

Alcona Township Recreation Plan



2024-2028



Alcona Township Recreation Plan

Alcona Township
Alcona County, Michigan

Prepared for:

Alcona Township Board

Marlena MacNeill, Supervisor
Dawn LaLonde, Clerk
Tina Gauthier, Treasurer
James Bouchard, Trustee
Tony Bolanowski, Trustee

Alcona Township Planning Commission

Charles Grusnick, Chair
Ron Ott
Tony Bolanowski
Karen Schroer
Jennifer Nemeth

Prepared by:

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd U-108
P. O. Box 457
Gaylord, Michigan 49734
www.nemcog.org
989-705-3730

Adopted: J a n u a r y 1 6 , 2 0 2 4

ALCONA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

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CHAPTER

1

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION



Alcona Township Recreation Plan

Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and plans within the boundaries of Alcona Township. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities and the

socio-economic status of the Township and the surrounding area to determine the recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements that fit those needs.

Regional Setting

Alcona Township is an L-shaped township located in the northeast corner of Alcona County encompassing Town 28 North, Ranges 7, 8, and 9 East. The Township contains approximately 58 square miles of land area and nine square miles of Hubbard Lake. The township is bordered by Alpena County at its northeastern edge. Caledonia Township borders part of the Township's northern and western limits. Hawes and Haynes Townships make up the southern border. The eastern boundary is Lake

Huron, which gives Alcona Township more than 10 miles of Great Lake shoreline. The distance from the north to the south boundary, at the widest point, is six miles. From east to west, the township stretches for more than 17 miles.

Alcona Township is ideally situated for year-round outdoor recreation. The Township is located on the east side of Alcona County, on beautiful Lake Huron, and reaches into central Alcona County, extending across Hubbard Lake.

Figure 1-1: Regional Setting

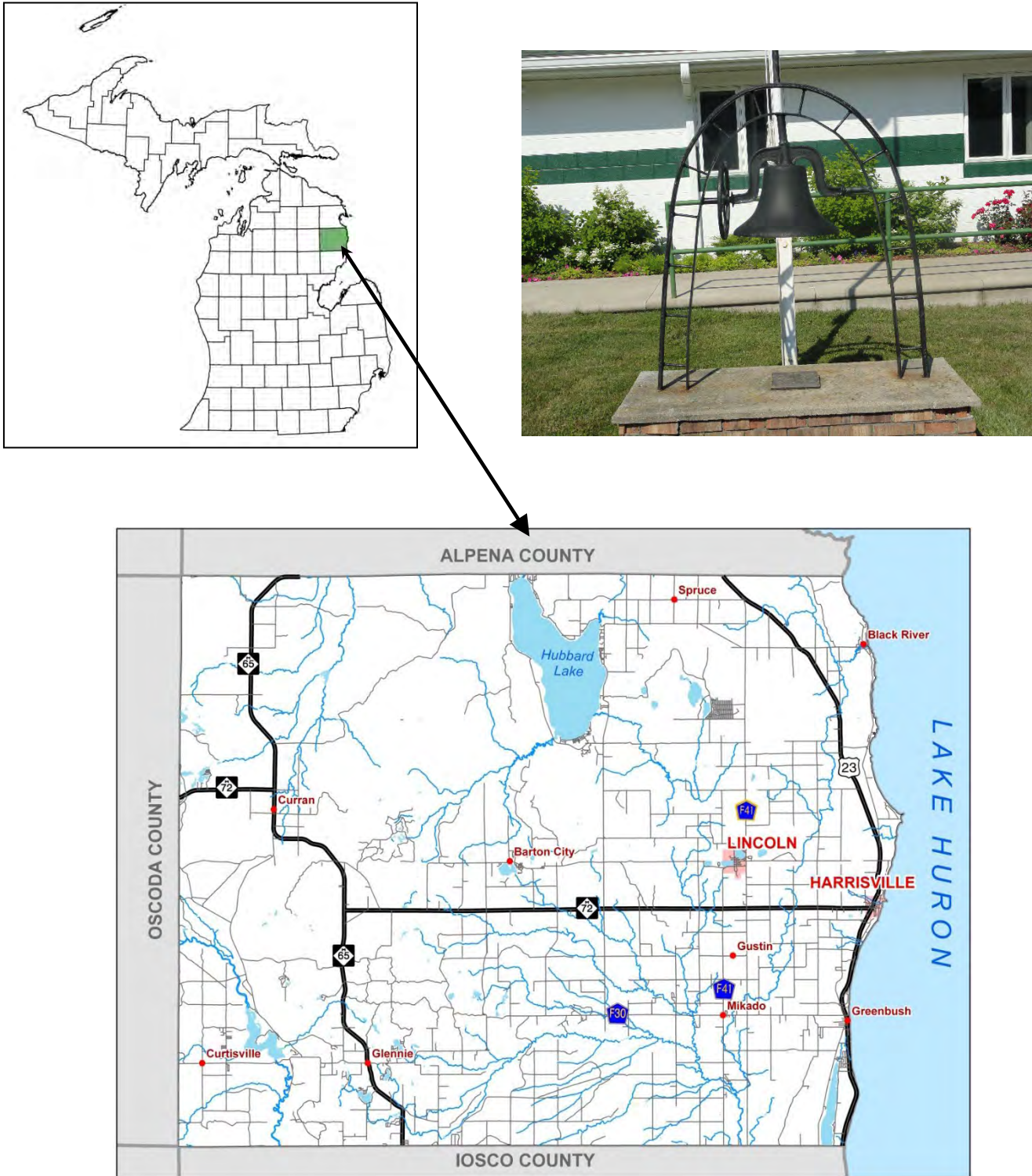
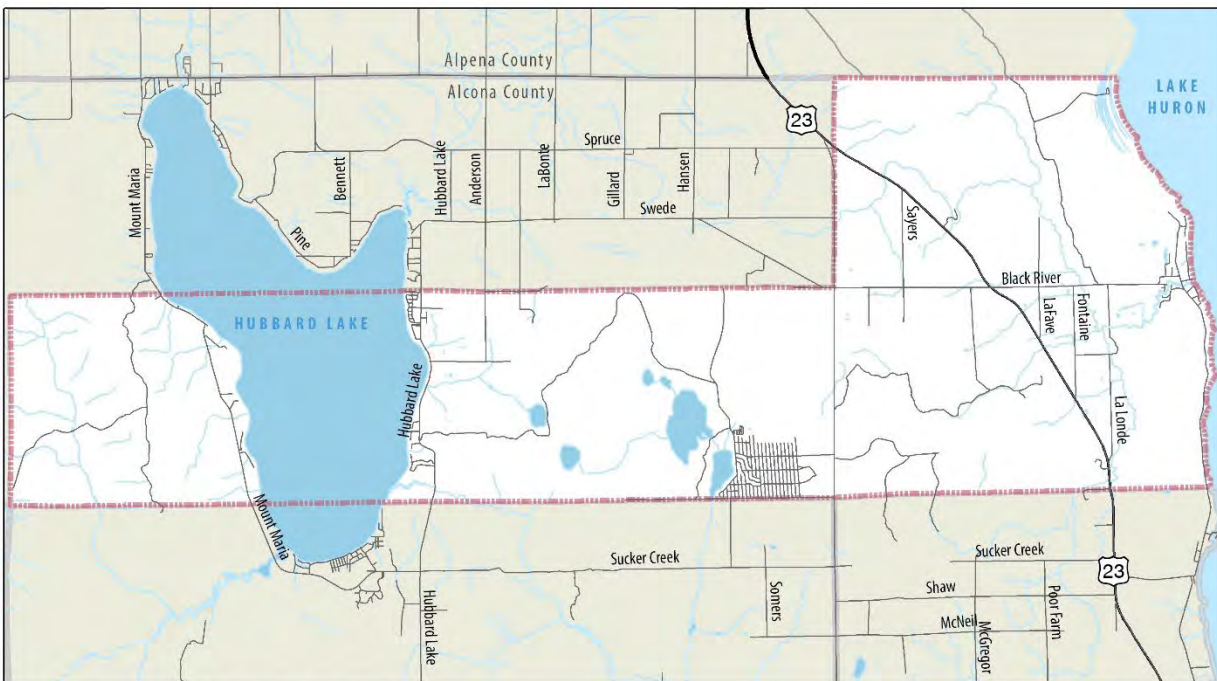


Figure 1-2: Alcona Township Map



Alcona Township Base Map

EAST OF EXPECTED
Northeast Michigan
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Transportation

Roads

Lakeshore Drive runs along the easterly border of the township along Lake Huron. Further inland is Highway US-23. The highway is the primary north/south trunkline connecting M-72 in Harrisville to M-32 in Alpena County. F-41, located

inland from US 23, is another important north/south primary route traversing the township and the county. East Black River Road runs east/west from Lake Huron, into the adjacent Caledonia Township, to Hubbard Lake

Public Transportation

There is no countywide public transportation service available in Alcona County. However, Thunder Bay Transportation, based in Alpena provides limited specialized transportation services in the County. Thunder Bay

Transportation, in coordination with medical care facilities in the region, provides transportation for medical and other needs. Indian Trails Bus line offers additional limited state-wide and regional passenger services.

Air Transportation

Alcona County's only public airport is located in the City of Harrisville, handling small aircraft(s).

Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates the population of Alcona Township in 2021 was 990 persons. In reviewing the 2021 ACS data, the figures presented for housing characteristics show 1,278 total units with 796 units as vacant, seasonal, recreational, or occasional-use homes.

Based on the average household size in Alcona Township of 2.05, the total seasonal increase would be approximately 1,632 persons, more than doubling the year-round population. In addition, many seasonal or recreational visitors stay at private lodging places or the homes of family or friends.

Climate

Historically, Northern Michigan has offered a climate desired by many visitors and recreational enthusiasts. The moderate summers allow residents to escape the warmer conditions experienced at locations in Southern Michigan and other Southern States. Winters are generally longer, due in part to the unique location and surrounding topography of Alcona Township within Northern Michigan. The location and proximity to the Great Lakes of Michigan provide enhanced snowfall events referred to as lake-effect snowfall. Lake-effect snowfall is caused by cold, arctic air masses traveling across the Canadian Provinces and other U.S. States and then passing over the relatively warm Great Lakes receiving additional changing weather due to the lake effect from Lake Huron. The lower portion of these air masses is quickly warmed and is saturated with moisture creating instability. Soon, these air masses form bands of heavy, localized snowfall, which come ashore. Generally speaking, the Great Lakes in Michigan cause the seasons to arrive later than in other areas in the U.S. The Great Lakes tend to cool the air in the spring and early summer, while the fall and early winter tend to be warmer. At the same time, it is helpful to know the climate to understand building code requirements, utility depths, planning for growing seasons, energy usage needs, and recreational opportunities.

