

5.0 Community Services, Facilities, and Transportation

It is important to take into account all of the existing services, facilities, and transportation options that exist in and around a community for planning purposes. By knowing what services exist, we are able to then plan for services in the future. It is particularly interesting in Little Traverse Township because many service areas are split in the Township. For instance, some properties that have a Harbor Springs address have a Petoskey phone exchange. These service area boundaries can often influence a community more than is realized.

As well, because of the location of the Township, many services and facilities that are available to Township residents originate outside of the Township boundaries. Many services provided by the Cities of Petoskey and Harbor Springs are utilized by residents of Little Traverse Township. The following chapter explains the services that are available to Township residents.

Water and Sewage Disposal Systems

Existing Water Systems

Most residents of Little Traverse Township rely on individual wells for their drinking water resource. However, there are three different public drinking water systems available in portions of the Township. Near the corner of Hoyt Road and Lake Road, the City of Harbor Springs Water Department is the service provider.

Little Traverse Township implemented their own water system to service part of the Township in 1994. It is a Type 1 water system, which is operated by the Harbor Springs Area Sewage Disposal Authority (HSASDA). The water system consists of two well houses, one near Harbor Cove off Beach Road which pumps 720 gallons per minute, and the other on Emmet Heights Road about ¼ mile north of M-119 which pumps about 520 gallons per minute. There are two storage tanks near the Emmet Heights well house each holding 50,000 gallons of water. The water system works by gravity and services most of the resort areas off Beach Road and some areas along M-119. The water system is currently at capacity. The MDEQ has informed HSASDA that to add any more properties to the system, a third well will have to be added. Design of this facility is in progress, and will be bid in late 1999.

A third water system, owned and operated by HSASDA, was developed in 1976. The MDNR required it because of their concern that the sewage ponds could eventually contaminate local ground water resources. Areas Authority's serviced by the system include Hideaway Valley condominiums, Little Traverse Golf Club, residences along Mink Road, and along Hathaway Road from Clayton to North Conway Roads. It is also a Type 1 system that operates by gravity with a 10,000 water tank located on the golf course. There are two wells which operate a total of 225 gallons per minute.

Existing Sewage Disposal

The HSASDA operates two sewage systems which were designed in total to serve 5000 winter residents and 10,000 summer residents. The systems are reaching capacity and an expansion of HSASDA may be needed in the near future in order to accommodate new developments.

In 1972 the first sewage system was implemented which services the area from Harbor Point in West Traverse Township to Menonaqua Beach in Little Traverse Township, including the City of Harbor Springs. This system is referred to as the HSASDA West system. The system works on gravity with brings the sewage to the main line along Pennsylvania Avenue. The main pump stations at Beach Road and Page Hill Road pump all waste to the HSASDA ponds which are northeast of the Clayton/Hathaway Road intersection. The west system has holding ponds of about 20 acres in size which hold about 75 million gallons. The west system is at or near capacity but system corrections and additions are in progress.

The east system, implemented around 1975, services the area between Conway and Alanson plus some additional areas around Crooked Lake. The system includes part of Little Traverse, Littlefield, Bear Creek, and Springvale Townships as well as the Village of Alanson. The east system has a 16 acre holding pond which holds about 55 million gallons. The east system is at about 80% capacity.

In addition to the two holding ponds, there are two irrigation lagoons where sewage is held while the solids settle out before discharge. These lagoons need cleaning out about every twenty years; the west lagoon has been cleaned but the east has not.

According to personnel at HSASDA, there are a number of improvements that are needed or required by the MDEQ, in order to expand the existing system. Included in the improvements is a spray irrigation system, a new lining for one of the ponds, and winter application system to allow for snow irrigation. HSASDA is looking into expanding the system, but the property they are on is heavily wooded and any expansion would have to be done very selectively.

Storm water

There are few active municipal storm water drains in Little Traverse Township. Portions of old stormwater drain systems do exist in parts of Conway, and in portions of Wequetonsing.

Solid Waste

Three private waste haulers service Little Traverse Township, including Waste Management, Top Rank, and Walloon Lake Refuse. The Emmet County Transfer Station is located in the Township on Pleasantview Road just north of Duvernay Road where household garbage can be taken for \$1.75 per bag. Private haulers charge about \$2.00 a bag. Solid waste is primarily being taken to City Environmental landfill in Waters, Crawford County. Formerly, it had been going to the Cedar Ridge Landfill in Charlevoix County, which has since closed.

