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2018-2022

Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

*Prepared by Kalkaska County in collaboration with the
Village of Kalkaska, Kalkaska Downtown Development Authority,
and Kalkaska County Library*

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Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

Kalkaska County Board

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Introduction

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

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.

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

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 2016, the estimated population of Kalkaska County was 17,263. In terms of population, the County is ranked 66th out of the 83 counties in Michigan. The County has a population density of approximately 30 people per square mile.

In 1980, the County’s population had doubled its size from the previous decade due to new discoveries of oil and gas reserves. Modest increases in population have continued. The population has grown 0.6% since 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 44.4 years old, compared to the median age statewide (39.5 years).

Between 2010-2016, Kalkaska County experienced increases in all age ranges 55 years and over. As

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those aged 55 or older increased, there were simultaneous decreases of those aged 35-54, and among all ages cohorts below 20 years of age, with accompanying shifts in household size and type. These age changes are also reflected in the declining numbers of family households in the County.

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 19 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 is also important to ensure that activities and amenities in the community are within the financial means of the majority of residents.

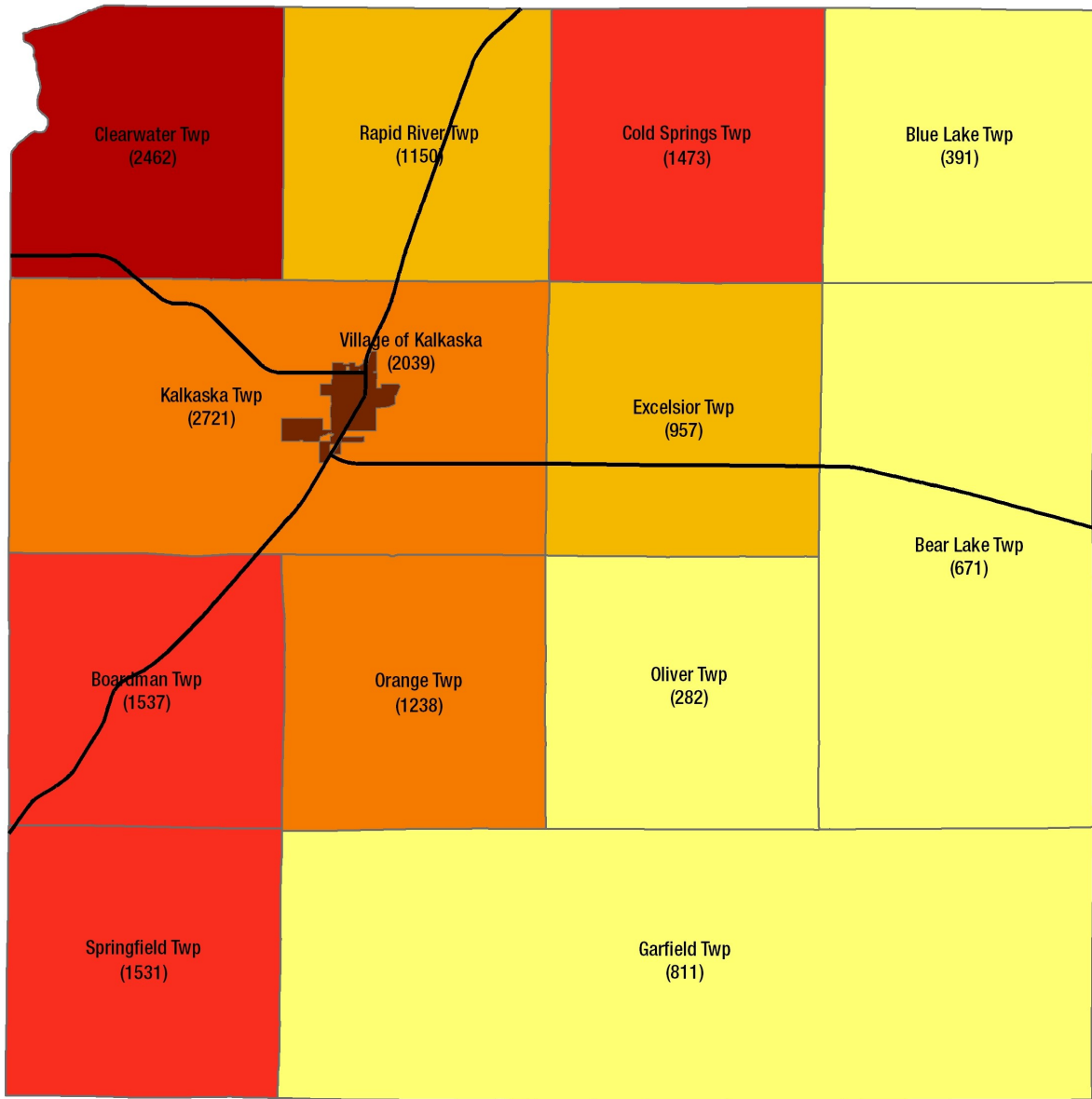
The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that 2015 per capita income is \$32,581 in the County, compared to \$42,812 statewide per capita income. The median household income in the County is \$42,829, which is 20% up from the median income in 2000 (\$35,593), but still well below the state's median household income of \$51,063 .

Table: Change in Kalkaska County Age Cohorts, 2010-2016 (Source: US Census)

Age Cohort	2010 Population	2016 Population	Change	% Change
Under 5 years	1,027	920	- 107	- 10%
5 to 9 years	1,040	1,016	- 24	- 2%
10 to 14 years	1,112	1,069	- 43	- 4%
15 to 19 years	1,083	998	- 85	- 8%
20 to 24 years	812	867	55	7%
25 to 34 years	1,793	1,897	104	6%
35 to 44 years	2,111	1,984	- 127	- 6%
45 to 54 years	2,777	2,371	-406	- 15%
55 to 59 years	1,345	1,417	72	5%
60 to 64 years	1,187	1,370	183	15%
65 to 74 years	1,734	2,124	390	23%
75 to 84 years	872	950	78	9%
85 years & over	243	280	37	15%
Total	17,136	17,264	128	1%

Kalkaska County Population Density

Total Population: 17,263

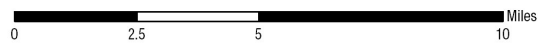


KEY | Main Features

Total Population per Square Mile

- 7 - 20
- 20.01 - 35
- 35.01 - 40
- 40.01 - 55
- 55.01 - 75
- > 800

- State Trunkline
- Township and Village Boundaries



Data Source | U.S. Census Bureau; Michigan Geographic Data Library

Map Scale | 1:208,000

Date | 09/17/2017

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Poverty rates are slightly higher than statewide rates. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 16.5% of residents in the County live in poverty, compared to 15.7% in Michigan. Poverty among children under 18 is 27.5% in the County, and 22.2% statewide .

