

Fish and Wildlife

Pike, perch, bass and bluegill are the primary species found in Wycamp Lake, creating good recreational fishing opportunities. The wetlands adjacent to Wycamp Lake provide spawning habitat for bass and northern pike.

Habitat for populations of songbirds, muskrat, mink and raccoon are also supplied by wetlands within the Township. Predominant mammal species found throughout Cross Village Township are fox, squirrel, grouse, rabbit, coyote, deer and bear.

Habitat fragmentation is a significant threat to the plant and animal diversity throughout the region, country and continent. A recent study (2001) conducted by the Conservation Resource Alliance, entitled "Wild-Link, connecting Fragmented Habitats with Ecological Corridors in Northern Michigan", involves the identification, creation and conservation of ecological corridors in Emmet and Charlevoix Counties. The map showing the identified corridors within Cross Village Township is provided on the following page as figure 3-5. The executive summary of this report is included as Appendix C of this plan.

Scenic Features

The most picturesque scenic views in Cross Village Township are of Lake Michigan. Protection of these lake views is a major goal of Cross Village Township decision makers.

Development which occurs within the shoreline area is visible to many other property owners and boaters along the lake. Just as consideration is given to the impact of development on water quality, the impact of development on visual quality should be recognized.

In addition to Lake Michigan and Wycamp Lake, wooded areas, farmlands, streams and creeks, rolling topography and historical structures are all important attributes found within Cross Village Township. Extensive panoramic views encompassing these features help create the pleasant rural and scenic character appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

Sites of Environmental Contamination

Part 201 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) 1994, PA451, as amended, provides for the identification, evaluation and risk assessment of sites of environmental contamination in the State. The Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD) of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is charged with administering this law. A site of environmental contamination, as defined by RRD, is "a location at which contamination of soil, ground water, surface water, air or other environmental resource is confirmed, or where there is potential for contamination of resources due to site conditions, site use or management practices."

The agency provides an updated list (via the MDEQ website – www.michigan.gov/deq) of environmentally contaminated sites by county, showing the sites by name, Site Assessment Model score, pollutant(s) and site status. The Michigan Sites of Environmental Contamination identifies 7 sites within Emmet County, none of which are in Cross Village Township. The Michigan Sites of Environmental Contamination - Leaking Underground Storage Tank lists 26 open sites in Emmet County with one located in Cross Village Township.