

## Chapter 5 - Community Facilities and Services

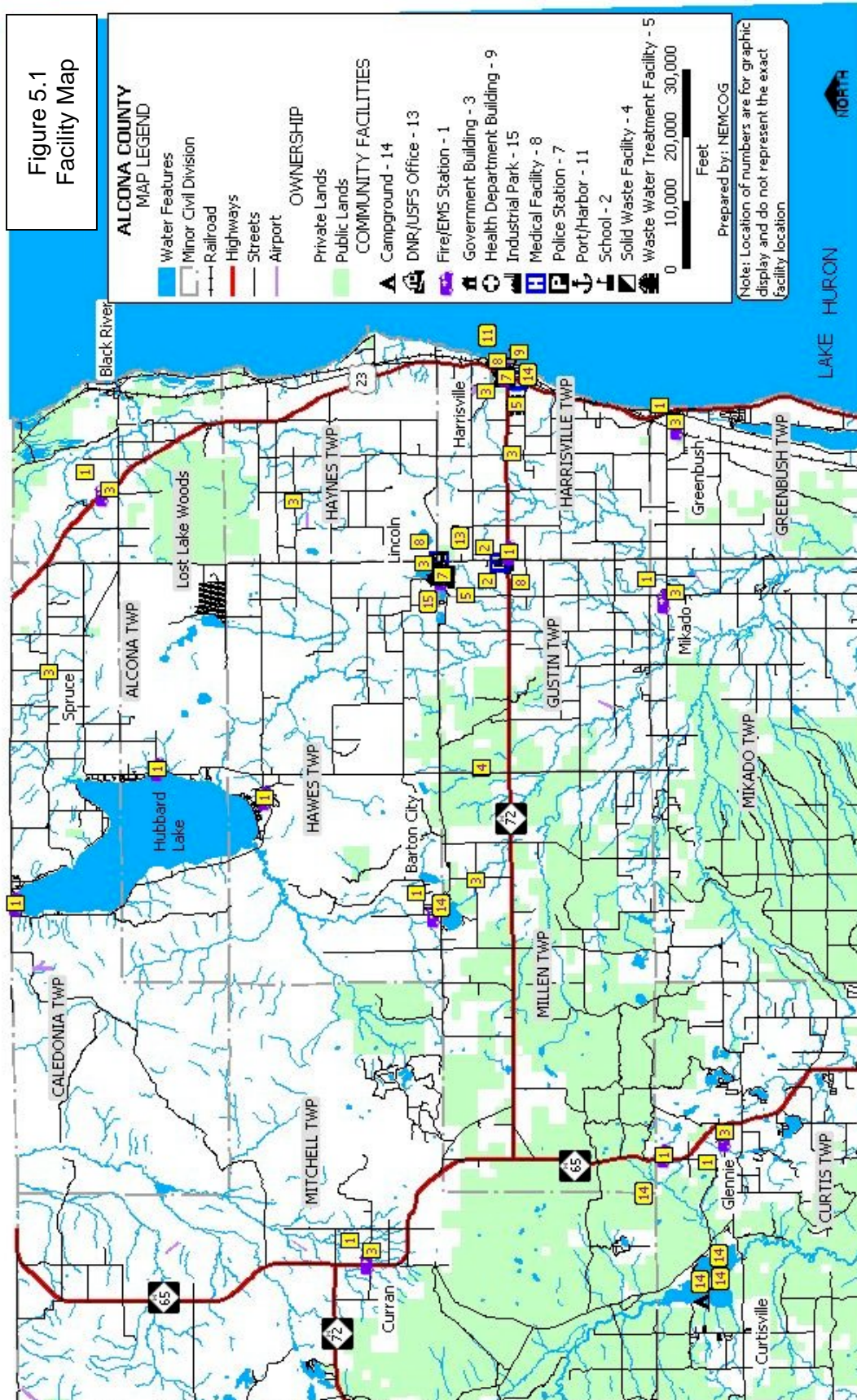
Key factors that contribute to the quality of life of a community are the type and variety of services available to residents and visitors. A dispersed population with scattered small densely populated pockets of people, can challenge communities to provide a desired level of service. In the case of fire and ambulance, many rural communities work cooperatively with adjacent communities to provide essential services. Community services and facilities can be affected by natural and manmade hazard events. This chapter will identify the types, extent and location of services available to residents and businesses in Alcona County. **Figure 5.1** shows the location of key county facilities as well as township, city and village facilities.

