

Community Description

The HARBOR Area Community is located in Emmet County in the northwest corner of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. As it is used within this plan, the HARBOR Area Community is comprised of the City of Harbor Springs and Little Traverse, West Traverse, Pleasantview, Friendship, Readmond and Cross Village Townships. For a more detailed view of the HARBOR Area Community, see Map 1.

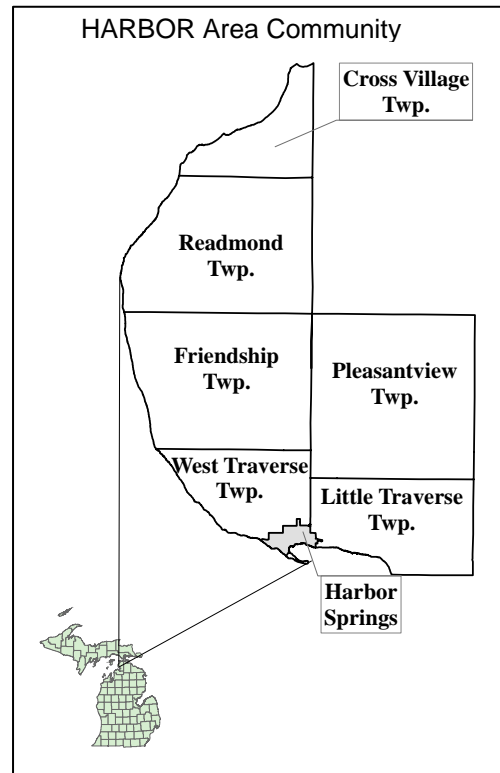
This area was originally defined by the Harbor Area Regional Board of Resources, Inc. (HARBOR, Inc.) as its service area. It generally corresponds with the Harbor Springs School District boundaries.

Currently within the HARBOR Area Community, school and active recreation facilities are appropriately located in close proximity to each other primarily within or adjacent to the boundaries of the City of Harbor Springs. Most of the area population (and correspondingly the school age population) resides within the City of Harbor Springs, West Traverse Township and Little Traverse Township (see *Table 1*). The outlying and mostly rural townships (Friendship, Pleasantview, Readmond, and Cross Village) are also served by the core area facilities. Those four townships have significant waterfront, forest and open space assets of their own that contribute to the character of the larger community. Pleasantview is unique because it is the only jurisdiction without direct waterfront access and has developed significantly in response to the downhill ski industry.

For more detailed geographic information on each of the jurisdictions comprising the HARBOR Area Community, refer to Maps 2 - 8 in the Maps section.

The City of Harbor Springs

The City of Harbor Springs is located in Emmet County and is bordered by Little Traverse Township to the east, West Traverse Township to the north and west, and Lake Michigan (Little Traverse Bay) to the south. The city of Harbor Springs had a population of 1,567 in 2000 and the population is not expected to grow substantially in the coming decades.



Little Traverse Township

Little Traverse Township is located in Emmet County immediately adjacent and east of the City of Harbor Springs. It shares boundaries with Littlefield Township (and to a lesser extent Springvale Township) to the east, the City of Harbor Springs and West Traverse Township to the west, Pleasantview Township to the north and Bear Creek Township to the south. It is in the geographic center and located at a crossroads of Emmet County. It has many natural recreational resources including Lake Michigan, Crooked Lake and State Forest Lands. The township is smaller than most in Emmet County in terms of land area but one of the most populous with a year 2000 population of 2,426. The population is expected to grow by 15% by 2010 (see *Table 2*).

West Traverse Township

West Traverse Township is located in Emmet County immediately adjacent and north and west of the City of Harbor Springs. It shares boundaries with Friendship Township to the north, the city of Harbor Springs and Lake Michigan to the south, Lake Michigan to the west and Little Traverse Township and the City of Harbor Springs to the east. It is Michigan's smallest township in terms of land area with approximately 16 square miles. It had a year 2000 population of 1,448 and is expected to grow by 11 % by 2010 (see *Table 2*).

Pleasantview Township

Pleasantview Township is located in Emmet County 2 miles north of the City of Harbor Springs. It is bordered to the south by Little Traverse Township, to the west by Friendship and West Traverse Township, to the east by Maple River Township and to the north by Center Township. The population of Pleasantview Township was 943 in the year 2000 and is expected to grow 11% by 2010.

