

Mecosta County Assessment

Environment

Infrastructure

Patricia Kraemer














Roads of Mecosta County

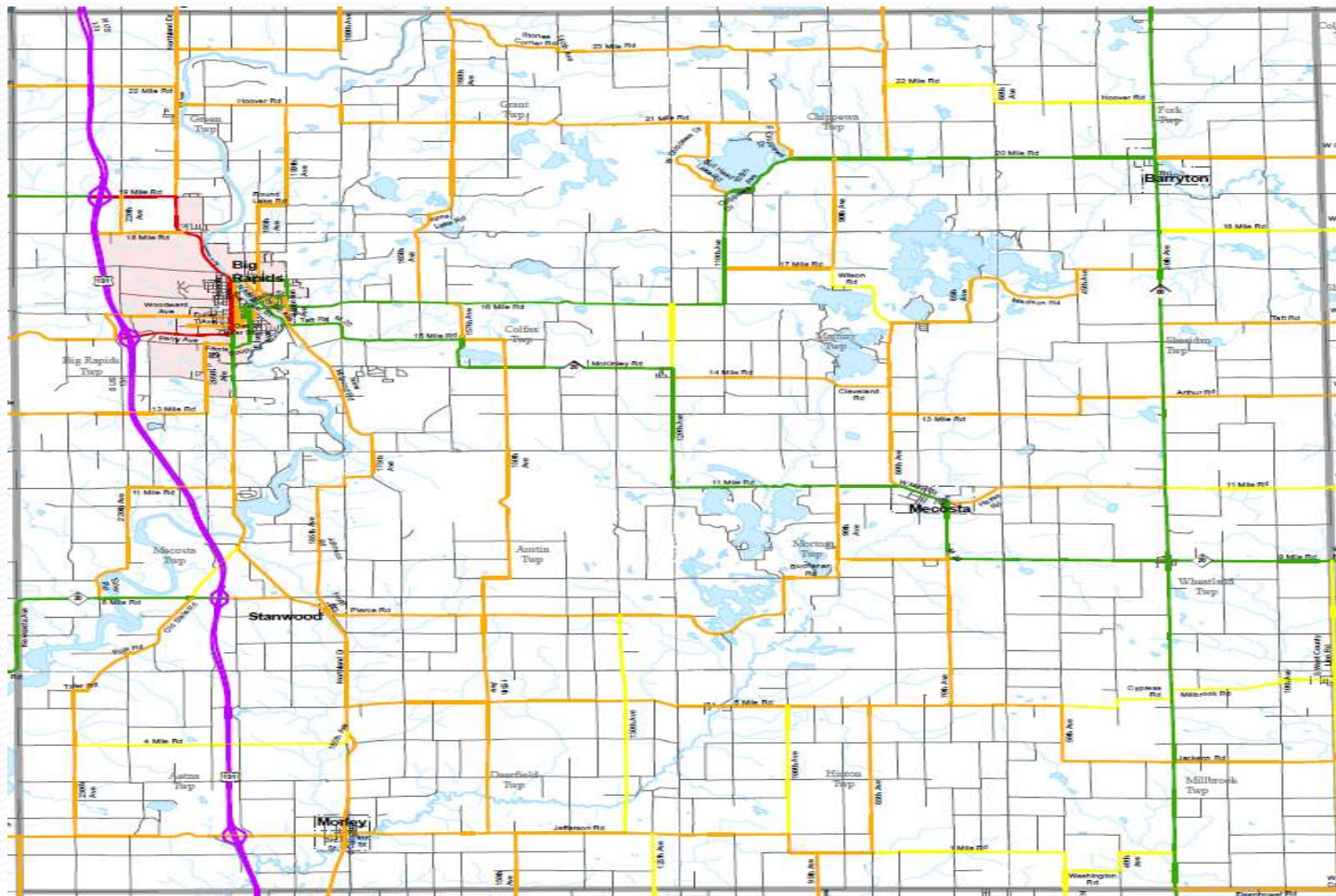
- State Maintained Roads
 1. U.S. 131 (freeway)
 2. Northland Ave (Business 131) loops through City of Big Rapids
 3. M-20 east-west across county
 4. M-66 north-south on eastern edge of county
- County Maintained Roads – 1150 miles
 1. 511 miles of paved roads
 2. 506 miles of gravel roads
 3. 133 miles of seasonal (unpaved) roads

J. Kuipers, personal communication, February 22.2011
Managing director – Mecosta County Road Commission
120 N. DeKraft Ave., Big Rapids. MI 49307
231-796-2611
Web link : <http://www.mecostaroads.org/index.htm>



National Functional Classification (NFC) Map (Mecosta County Road Commission/Maps/NFC, n.d.)

