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# BARAGA COUNTY RECREATION PLAN

## 2018-2022



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Prepared For: Baraga County Board of Commissioners  
16 North 3rd Street, L'Anse, MI 49946

By: Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region  
P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Baraga County is located in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan on Lake Superior (see **Map 1**). It contains approximately 900 square miles of land and enjoys over 70 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. The main population centers are at the head of Keweenaw Bay: the Villages of L'Anse and Baraga. Baraga County is also home to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and its L'Anse Indian Reservation. The County is primarily rural, and its extensive forest and water assets provide great recreational opportunities for both visitors and residents.

The 2018-2022 Baraga County Recreation Plan has been written to guide recreational improvements throughout the County. It provides an overview of the community, a list of the existing recreational facilities, and goals for future development. Baraga County is committed to not only providing quality recreational opportunities to both residents and visitors, but also to the conservation and preservation of this area. This plan was developed in accordance with the Guidelines for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A five-year DNR-approved Recreation Plan is required for governmental entities to be eligible for many DNR grant programs.

The Baraga County Recreation Plan was prepared by the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region on behalf of the Baraga County Board of Commissioners. A Recreation Committee provided direction to the plan, and public comments and suggestions have been taken under consideration during the development of the plan. The Baraga County Recreation Plan will continue to be updated as needed to address the changing needs of the community and its residents.

**Map 1. Baraga County Location**



## 2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Baraga County is composed of the Villages of Baraga and L’Anse, the Townships of Arvon, Baraga, Covington, L’Anse and Spurr, and several unincorporated communities. The total county population as of 2010 is 8,860, having grown 1.3% since the year 2000. The majority of the population is located within or near the Villages of Baraga (1,285) and L’Anse (2,107). The smallest population is in Spurr Township, with 276 residents. Population density of Baraga County is low, with 10 persons per square mile. Population increases during summer months as seasonal residents visit the nearly 1,383 seasonal homes which account for over 26% of the housing units. The most seasonal homes are in Arvon Township with 518 units and the fewest are in the Village of Baraga with 10. The median age of residents in the County is 42.9, much higher than the State of Michigan median of 38.9 and of neighboring Houghton County's 33.1.

Baraga County contains the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) L'Anse Indian Reservation, which spans multiple local government jurisdictions including the Village of Baraga and much of the Township and Village of L'Anse. The reservation's 59,000 acres cover the majority of north-central Baraga County. The reservation's population is 3,703.

The diverse population living in and visiting Baraga County is suited for a range of recreational activities, supporting programs, and services specific to each community. Demographic information shown in **Table 1** provides a basic snapshot of the area as compared to the State of Michigan.

**Table 1: Selected Census Data**

| Statistic                     | Baraga County | State of Michigan |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Population, 2010              | 8,860         | 9,883,640         |
| % 65 and over                 | 17.3%         | 13.8%             |
| % Under 20                    | 22.3%         | 26.8%             |
| Median Age, 2010              | 42.9          | 38.9              |
| Median Household Income, 2016 | \$42,810      | \$50,803          |
| Per Capita Income, 2016       | \$17,664      | \$27,549          |
| Average Household Size, 2016  | 2.2           | 2.5               |
| Median Housing Value, 2016    | \$90,900      | \$127,800         |

*In this table and the preceding page, unless otherwise noted, all 2000 and 2010 population data is from the decennial U.S. Census and 2016 data is from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey.*

Lake Superior helps to moderate temperatures in the County, but both temperatures and snow levels vary widely throughout. Annual snowfall in the county averages around 150 inches. The weather has a tremendous impact on the tourist potential as summer visitors seek the cooling effect of the lake and winter guests seek abundant snowfall for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. Daily summer temperature averages are a high of 78 degrees Fahrenheit and a low of 54, while winter temperatures average a high of 20 and a low of 2.

The unique location and forested surroundings make Baraga County a vacation destination year around, and tourism is a key part of the economy. The principle attractions and events include parks, multi-use trails, museums, fairs, pow-wows and events at the Ojibwa Casino.

Three major highways serve Baraga County: U.S. Route 41, Michigan Route 28 and Michigan Route 38. Indian Trails runs an intercity bus route along U.S. Route 41 making stops in the Villages of Baraga and L'Anse, and at Keweenaw Bay. There is an airfield west of the Village of Baraga that has one grass runway. The nearest commercial airfield is in Houghton County.

### 3. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND PREVIOUS GRANTS

Baraga County has no staffed recreation facilities. Therefore, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners is directly responsible for any recreation sites and programs. The County Commissioners for Districts 1-5 are as follows:

District 1: Gale Eilola

District 2: Mike Koskinen

District 3: Patrick Reilley

District 4: William Menge

District 5: William Rolof

Baraga County does not have a separate budget for recreation but allocates funding as needed to support projects. The most recent allocation was \$15,000 awarded to the County by the Keweenaw Community Foundation from the Portage Health Foundation Community Wellness and Outdoor Recreation Fund. Baraga County government also provides support for developing recreational opportunities by providing financial assistance to the Baraga County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB). The CVB is tasked with promotion of the County's assets and maintenance of its motorized trail systems.

Baraga County has received two previous grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, both for Point Abbaye. The first (acquisition of the land) is complete, and the second (development/improvements) is pending construction in 2018:

**TF61 - Point Abbaye Acquisition (\$195,000), 1979 (Closed)**

Acquisition of 259 acres of Lake Superior frontage at the end of the Keweenaw Bay

**RP16-0038 – Point Abbaye County Park Improvements, Phase 1 (\$45,000), 2016 (PA Executed)**

Development project to create a new parking area which includes barrier-free spaces, a new barrier-free campsite and an accessible pathway. Existing restrooms will be removed and replaced with a new accessible facility.

Scope items:

- Access pathway 6' wide or more
- Campsite(s)
- Crushed stone parking lot
- Restroom building

#### 4. RECREATION INVENTORY

The following section examines and inventories the recreation facilities that are currently available in Baraga County. The County, two villages, five Townships, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and schools all maintain recreation facilities. The following recreation inventory describes the types and locations of recreation facilities currently available in the County and nearby. The County facility information was provided by the County and the cursory inventory of other recreation facilities was gathered from existing plans. Site locations are shown in **Map 3** and in **Appendix A**, which includes maps provided by the Baraga County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

WUPPDR assessed accessibility at the only County-owned recreation facility, Point Abbaye, as **level 1** based on a site visit and existing plans utilizing parameters of the “DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans”:

- 1 – None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 – Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 – Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 – The entire facilities/park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 – The entire facilities/park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Planned improvements to Point Abbaye will significantly improve its accessibility in phases.

#### County Facility

**Point Abbaye County Park:**

County-owned park, 257.7 acres at the tip of Point Abbaye on the shores of Lake Superior (see **Map 2**). The County allows camping at the tip



of the peninsula; however, there are no official campgrounds, and utilities are not available. There is also not a designated watercraft access. The park has several deficiencies outlined in the Goals and Objectives that the County would like to

address. The 2011 Point Abbaye Improvement Plan (excerpt in **Appendix B**) is being used as a general guide for improvements at the park.

**Map 2. Point Abbaye Ownership**



**Other Facilities within Baraga County (See Map 3):**

***Village of Baraga***

**Baraga Marina:** 1.5-acre community marina includes boat launching facilities with access to water, gasoline, and electricity.



**Baraga Recreation Building Complex:** 5.1-acre Village-owned building houses a regulation ice hockey rink, changing rooms, and concessions.

**Baraga Armory:** 3-acre site includes indoor gymnasium and Little League baseball diamond.



**Baraga Elementary School:** School-owned facility includes 1-acre asphalt-surface play area and multipurpose room; includes indoor basketball court and gymnastics equipment.

**Baraga High School:** 7.2-acre school-owned facility includes football, baseball, softball, and track fields, as well as a gymnasium with basketball courts and gymnastics equipment.

**Baraga Public Beach:** 1-acre beach on Lake Superior provides elevated stoves and a picnic area.



***Baraga Township***

**Baraga Children's Park:** Community Park includes swings, teeter-totter, slide, picnic tables, and benches.

**Baraga Plains Trail:** 28-mile loop for ORVs 50 inches-wide or less is located on state land.

**Baraga State Park:** 56-acre state park includes 105 modern (with electricity) and 10 semi-modern campsites as well as a variety of playground equipment, picnic

tables, fire pits/grills, pavilions, hiking and cross-country skiing trails, and Lake Superior fishing access.

**Big Lake State Forest Campground:** State campground includes twelve rustic campsites, vault toilets, and hand pump.



**Boyzie Jondreau Ball Field:** KBIC-owned site contains ballfield less than regulation size.

**Ojibwa Recreation Area:** KBIC-owned 28-acre site includes beaches, natural areas, picnic areas, trails, marina, campground, and other amenities. The campground offers 50 modern campsites also includes marina, flush toilets, and showers.

**Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness:** Approximately half of the 14,729-acre wilderness is located within Baraga Township, with the remainder in Houghton County. The federally designated wilderness is within the Ottawa National Forest. The wilderness includes four hiking trails and two scenic overlooks. Primitive camping is permitted.

**Sturgeon River National Forest Campground:** Federal campground includes nine rustic sites and vault toilets, located just outside the south edge of the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness.

### *L'Anse Village*

**Marina and Boat Launch:** Village-owned 1-acre marina and boat launch includes water, electricity, portable pump-out, and gasoline; currently undergoing a phased expansion based on a marina master plan.



**School Playground and Tennis Court:** School-owned facilities, occupying two acres, include playground equipment, small basketball court, and tennis court. A small gymnasium is located inside the elementary school.

**Meadowbrook Recreation Building:** Village-owned building includes artificial ice, warm-up area, and concessions. Uses include hockey and skating as well as

community events like dances, craft shows, and as a backup location for outdoor events when weather is inclement.

**Waterfront Park:** Village-owned 1-acre park located in downtown L’Anse includes swimming beach, children’s playground, volleyball courts, picnic area, and pavilion with concerts in summer.



**Third Street Park:** Village-owned 1-acre park is equipped with baseball field, playground equipment, and basketball and tennis courts.

**L’Anse Area Schools Village Park:** 5-acre school district-owned facility includes a football/soccer field and track, baseball/softball diamond, sled hill, gazebo, and 2.1-mile nature/ski trail.

**Sacred Heart School Play Lot and Baseball Field:** Private school-owned facility includes basketball court, baseball field, and playground equipment. Little League teams use the baseball field.

***L’Anse Township***

**Alligator II (Lizzies):** 1.3-acre KBIC property offers 575 feet of Keweenaw Bay shoreline used as a public swimming beach, boat launch, and picnic area.



**L’Anse Township Park:** Community Park of approximately 97 acres includes 33 modern campsites, restrooms and showers, three pavilions, playground equipment, horseshoes, and hiking/snowshoe trails. Softball/baseball field is located nearby.

**Second Sand Beach:** Township-owned community park of approximately 30 acres is used for swimming, picnicking, and other day use activities; includes beach and picnic area with grills.

**L’Anse Golf Club:** 80-acre nine-hole public golf course with driving range is located three miles south of L’Anse.



**L’Anse Township Hall:** Township-owned building in downtown L’Anse is used for dances and other recreational activities.

**McCormick Wilderness:** A portion of the 17,000-acre wilderness is located within L’Anse Township, with the majority in Marquette County. The federally designated wilderness is within the Ottawa National Forest. Primitive camping is allowed. There is an established hiking trail in the Marquette County portion.

**Pequaming Beach:** Public beach at the north end of First Sands is 40 feet wide with 4,500 feet of shoreline of which 400 feet is KBIC-owned.

**Pinery Lake Ski Trail:** 5 kilometers of cross-country ski trails occupy approximately 80 acres; trails are marked and groomed and connect with L’Anse Area Schools Village Park.

### ***Arvon Township***

**Arvon Township Park:** 3-acre township-owned park contains playground equipment, baseball and basketball courts, covered picnic shelter with tables and grills, boat launch, and small swimming area.



**Arvon School:** 2-acre school-owned facility includes playground equipment and basketball court.

**Big Eric's Bridge State Forest Campground:** State campground includes 12 rustic campsites, vault toilets, and hand pump.

### ***Covington Township***

**King Lake State Forest Campground:** State campground includes six rustic campsites, vault toilets, hand pump, and boat launch.

**Recreation Center and Park:** 29-acre community park includes multi-purpose building with gymnasium, kitchen and meeting room; also includes ski hill and Little League field.

**Softball field:** 3-acre community park includes softball field and concessions.

### ***Spurr Township***

**Beaufort Lake State Forest Campground:** State campground includes seven rustic campsites, vault toilets, hand pump, and boat launch.

**Craig Lake State Park:** With 8,459 acres of almost completely undeveloped land, Michigan's most primitive and remote state park includes over 15 miles of hiking trails, including 7.5 miles of the North Country Trail, accessing 17 rustic campsites in addition to two "yurt" shelters and two rustic cabins for rent. The park includes six lakes and numerous small ponds.

### ***Countywide***

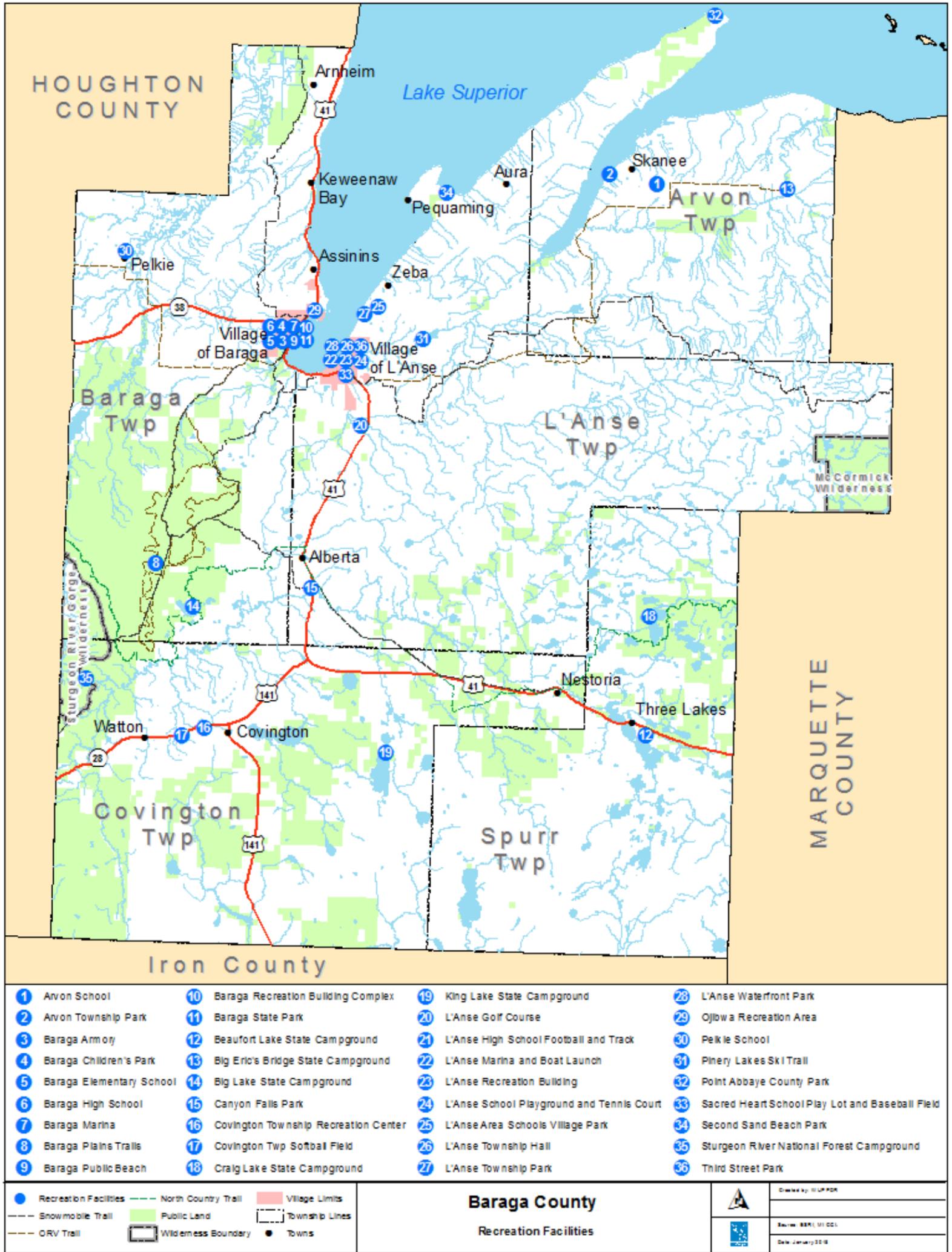
**North Country National Scenic Trail:** Baraga County includes nearly 50 miles of this hiking trail which extends from New York to North Dakota. This segment is also part of Michigan's Iron Belle Hiking Trail, which extends from Ironwood to Belle Isle, Michigan. The Peter Wolfe Chapter of the North Country Trail Association is responsible for 125 miles of the North Country hiking trail through the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Within Baraga County the trail passes through multiple land ownerships including Craig Lake State Park and the Ottawa National Forest and passes near a number of waterfalls including Tibbets and Canyon Falls.

