

CLARE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
**MASTER PLAN**

2009



PREPARED IN PARTNERSHIP BY  
THE CLARE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND  
EAST CENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Planning is the review and analysis of community information to arrive at a set of policies regarding the most appropriate way to accommodate the community's future growth and development. The end result of this planning process is the community's master plan. A master plan is the community's vision of the future and lays the essential framework for local growth and development.

The Clare County Planning Commission, with the assistance of the East Central Michigan Planning & Development Commission have developed the 2004 Clare County Master Plan. This Master Plan is intended to serve as a guide for the County and the six townships that are subject to county planning and zoning by providing general guidelines that provide the framework for the preparation of future township and community master plans and zoning ordinances.

The 2004 Clare County Master Plan was prepared by utilizing the expertise of the Planning Commission members without the use of large scale public input due to budget restraints and the limited scope desired for this document. East Central Michigan Planning & Development Commission provided the County numerous maps and charts by creating a County Geographic Information System (GIS) that is appropriate for a county-wide planning process. Revised on 6/08/2009 from the 2004 Master Plan by the Clare County Planning Commission. Approved by the Board of Commissioners on August 4, 2009.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **2003-2004 Clare County Planning Commission**

William Scott, Chair	Richard Snyder
George Randall, Vice-Chair	William Strouse
Beverly Johnson, Secretary	Richard Vedder
Forrest Meek	Richard Castle
Julie Murphy	Garry Wiley
Jon H. Ringelberg	Marybeth Denton, MSU Extension Secretary
	Dr. Hal Hudson, MSU Extension Director

### **East Central Michigan Planning & Developmental Regional Commission**

Sue Fortune, Director  
Brandon Wescott, Planner

## **STATUTE OF PLANNING**

Act 33 of 2008 Michigan Planning Act as amended

## VISION STATEMENT

Clare County will encounter many opportunities and challenges in the next fifteen years. With an increase in population and socio-economic changes, development pressure is beginning to undermine the rural character of the County and will ultimately change the County's quality of life.

This Master Plan, with the cooperation of the townships and municipalities within Clare County and the communities that surround the County, will assist in the protection of the features that contribute to the overall character of the County.

The Clare County Planning Commission has established the following as Clare County Vision:

*Clare County will provide for orderly and efficient growth and development of land, transportation, and public and private services, while maintaining the rural character and increasing the quality of life of the County. Clare County will promote recreation and tourism and improve the County's economy and employment opportunities. Clare county will promote farm land and open space preservation and promote conservation in all phases of their efforts.*

## **PLANNING PROCESS**

The East Central Michigan Planning & Development Regional Commission (ECMPDRC) worked with Clare County's Planning Commission, County Board of Commissioners, MSU Extension and staff in the development of this Master Plan.

The Plan includes an inventory and analysis of Clare County's existing land uses, public facilities, public services and housing units. The Plan also describes the County's population characteristics (by individual government units) and compares the County to Region 7 and Michigan. ECMPDR developed population and housing projections using past trends and goals established during the planning process. The Plan includes a Vision Statement, Goals and goal-specific Actions. ECMPDR created a variety of maps including an existing land use map.

The primary goal of this planning process was to provide Clare County with a vision of its preferred future.

### **Action 1 – Introduction**

In this action, the ECMPDR reviewed the work program with the Clare County Planning Commission to ensure all agreed to the established planning process.

### **Action 2 – Orientation and Inventory**

Surveys taken during the application process for the Empowerment Zone, recreation surveys taken by Clare County Parks & Recreation Commission, housing surveys taken by the Enterprise Community, and census documents were viewed to develop county residents' concerns and desires for the future of Clare County.

### **Action 3 – Community Description**

This action describes the County's physical features, population, community facilities and housing. The ECMPDR digitized the County Land Use Map created by the Planning Commission and added information to create a graphic description of Clare County. Once the digital base map was developed, information was collected and added to the base map. Information includes soils, existing land use, street and transportation systems and natural features.

This portion of the plan describes the County's physical features. These features include location, climate, soils, natural features, and a description of the area's transportation network. Sources include existing plans, Clare County's Soil Survey, Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, Michigan's Department of Transportation, and a variety of other sources.

The next major portion of this action describes Clare County's social features. This section describes the County's existing population and provides information about the county, each of the individual townships, villages and cities, Region 7 and Michigan for comparison. The plan includes population features including age and gender distribution; racial distribution; people with physical disabilities; types of households; employment; and income information. Information from both the 1990 U.S. Census of Population and the 2000 U.S. Census of Population are included. .

#### **Action 4 – Public Participation**

Prior surveys taken in conjunction with establishing the Enterprise Community concerning the wishes and desires of the population in Clare County.

#### **Action 5 – Issues, Goals, Actions and Projections**

ECMPDR will use the information gathered in the first four actions to develop a vision statement and set of issues, goals and actions. The Vision Statement presents a brief picture of the “ideal” future for Clare County in the year 2020. The statement identifies target population, housing, employment, recreation, services and other details of the County’s future. The section also identifies a complete list of issues developed by the Planning Commission with the assistance of ECMPDR. The County’s Planning Commission then developed a set of goals for review and revision. Finally, a series of Actions were designed to guide Clare County toward each Goal and the Vision Statement.

#### **Action 6 – Future Land Use Plan**

Limited ability beyond encouraging townships, cities, and village with zoning to be responsible in their planning and encouraging expanding current uses rather than developing new areas not currently under development.

#### **Action 7 – Planning Commission Review**

The Planning Commission reviewed the draft and suggested revisions to the Draft at work sessions. Approval of the draft by the Clare County Planning Commission on April 8, 2004.

#### **Action 8 – Implementation Schedule**

Approval of the draft by the Clare County Board of Commissioners on May 4, 2004.

Public hearing was held August.12, 2004

Approval of the final document by the Clare County Planning Commission was August 12, 2004.

#### **Action 9 – Finalization of Plan Document**

July and August 2004

#### **Action 10 – Adoption**

August 12, 2004

#### **Action 11 – Review and change the 2004 Master Plan by a Planning Commission sub-committee.**

Will be called the 2009 Master Plan

#### **Schedule**

All of these actions occurred between 10/10/02 through 08/31/04 and 1/01/09 through 6/08/09.

## CLARE COUNTY HISTORY

- 1826 – Treaty of 1826. Land now known as Clare County was acquired through the treaty of 1826. Its prior name was Kaykaknee, after Chippewa Indian Chief Pigeon Hawk.
- 1843 – First Survey of county was done fraudulently
- 1850 – A 2<sup>nd</sup> survey made, this was an accurate survey
- 1850's – Joseph Lux, hunted & trapped on the Muskegon River from Winterfield Township.
- 1856 – Eastern lumber barons began acquiring county timber
- 1867 – Civil War veterans started claiming Clare County land under Federal Benefit Warrants. David Allen, an old county resident, showed land in northern Grant Township to William Crawford and others. The Dover community soon began to flourish
- 1870 – Railroads were established and thus the logging industry grew.
- 1870-80's – Clare County was one of Michigan's premier lumbering districts
- 1870 – First Civil government established in Three Lakes Township under auspices of Midland County. (This was the entire eastern half of Clare County)
- 1871 – Surrey Twp. (the entire western half of the county) was organized
- 1871 – Farwell was the designated county seat by the legislature
- 1874 – A four mile railroad extension a mile west of Clare was made toward Hatton for the exportation of logs to Flint sawmills
- 1876 – The County Courthouse was torched by un-named farmers
- 1879 – County seat removed to Harrison by the legislature.
- 1879 – Clare and Harrison became villages via charter
- 1900 – Agriculture replaced lumbering as the number one enterprise
- 1929 – Clare County was Michigan's most productive gas source
- 1930's – The Petroleum industry and the Purple Gang invaded Clare County
- 1938 – Movement to build better roads for tourism in the county
- 1939 – Fowler Orchard – first major commercial agriculture export (apples) in Clare County
- 1940 – Duck Marsh near Leota – first conservation effort in Michigan.
- 1961 – Opened Freeway US 127 through Clare County.

Source: Forrest Meek, Clare County Commissioner 2004

# PHYSICAL FEATURES



## PHYSICAL FEATURES

### Location

Clare County is located in the middle of the Lower Peninsula of the State of Michigan. The counties that surround Clare County are: Isabella to the South, Osceola to the West, Roscommon and Missaukee to the North, and Gladwin to the East.

Considered the “Gateway to the North”, the Clare County is within an hour to an hour and a half drive from some of Michigan’s largest cities, such as Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Midland. Lake Michigan is 80 miles to the West, the Michigan/Indiana border is 150 miles to the South, the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge are 125 miles to the North, and Lake Huron (Saginaw Bay) is 50 miles to the East.

### Map #1



Map # 1 identifies the County’s location in Michigan.

### Climate

Climate has a strong influence on the way of life and the activities of the people of Clare County. Like the rest of the State, the County has four distinctive seasons that allows for a wide variety of outdoor activities. Generally, January is the coldest month (23.7° F average daily maximum temperature), while July is the warmest month (83.7° F average daily maximum temperature). June averages the highest average amount of precipitation at 4.20 inches, while February has the lowest average amount of precipitation, but the highest average depth of snow.

Table 1: Climate in Clare County

MONTH	TEMPERATURE (F)		PRECIPITATION (INCHES)	
	Average Daily Maximum	Average Daily Minimum	Average	Average Depth of Snow on Days with Snow Cover
January	23.7	5.3	0.74	7.0
February	29.6	10.7	0.82	7.2
March	42.0	23.6	1.89	7.5
April	58.2	36.3	3.42	1.6
May	70.8	47.7	3.82	0.0
June	79.7	56.7	4.20	0.0
July	83.7	61.4	3.99	0.0
August	81.5	59.0	4.03	0.0
September	72.7	50.7	3.93	0.0
October	61.0	39.9	2.27	0.2
November	43.8	27.0	1.68	3.4
December	28.3	12.1	1.21	9.7
Year	56.3	35.9	32.01	36.5

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Soils

There are eight soil classifications with-in Clare County according to the County's Soil Survey (1978). **Map #2** identifies the general soil associations (listed below) with-in the County.

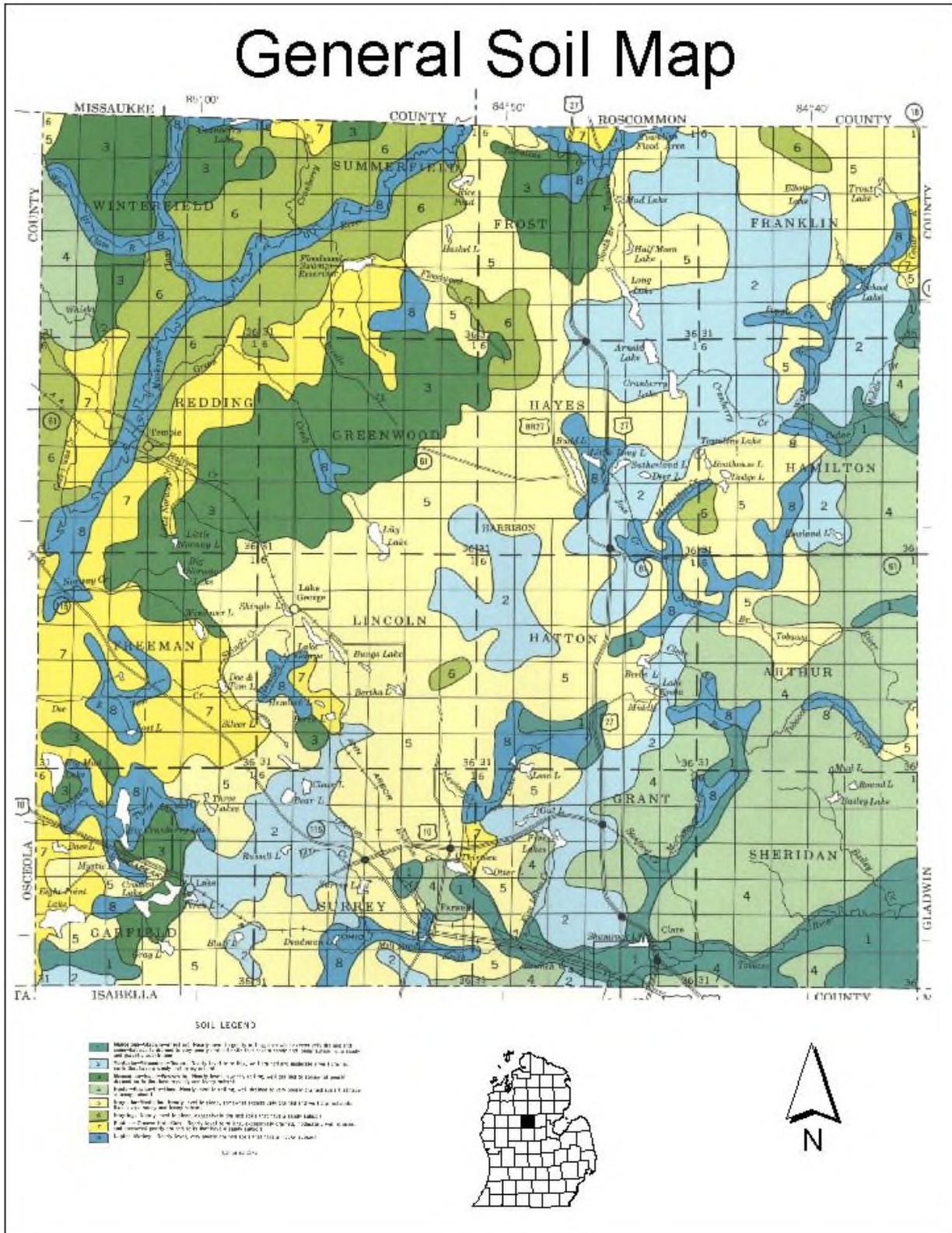
1. Mancelona-Gladwin-Wheatley: Nearly level to gently rolling, somewhat excessively drained and somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained soils that have a sandy and loamy subsoil or a sandy and gravelly substratum.
2. Montcalm-Menominee-Nester: Nearly level to rolling, well drained and moderately well drained soils that have a sandy and loamy subsoil.
3. Menominee-Iosco-Kawkawlin: Nearly level to gently rolling, well drained to somewhat poorly drained soils that have a sandy and loamy subsoil.
4. Nester-Kawkawlin-Sims: Nearly level to rolling, well drained to very poorly drained soils that have a loamy subsoil.
5. Graycalm-Montcalm: Nearly level to steep, somewhat excessively drained and well drained soils that have a sandy and loamy subsoil.
6. Grayling: Nearly level to steep, excessively drained soils that have a sandy subsoil.
7. Rubicon-Croswell-AuGres: Nearly level to rolling, excessively drained, moderately well drained, and somewhat poorly drained soils that have a sandy subsoil.
8. Lupton-Markey: Nearly level, very poorly drained soils that have a mucky subsoil.

Additional resources can be found at:

Clare Conservation District  
225 W Main St, PO Box 356  
Harrison, Michigan 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-6401  
Fax: (989) 539-2182

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1501 N State St  
Gladwin, MI 48624  
Phone: (989) 426-9461  
Fax: (989) 426-4914

Map #2



Source: see bottom of previous page

## **Topography**

The land surface of Clare County was shaped by the actions of glaciation. The County is nearly split in half by two types of glacier related landforms. The southern portion of the County is the northern edge of a post glacial lake that has the characteristic of being flat land (Elevations between 700ft. to 1000ft. above sea level) with soils made up of clay and silt materials. The Northern portion of the County is the southern edge of the glacial moraine area that makes up most of northern Michigan. This area is made up of gently rolling to steeply sloping terrain (Elevations between 1000ft. to 1400ft.) and consist soils of sand and gravel material. The highest elevation is located in Greenwood Township at 1377 ft. above sea level and the lowest elevation is located in Sheridan Township at 754 ft. above sea level.

### **View**

Clare Conservation District  
225 W Main St, PO Box 356  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-6401

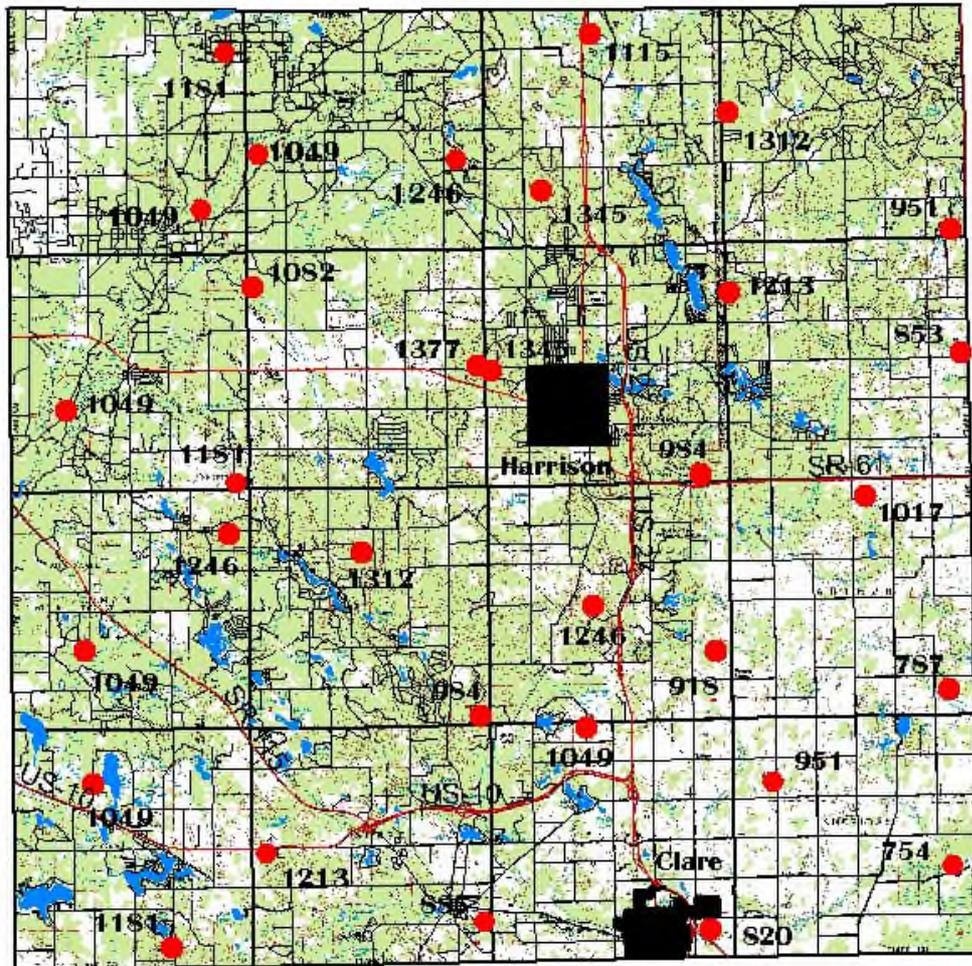
### **Purchase**

Geological Survey Division  
Michigan Department Natural Resources  
Steven T. Mason Bldg, PO Box 30452  
Lansing, MI 48909-7952  
Phone: (517) 373-9123  
Fax: (517) 373-2443  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) {publications and maps}  
[www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq) {information and news}

US Geological Survey  
Reston, Virginia 22092  
<http://topomaps.usgs.gov/>  
[www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com)

Wilderness Outfitters  
221 W Michigan St  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
Phone: (989) 773-0000

# Clare County Topography



- Elevation Points shown in feet above mean sea level (Highland Landmarks by Township)
- Cities
- Arbitrary line extension
- Bad line course
- Primary route (Class 1)
- Road or street (Class 3)
- Road or street (Class 4)
- Boundary route (Class 2)
- Trol. Tracks (Class 5)
- Underpassing
- Highways
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Fish hatchery or farm
- Gravel pit or quarry filled with water
- Industrial water impoundment
- Irrigation area
- Lake or pond
- Reservoir
- Sewage disposal pond
- Tailing pond
- Township



Source: see previous page

## Water Features and Wetlands

Clare County has a variety of water features such as rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. The County has more than 8,000 acres of lake surface and 28,000 acres of wetlands. Both account for 10% of the County's total acreage.

More than 20 lakes are located within the County and provide ample opportunity for water related activities such as fishing and boating. The most significant lakes include: Arnold, Budd, Cranberry, Crooked, Eight Point, Five Lakes, Lake George, Lily, Long, and Sutherland.

Two major watersheds, Muskegon and Saginaw Bay, divide the County in half. The Muskegon River, which drains the western portion of the County, is the largest river in the County and provides a number of recreational opportunities from canoeing to camping. The Tobacco and Cedar River's drain the eastern portion of the County and is a part of the Saginaw Bay watershed. Each of these rivers has their beginnings in Clare County.

Wetlands are defined by the existence of water, either on or near the surface for a portion of the year and by the type of vegetation present. Wetlands may have many names and are often referred to as bogs, marshes, and swamps. Wetlands are an important resource to the people of Clare County. They improve the water quality of lakes and streams by filtering polluting nutrients and chemicals. More importantly, wetlands recharge aquifers, support wildlife and vegetation, and protect shorelines from erosion.

Table 2: Water and Wetland Acreage

	Acreage			% of Area
	Water	Wetlands	Total	
Arthur Township	122.69	593.02	715.71	3.1%
Franklin Township	96.46	175.42	271.88	1.2%
Freeman Township	852.04	7,417.80	8,269.84	36.3%
Frost Township	404.60	1,763.23	2,167.83	9.6%
Garfield Township	1,647.69	3,482.66	5,130.35	22.5%
Grant Township (incl Clare City)	484.02	0.0	484.02	2.1%
Greenwood Township	228.0	905.15	1,133.15	5.0%
Hamilton Township	308.03	918.52	1,226.55	5.3%
Hatton Township	191.08	702.04	893.12	3.9%
Hayes Township (incl Harrison)	1,038.63	54.0	1,092.63	4.7%
Lincoln Township	686.53	0.0	686.53	3.0%
Redding Township	323.84	5,133.71	5,457.55	24.2%
Sheridan Township	210.55	1,412.12	1,622.67	6.9%
Summerfield Township	432.93	2,603.68	3,036.61	13.2%
Surrey Township	499.80	431.90	931.70	4.1%
Winterfield Township	584.04	2,633.60	3,217.64	13.7%
<b>Total</b>	8,110.93	28,226.85	36,337.78	9.9%

Source: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

To obtain more information concerning wetlands, contact:

Michigan Department Environmental Quality  
Land and Water Management Division  
Saginaw Bay District Office  
503 N Euclid, Suite 1  
Bay City, MI 48706-2965  
Phone: (989) 686-8025

Michigan Department Environmental Quality  
Land and Water Management Division  
Inland Lakes and Wetland Unit  
PO Box 30458  
Lansing, MI 48909-7958  
Phone: (517) 373-1170/ (517) 241-8485  
[www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)

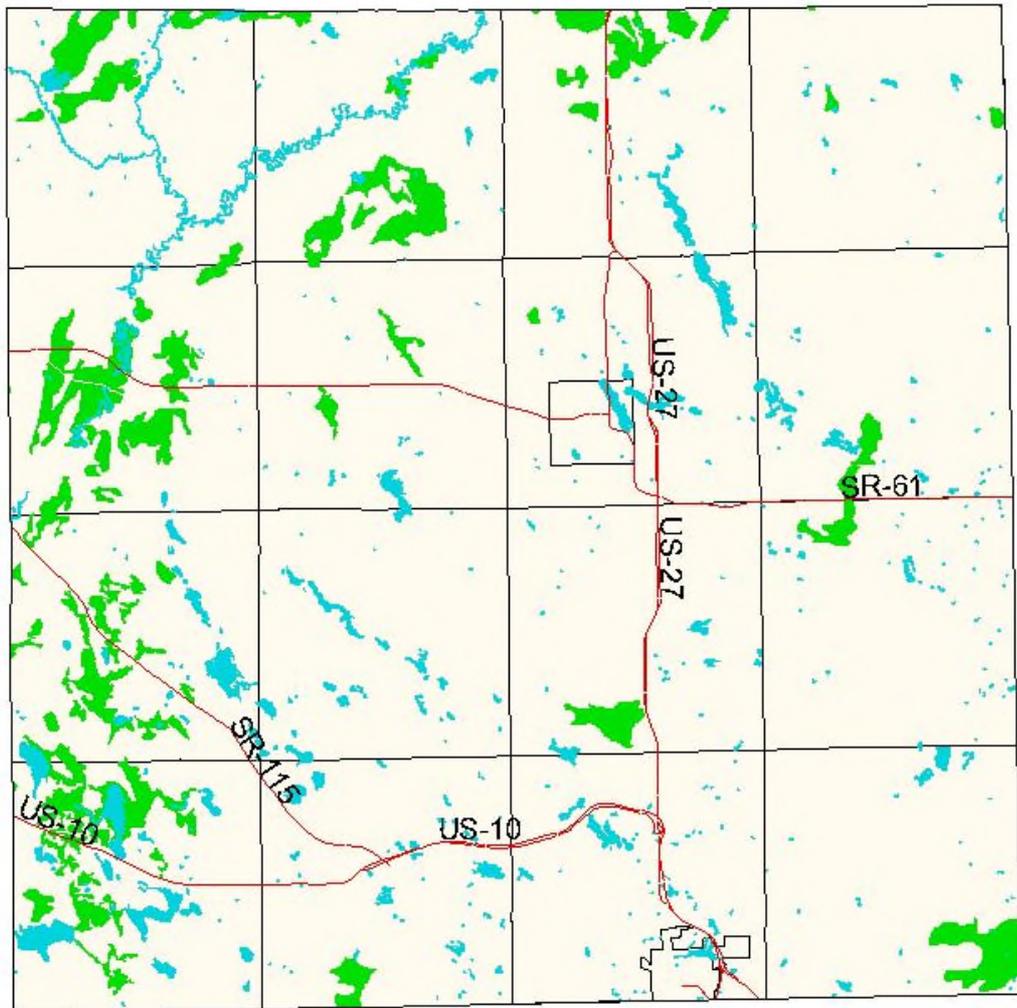
National Cartographic Information Center  
US Geological Survey  
507 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
1-800-USA-MAPS  
[www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)  
[www.wetlands.com](http://www.wetlands.com)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Michigan Resource Information System  
PO Box 30448  
Lansing, MI 48909-7984  
Phone: (517) 373-2534

Saginaw Bay R C & D  
4044 South 3 Mile Rd  
Bay City, MI 48706  
Phone: (989) 684-5650  
Fax: (989) 684-5896  
Email: [Saginawbay@aol.com](mailto:Saginawbay@aol.com)

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA)  
College of Allied Health Sciences  
Ferris State University  
200 Ferris Drive, VFS 311  
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2740  
Phone: (231) 591-2334  
Fax: (231) 591-2306  
Email: [mrwa@ferris.edu](mailto:mrwa@ferris.edu)

# Water and Wetlands



-  Clare County
-  Highways
-  Rivers and Lakes
-  Tributaries, Drains
-  Marsh, wetland, swamp, bog

## **Wildlife**

The County's wildlife is typical of that found in most of Lower Michigan. Common wildlife includes deer, raccoons, opossums, skunks, rabbits, muskrats, beavers, squirrels, rodents and other small mammals. There are also occasional observations of other animals such as bears, coyote, and bobcats. The area is home to a variety of birds including owls, wild turkeys, pheasants, loons, swans, an increasing number of bald eagles, and many others. Five Lakes has a protected Loon nesting area on the north end of the lake. The county is also a seasonal home to many migratory birds including ducks and Canada Geese.

