

# Chapter 4 INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICES



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This Chapter discusses the community facilities, schools, utilities and transportation system of Glen Arbor Township. It looks at present conditions and future needs.

### **Township Hall**

The Township Hall is a large building located at 6394 West Western Avenue midway between Lake and Oak on the north side of the street, across from the old schoolhouse. See Map 4-1. The front three-quarters of the Township Hall is an historic gymnasium with an old barn-style roof. There is also a stage and a large kitchen. The room easily accommodates several hundred persons seated at tables and is used for a wide range of activities from Town Meetings to educational programs. The rear portion of the Township Hall is much smaller and the Township offices occupy one large room, while a smaller room is used for meetings by Township boards and commissions.

The Township Board is comprised of five members and meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month. The Township Board is the elected, governing body of Glen Arbor Township that adopts ordinances and manages the operations of the Township. The Township Planning and Zoning Commission has seven members and meets the first Tuesday of each month. The Planning and Zoning Commission is an appointed group responsible for advising the Township Board on planning and zoning issues and administering land use regulations for the Township.

**Photo 4-1  
Glen Arbor Township Hall**

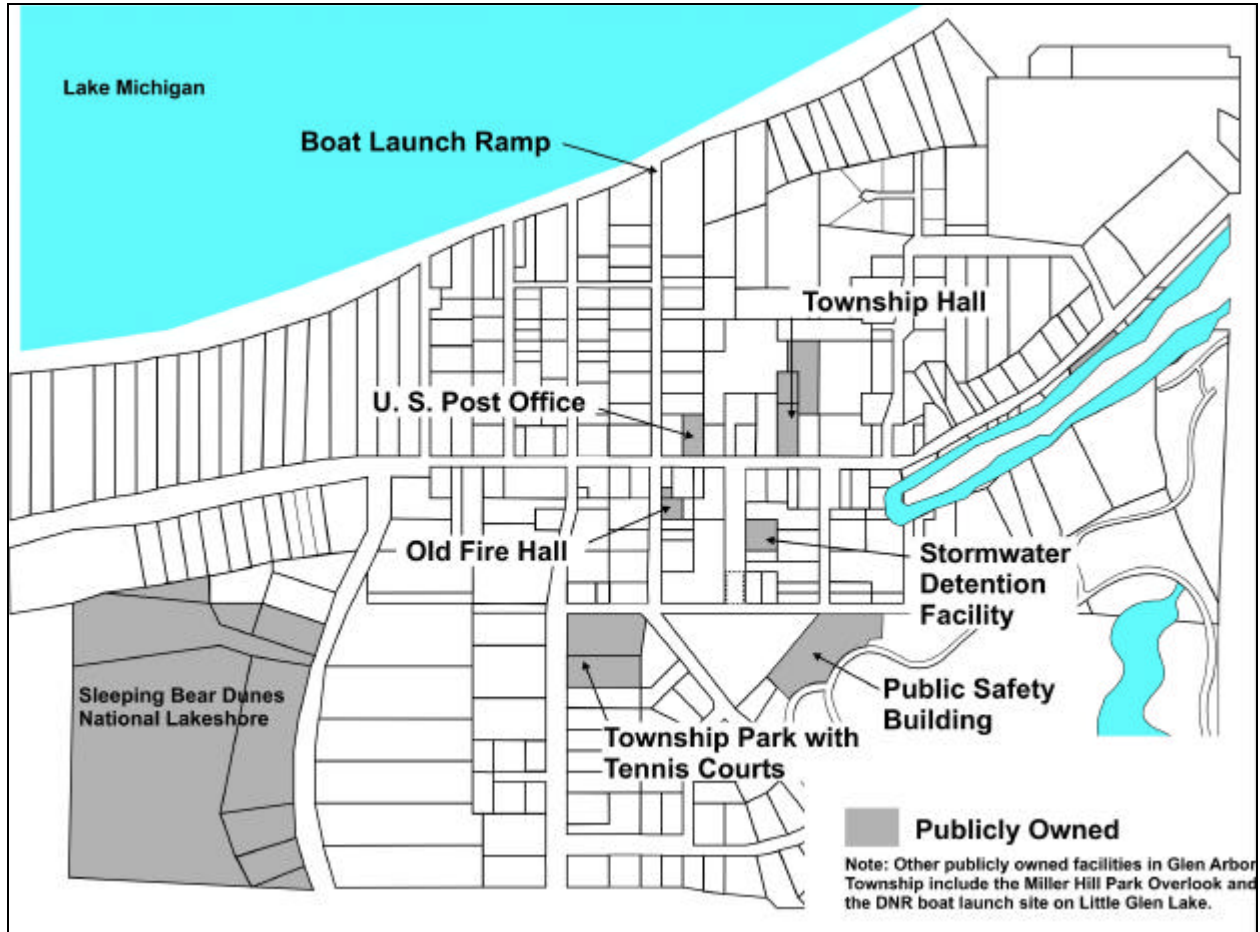


*Photo by Terry Gretzema*



Located behind the Township Hall is public parking that is used seasonally for tourists, as well as for any other events. On Thursdays during the summer, this parking lot is turned into a farmers market.

### Map 4-1 Township Buildings and Recreation Facilities in Glen Arbor



Graphic by John Warbach, Planning & Zoning Center, Inc.

### Fire, EMS and Rescue Services

The Glen Arbor Fire Department is a combination of paid and volunteer personnel. The Fire Department has four full-time personnel, two of which are cross-trained in both firefighting and emergency medical services (EMS), and two of which are solely EMS. Additionally, the department employs 25 partially-paid and one volunteer personnel. The department provides firefighting services, Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical services, vehicle extrication, and search and rescue. Emergency medical service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Fire Department provides EMS service under contract to all of Glen Arbor Township, Empire Township and a portion of Kasson Township.

