

BURT TOWNSHIP

MASTER PLAN

2023



Bringing the future into focus...

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This plan was prepared for by the CUPPAD Regional Commission in partnership with the Burt Township Planning Commission and Township Board.

PLANNING COMMISSION

- Chairman: Larry Shaffer • Secretary: Christine Lundquist
- Phil Bontrager
- Nancy Griswold • Jenny Irvine
- Township Board Liaison: • Jeff Cuthbertson
Lou Lundquist

TOWNSHIP BOARD

SUPERVISOR

- Sheri Shafer

CLERK

- Lori McShane

TREASURER

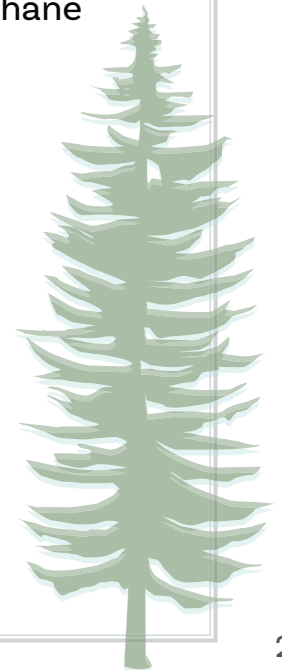
- Tara Dongvillo

TRUSTEES

- Lou Lundquist
- Deb Lundquist

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

- Calvin McShane



TOWNSHIP OF BURT, ALGER COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2022-05-02

TOWNSHIP BOARD RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MPEA) authorizes the Planning Commission to prepare a Master Plan for the use, development and preservation of all lands in the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission prepared a proposed new Master Plan and submitted the plan to the Township Board for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2023, the Burt Township Board received and reviewed the proposed Master Plan prepared by the Planning Commission and authorized distribution of the Master Plan to the Notice Group entities identified in the MPEA; and

WHEREAS, notice was provided to the Notice Group entities as provided in the MPEA; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on March 23, 2023, to consider public comment on the proposed new Master Plan, and to further review and comment on the proposed new Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board finds that the proposed new Master Plan is desirable and proper and furthers the use, preservation, and development goals and strategies of the Township;

WHEREAS, the MPEA authorizes the Township Board to assert by resolution its right to approve or reject the proposed Master Plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Adoption of 2023 Master Plan. The Township Board hereby approves and adopts the proposed 2023 Master Plan, including all of the chapters, figures, maps and tables contained therein. Pursuant to MCL 125.3843 the Township Board has asserted by resolution its right to approve or reject the proposed Master Plan and therefore the approval granted herein is the final step for adoption of the plan as provided in MCL 125.3843 and therefore the plan is effective as of May 24, 2023.
2. Distribution to Notice Group. The Township Board approves distribution of the adopted plan to the Notice Group.
3. Findings of Fact. The Township Board has made the foregoing determination based on a review of existing land uses in the Township, a review of the existing Master Plan provisions and maps, input received from the Planning Commission and public hearing, and with the assistance of a professional planning group, and finds that the new Master Plan will accurately reflect and implement the Township's goals and strategies for the use, preservation, and development of lands in Burt Township.
4. Effective Date. The Master Plan shall be effective as of the date of adoption of this resolution.

Adopted on motion by McShane, second by Shafer -- Roll Call Vote:

Louis Lundquist	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay
Deborah Lundquist	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay
Tara Dongvillo	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay
Lori McShane	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay
Sheri Shafer	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF ALGER)

I, Lori McShane, Clerk of the Township of Burt, Alger County, Michigan, certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution which was adopted by the Township Board at a meeting held on May 24, 2023.

Signed:

Dated:

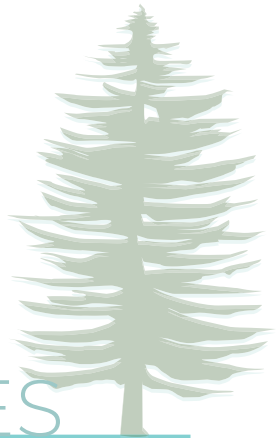
Lori McShane, Clerk
05/23/23

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- A COMMUNITY INPUT** | SURVEY, SUMMARY DATA +
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FEATURED IN THE MASTER PLAN



Foreword

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There has been a noticeable increase in tourism within Burt Township. A concern that too much visitation could diminish the character of the community and quality of life for its residents has been expressed by many. There is also an eagerness to embrace the potential for economic development, integrate community services, and encourage the settlement of young families and working aged adults. A primary goal of this plan is to promote sustainable, community guided tourism development that is beneficial to all who work, visit and reside within the Township.

The 2023 Burt Township Master Plan serves as the official policy guide for the future of Burt Township. With over 80% community participation, this plan captures the balance of wants, wishes, and needs for the community well into the future. It summarizes the community's vision, goals, and objectives in developing a framework for sound decisions regarding land use and community development. The Burt Township Master Plan meets the requirements established in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008 as a plan that addresses land use and the health, welfare, and safety of the community.

COMMUNITY GOAL

TO CREATE A WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT WHERE CURRENT AND
FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN EXPLORE
SPECTACULAR SCENERY, EXPERIENCE
A COMPASSIONATE CULTURE, AND LIVE
COMFORTABLY.

1 Introduction

MASTER PLAN PURPOSE + USE

In Michigan the Public Act 33 of 2008, commonly referred to as the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, authorizes units of government to plan, create Planning Commissions, and regulate and subdivide land. The Act permits and mandates the Planning Commission to create and adopt a Master Plan.

PLAN PURPOSE

The Master Plan paints a picture of the community defining future aspirations. It provides a blueprint for land use regulation and zoning. For units of government that have and enforce zoning, that zoning may be based on the Master Plan.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to create a 20 year vision for the community, guiding future development towards more economic and efficient use; promoting public health, safety, and general welfare, and providing for adequate transportation systems, infrastructure, public utilities, and recreation opportunities. Below are the five focus areas integrated into the plan and highlighted by the colored bars featured in each chapter:

HOUSING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE + SERVICES

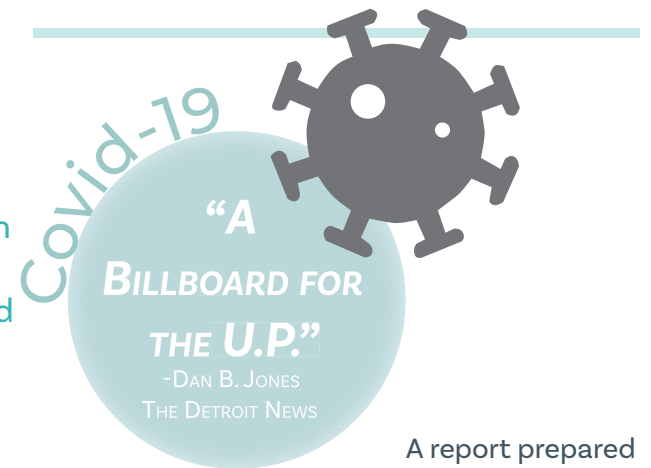
NATURAL RESOURCES

RECREATION

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Covid-19 and its many variants wreaked havoc on everything we knew to be normal, from riding the bus to school in the morning to picking up a cup of coffee. Despite these irksome new Covid wary habits, there is at least one silver lining. The outdoors have become our safe haven, friend and family gathering space, and vacation destination. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan tourism industry has exploded, boosting local economies.

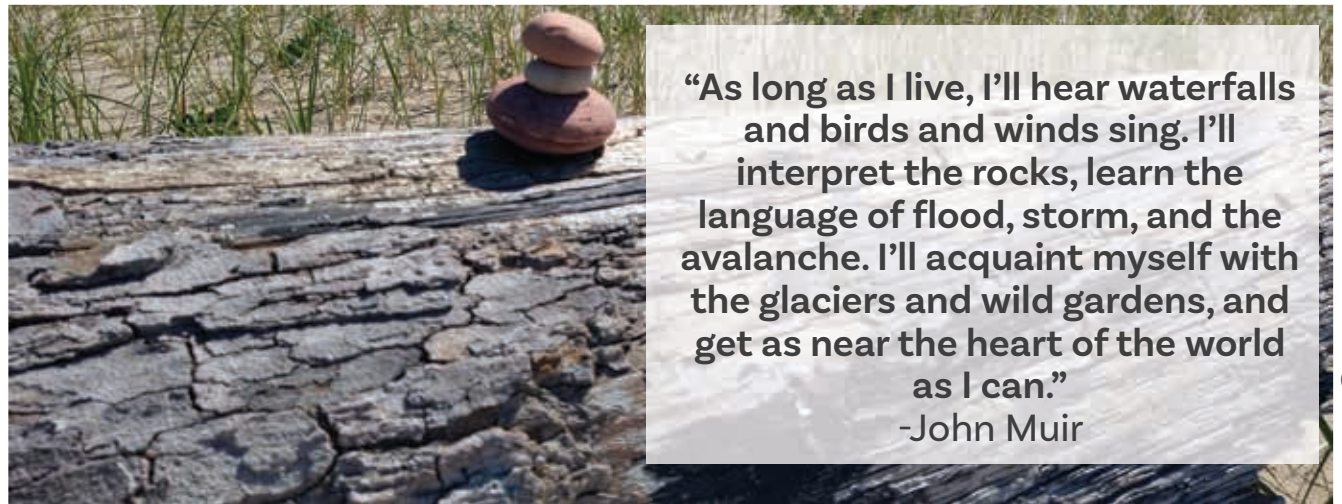
The Covid-19 stimulated spike in socially distanced outdoor tourism and surge in work from home options, paired with the expansion of our U.P. broadband grid has added to a rise in home and property sales.



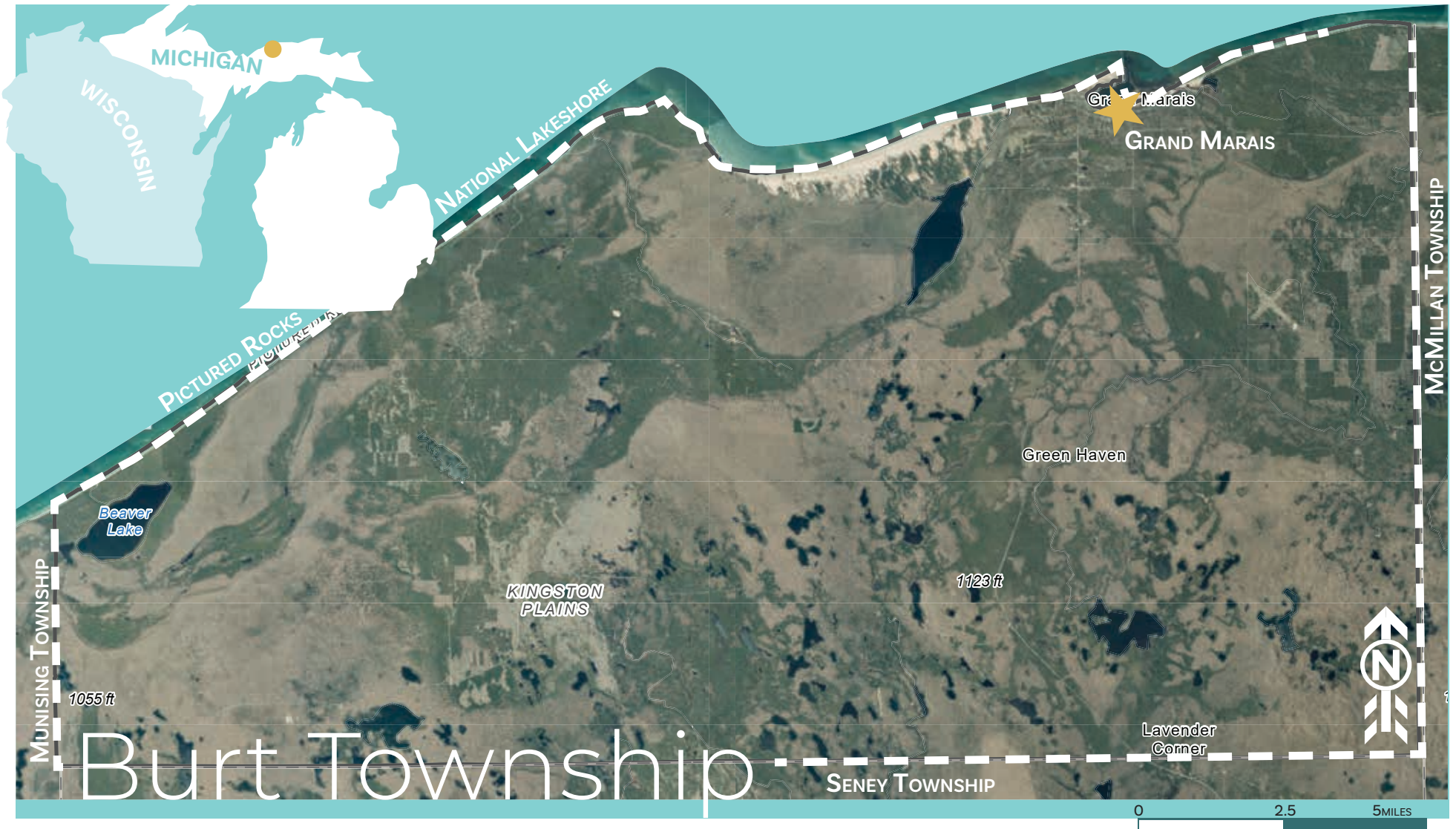
A report prepared by the MEDC by

Tourism Economics in 2014 found direct spending by leisure travelers equated to \$16.6 billion-nearly 73% of all visitor spending in Michigan. This report demonstrates that local economies are stimulated by access to recreation opportunities in addition to improving a community's health and vitality.

Burt Township is a spectacular Upper Peninsula recreation destination. Perhaps this post Covid era evolution will convince new faces to settle in this spectacularly wild place and join the others in calling Burt home.



"As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm, and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can."
-John Muir



LOCATION

Burt Township is in the Northeast corner of Alger County along the southern shoreline of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Burt Township is a natural paradise framed by the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (PRNL) and beaches, dotted with waterways, and blanketed in forests.

Although the township covers 234.4 square miles most residents live within the unincorporated community of Grand Marais. Grand Marais hosts most of the commercial businesses within the township as well as a marina and serves as a Harbor of Refuge.



Planning Process



Planning Process

The planning process is cyclical, requiring a review of the current Master Plan at least every 5 years. After reviewing the current plan and determining a complete overhaul was needed, the planning team immediately engaged with the community through a public survey.

The Burt Township master planning survey was distributed with the 2022 winter tax bills. The response rate was impressive with over 80% of the population contributing their thoughts and ideas. The Burt Township Planning Commission then hosted two separate meetings to discuss the survey results and future public participation endeavors.

The next step included data gathering on a variety of community related topics. Analyzing this data helped establish a more complete picture of the community and any trends shaping it. Community stakeholders were invited to the table to identify issues, needs, and opportunities.

The Burt Township Planning Commission developed a public participation strategy (see **Appendix A**) that included hosting a series of public workshops. These workshops explored key issues facing the community and helped the planning team identify additional community members eager to join the stakeholder group. The planning team then synthesized input and data and drafted up community goals and strategies. These items were organized and a community vision and future land use plan were developed.

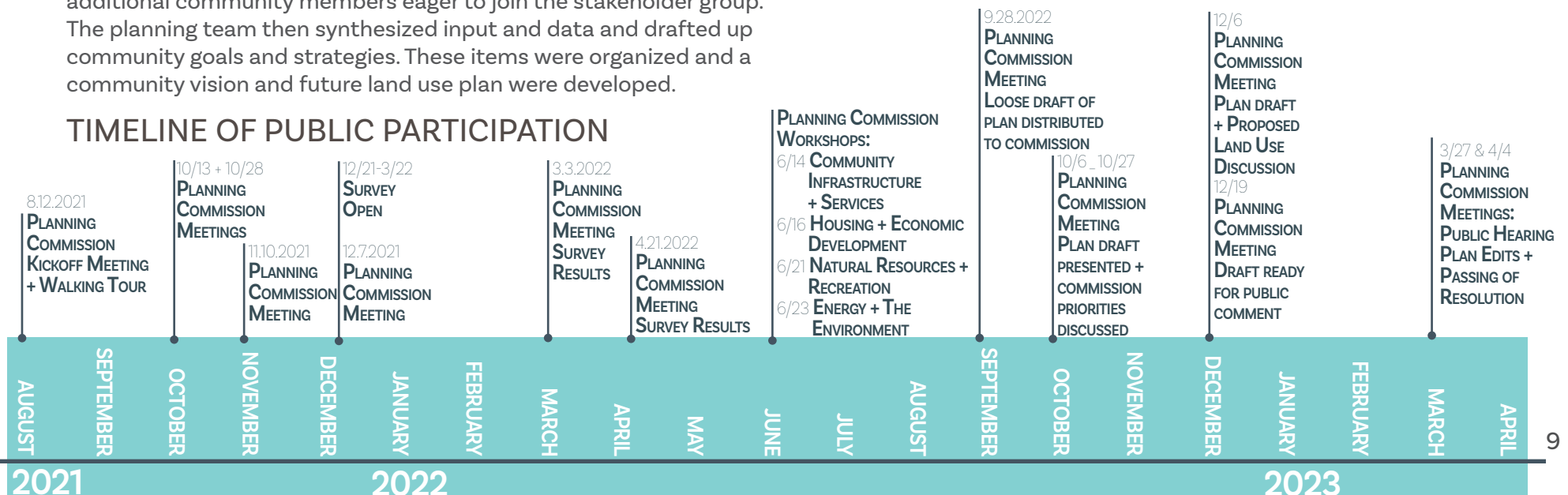
The draft plan was assembled allowing the opportunity for the public to comment over a 63 day period. After proposed the revisions were made and the final draft plan was generated. The Planning Commission proceeded with the formal adoption of the Plan at a public meeting.

After adoption local elected and appointed leaders and other public and private stakeholders will work together to implement the action items recorded in the plan.



HOUSING + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

TIMELINE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



2 Guiding Principles

COMMUNITY VALUES + VISION

Burt Township is experiencing many of the same issues and opportunities its historical occupants grappled with. Harsh winters and relative isolation make it a more appealing destination for seasonal residents. Spectacular scenery and the same natural qualities that aid in its remoteness also attract an influx of tourists. Snowmobilers and winter recreation enthusiasts visit consistently throughout the winter months while visitors of all types arrive for summer vacations.

Burt Township residents and homeowners participated in a community survey and four workshops. Each workshop was assigned a topic including:

- COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE + SERVICES
- HOUSING + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- NATURAL RESOURCES + RECREATION
- ENERGY + THE ENVIRONMENT

Underlying themes began to emerge as comments were received forming four key pillars to concentrate planning efforts on. These pillars were utilized in forming the values and goals expressed in the master plan.



ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

PROMOTE POLICIES AND MEASURES THAT DEVELOP MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS AND ENHANCE THE ECONOMY WHILE BEING COGNIZANT OF THE UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF THE COMMUNITY.

