

2013-2017

# Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

*Draft February 2013*

DRAFT

*Let Our Resources Work For You.*



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# 2013-2017

## Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

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# Introduction

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Kalkaska County, located in the northwestern portion of Michigan's lower peninsula, is a rural, thickly forested county with 86 lakes and over 275 miles of streams and rivers. One of the County's many assets is recreation, with countless year-round opportunities for activities like camping, hiking, fishing golf, hunting, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, or simply enjoying nature. Spring and summer provide a background for community events like the Trout Festival and the Kalkaska County Fair, along with popular outdoor activities like fishing, hiking, and horseback riding. Autumn color tours and hunting season draw visitors and residents alike to Kalkaska's forest areas, while winter snows bring snowmobiling, skiing, ice fishing, and dogsled, making Kalkaska County a four-season playground. These recreation opportunities, along with the County's rural character, are key elements in Kalkaska County's economy and quality of life.

The County's lakes, rivers, forests, trails, community events, and recreation programming provide other benefits as well. Recreation activities and events bring residents and visitors together, fostering opportunities for cultural activities, education, and civic engagement. They promote public health and wellness by encouraging opportunities for physical activity, which is critical in staying healthy, reducing stress, fighting obesity, and preventing chronic health conditions. Parks and trails are also safe options for non-motorized transportation—which is especially important for those that don't own a car or can't drive due to age, disability, or income.

Parks also act, increasingly, as economic drivers, raising property values, drawing new residents to the community, and encouraging new development and tourism. Because of the important role it plays in the community's quality of life and desirability, recreation

## Recreation: An Important Economic Asset

At their most basic, parks, recreation facilities, and community events provide an environment in which residents and visitors can gather and interact in an informal setting; but parks also provide a number of health and economic benefits to the community:

Recreation opportunities attract visitors, increasing local tourism revenues.

- Demographic groups with expendable income and significant amounts of leisure time, such as retirees and young professional, often relocate to communities with a "recreation oriented" lifestyle and a high quality of life.
- National studies have shown that improvements to parks, civic spaces, and trails can encourage new development or redevelopment.
- Property values tend to increase in direct proportion to their proximity to parks and trails.





improvements and enhancements support and encourage—and in some cases, create—new investment and economic development.

To help guide future recreation improvements and enhancements, the Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Commission initiated an update to the Kalkaska County Recreation Plan in 2012. This Recreation Plan is intended to identify the County's highest recreation priorities and to offer an implementation road map for the recreation goals and objectives identified by the community throughout the various planning efforts. The Plan is organized as follows:

- *Chapter 1, Community Description*, includes information regarding the County's population, natural features, and other community information. The intent of this section is to provide a context for the plan that will assist in establishing goals.
- *Chapter 2, Administrative Structure*, summarizes the process through which recreation decisions are made.
- *Chapter 3, Recreation Inventory* itemizes the County's existing recreational facilities.

- *Chapter 4, Planning and Public Input*, explains how public input was gathered and used in developing and prioritizing recreation goals, objectives, and action program, and identifies recreation goals of existing county plans for consideration and in goals, objectives, and actions.
- *Chapter 5, Goals, Objectives, and Action Program* describes proposed recreation goals and improvements, and suggests specific implementation activities to achieve those goals.

## **DNR Recreation Planning Guidelines**

This Plan was developed according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*.

Through its recreation grants program, currently funded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides financial assistance to communities that would like to purchase land for parks, or are planning to improve or develop recreation facilities.

To be eligible to apply for these grant programs, a community must have a 5-year recreation plan, approved by the DNR, that meets certain requirements. This Recreation Plan was developed to comply with all MDNR requirements for recreation plans.

# Chapter 1: Community Description

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Kalkaska County is located in the northwestern part of the Lower Peninsula. It is bounded on the north by Antrim County, on the south by Missaukee County, the east by Crawford County, and the west by Grand Traverse County. With over 275 miles of streams and rivers, and with at least 85 lakes, Kalkaska is a prime area for fishing and boating activities. Its abundance of forest land and trails offer additional opportunities for camping, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, or just enjoying nature in its pristine state.

## History

The state of Michigan was admitted to the union in 1837; soon afterward it was divided into unofficial counties, including Grand Traverse County, which originally included Kalkaska County. The original name given to Kalkaska in 1840 was Wabassee, after a Potawatomi Indian Chief, three years later the county was renamed Kalkaska. The name may be derived from a Chippewa Indian word meaning, “burned over” or “a flat table of land.” Kalkaska County was officially organized as a county in 1871; the Village of Kalkaska was designated as the County seat in 1872.

The first white settler to the area, English-born William Copeland, settled near Round Lake in 1855; he and his family remained the only settlers in the area until after the Civil War. Other settlers searching for farmland began arriving in 1866, and by 1870, the population of the county reached 424 people, with 51 farms.

By 1910 the County’s population had reached 8,097 people and 842 farms.

## Population & Demographics

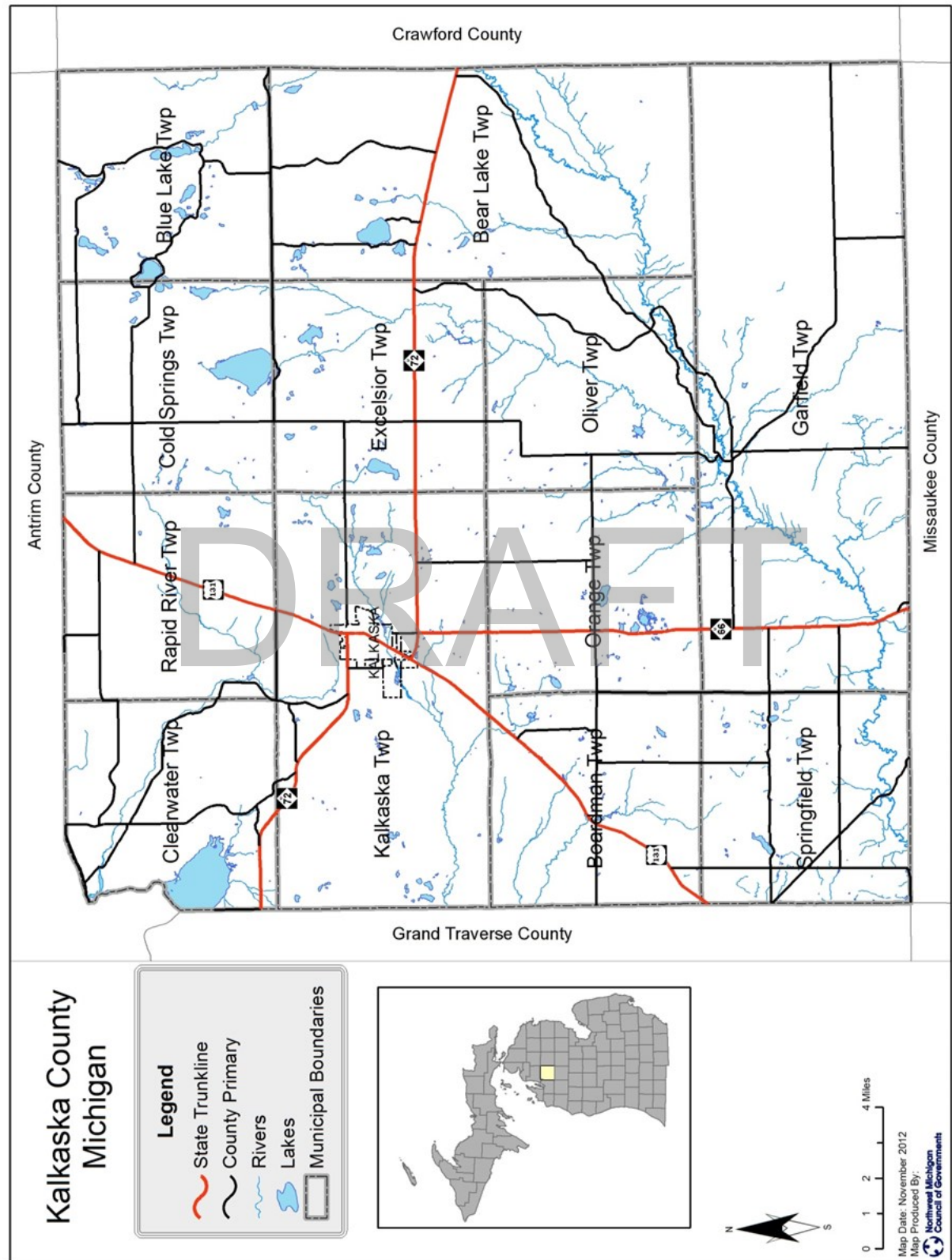
In 2010, the population of Kalkaska County was 17,153. In terms of population, the County is ranked 66<sup>th</sup> out of the 83 counties in Michigan.

The majority of the population growth in the County is attributable to domestic migration, rather than a natural increase (births minus

**Table 1. Historical Population Characteristics for Kalkaska County: 1890 to 2010 (source: US Census)**

Census Year	Population	Population change from previous Census
1890	5,160	
1900	7,133	38.2%
1910	8,097	13.5%
1920	5,577	-31.1%
1930	3,799	-31.9%
1940	5,159	35.8%
1950	4,597	-10.9%
1960	4,382	-4.7%
1970	5,272	20.3%
1980	10,952	107.7%
1990	13,497	23.2%
2000	16,571	22.8%
2010	17,153	3.5%

Kalkaska County Recreation Plan





deaths). The County has a population density of approximately 30 people per square mile.

Kalkaska county has fluctuated by as much as 35% for approximately 80 years between 1890 and 1970. In 1980, the county's population increased to twice its size due to new discoveries of oil and gas reserves. Modest increases in population have continued into the year 2010.

The majority of the County's population is located in the north and west sectors, with the Village of Kalkaska having the highest density.

#### Age and Household Characteristics

As the baby boomers—the country's largest demographic group—reaches retirement age, the nation's population as a whole increases in age. Because of its desirability as a retirement destination for many residents, this trend is exacerbated in Kalkaska County, where the population tends to be older than state or national averages. The median age of Kalkaska County is 43 years old, compared to the median age statewide (38.9 years).

**Table 2. Population Characteristics for Northwest Counties of Michigan: 2000 to 2010 (source: US Census)**

Northwest Lower Michigan	297,912	5.8%
Antrim County	23,580	2%
Benzie County	17,525	9.5%
Charlevoix County	25,949	-0.5%
Emmet County	32,694	4%
Grand Traverse Co.	86,986	12%
Kalkaska County	17,153	3.5%
Leelanau County	21,708	2.8%
Manistee County	24,733	0.8%
Missaukee County	14,849	2.6%
Wexford County	32,735	7.4%

Between 2000-2010, Kalkaska County experienced increases in all age ranges 45 years and over. However, even as those aged 45 or older increased, there were simultaneous decreases in all age ranges *below* 45, with accompanying shifts in household size and type. These age changes are also reflected in the declining numbers of family households in the County. The number of family households in Kalkaska County (including husband-wife families) declined about 6% between 2000-2010; while the number of families with children declined by 10% during that time

**Table 3. Change in Kalkaska County Age Cohorts, 2000-2010 (Source: US Census)**

Age Cohort	2010 Population	2010% of Total	2000 Population	Change 2000 - 2010	% Change 2000-2010
Preschool (Under 5)	1,043	6.1	1,068	-25	-2.3
School Age (5 to 19)	3,237	18.9	3,596	-359	-29.7
Young Adult (20 to 34)	2,606	15.2	2,840	-234	-12.8
Adult (35 to 64)	7,430	43.3	6,789	641	79.3
Older Adult (65+ )	2,837	16.5	2,278	559	62.5
Median Age	43		38	5	13.2

period.

Different populations have different recreation needs and interests. As such, when planning for recreation facilities, the community's growth trends, age, and income levels are important factors to consider. As individuals age, needs increase for facilities that accommodate passive recreation such as walking. Barrier-free access to recreation is particularly important for an aging population, and the provision of barrier-free and universally accessible recreation will become an increasingly high priority as the population ages. Passive recreation opportunities, such as walking paths, also increase in importance for an aging population.

Despite declining numbers of children and family households, individuals under the age of 18 make up nearly a quarter of Kalkaska

County's total population (23%). Youth-oriented recreation opportunities will continue to be important for both current residents and as an amenity to draw new families to the County.