Friendship Township

Friendship Township is located in Emmet County approximately three (3) miles north of the City of Harbor Springs. It borders Readmond Township to the north, West Traverse Township to the south, Pleasantview Township to the east, and Lake Michigan to the west. The township had a population of 844 in the year 2000, and the population is expected to increase by 24 % by the year 2010 (see *Table 2*).

Readmond Township

Readmond Township is located in Emmet County approximately eight (8) miles north of Harbor Springs. It shares boundaries with Cross Village Township to the north, Center Township to the east, Friendship Township to the south and Lake Michigan to the west. Good Hart is the community center of the Township. The township had a population of 493 in the year 2000, and the population is expected to increase by 13 % by the year 2010 (see *Table 2*).

Cross Village Township

Cross Village Township is located in Emmet County approximately 13 miles from the City of Harbor Springs. It is bordered by Readmond Township to the south, Lake Michigan to the north and west and Bliss and Center Townships to the east. The population of Cross Village Township was 294 in the year 2000 and it is expected to grow 27% by the year 2010.

POPULATION AND TRENDS

Current Population

The population of the HARBOR Area Community is concentrated around the City of Harbor Springs and the adjacent townships. The land area of these jurisdictions is also relatively small with higher population densities.

	2000 Population	Land Area		Density (people/sq. mile)
		sq. miles	Acres	
City of Harbor Springs	1,567	1.25	800	1,254
Cross Village Township	294	10.02	6,415	25
Friendship Township	844	31.39	20,092	27
Little Traverse Township	2,426	18.02	11,530	135
Pleasantview Township	943	35.68	22,837	26
Readmond Township	493	30.99	19,833	16
West Traverse Township	1,448	13.34	8,535	109
Total	8,015	140.69	90,042	57

Population Trends

The population of the HARBOR Area Community is growing. The City of Harbor Springs is essentially built out with a population that has remained the same for decades while the surrounding jurisdictions are all projected to grow at rates between 10-30% in the coming decades. 2000 Population is from US Census. Population projections for 2010 and 2020 are from the Northwest Michigan Council of Government.

	2000	2010	% 2000 - 2010	2020	% 2000 - 2020
City of Harbor Springs	1,567	1,573	0%	1,580	1%
Cross Village Township	294	315	27%	353	42%
Friendship Township	844	1,049	24%	1,213	44%
Little Traverse Township	2,426	2,798	15%	3,209	32%
Pleasantview Township	943	1,049	11%	1,174	24%
Readmond Township	493	559	13%	626	27%
West Traverse Township	1,448	1,608	11%	1,895	31%
Total	8,015	8,951	12%	10,050	26%

In determining where to site and link recreational resources, it is important to know how many people live in a given area and what recreation they are likely interested in. One way to accomplish this is by breaking out children/youth and seniors into two groups separate from everybody else (see *Table 3*). Children and youth are most likely to require areas for organized field sports. Seniors have the potential for needing additional accommodations for access.

Age Distribution

Table 3. Age Distribution							
	Total Population	0-19		20-64		65 +	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
City of Harbor Springs	1,567	342	22%	852	54%	373	24%
Cross Village Township	294	52	18%	191	65%	51	17%
Friendship Township	844	229	27%	532	63%	83	10%
Little Traverse Township	2,426	665	27%	1,441	59%	320	13%
Pleasantview Township	943	245	26%	601	64%	97	10%
Readmond Township	493	124	25%	300	61%	69	14%
West Traverse Township	1,448	334	23%	842	58%	272	19%
Emmet County	31,437	8,685	28%	18,257	58%	4,495	14%

Looking at the data in *Table 3*, several things become clear. First, other than Cross Village Township, there is not a significant difference in the percentage of the 0-19 population that makes up each jurisdiction. The same could be said for the percentages of the population over 65 (with the exception of the City of Harbor Springs). However, another fact readily apparent is the magnitude of differences in the population numbers across all age distributions. For example, Little Traverse Township has more than 10 times the number of 0-19 year olds than found in Cross Village Township. If you look at the distribution of school aged population within the study area, it becomes clear that the young are clustered in and around the City of Harbor Springs suggesting that the facilities that serve them should be similarly clustered.

