

Benzie County Recreation and Cultural Master Plan



2009-2014

Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission

Cover Photo: Point Betsie Starry Night #3
Photograph provided by Steve Loveless
www.stevelovelessphotography.com

Executive Summary

This plan was prepared with the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC). The PRC is the governing body of most publicly funded recreational and cultural entities in Benzie County. This plan was created to provide a detailed description of the available parks, recreational facilities, and cultural entities in Benzie County. There is also a thorough description of the PRC based on the community they operate in, their administrative structure, their finances, and other agencies they work with. Additionally, it provides a formal vision of the goals, objectives, and action strategies of the PRC for the next five years. This plan has been prepared according to the 2006 version of the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans* published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

This plan is important to all residents of Benzie County for several reasons. First, it provides the only comprehensive inventory of parks, recreational facilities, and cultural entities in Benzie County. Second, it is a requirement of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to apply for DNR grant funding. Since 1985, Benzie County has received over 3 million dollars in DNR grant monies for the development of different recreational facilities and the preservation of recreational properties. This plan also provides Benzie County residents with a means of sharing their opinions on recreational and cultural matters in the County.

In order to create this plan, public input was gathered at several points in the process. A mailed survey was distributed to a random sample of 2000 Benzie County Residents. There was also a public input session that was open to any resident of the County that wanted to voice their opinions or concerns. In addition, public input was gathered from the previous Recreation Plans, as well as the Benzie County 2020 Comprehensive Development Plan. As an appointed commission governing the recreational and cultural resources of Benzie County, the PRC realizes the value of public input in the planning process.

This version of the plan was prepared as a revision of the existing 1992, 1997, and 2002 Benzie County Recreation Master Plans. However, an important part of this plan that was not present previously is an emphasis on cultural entities/activities as well as on recreation. The PRC believes that cultural activities and pursuits in Benzie County frequently overlap with recreational activities and pursuits. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the residents of Benzie County, as well as visitors from outside of the County, for the PRC to plan for both their cultural and recreational needs.

Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission

Charles Kehr - Chairman

James Sheets - Vice Chairman

Allison Michalak - Secretary

Frank Walterhouse

Donald Tanner

Roger Griner

Terry Money

Ann Bourne

Barbara Skurdall

Cathy Demitroff

Benzie County Planning Department

David Neiger – Planning Director

Consultant

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GIS Mapping

Scott Stopyak – GIS Specialist

Benzie County Equalization Department (Map on page xx)

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Sunset Over Lake Michigan

Photographed by David Neiger

Chapter 1

Community Description

Community Description

This Master Plan is for Benzie County in the State of Michigan.

Benzie County includes twelve townships, six villages, one city, and extensive State and Federal lands (See the map on page 46). This master plan addresses the maintenance and sustainability of existing parklands and cultural resources, as well as the acquisition and development of new ones. It addresses the need for greater partnerships between local jurisdictions and non-governmental agencies within Benzie County and the region, and focuses on the recreational and cultural programming needs of citizens and visitors to Benzie County.

Because of the wealth of environmental resources in Benzie County, the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to environmental preservation in all of their activities.

Benzie County is relatively small in area and population, but large in its natural resources. It is the smallest county in Michigan with only 316 square miles (Benzie County Government, 2008). The County has extensive shoreline on Lake Michigan, numerous inland lakes and streams, and includes parts of the Pere Marquette State Forest, as well as the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. There are great recreational resources available, but few financial or institutional resources to adequately incorporate these resources into the recreational and cultural infrastructure of the County and communities within the County. Therefore, developing existing parklands and acquiring new ones can be difficult and requires intergovernmental and non-governmental cooperation and good planning.

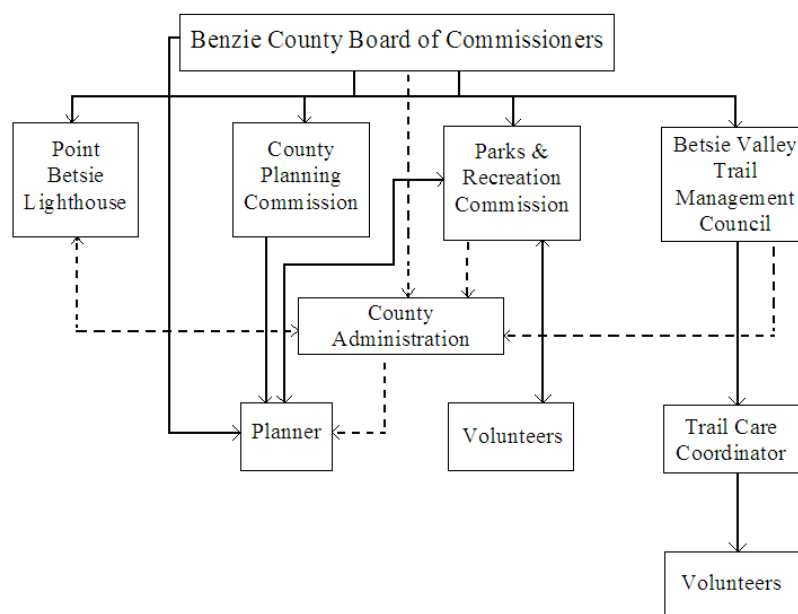
Chapter 2
Administrative Structure

Administrative Structure

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission is comprised of ten members. They have a mission statement that reads:

“To provide quality recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors for the County. To protect and maximize the existing resources of the County. To foster stewardship and partnership for the expansion of recreational resources for future community benefit.”

The organizational chart of the Parks and Recreation Commission and how it fits into the county government is as follows:



The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission was established under the enabling legislation of PA 261 of 1965 (MDNR, 2006). This act “authorizes the creation and prescribes the powers and duties of county and regional parks and recreation commissions; and prescribes the powers and duties of county boards of commissioners with respect to county and regional parks and recreation commissions” (Michigan Legislature).

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council, and the non-profit Friends of the Point Betsie Lighthouse are the only three county administrative entities that govern recreation and cultural opportunities in the county. The Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council oversees the Betsie Valley Trail. The Friends of the Point Betsie Lighthouse manage the Point Betsie Lighthouse. The Parks and Recreation Commission assumes all other responsibilities that pertain to parks, recreation, and culture. Unlike other counties, there is no parks and recreation department. There also are no paid staff members of the Parks and Recreation

Commission, the Friends of the Point Betsie Lighthouse, or the Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council. Volunteers are used occasionally, but most services must be contracted out.

Funding for the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission operational budget comes directly from the County General Fund. Some local grants and DNR Recreation Grants have been received in the past, but these cover capital projects and maintenance of the Betsie Valley Trail. Funding is always a challenge for the Parks and Recreation Commission. A possible recreation tax is an option in the future to help raise funds for operations and capital projects. The following budgets are the 2007-2008 adopted budget, the 2008-2009 requested budget, and the 2008-2009 adopted budget.

2007-2008 Adopted Budget

Per Diem	\$1,000.00
Travel	\$250.00
Printing & Publishing	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	\$200.00
Total Budget	\$1,550.00

2008-2009 Requested Budget

Per Diem	\$5,000.00
Special Meetings	\$1,200.00
Office Expenses	\$500.00
Trainings	\$500.00
Recreation/Cultural 2008 Project	\$15,000.00
Local Grant Match	\$4,000.00
Consultant	\$1,500.00
Contingency	\$250.00
Recording Secretary	\$3,600.00
Total Budget	\$31,550.00

2008-2009 Adopted Budget

Per Diem	\$3,780.00
Contracted Services	\$5,981.00
Travel	\$250.00
Printing and Publishing	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00
Total Budget	\$10,511.00

Collaborating Organizations

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission works closely with several different government agencies and non-profit organizations. The following list identifies some of those agencies and the nature of their relationships with the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission:

Benzie County Sheriff Department - They provide marine and snowmobile patrols of trails, parks, forests, and waterways.

Benzie County Planning Department - The department has provided staffing as needed in the development of this plan. The County Planner works very closely with the Parks and Recreation Commission in the implementation of their goals and objectives.

Benzie County Planning Commission - They assisted in the public process to develop this plan by co-hosting the public input session. It is the intent of the BCPC to adopt this plan as the Recreation Section of the updated Benzie County Master Plan.

Benzie County Road Commission - They are currently working closely with the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Lake Michigan Drive Road-end project, and have made a commitment to keep all road-ends open to the public in Benzie County.

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy - The Parks and Recreation Commission oversees the Railroad Point Natural Area. Lands owned by the Conservancy are open to recreational use within Benzie County.

Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council - The Parks and Recreation Commission maintains a working relationship with the Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council.

Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation - They hold the Railroad Point Natural Area Endowment Fund and the Point Betsie Lighthouse Fund for Benzie County. The GTRCF has a fiduciary relationship with Benzie County and the Parks and Recreation Commission that benefits the Railroad Point Natural Area and the Point Betsie Lighthouse.

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians - They have contributed grant money for the development of the Lake Michigan Drive Boat Ramp reconstruction project. They have also helped local schools with their sports programs and the Benzonia Township Park. The tribe contributes grant money through their 2% funds.

Benzie Conservation District - They maintain a working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and have been involved in the forestry management projects.

Youth Advisory Council - They sponsor teen recreation events in the county with the youth services endowment fund held by the GTRCF.

Conservation Resource Alliance - They maintain a working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and have been involved in watershed management and River Care projects.

National Park Service - They maintain a working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and have been directly involved, as adjacent property owners, with the Lake Michigan Drive Road-end Project. They also participate in county planning.

Michigan State University Extension - They work with the Parks and Recreation Commission on recreation planning, and participated in the development of this plan. They also operate recreational programs and 4H.

TART Trail - They are working with the Parks and Recreation Commission to connect the TART Trail to the Betsie Valley Trail.

MDNR - They maintain a working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and are currently involved with the Parks and Recreation commission on a trail project and two public boating access projects in Benzie County. The MDNR oversees the Natural Wild and Scenic River designation on the Betsie River.

Council of Governments - They maintain a working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and are currently taking a leadership role with MDOT in the NW Michigan Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

Cultural Organizations Collaborative - Comprised of cultural organizations in Benzie County i.e., Mills Community House Association, Crystal Lake Art Association, Friends of the Point Betsie Lighthouse, library friends groups, historical societies, that maintain a working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Commission with regard to planning, programming, and creation of the Benzie County Parks and Recreation web page.

School Districts - They maintain a working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Local Service Clubs and Interest Groups - They maintain a working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Chapter 3
Recreation and Cultural Inventory



Point Betsie

Photographed by David Neiger

Recreation and Cultural Inventory for Benzie County

This chapter provides a thorough inventory of recreational and cultural entities within Benzie County. The County has extensive State and Federal lands, and many outstanding natural and built resources, with many possible recreational and cultural uses.

The following inventories were conducted following a three-step process. First, the inventories from the 1997 and 2002 Benzie County Recreation Plans were reviewed. Second, local officials from the specific townships, villages, and cities, as well as certain Benzie County residents were contacted to determine what updates and/or changes were needed for the existing inventories. The final method was to review the feedback from local officials and County residents with the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Department to ensure the accuracy of the inventories.

Following all of the individual jurisdiction's inventory pages (township, city, village, or National Park) are maps with the exact location of each recreational and cultural entity. There is also a map of the entire county with only major roads, as well as a County Map with all of the State, Federal, and Conservation lands indicated. Inventory page listings are formatted with the name of the entity first, then the organization in charge of the entity in parentheses, followed by a description of the entity. The final part of each listing is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessment in italics.

All recreational or cultural entities that are operated by any agency other than private establishments were assessed according to ADA standards. These standards were gathered by consulting ADA Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Final Rule, ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Architectural Barriers Act, and ADA Accessibility Guidelines; Recreation and Facilities; Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 2002). The grading scale for accessibility used in this document is the DNR proposed grading scale from DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans (MDNR, 2006)

ADA Accessibility Scale

- 1 - None of the facilities/parks areas meet accessibility guidelines.
- 2 - Some of the facilities/parks areas meet accessibility guidelines.
- 3 - Most of the facilities/parks areas meet accessibility guidelines.
- 4 - The entire facility/park meets accessibility guidelines.
- 5 - The entire facility/park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design.

All parks in this inventory are classified as miniature parks, neighborhood parks, or community parks. Their descriptions also include their size, when available, and their estimated service area.

The final section of this chapter is a complete listing of DNR grants that the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission has received, and how the grant funds were used.

Maps of each governmental unit with location identification follow this section.

Almira Township

1. **Ransom Lake Natural Area** (Almira Township)
220 acres of undeveloped land with 3500 feet of frontage on Ransom Creek. The property is used for hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking, wildlife observation, and snowmobiling. Service Area: Almira Township, Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
2. **Almira Township Park** (Almira Township)
42 acre neighborhood park with 3 baseball diamonds, basketball courts, volleyball courts, and a one-mile paved walking trail. The park has playscapes, swings, and a pavilion with indoor plumbing. Service Area: Almira Township, Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
3. **Mistwood Golf Course** (Private)
27-hole public golf course with a pro-shop and a restaurant.
4. **State Forest Campground and Cross Country Ski Trail** (MDNR)
Campground with pit toilets and no running water. Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
5. **Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail** (MDNR)
State horse riding and hiking trail from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
6. **Boat Launches** (MDNR)
 - a. Ann Lake
 - b. Stevens Lake
 - c. Davis Lake
 - d. Garey Lake
 - e. Pearl Lake
 - f. Brooks Lake
 - g. Herendeene Lake
 - h. Lime LakeService Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
7. **Boat Launches** (Benzie County Road Commission)
 - a. Pearl Lake (Wagner Road)
 - b. Bronson Lake (Oakley Road)Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1

8. **Proposed Public Beach on Ann Lake** (Almira Township)
Planned public beach in the Village of Lake Ann. The Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Board has approved funding for the project.
9. **Almira Township Hall** (Almira Township)
Township offices and general meeting space.
Service Area: Almira Township
Accessibility Assessment - 2
10. **Greenbriar Cemetery** (Almira Township)
Six acres on Reynolds Road north of Cedar Run Road.
11. **Almira Cemetery** (Almira Township)
On Almira Road off of County Road 669.

Benzonia Township

1. **Memorial Park** (Benzonia Township)
31 acre community park located between South Street in Benzonia and Grace Road. Access is off either roadway. The park has a picnic area, 4 baseball diamonds, a soccer field, a volleyball court, parking, water, lighting, a storage building, 3 restrooms, and a pavilion with power. A nine-hole disc-golf course has been added.
Service Area: Benzonia Township, Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
2. **Timberline Campground** (Private)
189 campsites with electric, water, sewer hookups, RV sanitary dump station, pool, showers, and RV storage.
3. **Benzie Central Junior and Senior High School Complex** (Benzie County Central School District) – Outdoor football and track stadium, baseball diamond, softball diamond, soccer field, gymnasium, basketball court, auditorium, classrooms, and meeting rooms.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
4. **Homestead Dam Lamprey Barrier Public Fishing Site** (MDNR)
One-mile long linear park, also known as the Homestead Dam Site, with canoe, kayak and boat launch, parking, spillway, and pit toilets. Open to the public along the north side of the river from the spillway to the US-31 access site.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
5. **Betsie River Public Access Site** (MDNR)
Less than 1 acre miniature park on the northeast side of the Grace Road crossing. The site has parking, pit toilets, and a canoe and kayak launch.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 2

6. **Betsie River Public Access Site** (MDNR)
¼ mile long linear park on the southeast side of the River Road crossing. The site has a canoe, kayak, and boat launch, fishing along the stream, and parking.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
7. **Betsie River Fishing Access Site** (MDNR)
Easement running east off of US-31 to state property (1/4 mile long) along the south side of the river between Wallaker Road and US-31.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
8. **Vacation Trailer Park** (Private)
Frontage on the Betsie River, located northwest of the US-31 bridge crossing of the Betsie River. The park has 100 tent and RV public campsites with electricity, sanitary dump station, pool, canoe rentals, sport shop, showers, and cabin rental.
9. **Crystal Lake Golf Course** (Private)
18-hole public course and driving range.
10. **Pinecroft Golf Course** (Private)
18-hole public course and driving range.
11. **Benzie-Manistee Tribal Outpost and Community Center** (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians) – 80 acre site with a community center for health and social services and a residential complex.
Service Area: For tribal members residing in Benzie and Manistee Counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
12. **Sagaser Nature Preserve** (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy)
20 acre wooded area with nature trails.
Service Area: Benzie County, region.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
13. **Trapp Farm Nature Preserve** (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy)
Located east of the Village of Beulah with access from US-31, Narrow Gauge Road, and Eldridge Road. 115 acres of wetlands with 2000 feet of tributaries of the Cold Creek, with nature trails, boardwalk, and parking off Narrow Gauge Road.
Service Area: Benzie County, region.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
14. **Dead Stream Road Crossing of Dead Stream** (MDNR)
Access site for canoe and kayak launching and fishing.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
15. **Platte Lake Road-end** (Benzie County Road Commission)
Access from Lake Street, which runs north of Platte Road.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1

16. **Betsie River Water Trail/Corridor**
Canoe, kayak, and small boat usage. The Betsie River is designated a Natural Wild and Scenic River that runs from Grass Lake to Betsie Lake and into Lake Michigan.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
17. **Betsie Valley Trail (MDNR/Benzie County)**
Located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Elberta and Frankfort.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
18. **Betsie River Public Access (MDNR)**
Northeast of where US-31 crosses the Betsie River. The site includes parking, pit toilets, and trails.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
19. **Platte River Water Trail**
Canoe and kayak route.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
20. **Commercial Forest Reserve Acreage (Private)**
Open to the public for hunting and fishing. Note: Status of CFR properties is subject to change.

a. Betty Hastings	60 acres
b. Luman and Olga Wilcox	230 acres
c. Luman and Olga Wilcox	71 acres (North of US-31 only)
21. **Proposed Scenic Corridor (NPS)**
Proposed to run along the top of the ridge between Big Platte Lake and Crystal Lake from M-22 near the intersection with Platte Road to US-31 north of the intersection with Lincoln Road.
22. **Zada Price Park (Benzie County/Benzie County Road Commission)**
Five-acre community park, also known as Mitchell Park or the Wilson Property, located on the north side of Crystal Lake near the marina. The area has shoreline access for swimming, and provides for launching of canoes, kayaks, and light boats (road-end within frontage). Ample off-road parking across Crystal Drive. Snowmobile and ice-fishing access to Crystal Lake in the winter.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
23. **Railroad Point Natural Area (Benzie County)**
66 acres of wooded steep bluffs and hills on Railroad Point, with a nature trail, 2700 feet of frontage on Crystal Lake and the Betsie Valley Trail, and a parking area off of Mollineaux Road at the south end of the parcel. Included in the management of Railroad Point is the Benzie County Crystal Lake Park (See No. 28) which is owned by the Benzie County Road Commission and leased to the Benzie County Board of Commissioners for park purposes only and which is managed as a part of the Railroad Point Natural Area as a part of the long-range

plan. A non-motorized trail provides access from the Railroad Point Natural Area to the Benzie County Crystal Lake Park.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

24. Proposed Public Boating Access Site on Crystal Lake (MDNR)

The site will be the only MDNR access site on Crystal Lake. Planned with 38 paved car-trailer parking spaces, 20 paved companion car spaces and unpaved overflow parking, two double-ramps with filtration, and ADA accessible.

Located on M-115 between Frankfort and Benzonia at the east end of Mollineaux Road.

25. Public Road-ends on Crystal Lake (Benzie County Road Commission)

- a. Zada Price Park (Wilson Property)
- b. White Street
- c. McKinley Street
- d. Alden Street
- e. Nichols Road

Service Area: Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

26. Benzonia Township Cemetery (Benzonia Township)

40 acres on Love Road off US-31.

27. Cherry Bowl Drive-in Theater (Private)

One of the last drive-in movie theaters in Michigan. Located on Honor Highway (US-31) south of Honor.

28. Benzie County Crystal Lake Park (Benzie County)

320 feet of Crystal Lake Frontage, 13 acres of hilly and wooded land area, surrounded with no development. Owned by the Benzie County Road Commission and leased to the Benzie County Board of Commissioners, it was deeded to the County with restrictions that it be used for park purposes only. It is managed as a natural area in conjunction with the Railroad Point Natural Area (See No. 23) and is accessed by a non-motorized trail from the Railroad Point Natural Area. It is located in Section 21, T26N-R14W.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

Blaine Township

1. Blaine Township Hall and Park (Blaine Township)

Offices and a large multipurpose room with a one acre community park. Includes open space at the end and south side of White Owl Road on Lower Herring Lake. The park is adjacent to the County road-end at Herring Lake with a parking area, picnic tables, and a shelter.

Service Area: Blaine Township.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

2. **Lower Herring Lake Public Access Site** (MDNR)
 Boat launch, dock, swimming, and parking.
 Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
3. **Upper Herring Lake Preserve** (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy)
 120 acres of wetland, historic marl pits, and open field with 2800 feet of frontage on Upper Herring Lake, nature trail, and boardwalk.
 Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
4. **Joyfield Road M-22 Scenic Turnouts** (MDOT)
 Located on the east and west sides of M-22 with views of the Herring Lakes Basin, Empire, and the Elberta Bluffs.
 Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
5. **Inspiration Point M-22 Scenic Turnout** (MDOT)
 Restrooms and a network of viewing platforms overlooking steep bluffs, Arcadia marshlands, and Lake Michigan.
 Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
6. **Upper Herring Lake Public Access** (MDNR)
 Pit toilets, parking, and a small boat launch.
 Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
7. **Road-ends on Lower Herring Lake** (Platted)
 - a. First Street
 - b. Second Street
 - c. Third Street
 - d. Fourth Street
 - e. Fifth Street
 - f. Sixth Street
 - g. Lake Street
 Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
8. **Public Road-ends on Lower Herring Lake** (Benzie County Road Commission)
 - a. Boo Hoo Road
 - b. Birch Street
 - c. Matzinger Resort Road
 - d. White Owl Road
 - e. Seventh Street
 Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
9. **Gorivan Road Crossing of the Upper Herring Creek** (Benzie County Road Commission)

- Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - I
10. **M-22 Crossing of Lower Herring Creek** (MDOT/Benzie County Road Commission)
 Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 11. **Beuna Road Crossing of Lower Herring Creek** (Benzie County Road Commission)
 Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 12. **Camp Mar-a-Meg** (Private)
 Summer youth camp accessible via pontoon boat from the Seventh Street Road-end. Includes cabin dormitories and a meeting hall on the peninsula between Lake Michigan and Lower Herring Lake.
 13. **Fruithaven Forest Preserve** (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy)
 176 acres of forest overlooking Upper Herring Lake. Open for hiking. Hunting with permission from the Conservancy.
 Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 14. **Mott Preserve at Arcadia Dunes** (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy)
 360 acres. Open for hiking, cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing. Single track mountain bike trails. Hunting with permission from the Conservancy.
 Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 15. **Greenpointe Dunes Preserve** (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy)
 241 acres also know as the Ranke Property. Open for hiking, cross country skiing and snow-shoeing. Hunting with permission from the Conservancy. Lake Michigan beach access.
 Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 16. **Watervale Resort** (Private)
 Built as a company town in 1892. The restored logging town was opened to the public and has been operated as a resort since 1917. Located on Lower Herring Lake with over a mile of private Lake Michigan shoreline.
 - a. **Watervale Historic District – National Register of Historic Districts**
 Added to the National Register in 2003.
 Periods of Significance: 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949, 1950-1974.
 17. **Blaine Township Cemetery** (Blaine Township)
 On the east side of M-22 between the Herring Lakes near Watervale Road.
 18. **Putney Road Mystery Spot** (Benzie County Road Commission)
 Roadway where it appears that gravity is defied and cars roll uphill. Located south of Putney Corners on Putney Road. Note: No trespassing on the private orchards adjacent to the roadway.

19. M-22 Lake Michigan Circle Tour Route (MDOT)

Part of the road network that encircles Lake Michigan.

Service Area: States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

Accessibility Assessment - 5

Colfax Township**1. Platte River Snowmobile Trail (MDNR)**

Runs north from Lindy Road through the Pere Marquette State Forest via seasonal roads, trails, and easements.

Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

2. Grass Lake State Forest Campground (MDNR/Colfax Township)

15-site rustic campground with swimming and a small boat launch to access wildlife flooding areas at the dam on the Betsie River.

Service Area: State of Michigan.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

3. Public Road Crossings of the Betsie River (County Road Commission)

- a. Nostwick Road (North of Wallin Road)
- b. Reynolds Road (North of Wallin Road)
- c. Wallin Road (West of Nostwick Road)
- d. Thompsonville Road (County Road 669 north of King Road)
- e. S. Carmean Road (Between Wallin Road and King Road)
- f. Long Road (South of Wallin Road)

Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

4. Public Road Crossings of the Little Betsie River (Benzie County Road Commission)

- a. Bentley Road (Crosses twice)
- b. Nessen Road (North of Nessen City)
- c. Thompsonville Road (County Road 669 north of Thompsonville)

Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

5. Betsie River Water Trail/Corridor (MDNR)

Canoe, kayak, and small boat usage. The Betsie River is a designated Natural Wild and Scenic River that runs from Grass Lake to Betsie Lake and into Lake Michigan.

Service Area: State of Michigan.

6. Historic Wallin School and Wallin Community Club (Private)

Membership limited to those living within the old Wallin School District.

7. Commercial Forest Reserve Acreage (Private)

Open to the public for hunting and fishing. Note: Status of CFR property is subject to change.

- a. Van and Debra Muzzy 40 acres
- 8. **Colfax Township Hall** (Colfax Township)
Offices with meeting and banquet space.
Service Area: Colfax Township.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
- 9. **Historic Wallin Settlement**
Intersection of Wallin Road and Long Road.
- 10. **Historic Nessen City Settlement**
Intersection of Lindy Road and Karlin Road.
- 11. **Saint Raphael's Holy Family Cemetery** (Colfax Township)
Located in Nessen City.
- 12. **Colfax Township Cemetery** (Colfax Township)
Located at the intersection of Nessen and Karlin Roads.

