

2011 ARENAC COUNTY MASTER PLAN

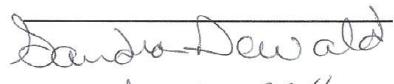


ARENAC COUNTY MASTER PLAN

Adopted by the

Arenac County Planning Commission

Signed:



March, 8, 2011

Sandra Dewald, Chair

March 8, 2011

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2011 Arenac County Master Plan

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INTRODUCTION

This document is the result of hard work and determination of the members of the Arenac County Planning Commission, in particular, its chairperson, Joseph Sancimino. He firmly believed that Arenac County and its communities needed an overall county plan that would act as a guide for an all-encompassing map for the future. Even though all but one of Arenac's communities, have their own zoning, there was no overall plan to act as a guide for the county.

With this in mind, in the fall 2008, he contacted the then East Central MI Regional Planning Commission (now known as East MI Council of Governments) and asked assistance in developing a grant request to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe. The grant was written and submitted. In the fall of 2009, the Tribe granted the request for money to write a master plan.

Also in the fall of 2009, East MI Council of Governments started working with the Arenac County Economic Development Corporation, and its Chairperson, Curt Hillman, who was asking for guidance in developing a plan for economic developing the County. A grant request was developed and submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The request was granted.

Because the public's opinions, needs and desires should be an important element in any planning, whether land use or economic development, and because the two elements are closely tied to one another, a survey instrument was created. The results were to act as a guide for both entities.

Content input for the survey was mainly from the Arenac County Planning Commission, with added input from the Arenac County Economic Development Corporation, the Arenac County Board of Commissioners and the Arenac County Recreational Authority. The survey instrument was then developed by East MI Council of Governments.

The 2010 Arenac County Resident Survey was sent out during the summer of 2010, analyzed during the fall and results used as the basis for this document.

This document also contains the Arenac County Strategic Economic Development Plan developed by the Arenac County Strategic Economic Development Plan, which used both the Master Plan data and its survey in developing its plan. This Plan is listed under Part Three - The Future.

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I. What is A Master Plan

The Difference between Planning and Zoning

In Michigan land development regulation is generally a local responsibility. There are two elements to this regulation; a master or comprehensive plan and a zoning ordinance. The two documents are inter-related, but are very different, in purpose, scope and timeline.

The purpose of a master plan is for a community to know: Where it was – Where it is - Where it wants to go in the future.

Planning is an attempt to guide and predict a community's growth, development and change over a relatively long time.

It is the basis for all the actions and decisions aimed at the protection and improvement of a community's quality of life. Master plans are developed within a relatively broad framework whose aim is to formulate the coordination of policies, programs and capital improvements within their community.

Because of this, it is vital to obtain residents' input on what needs and services are important to them.

A Master or Comprehensive Plan is the legal basis for zoning and identifies land for development and land for preservation.

Zoning:

Is a community's set of ordinances and regulations that limit the location of certain land uses along with the structures built in those land uses, and provides short to medium term protection over a short time and is meant to be amended as needed.

The purpose of zoning is the regulation of land uses in order to achieve the goals and aims set forth in the Master Plan. To be legal, a community's master plan must be the basis for its zoning regulations.

The legal authority of all zoning rests upon the community's Master Plan.

Authority for the Creation of a Master Plan:

The authority for the creation of a county master plan is set forth in the Michigan Planning enabling Act; Public Act 33 of 2008. A county Planning commission shall make and approve a basic plan as a guide for development within their county.

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Parts of a Master Plan:

Section 1: Where Arenac County has been and where it is right now

This section includes historic, socio-economic, transportation, soils and land use information about the County that is needed to have in order assist county and local officials in planning what they would like to see their county and communities look like in the future. This section includes information for both land use planning and economic development strategic planning. These goals and recommendations need to be coordinated to achieve a unified direction for Arenac County.

Section 2: Resident Input and Opinions Recorded and Analyzed

Because County officials firmly believed that the opinions of their residents would be vital in the creation of a master plan. They wanted to learn how residents felt about their community, and what was important to them. Officials wanted to know what kinds of land uses were important to them, particularly agriculture, forestry and recreation. Also, which lands, if any, needed protection. Residents were also asked their opinions concerning overall economic development; who should lead it and what it should involve. They were also asked where they shopped and what kinds of businesses were specifically needed.

Section 3: The Future Look of Arenac County

After much study of both the resident survey and the data information, Arenac County Planning Commission has set forth several goals and recommendations for the county that they believe should be implemented over the next five years.

It is meant that this information serve as general planning guidelines for County's cities and townships. Since all of Arenac's communities do currently take charge of their own planning and zoning, with the exception of Adams Township; these communities are responsible for planning their own direction. It is the strong desire, though, of the County Planning Commission that these individual entities consider the overall county information, as well as its goals and strategies, when developing their own plans.

This section has three parts:

- A. General Goals and Strategies
- B. Generalized Composite Arenac County Future Land Use Map
- C. Arenac County Strategic Economic Development Plan

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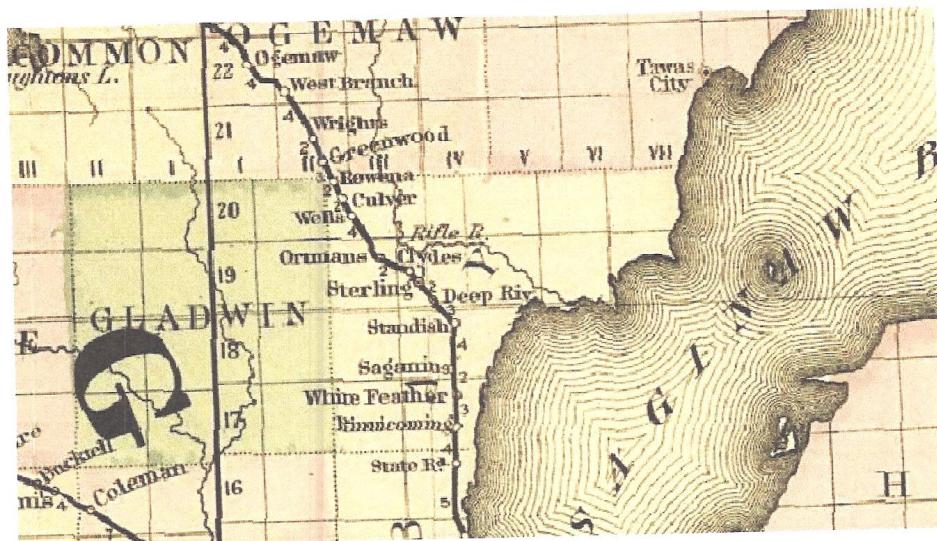
PART 1: Where Arenac County Has Been and Where It Is Today

A. Brief History¹

Arenac County was one of several counties in Michigan named by Henry R. Schoolcraft. He noted the sandy soils and called it "a sandy place for a good footing". The sand reminded him of the sand the ancient Roman placed in their Coliseum to provide a better footing for the gladiators during their combats. The name "Arenac" is a combination of the Latin word for sandy, "arena", and a Native American word for earth, "ac". Thus, Arenac means "a sandy place".

Located at the bottom of the Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron, Native Americans have occupied the area for at least 5,000 years. Members of the Ottawa and Saginaw Chippewa Tribes used the three rivers that transverse the County; the Rifle, Au Gres, and Pine Rivers. These rivers provided not only excellent fishing, but made good trade routes as well.

The first white settlers came from Canada in 1819. Most were of English and Scottish decent. The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe retained reservations at the mouths of the Rifle and Au Gres Rivers until 1837, when these lands were officially ceded to the U.S. government.



1874 Railroad map of Michigan prepared for the US Commissioner of Railroads showing Arenac area as part of Bay County

The land now called Arenac County was originally part of Bay County. In 1870, Deep River became the first township in what is now Arenac County. It was previously been part of Beaver Township in Bay County. It comprised of both the current Deep River and Adams Townships.

¹ Sources: Rootsweb.ancestry.com MiGenWeb places – history – migrations – centennial farms, State of Michigan Library

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From 1881 through 1884 several families migrated to the Arenac area from West Prussia, including the Marks and Hertberg (1881), Netzlaff and Berg (1882) and Kaschub (1884).

In 1883, Arenac County was created from lands previously part of Bay County. The first permanent church, First Presbyterian Church of Maple Ridge, was organized in Clayton Township in the same year.

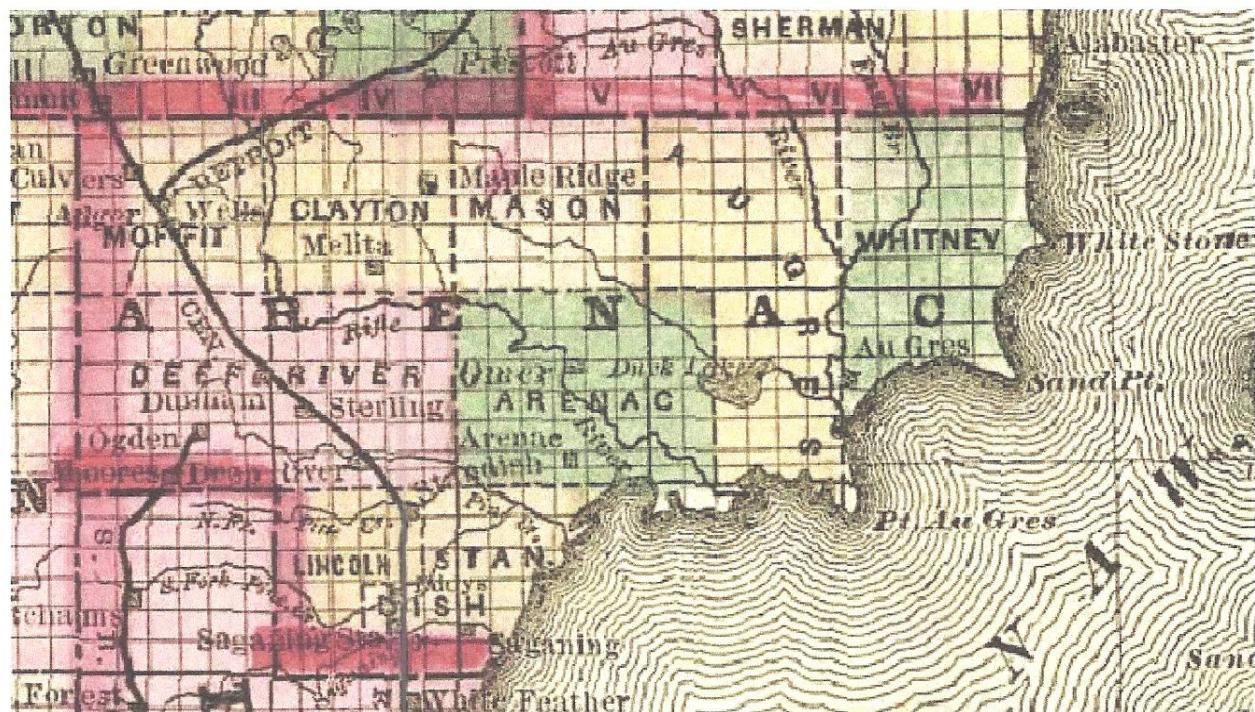
The Colombe farm in Standish Township was also established in 1883. This is now one of three Centennial Farms in Arenac County. The original buildings on the farm consisted of a saloon, a blacksmith shop and hotel with livery stables that also operated as a half-way house and stage coach stop.

The other two Centennial farms are both in Deep River Township. The Goodroe Farm is located on the edge of the Village of Sterling. The Hertzberg farm, also near the Village of Sterling, was acquired by the Hertzbergs sometime prior to 1886.

In 1886 the western portion of Deep River Township separated to become Adams Township, named for one of its first settlers, who later became its first supervisor.

1887 saw the establishment of St. John Evangelical Lutheran church (WELS) in the Village of Sterling.

Only a few years later, St. Mark Catholic Church was established in 1895 in Au Gres.



Portion of 1876 Map of Michigan showing railroads, townships, and sectional lines. Prepared for the US Director of the Commission of Railroads.

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B. Arenac County Overview

Arenac County is a rural forested area bordering Lake Huron and its Saginaw Bay. The county is part of the northern Michigan recreational area, with resort development along Lake Huron. Natural assets such as the Tittabawassee State Forest, the AuGres and Rifle Rivers and the Lake Huron shoreline, make it attractive for tourism. Agriculture is an important segment of the economy and accounts for 48% of land use. Arenac is part of the six-county, state designated Huron Shores Heritage Route; one of 14 in the state.

The county is a popular recreation area, with plenty of canoeing, hunting and fishing. The Au Gres and Rifle Rivers continue to be favorite canoeing and fishing spots. Favorite fish include trout, perch, walleye and smelt. Suckers are also a popular favorite, celebrated annually with the City of Omer's Sucker Festival. Local efforts are underway to restore the reputation of the Pine River as an excellent perch fishing river. The MDNR Lake Huron Boat Launch and Breakwall located at the mouth of the Au Gres is also the only designated harbor of refuge for boaters between Bay City to the south and East Tawas to the north. The City of Au Gres includes a marina on Lake Huron with an inland channel to the city.

The County draws many nature and hunting enthusiasts. Located just to the west, of Au Gres is the Tittabawassee State Forest which provides good small game hunting. There is also the Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area located about half way between the cities of Standish and AuGres, near the Saginaw Bay. Birders and other wildlife enthusiasts flock to Charity Island located in the Bay, just off Whitney Township. Almost 80% of this 222 acre island and its three miles of shoreline, is owned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which brought the island into the national protected area called, the Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

A very different form of tourism has recently taken hold in Arenac County. In January 2008, The Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe of Mt. Pleasant opened the Saganing Eagle's Landing Casino just south of Standish and already there are plans for expansion.

County Size:

Total Acres = 681 square miles (Source: Wikipedia / US Census)
Land = 367 square miles = 54 %
Water = 314 square miles = 46%

Adjacent Counties:

Northeast = Iosco	West = Gladwin
Northwest = Ogemaw	Southwest = Bay

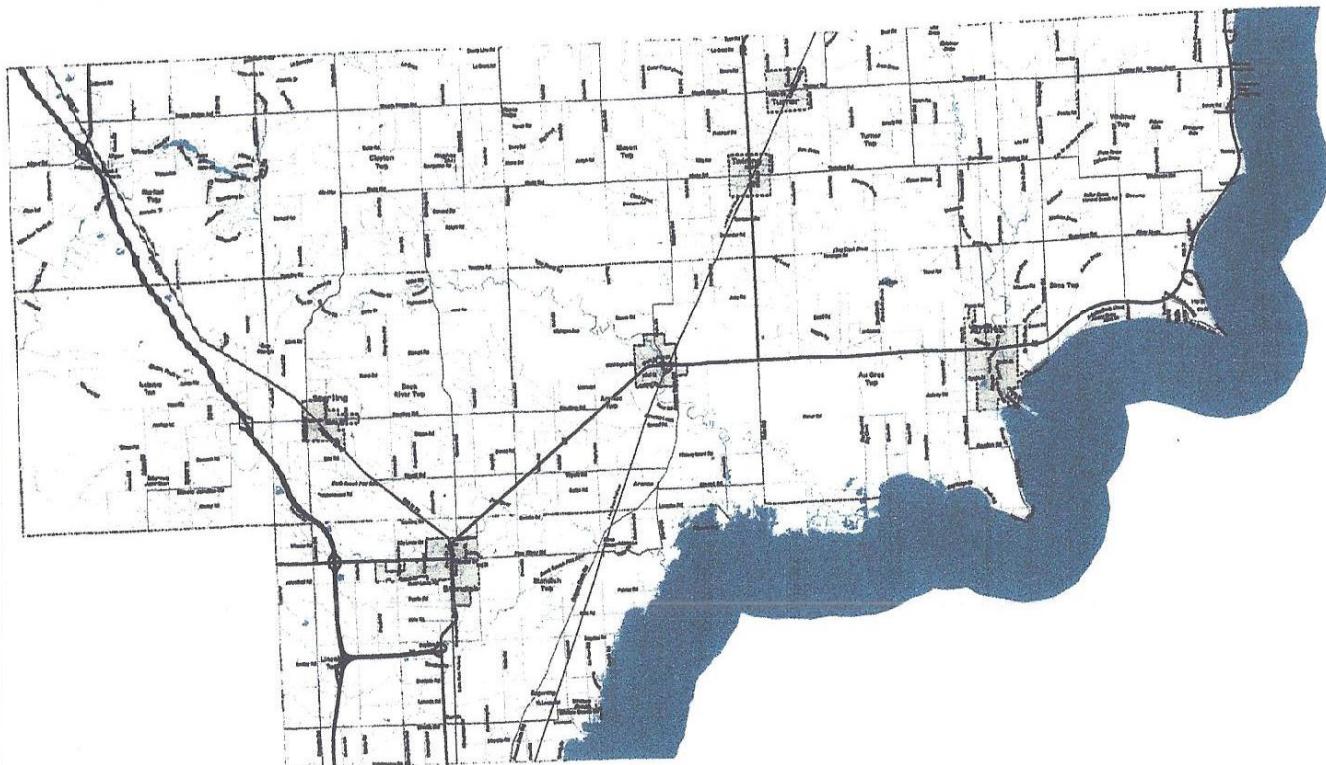
County Communities:

3 Cities = Au Gres – Omer – Standish which is also the county seat.
3 Villages = Sterling – Turner – Twinning
5 Unincorporated Places = Alger – Delano – Maple Ridge – Melita – Pine River
12 Townships =

Adams	Deep River	Sims
Arenac	Lincoln	Standish
Au Gres	Mason	Turner
Clayton	Moffatt	Whitney

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Arenac County Base Map²



C. Transportation

I-75 runs along the western edge of the County. This important north-south route connects Arenac not just with both the urban areas to the south, including Saginaw, Flint and Detroit; but it also to the tourist destinations of Northern Michigan and the State's Upper Peninsula.

US-23 runs along Arenac's Lake Huron shoreline, with this portion of US-23 being part of the Huron Shores Heritage Route; one of 14 such official heritage routes in Michigan.

The county is also served by four state trunk lines:

M-33: Starts in the very northwest corner of the County, off of I-75 and heads North.

M-13: Comes up from the south, and blends into US-23 at Standish.

M-65: Starts from US-23 and makes another scenic route to Northern Michigan

M-61: Is the a key roadway in the County, for serves as the link between I-75 that runs north-south along the western side of the county, The eastern end of M-61 intersects US-23 at the City of Standish's main intersection.

² Source: MI Department of Information Technology; Center for Geographic Information

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D. Arenac County Yesterday – Today³

S tandish Depot and Visitors' Center: Standish



The newly restored MI Central R.R. Depot, built in 1889 is also the newest State "Welcome Center". Inside displays contain railroad artifacts and depot memorabilia. Special displays change monthly. Outside are two vintage British rail coaches open for viewing. Location: Corner of US-23 and M-61 in Standish Open daily.

M aple Ridge Historic School House:

The interior of this fully restored 1904 one-room school house takes you back in time. Artifacts include period wall maps, wall alphabets, text books and more. There are also an interesting collection of period class photos. Directions: From US-23 take M-65 to Maple Ridge Rd. and turn left.



O ld Courthouse and Masonic Hall: Omer



Built in 1890, the building is on the National Register. It served as the county's first courthouse. Then when the county-seat was moved to Standish, it became the local Masonic Lodge. Visitors can see Arenac's first jail as well as a 1890's barber shop. Containing all old area Masonic, city and township records, it makes an excellent source of genealogical information. Location: US-23 in City of Omer.

C ounty Historical Museum, Genealogy Center and Chapel: Au Gres

Inside this 1883 church are recreations of a rural school room, bedroom and parlor, pioneer kitchen, and barber, apothecary shops, a country store and vintage apparel. It is the genealogy center for the area and has all known historical information on Charity Island. Location: 304 E. Michigan Ave., AuGres. Open weekends, 1:00 to 4:00 Across the street, in the Au Gres KinderPlatz Park. is a small church built in the early 1900's by German settlers and re-located to its present site.



R ifle River: Designated Scenic River:



Numerous rapids help make this stream one of the Lower Peninsula's fastest streams, making it one of the State's most popular trout-fishing and canoeing streams. It is perfect for birders and wildlife-viewing enthusiasts. Access Location: There is a MDNR public access site on the south edge of Omer, just off US-23. There are several private canoe liveries also all along the river.

³ Source: Arenac County Heritage Brochure, 2009, created by Arenac County Recreation Authority and East MI Council of Governments.

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A

U Gres Riverfront Park and Campground:



This shaded 23 acre city-owned park and campground is just a short distance from the MDNR Au Gres River boat launch and Lake Huron breakwater. A paved walkway and wooden bridge connect it to downtown Au Gres. The campground has 119 sites with full hook-ups. Location: just north of US-23 on the northern edge of the city.

L

Lake Huron Boat Launch and Breakwall: Lookout Harbor of Refuge at Au Gres

The MDNR facility has 4 boat ramps and 300 parking spaces for vehicles and trailers. It is also the only designated harbor of refuge for boaters between Bay City and East Tawas. The facility ends on a point jetting out into Lake Huron, which offers a scenic view of the Lake Huron coastline, and an excellent spot for birding. Restrooms available. Location: just east of the City of Au Gres.



C

Charity Island: National Wildlife Refuge:



222-acre Charity Island, the largest island in the Saginaw Bay, is part of the "Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge". Its isolated beaches and unique hardwood forest provide excellent habitat for rare and protected plants, animals and song-birds. There is also an historic lighthouse on the island that is under private ownership. Location: The island is located approximately 10 miles off-shore. It is easily accessible from the Au Gres Boat Launch or a privately run ferry service.

C

ounty Parks:

A) *AuGres Park*: Located on Lake Huron. Good sandy beach, picnic and play areas. It is designed mostly for day-use, but there are 5 new rustic cabins. Location: Southeast of AuGres. B) *Oasis Lake Park*: Day-use park with good swimming beach, pavilions and volleyball nets. Location: M-76 between Sterling and Alger. C) *Youngman Park*: There are good hiking trails making it a good spot for birders. There is rustic camp sites and picnic area. Location: From the corner of US-23 and M-61, go east 3.5 miles to Arenac State Rd.: then north 2 miles.