### Income

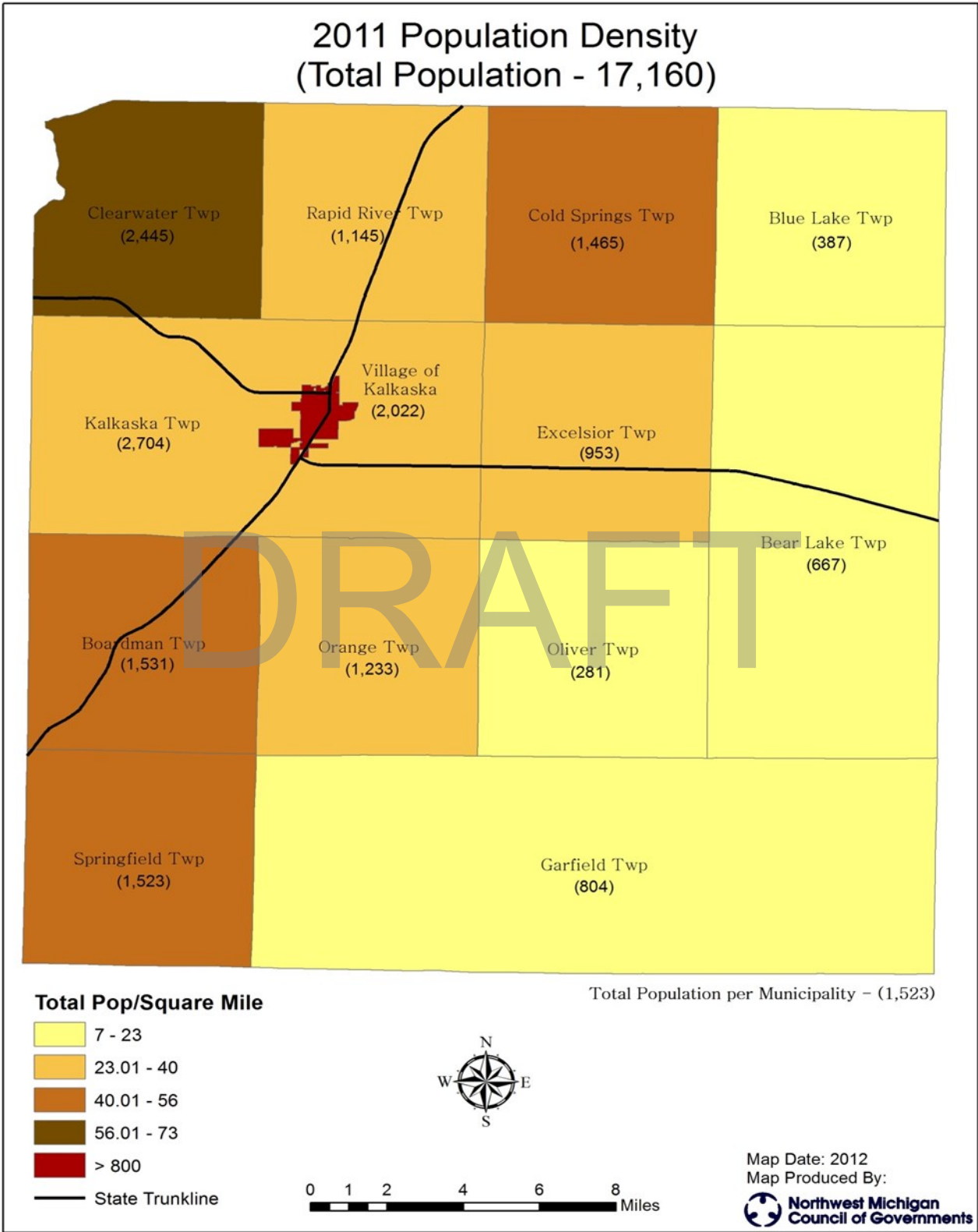
In addition to age considerations, it's also important to ensure that activities and amenities in the community are within the financial means of the majority of residents.

The American Community Survey (ACS) reports that 2011 per capita income is \$19,685, compared to \$25,482 statewide per capita income. The median household income in the County is \$39,130, below the state's median household income of \$48,669.

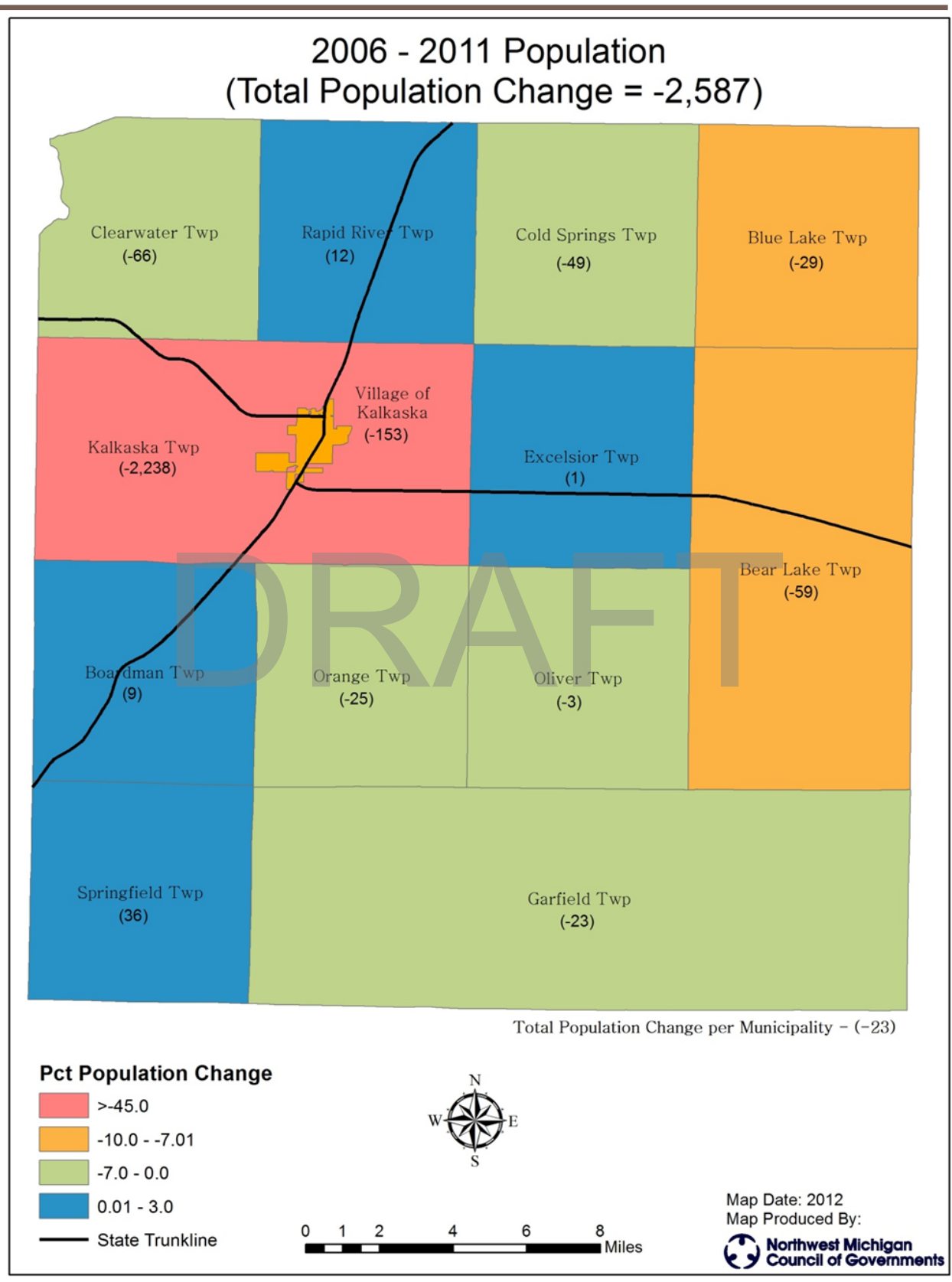
Poverty rates are also higher than statewide rates. According to the ACS, 12.3% of families

**Table 4. Breakdown/Change in Age Groups, Kalkaska County, 2000-2010 (Source: US Census)**

Age	2000 Population	2010 Population	Change	% Change	2010 % of Cohort
Under 5 years	1,043	1,068	25	2.3%	6.4%
5 to 9 years	1,040	1,188	148	12.5%	7.2%
10 to 14 years	1,106	1,253	147	11.7%	7.6%
15 to 19 years	1,091	1,155	64	5.5%	7.0%
20 to 24 years	818	835	17	2.0%	5.0%
25 to 34 years	1,788	2,005	217	10.8%	12.1%
35 to 44 years	2,123	2,729	606	22.2%	16.5%
45 to 54 years	2,799	2,249	-550	-24.5%	13.6%
55 to 59 years	1,335	962	-373	-38.8%	5.8%
60 to 64 years	1,173	849	-324	-38.2%	5.1%
65 to 74 years	1,735	1,342	-393	-29.3%	8.1%
75 to 84 years	865	729	-136	-18.7%	4.4%
85 years & over	237	207	-30	-14.5%	1.2%
Total	17,153	16,571	-582		







in the County live in poverty, compared to 11.1% of families statewide; while about 20% of families with children in Kalkaska County live in poverty, versus 18.2% statewide. For all people in the County, the poverty rate is about 16.5%; 15.7% of all people in Michigan live in poverty.

### Land Use & Planning

In numerical terms, Kalkaska County is about 89% “natural areas,” 11% agricultural land, 1.39% residential, and just under 1% combined commercial and industrial. The majority of undeveloped land is forested; over 282,595 acres of land in Kalkaska County are forested (Land use/cover relationship in 1978).

According to the 2010 Kalkaska Master Plan,

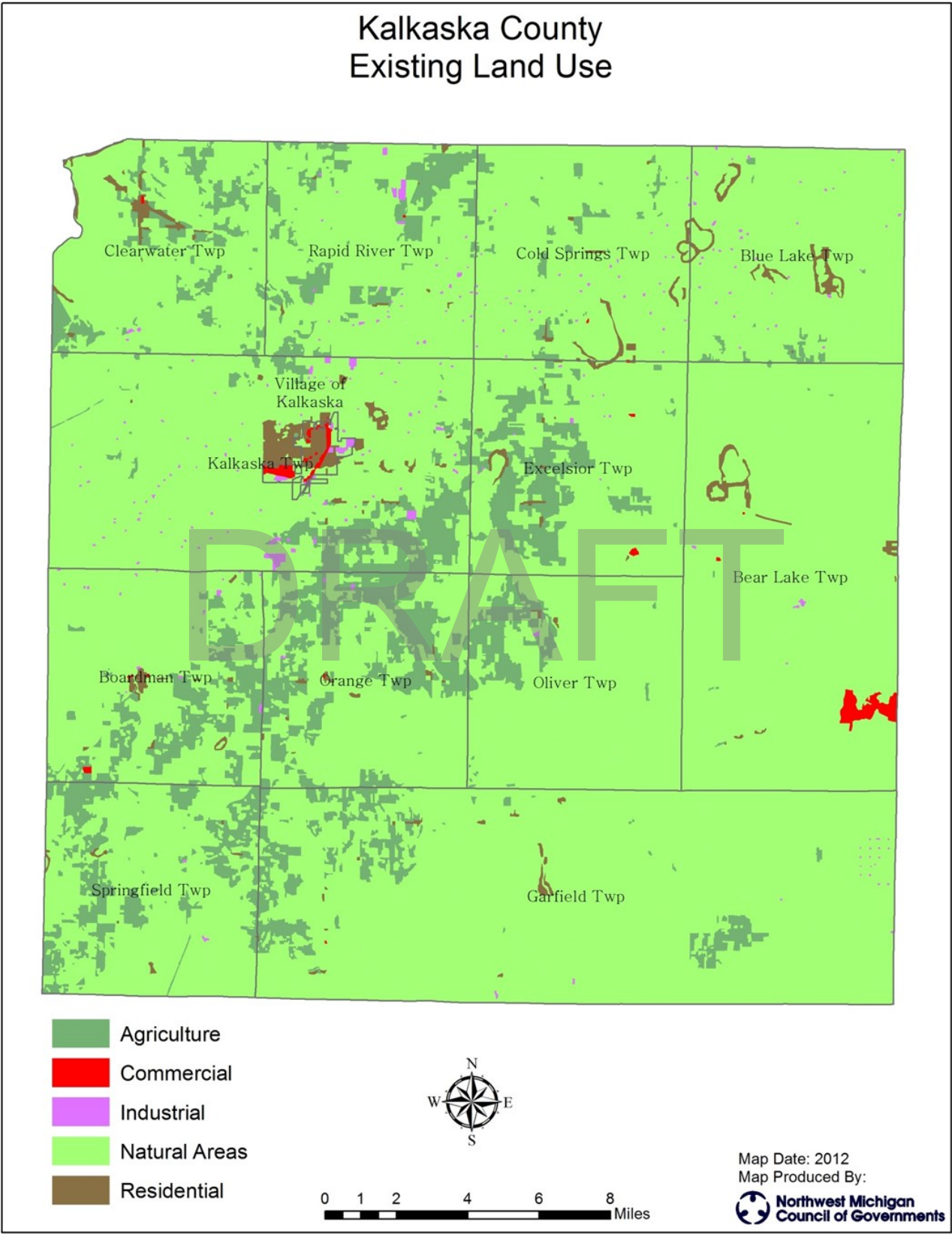
*“Kalkaska County is a rural, recreation-oriented place filled with pristine rivers, rich forests, and open farmland. Urban development is generally found in the Village and in the western townships. The eastern townships contain more forest cover and have cottage-like development patterns. State-owned land is prominent throughout the county, especially in the east and northwest areas. This amount of public land allows for vast recreation, especially snowmobiling, hunting, camping, and ATV riding. The Rapid River, the Boardman River, and the Manistee River highlight the natural corridors and provide for a multitude of recreation, especially fishing and canoeing. Although agriculture is not the dominant land*

*use, it is the principal land use in the middle of the county, and is visually expressive of the county’s heritage. Housing is affordable, which is important. Housing types vary, which also makes the county accommodating to residents, second homeowners, and visitors alike. Commercial and industrial sites are located along highway corridors, especially near the Village. Kalkaska County is not an urban place, nor does it want to be. Kalkaska County wants to retain its rustic and outdoor playground atmosphere. ”*

Recreation is a primary focus of the 2010 Master Plan, with recognition of the significant impact that natural resources provide on the County’s recreation opportunities, and subsequently, quality of life and economy. The Master Plan designates three districts—Forest Areas, Recreation Stream Corridor, and Special Purpose Areas—as land use areas that should primarily focus on recreation (see Chapter 4, Planning & Public Input, for a summary of recommendations regarding recreation).