Crystal Lake Township

- 1. **Crystal Lake Township Park** (Crystal Lake Township)
90 acre community park consisting of undeveloped, wooded, and hilly open space. 600 feet of frontage on the Betsie Valley Trail and the Betsie River.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
- 2. **Crystal Lake Beach** (City of Frankfort)
One acre neighborhood park with a swimming beach on Crystal Lake. Also known as Bellows Park or 7th Street Beach. The park has swing sets, picnic tables, grills, a shelter, a boat launch, and parking across Crystal Avenue.
Service Area: Frankfort, Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
- 3. **Betsie River Campground** (Private)
40 public RV sites with electrical, water, and septic hookups. open to the public
Located on River Road with access to the Betsie River and Betsie Valley Trail.
- 4. **Betsie River Public Access off River Road** (MDNR)
Canoe and kayak launch with access for fishing.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
- 5. **Crystal Lake Conference Center** (Private)
Residential church camp with dormitories, central eating facility, a ball field, volleyball and tennis courts, and Crystal Lake beachfront.
- 6. **Public Road-ends on Crystal Lake** (Benzie County Road Commission)
 - a. Broadway Street
 - b. Linden Street
 - c. Vine Street

- d. Esplanade Drive
- e. Lobb Road
- f. Onkeonwe Road
- g. Seventh Street at Bellows Park (City of Frankfort)

Service Area: Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

7. **Frankfort Airport** (Benzie County Airport Authority)
General aviation facility actively used for commuters, gliders and tow planes.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
8. **Betsie River State Game Area** (MDNR)
Wildlife management area in Crystal Lake and Gilmore Townships that includes wetlands and an extensive waterfowl nesting site. Access off of River Road.
Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
9. **Betsie Valley Trail** (MDNR/Benzie County)
Located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Elberta and Frankfort.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
10. **Betsie River Water Trail and Corridor** (MDNR)
Canoe, kayak, and small boat usage. The Betsie River is a designated Natural Wild and Scenic River that runs from Grass Lake to Betsie Lake and into Lake Michigan.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
11. **Congregational Summer Assembly** (Private)
Historic summer residential resort association located in Pilgrim between Lake Michigan and Crystal Lake on M-22. Private recreational facilities include an expansive beach area on Crystal Lake, tennis, several small parks, trails, a large multiple use building, volleyball courts, a baseball field, post office, and a food concession.
12. **Railroad Point Natural Area** (MDNR/Benzie County)
66 acres of wooded steep bluffs and hills on Railroad Point, with nature trails, 2700 feet of frontage on Crystal Lake and the Betsie Valley Trail, and parking.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
13. **Crystal Lake Township Hall** (Crystal Lake Township)
Offices and a multipurpose room located on the southeast corner of M-115 and Airport Road.
Service Area: Crystal Lake Township.
Accessibility Assessment - 1

14. **Commercial Forest Reserve Acreage** (Private)
Open to the public for hunting and fishing. Note: Status of CFR property is subject to change.
 - a. Richard Cooper and Jan Tennant 40 acres
15. **Elizabeth Parr Nature Preserve** (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy)
Five acres of high wooded bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan with 200 feet of Lake Michigan frontage.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
16. **Crystal Lake Outlet Property** (MDNR)
MDNR Boating Access Division owns 29 acres between the outlet on Crystal Lake and the West End of the Railroad Point Natural Area. The acreage fronts on Crystal Lake adjacent to the lake level control dam and crosses Mollineau Road into wetlands to the south. Swimming area with limited parking.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
17. **Frankfort Gateway Arch** (City of Frankfort)
Local historic landmark on the hill overlooking Frankfort on Highway M-115.
18. **Crystal Lake Township Cemetery - East** (Crystal Lake Township)
Five acres on M-115 across from Airport Road. Also known as the Lutheran Cemetery,
19. **Crystal Lake Township Cemetery - North** (Crystal Lake Township)
25 acres on the East Side of M-22 near Pilgrim.
20. **M-22 Lake Michigan Circle Tour Route** (MDOT)
Part of the road network that encircles Lake Michigan.
Service Area: States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.
Accessibility Assessment - 5
21. **Betsie Dunes Preserve** (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy)
62 acres with a ¼ mile of frontage on Lake Michigan, also known as the Killian Preserve.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
22. **Lewis Road Road-end at the Betsie River** (Benzie County Road Commission)
Unimproved site located off of River Road on Lewis Road to the Betsie River.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1

Gilmore Township

1. **Betsie River State Game Area** (MDNR)
Wildlife management area in Crystal Lake and Gilmore Townships. Includes

- wetlands and an extensive waterfowl nesting site, with access off of River Road.
Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
2. **Betsie Valley Trail** (MDNR/Benzie County)
Located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Elberta and Frankfort.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
 3. **Betsie River Water Trail/Corridor** (MDNR)
Canoe, kayak, and small boat usage. The Betsie River is a designated Natural Wild and Scenic River that runs from Grass Lake to Betsie Lake and into Lake Michigan.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 4. **Grace Road Road-end at Lake Michigan** (Gilmore Township)
Service Area: Gilmore Township.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 5. **Gilmore Township Cemetery** (Gilmore Township)
Approximately 6 acres located on the northwest corner of Grace Road and M-22.
 6. **Stratton Hill M-22 Scenic Turnout** (MDOT)
Located on the West Side of M-22 with views north over the Betsie River Valley and the ridge between the Betsie River and Crystal Lake.
Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
 7. **M-22 Lake Michigan Circle Tour Route** (MDOT)
Driving route following the coastline around Lake Michigan.
Service Area: States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Illinois.
Accessibility Assessment - 5

Homestead Township

1. **Veteran's Memorial State Forest Campground** (MDNR)
40 acres with approximately 1400 feet of Platte River frontage, located on the south side of US-31. Facilities include 21 camping sites, parking, and water.
Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
2. **Platte River State Forest Campground** (MDNR)
Approximately 1350 feet of frontage on the Platte River with 26 tent/RV campsites, open space, and a day use area with picnic tables.
Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 2

3. **Platte River Snowmobile Trail** (MDNR)
Michigan Snowmobile Trail.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
4. **Platte Springs Pathway** (MDNR)
One mile of walking and cross-country ski trail.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
5. **Sunnywoods Motel and Campground** (Private)
47 public campsites and sanitary dump station, party store and pool.
6. **Cheneniah Bible Camp** (Private)
Residential summer camp with a softball field, volleyball court, and dormitories.
7. **Homestead Township Recreational Park** (Homestead Township)
34 acre community park with four baseball/softball fields, press box, concession stand, storage garage, two pavilions, playground, and a walking trail.
Service Area: Homestead Township, Benzie County, region.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
8. **Platte River Water Trail** (MDNR)
Canoe, kayak, and small boat usage.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
9. **Betsie Valley Trail** (MDNR/Benzie County)
Located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Elberta and Frankfort.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
10. **Champion Hill Farms Golf Course** (Private)
18-hole public golf course overlooking Lake Michigan.
11. **Commercial Forest Reserve Acreage** (Private)
Open to the public for hunting and fishing. Note: Status of CFR properties is subject to change.
 - a. Joanne Kobernik Trust 40 acres
 - b. Fredrick Poynor 65 acres
 - c. Marshall Brothers 160 acres
 - d. John and Rebecca MacKay 40 acres
12. **Homestead Township Cemetery** (Homestead Township)
30 acres on Pioneer Road.
13. **Champion Hill Cemetery** (Homestead Township)
30 acres on Marshall Road at Covey Road.

Inland Township

1. **Platte River Snowmobile Trail** (MDNR)

- Michigan snowmobile trail.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
2. **Turtle Lake Campground** (Private)
20 campsites on the northwest shore of Turtle Lake with boat rentals.
 3. **Turtle Lake Public Access** (MDNR)
Michigan Waterways boat launch with parking.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 4. **Platte River State Fish Hatchery** (MDNR)
Fish Hatchery for Coho Salmon development and release into Lake Michigan.
Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
 - a. **Pacific Salmon – State Historic Marker**
Marker erected in 1974.
 5. **Michigan Shore to Shore Trail** (MDNR)
Horse riding and hiking trail across the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.
Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 6. **Commercial Forest Reserve Acreage** (Private)
Open to the public for hunting and fishing. Note: Status of CFR properties are subject to change.
 - a. Clarence Ramey 46 acres
 - b. Thomas and Janet Wessels 40 acres
 7. **Unincorporated Village of Bendon**
Intersection of Bendon Road and Cinder Road.
 8. **Inland Township Hall** (Inland Township)
Located in Bendon with offices, gathering space, and parking.
Service Area: Inland Township
Accessibility Assessment - 2
 9. **Inland Township Cemetery** (Inland Township)
Located on US-31 east of Bendon Road.
 10. **Countryside Memorial Cemetery** (Inland Township)
On the east side of Inland Cemetery
 11. **Stagecoach Memorial Cemetery** (Inland Township)
Located on US-31 east of Bendon Road.
 12. **Brundage Wilderness Cemetery** (Inland Township)
On a two-track off Carmean Road.
 13. **Lake Ann Elementary School** (Benzie County Central School District)
Complete educational facility with a gymnasium located on Bronson Road.
Service Area: Benzie County Central School District
Accessibility Assessment - 3

14. Inland Township Park (Inland Township)

24 acre community park with a pavilion on Lake Ann Road north of Bronson Road or 1.5 miles north of US-31. Recently logged pine.

Service Area: Inland Township, Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

Joyfield Township**1. Paquette Roadside Park (MDOT)**

Eight acre shaded roadside rest stop with picnic tables and pit toilets.

Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

2. Benzie Sportsman Club (Private)

80 acres with a clubhouse and a pond. Includes a black powder pistol and rifle range, high power pistol and rifle shooting ranges, skeet and shooting clays.

3. Commercial Forest Reserve Acreage (Private)

Open to the public for hunting and fishing. Note: Status of CFR properties is subject to change.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| a. Richard Cooper and Jan Tennant | 40 acres |
| b. Richard Cooper and Jan Tennant | 120 acres |
| c. Imogene Gray | 40 acres |
| d. Don and W. Marshall | 80 acres |

4. Joyfield Township Hall (Joyfield Township)

General meeting space and township offices on Benzie Highway (US-31).

Accessibility Assessment - 2

5. Joyfield Cemetery (Joyfield Township)

Approximately 4 acres on Benzie Highway (US-31).

- a. **Joyfield Cemetery – State Historic Marker**
Marker erected in 2004.

Lake Township**1. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (NPS) – See attached inventory page.****2. Lake Township Park (Lake Township)**

Approximately a two acre community park with swimming, canoeing, kayaking, picnic tables, grills, benches, and a canoe launch site. The park has 300 feet of frontage on the Platte River south of the Lake Michigan Drive boat launch and west of the National Park parking and rest rooms.

Service Area: Lake Township, Benzie County, State of Michigan.

Accessibility Assessment – 4

3. Big Platte Lake Public Access (MDNR)

Boat launch with parking at the end of Arborvitae Road.

- Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - I
4. **Little Platte Lake Public Access** (MDNR)
Boat launch with rest rooms and parking.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 5. **Lake Michigan Drive Road-end** (Benzie County Road Commission)
Canoe, kayak, and small boat launch site into the Platte River above Lake Michigan Beach. Parking is available on township and NPS property.
Reconstruction project proposed for the launch area.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 6. **Crystal Downs Golf Club** (Private)
Private 18-hole course.
 7. **Riverside Canoes** (Private)
Seasonal party store with canoe, kayak, inner tube, and boat rentals.
 8. **Point Betsie Road Road-end** (County Road Commission)
Access to Lake Michigan Beach and Point Betsie Lighthouse.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan, National.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 - a. **Point Betsie Light Station – National Register of Historic Places**
Also known as Point aux Bees Scies. Added to the National Register in 1984. The Lighthouse is one of the most visited and photographed in Michigan. Historically one of the most prominent and utilized lights on Lake Michigan for mariners. The U.S. Coast Guard retired the facility due to advances in maritime technology and relinquished it to Benzie County.
Periods of Significance: 1850-1874, 1875-1899.
 9. **MDNR Fish Weir** (MDNR)
On the Platte River north of Loon Lake. Closed except for fall time when salmon are taken for eggs. Limited visitor parking.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 10. **Spruce Road Road-end** (Benzie County Road Commission)
Access on Little Platte Lake.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 11. **Long Lake Road Road-end** (Benzie County Road Commission)
Access at the West End of Long Lake.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - I
 12. **Crystal Lake Yacht Club** (Private)
Members only club house and launch site.

13. **Proposed Scenic Corridor (NPS)**
Planned to run from M-22 to US-31 along the ridge between Big Platte Lake and Crystal Lake.
14. **Sand Dunes via Point Betsie Road (The Nature Conservancy)**
147 acres of dune lands with extensive frontage on Lake Michigan, also known as the Zetterburg Preserve.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
15. **M-22 Lake Michigan Circle Tour Route (MDOT)**
Part of the road network that encircles Lake Michigan.
Service Area: States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.
Accessibility Assessment - 5
16. **Lake Township Hall (Lake Township)**
Offices and multipurpose space located across from the intersection of Lake Michigan Drive on M-22.
Service Area: Lake Township.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
17. **Honor Trading Post (Private)**
Canoe, kayak, and tube rental for the Upper and Lower Platte Rivers ending at Lake Michigan. Store located on Deadstream Road.

Platte Township

1. **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (NPS)** – *See attached inventory page.*
2. **Platte River Snowmobile Trail (MDNR)**
Designated trail system maintained and groomed with state funds.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan
Accessibility Assessment - 4
3. **Michigan Shore-To-Shore Trail (MDNR)**
State horse riding and hiking trail from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
4. **Garey Lake Shore-To-Shore Horse Campground (MDNR)**
Located above Gary Lake State Forest Campground on a plateau with hitching posts and pit toilets.
Service Area: State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
5. **Commercial Forest Reserve Acreage (Private)**
Open to the public for hunting and fishing. Note: Status of CFR properties is subject to change.
 - a. Gary Gielczyk and Rebecca Mang 60 acres
 - b. James Dorsey Trust 78 acres
 - c. Kehr Properties LLC 86 acres

- d. Robert and Elva Ellis 40 acres
- e. Richard Cooper 40 acres
- f. William and Edith Overlease 210 acres
- g. Richard Cooper and Jan Tennant 185 acres
- 6. **M-22 Lake Michigan Circle Tour Route** (MDOT)
Driving route following the coastline around Lake Michigan.
Service Area: States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Illinois.
Accessibility Assessment - 5
- 7. **Platte Township Open Space** (Platte Township)
80 acre community park with open space for walking and hiking.
Service Area: Platte Township, Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
- 8. **Platte Township Cemetery** (Platte Township)
Intersection of Indian Hill and Esch Roads, since 1868.
- 9. **Historic Drake School** (Benzie County Historical Society)
Located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Fowler Road and County Road 677. Managed by the Benzie Area Historical Museum.
Service Area: Benzie County
Accessibility Assessment - 2
- 10. **Alex B. Maley Memorial Woodlot** (Benzie Conservation District)
151 acres managed for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, soil and water conservation, natural environment research, and education.
Service Area: Benzie County and surrounding counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
- 11. **Platte Grange Hall** (Platte Grange)
Located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Esch and Indian Hill Roads.

Weldon Township

- 1. **Crystal Mountain Resort** (Private)
1125 acre year-round resort with 36 holes of golf, 45 downhill skiing slopes, ski lodge, restaurant and lodging for 1,200 people, indoor and outdoor pools, two tennis courts, mountain biking trails, 45 kilometers of cross-country skiing trails, conference center, summer luge run, outdoor art park, fitness center and spa.
- 2. **Michigan Legacy Art Park** (MLAP Board)
30 wooded and rolling acres adjacent to Crystal Mountain. Open year round during daylight hours. Outdoor concerts in the Jessie Frohlich Amphitheater and more than 40 art works installed along 1.6 miles of trails. Established in 1995 to provide cultural, artistic, and educational services to the public. Enter through Crystal Mountain's main entrance.
- 2. **Platte River Snowmobile Trail** (MDNR)
Designated trail system maintained and groomed with state funds.

- Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
3. **Betsie River Pathway** (MDNR)
Cross-country ski trail located on the West Side of the Betsie River in southeastern Weldon Township.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 4. **Betsie River Campground** (Private)
Year-round RV camping facility located on the northwest corner where the Betsie River crosses Lindy Road.
 5. **Fred's Landing** (MDNR/Benzie County Road Commission)
Betsie River access with primitive camping.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 6. **Commercial Forest Reserve Acreage** (Private)
Open to the public for hunting and fishing. Note: Status of CFR properties is subject to change.
 - a. Bryce and Patsie Gibbs 40 acres
 - b. Hazel Riske 41 acres
 7. **Betsie Valley Trail** (MDNR/Benzie County)
Located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Frankfort and Elberta.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
 8. **Betsie River Corridor**
The Betsie River is a designated Natural Wild and Scenic River and runs from Grass Lake to Betsie Lake and into Lake Michigan.
 9. **Benzie County Central School District Forest** (Thompsonville Consolidated Schools) – 80 acre forested property.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 10. **Dair Mill Fishing Access** (MDNR)
10.77 acres on the South Side of M-115, between the Betsie River and Dair Mill Road.
Service Area: Benzie County and neighboring counties.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 11. **Thompsonville Airport** (Village of Thompsonville)
220 acre general aviation airport with two runways, one paved and one grass strip, an administration building, pit toilets, and water.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
 12. **Betsie River Water Trail** (MDNR)
Canoe, kayak, and small boat usage.

13. **Betsie River Day Use Park** (MDNR/Weldon Township)
14 acre community park located at the Thompsonville dam site.
Service Area: Weldon Township, Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
15. **Weldon Township Cemetery**
Five acres on the corner of Pioneer and Pine Streets.
16. **Betsie Valley Elementary School** (Benzie County Central School District)
Educational facility located on Cadillac Highway (M-115) in Manistee County.
Service Area: Benzie County Central School District.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
17. **Betsie River Sportsmans Club** (Private)
Located on Egan Road. Includes a clubhouse for members and a 3D archery range.
18. **Patterson Road Road-end to the Betsie River** (Benzie County Road Commission)
Site located off Landis Road on Patterson Road at the Betsie River.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1

City of Frankfort

1. **East Shore Marina** (Private)
Public and charter boat marina.
2. **C.J. Kibby Memorial Boat Launch** (City of Frankfort)
Located on Betsie Lake with 24-hour public boat launch and docks, fish cleaning station, ice, bathhouse, and parking.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
3. **Harborview Recreation Center** (City of Frankfort)
Also known as the Senior Citizens Center, with a kitchen and multi-purpose room for meal site and services.
Service Area: City of Frankfort.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
4. **Mineral Springs Park** (City of Frankfort)
Six acre neighborhood park with mineral springs. The park has picnic tables, grills, shelter, indoor bathrooms, volleyball, playground equipment, sandbox, shuffleboard, open space, benches, and parking. Includes the City Marina with 71 berths.
Service Area: City of Frankfort, Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
5. **Frankfort City Marina and Borwell Yacht Basin** (City of Frankfort)

- Michigan State Waterways Commission funded public facility with a complete marina including 71 transient and seasonal slips for 30 to 60 foot boats. Part of Mineral Springs Park.
Service Area: City of Frankfort, Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
6. **Karl E. Luedtke Park** (City of Frankfort)
Commonly known as Rotary Park, a miniature park of less than one acre, located in the business district of Frankfort. The park has unique landscaping with benches, flowers, trees, shrubs, and an accessible ramp from the Marina to Main Street.
Service Area: City of Frankfort.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
7. **Jacobsen Marina and Clubhouse** (Private)
Complete public marina facilities and clubhouse with transient and seasonal slips for 72 boats up to 80 feet in length.
8. **Goldcoast Marina** (Private)
Seasonal slips for 72 boats that will accommodate 35 feet in length and up.
9. **Cannon Park** (City of Frankfort)
Two acre neighborhood park on the south side of Main Street and across from First Street. The park has a cannon, historic marker, benches, grills, and water. The 7-ton cannon was brought to Frankfort in the late 1800s by the Grand Army of the Republic.
Service Area: City of Frankfort.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
- a. **Marquette's Death - Memorial Historic Marker**
Marker erected in 1965.
10. **Frankfort Lake Michigan Beach** (City of Frankfort)
12 acre community park with swimming beach, beach volleyball, swing sets, parking, and benches. The North Pier along the river outlet and the North Break Wall are used for walking and fishing.
Service Area: City of Frankfort, Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
11. **Tank Hill - Park Avenue Forest Area** (City of Frankfort)
20 acre neighborhood park with steep slopes and undeveloped open space. Includes hiking trails and features mature maple trees.
Service Area: City of Frankfort.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
12. **Frankfort Elementary School** (Frankfort Elberta School District)
Multipurpose meeting room, commercial kitchen, and gymnasium.
Service Area: Frankfort-Elberta School District.
Accessibility Assessment - 5
13. **Lockhart Field** (Frankfort-Elberta Athletic Association)

- Part of the school complex. Includes a stadium for football and soccer, bleachers, press box, facilities for baseball, softball, track and field sports, a storage room, and locker room.
Service Area: Frankfort-Elberta School District.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
14. **Crystal Lake Beach** (City of Frankfort)
Community park on Crystal Lake, commonly known as Bellows Park or the Seventh Street Beach.
See the Crystal Lake Township inventory page.
15. **Open Space** (City of Frankfort)
Three acres of open space between the District Library and C.J. Kibby Memorial Boat Launch.
Service Area: City of Frankfort.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
16. **Betsie Valley Trail and the Beach to Beach Trail** (MDNR/Benzie County)
Located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Elberta and Frankfort, with connecting links from the Frankfort beach on Lake Michigan to the Elberta beach.
Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
17. **Market Square Park** (City of Frankfort)
Two acre neighborhood park located in the heart of the City with 2 basketball courts, 2 tennis courts, and miscellaneous playground equipment.
Service Area: City of Frankfort.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
18. **Frankfort Land Company House** (Private)
Located on Leelanau Avenue and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also known as the John Bochoven House and added to the National Register in 1995. Period of Significance: 1850-1874.
19. **Frankfort North Breakwater Light** (U.S. Coast Guard)
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also known as Frankfort Breakwater Light or Frankfort Arrowhead Breakwaters. The breakwater is located offshore and extends 0.4 of a mile SW of Main Street and Michigan Avenue. Added to the National Register in 2005.
Periods of Significance: 1900-1924, 1925-1949, 1950-1974.
Service Area: City of Frankfort, Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
20. **U.S. Coast Guard Station** (U.S. Coast Guard)
Located on the North Shore of Betsie Lake near the mouth of Frankfort Harbor on Coast Guard Road.
Service Area: National.
Accessibility Assessment - 3

- a. **Historic Frankfort Coast Guard Station**
Designation Eligible on the National Register of Historic Places.
 Due west and across the street from the New Coast Guard Station.
 The Crystal Lake Art Center has made plans to move into the historic structure and has initiated a capital campaign for renovations.
 - b. **Navigation Structures at Frankfort Harbor**
 Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.
 Periods of Significance: 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949.
- 21. **Garden Theater** (Private)
 Located on Main Street, the 300-seat theater is being refurbished. In addition to movies, the renovation will include an upgraded stage for live theater and music. Other uses will include private parties, meeting space, school plays and band concerts.
- 22. **Crystal Lake Art Center** (CLAC Board)
 Promotes and develops the visual, performing, and literary arts in Benzie county by offering a wide variety of classes and exhibits. The Capital Campaign Fund and the Permanent Endowment Fund are managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.
- 23. **Benzie Shores District Library** (BSDL Board)
 Located on Main Street overlooking the harbor with an extensive business and children's collection. Free presentations on a myriad of subjects and many programs and services.
- 24. **WPA Mural** (U.S. Postal Service)
 Large mural in the Frankfort Post Office depicting a historic car ferry on Lake Michigan in a storm.
- 25. **City Hall** (City of Frankfort)
 Recently rebuilt offices and meeting space located on Main Street.
 Service Area: City of Frankfort.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
- 26. **Frankfort Junior-Senior High School** (Frankfort-Elberta Area School District)
 Complete educational facility located on 11th Street.
 Service Area: Frankfort-Elberta Area School District
Accessibility Assessment - 3
- 27. **Proposed Sleeping Bear Dunes Boat Cruises** (Private)
 Operating from the Frankfort Waterfront, with offices located on Main Street, offering scenic cruises along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Village of Benzonia

- 1. **Village of Benzonia Academy Park East** (Village of Benzonia)
 Located on the east side of Michigan Avenue (US-31) at the corner of Traverse Avenue (Homestead Road). Four acre neighborhood park with baseball,

basketball, 4 tennis courts, a playground, and ice-skating and hockey in the winter.

Service Area: Village of Benzonia, Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

2. **Crystal Lake Elementary School** (Benzie County Central School District)
K-5 grade school with gymnasium, cafeteria, multipurpose field with basketball, soccer, softball, and parking. Entranceway from the intersection of US-31 and M-115. Located on the south side of Severance Street.
Service Area: Benzie County Central School District.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
3. **Mills Community House** (Mills Community House Association)
Located on the east side of US-31 at Walker Street and adjacent to the Academy Park East. The historic 100 year old building is being restored yet remains operational. It houses a third floor auditorium, second floor library, and lower level meeting rooms with a commercial kitchen. The building is accessible to ADA standards. The original “Mills Cottage” is the only remaining structure of the former college founded in 1858 by early settlers, and remains today as a focal point of the Village of Benzonia. The Capital Campaign Fund and the Permanent Endowment Fund are managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.
Service Area: Village of Benzonia, Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
 - a. **Mills Community House – National Register of Historic Places**
Added to the National Register in 1972.
Period of Significance: 1900-1924.
 - b. **Mills Community House – State Historic Marker**
Marker erected in 1977.
 - c. **Bruce Catton – State Historic Marker**
Marker erected in 1984.
 - d. **Benzonia Public Library**
Opened in 1925, the facility is the oldest library continuously operated in Benzie County. The library features the Catton Room, a collection of historic Benzie County newspapers, and a collection of books from the early college and academy libraries. The library will have additional floor space added as a part of the Mills Community House Renovation Plan.
4. **Benzonia Township Hall and Fire Hall** (Benzonia Township)
Located on the corner of Traverse Avenue and Michigan Avenue (US-31). Includes a large meeting room, township offices, and the fire hall.
Service Area: Benzonia Township.
Accessibility Assessment - 3
5. **Village of Benzonia Academy Park West** (Village of Benzonia)
A unique combination of wooded and open space surrounding the Congregational Church grounds. It includes a roadside picnic area, and parking for the museum,

firehall, and township offices.

Service Area: Village of Benzonia, Benzie County, State of Michigan.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

a. **Benzonia College – State Historic Marker**

Located in the park across US-31 from Mills Community House.

Marker erected in 1964.

6. **Benzie Area Historical Museum** (Benzie County Historical Society)

The original Congregational Church, that has been expanded, and houses a unique and growing collection of historically significant artifacts from the areas past.

Service Area: Village of Benzonia, Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

a. **Benzonia Congregational Church – State Historic Marker**

Marker erected in 1983.

7. **Village of Benzonia Hall** (Village of Benzonia)

Small meeting room, office, and maintenance buildings.

Service Area: Village of Benzonia.

Accessibility Assessment - 3

8. **Village Roadside Park and Parking Lot** (Village of Benzonia)

Miniature park located on Michigan Avenue (US-31) on the southeast corner of the intersection with Traverse Avenue. Landscaping and benches, with parking for the top of the hill business district and parks.