PRESERVE QUAINT CHARACTER

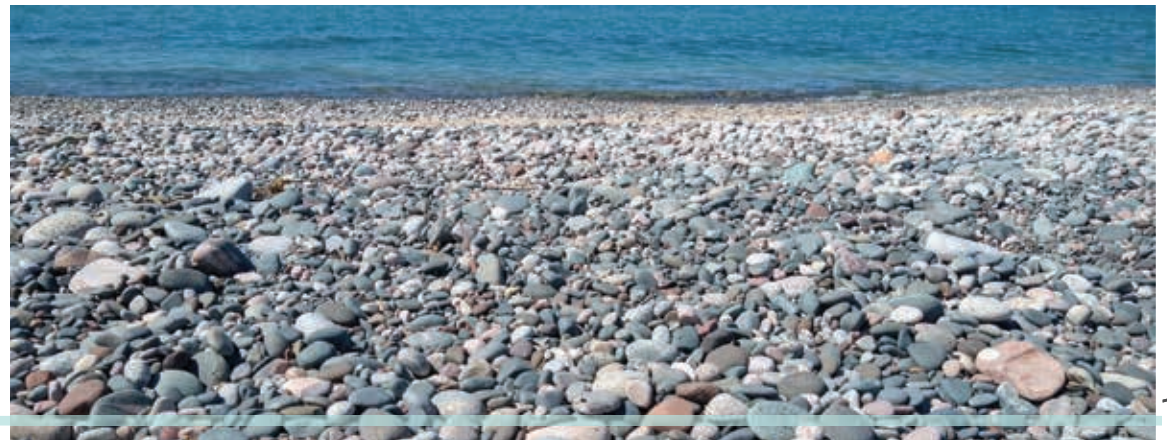
ANY EFFORT TO INTEGRATE ADDITIONAL SERVICES OR DEVELOPMENT INTO THE COMMUNITY MUST EMBRACE THE CHARACTER OF THE REGION.

PROTECT NATURAL SPACES

PREVENT DEGRADATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES CAUSED BY OVERUSE AND MISUSE.

ENHANCE LIVABILITY

ATTRACT WORKING AGED AND YOUNG FAMILIES WHILE ACCOMMODATING NEEDS AND DESIRES OF THE EXISTING POPULATION.



Past + Ongoing Plans

A community must review relevant and recent community plans in order to develop a more complete picture of previous and future planning efforts and to avoid “reinventing the wheel.” Below is a short summary of the planning documents reviewed that helped inform this plan.

“THERE IS NO POWER
FOR CHANGE GREATER
THAN A COMMUNITY
DISCOVERING WHAT IT
CARES ABOUT.”

-MARGARET J. WHEATLEY

2013 BURT TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

The 2013 Master Plan was written in partnership with CUPPAD and reflects many of the concerns expressed by community members at that time. It begins to touch on topics such as renewable energy but does not address some of the current priorities listed in the community surveys.

One of the community meetings was hosted in Grand Marais at the school. A priority project listed within the plan included the development of an off-road mixed use trail that would allow for travel from the Burt Township School to the School Forest.

2021-2025 RECREATION PLAN

Burt Township worked in partnership with CUPPAD to develop their 2021 recreation plan. The plan includes a list of community priority projects as well as which of these might provide economic advantage to the community.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS

CUPPAD maintains the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and the 10-year Regional Prosperity Plan. Both plans cover the 6-county Central U.P. Region and generate broad goals for development with an emphasis on projects that promote economic growth and attracting talented employees. The plan also focuses on infrastructure development, enhancing educational opportunities, and improving quality of life.

2022 NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL PLAN

This plan was crafted as a partnership between Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and local communities to define existing and potential non-motorized trail opportunities within Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. CUPPAD hosted the community outreach efforts, drafted potential trail development charts, and developed the planning document and maps.

ALGER COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY STRATEGY

TIP Strategies (TIP) and CUPPAD have teamed up to develop an economic recovery and resilience strategy for Alger County. This effort is still underway although the Marquette County Recovery and Resilience Strategy has been completed and was utilized as a reference.

3 Community Trends + Demographics

A SHORT HISTORY

Burt Township is a sparsely populated community situated along the shores of Lake Superior. Most residents live within the unincorporated community of Grand Marais on its northern edge. It serves as the eastern gateway to the first national lake shore created, Pictured Rocks, and is home to spectacular scenery and abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation. This chapter will provide a brief synopsis of the history of the community and demographic trends.

The region was home to the Ojibwa, a woodland Indian people, for hundreds of years prior to being documented by explorers and fur traders. The first documented visitor to Pictured Rocks was Pierre Esprit Radisson, in 1658, who noted with enthusiasm the splendor of Grand Sable Dunes and Pictured Rocks: "We go along a coast, most delightful and wonderful."¹ The National Parks website captures the significance of Pictured Rock's location and its inevitable preservation:

"Radisson's visit underscores two central features of the history of Pictured Rocks: Its striking scenic vistas and its remote isolation...Had this area been located near the early population centers of the United States it would have emerged at an early date as a major tourist destination.... While tourism and urbanization embraced and degraded Niagara Falls, Mammoth Cave, and the Hudson River Valley the Upper Peninsula of Michigan remained a remote resource frontier."¹

A key turning point for the community of Grand Marais arrived in 1893 when the Alger-Smith Lumber Company of Detroit built a railroad from Seney to Grand Marais shifting its milling operations there. During the next decade and a half the little town was booming with over two thousand people moving there.



Logging Camp |
Photo courtesy of Grand Marais Historical Society



Grand Marais circa 1906 |
Photo courtesy of Grand Marais Historical Society



mid-1900's | Chapel Rock courtesy of NPS

¹ U.S. Department of the Interior. (2002, April 5). The Pictured Rocks: An administrative history of pictured rocks national lakeshore (Chapter 1). National Parks Service. Retrieved August 2, 2022, from https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/piro/adhi/adhi1.htm

"Some of the most sublime and commanding views in nature."

-Henry Rowe Schoolcraft circa 1821

During this time, the community boasted 30 saloons, two newspapers, a dozen hotels, boarding houses and two banks. A commercial fishing industry also contributed to the economic success of the region. This economic boom did not endure. In 1910, Alger-Smith closed operations of the milling industry in Grand Marais and abandoned the Manistique Railway. The “dark hemlock forests” described by Henry R. Schoolcraft had been almost entirely logged.

The State of Michigan began pursuing conservation efforts in the Upper Peninsula by establishing the Lake Superior State Forest in 1917. By 1931, the federal government created Ottawa, Hiawatha and Marquette National Forests and utilized Civilian Conservation Corps labor to replant the ravaged landscape.

During the years following World War II northern Michigan began to transform itself from a resource extraction source into a mid-western recreation destination. The communities within the newly created “North Woods” attempted to both preserve the spectacular natural spaces as well as support a robust tourism industry. Post World War II prosperity spurred a desire to visit new places and

the Upper Peninsula of Michigan experienced a massive influx in tourists.

Some visitors built summer residences within the region including a prominent Chicago Tribune cartoonist, William Donahey, who built a home on Grand Sable Lake in the 1920s. Industrialist William Boller and George Hughes followed suit shortly after, building their own homes on the lake.

These north woods vacation destinations took on a life of their own. One owner, James R. Bailey, expressed his feelings:

“When I was a child growing up in Ithaca, Michigan, it seemed that my whole life was consumed with my next visit to the Cabin. I found security in the fact that the Cabin existed, in all its beauty, in the harsh Grand Marais winters, the grizzly Canadian winds and the unpredictable Spring rains. It was there alive not only in my memory but in reality.”²

To this day Burt Township and the greater Upper Peninsula region serves as a mid-west tourism destination and hosts a multitude of summer homes. This plan will reflect lessons gleaned from the Township’s varied history to derive solutions for future preservation, economic development and potential industry.



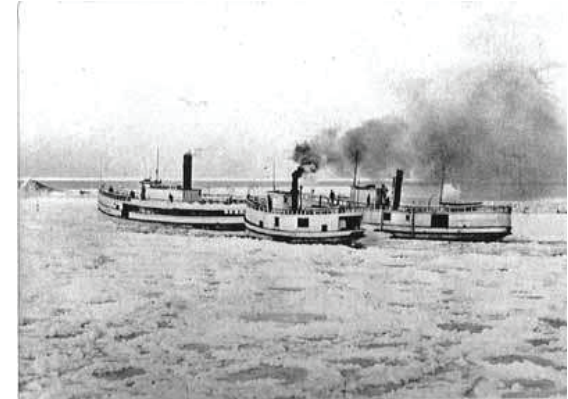
Coast Guard Point looking East from the top of the hill in Grand Marais (Courtesy of long time resident)

²U.S. Department of the Interior. (2002, April 5). The Pictured Rocks: An administrative history of pictured rocks national lakeshore (Chapter 1). National Parks Service. Retrieved August 2, 2022, from https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/piro/adhi/adhi1.htm



1880's | Brazel Sawmill

Photo courtesy of Grand Marais Historical Society



1907 | Fishing Tugs in Winter

Photo courtesy of Grand Marais Historical Society

Community Trends + Demographics

POPULATION

Assessing the number of people in the community and their demographic characteristics helps planners and policy makers to determine the needs of the community. Burt Township attracts seasonal, part-time and year round residents with its abundant recreation opportunities and its exquisite natural beauty.

While the population in the State of Michigan increased in the last twenty years, Alger County and Burt Township have experienced a slow decline in population. Population trends are shown in the adjacent table. With a 1960 population of 457, the 2020 population was recorded at 411 persons, marking a 10% decrease. In comparison Munising Township has seen its population more than double. One question to consider is how this community has made such strides in expanding its population while Burt Township has seen a decline.

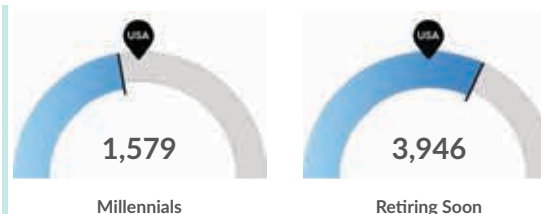
Burt Township's population is aging, as evidenced by the pie charts shown on the right. Within the past 40 years the population has gone from a relatively even split of 0-20 year olds, 21-44 year olds, 45-64 year olds and 65 plus year olds to a population of 54% at and over 65 years old. This dramatic change indicates that young persons are not staying in the community, and new working age residents have been difficult to attract. The community survey responses also indicated a decline in younger residents highlighting a need for more affordable housing and employment opportunities as well as a desire to reverse the declining enrollment at the

	YEAR	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	PERCENT CHANGE 1960-2020
BURT TOWNSHIP: POP.		457	424	539	508	480	522	411	-10%
CITY OF MUNISING:		4,228	3,677	3,083	2,783	2,539	2,355	1,986	-53%
MUNISING TOWNSHIP:		1,408	1,614	1,963	2,193	3,125	2,983	2,865	203%
ALGER COUNTY:		9,250	8,568	9,225	8,972	9,862	9,601	8,842	-4.4%

Burt Township School.

The aging demographic may also impact the tax base, with a smaller proportion of the population working yet requiring social services. Additional services requested within Burt Township could include: a health clinic open daily, affordable housing options, and transportation services.

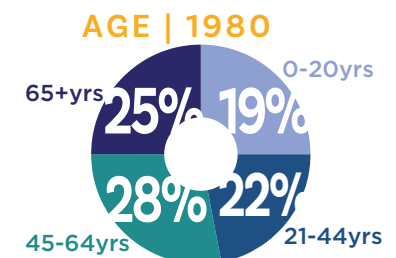
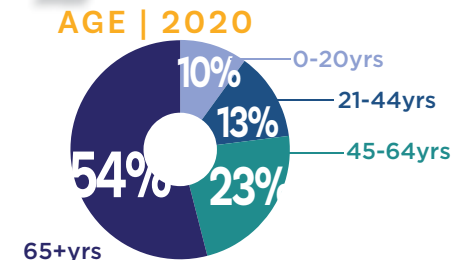
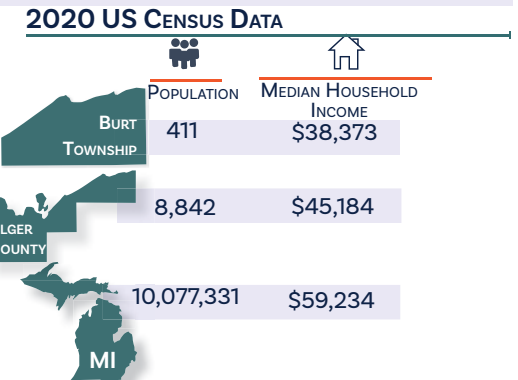
As illustrated in the graph below sourced from 2022 Lightcast data, the number of millennials within Alger County is lower than the national average for a similarly sized area and the number of those residents retiring soon is significantly higher. This begs the question what will a community like Burt Township look like in 10-20 years if this trend continues?



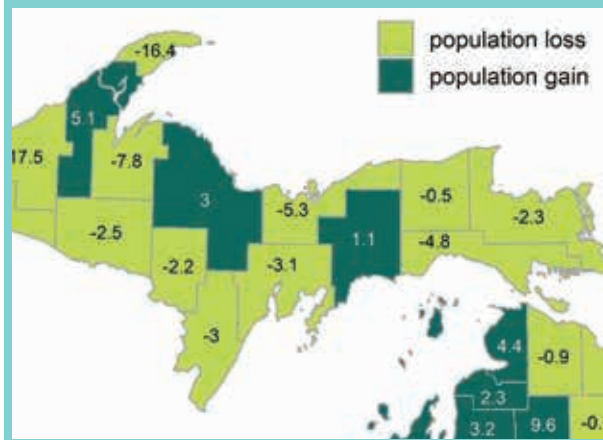
Alger County, MI has 1,579 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 1,858.

Retirement risk is high in Alger County, MI. The national average for an area this size is 2,683 people 55 or older, while there are 3,946 here.

Data Source: Lightcast Q3 2022 Data Set



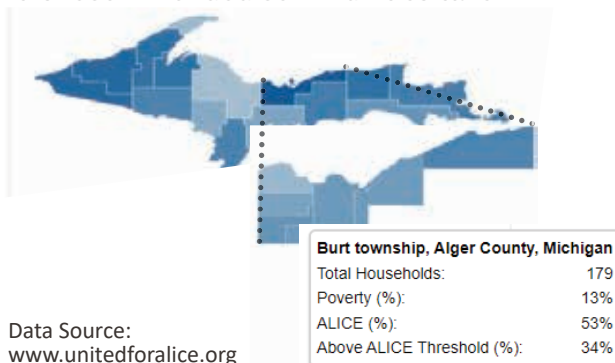
PROJECTION OF % POPULATION CHANGE: 2020-2030



The State of Michigan recently released a source featuring population projections. The projections predict a 5.3% decrease in population within Alger County between the years 2020-2030. Michigan as a whole is also projected to experience a population decline.

This is not the first time Michigan has experienced this. In the early 21st century Michigan also saw a decrease due to young people leaving in search of jobs and a resulting precipitous drop in births.

The document notes a potential influx in younger residents with the Baby Boomers entering retirement age providing opportunities for new hires in the job market. It is recommended communities take



Data Source:
www.unitedforalice.org

advantage of this opportunity and attract people from outside of the state in order to achieve population growth.⁴

INCOME LEVELS WITHIN BURT TOWNSHIP

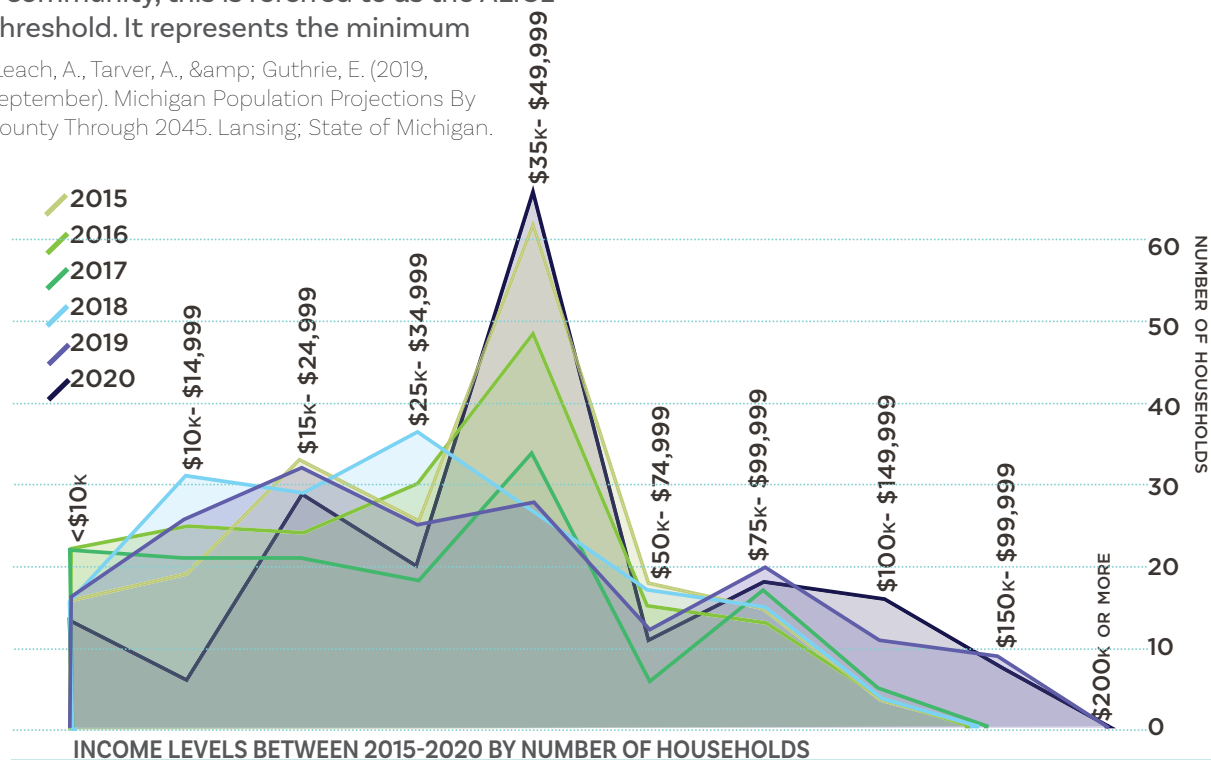
The 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates median household income within Burt Township at \$38,373. This figure comes with a 10% margin of error. In comparison, the 2010 median household income was \$31,563. The cumulative rate of inflation during this time was 35%. That would indicate the 2020 figure should be closer to \$42,894 if median income had remained consistent.

A second income measuring source to consider is the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report. ALICE has developed its own tool to determine income need within a community, this is referred to as the ALICE Threshold. It represents the minimum

⁴Leach, A., Tarver, A., & Guthrie, E. (2019, September). Michigan Population Projections By County Through 2045. Lansing; State of Michigan.

income level necessary for a household's survival and is derived from a combination of data points including the minimum cost of household basics necessary to live and work in modern society. The figure then "rounds to the nearest ACS income category and adjusts for household size and composition in each county."⁵ As illustrated in the map from the interactive ALICE website (<https://www.unitedforalice.org/county-profiles/michigan>), Burt Township's ALICE rate is one of the highest in the U.P. (darkest shading) at 53%. This translates to Burt having the greatest need for higher, more liveable wages within the community.

⁵Research center. UnitedForALICE. (n.d.). Retrieved August 23, 2022, from <https://www.unitedforalice.org/county-profiles/michigan>



INCOME LEVELS CONTINUED...