### Zoning

Local governments in the County include the twelve (12) townships of Bear Lake, Blue Lake, Boardman, Clear Water, Cold Springs, Excelsior, Garfield, Kalkaska, Oliver, Orange, Rapid River, and Springfield; and the incorporated village of Kalkaska. Kalkaska County administers zoning for eight townships; while Garfield, Blue Lake, Clearwater, and Boardman Township maintain and administer zoning locally. The County,





along with locally-zoned townships, each have an established zoning ordinance from which the zoning administrator and planning commission make their implementation and enforcement decisions. Each of these communities provide allowances for public and private park and recreational facilities. Kalkaska County provides for recreation activities in a number of zoning districts, including the Forest-Recreational Districts and Resort-Recreational Districts. Various recreational activities are allowed as permitted and special uses in a variety of districts.

The Kalkaska County Planning Commission administers County zoning for townships under its zoning jurisdiction, but also serves as an advisory and oversight body to review and make recommendations relative to zoning and land use issues within communities that administer their own zoning. The recommendations are non-binding and serve to guide the discussions and decision making processes of the local governments.

Any recreational expansion or newly-created recreational facilities should be coordinated with the community to insure appropriate location for the proposed activity, and consistency with the township or village master plan and zoning ordinance.

### Transportation Systems

#### Roads, Highways, and Motorized Trails

The primary mode of transportation for



residents within the County is by automobile, via a connection of state and county highways.

**Michigan State Highways** in the County include M-72 that travels east-west, connecting the County to Grayling to the east and Traverse City to the west; US-131 which provides access to Antrim County to the north and Wexford County to the south; and M-66 that provides access to Missaukee County to the south and merges with US-131 in the Village of Kalkaska. These facilities are maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation through a contract with the Kalkaska County Road Commission. In addition, there are many **County roads** throughout the area that are maintained by the Road Commission.

Snowmobiles and off-road vehicles (ORVs) are authorized to use road shoulders on County road rights-of-way. A number of motorized trails are available on public land (see Chapter 3, Recreation Inventory).

#### Public Transportation

The **Kalkaska Public Transportation Authority (KPTA)** offers transportation opportunities by



bus through individual reservations and some fixed route service. This service operates five days a week to provide rural communities convenient, predictable and affordable transportation.

### Air and Rail Service

The Kalkaska Village Airport is located in the southwest corner of the Village of Kalkaska, and is owned and operated by the Village. The airport includes a paved runway that runs from northwest to southeast. The airport does not include amenities found at larger airports, but does provide an important service for area industries and tourists who use the facility for light aircraft landings. Commercial and passenger air service is provided by Cherry Capital Airport located in the southern portion of the City of Traverse City.

A rail line runs north-south through Kalkaska County, bisecting the Village of Kalkaska. Rail is used only to serve industrial freight needs at this time.

### Non-Motorized Transportation

A number of non-motorized trails are available

throughout Kalkaska County (see Chapter 3, Recreation Inventory). The **Kalkaska Area Recreation Trail**, an off-road, non-motorized transportation facility in the Village of Kalkaska, provides a 2-mile loop for residents.

### Natural Features

The natural resources of Kalkaska County are vital to the economic health and sense of well being of area citizens. Local government, manufacturing, the oil and gas industry, the retail trade and tourism are the major employment sectors within the county. With more than 275 miles of streams and rivers and 85 inland lakes, seasonal tourism and recreation activities provide jobs and contribute to the overall economic well being of the county.

### Topography

Kalkaska County is located over a geologic formation known as the Salina-Niagaran Reef. The county is 7,000 feet above one of the most successful oil producing basins in the state. Oil and gas are produced from fields scattered all across the county.



Kalkaska County is generally classified as hill-land, plains and upland plains. Level to gently rolling hills and slopes cover the mid-section of the county. Hills and ridges run through the east half and northwest section with elevations from 1,000 to 1,400 feet above sea level. A plateau divides the watershed in the county from the Manistee River to the southeast and the Boardman and Rapid Rivers to the northwest.

### Soils

The natural drainage, texture, slope can affect the suitability of sighting recreational areas. There are about fifty types of soil found in Kalkaska County with five predominate soil classifications. Predominate soil types are sands including:

- Graycalm sand
- Grayling sand
- Rubicon sand
- Kalkaska sand
- Islandlake sand

All predominant soil types exhibit rapid

permeability, somewhat excessively drained sands with seasonal high water tables of more than six feet. Slopes in these soils range from 0-35%, with woodland and cropland as dominant uses.

### Vegetation

Forested areas make up the majority of the county, with 282,592 acres of forestland versus 82,513 acres that are nonforested.

204,863 acres are forested with deciduous trees and shrubs. 77,729 acres are forested with coniferous trees and shrubs. Native trees include birch, oak, beech, white, red and jack pine, black and white spruce, balsam fir, hemlock, tamarack, red and white cedar, ash, elm, basswood, walnut, cherry, juniper, aspen and several species of maple.

Visitors from all over come to Kalkaska's forests to camp, hike, or pursue other recreational activities. From an economic perspective, forest-based industries, recreation, and tourism support hundreds of jobs countywide, acting a significant component of the area's

economy.

### **Water Resources**

Kalkaska County has over 273 miles of rivers and streams. The county also contains more than 86 lakes for a total water area of 6,848 acres of 1.9 percent of the total surface area. Highly popular with permanent and seasonal residents alike, much of the county's residential recreation activity has occurred near the county's lakes or rivers. Fishing has long been a popular activity in Kalkaska due to the high quality of the County's rivers. Kalkaska's quality and abundant fishing opportunities have even provided literary inspiration, inspiring and appearing in Ernest Hemingway's "Nick Adams" stories.

### **Wildlife**

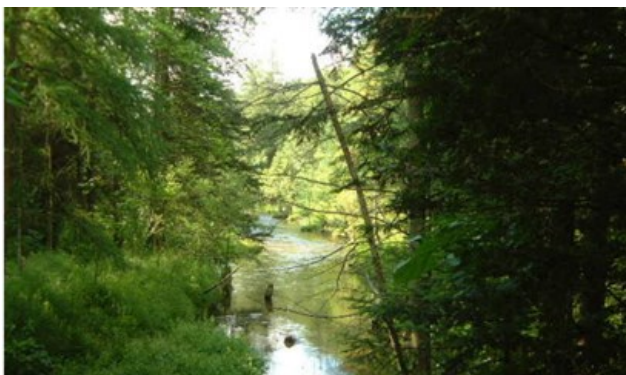
Whitetail deer, bobcats, rabbits, fox, skunks, porcupines, coyote, black bear, opossum, weasel, mink, beaver, otter, squirrels, badgers, woodchuck, muskrat and numerous species of birds are found in Kalkaska County. Hunting was a part of life in the area long before Michigan became a state; and today, hunting is

a multimillion-dollar sport, which helps to fund the conservation of natural resources across the state.

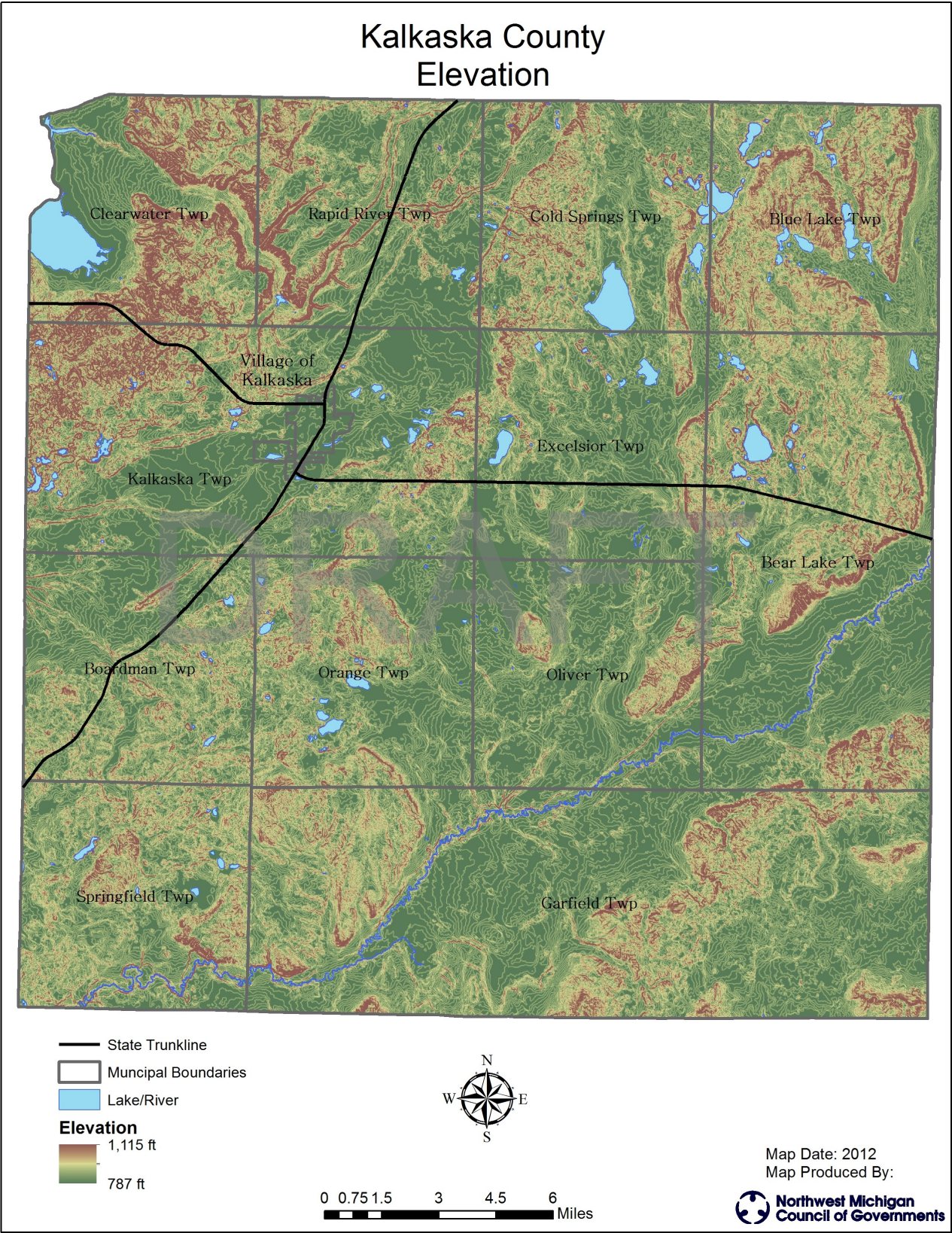
The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) enforces the hunting and conservation laws within the area, and issues licenses for the hunting of game animals, game birds, and fur-bearing animals. Approximately 1,000,000 people participate in hunting activities within the state throughout the year. An additional 16,000 people have a fur harvester's license. Popular game animals and birds in the county include deer, bear, wild turkey, waterfowl, woodcock, grouse, coyote, and fox.