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).

Recreation is an important focus of the 2016 Kalkaska County 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 Plan identifies “Guiding Principles” as statements to guide decision making relative to land use, transportation, and public improvements, and recreation is the focus of *Guiding Principle #11*, which states:

“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. “

The Plan then identifies a number of policies that highlight the County as a *playground*. These are:

- *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.*

Under Future Land Use, the Master Plan designates three districts—Forest Areas, Recreation Stream Corridor, and Special Purpose—as land use areas that should primarily focus on recreation (see Chapter 7, Future Land Use, for details on the desired land use and proposed action steps for these areas).

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, and a number of motorized trails are available on public land (see Chapter 3, Recreation Inventory). Trail opportunities for ORVs are soon to be expanded with Public Act 288 of 2016, which will open all state forest roads to ORV

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use upon completion of a statewide inventory of the roads/trails by the DNR.

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

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

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:

- Montcalm 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

Organizational Structure:

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.

The Department of Public Works maintains all of the County's recreational facilities. DPW reports to the County Board of Commissioners on the status of recreation facilities.

The Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Committee is an advisory group that reports to the Department of Public Works (DPW) on recreation programming and activities. Membership of the Committee is based on appointment by the Board of Commissioners. There are seven members, including one County Commissioner, the Director of the Kaliseum, and five at-large members.

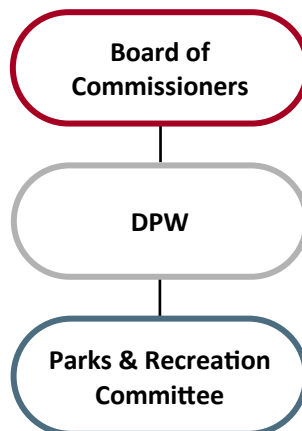
Staff

Parks are maintained by seasonal and year-round employees to the County, and volunteers. Two full-time employees, including a director and administrative assistant, are employed at the Kaliseum, which also employs # 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 through community service programs through the County jail.

Relationship with Other Agencies & Volunteers

The Fairgrounds facilities are largely maintained by its different user groups, including the Kalkaska Horse Project, 4-H, baseball program, soccer program, and the Kalkaska County Fair Board.



Kankaska County partners with the Village of Kankaska, MDOT, and Kankaska Public Schools on the KART Trail. Volunteers provide maintenance for landscaping on the Trail. Quality Thyme Garden Club maintains gardens at several locations along the trail as well as throughout the community.

The County also works with the Village and local and regional organizations to coordinate several events that utilize the Civic Center & Fairgrounds complex, including Trout Festival, Iceman Cometh Challenge, Winterfest, and others.

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. Some revenue for parks and recreation is also derived from the cell tower at the Civic Center & Fairgrounds complex.

\$__ was budgeted for general parks and recreation activities in 2017. \$__ was budgeted for Log Lake Campground, which is funded by a combination of user fees and rent. \$__ was budgeted for 2017 for the Kaliseum. User fees, donations, rentals, and program fees go towards the Kaliseum's operating expenses. Maintenance and operations of the sports complex is partially funded by a 2016 millage.

Chapter 3: Recreation Inventory

Kalkaska County's parks and recreational facilities include the 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 questionnaire and public forum. The inventory also includes an assessment of the accessibility of the park to people with disabilities, based on the process and criteria explained in the section below.

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

Accessibility

The accessibility evaluations for the Kalkaska County parks and recreational facilities were conducted by representatives of the County and Village of Kalkaska using the criteria provided in the MDNR *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* (MDNR, 2016). These criteria are based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. To assist with the assessments, the planning committee referenced the New England ADA Center "Checklists."

The following ADA Ranking system was used for the evaluations:

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

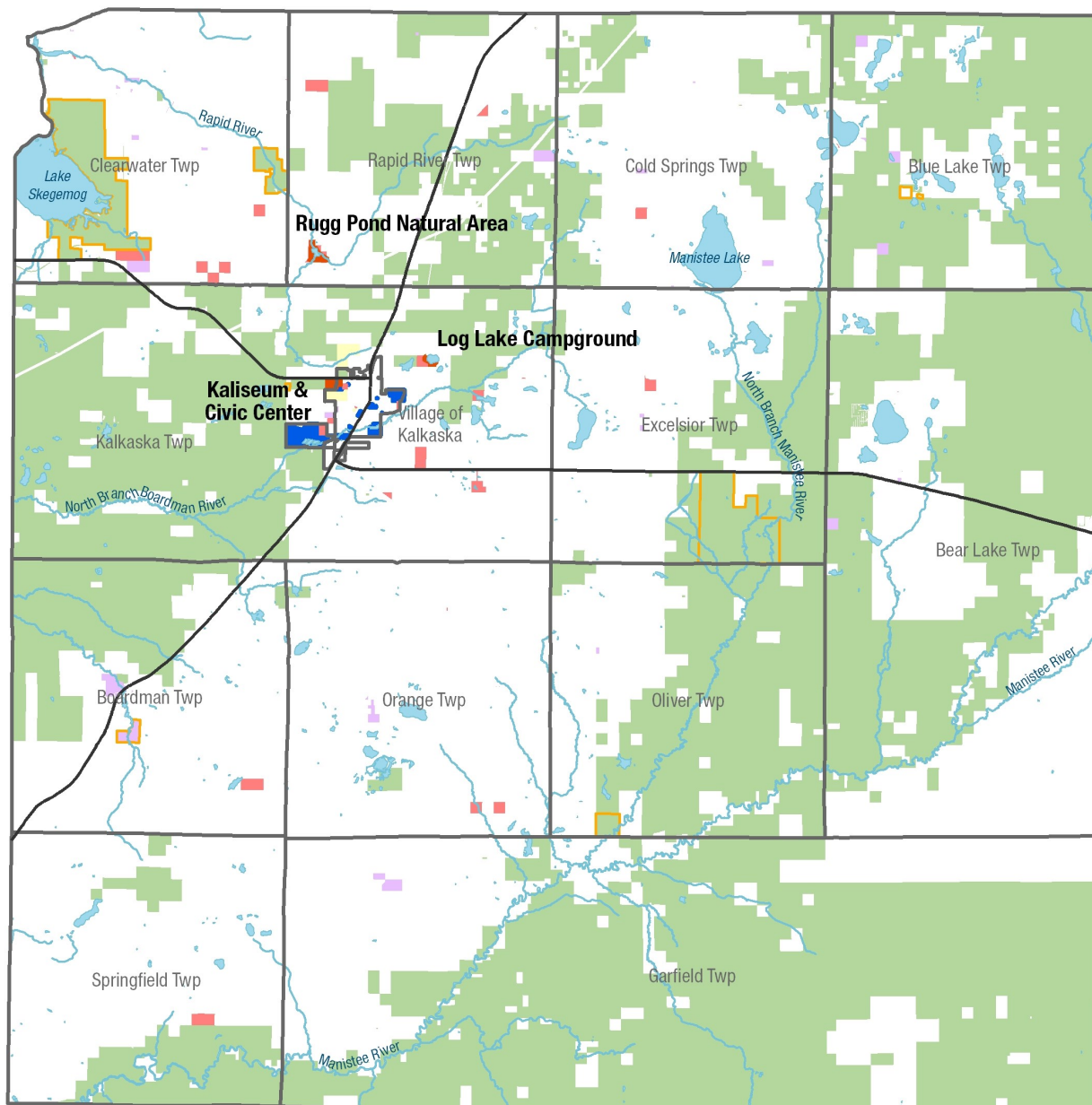
4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines

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

Grant Inventory

Kalkaska County has received three recreation grants from the MDNR. A copy of the DNR Grant History, which includes descriptions of each, are included at the end of this chapter. The required Post Completion Self Inspection Reports are included in the Appendix X.

Kalkaska County Recreation



KEY | Main Features

- County Parks
- Other County Parcels
- Village Parcels
- State Parcels
- Township Parcels
- Kalkaska Public School
- Conservancy Owned, Protected, or Managed
- Municipal Boundaries
- State Trunkline
- ~ Lakes & Ponds
- ~ Rivers and Streams



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Kaliseum

The Kaliseum is an indoor recreational complex located on the 39 acre Kalkaska County Sports & Recreation Complex with the Civic Center and Fairgrounds. The Kaliseum was built in 1999, with funding from a millage and grants. An operational and partial maintenance millage was renewed in 2016. Maintenance and operational costs are funded by user/membership fees.

The complex has an ice rink, two pools, a gym, dance center, meeting room and community space. These facilities host a wide variety of activities including hockey, exercise classes, swim classes, dance, pickleball, roller derby, educational programs, community meetings, concerts, and other athletic and community events and activities.

The site's amenities are used by County residents and non-residents from the surrounding area. Memberships are available to Kalkaska County residents and non-residents for use of the gym, pools, and ice rink; and all of the site's amenities are available to rent for parties, events, and other activities. Some office space is also available to rent.

Public input indicates that the Kaliseum is the most valued recreational facility in the County. However, results also indicate that use of the facility has been negatively impacted by the need for maintenance and updated amenities. Comments addressed the need for improvements to the pool (its current condition and the need for it to meet competition regulations), work out facilities, locker rooms, and general cleanliness.

Since completion of the community forum and survey, the gym has been renovated with all new equipment. Plans are in place to carry out a larger facility upgrade based on the need for upgrade the pool and ice arena.

Facilities include:

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

Accessibility Assessment: 4



Kalkaska County Sports & Recreation Complex

The 39 acre Kalkaska County Sports & Recreation Complex includes the Civic Center, Fairgrounds, and Kaliseum (discussed separately). The complex is host to a wide variety of amenities that are used by a number of different stakeholder groups. Annual community events are hosted here, including the Kalkaska County Fair, Trout Festival, and Winterfest. Other community-oriented activities, such as fundraising events, and regular sports events, such as soccer and baseball games, are hosted here. The site is also the starting location of the Iceman Cometh Challenge, a nationally acclaimed mountain bike race.

The Fairgrounds includes baseball diamonds, soccer fields, an arena with bleachers, a horse arena, livestock buildings, a concession stand, and picnic areas. A community garden is also located on the Fairgrounds site; produce raised in the garden is donated to the Kalkaska Senior Center. The Civic Center building includes indoor exhibit, event, and meeting space.

The primary service area of the Civic Center and

Fairgrounds complex is Kalkaska County. However, several of the events held at the complex have a regional, state-wide, and event national reach