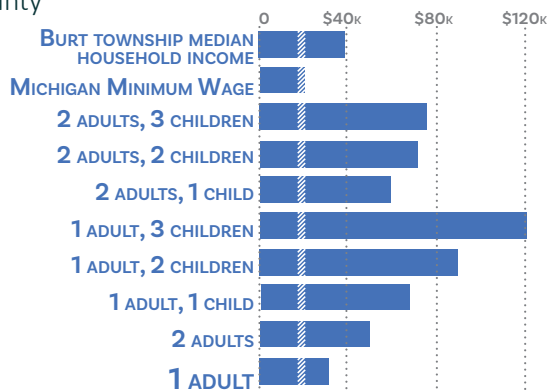
The graph below illustrates living wage calculations for those in Alger County. The white hashed line denotes what the annual income is for someone making minimum wage. This indicates no household size would be able to live comfortably while making minimum wage within Alger County.

A frequent request by residents was the hope of increasing this median income level by encouraging an influx of working aged residents and promoting measures to support a more diverse and robust economy. This topic will be explored in greater detail in Chapter 6.

Living Wage Calculations for Alger County

*THESE CALCULATIONS ASSUME A FULL TIME JOB AT 2080 HRS/YR

*THE WHITE LINE DENOTES A MINIMUM WAGE ANNUAL INCOME



Data Source: US Census and <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/26003>

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

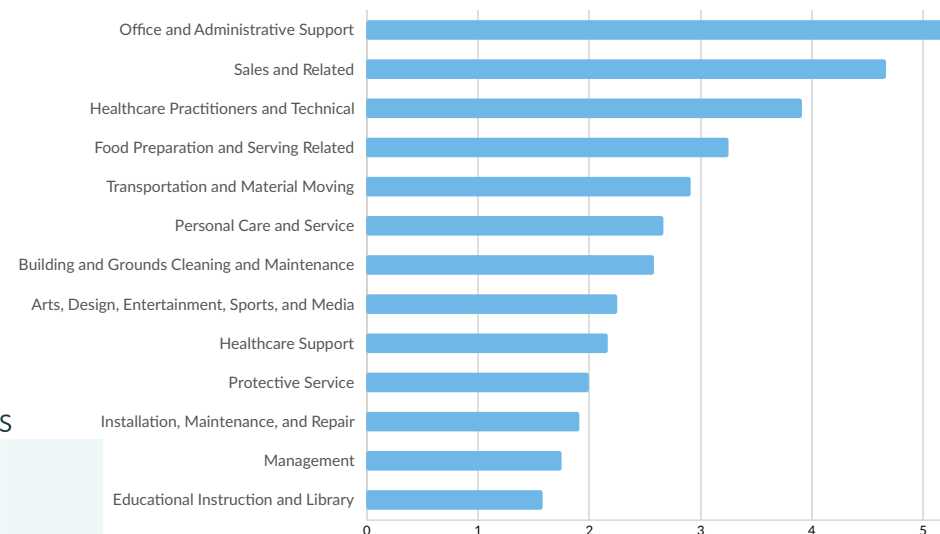
The ACS data specific to the Township regarding employment characteristics has a large margin of error, the 80% response rate to the community survey offered an additional employment-related data source.

57% of survey respondents noted they are retired which is not surprising as it corresponds with the aging demographic. Of those gainfully employed, 13% work within Burt Township. Many are employed outside of Alger County. This is likely due to the fact that just over half of the respondents had noted they only resided in Burt Township for a portion

of the year. The relatively small percent of residents living and working in Burt Township indicates a significant need for employment opportunities within the township. By providing gainful employment with liveable wages, young families and working aged adults will once again be able to settle in the township.

A window into current Alger County employment trends is illustrated in the graph below. The positions listed are the top posted occupations within the 3rd quarter of 2022. Positions in healthcare, food service, transportation, personal care

Unique Average Monthly Postings



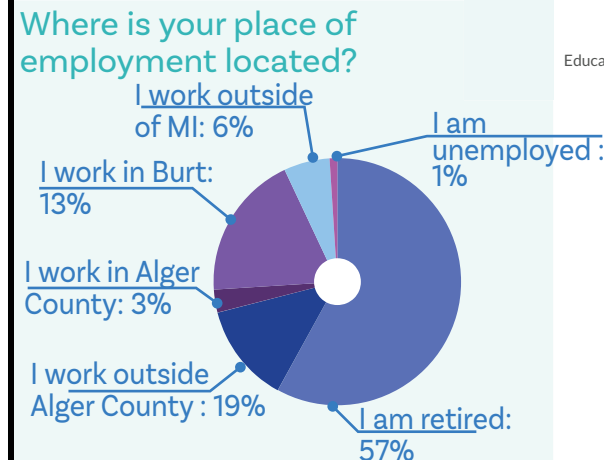
Data Source: Lightcast Q3 2022 Data Set

and home maintenance demonstrate an increasing need for services that aid those aging in place. This suggests a potential opportunity to accommodate the needs of an aging demographic while creating gainful employment for younger generations.

HOUSING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Survey Responses



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Among the survey responses and community input sessions, Burt Township was regularly characterized by its ‘quaint’ character featuring ‘mom and pop’ shops and spectacular scenery. Residents express a deep connection with the place and a desire to maintain its picture perfect appeal.

CHANGING TIDES

This is juxtaposed within an era where the cost of housing has skyrocketed along with inflation. Home ownership in the United States is becoming further out of reach for many. According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) only 42.8% of homes sold between April and June of 2022 were affordable to families earning the U.S. median income of \$90,000. This dropped from a 56.9% rate of affordable home sales in the first quarter of the year.³

As illustrated in American Community Survey (ACS) data and the State of Michigan’s population projections, Burt Township and the greater Upper Peninsula region is experiencing a shift to an aging demographic.

³<https://www.nahb.org/news-and-economics/housing-economics/indices/housing-opportunity-index>

Housing related implications may include older residents looking to downsize and/or enter assisted living facilities or hire in home care. Some desired amenities may include ground-level or elevator accessible units and units with limited maintenance needs such as apartments, condominiums or townhouses. A deeper dive into current housing stock, affordable housing options, and the short term rental market will be explored in Chapter 7.

DOWNTOWN

Most commercial businesses within the township are concentrated in the heart of Grand Marais. As highlighted in many of the community surveys and discussions Grand Marais’ downtown features a diverse palette of local businesses with no chains or restaurant franchises.

Historically, saloons, boarding houses, and banks dotted Grand Marais’ downtown strip. The landscape has changed very little with the Dunes Saloon/Lake Superior Brewing Company commanding one corner and The Grand Marais Tavern anchoring the other end of town. Boutique hotels and a smattering of restaurants, coffee shops and outfitters provide incentive for visitors and residents to stay for a bite to eat and some shopping. Groceries, gas and hardware store essentials can also be purchased within town. Many survey respondents expressed desire for

a larger grocery store, hair and nail salon, and community health clinic and dentist office.

INDUSTRY

Founded in the logging era, Burt’s history is tied to industry associated with natural resource extraction and processing as is much of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Although lumber is no longer the top employer within the township, it still has a strong hold within the County. The Neenah Paper Company in Munising and Timber Products Company in Munising Township remain two of the largest employers within the county.

With Pictured Rocks on its west wing there is a great opportunity for recreation focused industry. Some residents have tapped into this economic opportunity through providing rental units while others host sight-seeing tours and rentals, or offer fishing charters. There is still room to develop additional opportunities within this industry and the National Park Service has expressed interest in shifting a larger percent of their record visitor numbers to the east entrance of the park.



Downtown Grand Marais

4 People + Community

POPULATION GOALS

THE PEOPLE OF BURT

The people of Burt Township were integral to every step of this planning process. In providing an 80% response rate on mailed surveys with 72 single space typed pages of additional comments. Four workshops were requested and hosted by the Planning Commission. Each featured a local professional discussing a topic of interest. The events were attended by 20 to 30 residents with active, positive feedback and engaging conversations. Evidenced by this community's make up of passionate activists who are eager to ensure a promising future for their community, we endeavored to



develop a plan that responds to many of the needs expressed.

Looking to its history, Burt Township has not seen a dramatic spike in population since the lumber boom of the late 1800's and early 1900's. As witnessed in US Census data, the population figure has fluctuated between 400-550 people.

Generally a slow decline in population since 1980 has been felt in communities throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It is anticipated this trend will continue unless intervening factors, such as an increased birth rate or migration of residents from other localities changes the trajectory. With a rapidly aging demographic the community has voiced the need for young families and working aged residents to settle in the township, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the community.

STOPPING A DECLINING POPULATION

Many factors of a declining population are beyond the control of a single community and are due to economic and demographic changes. That said, small communities can take some steps to embrace the migration of new residents to the area, capitalizing on talent attraction and retention strategies. Opportunities discussed within the workshops highlighted future improvements to broadband access allowing people to

**IDEAL VISION FOR
BURT:
"A FLOURISHING
ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT
SCHOOL HOUSED IN AN
ENERGY EFFICIENT,
MULTI-USE BUILDING."**

-COMMUNITY MEMBER

work remotely from Burt Township as well as the addition of community services including a sewer system and a regularly staffed health care center.

The school system was considered a necessary portal into supporting

youthful community growth. There was an overwhelming desire to keep the school open and encourage enrollment, enhanced curriculum and educational opportunities.

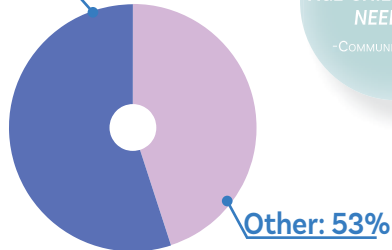
Capitalizing on the wealth of spectacular vistas and natural resources that make the township so special was another topic of interest. It was noted newcomers often first visited Burt Township en route to Pictured Rocks, falling in love with the landscape and community, then choosing to stay. Developing a good relationship with the National Park Service and creating better connections between the community and Pictured Rocks was noted as a priority.

Each of these measures has the potential to contribute to the development of a diverse and vibrant population. By engaging in opportunities to enhance quality of life and economic viability the Township may be able to reverse the slow decline in population and ensure a promising future for all residents.

Community Survey Responses

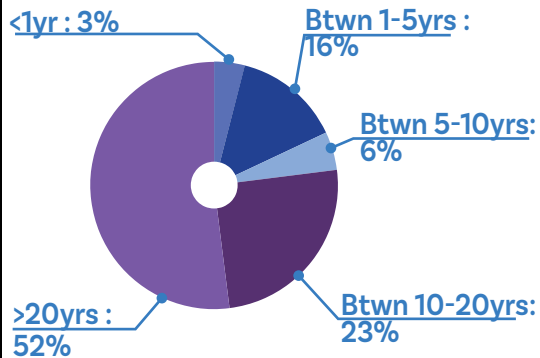
I am a resident of:

Burt Township:
47%



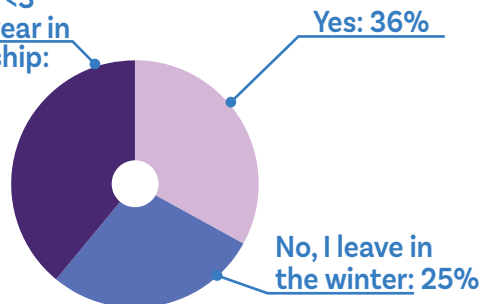
"FAMILIES
WITH SCHOOL
AGE CHILDREN ARE
NEEDED"
-COMMUNITY MEMBER

How long have you lived and/or owned property in Burt Township?

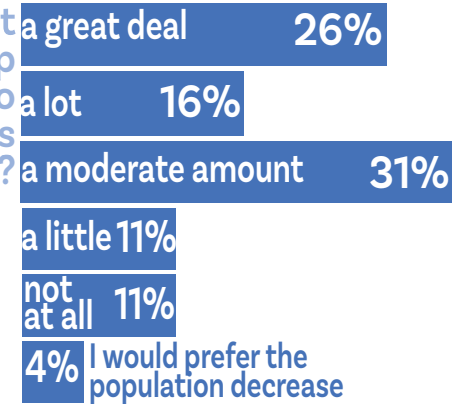


Do you live in Burt Township year round?

No, I spend <3
months a year in
Burt Township:
39%



How important is it that the Township population continues to grow and maintain its population?



COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES

Of the surveys submitted 47% of the respondents considered themselves residents while 53% listed other. This paired with the data point that the majority of the respondents spend winters away or less than 3 months a year in the township notes a very seasonal population. An interesting side bar was that 75% of the respondents had owned property or lived in the township for 10-20 years and longer indicating that many properties were likely passed down over generations.

A majority of respondents favored an increase in township population, although a moderate increase was preferred. This is a reasonable goal as a large influx of new residents could rapidly change the character and dynamic of the community. A slower trickle of new residents, especially if these new people were of working age and with children could help continue to sustain the local economy, and keep the school up and running.

This feedback paired with many community perspectives expressed in person and via written comment helped shape the Population and Community Goals featured on the following page.

"In preparing Burt Twp for the future, it is important to keep the needs of the current full-time residents foremost. The master plan should be developed to allow their input, and adopt no plans that would limit their ability to live in their homes, and their town."

-Survey Participant

People + Community Goals



THE TOWNSHIP SHOULD STRIVE TO REVERSE THE DECLINING POPULATION TREND.

PROMOTE REMOTE WORKING OPPORTUNITIES TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS TO LIVE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP.

PRESERVE THE VIEW OF THE BAY AS IT IS THE HEART OF GRAND MARAIS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMUNITY'S UNIQUE AND PICTURESQUE ATMOSPHERE.

PURSUCE ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO ATTRACT YOUNG FAMILIES IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.



“We need long term residents and people to fill employment positions and for organizational membership.”

-Survey Participant

“I am up for anything to help grow this town...we need to encourage young people to move here.”

-Survey Participant

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5 Natural Environment + Recreation

NATURAL FEATURES, CLIMATE TRENDS + RECREATION

“What do you love about Burt Township:”

The beautiful, serene nature that exists, surrounded by seclusion and wildlife. There are endless outdoor opportunities and being someone who takes advantage of these year-round, there is always something to occupy your time with in the out of doors...peace and serenity we once had has lessened. While tourism plays a role in our township due to the beautiful nature around us, residents feel the constraints that tourism puts on the environment and the resources more so than anyone else. -Survey Participant

NATURE IN ABUNDANCE

With roughly one third of the township designated as federal and state lands the opportunities for outdoor adventure are limitless. Preserving natural viewsapes, water quality, stream corridors and tree canopy were all topics featured in community survey feedback. When prompted with the question:

Are there any particularly sensitive areas that need to be protected?

Responses flooded in with the **BAY AREA**, **BEACHES** and **DUNES** topping the chart. Not far behind **LAKE SUPERIOR**, the **SCHOOL FOREST** and **WATERWAYS** followed.

It is evident community members recognize the uniqueness of their landscape and its sometimes fragile nature. Within this chapter we explore the many natural layers found within the township’s landscape and how the community seeks to preserve and enhance what special places this region harbors.

NATURAL RESOURCES

RECREATION

A TIME AND PLACE FOR QUIET

The Village of Grand Marais, Burt Township’s main population hub lies 25 miles north of the highway 28 intersection. This distance separates the community from much of the through way traffic requiring visitor’s to be committed to a minimum 50 minute detour. More and more visitors appear to be making this community and the greater township area part of their travel itinerary. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore continues to shatter records for visitor numbers each year as local residents note an uptick in visitor numbers. There is increasing competition for sites at the Woodland Park Campground and vacation rentals are often booked up well in advance. Many noted in their survey responses that the community *“Has been discovered,”* and the quiet atmosphere they had grown to associate with their small community was starting to change.

As noted in the People + Community chapter and the Economic Development chapter of this plan each element is inextricably tied to another within the greater community fabric.

With a desire to attract young families and working aged residents as well as strengthen the economy the township will have to brace for more change. Careful measures must be put in place to preserve the peacefulness of the community and its natural spaces.

A DESTINATION FOR RECREATION

With wilderness in abundance comes opportunity to explore. As evidenced in the quote from a resident at the top of this page, many chose to live and visit the township in search of a place to enjoy the outdoors in all four seasons. The most commonly noted **ACTIVITIES** within the community survey included **HIKING**, **BIKING** and **FISHING**. **BEACH-GOING**, **ORV/SNOWMOBILING**, **HUNTING**, and **CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** and **SNOWSHOEING** followed closely behind.

The maps and charts on the following pages illustrate the layering of natural and human created features on the landscape as well as the survey results received pertaining to recreation in Burt Township.

LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION

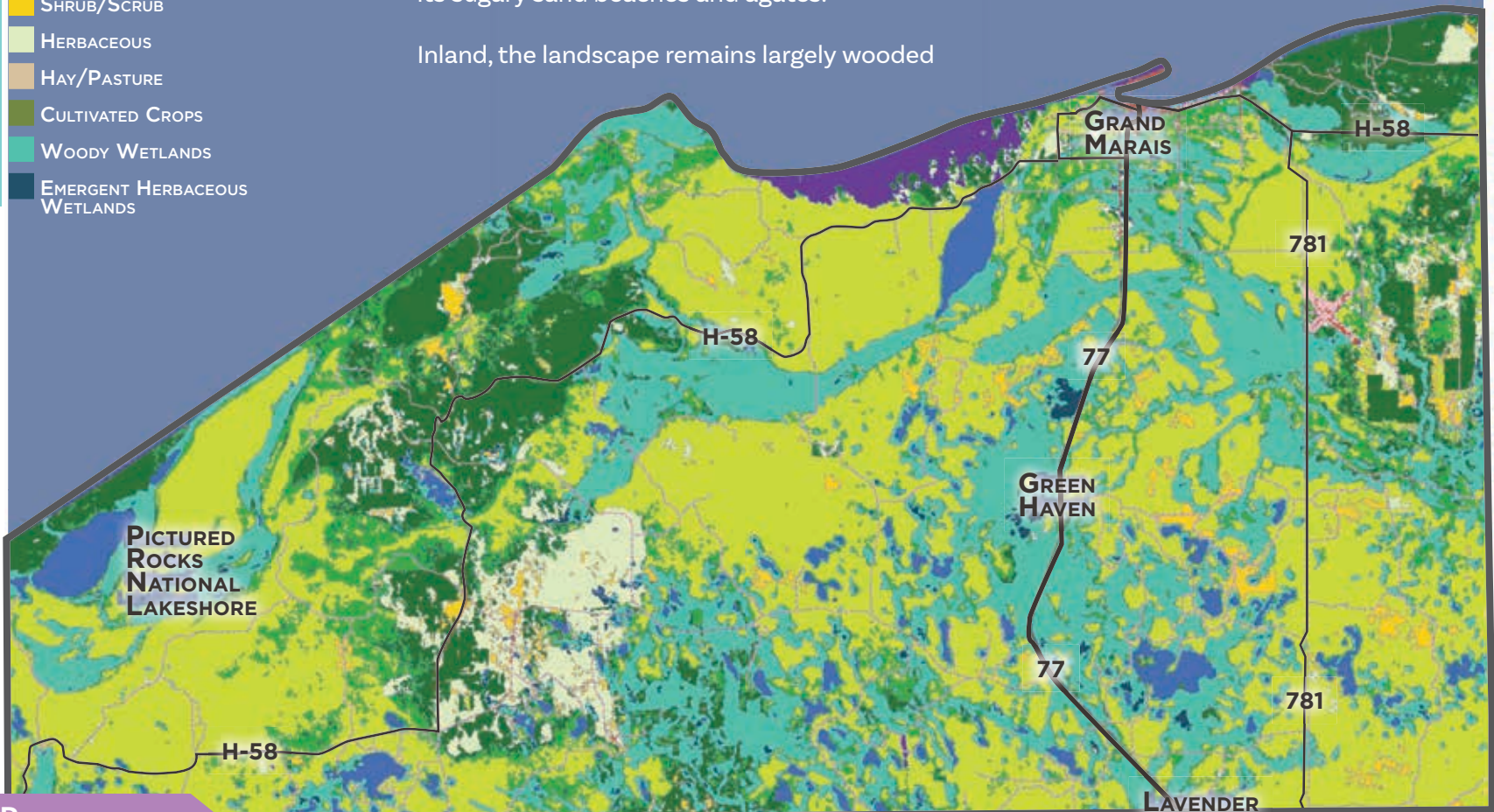
- OPEN WATER
- DEVELOPED, OPEN SPACE
- DEVELOPED, LOW INTENSITY
- DEVELOPED, MEDIUM INTENSITY
- DEVELOPED, HIGH INTENSITY
- BARREN LAND (SAND + DUNES)
- DECIDUOUS FOREST
- CONIFER FOREST
- MIXED FOREST
- SHRUB/SCRUB
- HERBACEOUS
- HAY/PASTURE
- CULTIVATED CROPS
- WOODY WETLANDS
- EMERGENT HERBACEOUS WETLANDS

LAND COVER

Lake Superior borders Burt Township's northern shoreline shaping a spectacular and varied coast. The Grand Sable Dunes rise more than 300 feet above the lake covering roughly 5 square miles. Their spectacle contrasts the Pictured Rocks cliffs featuring streaks of mineral deposits along 50-200 foot high sandstone cliffs. The community of Grand Marais is centered on a harbor with a portion currently dredged to maintain its depth from sand deposition. The community is famous for its sugary sand beaches and agates.

with a mix of deciduous and evergreen forests. Wooded wetlands also speckle the landscape with the Seney National Wildlife Refuge located just south of the township's border is a wetland haven for birds and other wildlife.