The Midwest Climate Data Center has collected weather data for locations across the central United States. The annual climate summary for the Harrisville area is summarized in **TABLE 1-1**. The weather station is based out of Harrisville State Park and has been active from 1971-current times. However, due to many missing data sets (1985-1998) and some more recent 2022-2023 data, the summary uses data from 1999-2021. The average temperature and precipitation by month are calculated over 20 years. Moderately warm temperatures dominate summers. The warmest months occur in June-September with a monthly average of above 60 degrees. In July and August, monthly high temperatures above 75 degrees are common. The following temperature extremes for the station at Harrisville State Park are; maximum, 103 F, recorded August 7, 2001; minimum, -16 F, recorded February 28, 2014.

In the summer, precipitation comes mainly in the form of afternoon showers and thundershowers. Most precipitation occurs in May-July, which receives a monthly average above three inches. The average seasonal snowfall was 52.3 inches. The greatest single-day precipitation total was 3.42 inches, recorded on September 26, 2005; while the greatest single-day snowfall total was 13.7 inches, recorded on January 29, 2019.

TABLE 1-1: Temperature and Precipitation Summary 1999-2021

Temperature Averages (Degrees Fahrenheit)				Precipitation Averages (Inches)	
Period	Maximum	Minimum	Mean	Precipitation	Snow
January	28.8	15.0	21.89	1.36	13.8
February	30.2	14.3	22.24	1.16	13
March	38.0	22.5	30.25	1.41	7.2
April	48.1	32.3	40.16	2.94	4.2
May	59.2	43.0	51.09	3.20	0
June	69.4	53.0	61.16	3.37	0
July	76.2	59.2	67.69	3.33	0
August	76.0	58.7	67.31	2.98	0
September	69.3	51.9	60.59	2.80	0
October	56.6	40.8	48.69	2.62	0
November	44.7	31.1	37.89	1.77	2.7
December	33.8	21.6	27.72	1.73	11.4
Annually	52.5	36.9	44.7	28.7	52.3

Source: Midwestern Regional Climate Center, Champaign IL, Station 203628, Harrisville MI

Water Resources

Alcona Township has an abundance of pristine waters that offer numerous recreational opportunities. The Township has nearly 10 miles of shoreline along Lake Huron, and approximately nine square miles, or 5,760 acres, of Hubbard Lake are contained within the Township. Several other lakes are located within the Township. Lost Lake (T28N, R8E) has 14 acres; Bear Lake (T28N, R8E) has 15.7 acres; Deer Lake (T28N, R8E) has 48 acres; Badger

Lake (T28N, R8E) has 83 acres; and Muskrat Lake (T28N, R9E) has 6 acres.

The Black River flows through the Township from south to north, emptying into Lake Huron in the community of Black River. Stevens Creek, Sucker Creek, Little North Creek, Liston Creek, Silver Creek, Gauthier Creek, and Derocher Creek are all located within Alcona Township.

Forest & Wildlife

A significant amount of the land is owned by the federal and state governments, and that land is maintained as forests. The Huron National Forest covers more than six square miles of Alcona Township. The Au Sable State Forest stretches for several square miles in the Township. A portion of Negwegon State Park is located in Alcona Township. The federal government owns several other parcels of land in the southeast corner of the Township. Additionally, Lost Lake

Woods Club, a private gated community holds more than 10,000 acres of land.

The forested areas provide the chief habitat for many game species. Among these are deer and bear, as well as fox, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, and bobcat. Game fowl include ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and turkey. In addition, the lakes and streams support many fish species.

Topography

The topography of Alcona Township is gently rolling and hilly. Elevation varies from 500' near the Lake Huron shoreline to 800' as one travels westward. Near the shores of Hubbard Lake, the elevation drops to 700'.

A Brief History of Tourism & Recreation in Alcona County

Tourism and recreation have been part of the fabric of the Alcona Township since the early 1920s. Harrisville State Park was established in 1921 through the Michigan State Parks Commission. The park originally spanned 107 acres of beach, hardwood forest, and rocky landscape providing visitors with a diverse range of recreational activities. Although Harrisville State Park is located just south of Alcona Township this helped tourism for the Township and was the spark for economic development, tourism, and recreation for the region.

By the end of the 1950's the middle-class mariners needed a harbor of refuge between Oscoda and Alpena. Construction on the Harrisville Harbor of Refuge began in the 1960's including a rock break wall. The City of Harrisville Harbor opened in 1961. Since then, the City of Harrisville harbor has served as an important refuge point between Alpena (20 miles north) and Oscoda (30 miles south). The harbor has been a key location of charter fishing and recreational navigation with established infrastructure and businesses nearby to accommodate harbor users.

Negwegon State Park was purchased in 1962 and was originally known as Alpena State Park. In 1970 local citizens deemed it appropriate to change the name to Negwegon State Park in honor of the Ojibwe tribes who hunted and camped in the area. Furthermore, the site is one of archaeological study and discovery. Negwegon includes lowland areas with small ridges, mature pine forests, open meadows, and a long sandy beach. In 2016 Negwegon State Park was designated as a dark sky preserve. Portions of Negwegon State Park fall within Alcona Township.

More recent efforts include the US-23 Heritage Route. The US-23 Heritage Route stretches from Standish to Mackinaw City and was established under the Michigan legislature in 1993. The route spans 200 miles of linear US-23 corridor encompassing 336 miles of coastline covering 6 counties and 45 municipalities. The Heritage Route boasts water, forests, wetlands, lighthouses, parks, trails, museums, small towns, culture, attractions, golf, dining, and many other hidden treasures.

CHAPTER

2

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



Alcona Township Recreation Plan

Administration

Alcona Township is governed by a five-member elected Board of Trustees consisting of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two trustees (**FIGURE 2-1**). The Board of Trustees has the authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants, and purchase land on behalf of the community. The Planning

Commission advises the board regarding parks and recreation planning decisions that are consistent with the Township's adopted parks and recreation plan and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Additional township boards include the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Review.

Planning Commission

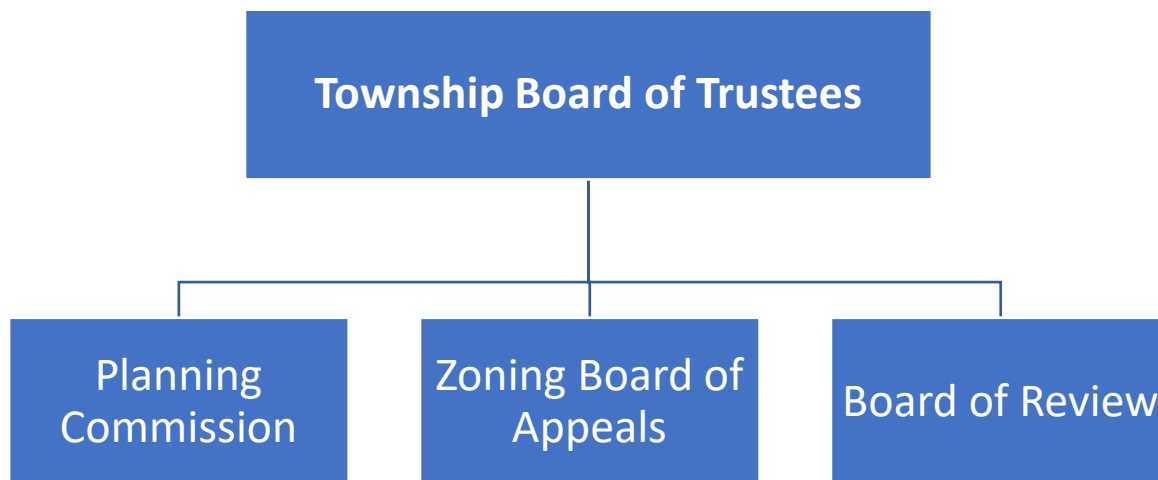
The Alcona Township Planning Commission is a five-member body appointed by the Township Board, and serving three-year staggered terms. Planning Committee members are proposed to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce,

industry, government, education, transportation, and so on. Planning members contribute their time and talents to the local planning process through the review of proposed development projects and the preparation of the Master Plan and Recreation Plan.

Administrative Structure

An organization chart for Alcona Township is as follows:

Figure 2-1: Administrative Structure



Parks & Recreation Maintenance & Staff

Alcona Township contracts to provide lawn maintenance and snow removal at its parks and recreation facilities. Additional volunteers have contributed their time to clean restrooms and plant flowers. A volunteer day is held in which volunteers may trim trees, pick up yard waste and debris, repair picnic tables, and paint facility areas.

Alcona Township Budget

Alcona Township's finances are garnered from property taxes, permits, and fees. Maintenance operations for the Township properties are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The Board allocates funds for the routine maintenance tasks. The purpose of updating the Recreation Plan is to establish the groundwork necessary for the township to be able to seek funding from grant applications. The Township will utilize contingency funds that have been set aside to use as matching funds.

Parks & Recreation Budget

The current Township budget allocates \$100,000 for recreation through March 2024. An identical budget for recreation is allocated for FY 24. Recreational funding in Alcona Township comes primarily from the Township General Fund. Grant funding is often sought for major improvements.

Relationship with other Agencies

Alcona Township depends on community volunteers who are dedicated individuals who come forward time and again to assist with community improvement projects, festival preparations, and other community events. The Township Board has frequent contact and excellent rapport with local/adjoining Township Officials and County Representatives whom they work with on various projects.