The Glen Arbor Fire Department runs out of the new Public Safety Building located at 6401 West State Street, adjacent to the Woodstone development. See Map 4-1. The Public Safety Building was constructed in 2003. After fifty years of use, the old Fire Hall became outdated. Its location created service problems in the summer from tourist congestion and it had contaminated water. The old Fire Hall was also extremely

undersized, forcing the rental of offsite storage and requiring much of the equipment to be parked outside in the freezing weather. The old Fire Hall will be sold. The new Public Safety Building has quick, safe ingress and egress for volunteers and emergency equipment. It contains adequate indoor storage for all department equipment and includes living quarters for on-duty medical/fire personnel. The new Fire Hall also allows for more efficient delivery of emergency services for fire and EMS runs, which have been growing each of the past several years.

In 2003, the Fire Department responded to a total of 305 calls, including 85 fire or rescue runs and 220 ambulance runs. In 2002, the 83 fire runs and 231 ambulance runs, along with personnel training and maintenance required about 12,000 staff hours. The department responded to 31% more EMS runs in 2002 than in 2001. At some point, long term staffing of the volunteer fire service may need to give way to a full-time staff as became necessary with the EMS service. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore maintains emergency response capabilities in Emergency Medical Services, Search and Rescue, and fire suppression. Eleven Park Rangers maintain EMT certifications; two maintain First Responder certifications; and 18 are wildland firefighter qualified. In 2003, park staff responded to 13 wildland fires, 14 EMS incidents, and 18 Search and Rescue incidents. Park Rangers and Fire Department staff train together and assist each other as needed.

**Photo 4-2  
Glen Arbor Public Safety Building**



*Photo by Terry Gretzema*

The Fire Department presently operates two - 1,250 gallons per minute (GPM) pumpers, a 1,500-gallon tanker, a 400 GPM mini-pumper, and two ambulances.

Munson Health Care, based in Traverse City, is the major healthcare provider for Leelanau County. The Leelanau Memorial Health Center in Northport, north of Glen Arbor near the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula, has historically been the closest area hospital, but most of its services are closing in 2004. Leelanau Urgent Care in Lake

Leelanau also provides medical services. The Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital located southwest of Glen Arbor in Frankfort, Michigan is now the next closest hospital to Munson.

