



Village of Honor

Five Year Recreation Plan

Acknowledgements

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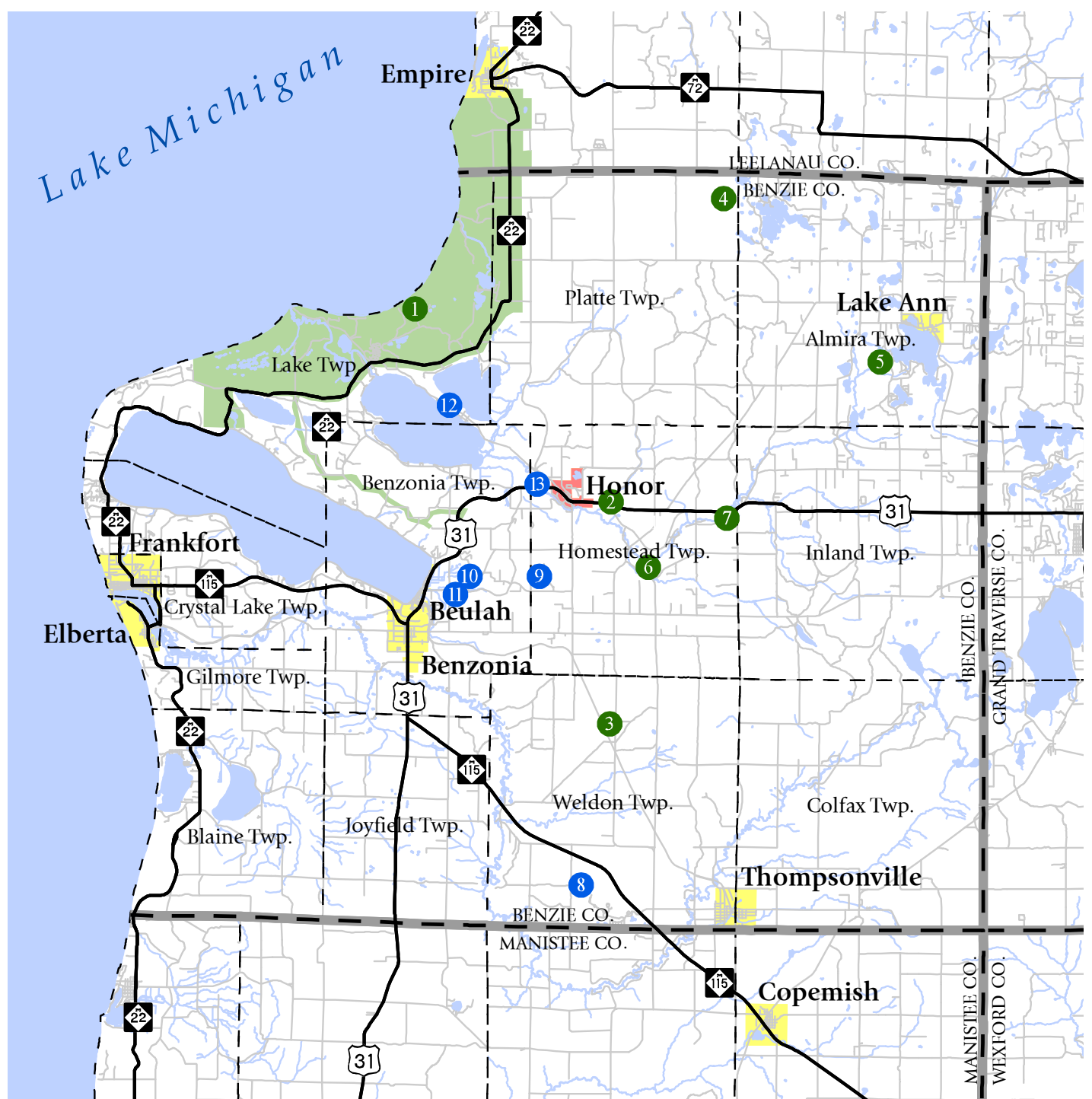
Adopted by the Village of Honor on February 12, 2014

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VILLAGE OF HONOR

Regional Recreation Inventory

GIS Data Source: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library

- Village of Honor
- City or Village
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
- County Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Major Road
- Minor Road

Public:

- 1 Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
- 2 Homestead Township Park
- 3 Betsie River Pathway (10 Miles)
- 4 Garey Lake Trail Camp
- 5 Lake Ann State Forest Campground and Lake Ann Pathway (5.8 Miles)
- 6 Platte River State Forest Campground and Platte River Pathway (2.5 Miles)
- 7 Veterans Memorial State Forest Campground

Private:

- 8 Crystal Mountain Resort
- 9 Champion Hill Golf Course
- 10 Crystal Lake Golf Club
- 11 Pinecroft Golf Course
- 12 Honor Trading Post
- 13 Cherry Bowl Drive-In

0 1 2 4 Miles





Community Description

The Village of Honor is located in lower northwest Michigan in Benzie County, approximately 25 miles southwest of Traverse City. The 341-acre, 328-resident Village of Honor is the relatively urban core of rural Homestead Township, which itself lies within Benzie County, part of a 5-county region that includes Grand Traverse, Benzie, Kalkaska, Antrim, and Leelanau counties. Benzie County is a member of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG).

This small, rural, historic village is located in the scenic Betsie Valley along the Platte River, thus often referred to as the "Village in the Valley." Honor is at the south end of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and just east of Crystal Lake, Platte Lake, and Little Platte Lake. Outdoor recreation is an important draw for new residents, and one of the primary economic drivers of the region.

Honor was founded in 1884 and incorporated in 1914. The Village of Honor has a proud history in logging and lumber processing, and was a stop along the Pere Marquette railroad line. Around the same time that the valuable stands of white pines that originally brought loggers to the area dwindled, the area's red elms were harvested and used to construct the Liberty Ships that delivered supplies during World War I. When the area's woodlands were mostly cleared during the 1920s, the lands they had occupied

were largely converted to agricultural use. What had been a bustling lumber town became a seasonal destination for fishermen, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, tourists, and resort-goers.

Today, the abundance of natural amenities at Honor's doorstep provides its residents and visitors with ample recreational opportunities. Honor and the Platte River have long been destinations for fishermen, and the village has hosted the annual Honor National Coho Festival every summer since 1967 in celebration of the salmon run up the rivers of Benzie County. Since salmon were first planted in the Platte River, Honor is known as the birthplace of salmon and salmon fishing in Michigan.

Traditional recreation plans address current recreational conditions while evaluating them against presumed recreational demands based on resident population facility standards. That form of recreation planning is weighted toward recreational facilities, discounting benefits associated with individualized recreation activities such as paddlesports, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, biking, and nature interpretation. This plan views recreation as a holistic system, not merely a series of functions, and takes into account active park considerations, facility needs, open space, trail development, and natural area preservation.

Demographics

Examining the demographic characteristics of Honor's relatively small population, and the larger population of surrounding Homestead Township, can provide valuable insight in the planning of the community's recreational needs. As the Village of Honor itself has a statistically small population size, having 328 persons in 135 households, and serves as the urban core for the larger Homestead Township, having 2,357 residents in 912 households, the majority of demographic data discussed here will be drawn from the Township. Overall population numbers are expected to remain fairly stable in the coming five years due to economic conditions, but demographic information is still a valuable tool in planning. For example, a population made up of a large percentage of young families might be better suited by certain recreational amenities than would a community with a large population of retirees.

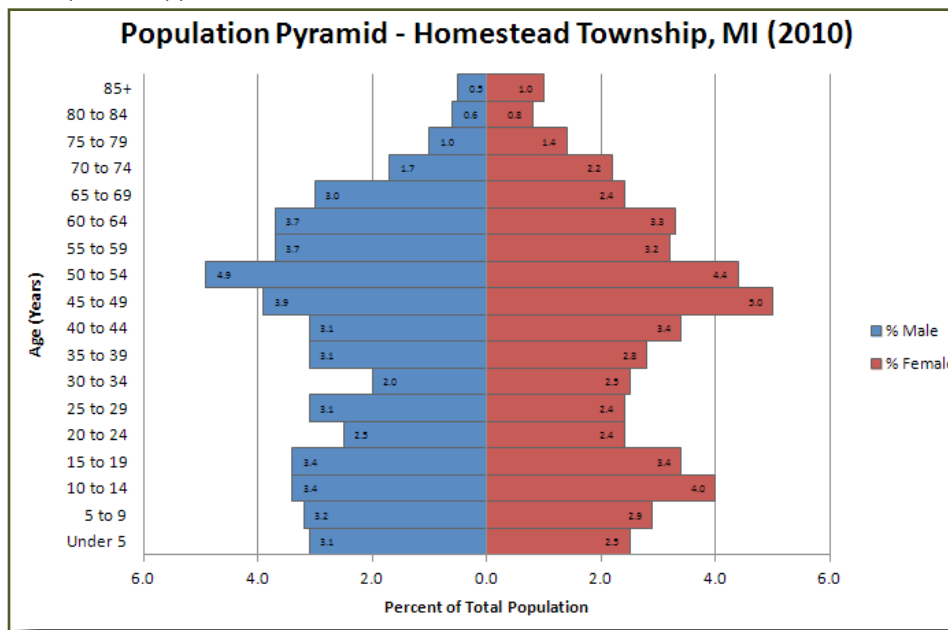
Age and Ability

Figure 2 displays a population pyramid for the population of Homestead Township, based on data from the 2010 US Census. Population pyramids typically paint a generalized picture of the age of the overall population based on where the "bulge" in the pyramid is located. A pyramid with a large bulge near its base is typically indicative of a population with a high birth rate. One that doesn't have an obvious bulge is indicative of a population that is relatively stable. In the case of Homestead Township, there is a bulge around the age group of 45 to 64 years of age, with a smaller bulge around 10 to 19 years of age. These bulges represent the "baby boom" of the 1950s and 1960s, and the "echo boom" of the 1990s as those baby boomers had children of their own.

The aging population trend demonstrated in this population pyramid is consistent with the trend throughout the United States, but more so in the state of Michigan and particularly northern Michigan. The aging trend of the local population is significant in planning for parks and recreational services and amenities. An aging population generally requires more opportunities for individualized pursuits; a younger population generally requires more opportunities to pursue social activities. Ensuring accessibility is a concern for both populations; although an aging population has a higher prevalence of disabilities, accessible or universally designed facilities appeal to families with young children as well, regardless of whether a member of the family has a disability.

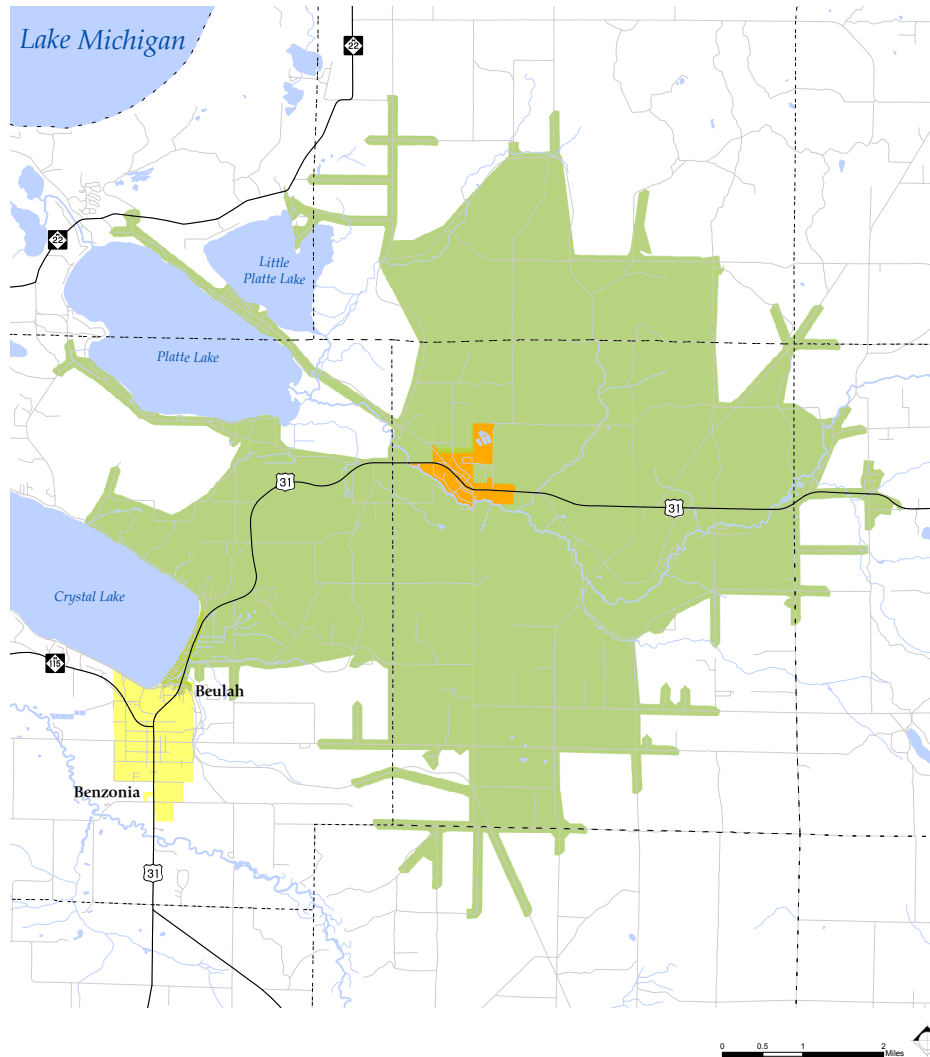
In the 2000 Census, approximately 20% of those aged 5-20 years old had a disability; 18.4% of those aged

2: Population pyramid



21-64 had a disability, and more than 60% of those more than 64 years of age had a disability. These percentages overall are higher than the township as a whole, at 13.3%, 19.4%, and 55.7% respectively, indicating that the population of those with disabilities may be concentrated somewhat in the Village. This underscores the need to provide accessible access to recreation opportunities and accessible facilities within the Village.