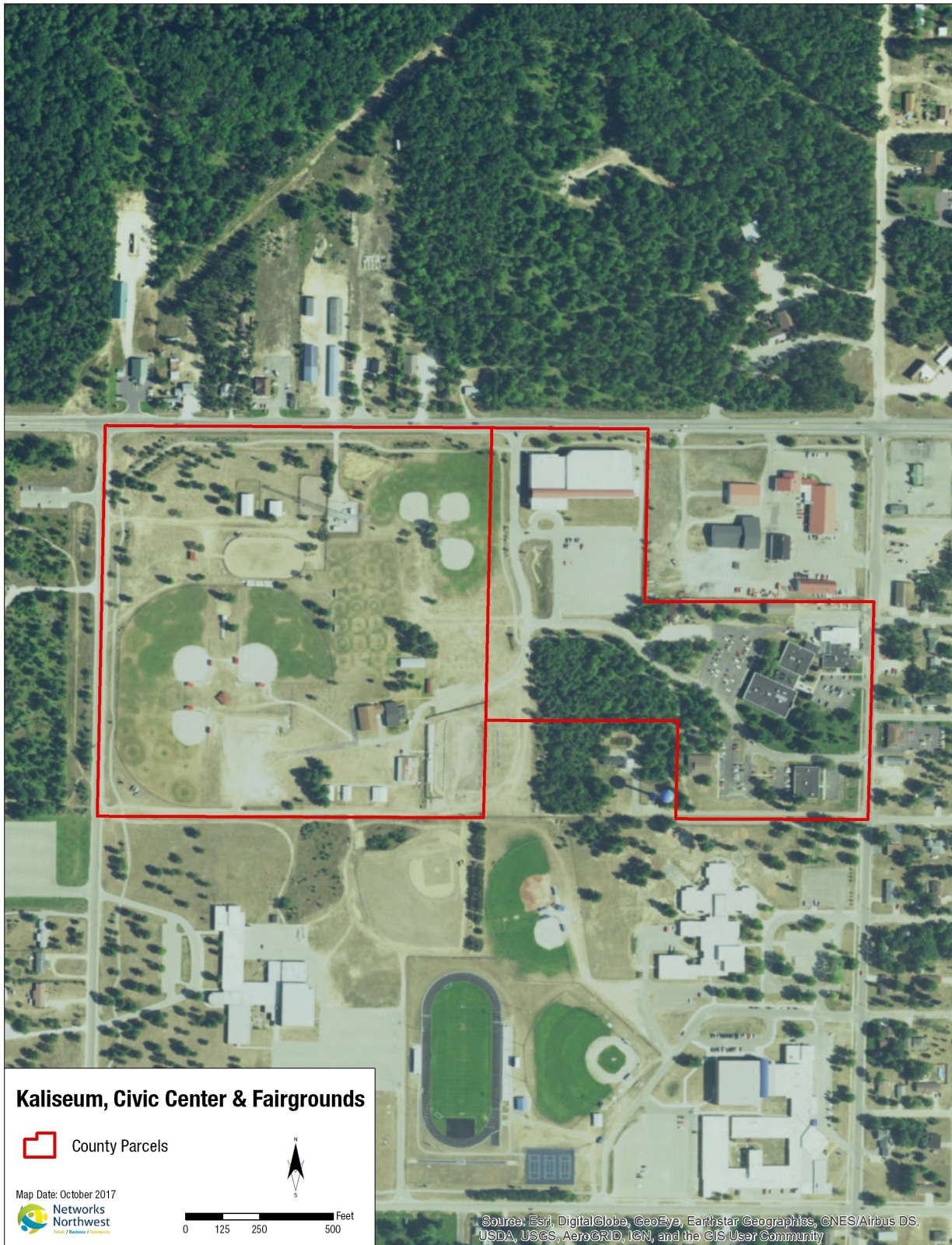
Public input on the Civic Center focused on the need to improve the facility due to it being outdated. When asked how to improve it, nearly half of survey respondents suggested remodeling the facility. Comments received also indicate a lack of use and familiarity with the facility. Input received through this planning process as well as through a simultaneous planning project focused specifically on the Fairgrounds & Civic Center indicates the need to create a more formal structure to coordinate use of the facilities.

Facilities include:

- Arena
- Ball Diamonds
- Soccer Fields
- Horse arena
- Livestock buildings
- Civic Center building
- Kalkaska Area Recreational Trail (KART)
- Community Garden
- Derby Arena and Grandstands

Accessibility Assessment = 2

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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, and bicycling.

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 proposed reroute of the North Country 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, Mill Pond, and Log Lake Campground.

Public input received during the planning process indicated that the KART Trail is one of the most valued park facilities. Most suggestions related to the trail focused on potential connections to other trail systems or parks.

Facilities include:

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

Accessibility Assessment = 4

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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.

The community park is equipped with pavilions (available to rent), playground equipment, restrooms, a disc golf course, ball fields, soccer field, boat launch, and swimming beach. The boat launch is used for both carry-down and trailered boats. The property is used for local events such as the K-Town Ice Classic, a disc golf tournament.

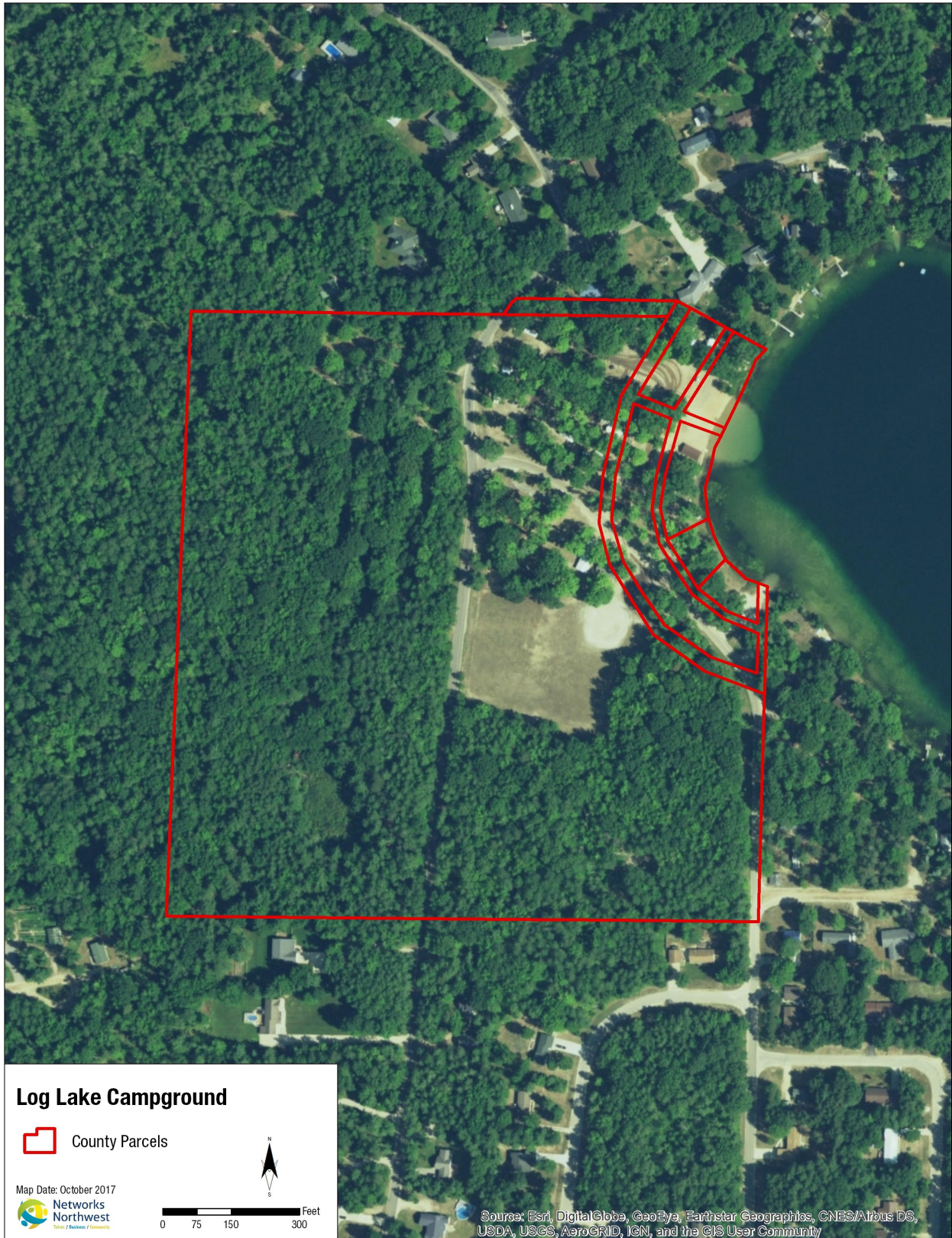
Maintenance and operational costs are funded by user fees. Seasonal contract staff provides assistance with maintenance and administrative activities. Department of Public Works provides improvements and repairs.