Alcona Township has relationships with the following groups:

1. **Hubbard Lake Sportsmen & Improvement Association (HLSIA):** The HLSIA is an organization of volunteers who united in 1946 to improve the environment, natural resources, fisheries, and wildlife habitat of Hubbard Lake. Their mission is to monitor, preserve, protect, and enhance natural resources, wildlife habitat, fisheries, water quality, and the natural state of Hubbard Lake, its tributaries, and surrounding wetland areas.
2. **Lost Lake Woods Club (LLWC):** LLWC has several recreational amenities that the public can use as the guest of a member. The club also has an 18-hole golf course that can be used by the public. The club houses Fire Station 3 which in the past housed a Township fire truck and had a group of volunteers and first responders. Due to a current lack of volunteer staff that agreement is not in effect. However, the opportunity does exist for the township to again partner with LLWC to house and offer fire services.
3. **Friends of Negwegon:** The Friends of Negwegon State Park is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization comprised of dedicated volunteers whose mission is to "Preserve, Protect, and Promote" Negwegon State Park through stewardship, education, and research. They undertake projects to preserve the wild and pristine beauty of the park for now and into the future. Alcona Township has occasional communications on mutual matters involving Negwegon State Park.

4. **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary:** Staff from TBNMS have assisted the Township with determining that there are shipwrecks off the Township shoreline and have encouraged the Township to seek the advancement of improvements to the area to bring additional recreation opportunities to our community.
5. **US-23 Heritage Route:** Alcona Team: Each county along the US-23 Heritage Route's 200-mile span has a team of volunteers that implement projects in its county with the assistance of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG). In addition, the Alcona County Team participates in the US-23 Management Council which provides the overall organizational direction and structure to coordinate efforts along the route. The Alcona Heritage Route Team consists of representation from the City of Harrisville, Harrisville Township, State Parks (Negwegon & Harrisville), Alcona County Board of Commissioners, Alcona County MSU Extension, neighboring Sanborn Township (Alpena County), and interested citizens. The Alcona Heritage Route Team was responsible for the establishment of a historic walking trail through the city and, with technical assistance from NEMCOG and a grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan, developed signage for the trail route as well as a coordinating brochure which describes the historic buildings along the trail. The Team is now interested in developing a trail system throughout Alcona County along US-23 to connect to the city trail. The Team is in the process of developing a tourism website that will market recreational facilities in Harrisville as well as along US-23 from Standish to Mackinaw City. Recently, they completed and printed brochures highlighting recreational attractions in Alcona County and Alcona Township.
6. **Friends of Black River Park and Black River Water Resource Group:** These two ad-hoc committees are made up of often overlapping volunteers who work to improve Black River Park and to protect and improve the water quality of the Black River Watershed. The committees often work with Alcona Township to complete projects, raise funds, and generally improve the recreational value in the Black River area of Alcona Township.

CHAPTER

3

RECREATION INVENTORY



Alcona Township Recreation Plan

Inventory Method & Classification System

The methods used by Northeast Michigan Council of Government staff to compile this recreational inventory include verification and compilation of information from the previous Recreation Plan, and information provided by Alcona Township Officials. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and accuracy.

An inventory of recreation facilities available in Alcona Township was completed and is presented in this chapter. The inventory includes Alcona Township-owned facilities, Alcona County-owned facilities, State and organization-owned facilities, and privately owned facilities. Alcona Township-owned facilities were evaluated for barrier-free accessibility. A description of the barrier-free accessibility rating is provided below.

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to easily identify those

parks and facilities that are most and least handicap accessible and usable, based on American Disability Act guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines) to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design).

The ADA compliance assessment of Alcona Township parks was conducted during the fall of 2023. The assessment consisted of a visual inspection of each park regarding the access to all of the park facilities. As noted in the inventory below, some of the parks do not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. Alcona Township is dedicated to continuing its efforts towards improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage.

DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

Alcona Township Recreation Inventory

Alcona Township Black River Park Ridge Road, Black River, MI, 48721			
Size (Acres)	Accessibility Rating	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Notes
1.5	2	Park & Access Site: Swimming Area, Playground, Picnic Area, Boat Launch	Multiple areas for barrier-free parking are designated. The kayak launch and fishing pier are fully accessible.

Description

Alcona Township Black River Park is approximately 5 acres in size and is comprised of three separate parcels. Two of the parcels, totaling about 2 acres, are owned by the Township and the third, approximately 3 acres, is owned by the MDNR and leased by the Township on a long-term basis. Overall, the site features almost 1,000 feet of river frontage and about 300 feet of sandy beach on Lake Huron. The site receives considerable use as a boat launch site and for picnicking and swimming. The park contains a picnic pavilion, a grill, a fire pit, multiple picnic tables, and playground equipment. In 2017, Alcona Township completed a grant to improve the park which included adding four barrier-free accessible paved parking areas, an accessible fishing/viewing pier, an ADA-accessible kayak launch, a boat launch, signage, and widening access areas. Because of the increased usage, future expansion plans include adding additional picnic tables and grills; replacing the playground equipment, which is outdated and deteriorating; replacing the existing pavilion with a larger, barrier-free structure with modern restroom facilities; paved parking and driveway; installing ADA-compliant boardwalk to Lake Huron shoreline; installing rip rap or steel piling along the north shore of the Black River bank to control

silting; and improved signage to and within the park. The Township is also considering replacing wooden fencing with maintenance-free vinyl fencing, reducing upkeep and material and labor costs each year. Silting at the river mouth restricting boating access is a continual problem. The Township in the past performed the dredging which cost about \$3,500 annually. Currently, the MDNR is performing and funding the annual dredging.



Larson Beach on Hubbard Lake 5137 North Hubbard Lake Road, Spruce, MI, 48762			
Size (Acres)	Accessibility Rating	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Notes
.73	1	Access Site: Launch Area	No barrier-free parking or pathways.

Description

The Township maintains one launch/access site for carry-in boats, canoes, kayaks, and other small watercraft. In the future, the Township would like to develop this 49' wide by 200' long site by stabilizing the shoreline from erosion. During the winter months, this site is used as an access to the lake by fishermen and snowmobilers. In the past, there have been problems with vehicular traffic accessing the ice and disrupting the shoreline in the process. The Township would like to limit access to ATV and snowmobile traffic by means of fencing or a retaining wall with a narrow access point above the high-water mark of the lake.



Black River Recreation Area East Black River Road, Black River, MI, 48721			
Size (Acres)	Accessibility Rating	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Notes
3	1	Recreation Area: Basketball & Tennis Courts, Ice Skating, Picnic Area.	No barrier-free parking or pathways

Description

The Township maintains three acres in the Village of Black River. This area contains a basketball court, one tennis court, a baseball field, a small playground set, and one grill. The pond has been/can be used as an ice-skating rink. This area needs considerable site enhancement, including landscaping, fencing upgrades on the ball field,

and stripe painting on the tennis court and basketball court. The Township would like to add amenities to this site to improve recreational opportunities and usage by residents and visitors including a new pavilion, picnic tables, another grill, and restroom facilities.

Recreation Grant Inventory

Alcona Township received and completed a grant program through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

PROJECT TITLE: Black River Park & Lake Huron Access Site

PROJECT NUMBER: TF17-0077

PROJECT YEAR: 2017

GRANT AMOUNT: \$108,700



Alcona Township Public Facilities

Alcona Township Hall & Fire Station #1			
5576 North US-23, Black River, MI, 48721			
Size (Acres)	Accessibility Rating	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Notes
2	3	Special Use: Meetings, Events, Firestation	

Description

Located at the corner of Black River Road and U.S. 23, this property consists of approximately 2 acres. The building is a combination fire hall and township hall. The hall is available to rent for private events such as graduation parties and wedding receptions.



Fire Station #2 5132 North Hubbard Lake Road, Spruce, MI, 48762			
Size (Acres)	Accessibility Rating	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Notes
1	NA	Special Use: Firestation	Site is not used for recreation or public gatherings

Description



Situated on approximately 1 acre, this property is used solely as a fire station.

Other Public Recreation Facilities

Negwegon State Park

Description

Negwegon State Park is a 4,128-acre rustic, natural sand beach area open for hunting and hiking. The terrain is a mixture of lowland and small ridges that include mature pine forests, hardwoods, and aspen with pockets of open meadows. Negwegon hosts a beautiful natural sand beach on Lake Huron. The Algonquin Trail,

the Chippewa Trail, and the Potawatomi Trail provide scenic hiking opportunities. Backcountry camping, on the four designated sites allows you to experience Negwegon's most scenic areas accessible only by hiking, kayaking, or canoeing along the Lake Huron shore. Camping is available in Negwegon from April through November.

Huron National Forest

Description

Owned by the United States Government, this land consists of approximately 5,400 acres. It includes almost one mile of undeveloped shoreline along Lake Huron.