- | NFC | FUTURE NFC |
|---|---|
|  Rural or Urban Interstate |  |
|  Rural or Urban Other Freeway |  |
|  Rural or Urban Other Principal Arterial |  |
|  Rural or Urban Minor Arterial |  |
|  Rural Major or Urban Collector |  |
|  Rural Minor Collector | |
|  Rural or Urban Local | |
|  Adjusted Census Urban Boundary | |





Mecosta County Water Supply

3 types of Wells

- Type I - Large municipal wells
- Type II - wells serving > 25 people for > 60 days
- Type III – wells serving < 25 people or < 60 days/year.

R. Earnest, personal communication, February 22, 2011.

Sanitarian 231-305-8643

Mecosta County Health Department - District #10

14485 Northland Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307

<http://www.co.mecosta.mi.us/health.asp>

Big Rapids Water System



Big Rapids, MI Photo taken February 18,2011

- Only Large Municipal water system in County -Type I
- (R. Earnest, personal communication, February 22, 2011)
- Former system drew water from river
- Current System uses 4 large wells
- Cheaper to treat ground water than river water

C. Johnson, personal communication, February 17, 2010

City of Big Rapids Water Treatment Plant Superintendant

231-796-6231



Big Rapids Municipal Water cont.

- The MI Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) oversees municipal water supplies based on standards set by the EPA.
- This is called the Community Water Supply Program

(Department of Natural Resources and Environment., Community Water Supply, 2001-2011)

Other Mecosta County water systems

- The Department of Natural Resources and Environment govern well construction to ensure healthy drinking water for the public and proper protection of the ground water (DNRE, 2001-2011, para 1).
- Approximately 80% of county residents are not served by Big Rapids Water system
- Well type is based on size of population and length of time per year, i.e. Individual home well is smaller than a well for a school. Campground well (seasonal) is different than continuous use.

(R. Earnest, personal communication, February 22, 2011)



Mecosta County Waste Water

3 communities in Mecosta County have public sewer systems

- Big Rapids – on-site sewage treatment with waste water then returned to river.
- Barryton- sewage is disposed on land
- Remus- same as Barryton

Remaining areas depend on private septic systems.

(R. Earnest, Personal communication, February 22, 2011)



Waste Water cont.

- The Department of Natural Resources and Environment also oversees the disposal of waste in Michigan.
- The DRNE controls the removal of waste that could be a threat to our health and environment.
- In addition to rules and regulations governing disposal, permits for proper handling/hauling are obtained here.

(DNRE, Michigan's Waste, 2001-2011)



Mecosta County Police

- Michigan State Police – Division of sixth district headquartered in Grand Rapids. (State of Michigan, 2001-2011)
- Mecosta County Sheriff Department – headquartered in Big Rapids (Mecosta County, 2003)
- Big Rapids Police Department – employs 18 full time and 4 part time certified police officers. (City of Big Rapids, 2008)
- Ferris State University Department of Public Safety- employs 14 certified police officers for FSU campus (FSU Department of Public Safety)



Mecosta County Fire Departments

- Big Rapids Department of Public Safety
- Big Rapids Township Fire department
- Barryton Community Fire department
- Colfax Township Fire department
- Wheatland Township Fire department
(Fire Departments Network, 2009)
- Mecosta Austin Township Fire department –Stanwood
(Firefighting News, 2011)
- Morton Township Fire department- Canadian Lakes
(Plzgeek, 2010)
- Chippewa Martiny Fire Department- Chippewa Township (Chippewa Township., n.d.)
- Morley Area Fire Department
(MI Home Town Locator, 2011)
- Millbrook and Lakeview in neighboring county respond to 2 townships in Mecosta County
(W. Hansen, Deputy Director of Public Service/Big Rapids, personal communication, February 24,2011)

Insurance Services Office

ISO rating

- ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC™) Service gauges the capacity of the local fire department to respond if flames engulf a property in which your (insurance) company has a financial stake.
- ISO collects information on a community's public fire protection and analyzes the data using our [Fire Suppression Rating Schedule \(FSRS\)](#). We then assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

(Insurance Services Office, Inc, 2011).

Mecosta County Fire Departments ISO ratings

Big Rapids Department of Public Safety is the only non-volunteer fire department in Mecosta County. The non-volunteer status combined with the level of expertise, service and equipment Big Rapids offers has earned them an ISO rating of 4.

The remaining volunteer departments hold a rating of 8-10.

(W. Hansen, Deputy Director of Public Service/Big Rapids, personal communication, February 24, 2011)

This will affect the cost of home owners insurance in Mecosta County, depending on which area you live. This is also a gauge of response time and firefighting effectiveness.

(L. Mueller, Traverse City Fire Department, Paramedic,/Firefighter, personal communication, February 23, 2011)



Photo taken February 18, 2011

Big Rapids Fire Department

Public Transportation





Public Transportation

- Mecosta Osceola County Area Transit - a two county bus service that provides curb to curb transportation. Fees are 2.00 for adults and 1.00 for children, seniors, and handicapped. Fees double for non-city transport. 24 hour notice is required. Links entire county to Big Rapids.