## **Native Vegetation**

Originally, Clare County was covered with a dense mixture of coniferous (white pine) and deciduous (oak and maple) forests. In the late 1800's the County's forests were cleared leaving an open landscape littered with stumps. Much of the land was converted to farmland or as ranch land.

## **Current Vegetation**

Today, Clare County has a mixture of open farmland and forested area's. The southern portion of the County is predominately farmland with smaller forest areas found along rivers, streams, and wetlands. The northern portion of the County is predominately forest land with some open farmland. The Pere Marquette State Forest encompasses a large area in northwest Clare County and is the current location of the Kirtland Warbler habitat area. The area was either burned or clear cut and replanted naturally or by humans with jackpine, which the Kirtland Warble requires for nesting and breeding.

## **Transportation**

Clare County is served by an extensive highway system. The US-127 expressway provides North and South access through the County and the US-10 expressway provides East and West access in the southern portion of the County. Both expressways are a major linkage for goods and services from Southern Michigan to Northern Michigan.

Two state highways serve the county. M-115 provides Northwest/Southeast access through the county and is a major route for tourist to Northwest Michigan and Traverse City. M-61 provides East and West access and divides the County nearly in half.

The County has 390 total miles of roads that are available for Federal Aid. Clare County Transit provides County-wide busing.

The nearest shipping port is located in Bay City and Saginaw (Lake Huron) with Ludington being the closet port on Lake Michigan. Conrail and the Tuscola and Saginaw Bay rail company provides rail service for Clare County.

Two airports provide air service for Clare County. Clare Municipal Airport is located Northeast of the City of Clare and the Clare County Airport is located North of the City of Harrison. Airline service to the County is provided by Northwest, Simmons, and United.

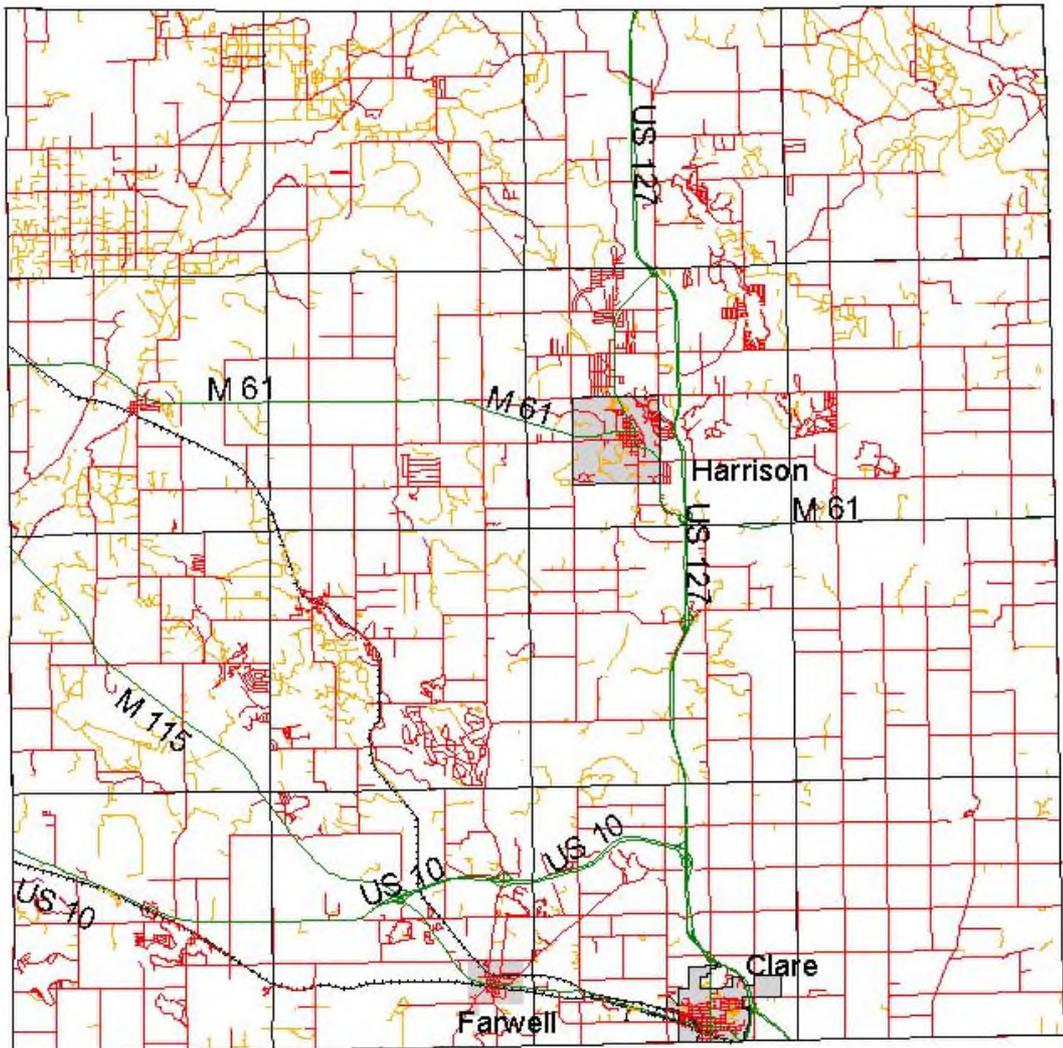
Clare County Road Commission  
3900 E Mannsiding Rd  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-2151

Clare County Transit  
4175 N Clare Ave  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-1473

Clare County Airport  
Manager  
3023 Mostetler  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-1736/ (989) 539-6047  
Pager: (989) 201-1044

Clare Municipal Airport  
Manager  
10841 S Eberhart  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-0445/ (989) 429-1874

# Transportation Network



-  County Boundary
-  Townships
-  Unnamed Road or Two-Track
-  Highways
-  Railroad
-  Roads
-  Cities and Villages

Source: see previous page

# INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES



# PUBLIC SERVICES

Clare County has a typical Michigan County government with the county seat located in Harrison. Information on individual elected offices and county departments is available at the county website [www.clareco.net](http://www.clareco.net) or within a directory published by the County Commission and available at the Administrator's Office in the County Building at 225 West Main Street, Harrison, Michigan 48625.

## INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES

**Map #6**

WINTERFIELD	SUMMERFIELD	FROST	FRANKLIN
REDDING	GREENWOOD	HAYES ● Harrison	HAMILTON
FREEMAN	LINCOLN	HATTON	ARTHUR
GARFIELD	SURREY ● Farwell	GRANT ● Clare	SHERIDAN

The purpose of this Master Plan is to represent the future goals of Clare County, but recognize its two cities, one village, and the 16 townships. The following provides a brief description of Clare County’s individual communities.

### Cities

**The City of Clare**-Clare is located at the intersection of US-127 and US-10 in the southeastern portion of the County and is surrounded by Grant Township on all sides except for the southern side which extends into Isabella County. The 2000 census states the City’s population as 3,140.

The City’s residential pattern has evolved like most other cities built in the same time period. The first neighborhoods were established around a prosperous downtown. A majority of the residential neighborhoods consists of single family housing; however there is some multi-family housing in various parts of the City.

The downtown district is considered the hub of the community. Fifth Street (M-115) and McEwan St. (Business 127) intersect in the heart of the downtown. Downtown Clare is dominated by a variety of retail, office, and service operations. The historic Doherty Hotel is considered the focal point of the downtown district by being the main attraction for many visitors to the City of Clare.

Clare has many industrial areas which support a variety of businesses. The newest industrial area is located in the southeastern corner of the City. Other industrial areas are located in the southwestern corner of the City and in a small area of the downtown district. As of 2008 one industrial area is full and officials are looking for an additional area.

The municipal offices for the City of Clare are located at 202 West Fifth Street, one block West of the Fifth Street and McEwan Street intersection. The police station, fire department, and post office are all located in the same general area. Additional public facilities located within the City include Brookwood Park, Pettit Park, Cherry Grove Cemetery, St. Cecilia’s Cemetery, and the Clare Public School buildings. The City is governed by a city-manager/commission board form of government and has a total of 45 employees.

The five issues that face the City of Clare are 1) coordination between the City and the surrounding townships to address future development in the area, 2) the current disrepair of public buildings, 3) water quality on Shamrock Lake, 4) the greater balance between housing prices and housing types, and 5) a need for a community center, as well as enhancing its local tax base.

**The City of Harrison**-Harrison is located in the center of Clare County near the intersection of US-127 and M-61 and is surrounded by Hayes Township. The county seat of Clare County, the 2000 census states that the City's population is 2,108.

The main features of Harrison are Budd Lake, Wilson State Park, and the Clare County Fairgrounds. Budd Lake consists of 175 acres and offers residents and tourists a variety of activities such as fishing, swimming, boating, and camping. Wilson State Park is located on the northwest side of Budd Lake and is one of the most popular parks in the State. The Clare County Fair is held annually in August and offers a wide variety of activities such as harness racing, rides, and 4H activities.

The City has a variety of residential housing. A majority of the housing is single family however; a portion of the single family district is cottages for weekend visitors. There is a portion of the City that is multi-family housing.

The downtown district of the City of Harrison offers a variety of businesses such as retail, office and service operations. Numerous commercial operations also operate within the City but are located on the outer fringes.

Harrison has several industrial areas that house many businesses. The most notable industrial parks are located in the southwestern portion of the City and adjacent to the City's airport.

Harrison is governed by a Mayor/City Council form of government and employs 9 municipal employees. The City has an up to date comprehensive plan (adopted in 2001) and a zoning ordinance (adopted in 2001).

### **Village**

**The Village of Farwell**-Farwell is located on M-115 directly West of the City of Clare and is surrounded by Surrey Township. The 2000 census states the Village's population as 855.

Farwell has a mixture of single-family housing and multi-family housing. The downtown district serves the community with a variety of commercial uses and a new industrial park in the northwest corner of the Village is currently looking for new businesses.

The Village has a general law village form of government and the municipal offices are located at 109 ½ S. Hall Street. Farwell has a current master plan and zoning ordinance.

### **Townships**

**Arthur** – Arthur Township is located in the Southeast portion of Clare County. The Township's 2000 population was 667. M-61 creates the Northern border for the Township. Arthur Township does have a zoning ordinance and a recently adopted Master Plan for Land Use (Winter 2001).

**Franklin** – Franklin Township is located in the Northeastern corner of Clare County. The Township's 2000 population was 809. M-18 creates the Eastern border for the Township and Gladwin County. Franklin Township is un-zoned, but does have an anti-blight ordinance (2003).

**Freeman** – Freeman Township is located in the Southwestern portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 1,118. M-115 passes through the Township. Freeman Township has a master plan (1973), and a zoning ordinance (2001).

**Frost** – Frost Township is located in the Northeast portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 1,159. US-127 passes through the Township. Frost Township is zoned with a zoning ordinance last revised in 2002.

**Garfield** – Garfield Township is located in the Southwest corner of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 1,968. US-10 passes through the Township. Garfield Township does have a Future Land Use Plan (1976). Garfield Township is unzoned.

**Grant** – Grant Township is located in the Southeast portion of Clare County, surrounding the City of Clare. The Township’s 2000 population was 3,034. US-10, US-27, and M-115 all wind their way through the Township. Grant Township is un-zoned.

**Greenwood** – Greenwood Township is located in the Northwest central portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 1,059. M-61 passes through the Township. Greenwood Township is un-zoned.

**Hamilton** – Hamilton Township is located in the Northeast portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 1,988. M-61 creates the Southern border for the Township. Hamilton Township does have a Master Plan (2000) and a zoning ordinance (amended May 2002).

**Hatton** – Hatton Township is located in the Southeast central portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 923. US-127 passes through the Township. Hatton Township does have a zoning ordinance (1993).

**Hayes** – Hayes Township is located in the Northeast central portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 4,916. The Township surrounds the City of Harrison. M-61 and US-127 both pass through the Township. Hayes Township does have a master plan (2001), zoning ordinance (2002), and blight/nuisance ordinance (1974).

**Lincoln** – Lincoln Township is located in the Southwest central portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 1,758. Lincoln Township has a master plan (2002) and a zoning ordinance (1977).

**Redding** – Redding Township is located in the Northwest Portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 526. M-61 passes through the Township. Redding Township is unzoned.

**Sheridan** – Sheridan Township is located in the Southeast corner of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 1,588. Sheridan Township is un-zoned.

**Summerfield** – Summerfield Township is located in the Northwest portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 453. Summerfield Township is zoned.

**Surrey** – Surrey Township is located in the Southwest portion of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 3,555. M-115 and US-10 both pass through the Township. Surrey Township has a land use plan (1992), a master plan (2002), and a zoning ordinance (2000).

**Winterfield** – Winterfield Township is located in the Northwest corner of Clare County. The Township’s 2000 population was 483. Winterfield Township has a master plan (2002), land use plan (1977), zoning ordinance, and an anti-blight ordinance (2001).

### Amish Community

**Amish Community** – Amish began moving into Clare County in the late 1970’s. Today there are six ‘house churches’ of two different Amish orders located mainly in the Southeastern quarter of Clare County, Sheridan and Grant Townships. Each ‘house church’ has 12 to 15 families, each family averages about 5 or 6 individuals, and so, there are about 400 or more Amish presently in the Clare County Area.

While farming historically has been the main focus of Amish life, recent farm economics have required the Amish to engage in cottage industries ranging from metal fabrication to cabinet making. Local Amish shops also include a bakery, two country stores, a hardware, quilt shop, fabric shop, small engine repair, butcher shop, and several pallet mills.

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Amish vendors participate in the recently established Gateway Farmers Market in Clare. A large quilt auction and craft show at Yoder’s Farm comes each Spring and Fall (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday and Saturday of May, and Friday and Saturday of Labor Day Weekend). The craft show presents over 400 vendors. A number of concession stands and several food specialty tents, featuring meals, baked goods and cheese, are hosted by the Amish in fund raising efforts for their local schools.

For more information on Amish life and beliefs read, Amish Society by John Hostettler, available at most public libraries.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **Clare County Chambers of Commerce and Convention Visitors Bureau**

Clare Area Chamber of Commerce  
429 N McEwan St  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (888) AT-CLARE or (989) 386-2442  
Fax: (989) 386-3173  
Email: chamber@claremichigan.com  
Website: www.claremichigan.com

Clare County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
429 N. McEwan St, PO Box 226  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (800) 233-1359 or (989) 386-6400  
Email: clareco@c-zone.net  
Website: www.claremi.com

Harrison Area Chamber of Commerce  
809 N First Street, PO Box 682  
Harrison, Michigan 49625  
Phone: 989-539-6011  
Fax: 989-539-6099  
Email: harrison@glccomputers.com  
Website: www.harrisonchamber.com

Farwell Area Chamber of Commerce  
221 W Main St, PO Box 771  
Farwell, MI 48622  
Phone/Fax: (989) 588-0580  
Email: facc@farwellareachamber.com  
Website: www.farwellareachamber.com

## Clare County Schools & Educational Resources

Public school district boundaries do not follow county lines. Clare County contains most, or parts of, eight public school districts. The three major school districts located primarily in Clare County are the Clare, Farwell, and Harrison districts.

**Clare Public Schools** are located in the City of Clare and serve students in Clare County and Isabella County. The School District's K-12 programs are offered on a single campus with one elementary school, one middle school, one high school, and adult and alternative education programs. Athletic events are held at Brookwood Park. Enrollment is approximately 1,550 students.

Clare Public Schools  
201 E State St  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-9945  
Website: [www.clare.k12.mi.us](http://www.clare.k12.mi.us)

**Farwell Area Schools** are located in the Village of Farwell and serve students in Clare County and Isabella County. The School District's K-12 programs are also offered on a single campus with one elementary school, one middle school, one high school, and an alternative education program. Athletic events are held north of the Village of Farwell on North Avenue. Enrollment is approximately 1,625 students.

Farwell Area Schools  
371 E Main St  
Farwell, MI 48622  
Phone: (989) 588-9917  
Fax: (989) 588-6440

**Harrison Community Schools** are located on several sites in the City of Harrison and serves students in Clare County and Gladwin County. The School District's K-12 programs involve two elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and other community education programs. Athletic events are held near Harrison High School. Enrollment is approximately 2,185 students.

Harrison Community Schools  
224 W Main St  
PO Box 529  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-7871  
Fax: (989) 539-7491  
Website: [www.cgresd.net/hcs](http://www.cgresd.net/hcs)

### Other K-12 Public School Districts

Five other public school districts have territory in Clare County, although they are located primarily in adjacent counties. Their contact information is below:

Beaverton Rural Schools  
468 S Ross St  
Beaverton, MI 48612  
Phone: (989) 246-3000

Ewart Public Schools  
321 N Hemlock  
Ewart, MI 49631  
Phone: (231) 734-5594

McBain Rural Agricultural School  
107 E Maple  
Mc Bain, MI 49657  
Phone: (231) 825-2165

Gladwin Community Schools  
1206 N Spring St  
Gladwin, MI 48624  
Phone: (989) 426-9255

Marion Public Schools  
510 W Main St  
Marion, MI 49665  
Phone: (616) 743-2486

**Non Public School Districts**

St. Cecilia School (Catholic)  
106 E Wheaton Ave  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-9862  
(Pre-school through grade six)

Skeels Christian School  
3956 North M-18  
Gladwin, MI 48624  
Phone: (989) 426-2054  
(Pre-school through grade twelve)

In addition to the above non-public schools, the Amish Community operates four one-room schools for grades first through eighth.

**Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District (RESD)** serves the three K-12 school districts primarily located in Clare County and the Beaverton Rural Schools and Gladwin Community schools located in Gladwin County.

A wide variety of services are provided including professional development, special education, a regional media center, a fiber optic network, a Tech Prep Consortium including shared time vocational-technical programs, and liaison with the Michigan Department of Education.

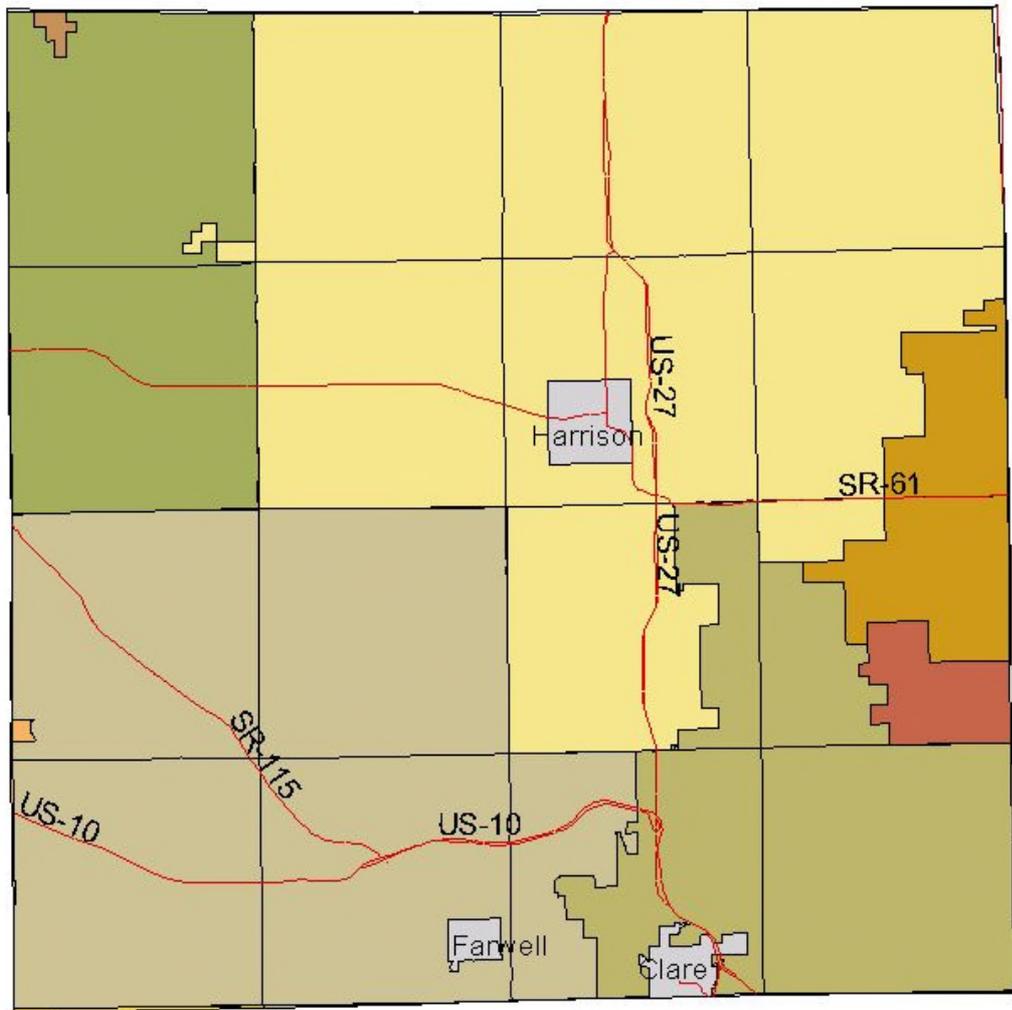
Clare-Gladwin RESD  
4041 E Mannsiding Rd  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-3851  
Fax: (989) 386-3238  
Website: [www.cgresd.net](http://www.cgresd.net)

**Mid Michigan Community College (MMCC)** was founded in 1965 by the voters of the five local school districts and the then existing two intermediate districts in Clare and Gladwin counties. A 1.5 mill construction and operation millage was passed in the voting district to support the college and a 560-acre site on old route 27 South of Harrison was purchased. Construction of the initial facility began in 1968. In 1994, a satellite building and campus was added in Mt. Pleasant to serve Isabella County. Enrollment has grown from 196 students in 1968 to more than 5,000 currently.

