

WEXFORD COUNTY RECREATION PLAN

2013-2017



Prepared By the Wexford County Planning Commission

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Wexford County Planning Commission

- Paul Osborne – Chairperson
- Beverly Monroe – Vice Chairperson
- Gideon Mitchell
- Donald David Middaugh
- Michael Mix
- David Stoutenburg
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Wexford County Board of Commissioners

- Les Housler – Chairperson: District 2
- Gideon Mitchell – Vice Chairperson: District 5
- Robert Colvin: District 1
- Robert Hilty: District 3
- Mark Howie: District 4
- Alan Devereaux: District 6
- Gary Taylor: District 7
- John Fuscone: District 8
- Bill Goodwill: District 9

Wexford County Staff

- Michael Green, Zoning Administrator
- Sarah Merz, GIS Specialist
- Robert Scarbrough, Building Official

INTRODUCTION

The 2013 Wexford County Recreation Plan Update has been prepared for use as a guide for future decision making in the area of recreational facilities and programs.

The Plan presents an evaluation of Wexford County's recreation opportunities and needs. It also considers the existing facilities in and around the county, the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and the means for providing those facilities over the upcoming five-year period.

This plan is also intended to enable the county to apply for Federal and State grant programs which will assist in the funding of future projects. Among the state programs are:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (land acquisition);
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (acquisition and facility development);
- Michigan Quality of Life Recreation Bond Program (improvements, reuse of industrial sites for recreational use)

Eligibility for grants under the 2013 Community Recreation Plan will be in effect for five years. The Plan will be reviewed and updated, as necessary, every year. This will help assure that the capital improvement schedule reflects the actual budget and grant funding schedule for each participating community.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Wexford County is located in Michigan's northwestern lower peninsula, surrounded by Manistee, Grand Traverse, Osceola and Missaukee Counties. Appendix A shows the local and regional placement of the county.

The natural features of Wexford County and the northern Michigan area provide a number of recreational opportunities, including areas for hunting, fishing, skiing and hiking. The natural resources of the area, in combination with the overall quality of life, have helped to create a demand for development in the county which necessitates careful planning in all aspects, including recreation.

POPULATION

Population trends in Michigan are to some extent mirrored in Wexford County. In the past ten years the United States' population grew 13.2%, Michigan's population grew 6.9%, and Wexford County grew at a rate of 15.6%. In the 1970-1980 decade Michigan's population has grown by three percent. From 1980-1990 Michigan grew only 0.4 percent. Growth from migration (people moving into, or out of, Michigan from, or to, other states has been negative. With the exception of the early 1990's more people have moved out of Michigan than have moved into Michigan.

But during this same time period Michigan has seen a 30 percent increase in urbanized land. Michigan is projected to grow by 1.1 million people from 2000 to 2020. Those next 1.1 million people will use as much land as the first 9.2 million people have urbanized. This is because there are fewer people per household, and the size of a parcel for a household has increased. There are a number of reasons for this:

- The percentage of married households as dramatically dropped due, mainly, to divorce. In 1972 the households with married couples was 72 percent. In 1990 that dropped to 55 percent. When a couple gets a divorce, a family which used to occupy one house now occupies two houses. The number of houses increases, while the number of people does not.
- The average size of families continues to decrease. Couples with children have fewer children than before.
- There are fewer households with children. Young (20 to 30 year olds) are getting married later in life, and are having children later, or are not having children.
- Senior Citizens are living longer and are healthier, thus able to live independently in a home for longer periods.

The result in Michigan is 30 percent more houses have been constructed to accommodate a three percent population growth. This means more homes, more infrastructure and services (roads, sewers, police, etc.) but not more people to pay the additional taxes for the infrastructure and services. Thus service suffers, is reduced, or taxes go up.

In this same period some parts of Michigan have grown (northwest Michigan, Grand Rapids area, northern Detroit suburbs area). This growth came at the expense of other parts of the state which lost population (western Upper Peninsula, the thumb area, Detroit, and other inner cities). Wexford County has been in a part of the state which has seen moderate

population growth. In addition to construction of housing to accommodate that growth, Wexford County also sees construction of seasonal, or second, homes. Michigan has one of the highest rates of seasonal home ownership of all the states in the nation.

Historic and 2010 Census data for Wexford County is presented here.

2010 Census Data Advance Final Counts

| Political Subdivision | 1950 Pop. | 1960 Pop. | 1970 Pop. | 1980 Pop. | 1990 Pop. | 2000 Pop. | 2010 Pop. | % Pop. Change 2000-2010 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Wexford County (83) | 18,628 | 18,475 | 19,717 | 25,102 | 26,367 | 30,484 | 32,735 | 7.4% |
| Antioch Twp. | 448 | 373 | 395 | 618 | 671 | 810 | 815 | 0.6% |
| Boon Twp. | 475 | 410 | 457 | 500 | 562 | 670 | 687 | 2.5% |
| Harrietta Village | 152 | 119 | 132 | 139 | 157 | 169 | 143 | -15.3% |
| Cadillac City | 10,425 | 10,112 | 9,990 | 10,199 | 10,104 | 10,000 | 10,355 | 3.6% |
| Cedar Creek Twp. | 455 | 534 | 692 | 1,010 | 1,013 | 1,489 | 1,757 | 18.0% |
| Cherry Grove Twp. | 583 | 695 | 835 | 1,517 | 1,763 | 2,328 | 2,377 | 2.1% |
| Clam Lake Twp. | 792 | 1,017 | 1,084 | 1,658 | 1,739 | 2,238 | 2,467 | 10.23% |
| Colfax Twp. | 459 | 398 | 374 | 602 | 556 | 763 | 840 | 10.09% |
| Greenwood Twp | 205 | 162 | 155 | 297 | 372 | 542 | 587 | 8.30% |
| Buckley Village | 194 | 247 | 244 | 357 | 402 | 550 | 697 | 26.73% |
| Hanover Twp. | 323 | 351 | 373 | 665 | 826 | 1,200 | 1,560 | 30.00% |
| Haring Charter Twp. | 935 | 1,059 | 1,387 | 2,523 | 2,501 | 2,962 | 3,173 | 7.12% |
| Henderson Twp. | 99 | 107 | 120 | 140 | 169 | 176 | 163 | -7.39% |
| Liberty Twp. | 320 | 272 | 334 | 542 | 641 | 800 | 861 | 7.63% |
| Manton City | 1,085 | 1,050 | 1,107 | 1,212 | 1,161 | 1,221 | 1,287 | 5.41% |
| Selma Twp. | 542 | 598 | 749 | 1,289 | 1,607 | 1,915 | 2,093 | 9.29% |
| Slagle Twp. | 254 | 202 | 286 | 406 | 470 | 569 | 503 | 11.60% |
| South Branch Twp | 173 | 187 | 210 | 276 | 306 | 330 | 383 | 16.06% |
| Springville Twp. | 673 | 636 | 799 | 1,191 | 1,339 | 1,673 | 1,755 | 4.90% |
| Mesick Village | 359 | 304 | 376 | 374 | 406 | 447 | 394 | -11.86% |
| Wexford Twp. | 382 | 312 | 370 | 457 | 567 | 798 | 1,072 | 40.74% |

Village data is included in township data. (Source: 2010 U.S. Census)

Most of the new people moving to Wexford County from urban areas are from southern Michigan cities.¹ This trend is further documented in the *Michigan Trend Future* reports as part of an urban to rural movement of people rather than a state population growth.

¹This discussion on population is based on several sources of information: A special demographic analysis, Migration to Non-metropolitan Areas done by the Bureau of the Census; Wexford County Building Department data for the years 1978-1980, Jan. 2, 1981; 1980 and 1990 U.S. Bureau of the Census Advance Final Counts for Wexford County; Michigan Employment Security Commission labor force estimates.

Reasons for moving to rural areas fall into three main categories: employment, retirement, or getting away from the city. No one reason totally explains why people move to rural or small town areas. Other reasons include desire to be closer to one's family, as a result of marriage or marital dissolution, seeking larger housing or less expensive housing, leaving school or the armed forces or a desire for a change of climate. Most of these reasons are secondary, or relatively few people move based on them. The major reasons for moving to Wexford County seems to be employment, retirement or escaping from large cities.

The Bureau of Census estimates 40 to 50 percent of people/families moving to non-metro areas do so for job related reasons. The percentage is higher for people moving to rural counties which are not next to metropolitan counties, such as Wexford. Further, most of the people moving to Wexford County had a job in the city which they left. The move to Wexford County was in response to a job offer.

Demographers feel that traditional rural growth, if occurring at all, has been due to retirement and recreational opportunities. This seems to have been the case for Wexford County (See seasonal population tables). However, in the past (1970-1990) the national trend for rural areas to lose population and urban areas to grow has reversed. Cities now lose people and rural areas are gaining. This is definitely true in Michigan. Northwest Michigan, in particular, has experienced population growth. Wexford County has shared in that growth from 1970-1980. The national recession in the early 1980s slowed that growth for Wexford County. From 1987 to 2010, strong population growth occurred again in Wexford County, despite the recent recession that heavily affected Michigan and led to a loss of its population from 2000 to 2010.

The traditional increase in retirees and recreation-oriented residents contributes to an increase in available jobs.

Data tends to verify this experience in Wexford County. The increased numbers of jobs in Wexford County is in all economic sectors. Job growth seems to be in sectors of the economy which are service, retail, tourist, real estate, and financial oriented. The Wexford-Missaukee Labor Market Area had the second largest percentage (13.2%) of new job growth compared to surrounding counties² during 1985-1995.

Over the past ten years the county has had an increase in the number of people employed. An additional 4,883 people work in Wexford County in 1999 than did in 1990, a 31% percent increase.

One can generalize, then, people moving to Wexford County have come for employment related reasons.

The other major reason for moving to rural areas is a person's desire to get away from the city. It is important to note, the reason is expressed as a desire to get away from a city; NOT a desire to live in a rural setting.

Also contributing to Wexford's population growth are retirees. As indicated earlier, this has

²Benzie (7.6%), Grand Traverse (10.5%), Lake, Mason (9.3%) and Manistee (16.2%) Counties.

been the traditional group of immigrants contributing to Wexford County's population. Traditionally, retired individuals have tended to move into resort areas, particularly in areas on or near inland lakes, of the county. A typical history of resort areas in Wexford County starts with the construction of cottages or summer homes. After summer residents' families grow, and the adults retire, the summer homes become a retirement home with year-round occupancy and participation in local affairs.

Future growth in Wexford County is expected to continue. Experience has shown us that the 1974-75 oil embargo did not slow down the movement of population from urban to rural areas. Higher gasoline costs in recent years have also failed to slow down the population shift according to Michigan Department of Management and Budget demographers. In fact, the shift from urban to rural increased as the 1970's drew to a close. However, a general economic decline, impacting more than just the auto industry and energy costs, has had an impact on Wexford County's population, and slowed that growth in the early 1980's and again between 2008-10.

Population Totals

The United States census is done once every 10 years, on April 1 of years ending in zero (0). That is usually the only time an actual count of people is done. For more recent population data estimates are prepared by various agencies. Those estimates are presented here.

The 2010 U.S. Census shows the population of Wexford County grew by 2,281, or 7.4%, from 2000 to 2010. It is important to note that 93% of the population growth between 1970 and 2010 occurred in the unincorporated areas of Wexford County.

Census Population by County, Township, City, Village 1970-2010

| | Population 1970 Census | Population 1980 Census | Population 1990 Census | Population 2000 Census | Population 2010 Census | Change 1970- 80 | Change 1980- 90 | Change 1990- 2000 | Change 2000- 10 | % Change 1970-80 | % Change 1980-90 | % Change 1990-00 | % Change 2000-10 |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| WEXFORD COUNTY | 19,717 | 25,102 | 26,360 | 30,484 | 32,765 | 5,385 | 1,258 | 4,124 | 2,281 | 27.3% | 5.0% | 15.6% | 7.4% |
| Antioch Township | 395 | 618 | 671 | 810 | 815 | 223 | 53 | 139 | 5 | 56.5% | 8.6% | 20.7% | 0.6% |
| Boon Township | 457 | 500 | 562 | 670 | 687 | 43 | 62 | 108 | 17 | 9.4% | 12.4% | 19.2% | 2.5% |
| Cadillac city | 9,990 | 10,199 | 10,104 | 10,000 | 10,308 | 209 | -95 | -104 | 308 | 2.1% | -0.9% | -1.0% | 3.1% |
| Cedar Creek Township | 692 | 1,010 | 1,013 | 1,489 | 1,661 | 318 | 3 | 476 | 172 | 46.0% | 0.3% | 47.0% | 11.6% |
| Cherry Grove Township | 835 | 1,517 | 1,763 | 2,328 | 2,410 | 682 | 246 | 565 | 82 | 81.7% | 16.2% | 32.0% | 3.5% |
| Clam Lake Township | 1,084 | 1,658 | 1,739 | 2,238 | 2,322 | 574 | 81 | 499 | 84 | 53.0% | 4.9% | 28.7% | 3.8% |
| Colfax Township | 374 | 602 | 556 | 763 | 832 | 228 | -46 | 207 | 69 | 61.0% | -7.6% | 37.2% | 9.0% |
| Greenwood Township | 155 | 297 | 372 | 542 | 600 | 142 | 75 | 170 | 58 | 91.6% | 25.3% | 45.7% | 8.3% |
| Hanover Township | 373 | 665 | 826 | 1,200 | 1,270 | 292 | 161 | 374 | 70 | 78.3% | 24.2% | 45.3% | 5.8% |
| Haring Township | 1,387 | 2,523 | 2,501 | 2,962 | 3,074 | 1,136 | -22 | 461 | 112 | 81.9% | -0.9% | 18.4% | 3.7% |

WEXFORD COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2013-2017

| | Population 1970 Census | Populatio n 1980 Census | Populatio n 1990 Census | Populatio n 2000 Census | Populatio n 2010 Census | Change 1970- 80 | Change 1980- 90 | Change 1990- 2000 | Change 2000- 10 | % Change 1970-80 | % Change 1980-90 | % Change 1990-00 | % Change 2000-10 |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Henderson Township | 120 | 140 | 162 | 176 | 163 | 20 | 22 | 14 | 53 | 16.7% | 15.7% | 8.6% | -7.4% |
| Liberty Township | 334 | 542 | 641 | 800 | 878 | 208 | 99 | 159 | 78 | 62.3% | 18.3% | 24.8% | 9.8% |
| Manton city | 1,107 | 1,212 | 1,161 | 1,221 | 1,202 | 105 | -51 | 60 | -19 | 9.5% | -4.2% | 5.2% | -1.5% |
| Selma Township | 749 | 1,289 | 1,607 | 1,915 | 2,002 | 540 | 318 | 308 | 87 | 72.1% | 24.7% | 19.2% | 4.5% |
| Slagle Township | 286 | 406 | 470 | 569 | 626 | 120 | 64 | 99 | 57 | 42.0% | 15.8% | 21.1% | 10.0% |
| South Branch Township | 210 | 276 | 306 | 330 | 360 | 66 | 30 | 24 | 30 | 31.4% | 10.9% | 7.8% | 9.1% |
| Springville Township | 799 | 1,191 | 1,339 | 1,673 | 1,749 | 392 | 148 | 334 | 76 | 49.1% | 12.4% | 24.9% | 4.5% |
| Wexford Township | 370 | 457 | 567 | 798 | 880 | 87 | 110 | 231 | 82 | 23.5% | 24.1% | 40.7% | 10.3% |
| Villages: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| --- Buckley | 244 | 357 | 402 | 550 | 697 | 113 | 45 | 148 | 147 | 46.3% | 12.6% | 36.8% | 26.7% |
| --- Harrietta | 132 | 139 | 157 | 169 | 143 | 7 | 18 | 12 | -26 | 5.3% | 12.9% | 7.6% | -15.4% |
| --- Mesick | 376 | 374 | 406 | 447 | 394 | -2 | 32 | 41 | -53 | -0.5% | 8.6% | 10.1% | -11.9% |
| NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antrim County | 12,612 | 16,194 | 18,185 | 23,110 | 23,580 | 3,582 | 1,991 | 4,925 | 470 | 28.4% | 12.3% | 27.1% | 2.0% |
| Benzie County | 8,593 | 11,205 | 12,200 | 15,998 | 17,525 | 2,612 | 995 | 3,798 | 1,527 | 30.4% | 8.9% | 31.1% | 9.5% |
| Charlevoix County | 16,541 | 19,907 | 21,468 | 26,090 | 25,949 | 3,366 | 1,561 | 4,622 | -141 | 20.3% | 7.8% | 21.5% | -0.5% |
| Emmet County | 18,331 | 22,992 | 25,040 | 31,437 | 32,694 | 4,661 | 2,048 | 6,397 | 1,257 | 25.4% | 8.9% | 25.5% | 4.0% |
| Grand Traverse County | 39,175 | 54,899 | 64,273 | 77,654 | 86,986 | 15,724 | 9,374 | 13,381 | 9,332 | 40.1% | 17.1% | 20.8% | 12.0% |
| Kalkaska County | 5,272 | 10,952 | 13,497 | 16,571 | 17,153 | 5,680 | 2,545 | 3,074 | 582 | 107.7% | 23.2% | 22.8% | 3.5% |
| Leelanau County | 10,872 | 14,007 | 16,527 | 21,119 | 21,708 | 3,135 | 2,520 | 4,592 | 589 | 28.8% | 18.0% | 27.8% | 2.8% |
| Manistee County | 20,094 | 23,019 | 21,265 | 24,527 | 24,733 | 2,925 | -1,754 | 3,262 | 206 | 14.6% | -7.6% | 15.3% | 0.8% |
| Missaukee County | 7,126 | 10,009 | 12,147 | 14,478 | 14,849 | 2,883 | 2,138 | 2,331 | 371 | 40.5% | 21.4% | 19.2% | 2.6% |
| Wexford County | 19,717 | 25,102 | 26,360 | 30,484 | 32,735 | 5,385 | 1,258 | 4,124 | 2,251 | 27.3% | 5.0% | 15.6% | 7.4% |
| TOTAL | 158,333 | 208,286 | 230,962 | 281,468 | 298,796 | 49,953 | 22,676 | 50,506 | 17,328 | 31.5% | 10.9% | 21.9% | 6.2% |

Population Density and Housing

| County/ County Divi- sion/ Place | Population | | | Housing Units | | | Area measurements in sq. miles | | Average per sq. mile of land | |
|---|------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 2010 | 2000 | 1990 | 2010 | 2000 | 1990 | Total area | Land Area | Population Density | Housing Unit Density |
| Wexford County | 32,735 | 30,484 | 26,360 | 16,736 | 14,872 | 12,862 | 575.47 | 565.00 | 57.9 | 29.6 |
| Antioch township | 815 | 810 | 671 | 462 | 434 | 353 | 35.26 | 35.22 | 23.1 | 13.1 |
| Mesick village (part) | – | (X) | (X) | – | (X) | (X) | 0.01 | 0.01 | – | – |
| Boon township | 687 | 670 | 562 | 387 | 342 | 286 | 36.01 | 36.01 | 19.1 | 10.7 |
| Boon CDP | 167 | (X) | (X) | 77 | (X) | (X) | 1.76 | 1.76 | 94.9 | 43.8 |
| Harrietta village (part) | 130 | 147 | 119 | 83 | 76 | 66 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 276.6 | 176.6 |
| Cadillac city | 10,355 | 10,000 | 10,104 | 4,927 | 4,466 | 4,299 | 9.03 | 7.16 | 1,446.2 | 688.1 |
| Cedar Creek township | 1,757 | 1,489 | 1,013 | 748 | 611 | 423 | 34.14 | 34.12 | 51.5 | 21.9 |
| Cherry Grove township | 2,377 | 2,328 | 1,763 | 1,303 | 1,198 | 918 | 36.21 | 33.37 | 71.2 | 39.0 |
| Wedgewood CDP | 237 | (X) | (X) | 100 | (X) | (X) | 0.65 | 0.62 | 382.3 | 161.3 |
| Clam Lake township | 2,467 | 2,238 | 1,739 | 1,096 | 929 | 748 | 30.85 | 30.71 | 80.3 | 35.7 |
| Colfax township | 840 | 763 | 556 | 461 | 411 | 323 | 35.40 | 35.26 | 23.8 | 13.1 |
| Greenwood township | 587 | 542 | 372 | 352 | 346 | 258 | 35.37 | 35.36 | 16.6 | 10.0 |
| Hanover town- ship | 1,560 | 1,200 | 826 | 804 | 639 | 511 | 36.15 | 35.99 | 43.3 | 22.3 |
| Buckley village | 697 | 550 | 402 | 300 | 212 | 173 | 1.84 | 1.78 | 391.6 | 168.5 |
| Haring charter township | 3,173 | 2,962 | 2,501 | 1,389 | 1,149 | 912 | 32.78 | 32.36 | 98.1 | 42.9 |
| Haring CDP | 328 | (X) | (X) | 140 | (X) | (X) | 2.23 | 2.23 | 147.1 | 62.8 |
| Henderson township | 163 | 176 | 162 | 125 | 111 | 107 | 36.22 | 36.21 | 4.5 | 3.5 |
| Liberty township | 861 | 800 | 641 | 406 | 395 | 319 | 36.53 | 36.51 | 23.6 | 11.1 |
| Manton city | 1,287 | 1,221 | 1,161 | 577 | 541 | 522 | 1.61 | 1.56 | 825.0 | 369.9 |
| Selma township | 2,093 | 1,915 | 1,607 | 1,227 | 1,086 | 929 | 35.99 | 34.31 | 61.0 | 35.8 |
| Slagle township | 503 | 569 | 470 | 423 | 391 | 375 | 35.79 | 35.79 | 14.1 | 11.8 |
| Caberfae CDP (part) | 13 | (X) | (X) | 32 | (X) | (X) | 0.12 | 0.12 | 108.3 | 266.7 |
| Harrietta village (part) | 13 | 22 | 38 | 20 | 17 | 28 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 28.3 | 43.5 |
| South Branch township | 383 | 330 | 306 | 455 | 429 | 368 | 36.05 | 36.03 | 10.6 | 12.6 |
| Caberfae CDP (part) | 51 | (X) | (X) | 94 | (X) | (X) | 0.23 | 0.23 | 221.7 | 408.7 |
| Springville town- ship | 1,755 | 1,673 | 1,339 | 1,091 | 1,015 | 929 | 35.53 | 32.50 | 54.0 | 33.6 |
| Mesick village (part) | 394 | 447 | 406 | 190 | 185 | 180 | 1.29 | 1.29 | 305.4 | 147.3 |
| Wexford town- ship | 1,072 | 798 | 567 | 503 | 379 | 292 | 36.54 | 36.54 | 29.3 | 13.8 |