S

aganning Eagle's Landing Casino:

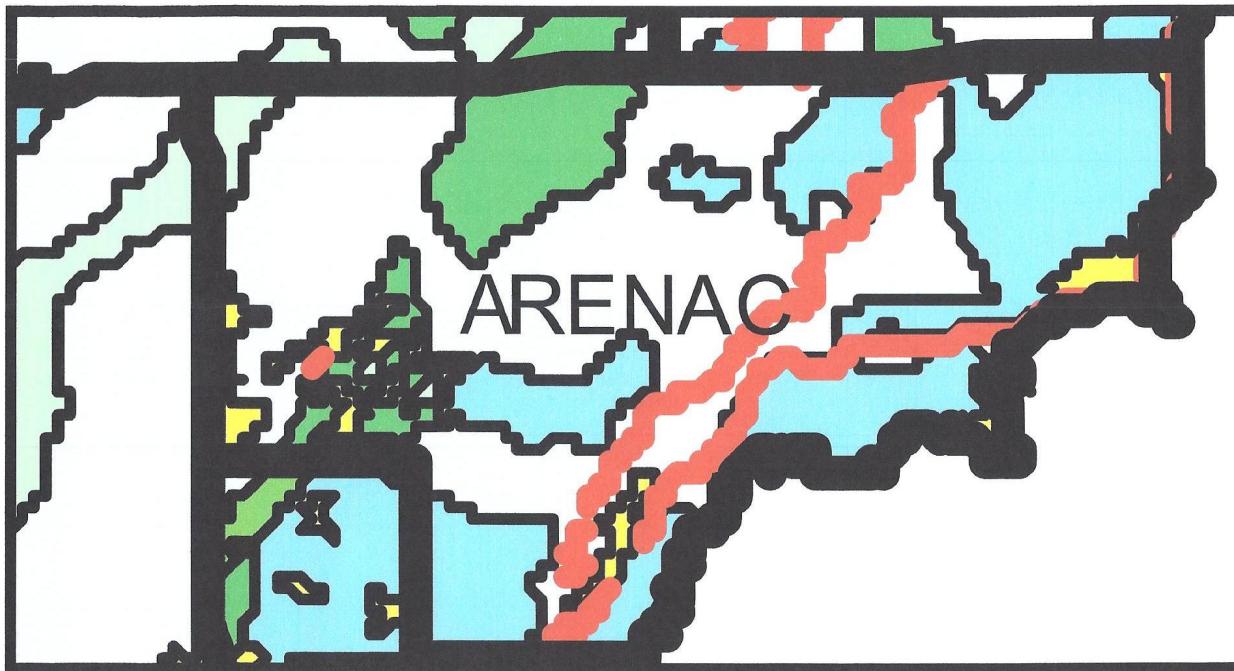


This newest casino of the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe opened in January 2008. The 32,000 square foot operation has 700 slot machines and 40 gaming tables. With business always brisk, plans are already under way to expand. Location: 2690 Worth Rd., off of M-13, just south of City of Standish.

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Arenac County – The Land E. Geology of Arenac County

Arenac, as shown in this 1982 Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Quaternary Geology Map of Michigan, as the County's name suggests, has much sand and gravel, especially in the north eastern portion of the County. It also has a wide swath of clay and silt soils running along the Lake Huron border and including the southern section of the county.



QUATERNARY GEOLOGY OF MICHIGAN

- [Yellow] Peat and muck
 - [Light yellow] Postglacial alluvium
 - [Light yellow] Dune sand
 - [Light blue] Lacustrine clay and silt
 - [White] Lacustrine sand and gravel
 - [Light purple] Glacial outwash sand and gravel and postglacial alluvium
 - [Dark purple] Ice-contact outwash sand and gravel
 - [Light green] Fine-textured glacial till
 - [Dark green] End moraines of fine-textured till
 - [Medium green] Medium-textured glacial till
 - [Dark green] End moraines of medium-textured till
 - [Light yellow] Coarse-textured glacial till
 - [Dark yellow] End moraines of coarse-textured till
 - [Brown] Thin to discontinuous glacial till over bedrock
 - [Dark brown] Artificial fill
 - [Dark brown] Exposed bedrock surfaces
 - [White] Water
-
- Drumlins
 - Eskers
 - Shorelines
 - Sinkholes
 - Striations/Grooves

Oil and Gas Wells

Arenac County has:

- 13,461 = Oil Wells
- 12,245 = Gas Wells
- 22,325 = Dry Holes
- 1,143 = Disposal Wells
- 800 = Injection Wells
- 4,960 = Other Wells

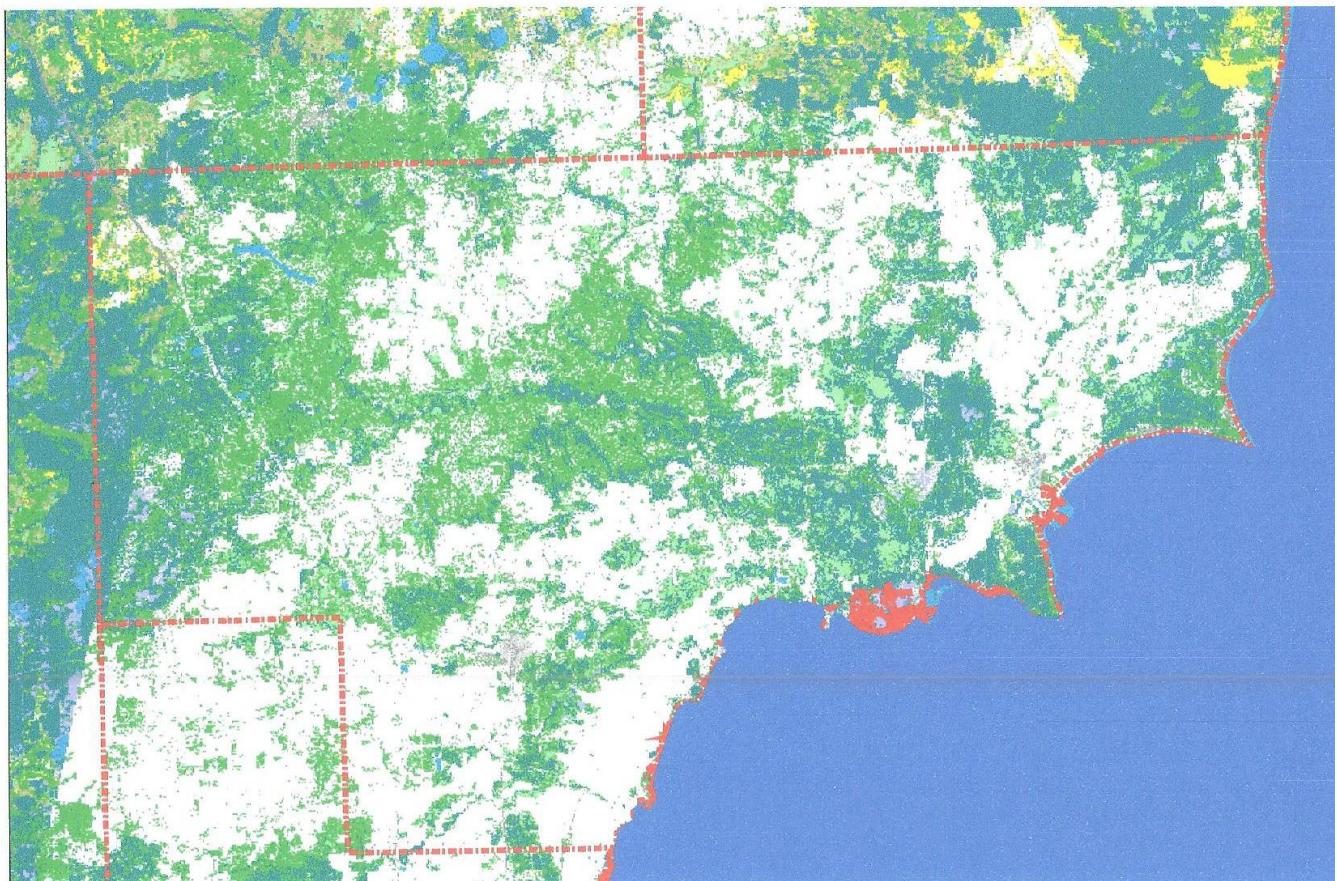
Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Oil and Gas Well Map

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F. Land Cover⁴

Land cover in Arenac County is primarily made up of 1) Agriculture, 2) Forests, 3) Wetlands. As can be seen from the 1992 Natural Land Cover Map, the County is covered to a great extent by agricultural lands (white) at about 48%. This land cover is particularly heavy across the northern portion of the County, particularly so in the northeast quarter, and then, across the southern portion. Deciduous forests (green) although scattered throughout, are primarily located in the mid-sections and western third of the County. Arenac County has much of its land in wetlands(blue-green). These are found predominately in the very northeast corner, along the western quarter and throughout the mid-section. They are frequently located among forested lands.

Showing in red along the Lake Huron shore line, are the human settlements, made up mostly of residential land uses.



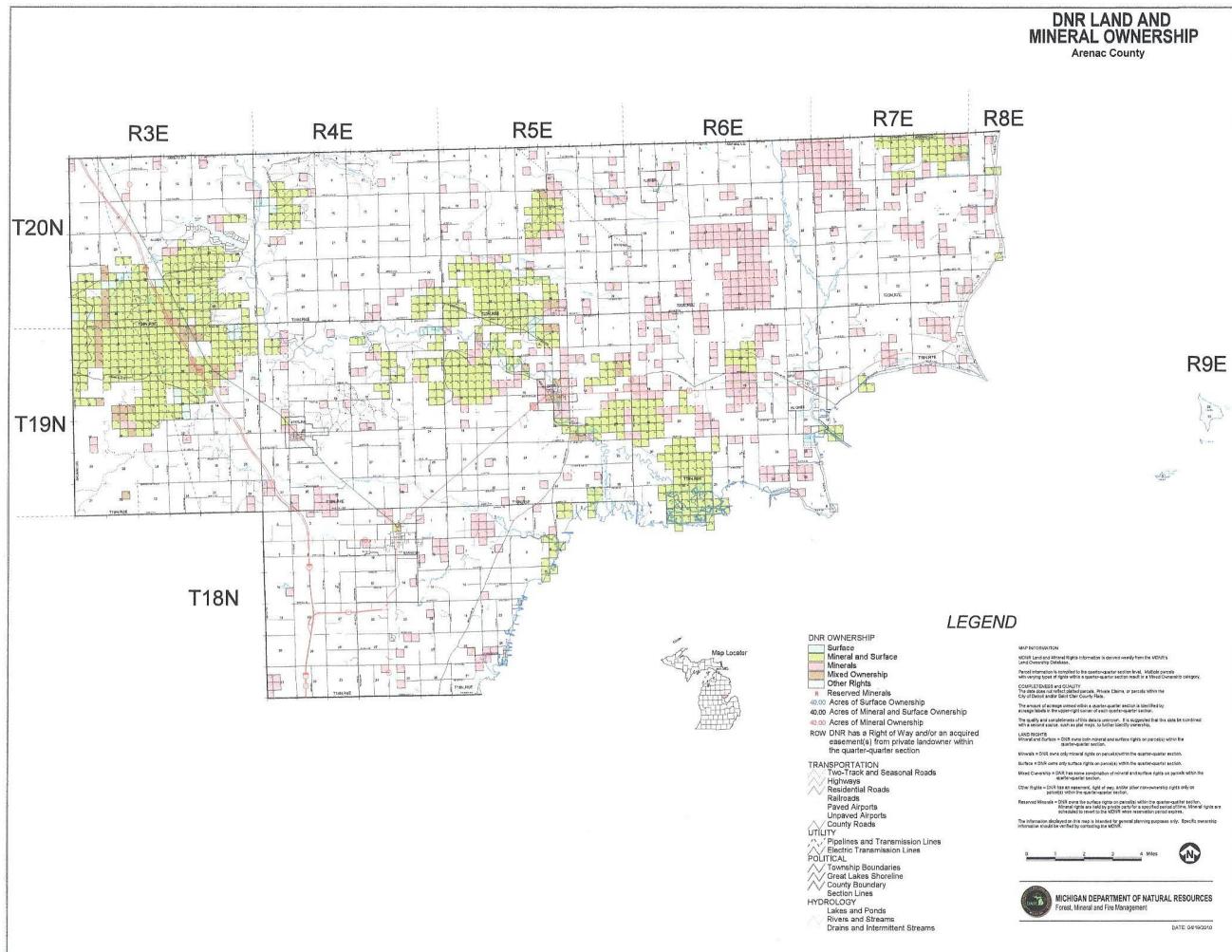
Land in public ownership also greatly effects and limits uses also. And, because Agriculture is the predominant land use and because soils that are identified as wetlands, can adversely affect various forms of human development, these are more closely examined.

⁴ 1992 Natural Land Cover Map created by Michigan State University Extension as part of the Michigan Natural Features Inventory.

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G. Public Land Ownership

The amount and location of publically owned land can be a factor that can affect the development within a county or township. When the State of Michigan owns land, it can mean a variety of things. It can mean it owns just the surface (blue), just the minerals under the surface (pink), or both the surface and the minerals (green). In some cases it has a mixed ownership with other entities (brown). The below map is from the MI Department of Natural Resources.



As can be seen by this map, State-owned land that includes surface and mineral rights (green), is scattered across the county with a large section in the western portion and scattered throughout the mid-section.

One such area, where the state owns both land and minerals, is the Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area. The land is about half way between the cities of Standish and Au Gres, near the Saginaw Bay. It covers almost all of Section 5 and a little over half of Section 4.

State-owned mineral rights (brown) are scattered throughout the county, but more concentrated in the eastern half of the County. Small parcels of land with mixed ownership are found along the extreme western borders.

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H. Important Agricultural Soils

As Identified by the US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service

Agriculture is an important land use and economic activity within Arenac County for a good reason. Much of its soils are classified as important farmland. Prime agricultural soil is considered a non-renewable resource and wise stewardship of this resource should be encouraged.

Arenac County has soils that are classified:

- 70,165 total acres = Prime Farmland⁵
- 8,710 total acres = Additional Farmland of Local Importance⁶
- 1,468 total acres = Unique Farmland, other than Prime⁷

Prime Farm Land (light green on following maps)

The greatest percentage of prime agricultural soils is located in the northeast corner of the County. Whitney Township has the greatest percent with approximately 75% of its soils classified as prime. Adjacent to the south is Sims Township with the western half of its township classified as prime. Adjacent to Whitney to the west is Turner Township that has prime soils along its eastern, northern and western borders.

A second concentration of prime agricultural soils is located in the southeast corner, solidly running along Standish Township's entire eastern border, the only exception being the Lake Huron coastline.

Prime soils are also found scattered heavily throughout Lincoln Township in the south and Clayton Township in the north. All the remaining townships have portions of their land identified as having prime agricultural soils.

Additional Farmland of Local Importance (orange on following maps)

These lands are scattered in between and around prime farmland soils. Largest single concentration is in the mid section of Turner Township. Large scatterings are found all across the northern third of the county and again, except for Standish Township, across the southern third of the County.

Unique Farmland, other than Prime Unique (dark green on following maps)

There are two major pockets of unique soils in the County. In Whitney Township there are two areas, one in the very northeast corner and the other about center of the township. In the northeast portion of Au Gres Township a pocket exists as well as another in its north central border that flows into Turner Township.

A three-part Arenac County farmland map follows.

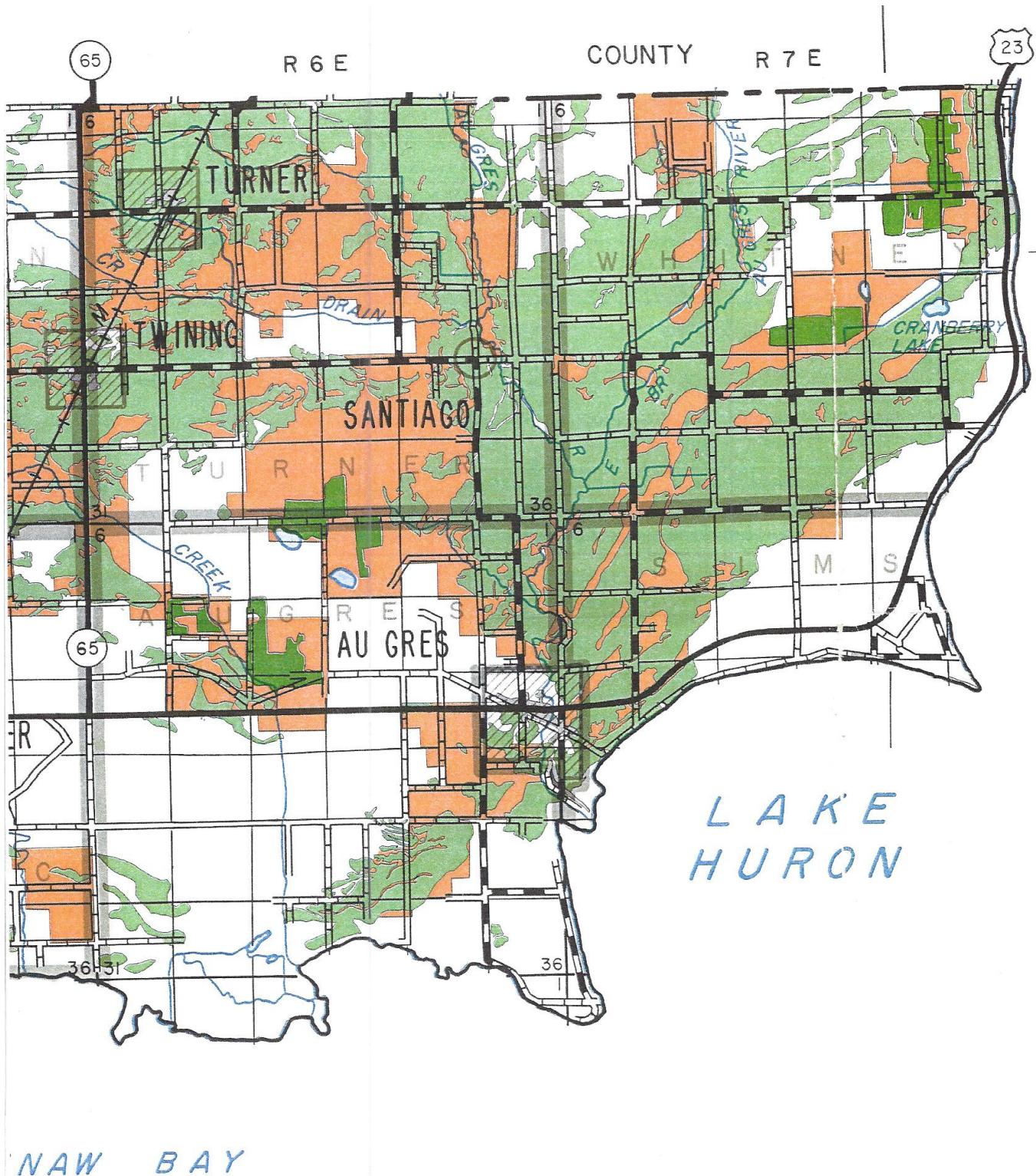
⁵ Prime soils have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, forage, fiber and oilseed crops.

⁶ Additional Farmland of Local Importance includes those soils that are nearly prime and that economically produce high yields when treated and managed according to modern farming methods.

⁷ Unique Farmland, other than Prime Unique is used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops.

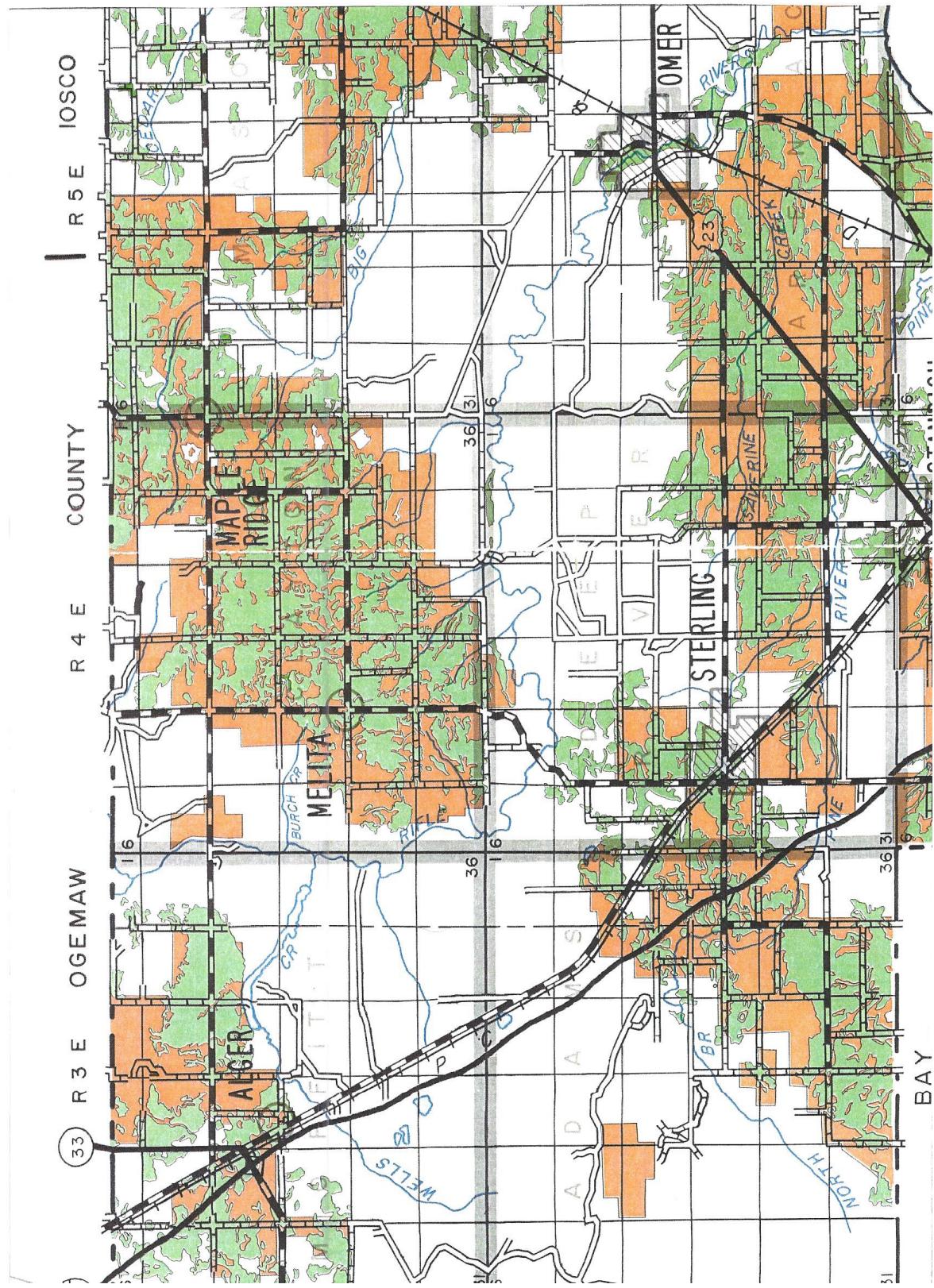
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The Northeast Portion of Arenac County - USDA Prime Farmland Map
Green = Prime Dark Green = Unique Orange = Important