### **Public Safety**

The Law Enforcement Division of the Leelanau County Sheriff's Office provides 24-hour law enforcement to 11 townships and three villages, including Glen Arbor Township. The Law Enforcement Division is comprised of three sergeants and 13 deputies that act as first responders to a variety of requests for police services. The division also conducts preliminary investigations, follow-up investigations, and self-initiated enforcement activities. Park Rangers work closely with the Leelanau County Sheriff's Department and provide emergency assistance to county officers when requested.

The Marine Safety Unit of the Sheriff's Office patrols the waterways within Glen Arbor Township and Leelanau County. This unit responds to distress and emergency calls in all weather conditions, while working in concert with the United States Coast Guard and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Glen Arbor Township is located within the Michigan State Police's Seventh District. The community is served by the Michigan State Police post located in Traverse City.

**Photo 4-3**  
**Leelanau County Sheriff's**



*Photo courtesy Leelanau County website*

### **Parks and Recreation**

Glen Arbor Township's location amidst miles of National Lakeshore, sand dunes, inland lakes, rivers and streams provides numerous recreational opportunities to seasonal and year-around residents and tourists. Activities such as camping, fishing, hiking, skiing, and golfing are all readily accessible within the community. During the summer months, many seasonal residents and tourists flock to the area to take advantage of its intrinsic natural beauty and recreational opportunities. The Township last adopted a Community Recreation Plan in February 2002.

Recreational facilities are located on Map 4-1 and include:

- Glen Arbor Township Hall Gymnasium: Contains indoor basketball court, restroom facilities, and a stage.

- Glen Arbor Township Park: Contains a basketball court, four tennis courts, and a childrens play area with a variety of playground equipment.
- Glen Arbor Boat Ramp: Boat launch located on Lake Michigan.
- Beach Facilities: Beaches are located on both Lake Michigan and Glen Lake and provide limited parking.
- Crystal River Canoe Access: A narrow strip of land from the road to the water, accessed along M-22. Two privately owned canoe outfitters, the Crystal River Service Center (Shell station) and the Crystal River Outfitters, rent canoes and kayaks.
- Little Glen Lake Access at the Narrows: Small beach with large amounts of poison ivy. This is a narrow strip of land from the road to the water with no public parking.
- Miller Hill Lookout Park: A small undeveloped park at the juncture of Miller Hill and the power lines.
- Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore: 26 square miles of National Park containing a campground, numerous historic buildings, a maritime museum, a dune climb and scenic drive, cross-country and snowshoe trails, canoeing and fishing opportunities, and a visitors center.
- The Homestead: A privately owned resort that includes a golf course, swimming pools, tennis courts, ski trails and hills, and showshoe and cross-country trails.

### **Golf Courses**

Golfers in the Glen Arbor community have access to eight golf courses within Leelanau County. Within Glen Arbor, golfers need to look no further than The Homestead Resort, which features a 9-hole course that is unique in that the golf facility shares the same area as the ski layout during the changing seasons. The Homestead is a par 3 course with a hilly design and an abundance of trees. The variable elevation provides beautiful views of Lake Michigan, Manitou Passage, and North and South Manitou islands.

Leland Country Club, is a private course that features an 18-hole course on rolling terrain with fairways lined with mature maple, birch, oak, and beech trees. Other golf courses in the region include Veronica Valley, a 9-hole course south of Lake Leelanau; King's Challenge Golf Club & Sleeping Bear Golf Club north of Cedar; Dunes Golf Club, an 18-hole course east of Empire; and the Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms in Sutton's Bay.