Some parts of the trail that are not yet permanently established utilize low-volume roads. There is a proposal that would connect Canyon Falls to established trail west of Craig Lake State Park, which would eliminate the road walk. The Canyon Falls trail is also in need of major maintenance and upgrades due to heavy usage.

**Snowmobile/ATV Trails:** Baraga County has extensive motorized trail systems. The Baraga County CVB oversees upkeep of the snowmobile trails, and MI-TRALE develops and maintains many ATV/ORV trails in the county. Access to a number of trails is by annual easement permission, making the network somewhat volatile; the ability to develop and maintain a permanent cohesive system is vital to the viability of the trail system for both summer and winter use.

Suggested additions to the trail network include connectors between Baraga and Silver Mountain and Sturgeon River Gorge scenic locations, which have been approved by Ottawa National Forest for ORV access.

Map 3. Recreation Facilities in Baraga County



## 5. RECREATION NEEDS, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Baraga County strives to define an affordable and achievable improvement program that will improve recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors. Baraga County has many recreational opportunities offered by a diverse group of providers.

**County needs include improvements at Point Abbaye County Park, acquisition of key recreational property if and when it becomes available, and development of both non-motorized and motorized trail opportunities.** The purpose of this plan is to address the needs and capitalize on opportunities. Following are identified goals and objectives:



**Goal 1:** Improve Point Abbaye County Park with added and updated facilities.

**Objective 1:** Implement Point Abbaye Improvement Plan in phases.

**Objective 2:** Communicate with the public about the status of the project to ensure the needs and preferences of residents and users are adequately considered.

**Objective 3:** Address several issues that impede effective use of the park:

- Vault toilets that have been closed due to poor condition (*will be resolved by installment of accessible vault toilet through currently funded grant*)
- Poor condition of access road
- Informal camping on coastal rocks
- Overgrown and inadequate trails
- Lack of designated watercraft access point

**Goal 2:** Secure, improve, and develop trail access for both motorized and non-motorized activities.

**Objective 1:** Collaborate with the Baraga County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Baraga County Trails in Motion, and other organizations on both motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities.

**Objective 2:** Collaborate with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community on buildout of the non-motorized pathway linking Zeba north of L'Anse with Sand Point north of Baraga.

**Objective 3:** Support efforts to secure permanent and improved snowmobile and ORV trail access within Baraga County and connecting trails.

**Objective 4:** Support development of ORV scramble area (Baraga Plains).

**Goal 3:** Improve access and facilities for watersports.

**Objective 1:** Explore potential access points along Lake Superior for launching of non-motorized watercraft, such as kayaks and canoes.

**Objective 2:** Explore opportunities for additional public beachfront along Lake Superior and inland water bodies.

**Goal 4:** Support and coordinate with other efforts that enhance overall recreation opportunities, and provide new types of opportunities, in Baraga County.

**Objective 1:** Work with both public and private entities to acquire key properties and provide improved recreational opportunities in Baraga County.

**Objective 2:** Provide support to grant applications for recreational improvements within the county.

**Objective 3:** Identify unique recreation opportunities or assets to capitalize upon that set Baraga County apart from others in the region, including exploration of a potential "International Dark Sky" park.

**Objective 4:** Convene recreation stakeholders in the county at the same "table" to promote efficient use of resources, ensure all efforts remain in parallel, foster productive conversation, and prevent duplication.

## 6. ACTION PLAN

With goals and objectives in place, a 5-year action program was identified to work towards accomplishing the goals and objectives. The Action Plan intent is to provide direction to the community in order to maintain and improve the quality and diversity of park and recreation opportunities. The Action Plan is not intended to be all inclusive or exclusive, but used rather as a guide for recreation development. This Plan will remain somewhat flexible to account for changing needs and new ideas so that it will provide the best overall recreation opportunities for Baraga County residents and visitors.

### Funding

Grant opportunities are constantly changing, so the County will remain diligent in pursuing funding programs and also be willing to partner in order to accomplish projects. A number of possible sources of funding for recreation projects within Baraga County are available as shown in **Table 2**.

**Table 2. Potential Funding Sources**

| Description   | Minimum Local Match | Source |
|---|---------------------|--------|
| County/Local Funds  | N/A                 | Local  |
| Community Foundation/Other (local service organizations and businesses)                         | N/A                 | Local  |
| Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) (\$15,000-300,000 grant for development projects) | 25%                 | DNR    |
| Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) (\$30,000-\$150,000 grant)                                | 50%                 | DNR    |
| Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)   | 25%                 | DNR    |
| Waterways Program Grants  | 50%                 | DNR    |
| Recreation Passport Grants (Up to \$150,000 grant in 2017)                                      | 25%                 | DNR    |
| Dam Management Grants   | 10%                 | DNR    |
| Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Program  | N/A                 | DNR    |
| Snowmobile Trail Improvement Program  | N/A                 | DNR    |
| Recreational Trails Program   | N/A                 | DNR    |
| Law Enforcement Grants (Marine Safety, ORV, Snowmobile)   | N/A                 | DNR    |
| Coastal Zone Management (CZM) (\$10,000-\$100,000 in FY2019)                                    | 50%                 | DEQ    |
| Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)  | Varies              | MDOT   |
| United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)                           | Varies              | USDA   |

**Five-Year Action Plan**

Several projects on the single County-owned recreation site, Point Abbaye, have been identified to pursue over the next five years. The capital improvements plan (CIP) of projects (**Table 3**) is to be used as a working guide to meet the recreation needs within Baraga County. The projects may be completed with in-kind services or contracted and smaller components may be pursued based on funding availability. Other projects and opportunities may be identified over time and pursued as funding is available.

**Table 3. Capital Improvements Plan**

| Project (Point Abbaye)   | Est. Cost | Primary Funding |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>2018</b>  |           |                 |
| Vault toilet, parking lot improvement, and handicap accessible campsite with trail | \$60,000  | DNR (awarded)   |
| <b>2019</b>  |           |                 |
| Additional trail design and development  | \$55,000  | DNR             |
| <b>2020</b>  |           |                 |
| Additional trails, and second trailhead with parking area and kayak launch point   | \$50,000  | DNR             |
| <b>2021</b>  |           |                 |
| Additional campsites design and development  | \$40,000  | DNR             |
| <b>2022</b>  |           |                 |
| Reserved - TBD   |           |                 |

The components of the capital improvements plan are derived from the Point Abbaye Improvement Plan of 2011.

## 7. PLANNING PROCESS

A Recreation Committee was designated by the Baraga County Board of Commissioners to guide development of this plan. The committee first met on October 2, 2017 to discuss recreation goals and objectives and to develop content for a public opinion survey. On November 22, 2017, the survey (**Appendix C**) was made available online (via [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org)) and in print at several locations in the county, with responses accepted until December 13. An article in the L'Anse Sentinel and a posting from WJMN TV gave public notice of availability of the survey (**Appendix D**).

The recreation committee met again on December 19, 2017, to consider the results of the survey (**Appendix E**) and develop a plan for recreation projects over the next five years. The plan draft was finalized and accepted by committee members, after which it was released and publicized (**Appendix F**) for a 30-day public review period ending February 11. The plan was made available via [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org) and in print at the County Administration Building. Comments were received pertaining to the North Country National Scenic Trail description and the need for improvements and extension of the trail, and these were incorporated into the final plan. Other comments were supportive of motorized and multi-use trails; no changes were deemed necessary based on these.

A public hearing was scheduled and noticed in the L'Anse Sentinel (**Appendix G**) to accept final comment on the draft of the recreation plan. The hearing occurred on February 12, 2018 (**Appendix H**). A comment was offered suggesting exploration of an International Dark Sky designation for the county, and this was incorporated into the final plan. Following the hearing, and with incorporation of the amendments above, the County Board voted to adopt the plan (**Appendix I**).

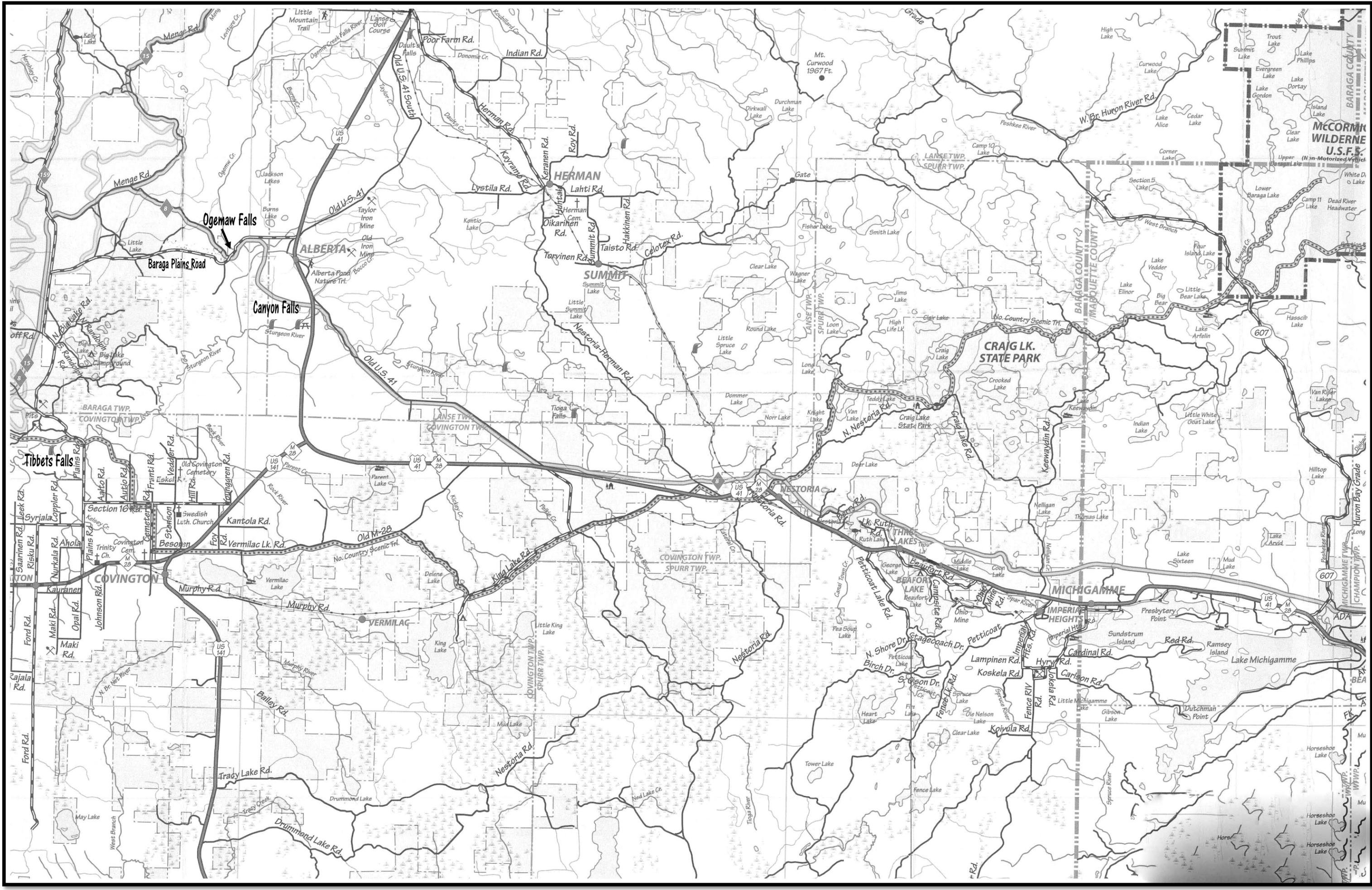
## **8. APPENDIX**

- A. Convention and Visitors Bureau Maps
- B. Point Abbaye Improvement Plan (2011) Excerpt
- C. Survey Form
- D. Survey Publicity
- E. Survey Results
- F. Draft Plan Review Publicity
- G. Public Hearing Notice
- H. Public Hearing Minutes
- I. Adoption Resolution

## **Appendix A**

### **Convention and Visitors Bureau Recreation Maps**





Ogemaw Falls

Baraga Plains Road

Canyon Falls

ALBERTA

HERMAN

SUMMIT

CRAIG LK. STATE PARK

NESTORIA

VERMILAC

MICHIGAMME

IMPERIA HEIGHTS



CANYON FALLS



# Baraga County

## Directions • Map

to all there is to see and do...

- 1 HISTORIC PELKIE SCHOOLHOUSE** - Sit in the desks and envision school from an era gone by. From Baraga take M-38 7 miles to Pelkie Road, turn right, go approx. 3 miles to school house. Open Sundays 11am – 4pm. 15 miles from Visitors Center.
- 2 HANKA HOMESTEAD** - Journey 6-1/2 mi. off US-41 to a 1920 Finnish farm. Go back in time and view original Finnish structures built before the turn of the century. From Baraga take US-41 north about 10 miles, turn west on Arnheim Rd. Continue approx. 6.5 miles to the homestead. Hours: Noon–4pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. PH: 906-334-2901. 19 miles from Visitors Center.
- 3 ASSININS** - Visit site of Bishop Baraga's area mission of 1842. Congregation is active today and their church is near the original location. Assinins is north of Baraga on US-41. 7-1/4 miles from Visitors Center.
- 4 KEWEENAW BAY** - A beautiful bay on majestic Lake Superior that offers world fishing, boating, recreation.
- 5 BARAGA CO. HISTORICAL MUSEUM** - Open from Memorial Day to the end of September: 11:00 am–3:00 pm Monday-Friday. On US-41 in Baraga between M-38 and Baraga State Park. PH: 906-353-8444. 4 miles from Visitors Center.
- 6 SHRINE OF THE SNOWSHOE PRIEST** - Visit the 35 foot brass statue of Bishop Baraga, a famous Catholic missionary. Rising six stories above the Red Rocks Bluff the Shrine commands a breathtaking view of Keweenaw Bay. On US-41, just north of L'Anse, turn left on Lambert Rd., follow signs to parking area. Gift Shop Phone No. 906-524-7021. 1-1/2 miles from Visitors Center.
- 7w MITTEN FALLS – FALLS RIVER** - Falls are by the bridge on US-41, just North of L'Anse. There is a small parking area by the bridge. Less than 1 mile from Visitors Center.
- 8w LOWER FALLS – FALLS RIVER** - Nice cascading falls. In L'Anse, take Broad St. down hill to blinking light, go left on Main St., go 2 blocks to CertainTeed Plant, don't cross the bridge. Park in lot on left. Follow path upstream to Lower Falls. Less than 1 mile from Visitors Center.
- 9w MIDDLE FALLS – FALLS RIVER** - Follow same directions as Lower Falls. When you reach Lower Falls continue on path upstream that runs alongside a high bluff. Falls can be viewed from atop this bluff. Less than 1 mile from Visitors Center.
- 10w POWER HOUSE FALLS – FALLS RIVER** - Take US-41 approx. 1.5 miles south of L'Anse to Power Dam Rd., turn right, follow past railroad tracks, road takes a sharp right, go straight ahead on dirt road to Y, turn right, this brings you to the falls. 2 miles from Visitors Center.
- 11 L'ANSE GOLF COURSE** - Nine hole public golf course just south of L'Anse on US-41. PH: 906-524-6600. 2-3/4 miles from Visitors Center.

