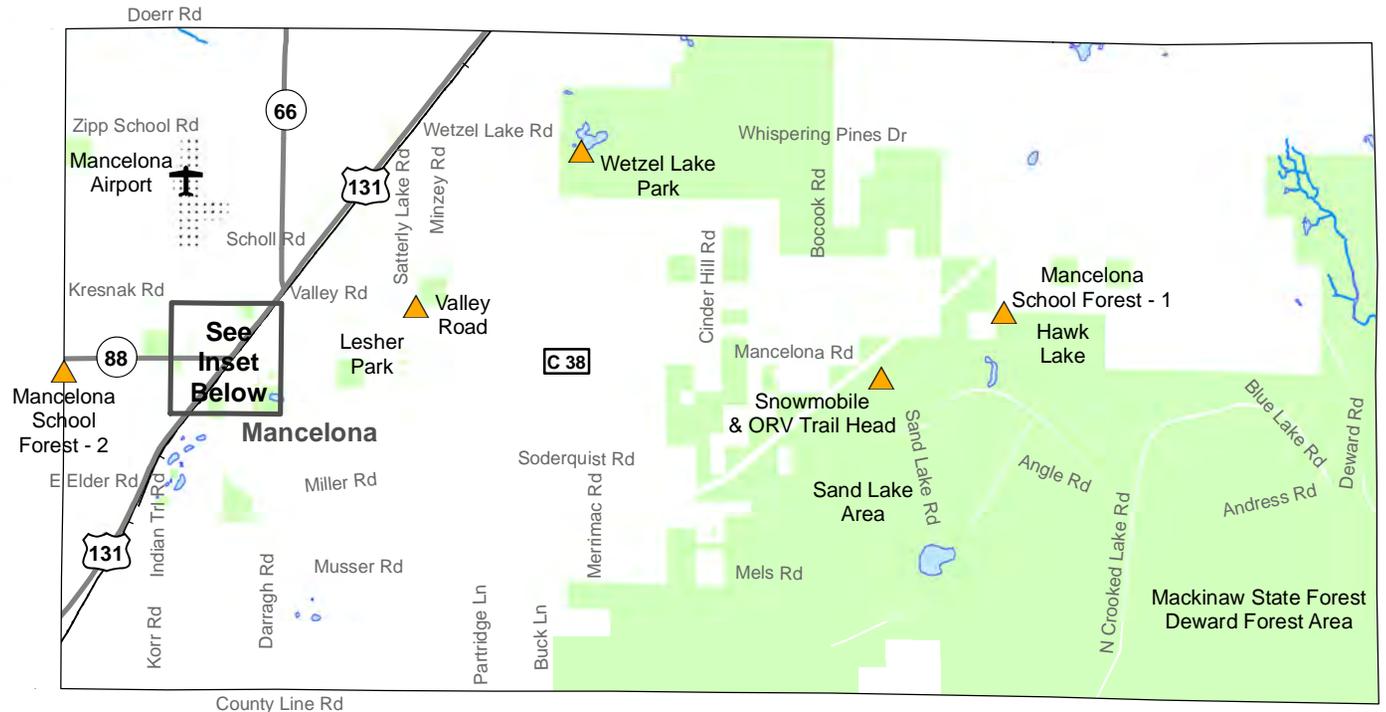
Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010

Kearney Township

Facility	Controlling Authority	Asset	Handicap Accessible	Acres	Electrified Campsites (qty)	Rustic Campsites (qty)	Beach	Restrooms	Bath House	Picnic Area	Playground	Nature Trails	Track & Other Field	Fishing	Volleyball	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts (qty)	Equestrian Trails	Groom Cross-Country Ski Trails	Cross Country Ski Rentals	Ice Skating	Softball Fields (qty)	Baseball Fields (qty)	Golf Holes	Boat Launch (see notes for type)	Connected Waterbody	Notes
1905 Antrim County Courthouse	Antrim County	County Building	x				x																				
Antrim County Airport	Antrim County	Airport	x	350			x																				
Antrim Cty Prop. - Landlocked	Antrim County	Forest Area		90																							
Batchelder Road	Antrim County	Forest Area		40																							
Cedar River Natural Area	Antrim County	Natural Area		187								x														Cedar River	
Derenzy Road	Antrim County	Forest Area		100																							
Meadowbrook Med. Care Fac.	Antrim County	Care Facility	x	105			x																				
Mohrmann Park	Antrim County	Park		249					x		x																
Notewates Landing	Antrim County	Access Site					x	x																		Lake Bellaire	
Ritt Rd	Antrim County	Forest Area																									
Bellaire Public Library	Forest Home/Kearney Tw	Library	x				x																				
Fisherman's Paradise Pub. Acc.	Kearney Township	Access Site					x	x																x	Lake Bellaire		
Intermediate Lake Access	Kearney Township	Access Site																						x	Intermediate Lk.		
Cedar River Drive	State of Michigan	Forest Area		40																							
Oslund Road	State of Michigan	Forest Area		240																							
Cedar River Walkway	Village of Bellaire	Walking/Bike Path										x														Cedar River	
Craven Park	Village of Bellaire	Campground	x	80	32	20	x	x	x	x	x	x										3	x	Craven Pond			
Holiday Acres	Village of Bellaire	Park		1							x																
Richardi Mooring Fac. - Ohio St.	Village of Bellaire	Access Site																						x	Intermediate Rvr		
River Street Access Site	Village of Bellaire	Access Site																						x	Intermediate River		
Bellaire Historical Museum	Vlg of Bellaire/Kearney	Museum	x				x																				
Mackinaw State Forest - Gaylord Forest Ar	State of Michigan	Forest Area																									
Lake Bellaire Access (North Lakes Rd)	Kearney Township	Access Site																								Lake Bellaire	
Lake Bellaire Access (Fishermans Paradise	Kearney Township	Access Site																								Lake Bellaire	

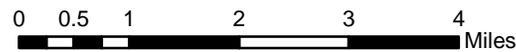
Mancelona Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