(X) Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1

Impact of Growth

Using the above population projections certain predictions can be made concerning the land use demands necessary to accommodate the anticipated growth. These predictions are based on a planners "Rule of thumb" developed by Michigan State University.³

³Moffat, Geoffrey V. and Robert B. Hotaling; *Michigan Townships Planning and Zoning Handbook*; Institute for Community Development, Lifelong Education Programs, Michigan State University; 1980; page 60.

| "Rule of Thumb" Impact of Population Growth on Development | | | |
|---|--------|---------|---------|
| Year | 2010 | 2020 | 2030 |
| Projected Population | 35,844 | 40,677 | 46,385 |
| Low Range | 33,427 | 36,362 | 39,285 |
| High Range | 40,128 | 48,982 | 60,659 |
| Will Have: | | | |
| Estimated New Population | 5,360 | 10,193 | 15,901 |
| Low Range: new population | 2,943 | 5,878 | 8,801 |
| High Range: new population | 9,644 | 18,498 | 30,175 |
| Estimated New Families | 1,340 | 2,548 | 3,975 |
| Low Range: new families | 677 | 1,352 | 2,024 |
| High Range: new families | 2,604 | 4,994 | 8,147 |
| Estimated New Preschoolers | 482 | 917 | 1,431 |
| Low Range: new preschoolers | 235 | 470 | 704 |
| High Range: new preschoolers | 964 | 1,850 | 3,018 |
| Estimated K-12 school children | 1,447 | 2,752 | 4,293 |
| Low Range: K-12 children | 677 | 1,352 | 2,024 |
| High Range: K-12 children | 2,990 | 5,734 | 9,354 |
| Estimated new adults | 3,430 | 6,524 | 10,177 |
| Low Range: adults | 1,736 | 3,468 | 5,193 |
| High range: adults | 6,654 | 12,764 | 20,821 |
| Will need: | | | |
| Acres of residential land | 402.0 | 764.5 | 1,192.6 |
| Low Range: acres of residential | 176.6 | 352.7 | 528.1 |
| High Range: acres of residential | 868.0 | 1,664.8 | 2,715.8 |
| New Miles of streets/roads | 11.8 | 22.4 | 34.9 |
| Low Range: miles new road | 5.5 | 11.1 | 16.5 |
| High Range: miles new road | 24.2 | 46.4 | 75.6 |
| New Public lands | 107.2 | 203.9 | 318.0 |
| Low Range: new public lands | 58.9 | 117.6 | 176.0 |
| High Range: new public lands | 192.9 | 370.0 | 603.5 |

| "Rule of Thumb" Impact of Population Growth on Development | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| Year | 2010 | 2020 | 2030 |
| New Service Establishment Acres | 16.1 | 30.6 | 47.7 |
| Low Range: Service est. acres | 8.8 | 17.6 | 26.4 |
| High Range: Service est. acres | 28.9 | 55.5 | 90.5 |
| New Retail Businesses Acres | 10.7 | 20.4 | 31.8 |
| Low Range: Retail Business acres | 5.9 | 11.8 | 17.6 |
| High Range: Retail Business acres | 19.3 | 37.0 | 60.4 |

Wexford County also experiences a major influence from seasonal residents. There is an estimated annual average 27% additional people (34,846 in 1990; 37,998 in 2000 total annual average people in the county) in Wexford County. In summer this can peak (at full capacity) at an additional 81% (49,617 in 1990, 52,769 in 2000). The calculations to estimate seasonal population is presented on page 11. These projections are crude. Wexford County is a part of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (a regional planning and development district). The other counties, realizing the importance of seasonal population, jointly contracted to do a detailed analysis of seasonal population broken down by county and by month.

Using the above population projections and factoring in seasonal populations the predictions can be modified concerning the land use demands necessary to accommodate the anticipated growth with seasonal and tourist demands. These predictions are also based on the planners "Rule of thumb" developed by Michigan State University.⁴ Based on this the following can be estimated:

| "Rule of Thumb" Impact Inc. Seasonal Population Growth on Development | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Year | 2010 | 2020 | 2030 |
| Projected Perm. & seasonal Population | 45,522 | 51,660 | 58,909 |
| Low Range | 42,452 | 46,180 | 49,892 |
| High Range | 50,963 | 62,207 | 77,037 |
| Will Have: | | | |
| Estimated New Population | 6,807 | 12,945 | 20,194 |
| Low Range: new population | 3,738 | 7,465 | 11,177 |
| High Range: new population | 12,248 | 23,492 | 38,322 |
| | | | |

⁴Moffat, Geoffrey V.; *Michigan Townships Planning and Zoning Handbook*; Institute for Community Development, Lifelong Education Programs, Michigan State University; 1980; page 60.

| "Rule of Thumb" Impact Inc. Seasonal Population Growth on Development | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Year | 2010 | 2020 | 2030 |
| Estimated New Families | 1,702 | 3,236 | 5,049 |
| Low Range: new families | 860 | 1,717 | 2,571 |
| High Range: new families | 3,307 | 6,343 | 10,347 |
| | | | |
| Estimated new adults | 4,357 | 8,285 | 12,924 |
| Low Range: adults | 2,205 | 4,404 | 6,595 |
| High range: adults | 8,451 | 16,210 | 26,442 |
| Will need: | | | |
| Acres of residential land | 510.0 | 970.9 | 1,514.6 |
| Low Range: acres of residential | 224.3 | 447.9 | 670.6 |
| High Range: acres of residential | 1,102.3 | 2,114.3 | 3,449.0 |
| | | | |
| New Miles of streets/roads | 14.9 | 28.4 | 44.3 |
| Low Range: miles new road | 7.0 | 14.0 | 21.0 |
| High Range: miles new road | 30.7 | 58.9 | 96.1 |
| | | | |
| New Public lands | 136.1 | 258.9 | 403.9 |
| Low Range: new public lands | 74.8 | 149.3 | 223.5 |
| High Range: new public lands | 245.0 | 469.8 | 766.4 |
| | | | |
| New Service Establishment Acres | 20.4 | 38.8 | 60.6 |
| Low Range: Service est. acres | 11.2 | 22.4 | 33.5 |
| High Range: Service est. acres | 36.7 | 70.5 | 115.0 |
| | | | |
| New Retail Businesses Acres | 13.6 | 25.9 | 40.4 |
| Low Range: Retail Business acres | 7.5 | 14.9 | 22.4 |
| High Range: Retail Business acres | 24.5 | 47.0 | 76.6 |

A county plan that provides current vacant land in quantity that is more than the above acreage will adequately provide for anticipated economic growth. Given that the Cadillac area is a regional economic hub, providing twice the vacant land for the above types of development will accommodate the anticipated growth.

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Cadillac dominates Wexford County for location of industrial and “economic base” jobs: 19.7% of the county tax base is from industrial property (12.5% commercial); three out of five industrial parks are in Cadillac; all of the 10 largest employers in the county are in Cadillac; eight of the ten largest taxpayers in the county are manufacturers.

The Cadillac urban area is the dominant location for employment. The remainder of Wexford County is a bedroom community to Cadillac or Traverse City. Reported commuting times also support Cadillac’s economic dominance in the county and that the rest of the county are bedroom communities.

Wexford area has seen a strong retail and service growth – reflecting both a nation-wide trend and Cadillac’s becoming a regional retail-service center.

Family income for the county at \$51,542 (average 1999) and \$40,236 (median 1999) meaning an average family can afford housing priced at an average of \$70,675 to \$95,893.

Wexford has many low paying jobs, or jobs which provide poor benefits, resulting in over 1,159 households receiving food stamps.

Cadillac urban area is a mini-governmental center.

Wexford County is among the top counties in the state (varies from year-to-year from #1 to #3 county) in Christmas Tree production. Christmas trees in northwest Michigan can have a greater value than the cherry industry.

2,785 jobs, or 15% of the labor force are directly related to tourism.

About 17,410 of the jobs in the 22,544 job Wexford-Missaukee labor market area are located in Wexford County. Annual average unemployment rate has ranged from 10.22% in 1995 to 6.04% in 2000 (2,090 to 1,360 unemployed).

The percentage of workers in sales, services, farming, forestry, machine operating, assembly, and equipment handling in Wexford County is higher than the statewide average.

Wexford-Missaukee’s economic sectors are proportionally larger than the Michigan average for Agriculture, forestry, mining, construction, wholesale and retail, health and education, and government.

In the future it is anticipated that employees will be following two career paths.

1. “Service” oriented characterized by low paying jobs, low amount of education needed, and ability to use a computer.
2. “High tech” characterized by high pay, high levels of education, computer use and programing, need for Internet access, and the possibility of telecommuting.

Futurists further predict that the continued growth of “high tech” jobs will continue to bring about additional changes: virtual office, less significance in the meaning “going to work”

virtual companies with employees scattered worldwide. People can choose to live where they want.

Income Statistics for Wexford and Surrounding Counties, 2000

| COUNTY | 2000 POP. | MEDIAN HSHLD INCOME \$ | MEDIAN PER CAPITA INCOME \$ | % OF POP. RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE | FAMILIES LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL | INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL | % UNEMPLOYED |
|----------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| WEXFORD | 30,484 | 35,363 | 17,144 | 4.2% | 7.7% | 10.3% | 6.9% |
| Manistee | 24,527 | 34,208 | 17,204 | 3.5% | 6.9% | 10.3% | 6.5% |
| Missaukee | 14,478 | 35,224 | 16,072 | 4.3% | 8.2% | 10.7% | 6.5% |
| Osceola | 23,197 | 34,102 | 15,632 | 3.8% | 9.5% | 12.7% | 6.6% |
| Grand Traverse | 77,654 | 43,169 | 22,111 | 2.0% | 3.8% | 5.9% | 4.6% |
| Kalkaska | 16,571 | 36,072 | 16,309 | 3.4% | 8.2% | 10.5% | 6.4% |
| Benzie | 15,998 | 37,350 | 18,524 | 2.0% | 4.7% | 7.0% | 6.2% |
| Lake | 11,333 | 26,622 | 14,457 | 6.3% | 14.7% | 19.4% | 8.4% |
| AREA-WIDE | 214,242 | 35,264 | 17,182 | 3.7% | 8.0% | 10.9% | 6.5% |

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, Economic and Social Characteristics 2000.

HEALTH INDICATORS

One of the major challenges facing residents of Wexford County is developing and maintaining healthy lifestyles. In 2006, the United Way of Wexford and Missaukee Counties, in conjunction with the Cadillac Area Community Foundation and the Human Services Leadership Council, published the “Wexford and Missaukee 2006 Indicator Report”. According to the study, Wexford County experienced death rates for heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory disease in 2004 that were all higher than the state average. According to a 2004 survey by the Michigan Department of Community Health, it was estimated that 77% of residents in the Wexford-Missaukee County area are either overweight or obese.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

CLIMATE⁵

Temperatures in Wexford County vary from a February minimum average of 7.9°F to a August maximum average of 76.7°F. The record low was -43°F in January 30, 1951, and record high of 104°F in July 13, 1936. The highest average monthly maximum temperature was 87.2°F recorded in July 1955, and the lowest average monthly minimum temperature was -4.5°F, recorded in February 1978.

Heating and cooling degree-days data are used as an index of the heating and cooling requirements for buildings which are proportional to the number of degree-days. Heating degree-days for a single day are obtained by subtracting the mean temperature from 65°F from the mean temperature when the mean temperature is below 65°F. Cooling degree-days for a single day are obtained by subtracting 65°F from the mean temperature when the mean temperature is above 65°F. Each are then summed to yield monthly totals.

Heating and Cooling Degree Days Table

| MONTH | HEATING DEGREE DAYS | COOLING DEGREE DAYS |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| January | 1,475 | 0 |
| February | 1,332 | 0 |
| March | 1,175 | 0 |
| April | 705 | 1 |
| May | 383 | 15 |
| June | 137 | 62 |
| July | 58 | 104 |
| August | 88 | 82 |
| September | 264 | 25 |
| October | 558 | 2 |
| November | 910 | 0 |
| December | 1,307 | 0 |
| Year | 8,392 | 291 |

Based on the 1951-1980 period, the average date of the last freezing temperature in the spring was June 3. The average date of the first freezing temperature in the fall was September 12. The freeze-free period, or growing season averaged 100 days annually.

Wexford County is located about 21 to 28 miles⁶ east of Lake Michigan. As a result of prevailing westerly winds, crossing Lake Michigan, Wexford County experiences a lake effect

⁵Discussion on climate based on the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Climatology Program, 417 Natural Science Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

⁶The distance is about 21 miles at the north end, and 28 miles at the south end of Wexford County. The difference is due to the irregular Lake Michigan coastline.

influence on the weather. The lake effect is mainly in the winter, providing increased cloudiness and snowfall. With northeast winds the sky may clear and provide lower temperatures more commonly experienced at interior locations. The lake effect has almost no effect in the summer, or for agricultural purposes. Wexford's climate is characterized by larger temperature ranges than in areas at the same latitude near the Great Lakes.

Wexford County seldom experiences prolonged periods of hot, humid weather in the summer or extreme cold during winter due to the movement of pressure systems across the nation. The prevailing wind is westerly, averaging 9 miles per hour (mph). The average 1 p.m. relative humidity varies from 51% for May to 78% for December, and averages 63% annually.

Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year. The crop season, April-September, receives an average of 18.37 inches of rain, or 60% of the average annual total during the 1951-1980 period. In the same period the wettest month was September with 3.48 inches. The average driest month was February with 1.38 inches. The largest amount of precipitation in a 24 hour period was 3.77 inches in May 27-28, 1945. The greatest monthly total was 12.25 inches in September 1986. The least monthly total was 0.00 inches in September 1979.

Summer precipitation is mainly in the form of afternoon showers and thundershowers. Annually, thunderstorms occur on an average of 33 days. Michigan is at the northeast fringe of the Midwest tornado belt. During 1950-1987 there were five tornadoes in Wexford County.

In winter the 1950-1951 through 1979-1980 average seasonal snowfall was 71.4 inches. During this period 114 days per season average 1 inch or more of snow on the ground, but varies greatly from year to year. The greatest snow depth of 42 inches was recorded February 24, 1959. The largest amount of snowfall is 12 inches in a day on January 27, 1978. The largest monthly total is 60.1 inches in January 1982. The greatest seasonal total is 181 inches in 1984-1985. The least seasonal total is 26.9 inches in 1936-1937.

TOPOGRAPHY

About 50 percent of Wexford County is made up of rolling to steep glacial moraines, with most of the remainder undulating or nearly level glacial out wash plains. The highest point in Wexford County is Briar Hill at 1,706 feet elevation. (Appendix N)

SOILS

Soils information used for this plan is based on the *Soil Survey of Lake and Wexford Counties Michigan* of August 1985 shown on Appendix C. The soils information is a major source of data on the county's land resources. Soil data is a major factor in determining prime forest lands and timber productivity rates, in identifying nationally prime farmlands and locally essential farmlands, and soil characteristics play a role in determining septic tank feasibility, residential and commercial development, industrial disposal limitations, and so on.

A short listing of the soil types found in Wexford County are:

Sandy Soils. Nearly level to steep, somewhat excessively drained and well drained sandy soils. Not fertile, thus not productive for crops or trees. Fast leaching, which tends to make groundwater vulnerable to contamination from the surface.

- ⌘ Rubicon-Montcalm-Graycalm
- ⌘ Grayling-Graycalm
- ⌘ Kalkaska
- ⌘ Croswell sand
- ⌘ Pits

Sandy Loam Soils. Nearly level, undulating, to steep, well drained loamy and sandy soils.

- ⌘ Emmet-Montcalm
- ⌘ Hodenpyl-Karlin

Loam and Clay-Loam Soils. Nearly level to steep well drained and somewhat poorly drained loamy and sandy soils. Tends to be the more fertile, productive soils. Also tends to be soils that are problems for use of on site sewage disposal systems.

- ⌘ Nester-Kawkawlin-Manistee

Wetland and flood plain Soils. Nearly level and undulating, very poorly drained and moderately well drained mucky and sandy soils in bogs, depressions, drainage ways.

- ⌘ Tawas-Croswell-Lupton
- ⌘ Au Gres-Finch sands
- ⌘ Allendale loamy sand
- ⌘ (Fluvaquents and Histosols)
- ⌘ Winterfield sands

Wexford County Soil Usage Chart⁷

(For full details, see *Soil Survey of Lake and Wexford Counties Michigan*⁸)

| Map Symbol and Soil Series Name | Hydrologic Soil Group | Agri-culture Typical-ly Farmed or Prime farm land | Forest Site Index 70+ for at least one species | On site drain fields (septic system) | Leaching Potential | Limited Development Due to Slope of Land | Slope is a Problem | Okay for Development of Home with basement | Okay for Development of Commercial | This is a Hydric Soil |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10A AuGres Finch | B | Limited | Yes | No - Wet | medium | | | | | |
| 11A Croswell | A | | | No - Wet | high | | | | | |
| 12B Emmet Montcalm | B-A | Prime - Yes | | Okay | medium | | | Yes | Yes | |
| 12C Emmet Montcalm | B-A | Yes | | Okay | medium | | | Yes | | |
| 12D Emmet Montcalm | B-A | Yes | | Okay | medium | | | | | |
| 12E Emmet Montcalm | B-A | | | No - Slope | medium | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 13B Grayling | A | | | Okay but Poor Filter | high | | | Yes | Yes | |
| 14A Allendale | B | | | No - Wet | low | | | | | |
| 15B Kalkaska | A | Yes | | Okay but Poor Filter | high | | | Yes | Yes | |
| 15C Kalkaska | A | Yes | | Okay but Poor Filter | high | | | Yes | | |

⁷This is a generalization of uses for each soil map unit. Please refer to the soil survey for further details. The soil survey should not be used for site specific information. On-site investigations should be completed for specific projects.

⁸Soil Conservation Service; *Soil Survey of Lake and Wexford Counties Michigan*; United States Department of Agriculture (and U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station); August 1985.

WEXFORD COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2013-2017

| Map Symbol and Soil Series Name | Hydrologic Soil Group | Agri-culture Typical-ly Farmed or Prime farm land | Forest Site Index 70+ for at least one species | On site drain fields (septic system) | Leaching Potential | Limited Development Due to Slope of Land | Slope is a Problem | Okay for Development of Home with basement | Okay for Development of Commercial | This is a Hydric Soil |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 15E Kalkaska | A | | | No - Slope | high | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 16B Hodenpyl-Karlin | B-A | Prime-Yes | | Okay | medium | | | Yes | Yes | |
| 17A Kawkawlin | C | Prime-Yes | | No - Wet | low | | | | | |
| 18 Loxley peat | A/D | | | No - Wet | | | | | | Yes |
| 19 Lupton Muck | A/D | | | No - Wet | | | | | | Yes |
| 20B Montcalm Graycalm | A | Yes | Yes | Okay | high | | | Yes | Yes | |
| 20C Montcalm Graycalm | A | Yes | Yes | Okay | high | | | Yes | | |
| 20E Montcalm Graycalm | A | | Yes | No - Slope | high | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 21B Nester | C | Prime-Yes | | Okay but some wetness | low | | | | | |
| 21C Nester | C | Yes | | Okay but some wetness | low | | | | | |
| 21E Nester | C | | | No - Slope | low | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 22 Tawas Roscommon | A/D | | | No - Wet | low medium (D) | | | | | Yes |
| 23B Rubicon | A | Yes | | No - Poor Filter | high | | | Yes | | |
| 23E Rubicon | A | | | No - Poor Filter, Slope | high | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 24D Rubicon | A | | | No - Poor Filter, Slope | high | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 25 Pits | N/A | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 26B Manistee Montcalm | A | Yes | | Okay | high | | | Yes | Yes | |
| 26C Manistee Montcalm | A | Yes | | Okay | high | | | | | |
| 28C Dighton | B | Yes | | No - Perk, Poor Filter | medium | | | | | |
| 29B Graycalm Grayling | A | | Yes | Okay but Poor Filter | high | | | Yes | Yes | |
| 29D Graycalm Grayling | A | | Yes | No | high | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 30B Kalkaska East Lake | A | | | Yes - Poor Filter | high | | | Yes | Yes | |
| 30C Kalkaska East Lake | A | No | | Yes- Poor Filter | high | No | | | | |
| 30E Kalkaska East Lake | A | No | | No | high | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 34 Winterfield | A/D | No | | No - Wet | Low | No | | | | Yes |
| 35B Mancelona East Lake | A | No | Yes | Yes - Poor Filter | high | No | | Yes | Yes | |
| 36B Kalkaska Banded | A | No | | Yes - Poor Filter | high | No | | Yes | Yes | |

| Map Symbol and Soil Series Name | Hydrologic Soil Group | Agri-culture Typical-ly Farmed or Prime farm land | Forest Site Index 70+ for at least one species | On site drain fields (septic system) | Leaching Potential | Limited Development Due to Slope of Land | Slope is a Problem | Okay for Development of Home with basement | Okay for Development of Commercial | This is a Hydric Soil |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 36C Kalkaska Banded | A | No | Yes | No | high | No | | | | |
| 36E Kalkaska Banded | A | No | Yes | No | high | Yes | Yes | | | |
| 37 Fluvaquants | | No | | No - Wet | n/a | No | | | | Yes |

The soil survey is useful for broad planning purposes and for making zoning ordinance policy decisions. However, site inspection is necessary for planning specifics, such as for buildings, roads, farm operation, taxation and so on.

The soil map presented on Appendix C, is generalized from the soils report. More detail is available from the Wexford County Conservation District. The Wexford portions of the *Soil Survey of Lake and Wexford Counties Michigan* and soil GIS digital files, are adopted and made a part of this *Plan* by this reference.

