

2002

Comprehensive Plan

Bear Lake

Township



**BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

INTRODUCTION

The Bear Lake Township "Comprehensive or Master Plan" refers to the entire plan, with elements and subplans representing future development or changes in the land use pattern, public facilities and service programs in the township.

A Comprehensive Plan cannot, in itself, control land use and development. Only a zoning ordinance can do that.

The Bear Lake Township Comprehensive Plan was compiled by the Bear Lake Township Planning Commission, concerned individuals and Township Board to establish goals for the community.

Community goals have been reviewed with our previous Comprehensive Plan of 1995 and revisions were made, necessary to the goals and policies that were proposed for the development of our present Bear Lake Township Comprehensive Plan of 2002.

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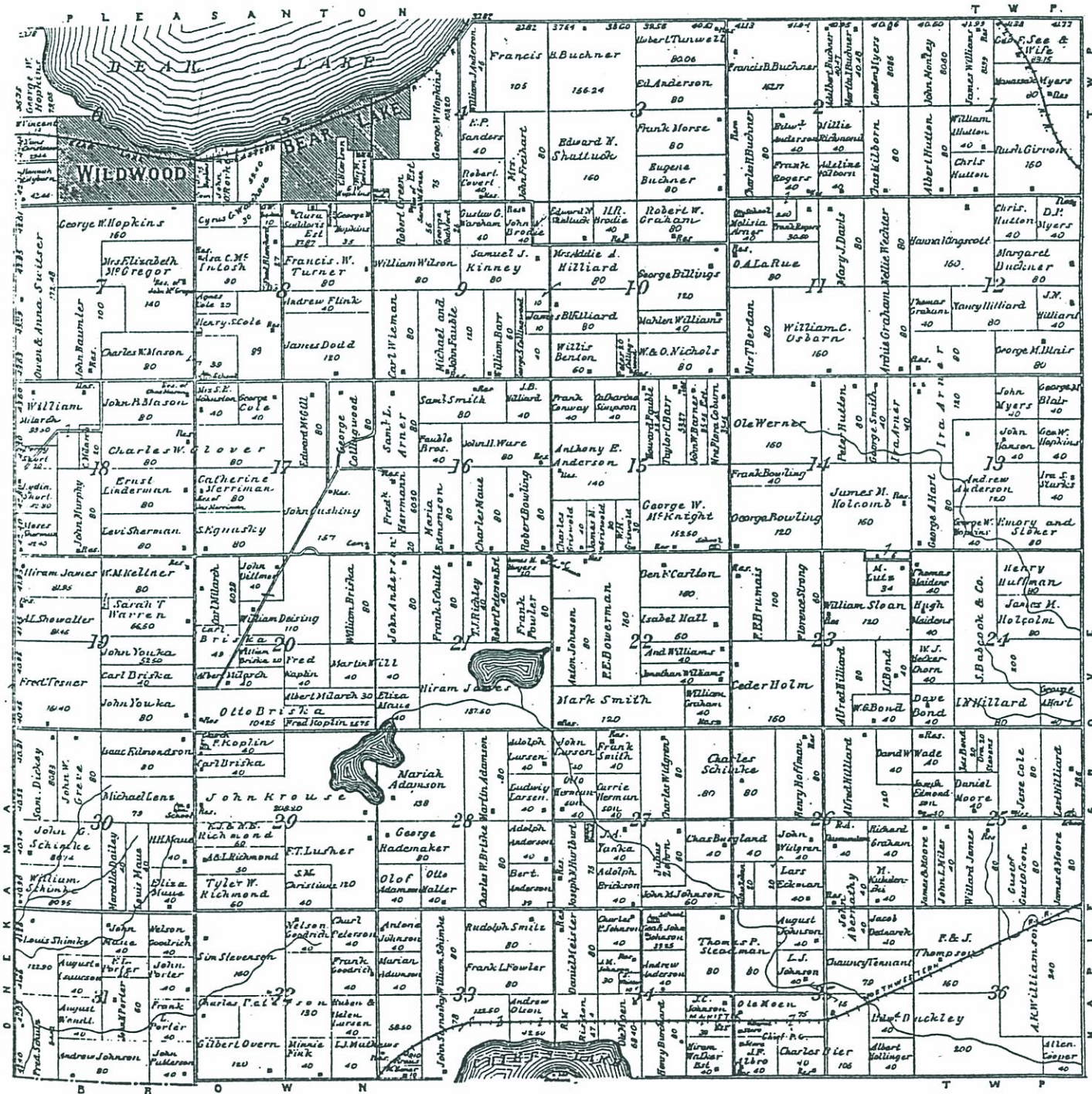
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MAP OF BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

Township 23 North Range XV West of the Michigan Meridian

Manistee County Plat Book 1903



HISTORY OF BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

Over a period of millions of years, the Township was covered several times by glaciers. As the large masses of ice receded and melted, (10,000) years ago), they left behind numerous lakes and hills with a widely varying contour.

It is believed there were no large Indian settlements in the Township. Evidence of occasional Indian visits are found along the shores of Bear Lake, with several camp sites of considerable size noted.

A century and half ago, the Township was covered by one solid "mixed hardwood" forest. The only exceptions to this were in the northwest corner of the southern borders of the Township where the pine timberland was picked up at an early date by lumbermen. The balance of the land remained vacant until Congress passed the Homestead Act in the early 1860's. This Act, which provided free land to bonafide settlers, went into effect on January 1, 1863, and resulted in an immediate influx of pioneers interested in agriculture.

The first settlers are believed to be the Russell F. Smith family, who arrived about the first of September 1863, and took up 172 acres of land on the south side of Bear Lake. The Smiths were followed within a short time by the families of Simeon Anderson, Francis Buckner and John Edmonson.

These people and most early settlers were interested in agriculture. Each started with 160 acres of hardwood forest and proceeded to clear land and plant crops. It was a very difficult task, and yet those who persevered (and the majority did) were rewarded with prosperity and good farms.

Bear Lake Township was organized as a legal entity early in 1865, but did not achieve its present boundaries until 1870. The first Township election was held in the Spring of 1865 at the home of Simeon Anderson. The honors of first supervisor went to Simeon Anderson; first clerk to H.M. Hannaford and first Treasurer to D.E. Sibley.

The first school was in a small log building, erected for this purpose on the farm of J.B. Mason, the first store appears to have been a small room in the Simeon Anderson home and a well-stocked store was established by T.A. Tillson previous to 1870. The Bear Lake Post Office opened for business on April 27, 1865, in the home of the first postmaster, Jerome Hulbert. By 1870, the Township had attained a population of 417 living in 91 homes. The assessment rolls for that year show the value of real estate at \$10,551 and the value of personal estate at \$16,863 for a total equalized valuation of \$27,414 on 11,279 acres. By 1881, the total equalized valuation had jumped to \$58,760 on 20,029 acres.

As the first settler, Russell F. Smith had chosen his land with the idea of a future village. To this end, he offered 12 acres of land to anyone who would come in and start a village. His offer was accepted by a firm who would become known as Carpenter & Harrington, comprised of John S. Carpenter and Eliphate Harrington. These men built a small store, a boarding house, a steam saw and grist mill on the site of the present village. Their enterprise was apparently none too successful, for in the Spring of 1873, they sold out to George W. and David H. Hopkins.

Starting with just three or four buildings from Carpenter & Harrington, the Hopkins Brothers soon developed the Village of Bear Lake into the major service center for rural population. Hopkins immediately built an improved saw and grist mill. The following year, 1874, the firm platted 88 acres for the Village. On June 1, 1876, the Bear Lake Tram Railway, utilizing horse-drawn freight cars, commenced operation connecting the growing village with the docks at Pierport. In 1881, a new grist mill was built, reportedly the first roller mill in the State. Finally in 1882, the Hopkins Brothers built the Bear Lake & Eastern Railroad to replace the horse-drawn cars with a team locomotives, steel rails and

HISTORY OF BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP CON'T

suitable equipment. Throughout this period, new businesses opened almost monthly on Lake Street in the Village.

While George and David Hopkins may have founded the Village of Bear Lake with the idea of developing a private lumbering enterprise, the sawmill and railroad had a decided influence on the surrounding area. In clearing their farms, the homesteaders produced vast amounts of forest products. It was only practical to haul logs or cordwood distances of under five miles which left most Township residents without a market for these products. Consequently, for the first decade of settlement, these products were simply burned as the most efficient means of disposal. With the construction of the large sawmill in 1873, the Hopkins' immediately commenced buying logs from nearby farmers. Finally, with the construction of the Tram Railway in 1876, cordwood was shipped to Pierport for marketing in Chicago and Milwaukee. At the very minimum, this market for forest products would have doubled the income of homesteaders, while for the ambitious, income probably increased fivefold. Because of this, the farms of Bear Lake Township developed into extensive, productive units during the last part of the 19th century.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Township enjoyed the peak of this early prosperity. Population reached 1,595 in 1904. There were 207 farms in the Township, with 12,114 productive acres. This land was worked by 583 horses and produced 97,441 bushels of grain, 74,098 bushels of potatoes, 46,000 bushels of apples and many other products. The Village serving this area had a seemingly endless list of businesses; three general stores, a furniture store, dry goods store, meat market, drug store, bank, canning factory, flour mill, creamery and a hotel. Individuals providing professional services included: three doctors, a dentist, a watchmaker, a shoemaker, a photographer

and a barber. Communication with the outside world was via a daily stage line connecting with the railroad at Chief.

By this date, the majority of the forest products had been harvested from the farmland. Because of this, the large mills were dismantled and in 1903, the Bear Lake & Eastern Railroad was taken up and shipped to another state. The original pioneers were passing on and their children or grandchildren frequently chose an easier life in a far away city. The natural fertility originally found in the soil under the hardwoods had been exhausted and farmers found it difficult to produce the record crops of the early years. All of these factors precipitated a general exodus from the Township which probably peaked immediately after World War I. In 1920, the population had dropped to 1,217 but the annual Bear Lake picnic held the following year in a park near the city of Detroit, had over a thousand attendants.

The 20th century has seen a steady continuation of the trends started early in the period. Agriculture has continued to decline with a gradual conversion by the remaining farmers to the fruit crops, which are ideally suited for the climate. Tourism has risen in importance as resorters and descendants of the early pioneers have returned to the area as a favorite vacation land. The Township has evolved as a pleasant community involved in a broad spectrum of business and industry.

CENTENNIAL FARMS

John and Lillian Porter
7332 Chippewa Hwy.
Kaleva, MI 49645
NE1/4 of SE1/4 & N1/2, SW1/4 of NE1/4, Sec31, T23N, R15W

*First Owner: John Baptiste Porter (PaQuin)
Date of Purchase: 7/1/1863*

Mabel Schimke
Route 1
Bear Lake, MI 49614
Sec30, T23N, R15N

*First Owner: Gotlieb Schimke
Date of Purchase: 10/18/1866*

Hazel Briske
Route #1
Bear Lake, MI 49614
W1/2 of E3/5 of S5/8 of SW1/4, Sec 15, T23N, R15

*First Owner: James Griswold
Date of Purchase: 11/23/1868*

Winston S. Churchill EST
11058 11-Mile Road
Bear Lake, MI 49614
E1/2NE1/4, Sec14 & W1/2NW1/4, Sec13 & S1/2Sec12, T23N, R15W

*First Owner: Andres Arner
Date of Purchase: 6/5/1869*

Donovan E. and Bernice Anderson
Route #2
Bear Lake, MI 49614
S1/2 of NE 1/4 of Sec3, T23N, R15W

*First Owner: David Anderson
Date of Purchase: 5/11/1872*

Harold and Joyce Johnson
7174 Thorpe Road
Bear Lake, MI 49614
SE1/4, SW1/4 & SW1/4 SE1/4 Sec31, T23N & Sec 6, T22N, R15W

*First Owner: Andrew Johnson
Date of Purchase: 7/1/1880*

Earl F. and Dorothy Osborn
Route #1
Bear Lake, MI 49614
W1/4 of SE1/4 of Sec 11, T23N, R15W

*First Owner: Andrew and Calhevine Arner
Date of Purchase: 4/27/1867*

Joel D. and Carol Meister
7901 Anderson Road
Kaleva, MI 49645
NW1/4 of NW1/4, Sec 34, T23N, R15W

*First Owner: Daniel and Tillie Meister
Date of Purchase: 4/6/1895*

Felix S. and Catherine M. Gauthier
7616 Adamson Lake Road
Kaleva, MI 49645
SE1/4 of NE1/4, Sec32, N23N, R15W

*First Owner: Frank L. Gauthier Sr.
Date of Purchase: 4/21/1898*

Douglas E. and Linda Alkire
8390 11-Mile Road
Bear Lake, MI 49614
E1/2, SW1/4 Sec9, T23N, R15W

*First Owner: Michael Fauble
Date of Purchase: 7/7/1899*

PROFILE OF GENERAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Bear Lake Township

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,587	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,587	100.0
Male.....	799	50.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	59	3.7
Female.....	788	49.7	Mexican.....	43	2.7
Under 5 years.....	81	5.1	Puerto Rican.....	5	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	130	8.2	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	109	6.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	11	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	105	6.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,528	96.3
20 to 24 years.....	59	3.7	White alone.....	1,489	93.8
25 to 34 years.....	165	10.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	255	16.1	Total population.....	1,587	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	215	13.5	In households.....	1,573	99.1
55 to 59 years.....	96	6.0	Householder.....	639	40.3
60 to 64 years.....	100	6.3	Spouse.....	392	24.7
65 to 74 years.....	145	9.1	Child.....	447	28.2
75 to 84 years.....	85	5.4	Own child under 18 years.....	367	23.1
85 years and over.....	42	2.6	Other relatives.....	31	2.0
Median age (years).....	40.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	12	0.8
18 years and over.....	1,193	75.2	Nonrelatives.....	64	4.0
Male.....	593	37.4	Unmarried partner.....	38	2.4
Female.....	600	37.8	In group quarters.....	14	0.9
21 years and over.....	1,153	72.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	331	20.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	14	0.9
65 years and over.....	272	17.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	130	8.2	Total households.....	639	100.0
Female.....	142	8.9	Family households (families).....	457	71.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	182	28.5
One race.....	1,571	99.0	Married-couple family.....	392	61.3
White.....	1,529	96.3	With own children under 18 years.....	143	22.4
Black or African American.....	6	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	39	6.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	13	0.8	With own children under 18 years.....	23	3.6
Asian.....	11	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	182	28.5
Asian Indian.....	2	0.1	Householder living alone.....	159	24.9
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	81	12.7
Filipino.....	1	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	194	30.4
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	193	30.2
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.46	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.90	(X)
Other Asian ¹	8	0.5	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	0.3	Total housing units.....	916	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	639	69.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	277	30.2
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.....	203	22.2
Other Pacific Islander ²	4	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.9	(X)
Some other race.....	8	0.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	8.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	16	1.0	HOUSING TENURE		
<i>Race alone or in combination with one or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	639	100.0
White.....	1,545	97.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	560	87.6
Black or African American.....	6	0.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	79	12.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	28	1.8	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.45	(X)
Asian.....	11	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.57	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	0.3			
Some other race.....	11	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

ECONOMY

Agriculture in Bear Lake Township is an important base of employment and a number of people are directly employed on Township farm operations. Migrant workers are employed during each Harvest season.

Tourist trade is the most important activity in the Township. Businesses such as restaurants, taverns, motels, bed and breakfast, cottages, parks and marina service depend largely on the tourist trade. Bear Lake is known as an established resort area because of the many lakes located in the area.

Commercial, industrial and forestry are other economic activities in the Township. The commercial, retail and wholesale trade activity also is important to the Township as an employer and as a service to the population.

Industrial activity does not have a big economic part for the Township but it does as far as the State of Michigan is concerned - that being the extraction of raw materials. Some direct service employment is received from the companies doing the extractions. The markets for the raw materials produced in the Township are world-wide.

There are some small forests throughout the Township which are privately owned. These provide beauty and wildlife protection.

The largest single employer in the Township is Blarney Castle Oil Co. Bear Lake has a number of Building Contractors and many people are employed at businesses located in the adjacent areas.

DECENNIAL CENSUS

Population by Township/City

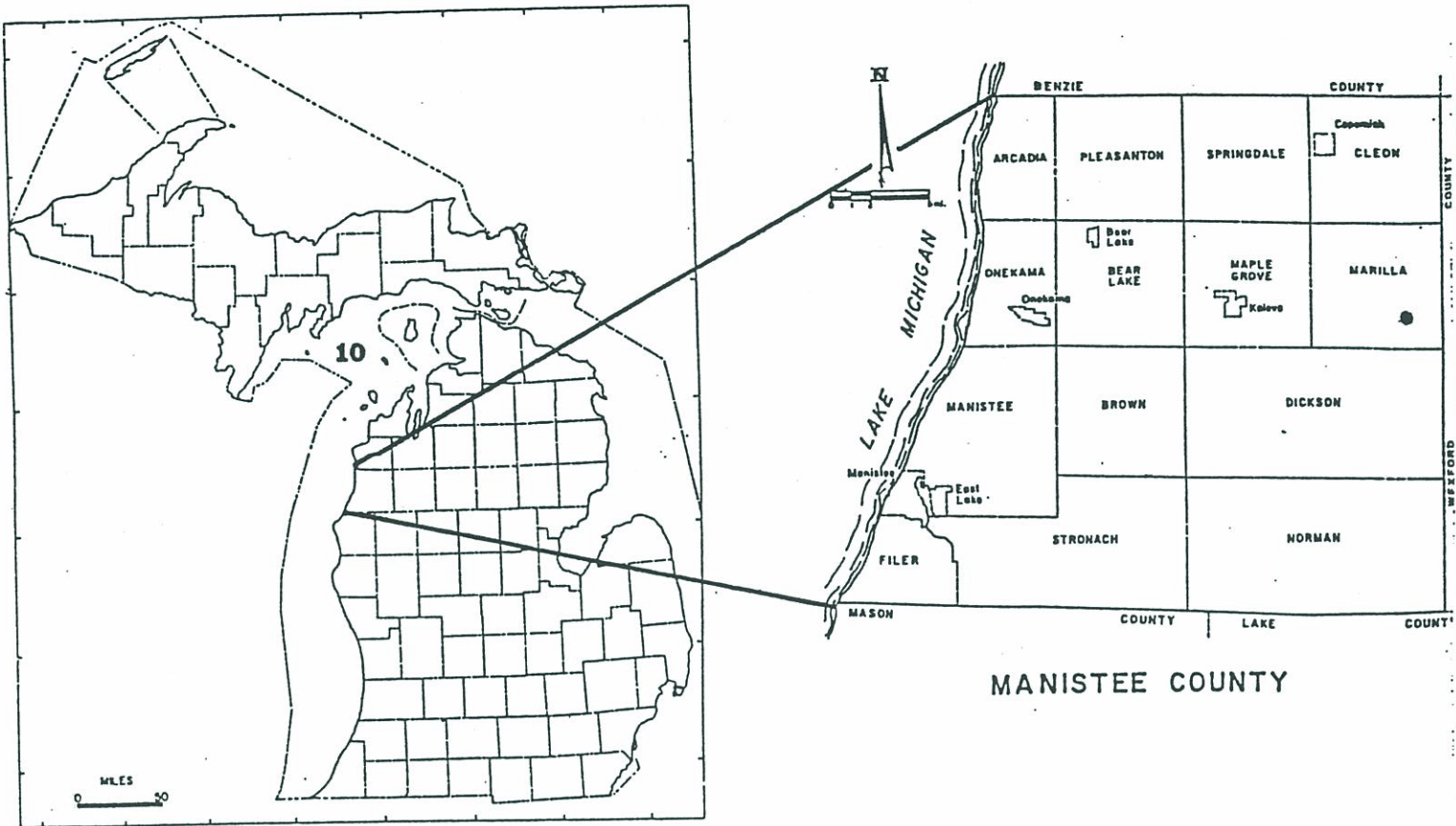
	Population 1970	Population 1980	Population 1990	Population 2000	Change 1970-1980	Change 1980-1990	Change 1990-2000
MANISTEE COUNTY	20,094	23,019	21,265	24,527	2,925	(1,754)	3,262
Arcadia	592	641	553	621	49	(88)	68
Bear Lake	1,444	1,658	1,419	1,587	214	(239)	168
Brown	390	631	588	712	241	(43)	124
Cleon	555	764	713	932	209	(51)	219
Dickson	627	777	735	929	150	(42)	194
Filer	1,921	2,143	1,966	2,208	222	(177)	242
Manistee city	7,723	7,665	6,734	6,586	(58)	(931)	(148)
Manistee	2,875	3,209	2,952	3,764	334	(257)	812
Maple Grove	750	1,071	1,123	1,285	321	52	162
Marilla	213	266	268	362	53	2	94
Norman	678	944	1,189	1,676	266	245	487
Onkama	1,128	1,444	1,266	1,514	316	(178)	248
Pleasanton	486	627	573	817	141	(54)	244
Springdale	199	452	498	730	253	46	232
Stronach	513	727	688	804	214	(39)	116

DECENNIAL CENSUS

Percentage Change In Population by Township/City

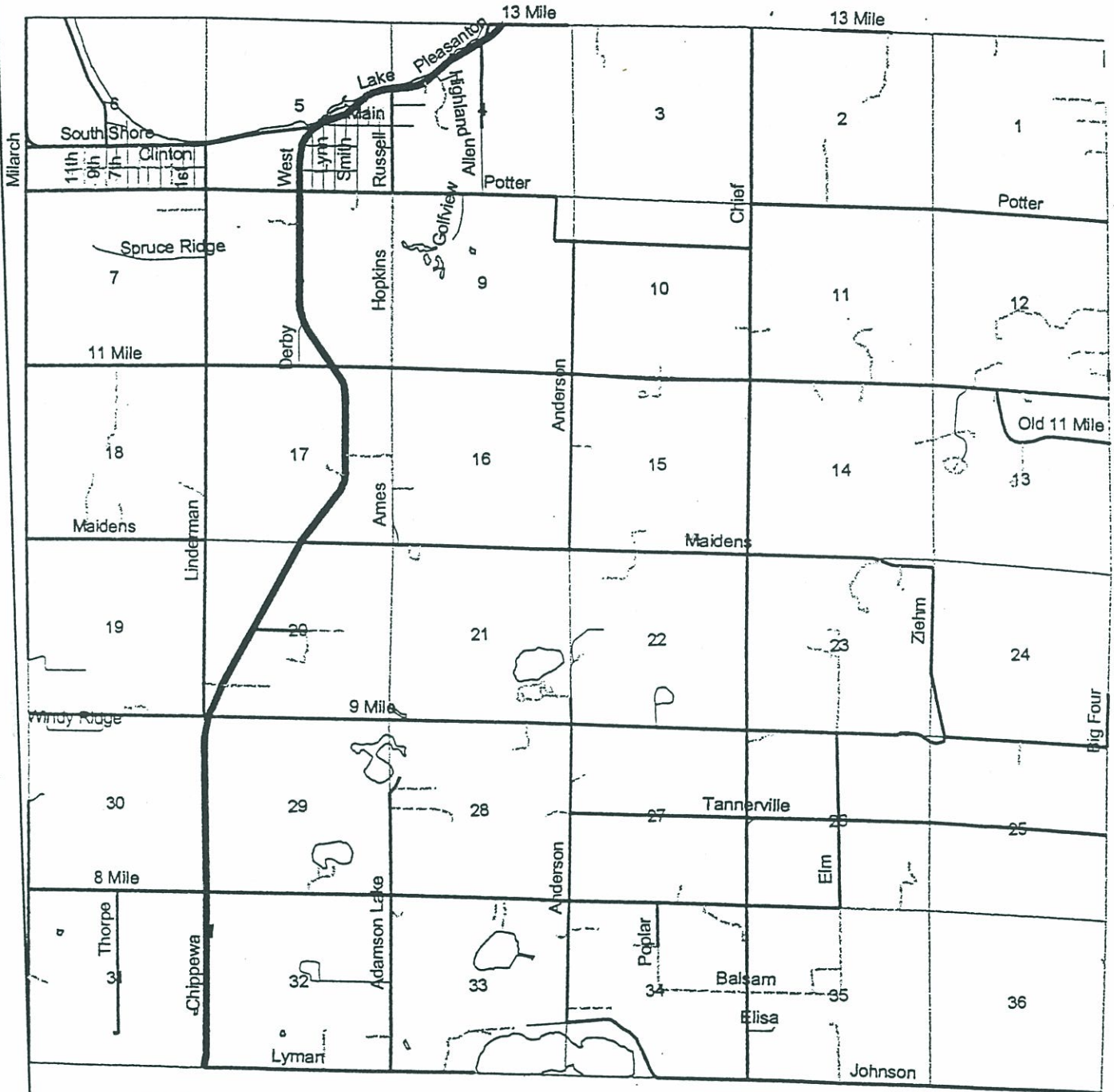
	% of Total Change 1970-1980	% of Total Change 1980-1990	% of Total Change 1990-2000	% Change 1970-1980	% Change 1980-1990	% Change 1990-2000
MANISTEE COUNTY	100.0%	100.0%	-186.0%	14.6%	-7.6%	15.3%
Arcadia	1.7%	5.0%	-3.9%	8.3%	-13.7%	12.3%
Bear Lake	7.3%	13.6%	-9.6%	14.8%	-14.4%	11.8%
Brown	8.2%	2.5%	-7.1%	61.8%	-6.8%	21.1%
Cleon	7.1%	2.9%	-12.5%	37.7%	-6.7%	30.7%
Dickson	5.1%	2.4%	-11.1%	23.9%	-5.4%	26.4%
Filler	7.6%	10.1%	-13.8%	11.6%	-8.3%	12.3%
Manistee city	-2.0%	53.1%	8.4%	-0.8%	-12.1%	-2.2%
Manistee	11.4%	14.7%	-46.3%	11.6%	-8.0%	27.5%
Maple Grove	11.0%	-3.0%	-9.2%	42.8%	4.9%	14.4%
Marilla	1.8%	-0.1%	-5.4%	24.9%	0.8%	35.1%
Norman	9.1%	-14.0%	-27.8%	39.2%	26.0%	41.0%
Onekama	10.8%	10.1%	-14.1%	28.0%	-12.3%	19.6%
Pleasanton	4.8%	3.1%	-13.9%	29.0%	-8.6%	42.6%
Springdale	8.6%	-2.6%	-13.2%	127.1%	10.2%	46.6%
Stronach	7.3%	2.2%	-6.6%	41.7%	-5.4%	16.9%

MANISTEE COUNTY MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES



MANISTEE COUNTY

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BASE MAP



Legend

Roads

- Two Tracks
- Highways
- Minor Roads
- County Roads
- Lakes
- Sections



GEOLOGICAL LOCATION

Bear Lake Township is located in the Northwestern part of the Lower Peninsula, in the Northwestern quarter of Manistee County. (Plat location is T23N-R15W).