Map Produced by: Antrim County Equalization
Date: September 2010



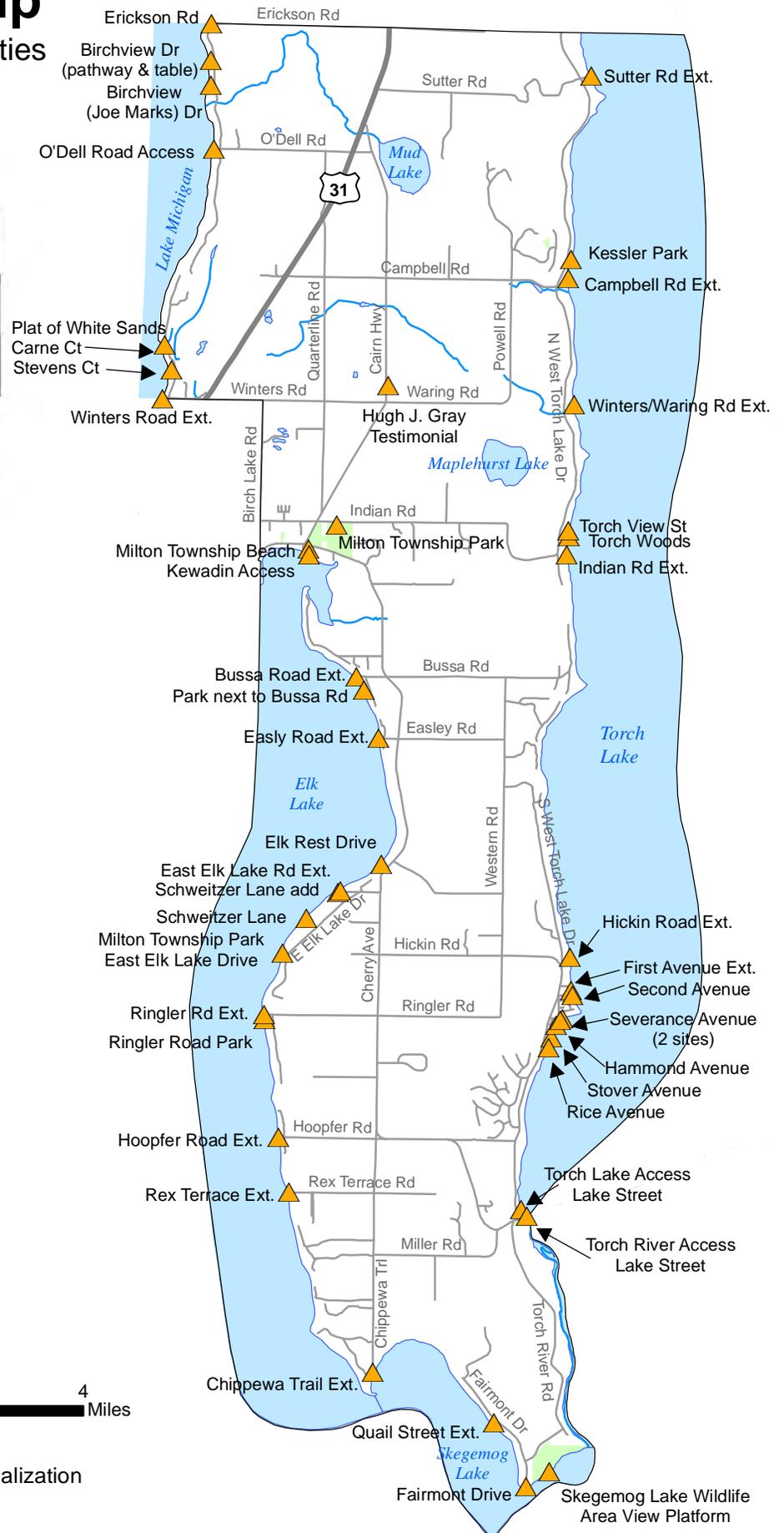
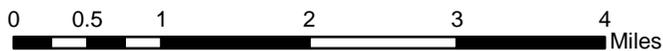
Milton Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
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- River
- Lake
- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest

