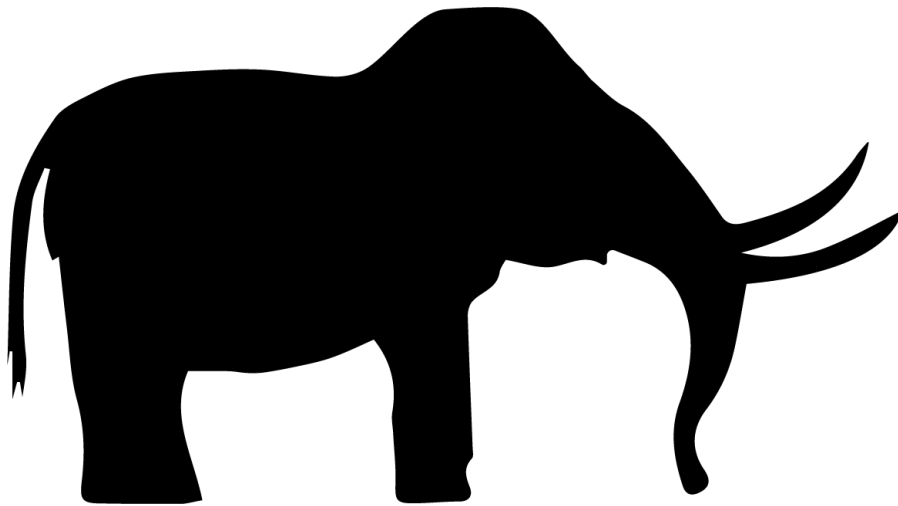


MASTER PLAN

2021



MASTODON TOWNSHIP

1371 U.S. Hwy. 2 South
Crystal Falls, Michigan 49920
(906) 875-6232

<https://www.mastodontownship.com>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION	
THE PURPOSE FOR PLANNING	5
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND THE PLANNING PROCESSES	5
CHAPTER 2 - OUR TOWNSHIP	
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	6
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	7
HOUSEHOLD STATISTICS	8
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	8
ECONOMIC DATA	9
GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING	9
SOILS AND WATERSHEDS	10
HARDINESS ZONES	11
CHAPTER 3 - LAND USE	
EXISTING LAND USE PATTERNS AND INFLUENCES	12
CHAPTER 4 - ROADWAYS AND RECREATION PLAN	
ROADWAYS	13
RECREATION PLAN	13
CHAPTER 5 - PUBLIC SERVICES	
SERVICES AND FACILITIES DESCRIPTION	14
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING	14
CHAPTER 6 - IMPLEMENTATION/GOALS AND POLICIES	
TOWNSHIP CHARACTER	15
ZONING PLANNING	15
PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS	16
FUTURE LAND USE	16
ENVIRONMENTAL	18
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	19
ROADS AND DEVELOPMENT	19
SERVICE CAPACITIES/DEFICIENCIES	20
FUTURE WORK AND EFFORTS	21
APPENDIXES	
APPENDIX - A: MAPS	22
APPENDIX - B: SURVEY	25
APPENDIX - C: SURVEY RESULTS	29

MISSION STATEMENT:

The intent of the Mastodon Township's Master Plan is to prepare for anticipated change; preserve natural resources; ensure wise land use; protect our environment; preserve our quality of life; keep strong communities and foster new development.



US 2 Township Hall/Fire Dept.



Camp 5 Township Hall/Fire Dept.

Township Administrative Board (current as of November 2021)

Mastodon Township is governed by a Township Board consisting of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and two Trustees. The Township Board selects members for the Planning Commission along with members for the Zoning Board of Appeals and a Zoning Administrator.

The Planning Commission meets monthly or semi-monthly according to a published schedule. The Planning Commission is responsible for advising the Township Board on recreation facilities and programs based on the ideas from the Township residents.

TOWNSHIP BOARD

NAME	TITLE	TERM OF OFFICE
FRANK SIEWIOREK	SUPERVISOR	NOVEMBER 2020 - 2024
JAN LEMKE	CLERK	NOVEMBER 2020 - 2024
STACEY WATTERS	TREASURER	NOVEMBER 2020 - 2024
MIKE BJORK	TRUSTEE	NOVEMBER 2020 - 2024
CHAD SKINNER	TRUSTEE	NOVEMBER 2020 - 2024

PLANNING COMMISSION

NAME	TITLE	TERM OF OFFICE
COURTNEY FRANZ	CHAIRMAN	JANUARY 2021 - DEC 2023
RICHARD HERMAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN	FEBRUARY 2019 - JAN 2022
ASHLEE KINSEY	SECRETARY	JANUARY 2021 - DEC 2023
JOHN BJORK	MEMBER	FEBRUARY 2020 - JAN 2023
CHAD SKINNER	BOARD LIAISON	NOVEMBER 2020 - 2024

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA)

NAME	TITLE	TERM OF OFFICE
CINDY HERMAN	CHAIRMAN	NOV 2018 – OCT 2021
STU CREEL	SECRETARY	MAY 2019 – APRIL 2022
RICK HERMAN	PLAN COMMISSION LIAISON	FEBRUARY 2019-JAN 2022
MELISSA CARSWELL	MEMBER	AUGUST 2021 – JULY 2024
SHERI SKRZYNIARZ	MEMBER	APRIL 2021 – MARCH 2024

NAME	TITLE
JEFF SEPPALA	ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE FOR PLANNING:

The land use planning authority is provided by Public Act 33 of 2008, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3801, *et seq*). The purpose of this Master Plan is to build the Township's future. The Planning Commission must work to develop a community consensus on the Township's planning goals and policies to prepare realistic plans for future growth. Once the goals have been determined, the land use tools outlined in the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance are used by the Township leaders to shape the Township's future. To maintain its future vision, the Township must develop a strategy that balances the practical realities of its location with the character of the community and its ability to meet the demands of growth.

The Planning Commission must ensure that the Township's long-term character, as determined by the vision expressed in the Master Plan, does not adversely affect the social fabric of the Township, the environment or the availability of needed services.

Master plans usually look ahead 20 years with five-year updates. Goals are set with strategies to meet those goals. This helps the Township make decisions that are best for the long term.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND THE PLANNING PROCESS:

The Planning Commission has posted its regular monthly meeting schedule in the *Iron County Reporter* and the *Iron Mountain Daily News* to notify Township residents so they can be a part of the planning process. In May of 2017, 1076 surveys were mailed to Township property owners asking them for input on a number of questions that would serve as a guide for developing goals and strategies for the Master Plan (Appendix C).

In addition to posting the Planning Commission's meeting dates, a letter of intention was mailed to neighboring townships, utility companies, businesses, educational facilities and any entity that would have an interest in the Township's Master Plan, asking for cooperation and comment.

When the Planning Commission has a rough draft of the Master Plan completed it will engage the public at a couple of regular scheduled meetings. The Planning Commission is interested in community input on a number of topics as it finalizes how Mastodon Township could look in five, ten and twenty years. Once completed the draft plan will be presented to the Mastodon Township Board for review. Once the Township Board has approved the Plan for distribution, it will be mailed to the same communities and agencies to which the original notice to initiate the planning process was sent.

At this point the Planning Commission will publish a notice for a public hearing.

CHAPTER 2

OUR TOWNSHIP

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The boundaries of Mastodon Township were established in 1885. While searching for iron ore deposits, large prehistoric bones were discovered thus the township was given the name Mastodon. Mastodon Township is the 3rd largest in Iron County.



Early surveyors noted the presence of iron ore outcroppings and an abundance of white pine. The area was populated by a few Native Americans from the Menominee and Chippewa (Ojibway) tribes. To a growing nation, the iron ore and lumber were much needed and so attracted many mining and lumber companies. The jobs created brought many European immigrants to the area and established the need for railroads to carry passengers and to haul iron ore. The Stager Train Depot was constructed in 1881 by Chicago Northwestern to serve that purpose. The settlement around the depot

was referred to as Stager and the nearby lake's name was changed from Bass Lake to Stager Lake.

As news of huge ore deposits spread, more settlers flocked to this area and the Village of Alpha was platted and designed. The building lots sold fast. The business district in town even had a “round about” or Civic Circle as residents called it. The Alpha Train Depot soon followed as did the Porter School in 1914. The growing population required service industries and soon the town had a hotel, bank, several stores both grocery and mercantile, several bars and pool rooms, dance hall, theater, barber, and mechanic garage. A village government and fire department were formed to protect and serve the interests of the residents.

