

Introduction

Purpose

The preparation of a Master Plan is a process that is being undertaken by Marilla Township in order to properly identify resident's needs, prepare accurate data, shape goals and objectives and formulate a Future Land Use Plan policy to be undertaken by the Township. The completion of a soundly accurate Master Plan provides the policy driven authority to institute and enforce zoning regulations that are based upon the information within the plan.

Legal Authority to Plan

This Master Plan for Marilla Township, Manistee County, Michigan is being drafted and adopted pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008, P.A. 33 of 2008, as amended M.C.L. 125.3801 et seq.

Township Location and Description

Marilla Township is located in the northeast corner of Manistee County. Its easternmost border is the county line between Manistee and Wexford Counties. Benzie County lies six miles to the north of Marilla Township, above Cleon Township. On the west border of Marilla Township is Maple Grove Township, and to the south, Dickson Township.

Marilla Township is almost exclusively rural and is considered to be within the Kaleva Hinterland within Manistee County. Only a portion of the township is within the City of Manistee's area of secondary economic influence. That portion may be described as the southerly and westerly line drawn diagonally across the township from the northwest corner to the southeast corner of the township.

Chapter 1: Township History

An early 1866 description of the area that became Marilla Township noted dense forests of maple, beech, hemlock and pine filled with "birds and beasts". C. Churchill from the Empire State arrived there in June and found rich soil, numerous springs, streams and dense solitude. The Churchills built a log cabin in this dense forest and were soon joined by other northern pioneers. These early dwellers had to be persevering and energetic. Cows had to be content with twigs and moss in the

manger at night and there were “dark days of disease and misfortune”. Most provisions had to be walked in from logging camps in the nearby forest. As time passed, more land was cleared, fields were cultivated, and more prosperous times came.

Originally, Marilla was part of an expanded Brown Township. In 1870, Marilla petitioned for township status. This petition, presented by James Winters, asked that “Town 23 North of Range 13 West...be detached and organized into a new township”. When he asked a county official to draw up the township organizational papers, the county official agreed to do this on the condition that the township be named after his daughter, Marilla. The Manistee County Board of Supervisors accepted the petition on January 4, 1870.

A state study in 1870 showed Marilla with only nine farmers, 15 laborers, two carpenters and one sailor. These first township citizens ranged in age from 19 to 65, with the majority in their 30’s and 40’s. By 1873 a post office had been established and it remained open until 1932. George Brimmer was its longtime postmaster. Leander Hall initiated the organization of the township in order to organize a school. In the next four years, four school districts were established. They were named Clark, Evens, Gilson and Marilla schools. The Marilla Township Cemetery was established on Erwin Road early on and is still used today.

Marilla Township’s history is one of a pioneering community integrated into the northern Michigan booming lumber industry. Michigan led the nation in lumber production from 1870 to 1900. Close proximity to the Manistee River made Marilla an attractive place to the early lumber barons. Growth was rapid during the beginning of this frenzied deforestation period of Michigan’s lumbering orgy (1870 to 1900). As early as 1882, Marilla was becoming strong agriculturally. Marilla had proved to have some fairly heavy loam soil and some generally good farmland. According to the Michigan census dated June 1, 1904, Marilla farmers were becoming significant producers in several areas of the county’s crops. At that time, there were 76 farmers in Marilla with an average farm size of 112 acres. Around that time (1903), there was no state or national forest land in Marilla. Much of that land was owned by lumbering companies and land speculators.

As the logging era came to an end, a group targeted to move north when the lumber industry was declining and farming was being promoted, was the Church of the Brethren community in northern Indiana. In 1902, Hezekiah Grossnickle, who had been a successful farmer in Indiana, moved his family and belongings from Indiana to Brethren in a railroad boxcar along with other Brethren families. Some returned to Indiana, some remained in Brethren, but the Grossnickles chose a different path. Hezekiah moved his family to Marilla Township in search of better farming prospects. The family eventually owned 240 acres in Section 27 of Marilla Township. In 1919 E. Judson Ulery, Hezekiah Grossnickle and other Church of the

Brethren congregants purchased the existing Baptist Church built in 1896. The Marilla Church of the Brethren is still active today.

Eventually much of the logged over area of the township became part of the Manistee National Forest and at some point, the Marilla Trailhead of the North Country Trail was established and is a popular place for hiking because of its location on the high bluffs above the Manistee River.

In 1919, there was a post office, a blacksmith shop and three general stores located along Marilla Road about ¼ mile north of present day Nine Mile Road. The three general stores were named Brimmer's, Stark's and Danville's. The Brimmer store served as a post office as well as offering general merchandise. At some point, there was a pickle receiving station located along the railroad tracks. Today a pickle receiving station still exists at the Howes farm on Marilla Road. The river branch of the Manistee & Northeastern Railroad ran through Marilla from east to west. The railroad made the isolated community of Marilla more accessible to the outside world and the outside world more accessible to Marilla folks. When the lumbering industry collapsed, the railroad also left and only one store remained after 1930. The Brimmer Store later became Jack and Adeline McDonald's Oshkosh "Jack's Store". It operated well into the 1990's before its owner, Adeline McDonald, retired.

The northwest corner of Marilla Township could be referred to as "Old Marilla" because our earliest settlers first homesteaded there. Benjamin Yates carved out a homestead there and eventually the area became known as "Yates Corners". It bordered on Lemon Lake to the west, an area which eventually included a logging camp, a railroad depot, blacksmith, and post office. "Yates Corners" eventually included a general store/post office, a Women's Christian Temperance Union Chapel, a "Modern Woodsmen Hall", and the "Royal Neighbors of America" met there as well.

In the early days of Marilla Township, the first school established was constructed of logs and its first teacher was Miss Jennie Pope. Early settlers relate that boys were asked to crawl under the floor of the school to retrieve the slate pencils that had fallen through the cracks in the roughly hewn plank floorboards. Thereafter when milled lumber was available, four "handsome" one room schools were built to accommodate a growing number of students. They were located in the corners of Marilla Township in such a way that each school could be within a reasonable walking distance. They were Evens School near Yates Corners or "Old Marilla" in the northwest, Gilson School in the southwest region, Clark School in the northeast area, and Marilla in the southeastern part. These schools served Marilla's students until the new consolidated school, the new Marilla Standard School, was completed in 1922. Due to changing needs, this school closed in the late 1940's. The students then attended Kaleva, Mesick, and Copemish Schools. Of the four

schools, all closed except Clark School which remained independent for several years before closing and the students then attended Mesick School. The Marilla Standard School now serves as the Township Hall with multiple uses: government center, community center, and a local museum called "Marilla Museum & Pioneer Place" consisting of a main museum in the lower level of the building, an 1870's hand hewn log home, the Nels Johnson Cabin, and the 1900 Pioneer Barn. The old school has served the community in many capacities over the years. Among the uses were a senior center and a meal site for "Meals on Wheels", a food pantry, a meeting place for: TOPS weight loss group, "Friends of Marilla" a service group, a knitting group, computer assistance, and a place to walk inside in the winter months.

Farming in our rural community has changed over the years. In the early years, people settled in Marilla Township mainly because they wanted to farm the land. Logging and farming existed side by side. There were many farmers, and the land was highly cultivated. The population reached a high of 379 in 1940. This trend continued through the 1950's. Then a shift began to happen. Fewer people farmed and our children didn't stay in the community. New retirees from "downstate" moved in and only a handful of farmers were actively farming. Marilla Township became a retirement community, and the children became fewer and fewer following the 1980's. Beginning about 2012, another shift happened. Two corporate farms purchased or leased large tracts of land and now the amount of land under cultivation is again growing rapidly. Additionally, slowly families started moving in and doing small scale farming so that the number of children began growing.

Some other commercial enterprises have developed through the years including: Cilman's Feed Store, Flaughers' Bakery, Howes' farm markets, Howes Pickle Station, Smith's and Usher's farm meat sales, maple syrup sales, bee keeping, and Ashcraft's Irrigation Service. Job opportunities are few in Marilla, so it has become a place to live while working someplace else. Marilla remains a peaceful, pleasant rural atmosphere of hills, valleys, and some flat tableland. Snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, boating, and swimming in the nearby "Mighty Manistee", use of ATVs, and hiking the Marilla Trailhead of the North Country Trail system remain popular recreational pursuits for residents and visitors.

Chapter 2: Natural Resources

2-1 Glacial Features

Marilla Township has four separate areas of glacial features, being one of the most varied townships in the county in this regard. By far the largest glacial feature is the network of hills known as the “Marilla Hills” extending north and south through the central portion of the township. These hills are known geologically as “marginal moraines” which are deposits created by water running off the edge of a stationary glacier. These hills contain the highest spot in Manistee County at about 1200 feet above sea level. The moraine soil type will normally support hardwood and pine forests.

The second type of glacial feature, known as an “esker”, is found on the northern border of the township in the northwest corner. An esker is formed by a flowing river on a glacier. When the glacier melts, the deposits and sediments formed by the flowing river leave a long narrow snake-like hill on the ground. This is a rather rare geological formation as many of them in the state have been removed or destroyed by gravel extraction. As this suggests, eskers are a good source of gravel.

The extreme western portion of the township is glacial “outwash plain” and is part of the larger flat area which runs north and south through the eastern central portion of Manistee County. An outwash plain is formed by water moving away from the glacier as it melts, depositing sand and silt in large flat expanses. The Manistee County outwash plains are characterized by the presence of wet- lands and poorly drained soils. Unfortunately, the soils associated with the out wash plain are relatively infertile and unsuitable for farming.

The fourth glacial feature in Marilla Township is a “lacustrine plain” located in the extreme southeastern portion of the township. This is basically a glacial lake bottom with irregular water tables and infertile soil, which is unsuited for farming.

2-2 Surface Water and Drainage Systems

Marilla Township has seven watersheds located within its boundaries. Four of them, the Bear Creek above Glovers, Bear Creek below Lemon Creek, Bear Creek at Manistee River and Bear Creek below Little Beaver Creek are portions of the larger Bear Creek Watershed. The other three watersheds are associated with the Big Manistee River and consist of the Manistee River at Hodenpyl Pond, the Manistee River below Sands Creek, and the Big Manistee watershed below Slagle Creek.

The largest area of wetlands in the township is located in the northwestern portion of the township and is associated with the Lemon Creek watershed. This lies within the glacial outwash plain and is, accordingly, particularly susceptible to pollution. Other smaller areas of wetlands are located in the southeastern portion of the township and border on the Big Manistee River, below Hodenpyl Dam, just north of the southern township boundary, and the Hodenpyl Dam Pond which meanders across the Wexford County line into the extreme eastern/central portion of the township. Another smaller area of wetlands exists in the northwest corner of Section 23 of the township.

The only area of surface water other than the Manistee River and the feeder streams of Big Bear Creek associated with the wetlands described above is the Hodenpyl Dam pond. This pond, only a portion of which is in Marilla Township, is a reservoir behind the Hodenpyl Dam, a hydroelectric project of Consumers Energy in western Wexford County.

While no area of Marilla Township is classified as a flood hazard zone qualifying for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, the area downstream of Hodenpyl Dam has flood emergency contingency plans in event of dam failure. Watersheds and surface water features can be found on the Environmental Inventory Map on page 11.

2-3 Mineral Resources

Of the varied mineral resources in Manistee County, only two are important to Marilla Township and these only marginally. A series of underground reefs has been the major area of oil and gas activity in Manistee County, with the majority of the activity to the west and north of Marilla Township.

The other mineral resource in Marilla Township has historically been gravel, extracted from areas in Section 20 of the township. Further gravel production could pose a threat to the glacial esker in the township, as this type of formation is usually rich in gravel.

2-4 Slope of the Land

Because of Marilla Township's varied glacial features, several large portions of the township are moderate in slope (10% to 25%) and a few areas have extreme slope (25% or more). The major areas with a moderate slope run north and south through Sections 5, 8, and the northern part of Section 17 of the township; diagonally from the north/central section of Section 9 through the southeast portion of Section 4, and diagonally in a northeasterly direction through Section 3; east and west through Sections 29 and 30 and then southerly through Section 32 and easterly through Section 33 and into the southern portion of Section 34. Other areas of

moderate slope exist in the southern portion of the eastern half of Section 11 and Section 12 through the southern and central portions of Sections 13 and 14 and in certain areas in the central portion of Section 26 and the northwestern portion of Section 35.

Areas of extreme slope are associated with the esker in Section 4 of the township, in a valley ridge which runs more or less parallel to the west of the Manistee River and in scattered portions of Sections 29, 30 and 35. These areas of moderate and extreme slope may pose limitations for high density residential development, due to problems with erosion and the installation of septic tank absorption fields which is made more difficult. The 50' contour lines display topography changes and are displayed on the Environmental Inventory Map on page 11.

