

Hendricks Township Plan

December 1991

OVERVIEW

Location, People, Economy

Hendricks Township is located in the western part of Mackinac County and lies within the area described as T33N and T44N, R7W and contains approximately 78.9 square miles. The Township is bordered by Hudson Township on the west, Lake Michigan on the south and Chippewa County on the north and northeast. A part of the eastern boundary is bordered with Moran Township in Mackinac County. Most of the township is undeveloped and rural in nature. Other than Rexton, Epoufette is the only recognized community in the township. Epoufette is located on the northern coast line of Lake Michigan and along Highway US-2 and consists of tourist-oriented commercial, commercial fishing, and year-round and seasonal residential development. (See Map 1).

Hendricks Township is a separate populated area. The U.S. Census of 1970 indicated that there were only 97 people in the Township; this figure increased to 161 or 66% in 1990. It is expected that this increasing trend will continue and thusly to date it is assumed that there are more than 161 persons in the Township. Out of the 161 persons, 137 are white, 23 are American Indian, and 1 is Hispanic.

Further analysis of population data reveals that 56% of the population are male and 44% female. Regarding age of the population, 23% are under the age of 18 years of age and 19% are 65 and older. The area has only 2 persons per square mile or 320 acres per person which is the lowest population density in the county.

The overall economy of the Township is dependent on forestry, fishing, tourism and other outdoor recreation. There is no significant manufacturing in the area. In 1979 70 persons 16 years and older were in the labor force. Approximately 34.3 percent of the people were unemployed 15 or more weeks. This was the third highest figure in the 11 townships of Mackinac County. In 1979 income of the Township was lower than any other township in the county. Per capita income in 1979 was \$4,008; the lowest figure in the county. Per Capita Income in 1987 was 6846. The median household income was \$8,047, lowest in the county. According to the 1979 poverty index, 25.6% percent of the people were below poverty level. (See Table 1).

TABLE 1

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Area Name	Mackinac County	Hendricks Township
Noninstitutional persons 16 to 64:		
Total ---	6113	88
% with a work disability ---	12.0%	10.2%
Persons 16 and over in the labor force in 1979:		
Total ---	4980	70
% unemployed 15 or more weeks ---	24.5%	34.3%
in 1987:	7325	
Unemployment in 1989:	17.2%	
Per capita income in 1979 (\$):	5274	4008
Per Capita income in 1987:	8357	6846
Median income in 1979 (\$):		
Households ---	12454	8047
Families ---	14985	8864
Median income in 1989 (\$):		
Families ----	23,000	
Persons for whom poverty status is determined:		
Total ---	10083	168
Income in 1979 below poverty level:		
Total ---	1314	43
Percent ---	13.0	25.6
65 and over ---	209	3
Related children:		
Under 18 years ---	506	17
5 to 17 years ---	380	15
Income in 1979 below 125% of poverty level:	2181	67

Source: Latest information from U.S. Census of Population

AREA RESOURCES

Climate:

It is generally recognized that the Great Lakes have a significant impact on the local climate. It can be said that Hendricks Township has a continental climate, with comparatively cold winters and cool summers. This is definitely true when the climate conditions in Hendricks Township are compared with the rest of the nation. The greatest amount of seasonal activity occurs during the summer months. The Township's attractive natural qualities are somewhat diminished in the winter as an abundance of snowfall makes travel more difficult.

Slope Interpretation:

The slope characteristics of an area help to give understanding of the drainage, erodability, and practicality of construction. (Map 2 was developed using USGS quadrangle sheets.) Slope area are determined by measuring horizontal distance between contour lines and is calculated in percent. One percent slope means that there is a rise or fall of one foot in one hundred feet of horizontal distance. Most of the Township is flat or has less than ten percent slope, with the exception of a narrow ridge along US-2 and a few other small areas in the middle of the Township.

Soil Characteristics:

Soils are an essential part of the area's natural resource inventory and this information is important in determining building foundation strength, effectiveness of septic tank sewage disposal, plant fertility, erosion hazards and other drainage conditions. All of these factors are crucial in determining the nature and extent of development that should occur within the Township.