MMCC offers a wide variety of academic courses, technical programs and associate degree programs. Additional facilities have been added on the main campus at various times to serve the growing enrollment and college community.

Mid Michigan Community College  
1375 S Clare Ave  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-6622  
Fax: (989) 386-9088  
Website: [www.midmich.edu](http://www.midmich.edu)

# Major School Districts



- Highways
- Cities and Towns
- Townships
- Beaverton Rural Schools
- Clare Public Schools
- Ewart Public Schools
- Farwell Area Schools
- Gladwin Community Schools
- Harrison Community Schools
- Marion Public Schools
- McBain Rural Agricultural Schs.

## Clare County Libraries

Harrison Community Library  
105 W Main St, PO Box 380  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-6711  
Fax: (989) 539-7129  
Website: [www.geocities.com/harrlib](http://www.geocities.com/harrlib)

Pere Marquette Library  
185 E Fourth St  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-7576

Surrey Township Library  
105 E Michigan St  
Farwell, MI 48622  
Phone: (989) 588-9782

## Clare County Public Safety

Police – People in the County are served by the Clare County Sheriff’s Department with support from the Michigan State Police. In addition, the City of Clare police force. The Sheriff’s Department also administers the County Jail in Harrison and a county-wide 911 service.

Michigan State Police-Gladwin Post  
1302 Chatterton  
Gladwin, MI 48624  
Phone: (989) 426-4811

Clare County Sheriff’s Department  
255 W Main St  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-7166

Michigan State Police-Mt. Pleasant Post 63  
3580 S Isabella Rd  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
Phone: (989) 773-5951

City of Clare Police Department  
206 W Fifth St  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-2121

Fire – Property protection is provided by volunteer Fire Departments in Clare, Farwell, and Harrison. In addition, there are also three townships that have volunteer units; they are Surrey, Garfield, and Lincoln townships.

City of Clare  
207 W Fifth St  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-2151

City of Harrison & DNR  
2115 Sullivan Drive  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-6411

Village of Farwell  
110 E Michigan St  
Farwell, MI 48622  
Phone: (989) 588-6914

Lincoln Township  
310 Bringold  
Lake George, MI 48633  
Phone: (989) 588-9402

Garfield Township  
9460 Terry St, PO Box 390  
Lake, MI 48632  
Phone: (989) 544-2390

Surrey Township  
185 N Superior  
Farwell, MI 48622  
Phone: (989) 588-9571

Ambulance – Medical transportation services are available from volunteer medical response teams in Clare and Harrison.

MMR/Mobile Medical Response  
8746 S. Clare Ave.  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-0911

United Rescue Service-Emergencies  
229 E. Beech St.  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-6331

Animal Control – There is a Clare County Animal Shelter  
4038 Hazel Drive  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-3221

Michigan DNR – There are two offices in Clare County that provide natural resource support and firefighting expertise. They also provide equipment for fires on public land and winter snowmobile trail maintenance.

Clare DNR Field Office  
8540 S Clare Ave  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-4067

Harrison DNR Field Office  
2115 Sullivan Drive  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-6411

Gladwin DNR Management Unit  
801 N Silverleaf, PO Box 337  
Gladwin, MI 48624  
Phone: (989) 426-9205

### **Clare County Health & Human Services**

Mid Michigan Medical Center-Clare  
104 W Sixth St  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 802-5000  
[www.midmichigan.org](http://www.midmichigan.org).

North Woods Nursing Center  
2532 Cadillac Drive  
Farwell, MI 48622  
Phone: (989) 588-9928

Mid MI Urgent Care  
700 W Fifth St  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-0500

Tendercare-Clare  
600 E. 4th Street  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-7723

Community Mental Health Department  
789 N Clare Ave.  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-2141

Shamrock Manor Senior Care Center  
684 Ann Arbor Trail  
Clare, MI 48617  
Phone: (989) 386-7524

Central Michigan District Health Department  
255 W. Main St, PO Box 237  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-6731  
[www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)

Mid Michigan Industries  
2426 Parkway Drive  
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858  
Phone: (989) 773-6918  
Fax: (989) 773-1713

Mid Michigan Community Action Agency  
1574 E Washington Road  
Farwell, MI 48622  
Phone: (989) 386-3805 ext 1003  
Fax: (989) 386-3277

Department of Human Services  
255 W. Main St. PO box 237  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone: (989) 539-4260

# SOCIOECONOMICS



## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

### Population Trends

Between 1960 and 2000, Clare County's population increased by 19,605 (168.3 percent) to reach 31,252 residents. The growth rate was not constant over the 40-year period, with the population increasing by 43.3 percent between 1960 and 1970, 42.7 percent between 1970 and 1980, 4.7 percent between 1980 and 1990, and 25.2 percent between 1990 and 2000. Clare County's growth rate was much greater than Michigan's rate of 27.0 percent. In the 2000 census, Clare County ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the State for rate of growth.

Communities within Clare County experienced different rates of growth during the 40-year period between 1960 and 2000. Populations increased in the City of Clare and the City of Harrison, as well as within the Village of Farwell. The City of Clare increased by 698 people (28.6 percent), the City of Harrison increased by 1,036 people (96.6 percent). The Village of Farwell remained relatively stable, growing to 855 people, an increase of 118 people (16.0 percent).

All of the Townships grew during the 40 years between 1960 and 2000. Fourteen of the sixteen Townships grew by at least 115 percent (doubling in size). Freeman Township had the greatest growth rate with 780.3 percent, followed by Hayes Township with 711.2 percent and Lincoln Township with 409.6 percent. Numerically, Hayes Township grew the most with an increase of 4,310 people. Surrey Township follows with an increase of 1,902 people, and Grant Township with an increase of 1,706. As with the County, growth was not uniform in any of the communities, with each experiencing different rates of growth over the 40-year period.

Table 3: Population Trends in Clare County

COMMUNITY	POPULATION					CHANGE 1960-2000	
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	#	%
State							
Michigan	7,823,194	8,875,083	9,262,078	9,295,297	9,938,444	2,115,250	27.0%
Countywide							
Clare County	11,647	16,695	23,822	24,952	31,252	19,605	168.3%
Cities							
Clare	2,442	2,639	3,300	3,013	3,140	698	28.6%
Harrison	1,072	1,460	1,700	1,835	2,108	1,036	96.6%
Village							
Farwell	737	777	804	851	855	118	16.0%
<b>Townships (excluding city and village population)</b>							
Arthur	420	457	562	544	667	247	58.8%
Franklin	251	374	631	600	809	558	222.3%
Freeman	127	212	437	613	1,118	991	780.3%
Frost	338	607	852	826	1,159	821	242.9%
Garfield	686	938	1,416	1,477	1,968	1,282	186.9%
Grant	1,328	1,754	2,227	2,636	3,034	1,706	128.5%
Greenwood	255	362	649	718	1,059	804	315.3%
Hamilton	513	796	1,595	1,546	1,988	1,475	287.5%
Hatton	295	460	638	673	923	628	212.9%
Hayes	606	1,942	3,609	3,811	4,916	4,310	711.2%
Lincoln	345	645	974	1,253	1,758	1,413	409.6%
Redding	200	281	401	448	526	326	163.0%
Sheridan	712	863	1,033	1,051	1,588	876	123.0%
Summerfield	119	214	279	316	453	334	280.7%
Surrey	1,653	2,338	3,101	3,221	3,555	1,902	115.1%
Winterfield	285	335	418	371	483	198	69.5%

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 4: Population Trends in East Central Michigan Region

County	1950	1960	%	1970	%	1980	%	1990	%	2000	%
Arenac	9,644	9,860	+2.2	11,149	+13.1	14,706	+31.9	14,931	+1.5	17,269	+15.7
Bay	88,461	107,042	+21.0	117,339	+9.6	119,881	+2.2	111,723	-6.8	110,157	-1.4
Clare	10,253	11,647	+13.6	16,695	+43.3	23,822	+42.7	24,952	+4.7	31,252	+25.2
Gladwin	9,451	10,769	+13.9	13,471	+25.1	19,957	+48.1	21,896	+9.7	26,023	+18.8
Gratiot	33,429	37,012	+10.7	39,246	+6.0	40,448	+3.1	38,982	-3.6	42,285	+14.3
Huron	33,149	34,006	+2.6	34,083	+0.2	36,459	+7.0	34,951	-4.1	36,079	+3.2
Iosco	10,906	16,505	+51.3	24,905	+50.9	28,349	+13.8	30,209	+6.6	27,339	-9.5
Isabella	28,964	35,348	+22.0	44,594	+26.2	54,110	+21.3	54,624	+0.9	63,351	+16.0
Midland	35,662	51,450	+44.3	63,769	+23.9	73,578	+15.4	75,651	+2.8	82,874	+9.5
Ogemaw	9,345	9,680	+3.6	11,903	+23.0	16,436	+38.1	18,681	+13.7	21,645	+15.9
Roscommon	5,916	7,200	+21.7	9,892	+37.2	16,374	+65.5	19,776	+20.8	25,469	+28.8
Saginaw	153,515	190,752	+24.3	219,743	+15.2	228,059	+3.8	211,946	-7.1	210,039	-0.9
Sanilac	30,837	32,314	+4.8	34,889	+8.0	40,789	+16.9	38,928	-2.1	44,547	+11.6
Tuscola	38,258	43,305	+13.2	48,603	+12.2	56,961	+17.2	55,498	-2.6	58,266	+5.0

Source: US Census Bureau/ECMPDR 3/11/04

### Age Distribution

Clare County’s age distribution varies from Michigan’s in a number of ways. In 1990, the County’s median age was 36.2, which was nearly four years older than Michigan’s median of 32.6. In 1990, Clare County had a higher percentage of people between 20 and 54 (42.2%) in comparison to the other grouped age brackets (under 5-19) 28.5% and (55-85+) 29.2%. These figures closely reflected the state figures, but there is some discrepancy. The statewide percentage of population in the 55-85+ age group was 20.4%. Clare County’s percent of population within that age group was approximately 10 percent higher.

In 2000, the difference between the County and State grew. Clare County’s median age of 40.5 was five years greater than Michigan’s median of 35.5. In 2000, Clare County had a higher percentage of people in the age group 55-85+ (30.1) than the state average (21.0) and a lower percentage of people between 20-54. Also, the County had a lower percentage of residents between the under 5-19 age group than the state average. This suggests that Clare County has a large portion of working class individuals and a growing retired age population.

The primary changes that occurred in the County between 1990 and 2000 include the overall aging of the population, with the median age increasing from 36.2 to 40.5 years of age. The age groups that lost percentage were the under 5, 5-9, 20-24, 25-34, and the 65-74 age group. Several groups decreased numerically as well, which is significant since the overall population increased. Those age groups that decreased numerically include under 5, 20-24, and 25-34.

Table 5: Age Distribution Trends

	CLARE COUNTY				MICHIGAN	
	1990		2000		2000	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 5	1,820	7.3%	1,815	5.8%	672,005	6.8%
5-9	1,878	7.5%	2,145	6.9%	745,181	7.5%
10-14	1,806	7.2%	2,293	7.3%	747,012	7.5%
15-19	1,624	6.5%	2,144	6.9%	719,867	7.2%
20-24	1,441	5.8%	1,436	4.6%	643,839	6.5%
25-34	3,491	14.0%	3,412	10.9%	1,362,171	13.7%
35-44	3,070	12.3%	4,368	14.0%	1,598,373	16.1%
45-54	2,514	10.1%	4,203	13.4%	1,367,939	13.8%
55-59	1,332	5.3%	2,039	6.5%	485,895	4.9%
60-64	1,573	6.3%	1,999	6.4%	377,144	3.8%
65-74	2,718	10.9%	3,196	10.2%	642,880	6.5%
75-84	1,352	5.4%	1,725	5.5%	433,678	4.4%
85+	333	1.3%	477	1.5%	142,460	1.4%
Total	24,952	100.0%	31,252	100.0%	9,938,444	100.0%
Median	36.2		40.5		35.5	

Source: US Census Bureau

### Gender Distribution

In 2000 Clare County’s male-female distribution was almost even, with males accounting for 49.3 percent of the population and females accounting for 50.7 percent. This is nearly equal to the Michigan percentages as-a-whole. The fact that there are more females (in both County and Michigan) is normal since women have a longer life expectancy.

Table 6: Gender Distribution Trends

	<i>CLARE COUNTY</i>				<i>MICHIGAN</i>	
	1990		2000		1990	2000
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Male</b>	12,069	48.4%	15,401	49.3%	4,873,095	49.0%
<b>Female</b>	12,883	51.6%	15,851	50.7%	5,065,349	51.0%
<b>Total</b>	24,952	100.0%	31,252	100.0%	9,938,444	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau

**Household Distribution**

In 1990, Clare County had 9,698 households. The County had a higher percentage of family households, accounting for 73.3 percent of households, than Michigan. Within the County’s family households, there were higher a percentage of married couple families. The percentage of single female parents was lower than in Michigan. While the overall percentage of non-family households was lower (26.7 percent), the percentage of single householder’s 65 and over living alone was higher in 1990.

In 2000, Clare County had 12,686 households. Again as in 1990, the County had a higher percentage of family households, accounting for 69.0 percent of households, than Michigan. Within the County’s family households, there were a higher percentage of married couple families. Clare County’s percentage of single female parents was lower than in Michigan. As in 1990, the percentage of non-family households was lower. While the overall percentage was lower (31.0 percent), the percentage of single householders 65 and over living alone was slightly higher.

Several changes occurred in Clare County between 1990 and 2000. The number of households increased, the percentage of family households decreased, the percentage of female householders with no spouse decreased, the percentage of non-family households increased, and the persons per household decreased.

Table 7: Household Distribution Trends

<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS			NONFAMILY HOUSEHOLDS			PERSONS PER HOUSE HOLD	PERSONS IN GROUP QUARTERS	
	Total	Married Couple Family	Female Householder with no spouse	Total	Householder living alone	Householder 65 & Over Living Alone			
<b>1990</b>									
<b>Clare Co.</b>	9,698	7,113	5,772	1,014	2,585	2,183	1,134	2.54	314
<b>%</b>	100.0%	73.3%	59.5%	10.5%	26.7%	22.5%	11.7%		1.3%
<b>Michigan</b>	100.0%	71.3%	55.1%	12.9%	28.7%	23.7%	9.3%	2.66	2.3%
<b>%</b>									
<b>2000</b>									
<b>Clare Co.</b>	12,686	8,749	7,010	1,191	3,937	3,330	1,483	2.42	501
<b>%</b>	100.0%	69.0%	55.3%	9.4%	31.0%	26.2%	11.7%		1.6%
<b>Michigan</b>	100.0%	68.0%	51.4%	12.5%	32.0%	26.2%	9.4%	2.56	2.5%
<b>%</b>									

Source: US Census Bureau

### Employment Distribution

The County's employment distribution differed from Michigan's in several ways in 1990. Clare County had a higher percentage of people involved in agriculture, construction, manufacturing of non-durable goods, and educational services. On the other side, the County had a lower percentage of people involved in manufacturing of durable goods, wholesale trade, fire, business and repair services, health services, and other professional services.

During the five-year period between 1997 and 2001, the County's labor force remained fairly constant, hovering around 11,000 people. During the same period the number of employed also remained fairly constant. The unemployment rate steadily decreased between 1997 and 2000, but experienced a sharp increase in 2001 with the number of unemployed peaking at 1,250. Michigan's unemployment rate also steadily declined between 1997 and 2000, but increased in 2001. Clare County's unemployment rate is consistently about five percentage points higher on average than Michigan's.

Table 8: Employment Trends

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>CLARE COUNTY</b>					
Labor Force	10,075	10,250	10,625	10,875	10,975
Employment	8,975	9,225	9,375	9,925	9,750
Unemployment	1,100	1,025	1,250	950	1,250
Unemployment Rate	10.9%	9.9%	11.7%	8.6%	11.3%
<b>MICHIGAN</b>					
Labor Force	4,882,000	4,946,000	5,028,000	5,115,000	5,115,000
Employment	4,621,000	4,717,000	4,784,000	4,910,000	4,838,000
Unemployment	261,000	230,000	244,000	205,000	277,000
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	4.6%	4.8%	4.0%	5.4%

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 9: Employment Distribution Trends

	CLARE COUNTY				MICHIGAN			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employed Persons 16 and over	7,986	100.0%	11,675	100.0%	4,166,196	100.0%	4,637,461	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Mining	210	2.6%	400	3.4%	72,530	1.7%	49,496	1.1%
Construction	170	2.1%	1,049	9.0%	205,481	4.9%	278,079	6.0%
Manufacturing, Non-durable Goods	564	7.1%			233,031	5.6%		
Manufacturing, Durable Goods	854	10.7%	2,047	17.5%	793,009	19.0%	1,045,651	22.5%
Transportation	320	4.0%	491	4.2%	139,388	3.3%	191,799	4.1%
Communications and Other Public Utilities	125	1.6%			88,190	2.1%		
Wholesale	206	2.6%	222	1.9%	166,864	4.0%	151,656	3.3%
Retail Trade	1,830	22.9%	1,676	14.4%	748,697	18.0%	550,918	11.9%
Finance, Insurance Real Estate	325	4.1%	472	4.0%	226,708	5.4%	246,633	5.3%
Business and Repair Services	232	2.9%			194,961	4.7%		
Personal Services	295	3.7%			110,454	2.7%		
Entertainment and Recreation	66	.8%	1,360	11.6%	49,092	1.2%	351,229	7.6%
Health Services	644	8.1%	2332	20.0%	370,955	8.9%	921,395	19.9%
Educational Services	624	7.8%			358,336	8.6%		
Other Professional and Related Services	397	5.0%	515	4.4%	241,502	5.8%	212,868	4.6%
Public Administration	429	5.4%	486	4.2%	156,180	3.7%	167,731	3.6%
Information			130	1.1%			98,887	2.1%
Professional, Scientific, Waste Management			495	4.2%			371,119	8.0%

Source: US Census Bureau

### Income and Poverty

On average, Clare County’s residents tend to have lower incomes than other Michigan residents as a whole. In 2000, the County’s median household income was \$28,845, which is considerably lower than Michigan’s median of \$44,667. Similarly, the per capita levels in the County were also lower. The percentage of people below the poverty level in 2000 (which is based more on County income levels) was higher in Clare County (12.1 percent) than in Michigan (7.4 percent).

Table 10: Income and Poverty

	MEDIAN				PERCENT OF	
	HOUSEHOLD INCOME		PER CAPITA INCOME		POPULATION BELOW	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Clare County	\$17,163	\$28,845	\$9,152	\$15,922	23.7%	12.1%
Michigan	\$31,020	\$44,667	\$14,154	\$22,168	13.1%	7.4%

Source: US Census Bureau

### Housing Tenure

Housing tenure in Clare County is very different than the State as-a-whole. In 2000, the County’s 12,686 occupied housing units accounted for 57.1 percent of the County’s units. In Michigan occupied housing accounted for 89.4 percent of the housing units. This vast difference can be attributed to the large number of seasonal housing units (cottages) within Clare County. When the number of owner-occupied housing units is compared to the total number of housing units, Clare County has a much lower percentage (47.0 percent) than Michigan (66.0). But, when the number of owner-occupied units is compared to occupied units, Clare County has a much higher percentage (82.3 percent) than Michigan (73.8 percent). Usually, a higher percentage of owner-occupied housing units is a good sign since homeownership encourages pride in the housing units and community. Also, the lower percentage of renter-occupied units can be attributed to the low proportion of apartments (see next section) in Clare County.

Table 11: Housing Tenure

	CLARE COUNTY				MICHIGAN			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total Housing Units	19,135	100.0%	22,229	100.0%	3,847,926	100.0%	4,234,279	100.0%
Occupied	9,698	50.7%	12,686	57.1%	3,419,331	88.7%	3,785,661	89.4%
Owner Occupied	7,604	78.4%	10,437	82.3%	2,427,643	80.0%	2,793,124	73.8%
Renter Occupied	2,094	21.6%	2,249	17.7%	991,688	29.0%	992,537	26.2%
Vacant Seasonal/Rental	9,437	49.3%	9,543	42.9%	424,525	11.0%	448,618	10.6%

Source: US Census Bureau

### Housing Types

The types of housing units in Clare County are very different than in Michigan. In 2000, 16,997 (76.5 percent) of the County’s 19,135 housing units were traditional single-family homes. This proportion is higher than Michigan’s figure of 74.5 percent. Clare County also has fewer duplexes (.5 percent) than Michigan (3.5 percent). The County also has a much lower proportion of multiple-family homes (3.7 percent) than Michigan (15.3 percent). While Clare County had a lower proportion of duplexes and apartments in 2000, it had a much higher proportion of mobile homes, trailers, and other types of units (17.5 percent) than Michigan (6.5 percent).

Table 12: Housing Type Distribution

TYPE OF UNIT	CLARE COUNTY				MICHIGAN	
	1990		2000		1990	2000
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.
1 unit	14,986	78.3%	16,997	76.5%	2,803,767	3,153,728
2 unit			118	5%		146,414
2-4 units (1990)	244	1.3%			267,767	
3 or more	450	2.4%	836	3.7%	487,552	649,434
Mobile Home, Trailer or Other	3,455	18.1%	3,886	17.5%	288,840	277,158
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,135</b>	<b>110.0%</b>	<b>22,229</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,847,926</b>	<b>4,234,279</b>

Source: US Census Bureau

### Age of Housing

Michigan does have a higher proportion of housing units built before 1940, but Clare County has a higher proportion built between 1960 to present.

Table 13: Age of Housing

YEAR BUILT	CLARE COUNTY		MICHIGAN
	No.	%	%
1939 or earlier	1,522	6.8%	16.9%
1940-1959	4,387	19.7%	26.5%
1960-1969	4,432	19.9%	14.2%
1970-1979	5,367	24.1%	17.1%
1980-1989	2,586	11.6%	10.5%
1990-1994	1,453	6.5%	6.1%
1995-1998	1,843	8.3%	6.4%
1999-March 2000	639	2.9%	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,229</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: US Census Bureau

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS

### Population Projections

Between 2000 and 2020, Clare County's population is projected to increase by 9,998 (32.0 percent) to reach 41,250 residents. These projections are based on adding together trend-based projections for each community in Clare County. Clare County's projected growth rate is higher than Michigan's growth rate of 10.2 percent during the 20-year period.

Since the individual communities experienced different rates of growth during the 40- year period between 1960 and 2000, it follows that the trend-based projections are different for each community. Projections indicate that all of the communities will increase, with the City of Clare increasing by 7.6 percent, the City of Harrison increasing by 28.5 percent and the Village of Farwell increasing by 1.2 percent.

All of the County's townships are projected to grow. Numerically, the top five growth townships are projected to be Hayes (2,374), Sheridan (1,330), Hamilton (1,088), Lincoln (909), and Greenwood (819). The top five growth townships, based on percentage of projected growth, include Summerfield (93.4%), Sheridan (83.8%), Greenwood (77.3%), Freeman (69.7%), and Franklin (64.0%).

These population projections are entirely based on trends. Many things can influence the trends including planning, community goals, the economy, marketing, economic development, and others.

These same projections are used in this Plan to project the age/gender distribution and housing needs.

