

Kent COUNTY Detail

March/
April
2013

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April 25 Emergency Management Division Flood Update

Kent County – On April 25, the Kent County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to extend the local State of Emergency for an additional 30 days. This means the declaration, made April 19, remains in effect for all Kent County villages, townships and cities, through May 24, 2013. This extension gives Kent County officials additional time to complete damage assessments. This process is necessary to determine if Governor Rick Snyder will issue a Declaration of Disaster; and is a step towards requesting FEMA funding or assistance.

Less than a quarter of the residents evacuated have been allowed to return home. “While the water is receding, it is still at or above flood stage in many locations,” said Jack Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator. “We are in touch with jurisdictions and know where flooding issues have occurred. Teams will be surveying neighborhoods in the coming weeks [see following article for additional assessment information], and those assessments will be turned over to the State to determine if a disaster will be declared by the Governor.”

The next step after that is asking for FEMA assistance. Many residents have been calling our Emergency Management Division with requests for FEMA funding. We are following very specific protocol and it is still very early in the process, therefore we are unable to answer any questions about FEMA. We will put information out as it becomes available, and ask for your patience and understanding through this process. We suggest residents work with their insurance companies until further notice.

Many families have had questions about what to do next. “We ask residents who are in their homes and have damage to clean and restore as much as possible at this time,” Stewart said. “Document everything you can. Keep track of any damage or losses.” When cleaning, wear gloves at all times, and remove all highly absorbent items: carpet and padding, mattresses and upholstered furniture, for example. Bag these items in plastic, or label them as contaminated with sewage. Wash down all walls, floors and surfaces with clean water and a low suds detergent. Red Cross has cleaning kits available. Call 616.456.8661 for more information.

Updates and information on the flooding can be found at www.accessKent.com/News. If you require additional information please contact Lt. Jack Stewart, Kent County Emergency Management Coordinator, at 616.632.6255.

Equalization Department

The Flood of 2013

Damage Assessment Process within Kent County

Kent County has experienced the worst flooding in more than a century. The Declaration for a Local State of Emergency was issued in part to allow the County to receive damage assessment resources from the State, and it is the first step for possible Federal Emergency Assistance.

The Kent County Equalization Department (Appraisal and Property Description & Mapping) is leading the damage assessment teams in the County. Damage assessment is an organized system to determine the nature and the scope of the event, circumstance or incident by measuring the amount of suffering and harm done to a community. Following a disaster or emergency event, the teams systematically go into communities to determine "how bad it is out there." These team members collect, plot, and analyze data by doing onsite inspections, usually from a vehicle, filling out provided worksheets and maps, estimating the amount of debris, and taking photos in order to document the damage.

Damage is rated by the assessment teams using the following classification levels:

Damage Classification	Currently Habitable / Usable	Approximate % of Damage	Flood Depth: Single/Multi-family Home	Flood Depth: Mobile Home	Flood Duration: 1 Day or Less, Consider this Classification	Flood Duration: >1 Day, Consider this Classification
0 - Affected	Yes; without repairs	Minimal damage; mostly cosmetic	B = <1ft in Basement NB = minor Access problems	Minor access problems	0 - Affected	0 - Affected
1 – Minor Damage	No; repairs likely to take less than 30 days	<50% damaged; windows and doors blown in	B = ≥ 1 ft in Basement NB = ≤1 ft on first floor	Flooded utilities / piers	1 - Minor Damage	2 - Major Damage
2 – Major Damage	No; repairs likely to take more than 30 days	≥50% damaged; involves structural features affecting strength / safety	B = ≥ 1 ft in Basement NB = 2 - 4 ft on first floor	Bottom board soaked / home shifted on piers	2 - Major Damage	3 - Destroyed
3 - Destroyed	No; permanently uninhabitable	100%; repair costs exceed structure's value	Depth, velocity, duration of flood make structure permanently uninhabitable	Water above floor level / unit swept from foundation	2 - Major Damage	3 - Destroyed

Notes: B = structure with basement / flooding in basement; NB = structure with no basement / flooding on first floor; > = greater than; < = less than; ≤ = less than or equal to; ≥ = greater than or equal to. Follow the chart from left to right, beginning with the left hand column. For non-flood disasters, use the first three columns to evaluate. For flood disasters, use all of the columns to evaluate. Damage is expressed as a percentage of structure replacement value.