### **Climate**

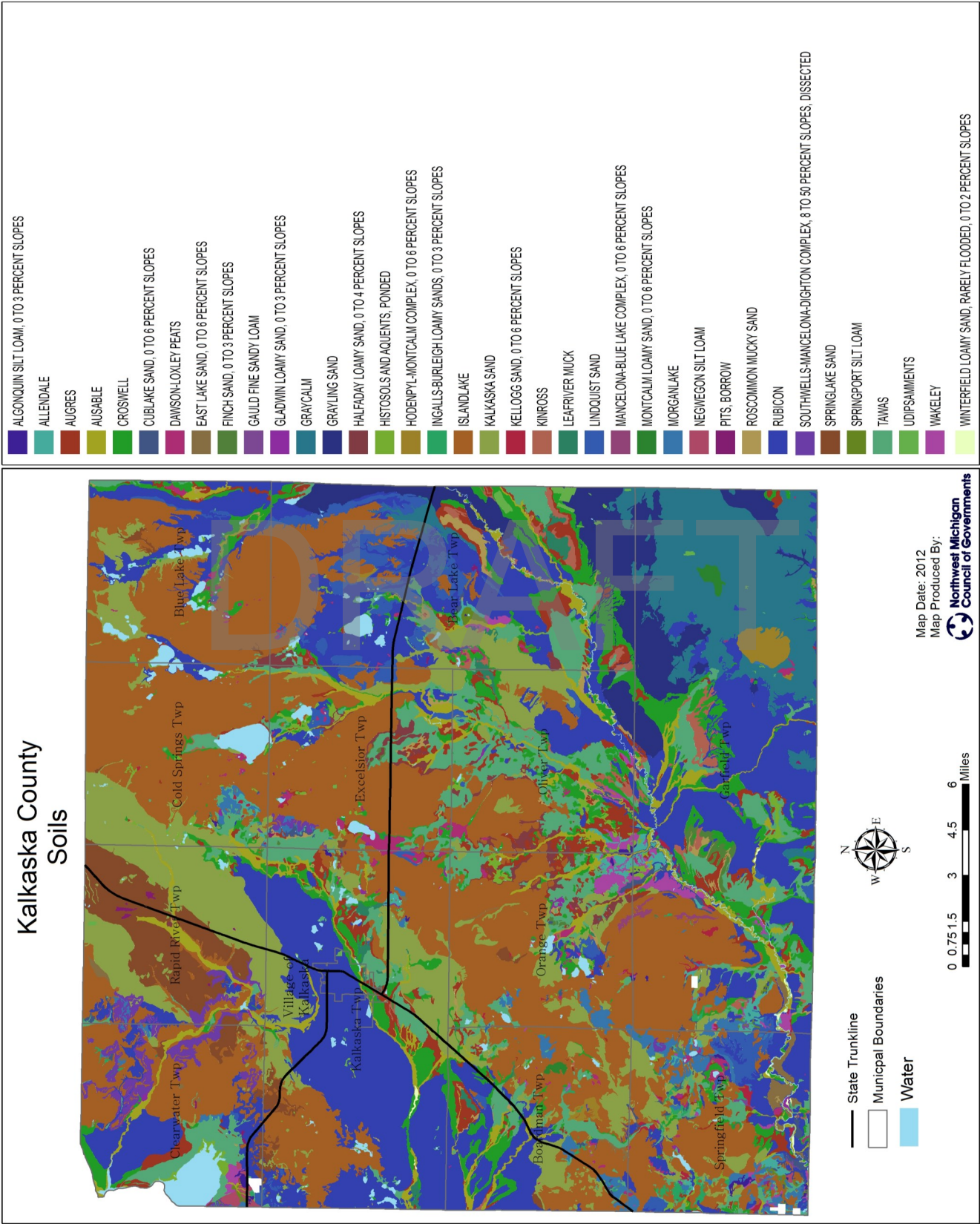
Lake Michigan provides the dominant climatic influence on the area. Located within the "snow belt," Kalkaska County's temperatures vary from approximately 26 sub-zero days in the winter to about 8 days of above 90°F days during the summer. Spring and fall temperatures range from 40°F to 70°F. Average annual rainfall is 31 inches, and snowfall averages 126 inches (10.5 ft). November is usually the beginning of permanent snow accumulation, ending in late March to early April. The annual growing season is 110 days.

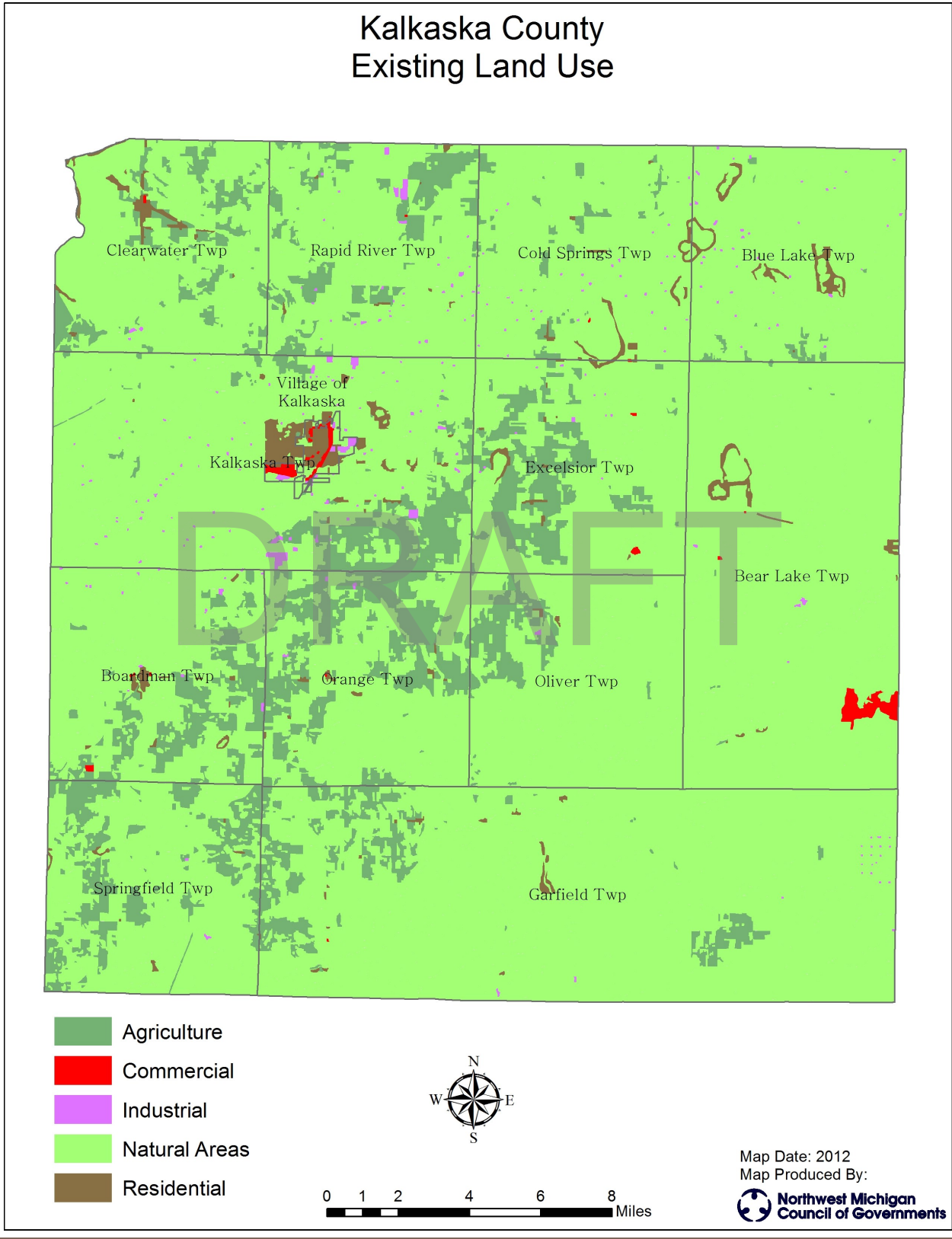




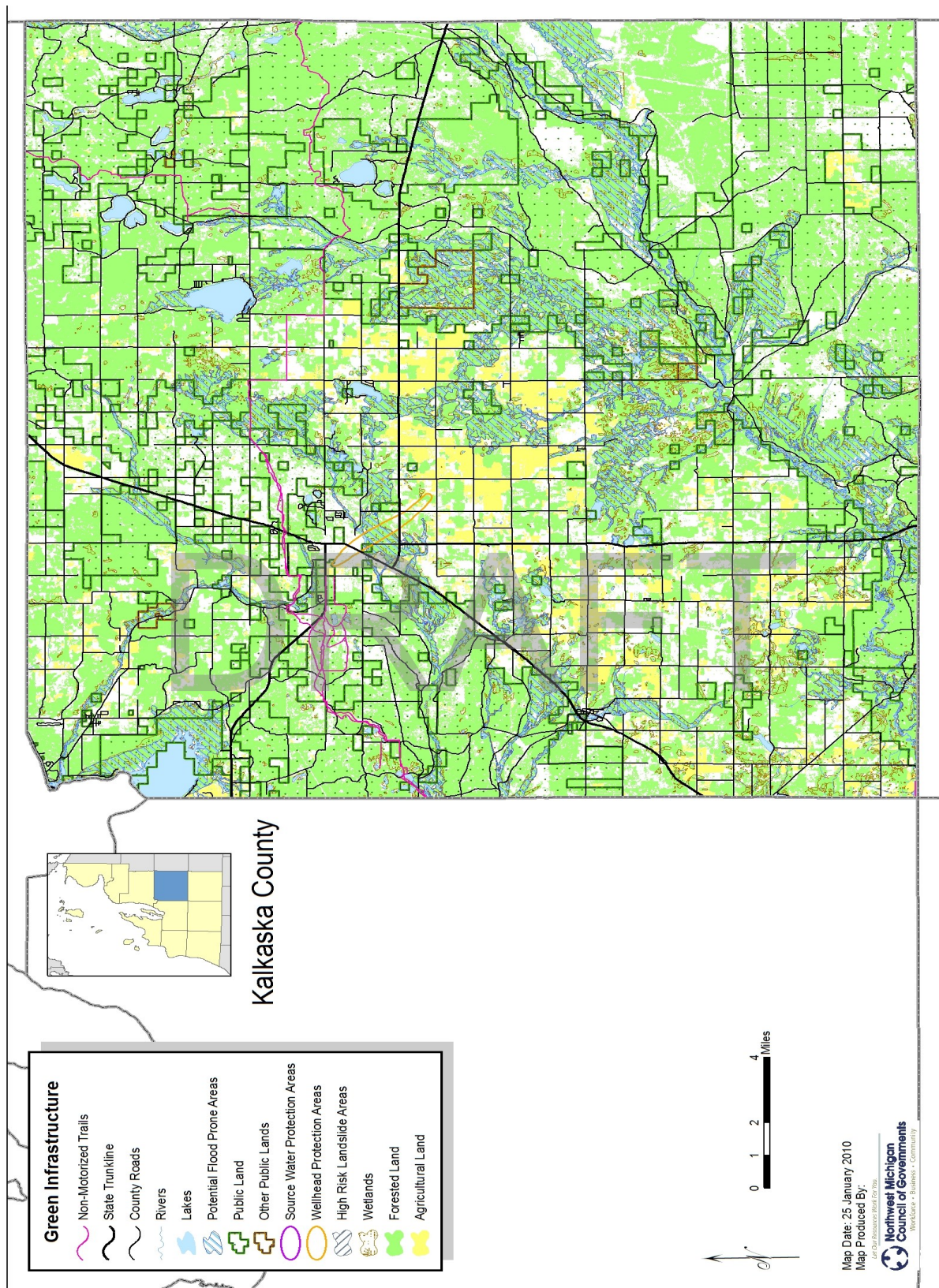












# Chapter 2: Administrative Structure

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## Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners

The Kalkaska County Board consists of seven members that are elected by the public every four years. The County Board adopts budgets, approves contracts, adopts policies, and oversees staff. Budgets, planning, staffing, and other issues related to parks, recreation, and other County facilities are also overseen by the Council.

## Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

The Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is a group that provides recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners on recreation programming and activities. Membership on the group is open.

## Planning Commission

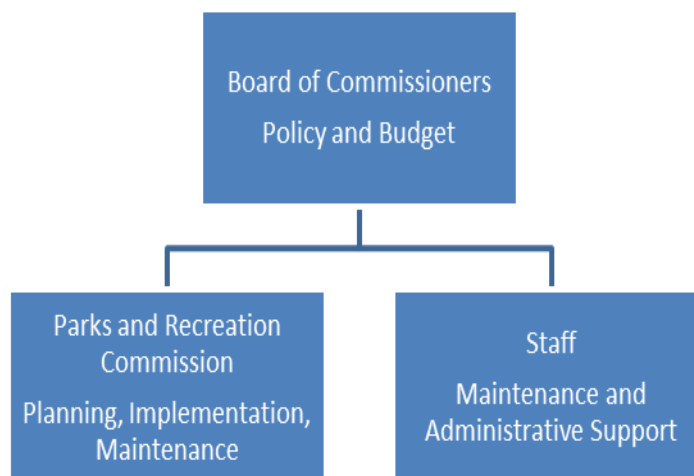
The County Planning Commission is a 7-member body appointed by the County Board to administer the County Zoning Ordinance, create plans, and serve in an advisory role on various planning issues.

## Staff & Volunteers

Parks are maintained by both seasonal and year-round employees. Two full-time employees, including a director and administrative assistant, are employed at the Kaliseum, which also employs 21 part-time employees. A part-time caretaker is employed seasonally to manage Log Lake Campground. Maintenance at other parks is handled primarily by Department of Public Works staff. A seasonal part-time employee provides lawn-maintenance in the summer.

Some maintenance activities are conducted by community service programs through the County jail.

Volunteers provide maintenance for landscaping on the KART Trail. Additionally, a local garden club provides flowers at locations throughout the community and along the trail.



### **Funding & Budgeting**

Funding for parks and recreation activities comes from the County's general fund, with specific budgets for parks and recreation; Log Lake Campground; and the Kaliseum (see Appendix C for detailed budgets).

\$24,566 was budgeted for general parks and recreation activities in 2013. \$22,115 was budgeted for Log Lake Campground, which is funded by a combination of user fees and rent.

\$611,929 was budgeted for 2013 for the Kaliseum. An operational millage partially funds the maintenance and operations of the Kaliseum; the millage was approved in 2012 and will expire in 2016. User fees, donations, rentals, and program fees fund the remainder of the Kaliseum's operating expenses.

### **Grants**

A cell tower is currently located on the recreational grounds of the Civic Center and Kaliseum. Per State of Michigan requirements, the County is not eligible to apply for state recreation funding until the cell tower has been removed from the property/relocated, or an additional, adjacent acre of land has been added to the recreational complex.



