



# 2021 - 2025 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2021 County of Arenac  
Recreation Plan  
2021 - 2025

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A public hearing on the Recreation Plan was held on **DATE**. On **DATE**, the County of Arenac Board adopted the Plan.

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Recreation Commission

County Board



127379SG2019

With assistance from Spicer Group, Saginaw, Michigan  
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# Introduction

The 2021 - 2025 County of Arenac Plan was prepared by the County Board to serve as a decision making document. The Plan will serve as a guide for the improvement of recreation facilities in the future.

The County of Arenac takes great pride in its recreation facilities and services and is always seeking to improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Additionally, County residents place a high value on recreation and open space. Community officials have taken a proactive lead in updating this Recreation Plan to ensure the long-term use of these resources.

The County of Arenac is a rural forested area bordering Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay. The county is part of the northern Michigan recreational area, with resort development along Lake Huron. Natural assets such as the Gladwin State Forest, the Au Gres and Rifle Rivers and the Lake Huron shoreline, make it attractive for tourism. Agriculture is an important segment of the economy and accounts for 48% of land use. The County of Arenac is part of the six-county, state designated Huron Shores Heritage Route, one of 14 in the state.

The county is a popular recreation area, with plenty of canoeing, kayaking, hunting and fishing. The Au Gres and Rifle Rivers continue to be favorite canoeing, kayaking and fishing spots. Favorite fish include trout, perch, walleye and smelt. Suckers are also a popular favorite, celebrated annually with the City of Omer's Sucker Festival. Local efforts are underway to restore the reputation of the Pine River as an excellent perch fishing river. The DNR Lake Huron Boat Launch and break wall located at the mouth of the Au Gres River. The City of Au Gres features a mooring facility that can accommodate recreational boaters via the Au Gres River. This site is the former MDNR Harbor of Refuge facility, which was deeded to the City in August of 2018.

The City of Au Gres includes a marina on Lake Huron with an inland channel to the city.

The County draws many nature and hunting enthusiasts. Located just to the west of Au Gres is the Gladwin State Forest which provides good small game hunting. There is also the Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area located about halfway between the cities of Standish and Au Gres, near the Saginaw Bay. Birders and other wildlife enthusiasts flock to Charity Island located in the Bay, just off Whitney Township. Almost 80% of this 222 acre island and its three miles of shoreline are owned by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which brought the island into the national protected area called the Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge.



The foundation for the development of the County of Arenac Recreation Plan was based on the following process:

- Involve the community in the process to develop a five-year Recreation Plan,
- Inventory and map existing County of Arenac recreational facilities,
- Build common ground among County area stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs and priorities of the community,
- Enable County of Arenac to be eligible for financial assistance based upon the Recreation Plan,
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreation goals, objectives, and actions,
- Continue to support and implement improvements for barrier-free, Universal Access for County of Arenac area parks, and
- Expansion upon goals and objectives set forth in existing planning documents that deal partially or wholly with recreation.

In accordance with the policies of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), this five-year Plan covers the period from 2021-2025. The content and process follow DNR requirements for a community Parks and Recreation Plan.

Implementation strategies are identified over the next five years, at which time the Plan will again require updating. The delineation of these improvements will aid the County in grant solicitation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and long-range capital improvement budgeting. Additionally, during the next five years, it is important for the community to reference the Plan and make appropriate priority adjustments as conditions change and funding opportunities arise. As this update of the Recreation Plan is undertaken by the County of Arenac, it will be important for strong feedback between residents and planning officials so

improvements and ideas from the 2015 Community Recreation Plan can be further refined to align with the community's vision for parks and recreation in the County today.



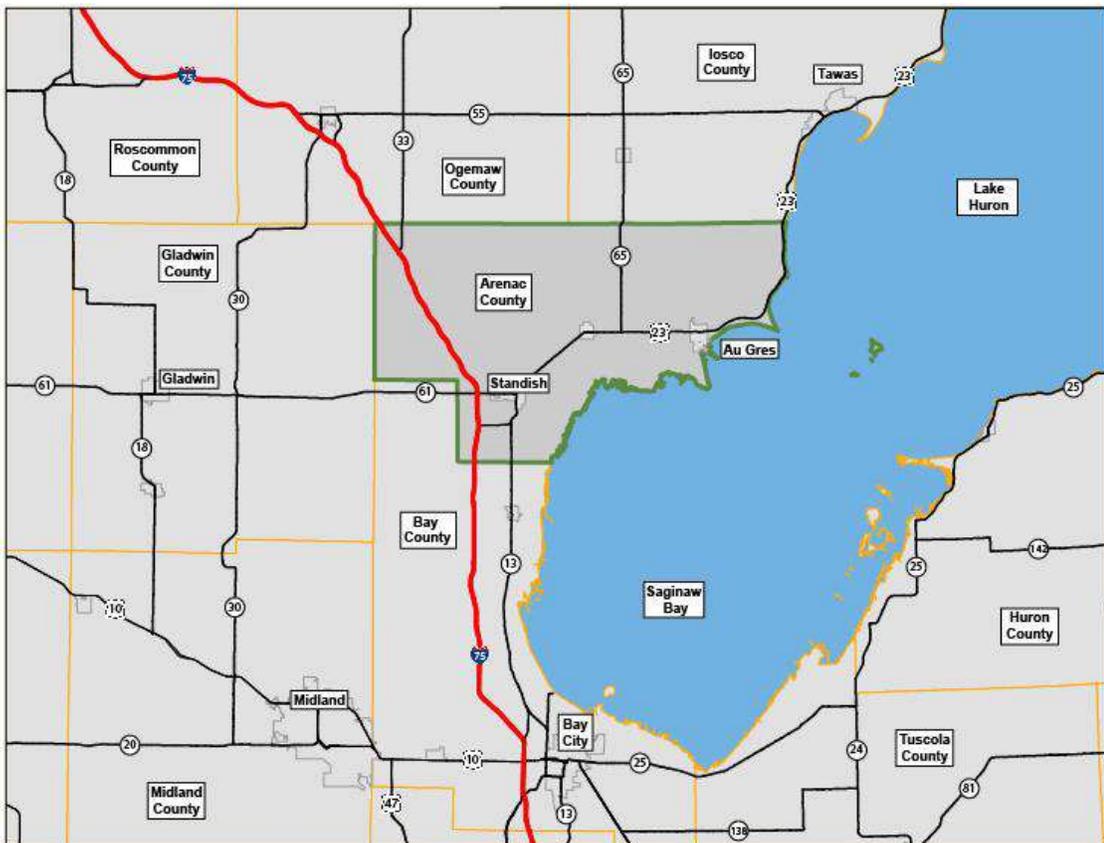
# Community Description

## GEOGRAPHY

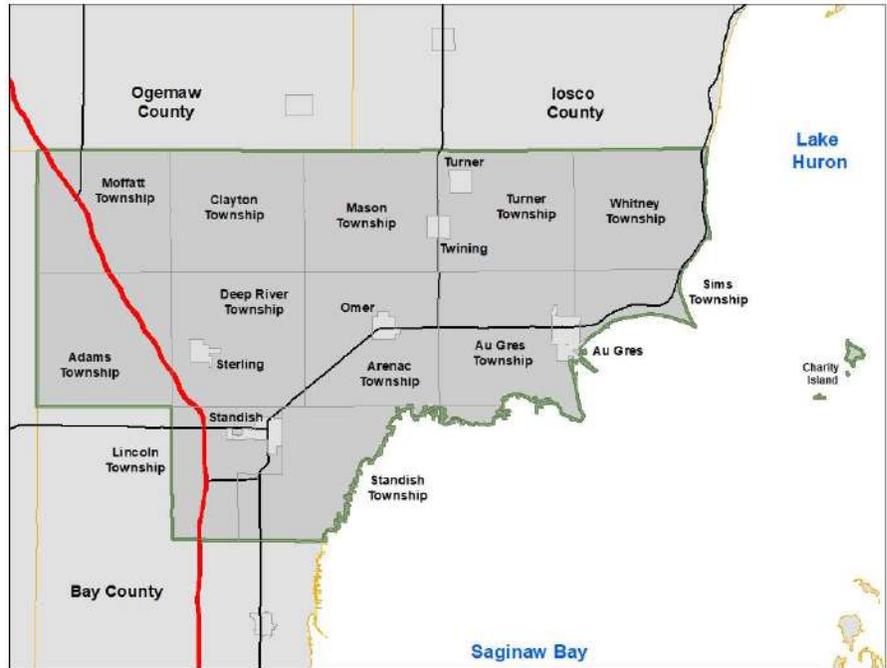
The County of Arenac is located on the shore of Lake Huron in the east central section of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. It includes 368 square miles, or 238,097 acres. The County is bordered by Iosco and Ogemaw Counties to the north, Bay County to the south, Gladwin and Bay Counties to the west. Lake Huron makes up the county's eastern border. The county is 30 miles wide from east to west at its widest point and 17 miles from north to south at its deepest point. The following townships are located in the county: Adams, Arenac, Au Gres, Clayton, Deep River, Lincoln, Mason, Moffatt, Sims, Standish, Turner, and Whitney. The county also includes the cities of Au Gres, Omer, and Standish and the villages of Sterling, Turner, and Twining. Several unincorporated places exist in the county: Alger in Moffatt Township, Melita and Maple Ridge in Clayton Township, Worth, Pine River, Saganing, and White's Beach in Standish Township, Moores Junction in Adams Township, Old Arenac Village in Arenac Township, Point Au Gres in Au Gres Township, Point Lookout in Sims Township, and Whitestone Point in Whitney Township.

Reference Map 1, below, to see a location map and Map 2, on the following page, for all the communities in The County of Arenac.

Map 1 – Location Map



Map 2 –County Communities



## DEMOGRPAHICS

Table 1, on the following page, summarizes the data explained in this section. In 2000, the County had a population of 17,269 residents, in 2010 the population decreased to 15,899. This was a decrease of approximately 1,370 people, or 7.9%. According to the 2017 ACS, the population in the County is 15,238. This is a decrease from the 2010 Census. However, it is important to remember ACS data is estimate data and the Decennial Census is a full population count. The County will not have another full population count until the 2020 Census. Until that time, the County should consider the trends indicated by the ACS data, but should not rely on them. In comparison the State and County, both lost population, at -7.9% and -0.6%, between 2000 and 2010, while the United States gained almost 10%.

An in-depth analysis of the population trends in each jurisdiction of the County of Arenac between 2000 and 2010 shows that each City and Village in the County had a population decline, and all the Townships aside from Moffatt and Sims also had population declines. Of the three Cities in the County, Au Gres had the steepest decline at 13.5%, Standish lost 4.6%, and Omer lost 7.1%. Of the Villages, Turner had the largest population decline at 18%, while Twining declined by 5.7% and Sterling declined by 0.6%, the smallest percentage of all the Cities and Villages in the County. The Townships had similar rates of decline, with most ranging between 1% - 6%. The outliers were Clayton Township with a decrease of 0.4%, the smallest of all the jurisdictions in the County, and Lincoln Township with a decrease of 38.1%. Mason and Turner Townships both had decreases of approximately 14%. In comparison, Moffatt Township increased in population from 1,121 to 1,184, or 5.6%, and Sims Township increased from 1,091 to 1,095 or 0.4%.

**Table 1** - Population Change 2000 – 2010

	2000	2010	% of Population Change from 2000 - 2010
<b>County of Arenac</b>	17,269	15,899	-7.9%
<b>Michigan</b>	9,938,444	9,883,640	-0.6%
<b>United States</b>	281,421,906	308,745,538	9.7%
<b>Au Gres</b>	1,028	889	-13.5%
<b>Standish</b>	1,581	1,509	-4.6%
<b>Omer</b>	337	313	-7.1%
<b>Twining</b>	192	181	-5.7%
<b>Turner</b>	139	114	-18.0%
<b>Sterling</b>	533	530	-0.6%
<b>Adams</b>	550	563	2.4%
<b>Arenac</b>	992	903	-9.0%
<b>Au Gres</b>	1,007	953	-5.4%
<b>Clayton</b>	1,101	1,097	-0.4%
<b>Deep River</b>	2,244	2,149	-4.2%
<b>Lincoln</b>	1,522	942	-38.1%
<b>Mason</b>	994	851	-14.4%
<b>Moffatt</b>	1,121	1,184	5.6%
<b>Sims</b>	1,091	1,095	0.4%
<b>Standish</b>	2,026	1,900	-6.2%
<b>Turner</b>	642	550	-14.3%
<b>Whitney</b>	1,033	1,001	-3.1%

Overall the County has more males than females, in 2010, 49.3% of the population in the County was female, and 50.7% was male. This compares to 48.6% of the population that was female and 51.4% was male in 2000. Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of the female population in the County increased, but both groups decreased in population.

Over the past decade, the age distribution of the population in the County of Arenac has changed significantly. The overall population in the County is aging, this is illustrated in the age ranges 45-64 and 65-84, and 85+, because these three were the only groups to have an increase in population between 2000 to 2010, even though the County lost population. The younger age groups have similar trends to one another, in that each group lost population. The loss is most reflected in the 25-44 age group, which has experienced losses over 6%. When comparing the age ranges throughout the County, the largest population of residents (32.1%) is in the 45-64 age group, which experienced a 6.5% increase in population from the 2000 figures. These figures can be found in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Age Distribution**

	2000		2010	
<b>Under 5</b>	908	5.3%	754	4.7%
<b>Ages 5 - 19</b>	3,530	20.4%	2,831	17.8%
<b>Ages 20 - 24</b>	963	5.6%	722	4.5%
<b>Ages 25 - 44</b>	4,598	26.6%	3,268	20.6%
<b>Ages 45 - 64</b>	4,420	25.6%	5,097	32.1%
<b>Ages 65 - 84</b>	2,613	15.1%	2,871	18.1%
<b>Ages 85+</b>	237	1.4%	356	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	17,269	1	15,899	1

In the County in 2010, there were a total of 9,803 housing units, of which 6,701, or 68.4%, are occupied and 3,102, or 31.6% were vacant, see Table 3 below. These percentages are very different than that of the State and Country, which both have similar occupancy rates in the mid to high 80% range and vacancy rates in the mid to low teens. The County’s high vacancy rate can be attributed to the many seasonal homes located throughout the County.

**Table 3 – Housing Units**

	Total Housing Units	Occupied	Vacant	% Occupied	% Vacant
<b>County of Arenac</b>	9,803	6,701	3,102	68.4%	31.6%
<b>Michigan</b>	4,532,233	3,872,508	659,725	85.4%	14.6%
<b>United States</b>	131,704,730	116,716,292	14,988,438	88.6%	11.4%

The U.S Census breaks down vacant units into the following categories: seasonal, for rent, rented, but unoccupied, for sale only, sold but unoccupied, or other vacant. If a housing unit is only seasonally occupied, the Census considers it vacant, therefore the high vacancy rates in the County can be explained by the large amount of seasonal housing units. There is a high percentage of seasonal housing throughout the County, particularly along the shoreline and in the wooded areas of the County.

High seasonal vacancy rates are not a reality for all County communities, and this trend is most apparent when the vacancy rates in each township, city, and village are compared individually against the State and Country rates. The communities that do not have a large number of seasonal housing units compare more closely to the percentages of the State and Country. The majority of the cities and villages in the County of Arenac have rates that are comparable to the State. See Table 4, on the following page, for a comparison of housing vacancies. The difference between the types of seasonal vacancies would be lakefront homes in Sims, Whitney, and Au Gres Township versus wooded cabins in Moffatt Township.

**Table 4** – Housing Vacancy by Type

	Total Housing Units	Total Vacant Units	% of Units Vacant	Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use	For Rent	Renter, Unoccupied	For Sale Only	Sold, Unoccupied	Other Vacant
<b>County of Arenac</b>	9,803	3,102	31.6%	77.3%	2.8%	0.5%	6.3%	1.5%	10.3%
<b>Michigan</b>	4,532,233	659,725	14.6%	5.8%	3.1%	0.1%	1.7%	0.4%	3.4%
<b>United States</b>	131,704,730	17,988,438	11.4%	3.5%	3.1%	0.2%	1.4%	0.3%	2.8%

In addition to the population and housing characteristics above, there are several other demographic data points that are important to understand the County and the recreation trends the County population may need. The County has the smallest average household size at 2.34, compared to the State and the Country, and the highest median age, at 46.7. This median age is almost 10 years older than Michigan and the Country. These two factors correlate to one another, because the County has a smaller average household size, indicating less families in the County with children, which is reinforced by an older median age.

There are several segments of the population that rely more heavily on public recreation than others, several of those are highlighted in Table 5 below. Renters do not often have access to private outdoor space that single-family homeowners do. Therefore, renters, rely on public recreation options that are close to home. In the County of Arenac, 16.4% of the housing units are occupied by renters, this significantly smaller than that of the State and Country, but still represents almost 1/5 of the housing units in the County. Other groups who rely on public recreation options are those who live in poverty, this population is 18.5% of the County. Additionally, the County has a median household income that is more than \$10,000 less than the State and Country, indicating a population with a smaller disposable income.

**Table 5** – Miscellaneous Demographic Information

	County of Arenac	Michigan	United States
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.34	2.49	2.58
<b>Median Age</b>	46.7	38.9	37.2
<b>Percent of Population Younger than 19</b>	22.3%	26.8%	26.9%
<b>Percent of Population Older than 65</b>	20.3%	13.7%	13.1%
<b>Housing Units Occupied by Renters</b>	16.4%	27.9%	34.9%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$39,947	\$52,668	\$57,652
<b>Individuals Below the Poverty Level</b>	18.5%	15.6%	14.6%
<b>Population with a bachelor's degree or higher</b>	11.6%	28.1%	30.9%

## NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

The climate of the County is relatively mild. The close proximity to Lake Huron modifies abrupt variations in temperature. February temperatures average 32 degrees F. July temperatures average 80 degrees. Annual precipitation, in inches, is 31.22. Most of the precipitation falls as rain. Precipitation during the growing season is sufficient for a wide variety of crops. The ground is covered with snow an average of 82 days a year. Prevailing winds from the southwest and are generally strongest in March, although conditions near the shoreline vary widely. The length of the growing season varies within different areas of the county from 120 to 140 days; the area along Lake Huron having the longest growing season, and the area in the extreme northwest corner of the county having the shortest.

The Saginaw Bay and the Pine, Rifle, and Au Gres rivers and their tributaries offer excellent fishing. Walleye, Perch, Trout, Coho, and Chinook salmon produce exceptional sport fishing. Whitetail deer are present in abundant numbers throughout the county. The best numbers are found in the Gladwin Forest Area, part of the Au Sable State Forest, and in the Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area. Recent timber cuttings and oak stands are the most attractive areas for deer. Ruffed grouse and woodcock are present along streams, lowland brush, and recent aspen cutting sites. Squirrels are present in oak stands. Waterfowl hunting is excellent in the Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area and along the Saginaw Bay. Snipe hunting is great in the mud flats of Saginaw Bay during low water periods.

Most of the County is an old lake bed. Small areas consist of ground moraines and waterlaid moraines. In the lake bed areas, the material ranges from clay to clay loam, loam or sand in texture. In many places this fine-textured material has been covered by sand that ranges from six inches to many feet in thickness. Deep deposits of sandy material occur throughout the lake bed, but they are predominantly in the northwestern part of the county. Elevation of the lake bed ranges from slightly less than 600 feet to 750 feet above sea level. Of the 235,400 acres in the County, approximately, 43,400 or 18.4% are wetland areas according to the National Wetlands Inventory, see Map 3 for an inventory of all the waterways and wetlands in the County.

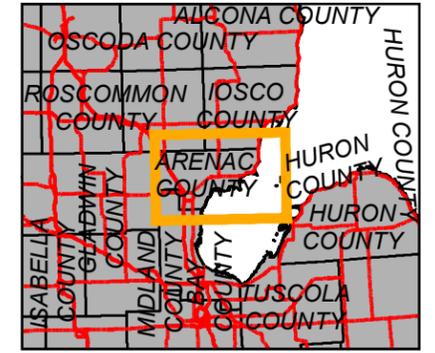
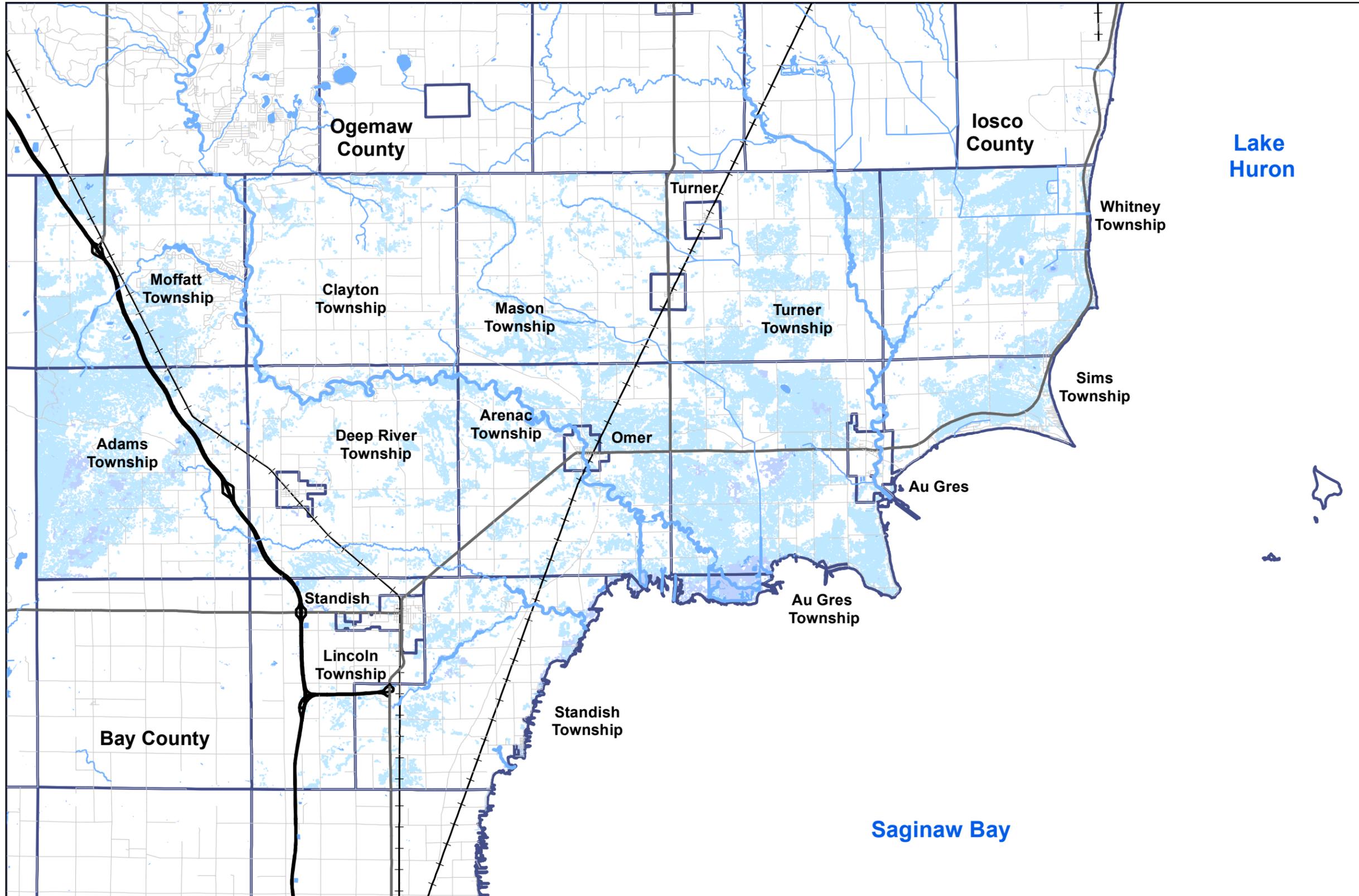
Dense forests originally covered most of the County of Arenac. The only areas that were not forested were swamps, lake beaches, sand dunes near Lake Huron, and small areas cleared by the Indians for their villages and gardens. On the sandy plains of the county in well-drained areas there were forests consisting of white pine, red pine, and jack pine. On the finer textured, well-drained soils, sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, elm, and hemlock grew. Elm, ash, basswood, red maple, aspen, yellow birch, white pine, hemlock, black spruce, white cedar, and balsam fir were dominant on the somewhat poorly drained mineral soils. In the peat and muck swamps, the native trees were mostly white cedar, black spruce, balsam fir, and tamarack. Reeds, sedges, and shrubs grew in openings in the swamps. About 34 percent of the County is now wooded, but the stands are mostly second-growth trees of poor quality. Aspen, scrub oak, and jack pine are the trees on the sandy plains where the virgin timber was mostly pines. In the other forests, the present stands consist chiefly of the original trees but the proportion of aspen in the stands is greatest. Nearly 15,000 acres are woodlands on farms and products of these wooded areas provide some cash income to farmers. Most of the remaining woodlands are owned by the State of Michigan. About 20,000 acres in the county have been planted to pines. Much idle land in the county is reforesting naturally according to the Soil Survey, Arenac County, Michigan. See Map 4 for an inventory of the wooded land in the County.

Of the forest land, which comprises over 34% of all the County acreage, approximately 32,000 acres are owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This is 13.65% of the total gross area of the County, and 40% of all forest land. Most of the DNR property is in the Gladwin Forest Area, part of the Au

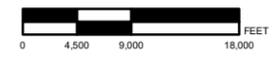
Sable State Forest. The DNR also owns 2,500 acres in the Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area which is dedicated to the improvement of waterfowl habitat and open to public hunting for deer and waterfowl. In addition, the State of Michigan has 109 acres of boating and fishing sites. There is no acreage owned by the U.S. Forest Service in the County. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan owns approximately 600 acres of land in the County of Arenac.



# MAP # - WETLAND AND WATERWAYS ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN



AREA MAP  
NOT TO SCALE



### LEGEND

- Woody Wetlands
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
- Waterways

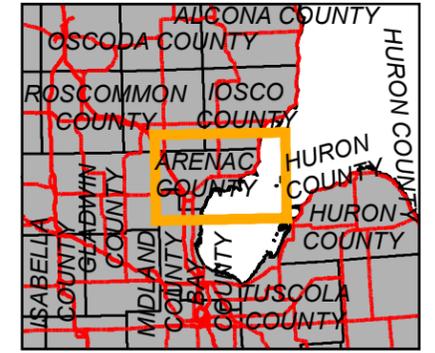
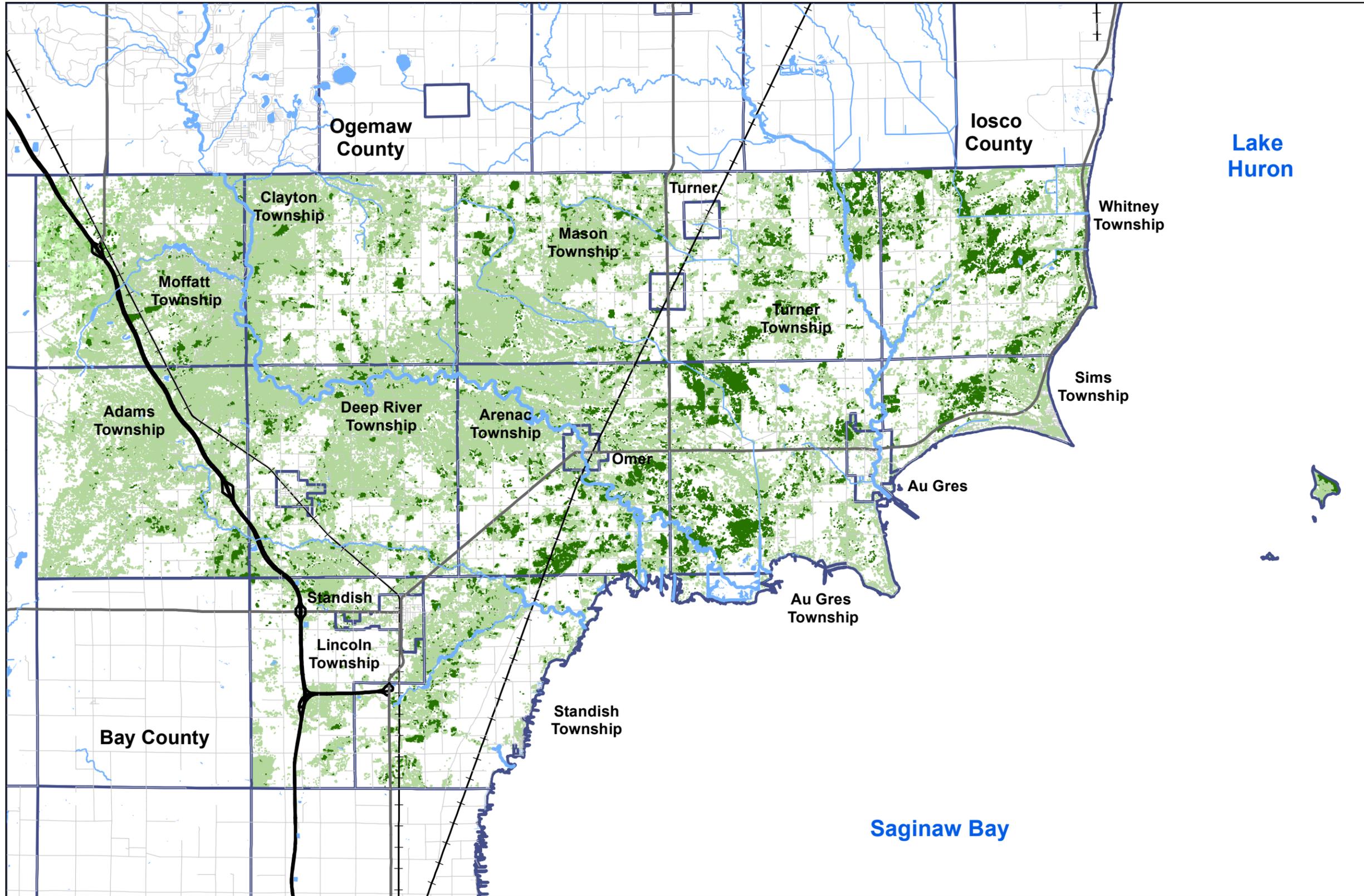
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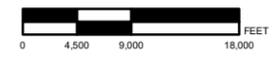
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# MAP # - NATURAL FEATURES ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN



AREA MAP  
NOT TO SCALE



### LEGEND

- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Grasslands
- Waterways

Source:  
Michigan Geographic Data Library

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# Administrative Structure

## PARKS AND RECREATION ORGANIZATION

The County of Arenac Board of Commissioners established a Parks and Recreation Commission under authority of P.A. 261, as amended by Act 242 of 1966. The Parks and Recreation Commission was established and organized in 1978. In April 1996, the County of Arenac Board of Commissioners adopted Arenac County Ordinance 12. The County of Arenac Parks and Recreation Ordinance provides for the "use, protection, regulation and control of the property of the Arenac County Parks."

The Chairman of the County Parks and Recreation Commission serves as the Parks Administrator.

## Responsibilities and Duties of the Parks and Recreation Administrator

### Duties:

- Build an effective organizational structure to achieve basic objectives and policies adopted by the Park Commission.
- Select personnel who have necessary skills.
- Develop a supervisory organization and program to achieve maximum desired results from personnel.
- Inform and interpret Parks Commission policies to the public.
- Assist Commission in planning for future development and changes in the County Parks system.
- Annually evaluate facilities, structures, and equipment, as well as financing of improvements and report to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, and then to the Parks Commission.
- Administer business functions of the parks system including reports and records.
- Maintain inventory records.



### Responsibilities:

- Prepare annual budget and supervise conformity to it.
- Develop good public relations with organizations interested in the betterment of the parks system.
- Monitor for and remove potential hazards and provide for an effective risk management program.
- Care, maintain and store equipment.
- Assure that operations are within compliance and conformity with applicable laws.
- Supervise general care and maintenance of areas, structures and facilities.
- Prepare plans and specifications, or have them prepared when necessary.
- Supervise selection of all horticultural materials and the planting and preservation of the same.
- Supervise all construction activities in the parks.

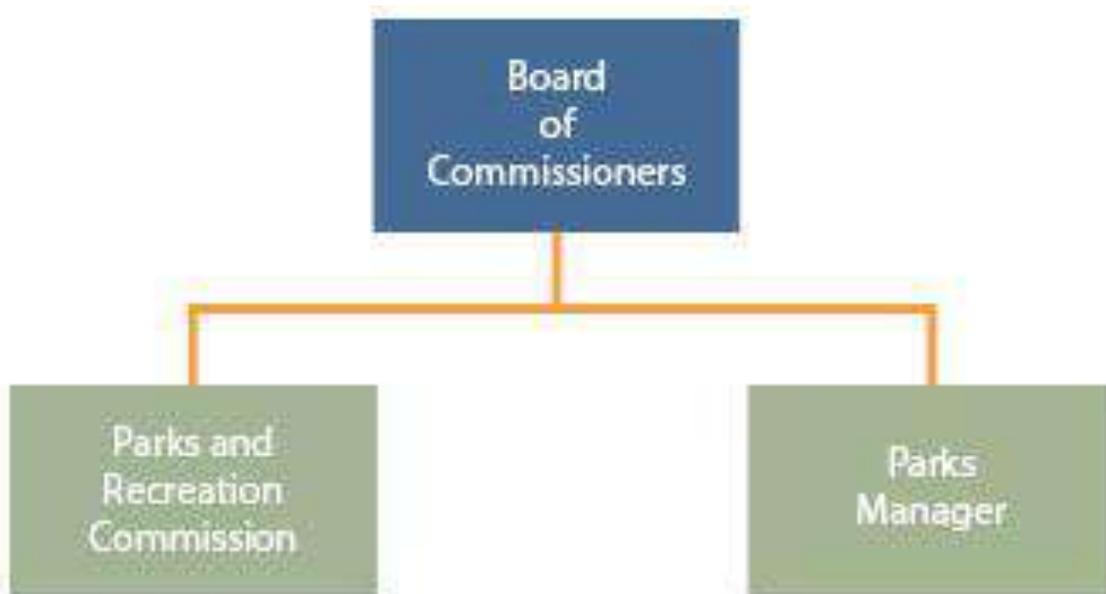
### Relation between Acting Parks Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

- Keep membership informed and alert them of potential conditions that may adversely affect the parks system.
- Work with committees as appointed from time to time, and prepare written reports of their activities to the Parks Commission.
- Attend all meetings of the Commission and its Committees.
- Act as Parks Commission's Liaison Officer.
- Prepare public relations materials.
- Prepare policies materials.
- Contact all complainants and inform proper persons of any complaints that are considered serious.
- Submit an annual report to the Commission and the Recreation Services Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as required by Act 26.

### Responsibilities of the Commission.

The Commission shall assume such authority as granted by the applicable section of the laws of the State of Michigan in the Michigan Compiled Laws and no other authority. The chain of command is illustrated on the Organizational Chart. The Commission consists of 10 members, who are appointed by the County Commissioners. It meets as needed with standing meetings in December, January, and throughout the summer season.

### COUNTY OF ARENAC PARKS STRUCTURE



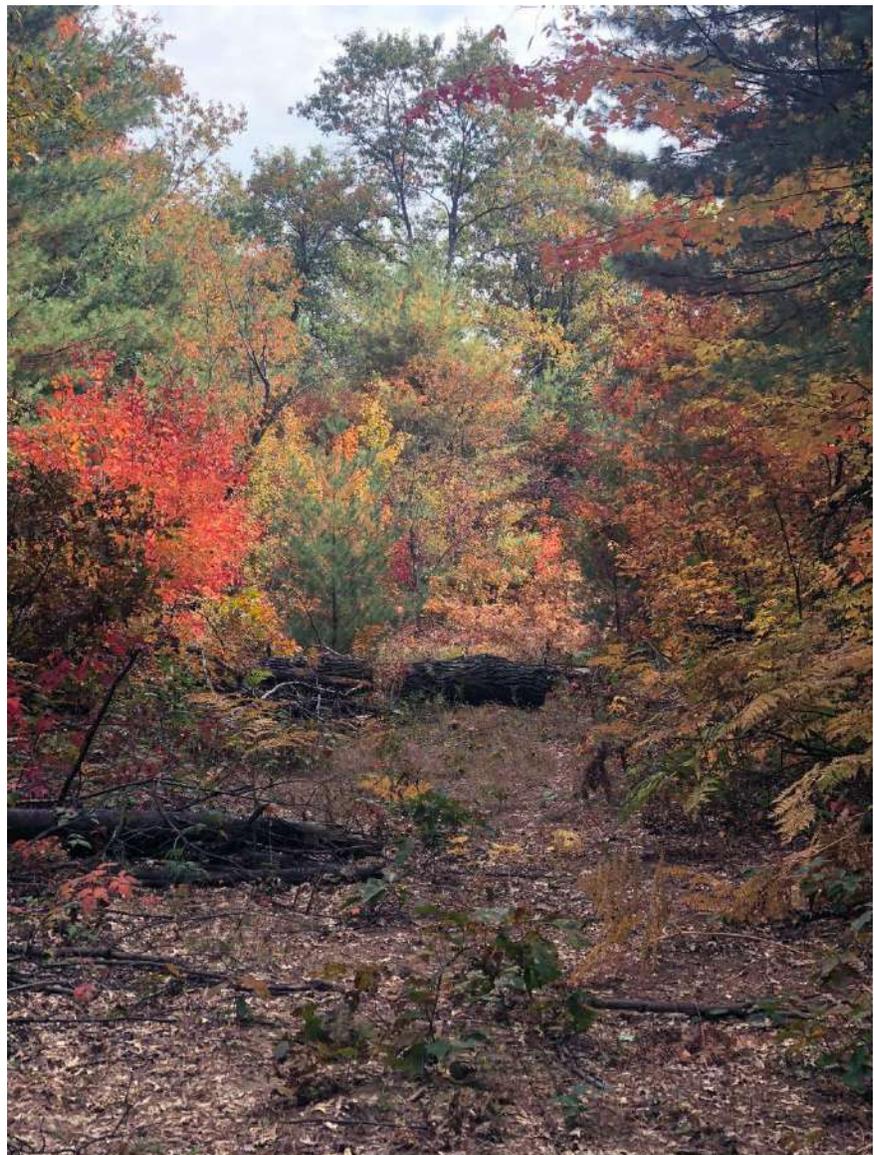
## BUDGET

	Current Year	Past Year
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	\$84,000	\$79,000
<b>Programming</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$0

The parks have user fees for the campgrounds, and pavilions which are used for maintenance of the park facilities. These figures are included in the budget.

## VOLUNTEERS, COLLABORATION, AND PROGRAMMING

The County does not currently have any volunteers or collaboration with any local organizations. The County also does not provide any recreation programming.



# Recreation Inventory

The County of Arenac has three parks, which comprise 314 acres of park land, and one fairgrounds property which is 40 acres. The County Parks inventory was conducted during the fall of 2019. The planning consultant performed site visits in order to obtain necessary information about the County parks. A description of each park and its amenities is given on the following pages. A park location map is included at the end of this chapter. Individual aerial images of each park are contained in Appendix A. This chapter also briefly discusses the natural features, parks, and recreational property in each jurisdiction.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to simply and effectively rate parks and facilities on their ease of use and accessibility for handicapped residents, based on the American Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines), to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design). See Table 7, below.

**Table 7** - Accessibility Guidelines

DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreational Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
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 park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

An ADA compliance assessment of parks owned and operated by the County of Arenac was conducted during the fall of 2019 by the planning consultant and was verified by County staff. The County is dedicated to improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage.

## COUNTY PARKS

### Oasis Lake Park and Campground

Oasis Lake Day Park is located in Section 3 of Adams Township off Old M-76. This 207-acre site with a 22-acre lake formed from a barrow pit. Swimming and fishing are permitted. Pit toilets, changing rooms, water wells, three pavilions, picnic areas including approximately 120 picnic tables and 20 grills, horseshoe pits, as well as playground equipment including three sets of swings, a slide, and climbing equipment are available at this site. The park has 25 primitive campsites and a walking trail that winds along the lake, through the woods, through various picnic areas, beach volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, and various pavilions. There is no motorized watercraft allowed on the lake, but it is a good place for kayaking, canoeing, and fishing.

## County Fairgrounds

The Standish Fairgrounds, located between South City Limits Road and Airpark Drive, is a 40 acre site is owned by the County. Facilities available at the Fairgrounds include a grandstand, four livestock barns, an exhibit building, and a 4-H building. The fairgrounds are the site of the County Fair although many other activities are held at this site. The County 4-H club uses the facilities for a broad range of activities ranging from raising animals to arts and crafts to an archery club. The playground is used for a variety of purposes ranging from family reunions and picnics to scouting and company picnics. The two baseball fields with fences, dugouts, and bleachers are no longer in use. The Fairgrounds also have a pavilion, mud volleyball pit, a mud pit for vehicle exhibitions, and a short oval demolition track.

Currently, the County Fairgrounds are located in the Standish Industrial Park. The current businesses of the industrial park are looking to expand their operations, but are limited due to land availability. Therefore, the County EDC is looking for a new home for the Fairgrounds. This will provide opportunity for the businesses in Standish and give the Fairgrounds a new permanent home better suited to the specific needs of the fair. The new fairgrounds will be called the Arenac County Events and Agricultural Center and the new site is 54 acres located off US-23, just south of the City of Standish. The proposed design includes an events arena with grand stands, Mid-Way Area, horse arena, animal barns for small animals, horses, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, and dogs, playground, central pavilion, parking, and a campground with over 100 spaces.

## Youngman Park

Youngman Day Park is located on Arenac State Road in Arenac Township. This 100-acre roadside park featuring a pavilion, picnic tables, rustic camping, a water well, and about one-half mile of trails are located at this site. The northern property boundary of Youngman Park is connected to the proposed Iron Belle Trail Route and would be a great location for a trailhead in the future.