2-5 Hydric Soils

There are numerous areas within Marilla Township which have soils with high moisture content. The largest areas are associated with the wetlands described earlier. There are also several small areas scattered throughout the township and as indicated on the map on page 2-6, which are listed by the United States Soil Conservation Services' land resource inventory as having high moisture content. These areas pose particular problems with septic tanks, pollution of ground and surface water, and are considered to have poor load supporting ability. Hence, residential or urban-type development is limited in these areas. Locations of hydric soils can be found on page 13.

2-6 Soils with Limited Ability to Handle Wastes or Industrial Development

The areas within Marilla Township which have soils with limited ability to handle wastes or industrial development are defined geographically in terms of a combination of those areas previously described as having a high moisture content and limited ability to handle septic and drain fields and that portion of Marilla Township within the glacial outwash plain. Because of the nature of the soil in these areas, intensive residential development with individual septic systems and industrial uses with large volumes of volatile waste products should be avoided. Locations of soil types can be found on the Soils Map on page 15.

2-7 Unique Agricultural Lands

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service defines two types of farmlands: prime farmland and unique farmland. Manistee County does not have either of these types of farmlands but has several areas of farmland within its borders which are unique to Manistee County and are considered by the county to be locally significant or essential. Marilla Township has a large area of locally significant farmland in its

central sections and to a lesser extent in the northeastern portion of the town- ship. The unique farmland in Marilla Township is based upon factors such as good soil (loamy and clay) associated with the glacial moraine and certain areas in the outwash plain, generally sufficient height around sea level to escape frost or less expensive, i.e. close to the surface, irrigation water to fight frost and the potential or existence of irrigation on the land. The areas classified as locally significant farmland are not necessarily presently held in active farm production and their identification is not meant to imply that active or potential farming may not occur in other areas within the township. Locations of locally essential farmland soils can be found on page 15.

2-8 Definitions of Soil Types from the Manistee County Third Level Soil Association Report:

The following soil types are taken from the Third Level Generalized Soil Association map data. The Soil Code displayed below can be found on the Soils Map on page 15. This information can be used to identify different soil types, and the locations in which they are found.

B-1: Rubicon Soils-Somewhat excessively drained sandy soils. (2,545 acres or 11%)

B-2: Rubicon Soils with features near or below 3-4 feet that result in higher productivity and dominant tree species different from a typical Rubicon- Somewhat excessively to well drained soils. (1,045 acres or 4.6%)

C-2: Emmet, McBride, Menominee, Newaygo and Ubyly Soils -Well to moderately well drained loamy soils. (98 acres or .4%)

C-3: Loamy soils such as Emmet and Menominee series in complex with sandy soils such as Blue Lake, East Lake, Kalkaska, Karlin, Leelanau, Mancelona and Montcalm- Complex of well drained loamy and sandy soils. (1,193 acres or 5.2%)

C-7: In untilled areas of soils like Kalkaska series but with weaker profile development (formerly identifiable as Seney series). In tilled areas these soils lack appearance and capacity- Well drained sandy soils weakly developed or degraded due to man's activity. (1,665 acres or 7.3%)

C-8: Dominantly Kalkaska and Montcalm Soils. Also, East Lake, Karlin and Mancelona Soils - Well drained and sandy soils with moderate Development. (13,917 acres or 61%)

D-2: Croswell Soils -Moderately well drained sandy soils. (276 acres or 1.2%)

E-1: Iosco and Kawkawlin Soils -Somewhat poorly drained soils (189 acres or .8%)

E-4: AuGres and Finch Soils – Somewhat poorly drained sandy soils (72 acres or .3%)

E-5: Loamy Soils such as Richter series. Sandy soils such as Gladwin, AuGres and Finch series- Complex of somewhat poorly drained loamy and moderately well drained soils (32 acres or .1%)

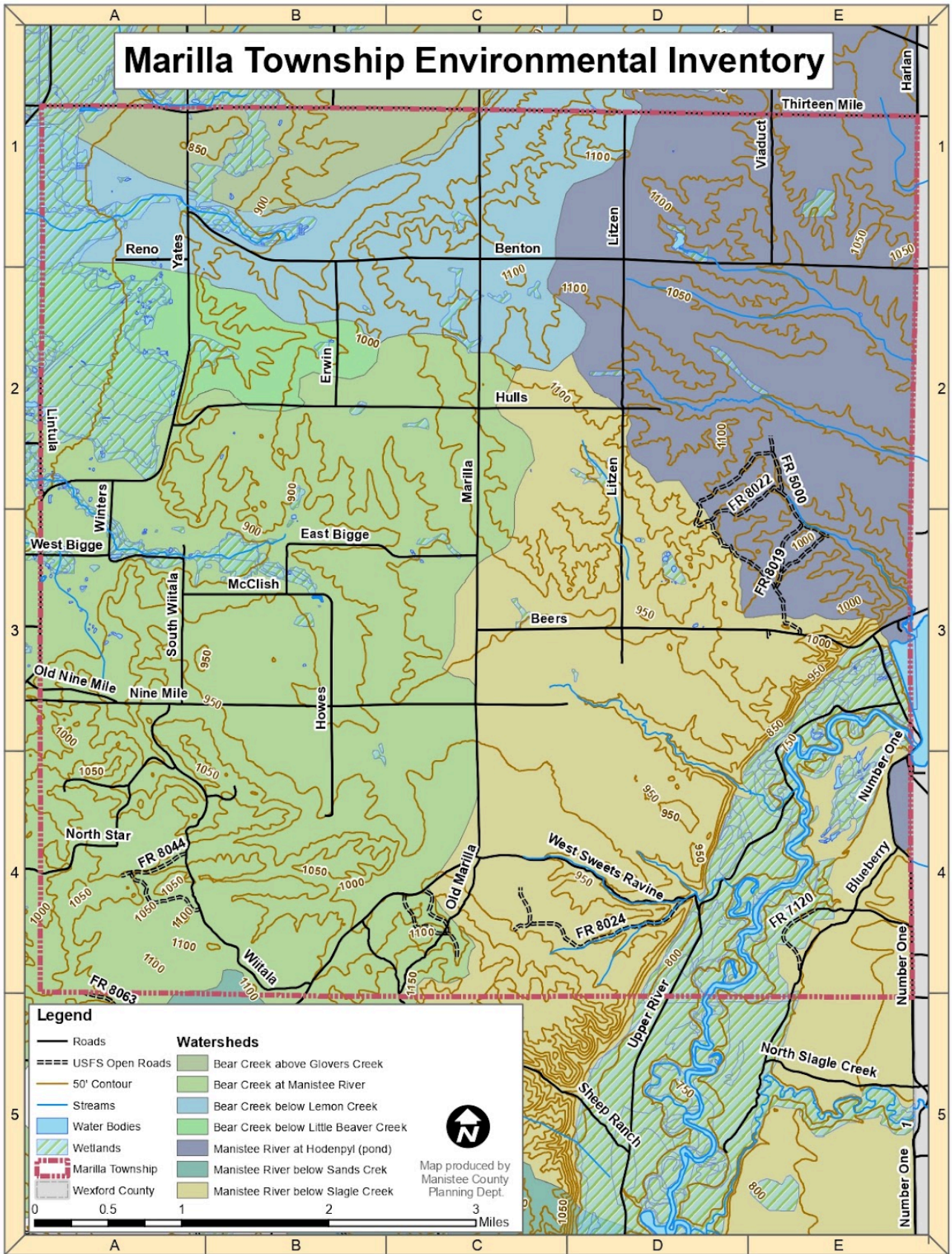
E-6: AuGres and Finch Soils in complex with moderately well drained Croswell Soils- Complex of somewhat poorly and moderately well drained sandy soils. (411 acres or 1.8%)

E-7: Somewhat poorly drained AuGres and Finch Soils in complex or association with poorly drained Roscommon Soils -Complex of somewhat poorly and poorly drained sandy soils (14 acres or .1%)

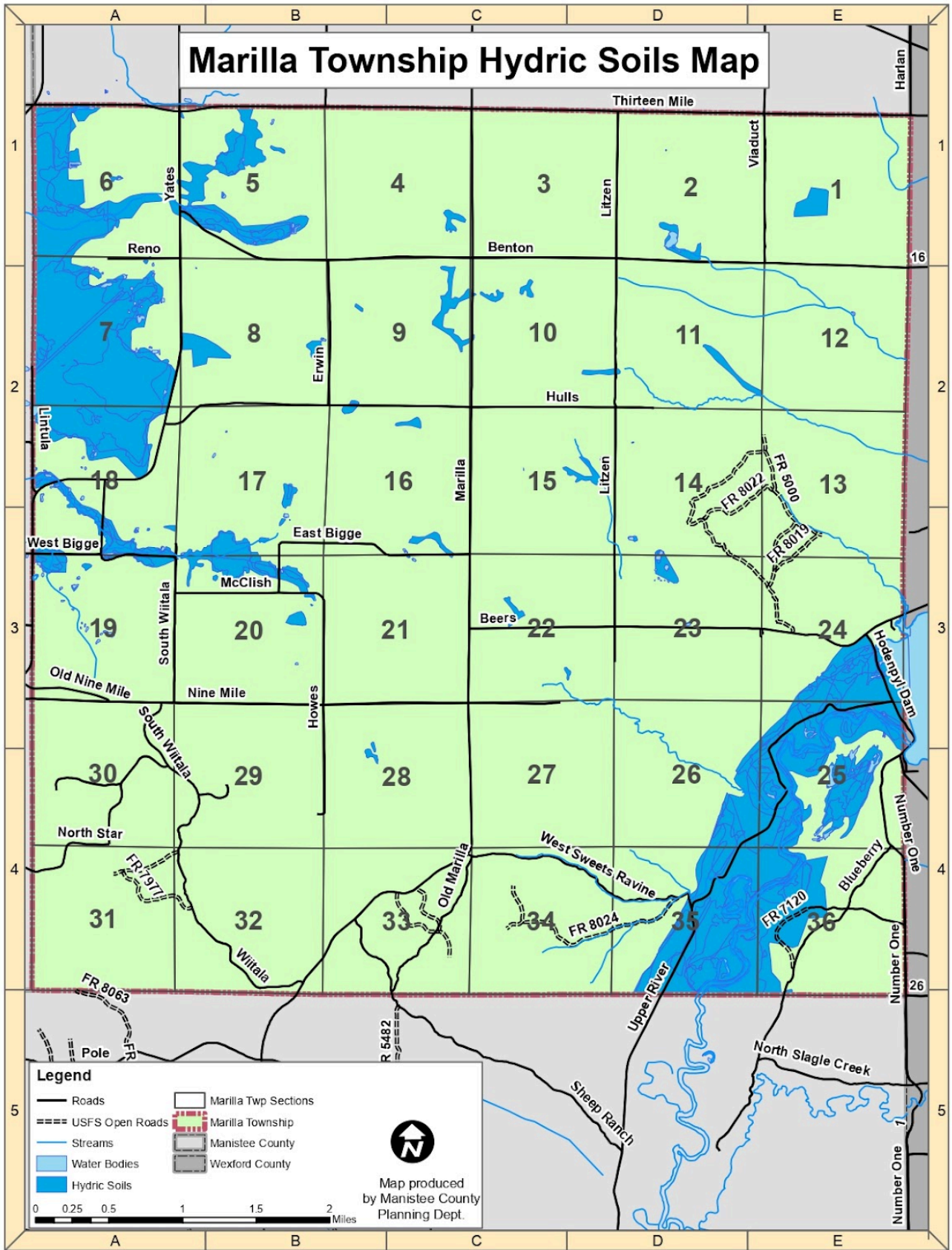
F-2: Clayey soils such as Bergland series. Loamy soils such as the Brevort and Ensley series. Sandy soils such as Roscommon- poorly drained mineral soils. (107 acres or .5%)

F-4: Dominantly sandy solids like Roscommon series and organic soils such as Tawas and Lupton. Also, clayey and loamy soils such as Bergland, Brevort and Ensley Series-Complex of poorly drained minerals and very poorly drained organic soils. (1,375 or 6%)

