

MACKINAC COUNTY

MASTER PLAN 2019

MACKINAC COUNTY
MAJESTIC NORTH

PREPARED BY EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA REGIONAL
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MACKINAC COUNTY MASTER PLAN

Mackinac County
Michigan

prepared by:

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Adopted: April 25, 2007
Amended: August 22, 2013
Amended: December 20, 2019

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of a County Master Plan

Since 1945, Michigan statutes have permitted county government to play an active role in planning for the future by making and adopting a master plan. The county planning commission is the public body responsible for preparing the plan. The law requires that: "In the preparation of a county development plan, the planning commission shall make careful and comprehensive studies of the existing conditions and probable growth of the territory within its jurisdiction." The plan's purpose is "the coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the county." Land use issues may be addressed by the plan, and planners may project 20 years or more into the future (MCL 125.104 Sec. 4, as amended).

In preparing a master plan, the county planning commission is authorized to:

- Conduct studies, investigations, and surveys relative to the economic, social, and physical development of the county.
- Formulate plans and make recommendations for the most effective economic, social, and physical development of the county.
- Cooperate with all departments of the state and federal governments and other public agencies; and consult with adjacent counties.

The county also may serve as a coordinating agency for all planning committees and commissions within the county.

The County Planning Commission and Its Role

In Mackinac County, the planning commission is a nine-member body (see cover page for a listing of current planning commission members). Members are appointed by the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners to serve three-year staggered terms. Planning commissioners are intended to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including agriculture, recreation, commerce, industry, government, education, transportation, environment, economic development, health services, and so on. Planning commissioners may come from many walks of life, but they all contribute their time and talent to the local planning process. In addition to the responsibility of preparing a master plan, the planning commission may make recommendations on planning and zoning issues submitted by townships and cities in the county and adjacent communities. In performing these jobs, citizen volunteers on the commission may be assisted by clerical staff or by consultants. Per the bylaws, new planning commission members must complete the Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) planning commission training module.

For the purpose of writing the 2007 county's master plan, the county board first retained professional planning consultant services from U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc. to assist in the preparation of *Mackinac County Fact Book*, which contains statistics and background information, and the firm of Wade Trim, Inc. to help in the development of goals, objectives, and future land use recommendations. Additionally, county staff from the Michigan State University Extension office assisted in plan preparation. This planning team served in an advisory capacity, because state law makes planning policy decisions and plan adoption the specific responsibility of the planning commission.

Minor revisions were undertaken by the Planning Commission in 2013 and 2019. The Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission assisted with updating census data, revising maps, adding county ownership maps, getting document draft ready for review, and mailing draft materials out for review. The Planning Commission intends to have the revised Mackinac County Master Plan adopted by early fall 2019.

Role of the Public in the Planning Process

Recent amendments to Michigan's planning law require that the county notify and communicate with municipalities within and around its jurisdiction before, during and after plan preparation. Additionally, a mandatory public hearing on the master plan must be held by the planning commission prior to plan adoption.

Beyond these required consultations with the public, the Mackinac County Planning Commission requested input and ideas from local units of government and private citizens at several key points in plan preparation. First, the planning schedule included several public forums at different locations throughout the county. These meetings were especially important in helping set community goals for the plan. Secondly, the planning team consulted with local government officials at a quarterly meeting of the Mackinac County chapter of the Michigan Township Association. Third, progress reports and planning work products were reviewed at monthly planning commission meetings, where interested members of the public and local officials were welcome to attend. Lastly, copies of draft planning materials, as they were prepared, were available for review and comment on the county's website.

Status of Planning and Zoning in Mackinac County

The Mackinac County Master Plan was adopted in 2007 after considerable public input. Because of this, the planning commission felt that only minor revisions were necessary to update the county master plan after six (6) years. In early 2019, the planning commission determined more updates were necessary. Most of the changes are minor updates, and the addition of Chapter 5: County Asset and Energy Use Plan. Major updates to the demographic data will be incorporated in the next update, after the 2020 census update is out.

The county has no zoning in place, nor is it their intent to establish county wide zoning. Presently, eight of the eleven townships in Mackinac operate their own planning and zoning programs. The three remaining townships, Hendricks, Hudson, and Newton have no local plans and zoning ordinances, because they have sparse populations and large amounts of public land. In Michigan land use law, township-level plans and zoning ordinances take priority over county actions. Counties may not plan or zone for incorporated communities. The City of St. Ignace and the City of Mackinac Island administer their own separate planning and zoning programs. The *Mackinac County Master Plan* will not replace lawfully adopted township or municipal plans and zoning ordinances. On the contrary, the county plan will strive to compliment and incorporate existing local plans, while developing a cohesive and comprehensive plan for all areas of the county.



Location and Transportation Links

Current and future patterns of land use and development grow out of the community's natural, social, and economic history. Before preparing a plan for Mackinac County, it is important to review the community's general characteristics and the significant historic events that continue to influence local land use and development patterns.

Mackinac County is located in the southeastern portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and serves as "the gateway to the UP" with the Mackinac Bridge connecting the two peninsulas between Mackinaw City and St. Ignace. A geographic location map is provided as Figure 1 at the end of this chapter. The county has a land area of about 1,022 square miles and 298 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. As the map shows, the county is very irregular in shape; the east/west distance is 84 miles, while the north/south distance is about 20 miles at the widest point. Some areas are only accessible by ferry. The county's northern edge borders Chippewa and Luce Counties, the eastern boundary is Chippewa County, and Schoolcraft County is on the west boundary. The southern boundaries of the county are adjacent to Great Lakes waters, Straits of Mackinac in the center, Lake Michigan on the west, and Lake Huron on the east. Much of the county is rural in nature and is characterized by low population density. The 2000 Census registered a county population of 11,943, and the 2010 Census recorded a population of 11,113. In 2018, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated 10,787 residents. St. Ignace is the county seat and the largest incorporated community with a population of 2,452. The City of Mackinac Island has a population of 492. The 11 townships within Mackinac County vary in population from Bois Blanc (95 persons) to Clark (2,056 persons). Census figures reflect year-round population, but the county has many seasonal residents as well. Nearly 48 percent of the county's housing units are for seasonal or recreational use, so summertime population is much larger than in winter.

The county's geographic location is relatively remote from large urban areas of Michigan. From the county seat, the nearest larger city in the U.P. is Sault Ste. Marie (52 miles), while Marquette is 162 miles away. It is 288 miles to Detroit, 231 miles to Lansing, and 195 miles to

Saginaw. On the other hand, the recreation and resort areas of northern Michigan are in close proximity.

Major transportation routes in the county are I-75 serving north/south traffic between St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie. The Lake Michigan coast is served by U.S. 2, and M-134 serves the Lake Huron coastline. M-123 connects St. Ignace to the Paradise and Newberry areas. M-129 is a north/south route between Cedarville and Sault Ste. Marie. M-117 is a north/south route between U.S. 2 and M-28 passing through Engadine.

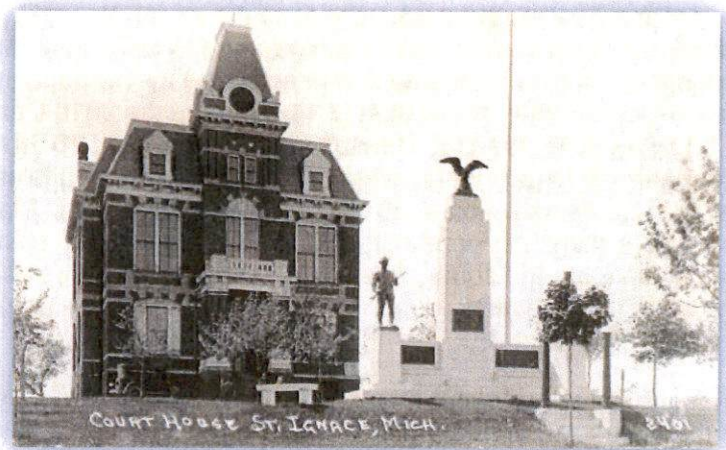
A Brief History of Mackinac County

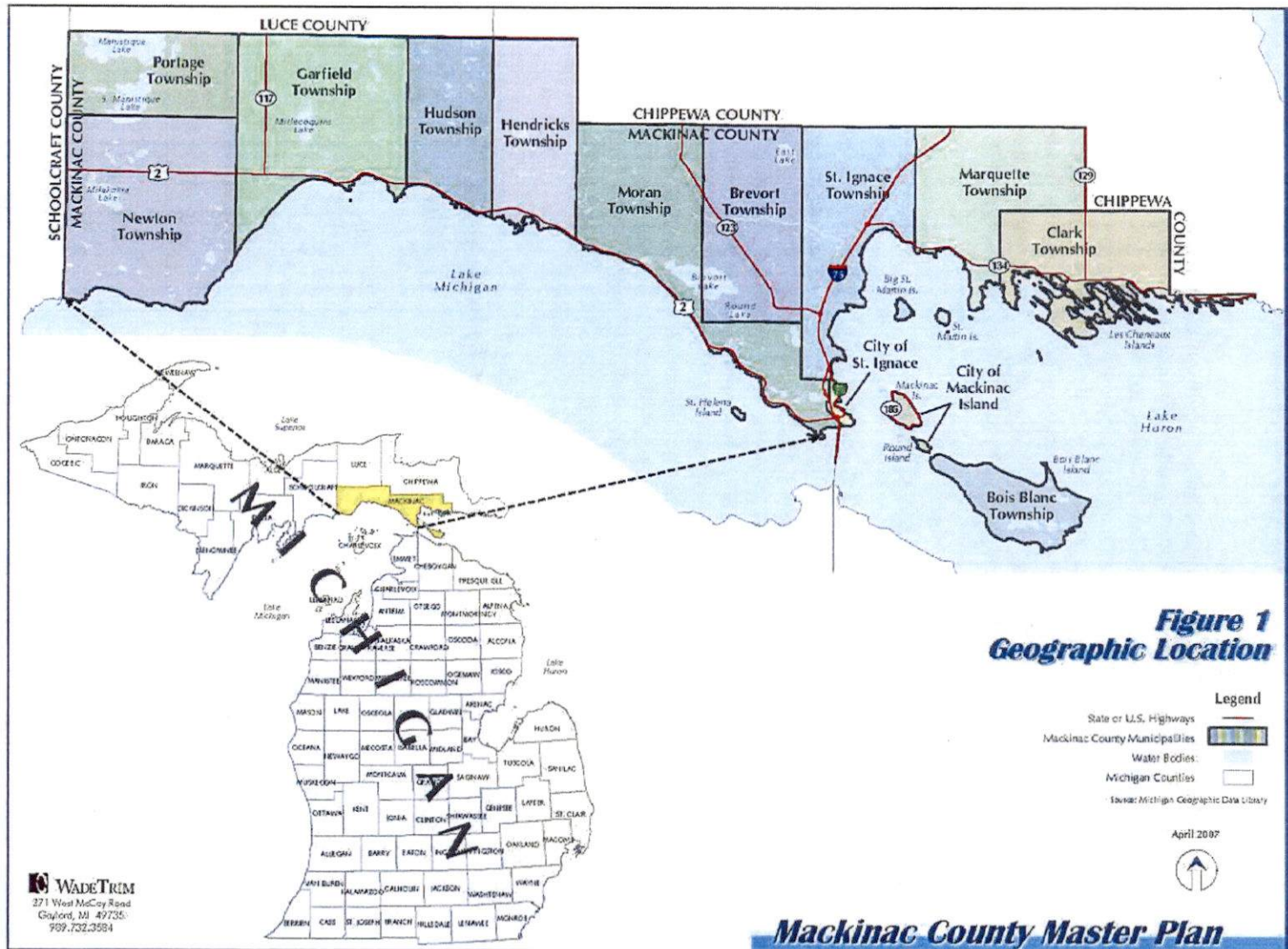
According to anthropologists studying ancient human presence throughout North America, the origin of these people is likely from Asia across a land bridge to the area that is now Alaska. The bridge formed during the end of the last Ice Age, about 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Prior to European settlement, Mackinac County was inhabited by Native American tribes (Chippewa, Ottawa, and Huron), who referred to the area as Michilimackinac. The earliest European visitors, in the 1600's, were French explorers, missionaries, military, and fur traders. St. Ignace, established in 1671, is the third oldest city in the U.S. During the late 1700's and early 1800's, the area passed through French, English, and American hands in a succession of skirmishes.

Because of the isolated location and lack of roads, water transportation was the key to early development and trade. Much of Mackinac County's early settlement began along the Lake Huron and Lake Michigan shorelines. Fur trading and fishing were important early economic activities in the county, followed later by lumbering. The name "Mackinac" is a derivative of the Native American word "Michilimackinac". The traditional interpretation is "Land of the Great Turtle" referring to the shape of Mackinac Island, although other interpretations have been suggested.

Early Mackinac included lands in Michigan and Wisconsin; later the entire Upper Peninsula was Mackinac County. As development occurred and population increased, the county eventually evolved into its present-day boundaries. When Michigan statehood was established in 1837, the U.P. was recognized for its great wealth of geological and natural resources. Railroads were developed to transport these resources, and communities grew around the railroads. The area also became a summer tourist haven in later years. Mackinac Island became the second national park in 1875. In 1895, the U.S. Army closed Fort Mackinac on the island and transferred the land to the state of Michigan, and it is now the Mackinac Island State Park.

Extensive historical facts and details for the Mackinac County area can be reviewed in the *Mackinac County Fact Book*, prepared by U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. in 2005 and the *City of St. Ignace Master Plan*, prepared by Wade Trim, Inc. in 2001.





CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Within the scope of this master planning process, it is important to understand Mackinac County's social and economic characteristics; natural resource; existing land use and land cover patterns; and available facilities and services. In 2005, an extensive research project resulted in the compilation of the county's background information into a document entitled *Mackinac County Fact Book*. The fact book was completed by U.P. Engineers & Architect, Inc. working jointly with the Mackinac County Planning Commission, Mackinac County Economic Development Corporation, and Mackinac County office of MSU Extension. This chapter is a summary of the contents of the fact book, U.S. Census Bureau, state agencies, MSU Extension, and other research sources.

Social and Economic Characteristics

As shown below, Table 1 illustrates population for all the townships and cities in Mackinac County and the county total comparing 1990, 2000 and 2010. The City of St. Ignace is the most populous community, making up 22.1 percent of the county's total, and Bois Blanc Township is the least populated at less than one percent. However, it is important to note that the Census Bureau does not count persons who winter elsewhere and reside in the county during the warmer months. A high percentage (48.3 percent of the total housing units) of vacation or seasonal homes would indicate that the summer population is much higher. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2010 Census population for Mackinac County was 11,113 or a loss of 830 persons (seven percent) since 2000. Population estimates provided by Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission through the EMSI Analyst program project a population of 11,037 in 2011; 10,748 for 2015, and 10,597 for 2020.

| Table 1 Mackinac County Population by Municipality, 1990-2010 | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Municipality | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | % Change 1990-2010 |
| Bois Blanc Township | 59 | 71 | 95 | 61.0% |
| Brevort Township | 484 | 649 | 594 | 22.7% |
| Clark Township | 2,012 | 2,200 | 2,056 | 2.2% |
| Garfield Township | 1,156 | 1,251 | 1,146 | -0.8% |
| Hendricks Township | 161 | 183 | 153 | -4.9% |
| Hudson Township | 197 | 214 | 181 | -8.1% |
| City of Mackinac Island | 469 | 523 | 492 | 4.9% |
| Marquette Township | 550 | 659 | 603 | 9.6% |
| Moran Township | 838 | 1,080 | 994 | 18.6% |
| Newton Township | 358 | 356 | 427 | 19.3% |
| Portage Township | 890 | 1,055 | 981 | 10.2% |
| City of St. Ignace | 2,568 | 2,678 | 2,452 | -4.5% |
| St. Ignace Township | 932 | 1,024 | 939 | 0.75% |
| Mackinac County Total | 10,674 | 11,943 | 11,113 | 4.11% |
| Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000 and 2010 Census. | | | | |

The 2010 county population was 50.5 percent male and 49.5 percent female, and the median age was 49.0 years, as compared to 38.9 years for the state of Michigan. More than 22 percent of the county population was 65 years of age or older in 2010. Average household size for

Mackinac County was 2.22, as compared to 2.49 for the state. Mackinac County's population is 76.5 percent White, 17.3 percent Native American; and 0.2 percent Asian, 1.1 percent Hispanic and 5.3 percent were a combination of two or more races.

According to the 2010 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates, there were 10,831 housing units in the County, 81 percent of which were single-family detached dwellings. The majority were built before 1990. Mackinac County has a median housing value of \$118,000, and Michigan is at \$122,300. Within the county, Mackinac Island has the highest median housing value at \$170,000, and Newton Township has the lowest at \$56,700. Approximately 3.2 percent of county housing units are valued at more than \$500,000, and 17.1 percent are valued at less than \$50,000. Table 2, below, shows the growth in Mackinac County housing stock from 1980 to 2000.

| Table 2 Mackinac County Housing, 1980-2010 | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010-ACS |
| Total Housing Units | 7,624 | 9,254 | 9,413 | 10,831 |
| Occupied Housing | 3,680 | 4,240 | 5,067 | 4,927 |
| Owner Occupied | 2,911 | 3,222 | 4,013 | 4,000 |
| Renter Occupied | 769 | 1,018 | 1,054 | 927 |
| Vacant Housing | 3,944 | 5,014 | 4,346 | 5,904 |
| Source: U.S. Census Bureau, US Census Bureau ACS 5 Yr. Data | | | | |

Just over 44 percent of the county housing units are for vacation, seasonal, or occasional use. Bois Blanc Township has the highest seasonal housing rate at 90.0 percent, and the City of St. Ignace has the lowest at 8.5 percent.