### **School System**

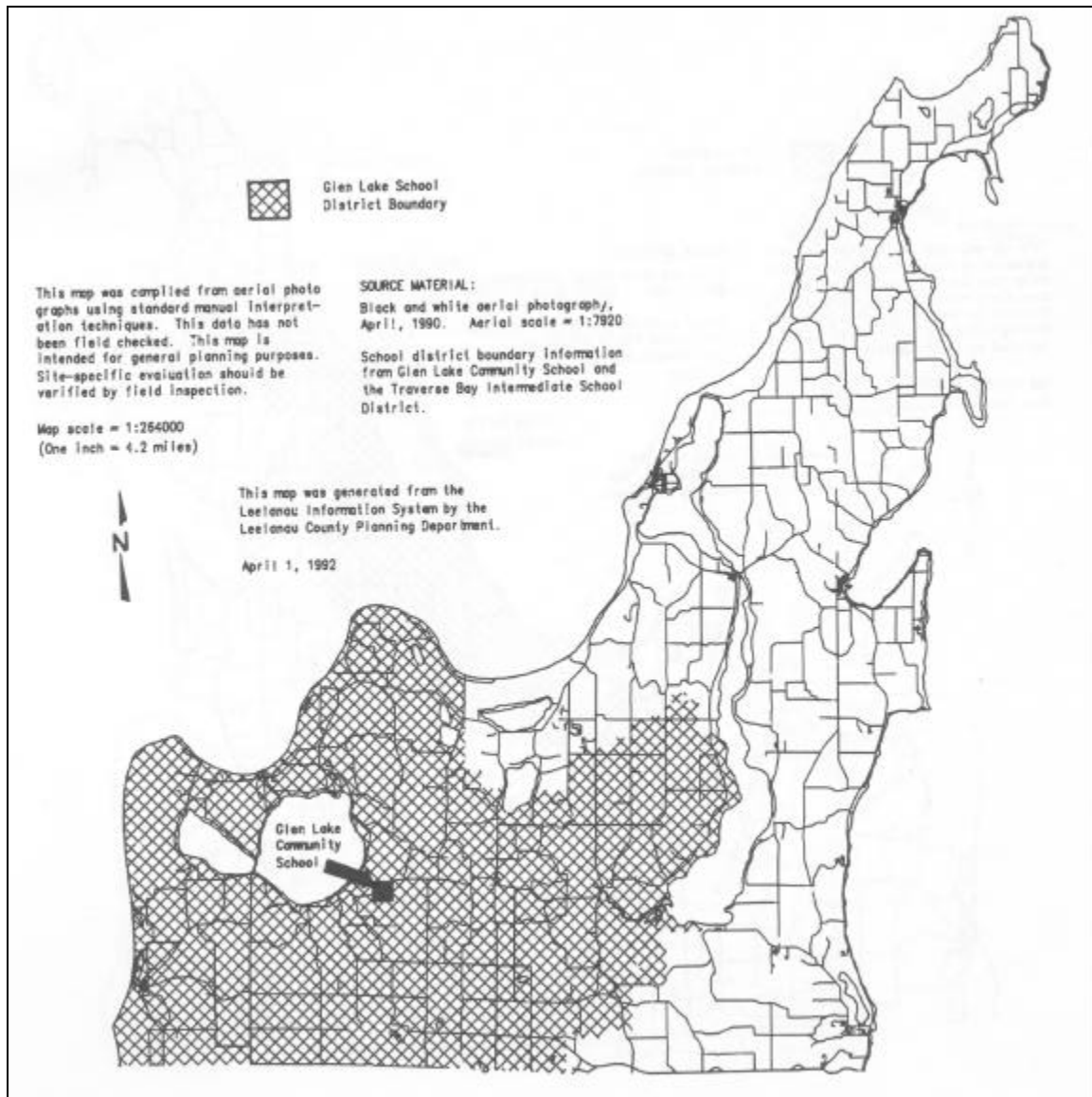
Glen Arbor Township is served by the Glen Lake Community School District, part of the larger Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. Glen Lake Community Schools encompass 200 square miles and serves 6,032 year round residents. See Map 4-2. Glen Lake schools have a district-wide enrollment of 930 students. In 2003, the district received operating revenue of \$6,888 per student from the state of Michigan. All Glen Lake schools are fully accredited by the North Central Association and the district was one of the first districts within the state to receive K-12 North Central accreditation.

