



Endless Nature, Timeless Rhythms, Boundless Adventure



Lake County

Recreation Plan

Prepared by the
**Lake County
Planning Commission**
2014



Lake County is in an area of Michigan known for its abundance of natural resources. Much of the County is publicly owned and managed by either the State of Michigan or the Federal Government, and ample open space is available for use by residents and visitors. While there is a lot of public land and open space available for use in the County, there are very few local parks or recreation resources available for residents. This Plan has been developed to give the County's residents an opportunity to express their desires and ideas for improving the County's overall recreation opportunities - and for improving recreation opportunities within the individual communities within the County.

The Lake County Recreation Plan was prepared in 2014 by the Lake County Planning Commission. This recreation plan focuses on all aspects of recreation for the county and explicitly includes all township and village recreation plans adopted across the county and the Lake County Master Plan as part of this plan.

The Lake County Planning Commission adopted this Plan by resolution on **Month Day**, 2014.

2014 Lake County Planning Commission

Don Arquette
Colleen Carrington-Atkins
Seth Hopkins
Joel Poynter
Ken Shoemaker
Gwen Warren
Ernest Wogatzke

Table of Contents

I. Community Description 3

II. Administrative Structure..... 4

III. Recreation and Resource Inventories 5

IV. Description of the Planning Process 17

V. Public Input Process..... 18

VI. Goals and Objectives 20

VII. Action Program 22

Appendix A: Map Suite

Appendix B: Additional Community Information

Appendix C: Supporting Documentation



I. Community Description

Lake County is located in west-central Michigan. A short drive from Big Rapids and Ludington and about an hour and a half north from the Grand Rapids metropolitan area, the county is a rural, forested community that has experienced modest population growth in the past 20 years.

As of the 2010 census, Lake County had a total population of 11,539 people, 5,158 households, and 3,186 families residing in the township. The population density is 20.1 people per square mile. There are 14,824 housing units with a housing density of 25.8 houses per square mile. The racial makeup of the township is 85.8% White, 9.0% Black or African American, 2.1% Hispanic or Latino and 31.% other. Lake County’s population doubles in the summer months from seasonal home use and visitors.

16.9% of households in Lake County have children under the age of 18 living with them and 25.5% have someone 65 years and over. The average household size is 2.71 people.

The median income for a household in Lake County is \$20,290 with a median travel time to work of 25.7 minutes. The per capita income for the township is \$16,790. 24.1% of the population is below the poverty level. 80.8% of residents are high school graduates, 8.2% are college graduates.

Lake County’s landscape tends to consist of gently rolling topography with soils that are forested (not well-suited for agriculture) with many lakes and rivers and pockets of wetlands.

Additional information and analysis may be found in Appendix B.



II. Administrative Structure

Lake County is governed by a County Board of Commissioners. The County Board ultimately is responsible for the policy and financial decisions relating to parks and recreation in the county. The Lake County Planning Commission is appointed by the County Board for purposes of planning, including guiding the development of the county’s recreational opportunities. The Planning Commission adopts plans, makes recommendations to the County Board for final decision and approval, and assists with implementation.

Programs & Activities

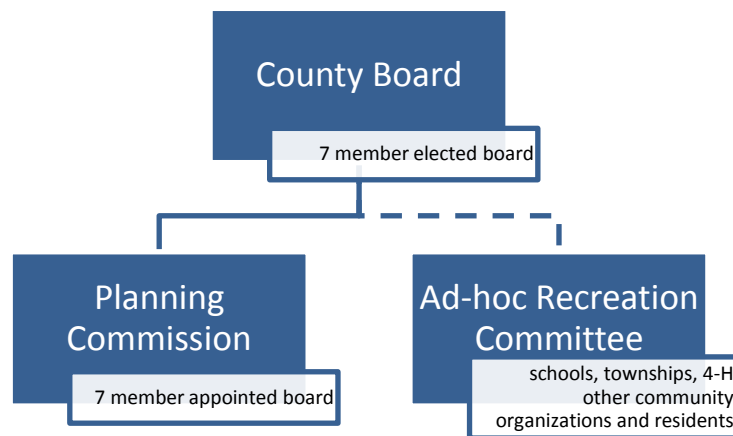
Lake County participates in programming and activities for recreational purposes through those offered by various groups, organizations and Baldwin Community Schools. Many of these entities utilize existing county recreational property for various events, educational programs and recreational opportunities.

Funding and Budgets

Lake County dedicates and contributes county funds and resources toward recreation on an as-needed basis annually. The county will consider budgeting funds to be utilized as match for grant requests for the development of its recreational land to expand and improve the county’s recreational facilities and programs. Additionally, the county regularly provides funding and resources for daily and annual maintenance, upkeep and monitoring of these sites.

LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

(Parks and Recreation)



III. Recreation & Resource Inventory

Lake County does not offer many facilities for its residences, but the two villages, 15 townships and 6 different school systems, the United States Forest Service, the State of Michigan and a variety of other agencies and businesses provide a variety of facilities and activities to meet the needs of our residences and visitors. The following inventory identifies all the known facilities and activities as well as future facilities currently in progress. If any omissions were made during this process the plan can be updated at any time to add additional information as it becomes available.

LAKE COUNTY

The County does not currently maintain any facilities or recreational programs at this time, but has recently purchased 27 acres for a future recreational program and 4-H facility located on M-37 in Webber Township adjoining the Webber Community Park. This property is relatively flat with some slight elevations on the north end. Approximately 2/3 of the property is open space and other 1/3 surrounding the park is forested. This area has some existing facilities.

Current facilities consist of a baseball diamond with bleacher and dugouts. There is a 24x 32 pavilion with dirt floor, gravel parking area and entry drive. There are plans for a 40 X 80 heated facility complete with restrooms; kitchen facilities and storage are for hosting large groups and educational activities. A proposed hiking trail system connecting to the Webber parks trail system with a portion dedicated to fitness, will surround the entire park. A proposed soccer field will be installed as to promote the ever growing soccer program with bleachers and lighting with a proposed basketball court, fenced and lighted as well.

The grounds will have future paved parking areas in two locations with two entrances, one off of M-37 and one off of James Rd. parking and drives will be lighted with energy efficient fixtures to provide adequate parking and traffic flow.

There will be an open space available for picnic areas with tables, grills and trash receptacles. There will be a play scape activity structure near the open space for younger children. A horse shoe pit and volley ball net will be located near the picnic are as well.

Lake County Court House

Located in downtown Baldwin on M-37 and Courthouse Drive, this facility does not offer any recreational related opportunities except for its historic value and some open spaces around the facility.

VILLAGE OF BALDWIN

The Village of Baldwin is the governmental and population center of Lake County, with all the more populated townships surrounding the village. The Baldwin Community School District facilities are located within the village.

Hollister Park

A 15 acre park located within the village at the intersection of 10th and Courthouse Street. The park has two softball fields with one lighted with dugouts and both with benches and stands. There is also two tennis courts also lighted along with 6 lighted basketball courts, a new skate park, a picnic shelter with tables and a grill, playground equipment, restrooms, gravel parking on three sides and a chain link fence which surrounds much of the park.



Wenger Pavilion

Located behind Baldwin's shopping district, it provides a space for plays, music and other activities such as picnics and a summer music program called Sounds of the Forest every Wednesday and Saturday. Paved parking is available.

Rails-to-Trails

The Village recently built a paved parking area for snowmobiles on the Rails-to-Trails trailhead located at the corner of Ninth and Cedar Street.

Village Airport

Does not offer any facilities for recreation but does provide an open space for recreational opportunities (including the annual Blessing of the Bikes and RC events) and with its future expansion plan will provide even more open space opportunity.



Additional Resources

The Village of Baldwin has several future projects currently in progress with two surrounding Townships. Bush lake Launch and Picnic area with Webber Township and RC Park & Snowmobile Trail project with Pleasant Plains Township. The Village of Baldwin is working on a future Community Center that will be located in the downtown area on the corner of 8th street and M-37.

The Village of Baldwin has a private owned recreation center, the Baldwin Bowling Center located in the downtown area on M-37 along with multiple sports shops, and shopping area.

The Baldwin Community School District was recently remolded to expand its sports program. The school now has an 8 lane oval track around the football field, with lights, grand stands, restrooms, and an area for field events. A baseball field with dugouts, a softball field with dugouts and both fields fenced with chain link. The schools have two gymnasiums, one in the Elementary and one in the High School. There is a weight room opened to the public and a new Frisbee golf course around the football field courtesy of the 4-H program as well as a youth basketball and baseball program. Project Focus also provides our children with after school activities.

VILLAGE OF LUTHER

The Village of Luther is divided in half by two townships, Ellsworth and Newkirk. The Village of Luther does not currently have separate recreational plan or recreational related staff employed by the village. It does have facilities within the village that provides for recreational opportunities and multiple shopping facilities.



Fairbanks Park

A three acre park with one tennis court , one basketball court, a picnic shelter, six tables, one grill, restrooms, a natural area , volleyball, playground equipment and grass parking. This ADA facility is in excellent condition and is located within the residential area. The facility is located on the Little Manistee and provides public fishing access. The park is located on the west side of the village at the intersection of M-63 and Willard Dr.



Triangle Park

Also known as Veteran’s Park, located at the intersection of State St. and M-63. This ADA facility includes one picnic table and a natural open space.

Mill Pond Park

Located at the south end of the village at the intersection of State St. and Front St., this historic facility includes a lighted basketball court, a picnic shelter, and three tables with a grill, playground equipment, restrooms, and an open space. This ADA facility is located on the Little Manistee River that provides public fishing access with a gravel parking area.

Burnett Park

Located on State St. one block north of the village, this ½ acre facility includes a picnic table and an open space for recreational opportunity.

Ball Park

This two acre facility with a baseball field and bleachers is located on the northeast side of the village.

Additional Resources

The village of Luther also has a service club and Lions club that provide recreational opportunities through their facility located at the north end of the village.

The Luther school located at the northeast side of the village also provides recreational opportunities with a playground and equipment.

CHASE TOWNSHIP

Chase is working on developing a 40 acre recreational park located to the Southwest side of Chase, but has no recreational plan at this time. The Township is facing issues relating to the lack of funding to provide recreational facilities and staff to support programs.

The Old School Ground

Located north of the village of Chase between First and Second St., this is a one acre facility with a lighted tennis court, lighted basketball court, a picnic shelter, volleyball, a portable restroom, four tables and on street parking.

Chase Township Hall

Located at the corner of Depot and US-10 in Chase, this historic facility provides recreational opportunities with their 2800 square foot indoor facility, small kitchen facility, restrooms and on-street parking availability.

CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.

DOVER TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.



EDEN TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.

ELK TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.

ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.

LAKE TOWNSHIP

Does not have a recreational plan and have no changes or future projects at this time.



Lake Township Hall

Located on a 20 acre site on Star Lake Road, this site has many facilities and recreational opportunities including a picnic shelter with 20 picnic tables, restrooms, nature trails, and a baseball field with a gravel parking area.

Lake Cecilia Public Access Site

This is a public access site on Lake Cecilia for swimming and fishing.

Carr Hall

Located on Tyndall Road and 64th street, this is not a recreational facility but does provide an indoor facility with recreational opportunities which include a kitchen facility, restrooms and on street parking. The hall is in good condition, but could use renovations.

NORTH NEWKIRK TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.



PEACOCK TOWNSHIP

Currently does not have a recreational plan, personnel or programs. The Township does maintain a small park on Wolf Lake for swimming, 4 picnic tables, and a portable restroom. The park is surrounded by a chain link fence.

PINORA TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.

PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP

Does not have a recreational plan, but is working with the Village of Baldwin on a future 40 acre RC park and snowmobile trail project. This township also has the Historic Shrine of the Pines located on South M-37 near the Pere Marquette River. It has recently formed a sportsman's club.

SAUBLE TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.

SOUTH NEWKIRK TOWNSHIP

Currently have no recreational plan and no changes to their inventory.



SWEETWATER TOWNSHIP

Does not have a recreational plan, but would like to have a future county park within the township. The township has no plans to develop any parks of their own within the next 5 years.

WEBBER TOWNSHIP

Does have a recreational plan and a 15 acre community park with a ½ mile non-motorized handicap trail through the south end of the park, a baseball field with dugouts, bleachers, a future handicap deck and fenced backstop and field, a pavilion with future restrooms, picnic area, future grills, playground

equipment, future basketball court and a future 2 to 3 mile non-motorized hiking trail through 100 acres of state land. There are concrete sidewalks along the parking area and ball field.

Township Hall

Located on Springtime and Roosevelt Street, provides some open space and the hall provides indoor facilities, kitchen facilities and restrooms.

Future Projects

Bush Lake boat launch has a dock, gravel parking area with the Village of Baldwin on the West side of the lake. The future picnic area and boardwalk on the South side of Bush Lake off of US-10.

YATES TOWNSHIP

Does have a recreational plan and an historical center located on South Broadway Street.



Yates Township has a Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2013-2017. The plan includes an inventory of currently existing recreational opportunities. **Williams Island** is a park located on MLK Drive on Idlewild Lake. Activities include swimming, water skiing, boating, fishing, and picnicking on Lake Idlewild and ice fishing in the winter. Facilities include a boat launch, gravel parking, restrooms, a natural area, picnic tables, and a grill. Williams Island is the host site for jazz and music festivals.

Yates Township Town Hall also serves as a community center with a full gymnasium and basketball court. The **Henrietta Summers Center** has an exercise room along with a game room and community room.

Also located in Yates Township are recreation sites owned and maintained by the Department of Natural Resources. **Lake Idlewild Access Park** has a boat launch, vault toilet, community garden with hand pump, pathways, benches and fishing piers. **Switzer Lake and Paradise Lake** both have boat access sites. **Pere Marquette Trail** is a multi-use Trail with a Day Campground.

In addition, there exist private recreational facilities. **Idlewild Lot Owner Association (Robert Riffe Building)** is a community center with a basketball court. **Idlewild Historic and Cultural Center** is a community center and museum. The **Good Shepherd Church Campground** is an undeveloped site that was used for group camping.



Located in Yates Township is the community of Idlewild that received a National Historic Designation in 2010. The State of Michigan placed five historic markers in Idlewild and has plans to include additional markers for other sites.

Private developers in conjunction with the State of Michigan are currently working on plans to include a youth park with go-carts, renovating and reopening the Idlewild Library and other projects that will promote tourism in Idlewild and Yates Township.