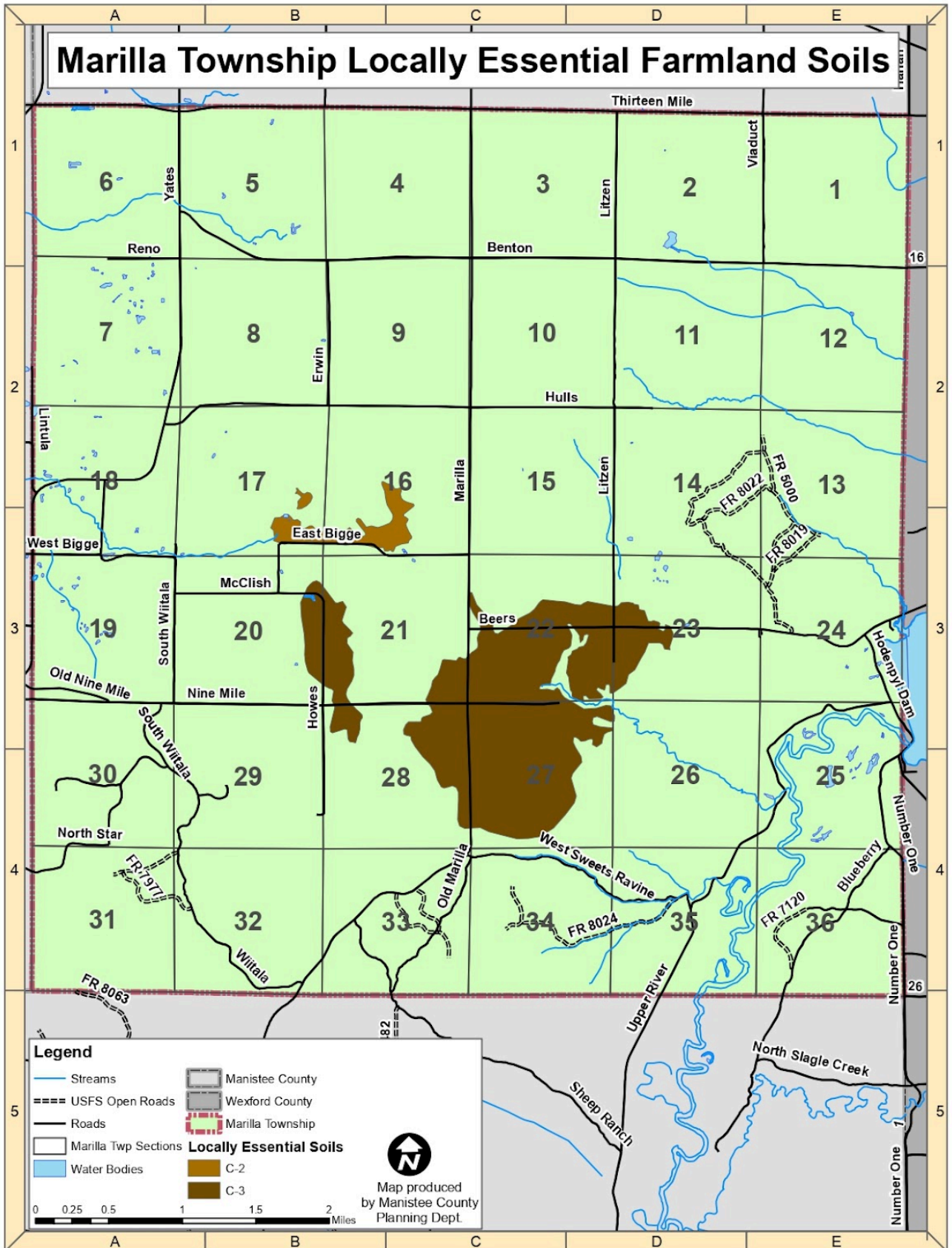
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Chapter 3: Current Land Use and Land Cover

3-1 Land Cover

The land cover in Marilla Township is predominantly undeveloped forest land and working agriculture land which helps give the township its character. In recent years more forest and agricultural acreage has been acquired for the construction of residences. A significant percentage of these new residential units are for seasonal or occasional use. The existing land cover is shown on the Land Cover Map on page 21. As can be seen from this map, nearly three-fourths of the land in the township is presently covered with forests or fields. Farming operations are spread throughout the central, northern and western portions of the township. Wetlands comprise the bulk of the remaining land in the township with small pockets of residential development existing around the Hodenpyl Dam and along Marilla, Nine Mile and Yates Roads. Except for the extreme southeast portion of the township, the density of living units per square mile is quite different from section to section. The highest density of living units is in the area of the Hodenpyl Dam in Section 24. Directly south and north of this area and encompassing a large portion of Sections 13, 25, 31, 35 and 36 there is a distinct lack of living units.

Within the Kaleva hinterland, of which Marilla Township is a part, there are a few manufacturing, retail and service businesses. By and large, these exist outside of Marilla Township. The smaller economic center is defined as a “hamlet”. Copemish, Kaleva and Brethren are the nearest hamlets to Marilla Township.

A large portion of the land area within the township is owned and controlled by the United States Forest Service. A full one-third of the township is within the purchase boundary of the Manistee National Forest. (A purchase boundary is the boundary within which the United States Forest Service will purchase or exchange land in accordance with its policies to expand and/or consolidate its land holdings.) Under the federal system of government, the township has no jurisdiction to regulate the uses or activities which are permitted on federally owned land. Likewise, the federal government does not regulate the use of privately held land, that task being left to the State and its political subdivisions. Nevertheless, each has some impact on the other which must be considered. In Marilla Township, the National Forest areas are regulated under a multiple use theory which permits timber and forestry operations, recreation and mineral extraction.

3-2 Land Use

Presently, the three primary land uses in Marilla Township include agricultural, residential and forestry. Though there is little commercial and industrial activity (outside of larger established farms) these current uses are also summarized within this chapter. While land use is restricted by zoning classifications in Marilla

Township, zoning classifications are not the same as tax or Parcel Assessment Classifications.

3-2.1 Agricultural

Agriculture was historically the predominant land use within Marilla Township. It is expected that Marilla Township will change from an agricultural community to a rural residential community with changes already taking place. In 1997 there were 97 parcels classified as agricultural. In 2004 that figure was 102, but in 2007 the number of parcels had dropped to 63, with a further decline to 56 parcels by 2017. While agricultural parcels have increased to 67 in 2022, it is believed that it is due to vacant agricultural lands now being active while residential is also growing. This is an approximate 19.6% increase in the number of parcels classified as agricultural for tax purposes from 2017 to 2022. In 2022 there were a total of 4,372 acres classified as agricultural, this was an increase from 4,336 acres measured in 2017. Assessment classifications have changed for many parcels, but this alone does not show that agricultural land is diminishing. Further data should be explored which can identify the amount of acreage of active farm operations. View the Parcel Assessment Classification Map on page 23 to identify the classification of agricultural parcels for assessment purposes.

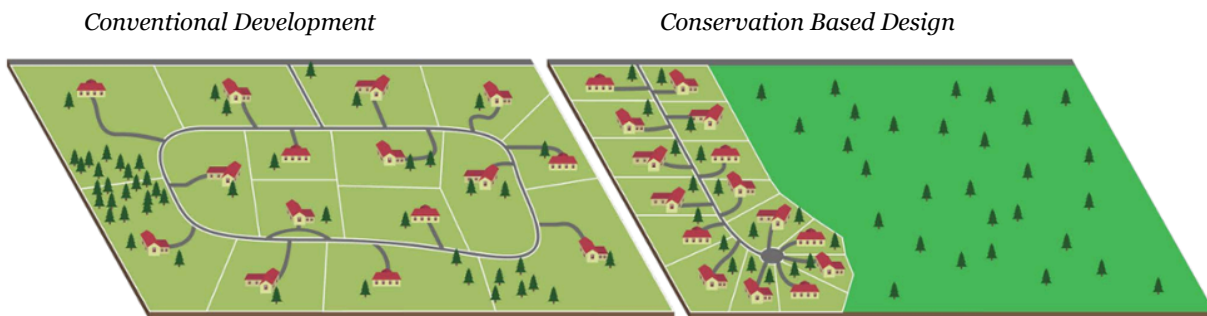
3-2.2 Residential

There are approximately 23,040 acres in Marilla Township. The largest classification, residential, has 431 parcels, totaling 12,108 acres in 2022. This was an increase from 400 parcels totaling 11,315 acres measured in 2017.

Residential property is the largest assessment classification in Marilla Township. This is expected to slowly rise based on previous trends. The township is mostly low density residential, with only a couple of smaller areas devoted to higher density residential uses. Township residents want to maintain and preserve the open spaces, with occasional homes located throughout the countryside. The residential land use shown on the Parcel Assessment Classification Map on page 23 displays that it is likely the largest land coverage assessment category within the Township next to agricultural uses. Residential structures are displayed on the Residential Housing Locations Map on page 25.

Current land uses pertaining to residential allowances through agricultural preservation style zoning have limited the availability for larger landowner families to provide buildable lots for their children. This issue should be addressed by creating allowances for the splitting of land into less than 40 acre lots, but still maintaining lower density such as through 10-acre minimums. This style of land division and zoning is not conducive to maintaining agricultural preservation but should be explored until a proper provision for conservation-based subdivisions can be placed

into the zoning ordinance. Conservation based design looks to regulatory measures that can be provided to include incentives for higher density developments in rural areas, where current zoning mandates a low density. Open space can be preserved by allowing a developer to increase density by shrinking minimum lot sizes, for example to 1 acre, within an area that requires 40-acre minimums, with the agreement that the developer provide at least 50% open space. The 50% open space should be mandated to be placed within permanent conservation easements. This will in turn ensure that at least half of the land area is then protected. This option is only applicable where septic systems will perc, and water is available for denser development. See the illustrations below.



The images above display a typical subdivision design on the left with a conservation-based design on the right. Through using conservation-based design, the lot sizes decrease while still maintaining the same number of lots, land area was preserved as open space and lots have an increased opportunity of scenic views with road frontage. This can be accomplished through a subdivision ordinance.

Seasonal/recreational residential growth is expected to be a major development trend in the foreseeable future due to the in-migration of retirees and those wishing to get away from large urban centers, as well as those wishing to take advantage of the township's forests and streams.

3-2.3 Public Lands/Forestry

State and Federal forestland may have a smaller number of parcels involved at 23, but the parcels are larger, totaling 6,586 acres or 28% of the township. This number has remained relatively constant in the last 20 years. Most of this land is located in the east and southern portions of the township. These areas are utilized for forestry, open space and recreation. They are identified as exempt lands on the Parcel Assessment Classification Map on page 25.

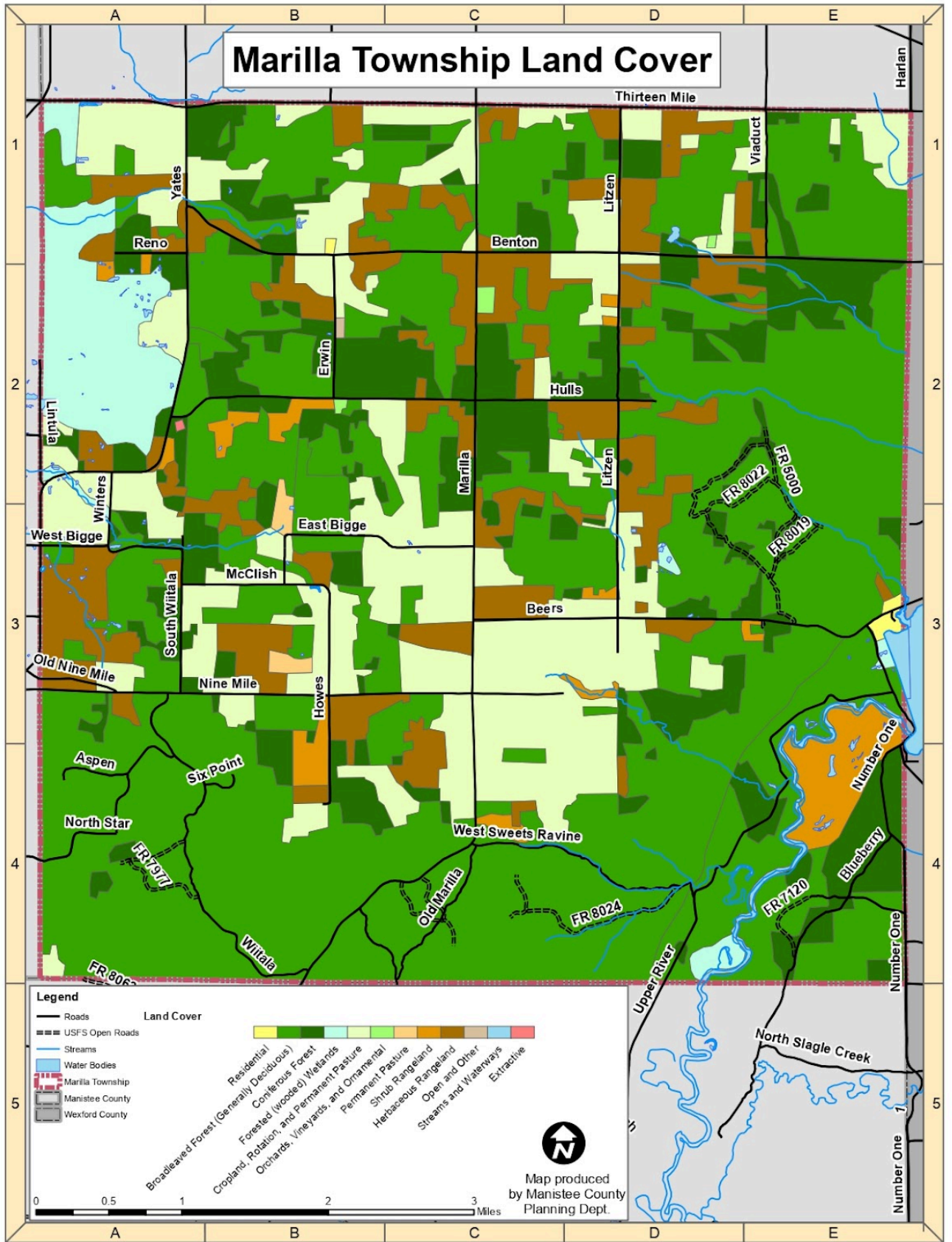
3-2.4 Commercial/Industrial

Commercial and/or industrial expansion in areas other than the production of hydroelectricity and forest enterprises is not expected to be a major development trend in Marilla Township in the foreseeable future. Tests conducted in the early 2000's through the use of an anemometer for determining and recording wind speeds and