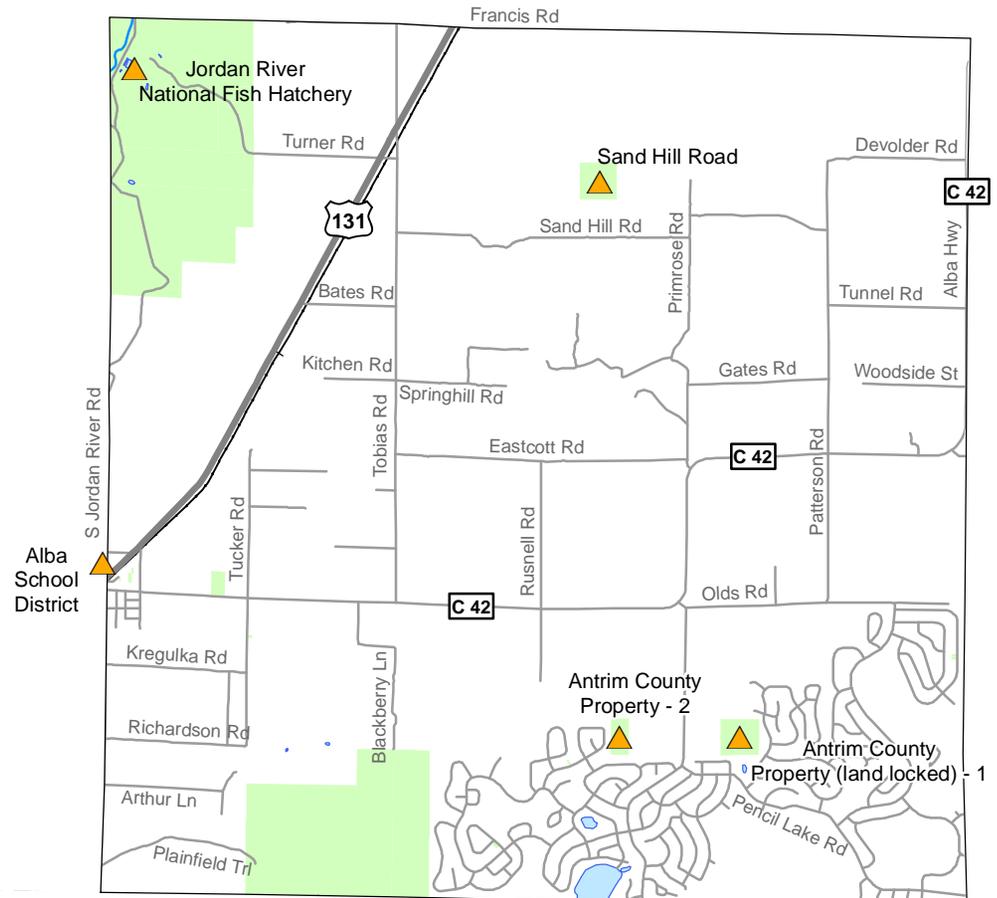


Milton Township #1

Facility	Controlling Authority	Asset	Handicap Accessible	Acres	Electric Campsites	Rustic Campsites (qty)	Beach	Restrooms	Bath House	Picnic Area	Playground	Nature Trails	Track & Other Field	Fishing	Volleyball	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts (qty)	Equestrian Trails	Groom X-Country Ski Tra	Cross Country Ski Rentals	Ice Skating	Softball Fields (qty)	Baseball Fields (qty)	Golf Holes	Connected Waterbody	Boat Launch (see notes for	Notes
Bussa Road Extension	ACRC	Access Site				x																			Elk Lake		
Chippewa Trail Extension	ACRC	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Easly Road Extension	ACRC	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Hoopfer Road Extension	ACRC	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Quail Street Extension	ACRC	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Rex Terrace Extension	ACRC	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Elk Lake Access - Schweitzer Lane	DNR	Access Site				x																			Elk Lake		
East Elk Lake Rd. Extension	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Elk Lake - Kewadin Extension	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Elk Lake Access - Schweitzer Lane Addition	Milton Twp.	Access Site				x																			Elk Lake		
Elk Rest Drive	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Milton Twp. Beach	Milton Twp.	Beach	x			x								x											Elk Lake		
Milton Twp. Park - East Elk Lake Drive	Milton Twp.	Park							x																Elk Lake		
Plat of Woodlawn - Park A next to Bussa Road	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Elk Lake		
Ringler Road Park/Elk Lake, Site #38	Milton Twp.	Park	x	4		x			x																Elk Lake		
Erickson Road	ACRC	Access Site																							Grand Traverse Bay		
O'Dell Road Access	ACRC	Access Site				x																			Grand Traverse Bay		
Winters Road Extension	ACRC	Access Site				x																			Grand Traverse Bay		
Birchview (Joe Marks) Dr.	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Grand Traverse Bay		
Birchview Dr. 94 ft on Lake - Pathway and Table	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Grand Traverse Bay		
Carne Court, Plat of White Sands	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Grand Traverse Bay		
Stevens Ct., Plat of White Sands	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Grand Traverse Bay		
Skegemog Lake Wildlife Viewing Platform	DNR	Viewing Platform			x	x																			Lake Skegemog		
Skegemog Access - Fairmont Dr. - Site # 48	Milton Twp.	Access Site																							Lake Skegemog		

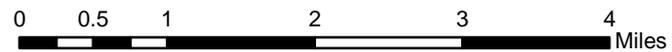
Star Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
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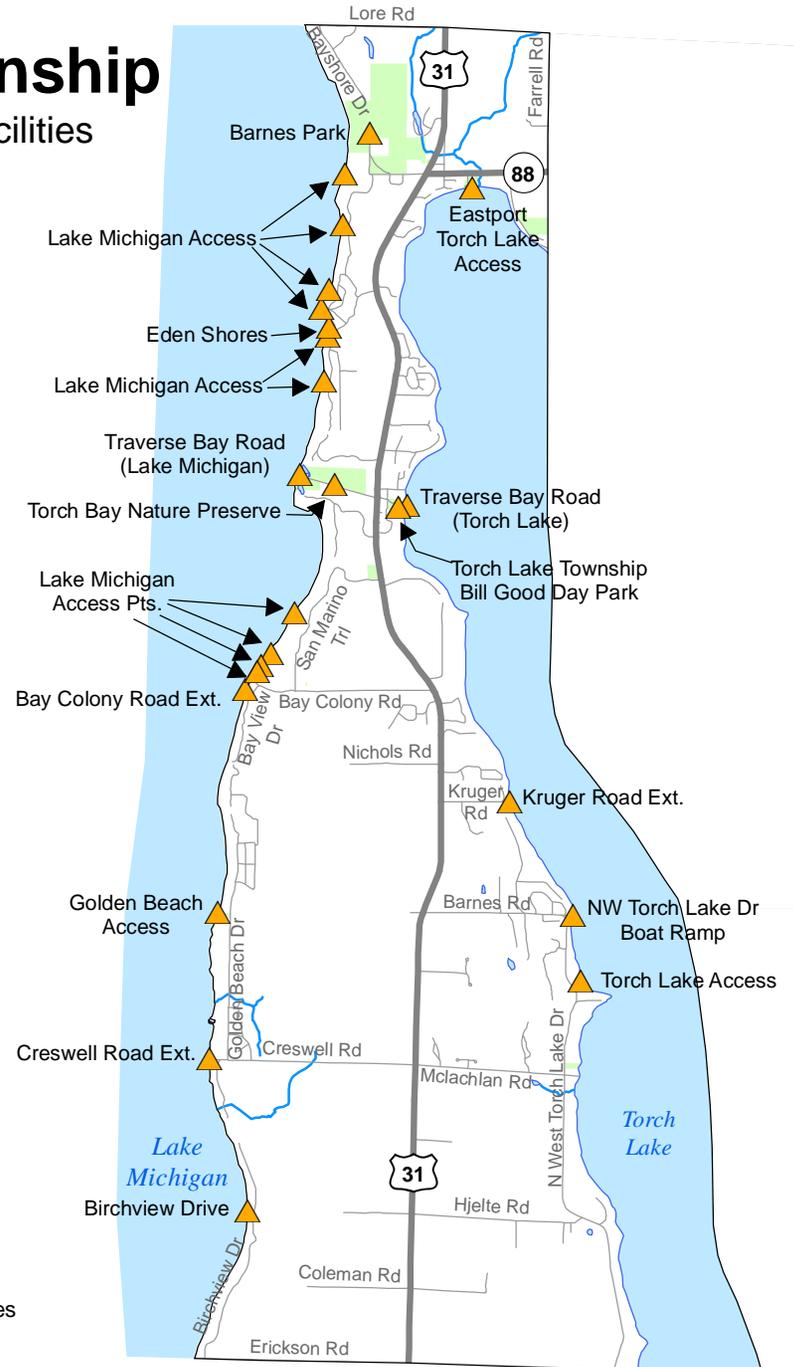
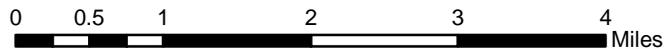


Torch Lake Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
- Lake
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- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



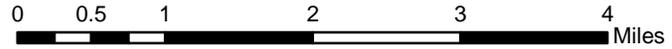
Warner Township

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Legend

- Rec/Access Sites
- Highway
- Local Road
- RR Grade
- River
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- Village
- Township Boundary
- Public Lands/Forest



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Date: September 2010



6. RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Discussions within the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks and Lands Committee, as well as public forums and requesting resident/citizen input, determined it was important to identify the recreational needs for Antrim County. By identifying park and recreational needs, planned improvements can provide sustainable benefits to residents and visitors alike.

There are two ways of quantifying park and recreational needs. The first involves looking at the maintenance needs of existing facilities. The second recognizing possible future services that might be provided.

Through the Parks & Recreation Plan outreach process, eight (8) primary parks and recreational needs were identified. Other needs have been recognized and can be added to this discussion; however those identified are listed below:

6.1 Establish a Parks Department within the County

The need to establish a Parks Director for the County was identified in the 2004 Parks and Recreation Plan. The need for streamlining supervisory and over-site responsibilities can be demonstrated by reviewing the Administrative Section 1 of this document. A Parks Department supervised by a Director has been discussed with several of the standing County Committees.

County-owned lands are supervised under the auspices of the County Board of Commissioners. At present there is no overall Parks and Recreation Director or a Parks and Recreation Department. There is a consensus that if and when funds are available, a Parks and Recreation Director should be appointed. This would provide better coordination between the various committees and boards now overseeing the operations of the six main recreation sites throughout the County. These sites are Barnes Park, Elk Rapids Day Park, Wetzel Lake Park, Grass River Natural Area, Antrim Creek Natural Area, and Cedar River Natural Area. Currently, Barnes Park and Elk Rapids Day Park are under the supervision of the Barnes Park Manager.

