

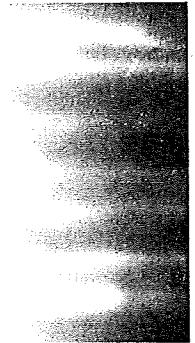
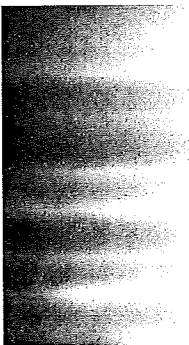
YANKEE SPRINGS
TOWNSHIP

PARKS

&

RECREATION

PLAN



This document was produced by Peter Forsberg and Dee Lowel.

Graphics & Layout

Adobe:
Photoshop, Unix v. OS-X
PageMaker, OS 9.2
Acrobat, Unix v. OS-X
Illustrator, Unix v. OS-X
In Design, Unix v. OS-X
Apple PixelNance, Unix v. OS-X

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ESRI: Arc View, Windows ME

Editors and spreadsheet

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Word, Windows ME/ Unix v. OS-X

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Translators: MacLink Plus
Apple Graphic Converter

Contents

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION	5
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS	5
POPULATION	5
AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION	6
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS	7
HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING	8
RACE AND ETHNICITY	9
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS	10
LAND COVER AND ZONING	10
TOPOGRAPHY	11
WATER RESOURCES FISH AND WILDLIFE	11
SOILS AND VEGETATION	11
TRANSPORTATION	13
CLIMATE	13
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	14
PLANNING PROCESS	14
RECREATION INVENTORY	14
ACTION PLAN	15
YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE	16
APPENDIX 1: PLAN PARTICIPANTS	18
APPENDIX 2: TOWNSHIP BUDGET	20
APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INPUT ELEMENTS	23
APPENDIX 4: INVENTORY, MAPS, PHOTOS & SURVEY	25
APPENDIX 5: LETTERS OF APPROVAL	

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Yankee Springs Township is located in the west central corner of Barry County, Michigan. It is bordered to the west by Allegan County, to the north by Thornapple Township, to the east by Rutland Township and to the south by Orangville.

There are no major villages or cities within Yankee Springs Township, however, it is close to the metropolitan centers of Grand Rapids to the north and Kalamazoo to the south. These metro centers are a direct cause of population growth to the township. Expressway US 131 makes it convenient for visitors to travel to Yankee Springs to utilize its recreation facilities. Consequently, this affects the need for additional local recreation areas.

Many tourists visit the Yankee Springs Recreation Area and Barry State Game Area annually. This State of Michigan-owned open space covers much of the Township. The land, lakes and campgrounds receive heavy use, especially in the summer months.

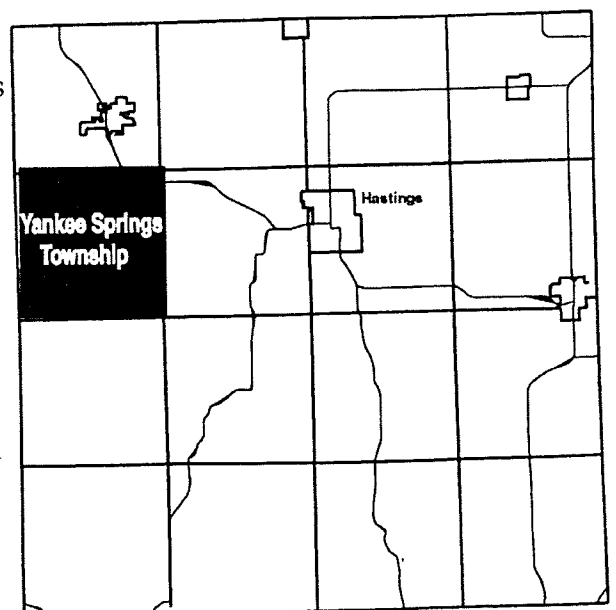
POPULATION

1990	2000	%increase
2,977	4,291	44.1%

Yankee Springs Township has a population of 4,291 as reported by the U.S. Census in 2000. Between 1990 and 2000 the population grew by 1,314, a 44.1% growth rate. This rate is significantly higher than the State's (6.9%) and the County's (13.4). This massive increase alone indicates a need for the expansion of recreational opportunities.



Location of Barry County in Michigan.