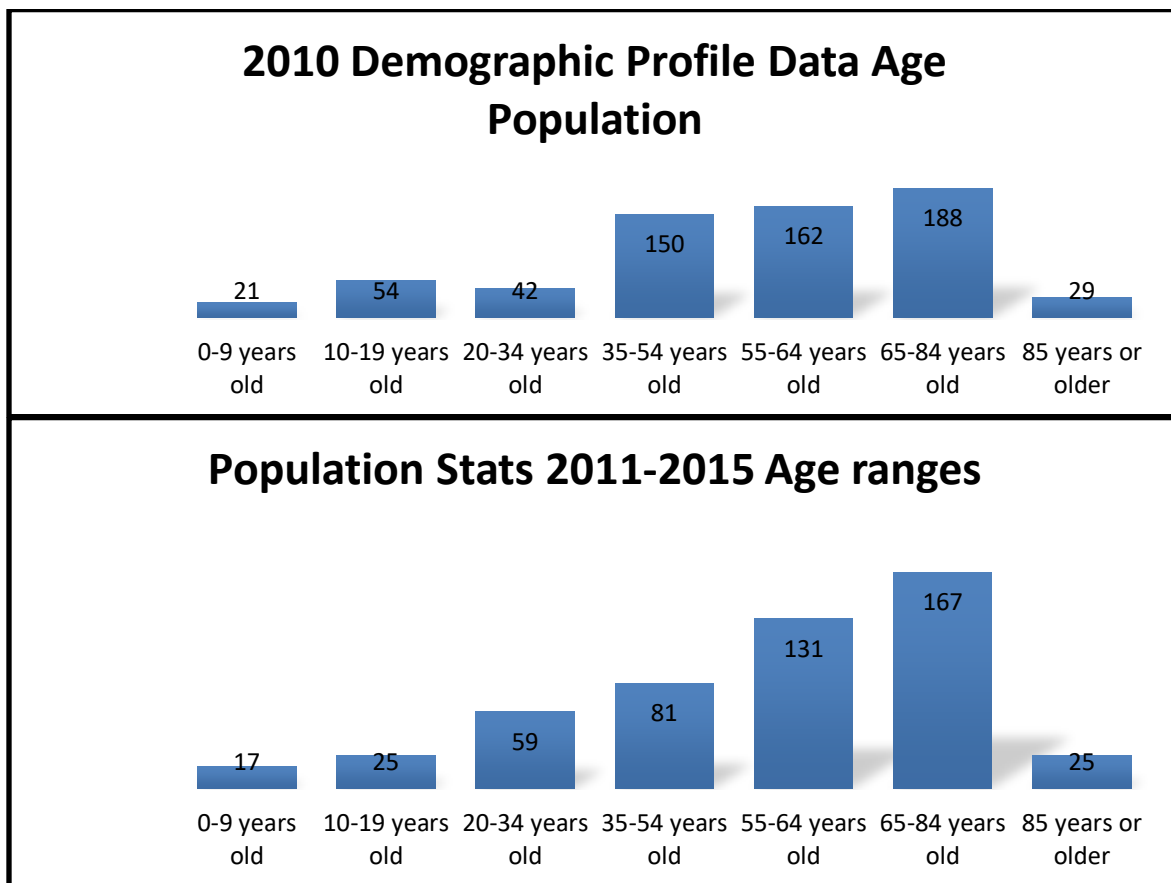
While Alpha continued to grow and develop, so too did the outlying regions. The rich soil attracted many settlers to areas such as Pentoga, the Buck Lake district, Dunn Location, and Camp Five. These areas also built school houses of their own to serve the local children. Pentoga had a train depot for passengers and for shipping potatoes from the large Kalla Walla and Kinney farms in this area. Other farms raised dairy cows and chickens to sell the milk and eggs.

Eventually the supply of white pine was depleted and the demand for iron ore lessened causing the shutdown of many local mines and logging operations. The boom was over and the population decreased as younger adults moved out to find work. Although the forest industry is still important here, modern methods and machines do not require as much human labor. Mines such as the Book, Judson, Balkan, Dunn, Alpha, and others were abandoned. There are no active mines in the township today. The farming that still exists is on a much smaller scale.

Fortunately the beauty and natural resources of this area are still enticing to many people. Tourism has become a major industry because of the excellent hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, off-road trails, snowmobiling, and just sheer beauty of this area. The forest industry is still big and many small businesses still operate. Mastodon Township continues to attract new people and many move to this area as they retire to enjoy the peace, serenity, and beauty.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

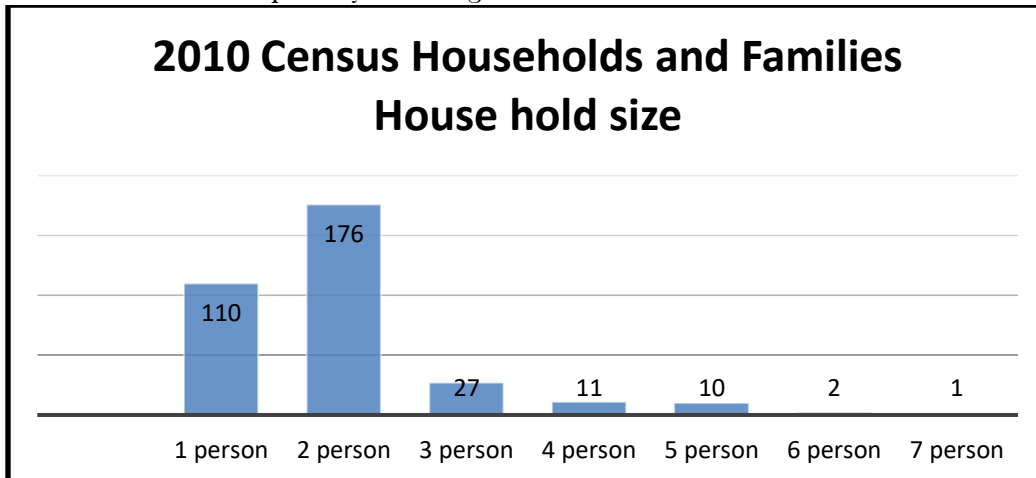
The information presented in this section will describe Mastodon Township's population based on statistical data from the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau and the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The Township's population in 2010 was estimated at 656 residents with a five-year estimated decline reported at 514 residents. Based on the five-year estimate, Township residents age 60 and over comprise 50% of our population. The age group of 45-59 is estimated at 26%; ages 25-44 at 14%; with the remaining age groups: 20-24, high school, elementary and five years and under filling in the balance with each falling between 2-3% of the Township's population. These statistics show a 22% estimated reduction in the Township's population since 2010. The age group of 24 and younger declined 5%. The age group 60 and over increased by 4%.



We are just about equal on male to female ratio from 18 years to 65 and over. Our population not only lacks ethnic diversity with 99% being recorded as “White” Americans but age diversity with half being over the age of 60.

HOUSEHOLD STATISTICS:

In 2010 there were approximately 337 family households in Mastodon Township. The Census Bureau's 2011-2015 5-Year Estimate, has reduced that count to 276 households. Of this total, 187 are families of 2-3 people and 89 are people living alone. Only 8% of the households have children under 18 while 64% are occupied by adults age 60 and older.

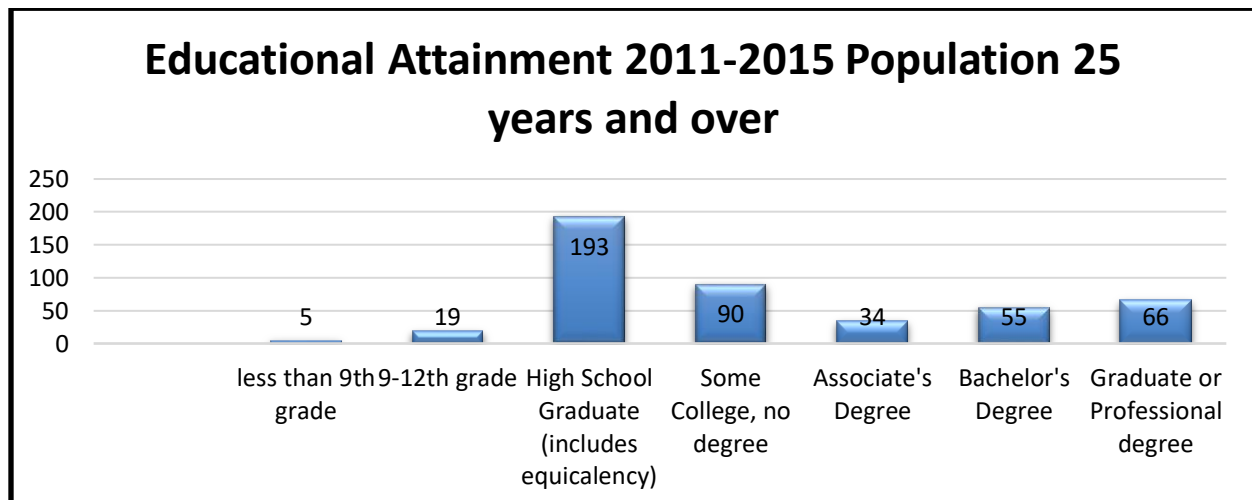


Single family homes comprise 88% of the total. Two or more apartment units are at 1% and mobile homes and other at 11%. A majority of housing is owner-occupied with only 4% being rental units.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Using the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the age group of 25 years and older: 53% have had some college education, or have a degree (Associate's, Bachelor's, Graduate or professional); 42% have high school degree (includes equivalency); leaving 5% not having a high school diploma.