Table 14: Population Projections in Clare County

COMMUNITY	POPULATION					CHANGE 2000-2020	
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	No.	%
<b>State</b>							
Michigan	9,262,044	9,295,277	9,938,444	10,435,366	10,957,134	1,018,690	10.2%
<b>County Wide</b>							
Clare County	23,822	24,952	31,252	36,250	41,250	9,998	32%
<b>Cities</b>							
Clare	3,300	3,013	3,140	3,245	3,378	238	7.6%
Harrison	1,700	1,835	2,108	2,356	2,709	601	28.5%
<b>Villages</b>							
Farwell	804	851	855	863	871	16	1.2%
<b><u>Townships (excluding city and village populations)</u></b>							
Arthur	562	544	667	798	945	278	41.7%
Franklin	631	600	809	1,091	1,327	518	64.0%
Freeman	437	613	1,118	1,532	1,897	779	69.7%
Frost	852	826	1,159	1,322	1,750	591	51.0%
Garfield	1,416	1,477	1,968	2,317	2,681	713	36.2%
Grant	2,227	2,636	3,034	3,389	3,798	764	25.1%
Greenwood	649	718	1,059	1,346	1,878	819	77.3%
Hamilton	1,595	1,546	1,988	2,464	3,076	1,088	54.7%
Hatton	638	673	923	1,165	1,496	573	62.1%
Hayes	3,609	3,811	4,916	5,810	7,290	2,374	48.3%
Lincoln	974	1,253	1,758	2,261	2,667	909	51.7%
Redding	401	448	526	601	634	108	20.5%
Sheridan	1,033	1,051	1,588	2,198	2,918	1,330	83.8%
Summerfield	279	316	453	609	876	423	93.4%
Surrey	3,108	3,221	3,555	3,819	4,100	545	15.3%
Winterfield	418	371	483	613	785	302	62.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and ECOMPDR

Method: Linear Trend Extrapolation

### Age Distribution

If the trends in age distribution continues as between 1990 and 2000, the median age of Clare County will continue to rise. In 2000, the median age was 40.5. By 2010 the median age will reach 43.1 and by 2020 it will reach 46.3. As with the overall projections, these numbers are based entirely on past trends and do not indicate actual figures, but general ideas of what can be expected. Table 12 also contains projections for each age group, based on change rates for each of the groups. Overall, trends indicate there will be fewer children under five, but there will be more school age children. Also, there will be fewer college-age residents. The trends also indicate there will be a smaller percentage of residents between 25 and 34, but more between 35 and 44, and 45 and 54. The number of people between the ages of 65 and 84 will continue to rise, but will continue to make up a similar proportion of the population. The percentage of residents over 85 will continue to grow.

Table 15: Age Distribution Projections

CLARE COUNTY						
	2000		2010		2020	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 5	1,815	5.8%	1,813	5.0%	1,898	4.6%
5-9	2,145	6.9%	2,320	6.4%	2,517	6.1%
10-14	2,293	7.3%	2,610	7.2%	2,829	7.1%
15-19	2,144	6.9%	2,502	6.9%	2,847	6.9%
20-24	1,436	4.6%	1,450	4.0%	1,527	3.7%
25-34	3,412	10.9%	3,480	9.6%	3,672	8.9%
35-44	4,368	14.0%	5,329	14.7%	6,188	15.0%
45-54	4,203	13.4%	5,655	15.6%	6,972	16.9%
55-59	2,039	6.5%	2,574	7.1%	3,094	7.5%
60-64	1,999	6.4%	2,284	6.3%	2,558	6.2%
65-74	3,196	10.2%	3,480	9.6%	3,878	9.4%
75-84	1,725	5.5%	1,958	5.4%	2,228	5.4%
85+	477	1.5%	580	1.6%	660	1.6%
Total	31,252	100.0%	36,250	100.0%	41,250	100.0%
Median	40.5		43.1		46.3	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ECMPDR

### Gender Distribution

The proportion of males and females in Clare County is not projected to change a great deal, with women continuing to outnumber men by three percentage points.

Table 16: Gender Distribution Projections

CLARE COUNTY						
	2000		2010		2020	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	15,401	49.3%	17,726	48.9%	20,006	48.5%
Female	15,851	50.7%	18,524	51.1%	21,244	51.5%
Total	31,252	100.0%	36,250	100.0%	41,250	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, ECMPDR

### Household Distribution

The projected number of households is expected to grow at a greater rate than the population due to the fact that household sizes have continued to decrease. By 2020, projections indicate there will be 15,404 households within Clare County. This represents an increase of 21.4 percent, while the population is projected to increase by 32.0 percent. Within the household types, the percentage of married couple family households is projected to decrease; and within the family households category, the percentage of female households with no spouse is expected to decrease, while the percentage of single parent families is expected to increase. Conversely, the percentage of non-family households is expected to increase; and within the non-family households category, the percentage of one-person households is expected to increase, while the percentage of one-person households (65 and over) is projected to increase. Overall, the average household size is projected to decrease from 2.42 persons per household in 2000, to 2.31 in 2020.

Table 17: Household Distribution Projections

	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS			NONFAMILY HOUSEHOLDS			PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD	PERSONS IN GROUP QUARTERS
	Total	Married Couple Family	Female House-Holder With no Spouse	Female House-Holder w/ children under 18	Total	House-Holder Living Alone	Householder 65 & Over Living Alone		
<b>2000</b>									
Clare Co.	12,686	7,010	1,191	780	8,749	3,330	1,483	2.42	501
Percent	100.0%	55.3%	9.4%	6.1%	69.0%	26.2%	11.7%		1.6%
<b>2010</b>									
Clare Co.	14,463	7,766	1,316	925	9,748	4,150	1,706	2.36	645
Percent	100.0%	53.7%	9.1%	6.4%	67.4%	28.7%	11.8%		1.8%
<b>2020</b>									
Clare Co.	15,404	8,025	1,370	1,016	10,289	4,544	1,848	2.31	732
Percent	100.0%	52.1%	8.9%	6.6%	66.8%	29.5%	12.0%		1.9%

Source: US Census Bureau

### Employment Distribution

The County's employment distribution differed from Michigan's in several ways in 2000. Clare County had a higher percentage of people involved in agriculture, construction, retail trade, entertainment and recreation, and public administration. On the other side, the County had a lower percentage of people involved in manufacturing of durable goods, wholesale trade, finance, insurance, real estate, other professional related services, information, and professional, scientific, and waste management. It is likely in the future that recreational activities and construction will most likely become major employment areas. The loss of manufacturing statewide suggests that a transformation to a knowledge based economy will be necessary for the residents of Clare County to be competitive.

During the five-year period between 1997 and 2001, the County's labor force increased slightly, almost reaching 11,000 people. During the same period the number of employed also increased almost a thousand persons. The unemployment rate experienced a few ups and downs during the five-year period, finishing at 11.3% in 2001. Michigan's unemployment rate steadily declined between 1997 and 2000, but increased in 2001. Clare County's unemployment rate is consistently about five percentage points higher than Michigan's.

Table 18: Employment Projections

	2000	2001	2005	2010	2015
<b>Clare County</b>					
Labor Force	10,875	10,975	11,726	12,651	13,347
Employment	9,925	9,750	10,670	11,297	11,945
Unemployment	950	1,250	1,219	1,353	1,401
Unemployment Rate	8.6%	11.3%	10.4%	10.7%	10.5%

Source: ECOMPDR

Table 19: Employment Distribution Projections

	CLARE COUNTY							
	1990		2000		2010		2020	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employed Persons 16 and over	7,986	100.0%	11,675	100.0%	15,175	100.0%	18,120	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Mining	210	2.6%	400	3.4%	349	2.3%	380	2.1%
Construction	170	2.1%	1,049	9.0%	1,775	11.7%	2,156	11.9%
Manufacturing, Non-durable Goods	564	7.1%						
Manufacturing, Durable Goods	854	10.7%	2,047	17.5%	2,215	14.6%	2,518	13.9%
Transportation	320	4.0%	491	4.2%	652	4.3%	597	3.3%
Communications and Other Public Utilities	125	1.6%						
Wholesale	206	2.6%	222	1.9%	273	1.8%	289	1.6%
Retail Trade	1,830	22.9%	1,676	14.4%	2,321	15.3%	2,573	14.2%
Finance, Insurance Real Estate	325	4.1%	472	4.0%	607	4.0%	706	3.9%
Business and Repair Services	232	2.9%						
Personal Services	295	3.7%						
Entertainment and Recreation	66	.8%	1,360	11.6%	2,185	14.4%	3,026	16.7%
Health Services	644	8.1%	2,332	20.0%	3,186	21.0%	4,330	23.9%
Educational Services	624	7.8%						
Other Professional and Related Services	397	5.0%	515	4.4%	515	3.4%	398	2.2%
Public Administration	429	5.4%	486	4.2%	485	3.2%	453	2.5%
Information			130	1.1%	182	1.2%	199	1.1%
Professional, Scientific, Waste Management			495	4.2%	424	2.8%	489	2.7%

Source: ECMPDR, U.S. Census Bureau

# RECREATION AND TOURISM



## **Recreation & Tourism**

### Clare County Parks & Recreation Commission Action Plan Goals

#### Resource Development

- Goal #1: To develop an agenda for cooperative recreational resource development of state owned lands within Clare County.
- Goal #2: To enhance recreation facilities on a countywide basis.
- Goal #3: To beautify various areas in the County in partnership with Clare County Master Gardeners and other organizations and agencies.
- Goal #4: To create a facility to address indoor recreation needs of Clare County residents.

#### Recreation Program Initiatives

- Goal #1: To provide access to organized recreation for residents in rural areas within the County.

#### Services

- Goal #1: To identify and disseminate existing recreational resources and programs to residents and visitors throughout the County.
- Goal #2: To provide County residents with information regarding the benefits of leisure and recreation.

#### Service Delivery System

- Goal #1: To structure a model of operation that will enable the Commission to successfully address its goals.
- Goal #2: To develop a relationship with County residents which will enable the Commission to effectively respond to their needs, wants, and desires.

### **Clare County Parks & Recreation Commission**

MSU Extension-Clare County

225 W Main St, Harrison, MI 48625

Phone (989) 539-7805

Fax (989) 539-7805

Email [ccprc@clareco.net](mailto:ccprc@clareco.net)

Website: <http://www.clareco.net/ccprc/home>

## Clare County Recreation Facilities and Programs

Archery	Jay's Sporting Goods – Public w/Fee Harrison Sportsman's Club
Rifle Range	Clare Rod & Gun Club Harrison Sportsman's Club Lake Rod & Gun Club Moose Lodge
Trap	Harrison Sportsman's Club Clare Rod & Gun Club
Golf (# of holes)	Devils Knob (9) Eagle Glen (18) Firefly (18) Snow Snake (18) Tamaracks (27)
Tennis Courts (# of courts)	Brookwood Park (2) Clare School (6) Farwell (2) Garfield Township Park (2) Harrison (2) Hayes (2) Lake of Pine (1) Private (2) Whaite Subdivision
Soccer	Clare Middle School (3/4) Harrison City Park (2)
Baseball/Softball	Brookwood Park (2 softball/ 1 baseball) Farwell (Little League) (4 baseball/ 1 softball) Farwell Schools (2 baseball/ 1 softball) Garfield Township Park Harrison City Park (Little League) (2 baseball/ 1 softball/ 1 t-ball) Harrison High School (1 softball/ 1 baseball) Paul Clark Township Park (Hayes) Dodge City Park Leota Stamina Stadium (softball) Shamrock Park (Little League)
Swimming Pools	Lake of the Pines Association (private) Dougherty Hotel (private/public w/fee) White Birch Lake (private) Econolodge Hotel (private/public w/fee)

Picnic Areas	Brookwood (1) City Road Commission Clare City Farwell Garfield Township Park Harrison City Paul Clark Township Park (Hayes) Petit Park Shamrock (2)
Playground	Brookwood Dodge City Park Harrison Schools (Robert Larson Elem. & Hillside Elem.) Garfield Township Park Harrison City Paul Clark Township Park (Hayes) Petit Park Shamrock Wilson State Park
Boat Launches	Arnold Lake Road Bluegill Breeze Road Budd Lake Cranberry Lake Crooked/Perch Lakes Doc/Tom Lakes (private) Eight Point (Fee) Farwell Mill Pond Five Lakes Lake George Lilly Lake Little George Mudd Lake Nestor Lake Pike Lake Shamrock Silver Townline/Dodge Windover
Skiing	Chalet (X-Country) Green Pine Lake Rail Trail Silver Ridge (Downhill) Snow Snake
Biking	Pere Marquette Rail Trail

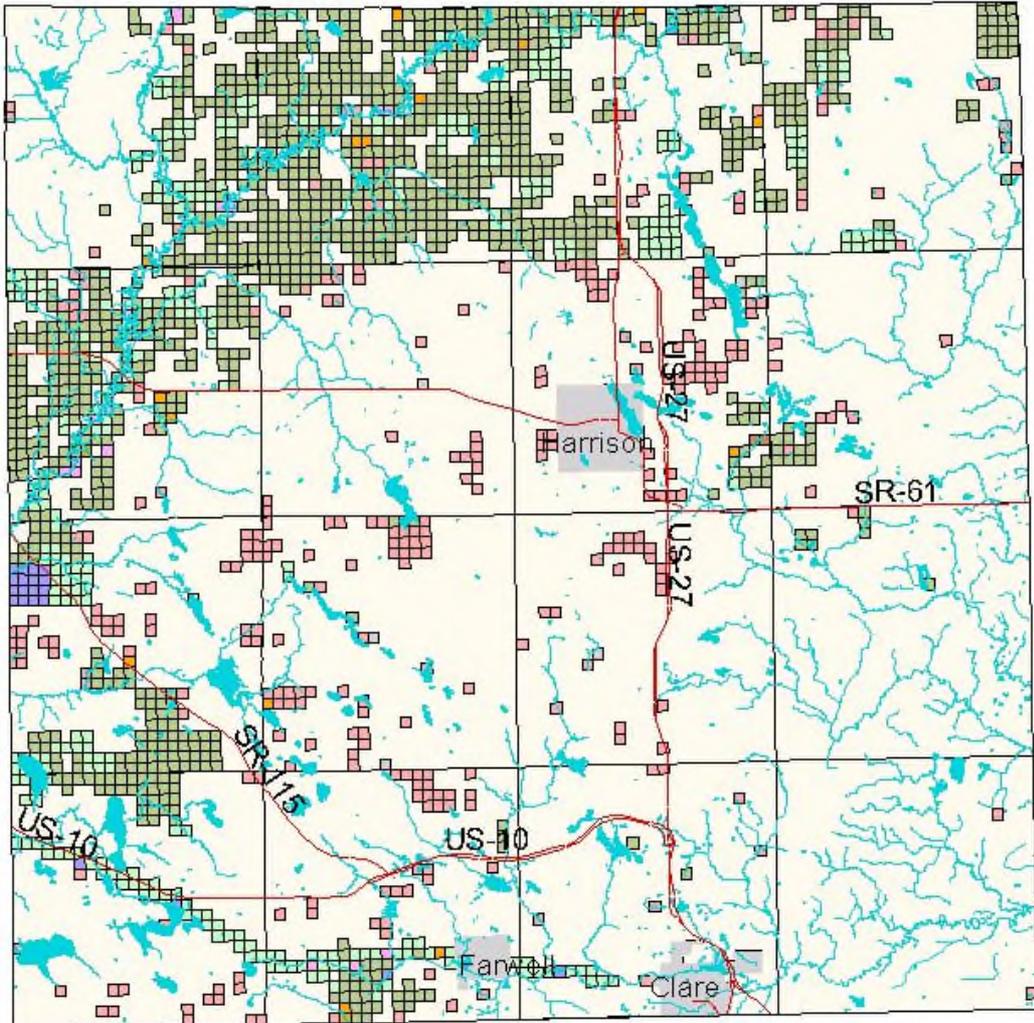
Hiking	Green Pine Lake Pathway Pere Marquette Rail Trail
Snowmobile	Leota Trailhead provides access to over 55 miles of ORV trails Please see map from Clare County Parks and Recreation
ORV	Designated trail Leota – 55 miles total – 13 miles in Clare Clare County passed the 2008 ORV Ordinance allowing the use of certain roads by ORV's. Check with local police.
Horseback Riding	Mystic Lake Private Stables
Community Centers/ Outdoor Sports Complex	Clare Senior Center MMCC Fitness Area opening in the fall of 2009 Farwell Senior Center Harrison Senior Center Hayes Township has a state certified five-year recreation plan in place which will provide a centrally located county wide outdoor sports complex park to all residents. Slated for construction 2004-05, the complex will feature soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and a skateboard park among its features. Lake Senior Center Lake George Senior Center
Local Parks (acres)	Brookwood (29.4) (City of Clare) Budd Lake Island (1.0) Budd Lake Avenue (0.8) Clare (0.8) Clare County Fairgrounds (120.0) County Road Commission (Hatton Township) Dodge City Park (2.0) Farwell (6.0) Garfield Township (3.5) Grant Township (closed) Hamlin Field (3.5) (Lincoln Township) Harrison City (40.0) Lincoln Township Park (20.0) Lloyd's Park (1.5) (Farwell) Paul Clark Township Park (38.0) (Hayes) Pettit (42.0) Saxton Park (0.7) (Harrison) Senior Park (0.4) Shamrock (9.8) Shingle Lake Park (3.0) Stamina (13.2) Summerfield (2.0) Wilson State Park (36.0)

Public Beaches	Budd Lake (St. Park) Lost Lake Arnold Lake (private) Long Lake Cranberry Lake Dodge Lake Nester Lake Lake George Five Lakes Lake Shamrock Lily Lake Boat House Lake Crooked Lake (Garfield)
Campgrounds (sites)	Camp Deer Trail Cedar Shores Countryside Duggan (50) Herrick Park Hidden Hill (70) Isabella Lake of the Pines Assoc. Lake George (55) Lost Lake Mitten Bay Mystic Lake Neyati Oakridge membership Parkers (50) Pettit Park (21) River Valley (100) Rotary Sandy Shore Withi (85) Wilson State Park
Farmer's Market	Shamrock Park, Clare (temporally inactive in 2008)
Skateboard Park	City of Clare

### **Public Land**

In addition to the numerous recreational opportunities that exist in Clare County, there are over 55,000 acres of public land for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Most of the public land is concentrated in the Northwest portion of the county, as shown in **Map #8**.

# State Owned Land



- Highways
- Lakes and Rivers
- Rivers and Streams
- Cities and Villages
- Townships and Cities
- State Ownership Type
  - Fee
  - Mineral
  - Mineral and Fee
  - Mineral and Surface
  - Mineral, Surface, and Fee
  - Rights Only
  - Surface
  - Surface and Fee
  - Clare County

# EXISTING & FUTURE LAND USE



## **EXISTING LAND USE**

### **Methodology**

Since this Plan covers an entire County, it was important to establish an accurate Existing Land Use Inventory with an appropriate level of detail. The Inventory is a parcel-by-parcel inventory, and is shown at the township level. First, the East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region (ECMPDR) scanned the hardcopy county image to a raster format (digital) with no attributes. Then the digital file was georeferenced to MI GEOREF (A standard the Michigan Center for Geographic Information uses). Individual polygons were then digitized, which represent the land use of those polygons. Acres were determined using the AlaskaPak extension. The work was completed using ArcView 3.2X.

### **Land Use Categories**

This section consists of individual pages for each of the sixteen townships indicating current land use as derived through the use of township master plans, zoning ordinances, and tax records.

Ag-Farm-Forestry-Rural Res – Basic wooded rural residential dominated by single-family homes, hunting cabins and recreational lands. This category is so named because of differing township zoning/land use plans using these names interchangeably for the same type of properties.

State/Federal/County/Twp – Government owned lands covering a wide variety of uses including municipal offices, federal, state, county, and township office facilities, schools, libraries, parks, cemeteries, recreational lands, and other areas funded by the general public.

Resort Res – Usually lands located around lakes consisting of primarily single-family homes year-around and seasonal.

Ag as taxed – Land actually used for agriculture including a variety of uses including crops, orchards, Christmas trees, livestock and other uses related to agriculture. Barns and other outbuildings are also included in this category, as are homes associated with the agricultural uses.

Commercial – This category includes retail and wholesale businesses, business and professional services, personal services, and other business that provide good or services to the general public.

Recreation – Lands owned by groups engaged in providing recreation, primarily for youth.

Industrial – This category includes sites where any type of manufacturing process occurs. Industries can include those that produce various emissions in the process (smoke, odor, noise, light, vibrations, etc.) or those that do not produce emissions detectable to surrounding areas – such as the assembly of parts shipped from other facilities.

Mobile home park – Provides rental spaces for mobile homes.

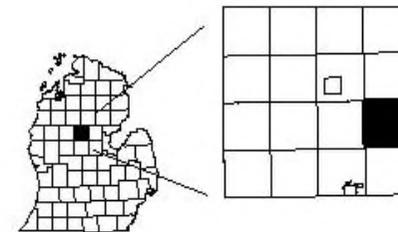
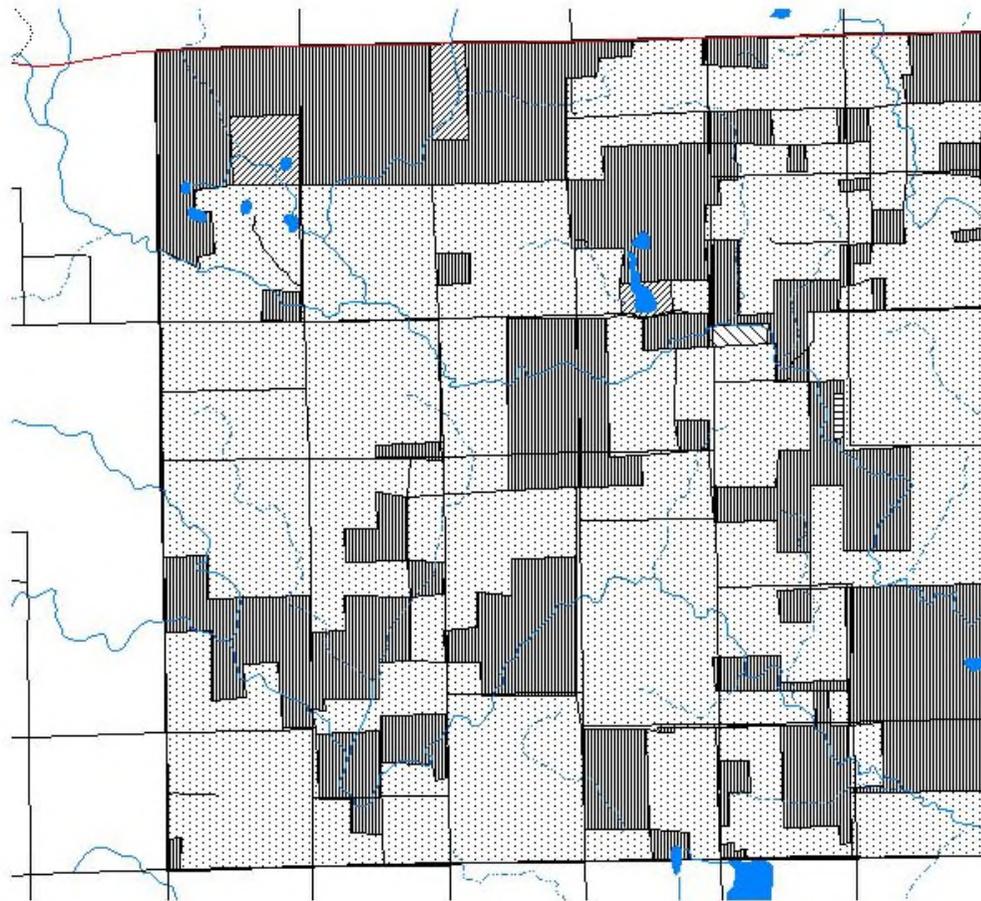
## **Land Use Distribution**

The land use maps are broken down by township, with a brief narrative about each particular township. Acres were determined for each category on the township level. A copy of the original document and the digital file are at the end.

# Arthur Township, Clare County, MI

Arthur Township - Population 667 - A largely agricultural township, M-61 creates the northern border for this township.