Townships bordering Bear Lake are Onekama on the West, Pleasanton on the North, Maple Grove on the East, Arcadia on the Northwest, Springdale on the Northeast and Brown, Dickson and Manistee Townships on the South.

Bear Lake Township is 36 square miles. The land area is approximately 22,145 acres with an inland water area of about 955 acres. The portion of Bear Lake within the Township is approximately 640 acres.

The approximate area of the lakes in the Township are as follows:

LAKE	APPROX. ACRES
<i>Bear Lake</i>	1800
<i>Chief Lake</i>	160
<i>James Lake</i>	40
<i>Emma Lake</i>	40
<i>Adamson Lake</i>	40
<i>Watson Lake</i>	20
<i>Cooper Lake</i>	10

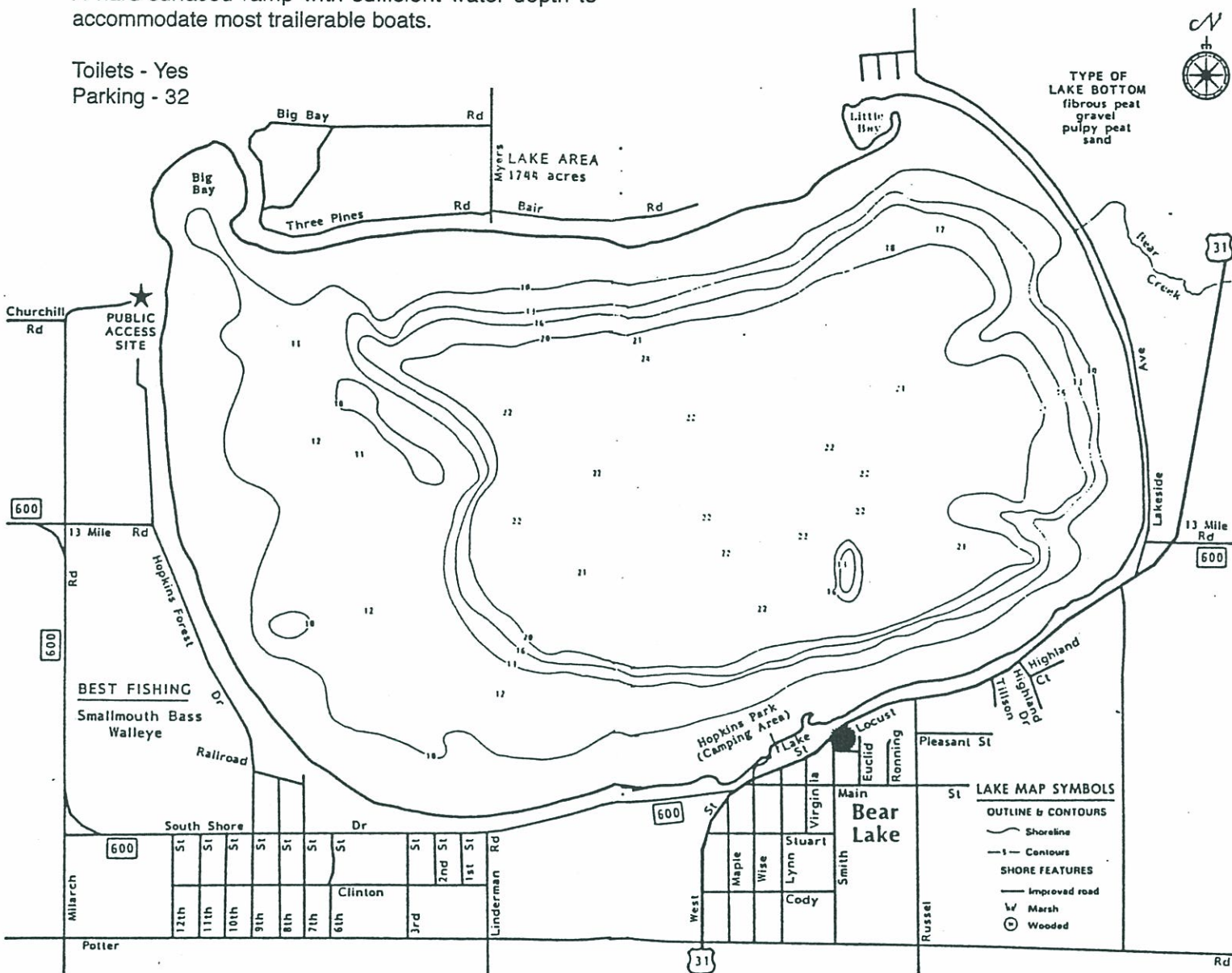
MAP OF BEAR LAKE

RAMP CODE

A hard-surfaced ramp with sufficient water depth to accommodate most trailerable boats.

Toilets - Yes
Parking - 32

TYPE OF LAKE BOTTOM
fibrous peat
gravel
pulpy peat
sand



- LAKE MAP SYMBOLS**
- OUTLINE & CONTOURS**
 - Shoreline
 - Contours
 - SHORE FEATURES**
 - Improved road
 - W Marsh
 - ⊙ Wooded

MAP OF CHIEF LAKE

MANISTEE COUNTY
 Bear Lake & Brown Townships
 (See County Highway Map)



BEST FISHING
 Crappie

LAKE AREA
 126 acres

TYPE OF
 LAKE BOTTOM
 fibrous peat
 pulpy peat
 sand

LAKE MAP SYMBOLS

OUTLINE & CONTOURS

— Shoreline

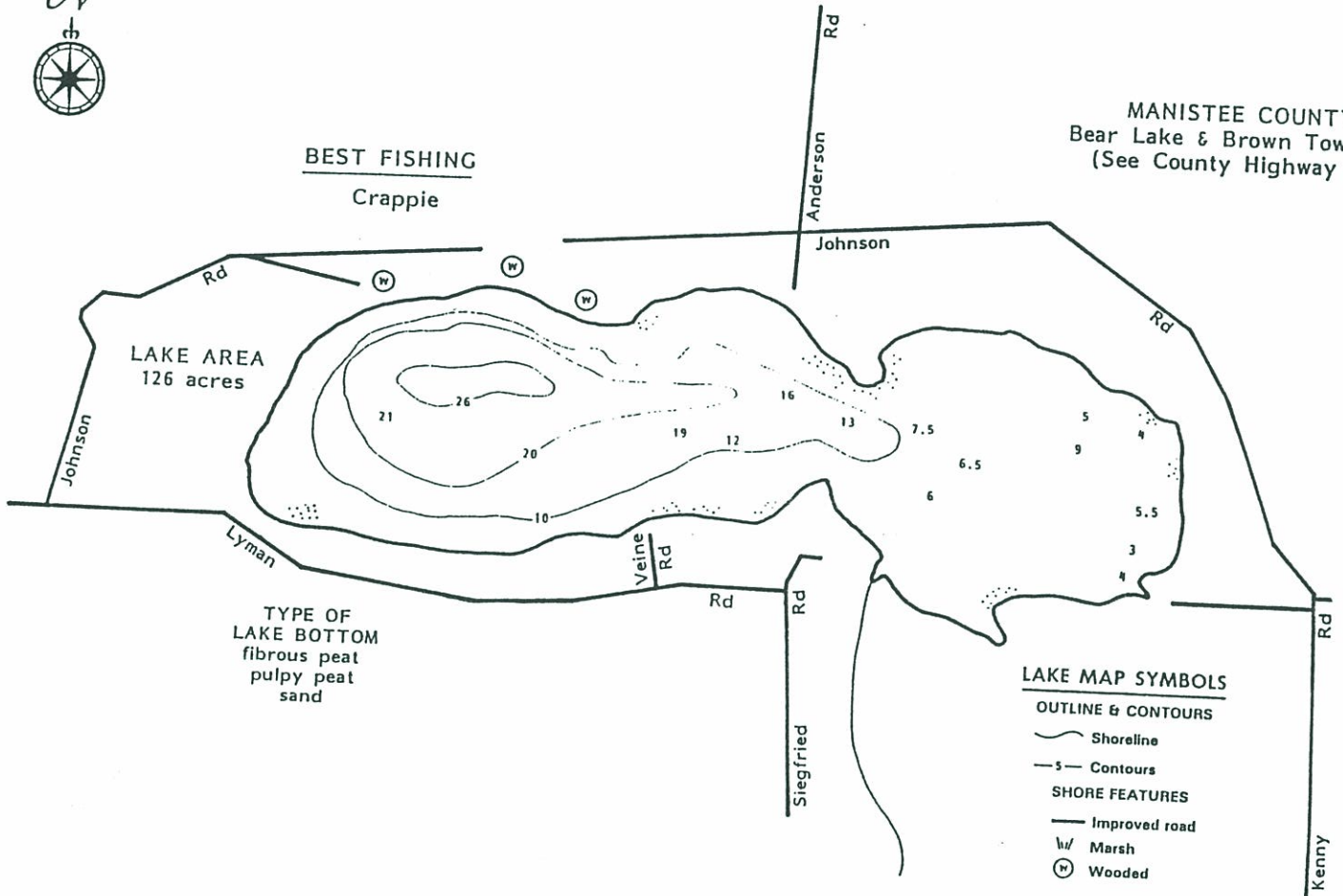
— Contours

SHORE FEATURES

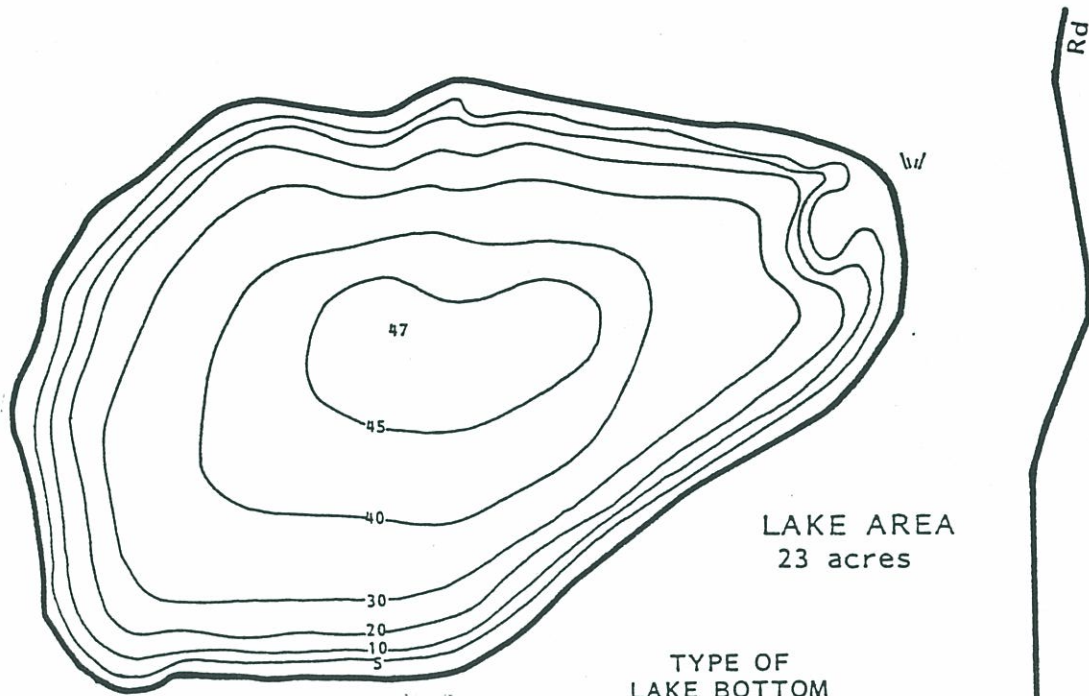
— Improved road

h/ Marsh

⊙ Wooded



MAP OF JAMES LAKE



LAKE AREA
23 acres

TYPE OF
LAKE BOTTOM
detritus
fibrous peat
marl
pulpy peat
sand

LAKE MAP SYMBOLS

OUTLINE & CONTOURS

— Shoreline

—5— Contours

SHORE FEATURES

— Improved road

w/ Marsh

⊙ Wooded

Nine Mile

598

Rd

598

Anderson

WATER

Surface Water and Drainage Systems

Bear Lake Township surface water consists of Bear Lake, Chief Lake, Emma Lake, James Lake, Watson Lake, Adamson Lake and Cooper Lake. The bulk of Bear Lake Township is part of the Big Manistee River drainage basin. Big Bear Creek drains most of the Township area. Bear Lake drains into Little Bear Creek which drains into Big Bear Creek which drains into the Big Manistee River.

Watson Lake and Cooper Lake are thought of as being kettle lakes. Generally, a kettle lake doesn't seem to be connected to a surfact water drainage basin and is not connected to any of the Township or County's rivers.

Wetlands

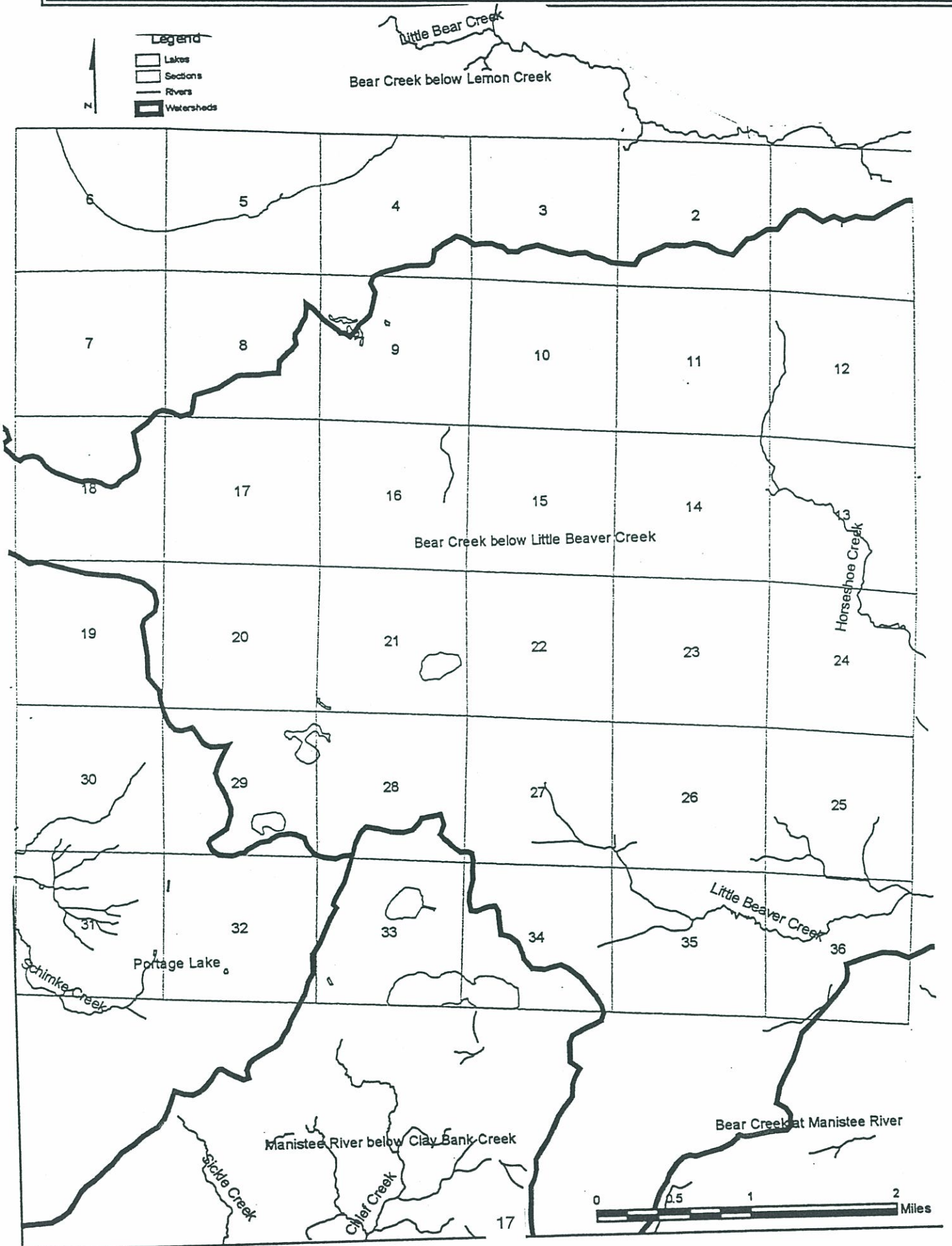
Soils with high moisture content are classified as somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained, sandy loamy, clayey, marly or organic (muck or peat) soils or lowlands. These areas have a severe to very severe soil limitations for residential or urban-type development. High water tables, (year-round, intermittent or seasonal within 1-2 feet of the surface) is expected in these areas. Problems with septic tanks, pollution of ground and surface water and poor load-supporting ability are problems associated with wetlands. Wetlands in the Bear Lake Township area are located in the southeastern and southern part of the Township. There are some wetlands along County Rd. 600 and south of the golf course and a good-sized area in the southwestern part of the Township. (It's located between Maidens Road on the north and 9 mile on the south).

Artificial Drains

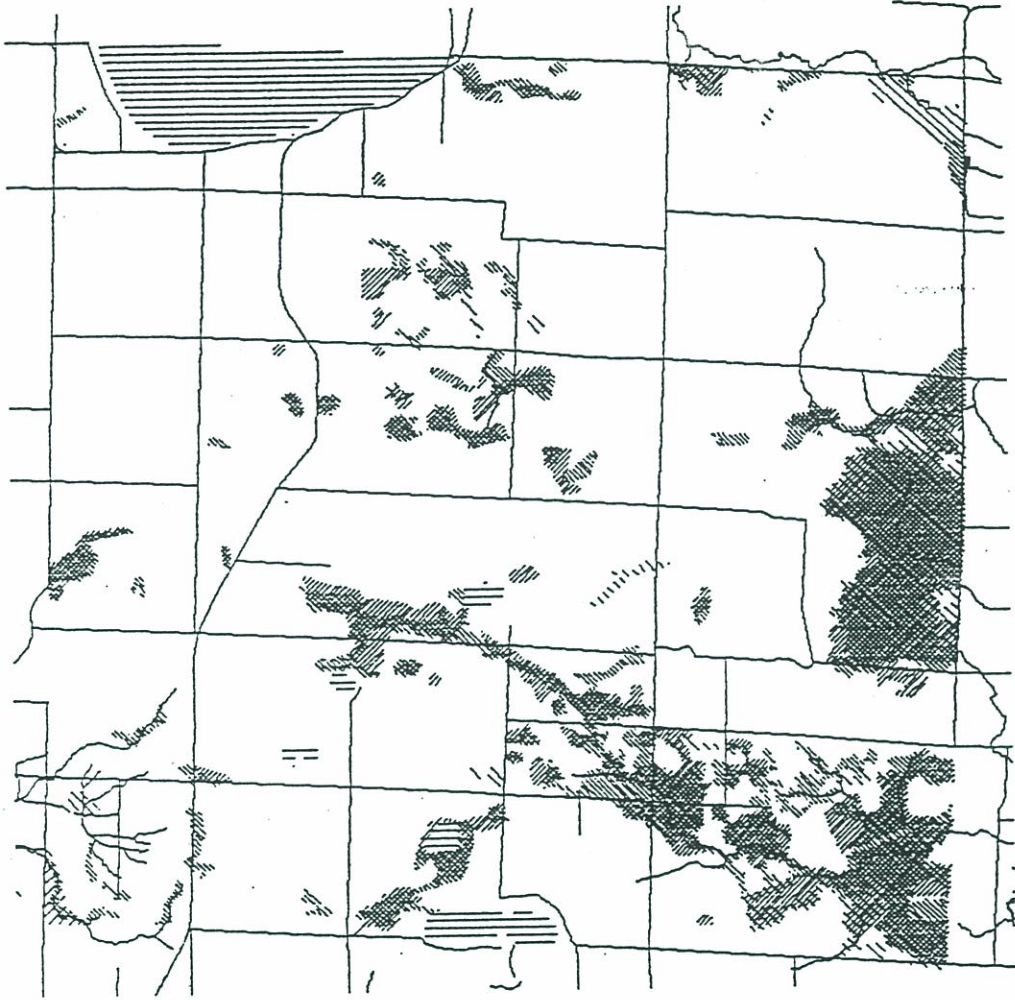
Manistee County Drains in the Bear Lake Township area as of November, 1979 are as follows:

- 1. BIG KAISER DRAIN - many open creeks and ditches drain into Horseshoe Creek and Williamson Creek.*
- 2. CHIEF LAKE DRAIN - open ditches and several gullies drain into Chief Lake and Chief Creek.*
- 3. GUSTASON DRAIN - open tile (buried) drain, drains, into Little Beaver Creek.*
- 4. BEAVER CREEK DRAIN - there is no explanation in the County Drain Report on what this drain is.*