If we define the age group of 25-44 year-olds as working families, 39% have a high school degree or higher and 61% have a Bachelor's degree or higher.



ECONOMIC DATA

Economically, the area is supported by local service businesses with most residents of employment age working within the service businesses, in small manufacturing industries, forestry or in the construction industry in neighboring communities. A small number of entrepreneurial businesses and family-type farms also operate in the Township. The following data is reflected from the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. In Mastodon Township, of the 477 residents that are 16 years of age and older, about 194 are in the labor force. Of those, 35% are employed and 6% are unemployed. An estimated 283 residents are not in the labor force which is 59% of the total age group over 16 years of age. Demographics suggest this group is made up of retired residents and the disabled.

Of those in the workforce, 70% draw a wage or salary from private businesses; 25% are government workers and 5% are self-employed. What types of industry employ the majority of workers? Three major components are: education, health care and social assistance employing 30%; manufacturing, transportation, utilities, waste management, professionals, management and administrators employing 30% and 14% working in agriculture, forest, fish/hunt and mining.

The economic statistics measuring household as compared to individual income indicated the median household income for Mastodon Township's 276 households is estimated at \$40,200. The largest percentage, 33% of households fell into the \$15,000-\$34,999 income range and 48% had an income of \$35,000-\$99,999. If we look at the 187 households with families, their median income estimate was \$50,221. Another estimated fact to consider is that 6% of all Mastodon Township households fell below poverty level in the past year. The 2017 U.S. Poverty Threshold is \$18,330 for an average household of 2.25 persons.

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING:

Mastodon Township is made up of approximately 83,789 acres or 126.6 sq. miles of land and 8.8 square miles of water. Included in the Township's total acreage is the Village of Alpha (517 acres); Wisconsin Electric properties (8,071 acres), State of Michigan properties (20,356 acres) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources properties (2,304 acres).

Mastodon Township is located in the southeast corner of Iron County in Michigan's Western Upper Peninsula with the Brule River forming its southern boundary. The Township is bordered by Crystal Falls and Mansfield Townships to the north, Bates and Stambaugh Townships to the west, Dickinson County to the east and Florence County, Wisconsin to the south.

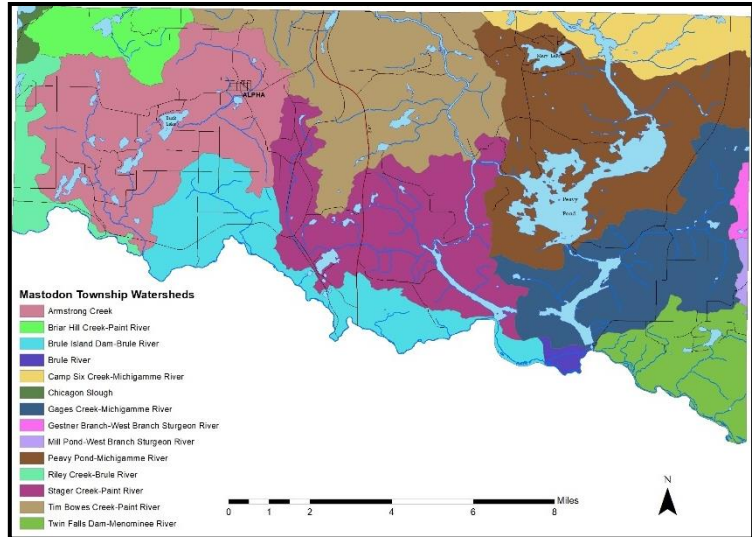


The travel time from Mastodon Township to larger cities: Escanaba and Marquette, Michigan 1.5 hours; Green Bay, Wisconsin 2.5 hours; Chicago, Illinois and Minneapolis, Minnesota 6 hours.

GENERAL SOILS AND GEOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

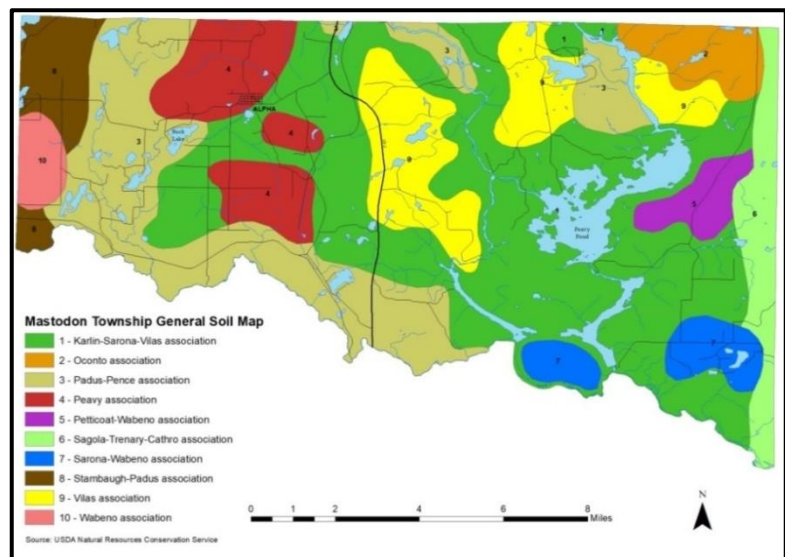
About 42% of Mastodon Township's soil falls into the category of Karlin-Sarona-Vilas Association. The terrain is nearly level to hilly, excessively drained to well drained, loamy and sandy soils. This association is mainly used as woodland where the major management concerns are seedling mortality and equipment limitation. Some areas are used as cropland with the major concerns being drought and water erosion.

Land that is nearly level to hilly, well drained, loamy soils on outwash plains and stream terraces makes up about 20% of the Township. The surface layer of the Padus-Pence Association is typically very dark grayish brown fine sandy loam about 7 inches thick. The top one inch is composed of black, partially decomposed organic material. This association is used mainly as woodland with the major management concern being equipment limitation. Some areas are used as cropland with the concern of water erosion.



WATERSHEDS

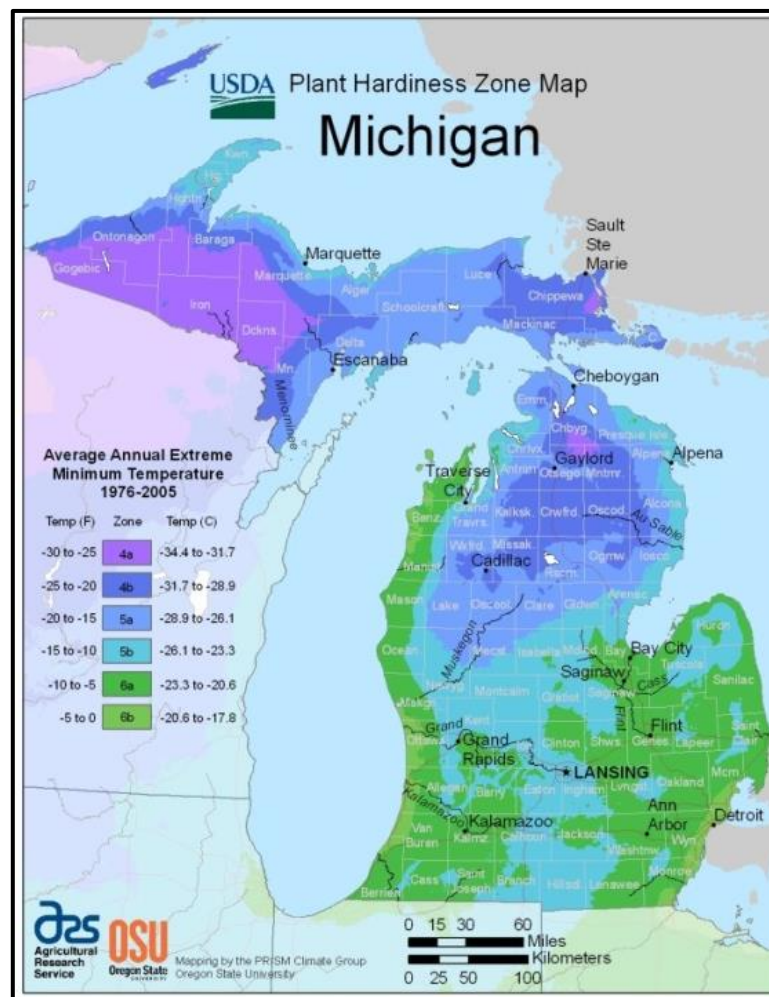
This USGS map shows the Township's watershed areas. Areas of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir or any point along a stream channel. Ridges and hills that separate two watersheds are drainage divides. Watersheds consist of surface water, lakes, streams, reservoirs and wetlands. This also includes all the underlying ground water. Watersheds are important because the streamflow and the water quality of a river are affected by things, human-induced or not, happening in the land area "above" the river-outflow point.