- A GIBWA CAMPGROUND** - On Keweenaw Bay, owned by Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, located on US-41, 1 mile north M-38 & in Baraga. 50 campsites, electricity, showers. PH: 906-353-6955. 5-1/2 miles from Visitors Center.
- B BARAGA STATE PARK CAMPGROUND** - Campground has beautiful view of Keweenaw Bay. Campsites, electricity, showers, playground, fishing. Handicapped accessible. On US-41, in Baraga. PH: 906-353-6558. 3-1/4 miles from Visitors Center.
- C L'ANSE TOWNSHIP CAMPGROUND & PARK** - Historic park was home to American fur trading post in 1840. Take Main St./Skane Rd. in downtown L'Anse approx. 2 miles east. Open May 15–October 15. 30 campsites, showers, electricity. PH: 906-524-6985. www.lansetownship.org/township\_park
- D HISTORIC FORD OL. TOWN MARINA & CAMPGROUND** - On shores of Lake Superior in Pequaming. Take Baysshore Dr. approx. 9 miles north of L'Anse. PH: 906-524-6413
- E WITZ MARINA & CAMPGROUND** - Campground is on the shores of Lake Superior's Huron Bay. Features marina/boat launch, 50 campsites, electricity and showers. Take Main St./Skane Rd. out of L'Anse to Town Rd., turn left. PH: 906-524-7795. 17-1/4 miles from Visitors Center.
- F BIG ERIC'S BRIDGE & FALLS CAMPGROUND** - Rustic State Forest Campground overlooking Lower Falls on Huron River. Take Main St./Skane Rd. out of L'Anse to end of paved road, campground is on left before bridge. 22 miles from Visitors Center.
- G BIG LAKE** - State Forest Campground, beach, boat launch, 12 campsites, outdoor toilets. Take US-41 south out of L'Anse to Baraga Plains Rd./Prison Camp Rd. Turn right, continue for 8 miles, when road dead ends at Plains Rd., turn left, look for sign for Big Lake Campground. PH: (906) 353-6651. 16 miles from Visitors Center.
- H KING LAKE CAMPGROUND** - State Forest Campground, 6 campsites, boating, fishing, outdoor toilets. Take US-41 south out of L'Anse to King Lake Rd., turn right, go about 5 miles on dirt road to campground. PH: (906) 353-6651. 22-1/4 miles from Visitors Center.
- I CRAIG LAKE CAMPGROUND** - 27.5 miles from Visitors Center. Rustic State Forest Campground, special fishing & motor boat regulations apply to Craig Lake. Some roads may be impassable or passable with 4-wheel drive only. US-41, 1 mile west of Michigan to Craig Lake Rd. Follow signs 8 miles north to parking lot. PH: (906) 353-6651
- J BEAUFORT LAKE CAMPGROUND** - Rustic State Forest Campground, 7 campsites, boating, swimming, fishing, outdoor toilets. Take US-41 south out of L'Anse, to Three Lakes, go 1.5 miles SE to Beaufort Lake Rd., turn right, follow to campground. PH: (906) 339-4461. 27 miles from Visitors Center.

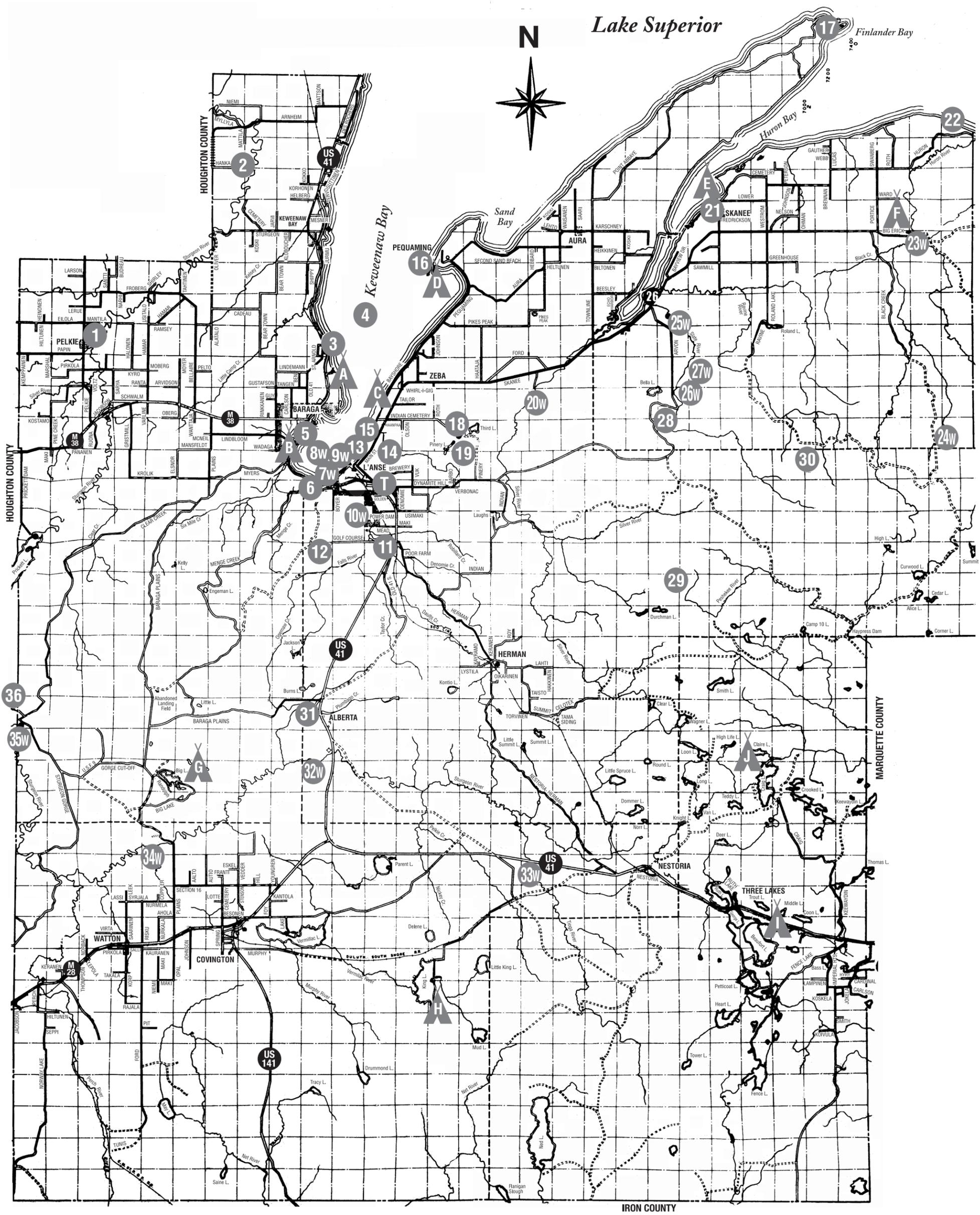
## CAMPGROUNDS

- 12 LITTLE MOUNTAIN** - A hike up Little Mountain offers a panoramic view of Keweenaw Bay and the Huron Mountains. Trailhead is at the end of Golf Course Rd. just south of L'Anse. 4-1/4 miles from Visitors Center.
- 13 L'ANSE MARINA/WATERFRONT PARK** - Public marina/waterfront park located in downtown L'Anse. Less than 1 mile from Visitors Center.
- 14 BARAGA COUNTY COURT HOUSE** - View 100 year old structure that graces community of L'Anse. On 3rd St., in downtown L'Anse. PH: 906-524-6183. Less than 1 mile from Visitors Center.
- 15 L'ANSE TOWN HALL** - Visit pictorial display of our history. On Main Street in downtown L'Anse. PH: 906-524-7377. Less than 1 mile from Visitors Center.
- 16 PEQUAMING** - Wander along former site of once busy model community owned by Henry Ford. Some buildings are still evident. It also has a marina and is well known for fishing. From downtown L'Anse, take Lakeshore Dr., which becomes Pequaming Rd. 9 miles from Visitors Center.
- 17 POINT ABBAYE** - Features an unmatched view of the Huron Islands and Huron Mountains along with the clear water of Lake Superior. Follow Main St./Skane Rd. out of L'Anse, turn left on Townline Rd., right on Point Abbaye Rd. Total trip is 25-3/4 miles from Visitors Center.
- 18 INDIAN CEMETERY** - Walk through pinewoods and see how the Chippewa Indians buried their relatives from 1840 to the present. Take Main St./Skane Rd., 1.8 miles east of L'Anse, turn right on Indian Cemetery Rd. and go 2.3 miles to the cemetery. 5 miles from Visitors Center.
- 19 PINERY LAKES CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL** - Groomed ski trail. Take Main St./Skane Rd., 1.8 miles east of L'Anse, turn right on Indian Cemetery Rd., go approx. 2.1 miles to trailhead on right. PH:906-524-7444. 5 miles from Visitors Center.
- 20w LOWER SILVER FALLS - SILVER RIVER** - Enjoy this scenic picnic spot with extremely easy access. Go six miles north-east of L'Anse on Skane Rd., turn right at Falls Rd., travel to end of road. From here you can view the first falls, then walk 100 feet down the foot trail to a second more beautiful falls. 8-1/2 miles from Visitors Center.
- 21 SKANEE BOASTS THREE HISTORICAL SITES**
  - TOWN HALL dates to 1895, a place for many community gatherings
  - SKANEE SCHOOL dates to 1910, recently restored and currently used for classes, K-6 grades
  - ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH is the oldest church in the Lutheran Church of America Synod in Michigan. They are known for their pie socials. 16 miles to Skane from Visitors Center.
- 22 MOUTH OF THE HURON RIVER** - Drive through tall pines to where the big Huron River meets Lake Superior. This remote locale is noted for its broad sandy beach and

- 31 ALBERTA VILLAGE & FORD SAWMILL MUSEUM** - Visit Henry Ford's concept of a model sawmill town & self-sufficient rural community. Construction ended in 1936 with 12 residences, 2 schoolhouses, sawmill and a few accessory buildings. All buildings remain and the town looks much as it did in the '30s. On US-41, 8-1/4 miles south of Visitors Center. PH: 906-524-6181
- 32w CANYON FALLS – STURGEON RIVER** - A beautiful box canyon and waterfall with several levels of falls. It is considered the grand canyon of Michigan. Located eight miles south of L'Anse on the south side of US-41 at the roadside park. Trailhead starts in parking lot by map. Picnic tables and restrooms available. 9-1/2 miles from Visitors Center.
- 33w TIIGA FALLS – TIIGA RIVER** - Located 20 miles south of L'Anse on south side of US-41 at a State Roadside Park that is complete with picnic tables and restrooms. From the park it is an easy 5 minute walk to the falls. 17 miles from Visitors Center.
- 34w TIBBETS FALLS – STURGEON RIVER** - From L'Anse take US-41 south to M-28, turn right on M-28, follow to Baraga Plains Rd. (2 miles west of Covington), turn north, go 3 miles till you cross Sturgeon River. Continue on road till it makes a right curve, turn left on first dirt road, go approx. 0.2 miles to a fork, turn left. Falls are about 1/2 mile, road ends here, you can easily turn around. It is a 5 minute walk to falls. Use caution during wet weather, road may not be passable. 22-1/2 miles from Visitors Center.
- 35w STURGEON FALLS & GORGE – STURGEON RIVER** - Absolutely stunning falls on the Sturgeon River, 17 miles southwest of Baraga. From US-41 at flashing light in Baraga, take M-38 west. Go 8-10 miles to Pickett Dam Rd. Turn left (south), go approx. 2-1/2 miles, turn right towards Silver Mountain. Go past Pickett Lake Dam & Silver Mountain access road (approx. 3-4 miles), at this point you've gone 5-7 miles, next you will cross the bridge over the Sturgeon River and continue southeast along Forest Road 2270 about 2-3 miles to Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Trail Head on your right, parking lot is on left. Hike down will take about 30 minutes and then back up. If you want to continue on to Sturgeon Gorge Overlook it's another mile. When you come to the T-intersection take a right and there's a sign that says "Bears Den". There is a parking lot and then a 5 minute walk to the overlook. 26-1/2 miles from Visitors Center.
- 36 SILVER MOUNTAIN** - If you like to hike this is a must see. Climb 300+ stairs to the top and you'll be rewarded with a breathtaking, panoramic view of the Sturgeon River Valley. (See directions for Sturgeon Falls & Gorge, above.)

- 23w BIG ERIC'S BRIDGE & FALLS – HURON RIVER** - Named after a prominent Skane logger of the 1920's, this area offers rustic camping overlooking the Lower Falls on the Huron River. Located on Skane Rd. Big Eric's Bridge is Baraga County's gate to Big Bay by way of back woods dirt roads. *A real rustic adventure!* Take Main St./Skane Rd. out of L'Anse to end of paved road, campground is on your left before the bridge. 22 miles from Visitors Center.
- 24w ERIC'S FALLS – HURON RIVER** - Falls on the West Branch of Huron River are easily accessible. In L'Anse take Main St./Skane Rd., to Black Creek Rd., turn right, go approx. 6.9 miles on dirt road until you reach a bridge, falls is on left side of the road. 25-1/4 miles from Visitors Center.
- 25w SLATE RIVER FALLS – SLATE RIVER** - A remarkable falls, 1/3 mile upstream from Skane Rd. In L'Anse at Broad St. & Main St. blinking light turn right. Take Main St./Skane Rd., go over bridge at Slate River, turn right at first road. Parking lot is right there. 9 miles from Visitors Center.
- 26w QUARTZITE FALLS & BLACK SLATE FALLS – SLATE RIVER** - Two more waterfalls on the Slate River. Take Main St./Skane Rd., out of L'Anse to Arvon Rd. Turn right, go 3.3 miles, there will be a trail on left side of Arvon Rd. that leads to the falls. Falls are a short distance and within a few hundred feet of each other. Falls can be accessed by a short easy trail through the forest. The farthest falls is Black Slate Falls which starts as a rapids then drops over rock formations in three distinct sections before it continues downstream a few hundred feet to Quartzite Falls. 15-1/2 miles from Visitor Center.
- 28 ARVON SLATE QUARRY** - Walk through remains of the quarry area that dates to the 1800s. Follow directions above for Quartzite Falls, continue on Arvon Rd. to quarry. 16 miles from Visitor Center.
- 29 MOUNT CURWOOD** - Rises 1977.84 feet above sea level and is the 2nd highest point in Michigan. It is named for James Oliver Curwood. It is located 8 miles northeast of Herman, however, it is privately owned and there is no public access. Non-accessible.
- 30 MOUNT ARVON** - Hike trail on north side of mountain that is the highest point in Michigan at 1978.82 feet (according to USGS map 1995), which is about 11 inches higher than Mount Curwood. It is a forested mountain, no panoramic view is seen. 27 miles from Visitor Center. For brochure/directions visit or call Baraga County Convention & Visitors Bureau located on US-41 in L'Anse. PH: 906-524-7444 / www.baragacountytourism.org

# BARAGA COUNTY MAP



**MAP LEGEND**

- T** BARAGA COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
- 1** SITE LOCATIONS
- 32W** WATERFALL LOCATIONS
- A** CAMPING LOCATIONS
- HIGHWAYS
- COUNTY ROADS

**BARAGA COUNTY**  
**Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
 755 E. Broad St. • L'Anse, MI 49946  
**(906) 524-7444**  
 email: [bcetra@up.net](mailto:bcetra@up.net)  
 web site: [www.baragacountytourism.org](http://www.baragacountytourism.org)

| EMERGENCY NUMBERS                     |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Emergency .....                       | 911          |
| Police .....                          | 524-6161     |
| State Police.....                     | 524-6161     |
| Sheriff.....                          | 524-6177     |
| Baraga County Memorial Hospital ..... | 524-6166     |
| Marquette General Hospital .....      | 800-562-9753 |
| Bay Ambulance .....                   | 353-6789     |

## **Appendix B**

**Point Abbaye Improvement Plan (2011) Excerpt**

## IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Point Abbaye lands were gifted to Baraga County to preserve it as a natural area. Natural areas are defined in Michigan as *“areas that have retained the best examples of Michigan's native landscapes, ecosystems, natural communities or scenic qualities are recognized throughout Michigan as natural areas. Features used to identify natural areas include: size, uniqueness, pristine nature, aesthetic or scenic qualities, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. ”*

**The goal of this Plan is to improve visitor access and use of Point Abbaye Natural Area County Park while at the same time maintaining the pristine natural setting.** In order to preserve the natural setting of the Park, motorized uses have been excluded from consideration in this study. Uses that have been considered by the Committee are day trips, sightseeing, water access (power boat and paddle sports), primitive camping, hiking, mountain biking and in the winter, snowshoeing and Nordic skiing. Identified needs include:

- Point Abbaye Road drainage and surface improvements (to be determined);
- better managing motorized access;
- improved water access;
- expanded non-motorized trails;
- designated primitive camping;
- enhanced parking facilities;
- new directional and interpretive signage; and
- acquisition of additional connecting properties as available.

In addition, an opportunity to develop an additional 8-10+ mile non-motorized trail on adjacent MDNR and private properties connecting to Point Abbaye to enhance opportunities for non-motorized users has been identified (see Map 4: Point Abbaye Proposed Trail Network for a map of the proposed trails connecting to adjacent lands). Permissions and easements would be needed to complete a trail connecting through the MDNR land and adjacent private lands.

