

Chapter 3 - Community Services and Facilities

Key factors that contribute to the quality of life of a community are the type and variety of services available to residents and visitors. Unlike more populated communities, smaller rural communities do not have the financial resources to provide many of the services that would normally be considered essential. In the case of fire and ambulance, many rural communities work cooperatively with adjacent communities to provide essential services. The potential location for future development should be analyzed according to the availability of certain utilities, services or facilities. Although these services may be sufficient for the needs of the current population, future development may increase the demand to upgrade or expand the services and facilities to maintain a satisfactory living environment.

This chapter will explore the location and extent of existing services. Services are provided in many ways by public or quasi-public agencies or by private enterprise. Each service provider makes the service available to the best of its capabilities. The resulting service levels determine the capacity of a given location to attract various types of land development.

Township Government

The Mikado Township Hall is located at 2291 S. F-41 in Mikado. Current local officials are Jesus Yruegas, Supervisor; Rita Sands, Clerk; Ruth Travis, Treasurer; T.J. Griffin, Trustee; and Wayne Odell, Trustee. The Township has a five member Planning Commission and a three member Zoning Board of Appeals.

Water and Sewage Disposal

Mikado Township does not provide public water or sewage disposal systems for Township residents. The residents and business owners must rely on on-site private wells for domestic drinking water and private on-site septic systems for wastewater disposal. District Health Department # 2 regulates and maintains a permitting system for private wells and septic systems. Two important determinants for siting a septic system are soil types and steepness of slopes. Chapter 4 - Natural Resources discusses the soils of the Mikado Township.

Utility Services

Due to the large amount of public land and internal parcels (parcels in the center of a section that does not abut a public road), utility services are lacking in some areas of the township. Due to the costs of extending telephone line across private lands and large tracts of public lands, areas in the Township do not have telephone service. Since these landowners must pay the cost of running the lines, some have chosen not to bear the expense, instead relying on cellular telephones.

Natural gas service is provided by DTE in more densely populated areas of the Township. Consumer's Energy provides electricity to the Township. Frontier, AllBand and Ameritech provide telephone service. Residents rely on satellite TV or TV antennas. Depending upon location, internet service is available from AllBand, Frontier and satellite service.

Transportation

Roads

The transportation network consists of county primary and secondary roads; seasonally maintained, unimproved public roads; and private roads. The primary road network is made up

of County Road F-41, F-30 (Mikado-Glennie Road) and Kings Corner Road east of F-41. Paved local roads include Cruzen and Wissmiller Roads and segments of Goddard, Alvin, Michaud and Vandercook Roads. The balances of the transportation network are gravel, dirt and two-track roads including public and private roads. Primary and local roads are under County jurisdiction, and are maintained by the Alcona County Road Commission.

Money for maintaining county roads comes from state and local sources. Mikado Township has a 1.5 mil road millage that is used as a match for road upgrades. Typically the Township pays 75-100 percent of the cost of upgrading roads to a paved surface. Since roads don't last forever and routine maintenance is necessary to extend pavement life, there is an ongoing need road projects. There is also a need for maintenance of the gravel road network, which cost primarily fall to the Township. F-41 and East F-30 (from F-41 to US-23) are Class "A" road, while all other roads have seasonal weight restrictions during "spring break-up." There are designated seasonal roads (not maintained from October to May) in the Township. However, sections of a road may be plowed upon special request from landowners.

Another major transportation issue in the Mikado Township is the repair and upgrading of bridges. Eleven of the 13 bridges in the Township have been upgraded or replaced. The Township contributes 20 percent, up to \$20,000 for bridge replacements.

Public Transit

There is no countywide dial-a-ride bus service available in Alcona County. However, Thunder Bay Transportation, based in Alpena, provides limited specialized transportation services in the County. The Thunder Bay Regional Ride, in cooperation with medical care facilities in the region, provides inter-county transportation for medical and other needs. Limited statewide passenger service is available from Indian Trails Bus Lines. The County is supporting a multi-county transportation authority. The system will function under Thunder Bay Transportation and is designed to provide a higher level of public transportation than currently available in the County.

Air Service

Alcona County's only public airport is located in the City of Harrisville, handling small aircraft. Regional air service is available at Alpena County Regional Airport (Phelps Collins) which is a U.S. Customs Port of Entry. Other regional airports are located in Traverse City, Midland, Grand Rapids and Flint. Large aircraft maintenance and air freight service is provided at the Wurtsmith Airport in Oscoda. The Michigan Air National Guard maintains a Combat Readiness Training Center at the airport in Alpena. Air-freight service is provided by United Express, United Parcel Service and Federal Express.