Acres per land use category  
Ag as taxed: 14,886  
Ag-Farm-Forestry: 7,862  
Commercial: 47  
Resort Res: 15  
State/Federal/Co: 338



## Arthur Township Land Use

- Ag as taxed
- Ag-Farm-Forestry
- Commercial
- Resort Res
- State/Federal/Co

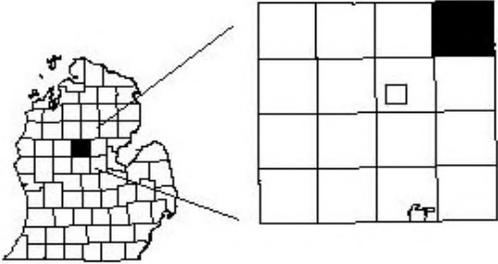
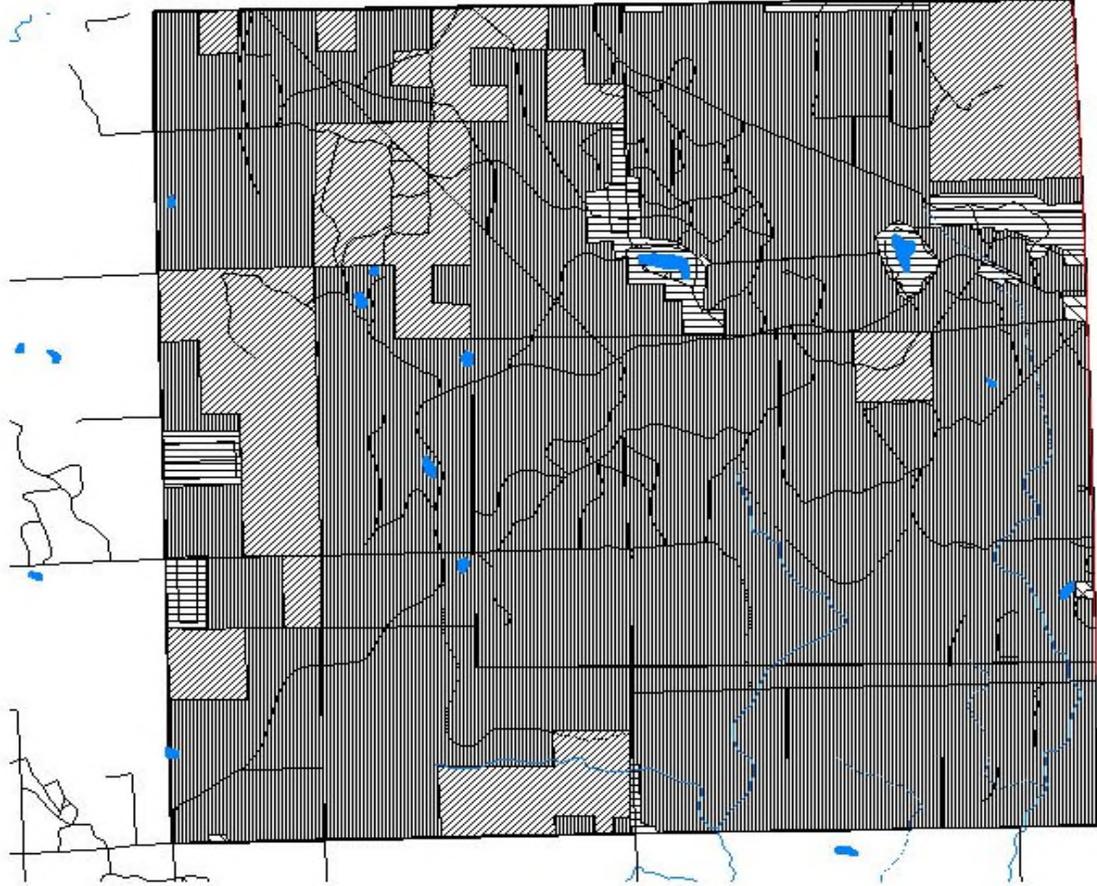
3 0 3 6 Miles



# Franklin Township, Clare County, MI

Franklin Township - Population 809 - A mostly agricultural and wooded township, it is located in the Northeastern corner of the county. Approximately 3,800 acres are under state ownership. Some wetlands and small lakes appear in the county.

Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 2  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 17,947  
 Commercial: 42  
 Resort Res: 847  
 State/Federal/Co: 3,867



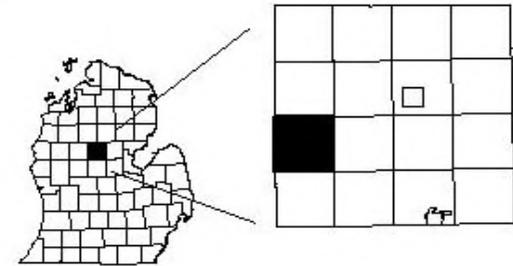
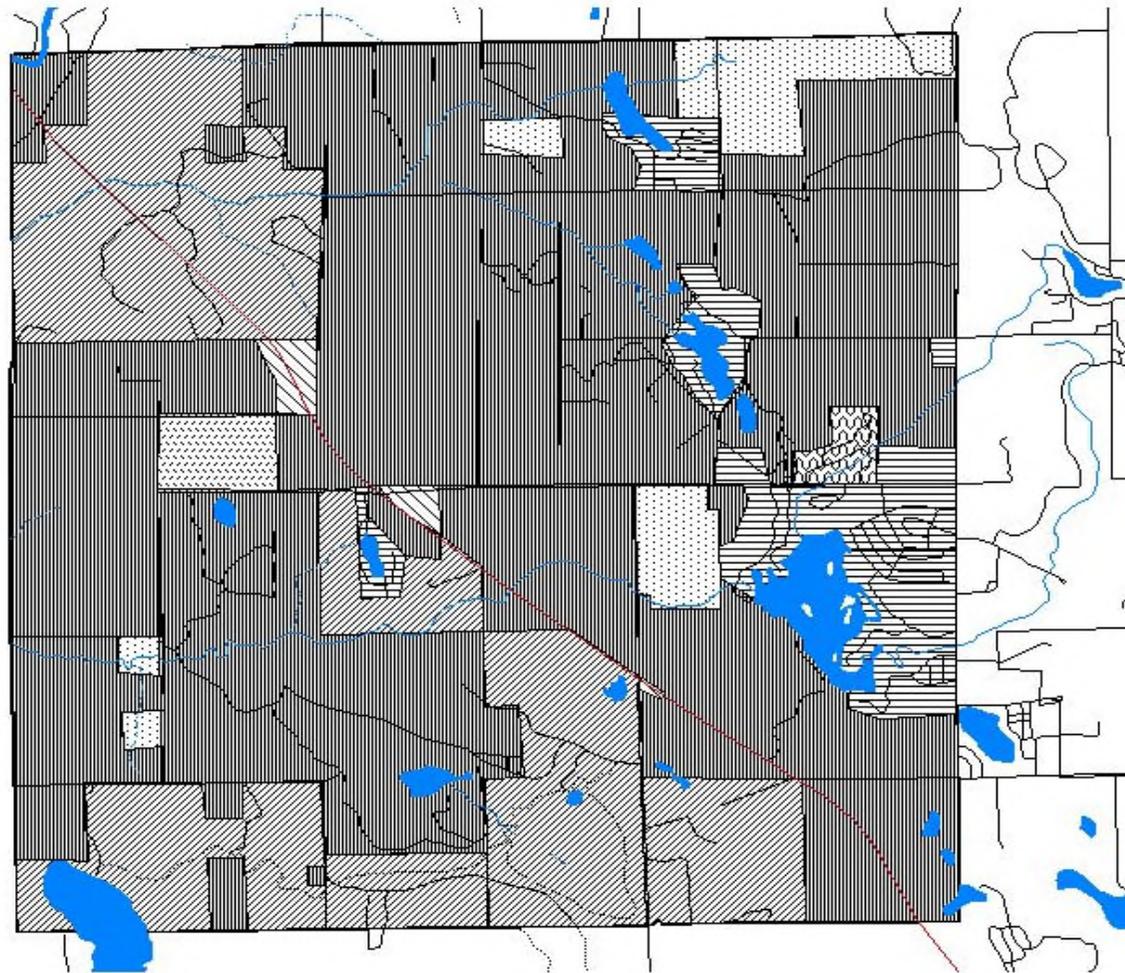
- Franklin Township Land Use**
-  Ag as taxed
  -  Ag-Farm-Forestry
  -  Commercial
  -  Resort Res
  -  State/Federal/Co



# Freeman Township, Clare County, MI

Freeman Township - Population 1,118 - A very mixed use county. There exists large tracts of wetlands. M-115 runs through the heart of the Township.

Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 948  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 13,962  
 Commercial: 148  
 Mobile home park: 259  
 Recreation: 136  
 Resort Res: 1,611  
 State/Federal/Co: 5,372

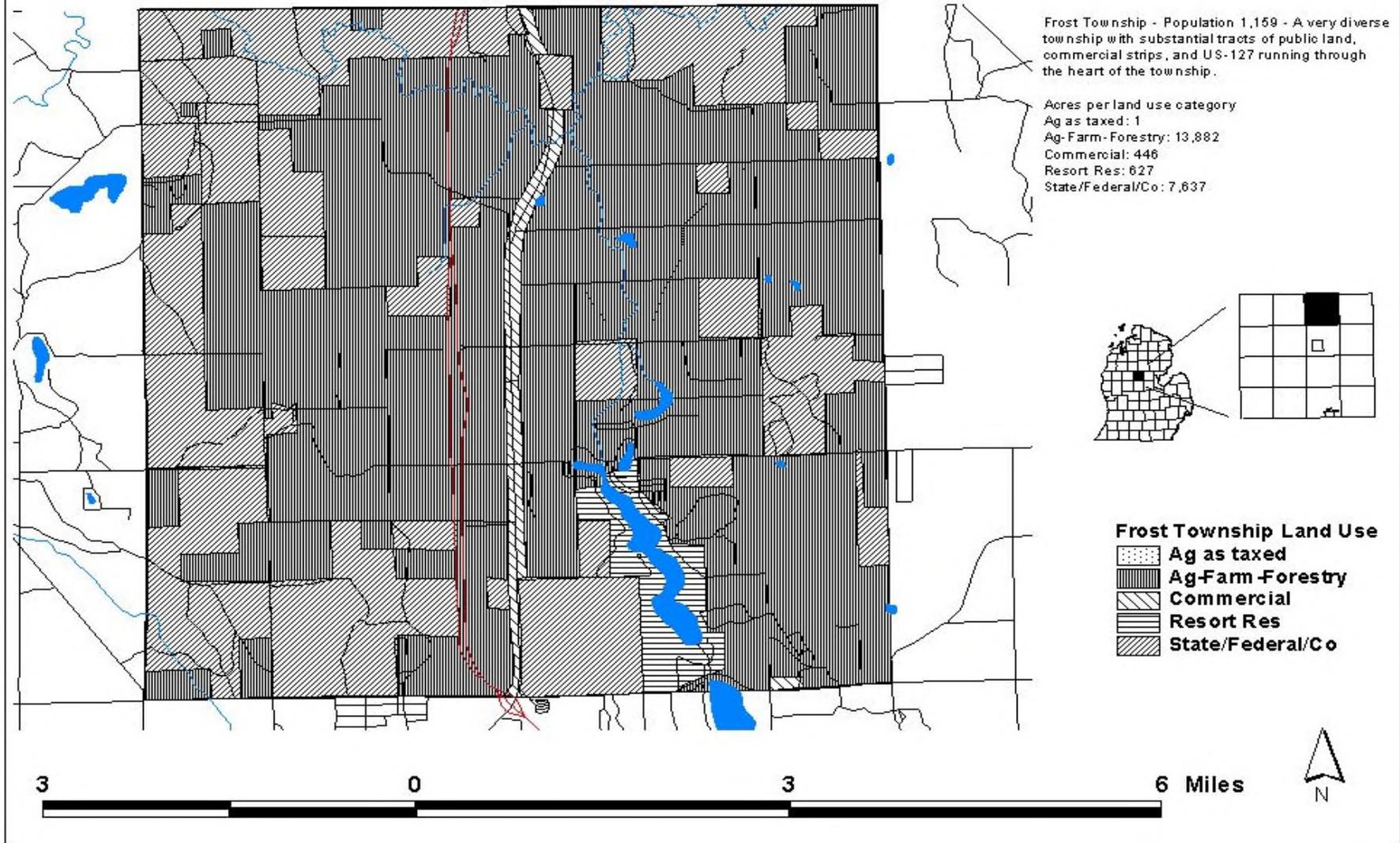


## Freeman Township Land Use

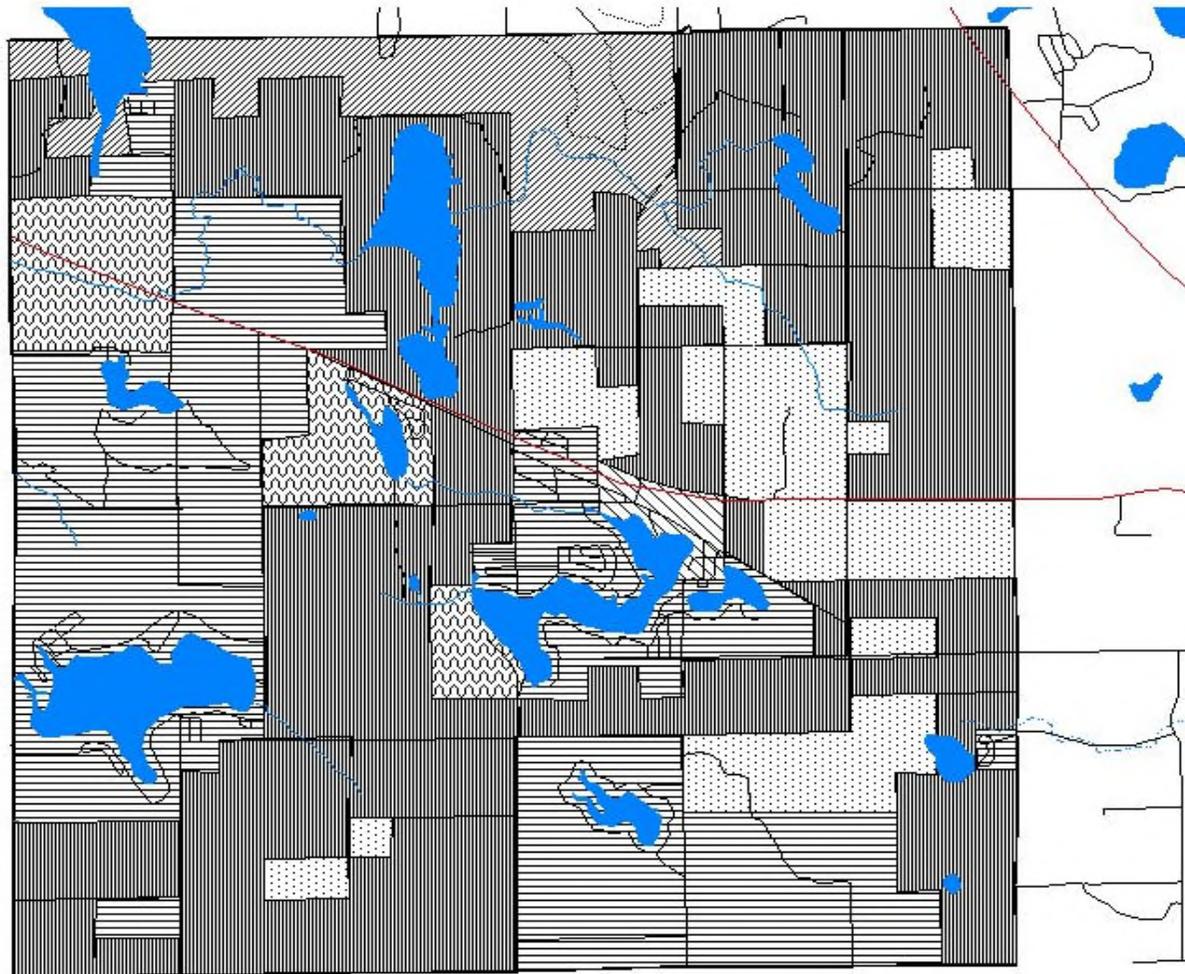
-  Ag as taxed
-  Ag-Farm-Forestry
-  Commercial
-  Mobile home park
-  Recreation
-  Resort Res
-  State/Federal/Co



# Frost Township, Clare County, MI

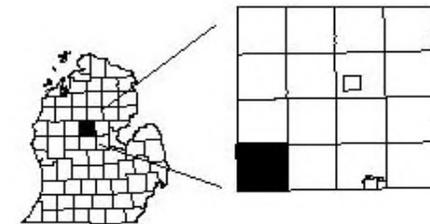


# Garfield Township, Clare County, MI



Garfield Township - Population 1,968 - Many lakes dot the township, which make this township a recreation hotspot. US-10 runs through the heart of the township.

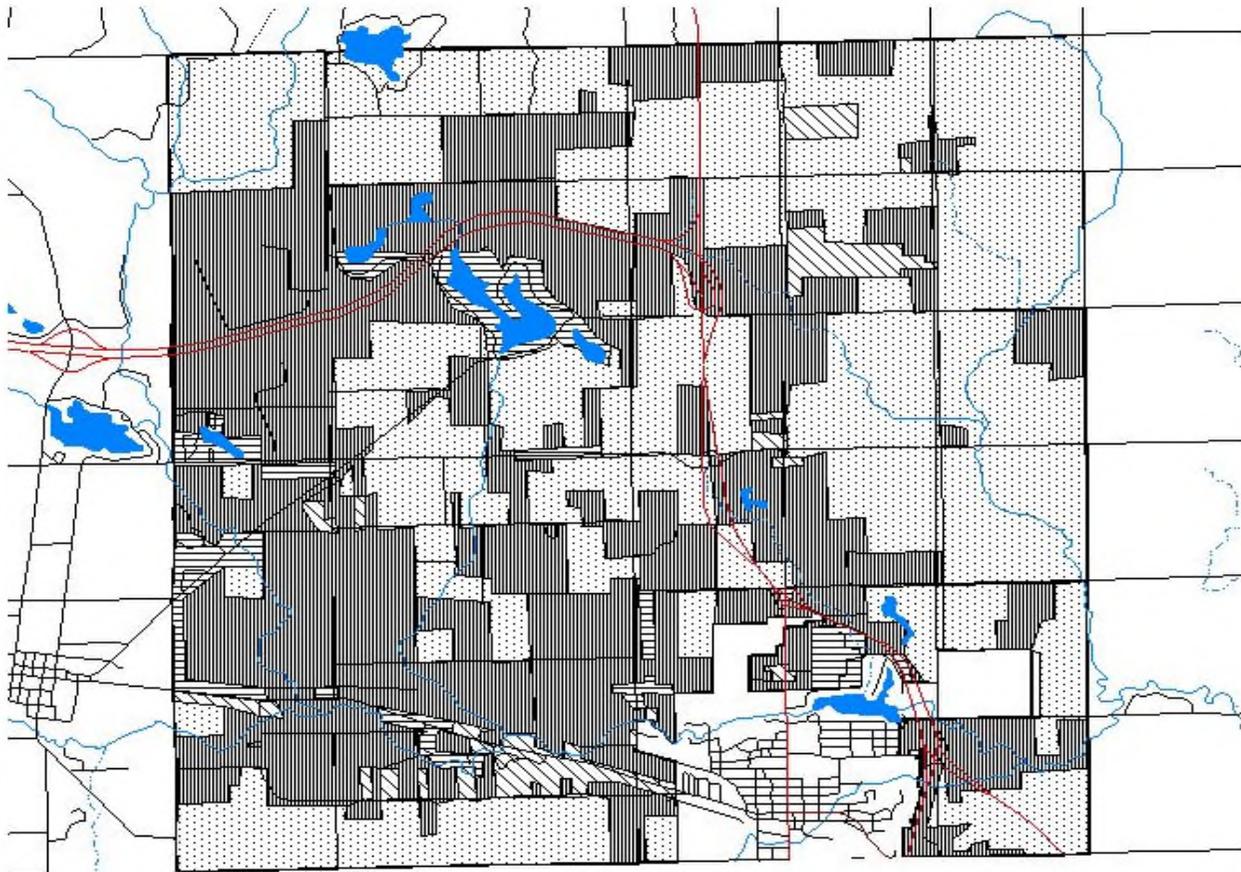
Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 2,415  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 10,260  
 Commercial: 196  
 Recreation: 1,237  
 Resort Res: 6,277  
 State/Federal/Co: 1,560



- Garfield\_twp.shp
-  Ag as taxed
  -  Ag-Farm-Forestry
  -  Commercial
  -  Recreation
  -  Resort Res
  -  State/Federal/Co

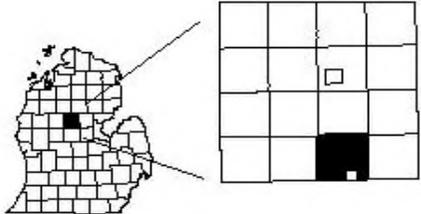


# Grant Township, Clare County, MI



Grant Township - Population 3,034 - Grant Township has seen growth in the last ten years, but still has a tremendous agricultural base. US-27, US-10, and M-115 all pass through Grant Township.

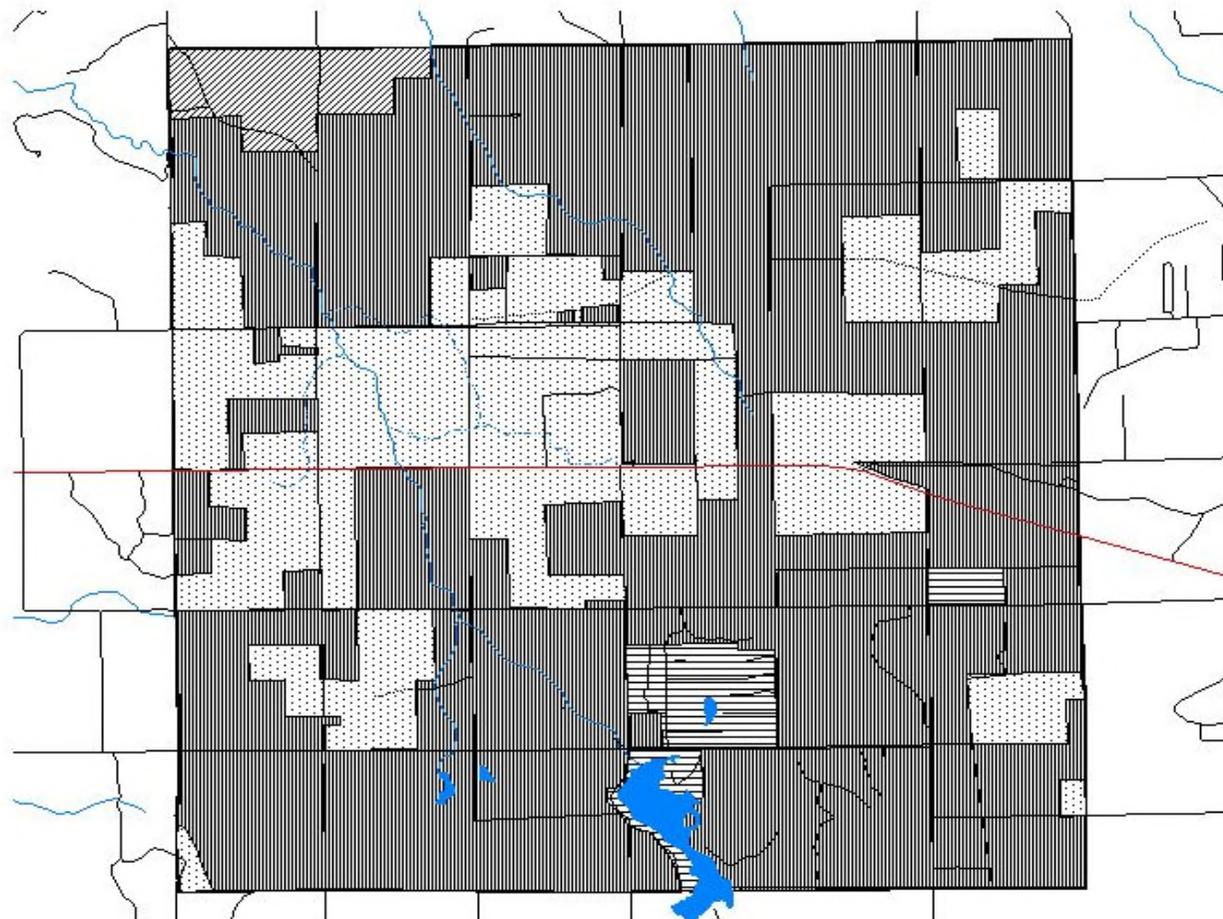
Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 10,421  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 9,446  
 Commercial: 639  
 Resort Res: 904



- Grant Township Land Use**
-  Ag as taxed
  -  Ag-Farm-Forestry
  -  Commercial
  -  Resort Res

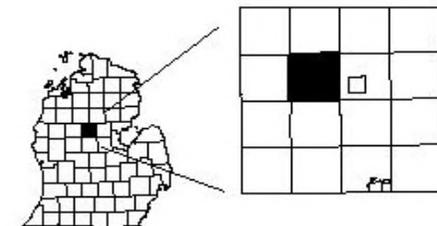


# Greenwood Township, Clare County, MI



Greenwood Township - Population 1,059 - A rural township with some scattered agricultural land. Located in the northwest central portion of the county.