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP HYDROLOGY MAP



BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP WETLAND MAP



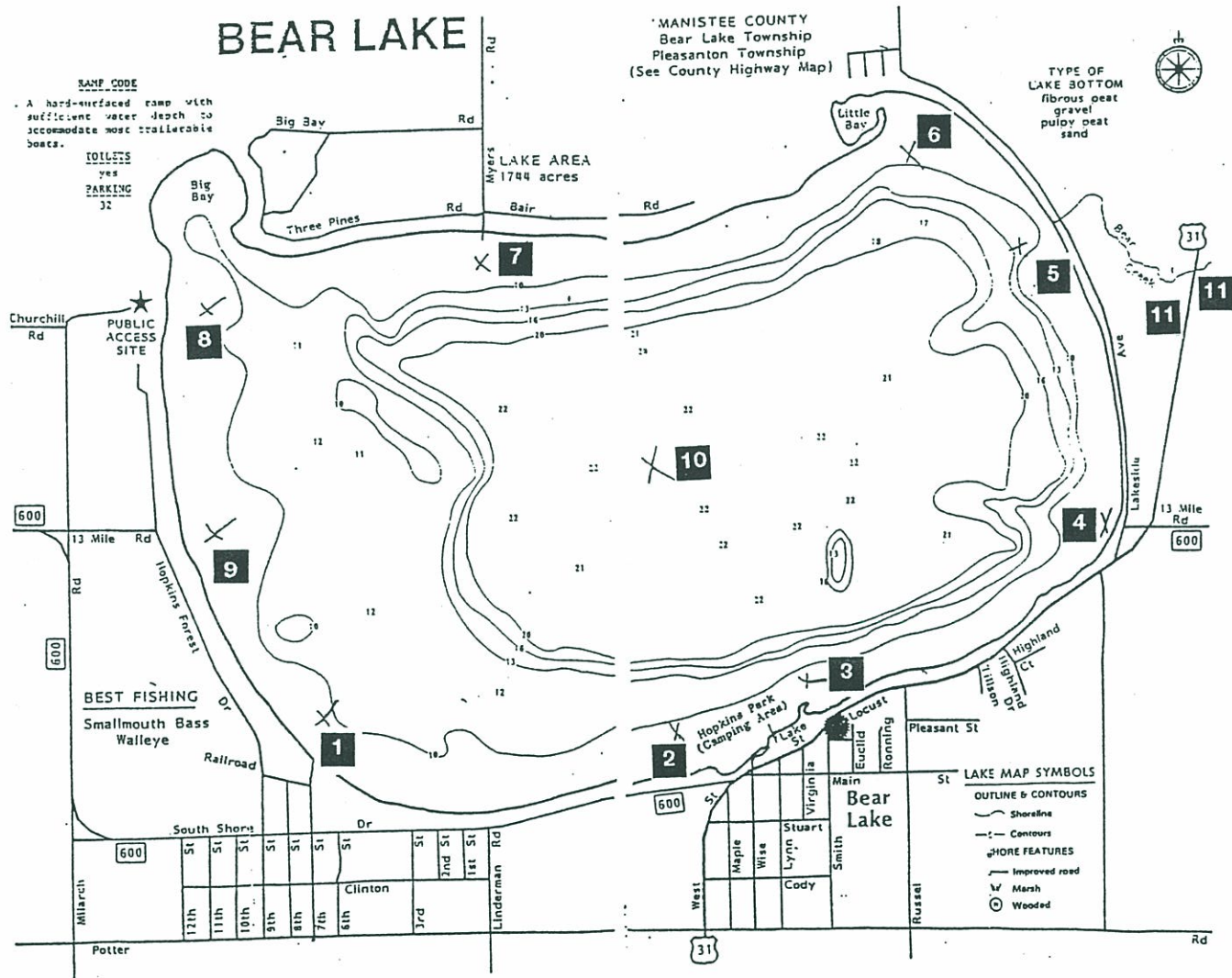
Legend

- Upland
- Wetland (hydraulic)
- Wetland (veg.)
- Maybe H. wetland
- Maybe H. wetland
- Maybe veg. wetland
-

(Vegetation & Soil)
Manistee Co. Planning
Dept. Sept. 28, 1995

BEAR LAKE WATER QUALITY TESTING LOCATIONS

See Following Page for Results



BEAR LAKE WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Sample Collection - Dated: 11/3/01

LAB I.D. #01110332 - 43

SITE	COLIFORM (FECAL) PER 100 ml	pH in pH units	DISS OXYGEN in Mg/L	AMMONIA NITROGEN in Mg/L	NITRATE NITROGEN in Mg/L	NITRITE NITROGEN in Mg/L	PHOSP TOTAL inMg/l
# 1	2	8.0	12.4	0.11	<0.5	0.01	0.033
# 2	19	7.9	12.1	0.11	<0.5	<0.01	0.025
# 3	3	8.1	12.4	0.10	0.5	<0.01	0.048
# 4	0	7.9	12.2	0.10	<0.5	<0.01	0.008
# 5	0	8.0	12.0	0.09	<0.5	<0.01	0.012
# 6	0	8.0	12.3	0.09	<0.5	<0.01	0.106
# 7	7	8.0	11.9	0.09	<0.5	<0.01	0.022
# 8	0	8.0	12.4	0.10	<0.5	<0.01	0.056
# 9	3	8.0	12.0	0.10	<0.5	<0.01	0.033
# 10	4	8.0	12.4	0.09	<0.5	<0.01	0.021
# 11	12	7.5	10.9	0.08	0.5	<0.01	0.037
# 12	14	7.4	11.1	0.08	0.5	<0.01	0.078

REMARKS: < = LESS THAN
 > = GREATER THAN
 OG = OVERGROWTH (BACTERIAL GROWTH WAS EXCESSIVE)

TOPOGRAPHY

The network of hills in Bear Lake Township are marginal moraines. The hills are deposits created by water running off the edge of a stationary glacier. The moraine, generally west of U.S. 31, has good farm soils. The good soils, combined with the irregular topography and moderate lake-effect climate lends the area to unique farming conditions. Those conditions favor fruit-growing, broccoli and cauliflower crops. However, the hills and lake in the hot summers make the area less favorable for corn and grains. Parts of the moraine, which extends east of U.S. 31 have flatter areas which lend themselves to irrigated cash crops. The moraine normally supports hardwood trees and have deposits of gravel and clay.

Bear Lake Township is also part of a glacial outwash plain. The outwash plain is where the water moving away from the glacier deposits sand and silt creating flat areas. The outwash plain in Bear Lake Township is part of a large plain that runs through the center of the county, extending from the north county line through Copemish, Kaleva, Brethren and Wellston. Two fingers running out of the larger Kaleva plain, includes Bear Lake and Chief Lake.

The major characteristics of an outwash plain is the presence of wetlands and poorly-drained soils. The entire area from Copemish south, drains into Big Bear Creek and then into the Big Manistee River. It is believed groundwater movement follows the same drainage pattern as the surface water. The plain has about 20-30 ft. of sand on top of a poor (for commercial use) clay. Groundwater sits on top of this 100 foot thick pan so the water table throughout the outwash plain is 10-20 feet below the surface.

This shallow water table has an advantage as an inexpensive source of irrigation water. However, the outwash plain soils are relatively infertile and poor for farming. The high water table and predominant horizontal movement of the water table close to the surface necessitates the need for caution as to the type of industry locating in the area.

An industry with a large volume of waste should not locate in this areas or should design a program to dispose of the wastes by reuse or transporting them elsewhere. A high density of septic tanks might also present the need for special attention.

SOIL

There are 18 different soil groups in Bear Lake Township, two of which make up the greatest content of the Township. They are classified as C7 and C8. They are both well-drained soils. The classification code being used is one used by the Northwest Michigan Prime Forests Lands Project. C8 is classified as one step better than C7 (due to the fact that C7 soils were weakly developed or degraded because of man's activity). Most of C7 soils are located on the abandoned farmlands which were depleted of many nutrients and organic matter by wind erosion and leaching which followed tillage.

The best soils in the Township for forest potential are classified as C1, C2, C3, C5 and part of E1, E4, E5, E7, F1 and F2. The very best (C2), is well to moderately drained, loamy soils. There are medium to small areas of this soil throughout the Township. C2 soils are found in Sections 3, 4, 7, 9, 16, 30, 31, 32 and 34.

The best soil in the Township for agriculture yield are C1 and C5. C5 is the best for the highest yield rates in the Township or County. There are only two small areas of this soil in the Township and they are located in Sections 9 and 16.

The most unsuitable soils in the Township are G1, G2 and H7. G1 and G2 are very poorly drained organic soils without trees. The geologic feature is very acidic bogs and unforested swamps. H7 is gravel pits. These soils are located in Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 33 and 35.

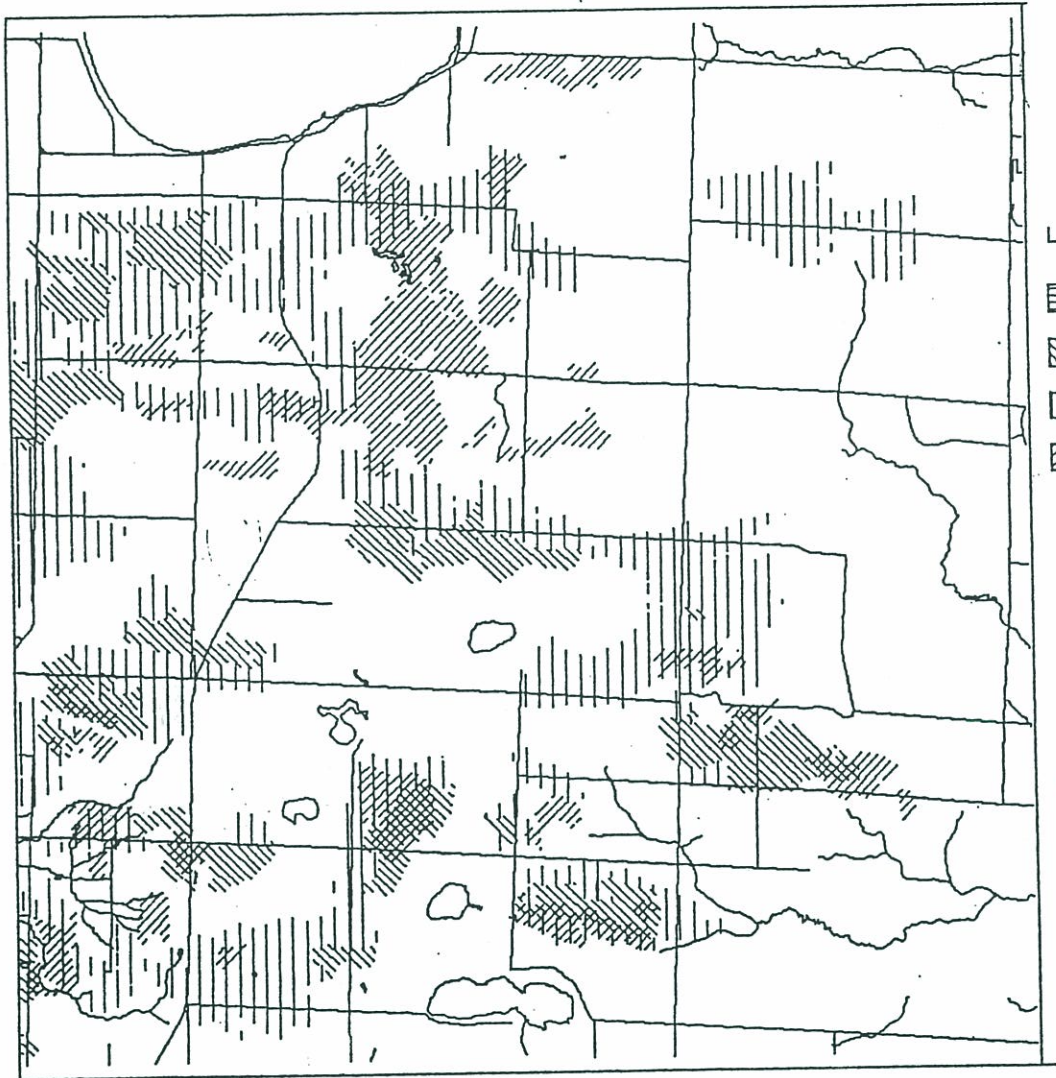
The information on soil comes from the Bear Lake Township Manistee County third Level Soil Association Reports and Tables, furnished by the Manistee County Planning Commission and dated March 1982.

This report is for general planning purposed and for preliminary work. It is well to keep this in mind when looking for a progressive soil survey, which this is not. This report should be considered and used often in making recommendations as to the goals and Zoning for the Township. This report was put together by information gathered by the County Planning Commission, Soil Conservation Service and the N.W. Michigan Prime Forests Lands Project. Even though this report and maps are for general planning, it should be noted that this is, so far, the best information that this Township and the County have available to date.





Information such as Forest potential, agriculture interpretations, building site limitations, sanitation limitations, construction material sources, recreational limitations and wildlife habitat information is important in all decision making from the Township. Some progressive soil survey work has been done around Bear Lake and along the Little and Big Bear Creeks south of 13 Mile Road. This material is not in published form. It is available for us at the County Planning Office and/or the the County Soil Conservation Service Office. Manistee County does not have a published Modern Progressive Soil Survey.

Because the soil survey and grouping is oriented towards timber production statements on other soil properties such as farming, sanitation and construction materials, the groupings used are not always consistent with the groupings used in this text.

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP IMPORTANT FARM LANDS



Legend

-  Nat. Unique Sligh
-  Nat. Unique Moder
-  Nat. Unique Sever
-  Locally Important

* FROM
CHERR

* FROM
SOIL

* SHADED AREA IS
CROP LAND, ORCHARDS
AND PASTURES

MINERAL RESOURCES OIL AND GAS

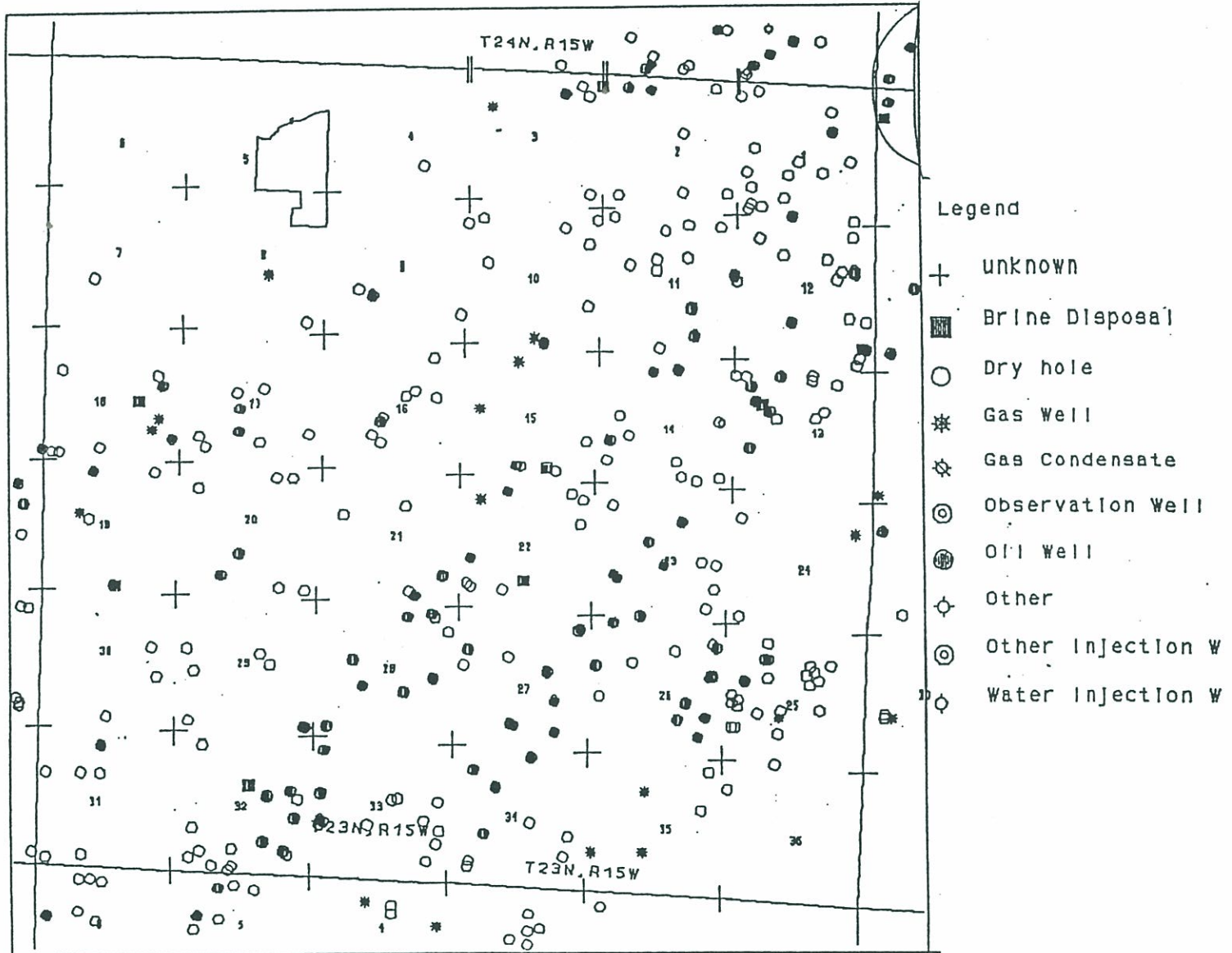
The principle minerals commercially sought in the Township are oil and gas. Well drilling has followed a pattern of the Silurian-Niagaran Reef. In the 70's and 80's, oil and gas activity boomed in Bear Lake Township. In the 90's the wells began to lose production with some wells being plugged.

In 1994, new technology was started with lateral drilling of some of the plugged wells, which brought them back to much higher production.

In 1995, Antrim Reef activity was begun with test wells.

The oil and gas industry is responsible for a large flow of money in the Township mainly through royalties and personal property taxes. Direct employment from oil and gas activity is not significant. Indirect employment from servicing oil and gas wells and the multiplier effect of the royalties has had a large impact on the local economy.

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP OIL / GAS / OTHER WELLS



WILDLIFE CHARACTERISTICS

~ BIRDS ~

SANDHILL CRANES - *Found infrequently in the Township but generally increasing in number.*

RUFFED GROUSE - *Low, decreasing amount of habitat available for these birds.*

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE - *None.*

SPRUCE GROUSE - *None.*

MOURNING DOVE - *Low to Medium.*

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - *Wild birds low to non-existent, may be some pheasants the result of releases by private individuals. Hard winters usually fatal to these birds.*

BOBWHITE QUAIL - *Non-existent except when released by private individuals.*

WILD TURKEY - *Medium population.*

WOODCOCK - *Medium population but decreasing in numbers. Habitat is decreasing as hunting pressure increases.*

WATERFOWL - *Low to medium, the continental population of most species of waterfowl are generally low. Canadian Geese are the exception.*

BALD EAGLES - *No nesting birds but Manistee River eagles probably use Bear Lake Township as part of total range.*

WILDLIFE CHARACTERISTICS

~ MAMMALS ~

OPOSSUM - *Medium density.*

COTTONTAIL RABBIT - *Medium to high density.*

SNOWSHOE HARE - *Low density.*

GRAY AND BLACK SQUIRREL - *Low to medium density.*

FOX SQUIRREL - *Low to medium density.*

RED SQUIRREL - *Abundant.*

NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL - *Common but rarely seen - nocturnal.*

BEAVER - *Medium*

MUSKRAT - *Low to medium.*

PORCUPINE - *Low to medium.*

COYOTE - *Medium and increasing in number, populations subject to mortality due to mange.*

RED FOX - *Low to medium.*

BLACK BEAR - *Low but increasing in number, may have resident bears in Township.*

RACCOON - *High.*

MARTEN - *None.*

FISHER - *None.*

LEAST WEASEL - *Part of range but no actual records of sights.*

SHORT-TAILED WEASEL - *Same as the Least Weasel.*

LONG-TAILED WEASEL - *Occur throughout the State.*

MINK - *Low to medium.*

BADGER - *Part of range but rarely seen.*

STRIPED SKUNK - *Medium to high density.*

LYNX - *None.*

RIVER OTTER - *Low to medium.*

BOBCAT - *Low density, rarely seen.*

DEER - *Medium density.*

COUGAR - *Low density, rarely seen.*

~ BLACK BEAR ~

In the late 60's or 70's the DNR placed Black Bear here to consume large amounts of Salmon that were dying on Creek banks at the end of their spawning run. The smell of dying Salmon is very offensive so to alleviate the problem it is believed that the bears were introduced to help balance nature. In the late 70's Roy Kuenzer did kill a black bear here in the township in self defense.

There are many other species of birds and mammals that occur in Bear Lake Township. The previous lists include most of the obvious and economically important species. There are important wetland types that provide much needed winter deer habitat and stop over areas for migrating waterfowl. The upland types are utilized by many different birds and mammals, many of which are listed previously. There are no endangered or threatened mammals or birds residing in Bear Lake Township.

CLIMATE

The location of Bear Lake Township in Manistee County is important to the area in terms of weather and climate due to the fact it is located on Lake Michigan's coastline. The lake provides a temperate climate resulting in a major fruit belt along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The prevailing westerly winds crossing the lake give Bear Lake Township cool summers and warmer winters. This retards early Spring warming, delaying fruit blossoms until after late frosts and prevent early autumn frost. Lake effect snow also contributes to a higher than normal annual snow cover for this altitude. Altitude in this areas ranges from 720 feet to 1100 feet. The altitude of Bear lake (the lake itself) is 768 feet above sea level.

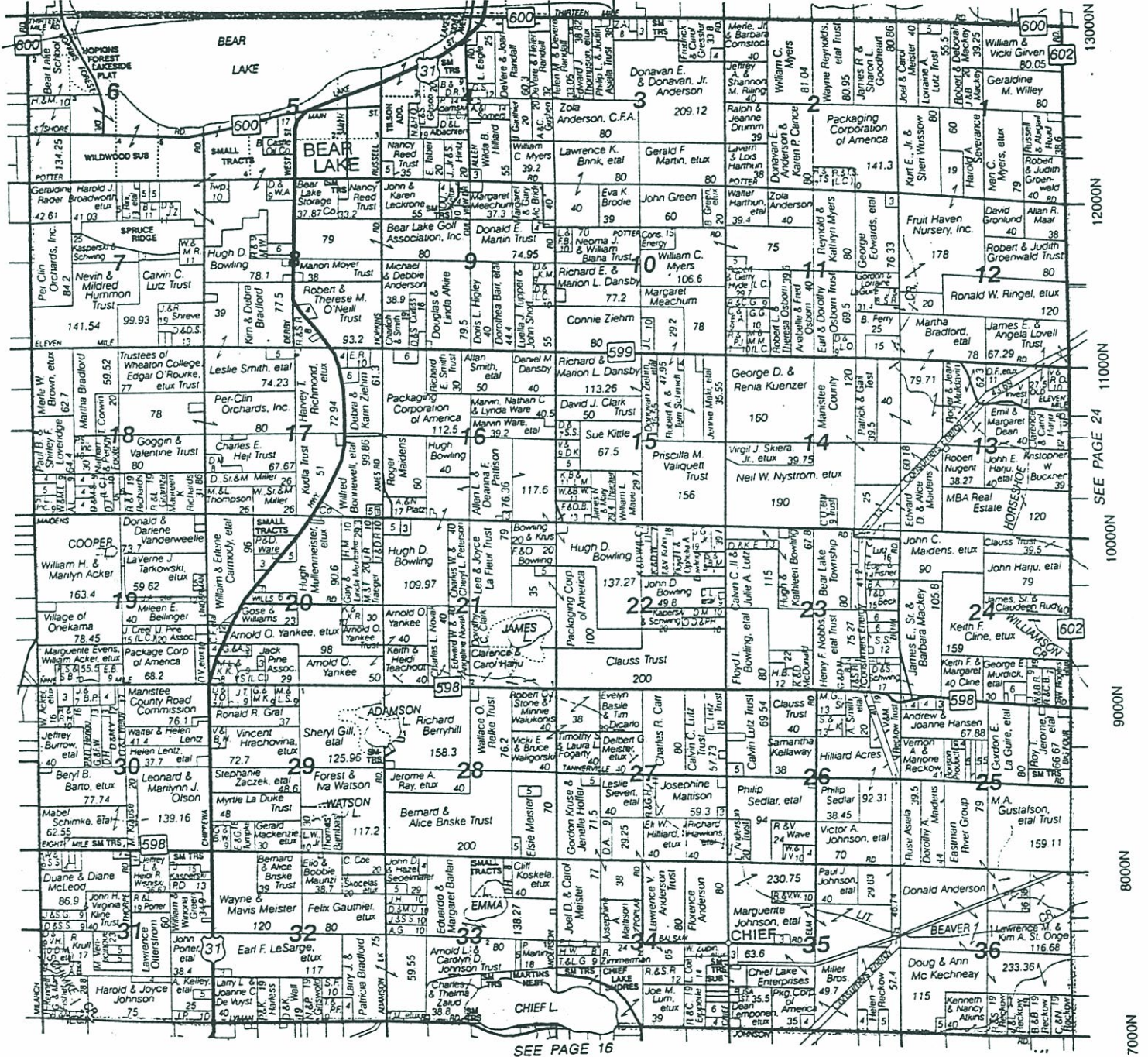
Heaviest rainfalls occur during the Fall months of September and October due to westerly winds picking up moisture over Lake Michigan. Snowfalls totals 66.4 inches and is about 20 inches more than the average on the east side of the state at the same altitude. The average rainfall is 30.1 inches in a year.