STATE OF MICHIGAN FACILITIES BY TOWNSHIP

Chase Township

- Rails-to-Trails Trail

Cherry Valley Township

- ORV Trailhead Kings highway (Tin Cup Springs)
- John Droughty MDOT Rest Area on US-10

Dover Township

None found

Eden Township

- ORV Trailhead on M-37 (Little Manistee Trail)
- Indian Bridge access site



Elk Township

None found

Ellsworth Township

None found



Lake Township

- Big Star Lake launch
- Reed Lake launch
- Rosebush Bend fishing site

North Newkirk Township

- Lincoln Bridge Campground (Pine River)
- Lincoln Hills ORV Trail
- Silver Creek Campground
- Silver Creek Pathway



Peacock Township

- Peacock Trail access site (Little Manistee River)
- Wolf Lake access site
- ORV Trailhead on 2 Mile Road (Little Manistee Trail)
- Pine Valley Pathway (hiking trail)



Pinora Township

None found

Pleasant Plains Township

- North Lake launch
- Wagon Wheel landing (Baldwin River)
- M-37 Bridge landing (Pere Marquette River)
- The Forks landing (Pere Marquette River)



Sauble Township

None found

South Newkirk Township

- ORV Trailhead in Carrieville (Little Manistee Trail)
- Wide Water Flooding landing

Sweetwater Township

- Wallace Blood MDOT Rest Area on US-10
- Sulak Landing & Campground

Webber Township

- ORV Trailhead 16th Street (Little Manistee Trail)
- Roy Rocky landing Forman Road (Baldwin River)
- Bray Creek Campground & Hiking Trail
- Leverentz Lakes Campgrounds & Tee Dock
- Sheep Ranch pathway non-motorized trail

Yates Township

- Roller’s Landing & Campground
- Paradise Lake launch
- Switer Lake launch
- Idlewild Lake launch & picnic area
- Rails-to-Trails snowmobile trail



The State of Michigan does not plan to build any more new facilities at this time; just maintain the existing ones they have now.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE FACILITIES BY TOWNSHIP

Chase Township

None found

Cherry Valley Township

None found

Dover Township

None found



Eden Township

- Little Manistee Trailhead
- Lincoln Hills Trailhead

Elk Township

- Bear Track Campground

Ellsworth Township

None found



Lake Township

- Bowman Bridge Landing
- Bowman Lake Campground
- Gleason's Landing Campground

North Newkirk Township

None found

Pinora Township

None found

Peacock Township

- Little O Spur Trailhead
- Little Manistee Trailhead
- Old Grade Campground

Pleasant Plains Township

- The Green Cottage Landing (fishing site)
- Clay Banks Landing & Camping
- North Country Trail (hiking trail)



Sable Township

- Driftwood Valley Campground

South Newkirk Township

None found

Sweetwater Township

- Rainbow Rapids Landing
- Timber Creek Campground
- Upper Branch Landing
- Lower Branch Landing



Webber Township

- Little O Trailhead (ORV trail) 32nd Street

Yates Township

None found

The US Forest Service does not plan to build any new facilities at this time; just maintain the existing ones they have now.



IV. Description of the Planning Process

Lake County decided to create its Recreation Plan following the successful year-long process of creating its Master Plan. The county planning commission undertook the development of this recreation plan to provide a county-wide recreation plan that strongly incorporates township and village recreation plans to support municipalities in their development efforts, funding strategies, and encourage collaboration and cooperation at the local, county, regional, state and federal levels.

The planning commission met regularly during the course of developing this recreation plan. Much effort and focus was given to gather community and expert input into the plan. Community input was gathered as described in Section V: Public Input Process. Experts from various organizations including Baldwin Community Schools, 4-H, local officials, and community development organizers provided insight and guidance. Also, a survey was conducted to gather input from the community and an assessment exercise was conducted with municipalities and local organizations. These inputs helped to shape the vision and direction of this plan. Additionally, existing township, village, state and federal facilities and proposed developments were compared to various nearby recreational facilities to generate creative approaches to site development and to avoid duplication of services.

V. Public Input Process

To comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans, Lake County offered several opportunities for public input along with a 30 day period for review and comment on the draft plan and opportunity for public input at the Lake County Planning Commission meeting prior to adoption of the plan.

Prior to beginning the planning process for this Recreational Plan, Lake County conducted a community survey of its residents as part of its planning process that included several questions focusing on parks, recreation and natural resource protection. The survey was conducted over a one week period by Robo Call and received over 500 responses.

Additionally, an assessment exercise was conducted with municipalities and local organizations to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to Lake County.

Highlights of the results of the survey and the community assessment exercise relevant to recreation are summarized as follows:

- By a margin of more than 4 to 1, residents indicated that there are not enough youth activities in Lake County
- Community **strengths** include natural resources, outdoor recreational activities, and local events
- Community **weaknesses** include lack of recreation opportunities for children/youth
- Community **opportunities** include community/teen center with youth activities, game park/skating rink/shooting range, recreation center with gym and pool, and marketing natural resources, camping, and lakes and rivers
- Community **threats** include misuse of environment and closure of camping areas with access to lakes and rivers

Taken together these responses indicate that residents of Lake County place a high value on their community's natural assets and recreation opportunities. One of the county's existing sites, the 27 acre parcel along M-37, provides the county an opportunity to address resident's responses by providing an area to develop community recreation facilities.

The draft recreational plan was finalized in June 2014 and made available for public review on **Month Day, 2014 at the Lake County Courthouse and on the county's website**. Following the public review period, a public hearing was held on **Month Day, 2014** to discuss the plan and take additional public input on the plan.

On **Month Day, 2014** the Lake County Planning Commission adopted the Lake County Recreation Plan.

The Lake County Recreation Plan was transmitted to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on **Month Day, 2014**.

Copies of the public notification, public hearing agenda and minutes, resolution, and transmittal letters are included in Appendix C.

VI. Goals and Objectives

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the recreation planning process. The overall goal of a county's recreation plan is to provide recreation opportunities for the community and region it serves, as well as tourists. More specific goals must be based on identified need, the demographic characteristics of the population served, and the physical and environmental characteristics of the area.

Goals are the broadest level: they are overreaching and general. Objectives carry out the purpose of the goal. The Action Program is the last level and the most specific: it identifies specific projects, timelines and costs. The action plan can also include other specific details such as organizational structures, staffing, programming, operation and maintenance.

The Lake County Planning Commission developed the following goals and objectives based upon the input received from the public, community groups and organizations, officials, experts, and from others who assisted in the development of this plan.

GOAL: Expand existing infrastructure and services at M-37 site.

OBJECTIVE – Secure grant and match funds to develop M-37 site.

OBJECTIVE – Provide funds on an annual/as-needed basis as the county budget allows for development, maintenance, upkeep and monitoring of M-37 site.

OBJECTIVE – Encourage and support community volunteers, groups and organizations that support and assist M-37 site.

GOAL: Work with and assist local municipalities and state and federal agencies to plan and coordinate development of recreational facilities and programs.

OBJECTIVE – Participate and provide support and assistance for projects that expand or enhance recreational opportunities across the county.

GOAL: Improve accessibility to amenities at all facilities for individuals with disabilities.

OBJECTIVE – Incorporate accessibility into planning, design and construction phases of all county recreation projects and encourage and support accessibility into municipal, state and federal recreation projects.

OBJECTIVE – Identify and apply for appropriate grant sources to fund accessibility components of recreational projects.

GOAL: Utilize professional assistance and pursue funding opportunities when needed on all recreation projects.

OBJECTIVE – Work with individuals from organizations such as, but not limited to, professional planners, professional design companies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, MSU Extension, Michigan Natural Resources Inventory, Department of Natural Resources, and the Lake County Community Foundation to assist with the development of projects, technical assistance and grant writing.

OBJECTIVE – For all recreational projects, review and research any opportunities to capitalize on external funding sources to maximize township investment and to provide high-quality amenities.

VI. Action Program

With goals and objectives in place, the Lake County Planning Commission developed an action program to work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives in the next five years. Since Lake County currently has no recreational facilities but does have a 27 acre property along M-37 dedicated to youth recreational development, the focus of the county's recreational efforts will be spent obtaining funding to develop the M-37 property while working on other projects in coordination and collaboration with local municipalities and state and federal agencies while allowing flexibility to capitalize on unforeseen opportunities as they arise.

M-37 Youth Recreation Site Development

The Lake County Youth Property is located in Webber Township adjacent to M-37 across from the VFW, adjoining W. 16th St. to the north, and bordering S. James Rd. to the east. In addition, there is a Webber Park bordering the southern border that is 17 acres in size. The Lake County M-37 property is approximately 27 acres in size. The property was originally just a five acre parcel that was deeded to the County by the Beef Breeders Association, until recently (last 3-5 years) when the County purchased the surrounding parcels to make a total of 27 acres. Currently the 27 acres is about half open/field and the other half wooded. The majority of the property is relative flat with some slight elevation on the northern end of the property. There is a pavilion with a dirt floor and an overgrown baseball diamond in the middle of the property. In addition there is a small fenced in area on the Southern end of property. On the East side there are two abandoned buildings that are currently in the process of removal.

In the past, the 5 acres has been used for family and youth activities including 4-H programming and a County fair. With the purchase of the additional property, there has been discussion about the creation of a park. In addition, with the current Webber Park it is logical to collaborate to create more recreational opportunities for the combined properties. The rest of this proposed plan will focus on creating recreational opportunities for youth and families.

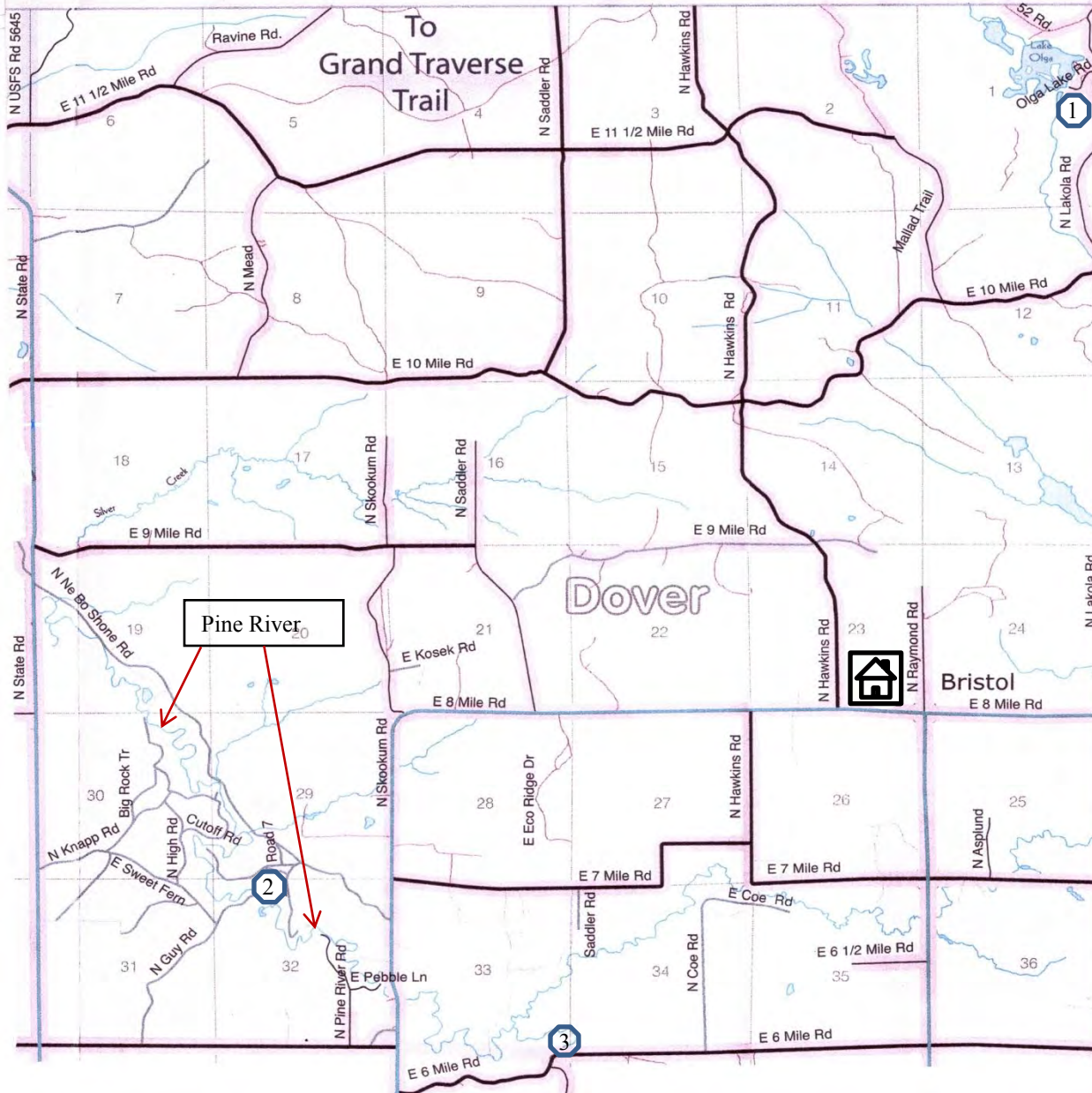
Currently there is an old ball diamond that should be re-vamped; creating two ball diamonds in the area that could be used for tournaments (Webber Park has a ball diamond). In addition, there should be a soccer field created in some of the open area of the park. Soccer is becoming a more popular sport with many surrounding areas and schools having soccer programs. In addition, a trail system should be built on the property that links with the Webber Park trail system. This trail system would be a dual use trail with markers/signs with nature facts, therefore creating a nature trail. In addition, a portion of the trail would be a fit trail with specific stations set up to promote different types of exercise (i.e. pull ups, sit up, balance beam, step up platform). The trail would be a low impact trail consisting of natural dirt or wood chips.


Furthermore, there should be a parking area created on the East border of the property off S. James Street therefore creating access to the park from that direction. Also a small parking area accessible from M-37 would help increase access to the park. Additionally, there should be an area that is available for picnicking with picnic tables, grills, and trash receptacles. It would also be advantages to have a play scape located here for kids to use while picnicking. Horseshoe pits, benches, basketball hoop, and volleyball net would be part of the picnic area. It would also be beneficial to have a building available that has bathrooms and also an area to hold educational programming. The suggested size would be 40x80 feet where the front portion would be bathrooms and storage and the back portion would be open to host groups or have large educational activities. Ideally the building would be heated.