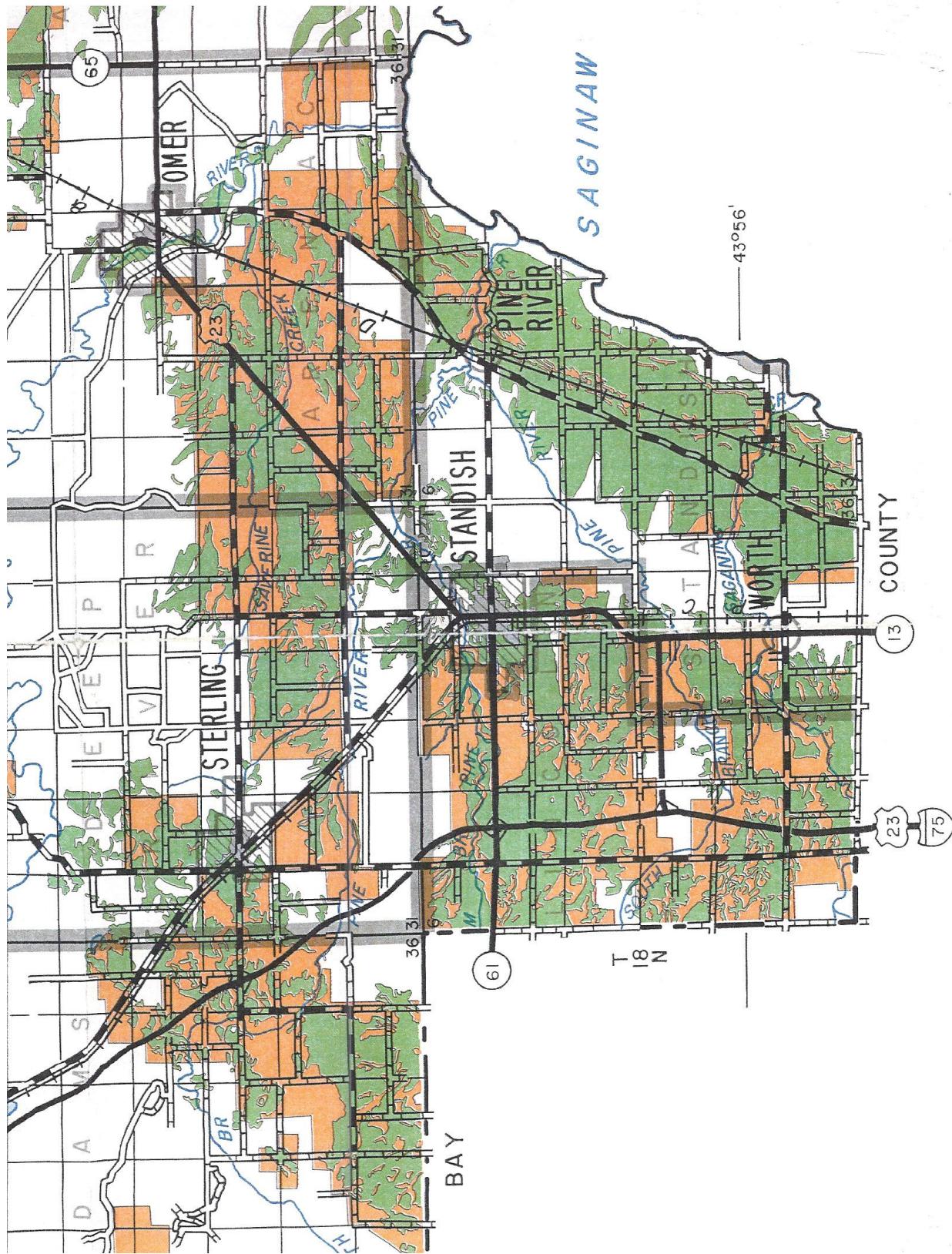
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The Mid Portion of Arenac County - USDA Prime Farmland Map
Green = Prime Dark Green = Unique Orange = Important



2011 Arenac County Master Plan

The Western Portion of Arenac County - USDA Prime Farmland Map
Green = Prime Dark Green = Unique Orange = Important



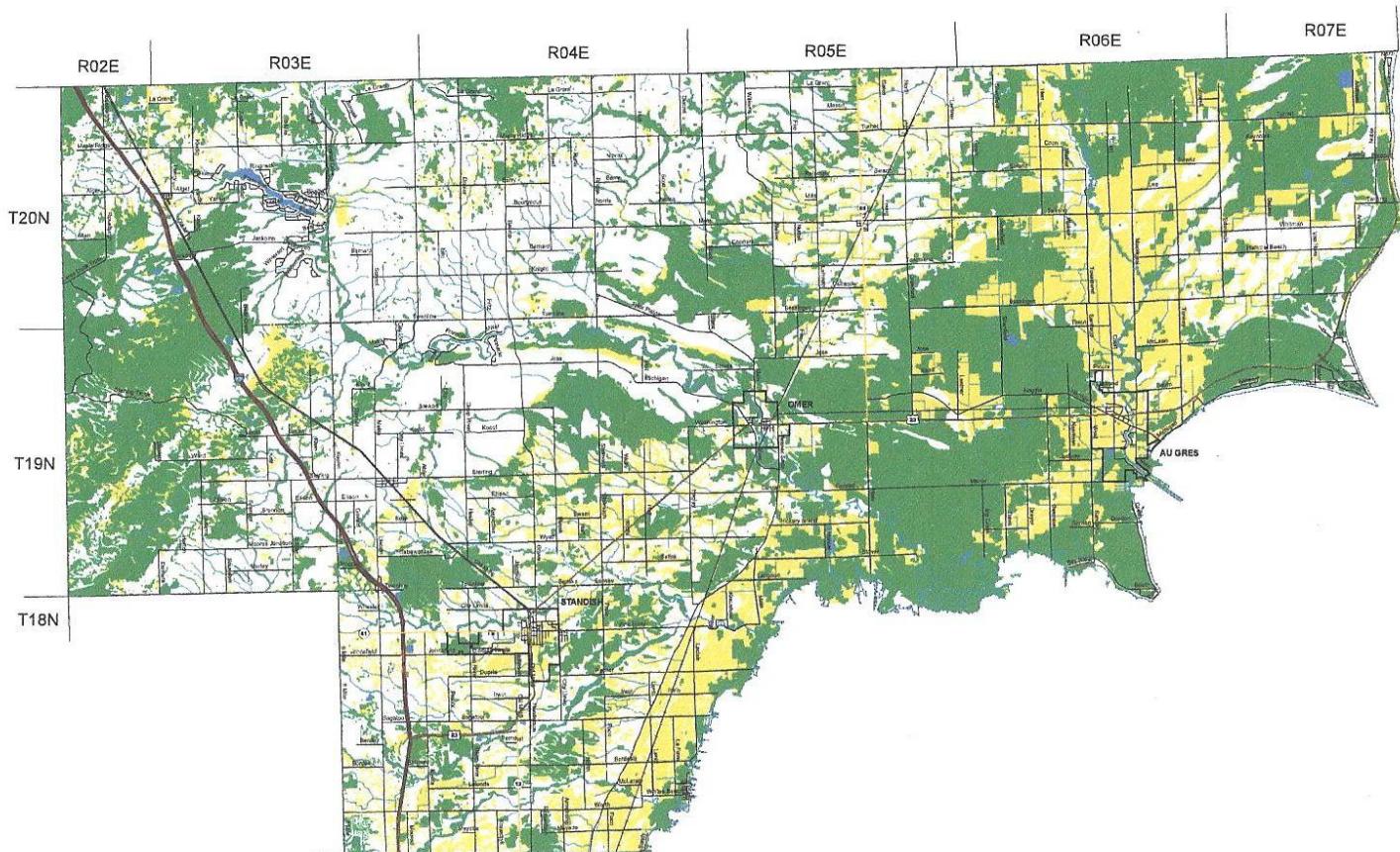
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I. Wetlands⁸

The Arenac County Final Wetland Map below, indicates a county with many wetlands (green) and areas which include wetland soils (gold). As can be seen, approximately half of the county has wetlands to some degree. Almost all of the eastern half of the County has either actual wetlands or soils that contain wetlands to some degree. Wetlands also run along Arenac's entire western edge.

It is the yellow portions on the map, that there may be differing opinions from the State and federal in the interpretation what specifically may be suitable for development and what is not.

Related to wetland soils, are flood plains. New floodplain maps are currently being drawn, and discussions with the State indicate that there will be several changes. Local planners and developers need to be aware of this. The new map will be ready 2012 or 2013.



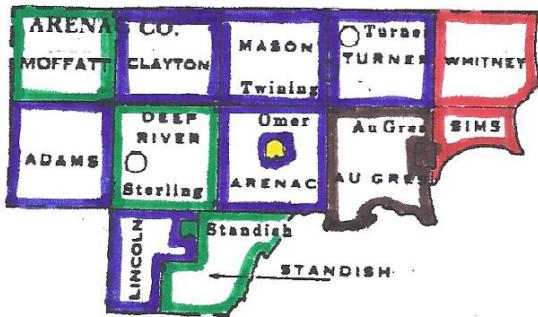
⁸ Source: Arenac County Final Wetland Map, as compiled by the MI Department of Environmental Quality.

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J. The People and the Land - Taxable Valuations

Tax valuations on the land can tell us several things. Valuations can denote the level of tax income the county and local communities can operate. They give us an idea of how much homes are worth. They can tell how its residents use the land; and how much of certain land uses are taking place.

The following maps show the 2010 overall real and personal tax valuations, agricultural land valuations and non-homestead (seasonal) valuations.



Arenac County Taxable Valuations
Total Real & Personal 2010

RED = \$60,000,000 and Up

GREEN/BROWN= \$39,000,000 to 59,000,000

Yellow = \$39,000,000 and Below

Highest total real and personal tax valuations are in the northeast corner of the county, followed by a diagonal line going from southeast corner to the northwest corner.

Total Real & Personal 2010 Taxable Valuations

Source: MI Dept. of Treasury: 2010 Green Book

REAL

Townships	&PERSONAL
Adams ^	15,461,786
Arenac	23,011,087
Au Gres	41,733,545
Clayton	29,202,697
Deep River	53,146,095
Lincoln	23,707,569
Mason ^	18,422,184
Moffat	48,331,361
Sims	78,461,931
Standish	49,783,266
Turner ^	18,774,537
Whitney	69,664,900
Cities	
Au Gres	35,143,451
Omer	5,033,284
Standish	39,131,760

^ =

increase
over 2009

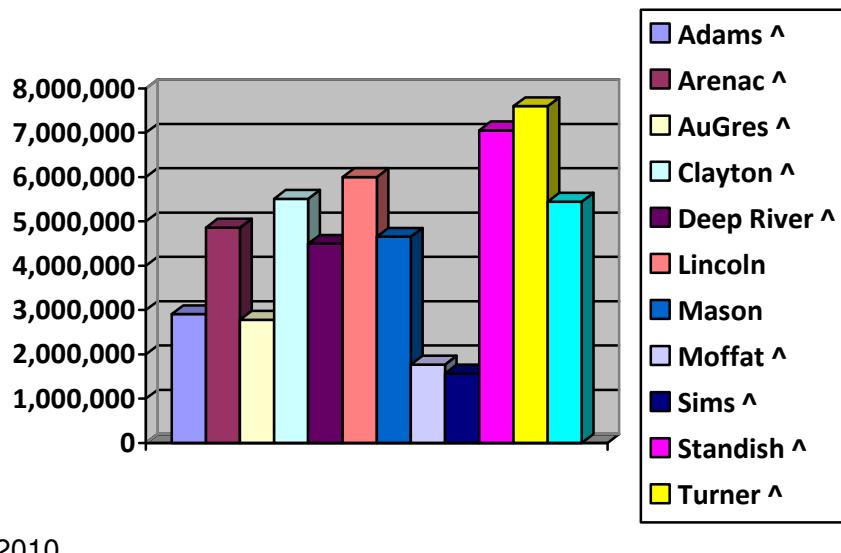
From an economic and land use perspective, Arenac County is strong in agriculture. It is also a draw for persons vacationing from other areas. One way to look at the economic impact of these two activities is by looking at land valuations in Agriculture and Non-homestead (second or seasonal Homes). The next two pages looks at the tax valuations of these two categories.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

Agricultural Taxable Valuations: 2010

Source: MI Dept. of Treasury: 2010 Green Book

^ = Increase over 2009



2010

Adams ^	2,905,725
Arenac ^	4,859,452
Au Gres ^	2,780,246
Clayton ^	5,508,337
Deep River ^	4,495,257
Lincoln	6,000,510
Mason	4,651,962
Moffat ^	1,768,920
Sims ^	1,567,280
Standish ^	7,054,334
Turner ^	7,598,689
Whitney	5,443,343
TOTAL ^	54,634,055

2010 Taxable Agricultural Valuations
Source: MI Dept. of Treasury: 2010 Green Book

RED = \$6,000,000 up

GREEN = \$5,900,000 to \$5,000,000

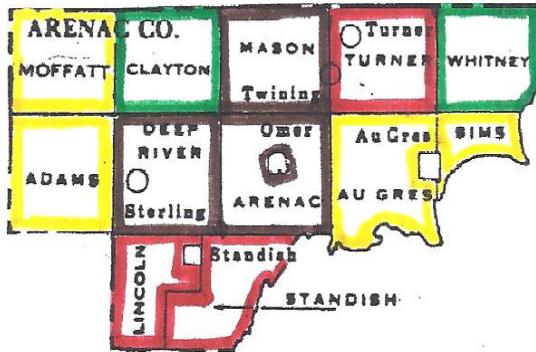
BROWN = \$4,900,000 to \$4,000,000

YELLOW = \$3,000,000 below

2010 compared to 2009 = Increase of \$1,123,825

Agricultural Valuations account for approximately 11% of all Real an Personal tax valuations in Arenac County.

The highest valuations for agricultural lands are at the very southern edge of the county, that border Bay County and to a slightly lesser degree along the northern tier of townships that border Iosco County. Only the very western edge of the county and the area around the City of AuGres show low valuation amounts for agricultural lands. All townships, except three showed an increase in valuation.

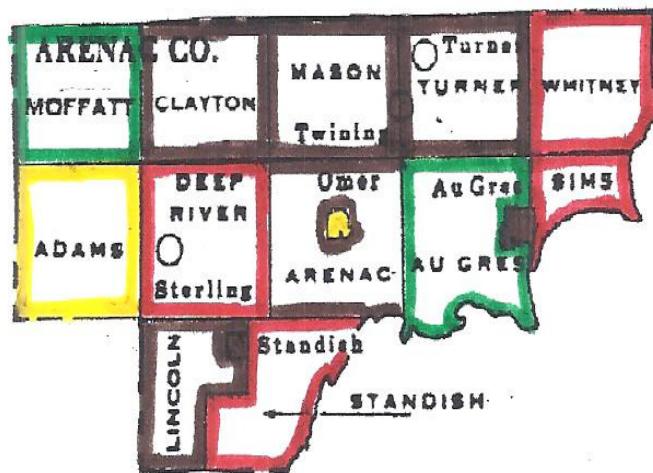


2011 Arenac County Master Plan

2010 Non-Homestead Tax Valuations

Source: MI Dept. of Treasury: 2010 Green Book

[^] = Increase over 2009



Community	Non-Homestead
Adams ^	9,839,253
Arenac	15,846,443
Au Gres	23,196,795
Clayton	17,991,605
Deep River	38,161,338
Lincoln	16,865,959
Mason	12,670,398
Moffat	23,763,058
Sims	34,671,447
Standish	33,600,179
Turner ^	13,002,868
Whitney ^	34,235,362
Cities	
Au Gres	13,655,275
Omer	3,049,656
Standish	11,715,494
TOTAL	302,265,130

2010 Non-Homestead Tax Valuations

RED = \$30,000,000 to 40,000,000

GREEN = \$20,000,000 to 29,000,000

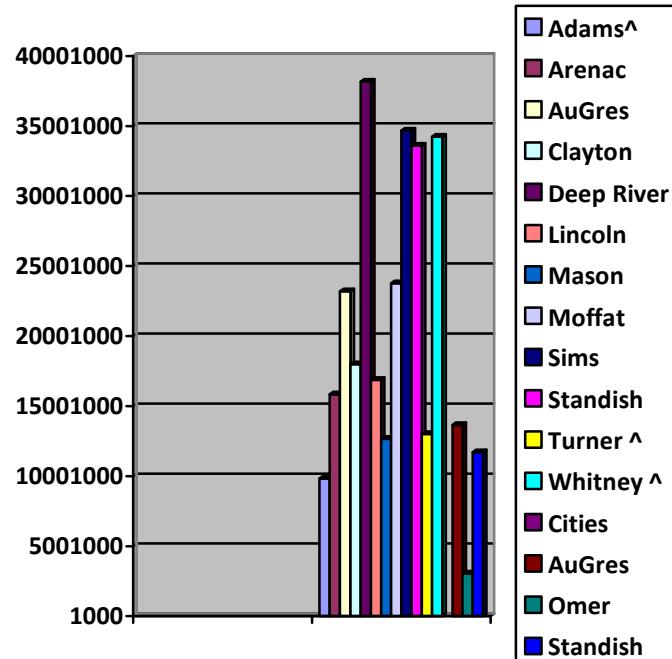
BROWN = 10,000,000 to 19,000,000

YELLOW = Below \$10,000,000

The greatest non-homestead valuations are found in two opposite corners of the county. The highest areas include the northeast corner and Deep River and Standish Townships. Deep River has the highest valuations.

Valuations increased in Adams, Turner and Whitney Townships.

TOTAL Non-homestead valuations = \$302,265,130 as compared to TOTAL Real and Personal Tax valuations of \$549,009,453 in the county.



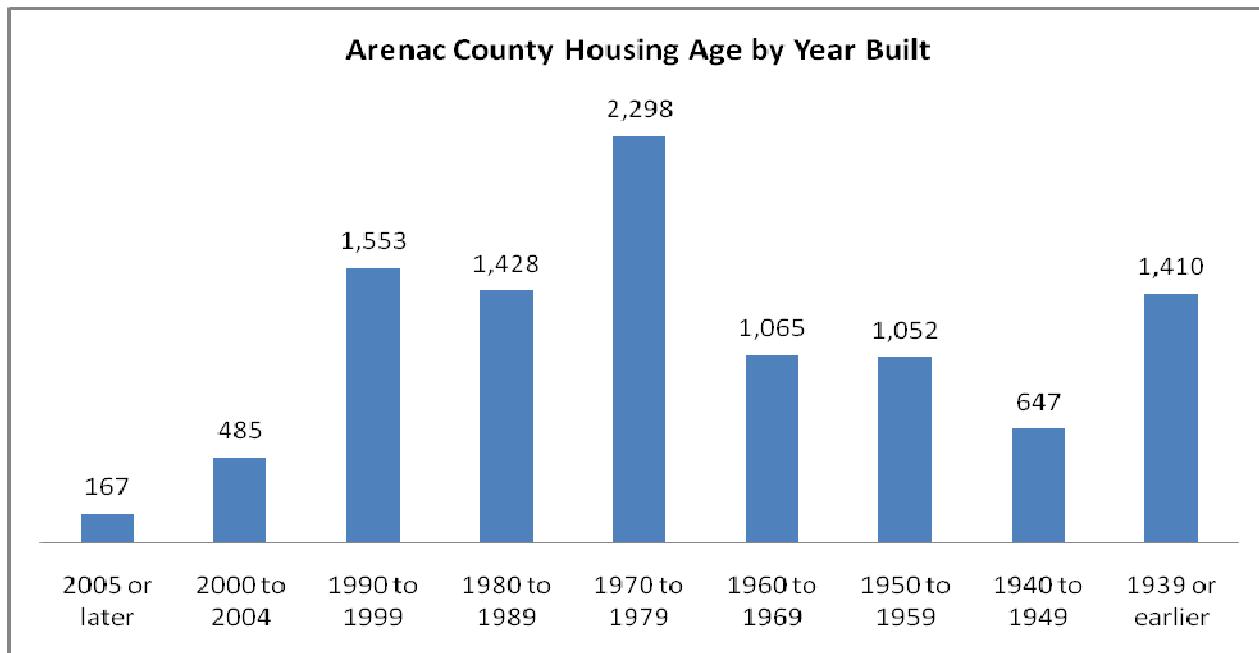
2011 Arenac County Master Plan

K. HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS⁹

Home ownership is strong in the county with a little over 80% of occupied housing units being home owned, as compared to the State as a whole with not quite 75%. The percentage of detached single homes is also higher than the State average. Mobile homes, as a percent of total housing is three times the State average. At 15%, this could reflect the large number of seasonal homes or low-cost year-round housing.

	Arenac County	Michigan
Total Housing Units	10,105	4,522,600
1 Unit detached	77.7%	71.4%
Mobile Home	15.4%	5.8%
Median Rooms	5.4	5.6
Total Occupied	68.6%	85.4%
Owner Occupied	81.0%	74.6%
Renter Occupied	19.0%	25.4%
Total Unoccupied	31.4%	14.6%
Median Value	\$99,900	\$ 147,500

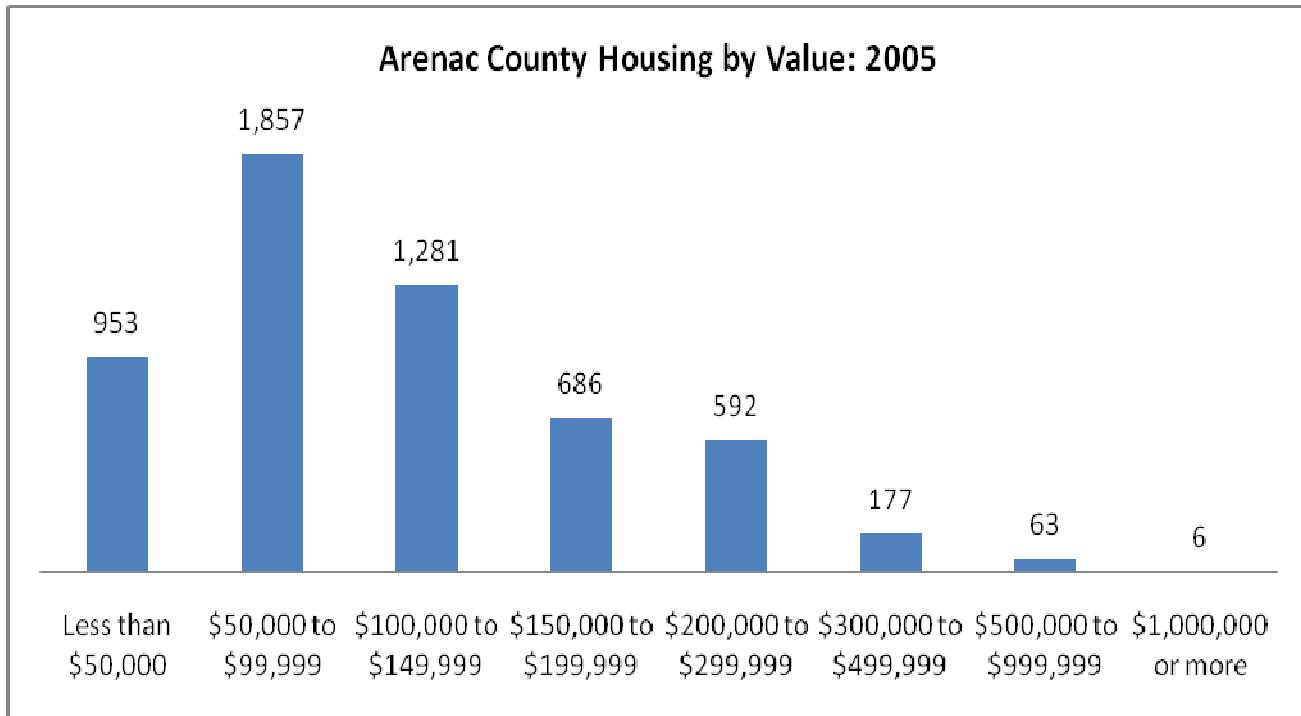
These two numbers may be reflective the high rate of second homes in Arenac County. Home vacancy rate in the county at 31% is a little over twice as high as the State average. The percent of mobile homes is three times higher than the State. This last number, though, may also be reflective of the need for low cost housing within Arenac County.



⁹ US Census Bureau, 2005 Estimate

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

Almost 23% of houses in the County have been built between 1970 and 1979. The building boom dropped but remained at a little over 10% for each decade between 1980 and the year 2000. But, a great deal of homes are older with 14% of all housing units were built in 1939 or earlier and a total of 41% of all housing built before 1970.



One third of housing units have a 2005 estimated value between \$50,000 and \$99,999, with 56% of all houses valued at between \$50,000 and \$149,999. The median value in 2005 was estimated at \$99,900.