Keweenaw Bay



Huron Bay



| Legend |                                       |  |                         |
|--------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
|        | Pt. Abbaye Non-Motorized Single Track |  | State/DNRE Ownership    |
|        | DNRE Loop                             |  | Baraga County Ownership |
|        | Roads                                 |  | Wetlands                |
|        | Section Line                          |  | Parcel Boundary Lines   |
|        | Parking                               |  |                         |

## Point Abbaye Proposed Trail Network Map 4

|      |   |
|------|---|
| <br> | Created by: WUPPDR                          |
|      |   |
|      | Source: ESRI, MI CGI.<br>Date: October 2010 |

## Proposed Facilities

U.P. Engineers and Architects (UPEA) was contracted to prepare drawings of proposed facilities and develop cost estimates based on Committee input. Following are the proposed improvements:

**Parking Lot Relocation** - The Committee identified the location of the existing parking area as an impediment to restricting vehicle access and as an intrusion to the natural experience. A new parking area (eight vehicles) will be built at a pinch point along the access road and rocks will be installed to restrict vehicle access and mark the beginning of the accessible non-motorized trail to the point.

**Boat Launch** - The new parking lot location is also situated at a natural shelf where trees will be cleared to allow small boats and kayaks to launch from the rocks. The parking area will be built to the east of the road and include parking for day users and boat trailers/vehicles. This location also allows direct access to Keweenaw Bay for kayaks and canoes.

**Toilets** – A new toilet facility is proposed at the main parking area.

**Trail/Camping Parking** – A smaller parking lot for eight vehicles (seven cars and one van accessible space) will be installed at the intersection with McBeth Road. This smaller parking lot will serve as an additional trailhead for the Park as well as the proposed trail connecting to surrounding land. It will also be parking for designated primitive campsites to be located on the Huron Bay side of the Peninsula.

**Trails** – The trail system will be redesigned to include an *accessible trail* from the main parking area to the tip and a number of natural/rustic stacked loops will be built that explore various highlights of the property and connect to both trailheads. Spur trails will lead to designated campsites.

**Designated Primitive Campsites** – In order to preserve the day use experience, designated campsites (8-10) with cleared tent site and fire rings will be provided where appropriate. One group site is proposed for the Keweenaw Bay side on interior land and two handicap accessible sites near the accessible trail.

**Signage** – A number of signs will be needed including:

External Directional Signage – Improved directional signs will be installed beginning at Skanee and Townline Road with distances to Point Abbaye.

Park Sign – An arrival sign will be installed at the intersection of Point Abbaye Road and McBeth Road where it clearly announces that users have arrived at the Park.

Internal Signage – All trails will have small confidence signage installed to keep users on pathway.

Trailhead Kiosk – A trailhead kiosk will be installed at both parking areas. The lakeshore parking area will have additional information for boaters. Information will include area map, rules of use, information on Point Abbaye and other information deemed appropriate.

Interpretive Signage –Strategically located interpretive signage will be placed to educate users about geology, flora and fauna, Lake Superior, features on the horizon, etc.

**Road Improvements** - The Baraga County Road Commission has indentified the need to improve the drainage and surface of the roads to Point Abbaye. Specific needs and costs are to be determined.

## **Preliminary Designs and Cost Estimates**

See the next five pages for the preliminary designs and cost projections provided by UPEA for Point Abbaye based on the proposed improvements:

1. Point Abbaye Improvement Plan
2. Enlarged Plan – Boat Launch Site
3. Enlarged Plan – Trailhead Parking
4. Enlarged Plan – Day Use Area and Group Camping
5. Cost Projections

**Bedrock Trail visually separated from perimeter Trail and campsites.  
Trail could be marked by cairns built from gathered materials.**

**Design Narrative:**

Point Abbaye is one of the most majestic natural areas anywhere. Sitting on the bedrock shore conveys a dramatic sense of isolation that is becoming more rare even in remote areas like the Upper Peninsula. Preservation of that sense of place is the criteria driving the design decisions shown on this plan. From the first visit the bedrock shore beckons one to walk the shoreline.

However it is also obvious that with a little wind, that path would be difficult to navigate which presses a need for an interior trail as well. This design endeavors to visually separate these two routes preserving the parks 'spirit of place'.

The design includes a trailhead/parking area at the end of Point Abbaye Road. There is some improvement proposed for the 'point' establishing it as a day use area. Camping is formalized as defined rustic sites. These isolated individual campsites are scattered in a strategic way to visually separate shore hikers from campers, preserving that sense of 'being the only one at the point'. The design is proposed as 'universally accessible' for the route connecting the parking area to the point. Additional trails are minimally improved rustic 'walked-in' trails to preserve the natural appeal of Point Abbaye

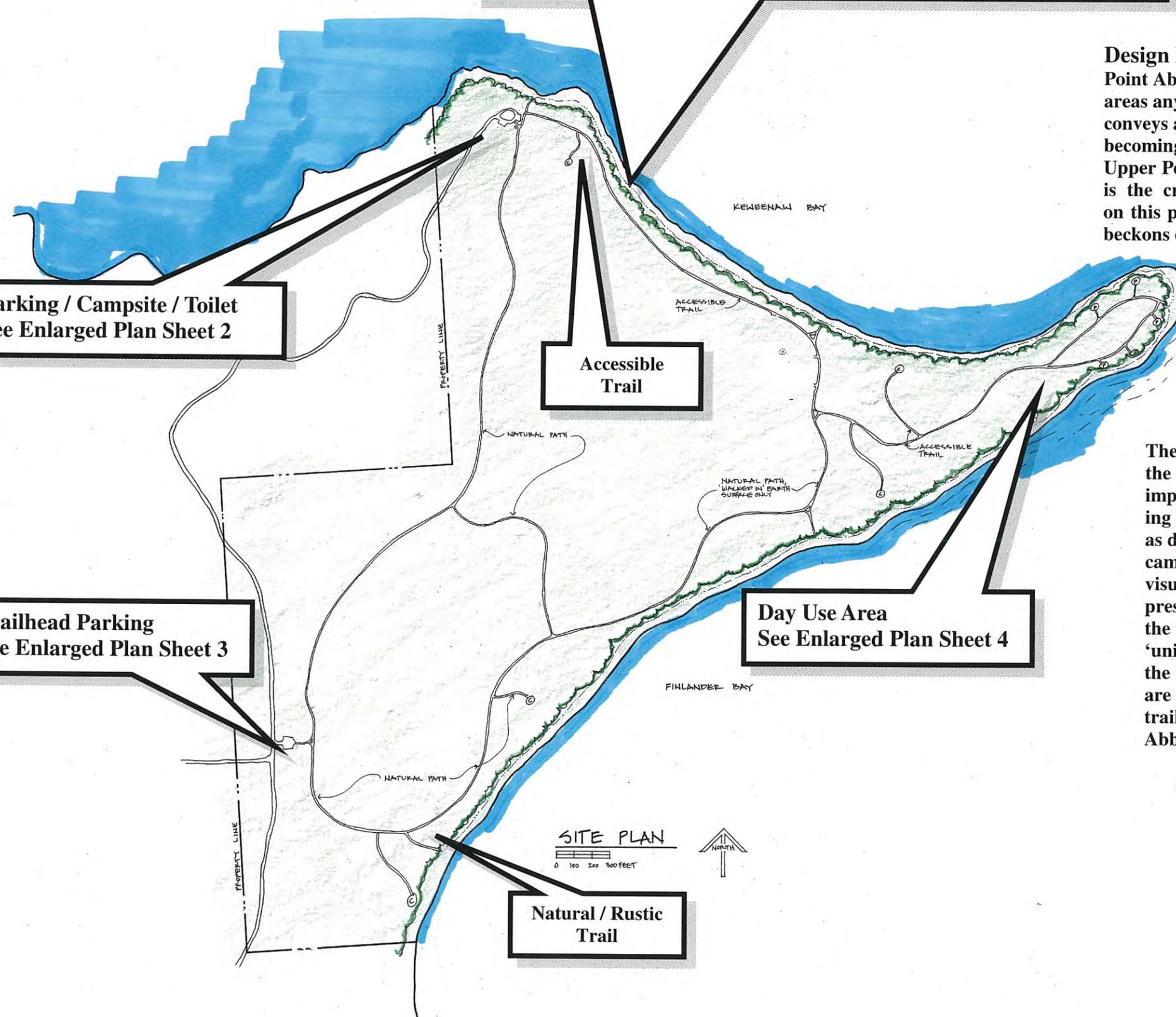
**Parking / Campsite / Toilet  
See Enlarged Plan Sheet 2**

**Accessible Trail**

**Day Use Area  
See Enlarged Plan Sheet 4**

**Trailhead Parking  
See Enlarged Plan Sheet 3**

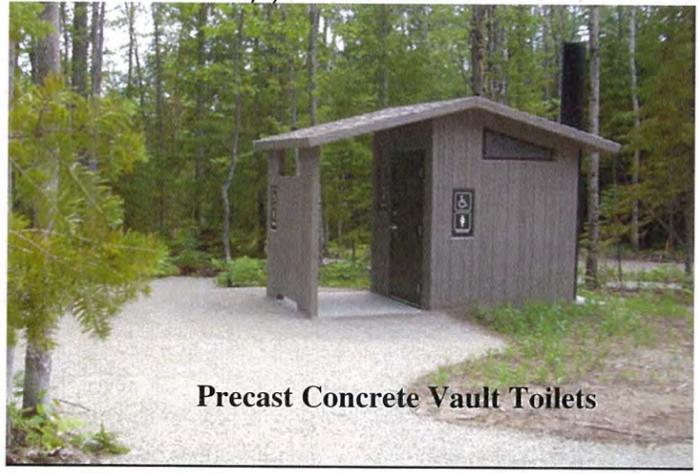
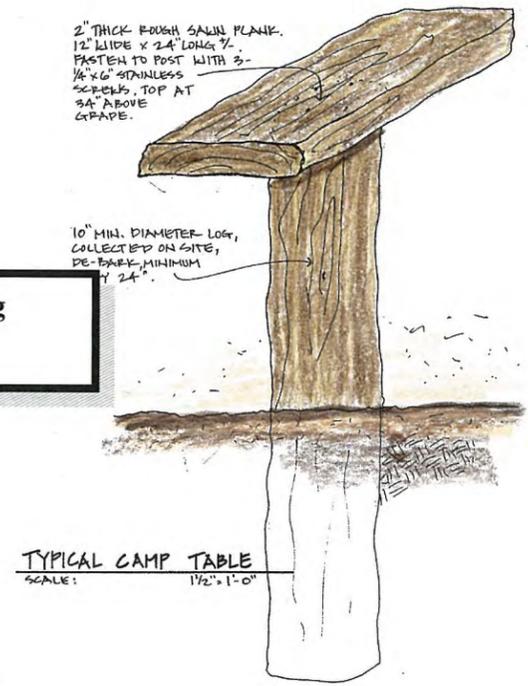
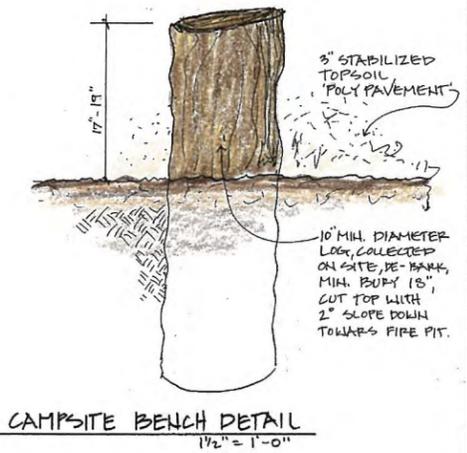
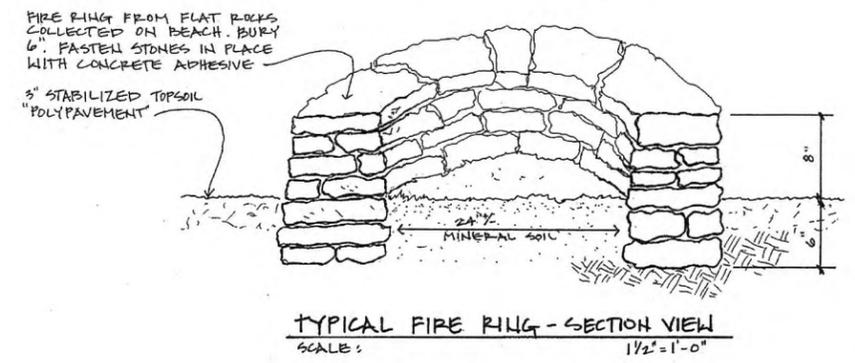
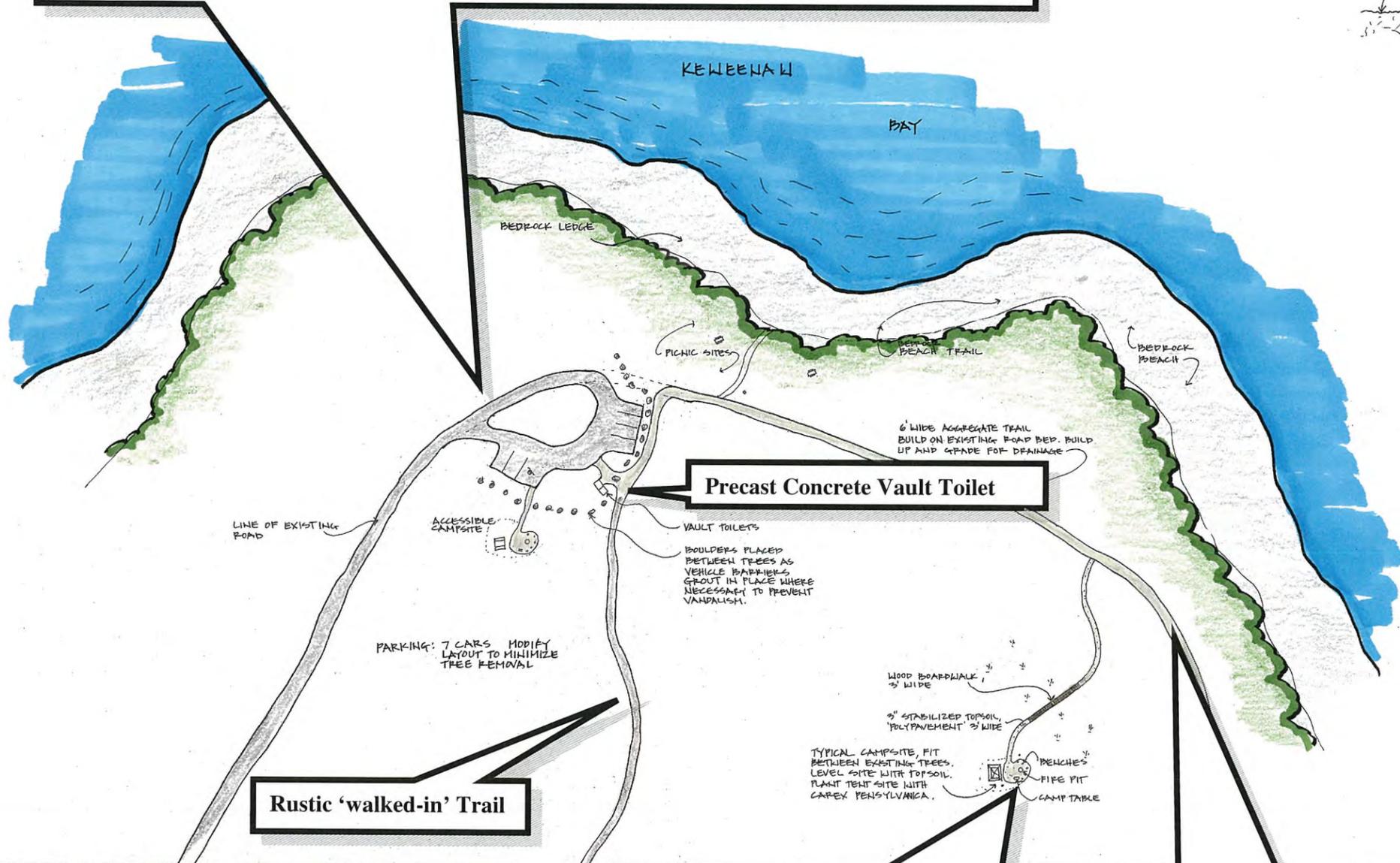
**Natural / Rustic Trail**



**SITE PLAN**  
0 100 200 300 FEET

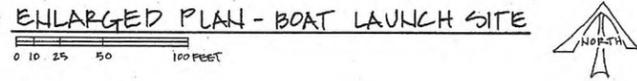


**Trailhead / Parking:**  
 Niche parking for 7 cars including one van accessible space. Picnic sites limited to tables / upland sedge plantings. Vehicle control with large boulders, grouted and pinned in place where necessary. One accessible campsite with space for several tents. Circle drive to facilitate maintenance vehicle access.