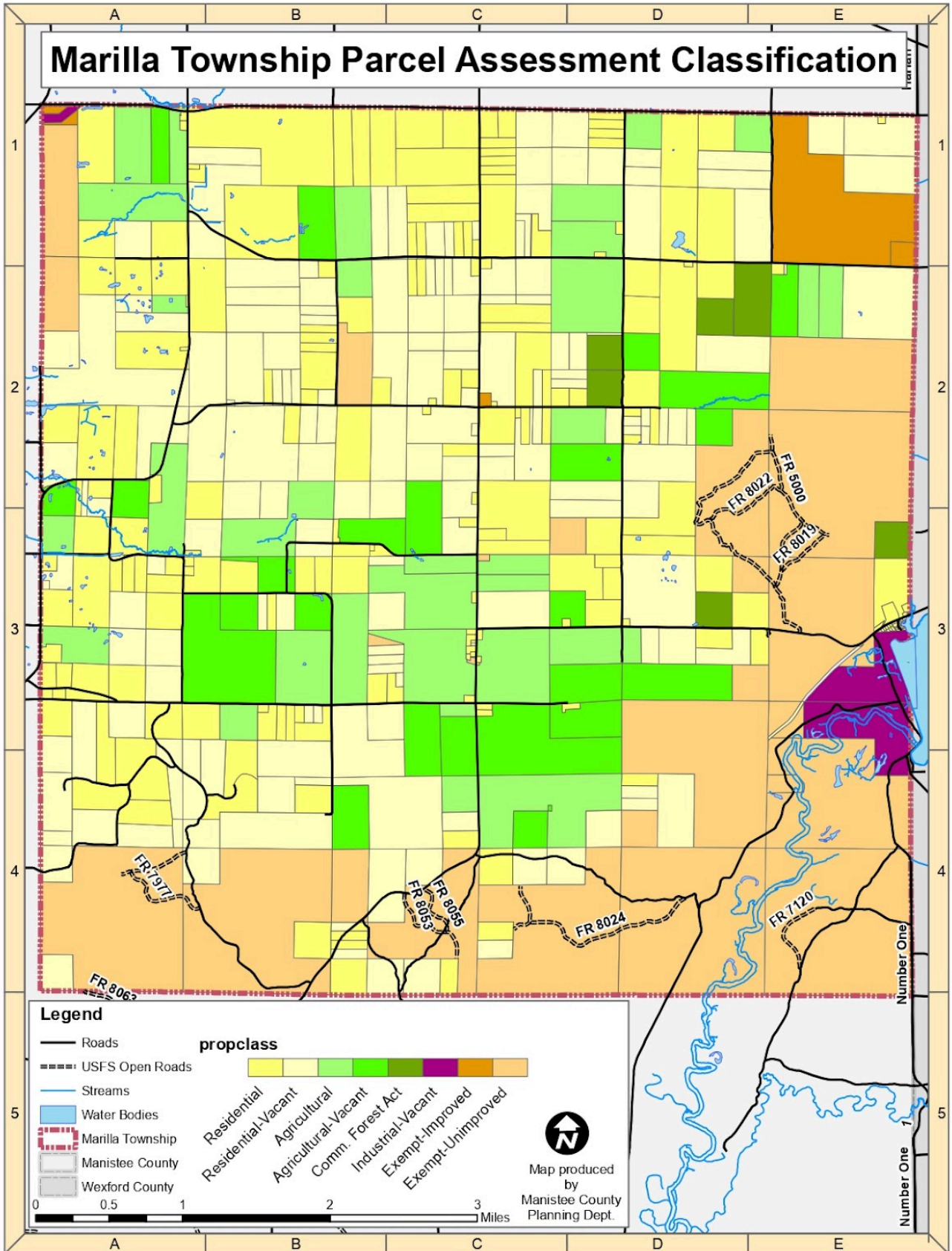
other data to identify the potential for wind turbines didn't produce significant results to show that the development of utility wind energy systems would be beneficial in Marilla Township. Without the proper conditions for the development of wind and solar energy it is likely that the expansion of industrial uses will not be a major factor in land use changes within the Township. It is important for the Township to monitor for utility companies wishing to conduct further tests or site turbines within Township boundaries. The development of wind and solar energy regulatory zoning provisions may be needed in the future, and at a minimum regulatory measures should be addressed for personal or residential style turbines and solar farms.

There are four parcels classified as industrial, all under ownership of Consumers Energy totaling 309 acres. The hydroelectric dam and accompanying support infrastructure occupies a little of the total acreage. The remainder is managed for recreational use by Consumers Energy.

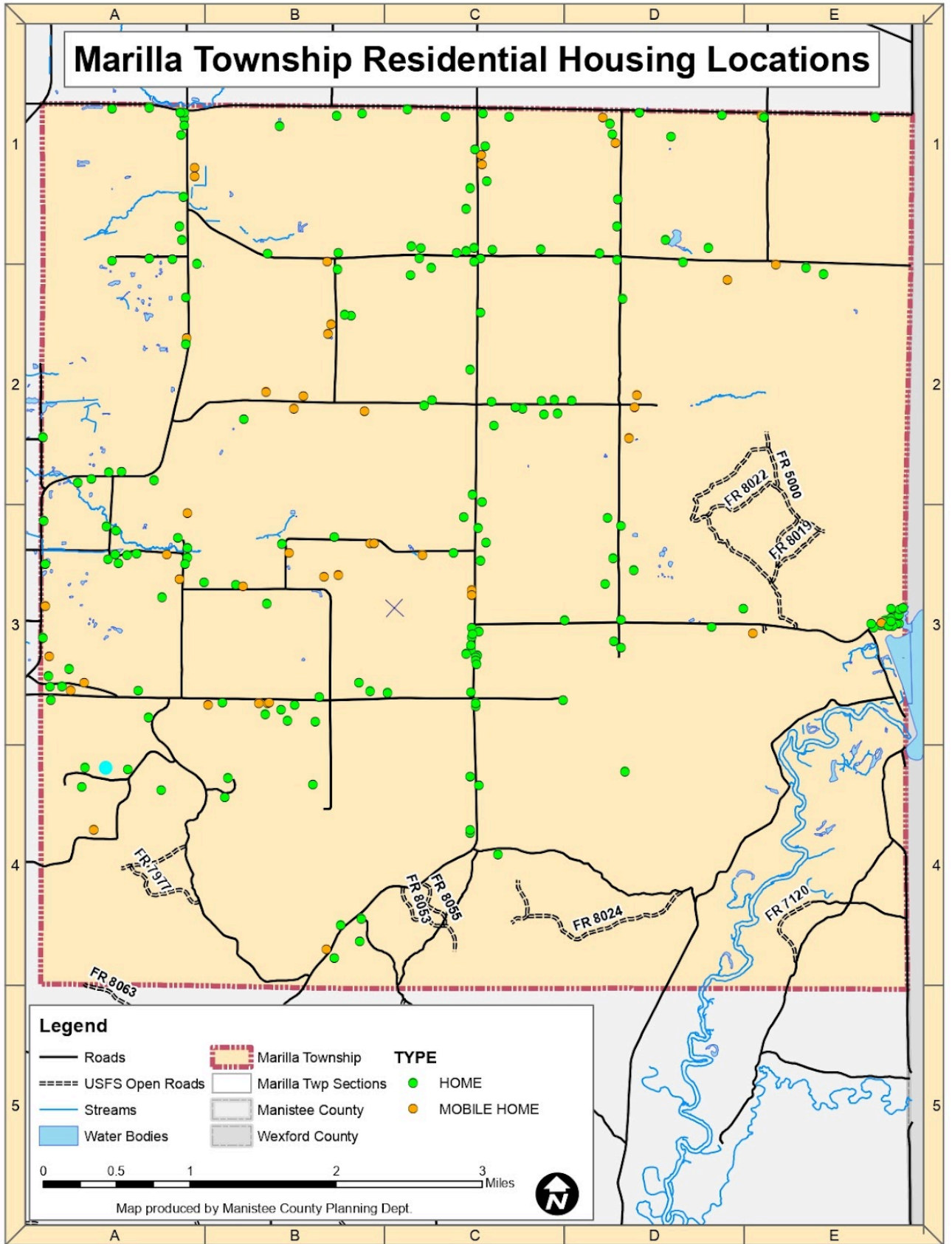
A commercial area could possibly develop along Marilla Road where there has been a commercial center in the past. It is not anticipated that this area will grow much larger in the near future. The township would like to provide commercial services for the needs of residents while not detracting from the beautiful view. To provide for this, regulatory allowances for commercial businesses should outline size standards for signs as well as the use of good quality building materials and appropriate lighting and landscaping. View the Parcel Assessment Classification Map on page 23 for the location of properties assessed as industrial and commercial.