If you have additional questions about the damage assessment process, please contact Lt. Jack Stewart, Kent County Emergency Management Coordinator, at 616.632.6255.

Health Department

Health Notes

A Service of the Kent County Health Department

April 2013 – Americans Eating Less Fast Food – But Still More Than They Should

There is some good news/bad news to report when it comes to the average American diet: we're cutting back on calorie intake from fast food, but still eating too much of it.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "National Center for Health Statistics" released a report in March that found 11.3% of the average adult diet came from pizza, French fries, burgers and other "fast foods" from 2007 to 2010. That's down from 12.8% the previous years. Better, but not ideal, as the CDC recommendations call for no more than 10%. The study also found young adults, African Americans and those who are already obese consume the most fast food. Black adults ages 20 to 39 get 21% of their calories from eating fast food. Fifteen percent of caloric intake comes from fast food for whites and Hispanics in that same age group.



Kids Eating Fewer Calories, But Too Much Fat

American children are consuming fewer calories than before. Boys eat about 2,100 calories daily in 2009 and 2010, down from 2,258 calories ten years earlier. Girls consumed 1,755 calories a day, down from 1,831. Both are still getting more than 11% of their calories from saturated fat, despite dietary guidelines that recommend less than 10%. According to the CDC, 17 percent of youth, or 12.5 million, are obese.

Golden Years = Less Fast Food

The report found that older adults consume the least amount of calories from fast food. Men over 60 years of age report that 6.6% of their calories come from fast food, while women over 60 say it's 5.5% of their intake.

Fixing a Growing Epidemic

The Kent County Health Department offers a variety of classes on taking control of your diet. Grocery store tours are available for people wanting to learn how to shop for the right foods to pack your cart with nutritious, healthy options for you and your family. Cooking classes can be held right in your workplace. Rates start at \$65 per class, plus the cost of food. Call Dawn Davies at 616.632.7296 or Sarah VanEerden at 616.632.7286 to book classes today!



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

Shared by Cooperative Extension

Land Planning Institute Outreach

LPI's Planning & Zoning Center Publishes New Guidebook on Rural Water Quality Protection

The [Planning and Zoning Center at MSU \(PZC\)](#), a part of the Land Policy Institute, has developed a new planning and zoning guidebook for use by local government officials in very rural parts of Michigan. [Dr. John Warbach](#), LPI's Associate Director, led the project and is a co-author, along with [Mark Wyckoff](#), MSU professor, LPI Senior Associate Director and PZC Director; and PZC Team members Mark Jones, Ryan Soucy and [Jacqueline Spry](#). The new [Rural Water Quality Protection Guidebook](#) is a necessary addition to the library of Planning Commissioners, Zoning Administrators, and local and appointed elected officials in rural Michigan and throughout the Midwest Great Lakes states. People in these sectors will find expert advice in the Guidebook. It is a "must have" for those working to prevent future contamination of rural watersheds by use of planning and zoning tools.

This Guidebook provides information about how land development and other activities on the land affect water quality; provides an overview of the many entities engaged in water quality protection (e.g., local, state and federal government, individual property owners and nonprofit organizations); provides educational materials on the best management practices that lower the impact of land use activities on our water bodies; and provides sample language for community Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances that helps ensure that future development and other land use activities occur with little impact on the quality of water needed for our communities. The Guidebook offers a simple and straightforward approach that is uniquely suited to enable small rural communities with limited staff and resources with the crafting, updating and implementing of their Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances.