Inland, the landscape remains largely wooded



NATURAL RESOURCES

0 2 4 MILES

LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

As illustrated in the land cover map on the previous page, the landscape within Burt Township is mostly wild with evidence of past logging practices. Here, landscape typologies are utilized to showcase the various landforms influenced by terrain, soils, exposure and vegetation. By developing a clear understanding of what landscapes the township has and where they are located a more holistic understanding of the landscape is generated. Future development and preservation operations can then continue to reflect Burt Township's community and cultural identity.



THE BAY

Arguably the most beautiful bay in the state, Grand Marais' bay is dotted with fishing shacks, a public marina, private rentals, residences, and a township park. The northwest corner of the bay is designated as a harbor of refuge and is dredged by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Residents are concerned with the deposition of sand within the bay since the removal of the original breakwall. They would like to see water levels and quality monitored and necessary steps taken to preserve the centerpiece of their community.



BEACHFRONT

The sandy shoreline wraps around Coast Guard Point and stretches past the Woodland Park Campground framing the entire community with exquisite vistas, swimming spots, and agate hunting grounds.



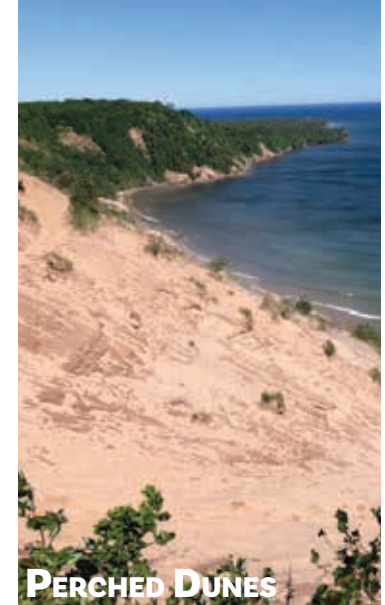
INLAND LAKES

The largest inland lake within the township is Grand Sable Lake. It is located within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. The community has a strong connection to this lake with a history of it serving as a summer beach-going destination. Many of the other inland lakes are mostly surrounded by wilderness with relatively uninhabited shorelines.



WETLANDS

A combination of poorly draining soil types, bedrock close to the surface, and drainage depressions formed by glaciers provide an abundance of wetlands within Burt Township. These areas contain a variety of plants including woodsorrel, northern dewberry, sphagnum moss, sedges, dogwood and various wildflower species.⁵



PERCHED DUNES

The Grand Sable Dunes within PRNL are among the best examples of perched dunes within the world. These dunes form on top of existing coastal bluffs. They contain rare plant species.

Post glacial age (10,000 years ago) and at the end of the last high water period (4,000-6,000 years ago) the rocky cliff face left by glaciers was eroded and sand-sized material was blown on shore left to settle on top of the bluff. These sands are constantly shifting and reshaping the landscape.⁶

**"THE BAY
REPRESENTS THE
SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT
ASSET AND PHYSICAL
ATTRIBUTE OF THE
COMMUNITY."**

—RESIDENT

“Coast Guard Point should not be developed to the point of detracting from the beauty. No large buildings.”

-Survey Participant



CONIFER FOREST

Pockets of jack pine forests are found among the dunes providing a habitat for a unique array of plant species including sand cherry, dune willow, common juniper, beach pea, hairy goldenrod, wormwood, evening primrose, and horsetail as well as native dune grasses.⁷

The Burt Township School Forest also provides an excellent conifer forest stand with sandy soils and ponderosa and jack pine.



DECIDUOUS/MIXED FORESTS

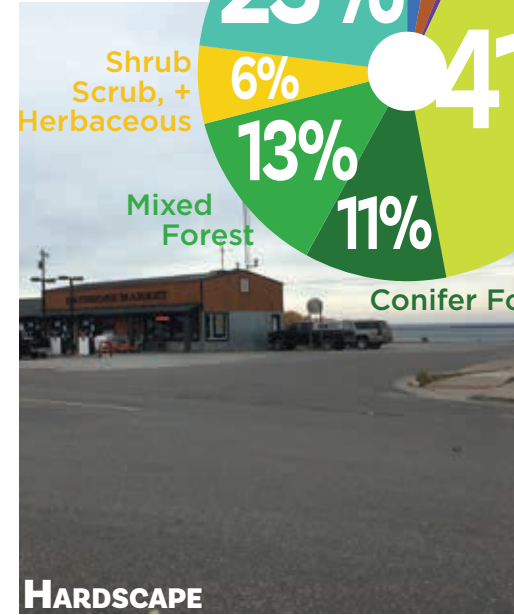
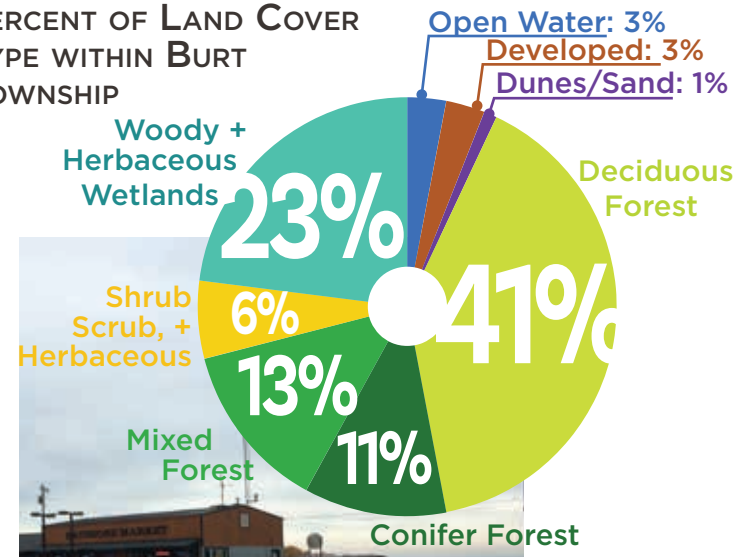
Further inland from the Lake Superior shoreline the landscape is covered in beautiful deciduous/mixed forests. The original tree stands are what drew settlers to the land initially. Now the forests provide a haven for birds and wildlife, a jaw-dropping fall color display, and plenty of terrain to explore. Many community members mentioned how much they valued their forested lands and desired to preserve them.



TREE-LINED STREETS

Tree-lined neighborhoods throughout the community of Grand Marais provide a well shaded, beautiful atmosphere for its visitors and residents. By carrying this concept into the downtown area, a more comfortable, consistent community feel will be achieved. As views of the bay are a key asset for the community it is recommended view corridors be maintained allowing tree lined streets to open up onto the water front and provide framed views to Lake Superior and the bay.

PERCENT OF LAND COVER TYPE WITHIN BURT TOWNSHIP



HARDSCAPE

Hardscaped areas are those that have been compacted and/or paved over primarily for vehicular access. The downtown area in Grand Marais features the largest hardscaped area with unclear circulation due to an overabundance of pavement.

Softening street corners and edges, providing clear circulation, signage and a gateway will result in a much more aesthetically appealing and logical community layout.

⁵ United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

2014. Soil survey of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan.

⁶ United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2014. Soil survey of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan.

⁷ U.S. Department of the Interior. (n.d.). Sand Dunes. National Parks Service. Retrieved September 7, 2022, from <https://www.nps.gov/piro/learn/nature/sanddunes.htm>

SOILS

Mapunit Name

Au Gres sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
Beaches
Burt muck
Carbondale, Lupton, and Tawas soils
Croswell sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
Croswell-Kinross complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Cusino loamy sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Cusino loamy sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Davies very cobbly muck
Dawson, Greenwood, and Loxley soils
Deer Park sand, 0 to 10 percent slopes
Deer Park sand, 10 to 25 percent slopes
Deer Park sand, 25 to 60 percent slopes
Deerton-Au Train complex, 1 to 15 percent slopes
Deerton-Tokiahok-Trout Bay complex, 15 to 70 percent slopes, dissected

Garlic-Blue Lake-Voelker complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Garlic-Blue Lake-Voelker complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Garlic-Blue Lake-Voelker complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes, dissected
Grand Sable fine sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Grand Sable fine sand, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Halfaday sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
Histosols and Aquenits, ponded

Kalkaska sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Kalkaska sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes, severely burned
Kalkaska sand, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Kalkaska sand, 35 to 70 percent slopes, severely burned
Kalkaska sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Kalkaska sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes, severely burned

Paquin sand, 0 to 3 percent slope
Paquin sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
Paquin-Finch sands, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Pits, sand and gravel
Rhody-Towes complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes
Rousseau-Dawson complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes
Rousseau-Dawson complex, 0 to 60 percent slopes
Rubicon sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Rubicon sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes, severely burned
Rubicon sand, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Rubicon sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Rubicon sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes, severely burned
Sheldrake fine sand, 2 to 75 percent slopes
Sheldrake sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes
Sheldrake-Dune land complex, 2 to 75 percent slopes
Spot-Finch complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes

Deford and Leafriver soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes
Dillingham-Kalkaska complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Dillingham-Kalkaska complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Dillingham-Kalkaska complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes
Dillingham-Kalkaska complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Evert-Sturgeon silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded
Finch sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
Finch-Kinross complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes
Garlic sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Garlic sand, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Garlic sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes

Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 1 to 12 percent slopes, dissected
Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 15 to 70 percent slopes, dissected
Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Kalkaska-Blue Lake complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes, dissected
Kalkaska-Cusino complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Kalkaska-Cusino complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Kalkaska-Cusino complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes
Kalkaska-Cusino complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Kinross muck, 0 to 2 percent slopes
McMaster cobbly sandy loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes
Munising-Yalmer complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes

Steuben-Blue Lake-Kalkaska complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes
Steuben-Blue Lake-Kalkaska complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Steuben-Blue Lake-Kalkaska complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Stutts-Kalkaska complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Stutts-Kalkaska complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Stutts-Kalkaska complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes
Tawas-Deford mucks
Trout Bay-Lupton-Gongeau complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes
Udipsamments and Udorthents, nearly level to very steep
Walska cobbly loamy sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes, very stony
Wallace sand, 1 to 15 percent slopes
Water
Whitewash sand, 0 to 4 percent slopes

SOIL FORMING FACTORS

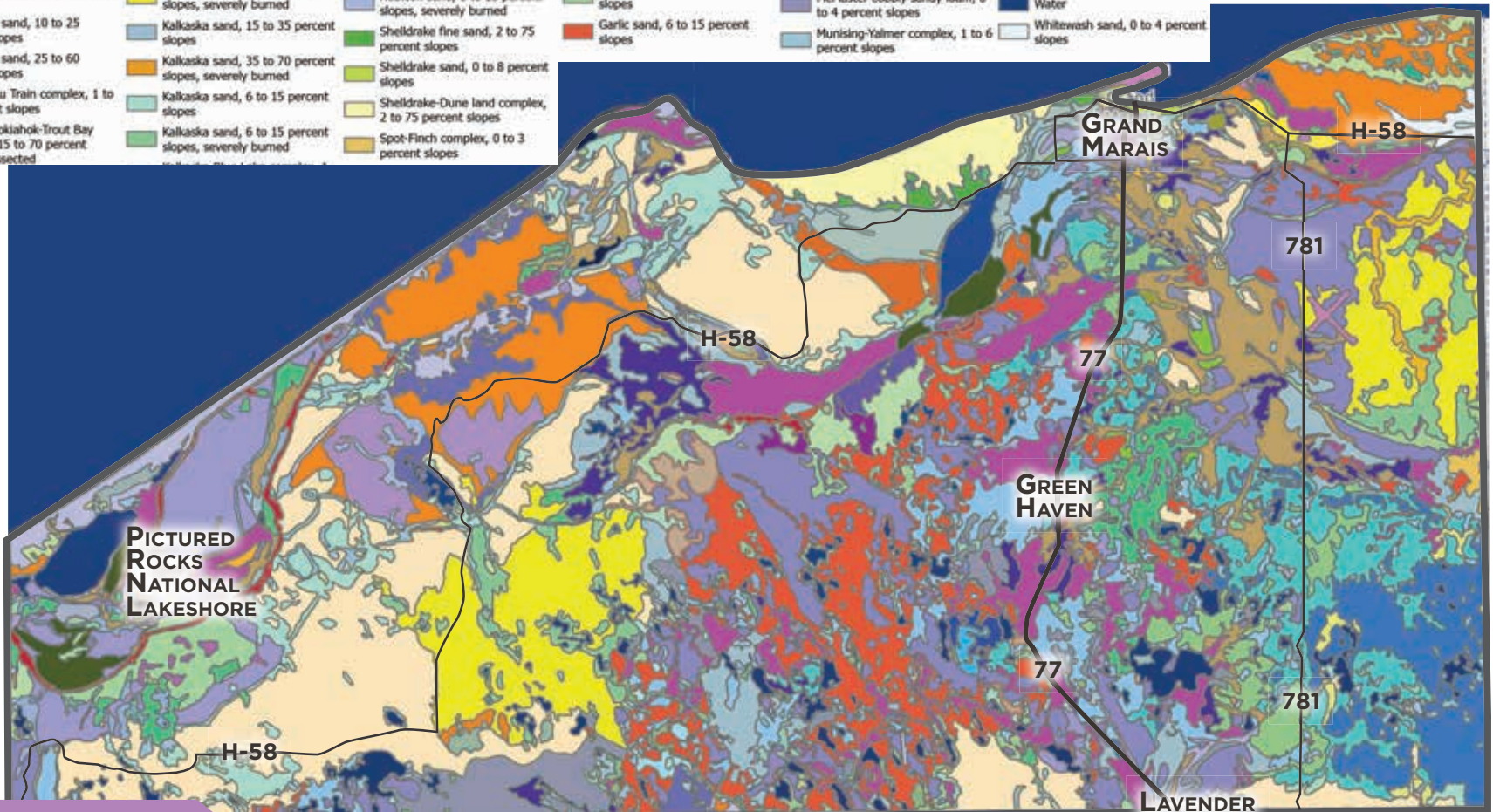
PARENT MATERIAL: THE SOURCE MATERIAL FROM WHICH SOILS WERE FORMED.

CLIMATE: THE TEMPERATURE AND KIND AND AMOUNT OF PRECIPITATION.

ORGANISMS: PLANTS AND OTHER ORGANISMS LIVING IN AND ON THE SOIL.

TIME: HOW LONG THE SOIL FORMING FACTORS HAVE BEEN OPERATING.

TOPOGRAPHY: THE SHAPE AND ELEVATION OF THE LANDSCAPE.



SOILS

Soils contain both physical and chemical properties including color, texture, structure and others. Scientists classify soils via these properties in their various horizons (layers). These properties are a result of five interrelated soil-forming factors listed on the previous page.⁷

Soil type can help predict performance such as water infiltration, erosion potential and vegetation growth. By developing an understanding of the soil types present within the township we will be able to glean a better understanding of how and why the landscape performs as it does and what areas might be better for development and others that should be preserved.

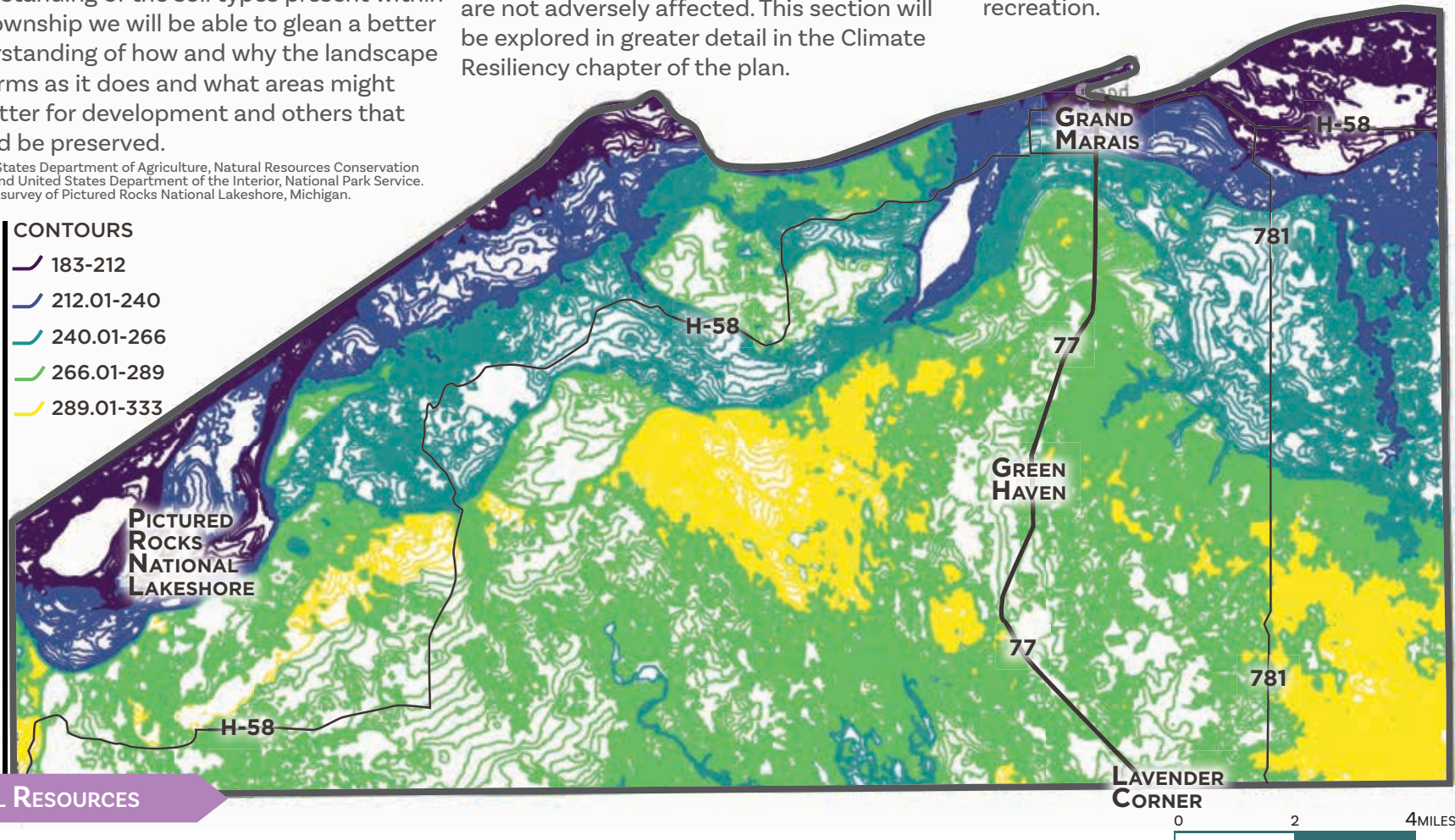
7 United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2014. Soil survey of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan.