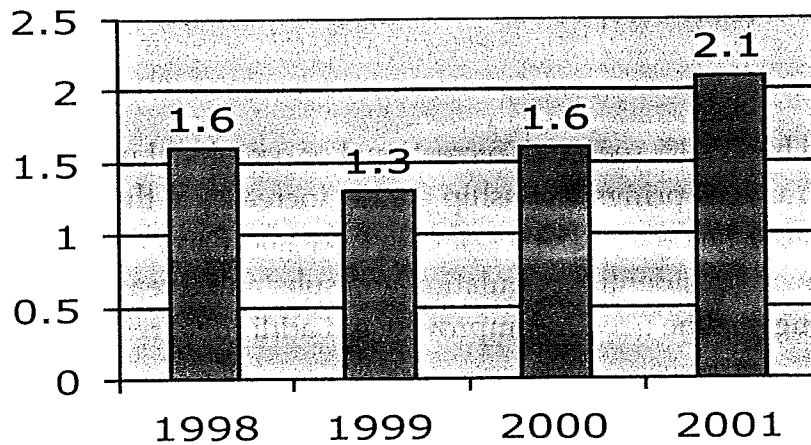
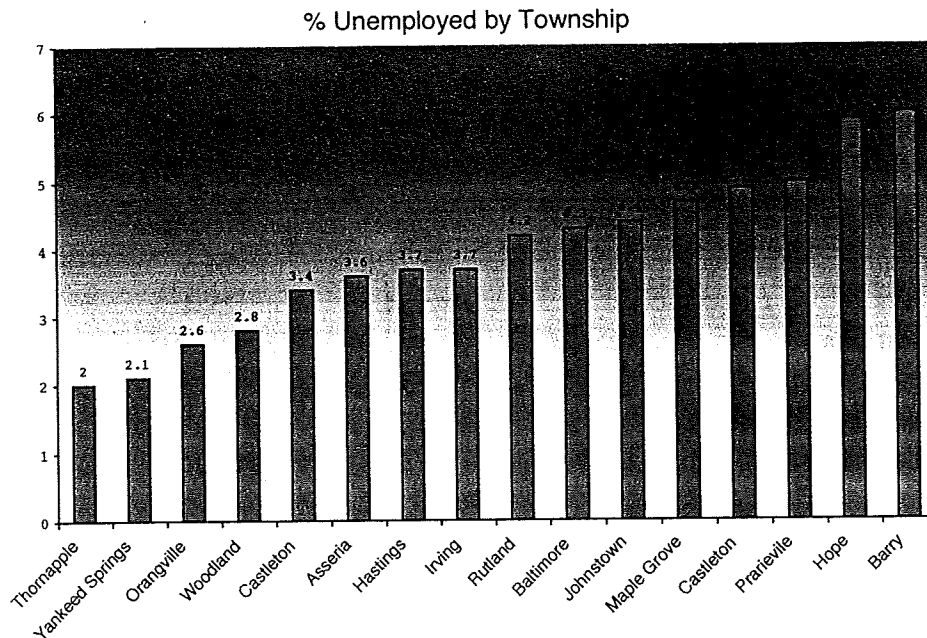


Barry County

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Between 1998 and 2000 the unemployment rate remained below 1.6%. The .5% increase in 2001 reflects the general economic downturn experienced by the Nation as a whole. The Township's unemployment rate (2.1%) is significantly lower than the County's mean rate of 3.9% in 2001. The Township's unemployment rate is also significantly lower than State and National rates. Neighboring Thornapple and Orangeville Townships have low unemployment rates, whereas neighboring Irving, Rutland and Hope Townships have unemployment rates above the county mean.

There is proximity to a major interstate and high quality of life in the Township, thus it is safe to assume that magnitude and diversity of economic sectors within commuting distance will keep unemployment rate low. This stability reduces risk in making recreation economic planning decisions.



Yankee Spings Unemployment Trend

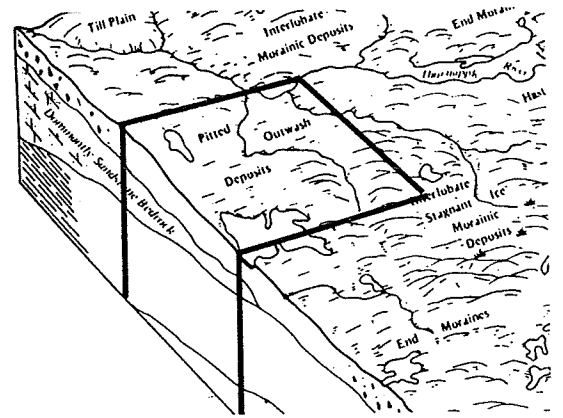
RACE AND ETHNICITY

	Number	Percent
White	4,165	98.7
Black or African American	20	0.5
American Indian and Alaska Native	45	1.1
Asian	15	0.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0.0
Some other race	32	0.8
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	66	1.6
Mexican	44	1.0
Puerto Rican	6	0.1
Cuban	3	0.1
Other Hispanic or Latino	13	0.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	4,153	98.4
White alone	4,072	96.5