Public input focused on the need for updates to most of the park's amenities and improved maintenance of the facility.

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

Accessibility Assessment = 3



Kalkaska County Recreation Plan



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.

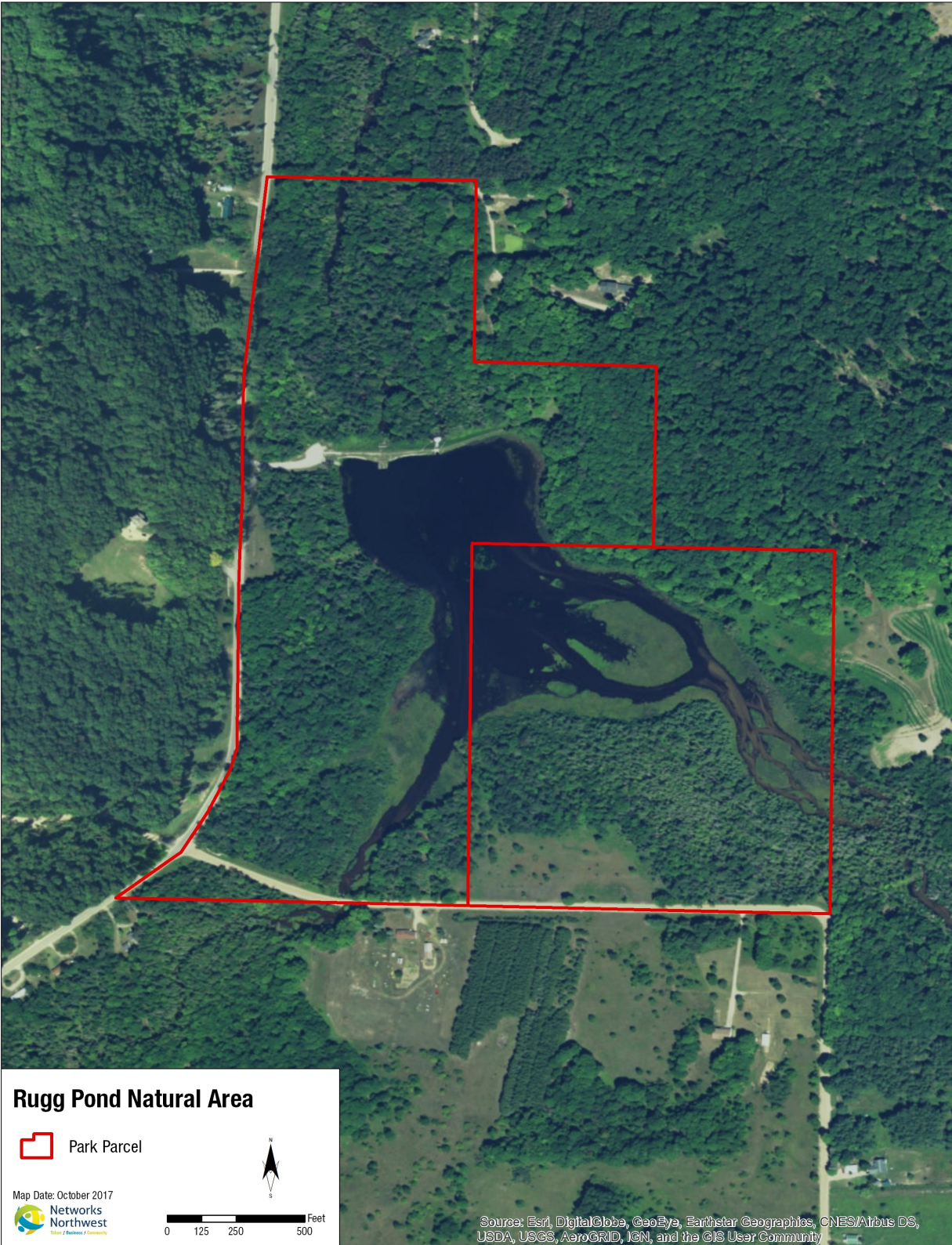
Rugg Pond park includes a trail, scenic overlook, fishing access, and a small boat launch. The boat launch is used for both carry-down and trailered boats. There is a trail network that extends almost around the entire perimeter of the pond; however, the trails are not maintained and are mostly used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

Public input regarding Rugg Pond was positive. Comments included suggestions for improving the existing trail by expanding it around the pond and providing wayfinding. There has been some discussion of the potential development of a trail that loops on the hill side to the north.

Facilities include:

- ¼ mile trail (longer social trail)
- Boat launch
- Fishing access
- Scenic Overlook

Accessibility Assessment = 1



Kalkaska County Recreation Plan



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

Other 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).

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has worked on several land protection and stewardship projects in the County, and currently manages the South Boardman Preserve, Seven Bridges, and Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area for recreational use. The Conservancy also recently acquired the former Camp Tapico in central Kalkaska County, which is to become the Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve. The Conservancy plays an important roll in providing recreational opportunities and protecting the natural beauty of the area.

Trails

Trails are pathways that are used recreationally or for transportation by a variety of users, including bicyclists, horseback riders, snowmobilers, or hikers. Trail facilities enhance recreation opportunities, and provide a unique opportunity to combine physical activity with transportation, linking destinations while providing alternatives to motorized transportation. Trail development and connections between existing trails are increasingly recognized as important economic strategies, generating tourism and visitor spending, and even drawing new residents.

Input received during the planning process indicate a strong interest in trail development among residents.