Acres per land use category  
Ag as taxed: 5,956  
Ag-Farm-Forestry: 15,414  
Resort Res: 674  
State/Federal/Co: 565



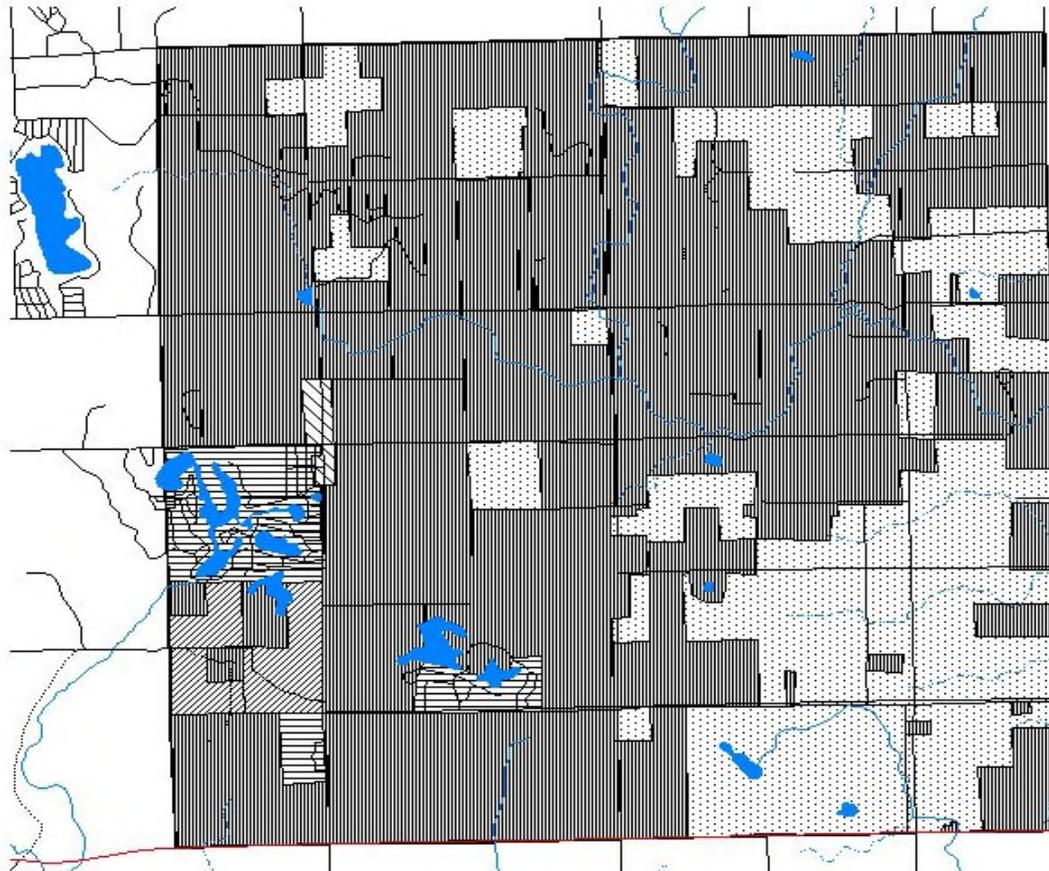
**Greenwood Township Land Use**

- Ag as taxed
- Ag-Farm-Forestry
- Resort Res
- State/Federal/Co

2 0 2 4 Miles

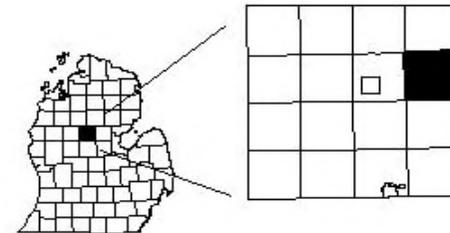


# Hamilton Township, Clare County, MI



Hamilton Township - Population 1,988 - This township shares a border with Gladwin County. M-61 creates the southern border of the township.

Acres per land use category  
Ag as taxed: 5,775  
Ag-Farm-Forestry: 15,948  
Commercial: 90  
Resort Res: 966  
State/Federal/Co: 483



## Hamilton Township Land Use

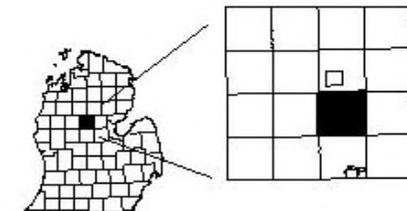
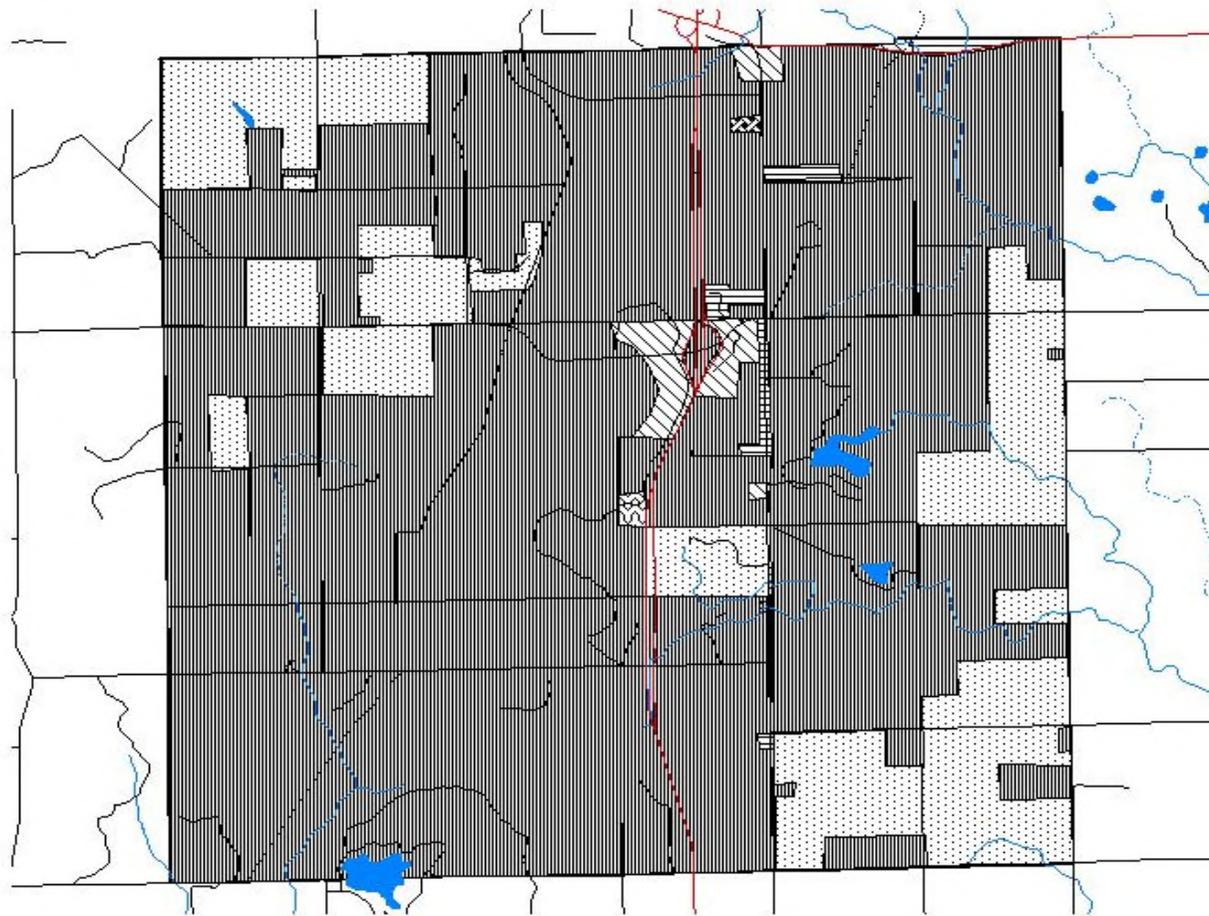
-  Ag as taxed
-  Ag-Farm-Forestry
-  Commercial
-  Resort Res
-  State/Federal/Co



# Hatton Township, Clare County, MI

Hatton Township - Population 923 - Located in the southeast central portion of the County. US-27 runs through the heart of the township.

Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 4,122  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 18,460  
 Commercial: 343  
 Industrial: 16  
 Recreation: 28  
 Resort Res: 182



## Hatton Township Land Use

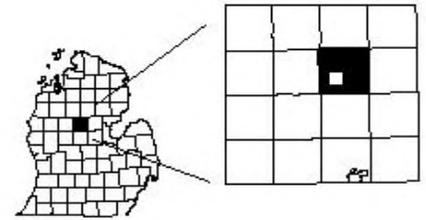
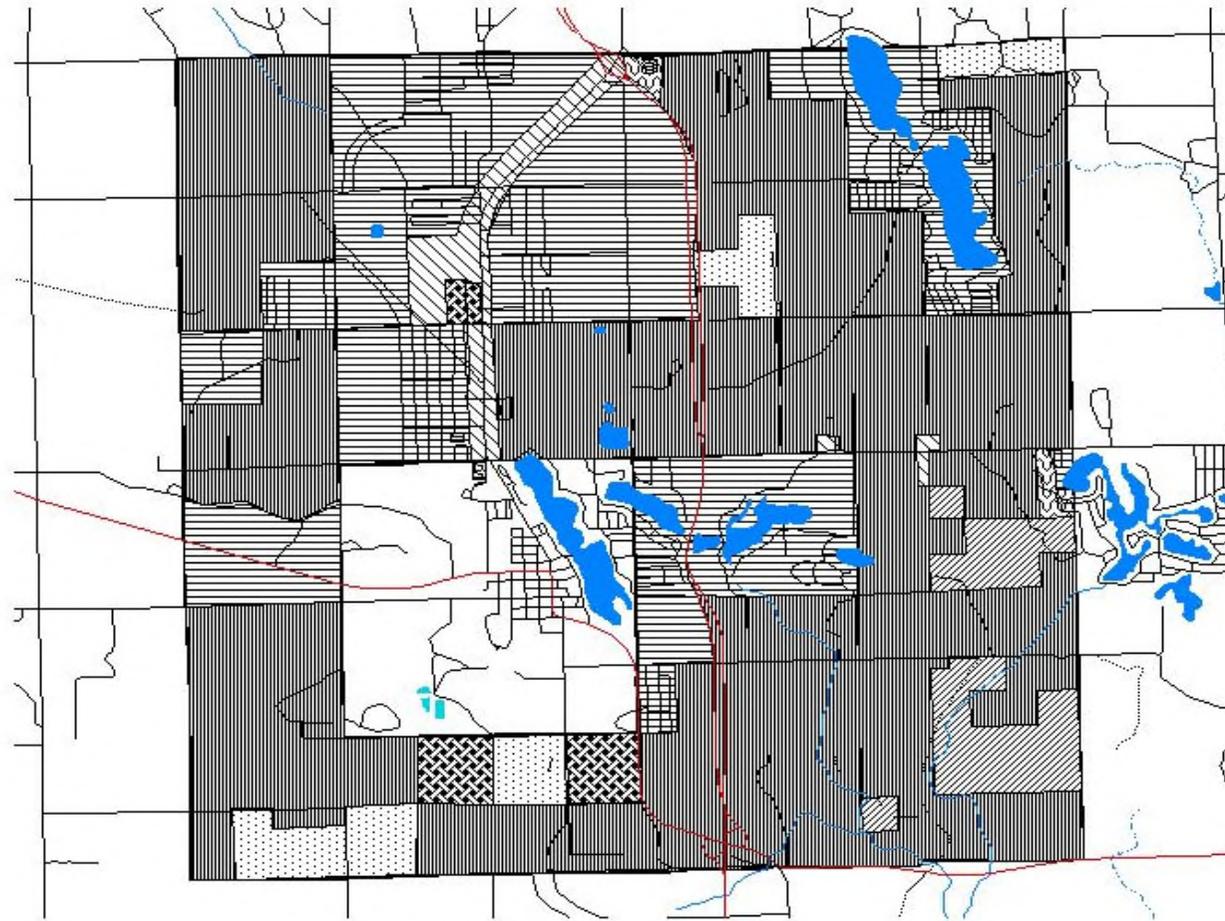
-  Ag as taxed
-  Ag-Farm-Forestry
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Recreation
-  Resort Res



# Hayes Township, Clare County, MI

Hayes Township - Population 4,916 - A very mixed use township. US-27 and M-61 make way through the township.

Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 842  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 11,674  
 Commercial: 541  
 Industrial: 371  
 Recreation: 93  
 Resort Res: 5,966  
 State/Federal/Co: 803



## Hayes Township Land Use

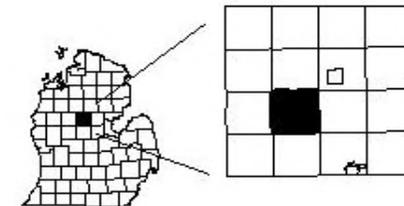
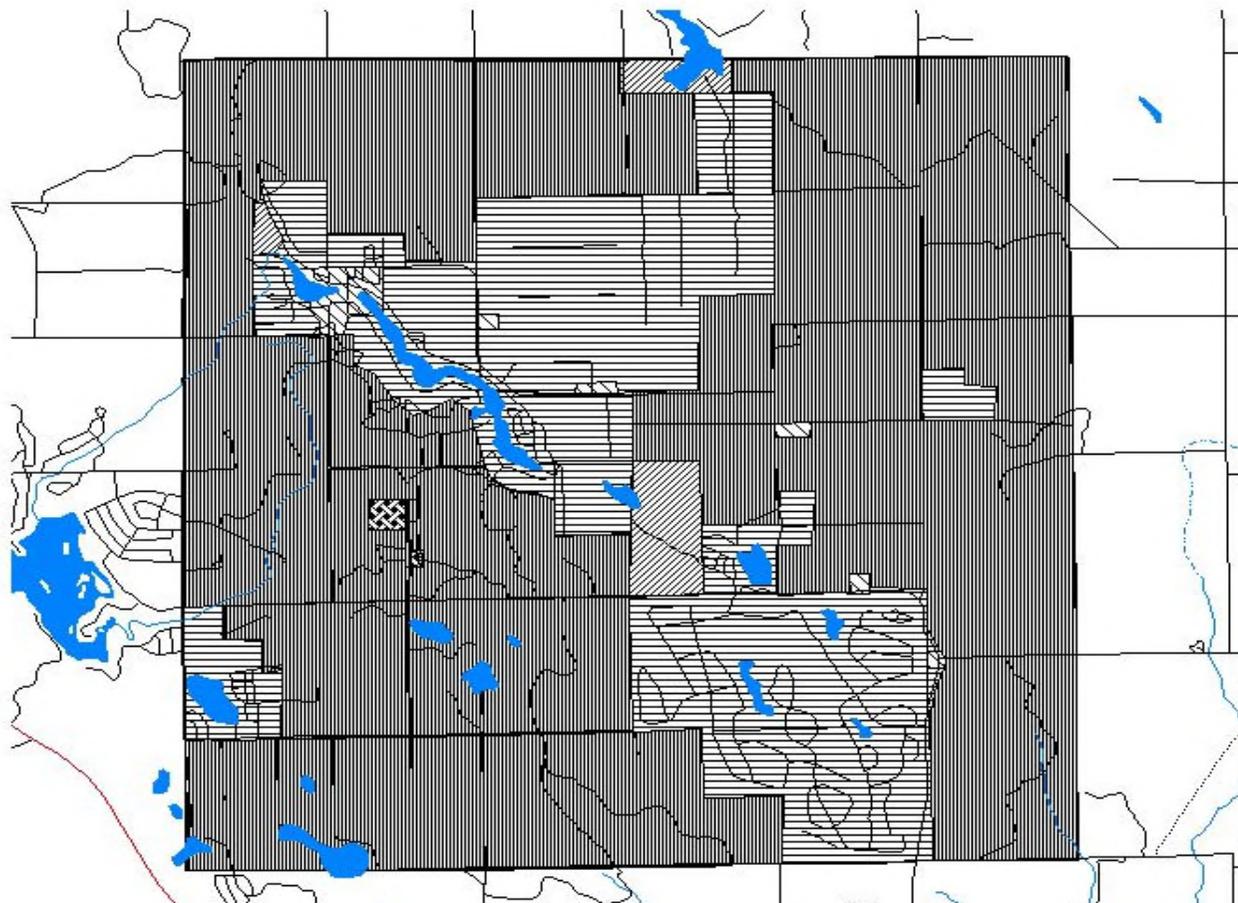
-  Ag as taxed
-  Ag-Farm-Forestry
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Recreation
-  Resort Res
-  State/Federal/Co



# Lincoln Township, Clare County, MI

Lincoln Township - Population 1,758 - A township that has a large number of second homes, also a township with a large number of rural residential homes.

Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 70  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 16,125  
 Commercial: 183  
 Industrial: 41  
 Resort Res: 6,020  
 State/Federal/Co: 467



### Lincoln Township Land Use

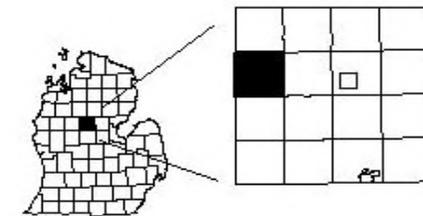
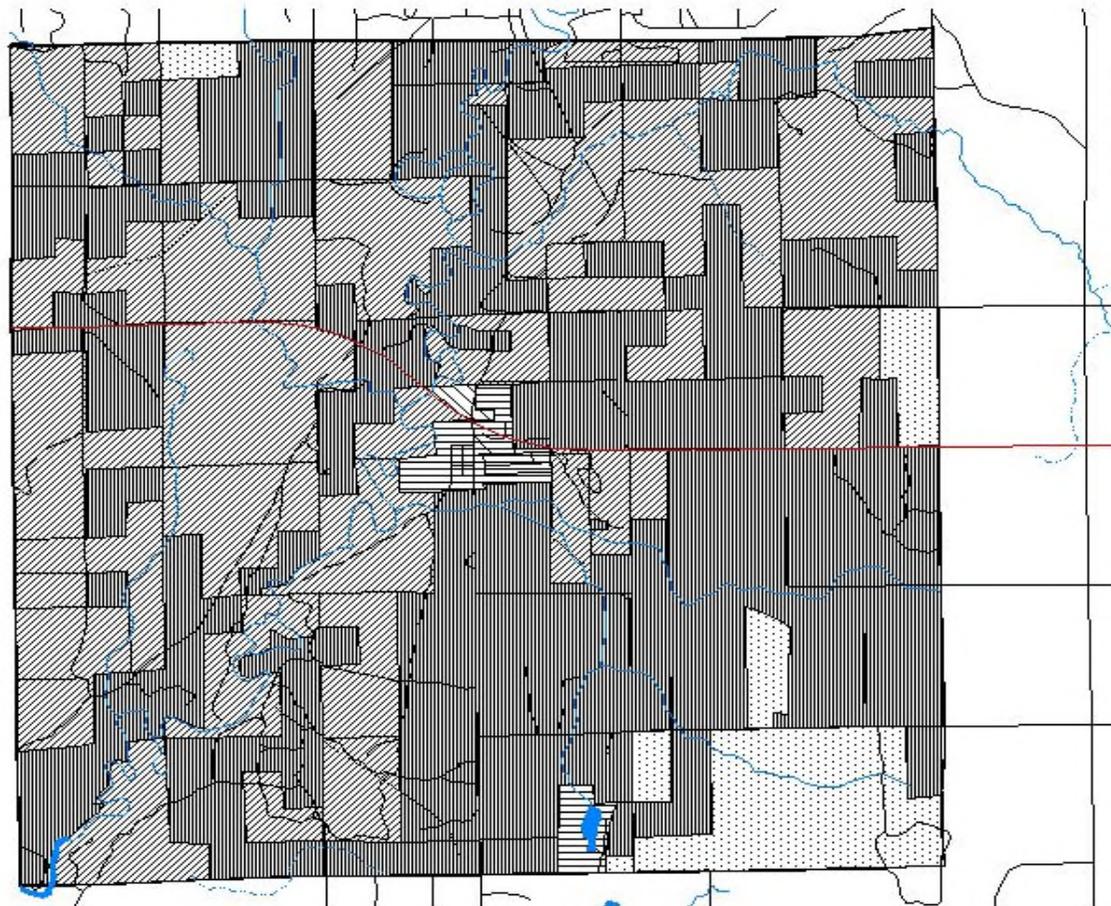
-  Ag as taxed
-  Ag-Farm-Forestry
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Resort Res
-  State/Federal/Co



# Redding Township, Clare County, MI

Redding Township - Population 526 - M-61 passes through this township, which has a great amount of state land.

Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 1,477  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 11,254  
 Commercial: 34  
 Resort Res: 377  
 State/Federal/Co: 9,436



## Redding Township Land Use

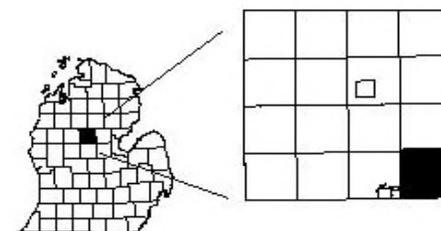
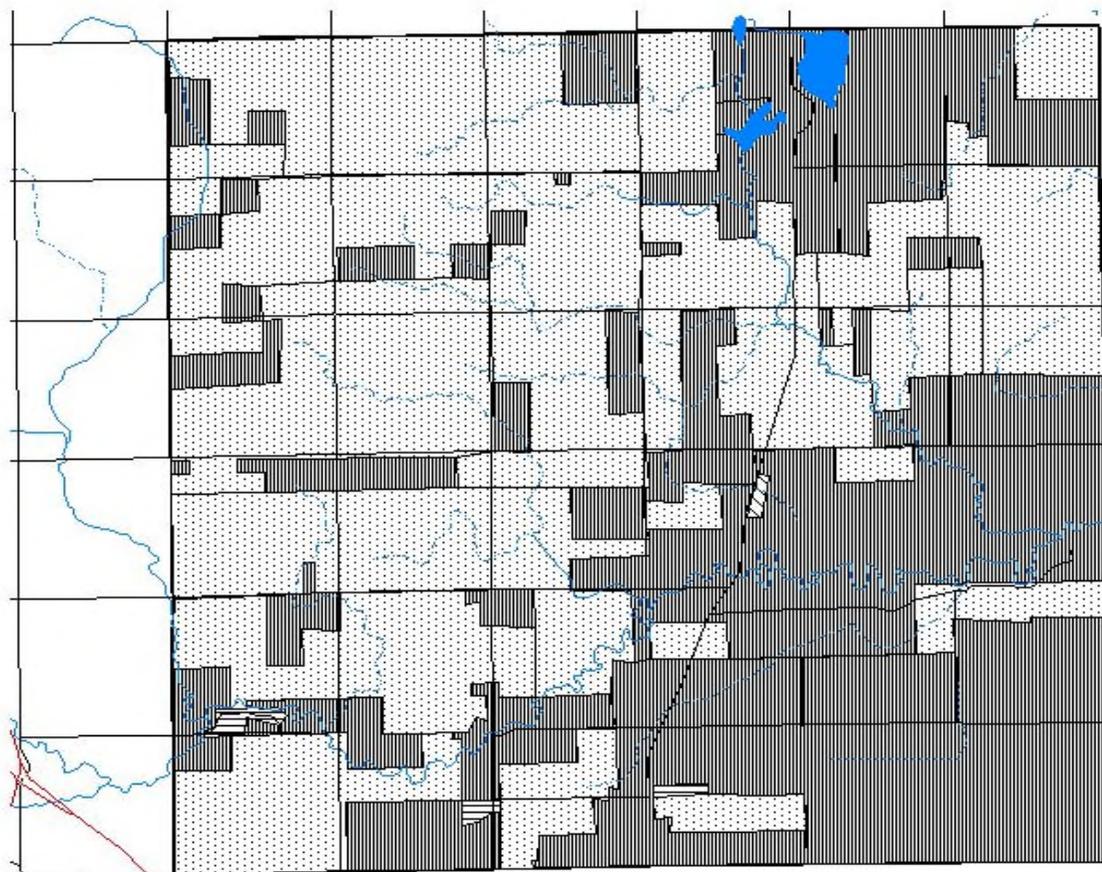
-  Ag as taxed
-  Ag-Farm-Forestry
-  Commercial
-  Resort Res
-  State/Federal/Co



# Sheridan Township, Clare County, MI

Sheridan Township - Population 1,588 - A mainly agricultural township, with a growing rural residential population.