A general soil survey which was completed in the 1920's is the only reliable soil information available in the Township. (Map 3). This information consists of about 50 different land types, grouped into soil associations to make it easily understandable. Simplified Map indicates that the Township is either sandy soil or muck and wet coarse sand, with the exception of a small area in the Northwest corner of the Township which is clay soil.

Geology:

The existing geological characteristics are also a result of historic glacial deposits. The last glacier in the area (about 10,000 years ago) left the land with poor drainage resulting in a proliferation of swamps and inland lakes. This area was under water for many years. Since, the water has receded leaving behind valuable deposits of coral. Through the aging process this has become limestone. These bedrock deposits are known either as engadine dolomite or limestone and have great mining potential.

Map 5 indicates that there are two (2) areas, one (1) located near Caffey's Corner in the middle of the Township which has engadine dolomite at or near the surface, and another located in the northeast corner of the Township along the north side of Highway H40 where the limestone is outcropped and has mining potential.

Vegetative Cover:

Map 6 contains information on vegetative cover which is classified into three (3) groups:

- (1). Forest Land,
- (2). Swampy Area,
- (3). Open Grassland.

This information was taken from the U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle sheets. This map depicts that roughly five percent (2,500 acres) of the total Township land area is open land, about forty-five percent (22,500 acres) is forest land and the remainder, fifty percent (25,000 acres) is swampy area. All three classes of land use are mixed throughout the Township.

Land Ownership:

The total area of the Township is about 50,000 acres. Map 7 indicates that only 3,460 acres or 7.5 percent of the Township land are privately owned. About 1,700 acres or 3 percent are under large corporation ownership and the rest of the land or 44,840 acres or 89.5 percent are State Forest Land.

GENERAL SERVICES

The amount, variety and quality of services the residents of the Township receive serve as indications of the willingness and capacity of the local government and semi-public utilities have to meet specific needs. As an area increases in population and development activity, the need to expand community services to keep abreast to those developments also increases. Preferably, a local government should keep ahead of the physical growth of the community as to play a viable role in determining a desired land use pattern. This may entail providing needed infrastructure development (road, water, sewer, etc.) in these areas best suited for development while restricting those activities in those localities not capable and/or suitable for such use. It may also require enforcement of zoning and subdivision regulations.

Units of government often find themselves unable to fulfill obligations to provide the best possible services to citizens. While private and quasi-public corporations are able to re-invest their profits into upgrading and maintaining equipment and can increase their incomes to correspond with operational cost, local governments are constrained by their reliance on the property tax structure. If residents are not willing to tax themselves to provide desired, and sometimes needed services, the community's ability to maintain high standards of administration is usually diminished.

Through proper planning and preparation for the future, Hendricks Township can allocate land use and activities that would provide the most efficient services possible. This is accomplished when adequate services are offered to area residents now and in the future without having to substantially increase local revenues.

The following is an analysis of the existing conditions of various services Township residents receive, or should receive.

Communications:

The dissemination of information is a role given essentially to the private sector. The profit-making characteristics of news and entertainment media make these sources of information the most efficient available to the citizens of the Township. As there are no publications, radio or television stations within the Township the ability of local government or residents of the area to control information originating in Hendricks Township is limited.

Newspapers available to Township residents include such daily publications as the Detroit Free Press from Detroit (350 miles away), The Evening News from Sault Ste Marie (70 miles away). The weekly newspaper, St Ignace News from St. Ignace (30 miles away) is distributed along with the Buyers Guide from Sault Ste Marie (70 miles away).

Most of the major networks can be received via individual house antenna. Radio station (Am and FM) transmissions are received from a number of near and distant sources. The closest radio broadcasts originate in Newberry, Sault Ste Marie, St Ignace, Cheboygan, and Petoskey.

There is no post office in the Township. The area is served through the post office in Naubinway, about 20 miles away.

The only communication system for emergencies is the telephone service.

Transportation:

Commercial and general public transportation is non-existent. A contract exists between the Engadine School system and the Township to provide transportation to students who attend school in Engadine.

Energy Supply:

Oil and propane gas are the two (2) major fuels provided to residents. Natural gas is not available in the Township. Electrical energy is supplied by Edison-Sault Electric Company, Sault Ste Marie, and Cloverland Electrical Coop of Dafter.