Housing Costs:

- 57% of home owners have a mortgage.
- Median owner monthly costs with a mortgage is \$943
- Selected monthly owner costs as a percent of income show the largest percent at both ends of the cost scale.
 - 36% have costs of 20% or less
 - 29% have costs of 35% or more
- Median gross rent paid for occupied homes is \$511.
- Gross rent as percentage of income indicate renters pay a much greater portion of their income for housing.
 - 67% of renters pay more than 25% of their income for housing.
 - 40% pay in excess of 40% of income for housing.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

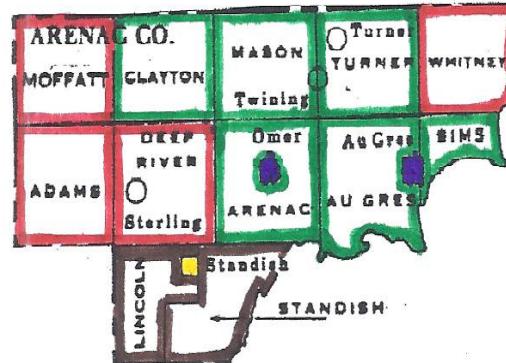
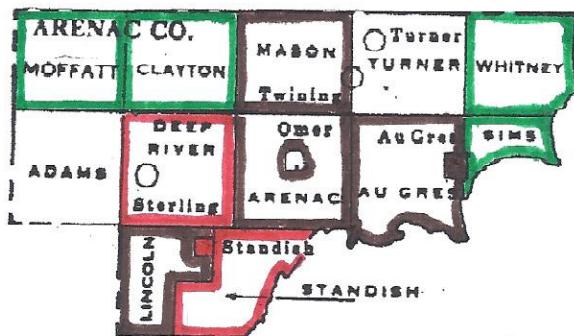
The PEOPLE

L. Where They Are: Population Estimates

2009 Arenac County Population Estimates

U.S. Census: June 2010

Arenac County Population Change 2000-2009



2009 Population Estimate	Community	Change: 2000-2009
16,092	Arenac County	-1,177 = -6.8
Townships		
533	Adams	-17 = -3.1
935	Arenac	-57 = -5.7
959	Au Gres	-48 = -4.8
1,025	Clayton	-76 = -6.9
2,167	Deep River	-77 = -3.4
934	Lincoln	-74 = -7.3
927	Mason	-67 = -6.7
1,083	Moffatt	-38 = -3.4
1,032	Sims	-59 = -5.4
1,853	Standish	-173 = -8.5
603	Turner	-39 = -6.1
1,018	Whitney	-15 = -1.5
Cities		
915	Au Gres	-113 = -11.0
295	Omer	-42 = -12.5
1,813	Standish	232 = 14.7

2009 Population Estimates

RED = 1,500 persons plus

GREEN = 1,000 to 1,500 persons

BROWN = 999 to 900 persons

WHITE = Less than 900 persons

The greatest population is found in the very southern section and across the northern tier of the county. The City of Standish has the largest population of any community.

Population Change 2000-2009

The City of Standish is the ONLY community within the County to show a population INCREASE.

Population Decrease:

RED = Least = -1 to -3.9

GREEN = Moderate = -4.0 to -6.9

BROWN = High = -7.0 to -9.9

YELLOW = Greatest = 10.0 plus

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

The People: What Age Groups are Growing – Which Ones are Shrinking

Even though the overall population of the county is shrinking, it does not mean that there is an even decrease across all races or age groups. As can be seen below, even though the White population has decreased, all minority groups have actually been increasing in the County between 2000 and 2007. Slightly more males have left the county, than females.

	2000	2007	Change 2000-2007	
Total Population	17,269	16,608	-661	-3.8
Hispanic				
Race				
White	238	294	56	23.5
Black	16,528	15,779	-749	-4.3
Am. Indian or Alaskan	321	371	50	5.6
Asian	165	174	9	5.5
Nat. Hawaiian /Pac. Islander	50	60	10	20
Two or More Races	2	2	0	0
	203	222	19	9.4
Sex				
Male	8,863	8,513	-350	-3.9
Female	8,406	8,095	-311	-3.7

Children of all age groups show a very marked decrease. This same decrease is shown in age groups that normally make up parents of those children. From 30 years of age till 45 years, there has been a very strong decease taking place. Older age groups are all growing; particularly those indicative of young retirees.

Age	2000	2009	Change 2000-2009	
0to4	17,269	16,092	-1,177	-6.8
5to9	912	835	-77	-8.4
10to14	1,109	846	-263	-23.7
15to19	1,209	869	-340	-28.1
20to24	1,232	1,049	-183	-14.9
25to29	904	864	-40	-4.4
30to34	866	889	23	2.7
35to39	1,015	739	-276	-27.2
40to44	1,357	905	-452	-33.3
45to49	1,395	934	-461	-33.0
50to54	1,186	1,351	165	13.9
55to59	1,160	1,293	133	11.5
60to64	1,061	1,223	162	15.3
65to69	1,003	1,184	181	18.0
70to74	906	1,030	124	13.7
75to79	753	818	65	8.6
80to84	579	589	10	1.7
85+	351	371	20	5.7
	271	303	32	11.8

Source: US Census; Missouri Census Center; Population Estimates for MI April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009: Released June 2010
 Compiled by: K. TenWolde, East MI Council of Governments

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

M.Education¹⁰

If all indications are correct, that Arenac County's youth population has greatly decreased during the 2000's, there will be challenges for the four school districts that serve the county.

The map on the next page, is an enlargement of the Michigan Department of Education's state map of school districts.

School High School Graduation Rate	2007	2008	2009
Arenac/Eastern	80.0	86.7	88.5
Au Gres-Sims	90.0	91.8	91.7
Standish/Sterling	89.2	88.2	90.7
Whittemore/Prescott	87.8	87.0	83.1
State of Michigan	75.5	75.5	75.2

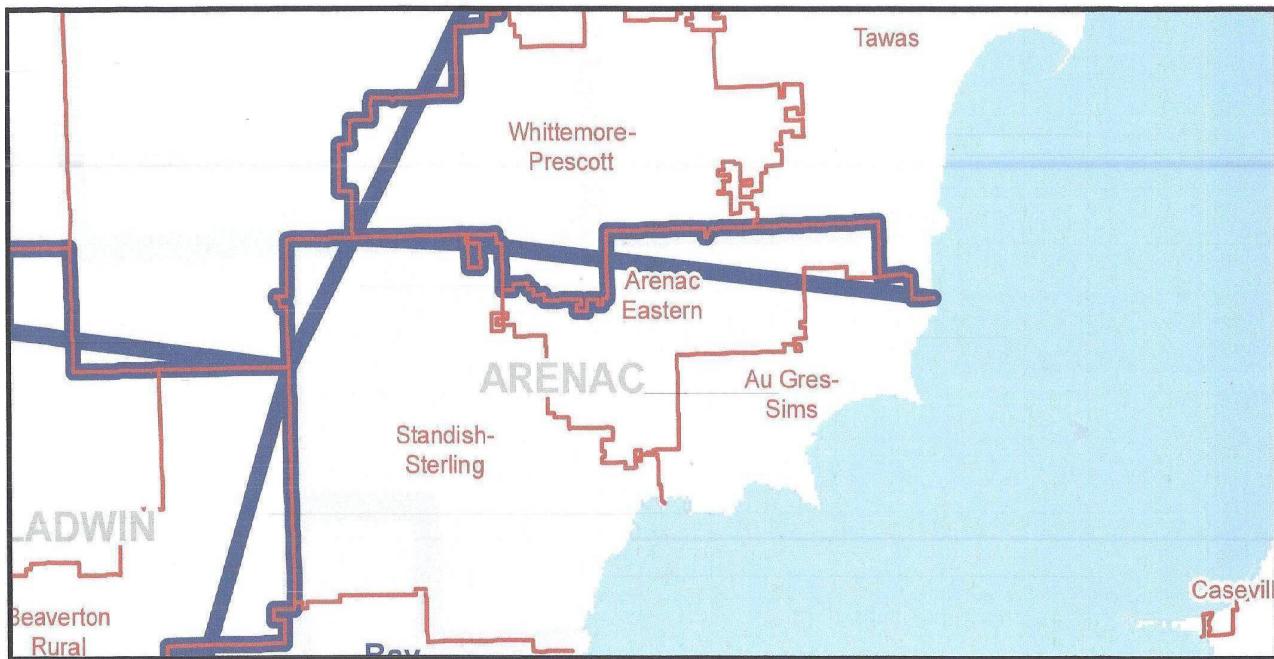
Educational standings include their "Report Card" that indicates the percentage of students that have passed the State's tests in Reading – Math – Science and Social Studies, and if it has been enough to make the State's AYP = Adequate Yearly Progress.

School	Adequate Yearly Progress	Report Card Score
Arenac/Eastern	Yes	B
	Yes	B
	Yes	B
Au Gres-Sims	Yes	A
	Yes	A
	Yes	A
Standish/Sterling	Yes	A
	Yes	B
	Yes	B
Whittemore/Prescott	No	-
	Yes	A
	No	B

¹⁰ Source: MI Department of Education: Center for Educational Performance and Information; 2010

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

School Districts Serving Arenac County



The quality of education at the local level is now more important than ever, if schools are to give children the skills needed in tomorrow's work place. In the 2010 Arenac County Survey 91% of respondents feel strongly that their schools should definitely be readying students for the workforce and 87% would like schools to expand job training.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

N. Occupations Needed This Decade - Why Education Matters

Every year, each of the local Michigan Works! regions, publish their estimates of what occupations will be growing the most. As the job training arm of the State, they survey the employers of their area on an ongoing basis.

According to Region 7-B:

The following occupations will have the **Largest Numeric Growth** between 2006 and 2016:

Region 7-B	
Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw, Roscommon	
Retail Sales Persons	\$11.52
Home Health Aides	\$10.23
Combined Food Pre/Serv Wrkr	\$8.40
Registered Nurses	\$27.60
Customer Service Representatives	\$14.08
Office Clerks, general	\$12.60
Personal & Home Care Aides	\$9.09
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Wrkr	\$11.86
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, Attendants	\$11.69
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$10.29
Average WITHOUT Reg. Nurses	\$11.08

These are the jobs most readily available through 2016. As can be seen, except for registered nurses, that pays an average of \$27.60 per hour, the remaining jobs pay from a high of \$14.00 to a low of \$9.00 per hour. Except for the nurses, most also need only minimal formal job training.

Average pay without including Nursing is \$11.08

The following occupations will have the **High Demand / High Wage**:

Region 7-B

Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw, Roscommon

Registered Nurses	\$27.60
Pharmacists	\$50.88
Physician Assistants	\$39.77
Business Operations Specialists/ All Oth	\$32.32
Dental Hygienists	\$26.34
Accountants & Auditors	\$30.56
Lawyers	\$44.69
Veterinarians	\$37.82
Computer Systems Analysts	\$33.20
Industrial Engineers	\$32.27
Average	\$35.55

The lowest paying of these occupations, start at \$26.00. The average is \$35.55. These occupations ALL need much formal education past high school.

There is a \$24.00 gap between the jobs available with little or no training and those requiring much training.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

O. Employment and Businesses

Arenac Top Employers as of 2010¹¹

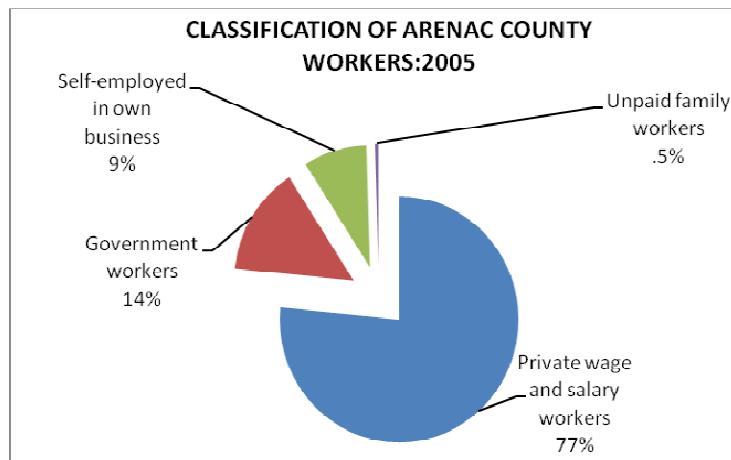
Firm	Location	Employees	Type
Saginaw Chippewa Tribe	Standish Twp.	350	Casino
St. Mary's Medical Center	Standish	270	Hospital
Standish Sterling Schools	Standish	200	Education
Globe Fire Sprinkler Corp.	Standish	105	Mfg. Automatic sprinkler systems
Medilodge -Sterling	Sterling	100	Nursing facility
Forward Corp.	Standish	100	Gas stations, stores
Bopp-Busch Manufacturing -2	Au Gres	90	Mfg. Metal stamping, dies
Spartan Stores	Standish	80	Groceries
Magline Inc.	Standish	70	Mfg. Material handling Equipment

Where Residents Work and What They Do:

This plan looks at resident employment in two ways; one general, the other specific. The general groupings of the civilian labor force is from the US Census American Community Survey of 2005. This gives a good general overview of the types of occupations in which Arenac residents are employed. The second, is from the US Census County Business Patterns. County Business Patterns information also tell how many businesses, but specifically, exactly what kinds are growing or shrinking. This information comes directly from employers quarterly reports to the Internal Revenue Service, so are accurate and not estimates.

Worker Classification:

The survey indicates that 77% of employed persons in Arenac county are private wages and salary workers. The 14% government workers is now currently less than indicated due to the closure of the State prison. Self employed persons owning their own businesses is at close to 9%.

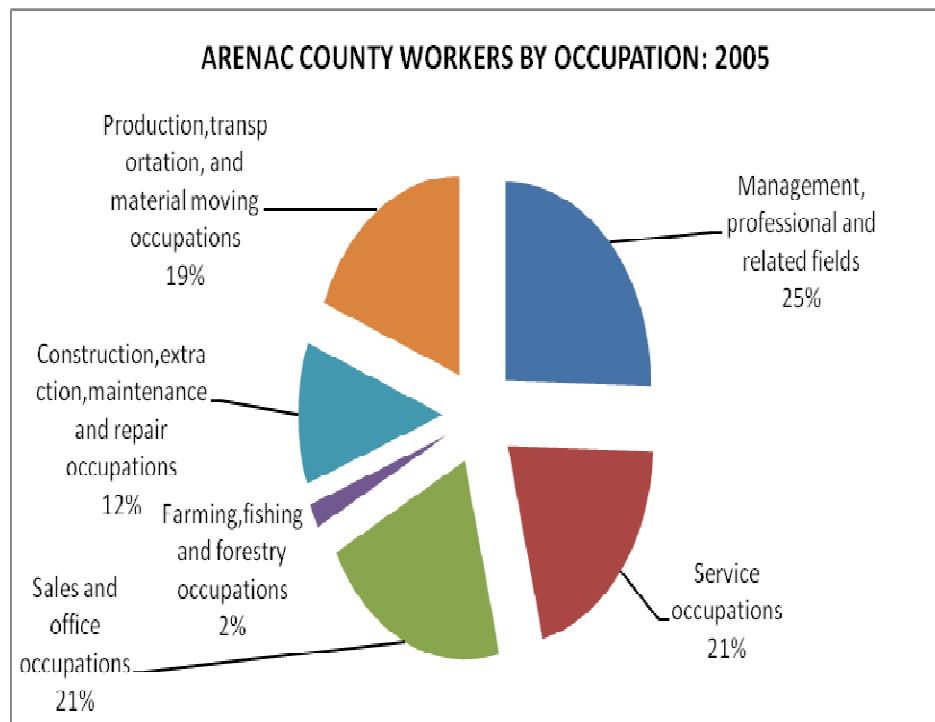


¹¹ Source: 2009 Harris Industrial Directory and Arenac County EDC input, 2010

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

Employment by Occupation:

This category tells what general occupation a worker has. It can be in any industry. The greatest percent at 25%, are in management, professional and related occupations. This reflects the Michigan Works! findings saying that the need for management occupations will grow. Service and Production/ Transportation occupations are very close behind at 21% and 19% respectively.



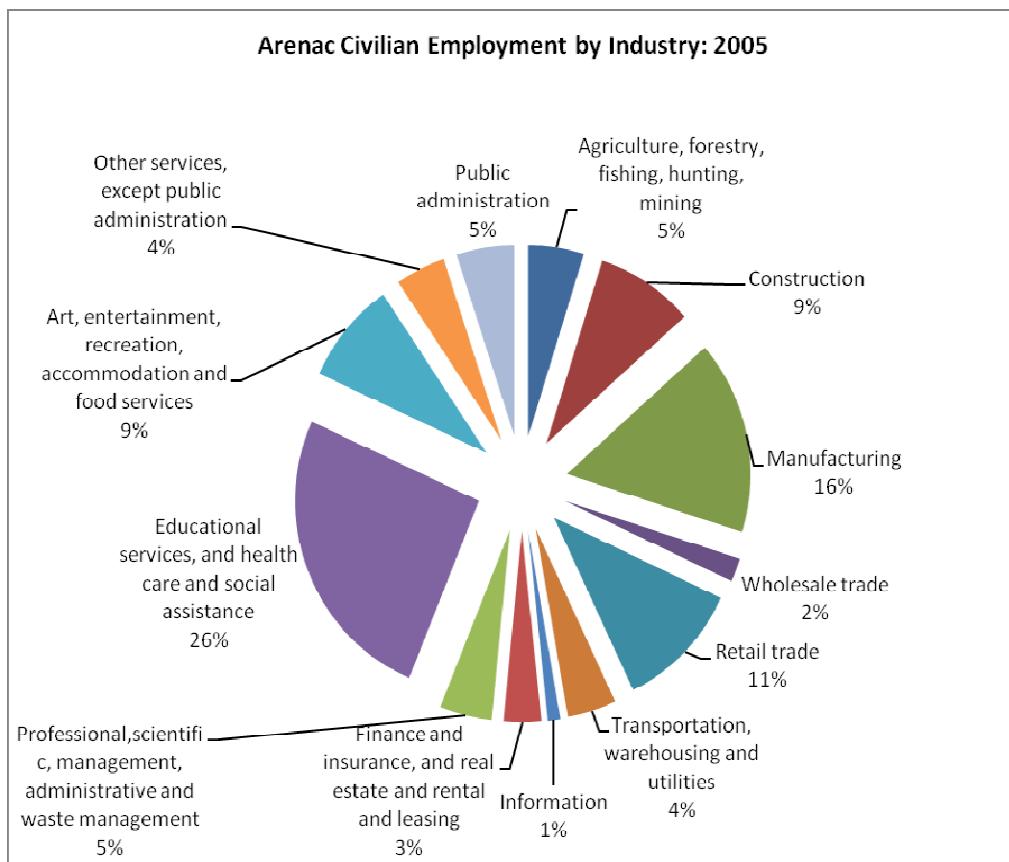
2011 Arenac County Master Plan

Employment by Industry:

This category tells us in what industry residents are using their occupations.

Educational services, health care and social services is the largest employment area at a little over 26%.

Manufacturing is next at 16% and retail trade at 11%. These last two categories are ones that in the past two years have taken among the largest declines in jobs.



2011 Arenac County Master Plan

P. County Business Patterns

A look at the types of businesses that have been, and currently are, in Arenac County, indicate that it is the categories requiring lower training skills, and low wages, that have suffered the greatest losses between 2004 and 2008. For the most part, those requiring education/training past high school are increasing.

The following pages are a comparison of businesses as they were in 2004 and in 2008. 2008 is the most current, with 2009 numbers not available till mid-2011.

Highlights:

- Between 2004 and 2008 Arenac lost 44 businesses, and 387 jobs, but gained total payroll of over \$8,000,000.
- Manufacturing increased by 3 businesses, over \$9,000,000 in payroll and almost 400 jobs.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services increased by 2 businesses, \$3,000,000 payroll and 67 jobs.
- Finance & Insurance increased by 1 business and 1 job, but a \$153,000 payroll increase.
- Information increased by 2 businesses with jobs and payroll not available.
- Retail suffered the largest decreases across all three aspects.
 - Retail sector lost 11 businesses, 134 employees and \$1,461,000 in payroll.
 - This may reflect the strong feeling expressed in the survey for the need in several “shopping” areas, particularly groceries and clothing.
- Although the information is not available for employees or payroll, Health Care and Social Services, did see a decline in businesses. This may reflect the dissatisfaction shown by 16% of survey respondents, who identified a strong need for a variety of health care services.

NOTE
For Following Pages

Yellow highlights all business increases, all job increases, all payroll increases. Red indicates a decline. As can be seen there can be less businesses and/or less employees but greater payroll. Or, there can be more businesses and less employees or payroll

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

COUNTY BUSINESS PATTERNS ARENAC COUNTY: 2004-2008

53-Real Estate & Rental & Leasing				
531-Real Estate	4	2	-2	
532-Rental & Leasing Services	5	3	-2	
	TOTALS	9	5	-4
Persons Employed	b	a	NA	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	D	\$363	NA	
54-Professional, Scientific & Technical Services				
541-Professional, Scientific & Technical Ser.	14	16	2	
Persons Employed	96	163	67	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	\$2,149	\$5,267	\$3,118	
55-Management of Companies & Enterprises				
551-Management of Comp. & Enterprises	3	2	-1	
Persons Employed	B	B	NA	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	D	D	NA	
56-Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services				
561-Administrative & Support Services	16	12	-4	
562-Waste Management & Remediation Services	3	2	-1	
	TOTALS	19	14	-5
Persons Employed	325	C	NA	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	\$9,274	D	NA	
61-Educational Services - Exempt				
611-Educational Services	2	1	-1	
Persons Employed	A	A	NA	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	D	D	NA	
62-Health Care & Social Assistance				
621-Ambulatory Health Care Services	16	14	-2	
622-Hospitals- Taxable	1	1	0	
623-Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	8	6	-2	
624-Social Assistance	8	9	1	
	TOTALS	33	30	-3
Persons Employed	697	F	NA	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	\$17,539	D	NA	
71-Arts, Entertainment & Recreation				
711-Performing Arts, Spectator Sports & Related	1	0	-1	
713-Amusement, Gambling, Recreation Ind.	10	7	-3	
	TOTALS	11	7	-4
Persons Employed	A	10	NA	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	D	\$580	NA	

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

COUNTY BUSINESS PATTERNS: ARENAC COUNTY: 2004-2008

NAIC-2	NAIC-3	2004	2008	Change
72-Accommodation & Foodservices				
721-Accommodation	5	6	1	
722-Foodservices & Drinking Places	44	35	-9	
TOTALS	49	41	-8	
Persons Employed	551	377	-174	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	\$2,033	\$4,268	\$2,235	
81-Other Services (except Public Administration)				
811-Repair & Maintenance	11	12	1	
812-Personal & Laundry Services	7	9	2	
813-Religious/Grantmaking/Civic/Professional & Similar Organizations	17	15	-2	
TOTALS	35	36	1	
Persons Employed	148	129	-19	
Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	\$2,171	\$1,914	(\$257)	
NOTES:	A = 1-19 employees			
	B = 20-99 employees			
	C= 100-249 employees			
	D = avoid identifying company			

But, this is not the whole picture of employment. It does NOT include two other sectors...

Two employment sectors not indicated in the above data, are vital to the economic well-being of the County.

They generate both jobs and dollars.

They are:

- Non-Employee Businesses and
- Agriculture.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

Q. Non-Employee Businesses

These are legal businesses that pay taxes and report to the Internal Revenue Service.