A County appointed sub-committee presently looks after Wetzel Lake Park, comprised of officials of the Conservation District, Mancelona Township, and the County. The Grass River Natural Area is managed and supported by a long established incorporated membership.

6.2 Develop a Connecting Trail System

Trail development throughout Antrim County ranks high in popularity. Trails for biking consistently ranked the highest and continues to increase in popularity. Expanding walking trails in Barnes Park, as well as expanding cross country ski trails throughout the County also ranked very high.

An offset biking/ hiking trail connecting towns and villages is highly attractive to local business who believe a bike trail connecting Eastport with Central Lake, Central Lake to Bellaire, Bellaire to Mancelona and Mancelona to Alden via local roads and highways would constitute a significant investment for the County, that would reap very substantial economic benefits. An additional connecting trail from Traverse City to the Petoskey/Charlevoix trail would be a great benefit to Antrim County and the region. Cross country ski trails and snowmobile trails ranked very high among citizen groups. A snowmobile trail connecting Elmira, Alba, and Mancelona currently exists, and snowmobile trail connecting Bellaire and Central Lake has been suggested. Map A show the current snowmobile Trails in the county and Map B show the current ORV Trails and road shoulders open to ORV's throughout the County.

Antrim County should look to connect our existing trails and provide a cross walk at Meadow Brook Medical Care Facility. In the future, there could also be a need for a Trails Coordinator for Antrim County.

6.3 Increase Public Access to Water

Additional Boat Launch access to Lake Michigan and improved access to Torch Lake and Lake Bellaire have been identified as an important need. Antrim County has 25 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and only one viable public access point located in Elk Rapids.

Beach development on Lake Bellaire and Torch Lake has been expressed as a need within the county.

Throughout all of the Visioning Sessions, there seems to be a great need for a boat launch with a safe harbor on the north portion of Antrim County on Lake Michigan. This should be a main goal of the Parks and Recreation Plan in the next five years.

6.4 Improved Camping Facilities

Capital improvements within Barnes Park have been identified as a need by the Park Manager. Improvements include, but are not limited to, expanding the trail system in Barnes Park, bury the electrical wires, become part of the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail, and install a new drain field for the Park.

6.5 Improve Facilities at Day Parks

Day parks are used by Antrim County residents and visitors alike. In 2010, the pavilion at the Elk Rapids Day Park was removed for structural reasons, so currently a replacement pavilion at the Elk Rapids Day Park is required. Parking expansion at Wetzel Lake Day Park has been an expressed need. There is also a need for trail and playground expansion within County Day Parks.

6.6 Improve Facilities at Natural Areas

Grass River Natural Area is 1400 acres of protected wetlands, forestlands and river area which offers multiple public recreation and outdoor educational opportunities and has a need for an interpretive educational building for classes and offices, boardwalk repairs, connecting trails, other capital improvements.

Antrim County's Cedar River Natural Area could use improvements in fisheries.

One of the needs identified for the Antrim Creek Natural Area could be to improve boater access to Lake Michigan.



6.7 Create a Parks and Land Classification System

There is a recommendation that the County create a classification system for County land assets. A classification system would identify primary usage of the land, as well as define individual parcels. Classification of land assets will help with staff assignments, determine recreational uses, influence the development of rules and policies, and resolve any jurisdictional conflicts. A classification system would also establish the County's definition for forest land, park land and natural areas. Below are some proposed definitions:

Forest Land: Those public acreages purchased, deeded, donated or otherwise designated as Antrim County Forest Land for the following purposes:

- Production of forest products
- Wildlife habitat
- Hunting opportunities
- Open space protection
- Resource education
- Passive use recreation
- Wetland protection

Park Land: Those public lands or facilities purchased, deeded, donated or otherwise designated as Park Land for the following purposes.

- Campground Development
- Maintained as campground
- Public Access sites
- Intensive recreational use

Natural Areas: Those public lands or facilities purchased, deeded, donated or otherwise designated as a Natural Area for the following purposes:

- Land Protection
- Ecological protection
- Education

6.8 Establish a Long-Term Funding Plan

Long term funding of parks and lands was identified as a need. The establishment of a parks and lands charter fund has been discussed as a possible solution and a long range planning tool. The fund would be used for the operation, maintenance and expansion of parks and lands within the County.

6.9 Natural Resource Planning

Natural resources, specifically those in Antrim County, are critical to maintaining the quality of life in our region of Northern Michigan. To begin a Natural Resource Plan will be beneficial to the County, the residents and the visitors that will continue to explore and enjoy Antrim County. Some areas which would fall under the Natural Resource Plan

would be wetland protection, forest land resource protection, watershed protection and addition of trails, natural areas and recreational areas for public use.

6.10. Acquisition of Lands

Antrim County residents strongly agree that acquiring land for future parks and/or open space an action that will improve the park system. The County will continue to evaluate land acquisition opportunities and will work with willing landowners and other public and private partners to acquire land that meets parks and recreation need.

6.11. Other identified needs:

Other needs identified through forums and discussions are varied, however, each will become more important to the impact of the Natural Resources of Antrim County in maintaining and preserving the quality of our Region. Below are some issues that may be addressed:

- An Ordinance that prohibits “bubblers”/de-icers on lakes and rivers that are within 500 feet of a public access.
- Improvements in the fisheries in regards to the County’s rivers, lakes and streams.
- Proposed fish-rearing ponds.
- Raising the bridges on the Chain of Lakes, specifically at Lake Ellsworth to Six Mile Lake, Central Lake to Benway Lake and Wilson Lake to Ellsworth Lake.
- Continued property acquisitions for Natural Areas, such as Johnsons’ Pond and Barnes Park.
- Acquiring other new land that is deemed unique to the county due to the location, topography, and/or historical significance.



7. ACTION PROGRAM, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE AND RATIONALE

7.1 Rationale for the Action Program/Capital Improvements Schedule

The development of the Antrim County 2013 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Plan was a six-month effort conducted by the Antrim County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the staff of the Antrim Conservation District, and the staff of the Administration and Planning Department. Major projects

Public responses confirm the results from various surveys taken over the years. All of the residents/citizens responding to one survey considered the natural and recreational resources of Antrim County to be “somewhat to very important” to the County’s economy. The majority expressed high satisfaction for the quality of the area resources, but the overall impression was that more parks and recreation areas would benefit the County. Section 4 discusses the varied recreational needs/issues.