Distribution of School-aged Children

Table 4. Distribution of School-aged Population		
	0-19	% 0-19
City of Harbor Springs	342	17%
Cross Village Township	52	3%
Friendship Township	229	12%
Little Traverse Township	665	33%
Pleasantview Township	245	12%
Readmond Township	124	6%
West Traverse Township	334	17%
Total HARBOR Area	1,991	100%

EXTENT OF THE PLAN FOCUS

The Plan Focus is referenced several times in this document because it is necessary to distinguish, for purposes of DNR granting decisions, the focus of this plan. Defining the focus is also useful in providing distinctions between this multi-jurisdictional plan and separate plans maintained by local jurisdictions.

The plan for the HARBOR Area Community focuses on three distinct aspects of recreation:

- Trails
- Open Space
- Umbrella System

Trails: Public surveys clearly document the development of trails as a priority and the HARBOR Area Community along with other communities in Northwest Lower Michigan have been leaders in developing and promoting trails. The Community, as a resort and recreational community, was built on its scenery and unique character--both attributes that are best experienced through trail-based recreation. The availability of trails contributes to the area's appeal as a tourist destination and thus contributes to economic development. Trails are not only recreation but a principal form of transportation for a constituency that is often ignored-- those too young to have driver's licenses. The importance of trails as a primary means of transportation will continue as high gas prices drive people to consider alternative modes.

Additionally, from a planning perspective, trails are recreational resources which lend themselves to joint efforts. Trails cross jurisdictional boundaries and planning for them necessitates coordination. Trails are used to move between jurisdictions and maintenance is appropriately shared. Lastly, acquiring properties or easements to develop trails require resources and efforts that are best developed or shared between many parties.

Open Space: Almost all existing public surveys have identified a desire to preserve and maintain open space. This plan does not currently identify specific open space parcels, however includes a recommendation for an Open Space Working Committee to evaluate four types of open space more closely, including waterfront access, greenway connections, large connecting parcels and view sites. As with trails, open space benefits the community as a recreational attraction for visitors and residents, alike. Open space might include trails for active recreation or might simply be enjoyed for its aesthetic value. In addition to its recreational benefits, open space has tremendous environmental value. Open space provides the necessary area for groundwater recharge critical in this area. Also, open space helps attenuate and filter storm water. Open space is critical to wildlife and the health of the area for wildlife is also a great indicator of the health of the area for people--people will start leaving a recreational-resort area if the wildlife is missing.

Again, from a planning perspective, it is clear that open space resources are served well from planning jointly. The cost of open space (particularly waterfront access) in the

HARBOR Area Community makes acquisition nearly unachievable for individual jurisdictions. It is also equally clear that the benefits derived from access to the waterfront and open space connections are shared inter-jurisdictionally. Lastly, open space is a valuable recreational resource that does not require costly community services and infrastructure.

Umbrella System: Recreation, as it is traditionally viewed, is organized by a very broad range of hard working volunteers in the HARBOR Area Community. This system appropriately functions to the benefit of the community. However, additional support in the form of a centralized communication and coordination system could be provided to enhance the existing organizational capacity. From a community-wide perspective - the development, acquisition and placement of new trails, the location of additional waterfront, the long term maintenance of these facilities and the development of a communications and marketing strategy - these are all areas that could benefit from a coordinated approach.

Many recent planning successes in the HARBOR Area Community have been the result of informal and formal joint efforts among the local jurisdictions, including the Sewer Authority, Airport Authority, Fire Authority, NEESA and Harbor Commission. Many of the jurisdictions already work together toward recreational ends. Examples include West Traverse Township working jointly with Little Traverse Conservancy for Thorne Swift Preserve and Readmond Township, Friendship Township and the Little Traverse Bay Bands working together for Middle Village Park. On the trails side, Little Traverse Township, the City of Harbor Springs and HARBOR, Inc. have made a significant impact with the upcoming extension of the Little Traverse Wheelway along M-119 into the City of Harbor Springs. These successes can be multiplied with the adoption and structured implementation of a joint recreational plan within the HARBOR Area Community.