Water and Sewer Services:

Currently, no public water or sewer system exists in the Township. All homes and commercial developments have wells and on-site septic tank systems.

Presently, there are no significant problems with individual wells and/or on-site septic systems mainly because of the limited development.

Solid Waste Disposal:

There was one (1) open dump site in the Township, but under the new State Law this dump had to be closed. Existing Township conditions make it impossible to develop such an expensive facility for the small population. The most logical approach in solving the solid waste problem and conforming with the State Law was to let each resident take care of their own. Most have went to the private sector, McPhearson Sanitation, to have their solid waste disposed with.

Public Safety:

Protecting the welfare and safety of the population of the Township should be a critical element in the development of a plan to meet the needs and desires of local residents. An analysis of police, fire, and medical services would enable local decision-makers to better understand and rectify existing potential deficiencies.

There is no local police department within the Township. The County Sheriff's Department, with headquarters in St. Ignace, services the Township through its sub-station in Engadine, 20 miles away. Michigan State Police, with branches in Newberry and St Ignace, are available for other emergency situations.

Health Services:

There is no medical facility within the Township, therefore residents must go to Newberry (about 40 miles away), St. Ignace (about 35 miles away), Sault Ste Marie (65 miles away) Manistique (65 miles away), or Petoskey (80 miles away). Chippewa County War Memorial in Sault Ste Marie, and Schoolcraft Memorial are somewhat bigger and better equipped than either the Newberry or St. Ignace facilities. In cases of extreme health care needs, people usually travel to Petoskey or Marquette which are the best medical care facilities in northern Michigan. Petoskey is about 80 miles from Hendricks Township while Marquette is about 150 miles.

The Township has a contract with a private sector ambulance ,Life Link, based in St. Ignace to provide ambulance service to the residents of the Township. The Township has a Emergency Medical First Response Unit, a volunteer team, to provided treatment and care to the residents in need until the ambulance can transport them.

Fire Protection:

The Township has a very active volunteer Fire Department with three (3) vehicles as follows;

Vehicle #1:	1979 Ford pickup with small tank and pump.
Vehicle #2:	1953 GMC pumper with 500 gallon tank.
Vehicle #3:	1953 GMC Tanker with 1500 gallon tank.

As can be seen the equipment is very old and antiquated. Age usually is directly proportional to reliability; which means that this 40 year old equipment can not be relied upon to heavily. Hendricks Township being sparsely populated requires these vehicle to operate considerable distance to acquire egress to a fire.

The Township really needs two (2) two thousand (2000) gallon tanker/pumpers along with a small fast attack vehicle. The tankers are required because the Township is rural area there are no hydrants or plumbed water sources. All water must be transported from lakes, streams, or strategic placed storage tanks.

Community Facilities:

The quality and quantity of community facilities and citizens organizations are indications of the responsiveness of local government and interest of individuals have in the local "quality of live" standards.

The Township Hall is the only community building in the area. It is a very old structure (over 100 years old) and is inadequate to serve the present needs of the Township. Presently, it is being used for a library and Township Board meetings. This facility needs replacement.

Hendricks Township is part of the Engadine School System. The Engadine facility teaches all levels of students in K-12 and are bussed daily from Hendricks Township, about 25 miles away.

In summary, it can be observed that the Township is highly dependent upon surrounding communities for most of its services. As the area's population increases according to population projections, the need for a greater quality and quantity of services becomes imperative. Because of its remote location the Township must have adequate recreation facilities of its own.

OVERALL TOWNSHIP GOALS

Historical and physical knowledge of this area forms the basis for a logical starting point upon which overall goals and objectives can be developed.

In the previous sections all the elements that characterize Hendricks Township are analyzed. The comprehensive investigation into the people and their activities, the services provided by local government, as well as public and semi-public agencies and environmental qualities and concerns of the area have to occur before general goals can be determined.

An overall perspective of the inter-relationship between these elements is needed to assure a logical approach in an attempt to optimize the Township's future. In recognizing the general characteristics of the Township, its recreational facilities and natural attractions and environment, as well as economic and other development conditions, it was decided to base the Township's overall goals and objectives upon the idea of protecting the environment. Therefore, by analyzing the environmental features of the Township, observing the effects of people, economic factors, and required services upon the environment, and basing goals statements upon this interaction, future land-uses, facilities, and services which would best serve the community could be determined.