### County Government

The Alcona County Board of Commissioners meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month, unless posted otherwise, at the Alcona County building located in Harrisville. The County is represented by five Commissioners. During 2003-2004 the County Commissioners are Kevin Boyat, Sr., Chair; Carolyn Brummund, V-Chair; Everett Leeseberg; Sheila R. Phillips; and Kenneth R. Timm. The County Clerk is Gayle E. Simmons PO Box 308, Harrisville, 48740, (989) 724-6807.

### County Officials and Offices

|                                      |                                  |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| County Clerk                         | PO Box 308, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9410 |
| Treasurer                            | PO Box 158, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9420 |
| Register of Deeds                    | PO Box 269, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9450 |
| Sheriff                              | 214 W. Main, Harrisville, 48740  | (989) 724-6271 |
| Prosecuting Atty.                    | PO Box 189, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9460 |
| Friend of the Court                  | PO Box 366, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9480 |
| Juvenile Officers                    | PO Box 366, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9470 |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court       | PO Box 308, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-6807 |
| 81 <sup>st</sup> District Court      | PO Box 385, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9500 |
| 81 <sup>st</sup> District Magistrate | PO Box 385, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9500 |
| Probate Court                        | PO Box 28, Harrisville, 48740    | (989) 724-9490 |
| Equalization Director                | PO Box 322, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9430 |
| Road Commission                      | PO Box 40, Lincoln, 48742        | (989) 736-3218 |
| Building Inspector                   | PO Box 292, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9440 |
| HUD Director                         | PO Box 272, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-5083 |
| MSUCo-Op Ext. Serv.                  | PO Box 800, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-6478 |
| Library Main Branch                  | PO Box 348, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-6796 |
| Lincoln                              |                                  | (989) 736-3388 |
| Mikado                               |                                  | (989) 736-8389 |
| Hubbard Lake                         |                                  | (989) 727-3105 |
| Maintenance Dir.                     | PO Box 308, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9517 |
| Emergency Mgt.                       | 2600 E. M-72, Harrisville, 48740 | (888) 397-7858 |
| 911 Director                         | 214 W. Main, Harrisville, 48740  | (989) 724-6271 |
| Veterans Counselor                   | PO Box 308, Harrisville, 48740   | (989) 724-9510 |



## Local Government

Alcona County has eleven townships, one city and one village. Current names and contact information are listed below.

|                      |  |                |
|----------------------|--|----------------|
| City of Harrisville  | PO Box 278, Harrisville, MI 48740            | (989) 724-6666 |
| Village of Lincoln   | PO Box 337, Lincoln, MI 48742                | (989) 736-8713 |
| Alcona Township      | 5576 U.S. 23 S., Black River, MI 48721       | (989) 471-2429 |
| Caledonia Township   | PO Box 81, Spruce, MI 48762                  | (989) 471-2390 |
| Curtis Township      | PO Box 90, Glennie, MI 48737                 | (989) 735-4081 |
| Greenbush Township   | 2779 US-23 S., Greenbush, MI 48738           | (989) 724-6771 |
| Gustin Township      | 373 E. Fowler Rd., Harrisville, MI 48740     | (989) 736-8373 |
| Harrisville Township | 1054 S. Poor Farm Rd., Harrisville, MI 48740 | (989) 724-6388 |
| Hawes Township       | 1934 Quick Rd., Lincoln, MI 48742            | (989) 736-6178 |
| Haynes Township      | 3930 E. McNeil Rd., Lincoln, MI 48742        | (989) 724-5188 |
| Mikado Township      | PO BOX 60, Mikado, MI 48745                  | (989) 736-8230 |
| Millen Township      | 671 Sanborn Rd., Barton City, MI 48705       | (989) 736-3170 |
| Mitchell Township    | 2815 N. Curran, Curran, MI 48728             | (989) 848-2466 |