Service Area: Village of Benzonia, Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 3

9. **Forested Open Space** (Village of Benzonia)

Dedicated parklands in the original village plan. Located along Michigan Avenue (US-31) at the intersections of Severance Street to the north and South Street to the south. To be incorporated as part of a proposed Parks and Pathways project.

Service Area: Village of Benzonia.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

Village of Beulah

1. **Municipal Park and Beach** (Village of Beulah)

2.25 acre neighborhood park with approximately 1000 feet of Crystal Lake frontage and a swimming beach. Facilities include a boat launch, bathhouse, a tennis court, shuffleboard, RV park, picnic tables, pavilion, and a playground.

Service Area: Village of Beulah, Benzie County and neighboring counties.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

a. **Lowering of Crystal Lake Marker**

Erected in 1978 by the people of Benzie County to commemorate an ill-advised plan in 1915 to connect Crystal Lake with Lake Michigan.

2. **Northway/Center Street Park** (Village of Beulah)

Less than 1 acre miniature park with a tennis court.

Service Area: Village of Beulah.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

3. **Public Road-ends to Crystal Lake** (Village of Beulah)

- a. Commercial Street
- b. Pleasant Street
- c. First Street
- d. Second Street
- e. Third Street
- f. Fourth Street
- g. Benzie Street

Service Area: Village of Beulah.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

4. **Benzie County Government Center** (Benzie County)

County Offices, Court, Animal Shelter, and Sheriff's Department with Jail.

Service Area: Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 4

5. **Beulah Village Hall** (Village of Beulah)

Offices, maintenance garage, county recycling drop-off site, and parking area.

Service Area: Village of Beulah.

Accessibility Assessment - 4

6. **Trapp Park** (Village of Beulah)

One acre miniature park with a basketball court, rollerblade and skateboard court, and picnic tables.

Service Area: Village of Beulah.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

7. **Fair Park** (Village of Beulah)

Miniature park with 100 feet of Crystal Lake frontage.

Service Area: Village of Beulah.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

8. **Betsie Valley Trail** (MDNR/Benzie County)

Trailhead location with parking. Includes a small depot/visitors center, modeled after the historic depot.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.

Accessibility Assessment - 4

9. **Library Park** (Village of Beulah)

Less than one acre miniature park. Located along the Cold Creek.

Service Area: Village of Beulah.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

10. **Darcy Library of Beulah** (DML Board)

New library on Commercial Street featuring the Native American Meeting Room with a permanent exhibit. An expanding collection of artwork by local artists, internet access, and 24 hour hot spot.

Service Area: Village of Beulah

*Accessibility Assessment - 2***11. Historic Benzie County Courthouse (Private)**

Located on Crystal Avenue and historically known as “The Grand.”

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

Periods of Significance: 1900-1924, 1925-1949

12. Benzie Conservation District (BCD Board)

Local unit of State government with offices and storefront on the south end of Benzie Boulevard.

Service Area: Benzie County

Accessibility Assessment - 1

Village of Elberta**1. Elberta Historic Waterfront Park (Village of Elberta)**

10 acre community park with 1200 feet of scenic water frontage. The park has a covered picnic pavilion with 12 picnic tables, two parking lots with 54 parking spaces, a playground, paths and trails, an outdoor amphitheater, a fishing deck, drinking fountain, life saving station, and public rest rooms.

Service Area: Village of Elberta, Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.

Accessibility Assessment - 5

a. Car Ferries on Lake Michigan – State Historic Marker

Located on the hill overlooking the park and harbor.

Marker erected in 1958.

2. Elberta Lake Michigan Beach (Village of Elberta)

One mile long community beach including primitive restrooms, accessible pier, scenic overlook with parking, and boardwalk.

Service Area: Village of Elberta, Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

3. Dudley Penfold Memorial Park (Village of Elberta)

Four acre neighborhood park accessible from M-22. Facilities include a covered picnic pavilion with 12 picnic tables and 3 grills, wooden playground equipment, boat launch for canoes and kayaks, a pedestrian bridge, access to the Betsie Valley Trail with parking, and 34 boat slips.

Service Area: Village of Elberta, Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

4. The Community Building and Park (Village of Elberta)

Seven acre neighborhood park including the Community Building, public rest rooms, a baseball field, bleachers, playground equipment, and 2 tetherball polls.

Service Area: Village of Elberta, Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

5. Tot Park (Village of Elberta)

¼ acre miniature park with playground equipment and a basketball court.

Service Area: Village of Elberta.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

6. **Veterans Park** (Village of Elberta)
½ acre miniature park consisting of open space within a residential area.
Service Area: Village of Elberta.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
7. **Anderson Park** (Village of Elberta)
½ acre miniature park with playground equipment and a basketball court.
Service Area: Village of Elberta.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
8. **Betsie Valley Trail and Proposed Beach to Beach Trail** (MDNR/
Benzie County) – Located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad
right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Elberta and Frankfort with connecting
links from the Elberta beach on Lake Michigan to the Frankfort beach.
Service Area: Village of Elberta, Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
9. **Betsie Bay Marina** (Private)
Public marina with 56 boat slips, boat launch, refueling station, and a
storage/maintenance shed.
10. **Betsie Shores Dockominiums** (Private)
Public marina with 42 boat slips. The Village of Elberta owns 33 of the slips.
11. **North Star Marina** (Private)
Public marina located on Betsie Bay with 24 boat slips.
12. **Proposed South Elberta Dunes Preserve** (Village of Elberta)
To be owned and managed by the Village of Elberta. A Michigan Natural
Resources Trust Fund grant was approved in 2008.
13. **Gilmore Township Hall** (Gilmore Township)
Located in the Elberta Public Library Building on Frankfort Avenue (M-22).
Includes township offices and general meeting space.
Service Area: Gilmore Township
Accessibility Assessment - 1

Village of Honor

1. **Maley Park** (Village of Honor)
Approximately 2 acre neighborhood park at the junction of US-31 and
Deadstream Road, the intersection is bisected by Leelanau Drive. Includes a
spring fed fountain, picnic tables, swing sets, and parking.
Service Area: Village of Honor.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
2. **Platte River Elementary School** (Benzie County Central School District)
Facilities include a gymnasium, classrooms, kitchen, cafeteria, library,
playground, and an area outside of the village known as Homestead Park.
Service Area: Benzie County Central School District.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

3. **Bud's In Honor** (Private)
Canoe rental.
4. **Benzie County Road Commission** (BCRC Board)
Offices and garages for the county road maintenance equipment.
Service Area: Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
5. **Homestead Township Offices and Firehall** (Homestead Township)
Large meeting room, township offices, state police post, fire trucks and ambulance garage.
Service Area: Homestead Township.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
6. **Memorial Park** (Village of Honor)
Approximately ½ acre miniature park that features a memorial dedicated to WWII veterans. Located at US-31 and Platte Street next to the Post Office.
Service Area: Village of Honor.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
7. **State Police Mini-Post** (Michigan State Police)
Housed on the east side of the Homestead Township Building.
Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 3

Village of Lake Ann

1. **Old Almira Township Hall** (Almira Township)
Multipurpose meeting room, library, and senior congregate meal site.
Service Area: Almira Township.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
2. **Burnette Park** (Village of Lake Ann)
Two-acre neighborhood park, forested with mature maple trees, and includes picnic tables, tennis courts, a baseball field, basketball court, and bathrooms.
Service Area: Village of Lake Ann.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
3. **Lake Ann Cemetery**
On Reynolds Road in the Village.
4. **Almira Township Library** (Almira Township)
Located in the old Township Hall.
Service Area: Almira Township
Accessibility Assessment - 2
5. **Proposed Almira Township Lakefront Park** (Almira Township)
Planned 1.25 acre public beach with 175 feet of frontage on Ann Lake.
6. **Almira Historical Museum** (Almira Historical Society)

Located on Maple Street (Hwy. 610) and features a collection of artifacts from the areas past.

Service Area: Almira Township, Benzie County.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

Village of Thompsonville

1. **Thompsonville Community Park** (Village of Thompsonville)
Approximately 3 acre neighborhood park with basketball court, 2 tennis courts, open space, vault toilets, picnic tables, playground, pavilion with electricity, running water, and grills.
Service Area: Village of Thompsonville.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
2. **Bargerstock Recreation Area** (Village of Thompsonville)
Approximately 7 acre community park with two ball fields, concession stand, lighting on one ball diamond, bleachers, dugouts, electricity and running water.
Service Area: Village of Thompsonville, Benzie County.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
3. **Thompsonville Community Center** (Village of Thompsonville)
Meeting and banquet space located in the Thompsonville Community Park.
Service Area: Village of Thompsonville.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
4. **Sharp Park** (Village of Thompsonville)
Approximately 2 acre neighborhood park with 20 campsites (6 with electricity), vault toilets, running water, and picnic tables located in a wooded area at the village water tower on the corner of Thompson Avenue and Thompsonville Highway. The historic “Rail Diamond” is featured at the park.
Service Area: Village of Thompsonville, Benzie County, region.
Accessibility Assessment - 1
5. **Thompsonville Village Hall** (Village of Thompsonville)
Village offices and meeting space.
Service Area: Village of Thompsonville.
Accessibility Assessment - 2
6. **Betsie Valley Trail** (MDNR/Benzie County)
The trail is located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Elberta and Frankfort. The Trailhead is located next to the water tower.
Service Area: Thompsonville, Benzie County, region, State of Michigan.
Accessibility Assessment - 4
7. **Weldon Township Hall** (Weldon Township)
General meeting space and township offices.
Service Area: Weldon Township.
Accessibility Assessment - 2

8. Thompsonville Cemetery

Located on Second Street.

9. Betsie Valley District Library (BRDL Board)

Located on Thompson Avenue with Internet and WIFI service.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

(U.S. Department of Interior/National Park Service)

Note: A user fee is required for park access.

1. Platte River Campground (NPS)

150 campsites (96 with electricity), 24 walk-in tent sites, and 5 group sites.
8 modern rest rooms with showers and a RV sanitary dump station. Trails to Lake Michigan, a 200-person amphitheater, ranger station, and maintenance shop.
Service Area: State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 4

a. Platte River Campground – National Register of Historic Places

Added to the National Register in 1990.

Periods of Significance: 0-499, 500-999 AD, 1000-1499 AD.

Cultural Affiliation: Middle Woodland, Early Late Woodland.

2. El Dorado Park (NPS)

One acre community park with parking for 10 vehicles, vault toilet, small boat and canoe launch, wooden deck/dock, and picnic table.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 3

3. Old Indian Trail

Trailhead on M-22 east of Sutter Road. All season trail with two loops totaling 4.6 miles. Parking for 20 cars, pit toilet, and water pump.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 3

4. End of Lake Michigan Drive (NPS/Benzie County Road Commission)

Parking on the north and south sides, with two paved lots for up to 79 vehicles. Modern rest rooms and changing facilities for swimming. Adjacent to Lake Township Park on the south side of Lake Michigan Drive. The Benzie County Road Commission maintains a ramp for boat launching at the road-end.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

5. Platte Plains Trails (NPS)

All season trail with 3 loops totaling 14.7 miles (Lasso, Bass Lake, and Otter Creek Loops).

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

6. Loon Lake Public Access (NPS)

Public lake access with a picnic shelter and grill, accessible rest room, accessible dock, and a 27 vehicle parking lot.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 5

7. **Esch Road Road-end** (NPS/Benzie County Road Commission)

Lake Michigan access to beach with swimming, access to Otter Lake Loop Trail, and vault toilet with parking along road shoulder.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 5

8. **White Pine Campground** (NPS)

Six walk-in primitive camping sites, one fire-ring, and pit toilet.

Service Area: Benzie County, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

9. **Platte River Picnic Area** (NPS)

Accessible area with 4 shelters, canoe and kayak launch, fish cleaning station, walkway along river, benches, and parking for 27 vehicles.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 5

10. **Kittendorf Landing** (NPS)

Walk-in canoe site with vault toilet, take-out ramp, and trail to Riverside Canoes.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

11. **Bass Lake Access at Trails End Road Road-end** (NPS)

Small accessible boat launch, access to Bass Lake Loop Trail and vault toilet.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 5

12. **Peterson Road Access to Lake Michigan** (NPS/Benzie County Road

Commission) – Day use park, access to Lake Michigan, cross-country ski trail, and access to White Pine Campground.

Service Area: Benzie County, Region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

13. **Railroad Grade Trail** (NPS)

Connects the northwest shore of Big Platte Lake to M-22 and along the northern side of the Platte River Campground and to Lake Michigan.

Service Area: Benzie County, region, State of Michigan, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

14. **Historic Aral Town Site** (NPS)

Located on Esch Road near Otter Creek.

Service Area: Benzie County, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 1

15. **Historic Ken-Tuk-U-Inn** (NPS)

Managed structure also known as the Bancroft Road House. Located on M-22.

Service Area: Benzie County, National.

Accessibility Assessment - 2

16. Historic Boekeloo Cabin (NPS)

Managed structure located at the end of Boekeloo Road.

Service Area: Benzie County, National.

Accessibility Assessment – 1

17. Historic Esch Farm House (NPS)

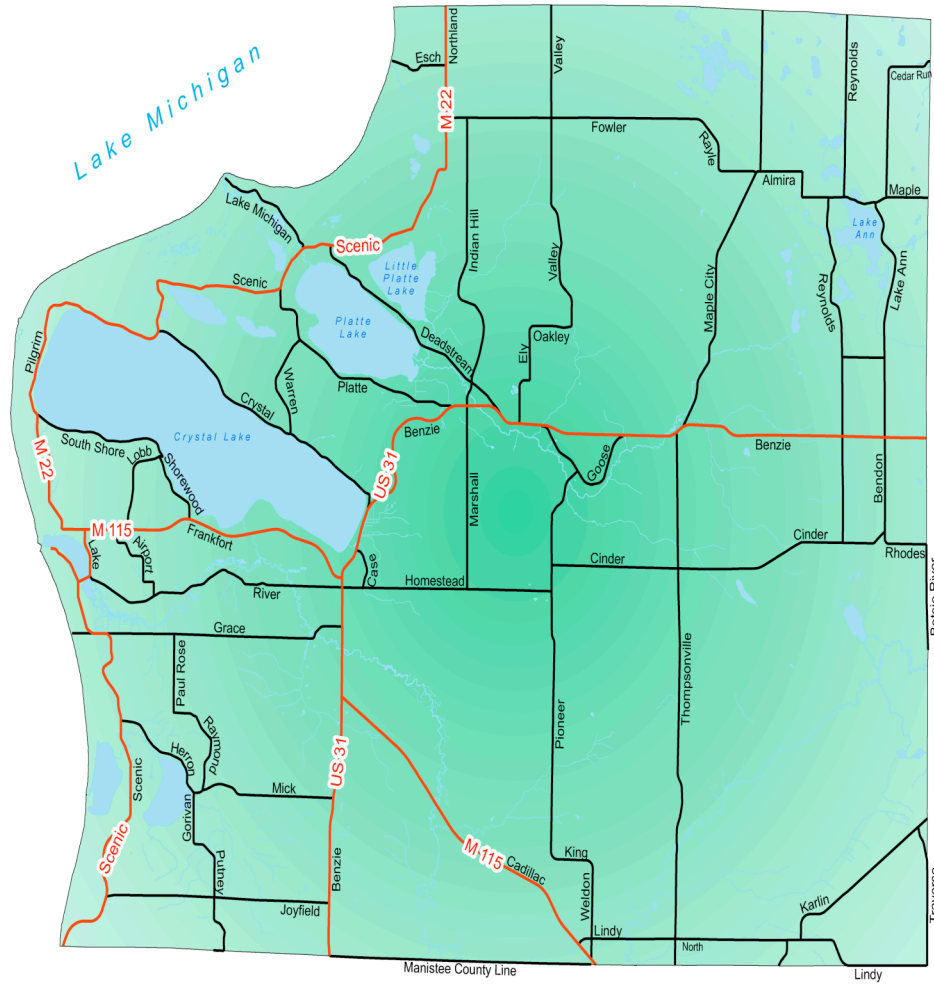
Managed structure located on Esch Road.

Service Area: Benzie County, National.