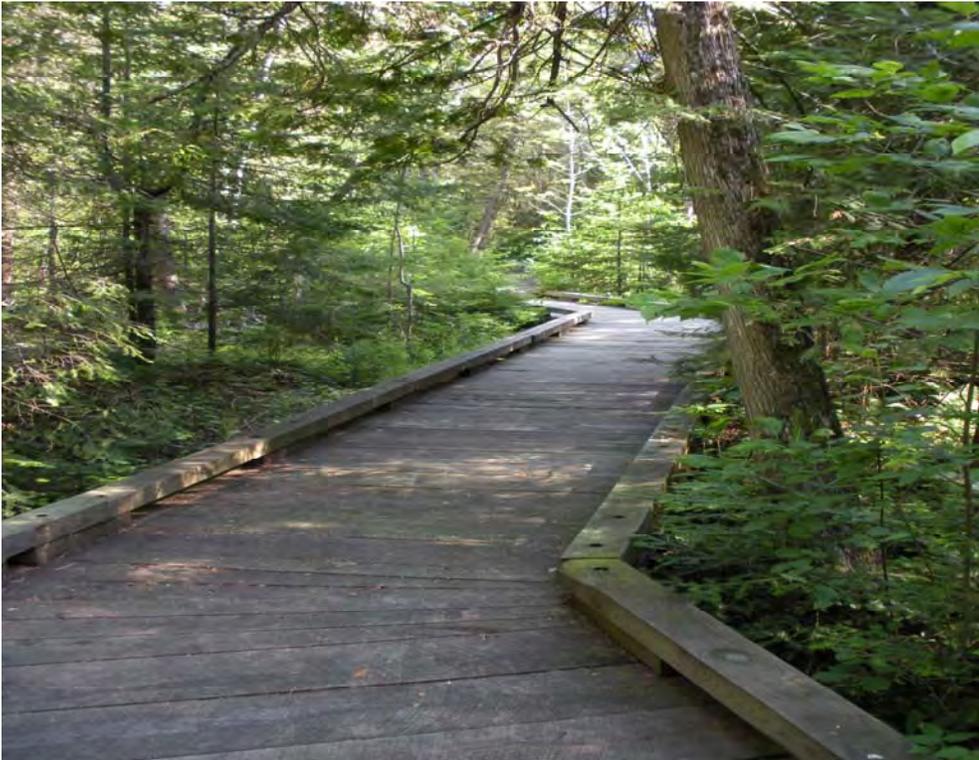
Access to the resources in general was rated only “fair to good”. Promotion of natural areas in the County was rated “good”, the other County sites such as public access sites, historical sites and forest land were only “fair”. The majority of responders felt that the County could better promote their natural resources. Specific suggestions and/or concerns from more than 200 individuals have been received and noted.

7.2 Community Goals

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, staff of the Administration and Planning Department, County Commissioners, park employees, staff from the Antrim Conservation District and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and members of the general public continue to identify the following as primary, community goals:

- Watershed protection
- Open space protection
- Maintenance and expansion of existing facilities
- Public access to water
- County-wide trails
- Creation of a Parks and Recreation Department
- Creation of a Parks and Lands Classification System
- Create a boat launch on Lake Michigan

These general guidelines are reflected in the following proposed actions.



7.3 Action Program

Antrim County's outstanding outdoor natural resources are the basis for tourism and the area's recreation-based economy. Exceptional recreational and educational benefits are available for all visitors and residents. Maintaining and upgrading existing facilities must continue to be a priority for Antrim County, and must be addressed in the Parks and Recreation Plan. Continued expansion and acquisition of natural areas and better facilities will continue to benefit the area economy.

The County continues to experience permanent population growth as well as the sometimes three-fold seasonal population increase. In addition, because much of the population increase is occurring away from the waterfront properties, lake-accessibility is also an important objective of this Plan. Based upon these considerations the following proposed actions were established and approved by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Attached are pages that summarize anticipated maintenance and development needs for the Grass River Natural Area, Barnes Park, Elk Rapids Day Park, Wetzel Lake Park, Cedar River Natural Area, and Antrim Creek Natural Area. An additional page addresses other lesser known sites in the County, including the 147 public access sites, the County forest and miscellaneous County-wide projects.

7.3.1. Grass River Natural Area 5-year Plan

With the completion of the Grass River Education Center, Grass River will be primarily concentrating on educational programs for elementary students and adults. Over the next 5 years, Grass River Natural Area will work toward extending their educational programs to middle school and high school students. Continuing environmental education through the grades, and combining it with leadership training, will be the best way to ensure respect and stewardship of our natural resources in and around Antrim County.

7.3.2. Barnes Park:

Barnes Park is the only large waterfront camping facility in the County. Established as a premier camping site on Lake Michigan, the Park continues to see its visitor number increase from year to year. Plans and improvements to the Park are assessed as a need on a consistent basis.

In 2003, the County updated the playground, making it an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible playground, as well as constructing a bathhouse in 2003. A paved ADA trail was installed to assist bikers and pedestrian traffic throughout the park, opening up the main road for vehicular traffic as well as along the entry road into the park. The entire entryway road was repaved as well.

In 2006, thanks to a grant through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Barnes Park Office and Educational Center was completed, as well as adding electric hook-ups to 27 of the campsites. The Park now has increased the number of electric campsites for campers. The electric sites are very popular with the campers who come with trailers or tents. In 2008, understanding the needs and wants of campers,

Barnes Park added high speed internet. In 2010, a recycling center was added for campers to utilize.

The major infrastructure need at the Park is to repave the interior Park road, replacing the aging electrical pedestals on sites. Future projects could include the installation of solar tube lighting in the office, upgrading the bath house floor drains, new ventilation system and a new drain field for the bathhouses.

7.3.3. Elk Rapids Day Park

This exceptional County Park features 1,300 feet of frontage on Lake Michigan in a natural, somewhat secluded, setting. Its boundaries are within the village of Elk Rapids and Elk Rapids Township. In 2012, the County partnered with ArtRapids, a local non-profit, to create the Elk Rapids Walk of Art within the Day Park. This partnership should help increase utilization of the Park. Overall direction, including capital outlay, was derived through a committee process, which involved citizens from the Village, Township and County. Funding is estimated.

As the Day Park recreation site includes forest, beach, bathhouse and picnic areas, regular safety inspections and maintenance are required. The County makes minimal funding (approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000) available for regular maintenance. The major priorities for the park would be to build a pavilion on the site where the former pavilion stood.

Elk Rapids Day Park's natural setting is ideal for forestry education and conservation. The location provides a great location to better understand the Great Lakes and early pioneers of the region. Bathroom facilities and adequate parking offer a positive venue for accessible access to Lake Michigan beauty. The goal is to develop an educationally sound curriculum and provide teacher and student materials that would promote conservation and preservation of the natural area. A goal will be to increase the promotion of Elk Rapids Day Park for visitors and residents.

7.3.4. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area

Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area is a 763 acre publicly owned block of land in Forest Home Township. 345 acres were purchased in 2010 by the County and Forest Home Township to add to the County's existing 360 acre Kirkpatrick Forest and other parcels that the County acquired from the State of Michigan. Forest Home Township has completed over 14 miles of trails for hiking and biking with a goal to have more than 20 miles.