Glen Lake High School was built in 1958 and received improvements in 1968 and 1969. The elementary school and middle school wing was added in 1979. During the 1992-1993 school year, the high school received 50% additional instructional space.

Presently, Glen Lake Elementary School educates students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Glen Lake High School, which also houses the middle school, has grades six through twelve. The student-teacher ratio at the elementary school is 18 to 1 while the student-teacher ratio at the high school is 21 to 1.

Interscholastic sports at both the middle school and high school levels allow students to participate in varsity, junior varsity and available freshman teams in any offered sport.

### Map 4-2 Glen Lake Community School District



Source: Leelanau General Plan

### Library

The Glen Lake Community Library has served Glen Arbor, Empire, and Kasson Townships since 1977. In 1983, the library moved into the former Empire Fire Hall. The



overwhelming approval of a property tax levy in 1996 by all three townships allowed for major renovation and expansion, which was completed in October 1997. The library offers over 19,000 items, including 13,000 book titles, 800 recordings on tape or compact disc, over 2,000 videotapes and DVD's, and nearly 50 periodicals and newspapers. The library also has public computers with high speed internet access.

The library provides information materials and services to all community residents and visitors on an equal, publicly funded basis. A Board of Trustees, comprised of residents from all three townships, governs operational and financial matters.

### Highways

Glen Arbor is served by two state trunklines, M-22 and M-109. M-22 is designated as the major access route into the Township. It passes along the west side of Big Glen Lake and across the "Narrows." The road along Glen Lake winds and is tree-lined. The Narrows is a congregating place for visitors who like the view, for fisherman off the bridge, and for customers at the marina. This attraction sometimes creates hazardous traffic situations. Map 4-3 depicts the system of roads in Western Leelanau County.

**Map 4-3 Roads in Western Leelanau County**





M-22 serves as both a major transportation artery for the County and as a corridor for viewing some of the country's most scenic vistas. As such, MDOT has designated M-22 and M-109 as a Scenic Heritage Route. The Heritage Route program was initiated through legislation in 1993 and emphasizes cooperation among local residents, their government officials, landowners and interested groups to preserve unique scenic, historic or recreational highways. The Scenic Historic Route designation ensures that the rural character of Leelanau County is preserved and that the inherent qualities of the peninsula continue to be showcased.