Solid Waste in Little Traverse Township is controlled by the Emmet County Solid Waste Ordinance, which regulates flow control. The County has asked each Township to authorize implementing this ordinance in their Township. Accordingly, Little Traverse Township has authorized the County to manage its solid waste.

Emmet County has an excellent rural recycling program; it is used as an example around the State and Country. There are nine recycling drop-off sites located throughout the County plus the transfer station itself. Some drop-offs are located at local grocery stores and markets. The Transfer Station is the only drop-off site in Little Traverse Township and there are various other sites in adjacent townships. Items which

can be recycled at the drop-off sites include newspaper, magazines, glass, tin, #2 plastic jugs and bottles with a seam, cardboard and gray/white box-board. In addition, the following items can be recycled at the transfer station: office paper, clothing/fabric, shoes, scrap metal, appliances, motor oil, anti-freeze, and household batteries. There is no fee for recycling, but there is a \$5.00 handling fee for large appliances. Household hazardous waste can also be disposed of at the transfer station on various Saturdays from spring until fall each year.

The Emmet County Solid Waste Plan designates four landfills to be utilized: the City Environmental Landfill in Waters, Crawford County, Elk Run Landfill in Presque Isle County, Montmorency/Oscoda Landfill in Montmorency County, and the Cedar Ridge Landfill, if expanded, in Charlevoix County. The plan also suggests an expansion of the recycling/processing facility, initiation of a composting program, and a construction/demolition/scrap wood recovery program.

Other Public Utilities

Many of the public utility service areas are split in the Township. Great Lakes Energy, Consumer's Power, and Harbor Springs Public Works each service part of the Township with electricity. In general Harbor Springs services the southern part of the Township and along M-119, Consumer's Power services the Conway area, and Great Lakes Energy services Pleasantview Road and the northwest part of the Township.

Michigan Consolidated gas services part of the Township with natural gas, but part of the Township is not serviced. Residents must therefore use another source of energy like propane or wood. Bresnan Communications provides Cable Television service to part of the Township. No cable is available in the rest of the Township.

Ameritech provides local phone service to the community while a variety of long distance carriers can be selected for long distance service. The Township is split between Petoskey and Harbor Springs phone exchanges.

U.S. rural postal delivery is available for most of the Township, except those residents in Conway who live within a ¼ mile of the Conway Post Office. Again the Township is split between Harbor Springs, Alanson, and Conway mailing addresses.

Bresnan supplies cable TV connections for virtually the entire Township.

Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services

The County Sheriff provides police protection for the Township, from their office in downtown Petoskey. The Michigan State Police service the area from an office on M-119 just west of the US-31 intersection, in neighboring Bear Creek Township.

All of Little Traverse Township is serviced by the Harbor Springs Fire Department which is located in the City of Harbor Springs. The Fire Department has a 28 member volunteer team with five trucks that cover three townships (West Traverse, Little Traverse, and Pleasantview) and the City. The Harbor Springs Fire Department works cooperatively with all of the neighboring fire departments. Ambulance service is available for the entire Township from Emmet Ambulance, which takes people to Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey.

A three-county 911 system was implemented in 1996. The three counties include Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet, hence the name of the operation, CCE. CCE was made possible through county millages in each individual County. All emergency service is available in Little Traverse Township by dialing 9-1-1.

Schools

Little Traverse Township is split into three school districts, the Petoskey, Harbor Springs, and Littlefield Districts. All these local districts are part of the Charlevoix/Emmet Intermediate School District (ISD). Within the ISD there is a School of Choice policy meaning that anyone can go to any school within the ISD, but bussing is only available for those students within the District boundaries. The Char/Em ISD provides various services, some of those services include special education, school social workers and psychologist services, and gifted/talented classes.

The Harbor Springs Area School District encompasses most of Little Traverse Township and had a total enrollment for the 98/99 school year of 1047 students. There are two elementary schools: Blackbird Elementary (preschool through second grade) with an enrollment of 242 and Shay Elementary (third grade through fifth grade) with an enrollment of 276. The elementary schools are located next to one another on W. Lake Street. The Harbor Springs Middle School and High School are located on the same complex on E. Bluff Drive. During the 98/99 school year, the Middle School had an enrollment of 276 and the High School an enrollment of 281.