3: Drive time map



Village of Honor 10 Minute Drive Time

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library

- 10 Minute Drive Time
- Village of Honor
- Village Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Major Road
- Minor Road

B R I
Beckett&Raede

Income and Recreation Spending Characteristics

The median household income for Homestead Township is \$46,889 per year, based on estimates from the US Census Bureau. This is higher than the rest of Benzie County at \$44,718/year, but lower than the median household income for the state of Michigan at \$48,432/ year. On average, approximately 3% of this income is spent on recreation.

On an annual basis, resident households within a 10-minute drive time of Honor, shown in Figure 3, spend the highest percentage of their recreation dollars on recreational vehicles and associated fees; the second-highest spending category is water sports equipment. Spending in both of these categories is above the national average. Spending in photographic equipment and winter sports equipment are in line with the national average; spending in other categories, such as camping equipment, is significantly below the national average.

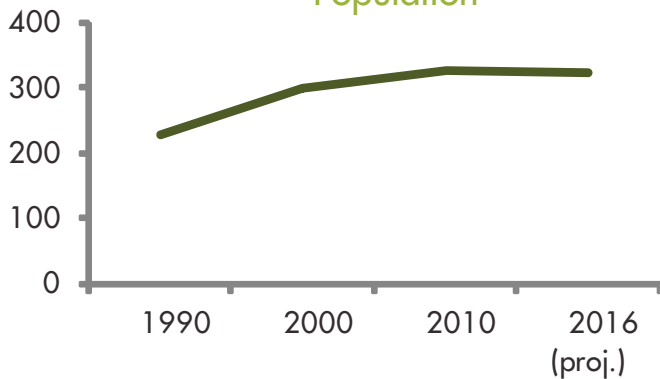
Spending levels likely reflect three factors: annual income that is lower than average, an existing stock of recreation equipment, and the relatively low cost of many outdoor recreation opportunities in the area. It is also of note that these data only reflect the spending habits of residents; the region attracts a large number of tourists annually, whose recreation spending habits in the area are likely quite different.

Demographic Dashboard

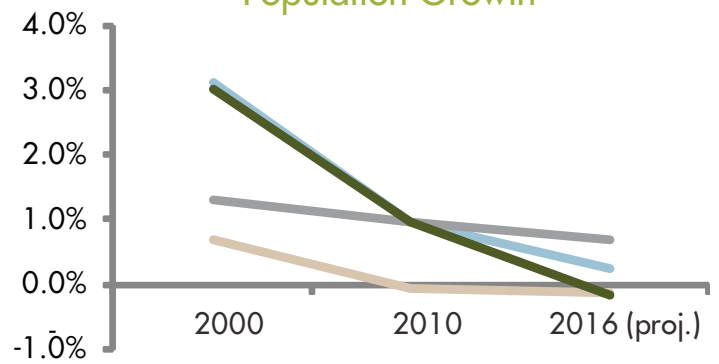
Key for population and prosperity index graphs:

■ Honor ■ Benzie County ■ Michigan ■ United States

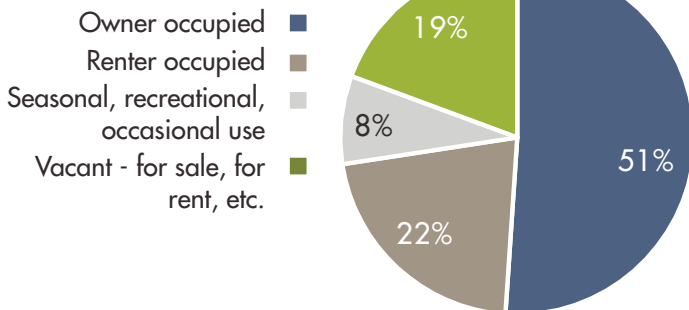
Population



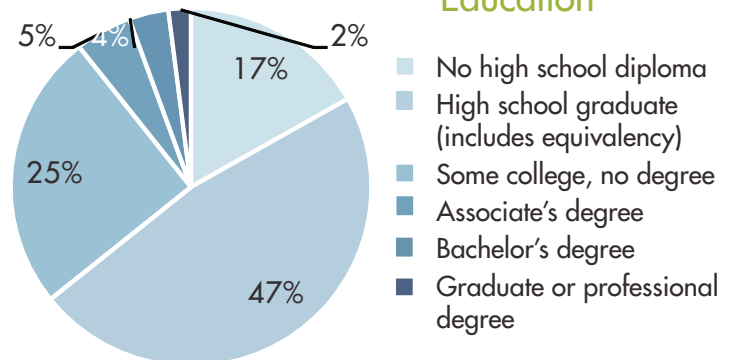
Population Growth



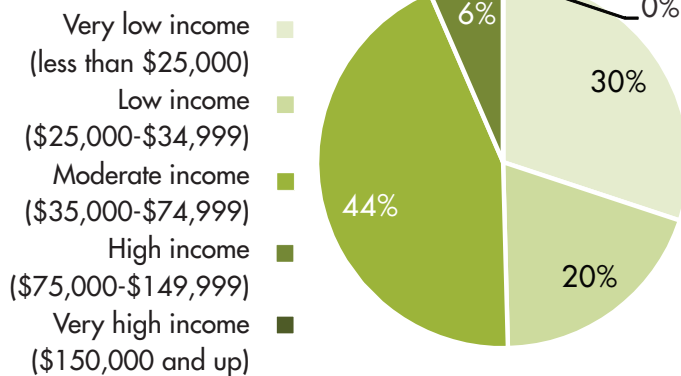
Housing



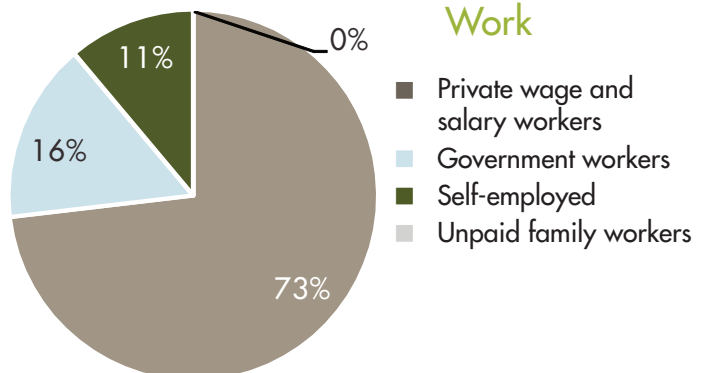
Education



Household Income

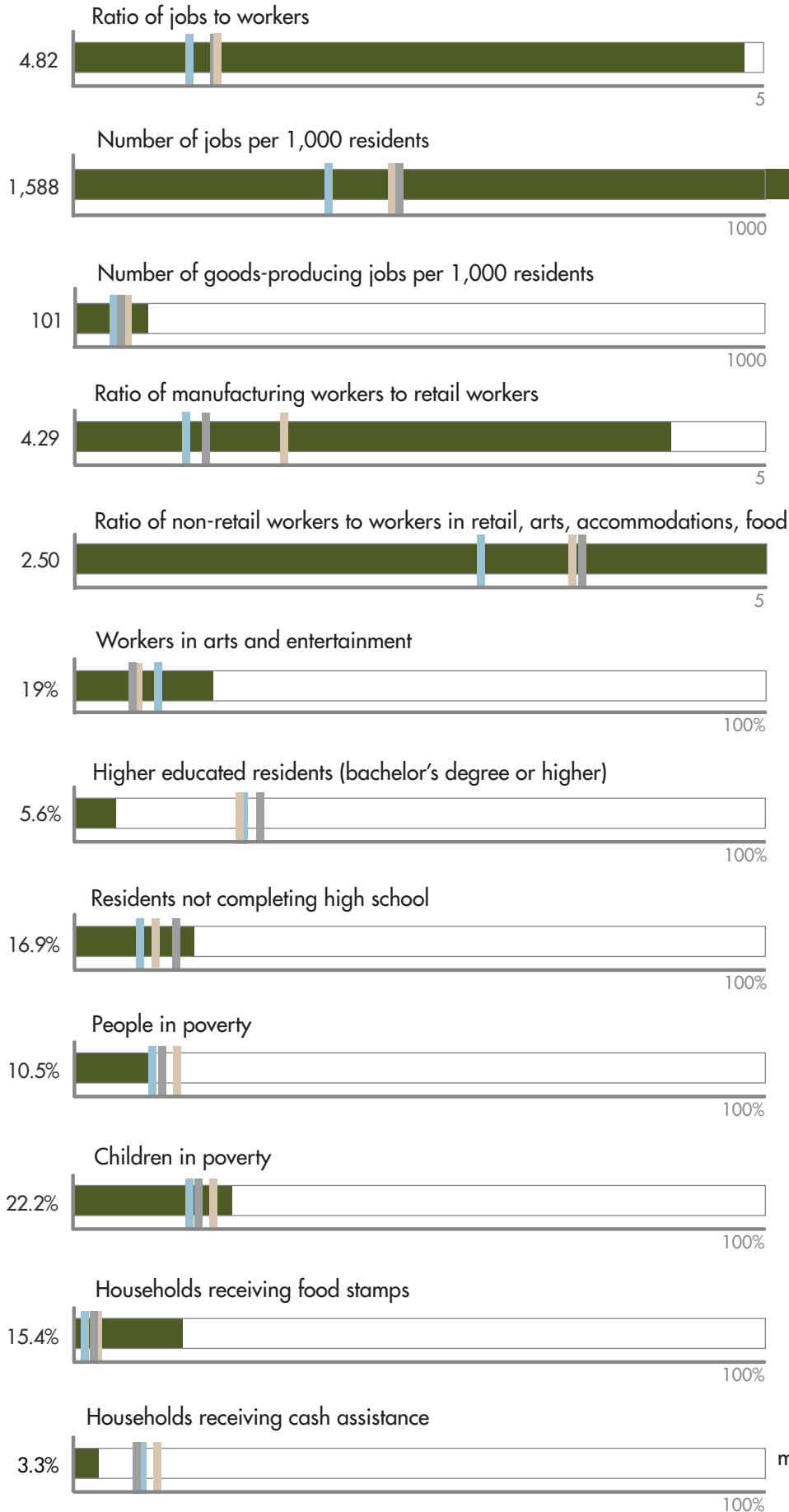


Work



Classifications modified from HUD guidelines, using the state median income of \$48,432.

Prosperity Index



Households

2.16
person average household size
\$103,500
owner-occupied median home value
\$707
median gross rent

Education

14%
population enrolled in school
83%
high school graduate or higher
6%
bachelor's degree or higher

Commuting

88%
workers who commute
82%
commuters who drive alone
23.8
minute average commute

Employment

521
jobs
108
workers
12.2%
unemployment rate
9%
civilian veterans

Income

\$35,417
median household income
\$21,000
median earnings for workers
\$27,500
male full-time, year-round earnings
\$29,028
female full-time, year-round earnings
10.5%
population in poverty
22.2%
children in poverty

Top Industrial Sectors

22%
retail trade
20%
management of companies and enterprises
12%
public administration

