



Deputy Director of Dispatch Jeremy Ball



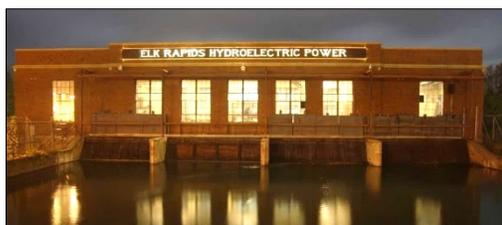
Mr. Ball was recently appointed as the County’s Deputy Director of Dispatch. After graduating from Elk Rapids High School, he attended Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. Mr. Ball worked at the Elk Rapids Village Market through high school and beyond. He began working at Antrim County in 1995.

When asked what he liked most about his new position, Mr. Ball said he is grateful for the opportunity. He added that “I have an incredible amount of things to learn and I am looking forward to the challenge.” Mr. Ball is proud of his wife and two young children. In addition, he has been a fire fighter since 1992 and is Fire Chief of Milton Township’s Fire Department.

Dam History: Elk Rapids Hydrodam, Part 2

The dam is located on Dexter Street, between the upper (Elk Lake) and lower (Grand Traverse Bay) boat harbors. The dam is an integral part of Elk Rapids’ historic downtown and waterfront. The downstream side of the dam is a popular fishing destination.

In 2007, roughly 30 years after the Elk Rapids Dam was recommissioned as a hydroelectric dam, Antrim County contracted with the family-owned Elk Rapids Hydroelectric LLC to operate the facility. In 2015, the dam received its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re-license. That license is valid until 2045.



The dam’s brick building houses the generating equipment. Built into its foundation

are chutes. There, water enters through gates on the upper side and flows into a large chamber.

A turbine sits in the middle of the chamber with wicket gates at the top edge. Water then flows through the gates and pushes the turbine blades as it falls. The turbine drives a shaft that drives the electric generator. All generating equipment is monitored 24 hours a day.

Elk Lake’s summer water level was established by a 1973 court order, which calls for the level to be dropped every November 1. The lake level is raised to the summer level on April 15 (or ice break-up, if that is before April 15).

Update: Public Safety Center

On November 4, Antrim County voters will be voting on a new Public Safety Center.

- **No new taxes:** the vote is to approve bonding only. No new taxes will appear on tax bills if voters say yes.
- If the measure fails, the project will not move forward.
- If the vote is approved, the Center will be smaller than proposed in 2024, less expensive, and will have a shorter bond length.
- The changes above resulted in a 25% reduction in total cost, a savings to the taxpayers of almost \$13 million.

Hunting On County Property

With some restrictions, hunting is allowed on most Antrim County properties. This includes popular parks such as Glacial Hills Natural Area, Antrim Creek Natural Area, and Grass River Natural Area. Information on restricted areas can be found under the County website’s “Ordinances” tab.

Hunters: the properties noted above are popular sites for hiking, trail running, and mountain biking. There are some restricted zones where hunting is not allowed. Motorized vehicles are prohibited or restricted. Follow state laws regarding licensing and proximity to buildings and roads.

Non-hunters: wearing Hunter Orange while hiking and biking during hunting season is recommended. Hunting is allowed between sunrise and sunset, but the most popular hunting hours are early morning and dusk.

Committee Openings

Antrim County has a number of boards, commissions, and committees on which residents can volunteer to serve.

To apply, submit a Notice of Interest before 5 pm on Friday, November 14. A list of openings and the Notice are on the County website’s home page under “Latest News.”

What’s Happening at Barnes Park

You can take full advantage of the lovely fall weather by camping at Barnes Park through Sunday, October 26. Enjoy the views of Lake Michigan, the hiking trails, and the fall colors! (And the brand new asphalt.)



Barnes Park is open for day use all year round. Interested in camping at Barnes Park next summer? Reservations will open on April 12, 2026.