A small number (95) of Mackinac County residents live in group quarters, including nursing homes, correctional facilities, military quarters, and the like.

| Table 3 Labor Market Statistics, Michigan and Mackinac County, 1985-2015 | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| State of MI | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 |
| Labor force | 4,363,000 | 4,620,000 | 4,835,000 | 5,144,000 | 5,097,000 | 4,747,000 | 4,759,000 |
| Employed | 3,924,000 | 4,262,000 | 4,577,000 | 4,953,000 | 4,754,000 | 4,147,000 | 4,501,000 |
| Unemployed | 439,000 | 358,000 | 285,000 | 190,000 | 344,000 | 601,000 | 258,000 |
| Jobless rate | 10.1% | 7.7% | 5.3% | 3.7% | 6.7% | 12.7% | 5.4% |
| Mackinac County | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 |
| Labor force | 6,800 | 6,236 | 7,274 | 6,881 | 6,590 | 6,038 | 5,113 |
| Employed | 4,950 | 5,343 | 6,411 | 6,368 | 5,938 | 5,218 | 4,616 |
| Unemployed | 1,850 | 893 | 863 | 513 | 652 | 820 | 497 |
| Jobless rate | 27.4% | 14.3% | 11.9% | 7.5% | 9.9% | 13.6% | 9.7% |
| Source: MI Dept. of Technology, Management and Budget, Labor Market Information | | | | | | | |

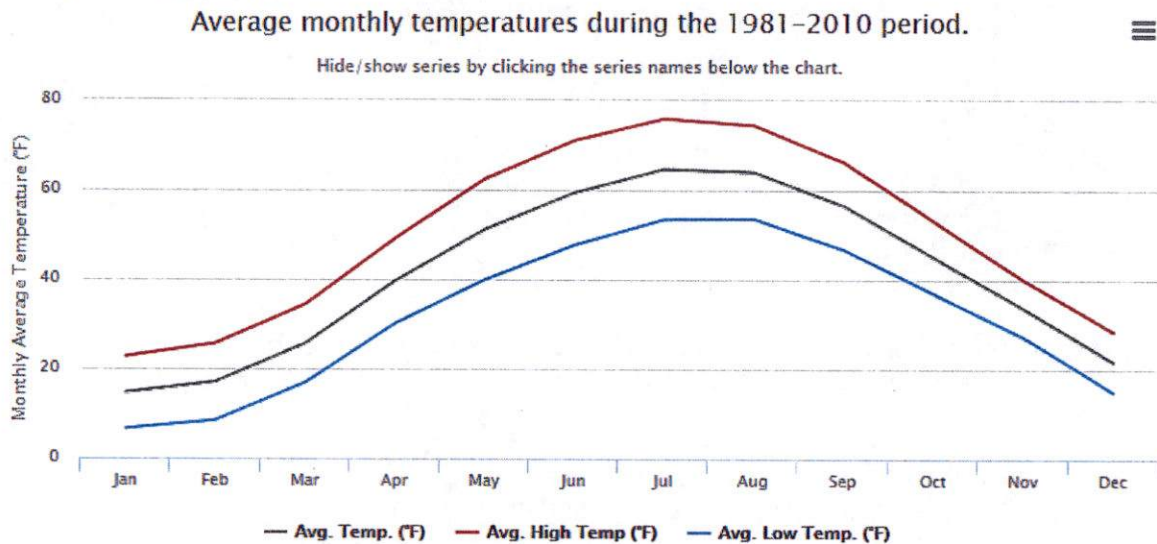
Education and income statistics are important factors in analyzing the capabilities of the local work force. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year data released in 2010 of Mackinac County's population aged 25 years and older, 41.3 percent are high school graduates (31.5 percent for the state), and 12.5 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher (9.6 percent for the state). According to the 2010 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates,

the median household income for Mackinac County residents was \$39,339, as compared to \$48,432 for the state. While median incomes for county residents are less than the state, both the county and state have nearly identical rates of residents living below the poverty level and 14.8 percent (Michigan) and 14.7 percent (Mackinac County). Overall, wages for Mackinac County residents are low, because many jobs are in the service industries, such as retail trades, lodging, and food service. In addition, these types of jobs are often seasonal. Table 3 shows employment and unemployment statistics, comparing Mackinac County to the state, at five-year intervals starting with 1985.

Natural Resources

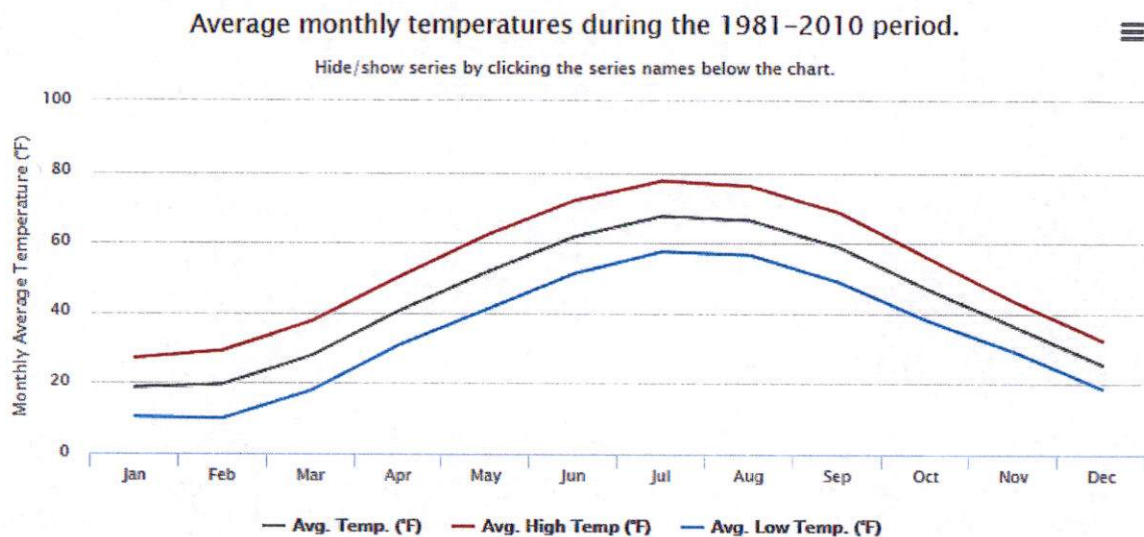
Sault Ste. Marie Sanderson Field Weather Station

Monthly Average Temperature



Cheboygan Weather Station

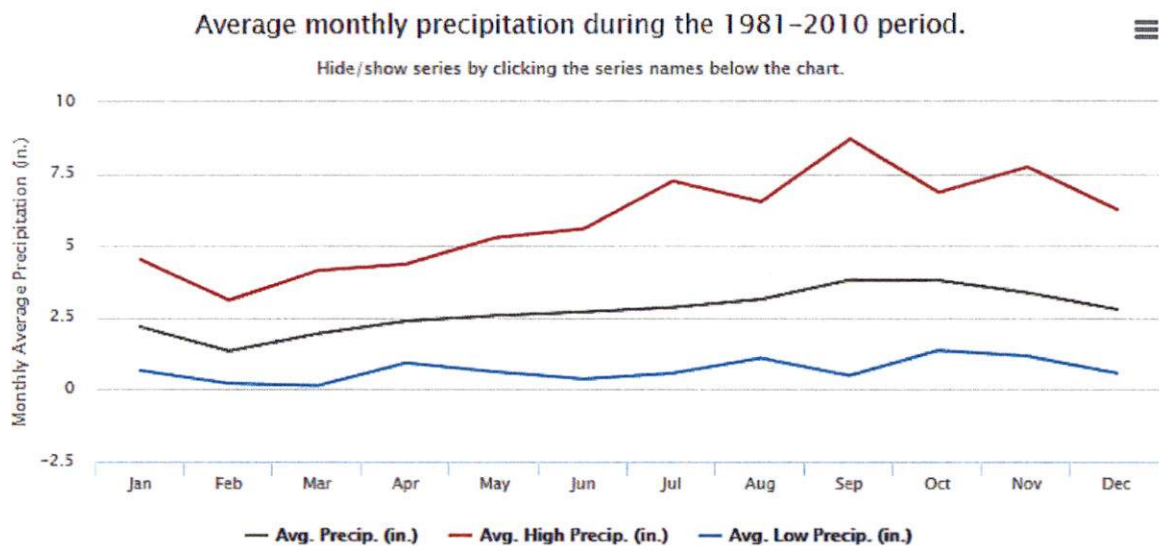
Monthly Average Temperature



Generally, the climate of Mackinac County is similar to other parts of the eastern Upper Peninsula as residents and visitors enjoy pleasant summers, with an average May-September temperature between 60° and 70° F. The proximity to Lake Michigan and Lake Huron serves to moderate temperature extremes as compared to inland communities in northern Michigan. Due to prevailing westerly winds coming across Lake Michigan and northerly winds across Lake Superior, spring is late arriving, and first freeze in the fall is delayed. The average date of first fall freeze occurs in mid-October, as compared to several weeks earlier in inland areas. The charts above show the average monthly temperature for each month from 1981 to 2010 at the Sault Ste. Marie and Cheboygan weather stations. The charts below show the average monthly precipitation for the same time period in the same places. The charts were made by the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences + Assessments NOAA team.

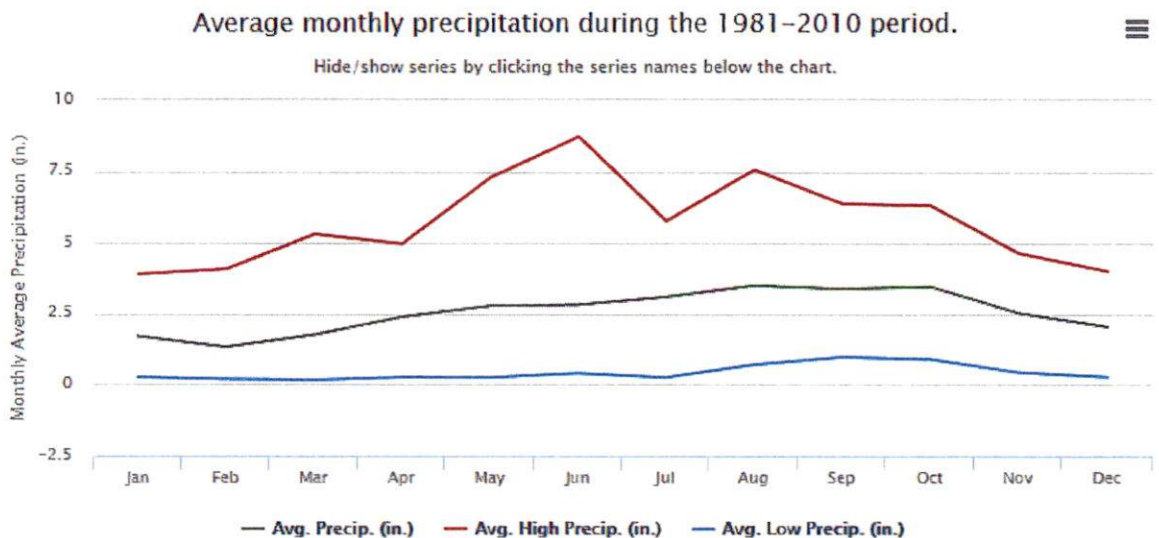
Sault Ste. Marie Sanderson Field Weather Station

Monthly Average Precipitation



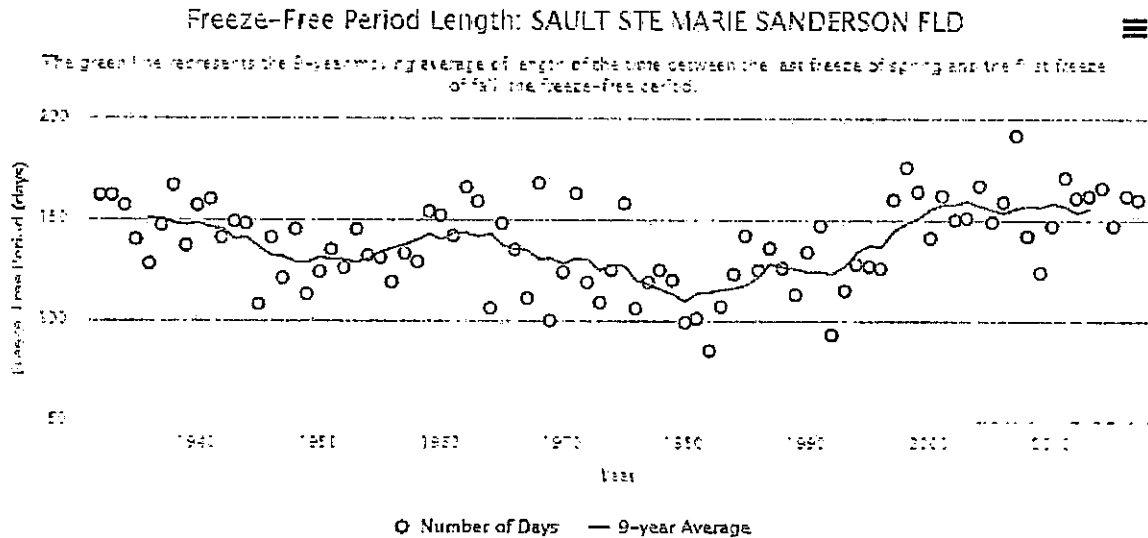
Cheboygan Weather Station

Monthly Average Precipitation

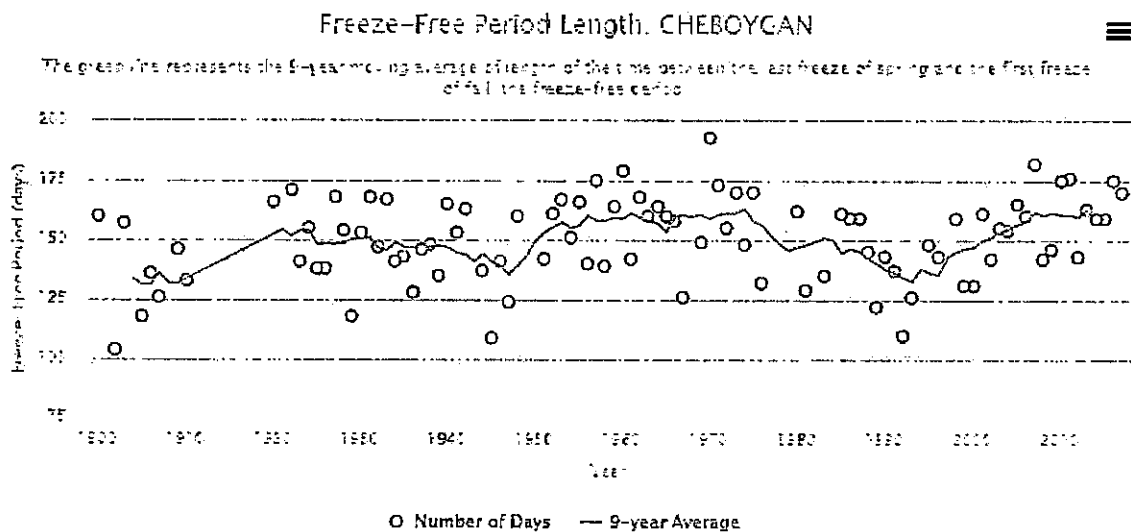


The charts above show thirty-year averages, but not change over time. Both perspectives are important as the climate of a region impacts the lived experience, way of life and economic opportunities of that region's citizens. The Sault Ste. Marie and Cheboygan Climate Stations also record the number of freeze-free days, as shown below. Every year is represented by an open dot, while the nine-year average number of freeze-free days is represented by the green line. In Sault Ste. Marie, this average rises from 105.778 days in 1936 to 155.556 in 2013, almost a 50-day difference. In Cheboygan the average increased 16 1/3 days over the same time period, although the records started in 1900 at that station.

Growing Season Changes



Growing Season Changes



Bedrock is the solid rock under the earth's surface and may be at or near the surface, but in many places in Michigan the bedrock is buried under hundreds of feet of glacial drift. In the case of Mackinac County, bedrock is near the surface in the areas around St. Ignace, Brevort Lake, Moran, and along the eastern portion of the county north of the Lake Huron shoreline. The bedrock geology of Mackinac County was laid down during the Upper and Middle Silurian periods of the Paleozoic Era 220 to 540 million years ago. It is made up of types of limestone, which are heavily mined in the Cedarville area and northwest Newton Township. This non-renewable resource is very economically important to Mackinac County.

The physical landscape of Mackinac County was shaped and transformed by natural forces. As glacial ice sheets advanced and retreated 10 to 12 thousand years ago, the appearance of the region was altered by the scouring and deposition of glacial drift material. In addition, wind and water erosion, surface drainage, and vegetation have changed the topography of the county. The western side of the county along Lake Michigan and U.S. 2 shows heavy concentrations of sand deposits blown in from the erosive actions of wind and water. These sand dunes areas are ecologically sensitive and are protected from extensive development. Figures 2-A and 2-B on the following pages show the topographic features of the county. As would be expected, the lowest elevations are along the shorelines of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan at approximately 577 feet above sea level. Higher elevations exceeding 950 feet are found in Marquette Township.

Soil conditions are another determinate in land development. Constraints such as hydric or wetland soils and steep slopes may restrict or limit the use of certain lands. This does not mean that development may not occur in these areas, but that construction may be more costly and specific design features may need to be incorporated to offset the constraint. Figures 3-A and 3-B, showing hydric and sloped soils, are meant to be general in nature and are not site specific. For site specific soil detail, the Mackinac County Soil Survey should be consulted.



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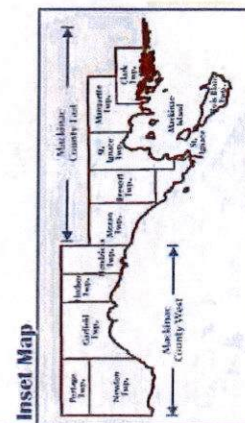
Legend

- Mobile Sals
- New Hydroic Sals
- Sals Not Charified
- Slopes Greater Than 10%
- State or U.S. Highways
- Roads
- Private Roads/Trails
- Municipal Boundaries
- Rivers and Creeks
- Inland Water Bodies



WADETRIM
371 West McGraw Road
Dayton, OH 45426
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Mackinac County Master Plan



Both groundwater and surface water are important environmental features in Mackinac County, because residents and businesses rely on either one for clean drinking water. St. Ignace and Mackinac Island use surface water for their public water systems. The remainder of the county relies on groundwater for drinking water. There are seven major watersheds (areas that drain into a water body) in Mackinac County. The watersheds are Tahquamenon, Manistique, Brevort-Millecoquins, Munuscong (part of the larger St. Mary's River watershed), Carp-Pine, Lake Michigan, and Lake Huron. Mackinac County has many islands, most of which are in the Les Cheneaux area. Mackinac Island (including Round Island) is incorporated as a city, while Bois Blanc Island is an established township.

Throughout the County, LMAS District Health Department requires that groundwater wells are located a minimum of 50' from a septic tank, drain field, or pressurized sewer lines, and 10' from gravity sewer lines or property lines. Groundwater wells also require a minimum of 25' of grouted casing in most of the county, with the exception of Clark Township and portions of Marquette Township where 100' of grouted casing is required.

Wildlife species typically found in Mackinac County and the eastern Upper Peninsula include large mammals such as, whitetail deer, black bear, bobcat, coyote, wolf, and a few moose, and small animals such as squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks, raccoons, mink, otter, beaver, skunk, muskrat, and fox. A variety of bird species are found in Mackinac County, both seasonal and year-round, and include songbirds, shore and water birds, raptors, and game birds. According to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, plants or animals listed on the federal threatened or endangered list for Mackinac County are Hart's tongue fern, walking fern, piping plover, pitcher's thistle, lynx, bald eagle, eastern massasauga rattle snake (on Bois Blanc Island), lakeside daisy, dwarf lake iris, Michigan monkey-flower, Houghton's goldenrod, and Hine's emerald dragonfly.

Fishing in the eastern UP region has been a significant part of the area's history, and commercial fishing operations were once very important to the local economy. Today, fishing is primarily recreational, although there are still some tribal commercial fishing operations. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has an active fish stocking program, and according to the agency website, the following stocking activities have occurred, or are on-going, since 1979.