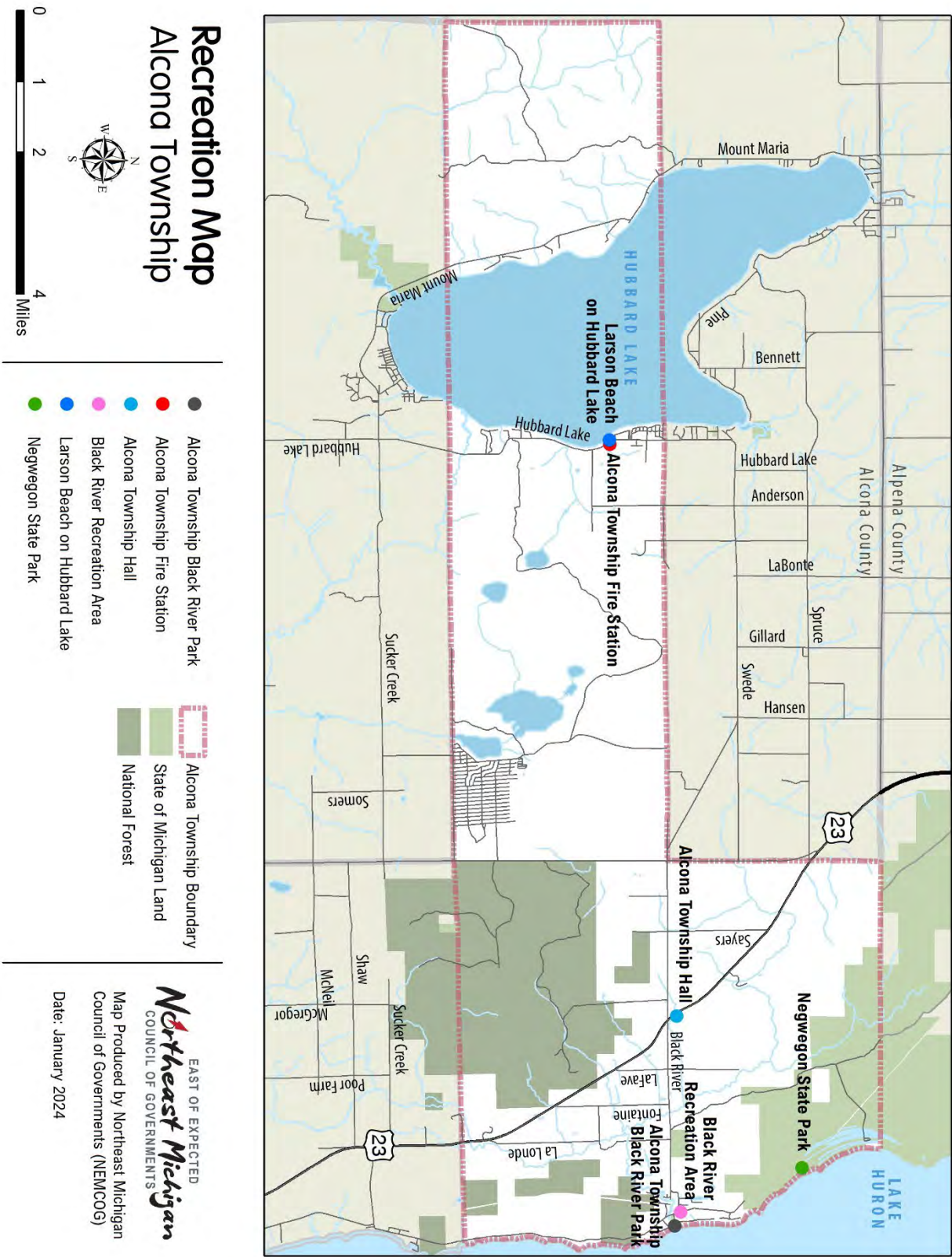
Private Recreation Facilities

Lost Lake Woods Club

Description

This is a private gated community consisting of approximately 10,000 acres, a 40-room clubhouse, and four private lakes. The club has complete recreational facilities including hunting, fishing, hiking trails, snowmobile and riding trails, a riding stable, an 18-hole golf course, an archery

range, skeet and rifle ranges, and year-round homes. The club, although private, has a tremendous impact on Alcona Township and Alcona County. In addition, the public is allowed to use the golf course.



Recreation in Alcona County

TABLE 3-1: Alcona County Public & Private Recreation Facilities	
Alcona Township	
Public	Private
Negwegon State Park	Lost Lake Woods Club
Huron National Forest	Viking Marine
Larsen Beach on Hubbard Lake	
Alcona Township Black River Park	
Black River Recreation Area	
Alcona Township Hall	
Caledonia Township	
Hubbard Lake Access Sites	Paul Bunyan Campground
Hickey Hill	Monarch Ridge Golf Course
Spruce Park	Hubbard Lake Marine
	Churchill Pointe Inn
Curtis Township	
Indian Lakes Park	Alcona Canoe Rental & Campground
Alcona Park	Middleton Campground
Vaughn Lake Public Access	Eagle Ridge Golf Course
North Lake (trailhead for snowmobiles)	
Au Sable National Scenic River	
Huron National Forest	
Greenbush Township	
Cedar Lake Access Sites	Greenbush Golf Course
Ten Acres	
Greenbush Recreation Area	
Greenbush Country School	
Swart House	
Multiple Lake Huron Access Sites	
Gustin Township	
Alcona Community Schools	
Former Memorial Hall	
Harrisville Township	
Harrisville Recreation Area	Springport Hills Golf Course
Harrisville State Park	80-acre Reserve
Alcona Recreation Area	
Village of Lincoln	
Barlow Park/Flights of Imagination	
Brownlee Lake Park	
Lincoln Lakefront	
Railroad Park	
Brownlee Lake Public Access	
Lincoln Train Depot	
Lincoln Area Multiuse Pathway (LAMP)	

Hawes Township	
Public	Private
West Branch River Public Access Site	Former Timber Creek Resort
Jewell Lake	White Pines National Golf Club
Haynes Township	
Sturgeon Point Lighthouse	Cedarbrook Trout Farm
Bailey School	
Mikado Township	
Bruce Park	Chippewa Indian Settlement
Ball Parks	Indian Mission Church
Ten Acres	
Pine River National Forest Campground	
Vandercook Trailhead	
Millen Township	
Barton City Community Park	Barton City Eagles Club
Jewell Lake Campground	
Horseshoe Lake Campground	
Reid Lake Foot Travel Area	
Sprinkler Lake Education Center	
Mitchell Township	
Mitchell Township Park	
Hoist Lake Area	
O'Brien Lake	
McCollum Lake State Forest Campground	
AuSable River	
City of Harrisville	
Harrisville Harbor & Harbor Park	
Veteran's Club Property	
Office Park Tennis Courts/Pavilion	
Dock Street Road End	
Foot of Main Scenic Overlook	
Craftmaker's Cabin	
Harrisville Heritage Route Trail	
Harrisville Recreation Area	

Recreation Outside of Alcona County

In addition to recreation within Alcona County, township residents have access to recreational opportunities in Alpena, 13 miles to the north, as well as Oscoda, 16 miles south. The City of Alpena is the largest city in the northeast Michigan region and offers 22 recreational properties. Community-based recreation in Alpena includes the Plaza Pool

at Alpena High School and many community parks with swimming and fishing access.

Oscoda High School has an indoor swimming pool which is open for public use on a limited basis; the community also has a waterfront park on its

Lake Huron beach with playground equipment and tennis courts.

A second lake-side park area, located just north of Oscoda on U.S-23, offers picnicking and swimming. Several campgrounds are located in or near the Huron National Forest, including the Old Orchard Campground on the Au Sable River. The Lumberman's Monument area on River Road offers a visitor's center with informative and educational displays depicting lumbering days, a

gift shop, an interpretive center, the impressive monument itself, numerous scenic hiking and walking trails, and a spectacular view of the Au Sable River. Picnicking and boating are also available at Van Etten Lake in Oscoda.

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

Festivals & Events

The community of Black River plays host to annual Labor Day festivities. Two popular events during the festivities are the Annual Bridge Walk and the Old-Timers Softball Game. There are often other activities during the Labor Day weekend that offers a unique and fun recreational opportunity for area residents and visitors.

CHAPTER

4

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



Alcona Township Recreation Plan

General Goals & Objectives

Goals & Objectives: Goals and objectives were developed from a survey and public input session as well as by input from the Planning Committee.

1. To protect, promote, and preserve the area.
2. Continue to encourage strong local government support of recreation and tourism planning.
3. Expand and improve upon the recreational needs of the community where feasible.
4. Provide a balance of recreational amenities for all ages and abilities which are both active and passive.
5. Support cooperative regional recreation planning and development with Alcona County, the Michigan DNR, and other surrounding communities.
6. Improve the quality of life for residents and bring visitors to Alcona Township by maintaining, improving, and expanding recreation within the Township and surrounding areas by working cooperatively with local and State governmental agencies, community service agencies, and local businesses.
7. To encourage tourism as an economic resource for the community, yet recognize the need to provide other recreational opportunities to the residents.
8. Improve the overall local economy by enhancing the livability of the community to attract entrepreneurs and encourage the creation of new tourism-based jobs.
9. To provide outdoor recreational facilities for the enjoyment of residents, sports enthusiasts, and visitors to Alcona Township.
10. Maintain existing and new recreational facilities in a manner that preserves the ecological and scenic value of the area.
11. Install wayfinding signage to promote parks for locals and people visiting the area.

Alcona Township Black River Park

Goal: Enhance the recreational opportunities at the Alcona Township Black River Park property to encourage its establishment as a primary recreational facility in the Township.

Objective 1: Improve existing or provide new amenities to improve the overall usability of the park.

- a) **Action:** Continue to improve and maintain signage where necessary.
- b) **Action:** Work with Alpena Shipwreck Tours and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary to develop a kayak/canoe shipwreck trail near the property.
- c) **Action:** Improve site lighting.
- d) **Action:** Improve and maintain parking and driveways and work to pave areas.
- e) **Action:** Add picnic tables, grills, and additional playground equipment.
- f) **Action:** Maintain the volleyball court.
- g) **Action:** Improve boat launch facilities.
- h) **Action:** Continue to upgrade the entire site to be barrier-free.
- i) **Action:** Construct a new larger pavilion with modern restroom facilities.
- j) **Action:** Construct a new accessible pier.

Objective 2: Improve the overall appearance of the park and protect it from deterioration.

- a) **Action:** Ongoing removal of dead trees and improved landscaping.
- b) **Action:** Maintain kayak/canoe launch.
- c) **Action:** Explore improvements to manage sand drift near the mouth of the river.
- d) **Action:** Work with the DNR to construct a shoreline management structure to mitigate the issue of sand closing off the mouth of the Black River.

Larson Beach on Hubbard Lake

Goal: Enhance the recreational opportunities at the East Shore Access property to encourage its establishment as a primary recreational facility in the Township.

Objective 1: Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the park.

- a) **Action:** Provide a dock and improve the picnic area.
- b) **Action:** Install grills.
- c) **Action:** Delineate public space including a parking area with fencing and/or landscape materials such as boulders.

Objective 2: Stop the deterioration of property, and encourage responsible usage.

- a) **Action:** Stabilize the shoreline from erosion.
- b) **Action:** Continue to provide winter access to ATVs/snowmobiles by maintaining access.
- c) **Action:** Maintain the lawn and landscaping to improve the park's appearance.

Black River Recreation Area

Goal: Enhance the recreational opportunities at the Black River Recreation Area to encourage its establishment as a primary recreational facility in the Township.

Objective 1: Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the park.

- a) **Action:** Construct a pavilion for picnics and patrons using playground equipment.
- b) **Action:** Adding picnic tables (constructed of recycled materials), grills, and additional playground equipment.
- c) **Action:** Paint boundary lines and replace nets on the tennis court and basketball court as needed and add marking for pickleball.
- d) **Action:** Maintain fencing on baseball fields.
- e) **Action:** Install modern restroom facilities.
- f) **Action:** Landscaping improvement and removal of brush and dead trees.

Alcona Township Hall

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

Objective 1: Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the property.

- a) **Action:** Add barrier-free patio/outdoor seating area, picnic tables, and playground equipment.
- b) **Action:** Construct pavilion and add grills.
- c) **Action:** Install a basketball hoop at the far end of the parking lot utilizing the preexisting paved area.