Climate

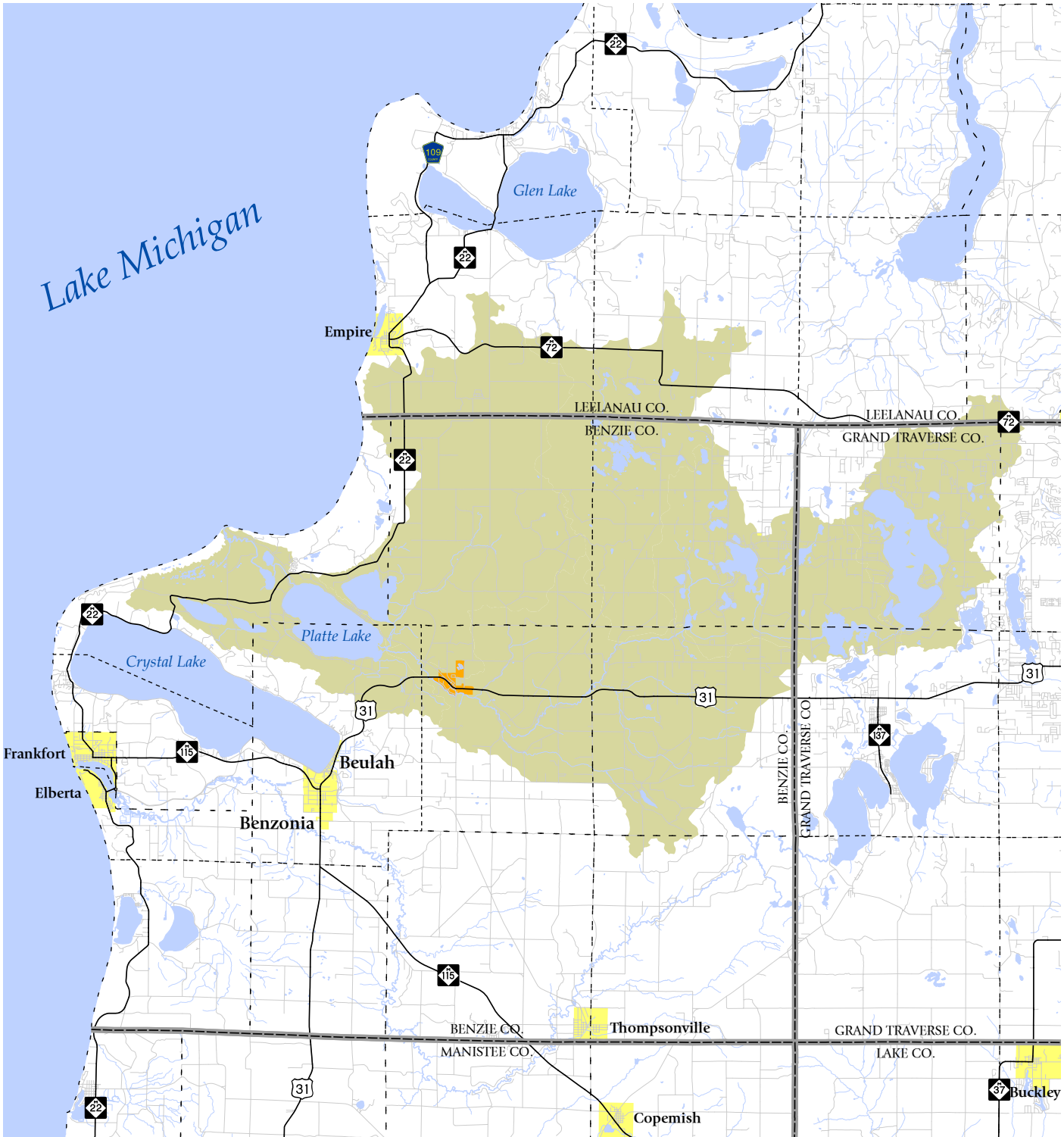
Honor's climate is affected a great deal by its location near Lake Michigan. Average seasonal rainfall in Benzie County is 35 inches, most of which falls in May through October, during the growing season. The average temperature in winter is 24, with an average minimum of 19; in summer the average temperature is 66, and the average maximum is 75. The average annual rainfall is 35 inches, thunderstorms occurring on average around 37 days per year between May and September, and the average annual snowfall is 115 inches. Generally, on about 109 days per year, there is at least one inch of snow on the ground. Overall, the summer climate is mild, and the abundance of snow lends itself to winter recreation.



Soil and Slopes

Soils in Honor are sandy, and the village itself lies in a distinct valley lined by steep slopes. Those slopes to the south-west of the river lie outside the boundaries of the village, but those bluffs to the north-east of the river are within the village bounds. At the top of the north-east bluffs is large-lot residential development, but as the slopes themselves are steep enough that nothing has yet been built on them. Given the sandy nature of the soil in this region, the slopes are likely delicate and may warrant conservation. Honor has recognized that the natural beauty of the northern Lower Peninsula region is a significant draw for both residents and visitors; allowing further development on these bluffs may be a slippery slope of trading long-standing assets for short-term economic gain. During the 2011 “EnVision Honor” redevelopment strategy visioning process, the beauty of the bluffs was recognized as a significant cultural asset; they contribute strongly to the cultural identity of Honor as the “Village in the Valley.”





Village of Honor Watershed

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library

- Platte River Watershed
- Village of Honor
- City or Village
- County Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Major Road
- Minor Road

Watershed

The Village of Honor is located entirely within the Platte River watershed, shown opposite, which extends westward from Long Lake in Grand Traverse County to Lake Michigan. It reaches north into Leelanau County and then turns southward, covering most of the northern half of Benzie County. The total drainage area is approximately 193 square miles, of which the Village of Honor comprises only 0.3%. 82% of the watershed is forested, open lands, and wetlands; 12% is in agricultural use; and 7% is in urbanized areas. The Village of Honor comprises approximately 4% of that urbanized area. A watershed management plan was developed in 2002 and adopted by the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Goals from the Watershed Plan have been incorporated into this plan, as the health of the river and its watershed are directly linked to the economic and recreational capacity of Honor.

The Platte River is an important cultural and recreational asset to the Village of Honor. The Platte has long been known for its excellent sport fishing opportunities; in the early 1800s it was known for its grayling fishing, then in the 1800s and early 1900s it was well-known for brook trout fishing. During the late 1920s, however, rainbow trout began to dominate the creel reports, having been planted in other Lake Michigan rivers in the early 1900s. Rainbow trout population crashed in the late 1950s, in large part due to predation in the Great Lakes by the invasive sea lamprey. In an effort to restore the fishery and to control the invasive alewife population, coho salmon were stocked into the Platte, an action that in 1967 spawned Honor's annual Coho Festival held in AB Maley Park. Coho salmon continue to be planted in the river today as demand for the fish outpaces its natural replacement rate. The DNR is currently exploring the idea of stocking the Lake Huron fishery, into which the Platte feeds, with Atlantic salmon as well. These fish are reared at the Department of Natural Resources' Platte River Hatchery, less than five miles upstream of Honor. This facility is itself a regional recreational resource due to the onsite Great Lakes Ecological Information Center that includes both an interpretive trail and an exhibit room. Sport fishing on the river and its lakes continues to be a major pastime for Honor residents and visitors, as do kayaking and canoeing.

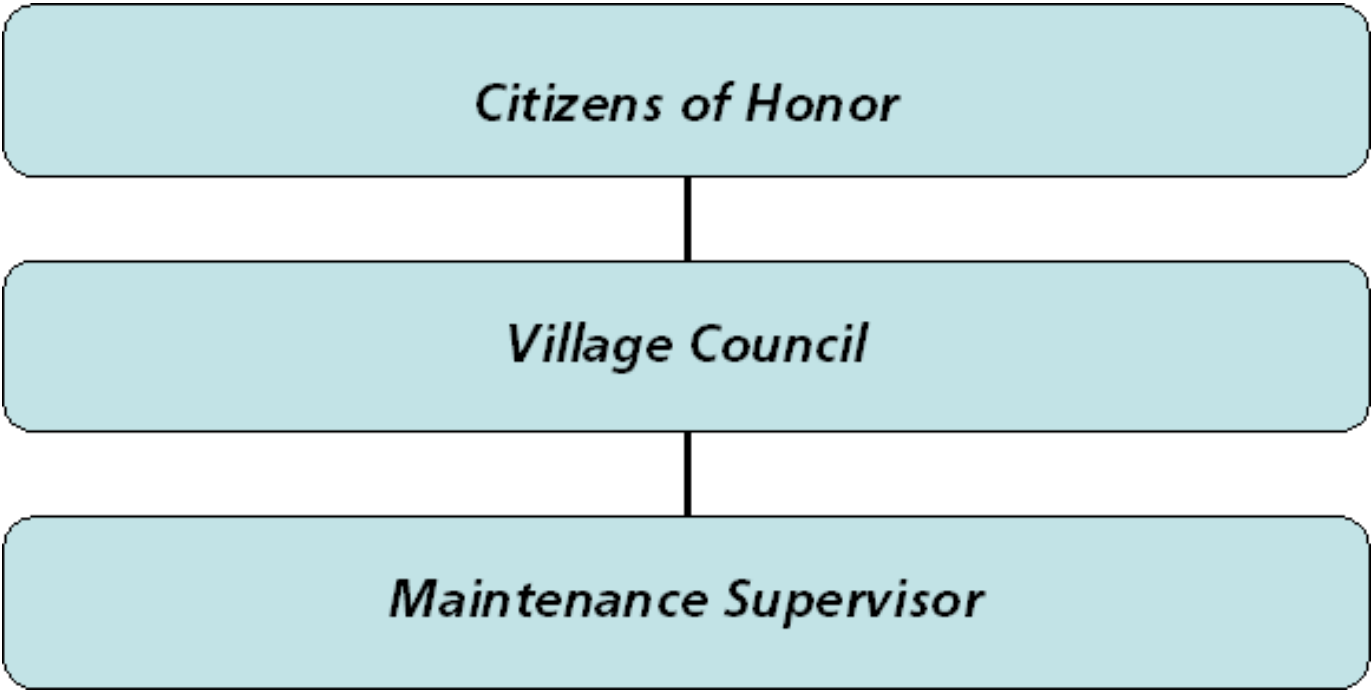
Administrative Structure

The Village of Honor is established as a Michigan Home Rule Village under the Michigan Home Rule Village Act (PA 278 of 1909). Of the 260 incorporated villages in the state of Michigan, Honor is one of 48 to adopt a Home Rule charter. As an incorporated village, Honor holds elections separate from Homestead Township for a Village president, clerk, and legislative body, and is free to exercise powers of local self-government. A Village President and four Trustees are elected to run the Village. The property owners of Honor pay a property tax to the Village in addition to taxes paid to Homestead Township (27.12 mils for village in addition to 19.55 mils for the township).

The Village of Honor has no full-time professional public-administrator, such as a village manager or supervisor, nor does it have a parks & recreation director. Honor depends on a committee structure to manage the day-to-day operations of the Village and its two public parks. Figure 5 displays the Village of Honor’s administrative structure. The village board is the sole legislative, budgeting, and decision-making entity for the parks.

In 2011, the total village budget for Buildings and Maintenance was \$33,982. Of that amount, approximately \$1,500 was spent on upkeep of the parks.

5: Administrative structure



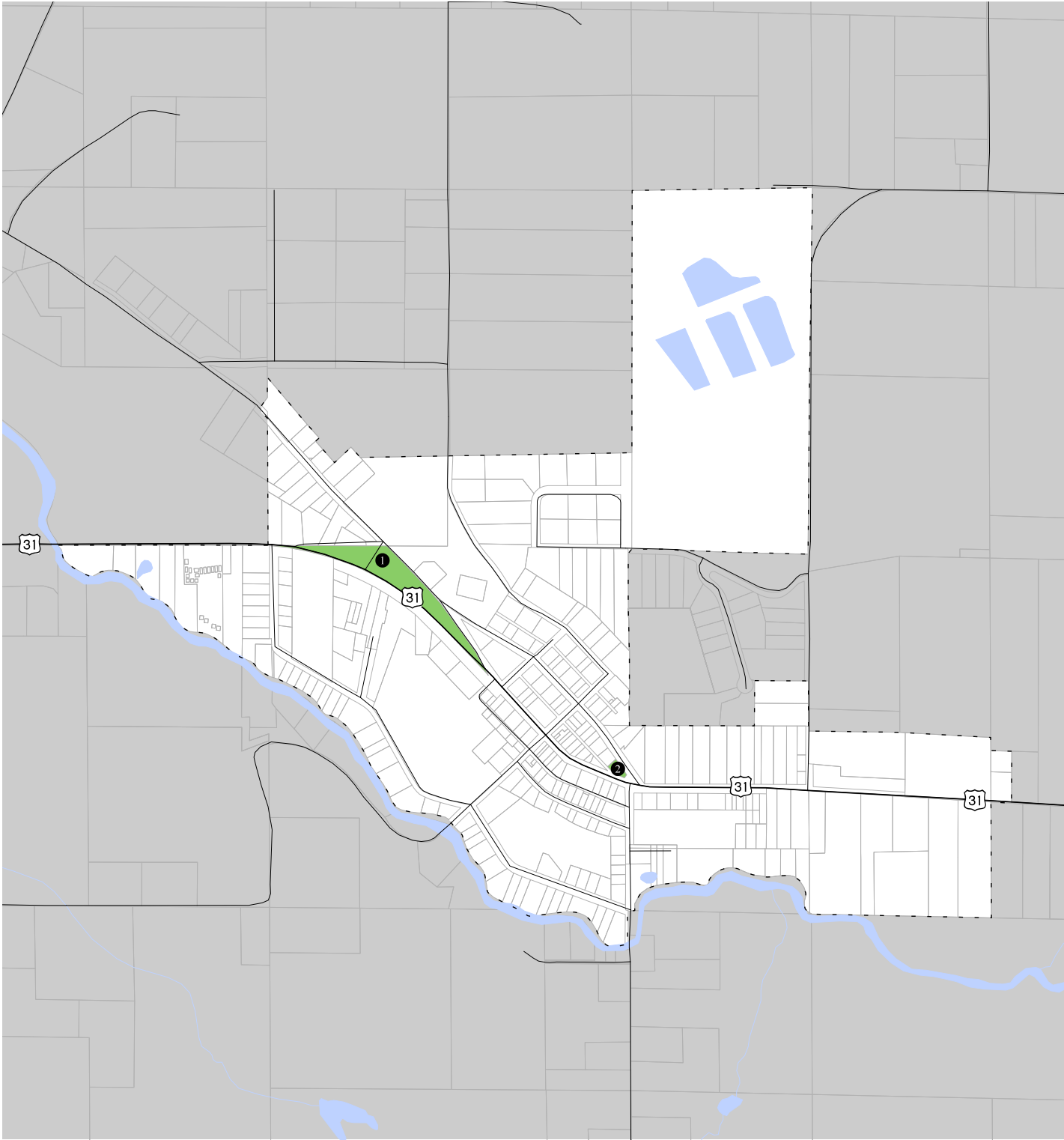




Recreation Inventory







Local recreation facilities in the village of Honor consist of three types: public recreation facilities, public schools recreational facilities, and private recreation facilities. The map in Figure 6 displays the public recreation facilities. The three local recreation types are as follows.