Appendix A

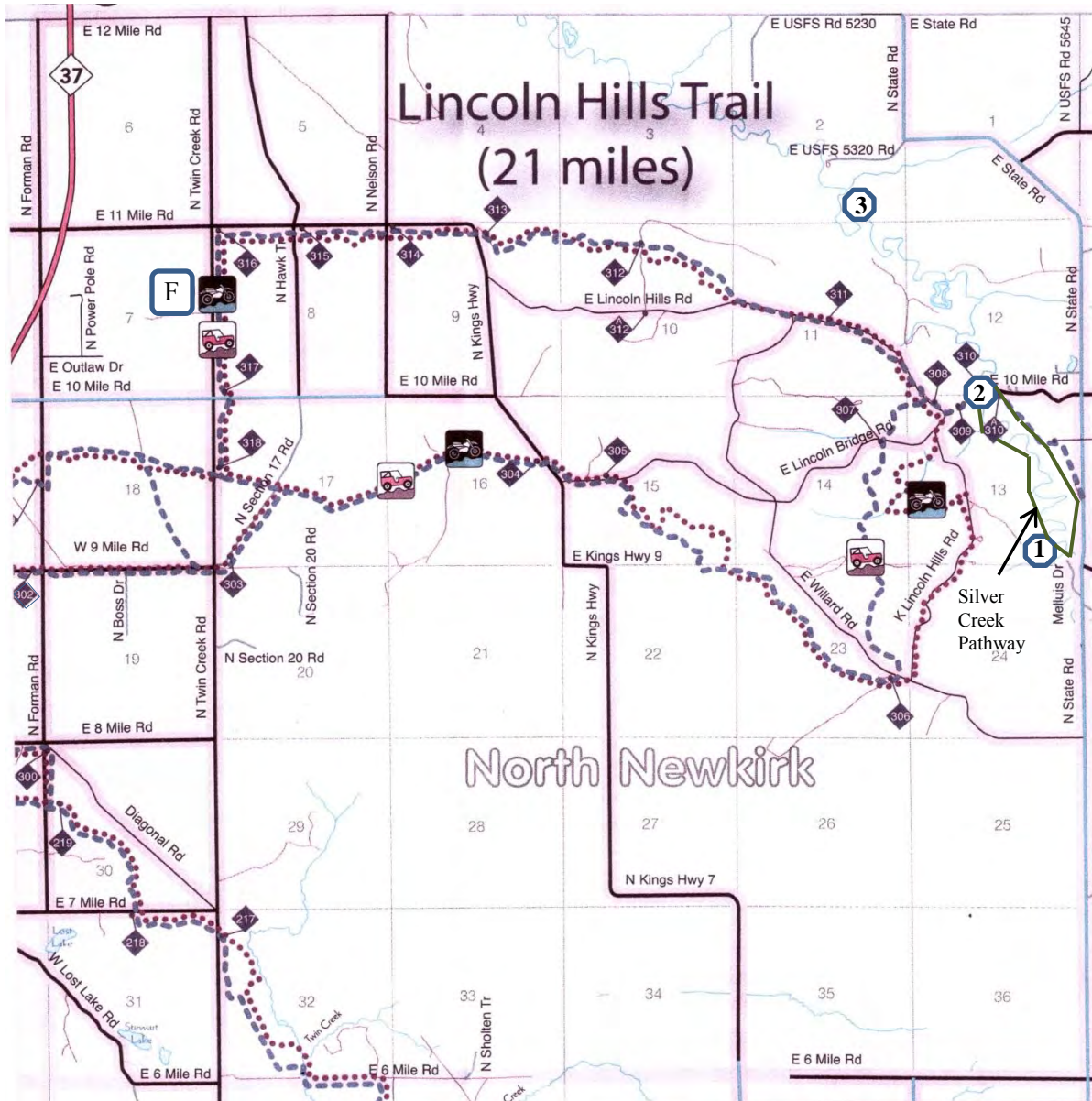
Map Suite

Dover Township



- 1) Olga Lake Public Access.
 - 2) Meadow Brook Public Access to Pine River.
 - 3) Skookum Public Access To Pine River.
-  Township Hall

North Newkirk Township



1) Silver Creek State Forest Campground.
 26 Rustic Tent Sites. Vault Toilets. Water. Fire Ring.
 Public access to Pine River.
 Mountain Biking. 4 Mile Trail.
 Silver Creek Pathway: 4 Mile Trail to Lincoln Bridge.

RV:
 Lincoln Hills (adjacent to campground): 21 miles of cycle/ATV trail and 23 miles of full-sized vehicle ORV route.

Fishing:
 Pine River (on site) For Brown/Rainbow Trout.
 Silver Creek (on site) For Brown/Rainbow Trout.
 Watchable Wildlife.

2) Lincoln Bridge State Forest Campground.
 9 sites for tent and small trailer use located on the beautiful Pine River and Silver Creek. Rustic campground includes vault toilets and potable water from well hand pump.

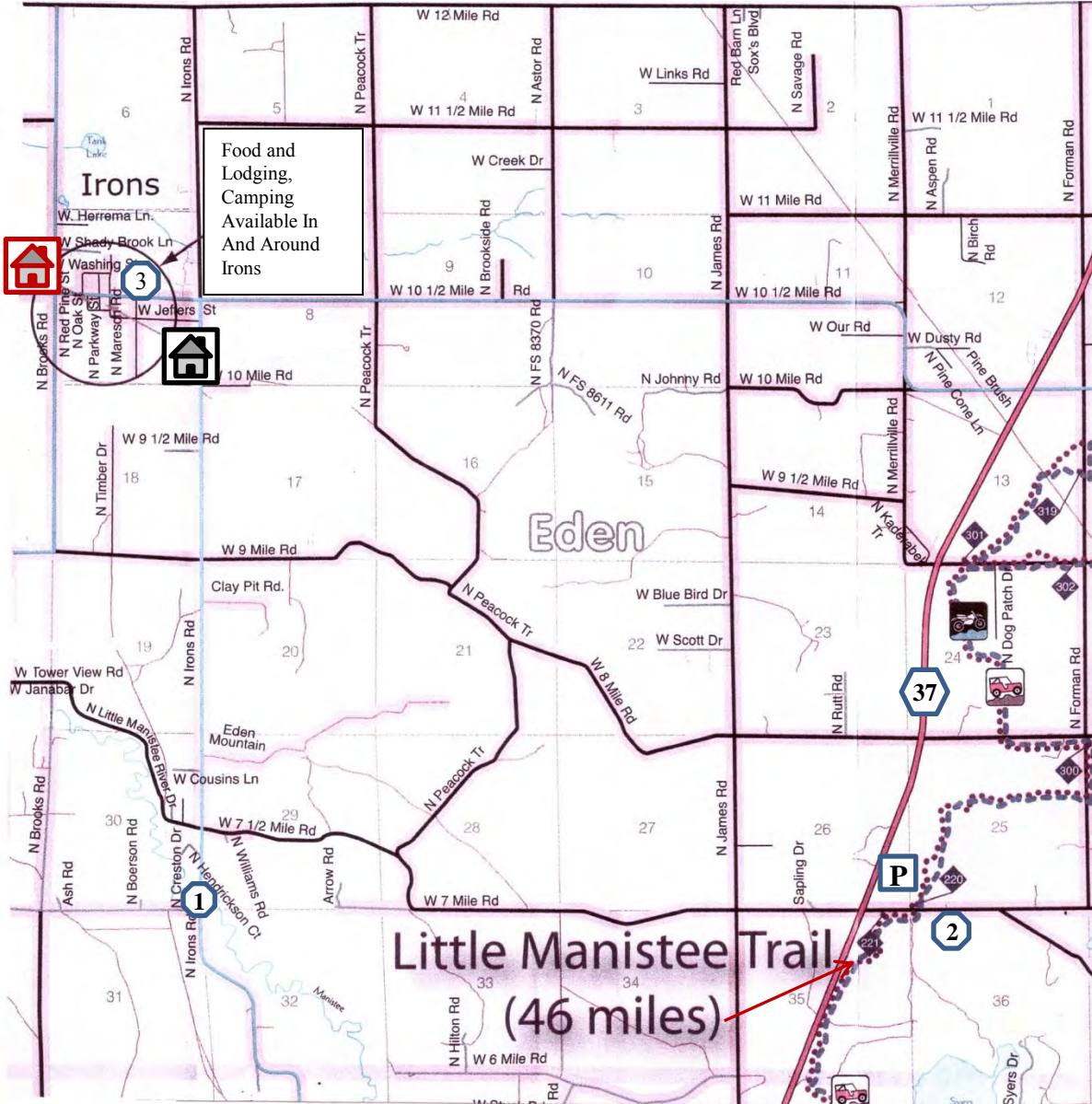
Hiking
 Silver Creek Pathway access for hiking and mountain biking. Sites available on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservations. Fire Ring.
 Pine Valley Pathway. 8.2 Miles. Hike, Mountain Bike, Cross Country Skiing.

3) Elm Flats Public Access to Pine River.

◆ Trail Access Points.

ⓕ Food

Eden Township

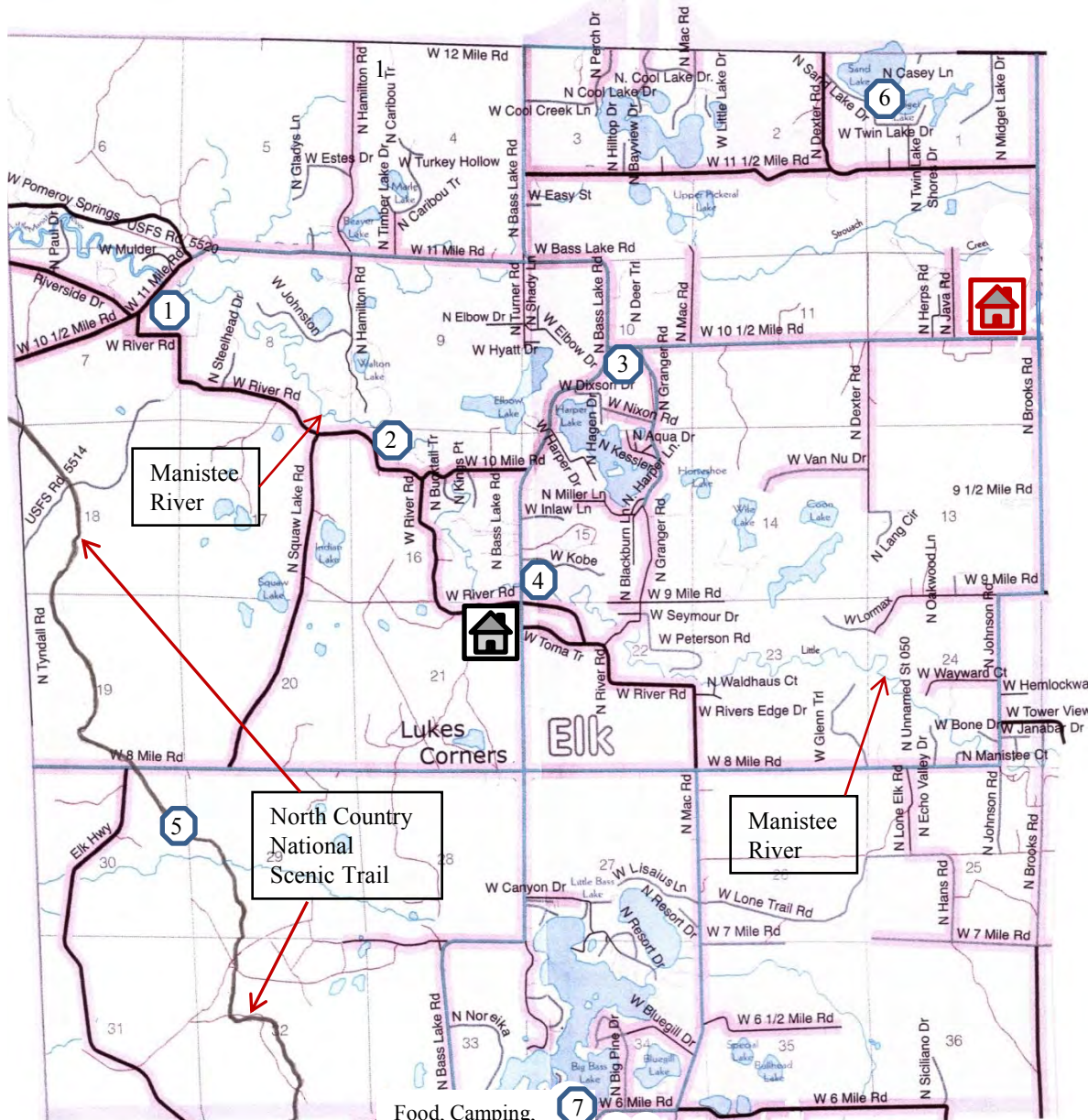




Food and Lodging, Camping Available In And Around Irons

- 1) Little Manistee Public Access.
- 2) Pine Valley Trail. 8.2 miles.
- 3) Skinner Park.