Acres per land use category  
Ag as taxed: 12,849  
Ag-Farm-Forestry: 10,347  
Commercial: 18  
Resort Res: 81

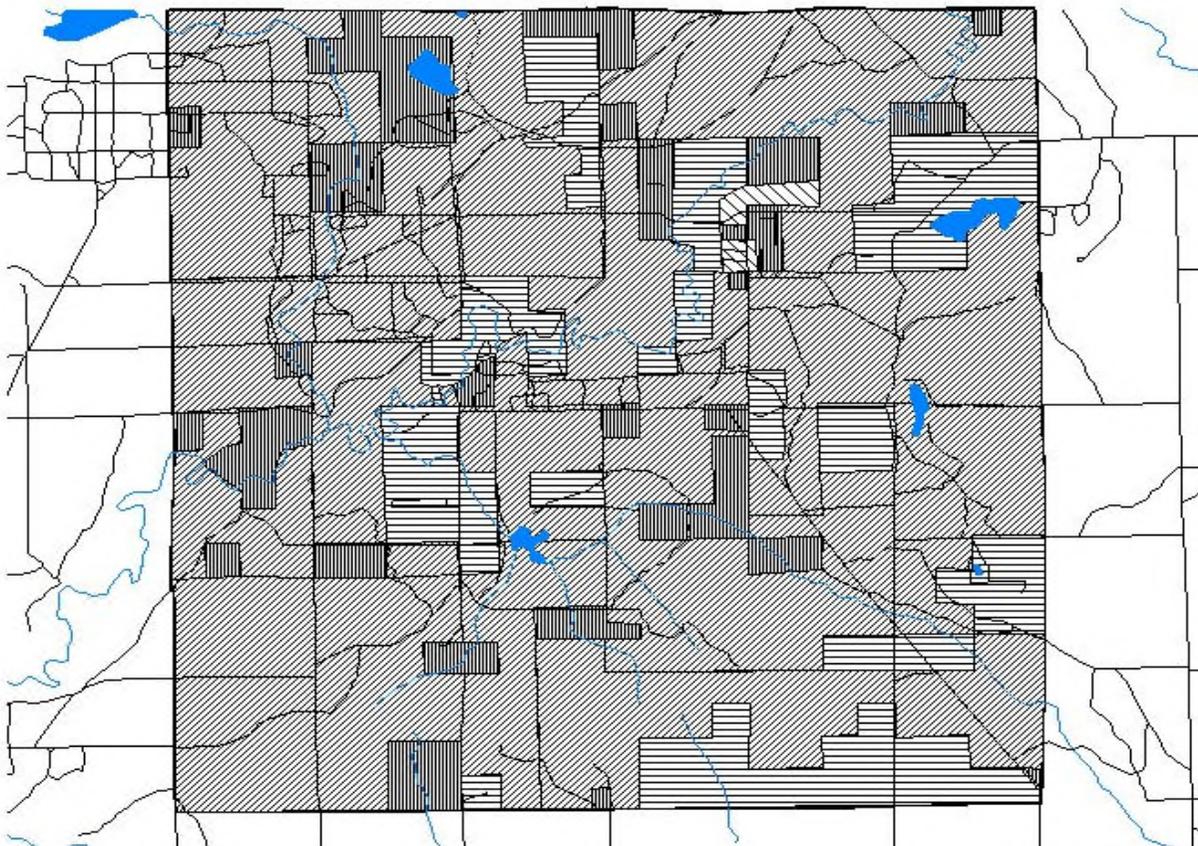


## Sheridan Township Land Use

- Ag as taxed
- Ag-Farm-Forestry
- Commercial
- Resort Res

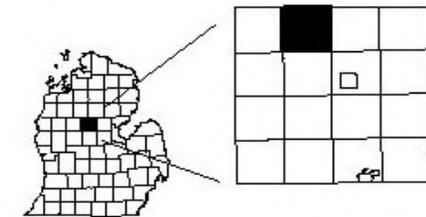


# Summerfield Township Land Use



Summerfield Township - Population 453 - State land comprises the majority of the land use in this township.

Acres per land use category  
Ag-Farm-Forestry: 2,364  
Commercial: 122  
Resort Res: 3,744  
State/Federal/Co: 16,689



## Summerfield Township Land Use

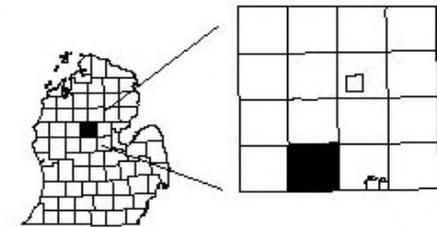
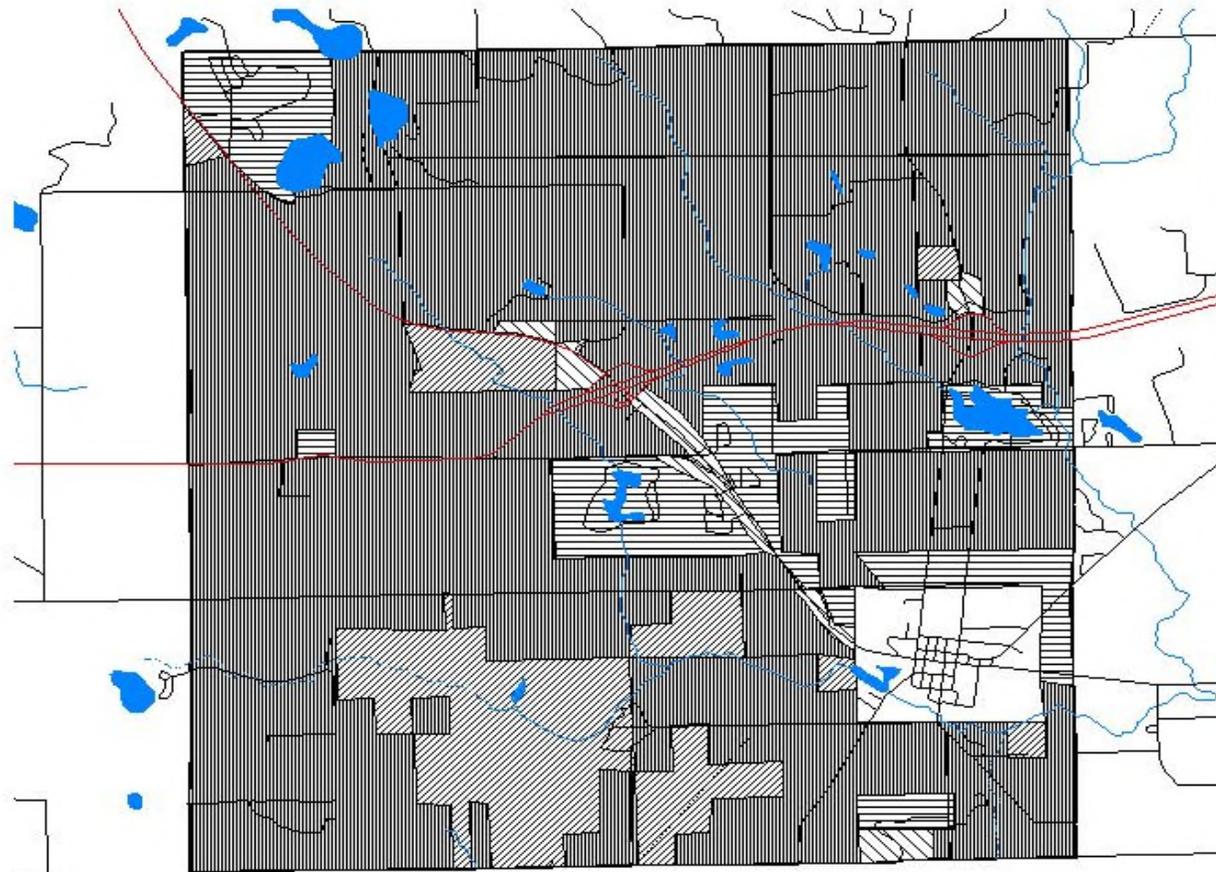
-  Ag-Farm-Forestry
-  Commercial
-  Resort Res
-  State/Federal/Co



# Surrey Township, Clare County, MI

Surrey Township - Population 3,555 - M-115 and US-10 both pass through the township.

Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 6  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 16,984  
 Commercial: 378  
 Resort Res: 2,258  
 State/Federal/Co: 2,383

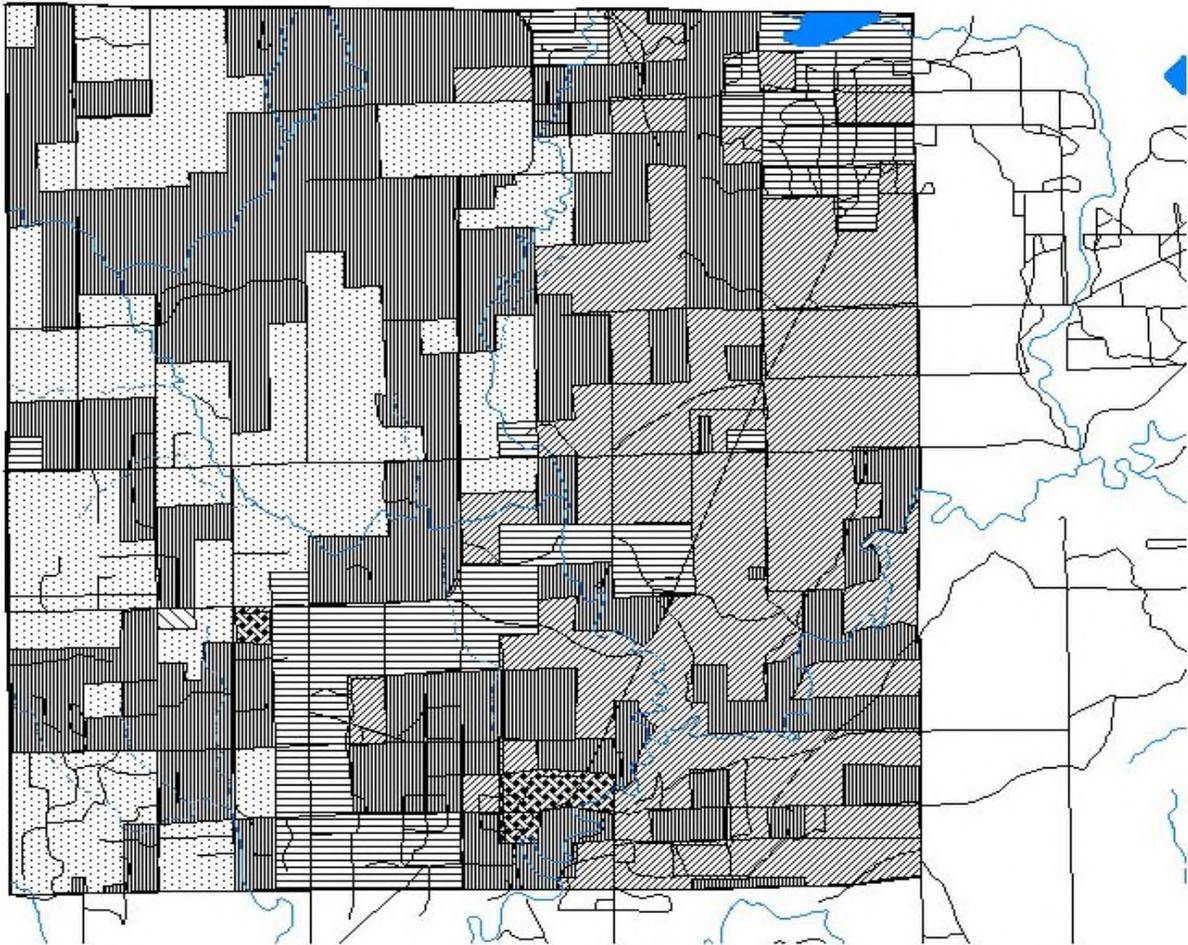


## Surrey Township Land Use

-  Ag as taxed
-  Ag-Farm-Forestry
-  Commercial
-  Resort Res
-  State/Federal/Co

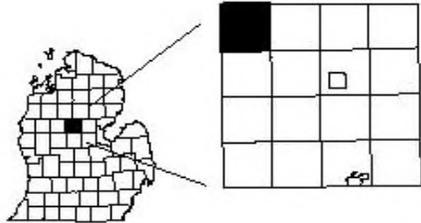


# Winterfield Township, Clare County, MI



Winterfield Township - Population 483 - Many land uses make up this township, including a large amount of state land and rural residential.

Acres per land use category  
 Ag as taxed: 5,347  
 Ag-Farm-Forestry: 9,294  
 Commercial: 23  
 Industrial: 205  
 Resort Res: 2,641  
 State/Federal/Co: 5,895

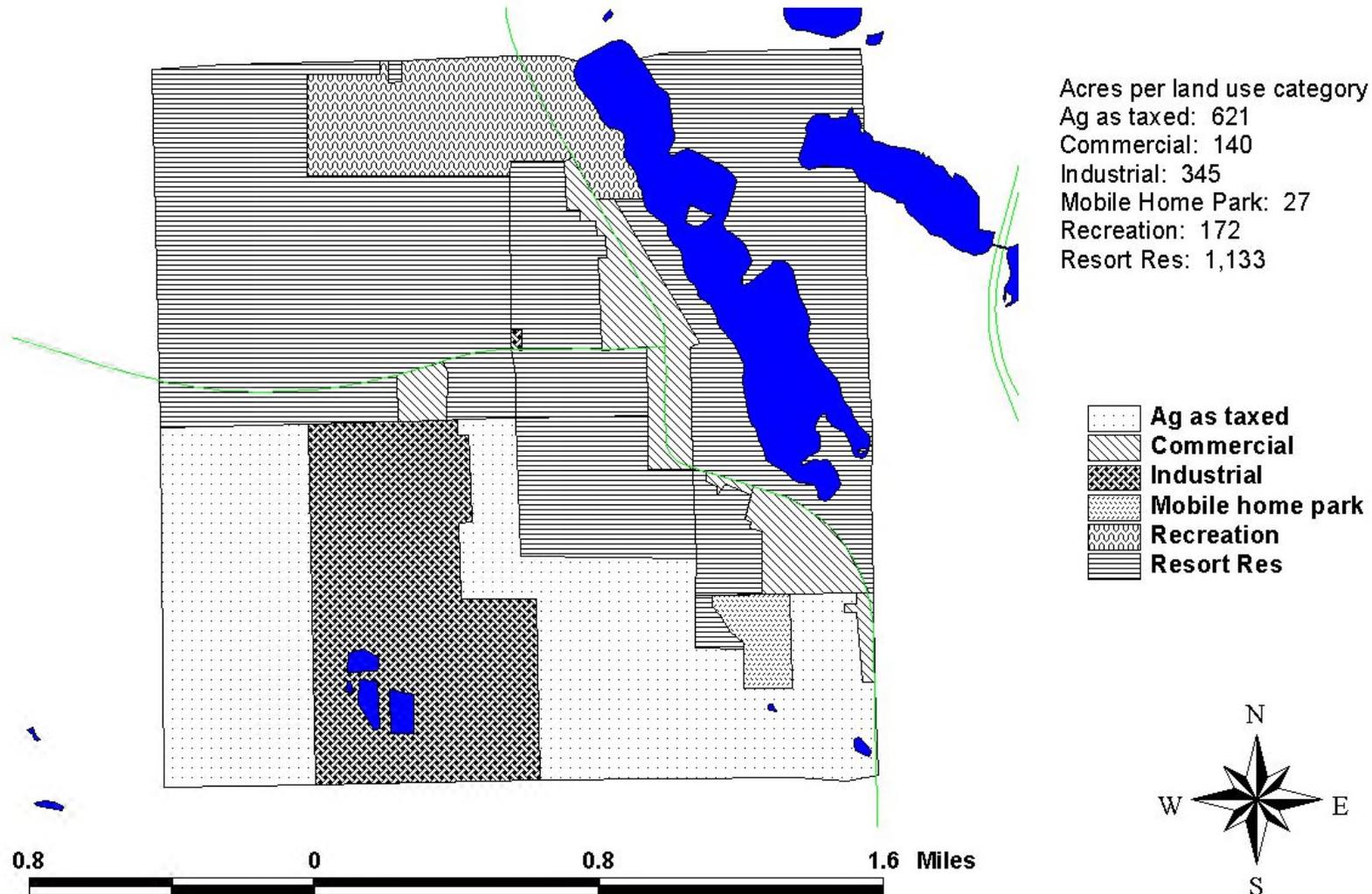


### Winterfield Township Land Use

- Ag as taxed
- Ag-Farm-Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Resort Res
- State/Federal/Co



# City of Harrison, Clare County, MI

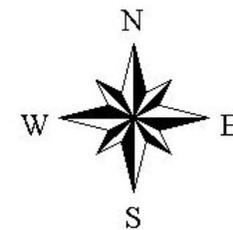




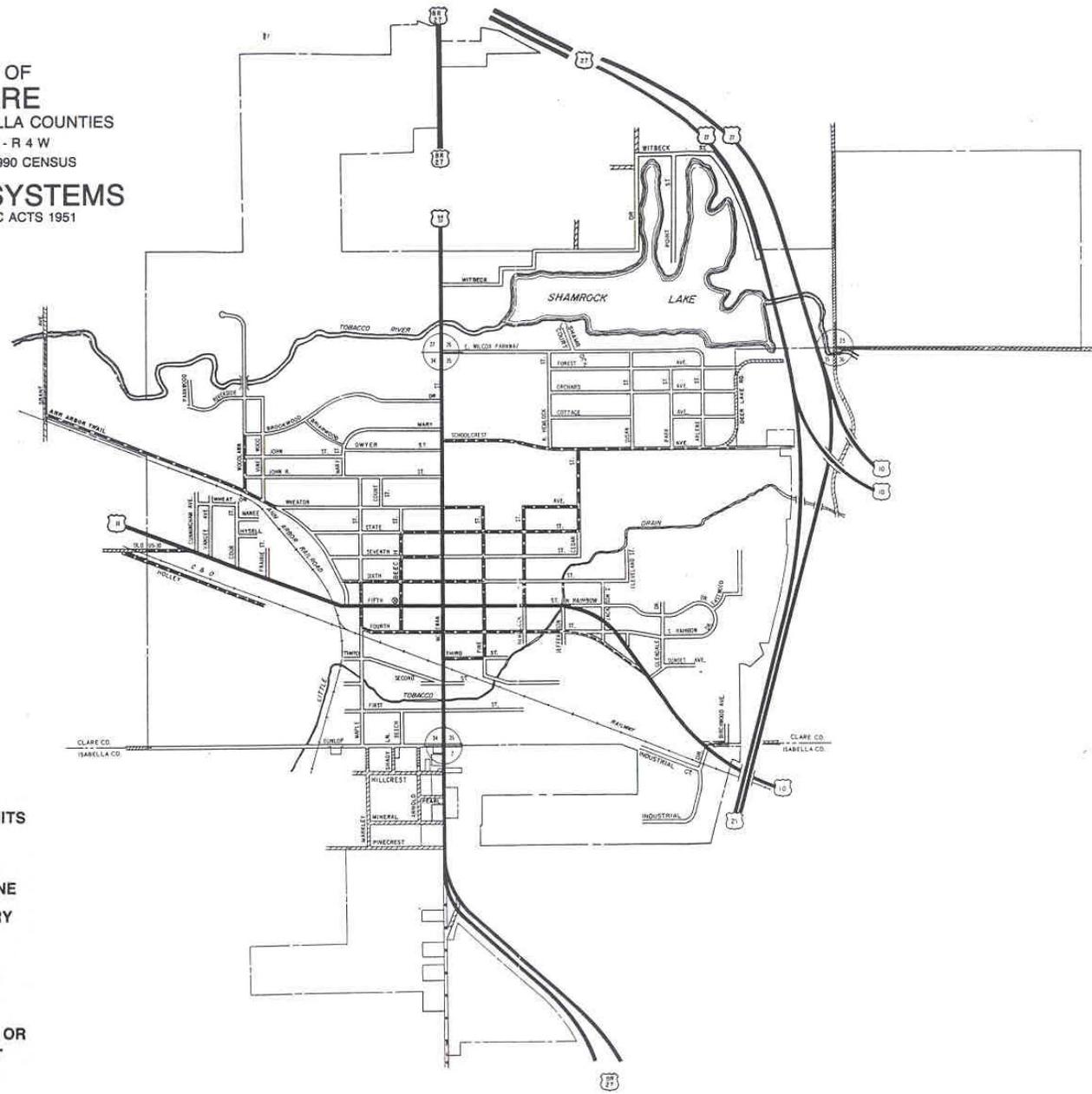
# City of Clare, Clare County, MI



Acres per land use category  
Commercial: 541  
Industrial: 75  
Resort Res: 1,093



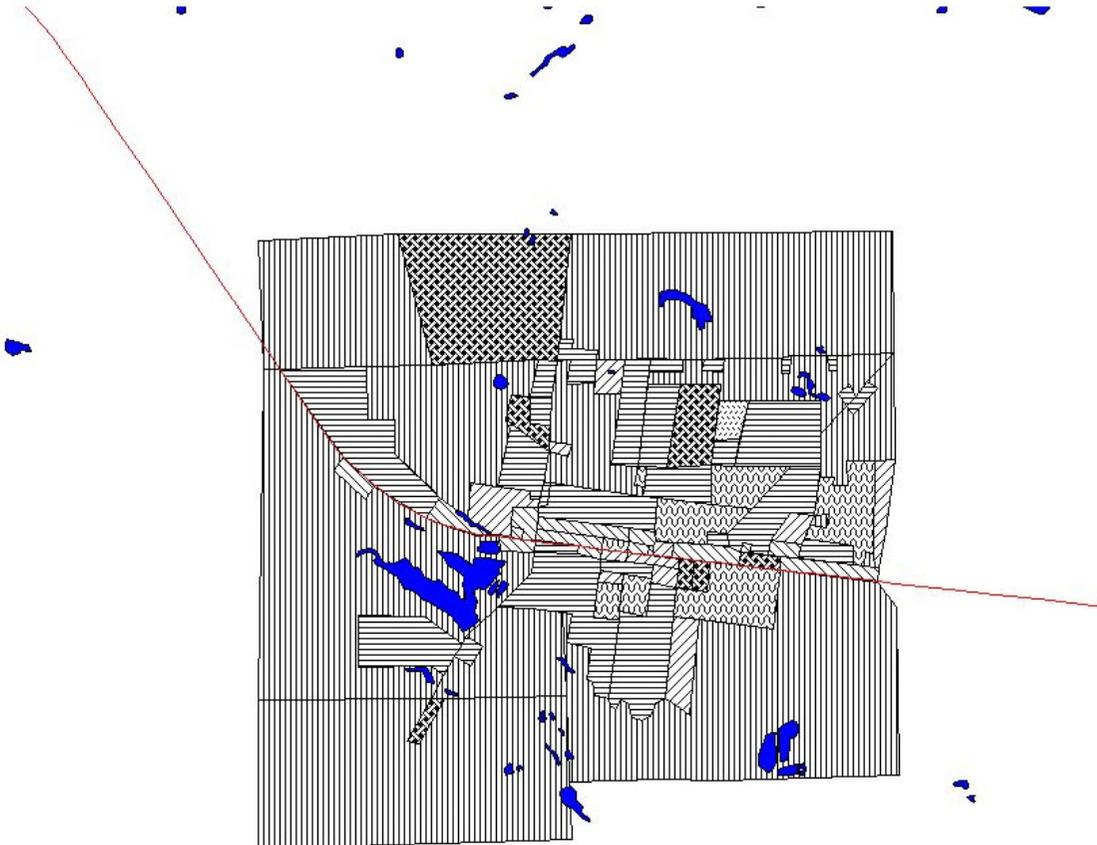
CITY OF  
**CLARE**  
 CLARE & ISABELLA COUNTIES  
 T16 & 17N - R 4 W  
 POP. 3,038 - 1990 CENSUS  
**STREET SYSTEMS**  
 ACT 51 PUBLIC ACTS 1951



**LEGEND**

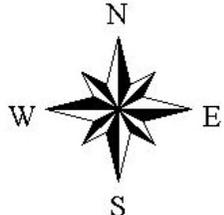
-  COUNTY LINE
-  CORPORATE LIMITS
- STREET SYSTEMS**
-  STATE TRUNKLINE
-  COUNTY PRIMARY
-  COUNTY LOCAL
-  MAJOR STREET
-  LOCAL STREET
-  ADJOINING CITY OR VILLAGE STREET
-  CITY OFFICES