VEGETATIVE COVER

The forests of Wexford County include hemlock and other coniferous trees, such as red and white pine, spruce and fir, and deciduous trees, such as birch, beech, maple, basswood, and oak. Swamp and wetland vegetation patterns are also found along with a multitude of shrubs. As a result of intensive lumbering in the past, most of these forested areas are second growth and the original forest habitat patterns have been altered to some degree.

The greatest share of land in Wexford County falls in the forest category. The three principal segments are the United States Manistee National Forest, the Michigan Pere Marquette State Forest and the large tracts of land owned by Consumers Energy (formerly Consumers Power) along the Manistee River. Approximately 10,000 acres of Consumers Energy property has been sold in the last 25 years; primarily to the Federal and State groups. All of these areas are under some degree of woodland-wildlife-recreation management plan.

| | |
|---|----------|
| U.S. Government - Manistee National Forest | 95,626 |
| State of Michigan Pere Marquette State Forest | 54,034 |
| Municipalities (inc. Manton) | 1,122 |
| Wexford County (inc. Manton) | 748 |
| School districts (inc. Manton) | 2,490 |
| TOTAL | *154,020 |

*In acres

WATER & RECREATION RESOURCES

Wexford County' surface waters are major attractions for recreation and tourism. Wexford County is divided between two major drainage areas –watersheds: the Big Manistee River and the Muskegon River (Clam River/Lakes Cadillac/Mitchell). Both flow into Lake Michigan. The Manistee River watershed can be further divided into 60 smaller drainage areas. Among them, some of the major ones include: Pine River, (including Poplar Creek and North Branch Pine River/Fairchild/Spalding Creeks), Slagle Creek, Fletcher Creek, Wheeler Creek (Lake Gitchegumee), Anderson Creek, Silver Creek, Manton Creek, and Fife Lake Outlet. Also there is a large number of named and unnamed feeder creeks to the Big Manistee River in the north central part of Wexford County representing artesian flow from groundwater moving north from the glacial hills toward the river. A map prepared using GIS, (Appendix D), shows the estimated divides between watersheds in the county.

Watersheds are the areas around a creek, river or lake which drain into that creek, river or lake. Thus any water which does not evaporate or soak into the ground flows downhill to a particular body of water. The major river systems in the county are shown on a map in Appendix E.

As can be seen by the surface water map and generalized watersheds map, the bulk of the county is within the watershed of the Big Manistee River/Pine River. These two areas provide

drainage for most of the southern, central, west and north parts of the county. The Cadillac urban area is within the Clam River/Muskegon River which includes the east central and east-south part of the county.

The Big Manistee River is a federal Wild and Scenic River, administered by the U.S. Forest Service downstream from Wexford County, in Manistee County. Also the Pine River in Wexford County is a federal Wild and Scenic River. The Big Manistee River is also under study by the DNR for designation as a state Natural River. The area under consideration includes all of the river in Wexford County and an unknown number of tributaries.

The bulk of the land along the Pine River is owned and managed by the United States Forest Service. The bulk of the land along the Big Manistee is owned by the State of Michigan (and managed by the Forestry Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources) and Consumers Energy Company. With such designation, plus all the additional attributes associated with the Big Manistee River and Pine River valleys, the resource deserves particular attention.

Major wetlands in Wexford County include:

- Hinton-Arquilla Creeks headwaters;
- The headwaters to westerly unnamed feeder creeks to Fletcher Creek;
- A network of wetlands which are headwaters to Silver Creek and feeders, Buttermilk Creek feeders, and to the west of Manton Creek;;
- The bayous and valley associated with the Big Manistee and Pine Rivers;;
- The headwaters of Fairchild Creek and feeders/Poplar Creek;;
- Brandy Brook (a.k.a. Thousand Acre Swamp); and:
- Heritage-Cadillac Nature Study Area.

Appendix F, illustrates those areas of the county considered wetlands. Compared to other counties, Wexford does not have a large acreage of lands classified as wetlands.

There are wetlands in the county which should receive special attention. They include:

- Brandy Brook;
- Heritage-Cadillac Nature Study Area;
- the bayous and valley associated with the Big Manistee and Pine Rivers; and
- the network of wetlands which are headwaters to Silver Creek and feeders, Buttermilk Creek feeders, and to the west of Manton Creek.

Major Lakes in Wexford County include:

- Lake Mitchell,
- Lake Cadillac,
- Hodenpyl Dam Pond,
- Long Lake,
- Lake Gitchegume,
- Pleasant Lake,
- Stone Ledge Lake,
- Lake Meauwataka (Dayhuff Lake),
- Berry Lake,
- Woodward Lake, and

- Round Lake.

These are mostly shallow lakes, where the lake bottom represents locations where the surface of the ground is lower than the groundwater table. These lakes are mostly spring fed.

Along with the discussion of surface water several areas of Wexford County -- mainly along the Clam River --are classified as flood prone or flood hazard areas. The classification exists for townships which have passed resolutions to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program created by the U.S. Congress.

All the streams in Wexford County are quality trout streams because of abundant groundwater discharge into the surface water resulting in cold water streams. With this situation it is very important -- from a fisheries perspective -- to protect groundwater and stream edges. Identified as an environmental concern, a multi-disciplinary team with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has developed a *Riparian Zone Management Guidelines* for land use along stream edges. These guidelines are recommendations for land management along streams which are applicable for the rivers in Wexford.

LAND USE

Use of land changes over time. In Wexford County 62 square miles of land has changed use or cover over a 20 year period. A map of these changes is shown on Appendix G.

Changes from 1978 to 1998/99 can be summarized with the following points:

- Nearly 31 square miles (19,880 acres) of agricultural lands were lost in Wexford County from 1978 to 1998/99. That is an average of a 2¾ acre farmland loss per day.
- In most areas of Wexford County farmland loss is **not** a result of urbanization or sprawl. Sprawl appears to only be happening around the City of Cadillac area, and impacting farmland loss in Clam Lake Township. Most of the county is seeing a loss of farmland for other reasons; with former farmland now being grass/shrub land (52%) and forest (39%).
- Farmland devoted to christmas tree production increased.
- Deciduous forest in Wexford received the second largest loss with 9.6 fewer square miles (6,147.75 fewer acres) of broadleaf forest. The area of the county which is classified as forested (70⅓%) is a much greater area, so the percentage of loss is only 3.4%.
- Less than normal change occurred in Hanover, South Branch and Henderson Townships. Moderately low change occurred in Slagle, Boon, Springville, Colfax and Greenwood Townships.
- The second largest gain in the county was in urbanization (residential, commercial/services/institutional, industrial, transportation/utilities, extractive (sand or gravel pits), and other (cemeteries, parks, recreation areas) land use/cover categories). An additional 9.4 square miles (6,012¼ acres) have become urbanized. This represents a 56¾% increase over the urban areas in 1978. Today there is 4½% of the county in urban land use categories, about 26 square miles (16,606 acres).
- Lands that have become urbanized were, in 1978, mainly forest and grass/shrub. About 24% was agricultural land uses.
- Sprawl has become a buzz word for a type of development which has bad

connotations. However not all sprawl is “bad.” Sprawl is a necessary part of what happens when a community grows. In one view sprawl becomes “bad” when it happens without the corresponding growth. In that case one has urban development spreading out on the land (more roads, sewer, water pipes) with additional public costs without the increased number of people to pay taxes to pay for those services. This has been happening in Michigan.

- Residential increased by about 6 square miles (3,853 acres) from 1978 to 1998/99, a 57½% increase over 1978. Wexford’s population grew 21½% during 1980-2000. Residential growth, by itself, can be considered the third largest land use/cover growth change in Wexford County, even though some may consider it a subset of “urban.”
- Residential sprawl – in terms of disconnected concentrated residential development (subdivisions, around lakes, etc.) – appears most prevalent in the south two thirds of Haring Township and the north half of Clam Lake Township.
- Residential sprawl – in terms of appearance of unplanned rural lineal development along roads – is most prevalent in the Haring, Clam Lake, Cherry Grove, and Selma Townships. Less prevalent, it is also seen around Manton (Cedar Creek Township), and around Mesick. This feature of the landscape was almost non-existent in 1978.
- Creation of an Urban Growth Boundary has been a very successful tool in other communities to manage growth so that it does not occur in a sprawl fashion. Four possible Urban Growth Boundaries around Cadillac are presented to start such discussion
- “Other urban” (cemeteries, parks, recreation areas) grew by almost 1.4 square miles (928.6 acres) from 1978-1998/99 – a 95% increase over 1978 land uses. Much of this growth can be attributed to new golf courses, Caberfae resort, and the Buckley Engine Show grounds.
- Two square miles (1,321 acres, or ⅓% of the county) is commercial/service/institutional. Commercial land use grew 0.94 square miles (602 acres) for a 83% growth over 1978 land used for commercial land uses.
- One and a half square miles (961½ acres, or ¼% of the county) is industrial. This land use category increased ⅓ of a square mile (216 acres) in the 20-year study period. That represents a 29% growth rate over the 1978 area of industrial land use.
- Grass/shrub lands is the third largest gain with an additional 5¾ square miles (3,685.3 acres, or 11% of the county) in this land use/cover category. The rate of change is 10% over the 1978 land area. Most of the gain in rangelands/fields/grassland came from agriculture loss. About 17⅔ square miles (11,288 acres, or 51.797% of the total grassland gain) was from agriculture land uses.
- A major part of a county plan is a future land use map, that should be drawn based on an analysis of natural and cultural resources.

ZONING

The majority of land in Wexford County has been placed in the low to medium density residential zoning districts. Public and privately owned parks and recreation areas are generally allowed in these zones, either as a permitted or special use. The adopted Wexford County Zoning Map is shown on Appendix H.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Wexford county is serviced by the Great Lakes Railway Company from Clare, Mt. Pleasant, Midland and points south to Traverse City, Yuma, and toward Petoskey. The rail north of Yuma has been removed and has potential for a rail-to-trail transition.

Hendrick Meijer White Pine Trail follows the former rail road grade south of Cadillac ninety-two (92) miles to Grand Rapids. The White Pine trail was recently paved from Cadillac to Leroy. In Reed City the White Pine Trail intersects with the Pere Marquette rail-to-trail. This trail system is operated as a state park by the Department of Natural Resources.

The White Pine Trail would then connect with the round-the-lake bike route which circles Lake Cadillac. The City of Cadillac maintains this route. Also connecting with the bike route is the Keith McKellop Walkway⁹ following the Lake Cadillac shore in the lineal city park on the northeast part of the lake. Another connect is the Cadillac Heritage Nature Study Area nature trails at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center in the William Mitchell State Park.

In turn the bike route would be able to connect with a proposed Clam River Greenway. This trail is proposed to run along the Clam River from Lake Cadillac's lakefront lineal park to the CASA-Wise sports complex. There is further potential for this trail system to connect to the Cadillac Pathway in western Missaukee County.

The North Country Trail is a national trail system which runs from New York to Minnesota. Its route north through the lower peninsula of Michigan enters Wexford County in Springville Township and follows county roads until it is able to enter a large block of public land ownership along the Big Manistee River. This foot path (hiking, mountain biking) then follows the north side of the Big Manistee River to the east side of Wexford County, leaving the county to go toward Fife Lake. A spur, or loop to the North Country Trail – the Manistee River Trail – enters Wexford County to go to Seaton USFS Campground.

In the City of Manton volunteers are developing the Manton Pathways which starts at the west end of Cedar Street and circles around to the northwest. There is potential to connect this trail to the North Country Trail.

Through Mesick is an abandoned rail right-of-way which goes toward Thompsonville. From Thompsonville to Elberta it is being developed into a bike/hiking trail through the efforts of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Betsie Valley Trail, Inc., Benzie County, and Rails-To-Trails. There is potential for the Mesick area to connect to this trail system and to connect to the North Country Trail.

A more difficult link, due to distance and private land, would be to connect the Clam River Greenway-Cadillac area trails to the Manton-Mesick-North Country Trail system.

⁹The walkway is named after Keith “Mac” McKellop, 1911-2001, who was instrumental in the vision of , fund-raising for, and construction of the trail as chair of the Lakefront Development Committee. McKellop was active in many Cadillac civic organizations, Cadillac-Wexford County Library Board, Wexford County Historical Museum, the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce President, “Citizen of the Year,” member of Cadillac City Council and mayor pro-tem. He was also instrumental in establishing Cadillac as Tree City U.S.A.

Other trails include Missaukee Junction Off-Road Vehicle trails north of Cadillac. A snowmobile trail system in the Manistee National Forest connects Cadillac, the Caberfae Ski area, Wellston, and Baldwin.

The Cadillac Cross-Country Ski Trail enters Wexford County in Henderson Township and goes north, leaving the county at Greenwood Township.

The Wexford County Airport serves general aviation, corporate flying, and pilot training activities. It is on land owned by the City of Cadillac and Wexford County.

Cadillac-Wexford Transit Authority Inc., (Dial-A-Ride) provides on demand door-to-door service throughout the county.

The county is served by six state/federal highways U.S.-131, Old US-131/Business US-131, M-115, M-55, M-37, and M-42. The General Highway Map is shown on Appendix I.

The county is served by six state/federal highways:

- **U.S.-131** which is the main artery in the county traveling through Cadillac and Manton Cities from Grand Rapids/Big Rapids to Petoskey. Most of this route in Wexford County is a four-lane limited access facility;
- **Old US-131/ Business US-131** which is the former routing of US-131 between the northly junction with US-131 freeway north of Manton and the southerly junction with US-131 freeway just south of Cadillac. The Old US-131 sections of this route are considered by MDOT to be an unsigned state highway.
- **M-115** traveling through from Clare through Cadillac City and Mesick Village to Frankfort.
- **M-55** which heads east-west across the lower peninsula from Tawas City on Lake Huron/Lake City in Missaukee County through Cadillac to Manistee on Lake Michigan;
- **M-37** going north from Grand Rapids/Baldwin along the west edge of Wexford County through Mesick Village to Traverse City;
- **M-42** which traverses the northeast part of Wexford going from Lake City (Missaukee County) to Manton City. (A 15-mile section of M-42 between Manton and Mesick was recently decommissioned as a state highway and turned over to the Wexford County Road Commission).

U.S.-131 is considered a principal statewide artery, while M-55, M-37, and M-115 are regional arterials. M-55 is also considered a federal forest highway, and managed by the USFS as a scenic highway. M-42 is a local highway servicing a short distance. A nineteen (19) mile segment of U.S.-131 was re-routed between 1998-2004 as part of the Interstate Freeway System from the south to a point just south of the Big Manistee River (north of Manton). This result in a Business Route U.S.-131 through the central business district of Cadillac and Manton. In preparation of this a *Cadillac Area Corridor Study*¹⁰¹ was prepared with recommendation for enhancement of the business route in Haring Charter Township, Clam Lake Township, and City of Cadillac. There is discussion of a similar planning effort in the

¹⁰¹Haring Charter Township, Clam Lake Township, City of Cadillac; *Cadillac Area Corridor Study*; September 1999; pages 39-40.

Manton area.

Parts of Haring Charter Township, Clam Lake Township, and all of the City of Cadillac is also classified within a federal aid urban boundary which qualifies for federal funding assistance for safety related road construction projects. Shown on Appendix G, are the state highways and the county primary roads. County primaries also receive federal aid money for their construction and maintenance. (County local roads, on the other hand, are the responsibility of local funding, with at least 60 percent municipal funds.)

Paved roads are important for residential and commercial areas.

All-season roads (not subject to Frost Laws) are:¹¹

- **US-131;**
- **Old US-131;**
- **M-115;**
- **M-55;**
- **M-37;**
- **E 34 Road** (Boon Road) from 25 Road east to the Missaukee County line;
- **E 36 Road** (Thirteenth Street) from M-115 to S 45 Road (Crosby Road);
- **S 45 Road** (Crosby Road) from E 36 Road (Thirteenth Street) south to M-55;
- **S 41½ Road** (Mackinaw Trail) from the south county line north to Business Route US-131;
- **E 48 Road** (McBain Road) from M-115 east to the Missaukee County line;
- **S 47 Road** from M-115 to E 48 Road (McBain Road);
- **W 14 Road** (Thirteen Mile Road/Bear Lake Road) from M-115 west to the Manistee County line;
- **N 9 Road** from M-115 to W 4 Road;
- **W 4 Road** from N 9 Road to M-37;
- **N 29 Road/29 ¼ Road/ 31Road** (Meauwataka and Baxter Bridge Roads) from M-115 in Selma Township to the north county line.
- **Works Avenue** E of Business US-131 in Haring Twp.
- **Hanthorne Street** from 13th Street to Boon Road (34 Road) in Haring Twp.
- **E. 32 Road** from M-115 to 33 ½ Road in Selma Twp.
- **Hodenpyl Dam Road** from M-115 south to the Manistee Co. line in Springville Twp.
- **24 Road, E of 29 Road, continuing E to 31 Road, continuing S to 28 Road, continuing E to 37 Road, continuing S to 13th Street.**
- **14 ¼ Road** from US-131 E to 43 ½ Road in Cedar Creek Twp.
- **Casa Road** N of 13th Street in Haring Twp.

¹¹M-42 is not an all-season truck route.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Recreation Planning for Wexford County is done as a separate process. The *Wexford County Recreation Plan* was last done in 2008 and is valid through April 1, 2013. As this is written (March, 2013) the process is starting to update that plan. Presented here are recreation inventory and overview information which is not likely to change and does not duplicate data found elsewhere in this *Fact Book*.¹²

Each year, a proposed budget is requested by the County Administrator from the Civic Center Business Manager (Table 1). Each proposal must contain back-up material to support it. The County Administrator then considers the requests from all departments and based upon the available funds, recommends a general operations budget to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration.

The budget is then considered before a public review hearing and formally adopted by the Board. Thereafter, the budget may be amended if necessary by the County Administrator. The Civic Center Business Manager is responsible for overseeing the revenues and expenditures in that department and reports all necessary amendments to the County Administrator. The county must supply some general financial support to maintain the facility.

CIVIC CENTER STAFF

The Civic Center is currently staffed by one full-time manager, one night manager and two full-time maintenance workers and part time staff. The manager utilizes county work release medium security prisoners on a regular basis and other county maintenance employees and supervisors when necessary.

The manager oversees the budget, promotes activities, maintains the grounds, updates the County Administrator on any major repairs or needs of the facility, and insures that all safety measures are met. In addition, the manager deals with the public and insures that all renters provide the county with proper insurance coverage, such as hold harmless agreements.

The manager may recommend policy to the County Administrator. As the facility develops more recreational activities, the need for additional staff to meet the increase in demand will also be necessary.

ADMINISTRATOR

The County Administrator oversees the Civic Center Management. The Administrator works with the manager on the budget and is the first contact in the chain of command when problems or needs arise. The County Administrator may interpret county policy as established by the Board of Commissioners for recreation facilities and recommend any changes therein.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Wexford County Board of Commissioners has final approval on all expenditures, fees,

¹²County Citizens Committee on Recreation Matters; *Wexford County Recreation Plan*; 1996 (as amended through June 30, 2000); pp.27-30, 32-34, 36-47.

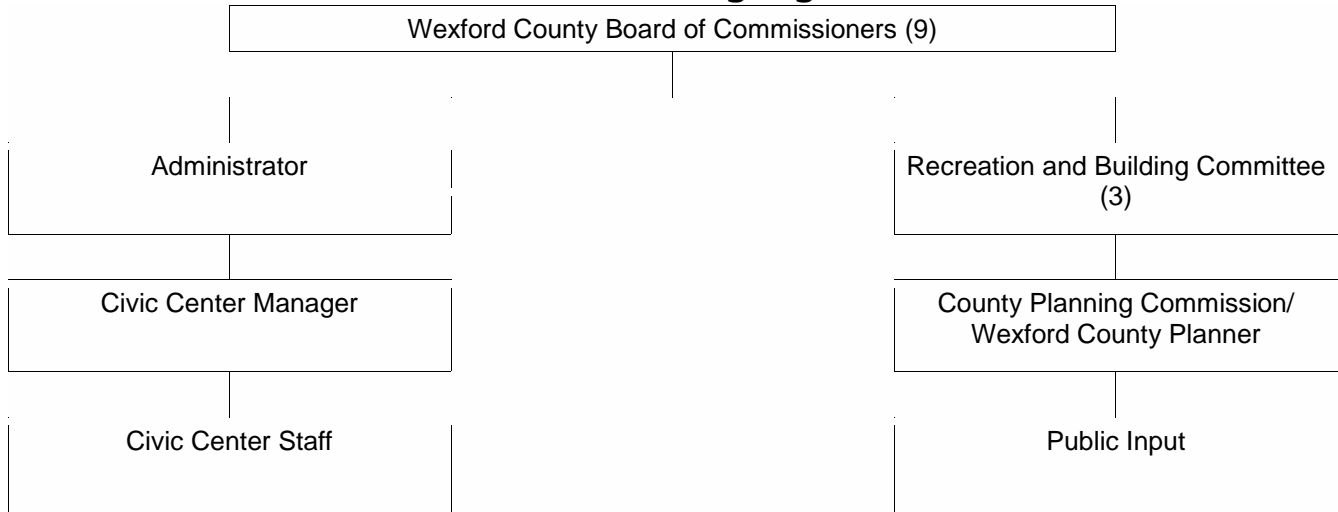
operation policies, and manpower requirements that may be required to operate and maintain county recreation facilities. Major renovations or additional buildings at any site must have final approval of the Board of Commissioners.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The county recognizes the need for other municipalities to use county recreation facilities. Presently, programs are organized and supervised by local school districts and the City of Cadillac at the Civic Center and the ice rink. In addition, the Fair board utilizes the Civic Center and grounds during the summer fair. Sports associations and clubs utilize the Civic Center on a regular basis.

Fees range from low-cost for general users such as senior walkers and child skaters to full-cost for commercial users. In addition, school districts and other non-profit organizations are provided reduced rates. Any legislative, executive, or judicial body at the local, state, or federal level is allowed to use the Civic Center for public meetings, as long as no contracted, scheduled use is booked.