-  Fire Department.
-  Township Hall
-  Trail Access Point
-  Trail Access Parking

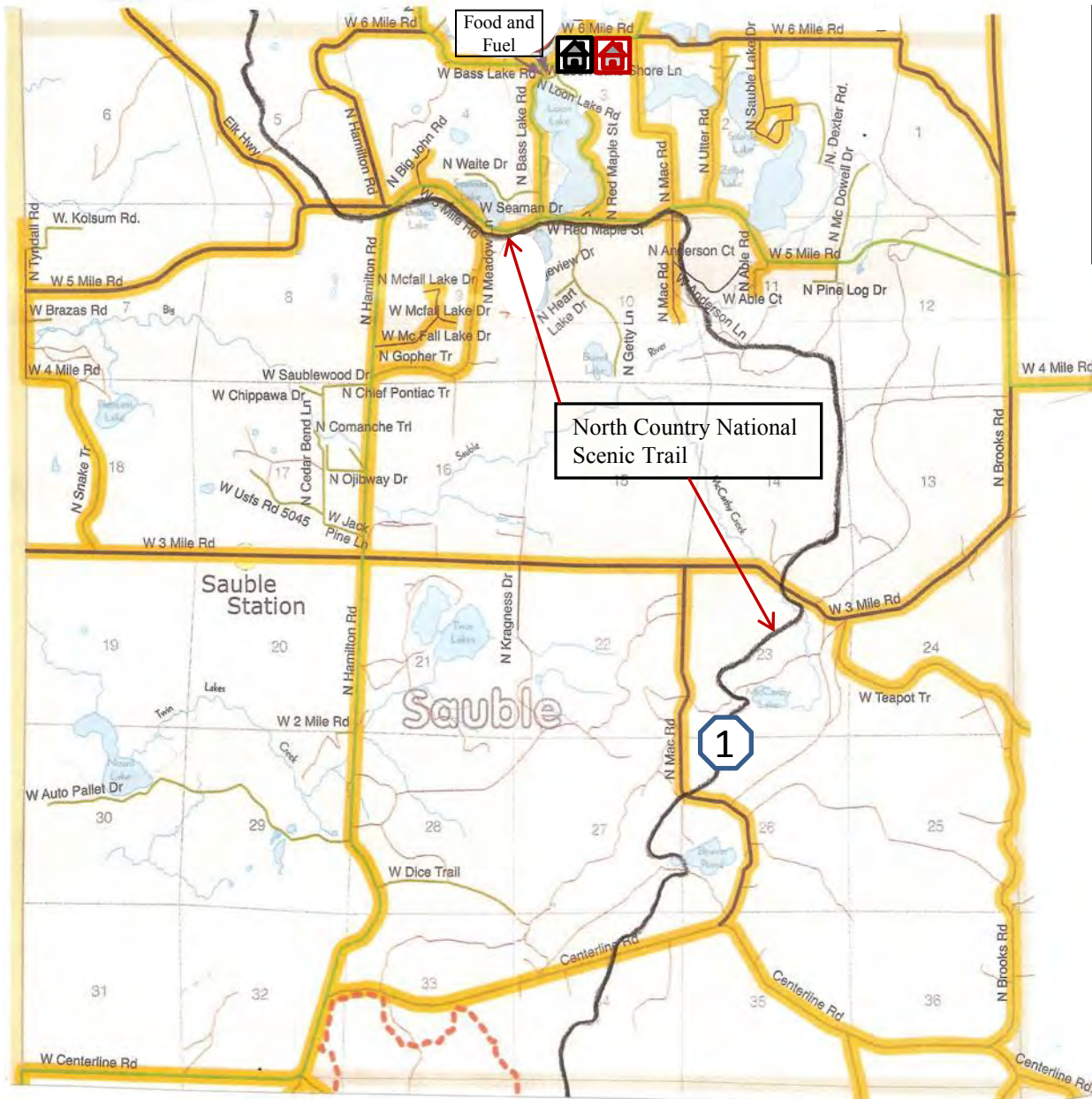
Elk Township





- 1) Bear Track U.S. Forest Service Campground. (20) sites total. (5) tent. (15) tent/RV. (4) group sites. Grills, tables at each site. Water and vault toilets. The campground is a single loop on a bluff above the Little Manistee River. Some sites overlook the River and all enjoy lots of shade. This campground features fishing and canoeing opportunities. There is a trailhead there for hiking.
 - 2) Driftwood Valley U.S. Forest Service Campground. (19) sites. Grills and tables at each site. Water and vault toilets. Fishing and boat launch.
 - 3) Harper Lake Public Access.
 - 4) Little Manistee River Public Access
 - 5) North Country National Scenic Trail.
 - 6) Sand Lake U.S. Forest Service Campground. (45) sites. (1) group site. Swimming, fishing, picnic shelter, grills and tables at each site. Water and vault toilets.
 - 7) Big Bass Lake Public Access.
-  Township Hall.
 Fire Department

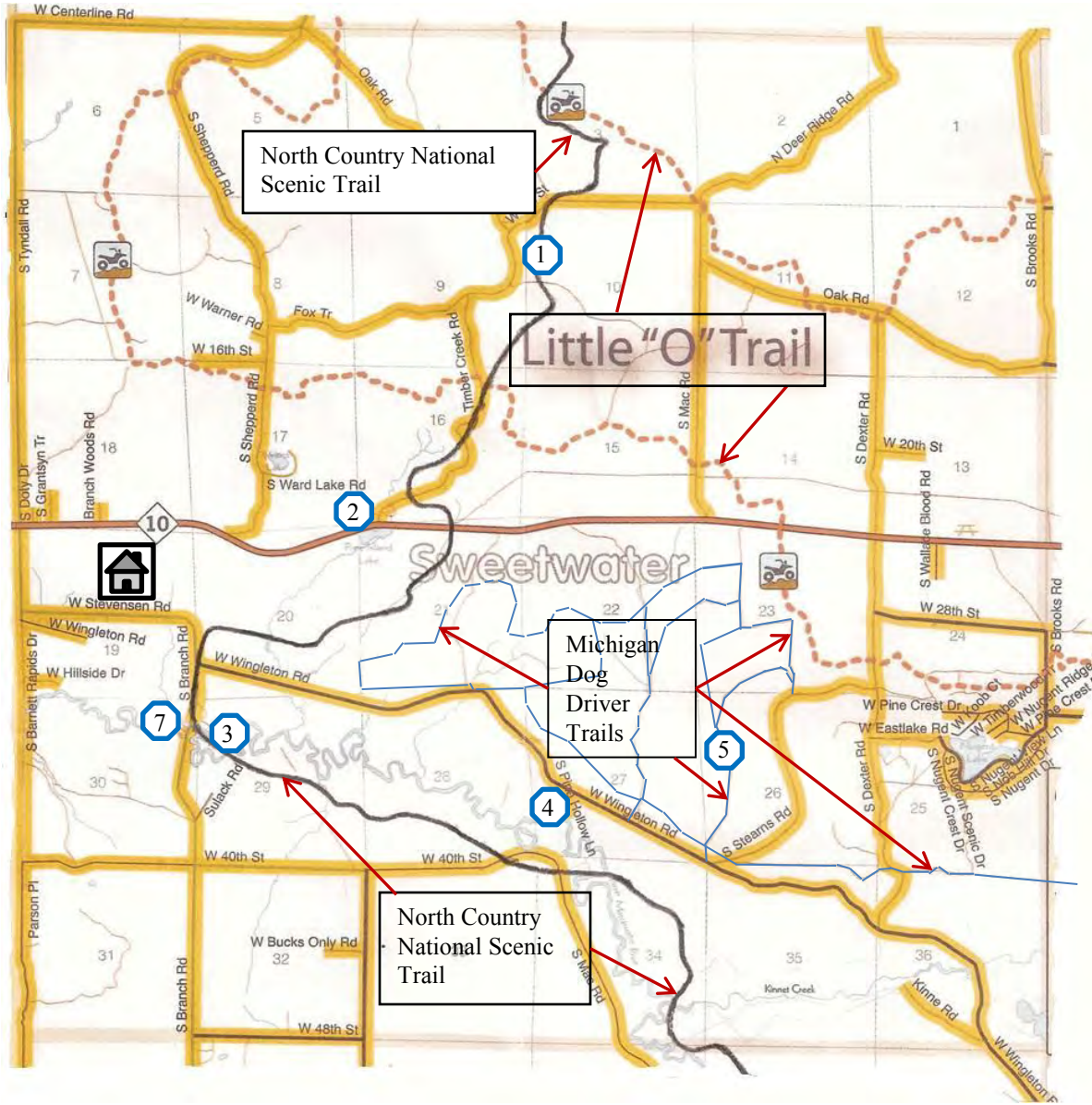
Food, Camping, Lodging and Fuel.

Sauble Township



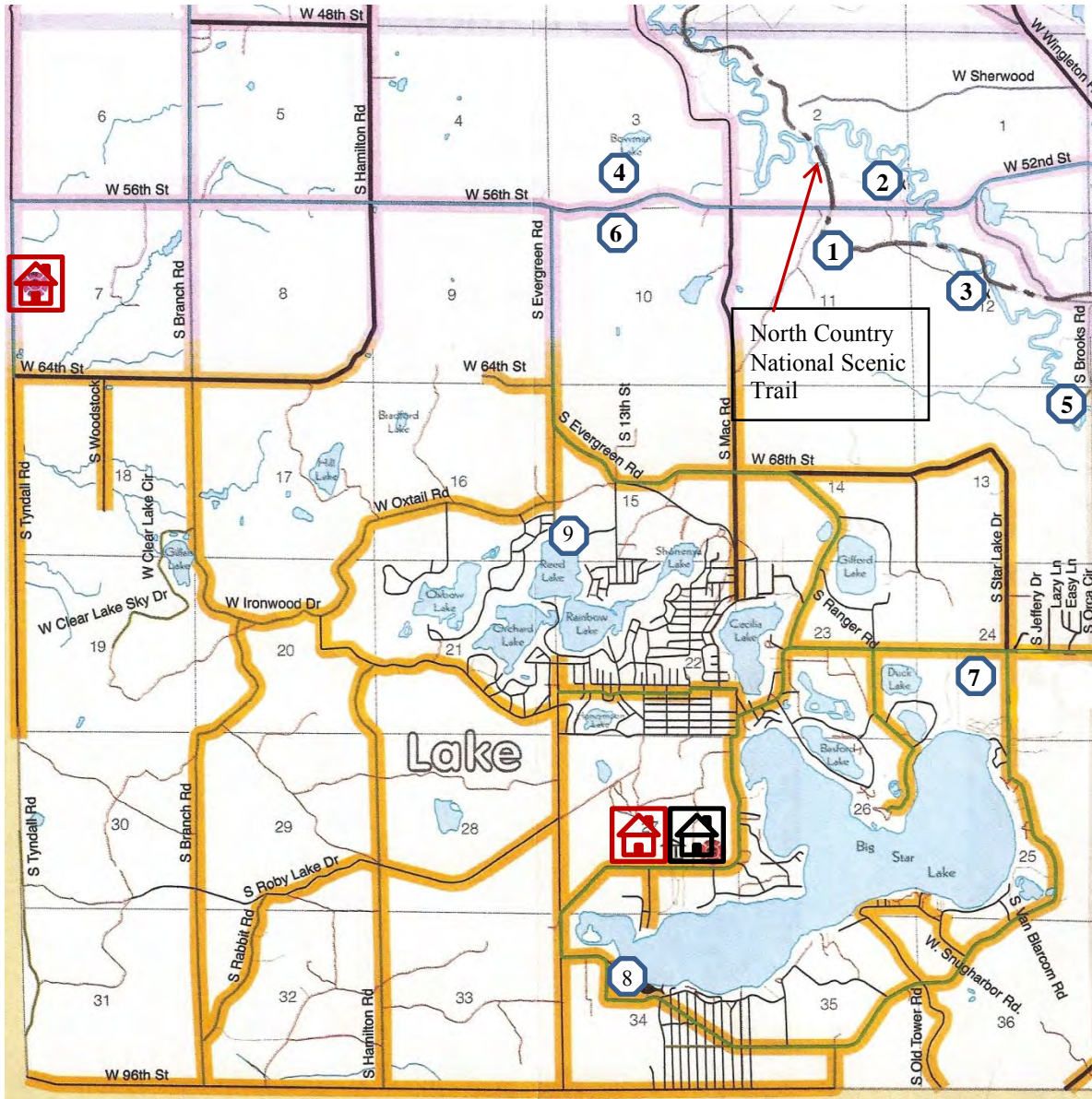
- 1) North Country National Scenic Trail.
-  Township Hall.
-  Fire Department

Sweetwater Township



- 1) North Country National Scenic Trail.
- 2) Timber Creek U.S. Forest Service Campground. (9) sites. North Country Trail Trailhead. Water and vault toilets. Grills and tables at each site.
- 3) Sulak U.S. Forest Service Campground. (11) sites. Grills and tables at each site. No water. Vault toilets.
- 4) Rainbow Rapids U.S. Forest Service Boat Launch Public Access.
- 5) Michigan Dog Driver Trails.
- 6) Little "O" ORV Trail.
- 7) Pere Marquette Public Access.

Lake Township



- 1) North Country National Scenic Trail.
- 2) Bowman Bridge U.S. Forest Service Campground. (16) sites. (4) walk-in and (4) group sites. Boat launch, fishing. Water and vault toilets. Grills and tables at each site.
- 3) Pere Marquette Public Access.
- 4) Bowman Lake Campground. (4) walk in sites. Water and vault toilets. Boat launch. Swimming.
- 5) Gleason's Landing Campground. (4) walk-in sites. (4) walk-in group sites. Water and vault toilets. Carry in boat launch.
- 6) Bowman Lake Trailhead.
- 7) Marquette Trails Golf Course.
- 8) Big Star Lake Public Access.
- 9) Reed Lake Public Access.

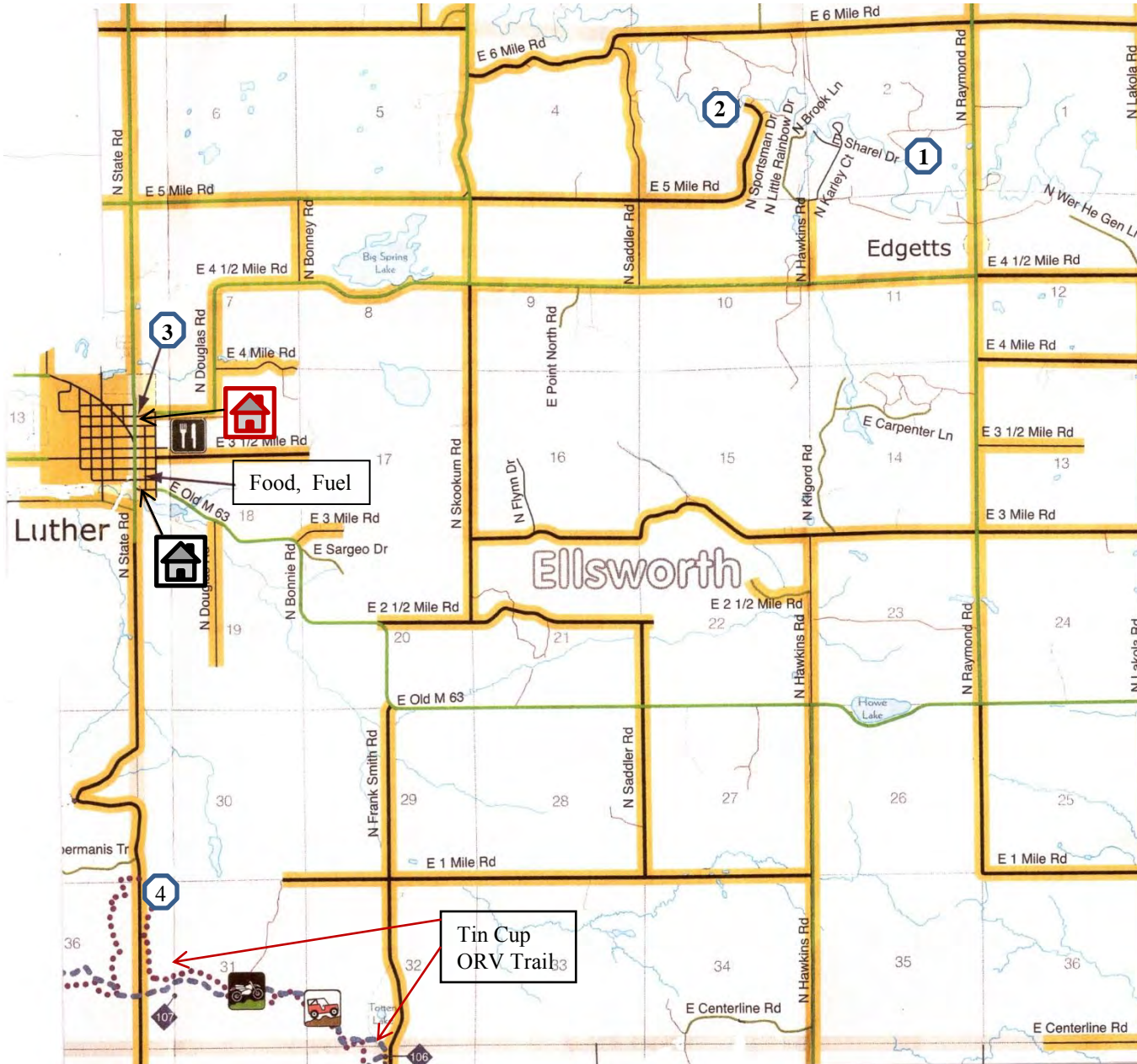


Township Hall. Pavilion for rent. Baseball diamond.






