

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

Rapid River Township is located in Kalkaska County in Northwestern Lower Michigan. The Township is divided by US-131 which runs north and south connecting the Village of Kalkaska to Mancelona. The southern segment of the US-131 corridor is the most “urban” in character and provides land use for commercial businesses and cottage industry.

At just over 1000 people the Township is relatively small – the Township is just over 35 square miles in size with an average of only 29 people per square mile making the Township exceptionally rural in character.

The Township is part of the Elk River Watershed and includes a few small inland lakes and the head waters of the Rapid River. Land cover throughout the Township is a mix of Deciduous Northern Hardwoods, plantation Red Pine, open field and a variety of riparian areas. A considerable amount of forest lands in the Township are State owned.

Currently, the Township maintains two parcels which offer public space for recreation. The first property is located at the Township Hall on Phelps Road just west of US-131. The second property, Croy Lake Park, is located along the eastern edge of the Township.

PLAN PURPOSE

The Plan has been developed for Rapid River Township, Michigan, and encompasses the broad goal of improving overall recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. The Plan therefore considers all existing public recreational space, existing conditions and possible improvements, non-motorized connectivity, park spaces and the budgeting, maintenance and programming thereof. The Plan also considers possible land acquisition objectives that might strengthen or improve the Township recreation system. Finally, the Plan identifies all planning and design best practices that are available and obtainable for the Township including; Low Impact Development (LID); Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) - sustainable sites; Universal Accessibility principles and a variety of others.