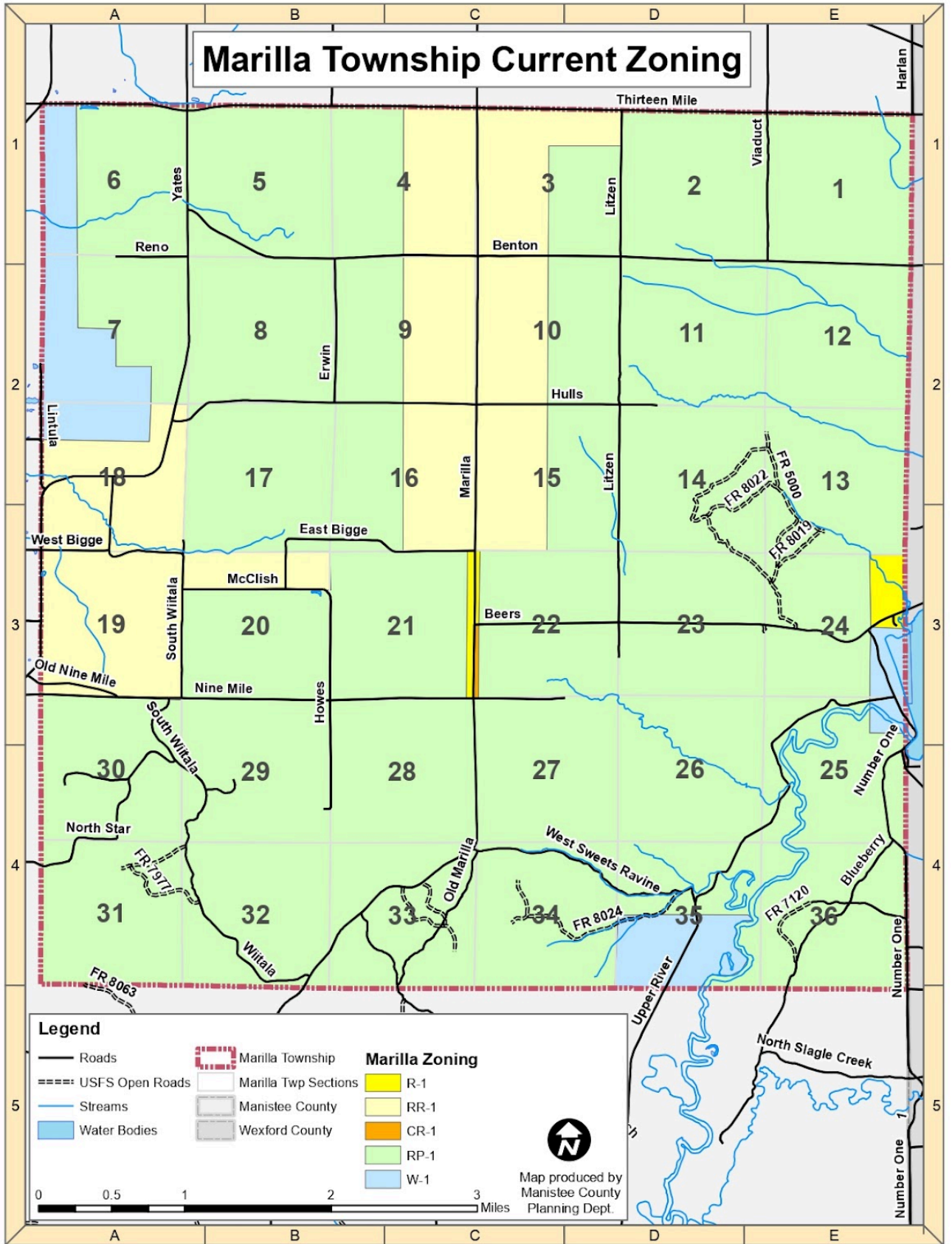
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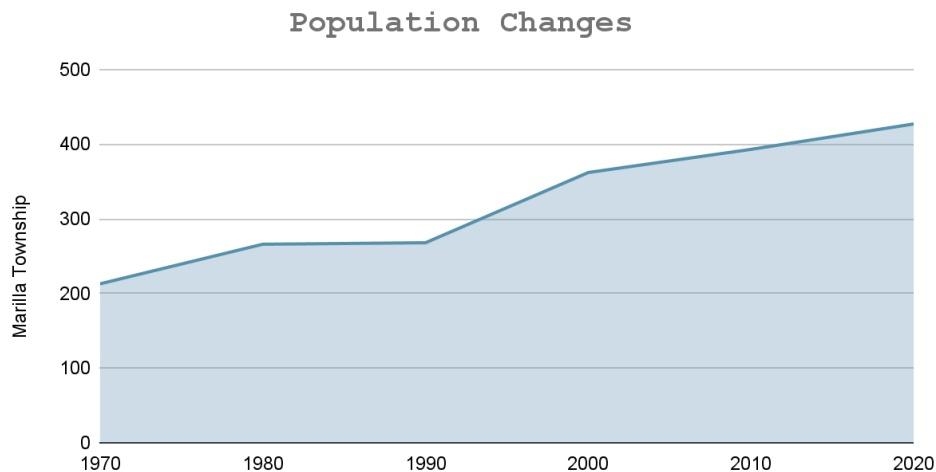
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Chapter 4: Demographic, Economic & Housing Characteristics

Updating of socioeconomic data for Marilla Township during the 2023 Master Plan Update, allowed for utilization of 2020 US. Census Reporter. This data allows for the updating of certain categories of this Socio Economic Profile, but one will find that categories such as housing, income and educational attainment still are reliant upon 2020 data, until after the completion of the 2030 census.

4-1 Population

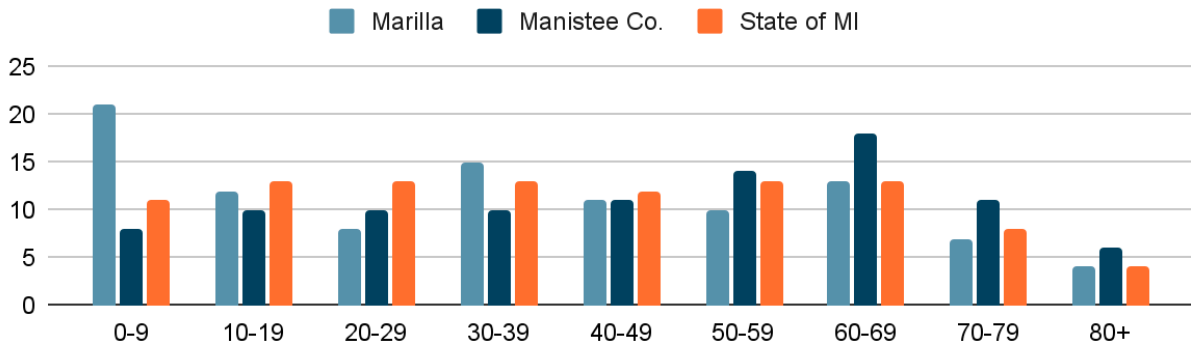
In 2020, Marilla Township had 427 permanent residents according to the U.S. Census Reporter with an 8.7% increase from 2010 to 2020 in population. The trend in population within the Township has been generally positive over the last 50 years. The most notable periods of growth were seen from 1970 to 1980 and again from 1990 to 2000 with approximately 25% and 35% change respectively over those time periods. The percent change from 2000 to 2010 was minor in comparison at 8.56%, this trend continued between 2010 to 2020. There are many aspects to population change and shift; one must look at a combination of data sets to gain an understanding as to the dynamics of the population. As noted within other data sets displayed in the section, the population of the Township has been aging, and maintains a rather high median income. The population trend dating back to 1970 is displayed below.



The 2000 census data displayed an average household population of 2.51 people per home, in 2010 this decreased to 2.32. The 2020 census indicates an increase to 2.4 people per home. While a decreasing average household size correlates with an aging population within the Township, which often reflects new “empty nesters”, a trend of increasing average household size could contribute to new families moving to the area.

Age Group Comparison % of Population

2020



Displayed in the graph above are the comparison of age groups in Marilla Township, Manistee County and the State of Michigan for 2020. The data shows that Marilla Township has a greater proportion of the population in the 0-9 and 30-39 age cohorts than the State of Michigan and of Manistee County. Marilla Township is fairly equivalent to the State of Michigan in the age groups of 60 plus. The township is finding a nice residential age balance between 0-39 and 40-80+, with percentages being 55 to 45 respectively.

When reviewing the data for 2010, Marilla Township continued to trail the County and State in percentage of age groups younger than age 55. By 2020, the Township had seen a significant increase in the percentage of those younger than 9, which rose above the county and state average. The Township still maintained lower percentages in the age cohorts 20-29, and 50-59, in comparison to both the County and State.

The information above points to the fact that even though Marilla Township continues to age, the population is also growing in the 30-39 age group. With the increase in children younger than age 9 it may show that there has been a small uptick in families settling here. Marilla is likely continuing to move from the rural agricultural community to a rural residential retiree and seasonal recreational residence destination, which seems to be backed by the change in land use assessment patterns for agricultural lands, as well as information gleaned from seasonal housing trends as displayed in the following section.

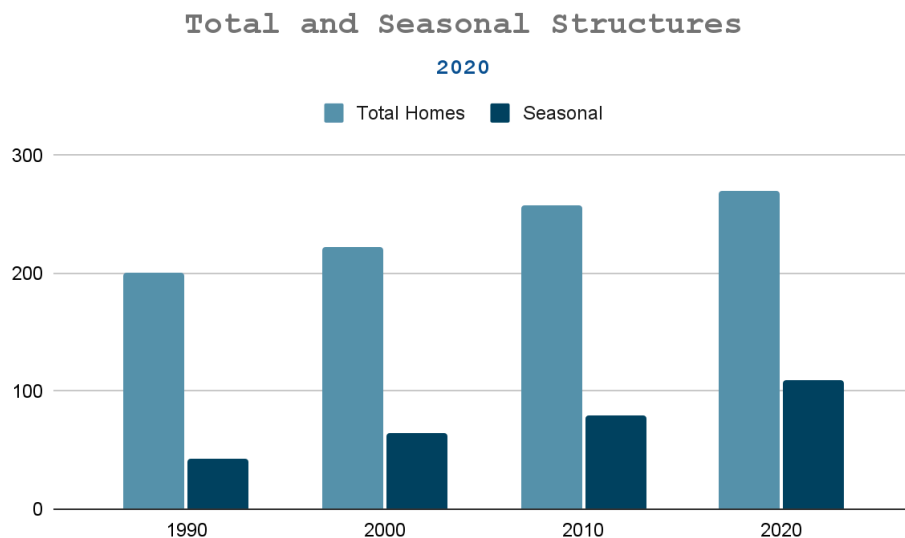
4-2 Housing and Households

The 2020 census data reports that there were **... new housing structures.** Between the years 2000 and 2010, the census data indicates 36 new housing structures were built, representing 14% of the total housing units. This compares to 57

new housing structures built between 1990 and 2000 and 40 structures built between 1980 and 1990, which represents 22% and 16% of the total housing units respectively. This trend displays a peak in the 1990's in terms of new housing units, but the decrease during the 2000's isn't so significant to display that the community will continue to have a marked decrease in new residential homes, rather the decrease likely aligns with the poor housing market and economy of the late 2000's.

As of 2020 there are an estimated 270 structures in Marilla Township with approximately 40% or 109 units being listed as seasonal. This is an increase from 2010 with a total of 258 homes in Marilla Township, of these 80 were listed as seasonal use or 31% of the housing stock. This compares to past census data from 2000 which displayed 65 homes or 29.3% were for seasonal use, and in 1990 there were 43 homes for seasonal use or 21.5% of the housing stock. This trend towards an increase in homes considered seasonal use over the last 40 years continues to provide data that suggests that Marilla Township is becoming more and more a seasonal rural recreational enthusiast destination.

As reported 86% of housing units in Marilla Township are 1-unit structures, mobile homes make up the second largest category at 14%. The percentage of mobile homes of the total housing units within the Township has decreased by about 8.8% since the 2010 census, while the number of 1-unit structures has increased.

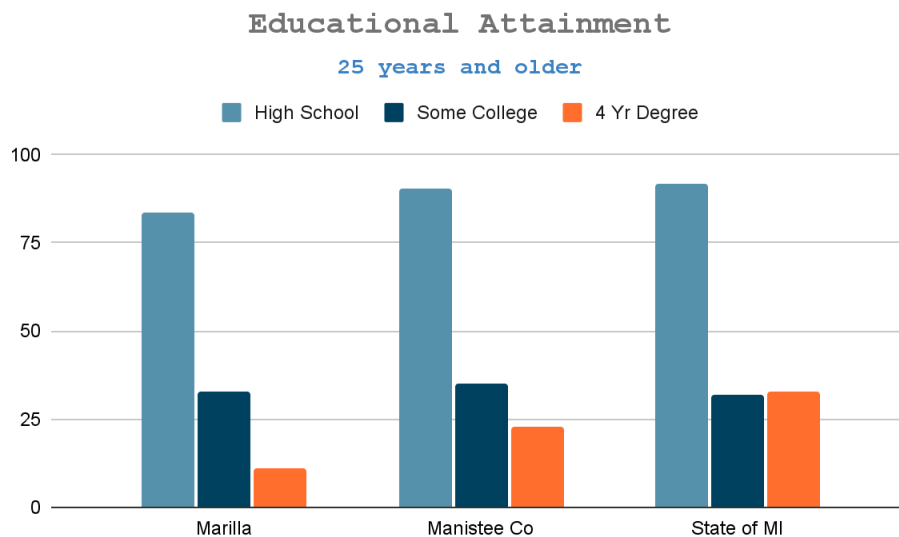


During the decrease in mobile homes and the increase in 1-unit structures, the median value of homes increased substantially from the 2000 census, though this may only be a coincidence. In 2000 the median value of homes in Marilla Township was \$72,000; this was comparable to the median value for the County at \$77,400. Data from the 2010 census displays a median value of \$157,000 with a margin of error of \$21,000 for Marilla Township, while the County displays a median

value of \$124,000 with a margin of error of \$3,940. Values again increased in 2020 with Marilla Township displaying a median of \$171,000 and the County increasing to \$157,800 with a margin of error for both of at least ten percent.