- Bay City Lake: bluegill, largemouth bass
- Brevort Lake: muskellunge, walleye
- Brevort River: rainbow trout
- Carp River: Atlantic salmon, yellow perch, brook, brown, and rainbow trout
- Castle Rock Pond: rainbow trout
- Duel Lake: smallmouth bass
- Edgerly Springs: brook trout
- Fiborn Pond: brook trout, smallmouth and largemouth bass
- Garnet Lake: crappie, yellow perch
- Lake Huron: brown, lake, and rainbow trout, Chinook salmon, muskellunge, smallmouth bass, splake, walleye, yellow perch
- Lake Michigan: walleye
- Little Brevort Lake: largemouth bass, walleye
- North Manistique Lake: walleye
- McAlpine Pond: brook trout, smallmouth and largemouth bass
- Milakokia Lake: smallmouth bass, walleye
- Millecoquin River and Lake: brown trout, smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye
- Millecoquin Pond: brook trout
- Nunn's Creek: Chinook and Coho salmon, walleye
- Pine River: walleye
- Silver Creek: brook trout
- South Manistique Lake: muskellunge, rainbow trout, walleye
- Steele Creek: brook trout
- Taylor Creek: brook trout

Existing Land Use and Land Cover

According to the Mackinac County Tourism Profile compiled by MSU Extension, the county's area covers 698,944 acres, consisting of 656,320 acres of land and 42,624 acres of water. However, the General Land Office Survey from the 1840's shows Mackinac County with 690,966 acres of land. More than 50 percent of the land area is public forest land. Approximately 85 percent of the land area is covered with public and private forest land. There are 298 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 347 miles of rivers and streams, 3,781 acres of legislatively protected sand dunes, and several thousand acres of wetlands.

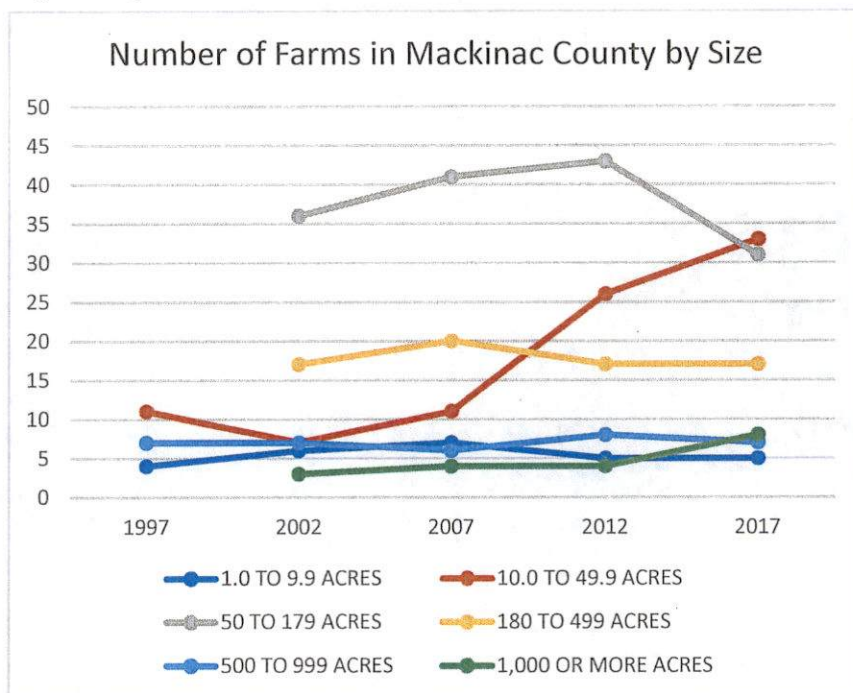
Existing land use maps for both the east and west sides of the county are provided as Figures 4-A and 4-B. These maps were prepared from two data sources: 1998 Land Use/Land Cover Date prepared by Remote Sensing & Geographic Information Science of Michigan State University and 1978 Michigan Resource Information System (MIRIS) Land Use/Land Cover from MDNR. The older data generally covers areas that are all forested and was not updated in 1998.

Based on data from the 2017 Census of Agriculture, there were 101 farms in Mackinac County totaling 25,046 acres of land. The total number of farms has increased over the past few decades, and the farms have grown in size as well. County-wide agricultural net income in 2017 was \$1,991,000.

Warmer temperatures will create a longer growing season throughout the region, and potentially increase the variety of crops that can be commercially grown in Mackinac County. However, farmers will also have to plan for greater weather variability and increased crop vulnerability to pests.

As shown on the existing land use maps, concentrated agricultural areas are shown in northeastern Marquette Township, west-central Garfield Township, eastern Newton Township, and northern Portage Township.

The county is sparsely developed with 10.2 residents and 9.9 housing units per square mile. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 2,725 residents of the county's total population live in urban areas, while 9,218 live in rural areas. The cities of St. Ignace and Mackinac Island account for the urban population. Residential clusters can be found along Great Lakes shorelines on privately owned properties and some of the county's inland lakes, such as the Manistique Lakes, Milakokia Lake, Millecoquins Lake, East Lake, and Brevort Lake. Other residential clusters are noted in unincorporated communities, such as Cedarville and Hessel (including the Les Cheneaux Islands) in Clark Township; Point Aux Pins on Bois Blanc Island; Pickford in

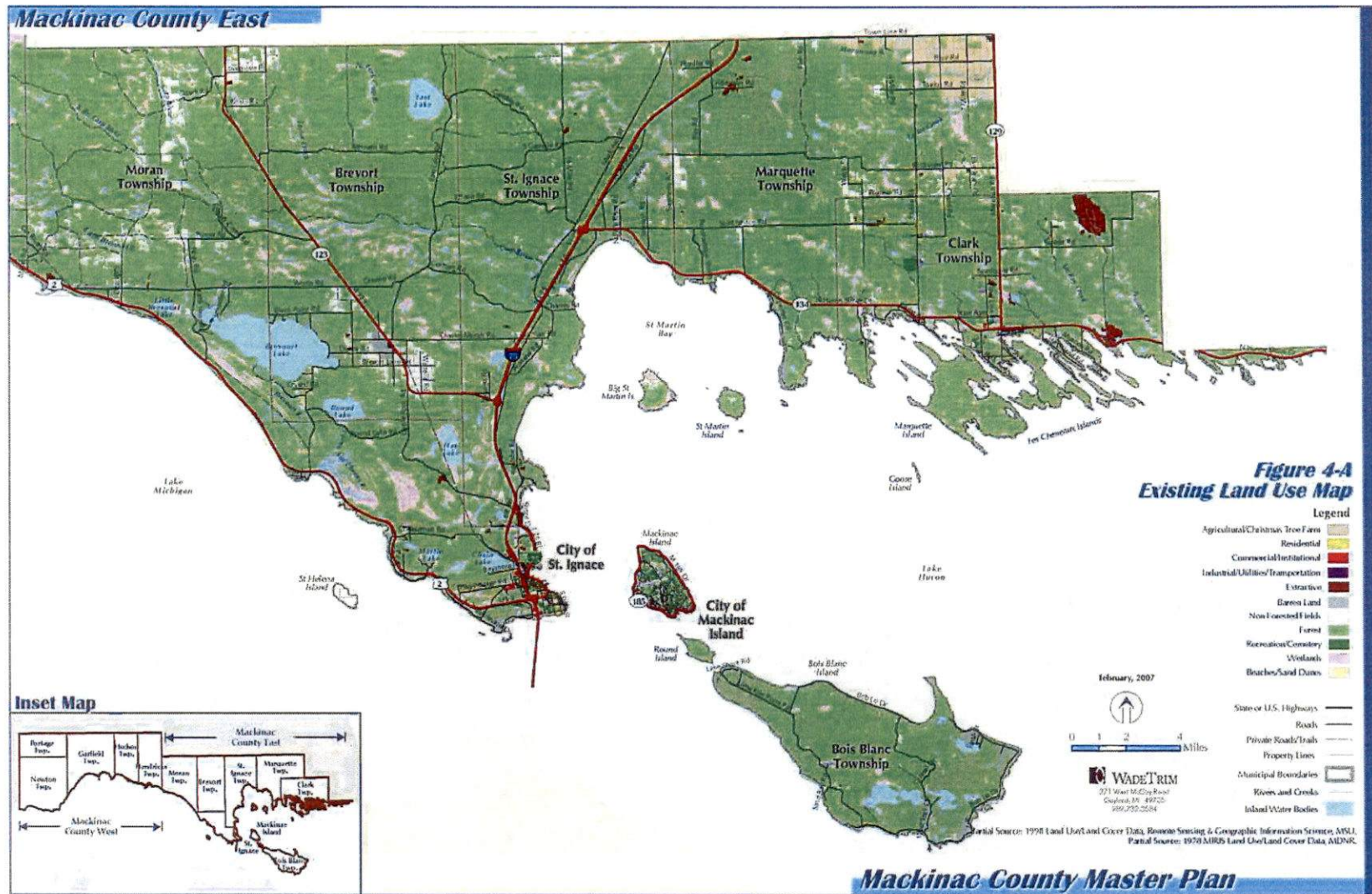


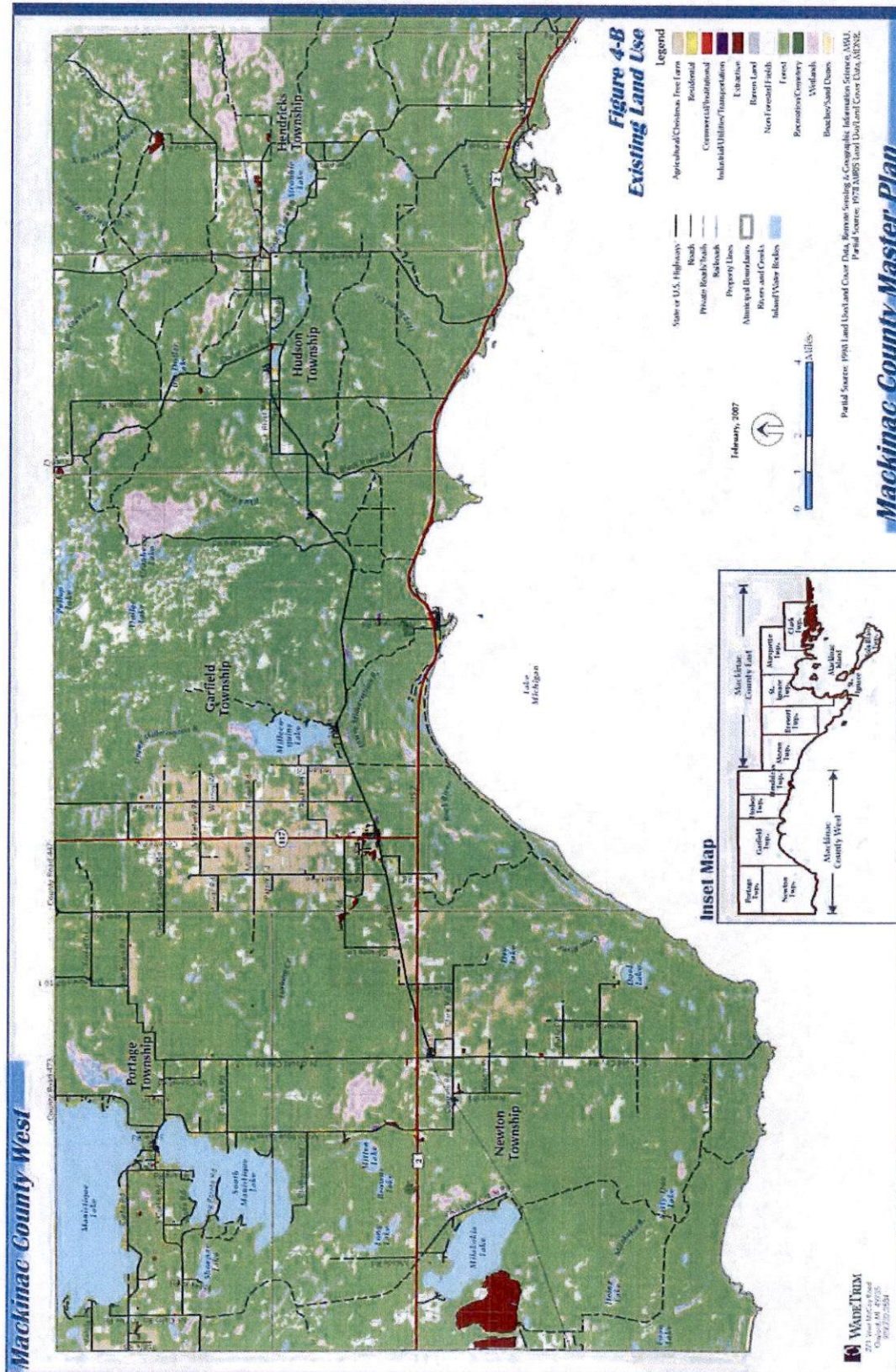
Marquette Township; Moran in Brevort Township; Brevort in Moran Township; Epoufette in Hendricks Township; Rexton and Garnet in Hudson Township; Gould City in Newton Township; Engadine, Naubinway, and Gilchrist in Garfield Township; and Curtis in Portage Township. Additionally, residential uses are scattered throughout the county, especially along the major roadways.

Some of the larger unincorporated communities also contain commercial and institutional uses (churches, schools, cemeteries, local government buildings, and the like). The incorporated cities of St. Ignace and Mackinac Island have the largest concentrations of commercial, recreational, and institutional uses. A heavy commercial corridor is found along U.S. 2 just west of I-75 in Moran Township.

Extractive activities are noted on the existing land use maps, showing the large limestone quarries in northeast Clark Township and northwest Newton Township. An existing quarry, Hendricks, is being mined again by Graymont into a large operation with rock shipped out of Sand Products Port. In addition, several other smaller sand or gravel operations are noted in several locations throughout the county. The four public airports are noted on the east side existing land use map (Bois Blanc Township, Mackinac Island, St. Ignace, and Clark Township).







Facilities and Services

There are six public school districts where the boundaries are completely within Mackinac County (Bois Blanc Pines-smallest in enrollment, Engadine, Les Cheneaux, Mackinac Island, Moran K-8, and St. Ignace-largest in enrollment) and one charter school, Three Lakes Academy in Curtis. Mackinac County students also attend school districts, where boundaries are partly in Mackinac County (Tahquamenon, Pickford, and Rudyard). Mackinac County residents have access to six libraries (Brevort Township, Curtis, Engadine, Les Cheneaux Community, Mackinac Island, and St. Ignace).

Mackinac County cemeteries are shown below, many of which are significant historic sites.

- Bois Blanc Township – Woodland Glade, McRae (private, not in use)
- Brevort Township – Brevort Township, Immaculate Conception (Catholic Church owned and maintained)
- Clark Township – Edgewood, Fenlons, Italian Hill
- Garfield Township – Engadine, Naubinway, Bethlehem (Lutheran Church owned and maintained)
- Hendricks Township – Caffey, Epoufette
- Hudson Township – Maplewood
- City of Mackinac Island – Protestant, Catholic, Military
- Marquette Township – Cottle, Rockview, Simmons
- Moran Township – Gros Cap, Western
- Newton Township – Newton Township, Polly (private, not in use)
- Portage Township – Woodlawn, Sandtown
- City of St. Ignace – Lakeside, Catholic
- St. Ignace Township – St. Ignace Township, Wequayoc

Primary county law enforcement is provided by Mackinac County Sheriff Department headquartered in St. Ignace and supplemented by Michigan State Police, Sault Tribal Police, St. Ignace Police Department, and Mackinac Island Police Department. The rate of serious crime for Mackinac County is generally low. According to the Michigan State Police website, there were a total of 1,144 offenses in 2011, down from 1,445 offences in 2010. Index crimes in 2011 (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson) amounted to 393 offences. Non-index crimes in 2011 (non-aggravated assault, forgery, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property, weapons violations, sex offenses, narcotics, family and child, DUI, liquor law, and disorderly conduct) were 750 offences.

For the most part, fire protection is provided by volunteer services as follows: Bois Blanc Township, Brevort Township, Clark Township, Garfield Township, Hendricks Township, Hudson Township, Mackinac Island, Newton Township, and Portage Township. Marquette Township receives fire service from Clark Township and Pickford Township. The St. Ignace Fire Department provides fire protection to the city, Moran Township, and St. Ignace Township. The MDNR field office in Naubinway covers fires on state and private forest land. The USFS field office on U.S. 2 provides fire protection on federal forest land in the central part of the county.

Ambulance service is also mostly provided by volunteers (Clark, Garfield, Hendricks, and Portage townships and Mackinac Island). Marquette Township relies on Clark Township and Pickford Township for ambulance service, and Portage Township serves Newton Township. Cheboygan Life Service covers Brevort, Hendricks, Moran, and St. Ignace townships, as well as the cities of Mackinac Island and St. Ignace. Hudson Township currently does not have a service agreement in place.

Mackinac Straits Hospital and Health Center is the main health care facility in the county and includes clinics at Mackinac Island, Pickford and Bois Blanc Island. Residents on the west side of the county may also seek medical care at Manistique Lakes Family Clinic in Curtis or West Mackinac Health Clinic in Engadine. County residents also seek medical service in larger regional medical centers such as Marquette, Sault Ste. Marie, Manistique, Newberry, Cheboygan, Traverse City and Petoskey. The St. Ignace and Newberry offices of the LMAS Health Department cover Mackinac County. Hiawatha Behavioral Health's St. Ignace office tends to the mental health needs for county residents. A new facility is open at the updated old county hospital location, Hope Network's Bay Haven Crisis & Integrated Care. They provide short-term care for people experiencing mental health crisis and long-term integrated care for people with mental health/physical problem.

Recreational opportunities in Mackinac County are abundant. Mackinac Island and Fort Mackinac is a state designated historic park, and Father Marquette Memorial is a national scenic site. According to the MDNR and federal sources, public camping facilities in Mackinac County are as follows:

| State | Federal |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Big Knob State Forest Campground | Big Brevort Lake Campground |
| Black River State Forest Campground | Carp River Campground |
| Hog Island Point State Forest Campground | Lake Michigan Campground |
| Little Brevort Lake North State Forest Campground | |
| Milakokia Lake State Forest Campground | |
| South Manistique Lake State Forest Campground | |
| Straits State Park | |

According to the Mackinac Tourism Profile published by MSU Extension, there were 1,591 campsites in Mackinac County in 2000. Of the total, 842 sites were in private commercial campgrounds, 220 sites were in National Forest Campgrounds, 323 sites were in the State Park, 198 sites were in State Forest Campgrounds, and eight sites were in a Township Campground. In 2000, there were 3,245 guest rooms in commercial lodging establishments in Mackinac County.

The Mackinac Economic Alliance works with established and upcoming businesses to expand opportunities by providing confidential and complimentary consulting services. The Mackinac Economic Alliance exists to foster economic growth through a public and private partnership dedicated to providing innovative leadership, vision, education and promotion of economic development. Additionally, the Eastern Upper Peninsula works with partners throughout the county and the region to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, intended for use by all partners in Chippewa, Mackinac, and Luce Counties.

Transportation and Utilities

In Mackinac County, there is one interstate highway, one federal highway, and five state highways. I-75 runs north/south from the Mackinac Bridge to Sault Ste. Marie. U.S. 2 runs westerly from St. Ignace generally along the Lake Michigan shoreline. State highways are M-123, M-134, M-129, M-117, and M-185, on Mackinac Island. There are four county highways: H-57, H-42, H-33, H-40, and H-63.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) maintains the state and federal highways, and Mackinac County Road Commission maintains the remaining county roads. St. Ignace and Mackinac Island maintain their own city streets.

According to the MDOT 2011 Average Daily Traffic Map, the stretch of I-75 in Mackinac County averaged 2,900 to 10,200 vehicles for a 24-hour period. For U.S. 2, it ranged from 3,900 to 4,900. M-117 was between 1,400 and 1,900, M-123 was 800 to 2,400, M-134 was 800 to 3,600, and M-129 ranged from 2,100 to 2,00.

