



## How To Get a 2026 Dog License



Michigan Law requires the licensing of all dogs older than four months. 2026 licenses will be available at the County Treasurer’s Office 12/1/25 through 2/28/26 without penalty. Licenses will be available at some township offices. Check with your local township.

A dog license application can also be sent by mail. The application is available through the County Treasurer’s webpage. **Please be aware that proof of current rabies vaccination is needed to purchase a dog license.**

**Starting March 1**, licenses will only be available at the County Treasurer’s Office. At that time, fees will be twice the current rate. Puppies who turn four months old after February 28th are eligible for a license at the regular rate.

### 1 Year Dog License - Good thru 12/31/26

- Altered (Spay/Neutered) .....\$5.00
- NOT Altered .....\$8.00

### 3 Year Dog License - Good thru 12/31/28

- Altered (Spay/Neutered).....\$12.00
- NOT Altered .....\$21.00

## Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes Watershed

A watershed is an area of land that collects and channels surface water to a common outlet. The entirety of the Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes Watershed (ERCOL) flows through the Elk Rapids Hydrodam and into Grand Traverse Bay. There are four counties in the ERCOL; Antrim, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, and Kalkaska. The ERCOL also includes:

- 505 square miles
- 200 miles of shoreline
- 75 miles of waterways
- 40 foot drop in elevation
- 14 lakes
- 7 rivers
- +200 streams

Many activities in a watershed directly impact water quality and water quantity, which can in turn impact lake levels. Known issues in the ERCOL include the Ellsworth Bridge Street culvert, the Bellaire Dam, the Elk Rapids Overflow Spillway, and sedimentation concerns.

The Antrim County Drain Commissioner and a group of lake level advisors are working on developing solutions for these important issues.

## Public Safety Center Update Moving Forward

Voters approved bonding for the Public Safety Center on November 4 by a 5.15% margin (52.57% to 47.43%). The approved measure authorizes the County to borrow up to \$18 million over a 15-year time frame to pay all or part of the costs to acquire, construct, furnish, and equip a new Public Safety Center. This critical facility will include a jail, emergency management center, 911 dispatch center, and county sheriff department administrative facilities.

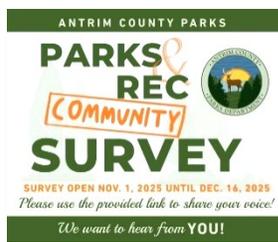
The Antrim County Board of Commissioners has approved an agreement with Plante Moran Realpoint (PMR) to provide consulting services for the new Public Safety Center project. This decision ensures the facility will be optimized for community needs while preparing the project to meet a crucial 2026 construction start date. **The consulting phase is expected to last three to four months.**

As soon as the Board of Commissioners approves contracts with an architecture/engineering firm and with a construction manager, those firms will begin working with PMR. This multi-firm effort is designed to pool resources to achieve the best possible facility design at the least possible cost. The Board will consider an architect/engineer contract on November 20. It is anticipated that consideration of a construction manager contract will take place in December.

**The County is working to streamline the design timeline to ensure a 2026 construction start.** This will mitigate cost increases due to construction inflation. A move-in date into the new facility is expected 12 to 16 months after construction begins. The County will regularly communicate progress through press releases, updates at Board meetings, social media posts, and a regular newsletter, with the first newsletter planned for January 2026.

## We Want Your Opinion! Parks & Recreation Survey Open Until 12/16

Antrim County’s Parks and Recreation Plan is scheduled for update and revisions. Public feedback will guide the 2026-2030 plan, and it will play a vital role in shaping the future of our county’s natural spaces.



A survey link is on the Antrim County website’s Parks & Recreation Department webpage. The link is also on the Parks Department’s Facebook page. The survey takes approximately ten minutes to complete.