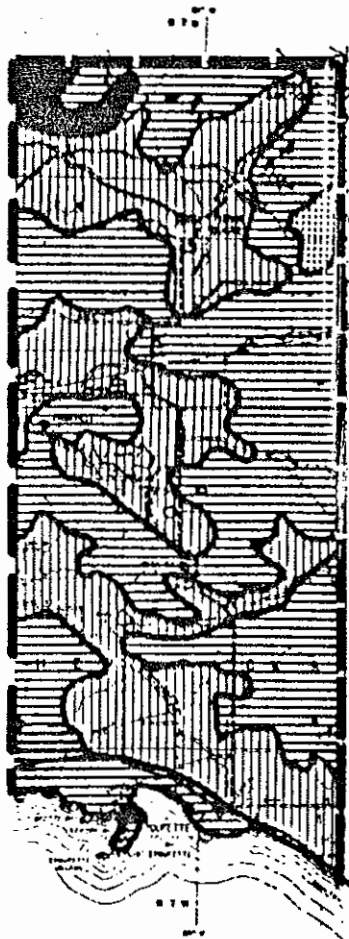
Goals, in essence, are broad statements reflecting the desires of the Township's residents and the need to protect, as much as possible, those environmental qualities which give the Township its identity. Thus, to be realistic, Township goals should match, or clearly reflect, the Township's potentials.

- Goal #1: Maintain the rural nature of the Township by protecting and preserving its natural resources.
- Goal #2: Achieve planned development.
- Goal #3: Improve the economic base of the Township by developing recreation, tourist facilities and activities.
- Goal #4: Provide adequate indoor and outdoor recreational facilities for the population of the Township.
- Goal #5: Provide well trained and equipped fire protection.
- Goal #6: Provide well trained and equipped emergency medical services.