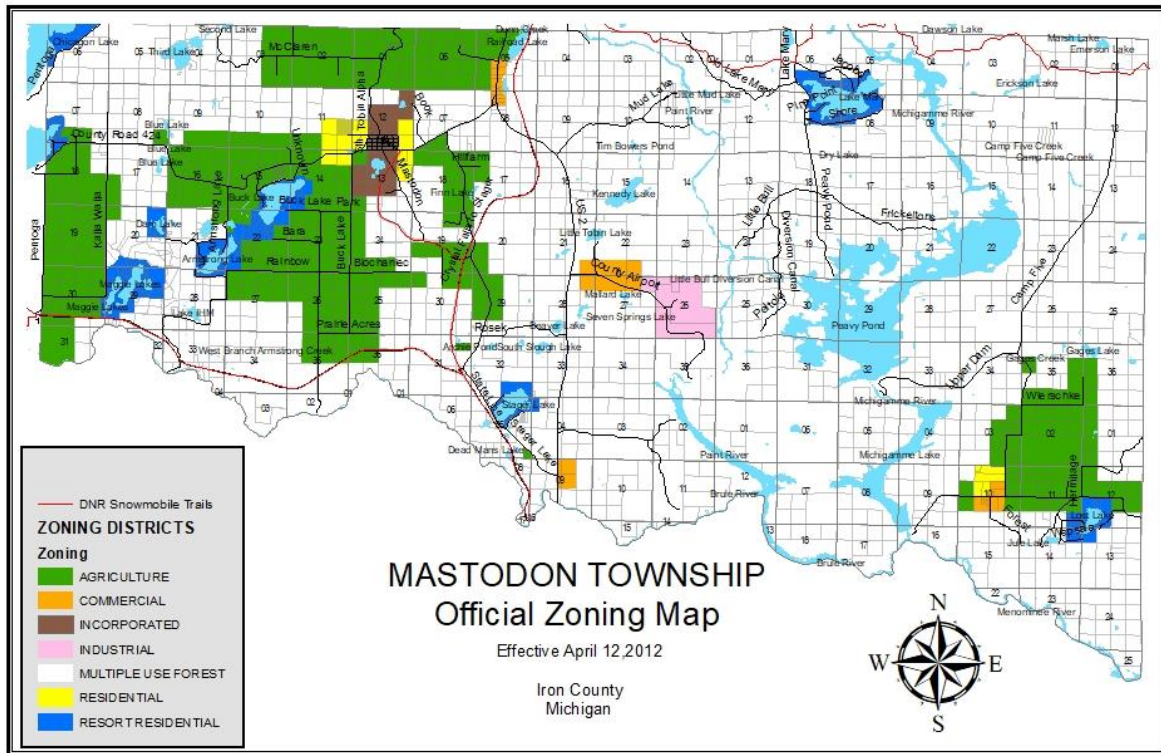
HARDINESS ZONES

Most of the southwest half of the Upper Peninsula falls in the 4a plant hardiness zone. Hardiness zones are based on the average annual extreme minimum temperature during a 30-year period in the past, not the lowest temperature that has ever occurred in the past or might occur in the future. Gardeners should keep that in mind when selecting plants, especially if they choose to "push" their hardiness zone by growing plants not rated for their zone. In addition, although this edition of the USDA map is drawn in the most detailed scale to date, there might still be microclimates that are too small to show up on the map.

Microclimates, which are fine-scale climate variations, can be small heat islands—such as those caused by blacktop and concrete—or cool spots caused by small hills and valleys. Individual gardens also may have very localized microclimates. Your entire yard could be somewhat warmer or cooler than the surrounding area because it is sheltered or exposed. You also could have pockets within your garden that are warmer or cooler than the general zone for your area or for the rest of your yard, such as a sheltered area in front of a south-facing wall or a low spot where cold air pools first. No hardiness zone map can take the place of the detailed knowledge that gardeners pick up about their own gardens through hands-on experience.



CHAPTER 3 LAND USE



EXISTING LAND USE PATTERNS AND INFLUENCES

The above map is a view of the Township's zoning map as it has existed since April 12, 2012 when it was adopted. It provides a snapshot of current land use patterns. The largest percentage of Township property is zoned multiple use forest (white); the second largest is zoned agricultural (green) followed by industrial (pink), residential (yellow), commercial (orange) and resort residential (dark blue). The entire Township is a rolling topography with many rivers, streams and small lakes. Approximately two-thirds of the Township is historically centered round the Village of Alpha, which occupies a total land area of less than one square mile. The remaining third of the Township is isolated from this area by hydroelectric power dam backwaters managed by the Wisconsin Electric Company. The Township is a mixture of forests and small farms with major areas of undeveloped woodlands and lakes.

Developed areas include: the Village of Alpha, a number of lakeside communities which began as seasonal residences that have gradually developed into year-round residences and an isolated area, Camp 5, which developed as a bedroom-type community for the neighboring City of Iron Mountain, located in Dickinson County.

CHAPTER 4

ROADWAYS AND RECREATION PLAN

ROADS AND DEVELOPMENT

Running through the center of the Township, major roadways U.S. Highway 2 and County Road 424, provides residents and travelers easy access to M-69 going east; U.S. 141 to the north and U.S. Highway 2 West. It's a short drive to the two major retail/service/health care areas of the City of Crystal Falls and the City of Iron River. Further to the south and east is Iron Mountain/Kingsford which is about a 30-minute drive.

RECREATION PLAN

In 2017, 122.4 million visitors traveled to Michigan, spending \$24.7 billion in the state. The potential for tourism in Mastodon Township and the desire from property owners for recreational planning and development directs the Planning Commission to develop a separate Recreational Plan. This Plan would encompass the Township's existing parks: Stager Lake Park, Buck Lake Park, Camp 5 Area and an opportunity to explore possibilities with "Wilderness Shores" managed by WE Energies. Collaboration with the Village of Alpha with maintenance of the Anderson Ball Field/Pavilion, tennis/basketball courts and Balkan Mine Pit project will also be given consideration.

GOAL - Mastodon Township to develop a separate recreation plan.

Regarding their five to ten year vision for the Township, they would like to see it as being a destination for outdoor enthusiast, tourism, with natural resources preserved.

CHAPTER 5 PUBLIC SERVICES

SERVICES AND FACILITIES DESCRIPTION

General Government

Mastodon Township operates under an elected Board that meets once a month. With a limited tax base and local resources, the Township relies on Iron County for services including law enforcement, emergency and medical services, and utilities.

The following boards and commissions are responsible for local government:

Township Board: consisting of a supervisor, clerk, treasurer and two trustees are elected to serve a four year term; meet once a month.

Planning Commission: formed under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008, the commission is responsible for developing and maintaining: the Master Plan, the Recreation Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. Responsible for site plan reviews. Meeting schedule dependent on scope of projects.

Zoning Administrator: administers the provisions of the Township's Zoning Ordinance.

Zoning Board of Appeals: meets as needed and is the arbiter of disputes or questions on interpreting and enforcing the Zoning Ordinance.

Board of Review: State mandated appointed body that meets at least annually to reevaluate property tax assessments upon the requests of individual taxpayers.

Volunteer Fire Department: provides fire and emergency response, including mutual aid, to Mastodon Township from two department locations. The base location being at the Township Hall on U.S. Highway 2 South and the satellite location at the Camp 5 Hall on the eastern side of the township.

Public Works: responsibilities of the department include property maintenance at both township halls and ground keeping at the township parks.

CHAPTER 6

IMPLEMENTATION/GOALS AND POLICIES

TOWNSHIP CHARACTER

Mastodon Township will be a community of planned diversity offering a balance between residential, agricultural, multiple use forest and employment, business and recreational opportunities while preserving its natural quiet rural setting.

GOAL - The character of Mastodon Township will remain primarily multiple use forest and agricultural land with homes in rural settings.

POLICIES

1. The Township will adopt and implement ordinance provisions whose purpose is to foster the establishment of residential and business developments that maintain rural character and preserve agricultural and forest land.