In the summer 2006, average traffic counts were conducted for specific county roads in the eastern UP region, counts were also conducted in 2011 and 2017. Data for Mackinac County roads is shown below as Table 5.

| Road Name | Location | Year Recorded | Average Daily Traffic |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| S. Gould City Rd. | Just south of US-2 | 2017 | 214 |
| Portage Ave. | 3 blocks west of I-75 | 2006 | 1,079 |
| Blair Rd. | Just west of M-129 | 2006 | 161 |
| Dukes Rd. | East of Blackpoint Rd. | 2006 | 284 |
| Charles Moran Rd. | East of Blackpoint Rd. | 2006 | 147 |
| Lovegrove Rd. | East of M-123 | 2006 | 49 |
| Poglese Rd. | West of 3 Mile Rd. | 2011 | 119 |
| Cut River Rd. | East of Hiawatha Tr. | 2006 | 49 |
| Webb Rd. | North of Poglese Rd. | 2006 | 95 |
| State Ave. | West of M-129 | 2006 | 64 |
| Bay Rd. | North of Simmons Rd. | 2006 | 62 |
| Bay Rd. | South of County Line | 2006 | 89 |
| Pleasant Ave. | North of Linch Rd. | 2006 | 140 |
| Apple Lane | Just east of Duke Rd. | 2011 | 13 |
| Black Point Road | South of Worth Rd. | 2011 | 15 |
| Gros Cap Rd. | South of US-2 | 2006 | 146 |
| Source: Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission | | | |

There are six airports in Mackinac County, four are public and two are private. The Mackinac County Airport is located in St. Ignace has a 3,800 feet by 75 feet runway. Mackinac Island Airport, located on Mackinac Island, has a 3,500 feet by 75 feet runway. This airport is a full service, general utility county airport with charter services available. The Bois Blanc Airport, located at Pointe Aux Pins on Bois Blanc Island, has a 3,500 feet by 75 feet runway. The Albert J. Lindberg Airport in Hessel has a 3,700 feet by 60 feet runway. Read Airport in Curtis and the Hiawatha Club airport in Naubinway are privately owned.

The continuance of accepted, incompatible land uses adjacent to airport lands, irrespective of their relationship to the operational needs of airports, may result in the loss, or significantly impede, of some of the airports within the state aviation system. This loss would endanger the state's mission to preserve a system of essential public facilities that provides access for all regions of the state to the nation's air transportation system.

As such the State of Michigan zoning acts, Act 183 of 1943 (County Zoning Act), Act 207 of 1921 (City/Village Zoning), Act 184 of 1943 (Township Zoning Act), were amended in 2000 to include language that required the incorporation of an airport approach plan. The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of 2006, repealed the other State of Michigan zoning acts; however, the new act includes the same language as the repealed acts as it pertains to airport

approach plans. The following excerpt was taken from the text of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act:

"Sec. 203. (1) The zoning ordinance shall be based upon a plan designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, to encourage the use of lands in accordance with their character and adaptability, to limit the improper use of land, to conserve natural resources and energy, to meet the needs of the state's residents for food, fiber, and other natural resources, places of residence, recreation, industry, trade, service, and other uses of land, to insure that uses of the land shall be situated in appropriate locations and relationships, to avoid the overcrowding of population, to provide adequate light and air, to lessen congestion on the public roads and streets, to reduce hazards to life and property, to facilitate adequate provision for a system of transportation, sewage disposal, safe and adequate water supply, education, recreation, and other public requirements, and to conserve the expenditure of funds for public improvements and services to conform with the most advantageous uses of land, resources, and properties. The zoning ordinance shall be made with reasonable consideration to the character of each district, its peculiar suitability for particular uses, the conservation of property values and natural resources, and the general and appropriate trend and character of land, building, and population development.

(2) If a local unit of government adopts or revises a plan required under subsection (1) after an airport layout plan or airport approach plan has been filed with the local unit of government, the local unit of government shall incorporate the airport layout plan or airport approach plan into the plan adopted under subsection (1).

(3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1), a zoning ordinance adopted after March 28, 2001 shall be adopted after reasonable consideration of both of the following:

(a) The environs of any airport within a district.

(b) Comments received at or before a public hearing under section 306 or transmitted under section 308 from the airport manager of any airport.

(4) If a zoning ordinance was adopted before March 28, 2001, the zoning ordinance is not required to be consistent with any airport zoning regulations, airport layout plan, or airport approach plan. A zoning ordinance amendment adopted or variance granted after March 28, 2001 shall not increase any inconsistency that may exist between the zoning ordinance or structures or uses and any airport zoning regulations, airport layout plan, or airport approach plan. This section does not limit the right to petition for submission of a zoning ordinance amendment to the electors under section 402 or the right to file a protest petition under section 403."

(5) Developments proposed at or around Mackinac County Airport should first reference the Mackinac County Airport Layout Plan in order to determine compliance with the airport clear zones.

The Aeronautic Code of the State of Michigan provides that the Michigan Aeronautics Commission may adopt an approach plan for each licensed airport which describes the airport protection area. The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of 2006 requires that local zoning officials use the determination of this protection area as a guide in adopting standards for its local zoning ordinances. According to the Act, The Commission has adopted an approach protection plan for the majority of the licensed airports.

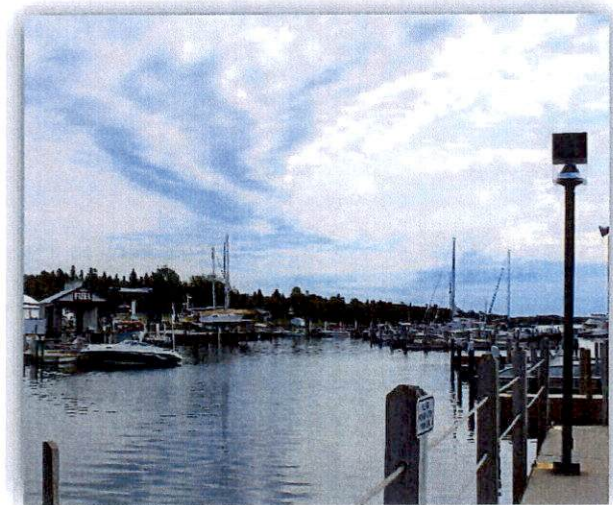
Approach protection plans are intended to provide airport sponsors with standards which are reasonable and enforceable under local zoning ordinances. These plans should also provide airport sponsors with sufficient airspace protection according to local needs and conditions. The

standards utilized for each approach protection plan include airspace protection in accordance with FAR Part 77 standards. The land use standards utilized for the establishment of these plans (developed by the University of California-Berkeley using NTSB accident data) have been endorsed by the FAA. Additionally, the approach protection plan also includes protection for the FAA's VOR sighting criteria. The approach protection plans approved by the Commission were based on the current airport layout plan for the airport. When airport layout plans are updated, it is also necessary to update approach protection plans. The Commission has approved the use of a standard approach protection plan to be applied to an approved airport layout plan without being presented to the Commission if the airport has had a previously approved approach protection plan.

According to the Michigan Official Rail Map posted on MDOT's website, there is one active railroad running through Mackinac County. The Canadian National Railway runs in a northeast/southwest direction through the western and central townships of the county. The line connects Sault Ste. Marie and Escanaba.

There are several railroad sidings in Mackinac County. From the west side of the county, heading east, they are: Pike Lake Spur, Gould City Spur, Swift Passing Track, Engadine Spur, Gilchrist Spur, and Caffey Spur and wood yard. These sidings can hold approximately five railroad cars for loading (mainly wood products) to numerous cars at the wood yard at Caffey.

The county has six public marinas. The recently expanded St. Ignace Marina is the largest with 120 slips. Mackinac Island has 76 slips, the Hessel Marina has 30 slips, and the new Cedarville marina has 78 slips. Naubinway/Garfield Township Marina and Bois Blanc Marina have limited docking facilities for transient boating. There are also two deep water ports in Mackinac County suitable for shipping industrial and extractive products. One port is located on the Lake Huron side at the southeast portion of Clark Township, and the other is located on the Lake Michigan side at southwest corner of Moran Township.



Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry, Arnold Transit Co. and Star Line ferries serve the St. Ignace and Mackinaw City to Mackinac Island water transport needs, operating during the spring to fall months. Ferry service is shut down during the winter freeze up of Lake Huron. There is also a ferry service from Cheboygan to Bois Blanc during the warmer months. The islands rely on air transportation during the winter.

The Straits Taxi Service provides 24 road transportation service throughout the straits area and north into Canada. The City of St. Ignace also offers a seasonal trolley service between Memorial Day and Labor Day from 8:00 am to midnight daily.

Cloverland Electric Cooperative provides electricity for most of the county. Bois Blanc Township relies on Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative for electric service. DTE Energy and SEMCO provide natural gas where available, while AmeriGas, Autore Oil Company, Bowman Oil Company, Ferrell Gas Company, Shute Oil Company, and ThermoGas provide propane fuel.

Charter Communications, Astrea Connect, and UP Communications provide cable television services in more densely populated areas. Internet Service providers are Charter Communications (cable), HughesNet (satellite), EasternUP.net, AT&T, Century Link, and Lighthouse Computers. SBC/Ameritech and CenturyTel provide local phone service in Mackinac County. Drummond Island Telephone also serves parts of the western end of the county for telephone service. AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon, as well as numerous pay-as-you-go programs provide wireless phone service.

CHAPTER 3

PLANNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Under Michigan's County Planning Act (Public Act 282 of 1945, as amended), the Mackinac County Planning Commission is empowered to make and adopt a master plan to guide future development within the county. Before undertaking the process, it is essential to set out goals and objectives for planning which meet the particular needs and aspirations of this county's citizens. It is also important that planning goals reflect the type of community and lifestyles desired by Mackinac County residents. The goals must be realistic and attainable from a social and economic standpoint. The goals are written to have a countywide perspective, though they may address common local issues.

It is not the intention of the County Planning Commission for these goals to replace goals and objectives found in township and city master plans, but to bring forth a multi-jurisdictional approach to addressing common community needs and issues. It is the desire of the County Planning Commission that these goals and objectives will not only provide guidance to Mackinac County government, but also encourage a coordinated approach to planning and zoning at the local level.

A number of initiatives were undertaken to assure that the goals set in this 2007 master plan were appropriate for Mackinac County needs. Background information (social/economic conditions, natural resources, existing land use, and services/facilities) about the county compiled within the *Mackinac County Fact Book* in August of 2005 were reviewed. Issues and problems revealed through the study of existing county conditions are incorporated into the planning goals set out in this chapter.

Another initiative undertaken by the planning team for the 2007 master plan was an extensive public outreach program. This program included a series of public forums at three distinct geographic locations throughout the county, as well as consultation with township officials on their planning concerns and recommendations. In 2013 & 2019 the planning commission revised the Strengths and Opportunities and Weaknesses and Threats and added them to the master plan. This information assisted in the revision of the Goals and Objectives in this chapter.

STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Strengths and Opportunities within Mackinac County:

1. Abundant, renewable natural resources.
2. Small town or rural living.
3. Great Lakes shoreline.
4. Several deep-water ports, even though they are privately owned.
5. Very good Interstate and State highways in County.
6. Unique and rare species in County.
7. Considerable rustic camping opportunities and many inland lake boat access sites.
8. Entry point to the UP from the LP over Big Mac Bridge.
9. Great Lakes Islands, especially Mackinac Island.
10. The number of large fishing/recreational lakes in County.
11. Part of the Great Waters system for eco-tourism.
12. Abundant limestone resources, which provide high-quality jobs to the residents of the county.
13. Rail and rail sidings in west portion of the County.
14. Great network of snowmobile trails in County.
15. County has numerous trails for motorized and nonmotorized use, majority are on public lands.
16. New and modern hospital in County.
17. Well run, full service, general utility County Airport with charter services available.
18. Both M-134 and US-2 have been designated Pure Michigan Scenic Byways by the State of Michigan.
19. EUPISD funds a minimum of 2 vocational tech courses in every high school in the County.
20. The Mackinac Economic Alliance works through public-private partnerships to support economic growth throughout the County.
21. The Mackinac Brownfield Redevelopment Authority now in place and active.
22. Old hospital building was redeveloped into a mental health facility now owned and administered by Hope Network.

WEAKNESSES AND THREATS

Weaknesses and Threats within Mackinac County

1. Aging and declining population.
2. Limited year-round employment opportunities.
3. Blighted areas in townships without ordinances or planning.
4. Lack of industrial areas for new industry development.
5. Poor high-speed internet connection for most of the County.
6. Lack of convenient recycling year-round in County.
7. Declining school enrollment.
8. In wood industry, lack of high-end product development.
9. Poor markets for low quality pulpwood products.
10. Forests and aquatic ecosystems face threats from invasive species, climate change and more frequent and severe weather events.
11. Rising Great Lakes water level is affecting shorelines and marinas uses.
12. County jail is inadequate to meet future needs and is past useful life.
13. Lack of professional medical building and ambulance garage at new hospital.
14. Old house adjacent to County annex building property prevents county expansion to the South.
15. Lack of Landbank for the County to assist with redevelopment and blight removal, could be effectively paired with the County Brownfield Authority.
16. Lack of public swimming beaches along Great Lakes in certain parts of the County.
17. Lack of housing, especially for elderly and workforce.

Goals and Objectives

NATURAL RESOURCES

The protection of a community's natural environment and sustainable use of renewable resources is imperative in maintaining the quality of life for residents and ensuring that future generations live in healthy productive surroundings. A clean and attractive environment helps attract new businesses, residents, and tourists. Economic development and environmental protection are both necessary for a healthy community.

GOAL: Conserve, protect, maintain, and promote the wise use of the natural resources of Mackinac County, such as groundwater, surface water (Great Lakes and inland lakes), forests, wetlands, clean air, fish and wildlife, scenic vistas, and sub-surface non-renewable resources for the enjoyment of residents and visitors and for future generations.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Work cooperatively with communities, agencies, and organizations to develop studies and institute programs that address watershed woodlands, wildlife, ecosystem management and agriculture.
2. Develop model ordinance language to protect greenbelts, shorelines, farmlands, forestlands, groundwater, and surface water and encourage townships and cities to adopt them and to cooperate among local units for the protection of these resources.
3. Encourage county departments to effectively administer and enforce regulations such as soil erosion and sediment control and adopt needed ordinances such as storm water management.
4. Preserve scenic views and open space, especially along major roadways and shorelines.
5. Cooperate with the health department in conducting septic system and well water educational programs regarding maintenance and management of systems.
6. Support natural resource education and technical programs (such as Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation District, MSU Extension, and Regional Planning) that assist land owners, forestry and agriculture operators, businesses, and communities.
7. Support studies that identify ways in which to protect critical habitats, water resources, scenic vistas, farmland, forestland, and other important ecological resources.
8. Coordinate the intensity of development with the environmental integrity and limitations of the land.
9. Encourage/Develop awareness of areas in the county where non-renewable resources such as sand, gravel, and limestone exist and acknowledge the economic importance in extracting these resources.

10. Establish convenient year-round recycling in all parts of the county to maintain the scenic character of our woodland and annual hazardous waste disposal.
11. Support control or eradication of invasive species in critical habitats, scenic vistas, and other important ecological resources utilizing organizations such as DNR, MDOT, USFS, DEQ and EUP Early Detection/Rapid Response Team through the CLM Conservation District.

RECREATION

Mackinac County is blessed with many natural resources and recreational opportunities. This helps add to the quality of life and make the community a more enjoyable place in which to live and work. The county's many recreational facilities, trails, and opportunities are also very important in attracting tourists and new businesses. Developing and maintaining trails and improving all recreational facilities and opportunities is vital for present and future generations.

GOAL: Encourage the preservation of indoor and outdoor recreation resources, historical and cultural opportunities, and programs and facilities at a level which will meet the needs of permanent and seasonal residents, tourists and visitors, and future generations.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote tourism and economic growth through recreation facilities development and management.
2. Promote and facilitate activities for both adults and youth through MSU Extension programs.
3. Establish a working relationship with the MDNR and USFS in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities.
4. Encourage development and improvements to non-motorized recreation trails, such as for biking, walking, running, or cross-country skiing.
5. Support and encourage improvements to indoor and outdoor recreation, historical, and cultural facilities and programs in accordance with locally adopted recreation plans or other officially adopted documents.
6. In a cooperative effort, work with local snowmobile clubs, MDNR, USFS, County Road Commission, MDOT, and County Sheriff Department to maintain regional snowmobile network.
7. Develop ORV trails working jointly with MDNR, USFS, County Road Commission, local governments, and local ORV riding clubs.
8. Promote use of the water trails which follow the Great Lakes Shoreline in the County.
9. To encourage and support local and state efforts to improve harbors and other boating facilities such as launch ramps for use of the boating public for fishing, family cruising, and general recreation on the water. Existing facilities includes Naubinway, Mackinac Island, Cedarville, Hessel and St. Ignace Harbors as well as inland lake facilities.
10. To support Clark Township and State efforts to eradicate invasive weeds in and around Les Cheneaux Islands waters in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES

Facilities and services, such as transportation, water, sewer, fire, police, schools, health care, etc. constitute the backbone of a community. Having well designed and managed infrastructure and services greatly adds to the livability of the community. The continued maintenance of these services and facilities is essential and requires constant oversight. The expansion of infrastructure and services is extremely expensive and additional funding burdens on the public. Expansions which are not carefully planned can inadvertently add to environmental degradation and undesirable sprawl.

GOAL: Continue to provide appropriate, energy efficient public facilities and services to support the residential, commercial, agricultural, forestry, and recreational activities of residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Due to having some roads that are impassable during the spring breakup, we need to work proactively with the Mackinac County Road Commission and MDOT to upgrade all roads, with improvements, road maintenance, and snow removal, as well as road planning.
2. Maintain a balance of services in the east and west portions of the county.
3. Encourage townships to direct development to areas where appropriate public services, roads, and utilities exist, or the developer is willing to install those facilities. Discourage linear strip development along major highways and primary county roads.
4. Support and encourage the development of a countywide action plan for fire departments and emergency medical programs to meet changing needs for these services.
5. Investigate the possibility of establishing a county-wide recycling program.
6. Explore state and federal funding programs to meet the need for construction of new or renovation of existing housing to meet the needs of low income county residents.
7. Promote the development of motorized and non-motorized trails connecting the larger communities within the county.
8. Maintain and encourage the expansion of air and rail service within Mackinac County. Provide information on airport approach plans to local communities where public airports exist and guide them through the process of developing local airport zoning regulations.
9. Support and encourage private civic groups which provide educational and social programs of importance to county residents.
10. Promote and encourage the expansion of public transportation to include county to county services to assist those with limited mobility and to conserve energy.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES (cont'd)

OBJECTIVES (cont'd)

11. Address the special needs of the aging population, including health care, respite care, hospice care, long-term care, and assisted living facilities during community development.
12. Support the new hospital in getting a professional medical building and ambulance garage at their current location.
13. Encourage the development of a "Plug-In Ready Michigan Electrical Vehicle" Plan for the County.
14. Support the county jail system in addressing inadequacies of the present county jail facility.
15. Address the best use of the old McDonald house. Address possibilities of adjacent and existing properties.
16. Encourage Portage Township and their residents to install a sewer system for the town of Curtis for the health of the Manistique Lakes.
17. Get Federal support for maintenance and major repairs of the Mackinac Bridge due to its importance to the Interstate highway system.
18. Support local decisions regarding renewable and alternative energy options.
19. Support efforts to expand access to broadband service.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A strong economy is an essential element of a healthy community. Residents must have an opportunity to earn family sustaining wages to be productive community members. A strong economy does not usually just happen without the local community actively seeking ways that encourage desirable development. In addition, the United States and world economies are changing rapidly in ways which profoundly impact local economies.