Fire Department.

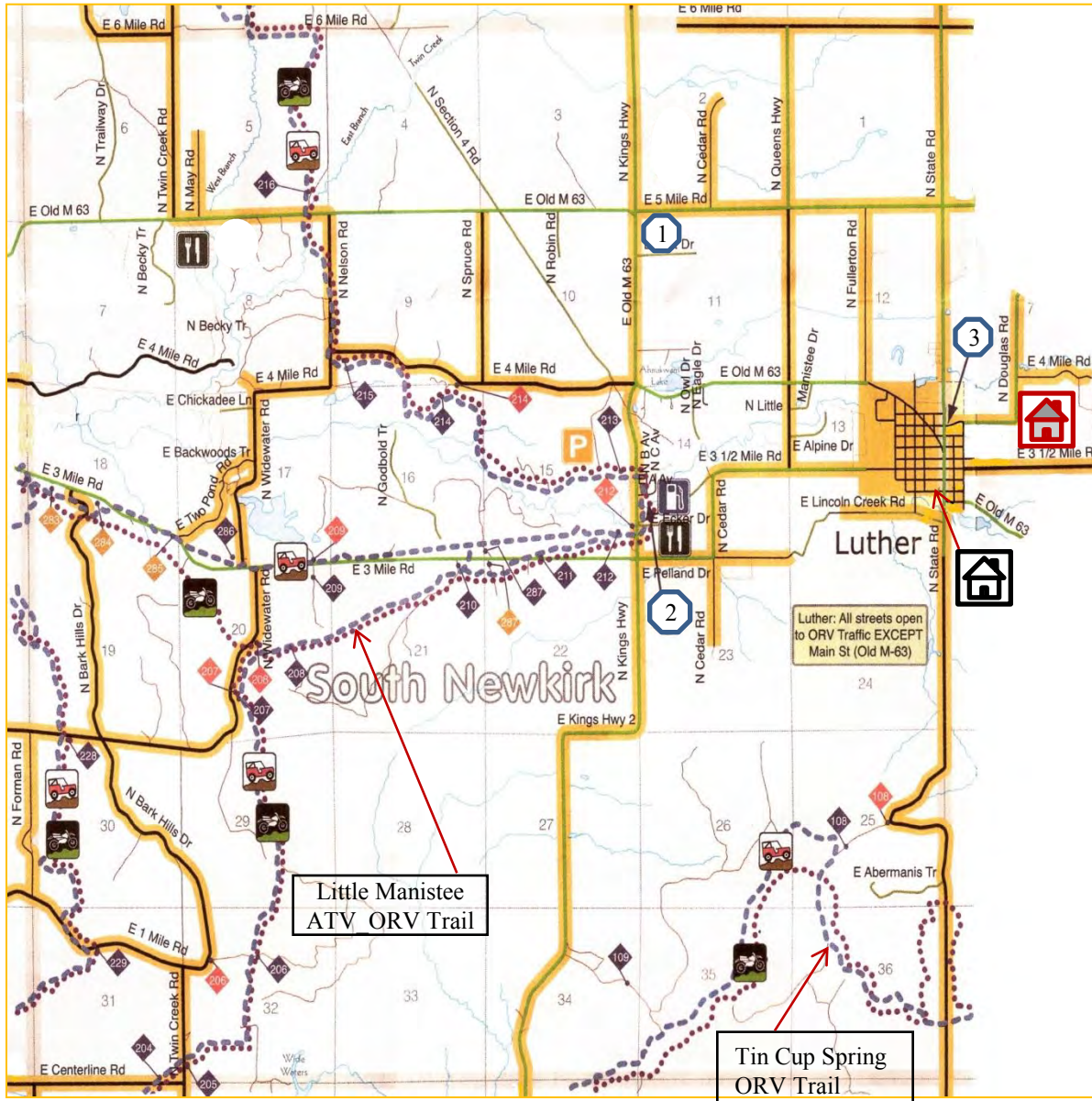
Ellsworth Township



- 1) Edgetts Pine River Public Access.
- 2) Briar Patch Pine River Public Access. (Numerous Canoe Rental Companies Are Available)
- 3) Bank.
- 4) Tin Cup ATV_ORV Trail.

-  Trail Access Point.
-  Township Hall
-  Fire Department

South Newkirk Township



- 1) Carrieville State Forest Campground. (31) sites for tent and small trailer use, 1 of which can accommodate 40-ft vehicle/trailer. Located along the Little Manistee River with good trout fishing, Off-Road Vehicle route accessible from campsite. Rustic campground includes vault toilets and potable water from well hand pump.
- 2) Carrieville Store.
- 3) Bank.

- Parking For Trail Head.
- Trail Access Points.
- Trail Spur.
- Trail Cross Overs.
- Fire Department.
- Township Hall.

Little Manistee
ATV ORV Trail

Tin Cup Spring
ORV Trail

Luther: All streets open
to ORV Traffic EXCEPT
Main St (Old M-63)

Pinora Township



Township Hall

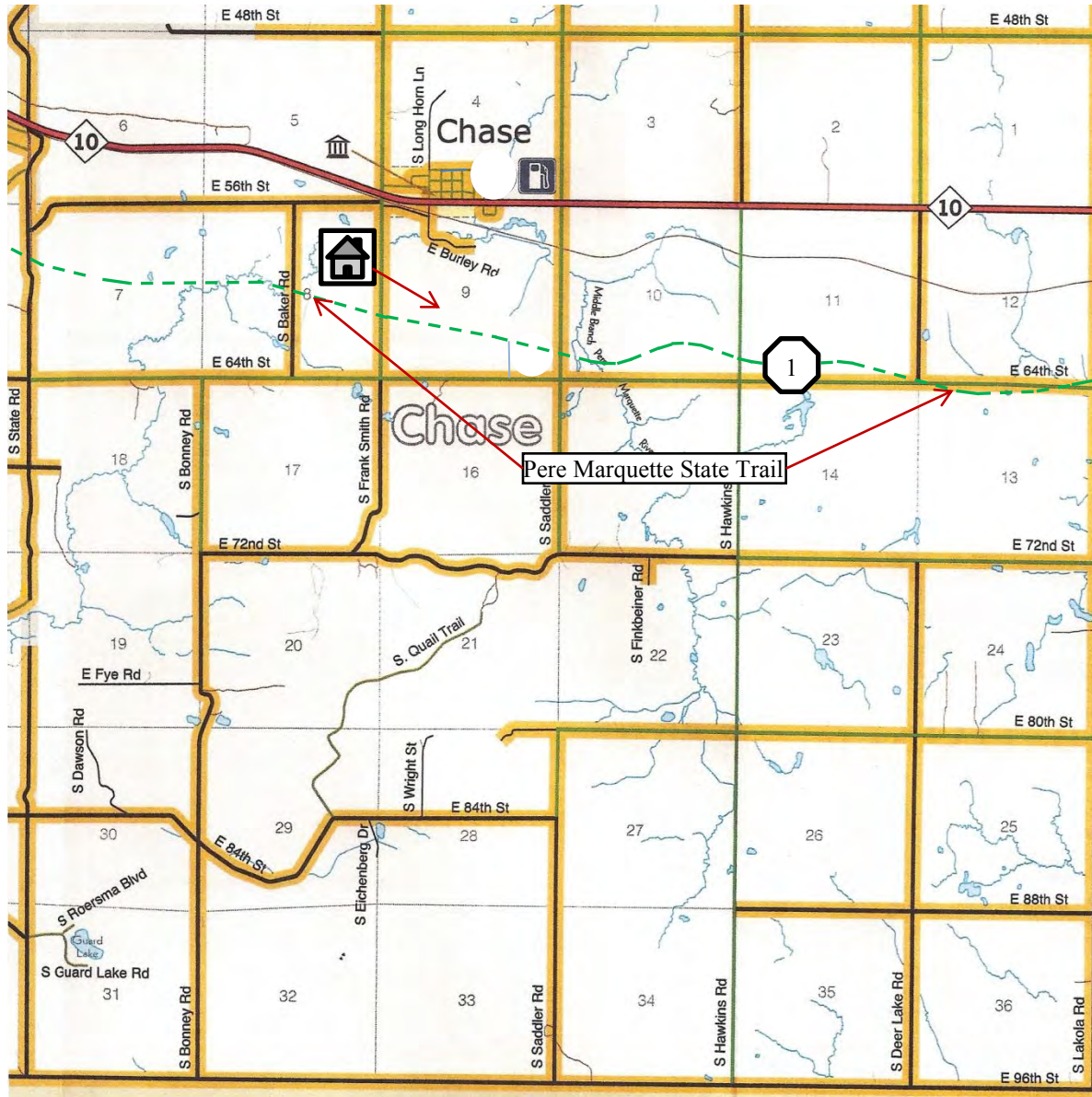



Trail Access Points.



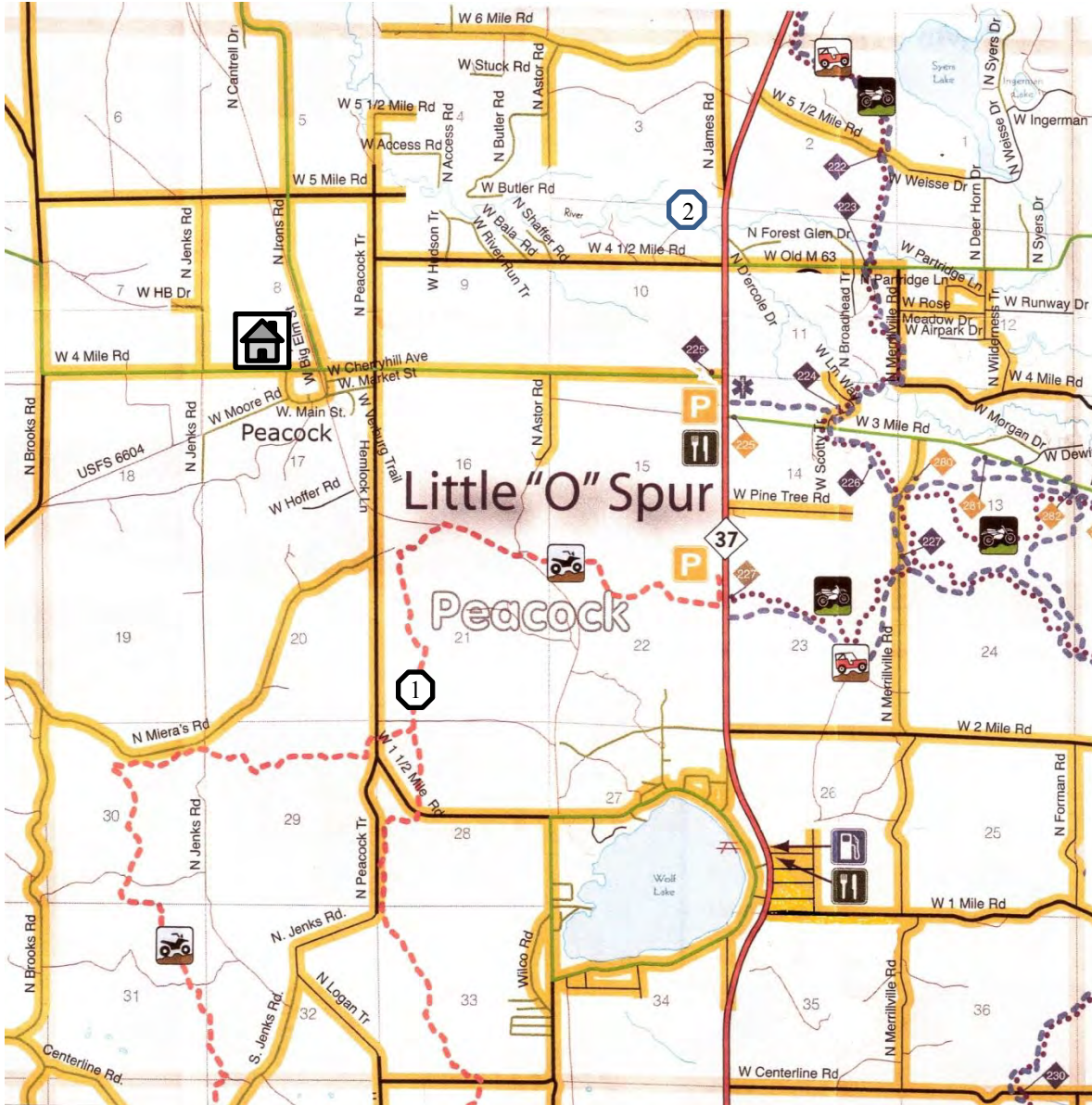
Trail Cross Overs.