Village of Honor Recreation Parks

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Benzie County Equalization

-  Recreation Park
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Village of Honor Boundary
-  Road
-  1 AB Maley Park
-  2 Memorial Park

Local Recreation Inventory

Public Recreation Facilities

The Village of Honor owns and operates two public parks: A.B. Maley Park and Memorial Park, both shown opposite in Figure 6. The parks' accessibility levels were ranked using the DNR's 2006 guidelines. Neither the Village of Honor nor Homestead Township has ever been a recipient of a grant from the DNR's Natural Resources Trust Fund, the National Park Service's Land & Water Conservation Fund, the Clean Michigan Initiative Recreation Bond Fund, or the 1988 Recreation Bond Fund.

A.B. Maley Park, named after the late local tree farmer and conservationist Alex Maley, is a two acre neighborhood park on the north side of US-31/Main Street, just west of downtown Honor. The park features an artesian spring-fed well, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground equipment, and vehicle parking. A small footbridge on the south side of the park allows pedestrian access from US-31 over the highway ditch; the bridge was rebuilt as part of an Eagle Scout project in 2012 to enable wheelchair and bicycle access. The park is the primary gathering and staging area for the annual Coho Festival. Accessibility Assessment = 2: some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

Memorial Park is approximately ½ acre in area, located on the north side of US-31/Main Street and adjacent to the Honor Post Office. The park features a memorial to veterans of World War II. Accessibility Assessment = 1: none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

Public School Recreational Facilities

Benzie County Central School District's Platte River Elementary School, located at the east end of Honor, includes a gymnasium and playground, along with access to the adjacent Homestead Park. The school allows private parties to rent the indoor facilities, and the outdoor playground is open to the public when school is not in session. Accessibility Assessment = 2.

Private Recreation Facilities

There are three lodging facilities in Honor: the Platte River Pines Resort on the west side of Honor, the Cedar Ridge Cabins on the east side of Honor, and the Honor Motel downtown. The Platte River Pines Resort is a popular destination for fishermen as well as canoe and kayak enthusiasts. Both the Platte River Pines and the Honor Motel are open year-round; Cedar Ridge Cabins close for the winter season. There are many lodging facilities within a 30-minute drive of Honor; many operate only during the summer months.

Bud's In Honor and other area businesses offer canoe and kayak rentals along with supplies.

Regional Recreation Inventory

A wealth of attractions and natural beauty surround the Village of Honor. There are ample opportunities for recreation – both public and private - throughout the region. The vast majority of these opportunities are outdoor recreation, including fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, swimming, hiking, riding, biking, and skiing. Within easy driving distance are two State campgrounds; the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, softball and baseball diamonds, and regional trails serving a variety of users, including the Platte River Snowmobile Trail, the Platte River Water Trail, the Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail, and the Betsie Valley Trail.

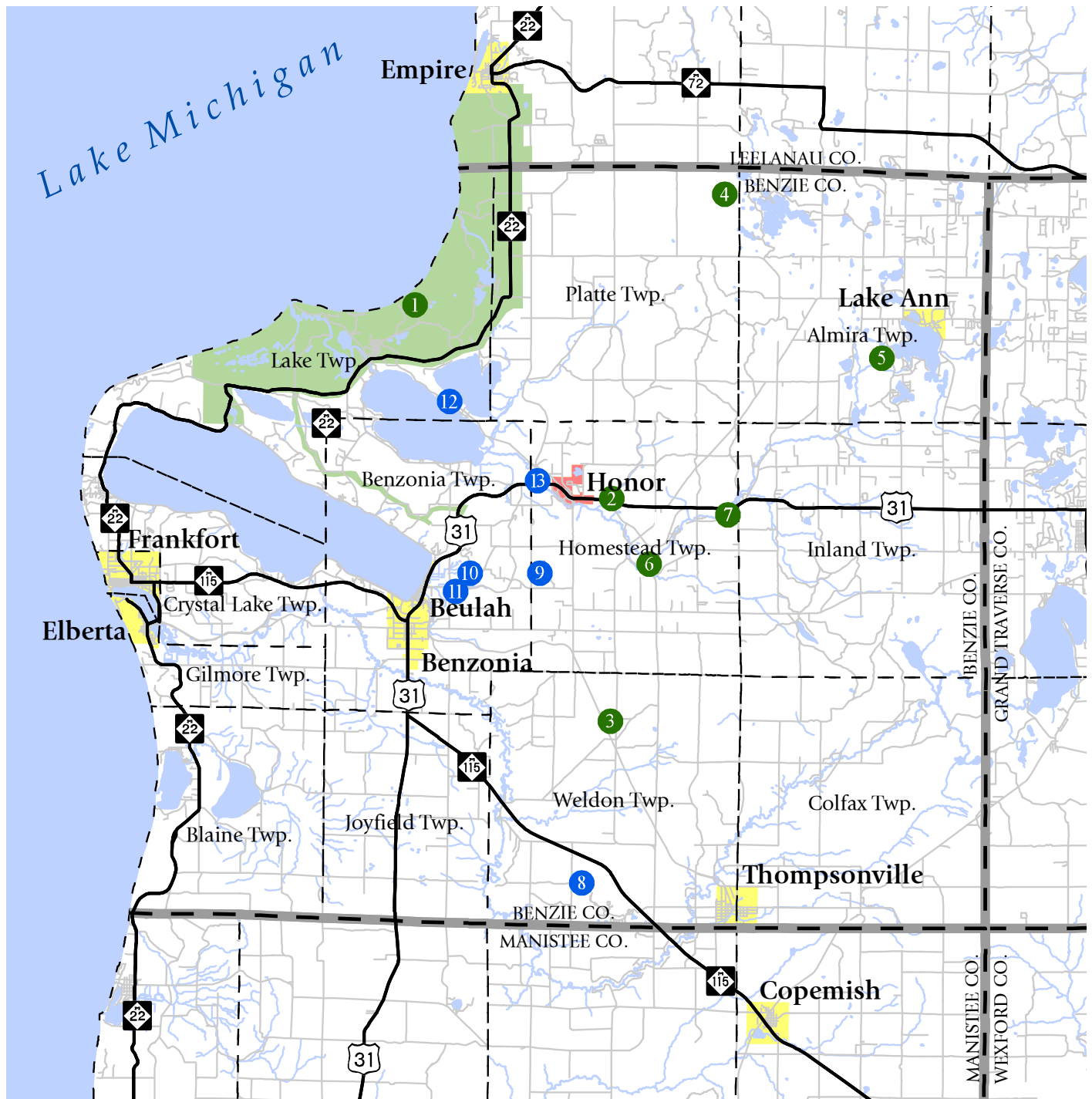
The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is located just minutes from Honor and was named “Most Beautiful Place in America” by ABC’s “Good Morning America” in 2011. The Dunes feature nearly every outdoor recreational activity imaginable – biking, hiking, climbing, fishing, swimming, camping, canoeing/kayaking, skiing, snow-shoeing, and many others.

Homestead Township Park, operated by Homestead Township, is just outside the Village of Honor, adjacent to Platte River Elementary to the east. The 34-acre community park features four baseball/softball fields, two picnic pavilions, a playground, and a walking trail. Many residents of Honor consider this their primary group recreation park.

The MDNR manages two campgrounds in Homestead Township; the Veteran’s Memorial State Forest Campground and the Platte River State Forest Campground.

The Platte River provides opportunities for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, tubing, and general enjoyment of plant and wildlife, and is part of the Platte River Water Trail.

There are many private recreation facilities in the region, many of which facilitate outdoor recreation. There are several canoe and kayak liveries, such as Bud’s In Honor; many stores catering to campers, such as the Honor Trading Post on Deadstream Road in Homestead Township; flyfishing outfitters in Lake Ann to the north; lake charters to the west in Frankfort for both touring and fishing; and even Crystal Mountain resort, to the south in Thompsonville, that offers outdoor recreation opportunities including downhill skiing, cross-country-skiing, golf, and mountain biking as well as indoor entertainment such as waterpark, dining, and a full-service spa. The Cherry Bowl Drive-In, on US-31 slightly outside Honor to the west, is an authentic 50s-era drive-in movie theater that has been open every summer since 1953. It features family-friendly double features.



VILLAGE OF HONOR

Regional Recreation Inventory

GIS Data Source: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library

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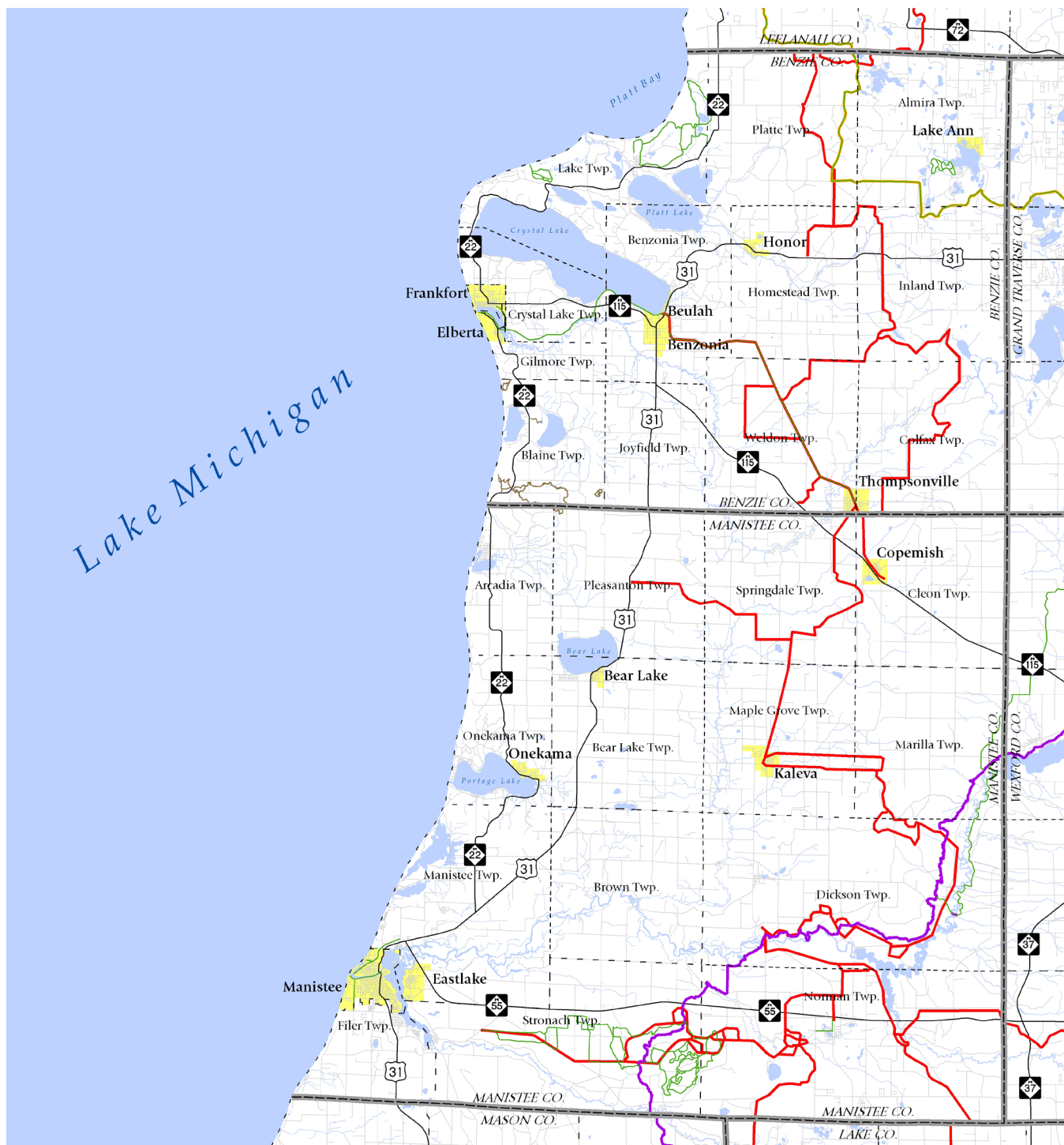
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- 13 Cherry Bowl Drive-In











0 1 2 4 Miles





Regional Recreational Trails

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, MDOT, NWMCOG, GTRLC

- | | |
|---|---|
|  City or Village |  GTRLC Trail |
|  County Boundary |  Equestrian Trail |
|  Township Boundary |  Snowmobile Trail |
|  Major Road |  North Country Trail |
|  Minor Road |  Non-Motorized Multi Use Trail |



Recreational trails

The Michigan Statewide Trails Initiative of 1992 defines a trailway as “a land corridor passing through the community or countryside...accommodating a variety of public recreation uses.”

Recent research casts trails in the role of community superhero, providing economic, environmental, recreational, health, and even safety benefits. They offer transportation alternatives to the car. They are exercise opportunities that lead directly to better medical outcomes. They're sites of chance meetings with neighbors and wildlife. They can provide a buffer between natural areas and inhabited ones. They draw in visitors from other communities. Their activity can enliven an area that would otherwise look desolate enough to invite crime.