## Other Agencies in Alcona County

Alcona County Conservation District, PO Box 291, Harrisville, MI 48740, (989) 724-5272  
 Alcona County EDC, P.O. Box 272, Harrisville, MI 48740, (989)724-5083  
 Alcona County FIA, Bill Denemy, (989) 724-6291  
 Alcona County Housing Commission, Courthouse, Harrisville, MI 48740, (989)724-5083  
 District Health Department No. 2, Alcona Branch, 311 Lake Street, Harrisville, MI 48740  
 (989) 724-9975

## Schools

Alcona County is part of three school districts. **Figure 5.2** is a map depicting school districts in Alcona County. The Alcona Area School District encompasses Alcona, Caledonia, Hawes, Harrisville, Haynes, Gustin and Millen Townships and a small portion of Mikado Township. The school buildings for K-6 and grades 7-12 are located on Barlow Road just off M-72 in Gustin Township. Greenbush Township, Curtis Township and a large part of Mikado Township are located in the Oscoda Area School District. School facilities are located in the community of Oscoda in Iosco County. Mitchell Township is located in the Fairview Area School District. The Glennie Elementary School, associated with Fairview Area School District, is located in the County. Middle School and High School buildings are located outside the county in the community of Fairview in Oscoda County. The Greenbush Academy is a church school, located near the community of Greenbush.

The Alcona Community School District is part of the Alcona Montmorency Alpena Intermediate School District. Students within the Oscoda School District attend classes in Oscoda. The Oscoda School District is located in the Iosco Intermediate School District. This district operates the County Line Alternative Ed program. Fairview Area School District is located in the Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda and Roscommon (COOR) Intermediate School District.

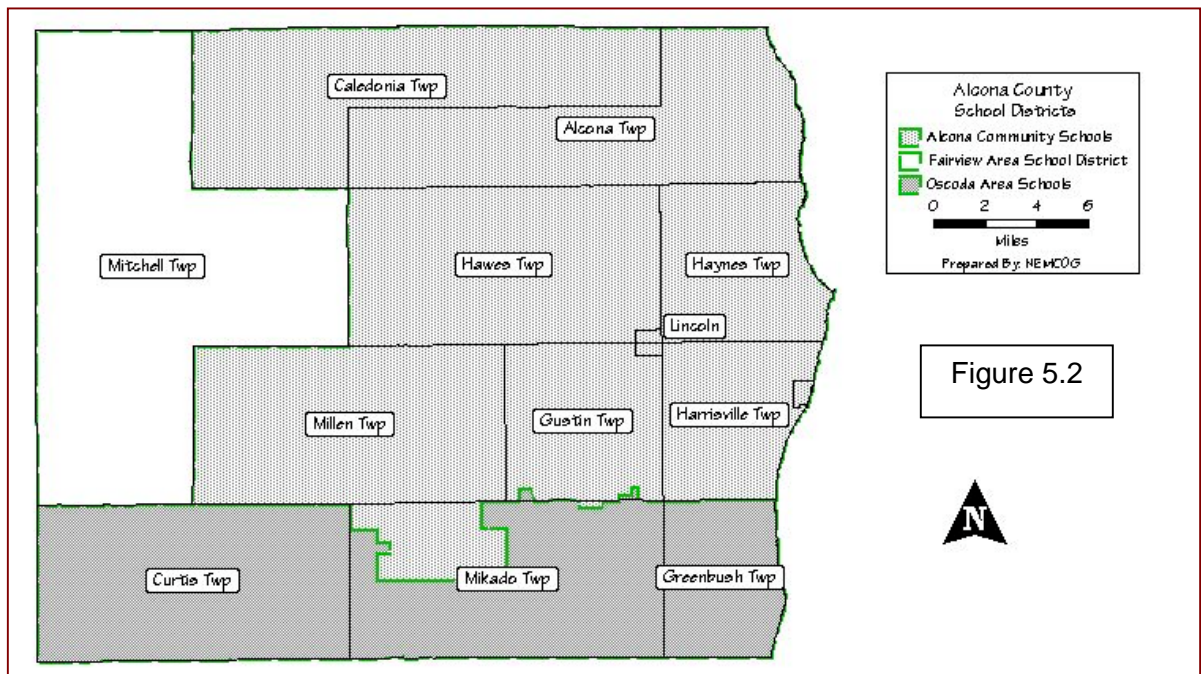


Figure 5.2

## Medical Facilities

There are no hospitals located in Alcona County. Clinics, doctor and dentist offices are located in Harrisville and Lincoln. The Alcona Health Center main office is located in Lincoln with a branch office in Harrisville. A Veterans Administration Health Center is located at the Aune Medical Center in Oscoda and a VA hospital is located in Saginaw. For health care services not available at these facilities, residents travel to Alpena General Hospital in Alpena, Grayling Mercy Hospital in Grayling, West Branch Memorial Hospital in West Branch, Tawas St. Joseph Hospital in Tawas City, Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey and Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

