

Chapter 5: Community Facilities and Services

Burt Township provides a variety of services and facilities to residents and visitors. In addition, other services and facilities are provided by other government agencies or businesses. Community facilities are shown on the map on page V-1a.

Potable Water

Residents and businesses in the community of Grand Marais are provided with potable water by Burt Township. Water is supplied by two wells located at the North edge of town near the Community Center. The Township employs one part-time person who is responsible for maintenance at the water works. Water is not metered and users are charged a flat rate based on classification.

Residential	\$13/month
Seasonal Residential	\$78/year
Commercial	\$18/month (minimum)*

- Owners of motels and restaurants pay more than the flat commercial rate because they use more water. The school also pays more than the flat commercial rate.

Since the installation of the original water system around 1900, the system has been upgraded only three times. In 1960, a new pump was installed, and in 1975, new controls were installed. A \$570,000 project in 1978 resulted in development of one new well and rehabilitation of the existing well. As a result of this project, the Township incurred a debt of \$255,000 to the Farmer's Home Administration, payable over 40 years, or through 2018.

Some of the water lines date back to 1900. The lines are antiquated and there are many leaks. Since individual services are not metered, it is impossible to determine the extent of water loss due to leakage. The Township does not lose revenue as a result of leakage, since all customers pay a flat rate regardless of actual use; however, increased use of pumps in order to continue to supply individual services despite loss to leakage results in increased equipment repair and replacement costs.

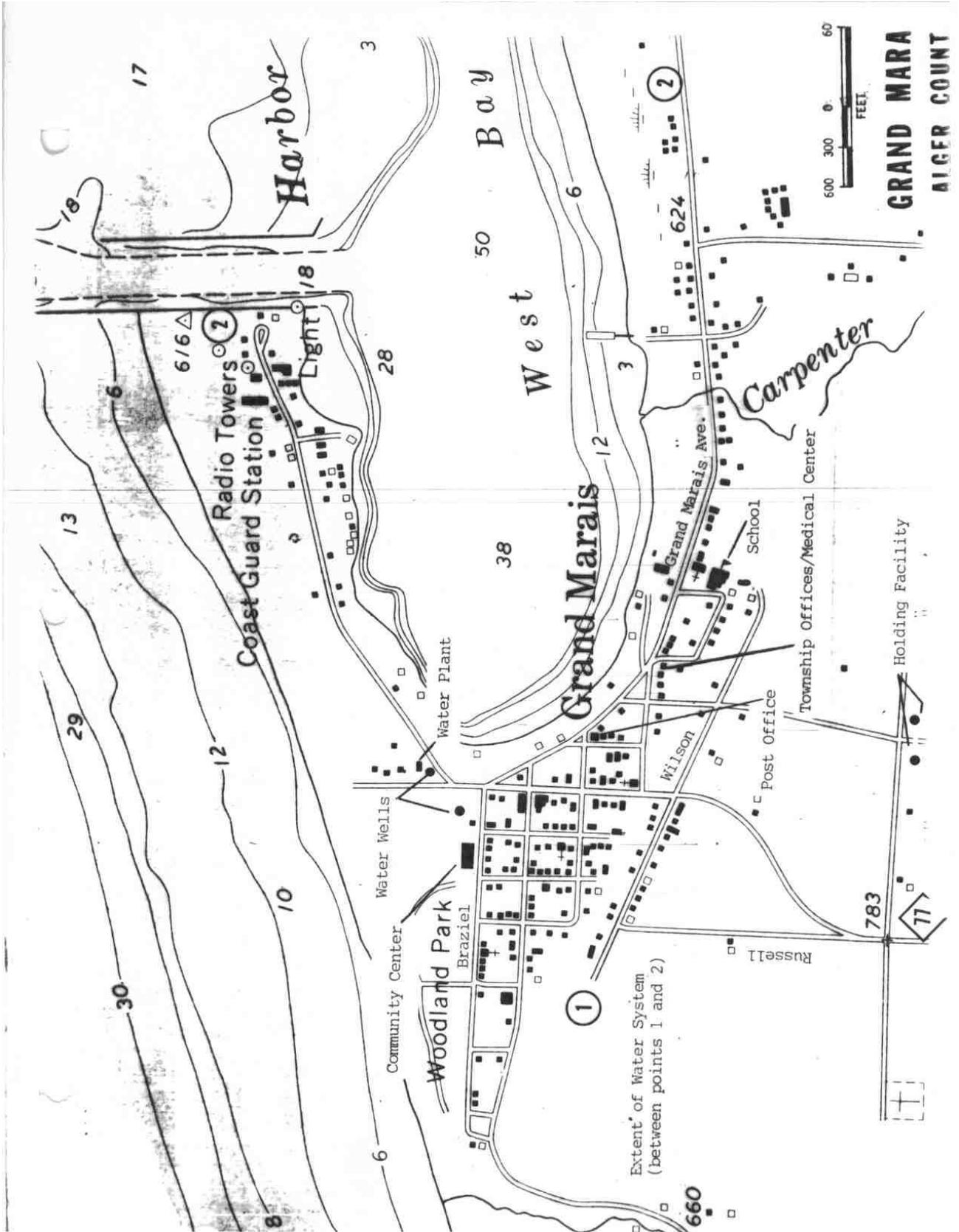
At this time, there are no plans to expand the system.