2008	#	%
Number of Businesses with Employees =	337	26%
Number of Businesses without Employees =	981	74%
TOTAL Businesses	1,318	

Dollars Generated:	\$	%
Number of Businesses with Employees =	\$90,121,000	73%
Number of Businesses without Employees =	\$33,901,000	27%
TOTAL dollars Generated	\$124,022,000	

TOTAL BUSINESSES BY NIAC CODE:	With Employees	Without Employees
11-Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Support Services	1	24
21-Mining	4	17
22-Utilities	1	0
23-Construction	37	135
31-33-Manufacturing	33	24
42-Wholesale Trade	14	15
44-45-Retail Trade	63	148
48-49-Transportation & Warehousing	13	71
51-Information	5	5
52- Finance & Insurance	14	21
53-Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	5	71
54-Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	16	70
55-Management of Companies & Enterprises	2	0
56-Administrative & Support & Waste Management &	14	72
61-Educational Services	1	11
62-Health Care & Social Assistance	30	85
71-Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7	41
72-Accommodation & Foodservices	41	20
81-Other Services (except Public Administration)	36	151
TOTALS	337	981

Sources: US Dept of Commerce; US Census, County Business Patterns, released July 2007 January 2010:
 Compiled: K. TenWolde, East MI Council of Governments:

As can be seen, non-employee businesses operate in all industry sectors, except Management of Companies. They are even in Manufacturing: 24 compared to 33 with employees.

The County's 981 Non-employee businesses:

- Make up 74% of all non-farm businesses in Arenac County
- Generate 27% of all dollars generated by non-farm businesses.
- Are especially strong in:
 - Other Services = 151
 - Retail trade = 148
 - Construction = 138

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

R. Agriculture

Agriculture in Arenac County is important. In the 2010 Arenac County Resident Survey:

- 88%, respondents overwhelmingly believe that County is an agricultural county.
- 86% believe preserving agricultural land is important;
- 86% believe that agriculture is an important economic asset to the county;
- 72% back “Right to Farm”.

According to the latest 2007 Agricultural Census Arenac County, farming as a business is growing both in acreage and value of products sold. Arenac has:¹²

- 488 farms indicating an increase of 107 farms in five years, or 28% above 2002.
- 94,604 acres of farmland indicating an increase of 10,880 acres or 13% increase above 2002.
- \$29,730,000 in market value of products sold indicating an increase of \$22,531,000 or 32% increase above 2002.
 - 59% increase in crop sales
 - 41% increase in livestock sales

The only decreases are:

- 194 acres is now the average size of farms, a decrease of 26 acres or 12% below 2002.
- \$4,760 is now the average government payment to farms receiving payments, which is \$853 less than in 2002.

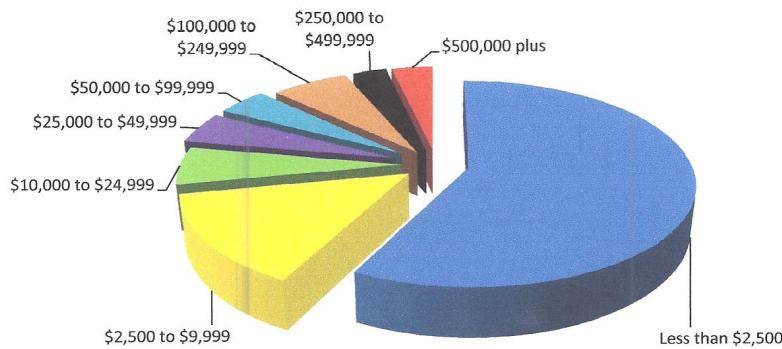
State Ranking by Value of Sales: (within the top 50 of 83)

- 12 = Other crops and hay
- 34 = Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas
- 35 = Milk and other dairy products from cows
- 38 = Hogs and pigs
- 47 = Cattle and calves
- 48 = Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes
- 50 = Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops

¹² Source: US Department of Agriculture; National Agricultural Statistics Service

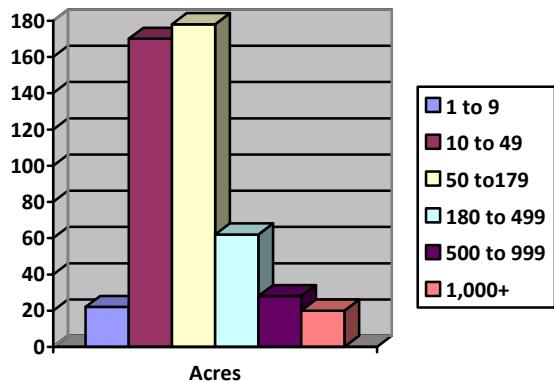
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Arenac Farms by Value of Sales



Farms by Value of Sales	Number
Less than \$2,500	281
\$2,500 to \$9,999	70
\$10,000 to \$24,999	29
\$25,000 to \$49,999	24
\$50,000 to \$99,999	21
\$100,000 to \$249,999	32
\$250,000 to \$499,999	14
\$500,000 plus	17

Farms by Size



Land in Farms By Type of Land

Cropland = 79%
Woodland = 13%
Other Uses = 8%

Principal operators by primary occupation:

- Farming = 39%
- Other = 61%

Average age of operator = 58 years

Net cash farm income – average per farm = \$14,576

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S. Unemployment

The County has traditionally had higher unemployment than other parts of the state, but during the fall of 2008 it rose dramatically.

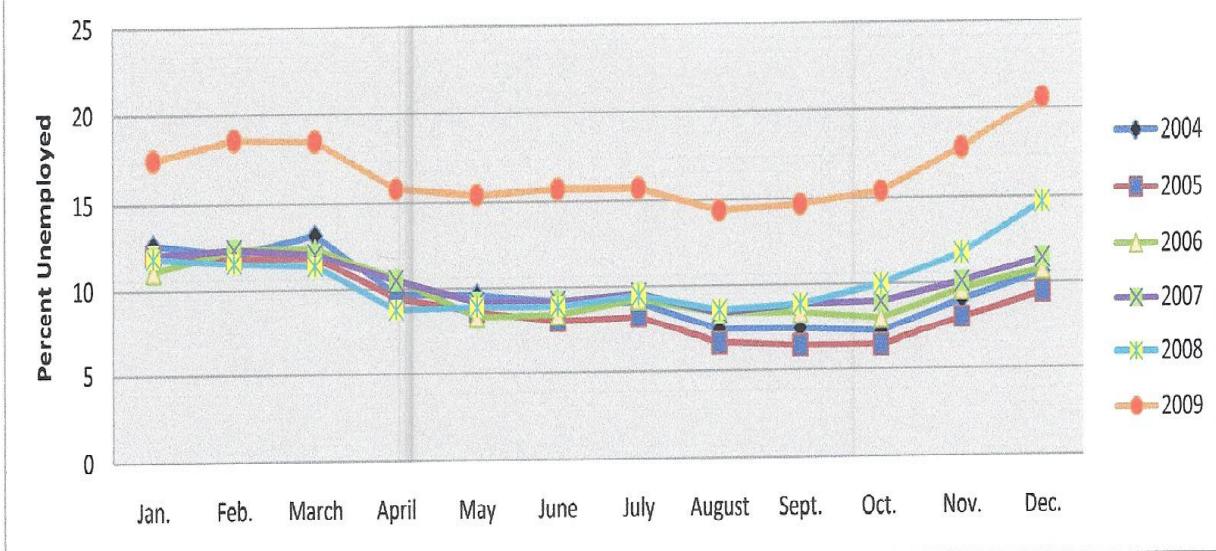
The winter of 2009 saw a rise to 16% and by year's end was and continues to hover around 20% plus.

As can be seen, there is very much an annual pattern when unemployment reaches a peak in March, then gradually declines and evens out during May, June and July. There is a dip in August, but then a very steep rise in the fall and winter months. The annual dip during the summer months may be due to seasonal employment both in tourism and agriculture.

ARENAC COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS: 2004 -2009

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
2004	12.7	12.1	13.2	9.7	9.6	9.2	9.1	7.4	7.4	7.2	9.1	10.6	9.7
2005	12.1	11.9	11.9	9.5	8.6	8.0	8.2	6.6	6.4	6.4	8.0	9.5	8.9
2006	11.1	12.4	12.4	10.6	8.3	8.4	9.3	8.4	8.4	8.0	9.7	10.8	9.8
2007	12.1	12.4	12.1	10.5	9.2	9.2	9.6	8.4	8.9	9.0	10.1	11.5	10.2
2008	11.9	11.6	11.4	8.8	8.9	8.9	9.5	8.6	8.9	10.0	11.8	14.7	10.4
2009	17.5	18.6	18.5	15.8	15.4	15.7	15.7	14.4	14.7	15.4	17.8	20.6	16.7
2010	21.9	21.2											

ARENAC COUNTY MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS: 2004 -2009



Source: MI Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (LAUS) Mi Labor Market Information:

Compiled: K. TenWolde, EMCOG

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T. Income / Poverty

Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) 2008¹³

This income is comprised of three elements: Earnings, Dividends/Interest, and Transfer Payments. It gives a much more accurate look at what is the actual income, because it tracks the source of dollars received. Because of this, PCPI is higher than the Per Capita Income (PCI)

Arenac County = \$27,273

= 53rd in the State

= 78% of the State average of \$40,166

= There has been a growth rate increase between 1998 – 2008 of 3.7%

Sources of Income: Comparison

Type	1998	2008
Earnings	55%	54%
Dividends/Interest	20%	13%
Transfer ¹⁴	24%	33%

Per Capita Income (PCI):

2000 = \$20,513

2007 = \$24,820

Wages¹⁵

For the 4th quarter of 2009:

Average weekly wage = Arenac County = \$545

= Michigan = \$913

= U.S. = \$942

Median Household Income:¹⁶

Arenac County: 2008 = \$36,418

Michigan: 2008 = \$45,254

Poverty Rates:¹⁷

Poverty has expanded in all age brackets, but particularly so for all children under 18 years. Over a quarter of all Arenac children are in poverty.

Age	2000	2008
All	13.9	18.2
Under 18 years	20.7	26.2

¹³ US Department of Commerce. Bureau of Economic Analysis: Bearfacts; 6/2010

¹⁴ SSI, Unemployment, other public payments

¹⁵ US Department of Commerce. Bureau of Economic Analysis: Bearfacts; 6/2010

¹⁶ Mi Department of Labor and Economic Growth

¹⁷ Us Census Bureau: Data Integration Division: Small Area Estimates

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PART 2:

RESIDENT OPINIONS RECORDED AND ANALYZED

ARENAC COUNTY RESIDENT 2010 SURVEY

Executive Summary

Background:

During the winter of 2010 the Arenac County Planning Commission started working on the County's first Master Plan. Money to create this plan had been received from the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe.

During this same time period, the Arenac County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) also realized it needed to develop a strategic economic development plan for the County. Both groups realized they needed resident input in creating two such important documents. The best way would be to actually survey their residents on their opinions about the current condition and future direction Arenac County should take.

Working with East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) a resident survey was created.

During this time the County Board of Commissioners also gave their full support to the survey and had questions they wanted to ask voters.

Funding for this survey project was through a grant from the USDA Rural Development.

In late June 2010, surveys were mailed to 3,000 randomly chosen, registered Arenac County voters. Surveys were also distributed at the Arenac County 4-H Fair, at all libraries within the County and were available at the County Building.

828 surveys, or approximately, 28%, representing 1,721 residents, were received back from residents. Surveys were received from all geographic parts of the county and from each of its cities and townships.

Findings:

A: THE TYPICAL RESPONDENT:

- Lives in a township = 71%
- Is a year-round resident = 97%
- Has lived in Arenac County for at least 20 years = 59%
- Is slightly more likely to be male = 56%
- Most likely lives in a two-person household = 54%
- Is from 20 to 64 years old = 55%
- Has had some college or technical training = 37%
- Is no longer working because they are retired = 48%
- Has an equal chance of having a household income of anywhere from \$20,000 to \$75,000.
- Owns their own home = 91%.

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B: HOW RESPONDENTS FEEL ABOUT THEIR COUNTY AND COMMUNITY:

Respondents were asked to describe how they felt about several aspects of their community and county with indicating: Strongly agree – Agree – No Opinion – Disagree or Strongly Disagree.

- 87% of respondents believe that their city, village or township is a good place to live, while:
- 82% feel that the County is a good place to live.
- Just a little lower, 71% of respondents would recommend their city, village or township to someone else to live; while
- 68% would recommend the County to someone.
- Respondents were split on their feeling that Arenac County is a tourist county, 49% agree, while 31% disagree.
- A little over half of respondents feel that Arenac County is a retirement county; with 52% agree and 22% disagree.
- At 88%, respondents overwhelmingly believe that County is an agricultural county.
- Only 17% of respondents agree that Arenac County does a good job of planning for the future; while 44% of respondents disagree.
- While 20% of respondents indicated they felt their own city, village or township does a good job of planning for the future; while 42% disagree.

C: IMPORTANT REASONS FOR LIVING IN ARENAC COUNTY:

Fifteen (15) possible reasons for wanting to live within the County were listed. They were first asked to rate them as being: “Very Important – Important – No Opinion – Not Important – Not Important at All”. They then were asked to choose the single “Most Important” reason for living in Arenac County.

- A. Respondents rate as either Very Important or Important for a reason for living in the county:
 1. Rural Atmosphere = 82%
 2. Easy Access to Major Highways = 75%
 3. Safety and security in own community = 74%
- B. The single “Most Important” reason for living in Arenac County for respondents is:
 1. Rural Atmosphere = 19%
 2. Grew up Here = 17%
 3. Close to Lake Huron = 11%

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D: COUNTY BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

D-1. Respondents were asked their opinions on various aspects of economic development that may influence the rate of future development within the County. They were asked to rate each activity as being: "Very Important – Important – No Opinion – Not Important – Not Important at All".

While respondents feel clearly on certain main activities concerning economic development:

- 92% believe that planning is necessary for future economic development;
- 87% believe it is important to know what kinds of businesses residents want and;
 - 75% believe that a master land use plan is the best way to determine their location;
- 86% believe that agriculture is an important economic asset to the county;
- 80% believe forests are an important economic asset:

They have somewhat conflicting feelings about how it is to be achieved:

- While 92% believe the County should be more actively seeking new businesses and;
 - 88% believe elected officials should be actively involved in promoting economic development, but;
 - 44% agree that the ONLY role elected officials should in this verbal;
 - Only 65% the cost of promoting the area to new businesses is a good use of tax dollars.
- 81% believe Tourism is an important economic asset to the County;
 - But, only 56% believe promoting tourism in the County is a good use of tax dollars.
- 76% believe offering low-cost loans would help business expansion;
- 74% favor assistance to entrepreneurs.

D 2-A. Where Respondents Shop

Sixteen (16) areas of shopping were listed and respondents were asked to indicate where they **most often** shopped for those items or services. Locations included cities and villages within the County and primary locations outside the County.

Highlights include:

- Within Arenac County the average shopping location of all 16 categories are:
 - City of Standish = 39%
 - City of AuGres = 13%
 - Village of Sterling = 1%
 - Village of Alger = .9%
 - Omer and Twinning = less than .5% each

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- Outside the County, destinations were:
 - Bay City/Saginaw = 37%
 - West Branch = 8%
 - Pinconning and the Tawas areas = less than 5% each
- Major destinations for shopping categories include:

○ City of Standish = <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Banking = 52%■ Insurance = 41%■ Auto Service = 39%■ Hardware = 37%■ Legal = 33%	City of AuGres = <ul style="list-style-type: none">Banking = 28%Lumber & Building Supplies = 27%Dining = 20% (tied with Standish)
--	---
- Top reason for shopping in that community:
 - Within Arenac County:
 - Convenience = 71%
 - Outside the County:
 - Price (less) = 61%
 - Selection = 39%

D2 – B Respondents were asked what retail stores and what services they felt were most needed.

- Retail Stores = 1,285 responses.
 - Top large categories include:
 - Big Box stores = 39%
 - Clothing = 14%
 - Food = 9%
 - Dining = 8%
 - Responses seem to indicate that the more varied the location an item is currently bought – the greater the perceived need for more stores.
 - Services Needed = 531 responses
 - Combined Personal / Human category and Health = 37%
 - Personal / Human services = 21%
 - Health = 16%
 - Entertainment / Recreation = 22%
 - Technology (internet, cell phone etc) = 16%
 - Home and Business = 12%
 - Education / job training = 7%

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- Public (county, municipal) = 6%

E. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Respondents were asked about how they felt about various aspects of community life within the County as they pertain to future development by indicating: Strongly Agree – Agree – No Opinion – Disagree or Strongly Disagree.

- Living in Arenac County:
 - 41% indicate residents feel positive about the County;
 - 38% indicate that the County will be a better place to live in 5 years;
 - 39% indicate that their community will be a better place to live in 5 years.
 - 30% agree that the image of Arenac County is positive – 38% disagree
 - Respondents are tied at 31% each, their belief that the image of their own community is positive or not.
 - 77% believe county businesses have a responsibility to the county.
- Schools:
 - 91% believe schools should prepare students for the work force;
 - 87% would like to see schools expand their job training;
 - 86% believe that schools should teach financial literacy;
 - 70% believe Adult Education” should be expanded,
 - 35% indicated that they would approve needed funding, 43% indicated “no”;
 - But, 22% indicated they had no opinion.
- Land Use/Zoning:
 - Agriculture:
 - 86% believe preserving agricultural land is important;
 - 72% back “Right to Farm”.
 - 65% believe zoning regulations are a good tool for economic development.
- Saginaw-Chippewa Tribal Activities:
 - 77% of respondents believe that the Tribal activities are an economic asset to the County;
 - 73% believe the Saganing Eagle’s Landing Casino is an economic asset to the County.

F. GOVERNMENT:

This section has three parts. 1) Respondents were asked what they thought of their own current level of county taxation. 2) They then were asked to rate how well pleased they are with certain county services. 3) They then were asked at what level these same services should be funded in the future.

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1. Respondents were asked about their opinion concerning their level of taxes. Responses:
 - 35% feel their taxes are Fair;
 - 23% feel their taxes are "Too high, but needed in this current economy";
 - 42% feel their taxes are Too High.
2. Level of satisfaction of respondents with county services:
 - Highest degree of satisfaction is with Ambulance Service = 75%
 - Followed by:
 - Police Officers – law enforcement = 68%
 - Police Officers – road patrol = 66%
 - Maintenance of Public Buildings = 63%.
 - Most degree of respondent dissatisfaction is with Roads at 45%
 - Followed by Insect Control at 34%.
 - Most respondents do not have an opinion about new county computer system:
 - 33% indicate the lowest satisfaction level, but;
 - Only 5% are actually dissatisfied with this service
3. What respondents believe the level of future financing for each service should be:
 - There is strong support for financing to at least "Stay at the Same Level" or to "Increase" for all 14 services by respondents.
 - Highest support for funding to stay the same is:
 - 63% support current level of Maintenance of Public Buildings;
 - 62% support current level of Ambulance Service;
 - 61% support current level of Maintenance of Public Property.
 - The highest support for Increase in funding are for the 2 services with which they are most dissatisfied; Roads and Insect Control.
 - 37% feel the current level of Road funding should be increased;
 - 28% feel the current level of Insect Control funding should be increased.
 - Tied at 24% each, respondents feel an Increase of funding for both Police Road Patrol and Law Enforcement is needed.

G. ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

Respondents were asked their opinion concerning: 1) What age groups needed more recreation; their support for various recreational activities; and their choice of how these

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activities should be funded. 2) Opinions about the library system. 3) How much knowledge they have of three recreation-related entities.

This section had the largest “No Opinion” responses of the entire survey. An average of one third (1/3rd) of respondents indicated they had no opinion concerning what forms of recreation was wanted or desired.

Section 1. Recreation

When asked if the level of recreational activities should be increased by certain age groups:

- 66% of those expressing an opinion, support Teen activities;
- With least support; 51% of those expressing an opinion, support Adult activities.

When asked what level of support they have 4 new recreational activities: Snowmobiling Trails, ATV Trails, Horseback riding Trails and Skate Boarding:

- Snowmobiling Trails had:
 - Most Agree with 49% - 2nd most Disagree with 22%;
- Horseback riding Trails had:
 - Least Agree with 32% - Most Disagree with 25%
- 20% plus respondents Disagree with the need for all 4 activities.
- Asked **how the above activities should be funded**; respondents support:
 - Less than 1% would support a Millage;
 - 55% would support funding by Grants;
 - 45% would support a combination of both grants and millage.

When asked about their level of support to expand certain activities, respondents indicate:

- Most support and least non-support is Beach Access:
 - 71% of respondents Agree, with only 13% Disagree
- Support is strong for Fishing Access at 62%: Location support:
 - 58% support River Access;
 - 56% support Lake Huron access.
- Least support is for Golf at 19%.
- Asked **how the above activities should be funded**; respondents support:
 - 1% would support a Millage;
 - 56% would support funding by Grants;
 - 43% would support a combination of both grants and millage.

Section 2. Library Usage and Support

- Even though 51% of respondents said they “Never Use” the library;
- 45% indicated funding “Should Stay the Same” and;

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- 20% indicated they funding should be “Increased”.
- Books, computers and the internet were favorite uses of library using respondents;
- Among those not currently using the library, the need for more computers, faster internet and more choice of books were most often given.

Section 3. Arenac County Recreation / Historic Entities - How familiar they were:

Arenac County Recreation Authority:

- 21% respondents indicated they were “Very Familiar” or “Somewhat Familiar”;
- 43% respondents indicated they were “Not Familiar at All”.

Arenac County Historical Museum and Genealogy Center:

- 27% respondents indicated they were “Very Familiar” or “Somewhat Familiar”;
- 45% respondents indicated they were “Not Familiar at All”.

Standish Historical Depot:

- 49% respondents indicated they were “Very Familiar” or “Somewhat Familiar”;
- 21% respondents indicated they were “Not Familiar at All”;
- 50% had visited the Depot;
 - 80% have visited it 1-5 times.

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PART THREE:

Section One: FUTURE PLAN

ARENAC COUNTY GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary purpose of a Master Plan is two-fold. One, it is the legal authority upon which a community's zoning ordinance rests. But, unlike a zoning ordinance, it is meant to cover a longer period of time. It is meant to give the general direction for all future land uses. For a plan to be effective, it must reflect the desires of its residents. A Master Plan's goals and recommendations should be developed from, and reflect, those views.

Goals are overall statements on the general direction that should be taken on particular issues. From these general statements, a set of recommendations are developed that will allow the goals to be met. These recommendations are meant to set the course of action that will contribute to the overall well-being and quality of life of the community. Goals and recommendations are often complimentary to each other and may sometimes overlap. For this reason, all the developed goals and recommendations need to be looked at together to "see" the entire picture of the future community.

All planning and zoning in Michigan is done at the local level. Since all of Arenac County communities, with the exception of one, have taken charge of their own planning and zoning, the Arenac County Master Plan can only recommend to its communities these following goals and recommendations. Several of the communities already are following many of them. These goals and many of its recommendations reflect the wishes and desires of Arenac County residents as expressed in the 2010 Arenac County Resident Survey. Several strong themes came from that survey.

Residents consider most important:

- Retention of Arenac County's rural character.
- Preservation of and wise use of natural beauty and assets.
- Retention and protection of farming, both as a land use and an activity.
- Greater public access to rivers and Lake Huron.
- Need for more personal and health services for all ages.
- Attraction of new businesses and assistance for existing ones.

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Because the County Planning Commission issued the survey to find the desired direction residents want for Arenac County, the Commission has also chosen these to be the overall goals of the Arenac County Master Plan. These are not placed in order of priority – all are important. All deal with the need for planning.

Two other goals were also added by the Planning Commission.

- Upon study of the information concerning the various aspects of Arenac County, it was determined by the Planning Commission that one goal needs to be to make sure adequate and safe housing remains available in Arenac County. This goal was added.
- Because, due to the new Michigan planning legislation, a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is now necessary and needs to be developed under the direction of the planning commission. The writing of this CIP was added as a goal.

The assistance to business activities goal falls under the County Economic Development Corporation. It was they who determined the exact recommendations for this goal. They consider these recommendations to be “Strategic Economic Development Plan for Arenac County”. In order to separate these activities from those strictly under the Planning Commission’s, they are listed last.