Basis for Action Program

There are a number of issues to consider when planning for recreational facilities in Alcona Township (figures are from the American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimates unless noted otherwise)

1. The median age of residents in Alcona Township is 62.2 years old, compared to the state's median age of 39.8.
2. Young people ages 0-19 comprise only 11.2% of the Township population and 18.6% of the population is between 20-54 years of age (the age where there would typically be children living at home). When planning recreational facilities for the younger population, careful consideration should be given to location (close to population) and ease of access (non-motorized access to facilities).
3. Residents of retirement age (65 +) comprise 42.7% of the Township population. Thought must be given to planning for this large resident population with the time and desire for age-appropriate recreational activities.
4. Alcona Township's median household income is \$56,554 compared to that of the state average of \$63,202. Accordingly, to truly be accessible, recreation must also be affordable for all.
5. Alcona Township is very proud of its natural beauty and rural character. It is important to those planning for its growth and development that every effort be made to balance ecological concerns with tourism potential. Protection of natural resources and scenic areas must therefore be a major element of the planning process.

Capital Improvement Plan

The Capital Improvement Schedule found below describes what recreational improvements the Parks as well as the Township would like to pursue over the next five years.

Table 4-1: Capital Improvements Schedule			
Alcona Township Black River Park			
PRIORITY	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	EST. COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
HIGH	Maintain and improve signage to and within the park.	TBD	Local and DNR
HIGH	Improve the beach area for swimming and beach activities.	TBD	Local and DNR
HIGH	Improve site lighting, and install a new well and septic system	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Playground equipment	\$40,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Picnic tables, grills & benches	\$5,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Improving parking/driveways in sections as feasible	\$60,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Install new fencing and archway.	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local Funds
HIGH	Construct an ADA boardwalk to Lake Huron.	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Maintain and improve boat launches.	\$50,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
MEDIUM	Maintain volleyball court	\$500	Local Funds

Alcona Township Black River Park (continued)			
PRIORITY	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	EST COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
MEDIUM	Construct a new accessible pier	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Replace the existing pavilion with a new larger barrier-free pavilion with modern restroom facilities.	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
LOW	Maintain ADA vault toilets.	\$20,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Removal of dead trees and improvement of landscaping.	TBD	Local funds
HIGH	Maintain the current barrier-free kayak/canoe launch and fishing deck.	TBD	Local funds
HIGH	Explore improvements to manage sand drift near the mouth of the river	TBD	Local funds
HIGH	Work with DNR to develop an engineering study	TBD	Municipal Bonds Coastal Zone Mgt. Grant Other appropriate grants

Larson Beach on Hubbard Lake			
PRIORITY	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	EST. COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
HIGH	Install fencing or other landscaping to delineate public spaces	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
MEDIUM	Maintain picnic area with picnic tables, add grills	\$5,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
MEDIUM	Break wall or other shoreline stabilization	\$40,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
MEDIUM	Retaining wall with narrow ATV & snowmobile access	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
MEDIUM	Maintain picnic area with picnic tables, add grills	\$5,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds

Black River Recreation Area			
PRIORITY	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	EST. COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
HIGH	Construct pavilion	\$25,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Picnic tables, grills, benches, and additional playground equipment.	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Paint basketball and tennis court boundaries. Replace nets on tennis & basketball courts. Add markings for pickleball	\$1,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Maintain fencing on baseball fields and tennis courts.	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds

Black River Recreation Area (continued)			
HIGH	Construct barrier-free modern restrooms	\$20,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Landscaping & site enhancements	\$5,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds

Alcona Township Hall			
PRIORITY	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	EST. COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
MEDIUM	Picnic tables, grills & benches	\$5,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
MEDIUM	Install playground equipment	TBD	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
LOW	Construct pavilion	\$25,000	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
LOW	Install basketball court	\$500	DNR and other grants and funding sources, as appropriate and available Local funds
HIGH	Remodel the main area, north bathrooms, and kitchen	\$100,000	ARPA
*Some flexibility in the timeline may be necessary in order to allow for necessary engineering studies, environmental surveys, contractual scheduling, and the availability of funding.			

CHAPTER

5

PLANNING PROCESS



Alcona Township Recreation Plan

Introduction

The development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The Alcona Township Board was the lead entity in developing the Township Recreation Plan. The Township Board sought input from the Alcona Township Planning

Commission. Planning Commission and Township Board meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. A timeline for the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

Schedule

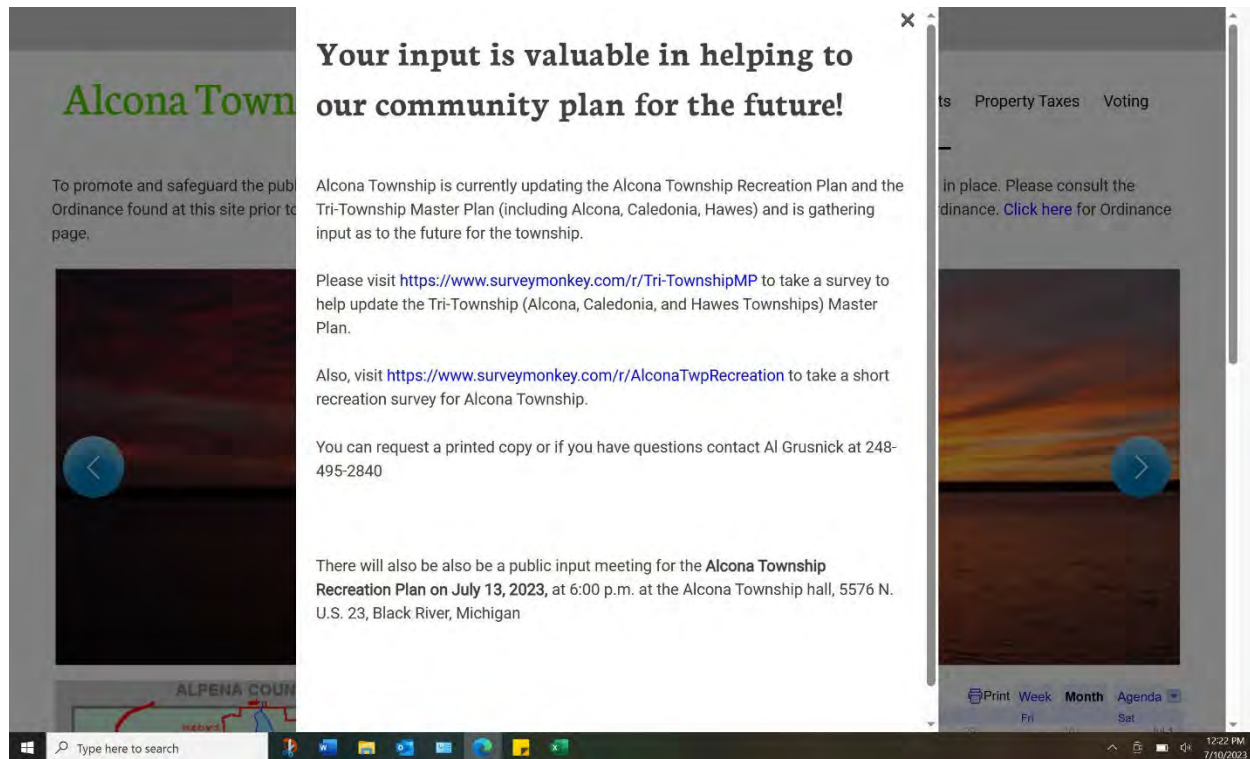
June 6, 2023	Alcona Township contracts with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) to update its Recreation Plan.
June 2023	NEMCOG develops an online survey to gather input. The Planning Commission meets to review the draft survey and approves the survey for distribution to the public.
July 6, 2023	The survey link appears on the Alcona Township website.
July 13, 2023	The Planning Commission holds a public input session to gather additional input on the Recreation Plan.
Fall 2023	NEMCOG staff conducts site visits to all recreational facilities and property in the Township and conducts barrier-free assessments.
November 9, 2023	The Planning Commission reviews background chapters and goals and objectives chapter.
November 29, 2023	A public notice appeared in the Alcona County Review advertising that the Alcona Township Recreation Plan draft is out for the 30-day review period.
December 13, 2023	A public notice appeared in the Alcona County Review advertising that a public hearing will be held on January 16, 2024, at the Alcona Township Hall.
January 4, 2024	The Alcona Township Planning Commission met to review the final draft of the recreation plan. The Planning Commission adopted the plan by resolution pending any final edits from the January 16 public hearing.
January 16, 2024	The Alcona Township Board of Trustees held a special meeting and public hearing on the Recreation Plan. Following the public hearing, the Alcona Township Board of Trustees adopted the Alcona Township Recreation Plan by resolution.

Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. An online survey was offered to citizens to gain input for the development of a new recreation plan which included several questions about recreational facilities and services in the Township. The survey results can be viewed in Appendix A or by contacting the Planning Commission.

The subject of the recreation plan update, recreational development, and projects, was also discussed at several Planning Commission meetings. Throughout the development of this Recreation Plan, members of key groups in the Township have been involved.

Public Notice of Online Survey and Public Input Session



Minutes of July 13 Planning Commission Meeting and Public Input Session

ALCONA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting/Public Input Recreation Plan
July 13, 2023
Alcona Township Hall

Attending Members: Al Grusnick, Ron Ott, Tony Bolanowski
Excused: Jennifer Hansen Resigned: Flora Yingling

Also in attendance: Marlena Mac Neill, Supervisor; Karen Schroer, Betty DeBose, Kristin Benghauser

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and called to order at 6:35 pm by Chairman Al Grusnick

Al outlined the purpose of the input session.

Betty commented about the Master Plan and solar farms to which there was discussion about the process of the Master Plan and its relation to the Zoning Ordinance, which was just recently revised.

Al asked for feedback on the Recreation Plan survey and it was reported the biggest challenge was probably trying to capture input to cover all three townships. There was discussion about the origin of the Tri-Township Planning Committee and also about demographics, characteristics of the community, and what draws and keeps people residing and/or visiting the area.

The public input session ended at 7:15 p.m. and Betty and Kristin left.

It was agreed there were no additions or corrections needed for the agenda.

Motion by Tony Bolanowski to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023, minutes, second by Ron Ott. Motion carried.