Wastewater Treatment

There are no community sewage treatment facilities within the Township. Each individual is responsible for disposing of their own wastewater, either with a septic system, cesspool, or a holding tank which is pumped out periodically.

Soil types in the Grand Marais area have severe limitations in terms of suitability for private septic systems, primarily due to poor filtering capacity or high water tables. Several businesses in Grand Marais are using the costly "pump and haul" method of sewage disposal due to septic tank failures. Because of the high failure rate for septic systems in the Grand Marais business district, the county health department will not issue further permits in this area.

Although there have been no official reports of contaminated wells in the community of Grand Marais, some township residents feel that land needs to be acquired for a sewage treatment plant. They believe that now is the time to address the wastewater issue before increased population pressures result in contaminated wells. Besides the potential for groundwater contamination and other health hazards, the limitations on individual septic tanks limit the potential for future commercial, residential or industrial growth in the Grand Marais area.



GRAND MARA
ALGER COUNT

Extent of Water System
(between points 1 and 2)

Storm Sewer

The only storm sewers in Burt Township were installed along M-77 in Grand Marais by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Solid Waste and Recycling

Until 1990, Burt Township operated a dump for disposal of solid waste from Township residents. In 1990 the Michigan Department of natural Resources ordered the dump closed, and the township was forced to find other means of providing solid waste disposal services to local residents.

A transfer station was built and opened in 1990, and a comprehensive recycling program was implemented. The township sold window stickers for \$12 per year, which would allow residents to bring garbage and recyclables to the transfer station. In addition to the \$12 fee, garbage was accepted only in specially marked bags, which had to be purchased at a cost of \$1 or \$2 per bag, depending on the size. A private hauler transported garbage from the township transfer station to another privately owned transfer station. Recyclables were hauled by the township to LaChance Recycling and Salvage in Trenary.

At the same time, Monache Sanitation Service of Grand Marais was providing curbside pickup of garbage and recyclables. Specially marked bags were also required, at a cost slightly higher than that charged by the township.

As of 1992, the township is no longer accepting garbage at the transfer station. The site continues to operate as a recycling drop-off point, and recyclables are still hauled to LaChance. The annual fee for a sticker has been raised to \$20 for residential customers and a variable fee for commercial users. Items accepted for recycling include office paper, newspaper, cardboard, most types of plastic, glass, tin, aluminum, brass, copper, cast iron, motor oil, cooking oil and batteries.

Burt Township also started a community composting program in 1991. Initial results of the program have proved successful and will help alleviate the solid waste problems of the township.

Garbage disposal in the township is provided by Monache Sanitation Service, which provides weekly curbside pickup. Garbage is accepted only in Monache bags, which cost \$1.25 for a 13-gallon bag and \$2.25 for a 30-gallon bag. Collected garbage is hauled to a privately owned transfer station.