## Point Au Gres Park and Campground

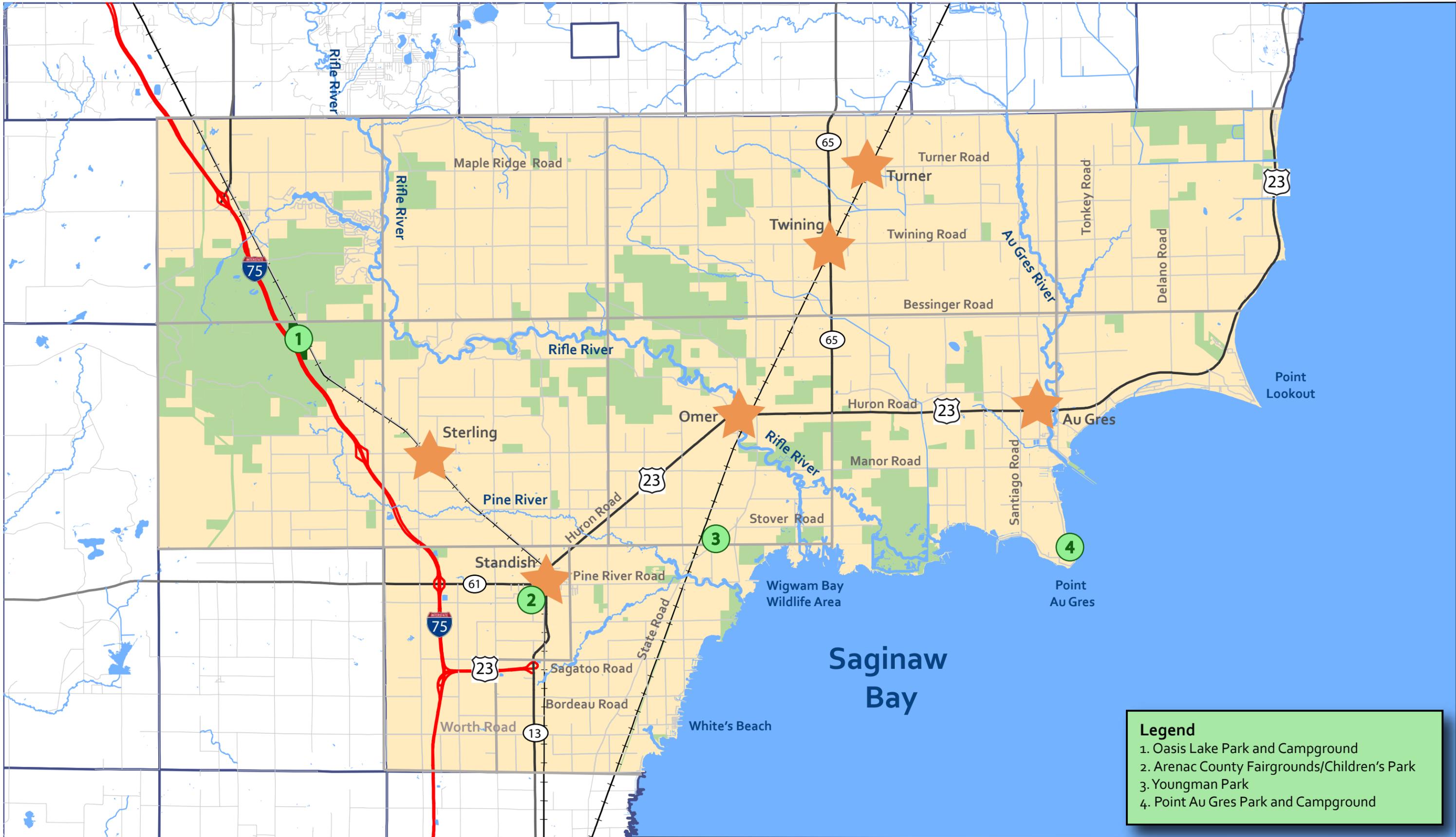
Point Au Gres Park is located at 3207 Rumsey Road. This County-owned facility of approximately 6.9 acres and has 1,030 feet of frontage on Lake Huron in the Saginaw Bay. The park offers swimming, fishing, picnic areas, children's playground, beach volleyball, horseshoes pits, and a barrier free boardwalk and dock along the beach. The park has three pavilions, 16 campsites, 7 with electric and water hookups, and 5 rustic cabins. The park is a kayak and canoe staging site along the Blue Water Trail.



The County Parks discussed in the Inventory above are listed here and depicted in the map below:

1. Oasis Lake Park and Campground
2. Arenac County Fairgrounds
3. Youngman Park
4. Point Au Gres Park and Campground

# Arenac County Park Map



- Legend**
- 1. Oasis Lake Park and Campground
  - 2. Arenac County Fairgrounds/Children's Park
  - 3. Youngman Park
  - 4. Point Au Gres Park and Campground

## OTHER LOCAL PARKS

### Adams Township

Adams Township is located in the western part of the County and borders Gladwin County on the west and Bay County on the south. The North Branch of the Pine River runs through the Township. The State of Michigan owns over 7,900 acres or 35% of the land, most of which is in the Gladwin Forest Area as part of the Au Sable State Forest. The Michigan Department of Transportation holds a small section of land as a permanent right-of-way on I-75.

#### **Other Recreational Property**

Oasis Lake Park and Campground, a County-owned park, is located in Adams Township.

Gladwin Forest Area is owned by the State of Michigan as part of the Au Sable State Forest. Over 7,900 acres are contained in this property. It encompasses most of the northern half of the Township. Recreation activities, such as hunting, fishing, and camping are permitted on these State lands unless they are posted against such use. The necessary licenses and permits are required.

### Arenac Township

Arenac Township is located in the mid-section of the County and borders Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay on the southeast. The State of Michigan owns approximately 4,100 acres in the Township as parts of the Au Sable State Forest and the Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area. The Michigan Department of Transportation owns a small site as a roadside park.

The Rifle River crosses the Township diagonally from northwest to southeast emptying into Saginaw Bay. A major section of the Saverine Creek also runs from the western border emptying into the Rifle River just south of the City of Omer.

#### **Other Recreational Property**

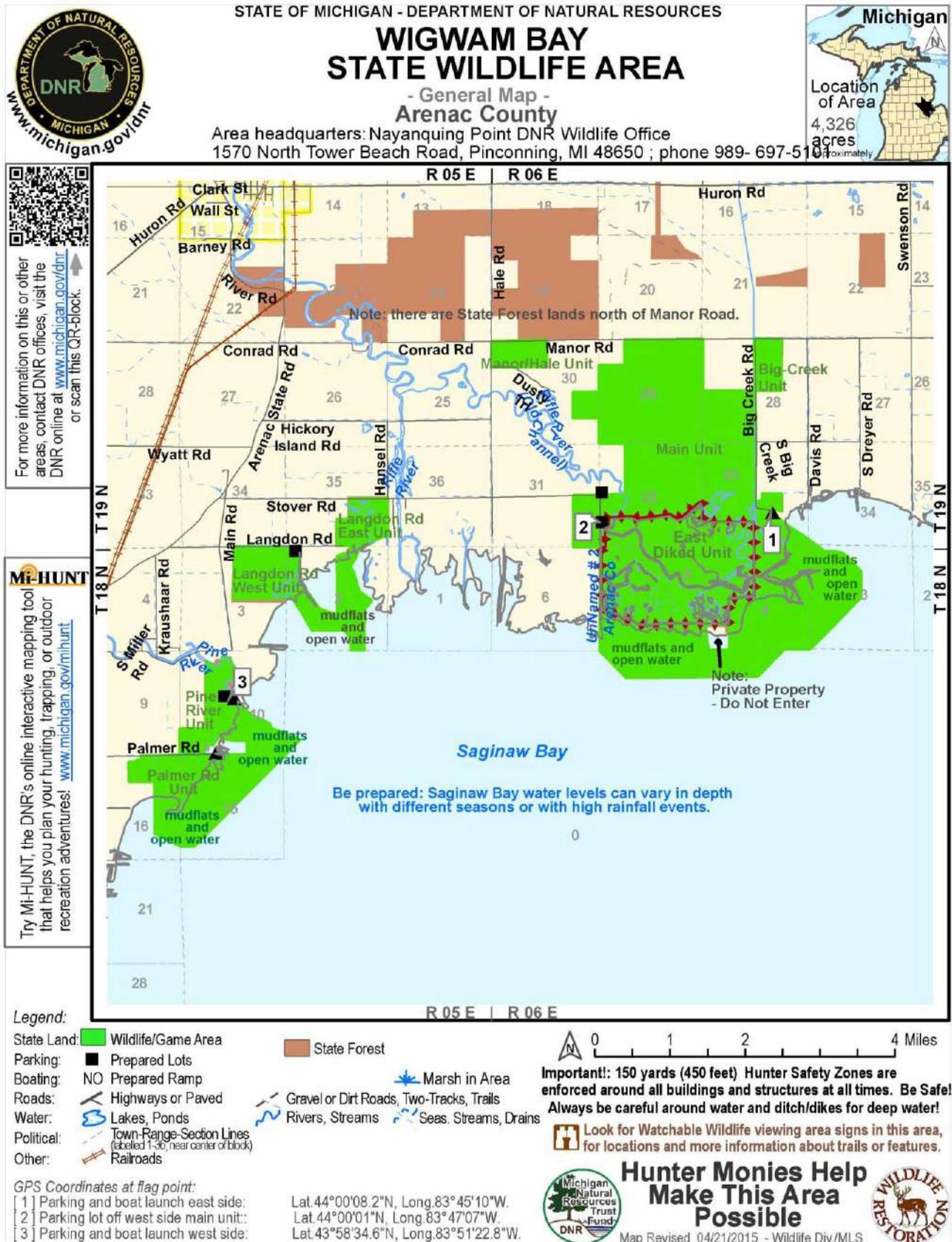
Youngman Park, a County-owned park, is located in Arenac Township.

Harold Lemon Roadside Park is located on the southeast side of US-23 between Sterling Road and Omer in Section 21 of the Township. This site, approximately five acres, is owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation. It is a wooded area containing rustic toilets, a water hand pump, grills, and ten to twelve picnic tables.

Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area is a 4,326-acre property that falls within the boundaries of Arenac Township in portions of Sections 4 and 5 of T.18 N.-R.6E. Owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this area's primary focus is recreational sport hunting for waterfowl, deer, pheasant, grouse, woodcock, rabbit, and turkey. The DNR is also using the area to increase waterfowl breeding and production. It is open to the public for educational viewing. In order to minimize disturbance to waterfowl and game, recreational vehicles are not permitted in the area; motorized vehicles are restricted to parking areas.



Map 6 - Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area



Gladwin Forest Area is owned by the State of Michigan as part of the Au Sable State Forest. This is comprised of over 4,000 acres located in parts of Sections 3, 4,5,7,8,13,14,17,18,23, and 24 of T.19N.-R.5E of Arenac Township. Recreation activities, such as hunting, fishing, camping, etc. are permitted on these State lands, unless they are posted against such use. The necessary licenses and permits are required.

There is one-fourth mile of Rifle River frontage adjoining State Road Park in Omer that is owned by the Lake State Railway Co.

The abandoned Detroit & Mackinaw Railroad Line Owned by Saginaw-Midland Water Supply Corporation is located approximately one-fourth mile north of and roughly parallel to US-23. Water pipelines extend underground the entire length of this property. The property is 100' wide and extends from Omer through Au Gres. In this township, it extends through Sections 13 and 14. It is the proposed location for a portion of the Governor's Showcase Trail in the county.

Big Bend Campground Inc. is located at 513 Conrad Road on the Rifle River. This privately owned facility has more than 180 campsites with electricity, showers, and toilets. A playground, lake, volleyball courts, recreation building, and boat slips are also available.

Riverbend Campground and Canoe Rental is located at 846 Main Street. This privately owned facility has 100 campsites with electricity, flush toilets, a picnic shelter, a children's playground, a store, and hiking trails. Canoe rental and fishing are available at this site.

The Whispering Pines Campground is at M-65 & Jose Rd. It is a privately owned and has 25 campsites with electricity, a flowing well and portable restrooms. Canoe and tube rentals are available at this site.

### City of Omer

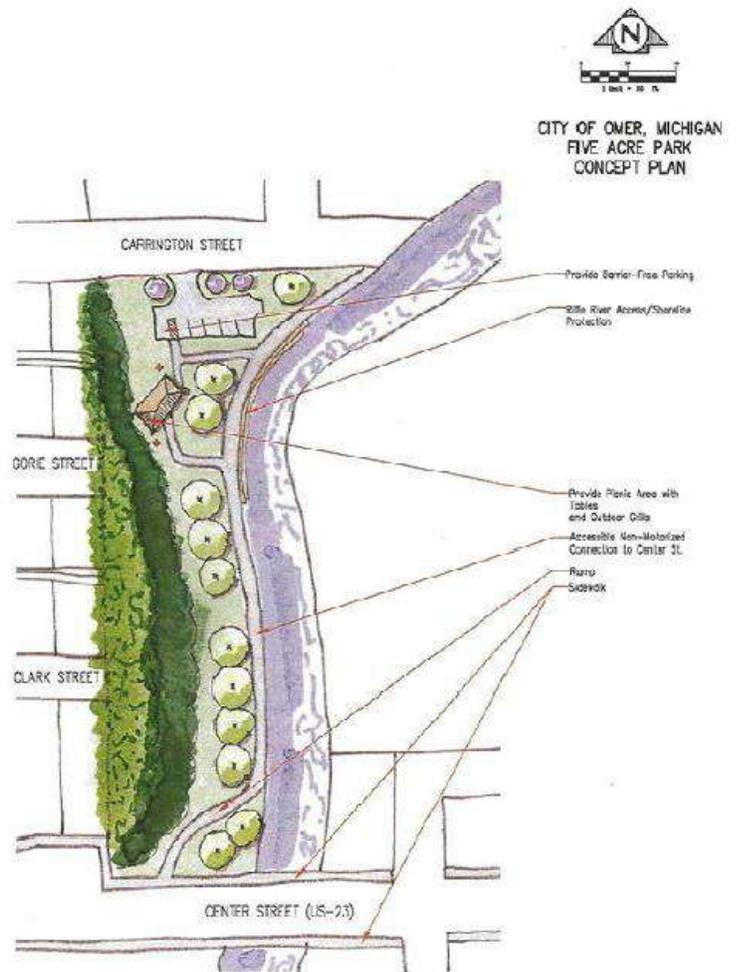
The City of Omer is located on US-23 in Arenac Township on the Rifle River.

#### City Property

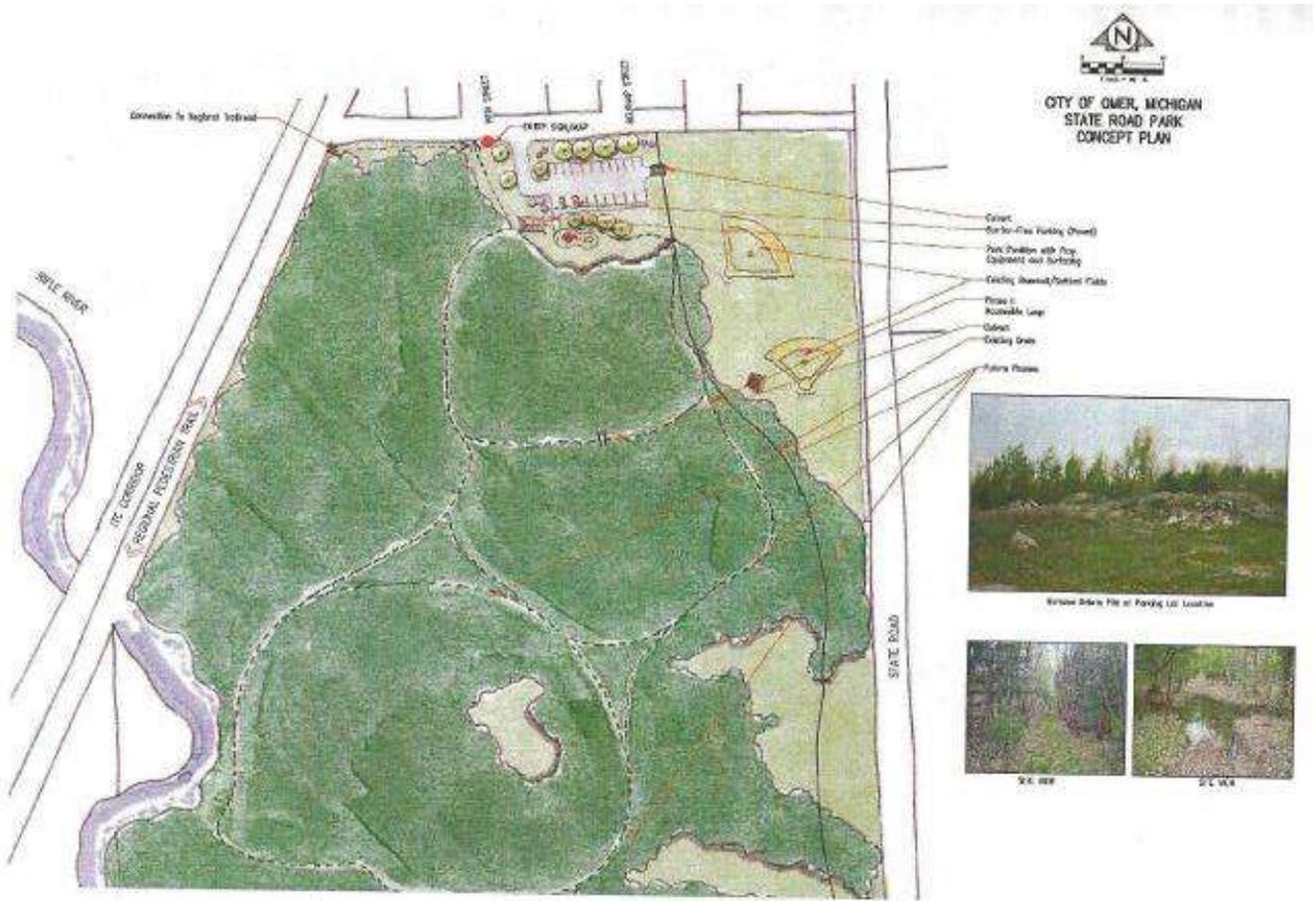
At the City Hall there are is children's playground.

There is a fishing access site on Rifle River near the fire hall.

Five acres located north of US-23 to the east of the Rifle River includes frontage on the Rifle River. Although presently undeveloped, the City has preliminary plans for trails, picnic pavilion and a small parking area. It would include construction of a wood bridge across the Rifle River. Access will be available from Carrington Street and off U.S. 23.



The Omer State Road Park is 58.5 acres on Arenac State Road. It includes Rifle River frontage, Little League field, men's softball field, small pavilion, and play equipment. The City of Omer has plans for development of trails and a trailhead for the proposed regional trail system. This will be a proposed trailhead for the State's Iron Belle Trail. The conceptual plan for this development includes a paved parking lot, pavilion and an accessible play structure.



### Other Recreational Property

The DNR Public Access Site on Michigan Avenue is approximately 0.75 acres on the Rifle River. There are steps to the river, fishing access, and an area to launch canoes. Parking for 40 cars is available.

DNR Land is located south of US-23, west of the Rifle River south of the property listed above. This site is currently undeveloped. Future plans include possibly purchasing or leasing this property for development as a park.

One-half city block near depot grounds is leased from the Lake State Railway Company and maintained as a roadside picnic area.

Sunrise Senior Services (Arenac County Council on Aging) is located at 131 Clyde. This facility is leased from Lake State Railway Company and is used as a group meal site and activity center for Senior Citizens. Other social events are occasionally held at this site.

Russell Canoes and Campground is located at 146 Carrington. This privately owned facility has 30 campsites with modern facilities. Canoes and tubes are available for rental.

The former County Courthouse, built in 1890 was built after the original courthouse burned to the ground. The paint was barely dry on the stately structure when the county seat was moved to Standish. The building sat vacant and abandoned until 1892, when it was purchased by the Masons. In June of 2005 the Arenac County Historical Society signed a contract to purchase this beautiful old building which is on the National Registry of Historic Places. The ACHS believes that this historic landmark is worth saving for future generations of County residents and visitors to Northeast Michigan. The ACHS currently hosts several events there as well as special meetings throughout the year.

## Au Gres Township

Au Gres Township is located in the eastern part of the County, bordered on the south and east by Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay. The State of Michigan owns portions of Sections 10, 18, 19, and 30 as part of the Au Sable State Forest. Portions of Sections 28, 29, 30, 32, and 33 are owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as part of the Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area. Also owned by the State are certain sections around Duck Lake. There are several major waterways in the Township which include: the Au Gres River, the Rifle River, and Big Creek.

### Township Property

The Au Gres Township Boardwalk is located at the end of Santiago Road at the Saginaw Bay. The Township has developed a nature walk at the site which is known as the Point Au Gres Nature Lookout. In addition to the nature walk, this site includes access to Lake Huron during the winter months for ice fishing and snowmobiling. There is a 600' lighted viewing walkway and observation platform along with a lighted parking lot. The walkway/observation deck was constructed of pressure treated timber with a handicap accessibility ramp at the beginning of the walkway. Lights and reflectors were installed along the walkway for easy visibility. The parking lot is graveled and lighted and was constructed to accommodate vehicles with trailers. The site is handicap accessible and has restrooms and a picnic area. There is a cedar privacy fence along the east property boundary to protect and buffer the surrounding properties. The existing trees have been preserved for natural habitat on the site.

The Township also owns a 40 acres vacant site at the southwest corner of Noggle Road and Swanson Road in Section 15.

### Other Recreational Property

Point Au Gres Park and Campground, a County-owned park, is located in Au Gres Township.

There is a 400' X 400' site located at 2982 Booth Road. This site is presently owned by the Point Au Gres Association. In the past, it has been used as a park by the property owners in the area and occasionally by the public. A pavilion, picnic tables, bathroom, and running water are available. Because of the high cost of liability insurance, the Association has closed the park. The Township is considering the acquisition of this



property, but not for recreational purposes. Instead, the Township would consider this site for a storage tank for water if the Township succeeds in installing a water and sewer line to the Point area.

Part of the 4,326-acre recreational area Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area is located in Au Gres Township in portions of Sections 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34. This property is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The primary focus of this area is recreational sport hunting for waterfowl, deer, pheasant, grouse, woodcock, rabbit, and turkey hunting. Waterfowl breeding and production is being increased in the area. Besides uses for hunting, it is open to the public for educational activities. No recreational vehicles are permitted in the area to minimize disturbances to waterfowl and game. Motorized vehicles are restricted to parking areas.

Gladwin Area Forest, owned by the State of Michigan as part of the Au Sable State Forest, is located in Sections 10, 18, 19, and 30 of the Township. Recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, and camping are permitted on these State lands unless they are posted against such use. The necessary licenses and permits are required.

The abandoned railroad line owned by Saginaw-Midland Water Supply Company is located approximately one-fourth mile north of and roughly parallel to US-23. Water pipelines are located underground on this property. The entire property extends from Omer through Au Gres. In this Township, it extends through Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. This corridor was designated by EMCOG for use as a bike trail.

Point Au Gres Marina is located at 2325 Green Drive. This privately owned facility is a combination marina and campground. It has 80 boat slips and 75 campsites. The camp sites range from primitive to full hook-ups.

## City of Au Gres

The City of Au Gres is located on US-23 in Au Gres Township, in the eastern section of the County. The Au Gres River, running through the City, provides a primary attraction to recreational visitors. The Harbor of Refuge, the Au Gres River, Point Lookout, and Point Au Gres on Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron are in this scenic section of the county. Au Gres offers great sport fishing on Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron and offers boat launching ramps and charter boats.



### City Property

Au Gres City Park/Campground is a 23-acre site located along the Au Gres River on Park Street. The area for registered campers includes a concrete boat ramp, fishing access, a fish cleaning station, and 119 camp sites with electricity, a dumping station, picnic tables, restrooms, and showers. A children's playground is available for visitors.

The day park includes two little league baseball fields with fences and bleachers, two team dug-outs, a concession stand, restrooms, a 60' x 100' enclosed pavilion, a picnic area with tables, a fishing area with river

access, a shuffleboard court, two lighted tennis courts, two lighted basketball courts, a one- fourth mile walking trail, horseshoe pits, and a lighted riverfront walk.

The pedestrian bridge over the Au Gres River links the park to the downtown shopping area. Campers and local residents can easily and safely access areas north of US-23 without having to walk along the highway. The bridge is an integral part of the developing trails system including the lighted river walk on Water Street to the new Au Gres Community Library.

The Au Gres KinderPlatz Park is a half-acre site located on Michigan Avenue. This site includes a pavilion, picnic facilities such as picnic tables, grills, and benches, and a play area with playground equipment. Also on site is an historic German Church now named "The Chapel in the Park." The church is available for weddings.

Au Gres Industrial Park/Disc Golf is located in the northern park of the City of Au Gres to the west of Court Street. This site consists of approximately 140 acres of undeveloped woods and fields with recreational trails. It is used for informal play including disc golf and hiking.

### **Other Recreational Property**

The Au Gres-Sims School is located on South Court Street in Au Gres. Both an elementary school and a high school are located at this site. Facilities include a multipurpose room, a gym, two tennis courts, which have basketball hoops and can be used as an outdoor basketball court, a baseball diamond, and a softball diamond, which can also be used as a football field, and elementary playground equipment. This site is 19.2 acres. The multipurpose room has a capacity of 200 persons. It is used with permission by community groups and is available for rental to private groups. The gym is used mainly by students during the school year, except for Wednesday evenings when it is open to alumni and on Sunday evenings when is used by a community group. During the summer it is available for use/rental by other groups. The outdoor facilities are used by certain groups such as the Pony League and various others on a regular basis. Other groups may schedule and reserve the facilities. If they are not being used, the outdoor facilities may be used by the public.

The Au Gres Harbor of Refuge and launch site, owned by the State of Michigan, is located on Water Street. The Au Gres Harbor of Refuge was being operated by the City of Au Gres but went into disuse over the past few years. The City of Au Gres is negotiating to buy the property. This harbor is one of 69 designated protective harbors and public marinas established for the safety and convenience of Great Lakes boaters. The 4.3-acre site has 35 slips. Marine fueling, sewage pump-out and water take-on, picnic grills, picnic tables, fishing access from docks and shoreline, bathroom and shower facilities, as well as parking for 30 cars is available at this site.

The Au Gres Access Site is owned by the State of Michigan, is located at South Main and Harbor Road. Facilities include a launch ramp, fishing access on the break wall and shoreline, and parking for nearly 300 cars. This site is designated on the Arenac Blue Water Trail.

The Arenac County Historical Museum, owned and operated by Arenac County Historical Society, is located on Michigan Avenue. This facility, which has no admission fee, is open to the public on weekends during the summer. Public programs are held monthly from May through September with exhibits appealing to every age and interest.

The Au Gres Yacht Club is located on River Drive. This private club operates a commercial marina and has docking facilities.

The Sleepy Oaks RV Campground is located on Main Street. This private facility offers car and trailer campsites, boat launching facilities, Lake Huron access and 293 sites.

Among other privately-operated recreational opportunities are charter boat services which provide fishing opportunities, diving opportunities, and even duck hunting possibilities. Some of these are within the City of Au Gres while the rest are a short distance from the city. Point Au Gres Marina provides two daily perch charters. One of its boats has a 20 passenger capacity and the other will accommodate 30 passengers.

Northport Marina offers two daily charters for walleye for up to six passengers. Besides these two, there are other charter providers. Most operate between May and September while some extend through November.

Huron Breeze Marina and Habortown Marina are private marina condominiums in the area. Huron Breeze Marina is located on Sage Creek and Habortown Marina is located on the Au Gres River.

## Clayton Township

Clayton Township is located in the northwestern section of the County and borders Ogemaw and Iosco Counties to the north. Within the Township are separate parcels of land belonging to the State of Michigan as part of the Au Sable State Forest. The State owns over 1,300 acres within Township boundaries. A section of the Rifle River runs parallel to the western border and there are several creeks in the Township which include: Burtch, Mansfield, Richter, and Townline Creeks.

### Township Property

Melita Ball Park is located at the intersection of Townline and Bishop Roads in Section 34. This 120-acre site has three baseball fields with fences, bleachers, and dugouts. A water well, a playground, and toilets are available at this site.

Maple Ridge Ballpark is located off Reed Road in Section 11 of the township. This 4.5-acre site is undeveloped.

A one acre site is located in Section 21 of the Township on Dobler Road. This is the location of the Township Hall. The Hall has a seating capacity of approximately 90 and is used by Township residents. A pavilion and picnic tables are also situated on this site.

### Other Recreational Property

An DNR Public Access Site is located in Section 18 of the Township on the Rifle River. This site is administered by the Recreation Division of the DNR. It has 20 parking spaces and toilet facilities.

Gladwin Forest Area, owned by the State of Michigan as part of the Au Sable State Forest, is located in Sections 7, 8, 17, 18, and 36 of the Township. Recreation activities are permitted on these State lands unless they are posted against such use. The necessary licenses and permits are required.

The Rifle River Canoe Rental is located at 5825 Townline Road. This privately owned facility has 25 camping sites with electricity and flush toilets. Canoe rental, fishing opportunities, nature trails, a recreation building, playground, and store are available.

## Deep River Township

Deep River Township is located in the middle section of the County and contains 34.91 square miles. Of this, the State of Michigan owns various parcels that are part of the Au Sable State Forest and total 1,280 acres.

The Michigan Department of Transportation has retained a small parcel of land as a scenic area in the Township. Travel within the Township is facilitated by a section of the I-75 expressway with an interchange just west of the Village of Sterling. US-23 cuts through the southeastern tip of the Township, and there are several well maintained paved and gravel roads in the southern part of the Township. Waterways include the North Branch of the Pine River in the southern part of the Township and the Rifle River which runs across the entire width of the Township in the north. The Township also contains the western section of Saverine Creek.

### **Township Property**

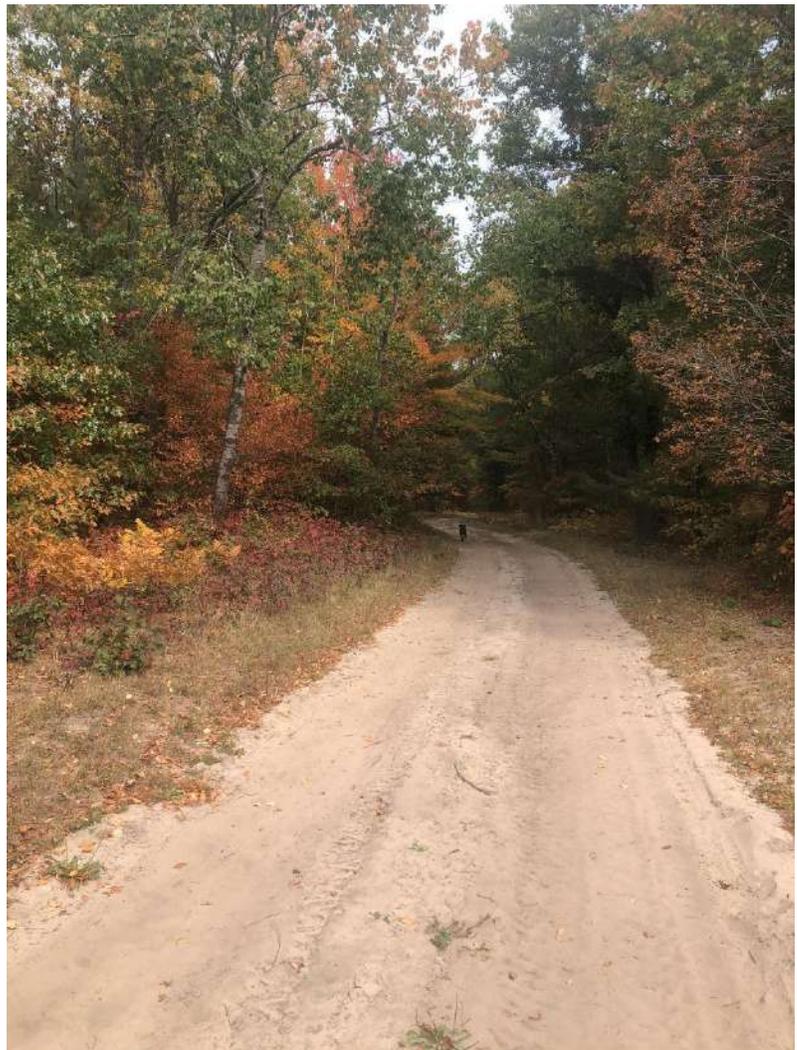
Deep River Township Ball Park is located east of the intersection of State Street and Locust Road in the Village of Sterling. Two fenced baseball fields are available at this site. One of the fields has dug-outs and bleachers. There is a 50' x 100' lighted pavilion on this property. The site also has pit toilets, 22 picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, and two soccer fields. The Township Hall is located on this property. With a capacity of approximately 500 and kitchen facilities, it is available for rentals. It is also used regularly for preschool classes.

### **Other Recreational Property**

The Au Sable State Forest (1,280 acres) is owned by the State of Michigan in the Gladwin Forest Area as part of the Au Sable State Forest. This land is divided into various parcels. One 160-acre parcel is located in the northwest part of the Township. The other parcels are in the northeast part of the Township. Some of these parcels are accessible by public roads but others are landlocked with no access. The Township has recently obtained an easement to the 80 acres in Section 3 off Franklin Trail.

The 4-H Club Property is located on M-76 in Section 19 of the Township and is held in trust by the County. It consists of approximately 25 acres of undeveloped land that is mostly pine trees.

The Standish-Sterling School District Property, 80 acres of forested land, are located on Sterling Road in Section 22 of the Township. This land is presently undeveloped. It is unavailable for public use.



The Standish-Sterling Central Junior High School is located on the southwest corner of Wyatt Road and Grove Street in Section 35 of the Township. The southern and western boundaries of this 80 acre site are surrounded by pine trees and the Pine River runs through the property. The facilities on-site include a gym, two baseball

fields with dug-outs and bleachers, a practice football field, a game football field with floodlights, a cinder track around the field, equipment for the field events in track and field, two sets of bleachers, and a scoreboard. When these facilities are not in use by the school, neighborhood use is permitted. These facilities are available for use/rental by community groups or organizations with the knowledge that certain restrictions and guidelines apply. The School District also offers summer recreational programs such as arts and crafts, swimming and instruction in swimming, training in track events for competition in the Northeast Michigan Olympics, basketball clinics, and much more.

The Standish Sterling Central High School is located in the northeast corner at the intersection of Wyatt Road and Grove Street in Section 35. The facility was built in 2001. This new high school compliments old facilities located at the junior high school as well as new facilities. The gymnasium offers a full-size basketball court with a seating capacity of over 7,500. When seating is not needed, two full-size courts are available. An auditorium for concert-type activities and plays seats around 1,000 and a swimming pool. Outdoor facilities at the site include an archery area, regulation baseball and softball fields with dugouts, and high school soccer fields with seating and a field house capable of hosting outdoor activities.

The Riverview Campground and Canoe Livery is located on 5755 Townline Road and is a privately owned facility offers more than 100 campsites which range between primitive sites to full hook-ups and even cabins. The site also has picnic facilities, showers and flush toilets are available, and 150 canoes available for rental.

Outdoor Adventure is located on the Rifle River and has 160 campsites with electricity and flush toilets available with a picnic area and pavilion. Horseshoe pits, volleyball opportunities, and a game hall are located at this site. A spring-fed pond is open for swimming. Tube and canoe rentals are available.

Crystal Creek Campground is located on Grove Road at the Rifle River and is a privately-owned facility has 110 campsites, most of which are modern. A few primitive campsites are available. Canoe and tube rentals are offered.

White's Canoe Livery is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Sterling on old M-70 and is a privately-owned campground and canoe livery with 100 group campsites, some with light duty electrical service. Modern plumbing facilities are available at the park's entrance. There are picnic tables and grills in a wooded setting. Canoe and tube rentals are available to campers.

## Village of Sterling

The Village of Sterling is located in central Deep River Township.

### Village Property

The Village Park at the Village Hall is bounded by State, Locust, Main, and Chestnut Streets. This one-block area contains ten swings, two slides, two sets of jungle bars, and four spring toys, horseshoe pits, two softball/baseball fields, four picnic tables, a barbecue pit, a small shelter, and a water pump. Two tennis



courts are also located at this site. During the 1998-2002 planning period, the village upgraded the ball fields and adding new playground equipment.

The Village Hall is located at 137 East Main at the intersection of Main and Cherry Streets and is a small building that accommodates about 40 people. It is occasionally used by Senior Citizens or other village residents.

Sterling Village Property, located in Section 6 of Deep River Township, is Village-owned property consisting of 80 acres of land-locked forest. It is adjacent to 160 acres of State Forest land. The Rifle River runs through the north end of the property. The Village is presently trying to obtain an easement to this property. After this easement is obtained, plans for this property include developing a picnic area and nature/cross-country ski trails.

### **Other Recreational Property**

The Sterling Elementary School, located at the intersection of State and School Streets, is property is owned by the Standish-Sterling School District. There is a gym, a Little League field, outdoor basketball hoops, and a playground at this site. When this property is not in use by the school, neighborhood use is permitted. Within certain restrictions and guidelines, community groups or organizations sometimes use or rent the facilities.

## **Lincoln Township**

Lincoln Township is located in the far southwestern part of the County and is bordered by Bay County. The Township contains several waterways which include the Pine River, the Middle and South Branches of the Pine River, and Saganing Creek.

### **Township Property**

Lincoln Township owns 20 acres in Section 4 on Deep River Road approximately one-quarter mile north of M-61 where there are six ball fields and a small building.

## **City of Standish**

The City of Standish is located on the border of Lincoln and Standish Townships, but the city limits are contained within Lincoln Township. The City of Standish is the Gateway to the Sunrise Side of Michigan. With the scenic US-23 route along Lake Huron, it has become the traditional rest stop for motorists to obtain food and fuel. Standish is headquarters for hunters, fishermen, cross- country skiers, and snowmobilers and would like to become the same for kayakers and canoers.



### City Property

The City Park with a gazebo is located at the intersection of Beaver and North Grove Streets. Future plans for the City Park call for the complete landscaping of the property including, but not limited to, trees, shrubs, flowers, rock gardens, an automated sprinkler system, installation of electricity to the gazebo, decorative lighting for a walking path through the park, some type of seating, and improvement of the surface of the adjacent parking area for citizens using the park.

The Arenac Heritage Route Authority Standish Depot is located at the intersection of US 23 and M61 in the heart of the City of Standish. The Depot is a newly restored Michigan Central Railroad depot that was originally built in 1889. The Depot is the home of the Sunrise Welcome Center. It has displays of railroad artifacts and depot memorabilia. Outside are vintage British rail coaches and a D&M caboose open for viewing. The depot also has a bandstand used for events. The Depot hosts exercise sessions with the Runners' Club.

The Standish Elementary School, located at 583 East Cedar Street in Standish, is owned by the Standish-Sterling Community School District. The Elementary School was closed and is now used as a Community Center. According to the Community Center website, the purposed of the Community Center is to provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere for children during the summer months and after school. The Center works with the local school districts, 4-H at Michigan State University Extension, and other local partnerships. The facility features a theater, computer lab, game room, arts and crafts rooms, toy room, open space to play, reading stations, a large gymnasium, a meeting and event room, 3 soccer fields, 2 playgrounds, basketball hoops, and a full professional kitchen. In addition to these amenities for the children, the Community Center is also available to rent for outside groups.

The City Hall Park is located on East Beaver Street on the site of the old City Hall building. There is a 14 x 14 foot gazebo located between the New City Hall and the site of the old City Hall. Future goals include that the 50 x 90 foot slab remaining after the demolition of the old building would be made into outdoor basketball courts for summer use and an ice rink for winter activities. The City has currently bermed the space to hold water that will be supplied by the local Fire Department for the ice rink. The gazebo, which is used for public and community events, is located adjacent to the site and will be wired for electricity to allow for automated lighting of the area and a possible sound system for convenience at the outdoor weddings performed by the Mayor of the City of Standish. The entire property will require additional landscaping, parking, and fencing.



The Arenac Lanes Bowling Alley, located in Standish Plaza, is a privately owned and operated facility that has twelve lanes with an attached game room which occasionally handles small banquets.

### Mason Township

Mason Township is located in the north central part of the County and borders Iosco and Ogemaw Counties. There are 31.38 square miles in the Township. Approximately 20% of the land is owned by the State of Michigan. This ownership includes separated parcels of land which total almost 3,879 acres of the Au Sable

State Forest. No rivers run through the Township, but it is traversed diagonally from its northwest corner to its southeast corner by Big Creek. It also contains a section of Cedar Creek.

### **Township Property**

A 40-Acre Site is located at the intersection of Maple Ridge and Lehman Roads in Section 13 of the Township. This site has a softball and a Little League field with bleachers, a horse arena, a water well, and pit toilets. Pine and oak trees border the southern and eastern edges of this property. A huge sandpit area is overgrown with weeds and small trees, and there is also a grassy field of approximately eight acres. Possible future use includes basketball courts, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard courts, and/or a volleyball area.

### **Other Recreational Property**

The Gladwin Forest is located for the most part in Sections 15,29,30,31,32,33, and 34 of the Township. There is a total of 3,878.68 acres included in this State owned land, which is part of the Au Sable State Forest. Recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, and camping are permitted on these State lands unless they are posted against such use. The necessary licenses and permits are required.

The Arenac County Sportsman's Club, located in the southeast corner of Section 20, is a 40 acre site is owned by the Arenac County Sportsman's Club. A clubhouse and rifle range are located on the property. Though usually available only to members, different shoots sponsored by this group are open to the public.

## **Village of Twining**

The Village of Twining is located on the border of Mason and Turner Townships.

### **Other Recreational Property**

The Arenac Eastern High School, located at 200 Smalley Street, is owned by the Arenac Eastern School District. However, the district is currently closing. Facilities include a gymnasium, a football field, a baseball diamond, a softball field, and a fully-equipped playground.

## **Moffatt Township**

Moffatt Township is located in the far northwest corner of the County and is bordered by Ogemaw and Gladwin Counties. The Township is made up of 32.13 square miles. Of this, the State of Michigan owns approximately 5,777 acres. Most of the State-owned land is in the Au Sable State Forest while some is near Forest Lake. Waterways in the Township include sections of the Rifle River as well as Bear Creek and Wells Creek. The man-made Forest Lake, located in Sections 14, 15, 23, and 24 of the Township, was created in the 1970's by an impoundment of Wells Creek. It has had a major impact on development in the Township as approximately 1,200 acres surrounding the lake are in the Forest Lake Subdivision. Highway travel and access is excellent in the Township.

### **Township Property**

Moffatt Township Ballpark, located off Old M-76 on Henry Street in Section 16 of the Township, is a site of approximately 40 acres that has three baseball fields, two of which have dugouts and bleachers, a pavilion enclosed on two sides, picnic tables, a water well, toilets, and a large storage shed. This property has a chain link fence along the Henry Street side.

The Township Hall is located on Newberry Street. Kitchen facilities are available. This hall is used for weekend bingo and occasionally rented to private groups.

### **Other Recreational Property**

Eighty acres near Forest Lake is owned by the Standish-Sterling School District and located in Section 14 of the Township. This property is undeveloped and is not available for public use. Forest Lake Subdivision is located in Sections 14, 15, 23, and 24 of the Township. Forest Lake, formed by an impoundment of Wells Creek, is approximately 300 acres. There is no public access to the lake. All of the land surrounding the lake is privately owned. For property owners in the area, there are beaches and boat launches that provide opportunities for fishing, swimming, and other water activities. A clubhouse, basketball court, campground, ball diamond, and dugouts are also available to property owners.

Gladwin Forest Area, owned by the State of Michigan as part of the Au Sable State Forest, is located in the southern one-third of the Township. It comprises over 5,600 acres which makes for almost 28% of the land in the Township. Recreation activities, such as hunting, fishing, and camping are permitted on these State lands unless they are posted against such activities. The necessary licenses and permits are required.

There is a Freeway Rest Area located south of the Alger exit. The site, owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation, is approximately 25 acres. It includes a heated building which houses flush toilets and running water that is open year-round. Telephones, parking for cars and trucks, 20-30 picnic tables, and a wooded relaxation area are provided at this site.