Race and ethnic profiles of Yankee Springs Township indicate that 96.5% of residents are white. The remainder of the population is made up of Black or African American and Asian persons, persons of other races and persons of two or more races. Of the total population, 1.6% of persons are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

TOPOGRAPHY

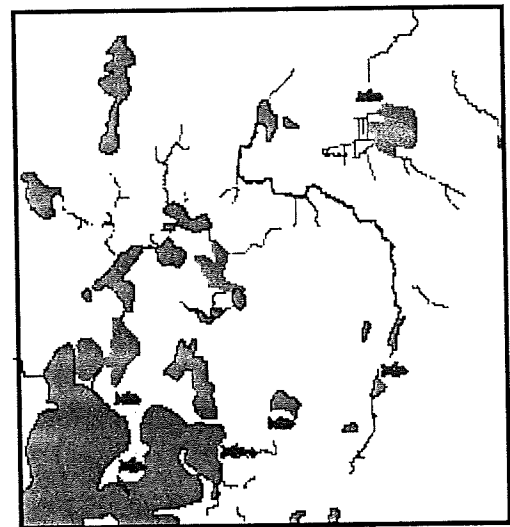
This region of the County consists of kettle moraine topography. Terminal moraines create ridges that represent the highest elevation in the County. Erosional-depositional process have produced dissected stream valleys and flat wetlands. The area has an abundance of kettle lakes as well as perched dry kettles. The variation on topography present potential for trail development (See Map 2).



Map 2: Topography

WATER RESOURCES FISH & WILDLIFE

The major water body is Gun Lake at 2660 acres. Gun Lake is managed by the DNR as Walleye fishery. Deep and Barlow Lakes and Stewart and Glass Creeks are managed for trout fisheries. The Barry State Game Area manages deer, grouse, pheasant and turkey habitats, as well as those for threatened and endangered species. Whereas there are abundant hunting and fishing opportunities, there is little developed access for wildlife observation. (See Map 3) Higher resolution maps of hydrology and topography are in Appendix 3. There is only one public swimming beach which is in the State Recreation Area. There are, however, many public access sites for boating and fishing.

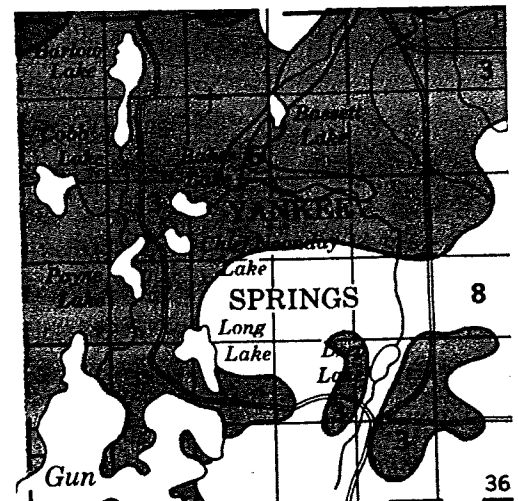


Map 3: Hydrology

SOILS AND VEGETATION

Two thirds of the Township is well to excessively drained, level to sloping and is of sandy texture. The remainder is moderate to excessively well drained and steep. Mixed hardwoods dominate with conifer groves interspersed. The vegetative diversity is represented by several types of wetlands as well as oak savanna openings and old field systems. This diversity creates a variety of ecotones thus enriching wildlife habitat. This area is suitable for a variety of outdoor recreational developments especially in the area of natural history interpretation. Since the State Game Area is managed primarily for target species there are few watchable wildlife opportunities.