The average warm months temperature during the day hours, runs between 60 and 80 degrees. The average winter months temperature, during the daytime hours, runs between 0 and 30 degrees above Fahrenheit. (See also Geological Features).

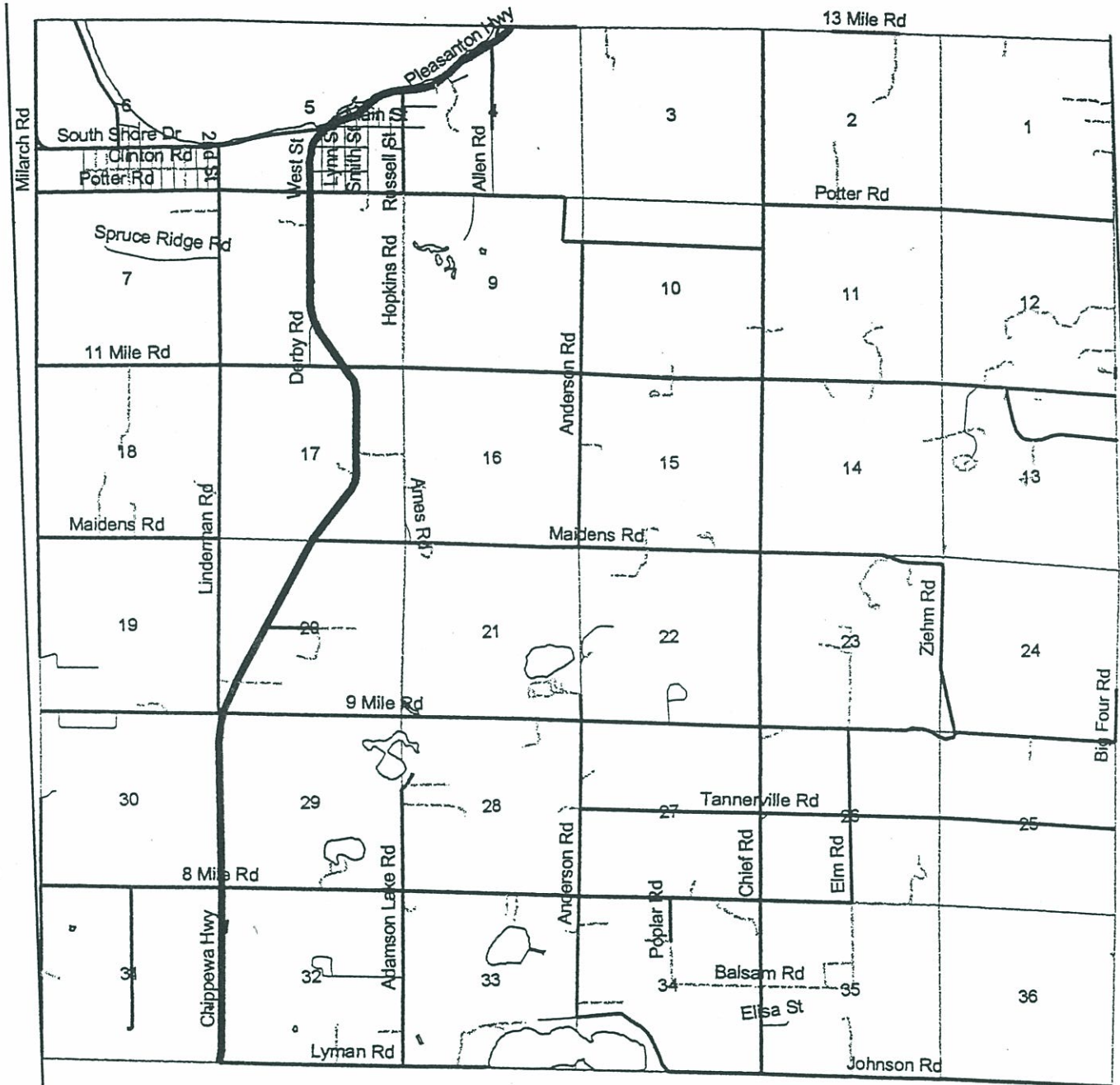
BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

T.23N. - R.15W.

Reproduced with permission of Rockford Map Publishers, Inc. Rockford, IL



BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP ROAD MAP



Legend

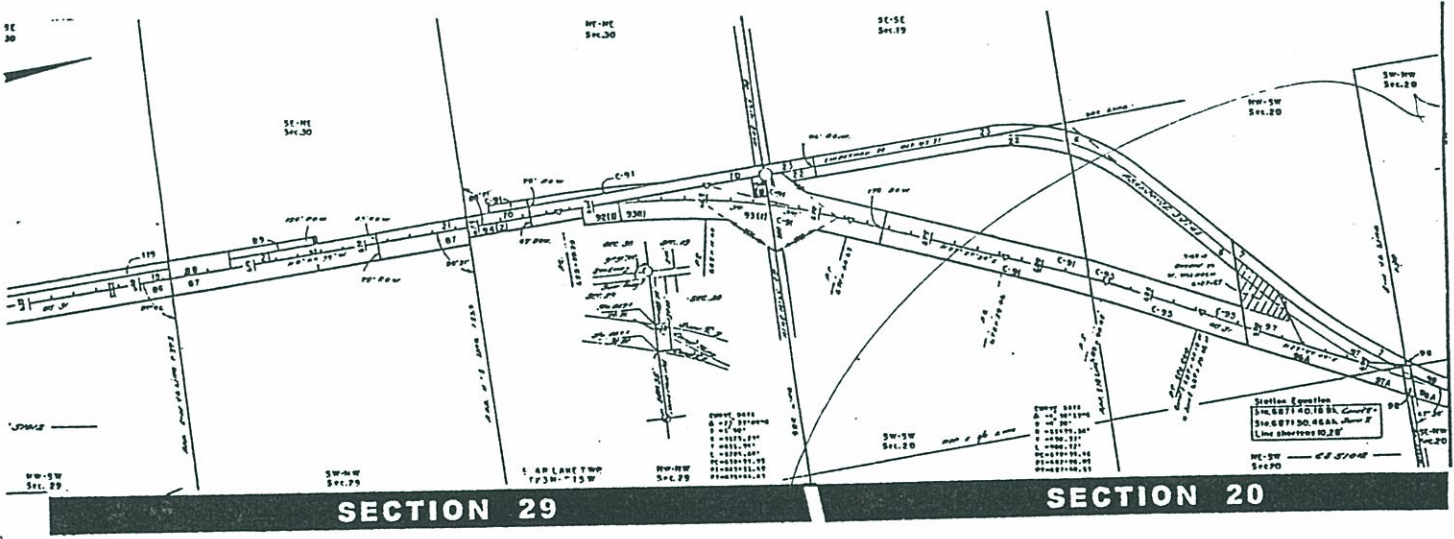
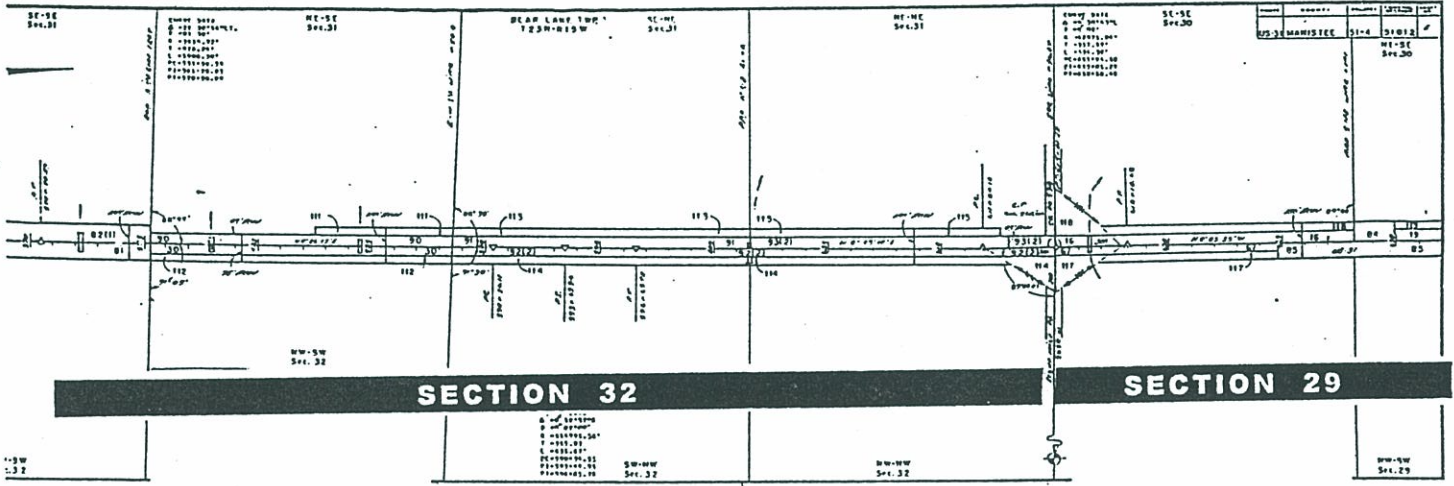
Roads

- Two Tracks
- Highways
- Minor Roads
- County Roads
- Lakes
- Sections



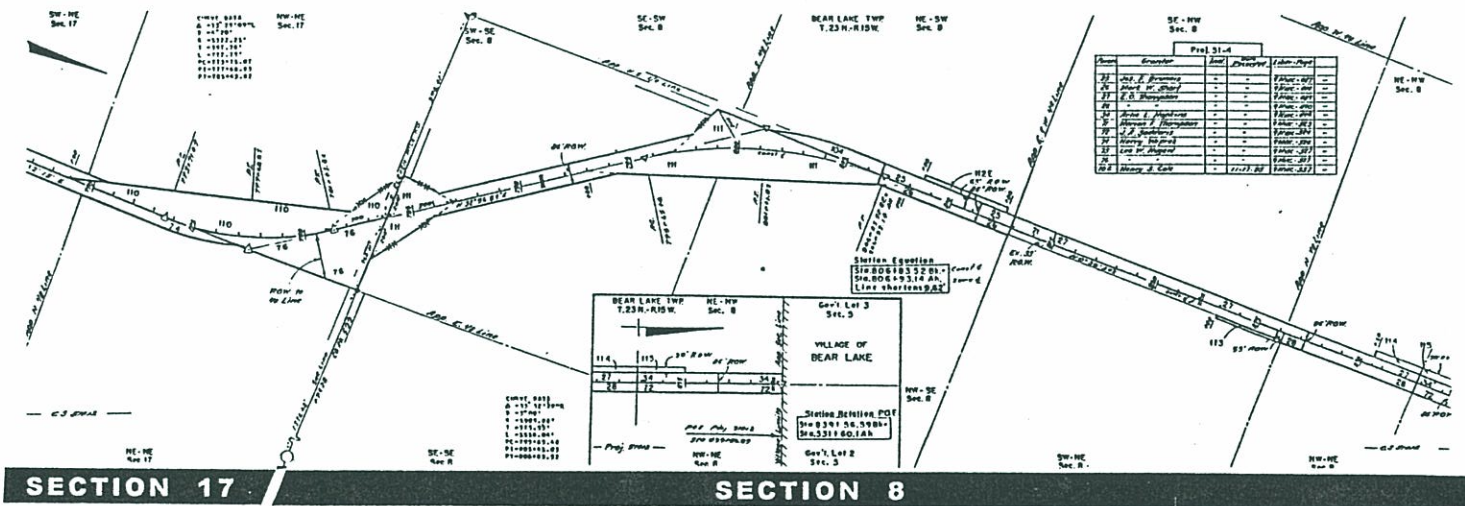
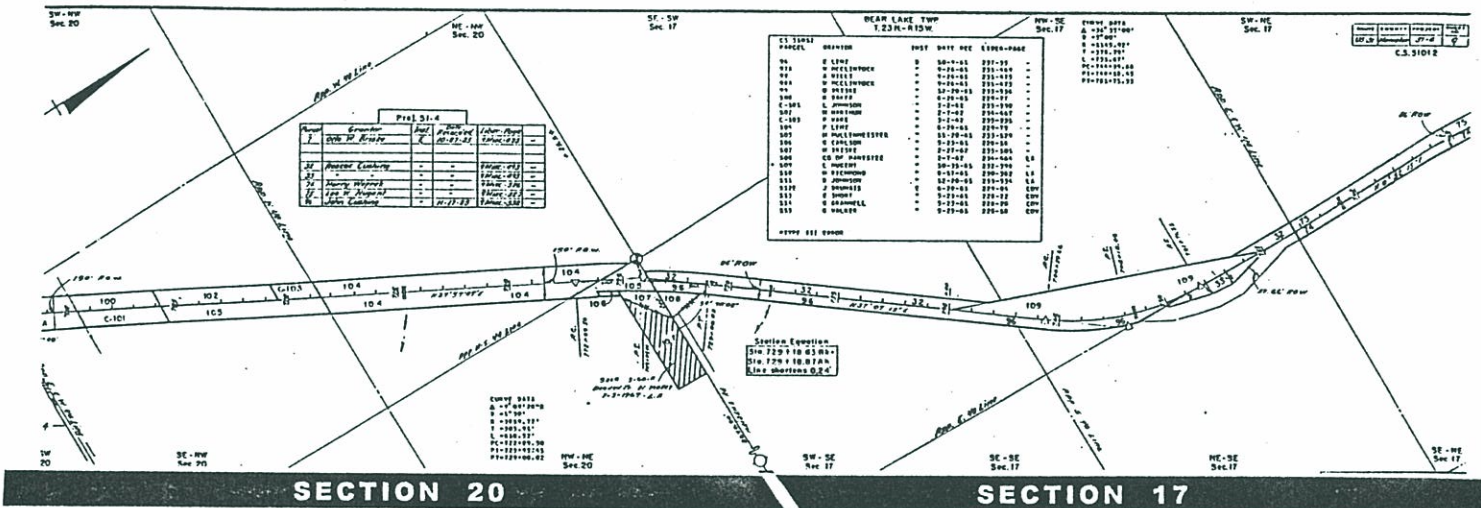
BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP MAP

Road Right Of Way



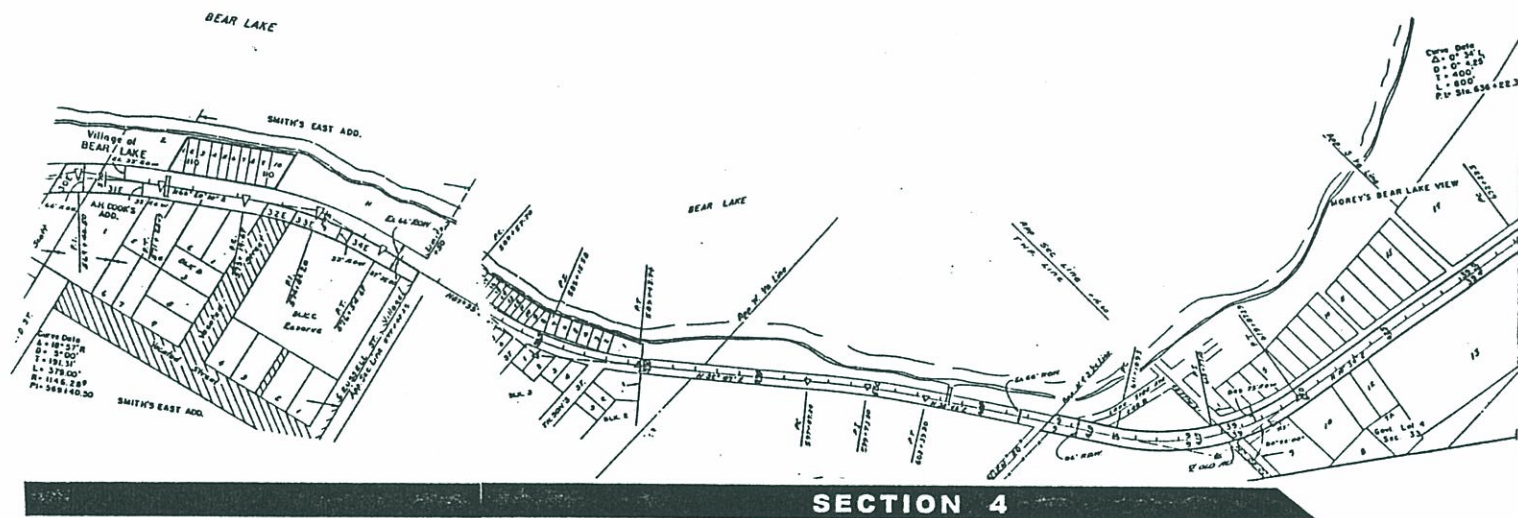
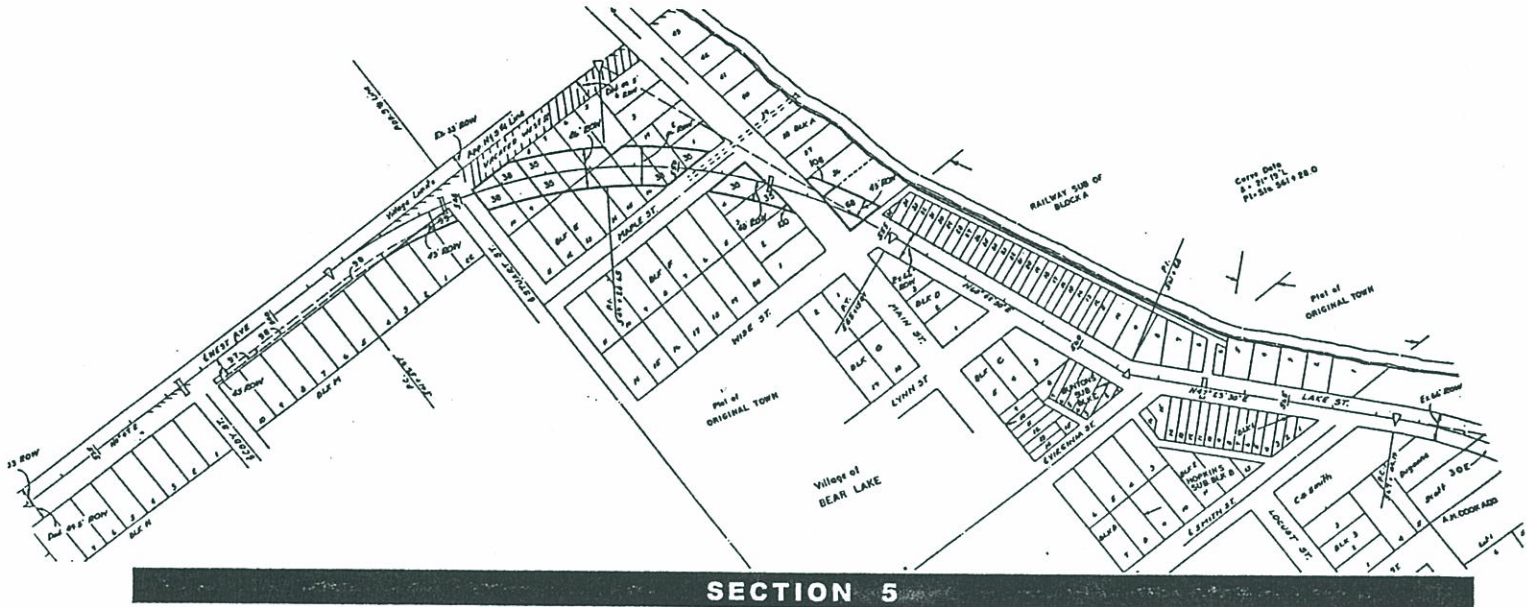
BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP MAP