The Petoskey School District covers portions of the southern part of Little Traverse Township, including the Conway area. The total enrollment for the 98/99 school year was 2924 students. The school district has four elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. Total enrollment for the four elementary schools combined in 98/99 was 1213. Middle school enrollment was 747 and high school enrollment was 964.

The Littlefield School District covers the northeast part of Little Traverse Township and has one K-12 school located in the Village of Alanson, with a total enrollment of 478 students in 98/99.

Concord Academy is a charter school that is located in Bear Creek Township just east of the City of Petoskey. The charter school offers K-12 education with a 98/99 enrollment of 286. There are three religious independent schools in the area, Harbor Light Christian School (K-12) on Clayton Road in Little Traverse Township, St. Francis Xavier School (K-8) in Petoskey, and Petoskey Seventh Day Adventist Church School (1-8) in Petoskey.

North Central Michigan College (NCMC) is located in Petoskey. Various associate degree programs are available in liberal arts, sciences and applied sciences in occupational fields. Also, Bachelors, Masters and even PhDs are available locally, through cooperative programs with other colleges and universities. Lake Superior State University (LSSU) has a regional center located at NCMC and offers course work in undergraduate and graduate programs including nursing and business. LSSU is the nearest university to Little Traverse Township offering on-campus Bachelor and Master degree programs. It is in Sault St. Marie, Michigan, which is about 1½ hours from the Petoskey area.

Black Forest Hall Equine Occupational and Equestrian Center located on Quick Road just east of Hoyt Road is an Equine College that offers horse trade certificates. Black Forest Hall, in conjunction with Northwoods University in Midland, offers associates degrees in horse management and bachelors degrees in equine business administration.

Medical Facilities

Emmet County has excellent medical services available. Northern Michigan Hospital, located in Petoskey, is a 299 bed regional referral center serving 24 counties throughout the northern Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula. It offers a full range of highly specialized services.

Subsequent to the reorganization of Burns Clinic in 1999, most of the doctors and support staff chose to remain in the area, working either for Northern Michigan Hospital or independently. Therefore, the Petoskey area is still well endowed with excellent medical facilities and specialists. These facilities may help support residential development because many people (especially retirees) demand good medical facilities when they settle in an area.

Little Traverse Primary Care is located within Little Traverse Township. This clinic has general medical practitioners for adults and children. There are many dentists, orthodontists, and optometrists in Petoskey, Harbor Springs, and neighboring Bear Creek Township that appear to sufficiently support the residents in Little Traverse Township.

Public Facilities

The Township Hall and offices are located on S. Pleasantview Road less than a half of mile north of the M-119 intersection. The Township also owns the Conway Community School on US-31 in Conway that can be rented to the public for private functions.

The Harbor Springs City Hall is located on Main Street in downtown Harbor Springs. The City's Public Works Department is located on Fairview Street off State Road in Harbor Springs. The Emmet County Building is located in downtown Petoskey and the Emmet County Road Commission is located on Hathaway Road just west of North Conway Road in Little Traverse Township. The Emmet Country Transfer Station is also located in the Township on Pleasantview Road just north of Duvernay Road.

The Harbor Springs Area Sewer Disposal Authority (HSASDA) is located within the Township owning more than 612 acres of land. The office is located on Clayton Road just North of Hathaway. The Harbor Springs Airport is also located within the Township, south and west of M-119, at the M-119 curve.

The District #3 Health Department services the Township and is located in Mitchell Commercial Park at the corner of Division and Mitchell Roads in Bear Creek Township. The Secretary of State office is located on US-31 in Bear Creek Township. State Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, and Transportation are all located outside of the County in Gaylord or other locations.

US Post Offices that service the Township are located on State Street in Harbor Springs, River Road in Alanson, and US-31 in Conway. Township residents may use the Harbor Springs Library on Spring Street or the Alanson library on Burr Street. Little Traverse

Township supported a recent District Library initiative, but this measure failed overall. County penal fines are presently used to support libraries, and are split 50/50 between the Petoskey and Littlefield libraries.

Local Organizations and Places of Worship

There are many civic, professional, and environmental organizations in the area which serve Township residents. At least 45 places of worship, of diverse religious denominations, are located in Emmet County.

Transportation and Road Maintenance

There is one Federal Highway in the Township which is US-31. US-31 runs along the lake shore of Lake Michigan from the Indiana/Michigan border to Mackinaw City. US-31 runs through Traverse City, Petoskey, and Little Traverse Township at Conway, to the Village of Mackinaw City.