GOAL: Provide for economic growth that creates a diversified economic base and improves the competitiveness of the county's economy by enhancing employment opportunities for residents and the profitability of businesses and industries, while maintaining the community character and environment.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Support the continuance of and expansion of the functions of the Mackinac Economic Alliance to develop strategies for marketing the county. In addition to promoting the county as a tourism destination, promote cultural, historical, industrial, and environmental attractions to reach a broader market. Consider providing county financial support.
2. Encourage municipalities and community organizations to emphasize and promote Mackinac County's status as "the gateway to the UP" and entrance to "The Great Waters" area.
3. Establish education and outreach programs to strengthen businesses and communities in the county and support entrepreneurial efforts, such as the kitchen incubator.
4. Encourage the public school systems within the county and higher education facilities serving county residents to offer education in vocational trades, as well as professional and technical fields, to meet the needs of the area's present employers and possible new businesses. In addition, support the development of entrepreneurial clubs, job shadowing, internships, and work study programs in the high schools.
5. Encourage video conferencing sites, global marketing via the internet and better high speed internet options.
6. Ensure reasonable land use and development regulations in the townships and the development of infrastructure and facilities necessary to support economic development in a planned and managed way.
7. Cooperate with agencies that provide support and technical assistance to county residents in the agriculture and forestry industries.
8. Encourage townships to provide through zoning adequate spaces for the establishment of commercial and industrial enterprises.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont'd)

OBJECTIVES (cont'd)

9. Explore ways to expand the use of the Carmeuse deep water port at Cedarville and port near the west end of the county.
10. Encourage and assist Graymont Mining's development of a limestone processing plant in the county.
11. Investigate development and locations for alternative energy facilities, including wind power farms.
12. Mackinac County is a part of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission area, and as such is an active participant in the development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The goals and objectives within the CEDS document are updated annually. An objective of this Master Plan is for Mackinac County to review and implement applicable CEDS goals.
13. Actively pursue locations with adequate infrastructure to establish industrial parks.
14. Tap into the county's retired population who have business and/or grant expertise to share with new or expanding businesses and organizations.
15. Support local farm markets and expansion of other agricultural product development and production.
16. Support the Eastern Upper Peninsula College Access Network Program encouraging trade and vocational training as well as traditional higher education beyond high school for Mackinac County.
17. Support the expansion of broadband services to individual homes and businesses throughout the county, which will improve quality of life and support economic growth.
18. Support MEDC and other economic development programs at the State level as an effective tool for economic development in our county.

TOURISM

Because tourism is such an integral part of the overall economic well-being of Mackinac County, this topic is addressed separately. Attractions and amenities, such as the climate and environmental, cultural, and historical resources, have drawn visitors to the area since the late 1800's and early 1900's and continue to do so into the Twenty-first Century. In addition to tourism's close relationship with the county's economy, it is also deeply tied to the county's recreation assets and opportunities.

GOAL: Promote Mackinac County as a tourism destination for a multi-faceted high quality recreation experience.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Work actively with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Tourism Alliance to promote eco-tourism through "The Great Waters" as "nature's adventure where Huron, Michigan, and Superior meet".
2. Support the development and maintenance of recreational trails and wildlife and scenic areas.
3. Support efforts to expand tourism from seasonal to year-round industry with higher wages.
4. Promote the use and development of public lands, water access sites, and historic attractions.
5. Support the growth and expansion of Native American Tribes' economic and tourism ventures, such as casinos, lodging, restaurants, and convention services.
6. Cooperate with the Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association, as well as local tourist bureaus to promote Mackinac County's recreational, cultural, and historical assets and to further develop their potential. Advertise the county as a cultural tourism destination.
7. Encourage improvement, development, and maintenance of transportation facilities as important assets in the Straits Area and U.P. tourism industry.
8. Encourage research on tourism trends, such as how long people stay in the county, how much money do they spend, and what additional facilities are needed.
9. Support educational and training opportunities provided through tourism bureaus or chambers of commerce in the provision of tourism services.
10. Through coordination with MDNR and USFS, promote the county as a fishing and hunting destination.
11. Develop packages to support growth of tourism, especially cruise line stops.
12. Support the Pure Michigan Campaign as one of the most effective tourism promotion efforts for the U.P. and State ever.

COUNTY CHARACTER

A county's character is an intangible item which identifies the attributes which make a county unique. While a county's character will continually change over time, attempting to preserve it can be a very important part of maintaining a county's cultural heritage and traditions.

GOAL: Maintain and enhance the appearance and character of Mackinac County.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Encourage all communities within the county to preserve the integrity of existing neighborhoods, such as historic districts, by protecting them from the intrusion of incompatible uses.
2. Enhance community gateways through the implementation of land use controls, landscaping, and screening.
3. Support and expand community clean up days along with support of the State/US Forest Service clean-up days for federal lands and Adopt-A-Highway programs.
4. Assist in the implementation of conservation based open space or cluster development options as a means of protecting community character.
5. Maintain a friendly and safe rural atmosphere.
6. Guide and assist the townships in adopting local blight ordinances if they desire to enforce such regulations.
7. Protect and develop scenic view corridors, overlook sites, and vistas.
8. Support Pure Michigan Byways in the county.
9. Support museums, festivals, and special events that celebrate the character and history of Mackinac County.

GOVERNMENT

All governmental institutions owe their constituents an efficient and open organization by continually seeking ways in which to operate in the most cost-effective manner. Cooperation and collaboration among all local units of government is an important part of achieving this goal. Open lines of communication with the public will help to assure constituents that this is being pursued.

GOAL: Cooperate and collaborate among all levels of government and communicate effectively with the public. Expend tax dollars in a wise and efficient manner.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Generate economies of scale and cost savings through collaboration, cooperation, and coordination among local units of government.
2. Promote the sharing of information among county departments by identifying a liaison through which information may be directed.
3. Promote communication among the local planning commissions and the County Planning Commission and recognize communities for outstanding planning and zoning efforts.
4. Encourage the sharing of timely updated information by publishing County Board of Commissioners and County Planning Commission meeting agendas and minutes and a listing of upcoming County activities on the County web site.
5. Develop procedures for consistent and timely exchange of information among departments within the county government and between the County Planning Commission and townships and cities.
6. Focus on cross-jurisdictional issues when reviewing community master plans and zoning ordinances.
7. Assist local governments and citizens in communicating with state agencies on land use and environmental issues, including wetlands regulation, park management, and state forest management practices.
8. Encourage and assist local governments to address blight.
9. Encourage timely updates of the Mackinac County Directory after local elections.
10. Encourage better participation by the county departments to assist the planning commission in the development of the Capital Improvement Plan annually.

CHAPTER 4

FUTURE LAND USE

Introduction

Good land use planning is an essential determinant of the future quality of life in Mackinac County and the cities and townships within the county. An important tool in achieving this concept is a future land use map and descriptive text as outlined in this chapter. The future land use recommendations, along with the goals and objectives outlined in Chapter 3, are the principal components of this Master Plan.

Community Planning and Zoning

Table 6 presents the status of planning and zoning in municipalities that make up Mackinac County. Currently, the cities of St. Ignace and Mackinac Island have their own zoning authority, and all townships except Hendricks, Hudson, and Newton have adopted a zoning ordinance.

| Table 6 Status of Planning and Zoning for Mackinac County Municipalities August 2019 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Political Unit | Master Plan Adopted | Zoning Ordinance Adopted |
| Bois Blanc Township | October 2009 | October 2005 |
| Brevort Township | June 2008 | 1984, Third Edition 2004 |
| Clark Township | November 2008, updated 2015 | June 1975, Amended through 1999 |
| Garfield Township | October 2007 | April 2003, Amendments 2005 |
| Hendricks Township | None | None |
| Hudson Township | None | None |
| City of Mackinac Island | October 2010 | October 1982 |
| Marquette Township | May 2011 (amended) | December 2014 |
| Moran Township | 1994, updated 2003 | April 2003, 2005 |
| Newton Township | None | None |
| Portage Township | January 2012 (amended) | April 1976, updated May 1995, 2015 |
| City of St. Ignace | September 2019 | April 1984 |
| St. Ignace Township | 1996 | May 1999 |
| Mackinac County | April 2007, updated 2013 | No zoning authority |
| Source: Local Planning Officials, online resources | | |

Community Future Land Use Plans

These community future land use plans present desired future land use for the two cities and townships with plans in Mackinac County. Future land use is a vision of how each community would like to develop over the planning horizon, up to 20-30 years. Future land use plans typically consist of a map that displays future land use areas and accompanying text describing compatible uses in each land use category, although not all plans reviewed were written in this format. The following information on future land use categories are presented for each community and represents a synopsis of the community plans reviewed.

Each of the communities and their plans listed above is unique and has distinct Future Land Use and Zoning designations. However, when viewed collectively themes emerge and several general land use categories repeatedly arise. They include:

Wilderness or Natural Area: preserve flood plains; protection of rural character should be encouraged through retention of natural open spaces; buffering techniques should be encouraged; encourage retention of natural edges between the road and any new development; contains unique natural features; not capable of supporting heavy development; may have wetlands, endangered/threatened species or habitats; long-term protection is critical; limited vehicle access and very limited low-density development.

Recreation: Contains most of existing forest land; protect it from exploitation; physical features include high slope, wetland, and bedrock close to the surface; vast amount of public forest land is best suited for long-term protection; any development on private forest land should be limited to extremely low density single-family residential use; there should be minimum road and infrastructure improvements; exterior lighting should be controlled. uses include wildlife habitat and environmental protection; parks and recreation facilities, and open space; property that is leased for scattered residential development and public utilities is expected to continue, but not expand. Sometimes also includes private recreational facilities such as golf courses.

Farmland: Areas where soils are capable or most capable of agricultural related development. Agricultural – Land where soils are most fertile and are capable or most capable of supporting agricultural activities; history, nature, charm, and visual quality are unique; maintain existing agricultural operations while allowing for growth; future development should be compatible with farming; density allocations should be one unit for five acres.

Waterfront: Maintain the integrity of the ecosystem; special consideration should be given to water quality protection, preservation of natural features especially along the water's edge; relatively large lot minimums, infrastructure and logistic issues should be addressed.

Residential: The existing scattered development in areas of the county is mainly the result of non-existent developmental control in the township and has resulted in an uneconomical development pattern to provide public utilities and services. By restricting future moderate density development in and around population centers, capital improvements costs will be lower, and the operational costs will also be more economical. This category is often subdivided into subcategories: Rural, Lower Density, Moderate Density, City Residential, and Mixed Residential.

Mixed Use/Downtown: Mixed This designation varies in description from all types of residential, resort, recreation, and commercial uses are encouraged to allowing for creative, cohesive design with mixed uses; residential uses may also be compatible as well as office and institutional uses.

A Note on Downtown Development Authority Districts: Existing and potential Downtown Development Authority District and are the commercial core of their communities and the intent is to enhance the municipal tax base, enhance a unique sense of place, and support a robust economy.

Commercial: This category includes commercial businesses and even light industrial uses and is usually located along main transportation thoroughfares such as the Business I-75 loop, along US-2, M-123 etc.; includes larger scale businesses than in the Downtown areas; planning

considerations should address vehicular access, water and sewer services, landscaping, and buffering from residential uses.

Industrial/Natural Resource Extraction: May include operations such as wholesale, warehouse, and light clean manufacturing activities, sawmill or mining activities.

For more information, please see the individual municipal plans and ordinances.

Mackinac County Future Land Use Maps

The composite future land use maps shown in this chapter as Figures 5-A and 5-B resulted from a review of existing community documents (land use plans and zoning ordinances) developed by the cities and townships within the county, existing land use patterns, property ownership, parcel size, natural feature characteristics, existing infrastructure and services, and desired goals and objectives. Because the communities within the county have used so many different land use designations and descriptions, basic land use categories were utilized for the composite county future land use maps. These maps are meant to be general in nature. For more specific detail, the appropriate community land use plan should be consulted.

Mackinac County Future Land Use Categories

Future land use categories are shown on the future land use maps and uses which may be appropriate within each category are described in text. The future land use maps and recommendations should be utilized as a guide for future land use decisions and to help residents understand the rationale used by the Planning Commission when considering planning and zoning proposals submitted by the communities within Mackinac County. The future land use plan and maps should be considered a policy document and is not designed to be a reflection of the present zoning codes of the local governments. The future land use plan recognizes slow growth in the County's population and economy. The future land use maps reflect additional areas for urbanized uses.

The future land use maps show the distribution of recommended land use categories for all areas of the county, except the cities of Mackinac Island and St. Ignace. The generalized future land use categories used on the map are residential, commercial, community center, industrial/extractive/transportation, agricultural, forest/recreation, and waterfront protection.

Residential

Land within the residential category on the future land use maps is shown as yellow. The townships with master plans have many different and inconsistent residential categories and with differing densities. Therefore, this future land use plan groups all residential uses into one category, including single-family, two-family, multiple-family, mobile homes, waterfront residential, island residential, cluster residential, and the like. Other compatible use would be parks, schools, churches, government buildings, and similar uses.

Commercial

There are limited areas shown in red on the future land use maps meant strictly for commercial activities. Office, retail, and service businesses are appropriately grouped together in these areas. The City of St. Ignace serves many of the county's commercial needs, and residents also shop for goods and services in Sault Ste. Marie, Newberry, Marquette, Manistique, Cheboygan, and Petoskey. Commercial uses are also noted in the mixed-use smaller community centers in the county. Where commercial uses are adjacent to residential activities, vegetative buffers or fences are recommended.

Community Centers

For the purpose of the future land use maps, the community centers designate unincorporated areas that are intended to provide for a concentration of residential, commercial, and institutional uses in a small community setting. Community centers are primarily intended to provide for residential neighborhoods, convenience shopping, personal services, and community facilities. A variety of housing opportunities would be available in a community center, including single-family or multiple-family at medium to high densities. A variety of social and civic functions could occur in a community center, including government offices, recreation facilities, churches, schools, and cemeteries. In some cases, low impact industrial uses may be appropriate when buffered from other less intense uses. Where possible, community centers should be developed as pedestrian friendly. Regulations in these areas should be flexible enough to allow for re-use of vacant structures. In addition, higher density mixed uses may be appropriate in the limited areas where public water and/or sewer are available.

The incorporated cities of St. Ignace and Mackinac Island are also considered community centers. This future land use plan recognizes that these two cities provide valuable opportunities for all types of land uses, especially the more urbanized uses, such as residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional. These cities provide the infrastructure generally necessary for concentrated urbanized uses.

Industrial/Extractive/Transportation

Because of the availability of mineral resources in Mackinac County, uses in this future land use category are more dedicated to extractive activities than to industrial or transportation. Land in this category is shown as purple on the future land use map. The county's four public airports are in this category. The two largest extractive areas are the O-N Minerals quarries on the east and west sides of the county, along with several smaller gravel and stone mining operations.

This future land use plan recognizes the importance of extractive industries to the county's economy in terms of jobs and tax base. However, this plan also recognizes the importance of maintenance, improvements, and re-development of extractive properties. Performance standards, reclamation requirements, and buffering regulations should be considered by the appropriate local community.

Good accessibility from an all-season highway is one important criterion, and depending on the needs of the particular industry, public services and utilities such as sewer, water, three-phase power, or natural gas may be significant requirements for industrial uses. Because Mackinac County does not provide infrastructure such as sanitary sewer and public water generally needed by industrial uses, this future land use plan recommends these uses be guided to locations where adequate services and utilities exist or the developer is willing to install the

needed services. Local community involvement should be solicited prior to expansion of existing or development of new industrial uses.

Agricultural

Agricultural areas shown as tan on the future land use maps generally correspond to areas where soils are suitable for farming and where land is currently being used for agricultural purposes, including crop production, raising of livestock and poultry, orchards, plant nurseries, Christmas tree farms, bee keeping, maple syrup production, farm dwellings, and farm outbuildings. Single-family homes on large lots are also welcome; however, buffering or fencing may be needed to separate incompatible activities.

In accordance with township or city zoning, solar and wind energy production may also be a suitable use.

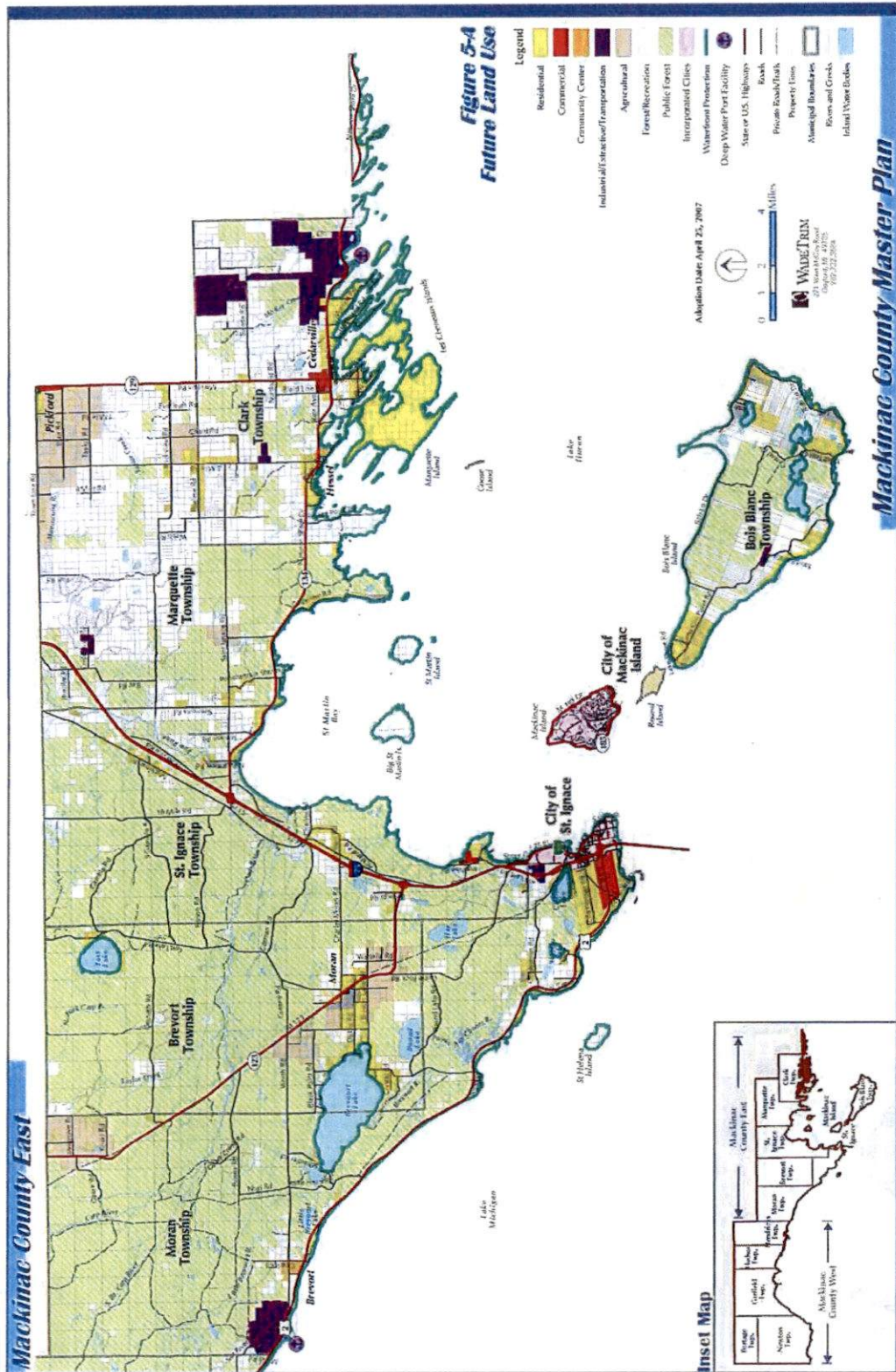
Forest Recreation

This category, shown in white and covering the majority of the county, is intended to provide areas where management and production of timber resources and recreational activities are the predominant land use. In addition to privately owned commercial forest land, this category includes large tracts of state and federal forest land. It is most likely that these public lands will remain unchanged in the foreseeable future and that only small portions will be converted to private ownership. The preservation of forest land for outdoor recreational purposes was important to the public outreach participants during this plan development process. They said they enjoyed hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, hiking, biking, skiing, and similar activities. Campgrounds, recreational trails, hunting camps, and commercial resorts would be appropriate in this category. Very low-density single-family homes on private property would also be compatible.