4-3 Education/Employment/Income

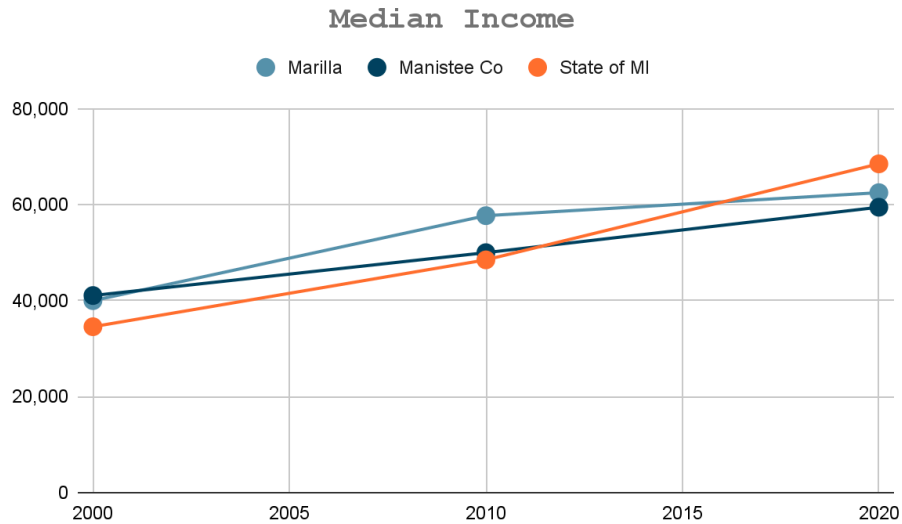
According to the 2020 census, attainment of a High School education within the Township was high for those in the population aged 18 to 24 years old, 71.4% had received a high school education. This was greater than the percentages of those in Manistee County and the State of Michigan at 42.3% and 29.4% respectively. Looking at those individuals aged 25 or older, the attainment of a high school education or higher remains high at 83.4% with at least 33% having some college, and 11% earning a 4-year degree. The attainment of a high school education or higher in Marilla Township is slightly lower than that of Manistee County at 90.3% and the State of Michigan at 91.8%. See the graph below for comparisons of education for the population aged 25 and older for Marilla Township, Manistee County and the State of Michigan. The graph displays that Marilla Township is keeping pace with both the County and State in educational attainment.



Employment in Marilla Township relies on a labor force of 235, of which 122 or 52% are employed, the remainder are unemployed or are active military as detailed by the 2020 census. Over 80% of the labor force commuted to work via a car, truck or van either alone or in a carpool. The remaining population worked at home.

The largest occupational categories for the labor force in Marilla Township are management, business, science and arts occupations, service occupations and sales and office occupations. Marilla is a rural township with limited large employment centers, so it is likely that residents travel to other areas for

employment. The mean travel time supports this assumption with an average commute of 38 minutes for employed residents.



The median family income in Marilla Township is \$62,500, with a County average of \$59,467 and State average of \$68,505. The median family income has increased by almost \$5,000 over the last 10 years in the Township. 10.1% of the population lived below the poverty level in 2020, which was a decrease of .9% from the 2010 census which displayed 11% of the population below the poverty level. See the graph below for comparisons. The information gleaned from the data could suggest that the existing local population may be struggling in some regards in terms of employment opportunities, wages or earnings with the increase in the poverty level, but the increase in the median family income suggests that more skilled/highly trained commuter-oriented residents are moving into the Township.

Chapter 5: Infrastructure and Facilities

5-1 Transportation

All of Marilla Township is rural in nature and there are no state highways within the township boundaries. There are two major east-west roads, namely County Road 598 (Nine Mile Road and Beers Road) and County Road 600 (Thirteen Mile Road). The major north-south roads are County Road 597 (Yates Road) and Marilla Road. There are many other county roads, paved and unpaved, which are mostly in the northern and western portions of the township and served by the Manistee County Road Commission. Please view the Transportation Map on page 37.

There are two small subdivisions within the township: Johnsons Manistee Shores (Section 24) and the Village of Lemon Lake (Section 6). They have one or two platted private roads within them. These roads and some of the roads through the State and National Forest are not certified public roads.

The Manistee Transportation Dial-A-Ride buses service the Marilla Township area. There are two runs daily, at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and if residents call before 8 a.m. they can schedule a ride for that day for a nominal fee. They have a toll-free number 1-800-775-RIDE.

There are no railroads or airports within the township. However, the township is serviced by two nearby airports, Manistee Blacker Airport in Manistee and Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City.

5-2 Community, Utilities and Services

Located on Marilla Rd. is the Marilla Township Hall which serves as a government and community center. The building hosts a monthly food bank and weekly “meals on wheels”, as well as being available for private rental. The Marilla Historical Society rents the bottom floor of the building allowing for two beautifully curated museum rooms. The historical structures of Marilla Museum and Pioneer Place, are owned by the township. The Marilla Historical Society independently operates and financially supports the maintenance of the structures. Pioneer Place is located on the same township property as the Marilla Township Hall. Additionally, the Marilla Church of the Brethren is active and located within the township.

The township is served by the Kaleva Telephone Company within the 362 exchange and in the northeastern section by the AcenTek Telephone Company. It is

served by two electric utilities: Cherryland Electric Cooperative and Consumers Energy. Consumers Energy serves the eastern and southern portions of the township and Cherryland serves the northern and western portions of the township.

Police protection is provided by the Manistee County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police. The Maple Grove Township volunteer fire department covers Marilla Township, and both Maple Grove and Thompsonville provide emergency medical service, along with Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital.

Four hospitals are within an hour's drive of Marilla Township. They are Munson Healthcare Hospitals located in Traverse City, Manistee, Frankfort and Cadillac.

The Kaleva branch of the Manistee County Library, along with the Mesick branch of the Cadillac- Wexford County Library and the Thompsonville Library provide library services for people within the township.

There is a yearly cleanup day provided by the township. Weekly roadside garbage service is available from private contractors.

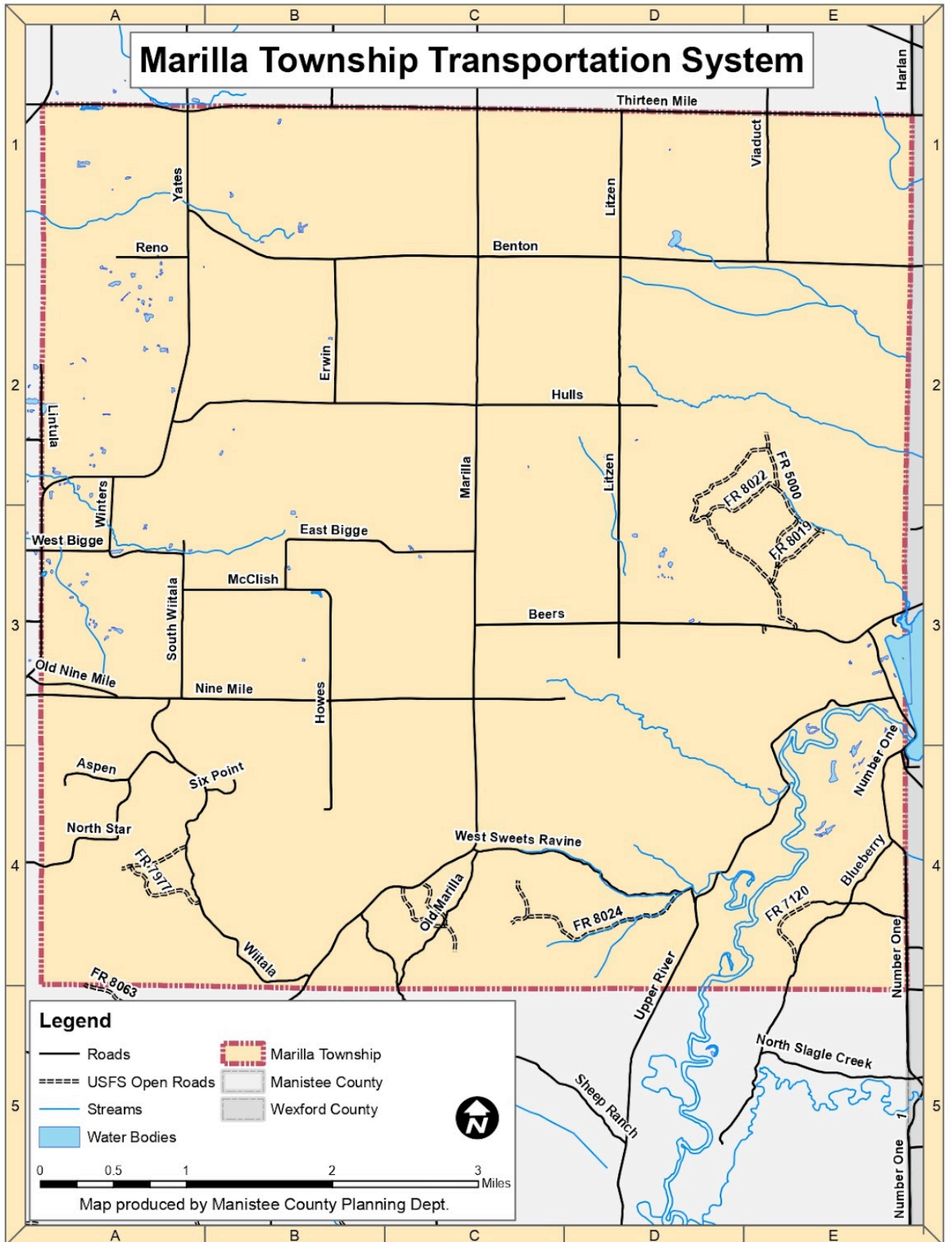
5-3 Education System

Marilla Township is served by three different school districts. A major portion of the township is within the Mesick school system, with most of the balance being within the Kaleva Norman Dickson school system. A small portion of the township in the northwest corner is in the Benzie County Central School district. View the map on page 39.

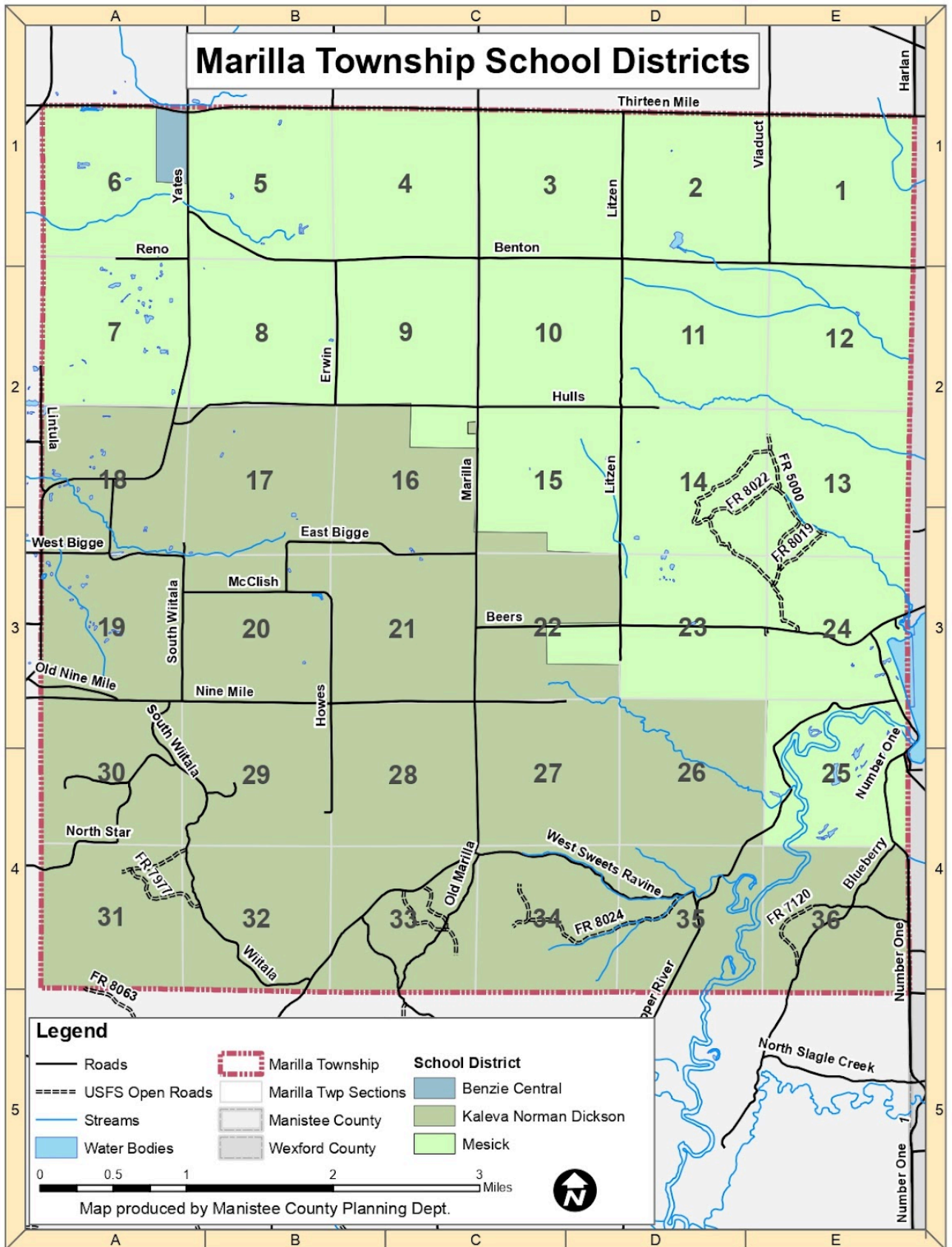
The school districts offer education from preschool through twelfth grade, with a variety of extracurricular activities in the form of team sports and various clubs relating to academics, band and orchestra, art and drama. Additionally Intermediate School District services are offered locally. It is important to emphasize the importance of education to the youth of the Township, and efforts should be made to participate in regional programs that pursue higher educational opportunities in the form of college or trade schools for those children in high school.