Management of the property over the next five years could include: installation of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiles, and ORV's. To help manage the forest lands, the County would like to purchase an easement to access the Kirkpatrick Forest for forestry and recreational purposes.

7.3.4. Maintenance of County Forest Lands

A major asset for Antrim County is the 3947 acres of forest land owned by the county. These lands provide recreational opportunities, protect open spaces, sustainable forest education, and provide income to the County through the sale of timber.

Management of properties over the next five years will include; maintaining and providing the County with inventories of forestry resources, improving forestry management plans, improving access, and timber harvesting. Addressing the continued spread and containment of the emerald ash borer within our forests is another priority, as is continued implementation of sustainable forestry/forest improvement cuts.



7.4. Additional Parks and Recreation Plans

In addition to the managed park systems within Antrim County, there is a need for specific improvements that will greatly increase the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities. It is recommended that a **Parks and Recreation Department** be established to provide better coordination of resource management, development, and publicity. Possible timeline – 1 to 3 years.

Non-motorized Trails need to be developed strategically in the county in order to connect to existing trails in neighboring counties. We should expand the trail network at Barnes Park, improve the trail network at Cedar River Natural Area, replace designated boardwalk sections at Grass River Natural Area, and work towards expanding the connector trail between Traverse City and Charlevoix. The County could also look to hire a trails coordinator. Possible timeline – 3 to10 years.

Motorized trails need to be developed strategically in the county in order to connect to existing motorized trails in neighboring counties. We should expand/construct Snowmobile and ORV Trails as needed throughout the county. Possible timeline – 3 to10 years.

Improving public access to water has been a priority for the County since we created our first recreation plan. We should work to define where our existing public access sites are located. Also, over the past 10 years, we have been looking at public boat launch access between Elk Rapids and Charlevoix. This should be a top priority for the County. Timeline – 1-6 years.

Grass River Natural Area (GRNA)

Description of Proposed Improvement	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Est. Cost	Fund Sources	Priority
Full (Adult/Children) Education Program, year round	x	x	x	x	x	x	\$41,000/yr	Fees/Donations	A
Boardwalk Improvement Campaign	x	x	x	x	x	x	\$120,000	Grants/Donations	A
Native Habitat Landscape at Center	x	x	x	x	x	x	\$22,000	Grants/Donations	A
Phase I-Grass River Bike Trail	x	x	x				\$1,700	Grants/Donations	A
Phase II-Grass River Bike Trail Begins			x	x	x		TBD	Grants/Donations	A
Replace all aged signs	x	x	x				\$6,000	Grants/Donations	A
Citizen Science Monitoring Program-Develop/Publish	x						\$5,000	Grant	A
Citizen Science Monitoring Program-Implement		x	x	x	x	x	3200/yr	Grants/Donations	A
Expand education programs to Jr High		x	x	x	x	x	TBD		D
Explore high school education program			x	x			TBD		D
Implement high school education program				x	x		TBD		D
Explore community college education program					x	x	TBD		D

Priority ranking scale: A= High Priority; B=Medium Priority; C= Low Priority; D=Conceptual; TBD=To Be Determined

Barnes Park

Description of Proposed Improvement	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Est. Cost	Fund Sources	Priority
Improve ventilation system in bath-house				x			\$5,000	County	A
Windows in main bathroom (1 window that opens on both men's& women's)			x				TBD	County	C
Pave road throughout the park		x	x	x	x	x	\$130,000	DNR, County	A
New drain field for the bathhouse			x				\$80,000	DNR, County	D
Bury all electrical wires					x		\$27,000	DNR, County	B
Install second dump station						x	TBD	DNR, County	D
Enlarge park property linked to old Dixie hwy	x	x	x				TBD	DNR, County	A
Become part of trails linked from TC to Charlevoix		x	x	x	x		TBD	DNR, County	A
replace 30 pedestals & wire (GFI outlet)		x	x				\$32,000	DNR, County	A
new floor drains in 03 BH & slope floor to drain			x				TBD	DNR, County	D
Maintain Afton trail to beach (on-going)			x				\$1,000	DNR, County	A
Solar tube lights in cabin (energy saving)			x				TBD	County	
Cabins					x				

Priority ranking scale: A= High Priority; B=Medium Priority; C= Low Priority; D=Conceptual; TBD=To Be Determined

Elk Rapids Day Park

Description of Proposed Improvement	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Est. Cost	Fund Sources	Priority
Replace partitions in bath house			x				TBD	DNR,County	B
Remove sidewalk and replace with Afton		x					TBD	DNR, County	A
Tile floor	x			x			TBD	DNR, County	C
Pavilion							TBD	DNR, County	A

Priority ranking scale: A= High Priority; B=Medium Priority; C= Low Priority; D=Conceptual; TBD=To Be Determined

Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA)

Description of Proposed Improvement	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Est. Cost	Fund Sources	Priority
Purchase Schoolhouse surrounded by ACNA	x	x	x	x	x	x	TBD	TBD	A

Priority ranking scale: A= High Priority; B=Medium Priority; C= Low Priority; D=Conceptual; TBD=To Be Determined

Cedar River Natural Area

Description of Proposed Improvement	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Est. Cost	Fund Sources	Priority
Improve existing trail system	x	x	x	x	x	x	TBD	County	A

Priority ranking scale: A= High Priority; B=Medium Priority; C= Low Priority; D=Conceptual; TBD=To Be Determined

Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural area

Description of Proposed Improvement	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Est. Cost	Fund Sources	Priority
Parking Lot	x						5,000	County	a

Priority ranking scale: A= High Priority; B=Medium Priority; C= Low Priority; D=Conceptual; TBD=To Be Determined

Miscellaneous County Proposed Projects

Description of Proposed Improvement	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 Est. Cost	Fund Sources	Priority	
County Forest Lands									
Complete Parcel Inventory		x				TBD	Conservation District	B	
Complete Management Planning	x	x	x			TBD	Conservation District	A	
Alba Road Timber Sale	x					TBD	Conservation District	A	
Creation of Parks and Recreation Department	x	x	x	x	x	x	TBD	County	A
Motorized and Non-motorized Trails									
Expand Trails at Barnes Park					x		TBD	DNR, County	B
Improve Trails at Cedar River Natural Area	x	x	x	x	x	x	TBD	DNR, County	D
Work Towards expanding the Trail Connector between TC and Charlevoix			x	x	x	x	TBD	DNR, County	B
Improve Public Access									
Define public access sites	x	x					TBD	DNR, County	A
Create a boat launch/safe harbor on Lake Michigan		x	x	x	x	x	TBD	DNR, County	D

Priority ranking scale: A= High Priority; B=Medium Priority; C= Low Priority; D=Conceptual; TBD=To Be Determined