An understanding of trail systems in the area is important in identifying opportunities for trail linkages and enhancements. In addition to the KART Trail, Kalkaska County is host to a number of significant trail systems, including:

- **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 Recreation Plan

Kalkaska County from Missaukee County to the south.

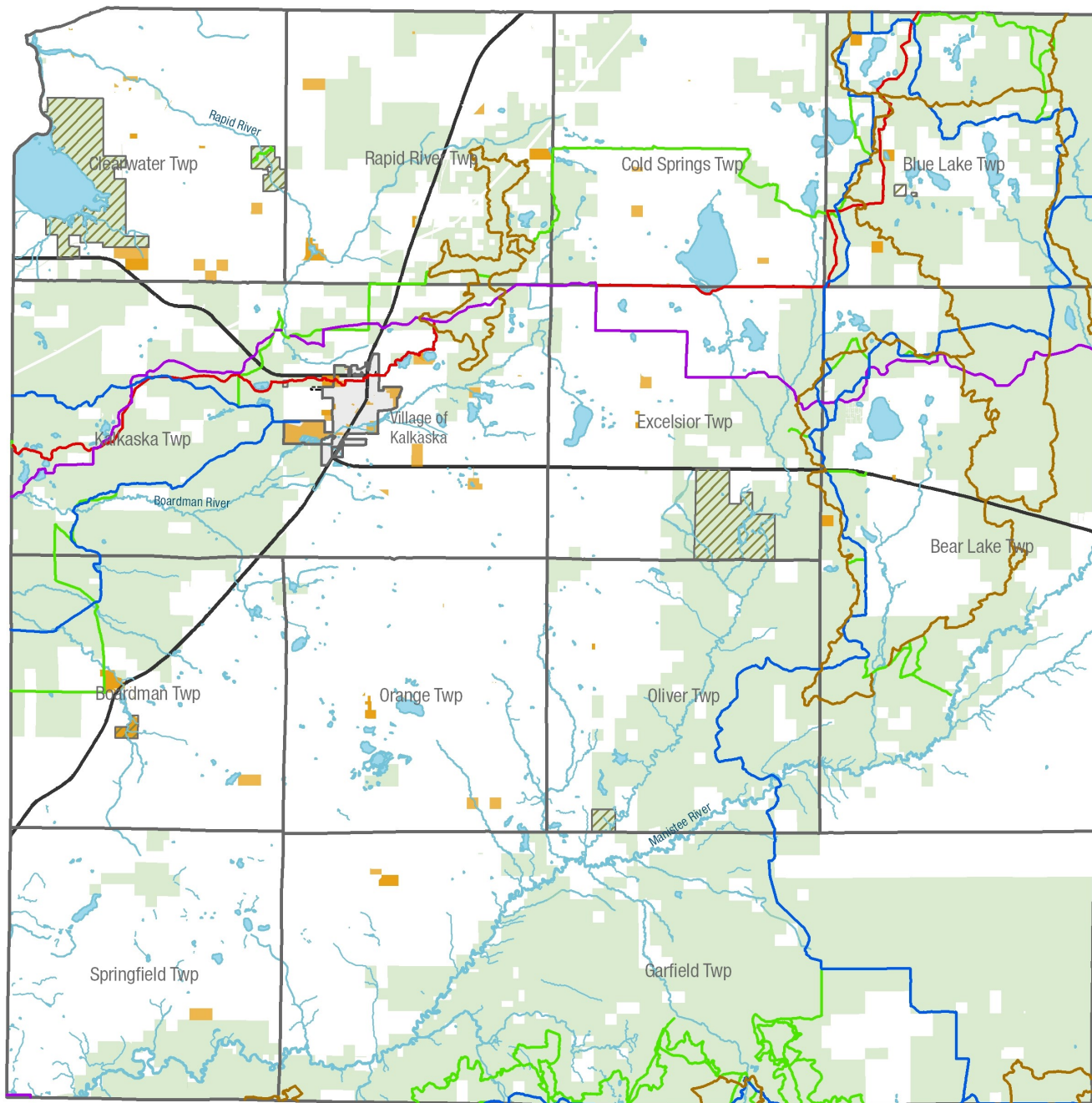
- **North Country Trail.** The North Country Trail is a National Scenic Trail, stretching 4,600 miles over 7 states, from New York to North Dakota. 10 national forests, and more than 150 public lands, the North Country Trail is the largest National Scenic Trail in the US. In Kalkaska County, the trail 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).



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.

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



KEY | Main Features

- ORV Trail
- Snowmobile Trail
- Shore to Shore Trail
- North Country Trail
- Other Trails
- Municipal Property
- State Land
- ▨ Conservancy Owned, Protected, or Managed
- Municipal Boundaries
- State Trunkline
- ~ Rivers & Creeks
- Lakes & Ponds



Networks  Northwest
School / Business / Community

Data Source | Michigan Geographic Data Library; Kalkaska County; Networks Northwest

Map Scale | 1:191,595

Date | 10/21/2017

Table 5. State of Michigan Recreation Facilities		
Facility	Description and Activities	Location
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. Size: 177,000 acres	
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
Pickerel Lake State Forest Campground	Fishing, ORV trails, boat launch, wildlife/birdwatching, 13 rustic campsites, vault toilets, well hand pump	Garfield Township
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. Size: 314 acres	Valley Road North
Skegemog Swamp Pathway	Boardwalk, birdwatching, wildlife viewing. Size: 2700 acres	Rapid City Road
Starvation Lake	Boat launch, parking, restroom	Blue Lake Township
Torch River Boat Launch	Boat launch	Clearwater Township

Table 6. Township and Village Parks and Recreation Facilities		
Township or Village	Description and Activities	Location
Blue Lake Township		
Manistee Lake Swimming Access	Swimming access	
Boardman Township		
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 St.
Township Park #4	Lighted baseball diamond, swings, outdoor bathrooms, concession stand, picnic pavilion, outdoor grills, picnic tables.	Boardman River Rd
Clearwater Township		
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
Coldsprings Township		
Sands Park	Lake access, picnicking, swimming beach, boat launch	Manistee Lake
Garfield Township		
Garfield Township Park	Baseball diamonds	
Village of Kalkaska		
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 th /Laurel Street, Kalkaska
Snowpackers Clubhouse/Trailhead	Community building located at a snowmobile trailhead that includes a kitchen and seating area.	Island Lake Road, Kalkaska
Rapid River Township		
Rapid River Township Community Park	Play structure, well, parking,	Phelps Rd, Rapid City
Croy Lake	Walking paths, wildlife viewing	Priest Rd
Springfield Township		
Springfield Township Recreation Center	Manistee River overlook, playground, pavilion, summertime farmers market, sledding hills, heated pavilion, community event center	