District Health Department #2 is often able to fill health care needs of the community, which are not available or affordable elsewhere. The Health Department service area includes Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties. Programs offered by the Health Department fall under three categories: home health care services, environmental health services and personal health services. Health Department offices are located in Harrisville.

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health provides support services to developmentally disabled persons as well as persons needing mental health services. The Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health service area covers Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle Counties.

## **Public Safety**

There are no municipal law enforcement agencies in Alcona County. The law is enforced by the Alcona County Sheriff's Department and supplemented by the Michigan State Police, Alpena Post. Citizen Watch groups assist by keeping an eye on their neighborhoods and the Michigan State Police added a satellite office in the Village of Lincoln in 1999. The satellite office has two full time troopers assigned.

Ambulance service is provided by Alcona County, which pays for the costs through the Ambulance Fund millage. There are currently two full time emergency medical service stations operating in Alcona County. The Harrisville Station, or East Station and the the Glennie, or West Station are currently rated at the *advanced level*. The West Station is located on M-65, just south of the M-72/M-65 junction, north of Glennie, and the East Station is located at 2600 East M-72, six miles west of the City of Harrisville in Harrisville Township. The West Station Ambulance was completed in 2000 and the East Station Ambulance Barn was completed in 2001.

There are ten fire stations located in Alcona County. All fire departments are volunteer, with some fire departments being responsible for more than one township. Fire departments include Alcona FD, Barton City FD, Curran FD, Curtis FD, Greenbush FD, Harrisville FD, Hubbard Lake FD, Lincoln FD, Mikado FD and South Shore FD. Barton City, Curran, Curtis, Harrisville, Hubbard Lake and Lincoln Fire Departments have the "Jaws of Life" equipment. The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for fire protection in the Huron National Forest and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for fire protection on State forested land. Both the Forest Service and DNR work closely with local fire fighters whenever the danger of woodland and urban fires is elevated. Additionally, all fire departments have mutual aid with each other. The County has an "all encompassing:" mutual aid agreement with the adjoining counties of Iosco, Alpena, and Oscoda which provides for assistance outside the realm of normal emergency services. There are no full time fire departments in Alcona County.

## Utilities

Townships do not provide public water or sewage disposal systems. The residents and business owners must rely on on-site private wells for domestic drinking water needs and private on-site septic systems for wastewater disposal. District Health Department # 2 regulates and maintains a permitting system for private wells and septic systems. The Village of Lincoln has developed a septage disposal system for businesses and some residences, which utilizes individual on site septic tanks and a central large drain field. The City of Harrisville provides public water and sewer disposal systems.

Due to large blocks of public lands and extensive areas of large private land holdings, there are areas in the County without primary utility services such as electricity and phone service. Of great concern are the unassigned areas where no phone service is available from any phone company.

Natural gas service is available in more densely populated areas of the County, such as Lincoln, Harrisville, Mikado, Greenbush, Hubbard Lake, and Lost Lake Woods. Michcon/ DTE provides the service.

Verizon Phone provides local telephone service to the largest geographic area of the County. Ameritech provides local phone service to southern parts of Greenbush Township and CenturyTel provides phone service to parts of Curtis and Mikado Townships. Cable television is available in more populated areas of the county. Mid-Lakes Cablecomm provides service to the Hubbard Lake area, Spruce, Lost Lake Woods, Lincoln, Harrisville, and Greenbush. Tele Media of Michigan and MW1 Cable Systems provide service to other limited parts of the County. Residents outside of cable service area must rely on satellite TV or TV antennas.

Consumer's Energy provides electricity to much of the County. Alpena Power Company serves the north end of Hubbard Lake, Presque Isle Electric Cooperative serves parts of Caledonia and Mitchell Townships. Three-phase power for industrial purposes is available in areas of the County such as the Village of Lincoln, Harrisville City and limited sites within townships.