Recreational Planning Organization



RECREATION INVENTORY

LIST OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

| No. | Location | Owner | Name of Outdoor Recreation Site | Size | Description of Facilities Available |
|------------|---|--------------|--|-------------|--|
| 4. | Antioch, Boon, and Henderson Townships | USFS | Pere Marquette Cycle Trail | 40 miles | Motorcycle Trails |
| 31. | Antioch Township | Twp | Antioch Township Park | 40 acres | Fishing |
| 71. | Boon Township | County | Pinoco Park | 40 acres | Camping, Nature Study, Trail, Bridle Trail, Picnic Sites |
| 89. | Boon Township | Private | Lost Pines Recreation Area | 320 acres | Snowmobile Trails, Horseback Riding |
| 8. | Boon, Cherry Grove, Henderson, Slagle, and South Branch Townships | USFS/ DNR | Caberfae Way Snowmobile Trail | 187 miles | Snowmobile Trails |
| 72. | Cedar Creek Twp. | Church | Manton Free Methodist Campground | 50 acres | Camping, Children's Play equipment, Playfields |
| 73. | Cedar Creek Twp. | Private | Manton Snow Devils Snowmobile Club | 5 acres | Snowmobile Trails |
| 21. | Cedar Creek, Haring, and Liberty Twps. | | Northern Gateway Trail | 17 acres | Bridle Trail, Hiking Trail, Camping |
| 1. | Cherry Grove Twp. | USA | Hemlock Campground | 7 acres | Camping, Boat Launch, Fishing |
| 32. | Cherry Grove Twp. | Twp. | Forest Lawn Drive Boat Launch | .2 acre | Boat Launch |
| 33. | Cherry Grove Twp. | Private | Sunset Point Boat Launch | .2 acre | Boat Launch |
| 34. | Cherry Grove Twp. | Twp. | West Shore Park Boat Launch | .1 acre | Boat Launch |
| 35. | Henderson Twp. | CAPS | Forest View Elementary School | .5 acre | Children's Play Equipment, Playfields, Basketball Court |
| 90. | Cherry Grove Twp. | Private | Best Western of Cadillac | 10 acres | Tennis, Shuffleboard, Children's Play Equipment |
| 91. | Cherry Grove Twp. | Private | Cadillac Country Club | 100 acres | Golf |
| 92. | Cherry Grove Twp. | Private | Johnny's Wild Game and Fish Park | 80 acres | Zoo, fishing |
| 2. | Cherry Grove and Henderson Twps | | Olga Lake Auto Tour Trail | 14 miles | Picnic Sites, Auto Trail, Exhibitions |
| 47. | City of Cadillac | City | Diggins Hill | 23 acres | Sledding, Tennis Courts |
| 48. | City of Cadillac | City | Kenwood Heritage Park | 80 acres | Picnic Sites, Swimming, Boat Launch, Children's Play Equipment, Nature |

WEXFORD COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2013-2017

| No. | Location | Owner | Name of Outdoor Recreation Site | Size | Description of Facilities Available |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|--|-------------|--|
| | | | | | Study Trail, Frisbie Golf |
| 49. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Lincoln Field | 8 acres | Children's Play Equipment, Ball Diamond, Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts, Volleyball Courts |
| 50. | City of Cadillac | City | Lakefront Park | 29 acres | Shuffleboard, Picnic Sites, Benches, Boat Launch/Docking, Pier/Fishing, Playground Equipment, Performing Arts Pavilion, Walking Paths, Restrooms |
| 51. | City of Cadillac | City | CASA Field | 5 acres | Ball Diamonds, Soccer Field |
| 53. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Memorial Stadium | 20 acres | Organized Sports Field Track |
| 54. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Mills Field | 3 acres | Ball Diamond |
| 55. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Community Tennis Courts | 1 acre | Tennis Courts |
| 57. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Cooley Alternative School | .5 acre | Basketball Court, Beach Volleyball Court, Playground Equipment |
| 58. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Franklin Elementary School | .5 acre | Children's Play Equipment, Playfields, Basketball/ Tennis Courts |
| 59. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Kenwood Elementary School | .5 acre | Children's Play Equipment, Playfields, Basketball Court |
| 60. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | McKinley Elementary School | .5 acre | Children's Play Equipment, Playfields, Basketball Court |
| 61. | City of Cadillac | Church | St. Ann's Elementary School | .5 acre | Children's Play Equipment |
| 62. | City of Manton | City | Railroad Park | 1 acre | Shuffleboard, Horseshoes, Picnic Sites |
| 63. | City of Manton | City | Lake Billings Park | 16 acres | Camping, Picnic Sites, Swimming, Playfields, Fishing |
| 64. | City of Manton | City | Rotary Memorial Park | 4.7 acres | Swimming, Picnic Sites, Fishing |
| 65. | City of Manton | School | Community School | 8 acres | Children's Play Equipment, Ball Diamonds, Organized Sports Field |
| 13. | Clam Lake Township | State | Mitchell State Park | 32.4 acres | Camping, Swimming, Picnic Sites, Boat Launch, Children's Play |

WEXFORD COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2013-2017

| No. | Location | Owner | Name of Outdoor Recreation Site | Size | Description of Facilities Available |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|---|-------------|---|
| | | | | | Equipment |
| 14. | Clam Lake Township | State | Berry Lake Access Site | 1 acre | Boat Launch, Fishing |
| 15. | Clam Lake Township | State | NB Rest Area Ed Eckert Roadside Park | 28 acres | Picnic Sites |
| 93. | Clam Lake Township | Private | McGuire's Resort Area | 180 acres | Golf, Toboggan Run, X-Country Skiing |
| 36. | Colfax Township | | Lester A. Barnes Memorial Park | 67 acres | Camping, Picnic Sites, Boat Launch, Fishing, Swimming |
| 16. | Greenwood Twp. | State | Baxter Bridge Access Site | 1 acre | Fishing, Boat Launch |
| 17. | Greenwood Twp. | State | Baxter Bridge, Campground and Canoe Camp | 25 acres | Camping, Boat Launch |
| 74. | Greenwood Twp. | Private | Manton Sportsman Club | 1 acre | Hunting |
| 75. | Greenwood Twp. | Private | Woodsmen Club | 80 acres | Hunting |
| 18. | Hanover Twp. | State | Harvey Bridge Access Site | 1 acre | Boat Launch, Fishing |
| 19. | Hanover Twp. | State | Indian Crossing Campground and Canoe Camp | 10 acres | Camping, Boat Launch |
| 6. | Hanover Twp. | Private | Lake Gitchegumme Assoc | 1.5 acres | Swimming, Boat Launch, Fishing, Playfields |
| 20. | Haring Township | State | Long Lake Forest Campground | 10 acres | Camping, Boat Launch, Fishing |
| 37. | Haring Township | County | Wexford Civic Arena | 40 acres | Racetrack |
| 77. | Missaukee County | Private | Cadillac Sportsmen's Club | 5 acres | Shooting |
| 78. | Haring Township | Private | Cadillac Motorcycle Club | 40 acres | Racetrack |
| 3. | Henderson Township | USA | Ravine Picnic Area and Campground | 3 acres | Picnic Sites, Camping, Hiking Trail, Fishing |
| 23. | Liberty Township | | Chase Creek Campground and Canoe Livery | 10 acres | Camping, Boat Launch |
| 24. | Liberty Township | State | Old 131 Bridge Campground and Canoe Camp | 10 acres | Camping, Boat Launch |
| 25. | Liberty Township | State | Casey Jones Roadside Park | 15 acres | Picnic Sites |
| 94. | Liberty Township | Private | Chippewa Landing | 50 acres | Camping, Picnic Sites, Canoe Livery |
| 38. | Selma Township | Twp. | Pleasant Lake Park | .3 acre | Picnic Sites, Swimming |
| 39. | Selma Township | Private | Hiawatha Beach Boat Launch | 1.2 acres | Boat Launch |
| 40. | Selma Township | Private | Flowing Wells Boat Launch | .3 acre | Boat Launch, Picnic Sites |
| 41. | Selma Township | Private | Boyd Park Boat Launch | .1 acre | Boat Launch, Picnic Sites |
| 42. | Selma Township | Private | Sunny Shores Park Boat Launch | .2 acre | Boat Launch, Picnic Sites |
| 52. | Selma Township | CAPS | Camp Torenta | 160 acres | Picnic Sites, Ball Diamond, Tennis Courts, Archery Shoot, |

WEXFORD COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2013-2017

| No. | Location | Owner | Name of Outdoor Recreation Site | Size | Description of Facilities Available |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|-------------|---|
| | | | | | Swimming, Fishing, Hiking Trails, Nature Study Trails, Basketball Court |
| 79. | Selma Township | Private | Woodward Lake Association | .5 acres | Picnic Sites |
| 26. | Slagle Township | State | State Fish Hatchery | 160 acres | Picnic Sites, Exhibitions |
| 27. | Slagle Township | State | Julius Becker Roadside Park | 4 acres | Picnic Sites |
| 44. | Slagle Township | Twp | Slagle Township Park | 5 acres | Horseshoe Pits, Ball Diamonds, Picnic Sites, Volleyball |
| 80. | Slagle Township | Private | Slagle Club | 160 acres | Fishing, Hunting |
| 81. | Slagle Township South Branch Twp. | Private | Sands Creek Club | 80 acres | Hunting |
| 5. | South Branch Twp | USA | Peterson Bridge South Camping Area | 11 acres | Camping, Picnic Sites, Fishing, Canoe Launch |
| 6. | South Branch Twp | USA | Peterson Bridge North Canoe Access & Camping Area | 10 acres | Boat Launch, Picnic Sites, Fishing |
| 7. | South Branch Twp | USA | Dodson Bridge Canoe Landing | 10 acres | Boat Launch, Picnic Sites, Fishing |
| 9. | South Branch Twp. | Private | McKenzie Trail U.S. Forest Service | 4.5 acres | Cross Country Ski Trail |
| 10. | South Branch Twp. | Private | Caberfae Peaks Ski Area | 58 acres | Ski Runs, Golf Course |
| 11. | Slagle Twp. | Private | Caberfae Tennis Ranch | 2 acres | Tennis Courts |
| 95. | South Branch Twp. | Private | Kestelwood Campground | 28 acres | Camping, Swimming, Children's Play Equipment |
| 96. | Springville Township | USA | Seaton Creek Picnic Area and Campground | 12 acres | Camping, Picnic Sites, Boating, Nature Study Trail |
| 28. | Springville Township | State | Hodenpyl Backwater Scenic Turnout | 2 acres | Picnic Sites |
| 29. | Springville Township | | Mesick Wildlife Sanctuary | 785 acres | Fishing, Nature Study Trail |
| 45. | Springville Township | Private | Mesick Campground | 95 acres | Camping, Picnic Sites, Swimming, Boat Launch, Fishing, Nature Study Trail |
| 46. | Springville Township | | Mesick Memorial Park | 2 acres | Picnic Sites, Fishing |
| 84. | Springville Township | Church | United Jewish Charities | 40 acres | Camping |
| 99. | Village of Buckley | Village | Buckley-Hanover Activities Center | 1 acre | Basketball, Tennis/ Shuffleboard |
| 67. | Village of Buckley | School | Community School | 5 acres | Ball Diamonds, |

| No. | Location | Owner | Name of Outdoor Recreation Site | Size | Description of Facilities Available |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|--|-------------|---|
| | | | | | Organized sports Field, Children's Play Equipment |
| 68. | Village of Harrietta | Village | Harrietta Community Park | .3 acres | Children's Play Equipment |
| 69. | Village of Mesick | Village | Mesick Community Park | 5.7 acres | Ball diamonds, Tennis/Shuffleboard, Basketball/ Horseshoes, Children's Play Equipment |
| 30. | Wexford Township | State | Keith Baguley Roadside Park | 3 acres | Picnic Sites |
| 97. | Wexford Township | Private | Miltner's Canoe Camp | 40 acres | Camping, Boat Launch |

A map of the outdoor recreation facilities is shown on Appendix J.

LIST OF INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

| No. | Location | Owner | Name of Indoor Recreation Site | Description of Facilities Available |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Antioch Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room, Kitchen |
| 2. | Boon Township | Twp. | Township Hall | Meeting Room |
| 52. | Boon Township | Private | Lost Pine Lodge | Swimming |
| 3. | Cedar Creek Township | Twp. | Township Hall | Meeting Room |
| 41. | Cedar Creek Township | Private | Manton Snow Devil's Snowmobile Club | Meeting Room, Kitchen |
| 4. | Cherry Grove Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room, Kitchen |
| 5. | Henderson Township | CAPS | Forest View Elementary School | Gym, Meeting Rooms |
| 53. | Cherry Grove Township | Private | Caberfae Lanes | Bowling, Billiards |
| 55. | Cherry Grove Township | Private | Best Western of Cadillac | Swimming Pool |
| 54. | Cherry Grove Township | Private | The Pines | Bowling , Billiards, Dancing, Darts/ Video Game Room |
| 17. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Senior Citizen's Center | All Purpose Room, Kitchen |
| 18. | City of Cadillac | | Cadillac-Wexford Public Library | Library, Meeting Room |
| 19. | City of Cadillac | City | Municipal Complex | Meeting Room |
| 20. | City of Cadillac | County | County Courthouse | Meeting Room |
| 21. | City of Cadillac | Private | Kirtland Terrace | Meeting Room |
| 63. | City of Cadillac | Private | Parkview Lanes | Bowling, Billiards |
| 22. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Senior High School | Gyms, Meeting Rooms, Library, Auditorium, Cafeteria |
| 23. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Junior High School | Gym, Meeting Rooms, Cafeteria |
| 26. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Kenwood Elementary | Gym, Meeting Room |

WEXFORD COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2013-2017

| No. | Location | Owner | Name of Indoor Recreation Site | Description of Facilities Available |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | School | |
| 27. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | McKinley Elementary School | Gym, Meeting Room |
| 28. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Lincoln Elementary School | Gym, Meeting Room |
| 29. | City of Cadillac | CAPS | Franklin Elementary School | Gym, Meeting Room |
| 30. | City of Cadillac | Church | St. Ann's Elementary School | Gym, Meeting Room |
| 31. | City of Cadillac | | Wexford County | Museum |
| 45. | City of Cadillac | | American Legion Post | All Purpose Room, Kitchen |
| 46. | City of Cadillac | | Elk's Lodge | All Purpose Room, Kitchen |
| 48. | City of Cadillac | | Amvets Post | All Purpose Room, Kitchen |
| 47. | City of Cadillac | | Fifth-Third Bank | All Purpose Room |
| 60. | City of Cadillac | | Footliters | Theater |
| 61. | City of Cadillac | | Cinema 5 | Theater |
| 62. | City of Cadillac | | Cadillac Sands | Swimming Pool, Dancing |
| 32. | City of Manton | City | Municipal | Meeting Room |
| 33. | City of Manton | | Senior Citizen's Center | All Purpose Room, Kitchen |
| 34. | City of Manton | Schools | Community School | Gym, Auditorium |
| 35. | City of Manton | City | Manton Area Museum | Museum |
| 49. | City of Manton | | Citizens Bank | All Purpose Room |
| 50. | City of Manton | | VFW Post | All Purpose Room |
| | City of Manton | Private | Northern Valley Lanes | Bowling, Billiards |
| 6. | Clam Lake Township | Twp. | Township Hall | Meeting Room |
| 56. | Clam Lake Township | Private | McGuire's Resort | Swimming Pool |
| 57. | | | | |
| 65. | Clam Lake Township | Private | Pine Grove Racquetball Club | Racquetball, Swimming, Organized Sports, Activities, Exercise Equipment. |
| 7. | Colfax Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room, Kitchen |
| 8. | Greenwood Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room, Kitchen |
| 10. | Haring Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Rooms, Kitchen |
| 9. | Haring Township | County | Wexford Civic Arena | Gym, All Purpose Room, Kitchen, Indoor Tennis |
| 42. | Haring Township | Church | Knights of Columbus | All Purpose Room, Kitchen |
| 43. | Haring Township | Private | Moose Lodge | All Purpose Room, Kitchen |
| 44. | Haring Township | | Chemical Bank West | All Purpose Room |
| | Haring Township | YMCA | Cadillac Area YMCA | Swimming Pool, Gym, Youth |

| No. | Location | Owner | Name of Indoor Recreation Site | Description of Facilities Available |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Center, Exercise Equipment. |
| 11. | Henderson Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room |
| 12. | Liberty Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room |
| 13. | Selma Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room, Kitchen |
| 59. | Selma Township | Private | Skate On Skating Center | Roller Skating |
| 14. | Slagle Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room, Kitchen |
| 15. | South Branch Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room |
| 36. | Village of Buckley | Village | Community Building | Meeting Room, Kitchen |
| 37. | Village of Buckley | School | Community School | Gym, Meeting Rooms |
| 38. | Village of Harrietta | Village | Community Building | All Purpose Room, Billiards, Kitchen |
| 39. | Village of Mesick | Village | Town Hall | Meeting Room |
| 40. | Village of Mesick | School | Community School | Gym, Auditorium |
| 51. | Village of Mesick | | Citizens Bank | All Purpose Room |
| 16. | Wexford Township | Twp | Township Hall | Meeting Room |

A map of the indoor recreational facilities is shown on Appendix K.

SPECIAL AND UNIQUE AREAS

Wexford County was inventoried for identification of habitats, endangered species, archaeological sites, historic sites, cultural amenities, scenic areas, land type associations, landforms, geology, and hydrology. Then various organizations were contacted: Cadillac Area Conservancy, Cedar Creek Township Zoning Board, Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University Extension Wexford Office, Michigan State [historic] Register List, National Historic Register List, Natural Features Inventory, Natural Resources Conservation Service Wexford Office, United States Forest Service, Wexford County Historical Society, and Wexford County Planning Department. The result was a list of special and unique areas in Wexford County:

- 1HER Big Manistee River (including Pine River)
- 2ESR Briar Hills
- 3ERT Caberfae Hills
- 4ERT Long Lake
- 5ET Pine River Experimental Forest
- 6ET Olga Lake (centered in Lake County)
- 7E Thousand Acre Swamp (a.k.a. Brandy Brook Waterfowl Area, Mitchell Creek Waterfowl Area)
- 8E Heritage-Cadillac Nature Study
- 9E Wheatland-Mystic Area
- 10E North Branch Pine River Swamp
- 11T Wheeler-Anderson Area
- 12T Greenwood Area
- 13T Chase Creek Area
- 14T Stoddard Lake Area
- 15T Briar Hills Area

- 16S White Pine Trail (former rail road grade)
- 17S Caberfae Highway (M-55) (No. 25 Rd to M-37)
- 18S W 40 Road (S 13 (Caberfae) Road to S 23 Road)
- 19S S & N 17 Road (W 30 Road (Coates Highway) to W 24 Road)
- 20S W 38 Road (S 15½ Road to S 11¼ (Caberfae) Road)
- 21S S 49 Road (Seeley Road) (E 48 (McBaine) Road to E 52 (County Line) Road)
- 22S E 22 & E 20½ Roads (N 33 to N 39 Roads)
- 23S S 13 Road & 11¼ Road (Caberfae Road, Old State Highway) (W 48 (Hoxeyville) Road to W 32 Road)
- 24S N 17 Road & W 10 Road & N 19 Road (W 6 to ¾ mile north of W 14 Road)
- 25E Adams Creek
- 26E Slagle Creek
- 27E Arquilla Creek
- 28E Pine River tributaries (Dowling, Poplar, and Hoxey Creeks)
- 29E Manton (Cedar) Creek
- 30H Cadillac City Hall (201 North Mitchell Street, Cadillac.)
- 31H Cobbs, Frank J. House (407 East Chapin Street, Cadillac)
- 32H Elks Temple Building (122 South Mitchell Street, Cadillac.)
- 33H Masonic Temple Building (122-126 North Mitchell Street, Cadillac)
- 34H Mitchell, Charles T., House. (118 North Shelby Street, Cadillac.)
- 35H Shay Locomotive. (Cass Street, in the city park, Cadillac.)
- 36H Cadillac Public Library (127 Beech Street, half block east of Mitchell Street, Cadillac.)
- 37H Clam Lake Canal (Northeast of 6093 M-115, Cadillac.)
- 38H Cobbs and Mitchell, Inc. Building (100 East Chapin, west of Mitchell Street, Cadillac.)
- 39H Greenwood Disciples of Christ Church (7303 North 35 Road, Greenwood Township.)
- 40H Manton Fire Barn and City Hall (Southeast corner of West Main and State Street, Manton.)
- 41H Cadillac Historic District
- 42H Harrietta Fish Hatchery
- 43H Coates Highway (W 30 Road, S 23 Road, W and E 34 Road (Boon Road).
- 42 [Not Mapped] Buckley farm area, Southeast Cadillac farm area

A map of the Special and Unique areas is shown on Appendix M.

HISTORIC SITES

A new and steadily increasing activity for many Americans on vacation is the visitation of sites of historical significance. Although the recent growth in this pastime is due primarily to more leisure time and a rise in prosperity, the trend is based on our culture. The increasing emphasis on historic preservation at the State and Federal levels suggests that Americans are beginning to value their history. Our society may be starting to develop a sense of history similar to that held by most Europeans.

Three fundamentals are required for all historic attractions. First, they must protect the basic values - the land, the artifacts, the structures - from alterations which erode or destroy significance and interest. Secondly, they will most often require restoration to simulation to recapture the essence of the historic event. Finally they must be given interpretation. All media necessary to communicate with visitors the significance, character, and interest of the historic event should be employed.

There are not many designated historic sites in Wexford county. (See Appendix L). Two locations are classified as Michigan Historic Sites (MHS) and five are listed in the Historic American Engineering Record (HAERS) compiled in 1976 for the office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service. A number of other sites have a significant place in the history of the county and should be nominated for designation by the History Division of the Michigan Department of State.

For more detail on each site connect to the Internet site
<http://www.state.mi.us/mdos/michsite/srchsite.cfm?T=24758>.

National Register list

- ⑩ **Cadillac City Hall** (P25397) 201 North Mitchell Street, Cadillac.
- ⑩ **Cobbs, Frank J. House** (P25401) 407 East Chapin Street, Cadillac.
- ⑩ **Elks Temple Building** (P25402) 122 South Mitchell Street, Cadillac.
- ⑩ **Masonic Temple Building** (P3518) 122-126 North Mitchell Street, Cadillac
- ⑩ **Mitchell, Charles T., House.** (P25404) 118 North Shelby Street, Cadillac.
- ⑩ **Shay Locomotive.** (P25405) Cass Street, in the city park, Cadillac.