Forest industries are important to Mackinac County's economy, and this future land use plan supports the continuation or expansion of these logging and lumber production operations but recommends best management practices and re-forestation programs.

Waterfront Protection

Since there is extensive Great Lakes shoreline, several large inland lakes, and numerous islands within Mackinac County, this future land use plan encourages local governments to take an active role in developing waterfront protection regulations. Water features serve as important recreational, economic, and natural assets within the county and will continue to be popular locations for residential growth. Local governments may want to address issues including erosion control, minimum building elevations, setbacks from the high-water mark, shoreline buffering, and lower density development.



CHAPTER 5

COUNTY ASSET AND ENERGY USE PLAN

Introduction

Buildings and other physical assets are key to providing services to County citizens and administering programs. These services will be more effectively delivered if these assets are efficiently managed. Regular maintenance should be planned for in order to avoid unexpected expense, and improvements to the assets should be considered as potential money-saving options.

Additionally, Mackinac County recognizes that access to energy, and the source of that energy, is important to its capacity to cost effectively provide services to its residents, businesses and community-based organizations. County operations require significant energy resources (both power and heat). That energy must be purchased with taxpayer dollars. Investments in energy efficiency programs can help to reduce the amount of energy required to deliver these services and allow the County to invest taxpayer's money in other important programs.

This chapter focuses exclusively on county-owned assets (e.g. County Court House, airport facilities, etc.) and does not include potential projects in privately-owned facilities or facilities owned by non-governmental organizations. It also does not explore potential generation projects (e.g. additional investments in solar PV technology) since energy efficiency projects are generally considered to have a higher economic return on investment (ROI) than building new power and heat generation.

Energy Vision Statement

An energy vision offers a representation of what the County wants to look like 10-20 years into the future. This vision provides a framework for the direction and subsequent decisions about energy goals, strategies, and actions that the County takes. The vision has a strong emphasis on what the energy future will look like, to use as the motivation and focus for subsequent energy planning. The vision statement used by the County for developing its Asset and Energy Plan is:

Mackinac County will follow the most efficient and cost-effective route for delivery service to its citizens. Good management, including use of energy, will be a top priority when managing County assets and resources.

Facilities Inventory

The purpose of this section is to provide a brief overview of municipal facilities operated by the County which impact municipal energy demand. A facility is the combination of property, location, and pertinent lease information. It typically is identified as a building or other structure with at least one wall, a roof, and a permanent foundation, regardless of occupancy. These facilities are under 24-hour, seven-days-per-week jurisdiction of the County. The facilities included in this inventory is owned or associated with Mackinac County. The County Road Commission assets are not included as they operate under their own direction and budget.

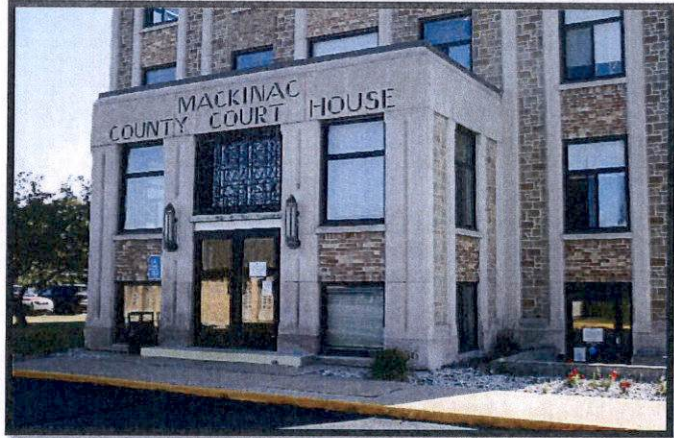
Parcel maps for county-owned properties are displayed at the end of this chapter.

Mackinac County Courthouse

Address: 100 S Marley St. St. Ignace, MI 49781

Location: 45.865992, -84.732948

Description: Built in 1887 and reconstructed in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration, the building houses the Clerk's office, the Register of Deeds, 6th District Probate Court, 92nd District Court, the Treasurer's office, and 11th Circuit Court. In 2016 a new elevator and a new roof were installed and interior upgrades, including paint and furniture, were completed. In 2019 the security system was upgraded.



Proposed Improvements:

- Lighting upgrade
- HVAC upgrade
- Energy Efficient windows

Mackinac County Annex

Address: 100 S Marley St. St. Ignace, MI 49781

Location: 45.865992, -84.732948

Description: Offices were built in the early 1970s. Regular maintenance keeps the building in working order, however outdated systems create additional costs. a new rooftop generator for the courthouse annex was installed



Proposed Improvements:

- Energy efficient windows
- Improve insulation
- HVAC system upgrade or replacement

Mackinac County Sheriff Office and County Jail

Address: 100 S Marley St. St. Ignace, MI 49781

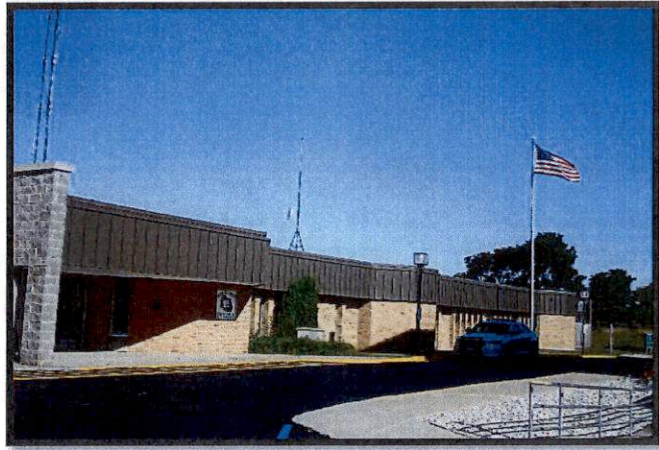
Location: 45.865992, -84.732948

Description: The Sheriff's Offices and County Jail house the following services: 9-1-1 response, criminal complaints, vehicle inspections, evidence collection, forensic computer analysis, traffic safety, court security, registering sex offenders, fingerprinting, event security, animal control, car seat inspections and education, snowmobile, boater, ORV, and hunter safety, drug testing kits, drug disposal, and victims' services. LED or High efficiency fluorescent lighting was installed, and motion sensor light switches installed in some areas of the building. Some of the windows were replaced with higher efficiency style windows

Vehicle and equipment storage are also found at an off-site location. The jail was built 1973 and runs a significant risk of surpassing capacity.

Proposed Improvements:

- New jail building
- Energy efficient windows
- Improve insulation
- HVAC system upgrade
- New sally port



Evergreen Shores Storage building

Address: 100 S Marley St. St. Ignace, MI 49781

Location: 45.865992, -84.732948

Description: Commonly referred to as the "Huskey Building," this building is 100 feet by 40 feet and has an additional 33 feet by 100 feet fenced in area. It has a small office space on one end and a heated portion that is about 36 by 40 on the other end that we use in the winter for maintenance and training. The rest is cold storage for boats, ATVs, other equipment, training gear and VSU supplies.



Proposed Improvements:

- Improve insulation
- Lighting Upgrades

Mackinac County Animal Shelter

Address: 980 Cheeseman Road St. Ignace, MI 49781

Location: 45.876531, -84.734856

Description: The County acquired the Animal Shelter building in 2013.

Proposed Improvements:

- Energy efficient windows
- Improve insulation
- Lighting upgrade to LEDs



Mackinac County Airport

Address: 1220 N State St, St Ignace, MI 49781

Location: 45.894612, -84.731851

Description: In 2007 repairs included sealing cracks on the runway, tree removal, signage repairs, and new lighting. A new hangar was constructed in 2012 and the parking lot was repaved and expanded in 2016.

Proposed Improvements:

- Lighting upgrade
- Gas Pump Replacement
- Storage shed upgrade



LMAS, MEA, and MSUE Offices

Address: 749 Hombach St, St Ignace, MI 49781

Location: 45.859041, -84.712343

Description: These offices house the Luce-Mackinac-Alger- Schoolcraft Health Department, Michigan State University Extension, include 4-H, and the Mackinac Economic Alliance.

Proposed Improvements:

- Improve insulation
- HVAC system upgrade
- Lighting upgrade to LEDs



Straits Area EMS Ambulance Building and Storage

Address: Burdette St, St Ignace, MI 49781

Location: 45.859041, -84.712343

Description: Ambulance building and storage, in good condition.

Proposed Improvements:

- Improve insulation
- Lighting upgrade to LEDs



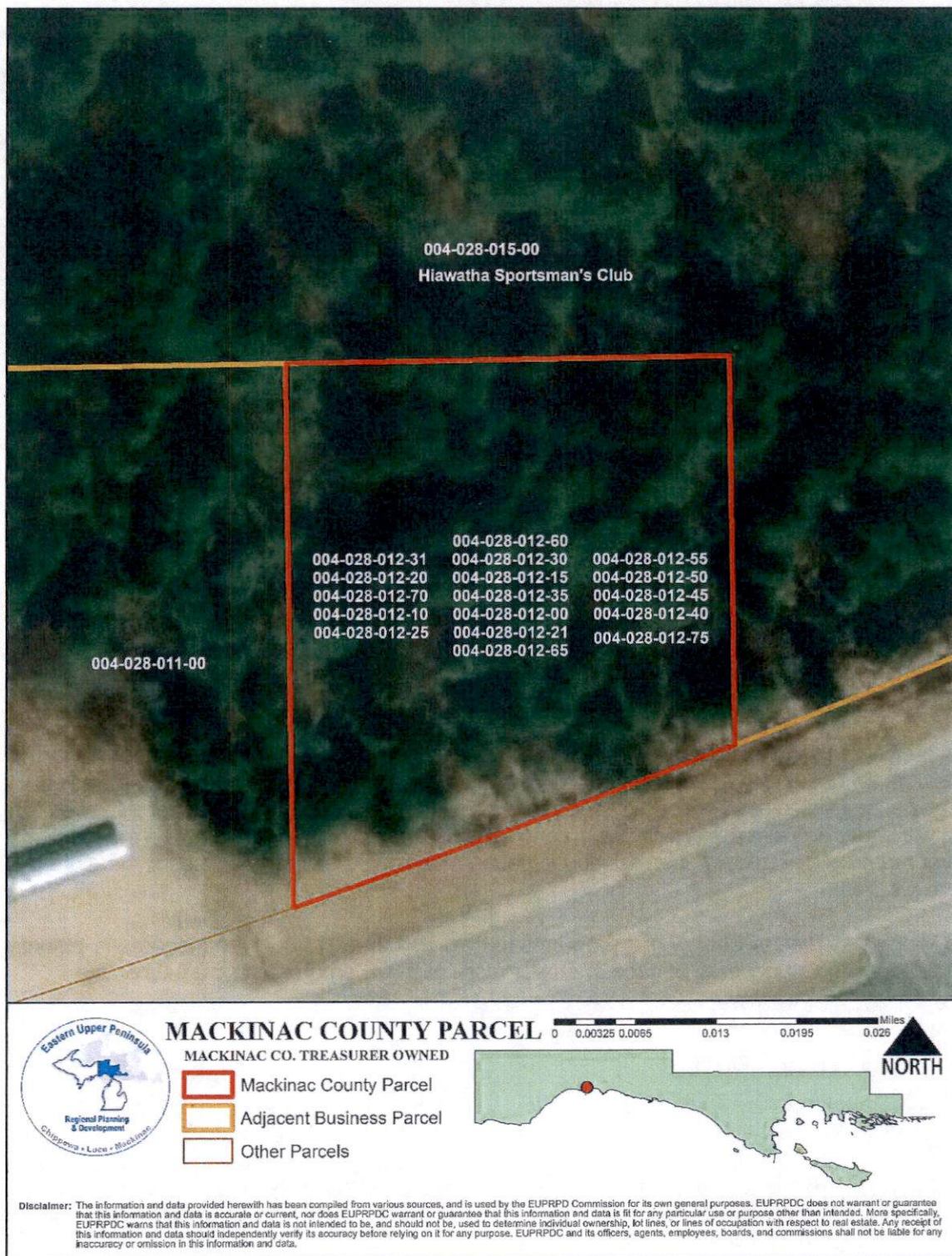
Energy Profile Baseline

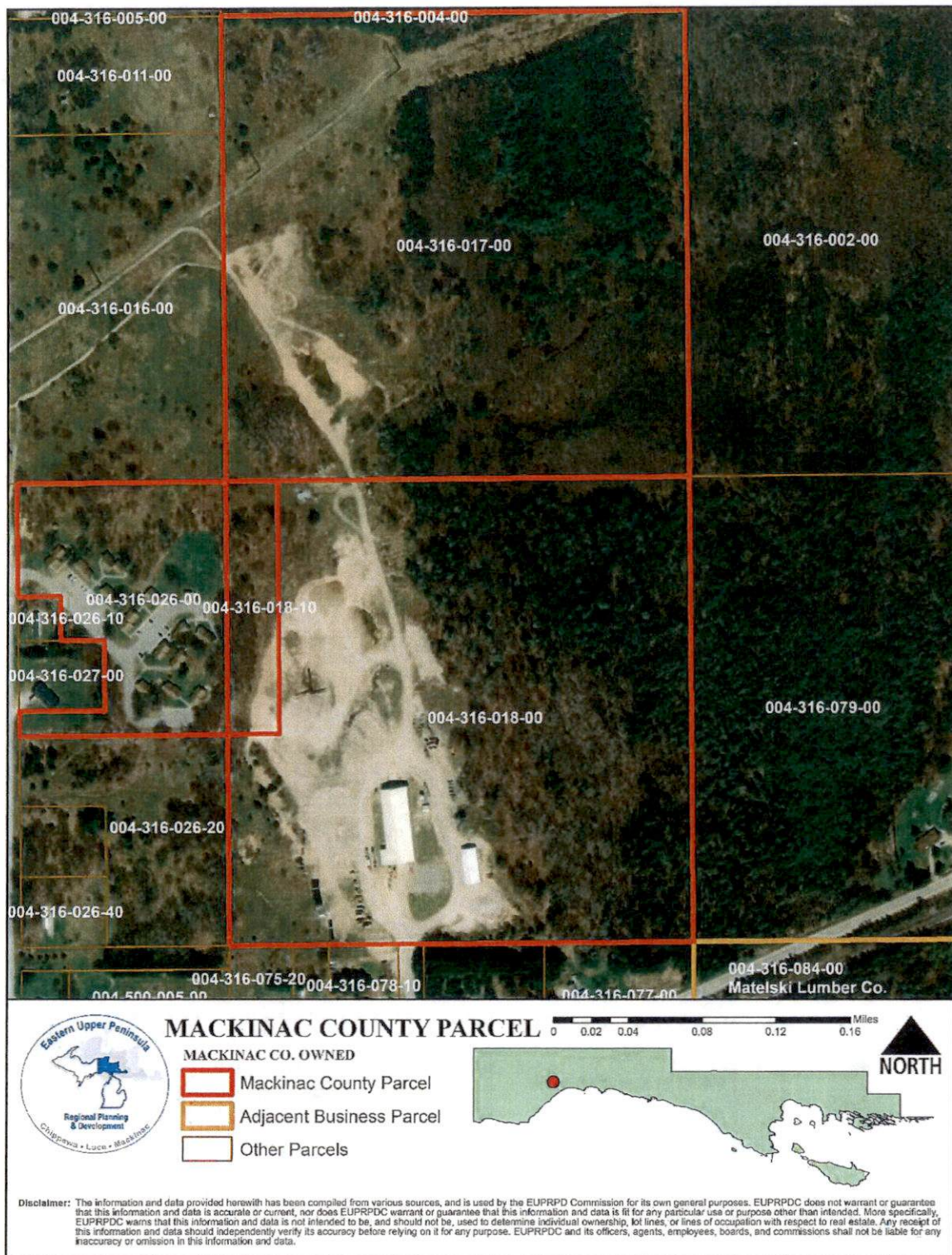
Before energy improvements can be made, the County needs to establish where energy is being currently used in the community. This can be done through a creating an energy profile. An energy profile maps out the County's energy landscape, including:

- Current and projected future energy use and supply data;
- An understanding of the energy economics (i.e., where does energy dollars go?);
- An inventory of existing energy-related activities, projects, programs, and policies, and;
- Information on available human and organizational resources to help implement a community energy plan.

This profile can provide an informed idea of where to focus efforts during the County's energy transition. By assessing the current energy use data and organizational and policy framework, the goals, strategies, and actions planned to address energy efficiency are better informed. The plan will better achieve the energy vision and ensure that it is focused on the true energy gaps and/or needs of the County. The existing situation also serves as the baseline for measuring future progress.

The Michigan Office of Energy has programs to help with energy audits, management, planning and policy. The County may engage in one or more of these programs in the future.