Road Right Of Way

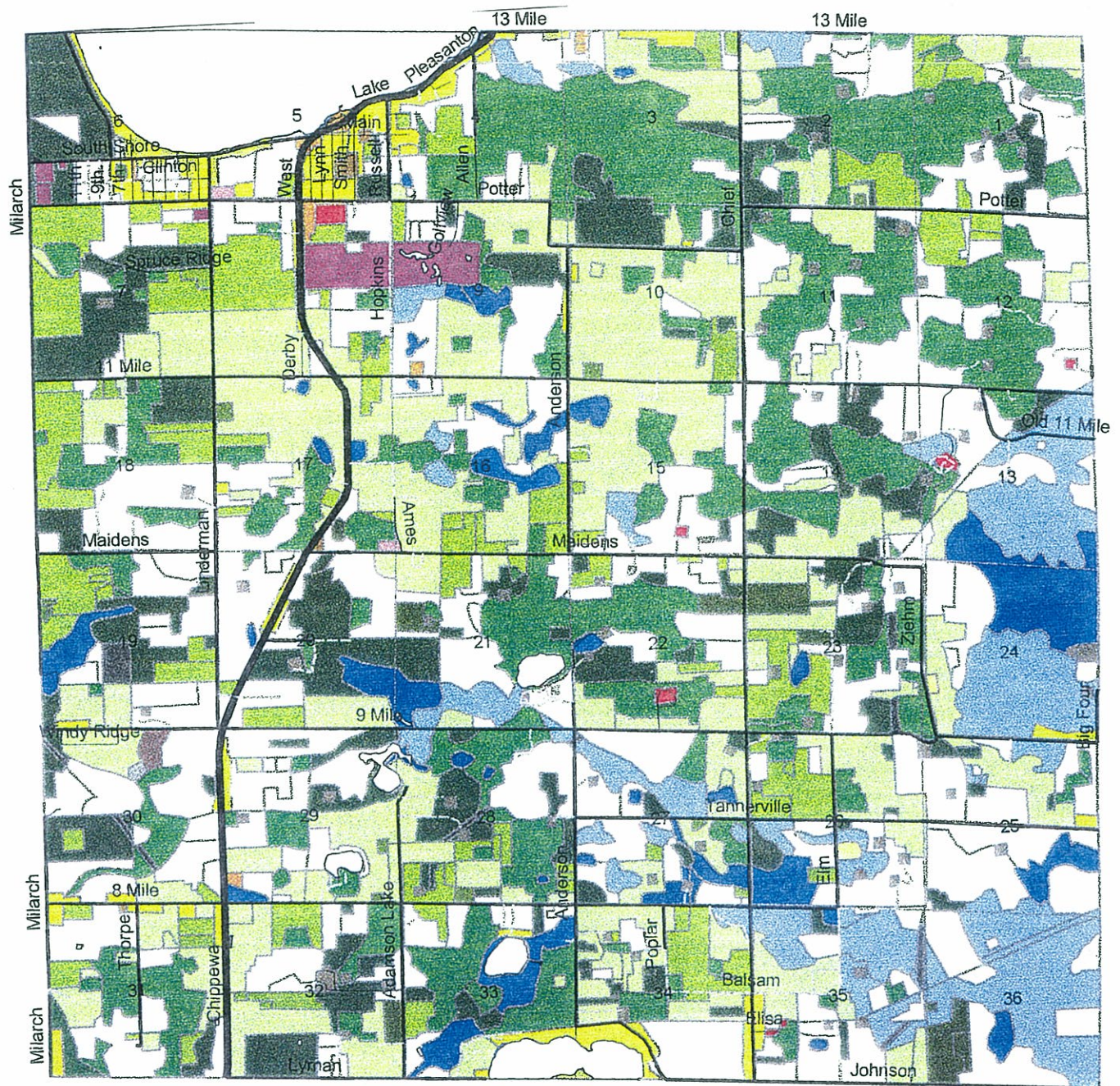


BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP MAP

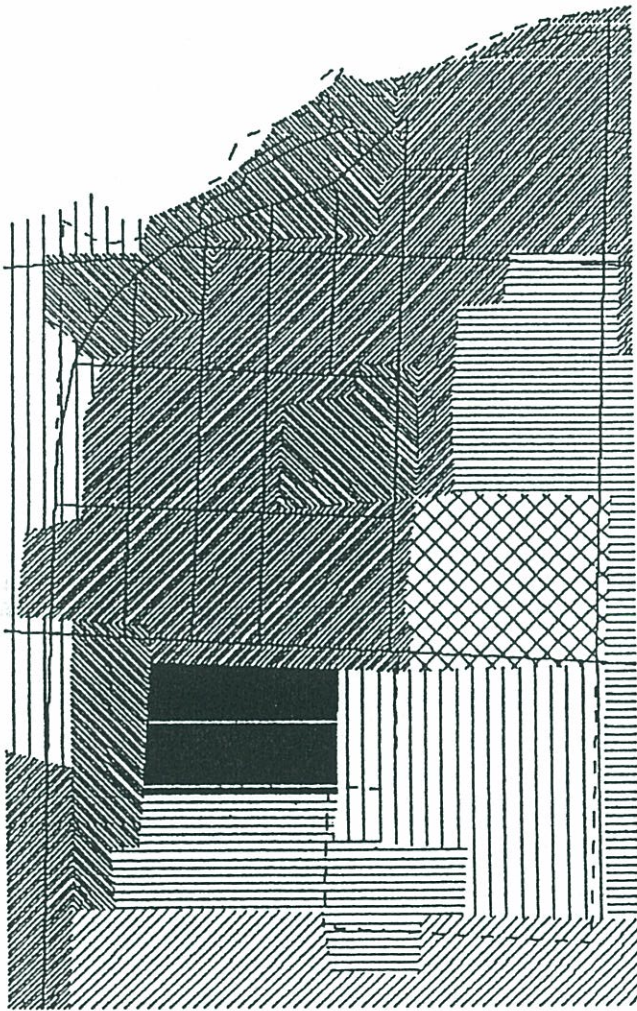
Road Right Of Way



BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND USE MAP



BEAR LAKE VILLAGE LAND USE MAP



BEAR LAKE VILLAGE

LAND USE MAP

Legend

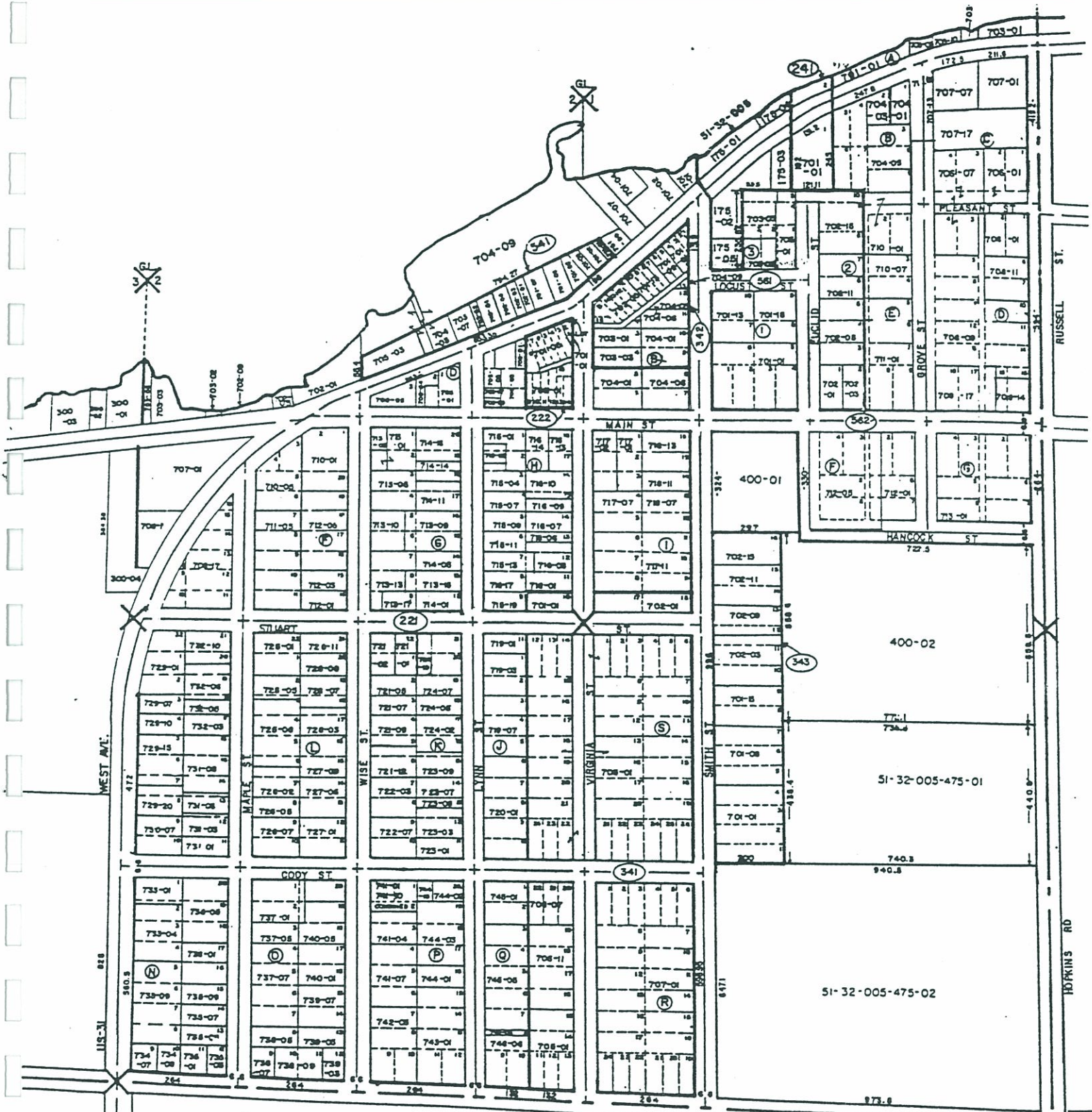
-  Residential
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Transportation
-  Extractive
-  Open (parks) and
-  Agriculture
-  Range Lane (field
-  Forest
-  Water
-  Wetlands
-  Barren

Manistee Planning
Dept. Nov. 17, 1995

1982 Data

VILLAGE OF BEAR LAKE

Bear Lake Sec 6 T23N R15W

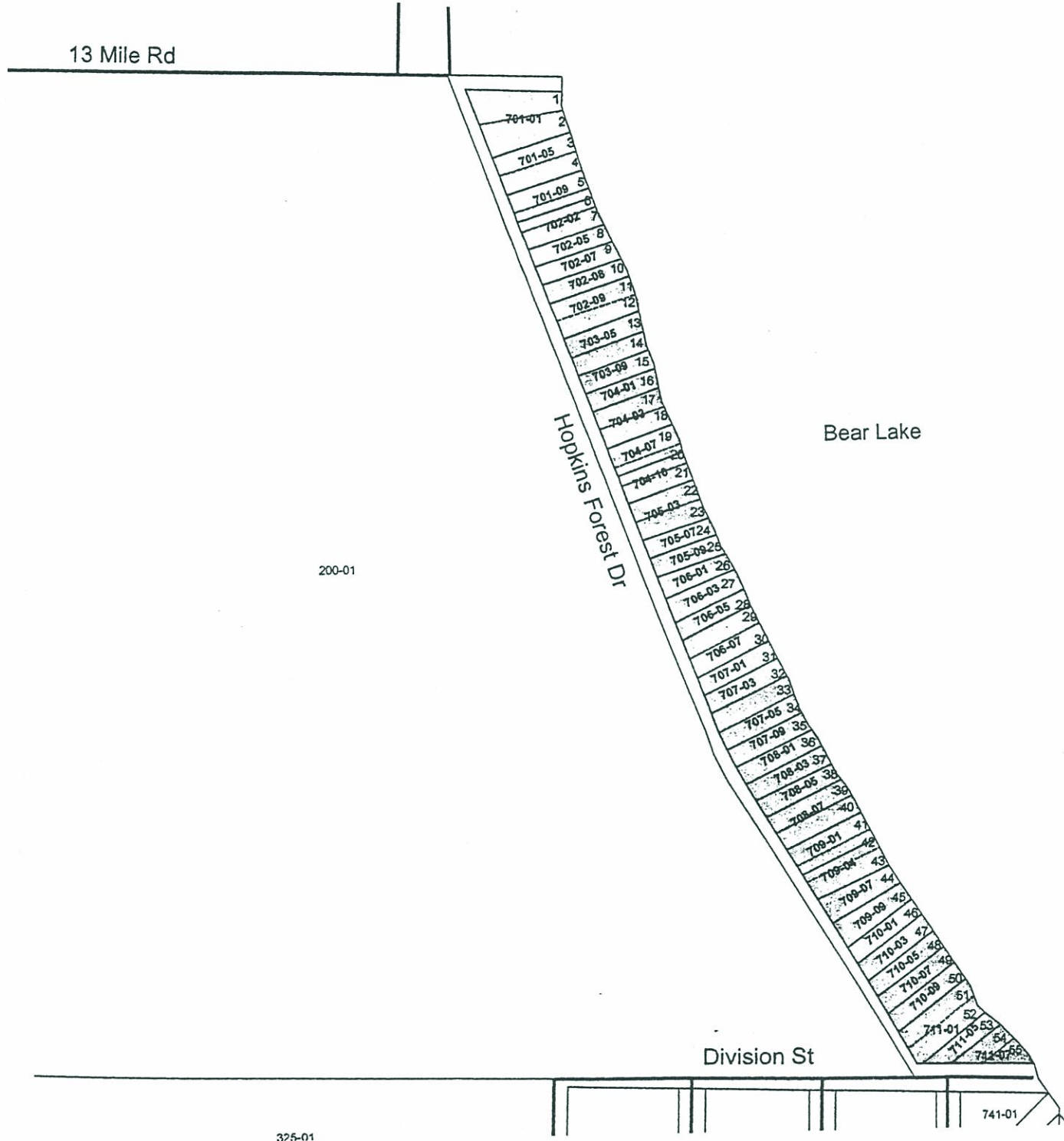


- PLATS**
- 221-VIL OF BEAR LAKE
 - 222-BUNTONS SUBD. BLK. C VIL OF BR. LK.
 - 241-A.H. COOKS ADD TO VIL OF BR. LK.
 - 341-HOPKINS
 - 342-HOPKINS SUBD. BLK. B VIL OF BR. LK.
 - 343-HOPKINS HOMESTEAD ADD. TO VIL OF BR. LK.
 - 541-RAILWAY SUBD. BLK. A VIL OF BR. LK.
 - 561-SMITHS ADD TO VIL OF BR. LK.
 - 562-SMITHS E. " " VIL OF BR. LK.

BEAR LAKE TWP T23N, R15W
SECTION 6
51-02-005
and
51-32-005

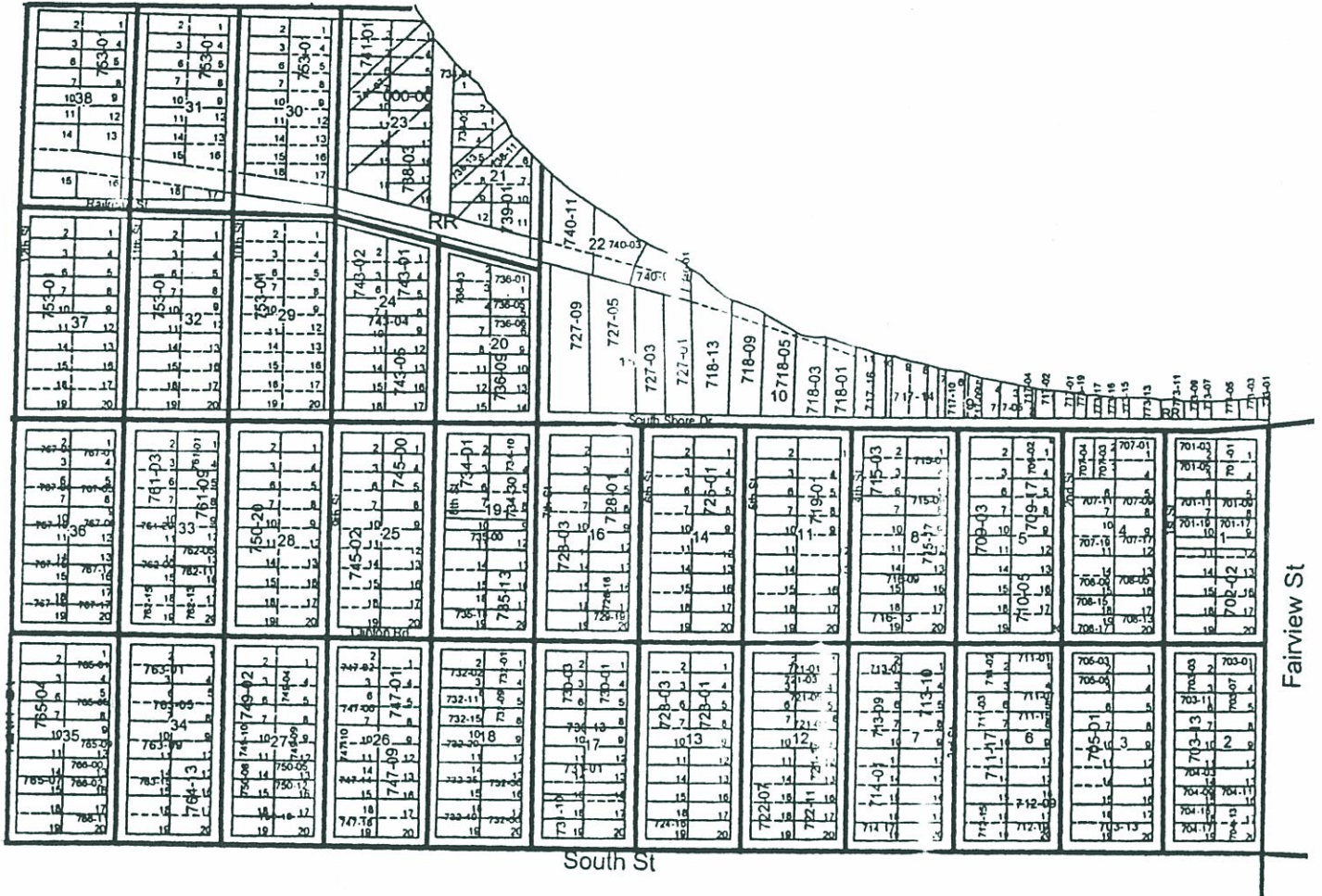
HOPKINS FOREST SUBDIVISION

Bear Lake Sec 6 T23N R15W



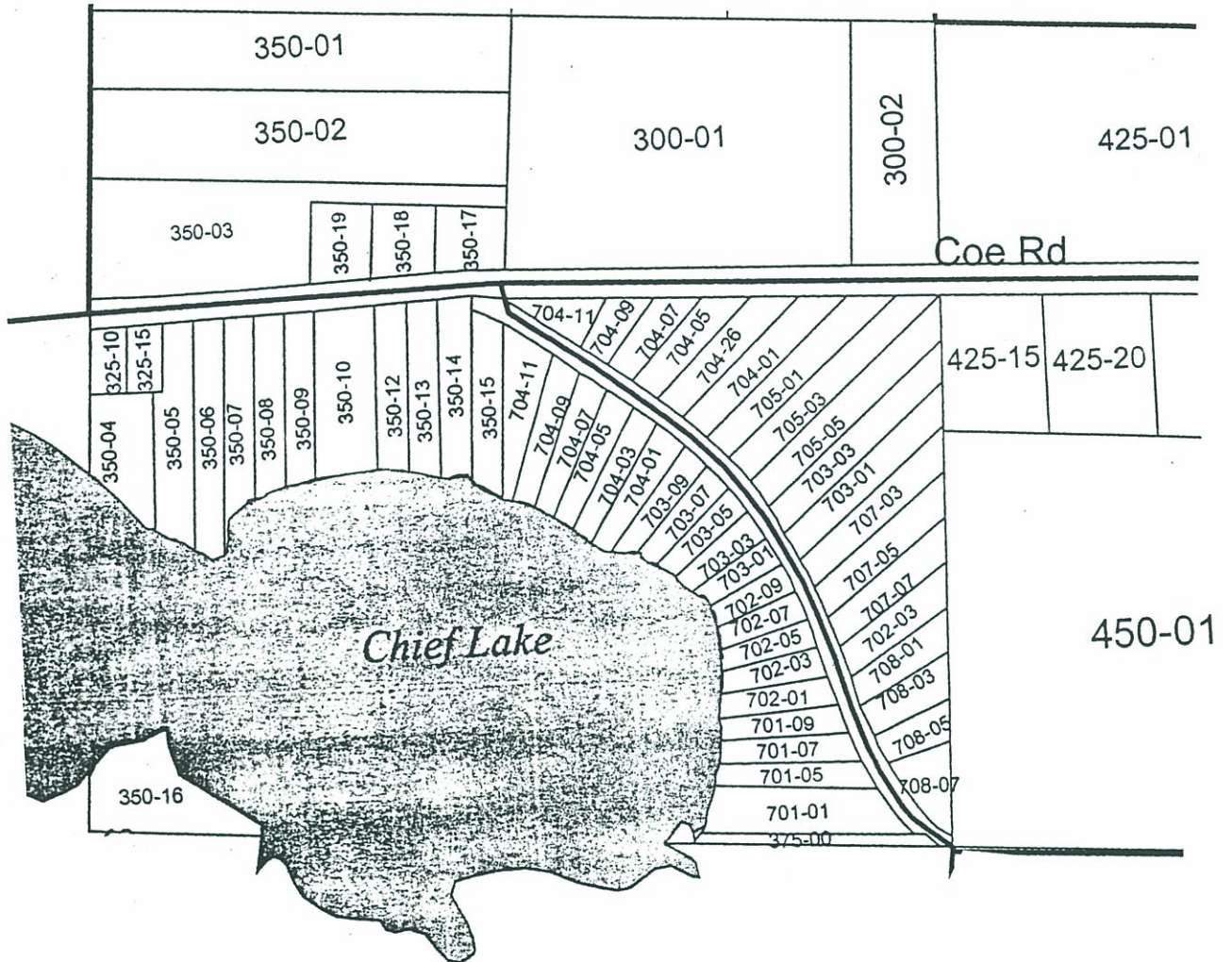
WILDWOOD SUBDIVISION

Bear Lake Sec 6 T23N R15W



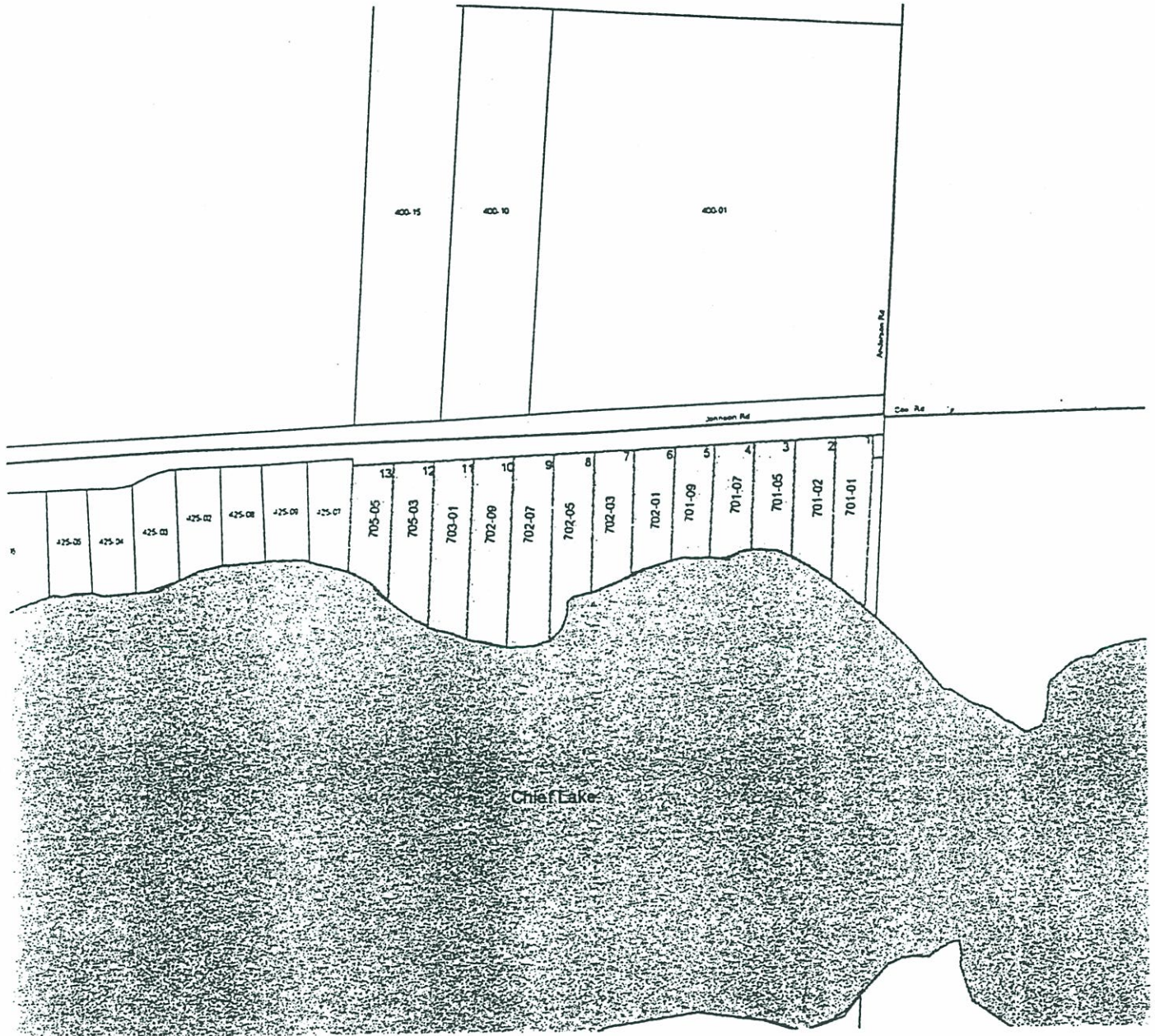
CHIEF LAKE SHORES SUBDIVISION

Bear Lake Sec 34 T23N R15W



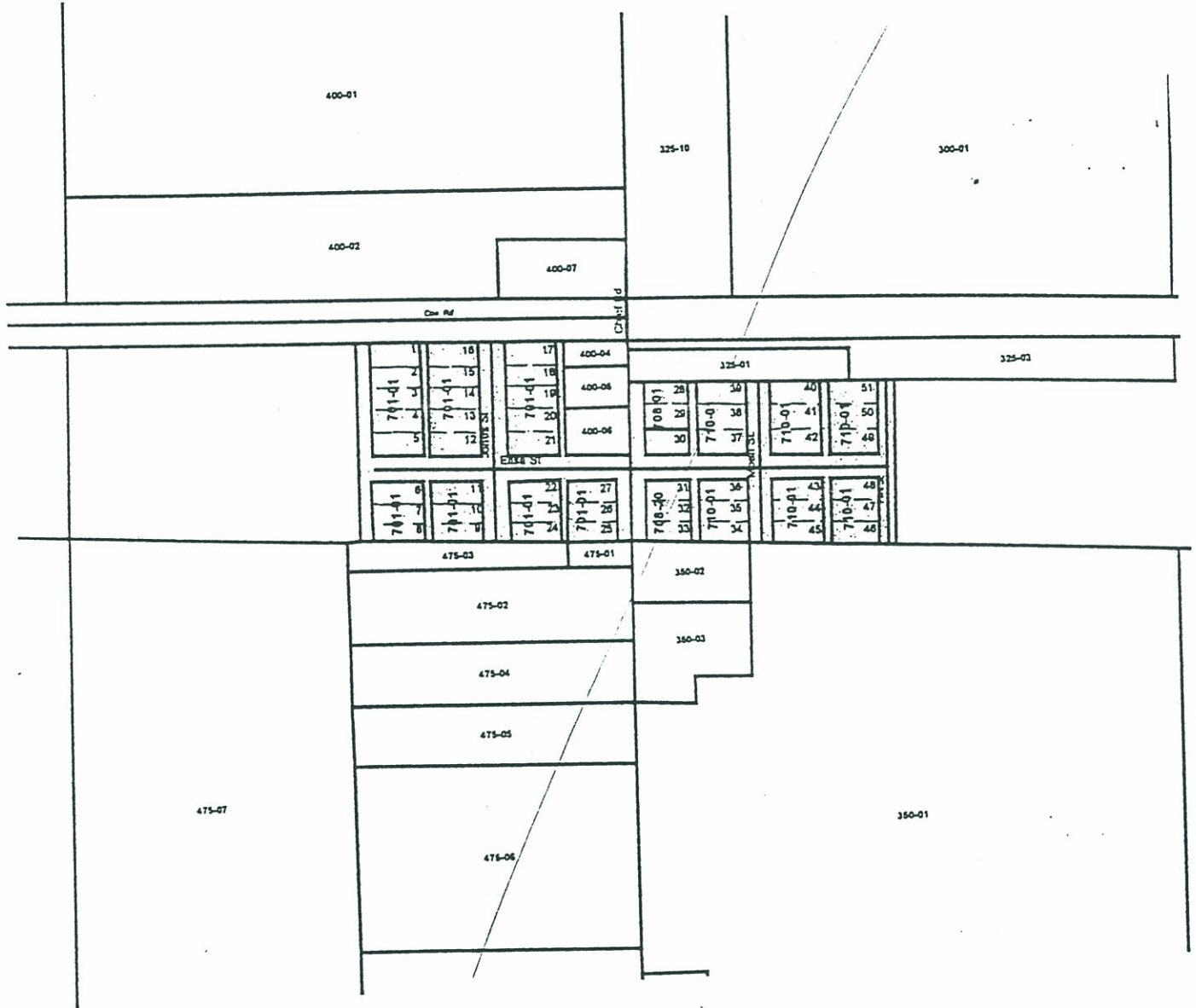
MARTINS NEST SUBDIVISION

Bear Lake Sec 33 T23N R15W



VILLAGE OF CHIEF SUBDIVISION

Bear Lake Sec 35 T23N R15W



SPRUCE RIDGE SUBDIVISION MAP

Bear Lake Sec 7 T23N R15W



PARKS AND RECREATION

HOPKINS PARK

Located in Section 5, in the Village of Bear Lake on the south shore of Bear Lake. The site was originally the lumber yard for the Hopkins Saw Mill. After the lumber cut was finished, Mr. George W. Hopkins undertook the gigantic task of creating a park. Hundreds of loads of earth was hauled in, grass was sown and trees planted. After the work was completed, the two acre park was donated by the Hopkins family to the Village of Bear Lake to be used by the people of the area. The first campers arrived in 1925.