## **Sims Township**

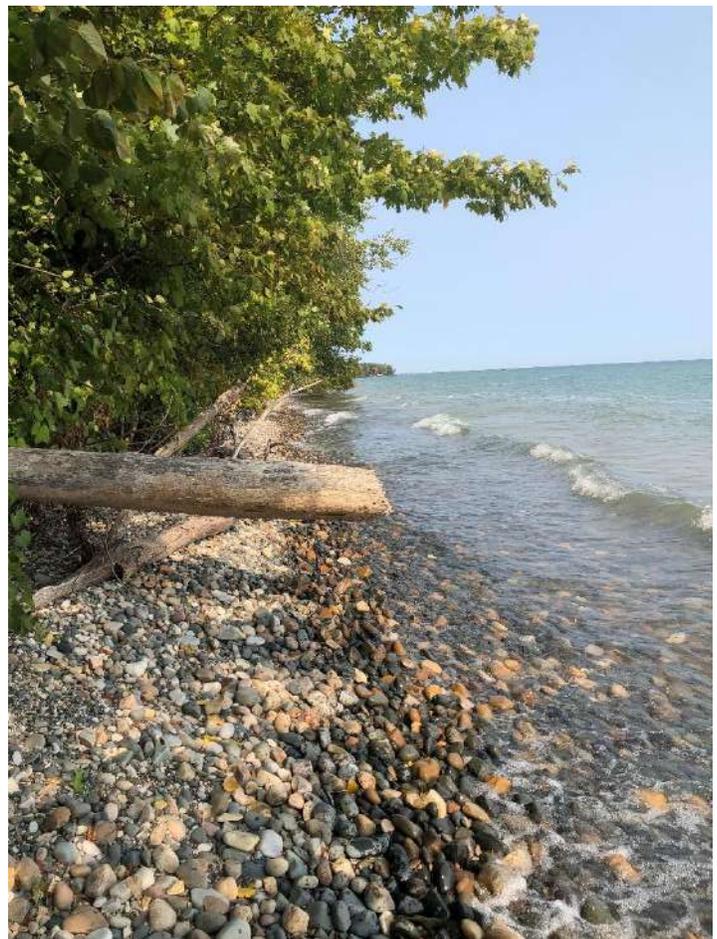
Sims Township is in the northeast of the county and is located on Lake Huron which forms its southern and eastern borders. The Township has 10.74 square miles which includes a small federally owned island called Little Charity Island. The Au Gres River crosses into the Township along the western border.

### **Township Property**

The Sims and Whitney Township Beach, located in Section 2 of the Township, is jointly owned by Sims and Whitney Townships. This small, undeveloped property is the beach frontage part of the property used as a cemetery by the two townships. There are no facilities at the beachfront, and the site has parking for only four or five cars. Other cars park on the highway. Because of the beach's small size and secluded location, it is mainly used by Township residents.

### **Other Recreational Property**

A parcel of land at Tonkey Road and Lake Huron is a narrow strip of land from Michigan Avenue to the Bay that has been deeded to the Arenac County Road Commission. It has a road leading into it, but the property is presently undeveloped.



There are various road endings in the Township under the jurisdiction of the Arenac County Road Commission which are open to the public. Among these are locations at the ends of Foster Road, Michigan Avenue, Bessinger Road, Tonkey Road, and Terrace Street as well as some very obscure road endings. Most road endings are 66 feet wide. These are used for access to the beach for various purposes, including access by ice fishermen in the winter. There is at least one area (Promenade Beach) which is used for beach strolls by the public. Some of the areas are primarily intended for the use of property owners who own back lots in the area. These road endings have also been identified as part of the Arenac County Blue Water Trail.

Northport Campground Association, located approximately one mile north of Au Gres, is a privately-owned facility with 135 modern condo campsites. A condo campground is one in which the sites are privately owned.

The Northport Marina, located approximately one mile east of Au Gres, is a privately-owned facility with over 300 privately owned boat slips, and a public boat launching facilities as well as boat sales and storage. Its newly dredged channel is six-feet-deep at the shallowest point. A club house and pool are available to members.

The Huron Breeze Golf Course, located four-and-one-half miles east of Au Gres on the west side of US-23, is a privately owned facility open to the public. It offers an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse.

## Standish Township

Standish Township is located in the southeastern section of the County and is bordered by Lake Huron on the east and Bay County on the south. Portions of Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area, owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, are located in Standish Township along Lake Huron at the mouth of the Pine River. The boat access on the river in the wildlife area has been designated as launch/landing site in the Blue Water Trail.

A small section of land is being held by the Michigan Department of Transportation for a future freeway ramp. A small Roadside Park is also owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The major waterways in this township are the Pine River and the South and Middle Branches of the Pine. Saganing Creek runs across the width of the Township in the southern section.

### Other Recreational Property

Portions of the Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area, a 4,326 acres facility, are located in Sections 10 and 15 of the Township along Lake Huron at the mouth of the Pine River. This newly expanded property belongs to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and was acquired through funds generated by duck hunting fees. The primary focus of the area is recreational sport hunting of waterfowl, deer, pheasant, grouse, woodcock, rabbit and turkey. The area is dedicated to the improvement of waterfowl habitat. It provides an excellent deer and pheasant habitat, and it also has the highest breeding woodcock population on Saginaw Bay. The area is open to educational activities by the public.

Pine River Public Access Site is located in Section 10 of the Township at the mouth of



the Pine River in the Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area. It provides access to Saginaw Bay. It is administered by the Recreation Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The development of picnic areas, wildlife viewing facilities for handicapped, nature walks, and increased parking areas are included in the long range plans for this facility. As indicated above, it is designated as a launch/landing site on the Arenac County Blue Water Trail.

The Standish School District Property, located in Section 12 of the Township on Pine River Road, is an undeveloped site consists of 80 acres of pine trees. It is owned by the Standish-Sterling School District. It is not available for public use.

The City of Standish Property is located in Section 12 adjoining the school property. This 25 acre City-owned site is undeveloped.

Whites Beach is located in Section 29 of the Township. Public access to Lake Huron is available at this site. This is also a launch/landing site on the Arenac County Blue Water Trail.

Outdoor Adventures – Saginaw Bay is a privately owned facility with 376 camping sites and 20 rental units. The site has a small pond with a beach, hiking trails, playground, pool, hot tub, putt-putt, fishing, basketball, horseshoes, volleyball, and planned activities.

The Eagle Bay Marina, located on Lake Huron on Sagatoo Road, is a privately owned marina also designated as a potential launch/landing site on the Arenac County Blue Water Trail.

The Pine River Golf Club, located at 2244 Pine River Road, facility is a privately-owned golf course but is open to the public. It offers an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse on 80 acres.

## Turner Township

Turner Township is located in the northeastern section of the County and is bordered by Iosco County. The Township is comprised of 30.84 square miles. The major waterway is the Au Gres River which is located toward the eastern border of Turner Township. Other waterways include Big Creek and Cedar Creek Drain.

### Township Property

Forty acres of wooded land is located at the intersection of Gawlic and Swartz Roads in Section 16. This property is presently undeveloped. There are no immediate plans for its development.

### Other Recreational Property

The property previously owned by the Arenac Eastern High School, located at the intersection of East Twining Road and Herr Road in Section 23, is now private property consisting of 80 acres of wooded land and is unavailable to the public.



## Village of Turner

The Village of Turner is located in the northwest section of Turner Township.

### Village Property

This property consists of a one block area located between Second Street and Third Street; North Street is on the west side of this property and Pine Street is on the east side. This property contains a pole barn for storage of a tractor, dump truck, and other Village equipment. The Village is planning to construct a lighted tennis court and basketball court next to the storage building. The playground equipment (swing set and slide) at the Depot Grounds have been reinstalled at this site. Future plans include picnic tables and other unspecified improvements.

Two lots along the Turner A. Scott Drain are located between First and Main Streets, bounded on the east by Pine Street and on the west by the railroad tracks. This property is presently undeveloped.

### Other Recreational Property

A one block area of property (the old Depot Grounds) bordered by Main Street to the north, "A" Street to the west, and Railroad Street to the east is owned by the Lake State Railway Company and leased to the Village of Turner. It presently includes playground equipment and a memorial plaque. The playground swings and slide have been moved to the location between Second and Third Streets.

## Whitney Township

Whitney Township is located in the northeast corner of the County and is bordered by Iosco County and Lake Huron. This includes Big Charity Island, 222.13 acres of which 99% is owned by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The State of Michigan owns approximately 1,295 acres as part of the Au Sable State Forest along the Iosco County line. Waterways include the Whitney Drain, the East Branch of the Au Gres River and a small section of the Au Gres River. Cranberry Lake, a 34 acre dry lake, is located in the northeast section of the Township.

### Township Property

Whitney Township Property is located on Delano Road in Section 21 of the Township. Lake Huron is approximately four miles to the east. This undeveloped property, 60 acres of wooded land has ample room for recreational development.

Whitney Township Quarry, a 120-acre site, is located on Noble Road in Section 24 of the township. The quarry has been depleted of valuable gravel. A plan has been created for trails and other recreational uses, but has not been implemented.



### Other Recreational Property

The DNR access to Singing Bridge is funded jointly through the Dingell-Johnson "Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act" and with Michigan Fishing License fees. This site, administered by the Recreation Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is located on US-23 at the Whitney Drain (East Branch of the Au Gres River). It is a public fishing site, with parking for a 120 cars and pit toilets available. It is the scene of surf fishing for Steelhead and Chinook salmon in Spring & Fall. It is a swimming site in the summer. The site has been designated as a launch/landing site on the Arenac County Blue Water Trail.

There are two sites along the Whitney Drain about 4 miles west of the Singing Bridge Public Access, one off Noble Road and one off Turner Road, that offer access to the naturalized drain. These locations are owned by the DNR and can provide access by kayakers and canoers to the Arenac County Blue Water Trail.

Brown's Landing RV Park is located at 1129 Dyer Road at the Arenac-Iosco county line on Lake Huron. This privately-owned facility has 80 campsites for recreational vehicles. Electricity and water are provided for all 80 sites while sewer is provided to 50 sites. A shower house, rest rooms, and a dump station are available. The 350 foot Lake Huron frontage provides swimming opportunities to campers and the park owners carry out Charity Island boat tours. The site also has a 120' pier. This site at the end of Dyer Road is designated as a launch/landing site on the Arenac County Blue Water Trail.

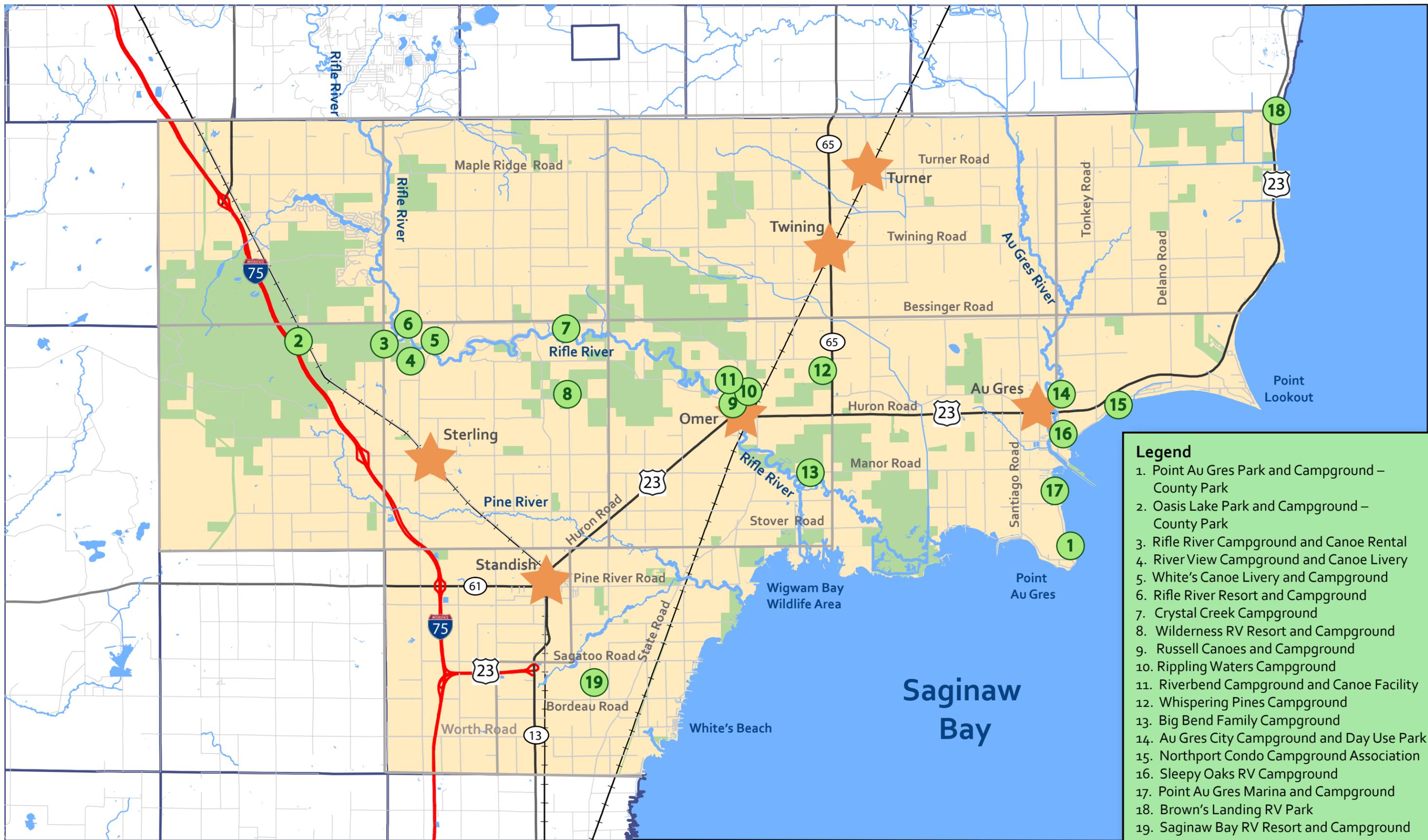
The Singing Bridge Golf Course is located on US-23 approximately nine miles north of Au Gres. A driving range and an 18-hole, par 72 golf course are open to the public.

## CAMPGROUNDS

The campground locations discussed in the Inventory above are listed here and depicted in the map below.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Point Au Gres Park and Campground – County Park | 11. Riverbend Campground and Canoe Facility  |
| 2. Oasis Lake Park and Campground – County Park    | 12. Whispering Pines Campground              |
| 3. Rifle River Campground and Canoe Rental         | 13. Big Bend Family Campground               |
| 4. River View Campground and Canoe Livery          | 14. Au Gres City Campground and Day Use Park |
| 5. White's Canoe Livery and Campground             | 15. Northport Condo Campground Association   |
| 6. Rifle River Resort and Campground               | 16. Sleepy Oaks RV Campground                |
| 7. Crystal Creek Campground                        | 17. Point Au Gres Marina and Campground      |
| 8. Wilderness RV Resort and Campground             | 18. Brown's Landing RV Park                  |
| 9. Russell Canoes and Campground                   | 19. Saginaw Bay RV Resort and Campground     |
| 10. Rippling Waters Campground                     |  |

# Arenac County Campground Location Map



- Legend**
1. Point Au Gres Park and Campground – County Park
  2. Oasis Lake Park and Campground – County Park
  3. Rifle River Campground and Canoe Rental
  4. River View Campground and Canoe Livery
  5. White's Canoe Livery and Campground
  6. Rifle River Resort and Campground
  7. Crystal Creek Campground
  8. Wilderness RV Resort and Campground
  9. Russell Canoes and Campground
  10. Rippling Waters Campground
  11. Riverbend Campground and Canoe Facility
  12. Whispering Pines Campground
  13. Big Bend Family Campground
  14. Au Gres City Campground and Day Use Park
  15. Northport Condo Campground Association
  16. Sleepy Oaks RV Campground
  17. Point Au Gres Marina and Campground
  18. Brown's Landing RV Park
  19. Saginaw Bay RV Resort and Campground

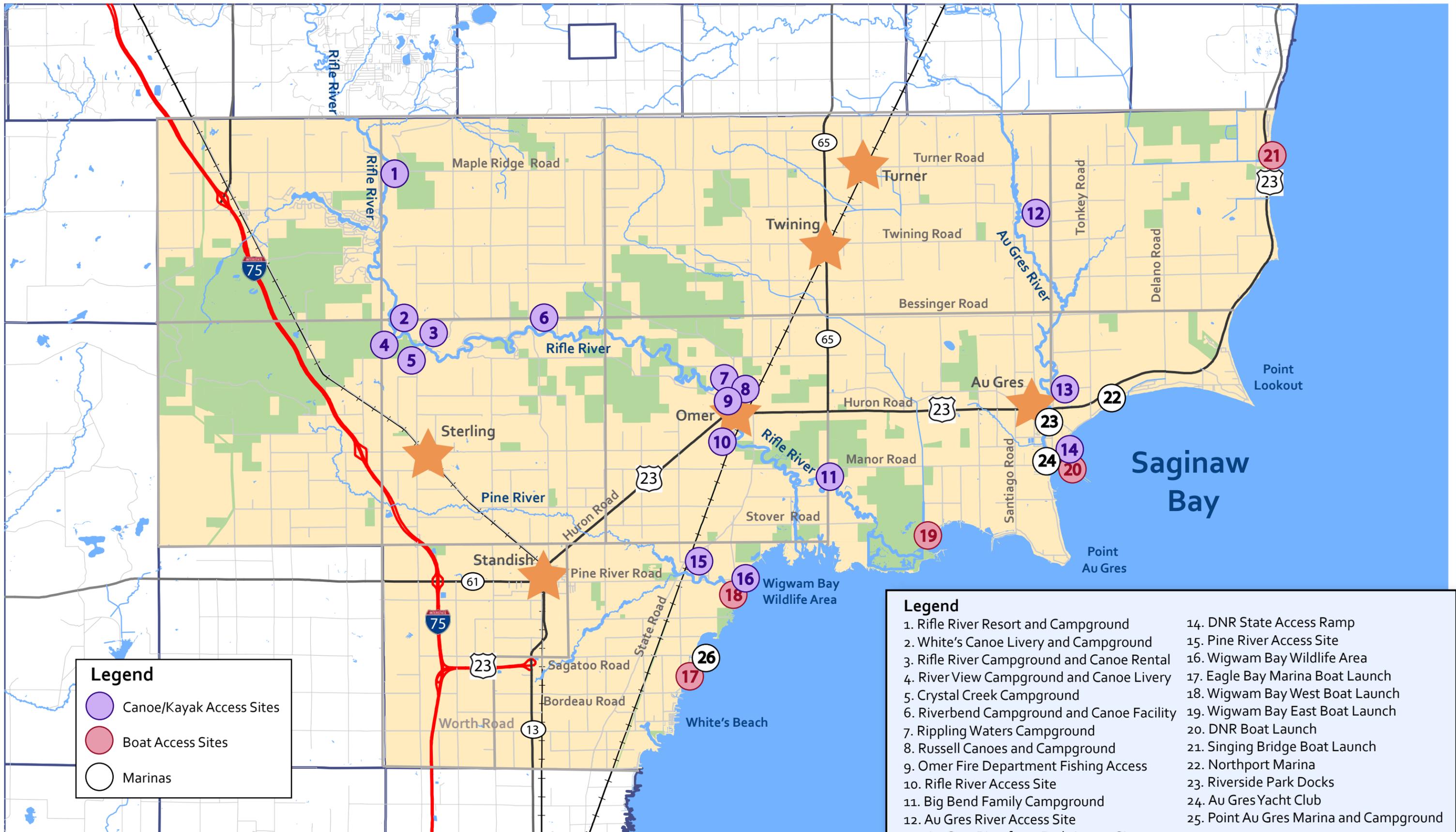
## WATER ACCESS POINTS

Map 9 highlights canoe/kayak access sites, boat access sites, and marinas. Moffatt Bridge Access

1. Rifle River Resort and Campground
2. White's Canoe Livery and Campground
3. Rifle River Campground and Canoe Rental
4. River View Campground and Canoe Livery
5. Crystal Creek Campground
6. Riverbend Campground and Canoe Facility
7. Rippling Waters Campground
8. Russell Canoes and Campground
9. Rifle River Access Site
10. Big Bend Family Campground
11. Au Gres River Access Site
12. Au Gres Riverfront Park Access Site
13. DNR State Access Ramp
14. Pine River Access Site
15. Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area
16. Eagle Bay Marina Boat Launch
17. Wigwam Bay West Boat Launch
18. Wigwam Bay East Boat Launch
19. DNR Boat Launch
20. Singing Bridge Boat Launch
21. Northport Marina
22. Riverside Park Docks
23. Au Gres Yacht Club
24. Point Au Gres Marina and Campground
25. Eagle Bay Marina



# Arenac County Waterfront Access Site Map



**Legend**

- Canoe/Kayak Access Sites
- Boat Access Sites
- Marinas

**Legend**

1. Rifle River Resort and Campground	14. DNR State Access Ramp
2. White's Canoe Livery and Campground	15. Pine River Access Site
3. Rifle River Campground and Canoe Rental	16. Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area
4. River View Campground and Canoe Livery	17. Eagle Bay Marina Boat Launch
5. Crystal Creek Campground	18. Wigwam Bay West Boat Launch
6. Riverbend Campground and Canoe Facility	19. Wigwam Bay East Boat Launch
7. Rippling Waters Campground	20. DNR Boat Launch
8. Russell Canoes and Campground	21. Singing Bridge Boat Launch
9. Omer Fire Department Fishing Access	22. Northport Marina
10. Rifle River Access Site	23. Riverside Park Docks
11. Big Bend Family Campground	24. Au Gres Yacht Club
12. Au Gres River Access Site	25. Point Au Gres Marina and Campground
13. Au Gres Riverfront Park Access Site	

## Trails

Communities across the United States are creating regional trail systems in both cities and rural areas to provide a higher quality of life for residents. In fact, of all the states, Michigan has the largest rail-trail system. Even more impressive, these trails cover long distances, which is uncommon in other states. Trails give residents the opportunity to be more active and healthy, safer while walking or biking on the roads, additional ways to experience their community, and give all users the option of increased mobility in different modes of travel.

Historically, the roads in the County have been designed with only automobile traffic in mind. However, communities are now working toward creating a network of trails and roads that are accessible to several forms of traffic. This often means sharing the existing road right-of-way with bikes or having a separate pathway running parallel to the road which is designated for non-motorized use and connects regional centers.

### Why trails are important

While trails can be a challenge to implement, their positive effects on a community cannot be disputed. It has been proven that trails create a pride of place and sense of ownership in Michigan residents. Trails are also an important driver in the local and regional economy, increase property values, and provide safe and healthy recreation options. The growing trail trend in Michigan is also reflected in the County. Trails and pathways would be an asset to the community.

Trail users have a measurable impact on the local economy. Working with the surrounding townships and other jurisdictions is an effective way to connect with existing systems and expand the non-motorized pathway infrastructure. These projects would create a long-term, valuable investment in the community and the opportunity to connect the County to others in the region. This would promote economic vitality, encourage a healthier lifestyle in their residents, and create a safer travel environment.

### County of Arenac Trails and Pathways

#### Iron Belle – Saganing Anishinabak Miikana Section

The Iron Belle Trail is a set of two trails that traverses the entire state of Michigan from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. The eastern trail, 827 miles, is a bike route that utilizes existing bike paths, bike lanes, and designated biking routes. The western trail, 1,203 miles, is the hiking route that uses the North Country National Scenic Trail. The eastern trail is planned to traverse the County. The current route will follow the Lake State railroad bed from the southern border of the County to the City of Omer. From Omer, the trail will follow US 23 to Au Gres, then will continue along US 23 to the northern border of the County. This path will total 31 miles of non-motorized facilities in the County. The future plans for this trail are referenced in the MDOT Bay Region Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

#### TRAIL SECTIONS STATUS UPDATE:

**Southern County Line to Omer** – The DNR staff has secured a Trust Fund Grant for an easement agreement along the Lake State Railroad right-of way.

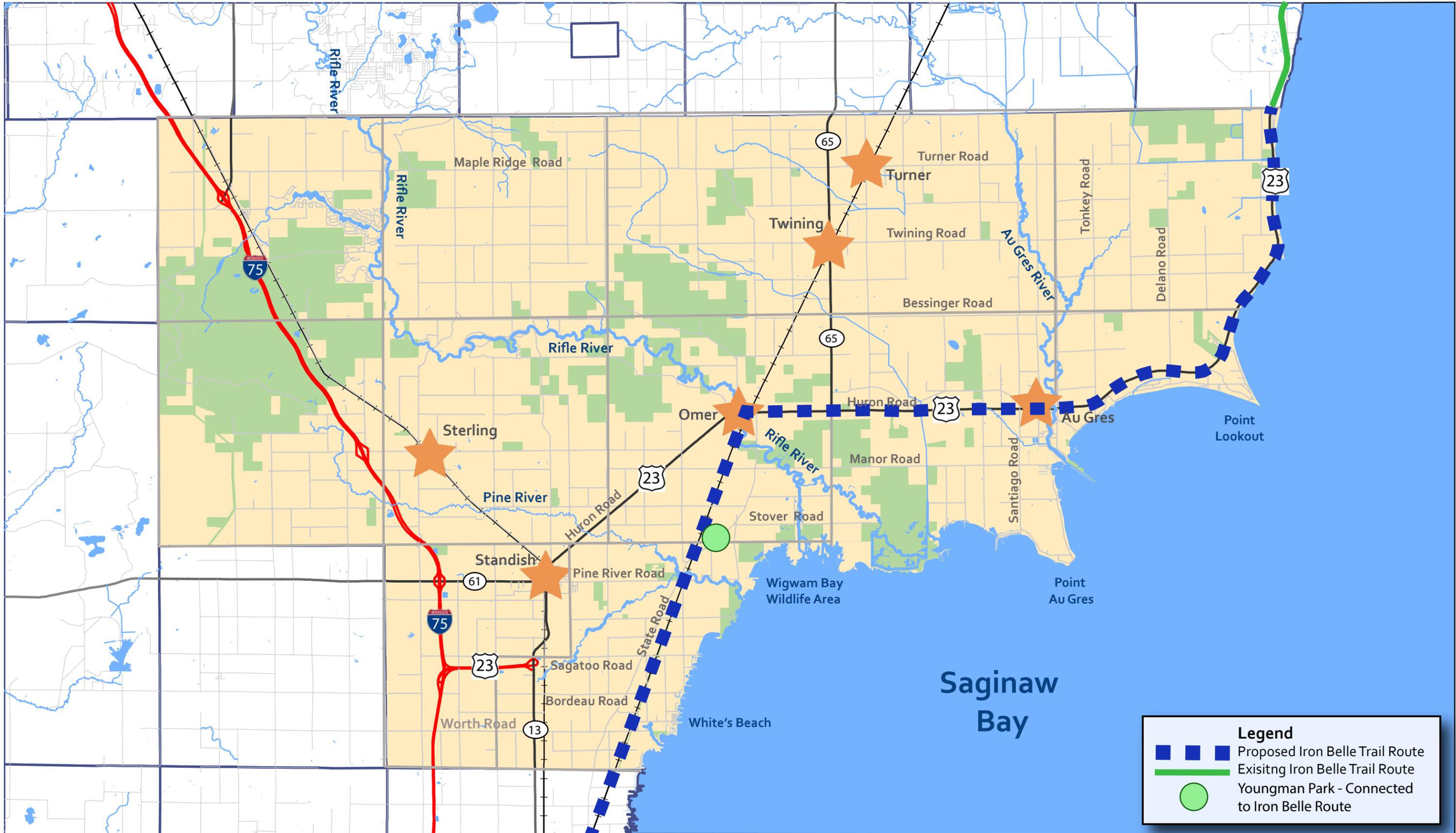
**Omer to Au Gres** - The Arenac County Economic Development Corporation and the Arenac Heritage Route Authority are working with a consultant and preliminary engineering is complete for this section of the trail.

These authorities are also working with The Saginaw Midland Municipal Water Supply Corporation (SMMWSC) to secure an easement for the location of the trail.

**Au Gres to Northern County Line** – The Arenac County Economic Development Corporation is working with a consultant to identify a possible location for the trail within the US-23 right-of-way. Concept approval for this location has been granted by MDOT.

The County is making great strides to work toward connecting their portion of this statewide Iron Belle Trail. See Map 10 below for a closer look at all three sections of the trail.

# Arenac County Proposed Iron Belle Trail Map - Saganing Anishinabak Miikana Section



**Legend**

- Proposed Iron Belle Trail Route
- Existing Iron Belle Trail Route
- Youngman Park - Connected to Iron Belle Route

### Arenac County Saginaw Bay Water Trail

In addition to the non-motorized trails in the County, there is also a water trail in the County that follows the coast from the southern border to the northern border of the County. In 2014 the Parks and Recreation Commission completed the Arenac County Blue Water Trail Development Plan that has laid out a kayak/canoe trail along the Saginaw Bay shore. This trail connects the Huron Shores Coastal Water Trail (north of the County) and the Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail in Huron County. All the trail along the coasts of Arenac and Bay Counties is part of the Saginaw Bay Water Trail System. Efforts are underway to build and promote the Blue Water Trail. The county is partnering with Saginaw Bay Resource, Conservation, and Development and the Saginaw Bay Water Trail Alliance to pursue these efforts.

Map 11 - Saginaw Bay Water Trail System



In the County the planned stops along the trail include:

1. End of Worth Road and White's Beach Road
2. End of Bordeau Road and Standish Nature Preserve
3. End of Sagatoo Road and Eagle Bay Marina
4. Wigwam Bay Pine River Access
5. Rifle River Mouth
6. End of Stover Road
7. End of Big Creek Road
8. End of Dreyer Road
9. End of Santiago Road
10. Pointe Au Gres Park
11. Pointe Au Gres Marina and Campground
12. DNR Public Access
13. Au Gres City Park
14. End of S Tonkey Road
15. End of South Delano Road
16. End of Foster Road
17. Sims-Whitney Cemetery
18. End of West Bessinger Road
19. End of Hammel Beach Road
20. End of Twining Road
21. End of Turner Road and the Singing Bridge

# Arenac County Blue Water Trail Map



- Legend**
1. End of Worth Road and White's Beach Road
  2. End of Bordeau Road and Standish Nature Preserve
  3. End of Sagatoo Road and Eagle Bay Marina
  4. Wigwam Bay Pine River Access
  5. Rifle River Mouth
  6. End of Stover Road
  7. End of Big Creek Road
  8. End of Dreyer Road
  9. End of Santiago Road
  10. Pointe Au Gres Park
  11. Pointe Au Gres Marina and Campground
  12. DNR Public Access
  13. Au Gres City Park
  14. End of S Tonkey Road
  15. End of South Delano Road
  16. End of Foster Road
  17. Sims-Whitney Cemetery
  18. End of West Bessinger Road
  19. End of Hammel Beach Road
  20. End of Twining Road
  21. End of Turner Road and the Singing Bridge

### Other Trails in the County

The County does not have any dedicated non-motorized trail pathways, however the County does have 29 miles of paved shoulders (greater than 4ft in width). This follows the path of US 23 in the County. One potential project that was discussed during the stakeholder interviews for this plan, was a potential path along old M-76 from Standish to Sterling. The Road Commission is planning to resurface this road in 3 years, and the right-of-way is large enough for a dedicated non-motorized pathway. In addition to this opportunity, the County also has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Master Plan written in 2014 by the Arenac Heritage Route Authority. This plan identifies several other possible trail locations in detail. The implementation chapter of this plan is located in Appendix B and references the other potential trail locations in the County.

### BIRDING SITES AND NATURAL AREAS

The Saginaw Bay is listed as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. An array of waterbird species use the Saginaw Bay Area as a migratory stopover site, wintering ground, and breeding ground. The County is within this region which extends 142 miles from Port Crescent State Park in Huron County to Tawas State Park in Iosco County. To highlight this important natural resource, the Saginaw Bay Land Conservancy created the Saginaw Bay Birding Trail. There are several birding sites in the County listed as a part of this birding trail, see Map 13 below.

In the County, the birding trail and natural area stops include:

1. Wah Sash Kah Monqua Nature Preserve
2. Saganing Nature Preserve
3. Standish Nature Preserve
4. Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area
5. Santiago Road Boardwalk
6. Au Gres Delta Nature Preserve
7. Au Gres River DNR Boat Launch
8. Pressprich Nature Preserve
9. Singing Bridge DNR Public Access Site
10. Charity Island National Wildlife Sanctuary

Each of these sites in the County are publicly accessible, most are nature preserves owned by local land conservancies, and the remaining are sites owned and operated by the State or Federal Government. Almost all of them are protected areas for wildlife



# Arenac County Birding Sites and Natural Areas Map



- Legend**
1. Wah Sash Kah Moqua Nature Preserve
  2. Saganing Nature Preserve
  3. Standish Nature Preserve
  4. Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area
  5. Santiago Road Boardwalk
  6. Au Gres Delta Nature Preserve
  7. Au Gres River DNR Boat Launch
  8. Pressprich Nature Preserve
  9. Singing Bridge DNR Public Access Site
  10. Charity Island National Wildlife Sanctuary

## RECREATION GRANT HISTORY

The County of Arenac has received four recreation grants in the past, Table 8 below, shows the past grant history for the County.

**Table 8** – Recreation Grant History

County of Arenac Grant History				
Grant Number	Year	Amount	Improvements	Status
26-0040	1966	\$6,120	Access roads, parking area, sanitary facilities, picnic area, LWCF sign.	Closed
TF00-391	2000	\$900,000	Land acquisition in Au Gres Township of approximately 8 acres, with 1,100 feet of beachfront along Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron, to be used as a public beach, campground and park.	Closed
TF02-077	2002	\$274,600	Project will develop picnic areas, restrooms, visitor and educational center, fishing dock, boardwalk, park pathways, and a playground at Point Au Gres Park to support swimming, fishing, and other recreational activities on Saginaw Bay/Lake Huron.	Closed
TF13-099	2013	\$126,100	This project is for the development of a primary staging site at Point Au Gres Park for the proposed Arenac Blue Water Trail. Improvements include: an EX launch, canoe/kayak storage racks, pier, restrooms, and electrical service to campsites and cabins.	Closed

# Community Input Survey Results

One of the most important aspects of a community's Parks and Recreation Plan is the detailed review and analysis of the resident's opinions regarding the future of their parks and recreation system. The County of Arenac created a community survey that pertained to both, the update of the Master Plan and the update of the Recreation Plan. The survey was designed to gather the information which would guide the County master plan policies and parks and recreation program. A complete tabulation of the results is available for review in Appendix C. The text below provides a description of the significant results for the questions pertaining only to recreation.

Overall, the survey had 37 questions, and there were a total of 651 responses. Of those 37 questions, 5 questions were specific to parks and recreation, and 3 additional questions were related to parks and recreation. The County advertised the community input survey on the County website, provided hard copies of the survey at the County building, City of Au Gres library, and City of Omer library, and launched a targeted advertisement on Facebook. The online survey was available from October 2019 to November of 2019, at [www.arenacountysurvey.com](http://www.arenacountysurvey.com).

A second means of input was collected during a day-long stakeholder interview process. In the fall of 2019, the County held a series of stakeholder interviews that focused on both Master Plan and Recreation Plan topics. Recreation was often central to the discussion because it is so important to the County. A summary of those interviews can be found in Appendix D.

A third means of input was provided during the required public review period. The draft plan was available for review at **LOCATION** and on the **LOCATION** from **DATE to DATE**. The required public hearing took place on **DATE at LOCATION**.

## SURVEY RESULTS

The following analysis is a selective review of the most relevant survey results. The following questions are the are most interesting and pertinent to the future of recreation in the County. To view a complete report of survey results, please reference Appendix C.

### Respondents

Overall, there were 651 survey respondents, 83.3% were residents of the County, the remaining respondents were from outside of the County or considered it to be a second home due to a seasonal residence.

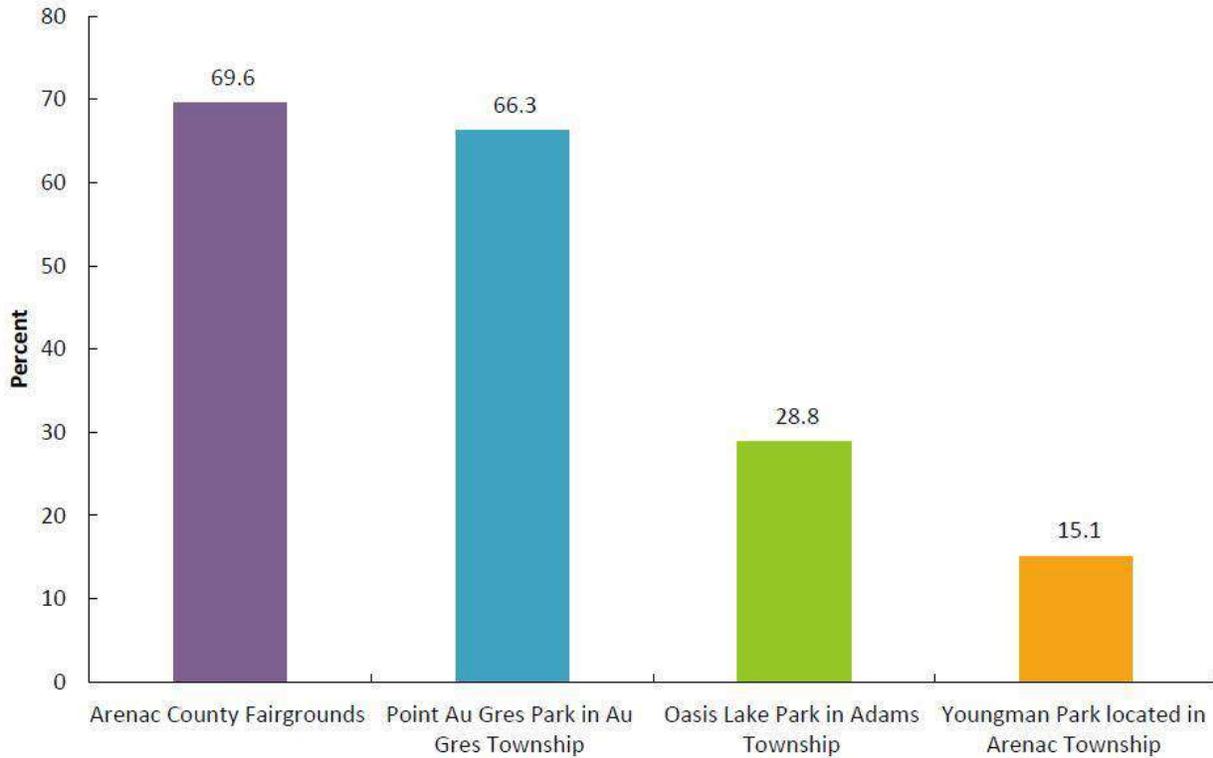
The survey respondents represented a wide age range of individuals. The largest percentage of respondents was in the 55 - 64 age group. The following age groups were almost equally represented: 35 – 44, 45 – 54, and 65 - 74. There was smaller participation from the 18 – 24, 25 - 34, and 75 – 85 ranges, with very little participation from the under 18 age group, and the 85 and older age group.

### Response Summary

The respondents were asked a couple general questions about parks and recreation. These questions asked respondents to rank how important each topic was from the following choices: very important, important, needs to be considered, but not a priority, not important, or no opinion. In general, respondents think that

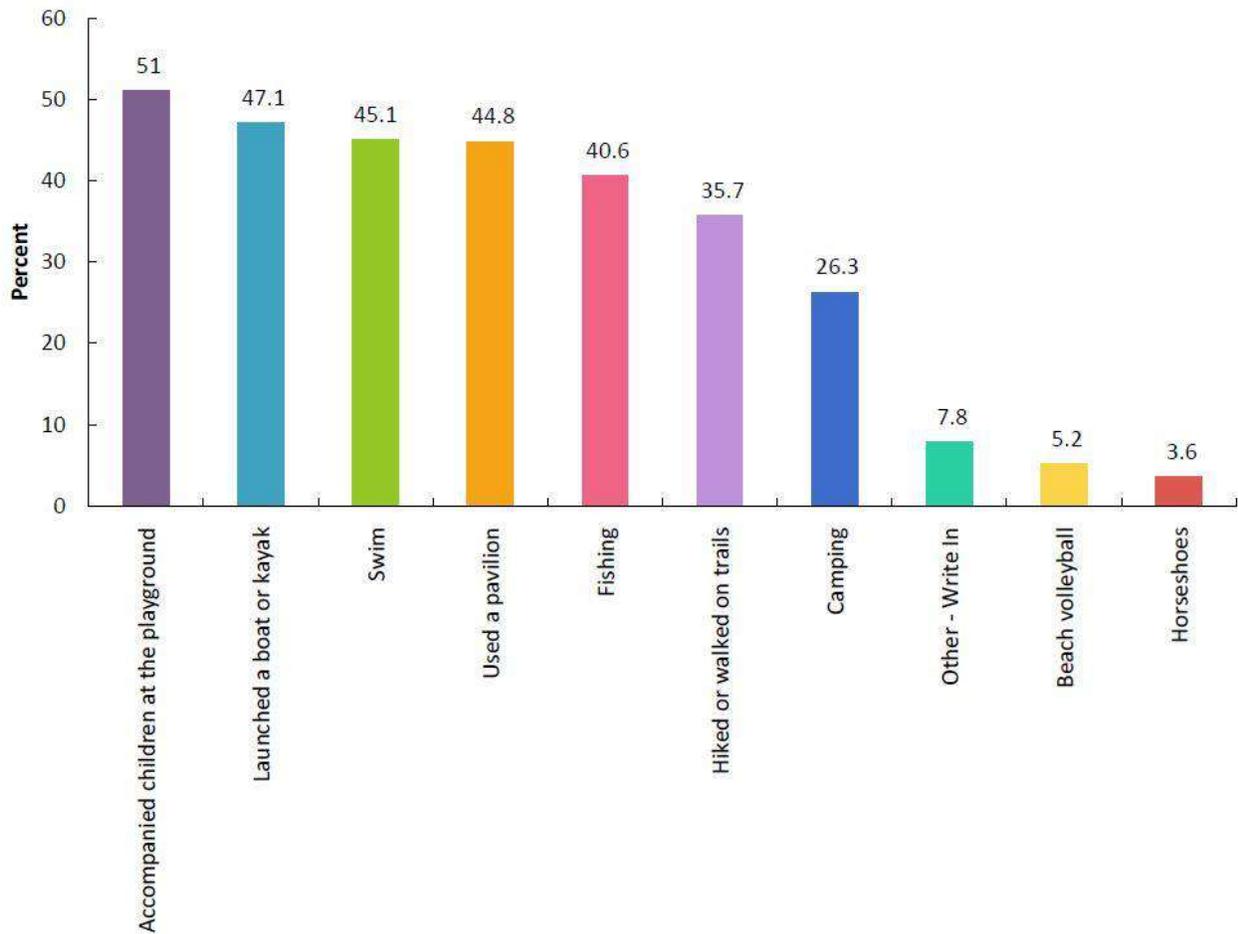
parks and recreation in the County are better or about the same as they were 5 years ago and believe that the preservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources in the county is very important or very important. Additionally, respondents believe that the preservation of scenic character and the seasonal economy are both very important or important to the County. Finally, respondents thought that improving public spaces to enhance quality of life was very important or important.

**Which County Parks have you visited in the past year?**



The most popular of all the County Parks was the County Fairgrounds which almost 70% of respondents said they had visited in the past year. Point Au Gres Park had approximately 66% of the respondents visit it in the last year, Oasis Park had 28%, and Youngman Park, the least visited park, had 15% of respondents say they had been to the park in the past year.