But however many worthy benefits a trail might provide, its *raison d'être* can often be boiled down to one word: fun. Michigan's citizenry comes together in myriad ways to identify, create, and maintain an extensive and varied trail network. For example, our 6,200-mile web of snowmobile trails, 181 miles of which run through Benzie and Manistee counties, is one of only three such systems in the country. Half of the system is on private lands while the other half is distributed among federal, state, and other public lands; all utilize grant program grooming tractors for maintenance. The 22-mile-long Betsie Valley Trail that follows the abandoned Ann Arbor Railroad bed is another collaborative example: owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, it is maintained by Benzie County and supported by the not-for-profit Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail corporation. The Shore to Shore Riding and Hiking Trail that cuts across the northeast corner of Benzie County was established in 1964 by the Michigan Trail Riders Association, and the only “riding” to be done on this journey between Oscoda on Lake Huron and Empire on Lake Michigan is on a horse—neither motors nor bicycles are welcome. The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has made trails an integral part of its land stewardship mission. And the federally-managed North Country Trail is a footpath that traverses seven states between New York and North Dakota; the Huron-Manistee is one of the 10 national forests it touches on in its 4,600 mile journey.

9: Table of trail miles

	Benzie	Manistee	Total
Snowmobile	63.13	118.68	181.81
Equestrian	15.36	0	15.36
Nonmotorized	60.01	64.91	124.96
North Country Trail	0	33.21	33.21
GTRLC	14.71	2.07	16.79

Trout streams

One of the region's major recreational draws is the wealth of opportunities for fishing, both in Lake Michigan and in its inland lakes, rivers, and streams.

The map displayed in Figure 10 identifies the designated trout streams in Benzie and Manistee counties. Viable trout streams are generally defined by three characteristics: coarse soils, limited development (including limited pavement and other impervious surfaces), and an abundance of groundwater. State-designated Blue Ribbon Trout Streams meet even stricter criteria: they support excellent stock of wild resident trout, permit fly casting while remaining shallow enough to wade in, produce diverse insect life, and have excellent water quality.

Trout are good indicators of water quality in general because of their reliance on benthic macroinvertebrate diversity—the bugs, larvae, and other organisms that live on the bottom of a body of water. These creatures thrive in streams with high levels of dissolved oxygen, and this means clean, cold water for two reasons: water's ability to hold dissolved oxygen decreases as temperature increases, and the bacteria in organic waste can quickly consume all available dissolved oxygen. When present, aquatic macroinvertebrates help maintain the water quality by eating bacteria and decayed plants, then become a source of food themselves for the resident fish population.

The Platte River from Maple City Road to Honor and Bear Creek upstream of Nine Mile Road both have Blue Ribbon designations. The Platte River stretch hosts the state's fish hatchery, which raises chinook and coho salmon and produces coho eggs for the entire upper Great Lakes. Despite Bear Creek's modest name, its flows are similar to the Little Manistee and Pine Rivers, and the tributary provides the Manistee River system with its wild runs of steelhead trout and salmon.

Benthic macroinvertebrates



Mayfly



Dragonfly



Caddisfly



Steelhead trout

Photo: Cheri and Tony Barnhart

10: Trout locations map



Trout Locations

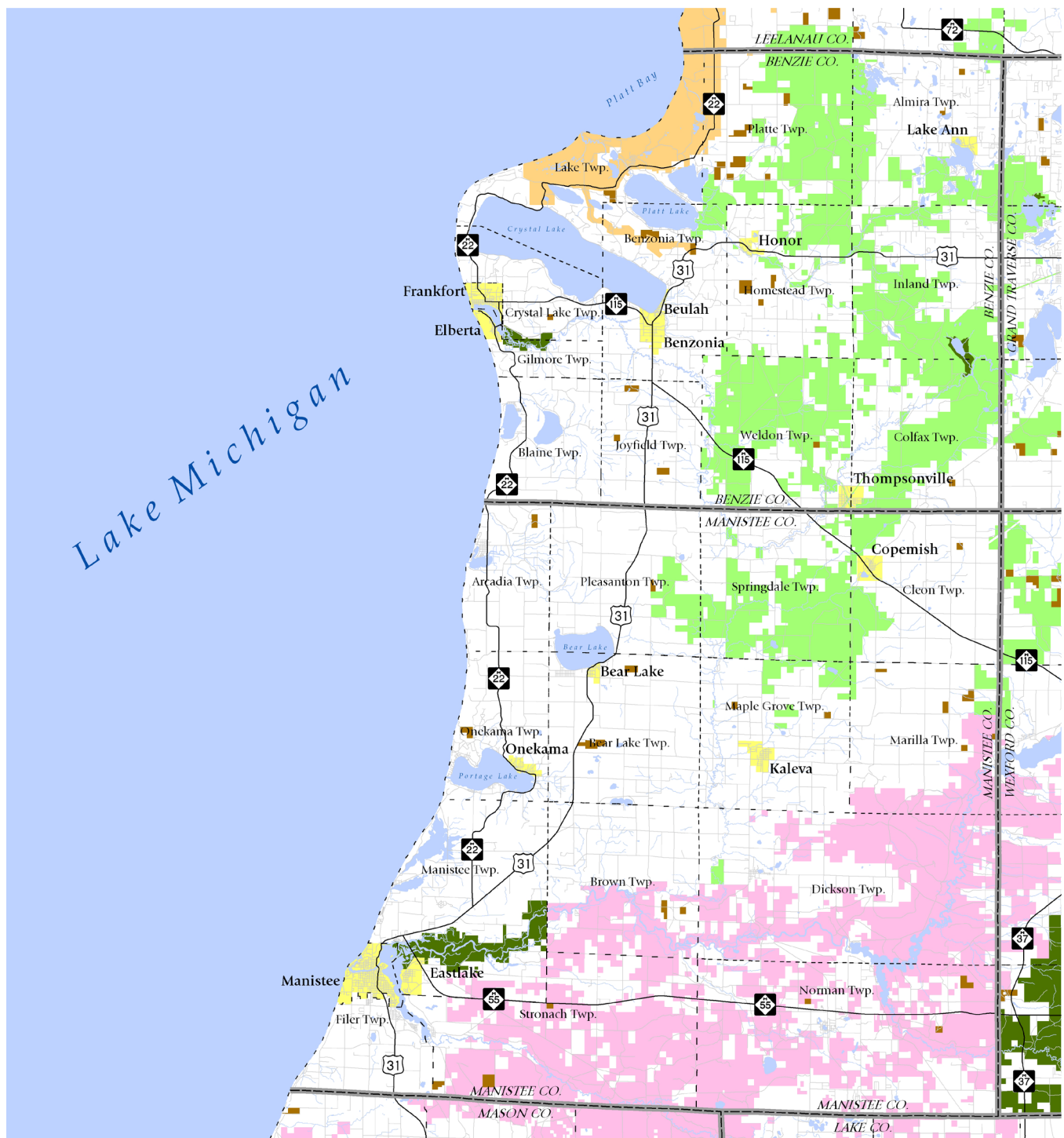
Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library

- City or Village
- Trout Stream
- Blue Ribbon Trout Stream

- County Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Major Road
- Minor Road

0 2 4 8 Miles





Lands Open to Public Hunting

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, MDNR

Open to Public Hunting:

- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Commercial Forest Act Lands
- State Forest Land
- State Wildlife/Game Areas

- City or Village
- County Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Major Road
- Minor Road

Hunting

Want to hunt deer, elk, rabbit, hare, squirrel, pheasant, grouse, woodcock, quail, crow, coyote, opossum, porcupine, weasel, skunk, woodchuck, turkey, or waterfowl? There's a license for that.



Jake turkeys in Onekama

Photo: Al Taylor

The Department of Natural Resources, responsible for fish and wildlife management, regulations, and habitat protection, is primarily funded through two mechanisms: the direct sale of hunting and fishing licenses, and the leveraging of those proceeds for use in the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) project. The WSFR program, which turned 75 in 2012, levies a tax of 10% to 11% on sporting arms, ammunition, bows, arrows, and crossbows and then returns that money to state conservation departments (in Michigan, the MDNR) through 3-to-1 matching grants. So, every \$1 spent on a hunting license yields \$4 in conservation funding.

It's a system that many like because it directly ties the cost of preserved land to its use. But it is also a system in which land conservation for all reasons is vulnerable to changes in hunting behavior. The chart below shows that sales for all licenses have declined steadily over the past five years, both numerically and as a share of the overall population. The magnified rate of return provided by the WSFR program also works in reverse: for every \$1 lost in hunting license sales, MDNR must make up a \$4 budget shortfall. This has led the department to urge all who are interested in conservation to buy a license—whether you plan to hunt or not.

12: Hunting licenses table

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change 2006- 2011	% change 2006- 2011
Hunting license type ^a	Bear ^b	9,457	9,516	10,180	8,953	8,975	9,020	-437	-4.6%
	Deer	734,089	724,198	733,993	725,186	697,454	691,181	-42,908	-5.8%
	Elk ^b	204	166	355	366	227	154	-50	-24.5%
	Fur harvester	24,024	24,387	24,148	23,331	24,411	25,813	1,789	7.4%
	Small game	295,349	293,659	273,262	266,549	261,032	256,175	-39,174	-13.3%
	Turkey ^c	132,764	127,772	124,570	127,120	125,093	114,139	-18,625	-14.0%
	Spring turkey	125,933	121,487	118,021	120,769	115,101	106,880	-19,053	-15.1%
	Fall turkey	21,951	20,877	20,561	20,758	27,310	20,905	-1,046	-4.8%
	Waterfowl	60,403	58,866	58,040	58,214	56,688	55,724	-4,679	-7.7%
	All types	814,003	800,921	805,299	798,256	772,114	763,059	-50,944	-6.3%
MI population		10,082,438	10,050,847	10,002,486	9,969,727	9,883,640	9,876,187	-206,251	-2.0%
Licenses per capita		0.0807	0.0797	0.0805	0.0801	0.0781	0.0773	-0.003	-4.3%

Source: Brian J. Frawley, MDNR.

^aWithin each license type, a person is counted only once regardless of the number of licenses purchased.

^bA restricted number of licenses were available, and these licenses were distributed using a random drawing.

^cSome but not all of turkey hunting licenses were distributed using a random drawing.

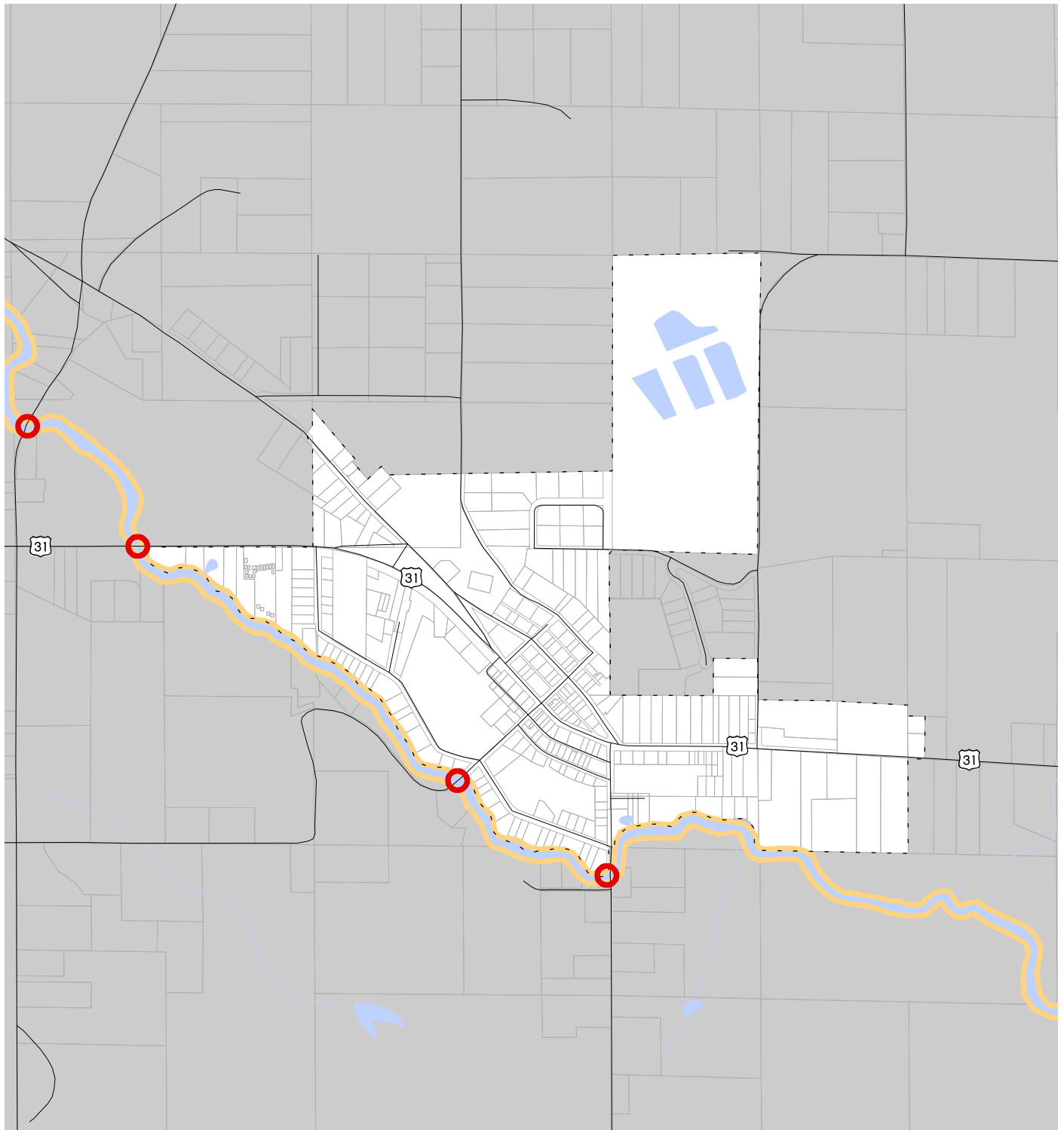
^dTotal for all types does not equal sum of all license types because people can purchase multiple license types.