The facilities include 30 campsites each of which have a fire pit ring and 50, 30 and 20 amp electrical service. There are 50 picnic tables, 2 grills and a 30 ft x 20 ft. shelter. Restroom and coin operated showers are located in the basement of the Village building above the campgrounds. There is a drinking fountain, 3 water taps and a dump station for recreation vehicles, motor homes and trailers. The children's play area consist of 1 regular size set of swings and 2 small swing sets with slides. There are benches and adult swing benches throughout the park.

HARRY D. COSIER MEMORIAL PARK

Formally known as the "unnamed park"

The Park at Wise and Stewart Streets was donated to the Village of Bear Lake on November 19, 1929 by Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Cosier to become a memorial to their departed son Harry D. Cosier. Facilities include a tennis court and 2 basketball boards.

TENNIS COURTS

Tennis courts are located on school property on Smith Street. Built with monies from the Triginta Club of Bear Lake.

COUNTY HIGHLAND'S GOLF COURSE

Established in 1966 by local businessmen and area citizens. The course originally started with 9 holes and has since expanded to 18 holes, club house, pro-shop, restrooms and drinking fountains on the course.

BOAT LAUNCHING SITES

On Bear Lake there is only one boat launching site located at Hopkins Park.

On Chief Lake there is one boat launching site located off Lyman Road.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

9-1-1 EMERGENCY NUMBER

Your chance of saving a life - even your own - depends on how many seconds it takes you to call for emergency help. Now, the fastest way to get help is to dial 9-1-1.

In the Fall of 1993, Manistee County initiated a "9-1-1" Central Dispatch. Since that time, all emergency services are dispatched from Central Dispatch which is located at the Sheriff's Department Complex. Control Dispatch consists of one director and 10 dispatchers.

An experienced dispatcher is ready to help you at any hour of the day or night. After you give the information needed, assistance will be sent the quickest way possible.

Remember 9-1-1 for all your fire, medical and police emergencies, it could save your life or the life of someone you love.

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bear Lake has a volunteer reimbursed department of approximately 17 members. The department members are required to have a minimum of Fire Fighter I training.

The Department has three emergency medical technicians (EMT's) and five medical first responders.

The Township purchased a new 2000 International Fire Truck that is equipped with a compressed air foam system. In addition the Department has a 1976 Ford Fire Truck Pumper, a 1987 Ford 2000 gallon Tanker, a 1987 Ford Rescue Truck and is the location of the Manistee County Mobile Cascade system with four 5000 psi cylinders and filling station for air pac cylinders.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service for Bear Lake Township is from West Shore Medical Center. They have four ambulances, one of these stationed at the Kaleva Fire Department for quick response to the needs of the northern part of the county. They are staffed by paramedics. In addition, they have an echo unit which is a non-transport advanced life support vehicle.

They are currently staffed with eleven full time paramedics. They also have reserve personnel which consists of three paramedics, seven EMT specialists and eight basic EMT's. In addition, they also have an ALS (Advanced Life Support) bike squad that is a special event group, which consists of paramedics and EMT personnel.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Sheriff's Department located in Manistee County consists of the Sheriff, Undersheriff, two Patrol Sergeants, one Detective Sergeant, one Narcotics Officer, one Deputy who performs court bailiff duties, two Animal Control Officers, six Deputies who perform patrol duties, one full time Water Patrol Deputy and two seasonal Water Patrol Deputies.

STATE POLICE POST

The State Police Post consists of one Lieutenant, three Sergeants and fifteen Troopers. They patrol all of Manistee County plus the four southern most townships of Benzie County.

There is a Sergeant on the desk for eight hours a day, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and a car on the road 24 hours a day.

MANISTEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

COUNTYWIDE DIAL-A-RIDE

Morning and Afternoon - 6 days a week

24 Hour Advance Reservation Required

General Manager: Dick Strevey

Call 231-723-6525 or 1-800-775-7433

For Reservation or More Information

Conference Room Available For Rent

Free Transportation To Munson Hospital

Monday - Friday: Will Pick Up At Home

LIBRARY

Keddie Norconk Memorial Library

In the fall of 2000, Bear Lake received word that previous residents, John and Genevieve Martin, wished to make a major contribution toward the cost of constructing our community's first "real" library.

They also asked that the new library be named, not for themselves, but for two long time Bear Lake residents Luke Keddie, previous owner and editor of the Pioneer Press and Dr. Norconk, our first true physician.

Bear Lake Township, the Village of Bear Lake and Pleasanton Township have come together and created the legal entity, the Keddie Norconk Memorial Library Board, to build and administer our new library with the Manistee County Library Service providing professional staffing and circulation materials.

Property on Virginia Street for the construction was donated by Ken and Diane Edwards.

Ground was broke on the site on September 28, 2001, just 17 days after the World Trade Center tragedy and it was very much on our minds. As if in response to our determination to keep the ideal of freedom of expression for all alive, our entire community has responded to our equal determination to build the best library we possible could.

The original Martin donation, of \$150,000.00, has been doubled in the form of volunteer labor, expertise and cash. We have been able to purchase one of the best types of library shelving available by virtue of a whole "host" of "Angels" - generous service clubs and individuals who donated the cost of each section. In return, they will see their generosity forever honored with a porcelain "Library Angel" plaque, also donated by MarEII Porcelain of Bear Lake.

A \$5,000 grant was received from the Oleson Foundation toward the installation of a heating, ventilating and cooling system. Other grant funding is being sought and donations are still being accepted. Oakgrove Cremation Service donated the Corner Stone.

Graphic and interior design needs have been donated. Indeed so many others have contributed that we have created a web site at www.bearlakemichigan.org/library.html to document the whole project and honor all who have and are playing a role in realizing this wonderful project.

Even our local school children had a chance to help build the new Library this spring. They were invited to march down the Virginia Street hill and lay bricks - under journeyman supervision - for the 2,400 square foot library branch. Superintendent Greg Webster, was enthusiastic about giving each child the experience of taking part in the construction. It will be something they can tell their own children and grandchildren about in decade to come.

Children will again get a chance to contribute to our library history when they are invited to write their thoughts and hopes for their present and future in a "letter to the 2052". Area residents will also get the chance to contribute their "letter" to an archival time capsule that will be stored inside the library then opened 50 years from now.

Each of the three units of government have also committed funds to designate a section of the library for community history and resources. We have purchased a secure display case and a section of shelving to provide a central location for governmental and community information.

Abonmarche Consultants Inc., architects of Manistee designed the library building to meet all State and Federal building, fire, Americans with Disabilities Act and environmental codes. Library Design Associates of Plymouth, who also were part of the new Traverse Area District Library and Wyoming Public Library design team, consulted on the interior to ensure it met American Library Associate and Library of Michigan standards.

The library opened in early June 2002, with a dedication ceremony on July 13, 2002. July 12th, 2002 was designated Children's Day.

An Endowment Fund was created to ensure future maintenance, matching grant financing, special programs and capital outlay funds.

The partnership between the people of Bear Lake and the Manistee County Library Service will provide a first class addition to the delivery of professional library information services to the people of northern Manistee County. It will realize our joint commitment to literacy, education and community pride. This is our library and we can all take pride in what we have accomplished together.

SCHOOLS

Bear Lake Schools is the public school system that serves both Bear Lake and Pleasanton Township residents. A small number of students in the area also attend Manistee Catholic Central, Trinity Lutheran and Bear Lake Baptist private schools.

Bear Lake Schools were accredited by the North Central Association in 1992. The school provides K-12 grad programs at the Bear Lake facility. Adult Education Programs for Manistee and Benzie Counties are also provided at several locations. Bear Lake School serves as a center for West Shore Community College evening programs. Both adult and day school students attend West Shore Community College technology programs during the day.

The main school building represents six different constructions since 1951. The most recent addition (2002) provided for 4 new elementary classrooms, 5 new high school classrooms, new central office, new regulation size gymnasium and general refurbishing of the building.

Bear Lake School participates in a cooperative athletic program with Onekama and KND Schools in order to increase opportunities for students. Varsity sports available are:

Cooperative sports with Onekama - *Football, Track and the Ski Team.*

Cooperative sports with KND - *Golf.*

Cooperative sports with Bear Lake - *Cross Country.*

Also available at Bear Lake School is: *Baseball, Softball, Girls and Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball and Cheerleading.*

Special programs are: *After-school Program and KLINK - middle school computer club.*

BEAR LAKE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

The Board of Education for Bear Lake Schools in 2001-02 is as follows:

President: Dr. Richard Bobian

Vice-President: Terri Alkire Schmidt

Secretary: Wanda Schafer

Treasurer: Nena Girven

Trustee: Walter Armstrong

Trustee: Eric Smith

Trustee: Charlie Brooks

The Bear Lake Administration for 2001-02 is as follows:

Superintendent: Greg Webster

High School & Elementary Principal:

Mike Matesich

Athletic Director: Barb Farfsing

SCHOOL FORESTS

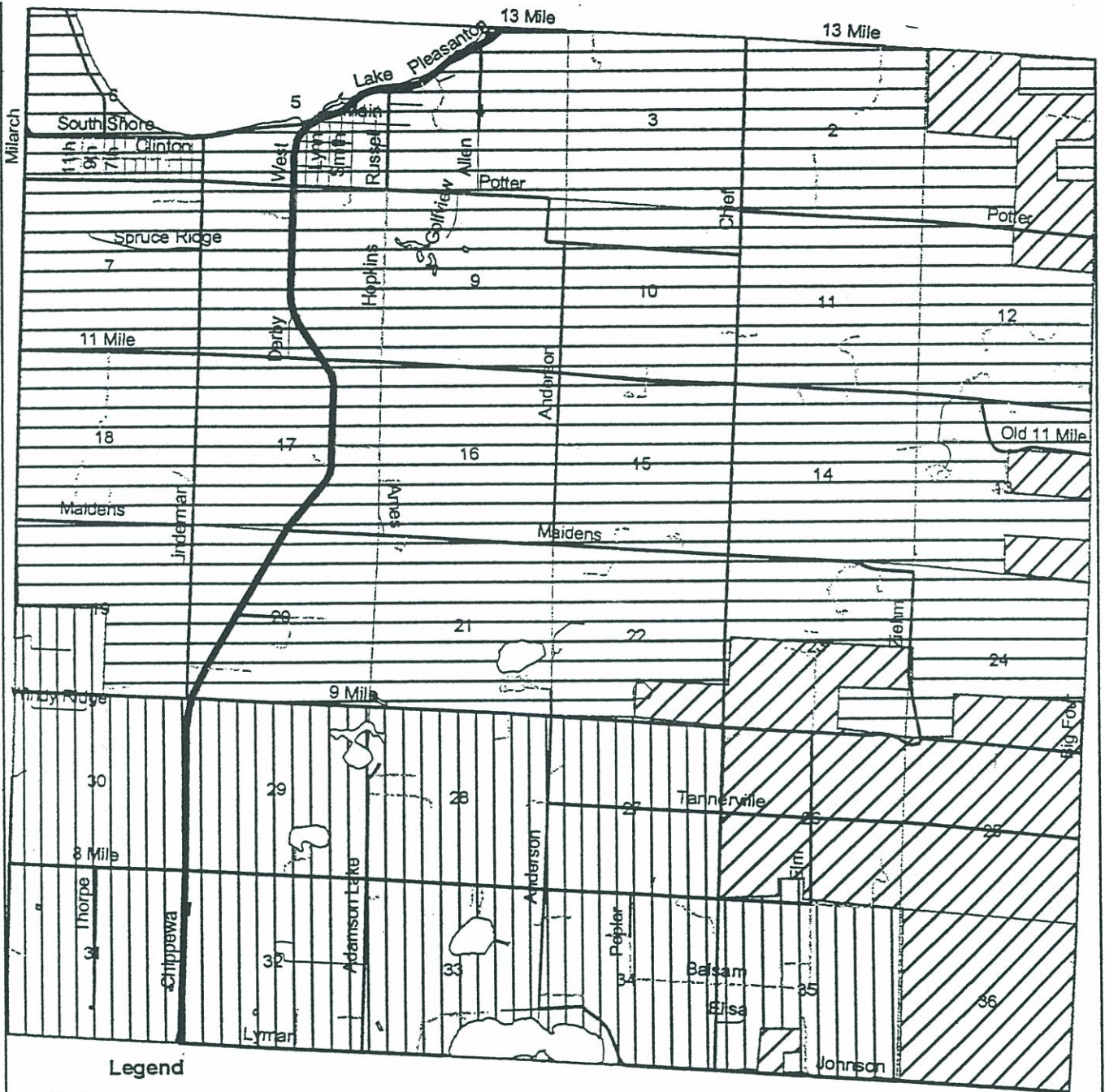
Bear Lake School Forests consists of 246 acres, primarily planted with pine trees, located at West Hopkins Forest Drive and South Shore Road and Norconk and Myers Roads.

This land is farmed for wood products which are periodically cut for selling.

Bear Lake School athletic facilities on South Shore Road at Milarch Road consists of 40 acres. The facilities include a Baseball Field, a Softball Field, a Cross Country Course and 2 portable buildings.

In the future, one of these building will be used by the athletic boosters incorporating a snack/food bar.

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAP



Legend

- Roads**
- Two Tracks
 - == Highways
 - Minor Roads
 - County Roads
- Lakes**
- Sections**

- NAME**
- Bear Lake
 - Kaleva Norman Dickson
 - Onekama Consolidated



BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

Bear Lake Township Cemetery

The old part of the Cemetery was deeded October 2, 1869, by Jaemina Cushing to the Board of Health by Bear Lake Township.

The Western part of the Cemetery was purchased from Edwin and Bernice Evens on October 30, 1936. Block 7, 8, 9 & 10 are available for purchase.

There are 7.1+ acres in the entire Cemetery which is located on Maidens Road in Section 16 and 17 in Bear Lake Township.

Fairview Cemetery

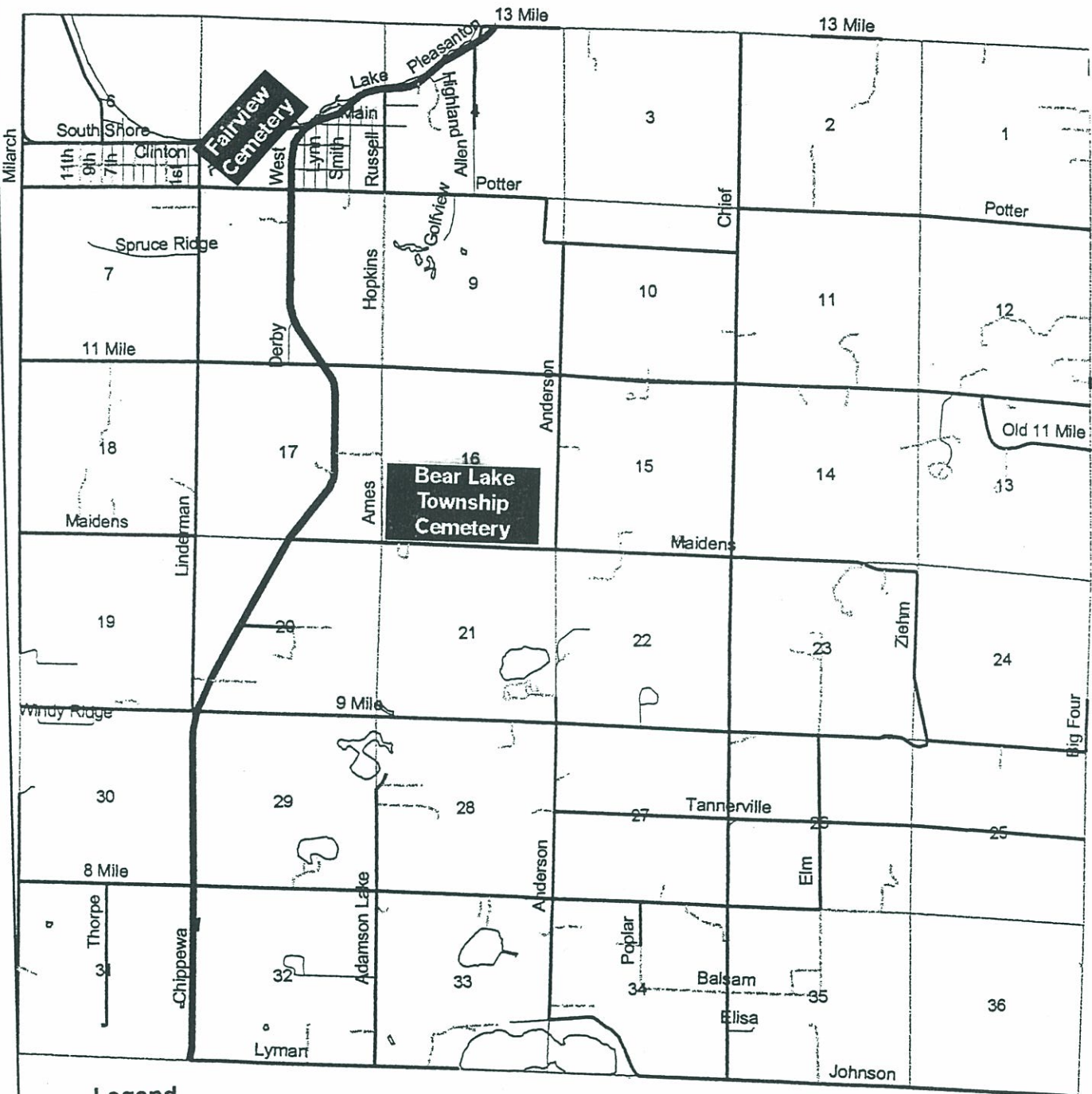
By all available records Fairview Cemetery must have been privately owned by Arlie L. Hopkins.

The old Cemetery has five acres (no lots available in this section) and the new one has ten acres and is plotted out. It was purchased from Benjamin E. and Mary Matthews on August 24, 1951.

Each lot has two graves. Block Q and R are available for sale. Blocks U, V, W, X, Y & Z will be replotted before they are sold.

These cemeteries are on the corners of Linderman and Potter Road (Sections 5 & 8) in Bear Lake Township.

CEMETERIES IN BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP



Legend

- Roads
- Two Tracks
- == Highways
- Minor Roads
- County Roads
- Lakes
- Sections



THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

The families in Bear Lake Township have an impact in agriculture business generated in Manistee County. With the township located near Lake Michigan, numerous sites are ideal for growing cherries, peaches and apples.

There are a number of families involved in cow-calf operations. The cow-calf operations provide an income and food source for the family. Farmers in cow-calf operations are growing their own cattle feed including: hay, corn, oats and rye for cover crop. A number of farmers are turning to planting of asparagus. It is possible that asparagus acreage will increase in time.

A very important facet of the agriculture industry is the location of fruit and vegetable crops. Agriculture will continue to be an important facet of Bear Lake Township as well as small business, forestry and service-related industries.

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT

Permit flexibility in the regulation of land development; encourage innovation in land use and variety in design, layout and type of structures constructed. The need of the community will be better served by a private plan which combines multiple structures or uses on a single area.

The eligibility for a planned unit development by an application as defined in the Bear lake Township Ordinance under Article 95.

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

Veterinary Services:

Bear Lake Animal Clinic, 5787 Cody St. - Bear Lake

Ornamental Shrub & Lawn Services:

Thompson's Tree & Stump Removal, 7872 Locust - Bear Lake

Bowling Enterprises/Hydroseeding, 6705 Spruce Ridge - Bear Lake

Allen's Lawn Service, 12098 Lynn St. - Bear Lake

Forestry Services:

Neil Nystrom Tree Planting, 10096 Maidens Rd - Bear Lake

William VanVoorst, 10398 - 8 Mile Rd - Bear Lake

MINING

Oil and Gas Exploration Services:

Ward Lake Energy

Shell Western E&P Inc.