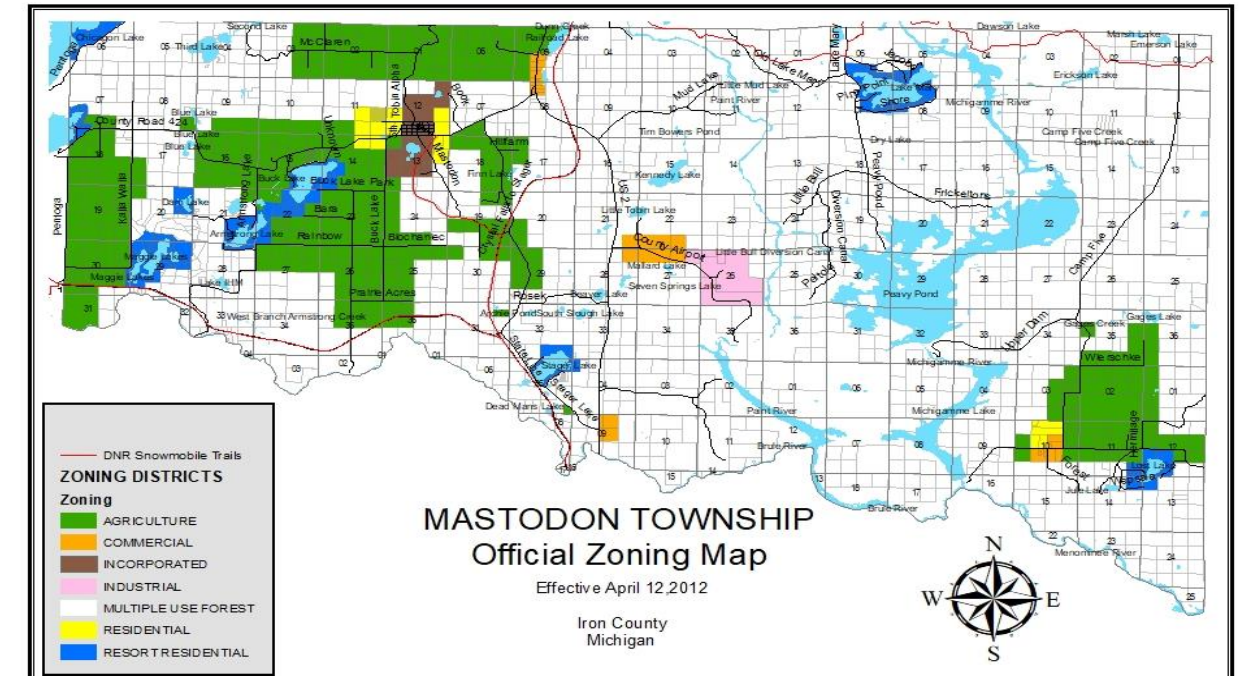
2. Before approval, the Township will seek information from applicants for land use plan to ensure that roads, fire and other Township services are adequate to serve the proposed uses.

3. Protection of groundwater resources, natural features and other environmental features will be a primary consideration of the Township when reviewing land use plan.

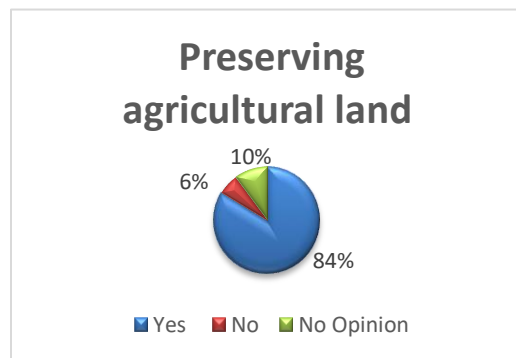
ZONING PLAN

Mastodon Township's existing Zoning Ordinance is consistent with the Township's current goals for development. Adopted in 2012, it was reviewed by the Planning Commission and updated in 2018. New development should be planned in accordance with existing zoning districts and the zoning map at the time of this plan's adoption, as these represent the current state of land use intentions.

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS



FUTURE LAND USE



Township Survey Question #9 Results

Is preserving the existing agricultural land within Mastodon Township important to you?

Survey Comments: need organic farming; we need to encourage small family, organic farms. MSU Extension, Forest Park, Bay De Noc etc. to educate people;

What survey respondents liked most about owning property in Mastodon Township is the quiet setting of nature, wildlife, waterways and recreational opportunities including hunting and fishing. Recreational opportunities leaned toward non-motorized with bike trails, hiking trails and ski trails.

Explore a land use change to accommodate the potential for growth in Mastodon Township for single family dwellings and small scale farming by making available smaller parcel land division in specified agricultural districts.

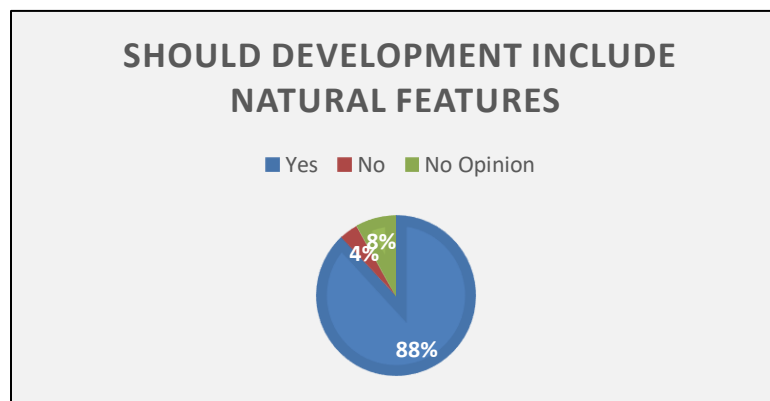
GOAL - The Township will contain an appropriate mixture of land uses, including: multiple use forest, commercial/industrial, agricultural uses and homes in rural settings.

POLICIES

1. Review of land use and zoning changes will include considering how the proposed development preserves the rural character of the township.

2. Areas of dissimilar land uses will be separated by adequate landscaping, open space or other means to limit conflicts between uses.

3. New commercial/industrial development should be designed to reflect the rural character of Mastodon Township, with uses necessary for daily needs of the neighborhood and limited sizes of buildings and parking areas.



Township Survey Question #3 Results

When development comes to our Township, should developers be required to incorporate the natural features of the site into their final plans?

Survey Comments: Yes! As stated above cluster style development can be very effective for saving many natural existing features; But not to the point where it prevents the developers from developing the area.

4. Expand the existing Commercial District by changing the zoning districts bordering current Commercial District properties and exploring the potential of adding commercial/industrial properties in the vicinity of the airstrip off Airport Road.

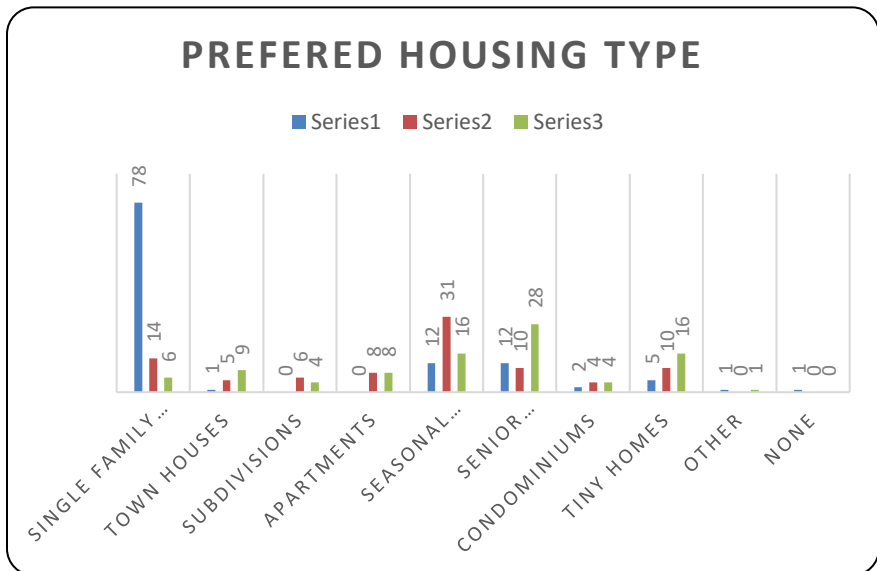
RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

Housing Survey Question

What type of housing would you prefer to have built in our Township during the next ten years? Rank your top three choices with 1 being of the highest importance.

* Chart note: Series 1 = 1st choice, Series 2 = 2nd choice, and Series 3 = 3rd choice

Survey Comments: Housing growth in the next ten years was directed to: single family residence, seasonal cottages and senior housing/assisted living. Development on waterfront properties leaned heavily toward single family residence and seasonal cottages with controls to regulate and limit environmental impact.