Chapter 4: Planning Process

The Kalkaska County Recreation Plan update was developed as part of a larger community planning process initiated in 2016 by the Kalkaska Downtown Development Authority, Village of Kalkaska, Kalkaska County Library, and Kalkaska County. The goal of this partnership endeavor was to update the County Recreation Plan, Village of Kalkaska Recreation Plan, Village of Kalkaska Master Plan, Kalkaska DDA Plan, and create a Kalkaska County Library Master Plan. The intention of updating all five of these plans via one process was to provide a collaborative and cohesive planning process, where all agencies involved participated on one “Kalkaska Planning Committee” and together had the opportunity to obtain public input, evaluate goals and objectives, and align their respective future visions as a unified team.

While the planning and public input processes were conducted concurrently, the data, analysis, and public input used to update and develop this Plan was collected and prepared to address issues and opportunities specific to recreation in the County. To provide guidance and oversight on both the County and Village Recreation Plan content, representatives from local government, the Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Committee, Village of Kalkaska Parks and Recreation Committee, Kalkaska DDA, natural resources agencies, local business owners, and members of the public were invited to participate in a recreation-focused work group in addition to the regular “Kalkaska Planning Committee” meetings. Networks Northwest also met with the

Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Committee at various stages in the process to share updates and develop County-specific plan content.

Public Input

Public input was critical to this planning process, and two successful input opportunities were organized by the Kalkaska Planning Committee (not including the public hearing here). First, a public forum and visioning session, Speak Up Kalkaska!, was held at the Kalkaska High School Auditorium on February 1, 2017. Over 150 people attended. The event kicked off with a presentation to attendees regarding the collaborative planning process, and representatives from each of the agencies spoke. Following the presentation was an interactive community forum where participants visited stations and asked questions that they voted on with sticky dots and shared comments. Second, an online survey was made available following the event. The questionnaire was widely publicized online, and over two hundred and sixty-four (264) responses were received. Survey summaries and responses, along with information relative to public events, are included in Appendix A.

Guiding Principles

In addition to utilizing public input and community data to review and update the County’s 2013 Recreation Plan goals and objectives, the recreation work group applied the “Guiding Principles” established by the Kalkaska Planning Committee. The “Guiding Principles” were

intended to provide a means of consistently evaluating and prioritizing the goals and objectives identified in each of the five plans. The “Guiding Principles” include:

Purposeful – The objective is relevant to the agency evaluating it and the agency can make significant change in this area.

Public Supports – The objective is important to the public, based on the results of Speak Up Kalkaska!, follow-up survey, and previous planning processes.

Public Safety – The objective supports, enhances, and protects public safety.

Economic Driver – The objective supports new and existing jobs and business.

Sustainability – The objective can be achieved utilizing existing capacity and resources, which can be reasonably maintained over its lifetime.

Compatibility – The objective supports the other agencies’ goals/objectives.

Participants were asked to review prior plans and public input in order to best evaluate the existing goals and objectives and make recommendations regarding the future priorities of the Village and County. This exercise reaffirmed the relevance and importance of collaboration among the partnering agencies, as the working groups concluded that the vast majority of goals and objectives supported, or were at least relevant to, each of the “Guiding Principles.” See Appendix _ for the complete evaluation.

Recreation Plan Review

The Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed the draft plan at their _____ meeting, and agreed to release the draft plan for public review and schedule a public hearing. Notice was posted in _____ indicating that copies of the draft plan were available online at the Networks Northwest website, as well as at the _____ offices. Copies were also made available at other public offices throughout the County. Comments were received from ____ to _____.

Public Hearing & Adoption

Following the 30-day public review period, the Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Committee held a public hearing on _____ to obtain additional public input and to review and discuss comments received during the 30 day review period. The Committee approved the plan on _____ and forwarded the plan to the County Board of Commissioners for their approval. The Board of Commissioners approved/did not approve the plan for submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at their _____ regular meeting. See Appendix _ for the approval documents.

Chapter 5: Goals, Objectives, & Action Plan

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 input obtained through:

- 2017 Kalkaska Community Survey
- Speak Up Kalkaska! Community Forum
- 2013 County Recreation Plan (including the 2012 Questionnaire and Public Forum)
- 2016 Kalkaska and US-131 Economic Development Strategies
- Input from the Kalkaska Community Planning Committee
- Input from the Kalkaska County Parks and Recreation Committee

Community data (see *Chapter 1: Community Description*) and the “Guiding Principles” (see *Chapter 4: Planning Process* and Appendix _) were

also used in reviewing and updating the County's goals and objectives. Part of this exercise included reviewing local, County, and regional plans to ensure that the goals, objectives, and actions are aligned with other community 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.

Goal #1: Provide cost-effective, responsive, efficient recreation services and facilities		
		Timeframe
Objective	Pursue grant funding for planned recreation improvements.	
Action	Maintain an updated 5-year recreation plan for the purposes of guiding recreation activities and to help ensure grant funding eligibility through the MDNR.	Ongoing
Action	Link fundraising activities with marketing efforts.	Ongoing
Action	Partner with local units of governments, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to recognize mutual goals and interests to leverage funding opportunities.	Ongoing
Objective	Pursue the establishment of a community endowment to support recreation activities in Kaskaska	
Action	Work with Grand Traverse Community Foundation and community partners to establish a Kaskaska Community endowment fund.	2018
Action	Develop a funding strategy to guide fundraising efforts and identify funding opportunities for recreation activities.	2018
Action	Explore additional mechanisms for funding and managing recreational facilities	2018