**Campsite Handicap Accessible: Isolated from perimeter Trail**

**Accessible trail built on existing road bed.**



**ENGINEERING  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 PLANNING  
 SURVEYING  
 ENVIRONMENTAL**

100 PORTAGE STREET  
 HOUGHTON, MI 49931  
 (905) 482-4810

102 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 217  
 MARQUETTE, MI 49855  
 (905) 228-8061

2905 N. STEPHENSON AVE. SUITE 2  
 IRON MOUNTAIN, MI 49801  
 (906) 563-5407

707 ASHMIN STREET  
 SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783  
 (906) 835-0511

1701 DUNLAP AVE. SUITE B  
 MARINETTE, WI 54143  
 (715) 732-4188

**PROJECT TITLE:**  
 POINT ABBATE  
 IMPROVEMENT PLAN

**OWNER:**  
 BARAGA COUNTY

**PROJECT LOCATION:**  
 POINT ABBATE

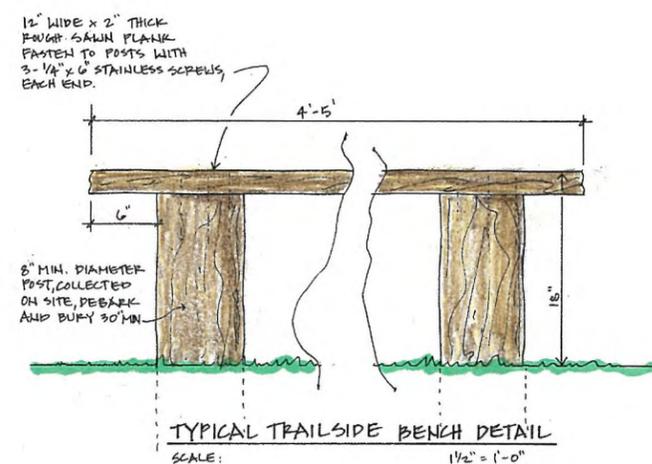
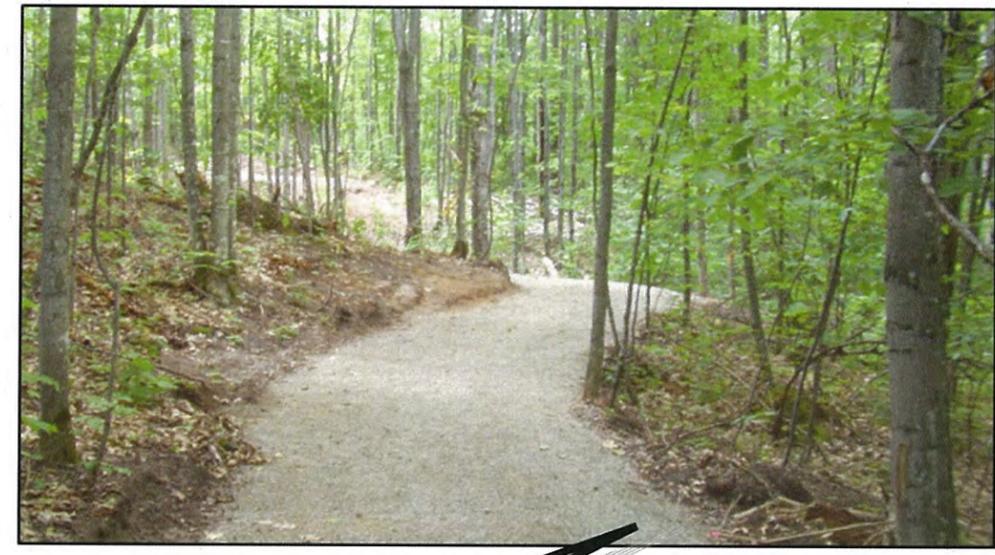
FINAL JUNE 22, 2011  
 PRELIMINARY REVIEW NOV. 26, 2010  
 ISSUED FOR: DATE:

PROJECT NO:  
 DESIGNED BY:  
 DRAWN BY:  
 CHECKED:  
 APPROVED:



**Weave accessible trail thru landscape to minimize tree removal**

**Trailhead Parking, 8 cars**

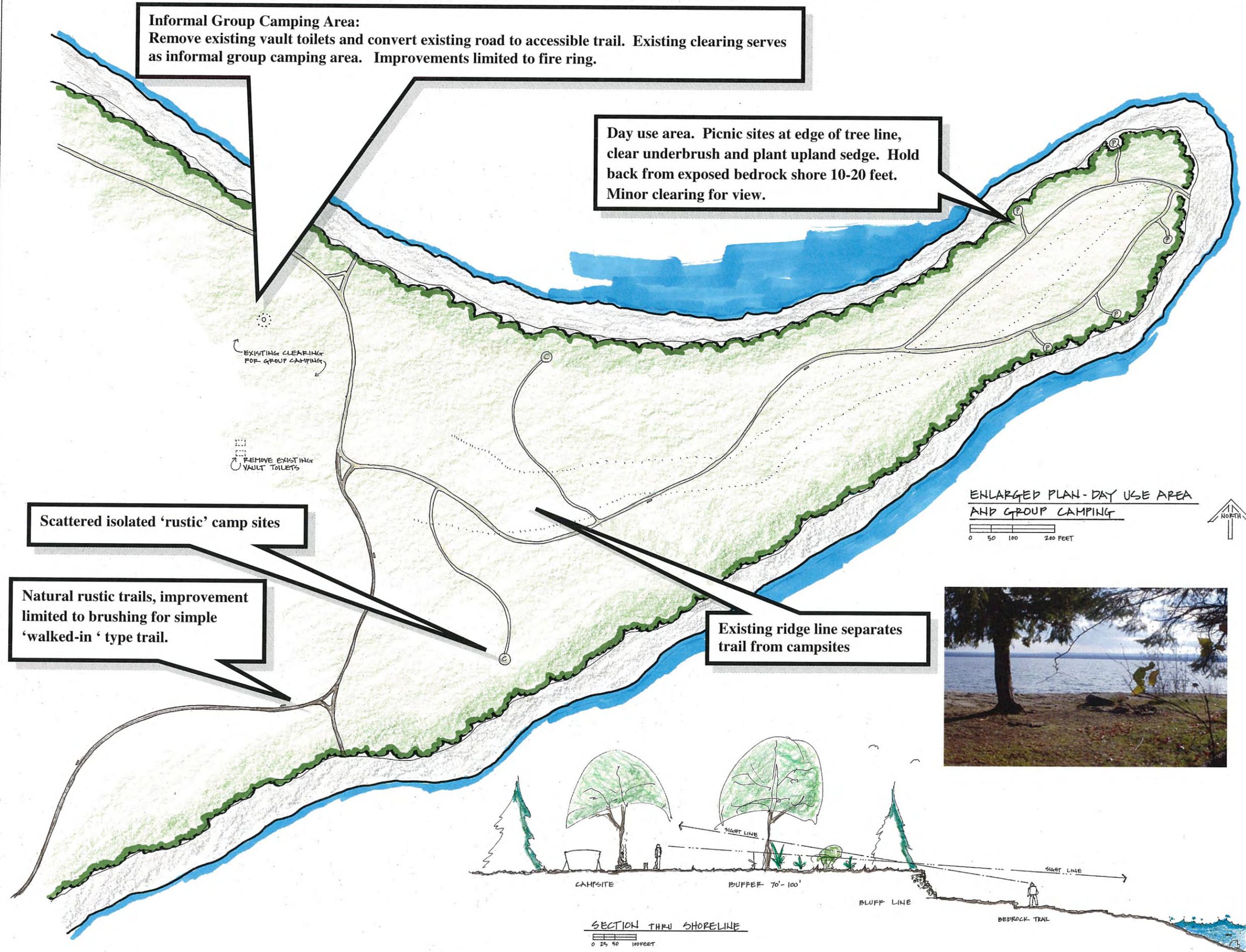


**ENLARGED PLAN - TRAILHEAD PARKING**

**TYPICAL TRAILSIDE BENCH DETAIL**  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| FINAL              | JUNE 22, 2011 |
| PRELIMINARY REVIEW | NOV. 26, 2010 |
| ISSUED FOR:        | DATE:         |

PROJECT NO:  
DESIGNED BY:  
DRAWN BY:  
CHECKED:  
APPROVED:



Cost Projections (based on June 22, 2011 Final Plan)

Trail, Campsites and Day Use Improvements: includes clearing, grading and aggregate surface for 6 foot wide (accessible) trail. Aggregate handicap accessible trail includes tge section beginning at the lakeside parking lot extending to the point. The trails on the Finlandia Bay side of point are rustic, "walked in" paths. The work of rustic paths includes clearing, minor grading and signage only. Also includes three foot wide wood boardwalk over wetland area at campsite. Paths to accessible campsites are aggregate at 3 feet wide along accessible paths only. Camping site improvements on rustic paths is limited to a fire ring. Restoration along path edges and at campsites is a seeding of native upland sedges. Miscellaneous trail markers and three interpretive signs are included. Simple benches at trail side and at day use sites are also included.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Trail aggregate (1.1 miles).....                        | \$45,000 |
| Clearing and grading for rustic trails (1.9 miles)..... | \$20,000 |
| Wood Boardwalk (3' wide) .....                          | \$12,800 |
| Campsite paths and tent pads .....                      | \$6,500  |
| Campsite and picnic amenities .....                     | \$15,000 |
| Restoration/landscaping .....                           | \$18,000 |
| Trail Signage/Trail benches/interpretive signage .....  | \$8,500  |

Lakeside Trailhead: includes clearing, grading and aggregate paving for driveway and 7 parking spaces and one interpretive sign. Also includes landscaping/vehicle barriers and picnic amenities, 1 campsite, and 1 barrier-free unisex toilet.

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Clearing, grading and paving.....     | \$12,000 |
| Accessible unisex vault toilet .....  | \$19,000 |
| Trail connection.....                 | \$500    |
| Boulders, landscape restoration ..... | \$3,500  |
| Campsite and picnic amenities .....   | \$4,000  |

Trailhead, 'T' Intersection: includes clearing, grading and aggregate paving for driveway and parking. Also includes one interpretive sign, trail connection and landscape restoration.

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Clearing, grading and paving.....    | \$8,000 |
| Trail Connection.....                | \$800   |
| Landscape restoration, signage ..... | \$1,200 |

Subtotals:

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Trail/Campsites/Day use .....    | \$125,800 |
| Lakeside Parking Trailhead ..... | \$39,000  |
| 'T' Parking Trailhead .....      | \$10,000  |

Totals:

|                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Construction cost. ....              | \$174,800        |
| Engineering, permits and fees .....  | <u>26,000</u>    |
| <b>Project Cost Projection .....</b> | <b>\$200,800</b> |

## **Appendix C**

### **Survey Form**

## Baraga County Recreation Survey 2017

Baraga County is currently updating its five-year recreation plan and seeks your input to help plan recreation opportunities and priorities within the county. Your response to this survey is important to ensure all points of view are considered. The survey can also be completed online (**preferred method**) at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/BaragaCountyRec](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BaragaCountyRec). If you choose to complete this paper version, return it by **December 13, 2017** to the location where you obtained it or to: **WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931**

1. Please indicate your residency status (check **one**):
    - I am a full-time resident of Baraga County
    - I am a seasonal resident of Baraga County (less than six months/year)
    - I am not a resident, but I do visit Baraga County (if so, skip to question 4)
    - None of the above
  
  2. If you are a resident of Baraga County, where is your residence (check **one**)?
    - Village of Baraga                       Baraga Township                       Spurr Township
    - Village of L'Anse                       Covington Township                       Don't know
    - Arvon Township                       L'Anse Township
  
  3. Do you live on the L'Anse Indian Reservation (any reservation lands within the county)?
    - Yes       No       Don't know
  
  4. Are you a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community?
    - Yes       No
  
  5. How many persons in your household falls into each of the following age groups:  
\_\_\_ 0-5 years    \_\_\_ 6-12 years    \_\_\_ 13-19 years    \_\_\_ 20-39 years    \_\_\_ 40-64 years    \_\_\_ 65+ years
  
  6. Does anyone in your household, including you, have a disability or require specialized recreation? Specialized recreation refers to accommodations or modifications made to recreation facilities and equipment in order to remove barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from using the facilities or equipment.
    - Yes (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_
    - No
  
  7. Does anyone in your household use or take part in any of the following? (Check **ALL** that apply.)

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Archery                    | <input type="radio"/> Fishing – shore or wading | <input type="radio"/> Skiing – downhill      |
| <input type="radio"/> ATV/ORV trails             | <input type="radio"/> Golf                      | <input type="radio"/> Skijoring              |
| <input type="radio"/> Backpacking                | <input type="radio"/> Hiking                    | <input type="radio"/> Sledding               |
| <input type="radio"/> Baseball fields            | <input type="radio"/> Hockey                    | <input type="radio"/> Snowboarding           |
| <input type="radio"/> Basketball courts          | <input type="radio"/> Horseback riding          | <input type="radio"/> Snowmobiling           |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycling (mountain)       | <input type="radio"/> Hunting                   | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing            |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycling (path/road)      | <input type="radio"/> Ice skating               | <input type="radio"/> Soccer                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Boating/canoeing/kayaking  | <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                | <input type="radio"/> Softball fields        |
| <input type="radio"/> Campgrounds – RV hookups   | <input type="radio"/> Playgrounds               | <input type="radio"/> Swimming               |
| <input type="radio"/> Campgrounds – no hookups   | <input type="radio"/> Running/jogging           | <input type="radio"/> Tennis                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Camping on isolated sites  | <input type="radio"/> Shooting                  | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball             |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing – boat/canoe/kayak | <input type="radio"/> Skiing – cross-country    | <input type="radio"/> Other (specify below): |
- 
-

## Point Abbaye



The only recreation site owned by Baraga County is Point Abbaye, the northern tip of the county between Keweenaw Bay and Huron Bay (location shown at right). Currently the property contains a gravel/dirt parking area, vault toilets which are closed, and no other developed facilities. Baraga County has obtained Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant funding for a first phase of improvements in 2018, which will 1) upgrade the parking lot, and 2) install new vault toilets and an accessible picnic table. The following three questions are intended to help us better understand the public's utilization of Point Abbaye.

8. Have you or someone from your family **ever** visited Point Abbaye? (If not, or if you don't know, skip to question 11.)

- Yes     No     Don't know

9. In the past year, how many times did you or someone from your family visit Point Abbaye?

- 0     1-3     4-10     More than 10

10. Which, if any, of the following factors prevent you (or have prevented you in the past) from visiting Point Abbaye? (Check **ALL** that apply.)

- Didn't know it existed or was open to public     Poor quality of facilities  
 Didn't know how to get there     Inadequate access road  
 Other reasons; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Please use the space below to list additional recreation projects you would like to see in Baraga County, or provide comments/suggestions for the Baraga County Recreation Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! Your input is important to help identify and prioritize recreation projects throughout the county.**

Survey results will be included in the draft 2018-2022 Baraga County Recreation Plan, which will be available for public review in late 2017 or early 2018. Notice of the draft's availability will be publicized at the appropriate time.

## **Appendix D**

### **Survey Publicity**



## Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission

P.O. BOX 365, HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN 49931

906-482-7205 FAX 906-482-9032 ' E-MAIL: [info@wuppdr.org](mailto:info@wuppdr.org)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jerry Wuorenmaa, Executive Director

906.482.7205, ext. 319

[jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org)

November 17, 2017

### **Recreation Survey Available for Baraga County**

Baraga County is working with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) to update its five-year recreation plan. In addition to guiding improvements to the county's recreation facilities and sites, the plan will ensure the county is eligible for certain grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Members of the public can have a voice in the planning effort by taking a short survey. *Online responses are preferred* and can be provided at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BaragaCountyRec> beginning November 22. Alternatively, paper copies can be obtained starting November 22 **in L'Anse** at the County Administration Building (at intersection of Broad & S. Main Streets), Baraga County Public Library (in L'Anse Schools building), and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College campus (east entrance); and **in Baraga** at the KBIC Tribal Center and Health Center.

Please note that L'Anse Village and Township are also updating their joint recreation plan and have a separate survey available. The Baraga County online survey includes a link to the L'Anse survey, and paper copies are available at the same locations as above.

Both surveys will accept responses through **December 13, 2017**. For further information, contact Jerry Wuorenmaa at [jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org) or (906) 482-7205 ext. 319.

###



See 'Cover Photo'  
description in paper

# L'Anse Sentinel

On guard for over 135 years

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

137th year

Number 48

## Survey for rec plans

*Seek comment in county, village, township*

Baraga County is working with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUP-PDR) to update its five-year recreation plan.