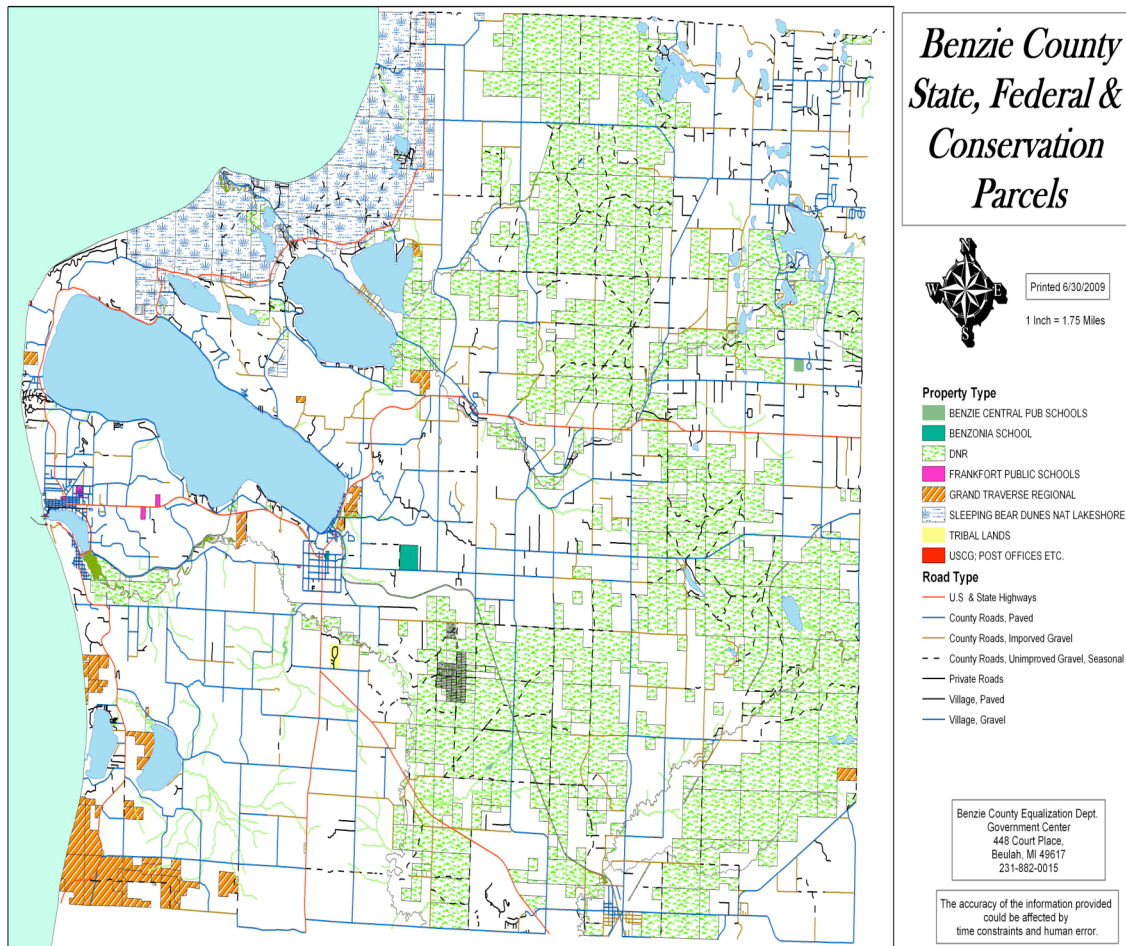
Accessibility Assessment – 1

Maps

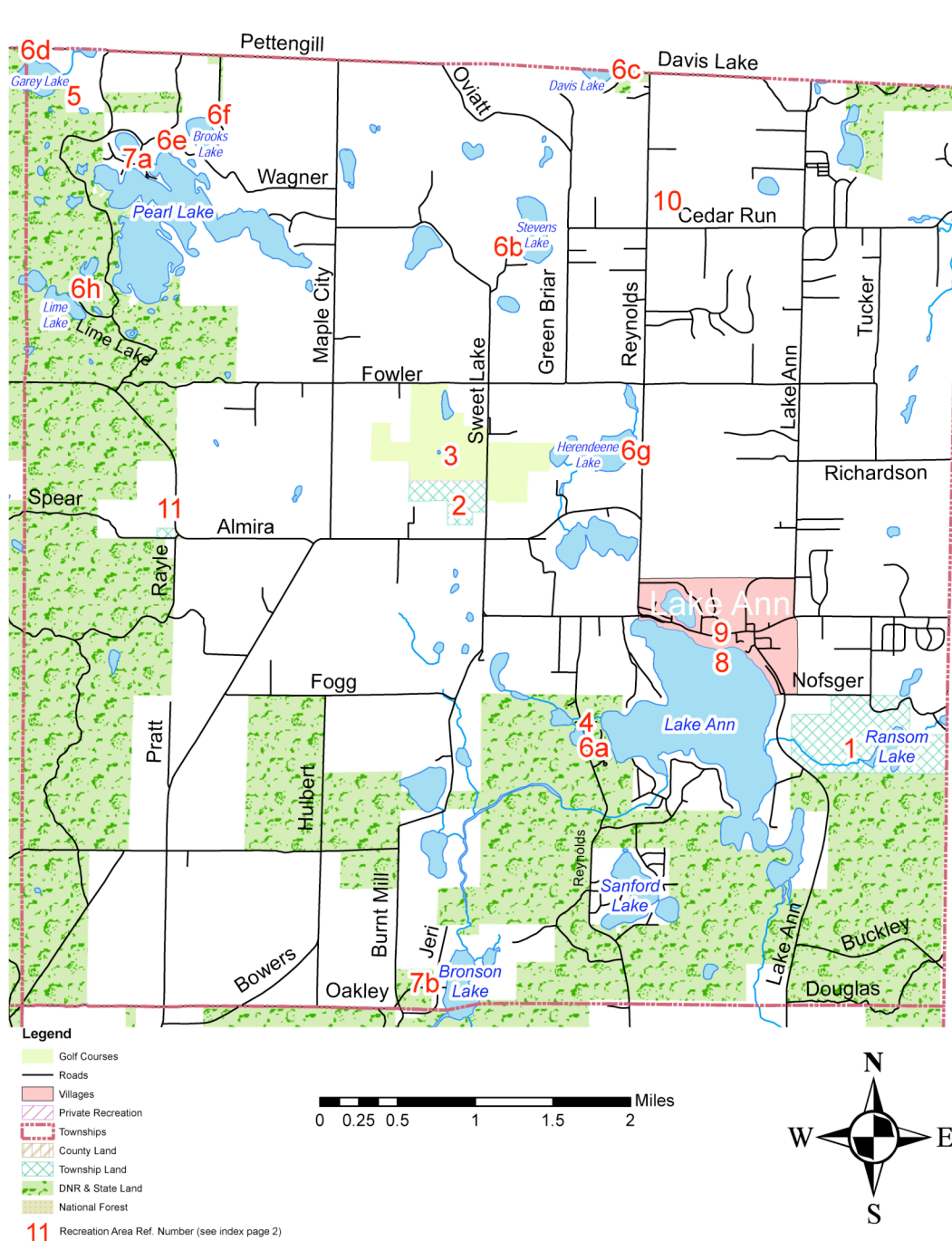
Benzie County



Benzie County State, Federal, and Conservation Lands

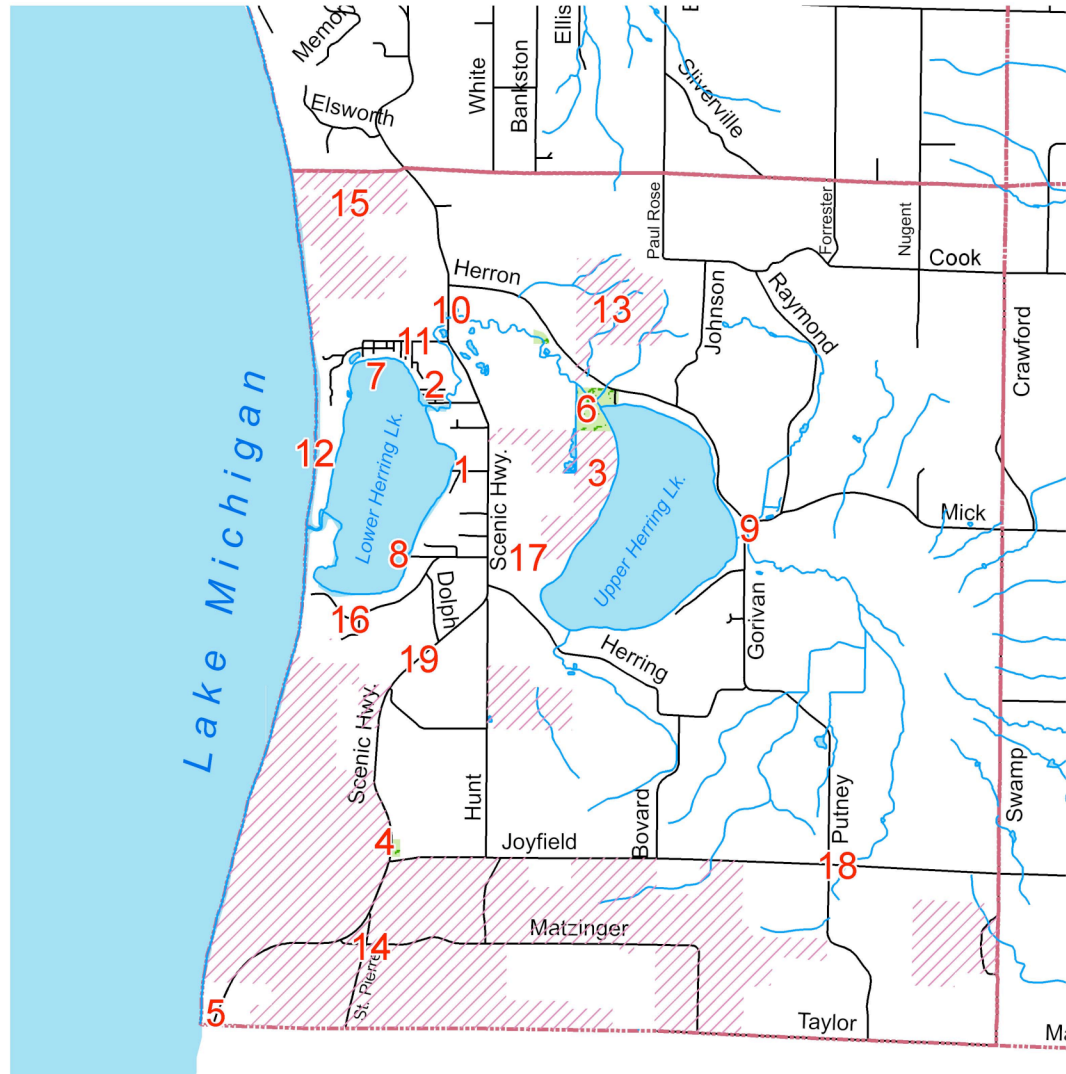


Almira Township



Benzonia Township

Blaine Township



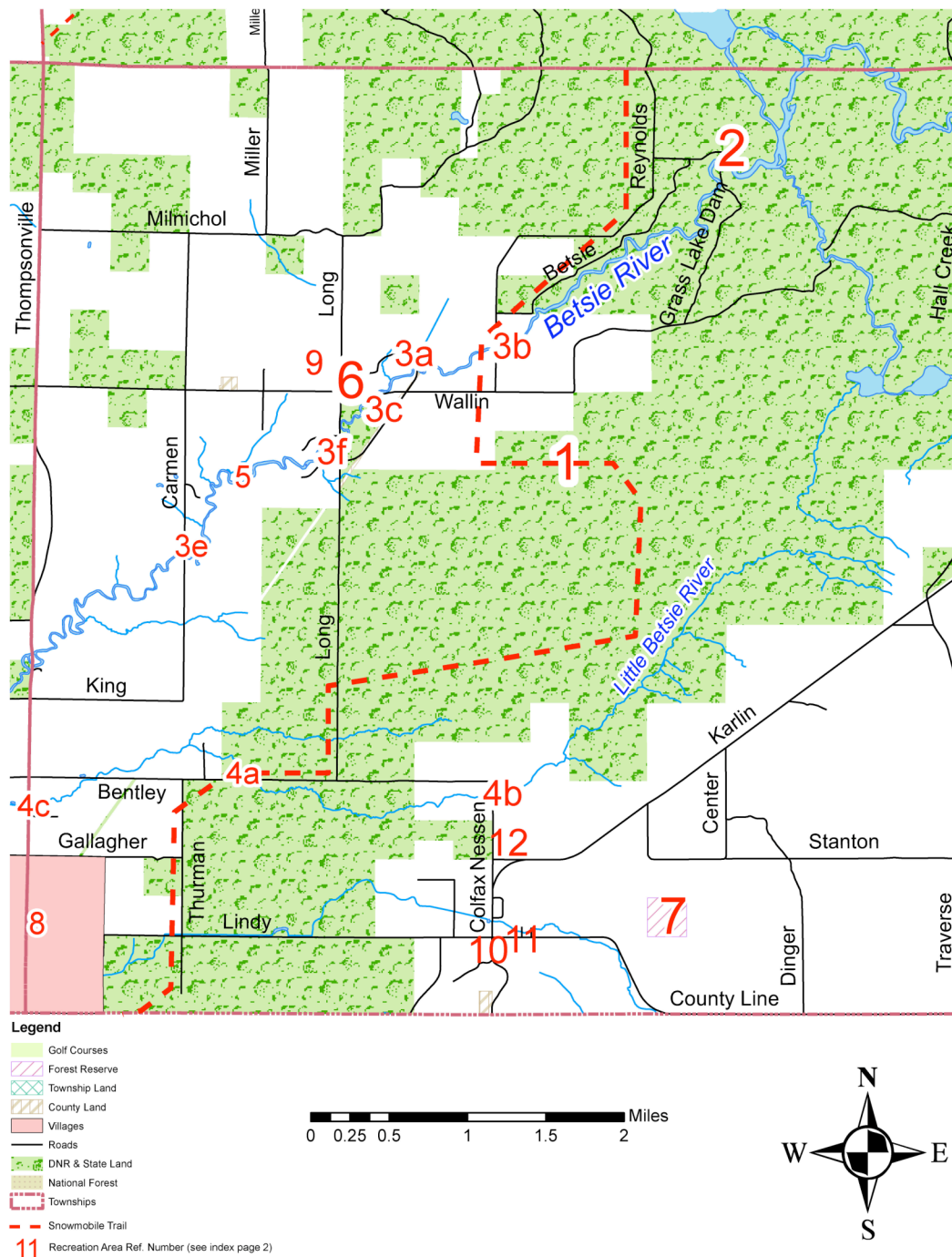
Legend

- Townships
- Villages
- National Forest
- DNR & State Land
- County Land
- Township Land
- Forest Reserve
- Grand Traverse Land Conservancy Preserve
- 11 Recreation Area Ref. Number

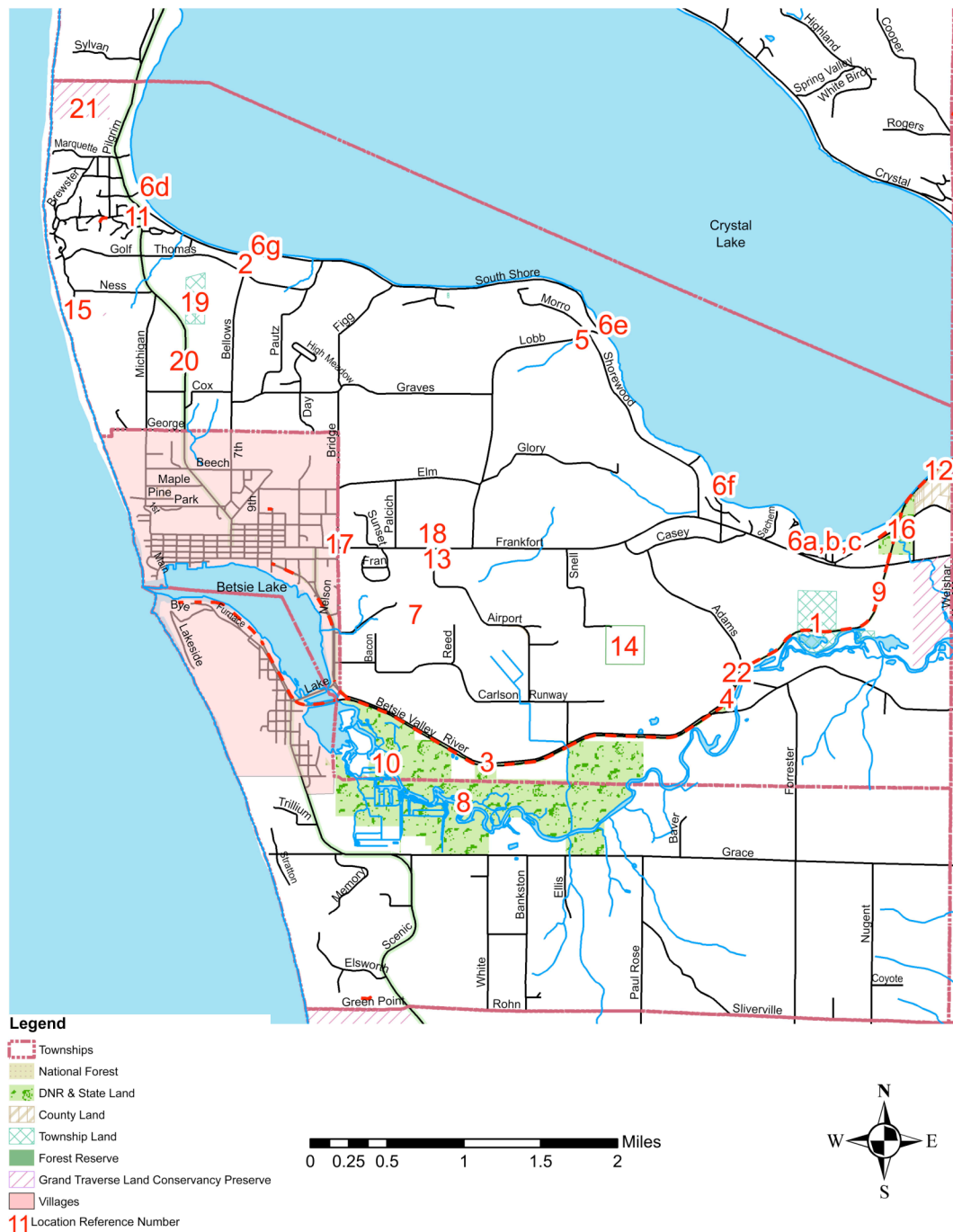
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Colfax Township



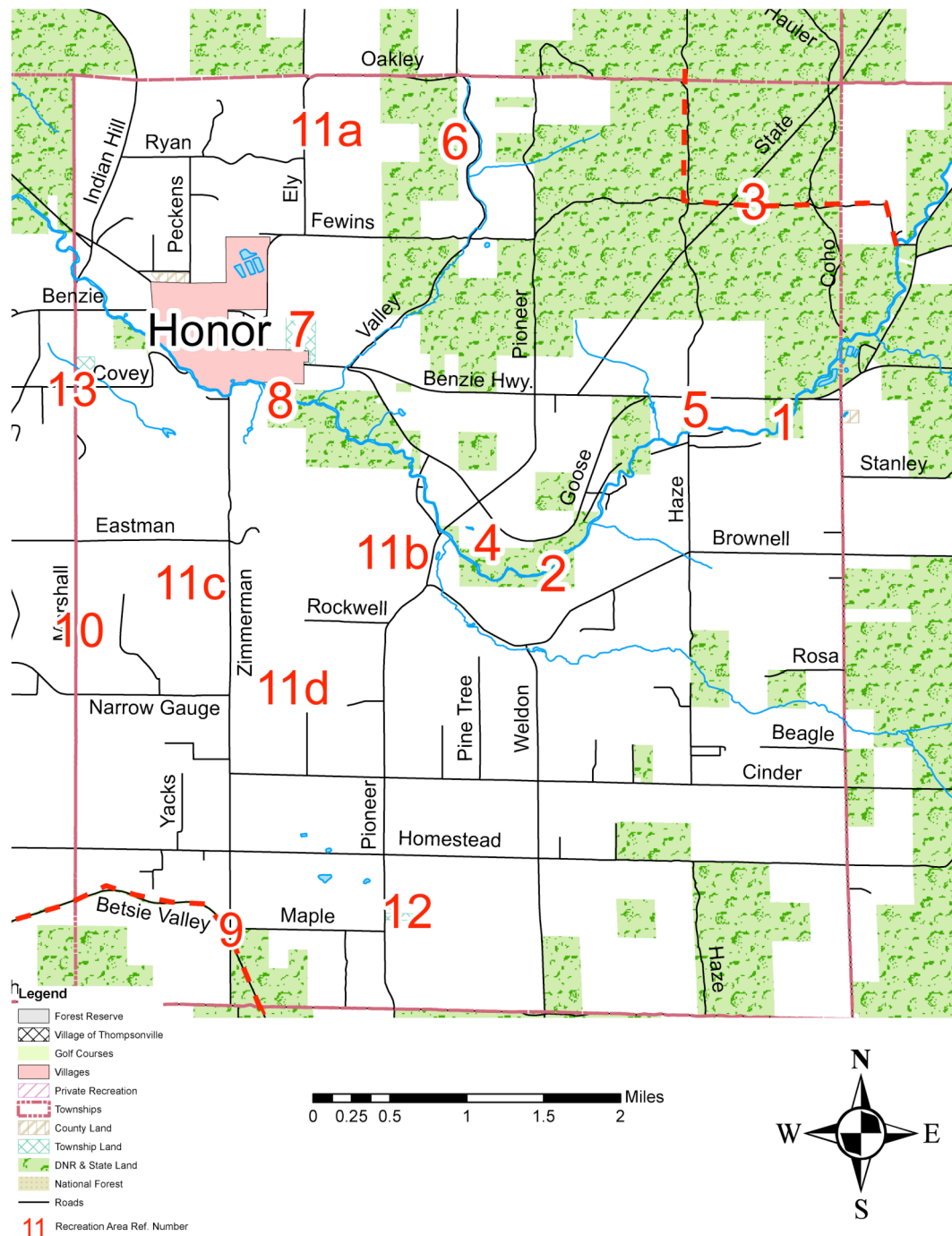
Crystal Lake Township



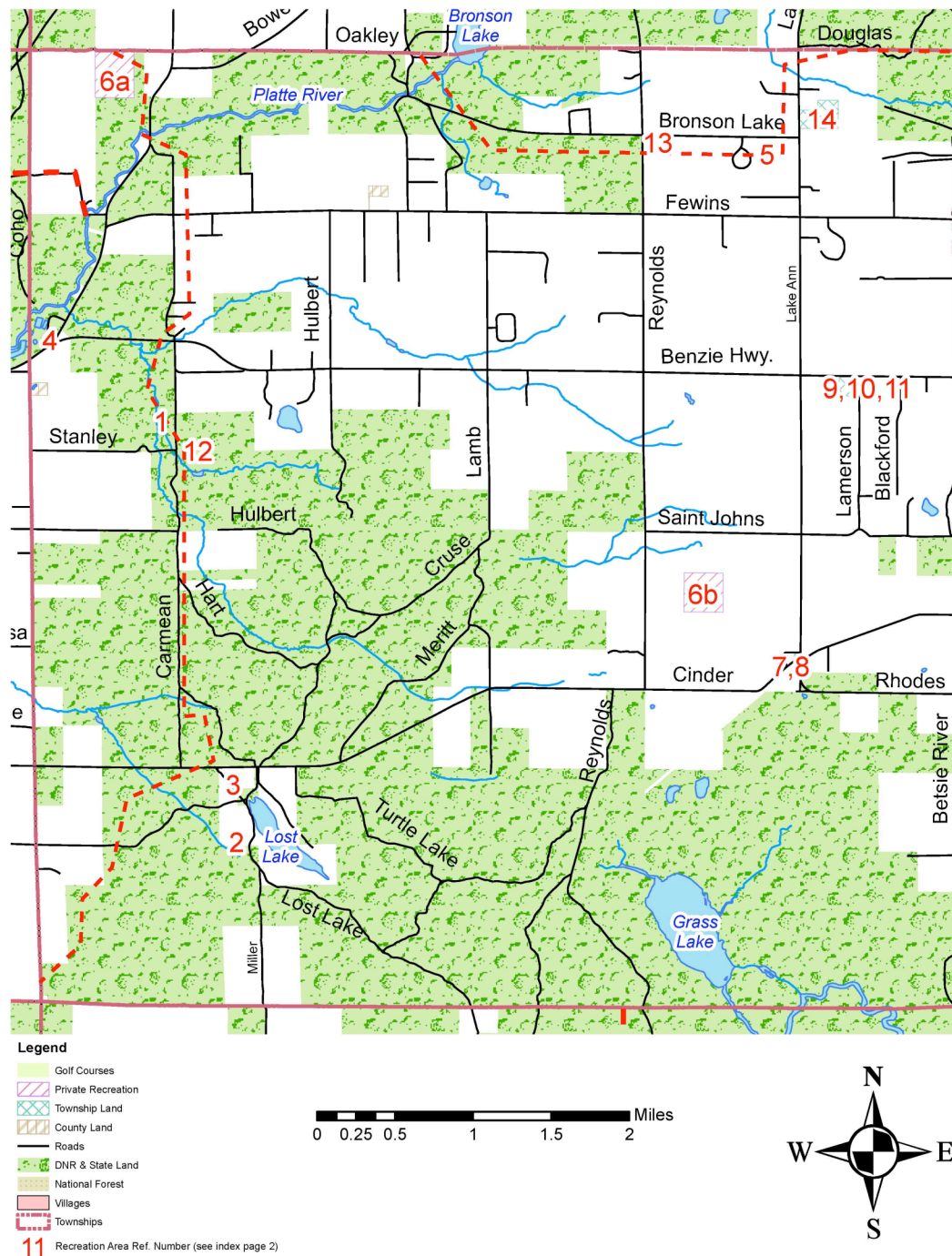
Gilmore Township



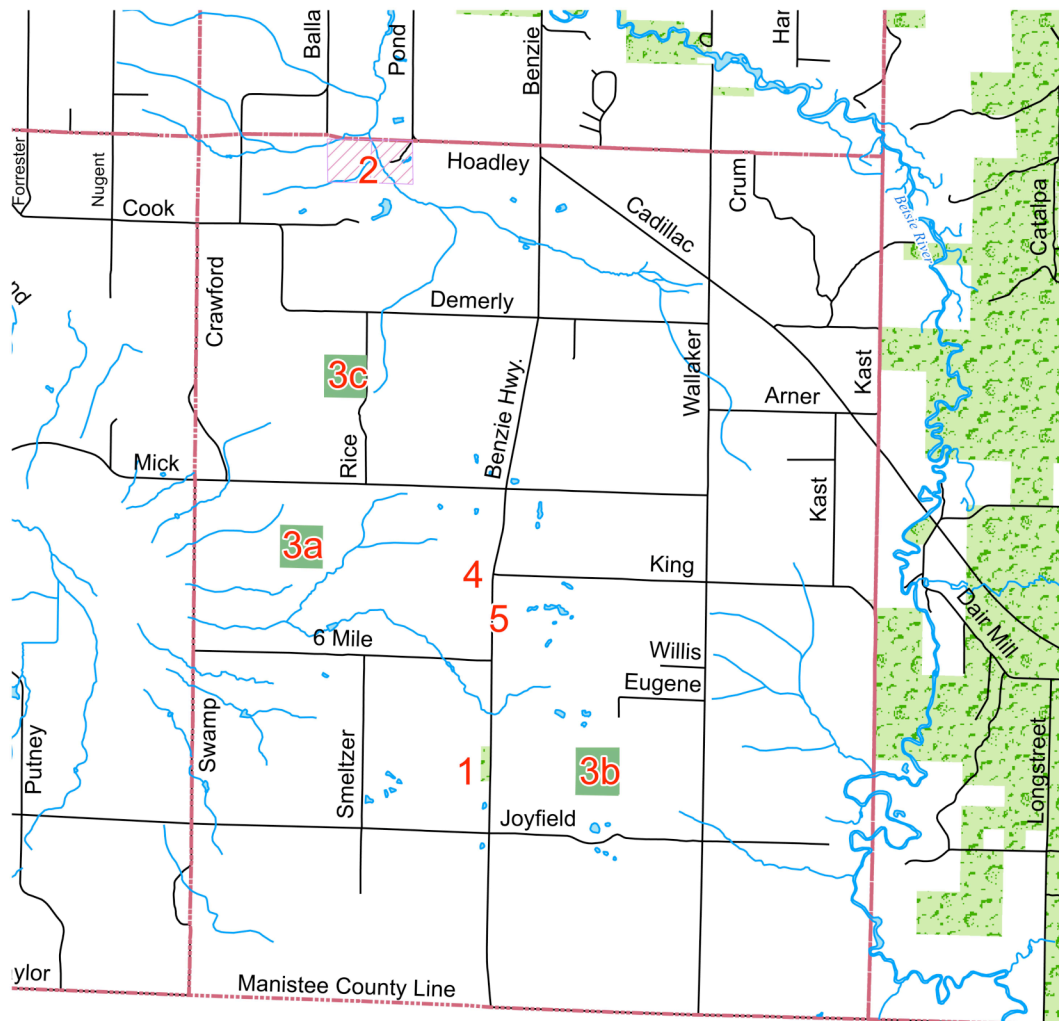
Homestead Township



Inland Township



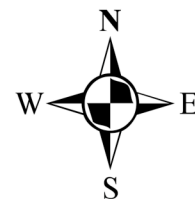
Joyfield Township



Legend

- Forest Reserve
- Villages
- Private Recreation
- Townships
- County Land
- Township Land
- DNR & State Land
- National Forest
- Roads
- 11 Recreation Area Ref. Number

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Lake Township



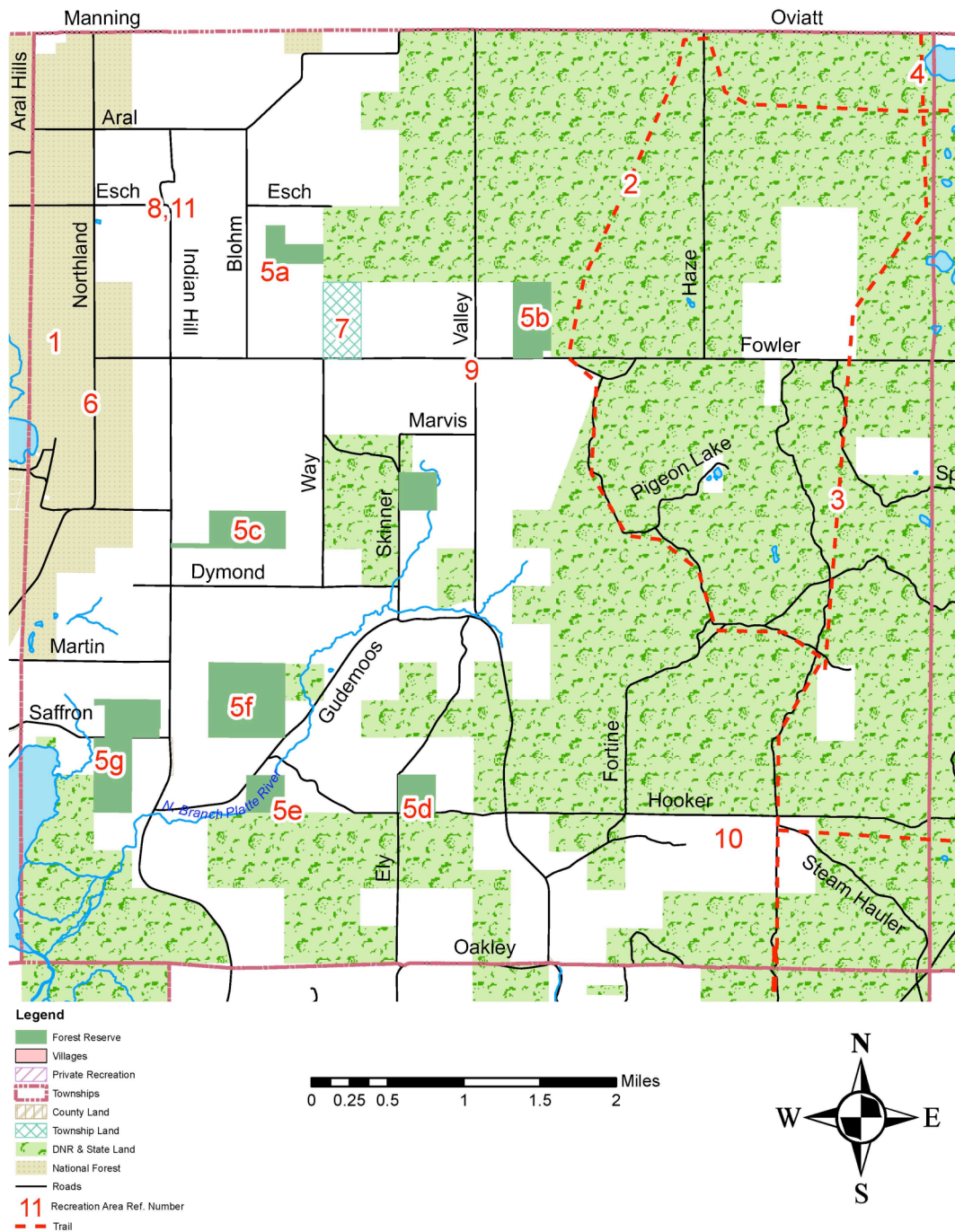
Legend

- Townships
- National Forest
- DNR & State Land
- County Land
- Township Land
- Forest Reserve
- Grand Traverse Land Conservancy Preserve
- Villages
- 11 Location Reference Number

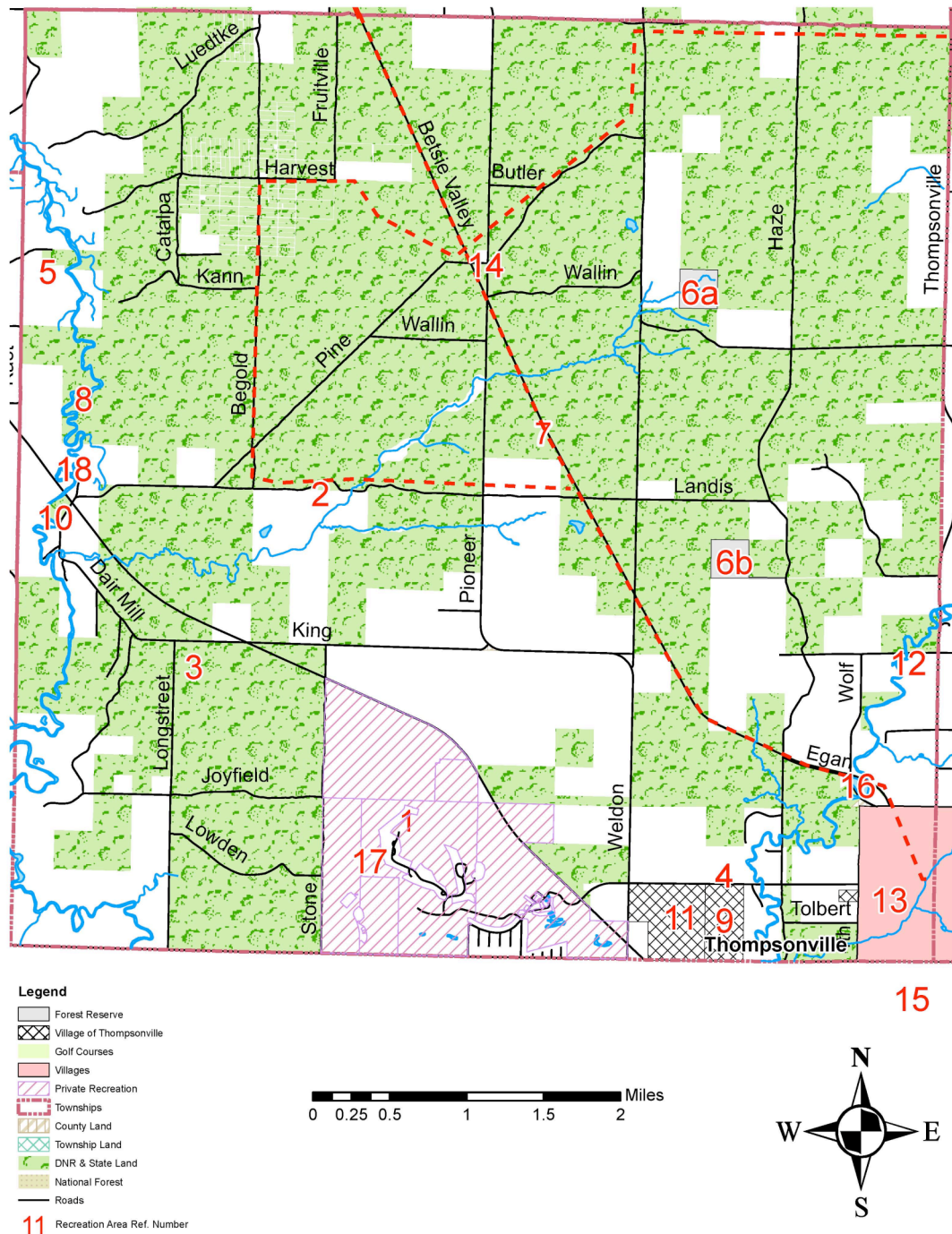
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Platte Township