Utilities

Since 1957, Alger/Delta Electric Co-op has supplied power to the residents of Burt Township. The Co-op buys all of their power from other companies, and their service territory is not contiguous. Electrical service to Burt Township residents is poor. There are many power outages and response time is lengthy, since repair trucks are located two hours away in Rapid River.

Township Planning Commission members estimate that there are at least two voltage fluctuations (drops) a day as a result of activity at Tester Sawmill. Voltage fluctuations lower the life span of electrical equipment, especially electric motors. These fluctuations have an adverse effect on computer equipment also.

Current use of the Alger/Delta Electric Co-op system within the township is nearing capacity. Future problems may arise as more development takes place in the township.

Three-phase power is available only along M-77, except for an extension to the water plant in Grand Marais.

Residents are required to read their own meters. Electric rates are high and range from 10.5 cents per kw hour for residential customers to 11 cents per kw hour for commercial customers.

Among Planning Commission members, the general consensus is that Co-op work crews and office personnel perform their tasks well.

Telephone service in Burt Township is provided by Hiawatha Telephone Company of Munising. There is a fiber optics line from Grand Marais to Seney, but fiber optics does not extend into the community of Grand Marais.

Residents of Grand Marais may hook up to television cable service provided by Grove Cable Company of Harvey. Cable service is not available in outlying areas of the township.

Law Enforcement

Burt Township helps to employ an Alger County Deputy Sheriff who responds to requests as received. The deputy lives in Grand Marais and the township pays \$4,000 toward the salary for the position, as well as sharing in the cost of the patrol vehicle. Payment of the township's portion comes out of the general fund as there is no local millage assessed for police protection. Residents may request police protection by calling the local deputy in Grand Marais, the Sheriff's Office in Munising, or the State Police post in Newberry. The State Police patrol state highways, including M-77 in Burt Township.

Under terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Alger County Sheriff, the National Park Service provides office space for the Deputy Sheriff at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore District Office on Coast Guard Point. The MOU permits the deputization of National Park Service law enforcement officers as deputies for the purpose of assisting the deputy in certain law enforcement actions.

The Township has recently passed ordinances regulating noise and the keeping of dogs within the township.

An ordinance to regulate snowmobile operation in the township is being considered. Currently H-58 is designated as a snowmobile route, and traffic problems sometimes result in Grand Marais. Snowmobilers also complain at times about having to operate on bare pavement due to snowplowing. As with any community where snowmobiles are operated, there are sometimes problems with noise, high speeds and use of snowmobiles during late night and early morning hours.

Ambulance Service, Search and Rescue

Township ambulance service is provided by eight to 10 volunteers. Each person is scheduled to be on-call for a specific date and time, and volunteers carry pagers as well. The base station is located in the Frasure Adult Foster Care Home and the person manning the base station is compensated at a rate of \$100/month. Ambulance attendants are compensated for their services on a per diem basis.

A four wheel drive ambulance is housed in the township garage located across the street from the marina. The ambulance is in good condition overall. A snowmobile and sled are also maintained for winter search and rescue.

The local Coast Guard Auxiliary, a volunteer group, maintains a rescue boat.

Fire Protection

Fire hydrants are located throughout the community of Grand Marais. Fire protection is provided by eight to ten volunteers whose services are scheduled and who also wear pagers. Both the ambulance and fire departments use the same base station located in the Frasure Adult Foster Care Home. Volunteers are compensated on a per diem basis. Response time is good and the volunteers are dedicated.

Equipment is in good repair and consists of a 1950 pumper truck, 1974 hose/tank truck, and a tanker truck which was as a surplus vehicle donated by the DNR. Over the long term, the township plans to purchase a replacement fire truck as needed.

Marina

The marina is located on West Bay in Grand Marais and provides docking facilities for six to ten boats. Boaters are also allowed to anchor out in the bay. Toilet facilities are provided on the marina site.