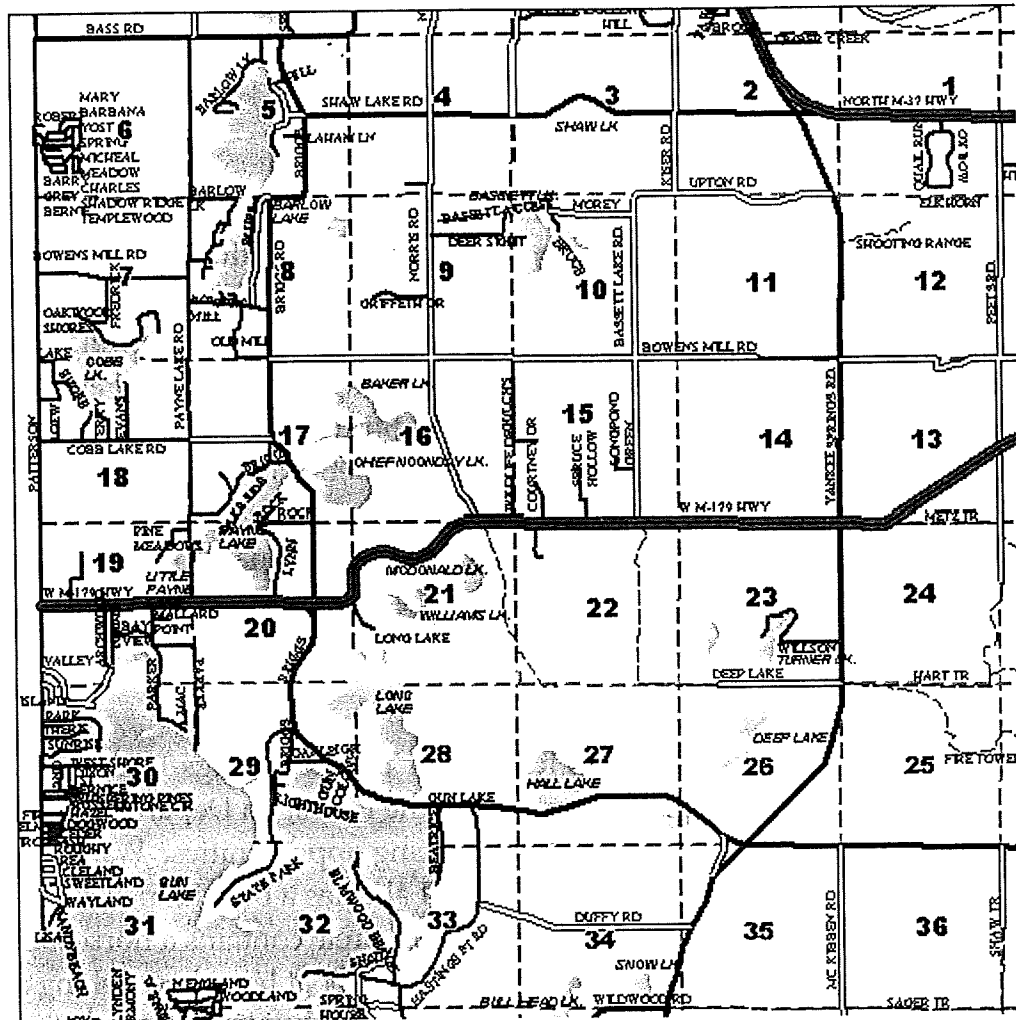
Moderate to excessively well drained & steep: 8
Well to excessively drained, level to sloping & sandy: 3



Map 4: Soils

TRANSPORTATION

About half of the township's roads are paved while the remainder are gravel. The DNR manages several two track roads to access lake and hunting areas. Barry County Transit is the only public transportation available. I-94 lies close to the Townships western boundary that carries heavy traffic between Grand rapids and Kalamazoo. The natural beauty, moderate land prices and the easy commute to these cities has resulted in population and housing growth. This residential growth indicated a need for more parks and sports facilities. The North Country Trail crosses the Township from South to North which at this point has little use.



CLIMATE

The area is warm and humid in the summer and moderately cold in the winter. Average annual temperatures range from 48° - 50° F. Snowfall is a 52 inches annually, and is unevenly distributed. This region of the County receives lake effect snow creating winter sport opportunities in the public land therein. The "lake effect" moderates temperature extremes and enhances precipitation. There are a mean 147 days below freezing, and eight days below zero. Mean January high is thirty and low of 16 degrees respectively. Mean July high is 84 and low of 60 degrees respectively.

APPENDIX 1: PLAN PARTICIPANTS

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

AL McCRUMB: SUPERVISOR
JANICE LIPPERT: CLERK
JOHN JERKATIS: TREASURER
MARRY COOK: TRUSTEE
R.JACK FINKBEINER: TRUSTEE

RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

RAY PAGE: CHAIR
ARDITH WORSHUM
CLARE TRIPP
GEORGE LONDON
AL McCRUMB
BRYAN AND CATHY DRAKE
NANCY NEAR
MIKE VARANO
BONNIE SLAYTON
ROBERT HERREMA

TOWNSHIP HALL

284 BRIGGS ROAD, MIDDLEVILLE MI 49058
616 795 9091

MEETINGS: 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH: 7:30 P.M.