In addition to guiding improvements to the county's recreation facilities and sites, the plan will ensure the county is eligible for certain grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Members of the public can have a voice in the planning effort by taking a short survey. Online responses are preferred and can be provided at <https://www.survey->

[monkey.com/r/BaragaCountyRec](https://www.survey-monkey.com/r/BaragaCountyRec).

Alternatively, paper copies can be obtained starting in L'Anse at the County Administration Building (at intersection of Broad & S. Main Streets), Baraga County Public Library (in L'Anse Schools building), and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College campus (east entrance); and in Baraga at the KBIC Tribal Center and Health Center.

L'Anse Village and Township are also updating their joint recreation plan and have a separate survey available. The Baraga County online survey includes a link

to the L'Anse survey, and paper copies are available at the same locations as above.

### **Village, township survey**

The Village of L'Anse and L'Anse Township are also working with WUPPDR to update their joint five-year recreation plan.

In addition to general questions about recreation interests, the survey requests feedback on a number of potential projects within and north of the village.

Both surveys will accept responses through Dec. 13, 2017. For further information, contact Jerry Wuorenmaa at [jwuorenmaa@wuppd.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppd.org) or



# Recreation surveys available in Baraga County

**Posted:** Nov 17, 2017 09:00 PM EST

**Updated:** Nov 17, 2017 09:00 PM EST

Follow @WJMN\_Local3

## Like Local 3 News on Facebook:

You and 4.6K others like this.



**BARAGA COUNTY** -- Baraga County is working with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region to update its five-year recreation plan. In addition to guiding improvements to the county's recreation facilities and sites, the plan will ensure the county is eligible for certain grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Members of the public can have a voice in the planning effort by taking a short survey.

Online responses are preferred and can be provided at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BaragaCountyRec> beginning November 22. Alternatively, paper copies can be obtained starting November 22 in L'Anse at the County Administration Building (at intersection of Broad & S. Main Streets), Baraga County Public Library (in L'Anse Schools building), and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College campus (east entrance); and in Baraga at the KBIC Tribal Center and Health Center.

The Village of L'Anse and L'Anse Township are working with the Western Upper Peninsula

Planning and Development Region to update their joint five-year recreation plan.

In addition to guiding improvements to the village's and township's recreation facilities and sites, the plan will ensure the village and township are eligible for certain grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Members of the public can have a voice in the planning effort by taking a short survey. In addition to general questions about recreation interests, the survey requests feedback on a number of potential projects within and north of the village.

Online responses are preferred and can be provided at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LAnseRec> beginning November 22. Alternatively, paper copies can be obtained starting November 22 at the L'Anse Village and Township Offices, the County Administration Building, and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College (east entrance), all on Main Street; and at Baraga County Public Library (in the L'Anse Schools building).

Both surveys will accept responses through December 13, 2017.

For further information, contact Jerry Wuorenmaa at [jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org) or (906) 482-7205 ext. 319.

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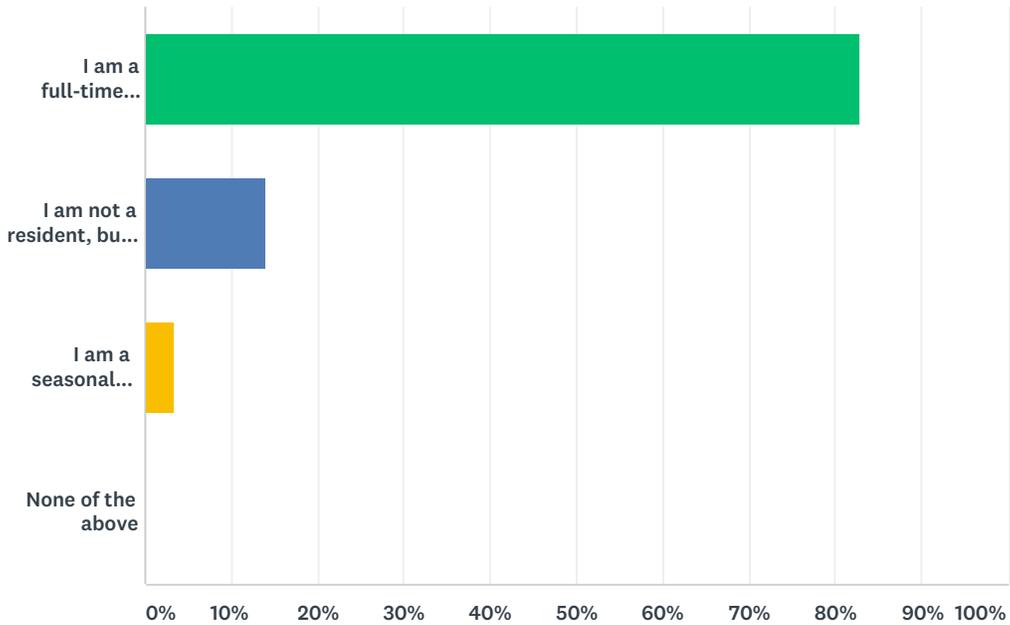
*Copyright 2017 Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broa...*

## **Appendix E**

### **Survey Results**

### Q1 Please indicate your residency status (check one):

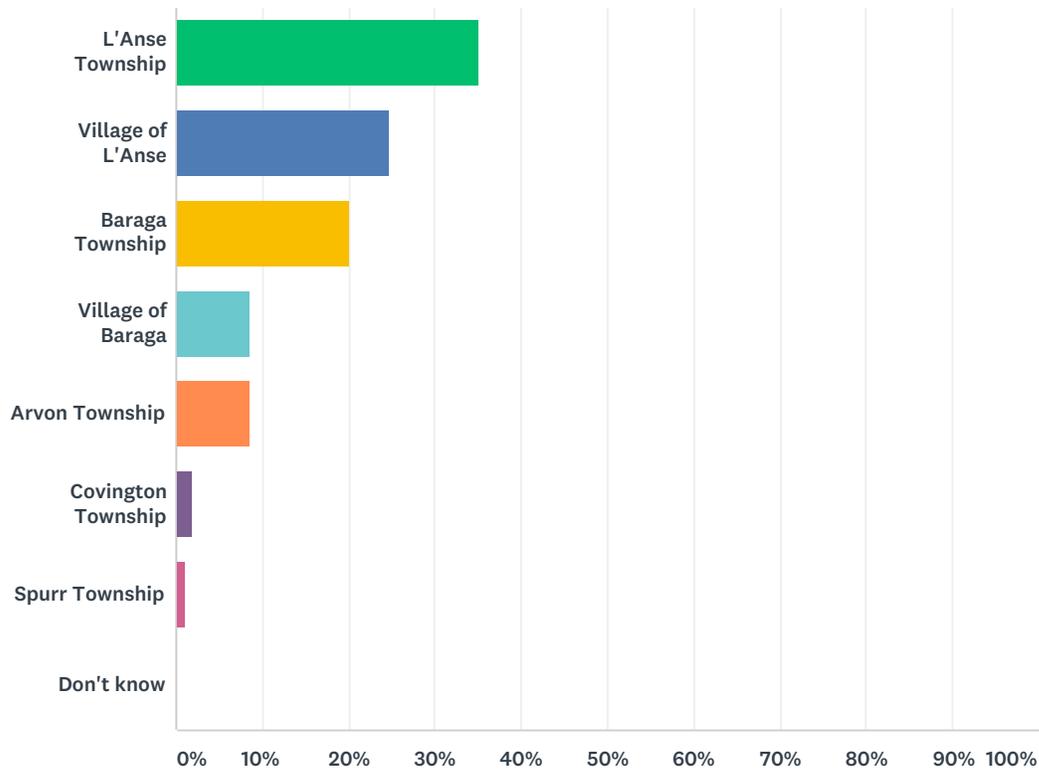
Answered: 122 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES  | RESPONSES |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| I am a full-time resident of Baraga County                            | 82.79%    | 101        |
| I am not a resident, but I do visit Baraga County                     | 13.93%    | 17         |
| I am a seasonal resident of Baraga County (less than six months/year) | 3.28%     | 4          |
| None of the above   | 0.00%     | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |           | <b>122</b> |

## Q2 If you are a resident of Baraga County, where is your residence (check one)?

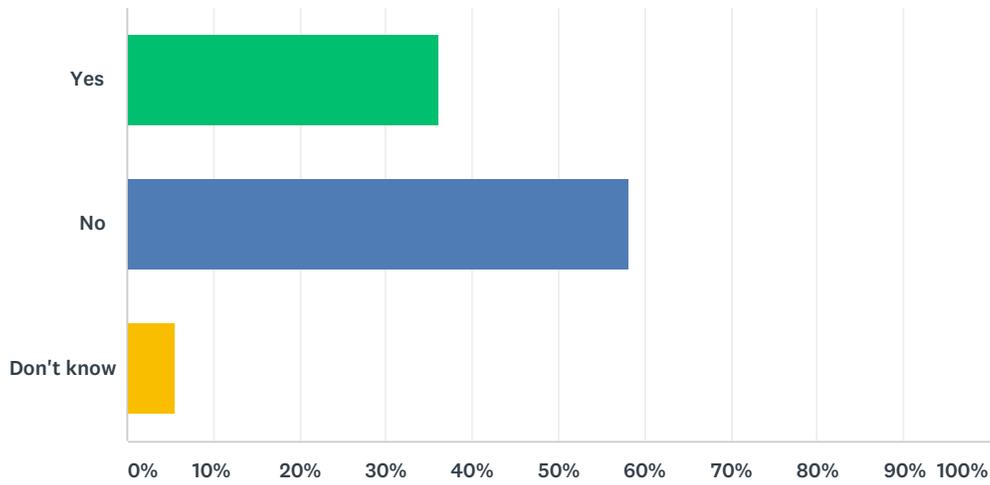
Answered: 105 Skipped: 17



| ANSWER CHOICES     | RESPONSES |            |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| L'Anse Township    | 35.24%    | 37         |
| Village of L'Anse  | 24.76%    | 26         |
| Baraga Township    | 20.00%    | 21         |
| Village of Baraga  | 8.57%     | 9          |
| Arvon Township     | 8.57%     | 9          |
| Covington Township | 1.90%     | 2          |
| Spurr Township     | 0.95%     | 1          |
| Don't know         | 0.00%     | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       |           | <b>105</b> |

### Q3 Do you live on the L'Anse Indian Reservation (any reservation lands within the county)?

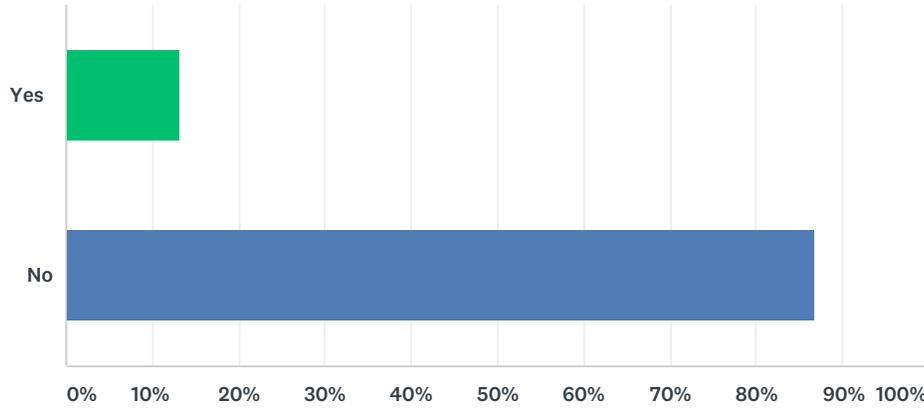
Answered: 105 Skipped: 17



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes            | 36.19%    | 38  |
| No             | 58.10%    | 61  |
| Don't know     | 5.71%     | 6   |
| TOTAL          |           | 105 |

### Q4 Are you a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community?

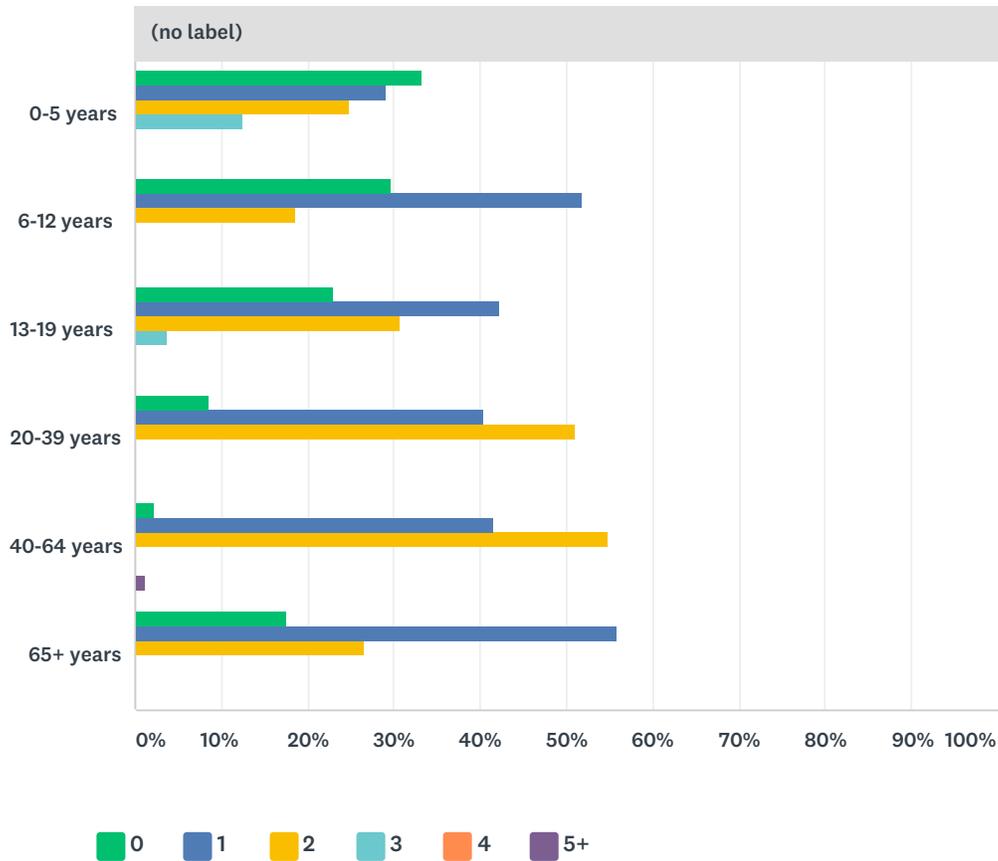
Answered: 121 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes            | 13.22%    | 16  |
| No             | 86.78%    | 105 |
| TOTAL          |           | 121 |

### Q5 How many persons in your household falls into each of the following age groups:

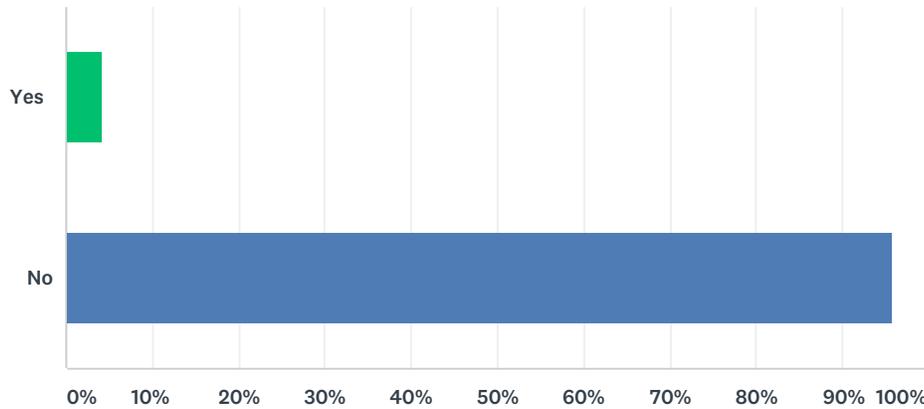
Answered: 121 Skipped: 1



| (no label)  |             |              |              |             |            |            |       |  |  |  |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------|--|--|--|
|             | 0           | 1            | 2            | 3           | 4          | 5+         | TOTAL |  |  |  |
| 0-5 years   | 33.33%<br>8 | 29.17%<br>7  | 25.00%<br>6  | 12.50%<br>3 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 24    |  |  |  |
| 6-12 years  | 29.63%<br>8 | 51.85%<br>14 | 18.52%<br>5  | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 27    |  |  |  |
| 13-19 years | 23.08%<br>6 | 42.31%<br>11 | 30.77%<br>8  | 3.85%<br>1  | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 26    |  |  |  |
| 20-39 years | 8.51%<br>4  | 40.43%<br>19 | 51.06%<br>24 | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 47    |  |  |  |
| 40-64 years | 2.38%<br>2  | 41.67%<br>35 | 54.76%<br>46 | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0 | 1.19%<br>1 | 84    |  |  |  |
| 65+ years   | 17.65%<br>6 | 55.88%<br>19 | 26.47%<br>9  | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 34    |  |  |  |