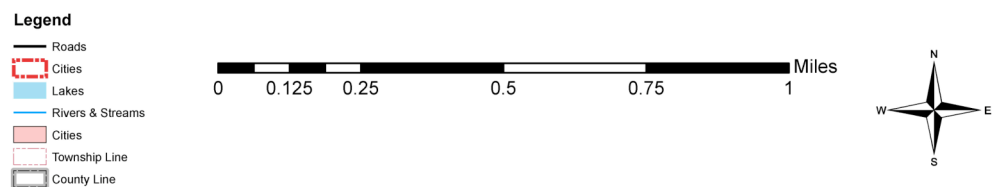
Weldon Township



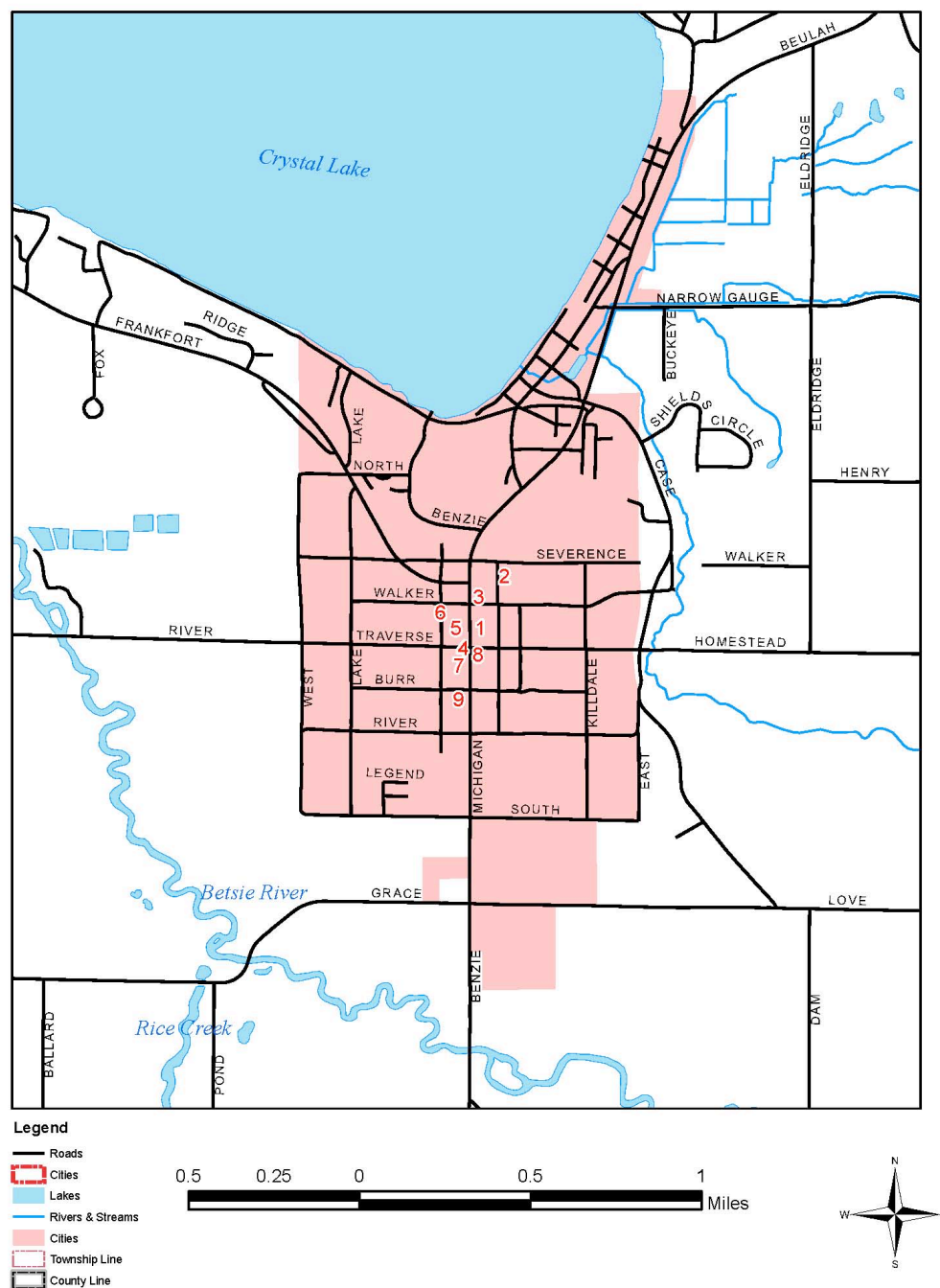
The map shows the City of Duluth, Minnesota, with various streets and landmarks. A red dashed line outlines a specific area, likely the city limits. A red arrow points north from location 14, labeled "1 mile north".

Numbered locations (1-27) are marked on the map, corresponding to the locations listed in the table below. The locations are distributed across the city, with a concentration in the central and southern areas.

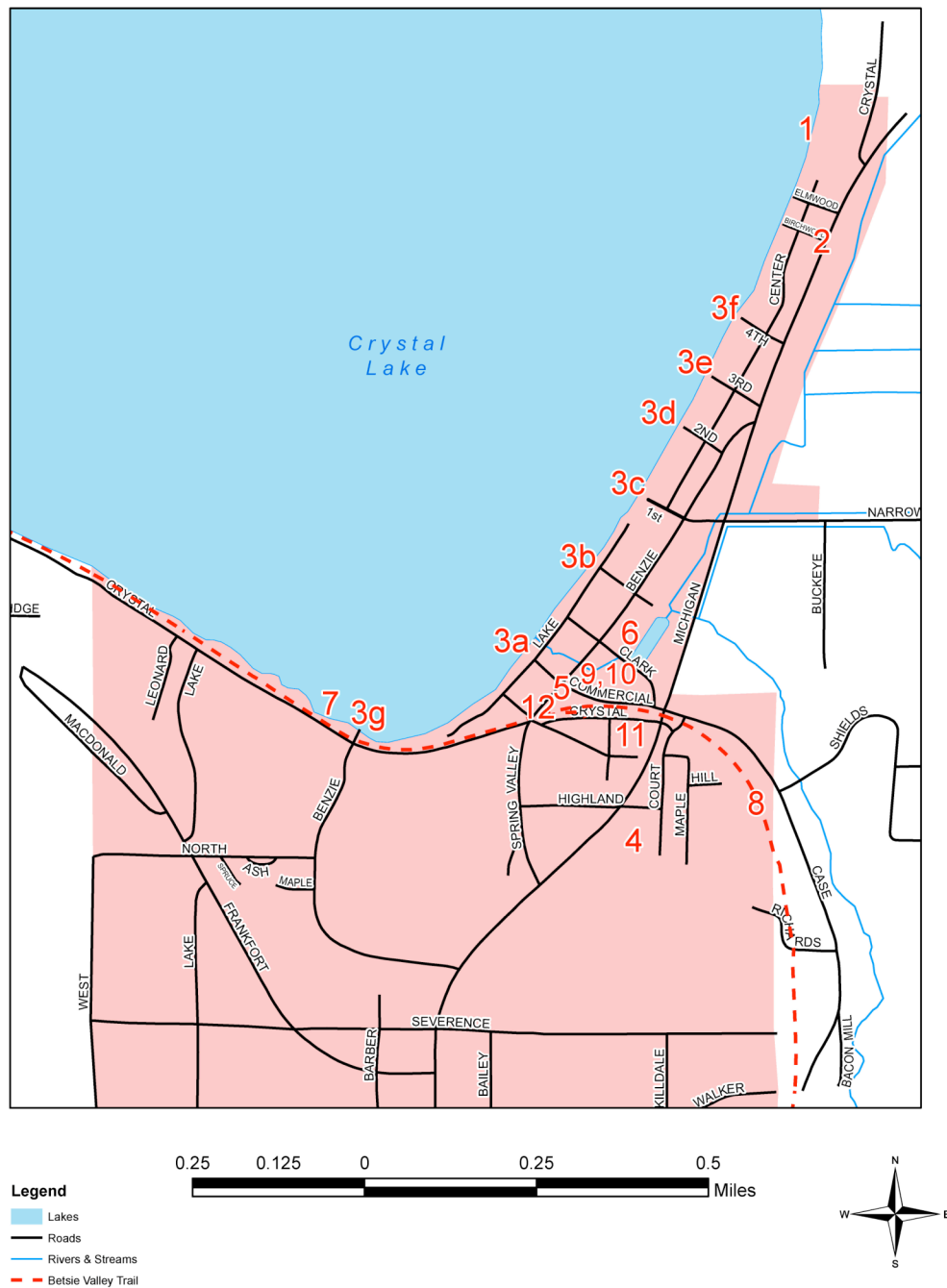
Location Number	Location Name
1	1
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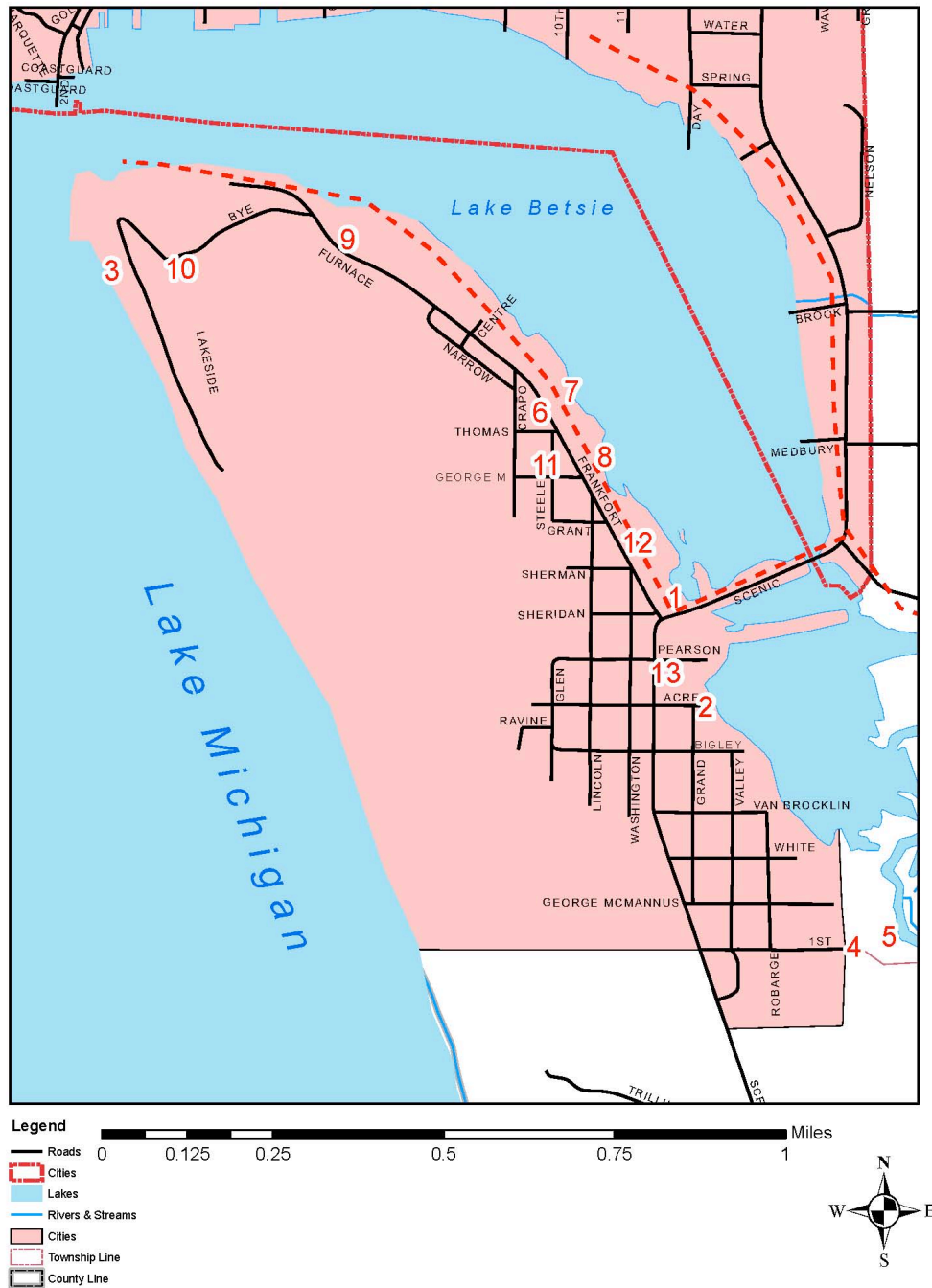
Village of Benzonia



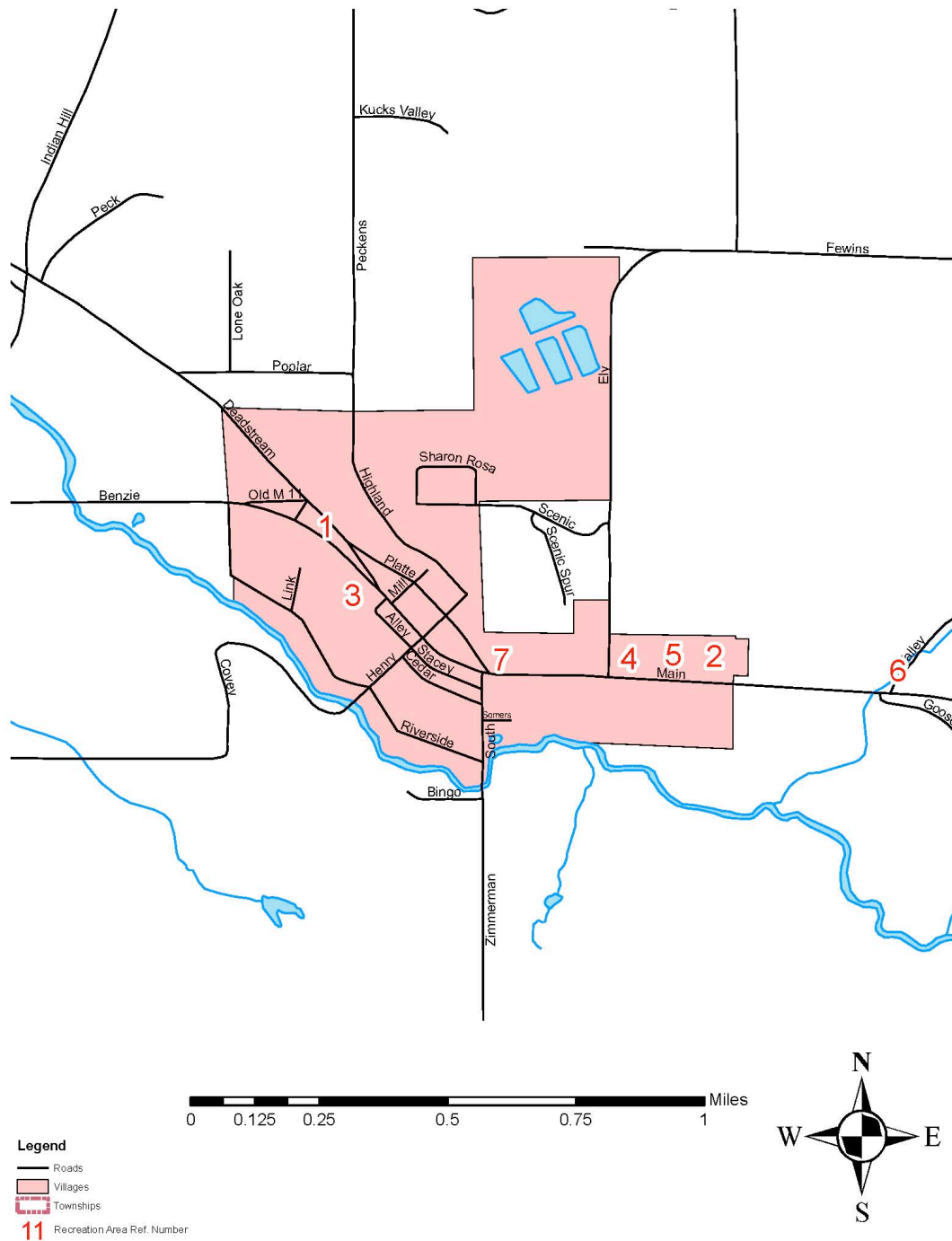
Village of Beulah



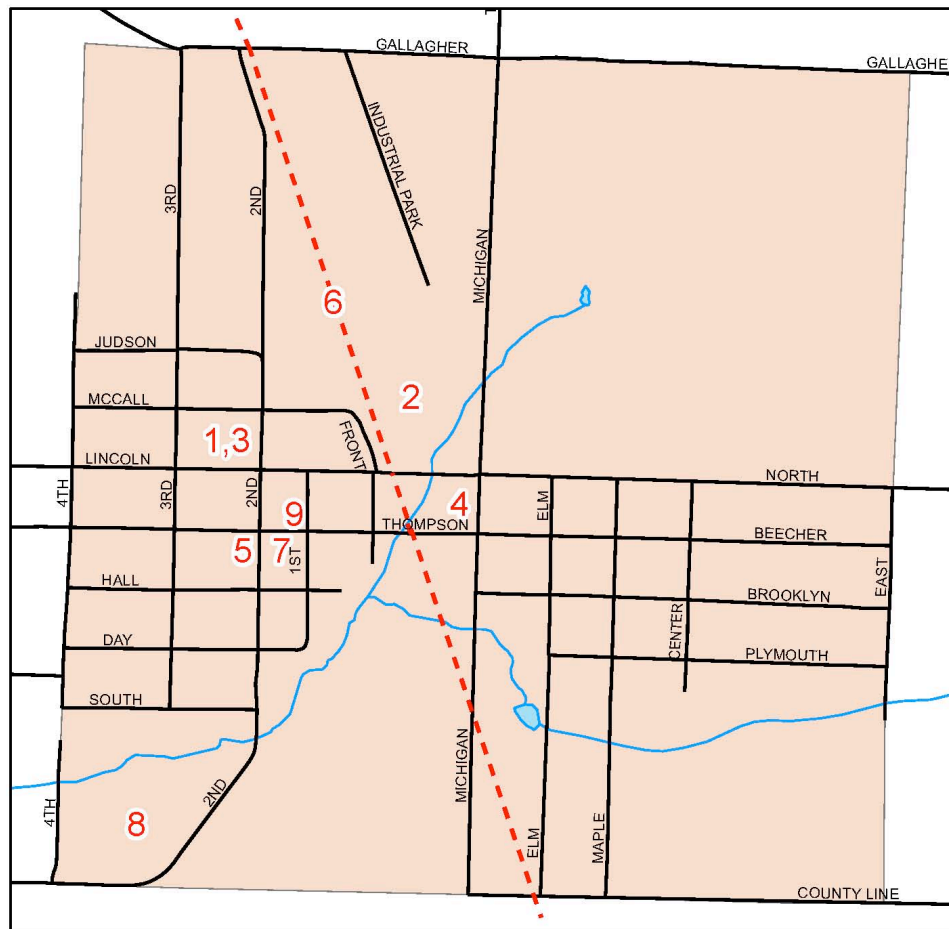
Village of Elberta



Village of Honor



Village of Thompsonville



Legend

--- Betsie Valley Trail

— Roads

— Rivers

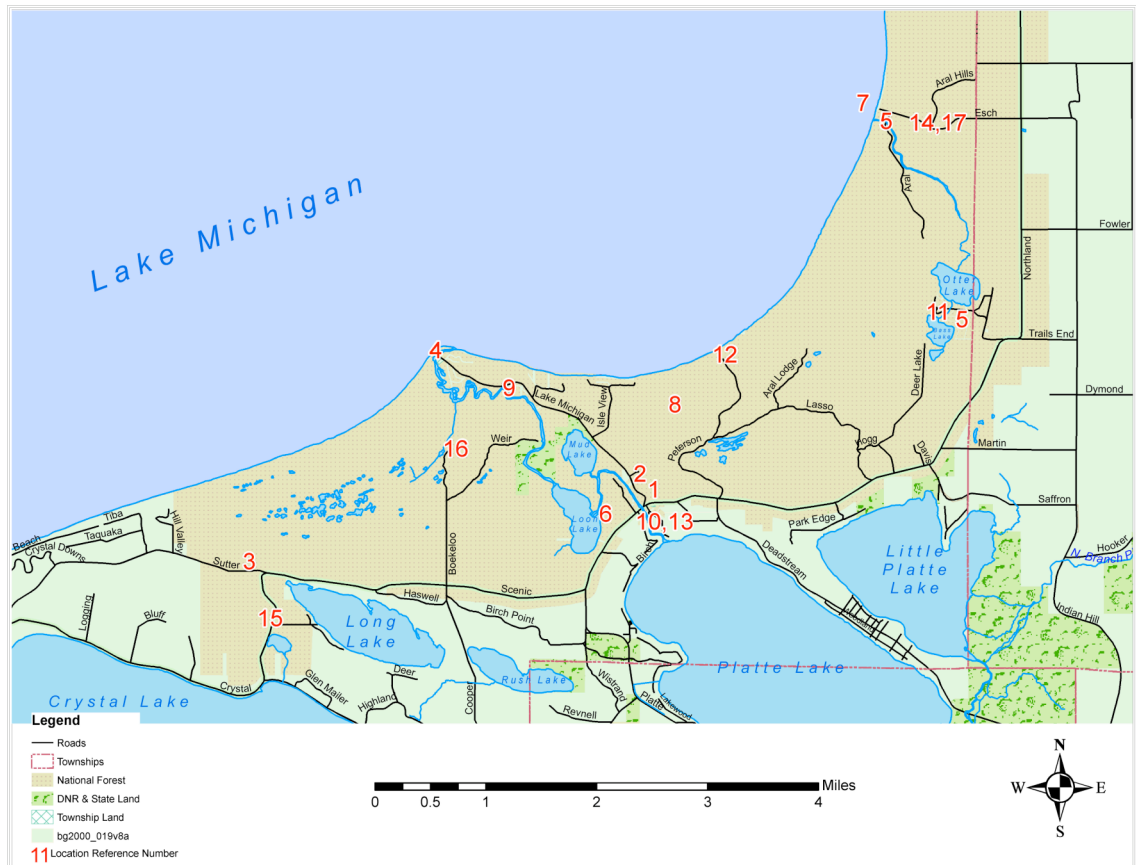
— Lakes

— Villages

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

Grant Number	Year	Project Title	Grant Amount
26-01405	1985	Memorial Park	\$28,160.00

Description:

Approximately ½ acre park that includes a memorial dedicated to WWII Veterans. Located at US-31 and Platte Street next to the Post Office. This park also includes one bench and pathways. The memorial, bench, and pathways are in good condition.

Grant Number	Year	Project Title	Grant Amount
TF97-082	1997	Railroad Point - Crystal Lake	\$2,142,037.00

Description:

Acquisition of land including wooded steep bluffs and hills on Railroad Point, and development of a parking lot and trail to access the Natural Area. This property is in good condition.

Grant Number	Year	Project Title	Grant Amount
TF98-264	1998	Railroad Point Addition	\$459,038.00

Description:

Acquisition of additional land including 2700 feet of frontage on Crystal Lake, bringing the total size of the Natural Area to 66 acres. This property is in good condition.

Grant Number	Year	Project Title	Grant Amount
TF99-075	1999	Betsie Valley Trail - Trailheads	\$254,263.00

Description:

This trail is a bike and footpath located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Frankfort and Elberta. Grant money was used to build the trailheads in Thompsonville and Frankfort/Elberta. These facilities are in good condition except along Crystal Lake.

Grant Number	Year	Project Title	Grant Amount
TF99-401	1999	Betsie Valley Trail	\$432,000.00

Description:

This trail is a bike and footpath located on the former Ann Arbor Railroad right-of-way north from Thompsonville to Frankfort and Elberta. Grant Money was used to develop the actual trail and surface it. The trail is paved in sections and hard packed gravel in others. The trail is in good condition.

Chapter 4
Planning Methods

Planning Methods

The method of planning used for this Master Plan was the Systems Approach to Planning (MDNR, 2006). The Systems Approach is a three part planning method: examine the information already available; collect public input; and develop goals and objectives based on areas of need from public input and the existing information. This is one of the recommended planning methods by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The first step in the Systems Approach planning process was to conduct accurate inventories to determine what recreational and cultural facilities already existed in Benzie County. A lengthy process was used to ensure the inventories were comprehensive and complete. First, all township, village, and city supervisors in Benzie County were interviewed. The information gathered from the local officials was compared with the existing inventories from the 1992, 1997, and 2002 Recreation Master Plans. A meeting was then held where members of the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed all of the inventory data that had been collected to ensure accuracy. Benzie County residents involved with recreational and cultural activities were also consulted to verify existing entities and accuracy of information collected. Eventually, a thorough and accurate inventory was produced after compiling all of the data.

The second step in the planning process was to gather public input. Several methods of gathering public input were utilized: survey; public input session; historical review; and monthly meetings. A survey was mailed to 2000 residents in Benzie County. A thorough analysis of the data collected is available in Chapter Five of this plan. A public input session was held at the Mill's Community House on October 27, 2008. The results of this meeting are included in Chapter Five and the Documentation section of this plan. Public input was also analyzed from the 1992, 1997, and 2002 Recreation Plans, as well as the Benzie County 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, the PRC received public input during their monthly scheduled meetings at the Benzie County Government Center.

The final step in the planning process was to reconcile the inventories with the feedback collected from the numerous opportunities for public input. This was performed in order to develop an effective set of goals and objectives that accurately reflect the needs of Benzie County residents and visitors, while not duplicating the existing facilities and services of the County. By using this Systems Approach, the PRC is confident that their goals, objectives, and action strategies accurately reflect the needs of Benzie County residents and visitors.

Chapter 5
Public Input Process

Public Input Process

In order to collect public opinion for this plan, two different methods were used. The first one was a mailed survey. The second method was a public information session held at the Mills Community House in the Village of Benzonia on October 27, 2008. Additionally, other plans such as the 1992, 1997, and 2002 Benzie County Recreation Master Plans, and the Benzie County 2020 Comprehensive Plan were used to gather public input as well.

The first method used to collect public opinion was a mailed survey. In July of 2008, 2000 surveys were mailed out to residents of Benzie County. The sample was determined by a method of systematic random sampling. First, a list of all property owners in Benzie County was obtained from the Benzie County Equalization Department. To ensure that all respondents were people who actually lived in Benzie County, any property owners who lived outside of the county were deleted from the list. This left approximately 6000 names on the list. Next, every name was assigned number one, two, or three; the first name on the list was assigned a number one, the second name was assigned number two, and so forth. All of the names assigned a number one or two were then deleted. This resulted in a final sample size of 2000 people. It can be assumed that 1 out of 3 owner occupied households in Benzie County received a survey.