**Which activities have you participated in at Arenac County Parks over the past year?**

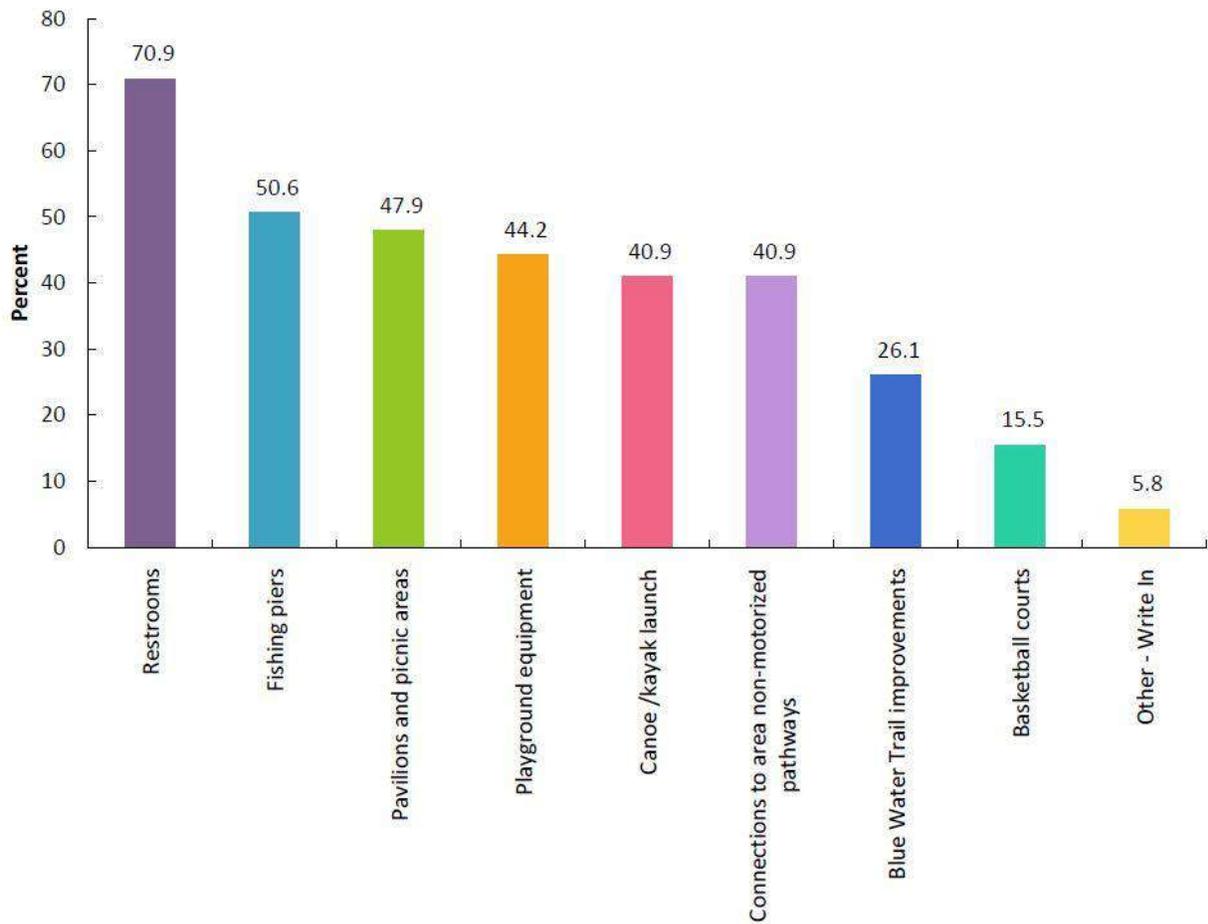


The top four activities all had very similar percentages and are listed in order below:

- Accompanied children at the playground (51%)
- Launched a boat or kayak (47.1%)
- Swam (45.1%)
- Used a pavilion (44.8%)

The other options are shown in the chart above. Some additional write in responses included: County Fair, hunting, picnic/BBQ, and horseback riding.

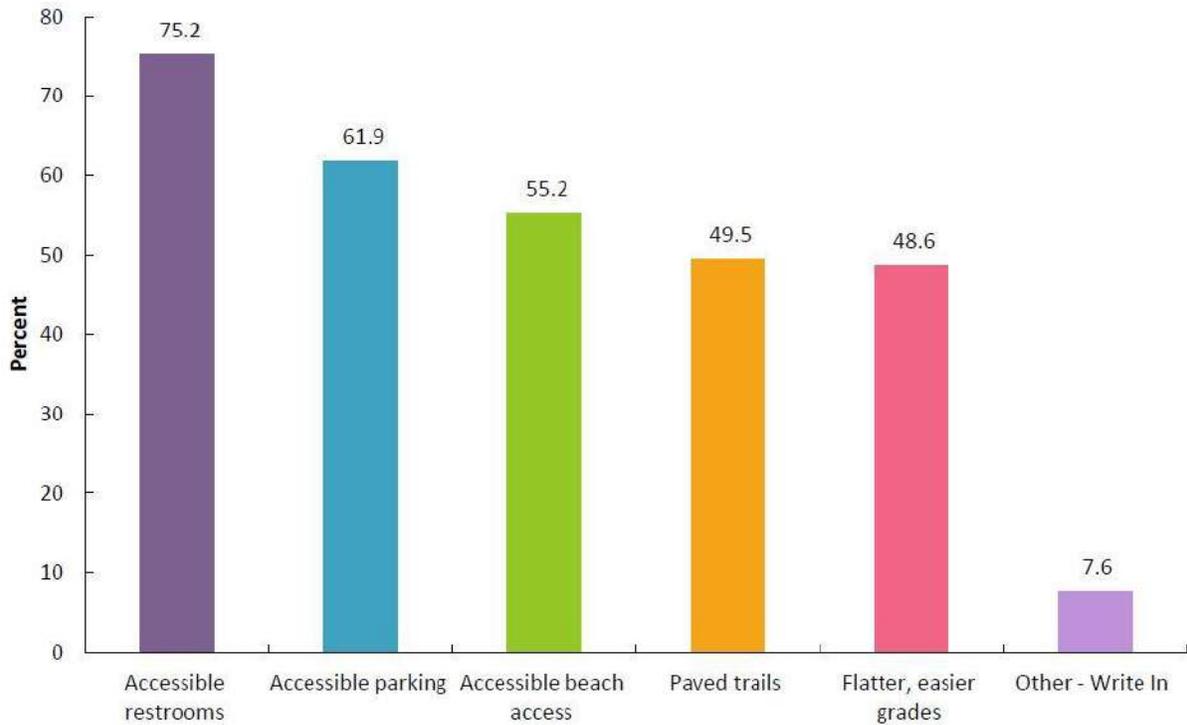
**What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see added to the County Parks?**



The chart above shows the responses for this question in order of desirability. The majority of the respondents would like to see restrooms (70.9%). In addition to restrooms other respondents would like to see fishing piers (50.6%), pavilions and picnic areas (47.9%), and playground equipment (44.2%). Some of the write-in answers included: trails (biking, hiking, horseback riding and motorized), beach, and a dog park.

**Please indicate which of the following would make recreational facilities in Arenac County more user-friendly.**

If a respondent indicated there was someone in their family who has a disability, they were asked what specifically would make parks more enjoyable for their families.



Most respondents would like to see both accessible restrooms and accessible parking. Accessible beach access was also important to the majority of the respondents. One write in response also suggested accessible playground equipment.

# Goals and Objectives

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the recreation planning process. Overall, the County wants to provide quality recreation opportunities for the community it serves. More specific goals, like those listed below, must be based on public input, the demographic characteristics of the population served, and other physical and environmental characteristics of the County.

Read this chapter with the following principles in mind. Goals are the broadest level, they are overreaching and general. By nature, objectives are the measurable items which carry out the purpose of a goal. Action items are the last level, and they identify specific projects and programs to be pursued over the next five years. Action items can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions. The County Board formulated the following goals and objectives based upon the characteristics of the overall community, the online survey, and other factors such as sports participation trends.

## **Goal 1: Expand recreation opportunities and facilities to meet the growing need of both, the County residents and the growing tourist population.**

- Continue to add amenities to the County park facilities based upon community input and need.
- Strike a recreation balance between the needs of the year-round population and tourism population.
- Improve/upgrade existing park facilities.
- Provide for nature-based recreation opportunities.
- Move Arenac County Events and Agricultural Center to new location and begin operations

## **Goal 2: Prioritize parks and recreation projects that improve accessibility at all County parks.**

- Improve barrier free access to existing recreation facilities
- Ensure that improvements and upgrades to park facilities are accessible.
- Where possible, strive to meet universal design standards with new signage, park amenities, and facilities.

## **Goal 3: Preserve the County's natural beauty and assets**

- Ensure for the protection of the County's environmental assets including its natural features and scenic qualities such as the Lake Huron shoreline, forests, open spaces, wetlands, and rivers.
- When feasible, acquire key properties that will protect natural resources in the County.
- Acquire new public lands to meet the recreational needs of the community.
- Work to expand public access along the Lake Huron shoreline.
- Plan for projects that build on the natural assets in the County.

## **Goal 4: Expand year-round recreation opportunities**

- Provide recreation opportunities that take advantage of all four seasons.

**Goal 5: Improve transparency and public involvement for all County Parks and Recreation decision-making.**

- To coordinate and cooperate with the local municipalities and school districts, and regional recreation providers to furnish ample facilities for our citizens and visitors.
- Advertise/Inform residents and visitors of the existing park facilities.
- Seek public input on all future park improvement projects.
- Advertise/Inform residents and visitors of recreation programming available in the County.

**Goal 6: Support and plan for non-motorized transportation corridors the County**

- Work with County Road Commission to plan non-motorized transportation routes that connect County community centers
- Work with the State and regional recreation providers to support the development of the Iron Belle Trail in the County.
- Improve pathways within the County parks by paving existing walks and adding new pathways to connect amenities or provide for walking/exercise opportunities.
- Support trail amenities along the non-motorized corridors such as trailheads, restrooms, signage, and safety measures.
- Support the development/advertising of the Saginaw Bay Blue Water trail.
- Support water trail amenities such as canoe/kayak launches and access points.

**Goal 7: Improve camping opportunities at the County parks and utilize camping fees as a way to support future park projects.**

- Improve rustic campsites and Oasis Lake Park
- Add camper hook-ups at Oasis Lake Park
- Improve camping facilities at Pt. Au Gres Park and Campground.
- Market these camping opportunities to visitors

**Goal 8: Make County parks a draw for tourism in the County.**

- Advertise/Market County parks to the tourists who visit or drive through the County
- Advertise/Market County parks as a destination to bring additional visitors to the County.
- Add amenities to parks that appeal to tourism and seasonal visitors
- Capitalize on the existing access to the County's unique natural features that is already available at County parks such as the Lake Huron Shoreline and Oasis Lake.
- Consider adding facilities or events to the County parks that are unique. These events or amenities would draw regional visitors to create more interest in the County parks.



# Action Plan

With goals and objectives in place, the Arenac County Parks & Recreation Commission developed a five-year action program that will enable them to move toward accomplishing the goals and objectives. The action program details the direction the Parks & Recreation Commission wishes to take over the next five years in order to maintain and improve the quality and diversity of its park and recreation opportunities.

Potential projects are shown on the following page, titled “Project List.” Each action item on the project list relates to one or more of the lettered goals from the Goals and Objectives section of this Plan. These potential capital improvements that are described on the following page have been established to not only provide a framework for decision makers, but to also enable the County to apply for grant funding for the proposed projects.

The project list is not a fixed element nor is it exhaustive. The project list reflects the results of the input received from the Parks & Recreation Commission, County staff, and the online survey. Future circumstances, especially availability of funding, may influence the order in which the projects are completed.

The action program is shown in the table on the following page.

## FINANCING POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Funding for parks and recreation capital improvements can come from a range of local, state, and federal programs. Grant funding is available for parks and recreation projects. However, applicants need to target potential funding agencies and programs very carefully so as to meet the specific criteria required. Appendix E contains a current listing of programs and agencies that can provide funding for parks and recreation projects.



<b>County of Arenac Recreation Plan – Action Program Project List</b>	
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Relates to Goal</b>
<b>Youngman Park</b>	
Add nature trails throughout the property	1, 2, 6
Add trailhead along Iron Belle Route with parking, restrooms, signage, and bike racks.	1, 2, 6, 8
Improve ball fields	1
Refurbish pavilion and picnic tables	1, 2
Install BBQ grills	1
<b>Oasis Lake Park</b>	
Refurbish pavilions and picnic tables	1, 2
Add electricity to pavilions	1
Add new restroom	1, 2
Add additional Playground Equipment	1, 2, 8
Add a fishing pier on Lake	1, 2, 3, 8
Add trails from rustic camping area to main park area	1, 2, 6, 7, 8
Add restroom for rustic campers	1, 2, 7, 8
Add cabins for rental along north side of lake	1, 2, 7, 8
Install facilities for new campground with full hook-ups.	1, 2, 7, 8
<b>Point Au Gres Park</b>	
Add new playground equipment	1, 2
Add new picnic tables and grills	1, 2
Add signage for park location	1, 8
Upgrade/Add cabins	1, 2, 7, 8
Address future of rental cottage	1, 5, 7
Upgrade restrooms and shower house for campers	1, 2, 7, 8
Install electrical service to campsites	1, 2, 7, 8
Install water at campsites	1, 2, 7, 8
<b>Non-motorized Trails</b>	
Support Iron Belle Trail Development	1, 6, 8
Study possible trail along on M-76 between Standish and the County line	1, 2, 6, 8
<b>Arenac County Events and Agricultural Center</b>	
Support the development of the Events and Agricultural Center	
<b>Other</b>	
Acquire waterfront property for Lake Huron Shoreline Access.	1, 3, 8
Provide fishing access along waterfront and rivers in the County	1, 2, 3, 8
Advertise the parks and recreation and natural resources available in the County	1, 3, 8

# Planning Process

In its continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, the County has developed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of community park and recreational facilities and locations over the next five years. This plan is the latest effort by the local governmental officials in the County to establish recreational goals and objectives for the community. The plan will also provide the County with eligibility for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist the community in reaching its recreational goals.

The County of Arenac contracted with Spicer Group of Saginaw, Michigan, to assist them with completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The consultant worked with the County staff and the Drain Commission through the course of the plan.

Data was collected about the County including maps, demographics, park information and an inventory of existing facilities. This data was collected from a number of resources such as: county staff, relevant planning documents, field observations and various websites.

Community input was collected via an online survey. Based upon the existing information and the community input, the County reviewed and revised its goals and objectives for parks and recreation. Then, action plan items were written that would work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives.

The consultant completed the draft Recreation Master Plan document. The plan was made available for review online and at the County office for at least 30 days beginning on **DATE**. This reviewing opportunity was advertised in the **LOCATION**. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public meeting held prior to adoption of the plan. This meeting was held on **DATE**, at the **LOCATION at ADDRESS**.

On **DATE**, the County of Arenac Board of Commissioners passed a resolution adopting the Recreation Plan. Copies of the advertisements and resolutions are included in the Appendix.

Copies of the Recreation Plan were transmitted to the East Michigan Council of Governments and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in **DATE**.



# Appendix A – Park Aerial Images

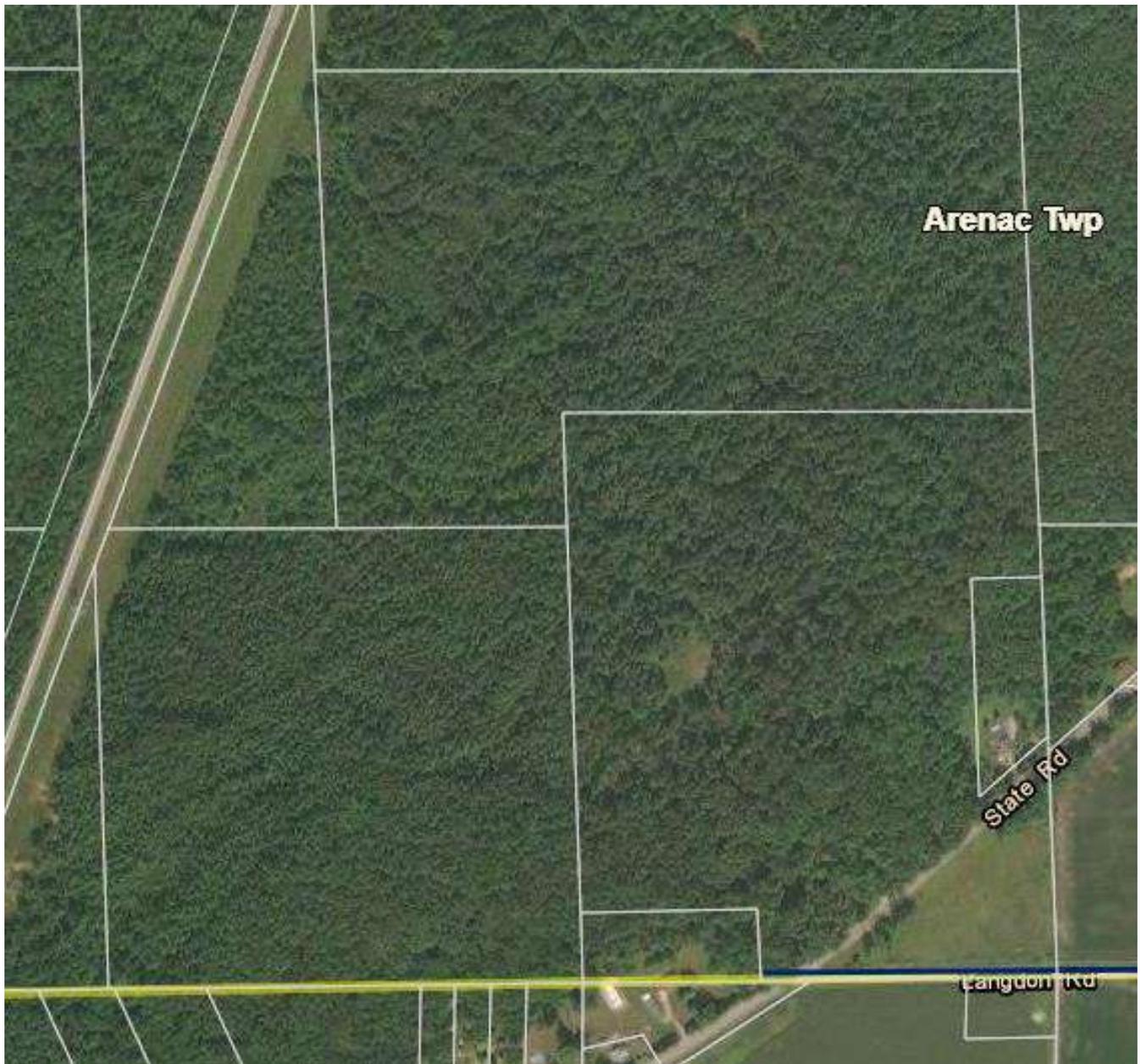
## Oasis Lake Park and Campground



## County Fairgrounds



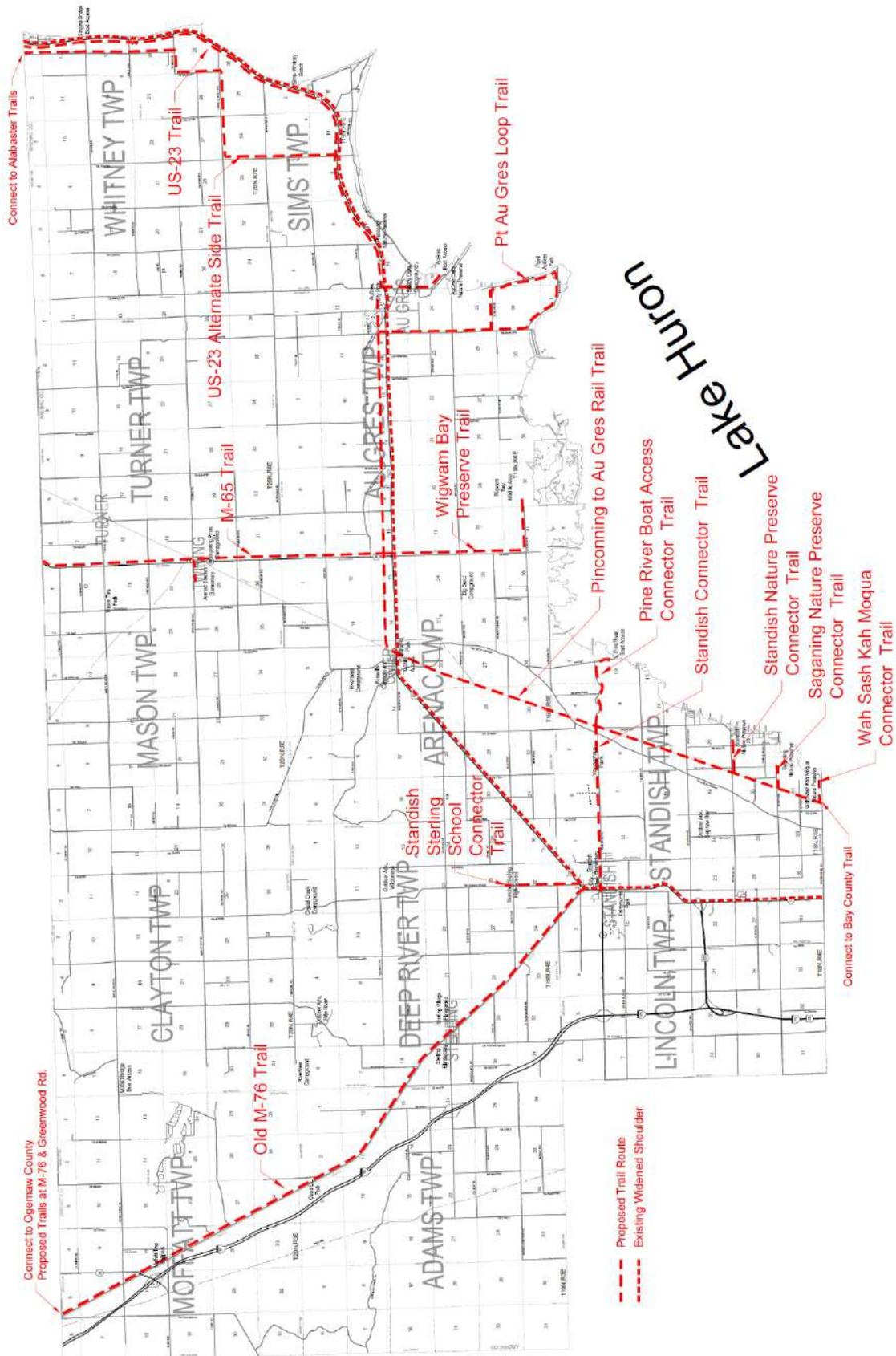
## Youngman Park



## Point Au Gres Park and Campground



# Appendix B – Possible Trail Routes

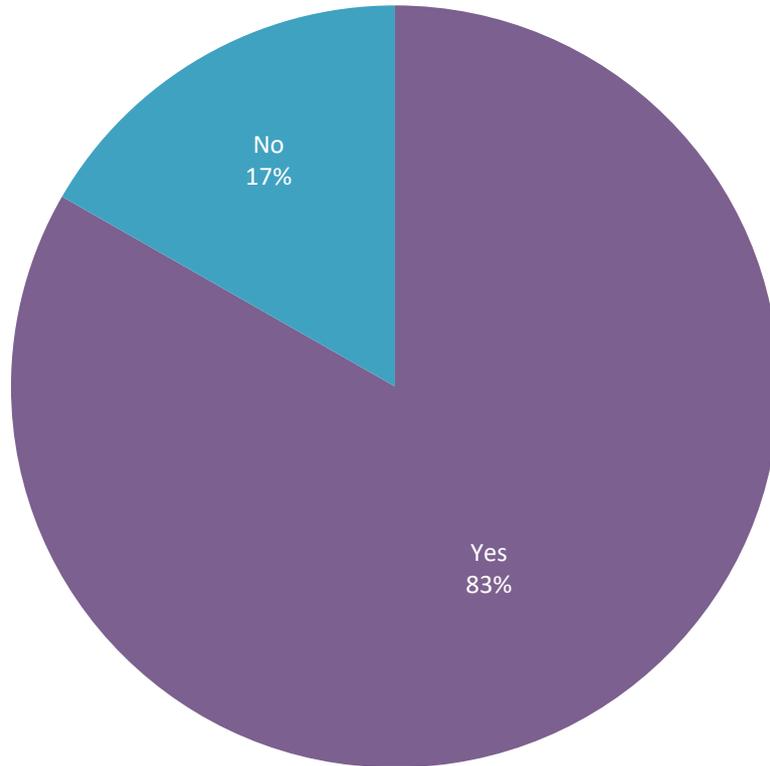


# Appendix C – Community Input Survey Results

# Arenac County Community Input Survey

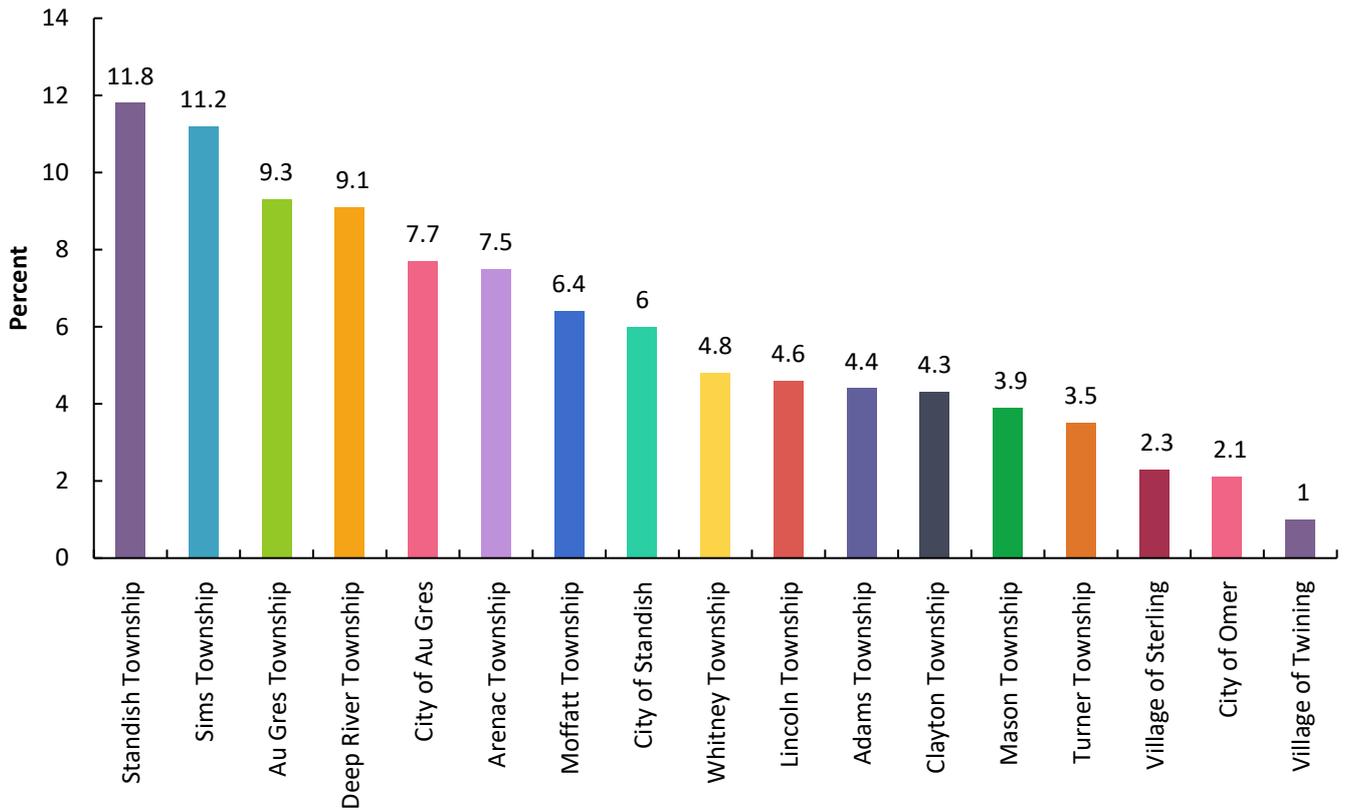
Responses - 651

1. Do you live in Arenac County?



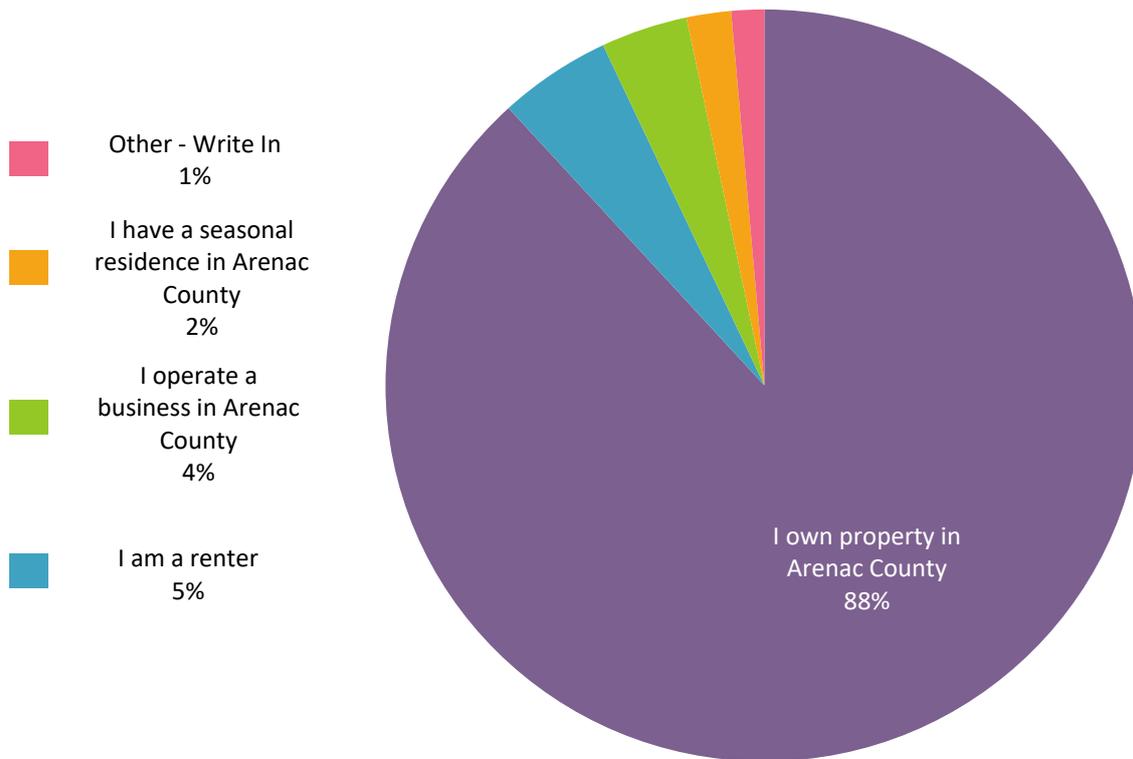
Value	Percent	Count
Yes	83.3%	518
No	16.7%	104
	Totals	622

## 2. Where do you live?



Value	Percent
Standish Township	11.8%
Sims Township	11.2%
Au Gres Township	9.3%
Deep River Township	9.1%
City of Au Gres	7.7%
Arenac Township	7.5%
Moffatt Township	6.4%
City of Standish	6.0%
Whitney Township	4.8%
Lincoln Township	4.6%
Adams Township	4.4%
Clayton Township	4.3%
Mason Township	3.9%
Turner Township	3.5%
Village of Sterling	2.3%
City of Omer	2.1%
Village of Twining	1.0%

### 3.What is your relationship to Arenac County?

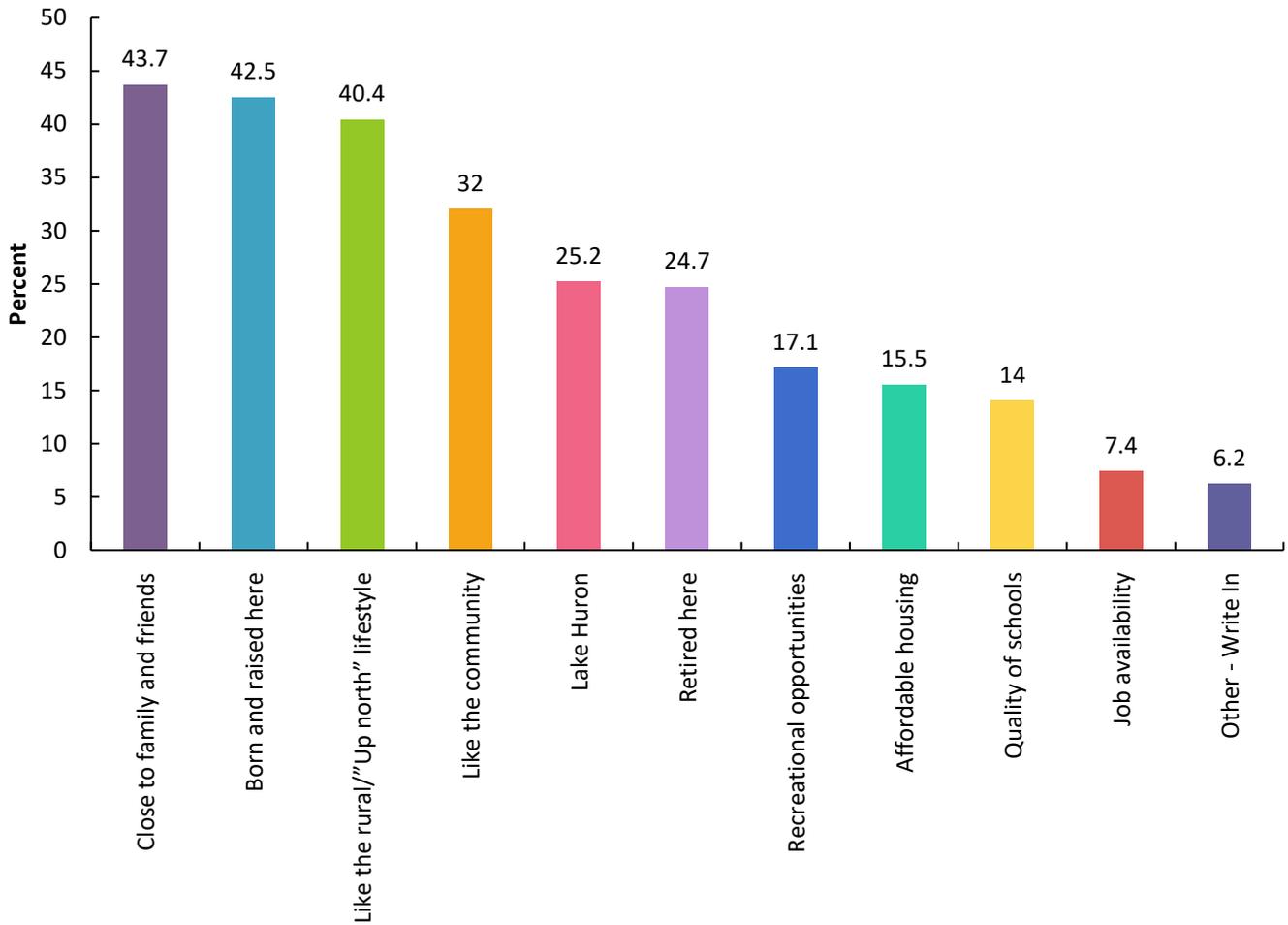


Value	Percent
I own property in Arenac County	88.2%
I am a renter	4.8%
I operate a business in Arenac County	3.7%
I have a seasonal residence in Arenac County	1.9%
Other - Write In	1.4%

#### What is your relationship to Arenac County? Other – Write In Responses

Other - Write In
Also operate a business in Arenac County
I have a second home there
I own property, reside in, operate a business in and out of standish
Live and work in the county
Live in one of my husband's parents' house
Live with a property owner
Own property and operate business

#### 4. Why do you live in Arenac County (please check all that apply)?

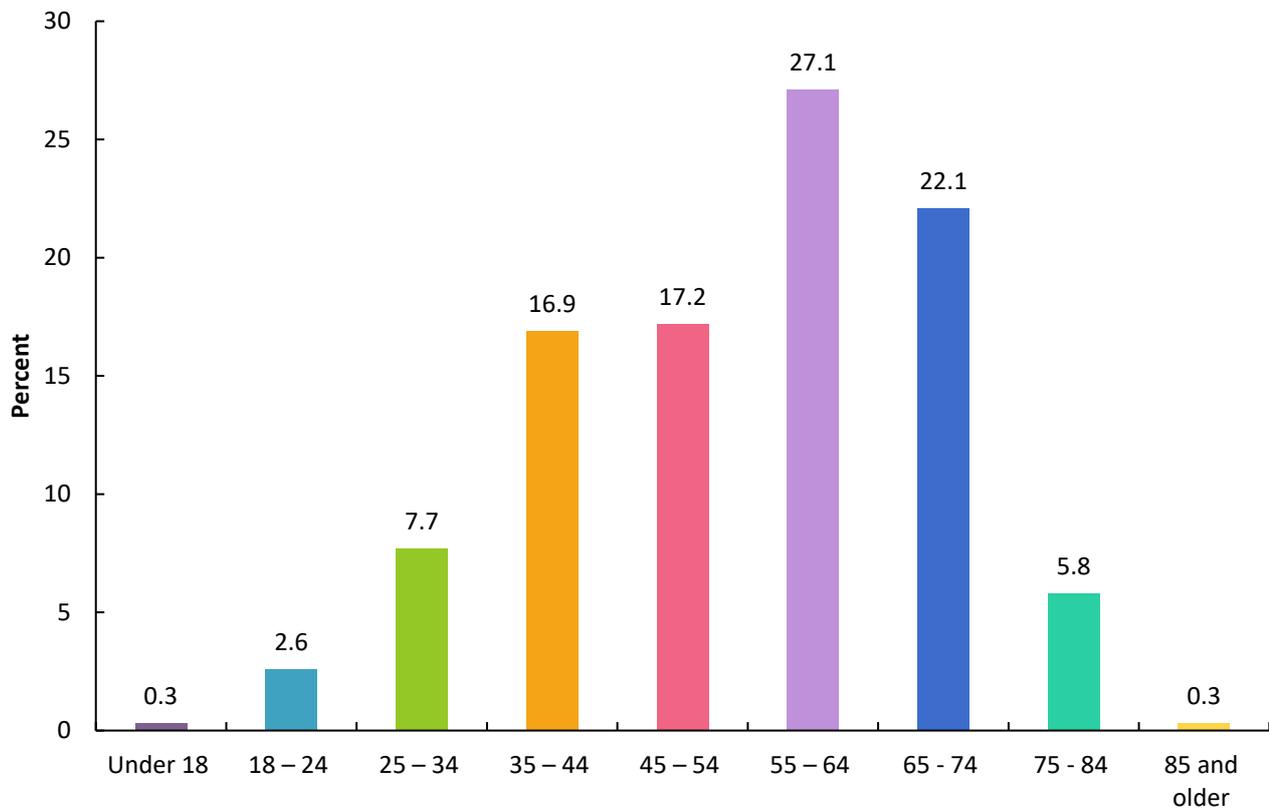


Value	Percent
Close to family and friends	43.7%
Born and raised here	42.5%
Like the rural/"Up north" lifestyle	40.4%
Like the community	32.0%
Lake Huron	25.2%
Retired here	24.7%
Recreational opportunities	17.1%
Affordable housing	15.5%
Quality of schools	14.0%
Job availability	7.4%
Other - Write In	6.2%

**Why do you live in Arenac County? Other – Write In Responses**

5th generation farmer
Affordability
All of the above
All the above
But our back roads are terrible, must address the roads people who live here use, better for areas to improve
Can't move away right now
Family homestead
Farm
I inherited the family cottage!
I like living on the Rifle River
I like the availability to the Huron National Forest, Au Suable River
I'm Stupid
Inherited a house
It was my summer home growing up.
Live and own 2 businesses
Married a resident
Married in
Married my husband and that's where he was born and raised
Moved here 30 years ago due to job but didn't know what a dump it was.
Moved here for a job and didn't know what we were getting into.
Situational
Started a business, married a local
This is where my business has
Transferred here for my job in 1994 and then retired here.
Wanted to start a small farm
Was close to our jobs at the time but not now , have to travel 75 miles one way to work .
Was raised here
Was raised here, left and came back. This area is not convenient for my job but love the secluded woods and water where I live.
central location to family and work at the time we purchased. Property was in an area close to town and schools.
inherited property

## 5.What is your age?



Value	Percent	Count
Under 18	0.3%	2
18 - 24	2.6%	16
25 - 34	7.7%	48
35 - 44	16.9%	105
45 - 54	17.2%	107
55 - 64	27.1%	168
65 - 74	22.1%	137
75 - 84	5.8%	36
85 and older	0.3%	2
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>621</b>

**6.Regarding the following categories, how do you feel Arenac County has changed in the past 10 years?**

	<b>Much Better</b>	<b>Better</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>Much Worse</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Aesthetics/Blight	13 2.8%	119 5.4%	181 38.6%	117 24.9%	17 3.6%	22 4.7%	469
Business Development	10 2.1%	115 24.3%	112 23.7%	183 38.7%	44 9.3%	9 1.9%	473
County Services	4 0.9%	86 18.4%	241 51.5%	69 14.7%	13 2.8%	55 11.8%	468
Education	19 4.1%	117 25.3%	162 35.0%	79 17.1%	25 5.4%	61 13.2%	463
Housing Choices	7 1.5%	63 13.7%	242 52.5%	82 17.8%	16 3.5%	51 11.1%	461
Medical Services	18 3.9%	159 34.3%	172 37.1%	67 14.5%	17 3.7%	30 6.5%	463
Parks and Recreation	12 2.6%	159 34.3%	203 43.8%	60 13.0%	9 1.9%	20 4.3%	463
Police Services	16 3.5%	91 19.7%	235 50.9%	58 12.6%	20 4.3%	42 9.1%	462
Public Safety/Emergency Services	12 2.6%	111 23.9%	240 51.6%	36 7.7%	13 2.8%	53 11.4%	465
Road Conditions/Infrastructure	12 2.6%	100 21.6%	116 25.0%	149 32.1%	79 17.0%	8 1.7%	464
Traffic	4 0.9%	37 8.0%	249 53.5%	135 29.0%	28 6.0%	12 2.6%	465
Overall Quality of Life	5 1.1%	104 22.3%	278 59.7%	60 12.9%	7 1.5%	12 2.6%	466

## 7. Considering the future of Arenac County, how important are the following issues?

	Very important	Important	Needs to be considered, but not a priority	Not Important	No Opinion	Responses
Access to lakes and rivers	197 42.1%	153 32.7%	97 20.7%	15 3.2%	6 1.3%	468
Agriculture	188 40.6%	206 44.5%	49 10.6%	10 2.2%	10 2.2%	463
Economic development/Job creation	307 65.7%	143 30.6%	12 2.6%	2 0.4%	3 0.6%	467
Education options	258 55.4%	161 34.5%	30 6.4%	7 1.5%	10 2.1%	466
Housing choices	140 30.0%	224 48.0%	82 17.6%	12 2.6%	9 1.9%	467
Infrastructure expansion/maintenance (water, sewer, etc.)	172 36.8%	197 42.1%	76 16.2%	13 2.8%	10 2.1%	468
Medical Care	232 50.0%	190 40.9%	38 8.2%	1 0.2%	3 0.6%	464
Preservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources	224 48.0%	163 34.9%	71 15.2%	8 1.7%	1 0.2%	467
Preservation of scenic character	191 41.1%	170 36.6%	87 18.7%	12 2.6%	5 1.1%	465
Tourism/Seasonal economy	224 48.0%	168 36.0%	59 12.6%	13 2.8%	3 0.6%	467
Transportation choices - Walking and biking	118 25.3%	159 34.1%	151 32.4%	33 7.1%	5 1.1%	466
Transportation choices - Bus	68 14.5%	182 38.9%	158 33.8%	46 9.8%	14 3.0%	468

## 8.Are there any other issues you believe to be important for the future of Arenac County?

Response
Availability to receive gas for every home availability
County needs to consider better spending of tax dollars need to understand budget and have better priorities
Arenac county needs to try and be a destination, and not a gas and food stop.
Need more jobs to keep people in our area instead of moving away to get good jobs to support them an family.
Community building activities; Art, music, craft, hobby, athletic/recreational interactive opportunities
Not right now.
I would like to see a resolution passed for Moffatt township residents (Forest Lake) to allow golf carts on neighborhood streets.
Too much nepotism in the SS schools. Too many married couples in that school district ! Highest paid employees in Arenac county are in that school district and county employees wages and benefits are poorly paid. Embarrassing to say the least.
Pinconning has a boys and girls club for kids after school and something for them to do without getting into trouble , Standish and could use something like that . There are no jobs or new businesses opening , and not many good places to eat or stores to shop in ,in any of the towns , the county should encourage more choices of stores to the area , everyone has to travel an 1/2 hour to the city to have access to stores . So many of our small towns don't have much to offer , no one wants to live and pay taxes to a city or county that has nothing - they move and the area loses tax revenue , or because of no jobs , many residents just stay poor and are dependent on the welfare system , The county stays poor overall .
The speed limit on m65 from 23 north has drastically changed things. I feel it has created unsafe driving conditions, as people now travel 65 mph in that stretch and those turning onto dirt roads from m65 have trouble getting on/off safely. I also feel the lack of ARTS in our schools is hurting our kids. Lack of jobs makes it near impossible for those left in the area to live
Better access I recreational lakes and rivers go ALL one levels and get some jobs with better medical care here so no one has to drive 40 miles for services. This just adds further expense having to travel so far for medical care.
Mosquito control
To have people in the system that are fair minded and know what they are doing. That's not the case now a days. Seems like they do what they want and you pay the price. I worked in Standish for many years and I would NEVER live in are arenac county
I feel Standish which ls the largest town,and surrounding towns of Arenac are becoming a ghost town atmosphere. Our business are redundant for such a small community. We dont need more gas stations, family dollars or auto parts stores. So many of our businesses dont have small town charm, they look run down. And they dont support any decent living wage or growth for advancement. There is nothing here to to help the town grow and prosper. It's not quite tourist town because we have no businesses to support this. Our rifle river is becoming a dumping ground. Tubing, kayaking and camping are a great activity but it does nothing for the community. It pads the owners and leaves the rivers full of beer cans, jello shot cups etc. If your in town for say medical services etc and you need to come back in an hour good luck. There is nothing to do but sit. The wages of the area businesses do not allow for people to shop in the area. People avoid family fare for large shopping because it's to expensive, unless forced to like the elderly who dont feel comfortable shopping in the larger town or others with transportation issues. Bring in some more continued education facilities. Bring in businesses to support our tourist industry. Bring in more medical facilities. And lastly our housing is an issue as well for younger people as well. There are no decent places to rent, apartments are limited, homes are few and far between, buying market is not positive. We need our younger generations to stay or come back to possibilities and opportunities. I love this area. It has some beautiful scenery and areas. The rest is falling apart.
Neighborhood watches would be helpful

Love the bike path along 23. If back lot residents lose lake access property values will plunge. (Wallace and Ore)

Don't be afraid to bring a Wal-Mart or Meijer or a save a lot into the community, people need more options, the current grocery store is too expensive I have lived here for decades until I moved thus town is pathetic no place to eat that is, a real restaurant. There are too many auto parts stores we need more restaurants and shopping options Not all people in this town are rich they cannot afford to live there.