GOAL: To accommodate the potential residential growth of Mastodon Township in the agricultural district and taking into consideration land features, access to utilities, services, and current use.

POLICY: The Township would create a new zoning district, DISTRICT A2 (Agriculture) with the minimum acreage of five (5) acres with a single-family dwelling. The Agriculture/Residential District would be established to encourage agriculture and its related uses as the principal use of the land. The specific intent is to facilitate the proper use of lands best suited to agriculture by preventing the mixing of residential and rural uses for small scale farming.

1. Along County Road 424 from Rysberg Drive, east to Alpha on both the north and south side of the road to the Residential District west of Alpha.

2. Along County Road 424 from Kalla Walla Road west to the Resort Residential District on Indian Lake. This would include both the north and south side of County Road 424 and Treeline Drive and the north area around the lake that is adjacent to Resort Residential District.

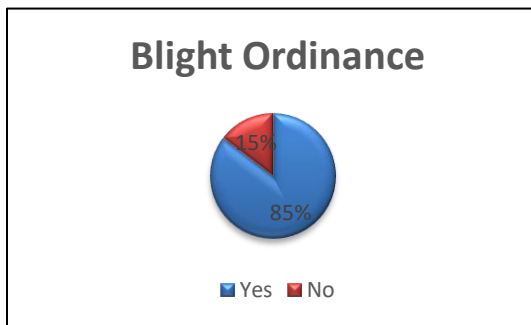
3. Beginning at the corner of Camp Five Road and Lower Dam Road then going east to the Dickinson County line. Add Residential District 2 parcels on both the north and south side. As the Camp Five Road's south-east stretch is about 20 minutes from M-95, it could offer an opportunity for growth for those who work in Dickinson County.

ENVIRONMENTAL

GOAL - Mastodon Township will protect and maintain a healthy, safe and clean environment.

POLICIES

1. Create a blight ordinance.
2. Organize a seasonal garbage clean-up program.
3. Continue with the Township's garbage reimbursement program.



Survey Question #

Do you favor a blight ordinance in Mastodon Township?

Survey Comments: with common sense goals; maybe offer assistance to homeowners (a system of just punitive fines does not work;) clean up by having program in place to finance or physical one to clean up; should not be too heavy handed; one that is enforced; remove old abandoned buildings; as long as it can be enforced.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Create more areas for economic opportunities by taking into consideration land features, current use, Copper Country State Forest and private ownership.

POLICIES: The Township would give consideration to expanding the existing Commercial District. It would be beneficial to expand the Commercial District to three, 40 acre parcels going north, one 40 acre parcel deep on both sides of U.S. Highway 2 at the Florence County border.

GOAL: Create an area for commercial/light industry opportunities with access to air shipping and major roadways. The area should be away from residential so as not to create a conflict of land use.

POLICIES: The Township will explore the possibilities of trading all or part of the 202 acres of Township owned property in T42N R33W Section 7 for State owned property off the County Airport Road T42N R32W Section 27 or Section 28 accessing U.S. Highway 2.

POLICIES: The Township will Collaborate with the County on a feasibility study for using the old airport for shipping (UPS, USPS, FedEx, etc.).

GOAL: Create an opportunity for retail businesses to fill the needs of visitors and residents: general store, restaurant, tourist services/retail, etc.

POLICIES: Collaborate with the Village of Alpha to put in place tools for a retail/service business hub.

ROADS AND DEVELOPMENT

GOAL – The Township will pursue road development policies that foster a safe and efficient transportation network appropriate for a rural community.

POLICIES:

1. In cooperation with the County, the Township will develop and maintain a priority review system for maintaining and/or paving streets, considering such factors as resident desires, traffic volumes, roadway function, land use, safety and other appropriate elements.

2. The Township will encourage land development along major roadways that reduces the number of access points for individual uses.

GOAL – The Township will pursue road development policies that foster recreational opportunities.

POLICIES

1. The Township will assess the condition of access roads to recreational sites.

2. The Township will identify grant opportunities for dedicated project funding.

GOAL: Improve Camp 5 Road giving residents and visitors better access to Iron County rather than diverting them to Dickinson County.

POLICY: Mastodon Township Board would set aside Road Fund money and invest in road improvements with the Iron County Road Commission.

GOAL: Improve access to recreational sites for residents and tourists

POLICY: Township Board will assess what improvements could be made to the south end of Lake Mary Road giving access to WE Energy’s “Wilderness Shore” sites 22, 27 and 10 that include boat launching, fishing access some being handicapped accessible.

GOAL: Create a new access to the isolated east side of Mastodon Township’s Camp 5 area; create access to the potential shipping airstrip; increase the flow of commerce into Iron County that would divert to Dickinson County; give better access for emergency services; present tourists an opportunity to more readily explore areas of “Wilderness Shores” and being close enough to support business services in Mastodon Township.

POLICY: Township Board will explore building a road that connects the Airport Road to the Upper Dam Road. This long-term future project needs to identify collaborating partners such as: Iron County Road Commission, WE Energies, businesses, WUPPDR, State and Federal grant opportunities. This project will hinge on the trading of Township property and the airstrip shipping feasibility study.

SERVICE CAPACITIES/DEFICIENCIES

GOAL - The Township will facilitate in maintaining and/or acquiring public services that are needed for our rural community.

POLICIES

1. The Township will maintain fire protection by means of a volunteer fire department and/or mutual aid.
2. The Township Fire Department would update communication devices for promptness and accuracy in emergency response time.
3. The Township Fire Department would research ways to maintain and retain the optimal number of volunteers to provide coverage to the Township property owner.
4. The Township Fire Department would work to obtain a Fire Rating standard by means of educational opportunities, training, equipment and volunteers.

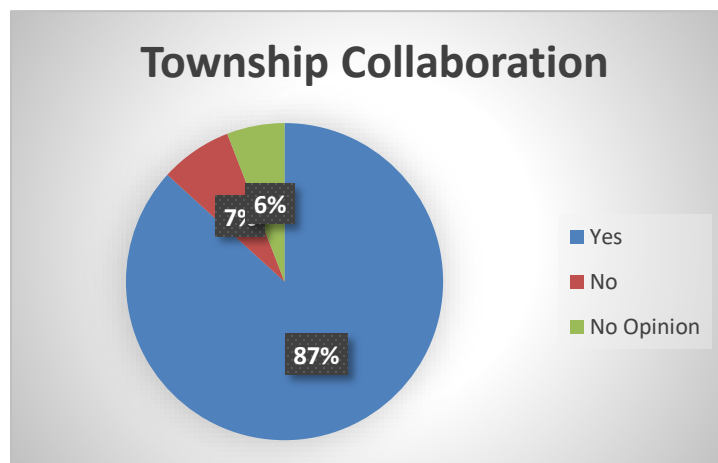
GOAL: Garbage, Cell, Internet

POLICIES

1. The Township will facilitate opportunities for garbage collection and/or disposal.
2. The Township will collaborate with neighboring municipalities, the Iron County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation and/or independent businesses, in an effort to offer better cell phone and internet connectivity.

MUNICIPAL COLLABORATION

GOAL: Mastodon Township to collaborate with surrounding Iron County municipalities to increase growth opportunities.