Of the 2000 surveys that were distributed, 213 were returned, resulting in a response rate of about 10%. The timeframe for responses was originally set four weeks from the time the surveys were mailed out; this was later extended to allow for two extra weeks to maximize the response rate. There were 10 questions on the survey, including both close-ended and open-ended questions. The seven close-ended questions were formulated to collect demographic information and to find out what recreational and cultural facilities and programs residents of Benzie County currently use. The three open-ended questions were provided to allow respondents an opportunity to list any new programs or facilities they would like to see added in Benzie County in the future.

Survey Responses

Question one of the survey asked the ages of the members of the respondent's household. The responses to this question were skewed toward older adults (See Graph 5-1). This could be explained by assuming that older adults have more free time to fill out surveys, or that more, older adults could be homeowners in Benzie County than younger adults.

Question two asked how many members of each gender were in the respondent's household. The responses were almost completely even, with slightly more females than males (See Graph 5-2).

Question three asked what governmental unit (township, city, or village) respondents lived in. The largest portion of respondents lived in Almira, Benzonia, and Lake Townships (See Graph 5-3). The rest of the responses were somewhat evenly distributed across the rest of the governmental units in Benzie County.

Question four asked respondents what recreational areas were most used by members of their households (See Graph 5-4). This question was designed so that respondents could only select their top five choices. The choices that were selected most frequently were beaches, natural areas, non-motorized trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds. The rest of the responses were evenly spread out across the other options (See Graph 3-4).

Question five asked respondents what cultural facilities were most used by members of their household. They were asked to only select their top five choices. The results were somewhat inconclusive, with responses spread out across all of the possible responses (with the exception of dance studios). The top two responses were museums and historic buildings/sites, respectively (See Graph 5-5). These responses were followed closely by sports venues, visual and performing arts venues, art galleries, and training/education facilities, respectively.

Question six asked respondents what recreational activities members of their households participated in. This question was asked so that respondents could select as many choices as applicable. The top responses, in order, were walking/hiking, swimming, fishing, and canoeing/kayaking (See Graphs 5-6a & 5-6b).

Question seven asked respondents what cultural activities members of their households participated in. The activities most participated in are visiting historical building/sites, watching music performances, visiting art and historical museums, and arts and crafts, respectively (See Graph 5-7).

Questions eight through 10 were open-ended. They were formulated to ask survey respondents what facilities and programs they would like to see added in Benzie County.

Question eight asked specifically about recreational areas and facilities that respondents wanted to see added in Benzie County. As can occur when a question is asked in an open-ended format, a variety of responses were received. Most of the responses concerned the Betsie Valley Trail and/or trails in general: extending the trail; paving unpaved parts of the trail; clearing snow from the trail so it can be used for jogging in the winter; adding non-motorized trails for walking and hiking; and adding more motorized trails for ATVs

and ORVs. Other high frequency responses included a public swimming pool and an ice rink (See the Documentation Chapter for a copy of all responses received).

Question nine asked residents what new recreational programs and/or services they would like to see added in Benzie County. The top two responses were organized swimming programs and facilities to accommodate water activities. Other popular responses were libraries, community sports with lessons, and improved access to existing activities. A number of respondents did not answer this question. There are a couple of possible explanations for this. One explanation could be the question was worded in a way that was unclear or confusing to respondents. Another possible explanation could be survey respondents may be happy with the current recreational programs or services in the county (See the Documentation Chapter for a copy of all responses received).

Question 10 asked Benzie County residents what cultural activities and facilities they would like to see added or improved in Benzie County. The most popular responses were increased support for public libraries and more performance (musical, theatrical, etc.) venues. Other popular responses included more educational opportunities, increased access to historical sights and museums, and public meeting space. Some respondents said that they did not want any changes, that Benzie County already has enough of the programs and facilities (See the Documentation Chapter for a copy of all responses received).

Public Input Session

On October 27, 2008, a public input session was held at the Mill's Community House in the Village of Benzonia. The purpose of this session was to gather public input about the direction of the Recreational and Cultural Master Plan. In all, 35 Benzie County residents attended the session. A variety of topics were discussed, among them were the need to pave more of the Betsie Valley Trail, the need for more public meeting and performance space, and the need for more educational opportunities in Benzie County. A complete synopsis of the meeting is available in the Documentation Chapter of this plan.

Additional public input was received at the September Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. One Benzie County resident voiced concerns about the lack of areas for skateboarding in the County. He said that the County needs more areas for young people to ride their skateboards safely.

Chapter 6
Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan Priorities

Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan Priorities

Goal 1: Benzie County will have an active County Recreation Commission that promotes recreational and cultural opportunities for citizens, seasonal residents, and transient visitors.

Objectives:

- Maintain the Parks and Recreation Commission as established by the County Commission.
- Complete periodic updates of the County Recreational and Cultural Plan.
- Involve the citizens in recreational and cultural planning so that a wide variety of recreational needs are met.
- Work with State and Federal agencies to provide input on public lands management planning on behalf of County residents.
- Promote recreation and culture as a contributor to the improvement of quality of life and economic welfare.
- Increase County participation in coordination, management, and guidance of all recreational and cultural activities, particularly in the areas of initial placement.
- Identify facility deficiencies throughout the County and work with communities to develop projects to meet those needs.
- The Benzie County Board of Commissioners will see value in the role of the Parks and Recreation Commission and allocate an appropriate working budget.

Action Plan Priority:

- Integrate Cultural Facilities and Activities into Recreational Planning
Integrate cultural planning (history, arts, and libraries) as a part of the total recreation picture in Benzie County. Cultural opportunities are essential to a community's overall quality of life, whereby they enrich lives, strengthen communities, stimulate economic growth, enhance education, and, in general, ensure lives are more active, productive, inspired, and enjoyable. The value to Benzie County citizens is evidenced by the enthusiasm exhibited for the arts, history, and libraries and level of participation in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. The area is rich with cultural organizations, facilities, schools, historical sites, and a mixture of many cultural heritages. The Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the logic and benefit of integrating "cultural tourism" with "recreational tourism" in developing and promoting Benzie County as a destination point in Michigan.

Goal 2: Benzie County will consolidate all County owned recreational and cultural opportunities under the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Objectives:

- Work cooperatively with the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council to structure management levels within Benzie County government for the entire trail system in Benzie County, including existing and proposed connector links.
- Include a representative from all units of local government within Benzie County that have a rail-trail in their jurisdiction in the management of the trail system.

- Work cooperatively with the Friends of the Point Betsie Lighthouse to structure management levels under the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Obtain funding for and hire a County Parks Manager.
- Actively manage Railroad Point for recreational access, environmental education and resource stewardship in accordance with the conservation easement held by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Action Plan Priorities:

- Coordinate Recreational Activities and Programming

Coordinated recreational activities and programming are vital to an improved quality of life for Benzie County citizens. Therefore, it is a priority for the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission. Support staff, including a Parks Manager, and collaborations with area organizations and individuals will be sought. This will encourage the community to become more involved with the Parks and Recreation Commission and each other to provide increased cultural and recreational programs and projects in the County.

NOTE: i.e. City, Villages, Townships, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, National Park Service, Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University Extension, Benzie Area Symphony Orchestra, Benzie County Players, Benzie Community Chorus, Benzie Community Band, Legacy Art Park, Crystal Lake Art Center, Mills Community House, Congregational Summer Assembly, Benzie Area Historical Museum, Garden Theater, etc. Also, nearby Interlochen Arts Academy, Dennon Museum, Ramsdell Theater, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and other neighbors.

- Consolidate Management of County Owned Properties

The Parks and Recreation Commission sees both the rail-trails (linear parks) and the Point Betsie Lighthouse and grounds as significant recreational resources held by the County and should be directly involved in their management.

NOTE: COUNTY AND REGIONAL PARKS, Act 261 of 1965

AN ACT to authorize the creation and to prescribe the powers and duties of county and regional parks and recreation commissions; and to prescribe the powers and duties of county boards of commissioners with respect to county and regional parks and recreation commissions.

46.351 County parks and recreation commission; creation; membership; terms; vacancy; commission as county agency; rules and regulations; compensation.

46.362 County and regional commissions; control and management of property

Sec. 12. *A county or regional commission shall have the custody control and management of all real and personal property acquired by the county or a regional commission for public parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreational centers, wildlife areas, lands reserved for flood conditions for impounding:*

46.358 County and regional commissions; acquisition of property

Sec. 8. *A county commission may acquire in the name of the county and a regional commission may acquire in its name by gift, purchase, lease, agreement, or otherwise, in fee or with conditions, suitable real property, within the county or region, or contiguous with or adjacent thereto, for public parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, wildlife areas, lands reserved for flood conditions for impounding runoff water, and other conservation purposes. In acquiring or accepting land, due consideration shall be given to its scenic, historic, archaeological, recreational, or other special features.*

- Completion of the Elberta Beach to Beach Trail Section

Work with the Village of Elberta, The Betsie Valley Trailway Management council, and the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail to complete the Beach to Beach Trail Segment.

- Parking for Visitors to the Point Betsie Lighthouse

Work with the Benzie County Road Commission and the Friends of the Point Betsie Lighthouse non-profit group to satisfy the parking needs at the lighthouse

and conduct an engineering and right of way study for improvements to the roadend.

- Thompsonville to Interlochen Trail Connection

The State Trailway Plan calls for looping, interconnection, and connecting communities with trails. The Thompsonville-Interlochen Rail Trail connection is currently being studied by an ad hoc stakeholder group with the support of the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council, and the Traverse Area Rail Trail, Inc. The group has established that the initiative is both a local and State goal. The State Trailways Division of the MDNR has successfully obtained two major Natural Resources Trust Fund grants to purchase portions of the former Pere Marquette Railroad Corridor from private property owners from Kaleva north to within two miles of Thompsonville, and is working cooperatively with the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds (snowmobile organization) on another segment. The only known obstacle is finding willing sellers for the 4-5 miles of remaining rail corridor not currently under State ownership in Manistee and Benzie Counties. Alternative routes may be necessary and easier to acquire.

- Northwest Michigan Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy 2008

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

1. Thompsonville to Bendon to Traverse City,
2. Honor to Betsie Valley Trail,
3. Complete route around Crystal Lake,
4. Complete route around Platte Lake.

- Archive Parks and Recreation Records and Project Files

Not having the necessary support staff, the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commissioners need to gather and organize all historical records and pertinent documents and place in the custody of the Benzie County Clerk.

Goal 3: Benzie County will increase access to all public lands and waters.

Objectives:

- Increase access to public lands for citizens and visitors.
- Increase access to all public waterways in Benzie County for swimming, fishing, and boating, including all appropriate types of watercraft i.e. motorized and/or non-motorized.
- Encourage the acquisition of lands for water access on lakes, rivers, and streams.
- The Benzie County Planning Commission and local jurisdictions will refine comprehensive plans for each jurisdiction that establishes appropriate locations for access sites.

- The Benzie County Planning Commission, the Recreation Commission, the Road Commission, the Department of Natural Resources and local jurisdictions will develop adequate public launch sites with off-street parking, buffered from adjacent properties.
- Preserve water access through road-ends.
- The Benzie County Recreation Commission will partner with local interest groups to develop educational programs for persons who fish and boat regarding safety, invasive species control, shoreline and near-shore habitat protection, and private property rights.

Action Plan Priorities:

- Access to Public Waters

Access to various water activities is a major concern to Benzie County residents and visitors. Public access is not sufficient and there are often conflicts between riparians and the general public. Many access sites are not improved to provide off-road parking and paved launch ramps. Given that water access is important to various recreational activities that are attractive to both Benzie County citizens and visitors it has remained a top priority for more than a decade. The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission will work collaboratively with the National Park Service, MDNR, the Benzie County Road Commission, Townships, City of Frankfort, and Villages to preserve public access at road-ends and to provide improved public boating access to waterbodies.

- MDNR Crystal Lake Public Boating Access Site

The Public Trust Doctrine in Michigan declares, “*The Department of Natural Resources is the caretaker of our natural resources, charged by the legislature with the duties of acquiring, conserving, and developing for public use, the natural resources of the State, including access to water.*”

The resolution that formed the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission declares, “*Whereas the recreation and water resources section of the Master Plan will be impacted by future events that will require a government structure for adequate response*” and “*That its purpose will be that of implementing the goals and objectives relating to recreation and water resources in Benzie County.*”

Therefore, we, the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, continue to stand firmly in support of the planned and permitted MDNR public access site on the south shore of Crystal Lake, and resoundingly believe the Courts should approve construction to proceed as soon as possible for the safety and welfare of our citizens.

- Comprehensive State Statute Re: Access to Public Waters

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission affirms the public’s legal right and desire to fish, boat, and sail on Michigan’s inland lakes and reemphasizes the legality and importance of access to lakes and streams if all citizens are to enjoy those public resources. After enduring years of costly delays and litigation over a single access site in the County, the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the need and supports a comprehensive state statute or constitutional amendment that clearly and firmly establishes for all time the public’s right of access to our inland lakes and streams.

- Access to Public Lands

The Parks and Recreation Commission will advocate and provide for continued and appropriate access to public lands for the use of county residents and visitors alike. Public lands remain invaluable to both residents and visitors for recreational activities ranging from a hike or leisurely drive, to use for hunting and fishing, to an even more active ride down a trail on a horse or snowmobile. Access must be maintained and/or gained to many public lands, also, to lakes and streams via roads and trails owned by the County Road Commission, GTRLC, the Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park Service.

Goal 4: The Benzie County shoreline of Lake Michigan will provide recreational opportunities for all Benzie County citizens and visitors.

Objectives:

- Recognize the Lake Michigan shoreline as an open space that can be used by all citizens and preserved for public use.
- Provide Lake Michigan access sites at regular intervals along the County shoreline.
- Provide sufficient parking and other related facilities at access sites.
- Maintain Lake Michigan beaches in excellent condition.

Action Plan Priority:

- Lake Michigan Drive Road-end Access Improvement

The Platte Bay fishery is a world-class fishery without a viable launch facility.

The project is for the complete reconstruction of the existing access site on Lake Michigan Drive at the mouth of the Platte River on Platte Bay.

The current ramp is made of old bomber mat that is now rusted out and breaking up with unsafe jagged protrusions. The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Benzie County Road Commission, Lake Township, the National Park Service, the Department of Natural Resources, the State Waterways Commission (grant funding), and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (grant funding) all understand the launch facility is in very poor repair and the need for the reconstruction project is both important and immediate. There are serious concerns about boater safety that this project will solve, and we look forward to seeing those anglers that no longer fish Platte Bay return.

Goal 5: Benzie County will expand recreational and cultural offerings for persons with disabilities.

Objectives:

- Promote recreational opportunities for particular population groups such as the elderly; physically, mentally, socially or economically handicapped; youth and others that require special attention.
- Increase access for persons with disabilities to all waterways through accessible boat ramps and docks.

Action Plan Priority:

- Expand Recreational Opportunities to Include Persons with Disabilities
Coordinate with the Trailway Management Council and the Department of Natural Resources to pave the Betsie Valley Trail from Beulah to Mollineaux Road. This will allow safe use by disabled citizens and visitors, and discourage pedestrian traffic on the narrow roadway adjacent to the trail.

Goal 6: Benzie County will have a wide variety of indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural opportunities for citizens, including school-age children, seasonal residents, and transient visitors.

Objectives:

- The County Recreational and Cultural Plan is periodically updated to meet the needs of citizens and to upgrade or obtain parks, recreational, and cultural facilities not provided by schools.
- Encourage the development of additional year-round, indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural facilities that correct deficiencies in the County's inventory of facilities.
- Develop County recreation properties for appropriate recreational and cultural uses.
- Encourage rehabilitation of historic structures for public recreational and cultural uses.
- Meet the recreational needs of residents in communities throughout the County who enjoy parks, playgrounds, ice rinks, tennis courts, basketball courts, skateparks, and ballfields in sufficient numbers at various sites throughout the County.
- Encourage innovative approaches and techniques to meet local recreational and cultural programs and facility needs.
- Encourage the private sector to develop facilities that will complement public uses.
- Promote access to trails, parks, and public lands for non-motorized uses such as walking, hiking, biking, roller-blading, skateboarding, and cross-country skiing.
- Increase lands for hunting.
- Encourage access to snowmobile trails and list roadways and/or trails open for ORV use.
- Recognize school-supplied recreation as a key component of the total County recreation system.
- Benzie County communities work in conjunction with the schools to provide access to schools for recreational and cultural opportunities and encourage the school system to "open their doors" to community organizations to better utilize meeting rooms, auditoriums and theaters, gymnasiums and locker rooms, and other outdoor recreational facilities.
- Strengthen and provide educational outreach in Benzie County by encouraging community based educational opportunities by groups such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 4H, and other university and extracurricular programs.

- Promote public safety through good planning and programs in Benzie County in collaboration with schools, clubs, and other organized efforts.
- Assist libraries desiring a countywide library system in Benzie County.
- Support the development of scenic roadways that are integrated with other recreational uses.

Action Plan Priorities:

- Preservation of Natural Resources
Benzie County's landscape has a north-woods character. It is a unique combination of forests, wetlands, orchards, fields, hills, valleys, dunes, high bluffs, beaches, and clear lakes and streams. Benzie County citizens and officials believe this character is so important to the economy of the County and well being of its citizens that they made open space and natural resource preservation a major goal of the Benzie County 2020 Master Plan. Without a serious effort by government and individual citizens, Benzie County's north woods landscape character will be compromised.
- M-22 Scenic Heritage Route and Bikeways
The M-22 scenic corridor project is a priority of the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission. This corridor is a designated Great Lakes Circle Tour Route and primary north-south scenic corridor located in western Benzie County adjacent to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Platte Lakes, Crystal Lake, and Lake Michigan that links north and south parts of Benzie County to Frankfort. It crosses the Platte River and traverses the resort areas of Crystal Lake and scenic rural pastoral landscapes with many tree-lined roads and spectacular viewsheds. In Leelanau County, our neighbor to the north, M-22 is now a designated Scenic Heritage Route and scheduled for work within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for a separate non-motorized pathway developed by the NPS. In addition, Leelanau County's Parks and Recreation Plan calls for development of bikeways along the M-22 corridor to connect with Benzie County.
- Forestry Management Plan Projects and Railroad Point Enhancements
As stewards of Benzie County park lands, sustainable forestry will be utilized to maintain: recreational access, species and habitat diversity, forest age class diversity and health in consultation with a licensed forester. Timber management at Railroad Point Natural Area will be in accordance with the timber management plan approved by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy that holds the conservation easement. Forest management activity at Railroad Point Natural Area will be conducted with the consent of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Goal 7: Benzie County will continue to have numerous opportunities for hunting and fishing.

Objectives:

- Encourage open space and natural habitat preservation on private lands by private landowners.

- Develop a program for public or conservation organization purchase of open space and other wildlife habitat lands or easements, as well as improved opportunities for public access to water.
- Develop an education program for owners of open space or wildlife habitat on the benefits of property donation or conservation easement and seek donations of properties on the list of desired recreation sites.
- Preserve the use of State and Federal lands for hunting and fishing.
- Develop educational programs for persons who hunt, fish, and boat regarding safety, invasive species control, shoreline and near-shore habitat protection and private property rights.

Action Plan Priority: (See Goal 8)

Goal 8: Benzie County will increase access to information regarding recreational and cultural opportunities in the county, and will promote Benzie County as one of Michigan's valued recreational and cultural destinations.

Objectives:

- Create a Parks and Recreation web page as part of the Benzie County Government web site.
- Work with the Benzie County Chamber of Commerce, the Benzie County Tourist and Visitors Bureau, the Cultural Organizations Collaborative, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service, etc. to link their websites with the new Parks and Recreation page.

Action Plan Priority:

- Create a Parks and Recreation Web Page
Include the recreational and cultural inventories from the 2009 Master Plan on the website to educate people about the existing recreational and cultural entities in Benzie County. Also, provide links on the web page to existing informational websites for maps showing hiking trails, equestrian trails, snowmobile trails, hunting land, conservancy land, etc.

Goal 9: Recreational properties in Benzie County will be good neighbors with other land uses.

Objectives:

- Locate recreational uses so as to minimize conflict with adjacent landowners and the environment while maximizing the benefit of the site.
- Buffer, whenever possible, recreational uses from conflicting land uses with setbacks and/or vegetation.
- Encourage the development of recreation/resort complexes only under planned unit development procedures.

Action Plan Priorities: (See Goal 10)

Goal 10: Benzie County anticipates future recreational and cultural needs and will act on opportunities for the acquisition and development of recreational and cultural facilities, sites, open spaces, and programs.

Objectives:

- Benzie County will encourage the development of recreational uses in locations attractive to citizens and tourists.
- Identify priority sites to purchase for recreational purposes.
- Acquisition of land should be prioritized to address the most popular recreational activities as identified from public input, including walking/hiking, swimming, fishing, canoe/kayaking, and wildlife viewing.
- Link recreational land acquisitions with other natural resource protection priorities including the M-22 and Betsie Valley Trail scenic corridors, inland lake access, rare or endangered habitats and species, scenic vistas, cultural resources, and State-designated environmental areas such as Critical Dunes, Natural Rivers, and State Game areas.
- Collaborate with public and private partners, including the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, to fund the purchase and maintenance of recreational properties and market these recreational opportunities to the public.
- Develop an education program for owners of potential recreational properties on the benefits of property donation and seek donations of properties on the list of desired recreational sites.
- Encourage the utilization, for recreational uses, of lands that have soil types that are less conducive to “developed” uses, i.e. agriculture, residential, commercial, or industrial.
- Promote recreational uses that do not infringe upon the visual or ecological quality of open spaces, forests, hills, bluffs, orchards, lakes, shorelines, or embankments, but enhances or at least preserves, the natural quality that creates the original need or desire for a facility in that area.
- Preserve floodplain areas and wetlands for open space activities, such as wildlife refuges, hunting, fishing, and passive recreation.
- Considering demand, encourage the development of a system whereby the number of participants is controlled at acceptable levels in sensitive areas to diminish impacts on natural resources.
- Encourage the creation of tourism related jobs for County residents to increase economic growth.

Action Plan Priorities:

- Collaborate with Public and Private Partners
Take advantage of land acquisition opportunities that support the highest priorities for recreational activities as identified by the public survey, including the acquisition of land for public beaches, natural areas, and for extension or enhancement of non-motorized trails (including the Betsie Valley Trail). Acquisition opportunities will be carefully considered to insure that the site is compatible with its intended uses and that the site can be legally and safely accessed by the public.
- Work in Cooperation with Local Units of Government

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission will encourage each community in the County to develop or upgrade its Recreation Plan.

The Commission will encourage local communities to work with the County Planning Commission, local planning commissions, and the County Parks and Recreation Commission to assess the need for facilities, methods to acquire, fund and develop projects, and the responsible operation and maintenance of same.

Please note that some of the information included in the above goals and objectives was taken from the 1992, 1997, and 2002 Benzie County Recreation Plans and the 2020 Benzie County Comprehensive Development Plan.

Action Plan Priorities

Overarching Policies:

1. Preservation of Natural Resources
2. Access to Public Waters
3. Access to Public Lands
4. Work in Cooperation with Local Units of Government
5. Collaborate with Public and Private Partners

Operational Needs:

1. Integrate Cultural Facilities and Activities into Recreational Planning
2. Consolidate Management of County Owned Properties
3. Coordinate Recreational Activities and Programming
4. Archive Parks and Recreation Records and Project Files
5. Create a Parks and Recreation Web Page

Current Projects:

1. MDNR Crystal Lake Public Boating Access Site
2. Lake Michigan Drive Road-end Improvement
3. Thompsonville to Interlochen Trail Connection
4. Parking for Visitors to the Point Betsie Lighthouse
5. Completion of the Elberta Beach to Beach Trail Section
6. Expand Recreational Opportunities to Include Persons with Disabilities
7. Forestry Management Plan Projects and Railroad Point Enhancements
8. M-22 Scenic Heritage Route and Bikeways
9. Northwest Michigan Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy 2008
10. Comprehensive State Statute Re: Access to Public Waters

Documentation

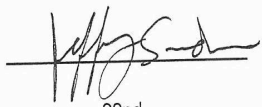
**Affidavit of Publication for October 27, 2008 Mill's Community House
Public Information Session**

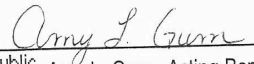
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan)
County of Benzie

NOTICE
THE PARKS and Recreation committee will hold a public input session on the Recreation and Cultural Master Plan on Monday, October 27, 2008, at 7:00pm at The Mills Community House, Benzonia, Michigan. All are encouraged to attend.
Don Tanner,
Commission Chair

Jeff Sandman, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is one of the editors, publishers of the Benzie County Record Patriot, a newspaper printed, published and circulated in said County of Benzie, and that the annexed notice of Benzie County Parks & Rec. Committee Public input session was duly printed and published in said newspaper once each week for Two (2) weeks in succession commencing on the 15th day of October, A.D. 2008 and ending on the 22nd day of October, A.D. 2008


Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 22nd day of October, A.D. 2008.


Notary Public Amy L. Gum, Acting Benzie County
My Commission Expires June 1, 2012

Synopsis of the October 27, 2008 Public Information Session

Benzie County Planning and Parks and Recreation Commissions Joint Meeting

This document is a synopsis of the Public Information Session held at the Mill's Community House on October 27, 2008. The names of most respondents were withheld to protect their privacy. The approved minutes are on file in the Benzie County Clerk's office and are available to the public.

PRC Chairman Tanner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Tanner greeted the people and explained the purpose of the meeting.

Planning Commission Chairwoman Kathy Ralston thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for hosting the joint meeting.

The floor was given to County Planner, Dave Neiger. Mr. Neiger greeted the public encouraging all to turn in scorecards for the Grand Vision. He then spoke on the importance of the plan in developing County resources. At that point he introduced Syrus Bingman, consultant, and turned the meeting over to him.

Syrus Bingman explained the information that had already been gathered through the mailed survey. He stated there was a 10% return rate in the survey, which is a very good return for a survey. He then asked the public for their ideas and what they see for the future.

Visions:

Some kayakers would like to see restrooms along the Betsie Valley Trail at the Betsie River.

There is interest in seeing an ice skating rink, maybe in a community center with a swimming pool included.

One respondent would like to see an educational task setting group set up.

One respondent voiced interest in seeing a 4-H horse area built. This idea was furthered by people thinking a Horse Show Ground could be incorporated into a Community Center. There were also suggestions of a horse trail possibly running parallel to the Betsie Valley Trail.