Al reported Flora Yingling's resignation from the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals was accepted by the Township Board and the vacancy would be advertised.

Discussed the Alcona Township Recreation Plan and the Tri-Township Master Plan.

It was agreed there may be another meeting needed in addition to the September meeting to assimilate the survey results.

Tony will copy the Word version of the new Zoning Ordinance to an external storage device to be kept on file at the Hall to use in future edits, if/when needed.
Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:00 pm by Ron Ott, second by Tony Bolanowski. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlena Mac Neill
Alcona Township Supervisor (substituting for Jennifer)

Submitted, Al Grusnick
Al Grusnick

Public Notice of 30-day Review Period

Affidavit of Publication

In the Matter of Notice of Public Hearing for Recreation Plan ~ *Alcona Township*

STATE OF MICHIGAN, SS
COUNTY OF ALCONA

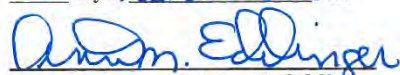
Cheryl L. Peterson being first duly sworn, says that she is the publisher of the Alcona County Review, a newspaper published in Alcona County, Michigan, in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published on:

December 13, 2023


Cheryl L. Peterson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

13 day of December, 2023


Ann M. Eddinger

Notary Public for Alcona County,
Acting in Alcona County
My Commission Expires 3-6-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Alcona Township Recreation Plan

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) is assisting Alcona Township with updating its 5-year community recreation plan. A draft of the plan will be available for public review and comments for at least 30 days. The draft plan can be downloaded from <http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/recreation.asp> or the Alcona Township website at <https://alconatownship.com/>. Comments may be submitted to Nico Tucker, NEMCOG, P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734, or by email to ntucker@nemcog.org. This recreation plan identifies goals, objectives, and action items for improving recreational opportunities in Alcona Township. Communities are required to have a current, 5-year, Department of Natural Resources-approved recreation plan to qualify for recreation grant funding from the MDNR.

Minutes of January 4 Planning Commission Meeting

ALCONA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
January 4, 2024
Alcona Township Hall

Attending Members: Al Grusnick, Ron Ott, Tony Bolanowski, Karen Schroer, Jennifer Hansen
Also attending: Tammy Mendyka

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance
Called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Al Grusnick

Motion by Ronn Ott with second by Karen Schroer to approve the agenda with the following corrections:

1. Move Old Business before New Business
2. Add Resolution to Adopt the Alcona Township Recreation Plan to New Business

Motion carried.

Motion by Tony Bolanowski to accept the minutes of November 9, 2023 regular meeting with second by Karen Schroer. Motion carried.

Motion by Ron Ott to accept the minutes of December 21, 2023 special meeting with second by Karen Schroer. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Discussion on Alcona Township Recreation Plan updates. Eric from NEMCOG was replaced by Nico Tucker shortly after the November 9th meeting so edits to the plan were delayed. The public hearing has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Alcona Township Hall.

Discussion on status of Tri-Township Master Plan update. With the replacement of Eric from NEMCOG, no updates were available at the time of the meeting so current status is unknown. Al Grusnick will follow up with Denise Cline to get clarification on who is handling the update at NEMCOG.

New Business

Motion by Ron Ott to approve the 2024 Planning Commission budget of \$14,840.00 as presented with second by Tony Bolanowski. Motion carried.

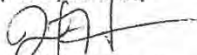
Tammy Mendyka presented the PC with an update on Zoning Administration. She reiterated concerns of the need for 50' lots that are already developed and want to make improvements to go through ZBA for a variance because lot size is considered non-conforming. The original concern was discussed at the September 14, 2023 PC meeting. After further discussion and review of current Zoning Ordinances, Section 6.3 of the updated ordinance addresses this situation. It allows for the issuance of zoning permits by the Township Zoning Administrator without having to involve the ZBA. No further action by the PC was necessary. She also provided a status update on several short-term rental cases that are currently being handled through the court process.

Motion by Ron Ott to adopt the Alcona Township Recreation plan pending any final edits based on comments received during the January 16, 2024 public hearing with second by Tony Bolanowski. Motion carried.

Motion by Karen Schroer to adjourn the meeting, second by Jennifer Hansen. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Hansen, Secretary
Planning Commission, Alcona Township

Planning Commission Resolution of Adoption

ALCONA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

Alcona Township Planning Commission

- WHEREAS,** Alcona Township has undertaken a 5-Year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2024 – 2028, and
- WHEREAS,** An online recreation survey was published on June 12, 2023 and remained open for public input until October 31, 2023 providing residents with an opportunity to comment and guide recreation in the Township, and
- WHEREAS,** A public input session was held on July 13, 2023 to provide residents with an additional opportunity to comment and guide recreation, and
- WHEREAS,** A public notice was published in the Alcona County Review on December 13, 2023, which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and
- WHEREAS,** the Alcona Township Board will hold a public hearing on January 16, 2024, to offer residents another opportunity to provide input, and
- WHEREAS,** Alcona Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire community.
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Alcona Township Planning Commission hereby adopts the Recreation Plan and recommends to the Township Board adoption of the Alcona Township Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Alcona Township.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing Resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Alcona Township Planning Commission held on January 4, 2024.

1-4-24
Date

AL Gruswick
AL Gruswick

Public Hearing & Township Board Special Meeting Public Notice


Affidavit of Publication

In the Matter of Notice of Public Hearing for Recreation Plan ~ *Alcona Township*

STATE OF MICHIGAN, SS
COUNTY OF ALCONA

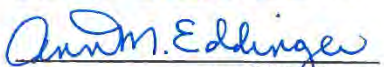
Cheryl L. Peterson being first duly sworn, says that she is the publisher of the Alcona County Review, a newspaper published in Alcona County, Michigan, in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published on:

December 27, 2023


Cheryl L. Peterson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

27 day of December 2023


Ann M. Eddinger
Notary Public for Alcona County,
Acting in Alcona County
My Commission Expires 3-6-2026

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

RECREATION PLAN FOR ALCONA TOWNSHIP

The Alcona Township Board of Trustees will hold a Special Meeting and Public Hearing, on the draft Alcona Township Recreation Plan, on January 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm, at the Alcona Township Hall located at 5576 N US 23, Black River, MI 48721.

The public hearing provides an opportunity for the public to participate in the final development of the recreation plan. The recreation plan contains goals, objectives, and action items pertaining to recreation in Alcona Township for 2024-2028. The draft plan may be reviewed at: <http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/recreation.asp>. Written comments may be submitted to Nico Tucker, Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734; or by e-mail at ntucker@nemcog.org.

Public Hearing & Township Board Special Meeting Minutes

ALCONA TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

January 16, 2024

Special Meeting

The Alcona Township special board meeting was called to order by Supervisor MacNeill with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll call: Present: Supervisor Marlena MacNeill, Clerk Dawn LaLonde, Treasurer Tina Gauthier and Trustees Jim Bouchard and Tony Bolanowski.

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Bolanowski, to accept minutes from the January 9, 2024 meeting.

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by MacNeill, to recess regular meeting and enter into public hearing for the proposed recreation plan. PASSED All in Favor.

Nico, a representative from NEMCOG was present and answered questions concerning the recreation plan. A few typographic errors were addressed and the corrections will be made.

Motion by MacNeill, seconded by Bouchard, to close the public hearing and resume regular meeting. PASSED All in Favor.

Motion by Bolanowski, seconded by Gauthier, to adopt the Alcona Township Recreation plan pending any final edits based on comments received during the January 16, 2024 public hearing.

Roll Call Vote:

Bouchard-YES LaLonde-YES Bolanowski-YES Gauthier-YES MacNeill-YES
Motion PASSED

Motion by MacNeill, seconded by LaLonde, to pass a salary resolution for the Alcona Township Board Trustees. Beginning April 1, 2024 the annual salary will be \$2000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Bolanowski-YES Bouchard-YES MacNeill-YES Gauthier-YES LaLonde-YES
Motion PASSED

Motion by MacNeill, seconded by Bouchard, to pass a salary resolution for the Alcona Township Clerk. Beginning April 1, 2024 the annual salary will be \$21,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Gauthier-YES Bouchard-YES MacNeill-YES Bolanowski-YES LaLonde-YES
Motion PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 6:34p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn LaLonde

Alcona Township Clerk

Township Board Resolution of Adoption

ALCONA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

Alcona Township Board of Trustees

- WHEREAS,** Alcona Township has undertaken a 5-Year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2024 – 2028, and
- WHEREAS,** An online recreation survey was published on June 12, 2023 and remained open for public input until October 31, 2023 providing residents with an opportunity to comment and guide recreation in the Township, and
- WHEREAS,** A public input session was held on July 13, 2023 to provide residents with an additional opportunity to comment and guide recreation, and
- WHEREAS,** A public notice was published in the Alcona County Review on December 13, 2023, which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and
- WHEREAS,** Alcona Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire community, and
- WHEREAS,** a public hearing was held on January 16, 2024 at the Alcona Township Hall to provide residents the opportunity to ask questions and express opinions on the Recreation Plan
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Alcona Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Recreation Plan Update as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Township.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the forgoing Resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the Alcona Township Board of Trustees, held on January 16, 2024.

1-16-2024
Date

Dawn LaLonde
Dawn LaLonde
Alcona Township Clerk

Copies of Transmittal Letters



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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

January 26, 2024

Alcona County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 308
Harrisville, Michigan 48740

On behalf of Alcona Township, we are pleased to inform you that the Township has approved and adopted a 5-year Recreation Plan. This plan received public input from online surveys, in person public hearings, and other public meetings.