Public Lands and Buildings

The Mikado Civic Center and the Township Fire Hall are the only public buildings in the Township. The Mikado Civic Center was dedicated in 1978. The Mikado Area Development Corp. led the efforts to raise needed funds to construct the civic center. The \$80,000 raised locally, combined with considerable donated labor, enabled the Township to construct the building without federal grants, local levied taxes or CETA funds. This is a fine example of a community pulling together to help itself. The amount and uses of the public lands in the Township will continue to play significant roles in the character and future of the community. The township fire department has a smoke training facility for the volunteer firemen.

Mikado Township Master Plan

Approximately 52 percent of the land in the Township is publicly owned. **Figure 3.1** is a map depicting public and private ownership. The largest public landowner is the U.S. Department of Interior. Some 32.7 square miles or 46 percent of the Township are under jurisdiction of the US Forest Service and are part of the Huron-Manistee National Forest. The Huron Shores Ranger Station located in Oscoda oversees management of the U.S. Forest Service land in Mikado Township. The State of Michigan owns 4.5 square miles of land in the eastern one half of the Township. These lands are under the jurisdiction of the Forest Management Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

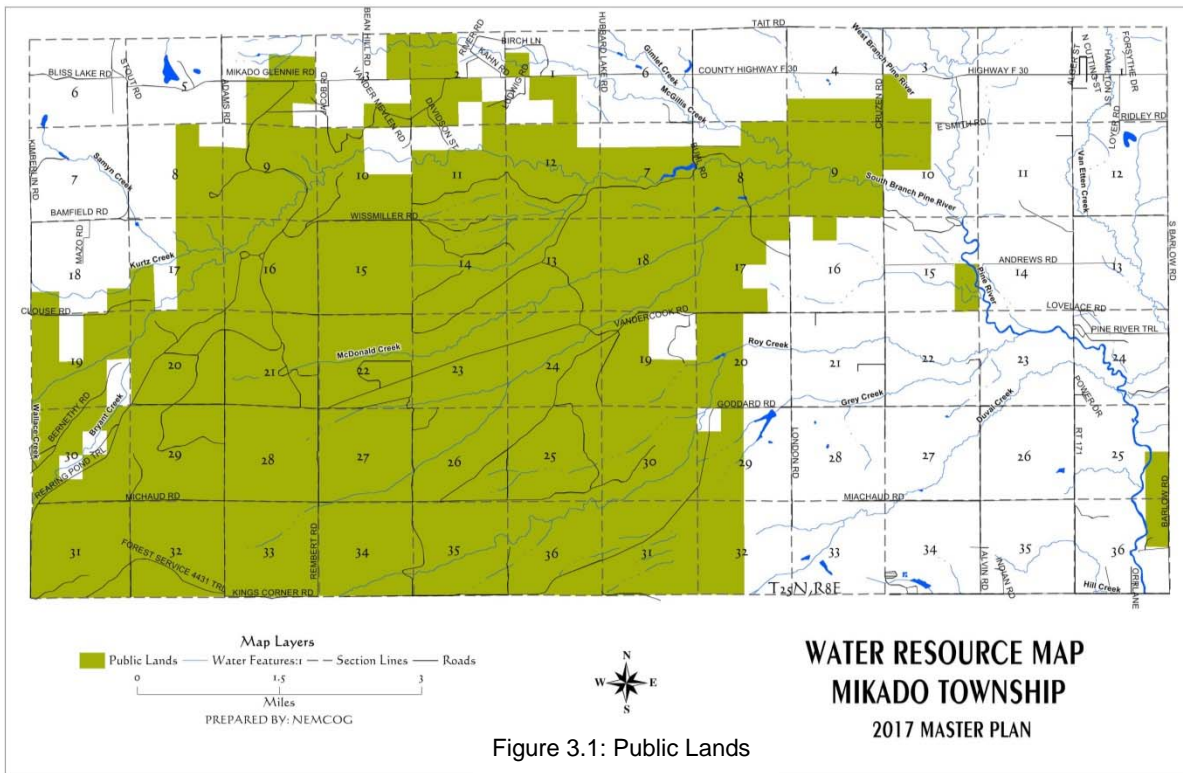


Figure 3.1: Public Lands

Schools Libraries and Museums

Mikado Township is part of two school districts. Students in the Alcona School District attend K-12 classes in Lincoln. The Alcona School District is part of the Alcona Montmorency Alpena Intermediate School District. Students within the Oscoda School District attend classes in Oscoda. The Oscoda School District is located in the Iosco Intermediate School District.

Kirtland Community College (KCC) located in Roscommon and Alpena Community College (ACC) located in Alpena are two-year institutions serving the higher education needs of area residents. Alpena Community College's main campus is located in City of Alpena. ACC's Huron Shores Campus in Oscoda serves in the surrounding area. ACC offers two-year degrees, one-year certificates, and customized training. The college offers Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science and Associate in General Studies Degrees.

Kirtland Community College offers associate degrees and certificate programs in automotive, business, cosmetology, criminal justice, health occupations, industrial technologies, and office information systems as well as associate/transfer degrees in arts, fine arts, business,

administration, criminal justice, computers and science. The Madeline Briggs University Center at Alpena Community College houses offices of accredited four-year institutions who are cooperating with ACC to make completion programs for selected bachelor's and master's degrees available in Northeast Michigan. These institutions include Spring Arbor University, Central Michigan University, and Northwood University.