# Chapter 3: Recreation Inventory

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Kalkaska County has eight public parks including Kaliseum, Civic Center/Fairgrounds, the KART Trail, Log Lake Campground, and Rugg Pond Natural Area, as well as numerous road ends that provide public access to lakes throughout the County.

The Recreation Inventory provides discussion on the County's recreation facilities, and their place in the community, as well as parks and recreation facilities surrounding the Village. Included for each facility is a summary of public input relative to the park, received through the Recreation Plan questionnaire or public meetings. The inventory also includes an assessment of the accessibility of the park to people with disabilities, based on criteria provided in the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plan. The assessment considers the accessibility of both the facilities themselves, as well as the access routes to them.

The Accessibility Assessments for the Kalkaska County Parks were based upon criteria provided in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans – An assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves, as well as the access routes to

them. Please see **Appendix A**.

Ranking system:

1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

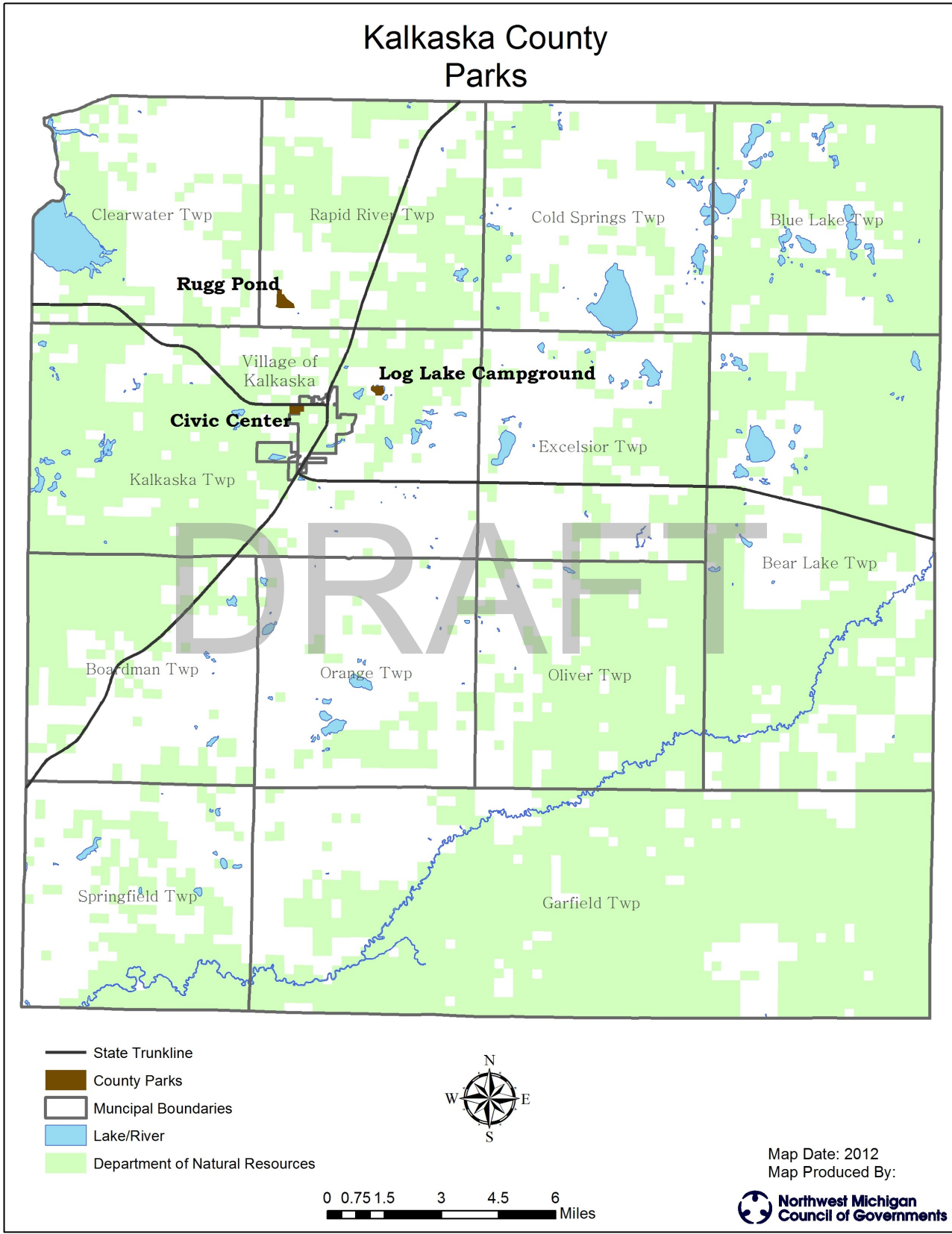
2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines

5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Because of their importance to residents, the inventory also identifies parks and recreation facilities found regionally.





## Kaliseum

The Kaliseum is an indoor recreational complex that provides space for spectator events, aquatic sports, ice rink and other athletic and community activities. The Kaliseum was built in 1999, with funding from a millage and grants. Maintenance and operational costs are funded by user/membership fees and an operational millage approved in 2012, which will provide funding through 2016.

A wide range of activities are held at the Kaliseum, including a variety of exercise classes, educational programs, hockey and roller derby games, pickleball, community meetings, and concerts. All of the Kaliseum's amenities are available to rent for parties, events, and other activities. Some office space is also available to rent for a nominal fee. A number of community events, including Winterfest, monthly concerts, and other activities, are held at the Kaliseum.

Public input on the Kaliseum focused on maintenance, management, and suggested improvements to locker rooms and restrooms.

About 39% of Recreation Questionnaire respondents indicated that they use the facility, and about the same percentage—40% of total respondents—answered that they are satisfied with the facility. However, usage rates and satisfaction levels vary for the different facilities within the Kaliseum. Higher usage and satisfaction rates were identified for the pool, while the multi-purpose room received the lowest satisfaction rates. Numerous comments provided suggestions for improvements, with a focus on maintenance, improvements to the fitness room, and multi-purpose room.

### Facilities include:

- Physical Activity Room/Fitness Center
- Conference Room
- Multi Purpose Room
- Lap pool – 25' yard pool, 3'6" deep
- Leisure pool – spa jets, rain umbrella, play fountains, and waterslide – 0-3' deep
- Ice Rink

### Accessibility Assessment = 3



### Kalkaska County Civic Center & Fairgrounds

The Kalkaska County Civic Center and Fairgrounds are located on a 6.5 acre complex that includes a variety of amenities that are used year-round and as the site of the Kalkaska County Fair, which is held annually in July. The Fairgrounds includes baseball diamonds, soccer fields, an arena with bleachers, a horse arena, livestock buildings, a concession stand, and picnic areas; indoor exhibit, event, and meeting space is available in the Civic Center building. A community garden is also located on the Fairgrounds site; produce raised in the garden is donated to the Kalkaska Senior Center.

A number of community events, including the Kalkaska Trout Festival, Winterfest, monthly concerts, outdoor movies, and other community-oriented activities such as fundraising events, are held at the fairgrounds.

The Civic Center building and fairgrounds are primarily used in the summer months. An

energy audit was recently conducted for the Civic Center building, which found that heating the building during the winter months is cost-prohibitive.

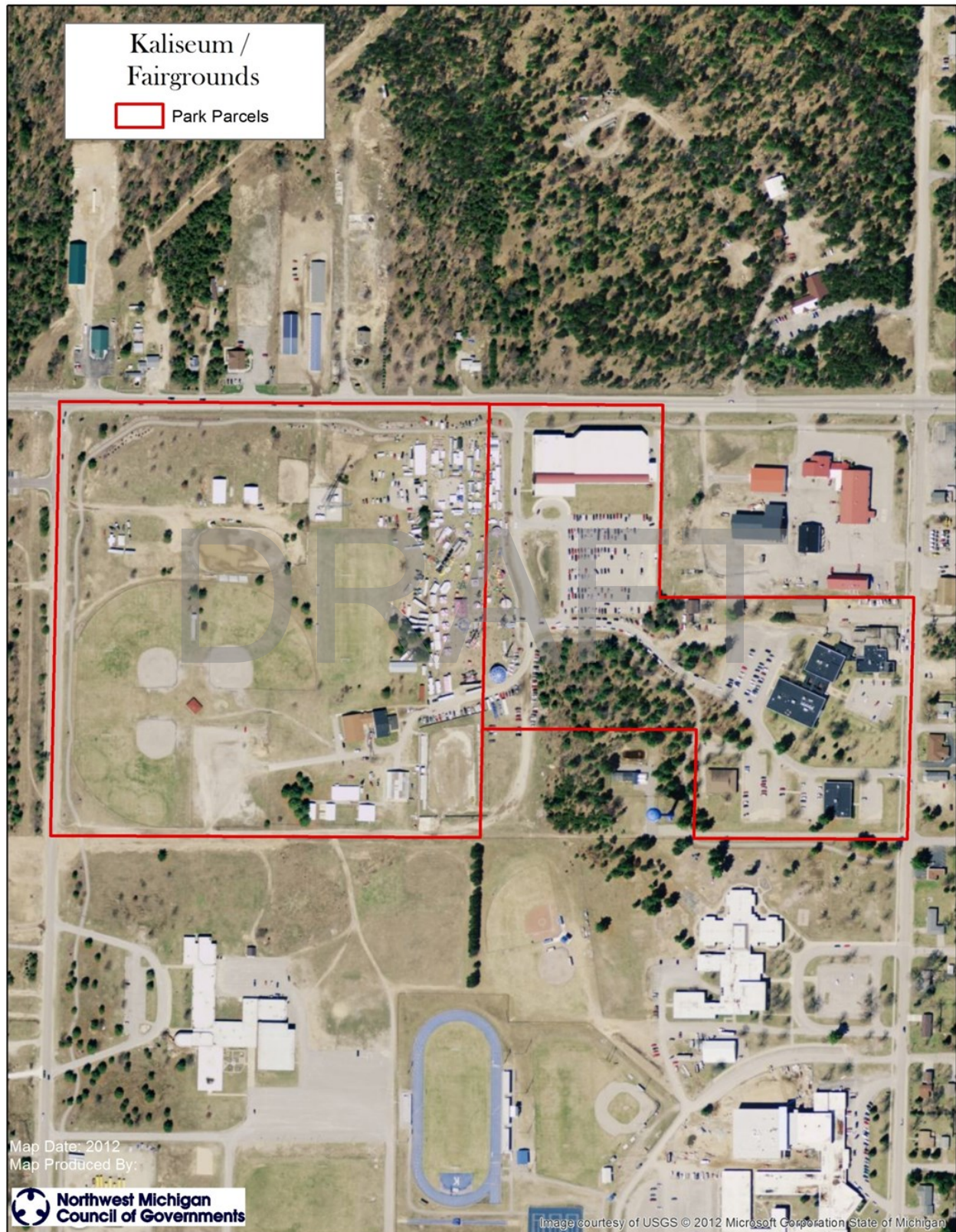
Public input focused on the need for improvements or renovation to the Civic Center building, as well as interest in seeing the building used for more activities. Input also included a number of suggestions for improved lighting at the athletic fields, and some suggested general improvements regarding the cleanliness and condition of the Civic Center building.

#### Facilities include:

- Community Garden
- Arena
- Kalkaska Area Recreational Trail (KART)
- Ball Diamonds
- Soccer Fields
- Horse arena

#### Accessibility Assessment = 2









### Kalkaska Area Recreational Transportation (KART)

The Kalkaska Area Recreational Transportation (KART) Trail is a 2-mile long, paved, non-motorized trail that loops around the Kalkaska County Fairgrounds, Kaliseum, Kalkaska Public Schools, and Kalkaska County administrative buildings. Residents and visitors can access the trail at the Kalkaska County Fairgrounds for walking, running, bicycling, skiing, and snowshoeing.

The trail was constructed in 2007 with funding from Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) grants and local match from KART partners, including the Village of Kalkaska and Kalkaska County. Ownership and maintenance responsibilities are shared by Kalkaska County, the Village of Kalkaska, Kalkaska Public Schools, and MDOT. Volunteers provide some assistance with maintenance and landscaping.

The existing trail was intended to be Phase 1. Phase 2 of the trail would extend to a planned

“Boardman River Nature Trail” to the south of the Village of Kalkaska. Other suggested additions to the KART trail would include linkages to Village-owned forest property and provide linkages to Chalker Park and Log Lake Campground.

Public input received during the planning process indicated that the KART Trail is one of the most regularly used parks facilities, and reflected a high level of satisfaction with the trail. Most suggested improvements focused on potential connections to other trail systems or parks, or expansion/extension of the existing trail.

#### Facilities include:

- Paved trail
- Landscaping
- Water fountains
- Dog waste bag dispensers

#### Accessibility Assessment

The facility was developed using the principals of universal design.



## Log Lake Campground

Log Lake Campground offers 40 wooded campsites, with electric, sewer available on 10 sites. The campground and park are located on a 92.3 acre site, which was willed to Kalkaska County with the provision that the property always be used as a County facility.