SOIL TYPES

MAP #3



SCALE 1/100,000
 SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES

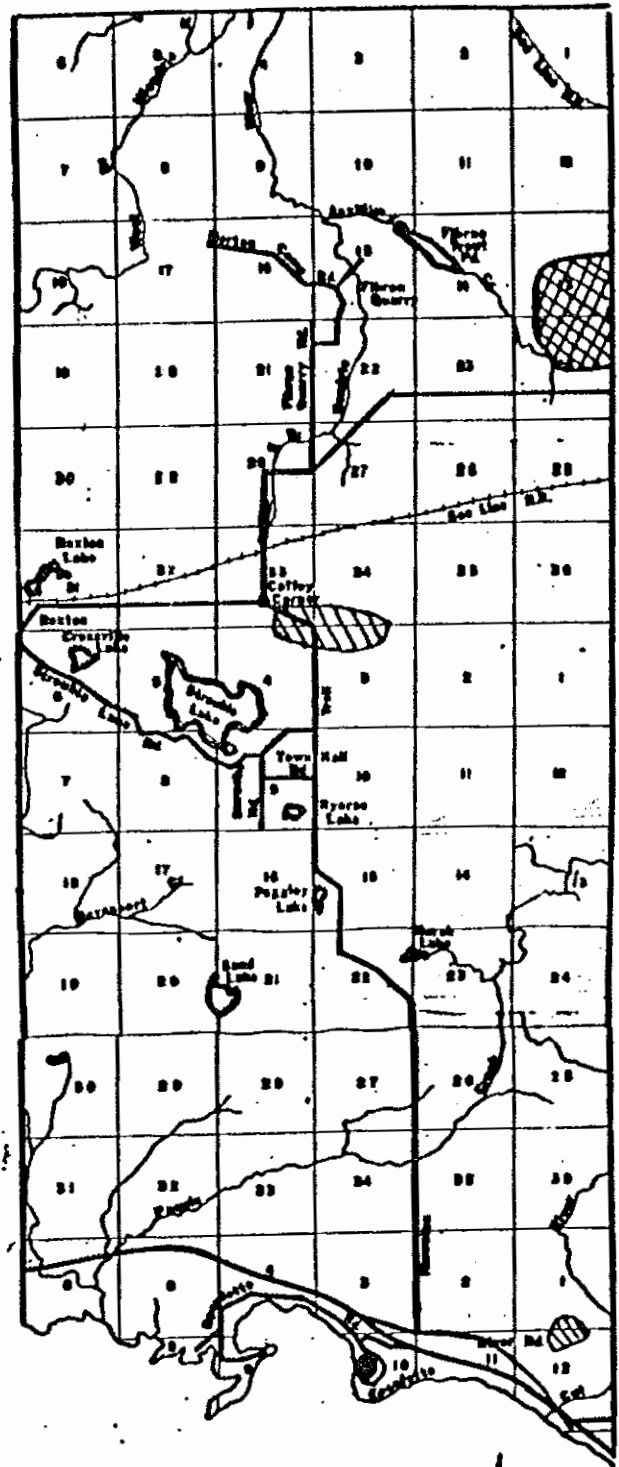
POLYGONIC PROJECTION

-  CLAY SOILS AND WET SANDS
-  SANDY SOIL
-  MUCKS AND WET COURSE SANDS
-  LOAMY SOILS
-  BEDROCK SOILS

THIS MAP DEVELOPED BY THE EASTERN U P REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. SHOWS GENERALIZED SOIL INFORMATION AND IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DETAILED PLANNING. IT PROVIDES USEFUL INFORMATION FOR GENERAL PLANNING ONLY