Sandy soils are ubiquitous along Burt Township's Lake Superior shore. These soils are constantly moving. Erosion and deposition occur all along the shoreline and these natural processes should largely be left untouched. At times it becomes necessary to interrupt these processes with the introduction of man made elements such as the breakwater along Grand Marais' marina, retaining walls along eroding properties, and dredging of the harbor. Each time these changes are made careful monitoring must occur to make certain processes in and around the system are not adversely affected. This section will be explored in greater detail in the Climate Resiliency chapter of the plan.

TOPOGRAPHY

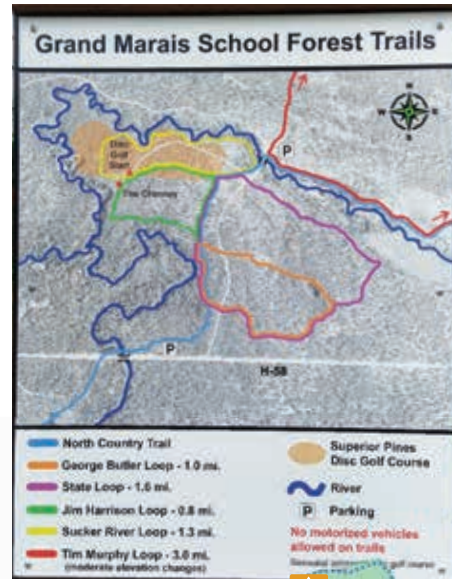
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is iconic due to its up to 200 foot high cliffs rising out of Lake Superior. This is the most extreme elevation change within the region with the Grand Sable Dunes not far behind featuring a 300 foot rise from the lake's edge with a slightly less dramatic slope.

Terrain inland is a reflection of glacial movement, dotting the landscape with lakes and large piles of outwash. This varied terrain provides great potential for many forms of recreation.



RECREATION

- PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE
- STATE FOREST
- NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS
- NON-MOTORIZED TRAILHEAD
- SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
- CAMPGROUNDS

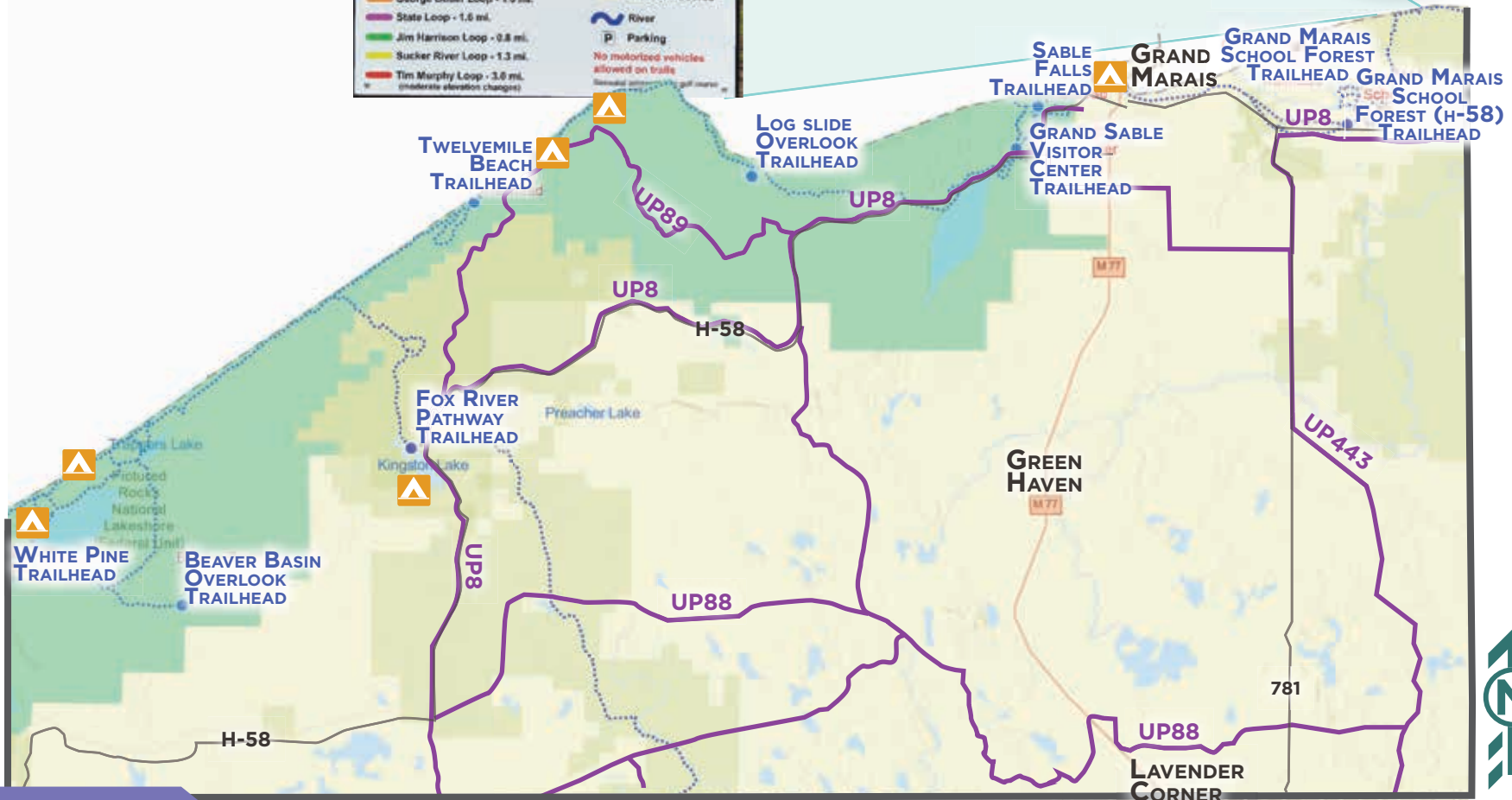


"I KNOW SOME PEOPLE REALLY DON'T LIKE THE ORVs AND 4-WHEELERS BECAUSE OF THE NOISE. THEY ARE A LIFE-BLOOD FOR OUR TOWN, SO WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO BALANCE THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF THE TOWN WITH THE NEEDS OF THE YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTS WHO WANT IT TO BE A PEACEFUL PLACE."

-COMMUNITY MEMBER

"IN THE 20 YEARS WE HAVE SPENT TIME THE TOWNSHIP HAS GONE A NICE LITTLE VILLAGE TO WAY TOO MANY ATVs RACING AROUND TOWN IN SUMMER;"

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



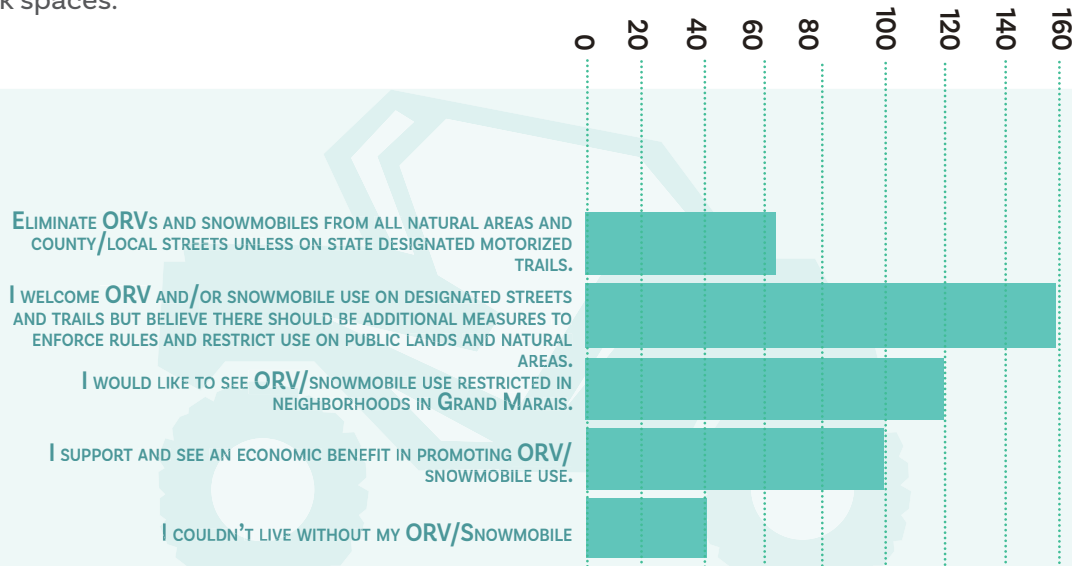
RECREATION

Experienced in so many different forms and in every season, recreation is integral to the way of life in Burt Township. Burt Township's 5-Year Recreation Plan was recently completed and serves as a resource for identifying and prioritizing community recreation assets, goals, and implementation strategies.

Burt Township offers several recreational facilities. The Woodland Park Campground hosts 100 sites along Grand Marais' western Lake Superior shoreline and is extremely popular. The marina is located on Coast Guard Point in Grand Marais and offers a harbor of refuge for boaters, a fish cleaning station, boat launch, showers, transient dockage, gasoline and diesel fuel, water hookups, and a pump station. Bayshore Park and the extensive beach along Grand Marais shoreline are also accessible community park spaces.

The Burt Township School Forest hosts a variety of non-motorized trails and stream crossings for fisher-people.

The township is a very popular destination for motorized recreation as well, an ORV (Off Road Vehicle)/Snowmobile advisory committee was assembled to address issues and concerns that were expressed within community discussions and survey responses. This committee of 12 members convened in early 2022 and developed a list of objectives the community should achieve in order to address concerns and preserve natural spaces and the general peacefulness of the region. These strategies are included in Chapter 10 and the letter submitted is included in Appendix A.



The prevalence of ORVs and snowmobiles within the Township + its natural areas has seen a steady increase over the past few years. Please indicate your perspective on ORV and snowmobile use within the Township.

Community Survey Responses

A COMMUNITY LEAVE NO TRACE POLICY:

THE BEND PLEDGE

1. I VOW TO BE A RESPECTFUL GUEST IN BEND'S INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES.
2. I'LL MAKE MY OWN MEMORIES, BUT NOT MY OWN TRAILS.
3. I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE WITH FIRE DURING DRY SUMMER MONTHS AND WITH ICE ON SLICK WINTER ROADS.
4. I WON'T RISK LIFE OR LIMB (HUMAN OR SAPLING) FOR MORE LIKES.
5. I'LL BE FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS, BECAUSE THAT'S THE BEND WAY.
6. IF I CAN'T FIND A PARKING SPOT, I WILL NOT INVENT MY OWN.
7. WHEN PLAYING OUTSIDE, I'LL PREPARE FOR SHIFTS IN WEATHER AND RANDOM EPISODES OF MAGIC.
8. I'LL PACK IN REUSABLE CONTAINERS AND PACK OUT ALL MY TRASH.
9. I WILL USE MY TURN SIGNAL OFTEN AND MY CAR HORN SELDOM.
10. I PROMISE TO LEAVE BEND BETTER THAN I FOUND IT.

[HTTPS://WWW.VISITBEND.COM/THE-BEND-PLEDGE/](https://www.visitbend.com/the-bend-pledge/)

LEAVE ALL ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE AS YOU FIND THEM

WHY? Smith Rock is a wildlife management area and all forms of life have value in the ecosystem. Approaching, harassing or feeding wildlife alters their normal behavior and can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. Once that happens they can become a danger to you and others.

- Treat the high desert living plants with respect. Altering them in any way causes unsightly damage and may kill them.
- Keep all food and trash secure at all times. Pack it in. Pack it out. Place litter- even crumbs, peels and cores- in designated bins.

RESPECT OTHER VISITORS

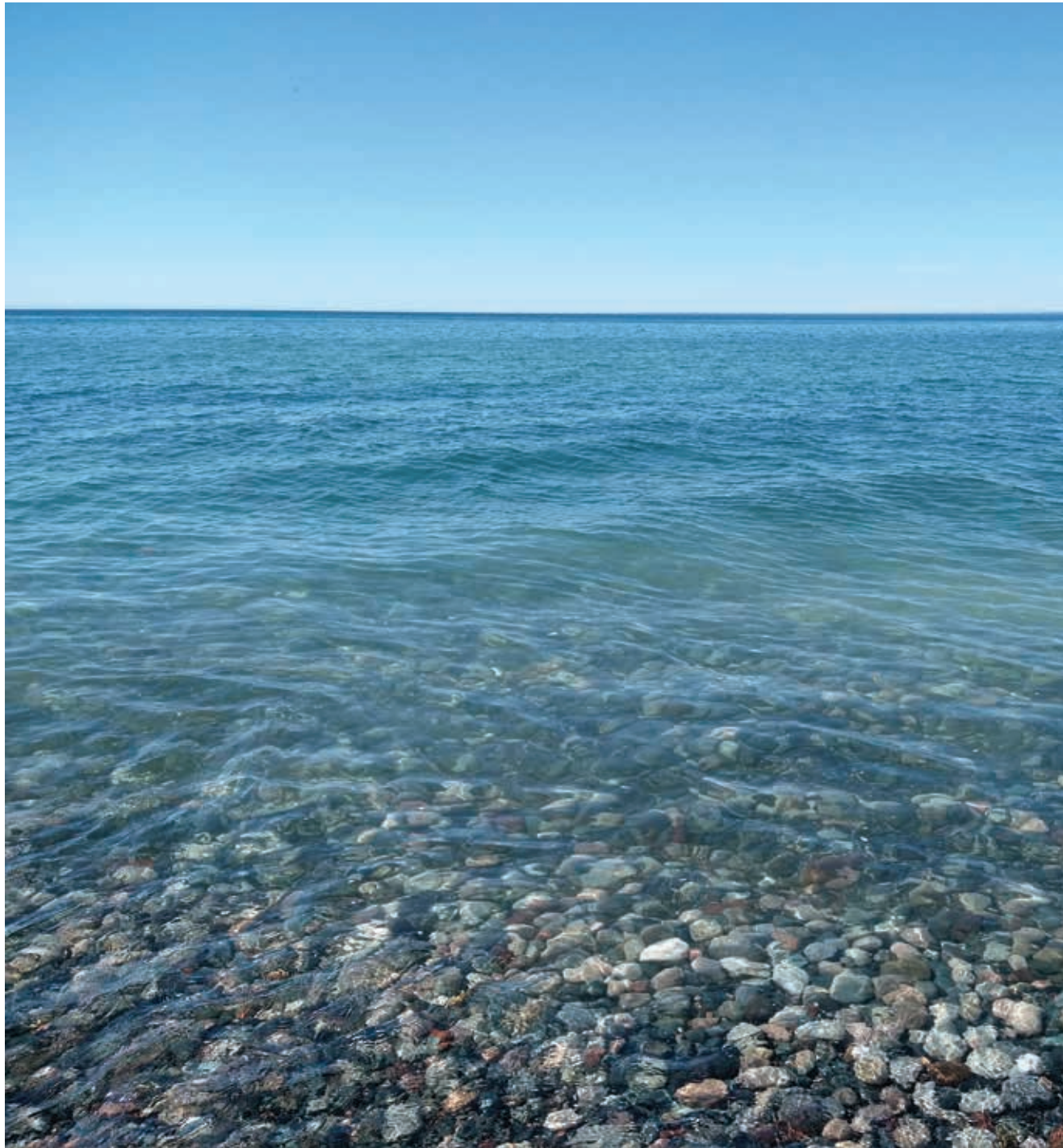
WHY? Whether hiking, climbing, running, bird watching or dog walking, everyone has an equal right to enjoy the park. Please respect other visitors to ensure a positive recreation experience for all.

- Natural sounds are a key part of this Smith Rock experience. Consider those who seek serenely and focused concentration by minimizing noise to let nature's sounds prevail.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.

BE PREPARED FOR YOUR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

WHY? Rough terrain and harsh environment make for high rates of injuries at Smith Rock. Emergency response can be delayed due to the rugged nature of the park and limited emergency response resources.

- Enough water and proper gear (including hiking shoes/boots) are key to your enjoyment and safety at this park.
- Have an emergency plan and let someone know your agenda for the day.



Natural Environment + Recreation Goals



FOSTER A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE AND CONTINUE TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND VISITATION TO/FROM PICTURED ROCKS.

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMMUNITY WIDE STRATEGY FOR EDUCATING AND INFORMING USERS AND ENFORCING RECREATIONAL VEHICLE USE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP.

PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE DUNES, WATERWAYS AND QUIET NATURAL SPACES WITHIN BURT TOWNSHIP.

ENCOURAGE MEASURES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE.

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6 Economic Development

INDUSTRY DIVERSIFICATION + DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

A resident's comment regarding growth within the Township:

"We need to stick with our roots - small businesses, small farms, independence, a sense of community, an "it takes a village mentality." We need to embrace, protect and utilize the resources we have at hand - while balancing and educating those who visit this place we call home. If tourism is the driving financial force we need to embrace it, promote it, and have the necessary resources to serve all those who visit here."