Pavilions are available to rent, and playground equipment, restrooms, a disc golf course, ball fields, soccer field, boat launch, and swimming beach are available to visitors. The property is used for local events such as the K-Town Ice Classic, a disc golf tournament.

Maintenance and operational costs are funded by user fees. Seasonal contract staff provides assistance with maintenance and administrative activities.

Public input indicates the park's beach, pavilion, and disc golf are more often used by residents than the campground, which is primarily used by visitors. Comments included

accolades on recent improvements as well as some concerns regarding the condition and management of the facility. Comments were also received regarding the disc golf course, with suggestions that the disc golf amenities be upgraded to meet competition specifications.

### Facilities include:

- Campsites (40)
- Camp store
- Public swimming beach
- Picnic area / Pavilions
- Disc golf / Nature trail
- Boat Launch / Fishing area
- Playground
- Ball Diamonds
- Soccer Fields
- Horseshoe Pits
- Showers
- Restrooms
- Movie screen

**Accessibility Assessment = 3**







## Rugg Pond Natural Area

Rugg Pond is a small park providing fishing and hiking access, located at the convergence of the two branches of the Rapid River, northwest of Kalkaska. Rugg Pond was formed following the construction of a dam built in 1904 for the Kalkaska Light and Power Company, which was eventually turned over to Kalkaska County for \$1 in 1953. The dam was condemned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1980. In 1982, a number of concerned citizens formed a group called 'Save Rugg Pond Natural Area,' to ensure the preservation and continued access to the scenic, historic site, which may once have been used for fishing by author Ernest Hemingway.

Rugg Pond park includes a trail, scenic overlook, fishing access, and a small boat launch. There is a trail network that extends almost around the entire perimeter of the pond; however, the trails are not maintained and mostly used for fishing. No restrooms are present. The Rugg Pond property also includes the surrounding wetland area.

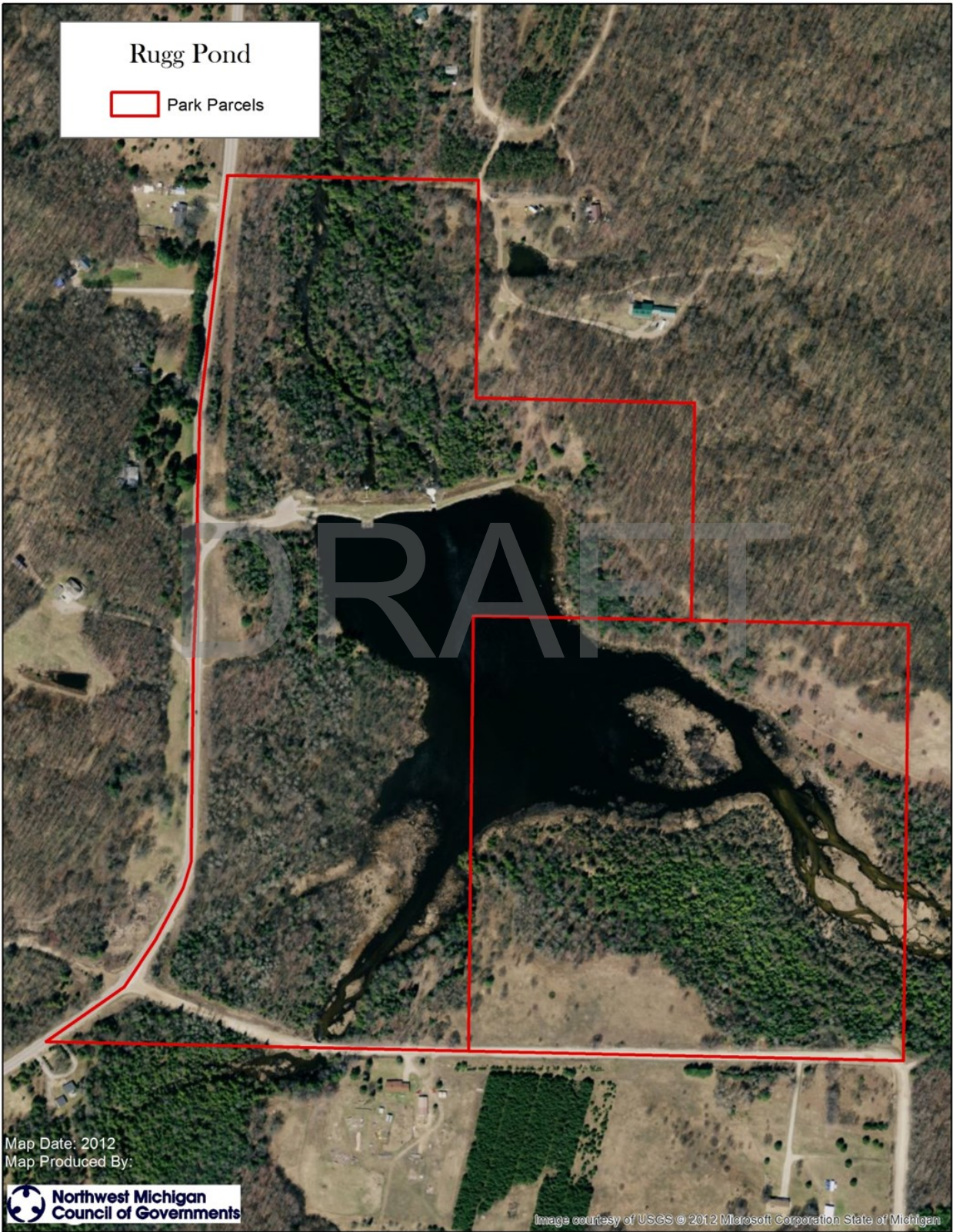
Rugg Pond Natural Area was identified during the recreation planning process as one of the most-used parks in the County. Public input regarding Rugg Pond was positive and supportive of preserving the park in its current state, with some suggestions to extend the trail all the way around the pond, or to connect with nearby trails.

### Facilities include:

- ¼ mile trail
- Boat launch
- Fishing access
- Scenic Overlook

### Accessibility Assessment = 1









## County Road Ends

County road-ends provide water access to several lakes in the County. While these are not developed parks, they are County-owned public properties that provide an important recreational access to lakes in the County. Road-end public access is primarily used by neighborhoods. In some cases, improvements such as benches or fire hydrants may be considered. Road-end public access points are located on lakes and streets including:

- **East Lake**
- **Manistee Lake**
- **South Torch Lake**
  - Birch Street
  - Oak Street
  - Maple Street
  - Pine Street
  - Cedar Street
  - Division Street
  - Lake Street

## Regional Recreational Assets

A wide variety of public and private recreation opportunities are available within Kalkaska County and a short distance away from the County. Townships and the Village of Kalkaska maintain local parks and recreation facilities, while numerous state and federal parks, including campgrounds, boat launches, state and federal forest land, and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore are located within or near the County. Private recreation facilities, including golf courses, casinos, campgrounds, numerous shopping opportunities, and statewide attractions such as the Interlochen Center for the Arts and Boyne Mountain Ski Resort are available in the County and regionally.

### State and Federal Land

Nearly half of Kalkaska County's total land acreage is in public ownership. While about 7% of that (16,526 acres) is federally owned and is

primarily used for the military, a significant majority of public land is available for public use. About 153,255 acres, or 42% of Kalkaska County's total acreage, is owned by the State of Michigan. State-owned acreage is primarily part of the Pere Marquette State Forest. See Table 5, page 36, for recreational opportunities in Kalkaska managed by the State of Michigan.

### Township & Village Recreational Facilities

The Village of Kalkaska and many townships own and maintain community parks, recreation facilities, and trails that are available to the public. See Table 6 (page 36).

### Trails

- **Boardman Valley Snowmobile Trail.** The Boardman Valley Snowmobile Trail provides 25 miles of groomed and marked snowmobile trail in southern and western Kalkaska County.
- **Cranberry Snowmobile Trail.** The Cranberry Snowmobile Trail provides 28 miles of groomed and marked snowmobile trails in northern and eastern Kalkaska County.
- **Kalkaska Cycle Trail.** The Kalkaska Cycle Trail is an 89 mile ORV trail that extends from Kalkaska north into Antrim County.
- **Leetsville Cycle Trail.** The Leetsville Cycle Trail is a 23 mile single-track ORV trail running through northern Kalkaska County.
- **Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail.** The Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail (MCCCT) covers hundreds of miles and connects



many trail systems throughout Michigan's lower peninsula. The MCCT trail is designed for off-road motorcycles and runs through western and northern Kalkaska County.

- **Miss-Kal Snowmobile Trail.** The Miss-Kal Snowmobile Trail is a 70-mile groomed and marked snowmobile trail that crosses into Kalkaska County from Missaukee County to the south.
- **North Country Trail.** The North Country Trail is a National Scenic Trail, stretching 4,600 miles over 7 states, from New York to North Dakota. 10 national forests, and more than 150 public lands, the North Country Trail is the largest National Scenic Trail in the US. In Kalkaska County, the trail runs roughly southwest to east, with parking access at the Kalkaska County Fairgrounds and Log Lake Campground. The Grand Traverse Hiking Club is responsible for developing, maintaining, protecting, and promoting this section of the North Country Trail.
- **Shore-to-Shore Trail.** The Shore-to-Shore Trail is a 220-mile horseback/hiking trail that runs between Empire to Oscoda, Michigan. A trail camp is available along the Rapid River in Kalkaska County. The Michigan Trail Riders Association works in partnership with the MDNR and National Forest Service to provide maintenance and promotional activities for the trail.
- **Mountain Bike Trail.** A new mountain bike trail system that would provide connections between the Village of Kalkaska and Grand Traverse County is



currently pending approval from the State of Michigan (2013).

### Other Facilities/Activities

Many other private facilities and activities are available in Kalkaska County, including numerous private youth camps, museums, nature centers, campgrounds, golf courses, cross country skiing, snowmobile clubs, horseback riding, fishing charters, and boat rentals. Hunting is available at different parks throughout the County. Please check with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for rules and regulations on hunting and fishing and the specific township for details.

## Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

**Table 5. State of Michigan Recreation Facilities**

Facility	Description and Activities	Acres	
Pere Marquette State Forest	The Pere Marquette State Forest encompasses lands in the upper lower peninsula on the western side of the state. Counties within the Pere Marquette, are: Kalkaska, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Oceana, Newaygo and Mecosta.	177,000	
Guernsey Lake State Forest Campground	Fishing, hiking, mountain biking, ORV trails, wildlife/birdwatching, boat launch, 36 rustic campsites, vault toilets, well hand pump		Kalkaska Township
CCC Bridge State Forest Campground	Fishing, canoeing/kayaking, ORV trails, wildlife/birdwatching, boat launch, 32 rustic campsites, vault toilets, well hand pump		Oliver Township
Pickereel Lake State Forest Campground	Fishing, ORV trails, boat launch, wildlife/birdwatching, 13 rustic campsites, vault toilets, well hand pump		Garfield Township
Sand Lake Quiet Area	Hiking, 36 rustic campsites, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing, mountain biking	2,800 acres	Springfield Township
Torch River Boat Launch	Boat launch		
Manistee River Boat Launch	Paved boat launch, parking		Springfield Township
Manistee River Boat Launch	Boat launch, parking		Garfield Township
Manistee River Boat Launch	Paved boat launch, parking		Oliver Township
Cranberry Lake Boat Launch	Paved boat launch, parking		Bear Lake Township
East Lake Boat Launch	Paved boat launch, parking		Orange Township
Bear Lake Boat Launch	Paved boat launch		Bear Lake Township
Big Blue Lake	Paved boat launch, skid pier, public toilet, parking		Blue Lake
Big Twin Lake	Paved boat launch, skid pier, public toilet, parking		Cold Springs Twp
Yellow Tree	Boat launch		Bear Lake Twp
Hole in the Fence	Boat launch		Bear Lake Twp
Sharon Road	Boat launch		Garfield Twp
Sandbanks	Boat launch, public toilet		Garfield Twp
Rainbow Jim's	Boat launch, public toilet		Springfield Twp
3 Mile Road	Boat launch		Garfield Twp
4 Mile Bend	Boat launch		Oliver Twp
Seven Bridges	Fishing, hiking, wildlife/birdwatching, hunting	314 acres	Valley Road North
Skegemog Swamp Pathway	Boardwalk, birdwatching, wildlife viewing	2700 acres	Rapid City Road
Starvation Lake			



Table 6. Township and Village Parks and Recreation Facilities		Location
<b>Blue Lake Township</b>		
Manistee Lake Swimming Access	Swimming access	
<b>Boardman Township</b>		
Township Park #13	Baseball diamond, basketball court, swings, volleyball court	School Street
Township Park #2	Picnic tables, grills	Near railroad tracks across from post office
Township Park #3	Picnic tables, grill, Mill Pond, fishing, dam	Young's Pond, on Mill Street
Township Park #4	Lighted baseball diamond, swings, outdoor bathrooms, concession stand, picnic pavilion, outdoor grills, picnic tables.	Boardman River Rd
<b>Clearwater Township</b>		
Clearwater Township Park	½ mile paved walking trail, baseball diamonds, soccer field, pavilion	Rapid City Rd
Freedom Park	Pavilions, playground, outdoor grills, baseball diamond, rustic trails to Rapid River, outdoor toilets	Rapid City Rd
Heritage Park	Baseball diamonds, picnicking, open space, play equipment	Rapid City
<b>Coldsprings Township</b>		
Sands Park	Lake access, picnicking, swimming beach, boat launch	Manistee Lake
<b>Garfield Township</b>		
Garfield Township Park	Baseball diamonds	
<b>Village of Kalkaska</b>		
Mill Pond Park	Small picnic area, parking lot, playground, farmers market	Hyde Street, Kalkaska
Chalker Park	Imagination Station (playground), sledding hill, picnic gazebo, restroom facilities, basketball courts, parking.	5 <sup>th</sup> /Laurel Street, Kalkaska
Snowpackers Clubhouse/Trailhead	Community building located at a snowmobile trailhead that includes a kitchen and seating area.	Island Lake Road, Kalkaska
<b>Rapid River Township</b>		
Rapid River Township Community Park	Play structure, well, parking,	Phelps Rd, Rapid City
Croy Lake	Walking paths, wildlife viewing	Priest Rd, Rapid River Township
<b>Springfield Township</b>		
Springfield Township Recreation Center	Manistee River overlook, playground, pavilion, summertime farmers market, sledding hills, heated pavilion, community event center	

# Chapter 4: Planning & Public Input

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## Public Input

To obtain residents' and property owners' opinions and suggestions on recreation, a number of opportunities for public input were provided throughout the Recreation Plan process, including a questionnaire, a public forum, and discussions at regular Parks and Recreation Committee meetings.