Resource Inventory

River Access






During the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Forum held on July 17, one of the primary objectives identified was for the village to gain public access to the Platte River, perhaps at a new park. Amenities envisioned for this park included a public parking area with restroom facilities, an accessible canoe/kayak launch and/or livery, and a connection between the new park and the regional trail system. At least one property currently under private ownership was discussed as a potential target for public acquisition due to its size, proximity to both the river and to downtown, and its accessibility. The map on the opposite page identifies the general vicinity of areas identified as potential locations of interest for a future park and/or Platte River access point.





Village of Honor Resource Inventory

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Benzie County Equalization

-  Intersection of Public Road and Platte River
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Sites Within 50' of River
-  Village of Honor Boundary
-  Road



Planning and Public Input

In early 2011, the Village of Honor and the Honor Area Restoration Project (HARP) began a planning process to create a revitalization strategy for the village and the area surrounding it – the “Honor Community Revitalization Strategy”. One of the outcomes of that planning process was a report documenting several revitalization goals and action strategies, and one of the “First Step” strategies recommended in that report was the creation of a 5-year parks and recreation master plan to be filed with the MDNR.

As part of the planning process for the Honor Community Revitalization Strategy, the Village and HARP hosted the “EnVision Honor” community input session in April 2011. That session, attended by approximately 140 residents, included discussions on a number of topics that included parks and recreation needs. The participants identified such

recreational amenities as the Coho Festival, Maley Park, and the wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities in the area, including fishing, hunting, swimming, and paddling as assets from which to build. Identified as areas of opportunity were capturing tourist business in Honor; making Honor more pedestrian, snowmobile, and bicycle friendly; and to improve access to the Platte within or near the Village. The full Honor Revitalization Report, including a detailed accounting of the community visioning process, can be found at the Honor Area Restoration Project website, www.restorehonor.org. The full list of collective priorities of the community can be found in the Honor Revitalization Strategy; many of these involved recreation. The feedback gathered in this process helped to inform this plan and direct its public process.



Community Forum and Survey

Forum

On July 17, 2012, the village of Honor hosted a Parks and Recreation Community Forum at the Village Hall. The eighteen attendees of the Community Forum participated in a collection of group brainstorming activities, including exercises related to the community's local and regional recreation opportunities. The participants were asked to list the community's needs with respect to public recreation facilities and programming, and then to prioritize those needs. The participants also completed a survey that inventoried how, when, where, and how often they participate in recreational activities in and around the village, and what recreational assets could be added and/or enhanced.

The table in Figure 9 lists the desired recreational assets identified by the participants during the Community Forum, as well as their respective prioritization by the participants. Once

the inventory of desired assets was compiled, each participant was given the opportunity to vote on their personal top three. The numbers to the right of each desired asset represent the number of votes that asset received from the participants.

Survey

A survey was made available to the community for a period of a month during the summer. All participants in the community forum took the survey, and paper copies were available at the Village Hall. A total of seventeen people completed the survey, for a response rate of approximately 5%.

Of those who completed the survey, only about 30% lived in Honor itself, and 56% lived elsewhere in Homestead Township. Tenure of residency was relatively short, with more than half of residents having lived in their current home for less than ten years, but more than 90% of respondents owned their home.

Respondents reported using AB Maley Park far more than either Memorial or Platte River Elementary, and the more than 70% felt that maintenance of the Village parks was good or excellent. Many respondents noted that regional resources they used were Sleeping Bear Dunes and the river; popular activities included biking, boating/kayaking/canoeing, hiking, and walking. All respondents favored establishing a public park or access area along the Platte; only one of these respondents was not in favor of using any Village funds to do so. When asked to prioritize recreation improvements

14: Community forum prioritization table	Votes
Fisheries plan with MDNR, ADA/Universal Design fish cleaning station	13
Public Park on South Street with access to river; canoe, kayak; potential 52-A, US-31 (Cook property)	13
Bike trail: Honor to Beulah, regional connections	9
Public access to river; US-31, trail, parking, visitor info	8
Multi-use and youth center: exercise, events, etc	5
Snowmobile access to village; signs; connection to townships	2
Community garden; farmers' market	2
Optimize AB Maley Park: horseshoe, shuffleboard, water feature, tennis courts, road changes	1
Scenic overlook	0
AB Maley: winter skating	0
Playground for kids at Homestead Township Park	0
Little League: upgrade	0
Public restroom: AB Maley Park or downtown	0
No events space; Maley has been used	0

15: Survey response word cloud



for certain age groups, respondents ranked adults aged 18-65 first, then high schoolers, then elementary and middle-school age children. Adults aged 65 and older and pre-school age children ranked the lowest. A word cloud generated from free-form survey responses is in Figure 10. Full survey results can be found in the appendix.

Review

Once the draft of this plan was prepared, the community was invited to review and comment on the Plan over a thirty-day review period beginning June 26, 2013. Several public meetings were held to hear public comments on the plan, the last being October 9, 2013. Comments were addressed and incorporated into the plan, then the plan was presented to the Village Council for adoption on October 9, 2013, with the resolutions to adopt the plan approved February 12, 2014. It was subsequently submitted to the MDNR for approval.



Goals and Objectives

The assessment of recreation needs and priorities, combined with existing recreational opportunities, contribute to the formulation of community goals and objectives for the provision of recreation services and facilities in the Village of Honor. Vision, goals, and objectives represent the purposes for a community's role in providing recreation to its residents as well as outline the direction that the community's efforts should take in the long term. The visions, formulated during community input sessions, guide the creation of goals. Goals are the general targets for which a community aims to further that vision, and objectives are the specific milestones on the road toward that goal. A parks system action plan identifies those actions that can be undertaken to implement the objectives and fulfill the community's goals and vision.



Vision: Honor will be a thriving tourist destination

Honor is located along a key transportation corridor in the region, and is located centrally to many important regional recreation resources, such as Sleeping Bear Dunes, the Platte River, state forests, and several diverse types of trails, including the Shore-to-Shore hiking and riding trail, regional snowmobile trails, the Betsie Valley biking and walking trail, and the proposed National Parks Service scenic corridor trail. Tourists can use Honor as a base of operations as they explore what the region has to offer.

The annual Coho Festival, held in August, can be a valuable event not only in itself, but also as a place to promote interconnected recreation opportunities, such as the Platte River Water Trail, family activities, and environmental preservation initiatives; it can also serve as an excellent stage upon which to unveil new area attractions, such as trail connections or river access points.



Goal: Market and preserve existing assets in and around Honor.

Justification

Population forecasts from regional and state sources indicate minimal population growth and an aging of the existing population. The Village can use this lull in growth as an opportunity to strengthen and enhance existing assets, such as its location near many outdoor recreation resources and its attractive natural setting. Creating linkages to these recreational resources, preserving the natural setting, and ensuring that recreation options and opportunities exist for residents, not just tourists, will benefit both residents and visitors.

This also ties in to the HARP public process goals, wherein the public expressed a strong desire to attract more tourist business. As tourist business in the region is largely driven by outdoor recreation and the natural beauty of the area, especially at Sleeping Bear Dunes, it is important to relate and link Honor to Sleeping Bear and other regional outdoor recreation opportunities, and to preserve its aesthetic qualities that attract tourists.

Objectives for Success

- Form partnerships with regional tourism promotion organizations. Through these partnerships, ensure that Honor is represented in local, regional, and statewide marketing campaigns.
- Provide marketing education to local businesses. By giving local businesses tools they need to promote themselves, the whole region can benefit.
- Install wayfinding to ensure Honor's attractions are easy to locate. By providing wayfinding, Honor can attract visitors to its recreational resources- both commercial and public. By emphasizing connections to well-known regional tourism spots, such as Sleeping Bear, Honor can establish itself as a regional base of operations.
- Preserve Honor's bluffs for their scenic beauty. Honor identifies itself as a historic "village in the valley." By preserving the bluffs that define the valley, Honor preserves a part of its unique identity. Honor can partner with regional land conservancies in this effort, such as the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, with other jurisdictions, such as Homeland Township, or on its own. All efforts must engage the public and have the support of stakeholders.
- Preserve the Platte River for paddling, fishing, swimming, and its scenic beauty. The Platte is currently a regional recreation resource. Ensuring that it remains safe and suitable for fishing, swimming, and paddling is important to future generations. Protecting its scenic beauty will help not only to preserve its recreational value, but to preserve the property values surrounding it.
- Establish AB Maley Park a gateway between Honor and Sleeping Bear Dunes, as well as trails to the west, by pursuing re-designation of Leelenau Street as CR-708 to US-31 in lieu of Deadstream Road, and planning corresponding streetscape and road geometry changes. AB Maley Park is an important part of Honor; it hosts the annual Coho Festival every August, and is a popular site for picnicking and spending time outdoors with the family the rest of the year. By reconfiguring the roadways adjacent to the park, not only can AB Maley be enlarged for these important purposes, but it can also serve as an important landmark to regional visitors.

Vision: Honor will be pedestrian and bicycle friendly, and will become a destination for area snowmobilers.

Honor has the potential to become a trail town- an active, attractive place with accessible and comfortable spaces, connected to local trails, and meeting the needs of both visiting trail users and residents. Trail towns are linked to other trail towns, strengthening the region's tourism industry; businesses can serve both day-trip tourists with ice cream or coffee shops, or overnight trail users with a hotel, casual restaurant, outfitters, and laundromats. Wide sidewalks, benches, and bicycle parking can all be part of a successful trail town's business-district amenities. Ideal trail towns support, celebrate, and encourage trail users to visit.

By enabling more people to walk or bike to destinations in the Village, stress on the parking system can be reduced. By enabling pedestrians and bicyclists to travel safely to and through the village, tourists using the adjacent trails are more likely to use the village as a base of operations or a waypoint. By enabling snowmobile users and equestrians to access the village via shuttle or other means, Honor can further capitalize on the tourist market. These goals correspond to the vision and several of the priorities and recommendations of the EnVision Honor Community Revitalization Strategy, as well as that of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trail Plan (Draft, 2011). The Land Information Access Institute's "Trail Town Manual" may be a useful resource in meeting this vision.

Goal: Integrate Honor with the regional trail systems.

Justification

Both “walkable/bikeable connected community” and “new streetscape downtown” were in the top five responses collected during the HARP process that included both village and township residents, and both biking and walking or hiking trails were noted as high priorities during the recreation plan public process. As biking, hiking, and walking trails are not only amenities for residents but also tourist draws, improving and expanding these trails and Honor’s integration with them will also have a positive effect upon the local tourist economy.

Objectives for Success

- Connect hiking, biking, and walking trails to the west of the village to AB Maley Park, and those east of the village to Platte River Elementary and, in the future, the proposed access point to the Platte River.
- Enable those using the snowmobile trails in the area, as well as the equestrian trails in the area, to access Honor’s amenities, through partnerships to extend and connect these trails and to provide shuttle services to trail users.
- Look to other successful trail towns, such as Cheboygan, for possible best practices to accommodate snowmobile traffic downtown.
- Develop a plan to connect the Betsie Valley Trail with Honor. The Betsie Valley Trail is an important area recreation resource; by extending it to Honor, thus linking it to other trail systems, will increase its popularity.
- Develop a streetscape plan for downtown Honor that will bridge the gap between the trail system to the west and that to the east through a system of pedestrian, traffic calming, lighting, and parking improvements. A streetscape that incorporates amenities for bicyclists, pedestrians, and/or other modes of travel will also serve to attract regional trail traffic.
- Integrate regional trail linkages into Honor’s wayfinding plan. By ensuring that Honor and its attractions are easy to locate from regional trails, and regional trails are easy to locate from Honor, the relationship between those trails and Honor is strengthened.



Vision: Honor's parks will be attractive, safe, well-maintained, and meet the needs of Honor's residents and visitors.

Both AB Maley Park and Memorial Park serve important purposes for the community. AB Maley provides an excellent meeting and picnicking spot and serves as the primary site for the annual Coho Festival. Memorial Park is a site of remembrance for those lost to World War II. Ensuring that these and future parks are safe, well-maintained, and accessible will help to ensure they remain valuable to the community for years to come. A Capital Improvements Plan, developed for Honor alone or in concert with Homestead Township, will help to ensure that these resources are kept safe, attractive, and up-to-date.



Goal: Ensure Honor's parks meet the needs of its residents.

Justification

Ensuring that families and those with disabilities have safe access to nearby recreational resources will increase the appeal of the area to tourists and their families, and will help to retain existing residents.

One of the things that residents liked most about their parks during both input processes was that the parks were generally well-maintained and suited their needs. Thus, continuing to keep them well-maintained and ensuring that all Honor's residents can use them is an important consideration going forward. A capital improvements plan for the Village, reviewed and adopted by the Village council under PA 33 of 2008, would help the Village to plan for maintenance and replacement of all Village-controlled facilities.

Objectives for Success

- Improve accessibility in existing parks, ensuring that all new or repaired items, such as picnic benches and sidewalks, meet ADA standards for accessibility. Explore Universal Design options and pursue where feasible.
- Ensure that AB Maley can meet the needs of families with young children.
- Explore options with local historical and veterans' groups to develop long-term goals for Memorial Park.
- Develop a Capital Improvements plan for these and future recreation assets.
- Reorganize the intersection with US-31, as stated in a previous objective. By enlarging the area of the park, it will be better able to accommodate future recreation needs of the community.