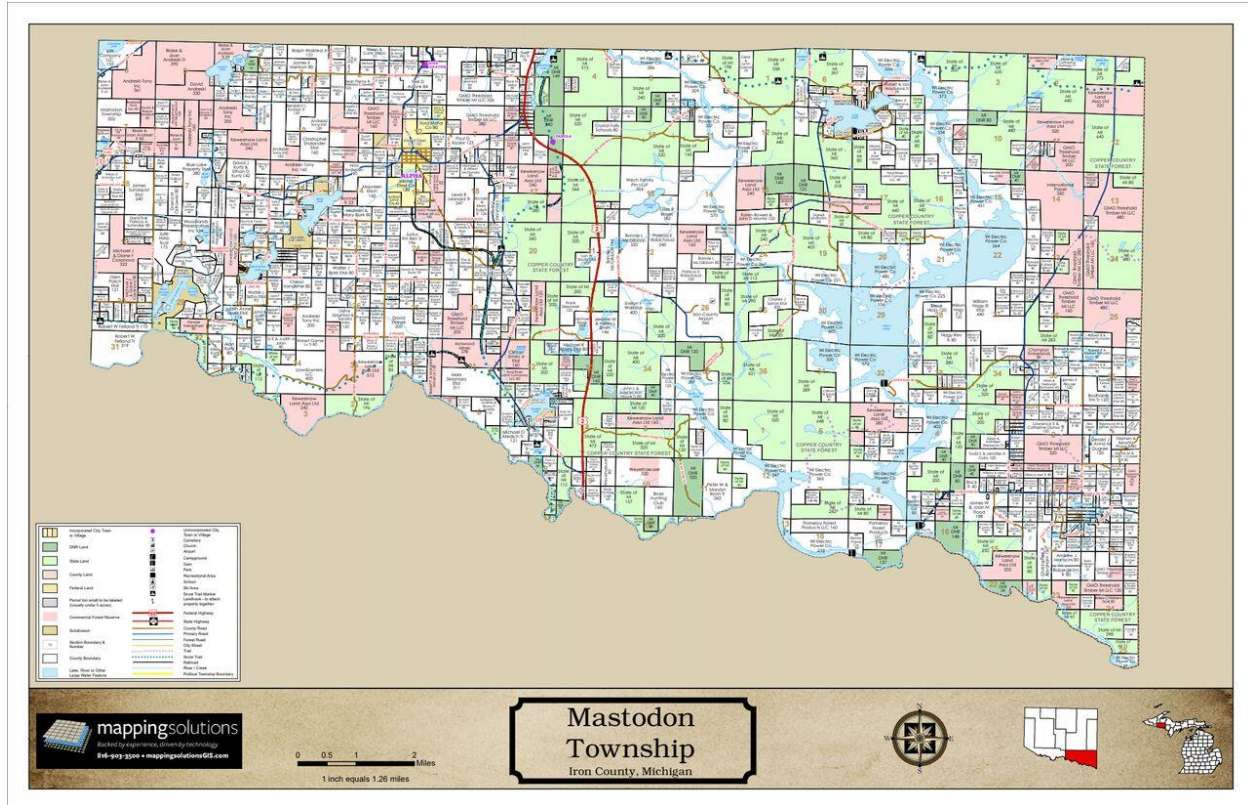
Collaboration Survey Question

Would you support the Township collaborating with neighboring communities by sharing resources to create economic and/or recreational opportunities?

Survey Comments: Civic consolidate, fire/rescue, with Crystal Falls if costs are shared. This is already being done but should continue extend bike/walking trails throughout township and county.

MAPS

PLAT MAP – 2017

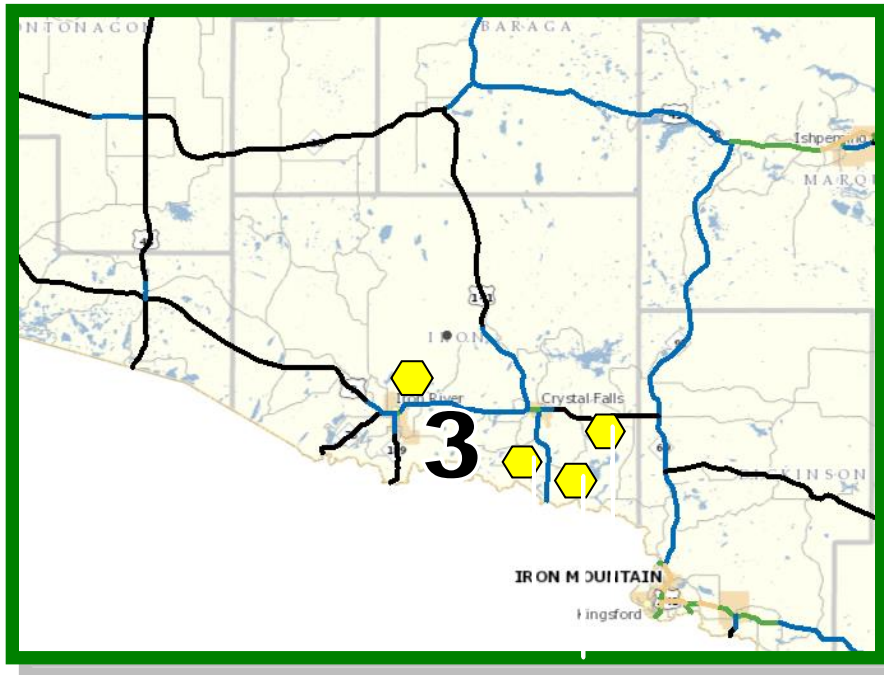


NATURAL FEATURES

Request submitted to Jim W. - GIS Map

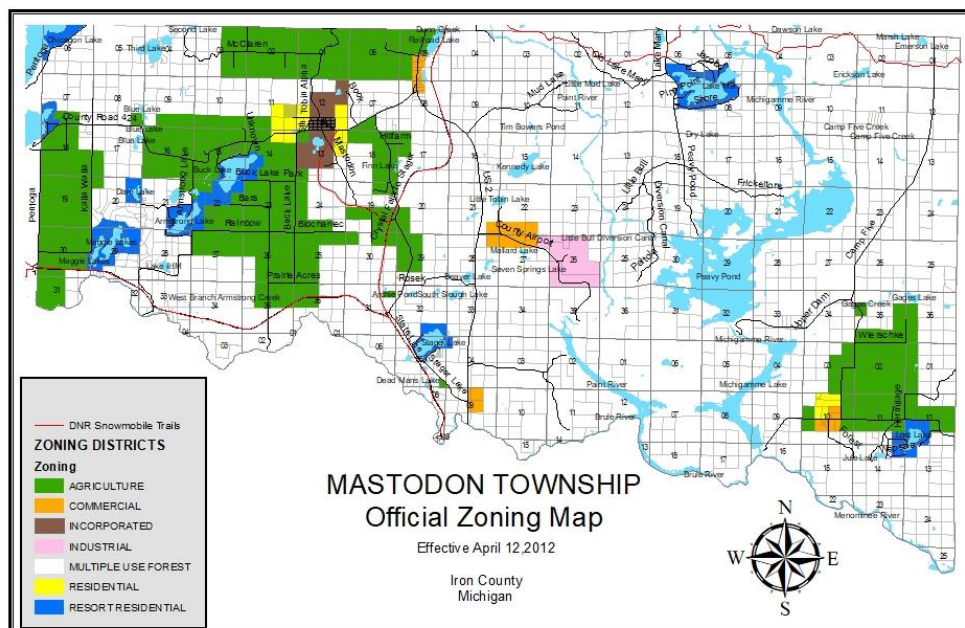
TRAFFIC COUNTS/ROAD NETWORK

Annually Daily Traffic Map—ADAT

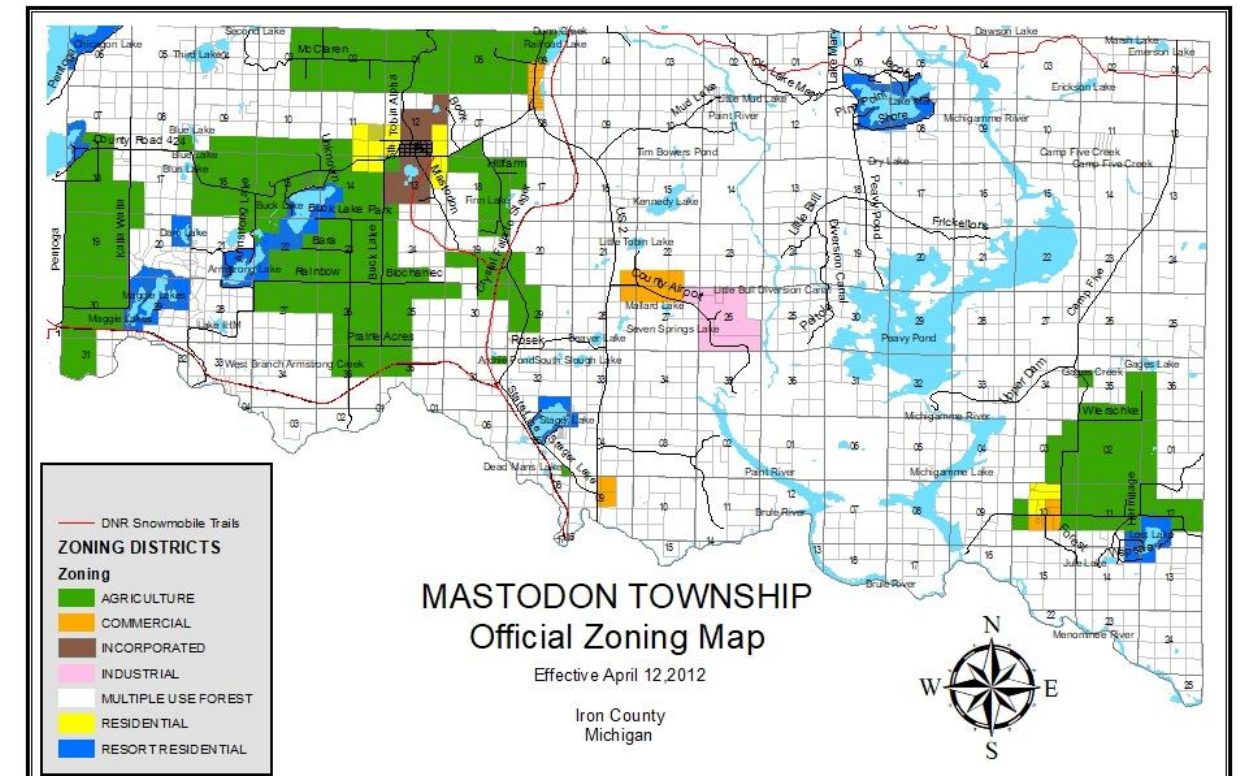


1. U.S. 2 from the Wisconsin Border to Crystal Falls 2,789 vehicles per day.
2. M-69 from Crystal Falls to M-95 in Sagola 1,878 vehicles per day.
3. U.S. 141 from Crystal Falls west to County Road 643 [Bates-Amasa Rd.] 3,689 vehicles per day.
4. From the junction of U.S. 2 and M-95 in Iron Mountain to M-69 in Sagola 3,514 vehicles/day.