Chase Township



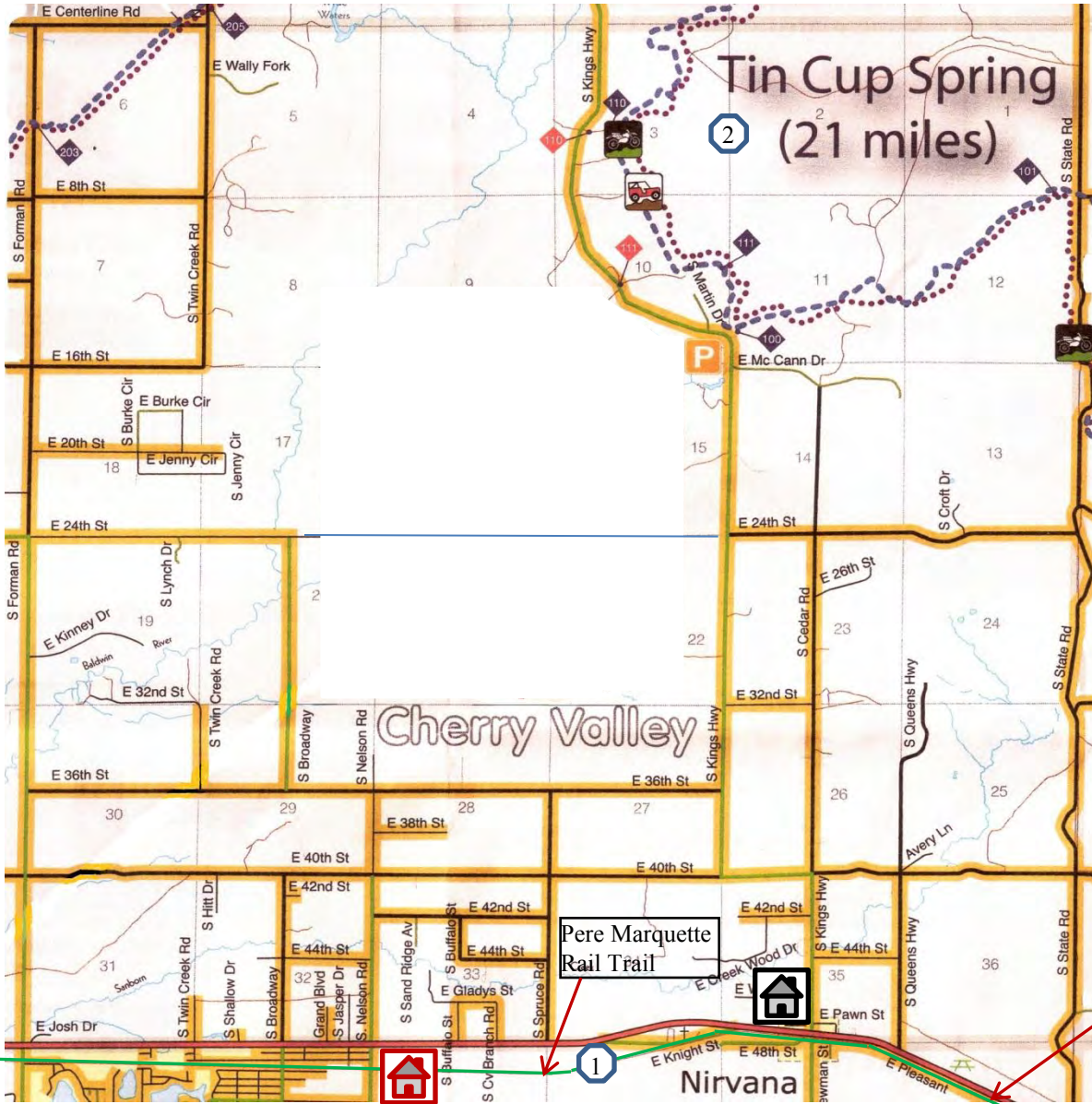
- 1) Pere Marquette State Rail Trail.
-  Township Hall.

Peacock Township



- 1) Little "O" Spur ATV_ORV Trail.
 - 2) Old Grade U S Forest Service Campground. (20) sites. Fishing, trailhead. Water, and vault toilets.
-  Township Hall.
 -  Trail Access.
 -  Trail Spurs.
 -  Trail Parking
 - 

Cherry Valley Township



- 1) Pere Marquette Rail Trail.
- 2) Tin Cup Spring ATV_ORV Trail.



Township Hall.



Fire Department.



Trail Access.



Trail Spur.








Trail Access Parking

Pere Marquette Rail Trail

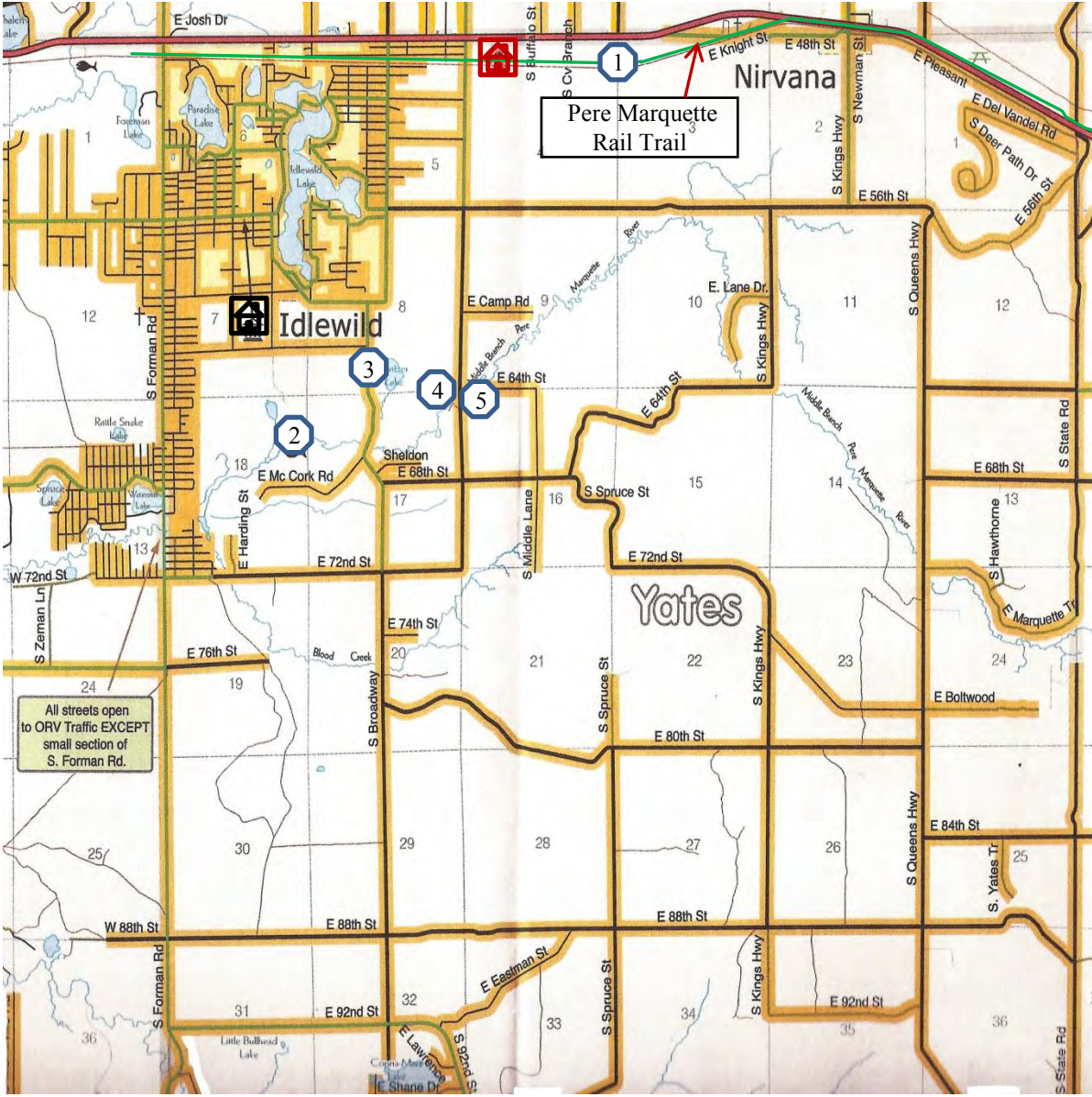
Webber Township





- 1) Little Leverentz Lake Public Access and Campground.
- 2) Bray Creek Campground and Public Access.
- 3) Roy Rocky Baldwin River Public Access.
- 4) Sheep Ranch Pathway.

-  Trail Access.
-  Trail Spur.
-  Trail Parking.
-  Township Hall.
-  Fire Department.

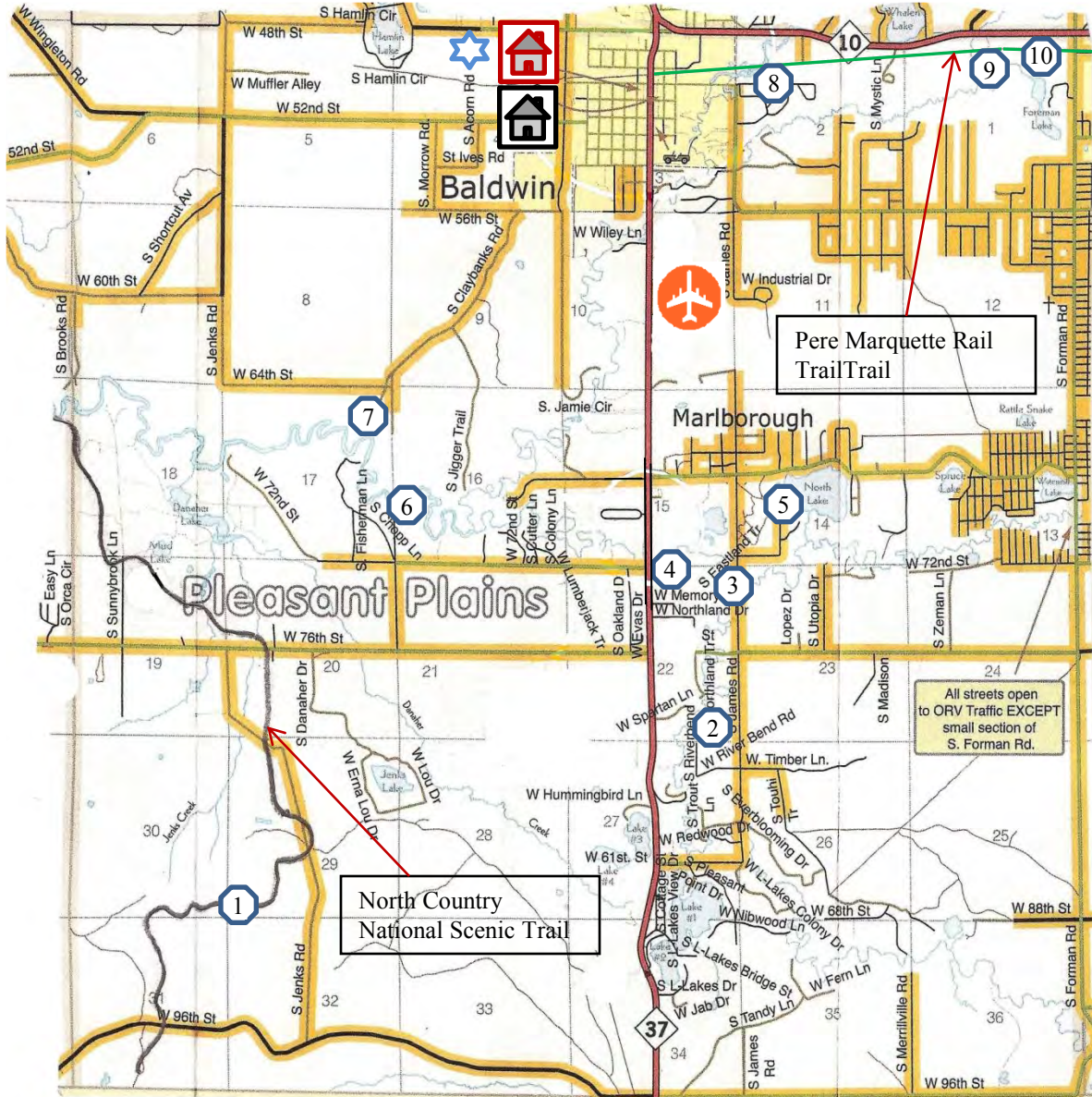
Yates Township







- 1) Pere Marquette Rail Trail.
 - 2) Pere Marquette Public Access.
 - 3) Pere Marquette Public Access.
 - 4) Pere Marquette Public Access.
 - 5) Pere Marquette Public Access.
-  Township Hall
 Fire Department.

All streets open to ORV Traffic EXCEPT small section of S. Forman Rd.

Pleasant Plains Township



- 1) North Country National Scenic Trail.
- 2) Pere Marquette Public Access.
- 3) Pere Marquette Public Access.
- 4) Pere Marquette Public Access.
- 5) Pere Marquette Public Access.
- 6) Pere Marquette Public Access.
- 7) Pere Marquette Public Access.
- 8) Baldwin River Public Access.
- 9) Baldwin River Public Access.
- 10) Pere Marquette Rail Trail.

-  Township Hall.
-  Fire Department.
-  County Sheriff and State Police Post.
-  Baldwin Airport.

All streets open to ORV Traffic EXCEPT small section of S. Forman Rd.

Appendix B

Additional Community Information
(Excerpts from the Lake County Master Plan)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic data is based on the 2010 Census, unless otherwise noted.

Population Trends & Projections

From 2000 to 2010, Lake County's population increased from 11,333 to 11,539 a 1.8% increase; whereas Michigan's overall population decreased by .6%. During the same time period, the population of the United States increased by 9.7%. Lake County's population is expected to increase by approximately 1.3% per year and reach 12,700 by 2025. In the previous decade, the Michigan Department of Management and Budget had predicted a 1.8% growth rate with the population reaching 12,700 by 2020. The growth rate has been slower than projected, and the 2010 census predicts that it will take the county five years longer (2025) to reach the 12,700 figure. The median age in the county rose from 43.1 years in 2000 to 50.1 years in 2010, a 16.5% increase in ten years.