# Village of Farwell, Clare County, MI

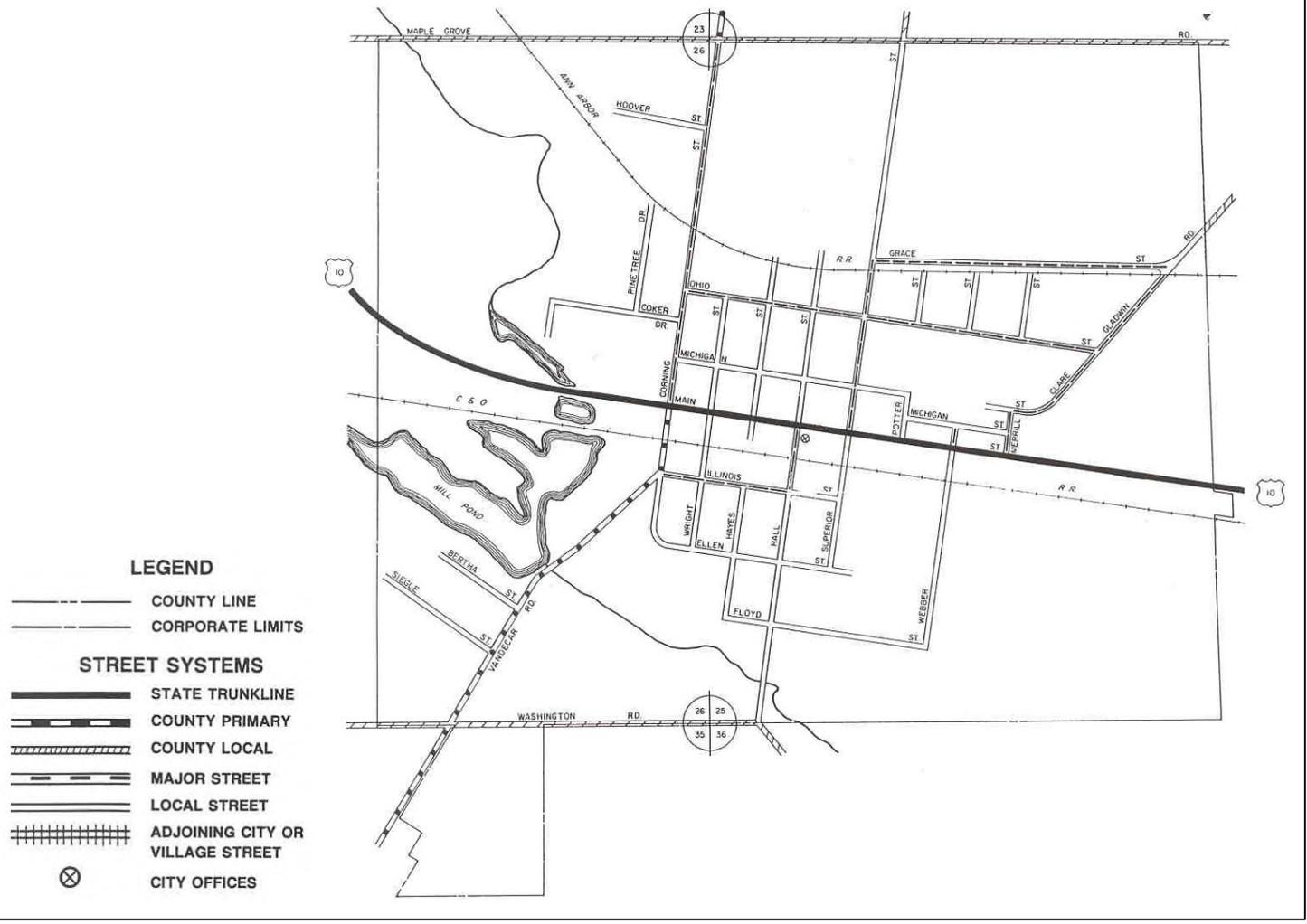


Acres per land use category  
Ag-Farm-Forestry: 1,394  
Commercial: 49  
Industrial: 148  
Mobile Home Park: 6  
Recreation: 99  
Resort Res: 325  
State/Federal/Co: 56

- Ag/Farm/Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mobile Home Park
- Recreation
- Resort Res
- State/Federal/Co



VILLAGE OF  
**FARWELL**  
 CLARE COUNTY  
 T 17 N - R 5 W  
 POP 851 - 1990 CENSUS  
**STREET SYSTEMS**  
 ACT 51 PUBLIC ACTS 1951



Current County Land Use By Township  
Acreage & Percentage

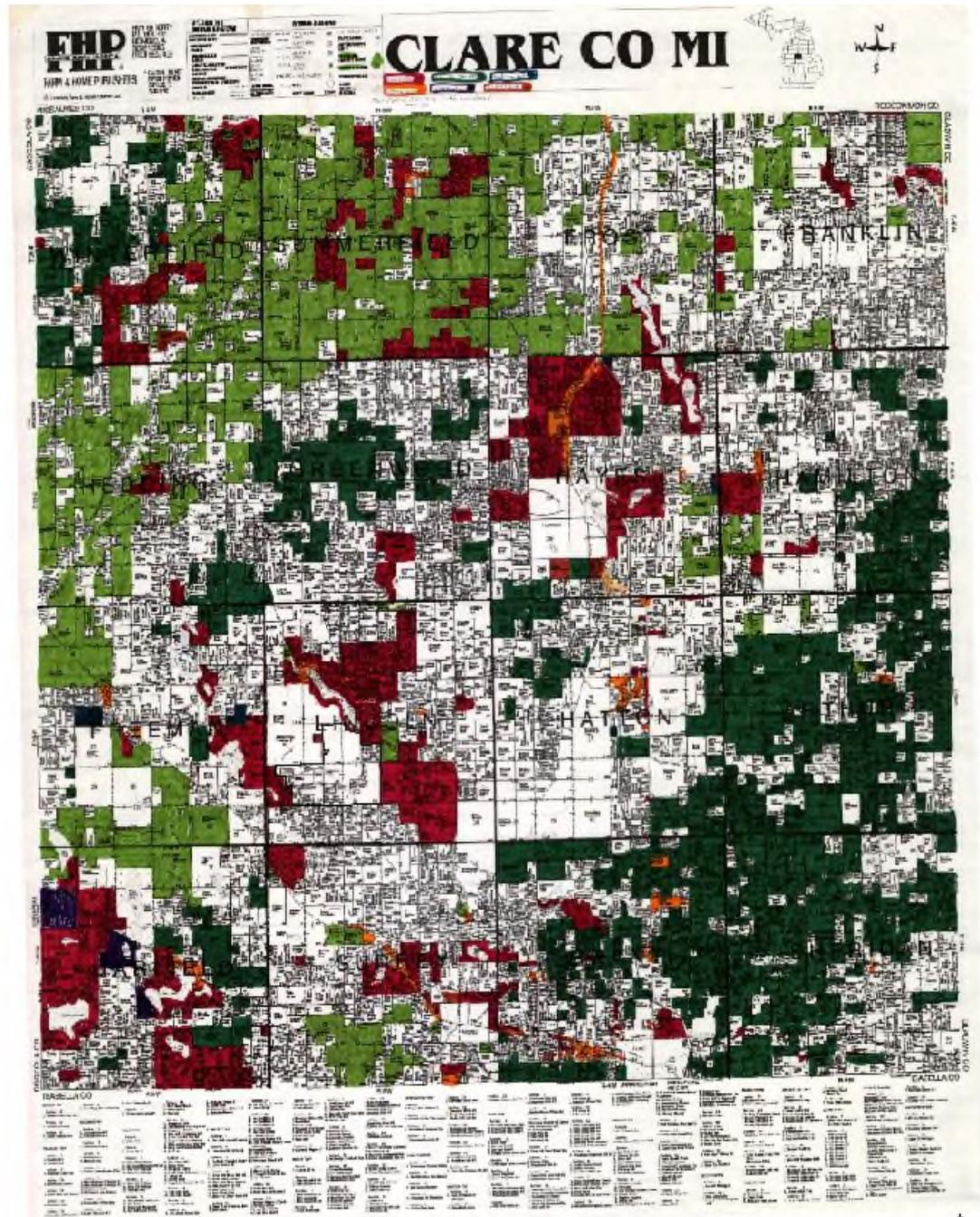
Table 20:

Land Use	Ag-Farm-Forestry-Rural Res		State/Federal/County/Twp		Resort Res		Ag as Taxed		Commercial		Recreation		Industrial		Mobile Home Park	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
Arthur Township	7,862	34.0%	338	1.5%	15	.06%	14,886	64.3%	47	.2%						
Franklin Township	17,947	79.0%	3,867	17.0%	847	3.7%	2	.009%	42	.2%						
Freeman Township	13,962	62.2%	5,372	23.9%	1,611	7.2%	948	4.2%	148	.7%	136	.6%			259	1.2%
Frost Township	13,882	61.4%	7,637	33.8%	627	2.8%	1	.004%	446	2.0%						
Garfield Township	10,260	46.8%	1,560	7.1%	6,277	28.6%	2,415	11.0%	196	0.9%	1,237	5.6%				
Grant Township	9,446	44.1%			904	4.2%	10,421	48.7%	639	3.0%						
Greenwood Township	15,414	68.2%	565	2.5%	674	3.0%	5,956	26.3%								
Hamilton Township	15,948	68.6%	483	2.1%	966	4.2%	5,775	24.8%	90	0.4%						
Hatton Township	18,460	79.7%			182	0.8%	4,122	17.8%	343	1.5%	28	0.1%	16	0.07%		
Hayes Township	11,674	57.5%	803	4.0%	5,966	29.4%	842	4.1%	541	2.7%	93	0.5%	371	1.8%		
Lincoln Township	16,125	70.6%	467	2.0%	6,020	26.4%	0.7	0.003%	183	0.8%			41	0.2%		
Redding Township	11,254	49.8%	9,436	41.8%	377	1.7%	1,477	6.5%	34	0.2%						
Sheridan Township	10,347	44.4%			81	0.3%	12,849	55.2%	18	0.08%						
Summerfield Township	2,364	10.3%	16,689	72.8%	3,744	16.3%			122	0.5%						
Surrey Township	16,984	77.2%	2,383	10.8%	2,258	10.3%	6	0.03%	378	1.7%						
Winterfield Township	9,294	39.7%	5,895	25.2%	2,641	11.2%	5,347	22.8%	23	0.1%			205	0.9%		
<b>Clare County Totals</b>	<b>201,223</b>	<b>55.8%</b>	<b>55,495</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>33,190</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>65,047.7</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>0.07%</b>

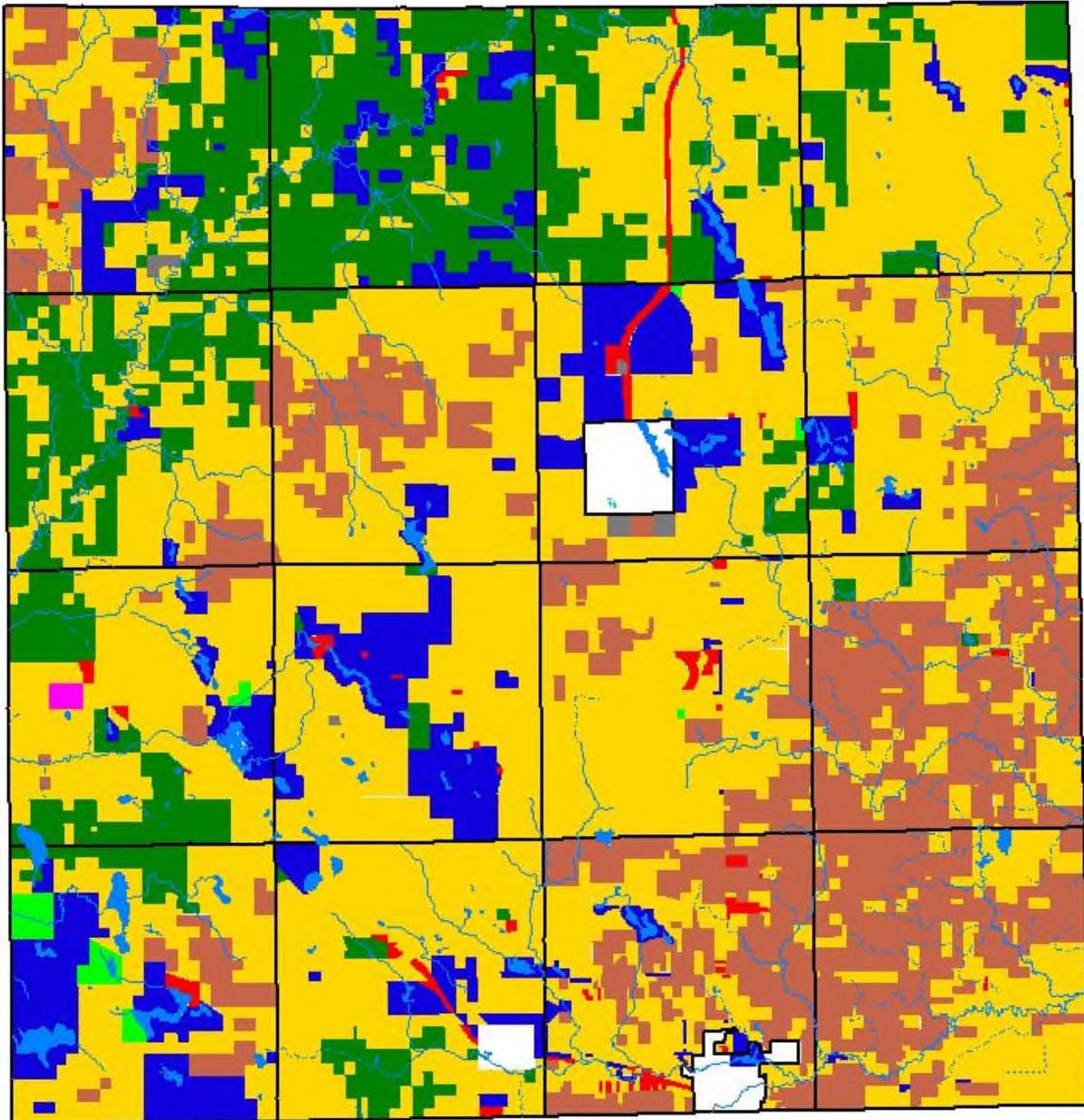
Source: George Randall

# CLARE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

## As of 2002



# Clare County, MI



- Rivers, streams, lakes
- Townships
- Clare County Land Use 2003
- Ag as taxed
- Ag-Farm-Forestry
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mobile home park
- Recreation
- Resort Res
- State/Federal/Co



0 6 Miles

A horizontal scale bar with a black line and a white background, labeled '0' at the left end and '6 Miles' at the right end.

# FUTURE LAND USE

## **Methodology**

The Clare County Planning Commission does not want to tread on Township authority in advocating any particular land uses; however, we do want to encourage responsible planning for future land use.

The most immediate threat for future land uses in Clare County is the fragmentation of large parcels that diminish the recreational uses of the properties. (This is especially true where a new house will render approximately 15 acres of land off limits to hunting.) Cluster zoning, if done properly, can reduce the impact of fragmentation on new housing and hunting.

Loss of farmland is another threat for future land uses in Clare County. Farmland is expected to be threatened by urban sprawl and fragmentation. The County's agricultural land is currently grouped in specific areas of the County, which allows Farmland Preservation to occur more easily. We strongly encourage all government entities to address the preservation of open space and agricultural land. We expect to develop an implementation plan for open space/agricultural land in our next stages of planning.

Residential housing pressure is expected to continually build. Projections expect areas already devoted to denser housing to spread to form clusters in and around the lakes and subdivisions that are already in place.

The same should be true for commercial uses. Most of the expected commercial areas are already in place and we expect them to expand from this base.

The same should be true for industrial uses. Most of the expected industrial areas are already in place and we expect them to expand from this base.

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



## **Public Input**

During the last one to five years, multiple surveys throughout the county were distributed by the Enterprise Community Board, the Housing Commission, the Planning Commission for the parks and recreation plan, and by the Parks & Recreation Commission to update the County Recreation Plan. In the aggregate, the surveys covered virtually all areas of concern in the county; and therefore, no effort was made to duplicate these findings.

## **Goals and Objectives**

### **Goal #1: Maintain a system of streets and roads that will adequately meet the needs of residents, businesses, visitors, and emergency vehicles.**

#### Objectives/Actions:

1. Provide residents with a safe network of state, county, and local streets and roads linking residential, employment, shopping, public, and recreational centers.
2. Promote economic development by ensuring existing and future commercial, service, and industrial businesses are not limited by the County's system of state, county, and local streets and roads.
3. Promote tourism in Clare County by ensuring visitors have access to a safe, well-maintained, and well-signed network of state, county and local streets and roads.
4. Work closely with the Regional MDOT office to identify projects specific to Clare County.
5. Ensure emergency vehicles have adequate access throughout the County.
6. Encourage non-motorized transportation opportunities when feasible by working to develop the Pere Marquette Trail, as well as other networks of non-motorized pathways.
7. Work with MDOT and local units of government to develop an "access management" program that controls the location of entrances to US-10 and US-127.

### **Goal #2: Continue to improve the County's economy and employment opportunities.**

#### Objectives/Actions:

1. Continue to support the Middle Michigan Development Corporation.
2. Continue to participate in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and continue to work with the U.S. Economic Development Administration to promote economic development in the County.
3. Continue to target businesses for location in the County's Renaissance Zone and Industrial Parks.

4. Continue to perform retention calls to the County's existing businesses to prevent unnecessary losses and promote expansion of employment.
5. Work with the area's schools to develop programs to address local businesses needs.
6. Through planning, insure that adequate land is available for the expansion and creation of industrial and commercial businesses.
7. Promote the County's strategic location at the intersection of US-127 and US-10.
8. Work with utilities and communication providers to insure Clare County is prepared to meet the demands of business.

**Goal #3: Preserve the County's rural environment by preserving agriculture, open space and forested areas.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Work with farmers and other landowners to identify needs, and to identify available programs to encourage the preservation of desired areas.
2. Work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to acquire areas for recreational use.
3. Work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to encourage farmers to participate in purchase of development rights programs. Encourage the Michigan State Legislature to develop additional incentives such as expanded purchase of development rights (PDR) programs and transfer of development rights (TDR) programs.
4. Work with the Clare County MSU Extension office and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to identify areas that should be preserved for agricultural purposes.
5. Work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service to encourage the preservation of open space and forested areas.
6. Promote "Value Added" programs for agriculture to make farming more profitable and to add employment to the area.

**Goal #4: Work with individual communities across the County to encourage planning.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Work with the East Central Michigan Planning & Development Regional Commission to assist local units of government in gathering information necessary for planning.
2. Encourage local units of government to participate in the annual CEDS process.
3. Regularly attend township, village, and city meetings to promote planning and gain an understanding of current issues.

**Goal #5: Protect and improve the County's environment.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, local units of government, local business, farmers, and others to ensure that illegal activities are not tolerated.
2. Work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and existing landowners to identify and correct environmental hazards.
3. Protect the area's groundwater from contamination by developing a groundwater protection program.
4. Determine the County's response to businesses wishing to benefit from the removal of the County's renewable and nonrenewable natural resources.
5. Identify areas with special positive environmental features that should be protected.
6. Plan any new development around lakes, rivers, and streams at a level that will limit the impact of development on water quality. Identify areas that may already be overdeveloped and begin planning for necessary upgrades to septic tanks and sanitary sewer systems.
7. Work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to determine the best ways to limit the introduction and effects of foreign animal and plant pests.

**Goal #6: Promote the natural beauty of the County by reducing blight, in the form of improperly maintained homes and businesses, trash, junk, non-functioning automobiles and other equipment, and other unsightly features.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Work with local communities to develop blight ordinances that define blight and the steps necessary to correct blight.
2. Work with local communities and the Clare County Sheriff's Department to identify and correct blighted properties.
3. Determine if additional staffing is necessary to address blight in Clare County.
4. Develop an easy method for residents to identify and report blighted properties in Clare County.
5. Work with individual communities to establish additional waste transfer stations.
6. Work with MDOT and the Clare County Road Commission to sponsor "Adopt A Highway" programs on State and County roads.

7. Work with local communities to develop an ordinance that establishes an acceptable level of appearances for businesses across Clare County.
8. Maintain an up-to-date Solid Waste Plan.

**Goal #7: Promote balanced land use through appropriate planning.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Regularly review the contents of the County's Land Use Plan for accuracy.
2. Work with communities to develop and update land use plans and zoning ordinances.
3. Attend planning conferences and workshops to update skills and learn about the latest planning techniques.
4. Solicit public input for planning using a variety of methods such as newspaper and television reporting, surveys, workshops, and attending city, village and township meetings.
5. Continue to work with the East Central Michigan Planning & Development Regional Commission in order to keep up-to-date on planning issues influencing the Region.
6. Review local plans to determine if they relate to the County's Land Use Plan.

**Goal #8: Promote a balanced mix of housing types to meet the various needs of existing and future residents.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Through planning and zoning, designate adequate acreage for different types of housing across Clare County.
2. Work with local communities to develop an ordinance that defines minimum housing standards necessary to promote the health, safety, and welfare of Clare County residents.
3. Identify resources available to assist residents in purchasing homes.
4. Identify types of preferred housing development in other areas of Michigan and determine the feasibility of duplicating such developments in Clare County.

**Goal #9: Promote the development and expansion of commercial uses in cities and villages.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Through planning and zoning, work with cities and villages to insure that adequate land is available for existing commercial businesses to expand and new businesses to begin.

2. Encourage commercial businesses (existing and new) to provide services county residents identified as needed – such as apparel, building/garden supplies, eating/drinking establishments, general merchandise, groceries, and home furnishings.
3. Encourage cities and villages to perform downtown development plans to identify issues and establish goals specific to their downtown areas.
4. Work with townships to identify land appropriate for commercial development and limit land available for commercial development outside of cities and villages.

**Goal #10: Promote the development and expansion of industrial parks in cities and villages.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Through planning and zoning, work with cities and villages to insure that adequate land is available for existing businesses to expand and new businesses to begin.
2. Encourage cities and villages to work with the Middle Michigan Development Corporation to identify issues and establish goals specific to industry.
3. In order to ensure that all communities have economic development opportunities, work with townships to identify land appropriate for industrial development without encouraging the unnecessary development of open space.

**Goal #11: Promote recreation and tourism in Clare County.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Use Tourism and Recreation as both an economic development tool and a way to preserve the County's rural attributes.
2. Maintain an up-to-date countywide recreation plan and apply for appropriate grants to improve recreation opportunities in Clare County.
3. Encourage individual communities to maintain recreation plans, or to combine efforts with the County.
4. Continue investigating the possibility of affiliating with Clare County's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**Goal #12: Clare County will continue to provide an appropriate level of services to residents, businesses, and visitors.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. The Clare County Board of Commissioners will continue to work with County staff and communities within the County to insure that the County uses its resources in an efficient and effective manner.

2. County Programs will frequently be evaluated to determine appropriate levels of service.

**Goal #13: Clare County will cooperate with school districts located within the County to provide opportunities for quality education opportunities.**

Objectives/Actions

1. Insure adequate land is available for expansion of school facilities and work with schools to insure school growth can match development demands.
2. Work with schools to identify educational needs of local businesses.

**Goal #14: Clare County will maintain emergency services facilities and programs that will provide an adequate level of protection to protect the lives and property of residents, visitors, and businesses.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Work with local units of government, the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to insure complete fire protection coverage across Clare County. Develop strategies to address issues such as forest fires and tire fires.
2. Work with Clare County Emergency Services, Mobile Medical Response, and United Rescue Service to insure an appropriate level of ambulance service.
3. Work with the Clare County Road Commission to insure street and road signage is easy to understand for emergency responders.
4. Encourage the Michigan State Police, the Clare County Sheriff, the Department of Natural Resources, and local law protection agencies to coordinate law enforcement efforts and emergency situations.
5. Maintain an appropriate level of emergency warning systems.

**Goal #15: Clare County will protect its residents from any physical, aesthetic, and/or financial liabilities associated with communications equipment.**

Objectives/Actions:

1. Clare County will work with local communities to develop an ordinance that will guide the appropriate location of communications equipment.
2. Ensure all communications towers are used to the fullest extent to limit the number of towers across Clare County.
3. Ensure that companies installing towers have the financial resources to remove towers if they become obsolete.