CAREFUL GROWTH

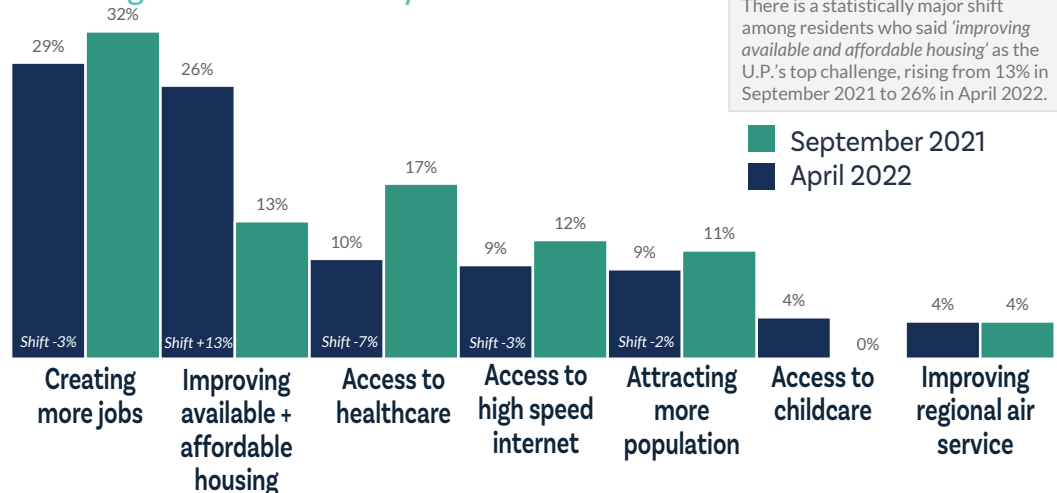
Encouraging the migration of young families and working aged adults to the township is a clear goal expressed by nearly all community members. In order to achieve this goal, a sustainable job market must exist within the community. In today's post COVID era this market can take different forms. With a massive expansion in remote and work from home options there is the potential for those residing in more urban areas to relocate to picturesque, quaint communities such as Grand Marais and greater Burt Township.

A Michigan Upper Peninsula Residents' Survey administered by the Glengariff Group in the spring of 2022 noted the challenge of creating more jobs and attracting more people is a U.P. wide endeavor. Hand in hand with the need to create more jobs and attract young families and working aged individuals, comes the need for affordable housing and access to community services. Each of these topics are discussed within additional chapters in the master plan. Although each topic is woven into another this seemed the most concise method to ensure each topic was

MI U.P. RESIDENTS' SURVEY

BY GLENGARIFF GROUP, INC | SPRING 2022

Residents were asked what they viewed as the UP's top challenge in the next ten years:



provided adequate attention. The need for affordable housing options will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 7 and the topic of Community Infrastructure and Services is featured in Chapter 8. This chapter will explore potential economic development priorities identified in community survey responses, meetings and workshops and will identify a series of goals to promote economic sustainability within Burt Township while

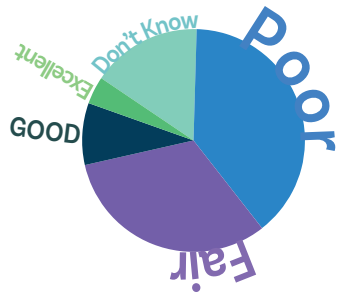
preserving the affordability and quality of life current residents have learned to love.

"WE NEED TO GET YOUNG FAMILIES IN HERE TO KEEP THESE BUSINESSES GOING."

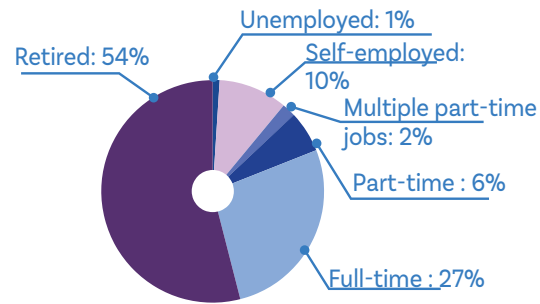
-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

Community Survey Responses

How would you rate Burt Township's job opportunities?



What is your current employment status?

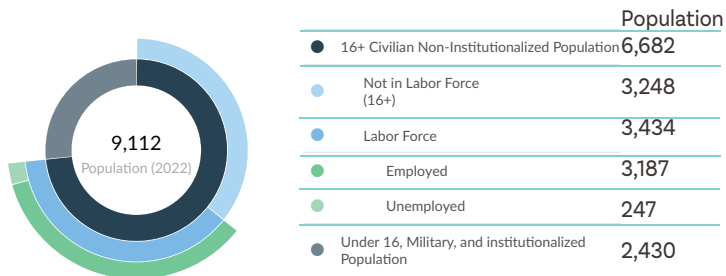


CURRENT LABOR FORCE DATA

A recent spike in inflation is impacting everyone and the already low wages relative to the rest of the country hinder any hope for financial success in Upper Peninsula communities. Burt is not an exception and methods to increase wages and shrink the gap between cost of living expenses and annual incomes need to happen.

The labor force statistics specific to Alger County listed in the graph below indicate a roughly 50/50 percent breakdown of those 16 and older who are in the labor force versus not in the labor force.

In comparison the pie charts generated from the community survey responses above indicate an even higher percent of retired people within Burt Township. This confirms the need to provide additional employment opportunities so working aged adults can move to the area.



ALGER COUNTY LABOR FORCE (2022)
Data Source: Lightcast Q3 2022 Data Set

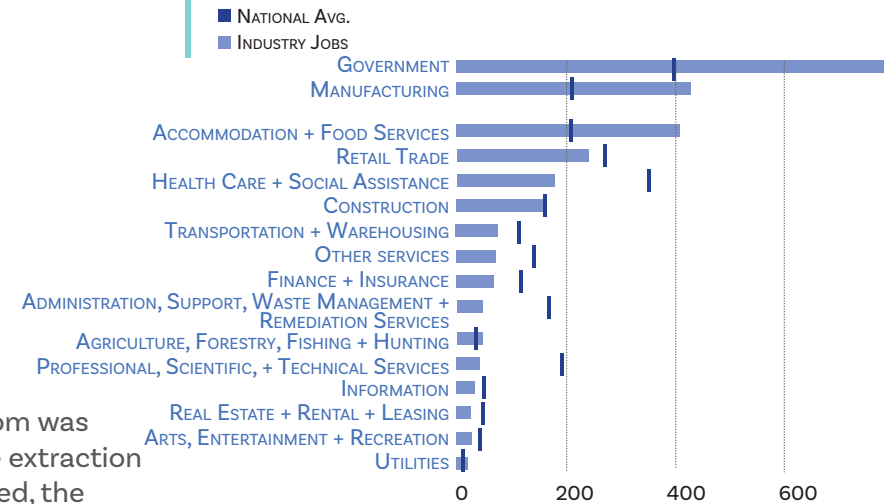
INDUSTRY DIVERSIFICATION

Burt Township's economic boom was generated via natural resource extraction and as these resources vanished, the community lost its financial stability. This is the classic example of what happens to a community when it relies on a single industry for its economy. A method for reducing local economic volatility is by diversifying industries.

Through diversifying a community's industry options the risk of losses in response to economic tremors can be more readily avoided. The graph to the right illustrates Alger County's largest and top growing industry sectors.

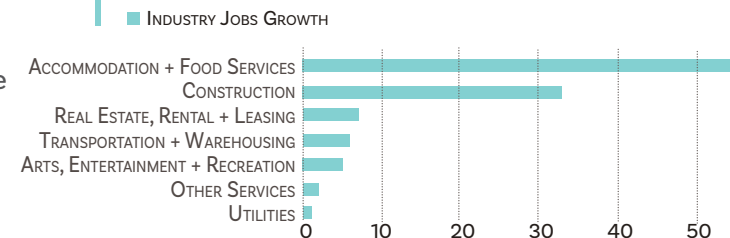
Government jobs are listed as the number one employment industry in Alger County. With a wealth of publicly owned property and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore it is not surprising this makes up such a large portion of the job market. Manufacturing is second on the list and includes paper goods, wood products, and industrial mechanics somewhat related to natural resource extraction and processing that originated in the region.

LARGEST INDUSTRIES IN ALGER COUNTY



Accommodation and food services reflect jobs and industry associated with tourism. Accommodation and food services is also the fastest growing industry followed closely by Construction. Each of these illustrate the potential to embrace tourism and migration to the area while building new forms of housing for those aging in place and providing any associated services that could improve and enhance quality of life for everyone.

TOP GROWING INDUSTRIES IN ALGER COUNTY



Data Source: Lightcast Q3 2022 Data Set

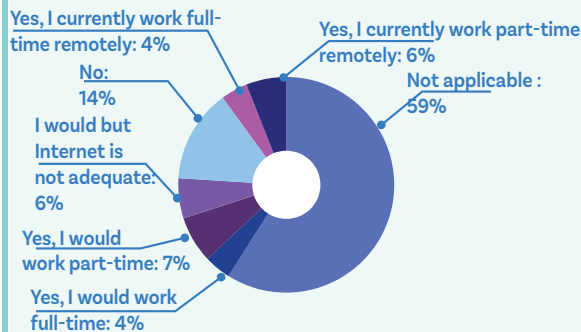
EXPANDING BROADBAND ACCESS

Great strides are being made to enhance access to broadband within Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This will put many of the small communities and in between places on the broadband map allowing for growth and opportunity to attract remote workers. Federal funding will be available for communities with inadequate broadband service to upgrade. The map to the right illustrates the current download/upload speeds in the township. Mobile broadband is the only available option mapped within the township allowing it to qualify for federal funding.

The majority of township survey respondents expressed little interest in upgrading broadband, as illustrated in the pie chart below. In contrast, the U.P. wide survey administered by the Glengariff Group noted over half of business owners knew of someone

Community Survey Responses

Would you like to work remotely from Burt Township?



MI U.P. RESIDENTS' SURVEY

BY GLENGARIFF GROUP, INC | SPRING 2022

Respondents were asked if they know someone that has relocated to the U.P. and works remotely:



Business owners and managers were asked if they know someone that has relocated to the U.P. and works remotely:



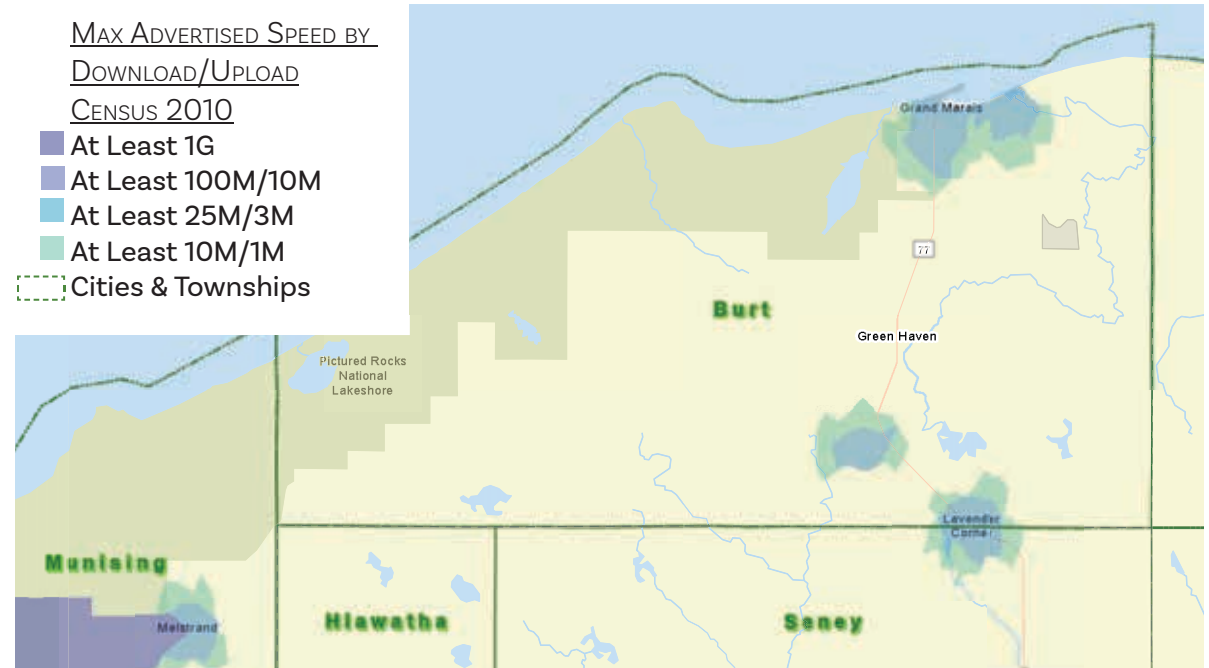
Residents were asked if they know someone that wants to relocate to the U.P.:



MAXIMUM ADVERTISED DOWNLOAD/UPLOAD SPEED

MAX ADVERTISED SPEED BY
DOWNLOAD/UPLOAD
CENSUS 2010

- At Least 1G
- At Least 100M/10M
- At Least 25M/3M
- At Least 10M/1M
- Cities & Townships



who had relocated to the U.P. and worked remotely. Residents aged 30-64 with incomes greater than \$50,000 were most likely to know someone interested in relocating to the U.P. This fact hints at the potential for talent retention and high paying jobs to come in the form of remote working options. This would allow working aged adults to move to the U.P. for reasons other than work such as enhanced quality of life, recreation opportunities or to be closer to family.

A DELICATE BALANCE

Continuously repeated throughout community engagement sessions and survey responses was the mantra **"Growth must be managed."** Community member are aware of the need to diversify their population in order to ensure the school can remain open, volunteer crews staffed, and the community can generate the capital needed to install and

maintain necessary services.

That said, it is the hope of those who participated in the master planning process to create a carefully crafted program for development and settlement of new residents so the community can continue to preserve its spectacular natural environment and small community feel.

The need to respond to a changing demographic is realized at a much greater scale than that of Burt Township:

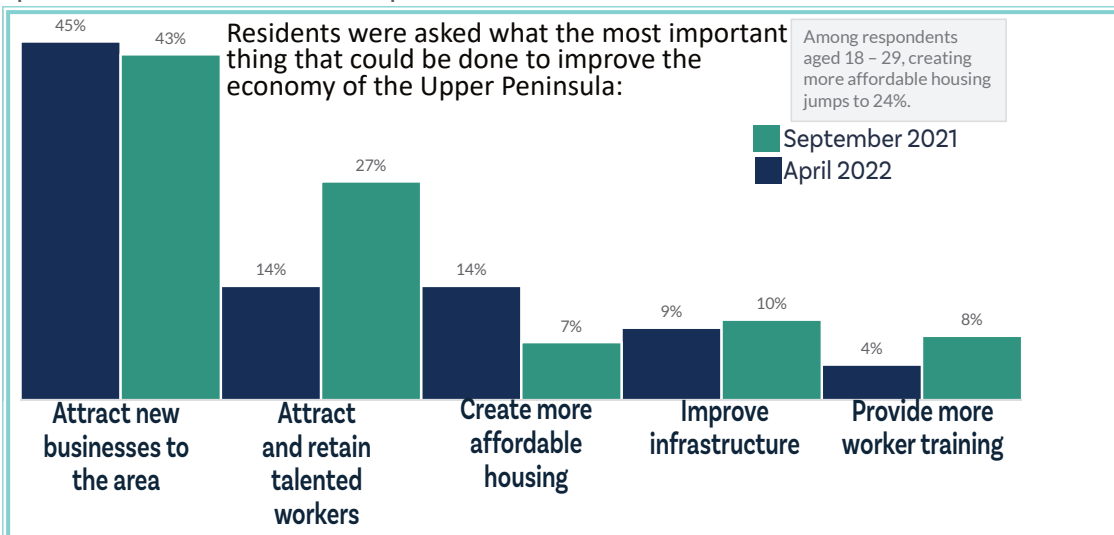
*"The demographic future of the nation relies heavily on its youth and the areas where they reside, and the challenge in the decades ahead will be to balance their needs with the needs of baby boomers and seniors who are aging-in place everywhere."*⁸

⁸ Frey, W. H. (2011, June). The uneven aging and 'younging' of America - Brookings Institution. The Uneven Aging and 'Younging' of America: State and Metropolitan Trends in the 2010 Census. Retrieved September 26, 2022, from

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/0628_census_aging_frey.pdf
This sentiment is echoed by a local community member and paired with a potential strategy:

"The population is too old and the local economy too dependent on tourism. GM [Grand Marais] needs younger, more educated high earning full time residents. This is possible with remote work options now exploding. GM needs to grab hold of this opportunity and push for the infrastructure to support this. Job growth follows and the increase in the local tax base drives improvements which makes the area even more attractive to high earning remote workers. Plenty of struggling communities are following this path now with impressive results. There is the risk of uncontrolled gentrification, but the benefits of the demographic change outweighs this if the growth is well managed."

By encouraging new residents to move into the township, existing community fixtures will hopefully remain and new additions may help to compliment them. This encouragement must come with a well defined community strategy for growth and development. Potential avenues for achieving this balance are discussed in the Economic Development Toolkit section of Chapter 10.



Community Survey Responses

What do you think will be the most important issue facing Burt Township?

Managing Growth
 Snowmobiles + ORV's
 Young Families
 Many People
 Housing
 Tourism
 Affordable
 Too much
 Community Health
 Development
 Jobs
 Exploitation of Natural Resources
 Keeping it as is
 Fewer Short-Term Rentals + More Long-Term Housing

*THE LARGER THE FONT THE MORE FREQUENT THE RESPONSE WAS.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT BURT
 "THE SMALLNESS (LACK OF COMMERCIALIZATION), CLOSENESS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND SAFETY!"
 -SURVEY PARTICIPANT



Economic Development Goals

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION MUST BE A PRIORITY.

DETERMINE A GROWTH STRATEGY UNIQUE TO THE COMMUNITY THAT ENHANCES ITS CHARACTER, ALLOWS CURRENT RESIDENTS TO REMAIN AND PROMOTES SETTLEMENT OF NEW RESIDENTS.

PAIR ALL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WITH A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT TO VALUABLE AND UNIQUE NATURAL ASSETS. REJECT PROPOSALS THAT THREATEN THE PRISTINE NATURAL SPACES.

ENCOURAGE DIVERSE INDUSTRIES TO SETTLE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP THAT ATTRACT AND RETAIN TALENT AND A YOUNGER DEMOGRAPHIC OF INDIVIDUALS.

7 Housing + Neighborhoods

CURRENT STOCK, AVAILABILITY + COMMUNITY

“Burt Township is right at a decision point. There is currently an okay balance of rental properties and year-round residential properties however the tipping point is coming where more nonresident owner properties are there that are rented to vacationers which will price out people who want to live full time and/or need housing while working in important service industry/retail jobs that support the local economy.”

-Survey Participant

*“I WOULD HOPE
OLDER STRUCTURES
CAN BE PRESERVED
TO KEEP THE FEEL OF
GRAND MARAIS.”*

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



CURRENT HOUSING CONDITIONS

Housing discussions in Burt Township featured three main topics:

- A lack of affordable housing options for the workforce, those on fixed incomes, and young families
- Increased competition from those buying up properties for short term rentals
- A need to attract new working aged residents to the area which would likely include a mix of short term, long term, and affordable housing options

HOUSING STOCK

A closer look at the existing housing stock within Burt Township reveals 86% of homes are single-family residential and 10% are two or more unit structures with 4% designated as mobile homes or ‘other’ units. There is a strong desire to provide additional housing options for residents and newcomers and the single family format can prove to be quite limiting when it comes to creating affordable opportunities for housing.

The overall condition of homes within the Township is quite good. The many historic homes constructed during the lumber boom have been well maintained and the community of Grand Marais, specifically, has a very well-kept feel.

A small number of vacant lots within the community of Grand Marais allow for opportunity for infill. This includes Coast Guard Point which projects out into Lake Superior and has been largely unoccupied within recent history. The community of Grand Marais is constrained by landforms; situated 2 miles west of the Sucker River with steep hills framing it on all sides except its northern edge, defined instead by Lake Superior. This dramatically affects potential physical space to expand the community.