State Register Listed

- ⑩ **Battle of Manton informational designation** (P25406) Rotary Park on U.S.-131 south of Griswald Street, Manton.
- ⑩ **Caberfae Ski Resort Company informational site** (P25410) Caberfae Road, South Branch Township.
- ⑩ **Cadillac Public Library** (P25398) 127 Beech Street, half block east of Mitchell Street, Cadillac.
- ⑩ **Clam Lake Canal** (P25403) Northeast of 6093 M-115, Cadillac.
- ⑩ **Cobbs and Mitchell Mill No. 1 site** (P25399) 329 South Street at Lake Cadillac, Cadillac.
- ⑩ **Cobbs and Mitchell, Inc. Building** (P25400) 100 East Chapin, west of Mitchell Street, Cadillac.
- ⑩ **First Wexford County Courthouse site** (P25411) Northwest corner of State and Manistee Streets, (M-37 and West No. 14 Road), Sherman (Wexford Township).
- ⑩ **Greenwood Disciples of Christ Church** (P25408) 7303 North 35 Road, Greenwood Township.
- ⑩ **Manton Fire Barn and City Hall** (P25407) Southeast corner of West Main and State Street, Manton.

County Historic List

- ⑩ **Indian Trail** from Lake Cadillac to Grand Traverse Bay.
- ⑩ **Site of First School in Wexford County, Cornell-District #1 1865-1945.** Northwest corner of W. 4 Road and N. 11 Road, Section 2 of Wexford Township.
- ⑩ **Site of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Axin (Camp # 1661) 1933-1942.** About 0.3 miles west of S. 25 Road on the south side of Caberfae Highway (M-55), Section 13, Henderson Township.
- ⑩ **Hoxeyvill's first Post Office, "Clay Hill."** July 20, 1870-November 20, 1878 located in the Henderson House. Section 6/7, Henderson Township.
- ⑩ **Harrietta Fish Hatchery**
- ⑩ **Coates Highway** (W 30 Road, S 23 Road, W and E 34 Road (Boon Road)).

Municipality Historic List

- ⑩ **Cadillac Central Residential Area** being studied as a possible state/federal historic district.

BARRIER FREE COMPLIANCE OF RECREATION FACILITIES

The following Acts are listed in the Community Recreation Plan Guideline IC 1924 (Rev. 12/01/2000) p. A3

- ⌚ The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, ABA, (P.L. 90-489)
- ⌚ Section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-112)
- ⌚ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-112)
- ⌚ Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS)
- ⌚ The American with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- ⌚ The Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act (Act 220 of 1976) , as amended 1990.

Wexford County is aware of the guidelines that are required by barrier free laws and regulations. The Wexford County Courthouse and Wexford County Civic Arena, are handicapped accessible. As facilities are constructed, remodeled or improved, they will be brought into compliance with the above referenced acts.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Wexford County is taking a regional planning approach in preparing this recreation plan. Wexford County does not operate a county parks system; many of the townships, villages, and cities in the county operate their own parks and campgrounds. However, it is recognized by the county that the locally operated facilities bring in visitors from throughout the county and also tourists from downstate and other states. For this reason, the purpose of this plan is to look at the recreation needs for local residents and visitors of Wexford County. The process for updating this plan formally began late in 2012, but the process for gathering input on the recreational needs of the county has been ongoing for the past several years, as described in this chapter.

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS

2013 Recreation Survey

In conjunction with the public information meetings held throughout Wexford County in February 2013, a one-page survey was distributed to local officials and the general public and is shown in Appendix N of this plan. A total of twenty-three (23) surveys were returned as of this writing. The following findings are noted:

- 20 respondents were year-round residents, the rest were visitors of Wexford County.
- Most of the respondents and families (36 out of 44) were age 40 or older.
- Asked what types of recreational activity the respondent and their family partakes in, the following tallies were recorded:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ○ 6 – Archery | ○ 11 – Horseback Riding |
| ○ 4 – Basketball | ○ 11 – Hunting/Archery |
| ○ 3 – Bicycling | ○ 1 – Ice Skating |
| ○ 8 – Boating (motorized) | ○ 8 – Picnicking |
| ○ 15 – Camping (RV) | ○ 1 – Playgrounds |
| ○ 9 – Camping (tent/rustic) | ○ 11 – Running/jogging |
| ○ 9 – Canoeing/kayaking | ○ 11 – Skiing (x-country) |
| ○ 12 – Dog Walking | ○ 8 – Skiing (downhill) |
| ○ 8 – Fishing (from boat) | ○ 2 – Snowboarding |
| ○ 5 – Fishing (dock/shore) | ○ 4 – Snowmobiling |
| ○ 1 – Hockey | ○ 4 – Snowshoeing |
| ○ 3 – Horseshoes | ○ 1 – Tennis |

It is the intent and desire of the Wexford County Planning Commission to distribute the Recreation Survey to local businesses and trade groups in the county over the coming years to gather input on a continuing basis for use in future recreation plan updates and use a collection system to gather responses.

2000 Phone Survey

THE Wexford County Planning Department contracted with Central Michigan University Center for Applied Research and Rural Studies to conduct a survey¹³ of residents in Wexford

¹³Hill, James P., Dr. and Mary Senter; *Report of Findings Wexford County Residents' Views of Land Use Planning and the Quality of Life; A study Prepared for the Wexford County Commission*; Central

County in fall of 2000. The purpose of the survey was to determine the opinions of permanent residents of Wexford County, age 21 and over, regarding land use and related issues in Wexford County and was done as part of the county's proposed land use plan to be completed in 2002. The "Opinion Survey on Cultural Quality of Life" is presented in this section.

The presentation format for the findings of the survey is composed of both narrative and tabular material. It is found throughout this document where the respective topic is discussed. The narrative statements include references to a mean or average value. The survey method used allows statistical statements to be made about the survey results with a 95% confidence level at a degree of accuracy of $\pm 5\%$.

Opinion Survey on the Quality of Life

Residents have differing opinions about what is needed for enhancing life in the county. A series of questions in the interview schedule asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with a number of "new initiatives being proposed in the county." Most of these initiatives in one way or the other focus on ways in which the quality of life in the county could be improved for its residents. The format of these questions is to have interviewers read a statement to respondents and then ask them whether they "strongly agree," "agree," "disagree," or "strongly disagree" with it. The following table summarizes residents' responses to this some of these questions. The initiatives that receive the most support are listed first and those with the least support are listed last.

Level of Agreement with New Initiatives Being Proposed to Improve the Quality of Life: Percentage Distributions and Means

| | <i>Mean</i> | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|---|-------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| More activities for teenagers | 1.71 | 41.3 | 44.3 | 11.9 | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| Better coordination of city/county planning | 1.68 | 36.7 | 53.1 | 5.2 | 0.5 | 4.5 |
| More activities for children | 1.90 | 31.9 | 43.1 | 19.3 | 1.5 | 4.2 |
| More land as "open space" | 1.97 | 28.2 | 43.8 | 21.0 | 2.2 | 4.7 |
| More cultural enrichment | 1.94 | 21.0 | 56.7 | 13.6 | 0.7 | 7.9 |
| More parks | 2.24 | 15.8 | 42.1 | 35.6 | 1.5 | 5.0 |
| More recreational access to lakes | 2.42 | 11.4 | 34.4 | 45.3 | 3.0 | 5.9 |

Generally speaking, more than one half of residents express some level of agreement with the new initiatives being proposed. However, the differing levels of support expressed by respondents suggest the clustering of new initiatives into four groups. The highest level of support is found for providing new activities for teenagers 13 to 18 years old and for improving city/county planning. More than 40 percent of respondents "strongly agree" that "the county needs to provide more activities for teenagers 13 to 18 years old," and another 44 percent simply "agree." Similarly, more than 35 percent of residents "strongly agree" that "the City of Cadillac and Wexford County should better coordinate their planning efforts," and

another 53 percent of residents “agree” with this statement.

Between about 20 and 30 percent of respondents also “strongly agree” to each of these statements:

1. “The county needs to provide more activities for children 12 years and younger;”
2. “More land in the county should be set aside to remain as ‘open space’—that is, space that is not developed;”
3. “More opportunities for cultural enrichment need to be provided in the county.”

However, in each case, the percentage of respondents *disagreeing* with the statement is between about 15 and 20 percent.

Support for more parks, and more recreational lake access is relatively low. Less than 20 percent of respondents “strongly agree” that “more parks are needed in the county, and that “there is a need for more access to lakes for recreational purposes.” More than one third of residents disagree that there is a need for more parks; and almost one half of residents disagree that more access to lakes for recreation is needed.

To gain a better sense of residents’ thinking on a few of these initiatives, residents’ favoring a change were asked an open-ended follow-up question. In particular, respondents who agreed that there should be more cultural enrichment opportunities were asked: “What kinds of opportunities for cultural enrichment would you like to see?” A similar question was asked to residents who favored more activities for children and more activities for teenagers.

These open-ended responses were coded into a series of discrete categories. The categories as well as the frequency and percentage of respondents coded in each are found in the following tables. The complete texts of responses, as recorded by interviewers, are found in Appendix C of the survey report. The appendix is organized so that responses appear by question and then by the code categories found in the table.

Responses to Open-Ended Questions about Ways of Improving Aspects of the Quality of Life: Code Categories, Frequency and Percentage Distributions

Suggestions for Increasing Cultural Enrichment¹⁴

| Category | Number | Percentage |
|------------------------|--------|------------|
| Theater | 69 | 22 |
| Music | 68 | 22 |
| Art | 41 | 13 |
| Museums | 34 | 11 |
| Educational Activity | 16 | 5 |
| Other | 81 | 26 |
| Don't know/No Response | 106 | 34 |

¹⁴Percentages based on N=314. Any one respondent’s comment may be coded into more than one category. Consequently, percentages will not equal 100%.

Suggestions for Increasing Activities for Teenagers¹⁵

| Category | Number | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Teen/Youth center for activities | 93 | 27 |
| Recreation/Activities | 80 | 23 |
| New, different, or more facilities | 43 | 12 |
| Sports, games, competitions | 39 | 11 |
| Cultural/educational activities | 20 | 6 |
| Other | 74 | 21 |
| Don't know | 77 | 22 |

Suggestions for Increasing Activities for Children¹⁶

| Category | Number | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| New, different, or more facilities | 74 | 24 |
| Recreational/Activities | 74 | 24 |
| Center/Place for activities | 53 | 17 |
| Sports, games, competition | 33 | 11 |
| Cultural/educational activities | 20 | 7 |
| After school activities | 8 | 3 |
| Other | 46 | 15 |
| Don't know | 76 | 25 |

Respondents who favored increasing cultural opportunities in the county were most likely to want to see more musical events, followed by more exposure to art and to museums.

Residents interested in more activities for teenagers were especially likely to suggest the development of a teen or youth center. A number of these respondents suggested creating a YMCA. Residents also mentioned the need for more recreational activities. Specific suggestions ran the gamut from “teen dances” to “arcades” and “game rooms.”

Suggestions for enhancing activities for children emphasized the need for more facilities for different types of activities. Suggestions for such new facilities included “playgrounds,” “rollerblading places,” “skating rinks,” and a “swimming pool.” A number of residents simply mentioned the types of recreational activities that they would like to see for children in the county. Examples from respondents include: “arts and crafts,” “outdoor activities,” “movies,” “camps,” and “holiday parties.” Finally, near the end of the survey interview, all respondents were asked a simple, open-ended question dealing with the quality of life in the county. In particular, they were asked: “What do you believe is the most important issue affecting the quality of life in Wexford County.” CARRS staff engaged in a similar process to code these responses into categories. A summary of the categories and the responses is found in the

¹⁵Percentages based on N=346. Any one respondent’s comment may be coded into more than one category. Consequently, percentages will not equal 100%.

¹⁶Percentages based on N=303. Any one respondent’s comment may be coded into more than one category. Consequently, percentages will not equal 100%.

following table.

Responses to Open-Ended Question about Most Important Issue Affecting the Quality of Life: Code Categories, Frequency and Percentage Distributions

| Category | Number | Percentage |
|-------------------------|--------|------------|
| Environmental issues | 83 | 21 |
| Economic issues | 55 | 14 |
| Governmental issues | 42 | 10 |
| Number of people/Growth | 38 | 9 |
| Education/Schools | 23 | 6 |
| Issues regarding youth | 19 | 5 |
| Healthcare issues | 16 | 4 |
| Other | 68 | 17 |
| Don't know/Not sure | 91 | 23 |

Respondents—more than 20 percent of them—mention issues related to the environment as the “most important issue” affecting the quality of life in the county. Examples of responses included in this category are: “preserving our natural resources,” “burning tires should not be allowed,”¹⁷ “water and air needs to stay clean,” and “wildlife and environment—needs to be kept northern feeling.”

More than 10 percent of respondents also consider one of a number of economic issues to be critical to the quality of life. For example, one respondent noted that “career opportunities are not available in the area.” Another stated that “so much land has become commercialized—so that people with low incomes now have no places to go because that land has been sold for commercial reasons.” Still another noted the “low wage scale.”

About 10 percent of residents in the sample also considered an issue related to the operation of government (including governmental regulations and law enforcement) to be “most important.” One respondent said that the most important issues affecting the quality of life is “having a well thought out and researched plan for growth.” Another respondent was concerned about “the increased crime rate.” Yet another respondent simply noted that there is “no money, no funds for anything—roads, schools, everything.”

No other category contained responses from more than 10 percent of members of the sample.

Respondents were also asked a general question about their preferences for growth and change in the county. Residents were asked to speculate about whether the quality of life in Wexford County would “increase, decrease, or stay about the same over the next 10 years.” The following table shows that residents are relatively optimistic, with more than one half expecting an increase in the quality of life, more than 30 percent expecting no particular change, and only 10 percent anticipating an decrease.

¹⁷At the time of the survey, the issue of tire burning at Cadillac Energy Inc., without scrubber stack pollution control equipment, was a politically hot issue in the Cadillac area.

Opinions about Growth and Change:**Percentage Distributions**

| | Increase | Decrease | Stay the Same | Don't Know |
|---|----------|----------|---------------|------------|
| Expectation about quality of life in county over 10 years | 54.0 | 10.1 | 32.4 | 3.5 |

Support for protecting and enhancing historic structures took third place (behind protecting groundwater and protecting lakes and rivers) in the survey of Wexford Residents.

Level of Support for Measures to Guide Land Use and Environmental Protection: Percentage Distributions and Means

| | Mean | Strongly Favor | Favor | Oppose | Strongly Oppose | Don't Know |
|---|------|----------------|-------|--------|-----------------|------------|
| Designating and protecting sites of historical or cultural interest | 1.65 | 37.6 | 56.4 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 2.5 |

Support for protecting sites of historical/cultural interest, is reasonably high, although the percentage of residents who “strongly favor” each of these measures is less than the percentage strongly favoring the protection of water quality in the county. Roughly one third of respondents “strongly favor” “designating and protecting sites of historical or cultural interest.”

Public Opinion Survey Results

In support of the Recreation Plan Advisory Committees recommendations, the Wexford County Planning Department contracted with the Central Michigan University Center for Applied Research and Rural Studies to conduct a survey of residents in Wexford County in the Fall of 2000. The survey entitled *Report of Findings Wexford County Residents, Views of Land Use Planning and the Quality of Life, December 2000*, was done as part of the County's proposed Land Use Plan. In the Opinion Survey of the report on the *Quality of Life, Needs in the County*, more than 40 percent of respondents “strongly agree” that the county needs to provide more activities for teenagers 13 to 18 years old and another 44 percent “agree”. Between 20 and 30 percent of the respondents also “strongly agree” to provide more “activities for children 12 years and younger”. Suggestions in the survey included, “need for more recreational activities”, “teen or youth center” “community pool”, “rollerblading/skateboard places”, “organized sports” “including baseball leagues”, and “basketball” and “playgrounds”. In a public survey entitled *Greater Cadillac YMCA Survey Report Summary* by Gary L. Unruh, Consultant, June 2000, when asked “What is the most needed facility in the community”? The highest percentage of support was for a “swimming pool” and “teen center”.

2004 MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Wexford County Master Plan was adopted in 2004 after an extensive public involvement process. Some of the key recreation priorities outlined in the Master Plan include:

- Development of a multi-use trail system throughout the county.
- Development of tourist-oriented parks, campgrounds and similar facilities.

- Preservation of lands available for hunting and fishing.
- Expansion and development of parks and recreation facilities for area residents.

PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS

In December, 2012, elected officials from each of the sixteen township, three villages, and two cities were notified that Wexford County was beginning the process of updating its Recreation Plan. Public input meetings were held at various locations as follows:

- Wexford County Services Building in Cadillac – Wednesday, January 9, 2013
 - Mesick High School Library in Mesick – Wednesday, February 7, 2013
 - Manton High School Library in Manton – Wednesday, February 13, 2013
 - South Branch Township Hall – Wednesday, February 27, 2013
- (All meetings started at 6:30 pm and lasted around 1-2 hours)

Each of the public input meetings involved a brainstorming session involving members of the public to determine recreation priorities and to establish a list of projects that would meet the goals and objectives established in this plan. After the public review period, the Wexford County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed Recreation Plan on March 20, 2013. A notice of each public meeting with a request for public participation, was published in the local newspaper and invitations were sent to all township officers, city and village officers. In addition to establishing the recreational priorities to be included in the updated plan, proposed funding sources were also discussed.

RECREATION ISSUES, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives established below are a result of the public input sessions in 2013, the results of the 2013 Recreation Survey, the Wexford County Master Plan recreation priorities, and results of the 2001 Wexford County Public Opinion Survey. More generally, the primary goals and objectives revolve around the need to provide recreation to local residents and to also provide recreational facilities that promote and enhance tourism in Wexford County. Traditionally, people have long been attracted to the area's natural resources and have engaged in such activities as hunting, fishing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, and other related activities. Such visitors to the area are known to spend millions of dollars per year in local hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. Much of the existing recreational facilities in Wexford County (trails, campgrounds, parks, etc.) have been developed to accommodate visitors to the area, as well as provide recreation to local residents. Most of the goals and objectives shown below continue in this tradition.

Several issues were brought to light at our input sessions, including the following:

- The railroad trestle over the Manistee River near Mesick is still owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation, not the Department of Natural Resources, leaving a gap in the existing trail network. Affected parties were encouraged to contact their state representatives to request that a land sale/transfer be facilitated so that the trestle may be repaired for snowmobile traffic. A representative of an area snowmobile group indicated that there were private funds available to repair the structure.
- Wexford County recently adopted a ORV (off-road vehicle) Ordinance that allows ORV's on all county roads. However, there are portions of county roads that pass through United States Forest Service (USFS) lands; portions of these segments are on county road right-of-way and others aren't. Because the county road right-of-way through these areas are segmented, ORV riders can be ticketed by the USFS if they are on a portion of a county road without a right-of-way. Possible solutions discussed include the following:
 - Encourage the Wexford County Road Commission (WCRC) and the USFS to form a partnership to provide a detailed map of county road segments that are not on county right-of-way and subject to USFS regulations and also provide signage indicating locations along county roads where ORV use is not allowed.
 - Encourage the USFS to provide adequate right-of-way to the WCRC along affected county roads so that ORV use may be allowed.

Goal #1: Providing indoor recreation facilities that are available to all residents and are operated on a year-round basis.

Objective: Expand existing public or non-profit indoor multi-use recreation facilities and/or build new facilities that are open to all county residents on a year-round basis.

1. Upgrade the Civic Center and Ice Arena Complex at the Wexford County Fairgrounds to support existing usage and to support increased usage of the facility. This complex is owned by Wexford County and is funded through a combination of user fees and county general funds.
2. Develop restrooms and other amenities at the Wexford County Fairgrounds for use by

campers and the public. The current restrooms located under the grandstands are in need of repairs and are not ADA compliant.

Goal #2: Expansion of the multi-use trail network in Wexford County to bring in more tourism dollars

Objective: Construct new trails and upgrade trails and trail crossings to connect with the existing network and to existing commerce centers in Wexford County.

1. Construct a new multi-use trail way along dedicated right-of-way of US-131 Bypass to link the White Pine Trail on the south to the Mish-Kal trail on the north.
2. Extend the Clam River Greenway through the CASA All-Sports Complex along the Clam River to the US 131 Bypass and proposed Bypass Trail way. This trail will link the proposed Bypass trail to the existing segment of the Clam River Greenway that runs from the CASA All-Sports Complex on the north to Lake Cadillac and the Keith McKellop Walkway on the south.
3. Construct a loop trail connecting the North Country Trail to the Village of Mesick.
4. Rehabilitate the MDOT-owned former Ann Arbor railroad trestle over the Manistee River just west of the Village of Mesick to close the gap on the existing trail between Mesick (Yuma) and Frankfort.
5. Develop a multi-use trail along S. Mitchell Street (Business US-131) from the Cadillac south city limits to the intersection of S. 43 Road and E. 46 ½ Road near Harmony Hills subdivision to connect residential, commercial, and office uses in Clam Lake Township to Cadillac's downtown area.
6. Provide a separate network of horseback riding trails through Wexford County with connections to existing statewide trail networks, including the Shore-to-Shore Hiking and Horseback Riding trail.

Goal #3: Providing outdoor recreation facilities that are available to residents and visitors and promote tourism in Wexford County.

Objective: Expand existing public or non-profit outdoor multi-use recreation facilities and/or build new facilities that will serve local recreation needs and provide access to natural resources.

- 1) Construct a new boat launch facility at Little Cove on Lake Mitchell at the Selma Township Park. The current boat launch at this site is in poor condition and does not comply with current MDEQ design standards.
- 2) Construct a multi-use regional park facility at Diggin's Hill in the City of Cadillac.
- 3) Construct various improvements at the Lester Barnes Memorial Park and Campground at Dayhuff Lake (Lake Meauwataka) in Colfax Township. The current campground lacks a bathing facility and modern plumbing and electrical service. The current swimming beach parking lot does not accommodate the number of visitors that use the facility in summer months and lacks a bathing facility with modern plumbing and electrical service. This township park facility functions more as a "county park" as it serves residents of the Cadillac, Mesick, and Manton areas. Proposed improvements include the following:
 - a) Relocate and expand the parking lot away from the lake to minimize potential runoff of oils and gases into the water and to accommodate existing and future vehicle traffic.