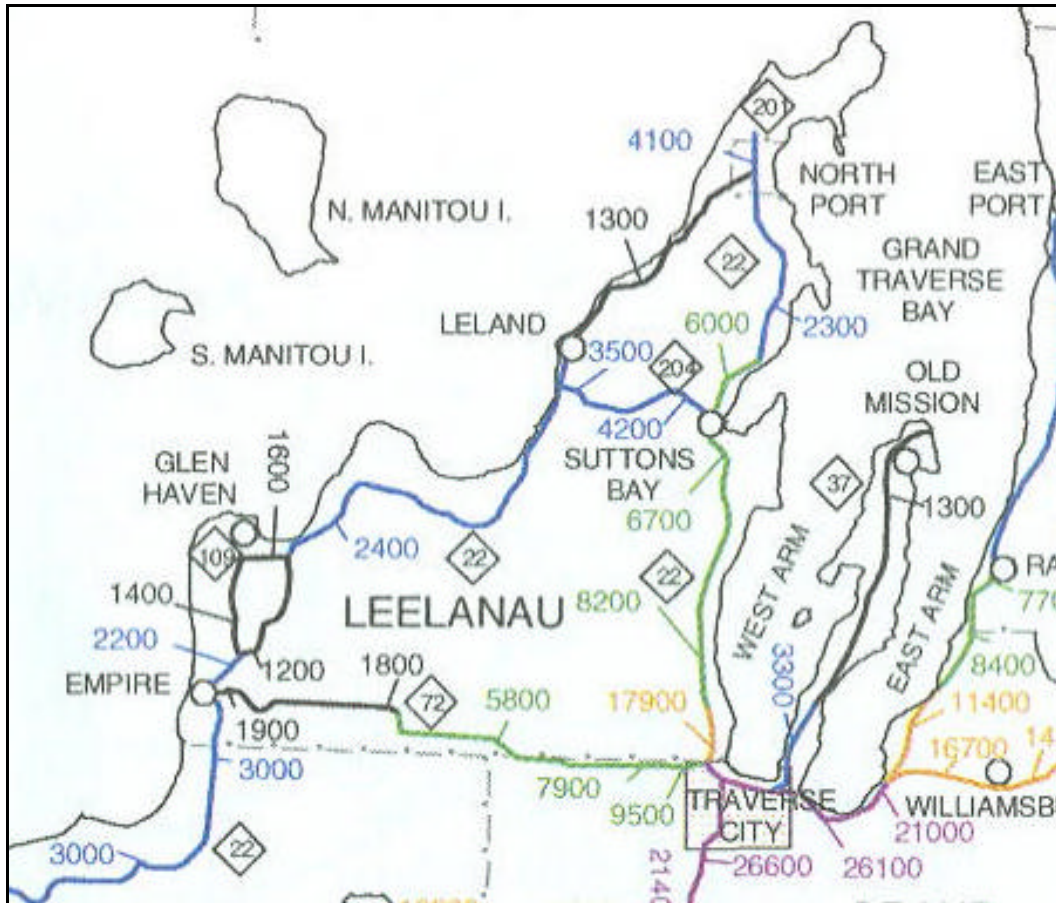
In 2002, MDOT helped secure funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to designate M-22 in Leelanau County as a National Scenic Byway. National Scenic Byway funds enable states to embark on eligible projects along highways designated as National Scenic Byways and state-designated byways. Planning projects to inventory, preserve and enhance the qualities of the byway, safety improvements, construction of bike and pedestrian facilities, and resource protection such as scenic easements are eligible within this program. While MDOT paved much of M-22 from Empire to Glen Arbor in 2003 and 2004 as well as M-109 in 2004, and maintained a paved shoulder which is useful for bicyclists, an effort should be made to plan for a bike path separated from the roadway, but within the right-of-way, especially along M-109. Funding assistance from the National Scenic Byway program should be sought. However, the stretch of M-22 from the south side of Glen Lake at 616 to Empire was not paved in 2004, and has no paved shoulder. This stretch, in Empire Township, is greatly in need of improvement soon and should include a paved shoulder as many bicyclists ride from Glen Arbor to Empire and vice versa.

M-22 is an arterial road, while M-109, Glen Haven Road (former M-209) and County Road 675 are collector roads. All other public roads are local streets. There are also many private roads that provide access to property like local streets. M-22 and M-109 are maintained by MDOT, while all other public roads in the Township are maintained by the Leelanau County Road Commission.

### **Traffic Counts**

By most traffic engineering standards, traffic, even during the peak summer months is limited. However, that does not mean that residents are not sensitive to it nor concerned about it. The biggest concerns are on M-22 from the Narrows to Glen Arbor where many homes are very close to the road and there is little road shoulder in many places. Similar concerns exist along M-109 on the west end of Little Glen Lake where most homes are set farther back but speeds are higher. Map 4-4 depicts average daily traffic volumes as measured by MDOT and published in its 2003 traffic count map. These are days averaged across the year, not peak days.

**Map 4-4 Traffic Counts**  
**Average Daily Traffic (number of vehicles per day)**



Source: MDOT, 2004

**Utilities**

In Glen Arbor Township, natural gas and electricity are provided by private companies. At present, public sewer and water services are nonexistent. Natural gas in Glen Arbor is provided by Michigan Consolidated Gas Company (MichCon). Consumers Energy provides electricity to residents, businesses and institutions in the Glen Arbor community.

Century Telephone and Ameritech provide local phone service. Cable is provided by Charter Communications, Inc. Fiber optic service is available.

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