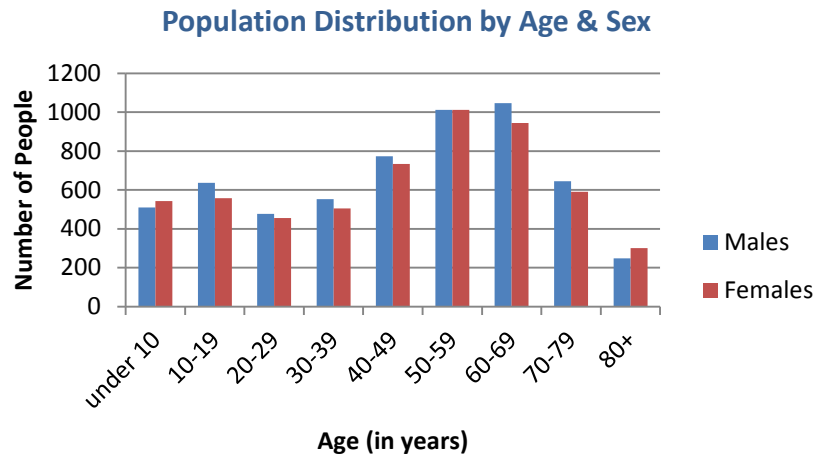
Median Age by Sex			
	Population	Median Age	%
Total	11,539	50.1	
Male	5,898	50.0	51.1
Female	5,641	50.3	48.9



While Lake County's permanent population is 11,539, it increases on a seasonal basis with the tourist seasons and opportunities for various recreational pursuits. Lake County's largest population increase takes place in the summer months when part-time residents return and weekend visitors visit the area. The population can increase 3 to 4 times the normal population during this period.

Age Distribution

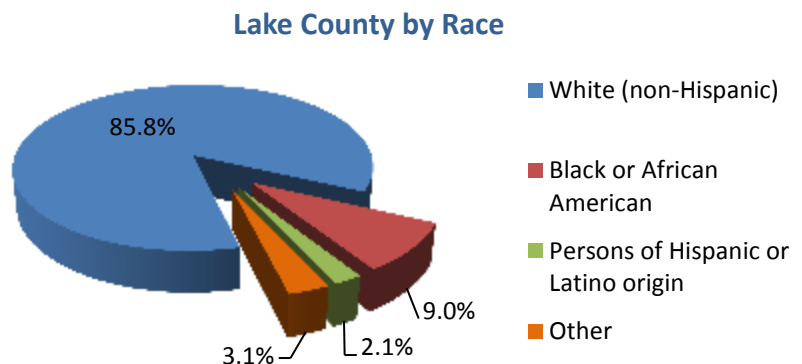
Lake County is fast becoming a senior county with 50% of the population over 50. The median age is expected to rise to 60 by 2025. Whereas in the previous decade there were slightly more men than women overall, the 2010 census shows there are about 1.2% more males than females in Lake County. In the under age 5 to 9 years of age



category, there are more females than males. For age categories of 10 to 49 years of age, there are more males than females, but in the 50 to 59 age group, their numbers are equal at 1,012 each. From age 60 to 79 there are more males than females, but starting in the 80 plus years category, females outnumber the males. The bar chart above gives an overall view of the male-female population for 2010. The pie chart below shows the population by age and sex in specific age groups and their percentage of the total population.

Racial Distribution & Trends

While Lake County's population has increased over the past 10 years, the racial makeup of most of the county has remained the same. However, there has been a 4.2% decrease in the black population. In 1998



they were 13.2% of the population, and they now represent 9% of the population. Part of this decrease is due to a change in racial categories on the U.S. Census for 2010. The category "persons reporting two or more races" was added. The white population has decreased by .1%, the Hispanic population has increased by 2%, and the American Indian/Alaska native population has increased by .1%.

Household Distribution

The average household in Lake County (47%) consists of a husband and wife. The next largest group is one person households which make up 32.9% of households. All housing figures represent 2010 U.S. Census figures unless otherwise noted.

Socio-Economic Levels

Lake County is either the poorest or second poorest county in the state of Michigan, depending on how the figures add up every year. Approximately 24% of the population lives below the Federally-defined poverty level as of the 2010 census, and the per capita income in 2009 was \$15,971. Compare these numbers to the state of Michigan as a whole where 16% of the population is living below the poverty line and the state's 2009 per capita income was \$25,172. The median income for households in 2010 was \$30,629 which means that 50% of Lake County households had less than \$30,629 income and 50% had more. The unemployment rate for the county as of July 2011 was 12.3% which is 3.8% above the national average and 2% above Michigan's overall unemployment rate of 10.3%.

Description of Households		
	Total	%
Total Households	5,158	
Average Persons per Household	2.16	
1-Person Household	1,697	32.9
Husband and Wife Household*	2,473	47.9
Male Household, No Wife*	237	4.6
Female Household, No Husband*	476	9.2
Non-Family Household*	275	5.3
<i>* multi-person household</i>		

Household Income Levels				
	Household	Family	Married-Couple Family	Non-Family Household
Total	3,936	2,516	2,094	1,420
Less than \$10,000	13.3%	4.7%	2.7%	29.6%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	9.0%	5.2%	4.0%	15.8%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	16.9%	15.3%	14.5%	19.6%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	18.0%	18.7%	17.6%	16.5%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	16.1%	19.2%	20.7%	11.8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	14.1%	19.5%	20.2%	4.4%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	7.2%	9.6%	11.6%	0.7%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	4.2%	5.9%	6.6%	1.3%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	0.8%	1.2%	1.4%	0.0%
\$200,000 or more	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.3%
Median Income	\$30,629	\$39,417	\$42,917	\$16,693

Employment

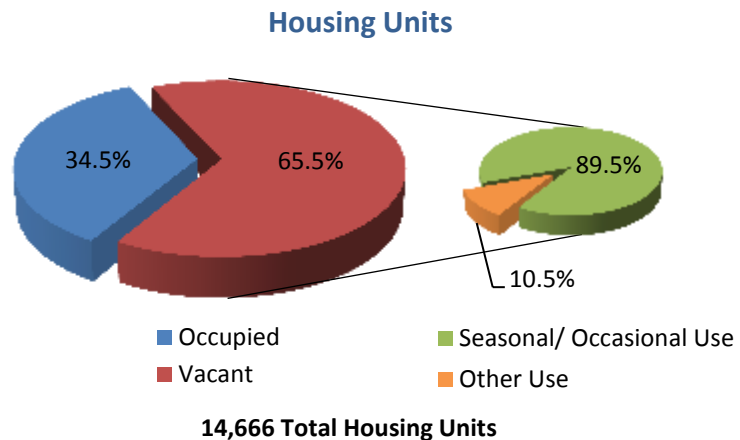
Lake County's available labor force (population of 16 years of age and over) represents 45% of the population or 4,134 out of 11,535 persons. Of those working, 72% are private wage and salary workers and 18% are government workers. The self-employed represent 9.3% of the labor force. As of September 2011, the unemployment rate of the county was 13.5%. In 2009, 19.2% of the residents of Lake County had income levels below the poverty level. The "unrelated individuals 15 years and over" category of the American Community Survey represents 36.6% of those with incomes below the poverty level. The next largest group living in poverty is children under 18 years of age.

Out of the 3,936 households in Lake County, 51% have Social Security income and 29.4% have some other retirement income. Some 30% of households have income from Supplemental Security Income, cash public assistance and/or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits. A household is defined as a related family of two or more individuals. Please refer to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission's (WMSRDC) employment projections for Lake County (see Appendix B). They are estimating a .35% growth in employment for the county. The County's employment picture is not expected to improve very much in the next 5 years.

Civilian Employed Population by Industry		
<i>Estimates for 2005-2009</i>		
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	3,552 Total	
	Total	%
Manufacturing	666	18.8%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	637	17.9%
Retail trade	631	17.8%
Public administration	330	9.3%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	293	8.2%
Construction	266	7.5%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	211	5.9%
Other services, except public administration	117	3.3%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	116	3.3%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	103	2.9%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	100	2.8%
Information	53	1.5%
Wholesale trade	29	0.8%

Housing Units

Lake County has a total of 14,666 housing units with a vacancy rate of 65.5%. The high vacancy rate is due to occasional use or seasonal housing. This category represents 89.5% of the vacancy rate. Occasional use refers to part-time residents who are mainly resident



during the summer months. It also refers to hunters, fishermen and many other seasonal users for recreation. Occupied housing units make up 34.5% of the total units available and 81.6% of those units are owner occupied with a median value of \$94,100. Rentals represent 18.4% of the occupied housing stock. According to the 2010 census, only 85 units were available for rent in 2010. Lake County does not have enough quality rental housing available to the public.

EDUCATION

Lake County has several school districts within its borders. The largest of these is the Baldwin Community School (BCS) district, which also encompasses the northern portion of Newaygo County (Bitely area). Outlying sections of the county are split among four other districts. The northeast portion of Lake County, around the Luther area, has an elementary school, with its students then matriculating to the Pine River Schools. The northwest section sends its students to the Kaleva/Manistee Schools. The southeast portion of Lake County, near Chase, has its students matriculating to the Reed City Schools. The extreme southwestern section is in the Mason County Central district (Scottville, Michigan). A map of Lake County's school districts is included in Appendix A.



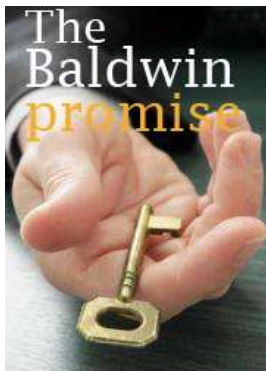
In addition, the advent of "Schools of Choice" allows parents to choose their school district, as openings within the district allow. In the past, parents from Lake County chose one of the other school districts mentioned above, even if their children were in the BCS district due to past concerns about the quality of education the Baldwin school system has had. Many others have chosen Mason County Eastern, which is in Custer, Michigan.

A concerted effort has been initiated in recent years to change both the reality and the perception of the quality of the BCS system. The Baldwin Promise is one visible component,

with enhanced supplemental programs, like during-school and after-school tutoring and expanded services, another.

Many changes have occurred recently in school districts throughout the state, none more exciting or challenging as those facing the BCS system. As part of the 2010-2011 academic testing year, the BCS was part of the 21% of the Michigan schools not meeting the academic goals of the federal “No Child Left Behind” legislation. These standards are expected to toughen, not only at the federal level, but at the state level as well. Grades were given to the individual schools, based on the state’s accreditation system and the reported test scores, which are vigorously being addressed for improvement.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, proficiency targets increased by about 8 percentage points in reading and 8-12 percentage points in math, making it difficult for many schools to meet the adequate yearly progress (AYP) demanded on the tests. 78% of students had to be proficient in reading and 75% in math. Schools needed to test 95% of their students, have an attendance rate of 90%, and a graduation rate of 80%. Identified schools must take corrective action, and make definitive plans to restructure and improve the supplemental services.



BCS, thanks to the generosity of many area donors and high school graduates, now offers the Baldwin Promise to everyone who graduates from BCS. This fund pays up to \$5,000 a year for four years for tuition and fees to accredited institutions of higher learning, after PELL and TIP monies have been applied. The program made its first awards with the graduating class of 2010, and the students are now realizing the value of this financial support, and more are choosing to attend college. The plan can be seen on the BCS web site.

In 2011-2012, the Promise initiative, “College-Going Culture”, began. Students from elementary school through the high school visited colleges, pennants were hung showing the college from which each teacher graduated, and college attire was encouraged to be worn. Inspirational speakers were brought in to tell the value of a higher education, and charts illustrating the financial difference a college education makes in one’s earning potential were posted.

The three closest institutions of higher education, Ferris State University in Big Rapids, West Shore Community College (WSCC) in Scottville and Baker College in Cadillac, are cooperating more and more to offer incentives, counseling, and a sense of partnership to the BCS students.

Additionally, Baldwin High School students are offered the opportunity to take classes at WSCC daily, with bus transportation provided. Courses are available to students to prepare them for jobs in the healthcare field and other vocations as well as courses that can be applied toward college credits.

HISTORIC SITES & MUSEUMS

Lake County has two sites registered on the National Register of Historic Sites and four on the State Register of Historic Sites.

On the National Register:

- Marlborough Historic District
Located on James Road in Pleasant Plains Township; was listed on the State Register in 1971 and the National Register in 1972.
- Idlewild Historic District
Was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, with a boundary increase in 2010.



On the State Register:

- Lake County Courthouse
- Shrine of the Pines
- Pere Marquette River, the first location to have Brown Trout planted in the United States (1884), placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Museums and Historical Societies:

- Lake County Historical Society
- Elk Township Historical Society
- Camp Martin Johnson Heritage Museum (Irons)
- Chase Library Museum
- Idlewild Museum
- Luther Museum
- Shrine of the Pines Museum

In addition, in 2011, a Museum Committee was formed to erect a Lake County Museum, which would feature the entire county's history.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

To plan for Lake County's future needs, it is necessary to understand the area's physical features. Many of the area's physical features do not change a great deal from year to year and include such natural features as soils, water features, topography, weather patterns, vegetation, wildlife and fish resources. Physical features also include the built environment which includes such evolving features as land use, transportation and historical sites.

Location

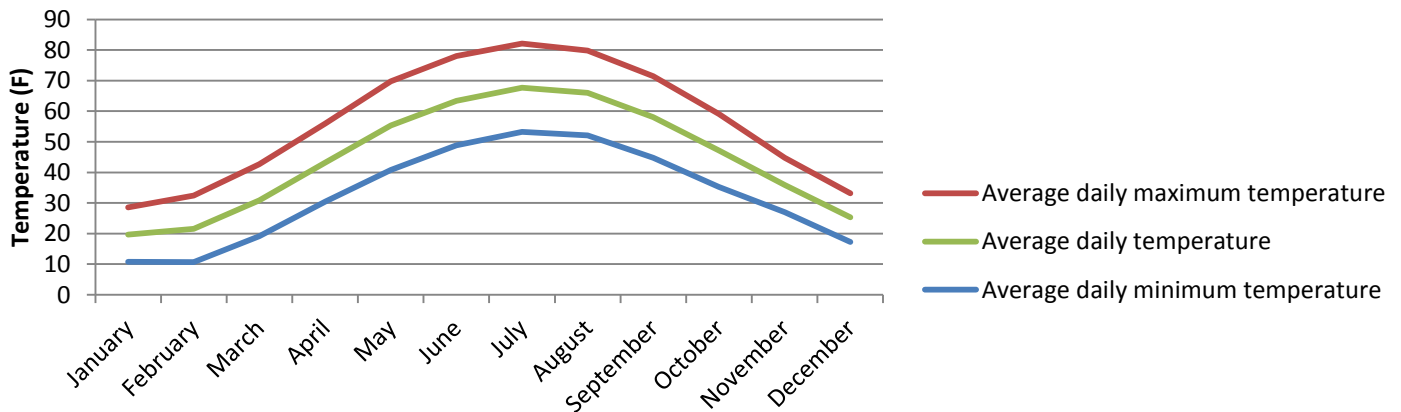
Lake County is in the western portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Manistee and Wexford Counties lie to the north; Osceola County is to the east; Newaygo County is to the south; and Mason County is to the west of Lake County. Lake County is 25 miles east of Lake Michigan, 60 miles north of Grand Rapids, 40 miles west of Clare and 40 miles south of Traverse City.