### 2012 Kalkaska County Recreation Questionnaire

The Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Committee released a Recreation Questionnaire in November 2012, in order to better understand the community's preferences around parks and recreation. The questionnaire was not designed as a scientifically valid random-sample survey. Rather, the intent was to provide the opportunity for as many residents, property owners, and visitors to participate in the survey as possible. To this end, a total of 7,947 surveys were mailed the week of November 21 to all addresses in Kalkaska County; surveys were also made available online, and were handed out at grocery stores and other locations in Kalkaska County. Recipients were asked to return their surveys by December 21. 341 surveys were returned. Results and comments specific to each park are summarized in Chapter 3 under each respective park; a report and overview of questionnaire responses is included in Appendix A. Results

and comments regarding general recreational issues are summarized below.

- Grants were identified as the most popular funding mechanism for recreation activities or improvements, with nearly 90% of respondents indicating that they would support grants for these activities, followed by community endowment, with 65% of respondents supporting.
- The *library* ranked highest in question #5, which asked what recreation opportunities were important (80%). Following the library, *natural area parks and trails* were ranked highest. *Trails* were also frequently noted in comments, with some general comments suggesting trail expansions or connections and other suggestions relative to specific trail segments. Trails also ranked highly in question #6, which asked for opinions on new or expanded recreation opportunities. Over half of respondents answered that they would like to see new or expanded natural area parks or trails (58.6%), regional or community trail connections (56.5%), and non-motorized trails (55%).
- The *library* ranked highest in question #6, which asked what new or expanded recreation opportunities participants would like to see in Kalkaska County (72%). Additionally, a large number of comments were provided on the library. The majority of comments expressed interest or support for a library expansion, or reinforced the

importance of the library. Following the library, *performing arts events and venues* and *community festivals* (58.4%) were the highest ranking recreation choice in question #6.

- Maintenance or cleanliness, along with general improvements, were cited in a number of comments for several facilities. “Improvements to existing parks” ranked highly in both questions #5 and #6, which asked about importance of and new/expanded recreation opportunities.

#### **January 22 Public Forum**

A public forum was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 in the Kaliseum. The event was promoted in the Leader-Kaskaskian newspaper, with additional promotion from social media and viral networking. Approximately 30 people attended. A presentation was provided to participants regarding the recreation plan process and the results of the Kalkaska County Recreation Questionnaire. Following the presentation, participants provided comments and identified priorities for each of the County’s recreation facilities, as well as for general recreation opportunities such as Trails; Performing Arts, Festivals, and Events; Skate Park; and Library.

Comments largely reinforced those received on the Kalkaska County Recreation Questionnaire. Complete comments are included in Appendix A.

#### **Public Comment Period**

*The County Board of Commissioners must release and announce the Recreation Plan for a 30-day public review period. Dates will be identified.*

#### **Public Hearing and Adoption**

*The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners regarding adoption of the Recreation Plan. The County Board will hold a public hearing and will consider adoption following the public hearing (at the same or a subsequent meeting).*

### **Kalkaska County Master Plan**

Recreation is a primary focus of the 2010 Master Plan, with recognizes the significant impact that natural resources provide on the County’s recreation opportunities, and subsequently, quality of life and economy. Guiding Principle #11 (below) provides guidance and policies for protecting natural resources with these factors in mind:





*Guiding Principle #11: Highlight the fact that Kalkaska County is a playground. People live and visit the County to enjoy the many recreational amenities such as snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, camping, canoeing, hiking, biking, cross country skiing, rafting, and ATV riding. The huge amount of State-owned land and the clean, pristine rivers provide these great recreation opportunities and add to the quality of life. This is a place to play.*

*Policies: The following are the policies highlighting Kalkaska County as a playground.*

- *Prevent the over-development of these resources.*
- *Promote regulations that respect and protect the quality of the land, water, plants, and animals.*
- *Ensure that Township and Village Master Plans address these amenities and their protection.*
- *Utilize the Recreation and Open Space Plan when making land use decisions and*

*purchasing land.*

- *Use land conservancies and conservation easements to protect open space and recreation-oriented areas.*
- *Be familiar with the State's plan for State owned lands and support initiatives for land preservation.*
- *Support eco-tourism (tourism based on natural resources) as an economic support for the County, but don't overuse the resources.*
- *Maintain the quality of the rivers and streams to continue to provide pleasant recreational experiences.*
- *Encourage the development of State, County, and Township improved parks and facilities within the County.*

The Master Plan also provides designations and recommendations for Forest Areas, Recreation Stream Corridor Land Uses, and Special Purpose Areas that provide recommendations for actions regarding recreation and preservation of high-quality natural resources (see page ).

## 2008 Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

In 2008, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments developed the **Northwest**



**Michigan Regional Non-Motorized  
Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy**

for the 13 counties of Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Benzie, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola, Lake, and Mason in northwest, lower Michigan. The Michigan Department of Transportation commissioned the plan and will use it to prioritize funding projects in the future. The guiding vision of this project is to connect existing trails, offering residents and visitors more opportunities for non-motorized transportation, and to enjoy more of the region's natural resources.

The project gathered information on existing and future trails from the county, townships, and village parks and recreation commissions, planning commissions and staff, and board members. Sub-regional meetings took place with trail organizations, groups, and stakeholders to review the proposed trail maps for their input. Compiled maps were presented to the public at sub-regional trail gatherings for input and where the proposed trails were prioritized. Proposed routes for Kalkaska County were as follows:

- Create a trail from Fife Lake to Mancelona through Kalkaska
- Create a trail from Kalkaska to Rapid City through the Seven Bridges Natural Area
- Create a trail from Kalkaska to Williamsburg to the TART Trails

- Create a trail from Kalkaska to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Sand Lakes Quiet Area to VASA Trail (TART Trails)
- Create a trail from Wilhelm Road south to M-72 on the railroad right-of-way

## **Kalkaska County Master Plan—Land Use Visions & Action Steps**

### ***Forest Land Use Designation—Vision***

- Primary use is open space and recreation
- Is a beautiful and heavily forested area
- Healthy wildlife and excellent water quality

### ***Recreation Stream Corridor—Vision***

- Minimal development along the Rapid River, Boardman River, and Manistee River edges and their tributaries
- Visually appealing area
- Inter-mixed public and private owned lands along river edges
- Mix of year round, seasonal, and resort occupancy. Single family development permitted here.
- Bountiful fish in the rivers and streams
- Sensitive and sustainable environmental area
- Critical and protected wildlife corridor
- Preservation of natural vegetation to provide shade for the rivers and their tributaries

### ***Recreation Stream Corridor—Action Steps***

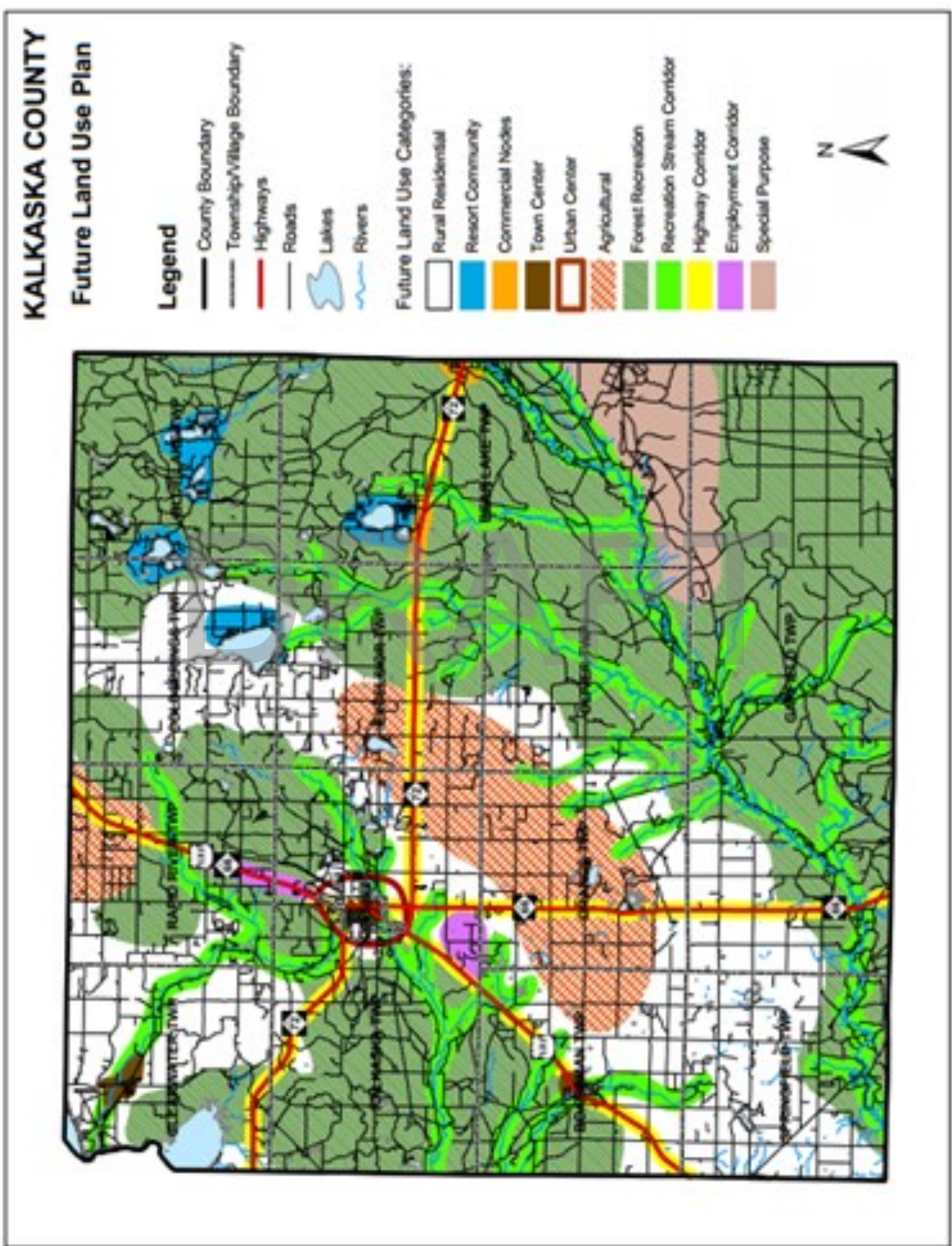
- Develop and use a wildlife and water quality protection plan.
- Keep impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, and rooftops away from the water's edge.
- Minimize infrastructure improvements. Only permit improvements for environmental or public health and safety reasons, not to increase density.
- Prohibit keyholing.
- Develop a zoning provision protecting these areas.