The Guidebook is 116 pages in length and divided into four chapters (Introduction, Understanding Watersheds, the Umbrella of Protection for the Watershed, and Best Management Practices in Rural Areas) and features two appendices (Appendix A: Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance Sample Language, and Appendix B: Local Planning and Zoning Assessment Tool). Chapter 4 and Appendix A comprise the bulk of this Guidebook, and are organized to include a description of each major low impact development category, along with a description of the category, a list of best management practices addressed within the category, and "Good," "Better," and "Best" tables for that category. For each best management practice in that category there is:

- A description of the issue, including the problem being addressed, a gap left for local regulations and an explanation of key terms.
- A proposed approach in the Master Plan, including a description, an explanation of key terms and key Master Plan language.
- A proposed approach in the Zoning Ordinance, including a description, an explanation of key terms and key Zoning Ordinance language.

The Guidebook is one of the products of the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) grant to MSU, funded under the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#), or GLRI. The PZC was selected by EPA to complete a GLRI project targeting 102 local units of government in the three sub-watersheds of the Saginaw Bay Watershed (Cass River, Pigeon/Pinnebog River and Rifle River) to assist with Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance updates to protect water quality. Unlike other programs that received funding under the GLRI program, whose goal is the physical restoration of the Great Lakes and the rivers, streams and near shore areas that feed them, the goal of the PZC project is to prevent further environmental degradation of particularly the Saginaw Bay by assisting local and regional stakeholders with the adoption of measures that will ensure protection of water quality as new development and redevelopment occurs. Learn more about PZC's GLRI project at [Saginaw Bay Watershed Project](#).

Key direction for the Guidebook was provided by the advisory committee, including Sue Fortune and Anamika Laad from the East Michigan Council of Governments, Zachary Branigan and Greg Eagle from the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, and Michelle Selzer and Charles Bauer from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

This free publication is available for download on the Land Policy Institute website at: [Rural Water Quality Protection Guidebook](#).



Kent County Quality Service Employee of the Quarter

At Kent County, providing quality service to our customers is our number one priority. **Our mission** is to be an effective and efficient steward in delivering quality services for our diverse community. Our priority is to provide mandated services, which may be enhanced and supplemented by additional services to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens within the constraints of sound fiscal policy.

Janis Fortier is recognized as the Kent County Quality Service Employee of the 1st Quarter for helping to fulfill Kent County’s mission by providing superior service to the citizens of Kent County. The individual who nominated Ms. Fortier stated:

“Jan Fortier is nothing short of amazing. Our case was the first and hopefully our only situation where we will ever need the legal system but, I have to say that having Jan with us through the process was truly a God send. Jan was so wonderful in explaining everything to us in detail from what we could expect in the courtroom to making sure that we didn’t cross paths with the defendant in the halls. Jan was with us through the entire process, providing us with guidance and advice, while lending an ear when we just needed to talk out the situation. Bless her heart; she has a gift for what she does! Thank you Jan!”



Number of Years Employed by Kent County: 24 years in June, but I also worked as an Intern and volunteer for a year before I was actually hired by the County.

The hardest thing I’ve ever done: Watching my dad die so quickly from cancer a few years ago and having to watch the dignity stealing decline of Alzheimer’s and dementia take the life of my mom this year.

Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner: I would give anything to have one more dinner with my parents, Jack and Jeanette Greenwald and my dear friend Mary Paepke who passed away in September.