Goals and their Recommendations are:

GOAL: Retention of Arenac County’s rural character:

Recommendation:

- Make sure all residential, commercial and industrial development does not detract from the rural nature of the county and sustains the integrity of agricultural, natural and historic lands and resources.
 - Cluster the above uses in zoning districts that do not encourage sprawl into prime agricultural, forested and other natural scenic areas.
 - Create special zoning areas that border rivers and the Lake Huron shores.

Recommendation:

- Sustain a rural way of life by maintaining the viability of the rural economy by: active communication between the Arenac County Planning Commission and the Arenac

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County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), to be achieved by one member of the EDC to be a voting member of the Planning Commission and one member of the Planning Commission to be a voting member of the EDC.

GOAL: Preservation of the County's natural beauty and assets.

Recommendation:

Ensure for the protection of the County's environmental assets including its natural features and scenic qualities:

- Lake Huron shoreline:
 - Creation of special Shoreline Zoning Districts governing both residential and commercial development
- Forests:
 - Creation of Forest Preservation Districts
- Open Spaces:
 - Encourage use of PA 116
- Wetlands and Flood Plains:
 - In areas that are particularly prone to wetlands: the creation special districts that state the any development of any kind be strictly controlled.
 - In areas with mixed soils: types of development may be limited or not possible, given the particular soils conditions.
 - Actively work with the MI Department of Environmental Quality as the new Floodplain Map is created for Arenac County to ensure local planning and zoning reflects the new changes.

GOAL: Ensure prime agricultural land is protected and preserved for future generations.

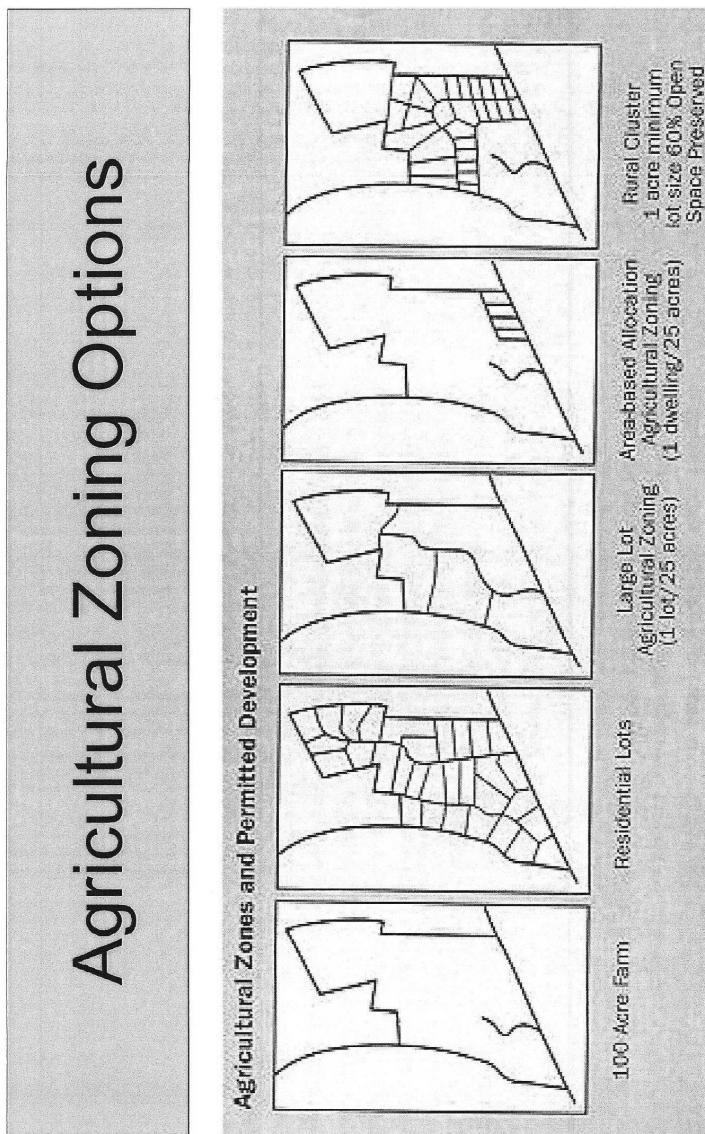
Recommendation:

Preserve and protect agricultural land from haphazard development

- Encourage the active support for Michigan's Right-to-Farm regulation.
- Encourage farmers' participation in Michigan's PA116.

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- Adopt 2 different agricultural zoning districts.
 - One on prime soils for agriculture use only, with very limited residential or other uses.
 - The second being the traditional agriculture/rural residential.
- Adopt the zoning options for agricultural land preservation suggested by the Farmland Trust 2009 as presented to the American Planning Association.
 - That now suggests, given that since the 10 acre minimum average requirement originally thought to discourage residential building has proved NOT to be an effective deterrent to residential building; the MINIMUM acreage in these suggested districts is 25 acres.



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Recommendation:

Apply Reasonable Regulations

- Ensure setbacks, signage and farm-based businesses support local agriculture.
- Allow secondary businesses that support agriculture in agricultural zones.

Recommendation:

Avoid Land Use Conflicts

- Urban growth boundaries and purchase and transfer of development rights programs.
- Notify new neighbors that they are moving in next to a farming business.

GOAL: Expand recreation facilities to meet the growing needs of county residents of all ages.

Recommendation:

Provide for nature-based recreation which includes:

- More public access sites to rivers and Lake Huron, which will also include access for physically challenged of all ages. This includes:
 - Beach access to Lake Huron, where feasible.
 - Fishing access to county rivers and Lake Huron, where feasible.
 - Actively work with the MI Department of Natural Resources and other sources in developing grants to acquire such properties.

Recommendation:

- Increase the recreation opportunities for children and teens, which includes, but not limited to:
 - Creation a of skate park(s)
 - Creation of a center(s) that could house activities such as a Boys and Girls Club and related activities.
 - Actively work with the MI Department of Natural Resources and other sources in developing grants to accomplish these activities.

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Goal: Make sure that county services to residents meet their quality of life needs.

Recommendation:

Work with a combination of local agencies and non-profits as well as State and federal agencies for funding to meet health, personal and social quality of life needs:

Particularly:

- Create a community center to address the needs of residents of all ages.
- Work with the above groups in developing other non-traditional ways of delivering these services.
- Work toward securing funding sources and in developing grants to accomplish these activities.

GOAL: Expand new housing where needed, and improve, the current housing stock within the county in order to improve quality of life for residents.

Recommendation:

- Work with the MI State Housing Development Authority and other sources do determine the exact level and location of need such needs;
- Develop grants to meet those needs.

GOAL: Create a long range Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Arenac County.

The County Planning Commission working with input from all appropriate county agencies will develop a long range Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Arenac County.

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PART THREE: Section Two

ARENAC COUNTY COMPOSITE FUTURE LAND USE MAP

Because at the county level, it is the role of the County Planning Commission to suggest and recommend, rather than to physically set the map of future land uses to its communities, a composite map was created. This map was created using community master plans, where available. If no map was found the community's zoning map was used. Where a map could not be located, as in Mason and Turner Townships; or where there is no zoning, such as Adams Township; agricultural soils, wetlands and forest maps were used as a guide.

A composite map means that all levels/kinds of use within a particular land use category are all classified and mapped one color. Example:

- All types of residential, with the exception in agricultural districts are classified on the map with one color: yellow.
- All districts that are called agriculture, but do not have any substantial regulations on residential building within the districts are all under Agricultural Residential: white.
- All commercial areas are all one color: red.

Because the preservation of agricultural lands was the one theme most strongly to come out of the resident survey, districts identified by their community as specific agricultural preservation are identified as such.

What is shown is that often there is a patchwork of various levels of land use.

- This is particularly the case with agricultural-residential districts, agricultural preservation districts and forest districts, which stop at one township line and have a different use on the other side of that line.
- Many times these districts also abut commercial use area.
- There are many patches of regular residential areas located within an agriculture area.

It is hoped that this map will help individual communities be aware of their neighboring land use plans when determining uses within their own community.

Because the preservation of farmland, rural character of the County, and its natural beauty; the following Appendix has several excerpts taken from community master plans indicating how they are addressing these land uses.

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MAP

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THE ARENAC COUNTY STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

GOAL: Attract new businesses to the County and assist existing Arenac County businesses.

The Arenac County Economic Development Corporation, after careful study of both all the current economic data and the survey results in this document; have created the following recommendations as their plan for creating a healthy economic future for Arenac County.

MEMBERS:

Curtis W. Hillman, Chair

Daniel Ratajczak Vice-Chair

Laura Puzzouli, Secretary

Dennis Stowowy, Treasurer

Michael J. Moran III

Patricia Killingbeck

Sheri Leaman-Chase

Deborah Morgan

Jay Jacobs

Joseph Sancimino, County Commissioner Member

Recommendation:

Provide for adequate areas for the development of new and expanding commercial and industrial businesses, the location of which, do not hinder the overall rural character of the County.

Recommendation:

Build on, and use the County's assets as economic growing tools:

- Agriculture: Value Added
- Forests: Value Added
- Tourism:
 - Develop Arenac County into a "tourist destination", with a focus including, but not limited to:
 - The forests, lake and rivers
 - The Tribal Casino
 - Develop a good working relationship with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe.

Recommendation:

Assist the expansion of existing businesses and industries.

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- Discover any clusters of businesses within a specific industry and encourage new like businesses to either start or relocate to, the County.
- Continue support of current economic gardening projects assisting 2nd stage businesses within Arenac County.
- Work toward the removal of state regulations that act as obstacles to creating businesses and job growth.
- Work more closely with the county business community in determining their needs, and carry out the delivery of those needs, where possible.
- Support a stronger chamber of commerce presence within Arenac County.

Recommendation:

Assist new business start-ups.

- More actively work with the local MI Small Business and Technology and Development Center (SBTDC), MI Works! and other organizations that currently deliver such services.
- Develop a local network of current and retired business persons that would be willing to mentor new business entrepreneurs.

Recommendation:

Prepare entrepreneurs of tomorrow

- Work toward developing entrepreneurial programs/classes for K-12 children such as Junior Achievement or like programs.

Recommendation:

Create an atmosphere that is attractive to businesses looking to relocate into the area.

APPENDIX

A. Page 62

Community excerpt samples that refer particularly to preservation of:

- Rural Character
- Farmland
- Natural Beauty

B. Page 63

Complete 2010 Resident Opinion Survey Results

Respondent Social and Economic Characteristics	68
Rating of Arenac County and Their Community	72
Reason for Living in Arenac County	73
Single Most Important	
Most Important Reasons When Asked to Rank Reasons	
County Business and Economic Development	77
Shopping	
Where they Shop for Particular Item/Service	79
What Retail Stores are Most Needed	80
What Services are Most Needed	85
Community Development	89
Government	91
Rating of Services	
Level of Funding	
Recreation	95

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

A. SAMPLE EXCERPTS FROM CURRENT MASTER PLANS:

As Pertain to Survey Results

Au Gres, City of: GOALS 2010

- **Preserve the small town atmosphere;**
 - Concentrate commercial areas and prevent commercial sprawl
 - Provide infill residential development adjacent to the Au Gres River.
 - **Promote residential development that preserves farmlands, wetlands and open spaces, using creative site plan concepts and cluster development designs**
 - Water and sewer be carefully planned.
- **Innovative housing developments that retain the rural character of the area.**
 - **Promote innovative land use control mechanisms that promote clustered/open space residential development;**
 - Designate areas where concentrations of mobile and manufactured homes may take place;
 - **Control distribution and development of residential land uses of all densities within agricultural and open space areas.**
- **Preservation of open spaces and wetlands**
 - **Wetlands will be identified and identified as suitable or not suitable for development.**
 - **Those areas unsuitable for development will be preserved for open space preservation.**
- Make sure adequate land is set aside for future community facilities.
- Allow for recreational facilities and open space development in order to offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities for youth, seniors and family; **including a community center.**
- Ensure a safe and efficient network of streets and roads that includes downtown pedestrian sidewalks and promotion of non-motorized trails along the Au Gres River.
- Encourage light industrial manufacturing within the City to add stability to the local tax base and economy.
- Allow a level of retail and commercial development appropriate to meet the existing and future needs of the community, while providing an adequate supply of goods and services at a fair price.
- Promote revitalization of downtown Au Gres through the attraction of business and uses suited to that area.
- Encourage the widest variety of retail and service businesses to locate along the US-23 commercial corridor, outside of downtown Au Gres.

Au Gres Township: GOALS 2004

- To have an orderly development of lands that does not diminish the beauty of its rural character and landscape.

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- Site plan review process, planned developments and special uses shall play a large role in the Ordinance and its implementation.
- Performance standards shall be written that will provide direction for proper development.
- **Forest/Rural Residential District: Lot sizes are to conform to existing patterns of ownership and should 20 acres or more.**
- **General Residential district:** lot sizes to be 10,000 to 12,000 square feet and this be the district where public water and sewers may be extended in the future.
- **Lake Shore Residential District:** For the maintenance of the quality of the beach and lake. Lot sizes shall be large enough for modern septic systems (one acre minimum) until sewers are installed.
- To have a sustainable agricultural base that will continue the opportunity to farm and will protect the character landscape.
 - **Establish an Agricultural District where conflicting uses will be discouraged or disallowed and limited-density residential development and other rural activities be allowed;**
 - Encourage land owner participation in PA 116 (State's Farmland and Open Spaces Preservation Program);
 - **Agricultural/rural Residential District:**
 - Lot size will be a minimum of 10 acres.
- To provide opportunities for entrepreneurs to create and do business within the township.
 - Allow home and rural businesses in rural areas that encourage small enterprises but not be at odds with maintaining the rural character and nature of the township.
- To have the best roads and utilities needed by the township.
 - Develop s transportation plan for the township that includes trails, greenways and other alternative transportation and recreation needs.

Clayton: GOALS 2008

- **Retain the rural character;**
 - **Use a zoning ordinance that sets out the types of land uses and their development;**
 - Ensure high-density uses are limited and located properly;
 - Allow and encourage home-based businesses that are compatible with the quiet rural community.
 - **Agriculture/ Rural Residential District**
 - **Protect and foster farming where feasible and allow other uses compatible with farming. Other uses include agriculture and other rural businesses and residential dwellings and limited to estate-type residential development.**
- Retain the high quality of its natural resources.
 - **Ensure proper setbacks, buffers and restorations are part of project site plan reviews;**

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

- Ensure there are greenways and links between natural areas;
- Keep high-density and intensity uses from valuable natural resource areas;
- Provide for native plant species landscaping as project performance and development standards.
- **Forest Conservation District:**
 - Of special concern of this district is:
 - Health of the forest;
 - Maintenance of the river shorelines and river quality.
- Develop and maintain a good township road system that includes cooperation the county and surrounding townships.
- Education;
 - Work with school districts and community colleges to make sure that the best education is available to residents of ALL ages.
 - Support bond issues and two percent requests where need is appropriate and there is fiscal responsibility.
- Continued development of high-quality health care in and for the region.
 - Work with local health providers to ensure that it is helping foster continued expansion in this area.
- Promote the development of a Township Village Center. (Melita)

Sims Township: GOALS 2008

- Preserve and Enhance the Natural Resources:
 - Preserve the natural features through proper management and protection;
 - Enforce blight regulations for both occupied and vacant properties.
 - Review blight and zoning regulations for effectiveness.
- **Preserve the Township's productive agricultural lands to the maximum extent possible.**
 - **Use tools such, but not limited to, the use of PA 116 (State's Farmland and Open Spaces Preservation Program);**
 - **Designate the separation of residential and agricultural uses in the Master Plan.**
- Commercial Development should be guided to specific commercially zoned areas adjacent to US-23.
- Industrial development should include the creation of an industrial park.
- Transportation – Roads
 - Develop a coordinated and economical plan for improving local roads;
 - Identify public and private roads;
 - Research funding through a millage;
 - Adopt a private road ordinance to ensure proper design and maintenance.
- Recreation:
 - Development of a bike path in the township where it can be used by the most people;
 - **Consider the feasibility of providing a public bathing beach and picnic area that includes looking at utilizing state and federal grant programs;**

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- Write a Recreational Plan that includes:
 - Creating a public beach access;
 - Plan for a boat ramp or updated boat launching facilities
 - Trail system for hikers and nature enthusiasts.
- Research construction of a senior center.

Standish, City of: GOALS 2005 (new one?)

- Maintain a community that provides the lifelong living needs of both present and future residents, that will include, initiating open space and recreational opportunities.

Standish Township: GOALS - 2008

- Retain rural character and high quality of its natural resources.
 - Use a zoning ordinance that sets types of land uses and development;
 - Ensure high-density uses are limited and located properly;
 - Keep high-density and intensity uses away from valuable natural resources
 - Allow and encourage home-based businesses compatible with rural community;
 - Ensure proper setbacks, buffers, and restorations are part of project site plan reviews;
 - Ensure there are greenways and links between natural areas;
 - Provide for native plant species landscaping as project performance and development standards.
 - Forest and Recreation District
 - Top concern is forest health, river quality and maintenance of the bay and its shore lands.
- Maintenance of farming and farm industries.
 - Continue to use zoning and planning techniques to protect and encourage agriculture;
 - Encourage land owner participation in PA 116 (State's Farmland and Open Spaces Preservation Program);
 - Prohibit the expansion of high intensity uses into prime productive farming areas.
 - Agriculture Preservation District
 - Protect and foster farming where feasible and allow other uses compatible with farming. Other uses include agriculture and other rural businesses and residential dwellings on one acre or larger parcels.
- Continued provision for needed services and facilities.
 - Monitor conditions and plan to meet future needs based on the casino and associated businesses.
 - Review the state of the township hall and its ability to serve the needs of its residents.
- Continued development and maintenance of a good township road system.
- Establishment of water and sewer systems as necessary and feasible.

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- Creation of economic opportunities for all, in conjunction with the development of the Saginaw Chippewa tribal lands.
 - Establish planning and zoning regulations that will encourage businesses to prosper along with the casino to serve township residents
- Expansion of recreational activities and educational opportunities for all.
 - **Prepare a recreation plan**
- Education;
 - Work with school districts and community colleges to make sure that the best education is available to residents of ALL ages.
 - Support bond issues and two percent requests where need is appropriate and there is fiscal responsibility.
- Continued development of high-quality health care in and for the region.
 - Work with local health providers to ensure that it is helping foster continued expansion in this area.

Whitney: GOALS = 1992

- Arrange future land uses that will preserve the natural features, scenic qualities and rural character of the township.
- Recognize the fundamental importance of agriculture to the economy and character of the township and seek to preserve and maintain the township's important farmlands.
 - **Protect important farmlands from encroachment by incompatible land uses and discourage conversion to non-farm uses.**
 - **Agricultural Reserve Area: Reserved primarily for farms and farming operations on soils best suited for agricultural purposes.**
 - **Accommodate limited residential development with frontage on section-line roads.**
 - **Rural development to occur on soils that are not being farmed or not well-suited to farming.**
 - **Implications of this is meant to give persons wanting a rural living can have that option, but not at the expense of farmland and farming operations.**
 - Public Recreation and Conservation Areas: include: development should be prohibited or severely restricted due to their sensitive nature, special development constraints or because they possess unique natural or cultural features.
 - Shoreline Residential Area

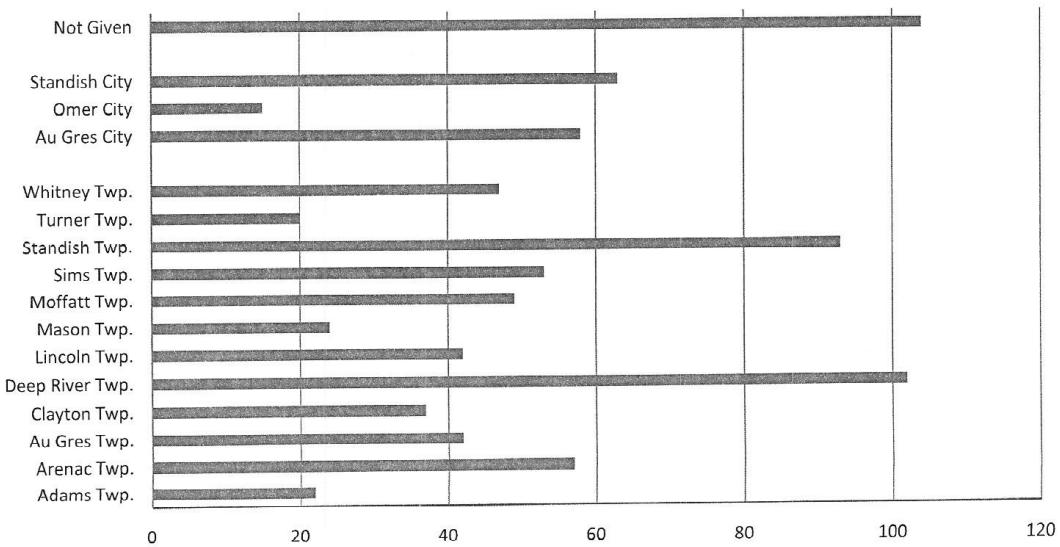
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COMPLETE RESULTS OF 2010 ARENAC COUNTY RESIDENT OPINION SURVEY

SURVEY RESPONDENT COMMUNITY

Community	Respondents
Adams Twp.	22
Arenac Twp.	57
Au Gres Twp.	42
Clayton Twp.	37
Deep River Twp.	102
Lincoln Twp.	42
Mason Twp.	24
Moffatt Twp.	49
Sims Twp.	53
Standish Twp.	93
Turner Twp.	20
Whitney Twp.	47
	588
Au Gres City	58
Omer City	15
Standish City	63
	136
Not Given	104
TOTAL	828

RESPONDENT COMMUNITY



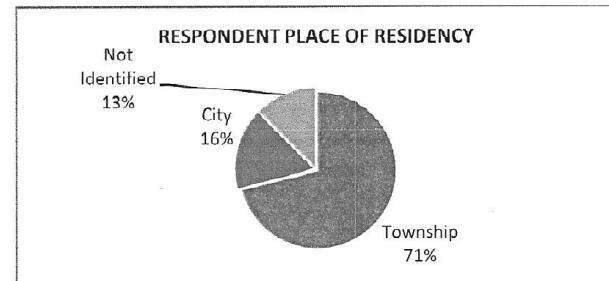
2010 Arenac County Resident Survey: Compiled K.TenWolde, EMCOG

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ARENAC COUNTY 2010 SURVEY: RESPONDENT PROFILE

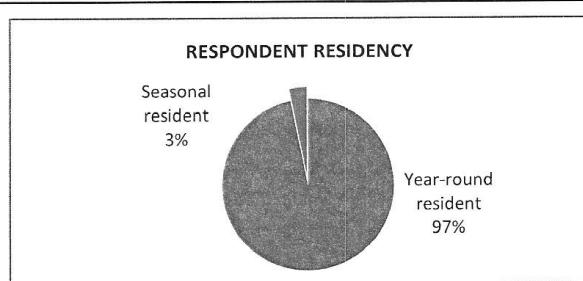
1 I reside in:

Township	588
City	136
Not Identified	104
TOTAL	828



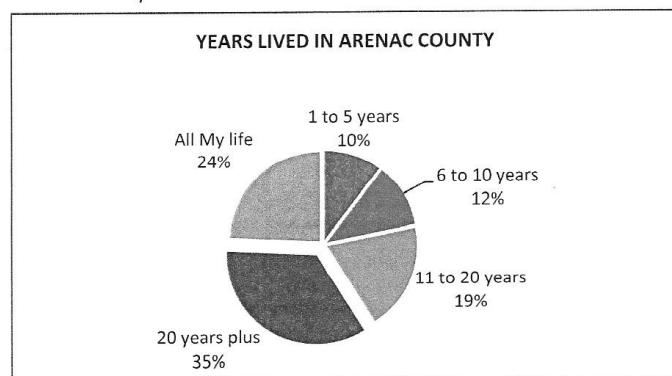
2 I am a:

Year-round resident	770
Seasonal resident	26
TOTAL	796



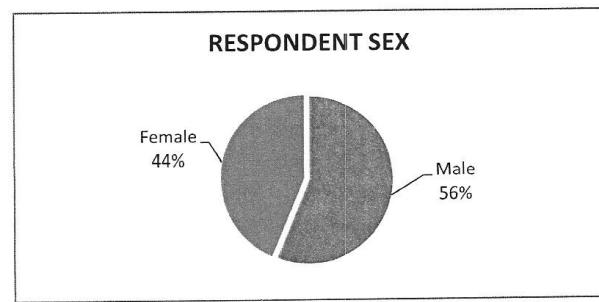
3 How many years have you lived in Arenac County?