The Condition of our local roads throughout the county are horrible and unacceptable it puts our residents in great danger as certain times of the year they are impassable for emergency vehicles .

Fishing brought back , fire department , police slow traffic down through Au Gres , and slow the gravel trains down , start ticketing

Bring back a shopping center!! Close, variety of products and competitive prices

Growth need new stores.

Local shopping options, one can't buy any decent clothing without going a long distance, (but you can get dance lessons). Only 2 pharmacies, nothing recreational, even the county fair has suffered TERRIBLY over the past 20 yrs

Ditching needs to be done in the hole county! To get rid of the backup water!

Being made aware of things that are happening in our county. More communication overall between services like sewer or the gas line as well as places in the county that could house certain type of people. So on.

For the municipalities to work together for the betterment of the county, not for personal gain. Quit with the giving themselves pay raises.

Would be nice to have bike trails. More restaurants and community things to do. For instance pickleball opportunities

No

Everyone has to travel outside of Arenac county to shop for clothing and deals on food.. Need more options so people can stay here and shop and spend their money

New fairgrounds a terrible waste of funds. Should be working harder to be bringing in new job opportunities and housing. Education should be a priority, not schools closing. Need to start looking at the County as a whole, not just tourist, water areas. So much potential but absolutely no effort being put forth to work together.

Keep the sheriff Dept and 911 Dept well funded and Fire Dept's and EMS well funded

Keep working on improving roads

with all the cars that travel thru the county, we have NO draw to get them to stop and spend money.

No.

Additional affordable shopping!

Helping businesses grow

We need more Lake Huron access. Need better restaurant choices and reasons for people to stop going through Standish.

Wkill the phragmites. DNR responsibility because they would not let us do it years ago

Keeping it clear of any toxic dumps and landfills.

I would like to see blight addressed. Rural land owners can be the worst offenders! Letters should be sent to ANYONE that have caved in buildings, junk cars, overgrown weeds etc...

clean up the bligh

I would like to see something like a theater, something where the kids can have something to do besides go to the woods and get high and drunk. There is NOTHING, no bowling alley, no arcade close by. Give people something to DO, HERE in our towns/county.

Therapy options in the area (speech, occupational, and physical therapy for children). Developing a plan for the Arenac Community Center. Developing a plan for Arenac Eastern and the prison. More community activities in Standish, Sterling, Omer, and AuGres.

Clean up all blight along US23, especially in Standish (old Spartan Tire building).

Hoarding needs to stop in houses and yards. Litter signs need to be put up. County needs trash cleaned up, roads need to be safe and cleaned up, more flower plants thru the village of Standish, sterling needs to grow, WE NEED A MEIJERS HERE. FAMILY FARE NEEDS TO GO. Businesses need to be responsible for keeping up their yards. No junk, raceway needs to be cleaned up and reopened!!!! Movie theatre in Shopco would be decent.

No

Is there any committed, countywide ideal of what Arenac County is trying to be known for?

More road improvements. Too many unpaved roads.

Bring a Meijer or Walmart to Standish. We Need them.

Road improvements

Future business breaks for new businesses, that come in. Give them any possible break financially at least first year. So they can grow and stay, small business, turns out to be big business and profitable for community, for bringing funds to our community.

No more land fills

Bring in new businesses. Fast food, shopping. Would help with jobs and the look of the town. Bring in more people to help the economy. There is nothing to see or do.

Need retail like meijer or ALDI or both. Sidewalk improvements for business. Aesthetic improvements. We need to attract a community college or satellite such as SVSU. We need to bring in factories or warehouses or other employers to attract middle class workers. We need this to also stop the brain drain of our kids leaving their hometown,!

Improve street fronts for businesses in Standish.

I'm not happy about the thought of the fair location being changed. The Arenac County fair needs to stay where it has always been and that is right where it is at.

More shopping choices... an all around store like Meijer, Walmart, or Costco. Also Helena leaving Standish is a major blow to the local farmers.

Need rail trails, hiking trails, perhaps at Oasis Park. I travel to a rail trail weekly, and in doing so I go for dinner, and groceries. My money is going outside of the community

No more marijuana grow facilities and less poisoning of the waterways for weed control.arenac county is a nice place to live.

We need more stores meijer or walmart. We dont need gas stations or pizza shops but something that is going to bring people here

I am not sure. Sometimes we only see a need for something when we need it ourselves. But I am happy to support needs that may help others. Often I am not sure what our community has to offer. I live in Bay County. So perhaps mosquito control for Arenac County? I shop, eat and socialize within Arenac County. My children also attend SSC Schools. I also volunteer in Arenac County-mainly Standish. BUT let's not forget Arenac County is not only the City of Standish its Twining, Turner, Alger, AuGres. They blight in Turner is sad.

We need more sit down restaurants also a store where you can purchase clothing or Target or a walmart

1. Jobs at a facility/plant that would pay enough to support a young family. 2. Continued support of the community center 3. Enhanced trades programs for students. 4. Educators from outside the area.

Increase the pay for our law enforcement so that we don't continue to be a revolving door. New guys come in and and leave almost immediately for the next county who pays more. The community doesn't get to build relationships with the staff. Once our seasoned deputies leave, there won't be anyone left who the community knows. It's costs more to continue training new staff than it does to raise pay rates. But this is a commissioner issue.

Corruption of law officials. Keeping a strong agriculture industry and the realization of it being a business. Keeping a strong fair out of the local government hands.

The placement of halfway houses should be regulated. I find it absolutely disgusting that there is a halfway house a block away from a bus stop.

Driving up 33 or m 65 you see all these towns like Hale for instance all decorated with nice side walks and benches. For the amount of traffic that comes through Standish, it seems like we would make it a bigger priority to clean up the town and eventually add sidewalks at the very least when a new business or renovation is done require a new sidewalk be added. I know we can't compete with Frankenmuth but some seasonal decorations would be nice. Make the guy down across from burger king put up a privacy fence if you're going to allow him to have a car lot there and try to motivate spartan tire building to renovate or demolish the building. And the half way house motel or whatever is going on there should be looked into. Homes that have been vacant for more then 3 years should be demolished if the owners don't show decent improvement in the overall preservation of the home/business. Do something to allow a nice sit down restaurant to be established in town and a Kroger or meijer, I would even settle for a Walmart. Though it may hurt a couple small businesses, it also gets people that normally drive through to stop and residents to stop driving to west branch or bay city to shop and go out to eat!

A bike trail would be amazing!

To many people on drugs.

Not that I can think of right now.

-Recycling - needs to be easier (pick up) and free or profitable to encourage use (available at campgrounds too)  
-Affordable/Quality daycare -Developing the Community Center with activities for all ages

We need more walk-in clinics or 24 hour care.

Services like high speed internet. Less than a mile from the traffic light and can't get water,natural gas or internet.

More opportunity for small businesses to come into county. Shop local, support local. We are an urban area and have the ability to have self sustain. Recreation is another important area. We have shorelines, but lack walking trails, biking trails. Promote growth!@!!!!!!!

Improve the fairgrounds and we need some where to hold large gatherings like wedding receptions and banquets and other activities

Ditches that haven't been touched in 20 years...openess between cities and townships

Fix our back roads so people can travel places, we live here pay taxes for Twenty years and IAM taking my money from our wallet to pay for stone to belayed on the road. Yes it's a Seasonal road but funny everybody uses it all year round. We put a lot of time in blowing, grading and removing tree limbs and down trees on VanHorn Rd. between Hammel Beach Rd. and Bessinger Rd. to get to the Transfer Station and recycling bins for two Township's. As a resident here in Whitney Twp. the northern end of Arenac County, we're on the back burner in many areas when coming to road repairs and conditions. Yes our biggest enemy is the rain, but if the proper materials were used it would pay out in the end for everyone. Some people up here get involved with Township's and on boards by Popularity votes and do nothing. I've been there and seen this people from both Township's for over 8 years, the best thing they do is know where to go cash their monthly pay check, it's said. Who ever is above these Township employee's in Arenac County Mr. Arenac County Commissioner, also have forgotten your JOB over looking what's going on with the people who voted you your position, Thank you for your survey Arenac County. Thomas J. Alden

More accessible mental health alcohol recovery programs.

Bike trails throughout the county including Au Gres area

1. We need someone that knows how to actually take care of the dirt roads here. The current people keep using the wrong stone, angles on the blades and speeds of the equipment. Someone needs to go to school for it. 2. We desperately need companies like Wall Mart, Myers, and the like to build in our county. It will bring jobs and more people and more tax revenues, which we need in order to provide the services needed. Progress is going to put some mom and pops out of business. But those folks can not offer better prices, they wont bring in more folks. Would love to see a Dunkin' Donuts, or a White Castle, or a TGIF.... its time to bring us into the 21st century! 3. Its time to give up that sleepy little senior community feel and start building... if done right we can keep the country atmosphere and have the businesses needed. 4. Time to put these propane companies out of business... natural gas, and city water would help everyone in the community's

No more gas stations or car dealerships. Bring in something that is actually useful and helpful for the community. Something more for the kids in the community would be nice too.

Cut back on the marijuana facilities. That is the one reason I will not spend any money in or around Au Gres. I just don't like being around marijuana.

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I believe that allowing medical marijuana facilities in our country has lowered our quality of life, decreased property values and setting the wrong example for our children and their future. We need to improve our town and it's positive features

The parks need to be overhauled/updated. Working restrooms not porta-potties. The County needs to invest money into it's work environment as well (raises/better pay to employees so they can invest their money back into the county).

No

Free Places for locals and tourists to spend time-beaches, parks etc.

Affordable public transportation Shopping — most people travel to bay city or west Branch for groceries, electronics, clothing, household goods etc

Fix roads and offer something to keep small businesses alive

Arenac is a great little 'pass through' county as travellers head to their destination. I would love to have more reasons for people to stay here and more to do for those that already do. I would love to see the villages embrace their small town feel - gazebo, town square, local festivals, etc. Even replacing the signs as people enter a village or city - ensuring it looks nice is a good first impression. \* Find a way to make/ help homeowners care for a house or tear it down if it isn't safe (Sterling has a couple of houses/buildings that are just falling down). They are bringing down home values and unsafe.

We need to bring in more stores, Meijer, clothing, sit down restaurants. Could bring hotels in to areas at exit from 75, at exit to 23 and 61. Could have shopping centers at these exits. We are a dying small town. We need to do something, or in ten, twenty years we will be a ghost town. We have to travel to Bay City, Saginaw, West Branch to do any shopping. Sad we can't shop right here at home! Bring in a theater! Open up Standish to new ideas! Let's thrive!!

Encouraging more businesses to open up. The entry into Standish from the south is such an eyesore

More shopping would be better

Nothing comes to mind

Get rid of common core in the schools ,

Better roads that go to 2 businesses at the end of Townline rd. in Sterling.

Rural gravel roads residents have to fight tooth hook and nail just to be able to have access to a gravel pile . Release your gravel to residents that have had no gravel put down on there roads for the last ten years. Do we always have to listen and be satisfied with the sob story of how much the gravel cost. I believe my taxes contributed to the purchase of that precious pile of gold. Gravel please out at white beach area. We are no longer just the slums of arenac county. Were residential and we have great potential as water front owners . we are trying to increase our value of our properties. We have the potential of becoming your waterfront treasure. please help.

We need more options for extra curricular activities for kids during the summer and after school

There is a need for people to stop and stay in the area to make a purchase other than gas on their way through. all we have is the casino. No gift shops. to stores. I cannot even run to town and buy a crock pot the size I need if mine broke. We do not even have a decent clothing store. The grocery store you have to buy on sale otherwise the items are over priced. I see my neighbors in neighboring towns. Not in this town.

We need to bring in bigger chain stores such as Meijer or Walmart it would create huge amounts of jobs as well as giving some of these small Mom Pop shops some competition to help keep the prices lower so we're not forced to travel to the city to purchase items that a can't be found in this County or B you can't afford to buy in this County

No

Better I 75 access would bring more business to the community.

The business and overall aesthetic in Au Gres needs to change. It is a shell of what it used to be. I am from Au Gres and only return because people I care about live there. When I think of Au Gres, I think blah. What is there? Why would I want to go? The thing that I used to love about Au Gres was the beach but now whenever I go, the beach is overgrown and poorly taken of, or I have someone yelling at me that I'm in their yard. When the easement is for the community. If it's hard enough for me to go to the beach, where do people that want to stay in Au Gres go? Tawas? There goes your business because they are in Tawas for a beach day. Au Gres is making some strides in the right direction with the new coffee shop, the new IGA, Ali's up north and the new legalization of recreational marijuana but even with that, the real question is how are you going to maintain these businesses? You need tourists or something memorable so people want to come back time and again "because there is nothing quite like being in Au Gres". Au Gres needs some serious tender love and care, we have all the tools we need to be a successful community but for some reason they aren't being utilized.

I believe we should embrace the fishermen that come to our area, as they stay, eat, and spend money in our community. We need to bring more people to Arenac County to provide jobs for those that live here. Maybe create a swimming beach for families at the DNR launch in AuGres. This would hopefully entice people to stay at the City campground, instead of staying in Tawas.

Mosquito control!!!! Our area needs it badly!!!

No

Business developments should not be given such difficult time upstarting. Too many regulations. Deters entrepreneurs and even the likes of Chain restaurants. Run out of town?! Looks like a ghost town for travelers driving thrust on 23

Jobs!

Respect for private property.

Just look at Tawas, AuGres and Omer need support to grow,

I think that Arenac county is on the right path getting up to date on all areas of services and development.

Fix our roads

More for our children to do. More cost effective shopping options.

Places to shop including groceries and clothing.

There needs to be things for kids to do. I think a lot of families go to the city to have family time.

New restaurant choices, particularly a nice sit down place

Quality jobs

Recreational areas for children and pet owners in the parks. Such as water parks, playscapes, dog parks, walking and bike paths. Also pavilions and bbq's for family reunions and cookouts.

Places to shop that are affordable, decent restaurants, and hotels.

More paved roads

I Think the maintenance of the infrastructure is very important but I don't think it needs to be expanded at all.

I like arenac county as a small towns feel. I like seeing and living around woodland and the Rifle River. We dont need all of those big town that tear down the woodland or destroy our natural resources

Public beach development Something done with empty business buildings Improving the appearance of towns by planting trees etc

Stop keeping businesses out and fight to get a major retailer like Meijer's in arenac county.....seems like the arenac commissioners would rather let standish rot before they let in an outside company. No more fast food or gas stations.....do something with the prison besides let it crumble. Fix the roads

Consider the needs of residents, not just tourists traveling through on their destination north. I moved back here after being gone for 20 years. Big changes noted in the area of fast food. No real growth and opportunity for residents.

We need to focus on businesses, beyond the obligatory marijuana dispensaries that are popping up everywhere. Yes, they're businesses too but they have what? 3-5 employees each? We need to drive enough jobs so we can grow the tax base, which in turn will allow us to improve roads, schools, utilities, and the like.

Thanks to President Trumps economic programs things are improving. We need good jobs in the area not more tourists and traffic.

Less waste in county government

Business development to keep families from moving away. We plan to move once our kids graduate do to minimal opportunity and activities to do with our families. Shopping outlets. Can't even buy a pair of shoes or pants in Standish. Very sad.

We need to get new businesses in Arenac county. We need to improve downtown so when we have hometown days we can attract people. A new bigger grocery/clothing/shoes/etc store. Something like Walmart, Meijers. We also need more educational programs so that people in our community can further their education. Turn some of the old elementary into college classes, like Ross medical school, skilled trade classes, welding classes, etc.

No

No

Blite, Noise, ease to dispose of recyclables, housing rules (not legal to live in a garage), good paved roads, and control of marijuana outside production to not interfere with residential living, regulations,

Arenac needs to expand its tourist economy in the summer...this place should be a stop for tourist !!! Arenac co is dying. We have junk fast food and NO DEPARTMENT STORE!!!! And now West Branch is getting a meijer!!!! People drive 40 min to shop...that's ridiculous!!! We DO NOT need another dollar store...we need a REAL store.

Heavy travelled raods like east City limits need help

As far as Au Gres, we need to get business's back in. The taxes in the town are ridiculous which is why I bough in Whitney Twmp. There is nothing to offer for the current taxation. For the county, to bring in restaurants that aren't bar food, ie Italian, steak houses. As far as cities and tourism follow the changes that are happening in Tawas. Look at the mistakes in the past and the good changes in the present and incorporate in the future. For

Au Gres to flourish, there needs to be tourism and a reason to stop on people's way through the highway to their other destinations.

Ambulance and fire services need more help

No

Need to bring in more diversified businesses.

This flea bit town needs more than fast food and a casino. There is no where to shop, no jobs and crappy side roads. Sheriff is a drunk and the whole cop shop is nothing than a "good old boys club" Hospital has gone to hell even with St Mary's. Medical services choices had vanished. No surgeon, no Pediatrician, no specialists (ie: cardiac) and limited primary care providers. Limited childcare options and limited transportation options. Just to name a few.

GOOD PAYING 40 HR. A WEEK JOBS !!!

Development in all area's. An average income person can't rent an apartment because only low income subseid are available. New chain stores and restaurants are turned down. Any thing east of 23 is labeled wet lands, which rules out development.

Need to focus more on our roads , the condition of a lot of them is deplorable !! So many of the dirt roads are nothing but rust holes, the county doesn't even put gravel down just keep grading them into a gully . Our sheriff department needs to be revamped, poor sheriff and the department is just a buddy club . Could use something more to attract tourist other then a Indian run casino . Most of the nice camp grounds have been taken over by a big business and not inviting or family friendly, just a place to party .

Consolidate some of the townships to streamline functions and decision making by fewer groups and use scarce resources for more effective impact.

None

More economic development around the marina and lakeshore. Restaurants with bay views, shops within walking distance of the pier/beach, and a push toward seasonal/tourism would boost Economic growth.

Cleaning up the shitty looking buildings in Standish.

..

Bring other businesses in to the area. Like retail and grocery.

The dirt roads NEED to be Addressed, some of them are in useable in the spring months or heavy rains. We live on Bessinger road and are selling our house because the roads are too hard on our vehicles. Safe ROADS should be a TOP Priority!

Main Street beautification (welcoming) projects, safe routes to school and trade school opportunities.

We need change in this area. If don't change, we can not grow. It's hard to except change but it needs to happen. Otherwise this county will see a hit from the surrounding Towns and City's around us that are excepting change. Roll with the times people. Out with the old, in with the new.

We need a larger merchant store to give options to the locals for shopping, a meijer or walmart. Something other than a dollar general, gas station, fast food, or hardware. All the small buisness are pretty much gone at this point. We need options and standish needs a nice park like omer and sterling. Not to mention the fairgrounds needs to allow the railroad spur to come into the industrial park. It would benefit everyone. The fairgrounds can be moved anywhere. Yes it is not ideal, but it's still better to keep production up.

Getting RID of the marijuana stores that make our city smell horrible and give us a bad name!

New business retail

Better wages for non-minimum wage jobs.

Just more job choices.

The schools need to teach skilled trades. Not everyone wants to attend college, but some students need to have building trade class available.

Business growth, a small community can support itself by having local choices and buying local. I know most would agree that these trends can come back and promote the growth we lack.

Put the right people in the right position. Put good managers in place to direct personnel and plan and manage projects efficiently.

Open restricted land to orv access

More community activities for families. Please

Curtailling the marijuana businesses

Would love to see Arenac County attract lots of new business--like Vantage Plastics and also attract the tourists in the summer. There are too many people just driving through not stopping.

Ditch's need to be cleaned out and dug.

An imperative need and focus priority for strong technology infrastructure and secure, dependable WiFi broadband access for entrepreneurial and consumer venture.

Economic development! We need more stores and restaurants! We hardly even have a store to go buy a child's birthday gift besides Dollar General! We always drive to bay city or west branch to get groceries and shop for gifts, household items.

Child care options

Make Au Gres a destination!

Indoor center for kids of all ages to play

Modernizing. I feel there has been little progress in certain areas. I would like to see the downtown develop and be more scenic and thriving with shops, businesses, and restaurants, especially with the location of US 23 and cities in Arenac county. I feel they are not being used to their fullest capabilities

Keep windmills out of Arenac County.

Taxes are too high, because of new school and there is no work. This creates a population moving elsewhere, when people have to drive 30 to 40 miles for employment.

Standish needs a better grocery stores,department stores.We should of had Meijers,It would be nice to see Aldi's or even sav-lot.We have to many fast food not enough family restaurants.

Traffic flow in Standish and W Branch

No

Education, especially in the trade and service fields Blight control - removal of rusted machinery, autos, dilapidated buildings Removal of dead trees and tree limbs that impact power during storms Beach and berm erosion

Continue bike a walk path to TAWAS

No

YES YOUR FANTASTIC PRISON SITTING IDLE, WHY NOT USE IT FOR A JUVENILE LOCK UP. OR A TEMPORARY HOUSING UNIT FOR THE HOMELESS. EDUCATION, THIS UNIT HAS MANY GOOD USES IT COULD HELP TO CHANGE MANY DECLINING OR DECREASED AREAS IN ARENAC COUNTY. HOW ABOUT USING IT TO HEKLP EVALUATE MENTAL HEALTH, SINCE THE MID 80'S AND ALL THE ASYLUMS CLOSED, MENTAL HEALTH HAS BEEN NEGLECTED TO THE DEGREE OF MASS SHOOTING, DRUG USE , PROSTITUTION

decent job opportunity...better housing whether it is ownership or rentals doesn't make a difference....better roads for sure..better regulations on the roads we do have now, such as speed limits and blight within city limits of several towns in Arenac county....businesses that meet the needs of residence such as grocery shopping and clothing and basic human needs

Arenac County needs to be more open to the financial opportunities that could arise with the Marijuana Industry. This area really needs the jobs that the industry could bring in.

Location and implementation of new fairground.

Parks on the Bay are needed. Beach front activities needed.

Traffic lights, turn lanes, a walmart, or meijers. Speed limit adjustments town expanding near tractor supply. Still 55mph. forest lake and areas All riders ATV etc, golf carts. Riding lanes if needed. Allowing riders and clear laws.

get business back in the City of AuGres

A place for shopping. We only have Dollar Stores,thrift shops, gas stations, and 1 grocery store. We have to go to West Branch or Bay City to shop. We also need something for young people to do. Also more activities for active 65 and older.

Needs to bring in places people can shop instead of going to Bay City and West Branch. How can we keep our money in Arenac if there's no place to shop.

That the county does nothing to encourage the sale, production, processing, growing, and dispensing of medical marijuana. It's a Pandora's box.

Roads need more attention if country wants to attract more businesses and residents.

Bring more jobs, less marijuana to area. Fix roads! Businesses are moving, school numbers are low! Need work to keep families here! Arenac County Park is a gem in the rough, spend money to keep clean, find somebody to run it!!

N/A

More public boat launches. Maybe at singing bridge

Need more business/shopping in Standish

Elect new officials at the courthouse.

Not @ this time, Thank~You

No

Too much blight!!! Residences with junk in & around homes.

I think they should open recreational trails for snowmobile and off road recreational vehicles to bring more people to the county.

The good old boys, need to come to a end. Towns are dying

It has been rumored that a Meijer store was being considered and that it was rejected by the city council. If this is true, it is very disappointing. There is no local access to a store to buy toys and very limited access to buy clothing and home goods. It would have provided jobs as well. I think it would have been an economic win for our county. It's hard to have hope for economic development when these things are rejected.

Yes take better care of secondary roads and more money to make our parks nicer and open young man park

Taxes in certain areas are too high

Fix the fairgrounds and the track!!

Leadership needs work. People have to work together.

We need a place to shop for clothes and household goods, such as Ollie's [who is currently looking for store options]. We've had a Big Wheel; Pamida; and Shopko. We need a store like Walmart or Meijer. We currently have several auto parts stores, but no real place for necessary home shopping and have to go out of the area. PLEASE consider this!

Arenac county is stagnant. Communities like Au Gres, Omer, Twining and Whittemore are turning into ruins. Businesses are failing and closing, and the empty buildings turning into blight. Work opportunities for people to earn a decent living wage are scarce.

Mostly new business and more jobs in our area so people dont have to go so far to work or shop

Create an environment more enticing for business to locate here vs. W. Branch or tri cities.

Arenac county needs to grow up and start courting major retailers. Pretty much everyone goes to West Branch to shop....standish is not a destination, it is a tourist pass through.

community programs and opportunities for both youth and senior citizens

Yes... should have allowed Meijer to build here for economy and jobs. It shame you didn't. Standish in my opinion is the gateway to the northeast. We want the economy to grow, let those businesses build here.

Need more accessibility for snowmobiles.

Lentner road north off US 23. Fixed. All the property owners on that road pay taxes twice a year (myself included) at this time I cannot access my property because of road condition.

I'd like to see rural roads being black topped. Perhaps budget for 5 to 10 miles a year. Arenac is growing and I'd like to see an upper middle class ,and middle class neighborhood,s rather than trashy lower class trailers and such. Blacktop roads save money in the future also, get one road fixed up it,ll last 25-30 years. They attract better housing possibilities. Easier to maintain.

Keeping the ditches clean and the roads in good repair.

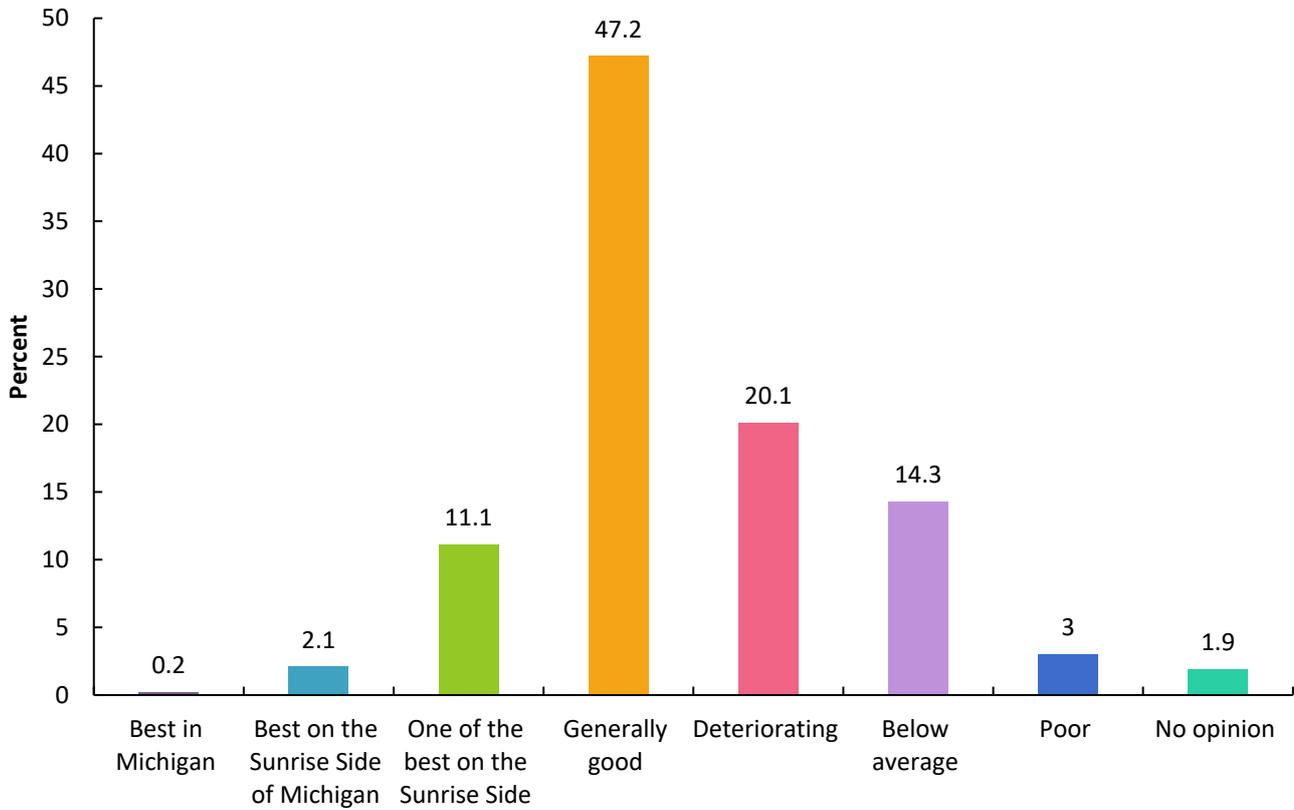
Better rural internet Transportation for elderly

Public access to our rivers and lakes! We do have some, but not all are user friendly.

Replacing Bridges, improvements of the roads and drainage of them. Expansion of natural gas to rural areas.

Continue/FINISH bike trail from Tawas ,south to AU Gres

## 9.How would you characterize the quality of life in Arenac County?



Value	Percent	Count
Best in Michigan	0.2%	1
Best on the Sunrise Side of Michigan	2.1%	10
One of the best on the Sunrise Side	11.1%	52
Generally good	47.2%	221
Deteriorating	20.1%	94
Below average	14.3%	67
Poor	3.0%	14
No opinion	1.9%	9
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>468</b>

**10. Describe three things that you would like to have available in Arenac County that would improve your quality of life.**

Response
A better road Hook up to gas Shopping
Help with Conservation practices on the ground Better government representation County government working better with townships
Clothing store. Grocery store good restaurant
Department store, fine dining.
Better medical , less rules and regulations. City people move up here to get away from all the crap then want to start it up here. Grade a road once in awhile in the summer time. Why have a road commission?
Jobs. Social events for people besides bars.
1Transportation- links with adjacent counties — medical, services, entertainment, amenities 2Homeowner services 3communities' appearance
1. Transportation for elderly and handicapped. 2. Filling empty store fronts with businesses needed in community. 3. Closer access to a larger shopping mart like Meijer, Walmart, etc.
Clean drinking water Sewers Municipal water
affordable things for family's with kids to do, affordable stores to buy things in, better roads
Paved roads all throughout this county. Cut the grass along the the roadsides more than once per year, area appears unkept, poverty area. Parks need great improvement also.
More businesses -jobs . An actual clothing , shopping center . Something for the youth
Quality shopping center that does not charge an arm and a leg. Support for the youth, though rec., 4h, community center
Better schools, more jobs, housing
Indoor walking area Indoor place for kids to play More walking trails
Medical facilities Better shopping alternatives Better lake river access when to don't have a boat.
Closer affordable food Closer medical Snow removal
Honest business people. Better shopping and better medical availability
Closer shopping opportunities, closer quality continued education,
Better pay for education and police, parenting classes and improved roads.
More paved bike paths, more business in Augres.
Better places to live, expand the hospital so they can do more better care for the people of arena county.beautify the town.
Better parks, more restaurants, cheaper grocery store
Get rid of the majorana places 2) fix your gravel roads
High speed internet in rural areas that is affordable
Better local roads Better medical services Employment opportunities
Lower city tax strat incourage business to start up.

Paved roads. Availability of city water and gas. Super center grocery
More stores
Shopping center More enrichment classes, and activities at the Community Center Full support for the community center
Medical, stores.
A major shopping center (strip mall), senior center improvements, quality improvements to county fair
More destination attractions, recreational activities
Economic development (businesses) Better restaurants Sherrie/police not seemingly harassing the people on Point Lookout
More Street Lights on roads! Four lane highway! Bike trail along US-23 on lake side of road!
Business choices as in more businesses as well as taking care of the businesses in the area. As well as non profits. A good outdoor community space to be used for many events and to stop people from parking down town by the light obstructing drivers' view.
Bike trails Hiking trails Opportunities for community involvement
More doctors that take new patients Walk in clinic, like a RediMed A big supermarket, clothing store, Meijer, Walmart ,target, where a person could buy shoes or clothes if needed
Medical services, job opportunities, great schools.
None come to mind
Jobs jobs things for youth reasons to stay
Higher paying jobs Attempts from the city to attract new industries, currently cities are full of restaurants and gas stations. Education that is eyeing the future industries rather than based on agriculture (graduated 10 years ago, may be outdated).
another general/grocery store would be nice with reasonable prices. competition is good. businesses staying open later than 6PM that have items of interest. we have hunting, fishing, water sports people coming thru and they have needs
More kid friendly attractions,
Hospital care. Doctors
Access to river and lakes. Dust control on dirt roads. Mesquito control.
Affordable shopping, community rental hall, blight policies.
More businesses
More doctors Better shopping Development along Lake Huron
AFFORDABLE GROCERY STORE LIKE AN ALDI. BETTER ROADS , POLICE PRESENCE IN MY AREA RESTAURANT OTHER THAN FAST FOOD THAT IS NOT DISGUSTING PLACE TO SHOP FOR OTHER ITEMS THAT IS NOT OUTRAGOUS.
Kill the phragmites. Better medical dental care. Better restaurants
Better health options
Major department store, Meijer or Walmart. I go to Bay City why not spend in Arenac county? Sit down chain restaurants along the lines of Bob Evans, Olive Garden etc. There are a couple of family owned. No variety. NO

**MORE GAS STATIONS! ENOUGH CAR DEALERS! DO SOMETHING WITH THE DEFUNCT PRISON!**

Development and preservation of the rural areas can co-exist

roads

Better restaurants. Higher paying jobs. More for young people to do.

More stores: hardware & meat/vegetable markets.

1) Beach 2) Theater 3) An Antique Mall

My quality of life is great here, especially since AuGres has an excellent grocery store!

More therapy options More physicians in the area Movie theater in Standish Tim Hortons in Standish

Better roads!

Meijers, ordinance on yards and businesses and better roads

Better medical, better shopping ( more grocery stores) fix the roads. You all get our taxes for roads, fix them. There should be no dirt roads...

A break wall at pine River access, and the river dredged to access larger boats

Improved transportation systems. Perhaps private companies should be allowed to operate car or van services to the general public. There seems to be none of this in predominantly rural areas in Michigan.

More policing.

Meijer or Walmart Good sitdown restaurant, Applebees, Logan's, Ponderosa or something like that. The people on the board that says what can and cannot come into Standish need to get their heads out of the hole it is in. We have 3 car part stores, 3 pizza places, 2 dollar stores and 3 gas stations with another one being built. But only one grocery store, and no clothing stores. WHY DO YOU KEEP TURNING DOWN THE BIGGER STORES?? We could use the jobs and the products the stores have. We go to the bigger cities to spend our money.

Education, higher education options Clean, family dining that stays open past 8PM, especially on key nights such as recitals, graduation, etc. Another traffic light in Standish Or a left turn signal, especially during peak travel times. Traffic is miserable!

Better roads Internet availability

Surrounding areas, have many more businesses for us to shop at and they there for, employ more people, which we go to, to shop at. I would like to see us, get a Walmart or Meijer , at least contact these companies or others. To see if they might be interested in building here. Example, the casino brought more jobs, for our community.

More public asses for rifle river. Affordable camping Spraying bugs

1.Fast food with drive thru 2.Better medical with more doctors or clinic. 3.Better place to shop We have weed places, pizza, high priced groceries

More jobs

Restaurants, meijer and aldi, event center.

Water delivery services Better internet services Jobs

Roadside recycling & something with info to welcome new people to Arenac co

A decent hotel for relatives to stay at.

An all around store like a Meijer, Walmart, Costco. Something with better prices than the current grocery stores.

Rail trail Meijers grocery Quaint coffee shop

Larger farmer market Bette4 road conditions

Paved bike path,

Competitive grocery store chain department store Elementary school back in Standish

More employment opportunities

Maybe mosquito control. I miss SHOPKO. More awareness of what we do have. Or what we may need. Who knows there maybe a volunteer willing to help.

New businesses. New businesses. New businesses

no particular order. A quality store like a Meijer, Aldi, Kroger. A sitdown restaurant that if you slipped down the steps you wouldn't be in the middle of 23. A road commission that would fix and maintain roads properly. It has changed in years need new personnel

Better doctors that are willing to stay in the area. A stable fairgrounds that is being supported by the local government. A road commission that wants better roads and not quick fixes that make them temporarily look good and won't push their milages on us.

Nice sit down restaurant Kroger, meijer or at the least a Walmart A movie theater would be nice, even if it was a drive in at the fairgrounds! A home depot, harbor freight or even a menards would be nice. A large professional building like the McLaren building by the river in bay city may bring some more doctor's to the area. Maybe were the Spartan tire building is :o) or on m61 near the hospital

Recreation options, shopping and road conditions

Safety for our children. Attack businesses that are not drug related. Stop all these low lifestyle that are moving into our communities.

More public transportation such as bussing and taxis. A large store like Meijer or Wal-Mart. A motor sports complex!

More opportunities for the handicap/disabled

More shopping choices

24 hour clinics After school programs A retail store

More road patrols, internet choices, better roads.

City water, high speed internet, better roads.

Recreational, trails trails trails!

Places to shop. Jobs, lower taxes.

More shopping for food and clothes

-better mental health services. (It is unacceptable that someone has to hurt themselves or someone else before something can be done for those with mental illness) -More learning/development opportunities for adults. -A better community link between the town's in our county so we all are aware of events and activities happening.

1) Bike path connected to Tawas 2) parkour playground & fitness activities for children and adults 3) community center in Au Gres

Jobs, day care options

Another boat launch to the North end of Arenac Co. Better Rural roads and third AuGres store's that stayed open better business.

Businesses in Au Gres Entertainment events

Rural internet

Less pesticides and chemicals used With all of the marijuana workers coming in the town is beginning to change

Better busing transportation

1. City water, and natural gas, would be a great start 2. Walmart, Meyers, some better restaurants... Krogers... 3. Better response time for the police department (but this cant be done until we get more monies in the bank, and that requires bigger businesses and more people living here) 4. More city planned events!

Parks for children Choice for restaurants Choice for shopping

A cheaper grocery store, a place to buy everything you need without having to travel or visit 5 stores (walmart) and a stop light at the 4 way by the schools. These kids do not know how to use a 4 way stop sign and there should also be crosswalks. Many students walk to the other school for sports.

Meijer

More outdoor ada Better government relations

.

Improve education system. Improve infrastructure of our county and township boards. Make county more attractive to potential businesses and residents

More job opportunities. Better maintenance of county roads. Arenac county road commission is terrible at that. Where do the tax dollars go?? City water availability everywhere if possible.

Places to take kids to play/enjoy. Larger scale restaurants...sit down, not fast food.

Parks that have paths with active equipment, more beach accesses, less (no) drug/medical sale facilities

More doctors Department store Movie theater

More parks, programs for kids ,food banks

More local businesses

More walking trails

Urgent Care facility County Park that is not \$10/ day Community Feel/ small town feel embraced

more activities for children & families, more daycare options, more availability for preschool

Shopping centers, more grocery stores.

Clothing stores, more food options like restaurants and fast food and entertainment options

1 Better medical 2 Better choices for shopping. Options are minimal forcing me to do the majority of my shopping out of town (west branch and bay city). This takes time away from my family and increases my carbon footprint. 2 more options for outdoor exercise. More walking/ running and biking paths. I'd love to see a rail trail like system!

More shopping choices so things aren't so much more expensive than the bigger stores

Better snow removed on back roads

More businesses

Keep it country,development is kinda good but the reason i moverd here is because I wanted out of city life this is a beautiful area lets keep it that way

Unity,Dream again, plan again, Make something New, take risk. There has been a lot of prayer released over our county. 1. Diffnantly Another traffic light in town 2. Gravel available for troubled roads 3. (Welcome Financial

opportunity ) big box business use of prison added teachers ,coaches young adult and children devolpers Home economics Utilizing of church buildings and services

Better hospital, meijer family fare is overpriced and bringing a meijer in would also create jobs.also more programs for kids to do other than through the school program

a better shopping experience, stores with a better quality merchandise at a reasonable price compared to our surrounding towns.. A community center for the middle age and senior group where they can socialize other than bars in the Standish area. We do have the senior center in Omer which is away from the majority of the population of the county and we do not have a decent busing system to get those who cannot drive there. Non denominational. A nature park and bike trails that is county, not private.

Local Businesses striving rather than business chains overtaking the small communities Combined sports/ transportation to students for athletic and educational purposes Stronger blight ordinances

More events in activities for families interest to do in the joy you have to bring people to the community for the community make money

Jobs, competitive wages with surrounding area business. Wages are below average in this area. County work, not just on roads but our ditches as well. New business perhaps utilizing the many abandoned buildings we have

Store like Meijers, not ShopCo Community Recreation Building not a part of schools More and Better internet and cable choices

Closer retail access.

More public access to the beach. More job opportunities. More community Engagement and events.