Action Plan

Plan Implementation and Financing Program

The scope of recreation improvements proposed in the “Action Program” can be financed through general fund proceeds or by a combination of funding programs. Below is a list of some of the funding sources that could be used as part of the implementation component of the plan.

General Funds

The Village of Honor has utilized general fund money to maintain and operate the park system. Any future improvements will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds for both maintenance and as a likely primary source for any necessary grant matching funds. Recreation planning and grant applications will have to be coordinated with the budgeting process for the Village’s general fund.

Foundation, Demonstration, and Private Grants

There are a variety of foundation and demonstration grants through various agencies available to partially finance portions of the recommended plan. Foundation and private grants are pursued through various local, state, and national foundations or other entities who target their funds for park and recreation related projects. One such entity is KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit that had partnered with several charitable foundations to create playspaces for children. Demonstration grants are sometimes offered through governmental and quasi-governmental programs for specific activities such as the Great Lakes Commission’s soil erosion and sedimentation demonstration grant program. The Great Lakes Fishery Trust, created in 1996 to offset fish losses from the operation of the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant hydroelectric facility, offers several grants. These include fishery access grants, designed to enhance access to the great lakes fishery for shorefishing; grants to support ecosystem health and sustainable fish populations, designed to support research as well as fish habitat protection and restoration; and grants to promote Great Lakes stewardship, focused on increasing awareness and understanding of the ecology of the Great Lakes.

State Grants

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federally funded program administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This program provides funds on a 50/50 reimbursable matching basis for the development of outdoor recreation facilities. Funds are awarded to local projects after all project applications submitted in a year have been evaluated. The local share of a project can be cash, approved donations of service and material, credit for locally assumed costs, and/or donations after project approval. The minimum grant amount is \$15,000 and the maximum grant amount is \$500,000. A state-approved recreation plan is a prerequisite for applying for this grant.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, also administered by MDNR, utilizes royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned lands to help finance the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Matching local funds are required in the amount of at least 25% of the total project cost. Two types of projects are supported by this grant: acquisition of land for outdoor recreation, and development of land for outdoor recreation. Both types of projects proposed under this program should be directed towards helping meet statewide goals, including natural resource protection, water access, urban recreation, economic development, trails, and community recreation. A state-approved recreation plan is a prerequisite for applying for this grant.

Recreation Passport

The grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but development of new parks is eligible. The minimum grant request amount is currently \$7,500, and the maximum amount is \$45,000. This amount changes from year to year depending upon the amount of revenue generated from sales of the Recreation Passport, which replaced the Motor Vehicle Permit for state park entrance in 2010. Matching funds are required in the amount of at least 25% of the total project cost. A state-approved recreation plan or current five-year capital improvements plan is a prerequisite for applying for this grant.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
Market and Preserve Existing Assets	
Tourism Promotion	Form partnerships with regional tourism promotion organizations
Marketing Education	Work with partners to provide ongoing marketing education to local businesses
Wayfinding	Develop a wayfinding plan and install wayfinding, to ensure Honor's attractions are easy to locate and relate to regional attractions
Preserve the bluffs	Work with Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to acquire conservation easements on bluffs
Preserve the Platte River	Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Platte Lake Improvement Association, & MDNR to explore conservation easements or Natural River status for Platte
Make AB Maley Park a gateway between Honor and Sleeping Bear Dunes, as well as trails to the west.	Work with Benzie County Road Commission to re-designate Leelenau Street as CR-708 to US-31 in lieu of Deadstream Road, and make corresponding streetscape, wayfinding, and road geometry changes.
Integrate Honor with regional trails system and recreation resources	
Establish hiking and biking trail connections	Work with Homestead Township, MDOT, MDNR, and Benzie County Schools to connect hiking, biking, and walking trails west of the Village to AB Maley Park, and those east to Platte River Elementary
Work to connect snowmobile trail users to Honor	Work with local businesses and trail users to explore offering a shuttle or taxi service for those staying at the camp, either via a local entrepreneur or the Benzie Bus.
Develop a plan to connect the Betsie Valley Trail to Honor	Work with partners to identify and select routes for an off-road shared use path or trail.
Ensure Honor's parks meet the needs of its residents.	
Develop a Capital Improvements Plan	Develop a Capital Improvements Plan for parks and other Village assets to ensure continued maintenance.
Improve accessibility in existing parks.	Incorporate accessibility improvements into the Capital Improvements Plan for the Village.
Ensure that AB Maley can continue to meet the Village's needs	Incorporate considerations for continued use by families with younger children into Capital Improvements Plan and maintenance planning.
Ensure that Memorial Park remains relevant and accessible.	Identify and work with local veterans' and historical groups to develop long-term goal, incorporate into Capital Improvement Plan.

AMOUNT	FUNDING SOURCE(S)/ PARTNERS	FISCAL YEAR					LONG TERM
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
--							
--	Northwestern Michigan College						
up to \$5,000 for the plan, \$15,000 for implementation	Grantmaking institutions, such as the National Parks Service, NWMCOG, and the MEDC						X
--	Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy						
--	MDNR, Platte Lake Improvement Association						
\$ 100,000	Benzie County Road Commission, grantmaking institutions such as MDOT						X
--	Homestead Township, MDOT, MDNR, NPS, Benzie County Schools, grantmaking institutions						
--	Snowmobile interest groups, MDNR, local businesses						
--	Betsie Valley Trail stakeholders						
	MDNR Recreation Passport						
	MDNR Recreation Passport						X
	MDNR Recreation Passport, NPS, SHPO, stakeholder groups						X

Appendix

Copy of the Survey

Planning Commission Meeting Schedule Announcement

Public Review Notice

Public Hearing Notice

Public Hearing Minutes

Plan Adoption Meeting Minutes

Planning Commission Resolution

Village of Honor Resolution

Plan Transmittal Letter to County Government

Plan Transmittal Letter to Regional Planning Agency

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Copy of the Survey

Honor Parks and Recreation Survey

The Village of Honor has been awarded a grant from the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) to prepare a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) 5-Year Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. The purpose of this plan will be to identify where and how citizens recreate and their expectations for local park and recreation offerings.

This survey will help provide information needed to prepare a specific plan for the Village of Honor.

1. In what community do you live?

- ☐ Village of Honor
- ☐ Homestead Township
- ☐ Inland Township
- ☐ Platte Township
- ☐ Benzonia Township
- ☐ Village of Beulah

Other (please specify)

2. How many years have you lived in your present home?

- ☐ Less than 5 Years
- ☐ 6 to 10 Years
- ☐ 11 to 15 Years
- ☐ 16 to 20 Years
- ☐ More than 20 Years

Honor Parks and Recreation Survey

3. Do you rent or own your home?

☐ Rent

☐ Own

4. How many people are in your household?

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

☐ more than 5

5. How many youth, by age, currently live in your household?

	1	2	3	4	5	6
New Born to 4 Years Old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Years to 9 Years Old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10 Years to 14 Year Old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15 Years to 19 Years Old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Do you use any of the park facilities in the Village?

	Yes	No
AB Maley Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memorial Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Platte River Elementary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

7. Please rate the overall maintenance of the parks in the Village of Honor. (check one)

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Poor

☐ No Opinion

Honor Parks and Recreation Survey

8. What recreational activities do members of your household participate in on a regular basis? (Please note if it is INSIDE or OUTSIDE the Village)

	INSIDE the Village of Honor	OUTSIDE the Village of Honor
Adult Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming (Outdoor Pool)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming (River or Lake)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming (Indoor Pool)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canoe/Kayak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Arts and Crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rollerblade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aerobics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking - Casual	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking - Mountain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skiing (Winter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross Country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

Honor Parks and Recreation Survey

9. What types of additional facilities, if any, would you like to see the Village of Honor offer?

10. Please prioritize the following groups you feel are in need of additional recreation facilities or programs. (1 is the HIGHEST priority and 6 is the LOWEST priority)

Pre-school age children	
Elementary Students	
Middle School Students	
High School Students	
Adults Age 18-65	
Adults Age 65 and older	

11. What area or region do you visit and recreate most frequently?

Location 1:	
Location 2:	
Location 3:	
Location 4:	
Location 5:	

Honor Parks and Recreation Survey

12. Would you favor a public park or access area along the Platte River?

☐ Yes

☐ No

13. Would you be in favor of using Village funds to acquire the property for the park or access area?

☐ Yes

☐ Yes, it depends on the amount of local funds needed

☐ Yes, if the Village can obtain a grant for assistance

☐ No

14. We would appreciate your thoughts and ideas for park and recreation facilities in the Village of Honor.

15. Please tell about yourself?

Name:

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

ZIP:

Email

Address:

Planning Commission Meeting Schedule Announcement

VILLAGE OF HONOR PLANNING COMMISSION 2013 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

The Village of Honor Planning Commission will meet the first Tuesday of each month (except January and February which will be held on Jan. 8 and Feb. 7) at 1:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 10922 Platte St., Honor MI.

For canceled or rescheduled meetings please contact the Village Hall at 231-325-8432 or e-mail: honor@centurytel.net

Rachel Fast, Village of Honor Clerk

Please publish Feb. 6, 2013
Please provide Affidavit of Publication

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MEETINGS/HEARINGS

VILLAGE OF HONOR PLANNING COMMISSION 2013 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

The Village of Honor Planning Commission will meet the first Tuesday of each month (except January and February which will be held on Jan. 8 and Feb. 7), at 1:00p.m. at the Village Hall,

10922 Platte St., Honor, MI.
For canceled or rescheduled meetings please contact the Village Hall at (231)325-8432 or e-mail: honor@centurytel.net.
Rachel Fast, Clerk
Village of Honor
Feb. 6, 2013



Rachel Fast, Village Clerk
June 26, 2013

Public Hearing Notice

Village of Honor

From: "Denise Strom" <classrecpat@pioneergroup.com>
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 10:55 AM
To: "Village of Honor" <honor@centurytel.net>
Subject: Re: Village of Honor: Meeting Notice AD Reminder

Rachel,

I'm sorry I did receive the notice on the 23rd of Sept. It should be in the Oct 2nd issue, which comes out tomorrow.

Thanks,
Denise

Denise Strom
Benzie County Record Patriot
PO Box 673
417 Main Street
Frankfort, MI 49635
(231) 352-9659
(231) 352-7874 fax

NOTICE
THE VILLAGE OF HONOR Council will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m., for the Dark Skies Initiative and at 6:30 p.m. for the Honor Recreation Plan. The Recreation Plan is available for review at the Honor Village Hall, 10922 Platte St., Honor, MI, the Honor Post Office, and the Darcy Library of Beulah, 7238 Commercial St., Beulah, MI 49617 during regular business hours. Comments or correction may be made in person or by council at the public hearing, mailed to the Village of Honor at P.O. Box 95, Honor, MI 49640, or emailed to honor@centurytel.net.
Rachel Chatterton
Village Clerk
October 2, 2013

On Tue, Oct 1, 2013 at 10:48 AM, Village of Honor <honor@centurytel.net> wrote:

From: Village of Honor
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 11:35 AM
To: Record Patriot
Subject: Village of Honor: Meeting Notice AD

I would like to request that the attached ad be placed in the **Wednesday, October 2, 2013** issue of the Record Patriot.

NO Affidavit is needed.

Thank You,

Rachel Chatterton, Clerk
Village of Honor
10922 Platte St
PO Box 95
231.325.8432
Office Hours: 11am-1pm

10/2/2013

Public Hearing Minutes

Agenda

Village of Honor Public Hearing
October 9, 2013

Public Hearing called to order

- A. Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. Roll Call**
- I. Approval of the Agenda**
- II. Dark Skies**
 - A. Purpose of Hearing
 - B. Proponents Presentation of Case
- II. Recreation Plan**
 - A. Purpose of Hearing
 - B. Proponents Presentation of Case
- X Hearing has been Properly Notice**
- XI. Poll Members**
- XII Public Input**
 - A.
 - B.
- XIII. Adjourn**

Village of Honor
Public Hearing Minutes

October 9, 2013

I. Call to order

Robert Theobald, President, convened the Public Hearing of the Village of Honor at 6:02pm on October 9, 2013 at Honor Village Hall.

II. Roll call

Rachel Chatterton, Clerk, conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Robert Theobald, Rachel Chatterton, Adele Maher, Tiffany Clarke, Richard Fast, Dennis Rodzik, Carole Waddell, and Doug Durkee.

III. Guests Recognized

R. Theobald welcomed the following guests: Calvin Garber, Terri Corner, Pattie Bailey, Gretchen McArthur, Michael Bailey, Ed Fay, Joe Pelky, Ingemar Johansson, Kellie Hamilton, and Carolyn Bailey.