There is a wood-fired power plant, operated by Viking Energy, located in the Village of Lincoln. This plant burns wood wastes, slash, chips and similar materials to generate electricity. Farmers in the area can acquire ashes from the plant as an economical mineral soil additive; with appropriate soil testing to avoid potential problems with metal accumulation. The Viking Plant is presently in compliance with air pollution control permit requirements.

## Other Public Facilities

The Alcona County Courthouse is located in the City of Harrisville at the intersection of M-72 and US-23. Alcona County Sheriff Department and associated facilities are located adjacent to the courthouse. The Alcona County Road Commission offices and garage are located in the Village of Lincoln. There is a DNR field office, which is no longer open to the public, located in Lincoln.

## Campgrounds

There are a number of campgrounds in Alcona County. Campgrounds are heavily used during prime summer months and on Memorial and Labor Day weekends. Campgrounds equate into large concentrations of transient populations staying in structures that are highly vulnerable to severe storm events. The Harrisville State Park, located in Harrisville Township adjacent to the

City of Harrisville, has 229 sites. The campground is typically full during June, July and August. Assuming the average family size of 2.24 persons, there could be a population of over 500 persons on any given day. Therefore, the transient population at the Harrisville State Park is comparable to the population of the City of Harrisville. Curtis Township County operates a campground on Alcona Pond in Curtis Township. The 470 sites are rented by the season, so there isn't a constant turnover of campers. Still during the primary camping season, assuming the average household size of 2.24 persons, the campground results in an increase of 1,053 persons in the township. This campground nearly doubles the size of the Township's year round population.

- Bullock's Paul Bunyan Kampground (KOA) in Caledonia Township 100 sites
- Alcona Canoe Rental and Campground, Curtis Township
- Middleton's Campground Curtis Township
- Pine River National Forest Campground – Mikado Township – 11 primitive campsites
- Golden Arrow Campground – Mikado Township
- Jewell Lake National Forest Campground – Millen Township - 32 primitive campsites
- Horseshoe Lake National Forest Campground – Millen Township - 11 primitive campsites
- Sprinkler Lake Education Center – Millen Township - Six dormitories that accommodate 100 people
- McCollum Lake State Forest Campground – Mitchell Township – 30 primitive campsites
- Lost Lake Campground Associated with Lost Lake Woods
- Hoist and Reid Lake Campground
- National Forest Campsites along the Au Sable River – 25 camp sites

**Media**

There are no locally operated radio and television stations in Alcona County. Residents are able to access local stations from Tawas, Alpena and Oscoda. Central Michigan Public Radio Station also provides coverage in Alcona County. Television stations from Cadillac, Traverse City, Flint and Bay City provide local news and weather coverage. Local newspaper coverage is provided by the Alcona County Review and the Oscoda Press. The Alpena News and Bay City Times provide regional news to county residents.

**Golf Courses**

According to the Alcona County Recreation Plan, there are six golf courses in Alcona County. **Table 5.1** lists the golf courses and the community where the courses are located.

| <b>Table 5.1<br/>Golf Courses in Alcona County</b> |                                 |                               |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Type</b>                     | <b>Community</b>              |
| Back Nine Golf Course                              | Open to Public – 9 hole course  | Barton City                   |
| Black Forest Golf Course                           | Open to Public – 18 hole course | Greenbush Township            |
| Eagle Ridge Golf Course                            | Open to Public – 18 hole course | Curtis Township               |
| Greenbush Golf Course                              | Open to public – 9 hole course  | Greenbush & Harrisville Twps. |
| Lakewood Shore Golf Course                         | Open to Public 9 hole course    | Greenbush Township.           |
| Lost Lake Woods                                    | Private – 18 hole course        | Alcona Township               |
| Springport Hills Golf Course                       | Open to Public – 18 hole course | Harrisville Township          |
| White Pines National Golf Course                   | Open to Public – 18 hole course | Hawes Township                |

## Special Populations

### Nursing Homes

Jamieson Nursing Home, is located at 790 South US-23 in Harrisville Township. The facility has 51 beds.

Lincoln Haven Health Care Centre is located at 950 Barlow Road in Harrisville Township. The facility has 55 beds.