More things for children to do.

1. More jobs for people without college degrees. 2. A limit on marijuana farms/dispensaries/shops!!!! We have WAY too many of them in AuGres! 3. An indoor track/gym/community center for activities during the long, cold winter.

Bike trails, water park for kids, and mosquito control

Youth fun facilities Better fairgrounds Parks

Improve economic opportunities. Improve education. Bring in more business.

Affordable groceries. I would like to shop locally, but I always go to Bay City for nearly everything because I save money doing it.

Workout facility with pool /aerobics. More recreation - movie theater, miniature golf, kite shops, etc. Perhaps welcome Food Trucks @ new area by the River. Public beach besides South end only@ Arenac County Park.

Medical providers. Better grocery.

Bike trail, Economic development, adult education and recreation opportunities,

A large community center that is available for rent for large gatherings.

Beach, Uber, more recreational things

Thing for our children to do More stores, we have nothing other then dollar stores to shop at now. Less bars & gas stations

Entertainment such a movie theater, adventure park (Indoor and outdoor), swimming pool that was actually available for swimming Shopping-department store and more grocery options

Cheaper place to purchase groceries. Nice park to take my kids.

Better restaurant choices Backroads improved

Entertainment, availability to shopping, quality jobs
Job development, recreational areas such as dog parks and play areas for children.
Affordable place to shop
More retail More entertainment
Meijer, nicer affordable housing, downtown shopping
Better quality shopping
I would enjoy a bike path through the county. Job creation would help all other aspects.
Open to more state land and cleaner road side and less deforestation and cleaner rivers and access
shopping, dining, manufacturing or other new employers
More walking trails Public beaches More bar/restaurants
More retailers, more entertainment, more employment opportunities
The biggest thing is somewhere to purchase basic household items, somewhere to buy a gift, somewhere to buy new underwear! Holiday traffic is a definite issue!
Better access to public transportation More jobs A full sized retailer like a Walmart or Meijer, without making us drive 30-45 minutes to one
Jobs, Full service Hospital, less government
Good restaurants, bike trail
New business, job opportunities, use the prison grounds, activities for children to do without having to drive. Need reasons to stay and not move away.
A grocery store. That's all I can think of
Better health care, more recreational activities, better grocery and restaurant choices!
Something for the kids to go and do. Bring businesses in competition is good. Tear down empty houses
Additional grocery stores Improved roads Restaurants and entertainment
Internet available Roads
More primary care physicians. Competitive grocery store. More family dining choices.
Au Gres = Hardware store, good sports store, high tech businesses !!!
DEPARTMENT STORE!!!!ASAP
An affordable general store like Meijer
I would like to see portions of the Iron Belle Trail developed.
Shopping opportunities for household goods
More grocery stores! Better and affordable department stores! More good restaurants, not fast food, but family sit down restaurants! I
Better restaurants Better grocery stores- the ability to find quality food. Shopping
More emergency services. Roads being fixed rather than patched. I.e. main st rd in twining.arenac eastern opened back up

Health care, shopping, community activities
Bike trails. Better roads...
Shopping such as Lowes, Home Depot, Menards, Best Buy. Adding grocery stores like Meijer and Kroger. And other stores to increase traffic and interest in coming to Standish.
Things for kids to do, more family activities and some type of competition for stores.
Affordable shopping Affordable childcare Maintenance of side roads
<b>GOOD JOBS, TO KEEP THE PEOPLE HERE</b>
Good paying jobs, non-ego tripping police, Better traffic help for Friday nights, Sunday afternoons.
Organized recreational activities, craft classes, better everything. Drive 30 miles for milk, paint, entertainment, restaurant, doctor, gasoline and save \$50.00. SAD
Improved roads , more child care .
We shouldn't have to drive 30 minutes from Standish to have a decent job, or to save money grocery shopping. The city needs to get a grip on blight.
Better road maintenance, especially the gravel roads that turn into mud pits after rain. More job opportunities. County ordinances to reduce trash and salvage vehicle accumulation on residential and commercial property so the county doesn't look like a third world country.
Meijers is needed
Nature trails, pride and aesthetics of the city.
Restaurants on the water, thriving aribnb access, better access to fishing/cruising charters.
Healthier food choices besides fast food, a better grocery store, ?
.
Shopping, recreation, restaurants
Urgent care facility. Senior citizen center in Standish. More local activities for seniors during daytime rather than evening due to limited daylight.
The county is losing businesses, especially Au Gres. We need something to bring in young families to our county. We are not going to be able to sustain the existing businesses if we don't bring in some young families.
Paved roads, bike path and more jobs
Walkable trails - shopping options - short term rentals on Lake Huron.
A meijer, nice family restaurant and a planet fitness.
Emergency walk in clinic ... A county park for kids to play Meijers
Getting rid of Mr. Collier to help further education as he is ruining the school system, provide more job opportunities, and restore and sell property along 23 (old businesses)
Retail store sporting goods store more stuff for families
Better paying Jobs Better Roads Less City-its
More bike or walking paths. More paths for ORVs. More community centers.
Biking trails Walking trails. Small Business Growth.
Grocery store Medical services Dining options

Homeless and drugs are very present in the county. Residents just need to open their eyes and realize this. Adult education. Enhanced education for children. Provisions for children that teachers identify that need extra help with daily personal care, social care, education.

More medical facilities, more jobs available,

1. more retail / dining 2. better communication between townships and existing businesses 3. better advertising of community events

Not many well paying jobs in the area.

Family activities Bike path from town to Tawas Holiday activities

Bike trails, more public swimming access sites, more pickleball courts

Paved hiking and biking trails, some fishing areas on the Rifle, Pine and AuGres rivers that are handicap/disabled accessible, currently are none that I'm aware of. Handicap/disabled accessible hunting areas.

1-more upscale dining 2-more social events

Beaches, parks, dining

Paved bike path, community center with a gym, lounge, and WiFi, and a healthy food chain such as tropical smoothie cafe.

Handicapped accessible park, activities for young children and teens, access to necessities for our elderly

The marijuana businesses closed. More programs geared for the "golden years" populations. County parks improved so that they are as successful as the privately owned parks!!

State of the art technology infrastructure, Art and theater, increased service industry options.

Entertainment options More job opportunities Park improvements

Larger grocery store with curbside pickup or delivery Shopping to get household items, gifts, occasional name brand items with competitive prices More restaurant options

Child care options Access to affordable healthy foods Clean housing

Options for fresh produce and groceries not Walmart in Tawas. Some better options for restaurants and food. A quality downtown

More restaurants More shopping experiences-stores, markets More conveniences...things to do

Better/more dining and shopping options, job opportunities, walkable "downtown" area

Easier access to quality affordable clothing and food options. More recreational opportunities for kids and teens.

Nicer park, kid friendly and safe activities

Place for kids to go

More community events to get people involved and create the feeling of community Assistance to new business ventures/entrepreneurs to turn old empty building into new businesses

A hardware store, a pharmacy, a fast food outlet, and a couple decent restaurants and bars.

Meijers grocery store or an Aldies, more housing for young families.

Bike path options (Pt Augres to AuGres Center and Point Lookout to AuGres Center) Improved natural history/wildlife education options (boardwalks in wetlands and forests) Water/Sewer access (Pt. Augres)

Something for kids to do and adults like putt golf.

Better beach access

More businesses Reasons for people to visit the area Better quality of life
I'm good, could be more stuff for younger people. Oasis Lake and camp ground could be really nice but they aren't at all.
Medical services More businesses
Better restaurant s merchandise stores like Walmart or Meijer
Affordable transportation, better housing for low income with actual standards/quality, more jobs
Trade schools Blight removal Beach erosion prevention
Better shopping choices More jobs Better road maintenance
Protection from flooding Better cell coverage
public transportation
Improve roads Improve infrastructure (water,sewer) Internet, improve phone strength (towers)
More Hospitals, lake access, horse trails
JUVENILE LOCK DOWN..2. MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION 96 HOURS MINIMUM. SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS, WE ARE A VERY COLD STATE AND MANY PEOPLE FREEZE TO DEATH ON THE STREETS
Public trails, canoekayak route on upper Au Gres river, attracting industrial development
available affordable grocery shopping center available affordable clothes shopping opportunity better school systems
More jobs, better paying jobs, jobs with benefits, opportunities for higher education within the county
Businesses moving into The area to Fill empty storefronts, more shopping choices within our county, more hours for public bussing
Beach. Pool. Parks and walking areas
Walmart, meijers, Recreational vehicles allowed Neighborhood program, neighbors helping neighbors
More stores,activities for 65 and older. More activities for the younger generation.
Parks/recreation Transportation Shopping choices West Branch meets a higher mark.
Major retaile store, good set in restaurants
Better infrastructure, especially our sidewalks & City sewers in Standish. People have to walk in the street because the tree roots have caused the walks to heave unevenly. I'm ashamed of our block of Grove St from Cedar South to the Family Fare shopping center. Every time we get a good rain, my drains gurgle when I run my faucets, flush the toilet or run the washer.
Better medical care, hospitals. Convenient and cost effective food stores, such as Meijers.
1. Small business growth. 2. Family park with playscape, pavilions and bbq grills. 3. Also a dog park.
Better roads Varied commercial establishments Improved cell phone coverage
Fix roads Create jobs
Hiking/biking trails Public beaches
Healthy grocery options Bike/walking trails Better restaurants and cultural options
Better access to Lake Huron/public beaches. More options/availability of quality primary care physicians Affordable high speed internet in rural areas

Access to competent medical care Indoor lap swimming pool Community programs offering activities, educational programs, ie photography.

Restaurants. Nice public beach areas More stores

More restaurants More stores for shopping

Better roads conservation police

Sprinkler park, better library, something youth based.

A clean and better grocery store Better medical

Improved roads & sidewalks. More police to reduce noise and speeding.

More lighting down M-13 it is hard to see in dark, snow, and rain. Better drainage for snow and rain. Maybe emergency lights that rotate or are a different color to show distress for side of road that can be pushed also for assistance/help.

Argent Care Clinic Expanded Park Facilities Expanded Community Center

Off road trails opened Grading the dirt roads more often Better roads and keeping grass trimmed on the sides of the roads

Economic growth, road repair for the gravel roads (Langdon road on the border of Arenac township and Standish township has been in disrepair or years ), and preservation of the shoreline.

More things for our children and grandchildren to do out side things skate park

A Meijer grocery store Medical facilities Restaurants

Better roads. Higher paying jobs.

Better choices in restraunts, better maintenance on secondary roads. Better hospital

Affordable housing Public transportation Access to better medical care

Improved recreational area. More retail. Lowes, Home Depot, Menards, Kroger, Meijer, Walmart

1. Hardware store 2. Better bridge over US23 3. Tear down the old Flamingo bar!

Landline based Broadband internet access at my home (currently unavailable) More sit down, non-fast food restaurant options Improved/additional options for Lake Huron Access

I think too much emphasis is put on tourism and not enough on jobs for the community, or places to shop.

Better access to medical care. Standish is a band aide stop. Your care gets farmed out. Better job opportunity. Without those items our community because destitute.

Better health care providers. Instead of PAC...doctors available un the clinic. More than one grocery store so prices are lower. Better paying jobs so people cqn stay in the area. Also more support for our police department financially and morally

Bike & hike paths. Sewers

More competition among business to create better prices for consumers. One grocery store is not ideal! Replace Shopko business with a similar store. Somewhere to buy clothing, shoes, & household items. More restaurants.

A Walmart, Meijer's, Aldi's something so folks don't have to drive to Bay City or west branch

improve road access to public lake access points improve sports programs for grade school youth available legitimate help for seniors seeking medical insurance options both pre and post age 65

Jobs.. Jobs.. Jobs..

Natural gas, hi speed internet and a paved road. Old m10 is a piece of shit to live on. It gets destroyed by the heavy trucks going to the bean and grain. Only other issue I have is I have to drive 35 miles minimum to get a decent paying job. I don't know how you get more industry in this area. That's a million dollar question.

1.Black top roads in rural areas.                      2. Beautification of our highways, flowering trees and flowering shrubs on I-75 other major roadways.(exit 202 )                      3. Trails to ride near rifle river and lake huron areas. Use the natural beauty of our county to bring in visitors.

More shopping, (clothing, shoes, home goods)

A place to shop. Meijers Wal-Mart like that.

Internet better jobs and transportation

Movie Theater Reasonably priced grocery store Clothing/Shoe store

More restaurants a dog park things for kids to do

Lower taxes.

Higher education opportunities Jobs Recreational availability

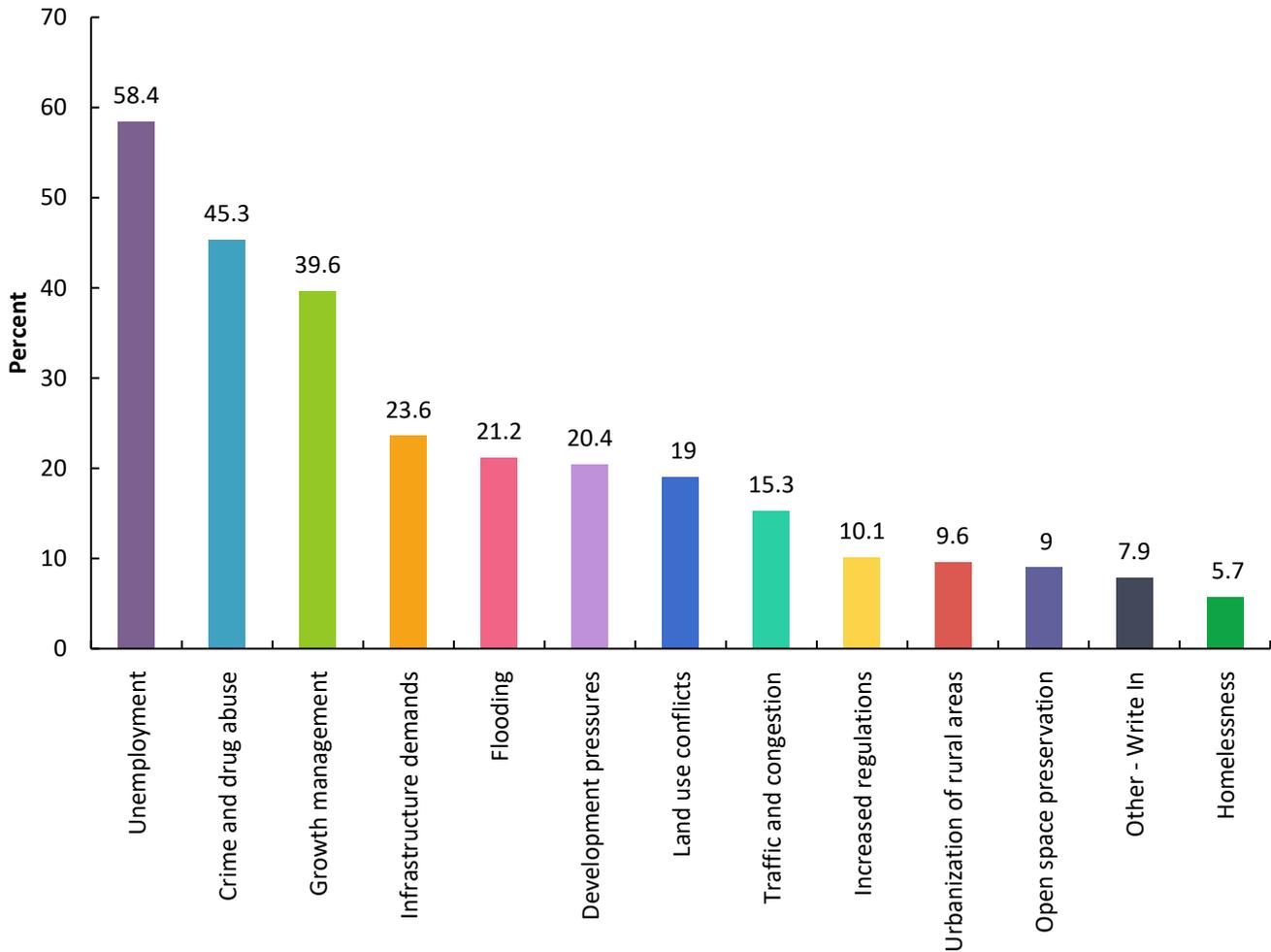
Availability of natural gas. Reliable internet service. More entertainment opportunities.

Better dining choices Retail Nicer parks/water access

Better school, better roads, better police

Bike path for walking and biking exercise.

**11. What do you believe are the main challenges Arenac County is facing today (please check all that apply): ?**



Value	Percent
Unemployment	58.4%
Crime and drug abuse	45.3%
Growth management	39.6%
Infrastructure demands	23.6%
Flooding	21.2%
Development pressures	20.4%
Land use conflicts	19.0%
Traffic and congestion	15.3%
Increased regulations	10.1%
Urbanization of rural areas	9.6%
Open space preservation	9.0%
Other - Write In	7.9%
Homelessness	5.7%

**What do you believe are the main challenges Arenac County is facing today? Other – Write In Responses**

Attracting and keeping young professionals in the area.
Dirt roads
Drug abuse. Businesses being stopped from into town
Fix and maintain roads
General population has few options for good jobs. Economy is poor
Getting locals to support local businesses and stay local for shopping/entertainment
High water wave action erosion on Saginaw Bay.
Higher wages, cheaper and easier access to health insurance. Reorganization of F.I.A. No one usually answers phone. You are on phone waiting literally for hours for assistance.
Lack of affordable housing
Lack of good jobs.
Lack of new development
Lack of shopping oppurtunities
Limited options for growth
Local attitudes to change
Loss of businesses (AuGres)
MENTAL HEALTH
Marijuana Facilities - Remove - Crime..!!!
Mismanagement in several areas
Need of food
Needs a beautification committee to clean up main street and make it more inviting. Haven't seen much improvement since the depot was added. Hoped the businesses would follow suit when that went in. Would personally like to see the cable internet make it to Adams township but that's just mine and thy neighbors benefit.
No medical, better schools
Politicians/ leadership
Poverty
Poverty- low paying jobs
Racial discrimination And lack of diversity in education.
Recreation - keep developing to bring in tourism.
Stagnant wages (except minimum wage that is increasing) and rising cost of living expenses
Standish downtown blight
Taxes
Too many marijuana related businesses

Upkeep

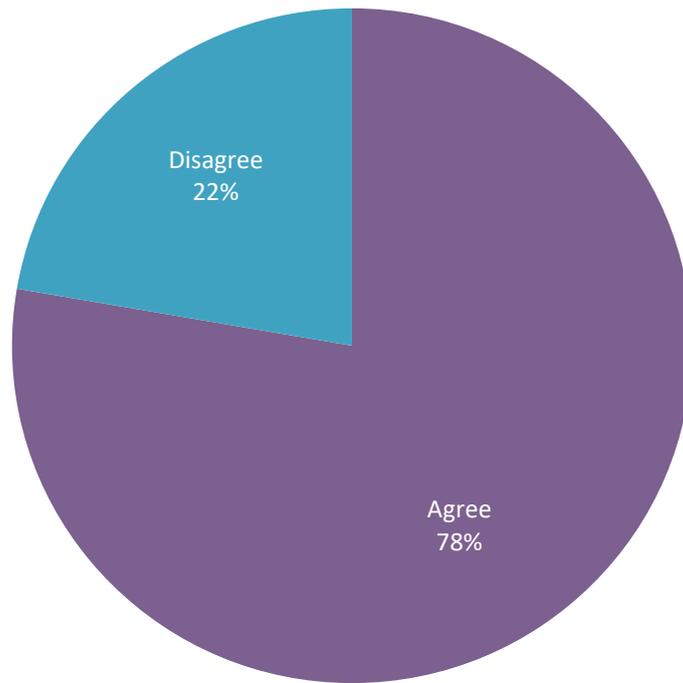
We need jobs for those who actually live in Arenac County, and sufficient shopping to warrant staying local.

We need leaders that will promote new businesses to come to our area.

most jobs are low income part time

road conditions

**12.Five years from now I see myself living in Arenac County.**



<b>Value</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Agree	77.7%	358
Disagree	22.3%	103
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>461</b>

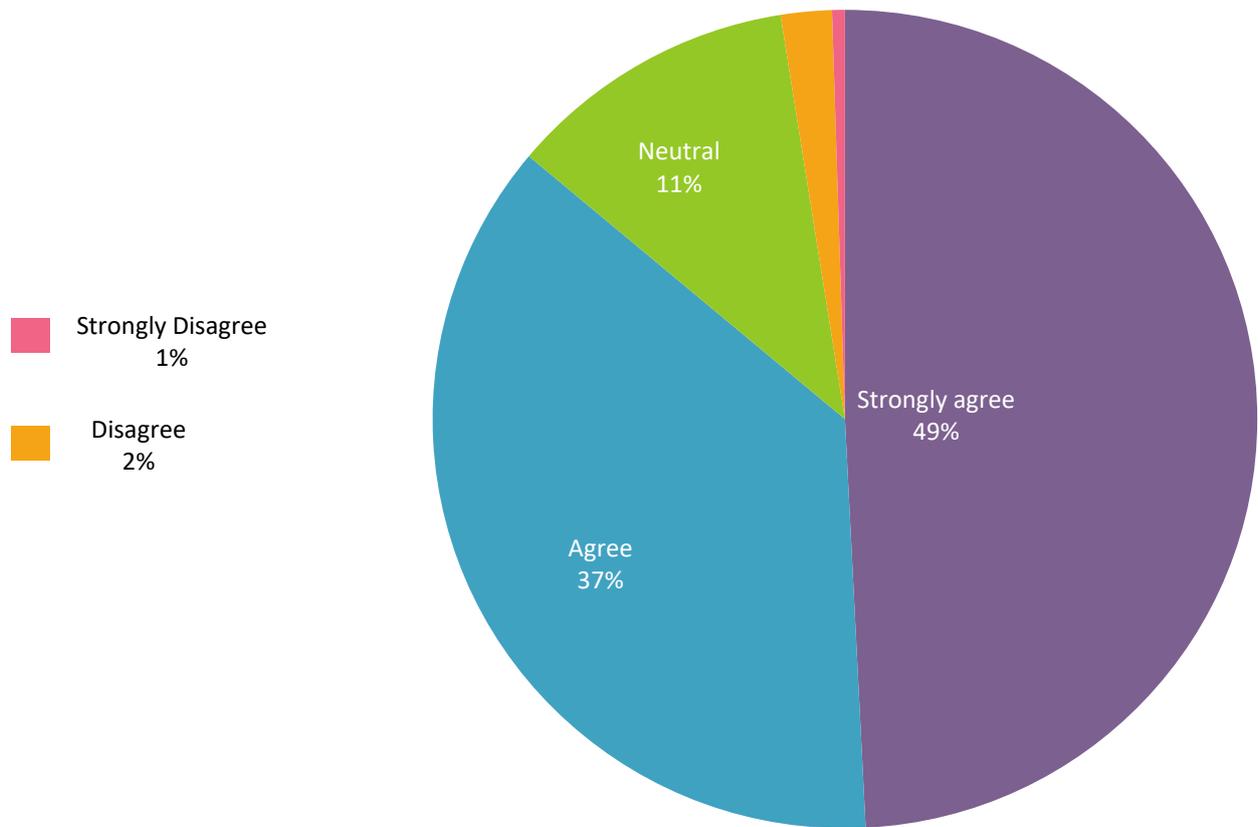
**13.How important are the following strategies in addressing issues related to agriculture in Arenac County?**

	Very important	Important	Needs to be considered, but not a priority	Not important at all	No Opinion	Responses
Build and support local or regional food economies.	186 42.9%	193 44.5%	39 9.0%	7 1.6%	9 2.1%	434
Enhance the business environment for agriculture.	170 38.9%	193 44.2%	53 12.1%	8 1.8%	13 3.0%	437
Farming practices (chemicals, pollution, tiling, etc.).	199 45.6%	158 36.2%	57 13.1%	10 2.3%	12 2.8%	436
Preserve and protect farmland.	199 45.5%	168 38.4%	59 13.5%	6 1.4%	5 1.1%	437
Reduce conflicts between agriculture and residential uses.	143 32.8%	164 37.6%	106 24.3%	12 2.8%	11 2.5%	436
Support best management practices for livestock production and management.	133 30.4%	195 44.6%	80 18.3%	10 2.3%	19 4.3%	437

**14.What are your feelings regarding the agricultural land use statements below?**

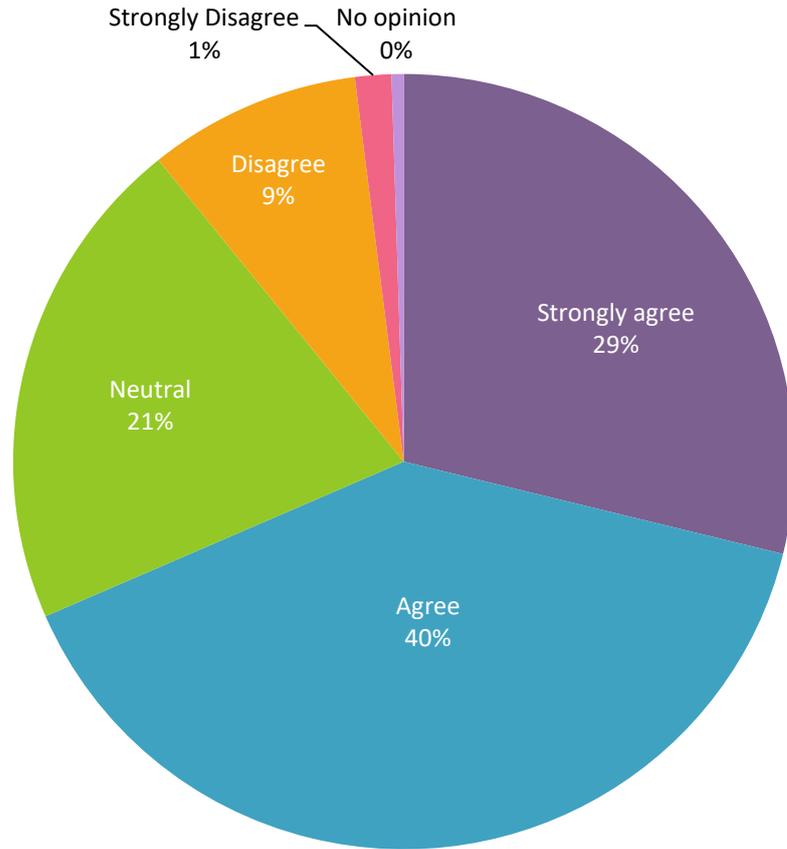
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion	Responses
Agriculture is an important aspect of the Arenac County economy.	208 47.4%	173 39.4%	40 9.1%	8 1.8%	1 0.2%	9 2.1%	439
Agriculture is an important aspect of the Arenac County landscape.	173 39.6%	182 41.6%	65 14.9%	7 1.6%	1 0.2%	9 2.1%	437
Arenac County should preserve agricultural land.	156 35.7%	183 41.9%	70 18.1%	11 2.5%	1 0.2%	7 1.6%	437
Using agriculture land for new development is appropriate for accommodating growth.	35 8.0%	137 31.4%	137 31.4%	101 23.2%	22 5.3%	3 0.7%	436

**15.Arenac County needs more commercial and retail services.**



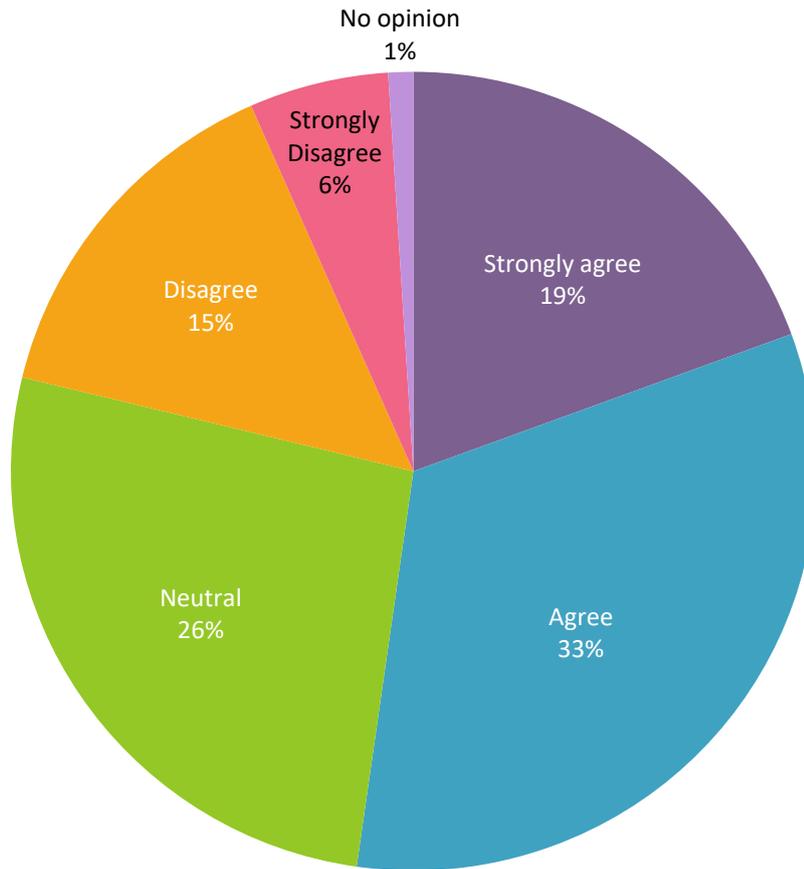
Value	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	49.2%	195
Agree	36.9%	146
Neutral	11.4%	45
Disagree	2.0%	8
Strongly Disagree	0.5%	2
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>396</b>

**16. Economic development efforts should be focused on the tourist industry and attracting visitors to Arenac County.**



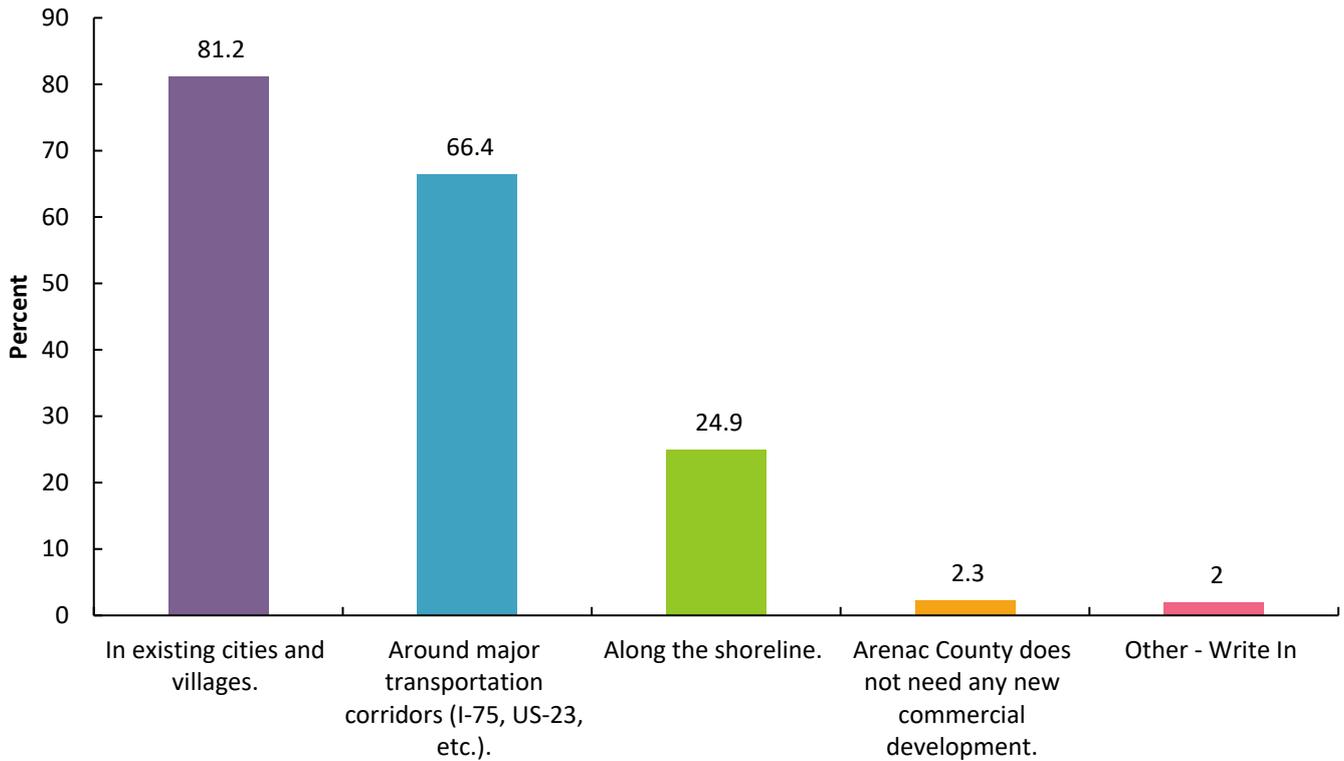
Value	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	28.8%	114
Agree	39.6%	157
Neutral	20.7%	82
Disagree	8.8%	35
Strongly Disagree	1.5%	6
No opinion	0.5%	2
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>396</b>

**17. Gaming and casino-related activities are an important aspect of the economy in Arenac County.**



Value	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	19.4%	77
Agree	32.8%	130
Neutral	26.5%	105
Disagree	14.6%	58
Strongly Disagree	5.6%	22
No opinion	1.0%	4
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>396</b>

**18.Future commercial development should be targeted in these areas (please check all that apply):**

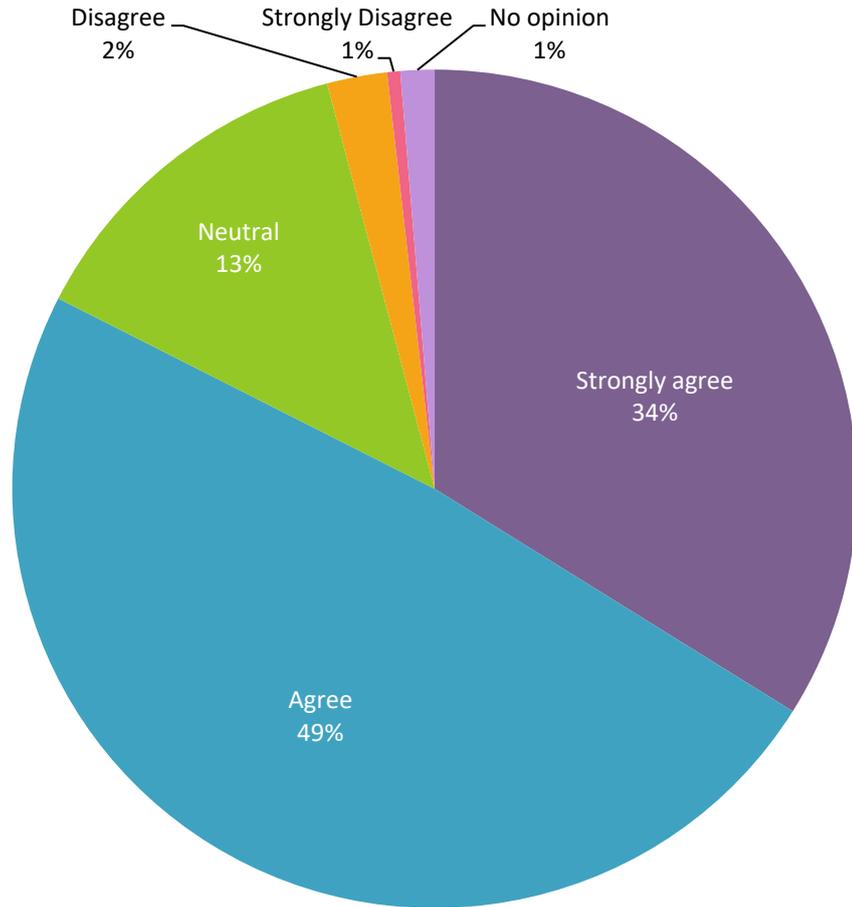


Value	Percent
In existing cities and villages.	81.2%
Around major transportation corridors (I-75, US-23, etc.).	66.4%
Along the shoreline.	24.9%
Arenac County does not need any new commercial development.	2.3%
Other - Write In	2.0%

**Future commercial development should be targeted in these areas. Other – Write In Responses**

Considered as individual possibilities one by one, each different
Downtown Standish needs attention
Fill current empty commercial properties
MORE FAMILY ORIENTED DINING PLACES THAT ARE NOT FAST FOOD
North of Sterling
There are so many empty buildings that make the areas and arenac County look terrible so any new commercial development should take place in those areas
We need a replacement for SHOPo
in the small towns in Arenac county that have no development for basic human needs

**19.Arenac County needs a more diverse industrial base in order to grow its economy and provide more jobs.**

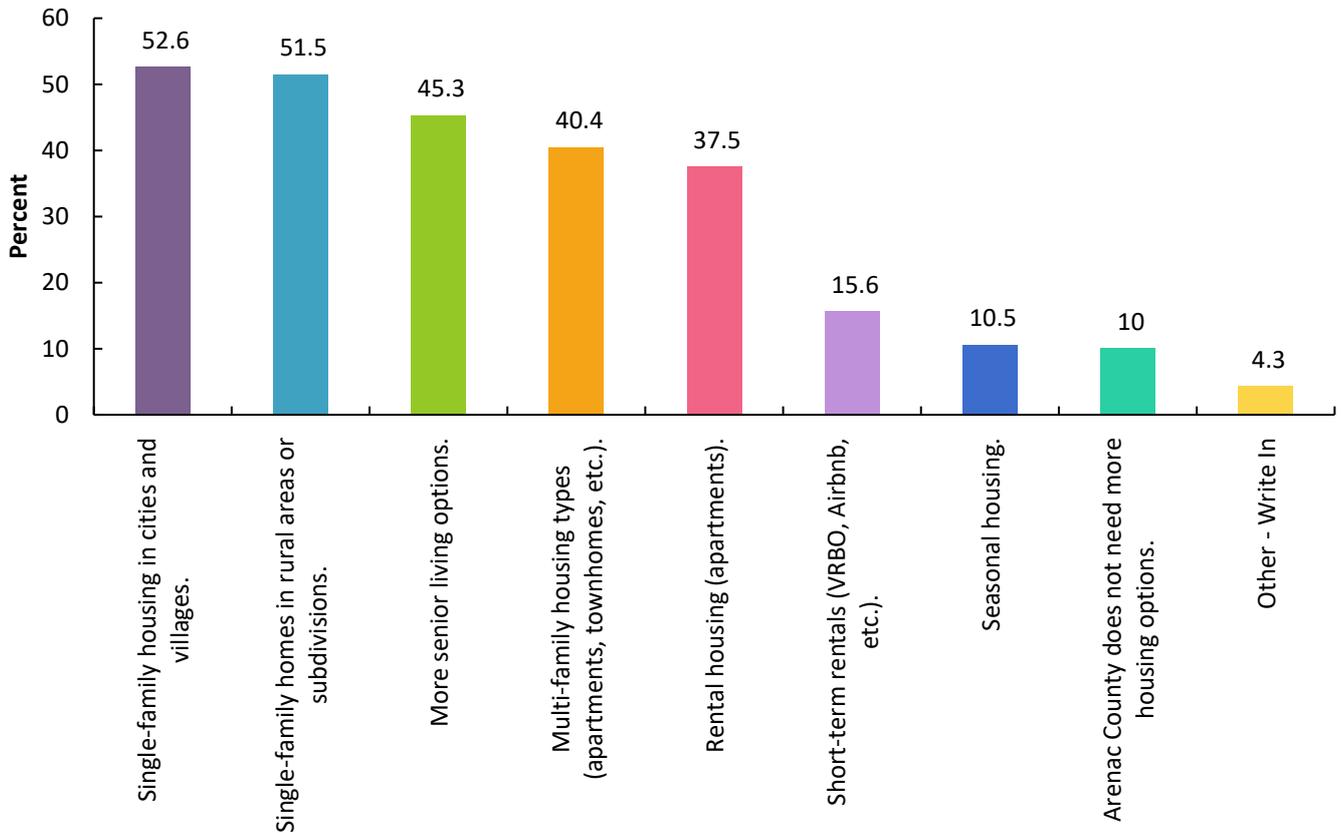


Value	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	33.9%	134
Agree	48.6%	192
Neutral	13.4%	53
Disagree	2.3%	9
Strongly Disagree	0.5%	2
No opinion	1.3%	5
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>395</b>

**20.How important are the following economic development strategies to the future of Arenac County?**

	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Needs to be considered, but not a priority</b>	<b>Not important at all</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Addressing business seasonality.	123 31.2%	180 45.7%	71 18.0%	5 1.3%	15 3.8%	394
Attract or retain a skilled workforce.	206 52.3%	164 41.6%	15 3.8%	2 0.5%	7 1.8%	394
Coordinating business and regional marketing.	141 35.7%	186 47.1%	55 13.9%	3 0.8%	10 2.5%	395
Engage in regional economic collaboration and planning.	135 34.4%	198 50.5%	50 12.8%	1 0.3%	8 2.0%	392
Expanding the diversity of economic activity.	144 36.6%	189 48.1%	47 12.0%	1 0.3%	12 3.1%	393
Improve public spaces to enhance quality of life.	157 39.9%	153 38.9%	76 19.3%	4 1.0%	3 0.8%	393
Incentives for new business.	210 53.4%	134 34.1%	38 9.7%	8 2.0%	3 0.8%	393
Market or promote Arenac County to workforce and businesses.	206 52.4%	152 38.7%	29 7.4%	2 0.5%	4 1.0%	393
Provide for additional high-tech communications and internet infrastructure.	219 55.9%	122 31.1%	46 11.7%	3 0.8%	2 0.5%	392
Provide for additional utilities or service infrastructure to support business development.	191 48.8%	150 38.4%	43 11.0%	3 0.8%	4 1.0%	391
Development of a hotel/convention center.	83 21.2%	90 23.0%	144 36.8%	59 15.1%	15 3.8%	391

## 21. What type of housing does Arenac County need (please check all that apply)?



Value	Percent
Single-family housing in cities and villages.	52.6%
Single-family homes in rural areas or subdivisions.	51.5%
More senior living options.	45.3%
Multi-family housing types (apartments, townhomes, etc.).	40.4%
Rental housing (apartments).	37.5%
Short-term rentals (VRBO, Airbnb, etc.).	15.6%
Seasonal housing.	10.5%
Arenac County does not need more housing options.	10.0%
Other - Write In	4.3%

### What type of housing does Arenac County need? Other Write In Responses

AFFORDABLE housing...Au Gres' prices are higher than surrounding areas and not compatible with incomes. We put too much emphasis on tourism and the local residents suffer.

Again all of the recent questions should be addressed by giving incentives to fill current empty business properties

All of the above.

Cheaper rentals

Condo units

Don't know

Don't know housing needs

I'm not sure what is needed

More than 2 bed room apartments

Not sure

Not sure on housing demands. Seems like plenty of houses are for sale so I don't think the demand is high. A Marriott or similar hotel in town would be advisable as we don't have much to offer there.