A full service branch of the Alcona County Library is located in the Mikado Civic Center. The Alcona County Library system is part of the Northland Library Cooperative. The cooperative has a regional book catalog and offers inter-library book loans between member libraries. Reference staff are available at the library cooperative main office to assist users at all member library locations. The Mikado Branch is open Monday thru Thursday: 2:00 pm till 6:00 pm. Along with reading materials, there are four public access computers with high speed internet access and free wireless access available to those with their own wireless devices. All internet access is filtered for content. The township provides space, electricity and heat to the Mikado branch library.

Churches and Cemeteries

The Mikado Township Cemetery is located on F-30 east of Mikado in Section 1 of T.25 N.-R.8E. There is adequate space available on the existing property to expand the cemetery. The St. Raphael's Catholic Church Cemetery is located adjacent to the Mikado Township Cemetery. St. Raphael's Catholic Church and Calvary Baptist Church are located in Mikado Township. Residents also drive to adjacent communities to attend church services.

Public Safety

Law enforcement protection for Mikado Township is the responsibility of the Alcona County Sheriff Department and the Michigan State Police. The Alcona County Sheriff Department is located in Harrisville. State Police Posts are located in Alpena with a substation in Lincoln.

The Mikado Township Fire Department's coverage area is 97 square miles. Along with the entire geographic area of the Township, 18 square miles of Gustin Township is covered through a contractual arrangement. Estimated population served is 1,500. Mikado Fire Department also provides mutual aid with all fire departments in Alcona County, Oscoda Township, Michigan DNR and USFS.

A millage (1.0 mills) generates funds to cover costs associated with operation of the fire department. The Mikado Township Fire Department has a 2005 Kenworth Tanker, 2011 Kenworth Pumper-Tanker, 2003 Toyne Pumper and one brush truck. The Township Fire Department has a 2015 Chevy Pumper Truck used as a 1st responder unit. Along with other emergency responder equipment, the fire department has a Jaws of Life. Advanced life support service is provided by Alcona County EMS. The countywide enhanced 911 emergency service, operated from the Alcona County Sheriff Department, is available for all county residents.

Ambulance service is provided by Alcona County, which pays for the costs through the Ambulance Fund millage. There are currently two full time emergency medical service stations operating in Alcona County. Station 1 is located at 2600 E M-72, Harrisville MI 48740. Station 2 is located at 2300 S state, Glennie MI 48737. Both are currently rated at the advanced level. The service area is 694 sq. miles with a population of 10,942.

Medical Facilities

There are no medical facilities located in Mikado Township. Clinics, doctor and dentist offices are located in other communities such as Oscoda, Tawas, Harrisville, Lincoln and Alpena. The Alcona Health Center is located in Lincoln and the VA Health Center is located in Oscoda. For health care services not available at these facilities, residents travel to Alpena Regional Medical Center in Alpena, Munson Healthcare Hospital in Grayling, Tollfree Memorial Hospital in West Branch, Tawas St. Joseph Hospital in Tawas City and Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

Health Services

District Health Department No. 2, including home health care and physical therapy, provides public health care services. Hospice services may be obtained from Hospice of Northeast Michigan in Alpena, and Reverence Home Health Care and Hospice in East Tawas City. Lincoln Haven Health Care Center provides 24-hour nursing care with a family atmosphere. Alcona County Senior Citizens Center in Lincoln provides senior citizen services. Bake Adult Foster Care is located in Mikado.

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health provides support services to developmentally disabled persons as well as persons needing mental health services. The Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health service area covers Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle Counties.

Recreational Facilities

Bruce Park has handicap accessible bathrooms, picnic tables, benches and history displays. A ball field adjacent to the Mikado Township Civic Center is maintained by Mikado Area Recreation.

The US Forest Service operates a primitive campground on the South Branch of the Pine River. The facility has 11 campsites, pit toilets, hand pump water, and a picnic shelter with grills, tables and parking. The campground is open Memorial Day to Labor Day. There is a nominal fee for camping, day use is free. The countryside nearby is considered prime viewing habitat for the endangered Kirtland Warbler. A snowmobile trail head is located in Section 19 of T.25N.-R.8E. on U.S. Forest Service Property. The trail runs south and west connecting to a larger regional network of state snowmobile trails.

The considerable amount of public land does offer residents and visitors ample area for a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. Persons wishing to pursue the sport of fishing can access the Pine River and its many tributaries such as Van Etten Creek, Duval Creek, Grey Creek, Roy Creek, McDonald Creek, McGillis Creek, Gimlet Creek, Bryant Creek, Wallace Creek, Kurtz Creek and Samyn Creek. There is one privately owned lake in the Township.