Please find enclosed a complete copy of the final Recreation Plan. The plan will serve as a guide for improvements of recreational opportunities and facilities in these communities over the next five years.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Nico Tucker
Senior Planner
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG)

Regional
Cooperation
Since
1968

Alcona * Alpena * Cheboygan * Crawford * Emmet * Montmorency * Oscoda * Otsego * Presque Isle

An
Equal Opportunity
Employer



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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

January 26, 2024

Doug Baum, Executive Director
PO Box 457
Gaylord, MI 49734

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Sincerely,

Nico Tucker
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Alcona * Alpena * Cheboygan * Crawford * Emmet * Montmorency * Oscoda * Otsego * Presque Isle

An
Equal Opportunity
Employer

APPENDIX

A

SURVEY RESULTS

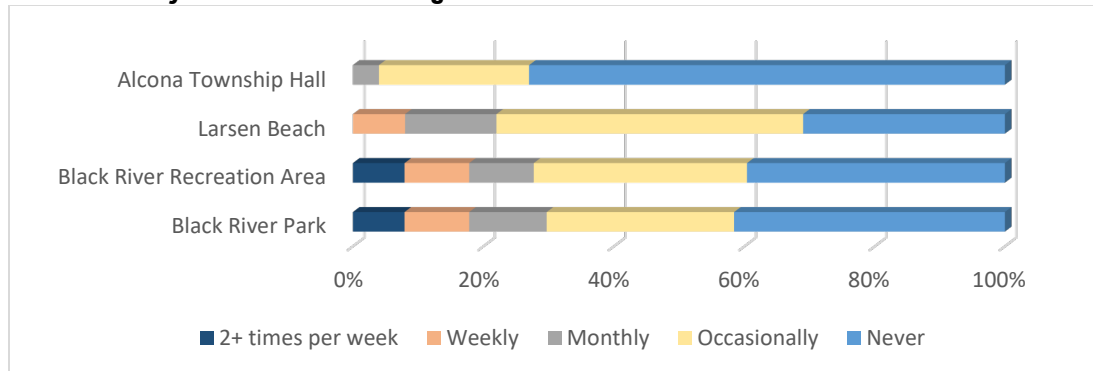


Alcona Township Recreation Survey Results

Alcona Township Recreation Survey Results

Question 1

How often do you utilize the following recreational facilities?



Question 2

What activities do you participate in at the following recreational facilities?

- **Black River Park**

- ☐ Swimming, fishing, just enjoying the water.
- ☐ Boat launch, playground, fishing.
- ☐ Picnic area and waterfront, lookout area at entrance of the river.
- ☐ Fishing, kayaking, swimming.
- ☐ Walks
- ☐ Picnic lunch, ball park.
- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Swimming, kayaking.
- ☐ Let the Grandchildren play.
- ☐ Swimming, relaxing.
- ☐ Swim and picnic.
- ☐ The beach
- ☐ None
- ☐ I don't know where that is.
- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Beach
- ☐ Fishing (using boat launch); walking; caretaking (FATP).
- ☐ Look at the Big Lake.
- ☐ Walking by the water.
- ☐ Fishing, kayaking, swimming.
- ☐ Flying kites, fishing, sunbathing.
- ☐ None
- ☐ Kayaking

- **Black River Recreation Area**

- ☐ Tennis Courts.
- ☐ Boat Access, bicycling, beach.
- ☐ Park area and waterfront.
- ☐ Tennis, softball, basketball.
- ☐ Fishing.

- Beach and river kayaking.
- Walking
- Kayaking, fishing.
- Boat Launch
- Picnic, Kayak, fishing.
- Fishing
- Ballfield
- Ballfield
- Fishing
- Fishing
- We plan to visit it.
- Kayaking
- Kayaking
- Biking
- Playground
- Fishing; hiking.
- Fish in the Big Lake.
- Fishing, Kayaking.
- Labor Day ballgame
- Tennis, softball.
- Fishing, boating.
- None
- **Larsen Beach**
 - Boat launch, viewing sunsets.
 - Boat Access
 - Launch Boat
 - Fishing
 - Launching boat
 - Putting boat in.
 - Put boat in and out seasonally.
 - Boat launch. Can't use the Blackriver too shallow.
 - Kayaking, fishing.
 - Boat Launch
 - Fishing
 - Boat launch
 - Relaxing
 - Fishing
 - Boat ramp
 - Boat ramp
 - Boat launch
 - Boating
 - Swimming
 - Swimming
 - Fishing
 - Look and Fish at Hubbard Lake
 - Boating
 - None
 - Swimming

- **Alcona Township Hall (rental)**
 - o Have not used this yet but may in the future.
 - o Mail, meetings, and voting.
 - o Parties or meetings held there.
 - o Family reunion, funeral luncheons.
 - o Receptions, family reunions.
 - o N/A.
 - o Wedding and baby showers, family reunions.
 - o Showers, funerals, graduation parties.
 - o None.
 - o Have not used.
 - o Craft fairs.
 - o Meetings, parties.
 - o N/A.
 - o N/A.
 - o Whenever there is an event to attend.
 - o Family reunion.
 - o N/A.
 - o None.
 - o Family get-togethers, graduation parties, funerals, wedding/bridal showers, community meetings.

Question 3

What improvements do you feel are needed at the Black River Park?

- Tennis Courts need resurfacing, paint for boundary line, trees trimmed out of fence, fence on east side of court. Post: Park Hours ballfields need fixing up too.
- Bathrooms
- Better entrance/exit from the river to the lake
- Upgrade the outdoor bathrooms. Paint and repair the decorative fence that seems sturdy. Put more signs or an exhibit like those at Lumberman's Monument explaining the history of the lumber industry in the area. Place it by the parking lot area where one sign exists that was created by a resident. Emphasize the area history here. New signs recently added to direct people to the park, keep dogs on leash and no motor vehicles past the fence. There is a log from a raft of the lumber era with no explanation of the use or history. Provide a volleyball with storage located by the picnic tables.
- Seating, picnic areas, outhouse facilities.
- Garbage bins.
- Bathroom facilities
- The pit toilets are disgusting.
- Needs bigger pavilion maybe close part to for shelter.
- None
- As a committee member of the Friends of Alcona Township Park, we are meeting to discuss needed improvements and communicating with the Township Board through our two Board liaison members and our Township Supervisor. Several improvement plans are in the works at the present time.
- The area around the pavilion could be more inviting and the weeds removed under the tables.
- Re/place a couple benches along the river, maintain the parking lot and driveway. repair fence at the ditch.

- Just upkeep what is already there.
- No
- New pavilion, updated bathrooms, paving parking areas, new fencing.

Question 4

What improvements do you feel are needed at the Black River Recreation Area?

- Update and improve playground facilities - too many signs. Clean beach volleyball court.
- Stop taking sand out of the Black River. If the river needs to be dredged relocate the sand along the nearby beaches.
- Strengthen the sign for a good first impression with a stone foundation. Place a porta potty from Memorial to Labor day or a bathroom like the Park. Lay an asphalt track around the perimeter so residents have a place to walk other than the road. Emphasize physical fitness. Invest in a container to store a basketball as tourists and residents may not bring one but could respect it and leave it there for others. Put a gaga ball structure as seen on elementary school playgrounds in Midland. There is a playset in the back for young children. Add benches by the tennis and basketball court for spectators, to lay belongings.
- Seating, picnic areas, outhouse facilities.
- The river continues to be dredged but fills in soon afterward. An engineered solution to keep it open may help.
- Needs a boat launch that doesn't get shallow mid-summer because of the sand. A seawall would fix that. Sad, we got to go to Alpena or Harrisville to put the boat in.
- Area for used fishing line.
- Pavilion and better bathroom facilities.
- A local ball team would be nice.
- Keep mowed short better maintenance for play equip and cleanup.
- None
- In general, the entire Park needs a refresh. It has been somewhat neglected for a period of time, and we are anxious to see it restored to a welcoming place for local use and visitors. We also feel that the current lawn maintenance contractor is not doing a very good job. He only mows the easily accessible areas, does no weed whipping so the perimeter areas are very unkempt, and apparently does not wish to take the time or effort to raise his mower blades to mow any uneven ground. We believe he should either improve his work or the Township Board should replace him with someone who will.
- Break wall at river inlet and outlet for boats to be able to get through
- The tennis courts and the fence around it should be repaired. Making pickle ball courts would be good and the cement is already there.
- There are new residents in Black River so improved appearance would help them and tourists use the facility. Suggestions; benches by tennis courts, bike rack
- A pier is needed to stop the mouth of the river from closing. They dredge the mouth and 3 weeks later, it is closed up again and too shallow for anything but a canoe.
- No
- Not sure

Question 5

What improvements do you feel are needed at Larsen Beach?

- Bathrooms that are not pit toilets.
- Boat ramps need to be maintained at a proper depth for all boats, including larger ones.

- More seating, trails.
- None
- None
- Nothing at this time that we are aware of.
- Parking
- Extended dock, shoreline improvements.

Question 6

What improvements do you feel are needed at the Alcona Township Hall?

- Air conditioning
- It has newer tables and chairs but may need to be advertised for availability as there's a rumor there is no more cooking in the kitchen for events? Create an outdoor area in the back for groups to gather more comfortably.
- Upgrade kitchen.
- N/A
- Bathroom updates and Kitchen update.
- Township hall looks good.
- Parking can be crowded during Farmers market but it's not a huge issue.
- Upgrades to interior/remodeling.
- Internet reception.
- There are probably some improvements needed. We believe we have heard that the restrooms are in need of an update, but we personally have never rented the Hall (only attended meetings there).
- Complete the kitchen so it can be rented more conveniently.
- I feel the hall has been improved but don't think it's clear about renting it and what service is available, i.e., kitchen facilities.
- No
- Barrier-free and updated bathrooms, updated kitchen, remodeled meeting area