1 to 5 years	82
6 to 10 years	90
11 to 20 years	152
20 years plus	272
All My life	191
TOTAL	787



4 Your sex:

Male	383
Female	297
TOTAL	680



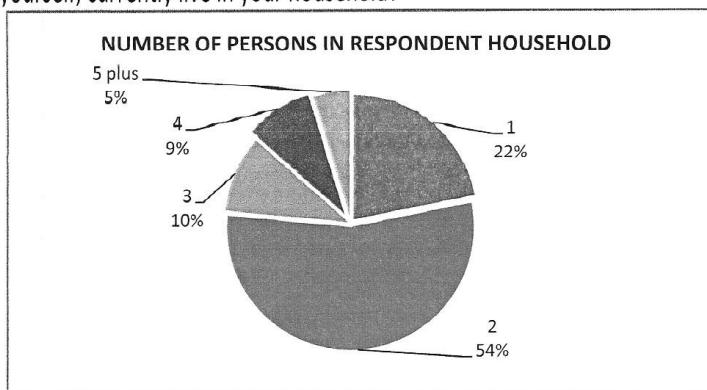
Compiled by: K. TenWolde, EMCOG; 2010

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ARENAC COUNTY 2010 SURVEY: RESPONDENT PROFILE

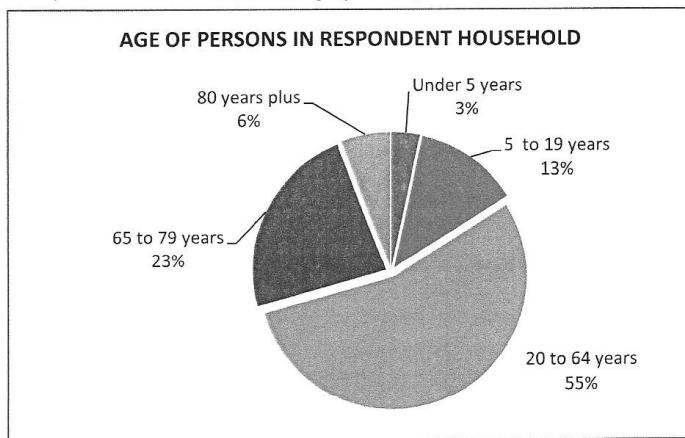
5 How many persons, including yourself, currently live in your household?

1	165
2	411
3	75
4	66
5 plus	36
TOTAL	753



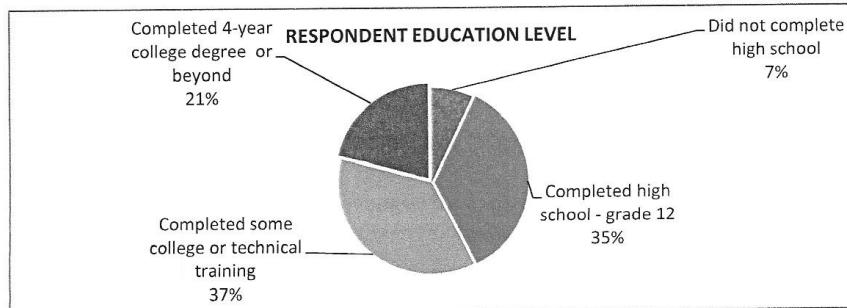
6 How many persons, including yourself, are in each of the following age categories?

Under 5 years	59
5 to 19 years	216
20 to 64 years	939
65 to 79 years	405
80 years plus	102
TOTAL	1721



7 Highest level of education attained.

Did not complete high school	101
Completed high school - grade 12	494
Completed some college or technical training	511
Completed 4-year college degree or beyond	294
TOTAL	1400



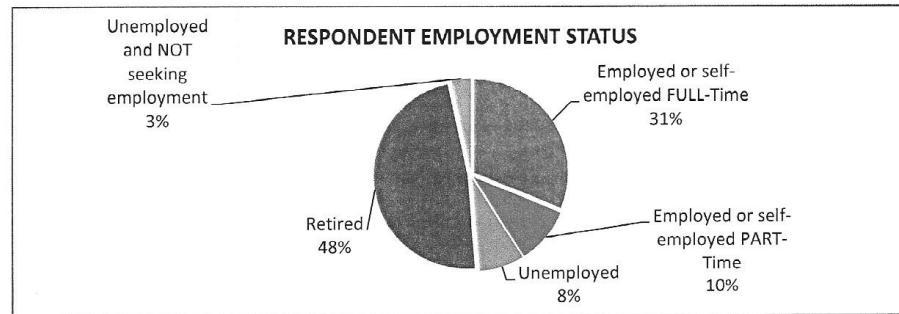
Compiled by: K. TenWolde, EMCOG; 2010

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ARENAC COUNTY 2010 SURVEY: RESPONDENT PROFILE

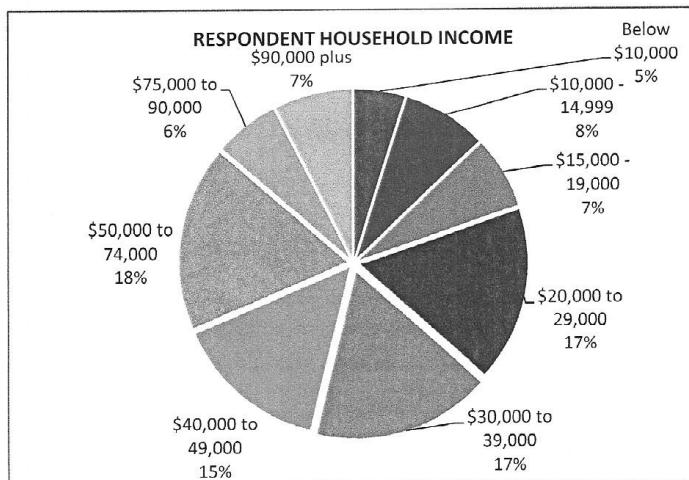
8 Please circle the current employment status of all persons.

Employed or self-employed FULL-Time	430
Employed or self-employed PART-Time	135
Unemployed	106
Retired	659
Unemployed and NOT seeking employment	47
TOTAL	1377



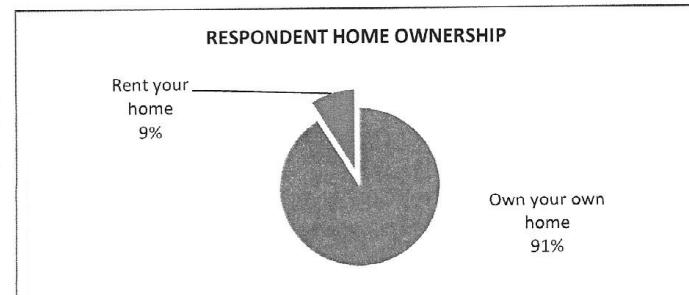
9 Please indicate your TOTAL ANNUAL household income:

Below \$10,000	33
\$10,000 - 14,999	55
\$15,000 - 19,000	47
\$20,000 to 29,000	115
\$30,000 to 39,000	116
\$40,000 to 49,000	100
\$50,000 to 74,000	121
\$75,000 to 90,000	42
\$90,000 plus	51
TOTAL	680



10 Do you currently:

Own your own home	684
Rent your home	67
TOTAL	751



Compiled by: K. TenWolde, EMCOG; 2010

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

HOW RESPONDENTS RATED ARENAC COUNTY AND THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY LIVE: PART B

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total #		Agree	Disagree		
						Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total #
1 Arenac County is a good place in which to live.	143	501	68	59	17	788	82%	10%	87%	12%	
2 My city, village or township is a good place to live.	151	466	73	80	15	785	71%	72%	71%	72%	
3 I would recommend my community as a good place in which to live.	160	406	129	81	20	796	68%	15%	71%	72%	
4 I would recommend Arenac County as a good place in which to live.	136	396	132	88	27	779	49%	31%	52%	48%	
5 Arenac County is a tourist county.	95	280	141	190	53	759	12%	66%	49%	52%	
6 Arenac County is an industrial county.	10	76	168	342	149	745	52%	22%	52%	22%	
7 Arenac County is a retirement county.	73	335	199	148	27	782	88%	4%	88%	4%	
8 Arenac County is an agricultural county.	228	474	66	25	5	798	17%	44%	17%	44%	
9 Arenac County does a good job of planning for the future.	15	117	308	253	98	791	20%	42%	20%	42%	
10 My own community does a good job in planning for the future.	17	132	289	231	88	757					

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REASONS FOR LIVING IN ARENAC COUNTY AS RATED BY 2010 SURVEY RESPONDENTS

	R a n k	Very Important			Important			Not Very Important			Not Important at All			Total #	Import ant	Not Import ant	
		Important	No Opinion	Very Important	Important	No Opinion	Very Important	Important	No Opinion	Very Important	Important	No Opinion	Very Important				
1	Rural atmosphere	270	333	87	25	22	25	737	82%	6%	82%	29	25	732	75%	11%	
2	Easy access to major highways	206	347	97	29	53	29	721	74%	8%	74%	34	27	705	68%	15%	
3	Safety and security of your city or township	211	325	124	27	34	27	755	63%	20%	63%	102	53	703	57%	13%	
4	Quality of health care	182	301	119	47	56	47	703	57%	10%	57%	138	61	30	685	50%	18%
5	Close to Lake Huron	163	316	121	53	102	53	703	57%	10%	57%	121	53	703	685	54%	25%
6	Cost-of-living	175	299	138	30	61	30	703	57%	10%	57%	153	52	19	685	50%	18%
7	Affordable housing	153	308	153	19	52	19	703	57%	10%	57%	199	156	68	712	58%	21%
8	School system	199	228	156	61	68	61	703	57%	10%	57%	148	98	46	698	54%	25%
9	Close to good rivers	105	301	148	46	98	46	698	58%	21%	58%	143	114	54	677	52%	23%
10	Closeness to large cities	76	290	143	54	114	54	703	52%	23%	52%	172	103	61	703	52%	23%
11	Close to parks and recreation	90	277	90	277	103	61	703	52%	23%	52%	103	61	703	52%	23%	52%

2010 County Resident Survey; Compiled, K. TenVolde, EMCOG

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

REASONS FOR LIVING IN ARENAC COUNTY AS RATED BY 2010 SURVEY RESPONDENTS

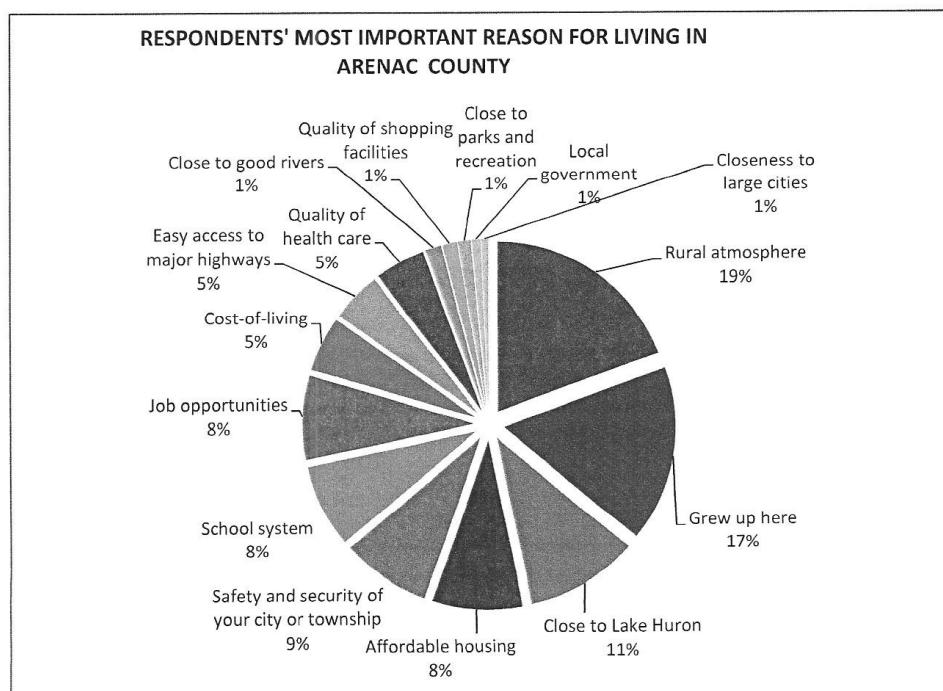
	Very Important	Important	No Opinion	Not Very Important	Not Important at All	Total #	Importance Rating	
							Important	Not important
12 Local government	83	241	245	81	66	716	45%	21%
13 Quality of shopping facilities	92	228	173	97	58	648	49%	24%
14 Grew up here	156	163	166	68	144	697	46%	30%
15 Job opportunities	151	143	193	102	102	691	42%	29%

2010 County Resident Survey; Compiled, K. TenWolde, EMCOG

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENTS' MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR LIVING IN ARENAC COUNTY

# on Survey	Aspect	Most Important to Respondent
15	Rural atmosphere	143
2	Grew up here	123
6	Close to Lake Huron	79
1	Affordable housing	63
9	Safety and security of your city or township	63
12	School system	58
3	Job opportunities	58
4	Cost-of-living	39
8	Easy access to major highways (I-75, US-23, M-13, M-6)	35
14	Quality of health care	35
7	Close to good rivers	11
13	Quality of shopping facilities	10
5	Close to parks and recreation	9
11	Local government	6
10	Closeness to large cities	5
TOTAL RESPONSES		737



Compiled by: K. TenWolde, EMCOG, 2010 Arenac County Resident Survey

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

REASONS FOR LIVING IN ARENAC COUNTY AS RATED BY 2010 SURVEY RESPONDENTS

<u>Most Important</u>	<u>COMPARISON</u>	<u>Very Important + Important</u>
1 Rural atmosphere		1 Rural atmosphere
2 Grew up here		2 Easy access to major highways
3 Close to Lake Huron		3 Safety and security of your city or township
4 Affordable housing		4 Quality of health care
5 Safety and security of your city or township		5 Close to Lake Huron
6 School system		6 Cost-of-living
7 Job opportunities		7 Affordable housing
8 Cost-of-living		8 School system
9 Easy access to major highways		9 Close to good rivers
10 Quality of health care		10 Close to parks and recreation
11 Close to good rivers		11 Closeness to large cities
12 Quality of shopping facilities		12 Local government
13 Close to parks and recreation		13 Quality of shopping facilities
14 Local government		14 Grew up here
15 Closeness to large cities		15 Job opportunities

2010 County Resident Survey; Compiled, K. TenWolde, EMCCG

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENT FEELINGS CONCERNING COUNTY BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PART D. COUNTY BUSINESSES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This section deals with different ideas concerning economic development that may influence the rate which development in Arenac grows in the future. Circle the number that best describes your belief.

		Disagree		TOTAL	
		Agree			
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion		
	Strongly Agree	Agree			

406	262	43	7	727	92%	2%
270	362	82	51	17	782	81%
243	333	139	26	15	756	76%
54	143	228	207	129	761	26% 44%
190	313	131	102	32	768	65% 17%
321	369	60	7	9	766	90% 2%
228	260	165	87	41	781	62% 16%
150	292	165	143	37	787	56% 23%

- 1 Arenac should more actively seek new businesses.
- 2 Tourism is an important part of Arenac's economy.
- 3 Low cost loans would encourage business expansion.
- 4 Verbal encouragement should be the only active role of elected officials in economic development.
- 5 The cost of promoting the area to new businesses and industry would be a good use of tax dollars.
- 6 Planning is necessary for good future business development.
- 7 Wind energy related businesses will be important to reducing unemployment in Arenac County.
- 8 Promoting tourism is a good use of county tax dollars.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENT FEELINGS CONCERNING COUNTY BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	TOTAL		Disagree	Agree
						58	104	269	304
9 The Sagameric Eagle Casino is a positive economic asset for Arenac County	206	381	155	39	10	791	74%	6%	73%
10 Assisting entrepreneurs in starting their business.	298	381	71	31	6	787	86%	5%	14%
11 Agriculture is an economic asset for the County.	315	371	68	15	14	783	88%	4%	7%
12 Elected officials should be active in promoting economic development.	264	386	83	9	9	751	87%	2%	13%*
13 It is important to know what businesses residents would like to see in their community.	240	352	138	43	12	785	75%	7%	25%
14 It is important to determine the best locations for new businesses through a community's land use plan.	245	360	119	27	5	756	80%	4%	19%
17 Forests are an economic asset for the County.	206	432	63	39	17	757	84%	7%	13%

- 9 The Sagameric Eagle Casino is a positive economic asset for Arenac County
- 10 Assisting entrepreneurs in starting their business.
- 11 Agriculture is an economic asset for the County.
- 12 Elected officials should be active in promoting economic development.
- 13 It is important to know what businesses residents would like to see in **their** community.
- 14 It is important to determine the best locations for new businesses through a community's land use plan.
- 17 Forests are an economic asset for the County.
- 18 Seasonal residents help the County economy.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

LOCATIONS RESPONDENTS SHOP MOST OFTEN

	In Arenac						Non-Arenac				TOTAL Responses	
	AuGres	Standish	Alger	Omer	Sterling	Twining	Pincon.	W. Branch	Sag-BC	Tawas		
Automotive services	2%	24%	39%	0.4%	3%	5%	5%	7%	12%	3%	709	
Autos, new & used	11%	4%	35%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0	10%	6%	31%	2%	646
Banking	1%	28%	52%	0.4%	0	0	0	3%	4%	8%	2%	729
Cellular phones, ipods, etc.	20%	4%	16%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0	4%	6%	46%	2%	555
Clothing	3%	2%	12%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	0	5%	8%	65%	2%	398
Dining	3%	20%	20%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	10%	39%	2%	819
Furniture	12%	3%	6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	14%	4%	57%	2%	615
Gift items	5%	5%	16%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	3%	12%	54%	3%	686
Groceries	0.2%	14%	25%	3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	5%	14%	34%	4%	817
Hardware	8%	19%	37%	0	0.2%	0	0.6%	1%	12%	26%	1%	708
Household appliances	10%	2%	11%	0	0	0	0.6%	0.6%	10%	62%	4%	673
Insurance	3%	18%	41%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	2%	4%	5%	23%	3%	607
Internet service	22%	10%	12%	5%	1%	1%	4%	7%	4%	32%	2%	509
Legal Services	26%	2%	33%	0.9%	0.3%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	3%	33%	1%	533
Lumber & Building Supplies	5%	27%	29%	0	0	0.2%	0	0.2%	6%	31%	0.9%	646
Plumbing & Electric	7%	19%	23%	0	0.2%	2%	0.5%	1%	11%	34%	2%	624
Average of all Categories	9%	13%	25%	0.9%	0%	1%	0.01	4%	8%	37%	2%	

2010 Arenac Resident Survey: Compiled, K. TenWolde, EMCOG

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

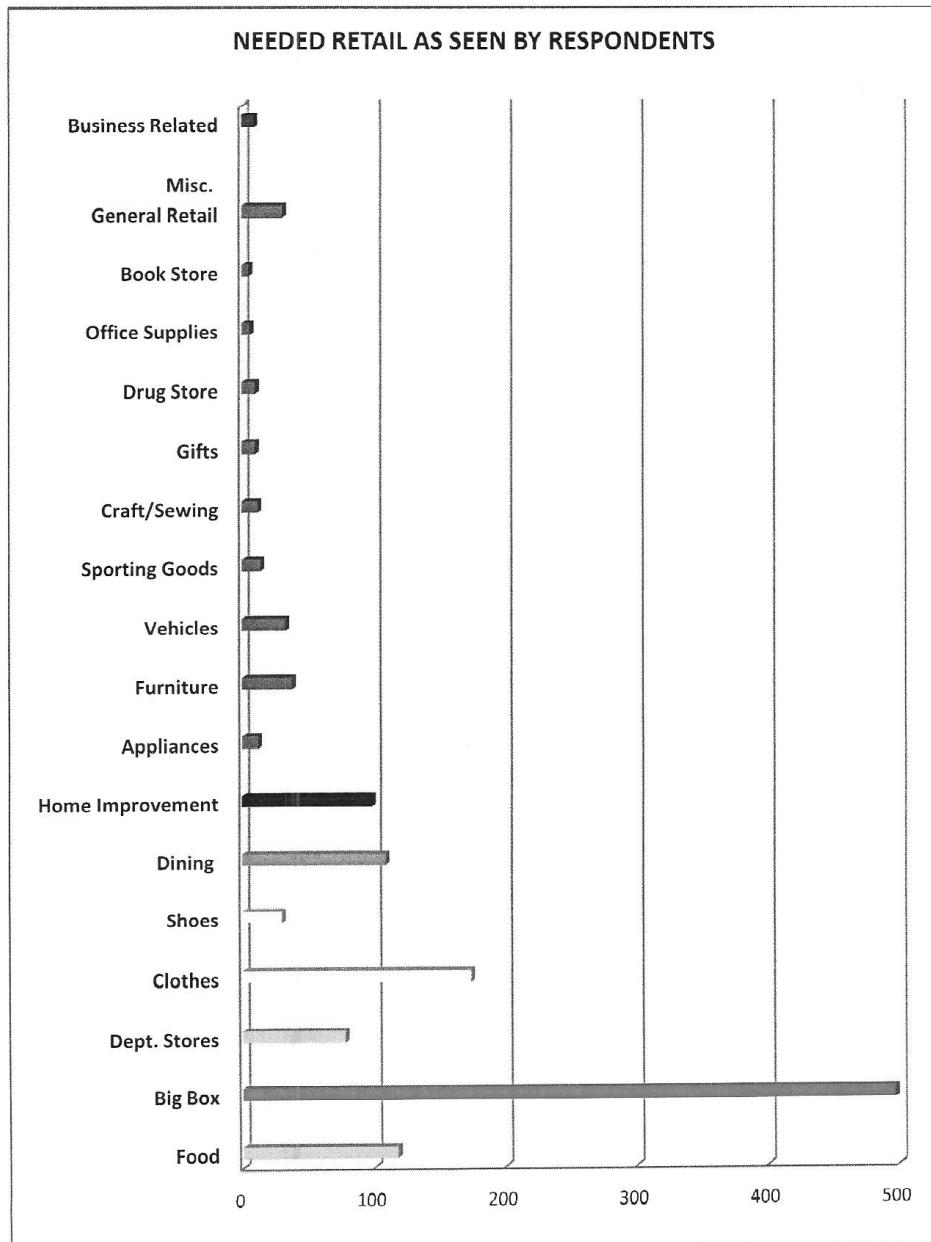
NEEDED RETAIL AS DESIRED BY RESPONDENTS

Large Category	# Responses
Food	118
Big Box	497
Dept. Stores	78
Dining	109
Clothes	174
Shoes	30
Home Improvement	99
Appliances	12
Furniture	38
Vehicles	33
Sporting Goods	14
Craft/Sewing	12
Gifts	10
Drug Store	10
Office Supplies	6
Book Store	5
General Retail	31
Misc.	
Business Related comments	9
TOTAL COMMENTS	1285

Compiled by: K. TenWolde, EMCOG, Arenac Resident Survey, 2010

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NEEDED RETAIL AS DESIRED BY RESPONDENTS



Compiled by: K. TenWolde, EMCOG, Arenac Resident Survey, 2010

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ARENAC SURVEY: NEEDED RETAIL AND SERVICES

NOTE: The General and the Specific columns are 2 separately calculated entries.