Outside Grand Marais’ boundaries the property plots expand significantly with sparse development of single family homes occupying largely wooded areas.

Of the single family residences within the township, 81% are owner occupied and 19% are rental units. Residents within

Burt Township include 26% of householders living alone and only 12% with at least one person under the age of 18. 82% of households have at least one person over the age of 60.

The average household size is 1.57 people. In comparison, the average household size within the state of Michigan is 2.49 people. This disparity indicates a rather low density of persons per residence. Promoting the opportunity to host smaller or shared unit options for the many single person residences within the community may allow for a higher density of residents while providing more suitable accommodations for those who live alone.

Median gross rent within Alger County in 2020 was \$631 a month with an 80% home ownership rate. Median monthly homeownership costs for those without a mortgage were \$432 while costs with a mortgage were \$1,108. 32% of home values are under \$100k with 43% between \$100k-\$200k. The median home value in Alger 36

County is \$141,900 versus \$146,600 in Burt Township.

Considering the real estate market in Burt Township, at the time of drafting this report, there were a total of 21 listings featured on a combination of websites. Of those, only six featured habitable residences. The homes were priced between \$139,900 and \$350,000. There were no long-term rentals listed and 64 short term rentals advertised on Airbnb.com.

One consideration to increase long-term rental and permanent housing options could include the conversion of single-family units to multi-unit residences. This would provide additional affordable housing units with lower maintenance requirements. If done correctly the number of habitable residences could double without significantly altering the character of the single family home oriented community.

Dickinson County recently completed a detailed housing market assessment and a few notable findings are listed in the green box below. Alger County and Burt Township data and survey responses are in keeping with these findings.

COMPARISON: DICKINSON COUNTY 2020 HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT

KEY FINDINGS

- **JOB RECRUITERS ARE STRUGGLING TO ATTRACT TOP TALENT DUE TO A PERCEIVED SHORTAGE IN QUALITY HOUSING AVAILABILITY.**
- **BARRIERS TO BUILD NEW HOUSING FORMATS DUE TO HIGH CONSTRUCTION COSTS AND FEAR THE MARKET WILL NOT SUPPORT PRICES THAT WOULD COVER INVESTMENT.**
- **CONVERSION FROM SINGLE FAMILY TO MULTI UNIT RESIDENCES COULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY**



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Burt Township is in dire need of affordable housing options for its current and future residents.

This proved a common thread in the workshop discussions as well as the survey responses. In order to address a shortage in volunteers, school aged children, and working aged adults, affordable housing options need to be provided.

Developing housing for those who wish to age in place was also a popular discussion topic. The aging demographic and largely single family home make up of the township begs the question as to where those who no longer wish to occupy a single family home can live.



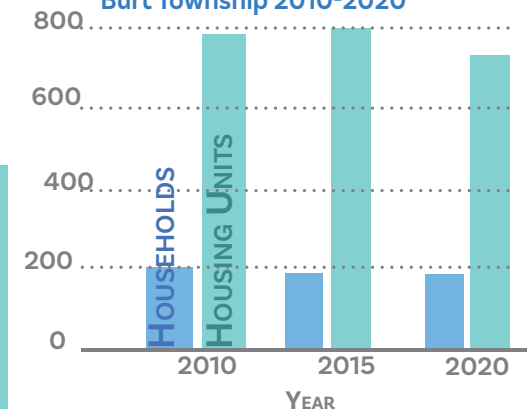
"AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR LOCAL WORKERS AND FAMILIES IS AT CRISIS STAGE"
-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

The City of Munising and Alger County are aware of the need for affordable condo/townhouse/apartment style developments and workforce housing and have begun to pursue options to develop these

forms of housing. If multi-family, accessible, low-maintenance, well sited, affordable units can host those aging adults looking to move out of their single family home there is room for young families and working aged adults to move in. Potential options for Burt Township are featured in Chapter 10 under "Housing Goals."

The chart below illustrates the number of households in comparison to housing units available within the township over the past 20 years. Ironically, there is the continuously expressed need from the community for additional housing units, although the graph seems to illustrate an excess of housing units. This is largely due in part to the number of vacant, seasonal, and short term rental units within the Township.

* Number of households compared to housing units:
Burt Township 2010-2020



*Short-term rentals are counted as seasonal, recreational, or occasional use a subset of vacant housing units. This also includes second homes and hunting camps

Source: American Community Survey (ACS)

THE 'TIPPING POINT'

As discussed in the Economic Development Chapter, tourism is a large part of the Burt Township economy and initial vacations in the township have inspired new residents to settle in this picturesque little community. These experiences wouldn't have been had without the availability of short term rentals or perhaps the destination of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. These new residents, some of whom attended every workshop, are eager to partake in community planning and volunteer boards. One challenge is finding the right balance of rental units and full time or long term housing options.

The growing number of short term rentals within the community was of great concern to many who participated in the planning process. Community members noted the lack of investment those who visited the community had in its long term sustainability and cleanliness. Also, those shopping for full time residences were often competing with others in search of investment opportunities in the form of short term rental units.

This competition between the economic benefits gleaned from additional rental units and visitors versus increased competition for housing of full time residents proves a tricky problem. This dilemma is common to those in much of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and temporary short term rental unit moratoriums are in place in countless communities throughout the state. One method to reduce the need for single family residences to serve as short term rental units is to develop a motel/hotel. With the closing of the North

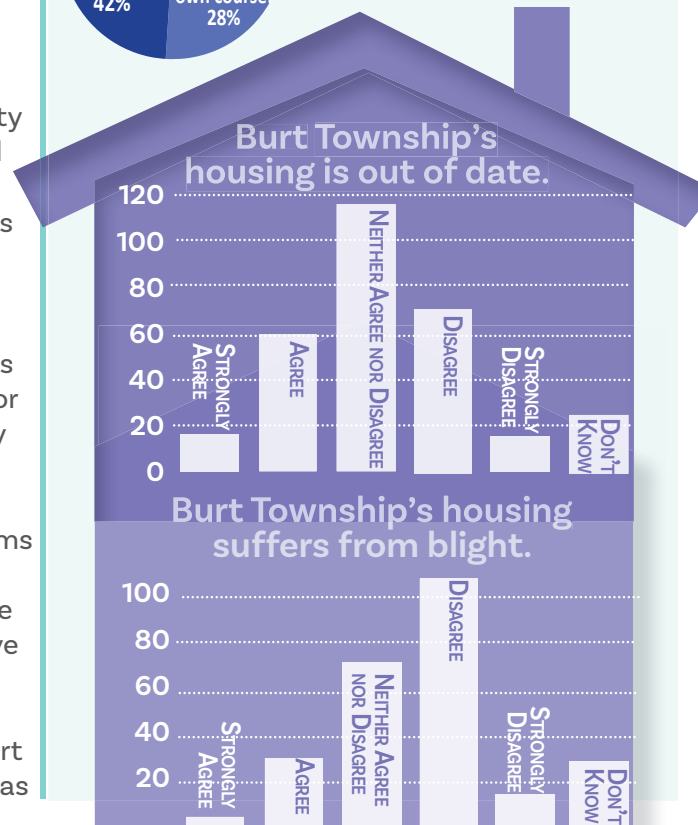
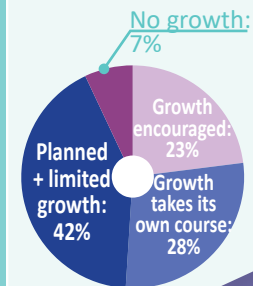
Shore Lodge a short term rental void was

created within the community. By reintroducing this smaller/multiple unit short stay option some short term rental needs may be alleviated.

Chapter 10 will offer additional strategies to strike the appropriate balance between short term rental market housing and long term and full time occupied residences.

Community Survey Responses

What strategy would you prefer for Residential growth management?



THE TOWNSHIP SHOULD AFFIRMATIVELY SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL ENVIRONMENT MUST BE MANAGED.

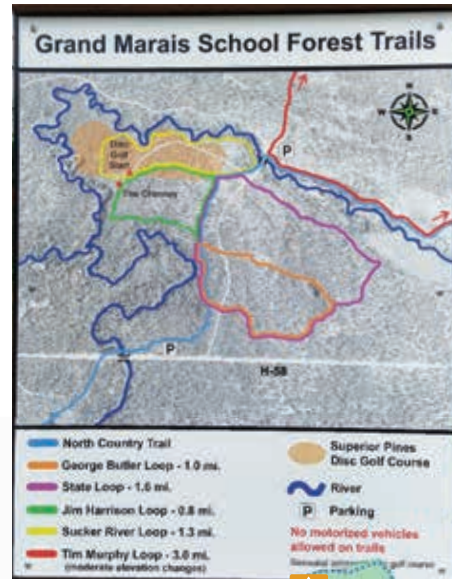
WHEN CONSIDERING HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS PRIORITIZE PRESERVING VIEWSHEDS; ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE BAY AND BEACHES

CREATE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ZONES AND COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS.

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RECREATION

- PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE
- STATE FOREST
- NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS
- NON-MOTORIZED TRAILHEAD
- SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
- CAMPGROUNDS

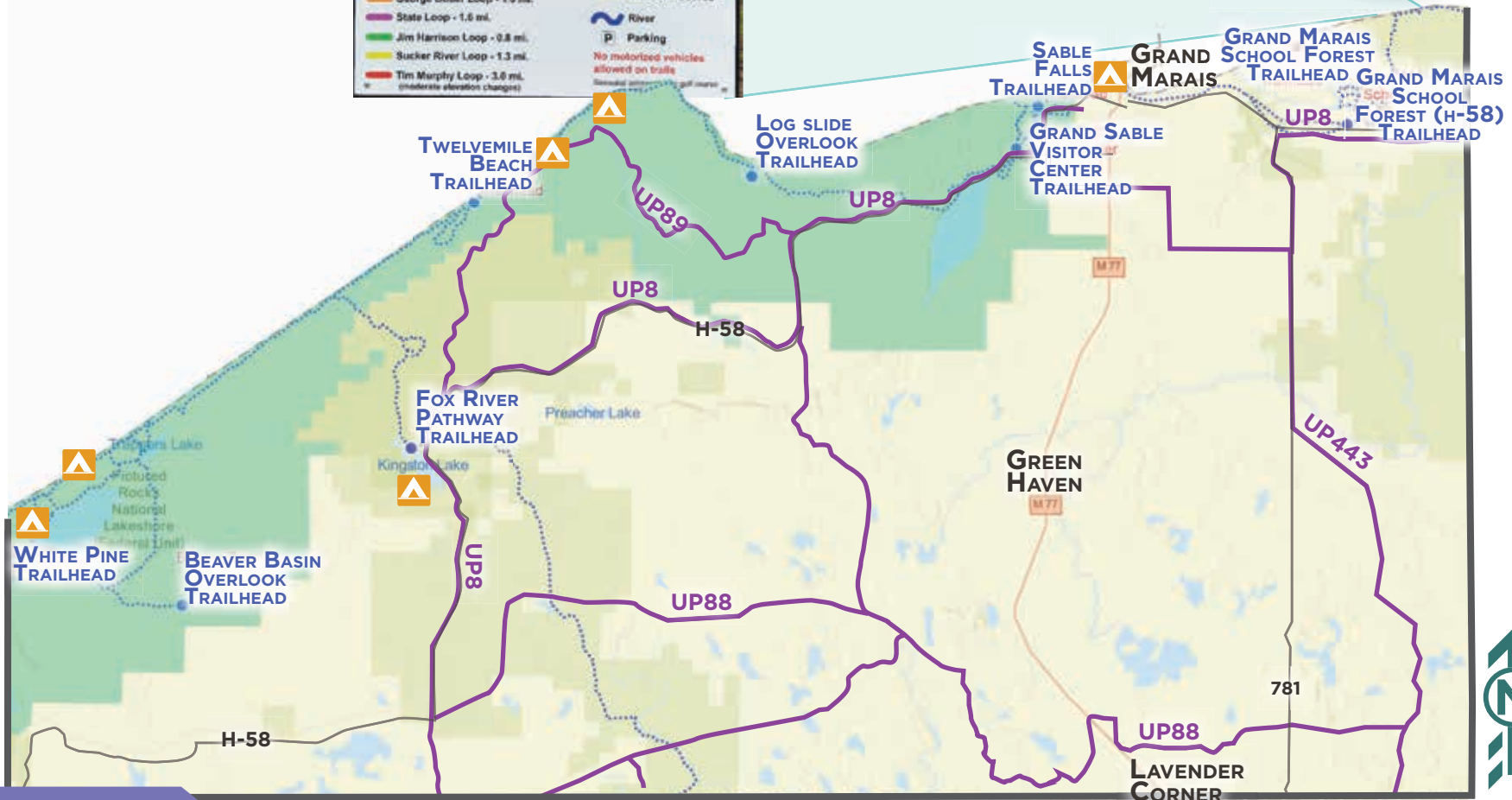


"I KNOW SOME PEOPLE REALLY DON'T LIKE THE ORVs AND 4-WHEELERS BECAUSE OF THE NOISE. THEY ARE A LIFE-BLOOD FOR OUR TOWN, SO WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO BALANCE THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF THE TOWN WITH THE NEEDS OF THE YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTS WHO WANT IT TO BE A PEACEFUL PLACE."

-COMMUNITY MEMBER

"IN THE 20 YEARS WE HAVE SPENT TIME THE TOWNSHIP HAS GONE A NICE LITTLE VILLAGE TO WAY TOO MANY ATVs RACING AROUND TOWN IN SUMMER;"

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



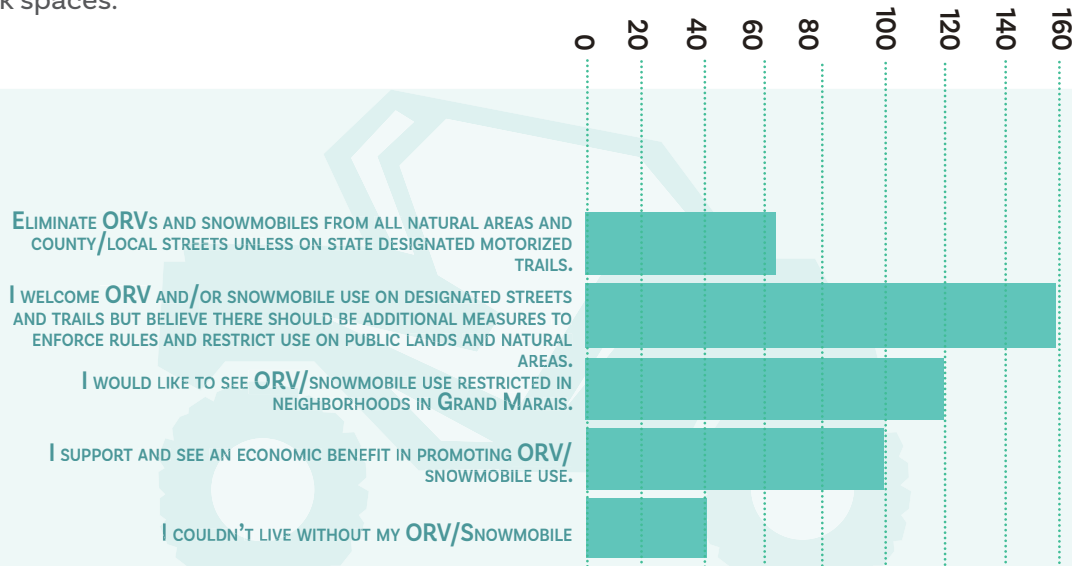
RECREATION

Experienced in so many different forms and in every season, recreation is integral to the way of life in Burt Township. Burt Township's 5-Year Recreation Plan was recently completed and serves as a resource for identifying and prioritizing community recreation assets, goals, and implementation strategies.

Burt Township offers several recreational facilities. The Woodland Park Campground hosts 100 sites along Grand Marais' western Lake Superior shoreline and is extremely popular. The marina is located on Coast Guard Point in Grand Marais and offers a harbor of refuge for boaters, a fish cleaning station, boat launch, showers, transient dockage, gasoline and diesel fuel, water hookups, and a pump station. Bayshore Park and the extensive beach along Grand Marais shoreline are also accessible community park spaces.

The Burt Township School Forest hosts a variety of non-motorized trails and stream crossings for fisher-people.

The township is a very popular destination for motorized recreation as well, an ORV (Off Road Vehicle)/Snowmobile advisory committee was assembled to address issues and concerns that were expressed within community discussions and survey responses. This committee of 12 members convened in early 2022 and developed a list of objectives the community should achieve in order to address concerns and preserve natural spaces and the general peacefulness of the region. These strategies are included in Chapter 10 and the letter submitted is included in Appendix A.



The prevalence of ORVs and snowmobiles within the Township + its natural areas has seen a steady increase over the past few years. Please indicate your perspective on ORV and snowmobile use within the Township.

Community Survey Responses

A COMMUNITY LEAVE NO TRACE POLICY:

THE BEND PLEDGE

1. I VOW TO BE A RESPECTFUL GUEST IN BEND'S INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES.
2. I'LL MAKE MY OWN MEMORIES, BUT NOT MY OWN TRAILS.
3. I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE WITH FIRE DURING DRY SUMMER MONTHS AND WITH ICE ON SLICK WINTER ROADS.
4. I WON'T RISK LIFE OR LIMB (HUMAN OR SAPLING) FOR MORE LIKES.
5. I'LL BE FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS, BECAUSE THAT'S THE BEND WAY.
6. IF I CAN'T FIND A PARKING SPOT, I WILL NOT INVENT MY OWN.
7. WHEN PLAYING OUTSIDE, I'LL PREPARE FOR SHIFTS IN WEATHER AND RANDOM EPISODES OF MAGIC.
8. I'LL PACK IN REUSABLE CONTAINERS AND PACK OUT ALL MY TRASH.
9. I WILL USE MY TURN SIGNAL OFTEN AND MY CAR HORN SELDOM.
10. I PROMISE TO LEAVE BEND BETTER THAN I FOUND IT.

[HTTPS://WWW.VISITBEND.COM/THE-BEND-PLEDGE/](https://www.visitbend.com/the-bend-pledge/)

LEAVE ALL ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE AS YOU FIND THEM

WHY? Smith Rock is a wildlife management area and all forms of life have value in the ecosystem. Approaching, harassing or feeding wildlife alters their normal behavior and can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. Once that happens they can become a danger to you and others.

- Treat the high desert living plants with respect. Altering them in any way causes unsightly damage and may kill them.
- Keep all food and trash secure at all times. Pack it in. Pack it out. Place litter- even crumbs, peels and cores- in designated bins.