Key Energy Services

Federated Oil & Gas

Michcon

Correct Compression

Savoy Oil

CONSTRUCTION

Residential Builders:

JR's Construction, 6518 South Shore Rd - Bear Lake

John Judge Custom Carpentry & Construction, 12907 Pleasanton Hwy - Bear Lake

King Construction, Johnson Court - Bear Lake

Brian Groenwald, 12859 Allen Rd - Bear Lake

Commercial Iron Workers:

LAMCO Inc., 7836 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake

Plumbing, heating and Air Conditioning:

Cook Mechanical, 11590 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake

Excavation & Foundation Work:

McBride Septic Systems & Excavating, 6959 Clinton - Bear Lake

DeVere Randall & Son Excavating, Inc., 9061 - 13 Mile Rd - Bear lake

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES CON'T

MANUFACTURING

Metal Fabrication:

Bowling Enterprises, 6705 Spruce - Bear Lake

Chris Crawford, 6706 Potter Rd - Bear Lake

Window & Door Fabrication:

Northwest Window & Door, 9178 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake

Commercial Printing:

Pioneer Press Printing, 12326 Virginia - Bear Lake

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES

Bus Service Facility:

Bear Lake School, Cody Street - Bear Lake

Trucking Motor Freight:

L.C. Townsend, Inc., 11690 U.S. 31 - Bear Lake

Towing Automotive:

Van's AAA Towing, Linderman Rd - Bear Lake

Telephone Communication:

Century Telephone Co. - Bear Lake

Water Supply:

Bear Lake Village - Bear Lake

Electrical Services:

Consumers Energy

Cherryland Reo

Cable Television:

Charter Communications

WHOLESALE TRADE

Petroleum Bulk Station and Terminals:

Blarney Castle Oil Co., U.S. 31 - Bear Lake

Ziehm LP Gas, U.S. 31 - Bear Lake

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES CON'T

RETAIL TRADE

Hardware Store:

Bear Lake Ace Hardware/Lumber & Supply, 11950 US 31 - Bear Lake

Grocery Stores:

Bear Lake IGA, US 31 - Bear lake

Saddle Up Gas & Grocery, US 31 - Bear Lake

T-Shirts (Wholesale & Mfg):

Northern Exposure Design, 9061 - 13 Mile Rd - Bear Lake

Farm Equipment:

Eipperle Sales, 7220 Chief Rd - Kaleva

McLeod Sales & Service, 6383 - 8 Mile Rd - Bear Lake

Auto Body Repair:

Coach Craft, US 31 - Bear Lake

Auto & Truck Repair and Auto Supplies:

Northstar Automotive, 12130 7th St - Bear Lake

McLeod's Sales & Service, 6383 - 8 Mile Rd - Bear Lake

A&A Service Co., 7737 Lake St - Bear Lake

Marine Service:

Bear Lake Marine, 7760 Lake St - Bear Lake

Welding:

Ron Nelson Welding, 6284 South Shore Dr. - Bear Lake

Gasoline Stations:

Blarney Castle #2, 12348 US 31 - Bear Lake

Saddle Up Gas & Grocery, US 31 - Bear Lake

Ziehm Citgo, US 31 South - Bear Lake

Restaurants:

Danny's Restaurant, 7789 Lake St - Bear Lake

Lakeside Restaurant, 7833 Lake St - Bear Lake

Sweet Papa Bears, 12951 Pleasanton Hwy - Bear Lake

Tavern & Restaurants:

Bear Lake Bar & Restaurant, US 31 - Bear Lake

Rosie's Place, 9567 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake

Pharmacy:

Richmond Drug, 7717 Lake St - Bear Lake

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES CON'T

Sporting Goods:

Bear Lake Ace Hardware/Lumber & Supply, 11950 US 31 - Bear Lake
Bear Lake Marine, 7760 Lake St - Bear Lake

Gift, Novelty & Souvenir Shops:

Antiques, 8532 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake
Big Bear Trading Post, 7760 Lake - Bear Lake
Old School Marell Porcelain - US 31 - Bear Lake
Quality Crafts, 7836 Chippewa Hwy - Onekama
Richmond Drug, 7717 Lake - Bear Lake
Village Flower & Gift Shop, 12391 Lynn - Bear Lake
Thomas Kincade Gallery, Lake St - Bear Lake

Fuel Oil, L.P. and Natural Gas Dealers:

Blarney Castle Oil Co., US 31 - Bear Lake
Ziehm L.P. Gas Sales & Service, US 31 - Bear Lake
Superior Energy (natural gas supplier to the Bear Lake area) - Kaleva

Florists:

Village Flower & Gift Shop, 12391 Lynn St - Bear Lake
Lentz, 8754 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake (Seasonal)

Financial Institutions:

Honor State Bank, US 31 - Bear Lake
Huntington Bank, 7685 Lake - Bear Lake

Insurance Agents, Brokers & Service:

The Mathieu Agency, 12141 US 31 - Bear Lake

Real Estate Agencies:

Greenridge Real Estate, US 31 - Bear Lake
Magnetic North, Lake Street - Bear Lake
Ringel Real Estate and Auction, Linderman Rd - Bear Lake (also 318 Parkdale - Manistee)

Telephone Answering Service:

Telephone Answering Service, 9114 Linderman Rd - Bear Lake

Paving & Sealing:

Griswold Northwest Sealing & Paving, 8591 Johnson Rd - Kaleva

SERVICES

Cemeteries:

Bear Lake Township, Maidens Rd - Bear Lake
Fairview Cemetery, Potter Rd - Bear Lake

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES CON'T

Motels, Resorts and Bed & Breakfasts:

Budget Inn (Alpine), US 31 - Bear lake
Bella Vista Inn, 12273 Lake - Bear lake
The Barn Haus Bed & Breakfast, 8331 Highland Dr - Bear Lake
Hilltop Bed & Breakfast, Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake
Honey Bear Resort, 12475 Hopkins Forest Dr - Bear lake
Reed's Resort, 8421 Lake - Bear Lake
WindSunPines, 12385 Hopkins Forest Dr - Bear Lake

Sporting & Recreation Camp/Services:

Rockin R Riding Stable, 8799 - 13 Mile Rd - Bear Lake
Bear Lake Village, Hopkins Park - Bear Lake
Bear Lake School Complex, Cody St - Bear Lake

Public Golf Courses:

County Highlands Golf Course, US 31 - Bear Lake

Beauty & Barber Shops:

Powder Puff Beauty Shop, 112136 - 2nd St - Bear Lake
Highland Hair, 11544 Linderman Rd - Bear Lake
Theresa's Hair Care, 8 Mile Rd - Bear Lake
Hair By Joy - Chief Lake
Town & Country Hair Salon - Bear Lake
Bear Lake Barber Shop, 7734 Lake St - Bear Lake

Funeral Service:

Oak Grove Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 12353 Lynn - Bear Lake

Appliance Service:

Ware's Appliance Repair, 10534 Anderson Rd - Bear Lake

Septic Cleaning Service:

McBride Septic Systems & Excavating, 6959 Clinton - Bear Lake

Cold Storage:

Bear Lake Self Storage, LLC, US 31 - Bear Lake

HEALTH SERVICES:

Dentist:

Dr. Norman Olson, DDS, 12521 Russell - Bear Lake

Physicians:

Crystal Lake Clinic, Dr. Geoffrey K. Turner, MD / Ellen Herring FNP, 7659 Lake - Bear Lake

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES CON'T

Mental Health:

Manistee-Benzie Community Mental Health, 11634 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake
AA - Lions Den, Lake Street - Bear Lake

ATTORNEYS

Attorney - Estate Planning & Administration:

Hillary Potter Eriksen, 7702 Lake - Bear Lake

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Elementary, Secondary & Adult Education Schools:

Bear Lake School, Cody Street - Bear lake

Libraries:

Manistee County Branch Library: Keddie-Norconk Bear Lake/Pleasanton Branch Library
12325 Virginia Street - Bear Lake

ADULT & CHILD CARE

Adult Foster Care:

AFC Home, 11780 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake
Wildwood, 12481 Milarch Rd - Bear Lake

Child Care Services:

Sherrí Groenwald
Terry Dansby
Diane Ware
Bear Lake School - Great Beginnings

MEMBERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONS

Labor Organizations:

Letter Carriers of America, US Post Office - Bear Lake
Michigan Education Assoc., Bear Lake School - Bear Lake

Political Organizations:

Manistee Co. Chapter of Michigan Twp. Assoc.

Religious Organizations:

United Methodist Church, 7861 Main - Bear Lake
First Baptist Church, 7738 Main - Bear Lake

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES CON'T

Civil & Social Associations:

Bear Lake Promoters
Bear Lake Property Owners Assoc.
Bear Lake Lioness Club
Bear Lake Lions Club
Bear Lake Women's Club
Triginta Club
Order of the Eastern Star
Masonic Lodge
Bear Lake Boy Scouts
Bear Lake Girl Scouts
Bear Lake Athletic Boosters
Bear Lake Parent-Teachers Student Assoc (PATS)

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Executive & Legislative Combined:

Bear Lake Township Board - Bear Lake
Bea Lake Village Council - Bear Lake

Local Government:

Bear Lake Township Board - Bear Lake
Bear Lake Village - Bear Lake

U.S. Government:

Soil Conservation District, 8840 Chippewa Hwy - Bear Lake
MSU County Extension, 8 Mile Rd - Bear Lake

U.S. Post Office:

Bear Lake Post Office, 7777 Main - Bear Lake

Finance, Taxation & Monetary Policy:

Bear Lake Tax Assessor
Bear Lake Township Treasurer

Environmental Quality & Housing:

Urban & Community Development
Bear Lake Twp. Planning Commission - Bear Lake
Administration of human Resources & Economic Programs

Administration of Education Programs:

Bear Lake School Board of Education - Bear Lake

Regulation, Administration of Transportation:

Bear Lake Village Streets Administration - Bear Lake

Regulation, Miscellaneous, Commercial:

Bear lake Twp. Planning and Zoning Commission - Bear Lake

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

Bear Lake Village has the only public water system. There are three wells with a capacity of 150 gallons per minute. Water storage is by elevated tank with a capacity of 75,000 gallons.

District Waterlines are 2" to 10" in size. Bear lake Township property owners each have their own water system.

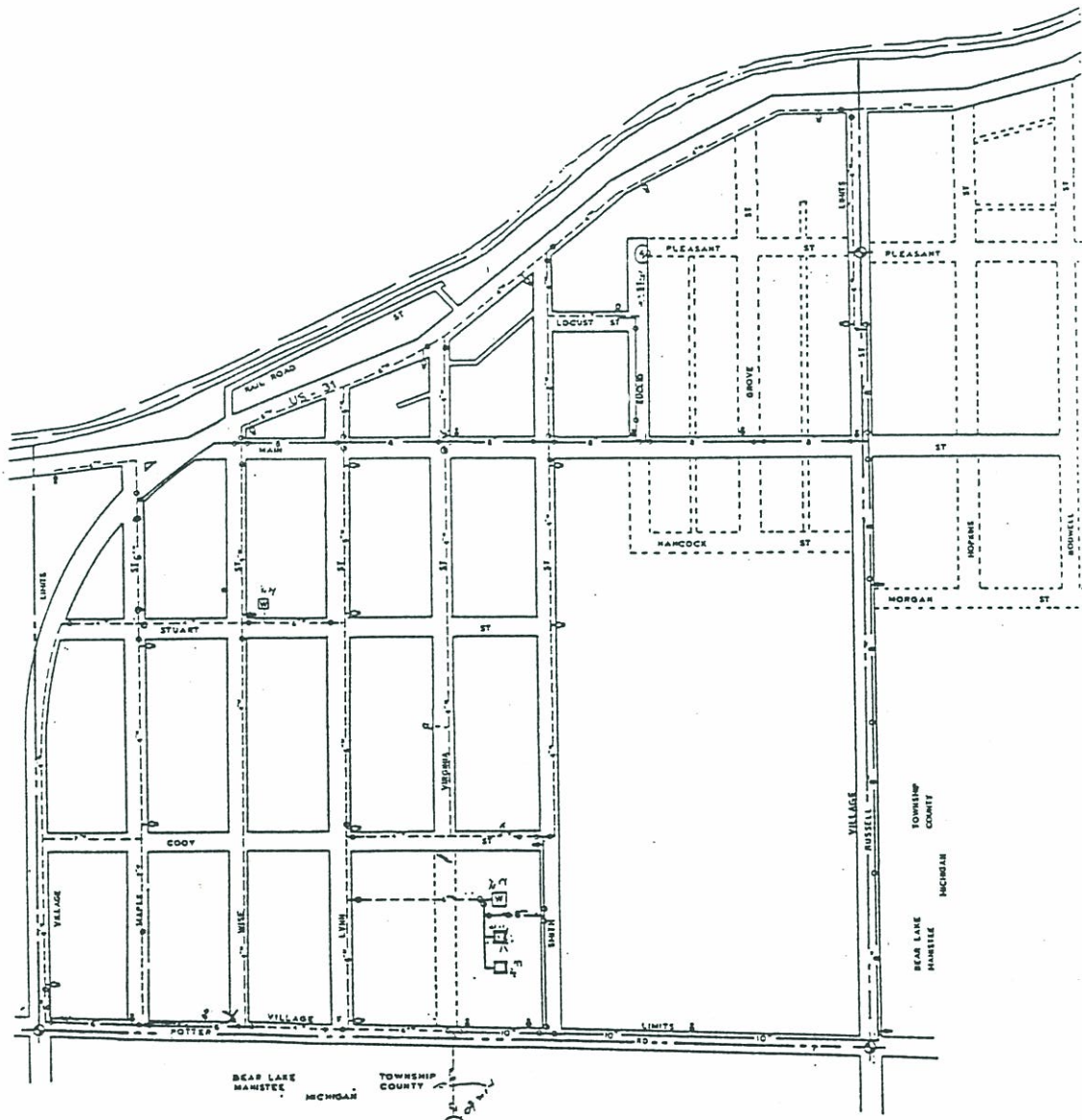
All property owners in the township have their own septic systems.

There is one septic pumping company in the township, McBride Septic Systems and Excavating.

The Village of Onekama owns 146.65 acres it uses for sewage treatment ponds in Section 19 of Bear Lake Township.

Additional lines have been extended east of the Village limits (Russell Street) to accommodate two residences outside Village limit and extended west 200 feet along South Shore from the Village limits to accommodate an additional fire hydrant.

There is no projected plans by the Village of Bear Lake to extend water lines at this time.



MANISTEE COUNTY DISTRICT DIVISIONS

The Manistee County Board of Commissioners opened 1993 with two less members and new district boundaries, both brought about by reapportionment and population shifts.

In some cases townships are split because of the new district lines and one district, the seventh, meanders in a zigzag line from one end of the city of Manistee to the other and from Manistee Lake on the east to Lake Michigan on the west.

The commission itself has been reduced from nine to seven members.

Redistricting was necessary to comply with laws mandating that each commissioner represent virtually the same number of persons. Each new Manistee County district represents just over 3,000 people.

DISTRICT 1 - includes all of Arcadia and Onekama Townships; part of Pleasanton Township lying south of Norconk Road and west of U.S. 31, and that part of Bear Lake Township north of Nine Mile Road. *Population: 3,035 residents.*

DISTRICT 2 - has all of Cleon, Marilla, Maple Grove and Springdale Townships and that part of Pleasanton Township lying north of Norconk Road and east of U.S. 31. *Population: 3,028 residents.*

DISTRICT 3 - includes all of Brown, Norman and Dickson Townships: part of Bear Lake Township south of Nine Mile Road and a little chunk of Stronach Township. *Population: 3,064 residents.*

DISTRICT 4 - has all of Filer Township, most of Stronach Township and a portion of the south end of the city of Manistee. *Population: 3,042 residents.*

DISTRICT 5 - includes all of Manistee Township and a section of the northern city limits. *Population: 3,025 residents.*

DISTRICT 6 - stretches roughly from Hughes Street to the south city limits and from Maple Street to Lake Michigan. *Population: 3,024 residents.*

DISTRICT 7 - generally includes that portion of the city east of Maple Street from the north city limits to the south city limits and a triangle bounded generally by Hughes Street and the Lake Michigan shoreline. *Population: 3,047 residents.*

MANISTEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

2000 Census

FIRST DISTRICT

Arcadia Township	621
Bear Lake Township	1,587
Pleasanton Township	817
Portion of Onekama Township	<u>570</u>
	3,595

SECOND DISTRICT

Springdale Township	730
Cleon Township	932
Maple Grove Township	1,285
Marilla Township	<u>362</u>
	3,309

THIRD DISTRICT

Norman Township	1,676
Dickson Township	929
Brown Township	<u>712</u>
	3,317

FOURTH DISTRICT

Stronach Township	804
Filer Township	2,208
Village of Eastlake	<u>441</u>
	3,453

FIFTH DISTRICT

Onekama Village	647
Portion of Onekama Township	297
Manistee Township, Excluding Village of Eastlake	<u>2,614</u>
	3,558

SIXTH DISTRICT

City, West of Maple Street	1,664
City, North of Manistee River	<u>1,548</u>
	3,212

SEVENTH DISTRICT

City, East of Maple Street and South of Manistee River	<u>3,374</u>
	3,374

Grand Total for Redistricting 23, 818

FIRST DISTRICT

All of Arcadia, Bear Lake and Pleasanton Townships, and that portion of Onekama Township North of Eight Mile Road and Portage Lake, except the Village of Onekama

SECOND DISTRICT

All of Springdale, Cleon, Maple Grove and Marilla Townships.

THIRD DISTRICT

All of Norman, Dickson and Brown Townships.

FOURTH DISTRICT

All of Stronach Township, Filer Township and the Village of Eastlake.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Part of Onekama Township, being the Village of Onekama and all of Onekama Township lying South of Eight Mile Road and Portage Lake and all of Manistee Township, except the Village of Eastlake.

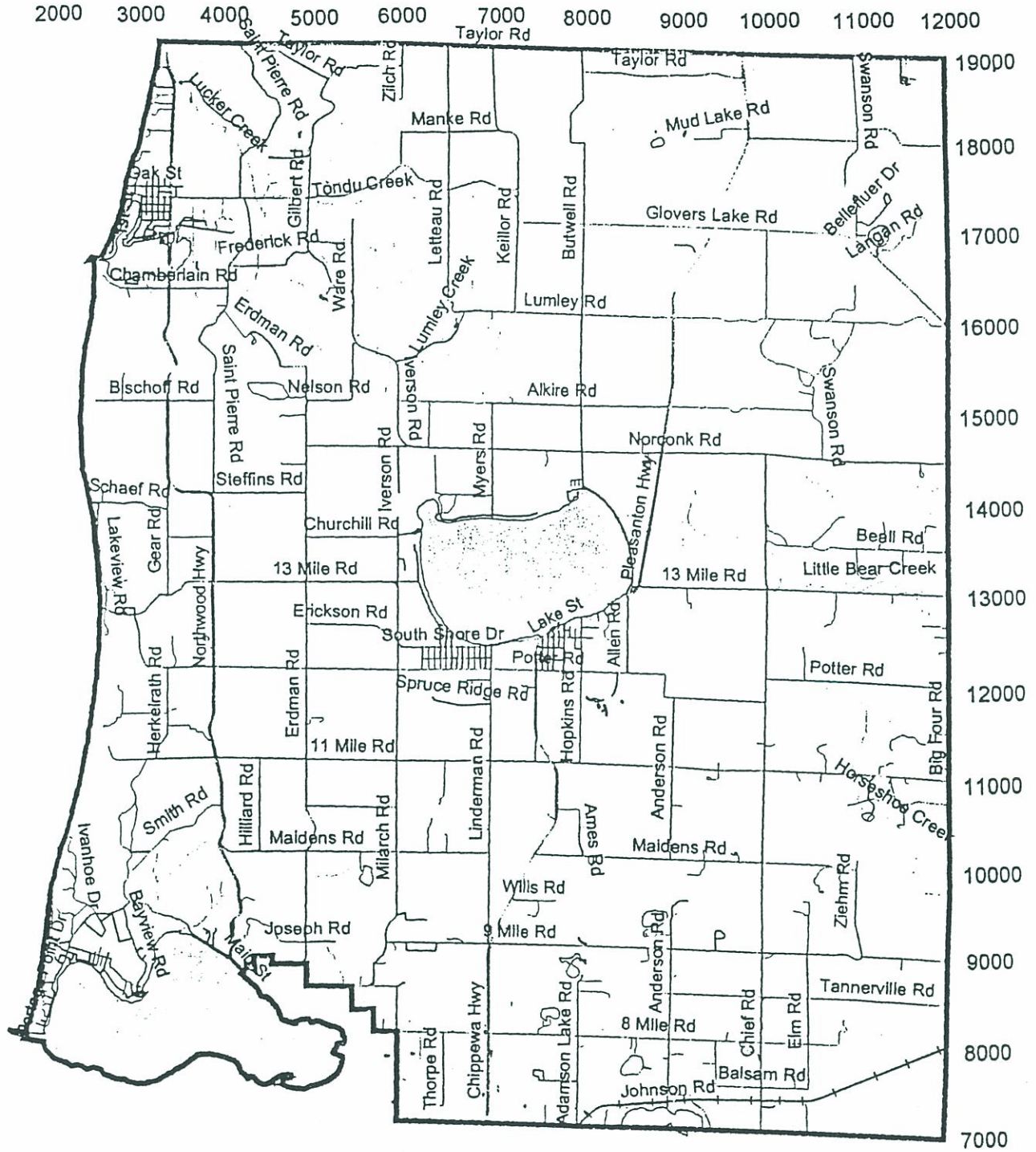
SIXTH DISTRICT

That portion of the City of Manistee lying West of Maple Street and all of the City North of the Manistee River.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

That portion of the City of Manistee lying east of Maple Street and South fo the Manistee River.

COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT 1 ROAD MAP



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Municipal Building is in the Village of Bear Lake on U.S. 31 at 7771 Lake Street. Meetings held here are for: The Bear Lake Township Board, Township Planning and Zoning Commission, Fire Department, Board of Review and Zoning Board of Appeals. Elections are held here as well.

The following services are available through the Township Board:

1. *Appoint members to the Administrative Board or Agencies in accordance with applicable Statutory Provisions (Election Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review and others).*
2. *Establishing and collecting taxes according to statutory regulations and limitations.*
3. *Establish Zoning through a Planning and Zoning Commission and enforcing the Zoning through the Zoning Administrator, who is designated as the authorized local official to issue municipal civil infraction citations.*
4. *Provide Fire and Rescue Protection.*
5. *The Board may act upon petitions calling for such things as Fire Protection and the sale of beer, wine and liquor by the glass.*
6. *Many other matters which may be properly brought before the Township Board.*

The present Municipal building was purchased July 1965 and an additional lot on Virginia and Main Street was purchased January 1992 for further development.

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD 2002

*Supervisor: Leslie Smith
Clerk: Deanna Pattison
Treasurer: Donald Shreve
Trustee: Hugh Bowling
Trustee: Dane Krueger
Assessor: David Meister
Fire Chief: Steve Hejl
Zoning Administrator: Vern Bowling*

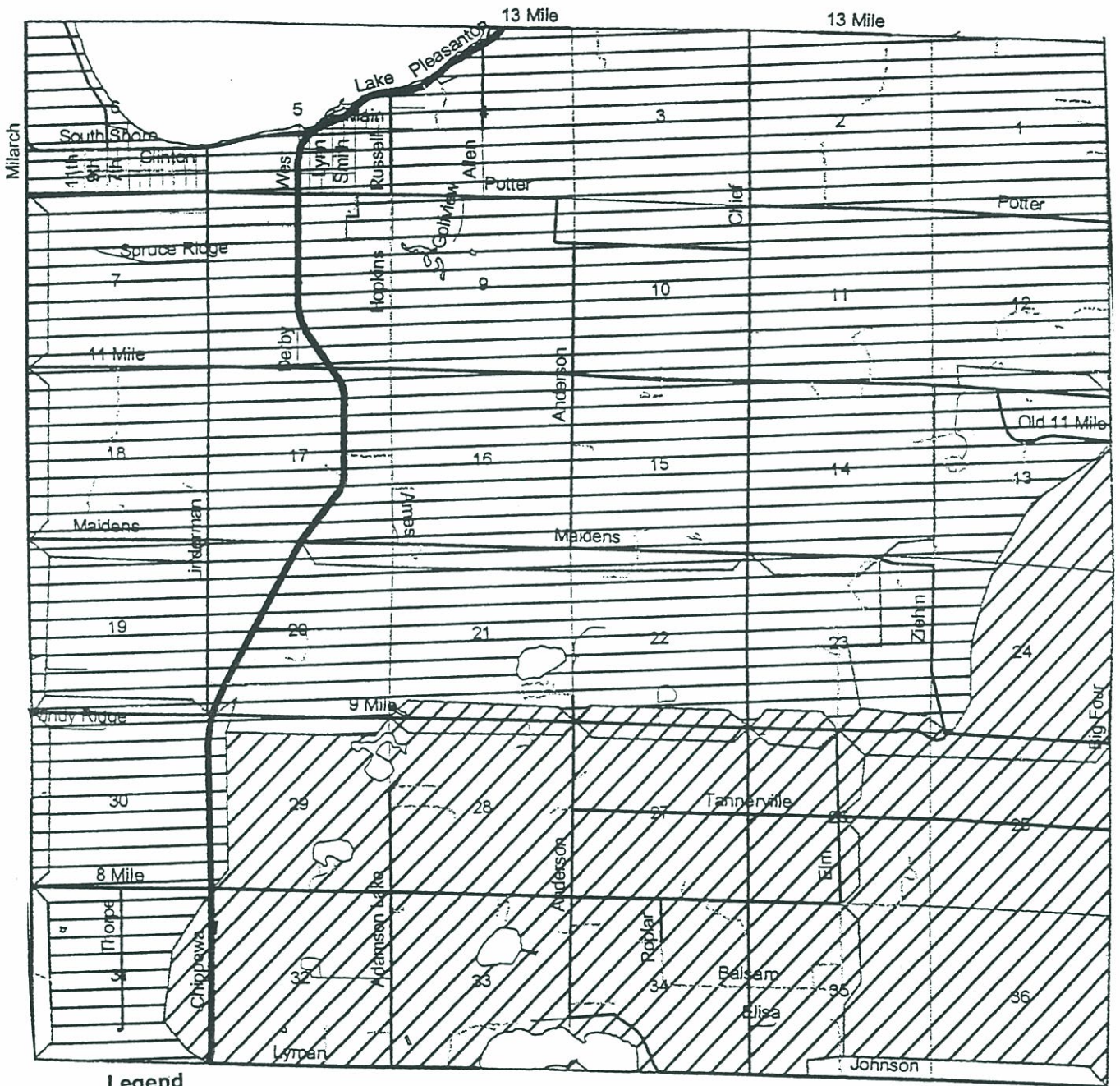
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION 2002