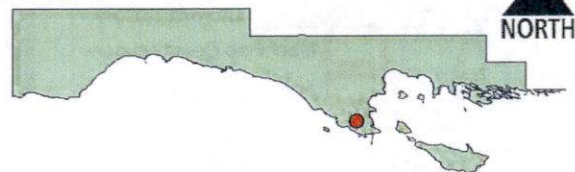




MACKINAC COUNTY PARCEL

MACKINAC CO. OWNED

- Mackinac County Parcel
- Adjacent Business Parcel
- Other Parcels



NORTH

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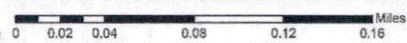




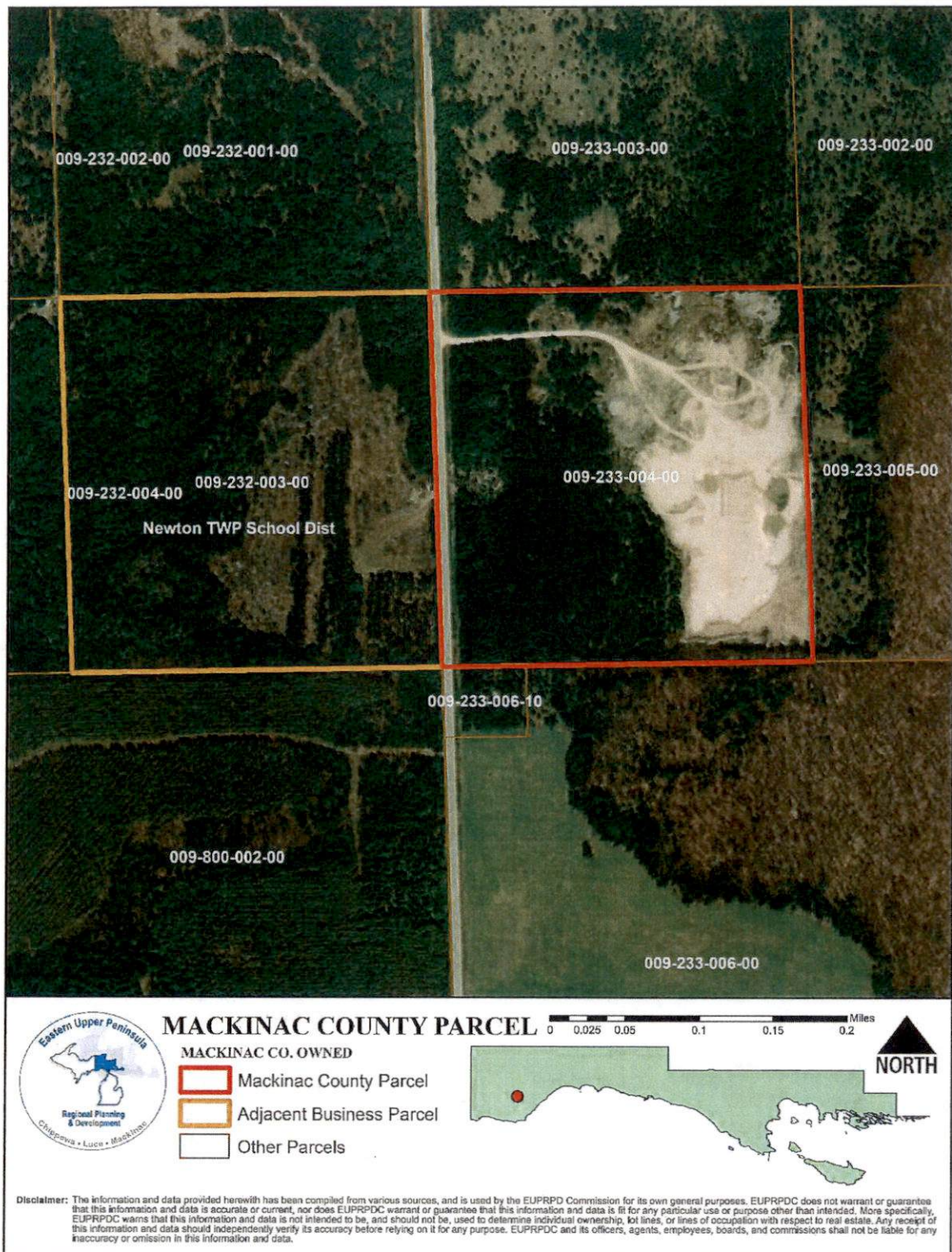
MACKINAC COUNTY PARCEL

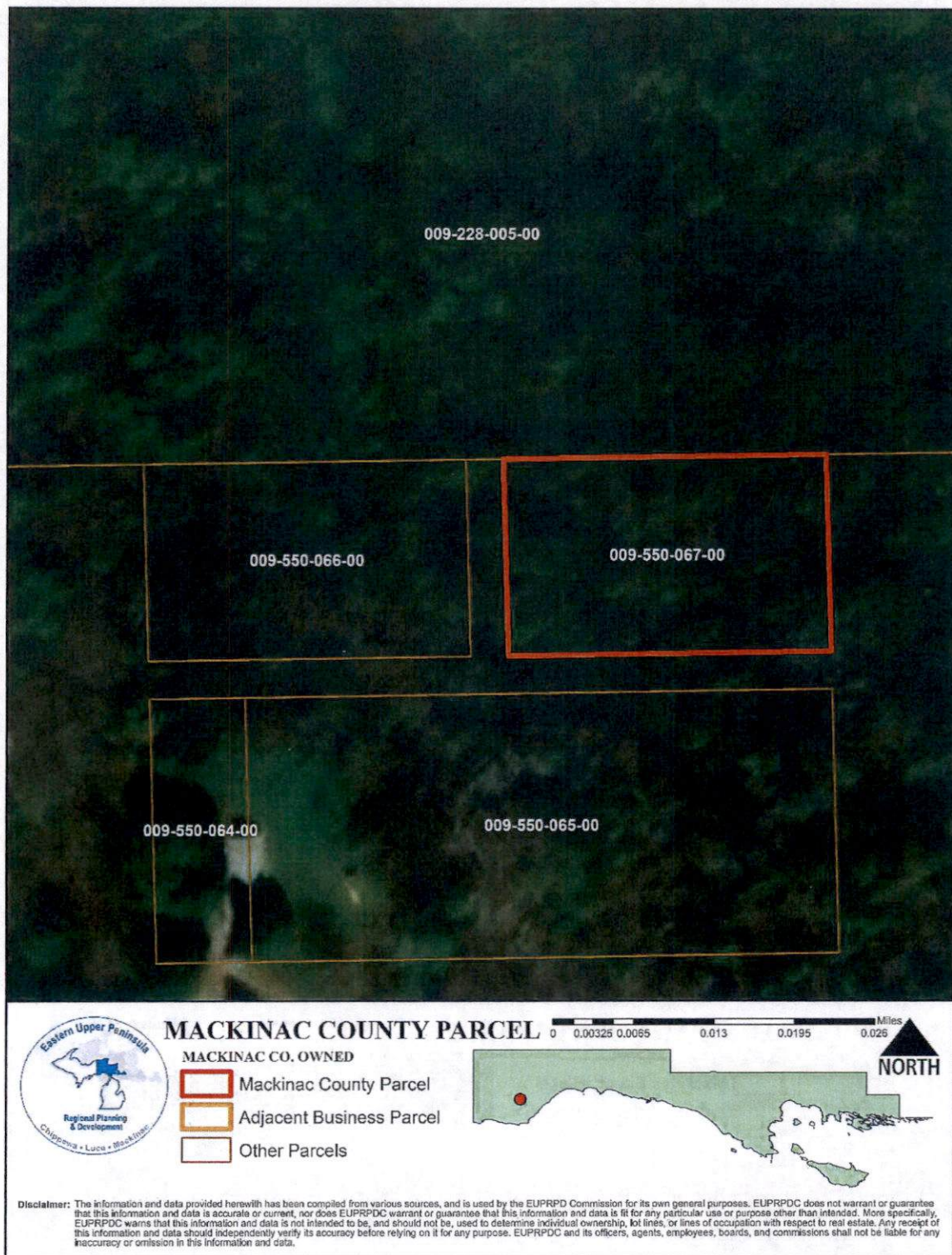
MACKINAC CO. OWNED

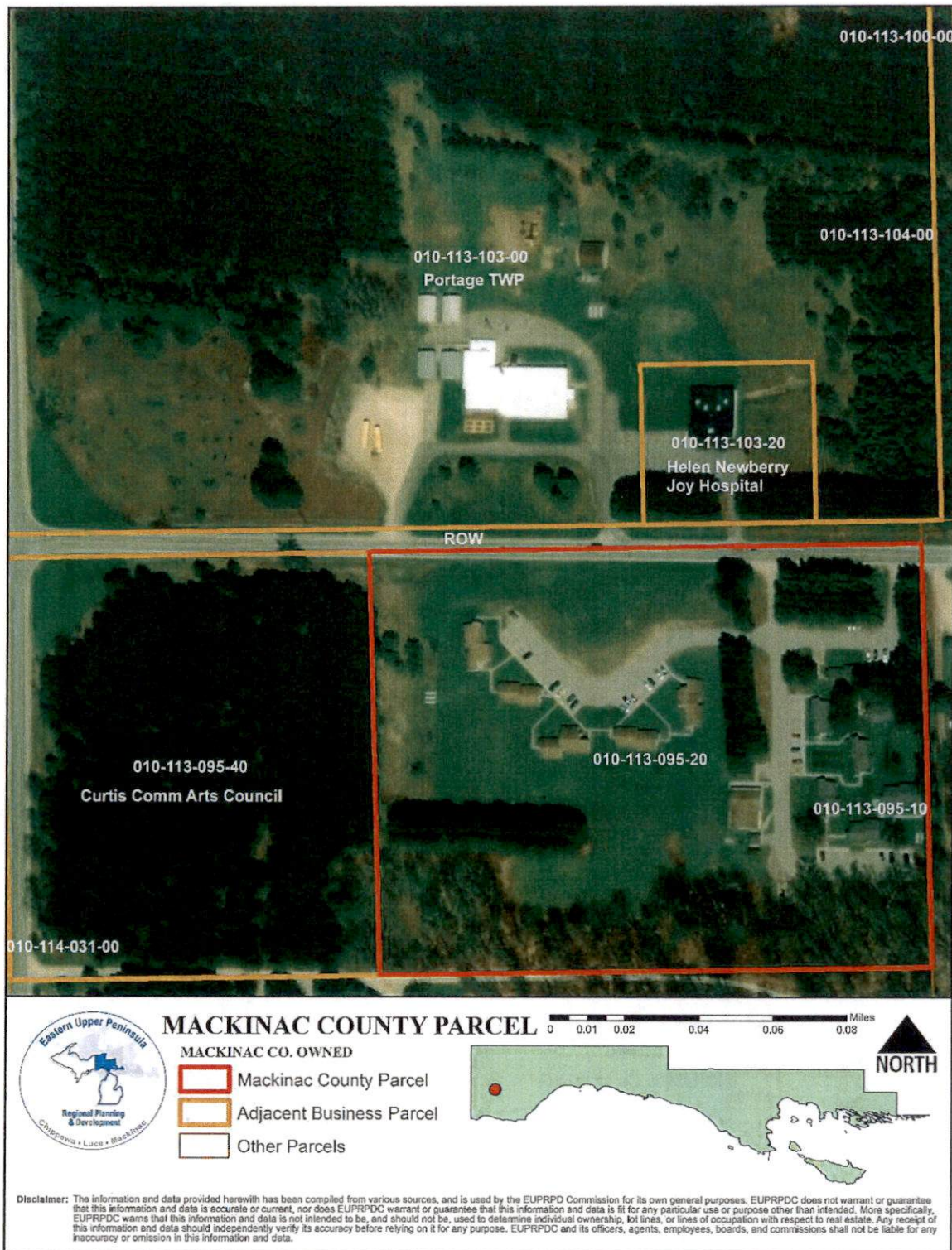
- Mackinac County Parcel
- Adjacent Business Parcel
- Other Parcels

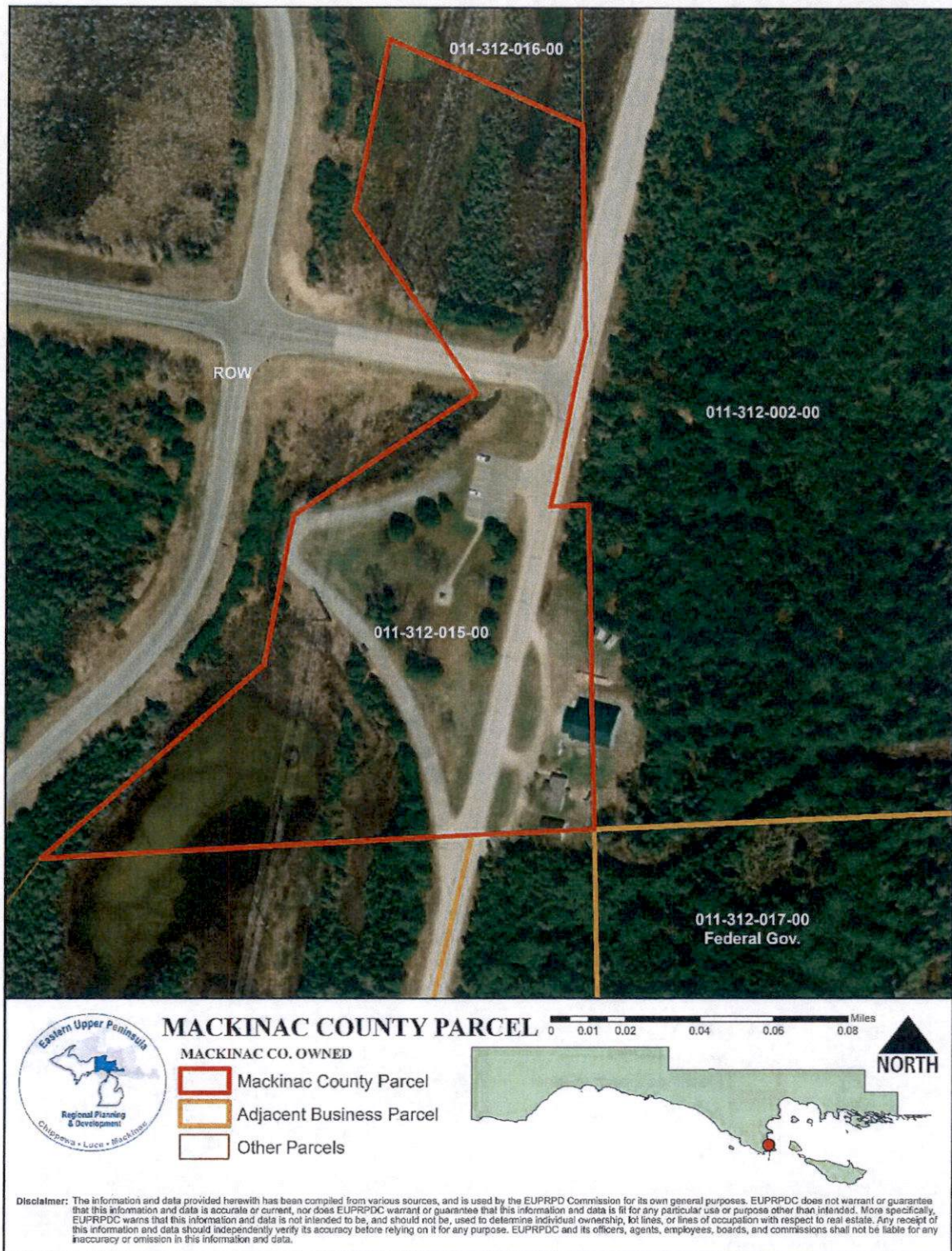


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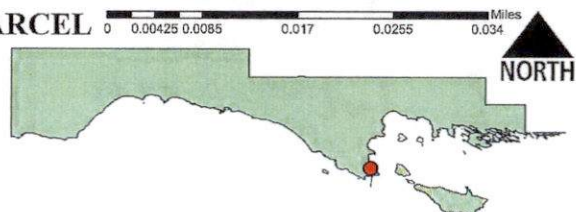




MACKINAC COUNTY PARCEL

MACKINAC CO. OWNED

- Mackinac County Parcel
- Adjacent Business Parcel
- Other Parcels



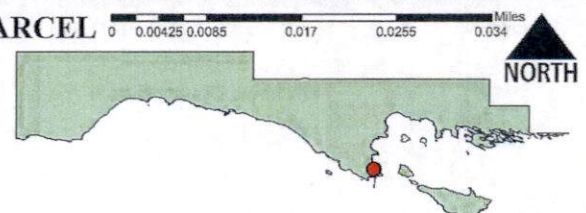
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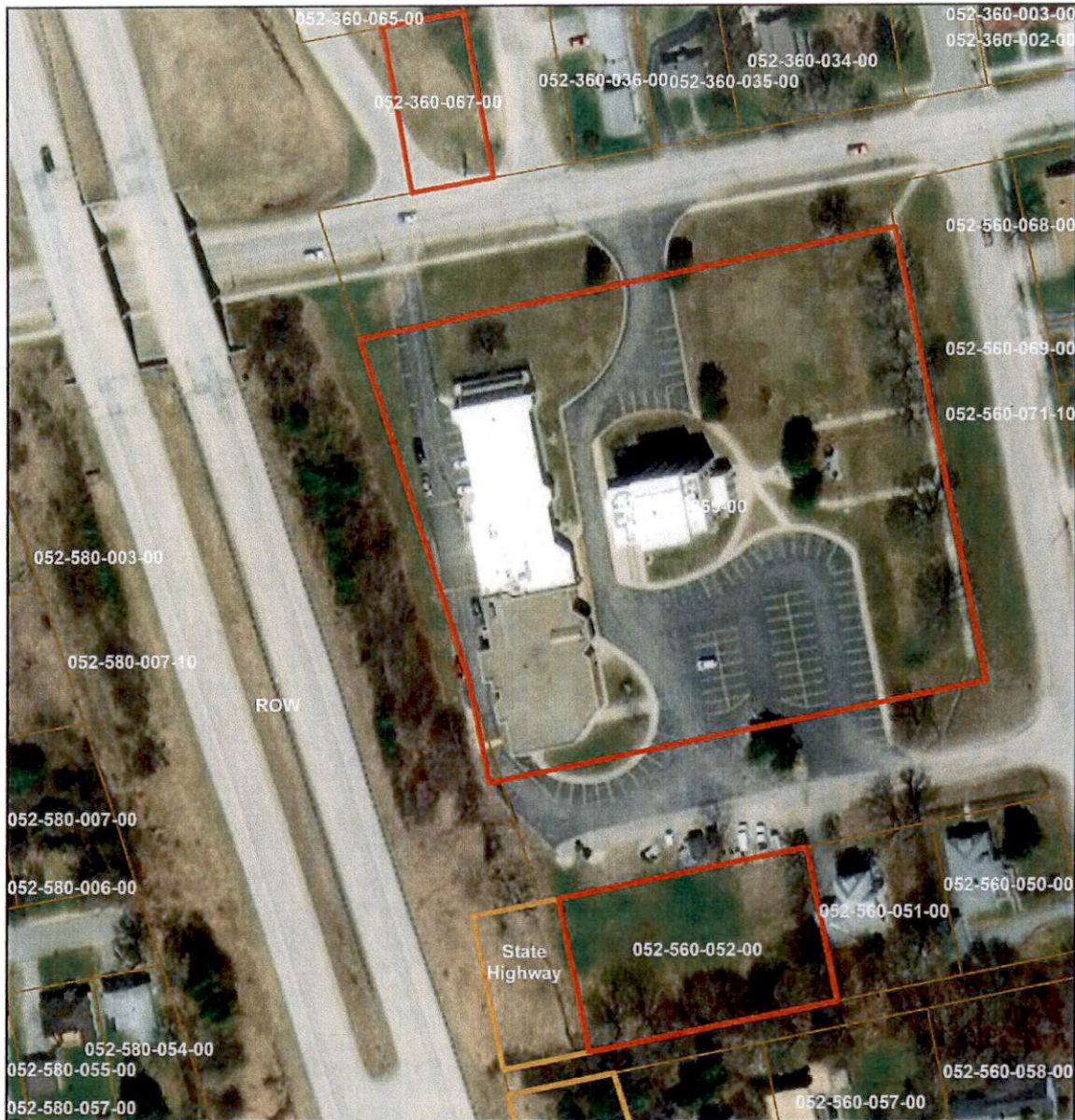
MACKINAC COUNTY PARCEL

MACKINAC CO. OWNED

- Mackinac County Parcel
- Adjacent Business Parcel
- Other Parcels



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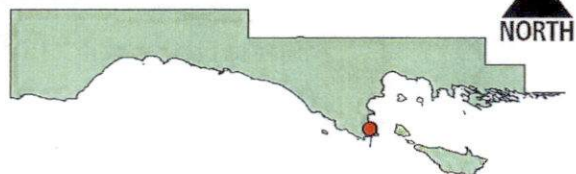


MACKINAC COUNTY PARCEL

MACKINAC CO. OWNED

- Mackinac County Parcel
- Adjacent Business Parcel
- Other Parcels

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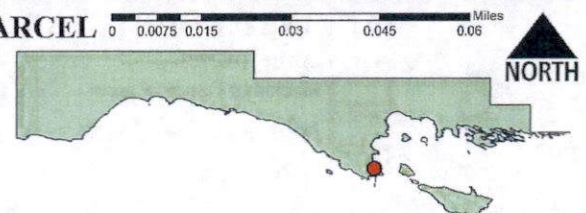
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MACKINAC COUNTY PARCEL

MACKINAC CO. OWNED

- Mackinac County Parcel
- Adjacent Business Parcel
- Other Parcels



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CHAPTER 6

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADOPTION

Implementation

The *Mackinac County Updated Master Plan (2019)* was developed to provide a vision of the county's future. It will serve as a tool for decision making on future development proposals. The plan will also act as a guide for future public investment and service decisions, such as the local budget, grant applications, road maintenance and improvements, community group activities, tax incentive decisions, and administration of utilities and services.