Climate

Generally, January is the coldest month of the year with an average temperature of 20.1°F and July is the warmest with an average temperature of 68.9°F. January has the highest snowfall, averaging 25.0 inches. Six months of the year average over three inches of precipitation, with August averaging 3.62 inches. February has the least precipitation averaging 1.68 inches. Prevailing winds are west-southwest with an annual average wind speed of 10.0 miles per hour.

Average Temperatures



Annual average high: 56.5°F

Annual average temperature: 44.5°F

Annual average low: 32.5°F

Soils

The Soils map in Appendix A shows broad areas that have distinctive patterns of soils, relief, and drainage. Each map unit on the soil map is a unique natural landscape. Typically, a map unit consists of one or more major soils and some minor soils. It is named for the major soils. The soils making up one unit can occur in other units but in a different pattern.

The Soils map can be used to compare the suitability of large areas for general land uses. Areas of suitable soils can be identified on the map. Likewise, areas where the soils are not suitable can be identified. Because of its small scale, the map is not suitable for planning the management of a farm or field or for selecting a site for a road or building or other structure. The soils in any one map unit differ from place to place in slope, depth, drainage, and other characteristics that affect management.

The following soil descriptions were taken from the Soil Survey of Lake and Wexford Counties, Michigan.

Rubicon-Montcalm-Graycalm - Nearly level to steep, somewhat excessively drained and well drained sandy soils on moraines, till plains, and outwash plains. The map unit is on nearly level and undulating plains and on rolling to steep ridges and hills. In most places the Rubicon, Montcalm, and Graycalm soils are in positions on the landscape that are similar. In many areas they are adjacent on the same slope. Rubicon and Graycalm soils are somewhat excessively drained. Montcalm soils are well drained.

Grayling-Graycalm - Nearly level to moderately steep, excessively drained and somewhat excessively drained sandy soils on outwash plains, till plains and low moraines. The map unit is on nearly level plains and low, rolling hills and occasional short, steep slopes. In most places the Grayling and Graycalm soils are in similar positions on the landscape and are adjacent on the same slope. Grayling soils are excessively drained and Graycalm soils are somewhat excessively drained.

Kalkaska - Nearly level to steep, somewhat excessively drained and well drained sandy soils on outwash plains, till plains and moraines. The Kalkaska soils are on nearly level and undulating plains and on rolling knolls to steep hills. They are somewhat excessively drained or well drained.

Tawas-Croswell-Lupton - Nearly level and undulating, very poorly drained and moderately well drained mucky and sandy soils in bogs, depressions, and drainage ways and on low flats and beaches. In most places the Tawas and Lupton soils are in bogs, drainage ways,

and depressions. The Croswell soils are on the higher positions of flats and benches. All of these soils have a seasonal high water table. Tawas soils are very poorly drained. The nearly level and gently undulating Croswell soils are moderately well drained. The nearly level Lupton soils are very poorly drained.

Emmet-Montcalm - Nearly level to steep, well drained loamy and sandy soils on till plains and moraines. This map unit is on nearly level and undulating plains and on rolling knolls to steep hills. In most places Emmet and Montcalm soils are in positions on the landscape that are similar. Commonly they are adjacent on the same slope. Emmet and Montcalm soils are well drained.

Nester-Kawkawlin-Manistee - Nearly level to steep, well drained and somewhat poorly drained loamy and sandy soils on till plains and moraines. The Nester and Manistee soils are on nearly level and undulating plains and rolling knolls to steep hills. In most places they are in positions on the landscape that are similar. In many areas they are adjacent on the same slope. The Manistee soils, however, are less sloping. Kawkawlin soils are on low flats and in depressions. Nester and Manistee soils are well drained and Kawkawlin soils are somewhat poorly drained.

Geology

Bedrock geology in Lake County consists of Mississippian and Pennsylvanian sedimentary deposits which dip to the southeast at a low angle. The sedimentary rocks consist of shales, sandstone and evaporates.

Minor Jurassic Red Beds of sandstone are located in the lower southeastern portion of the county. A small portion of the northwest corner of the county contains Coldwater Shale. The remainder of the county has deposits of the Marshall Sandstone, the Michigan Formation and the Saginaw Sandstone, in that order from northwest to southeast. Red rock topography ranges from a high of greater than 550 feet in the southeast corner of the county to lows of below 350 feet in the north central and southwest portions of the county.

The bed rock of Lake County is overlain with a thick glacial deposit of unconsolidated material. The glacial deposits range in thickness from greater than 800 feet in the northeast corner of the county to greater than 200 feet in the portion of the western and southern county. Surficial glacial deposits consist of moraines, outwash plains and small areas of ground moraines.

Topography

Lake County can be generalized as being highest in the extreme northeast corner of the county (Dover Township) and sloping gently southward and more dramatically sloping westward. The elevations of the four corners of the county are:

- Northeast corner: 1280 feet +/-
- Southeast corner: 1150 feet +/-
- Southwest corner: 830 feet +/-
- Northwest corner: 725 feet +/-

There is a shelf which runs north to south through the approximate center of the county and translates high, rolling land to the east into swamp (Luther- Baldwin swamp) to the west. The area directly east and south of Wolf Lake is again high and rolling, and there is another hilly region known as Ward Hills in western Sauble Township, which projects roughly 200 feet above the surrounding terrain. The lowest area in the county is along the western side of Sweetwater Township, where the Pere Marquette River leaves the County, at an elevation of 667 feet +/-.

Land Use

Lake County is a rural area with small areas of residential development and scattered recreational usage. The main areas of residential development are centered around the villages of Baldwin, Idlewild, Chase, Luther, and Irons, and also around the lakes, namely Wolf Lake, Big Star Lake, Big Bass Lake, Harper Lake, Idlewild Lake, Rainbow Lake, Orchard Lake, Cecelia Lake, Nugent Lake, Loon Lakes, Sauble Lakes, Paradise Lake, Putman Lake, Government Lake, and Mench Lake. There are a few areas with large amounts of cleared land that is currently used or was used for farming at one time. These areas are the southeastern portion of Chase Township, the northwestern portion of Lake Township, and the southwestern portion of Elk Township, and directly around the Village of Luther.

Water Features

Lake County has a large number of lakes, ponds and streams located throughout the county. The following is a listing of the major water features for the Townships in Lake County:



Dover Township - Lake Olga, the Pine River and Silver Creek.

Newkirk Township - Baylor Swamp, Conant Marsh, the Pine River, the Little Manistee River and the north and south branches of Twin Creek.

Eden Township - Little Manistee River and Stronach Creek

Elk Township - Bass Lake, Bluegill Lake, Little Bass Lake, Harper Lake, Elbow Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Pickerel Lakes, Cool Lake, the Little Manistee River and Muckwa Creek.



Sauble Township - Loon Lake, Sauble Lakes, Noud Lake, Twin Lakes, the Big Sauble River and Twin Lakes Creek.

Peacock Township - Wolf Lake, Syers Lake, the Little Manistee River and Syers Creek.

Ellsworth Township - Pine River, Little Manistee River, Big Springs Lake, Rockwell Lake and Howe Lake.

Pinora Township - Sanborn Creek, Cole Creek and Deer Lake.

Cherry Valley Township - Baldwin River and Sanborn Creek.

Webber Township - Baldwin River, North Merch Lake, Cashion lake, Government Lake, Whalen Lake, Big and Little Leverentz Lakes, Bray Lake, Hamlin lake and Wingleton Lake.

Sweetwater Township - Pere Marquette River, Tank Creek, Kinne Creek and Nugent Lake.

Lake Township - Big Star Lake, Cecilia Lake, Gifford Lake, Hill Lake, Rainbow Lake, Reed Lake, Orchard Lake, Oxbow Lake, the Pere Marquette River and Gillen Springs.

Pleasant Plains Township - Pere Marquette River, Little South Branch River, South Harnlin Lake, Spruce Lake, Watermill Lake, Twin Lakes, North Lake.



Yates Township - Idlewild Lake, Paradise Lake, Switzer Lake, Lake Connarnara, the Middle Branch Creek, Little South Branch River and Blood Creek.

Chase Township – Guard Lake and Middle Branch Creek.



Sites of Environmental Contamination

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality maintains a list of sites of environmental contamination. The Act 307 list is broken down into the following seven categories under three major headings. Placement of sites into these categories was based on information available to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as of January 20, 1995.

Inactive

- I. No Actions Taken: Sites where a remedial action plan has not been approved by the Department and where evaluation, interim response activity, remedial actions, and/or operation and maintenance have not been undertaken.

Cleanup Actions Taken or in Process

- II. Evaluation/Interim Response - Fund: Sites where a remedial action plan has not been approved by the Department and where interim response activity or evaluation has been provided or is being provided for by State funds.

- III. Evaluation/Interim Response – Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)/Other: Sites where a remedial action plan has not been approved by the Department and where interim response activity or evaluation has been or is being provided for by potentially responsible parties or other sources.
- IV. Final Cleanup - Fund: Sites where a remedial action plan has been approved by the Department and where remedial action has been or is being provided for by State funds.
- V. Final Cleanup - Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)/Other: Sites where a remedial action plan has been approved by the Department and where remedial action has been or is being provided for by potentially responsible parties or other sources.

Cleanup Complete/Long-Term Maintenance

- VI. Operations & Maintenance (O & M) - Fund: Sites where operation and maintenance has been or is being provided for by State funds.
- VII. Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)/Other: Sites where operation and maintenance has been or is being provided for by potentially responsible parties or other sources.

Within Lake County there are three Category 1 sites, one Category 2 site, nine Category 3 sites, no Category 4 sites, one Category 5 site, one Category 6 site, and no Category 7 sites. In addition to the sites of environmental contamination, 15 leaking underground storage tank sites have been reported and are in various stages of cleanup.

Information about any of the contamination sites in Lake County can be further researched by visiting Department of Environmental Quality website at the following web address: www.deq.state.mi.us/part201/

In addition to Sites of Environmental Contamination, there are 11 Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites (LUSTS). Cleanup actions have been taken, or are in progress, at 10 of the sites and one site is inactive. Lake County has an established Brownfield Authority actively working to address these sites.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The local area economy provides for the basic service and shopping needs of Lake County residents and tourists. Agriculture and crop production is not a significant economic source in Lake County. Timber harvest remains strong in Lake County. The economy increases on a seasonal basis with tourist and recreational seasons bringing opportunities for business owners as part-time residents return and weekend visitors visit the area. Residents consider tourism and recreation to be the most desirable venue to fuel the economic development in their county.

Economically the benefits of increasing tourism in Lake County would bring more money into the area, improve the local economy, and provide additional income for business. The drawbacks to increased tourism would be congestion on roads and overcrowding in some places. The county needs to develop more local historical sites, major events and cultural attractions. Lake County needs to encourage more variety in shopping opportunities and restaurant venues.

RECREATION & TOURISM

Lake County is an outdoor recreation paradise located in the northwestern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and home to 200,000 acres of public-owned land. Lake County has several blue ribbon trout rivers known for their salmon and trout fishing including quality "flies only" sections. The Pere Marquette, the Pine, and the Little Manistee rivers are the most popular, but there are many great brook trout (brookie) feeder streams as well. The Pere Marquette and the Pine are two of the 16 National Wild and Scenic Rivers in Michigan and the Pere Marquette draws fishermen from all over the world because of its reputation as one of the finest trout rivers in the nation. The first planting of the German brown trout in the U.S. occurred here in 1884 in the Baldwin River, a tributary of the Pere Marquette.

These rivers and their many tributaries provide wonderful scenic canoeing and some whitewater kayaking, rafting, and tubing. The Pine River, considered by many as the premier canoeing river in Michigan, has a 16-mile stretch which is classified as a class I-II section by American Whitewater. Both rivers flow through the scenic Manistee National Forest.



Public and private campgrounds and several boat liveries along the rivers and close by support all of the possible recreational opportunities to be had by visitors. Many visitors also come to Lake County to fish for pike, bass, and pan fish. The county offers over 100 lakes of all shapes and sizes with Big Star Lake and Wolf Lake being the largest.

Lake County leads all Michigan counties with over 300 miles of maintained and groomed snowmobile trails. Dog sledding activities are also very popular in Lake County. The 24-mile Sweetwater Challenge Trail race in the Manistee National Forest, sponsored by the Michigan Dog Drivers Association (MIDD), takes place each winter. Cross country skiing, snow shoeing and old fashioned hill sledding are other great winter activities in Lake County.

Lake County also leads all Michigan counties with over 311 miles of ATV/ORV trails and has opened all but two Townships (Sweetwater and Yates) to allow operation of ORV's on the far right of the maintained portion of County roads. The trails are comprised of 88 miles of "motorcycle only" trails for dirt bikes and 223 miles for ORV's. There are the four trail systems within Lake County, complete with trailhead parking and staging areas. Each year thousands of ORV & Motocross participants enjoy our many trail systems and discover the beauty of our forests.

The Manistee National Forest and the Pere Marquette State Forest cover over 48% of Lake County and offer limitless hiking, hunting, birding, cross country skiing, geocaching and wildlife viewing opportunities. Combined with wooded private lands, the county is home to a wide variety of small and large game including deer, turkey, bear, squirrel, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, grouse and woodcock. Duck hunting (mallard, teal, and wood duck) is also very popular in the county. The Manistee National Forest Field Office and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Field Office are located in Lake County. Information, permits and licenses can be obtained at these two offices as well as at many local stores and service stations.

The North Country National Scenic Trail threads itself through beautiful Lake County from the Hardy/Croton Dam area in the south to the Hodenpyl Dam area in the north. The trail, often referred to as the North Country Trail (NCT), begins in New York and ends in North Dakota. Each year, the North Country Trail lures adventurers from around the world and within the United States. Sections of the NCT offer excellent mountain biking for all skill levels and are easily accessible at trailheads throughout the county.

Lake County has a wide variety of lodging, shops, galleries, and restaurants to offer in the towns of Baldwin, Branch, Chase, Idlewild, Irons, and Luther, as well as many lodges with dining located around the lakes. In addition, Lake County is well known for its many annual events

including Baldwin's "Original" Blessing of the Bikes in May, the Irons Flea Roast and Ox Market and West Michigan's Longest Yard Sale in June, Trout-a-rama, Luther Days, and Idlewild Music Fest in July, and the Salmon Run (5K & 10K) in October.

Appendix C

Supporting Documents