- b) Construct a new bathhouse between the campground and beach with flush toilets and showers and space for concessions or vending machines.
 - c) Reconstruct and expand the campground to provide recreational vehicle sites with electric and water service. All driveways and parking pads are to be asphalt-surfaced.
 - d) Construct a gatehouse at the entrance to the park.
 - e) Develop nature trails that would link the campground and day-use areas to other areas of the park and to adjacent US Forest Service lands.
- 4) Develop a target shooting range on existing county, state, or federal land in an area of Wexford County with adequate isolation distance from occupied structures.

ACTION PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE

PROPOSED RECREATION PROJECTS

The following Table is keyed to the Action Plan Map and is based on the State's recreation standards, public comment received and input at workshops and public hearings.

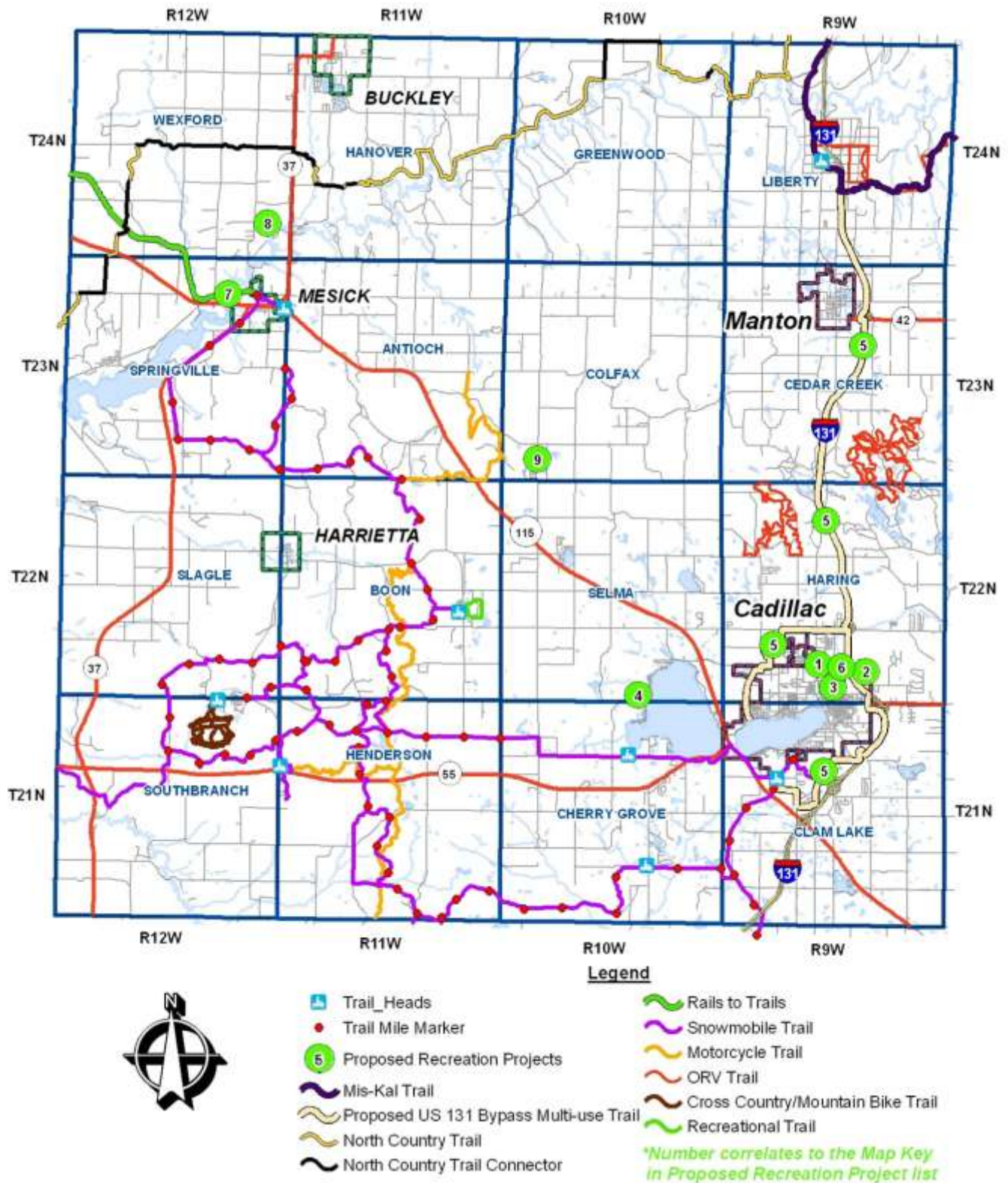
| <u>Map Key</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Year Planned</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> | <u>Sources</u> |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Various upgrades to the “Wex” Indoor Ice Arena and Civic Center | 2013-15 | \$75,000.00 | County Funds, User Fees, Donations, TF, LWCF |
| 2 | Business US-131 Trail in Clam Lake Township | 2013-17 | \$200,000 | MDNR, MDOT, Various local matches |
| 3 | Develop the Diggin’s Hill Park into a Regional Recreation Area | 2013-17 | To Be Determined | City of Cadillac, TF, LWCF |
| 4 | Upgrade of boat launch on Lake Mitchell in Selma Township | 2013-14 | \$50,000 | TF, LWCF, Township Match. |
| 5 | US-131 Bypass Multi-use Trail from 43 Road/Mitchell Street to 10 Road. | 2013-14 | \$3,000,000 | TEA-21, DOT, County, Donations from various trail groups. |
| 6 | Clam River Greenway from CASA All-Sports Complex to Proposed US-131 Bypass Trail | 2013-17 | \$225,000 | TEA-21, DOT, County Funds, Donations from various trail groups. |
| 7 | Rehabilitation of Rails-to-trails bridge over Manistee River west of Mesick | 2013-14 | \$250,000 | TEA-21, DOT, Donations from various trail groups. |
| 8 | Installation of a new water well and playground equipment at the Lion’s Club Park at M-115 and the Manistee River and new ballfields at the Mesick AMVETS post on M-37 | 2013-17 | \$11,100 (Park) \$9,600 (Ballfields) | TF, LWCF |
| 9 | Lester Barnes Memorial Park (Colfax Township Park) – Upgrade and Expand Campground | 2013-17 | To Be Determined | Township Funds, TF, LWCF, CZM |
| 10 | Target Shooting Range- New Construction Location to be determined | 2013-17 | To Be Determined | TF, LWCF, Various local matches |
| 11 | Horseback Riding Trail Network Location to be determined | 2013-17 | To Be Determined | TF, LWCF, Various local matches. |
| 12 | Convert Phelps Brothers Warehouse (granery) in downtown Manton into community center | 2013-14 | \$5,200 | TF, HG |

KEY TO FUNDING SOURCES (For more information, see next section):

Natural Resources Trust Fund = TF
Land and Water Conservation Fund = LWCF
Coastal Zone Management = CZM
Transportation Fund = DOT
Waterways Fund = WF
Historic Preservation Grant = HG
Wallop-Breaux = WB
Council for the Arts = CA

- Note: Projects may be reviewed annually to determine status and updated accordingly.
- Note: If Projects are not funded in the year designated, they are automatically forwarded to successive year(s) as necessary until accomplished without amending the plan.

ACTION PLAN MAP



FUNDING INFORMATION

STATE AND FEDERAL SOURCES:

The following programs are the primary sources of funding available to assist with implementation of planned recreation improvements.

Michigan Quality of Life Recreation Bond Program

The Quality of Life Recreation Bond program was established through Public Act 329 of the Public Acts of 1988 as a result of passage of Proposal D in the November, 1988 elections. The objectives of the program are: community recreation, tourism development, waterfront recreation, outdoor education for intermediate school districts and local infrastructure repair. This is the first state grant which places an emphasis on support for local infrastructure needs.

Land and Water Conservation Fund:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF), created by the U.S. Congress in 1965, provides federal funds to buy land and develop facilities for outdoor recreation. The Recreation Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources administers the Michigan L&WCF Program. L&WCF Program application forms are available February 1 of each year. The pre-application submission deadline is April 1 of each year.

Michigan's L&WCF allocation is available to the state and local units of government in the form of grants for specific projects. L&WCF funds pay half the cost of State and local projects. To be eligible for grants, Michigan local units must prepare a DNR-approved community recreation plan.

L&WCF projects are selected for funding on the basis of a Federally-approved Open Project Selection Process (OPSP). In Michigan, all projects, including State projects, compete according to criteria based in large part on the Michigan Recreation Plan.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund:

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) replaced the Michigan Land Trust Fund on October 1, 1985. Starting in 1986, recreation land acquisition and development proposals were eligible for MNRTF funding. Between 15 and 25 percent of the annual fund expenditure will be for development. The MNRTF Program receives revenue from oil, gas, and other mineral development on State-owned lands. The Governor appoints a five-member board to administer the fund. The MDNR Recreation Division provides staff support to the MNRTF Board.

MNRTF proposal forms are available on February 1 of each year. The proposal submission deadline is April 1 of each year. Any individual, group, organization, or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal; but only units of government, including the state, can take title to and manage the land. Units of government can submit development proposals for local grants and must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project costs. Only one proposal per year may be submitted. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects; for development projects the minimum funding is \$15,000; the maximum is \$375,000. Proposals must be for outdoor recreation purposes.

Non-Motorized Transportation Fund:

Counties, cities, and villages receive funding through the Michigan Department of Transportation which is generated from gasoline sales taxes and license plate fees. Agencies receiving these funds are obligated to spend an average of one percent per year over a ten-year period on non-motorized transportation routes. Improvements could include sidewalks and other non-motorized paths.

Non-game Wildlife Fund and Living Resources Small Grant:

The Small Grants Program was initiated to encourage citizen involvement in achieving the goals of Michigan's Non-game (NG) Wildlife Program. The program recognizes the wealth of scientific expertise and experience existing outside of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and provides an opportunity to qualified individuals and groups to become involved in the collection of data and the implementation of management techniques and programs to benefit non-game wildlife and endangered plants and animals.

Funding is provided through the Non-game Wildlife Fund (income tax checkoff) and the Living Resources Program. The majority of funding will be awarded to proposals dealing with survey, protection/management, or research on non-game wildlife, endangered plants, and natural communities. Funding level for 1988 was \$60,000. This grant program is managed by the MDNR, Wildlife Division.

Michigan Council for the Arts:

The Michigan Legislature enacted P.A. 48 of 1986 creating the Michigan Council for the Arts (MCA). Its charge is to stimulate, encourage and expand the arts throughout Michigan. The MCA receives its major funding from the State of Michigan, with assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Council is a fifteen-member non-salaried board appointed by the Governor, which determines policy, programs and activities of the agency, and makes final decisions on grant allocations.

The MCA offers a variety of funding programs which support arts performances, work by individual artists, artist residences, concerts, tours, exhibitions, commissions, market development and a wide variety of other activities. MCA grants help to:

- Support concerts
- Support Michigan artists' work
- Bring the arts into Michigan schools
- Make the arts available through touring
- Involve more people in the arts
- Train developing artists
- Secure staff for arts organizations
- Provide expert guidance and consultants
- Continue existing programs

Established organizations, or those just beginning, are eligible to apply for grants. Any Michigan artist, non-profit arts organization, association, school, community or civic group, college, university, governmental body, service organization, or other non-profit organization may apply for Michigan Council for the Arts funds.

LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES:**Special Assessment Districts**

State legislation is pending that would enable counties to establish local assessment districts for neighborhood improvement projects. The levy, raised within the district, would be used to finance parks, playgrounds, greenbelts, easements and other improvement projects. Wexford County should monitor this legislation and, if adopted, consider possible applications to implement the activities outlined in this plan.

Private Donations

Another important source of funds for local recreation projects involves community fund-raising campaigns. This is already being done in many Michigan communities. Major employers, service clubs and neighborhood groups are potential sources of assistance in projects of this type.

Wexford County should also investigate assistance from any of the number of local foundations, including The Loutit Foundation and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING SOURCES INDEX:

This funding sources index links outdoor recreation projects to possible funding sources.

KEY:

Natural Resources Trust Fund = TF
Land and Water Conservation Fund = LWCF
Coastal Zone Management = CZM
Transportation Fund = DOT
Waterways Fund = WF
Historic Preservation Grant = HG
Wallop-Breaux = WB
Council for the Arts = CA

| Type of Project | Funding Source |
|--|-----------------------|
| Acquisition of Land | TF, LWCF |
| Athletic Fields, Games and Sports Facilities | TF, LWCF |
| Arts Activities, Music/Dance | CA |
| Backpacking, Hiking Trails | DOT, LWCF, TF, CZM |
| Ball fields | TF, LWCF |
| Basketball Courts | TF, LWCF |
| Boat Access and Marinas | TF, LWCF, CZM, WF, WB |
| Bridges, Pedestrian | DOT, TF, LWCF |
| Canoeing Access and Boating Development | TF, LWCF, CZ, WF, WB |

| Type of Project | Funding Source |
|---|-----------------------|
| Change Building, Bathhouse | LWCF, TF |
| Coasting Hills, Sliding | TF, LWCF |
| Cross-Country Ski Trails | TF, LWCF, DOT |
| Docks, Lake/River | LWCF, TF, CZM, WF, WB |
| Fishing Access | LWCF, TF, CZM, WF, WB |
| Fishery Improvements | WB |
| Foot Bridges, Pedestrian | TF, LWCF, DOT |
| Game and Sport Facilities | LWCF, TF |
| Golf Courses, Frisbee | LWCF, TF |
| Hiking Trail (Interpretive) | TF, LWCF, CZM, DOT |
| Historic Restoration | HG |
| Ice Arena, Artificial and Natural | TF, LWCF |
| Lake or Pond Access | LWCF, TF, WB, WF, CZM |
| Land Acquisition | TF |
| Launching Ramps & Piers | LWCF, TF, WB, WF, CZM |
| Lighting, Outdoor | LWCF, TF |
| Marinas | WF, WB, LWCF, TF, CZM |
| Multiple-Use Courts | TF, LWCF |
| Music, Bandshells, Bandstands | TF, LWCF, HG, CA |
| Nature Center, Hiking Trails (Interpretive)/Preserves /Shelters | TF, LWCF, CZM |
| Platform Tennis | TF, LWCF |
| Paving, Surfacing of Areas | LWCF, TF |
| Pedestrian Bridges | LWCF, TF, CZM |
| Picnic Areas, Tables/Benches/Grills | LWCF, TF |
| Piers, Docks | TF, LWCF, CZM, WB, WF |
| Playgrounds, Apparatus/Shelters/Tot Lots | TF, LWCF |
| Pools, Swimming/Wave | TF, LWCF |
| Sled Hill Development | LWCF, TF |
| Skeet Shoot, Shooting Range | TF, LWCF |
| Skiing, Trails/Cross-Country | TF, LWCF, DOT |
| Tennis Courts | TF, LWCF |
| Trails, Biking/BMX/Hiking/Skiing/Wheelchair | TF, LWCF, DOT |
| Wildlife Areas, Wetland | TF, LWCF, WB |

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE**INFORMATION SOURCES INDEX:**

The following synopsis offers information on a specific recreation topic. More information can be received by direct contact with a specific agency.

| Type of Project | Information Source |
|--|------------------------------------|
| All Terrain Vehicles Off the Road Vehicles and Trails | Forest Mgt. Division, DNR & DOT |
| Boat Access and Marinas Design | Recreation, DNR |
| Cabins and Cottages | Parks Division, DNR |
| Campgrounds | Parks Division, DNR |
| Modern/primitive | Parks/Forest Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Private camp/campsites | Camp Licensing Office, DSS |
| Conservation Education, Environmental | Public Information Div., DNR, SCS |
| Canoeing Access and Boating Development | Recreation/Fisheries Div., DNR |
| Comfort Station | Parks/Rec./Forest Mgt. Divs., DNR |
| Construction Cost Estimating and Data | Recreation Division/DNR |
| Consultants, Planning | Recreation Division/DNR |
| Creekshed Protection | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR, SCS |
| Cross-Country Skiing | Forest Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Culvert, Bridges and Design | MDOT & Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Day Camps, Camps and Campsites | Camp Licensing Office, DSS |
| Drainage-Construction | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Dune Buggies, Off-Road Vehicles | Forest Management Div., DNR |
| Elderly, Senior Citizen Centers | Recreation Division, DNR |
| Environmental Education | Public Information Div., DNR, SCS |
| Erosion Control, Structures and Facilities | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR, SCS |
| Fishing, General Information | Fisheries Div., DNR |
| Fishing, Laws | Law Enforcement Div., DNR |
| Flood Control, Structures and Facilities | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR, SCS |
| Foot Bridges, Design | Recreation Div., DNR |
| Forestry Information | Forest Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Handicap, Accessibility | Department of Labor |
| Handicap, Design | Recreation Div., DNR |
| Historic Preservation | History Div., Dept. of State |
| Hunter Education | Wildlife Div., DNR |

| Type of Project | Information Source |
|--|---|
| Interpretive Centers | Parks Div., DNR |
| Interpretive Trails | Forest Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Lakes and Ponds, Permits | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Living Farms | Parks/Recreation Divs., DNR |
| Marinas, Docks/Design | Recreation Div., DNR |
| Neighborhood Parks/Recreation Center Buildings | Recreation Div., DNR |
| Off-Road Vehicles | Forest Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Open Space Standards, Area Design | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Outdoor Education, Environmental Education | Public Information Div., DNR, SCS |
| Piers, Design/Permits | Rec./Land & Water Mgt. Divs., DNR |
| Planning Consultants | Recreation Div., DNR |
| River Systems, Natural | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Shoreline Erosion | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR, SCS |
| Soil Erosion and Sedimentation | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR, SCS, Drain Comm. |
| Tot Lots, Playgrounds | Recreation Div., DNR |
| Tourist and Resort Areas | Travel Bureau, Dept. of Commerce |
| Underwater Preserves | Parks/Land & Water Mgt. Divs., DNR |
| Weed Control Ponds/Lakes | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR |
| Wetland Preserves, Construction Permits | Land & Water Mgt. Div., DNR, SCS |
| Wildlife Preserves, General Information | Wildlife Div., DNR, SCS |
| Wildlife Preserves, Rules/Laws | Wildlife/Law Enforc. Divs., DNR |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

Additional information on recreation services and grant programs are available from the following sources:

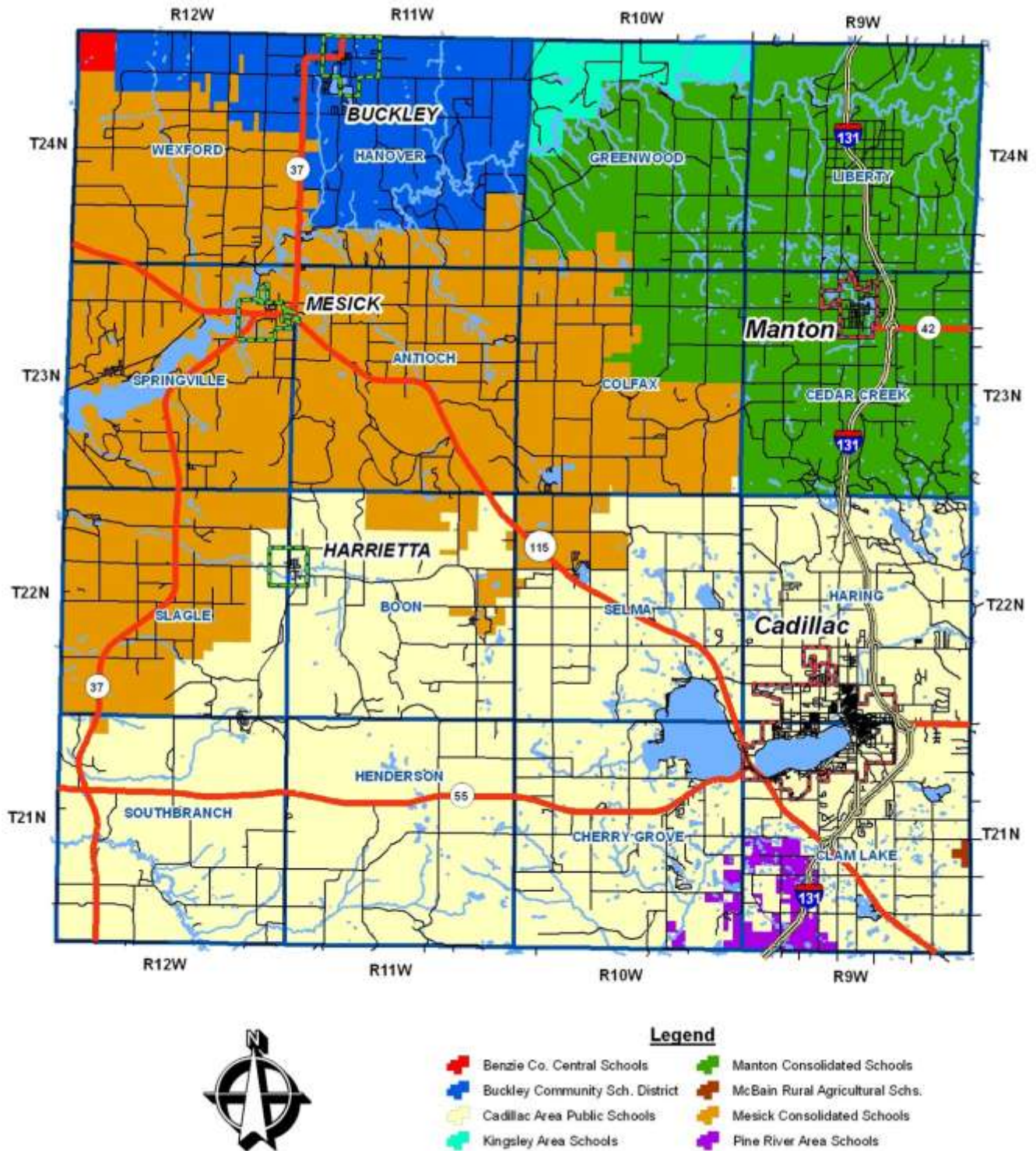
| | |
|--|--|
| Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Information Services Center P. O. Box 30028 Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-1220 | Library of Michigan 735 E. Michigan Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-1593 |
| Michigan Dept. of State Bureau of History Archives Unit 3405 N. Logan Street Lansing, MI 48918 | Michigan Dept. of Commerce Travel Bureau P. O. Box 30226 Lansing, MI 48909 |
| Michigan Dept. of Commerce Business Information P. O. Box 30225 Lansing, MI 48909 (517-373-8312) | Michigan Dept. of Agriculture Communications Office P. O. Box 30017 Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-1104 |
| Michigan Dept. of Transportation Public Information Section P. O. Box 30050 Lansing, MI 48909 | Michigan Council for the Arts 1200 Sixth Avenue Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 256-3731 |
| Michigan Dept. of Education P. O. Box 30008 Lansing, MI 48909 | OR Through one of Michigan's many universities or colleges. |