There are also three colleges within a reasonable commute from Marilla Township: Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, Baker College in Cadillac and West Shore Community College in Scottville.

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Chapter 6: Marilla Township 2018 Master Plan Goals & Objectives

6-1 General Community Goals

A. Preserve the history and rural atmosphere of the township.

-Protect farm and forestland through the use of Purchase Development Rights (PDR) and open space preservation.

1. Encourage preservation tools to be used in the Township to help preserve valuable natural features and maintain rural character.

-Encourage denser development where infrastructure is available

1. Research and determine the locations of service areas and infrastructure that can provide for higher densities.
2. Research areas where soils will allow septic/well in higher densities.

-Promote the preservation and restoration of historic structures

1. Promote the use of grant funds and/or private investment to preserve and restore historic sites within the Township.

-Promote the history and uniqueness of the Township

1. Maintain an archival collection of Marilla's historic past.
2. Continue to promote the Marilla Museum and Pioneer Place as a tourist attraction.

B. Preserve and protect the quality of life within the Township.

-Encourage opportunities for community fellowship

1. Continued support for groups and programs such as the senior meals (Meals on Wheels), food bank, and Marilla Historical Society as well as promoting the availability of the Township Hall for rental.

-Promote opportunities for community service

1. Compile lists of ways people can help, such as with spring cleanup of Township properties, funeral dinners, etc.
2. Communicate opportunities and resources to the community through newsletters, signage and website use.

C. Preserve and maintain the natural beauty of the Township.

-Promote clean landscape and roadways

1. Encourage active citizen participation in programs such as “Adopt a Highway” through the County Road Commission.
2. Enforce the Township Nuisance Ordinance
3. Provide at least one Township wide cleanup opportunity for residents per year.

-Protect the natural resources within the Township

1. Continued enforcement of Environmental Ordinances.
2. Work with Federal, State and local agencies as well as private groups such as land trusts and conservancies to purchase and protect valuable environmental locations.

6-2 Residential Goals

A. Promote and maintain a quality housing stock.

-Encourage proper building codes so new structures meet State guidelines

1. Work with building code officials to ensure all construction projects obtain proper permits.

-Encourage enforcement of zoning and nuisance regulations to reduce blight; i.e. structures, cars, trash, junk, etc.

1. Educate residents on how to notify the Township of potential zoning violations.
2. Keep sound accurate public records of zoning and nuisance violations and the correspondence with property owners of said violations.

-Maintain an inventory of blighted structures throughout the Township; i.e. damaged, dilapidated, uninhabitable structures

1. Develop and enforce appropriate guidelines regarding removal of such structures.
2. The Township Zoning Administrator and Assessor should work in collaboration to maintain a list of blighted structures.

- Maintain regulatory measures for screening/buffering
 1. Enforce screening and buffering through land use permitting.

6-3 Commercial Goals

A. Plan for commercial growth near areas such as Marilla Rd. which have seen commercial development in the past.

- Encourage commercial enterprises to locate in areas which do not detract from the visual character and rural atmosphere of the area.

1. Enforce buffer zones and landscaping so commercial enterprises do not detract from the aesthetics of the township.

- Maintain higher intensity commercial uses solely in commercial districts

1. Maintain commercial uses that fall under home occupation or cottage industry for both commercial/residential districts.
2. Maintain intense commercial uses i.e. gas stations, convenience stores, oil change, etc. to be located in the commercial district.

6-4 Agricultural Goals

A. Recognize that agriculture is an important aspect of Marilla Township and adds to the scenic and rural character of the community.

- Educate about the use of farmland preservation applications

1. Have MI P.A. 116 applications available at the Township Hall.

- Maintain variable lot sizes to allow both small family farms and large agricultural enterprises

1. Enforce lot size standards in the zoning ordinance

- Maintain a subdivision ordinance that promotes preservation of agricultural areas

1. Developers seeking to create subdivisions should do so through the use of conservation-based design. Utilization of the cluster development standards should be a priority with the incentive of density bonuses providing leverage.

6-5 Community Services and Infrastructure Goals

A. Determine ways to improve community services and infrastructure within the Township.

- Develop a list of roads in need of improvement

- 1. Work with the County Road Commission on maintaining and improving county roads.
- Examine ways to improve Township solid waste services and encourage recycling
 - 1. Continue support and maintain enrollment in the County recycling program
- Encourage options for improved telecommunications services (internet, cell phone)
 - 1. Examine current height restrictions and district uses for towers.
 - 2. Increase cell coverage in the community.
 - 3. Encourage fiber optics for increased internet access.
- Monitor Township buildings and properties to ensure they are properly maintained
 - 1. Property maintenance will avoid costly unnecessary capital expenses due to neglect.
 - 2. Support Fire and Rescue services by working with neighboring townships.

B. Maintain a Township Zoning Administrator.

- Provide fair equitable treatment when administering zoning regulations
 - 1. Enforce the zoning ordinance as written, equally for all residents
- Maintain quality records to be kept and made available at the Township Hall
 - 1. Accurate public records of all land use permits, zoning violations, citations, evidence and correspondence should be kept on file at the Township Hall

6-6 Forestry Goals

A. Promote sustainable forest management practices on both public and private lands.

- Support open space and forest preservation programs
 - 1. Encourage timber management programs.
- Encourage proper forestry management through the use of forestry management plans.
 - 1. Make available pamphlets that outline methods for development of a forestry management plan.
 - 2. Identify opportunities for hosting or attendance by Township residents of forestry management workshops/lectures through the Manistee Conservation District and/or Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - 3. Communicate forestry opportunities by sharing information provided by the DNR and other conservation districts.

Chapter 7: Future Land Use Plan

The future land use plan provides a direction for the policy of how a land area is to be shaped through the regulatory requirements of zoning. Future land use districts differ from zoning districts in that they are established policy and are not regulatory in nature. The policy established by land use districts provides a broad summary of the allowances and characteristics that Marilla Township should use when developing the regulations of the Township zoning ordinance.

Through this master plan revision process of 2023, the following land use districts are established within Marilla Township and can be seen displayed on the Future Land Use Map on page 51:

- *Residential District*
- *Rural-Residential District*
- *Commercial-Residential District*
- *Resource Preservation District*
- *Forest Recreation District*
- *Wetlands District*

7-1 Residential District

The establishment of the residential land use district is to provide a denser area for the development of residential homes. Lot sizes should be maintained in a fashion that allows for the development of denser residential subdivisions but should also allow for ample room to provide for both septic and well systems in the absence of sewer and water service which is currently unavailable within the Township. Lot sizes approximately 1 acre in size is desirable in this district and should be complemented with appropriate setbacks and limitations for quality housing stock.

Pre-existing locations of residential structures on small lots and areas that have been sub- divided for such a purpose of smaller residential lots should receive a land use designation of residential. Uses within this district should limit intense industrial and commercial operations but should have allowances for cottage industries and home-based occupations perhaps as a special use or use by right with appropriate provisions. Regulatory provisions for home-based businesses should have allotments for signage, parking, access, and lighting and in some cases screening or buffering.

Use of the land for gardens or other similar agricultural or hobby farm type use should be encouraged but may be limited to the production of fruit and vegetable crops. The keeping of livestock should be weighed carefully and if allowed, precautions should be taken regulatory wise to ensure the protection of

neighboring properties via limits on the number and/or type of animals or method in which they are fenced or housed.

This district may be amended in the future to provide for more suburban style growth in the form of Planned Unit Developments (PUD's) or more strictly residential style neighborhoods. In the event that revisions are made it will be very important to explore conservation-based design, which will promote and preserve the rural character while still allowing increased density. A subdivision ordinance should be instituted also at that time.

7-2 Rural-Residential District

The rural residential land use district was established to provide for a medium to low density land use for rural residences. Marilla Township is a rural community with abundant forest lands and agricultural uses. Protection of the character of the Township and the rural atmosphere is sought after by many residents within the community. Large lot sizes are desirable in many locations but can cause difficulty when minimum lots sizes are dictated at upwards of 40 acres for the protection of agricultural lands and resources, making it difficult for existing property owners to provide parcels of land to relatives for the purpose of building a home.

Existing rural residential land uses captured areas of the Township with parcel sizes and existing residences that fit the current character of the land. Expansion of this district was sought after, but not at the expense of the protection of agricultural lands and the character of the community. Discussion amongst appointed and elected officials as well as residents of the Township sought to seek a solution to the issue. *It was decided that expansion of the district linearly along paved roads to a depth of 300' would provide allowances for the subdividing of larger parcels to place rural residences along roadways, while still providing the protection for larger lots located further off of the roadway. All structures for residences should be placed within the 300' of this district. (*No 10 ac parcel should be less than 330' across one side.)*

Provisions within this district should provide for minimum road frontage and/or minimum parcel width that will allow for the placement of residential structures but won't allow for extremely skinny lots with minimum frontage that could be utilized to fit as many residences as possible along roadways. Protection of view sheds is important to the character of the community and limiting the density of development through minimum widths along the paved roads will help to ensure this.

Land uses within the district should allow for agricultural uses, whether in typical farming practices or in the form of support structures for agriculture such as feed/machinery stores, silos, accessory structures and other agricultural uses. The placement of hunting or vacation cabins should continue to be allowed and

encouraged. Cottage industries and home-based occupations are also rather important to the district and should have provisions for allowances and site planning such as signage, parking, lighting and screening/buffering where appropriate.

This district may be amended in the future to provide for more suburban style growth in the form of Planned Unit Developments (PUD's) or more strictly residential style neighborhoods. In the event that revisions are made it will be very important to explore conservation-based design, which will promote and preserve the rural character while still allowing increased density. A subdivision ordinance should be instituted also at that time.

7-3 Commercial-Residential District

Historically commercial presence within the Township was located along Marilla Rd. between 9-Mile Rd. and Beers Rd. The few existing commercial uses within the Township are located here and as such the establishment of this district relies upon placement within this land area. The commercial-residential land use district is developed to host both commercial and residential land uses. As the character of Marilla Township is very rural there is limited commercial development within the community. As continued development occurs, albeit projected to be rather slow over the coming years for the Township, commercial uses should be directed to this land use district with allowances for commercial type uses that are above and beyond the definition or scope of a home-based occupation or cottage industry.

As time passes and land use changes, there may be a point where the direction of this land use district may turn solely towards allowances for commercial use. In the event of this occurrence, to protect existing residences, regulatory measures should be flexible enough to allow for the replacement of a structure within the original footprint should a home be destroyed by a weather event, fire or malicious intent of man, even if residential uses are no longer allowed.

Provisions within the zoning ordinance for this district should outline setbacks, parking, building materials, driveway access and connections to neighboring properties, signage, lighting and buffering/screening when needed. These provisions should be drafted to protect neighboring properties, provide higher quality commercial buildings, but still be flexible enough to promote business without creating undue hardship for potential business owners.

7-4 Resource Preservation District

The resource preservation district was created with the purpose of protecting the rural character, open spaces and agricultural areas of the Township.

Establishment of large areas of land as Resource Preservation meets the existing conditions of those areas, which in most cases are large parcels located off of seasonal roads or greater than 330 feet from a maintained road right-of-way. Residential development of these areas is limited due to distance from maintained roads, and the growth pressures of the region don't warrant these large expanses to be made available for housing.

Agricultural uses are encouraged within these areas as are lands maintained under forest management plans for the harvesting of timber. Uses associated with agriculture whether in typical farming practices or in the form of support structures for agriculture such as feed/machinery stores, silos, accessory structures and other agricultural uses should be allowed. Recreational uses of these large land tracts are also important and should be encouraged by the permitting of hunting or recreational cabins. Roadside stands and other temporary means of selling local produce or agricultural products should be allowed and utilized. Cottage industries and home-based occupations should be permitted as well.

These areas are rural lands and should be maintained as such with limited development, and the maintaining of large minimum parcel sizes. Subdivision development should not be allowed in the future in all land areas within this district and should be directed to the Rural Residential District.