Category	General	#	Specific	#
Food	cheaper general	57	Aldies	13
	bakery/bread	7	Save-A-Lot	22
	better/health	3	Kroger	9
	farmers' market	3	Keep IGA open	1
	at Depot	1		
	butcher	1		
	bulk food	1		
Big Box	general	13	Walmart	165
	one-stop-shopping	1	Sam's Club	4
			Total	169
			Meijers	138
			Cotsco	6
			Big Lots	1
Dept. Stores	general	32	Target	16
	discount	1	K-Mart	15
			Kohls	6
			Sears	4
			Pennys	3
			TJ Maxx	1
General Retail	small mall	8		
	more	4		
	cheaper	1		
	no chain	1		
	thrift store	1		
Dining	good sit-down	68	Not a chain	4
	with bar	2	Any good chain	3
	at casino	1	Outback	1
			Bob Evens	1
	more fast food	1	KFC	10
	pizza	1	Pizza Hut	2
	ice cream	1	Wendy's	1
			White Castle	1
	micro-brewery	1	Dairy Queen	1
			Tim Horton's	1
			ChuckECheeeze	1
			Taco Bell	1
			Long John Silvers	1
			Big John's	1
	coffee shop	5		

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ARENAC SURVEY: NEEDED RETAIL AND SERVICES

Clothes	more selection	151	Goodwill	4
	better	14	Old Navy	1
	re-sale	2		
	plus sizes	1		
	childrens	1		
Shoes	general	28	PayLess	2
Furniture	general	38		
Appliances	general	9		
	repair	3		
Home Improvement	lumber	12	Home Depot	37
	hardware	4	Lowes	23
	better grade tools	1	Menards	22
Vehicles	cars/trucks/ORVs/ATVs			
	repair/parts	14	Auto Zone	1
	dealers	6	Murray	1
	tire	2		
	boats			
	repair/parts	4	Spicer-like	1
	sales	3		
	insurance	1		
Sporting Goods	general	11		
	with gun shop	2		
	bait shop	1		
Craft/Sewing	general	9	Jo-Ann's	1
	with sewing machine repair	2		
Gifts	general	10		
Drug Store	general	7	Walgreen's	3
Book Store	general	5		
Office Supplies	general /copying	5	Staples	1
Misc.	tractor supply store	3		
	Gentlemans Club	2		

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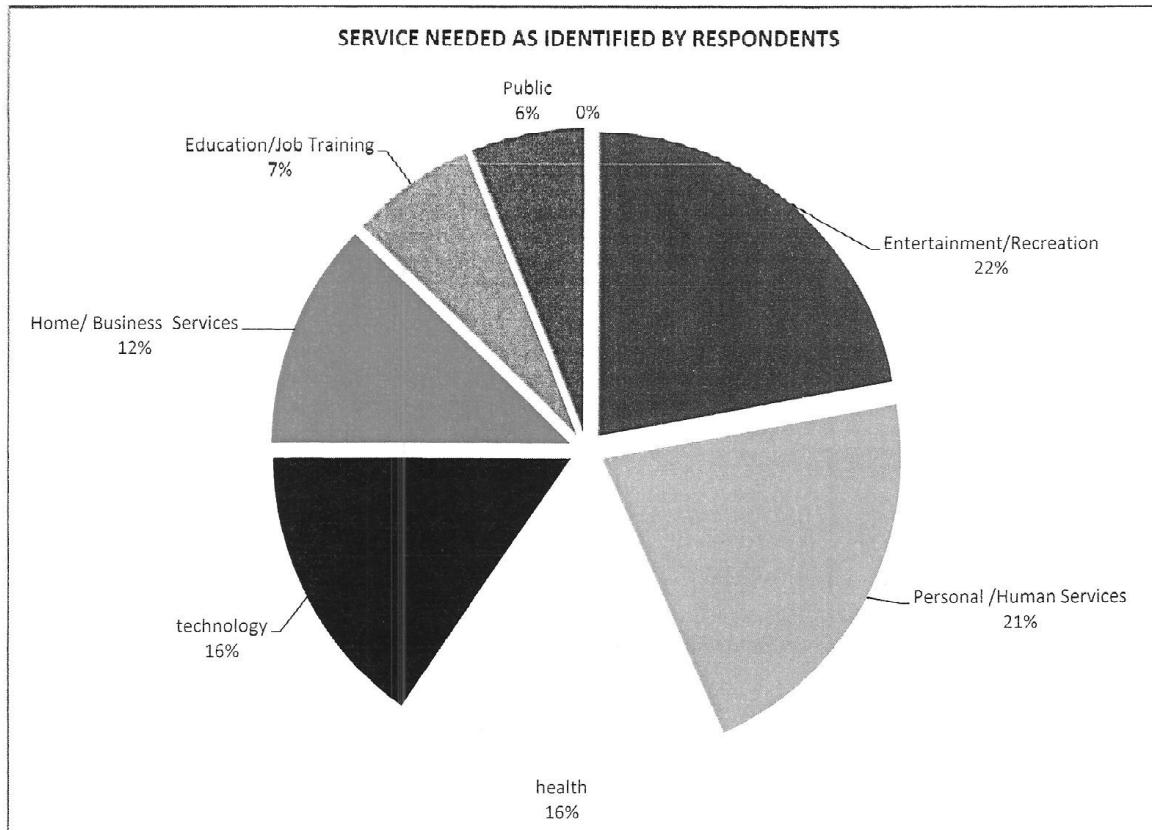
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ARENAC SURVEY: NEEDED RETAIL AND SERVICES

Misc. cont.	household	1
	old time dime store	1
	medical supplies	1
	UPS Store	1
	wind power devices	1
	variety	1
	antiques	1
	liquor/smoke shop	1
	music	1
	kitchen ware	1
	buy-sale-trade	1
General Business Related		
	small businesses	
	keep	3
	get more	2
	lower prices/competition	2
	senior discounts	1
	more active BBB	1

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ARENAC SURVEY RESULTS IDENTIFYING NEEDED SERVICES



Entertainment/Recreation	112
Personal /Human Services	107
health	82
technology	78
Home/ Business Services	61
Education/Job Training	34
Public	31
Transportation	26

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ARENAC SURVEY RESULTS IDENTIFYING NEEDED SERVICES

NOTE: The General and the Specific columns are 2 separately calculated entries.

Category	General	#	Specific	#
Technology				
Internet (computer?)	high speed repair supplies	40 7 1	Charter not Charter	1 4
Cell Phones	general	18		
Cable	general	4		
Phone	better	3		
Health				
health care	general alternative medicine	14 2		
doctors	general specialists	11 4	OBGYN Orthodontists Optometrists Chiropractor Mental	4 3 3 2 1
	dental	6		
	veterinarian	2		
Hospital	better with pediatric dept.	9 2		
Health Clinic	free general	12 4	abortion clinic medical marijuana dispensary VA medical center	1 1 1
Home/ Business Services				
Recycling	better	13		
Electrician	general	10		
Plumber	general	7		
Repair	general	5		
Banking	general	4		
Ramps	handicap - for accessibility	4		
Utility	low-cost	3		
Cleaning	general	2		
Excavating	general	2		
In-Home	general	2		
Loans	home	2		
Locksmith	general	2		

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ARENAC SURVEY RESULTS IDENTIFYING NEEDED SERVICES

Home/ Business Services cont.

Yard	tree trimming	2	
	aquatic weed control	2	
Civil engineering	general	1	
Personal /Human Services			
Community Center	general	8	* see below
Human Services	general	5	
Beauty	hair dresser, nails	5	
Home Day Care	better	2	
Legal	general	3	
Health Club	full service	2	
Cleaning	laundry mat	2	
Animals	humane society	2	
Seniors	assisted living	9	
	senior center	7	*see above
	care for:	3	
	more activities	3	
	health care for	2	
	youth assisting seniors	1	
Low Income	homeless shelter	7	
	Salvation Army	4	
	aid to underprivileged	2	
Children	activities	11	
	Boy'sGirls Club	7	
	playground	7	
	ice skating rink	7	
	youth center	4	* see comm. center above
	roller-rink	2	
	pre-school programs	2	
		107	
Education/Job Training			
Education	adult (continuing) ed	10	
	college/tech school	9	
	GED classes	4	
	alt. school for unmotivated	1	
Job/Career	student career/job center	6	
	job training	4	
Transportation	taxis	11	
	public transportation	7	
Gas Stations	Omer-AuGres to Standish	4	
Road Service	better	2	
Airport	general	2	

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ARENAC SURVEY RESULTS IDENTIFYING NEEDED SERVICES

Entertainment/Recreation		
Movies	general	36
Hotel	general by the casino	21 11
Entertainment	general	9
Watercraft Rentals	small	4
Public Access	Sims	4
Sports Complex	general YMCA type	3 3
mini-golf	general	3
Casino	larger	2
Other: all 1 point	ATV trails bike trails big new park by US-23 lake access fishing pier expand boat launch + cleaning area marina+boat lauch by losco	horseback riding resort video go-carts K fo C dance club culture art campground
 Public		
Jobs	more	7
Roads	paving dust control drainage	4 3 2
Mosquito	control	3
Police	more better	2 2
Fire	more	3
Prison	use it	2
Other	rental code more emergency workers good government reps.	1 1 1
TOTAL COMMENTS		531

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RESPONDENTS OPINIONS CONCERNING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: PART E

PART E. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Circle the number that best describes your perception of your community and Arenac County as a whole.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	TOTAL		Disagree	Agree
						34	264		
1 Residents of Arenac County feel positive about their county.	46	245	221	194	75	781	37%	34%	34%
2 Arenac County welcomes (is supportive of) new businesses.	58	223	238	182	90	791	36%	34%	34%
3 My city/village/township welcomes (is supportive of) new businesses.	41	289	216	155	53	754	44%	28%	28%
4 Arenac County is a good place to do business.	199	345	172	41	20	777	70%	8%	8%
5 It is important for schools to offer Adult Education classes.	75	202	177	212	134	800	35%	43%	43%
6 I would be willing to support a millage increase to offer Adult Ed classes.	27	199	247	231	56	760	30%	38%	38%
7 The image of Arenac County is a positive image.	45	241	250	184	61	781	31%	31%	31%
8 The image of my city/village/township is a positive image.	224	320	134	56	68	802	68%	15%	15%
9 I support the creation of building wind farms (turbines) in Arenac County.	226	321	114	63	49	773	71%	14%	14%

- 1 Residents of Arenac County feel positive about their county.
- 2 Arenac County **welcomes** (is supportive of) new businesses.
- 3 My city/village/township **welcomes** (is supportive of) new businesses.
- 4 Arenac County is a good place to do business.
- 5 **It is important** for schools to offer Adult Education classes.
- 6 I would be **willing to support** a millage increase to offer Adult Ed classes.
- 7 The image of Arenac County is a positive image.
- 8 The image of my city/village/township is a positive image.
- 9 I support the **creation of building** wind farms (turbines) in Arenac County.
- 10 I support my neighbor's right to have a personal wind turbine.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENTS OPINIONS CONCERNING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: PART E

	TOTAL					Disagree 2%	Agree 72%
	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
235	333	207	9	39	46	794	77%
291	321	97	39	19	7	736	86%
282	348	80	128	32	752	38%	4%
44	240	308	128	39	747	39%	21%
48	241	291	128	39	750	91%	3%
323	357	46	12	12	750	39%	22%
141	343	187	58	20	749	65%	10%
168	408	117	49	9	751	77%	8%
255	359	59	20	9	702	87%	4%
299	362	85	17	10	773	86%	3%

- 11 I support "The Right to Farm" Act.
- 12 The activities of the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe are an asset to the growth of Arenac County.
- 13 Schools should be teaching financial literacy.
- 14 Arenac County will become a better place to live in the next 5 years.
- 15 My city/village/township will become a better place to live in the next 5 yrs.
- 16 Schools should be preparing students to join the workforce.
- 17 Zoning regulations are a good tool to use in economic development.
- 18 County businesses have a responsibility to the County.
- 19 Arenac area schools should expand job training programs.
- 20 Preserving agricultural lands in Arenac County is important.

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENT OPINIONS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

PART F. YOUR GOVERNMENT

1 How do you feel about the dollar amount of county taxes you currently pay?	#	%
I consider them fair	228	35%
I consider them too high	277	42%
I consider them too high, but needed, considering the over-all economy.	150	23%
	655	

How satisfied you are with the current service; and then how you feel about future funding of that service.

					TOTAL
			No opinion	Very Unsatisfied	
	Satisfied	Very Satisfied			
2 Roads	320	20	41	248	121
3 Police road patrols - safety	467	26	73	139	39
4 Police officers - law enforcement	500	36	78	133	39
5 Ambulance Service	485	126	158	34	9
6 Services to Seniors	328	46	275	88	26
7 Public Transportation	282	26	300	102	35
					745
					750
					744
					786
					812
					763

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENT OPINIONS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

				TOTAL
		Very Unsatisf	Not Satisfed	
	Satisfied	No opinion		
8 Parks	37	355	213	112 29 746
9 Insect control	53	289	144	138 109 733
10 Animal control	39	326	221	112 41 739
11 Maintenance of public buildings	22	440	219	34 24 739
12 Maintenance of public property	20	401	224	46 25 716
13 County Building Services	31	379	306	39 20 775
14 Updated county computer system	20	228	443	41 17 749

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENT OPINIONS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Level of Satisfaction with County Services:

	Satisfied	No opinion	Not Satisfied	TOTAL
2 Roads	45%	41	49%	750
3 Police road patrols - safety	66%	73	24%	744
4 Police officers - law enforcement	68%	78	22%	785
5 Ambulance Service	75%	158	5%	812
6 Services to Seniors	49%	275	15%	763
7 Public Transportation	41%	300	18%	745
8 Parks	53%	213	19%	746
9 Insect control	47%	144	34%	733
10 Animal control	49%	221	21%	739
11 Maintenance of public buildings	63%	219	8%	739
12 Maintenance of public property	59%	224	10%	716
13 County Building Services	53%	306	8%	775
14 Updated county computer system	33%	443	8%	749

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENT OPINIONS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Current funding should :

				TOTAL
		No Opinion		
		Decrease funding		700
		Stay same / Increase		714
		Increase funding		660
2 Roads	301	258	43% / 37%	102
3 Police road patrols - safety	393	168	55% / 24%	105
4 Police officers - law enforcement	362	160	55% / 24%	92
5 Ambulance Service	435	85	62% / 12%	27
6 Services to Seniors	321	109	49% / 17%	27
7 Public Transportation	296	148	42% / 21%	71
8 Parks	340	141	49% / 21%	68
9 Insect control	301	194	43% / 28%	44
10 Animal control	349	109	50% / 16%	56
11 Maintenance of public buildings	435	43	63% / 6%	44
12 Maintenance of public property	432	56	61% / 8%	44
13 County Building Services	391	43	56% / 6%	65
14 Updated county computer system	304	68	44% / 10%	77
				235
				684

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENT OPINIONS CONCERNING RECREATION NEEDS

- 1 Should present recreational facilities be improved for:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	TOTAL		Disagree	Agree
						62%	9%		
Children	190	252	211	49	15	717		62%	9%
Teens	214	270	192	37	15	728		66%	7%
Adults	134	248	263	75	22	742		51%	13%
Seniors	141	243	260	65	22	731		53%	12%

- 2 The following activities need to be created within Arenac County.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disag	TOTAL		Disagree	Agree
						49%	22%		
Snowmobile Trails	124	219	231	87	71	732		49%	22%
Cross-Country Ski Trail	102	180	248	87	51	668		42%	21%
Horse Riding Trails	85	155	313	104	80	737		32%	25%
Skate Park	119	199	243	100	75	736		43%	24%

- 3 If any of the above were to be built, what should be the source of that funding?

Millage

How New Recreation Should be Funded

Grants

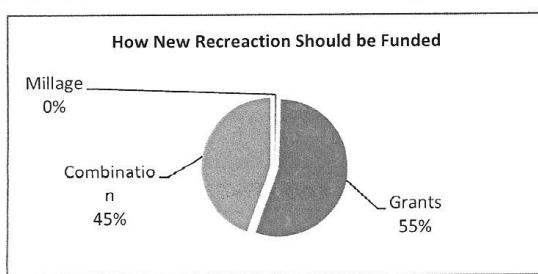
396

Combination of millage and grants

321

Total

720



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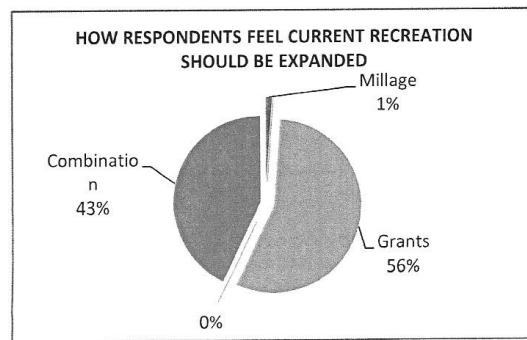
RESPONDENT OPINIONS CONCERNING RECREATION NEEDS

4 The following activities need to be improved and/or expanded.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disag	TOTAL		
							Agree	Disagree
Non-motorized Biking/Hiking Trails	126	255	196	121	65	763	50%	24%
ATV Trails	87	219	122	97	56	581	53%	26%
Beach Access	206	199	90	53	19	567	71%	13%
Fishing Access	168	303	165	97	22	755	62%	16%
Rivers	141	282	197	90	22	732	58%	15%
Lake Huron	145	257	184	103	31	720	55%	19%
Marinas	71	179	298	134	43	725	34%	24%
Birding	46	156	349	134	58	743	27%	26%
Golfing	29	112	333	189	80	743	19%	36%
Camping	100	257	236	119	43	755	47%	21%

5 If any of the above were to be built, what should be the source of that funding?

Millage	9
Grants	401
Combination of millage and grants	308
TOTAL	718



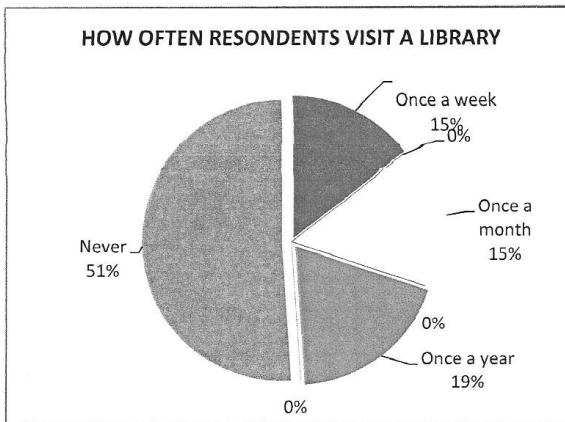
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RESPONDENT OPINIONS CONCERNING RECREATION NEEDS

6 Your Public Library:

How often do you visit the library?

Once a week	114
Once a month	121
Once a year	148
Never	400
TOTAL	783



6b IF YES, what is your favorite service?

Books - Choice	36	Used Books	3
Computers	18	Reference	3
Internet	16	Sp. Classes	2
Kids Programs	14	CDs	2
Ordering of Books	13	Services	2
Friendly staff	5	Large Print Books	2

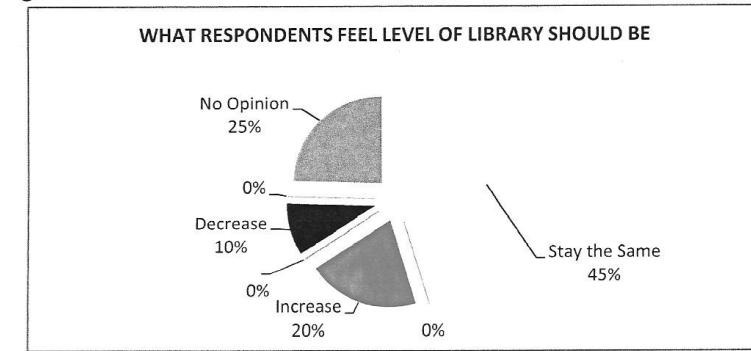
Responses = 116

6c IF NOT, Is there a service we could provide that you would use?

More computers	7	Bookmobile	2	Classes:
Better Internet	5	Internet Café	2	Internet
More Book Choice	2			Senior Citizen
				Genealogy
				Language
Responses = 22				

6d Current level of funding should :

Stay the Same	326
Increase	148
Decrease	70
No Opinion	177
TOTAL	721



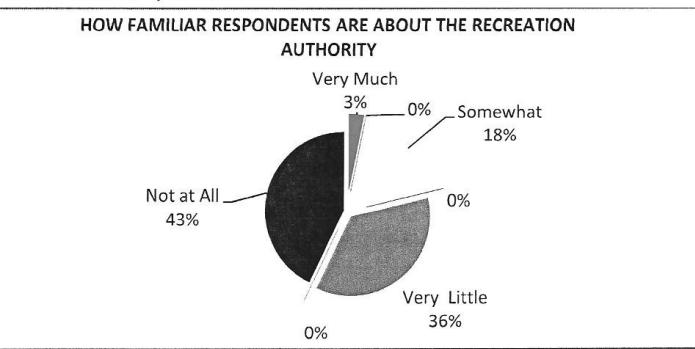
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RESPONDENT OPINIONS CONCERNING RECREATION NEEDS

How familiar are you with:

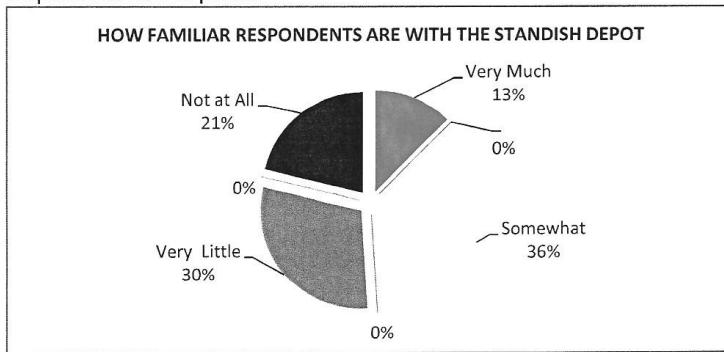
- 7 The Arenac County Recreation Authority and what it does?

Very Much	24
Somewhat	145
Very Little	284
Not at All	340
TOTAL	793



- 8 The Standish Historical Depot and its Purpose?

Very Much	99
Somewhat	286
Very Little	233
Not at All	167
TOTAL	785



Have you visited it?

Yes	394
50%	

No	399
50%	

TOTAL 793

IF YES, about how many times?

1 to 5	241
80%	

6 to 10	35
12%	

10 plus	26
9%	

TOTAL 302

2011 Arenac County Master Plan

RESPONDENT OPINIONS CONCERNING RECREATION NEEDS

9 The Arenac County Historical Museum and its Genealogy Services?

Very Much	53
Somewhat	155
Very Little	219
Not at All	354
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>781</u>