					Appendix A
Funding Source	Grant #	Park Name	Grand Amount	Scope and Current Condition	Status
Land and Water Conservation Fund	26-00041	Barnes Park	\$30,000.00	Change courts, comfort stations, roadways and parking areas, water, sewer, trailer camping, picnic and playground area	Completed
Land and Water Conservation Fund	26-01093	Grass River Natural Area	\$43,291.00	294 acres purchased for outdoor recreation, parking lots, access roads, vault toilets, nature walk with boardwalk bridge	Completed
Land and Water Conservation Fund	26-01304	Grass River Natural Area	\$10,305.46	Educational platform, observation towers, benches, utilities, well, signs, vehicle turnout	Completed
Trust Fund	TF86-186	Grass River Natural Area	\$45,000.00	28.48 acres purchased to provide a link with Clam Lake frontage between existing Grass River Natural Area Parcels.	Completed
Trust Fund	TF90-249	Barnes Park	\$41,750.00	Renovate Bathhouse, replace Vault Toilets, Extend Electric to additional campsites, and construct stairway to the beach to control foot traffic and prevent further erosion.	Completed
Trust Fund	TF95-051	Antrim Creek Natural Area	\$4,764,100.00	Acquisition of 170 Acres with 170 acres approximately 5,000 feet of frontage on Grand Traverse Bay, including the mouth of Antrim Creek	Completed
Trust Fund	TF95-081	Grass River Natural Area	\$41,600.00	Raise and widen existing self guided boardwalk trail in unique wetland area of Antrim Counties Grass River Natural Area	Completed
Trust Fund	TF97-170	Grass River Natural Area	\$243,178.00	Acquisition of 63 Acres and 745 feet of wetland shoreline on Lake Bellaire, Grass River, and Clam Lake	Completed

Trust Fund	TF98-269	Grass River Natural Area	\$86,925.00	Acquisition of 400feet of Grass River and 4 acres of wetland habitat to be added to the Existing Grass River natural Area	Completed
Trust Fund	TF99-436	Cedar River Natural Area	\$320,662.00	Acquisition of 115 Acres with 2,640 feet of frontage along the north and south banks of Cedar River to protect its ecological functions, scenic beauty, and recreational access	Completed
Trust Fund	TF00-349	Antrim Creek Natural Area	\$143,154.00	Construction of signs, educational displays, port-a-john structure, overlooks, trails, and information arbor.	Completed
Clean Michigan initiative	CM00-215	Barnes Park	\$117,238.00	Replacement of existing playground equipment, installation of a new basketball court, upgrade 19 sites to electric, construct new bathhouse, and resurface road	Completed
Trust Fund	TF00-145	Grass River Natural Area	\$348,750.00	37.5 acres purchased including 2,777 feet on clam lake, Grass River and Shanty Creek to be included in the Grass River Natural Area.	Completed
Trust Fund	TF03-160	Barnes Park	\$160,100.00	Construction of a visitor center, walking path and upgrades to campsites	Completed
Trust Fund	TF04-116	Grass River Natural Area	\$100,000.00	20.5 acres purchased with over 1,600 feet of Finch Creek frontage.	Completed
Trust Fund	TF05-024	Grass River Natural Area	\$50,000.00	10.47 acres purchased with over 260 feet Clam Lake and Grass River Frontage	Completed
Trust Fund	TF06-014	Grass River Natural Area	\$2,093,000.00	Acquisition of 172 acres on Lake Bellaire and Grass River including 8,080 feet of water frontage.	Completed
Trust Fund	TF07-163	Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural area	\$162,000.00	Acquisition of 180 acres for the 763 acre Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area.	Completed

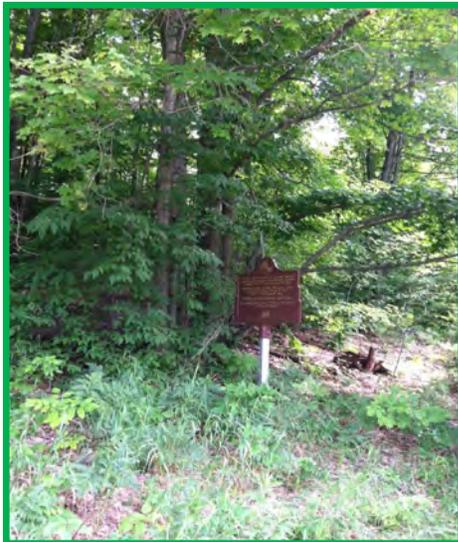
Antrim Creek Natural Area



Barnes Park



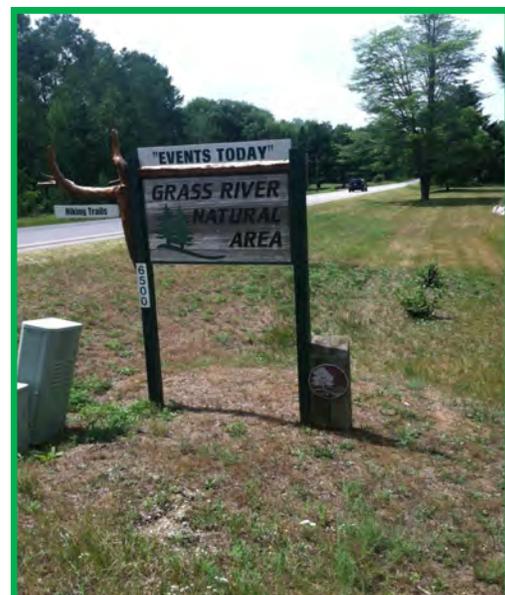
Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area