### ***Special Purpose Land Use—Vision***

- Government or publically owned lands
- Compatible with the Forested Land Uses
- Low impact development
- Used recreationally

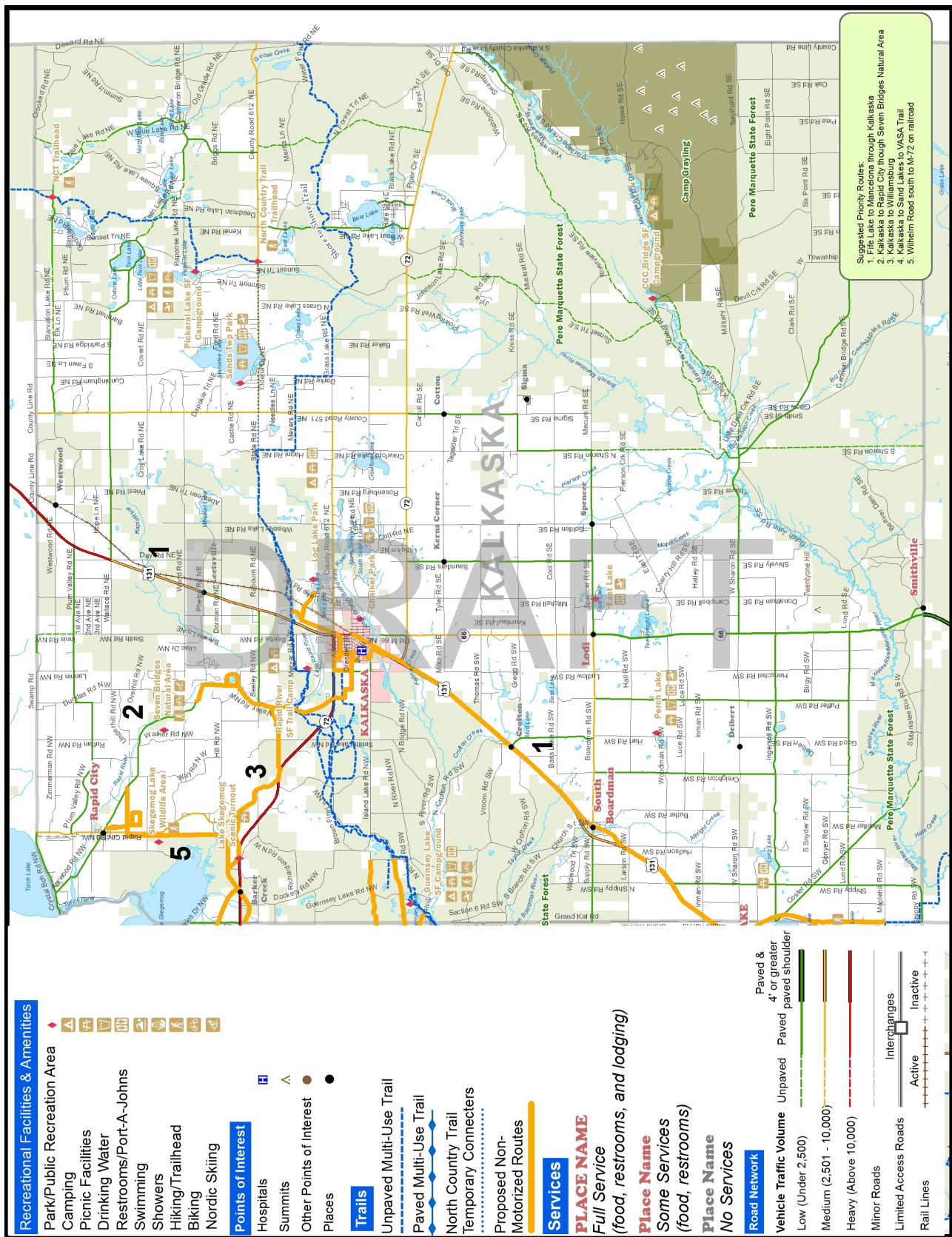
### ***Special Purpose Areas—Action Steps***

- Know and understand the future plans for the area. Communicate often with the Federal and State government.
- Zone the area to be compatible with the adjacent forested land uses.
- Limit infrastructure improvements.
- Think of this area as primarily recreational and not for residential uses





Kalkaska County Recreation Plan



# Chapter 5: Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

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The vision, goals, objectives, and action strategies are intended to guide future decisions about recreation in a manner that reflects the community's values and priorities. These goals were developed based on review of existing facilities and public input obtained through:

- 2012 Kalkaska County Recreation Questionnaire
- January 22 Public Forum
- Regular meetings of the Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Committee

In addition to public input, other County and regional plans and strategies have been reviewed to ensure that goals, objectives, and action are consistent with and aligned with other County goals and priorities.

## Vision

*Kalkaska County's recreation opportunities are high-quality, popular attractions for both residents and visitors. Residents, user groups, volunteers, local and County governments, and local, state, and federal partner organizations work in tandem to ensure that facilities are well-maintained, activities are coordinated amongst partners and user groups, and improvements and management are cost-effective. The County's abundant recreation opportunities are a well-recognized asset that help drive and support economic development activities County-wide, while enhancing the community's quality of life and sense of place.*

## Definitions

In order to appropriately administer goals, objectives and strategies—and to ensure that progress is being made towards the community's vision—it's important to understand the roles of each and their relationship to each other.

- **Vision** is the preferred future , and serves as the basis for planning goals and objectives.
- **Goals** provide general direction and serve as a description of the desired future. They address issues and specific needs, but are broad in scope.
- **Objectives** are a means of achieving goals, and are attainable.
- **Action Strategies** set forth the specifics necessary to accomplish objectives. One strategy might be used to accomplish multiple objectives; or an objective might require multiple strategies. Action strategies identify implementation tools (such as zoning changes) and the players involved in meeting goals and objectives.

## Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

Goal #1: Provide cost-effective, responsive, efficient recreation services and facilities.		
		Timeframe
<b>Objective</b>	Pursue grant funding for planned recreation improvements.	
<b>Action</b>	Work with County Board and cell tower stakeholders to find alternative locations for cell tower.	2013
<b>Action</b>	To ensure grant funding eligibility through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, by removing the cell phone tower currently located on recreation property and relocate on nearby property.	2014-2017
<b>Action</b>	Maintain an updated 5-year recreation plan for the purposes of guiding recreation activities and to help ensure grant funding eligibility through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Link fundraising activities with marketing efforts.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Partner with local units of governments, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to recognize mutual goals and interests to leverage funding opportunities.	Ongoing
<b>Objective</b>	Explore establishment of a community endowment to support recreation activities in Kalkaska	
<b>Action</b>	Work with Grand Traverse Community Foundation and community partners to establish a Kalkaska County endowment fund.	2013
<b>Action</b>	Develop a funding strategy to guide fundraising efforts and identify funding opportunities for recreation activities.	2013

Goal #2: Maintain and improve existing parks.		
		Timeframe
<b>Objective</b>	Ensure a high level of maintenance and management at all parks and recreation facilities.	
<b>Action</b>	Provide for ongoing funding to provide maintenance and improvements at County parks and recreation facilities.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Regularly review maintenance and improvement needs to determine appropriate staffing and funding levels.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Support “adopt a park” programs or other volunteer programs to meet specific maintenance and update needs at all parks.	Ongoing



Goal #2: Maintain and improve existing parks (continued)		
		Timeframe
Objective	Provide improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities as needed.	
<b>Rugg Pond Natural Area</b>		
Action	Coordinate with Rugg Pond Natural Area Committee regarding all Rugg Pond activities.	Ongoing
Action	Address maintenance items identified in the dam inspection report.	2013
Action	Maintain the existing natural area character of Rugg Pond.	Ongoing
Action	Extend walking trail in a loop around Rugg Pond.	2013-2017
Action	Explore potential for connecting walking trail with other trail systems/parks.	2013-2017
Action	Explore feasibility and impacts of dredging or deepening Rugg Pond.	2013-2017
Action	Provide/maintain/improve basic site amenities, such as picnic tables, grills, and restrooms/portable toilets.	2013-2017
<b>Civic Center</b>		
Action	Determine desired needs and uses for Civic Center for potential renovation/improvements.	2013-2014
Action	Improve aesthetics/condition of all Civic Center buildings.	2014+
Action	Provide lighting in Civic Center athletic fields.	2013+
Action	Work with partners to promote and expand the use of the Civic Center, through additional events or activities.	Ongoing
<b>Kaliseum</b>		
Action	Maintain and improve recreational facilities as needed.	Ongoing
Action	Determine needs and uses for multi-purpose room and fitness room improvements.	2013-2014
Action	Provide upgrades/improvements to Kaliseum locker rooms and restrooms.	2014-2017
<b>KART Trail</b>		
Action	Maintain and improve trail facilities and provide quality, long-lasting amenities, including benches, dog waste bag dispensers, and landscaping as needed.	Ongoing
Action	Develop and execute updated maintenance agreements between Kalkaska Village, Kalkaska County, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.	2013
Action	Plant trees along the KART Trail.	2013
Action	Continue to work with volunteers and partners to provide landscaping/maintenance assistance.	Ongoing
Action	Work with partners to pursue funding to implement connections to the Boardman River Nature Trail.	2013-2017
Action	Pursue KART Trail linkages to additional trail systems.	2013-2017
<b>Log Lake Campground</b>		
Action	Maintain and improve park amenities as needed, including disc golf baskets, picnic tables and grills, pavilions, and play structures.	Ongoing
Action	Provide and maintain disc golf baskets/facilities that meet specifications for competitions.	2013
Action	Provide separate restrooms for beach area.	2013-2017
Action	Review land uses and management for entire Log Lake property.	2013

## Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

<b>Goal #3: Provide a variety of recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities, that meet the community's existing and future needs.</b>		
		<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Ensure a diverse range of recreation opportunities throughout the County.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Develop a campus plan for the recreational campus and facilities at the Kaliseum and Civic Center/Fairgrounds.	2013-2017
<b>Action</b>	Encourage cooperation between federal, state, and local governments to further improve and expand opportunities at local park facilities.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Continue to work with partner organizations to facilitate and further recreational programs for all population groups.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Support township and village recreation planning and improvement activities through in-kind assistance or funding support.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Explore appropriate locations to expand/enhance existing parks and recreation facilities as needed.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Include major events and festivals, including the Trout Festival, Winterfest, County Fair, Iceman Cometh, and other major events, in all recreation facility planning activities.	Ongoing
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Ensure high-quality natural areas for outdoor recreation.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Continue to work with partners to protect and manage natural areas for outdoor recreation opportunities.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Explore opportunities to expand or enhance natural areas/preserves for outdoor recreation.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Provide for universal accessibility when acquiring and improving parks and recreation facilities.	Ongoing
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Ensure parks and recreation facilities are accessible to all users.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Ensure access for disabled by adding barrier-free features at all parks as needed.	2013-2017
<b>Action</b>	Work to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements at all existing and new park and recreational facilities.	Ongoing
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Support the development of a skate park in Kalkaska County</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Support efforts to establish a temporary skate park on publicly-owned property.	2013
<b>Action</b>	Work with partners and volunteer groups to seek grant funding and donations to establish a permanent skate park on County-owned property.	2014-2017

**Goal #4: Develop and promote an interconnected system of both motorized and non-motorized trails to enhance access to additional recreation opportunities.**

		<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Coordinate trail usage groups, goals, and activities.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Convene a “Kalkaska Trails Task Force,” with representatives from user groups, County, local governments, and state and federal agencies in order to coordinate user groups and priorities.	2013
<b>Action</b>	Work with partner organizations and volunteer groups to support community trail-building and maintenance efforts.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Consider consistent signage for trails.	Ongoing
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Promote and market trail information via information resources, social media, events and activities.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Work with and support volunteers, partner organizations, and trail user groups to provide guided hikes, races, and other trail-based events and activities.	Ongoing
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Develop an interconnected system of trailways that link communities, parks, and existing trails.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Support the implementation/approval of the new mountain bike trail system in eastern Kalkaska County (approval pending).	2013
<b>Action</b>	Work with/support the “Kalkaska Trails Task Force” to develop a prioritized action strategy for future improvements and trail connections.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Identify gaps/linkage needs in existing trailway systems.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Explore opportunities and pursue funding to create linkages between trail systems.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Work with local governments and partner organizations to expand existing trail networks and create linkages to local parks and recreation facilities.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Develop relationships/partnerships with regional trail organizations to explore additional opportunities for trail connections and enhancement.	2013-ongoing



**Goal #5: Increase the use and awareness of County-wide parks, recreation facilities, and community recreation events and activities.**

		Timeframe
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Work with partners, volunteers, and stakeholders to develop a communications/marketing strategy and campaign for all County parks, recreation facilities, and community events and activities.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Develop a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Committee to address public relations/awareness needs county-wide	2013
<b>Action</b>	Develop social media resources, brochures, and print resources for distribution to community partners and media outlets.	2013-2017
<b>Action</b>	Provide updated information, contact information, and user-friendly features on the recreation website on <a href="http://www.kalkaskacounty.net">www.kalkaskacounty.net</a> .	2013
<b>Action</b>	Identify and solicit partners to provide updated and timely information to existing community information resources, such as websites, the Kalkaska Answer Book, newspapers, and other local sources.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Seek support and assistance from partners such as the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce and state and federal agencies to promote County recreational assets.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Create a central informational site of all the County's parks and recreational facilities, such as a website or printed material.	2013-2017
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Work with volunteers and stakeholders to organize events that showcase County parks and recreation facilities.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Continue to support local/regional/statewide festivals, sporting events, tournaments, and races at County parks and recreation facilities	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Identify and solicit volunteers and stakeholders to organize nature education, such as guided hikes and birdwatching events.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Provide regular tours/orientation events for residents and visitors.	Ongoing
<b>Action</b>	Support and promote geo-caching opportunities at County parks and recreation facilities.	2013-2017
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Develop physical and visual linkages between federal, state, county, township, and village parks.</b>	
<b>Action</b>	Provide consistent signage/brand for all parks and recreation facilities.	2013-2017
<b>Action</b>	Encourage and support trail connections between parks.	Ongoing

# Appendices

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## **Appendix A:**

*2012 Kalkaska County Recreation Questionnaire—Report & Results*

## **Appendix B:**

*Legal Notices*

## **Appendix D:**

*Recreation Budgets*

## **Appendix C:**

*Resolution of Adoption*

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