Within Mackinac County, the cities of Mackinac Island and St. Ignace and all townships except Hendricks, Hudson, and Newton have planning and zoning authority. It is the intention of this County Master Plan to provide further guidance to local communities in making their respective land use decisions. By state statute, cities and townships are required to forward any new land use plans or amendments to an existing plan to the county planning commission for review. In addition, townships are required to forward new zoning ordinances and amendments to a current zoning ordinance or zoning map to the county planning commission for review. The *County Master Plan* does not intend to direct local communities to change their zoning. However, the plan does encourage communities to have common and consistent zoning regulations that address issues on adjacent boundaries such as for site plan reviews, landscaping and screening, greenbelts and water protection buffers, home based businesses, signs and billboards, highway access management on major highways, and parking requirements.

The *Updated Master Plan (2019)* can also be use as a guide for future public investment and service decisions. Many communities prioritize and budget for capital improvements project, such as infrastructure improvements. A Capital Improvements Program (CIP) typically looks five years into the future to establish a schedule for all anticipated capital improvement projects in the community. A CIP includes cost estimates and sources for financing for each project. It can therefore serve as both a budgetary and policy document to aid in the implementation of a community's master plan.

Since Mackinac County owns vacant land that could be used for recreation purposes, the county may wish to apply for certain MDNR recreation grants. In order to be eligible for those grants, the county must have a current recreation plan. Background information presented in this *Master Plan* and the county's *Fact Book* would provide some of the required data for a recreation plan. Additional work would include a detailed inventory of existing recreational facilities within the county and the region, recreation goals, and an action program for existing and proposed facilities. An MDNR approved recreation plan would cover a five-year planning period. Grant funds could be pursued for recreation projects identified in this *Master Plan* and in a yet-to-be-developed recreation plan. Proposed projects may include development or improvements to existing properties or acquisition of new recreation properties.

Countywide and even multi-county needs are identified within this Updated Master Plan (2019). The plan encourages communities and organizations to complete watershed plans, economic development strategic plans, resource recovery plans, highway corridor plans, or ecological corridor plans as appropriate.

Master Plan Adoption

The final draft of the Mackinac County Master Plan amendment was approved by the Mackinac County Planning Commission, at its' regular meeting on December 4, 2019, during which a public hearing on the Amendment was conducted at 2:00 p.m., hearing ____ comments from the public and receiving ____ comments during the 42 day review and comment period as specified in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 33 of 2008), the Planning Commission adopted the Amended Master Plan as presented, and unanimously voted to send it to the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners for final approval of the plan. At the _____ meeting of the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners, it was moved by Commissioner _____, and supported by Commissioner _____ to adopt the Mackinac County Master Plan Amended as recommended by the County Planning Commission, on a voice vote the motion carried unanimously and the Plan Amendment was adopted.

The following items are provided as documentation that procedures required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 282 of 1945), as amended, were followed:

- "Notice of Intent to Plan" mailing list
- Mailing list for draft plan recipients
- Public hearing notice publication
- Resolution of Adoption by Planning Commission
- Resolution of Concurrence by Board of Commissioners
- Mailing list for final adopted plan recipients

Appendixes

Township Outreach

Mackinac County townships have organized a county chapter of the Michigan Townships Association. The group meets quarterly to share information about happenings within each township and county and state directives. The county's planning consultant, Wade Trim, Inc., attended the September 11, 2006 meeting in Brevort to make the group aware of the county master planning process, describe the project schedule, and to request participation. Township attendees were given a "homework" assignment. They were asked to identify Mackinac County strengths and opportunities, as well as weaknesses and threats, and return their lists to the planning team to be utilized in the development of goals for this chapter.

Public Outreach

The planning team hosted a series of public meeting on the master plan to solicit comments from residents of the county in September of 2006. These public input sessions were facilitated by the director of Mackinac County's Michigan State University Extension and the county's planning consultant. The September 12 meeting was held in Engadine at the Garfield Township Hall for the western portion of the county. The central location meeting was held at the St. Ignace Library on September 13, and the September 14 session in Cedarville encouraged comments from the east side communities. All meetings were held in the evening to allow working people the maximum opportunity to attend and express opinions.

Meeting announcements were sent to all cities and townships within the county, as well as to county departments. In the weeks prior to the sessions, newspaper articles, press releases, and public notices were published in The St. Ignace News, Sault Evening News, and Newberry News to cover all geographic locations of the county. Thirty-one interested citizens attended the three public meetings and provided valuable input in helping establish planning goals.

During the public meetings, the county's MSUE director gave an educational presentation on the purpose and process of the county master plan. After a preliminary review of the planning process and schedule, meeting attendees were first asked to identify significant assets, strengths, or opportunities of Mackinac County they would like to see preserved in terms of current development patterns, social and economic conditions, natural resources, services and facilities, and recreation. Then participants were asked to state community concerns, weaknesses, or threats that could be addressed in the planning process. The results of these meetings are presented on the following pages.

ENGADINE 9/12/06

| ASSETS, STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES | PROBLEMS, WEAKNESSES, THREATS |
|--|---|
| Natural & Cultural Resources | |
| Shorelines | Natural drainage patterns disrupted in transportation & utility corridors |
| Forests | Protected species complicate resolving issues such as drainage |
| Rivers, streams, inland lakes | Invasive species |
| Wind (for wind-powered energy) | Ticks |
| Groundwater | Deer population down |
| Nature Conservancy property | Global warming (impacts snowfall, vegetation) |
| Protected/endangered species | Cormorants |
| Sand dunes | Wolves |
| Sugarbushes (maple trees) | Receding shorelines & low water levels |
| Recreation Opportunities | |
| Outdoor recreation | |
| Casino | |
| Marina | |
| Hiawatha Club & airport | |
| Golf courses | |
| Campgrounds & State Parks | |
| Rest areas & roadside parks | |
| Good hunting land | |
| Snowmobile/ORV trails | |
| Large tracts of public land | |
| DNR property-future leases & grants | |
| Services & Facilities | |
| Highways | No public sewers |
| Schools | Current internet service is poor |
| Emergency services | Lack of "the arts" |
| Native American services | Poor cell phone service |
| Mutual aid fire departments | Major highways lack access & corridor planning & management |
| Churches | Distance to hospitals & other services |
| Rail service is improving | Inability to get rail cars for a while |
| Cloverland Electric lines | No taxi, public transportation within county and among counties |
| Pipeline | Dirt/gravel roads |
| Medical/dental clinic | Funding for schools |
| Potential new high-speed Internet service | Fear of losing volunteer services (fire & EMS) |
| Agency office located in township (MDOT, DNR, County Road Commission garage) | Limited state & federal funding for utilities & infrastructure |
| Red Cross facilities | Who will pay for elderly person services? |
| Library | Mandated services (schools, training, etc) |

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| Township land use planning & zoning | |
| ASSETS, STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES | PROBLEMS, WEAKNESSES, THREATS |
| Economic Factors | |
| Diversity-forestry, agriculture, fishing, recreation | Lack of industry |
| Commercial forest properties | Inability to keep youth in community |
| Two quarries | Short growing season for crops |
| Sawmills | State's lack of recognition of UP |
| Casino & revenue sharing benefits | Lack of matching funds for programs |
| Local business community | Lack of industry incentives |
| | Perception of peace/tranquility not compatible with industry |
| | Low pay scale makes it hard to hire workers |
| | Attitude toward industry/development |
| | Lack of tax base |
| | People travel long distances for low pay jobs |
| | State changes (personal property tax, PILT) |
| | Loss of farm land |
| | |
| Community Character | |
| Rural character | Complacency |
| Volunteerism | Dislike for change |
| People | Median age of population increasing |
| | Retirement vs. resort community |
| | Increase in crime & drug problems |

ST. IGNACE 9/13/06

| | |
|---|---|
| ASSETS, STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES | PROBLEMS, WEAKNESSES, THREATS |
| Natural & Cultural Resources | |
| Geographic attractiveness | Don't celebrate fishing, shipping heritage |
| Great Lakes, state & federal land | Pond area in St. Ignace could be developed |
| Historic sites, buildings, artifacts | DEQ & environmental agencies permitting process cumbersome |
| Clean air | Need to preserve & protect historical artifacts |
| Gateway to UP, Mackinac Bridge | Need to protect green space |
| Natural beauty, unique & rare species | Invasive species in Dunes area and trees starting to block view |
| Mackinac Island, all islands | |
| Abundant, renewable natural resources | |
| Recreation Opportunities | |
| Marinas/docks | Recreation deficit for ages 18-40 |
| Tourism | Lack of 18-hole golf course |
| Children's recreation opportunities | Tennis courts unkept |
| Golf course | Under-utilized Little Bear |
| Hunting, fishing | Need maps for trails |

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| School athletics | Lack of pavilion for outdoor events |
| Casino | St. Ignace not taking advantage of full potential as a waterfront community |
| Boardwalk & parks | |
| Rustic camping opportunities | |
| Services & Facilities | |
| High speed Internet (but limited) | Lack of countywide high-speed Internet |
| Hospital | Declining school enrollment |
| Informational facilities (MSUE, Chamber, Visitors Bureau, MDOT, etc.) | Transportation-bus only in town, no county to county transportation, no plane service to Wisconsin, regional air service not affordable, lack of bike/non-motorized trails |
| St. Ignace is county seat | Poor cell phone coverage |
| Home health care | Lack of public restrooms |
| Schools | No central coordinator for marketing & grants |
| Collaboration-agencies, tribe expand resources | Lack of year-round employment that does not harm the environment |
| Tribal services & facilities | No adult education or enrichment classes |
| Transportation-taxi, airport, ferry | No homeless or women's shelter |
| Active civic organizations | Mackinac Co. residents often must seek services in other counties |
| State & federal representation | Need website linkage county-townships |
| Good interstate and state highways in county | Limited special medical services (pediatrics, cancer, etc), health insurance restrictions on where service can be obtained |
| | Lack of planning & zoning (not looking at smart growth, especially along US 2) |
| | Lack of planned communities with activities-senior friendly communities |
| | Lack of coordination among governmental entities |
| ASSETS, STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES | PROBLEMS, WEAKNESSES, THREATS |
| Services & Facilities, Cont'd | |
| | Road maintenance-who is responsible for business loop? |
| | Liability issues prevent agencies from recognizing cost savings |
| | Residences without basic utilities (water, septic, electricity) |
| | Need more animal friendly facilities, but also need requirements about picking up after pets in public places |
| | Lack of millage/tax support for services |
| | Need more community leadership |
| | Need countywide volunteer network |
| | Need more educational programs for gov't leaders |
| | Larger hotspots (WIFI) |

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| | Trash removal system could be improved, need recycling opportunities |
| | Infrastructure needs long term improvements |
| | Need to adjust to retirement age population & services they may require |
| Economic Factors | |
| Tourism | Lack of diverse job opportunities, industries |
| Affordable | Lack of emphasis on vocational opportunities |
| Casino (economic benefit) | Casino (may harm personal finances) |
| Several deep water ports, even though privately owned | Information on low income housing & rentals not readily accessible |
| Part of Great Waters system for eco-tourism | Market flooded with unaffordable homes |
| | Regional shopping area needed |
| | Municipalities financially stressed |
| | People struggle to make ends meet |
| | Limited rentals allowing pets |
| | Need business incubator |
| | Hospitality training needed |
| | Need more regional teamwork with tourism |
| | Lack of shopping, entertainment choices |
| | City taxes are high-businesses shy away |
| | Gov't leaders need to be more in tune with business |
| | Need high end wood product development, reduced markets for low quality pulpwood products |
| Community Character | |
| Openness of people-trustworthy | Abandoned buildings, lack of upkeep |
| Multi-generational community | Lack of blight ordinance enforcement |
| People with practical survival skills | Lack of agreed upon vision, forward thinking |
| Family oriented, small town, rural | Opposition to change |
| Sense of community-willing to assist | Youth sheltered about outside world |
| Safety-area & schools | People don't think they can make a difference |
| Cooperation with neighboring communities | Need to promote individual pride in community |

CEDARVILLE 9/14/06

| ASSETS, STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES | PROBLEMS, WEAKNESSES, THREATS |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Natural & Cultural Resources | |
| Lake Huron, protected waters | Weeds in Cedarville Bay |
| Boating heritage | Invasive species |
| Woods & open space | Fishing down in Clark Township |
| Wildflowers & trails | Wolves—deer herd too small |
| Historic sites & buildings | DEQ permits |
| Wildlife, rare species & habitats | |
| Recreation Opportunities | |

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| Groups working to improve recreation (bike path, recreation park) | Need non-motorized path between Hessel & Cedarville |
| Festivals & events | Lack of activities for teen-30 population |
| Outdoor recreation (i.e. hunting & fishing) | Snowmobile trail improvements needed |
| Boating & fishing | |
| Wooden Boat Show | |
| Services & Facilities | |
| Civic organizations | Lack of public transportation |
| Community Foundation | Blinker light should be a stop light |
| Roadside cleanliness | Lack of information on programs & opportunities |
| Schools | Need more/better access to medical services |
| Skill Center at Sault Schools-ISD | Ambulance service has hard time getting volunteers |
| Churches | Regional 911 from Negaunee |
| Home health services | School funding |
| Roads & infrastructure | Lack of high speed Internet |
| Les Cheneaux Education Program | Lack of affordable adequate child care |
| Great Lakes School of Wooden Boat Making | Distance to county, state, federal services |
| EMS | Lack of enforceable township ordinances |
| Head Start-preschool | No penalty for building without a permit |
| Community Action | Lack of full time building inspector |
| Cedar Campus | Adjacent townships should consider sharing staff for building, zoning, blight, etc. |
| Public safety | Snow plowing/road grading |
| | Parking for island residents |
| Economic Factors | |
| Logging industry | Poor work ethics, poor business practices |
| Agriculture | Schools/parents need to be more involved in educating youth about work ethics |
| Protecting small businesses | Need education on how to manage & train employees |
| Artisans & cottage industry | Threat of small businesses closing (hardware, gas station, etc.) |
| Adequate housing, including rentals | Lack of skill trades (tile, roofing, small mechanics, etc.) |
| ASSETS, STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES | PROBLEMS, WEAKNESSES, THREATS |
| Economic Factors, Cont'd | |
| Assisted living, senior apartments | People without drivers license hard to employ |
| Heritage industries (fishing, agriculture, boat making, logging, woodworking) | School curriculum mandates reduce time & opportunity for vocation/skill trades |
| | Closing of businesses |
| | Lack of economic development strategy for townships & county & lack of staff to coordinate |
| | Lack of good industrial park & location |

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| | Affordability of housing |
| | Youth leave area for work |
| | Short summer season for business |
| | Contractors need large geographic area to make a living |
| | Population too small to support many businesses |
| | Need to increase year-round housing |
| | Need better paying year-round jobs (\$25,000) |
| | Need to diversify economy |
| | Two incomes needed for family |
| | Impoverished population |
| | Laws favor employees, not employers |
| | Cost of health insurance; other benefits |
| | Property taxes |
| Community Character | |
| Small population | Vacant, abandoned & derelict buildings |
| Engaged community | Blight, signage (too many, too large) |
| Quality of life (caring & concerned people) | Geography segments county-outlying areas feel separate from county |
| Seasonal residents | Lack of aesthetics-drive not visually pleasing |
| Multi-generational-really invest in area | Becoming a retirement community |
| Low crime | |
| Cooperation & communication with other townships | |
| People care about appearance of property | |
| Friendly people | |

STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Strengths and Opportunities within Mackinac County:

1. Abundant, renewable natural resources.
2. Small town or rural living – no poor side of the tracks areas.
3. Great Lakes shoreline.
4. Several deep-water ports, even though privately owned.
5. Very good Interstate and State highways in County.
6. Unique and rare species in County.
7. Considerable rustic camping opportunities and many inland lake boat access sites.
8. Entry point to the UP from the LP over Big Mac Bridge.
9. Great Lakes Islands, especially Mackinac Island.
10. The number of large fishing/recreational lakes in County.
11. Part of the Great Waters system for eco-tourism.
12. Abundant limestone resources.
13. Rail and rail sidings in west portion of the County.
14. Great network of snowmobile trails in County.
15. New and modern hospital in County.
16. Well run, full service, general utility County Airport with charter services available.

WEAKNESSES AND THREATS

Weaknesses and Threats within Mackinac County

1. Year round employment opportunities – poor.
2. Blight/trashy areas in townships without ordinances of planning.
3. Lack of industrial areas for new industry development.
4. Poor high-speed internet connection for most of the County.
5. Lack of convenient recycling year-round in County.
6. Tourist facilities and activities focus on yesteryear.
7. Declining school enrollment.
8. No vocational tech courses offered in local schools and lack of community college in County.
9. In wood industry, lack of high-end product development.
10. Reduced markets for low quality pulpwood products.
11. Forests and aquatic ecosystems face threats from invasive species and rapid climate change.
12. Lack of public-private economic development organization and no Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for the County.
13. Dropping Great Lakes water level is affecting commercial shipping and marinas uses.
14. County jail is inadequate to meet future needs and is past useful life.
15. County lacks a permanent office for county's Emergency Operations Center.
16. Lack of professional medical building and ambulance garage at new hospital.
17. Unused old hospital building without a professional study, could be underutilized by County.
18. Unusable old house on County property prevents county expansion with any new building.