Cedar River Natural Area



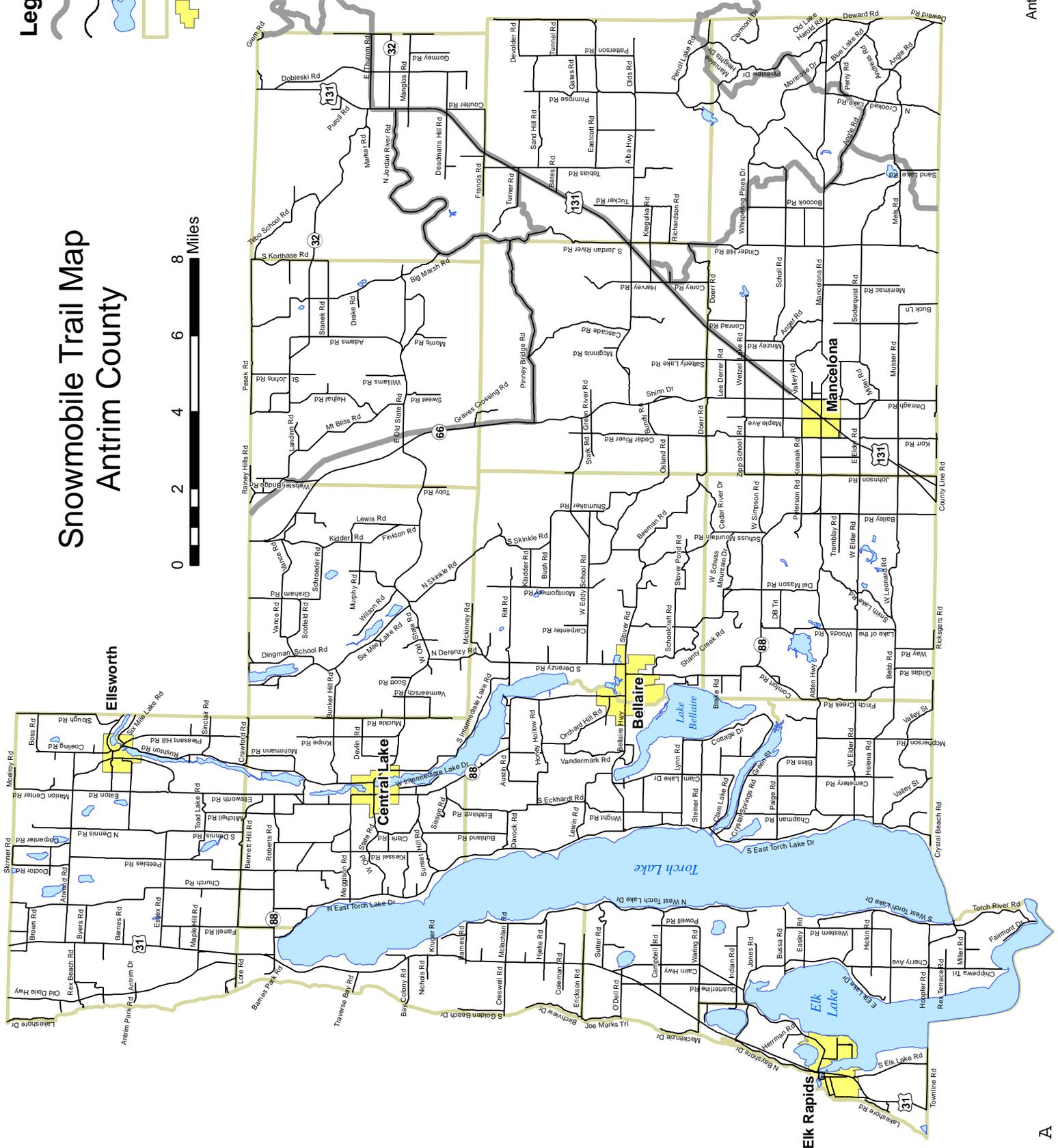
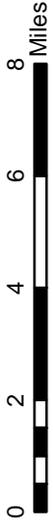
Grass River Natural Area



Snowmobile Trail Map Antrim County

Legend

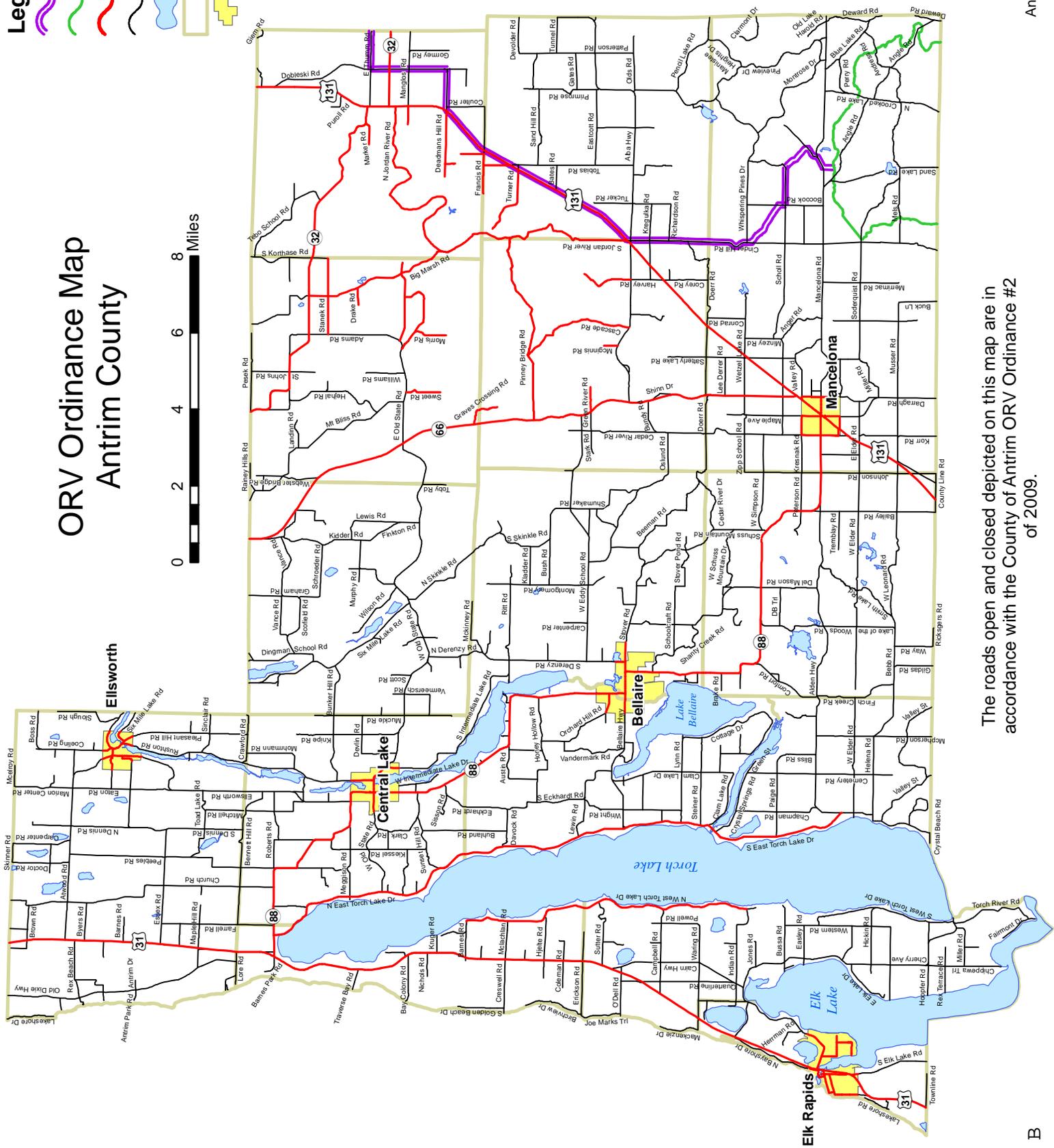
-  Snowmobile Trail
-  Road
-  Lake
-  Township
-  Village



- Legend**
-  Motorcycle Trail
 -  ATV Trail
 -  Closed County Road
 -  Open County Road
 -  Lake
 -  Township
 -  Village



ORV Ordinance Map Antrim County



The roads open and closed depicted on this map are in accordance with the County of Antrim ORV Ordinance #2 of 2009.