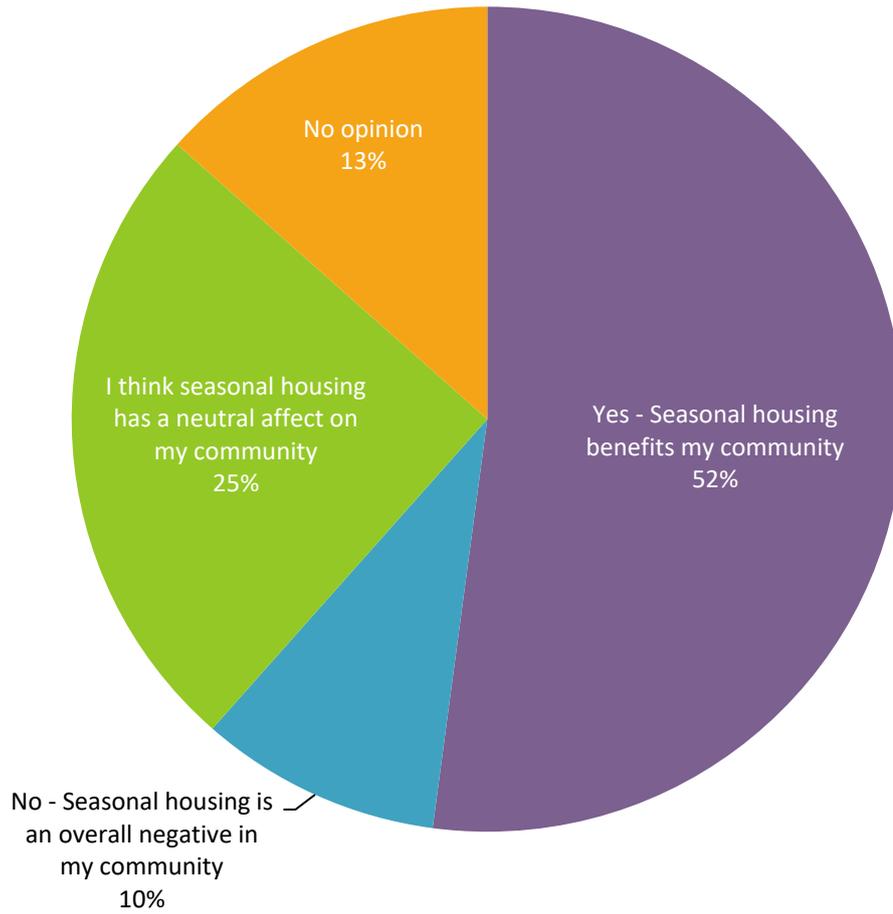
SHELTERS /SHORT TERM LIVING UNITS

Single family rentals that are in good condition.

The planned senior living complex to become a reality!

affordable

**22. Seasonal housing makes up a large portion of the housing market in Arenac County. Do you think seasonal housing is an overall benefit to your community?**



Value	Percent
Yes - Seasonal housing benefits my community	52.1%
No - Seasonal housing is an overall negative in my community	9.4%
I think seasonal housing has a neutral affect on my community	25.1%
No opinion	13.4%

### 23. Feel free to elaborate on your response pertaining to seasonal housing.

Response
Seasonal housing should be licensed and regulated
Just brings people from the city up here to tear up our roads and they do donuts and spin around, tear up our woods and trails act like fools and are drunken loud mouths , it don,t enhance my living or neighborhood.
Not a lot of understanding of needs, benefits between seasonal and year-round residents (us-them)
No comment.
Seasonal bring in a lot of money and tourism
Should be green with insulation easy convert to retirement singial family
Seasonal housing has as many positive as negative attributes. Positives - bring temporary visitors to the community which supports local businesses, provides jobs to trades as seasonal homes must be built and maintained, provides an influx of money to the area, provides tax revenue Negatives - increases traffic, increases crime, no attachment to community, increased seasonal strain on utilities/services
N/A
Just like the tourist, they come and go. Some down keep up on their properties and others just trash before leaving. They don't care too much about the town or county, or anything.
The country as a while is experiencing homeless issues, the last thing we need is more seasonal housing that stays empty for large portions of the year and draws elderly and retired people to the county. These fluctuations cause employment issues throughout the year driving young people away as they know as winter comes their employment is cut. This impacts investment in new industry investment as industries prefer stable consistent income rather than seasonal spikes. We should if anything be providing more low cost housing which will bring more people into the community and may drive new businesses to invest in the area creating a more diverse economy which is healthier and less prone to instability.
as mentioned earlier, tourists come for many reasons either to spend time here or drive thru. Having cabins for rent would peak an interest to the tourist, or pass thru if they are tired
Seasonal housing is fine as along as it is owned property and not leased property. Leased properties should remain at a minimum- not promoted by county.
Seasonal housing has its place, but I am more concerned about the year round residents. Been here nearly 40 years and I wonder why we haven't capitalized our areas near the expressways 61/75 have gas stations. Big deal. A few restaurants would be great Wendys, KFC etc... How about a chain hotel? Again, what are we going to do with that prison? The former pumpkin farm is for sale Marathon station is finally gone and there's an abandoned house across the road. Not to mention a 2 story house not far from there that is the perfect example of blight. Hmmm... the opportune place for any type of development.
Reference short-term rentals
We live in Whites Beach/Pt Wenonah area and are currently working very hard to get sewer and water brought in. I think there are other shoreline communities that also need W/S systems. They should be encouraged and supported. We need to protect the lake. I see lots of white foam on windy days, is that PFAs?
Seaonal houseing is huge here, lots of snow birds. I am a business owner here and work with the public, so I know. They even have huge campers they stay at our local campgrounds, 6 mths out the year there, because its cheaper that way, then to get a house or rent here.
Generally these are second homes and pay a higher amount of tax
Focus needs to be on those who permanently reside here. Limited nice housing for those seasonal vacationers
Seasonal housing brings income to the community. It also brings a diversity of people.

This is a long survey

Its here yes we don't need more people from out of town to come here and hangout the summer is busy enough. The seasonal living group doesn't add to our community

Seasonal housing pertaining to snow bunnies and hunting camps bring people to the area who have money to spend in the area if we give them the opportunity to do so. As I pointed out, they and the full time residents currently have to travel to bay city, Saginaw or up to west branch currently unless you feel like spending at least twice as much at family fair or ace. Same for most doctors appointments unless it is just my insurance network that doesn't have providers in the area.

Need apartments that are not limited to serving low income tenants

If it wasn't for seasonal housing along the lakeshore There wouldn't be as many houses. So wouldn't be as many taxes. Arenac county is a tourist county mainly because the seasonal housing, so many being along the lakeshore.

Seasonal housing can help but we need to have things for those people to spend there time and money on in this country not going elsewhere to shop

I have no comment

Bringing in the flatlanders brings in business... more money for the mom and pops, which should equate to more taxable income.... If done right everyone benefits

I am aware that seasonal travel and housing are important in the county. I feel that our time, money and resources should target those who are here full time. Embrace the seasonal travelers but do not cater to their needs and neglect the needs of those who choose to be in out County all the time.

A big draw to are actually county is our beautiful shoreline. Those lucky enough to live there should be able to enjoy it, races are paid. However business and community are only supported part year

The seasonal housing people spend money in the community but more businesses need to be opened to get more people to come here

Nothing comes to mind

Arenac counties shore line/ hunting / fishing/ boating/ hiking Has not even tapped into its potential

We have a lot or recreation areas in Arenac County. Saginaw Bay area and Rifle River Area. We also have a lot of seniors that go south for the winter months. This area is a sleeper area and need things to keep the population here and spend there money here rather that in surrounding towns.

It's great for summer but we almost fully depend on these summer vacationers, we need other options to help during the winter months to support our businesses and grow our community.

Seasonal housing as in "snow birds" live here about 6 or more months out of the year. They spend a lot of money in the community.

It does not provide consistent revenue to the businesses

We need year round funding not short term businesses suffer in the winter to survive when their expenses are the highest

Seasonal housing provides revenue for local government and also our local business.

Seasonal housing is what helps to keep us on the map of places to go

I feel that though seasonal housing does provide a good amount of property taxes but does not provide for year round money flowing into the local economy by the homeowners

It hasn't been a boon nor has it been a detriment.

They have no respect for the people living here

We need fulltime residents. People who put their money into the community 100%. Part-timers only spend their money here when their here. Usually during summer months.

Seasonal housing options bring people to the community who may not otherwise spend time here.

It's a tax base for the schools

We need to embrace to tourist industry as it can boost our economy

Seasonal housing including campgrounds brings a huge amount of people to Arenac County that has a large impact on our economy.

Don't know much about it.

During the summer months the economy is great but we need more income aligned housing to attract young families. That's were the long term sustainability is.

I have no opinion on seasonal housing.

Seasonal housing drives demand for small business for maintenance and repairs, as well as increased sales in local retailers during the on season.

Helps

We do not get to "count" the seasonals as residents which does not add to our Census count for funding.

Seasonal housing would pull more tourists to stay in area for vacations, of course providing more seasonal job opportunities for teens.

Seasonal property pays taxes

Arenac county has seen businesses expand in past 10-15 years. The problem is to get competent help. Teach the residents that working needs to be a way of life, welfare is not. To many "help wanted" signs, no one wants to work.

Seasonal housing pays full time taxes and uses less resources

Provides tax dollars

Not sure what you mean by seasonal housing. Is this question about the people who live here only 6 months out of the year? If they are willing to have a second home here and pay the taxes and keep it up, it is better then having alot of empty homes.

Seasonal visitors have disposable income that is spent in our communities

Seasonal housing is important as it directly connects to the local economy. With a significant portion of our economy dependent on tourism we have to accept the seasonal housing - that is bringinG tourists to our area. The water is an asset and we need to recognize that seasonal housing is the draw!

TAXES

It's been stable and I don't see big changes

Seasonal owners dont take care of there places cuz they are only here once in awhile. Junk in yards, party on weekend

Seasonal housing brings tourism, local spending and stronger taxbase in the county.

there is no seasonal housing in my tiny village...no one comes here to vacation..it is a dead zone

I do not believe that seasonal housing is necessary in this area. There are no migrant jobs around any more. There are also tons of campgrounds in Arenac County for seasonal living.

we need to take care of the people that live in the cities there needs.....Dollar Generals in all the towns is not a great thing.....nothing to shop at in Standish, or Au Gres dollar general doesn't answer what people need

Seasonal housing encourages tourists which in turn brings their dollars into our community, which benefits all.

More people means more dollars being spent during seasonal times.

Seasonal housing adds tax money to local schools and governments

Seasonal living supports local businesses throughout the year

People leave for the winter and take their money with them including income tax

Needs more permanent housing

Camp grounds are the main seasonal housing in Clayton twp. They may benefit the county, but does nothing for the twp. Summer brings problems, traffic, drugs and alcohol.

I live in an association and we have many seasonal residents

Hopefully it brings more purchase power to local restaurants and stores.

All they do is bring in people that doesn't care about our home area litter is horrible on state rd

It helps bring in alot of money

Again, we need housing for the people who live here year round. I've seen too many people move out of the area because of lack of jobs and affordable housing. How can our local businesses survive if we have more and more residents moving out?

We would benefit more from people here all year long

Enact and enforce blight laws

Not at this time

Seasonal housing isn't a big issue. As long as the high paying jobs are in Saginaw, bay city and midland, you will struggle to build arenas county.

Seasonal housing is good tax money for our county, also for local businesses.

It can't hurt to bring in seasonal retirees to spend money on the community

Seasonal housing provides a larger property tax income. And brings families into the area shopping, buying, fixing, eating, and using recreational facilities

I didn't know that seasonal housing was such an issue.

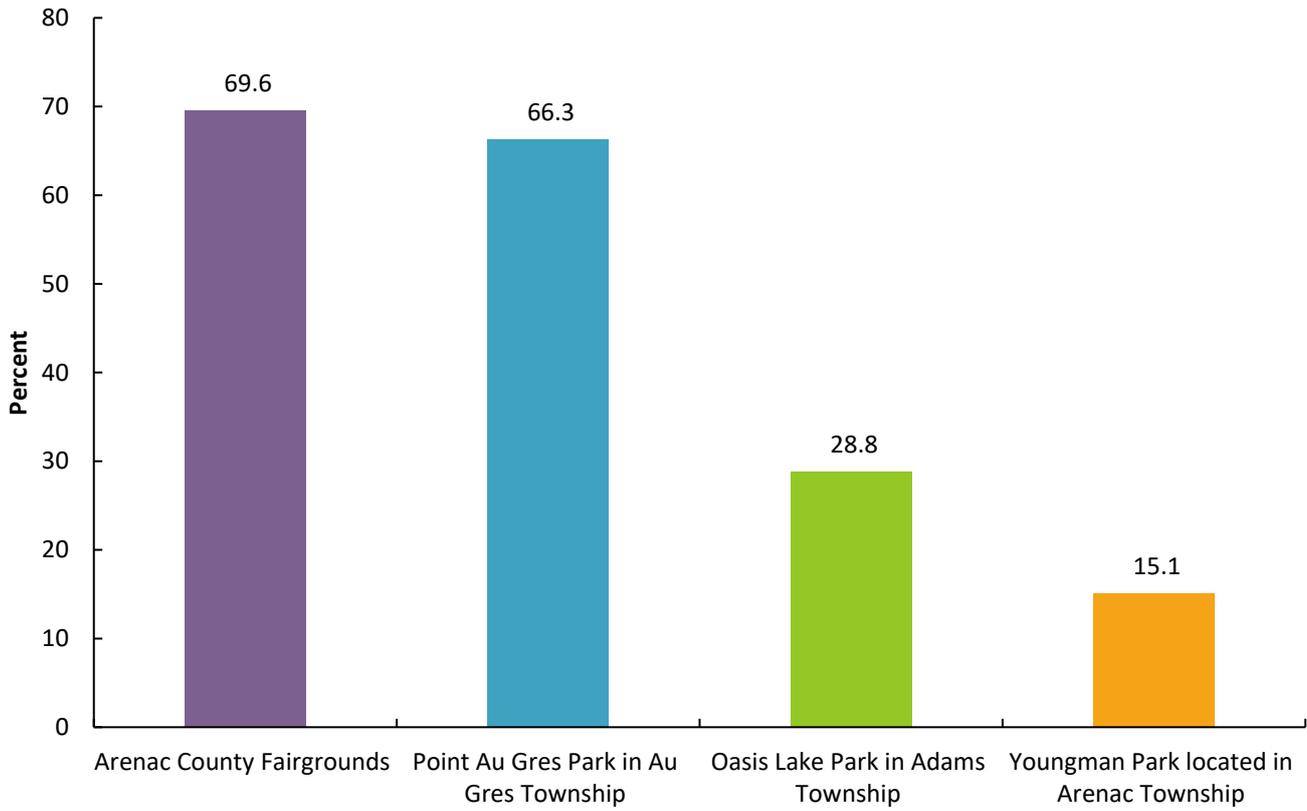
**24. How important are the following strategies in addressing issues related to housing in your community?**

	Very important	Important	Needs to be considered, but not a priority	Not important at all	No Opinion	Responses
Addressing blighted or substandard housing stock.	176 47.6%	123 33.2%	46 12.4%	12 3.2%	13 3.5%	370
Preserving, maintaining, and improving existing housing stock.	132 35.5%	182 48.9%	44 11.8%	4 1.1%	10 2.7%	372
Providing for more affordable housing opportunities.	126 33.9%	150 40.3%	76 20.4%	7 1.9%	13 3.5%	372
Providing for several different types of housing.	93 25.1%	160 43.2%	94 25.4%	10 2.7%	13 3.5%	370

**25. How important are the following strategies in addressing general issues related to transportation?**

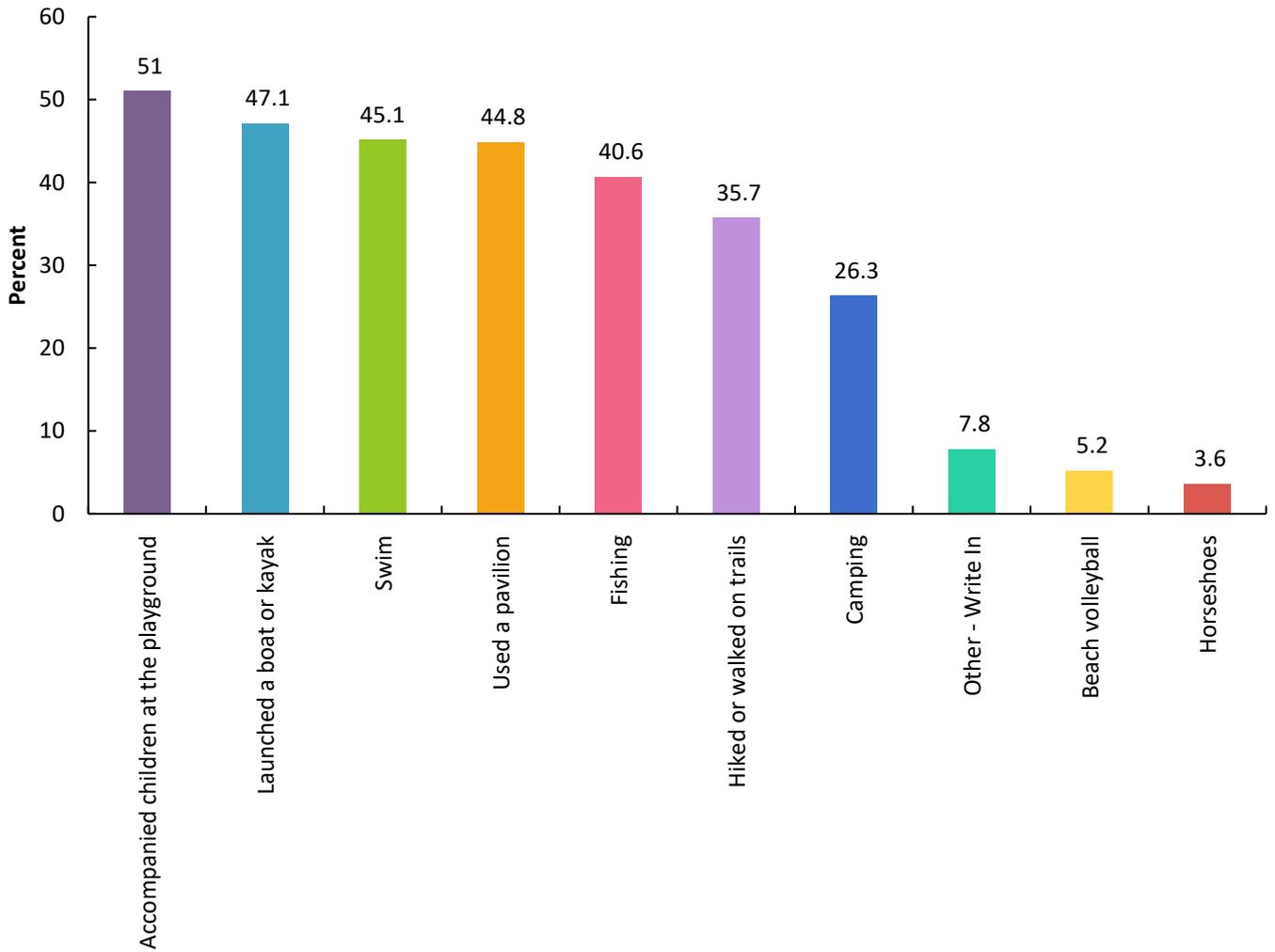
	Very important	Important	Needs to be considered, but not a priority	Not important at all	No Opinion	Responses
Maintaining and improving existing roads	271 72.3%	93 24.8%	10 2.7%	1 0.3%	0 0%	375
Maintaining and improving rail infrastructure	84 22.5%	140 37.4%	102 27.3%	28 7.5%	20 5.3%	374
Expand Arenac County Transportation	83 22.3%	127 34.0%	128 34.3%	23 6.2%	12 3.2%	373
Add a deep water port	41 11.0%	74 19.8%	129 34.5%	65 17.4%	65 17.4%	374
Improve or expand non-motorized pathways (biking, walking, etc.)	94 25.1%	104 27.7%	131 34.9%	32 8.5%	14 3.7%	375

**26. Which parks owned and operated by Arenac County have you visited in the past year (please check all that apply).**



<b>Value</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Arenac County Fairgrounds	69.6%
Point Au Gres Park in Au Gres Township	66.3%
Oasis Lake Park in Adams Township	28.8%
Youngman Park located in Arenac Township	15.1%

**27.I have participated in the following recreational activities in an Arenac County park in the past year (please check all that apply).**

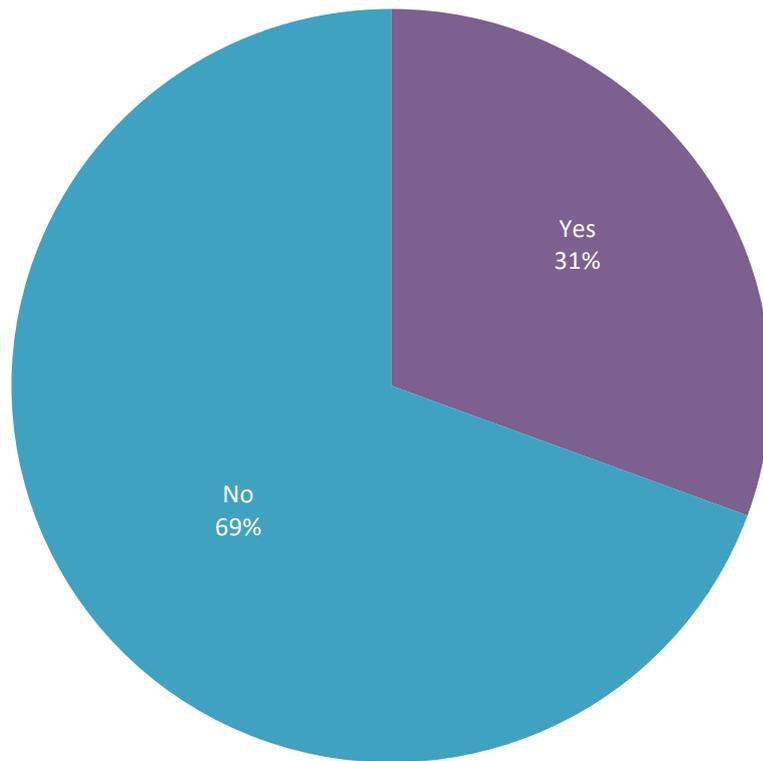


Value	Percent
Accompanied children at the playground	51.0%
Launched a boat or kayak	47.1%
Swim	45.1%
Used a pavilion	44.8%
Fishing	40.6%
Hiked or walked on trails	35.7%
Camping	26.3%
Other - Write In	7.8%
Beach volleyball	5.2%
Horseshoes	3.6%

**I have participated in the following recreational activities in an Arenac County park in the past year. Other Write In Responses**

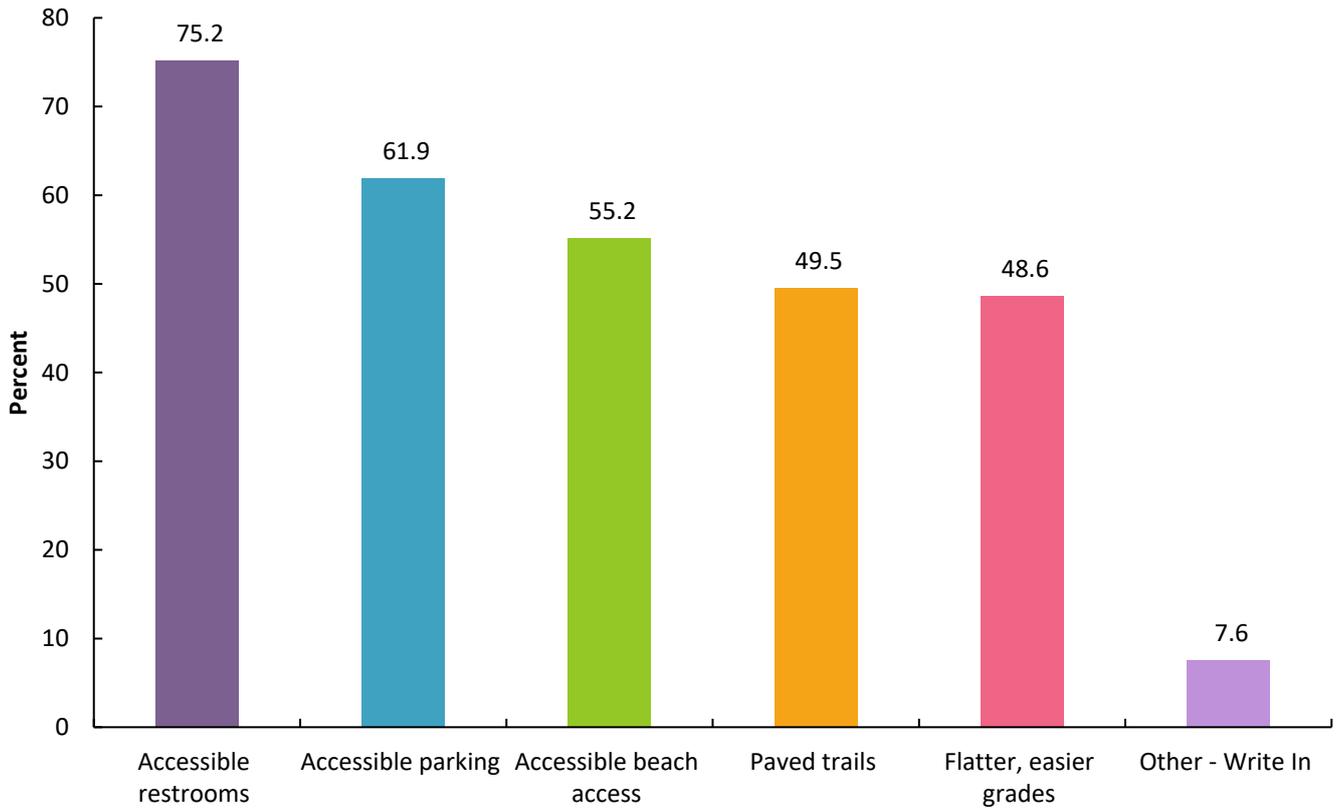
Fair
Hunting
Arenac County Fair
Attended fair and other events at fairgrounds
BBQ
Biking
Canoeing and tubing
Enjoyed the quiet of nature there.
Events at the fairgrounds
Events at the fairgrounds
Fireworks
Health problems have kept us from enjoying the parks this year.
Horse back riding, on state property.
Horseback riding
NONE
None
Picked up passengers
Picnic
Shooting / Hunting
Walked my dog
fishing, kayaking, biking but not at an Arenac Co park
none

**29.Do you or any of your family members have a disability?**



<b>Value</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Yes	30.6%	114
No	69.4%	258
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>372</b>

**30. Please indicate which of the following would make the recreational facilities in Arenac County more user-friendly (please check all that apply).**

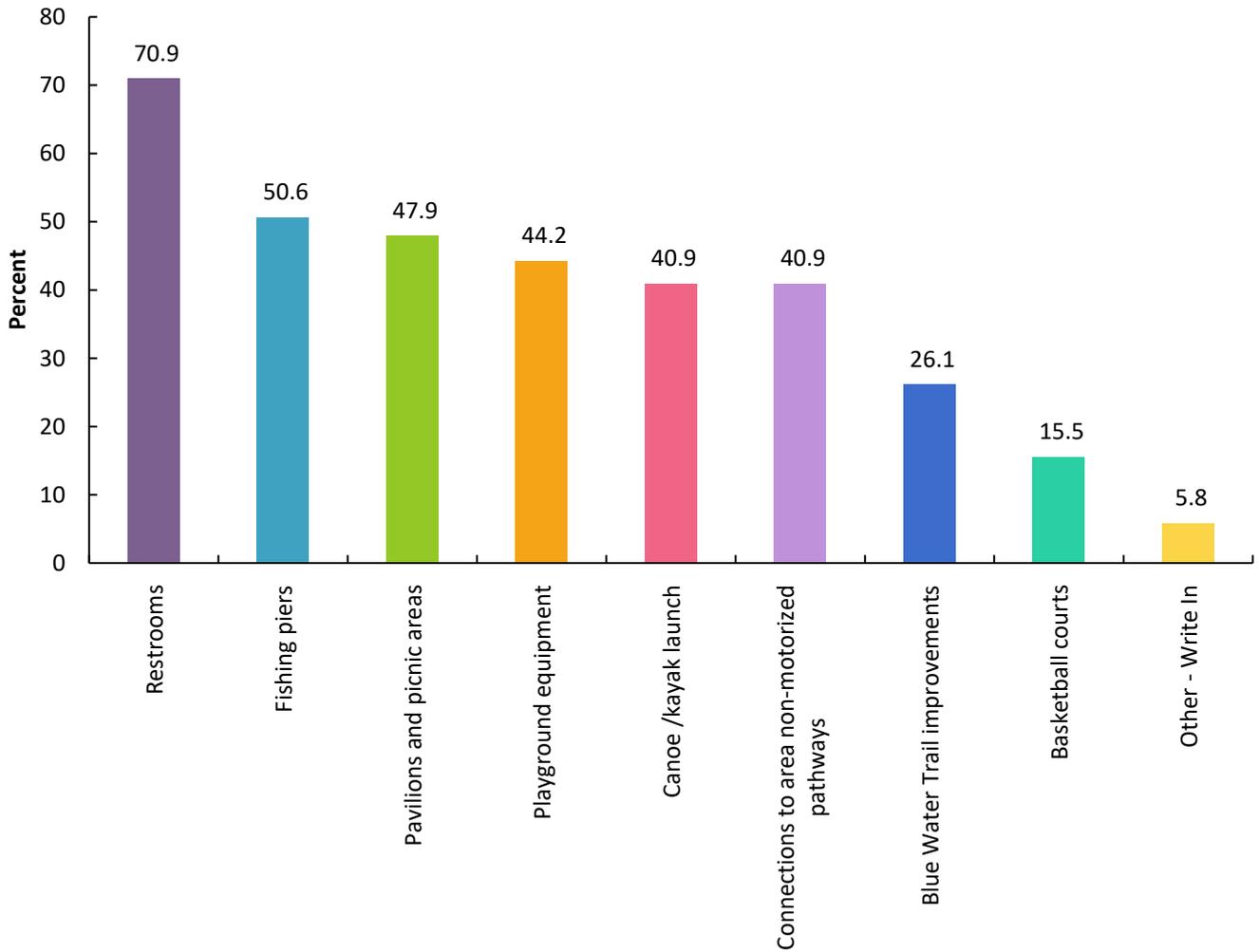


Value	Percent
Accessible restrooms	75.2%
Accessible parking	61.9%
Accessible beach access	55.2%
Paved trails	49.5%
Flatter, easier grades	48.6%
Other - Write In	7.6%

**Please indicate which of the following would make the recreational facilities in Arenac County more user-friendly. Other – Write In Responses**

Other - Write In
Clean restrooms.
Decks, floating decks
Don't charge for parking.
Playscapes and swings for disabled children
Wheelchair accessible playground equipment such as swings. Handicap swings, etc.
accessible to those without vehicles
playground equipment for disabled & for seniors

**31. What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see added to the County's parks?  
(please check all that apply).**

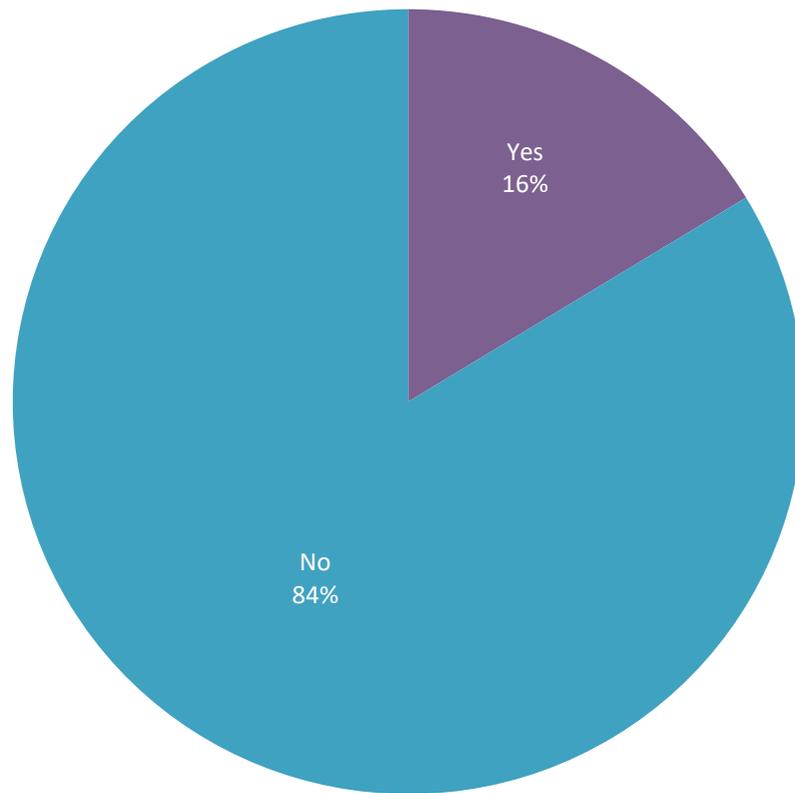


Value	Percent
Restrooms	70.9%
Fishing piers	50.6%
Pavilions and picnic areas	47.9%
Playground equipment	44.2%
Canoe /kayak launch	40.9%
Connections to area non-motorized pathways	40.9%
Blue Water Trail improvements	26.1%
Basketball courts	15.5%
Other - Write In	5.8%

**What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see added to the County's parks? Other Write In Responses**

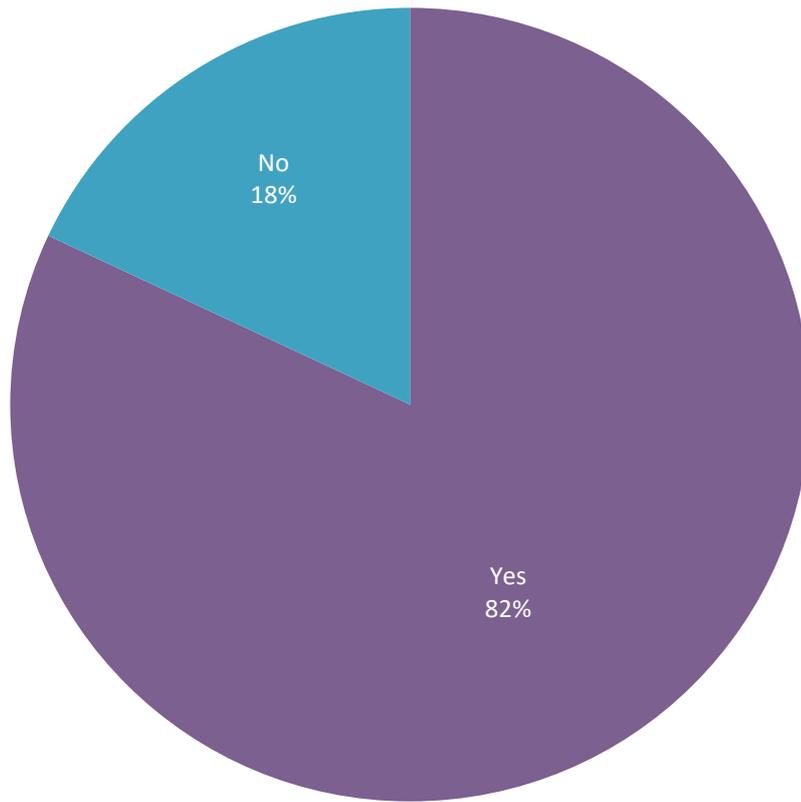
Bike trails
ATV trails
Baseball grounds
Bathrooms at the fairgrounds
Beach
Deer hunting is really big in this area. Perhaps better parking in state land areas.
Fenced dog park area
Fenced dog park areas
Horse trails, groomed hiking trails
MORE LIGHTING FOR SAFETY
More hiking trails better website that tells visitors where to hike
More parks
Pickleball courts
Playground equipment for those with special needs
Restrooms with running water
Running water and electricity hence cleaner parks
electricity, plumbing

### 32.Do you own waterfront property on Lake Huron?



Value	Percent	Count
Yes	16.3%	61
No	83.7%	313
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>374</b>

### 33.Has your property been impacted by fluctuating lake levels?



Value	Percent	Count
Yes	82.0%	50
No	18.0%	11
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>61</b>

### 34. Feel free to elaborate on your response pertaining to fluctuating lake levels.

Level has enhanced our property
Patience; wait for change
The rise in lake levels is at all time high. It's affecting sea wall structures. It's also causing some flooding. Although water levels fluctuate over the years, it has reached its apex this year.
Nothing can be done on rising water levels
I have a belief that the Corps of Engineers has control of the rise and fall of our Great Lakes to a degree
I pray it is part of the natural cycle, but fear it is a result of changing weather patterns driven by climate change. Definitely believe we should treat climate change like the race to space in the 60's.
Water levels are up and I think it's great. We need help with the fragmities to be able to enjoy the water and view.
It's a fact of life if you live by the water!!!
We cannot use the property as we planned when we purchased. We never thought we would have to put in a sea wall to save our house.
I have owned my home since 1962 and had it raised in 1986, during the last high water period. My home itself has not been impacted, but there is standing water in every low area in the neighborhood. Our road has flooded several times this summer. The roads are awful in my subdivision. Because of all the standing water, I have a feeling that many trees will die... The maples started turning red back in August. Many other trees have fallen this year. The property behind my house is full of water. The property next to my house is full of water. The mosquitoes are terrible. Living near the water is both a blessing and a curse.
Had to reinforce sea walls, loss of beach, inability to put out dock.
High water has done damage to our seawall.
I live on the AuGres river...the levels are very high..flooding is occurring in surrounding areas away from the river. Depending on how the winds are blowing, water is over the seawalls
Loss of approx 1/2 of usable beach area, from last year. However, lake levels will fluctuate from one decade to another. It is all part of living along the Great Lakes shoreline.
I'm on a canal system (Au Gres Township) that goes out into Saginaw Bay. We are worried some about the water levels.
have a floating dock
We had 40 feet of sandy beach when we bought our house 3 years ago, now we have none because of the higher water level on Lake Huron.
Beaches are non existent. We will have to upgrade our seawall if Lake levels do not recede. Higher water table which causes our sump pump to run more and risk flooding.
The high lake levels have been costly as the need to replace decks, sea walls and landscape due to the water and winds.
Lake goes up and down, that is an unavoidable fact of living on the edge of a lake.
Experienced minor flooding several times in summer/fall 2019
Too many fragmites and cant get to our canal or woods cuz water too high
High water levels have impacted our roads more than it has to our home property.
Hoping the water doesn't come up any closer!

We live on a Canal System - and water levels might be a problem as time continues and levels rise.

It hasn't been a problem yet. The evasive plants have been.

Lake Huron water level is very high this year.

Erosion. Loss of property.

**35. Do you believe that Arenac County has been impacted by fluctuating lake levels? Please respond here and feel free to elaborate on your response.**

Land owners need to understand that the lake level is cyclical. They need to build accordingly.

Not really this what the lakes do. You build or buy close to water you better be prepared for when it rises, storms or ice and it's not the tax payers responsibility to fix your mistake.

yes

Yes. Shorelines are much smaller with less beach area.

Yes

Yes but you need to clean up the beaches. They are gross

I believe that citizens have forgotten how high the water levels used to be. They were down for so long that now they are panicking with the levels returning.

Yes, some of the sea walls are in bad shape around Au gres

Clean up the Fragnities

Yes

Yes, losing beach areas and homes along the water. Property is decreasing.

Don't know

High water has affected the sewage systems of property near Saginaw bay

Climate change and water levels are an ever growing these to our way of life. We should always consider the impacts this may cause during development and Street the community towards a more green environment.

Yes, according to the news. But I am not personally affected.

Yes. With the water this high it impacts boating and launch sites

Yes, it always will be.

Yes... flooding in my back yard

Absolutely

Yes, and I believe it will continue to be affected.

Perhaps the Lake Huron shoreline has been impacted Inland waterways are subject to seasonal, (snow melt), factors. Also the cleaning of streambanks on the Rifle, and Au Gres rivers is very important.

Yes, flooding , people had to replace and buy much. So it effected , spending , jobs , way of there life.

Yes

Yes, there is more flooding

Yes, dropping water levels I crease phragmites and algae

No, it rises and falls. It is nature deal with it. Not losing or bringing dollars to Arenac. Next

Yes. I have friends who had homes flooded

It was severely impacted when the levels were low. The fishermen had trouble launching their boats and fishing.

I've heard complaints from residents, mostly to do with drain/road commission not maintaining ditches to handle storm waters when we already have high water tables

Yes!

No the water levels are in cycles, it's high now, it will lower and rise, it's "normal "

Yes. It is impacting the people that live along the lake shore. Building sea walls and water breaks to keep the waves from eroding the land. Many people who live along the rivers will be flooded out more often. Impacting farmers too. With higher levels the rivers and ditches are higher. Drain tiles are underwater. In rain events rivers and ditches will flood more often.

No

Yes

It has always been this way and will continue to be this way... the lakes go up, the lakes go down... you learn to live with it.

no

Yes, I believe it affects the access to boaters, swimmers . Affects fishing.

Yes

Yes, we live near the shore and visit often. We can see the evidence often overnight as it varies compared to dock levels.

Yes. High levels have improved boating, but I am not sure how much higher the homes on the lake can handle. River flooding is not good...

Yes

Yes canal flooding

No. The majority of those who own lake property know the levels fluctuate.

Yes

As a person who deals with tourists daily yes. The lake levels have brought people up to check on their homes and boats. Which might normally come up every other weekend. And when it's down it is impacted by people not being able to use boats etc as much. Brief statement

No. It's a cycle. I think the levels will go down, just as they went up, over the next 10-20 years.

Yes. Too much flooding

Of course.. It is what it is... Water damage in many forms to property owners

Yes...we wanted to buy a seasonal home on the lake, but are re-considering this area due to no beachfront.

I believe higher levels help get boats up the AuGres river which is good.

yes. Every dock owner had to contract with someone to raise and or lengthen their docks

Not yet, though that is most likely on the horizon

No, If you want waterfront property take the high and low water levels that come with it, don't expect me to bail you out no pun intended

Yes

I've seen the water levels before out at the marina. Water so low no boat could launch. Instead of water front property it was sand front property.

Unsure

Yes.

Yes. With the Lake Huron's high water level, there is no beach. I live 1/4 mile from Lake Huron and didn't walk the beach once. In Tawas, there was little beach, which brought people onto the grass. I fear for tourism not to mention the erosion of the beaches and the impact in the future.

Yes, all of Michigan has been impacted by fluctuating lake levels.

NO

The water is back up, appealing and nice.

More than likely it has

Not particularly. The lake level has returned to more normal level now, but if it decreases again the lake access is restricted.

Higher levels are better.

Yes

No

Not really, it tends to go in cycles, higher some years and lower others. Need to prevent our Great Lakes and other water sources from being pumped out for other usage. Leave and protect more wetlands. Stop blowing up Beaver Dams. They create an important environment for wildlife.

Yes, but this goes in cycles always.

Nothing can be done about Mother Nature.

Yes, instills fear and concerns

Yes the ditch and creek connection to existing road side ditch full of silt and no longer flows towards lake many properties along Dreyer rd are flooded

Yes, i am close to the water front and people are freaking out in sims township

yes

Yes! I would assume lakefront property values have gone down.

Yes, we have property 1 lot off the lake in Au. Gres and have seen the levels cause erosion, and limit access to areas that were once walkable.

Yes very much so

This is an age old problem. Have lived here long enough to know there will be high water levels and low water levels. When you buy Lake Huron property, you had better be prepared for both. Those water levels are controlled by Mother Nature.

Not sure on this

Yes, a great deal of beaches have been lost due to rising waters.

Act of nature, lakes will fluctuate and it does affect tourism.

no

Yes flooding on my property and not waterfront

yes

Yes

YES, WE HAVE TO GO OUT FARTHER IT SEEMS TO GO FISHING.