One respondent stated a recreational center would be great as there is a need for something like that for young people. Possibly something like a YMCA.

One respondent spoke on a continuing education site. Some feel Benzie County Central High School would be a good site for both adult and college educational courses. It was stated that Frankfort High School has funds for this type of programming.

A school board member stated that Baker College is willing to come up to BCCHS and do classes. This has been discussed at the school.

One respondent stated that the Betsie Valley Trail people would like to see a plan to pave the rest of the trail. It was stated that the CLPRA is under agreement that the trail section can't be paved unless it is approved by a majority of property owners. Further discussion stated there had been a settlement, but more residents may want it paved now.

There was discussion that a trail extension from Benzie County into Grand Traverse County was being planned. Dave Neiger explained there is only about one mile of property left to purchase for expanding the trail to Karlin.

A former trail-coordinator for the BVT said if all parties agree to the paving on the Beulah to Mollineaux section, it can be done with a coordinated effort.

Further statements were that there are a lot of diverse interests and we need one hub to manage all the projects and organizations. Concerns were voiced that this could be setting a stage for competition on projects. There was a suggestion for getting a parks and recreational department head to manage county activities so that we don't compete for funding.

One respondent informed the group that BCHS has a set of plans and is looking for a piece of property and funding for an ice hockey rink.

The retiring director reported on the Point Betsie Lighthouse. She stated the volunteer friends group needed help covering its expanded use.

One respondent would love to see a place for performing arts in the County.

One respondent from the National Park Service explained the plans for improvements in the National Park. There is a non-motorized trail in the works paralleling M-22 for Leelanau County. It would be great if it could continue along M-22 in Benzie County.

One respondent spoke on the need for coordination of an arts center, possibly including culinary arts and dance. She also suggested a swimming pool and spoke on the renovation of the Frankfort Coast Guard Station.

One respondent stated that Grow Benzie has purchased the green houses and buildings along M-115 for the future use of Grow Benzie.

One respondent supported the idea of a recreational center listing multi-uses like a swimming pool, weight training, and ice rink as being needed.

Don Tanner explained the status of the Crystal Lake boat launch issue. One person voiced caution about putting access on the lake.

One respondent informed all that the Mills Community House has things in place for improvements and expansion. He told of the library offering a children's hour the last Saturday of the month. The Mills is trying to set programming so that they are open more.

It was stated that one Benzie County resident has a collection of maritime memorabilia. He needs a place to put the collection.

Ann Bourne explained how the plan was written and its affect on project funding. Ann compared the money that the original plans have brought to Benzie County. None of this money would have been available without the plan. State organizations have encouraged communities to do cultural plans for the same reason.

One respondent suggested the County Web site needs to list places to see and things to do in the County.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Demitroff, Acting Secretary

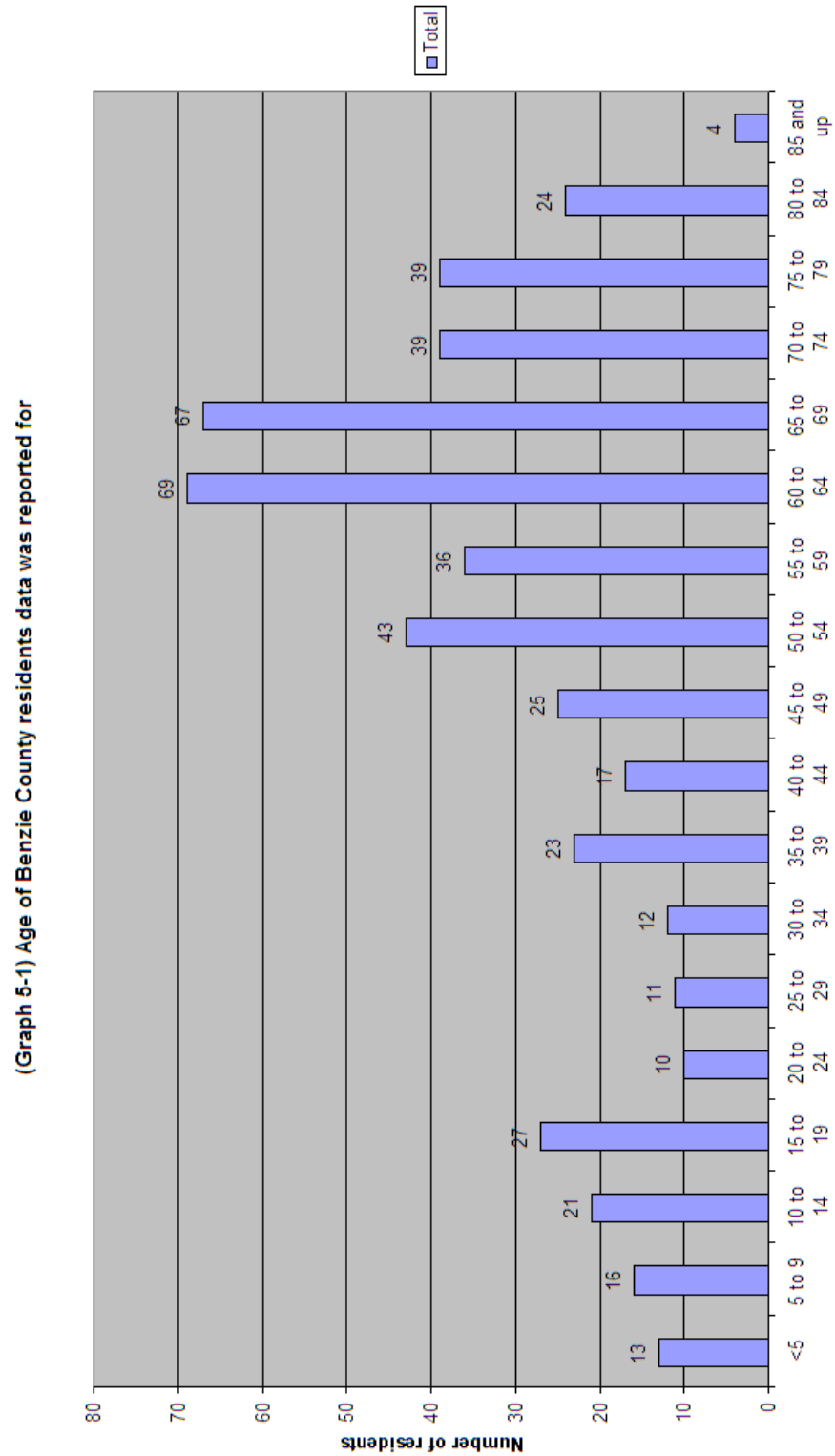
Benzie County Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Survey

This purpose of this survey is to collect information about the recreation and cultural activity needs for residents of Benzie County. Information pertaining to what types of facilities you currently use, and what types you would like to use if they were available is necessary for the formulation of the 2008 Benzie County Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities Master Plan. Please do not put your name or any other identifying information anywhere on this survey. The results of this survey are completely confidential. When you are finished with this survey, please return it in the enclosed addressed envelope by August 18, 2008. Thank you for your time!

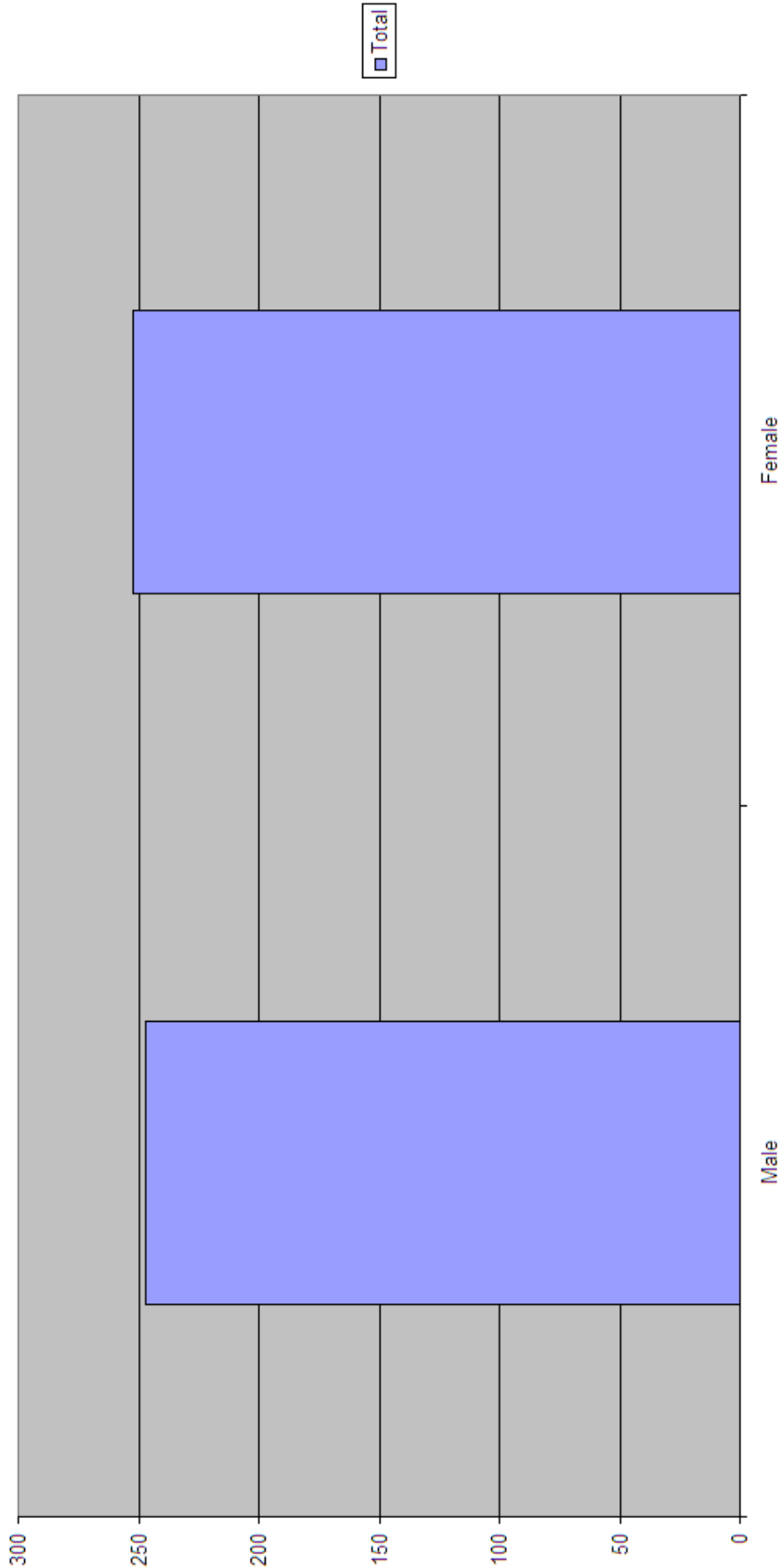
1. **Please fill in the number of your household members that fit into the following age ranges.**
 Under 5 years ____ 5 to 9 years ____ 10 to 14 years ____ 15-19 years ____ 20-24 years ____ 25-29 years ____
 30-34 years ____ 35-39 years ____ 40-44 years ____ 45-49 years ____ 50-54 years ____ 55-59 years ____
 60-64 years ____ 65-69 years ____ 70-74 years ____ 75-79 years ____ 80-84 years ____ 85 and above ____
2. **Please fill in the number of your household members that fit into each gender.**
 Male ____ Female ____
3. **What township, village, or city is your household in?** _____
4. **Please indicate five (5) Benzie County recreation areas or facilities most often used by members of your household. Put an "x" to the left of each area or facility.**
 ____ Beaches ____ Natural areas ____ Non-motorized trails ____ Picnic areas ____ Playgrounds
 ____ Sports fields ____ Campgrounds ____ Motorized trails ____ Ice Rinks ____ Basketball courts
 ____ Shooting ranges ____ Tennis Courts ____ Equestrian facilities
5. **Please indicate five (5) cultural facilities your family uses in Benzie County:**
 ____ Museums ____ Art galleries ____ Historic buildings/sights ____ Dance studios
 ____ Visual and performing arts venues ____ Training and education facilities ____ Sports venues
6. **Please indicate which recreational activities members of your household have participated in during the past 12 months. Please put an "x" to the left of each activity.**
 ____ Hunting ____ Sailing ____ Swimming ____ Fishing ____ Canoeing/Kayaking ____ Other water sports
 ____ Shuffleboard ____ Skateboarding ____ Soccer ____ Drama ____ Volleyball ____ Baseball ____ Dancing
 ____ Performing arts ____ Inline skating ____ Basketball ____ Aerobics ____ Ice skating ____ Sledding
 ____ Snowmobiling ____ Music performance ____ Picnicking ____ Fitness ____ Golf ____ Skiing ____ Biking
 ____ Walking/Hiking ____ Wildlife viewing ____ Photography ____ Arts and crafts ____ Shooting Sports ____ Weight
 Training ____ Softball ____ Tennis ____ Hockey ____ Frisbee ____ Horseback riding ____ Gymnastics
 ____ Other, please list _____
7. **What cultural activities do members of your household participate in? Put an "x" next to the top 3 activities that apply:**
 ____ Dancing ____ Drama ____ Performing Arts ____ Music Performance ____ Arts and crafts
 ____ Visit Historical Buildings/Sights ____ Visit art/historical museums
 ____ Continuing education/personal enrichment ____ Other, please list on back of survey
8. **On the back of this survey, please list any new recreation areas/facilities or expansion of existing areas/facilities you would like to see in Benzie County.**
9. **On the back of this survey, please list any new recreation programs or services you would like to see offered in Benzie County.**
10. **On the back of this survey, please list any cultural activities or facilities you would like to see in Benzie County.**

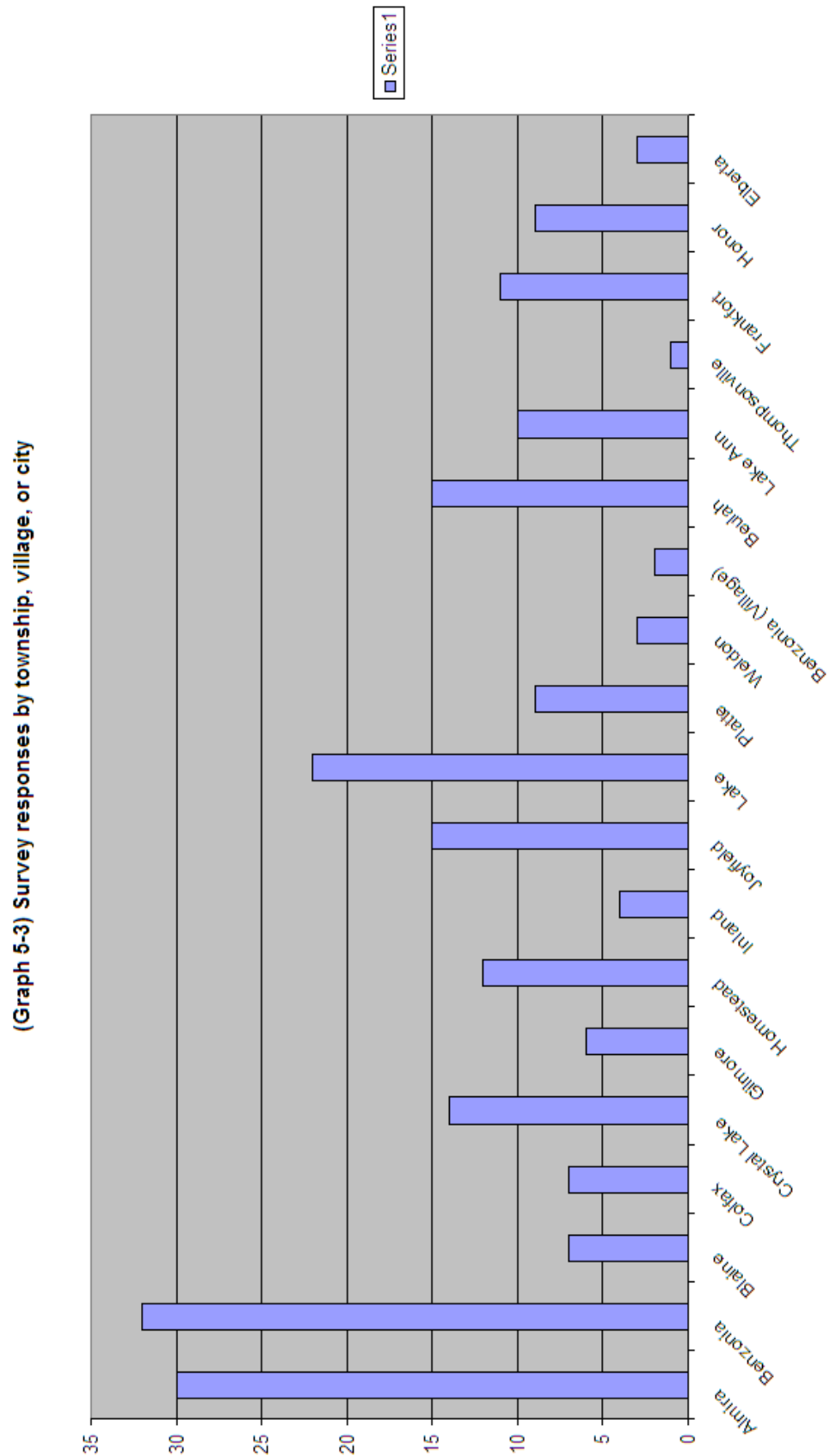
Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. Your responses are important to Benzie County Parks and Recreation! Please mail this survey back no later than August 27, 2008.

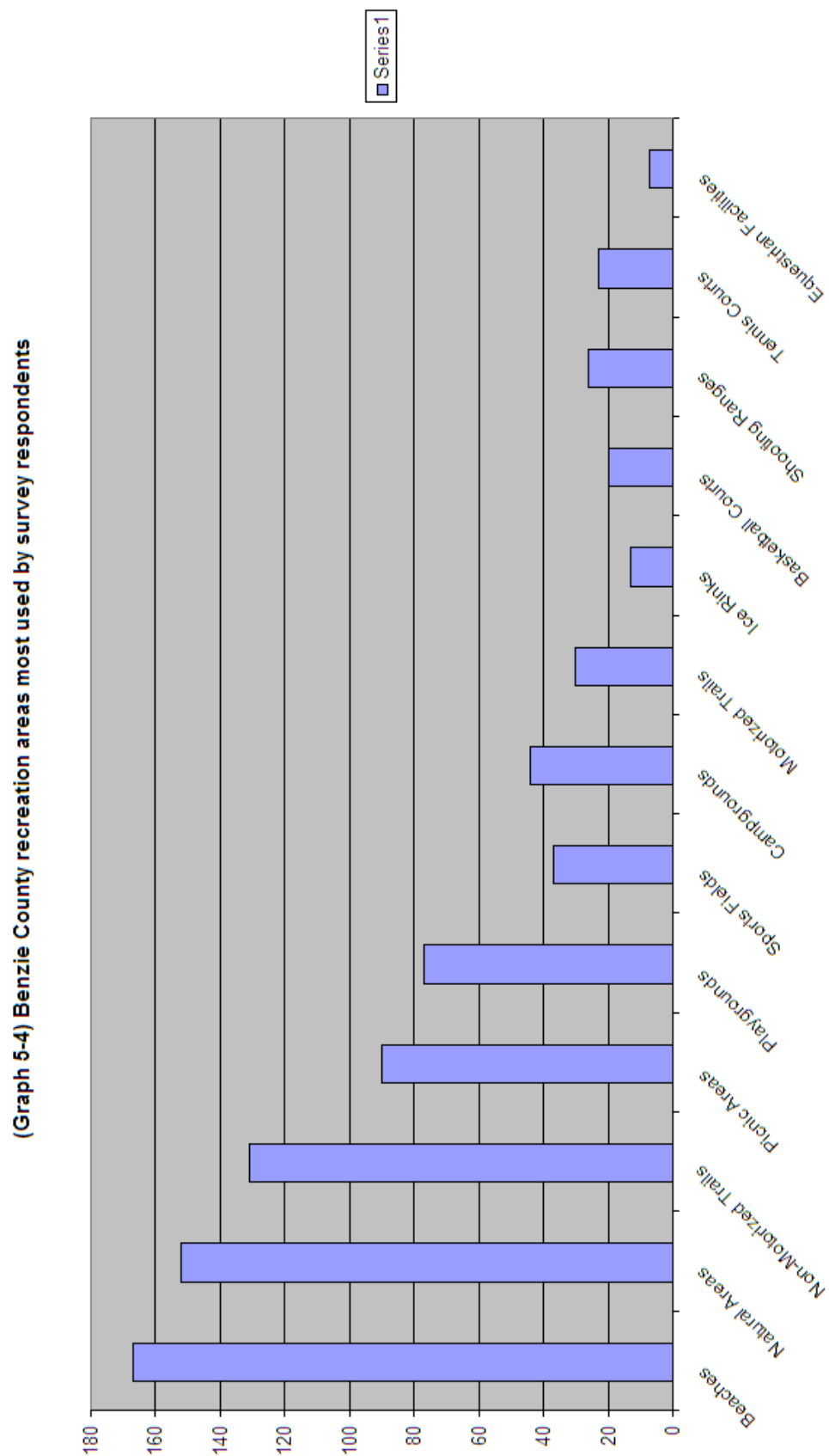
Graphs of Survey Question Responses



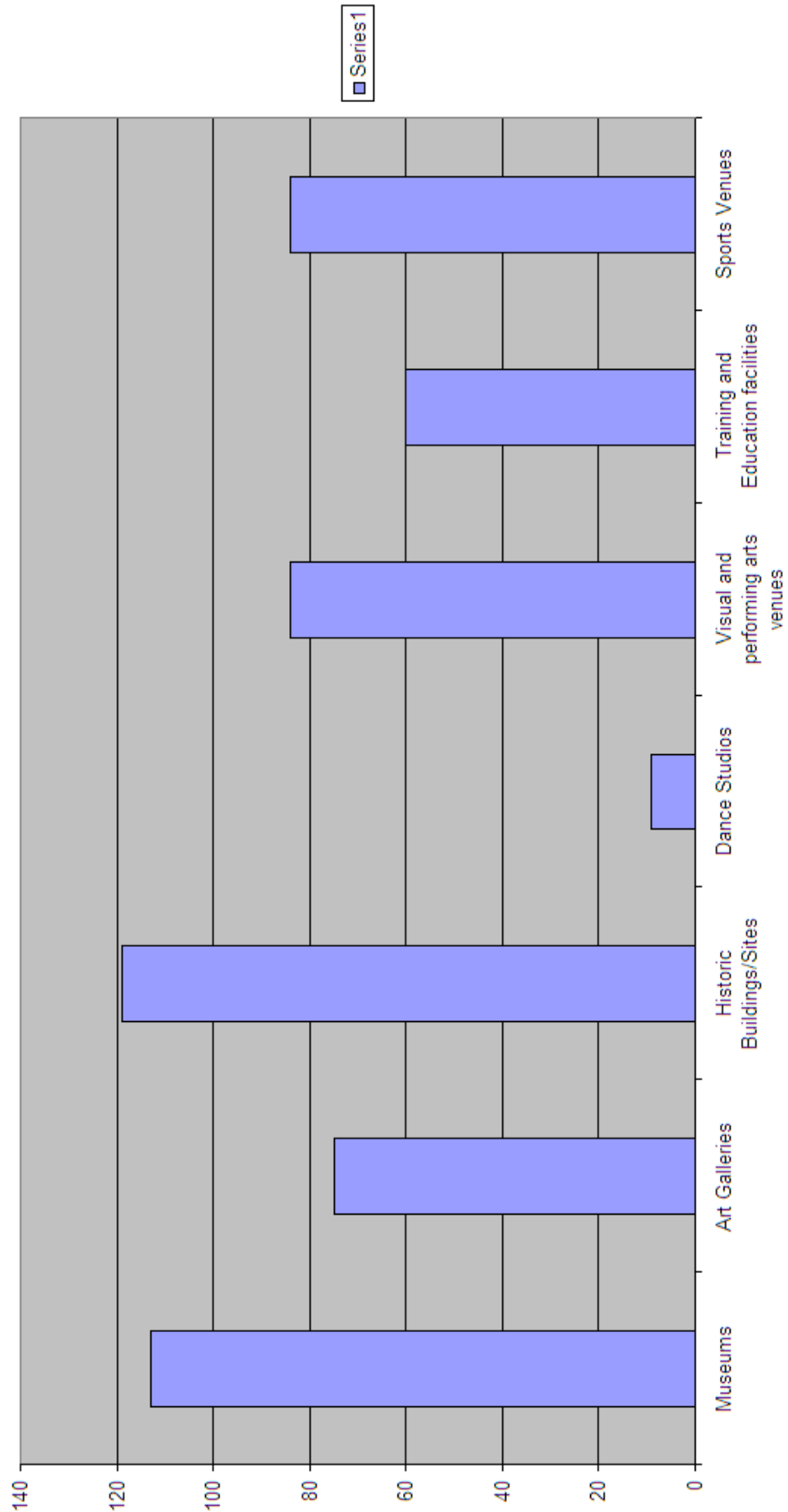
(Graph 5-2) Number of Benzie County residents data was reported for by gender