The only State Highway in the Township is M-119. M-119 runs north, then west, and then north again from the US-31 intersection paralleling the Bay into Harbor Springs and then along the coast to Cross Village. M-119 is the main route between Petoskey and Harbor Springs.

Pleasantview Road, which is a main north/south route for the Township as well as the County, is County primary road, C-81. Quick Road, recently resurfaced, is used as a local connector between State Road and Pleasantview Road. West Conway Road is an important east/west connector between Conway and M-119. Hedrick Road is also used as the route to Boyne Highlands Resort from Harbor Springs. The Emmet County Road Commission maintains all public roads in Little Traverse Township.

There is no official public bus system in Emmet County, although the Friendship centers does have a bus pick-up service for seniors and handicapped individuals. There is a Greyhound bus service stop in Petoskey.

There is a regional airport in Pellston, about 20 miles north of Conway on US-31. Northwest Airlink, operated by Mesaba Airlines, services the airport with direct flights to Detroit and Minneapolis. The Harbor Springs Airport is located in Little Traverse Township and services the needs of general aviation. This includes private airplanes, air taxi service, and corporate planes. No scheduled flights are available at the Harbor Springs field.

Car rental is available at the Pellston Regional Airport and the Harbor Springs Airport. Boat rental is available at various marinas in the area. Taxi service is available out of Petoskey.

There are also proposed non-motorized trails that will traverse Little Traverse Township. The MDNR has recently purchased the former railroad right-of-way from Bay View to Oden where a non-motorized trail is proposed. A non-motorized trail currently runs from Petoskey to Beach Road on M-119 in Little Traverse Township. There is a proposal by MDOT to continue this trail into Harbor Springs along the M-119 right-of-way. The trail routing includes going along the north side of the airport property and crossing M-119 at the Pleasantview light, heading west into Harbor Springs on the north side of M-119.

Recreation and Public Lands

There are many recreation opportunities in the Little Traverse Township vicinity, including the Petoskey State Park south of the Township line on Little Traverse Bay and Wilderness State Park, located about 20 miles north of the Township on Lake Michigan.

Portions of the Mackinaw State Forest are located in Little Traverse Township. Traversing the State Forest is the North Country Trail, a National Scenic Trail extending from New York to North Dakota. Emmet County also owns 120 acres in the Township which is listed in the Emmet County Recreation Plan as "An Alternative County Fair Site".

The Township owns and operates a boat launch on a half of an acre on Crooked Lake. The former Township Hall site, which is eight tenths of an acre located on M-119 at the Pleasantview Road intersection, is also in Township ownership. A public swimming beach is also available adjacent to the Inland House, on Crooked Lake.

The Little Traverse Conservancy owns and maintains 23 properties in Little Traverse Township, comprising almost 330 acres of land. Most of these properties are located between M-119 and Lake Michigan, along Beach Road. However, two larger properties are located on the east side of M-119 just north of the Township Line, making up over 90 acres in size. The more northerly property has been partially transferred to Emmet County and the local Hockey Association has proposed building an indoor ice arena on the site.

Little Traverse Bay Golf Club, which is accessed off Clayton Road high on a bluff with views of the Bay and surrounding country side, offers 18 holes of golf on 200 acres of land. Wequetonsing Golf Club, accessed off M-119, offers 18 holes and sits on 150 acres of land. Both Boyne USA, Inc. and Nubs Nob, Inc. are partially located in Little Traverse Township, although the main entrances are located in Pleasantview Township. Boyne USA owns almost 200 acres east of Hedrick Road near Catob Road. Nubs Nob recently traded land with the State of Michigan to expand their ski hill and now owns about 240 acres between Pleasantview Road and Chadderdon Road.

Black Forest Hall Equine Occupational and Equestrian Center owns the Hall on 30 acres at the southeast corner of Quick and Hoyt Roads and the Farm on 40 acres, which is located off Bester Road. Besides their private education component, Black Forest offers public programs including horse boarding, English riding lessons, and summer camps. There are also two soccer fields located on the Hall property which are leased to the Harbor Springs Youth Soccer Association.

In terms of local recreation, it is also important to note that many residential subdivisions include private parks and open space for the use and enjoyment of residents. These areas are often dedicated to open space use in perpetuity.

The 1999 Emmet County Recreation Plan inventoried all of the recreation lands in Little Traverse Township. The Plan suggests that by the year 2010, Little Traverse Township will need at least 23.4 acres of recreation land to service the needs of the growing population.