**Q6 Does anyone in your household, including you, have a disability or require specialized recreation? Specialized recreation refers to accommodations or modifications made to recreation facilities and equipment in order to remove barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from using the facilities or equipment.**

Answered: 122 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES |  | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|--|-----------|-----|
| Yes            |  | 4.10%     | 5   |
| No             |  | 95.90%    | 117 |
| TOTAL          |  |           | 122 |

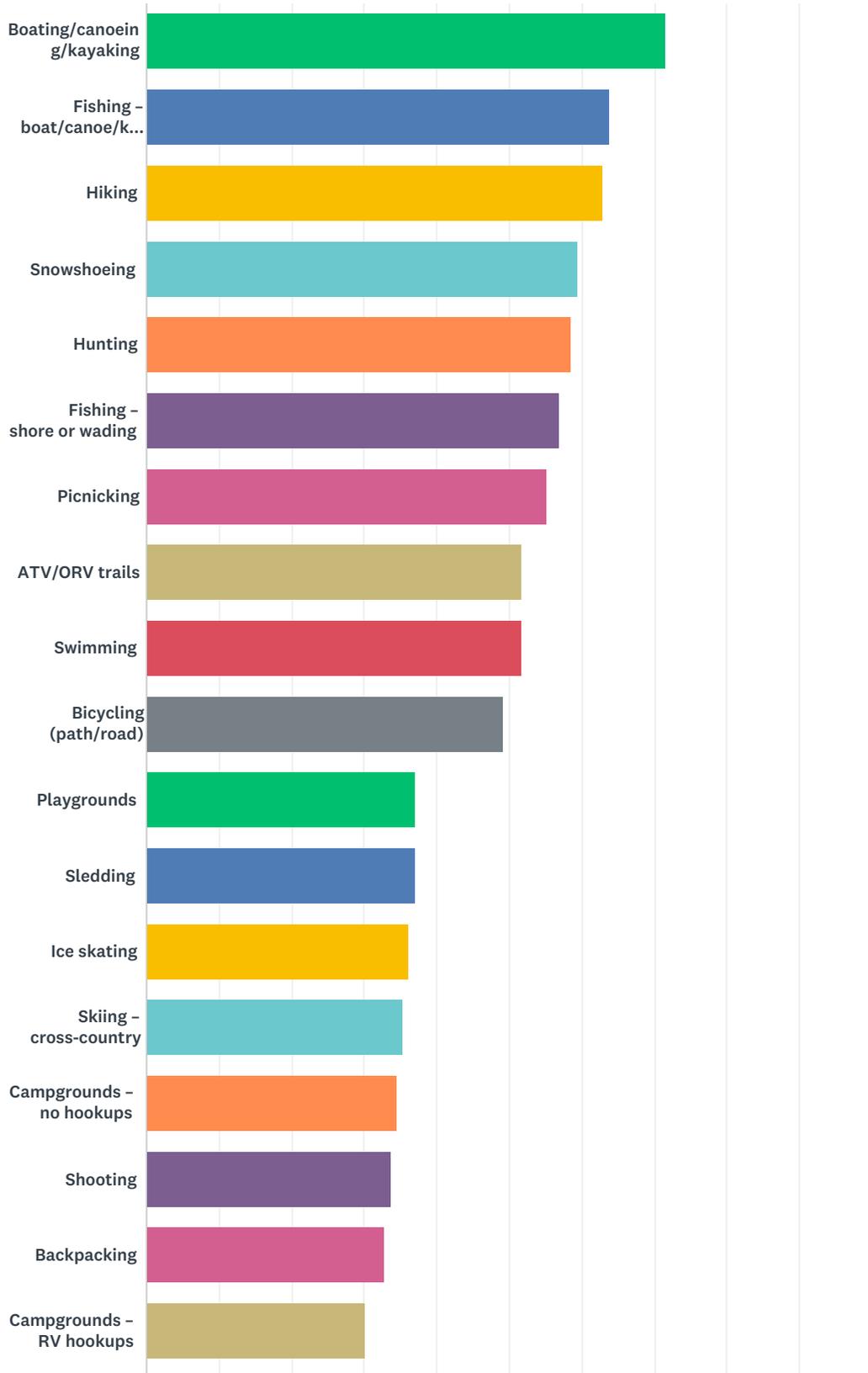
### Q7 If yes, please explain:

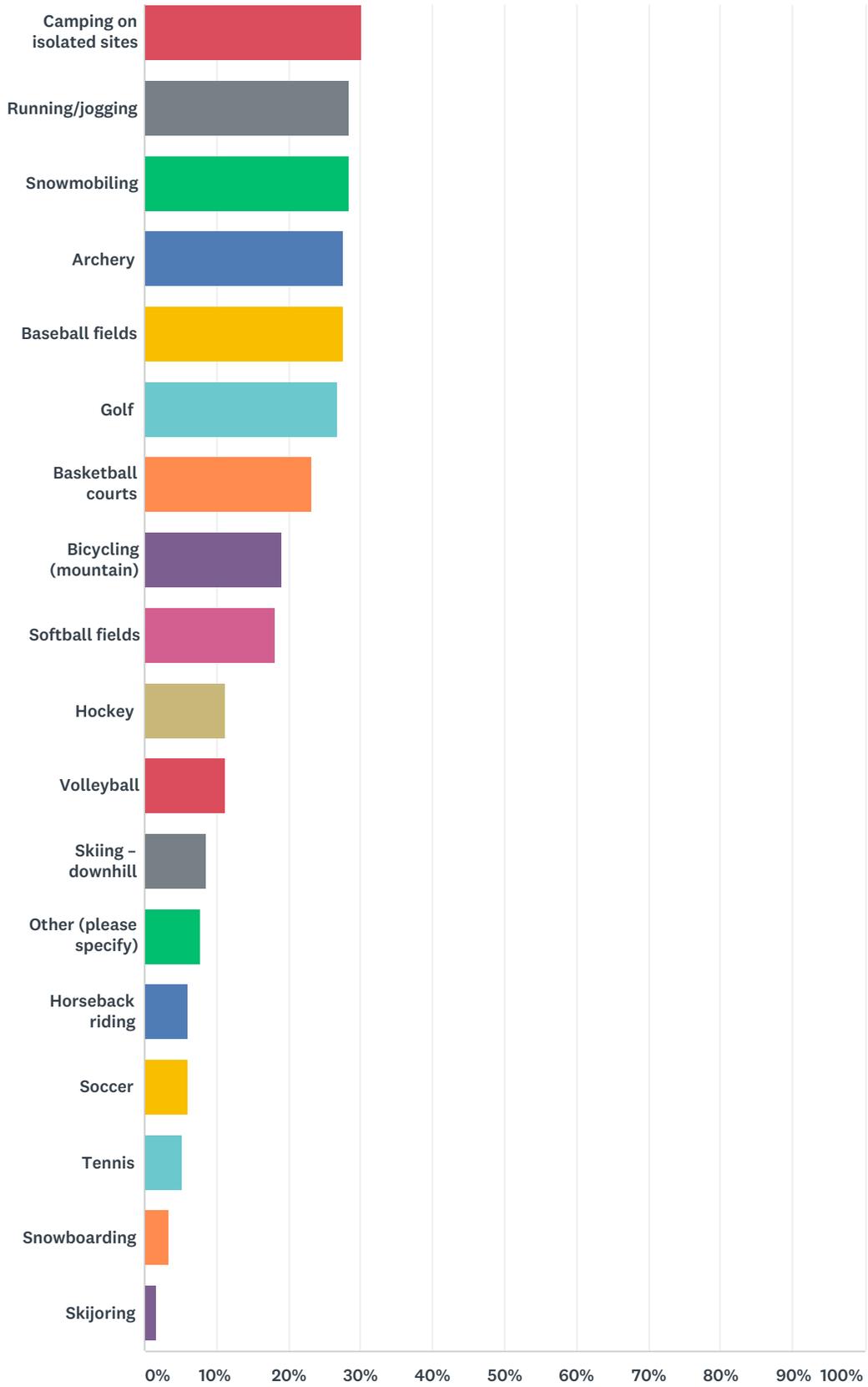
Answered: 3 Skipped: 119

| # | RESPONSES                                      | DATE               |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1 | Vision Disability                              | 12/1/2017 2:01 PM  |
| 2 | autism   | 11/29/2017 7:41 AM |
| 3 | Due to heart condition stairs are not possible | 11/29/2017 7:34 AM |

### Q8 Does anyone in your household use or take part in any of the following? (Check ALL that apply.)

Answered: 116 Skipped: 6

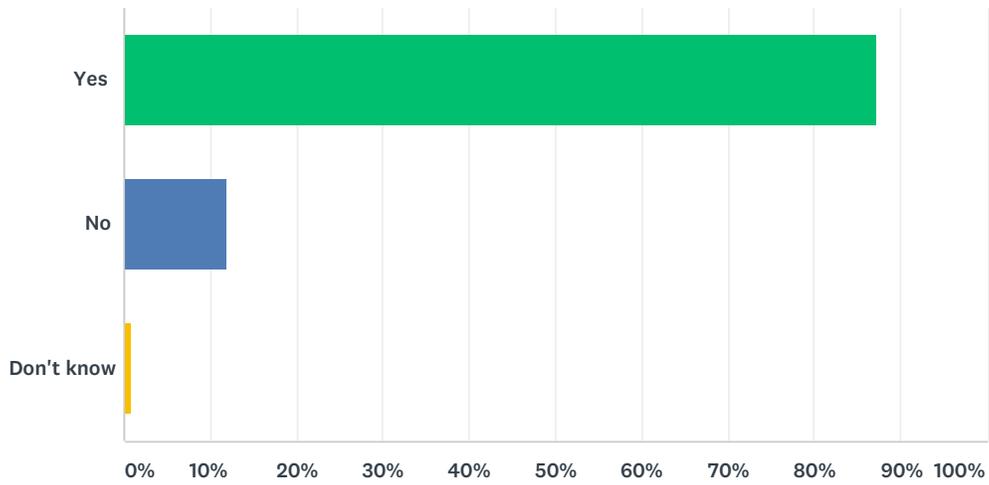




| ANSWER CHOICES             | RESPONSES |    |
|----------------------------|-----------|----|
| Boating/canoeing/kayaking  | 71.55%    | 83 |
| Fishing – boat/canoe/kayak | 63.79%    | 74 |

### Q9 Have you or someone from your family ever visited Point Abbaye? (If not, or if you don't know, skip to question 11.)

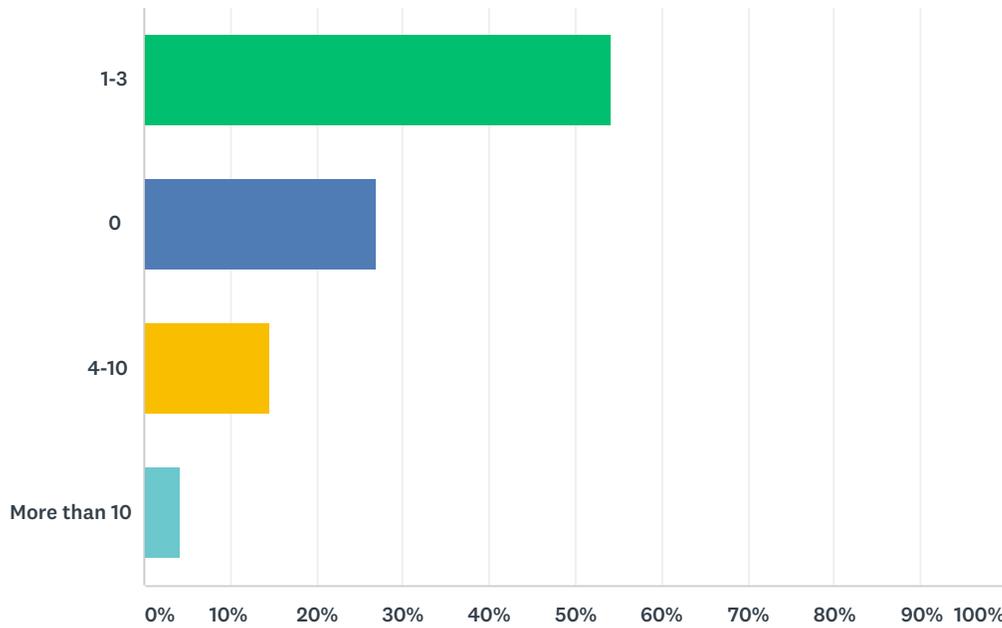
Answered: 118 Skipped: 4



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 87.29%    | 103        |
| No             | 11.86%    | 14         |
| Don't know     | 0.85%     | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>118</b> |

### Q10 In the past year, how many times did you or someone from your family visit Point Abbaye?

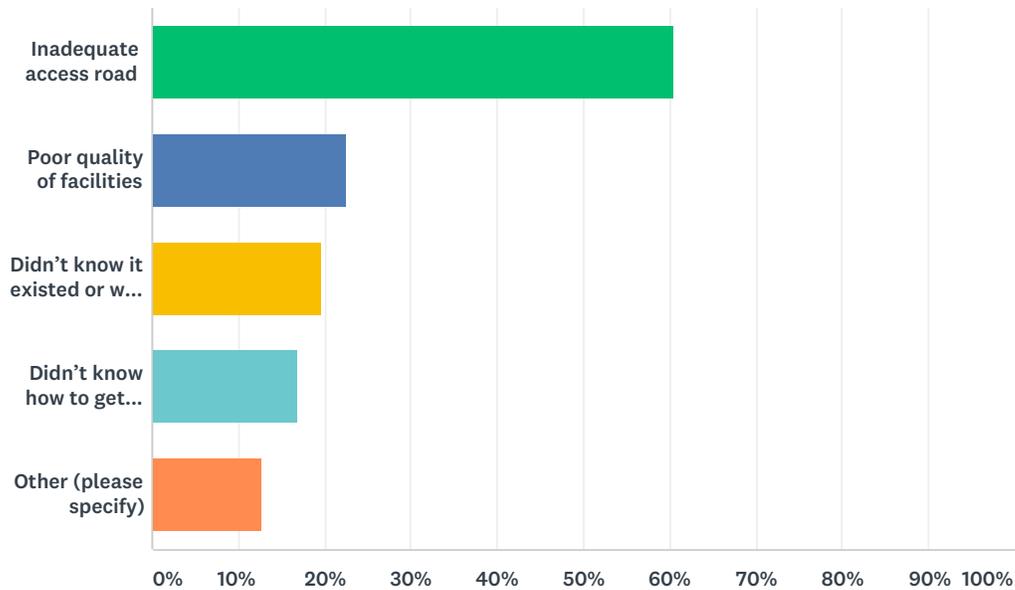
Answered: 96 Skipped: 26



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |           |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1-3            | 54.17%    | 52        |
| 0              | 27.08%    | 26        |
| 4-10           | 14.58%    | 14        |
| More than 10   | 4.17%     | 4         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>96</b> |

### Q11 Which, if any, of the following factors prevent you (or have prevented you in the past) from visiting Point Abbaye? (Check ALL that apply.)

Answered: 71 Skipped: 51



| ANSWER CHOICES                               | RESPONSES |    |
|--|-----------|----|
| Inadequate access road                       | 60.56%    | 43 |
| Poor quality of facilities                   | 22.54%    | 16 |
| Didn't know it existed or was open to public | 19.72%    | 14 |
| Didn't know how to get there                 | 16.90%    | 12 |
| Other (please specify)                       | 12.68%    | 9  |
| Total Respondents: 71                        |           |    |

| # | OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)                           | DATE                |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Fishflies  | 12/16/2017 10:01 PM |
| 2 | Poor signs                                       | 12/16/2017 9:50 PM  |
| 3 | none, we can always get there                    | 12/11/2017 10:30 AM |
| 4 | Distance from residence                          | 12/8/2017 11:32 PM  |
| 5 | I'm not really sure                              | 12/7/2017 1:34 PM   |
| 6 | No Time  | 12/7/2017 11:20 AM  |
| 7 | Too busy this year                               | 12/7/2017 11:16 AM  |
| 8 | Distance from home and not favorite spot locally | 12/7/2017 10:54 AM  |
| 9 | Busy Lifestyle                                   | 12/7/2017 9:59 AM   |

## Baraga County Recreation Survey 2017

### General Comments Summary

| Category  | Number |
|---|--------|
| Supportive of non-motorized trails  | 25     |
| Family-friendly and/or youth rec. opportunities (a few requested classes) | 9      |
| Beach or pool   | 8      |
| Keep Pt. Abbaye natural   | 8      |
| Ice skating rink  | 4      |
| ORV/side-by-side trails   | 4      |
| Supportive of some level of Pt. Abbaye development                        | 3      |
| Kayaking facilities/opportunities   | 3      |

Of 61 comment responses; any response could include more than one category above.