MAP #4

HENDRICKS TOWNSHIP



LEGEND

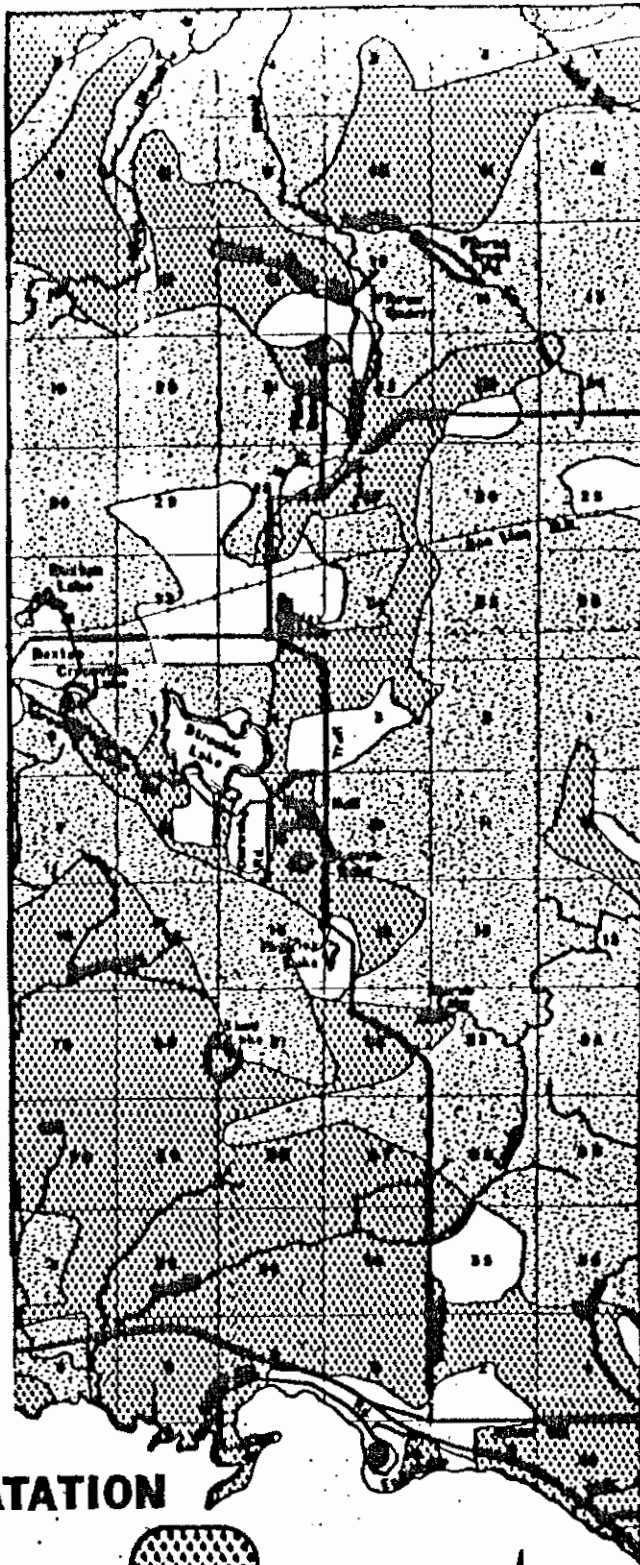
PAVED ROADS ———
 GRAVEL ROADS ———

AREA OF DOLOMITE

AREA OF LIMESTONE



MAP #5



VEGETATION

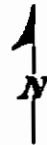
FOREST



SWAMP

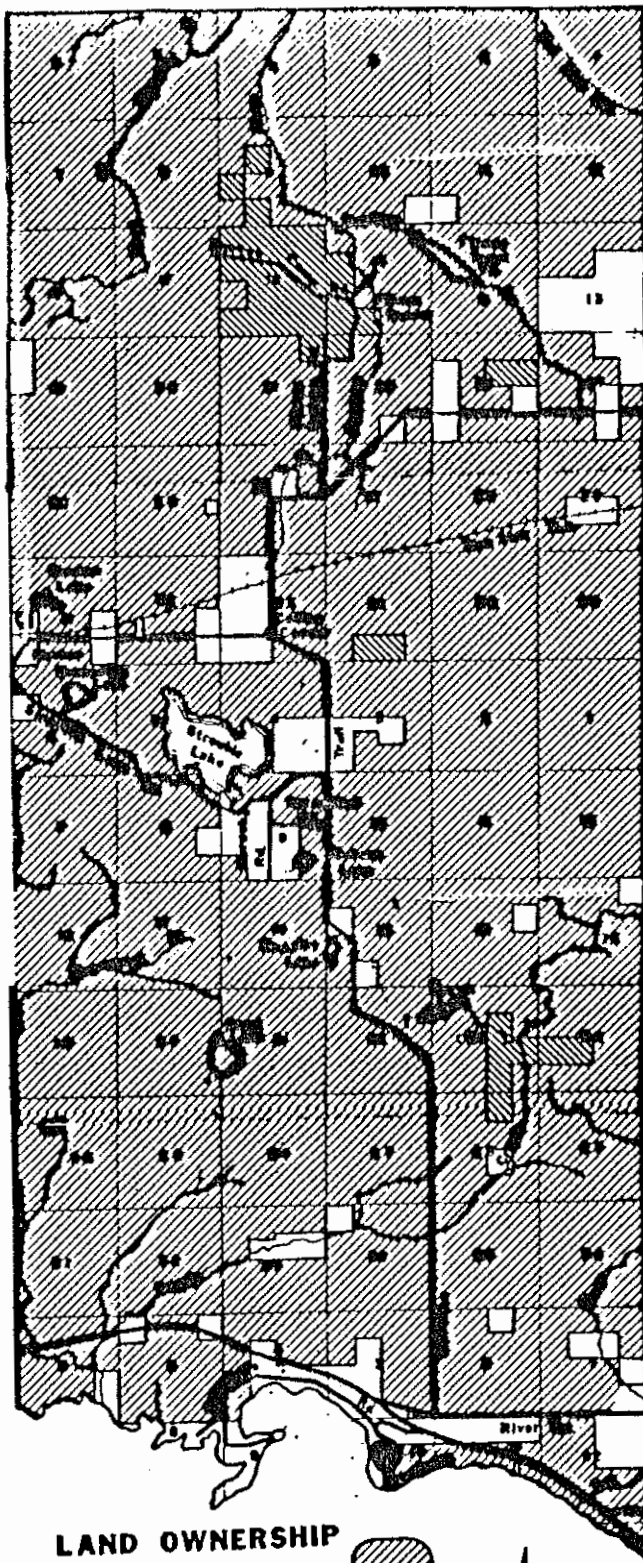


OPEN



MAP #6

HENDRICKS TOWNSHIP



LAND OWNERSHIP

- STATE/FEDERAL
- PRIVATE
- CORPORATE



MAP #7