*Chairman: Thomas Amor Sr.
Vice Chairman: William Ringel
Secretary: Kristie Harless
Pauline Jaquish
Dane Krueger
Marilyn McCarthy
Duane E. McLeod*

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

*Chairman: Thomas Amor Sr.
Secretary:
Hugh Bowling
Dan Dansby
Neil Nystrom*

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP POST OFFICE MAP



Legend

- Roads
 - Two Tracks
 - == Highways
 - Minor Roads
 - County Roads
- Lakes
 - Lakes
 - Sections
- Post Office
 - Bear Lake



BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP ELECTRIC UTILITIES MAP



Legend

Roads

- Two Tracks
- Highways
- Minor Roads
- County Roads

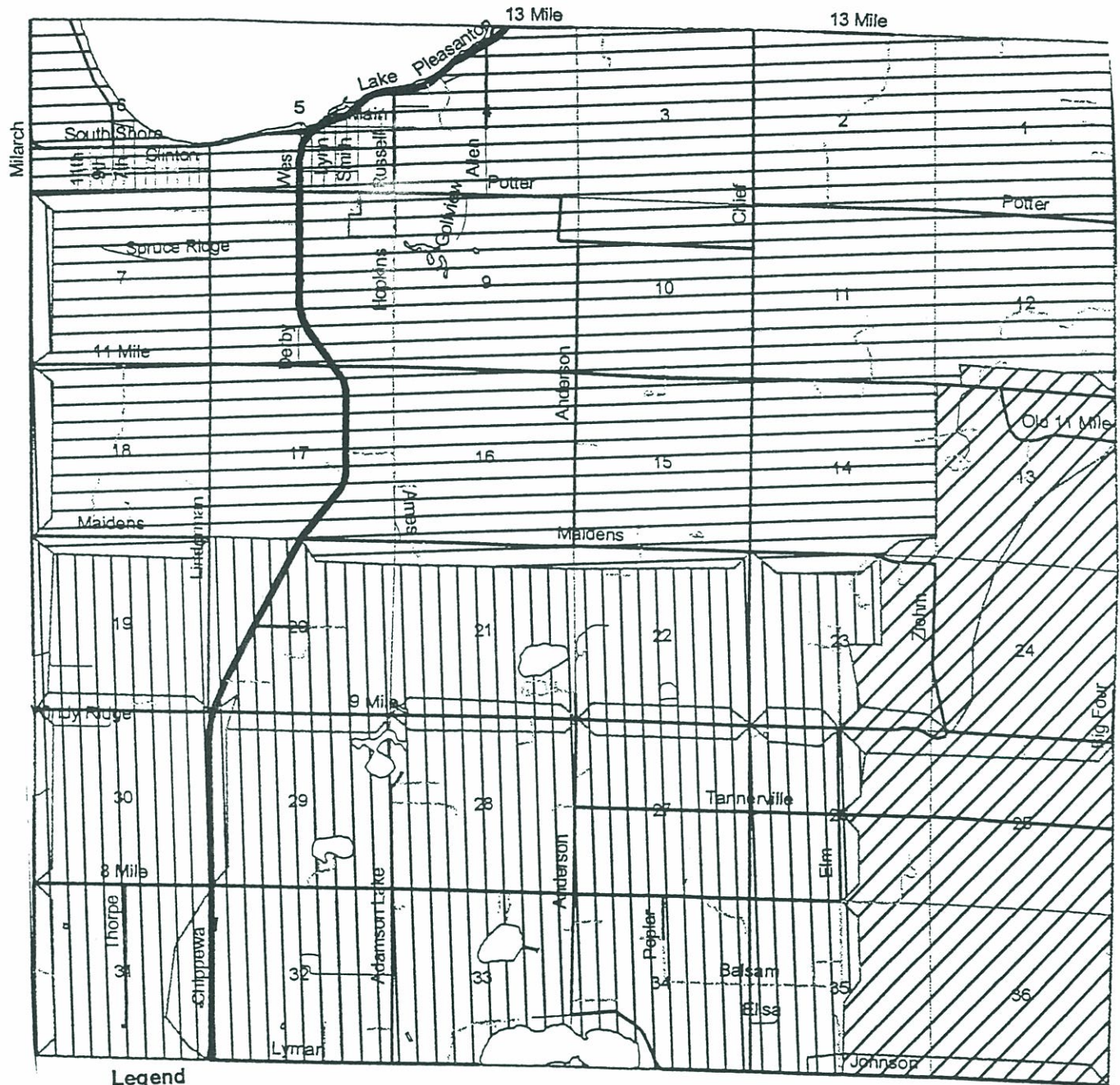
- Lakes
- Sections

ELECTRIC

- ▬ Cherryland REA
- ▬ Consumers Power



BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP PHONE COMPANIES MAP

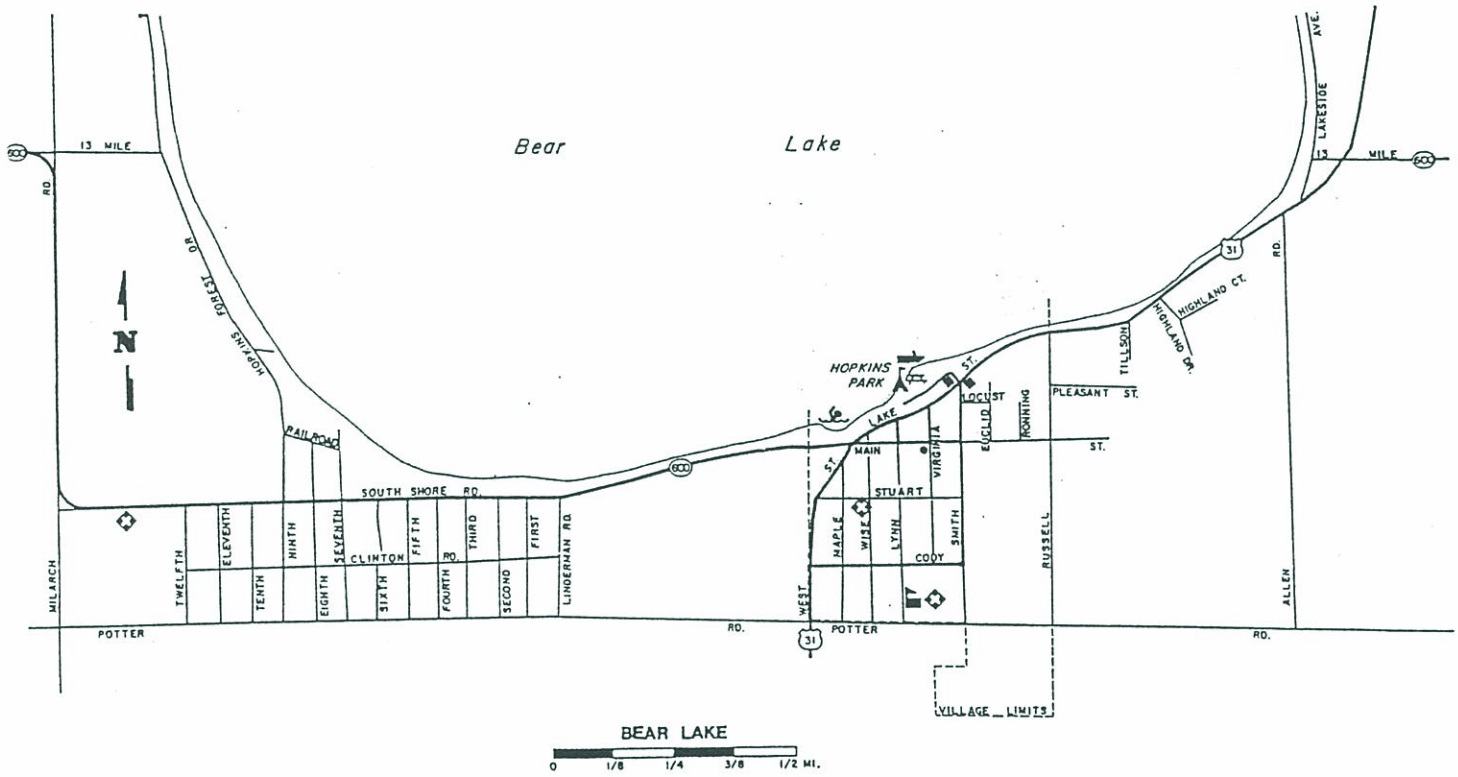


Legend

- Roads**
- Two Tracks
 - Highways
 - Minor Roads
 - County Roads
- Lakes**
- Lakes
- Sections**
- Sections
- Phone Companies**
- ▨ Kaleva
 - ▩ Bear Lake
 - Onekama



CABLE TV SERVICE AREA

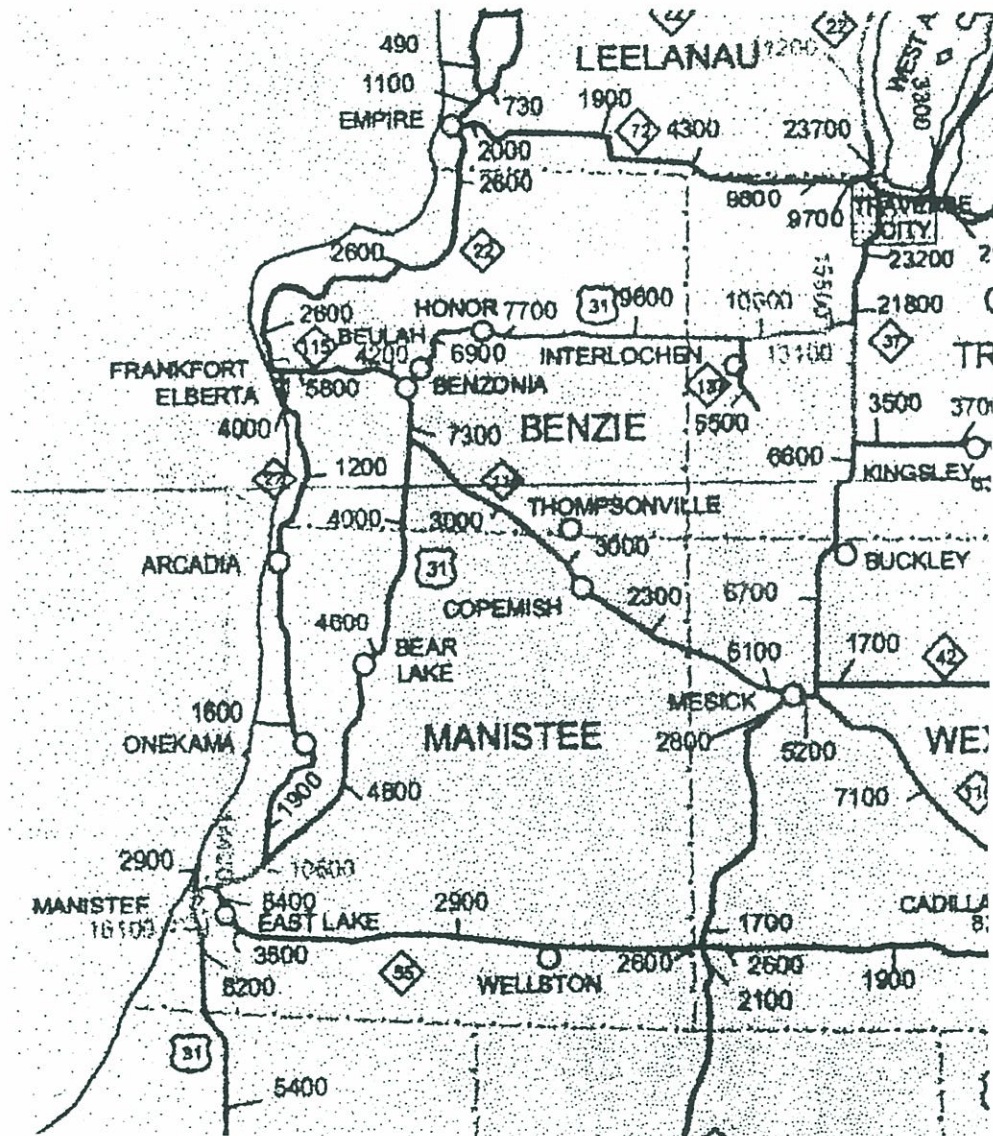


MANISTEE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

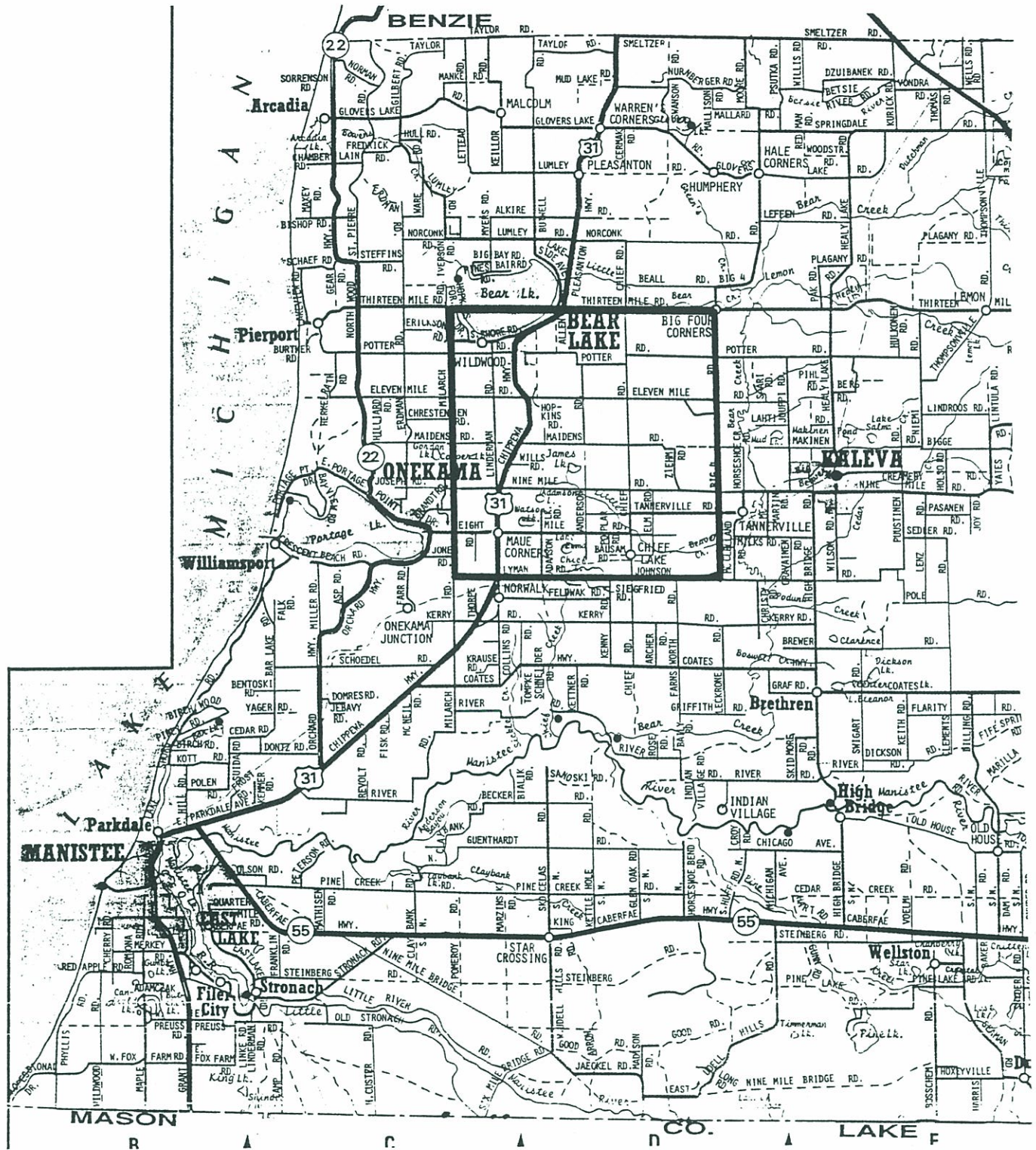
TRAFFIC SURVEY 1994

<u>ROAD</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u> <u>DAILY</u> <u>TRAFFIC</u>	<u>PEAK</u> <u>DAY/</u> <u>COUNT</u>	<u>HOUR</u>	<u>PEAK</u> <u>DAY/</u> <u>COUNT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Chief Rd	N of Nine Mile	291	Tue 530	9:00 a.m.	Thu 55	Mon-Thu.	8/22-8/25
Chief Rd	N of Coates Hwy	168	Fri 182	3:00 p.m.	Sun 24	7 Days	7/07-7/14
Coates Hwy	W of Milarch	586	Fri 701	6:00 p.m.	Fri 62	7 Days	7/15-7/22
Coates Hwy	E of Chief Rd	1369	Fri 1605	4:00 p.m.	Fri 135	7 Days	7/07-7/14
Coates Hwy	W of Chief Rd	864	Fri 1004	4:00 p.m.	Fri 91	7 Days	7/07-7/14
Coates Hwy	W of Dilling Rd	1393	Sun 1781	2:00 p.m.	Sun 156	7 Days	6/30-7/07
Coates Hwy	E of Dilling Rd	1117	Sat 1448	1:00 p.m.	Sun 140	7 Days	6/30-7/07
Coates Hwy	E of Marilla Rd	313	Sun 364	2:00 p.m.	Thu 44	7 Days	6/23-6/30
Coates Hwy	W of Marilla Rd	817	Tue 943	12:00 p.m.	Tue 95	7 Days	6/23-6/30
Coates Hwy	Manistee River	778	Sun 963	5:00 p.m.	Sun 105	7 Days	6/23-6/30
Coates Hwy	W of Warfield Rd	854	Sun 1055	2:00 p.m.	Sun 149	7 Days	6/16-6/23
Coates Hwy	N of Arguilla Crk	588	Fri 684	2:00 p.m.	Sun 71	7 Days	6/16-6/23
County Line Rd	W of Maple Rd	1096	Thu 2447	2:00 p.m.	Wed 188	7 Days	5/09-5/16
East Lake Rd	N of R & R Tracks	169	Sun 250	8:00 a.m.	Sun 31	7 Days	9/08-9/13
Fox Farm Rd	W of Maple Rd	74	Thu 97	9:00 p.m.	Mon 22	7 Days	5/31-6/07
Fox Farm Rd	E of Maple Rd	393	Fri 451	3:00 p.m.	Thu 43	7 Days	5/09-5/16
Kerry Rd	E of US 31	140	Tue 174	9:00 a.m.	Thu 22	7 Days	6/07-6/14
Kerry Rd	W of US 31	163	Fri 199	3:00 p.m.	Sat 30	7 Days	6/07-6/14
Maple Rd	N of County Line Rd	3309	Wed 3624	7:00 p.m.	Wed 329	7 Days	5/31-6/07
Maple Rd	N of Merkey Rd	4183	Fri 4959	11:00 a.m.	Sat 440	7 Days	5/24-5/31
Marilla Rd	N of Coates Hwy	333	Sat 365	3:00 p.m.	Sat 44	7 Days	6/23-6/30
Merkey Rd	E of Maple Rd	1602	Thu 2256	11:00 a.m.	Fri 184	7 Days	5/24-5/31
Merkey Rd	W of Maple Rd	1793	Fri 2113	5:00 p.m.	Mon 213	7 Days	5/31-6/07
Milarch Rd	S of Kerry Rd	610	Thu 638	5:00 p.m.	Thu 77	7 Days	6/07-6/14
Milarch Rd	N of Kerry Rd	1336	Sat 1468	5:00 p.m.	Thu 165	7 Days	6/07-6/14
Milarch Rd	S of US 31	739	Fri 933	5:00 p.m.	Fri 95	7 Days	7/15-7/22
Nine Mile Rd	E of Chief Rd	1232	Thu 2346	4:00 p.m.	Thu 213	5 Days	8/22-8/26
Nine Mile Rd	E of Yates	1265	Thu 1580	3:00 p.m.	Tue 129	7 Days	9/08-9/13
Red Apple Rd	W of Wildwood	1260	Fri 1750	1:00 p.m.	Sat 161	7 Days	5/24-5/31
Warfield Rd	N of Hinton Creek Rd	625	Fri 847	2:00 p.m.	Sun 81	7 Days	6/16-6/23

TRAFFIC FLOW MAP



BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP VICINITY MAP



GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL:

To have the use of the land in Bear Lake Township well balanced providing for the complimentary and compatible arrangement of land uses and activities. Encourage the orderly consumption of it's surface and subsurface resources and provide the maximum flexibility for future citizens to adapt to conditions which cannot be foreseen.

OBJECTIVE:

To encourage an atmosphere of trust between citizens, their neighbors, their government and provide for the greatest degree of personal liberty possible.

STRATEGY:

Based upon the belief that most people hold dear their obligation as caretakers of the land and will respect their neighbors rights as they would expect the same in return. Provide protective guidelines where zoning is concerned, without trying to manage details that are better decided upon by the land owner themselves.

OBJECTIVE:

Recognize the need and desires of people for quality living conditions.

STRATEGY:

Organize and establish areas in the township to provide compatible uses and allow for various residential zones, commercial services and agricultural activities.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide our lakes with guidelines for year round and seasonal residential use offering protection for lake water quality and property values.

STRATEGY:

Establish minimum set backs, square footage and other parameters which, while safe guarding the neighbor will allow the most flexibility to the property owner, resulting in decisions based upon logical placement v/s arbitrary restrictions.

OBJECTIVE:

To promote strong neighborhood structure by providing residential areas that are close to necessary service zones.

STRATEGY:

Establish reasonable set backs, square footage and other parameters which encourage good quality construction and logical placement of structures on a lot.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide areas for commercial activities which will offer easy access for our residents and the traveler and give the entrepreneur the best chance for success.

GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

STRATEGY:

Establish variable degrees of commercial use availability along US 31 and near the Chief residential area.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide large land tract owners choices and flexibility managing their property. Structure a protective strategy to surface and subsurface natural resources recognizing land owner rights and adjacent land owner interests.

STRATEGY:

Provide reasonable acreage requirements for building sites. Provide reasonable setback distances from property lines, streams, lakes and other water areas. Provide reasonable use provisions.

OBJECTIVE:

Have all township guidelines easily understandable, clear, and avoiding redundancy with other government agency regulations.

STRATEGY:

Do not try to over regulate or legislate beyond the townships realm of responsibility.

OTHER OBJECTIVES:

Locate and develop a parcel of land to provide a recreation area for our residents and tourists.
Providing water and land activities.

Buy additional property for the Township Cemetery (as much as feasible wherever possible)
on Maidens Road.

For more efficient maintenance, discourage monuments and huge statues and encourage
flat grave markers in the future.

The care of the cemetery should continue to be the Township's responsibility. Guidelines will be
set by the Board and the Board members will check the cemetery several times during the year.

No parcel of land should be allowed to be landlocked.

All lakes should be zoned with the greatest protection.

Township Board should keep lobbying to return lost revenue to the Township
through the Michigan Township Association.

Zoning Administrator should be contacted if there are signs of pollution of oil and gas well sites
in Bear Lake Township (air, water, etc.) He will in turn contact the D.N.R.

Resort trade should be encouraged in Bear Lake Township.

Support the importance of agriculture in Bear Lake Township.

SUMMARY

The Bear Lake Township Comprehensive Plan was put together to provide information from which to base planning and zoning decisions upon. The purpose of township planning is to provide a guideline for future growth and development. It must take into account the inherent right of the individual and balance it with their rights as neighbors.

The entire community of the township and its neighbors are affected by the way the land is used and maintained. As caretakers of the land we do have the obligation to protect it for our future generations.

In this era of excessive regulation, this Planning Board has chosen to believe in the personal intelligence and integrity of the individual. In zoning it has given as much freedom as possible to the individual property owner with respect to property rights. This freedom does place certain obligations upon each property owner to respect the rights of his neighbor with the expectation that they will do the same in return.

The zoning ordinance which was written concurrently with this comprehensive plan reflects this philosophy. The ordinance takes into account the various terrains, lakes, thoroughfares and the existing communities make-up and personality. It was written with the belief that when a regulation exists which supercedes the township authority, it should not be redundantly duplicated, making this ordinance thicker and harder to understand. It was written with a realistic view of the present and the future in mind.

Submitted for the Good of Bear Lake Township
by the 2002 Bear Lake Township Planning Commission
Thomas E. Amor, Chairman