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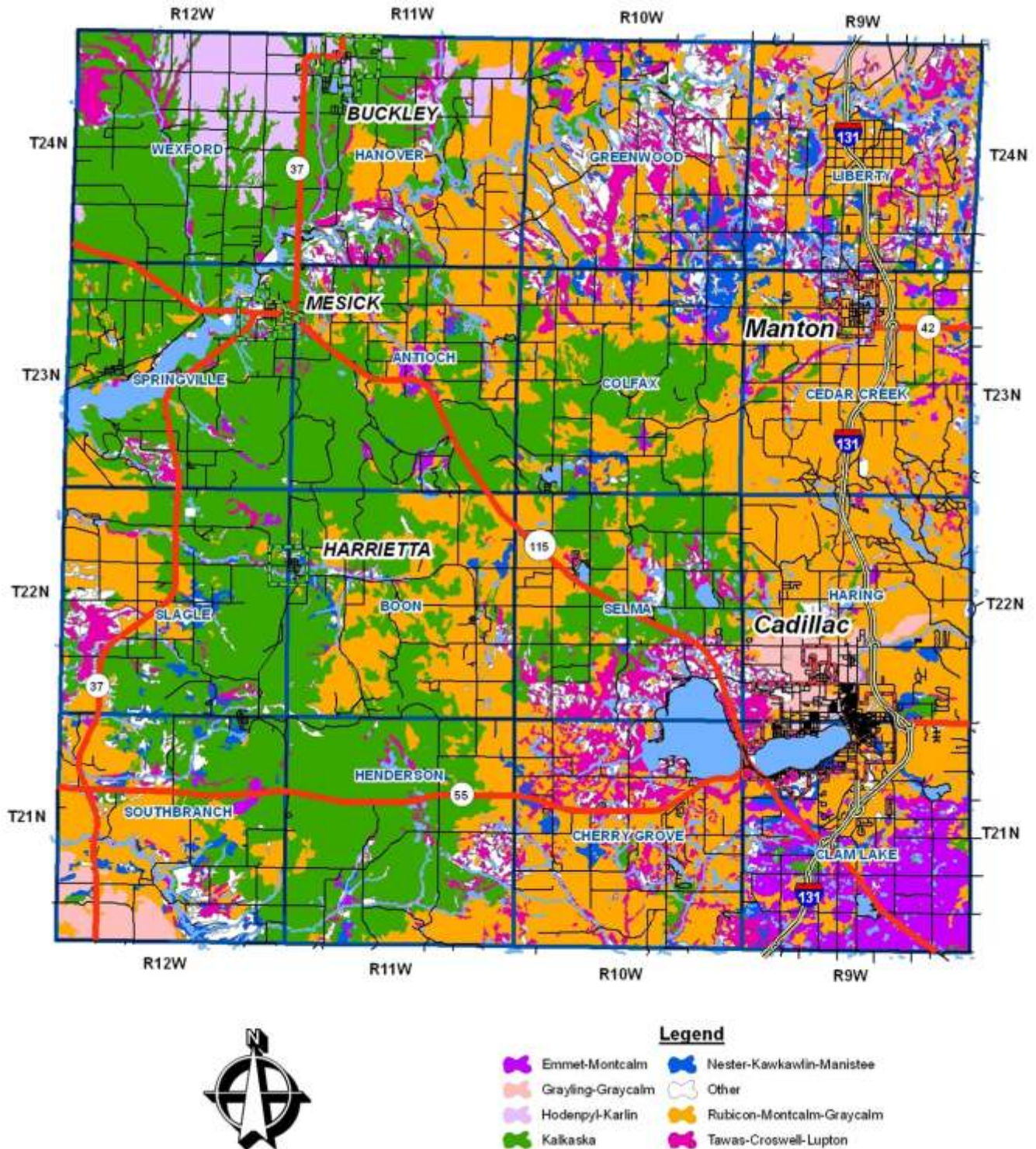
APPENDIX A – REGIONAL LOCATION