7-5 Forest Recreation District

Lands owned by the State of Michigan Department of Forest Resources or Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as well as the United States Forest Service (USFS) for the purpose of passive recreational open space can be found in several areas of Marilla Township. These lands set aside in the public trust are portions of the Pere Marquette State Forest and the Manistee National Forest.

Primarily used for passive recreational uses such as fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and camping, the lands are not slated for, or open for development as directed by policy or regulated via zoning through the Township. Placement of these lands within a land use district which focuses on the encouragement and promotion of passive recreational use simplifies land use issues for the Township.

Uses promoted within this land use district should be primarily passive recreational. The township should support and incorporate plans for these public lands that have been created by the Federal government in the form of the Huron-Manistee National Forest Management Plan and similar plans adopted by the State for the management of State Forest Lands. There should not be any densities denoted, minimum parcel size or regulatory measures for the use of this property outside of recreation.

In the event that a portion of State or Federal land is turned over to private ownership, that new property owner should be given the flexibility of a waived fee for rezoning of that particular piece of property. The rezoning of the property should align itself with the neighboring zoning districts, character and use of the site. Rezoning shall take place in all cases when a land transfer has occurred from public to private ownership, before the issuance of a land use permit for development activities undertaken by a private resident.

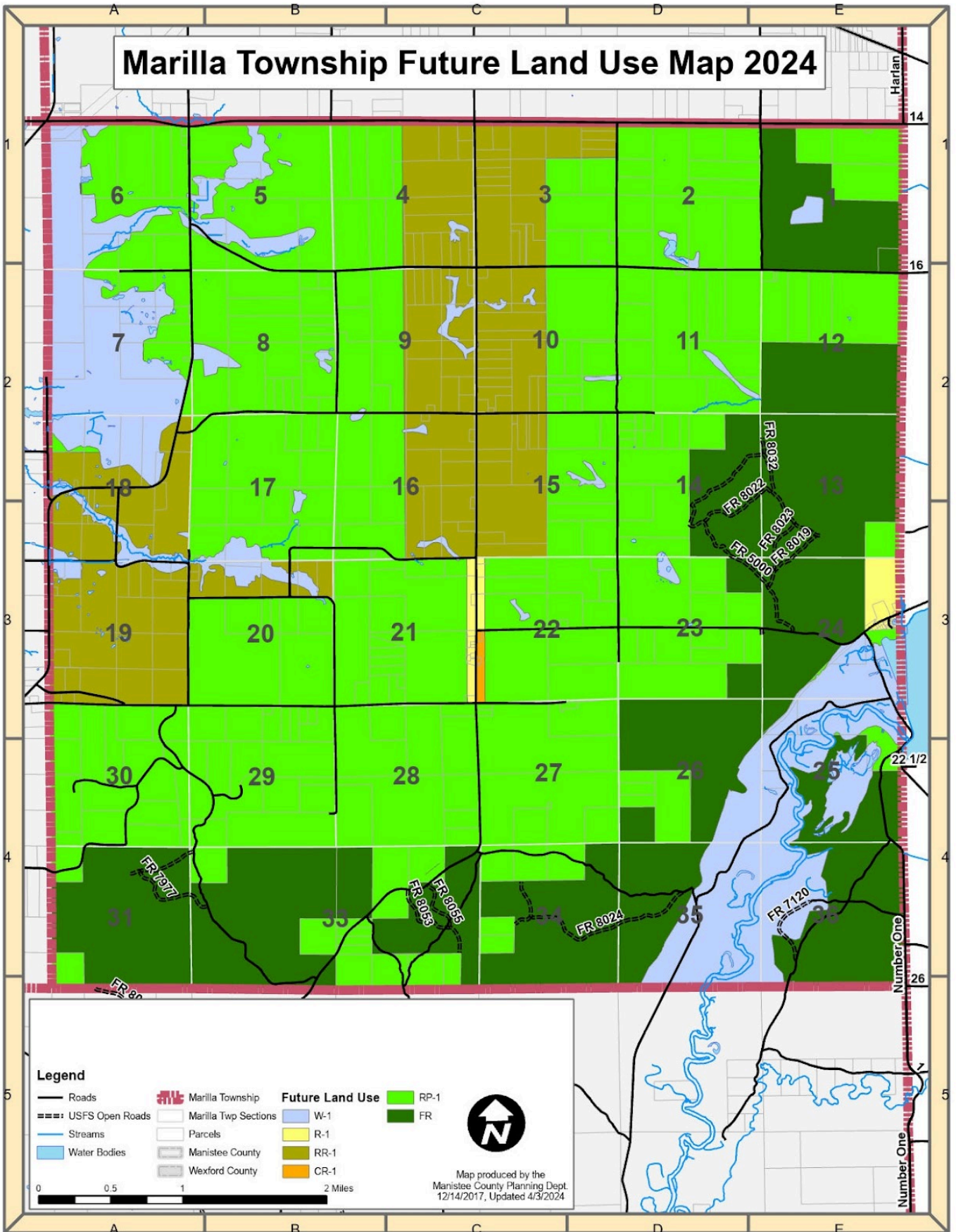
7-6 Wetland District

The wetland district was created to provide protection of unique wetlands five acres in size or larger or connected to a riparian system or lake within the Township. The boundaries for the wetland district were taken from the National Wetland Inventory and are identified as such.

Uses within the district should be limited to passive agricultural processes such as the grazing of livestock and passive recreational interests such as hiking, fishing and hunting. No dwellings, structures or earth altering activities should be allotted within this district.

It is recognized that there are inaccuracies in the boundaries of the National Wetland Inventory. A property owner wishing to challenge and alter the boundary of the wetland district to provide for the expansion of the neighboring land use district, shall provide a wetland delineation plan by a professional wetland specialist, landscape architect, soil scientist or horticulturist approved for wetland plant identification which displays the appropriate boundaries and provides evidence for the delineation of the site. The Township Planning Commission would then take action to amend the Future Land Use Map, and the Zoning Map if evidence supports the action.

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Appendix A: Survey and Public Forum Results

The following information contained within Appendix A displays the actual results of the survey and public forum conducted in 2023/24. The following pages contain the survey and results, as well as the minutes taken at the public forum.

Questions or Comments regarding the content of this Master Plan should be directed to the Marilla Township Planning Commission.

2023 Master Plan

1. As an online survey we would like to verify your residency. What is your property number or address (street and town only)?

2. Check all of the following that are reasons that you live or have property in Marilla Township.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Like rural living | | | I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Like recreational opportunities | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Born and raised here | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Like the community | I | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farming | I | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close to family | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter/Snowbird | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired here | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of schools | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | | Family Land, Elbow room |

3. What are you most concerned about in Marilla Township?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taxes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blighted properties | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs | I |

- Youth leaving the area II
- Old mobile homes I
- Air and water quality IIII II
- Traffic II
- Agriculture and land preservation IIII I
- Health and emergency services I
- Other (please specify) Squatters/Drugs, Change

4. Marilla Township should grow in population in the upcoming years.

- Strongly agree
- Agree II
- Neither agree nor disagree IIII
- Disagree II
- Strongly disagree II

5. Marilla Township should have more development in the coming years.

- Strongly agree
- Agree II
- Neither agree nor disagree IIII
- Disagree II
- Strongly disagree II

6. How do you feel the following categories have changed in Marilla Township in the past five years?

	Much Worse	Worse	Better	Much Better	Don't Know
Road Conditions		I	IIII Same II	I	
Natural Environment		IIII *Noise	I Same II	III	I

Township Services			III Same I	III	I
Overall Quality of Life			II Same III		II

7. Marilla Township should plan for more single family homes.

- Strongly agree I
- Agree III *w/20+ ac
- Neither agree nor disagree IIIII
- Disagree I
- Strongly disagree I
- Other (please specify) Don't plan/encourage

8. In Marilla Township, what area should there be more residential development?

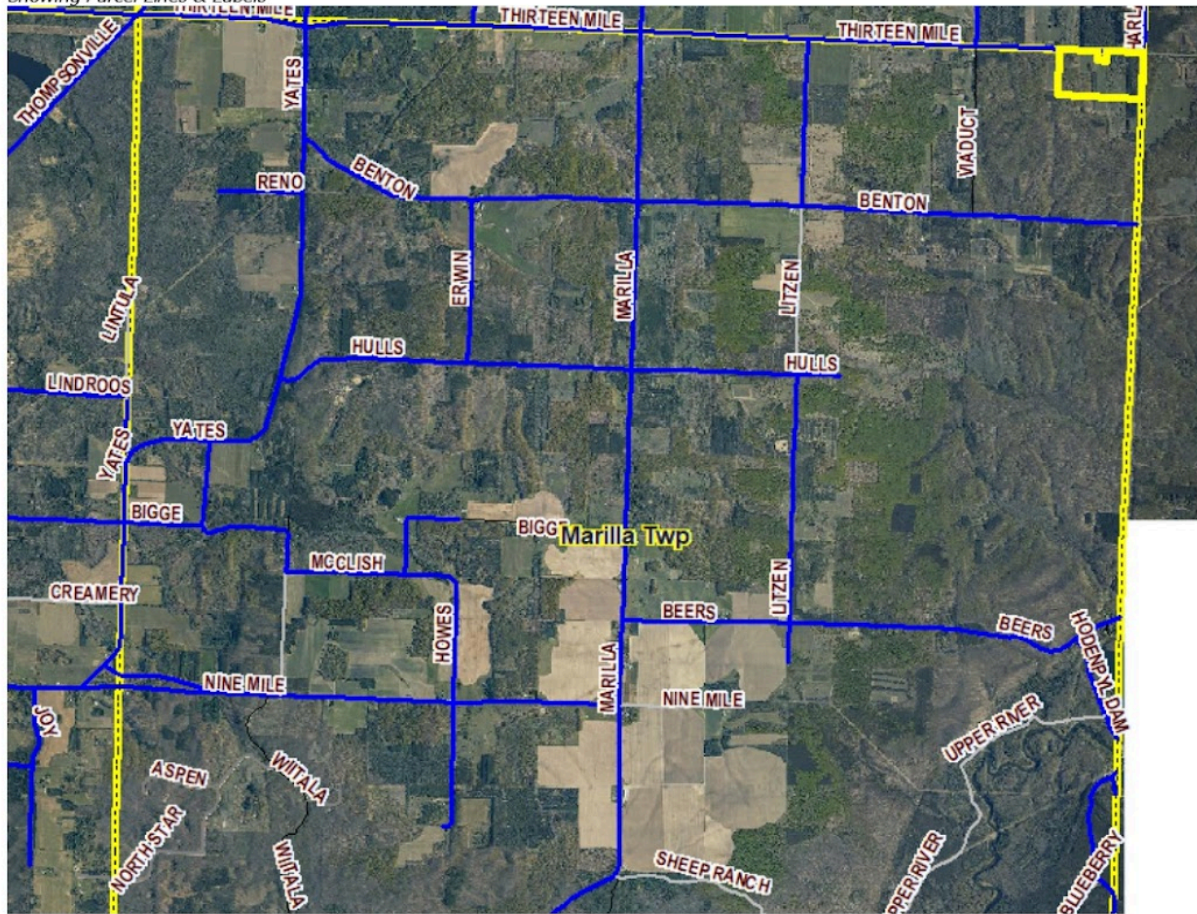
- Along paved roads I
- Along any county-maintained roads
- Anywhere there isn't active farmland or protected forest IIIII
- Near other residential zones III
- Near the villages and towns IIIII
- Anywhere
- Nowhere II
- Other (please specify)

9. Agriculture is an important aspect of Marilla Township's economy.

- Strongly agree III
- Agree IIIII I
- Neither agree nor disagree II *not commercial
- Disagree I
- Strongly disagree

2021 ORTHO AERIAL MAPS (Click here for Data Information)

Showing Parcel Lines & Labels



2021 Digital Orthophotos (Aerial Photographs)

The digital orthophotos (aerial photographs) displayed were acquired spring of 2021 with "leaf-off" conditions. The county-wide imagery consists of .5' (6 inch) pixel resolutions. Please contact Manistee County Equalization to obtain these digital images and/or detailed prints/maps of selected locations through-out Manistee County.

Manistee County Equalization 231-723-5957

What is a digital orthophoto? Digital orthophotos are just like a map, but with all of the ground features visible. It is a pictorial version of a map. The photographic image has been "draped" over an accurate map base so that the topography – such as hills and valleys – are part of the picture giving the photo a scale that can be measured with confidence.

-  N
-  1 Mile
-  2022 Digital Orthophotograph
-  Municipal Name & Border
-  Public Roads
-  Property Lines

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