Goal #2: Maintain and improve existing parks		
		Timeframe
Objective	Ensure a high level of maintenance and management at all parks and recreation facilities.	
Action	Provide for ongoing funding to provide maintenance and improvements at County parks and recreation facilities.	Ongoing
Action	Regularly review maintenance and improvement needs to determine appropriate staffing and funding levels.	Ongoing
Action	Support “adopt a park” programs or other volunteer programs to meet specific maintenance and update needs at all parks.	Ongoing
Objective	Provide improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities as needed.	
<i>Rugg Pond Natural Area</i>		
Action	Coordinate with Rugg Pond Natural Area Committee regarding all Rugg Pond activities	Ongoing
Action	Address maintenance items identified in the dam inspection report.	2018
Action	Maintain the existing natural area character of Rugg Pond.	Ongoing
Action	Explore opportunities to expand on the existing trail.	2018-2019
Action	Extend walking trail in a loop around Rugg Pond.	Ongoing
Action	Explore potential for connecting walking trail with other trail systems/parks.	Ongoing
Action	Determine feasibility and impacts of dredging or deepening Rugg Pond.	2018

Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

Objective	Provide improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities as needed (continued)	
<i>Log Lake Campground</i>		
Action	Maintain and improve park amenities as needed, including but not limited to disc golf baskets, picnic tables and grills, pavilions, play structures, and boat launch.	Ongoing
Action	Support and encourage user groups to provide and maintain disc golf baskets/facilities that meet specifications for competitions.	Ongoing
Action	Provide separate restrooms for beach area.	Ongoing
Action	Review land uses and management for entire Log Lake property.	2018
<i>Kaliseum</i>		
Action	Assess the feasibility of major structural and mechanical upgrades	2018-2020
Action	Determine the feasibility of upgrading the pool to meet regulation length and depth	2018-2020
Action	Determine the feasibility of upgrading the ice arena	2018-2020
Action	Provide upgrades/improvements to the locker rooms and restrooms.	2018-2020
<i>Kalkaska County Sports & Recreation Complex</i>		
Action	Develop a campus master plan for the complex	2018
Action	Determine desired needs and uses for Civic Center for potential renovation/improvements.	2017-2018
Action	Pursue funding for renovations to the Civic Center building.	2018+
Action	Improve aesthetics/condition of all structures within the complex	2018+
Action	Explore feasibility and interest in installing lighting for the athletic fields.	Ongoing
Action	Work with partners to promote and expand the use of the Civic Center, through additional events or activities.	Ongoing
Action	Develop a formal structure to coordinate use of the Civic Center and Fairgrounds complex by the different user groups	2017-2018
Action	Develop a consistent fee schedule	2018
Action	Develop a work agreement with volunteers and partners	2018-2019
<i>KART Trail</i>		
Action	Maintain and improve trail facilities and provide quality, long-lasting amenities, including benches and landscaping as needed.	Ongoing
Action	Update maintenance agreements between Kalkaska Village, Kalkaska County, Kalkaska Public Schools, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.	2018
Action	Plant trees along the KART Trail.	Ongoing
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 North Country Trail reroute.	2018+
Action	Pursue KART Trail linkages to additional trail systems.	2018+
Action	Develop a work agreement with volunteers and partners	2018-2019

Goal #3: Provide a variety of recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities, that meet the community's existing and future needs.		
		Timeframe
Objective	Ensure a diverse range of recreation opportunities throughout the County.	
Action	Encourage cooperation between federal, state, and local governments to further improve and expand opportunities at local park facilities.	Ongoing
Action	Continue to work with partner organizations to facilitate and further recreational programs for all population groups.	Ongoing
Action	Support township and village recreation planning and improvement activities through in-kind assistance or funding support.	Ongoing
Action	Explore appropriate locations to expand/enhance existing parks and recreation facilities as needed.	Ongoing
Action	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
Action	Encourage recreational user groups to host events at County facilities.	Ongoing
Action	Work with partners and volunteer groups to seek grant funding and donations to establish a skate park on County or Village-owned property.	2018-2019
Objective	Ensure high-quality natural areas for outdoor recreation.	
Action	Continue to work with partners to protect and manage natural areas for outdoor recreation opportunities.	Ongoing
Action	Explore opportunities to expand or enhance natural areas for outdoor recreation.	Ongoing
Action	Provide for improved accessibility, and universal accessibility when feasible, when acquiring and improving parks and recreation facilities.	Ongoing
Objective	Ensure parks and recreation facilities are accessible to all users.	
Action	Ensure access for all by adding barrier-free features at all parks as needed.	2018+
Action	Work to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements at all existing and new park and recreational facilities.	Ongoing
Objective	Support local efforts that enhance recreational opportunities in the County	
Action	Partner and coordinate with the Village on projects, events, and programming that support recreation for residents	Ongoing
Action	Support the redevelopment of the Kaskaska County Library	Ongoing
Action	Pursue opportunities to partner on projects that enhance recreational programming and activities in the County	Ongoing

Kalkaska County Recreation Plan

Goal #4: Support and promote Kalkaska County as a trail destination.		
		Timeframe
Objective	Coordinate trail usage groups, goals, and activities.	
Action	Continue to 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.	Ongoing
Action	Work with partner organizations and volunteer groups to support community trail-building and maintenance efforts.	Ongoing
Action	Consider consistent signage for trails.	Ongoing
Objective	Promote and market trail information via information resources, social media, events and activities.	
Action	Work with and support volunteers, partner organizations, and trail user groups to provide guided hikes, races, and other trail-based events and activities.	Ongoing
Action	Support efforts by the Explore 131 North marking group to promote Kalkaska and the greater 131 Corridor as a trail destination	2017+
Objective	Develop an interconnected system of trailways that link communities, parks, and existing trails.	
Action	Partner with and/or support efforts by the Village to expand and connect existing trails in the County and Village	
Action	Work with/support the “Kalkaska Trails Task Force” to develop a prioritized action strategy for future improvements and trail connections.	Ongoing
Action	Re-route the North Country Trail through the Village of Kalkaska’s commercial district	2018-2020
Action	Partner with the Village, DDA, Kalkaska County Library, Kalkaska Public Schools, DPW, and others to connect the KART with other recreational and community assets.	2018-2020
Action	Identify gaps/linkage needs in existing trailway systems.	Ongoing
Action	Explore opportunities and pursue funding to create linkages between trail systems as well as to other recreational facilities	Ongoing
Action	Work with local governments and partner organizations to expand and connect existing trail networks, and to create linkages to local parks and recreation facilities, and neighboring communities.	Ongoing
Action	Develop relationships/partnerships with regional trail organizations to explore additional opportunities for trail connections and enhancement.	2018-ongoing
Action	Support and participate in the development of a regional trail plan	

Appendices

To be included with final plan.