IV. Approval of agenda

A motion was made by T. Clarke, 2nd by C. Waddell, to accept the agenda as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

V. Dark Skies Initiative

a) Purpose of Hearing: D. Rodzik made the presentation of plans to investigate and implement the advantages, disadvantages, and public opinions on the possible execution of the Dark Skies Initiative.

b) Public Input

1. B. Rosa – Presented the council with evidence of vandalism. Stated his disapproval of the Dark Skies Initiative.
2. C. Garber – Stated that he still believes that crime is high. Mentioned cars being stolen and vandalism due to the lack of police staff. Voiced concerns over his daughter walking to the bus. Stated his disapproval of the Dark Skies Initiative.
3. P. Bailey – Stated that she knows there are drugs and thieves in Honor and the Dark Skies Initiative would increase the problem. Stated her disapproval of the Dark Skies Initiative. Statement of disapproval regarding the Village purchase of the Public Parking lot and approval of the Sidewalk project was also made. R. Theobald stated in response that pavement of the parking lot entry is MDOT required and money has been donated by the business' to complete the project.
4. E. Fay – Stated that he feels the Dark Skies Initiative is a fundamentally bad idea.
5. K. Hamilton – Agreed with the previous stated concerns, felt it wasn't worth the money that would be saved. Stated her disapproval of the Dark Skies Initiative.
6. M. Bailey – Stated that he, too, has seen crimes in the area. Stated his disapproval of the Dark Skies Initiative.
7. R. Chatterton – A description of the past and present criminal rates at Northwestern Michigan College before and after the implementation of Dark Skies approved lighting and statement of the

vast options in regards to lighting that are available. Recommendation of Dr. Jerry Dobek, Professor of Astronomy and Physics at Northwestern Michigan College and co-writer of many Dark Skies ordinances in the surrounding areas to meet with the Village Residence and Counsel was presented.

8. D. Rodzik – Statement of FBI criminal activity regarding the decrease in crime after sharp lighting was removed.

9. R. Fast – Asked the public present whether or not it would be more accepted if the Council went to each member of the community, as planned, to ask whether they would like to keep their street light or not. There was not General Consent either way.

10. D. Durkee – Asked what restrictions would be in place on individuals putting their own lights up. R. Fast responded that it would only require that they did NOT point up and out.

11. M. Bailey – Stated that this being the US31 corridor requires the Village to have optimum lighting and those individuals need to simply purchase curtains. He is glad there are so many lights within the Village Limits.

12. B. Rosa – Likes the idea of lowering the lights, but doesn't want to eliminate lights to eliminate lights for change later. R. Chatterton made a recommendation that the residence take a drive to the College campus at night to view a live example of the Dark Skies Initiative in practice.

VI. Recess

Robert Theobald, President, closed the Public Hearing of the Village of Honor at 6:34pm on October 9, 2013 to allow for a five minute recess. Robert Theobald, President, re-opened the Public Hearing of the Village of Honor at 6:40pm on October 9, 2013.

VII. Recreation Plan

a) Purpose of Hearing: Council has had time to review and discuss the Village of Honor Recreation Plan presented by the Village of Honor Planning Commission.

b) Public Input

1. I. Johansson – As representative for the Honor Area Restoration Project he stated his approval and support for the Village of Honor Recreation Plan.

2. T. Corner – Stated that some minor typing errors were in need of attention but was happy to support the Recreation Plan.

3. T. Clarke –Voiced her excitement about moving forward with the 5 year Recreation Plan.

VIII. Adjournment

Robert Theobald, President, adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:47pm.

Minutes submitted by: Rachel Chatterton, Clerk

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Plan Adoption Meeting Minutes

Village of Honor Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2013

I. Call to order

Robert Theobald, President, convened the regular meeting of the Village of Honor at 7:02pm on October 9, 2013 at Honor Village Hall.

II. Roll call

Rachel Chatterton, Clerk, conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Robert Theobald, Adele Maher, Rachel Chatterton, Tiffany Clarke, Richard Fast, Dennis Rodzik, Carole Waddell, and Doug Durkee.

III. Guests recognized

R. Theobald welcomed the following guests: Frank Walterhouse, Terri Corner, Katie Grzesiak, Bob Rosa, Paul Olson, Doug Coates, and Michael Jones.

IV. Approval of agenda

A motion was made by R. Theobald and 2nd by T. Clarke, to accept the agenda as amended. All ayes, motion carried.

V. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion was made by D. Rodzik and 2nd by R. Theobald, to accept the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

VI. Approval of minutes from Special Meeting 9/20/13

A motion was made by R. Theobald and 2nd by D. Rodzik, to accept the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

VII. Approval of minutes from Special Meeting 9/26/13

A motion was made by D. Rodzik and 2nd by C. Waddell, to accept the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried

VIII. Presentations

- a) Michigan Underwriters – Paul Olson: A presentation was scheduled to be made by P. Olson regarding the Villages Annual Insurance. There will be no increase for the next fiscal year. R. Fast stated that he would like to see new figures for raising the deductibles. P. Olson agreed to send revised figures for the Councils review. P. Olson also presented information regarding the Liability Reduction Grant to allow for security cameras and the sewer ponds.
- b) NWMI Invasive Species Network/Benzie Conservation District – Katie Grzesiak & Michael Jones: A presentation was made by M. Jones to explain the purpose of the Benzie Conservation District. M. Jones stated that they perform a variety of Educational Outreach and removal of SOME invasive species

for the residence of Benzie County. K. Grzesiak presented information regarding the purpose of the NWMI Invasive Species Network and presented documents for public view regarding certain invasive species that have become a problem within our area.

- c) Gosling Czubak/SAW Grant – Doug Coates: D. Coates presented the released rules and regulations for applying for the Stormwater, Asset Management, & Wastewater (SAW) Grant. D. Coates offered his services in completing the application on behalf of the Village of Honor.

IX. Treasurers Report – February 2013

A motion was made by C. Waddell, 2nd by R. Theobald to put the Treasurers Report up for Audit. All ayes, motion carried.

X. Open issues

- a) Grievance Letter/Ordinance Officer: R. Fast stated that Mr. Charles Sessum never replied. A general consent was made to table this topic until further notice.
- b) Bank Sidewalk: D. Durkee stated that construction on the Bank Sidewalk repair will tentatively begin Monday (based on weather).
- c) Recreation Plan: A motion was made by R. Theobald, 2nd by D. Rodzik, to adopt the Village of Honor Recreation Plan. All ayes, Motion carried.
- d) Stream Bed Dig: A motion was made by R. Fast, 2nd by R. Theobald, to allow Bob Rosa to re-dig the stream bed at Platte and Deadstream, not to exceed \$1,245.00. Roll call; all ayes, motion carried.
- e) Master Plan Resolution: Resolution Number 280-13 was made by R. Theobald, 2nd by T. Clarke, to allow the Village of Honor Planning Commission to continue work on the Village of Honor Master Plan. All ayes, motion carried.
- f) Rebekah Lodge Zoning: Council found no objection by immediate neighbors regarding the fencing. Topic has been withdrawn.
- g) Sewer Building Painting: T. Clarke updated Council on the possibility of a Mural to be done on the Sewer Building located within the Public Parking lot. Painting would not begin until spring.
- h) Road Millage: B. Rosa presented information to Council regarding the November 2013 Road Millage that will be up for ballot. B. Rosa explained that a portion of the funds would be allotted to the Village if the millage is approved.
- i) SAW Grant: A motion was made by D. Rodzik, 2nd by R. Theobald, to apply for the Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) Grant under the stipulation that a contract be drawn up stating that if the Village of Honor decides NOT to accept the grant then there will be no charge by GoslingCzubak. Vote; 4 aye, 1 nay, motion carried.

XI. New business

- a) Sealed Bid Process: Concern regarding the process' regarding sealed and unsealed bids was presented by R. Fast and D. Rodzik. It has been stated that all bids over the amount of \$20,000 are required to stay

sealed until a meeting of the Honor Village Council. A general consent was made to keep the procedure for sealed bids as is.

- b) Clerk/Treasurer Separate Hours: A general consent was made to have the Clerk and Treasurer decide on hours amongst themselves.

XII. Reports

- a) Maintenance/Street Administrator: D. Durkee presented the reports. All paperwork is up to date and all processes are running. Eight trees were removed from Maley Park as voted upon last month. A motion was made by R. Theobald, 2nd by C. Waddell to allow for \$260.00 to be paid for a CDL Driving Test for Douglas Durkee. Roll call; all ayes, motion carried.
- b) Budget Committee: A general consensus was made to appoint Rachel Chatterton, Adele Maher, Richard Fast, and Robert Theobald as the 2014 Budget Committee. Carol Waddell to be the alternative in case of any absences.

XIII. Bills/Checks

- a) A motion was made by R. Fast, 2nd by C. Waddell, to pay all bills as presented. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

XIV. Correspondence

- a) P. DeLorme: A letter of request regarding the Honor Coho Festival documents being turned over was presented. Council has requested that P. DeLorme contact Homestead Township in regards to letter.

XV. Adjournment

Robert Theobald, President, adjourned the meeting at 9:19pm.

Minutes submitted by: Rachel Chatterton, Clerk

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Planning Commission Resolution

Resolution of Support by the Village of Honor Planning Commission To the Village of Honor, Village Council in support of the Village of Honor Parks and Recreation Plan

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor Planning Commission, in support of the Village of Honor Parks and Recreation Plan, recommends said plans adoption by the Village of Honor, Village Council, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor Planning Commission recognizes the outstanding work done by the Village of Honor, Village Council to prepare the Village of Honor Parks and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor Planning Commission, recognizes that the Parks and Recreation Plan is representative of and in keeping with the work being done to prepare the Village of Honor Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor, Village Council has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2013-2018, and

WHEREAS, the combined area of the aforementioned local unit of government constitutes the planning area, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor, Village Council began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resources plan accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, Residents of the Village of Honor were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resources conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for thirty (30) days, and

WHEREAS, a final public comment session was held on 12/11/14 at the Village of Honor Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the community to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the parks and recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor, Village Council has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Village of Honor, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Village of Honor Planning Commission hereby supports the adoption of the Village of Honor Parks and Recreation Plan.

(Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 0)

I, DOUGLAS CORNER, Village of Honor Planning Commission Chair, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Honor Planning Commission at the Planning Commission meeting thereof held on 2/4/14.

Signature Douglas Corner Date 2/4/14
Village of Honor Planning Commission Chair

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Village of Honor Resolution

Number 284-14

Resolution

At a regular meeting of the Village of Honor, Michigan called to order by President Pro-Temp Richard G. Fast, held at the Village Hall on February 12, 2014, a motion was made by Dennis Rodzik and supported by Joe Shettek, to adopt the Village of Honor Parks and Recreation Plan with the exception to the parks on Riverside Drive, they are to be stricken from the plan.

To be considered for approval.

Approval	4	Disapproval	0
Ayes	4	Ayes	0
Nays	0	Nays	0
Abstain	0	Abstain	0

It is the consensus of this legislative body that this resolution be **approved**.

State of Michigan
County of Benzie

Resolution 284-14 duly adopted
February 12, 2014

I Rachel E. Chatterton do certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution offered and adopted by the Village of Honor at a regular meeting held on February 12, 2014.

Village of Honor Clerk _____
Village of Honor
10922 Platte St., PO Box 95 Honor, MI 49640

**Resolution by the Village of Honor, Village Council
To Adopt the
Village of Honor Parks and Recreation Plan**

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor, Village Council, has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2013-2018, and

WHEREAS, the combined area of the aforementioned local unit of government constitutes the planning area, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resources plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, Residents of the Village of Honor were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resources conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for thirty (30) days, and

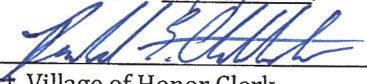
WHEREAS, a final public comment session was held on 2/12/14 at the Village of Honor, Village Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the community to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the parks and recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Honor has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Village of Honor, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing and during a scheduled Village Council meeting, the Village Council voted to adopt said parks and recreation plan based on the recommendation of the Village of Honor Planning Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Village of Honor hereby adopts the Village of Honor Parks and Recreation Plan.

(Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: —)
I, Rachel Chatterton, Village of Honor Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Honor at the Village Council regularly scheduled meeting thereof held on 2/12/14.

Signature  Date 2/12/14
Rachel Fast, Village of Honor Clerk
Chatterton

Plan Transmittal Letter to County Government

letter of transmittal

B R 
Beckett & Raeder

*Landscape Architecture
 Planning, Engineering &
 Environmental Services*

Date: 2.21.14

From: Caitlin Jackson
 To: **Benzie County**
 Benzie County Government Center
 448 Court Place
 Beulah, Michigan 49617


initiative

Project: Village of Honor Five Year Recreation Plan

Enclosed: Final Adopted Village of Honor Five Year Recreation Plan

Remarks:

On behalf of the Village, and in accordance with the MDNR standards for recreation planning, please find enclosed a copy of the final adopted Village of Honor Five Year Recreation Plan. Please disregard any previous copies of the plan you have received.

Thank you.



Caitlin Jackson

cc: Rachel Fast
 Village of Honor Clerk

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
 535 West William, Suite 101
 Ann Arbor, MI 48103

734 **663.2622** ph
 734 **663.6759** fx

www.bria2.com

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 616 Petoskey St., Suite 100
 Petoskey, MI 49770

231.347.2523 ph
 231.347.2524 fx

Traverse City Office
 921 West 11th St., Suite 2E
 Traverse City, MI 49684

231.933.8400 ph
 231.944.1709 fx

Toledo
 419.242.3428 ph

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Plan Transmittal Letter to Regional Planning Agency

letter of transmittal

B R 
Beckett & Raeder

*Landscape Architecture
 Planning, Engineering &
 Environmental Services*

Date: 2.21.14

From: Caitlin Jackson
 To: **Elaine Wood, Chief Executive Officer**
 Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
 PO BOX 506
 Traverse City, MI 49685-0506

*initiative*

Project: Village of Honor Five Year Recreation Plan

Enclosed: Final Adopted Village of Honor Five Year Recreation Plan

Remarks:

On behalf of the Village, and in accordance with the MDNR standards for recreation planning, please find enclosed a copy of the final adopted Village of Honor Five Year Recreation Plan.

Thank you.



Caitlin Jackson

cc: Rachel Fast
 Village of Honor Clerk

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
 535 West William, Suite 101
 Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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