(Mecosta Osceola Transit Authority, 2011)

- Big Rapids Dial a Ride – another curb to curb public transportation service within Big Rapids city limits.

(City of Big Rapids, MI, Dial a Ride, 2008)

Both services link riders to national bus lines

Indian Trails

Greyhound

(Mecosta Area Chamber of Commerce, Bus Service, February 22, 2011)



Media Access in Mecosta County

Sites available for Public Announcements

- Radio

1. WBRN 100.9 fm + 1460 am News radio

(WBRN-AM, 2011)

2. WYBR 102.3 Today's Hit Music

(WYBR - FM ,2011)

3. WPHH 450 Ferris State University

(Michigan Informational Radio Stations. Accessed February 17, 2011)

- Television There are no locally produced television stations in Mecosta county

Media Access in Mecosta County

Sites available for Public Announcements

- Public Access Television Stations in Area

1. Grand Rapids- Community Media Center

“GRTV provides a televised forum for legal, non-commercial speech; a place where you can express yourself creatively at little or no cost”(Grand Rapids Community Media Center, 1980-2011).

2. MAC tv network

(Mid Michigan Area Cable Consortium, accessed February 17, 2011)

3. CMU Public Broadcast

(Central Michigan Public Broadcasting Network, accessed February 17, 2011)



Media Access in Mecosta County

Sites available for Public Announcements

There are two Newspapers locally published in
Mecosta County

- **The Pioneer** Printed 6 days a week plus special interest printing (The Pioneer Group, 2011)
- **Ferris State Torch** Also printed by the Pioneer group. The Torch is a student-run newspaper printed on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year at Ferris State University (Ferris State Torch, February 16, 2011, p.14).



Internet Access

- Internet is available throughout the county with phone (land line access) through private companies (A. Breitenwischer, FSU librarian, personal communication, February 18,2011)
- Satellite connection is also offered through private companies (Remus, Michigan, Winn Communications/ Residential Internet, January 12,2011).
- Charter Communications . A cable service company including high speed internet is available to most of the county . Four area codes do not have access to this service:
 1. 49305 rural outside Barryton
 2. 49310 rural outside Blanchard
 3. 49340 rural outside Remus
 4. 49679 rural outside Sears(Charter Representative, personal communication, February 17, 2011)

Additional Internet Access and Informational Services

- Barryton Public Library
198 Northern Avenue
Barryton, MI 49305
Phone: (989) 382-5288
- Big Rapids Community Library
426 South Michigan Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: (231) 796-5234
- Morton Township Public Library
110 South James Street
Mecosta, MI 49332
Phone: (231) 972-8315
- Walton Erickson Public Library
4808 Northland Drive
Morley, MI 49336
Phone: (231) 856-4298
- Wheatland Township Library
207 Michigan Avenue
Remus, MI 49340
Phone: (989) 967-8271
- Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education (FLITE)
1010 Campus Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2279
–Available to FSU students

(Public Libraries.com, n.d.)

Mecosta County Senior Center

Mecosta, MI

The following are examples of programs the Senior Center offers:

Educational Classes Reader's Theater Group [Nutritious Meals](#) Friends Sharing Loss [Exercise Classes](#) Gift Shop Enrichment Classes Conference Rooms Line Dancing Game Room/Wii Games Computer Classes Dining Area Card Recycling Picnic Area Art Classes Bingo Card Games Library Harmonica Classes Pasties (Take Out) [A Matter of Balance](#) Low Vision Support Group Health Clinics Massage Therapy

Each weekday, a nutritious, home-cooked meal is served by experienced cooks at the Mecosta County Senior Center, offering the perfect opportunity for seniors to meet with friends, participate in activities and enjoy a delicious meal! Dine-in meals are available to the general public and [meal sites](#) are also located in Big Rapids and Barryton!

(Mecosta County, 2003)



Mecosta County Senior Center

Funding of Activities

The Senior Center is a service of the Commission on Aging. It is funded through Senior Center staffing funds of the Older Americans Act through the Office of Services to the Aging, Area Agency of Western Michigan, the County Senior Millage, the Senior Center Board and Donations.

(Mecosta County, 2003)

Shopping



- There are 9 grocery stores in Mecosta County
- Two super stores- both are located in

Big Rapids (City-Data.com , 2003-2010)

Photos taken

February 18.2011





Retail Shopping is primarily located in Big Rapids and is limited to local ownership and smaller versions of stores found in larger malls

Mall shopping is available in Grand Rapids, MI approximately 50 miles away.

Photo Big Rapids, MI, February 18,2011

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85.4525922,cf,107.cfm](http://michigan.hometownlocator.com/local/local-directory,st,morley%20area%20fire%20department,lat,43.4901254,lon,-85.4525922,cf,107.cfm)

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