Yes, there is a threat to property and homes with high water levels. There is negative economic impact with low water levels in rivers.

Yes. Water levels are finally rising causing flooding and high water levels in some areas of the coastline

Absolutely!the lake levels are higher than I have ever seen them. This affects the amount of beach and the erosion causes Many problems for residents and seasonal residents as well as for the parks.

What goes up comes down.

Yes. Home buyers afraid to buy close to shore as waters rising. Very different shoreline years passed. Waters were reseeding. Sea walls a scare also. Many need to adjust to water levels. Costly

yes I do think it has had a large impact on Arenac County

The entire shoreline of Michigan has been impacted negatively. It's time to consider how to stop the erosion of the shoreline from the ever increasing water levels.

Yes. We own home off the Point Lookout Lakeside. Our deeded easement accesses are being encroached upon by Lakefront homeowners with seawalls and other out buildings. Makes it more difficult year after year to access the beach.

Yes, beaches are disappearing

Yes, low water levels impact local economy

Absolutely. When I was first looking to buy in 2012, the lakes were low therefore the housing market was low. I was told it hurt tourism. The housing market has been increasing but the water levels have hurt all the Great Lakes. The erosion is a huge factor. It's starting to affect tourism. I have friends who rent the same cottages yearly and the lakes were so high it was past the stairs. They had never seen anything like this.

Yes

No

Yes. Some hunting areas are affected by high water levels. When water levels were low, it was very difficult to boat or swim.

Yes but it is a natural thing to happen I remember it in the 70s

Yes. There are always negative and positive results. Lake levels are high now which is great for boating but not for lake home ownership.

Yes but its back now

The rising levels are starting to do real damage. The shoreline has none to hardly any beach.

Of course

Not significantly, no. There has been some flooding and erosion, but not so much that it has caused excessive hardship.

Yes. There is no beach anymore. That is what drives the business from tourists to our communities. Without the revenue many of our loc businesses fail to be able to provide through the winter season where revenue is low.

Nope, water levels will always rise and fall

All shoreline and riverside properties are being adversely affected by the extreme high water levels we are currently having causing erosion and flooding

Not sure

No.

I'm not sure on this issue.

Yes

Yes, weeds and debris.

Yes very much so and so expensive for homeowners

### 36.What do you like best about Arenac County?

Good hunting and fishing a casual laid back community
Just a nice place to live.
I like living in my quiet calm neighborhood and I want it left that way
My community
People look out for each other (known or not)
It's natural resources such as lakes, rivers, forests, and trails. The slower pace of life. The down to earth nature of its population.
Small town living.
that it feels like a safe place to live
Small town friendliness , pretty safe for kids and families, I love it here 58 years
That I don't work in the county any more
It has so much natural beauty. So much unavailable. Or not utilized properly.
Small town
Small town feel and the people
All
Access to the Great Huron Lake. A growing community. Heritage.
I live in a neighboring county (Iosco) and travel, visit and shop in Arenac County regularly. I enjoy the recreational focus of Arenac County and would love to see that expand.
Lake Huron access
All the rivers And lake
The non profit organizations.
Access to lake huron close to bay city and events there
i have always loved the laid back feel of country living in Arenac County
It is a beautiful county with a lot of potential.
quiet laid back lifestyle
The casino, in the sense of what it has done for the county, especially 2% distribution funds. It's a shame some gov't entities didn't work with them at the very beginning. I feel most of the improvement to Arenac County has been due to the generosity of The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and we should be focusing on it as a way to beneficially grow the county.
Rural area
Hunting fishing woods and agriculture
low living expenses, (water, sewer) no close neighbors, tourists come up, but they leave after a few days, and they spend money in our county
The landscape
If there was something I would say....but can't think of anything.

I love where I live. Quiet, wildlife, beautiful country, small town living, peaceful.

Not much

Living on Lake Huron and support from the community to community members. The community is very giving.

the shoreline

Friendly people, safe area

Quiet low traffic

its home

Lake Huron

People and the wildlife.

It's rural community/feel. - Yet AuGres could use more retail establishments.

It's not overcrowded. I like to see trees instead of ugly buildings. I like the fact that there is room for the wildlife.

I love the park in Omer and the Omer Courthouse. I like going on a hike on the "Wah Sash Kah Moqua" nature trail. I like the Halloween party at the Arenac Community Center. I love that AuGres is getting a splash park.

Nature, wild life, rivers

Quietness, privacy, and ability to commute easily to other parts of Michigan.

I like the nature around it and the land and water. Provides fishing, hunting , trail riding , ect.

Small town felling

The people are very friendly. The water. Wish there was more to be able to do with grandchildren.

Smaller communities, sense of family.

Small and safe.

Location

Quiet,relaxed lifestyle.

The community its self and being close to the lake.

Rural

Rural housing

The people.a patriotic community.scenic quiet and rural.

Rural setting

It hasn't changed in forty years. It has to change one year for the better. The old guard needs to step aside and let new businesses in. Not another gas station, auto part store except tire repair, pizza joint or a car dealership that spans the whole town. One day it might change and I would like to see it.

The small town feel

It is up north but near the city. Having that country living feeling that make you relax and enjoy life.

We have a great community of people who care. If we show some initiatives to make positive changes. People will help either personally or monetarily. We just need to do a better job of coordinating and encouraging positive growth. Look at the color scheme of the old Granton for instance. The new black and grey doesn't fit the town. However they are newcomers to the area so we'll let it slide :o) the old normans looks great and I'm looking

forward to more improvements, even if it's only a fresh coat of paint and some big potted flowers along 23 in town! People of Arenac county are always there for you when you need them! Let's do what we can to let people passing through see how great our area is.

I'm comfortable here. It's home...

Laidback

The variety of living. From the lake and tourists that are there. From fishing, boating and water activities to only a mile away having a rural agriculture setting.

The small town feeling of this community. Relaxing and beautiful year round.

City of Au Gres

The small town feel and the community that is willing to grow, help and dig in and get things done when it comes down to it

Small town community feel. When there is a need, the community comes together!

We finally got a grocery store in Augres

Rural

The community of people

The small town feel.

The country atmosphere is huge for me. The Hunting and fishing. By and large most of the folks are friendly. We just need to get out of the dark ages. I would love to see some groomed ATV or ORV trails. That would bring many into the area who would spend money given the right businesses... and connect them if possible to the Michigan ORV trail system... also I love the Rifle River... it needs to be monitored and patrolled as families should have to worry about the language and stupidity of those not wanting to actually take in the River but view it as a free for all party place... I live on the River and the drunks and underage drinkers sometimes get to be to much... better management at the RV parks along the river would help a great deal...

rural community life

Nature! Arenac County has some of the most beautiful places in Michigan.

The people

Non congestion, quiet , beautiful countryside

Woods and Farmland

Hometown atmosphere

The amazing community, small towns that help each other and support each other. It's a great place to raise our family. We choose to live here by choice, both myself and husband work drive to work in other counties because we love the area.

It is a growing city which has much to offer. Unlike Pinconning which is going backwards. They have an abandoned building at the traffic light, that is a disgrace to the town.

I like the small laid back towns. I want to continue to raise my family here and eventually retire in my beautiful little town.

Quiet, laid back, low traffic

small town vibe

Rural communities. Small town feel but close enough to bigger cities.

Smaller communities

Safe close knit community

How beautiful it is ,i dont have neighbors crowding me on both sides

Recreational natural resources opportunity of rural sport. Waters edge / wooded natural beauty I have heard others that travel north call Augress area . The paradise of the county . Why can't we improve our untapped Whites beach area potential Turning blight areas into park areas with lighting or rented potential of outside pavillions/ horse stables/trails/ putt putts and horse shoe pits/ dog parks/ splash parks/ picnic areas anything but blight. I enjoy our variety of restaurants Quick stop shopping /family dollar /dollar genral Access to prescriptions being filled in town Auto care Would like to see another large full service gas station there is so much congestion around gas stations. Love farming 4H community

Small quiet

My home location. If there was chip and seal or asphalt on the road it would be much better than the mud hole we get every spring and the slop when it rains.

Small community where most locals know each other and help each other. Great place to raise children, schools systems have suffered recently though.

Small community feel. Born and raised here. Comfort in knowing most people in your community. Family history in the area. Rural area, rivers, woods, farm land

library is great

The country atmosphere but it would be nice if retail was a bit closer.

The shore and the new coffee shop.

The community itself. We all come together for each other. We live in a great community here in Au Gres

I appreciate the small town feel in AuGres. We looked for a new house recently, and decided we would stay in our old house and do updates, just so we could stay in AuGres. It's nice, quiet, and friendly.

The small community feel. Being in the country. The farmland.

People

My parents moved up here permanently in 1973. I graduated from high school here. Even though I went away to college, and then worked in the metro Detroit area for several years, I returned home because I enjoy the country life. I finished my career in Iosco County...because I could not find a job in Arenac County. At least, not a good job. For services, I go to Bay City. All of my doctors are there. I do my shopping there. Things are too expensive in Standish. I am on a fixed income as I am now retired. It's worth a trip to Bay City to buy my groceries at Aldi because I can get quality for half the price than here in Standish.

Safe, calm pace. Friendly

Rural landscape, access to Lake Huron

The myriad assortment of recreational opportunity afforded here specifically hunting and fishing. It is a quiet peaceful area and still in relatively close proximity to large cities for shopping and entertainment not afforded here.

It's simple to me.

The friendly easy laidback country living.

Family and friends live here. It also feels safe. I wish there were more sidewalks out of city limits. I wish there was a nice public beach on Lake Huron, like Tawas has.

Small town feel

Familiar

I recently moved, but still work in Arenac County. My family has strong ties to the agriculture community and I love that that way of life is still appreciated. This is a close knit county and I enjoy that feeling of "family".

Low crime levels, sense of community

The beautiful landscape and quiet country lifestyle.

Peaceful place to live

Good place to live

Its home to me. Its the rural feel

lake access

The preservation of many of Arenac County's historical assets. There are strong community groups who dedicate their time to ensure these assets are maintained and developed for future generations. City streetscaping projects have assisted in the beautification of Arenac County. Brings curb appeal to

Not much right now.....you let ogemaw steal Meijer's away from us

Feeling relatively safe in my neighborhood. Living near my son and grandchildren.

That I can own a home extremely cheaply in a relatively crime free area

Quiet at times

Honestly the people

The water and nature

The living of life the feeling of community. Neighbors knowing neighbors, looking out for them. Being able to feel safe walking.

Nature

Small town atmosphere, not a lot of traffic, nice folks!!!!

It's my hometown...

I have lived here most of my life. I like knowing people and the friendliness of our residents.

love it

Feeling like home. Not typical City feeling seclusion.

I came here from Novi and with all its amenities there is nothing compared to the communities here. I would take my granddaughter to school and to see families helping families is heartwarming. People helping people. The economic difference shocked me but how people are willing to step up and help is surprisingly welcome. The food bank is amazing , the help at Christmas to bring families with little to have a Christmas is nothing short of amazing along with the volunteers who make this happen. I am proud to call this area home.

The people

Lake Huron

Nice and quite place to live ... People are so nice ...

Arenac County is a very nice area. Nice people nice place to live. However it needs to make improvements moving into the 21st century.

Nothing much anymore other than our home is paid for and our son lives close.

LAI D BACK LIVING,,, THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE HERE

Variety of commerce. I prefer going into Arenac county (I boarder bay county) over run down cities to the south.

Standish Sterling Schools

The lower cost of living and rural feel outside of the cities is nice, but having more growth in the cities to increase access to amenities is important.

Close community

Au Gres

Decent to raise kids.

Good place to live and raise children

I like living up north and by Lake Huron.

Lake Huron DNR boat launch

Up north feel but still close enough to major shopping — it is not a "City" atmosphere.

Schools

Mostly quiet and small with lower crime then Big Cities.

Everyone talks to all people. It's a very welcoming community.

It's a friendly community and several people help with various events and activities.

Peaceful serene atmosphere

This is where my home is. I make it the best I can.

quality of life and not super busy like tawas.

My community and town

People are very caring.

Small Town atmosphere

It's not Bay County. We like the up north feel but require access to bay, saginaw, genesee for business, we also require access to the bridge, traverse and alpena for business. So the location is just what we needed.

Small community with a great school district

People

That it is a small farming community--very quiet. Excellent schools and an excellent place to raise your children and grandchildren. We have lots of tourists in the summer--that helps our economics.

The water recreation combined with the rural aspect. A rare combination anymore.

Love that my family and many good people live here!

I like that we are just up north enough. We can enjoy many outdoor activities- especially the lake. I like the people.

Rural area, not a lot of congestion

Small town living in beautiful scenic area of Michigan that supports common unity of most michiganders that love nature/hunting/fishing and recreational activities.

All of my family born and raised in Arenac but will never live there.

Community and proximity to outdoor recreation opportunities

I use to live in arenac , I have recently moved. There is nothing like 20 yrs ago. The grocery store is over priced. So I now travel beyond Standish.

The people

schools and location

People Quiet

Farm lands

Lake living Small town

Close to lakes, rivers and camping.

Rural lifestyle Convenience/fast food restaurants

rural type communities, although people don't come together like they used to

Easy access to main roads and a variety of food stops

Small community, peace and quiet

WHITE'S BEACH AREA, LAKE HURON, AND FISHING. WISH THE RACETRACK OUTSIDE OF TOWN WOULD REOPEN. WITH FAIR PRICES TO BE USED AS A FAMILY OUTING. AND THE FAIR IS GETTING SSO HIGH IN THEIR PRICES AND THEE BUMP AND RUNN RACES THERE ARE NOT VERY SAFE, THE PROMOTER HAS BEEN TOLD OF PRROBLEEMMS BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE 3 YEAR.

small communities

The small town communities

The neighbors and friendly residents.

Quiet lives. Nice roads

Schools

wild life sun sets and rises.....life in general slower easier

We enjoy country living but do not enjoy living in a gravel road.

Country living, and ease of access to I 75.

Location, close to expressway, water, parks, wildlife. We need an Aldi or Meijer.

Lake Huron

It's natural beauty and quiet up north living.

Surely not the roads

Lake frontage and low property evaluations which lead to lower property taxes.

People!

Water and woods within minutes

The relaxed atmosphere of the community.

I love the sense of community.

Lake Huron. Views. Golf. Pickleball.

The sites
Born n Raised in Arenac Co. n raised our family in this county too. My family n friends live in Arenac Co.
Quiet, scenic & peaceful
Its home.
Possibilities for improvement
The outdoors and up north feeling
The sense of community.
The up north feel and laid back attitude . Our Police and all first responders hunting and fishing
Not much. This survey is really making me wonder why I continue to live here.
The country living
Camping tubing hunting boating!! Town Railroad
The privacy
Rural community. Proximity to Bay City/Saginaw/Tawas Area.
slower paced life, rural setting.
Friendly people small town feeling
Being near the water.
Simplicity
Beautiful area
Right now, not much. Arenac needs to stop keeping new employment opportunities out ....they rejected Walmart because they feared it would put pamida out of business, what is there now? An empty building.....big wheel, pamida, Shopko, all in and gone
The quieter and friendly community living away from the busy cities
The Up North atmosphere, small town feeling, and generally very nice folks.
Its quite
Rural living and the very light traffic to deal with.
The country feel. Friendly people.
Relaxed way of living, wildlife, access to Bay & Lake.
The small town feeling
People
The water Lake Huron Saginaw Bay
Our small farm.
The families that make up this community . The beautiful wild life The hunting, fishing, boating Arenac county has it all.
Laid back...

The lake

Generally safe, friendly, and quiet community.

Close proximity to Tri-Cities

### 37. What would you do to improve Arenac County within the next 5 to 10 years?

Promote hunting and fishing
Keep city people away
Bring more jobs to keep young people in our area
More age diverse population would help in many ways; related to economic opportunity
Think survey pretty much spoke for itself.
Fix roads Get state to move on vacant prison; get it occupied Municipal water/sewers
Clean up Skidway Lake
would like to see better roads and things for family's with kids to do
Roads , buisnessesss , affordable housing , things for families - nice parks .
Get new people in the governmental business that are honest and want to work with the common person not for who has money
We plainly need some new growth in multiple areas. And we need the infrastructure to support it. We need new fresh leadership rather than the same old same old from varying backgrounds. If you do the same thing your going to keep getting the same results. Ghost town
Bring in a chain store,better resturants.expand and get more help for animal control.
Add more restaurants around i75 and more jobs. You can't bring people in without jobs
Improve local roads , improved employment opportunities
Lower property tax , business inseatives , improve lake Access for boat launches focus on fishing first.
Help at the community center. Pray for it's success.
Address blight/empty buildings along US-23. Attract new businesses with recreational or seasonal interest opportunities to serve the resident population as well as the tourists.
Economic development...way too many closed up or struggling businesses
Put Street lights up and bike trail!
I would for sure work on the infrastructure that we already have. Keep it maintained and of quality use. Make sure the non profits are getting their voice and their support. Not discarded. Biking pathes to connect from all over the state to come through this county. Try to bring in more commercial businesses considering we don't have many. Also, cash in on the tourists. Arenac county is one of the stops for those heading north or south. We should focus on them for the money needed to improve elsewhere. More events to be held in proper places. Down town needs to have different parking measures. Summer needs to hold more events while the tourists are here. In the winter it may die but snowmobiles may be where we have to look into next. Those traveling in the winter on their machines. Make existing restaurants update and keep an eye on their management. A gross place to eat is one no one will go to again. Blight has to be addressed right away, no time limits based on the condition. A crack down on drugs as well in neighborhoods.
Bring in more businesses, address non motorized transportation.
too much to list here
Fix the roads, expand cities and village's. Gain commercial and industrial jobs.
Bring in more Commercial retail businesses and add incentives to bring in more factories for manufacturing
Add a shopping center.. A clothing store

Have the County Commissioners assume control of the County Road Commission which is being explored currently in state legislature. Too much road taxes being imposed on county residents for roads! 2 mil county road tax, most township residents have road and/or ditching millage in addition. Residents should not be tax burdened in this area. The county needs to work together as a WHOLE for improvement. Not just focusing on certain areas of the County specifically. This mindset and manner of governing is a huge part of the problem. The basic issues of why we're dropping in population numbers, lack of jobs, housing, medical, good education is being totally ignored in lieu of new fairgrounds and rail trails. Starting with getting the basics in place is much needed!

Improve infrastructure

Roads

a mini Meijer or similiar store that would stay open to 10/11 PM or a tourist trap to get people to stop, putt putt or something that interests families to say lets stop and check it out. Standish has many gas stations and many fast foods, but sonic would be very appealing

Encourage community growth and support.

Bring in new business. Change with the times.

We need a store like Meijers on I-75 exit 190. I am glad Shopco is gone. They put a 79 dollar price tag on a pair of 19 dollar jeans and marked them down to 19 dollars. That was their business practice on many items. I did not shop there because of that.

Leave

Give high incentives to businesses to fill empty business properties

encourage business growth for year round employment . Renovate Standish prison into assisted living facility for veterans

Improve and maintain sidewalks and enforcement on blight at a county level , if we want people to come and stay we as a government must put our best foot forward

AFFORDABLE SHOPPING AND BETTER ROADS ESPECIALLY GRAVEL ROADS ARE A JOKE IN TURNER TOWNSHIP.

Kill the phragmites

throw out the county board of Comm.

Development of major shopping, dining and manufacturing. We have 2 prime areas 23/75 and 61/75. Think about what's there now. Nothing to attract the current residents, tourists or future residents. Convenient locations for current, get the passing tourist, keep a few here. Improve our golf course into something amazing, get that fairground underway, what about the Sagatoo Rd marina how developed and advertised is that? Outdoor adventures is in some legal trouble what about other camping opportunities right off the expressways?

get rid of the road commison

Fix existing roads

Reopen the state harbor and maintain a navigable river

AuGres could use more retail establishments.

Make sure the business' that are approved fit the area, and DON'T overcrowd us.

Build a dock or deck at the DNR launches. Take off the green and yellow paint on the old school house by the casino. Build a splash park in Standish. Offer very cheap/reasonable rental agreements to businesses who want to work in the Arenac Communtiy Center to encourage businesses to rent a room. Build a bigger farmers market.

Clean-up the parks. Youngman park is a joke. Oasis Lake would be great if the bathrooms weren't disgusting

Roads, do good with dirt roads, clean up trash

Communication of both Govt. and private events in the area by both written, and electronic means.

Roads.

Bring in the bigger grocery/clothing store. Better restaurants, not fast food.

I'd like to see higher education - a satellite college site. Utilize the Standish prison for something! Demand the State to do something with the prison. Such a waste.

Business growth, not enough young people stay here because of lack of good paying jobs.

Make side streets around us 23

More jobs, more businesses

Businesses to work and shop and eat in.

Maintain what we have now! I have lived further North and also in Saginaw. This county is just great the way it is. Thank you

A larger chain store.

Bike trails, building trail system that is foamy orientated

Improve roads, allow department store or large grocery chain into Standish.

Add a traffic light at south end of standish on m23. keep trails and roads on stateland accessible. quit poisoning ditches for weed control.

Bring in more business, help the fairgrounds grow and bring in people to our community, help small business owners, fix our roads, the city needs to keep our streets cleaner, lower taxes so we can afford to fix up our houses,

More businesses such as, larger chain grocery store, Retail store and family restaurants

Higher wage job options

1. Internet speed and availibility 2. Roads 3. Leadership 4. Vision for growth 5. New blood

More businesses, particularly retail - something to come in at Shopko.

Either get our local mom and pop cable company to expand or have another like it help bring reliable inexpensive internet without. Also block all solicitation phone calls which inhabit our community to being productive.

Read my previous comments.

More businesses!

county wide recycling

More grocery stores and retail stores

Police, roads and utilities

Improve the roads. Expand utilities providing rural residents and businesses with high speed internet because it is almost aa necessity in today's society. Expand city water service. Expand on recreational activities such as kayak, tubing, and biking/walking trails.

Economic development and Rec development. If you build it, they will come!

New shopping stores. Ability to buy local. Increase jobs. Fix roads.

Closed dilapidated businesses and uninhabitable houses.

Focus on growth in companies and in jobs ,get the fairgrounds done

Improve skilled trades education to help increase the employee pool for businesses in our community.

In the next 5 years please fix our back roads, we're no different than those on main Street

Bring new businesses that attract a spectrum of Socio-economic classes- not just all blue collar production work.

I would carefully assess the community housing as more people will need housing due to drug-related jobs. I would keep a close eye on drug populations as families and people move from larger areas into the community. Drugs have increased in the area to youth and many areas of life could diminish due to that. Crime rates could be affected etc.

Add a traffic light at Grove street and US23. More businesses.

Get big business into the downtown areas (wall mart, Meyers and the like)... bring in city water and natural gas lines to the country side... do not allow fracking... increase police presence on the lakes and rivers... there are many more things....

expand business and industrial opportunities to create more and better paying jobs

Upgrade and add parks with picnic areas, splash pad, places for families to come together.

Better maintain back roads. Send road grader operators to school to learn how to grade roads properly. Fix and re opens bridges that have been closed on back roads. Keep brush cut in ditches so water can flow and cars can see deer before they jump out.

Help clean up existing building to attract more businesses, possibly offering tax incentives to new or existing businesses for expansion projects. Make our county a destination place not a drive through. Communities in arenac county need to work together on projects to attract tourism. Clean up blight. We're not getting help from county or township to clean up neighborhoods. Not getting any results when reported blight

Have a better infrastructure

Keep it growing. Take advantage of good opportunities!

Any free access sites/activities to promote family activity and provide low cost fun for the families.

Bring a train ride excursion to Standish once a year.

Fix the roads and bring in some businesses

Ensure that the schools have funding and provide opportunities for all students. Provide business opportunities to those that want to bring wholesome fun and community involvement. Fund the parks and make the passes affordable. \$10/day for Oasis made us turn around and leave. Ensure public transportation is available that can cross or meet other busses are county lines. Care for winter roads better. Ensure checks and balances on county budget - there may be a lack of this with the way it has always been done..

better quality of restaurants ; more activities & recreational areas for families and small children

Bring more businesses in. This would bring more job opportunities and the need for housing, hence more jobs for building contractors.

Properly maintain current roads. Do not pave dirt roads, just use tax money to consistently repair and maintain roads as they are. Possibly expand outward with city water, not necessarily sewer. Try to attract clothing stores, outdoor activity stores and motorsports. Add additional traffic lights at grove and 23 or 76 and 23 even if only used certain hours of certain days. It would help break up traffic on school days and weekends so cars aren't backed up on 76 to townline rd.

More shopping

New businesses

Simple.... Remove Blight areas get rid of it We have a false image of looking old and broken down Would be more pleasant to see planted open grass then crumbling foundations and piles of junk automobiles. pass ordinances to rid of the junk automobiles. Does it cost a lot of money to just clean us up. Allow us to build to store it instead of pile

it. Improve our rural roads with some gravel please help us get out of the mud and on our way Jobs jobs jobs no matter what it takes let's Climb out of being the poorest county in the state of Michigan. Develop the untapped Omer area beautiful river running through it Develop it! Bring it back to life again. Invite business and community events such as: Calendar Events: Arts / talent center fair grounds race track Library events holiday Santa house Easter hunt Bakery Create community Drive

Add a bigger chain store to keep grocery prices low and add more jobs. Focus on fixing roads and building more community parks/recreation areas for families

Not 5 to 10 years but NOW! GET SOMETHING HERE SO THE POPULATION DO NOT GO ELSEWHERE TO SPEND THERE MONEY.

Concentrate on education and transportation of students. Local family owned businesses thrive. Community cleanliness

I think we need to incorporate more events or festivals year round. I think we need to bring in bigger chain stores to help create jobs. I would like to see our parks and Fairgrounds expand and be more family oriented as far as people being able to use them on a Sunday afternoon for some place to go and something to do.

Reuse rebuild on what we already have - the prison, Arenac Eastern school...buildings no longer in use and going to waste, huge opportunity to grow business with minimal effort. Road improvements including digging ditches that are flooding every year

Build a Meijers close to I 75

Have an I 75 exit/entrance between Alger and West Branch and get a few retail outlets.

fix up downtown give the fix up grants

Diversity within the education system, job opportunities, customer service improvement. More housing options, and more public access to the beaches.

Make it more appealing to tourist and young people to want to raise a family in

I would like LESS marijuana shops/farms and more action against the opioid epidemic. Most people think we don't have a problem, but as a nurse, I can assure you that we do!

Better fairgrounds Support of community center

Improve the rural roads by paving them; bring water and sewer to Standish Township; bring in more choices for entertainment and high-speed internet as they are severely limited right now; leave the Fairgrounds where it is; increase the animal control budget, as this county has many irresponsible pet owners; Animal Control also needs either a new building or more space at their existing building as they are always filled to capacity; consider expanding affordable shopping opportunities -- West Branch was certainly very successful in accomplishing that.

Jobs housing education

Bike trails, some economic development to save our towns, kayak/canoe trails, conservation efforts regarding clean lake waters.

First and foremost improve access to Saginaw Bay for recreational use. This is a gem in our backyard that is not being fully utilized.

Fix and maintain rural roads

Promote up north living create a Tawas environment. Sorry but they do have it together .

Not sure

Provide more entertainment opportunities so people don't have to drive 30 minutes to do anything. Fix current roads and decrease the amount of dirt roads especially high traffic, constantly maintaining dirt roads. Provide a means for shopping for a birthday present or household item that isn't cheap.

Continue to improve the roads. Develop more living wage jobs. Add recreational areas for families such as play areas, playscape and outdoor water parks. Also fenced dog parks, bike and walking/hiking trails. Pavillions and bbq areas in existing and new parks and or rest areas. A fenced dog run at rest areas with clean up station would be wonderful.

Bring in affordable places to shop

Improve shore line activity

Try to attract and retain young professionals with job opportunities, good education facilities and options, and continuing access to the lakes and rivers in the area.

more employable businesses and dining establishments

Clean up blight. Crack down on drug abuse. Rail Trail connections - from South and North end of county.

More jobs, less hatred of outsiders

Improve holiday traffic flow through Standish. Have a major store to shop in, ie. Meijer or similar.

It's all about the jobs, baby. The majority of us here have to drive 30-45 miles to work.

Just a grocery store and more wheelchair access

Allow new businesses. Create a safe place for the kids of this community to go. Like a boys and girls club. A place that has activities during the summer and weekends. Activities that would challenge them to become better.

More fishing opportunities for vacation folks. Have high tech businesses.

Add some businesses ..

Shopping and roads

Economic development. Training for skilled workers. Promoting tourism. Promote volunteerism for our non-profits and organizations. Continue to improve our parks and trails.

Bring in Meijer or Walmart type store. Create jobs and help local community invest local instead of going outside arenac county

Increase tourism, add availability to the basics such as good food from the grocery stores. Balance businesses with residential.

Fix the roads. Offer incentives to businesses that build in the county

Increase health providers and shopping

Promote business growth, attract the gamblers and travelers to more than fast food and gas. Maintain my side road. Affordable child services.

**BUILD NEW FAIRGROUNDS TO HOST YEAR ROUND EVENTS,,WITH PLENTY OF ROOM TO EXPAND !!!!  
LOTS OF ROOM ON THE M-13 SITE, AND HIGH TRAFFIC VOLUME ,,EVERYONE WILL KNOW WERE IT IS A  
PLUS !! NEED ALOT MORE BUSINESSES HERE THAT PAY WELL,,WE HAVE THE ROOM FOR THAT.  
STANDISH IS NOT A TOURIST TOWN SO LETS JUST DROP THAT NONSENSE**

Better jobs that can support a family.

Fix, pave roads, and dig ditches like was done in the northern part of Aenac County

Make it more attractive to tourists and take care of the existing roads

Encourage business development with aggressive tax incentives to lure more manufacturers to build facilities here to expand higher wage job opportunities to bring people back to the area.

Improve roads, improve bay access, build bike paths, walking trails, 4 wheeler/SXS trails. Beautification of the city

Get people to clean it up and make it more presentable. Market the county better.

Better side roads, more businesses, presently no competition between grocery stores. Neighboring towns getting new business, not Standish.

Something has to be done to bring businesses to the area. The majority of the population is retirees and this area needs to draw families to the area. This would help our existing businesses and our schools.

Things for kids to do also more sit down restaurants bathrooms to be fixed at the parks add a shower at oasis

Pave the dirt roads!

Open up industrial areas for more manufacturing w/ incentives (economic growth) and improve/invest in the current Cities for more welcoming tourism opportunities along US23.

Retail store

Lower crime, lower drug use, block Marijuana dispensaries and Sales. Better wages for skilled (non- minimum wage) jobs.

Add more job opportunities & more bike & walking trails.

Try to find ways to stop the youth from leaving for work in other area's.

More diverse businesses

Improve education by getting the community excited about school.

more access to retail opportunities. government is inhibiting growth with too many regulations.

Clean up blight, make it look more appealing.

Try to get businesses in the communities.

Pretty much anything needed

Pave more roads Construct subdivisions Add more business Address the empty and deteriorating business buildings

Beach improvements, ice/fishing, Fix the highway exit at sagatoo and 23 Expand city services. Younger people moving north are put off by the internet, propane and septic

It would be nice to see old business buildings put back into use for businesses such as a daycare facility for all age levels, a type of recreational building for programs like karate, dance, tumbling, kids aerobics, and it would be nice to have another meeting facility like the VFW was and also a public pool for public use all year that is affordable for everyone.

More jobs, more recreational activities, more community oriented activities.

I would improve on the County Parks--these parks are mostly for us, the members of this county. Also put more money into the roads so the local people have a good place to drive--I mean the back dirt roads. Try to organize happenings that will draw people here for a weekend or more--would love to see an "all about farmers weekend" with parades, animals, BBQs flea market and all.

Entice businesses with tax incentives and community support. Promote what we're good at and stop trying to be what we're not.

I don't want it to be a large city but I would like more options in the business environment.

We must improve Au Gres! It is somewhat unsightly and doesn't offer much ... many tourists drive through - imagine if we gave the a reason to stop!! They might stay! We must focus on the tourism industry and a continue to allow seasonal rentals, etc. Honestly, right now that is why many people come to this area. Without...they don't have many options to enjoy Lake Huron!

Improved safety and police force. More opportunities for entertainment in all seasons indoor and outdoor for kids and teens.

Support and improve local businesses, keep the people that live and work here happy and supporting their community.

More housing, more on the job training. Turn empty state prison into a trade center for the youth and older adults. Perfect and I'm sure our government would give grants.

Bike path construction, Senior living options.

Need family things to do. Better grocery store. Dollar General needs to be cleaned up like newer ones. It pretty trash inside so is Family Dollar.

Clean up the blight, especially in Standish and have a nice new fair grounds.

Fast food Medical care More business

Add business, address main roads looks, make more back roads paved.

Increase police force Improve lake shore Eliminate blight

Allow businesses to join our community and require better maintenance of roads.

Shoreline flooding security

have place where the kids have something to do ie. YMCA type place. Be able to have a small business come in and last more than a 1-2 years. Bigger senior center -with transportation availbe

Walking and biking trails

Not sure

CHARGE A SINGLE PRICE LIKE MAYBE 12.00 PER DAAAY PER ADULT AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE RIDES AND THE GRANDSTANDS EVENTS FOR THAT DAY. GET RID OF THE BUMP AND RUN DEMOS AND DO SOME LAWNMOWER RACES, OR TOILET RACES SOMETHING FUN TO WATCH. OR SNOWMOBILES OVER WATER IN THE SUMMER. YOU HAVE A NICE FACILITY IT SHOULD BE USED, NEED A CONSESSION STAND AND BATHROOMS

Capitalize on developing natural areas.

Add bigger businesses that can offer competitive wages, benefits, and advancement opportunities

Increase the housing, find a way to bring real businesses back to Au Gres and Standish, open a shelter for Those who are homeless or couch surfing, ensure that our families are not hungry. The most important of all are the children.

Better public beaches. Restaurants on water

Road changes, adjusting to traffic as needed. Lights, turn lanes etc.

stores in these cities.....

More job opportunities, better back roads, more shopping opportunities, more activities for senior citizens and young people.

Aldi or Meijer for affordable groceries. Meijer or similar store to replace Pamida. Please not Walmart.

Draw small businesses to fill empty downtown buildings. Draw unique affordable eateries/resturants for l9cals and those traveling up north or staying in the area. Adding family friendly parks and campgrounds.

Fix the roads

Roads. Roads. Roads!

Create jobs, tax cuts for businesses new businesses, blight control on us23 enforce

More industry, promote on local fisheries, more hiking/biking connections to promote healthy lifestyles

Make it a more attractive place for businesses, particularly manufacturing/industrial.

In 2015, a considerable amount of my trees were cut down around the power lines instead of trimming them. I wish we wouldn't take the easy way out and consider the importance of our land and the long term effect that it costs our ecology. It would be nice to see the economy grow and take a page out of what Tawas is doing. Improve the parks, add more restaurants that are more than bar food and fried foods. Diversify without losing our small town feeling.

Upgrade outdoor courts. Make more Pickleball courts. Build community center like Tawas Get rid of blight along thorough fares. Make it appealing to people driving thru so they want to stop and stay awhile.

More businesses

Replace the courthouse personnel.

Make the roads A lot better , add retail store/stores, a sit dwn restraunt, MORE activities for kids!

Get rid of the blight problem. Habitat for humanity housing.

Housing units for younger families.

Add more retail services Improve parks & community center Develop new fairgrounds Coordinate events to showcase area

Fix roads Keep roadsides trimmed Add small businesses Open trails

Improvement to gravel roads. Increase variety of retail development. Improve substance abuse treatment.

Clean the county up and try to get business to the area

Bring in business try to reduce taxes

Allow a Wal-Mart or a Meijer to come in. Stop trying to turn our rural areas into urburn ones and trying to cityize every where in the county. Some of us moved to rural area because we wanted out of city life

More things for the community!! Need to spend money on fairgrounds!! Bring flattrack racing back!!

Protect our environment from pollution, windmill and solar farms.

Work with MDOC to reopen the prison. Not necessarily max security. This could help improve jobs and housing opportunities.

Attract business & improve housing/infrastructure.

broadband internet access to ALL areas. increase in industry in the area to support higher wage jobs.

Our roads!!!

Get more job opportunities for the residents, as well as more diversified shopping options.

Clean up the vacant buildings.

It in sewers along US23. Expand and connect bike & hike paths

Get a Meijer's, Walmart, Aldi, clean up standish. Make standish a destination not a pass through on the way to somewhere else

Improve employment opportunities that offer better saleries and benefits. Take advantage of our Lake Huron shorelines to provide more accessability for boating, fishing and swimming. More bicycle trails away from busy roads.

It needs more business - and manufacturing establishments.

More businesses

Natural gas and high speed cable internet everywhere. The only other thing you need are factories with good paying jobs. That would bring in blue and white collar workers to stay in arenas county. I hate driving south 40-70 miles everyday. I would take a pay cut to be closer to home.

Black top rural roads. The dirt roads are in bad shape in the spring and in the winter.

Shopping would bring in more tourism. Like a Shopco, Pamida, would make shopping easier for locals too.

Run a community fiber optic cable. Electric bus for transportation.

Encourage a broader range of business into the area,. It would be great to have an OBGYN and family medical providers, rental car company, trade schools

More restaurants businesses put something in that building where Pineada used to be we need it variety store up here

Not sure.

Add higher education opportunities Add industry for jobs Add more shopping and restaurant availability

See previous comments.

Fill up the abandoned commercial buildings offer incentives for large and small businesses for example Au Gres looks so depressed like a ghost town

Improved infrastructure.

Bike trail extension. Better marina facilities.

# Appendix D – Stakeholder Interview Summary

# County of Arenac Stakeholder Interview Summary

## Key Takeaways

This document lists six key takaways from the stakeholder interviews conduted on November 11, 2019 with County community leaders, decisionmakers, and representatives of organizations and businesses in Arenac County. The purpose of the meetings was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to identify major issues, ideas, and concerns facing the County in preparation to update to the County of Arenac Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Plan. This is one of several community outreach activities that is being undertaken for the master planning and recreation planning process.

# 1

The County is a recreation haven for almost all adventurer types. This is the County's strongest asset and economic driver, however, more needs to be done to focus and advertise all the opportunities the County has to offer. Almost all the traffic traveling north on the east side of the State must drive through the County. In the future it will be crucial to draw in these travelers and make Arenac County a State-wide recreation destination.

# 2

There are two very distinct population groups the County, the year-round residents and the recreation focused visitors. The local municipalities have the challenge of catering to the very different needs and service expectations of these two important segments of the County population. The County and local governments need to strike a healthy balance between the groups.

# 3

The current economic development efforts in the County need to be expanded. The program needs a full-time director which will be essential to Arenac County's success.

# 4

A key focus of Recreation development in the County in the future should focus on non-motorized trail development, connecting the County to the Iron Belle Trail and connecting the various communities in the County via non-motorized transportation routes.

# 5

Arenac County has two strong school districts that offer full-time residents the option to choose the type of program that is best for their children. The schools are a cornerstone for the local municipalities and provide a strong sense of community. The County is lacking a community college presence that would help train the local residents and keep them in the area.

# 6

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is an important entity in the County and is working to expand their properties and the economic development opportunities available in the County. While the casino is generally its own entity, the 2% grants they provide to the local governments are very helpful and appreciated.

# Appendix E – Potential Funding Sources

## **SOURCES OF RECREATION GRANT FUNDING IN MICHIGAN**

### **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)**

- Match requirement – minimum of 25%
- Development grants
  - Minimum Grant Request \$15,000
  - Maximum Grant Request \$300,000
- Acquisition grants
  - No minimum or maximum
- Goals of MNRTF Board
  - Resource Protection
  - Water Access
  - Community Recreation
  - Urban Recreation
  - Economic Development
- Due annually on April 1
- [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

- Administered by MNRTF
- 50% match required
- Minimum grant request \$30,000 (\$60,000 project total)
- Maximum grant request \$150,000 (\$200,000 project total)
- Funds a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects
- Applications due annually on April 1
- [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

### **Michigan Recreation Passport Grant**

- Administered by MNRTF
- Focus is on improving and renovating existing parks
- Minimum Grant Request - \$7,500, Maximum 150,000
- Applications due on April 1
- For outdoor *and indoor* recreation projects
- [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

### **Michigan Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternatives Program**

- For non-motorized transportation (paths) and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (bridges, railroad depot, etc.)
- 20% minimum match required, 40% recommended
- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, and villages. Other organizations may *sponsor* applications (i.e. County Road Commission or local MDOT office sponsors a township application)
- Rolling on-line application process
- [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) Go to “Projects and Programs”.

### **Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (GLFT)**

- Objective – improve or create shore-based Great Lakes recreational access.
- Must be located on the Great lakes or lower portions of major tributaries
- Matching funds not required but projects with local funding will be favored.
- Relatively simple application form and requirements.
- Due dates vary.
- [www.glft.org](http://www.glft.org)

### **Michigan Coastal Management Grants**

#### Objectives

- Protect, manage and restore coastal communities and habitats
- Restore historic structures
- Revitalize urban waterfronts
- Increase recreational opportunities along Michigan’s Great Lakes coast
- Applicant must be a coastal unit of government
- Maximum grant request - \$100,000
- Match requirements – 50% (some flexibility in match for non-construction projects that result in changes to local master plans or zoning ordinances, regional greenways, or include conservation planning)
- Eligible projects
  - Studies, Designs and Land Use Plans – must have a direct connection to coastal planning and/or resource protection.
  - Construction – boardwalks, trails, lighthouse preservation, habitat restoration, scenic overlook, etc.
- [www.michigan.gov/ogl](http://www.michigan.gov/ogl)

#### *Other grant programs to consider:*

### **Coastal Program – Great Lakes – US Fish and Wildlife Service**

- Grants to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and to support healthy coastal ecosystems
- Rolling application process
- [www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/apply.htm](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/apply.htm)

### **Specific sports and sports foundations**

- United States Tennis Association (USTA)
  - funding for tennis courts and programs
  - [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com)
- Major League Baseball
  - Baseball Tomorrow Fund
  - [www.baseballtomorrow.com](http://www.baseballtomorrow.com)
- United States Soccer
  - [www.ussoccerfoundation.org](http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org)

### **Safe Routes to School**

- For projects near elementary and middle schools:
  - Sidewalks
  - Traffic calming and speed reduction
  - Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
  - On-street and off-street bicycle facilities
  - Off-street pedestrian facilities
  - Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- Need to complete the safe routes planning process to apply
- [www.saferoutesmichigan.org](http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org)

### **Trust for Public Land (TPL)**

- Conservation Transactions  
TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas. TPL serves as an independent agent, buying land from willing landowners and then transferring it to public agencies, land trusts, or other groups for protection. In some instances, TPL will protect land through conservation easements, which restrict development but permit traditional uses such as farming and ranching.
- [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

### **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants**

- Must be part of a watershed management plan
- Projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution (streambank and shoreline stabilization, rain gardens, erosion control, conservation easements)
- 25% match required
- [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)

### **Community Foundations**

#### **Private Foundations and Endowments**

Wickes Foundation  
Strosacker Foundation  
Gerstacker Foundations  
Consumers Energy

### **KEEP IN MIND...**

- Match requirements can usually be in-kind services, donations, or cash,
- Most grants are provided on a reimbursable basis.
- Barrier free accessibility is usually required for improvement projects,
- Multiple partners, multiple jurisdictions can be viewed favorably – think “regional” projects.
- Grant applications can be complicated, detailed and competitive. Make sure your grant writer is familiar with the grant and funding source. Learn as much as possible ahead of time to know if your project has potential for funding.

# Appendix F – Adoption Documentation