RESPECT OTHER VISITORS

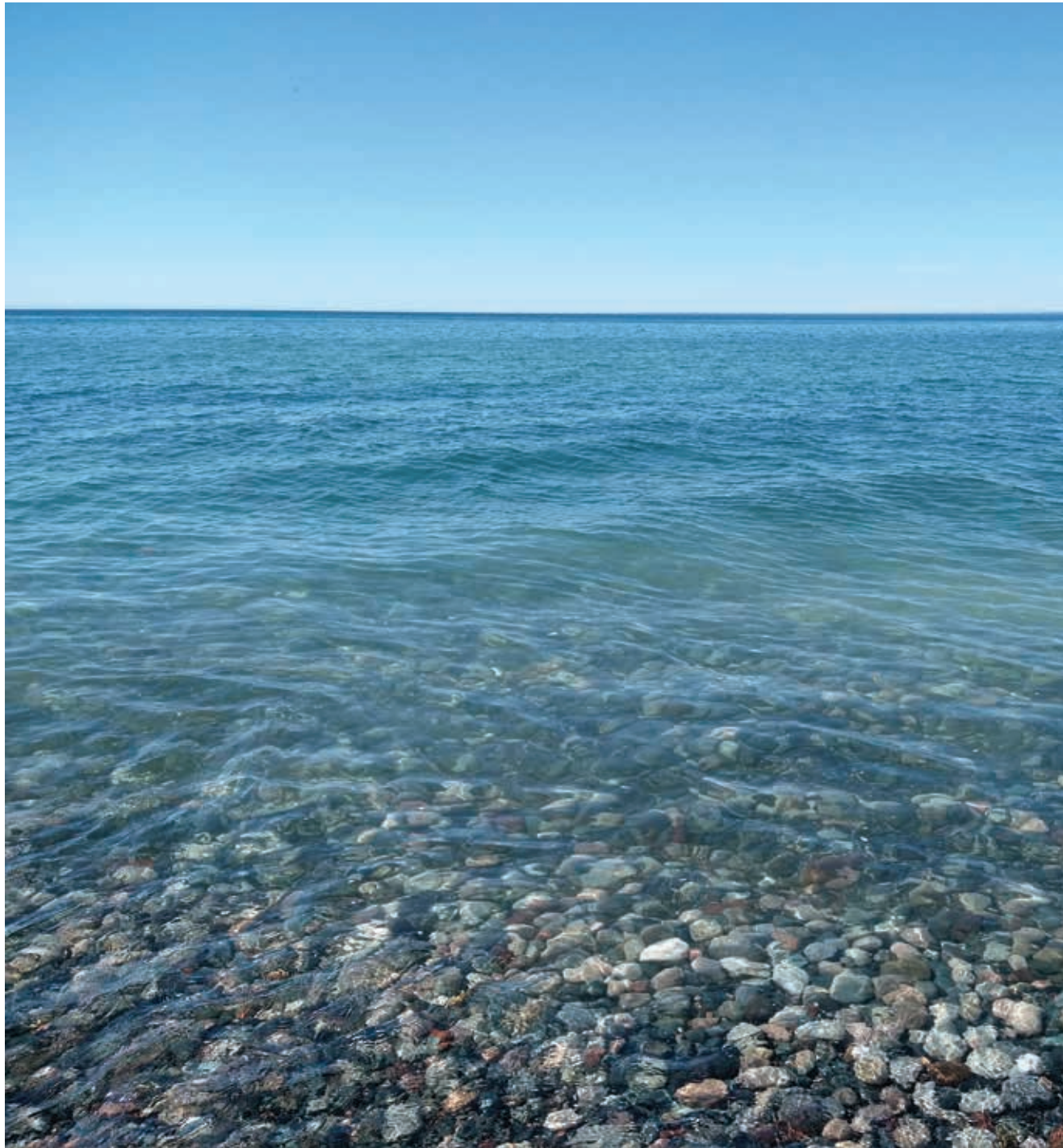
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- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.

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WHY? Rough terrain and harsh environment make for high rates of injuries at Smith Rock. Emergency response can be delayed due to the rugged nature of the park and limited emergency response resources.

- Enough water and proper gear (including hiking shoes/boots) are key to your enjoyment and safety at this park.
- Have an emergency plan and let someone know your agenda for the day.



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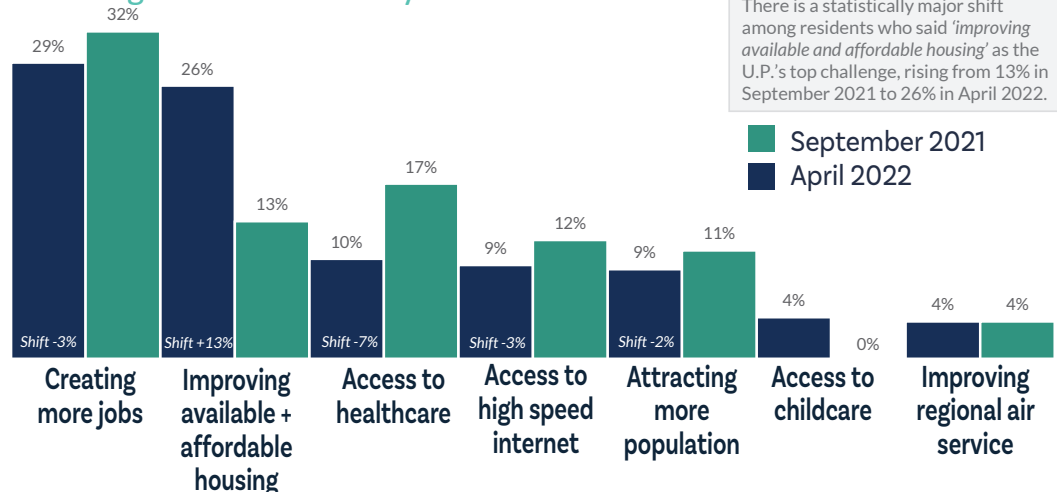
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BY GLENGARIFF GROUP, INC | SPRING 2022

Residents were asked what they viewed as the UP's top challenge in the next ten years:



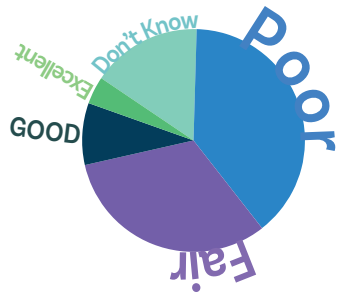
provided adequate attention. The need for affordable housing options will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 7 and the topic of Community Infrastructure and Services is featured in Chapter 8. This chapter will explore potential economic development priorities identified in community survey responses, meetings and workshops and will identify a series of goals to promote economic sustainability within Burt Township while

preserving the affordability and quality of life current residents have learned to love.

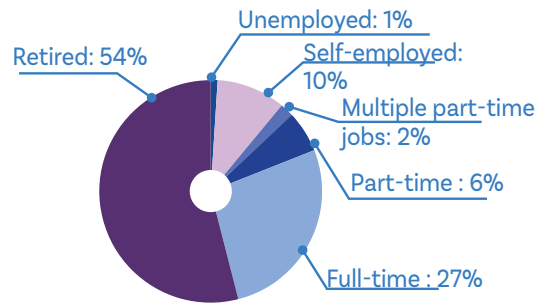
"WE NEED TO GET YOUNG FAMILIES IN HERE TO KEEP THESE BUSINESSES GOING."
-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

Community Survey Responses

How would you rate Burt Township's job opportunities?



What is your current employment status?

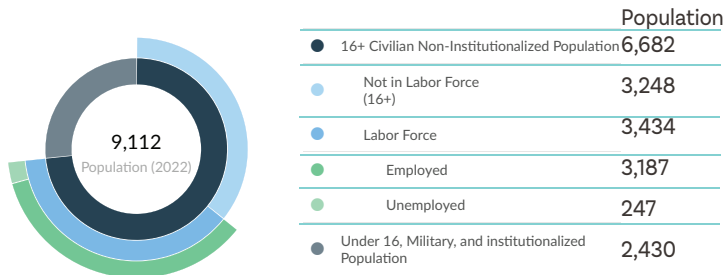


CURRENT LABOR FORCE DATA

A recent spike in inflation is impacting everyone and the already low wages relative to the rest of the country hinder any hope for financial success in Upper Peninsula communities. Burt is not an exception and methods to increase wages and shrink the gap between cost of living expenses and annual incomes need to happen.

The labor force statistics specific to Alger County listed in the graph below indicate a roughly 50/50 percent breakdown of those 16 and older who are in the labor force versus not in the labor force.

In comparison the pie charts generated from the community survey responses above indicate an even higher percent of retired people within Burt Township. This confirms the need to provide additional employment opportunities so working aged adults can move to the area.



ALGER COUNTY LABOR FORCE (2022)
Data Source: Lightcast Q3 2022 Data Set

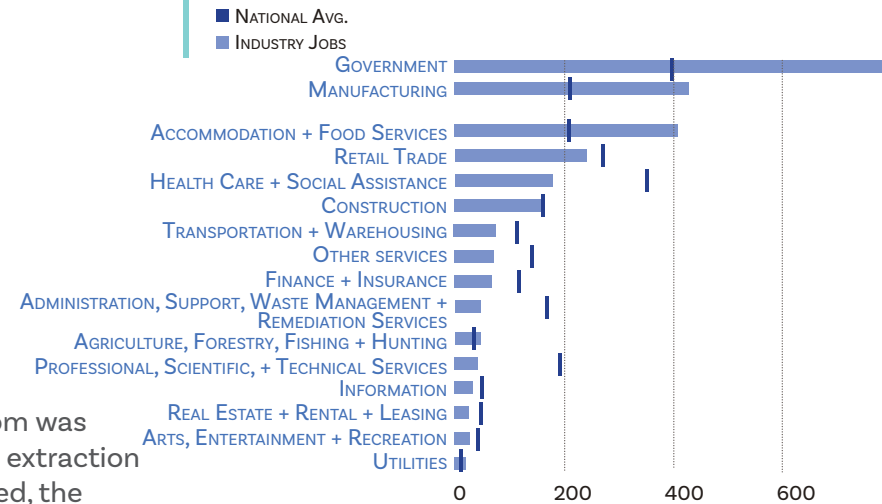
INDUSTRY DIVERSIFICATION

Burt Township's economic boom was generated via natural resource extraction and as these resources vanished, the community lost its financial stability. This is the classic example of what happens to a community when it relies on a single industry for its economy. A method for reducing local economic volatility is by diversifying industries.

Through diversifying a community's industry options the risk of losses in response to economic tremors can be more readily avoided. The graph to the right illustrates Alger County's largest and top growing industry sectors.

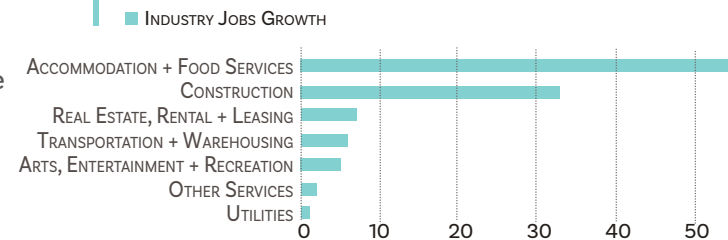
Government jobs are listed as the number one employment industry in Alger County. With a wealth of publicly owned property and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore it is not surprising this makes up such a large portion of the job market. Manufacturing is second on the list and includes paper goods, wood products, and industrial mechanics somewhat related to natural resource extraction and processing that originated in the region.

LARGEST INDUSTRIES IN ALGER COUNTY



Accommodation and food services reflect jobs and industry associated with tourism. Accommodation and food services is also the fastest growing industry followed closely by Construction. Each of these illustrate the potential to embrace tourism and migration to the area while building new forms of housing for those aging in place and providing any associated services that could improve and enhance quality of life for everyone.

TOP GROWING INDUSTRIES IN ALGER COUNTY



Data Source: Lightcast Q3 2022 Data Set

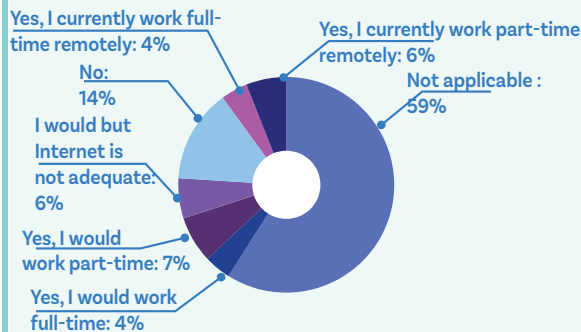
EXPANDING BROADBAND ACCESS

Great strides are being made to enhance access to broadband within Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This will put many of the small communities and in between places on the broadband map allowing for growth and opportunity to attract remote workers. Federal funding will be available for communities with inadequate broadband service to upgrade. The map to the right illustrates the current download/upload speeds in the township. Mobile broadband is the only available option mapped within the township allowing it to qualify for federal funding.

The majority of township survey respondents expressed little interest in upgrading broadband, as illustrated in the pie chart below. In contrast, the U.P. wide survey administered by the Glengariff Group noted over half of business owners knew of someone

Community Survey Responses

Would you like to work remotely from Burt Township?



MI U.P. RESIDENTS' SURVEY

BY GLENGARIFF GROUP, INC | SPRING 2022

Respondents were asked if they know someone that has relocated to the U.P. and works remotely:



Business owners and managers were asked if they know someone that has relocated to the U.P. and works remotely:



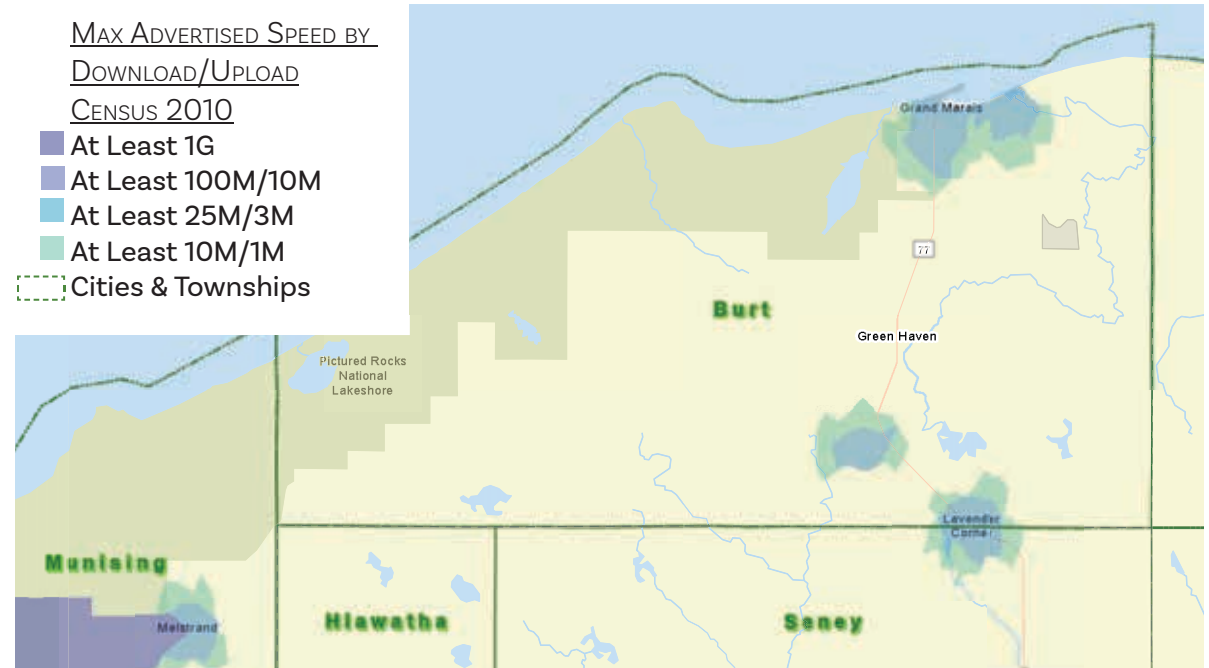
Residents were asked if they know someone that wants to relocate to the U.P.:



MAXIMUM ADVERTISED DOWNLOAD/UPLOAD SPEED

MAX ADVERTISED SPEED BY
DOWNLOAD/UPLOAD
CENSUS 2010

- At Least 1G
- At Least 100M/10M
- At Least 25M/3M
- At Least 10M/1M
- Cities & Townships



who had relocated to the U.P. and worked remotely. Residents aged 30-64 with incomes greater than \$50,000 were most likely to know someone interested in relocating to the U.P. This fact hints at the potential for talent retention and high paying jobs to come in the form of remote working options. This would allow working aged adults to move to the U.P. for reasons other than work such as enhanced quality of life, recreation opportunities or to be closer to family.

A DELICATE BALANCE

Continuously repeated throughout community engagement sessions and survey responses was the mantra **"Growth must be managed."** Community member are aware of the need to diversify their population in order to ensure the school can remain open, volunteer crews staffed, and the community can generate the capital needed to install and

maintain necessary services.

That said, it is the hope of those who participated in the master planning process to create a carefully crafted program for development and settlement of new residents so the community can continue to preserve its spectacular natural environment and small community feel.

The need to respond to a changing demographic is realized at a much greater scale than that of Burt Township:

*"The demographic future of the nation relies heavily on its youth and the areas where they reside, and the challenge in the decades ahead will be to balance their needs with the needs of baby boomers and seniors who are aging-in place everywhere."*⁸

⁸ Frey, W. H. (2011, June). The uneven aging and 'younging' of America - Brookings Institution. The Uneven Aging and 'Younging' of America: State and Metropolitan Trends in the 2010 Census. Retrieved September 26, 2022, from

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/0628_census_aging_frey.pdf
This sentiment is echoed by a local community member and paired with a potential strategy:

"The population is too old and the local economy too dependent on tourism. GM [Grand Marais] needs younger, more educated high earning full time residents. This is possible with remote work options now exploding. GM needs to grab hold of this opportunity and push for the infrastructure to support this. Job growth follows and the increase in the local tax base drives improvements which makes the area even more attractive to high earning remote workers. Plenty of struggling communities are following this path now with impressive results. There is the risk of uncontrolled gentrification, but the benefits of the demographic change outweighs this if the growth is well managed."

By encouraging new residents to move into the township, existing community fixtures will hopefully remain and new additions may help to compliment them. This encouragement must come with a well defined community strategy for growth and development. Potential avenues for achieving this balance are discussed in the Economic Development Toolkit section of Chapter 10.

Community Survey Responses

What do you think will be the most important issue facing Burt Township?

Managing Growth
clean water
Snowmobiles + ORV's Aging Population
Young Families School Too
Many People Affordable
Housing Too much
Tourism Community Health
Development Jobs
Exploitation of Natural Resources Keeping it as is
Fewer Short-Term Rentals + More Long-Term Housing

**THE LARGER THE FONT THE MORE FREQUENT THE RESPONSE WAS.*

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT BURT
"THE SMALLNESS (LACK OF COMMERCIALIZATION), CLOSENESS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND SAFETY!"
-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



Economic Development Goals

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION MUST BE A PRIORITY.

DETERMINE A GROWTH STRATEGY UNIQUE TO THE COMMUNITY THAT ENHANCES ITS CHARACTER, ALLOWS CURRENT RESIDENTS TO REMAIN AND PROMOTES SETTLEMENT OF NEW RESIDENTS.

PAIR ALL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WITH A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT TO VALUABLE AND UNIQUE NATURAL ASSETS. REJECT PROPOSALS THAT THREATEN THE PRISTINE NATURAL SPACES.

ENCOURAGE DIVERSE INDUSTRIES TO SETTLE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP THAT ATTRACT AND RETAIN TALENT AND A YOUNGER DEMOGRAPHIC OF INDIVIDUALS.

MI U.P. RESIDENTS' SURVEY
BY GLENGARIFF GROUP, INC
SPRING 2022