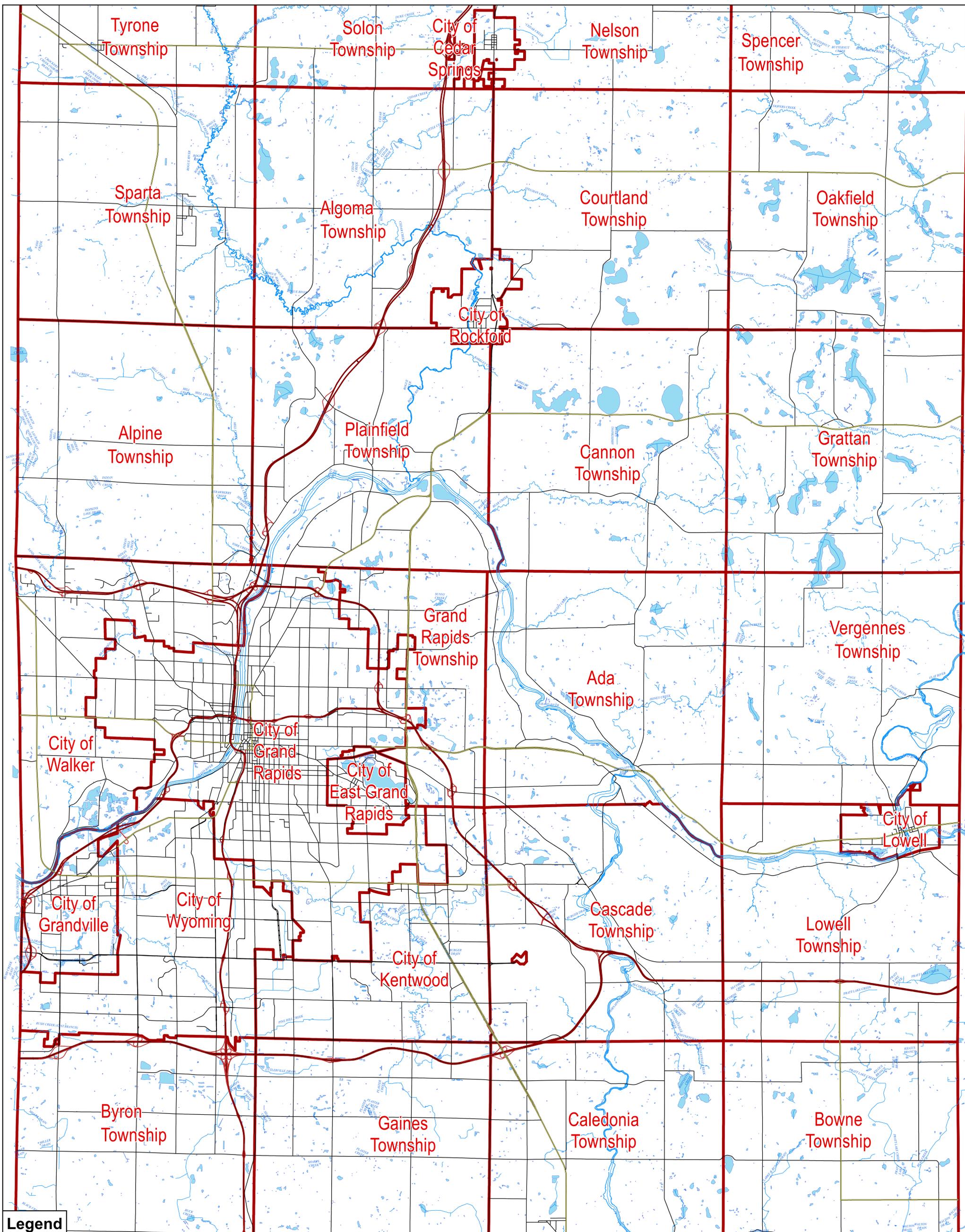
You’d be surprised to learn that: That I am both a Notre Dame AND Michigan fan.

The thing that I like most about working for Kent County is: The opportunity to meet and help many interesting people going thru some pretty awful unimaginable things. I have been blessed to work for the same Prosecutor my entire career, along with supportive bosses and many co-workers, Judges, court staff and law enforcement agencies throughout the County.

Please join us in congratulating **Janis Fortier** for earning Kent County’s Employee Recognition for Quality Service Award.

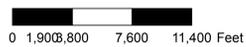
If you know a Kent County employee who is deserving of this award please complete a nomination form at www.accesskent.com/qualityservice or on the Kent County intranet.