### Adult Foster Care / Homes for the Aged Facilities

The following list of adult foster care homes was obtained from the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services. The home address and number of beds is not available at this time.

Bake Adult Foster Care, Mikado  
Bettys' Paradise Family Care, Harrisville  
Dewar Road AIS Home, Harrisville  
Green Pines Adult Foster Care, Lincoln  
Harrisville AIS Home, Harrisville  
Holderness AFC, Mikado  
Huron Haven AFC, Harrisville  
Mill Creek AIS Home, Harrisville  
Szubers AFC, Mikado  
Whispering Pines, Barton City

## Transportation Network

Transportation facilities for both personal and business use add to the quality of life of a community. Increased mobility in the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has supported the second home growth in the County. Furthermore, with the limited local economic base, many residents commute outside the county for employment. This section will provide information on the location and types of transportation facilities available to residents and businesses in Alcona County.

### Roads

The transportation network consists of state highways, county primary, county secondary, city major and city minor roads. Private and Forest Service roads make up the balance. Seasonally maintained and unimproved public roads can be found in less populated areas. Three highways connect Alcona County to other communities. M-65 runs north-south through the western portions of the County. US-23 essentially follows the coastline connecting communities with Alpena to the north and the community of Oscoda to the south. The only east-west highway, M-72, connects west to Traverse City and I-75 in Grayling and east to US-23 in Harrisville. **Figure 5.3** shows the various transportation facilities in Alcona County.

### Airports

The only public airport serving Alcona County is located in the City of Harrisville. The airport is considered a Class "D" airport facility and is able to accommodate small aircraft. Regional air



service is available at Alpena County Regional Airport in Alpena, M.S.B. Airport near Midland and Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City. These airports provide commercial passenger air service and freight service. The Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport, located on the former Wurtsmith Air Base, is open to private aircraft. There is no charge to land at the airport and services are available 24 hours/day. Amenities include fueling service, courtesy car and bicycles. Since the airport was associated with a former B-52 air command base, the runway is the second longest runway in the state. There are a number of small private grass runways around the county.

### Railroads

Lake State Railroad provides daily freight handling service to Alpena. The railroad runs along the eastern edge of Alcona County, through the City of Harrisville. According to the recently completed Alpena Area Wide Transportation Plan, no hazardous materials are transported on the rail at this time.

### Marine

There is a Great Lakes port facility located in the City of Harrisville. The Harrisville Harbor provides docking facilities with 195 boat slips, fuel and pumpout facilities. Public restrooms/shower facilities, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, pavilion, grills, picnic tables and playground are associated with the harbor. This recreational harbor is part of the State of Michigan's Harbor of Refuge network.

### Public Transit

There is no county-wide dial-a-ride bus service available in Alcona County. However, Thunder Bay Transportation, based in Alpena, provides limited specialized transportation services in the County. The Thunder Bay Regional Ride, in cooperation with medical care facilities in the region, provides intercounty transportation for medical and other needs. Limited statewide passenger service is available from Indian Trails Bus Lines.

## **Early Warning Systems**

There are "no" outdoor warning sirens in Alcona County. The County uses NOAA Weather Radio as the primary means of warning the public. The County warning system is directly related to the National Weather Service's NOAA Weather Radio alert system and the national Emergency Alert System. However, there are areas in Alcona County, where one cannot receive the NOAA signal. For example, areas in the extreme south, and some low-lying areas, have difficulty receiving the signal. Also, there are many areas near the Lake Huron shoreline that cannot receive the signal. Specifically, the areas in Harrisville and Greenbush Township, located near the shore, have very poor coverage. The County has done much to correct the situation. For example, an external antenna was installed at Harrisville State Park and at the marina which corrected the problem at those locations. The real problem is that most individuals will not go to that much trouble.

The NOAA transmitters are located in Alpena, Gaylord (Waters), and West Branch. Like any other radio signal, topography plays a big role. Due to hills and terrain, there will always be isolated areas that cannot pick up the signal. It is doubtful this will be corrected anytime soon. The EM Coordinator was on the committee that put the transmitter in West Branch a few years ago and it was a major undertaking. Before that, the situation was much worse.

The Emergency Alert System also broadcasts over every radio and television station in the area. The problem with EAS is even more complicated though. Many folks have satellite TV, which, of course, does not broadcast local information.