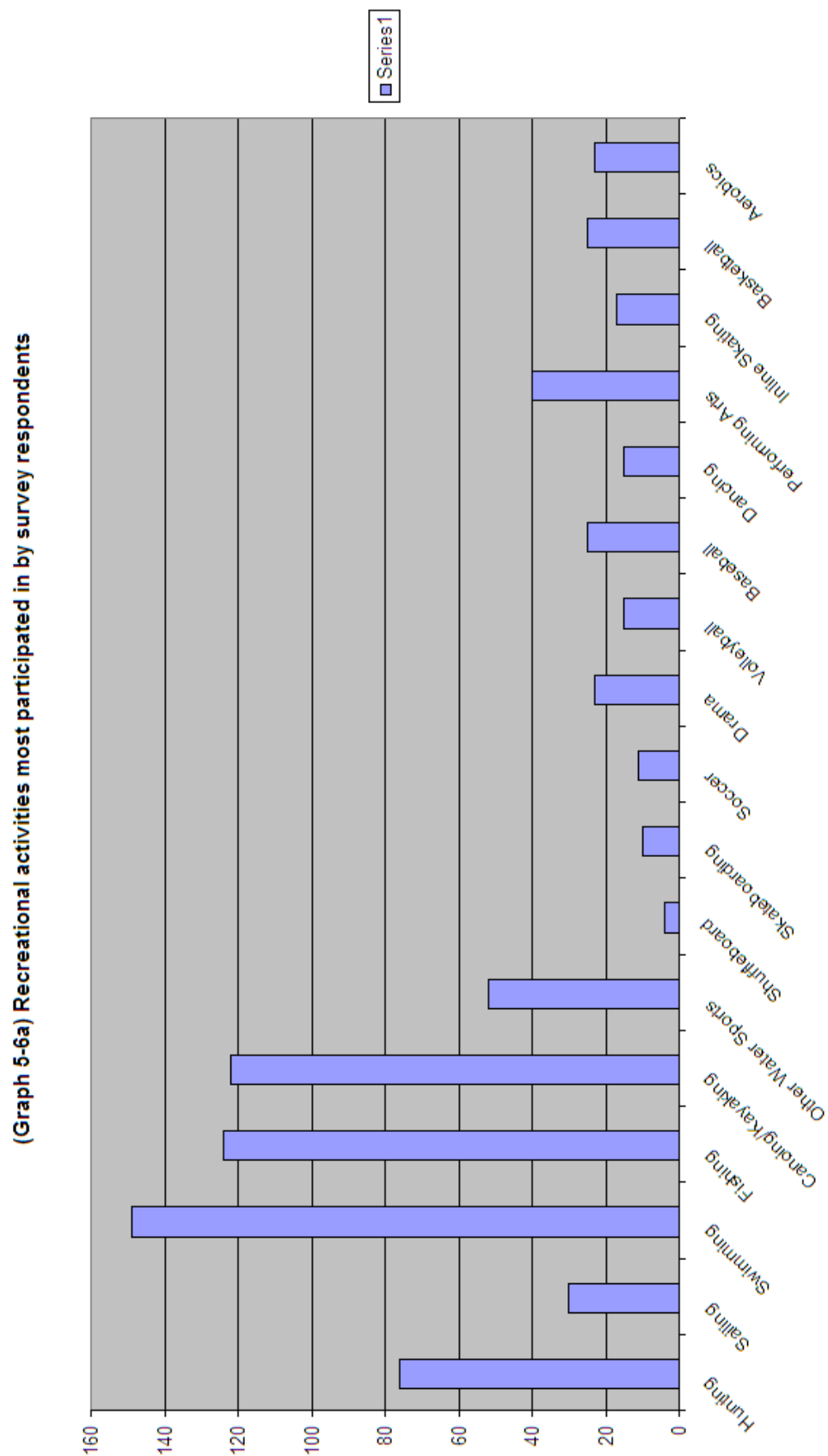




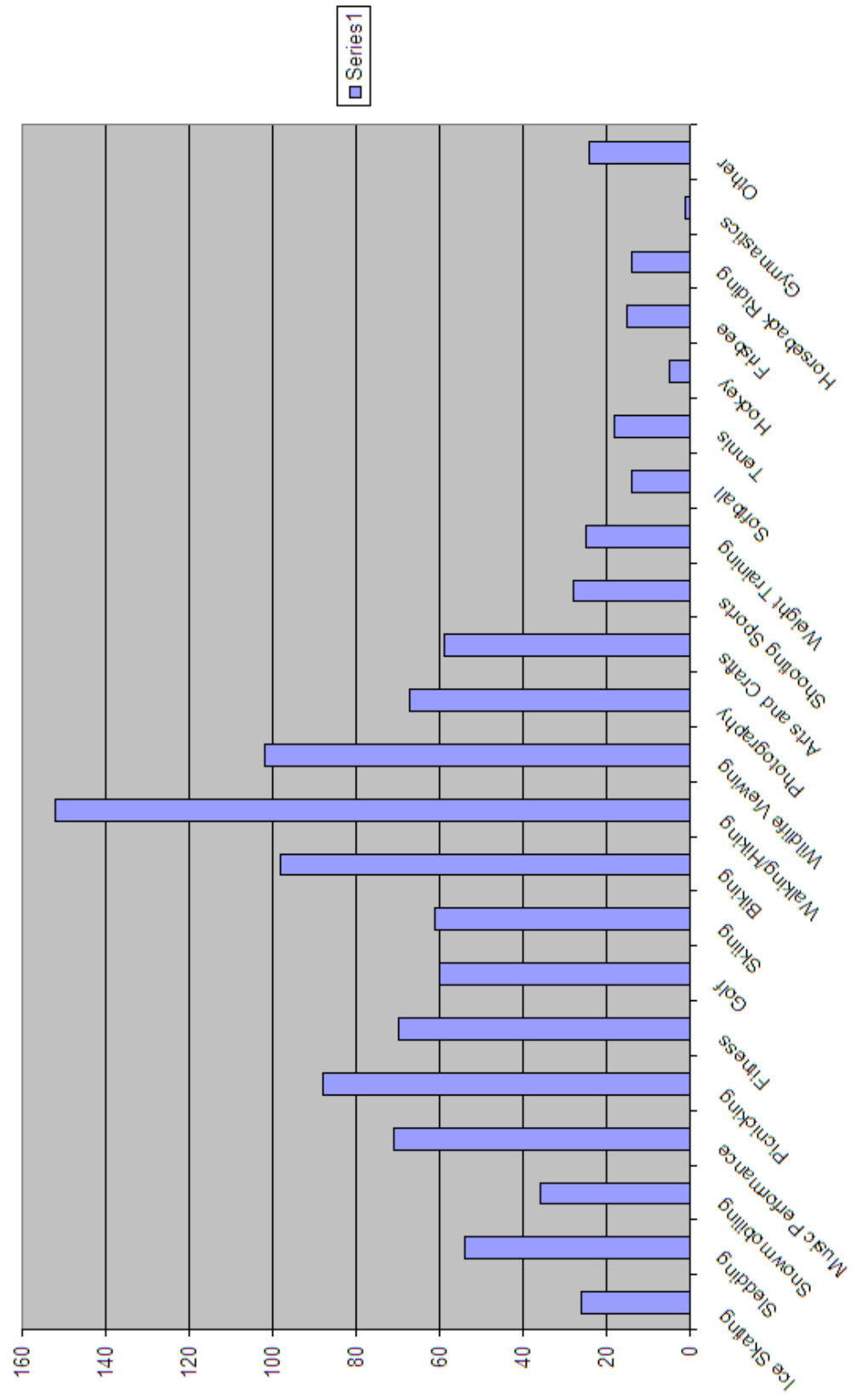


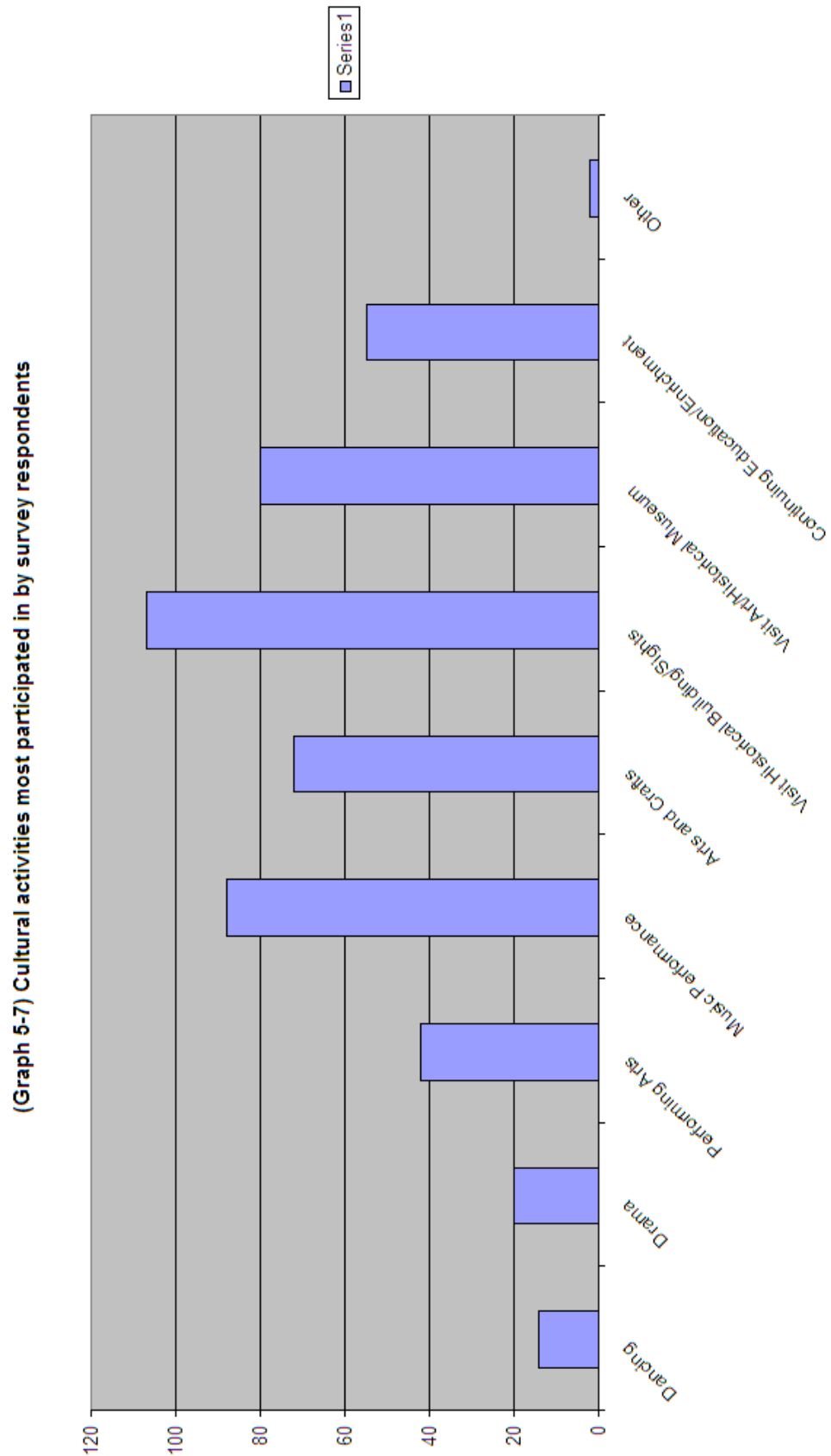
(Graph 5-5) Cultural facilities most used by survey respondents





(Graph 5-6b) Recreational activities most participated in by survey respondents





Survey Responses to Questions 8, 9, and 10

The survey responses in this section are taken from the actual responses received. Changes were made only to correct spelling errors and to clarify some abbreviations. Every returned survey was given a number to protect the identity of the person submitting it. Blank boxes represent surveys that were returned but without answers to questions 8 through 10.

Survey #	Question 8	Question 9	Question 10	Other
1				
2	More bike paths & trails			Keep beaches/trails clean
3	Community swimming pool Groomed ski trails	More community recreational opportunities w/lessons, i.e. tennis, swimming that are affordable	More utilization of school facilities for non-school related performances - Benzie Central Auditorium	Beautiful area but many impoverished people
4				
5				
6	Mountain biking & skiing trails Paved covered area for roller hockey (summer) & ice hockey (winter) in Almira Twp. Parks		Covered amphitheatre in Almira Twp. Park for concerts, plays, events	
7	Public indoor pool		More access to existing buildings - schools & their facilities should be more affordable and used year round More culinary arts programs - use existing kitchens in churches, schools, mills NMC satellite classes/other colleges for credit or community education	Betsie Valley Fitness should be more affordable - especially now that it's owned by a nonprofit hospital
8				
9	A restroom and more to do at Homestead Recreational Park		Pave the bike path in Beulah (so can rollerblade/bike on trail)...we have to use the road Want a bike trail along North Shore Crystal Dr....NOT enough room someone is going to get killed	
10	Increased public access to Platte Lake DNR boat launch of sufficient size to use crystal lake Bicycle lane on			

	Deadstream Road			
11				
12	Dedicated area for ORV use and enjoyment			
13	Recreation center for kids			
14	More educational areas for children i.e. animal wildlife, hands on learning ORV trails and use allowed on roads More public beaches More accessibility to outdoor activities for elderly and handicapped	More maps for small lakes and rivers		
15	Indoor community swimming pool			
16	Small theatre venue for the Benzie County Players An accessible beach in Blaine Township			
17	A civic center larger than the Mills Community House for performers and musicians			
18				
19.	Dirt bike trail with access to keep them off public roads			
20			More historical buildings and areas open to the public	
21		A list of all the activities in Benzie county	Dance studio in Benzie County	
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28	Public pool			
29	Expanded trails/trailhead parking More public beach options			
30.				
31				
32				
33				

34	A good safe boat launch to access Platte Bay			
35				
36	Public pool			
37				
38				
39	Public beach in the Village of Lake Ann			
40				
41				
42	Continue to keep our existing parks, beaches, etc. clean and well maintained before adding new	Keep current programs going well before adding new	With Interlochen so close and with current organizations already here, why add more Lets strengthen existing programs before adding new	
43	More boat launches on Crystal Lake			
44				
45	Ice rink Expanded nature trails Improved roads fit for cycling Bike trails			
46				
47				
48				
49	Build an indoor/outdoor swimming pool with a diving area for one meter and three meter springboards Build a bowling alley with indoor miniature golf; ping pong tables, smoke free and no alcohol Shovel the snow off the Elberta Rails-to-Trails paved paths during the winter at least to M-115 and also into Frankfort This will allow year round walking and running on these paved paths			
50	Community pool			
51				
52	County Walking Trail			
53				
54				
55	A 3-D archery course			Many more litter and

	A rifle range for sighting in firearms			trash collection barrels located at public fishing sites, especially at trout streams
56				
57				Open the Garden Theater in Frankfort year round
58	Designate trails so we can legally ride our ATVs - presently we have to drive to Kalkaska to do this...with cost of gas/time makes this prohibitive.			
59				
60	Ice arena for elementary to high school to use without driving to TC	Hockey program/figure skating		
61				
62				
63				
64				
65			Library	
66				
67				
68			Something like the Wharton Center at MSU, a playhouse that would bring Broadway to Northern Michigan	
69				
70				
71	A beach in Lake Ann maybe with volleyball courts			
72		More Events for families		
73	Public Swimming Pool Public Boat Dock in Beulah Public Skating Rink Pave Benzie Trail all the way		Theater for music concerts or dramatic arts	
74	New Equipment at Mineral Springs Park. Updated equipment for older kids at the park by the Benzonia Library. A track for skating or walking			
75		Swimming lessons for Grandchildren		

76				
77				
78				
79			More support of community libraries	
80	Swimming beaches Boat launches			
81	Hiking trails Horseback riding trails			
82				
83	More paved bike trails			
84	Frisbee park Boat launch/access to Crystal lake off Molineaux Rd			
85	Nothing, Benzie is great as is			
86				
87	Indoor sports complex with hockey/swimming			
88				
89	Fitness Satellite in Beulah		Dance/Aerobic Opportunities with Square Dancing, Round Dancing, Clogging, and Ball Room	
90	Indoor Skateboard Park	More affordable ski and snowboard and water opportunities than Crystal Mountain		
91				
92				
93	Pool and fitness center Beaches Year round non-motorized trails		Museums Art galleries Visual performing arts venues	
94	Indoor pool			
95	Pave the trail from Beulah to Molineaux Rd			
96				
97				
98				
99			See the Crystal Lake Art Center move into the Coast Guard Station and greatly expanded	
100			Drama, music, Benzie Players, Benzie Orchestra, Band, and Chorus all need venues and support	
101				
102				

103				
104				
105				
106	Indoor swimming facility in Frankfort			
107				
108	Trails, Conservation District		Presentations	
109		No Government Sponsored Programs		
110	Pool	Swimming program		
111	Decent boat ramp on Crystal Lake			
112	Improve baseball fields	Summer tournaments		
113				
114				
115				
116				
117				
118				
119		Expand Benzie County Council on Aging		
120	Countywide athletic center	Provide a summer youth program for ages 6-15 Programs: tennis lessons, basketball lessons, arts and crafts		
121	Indoor community pool Public Restrooms and better parking at Point Betsie (for beach goers) Sidewalks so citizens can walk to shopping plazas instead of drive (Benzonia) A bike path from Molineaux Road to Shorewood so bikes do not have to travel M-115 while cycling around Crystal Lake	Tennis Club		
122				
123				
124	Centrally located swimming pool to accommodate lots of people			
125	Public swimming pool	Expand Senior Citizens activities		
126	Point Betsie Road improved with a turn-around and parking and restrooms Bathrooms or porta-		Libraries	

	potties at boat ramps			
127			Foreign films Documentaries Transportation to cultural events at Interlochen Center for the Arts	
128				
129				
130			Continued growth of the Crystal Lake Art Center Support for the garden theatre in Frankfort	
131				
132				
133	Youth Center Indoor swimming pool	Dance classes Cooking classes Ceramics classes Music classes	Expansion of Frankfort Library Help with renovation of the garden theatre Help with the center for the arts and transformation of the coast guard station for that purpose, Help with programs there like art instruction, galleries for traveling exhibitions and local art shows.	
134				
135		Promote beauty of Benzie county Promote low cost activities in area Chamber of Commerce would be beneficial More festivals like an ice sculpture/snow sculpture festival		
136			Outdoor concert venue that is acoustically sound for groups of at least 50	
137	New and larger boat launch on Crystal Lake			
138	Skateboard park			
139	Improve the boat launch facilities on Crystal Lake More paving on the Betsie Valley Trail		More performance art venues	
140				
141	Improve boat ramps for access to Crystal lake. Improve Beulah ramp/parking and/or build planned ramp at Molineaux Road			
142	Public swimming pool			

143				
144				
145				
146				
147	Develop a shooting range			
148	Indoor Hockey Rink Community Recreation Center Indoor and outdoor pool Walking paths available to Seniors			
149				
150				
151	Skateboard parks Things for young adults to do			
152				
153	Ice skating rink in Almira Township park Beach in Lake Ann			
154				
155				
156	Indoor public swimming pool			
157	Community pool	Water exercise class	Adult education classes besides the art center classes	
158				
159	Extension of trail system Improved boat launch sites including kayak, canoe, tubing along the rivers			
160				
161				
162				
163				
164		A YMCA for children and family programs to provide community structure Combine libraries to have one nice facilities	Just build a nice all purpose facility for concerts, training, and education, family activities, and non-profit use	
165				
166				
167				
168	New center for the arts	Continued expansion of conservancy hands	Renovation of Garden Theater Mills Performing Arts Facility (complete it)	Keep lakes and beaches accessible to the public Keep parks in good repair and user friendly

169	Shooting range ORV trails	ORV training classes Any outdoor education		
170	Improved boat launching ramps (Crystal Lake, Platte River mouth)			
171	Expand and improve ice rinks to include Frankfort and Honor areas with an eye toward establishing hockey leagues for 6-8 year olds/9-10 year olds & 11-12 year olds providing a talent pool for a possible sport addition to Benzie and Frankfort Jr/Sr H.S. within fusion and eventual competition w/TC & other NW MI teams Canvas Benzie county businesses for start-up equipment donations Possible fundraiser using Center Ice/Gordie Howe/Dallas Drake connections, This part of the county is much more than snowmobiling, skiing and ice fishing. Why not provide our children and eventually H.S. with an added winter sport? More hiking trails free of dirt bikes and snowmobiles (they decimate the hiking trails)			Thank you for the opportunity to share and vent
172	A beach on Lake Ann lake			
173	Track			
174	Continued improvement of the Point Betsie light station Maintenance of the Betsie Valley trail			
175				
176				
177				
178				
179				
180	Railroad Point boat			

	launch. The only site now available on crystal lake is downtown Beulah and it's in need of a lot of work and is dangerous			
181	More miles of paved bike trails and paved road shoulders, unpaved running trails, skateboard park, natural areas w/hiking & hunting & picnicking & camping, facilities such as in new Garfield Twp. park off Zimmerman Road, indoor sports facility for year round fitness, swimming, etc. (sports), tennis courts, beach volleyball	Tennis program, rugby, hunter education, youth hunting/fishing/ wildlife training, environmental education, swimming lessons, ice skating lessons, yoga classes, pilates classes	Anything possible	
182				
183				
184				
185				
186				
187				
188				
189	Public swimming pool Gymnastics facility			
190	Continued placement of biking lane on the country roads Nature and wetland areas for wildlife viewing Trail or platform or parking area along waterways so general public can see them			
191				
192	Improve quality of Betsie Valley trail to make it more bicycle friendly		More community support for Michigan legacy and park - both the sculpture and the trail system	
193	More non-motorized trails	Opportunities for dancing Performing arts/music/drama of all kinds	Local art fairs & local "slow" food offerings	
194	ORV trails			
195				
196			Cannabis and Hemp Farming	
197		Parks and Recreation department to manage all of the county facilities		

		according to the priorities defined in the P&R master plan		
198				
199				
200				
201	Swimming pool big enough for laps			
202	A visitors dock in down town Beulah, next to the beach and boat ramp for "on Lake" residence board walk adjacent to current beach shore road running from bath house to the end of Pleasant St. Street landscape, flowers along curb starting at the top of spring/ hanging flower baskets through downtown business district and residence area from the courthouse to M-31. Nice lush lawn at the visitors center with auto irrigation along with flowers Very visible but friendly looking monthly activities calendar at visitors center			
203				
204				
205	Keep all trails open for horse back riding		More cultural education in fine arts More music performance, perhaps a large venue or facility	
206				
207				
208	ORV trails			
209				
210	More shooting facilities ATV access to secondary roads			
211				
212	A new and safe boat ramp on Crystal Lake. The Beulah ramp is unsafe			
213	ATV trails			

Affidavit of Publication for Placement of Plan in Libraries

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan)
 County of Benzie)SS

Marilyn J. Barker, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is one of the editors, publishers of the Benzie County Record Patriot, a newspaper printed, published and circulated in said County of Benzie, and that the annexed notice of BENZIE COUNTY/RECREATION & CULTURAL PLAN 2009-2014 was duly printed and published in said newspaper at least once each week for ONE (1) weeks in succession commencing on the 6th day of MAY A.D. 2009 and ending on the 6th day of MAY A.D. 2009

PARKS AND RECREATION
 COMMISSION
 BENZIE COUNTY

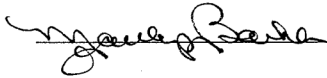
NOTICE PUBLIC REVIEW
 DRAFT COUNTY
 RECREATION AND CUL-
 TURAL PLAN- 2009-2014

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission would like to announce the availability of the "Draft County Recreation and Cultural Resources Plan 2009-2014" for review and comment. Copies will be available at all the County libraries from May 20, 2009 through June 22, 2009.

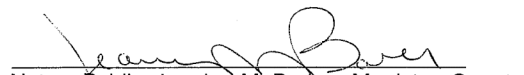
Copies are available for purchase from the County Planning Department at a cost of \$15.00 per copy. All comments must be received no later than 12:00 Noon on June 22, 2009, at the Benzie County Planning Department, 448 Court Place, Beulah, MI 49617 or via email to Dneiger@benzieco.net.

For further information, you may also contact David A. Neiger, County Planning Department, at (231) 882-9674.

David A. Neiger,
 Director-
 County Planning Department
 May 6, 2009



Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 6th
 day of MAY, A.D. 2009


 Notary Public Jeanine M. Barber, Manistee County
 Acting Benzie County
 My Commission Expires March 10, 2012

Signature Page for Plan Pick-up/Drop-off at Local Libraries

BCPRC PLAN REVIEW 5/19/09

Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission Re: Posted Public Review of the County Recreation and Cultural Plan

Almira Township Library, Lake Ann (275-0271)

Hours: Mon., Tues., and Fri. - 9 to 1, Wed. - 6 to 9; Thurs. - 9 to 1 and 5 to 8; Sat. - Closed

Plan Received: Shirley A. Ransom Date: 5-19-09Picked-up w/ comments: _____ Date: 6/22/09Notes: See Envelope

Benzie Shores District Library, Frankfort (352-4671)

Hours: Mon. and Wed. 10 to 8; Tues., Thurs., Fri., and Sat. - 10 to 5

Plan Received: Hilary Turner Date: 5-19-09Picked-up w/ comments: Carly Carter Date: 6/20/09Notes: None available

Benzonia Public Library (882-4111)

Hours: Mon., Wed., and Fri. - 11 to 5; Tues. and Thurs. - 11 to 7; Sat. - 11 to 3

Plan Received: Meghan Post Date: 5-19-09Picked-up w/ comments: Brian McBride Date: 6-20-09

Notes: _____

Betsie Valley District Library, Thompsonville (378-2716)

Hours: Tues. and Thurs. - 11 to 5; Wed. - 2 to 7; Fri. - 2 to 6; Sat. 10 to 2

Plan Received: Nichelle Scurro Date: 5/19/09Picked-up w/ comments: Elizabeth Schaub Date: 6-20-2009

Notes: _____

Darcy Library of Beulah (882-4037)

Hours: Mon., Wed., and Fri. - 12 to 5; Tues. and Thurs. - 3 to 7; Sat. - 9 to 1

Plan Received: Anne Damm Date: 5-19-09Picked-up w/ comments: Martina Mullama Date: 6-20-09

Notes: _____

Affidavit of Publication for Public Input Meeting prior to Plan Adoption

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan)
)SS
County of Benzie

Marilyn J. Barker, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is one of the editors, publishers of the Benzie County Record Patriot, a newspaper printed, published and circulated in said County of Benzie, and that the annexed notice of PUBLIC HEARING "DRAFT COUNTY RECREATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PLAN" was duly printed and published in said newspaper at least once each week for ONE (1) weeks in succession commencing on the 17TH day of JUNE A.D. 2009 and ending on the 17TH day of JUNE A.D. 2009

PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION
BENZIE COUNTY

NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING
DRAFT COUNTY
RECREATION AND
CULTURAL PLAN-2009-2014

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission would like to announce a PUBLIC HEARING scheduled for June 22, 2009, 5:00 pm on the "Draft County Recreation and Cultural Resources Plan 2009-2014" to obtain governmental and public input and comment. Copies have been distributed to all governments and are available at all the County libraries.

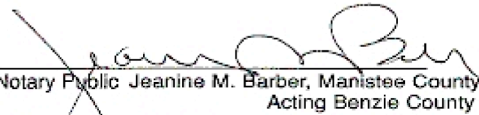
Copies are also available for purchase from the County Planning Department at a cost of \$15.00 per copy. All comments must be received no later than 12:00 Noon on June 22, 2009, at the Benzie County Planning Department, 448 Court Place, Beulah, MI 49817 or via email to Dnigel@benzieco.net. Comments may also be made in person to the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission at the Public Hearing.

For further information, you may also contact David A. Nigler, County Planning Department, at (231) 882-9574.

June 11, 2009
David A. Nigler,
Director,
County Planning Department
June 17, 2009



Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 17TH
day of JUNE, A.D. 2009


Notary Public Jeanine M. Barber, Manistee County
Acting Benzie County
My Commission Expires March 10, 2012



Works Cited

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