Categories with 3 or more responses are included.

## **Appendix F**

### **Draft Plan Review Publicity**



## Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission

P.O. BOX 365, HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN 49931

906-482-7205 FAX 906-482-9032 ' E-MAIL: [info@wuppdr.org](mailto:info@wuppdr.org)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director

906.482.7205 ext. 319

[jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org)

January 5, 2018

### **Baraga County Recreation Plan Available for Review**

Baraga County will release for review and comment a draft of its 2018-2022 Recreation Plan.

The draft will become available Friday, January 12 for public review. A final public hearing for the plan will be scheduled prior to adoption of the plan; noticed will be published accordingly.

The plan will be available for review online at <http://www.wuppdr.org> and in print at the Baraga County Administration Building (Clerk's Office), 2 S. Main St., L'Anse.

Written comments must be received by February 11 and may be e-mailed to Jerry Wuorenmaa at [jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org) or mailed to WUPPDR, PO Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931. For more information on the plan or process contact Jerry Wuorenmaa at the addresses above or at (906) 482-7205 ext. 319.

###

L'Anse Sentinel

1/10/2018

## County to release rec plan draft for review

Baraga County will release for review and comment a draft of its 2018-2022 Recreation Plan.

The draft will become available Friday, Jan. 12, 2018, for public review. A final public hearing for the plan will be scheduled prior to adoption of the plan; noticed will be published accordingly.

The plan will be available for review online at <http://www.wuppdr.org> and at the Baraga County Administra-

tion Building (Clerk's Office), 2 S. Main St., L'Anse.

Written comments must be received by Feb. 11 and may be e-mailed to Jerry Wuorenmaa [atjwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:atjwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org) or mailed to WUPPDR, PO Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931.

For more information on the plan or process contact Jerry Wuorenmaa at the addresses above or at (906) 482-7205 ext. 319.

## L'Anse Village, Township rec plan ready Jan. 12

L'Anse Village and Township will release for review and comment a draft of their joint 2018-2022 Recreation Plan.

The plan will be available online at <http://www.wuppdr.org> for public review beginning Jan. 12, 2018.

The plan will be available in print at the L'Anse Village Office, 101 N. Main St., beginning Jan. 15.

A final public hearing for the plan will be scheduled

prior to its adoption; notice will be published accordingly.

Written comments must be received by Feb. 12 and may be e-mailed to Jerry Wuorenmaa [atjwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:atjwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org) or mailed to WUPPDR, PO Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931.

For more information on the plan or process contact Jerry Wuorenmaa at the addresses above or at (906) 482-7205 ext. 319.

## **Appendix G**

### **Public Hearing Notice**

**AFFIDAVIT  
of  
PUBLICATION**

***L'Anse Sentinel***

**Baraga County  
Notice of Public Hearing**

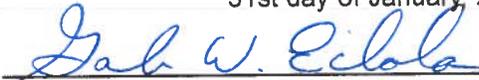
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF BARAGA

Barry Drue, being duly sworn, deposes and says that a notice, a true copy of which is annexed hereto, was published in the *L'Anse Sentinel*, a newspaper printed and circulated in said State and County on January 31, 2018, and that he is the Editor of the printers of said newspaper and knows the facts stated herein.



Barry Drue

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
31st day of January, 2018



Gale W. Eilola, Notary Public  
Baraga County, Michigan

My commission expires January 28, 2020  
Acting in Baraga County, Michigan

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Baraga County will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 12, 2018**, in the **County Courthouse, Circuit Court Room**, located at **16 N. Third Street, L'Anse, MI 49946**, beginning at **4:45 p.m.**

The purpose of the hearing is to receive any comment from the public regarding the Baraga County 2018-2022 Five-Year Recreation Plan. The plan is available for review at the Baraga County Administration Building, Clerk's Office and on WUPPDR's website at [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org).

Written comments may be submitted to [jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org) or WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931, through February 11, 2018.

**MICHAEL KOSKINEN, CHAIRMAN  
BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

## **Appendix H**

### **Public Hearing Minutes**

The Baraga County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 4:45 p.m. in the Baraga County Circuit Courtroom, 16 N. Third St., L'Anse, Michigan 49946.

Chairman Koskinen called the Hearing to order. Present: Comm. Eilola, Comm. Koskinen, Comm. Menge, Comm. Reilley, and Comm. Rolof. Absent: None.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on the proposed 2018-2022 Baraga County Recreation Plan. Jerry Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, WUPPDR reported to the Board the processes that had been followed to prepare the plan. Highlights of the plan include the continued development of Point Abbaye and non-motorized and motorized trail development. Questions and comments were received from those in attendance. Mr. Wuorenmaa answered questions and provided clarification. Ms. Catherine Andrews asked if the Board was going to include the International Dark Sky designation as part of the plan. The designation was discussed.

The Baraga County Board of Commissioners held its Regular Meeting on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Baraga County Circuit Courtroom, 16 N. Third St., L'Anse, Michigan 49946.

Chairman Koskinen called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Eilola, Comm. Koskinen, Comm. Menge, Comm. Reilley and Comm. Rolof. Absent: None.

Comm. Eilola made a motion, supported by Comm. Rolof to approve the Agenda as presented. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Menge made a motion, supported by Comm. Reilley to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on January 8, 2018. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Harry Miron discussed the idea of the possibility of a facility being built out on the Baraga Plains. Possible ideas are a mental health facility or drug rehabilitation facility. Mark Massicotte, President, Baraga County EDC, said the project has a lot of value. But if not those types of facilities maybe something else. Margie Hale, CEO, BCMH, said the hospital is currently working on such a project and has applied for a grant. It was reported that Dr. Harold Ripple is also working on a possible drug detox facility.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

As Presented. Comm. Rolof made a motion, supported by Comm. Menge to approve the following budget amendments:

**BARAGA COUNTY****PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

For the Fiscal Year Ending 09/30/2018

| Account Name | Account Number | Revenue Increase - (Decrease) | Expense - Increase - (Decrease) |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|

**GENERAL FUND - REVENUES**

|                            |                |              |  |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| Drug Test Reimbursement    | 101-000-581.00 | \$ 2,908.00  |  |
| Insurance Refunds - Claims | 101-000-689.00 | \$ 1,803.40  |  |
| Sheriff Road Patrol Grant  | 101-000-543.00 | \$(4,060.00) |  |

**GENERAL FUND - EXPENDITURES**

|                                |                |  |             |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|-------------|
| Northwoods Rail Fee            | 101-750-861.00 |  | \$ 100.00   |
| Northwoods Rail Fee            | 101-850-960.66 |  | \$ (100.00) |
| Platbook Printing & Publishing | 101-261-728.00 |  | \$ 1,300.00 |

|                              |                |               |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Platbook Stationery & Office | 101-261-727.00 | \$ (1,300.00) |
| Road Patrol Health Insurance | 101-333-716.00 | \$ (670.00)   |
| Road Patrol HSA              | 101-333-716.05 | \$ (1,225.00) |
| Sheriff HSA                  | 101-301-716.05 | \$ 1,225.00   |
| Contingency                  | 101-890-958.00 | \$ (2,589.88) |

|                |                |             |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Snowmobile Law |                |             |
| Salary & Wages | 101-332-703.00 | \$ 2,378.00 |
| SS/MC          | 101-332-715.00 | \$ 181.92   |
| Wcomp          | 101-332-721.00 | \$ 3.43     |
| Miscellaneous  | 101-332-955.00 | \$ 45.13    |

|                       |           |             |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>GENERAL FUND –</b> |           |             |
| <b>TOTALS</b>         | \$ 651.40 | \$ (651.40) |

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

Comm. Rolof made a motion, supported by Comm. Eilola to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for January 2018 (\$930.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Menge made a motion, supported by Comm. Reilley to approve the Claims and Accounts for the period of January 9, 2018 through February, 2018 in the amount of \$29,322.02. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Reilley made a motion, supported by Comm. Eilola to approve the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of January 9, 2018 through February 12, 2018 in the amount of \$595,227.02. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center Bed Rental Agreement was tabled.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Comm. Rolof made a motion, supported by Comm. Eilola to approve the 2018-2022 Baraga County Recreation Plan, with approved changes to the North Country Trail narrative and the inclusion of the International Dark Sky designation, by resolution:

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners has undertaken a Five Year Recreation Plan which describes the physical and social features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period from 2018 to 2022, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 12, 2018, at the Baraga County Courthouse to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire County and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the County, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Baraga County Board of Commissioners hereby adopt the Baraga County Recreation Plan 2018-2022 as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Baraga County.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Timothy Smith, attorney with Smith & Johnson Attorneys PC, provided a report on the national litigation against United States pharmaceutical companies and distributors in response to the opioid epidemic. The purpose of the lawsuit would be to seek compensation for the damages that Baraga County has incurred as a result of the opioid use in Baraga County. Each municipal is filing its own suit. This is a “Contingent Fee” litigation. Costs are the County’s responsibility, but they, Smith & Johnson, assume that the case will be successful and do not believe any charges will be incurred by the County.

As part of the law suit, they not only seek to get costs reimbursed to the locals, but to and seek “Injunctive Relief” with court orders.

If the County joins this process, damage teams will come to Baraga County to assist in identifying the damages.

Michigan Association of Counties is supportive of counties joining the litigation and Prosecuting Attorney, Joseph O'Leary, advised the Board to proceed.

Comm. Menge made a motion, supported by Comm. Rolof to join the law suit and hire Smith & Johnson for representation, by the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners ("the Board) desires legal representation in national litigation that is being waged against manufacturers and distributors of opioids and other culpable parties; and

WHEREAS, the participation in such national litigation requires specialized expertise; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the qualifications of Weitz & Luxenberg PC, the Sam Bernstein Law Firm PLLC and Smith & Johnson Attorneys, PC, and believes that those firms collectively possess outstanding experience and qualification to represent the County's interests as it relates to the opioid epidemic.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the firms of Weitz & Luxenberg PC, the Sam Bernstein Law Firm PLLC and Smith & Johnson Attorneys, PC, as special counsel to represent the interests of Baraga County in litigation concerning the opioid epidemic.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Board received three bids for a 2010 Chevy Impala patrol car: \$1,553.53, \$2,101.01, and \$2,751.00. Comm. Menge made a motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$2,751.00, from Daniel Verbanac. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Board received two bids for the removal and construction of the northwest entry stairway at the Courthouse. Mike Whitman Construction, \$18,270.00 and Dave Whitman Construction, \$18,317.00. Comm. Reilley made a motion, supported by Comm. Rolof to award the bid to Mike Whitman Construction for the amount of \$18,270.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Menge made a motion, supported by Comm. Rolof to accept the resignation of Daniel Whitman and Robert Koivu from the Baraga County Extended Care Corporation Board of Trustees. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Eilola made a motion, supported by Comm. Menge to appoint Sally Klassen (three year term, 12-31-2020) and Mary Deline (partial term, 12-31-2019) to the Baraga County Extended Care Corporation Board of Trustees. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Menge made a motion, supported by Comm. Rolof to sign the contract agreement with the Baraga County Deputy Sheriff's. The contract (on file in the Clerk's office) is a two year contract to expire September 30, 2019. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Rolof made a motion, supported by Comm. Eilola to sign an agreement for services with Michigan State University Extension. This agreement covers educational programs: Agriculture & Agribusiness, Children & Youth Development, including 4-H, Health & Nutrition, and Community & Economic Development, Natural Resources. The terms of the agreement include a county assessment of \$37,325.00 for 2018. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Menge made a motion, supported by Comm. Rolof to approve an allocation of \$3,000.00 to UPSET FY18. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Comm. Eilola made a motion, supported by Comm. Reilley to appoint Comm. Menge to the UP RC&D Council and Comm. Rolof as the alternate. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

911 Director, Jeff Hubbard, reminded the Board of the 911 Surcharge that the Board is allowed to assess. Mr. Hubbard reported that there are many needs in the 911 program that the surcharge would help fund. The Board must make a decision by May 15, 2018. No action was taken.

No action was taken on the request from the L'Anse Area School for nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus award.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- BCMH Board of Trustee, Minutes
- L'Anse Township, Master Plan Review
- WUPPDR, 2018 Schedule of Meetings

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Comm. Menge made a motion, supported by Comm. Rolof to concur with the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Michigan House Bills 5096,5097 and 5098 seek to amend various local government statutes and the state statutes in a way that would significantly reduce the ability of local governments, county road agencies, and county drain commissions to charge adequate fees, provide safe and reasonable criteria to access public jurisdictions, and collect adequate bonding should these properties

be damaged and need restoration from telecommunication providers and their contractors that wish to work, install, and maintain cable, fiber optics, extended poles/antennas, towers, and power units on public properties; and

WHEREAS, the effect of these bills could force local governments, county road agencies, public works departments, and drain commissions to subsidize telecommunications with local and Michigan Transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, as legal guardians of the public property and road right-of-way, local governments, county road agencies, and drain commissions must ensure work in their jurisdictions is performed safely, does not damage our infrastructure, and meets engineering standards (above/below ground), along with federal and state requirements; and

WHEREAS, local governments and county road agencies do not profit by issuing permits, but simply recover the costs of issuing permits, making site inspections, and performing related tasks; and

WHEREAS, HB 5096 and 5097 limit fees to \$300 per permit or \$1,000 on multiple projects; and

WHEREAS, such a "one-size-fits-all" fee does not account for the type of work planned in a rural or urban setting, nor does it consider the risks a project may pose and, in general, the bills supplant engineering-based management with a "cookie-cutter" approach that puts public resources and workers at risk; and

WHEREAS, HB 5097 limits security/bonding to \$20,000 regardless of the potential risk and damage beyond that amount, rural vs. urban setting, and requires that bonds be returned within 60 days after a project is completed, even if damage is being contested; and

WHEREAS, these bills do not take into consideration the statewide ramifications and precedent that these bills would create; and

WHEREAS, while the telecommunications industry may be able to point to isolated instances of local obstacles, it is not a statewide problem.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners oppose HB 5096, 5097 and 5098 and urge State Senator Tom Casperson and State Representative Scott Dianda to oppose these cost-shifting bills as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Snyder, Senator Tom Casperson and State Representative Scott Dianda, the Michigan Association of Counties, and the other 82 counties.

Comm. Rolof made a motion, supported by Comm. Reilley to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners is authorized by law to create a Baraga County Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund, pursuant to Section 87b of Act No. 206 of the Public Acts of 1893, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF BARAGA as follows:

1. There is hereby created the Baraga County Delinquent Tax Revolving Control Fund #516, which shall consist of a totaling of the separate, segregated funds for delinquent taxes due on account of specific tax years and into which those funds shall be closed out into after all such delinquent taxes, except on personal property due and payable to a taxing unit which receives its delinquent taxes from the fund, are paid in full for that tax year.
2. If a delinquent tax revolving fund is established, the county treasurer shall be the agent for the county and, without further action by the county board of commissioners, may enter into contracts with other municipalities, the state, or private persons, firms, or corporations in connection with any transaction relating to the fund or any borrowing made by the county pursuant to section 87c or 87d, including all services necessary to complete this borrowing.
3. Surplus funds after the DTRF year's tax sale for properties with unpaid delinquent taxes, are then transferred to the control DTRF for use in the purchase of future delinquent taxes. The county retains all delinquent taxes, interest and penalties collected to offset its tax collection costs.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Comm. Reilley made a motion, supported by Comm. Rolof to approve overnight travel for Angela Wrona, Probate Registrar for a conference. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Comm. Menge made a motion, seconded by Comm. Rolof to adjourn the meeting until February 12, 2018. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

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Michael R. Koskinen, Chairman

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Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk

## **Appendix I**

### **Adoption Resolution**

**BARAGA COUNTY  
RECREATION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION  
BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners has undertaken a Five Year Recreation Plan which describes the physical and social features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period from 2018 to 2022, and

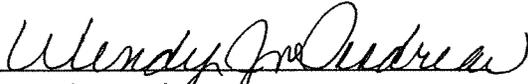
WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 12, 2018, at the Baraga County Courthouse to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire County and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the County, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Baraga County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Baraga County Recreation Plan 2018-2022 as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Baraga County.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

I, Wendy Goodreau, Baraga County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Baraga County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting thereof held on February 12, 2018.

  
Wendy Goodreau  
Baraga County Clerk