Question 7

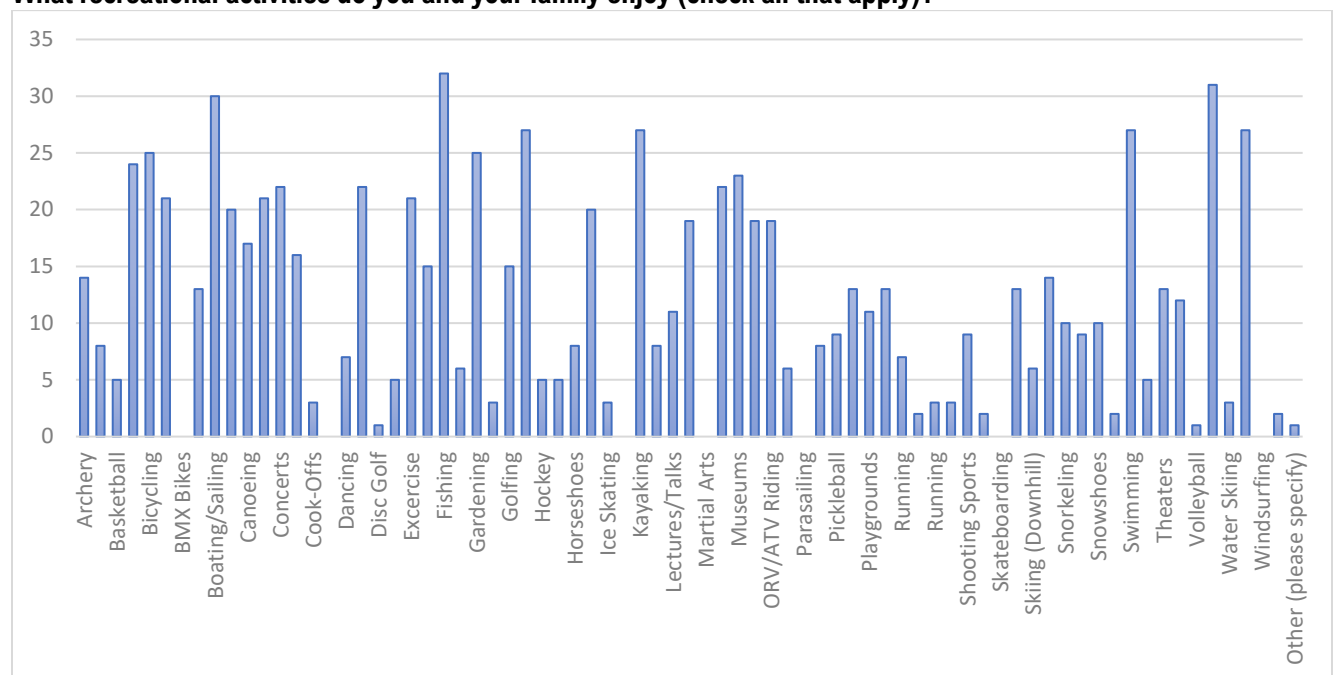
What new or expanded recreational facilities do you feel are needed in Alcona Township?

- It would be great to have a beach on Hubbard Lake.
- Sidewalk on Hubbard Lake Road on the east shore stretch where there are homes. People like to walk and bike there.
- A calendar of events to bring people together like a community baseball game, pickleball tournament, tennis match, volleyball game, kids fishing day.
- Place an outdoor metal exercise structure for pullups, stretching that are attached to a free standing wall someplace in the township or Black River recreation area.
- Pathway around Hubbard Lake.
- Playground
- For the DNR to open up so folks can ride trails. It can start in Alcona Township, we have acres and acres of federal land. This would bring in lots of money to Alcona Township. Some kind of fast-food place.
- Just keep working on the needed improvements and maintenance.
- Make one of the tennis courts into a pickle ball court.
- Maybe bike lane on Shore drive and Blk River Rd.
- Bike trail.
- Bike and walking trails along Mt. Maria Rd.

- Pickle Ball court.
- Walking trails in general.
- Kayak rentals at Black River or Northend. An exercise facility.
- I'm satisfied with the recreational facilities we have.
- At this time, we believe our resources should be spent on existing facilities and/or areas.
- Pickleball courts
- Pickle ball court would be great.
- A pier to maintain boating access to the lake. It should go out at least 350-400 ft.
- None
- Non-motorized trails.

Question 8

What recreational activities do you and your family enjoy (check all that apply)?



'Other' response included:

- Tubing

Question 9

What other public or private recreational facilities do you use in Alcona Township and the surrounding area? (example: Harrisville Harbor, Harrisville State Park, Negwegon State Park, etc.)

- Harrisville Harbor, Harrisville State Park, Negwegon State Park, Hubbard Lake North End park, Sturgeon Point Lighthouse, Access sites on AuSable for kayaking.
- Harrisville State Park
- All of the above including the lighthouse.
- Harrisville Harbor, Harrisville State Park, Negwegon State Park, All 4 boat accesses on Hubbard Lake.
- Harrisville harbor, Negwegon State Park
- We recommend Harrisville State Park to people and Negwegon. We go to Negwegon to walk at the east side. The drive to the parking lot seems risky in the sand and narrow path.

- Harrisville Harbor, Harrisville State Park
- Negwegon
- Harrisville state park, Harrisville harbor, Negwegon trails, library, jewel lake boat launch
- Negwegon State Park, Rockport, Lake Huron beach parks in Alpena
- Harrisville Harbor. Black River launch 6 minutes down the road and can't even use it, it's too shallow.
- Harrisville Harbor, Harrisville State Park, Negwegon State Park, Rockport State Park, Federal Land, El Cajon Bay area, Alcona Township Park, Hubbard Lake area, all local parks.
- Harrisville Harbor, Negwegon Park, Lost Lake Woods Club
- Negwegon State Park, Harrisville State Park, Lost Lake Woods.
- Harrisville & Negwegon State Parks
- Rockport State Park, Thunder Bay Shipwreck viewing, AuSable kayaking.
- Negwegon State Park
- Negwegon
- Negwegon State Park, federal land, private land and beach.
- Negwegon
- Harrisville Harbor, Negwegon State Park, Alcona Township Park (Lake Huron), Sturgeon Point Lighthouse, Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Jessie Besser Museum, various other points of interest in Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle areas.
- Negwegon park, Reed Lake, Harrisville
- Harrisville Harbor for concerts.
- Chippewa Hills Pathway, all of the Hubbard Lake DNR launches.
- Negwegon, Sturgeon Point Lighthouse, Harrisville Harbor.
- Negwegon State Park and Harrisville Harbor
- Harrisville playground, playground in Lincoln
- The playground at the Lions Park in Hubbard Lake
- Harrisville harbor
- Tollson Park, Caledonia Township; Harrisville State Park; DNR boat launches/Hubbard Lake; Norway Ridge Pathway; Chippewa Hills trails; Bike path in Alpena, Tawas, Rogers City, Grayling.

Question 10

Do you have family or friends who travel to the Alcona Township area to use recreational facilities? Which facilities?

- Walking and the State Park.
- Yes, all facilities.
- Same as above.
- Harrisville State Park
- We use the park and rec area when family visit. They don't seem to be used a lot by residents.
- Harrisville Harbor, Harrisville State Park
- Harrisville state park and black river park and boat launch, Harrisville harbor.
- Harrisville Harbor and Hubbard Lake. Not much to do around here, Black River that is.
- Yes. Negwegon State Park and Alcona Township Park.
- The beach area.
- Lost Lake Woods
- We are new to the area, but they will us State Parks and Campgrounds.
- Yes, Black River
- Yes, mostly the Alcona Township Park and lighthouse areas.
- Above

- Hubbard Lake in general, we hit Shin-Ga-Ba Shores, bebe beach, Alcona Township dock, North End park, Beach at black river.
- Yes - Negweson State Park.
- Playground, kayak and boating, Harrisville State Park.
- Yes, Black River Harbor.
- Harrisville playground. Sturgeon Point Lighthouse.
- No

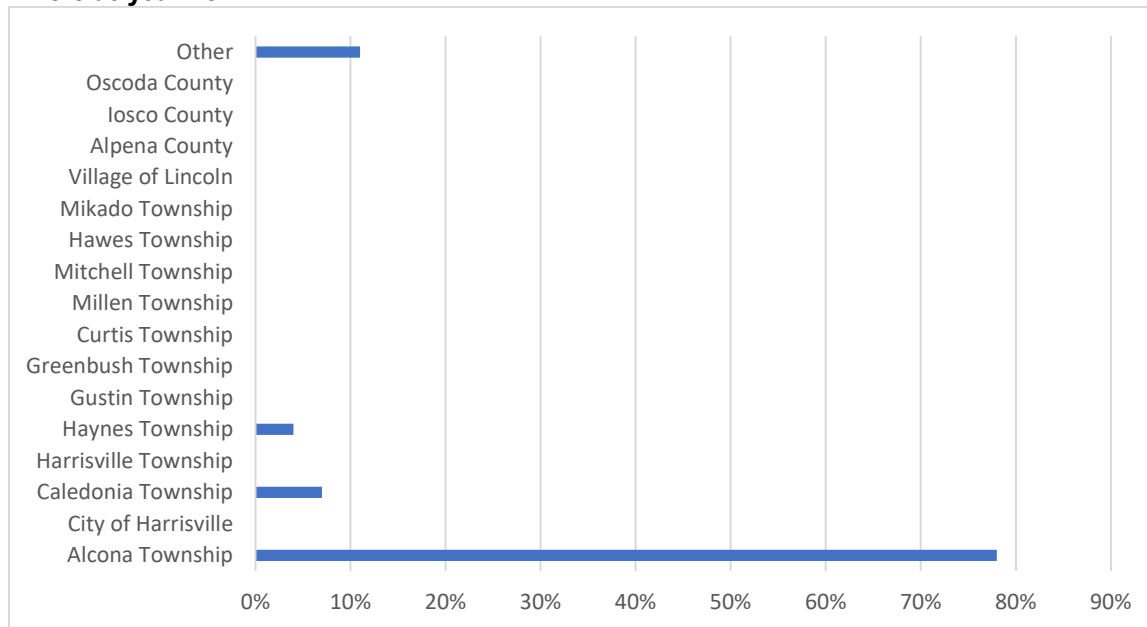
Question 11

What recreational activities do you leave Alcona County for?

- Gym exercise.
- Competitive shooting, hunting, fishing, movies/theaters, dining, bicycling, hiking, boating.
- Movies, shopping, golfing.
- Concerts, archery, movies, museums, shooting sports, theaters.
- Skiing, snowmobiling.
- None
- Fishing 🎣
- We have everything we need in Alcona County but may go to other areas just for variety. Some areas outside Alcona County are better for cross-country skiing.
- Shopping
- Bike riding
- Motorcycling Sledding Skiing
- Camping, concerts, biking
- Shore fishing
- Snowmobiling and ORV riding.
- Indoor pool swimming, museum, movies, hockey, planetarium.
- AuSable River canoeing, hiking in other state parks, bike trails in NE Michigan.
- Mentioned above (Alpena and Presque Isle areas).
- None
- Pickleball
- Bike Trails
- Museums, shopping,
- When the mouth of Black River closes up with silt and sand, we have to go to Harrisville Harbor.
- Splash pad and dog park in Alpena. Playground, putt-putt in Ossineke.
- Biking, kayaking

Question 12

Where do you live?



'Other' responses included:

- Spruce
- Genesee County
- We live in Macomb county and have a seasonal home in Alcona Township
- Washtenaw County
- Washington State

Question 13

What are the ages of you and your family members?