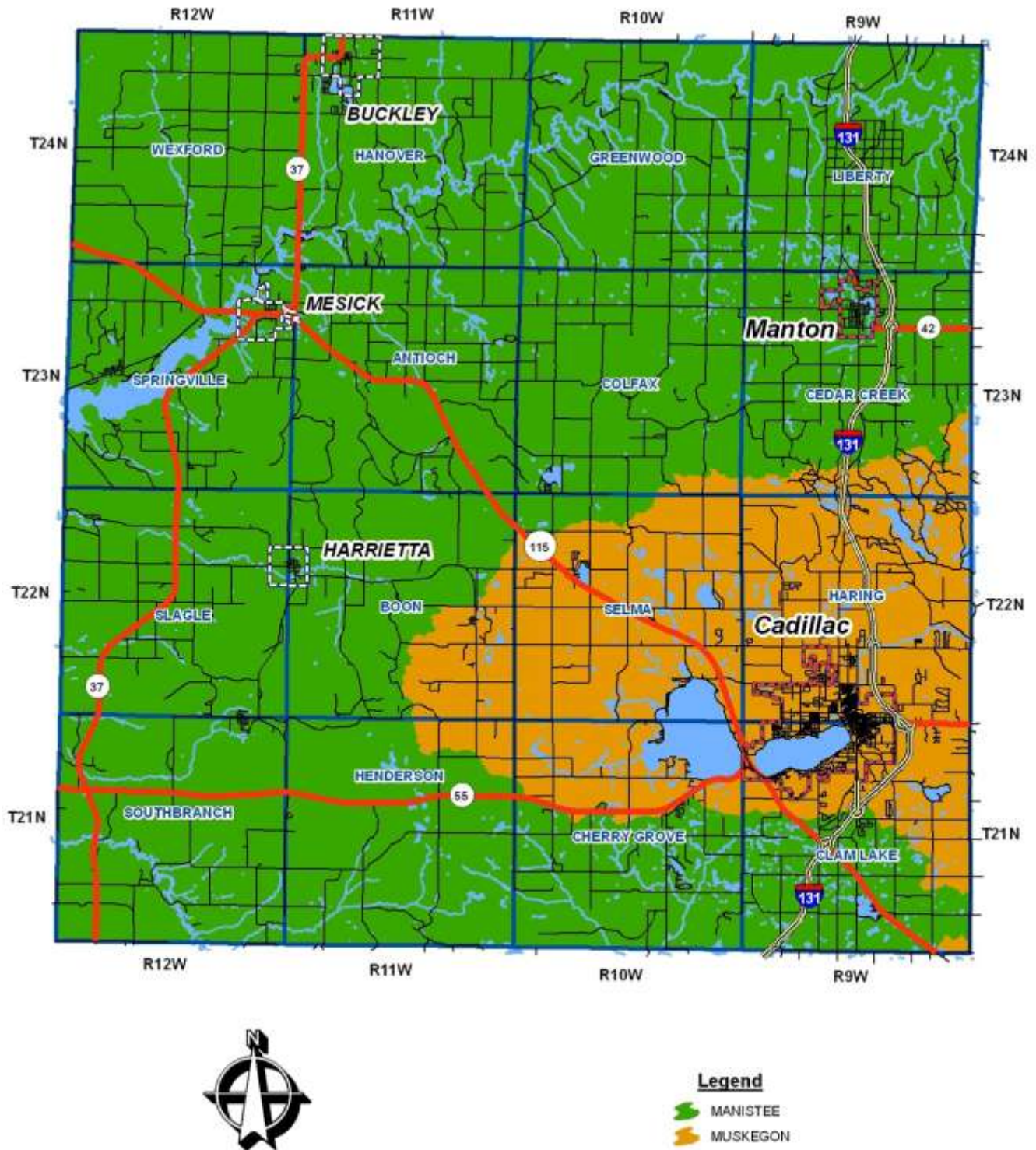
APPENDIX B – SCHOOL DISTRICT MAP



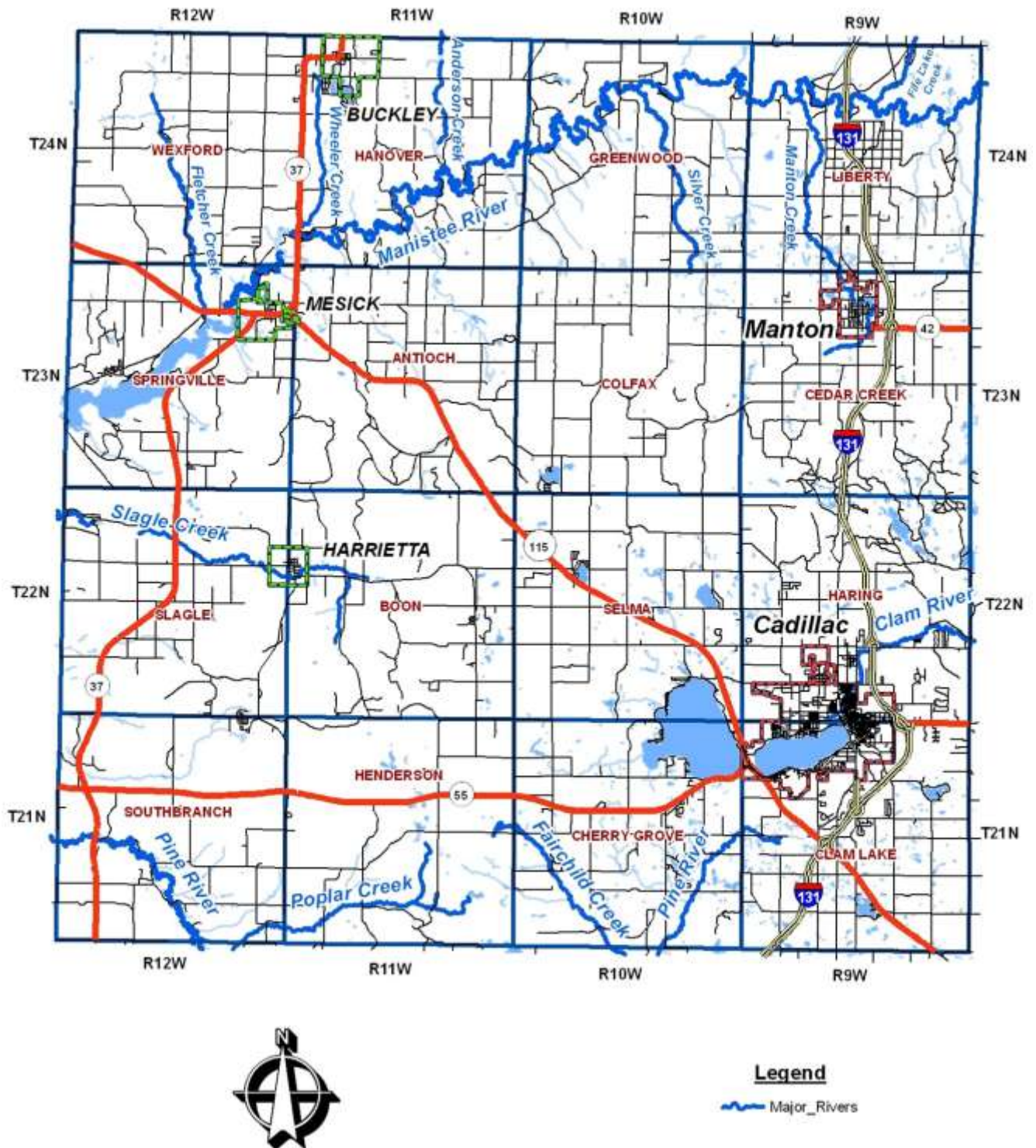
APPENDIX C – GENERAL SOILS MAP



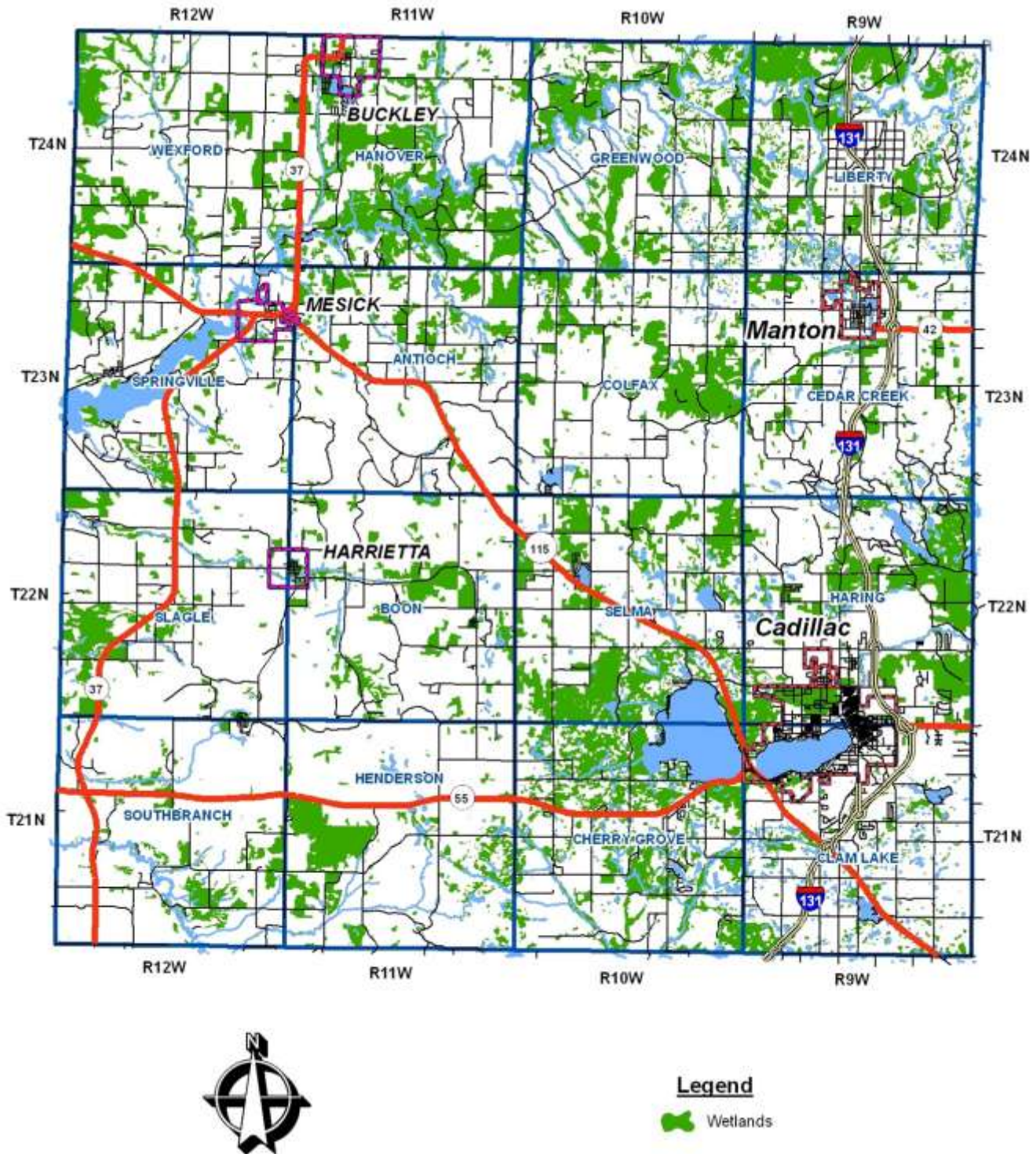
APPENDIX D – WATERSHED MAP



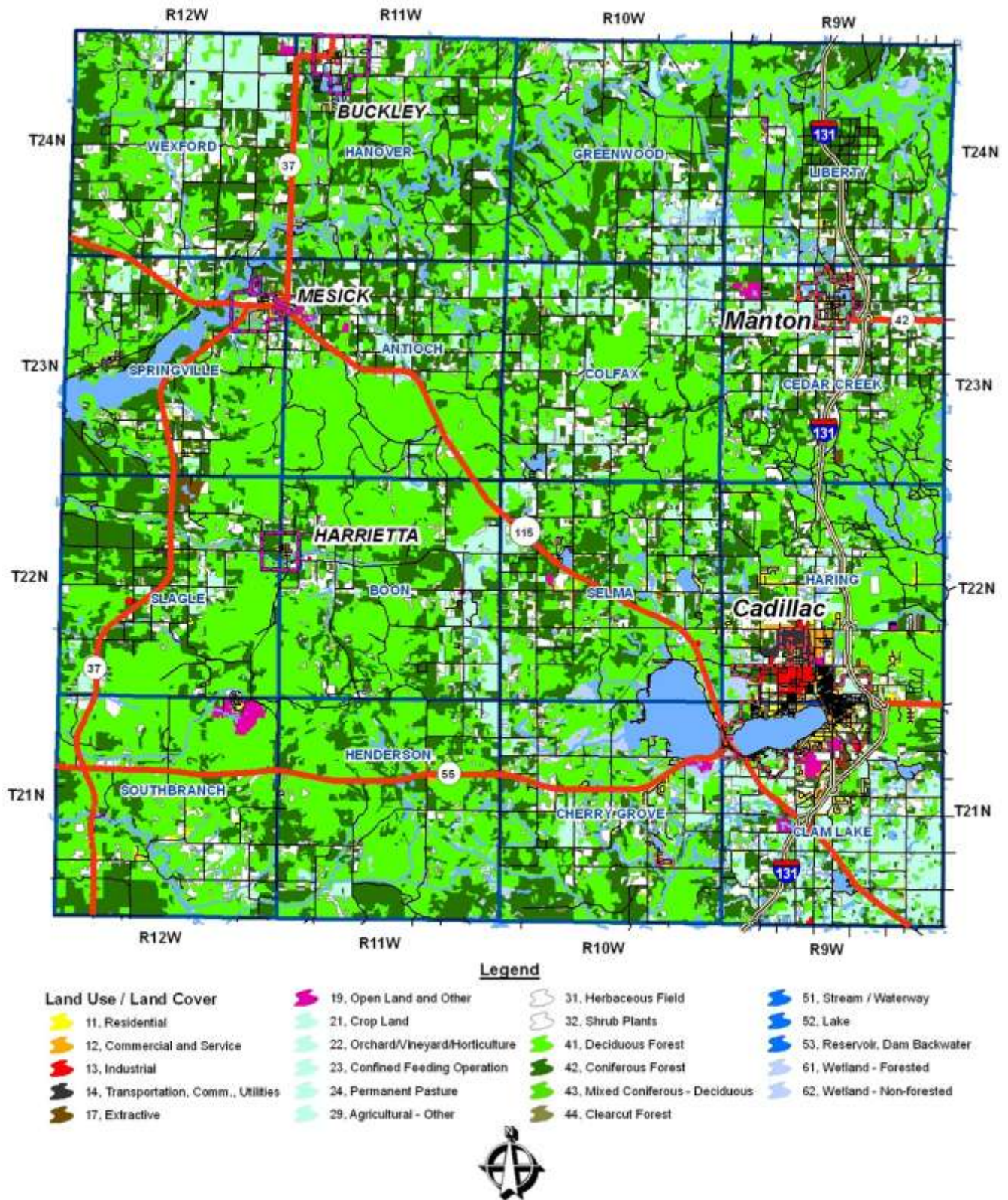
APPENDIX E – MAJOR RIVERS MAP



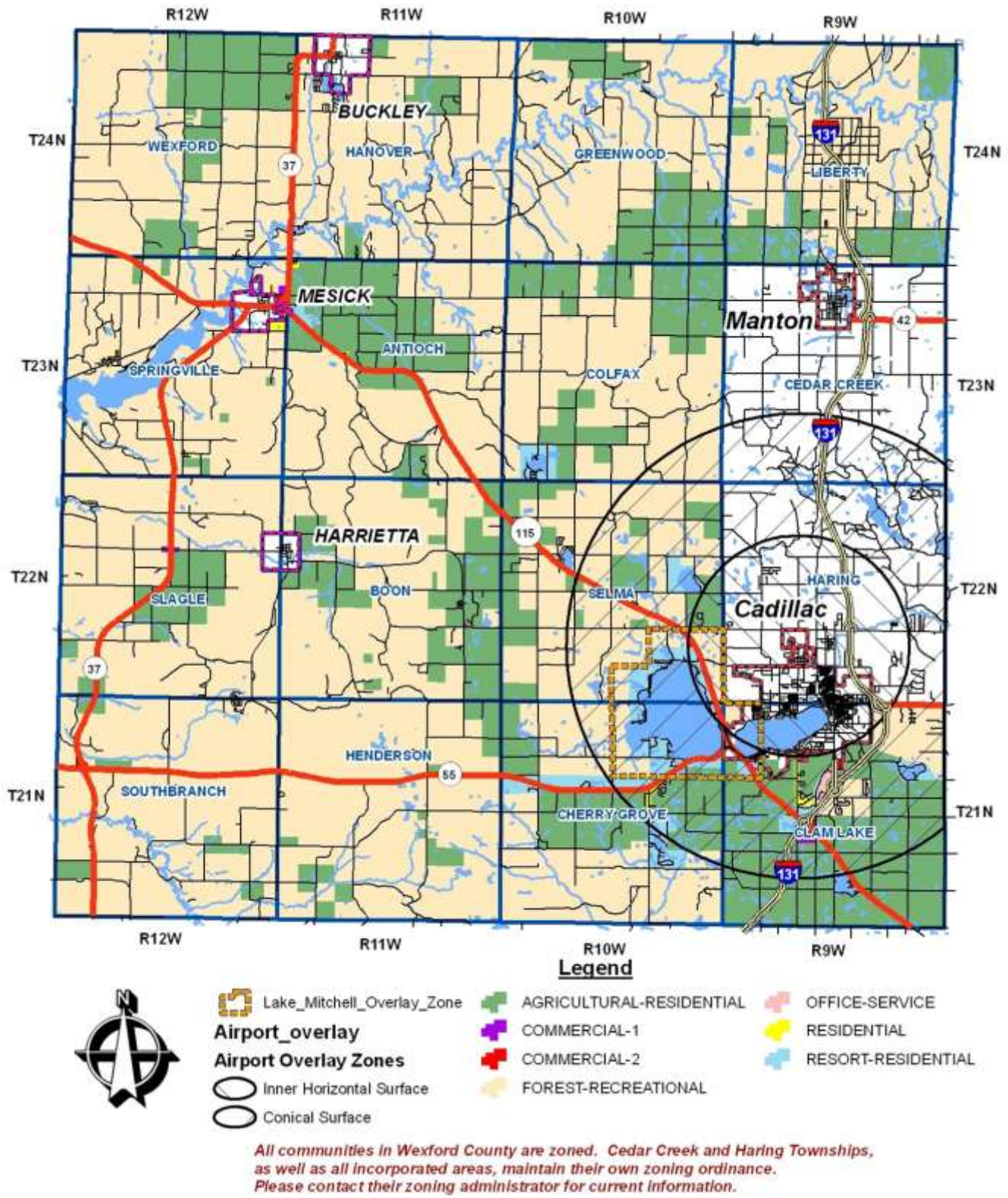
APPENDIX F – WETLANDS MAP



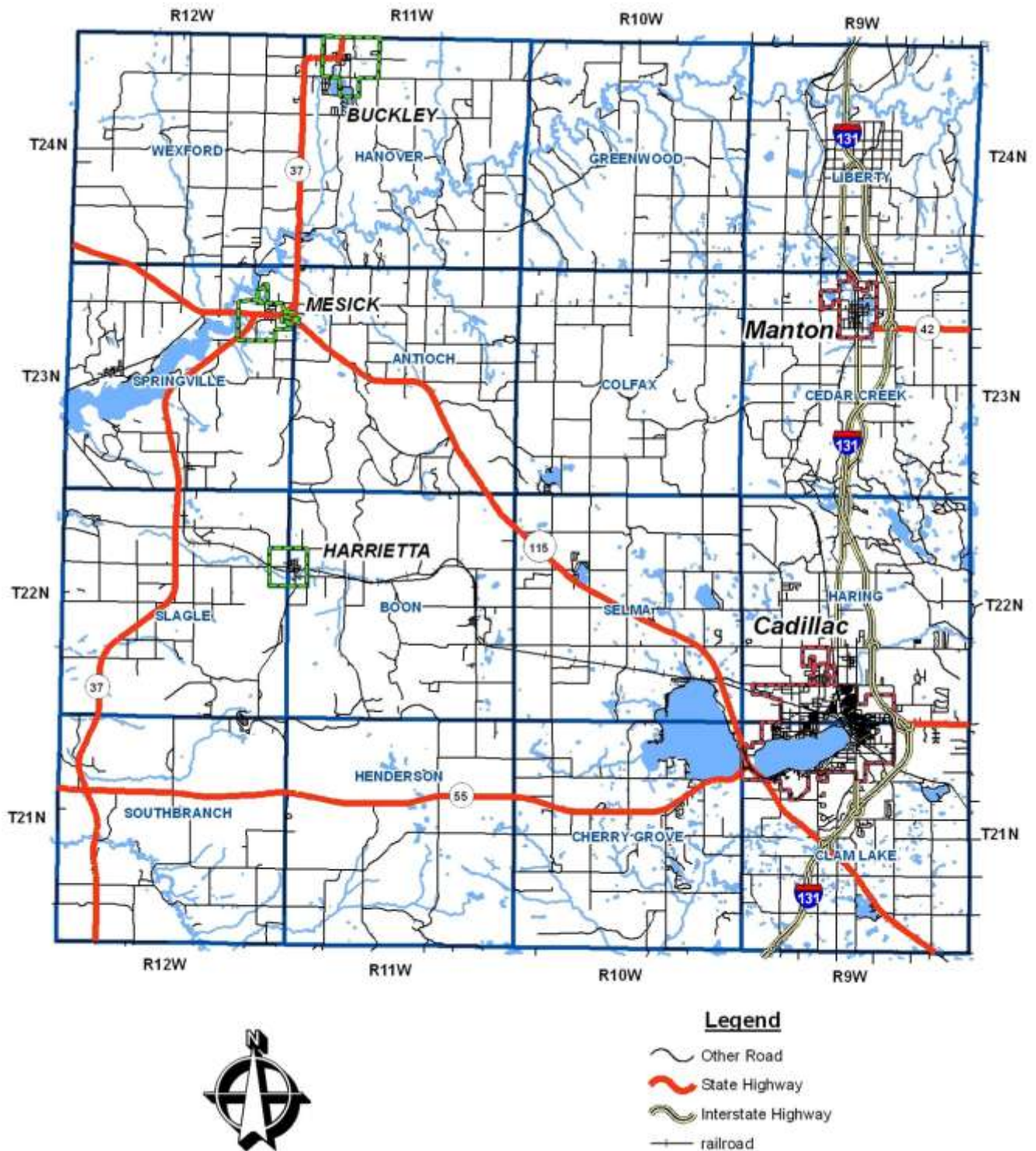
APPENDIX G – EXISTING LAND USE



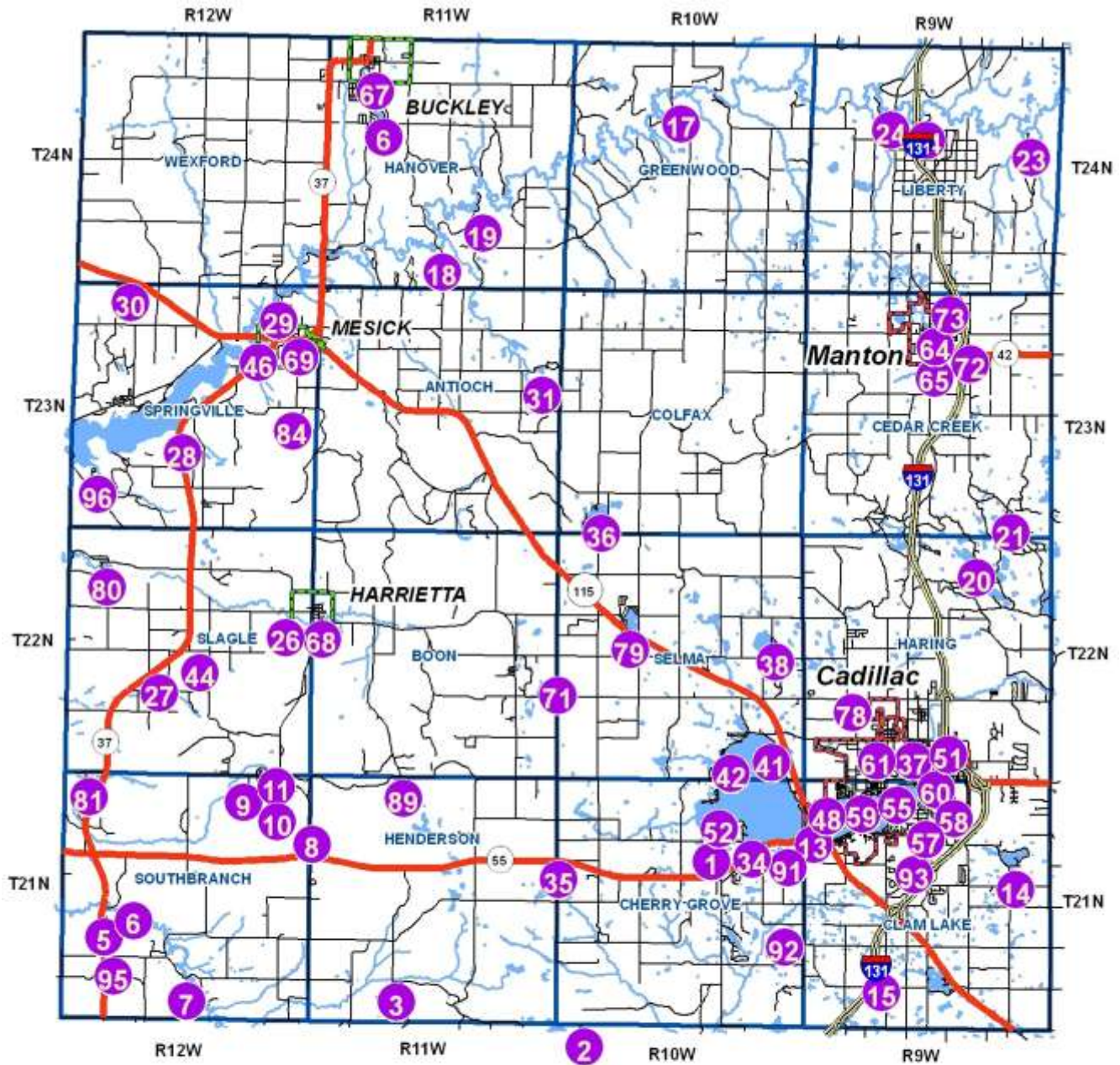
APPENDIX H – WEXFORD COUNTY ZONING



APPENDIX I - GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP



APPENDIX J – OUTDOOR RECREATION MAP

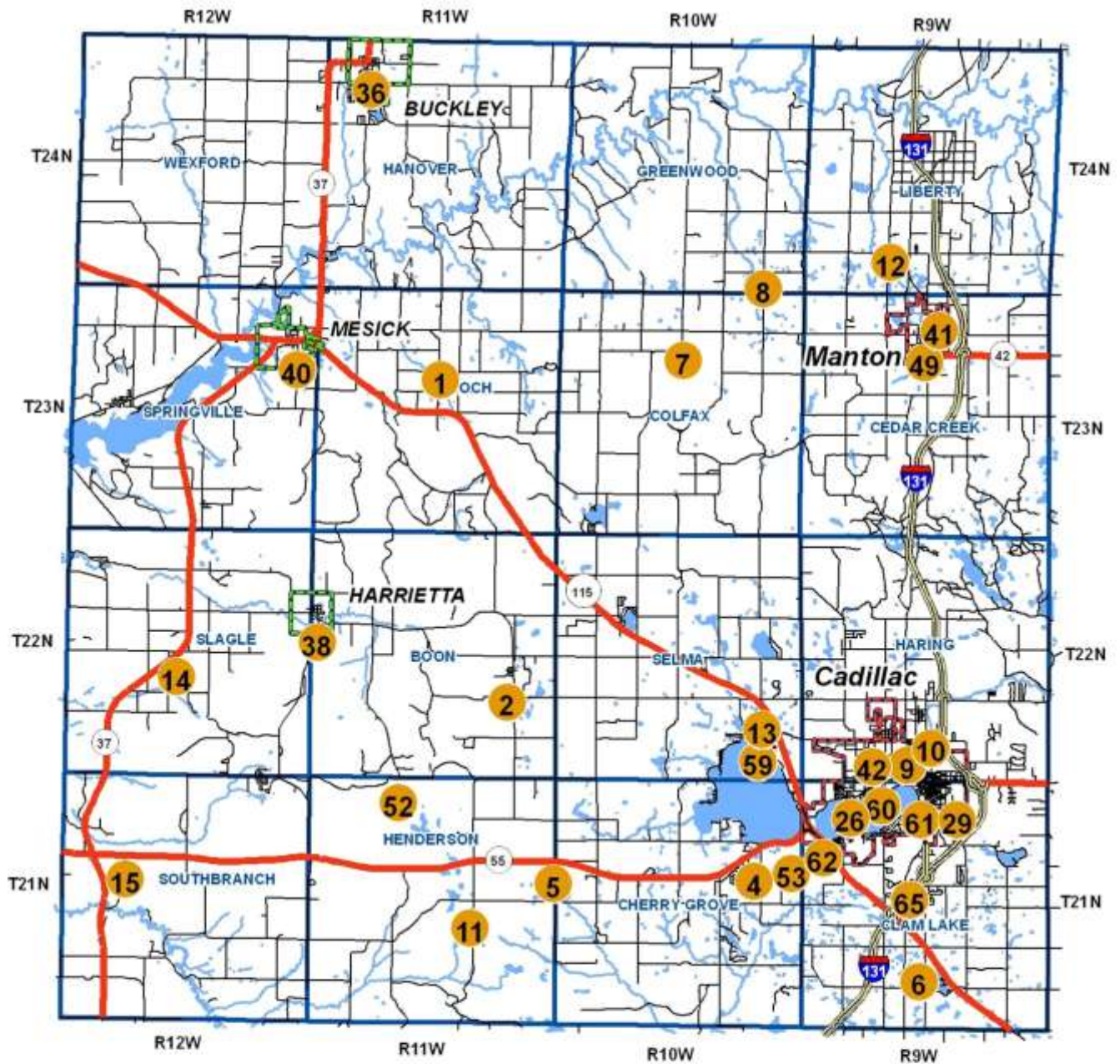


Legend

- 2** Outdoor Recreation Facilities

**Number correlates to the list No. in Recreation Inventory.*

APPENDIX K – INDOOR RECREATION MAP

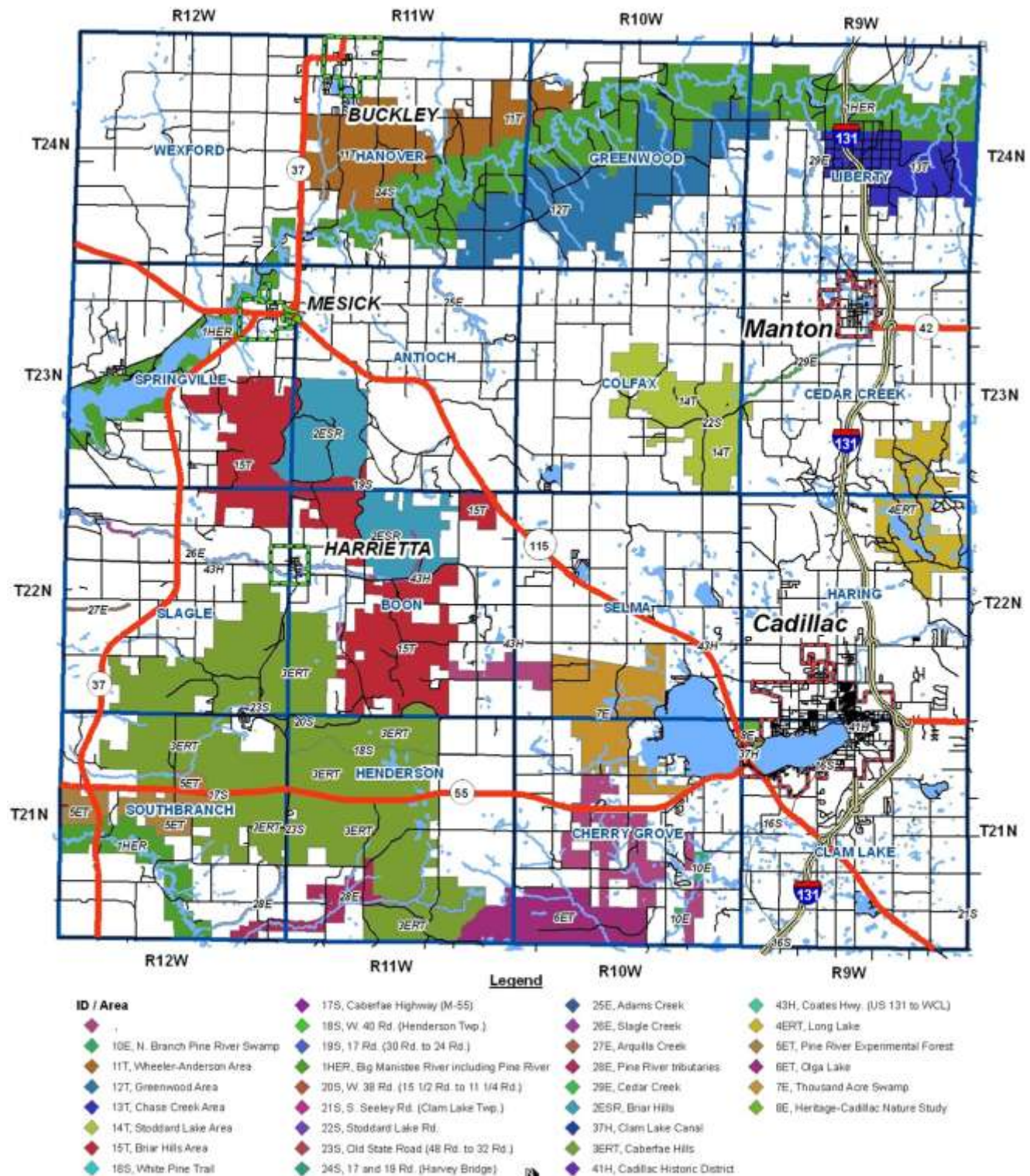


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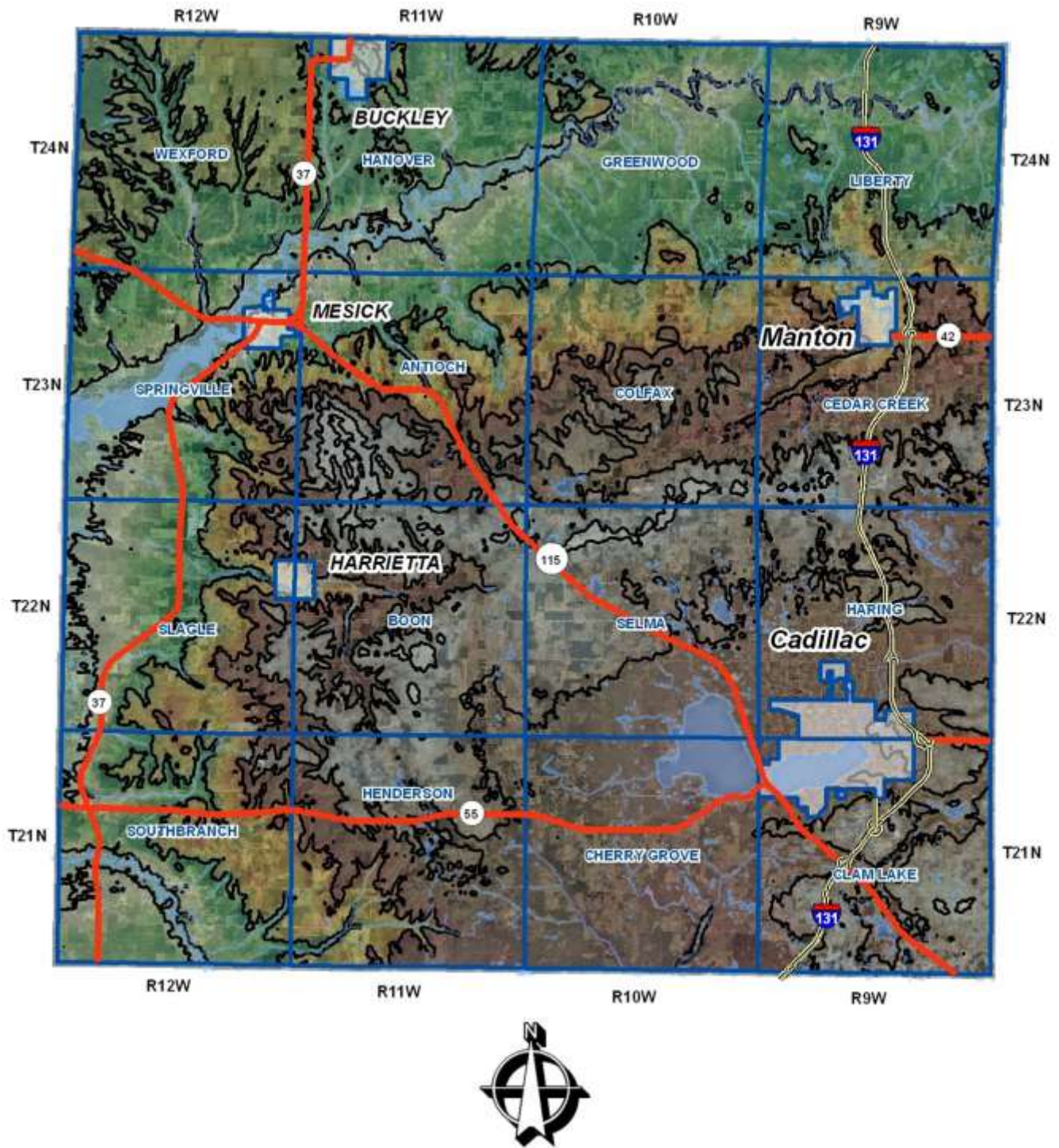
52 Indoor_Rec_Sites

**Number correlates to the list No. in Recreation Inventory.*

APPENDIX L – SPECIAL/UNIQUE AREAS



APPENDIX M – TOPOGRAPHY



APPENDIX N – WEXFORD COUNTY RECREATION SURVEY

Wexford County is seeking public input to help plan improvements to recreational facilities located in the County. Please answer the questions below and place in the box. **Only one form per household, please.**

1. Are you a [] year-round resident, [] seasonal resident, or [] visitor of Wexford County? (please check which one applies)

2. If you live or own property in Wexford County, what township, city, or village is it located in? _____

3. What type(s) of recreational activity do you and your family participate in?

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing (from boat) | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing (x-country) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATVs (recreational) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing (dock/shore) | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing (downhill) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball/softball | <input type="checkbox"/> Hockey | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowboarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting/archery | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (motorized) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (RV) | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (tent/rustic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/kayaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Running/jogging/ walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Please specify): | | |

4. What recreational facilities do you and your family use in Wexford County? _____

5. Number of persons in your household by age: 0-5:____, 6-12:____, 13-19:____, 20-39:____, 40-64:____, 65+:____

6. What improvements do you and your family think are needed to existing recreational facilities located in Wexford County? _____

7. What new or expanded recreational facilities do you and your family think are needed in Wexford County? _____

8. Name and Address (optional) _____

APPENDIX O – PLAN CORRESPONDENCE

[Insert copies of minutes, agendas, written comments, etc.]