EXISTING LAND USE



FUTURE LAND USE



APPENDIX B TOWNSHIP SURVEY



Mastodon Township Comprehensive Master Plan Survey 2017

The Mastodon Township Planning Commission has requested that the Township Board survey property owners of Mastodon Township in an effort to gather information for input to update the Township Zoning Ordinances, the Master Plan and the Recreation Plan.

*Please take the time TODAY to fill out this confidential survey, one per household, and return it no later than **May 27, 2017**, to Mastodon Township. Your participation in this survey is important as the results will guide the Township's decision making.*

Survey will be available to print online at www.mastodontownship.com

PROPERTY

What do you like most about owning property in Mastodon Township?

What do you like least about owning property in Mastodon Township?

What is your vision for Mastodon Township in the next five years?

What is your vision for Mastodon Township in the next ten years?

DEVELOPMENT

What type of development do you favor on land adjacent to lakes, rivers, and streams within Mastodon Township?

_____ Seasonal Cottages

_____ Single Family Residential

_____ Apartments/Condominiums

_____ Resorts

_____ None

_____ Other

What type of business development do you favor? Rank from 1-7 with 1 being of highest importance.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> High Tech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |
-

When development comes to our township, should developers be required to incorporate the natural features of the site into their final plans? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Opinion

Do you favor ordinances regulating businesses conducted within a residential dwelling?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Opinion

Do you favor ordinances regulating medical marijuana dispensary operations within Mastodon Township?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Opinion

Would you support the Township collaborating with neighboring communities by sharing resources to create economic and/or recreational opportunities?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Opinion

Do you favor a feasibility study for alternative uses for the Iron County airstrip located in Mastodon Township?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Opinion

What type of businesses and/or services do you think are needed in Mastodon Township?

HOUSING

What type of housing would you prefer to have built in our township during the next ten years? Rank your top three choices with 1 being of the highest importance.

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Family Residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Apartments | <input type="checkbox"/> Condominiums |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town Houses | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Cottages | <input type="checkbox"/> Tiny Homes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivisions | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Housing/Assisted Living Facilities | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |
-

AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES

Is preserving the existing agricultural land within Mastodon Township important to you?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Opinion

Do you favor a blight ordinance in Mastodon Township?

_____ Yes _____ No

RECREATION

What new recreational facilities would you like to see within our township? [i.e.: playground, bike trail, ball park, etc.]

Do you and/or your family utilize the features at these parks located in Mastodon Township?

Check all that apply.

Buck Lake Park ____ Boat Launch ____ Picnic Area ____ Swimming Area

Stager Lake Park ____ Boat Launch ____ Picnic Area ____ Swimming Area

Camp 5 Rec. Site _____ Yes _____ No

Suggestions for improvement:_____

QUALITY OF LIFE

Identify things that either **ALREADY** bring quality to your life or **WOULD** enhance your life if available:

Community Services:_____

Recreational: _____

Education/Voc. Tech/Computer : _____

Business:_____

Other: _____

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

This information, while optional for you to answer, will help the township and planning commission boards to better understand the information you are providing in this survey. Please check the most appropriate response.

What age category do you fall into? _____ 18-24 _____ 25-34 _____ 35-49 _____ 50-64
_____ 65+

How long have you OWNED property in Mastodon Township [circle one]?

___ less than 2 yrs. ___ 2-5 yrs. ___ 6-10 yrs. ___ 11-29 yrs. ___ 30+ yrs.

Check **ALL** that apply:

I am a year-round resident _____

I am a seasonal resident _____

I own commercial/retail property _____

I own residential property _____

I own waterfront property _____

I own vacant land _____

If you are a resident, how long have you lived in Mastodon Township?

____ less than 2 yrs. ____ 2-5 yrs. ____ 6-10 yrs. ____ 11-29 yrs. ____ 30+ yrs.

If you are not a resident, do you plan on living in Mastodon Township in the near future?

___ Yes ___ No If so, will you be retired? ___ Yes ___ No

Is your place of employment located within Iron County?

___ Yes

___ No

___ Not employed

___ Retired

Mastodon Township Master Plan Survey

Why plan? The planning and zoning process today is one of the most publicly inclusive governmental functions, requiring public participation to represent all aspects of community life. As rural areas develop and communities weigh the importance of rural character, planners often face the challenge of integrating agricultural, commercial, recreational and residential uses. Townships are juggling efforts to protect their valuable lands and accommodate new development. Mastodon Township recognizes the value of proper planning for the long-term benefit of its community as a whole. Your input is requested. When you fill out and return this survey your opinions will be included and play an important part in the development of the Master Plan.

APPENDIX C

SURVEY RESULTS

MASTODON TOWNSHIP

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

The following is a narrative compilation of the master plan survey results.

The Mastodon Township Planning Commission mailed 1076 surveys to township property owners. Of the 1076 property owners, 593, about half reside in Alpha, Crystal Falls (49920) and the Iron Mountain/Kingsford area (499/489). The other 483 consisted of: mix states west (43), Illinois (104), Wisconsin (208), misc. Michigan (72) and mix states east 953). Here are the opinions from 135 responders.

Who were the people who returned the surveys? They were 50+ years of age who have owned property in the township for 11-29 years. A majority of them are retired.

What they like most about owning property in Mastodon Township is the quiet setting of nature, wildlife, waterways and recreational opportunities including hunting and fishing. What they liked least was the lack of services like: garbage collection, internet and cell. Also taxes as they applied to non-resident property owners.

Regarding their five year vision for the Township, they would like to see it as being a destination for outdoor enthusiast, tourism, with natural resources preserved. They also see the need for service type small businesses like: grocery store, gas station, restaurant, out-door recreation/tourism related businesses, garbage service and businesses where a person could make a living wage. A big concern was the lack of reliable internet service which directly impacts all the aforementioned.

Over the next ten years a growth in resort/recreational/seasonal tourism. They would also like to see improvement in Alpha's economic future and esthetics. There were some that hoped the area would stay the same. Housing growth in the next ten years was directed to: single family residence, seasonal cottages and senior housing/assisted living.

Development on waterfront properties leaned heavily toward single family residence and seasonal cottages with controls to regulate and limit environmental impact.

Business development focused on recreation, commercial, tourism and high tech. Their concern seemed to focus on low environmental impact while being able to enjoy the quality of quiet nature. They like the idea of development including natural features with 88% supporting this as part of a site plan. 59% said they felt that business needed to be controlled in a residential setting regarding noise and traffic.

When asked if they favored regulating medical marijuana dispensary operations, 67% agreed. Yet the comments were 50/50 split on whether the township should allow medical marijuana businesses at all.

As far as the township collaborating with neighboring communities by sharing resources to create economic and/or recreational opportunities, 87% supported this idea. This is also supported by many comments regarding the condition of the Village of Alpha.

Perhaps the airstrip feasibility study question should have included some clarification so as not to be confused with an airport feasibility study. None-the-less 57% supported the idea.

84% felt that preserving agricultural land was important. They see the need for organic farming and to encourage small family farms.

85% see the need for a blight ordinance with common sense goals. Having a program in place to assist in clean-up efforts and remove abandoned buildings.

Recreational opportunities leaned toward non-motorized with bike trails, hiking trails and ski trails. There were a number of comments about development of the Alpha pit and getting more use out of the ball field. Of the 135 people who returned the surveys only 33 used the facilities at Buck Lake Park and 43 at Stager Lake Park. The Camp 5 recreation site had only 18. The Planning Commission Board questioned if residents were aware of the improvements made at the parks and thought it would be a good idea if the Township Board made available information to be included in the Chamber's recreation flyers.