There is an interest in relocating the marina to Coast Guard Point, where some property may be available. The present site is affected by sand infiltration. In 1992, the township applied to the Department of Natural Resources for permission to develop a marina on Coast Guard Point, but the application was denied due to environmental considerations and because the township does not own the property. The township is continuing to explore the option of purchasing the property, and plans to re-apply to move the marina.

Airport

Burt Township owns and maintains an airport approximately three miles southeast of Grand Marais. Originally built in 1947 as an emergency landing field for Trans-Canada Airways, the airport has a grass landing strip, and is not heavily used.

Roads and Streets

Alger County maintains road maintenance equipment at the county garage in Grand Marais. The road crew consists of five employees including a working foreman. These five persons are responsible for maintaining all state and county roads within the township. Planning Commission members feel that the services are adequate considering the rural nature and remote location of Burt Township. More specific information on road classification and condition can be found in Section 8, Transportation.

Township Buildings

The Burt Township Community Center was built in the early 1980s, using both township and state grant monies. The facility is located on township property near Woodland Park in Grand Marais, and is used as a meeting hall by local organizations. Senior meals are served in the center, and a community library and librarian are housed there. An ice rink is connected to the main building, and there is a ball diamond adjacent to the center. Attached to the Community Center is a solar greenhouse constructed in 1980 through a Department of Labor grant totaling \$20,600.

A township-owned building, located next to the Burt Township Office s in Grand Marais, is rented to the Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Agency for use as a workshop. There is some concern that the Community Mental Health Center will discontinue operation of the workshop, as similar operations in other areas have been closed.

The Burt Township Offices are located in Grand Marais along Grand Marais Avenue (H-58). The Township Offices house a medical facility where the services of a doctor from Marquette General Hospital are available every Friday.

Churches

There are four churches in Grand Marais: Catholic, Lutheran, Mennonite, and Methodist.; In addition, there is a group of Uniterian Universalists who meet regularly in members’ homes.

Medical Services

In addition to the physician from Marquette who visits Grand Marais each Friday, medical care is available in the communities of Munising, Marquette, Manistique and Newberry. These communities offer a wide range of medical specialists, and hospitals are located in all four communities.

Cemetery

There are two cemeteries in the Grand Marais area. The cemetery located south of town is owned and operated by the Catholic Church, while the township owns and operates the cemetery to the east of Grand Marais. The township has recently acquired land adjacent to the existing cemetery for expansion purposes, and there is adequate space for present needs. The Township should monitor available space to ensure future needs are met.

Recreational Facilities

Burt Township residents have access to numerous recreational facilities, including township-owned parks in Grand Marais, and the marina and tree beach access sites in Grand Marais, also owned by the Township. The Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, administered by the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service, provides facilities in the township ranging from campgrounds and scenic sites to hiking trails, beaches, the Au Sable Lighthouse and Grand Sable Dunes. The Lake Superior State Forest also provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

These recreational facilities are discussed in greater detail in Section 7, Recreation.

Schools

The Burt Township School, located at 112 Colwell in Grand Marais provides Kindergarden-12th grade education to students from the township. Enrollment figures for the past three years are shown below:

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Elementary	41	47	40
Jr. High & High School	43	43	36
Total	84	90	76

Issues and Problems

Water lines in the Grand Marais Water System are deteriorated, and water is lost due to leakage. The lack of meters compounds the problems, since there is no way to measure and/or locate leaks. Meters would also assist the community to conserve water.

The lack of a community sewage treatment facility is limiting community growth in Grand Marais. A moratorium has been placed on new permits for septic tanks due to numerous failures in certain areas. Failing private septic systems also present a threat to health and safety.

Electrical service to the township is poor, with numerous outages and daily voltage fluctuations. Response time for outages is slow, and three-phase power is lacking in most areas.

Although emergency service equipment (fire, ambulance, etc.) is adequate to meet current needs, there is an ongoing need for funds for repair and replacement of vehicles and equipment.

The marina area, along with much of West Bay, is filling in with sand. The township is interested in moving the marina to Coast Guard Point, but does not own any land in that area.

The activity center/workshop located in a township-owned building may close, as have similar facilities in other areas. This would deprive the township of rent revenues, as well as depriving the area of a needed service.