APPENDIX 2: TOWNSHIP BUDGET

APPENDIX 1: PLAN PARTICIPANTS

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

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TOWNSHIP HALL

284 BRIGGS ROAD, MIDDLEVILLE MI 49058
616 795 9091
MEETINGS: 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH: 7:30 P.M.

APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INPUT ELEMENTS

APPENDIX 4: INVENTORY, MAPS, PHOTOS & SURVEY

The Yankee Springs Township Community Park is currently undeveloped. All facilities will be built in compliance with barrier free laws and regulations (Appendix 4). Plans to address accessibility issues in current and future facilities are included in the Action Plan and Capital Improvement Schedule of the Parks and Recreation Plan.

ACTION PLAN

The Township of Yankee Springs has identified specific projects based on community input and recreation inventory that will enhance the recreational opportunities for the residents of Yankee Springs Township. These projects are listed below.

- 1. Upgrade entrance and parking Yankee Springs Community Park.** The entry way and parking area conditions are poor, making it difficult for persons with disabilities or families with small children to easily enter the park. A sign is needed to identify the new facility.
- 2. Create and upgrade walking path.** The construction of a new path would encourage park use by the older segment of the Yankee Springs Township population as well as persons with mobility limitations.
- 3. Install two baseball fields and upgrade.** There are no public baseball facilities in the Township.
- 4. Purchase portable bleachers for baseball fields.** Accessible spectator seating.
- 5. Install fencing along road, in front of players and for baseball field separation.** The Park is adjacent to an established residential area and the construction of the fence will provide privacy to nearby residents and prevent park use by motorized vehicles. The project would also provide protective fencing for players and spectators.
- 6. Install playground equipment and mulch.** This would encourage more use of the park by children of various age groups. The playground would compliment organized sports activities by serving nonparticipant party members.
- 7. Install basketball courts and upgrade.** There are currently no basketball courts available in Yankee Springs Township. This project would construct two medium sized (90 ft. X 60 ft.) courts for public use.
- 8. Install sand volleyball court.** There are currently two volleyball courts in Yankee Springs Township and only one is public.
- 9. Construct tennis court.** There are no public tennis courts in the Township



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

October 3, 2002

Mr. Al McCrumb, Supervisor
Yankee Springs Township
284 Briggs Road N.
Middleville, MI 49333-9762

Nov 6th

Dear Mr. McCrumb:

SUBJECT: Yankee Springs Township Parks and Recreation Plan

Please find attached your copy of the recreation plan checklist you recently submitted to our office for approval. Your recreation plan has been approved.

Your five-year recreation plan will expire September 17, 2007.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My address is:

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925

Sincerely,

Amy J. S. Elwert

Amy J. S. Elwert, Grant Coordinator
Grants Administration Division
Finance and Operations Services Bureau
517-241-3070

AJSE:lh
Attachment

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

Plans must be adopted by the governing body (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the Plan must also include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

All plans must be submitted by the local government to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information and documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Indicate that all of the required documents are included in the application (with a "✓") and the date of these documents:

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION	Enclosed with Plan	N.A.
Official Resolution of adoption by governing body dated: <u>9-17-02</u>	✓	
Official resolution of the _____ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the amendment by the governing body, dated: _____	✓	
1. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to <u>County</u> Planning Agency dated: <u>8/22/02</u>	✓	
2. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to <u>Regional</u> Planning Agency dated: <u>8/22/02</u>	✓	

* For areawide plans, resolutions are required for each community. Prepare and attach a separate page certifying that resolutions are included for each local unit of government.

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the content of the recreation plan for Yankee Springs Township includes the required contents, as indicated above, and as set forth by the Department of Natural Resources and that the recreation plan was adopted by resolution of the governing body on 9-17-02

(Date)

Alex M. Crumb - Supervisor
 Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

09-18-02
 Date

* For areawide plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page.

Completed checklist must be, signed and submitted with a locally-adopted community recreation plan to:

GRANTS MANAGEMENT SECTION
 FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 PO BOX 30425
 LANSING MI 48909-7925

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES APPROVAL

I certify solely on the certifications provided above, the recreation plan for Yankee Springs Township is approved by the Department of Natural Resources and the named community is eligible to apply for Recreation Grants

(Date)

Amy J.S. Elwert
 Grants Management Section, Financial Services Division

October 3, 2002
 Date