The County Detail is a compilation of news and information that helps fulfill our commitment to the residents of Kent County, and is distributed bi-monthly to local government officials. Editorial questions or submissions should be directed to Melanie Grooters, *County Detail* Editor. Administrator’s Office; Ph: (616) 632-7561; E-mail: Melanie.Grooters@kentcountymi.gov



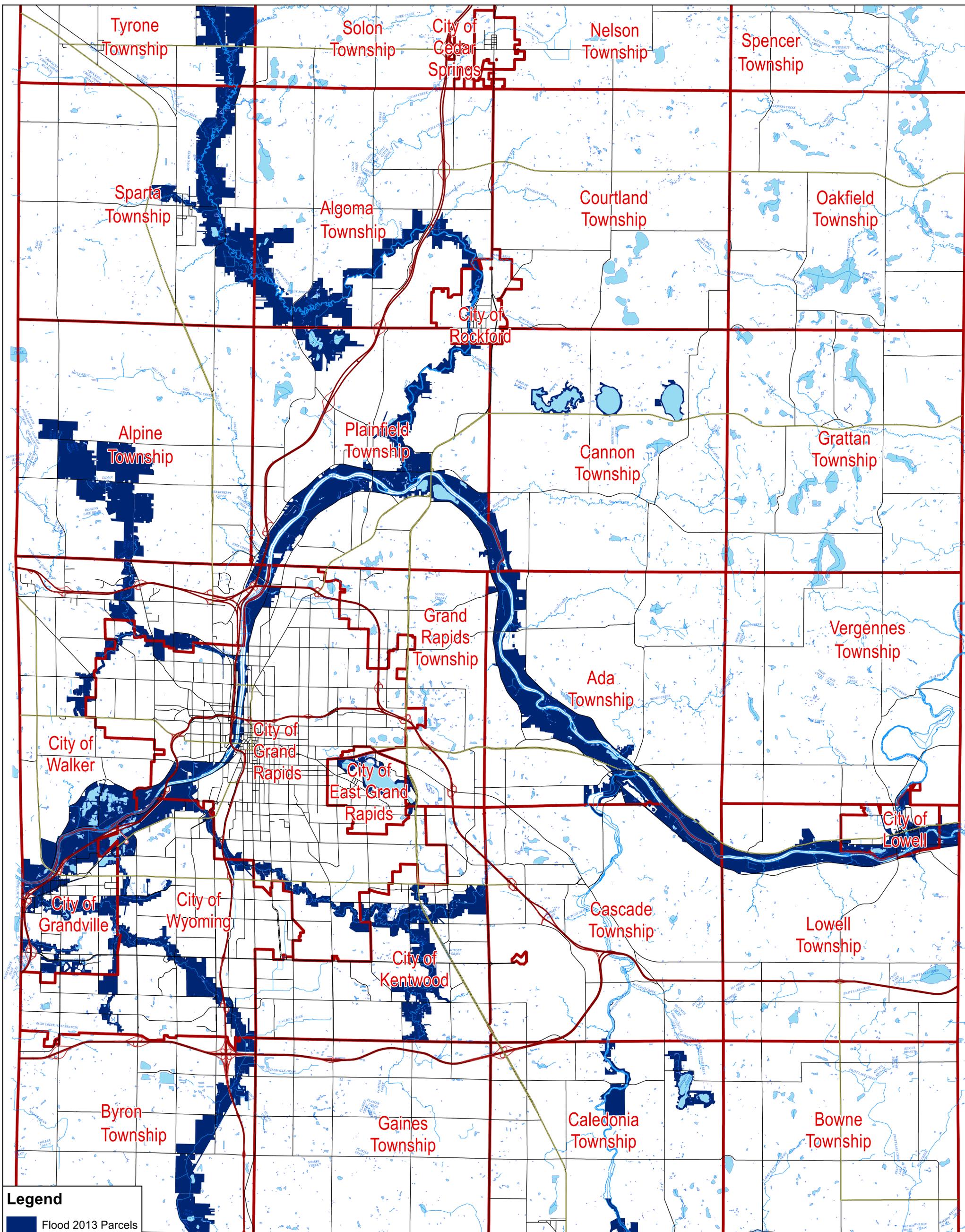
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Kent County Bureau of Equalization
Property Description & Mapping Division

Kent County, MI makes no warranty, expressed or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of information presented. Users of this information assume all liability for its fitness for a particular use.



Legend

Flood 2013 Parcels

Scale: 1:45,713

0 1,900,800 7,600 11,400 Feet



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