The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
LaPorte County borders Michigan and Lake Michigan St. Joseph to the east, Starke to the south, Jasper to the southwest, and Porter to the west. Interstate Highways 80, 90 and 94 cross the county. Elevation is 700-850 feet. The terrain is nearly flat except in the far north where it is slightly sloping. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. A central section of the county is in the Northern Illinois and Indiana Heavy Till Plain land resource area, while the rest of the county is in the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana Drift Plain land resource area.

La Porte county is in the Centrafal Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 15°/32° in January and 61°/85° in July. Annual precipitation is about 43 and snowfall about 45-75 inches. The first freeze of the season typically occurs sometime between October 5 and 10, but later in the far northwest (October 10-20). The last freeze occurs around May 5-10, except in the northwest (May 1-5) and extreme northwest (April 20-30). The growing season lasts about 148-193 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified with corn for grain, soybeans, winter wheat and hay. About seven-tenths of the land is in farmlands and about four-fifths of that land is in cash crops. Apples and strawberries are important fruits. Important vegetables include sweet corn, pumpkins, and tomatoes. Mint is a special crop. Livestock include cattle/calves, milk cows, and hogs/pigs. Peat, construction sand and gravel, and forestland are important natural resources. Water resources include the following lakes: Clear, Crane, Fish (Upper, Lower), Fishtrap, Hog, Hudson, Pine, Ron DeNardo, Saugany, Silver, Stone, Swede, Lakes; and the Kankakee, Little Kankakee, and Galena Rivers.

Communities include the cities of LaPorte (the county seat) and Michigan City; and the towns of Kingbury, Kingsford Heights, LaCrosse, Long Beach, Michigan Shores, Pottawatomie Park, Trail Creek, Wanatah, and Westville.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
3. Location and Historical Notes

Famous sons and daughters of LaPorte County include Anne Baxter, granddaughter of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Born in Michigan City in 1923, Baxter moved at a very young age to New York and became a very successful actress, debuting as a teenager in 1936 and appearing in numerous movies, TV and theatre shows until her death in 1985.


LaPorte County is not a tobacco-producing county, according to the Strategic Development Group’s “Alternative Agricultural Strategy” (Bloomington, March 15, 2001) report, which is part of Governor Joseph E. Kernan’s “Recipient Final Reports for Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture Grant Programs”

(http://www.in.gov/oca/grants/valueadd/VAFinalReports.html):